Fractional quantum Hall effect Conformal Field Theory and Matrix Product States

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE, Paris)

Mathematical Institute

Köln

Quantum Hall effect and Landau levels

- Practional quantum Hall effect
 - Laughlin state

The chiral boson

- and the Laughlin state
- as an ansatz for FQH states

Matrix Product States

• a powerful numerical method

Quantum Hall effect



Classical Hall effect

Hall effect : a 2D electron gas in a perpendicular magnetic field.

 \Rightarrow current \perp voltage $R_{xy} \propto B$



Integer Quantum Hall effect (IQHE)



IQHE : von Klitzing (1980) Quantized Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy} = \nu \frac{e^2}{h}$ ν is an integer up to $O(10^{-9})$ Used in metrology

A single electron in 2D and in a \perp magnetic field *B*. Uniform \perp magnetic field : gauge choice $H = \frac{1}{2m} \left(\vec{p} - e\vec{A} \right)^2, \qquad \vec{A} = \frac{B}{2} \left(\begin{array}{c} -y \\ x \end{array} \right)$

$$H = \frac{1}{2m} \left(-i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{eB}{2}y \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2m} \left(-i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - \frac{eB}{2}x \right)^2$$

energy scale : cyclotron frequency ω_c = ^{|eB|}/_m,
 length scale : magnetic length I_B = √^ħ/_{|eB|}

$$H = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_{c} \left[\left(-il_{B}\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{y}{2l_{B}} \right)^{2} + \left(-il_{B}\frac{\partial}{\partial y} - \frac{x}{2l_{B}} \right)^{2} \right]$$

Landau levels

In (dimensionless) complex coordinate $z = (x + iy)/I_B$, and setting

$$a = \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{z}{2} \right), \qquad a^{\dagger} = -\sqrt{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\bar{z}}{2} \right)$$

Familiar form of the Hamiltonian

$$H = \hbar\omega_c \left(a^{\dagger}a + \frac{1}{2}\right) \qquad [a, a^{\dagger}] = 1$$

Discrete spectrum, large degeneracy

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

Lowest Landau Level (N = 0)

Since $a = \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} + \frac{z}{2} \right)$, ground states are of the form

 $\Psi(z,\bar{z})=f(z)\,e^{-z\bar{z}/4}$

with f(z) is any holomorphic function $(\partial_{\bar{z}}f = 0)$.

$$\Rightarrow$$
 chirality : $(x, y) \rightarrow z = (x + iy)$

Ground states, a.k.a. Lowest Landau level (LLL) states

$$\Psi(x,y) = f(x + iy) e^{-(x^2 + y^2)/4l_B^2}$$

Projection to the LLL : x and y no longer commute $[\hat{x}, \hat{y}] = i l_B^2$

$$\Delta_x \Delta_y \ge l_B^2/2$$

 \Rightarrow each electron occupies an area $2\pi l_B^2$ magnetic flux through this area = quantum of flux $\Phi = h/e$

LLL degeneracy \sim number N_{Φ} of flux quanta through the surface

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

Landau problem on arbitrary surfaces

Lowest Landau Level on (compact) Riemann surfaces :



The magnetic flux has to be quantized $\int d^2 x B = N_{\Phi} \frac{h}{e}$, with N_{Φ} integer.

The ground state degeneracy on a surface of genus g is

$$N_{\Phi}+(1-g)$$
 $(N_{\phi}>2g-2)$

- it depends on the topology (genus).
- it does NOT depend on the geometry (metric)

Back on flat space : magnetic translations

translation invariance : \vec{x} and $\vec{x} + \vec{u}$ are gauge equivalent

$$\vec{A} = \frac{B}{2} \left(\begin{array}{c} -y \\ x \end{array} \right)$$



$$R_{\vec{u}}R_{\vec{v}} = e^{i\frac{qB}{\hbar}\vec{u}\wedge\vec{v}}R_{\vec{v}}R_{\vec{u}}$$



Infinitesimal generators of translations commute with H, but

$$[T_x, T_y] = -i \neq 0$$

Let us choose momentum along the y direction as a quantum number.

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)



$$\Psi_{k_y}(x,y) = e^{iyk_y} e^{-\frac{(x-k_y)^2}{2}} \propto e^{zk_y} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \qquad (I_B = 1)$$

Momentum k_y and position x are locked :

$$x \sim I_B^2 k_y$$

- $[\hat{x}, \hat{y}] = i l_B^2$ implies that $\hbar \hat{x} = l_B^2 \hat{p}_y$.
- localized in \hat{x} and delocalized in \hat{y}
- the interorbital distance is $\frac{2\pi}{L}I_B^2$



Density profile of the LLL orbital $\Psi_{k_y}(x, y)$.

Projection to the LLL : dimensional reduction

Projection to the LLL : x and y no longer commute $[\hat{x}, \hat{y}] = i l_B^2$ (link with non-commutative geometry).

4 dimensional phase space \Rightarrow 2 dimensional phase space A basis of LLL states



looks like a one-dimensional chain





But !

Physical short range interactions become long range in this description (distance of order I_B means $\sim L/I_B$ sites).

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

The IQHE : bulk insulator

Cartoon picture : no interactions, no disorder





- Landau Levels = flat bands
- Integer filling with fermions
 ⇒ Bulk insulator.

How come we have $I \propto V$ then? Where is the current flowing?

The IQHE : conducting edges



Topological insulator

This quantization is insensitive to disorder or strong periodic potential :

topological invariant : the Chern number

Disclaimer : this is just a cartoon picture. Does not explain plateaux.

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)



FQHE trial wavefunctions

Fractional filling : the role of interactions

N fermions in N_{Φ} orbital/states (filling fraction $\nu = N/N_{\phi} < 1$) (or N bosons at any filling fractions)

without interactions we would expect a **metallic bulk** ! Experimentally, emergence of exotic and non perturbative physics :

- insulating bulk,
- metallic chiral edge modes,
- excitations with fractional charges,

due to electron-electron interactions

Strongly correlated system, no small parameter. What can we do?

- Exact diagonalization
- Effective field theories (theories of anyons)
- Trial wavefunctions



Trial wave functions

The $\nu = 1/3$ Laughlin state.

filling fraction $\nu = 1/3$ + short range model interaction \Rightarrow exact ground-state :

$$\Psi_{\frac{1}{3}}(z_1,\cdots,z_N)=\prod_{i< j}(z_i-z_j)^3$$

The model interaction is the short range part of Coulomb.

Extremely high overlap with Coulomb interaction ! (obtained by exact diagonalization)

First hints of a topological phase :

- excitations with fractional charge e/3
- topology dependent ground state degeneracy : 3^g exact ground states.

Cartoon picture : thin cylinder limit $(L \ll I_B)$



Very small cylinder perimeter *L* : **LLL orbitals no longer overlap** 1d problem

At filling fraction u = 1/3, we get three possible states

$$\begin{split} |\Psi_1\rangle &= |\cdots 100100100\cdots\rangle \\ |\Psi_2\rangle &= |\cdots 010010010\cdots\rangle \\ |\Psi_3\rangle &= |\cdots 001001001\cdots\rangle \end{split}$$

3-fold degenerate ground state on the cylinder (and torus).

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

Bulk excitations/defects : anyons

Adiabatic insertion of a flux quantum at position w

creates a hole in the electronic liquid :

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{w}} = \prod_{i} (\mathbf{w} - z_i) \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^3$$

Cartoon picture : $|\cdots 1001000100\cdots\rangle$



Electronic density around a quasihole (N. Regnault)

fractionalization : the missing electronic charge is e/3 these excitations are called **quasi-holes**.



under adiabatic exchange of two quasi-holes

 \Rightarrow phase $e^{2i\pi/3}$ non trivial braiding!



Massless edge modes

$$\Psi_{\boldsymbol{u}} = P_{\boldsymbol{u}} \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^3$$

where P_u is any symmetric, homogeneous polynomial.

Cartoon picture : no more than 1 electron in 3 orbitals.

- dispersion relation : $E \propto P$ chiral and gapless edge
- Number of edge states :
 - E = 0 : 1 state
 - E = 1 : 1 state
 - E = 2 : 2 states
 - E = 3 : 3 states
 - E = 4 : 5 states
 - E = 5 : 7 states
 - • •









(d) E = 2

spectrum of massless chiral boson.

Massless edge modes

$$\Psi_{\boldsymbol{u}} = P_{\boldsymbol{u}} \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^3$$

where P_u is any symmetric, homogeneous polynomial.

Cartoon picture : no more than 1 electron in 3 orbitals.

- dispersion relation : *E* \propto *P* chiral and gapless edge
- Number of edge states :











spectrum of massless chiral boson.

Bulk excitations

Quasi-hole at position w :

$$\Psi_{qh} = \prod_i \left(\mathbf{w} - z_i \right) ~\prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^3$$

- can be created by adiabatic insertion of a flux quantum
- charge e/3 : fractionalization
- adiabatic exchange of two anyons \Rightarrow phase $e^{2i\pi/3}$ non trivial braiding !
- \Rightarrow quasi-holes = abelian anyons

Edge excitations



- A chiral *U*(1) boson linear dispersion relation
- The degeneracy of each energy level is given by the sequence 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, · · ·

 $\nu = \frac{1}{3}$ Laughlin state = chiral \mathbb{Z}_3 topological phase.

Chiral boson and Laughlin

using the edge theory to describe the bulk

The free boson a.k.a. U(1) CFT

Massless gaussian field in 1 + 1 dimensions

$$S = \int \mathrm{d}^2 z \, \partial \phi \, \bar{\partial} \phi$$

The mode decomposition of the chiral free boson is

$$\phi(z) = \mathbf{\Phi}_{\mathbf{0}} - i\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{0}}\log(z) + i\sum_{n\neq 0}\frac{1}{n}\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{n}}z^{-n}$$

$$[\mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{n}}, \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{m}}] = n\delta_{n+m,0}, \qquad [\mathbf{\Phi}_{\mathbf{0}}, \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{0}}] = i$$

U(1) symmetry : $\phi(z) \rightarrow \phi(z) + \theta$ conserved current :

$$J(z) = i\partial\phi(z) = \sum_{n} a_n z^{-n-1}$$

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

Vertex operators :

$$V_Q(z) =: e^{iQ arphi(z)}:$$

Primary states/ vacua $|Q\rangle$ are defined by their U(1) charge Q

$$a_0|Q
angle=Q|Q
angle, \qquad a_n|Q
angle=0 ext{ for } n>0$$

The Hilbert space is simply a Fock space

Descendants are obtained with the lowering operators $a_n^{\dagger} = a_{-n}$, n > 0

•
$$\Delta E = 0 : \mathbf{1}$$
 state : $|Q\rangle$

•
$$\Delta E = 1: oldsymbol{1}$$
 state : $a_{-1} \ket{Q}$

•
$$\Delta E = 2$$
 : 2 states : $a_{-1}^2 |Q\rangle$, $a_{-2} |Q\rangle$

• $\Delta E = 3 : 3$ states : $a_{-1}^3 |Q\rangle$, $a_{-2}a_{-1}|Q\rangle$, $a_{-3} |Q\rangle$

• $\Delta E = 4:5$ states : $a_{-1}^4 |Q\rangle$, $a_{-2}a_{-1}^2 |Q\rangle$, $a_{-2}^2 |Q\rangle$, $a_{-3}a_{-1} |Q\rangle$, $a_{-4} |Q\rangle$

The Laughlin state written in terms of a U(1) CFT

Ground state wavefunction

$$\prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^3 = \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{b.c.}} V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) | 0 \rangle, \qquad \mathbf{V}(z) =: e^{i\sqrt{3}\varphi(z)}:$$

where $\mathcal{O}_{\text{b.c.}} = e^{-i\sqrt{3}N\varphi_0}$ is just a neutralizing background charge.

Bulk excitations

Wavefunction for p quasiholes

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{b.c.}} V_{\mathrm{qh}}(w_1) \cdots V_{\mathrm{qh}}(w_p) V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) \rangle$$

with

$$V_{\mathsf{qh}}(w) =: e^{rac{i}{\sqrt{3}}\varphi(w)}:$$

Edge excitations

$$\Psi_{\boldsymbol{u}} = \langle \boldsymbol{u} | \mathcal{O}_{ ext{b.c.}} V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) | 0 \rangle$$

• edge mode = CFT descendant

• we recover
$$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, \cdots$$

FQH trial wave-function from CFT

Moore and Read (1990) proposed to write FQH Trial wavefunctions as CFT correlators

$$\Psi(z_1,\cdots,z_N) = \langle u | \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{b.c.}} V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) | v \rangle$$

• Operator
$$V(z) = \sum_n z^n V_n$$

Infinite dimensional Hilbert space (graded by momentum/conformal dimension)

Why is this ansatz sensible?

- correct entanglement behavior (area law and counting)
- yields a consistent anyon model (pentagon and hexagon equations)
- Laughlin state is of this form

Trial wavefunctions from CFT

Extrapolating the **thermodynamic limit** of these trial states is difficult.

- Gapped ?
- Well-defined quasi-holes?
- Non-Abelian braiding?
- Area law for the entanglement entropy?
- Entanglement spectrum?
- Quantum dimensions?
- etc...

The natural conjecture is that they are described by the **anyon model** (TQFT) corresponding to the underlying CFT.

Matrix Product State (MPS)

Limitations of exact diagonalizations and trial wf

 \rightarrow decomposition of a state $|\Psi\rangle$ on a convenient occupation basis

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{\{m_i\}} c_{\{m_i\}} |m_1,...,m_{N_\Phi}\rangle$$



What is the amount of memory needed to store the Laughlin state?



Can't store more than 21 particles !

Matrix Product State : more compact and computationally friendly

Matrix Product States



Why is this formalism interesting?

- Many quantities (correlation functions, entanglement spectrum, ...) can be computed in the (relatively small) auxiliary space.
- Transfer matrix : one can work numerically on an infinitely long cylinder (non compact surface, infinitely many electrons!)

The CFT ansatz $\Psi(z_1, \cdots, z_N) = \langle u | V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) | v \rangle$ is a continuous MPS

Dubail, Read, Rezayi (2012)

Translation invariant MPS

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{\{m_i\}} \left(\langle u | B^{[m_n]} \cdots B^{[m_2]} B^{[m_1]} | v \rangle \right) | m_1 \cdots m_n \rangle$$

Zaletel, Mong (2012)

- the matrices $B^{[m]}$ are operators in the underlying CFT
- the auxiliary space is the (infinite dimensional) CFT Hilbert space ...
- ... which can be truncated while keeping arbitrary large precision

Where does this MPS come from?

Starting from a trial wavefunction given by a CFT correlator

$$\Psi(z_1,\cdots,z_N) = \langle u | \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{b.c.}} V(z_1) \cdots V(z_N) | v \rangle$$

and expanding $V(z) = \sum_{n} V_{-n} z^{n}$, one finds (up to orbital normalization)

$$c_{(m_1,\cdots,m_n)} = \langle u | \mathcal{O}_{\text{b.c.}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_n!}} V_{-n}^{m_n} \cdots \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_2!}} V_{-2}^{m_2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_1!}} V_{-1}^{m_1} | v \rangle$$

This is a site/orbital dependent MPS

$$c_{(m_1,\cdots,m_n)} = \langle u | \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{b.c.}} \mathcal{A}^{[m_n]}(n) \cdots \mathcal{A}^{[m_2]}(2) \mathcal{A}^{[m_1]}(1) | v \rangle$$

with matrices at site/orbital j (including orbital normalization)

$$A^{[m]}(j) = \frac{e^{\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}j\right)^2}}{\sqrt{m!}} \left(V_{-j}\right)^m$$

Translation invariant MPS

A relation of the form $A^{[m]}(j) = U^{-1}A^{[m]}(j-1)U$ yields

 $A^{[m]}(j) = U^{-j} A^{[m]}(0) U^{j}$

and then

$$A^{[m_n]}(n) \cdots A^{[m_1]}(1) = U^{-n} \times A^{[m_n]}(0) U \cdots A^{[m_1]}(0) U$$

This is a translation invariant MPS, with matrices

 $B^{[m]} = A^{[m]}(0)U$

Translation invariant MPS on the cylinder

Site independant MPS

$$A^{[m]}(j) = \frac{e^{\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}j\right)^2}}{\sqrt{m!}} \left(V_{-j}\right)^m \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad B^{[m]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m!}} \left(V_0\right)^m U$$

where U is the operator

$$U = e^{-\frac{2\pi}{L}H - i\sqrt{\nu}\varphi_0}$$

where

- φ_0 is the bosonic zero mode $(e^{-i\sqrt{\nu}\varphi_0}$ shifts the electric charge by $\nu)$
- *H* is the cylinder Hamiltonian : $H = \frac{2\pi}{L}L_0$
- V_0 is the zero mode of V(z)

auxiliary space = CFT Hilbert space infinite bond dimension :/

Truncation of the auxiliary space

The auxiliary space (i.e. the CFT Hilbert space) basis is graded by the conformal dimension Δ_{α} .

$$L_{0}\left|\alpha\right\rangle = \Delta_{\alpha}\left|\alpha\right\rangle$$

But in the MPS matrices we have a term

$$B^{[m]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m!}} \left(V_0 \right)^m e^{-i\sqrt{\nu}\varphi_0} e^{-\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}\right)^2 L_0}$$

The conformal dimension provides a natural cut-off. Truncation parameter P: keep only states with $\Delta_{\alpha} \leq P$.

- P = 0 recovers the thin-cylinder limit $|\cdots 100100100\cdots\rangle$
- The correct 2d physics requires $L \gg \zeta$ (bulk correlation length, $O(I_B)$)
- For a cylinder perimeter L, we must take $P \sim L^2$
- Bond dimensions $\chi \sim e^{\alpha L}$... of course! since $S_A \sim \alpha L$.

What about the torus?

CFT ansatz : ground state $|\Psi\rangle_a$

$$\Psi_{a}(z_{1},\cdots,z_{N})=\mathsf{Tr}_{a}\left(e^{i2\pi\tau L_{0}-i\sqrt{\nu}n\varphi_{0}}V(z_{1})\cdots V(z_{N})\right)$$

becomes

$$\left|\Psi\right\rangle_{a}=\sum_{\{m_{i}\}}\operatorname{Tr}_{a}\left((-1)^{(N-1)\sqrt{\nu}a_{0}}B^{[m_{n}]}\dots B^{[m_{1}]}\right)\left|m_{1},\cdots,m_{n}\right\rangle$$

where the blue term is only present for fermions (ensures antisymmetry). The MPS matrices are

$$B^{[m]} = q^{rac{L_0}{2n}} e^{-irac{\sqrt{
u}}{2}arphi_0} q_0 rac{1}{\sqrt{m!}} V_0^m e^{-irac{\sqrt{
u}}{2}arphi_0} q^{rac{L_0}{2n}}, \qquad q = e^{2i\pi au}$$

Again χ grows exponentially with torus thickness.

Matrix Product States : a powerful numerical method

plots from collaborations with : Y-L. Wu, Z. Papic, N. Regnault, B. A. Bernevig

Infinitely long cylinder, bulk correlation length



Model state	Laughlin 1/3	Laughlin 1/5	MR vac.	MR qh
ζ/I_B	1.381(1)	2.53(7)	2.73(1)	2.69(1)

Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

2017, June 13 39 / 44

Entanglement entropy (orbital cut)

Area law $S_A = \alpha L - \gamma$, where the subleading term γ is universal

 $\gamma = \log \mathcal{D}/d_{a}$





Benoit Estienne (LPTHE)

Quasi-hole excitations



- Insert quasi-holes in the MPS
- Compute the density profile
- Measure the radius of the quasi-hole



	ν	R/ℓ_0	
Laughlin	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{e}{3}$: 2.6	
Moore-Read	$\frac{1}{2}$	<u>∉</u> : 2.8	<u>€</u> : 2.7
\mathbb{Z}_3 Read-Rezayi	<u>3</u> 5	<u>e</u> : 3.0	3 <u>e</u> : 2.8

Braiding non-Abelian quasi-holes



Instead of computing the Berry phase, \Rightarrow check the behavior of conformal block overlaps

$$\langle \Psi_{a}|\Psi_{b}
angle = C_{a}\delta_{a\,b} + O\left(e^{-|\Delta\eta|/\xi_{ab}}
ight)$$



Microscopic, quantitative verification of non-Abelian braiding.

Conclusion

Conclusion

FQH trial wavefunctions have been used for more than 20 years :

They are nothing but Matrix Product States in disguise

Numerically powerful

- Bulk correlation length ζ (or equivalently bulk gap)
- precision computation of the topological entanglement entropy γ
 (and the quantum dimensions d_a)
- Non-Abelian quasihole radius and braiding

CFT/MPS provide a strong link between microscopics and 3d TQFT

As conjectured by Moore and Read

Model states \Rightarrow (non-Abelian) chiral topological phases.

Limitations : at the end of the day these states are model states

with the anyon data as an input. Similar to quantum-double models.

- > Are they in the same universality class as the experimental states?
- DMRG methods might help answer this question.