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Research diary

Quan Sheng Wu

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Some Research Notes

Some Research Notes

1.1 Calculation Chern number

There are a few ways to calculate Chern number. We can classified into two classes. One is reciprocal space system, like Kubo formula in reciprocal space form [1--3]. The other is in real space system, like Streda method[4], Prodan' method [5], C*-algebras method [6], Kubo formula in lattice model form [7]. All the real space Chern number calculation can be deduced from reciprocal space calculation.

1.1.1 TKNN number

The relation between Chern number and physical quantity was introduced by TKNN [1]. In their paper, they gives the formula to calculate Chern number in reciprocal space.

$$C = \frac{i}{A} \sum_{\varepsilon_{\alpha} < E_{E}} \sum_{\varepsilon_{\alpha} > E_{E}} \frac{(\partial \hat{H}/\partial k_{1})_{\alpha\beta} (\partial \hat{H}/\partial k_{2})_{\beta\alpha} - (\partial \hat{H}/\partial k_{2})_{\alpha\beta} (\partial \hat{H}/\partial k_{1})_{\beta\alpha}}{(\varepsilon_{\alpha} - \varepsilon_{\beta})^{2}}$$

 \hat{H} is the Hamiltonian in k space.

1.1.2 Kubo formula in real space lattice form

The main idea for real space Chern number calculation is to calculate Chern number on a finite lattice model, the normal way to calculate it is with Kubo formula.

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{ie^2\hbar}{N_x N_y} \sum_{n} \sum_{m \neq n} \left(f(E_n) - f(E_m) \right) \frac{\langle n | \nu_x | m \rangle \langle m | \nu_y | n \rangle}{(\epsilon_n - \epsilon_m)^2} \tag{1.1}$$

 $f(E_n)$ is fermi distribution, after simplification,

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{ie^2\hbar}{N_x N_y} \sum_{\epsilon_n < E_F} \sum_{\epsilon_m > E_F} \frac{\langle n | v_x | m \rangle \langle m | v_y | n \rangle - \langle n | v_y | m \rangle \langle m | v_x | n \rangle}{(\epsilon_n - \epsilon_m)^2}$$
(1.2)

 v_x, v_y are velocity operator,

$$v_x = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [x, H] \tag{1.3}$$

x is position operator, $x=\sum_n c_n^\dagger n c_n$, if the one dimensional Hamiltonian H is

$$H = \sum_{n} \epsilon_n c_n^{\dagger} c_n + t \sum_{n} c_{n+1}^{\dagger} c_n + t \sum_{n} c_n^{\dagger} c_{n+1}$$

$$\tag{1.4}$$

then

$$v_x = \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_n \left(c_{n+1}^\dagger c_n - c_n^\dagger c_{n+1} \right) \tag{1.5}$$

In two dimension

$$H = \sum_{m,n} \epsilon_{m,n} c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + t \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m,n+1}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n+1} \right) + t \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m+1,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m+1,n} \right)$$
(1.6)

$$v_{x} = \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m+1,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} - c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m+1,n} \right)$$
 (1.7)

$$v_{y} = \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m,n+1}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} - c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n+1} \right)$$
 (1.8)

after using twist boundary

$$H = \sum_{m,n} \epsilon_{m,n} c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + t \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m,n+1}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n+1} \right) + t \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m+1,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} + c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m+1,n} \right)$$
(1.9)

$$+t\sum_{n}\left(c_{N_{x},n}^{\dagger}c_{1,n}e^{i\theta}+c_{1,n}^{\dagger}c_{N_{x},n}e^{-i\theta}\right)+t\sum_{m}\left(c_{m,N_{y}}^{\dagger}c_{m,1}e^{i\varphi}+c_{m,1}^{\dagger}c_{m,N_{y}}e^{-i\varphi}\right) \quad (1.10)$$

$$v_{x} = \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m+1,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} - c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m+1,n} \right) + \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{n} \left(c_{N_{x},n}^{\dagger} c_{1,n} e^{i\theta} - c_{1,n}^{\dagger} c_{N_{x},n} e^{-i\theta} \right)$$
(1.11)

$$v_{y} = \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{m,n} \left(c_{m,n+1}^{\dagger} c_{m,n} - c_{m,n}^{\dagger} c_{m,n+1} \right) + \frac{t}{i\hbar} \sum_{m} \left(c_{m,N_{y}}^{\dagger} c_{m,1} e^{i\varphi} - c_{m,1}^{\dagger} c_{m,N_{y}} e^{-i\varphi} \right)$$
(1.12)

It is suggested by Niu et.al[8] that Chern number can be get by averaged the hall conductance with different twist boundary.

$$C = \frac{h}{e^2} \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int d\theta d\phi \sigma_{xy}(\theta, \phi)$$
 (1.13)

1.1.3 Streda formula

The original Streda formula[9] is

$$\sigma_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{4\pi A} \int dE f(E) \left\langle Tr \left[J_{\mu} \frac{dG_{+}(E)}{dE} J_{\nu} G_{\delta} + h.c. \right] \right\rangle_{imp} \tag{1.14}$$

 J_{μ} is the current operator in μ direction, $G_{\pm}(E) = \left[E - H - H_{imp} \pm i\eta\right]^{-1}$, $G_{\delta} = G_{+} - G_{-}$, H_{imp} is the interaction with the impurities. $\langle ... \rangle_{imp}$ represents the average over different disorder configurations.

Some Research Notes

In M. Onoda's paper, they only focus on the metallic states, so they just replace $G_{\pm}(E)$ by $\left[E-H\pm i(2\tau)^{-1}\right]^{-1}$ to consider the disorder effect. They reduce Streda's formula into

$$\sigma_{H} = -\frac{i}{A} \sum_{\alpha \alpha'} \mathbf{e}_{z} \cdot \left[\langle \psi_{\alpha} | \mathbf{J} | \psi_{\alpha'} \rangle \langle \psi_{\alpha'} | \mathbf{J} | \psi_{\alpha} \rangle \times \right] \times \frac{\tau^{2} [f^{\tau}(E_{\alpha}) - f^{\tau}(E_{\alpha'})]}{1 + [(E_{\alpha} - E_{\alpha'})\tau]^{2}}$$
(1.15)

 $f^{\tau}(E)$ is f(E) with inverse temperature replaced by $64\tau/(3\pi)$

1.1.4 Prodan's way

Emil Prodan gives an elegant way to calculate Chern number for disordered system.

$$C = -\frac{2\pi i}{N^2} \sum_{n,\alpha} \langle n, \alpha | P[-i[\hat{x}_1, P], -i[\hat{x}_2, P]] | n, \alpha \rangle$$
(1.16)

where

$$[x,P] = i \sum_{m=1}^{Q} c_m (e^{-im\hat{x}\Delta_i} P e^{im\hat{x}\Delta_i} - e^{im\hat{x}\Delta_i} P e^{-im\hat{x}\Delta_i})$$
(1.17)

where $\Delta=2\pi/N$, and P is the projector onto the occupied spectrum

$$P = \sum_{\alpha \in occupied} |\nu_{\alpha}\rangle\langle\nu_{\alpha}| \tag{1.18}$$

 $c_m, m = 1, 2, ..., Q$ can be deduced by solve a linear equation

$$\hat{A}C^{T} = \frac{1}{2\Lambda}(1, 0, 0, ..., 0)^{T}$$
(1.19)

$$A_{ij} = j^{2i-1} (1.20)$$

$$i, j \in \{1, ..., Q\}$$
 (1.21)

1.1.5 C*-algebra method

In the paper of T. A. Loring and M. B. Hastings, they gave another method to calculate topological index, which called Bott index. It can be calculated by the following procedure.

$$P = \sum_{\alpha \in occupied} |\nu_{\alpha}\rangle\langle\nu_{\alpha}|V = Pe^{i2\pi\hat{x}}PU = Pe^{i2\pi\hat{y}}Pm = \frac{1}{2\pi}Im[tr(log(VUV^{\dagger}U^{\dagger}))]$$
 (1.22)

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