# **Topological media:**

# quantum liquids, topological insulators & quantum vacuum



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**1.** Introduction: Universe as object of ultralow temperature physics

- \* quantum vacuum as topological medium
- \* effective quantum field theories emerging at low T
- 2. Fermi surface as topological object

\*normal 3He, metals,

- 3. Dirac (Fermi) points as topological objects
  - \* superfluid 3He-A, semimetals, cuprate superconductors, graphene, vacuum of Standard Model of particle physics in massless phase
  - \* topological invariants for gapless 2D and 3D topological matter
  - \* QED, QCD and gravity as emergent phenomena
  - \* quantum vacuum as cryo-crystal,  $\alpha$ -phase of superfluid 3He
- 4. Fully gapped topological media
  - \* superfluid 3He-B, topological insulators, chiral superconductors,
    - vacuum of Standard Model of particle physics in present massive phase
  - \* topological invariants for gapped 2D and 3D topological matter
  - \* edge states & Majorana fermions ( planar phase of 3He & surface of 3He-B )
  - \* intrinsic QHE & spin-QHE
- 5. Conclusion

Aalto-yliopisto

\* important role of momentum-space topology



# 3+1 sources of effective Quantum Field Theories in many-body system & quantum vacuum

I think it is safe to say that no one understands **Quantum Mechanics** 

Richard Feynman

**Thermodynamics** is the only physical theory of universal content

Albert Einstein

**Symmetry:** conservation laws, translational invariance, spontaneously broken symmetry, Grand Unification, ...

**Topology:** you can't comb the hair on a ball smooth, anti-Grand-Unification

effective theories of quantum liquids: two-fluid hydrodynamics of superfluid <sup>4</sup>He & Fermi liquid theory of liquid <sup>3</sup>He











characteristic high-energy scale in our vacuum is Planck energy

$$E_{\rm P} = (hc^5/G)^{1/2} \sim 10^{19} \,\,{\rm GeV} \sim 10^{32} {\rm K}$$

high-energy physics is extremely ultra-low energy physics

highest energy in accelerators  $E_{\rm ew} \sim 1 {
m ~TeV} \sim 10^{16} {
m K}$ 

$$E_{\rm ew} \sim 10^{-16} E_{\rm Planck}$$

high-energy physics & cosmology belong to ultra-low temperature physics

T of cosmic background radiation  $T_{\rm CMBR} \sim 1 \ {
m K}$ 

 $T_{\rm CMBR} \sim 10^{-32} E_{\rm Planck}$ 

cosmology is extremely ultra-low frequency physics

cosmological expansion v(r,t) = H(t) r Hi

Hubble law

 $H \sim 10^{-60} E_{\text{Planck}}$ 

Hubble parameter

our Universe is extremely close to equilibrium ground state

We should study general properties of equilibrium ground states - quantum vacua

### Why no freezing at low T?

natural masses of elementary particles are of order of characteristic energy scale the Planck energy

$$m \sim E_{\text{Planck}} \sim 10^{19} \text{ GeV} \sim 10^{32} \text{K}$$

even at highest temperature we can reach

# $T \sim 1 \text{ TeV} \sim 10^{16} \text{K}$

everything should be completely frozen out











Why no freezing at low T?











## Thermodynamics

responsible for properties of vacuum energy

problems of cosmological constant: perfect equilibrium Lorentz invariant vacuum

has  $\Lambda = 0$ ;

perturbed vacuum has nonzero  $\Lambda$  on order of perturbation

 $\Lambda <<<< E_{\text{Planck}}^4$ 

## **Topology in momentum space**

responsible for properties of fermionic and bosonic quantum fields in the background of quantum vacuum

Fermi point in momentum space protected by topology is a source of massless Weyl fermions, gauge fields & gravity

 $m_{\text{quarks}}$ ,  $m_{\text{leptons}} \ll E_{\text{Planck}}$ 

#### Quantum vacuum as topological substance: universality classes

physics at low T is determined by gapless excitations



Horava, Kitaev, Ludwig, Schnyder, Ryu, Furusaki, ...

# 2. Liquid <sup>3</sup>He & effective theory of vacuum with Fermi surface



two major universality classes of gapless fermionic vacua



# **Route to Landau Fermi-liquid**





# 3. Superfluid <sup>3</sup>He-A & Standard Model From Fermi surface to Fermi point



magnetic hedgehog vs right-handed electron

#### **Topological invariant for right-handed and left-handed elementary particles**



$$N_{3} = \frac{1}{8\pi} e_{ijk} \int dS^{i} \mathbf{\hat{g}} \cdot (\partial^{j} \mathbf{\hat{g}} \times \partial^{k} \mathbf{\hat{g}})$$
  
over 2D surface  
around Fermi point





#### **Chiral fermions in Standard Model**

# Family #1 of quarks and leptons



# Fermi (Dirac) points in 3+1 gapless topological matter



# emergence of relativistic QFT near Fermi (Dirac) point

original non-relativistic Hamiltonian

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + ip_y) \\ c(p_x - ip_y) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_3(p) & g_1(p) + i g_2(p) \\ g_1(p) - i g_2(p) & -g_3(p) \end{pmatrix} = \tau \cdot g(p)$$
  
close to nodes, i.e. in low-energy corner  
relativistic chiral fermions emerge  
$$H = N_3 c \tau \cdot p$$
  
$$E = \pm cp$$
  
*chirality is emergent ??*  
*what else is emergent ?*  
*what else is emergent ?*

#### bosonic collective modes in two generic fermionic vacua



two generic quantum field theories of interacting bosonic & fermionic fields

#### relativistic quantum fields and gravity emerging near Fermi point

Atiyah-Bott-Shapiro construction:

linear expansion of Hamiltonian near the nodes in terms of Dirac  $\Gamma$ -matrices



#### quantum vacuum as cryo-crystal









- Fermi (Dirac) points with  $N_3 = +1$
- Fermi (Dirac) points with  $N_3 = -1$

## 4. From Fermi point to intrinsic QHE & topological insulators

$$N_{3} = \frac{1}{8\pi} e_{ijk} \int dS^{k} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \cdot (\partial_{p_{i}} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \times \partial_{p_{j}} \hat{\mathbf{g}})$$
  
over 2D surface S  
in 3D momentum space  
3+1vacuum with Fermi point  
dimensional reduction  
Fully gapped 2+1 system  
$$\widetilde{N}_{3} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int dp_{x} dp_{y} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \cdot (\partial_{p_{x}} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \times \partial_{p_{y}} \hat{\mathbf{g}})$$

over the whole 2D momentum space or over 2D Brillouin zone

## topological insulators & superconductors in 2+1

*p*-wave 2D superconductor,  ${}^{3}$ He-A film, HgTe insulator quantum well

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + ip_y) \\ c(p_x - ip_y) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix}$$
$$p^2 = p_x^{-2} + p_y^{-2}$$

How to extract useful information on energy states from Hamiltonian without solving equation

$$\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\psi} = E\boldsymbol{\psi}$$

#### **Topological invariant in momentum space**

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + ip_y) \\ c(p_x - ip_y) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix} \qquad H = \begin{pmatrix} g_3(\mathbf{p}) & g_1(\mathbf{p}) + i g_2(\mathbf{p}) \\ g_1(\mathbf{p}) - i g_2(\mathbf{p}) & -g_3(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix} = \tau \cdot \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{p})$$

$$p^2 = p_x^2 + p_y^2$$

fully gapped 2D state at 
$$\mu \neq 0$$

$$\tilde{N}_3 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2 p \, \hat{\mathbf{g}} \cdot (\partial_{p_x} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \times \partial_{p_y} \hat{\mathbf{g}})$$

GV, JETP 67, 1804 (1988)

#### Skyrmion (coreless vortex) in momentum space at $\mu > 0$



## quantum phase transition: from topological to non-topologicval insulator/superconductor

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + ip_y) \\ c(p_x - ip_y) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_3(\mathbf{p}) & g_1(\mathbf{p}) + i g_2(\mathbf{p}) \\ g_1(\mathbf{p}) - i g_2(\mathbf{p}) & -g_3(\mathbf{p}) \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{\tau} \cdot \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{p})$$
  
**Fopological invariant in momentum space**  

$$\tilde{N}_3 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2 \mathbf{p} \ \hat{\mathbf{g}} \cdot (\partial_{p_x} \hat{\mathbf{g}} \times \partial_{p_y} \hat{\mathbf{g}})$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{trivial insulator}}_{\tilde{N}_3 = 0} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{N}_3 \\ \tilde{N}_3 = 1 \\ \text{topological invalue} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{M} = 0}_{\mu = 0}$$

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{M} = 0}_{\text{quantum phase transition}}$$

 $\Delta \widetilde{N}_3 \neq 0$  is origin of fermion zero modes at the interface between states with different  $\widetilde{N}_3$  *p*-space invariant in terms of Green's function & topological QPT



# topological quantum phase transitions

transitions between ground states (vacua) of the same symmetry, but different topology in momentum space

example: QPT between gapless & gapped matter

QPT interrupted by thermodynamic transitions

*T* (temperature)



quantum phase transition at  $q=q_c$ 

other topological QPT: Lifshitz transition, transtion between topological and nontopological superfluids, plateau transitions, confinement-deconfinement transition, ...



#### Zero energy states on surface of topological insulators & superfluids



Fully gapped 3+1 system

Majorana fermions on the surface and in the vortex cores interface between two 2+1 topological insulators or gapped superfluids



\* domain wall in 2D chiral superconductors:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + i p_y \tanh x) \\ c(p_x - i p_y \tanh x) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix}$$



Edge states at interface between two 2+1 topological insulators or gapped superfluids





$$\mathbf{v} = N_{+} - N_{-}$$

**Edge states and currents** 



current 
$$J_y = J_{\text{left}} + J_{\text{right}} = 0$$

#### **Edge states and Quantum Hall effect**



#### Intrinsic spin-current quantum Hall effect & momentum-space invariant

spin current 
$$J_x^z = \frac{1}{4\pi} (\gamma N_{ss} dH^z/dy + N_{se} E_y)$$
  
spin-spin QHE spin-charge QHE

2D singlet superconductor:

$$\sigma_{xy}^{\text{spin/spin}} = \frac{N_{\text{ss}}}{4\pi} \begin{cases} s \text{-wave:} & N_{\text{ss}} = 0\\ p_x + ip_y \text{:} & N_{\text{ss}} = 2\\ d_{xx-yy} + id_{xy} \text{:} & N_{\text{ss}} = 4 \end{cases}$$

film of planar phase of superfluid <sup>3</sup>He

$$\sigma_{xy}^{\text{spin/charge}} = \frac{N_{\text{se}}}{4\pi}$$

GV & Yakovenko J. Phys. CM **1**, 5263 (1989) planar phase film of 3He & 2D topological insulator

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu & c(p_x + i p_y \sigma_z) \\ c(p_x - i p_y \sigma_z) & -\frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\widetilde{N}_3 = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} e_{\mu\nu\lambda} \operatorname{tr} \left[ \int d^2 p \ d\omega \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\mu} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\nu} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\lambda} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \right] = 0$$
$$\widetilde{N}_{se} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} e_{\mu\nu\lambda} \operatorname{tr} \left[ \int d^2 p \ d\omega \ \sigma_z \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\mu} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\nu} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \ \mathbf{G} \ \partial^{\lambda} \ \mathbf{G}^{-1} \right]$$

$$\widetilde{N}_3 = +1 \qquad \widetilde{N}_3 = -1$$
$$\widetilde{N}_3 = \widetilde{N}_3 + \widetilde{N}_3 = 0 \qquad \widetilde{N}_{se} = \widetilde{N}_3 - \widetilde{N}_3 = 2$$

spin quantum Hall effect

ху

spin current  $J_x^z = \frac{1}{4\pi} N_{se} E_y$  spin-charge QHE spin/charge  $\sigma$ GV & Yakovenko  $N_{\rm se}$ ,  $N_{\rm se} = 2$ J. Phys. CM 1, 5263 (1989)

#### Intrinsic spin-current quantum Hall effect & edge state



# **3D** topological superfluids / insulators / semiconductors / vacua

gapless topologically nontrivial vacua



fully gapped topologically nontrivial vacua



3He-B, Standard Model below electroweak transition, topological insulators, triplet & singlet chiral superconductor, ...



#### Present vacuum as semiconductor or insulator



electric charge of quantum vacuum Q=  $\sum_{a} q_a = N \left[-1 + 3 \times (-1/3) + 3 \times (+2/3)\right] = 0$ 

## fully gapped 3+1 topological matter

superfluid <sup>3</sup>He-B, topological insulator  $Bi_2Te_3$ , present vacuum of Standard Model

\* Standard Model vacuum as topological insulator

**Topological invariant protected by symmetry** 

$$N_{\rm K} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} e_{\mu\nu\lambda} \operatorname{tr} \int dV \, \mathrm{K} \, \mathbf{G} \, \partial^{\mu} \, \mathbf{G}^{-1} \, \mathbf{G} \, \partial^{\nu} \, \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{G} \, \partial^{\lambda} \, \mathbf{G}^{-1}$$
over 3D momentum space

**G** is Green's function at  $\omega=0$ , K is symmetry operator **G**K =+/- K**G** 

Standard Model vacuum:  $K=\gamma_5$   $G\gamma_5 = -\gamma_5 G$ 

$$N_{\rm K} = 8n_{\rm g}$$

8 massive Dirac particles in one generation

# topological superfluid <sup>3</sup>He-B

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m^*} - \mu & c_B \sigma \cdot \mathbf{p} \\ c_B \sigma \cdot \mathbf{p} & -\frac{p^2}{2m^*} + \mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m^*} - \mu \end{pmatrix} \tau_3 + c_B \sigma \cdot \mathbf{p} \tau_1 \\ 1/m^*$$
non-topological superfluid
$$N_K = 0 \qquad N_K = +2 \qquad \mathbf{Dirac vacuum} \\ N_K = -1 \qquad 0 \qquad N_K = +1 \qquad \mathbf{Dirac} \\ N_K = -2 \qquad N_K = 0 \qquad \mathbf{Dirac} \\ \mathbf{Dirac} \\ N_K = 0 \qquad \mathbf{Dirac} \\ \mathbf{Dirac} \\ \mathbf{Dirac} \\ N_K = 0 \qquad \mathbf{Dirac} \\ \mathbf{Dirac$$

GV JETP Lett. **90**, 587 (2009)

## **Boundary of 3D gapped topological superfluid**



## fermion zero modes on Dirac wall







$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{p^2}{2m^*} - \mu & \sigma_X c_X p_X + \sigma_y c_y p_y + \sigma_Z c_Z p_Z \\ \sigma_X c_X p_X + \sigma_y c_y p_y + \sigma_Z c_Z p_Z & -\frac{p^2}{2m^*} + \mu \end{pmatrix}$$

$$N_K = -2 \qquad N_K = +2$$

$$N_K = +2 \qquad N_K = +2$$

$$N_K = +2 \qquad N_K = -2$$

$$N_K = -2 \qquad N_K = -2$$

one of 3 "speeds of light" changes sign across wall



spectrum of fermion zero modes

$$H_{zm} = c (\sigma_x p_y - \sigma_y p_x)$$

#### Conclusion

Momentum-space topology determines:

universality classes of quantum vacua

effective field theories in these quantum vacua

topological quantum phase transitions (Lifshitz, plateau, etc.)

quantization of Hall and spin-Hall conductivity

topological Chern-Simons & Wess-Zumino terms

quantum statistics of topological objects

spectrum of edge states & fermion zero modes on walls & quantum vortices chiral anomaly & vortex dynamics, etc.