

# Quantum geometry in Superconductivity Slides 2

# Päivi Törmä Aalto University

Quantum Connections in Sweden-15 Summer School 2025, Stockholm, Sweden

12.-13.6.2025





# Contents

Superconducting transport in flat bands

Nearest-neighbor pairing and quantum geometry in Lieb and kagome lattice flat bands and van Hove singularities



Rhombohedral graphite and LLL quantum geometry

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## Superconducting transport in flat bands

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# Normal-superconductor interfaces and Josepson junctions (JJs)



Condensed Matter > Superconductivity

[Submitted on 30 Oct 2024]

#### Superconducting junctions with flat bands

P. Virtanen, R. P. S. Penttilä, P. Törmä, A. Díez-Carlón, D. K. Efetov, T. T. Heikkilä



Search

Helt

Pauli Virtanen

arXiv:2502.04785

Condensed Matter > Superconductivity

[Submitted on 7 Feb 2025]

# Probing the flat-band limit of the superconducting proximity effect in Twisted Bilayer Graphene Josephson junctions

A. Diez-Carlon, J. Diez-Merida, P. Rout, D. Sedov, P. Virtanen, S. Banerjee, R. P. S. Penttila, P. Altpeter, K. Watanabe, T. Taniguchi, S.-Y. Yang, K. T. Law, T. T. Heikkila, P. Torma, M. S. Scheurer, D. K. Efetov



#### Andrés Diéz-Carlón



Reko Penttilä



Tero Heikkilä



Dmitri Efetov

Existing theory assumes Fermi energy as a large energy scale - what about (almost) flat bands?

# S/N/S supercurrent



# Interactions in FB-N (MF)

$$F = \int dx \frac{|\Delta|^2}{g} - T \sum_{\omega_n} \operatorname{tr} \log[i\omega_n - H_{\mathsf{BdG}}(\Delta, \Delta_S)] \simeq \ldots + \int dx dx' \Delta(x)^* V(x - x') \Delta(x')$$

$$V^{-1}(q) = rac{1}{1/g - \Pi(q)}$$

-



 $\Pi(x)$  short-range V<sup>-1</sup>(x) doesn't have to be g can be small (not intrinsic S)

SNS supercurrent:

$$\Delta(0)=\Delta_0 e^{-iarphi/2}$$
 ,  $\Delta(L)=\Delta_0 e^{iarphi/2}$ 

$$V_{S,\text{int}} = \frac{2e}{\hbar} \partial_{\varphi} F[\Delta_{\min}] \simeq \frac{4\Delta_0^2}{|V^{-1}(x=0)|^2} V^{-1}(x=L) \sin(\varphi)$$

$$I_S \simeq I_{S,\text{int}} + I_{S,\text{nonint}}$$
  $F = ... + \int_{x<0} \int_{x'>L} \Delta_S(x) \Pi(x,x') \Delta_S(x')$ 

# Length scales in S/FB-N/S

Proximity effect in long SNS junctions:  $L \to \infty$ 

$$\Pi(q) = \frac{1}{4T} [1 - \xi_g^2 q^2 + \dots]$$
$$\langle r^2 \rangle \equiv \frac{\int dx \, x^2 \,\Pi(0, x)}{\int dx \,\Pi(0, x)} = \xi_g^2 = \langle g^{(\mathsf{FB})}(k) \rangle_{\mathsf{BZ}}$$

$$\xi_g^2 = a \int_{-\pi/a}^{\pi/a} \frac{dk}{2\pi} g^{(0)}(k)$$

$$I_{c, ext{int}} \propto V^{-1}(0,L) \propto e^{-L/L_g}$$

$$L_g = \xi_g \sqrt{\frac{T_c}{T - T_c}}$$

(close to Tc)





#### Search... Help | /

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### **Superconducting transport in flat bands**

# Nearest-neighbor pairing and quantum geometry in Lieb and kagome lattice flat bands and van Hove singularities



**Rhombohedral graphite and LLL quantum geometry** 

## Superconductivity and pair density waves from nearestneighbor interactions in frustrated lattice geometries



Eeli Lamponen



Sofia Pöntys

Lamponen, Pöntys, PT, arXiv:2502.20911 (2025)

#### Generic nearest neighbor interactions J

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i\alpha,j\beta} \sum_{\sigma} t^{\sigma}_{i\alpha j\beta} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha\sigma} \hat{c}_{j\beta\sigma} - \mu \sum_{i\alpha\sigma} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha\sigma} \hat{c}_{i\alpha\sigma} + \hat{H}_{int}$$
$$\hat{H}_{int} = -\sum_{i\alpha,j\beta} J_{i\alpha j\beta} \hat{b}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha j\beta} \hat{b}_{i\alpha j\beta}$$
$$\hat{b}_{i\alpha j\beta} = \sum_{\sigma} A_{\sigma} \hat{c}_{i\alpha\sigma} \hat{c}_{j\beta-\sigma}$$

i, j unit cells  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  orbitals

Pairing susceptibility in mean field

 $\mu$ ,  $\nu$  = orbital (etc) indices

$$\chi = -\frac{J}{2sN_c} \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{Re}X & \operatorname{Im}X \\ -\operatorname{Im}X & \operatorname{Re}X \end{pmatrix}$$
$$X_{\mu\nu} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{k}mn} \frac{n_F(\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}m}) + n_F(\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}n}) - 1}{\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}m} + \xi_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}n}}$$
$$\times 2 \langle m_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}} | \delta \Delta_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) | n_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}} \rangle \langle n_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}} | \delta \Delta_{\nu}^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{k}) | m_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}} \rangle$$

$$\begin{split} \xi_{\boldsymbol{k}m} &\equiv \epsilon_{\boldsymbol{k}m} - \mu & \delta \Delta_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) \equiv \partial_{\Delta_{\mu}^{R}} \Delta_{\boldsymbol{k}} \\ |m_{\boldsymbol{k}}\rangle \text{ Bloch states} & [\Delta_{\boldsymbol{k}}]_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{j} \left( A_{\downarrow} \overline{\Delta}_{0\beta j\alpha} e^{-i\boldsymbol{k}\cdot\boldsymbol{r}_{0\beta j\alpha}^{\Delta}} - A_{\uparrow} \overline{\Delta}_{0\alpha j\beta} e^{i\boldsymbol{k}\cdot\boldsymbol{r}_{0\alpha j\beta}^{\Delta}} \right) \end{split}$$

In bipartite lattice flat bands, the form factor vanishes for nearest-neighbor interaction



1

Lieb lattice: flat band completely localized on orbitals B and C

Bipartite form of the Hamiltonian

$$H_{\boldsymbol{k}} = \begin{pmatrix} n_L & n_S \\ 0 & S_{\boldsymbol{k}} \\ S_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger} & 0 \end{pmatrix} n_S$$

$$\langle m_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}} | \delta \Delta_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) | n_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}} \rangle$$

$$= \left( \phi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}m}^{\dagger} \ 0 \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \partial_{\Delta_{\mu}^{R}} \Delta_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\mathrm{LS}} \\ \partial_{\Delta_{\mu}^{R}} \Delta_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\mathrm{SL}} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}n} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Calugaru... Bernevig Nat Phys 2022

Consider a specific form of J (spin-exchange interaction)

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i\alpha,j\beta} \sum_{\sigma} t^{\sigma}_{i\alpha j\beta} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha \sigma} \hat{c}_{j\beta \sigma} - \mu \sum_{i\alpha \sigma} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha \sigma} \hat{c}_{i\alpha \sigma} + \hat{H}_{\text{int}}$$

$$\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = -\frac{J}{2} \sum_{\langle i\alpha, j\beta \rangle} \hat{h}^{\dagger}_{\boldsymbol{i}\alpha \boldsymbol{j}\beta} \hat{h}_{\boldsymbol{i}\alpha \boldsymbol{j}\beta}$$

$$\hat{h}_{i\alpha j\beta} = \hat{c}_{i\alpha\uparrow} \hat{c}_{j\beta\downarrow} - \hat{c}_{i\alpha\downarrow} \hat{c}_{j\beta\uparrow}$$

Pairing susceptibility predicts a 2q = M pair-density wave (PDW) at kagome vHs, due to sub-lattice interference

$$\Delta_{i\alpha(i+j)\beta} = \overline{\Delta}_{0\alpha j\beta} e^{i2\boldsymbol{q}\cdot(\boldsymbol{r}_{i\alpha} + \boldsymbol{r}_{(i+j)\beta})/2}$$



#### M-PDW or M-CDW predicted due to this effect in different interaction models

Kiesel, Thomale, PRB 86, 121105 (2012) Wang et al., PRB 87, 115135 (2013) Dong, Wang, Zhou, PRB 107, 045127 (2023) Wu, Thomale, Raghu, PRB 108, L081117 (2023) Fu et al., arXiv:2405.09451 (2024)

However, the superfluid weight is zero in our interaction model





 $N_{\boldsymbol{k},\boldsymbol{q}} \equiv (n_F(\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}}) + n_F(\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}}) - 1) / (\xi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}} + \xi_{\boldsymbol{k}-\boldsymbol{q}}) \quad \blacktriangleleft$ 

Susceptibility without the form factor

At the bipartite Lieb lattice flat band, critical pairing interaction needed

The ground state is a M-PDW; why?







#### The ground state at Lieb flat band is M-PDW; why?



Susceptibility around the Dirac point of the dispersive bands

$$S^{\theta}_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{J}{4} \frac{n_F(ck_0) - \frac{1}{2}}{ck_0} \cdot 2\langle m_{\theta} | \delta \Delta_{\mu}(\boldsymbol{k}) | n^{\boldsymbol{q}}_{\theta} \rangle \langle n^{\boldsymbol{q}}_{\theta} | \delta \Delta^{\dagger}_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{k}) | m_{\theta} \rangle$$
$$|m_{\theta}\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ f^m_B(\theta) \\ f^m_C(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \qquad |n^{\boldsymbol{q}}_{\theta}\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ f^n_B(\theta, \boldsymbol{q}) \\ f^n_C(\theta, \boldsymbol{q}) \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\sqrt{[F_{BB}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q}) - F_{CC}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q})]^{2} + 4|F_{BC}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q})|^{2}} \qquad F_{\alpha\beta}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} f_{\alpha}^{n}(\theta, \boldsymbol{q})^{*} f_{\beta}^{n}(\theta, \boldsymbol{q}) \, \mathrm{d}\theta$  $|F_{BC}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q})|^{2} \leq F_{BB}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q}) F_{CC}^{n}(\boldsymbol{q})$ 

In this case, quantum geometry is detrimental for pairing!

### BKT temperatures with NN interactions often low compared to on-site Hubbard-U

Nearest-neighbour (NN) 
$$\hat{H}_{int} = -\frac{J}{2} \sum_{\langle i\alpha, j\beta \rangle} \hat{h}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha j\beta} \hat{h}_{i\alpha j\beta} \qquad \hat{h}_{i\alpha j\beta} = \hat{c}_{i\alpha\uparrow} \hat{c}_{j\beta\downarrow} - \hat{c}_{i\alpha\downarrow} \hat{c}_{j\beta\uparrow}$$
  
On-site  $\hat{H}_{int} = -U \sum_{i\alpha} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha\uparrow} \hat{c}^{\dagger}_{i\alpha\downarrow} \hat{c}_{i\alpha\downarrow} \hat{c}_{i\alpha\uparrow}$ 

$$T_{\rm BKT} = \frac{\pi}{8} \sqrt{\det(D_s(T_{\rm BKT}))}$$
$$[D_s]_{ij} = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 \Omega(\boldsymbol{q}')}{\mathrm{d} q'_i \mathrm{d} q'_j} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{q}'=\boldsymbol{q}}$$

For a single-band system

m

 $D_s(T) = \frac{e^2 n_s(T)}{2}$ 



Hubbard-U for on-site

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## Quantum geometry of the surface states of rhombohedral graphite and its effects on the surface superconductivity



Guodong Jiang

Tero Heikkilä

Jiang, Heikkilä, PT, arXiv:2504.03617 (2025)



 $\widehat{H} = \{-\gamma_0 \sum_{n,\langle iA,jB \rangle} c^+_{niA} c_{njB} + \gamma_1 \sum_n c^+_{n+1,iA} c_{niB}\} + h.c. \text{ Drumhead}$ 

F. T. 
$$h(k_x, k_y, k_z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c.c. \\ k_x + ik_y + e^{ik_z} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In scaled units:  $\gamma_1$  (energy),  $\gamma_0/v_f$  (momentum).

Degeneracies:  

$$k_x + ik_y + e^{ik_z} = 0 \implies \begin{cases} k_x = -\cos k_z \\ k_y = -\sin k_z \end{cases}$$
 nodal spiral

Two incomplete pictures of RG surface states:



#### For RG, surface state decay length varies with k !





#### (2) Two-orbital effective model

From perturbation theory  $(H = H_0 + H')$ 

$$H_{\rm eff} = E_0 + P_0 H' \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\tilde{G}_0 H')^j P_0$$
 ,

 $P_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \\ 0 &$ 

 $Y_1$ 

$$\tilde{G}_0 = P_1 \frac{1}{E_0 - H_0} P_1, P_1 = 1 - P_0 \implies H_{\text{eff}} = (-1)^{N-1} \begin{pmatrix} m & \pi^{*N} \\ \pi^N & -m \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\pi = k_x + ik_y$  McCann 2006, Guinea 2006, Min 2008, etc.

limitations:

- good dispersion near the center
- good quantum geometry at the rim
- topologically incorrect



v: valence band



#### **QGT of RG surface states**



# (1) Nonzero at the center $N=\infty$ limit:

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)}(z) = \frac{\sqrt{1-k^2}}{k} e^{\kappa(\mathbf{k})z} \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\kappa(\mathbf{k}) = \ln[-(k_x + ik_y)]$$

QGT 
$$B_{\mu\nu}^{(\nu)}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{(1-k^2)^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ -i & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The nonzero value is from the **momentum-dependent decay**, **i.e.**  $\nabla_{\mathbf{k}}\kappa$ 

(2) Peak at the rim A surface hybridization effect. At some momentum,  $\lambda(\mathbf{k}) = 1/\kappa(\mathbf{k}) \sim N$ .

$$B_{\mu\nu}^{(\nu)}(\mathbf{k}) \equiv \sum_{l} \langle \partial_{\mu} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} | \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(l)} \rangle \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(l)} | \partial_{\nu} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} \rangle$$

Focus on the l = c term

$$\begin{array}{c}
0.4 \\
0.2 \\
0.0 \\
-0.2 \\
-0.4 \\
-1 \\
k_x/k_0
\end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(v)} | \partial_{\mu} H_{\mathbf{k}} | \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(c)} \rangle \langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(c)} | \partial_{\nu} H_{\mathbf{k}} | \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{(v)} \rangle}{\left(\varepsilon_{v,\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{c,\mathbf{k}}\right)^{2}}$$

Jiang, Heikkilä, PT, arXiv: 2504.03617 Bernevig, Kwan, arXiv: 2503.09692 (Different approaches)

# (3) N-independent at the center No surface hybridization ⇒ wavefunctions for different N are the same.

#### LLL quantum geometry

$$B = g - \frac{i}{2}\Omega$$
,  $\operatorname{Tr}[g] \ge |\Omega|$ 

 $B_{\mu\nu}^{(\nu/c)}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{(1-k^2)^2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \pm i \\ \mp i & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  Quantum geometric tensor of RG



Hamiltonian of the LL problem:  

$$(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{A})^2$$

 $H = \frac{(\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{A})^2}{2m}, \qquad (e = \hbar = 1)$ 

A fictitious unit cell

$$B_{\mu\nu}^{n}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{l_{B}^{2}}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2n+1 & -i \\ i & 2n+1 \end{pmatrix}, \ n = 0, 1, \dots$$



The two surface bands of RG resemble a pair of decoupled LLLs with opposite B fields

#### Superconductivity and surface polarization





Displacement field has two effects:
(1) Flatten the band and enhance DOS;
(2) Polarize electron density to one surface

Once m is above the  $m_s$ , QGT is the same as previously discussed !

Nissinen, Heikkilä, Volovik (2021) PRB 103, 245115

#### Superconductivity and surface polarization

Gap equation in orbital basis (onsite pairing, s-wave and doped to the valence band)

$$\Delta_{\alpha} = -U\langle c_{i\alpha\downarrow}c_{i\alpha\uparrow}\rangle$$
  $\alpha$ =1A or NB

$$\Delta_{\nu}(k) = \left|\psi_{k,1A}^{(\nu)}\right|^2 \Delta_{1A} + \left|\psi_{k,NB}^{(\nu)}\right|^2 \Delta_{NB}$$

At full polarization, effective coupling strength for one order (e.g.  $\Delta_{NB}$ ) is doubled.



#### Superconductivity and topological heavy-fermion model

Fictitious superconducting state in large N-layer RG:

Distribution of superfluid stiffness in **k**-space:

$$D_{s,\mu\nu} = 2 \sum_{\mathbf{k}} [f_{\mu\nu}^{\text{conv}}(\mathbf{k}) + f_{\mu\nu}^{\text{geo}}(\mathbf{k})]$$
  

$$f_{\mu\nu}^{\text{conv}}(\mathbf{k}) = -\left(\frac{\xi_{\nu,\mathbf{k}}}{E_{\nu,\mathbf{k}}} + 1\right) \partial_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} \xi_{\nu,\mathbf{k}} \xrightarrow{\text{dispersion}} Pairing \text{ matrix}$$
  

$$f_{\mu\nu}^{\text{geo}}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{E_{\nu,\mathbf{k}}} \operatorname{Tr} \{\partial_{\mu} P_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} \widehat{\Delta} \partial_{\nu} P_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} \widehat{\Delta} - \partial_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} P_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} \widehat{\Delta} P_{\mathbf{k}}^{(\nu)} \widehat{\Delta}\} \xrightarrow{\text{Pairing matrix}} in \text{ orbital basis}$$

Fully polarized order parameter:

 $\widehat{\Delta} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 0 & \\ & & & \Delta_{NB} \end{pmatrix}$  $f_{\mu\nu}^{\text{geo}}(\mathbf{k}) = 2\Delta_{NB}(\delta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{2}{1 - k^2}k_{\mu}k_{\nu})$ 



#### Superconductivity and topological heavy-fermion model

#### **Unusual heavy-fermion picture of RG**

Usual topological HF (Song, Bernevig, PRL 2022) f-electron localized in all dimensions; Wannierizable;

#### We find: Unusual RG HF

only localized in z direction, and delocalized in x-y direction (LLL QG); non-Wannierizable (topological)



Are there other examples of unusual HFs in condensed matter?

# Summary

- RG surface bands have similar QGT to LLL
- Unusual HFs localized in reduced dimensions
- Implications for other correlated phases (fractional topological phases, etc.?)





Perspective on quantum geometry PT, PRL 2023 Review on quantum geometry Yu, Bernevig, Queiroz, Rossi, PT, Yang, arXiv 2025

Review on quantum geometric superconductivity PT, Peotta, Bernevig, Nat. Rev. Phys. 2022

# Perspective

#### Essay: Where Can Quantum Geometry Lead Us?

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Quantum geometry defines the phase and amplitude distances between quantum states. The phase distance is characterized by the Berry curvature and thus relates to topological phenomena. The significance of the full quantum geometry, including the amplitude distance characterized by the quantum metric, has started to receive attention in the last few years. Various quantum transport and interaction phenomena have been found to be critically influenced by quantum geometry. For example, quantum geometry allows counterintuitive flow of supercurrent in a flat band where single electrons are immobile. In this Essay, I will discuss my view of the important open problems and future applications of this research topic and will try to inspire the reader to come up with further ideas. At its best, quantum geometry are needed. We also have to integrate quantum geometry analysis in our most advanced numerical methods. Further, the ramifications of quantum geometry should be studied in a wider range, including electric and electromagnetic responses and interaction phenomena in free- and correlated-electron materials, bosonic systems, optics, and other fields.

Part of a series of Essays which concisely present author visions for the future of their field.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.131.240001

properties of the eigenfunctions. Now, it seems that topological physics was perhaps only one aspect of a wider and possibly even more influential concept, namely, quantum geometric physics.