

# 1. Emergent Dirac physics

Based on the graphene exercise of the previous exercise sheet:

- (a) Obtain the graphene dispersion around the K and K' points by linearizing the eigenvalues  $\varepsilon_{\pm}(\mathbf{k})$ .

**Hint:** Define  $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{q}$ , with  $|\mathbf{q}| \ll |\mathbf{K}|$ , and perform a linear expansion in  $\mathbf{q}$ .

$$\vec{r}_K = \frac{2\pi}{3a} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1/\sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{r}_{K'} = \frac{2\pi}{3a} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1/\sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f(\vec{r}) = -1 + \left( e^{-ik_x a} + 2e^{ik_x a/2} \cos\left(\frac{k_y a \sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{-1} f(\vec{r}_K + \vec{q}) = (-1)^{1/3} e^{-i a q_x} \left( -1 + 2e^{\frac{3i a q_x}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} a q_y\right) \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{3}{2} (-1)^{5/6} a q_x - \frac{3}{2} (-1)^{1/3} a q_y$$

$$= a \left[ \frac{3}{2} e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}} q_x - \frac{3}{2} e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}} a q_y \right]$$

$$f(\vec{r}_K + \vec{q}) = -\frac{3a}{2} e^{-\frac{i\pi}{2}} [-q_x - i q_y]$$

$$\approx -\frac{3a}{2} e^{\frac{5i\pi}{2}} [q_x + i q_y]$$

Around K' we have

$$\frac{1}{-1} f(\vec{r}_{K'} + \vec{q}) = \frac{3}{2} a (-1)^{1/3} q_y + \frac{3}{2} a (-1)^{5/6} a q_x$$

$$\approx \frac{3}{2} a \left[ e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}} q_y + e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}} a q_x \right]$$

$$f(\vec{r}_{K'} + \vec{q}) = -\frac{3a}{2} e^{-\frac{i\pi}{2}} [-q_x + e^{\frac{i\pi}{3}} q_y]$$

$$\approx -\frac{3a}{2} e^{-\frac{i\pi}{2}} [-q_x + i q_y]$$

$$\approx -\frac{3a}{2} e^{\frac{\pi i}{2}} [q_y + i q_x]$$

$$\text{Since } \epsilon_{\pm}(K') = \pm |f(K')|,$$

$$\epsilon_{\pm}(\vec{q}) \approx \left| \frac{3}{2} v_F e^{-i\frac{\pi}{6}} [iq_y - q_x] \right| - \frac{3v_F}{2} \sqrt{q_x^2 + q_y^2}$$

- (b) Linearize in the same way the Bloch Hamiltonian  $h(\mathbf{k})$  around  $K$  and  $K'$ . Show that we can write  $h(K' + \mathbf{q}) = \hbar v_F \mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$  and  $h(K + \mathbf{q}) = \hbar v_F (\mathbf{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})^*$ , where  $v_F = 3ta/2\hbar$  is the Fermi velocity, and  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  is the vector of Pauli matrices in the A/B sublattice basis.

**Hint:** Perform a  $\pi/3$  phase rotation of the basis vector  $\psi(\mathbf{k})$ , i.e.

$$h(K' + \mathbf{q}) \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\pi/3} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\pi/3} \end{bmatrix} h(K' + \mathbf{q})$$

after the linearization in  $\mathbf{q}$ .

$$h(K + \vec{q}) = -\frac{3+q}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} [q_x + iq_y] \\ e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} [q_x - iq_y] & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{3+q}{2} \begin{pmatrix} & e^{-i\frac{\pi}{6}} (q_x + iq_y) \\ e^{i\frac{\pi}{6}} (q_x - iq_y) & \end{pmatrix}$$

Then we perform a basis rotation

## 2. Peierls substitution

A Bloch state of a one-band Hamiltonian with a periodic potential  $U(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{R}) = U(\mathbf{r})$  (where  $\mathbf{R}$  is a linear combination of the lattice basis vectors with integer coefficients) is given by

$$\psi_{k\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) = u_{k\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \chi_{\sigma}, \quad (1)$$

where  $u_{k\sigma}(\mathbf{r})$  has the same periodicity as the crystal. For the following calculation we will neglect the spin index  $\sigma$  and its respective wave function  $\chi_{\sigma}$ . Then the Wannier functions are defined by

$$\phi_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}}, \quad (2)$$

where  $N$  is the number of unit cells.

(a) Show that two Wannier states are orthonormal. You may use  $\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) | \psi_{\mathbf{k}'}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{\vec{R}'}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{\vec{k}} |\vec{k}\rangle e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}'} \\ \langle \phi_{\vec{R}'} | \phi_{\vec{R}} \rangle &= \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{\vec{k}'} \langle \vec{k}' | e^{-i\vec{k}'\cdot\vec{R}'} \right) \left( \sum_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}} |\vec{k}\rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\vec{k}} \sum_{\vec{k}'} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{R}} e^{-i\vec{k}'\cdot\vec{R}'} \underbrace{\langle \vec{k}' | \vec{k} \rangle}_{\delta_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}'}} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{R}-\vec{R}')} \\ &= \delta_{\vec{R}, \vec{R}'} \end{aligned}$$

We now introduce a magnetic field with vector potential  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$ , leading to the modified Hamiltonian  $H = \frac{1}{2m} (\mathbf{p} - \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}))^2 + U(\mathbf{r})$ . Ultimately, we are interested in the hopping amplitude between the lattice sites

$$t_{lm} = \int d\mathbf{r} \phi_{\mathbf{R}_l}(\mathbf{r})^* H(\mathbf{r}) \phi_{\mathbf{R}_m}(\mathbf{r}). \quad (3)$$

(b) Show that the vector potential  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$  does only lead to a phase factor  $\exp(i \frac{e}{\hbar c} \int_{\mathbf{R}}^{\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}'))$  in the Wannier states, where the integral is understood to be a line integral from  $\mathbf{R}$  to  $\mathbf{r}$ . Why do we choose the lower boundary to be  $\mathbf{R}$ ?

Hint: Consider

$$\phi_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) = \exp \left( i \frac{e}{\hbar c} \int_{\mathbf{R}}^{\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}') \right) \tilde{\phi}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (4)$$

and show that  $\exp(i \frac{e}{\hbar c} \int_{\mathbf{R}}^{\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}' \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}')) H(\mathbf{A} \rightarrow 0) \tilde{\phi}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) = H(\mathbf{A} \neq 0) \phi_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_{\mathbf{R}}\rangle &= \exp \left( i \frac{e}{\hbar c} \int_{\mathbf{R}}^{\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}' \cdot \vec{A}(\mathbf{r}') \right) |\tilde{\phi}_{\mathbf{R}}\rangle \\ H(\vec{A} \neq 0) \phi_{\mathbf{R}} &= \underbrace{\exp \left( i \frac{e}{\hbar c} \int_{\mathbf{R}}^{\mathbf{r}} d\mathbf{r}' \cdot \vec{A}(\mathbf{r}') \right)}_{\Theta(\mathbf{r})} H(\vec{A} = 0) |\tilde{\phi}_{\mathbf{R}}\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2m} (p - \frac{e}{c} A)^2 + U \right] e^{i\theta} \psi(r)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2m} \left( \nabla^2 - \frac{e}{c} \nabla A - \frac{e}{c} A \nabla + \frac{e^2}{c^2} A^2 \right) e^{\theta} \psi(r)$$

$$\nabla^2 e^{\theta} \psi(r) = \nabla (e^{\theta} \dot{\theta} \psi + e^{\theta} \nabla \psi)$$

$$= e^{\theta} (\dot{\theta})^2 \psi + e^{\theta} (\ddot{\theta} \psi + \dot{\theta} \nabla \psi) + e^{\theta} \dot{\theta} \nabla \psi + e^{\theta} \nabla^2 \psi$$

$$-\frac{e}{c} \nabla A = -\frac{e}{c} (\dot{A} e^{\theta} \psi + A (e^{\theta} \dot{\theta} \psi + e^{\theta} \nabla \psi))$$

$$-\frac{e}{c} A \nabla = -\frac{e}{c} A (e^{\theta} \dot{\theta} \psi + e^{\theta} \nabla \psi) + \frac{e^2}{c^2} A^2$$

Then we need

$$\nabla e^{\theta} = e^{\theta} \dot{\theta}$$

$$\theta = \frac{ie}{c} \left[ F(A(r)) - F(A(R)) \right]$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{ie}{c} \vec{A}(\vec{r})$$

Then we substitute & do some magic

$$\dots = e^{\theta} H(A=0) \psi_R$$

$$1) \quad t_{nm} \rightarrow e^{\theta} \hat{t}_{nm}$$

$$= \int dr \langle \psi_R | H | \psi_n \rangle$$

$$= \int dr e^{-i \frac{e}{c} \int_n^r A dr} \cdot e^{i \frac{e}{c} \int_{Rn}^r A dr} \langle \psi_R | H | \psi_n \rangle$$

$$= e^{-i \frac{e}{c} \int_n^r A dr + i \frac{e}{c} \int_{Rn}^r A dr} \hat{t}_{nm}(A=0)$$

$$= e^{i \frac{e}{c} \int_{Rn}^n A dr} \hat{t}_{nm}(A=0)$$