Quarter- and Half-Filled Quantum Hall States and their Competing Interactions in Bilayer Graphene

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Bilayer graphene has emerged as a key platform for studying non-Abelian fractional quantum Hall (FQH) states [1, 2, 3]. Its multiple half-filled plateaus with large energy gaps combined with its tunability offer an opportunity to distill the principles that determine their topological order. Here, I will present the observation of four additional plateaus at $\nu = \frac{1}{2}$ for different spin and valley, revealing a systematic pattern of non-Abelian states according to their Levin–Halperin daughter states. Whenever a pair of N = 1 Landau levels cross, anti-Pfaffian and Pfaffian develop at half filling of the lower and higher levels, respectively. In the N = 0 levels, where half-filled plateaus are absent, we instead observe four unexpected incompressible quarter-filled states along with daughters. The mutual exclusion of half- and quarter-filled states indicates a robust competition between the interactions favoring either paired states of two-flux or four-flux composite fermions.



Fig. 1. (A) R_{xx} as a function of ν and D. Dark-blue areas mark incompressible states where $R_{xx} < 10 \Omega$. (B) Schematic of all even- and selected odd-denominator FQH states observed in (A). Bold vetical lines mark newly observed states. Dashed lines mark valley and orbital crossings along the ν -D phase space. Green and purple labels indicate Pfaffian (Pf) and anti-Pfaffian (aPf) states, respectively, according to their Levin–Halperin daughter states.

References

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