



## General relativity and graphene

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## Colaborators





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## A brief history of graphene

In the beginning it was graphite...

#### The Graphite Page John A. Jaszczak



Graphite (5 cm across) from the famous Plumbago mine, Seathwaite, England.



3 mm graphite sphere etched from calcite, with associated schist.



Graphite cones 50 microns long on the surface of a spheroidal graphite aggregate

#### Graphite classical applications based on its amazing electronic properties.

Conductivity:			Machanical	
Electrical Resistivity (ohm.m) perpendicular to c-axis	$9.8x10^{-6}  4.1x10^{-5}  1.2x10^{-6}  x) 250  80$		Bulk Modulus (single xtl)	34 GPa
natural				7.3-10.7 GPa (non-irradiated, uncoated)
Thermal (Watts/meter.kelvin at 273K) perpendicular to c-axis parallel to c-axis			Bulk Modulus (polycrystal)	14.0-16.9 GPa(irradiated, uncoated) 7.8-8.4 GPa (irradiated, coated)
natural	160		Magnetic:	
Optical:			Magnetic Susceptibility	strongly diamagnetic
Bireflectance and reflection pleochroism	o-vibration: higer reflectance and yellow or brownish tint e-vibration: bluish-grey tint		(pyrolitic) (pyrolitic) (rod)	-450x10^-6 perpendicular to c-axis -85x10^-6 parallel to c-axis -160x10^-6

## First revolution: fullerenes ('80)



Nanotube Superconductor

Medical applications

Nanotecnology born. The big technological promise was in the nanotubes.

Graphene existed before. It was curved and compact.

Second revolution: graphene (05)

## What is graphene?

A two dimensional atomic crystal of carbon

## Why is it so special?

It exists

- And its electrons conduct -strangely-
- It connects beautifully different branches of physics
- As with HTS we had to study hard again

### **Electronic properties**

$$\varepsilon^{0}(\mathbf{k}) = \pm t \sqrt{1 + 4\cos^{2}\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ak_{x} + 4\cos\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ak_{x}\cos\frac{3}{2}ak_{y}} ,$$





Dirac points topologically protected if some symmetries are preserved by interactions and disorder.

J. Mañes, F. Guinea, MAHV, PR B **75,** 155424 (07).

# Other interesting points of the dispersion relation

$$\varepsilon^0(\mathbf{k}) = \pm t \sqrt{1 + 4\cos^2\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ak_x + 4\cos\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ak_x\cos\frac{3}{2}ak_y} ,$$



## Structural properties



Graphene thrown on a silicon wafer like a veil of silk on a surface. More intriguing science seems to be hiding within the weave of this carbon sheet.

#### Nature Mat. 6 (2007)

#### Puzzling:

•

•

- A 2D crystal is exotic enough. Mechanical: very high Young moduls (TPa).
- Some TEM experiment show defects forming and disappearing (membrane?)
  - It has a rippled structure. 2D curvature can only be provided by topological defects.

# The most misterious aspect of graphene

## Ripples on graphene



Freely suspended graphene membrane is partially crumpled

J. C. Meyer et al, Nature 446, 60 (2007)

TEM Ripples of height 0.5 nm and 5nm of lateral size adjust best the data



## STM



## Physical origin of the curvature

- Elastic fluctuations (very unlikely).
- Interaction with the substrate -observed, but ripples are also observed in suspended samples-.
- Topological defects. Present in previous graphenelike structures (nanotubes, fullerenes and damaged graphite).

We will take curvature as a matter of fact and study its physical consequences.

## Topological disorder in graphene



Pentagon: induces positive curvature

Topological defects are formed by replacing a hexagon by a n-sided polygon



Images: C. Ewels

The combination of a pentagon and an heptagon at short distances can be seen as a dislocation of the lattice.



The most common defects in nanotubes are made by pentagons, heptagons, and pairs of them (Stone-Wales defects)





## Observation of topological defects in graphene



## Direct evidence for atomic defects in graphene layers

Ayako Hashimoto<sup>1</sup>, Kazu Suenaga<sup>1</sup>, Alexandre Gloter<sup>1,2</sup>, Koki Urita<sup>1,3</sup> & Sumio lijima<sup>1</sup> Nature 430 (2004)

model of the pentagon-heptagon pair in the graphitic network. d, A simulated HR-TEM image shows a good comparison with the HR-TEM image showin in b. Scale bar, 2 nm.

In situ of defect formation in single graphene layers by high-resolution TEM.

Defects must be present in all graphene samples and have a strong influence on the electronic properties

> Vacancies Ad-atoms Edges Topological defects



#### Direct Imaging of Lattice Atoms and Topological Defects in Graphene Membranes

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SW unstable: they anneal to the perfect lattice in ~4 s (c,d).

Pentagon-heptagon defects
 are found to last ~ 8s (i,k).

• No strain in the samples

Flat samples behave very different from CNT or fullerenes.

???

## Formation of topological defects





Square

Odd-membered rings frustrate the sublattice structure

## The model for a single disclination



J. González, F. Guinea, and M. A. H. V., Phys. Rev. Lett. 69, 172 (1992)

$$\Psi_1 = \Psi_1^0 e^{-iS_1/h} \quad , \quad \Psi_2 = \Psi_2^0 e^{-iS_2/h}$$

$$(S_1 - S_2) = \frac{e}{c} \int A.dx = \frac{e}{hc} \phi_0$$

A gauge potential induces a phase in the electron wave function

An electron circling a gauge string acquires a phase proportional to the magnetic flux.

Invert the argument: mimic the effect of the phase by a fictitious gauge field

$$H = \vec{\sigma}.(\vec{p} + i e \vec{A})$$

With this we only take care of the "holonomy"

### Dirac in curved space

We can include curvature effects by coupling the Dirac equation to a curved space



$$\gamma^{a} e^{\mu}_{a} \left( \partial_{\mu} - \Omega_{\mu}(x) \right) \psi = E \Psi$$

Need a metric and a "tetrad".

$$e^a_{\mu}e^b_{\nu}\eta_{ab}=g_{\mu\nu}$$

Generate r-dependent Dirac matrices and an effective gauge field.

$$\Omega_{\mu} = \frac{1}{4} \gamma^{a} \gamma^{b} e^{\nu}_{a;\mu} e_{b\nu}$$

# The metric for topological defects: Cosmic strings



$$ds^2 = dt^2 - dz^2 - dr^2 - b^2 r^2 \, d\theta^2$$

With dt=dz=0 describes a cone. Not a big deal.

## Multiple defects





## Generalization

A. Cortijo and MAHV, EPL (07), Nucl. Phys. **B** (07).



Cosmic strings induce conical defects in the universe. The motion of a spinor field in the resulting curved space is known in general relativity.

Generalize the geometry of a single string by including negative deficit angles (heptagons). Does not make sense in cosmology but it allows to model graphene with an arbitrary number of heptagons and pentagons.

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + e^{-2\Lambda(x,y)}(dx^{2} + dy^{2})$$
  
$$\Lambda(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 4\mu_{i} \log(r_{i}), \quad r_{i} = \left[(x - a_{i})^{2} + (y - b_{i})^{2}\right]^{1/2}$$

The metric of N cosmic strings located at (a, b)<sub>i</sub> with deficit (excess) angles  $\mu_{i}$ .

## Cosmology versus condensed matter



- G. E. Volovik: "The universe in a helium droplet", Clarendon press, Oxford 2000.
- Bäuerle, C., *et al.* Laboratory simulation of cosmic string formation in the early universe using superfluid <sup>3</sup>He. *Nature* **382**:332-334 (1996).
- Bowick, M., et al. The cosmological Kibble mechanism in the laboratory: String formation in liquid crystals. *Science* **236**:943-945 (1994).

We play the inverse game: use cosmology to model graphene

## Effects of the curvature

The curved gamma matrices:  $\gamma^{\mu}(r) = \gamma^{a} e_{a}^{\mu}(r)$ 

Can be seen as a position-dependent Fermi velocity

The spin connection

- It can be seen as an effective gauge field with a matrix structure. Geometrical:  $\sigma_3$ .
- It has opposite signs at the two Fermi points (unlike a real magnetic field).

Extra gauge fields:

In the case of topological defects (pentagons, heptagons) other gauge fields arise due to topology and lattice effects.

## **Computation of observables**

Equation for the Dirac **propagator** in curved space.

G(x, x')x')g

Curved gamma matrices

Gauge field. It has a matrix structure

Covariant delta function

Expand around flat space and rewrite at first order as flat in an effective potential

### Several defects at fixed positions



Pentagons (heptagons) attract (repel) charge. Pentagon-heptagon pairs act

-0.15

-0.2

0.2

0.15

0.1

0.05

-0.05

1.0-

-0.15

-0.2

4

x

In

as dipoles.

1 > 0 > 0 -1 -1 -10 -2 -2 -3 -20 -3 -41 -4 -2 U 2 4 -2 2 U. x

#### Local density of states around a Stone-Wales defect

### Averaging over disorder

A. Cortijo and M.A.H V, arxiv 0709.2698.

Topological defects induce long range correlated disorder. The effective potential:

$$V = \underbrace{\eta \Lambda(r) \overline{\psi} \gamma^{i} \partial_{i} \psi}_{V_{1}} \underbrace{-i \frac{\eta}{2} (\partial_{i} \Lambda(r)) \overline{\psi} \gamma^{i} \psi}_{V_{2}}$$

from the curved gamma matrices

from the spin connection

It can be argued that V has the following variance:

$$\left\langle V_i(q)V_j(-q)\right\rangle = \delta_{ij}\frac{n}{q^2}$$

n=density of disorder

$$\sigma(\omega=0) = \frac{8e^2}{h} (\frac{4}{3\pi g})$$

### Modeling smooth ripples

#### Coming from substrate

F. de Juan, A. Cortijo, MAHV PRB76, 165409 (2007).







LDOS vs. curvature and shape

The correction to the LDOS follows the curvature of the bump and has a maximum at the inflection point

$$v_r(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + z'(r)^2}}$$

### Dislocations in crystals

Characterized by the Burgers vector **b** 



Crystal structure



Edge dislocation  $\vec{b} \perp \vec{t}$ 



Screw dislocation





3D





### Geometrical description?

## Gauge theory of linear defecs in solids: metric approach to elasticity

M.O. Katanaev and I.V. Volovich, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) 216 (1992) 1
V.A. Osipov, Phys. Lett. A 175 (1993) 65; Physica A 175 (1991) 369
C. Furtado, F. Moraes, Physics Letters A 188 (1994) 394.

Elastic deformations	$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{ij} = 0$	$T_{\mu\nu}{}^i = 0$
Dislocations	$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{ij} = 0$	$T_{\mu\nu}{}^i \neq 0$
Disclinations	$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{ij} \neq 0$	$T_{\mu\nu}{}^i = 0$
Dislocations and disclinations	$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{ij} \neq 0$	$T_{\mu\nu}{}^i \neq 0$

H. Kleinert, Gauge fields in condensed matter, vol 2.

Dislocations can be described in the covariant formalism by adding torsion to the spacetime connection.

### Torsion in differential geometry



Basic buildings of geometry in manifolds: Metric tensor Covariant derivative (connection)

$$D_{\mu}\mathbf{v}^{\nu} = (\partial_{\mu} + \Gamma_{\mu\rho}^{\nu})\mathbf{v}^{\rho}$$

$$T^{\rho}_{\mu\nu} = \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \rho \\ \mu\nu \end{smallmatrix} \right\} + T^{\rho}_{\mu\nu}$$

The derivative of a vector implies evaluating it at two different points. The vector has to be parallel transported along infinitesimal path dx.



In spaces with torsion infinitesimal parallelograms do not close. Autoparallel and geodesics are not the same.

## Torsion in General relativity



**Torsion Field:** Einstein's Metric Torsion Tensor allows a spin-field to twist spacetime. Einstein-Cartan relativity



E. Cartan

$$G^{ij} = R^{ij} - \frac{1}{2}g^{ij}R^k_k = \kappa \Sigma^{ij},$$

[1]

The energy-momentum tensor of a spinor field is antisymmetric

$$\Sigma^{ij} = -\frac{\hbar c}{2} [(\nabla^i \bar{\Psi}) \gamma^j \Psi - \bar{\Psi} \gamma^j \nabla^i \Psi],$$

and can not be included in [1]

Include a general connection with antisymmetric part (torsion). Curvature couples to mass and torsion to spin.

# Dirac fermions in curved space with torsion

$$L = \overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} \left( \partial_{\mu} - \Omega_{\mu}(x) \right) \Psi \right) + i g_{\nu} \overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} T_{\mu} \Psi + g_{A} \overline{\Psi} \gamma_{5} \gamma^{\mu} S_{\mu} \Psi$$

$$\Omega_{\mu} = \frac{1}{4} \gamma^{a} \gamma^{b} e^{\nu}_{\ a;\mu} e_{b\nu} \qquad T_{\rho} = g^{\nu}_{\mu} S^{\mu}_{\ \nu\rho} \quad , \quad S_{\sigma} = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} S^{\mu\nu\rho}$$

The trace part of the torsion is associated to edge dislocations –change in volume element - and couples as a usual vector gauge field.

## The axial part associated to screw dislocations induces an axial coupling that affects the Berry phase of the fermions.

In a 2D surface (graphene) only edge dislocations can exist and their (non-minimal) coupling to the electronics degrees of freedom generates –yet another- standard vector gauge field.

F. de Juan, A. Cortijo, MAHV, work in progress.

## Other systems: 3D graphite



1.2 mm graphite crystal with spiral growth steps; etched from calcite. Nomarski differential interference contrast imaging.Valentine deposit, Harrisville, NYJohn A. Jaszczak collection 1744a and photo 91-17.





## Similar models. Future.

### Helical Metal Inside a Topological Band Insulator

arXiv:0810.5121 Ying Ran<sup>1,2</sup>, Yi Zhang<sup>1</sup>, and Ashvin Vishwanath<sup>1,2</sup>





Brazilian Journal of Physics, vol. 30, no. 2, June, 2000

#### Condensed Matter Physics as a Laboratory for Gravitation and Cosmology

Fernando Moraes



Figure 1. Screw Dislocation



Figure 2. Disclination

Correction to the anomalous magnetic moment of electrons due to the defects.

## Summary

- Ripples occur naturally in graphene either smooth (substrate) or induced by topological defects.
- Curved portions induce an effective gauge field and a space-dependent Fermi velocity.
- The LDOS oscillates within regions of the ripple's size. The correlations of morphology and electronics can be observed with local probes (STM) or ARPES.
- The minimal conductivity induced by topological defects depends inversely on the density of disorder
- Dislocations induce an pseudovector coupling that breaks T symmetry and can have a strong influence on the physical properties (Klein paradox, weak localization). In progress.

## **Open problems**

- The metric approach implies a concept of "spinors living in an external surface" which is not exactly how the model is obtained from tight-binding.
- (More technical): the equivalent to "weak field expansion" or how to define a perturbative parametter in the topological case.
- Can we derive the geometrical factors from tight binding in "curved lattices"? (work in progress)
- If going to discrete curved lattice there are no-go theorems to put chiral fermions (lattice gauge theories).



Conclusions