

Nonlinear interrogation of quantum materials: why higher order response tells you more

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Office of Science





Quantum materials: what are they?

- Materials whose often exotic properties are governed by quantum mechanics
 - Quantum properties of electronic wavefunction matter: topology & geometry
 - Coulomb interactions between electrons results in entangled wavefunction (beyond Fermi statistics)
- Prominent examples of recent interest
 - (Magnetic) Topological insulators and semimetals
 - Quantum spin liquids and spin ices
 - Unconventional superconductors
 - Quantum critical materials

Hasan, Kane (2010); Armitage, Mele, Vishwanath (2018); Keimer, Moore (2017); Savary, Balents (2017); Sigrist, Ueda (1991); Sachdev (1999); Sachdev (2023)

Quantum (spin) Hall insulators

Weyl semimetal

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Bilayer device with magnetic TI MnBi₂Te₄





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$H = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(\mathbf{r})$ with periodic potential $V(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{R}_{\ell}) = V(\mathbf{r})$

- Hamiltonian commutes with unitary translation operators $T_{R_{\ell}} |\psi_{nk}\rangle = e^{i \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{\ell}} |\psi_{nk}\rangle$
- Momentum eigenstates $\psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}u_{nk}(\mathbf{r})$
 - cell-periodic Bloch wavefunction $u_{nk}(r)$

Electronic wavefunctions in solids





Energy dispersion E_{nk}





Topological Berry phase and Berry curvature



• Berry phase of a spin in a magnetic field $H = -\gamma \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{S} = -\left(\frac{\gamma \hbar B}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$



Up-spin eigenfunction

$$\left|\uparrow_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}\right\rangle = \begin{pmatrix}\cos(\theta/2)\\\sin(\theta/2)e^{i\varphi}\end{pmatrix}$$

Berry phase is geometric phase picked up during transport along closed loop

$$\phi = \oint \langle u_{\lambda} | i \partial_{\lambda} u_{\lambda} \rangle \, d\lambda \, . \implies \phi = \oint_{P} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{\lambda} = \int_{S} \mathbf{\Omega} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, dS = \int_{S} \mathbf{\Omega} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$
Berry connection (gauge potential)
$$\Omega_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu} = -2 \operatorname{Im} \langle \partial_{\mu} u | \partial_{\nu} u \rangle \, .$$

Vanderbilt (2018)

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Topological Berry phase and Berry curvature



• Berry phase of a spin in a magnetic field $H = -\gamma \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{S} = -\left(\frac{\gamma \hbar B}{2}\right) \hat{\mathbf{n}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$





• Berry phase = flux through

shaded area $\phi = \int_{S} \mathbf{\Omega} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$

Up-spin eigenfunction

Close to north pole

$$\begin{split} |\uparrow_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}\rangle &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta/2)\\ \sin(\theta/2)e^{i\varphi} \end{pmatrix} \quad |\uparrow_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}\rangle \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ (n_x + in_y)/2 \end{pmatrix} \\ |\partial_{n_x}\uparrow_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |\partial_{n_y}\uparrow_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0\\ i \end{pmatrix}. \end{split}$$

Constant Berry flux $\,\Omega_z=-1/2\,$

Berry phase is proportional to shaded area

$$\Omega_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu} = -2\operatorname{Im}\left\langle\partial_{\mu}u\right\rangle\partial_{\nu}u\right\rangle. \ \Omega_{\kappa} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\kappa}\Omega_{\mu\nu}$$

Vanderbilt (2018)

Berry phase of Bloch electrons in solids



- Bloch Hamiltonian $H_{ij}(k)$ resembles spin in magnetic field $\hat{H} = \sum \sum H_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \hat{a}_{i\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{j\mathbf{k}}$.
- Example: Weyl semimetal $H_{\pm} = \pm v \sum_{i=x,y,z} k_i \sigma_i$

Armitage et al. (2018)



- Berry connection $A_n(k) = \langle u_{nk} | i \nabla_k | u_{nk} \rangle$
- Berry phase $\phi_n = \oint_{\mathcal{C}} dk \cdot A_n(k)$
- Berry curvature $\Omega_n(k) = \nabla_k \times A_n(k)$
- Weyl points are sources of Berry flux (magnetic monopoles) $\oint \mathbf{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{dS} = \mp 2\pi$

Impact of Berry curvature on electronic transport



Berry curvature acts like a magnetic field in momentum space •

current

Semiclassical equations of motion of Bloch electrons

 $\hbar \dot{k} = -eE - e\dot{r} \times B.$

Anomalous Hall conductivity

$$\sigma_{yx} = \frac{e^2}{(2\pi)^2\hbar} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} f(\mathbf{k}) \,\Omega(\mathbf{k}) \,d^2k$$

Nonzero only in absence of time-reversal symmetry

 $\dot{\boldsymbol{r}} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{k}} \epsilon_{\boldsymbol{k}} - \dot{\boldsymbol{k}} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega},$ Transverse Hall $K_y = \frac{-e}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} f(\mathbf{k}) \, \dot{y}(\mathbf{k}) \, d^2 k$ $= \frac{-e}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{\mathbf{RZ}} f(\mathbf{k}) \, \dot{k}_x \, \Omega(\mathbf{k}) \, d^2k$ $= \frac{-e}{(2\pi)^2} \left(\frac{-e}{\hbar} \mathcal{E}_x\right) \int_{\mathbf{P7}} f(\mathbf{k}) \,\Omega(\mathbf{k}) \,d^2k$ Time-reversal $(\mathcal{T}) \ \tilde{\Omega}^{(n)}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega^{(n)}_{\mu\nu}(-\mathbf{k})$ Inversion (P) $\tilde{\Omega}_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = \Omega_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(-\mathbf{k})$ $P\mathcal{T} \qquad \qquad \tilde{\Omega}^{(n)}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega^{(n)}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})$

How to probe Berry curvature in presence of TR?

Types of nonlinear probes of quantum materials





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Fiebig *et al.* (2005); Zhao, Torchinsky, Hsieh et al. (2018)

generation)

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Obey different symmetry constraints than linear response

Detect symmetries & symmetry breaking (example: second-harmonic

- $P_{i} = \sum_{j} \chi_{ij}^{(1)} E_{j} + \sum_{j,k} \chi_{ijk}^{(2)} E_{j} E_{k} + \sum_{j,k,l} \chi_{ijkl}^{(3)} E_{j} E_{k} E_{l} + \dots$



Basic concepts of nonlinear probes 1





Basic concepts of nonlinear probes 2



• Nonlinear response probes topology and quantum geometry

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\mu
u}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = ig\langle \partial_{\mu} u_n | \, \partial_{
u} u_n
angle - ig\langle \partial_{\mu} u_n | \, u_n
angle ig\langle u_n | \, \partial_{
u} u_n
angle \Big|$$

$$=g^{(n)}_{\mu
u}({f k})-rac{i}{2}\Omega^{(n)}_{\mu
u}({f k})\;,$$

$$\frac{\text{Time-reversal }(\mathcal{T})}{P\mathcal{T}} \frac{\tilde{\Omega}_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(-\mathbf{k})}{\tilde{\Omega}_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = \Omega_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(-\mathbf{k})}$$
$$\frac{\tilde{\Omega}_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = \Omega_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(-\mathbf{k})}{\tilde{\Omega}_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}) = -\Omega_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k})}$$

Few-layer graphene

From Ma *et al.* (2018):

• Example: Nonlinear Hall effect due to Berry curvature dipole



Basic concepts of nonlinear probes 3



• Nonlinear response can be viewed as lower-order response in perturbed system

L

- Perturbative example: circular photogalvanic effect (CPGE) due to BC dipole
- Multiple weak-pulses: 2D spectroscopy (discussed later)
- Pump-probe is highly nonlinear example of probing excited states.

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \nabla_k \epsilon_k - \dot{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{\Omega},$$

 $\hbar \dot{\mathbf{k}} = -e\mathbf{E} - e\dot{\mathbf{r}} \times \mathbf{B}.$

Moore, Orenstein (2010) Sodemann, Fu (2014) Chan et al. (2017, 2018) Ma *et al.* (2017) Why probing quantum materials nonlinearly?

Nonlinear interrogation of materials provides information about

- Electronic symmetry & hidden orders via symmetry breaking
- Topology & quantum geometry of Bloch wavefunctions
- Nature, lifetimes & couplings of excitations
- Quantum coherences of the many-body quantum state



• Sirica, PPO *et al.*, Nat. Mater. (2022).

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- Qiang,..., PPO, arXiv:2301.11243.
- Xu,.., PPO,.., Wang, Nat. Mater (2018).







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12

Collaborators

Theory collaborators

- Yihua Qiang, Victor Quito (Ames Lab)
- Thais V. Trevisan (UC Berkeley)
- Mathias S. Scheurer (Innsbruck Univ)

Experimental collaborators

- Nick Sirica, Rohit Prasankumar, Dmitry Yarotski (Los Alamos National Lab)
- Jigang Wang (Ames Lab)
- Qiong Ma (Boston College)
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J. Wang





S. Xu

Nonlinear optics - SHG as sensitive symmetry probe

Nonlinear response probes electronic symmetry



- Nonlinear response described by higher rank tensors
 - Example: electric polarization

$$P_{i} = \sum_{j} \chi_{ij}^{(1)} E_{j} + \sum_{j,k} \chi_{ijk}^{(2)} E_{j} E_{k} + \sum_{j,k,l} \chi_{ijkl}^{(3)} E_{j} E_{k} E_{l} + \dots$$

• Symmetry transformation imposes constraints

$$\chi_{ijk} = \sum_{i',j',k'} R_{ii'} R_{jj'} R_{kk'} \chi_{i'j'k'}$$

Constraints inform us about symmetries & symmetry breaking

Second-harmonic generation (SHG)







Outgoing intensities as function of incoming polarization

$$egin{aligned} &I_{
m SHG}^{[1ar 10]}(2\omega;\phi) \propto |oldsymbol{P}(2\omega;\phi)\cdotoldsymbol{e}_2'|^2 \ &I_{
m SHG}^{[11ar 1]}(2\omega;\phi) \propto |oldsymbol{P}(2\omega;\phi)\cdotoldsymbol{e}_1'|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$oldsymbol{P}_i(2\omega;\phi) = \sum_{j,k=x,y,z} \chi^{ ext{ED}}_{ijk}(2\omega;\omega,\omega) oldsymbol{E}_j(\omega;\phi) oldsymbol{E}_k(\omega;\phi)$$

$$\chi_{ijk}^{\text{ED}} \equiv \chi_{ijk} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} xxx & xxy & xxz \\ xxy & xyy & xyz \\ xxz & xyz & xzz \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} yxx & yxy & yxz \\ yxy & yyy & yyz \\ yxz & yyz & yzz \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} zxx & zxy & zxz \\ zxy & zyy & zyz \\ zxz & zyz & zzz \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

$$C4v \text{ symmetry constraints} \qquad \chi_{ijk}^{(C_{4v})} = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & xxz \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ xxz & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & xxz \\ 0 & xxz & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} zxx & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & zxx & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & zzz \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

Time-resolved SHG in Weyl semimetal TaAs



• Outgoing intensities for C_{4v}

symmetry

$$I_{\rm SHG}^{[1\bar{1}0]} = a_1 \sin^2(2\phi)$$
$$I_{\rm SHG}^{[11\bar{1}]} = \left[b_1 + b_2 \cos^2(\phi)\right]^2$$

 Optical pump removes symmetries

➤ Fitting of SHG allows to

determine symmetry reduction



Sirica, PPO et al., Nature Materials (2022)

Microscopic origin of dynamic symmetry breaking



- All spatial symmetries and time-reversal are removed by optical pump
- Observed reduction of magnetic symmetry consistent with photocurrent generation
- Symmetry reduction can be controlled by pump polarization





Sirica, PPO et al., Nature Materials (2022).

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Two-dimensional coherent spectroscopy

Two-dimensional coherent spectroscopy



- Several time-spaced light pulses irradiate the system
 - Followed by a measurement of an observable, e.g., polarization P or magnetization M
- Nonlinear susceptibility $R^{(n)}(t_1, t_2, ..., t_n)$

$$M_{a}(t) = \int_{0}^{\infty} ds R_{ab}^{(1)}(s) B_{b}(t-s) + \int_{0}^{\infty} ds_{1} \int_{0}^{\infty} ds_{2} R_{abc}^{(2)}(s_{1},s_{2}) B_{b}(t-s_{1}) B_{c}(t-s_{2}) +$$



- S. Mukamel, Principles of Nonlinear Optical Spectroscopy (1999).
- P. Hamm and M. Zanni, Concepts and Methods of 2D
- Infrared Spectroscopy (2011).
- J. Lu, X. Li, Y. Zhang, H. Y. Hwang, B. K. Ofori-Okai, K. A. Nelson, Top Curr Chem (Z) **376**, 6 (2018).
- M, Woerner, W. Kuehn, P. Bowlan, K. Reimann and T. Elsaesser, New J. Phys. 15, 025039 (2013).

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- Kubo formula
 - Linear response $R_{ab}^{(1)}(t_1) = \frac{i}{N}\theta(t_1)\left\langle \left[\hat{M}_a(t), \hat{M}_b(0)\right] \right\rangle_0$
 - 2nd-order response $R_{abc}^{(2)}(t_2, t_1 + t_2) = \frac{i^2}{N} \theta(t_1) \theta(t_2) \left\langle \left[\left[\hat{M}_a(t_1 + t_2), \hat{M}_b(t_1) \right], \hat{M}_c(0) \right] \right\rangle_0 \right\rangle_0$

Correlation functions as quantum pathways

- Pathways provide useful intuition about nonlinear response
- Requires knowledge of all Hamiltonian eigenstates
 - Lehmann representation of correlation function



Ladder diagram for pathway A





Quantum pathway A in linear response: step 1 INIVERSITÄT $A = \operatorname{tr}\left(e^{iHt_1}\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1}\hat{M}_b \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right|\right) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1}\hat{M}_b \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right| e^{iHt_1}\right)$ Step 1 Created quantum coherence Step 1: \widehat{M}_{h} acts on the left of ρ_{0} $|i\rangle\langle 0|$ $\hat{M}_{b} \left| 0 \right\rangle \left\langle 0 \right| = \sum_{i} \left\langle i \left| \hat{M}_{b} \right| 0 \right\rangle \left| i \right\rangle \left\langle 0 \right| = \sum_{i} M_{b,i0} \left| i \right\rangle \left\langle 0 \right|$ Transition matrix element Insert resolution of identity using between energy eigenstates a basis of eigenstates of H

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Quantum pathway A in linear response: step 2



$$A = \operatorname{tr}\left(e^{iHt_{1}}\hat{M}_{a}e^{-iHt_{1}}\hat{M}_{b}\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|\right) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_{a}e^{-iHt_{1}}\hat{M}_{b}\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|e^{iHt_{1}}\right)$$

$$\underbrace{\operatorname{Step 1}}_{\operatorname{Step 2}}$$
Step 2: Time-evolution of the density matrix over time t_{1}

$$e^{-iHt_{1}}\hat{M}_{b}\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|e^{iHt_{1}} = \sum_{i}M_{b,i0}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|$$

$$\underbrace{t_{1}}_{b}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{i}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{i}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{i}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

$$\underbrace{t_{2}}_{i}\left|i\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|}_{i}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$

Quantum pathway A in linear response: step 3





Step 3: \widehat{M}_a acts on the time-evolved density matrix. Perform trace \rightarrow measurement

$$\operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_{a}G(t_{1})\hat{M}_{b}\left|0\right\rangle\left\langle0\right|\right)=\sum_{i}M_{b,i0}M_{a,0i}e^{-i\omega_{i0}t_{1}}$$
Summation over all energy eigenstates *i*



Quantum pathways A and B in linear response



$$A = \operatorname{tr}\left(e^{iHt_1}\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1}\hat{M}_b \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right|\right) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1}\hat{M}_b \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right| e^{iHt_1}\right)$$
$$B = \operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_b e^{iHt_1}\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1} \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right|\right) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\hat{M}_a e^{-iHt_1} \left|0\right\rangle \left\langle 0\right|\hat{M}_b e^{iHt_1}\right)$$



13 April 2023



 t_1





а

time

 t_2



2D spectrum in frequency space



• Fourier transformation
$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt \theta(t) e^{i\omega t - i\omega_{ij}t - \Gamma t} = g_{\Gamma}(\omega - \omega_{ij})$$

• The g-function contains delta function and principal value

$$g_{\Gamma}(x) = \frac{i}{x + i\Gamma} = iP\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) + \pi\delta(x)$$

- Terms in the 2D spectrum contain products of g functions
 - Mixing of delta function and PV contributions occur
 - Characteristic slowly decaying PV streaks coming out of localized delta function peaks in 2D spectrum

$$g_{\Gamma}(x) g_{\Gamma}(y) = \left[\pi^{2} \delta(x) \delta(y) - P\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) P\left(\frac{1}{y}\right)\right] + i \left[\pi \delta(x) P\left(\frac{1}{y}\right) + \pi \delta(y) P\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)\right]$$

2D coherent THz spectroscopy: Experiments

PRL 118, 207204 (2017)

13 April 2023

week ending 19 MAY 2017

FT magnitude (a.u.)

Coherent Two-Dimensional Terahertz Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy of Collective Spin Waves

Jian Lu,¹ Xian Li,¹ Harold Y. Hwang,¹ Benjamin K. Ofori-Okai,¹ Takayuki Kurihara,² Tohru Suemoto,² and Keith A. Nelson^{1,*} ¹Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA ²Institute for Solid State Physics, The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8581, Japan (Received 7 October 2016; published 18 May 2017)



$$\mathbf{B}_{\mathrm{NL}}(t,\tau) = \mathbf{B}_{AB}(t,\tau) - \mathbf{B}_{A}(t,\tau) - \mathbf{B}_{B}(t)$$



- Noncentrosymmetric canted AFM material YFeO₃.
- Two THz-active zone-center magnon modes



Real-time nonlinear signal for fixed pulse delay

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• Different modes can be selectively excited by choice of B-field polarization





2D THz spectrum: AF mode





- Both second-order signals detected
- Purely magnetic origin
- Reproduced by semiclassical LLG simulations using Hamiltonian $H = -J\mathbf{S}_1 \cdot \mathbf{S}_2 + \mathbf{D} \cdot (\mathbf{S}_1 \times \mathbf{S}_2) - \sum_{i=1,2} (K_a S_{ia}^2 + K_c S_{ic}^2)$ $-\gamma [\mathbf{B}_A^{\text{THz}}(t, \tau) + \mathbf{B}_B^{\text{THz}}(t)] \cdot \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbf{S}_i.$ AF mode



3rd order peaks in 2D THz spectrum of AF mode





3rd order peaks in 2D THz spectrum of AF mode







- All third-order signals detected
- 2Q signal can reveal correlations of zone center magnons
- Rephasing (R) signal yields intrinsic broadening

3rd order peaks in 2D THz spectrum of AF mode







- Future directions
 - Look for mode-mode couplings (off-diagonal peaks)
 - Look for anharmonic magnetic potentials (shifts of diagonal peaks)

Other recent THz 2DCS experiments



ARTICLES

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-020-01149-0



2DCS allows to measure intrinsic lifetimes



- Distinguish excitation pathways
- Combine THz and Raman
 pulses

Observation of a marginal Fermi glass

Fahad Mahmood^{®1,2,3 \veesty}, Dipanjan Chaudhuri^{®1}, Sarang Gopalakrishnan^{4,5}, Rahul Nandkishore⁶ and N. P. Armitage^{®1 \veesty}

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 122, 073901 (2019)

stion

nature

physics

Distinguishing Nonlinear Terahertz Excitation Pathways with Two-Dimensional Spectroscopy

Courtney L. Johnson, Brittany E. Knighton, and Jeremy A. Johnson^{*} Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602, USA

2D spectroscopy of Kitaev honeycomb spin liquid

Kitaev spin model on the honeycomb lattice

$$\hat{H} = -J_x \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_x} \hat{\sigma}_i^x \hat{\sigma}_j^x - J_y \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_y} \hat{\sigma}_i^y \hat{\sigma}_j^y - J_z \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_z} \hat{\sigma}_i^z \hat{\sigma}_j^z$$



- Quantum spin liquid ground state with fractionalized excitations
 - How to uniquely identify this state experimentally?

$$\sigma_j^a = i b_j^a c_j$$
 Spins in terms of Majorana fermions
 $\hat{u}_{jk} = i b_j^a b_k^a$ Static bond fermions $\{u_{jk} = \pm 1\}$
 $\hat{W}_p = \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^y \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^x \sigma_5^y \sigma_6^z$ Z₂ fluxes are conserved





From Yang et al. (2007)

Kitaev spin model on the honeycomb lattice

$$\hat{H} = -J_x \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_x} \hat{\sigma}_i^x \hat{\sigma}_j^x - J_y \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_y} \hat{\sigma}_i^y \hat{\sigma}_j^y - J_z \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_z} \hat{\sigma}_i^z \hat{\sigma}_j^z$$

• Exactly solvable in terms of static Z₂ fluxes and Majorana fermions



- Quantum spin liquid ground state with fractionalized excitations
 - How to uniquely identify this state experimentally



Phase diagram and matter fermion gap

- B phase = gapless spin liquid.
 - Spin correlations only on n.n. bonds
 - Z2 flux gap nonzero
 - Gapless Majorana matter excitations
- A phases = gapped spin liquid
 - Gapped Majorana matter excitations



Linear response: dynamic structure factor



- Zero temperature spin correlation function $S_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}(t) = \langle 0 | \hat{\sigma}_i^{\alpha}(t) \hat{\sigma}_j^{\beta}(0) | 0 \rangle$,
- Application of spin σ_i^{α} creates flux pair across bond α and Majorana fermion c at site $i S_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}(\omega) = -i \sum_{\alpha} \langle M_0^p | \hat{c}_i | \lambda \rangle \langle \lambda | \hat{c}_j | M_0^p \rangle \delta[\omega (E_{\lambda} E_0^p)] \delta_{\langle ij \rangle_{\alpha}} \delta_{\alpha\beta}$.
- Evaluate dynamic structure factor in the Lehmann representation
- Sites *i*, *j* must be nearest-neighbors to allow for flux removal $|0\rangle$



- Intermediate state contains additional flux pair
- flux pair
 States |λ⟩ are eigenstates of Hamiltonian with sign of bond variable u^α_{ij} flipped



Dynamic structure factor at q = 0



- Dynamic structure factor shows broad peak at low energies
- Vanishes below the two-flux gap energy
- Dip at van Hove singularity in the density of states



Nonlinear response at q = 0



- 3^{rd} order χ^{zzz} studied by Choi, Lee, Y.-B. Kim (PRL, 2020)
 - Contains fingerprints of fractionalization
 - Vertical signals at two and four-flux gaps
 - Diagonal signal range equals matter bandwidth, axes intercepts yield 4-flux gap



Nonlinear response at q = 0



 $j\rangle\langle j$

 $\ket{k}ig\langle j$

 $|i\rangle \langle j|$

- 3^{rd} order χ^{zzz} studied by Choi, Lee, Y.-B. Kim (PRL, 2020)
 - Contains fingerprints of fractionalization
 - Vertical signals at two and four-flux gaps
 - Diagonal signal range equals matter bandwidth, axes intercepts yield 4-flux gap

Here: Off-diagonal 2nd order response χ^{yzx} is also finite!

Lower order response should be experimentally easier accessible





Second-order 2DCS response at q = 0



• 2^{nd} order response for component: (a,b,c) = (y, z, x)

$$\chi^{a,b,c}(\tau_{1},\tau_{2}) = \frac{i^{2}}{N}\theta(\tau_{1})\theta(\tau_{2})\langle [[M^{a}(\tau_{1}+\tau_{2}), M^{b}(\tau_{1})], M^{c}(0)]\rangle$$

$$M^{a}(t) = \sum_{l}\sigma_{l}^{a}(t)$$

$$I^{(l)} \qquad I^{(l)} \qquad$$

Expressions for the two pathways: R₁ and R₂

$$\chi_{R_1}^{y,z,x}(\tau_1,\tau_2) = -\frac{2}{N} \Re \sum_{PQ} \sum_{klm} \langle 0 | \sigma_k^y | Q \rangle \langle Q | \sigma_l^z | P \rangle \langle P | \sigma_m^x | 0 \rangle$$

$$\times \theta(\tau_1)\theta(\tau_2) e^{-i\tau_1(E_P - E_0)} e^{-i\tau_2(E_Q - E_0)},$$

$$\chi_{R_2}^{y,z,x}(\tau_1,\tau_2) = +\frac{2}{N} \Re \sum_{PQ} \sum_{klm} \langle 0 | \sigma_l^z | Q \rangle \langle Q | \sigma_k^y | P \rangle \langle P | \sigma_m^x | 0 \rangle$$

$$\times \theta(\tau_1)\theta(\tau_2) e^{-i\tau_1(E_P - E_0)} e^{-i\tau_2(E_P - E_Q)},$$

$$|0\rangle \qquad |P\rangle \qquad |Q\rangle \qquad |0\rangle \qquad |P\rangle \qquad |Q\rangle \qquad |0\rangle$$

$$= +\frac{2}{N} \Re \sum_{PQ} \sum_{klm} \langle 0 | \sigma_l^z | Q \rangle \langle Q | \sigma_k^y | P \rangle \langle P | \sigma_m^x | 0 \rangle$$

$$\times \theta(\tau_1)\theta(\tau_2) e^{-i\tau_1(E_P - E_0)} e^{-i\tau_2(E_P - E_Q)},$$

Full second-order 2D spectrum





Time-reversal symmetry requires Reχ^{abc}(ω₁, ω₂) = Reχ^{abc}(-ω₁, -ω₂)
 Pathways clearly separated Imχ^{abc}(ω₁, ω₂) = -Imχ^{abc}(-ω₁, -ω₂)

Dominant response at lower energies





- Real and imaginary parts contain the same information
- Response largest in region $0 < \omega < J$

Interpretation of R₁ pathway





- 2-Flux gap visible
- Continuum of Majorana matter excitations similarly to linear response
- Off-diagonal peaks occur



Interpretation of R₂ pathway





- 2-Flux gap visible as well
- Can distinguish smooth PV from delta-function peaks
- Peaks in ω_2 at energy differences



Off-diagonal peaks in R₁





Nonlinear response measures wavefunction properties

- Grey dots are energies of high IPR wavefunctions IPR = $\frac{\sum_{i} |\psi_i|^4}{\sum_{i} |\psi_i|^2}$
- Response dominated by high IPR states
- Off-diagonal peaks = overlap of localized matter states trapped around Z₂ fluxes



Conclusions & Outlook



- Nonlinear responses are powerful probes of quantum materials
 - Detect symmetries, reveal hidden orders, symmetry breaking
 - Map out quantum geometry: Berry curvature and quantum metric
 - Access properties of quasiparticles such as lifetimes, couplings & wavefunction overlaps
 - Direct probe of fractionalization in quantum magnets
- Open questions and theory challenges
 - Nonlinear response in correlated and disordered materials
 - 2D spectroscopy of multiferroic and superconducting systems
 - Explore theory of combined nonlinear THz and Raman spectroscopy

Thank you for your attention!



References

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- Qiang, Quito, Trevisan, PPO, arXiv:2301.11243.