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Dear Alexios Klironomos:

We thank the editors for the further consideration given to our submitted manuscript BC12512. We are disappointed we could not meet the criteria required for a review process, although we are still uncertain why we have not done so. To assist us in the preparation of future manuscripts, we would like to have a firm understanding of the criteria needed to receive a review process.

We have two final questions regarding the rejection of BC12512:

1. In the document "cover_rebuttal_040613_JL.pdf", we demonstrated how our manuscript satisfied the four criteria required for publication in *Physical Review B*. We assume that these criteria also pertain to receiving a review process. These criteria were, as stated, "be of high quality and scientific interest, be recognized as an important contribution to the literature, and be of particular interest to our readers". In the final letter from the editors, the following was written:

"The editors of PRB have considered your most recent letter, and your manuscript again. We regret to inform you that we are not convinced that the Physical Review B is the appropriate journal for your manuscript. We suggest that it will be more productive for you to seek publication in another, more specialized, journal."

Could you be more specific as to which of the four stated criteria we failed to meet and why?

2. What influence does the previously submitted, and referee-rejected, manuscript BP11533 have on the referee-review denial for the current manuscript, BC12512? We thought we clarified in the document "cover_rebuttal_2_040913_JL_AM.pdf" that these two manuscripts, BP11533 and BC12512, have almost nothing in common. With no further clarification on the referee-review denial, we are left wondering if there is some suspicion about the content of the current manuscript, BC12512.

Thank you again for the consideration you offered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan McGaughey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan McGaughey