



# Topological electronic phases in graphene

**J. L. Lado**

**Supervisor**

Joaquín Fernández Rossier

**Tutor**

Víctor Pardo

22th July 2016, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

# The role of quantum mechanics in science and technology

## Quantum phenomena in today's technology

Medicine



Energy



Electronics



**Atomic and quantum control in condensed matter opens new venues to exploit quantum physics**

**How can we create emergent behaviors?**

→ Topological insulators, spin liquids, bad metals

**How can we realize mathematical models?**

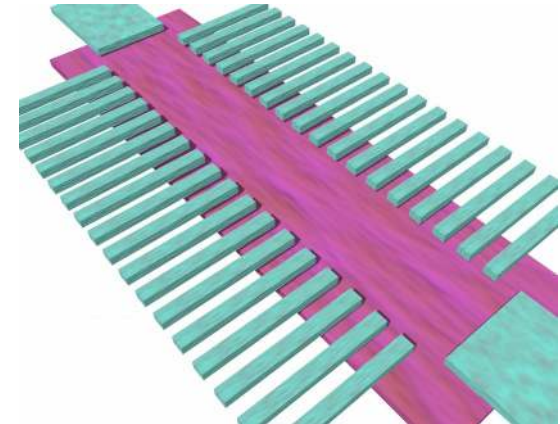
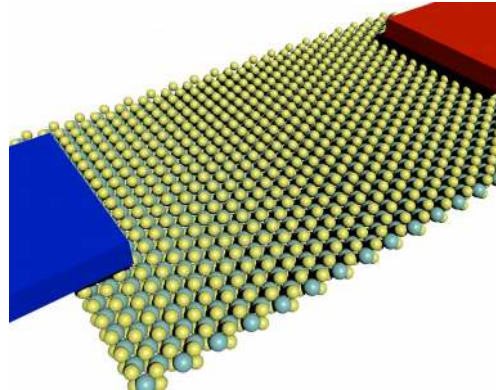
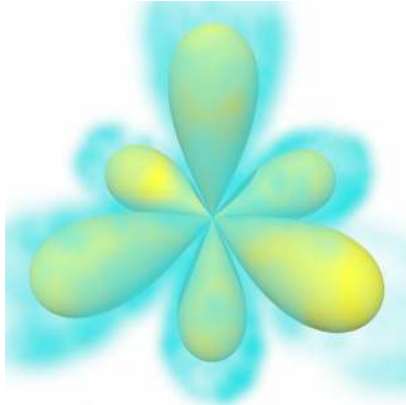
→ Solitonic excitations, non abelian particles, highly entangled states

**How can we exploit quantum phenomena?**

→ Imaging techniques, quantum computing

**Quantumness as a resource?**

# Losing quantumness



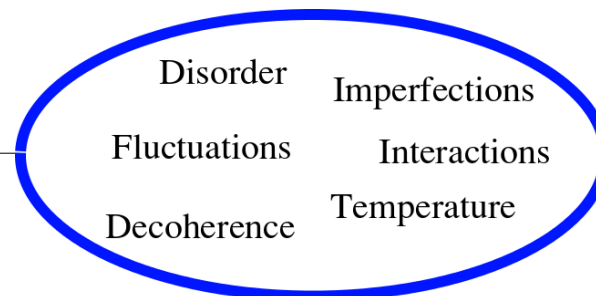
Size increase

But at some point

- Quantization is blurred away
- Coherence is lost
- Classical dynamics arises
- Planck's constant “disappears”

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi = \mathcal{H} \Psi$$

Quantum

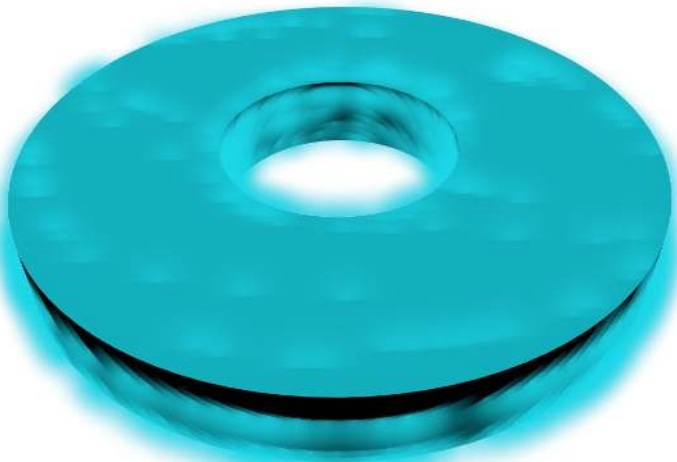


Classical

**Are quantum phenomena restricted to the nanoscale?**

# Quantumness in the macroscale

## Superconductivity

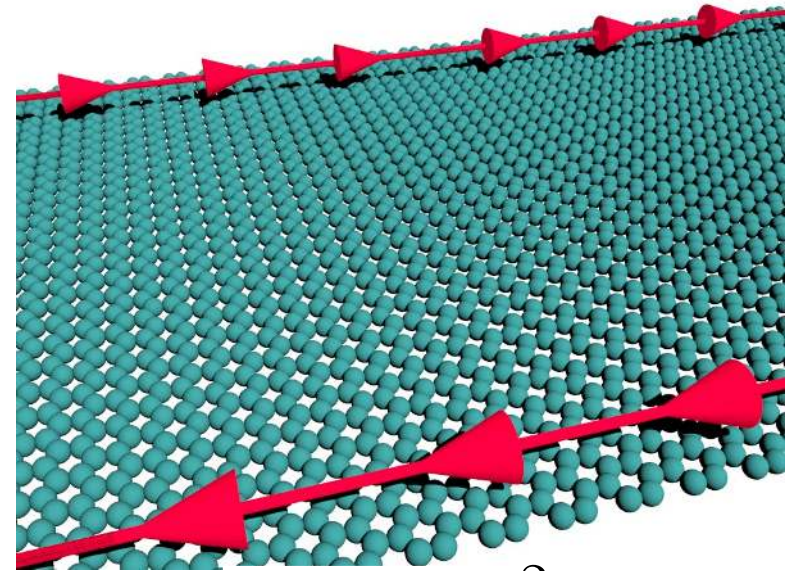


$$\Phi = \frac{h}{2e}$$

Many-body state

Quantization of flux

## Quantum Hall effect



$$\sigma_{xy} = \nu \frac{e^2}{h}$$

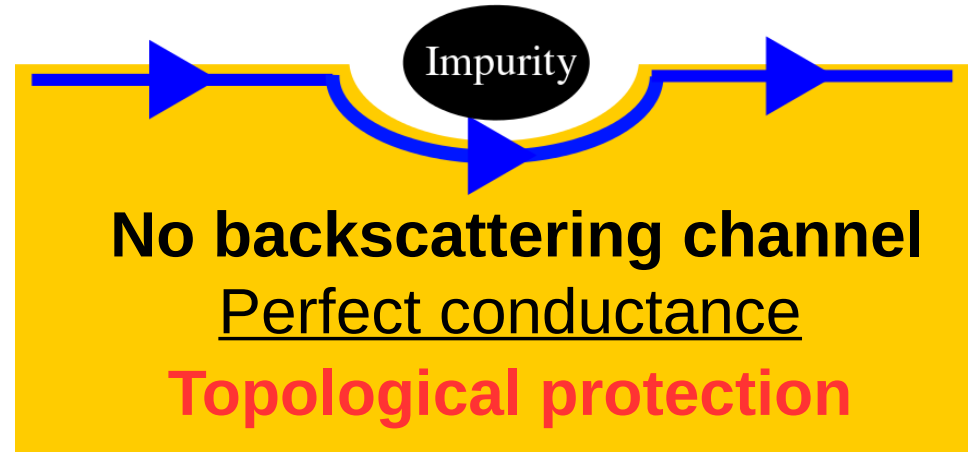
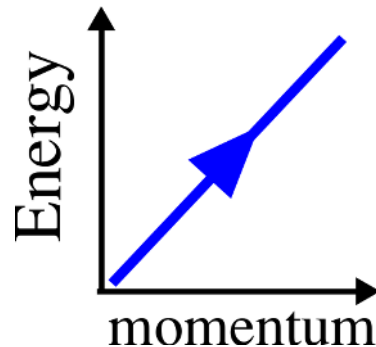
Single-particle state

Quantization of conductance

**Macroscopic quantum phenomena determine  
fundamental quantities with the highest precision**

# When defects no longer matter

Surface of Hall insulator



$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \mathcal{C}$$

$$\mathcal{C} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \Omega d^2k$$

$$\Omega = \partial_{k_x} A_y - \partial_{k_y} A_x$$

$$\vec{A} = i \langle \Psi | \partial_{\vec{k}} | \Psi \rangle$$

Hall conductance

**Physical  
observable**

Chern number, **integer**

**Topological  
invariant**

Berry curvature

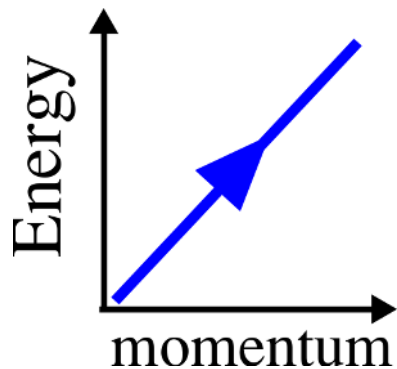
**Geometrical  
properties  
of the  
Hamiltonian**

Berry connection

# Topology driven states

## Hall insulator

2D system



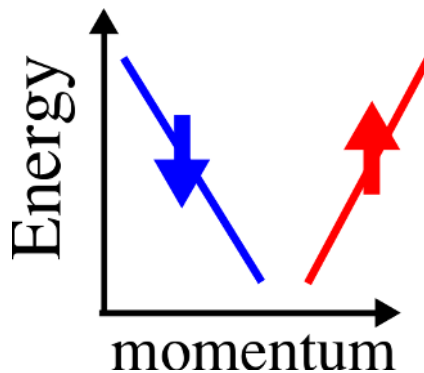
1D Chiral metal

Absence of  
longitudinal  
resistance

*Electronics*

## Spin Hall insulator

2D system



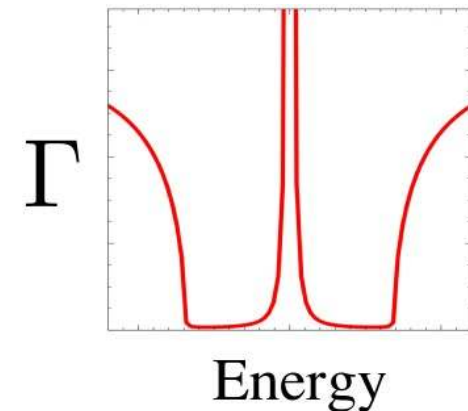
1D Helical metal

Pure spin flow  
without charge flow

*Spintronics*

## Topological superconductors

1D system



0D Majorana  
bound states

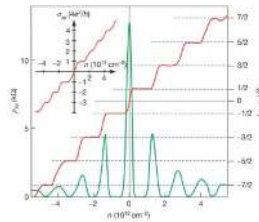
Anyonic braiding  
statistics

*Quantum computing*



# Materials with topological states

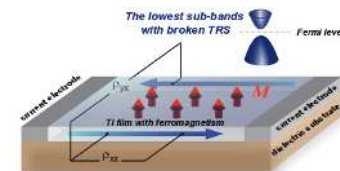
## Quantum Hall effect



graphene

Nature 438, 197-200 (2005)

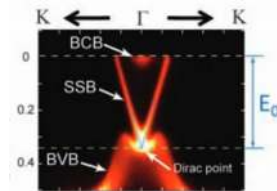
## Quantum Anomalous Hall effect



Cr-doped  
(Bi,Sb)<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>

Science 340.6129 (2013): 167-170

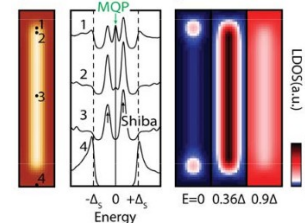
## Quantum Spin Hall effect



Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>

Science 325.5937 (2009): 178-181

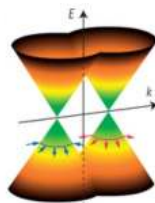
## Topological superconductor



Fe@Pb

Science 346.6209 (2014): 602-607

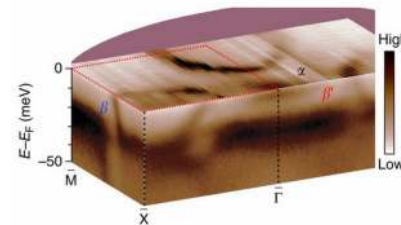
## Weyl semimetal



TaAs

Nature Physics 11, 724-727 (2015)

## Topological Kondo insulator



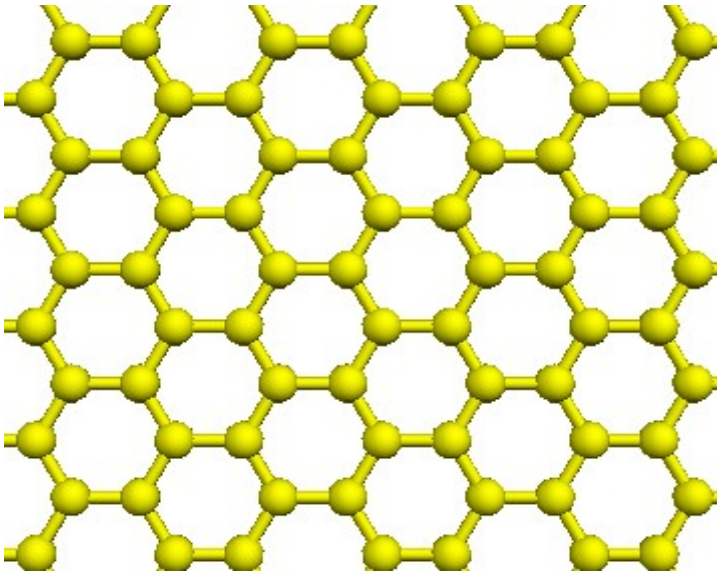
SmB<sub>6</sub>

Nature Communications 5, 4566 (2014)

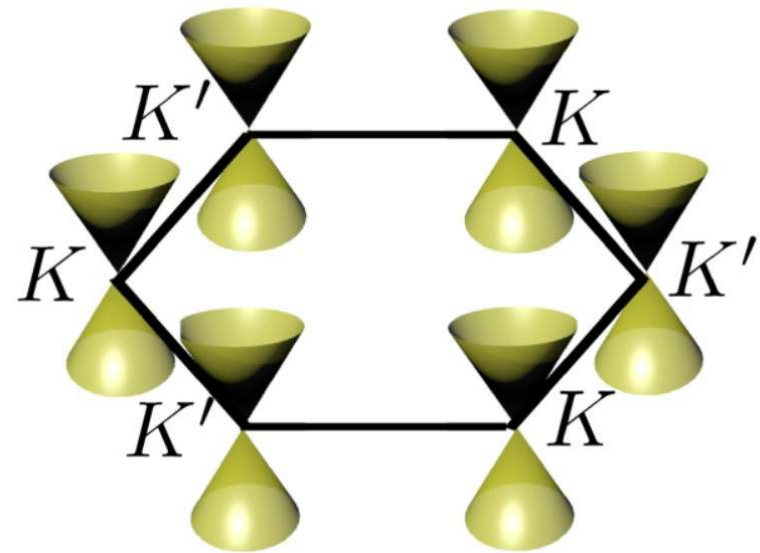
Topological states are not restricted to certain elements

# The electronic structure of graphene

Honeycomb lattice



Electronic spectrum



Dirac dispersion at the Fermi energy

**Massless electrons**

**Berry phase: source of “topologicality”**

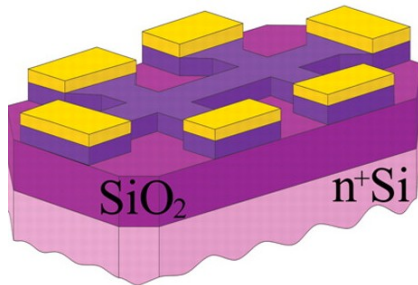
$$\mathcal{H} = v_F [\sigma_x p_x + \sigma_y p_y]$$

$$\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{k} = \pm\pi$$

# Tunability of graphene

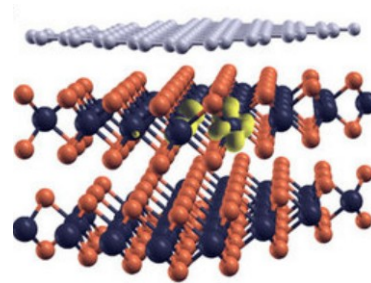
## Field effect doping

Science 306.5696  
666-669 (2004)



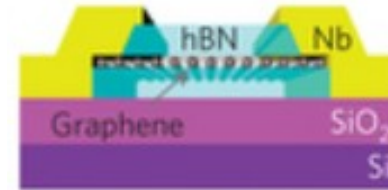
## Spin-orbit proximity

Nature communications 5,  
4875 (2014)



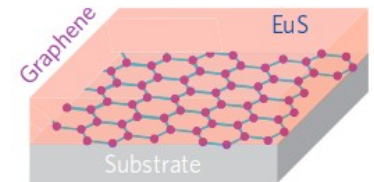
## Superconducting transport

Nature Physics 12.4  
318-322, (2016)



## Exchange proximity

Nature Materials 15,  
711-716 (2016)



$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mu c_i^\dagger c_i + \mathcal{H}_{SOC} + \Delta [c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s'}^\dagger + c_{i,s'} c_{i,s}] + J \vec{m} \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{s,s'} c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s'}$$

**Can we exploit graphene's tunability  
to engineer topological states?**

# Core ideas of this thesis

**How to exploit the interplay of Dirac points, helical states, magnetism and superconductivity?**

**How to create topological states without having to rely on spin orbit coupling?**

# References

Magnetic Edge Anisotropy in Graphene-like Honeycomb Crystals

J. L. Lado, J. Fernández-Rossier

***Physical Review Letters* 113 (2), 027203 (2014)**

Quantum Anomalous Hall effect in graphene coupled to skyrmions

J. L. Lado, J. Fernández-Rossier

***Physical Review B* 92 (11), 115433 (2015)**

Noncollinear magnetic phases and edge states in graphene quantum Hall bars

J. L. Lado, J. Fernández-Rossier

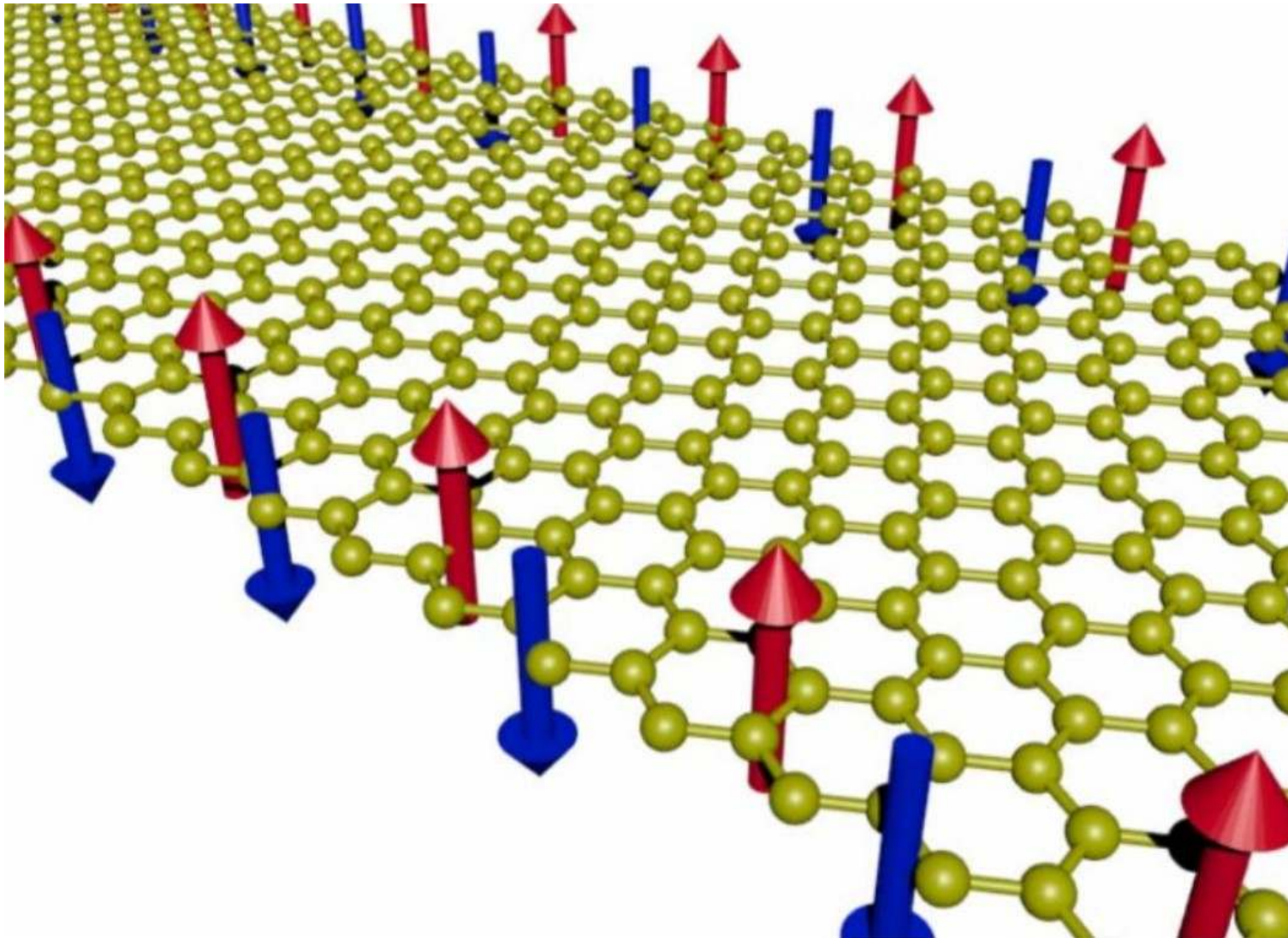
***Physical Review B* 90 (16), 165429 (2014)**

Majorana zero modes in graphene

P. San-Jose, J. L. Lado, R. Aguado, F. Guinea, J. Fernández-Rossier

***Physical Review X* 5 (4), 041042 (2015)**

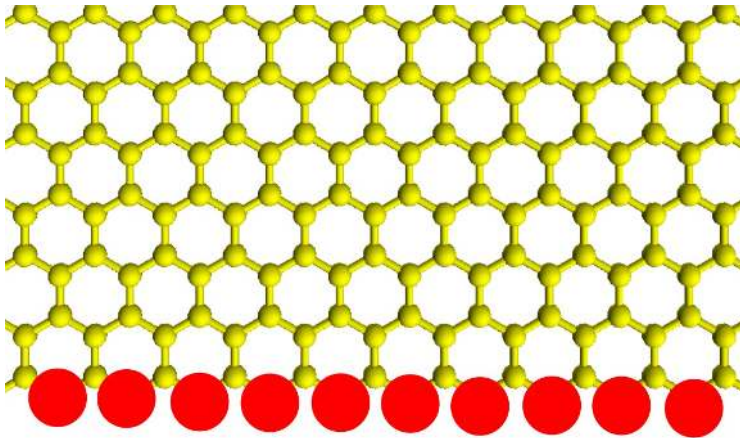
# Intrinsic quantum spin Hall effect and magnetism in graphene



# Two different edge states

## Geometrical origin

Zigzag edge states:  
Stoner instability



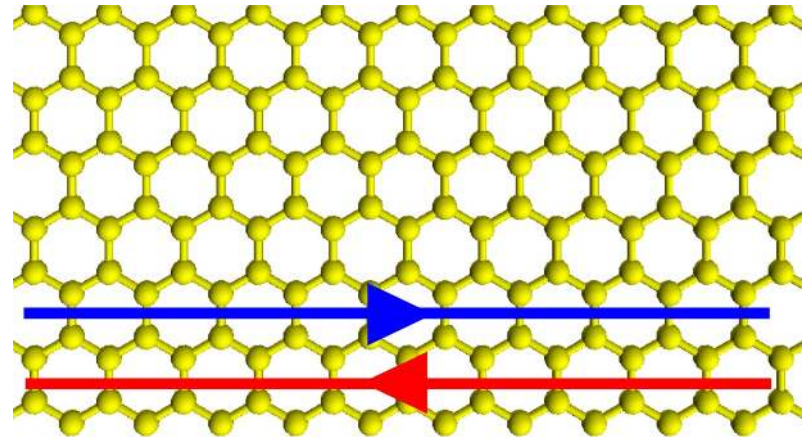
*Lieb theorem*

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} t c_j^\dagger c_i + \lambda_{SO} \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \nu_{i,j} s_z c_j^\dagger c_i + U \sum_i c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s} c_{i,s'}^\dagger c_{i,s'}$$

Kinetic energy
Spin-orbit coupling
Electronic interaction (Hubbard)

## Topological origin

Helical states

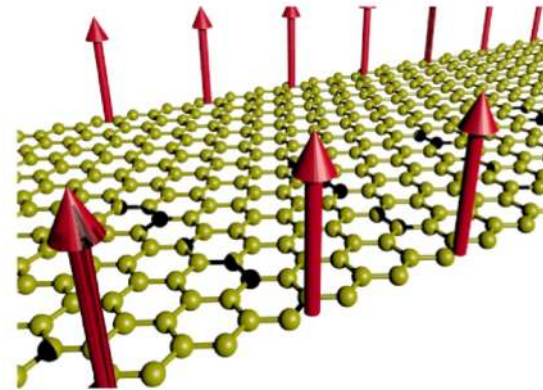
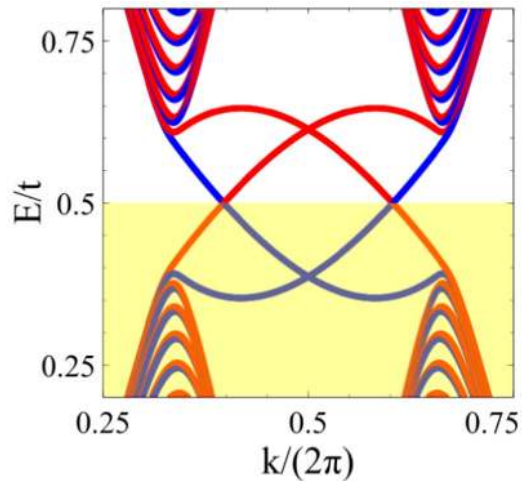


*Z<sub>2</sub> topological invariant*

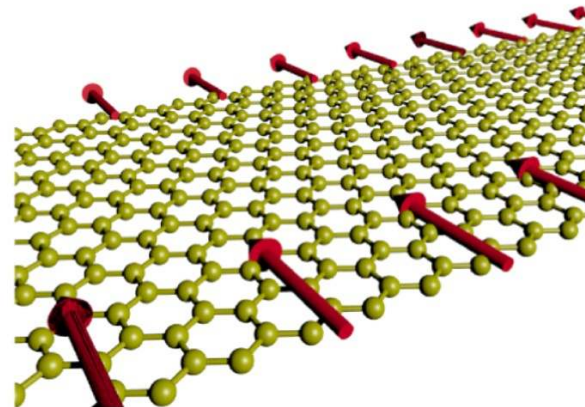
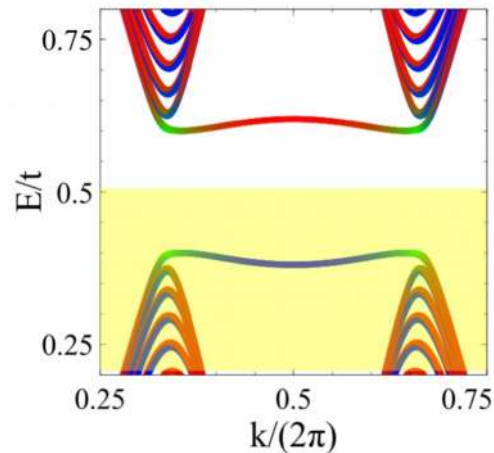
**How does the intrinsic localized magnetism interact with a helical metal?**

# Magnetic dependent transport

Off-plane magnetism, helical metal, gapless

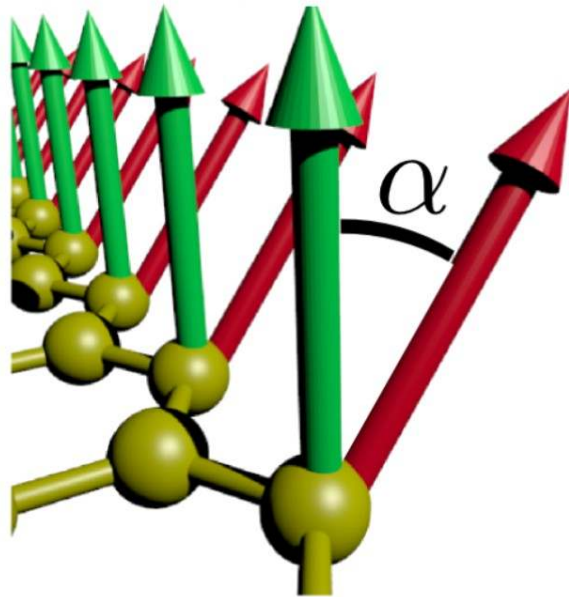


In-plane magnetism, gapped

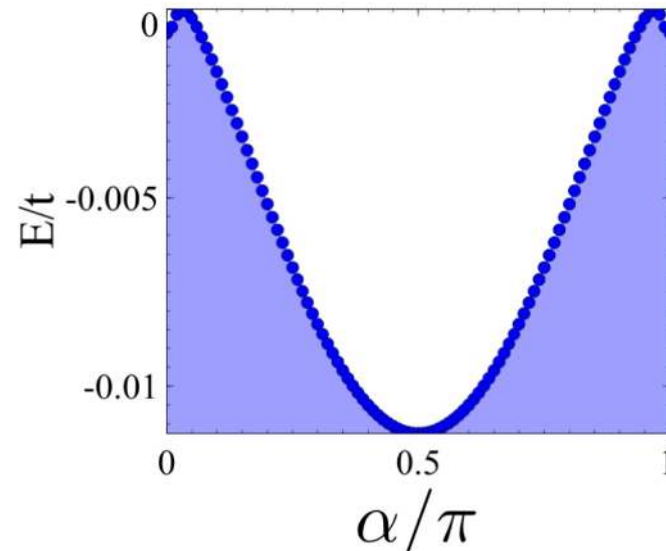


# Gap and energy versus angle

Angle-dependent ground state



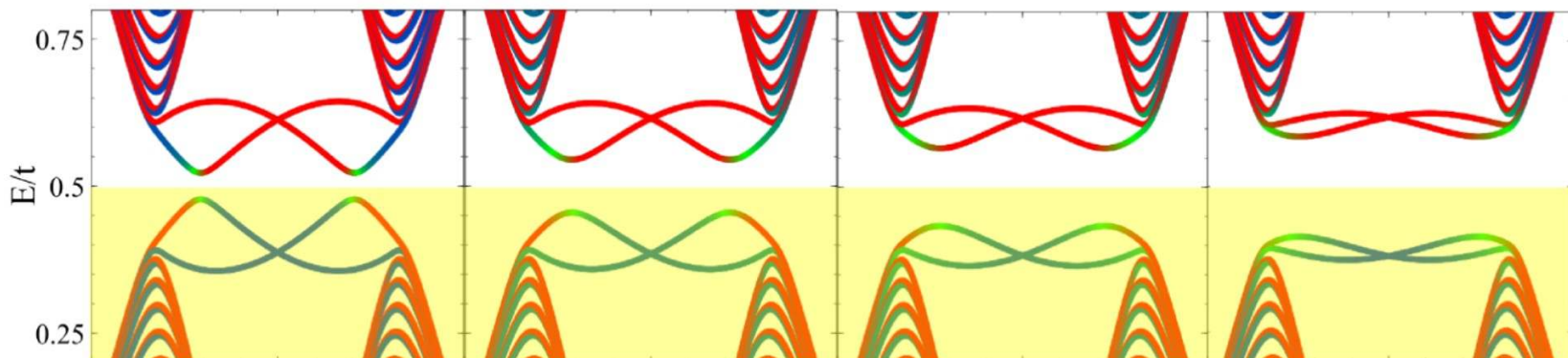
Lowest energy is the in-plane solution



Almost off-plane

Increasing angle

Almost in-plane



# Anisotropy in graphene-like

How important is the magnetic anisotropy in different materials?

| Material           | $t_{SO}$               | $t$    |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Graphene           | 0.1-5.0 $\mu\text{eV}$ | 2.7 eV |
| Silicene           | 0.16 meV               | 1.5 eV |
| Germanene          | 2.5 meV                | 1.4 eV |
| Stanene            | 8-30 meV               | 1.3 eV |
| MOF                | 1 meV                  | 0.3 eV |
| Perovskite bilayer | 1 meV                  | 0.1 eV |

$$\Delta E \approx c_1 \frac{t_{SO}^2}{t}$$

Anisotropy negligible in graphene but sizable in stanene (4 meV)

# The (doomed?) fate of topological states in graphene

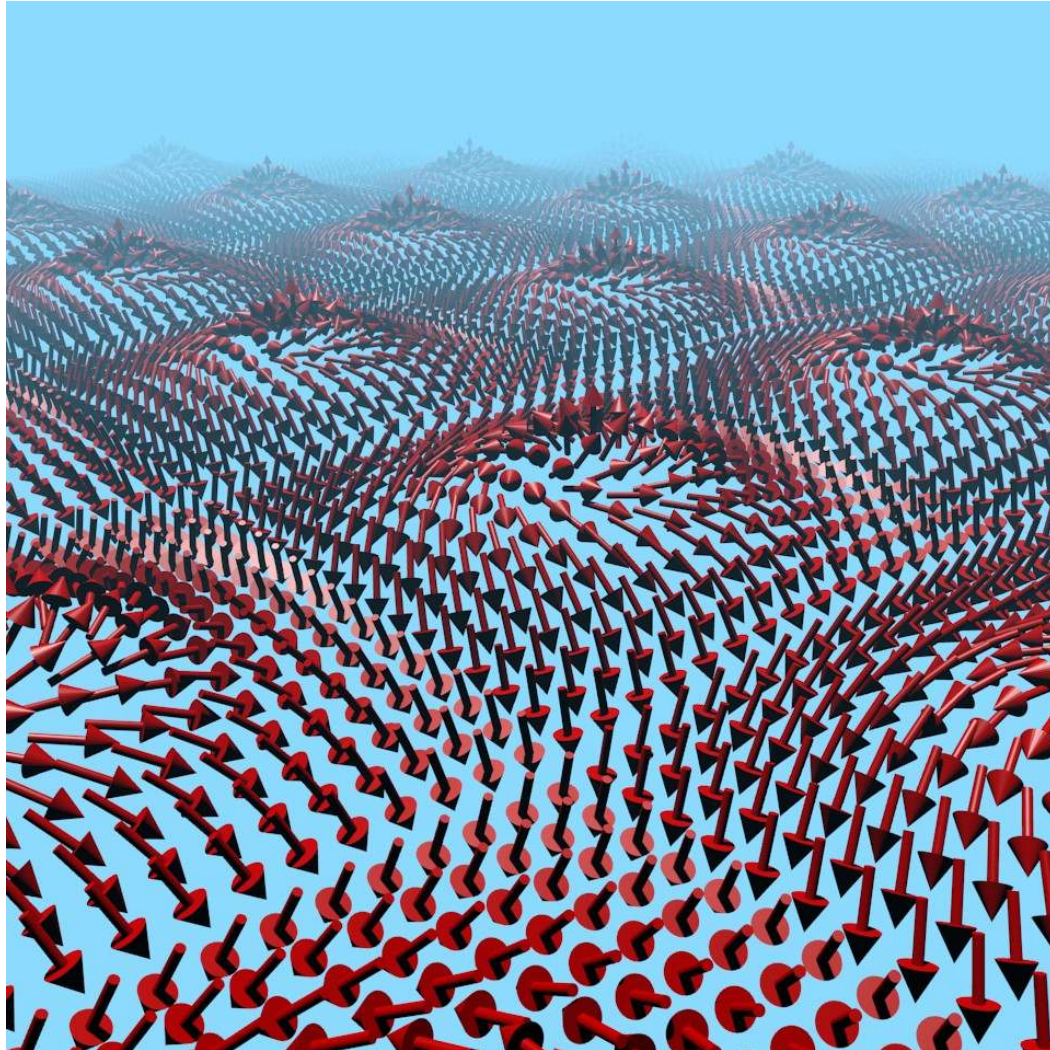
**Does the lack of spin-orbit coupling (SOC) turn graphene into a bad material for topological states?**

**Can there be Quantum anomalous Hall without SOC?**

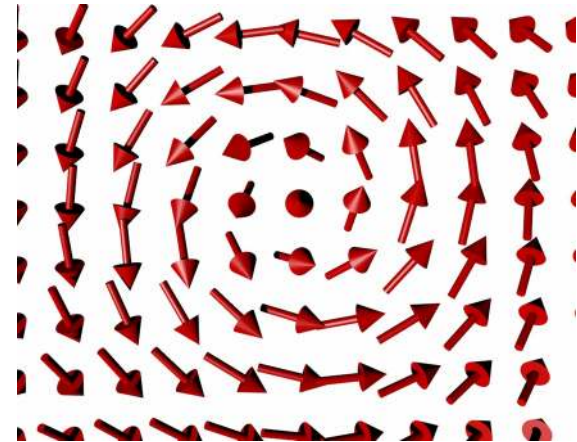
**Can there be Quantum spin Hall without SOC?**

**Can there be Majorana states without SOC?**

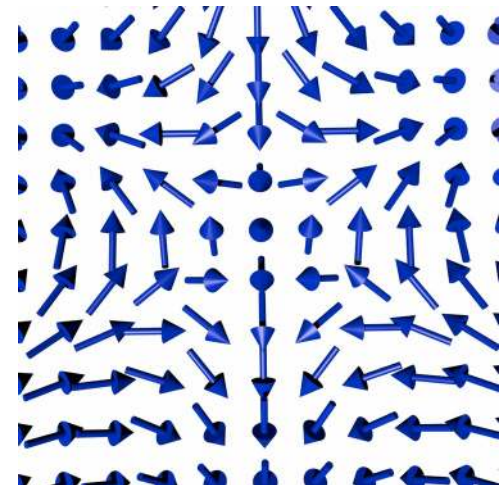
# Chiral magnetism: skyrmions



$$C_{Sky} = +1$$

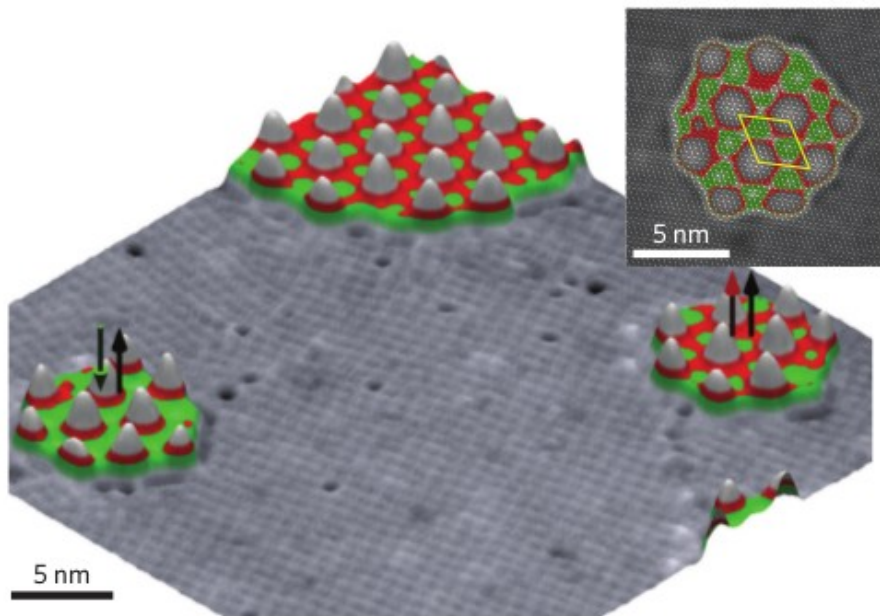


$$C_{Sky} = -1$$



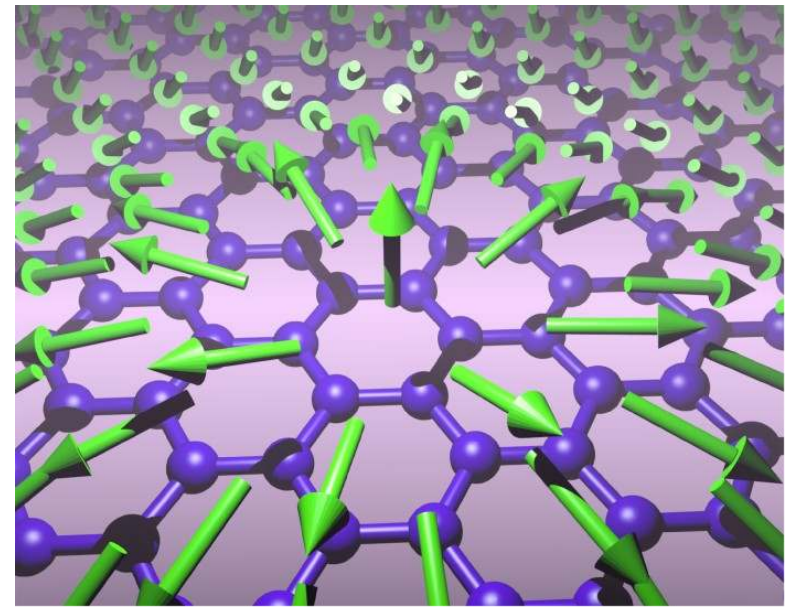
# Graphene on skyrmions

Graphene on skyrmions  
in Fe@Ir(111)



Nature Nanotechnology 9,  
1018–1023 (2014)

**What is the effect of an insulating  
skyrmion lattice in graphene?**



# Electronic structure: graphene@skyrmions

$$\mathcal{H} = tc_j^\dagger c_i + J\vec{m}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{s,s'} c_{i,s'}^\dagger c_{i,s}$$

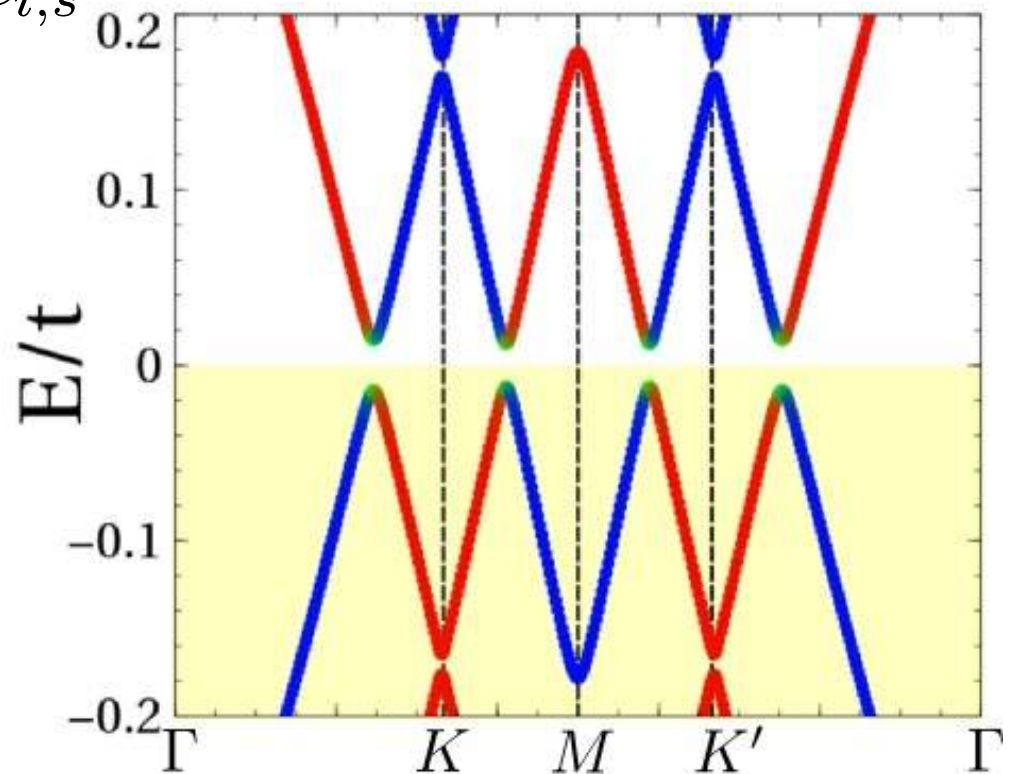
Kinetic energy

Exchange interaction  
with the skyrmion

$$C_{Sky} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \hat{m} \cdot (\partial_x \hat{m} \times \partial_y \hat{m}) dA$$

How is the topological invariant  
of the skyrmions transmitted  
to graphene electrons?

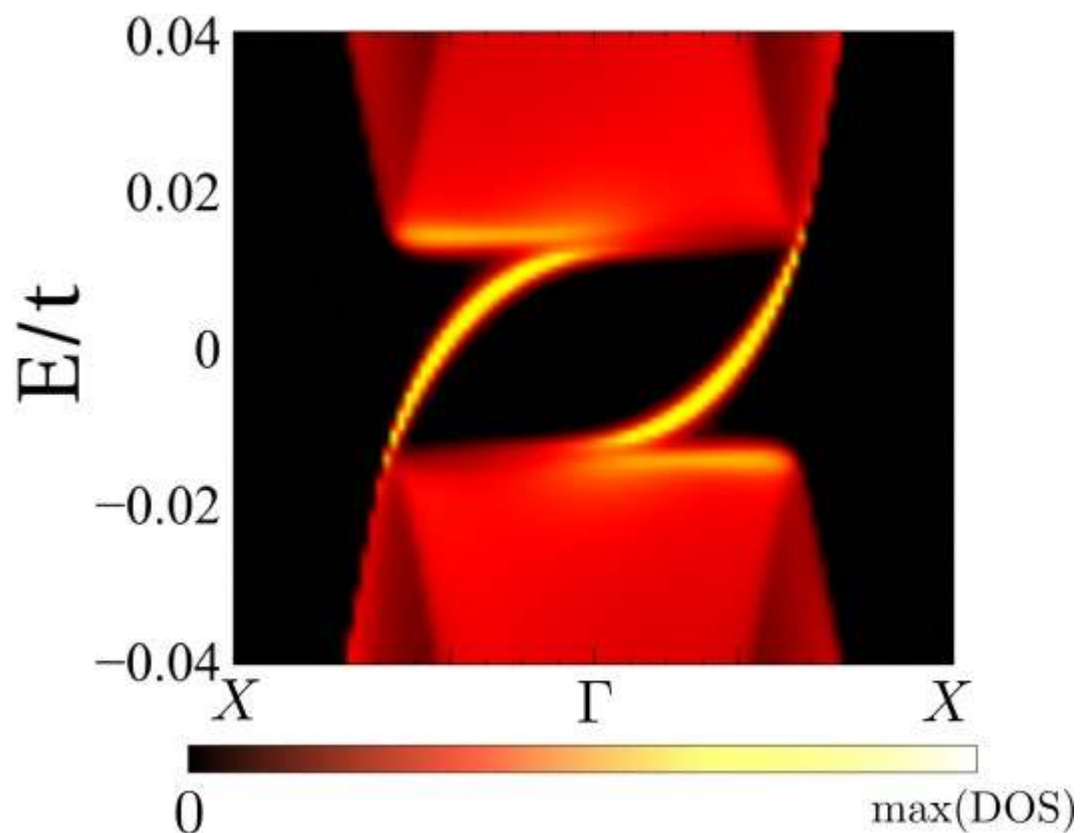
Graphene band structure



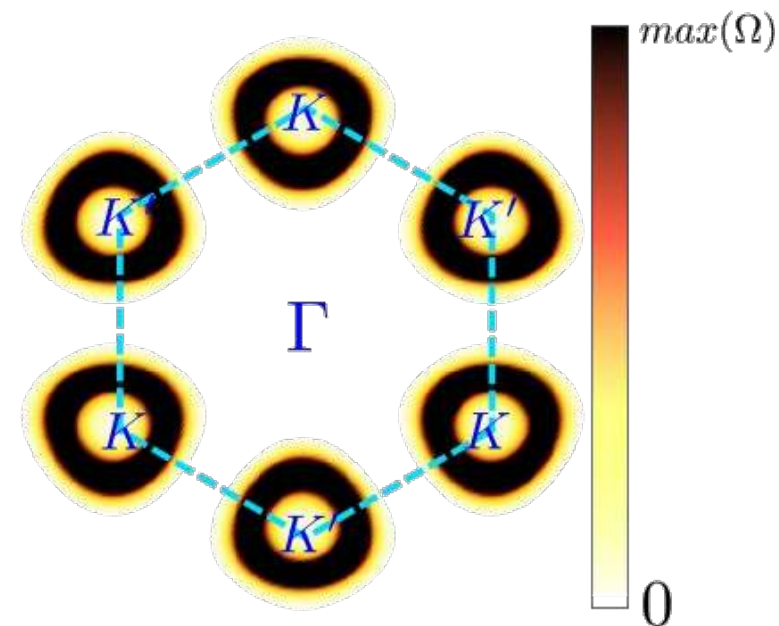
Gapped electronic spectrum

# Bulk and edge correspondence

Surface spectral function



Berry curvature



Chern number

$$\mathcal{C} = 2$$

# But why does graphene become a Chern insulator?

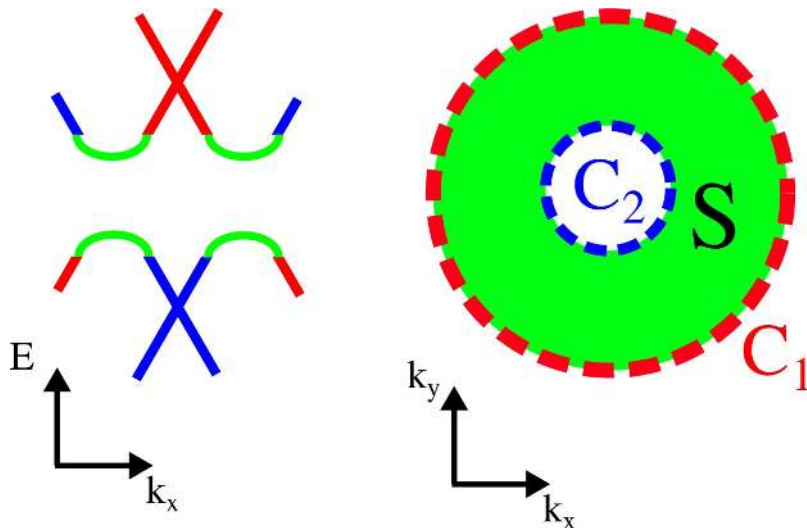
Chern number is zero for a coplanar spin texture  $\vec{m} = m_x \sigma_x + m_z \sigma_z$

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^* \quad \longrightarrow \quad \Omega(\vec{k}) = -\Omega(-\vec{k}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C} = 0$$

Conjugation symmetry

**Non coplanar magnetism with net exchange**

*Stokes theorem in the anticrossing*



$$\mathcal{C} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \oint_{C_1} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{k} + \oint_{C_2} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{k} \right]$$

$$\oint \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{k} = \pm\pi \quad \text{Dirac point}$$

$$\mathcal{C} = 0, \pm 2$$

# Topological imprinting

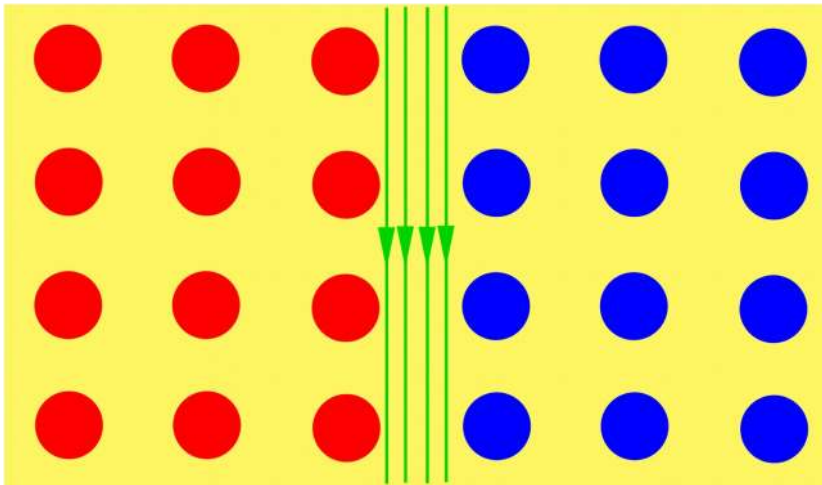
The topology of the skyrmion texture is imprinted in graphene electrons

$$\mathcal{C} = 2C_{Sky}$$

Chern number of graphene electrons

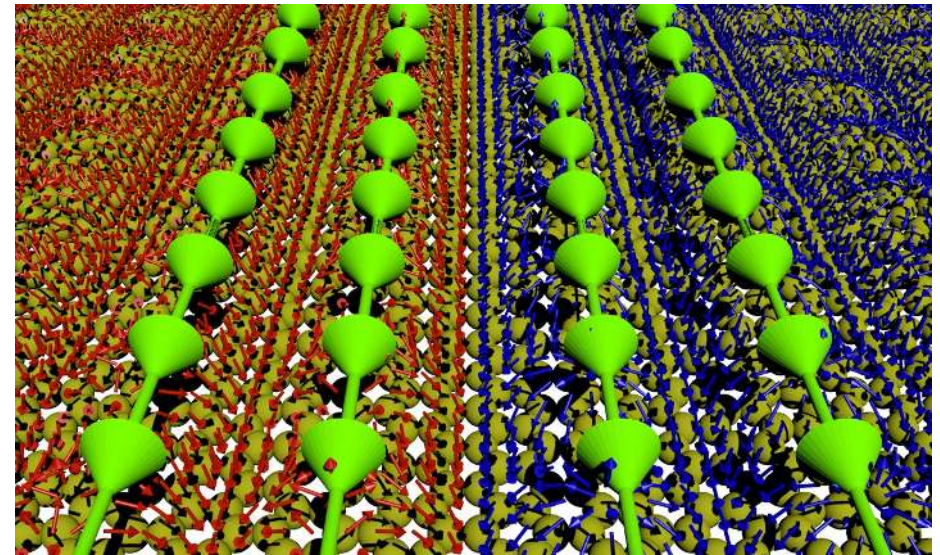
Winding number of the Skyrmion

$$C_{Sky} = +1 \quad C_{Sky} = -1$$

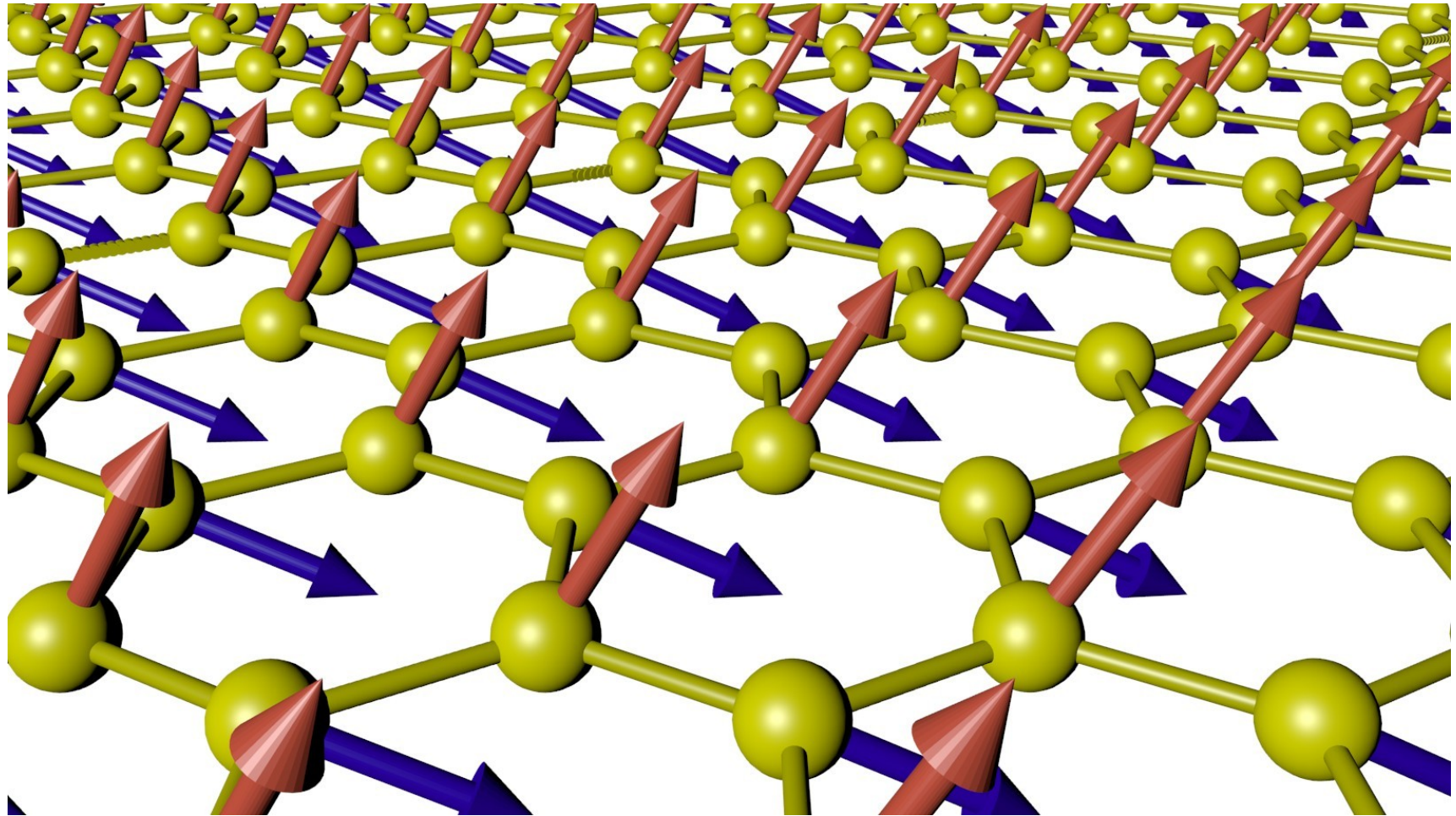


$$\mathcal{C} = +2 \quad \mathcal{C} = -2$$

Four interface states

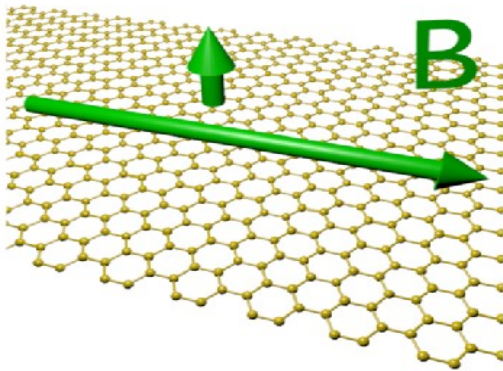


# Ferromagnetism, antiferromagnetism and canted magnetism in graphene

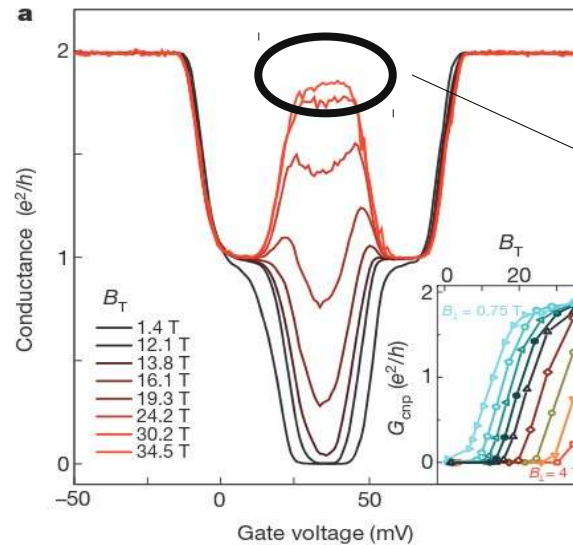


# Quantum Hall graphene

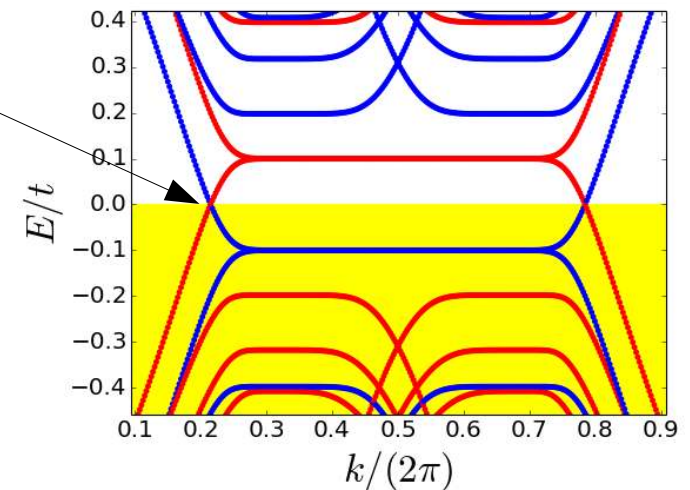
Graphene in tilted magnetic field



Transition with in-plane field



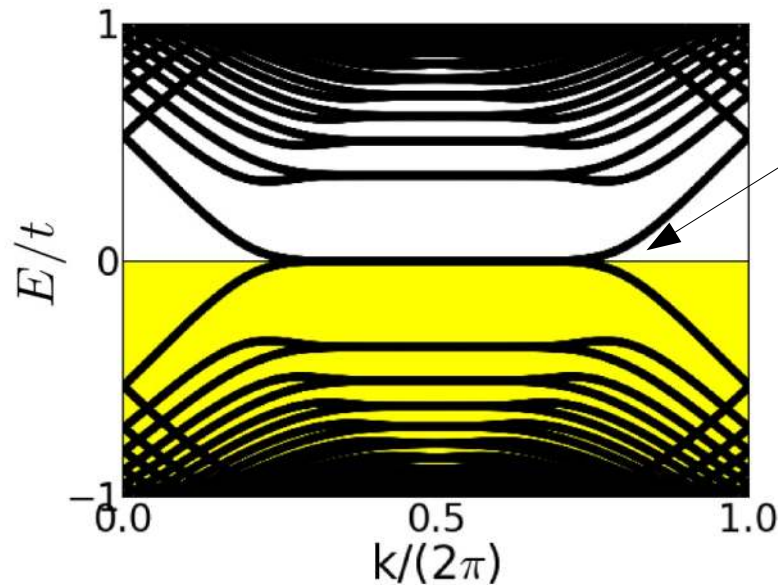
Ferromagnetic Hall state



Nature 505,  
528–532 (2014)

What is the origin of the phase transition with magnetic field?

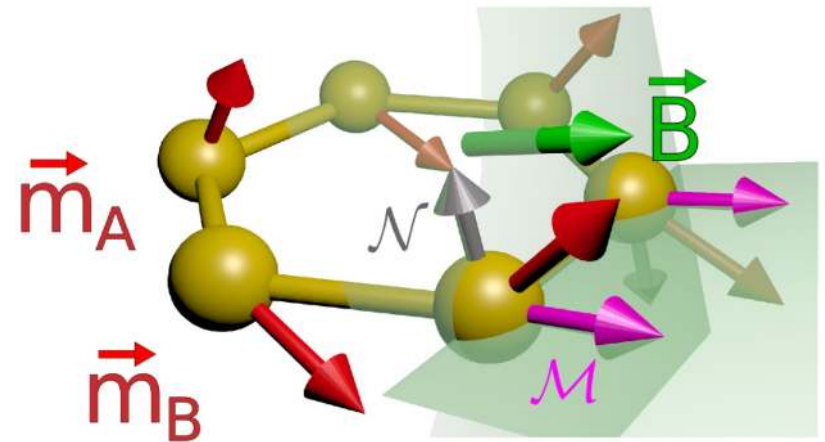
# Quantum Hall graphene



Hamiltonian

Large density of states  
*Electronic instability*

Order parameters  $\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{M}$



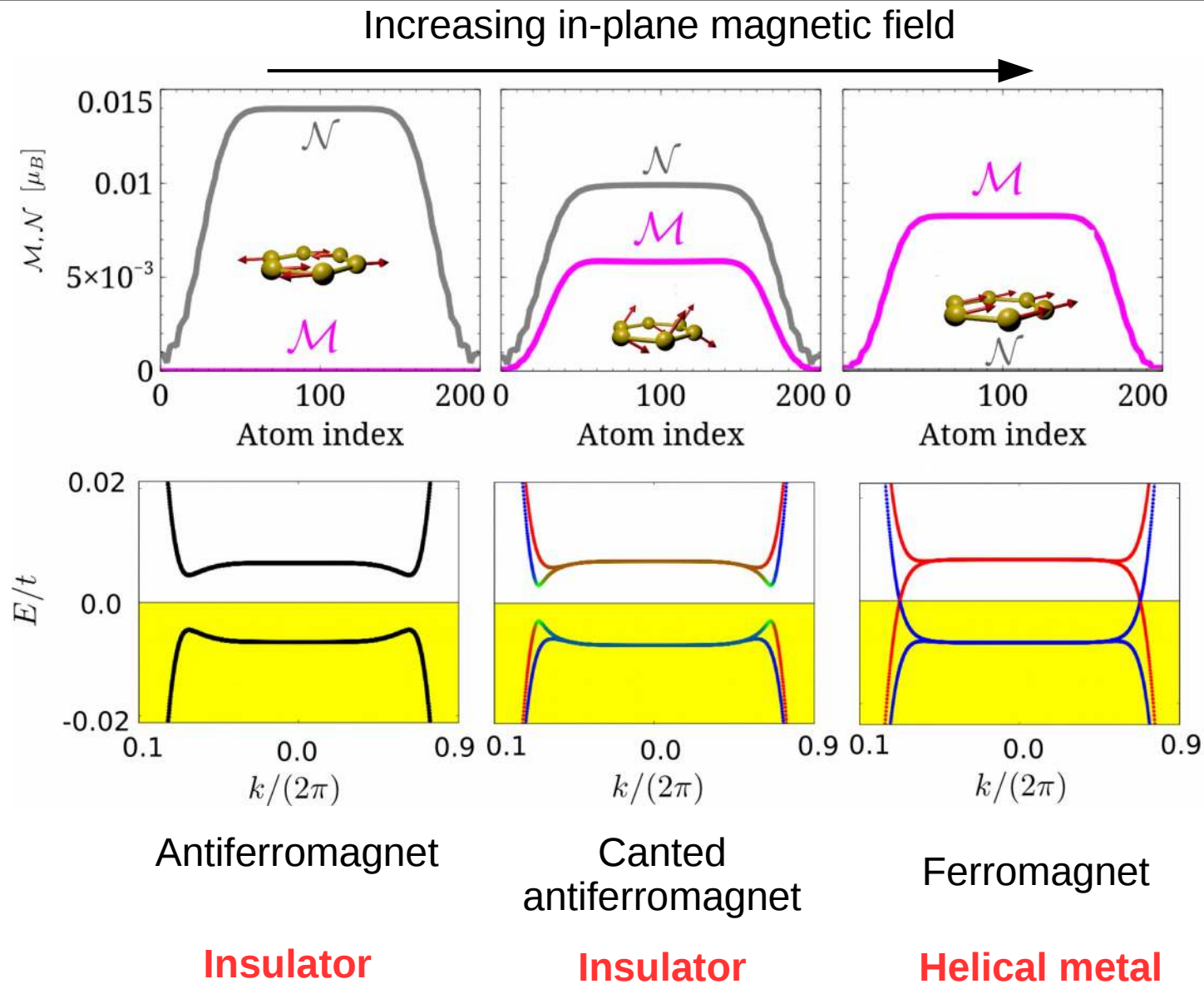
$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} t(B_z) c_j^\dagger c_i + \sum_i \vec{B} \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{s,s'} c_{i,s'}^\dagger c_{i,s} + U c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s} c_{i,s'}^\dagger c_{i,s'}$$

Kinetic energy + gauge field,  
off-plane magnetic field

Zeeman term,  
in-plane magnetic field

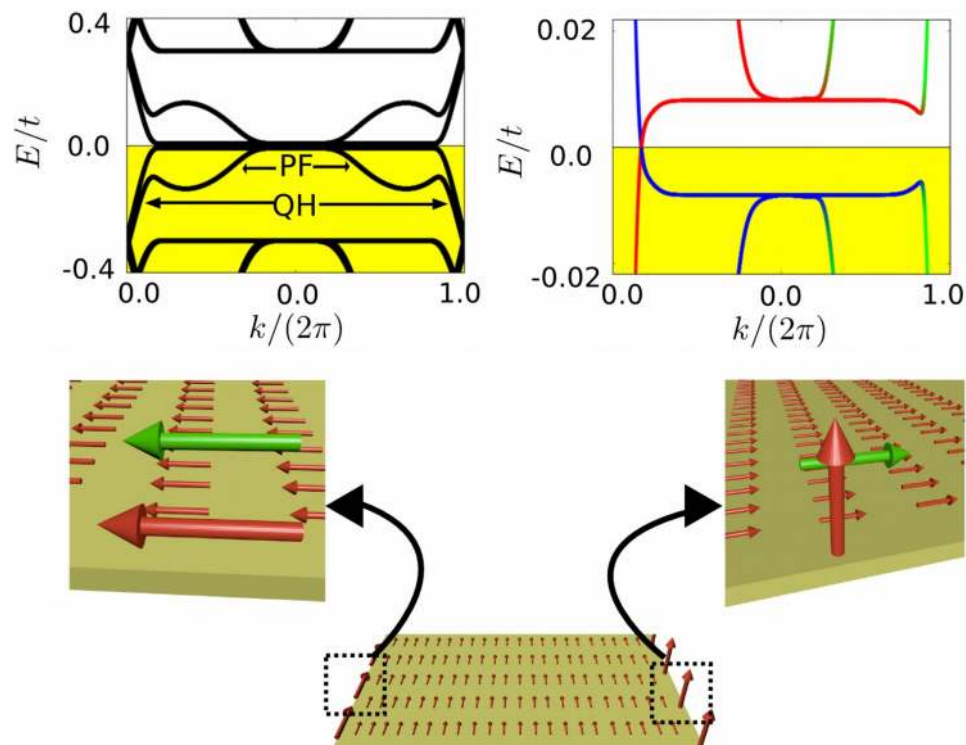
Hubbard interaction,  
solved with mean field

# Quantum Hall transition in graphene



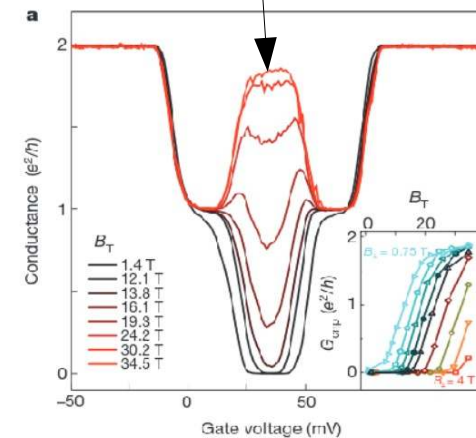
# Interaction between localized moments and helical states

Spin fluctuations in localized moments  
gap-out helical states



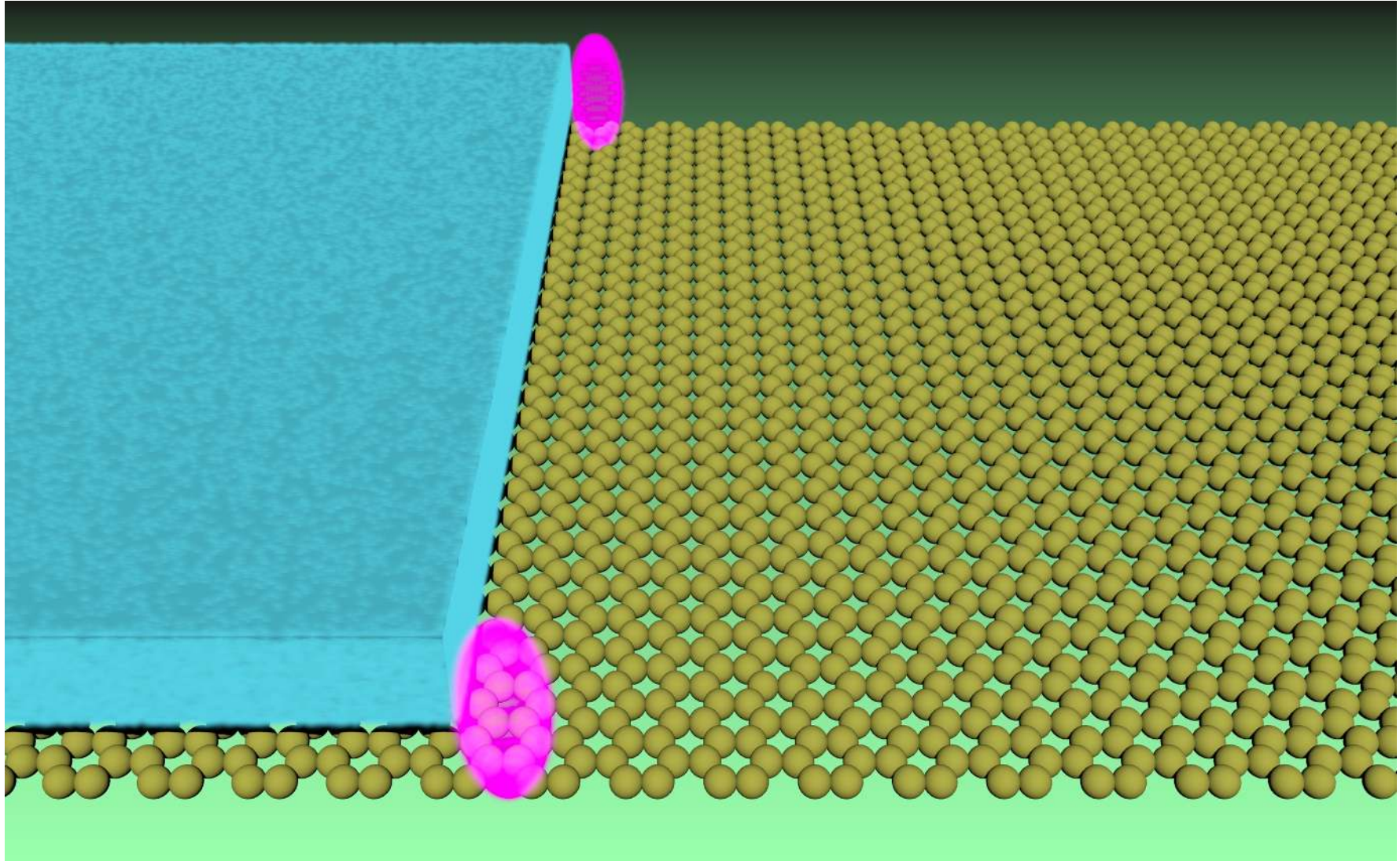
Possible origin of  
not perfect quantization

Nature 505, 528–532 (2014)



**Coupling of a helical metal with localized moments**

# Topological superconductivity in graphene



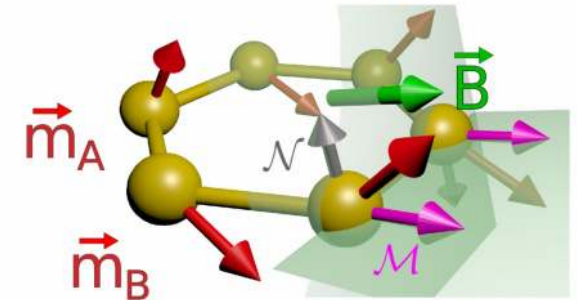
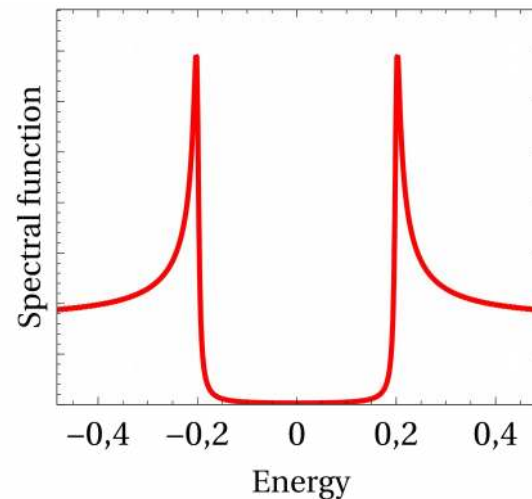
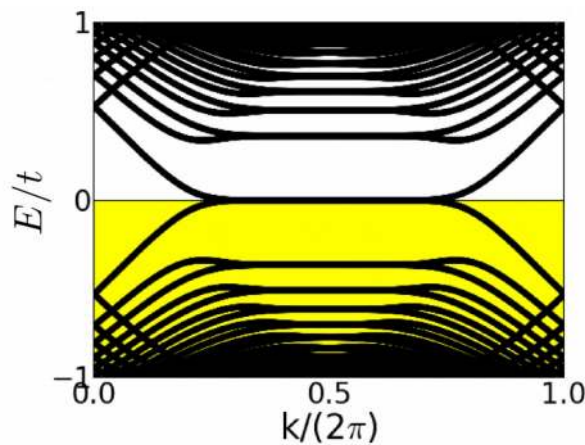
# Topological superconductivity in graphene: the recipe

Kinetic energy and  
magnetic gauge field

Superconducting pairing

Interaction driven  
and Zeeman

$$\mathcal{H} = t_{ij}(B_z)c_j^\dagger c_i + \Delta[c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s'}^\dagger + c_{i,s'} c_{i,s}] + J\vec{m}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{s,s'} c_{i,s}^\dagger c_{i,s'}$$



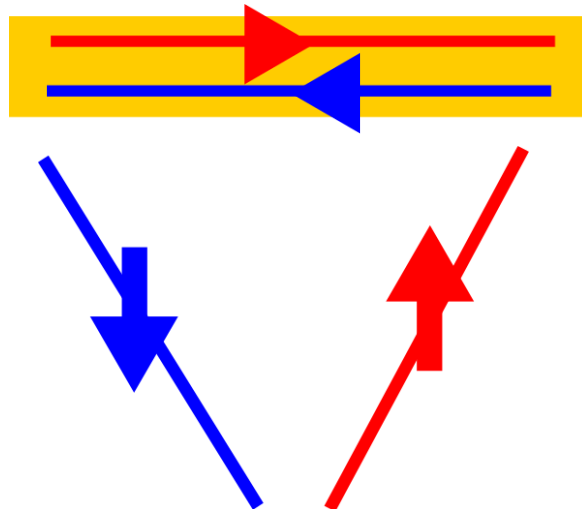
Are these three ingredients enough to create topological superconductivity?

# How to create Majorana bound states in graphene

**Goal: Engineer a Kitaev chain**

$$H = \sum_n t c_{n+1}^\dagger c_n + \Delta c_n c_{n+1} + c.c.$$

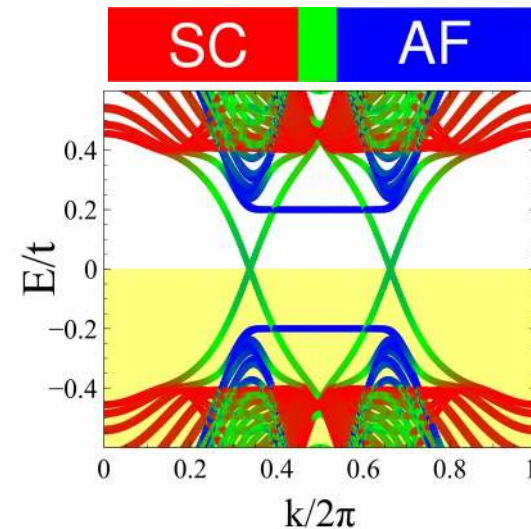
Helical states +  
s-wave superconductivity



Relies on the Landau level  
structure of graphene

Ferromagnetic  
Quantum Hall state

Solitonic superconducting states +  
breaking of conjugation and rotation symmetry

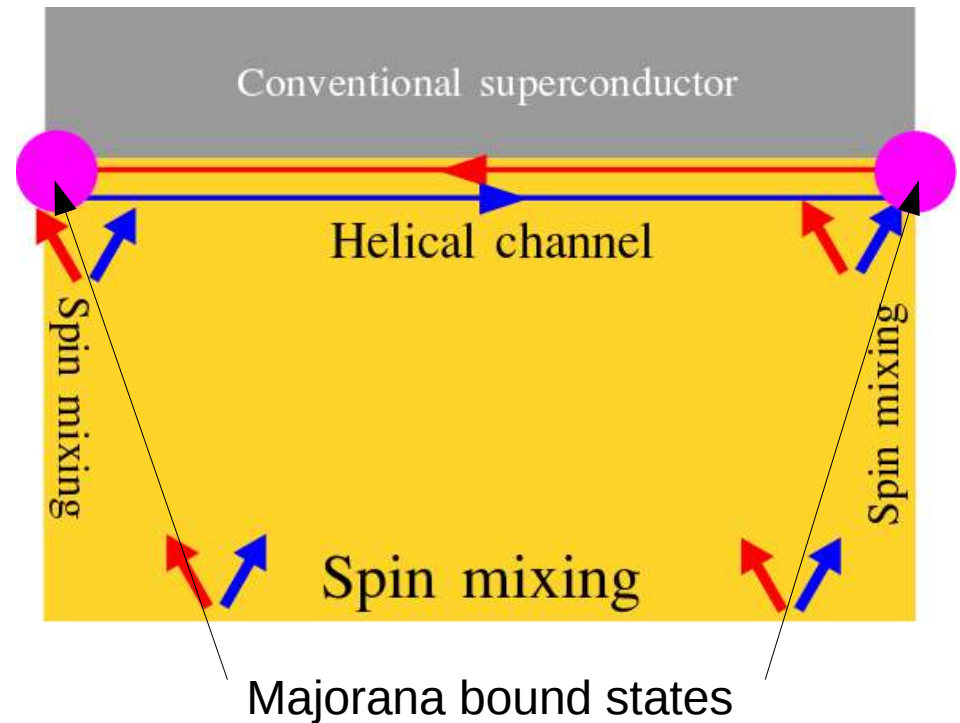
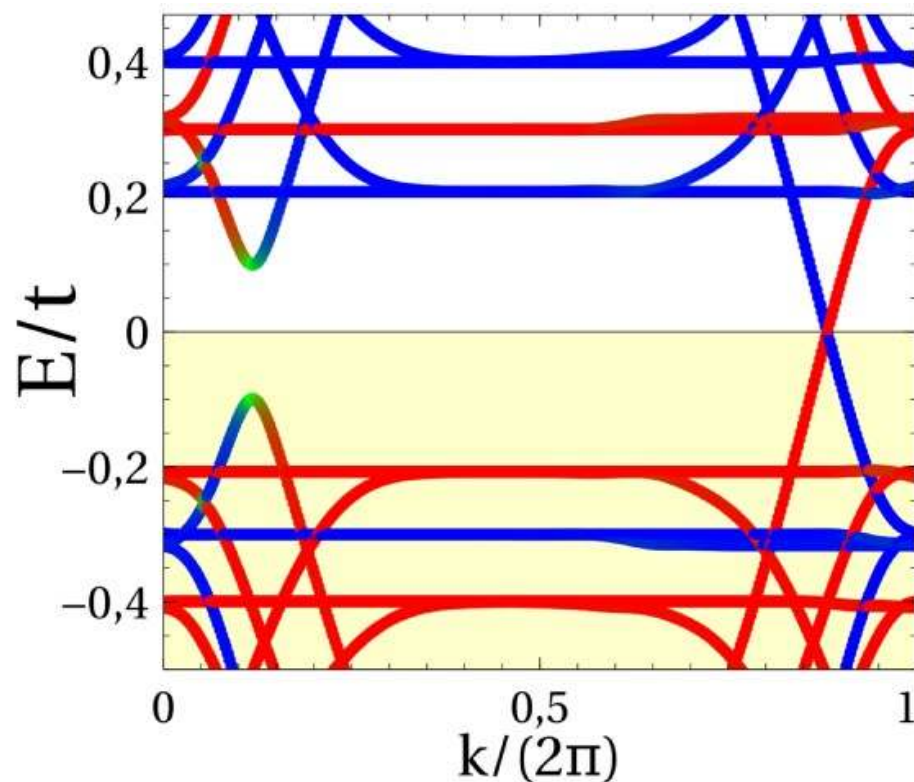


Relies on valley states  
originated by valley Chern numbers

Antiferromagnetic  
Quantum Hall state

None of them require spin orbit coupling

# Majoranas in ferromagnet Hall graphene

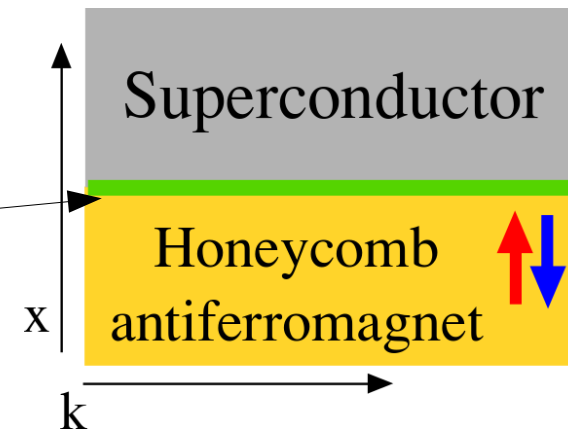
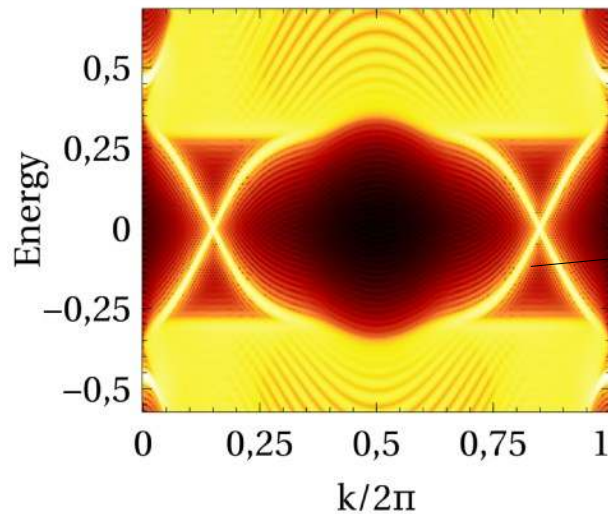


Analogous to interface between  $Z_2$  insulator and superconductor

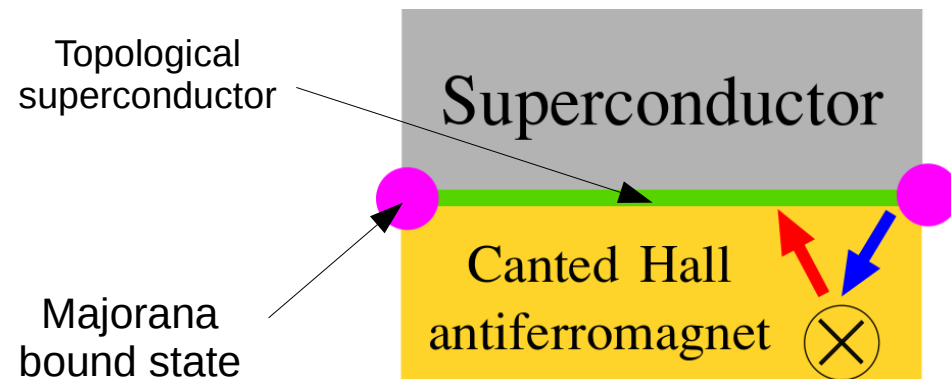
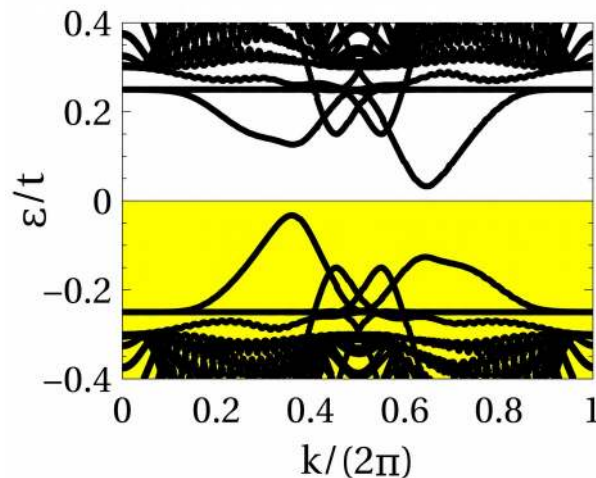
# Interface between superconductor and honeycomb antiferromagnet

## Solitonic solution in the interface superconductor-antiferromagnet

$$H = \gamma_1 m(x) + \gamma_2 p + \gamma_3 \Delta_{\text{SC}}(x) \quad \phi(x) = N e^{-\int_0^x [m(x') - \Delta_{\text{SC}}(x')] dx'} \phi_0$$

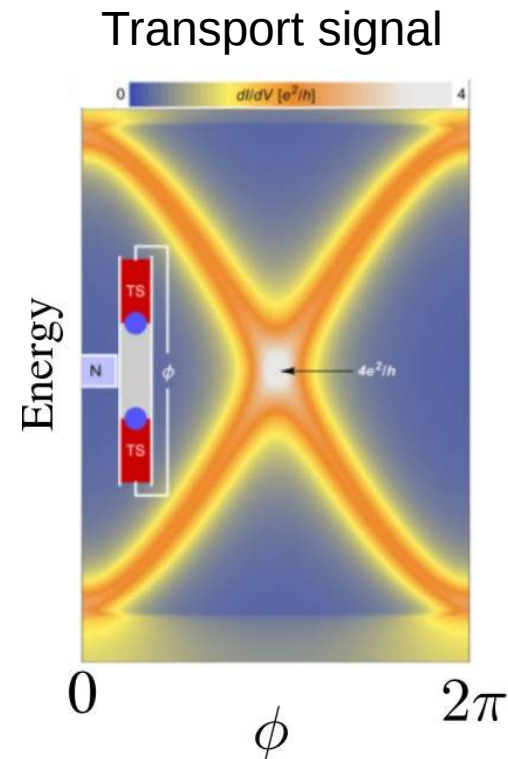
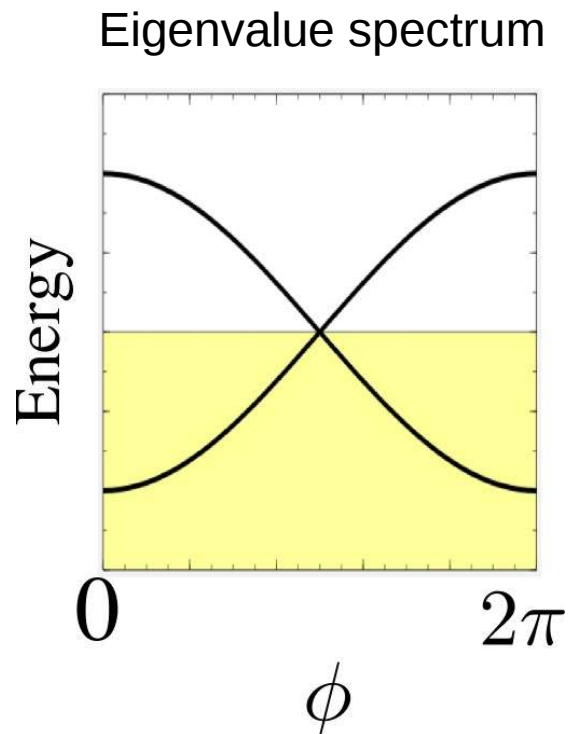


## Topological superconductor in the canted Hall antiferromagnet



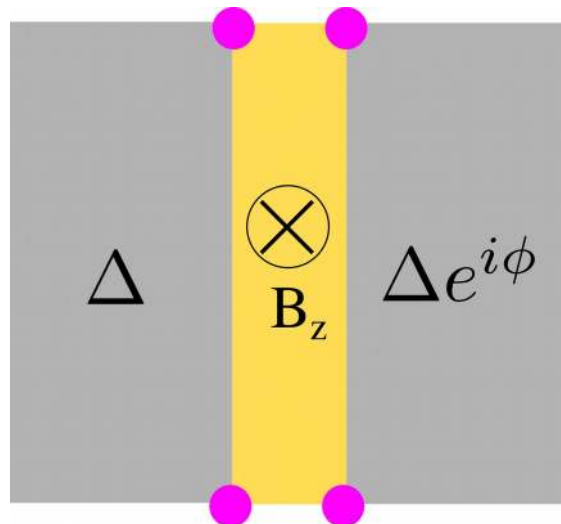
# Experimental signatures of Majorana states, Josephson effect

## $4\pi$ Josephson effect

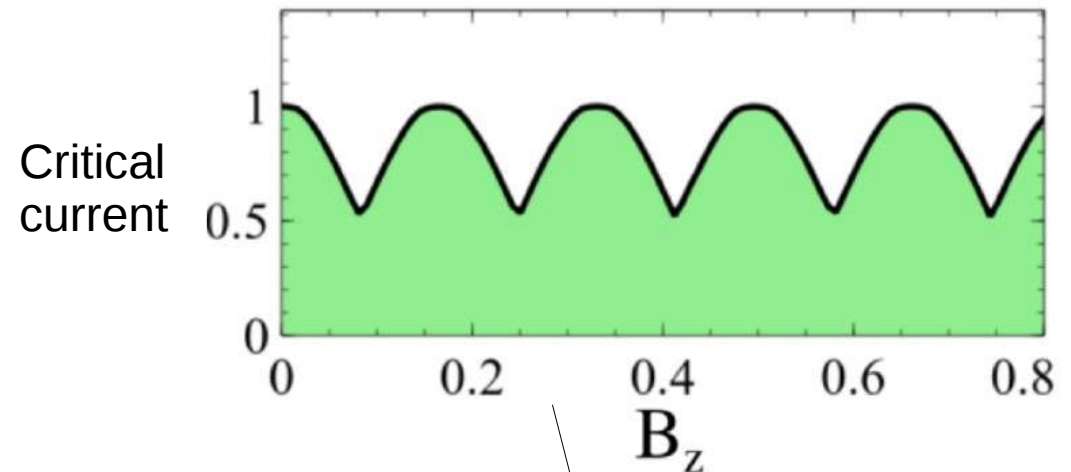


# Experimental signatures of Majorana states, Fraunhofer

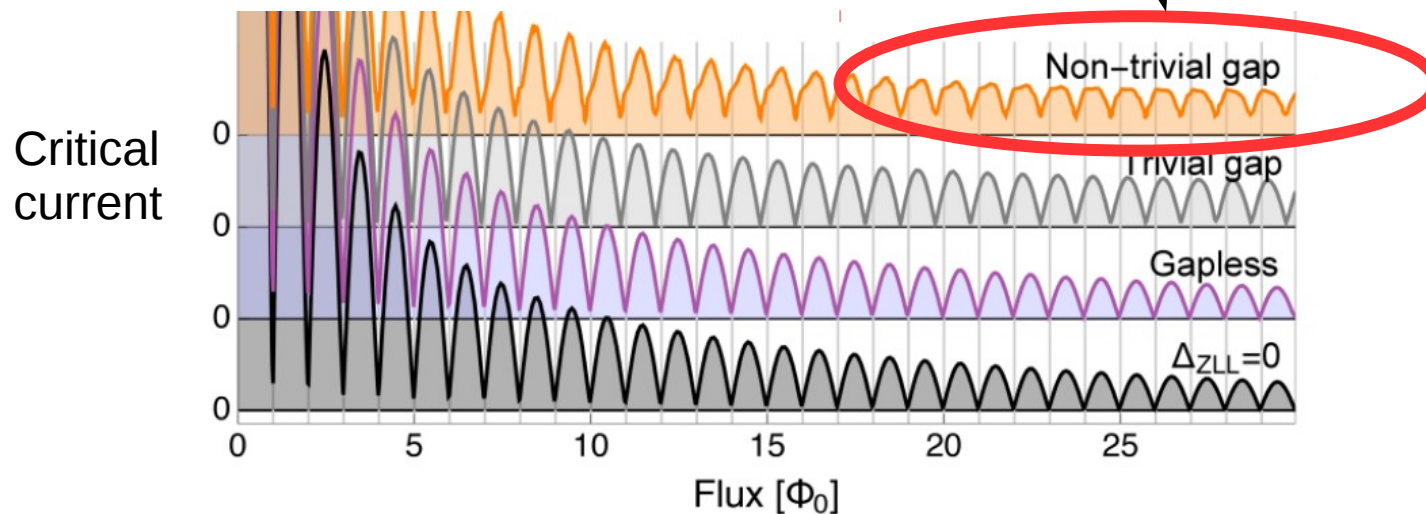
Fraunhofer geometry



Toy model with four Majoranas



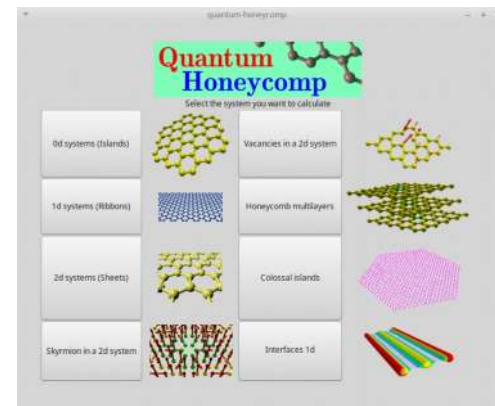
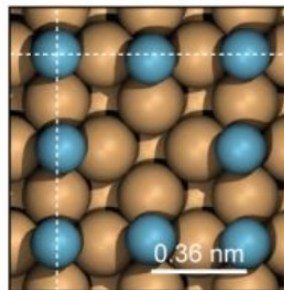
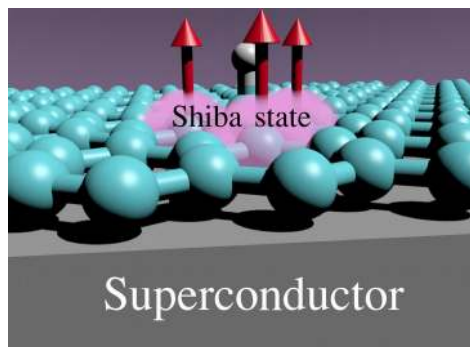
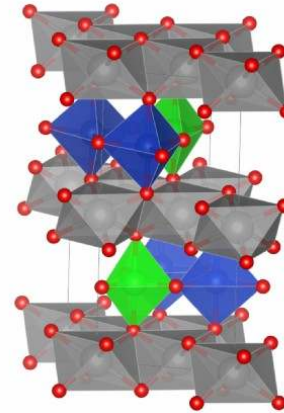
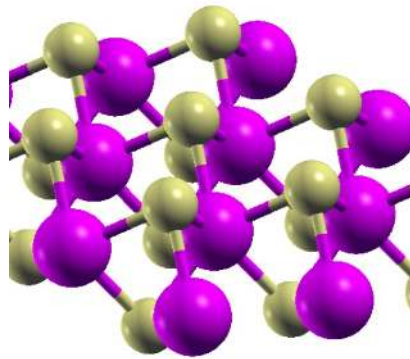
Graphene Majoranas setup



# Summary

- **Quantum anomalous Hall effect in graphene**
  - **Skyrmions** imprint topology in graphene, Chern number is controlled by skyrmion chirality
- **Quantum spin Hall effect in graphene**
  - Magnetic and topological states can be **tuned by in-plane magnetic field** in the quantum Hall regime
- **Topological superconductivity in graphene**
  - **Majorana bound states** appear at the interface of a superconductor and ferromagnetic or canted quantum Hall graphene

# Epilogue: Short items

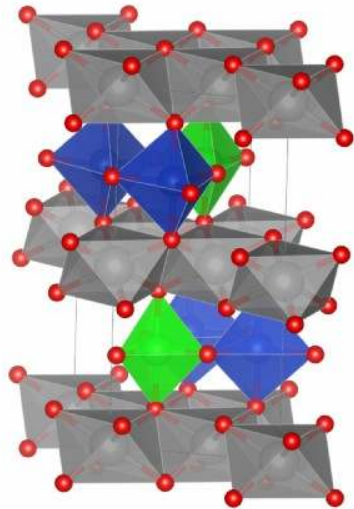


# Quantum spin Hall in oxides

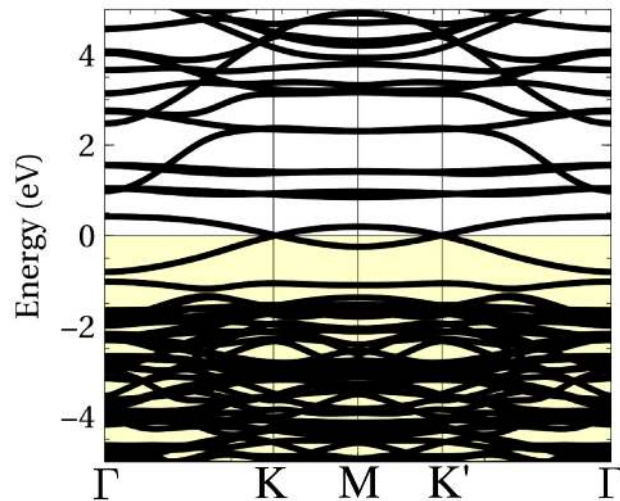
## Dirac insulator in oxides



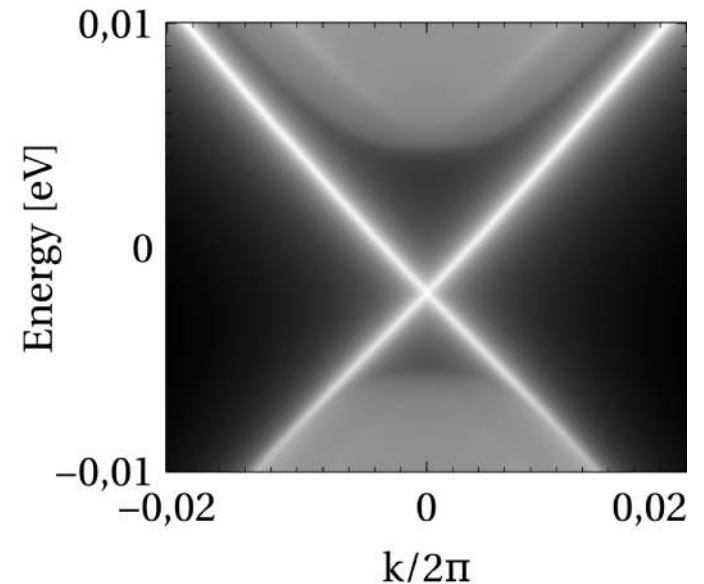
Crystal structure



Band structure



Surface spectral function



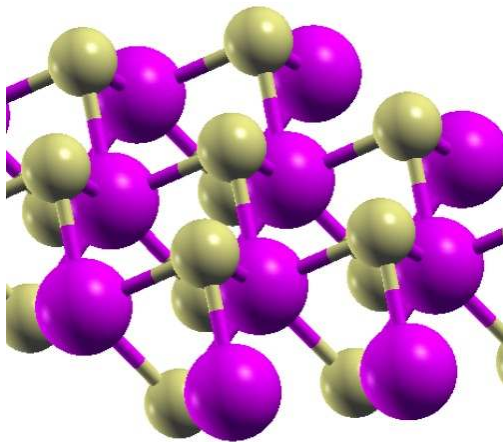
Dirac electrons in an oxide

Realization of the Kane-Mele model in the  $d_{z^2}$  manifold

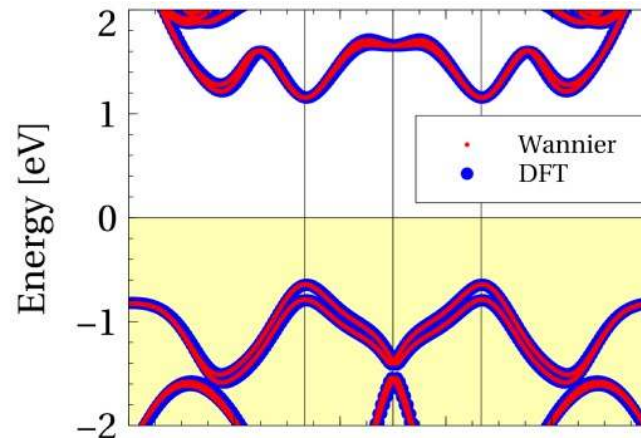
# Landau levels in 2D materials

## Quantum Hall effect starting from density functional theory

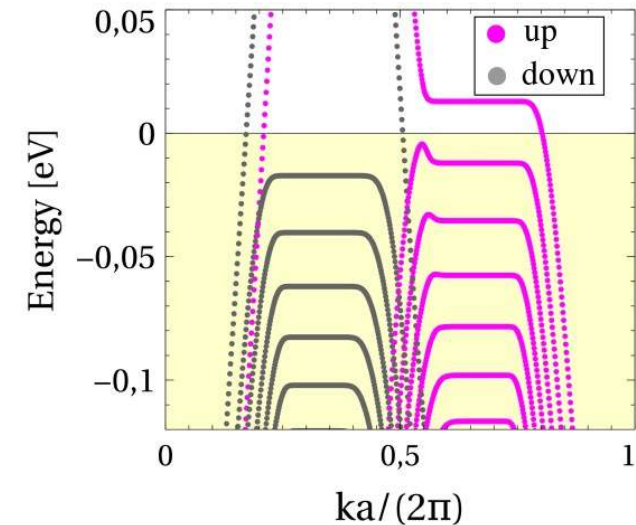
MoS<sub>2</sub> structure



Bulk band structure



Landau levels



Real space Hamiltonian

$$H_{2D} = \sum_{n,m} \sum_{i,j} t_{ij}^{\vec{n}-\vec{m}} c_{\vec{m},j}^{\dagger} c_{\vec{n},i}$$

Peierls coupling to gauge field

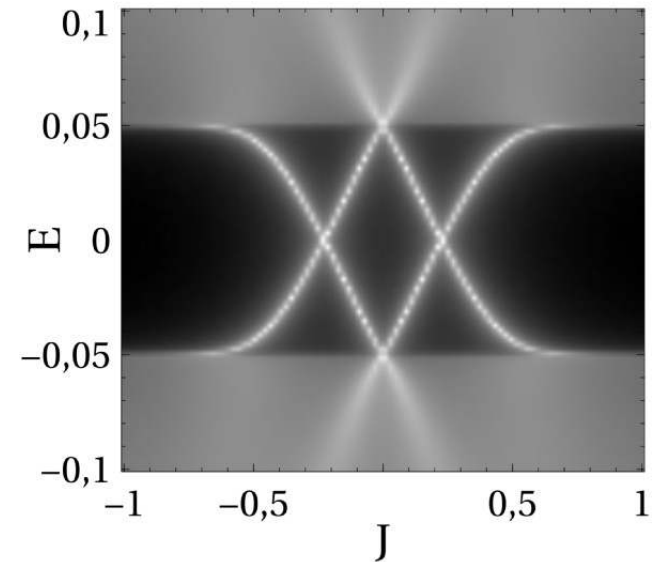
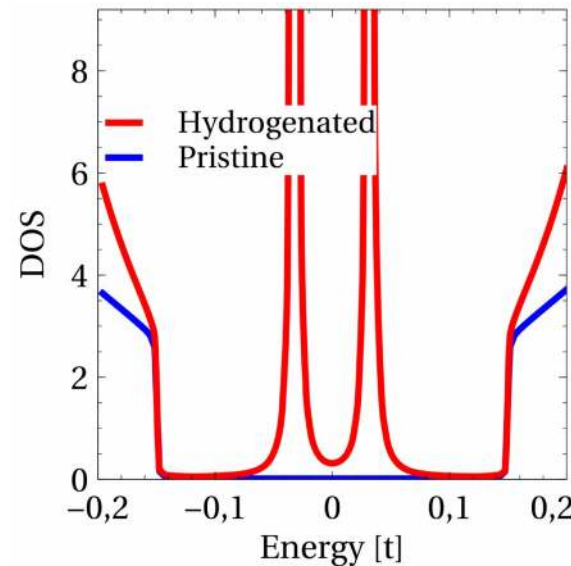
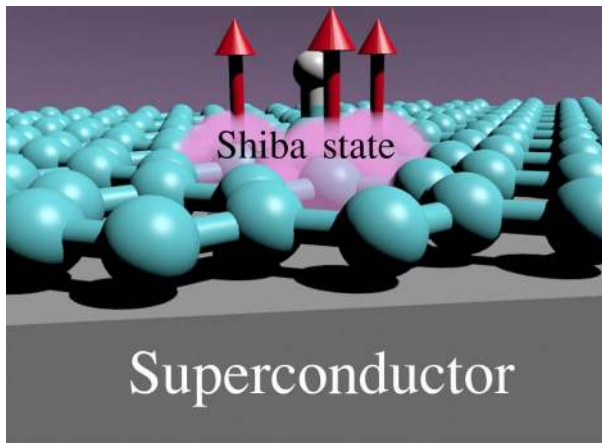
$$\hat{t}_{ij}^{N-M} \rightarrow \hat{t}_{ij}^{N-M} e^{i\phi_{ij}^{N,M}}$$

Wannier transformation

$$|\vec{n}, \mu\rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int e^{i\vec{n}\cdot\vec{k}} U(\vec{k})_{\mu,\nu} |\vec{k}, \nu\rangle d^2k$$

# Yu-Shiba-Rusinov states in graphene

Single hydrogenation creates Shiba states in graphene



Conventional Shiba theory breaks down

YSR energy  $\rightarrow$

$$E_S = \Delta \frac{1 - (\pi \frac{S}{2} J \rho)^2}{1 + (\pi \frac{S}{2} J \rho)^2}$$

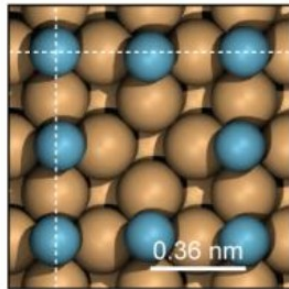
Superconducting pairing  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$

Exchange coupling  $\rightarrow$   $J$

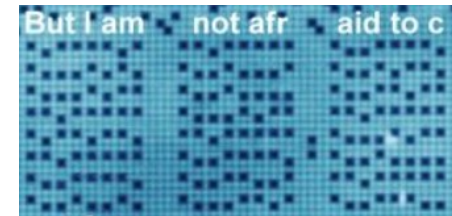
DOS (zero in graphene)  $\rightarrow$   $\rho$

# An atomic scale rewritable memory

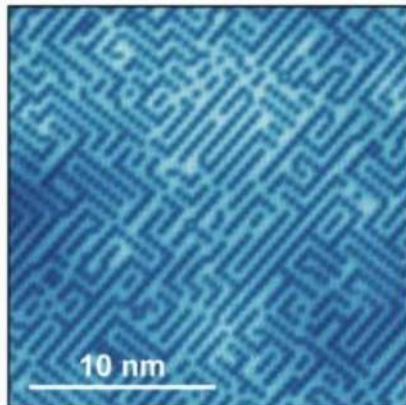
Vacancies in Cl on Cu (001)



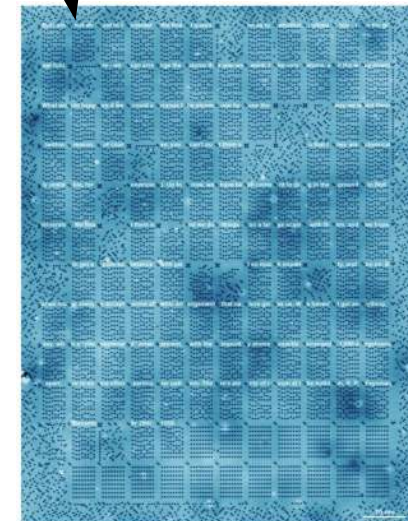
Recording using vacancy manipulation  
(AF Otte group, Delft, Netherlands)



Experiment

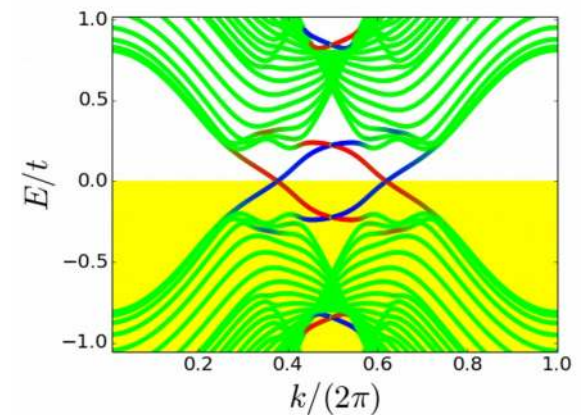
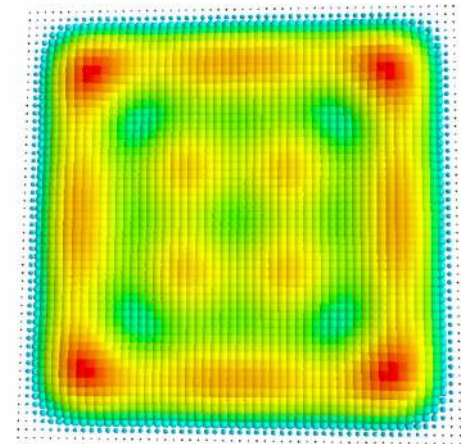
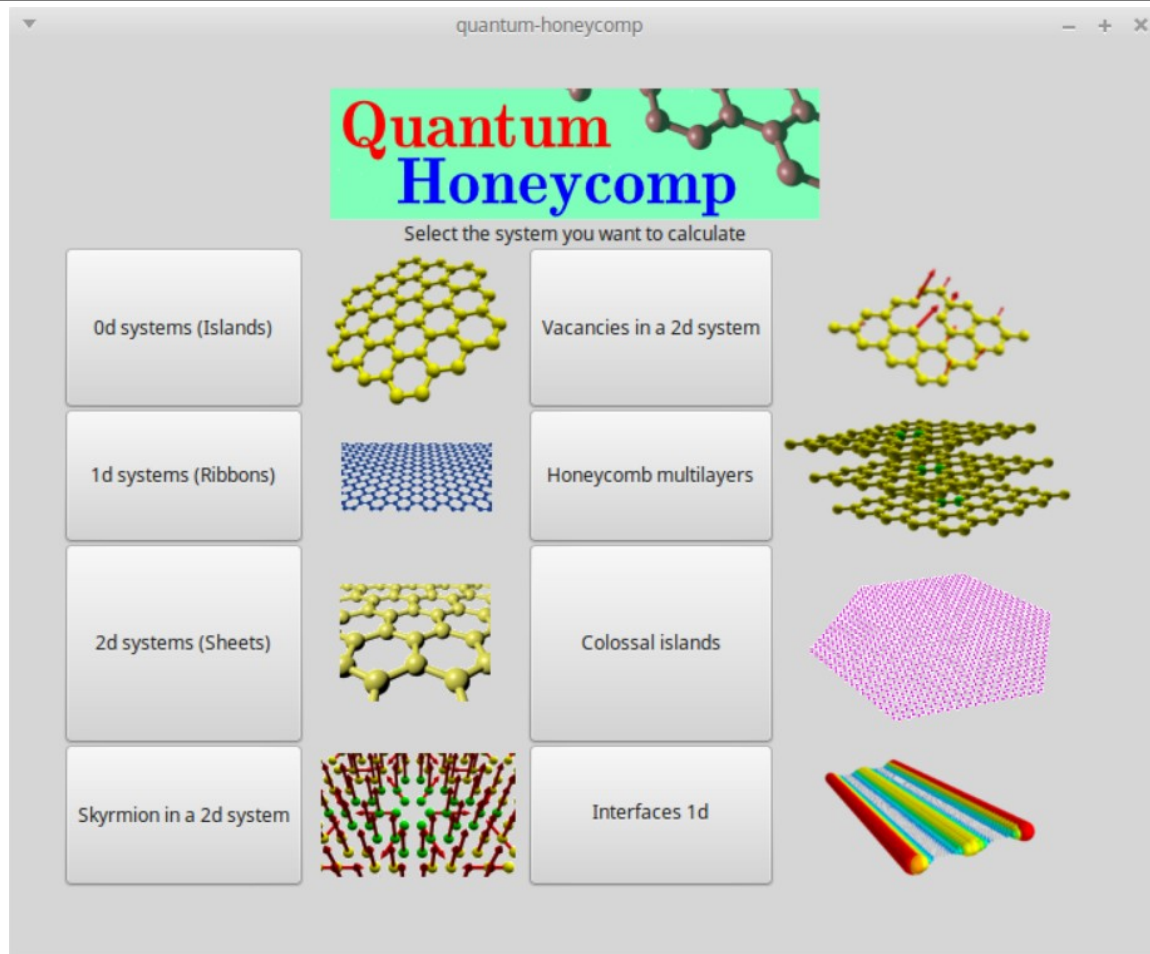


Density functional theory  
and Montecarlo



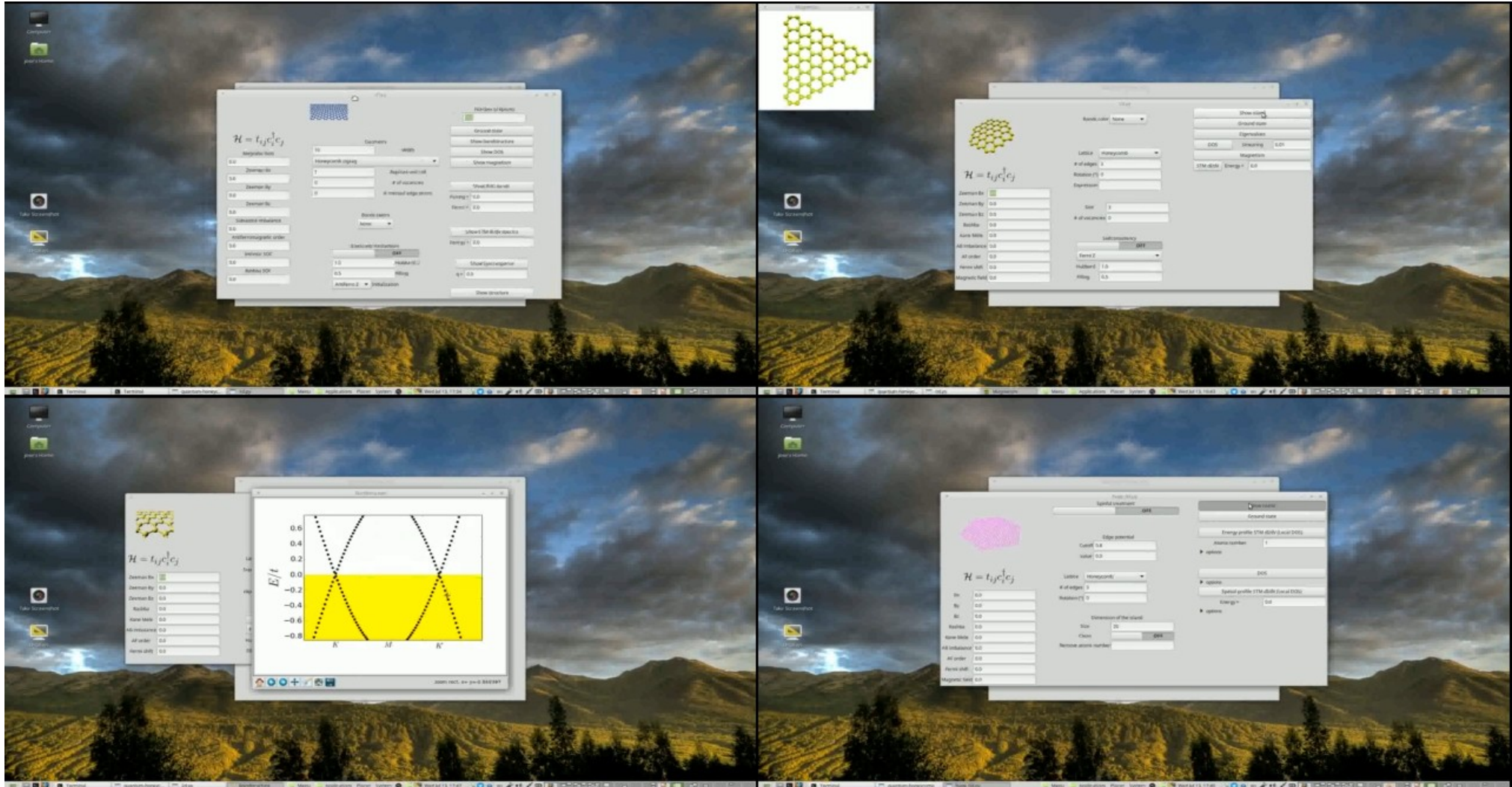
FE Kalff, MP Rebergen, E Fahrenfort, J Girovsky,  
R Toskovic, JL Lado, J Fernández-Rossier, AF Otte  
**Nature Nanotechnology (2016)**

# Quantum Honeycomp



Open source and user friendly interactive program  
<https://sourceforge.net/projects/quantum-honeycomp/>

# Quantum Honeycomp



# Acknowledgements

We acknowledge financial support from



**Thank you!**