



# Singularity of density of states in the pi-flux lattice

Wei Li

Center for Fundamental Physics  
School of Mechanics and Photoelectric Physics  
Anhui University of Science and Technology

January 25, 2024

# Outline

## 1 Motivation

- Interactions vs disorder
- $\pi$ -flux model
- Lattice deformations and ripples

## 2 Random hopping in $\pi$ -flux model

- Singularity of DOS
- $k$ -dependent self-energy and minimal conductivity

## 3 Summary

# disorder in semimetals

## Why disorder?

- ① inherently present in all solid-states systems
- ② determine/dominate properties  
localization, symmetry broken, new phase...
- ③ adjustable  
doping, impurities, vacancies, absorption, strain...

Interactions vs disorder

# Interactions-disorder duality and critical phenomena

## non-Anderson transition

$$H = \int \Psi^\dagger(r) \xi_p \Psi(r) d^d r - \frac{1}{2} \int \Psi^\dagger(r) \Psi^\dagger(r') \xi_p \Psi(r') \Psi(r) d^d r d^d r'$$

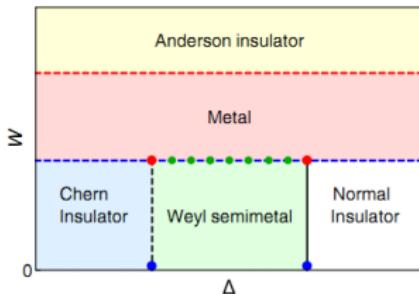
Interacting model		Disordered model	
	$= \frac{1}{i\omega - \xi_{\mathbf{p}}}$		$= \frac{1}{2} [\hat{G}^R(k, \mathbf{p}) + \hat{G}^A(k, \mathbf{p})]$
	$= 1$		$= \hat{\sigma}_z$
	$= D(\omega, \mathbf{p})$		$= -\tilde{D}(k, \mathbf{p})$
Coordinates		Interacting model	Disordered model
Temperature/size		$(\tau, \mathbf{r})$	$(\mathbf{r}_{d+1}, \mathbf{r})$
Coupling to interactions/disorder		$\hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} \phi$	$\hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_z \hat{\psi} u$
Observables		$\hat{n}$ (density)	$\rho_s$ , Eq. (5)

Syzranov, Sergey V., et al, Annu. Rev. Condens. Matter Phys. 9, 1 (2018); Sun, Shijun, and Sergey Syzranov. Phys. Rev. B 108 195132

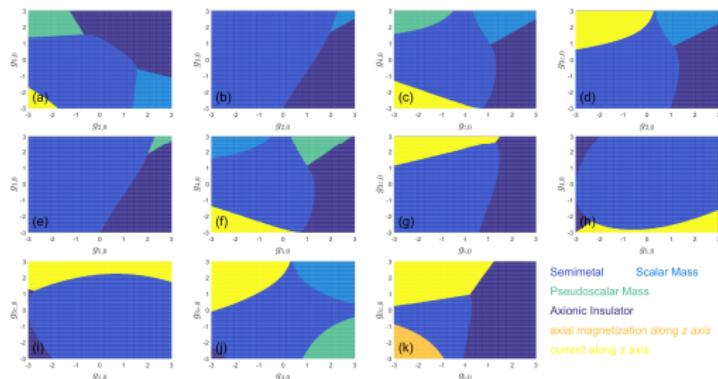
(2023)

Interactions vs disorder

## disorder-driven transition in semimetals



global phase diagram of semi-Dirac semimetals

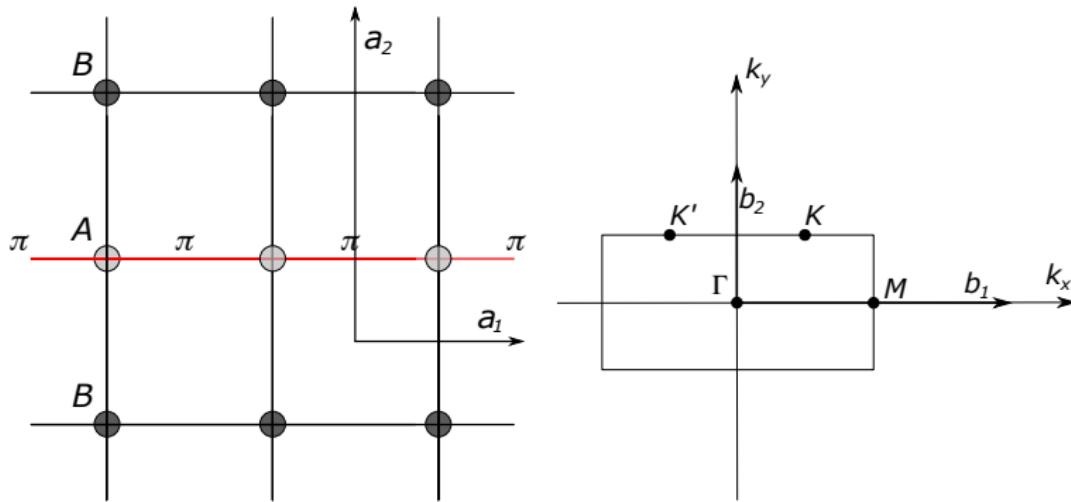
 $W$ : strength of disorder $\Delta = t_z - m_z$ : QPT parameter of SM-IN transition

Physical Review B, 102, 085132 (2020); Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter, 33, 125601 (2021); Physical Review B, 107, 155125 (2023).

$\pi$ -flux model

# $\pi$ -flux model

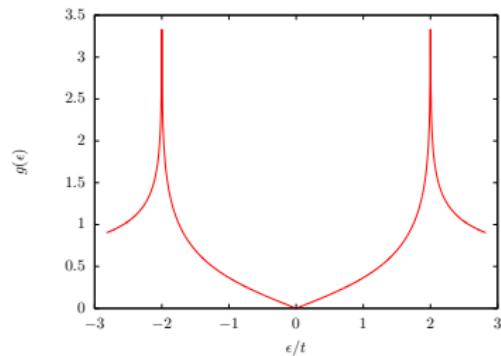
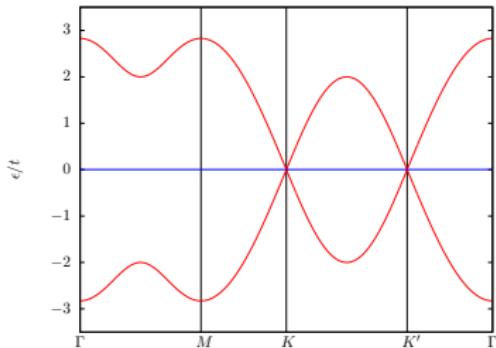
$$t_{j+\hat{x},j} = (-1)^{j_x}, \quad t_{j+\hat{y},j} = 1, \quad \epsilon_{\pm}(k) = \pm 2t \sqrt{\cos^2 k_x + \cos^2 k_y}$$



$\pi$ -flux model

# $\pi$ -flux model

$$\epsilon_{\pm}(k) = \pm t \sqrt{1 + 4 \cos(\frac{k_x}{2}) \cos(\frac{\sqrt{3}k_y}{2}) + 4 \cos^2(\frac{k_x}{2})}$$



# Random hopping Dirac fermions on $\pi$ -flux lattice

Gade's Model:  $P[\delta t] \propto [-W, W]$ ,  
 $\rho(E) = \frac{1}{E} \exp(-c \ln |E|^{1/x})$ ,  $x = \frac{3}{2}$  or 2?

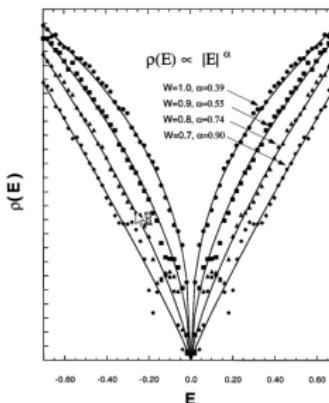


FIG. 1. The density of states  $\rho(E)$  (with small imaginary part  $\delta = 0.02$ ), where  $L = 50$  and  $W = 0.7, 0.8, 0.9$ , and  $1.0$ . We have fitted the data by the power-law form  $\rho(E) = CE^{\alpha(W)}$ , where  $\alpha(W) = 0.90, 0.74, 0.55$ , and  $0.39$  for  $W = 0.7, 0.8, 0.9$ , and  $1.0$ , respectively.

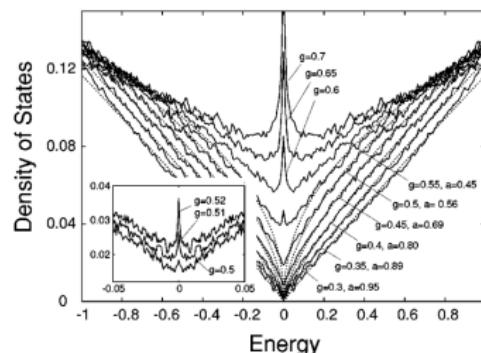


FIG. 4. Same as Fig. 3 on a  $100 \times 100$  lattice for  $g = 0.3 - 0.7$ , and  $\delta = 0.005$ , averaged over 50 samples. Away from zero energy ( $E > 0.1$ ) and for sufficiently weak randomness, data are fitted to a power law  $\rho(E) \propto |E|^{\alpha}$ . Inset: same as Fig. 3 on a  $250 \times 250$  lattice for  $g = 0.3, 0.5, 0.51, 0.52$ , and  $\delta = 0.0005$ , averaged over 70 samples.

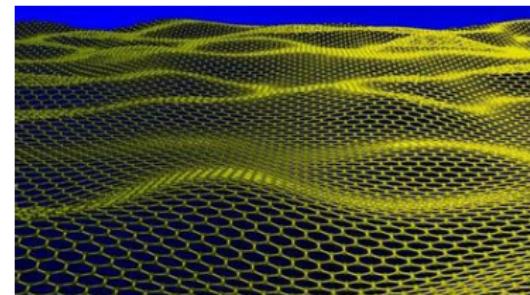
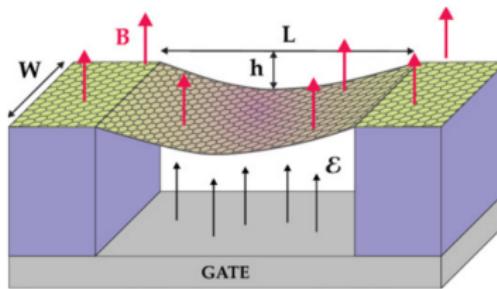
NPB 398, 499 (1993), PRL, 79 (19) (1997), PRB, 58 (11) (1998), PRB 65, 064206(2002), PRB 67, 064202 (2003);

PRL 113, 5, 186802 (2014), PRL 117, 5, 116806 (2016)

Lattice deformations and ripples

# Lattice deformations

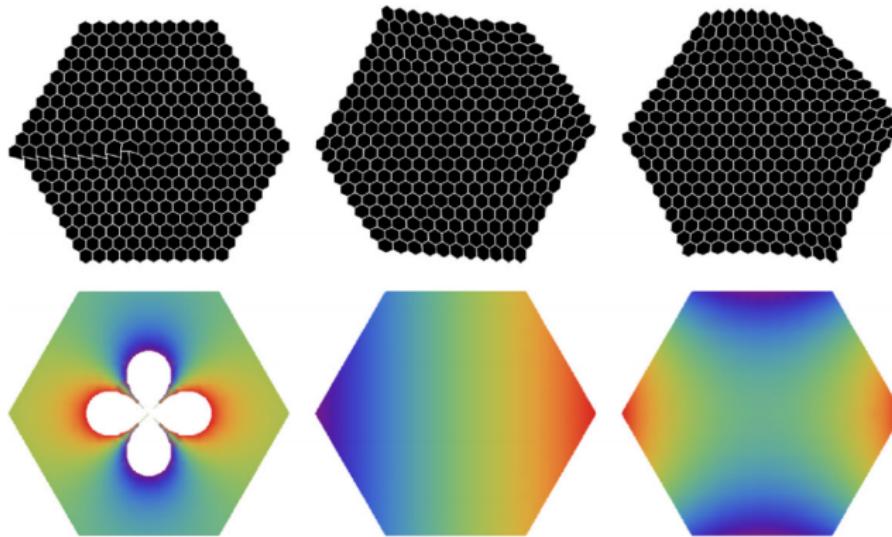
$$\Delta h \sim 1 - 4\text{\AA}, \ u \sim 0.1 - 1\%, \ L \sim 100\text{nm}$$



- ① hybridized orbitals and "topological" defects.
- ② modulate the on-site energies ( $\epsilon_{ij}$ ) and the hopping parameter ( $\gamma_{ij}$ ) .
- ③ pseudo magnetic field (gauge field)

Lattice deformations and ripples

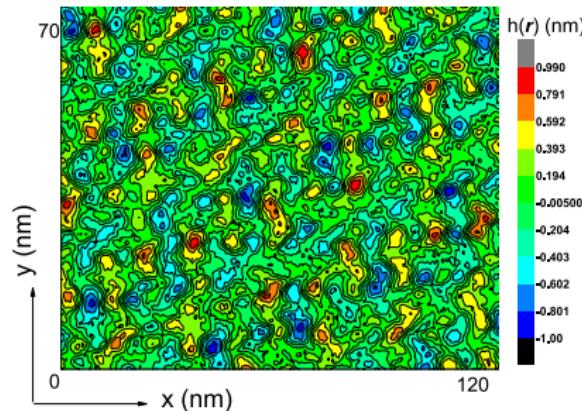
# effective magnetic fields induced by the deformations



F. Guinea, Strain engineering in graphene, Solid State Commun., 152 (15) (2012)

Lattice deformations and ripples

# Model of Ripples



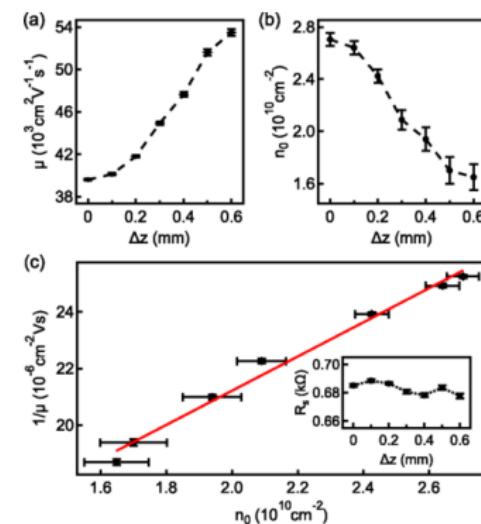
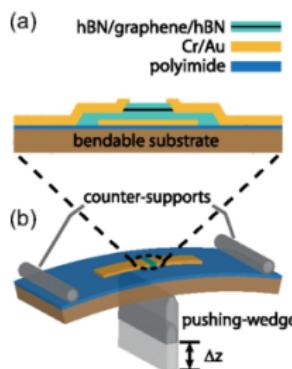
$$h(\mathbf{r}) = C \sum_i^{N_r} C_{\mathbf{q}_i} \sin(\mathbf{q}_i \cdot \mathbf{r} + \delta_i), \quad \delta_i \in [0, 2\pi], \quad \mathbf{q}_i \in [2\pi/L, 2\pi/3a]$$
$$C_{q_i} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{2}/q_i^2, & q_i > q_{ripple}, \quad q_{ripple} = 2\pi/\lambda_{ripple} \\ \sqrt{2}/q_{ripple}^2, & otherwise, \quad \lambda_{ripple} \approx 8nm \end{cases}$$

$$\delta t_{ij} = t\alpha \Delta a/a, \quad \Delta a = \sqrt{a^2 + (h(\mathbf{r}) - h(\mathbf{r}'))^2} - a, \quad \alpha = -2$$

Lattice deformations and ripples

# Effects of Random Strain Fluctuations on mobility

Drude model:  $G = \frac{1}{\epsilon \mu \sqrt{n^2 + n_0^2}} + R_s$ ,  $\Delta z = 0.6 \text{ nm} \sim \bar{\sigma} \approx 0.2\%$



Wang, L. et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 157701 (2020); Wang, L., et al. Commun. Phys. 4, 147 (2021)

# Random hopping model

A graphene or  $\pi$ -flux model with bond disorder belongs to the **chiral orthogonal symmetry** class since time-reversal symmetry is preserved

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + V = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} c_i^\dagger t_{ij} c_j + V + h.c.$$

$$V = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \delta t_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j| + h.c., \quad P[\delta t] \propto \exp[-\delta t^2 / 2g_b]$$

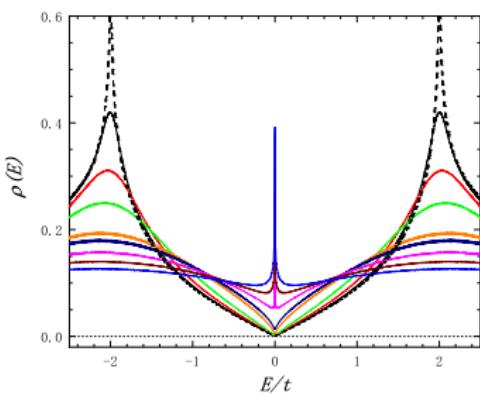
## LMTB (Lanczos method on Tight-binding)

- large-scale accurate simulation in real/momentum space
- strong disorder (non-perturbative, beyond SCBA)

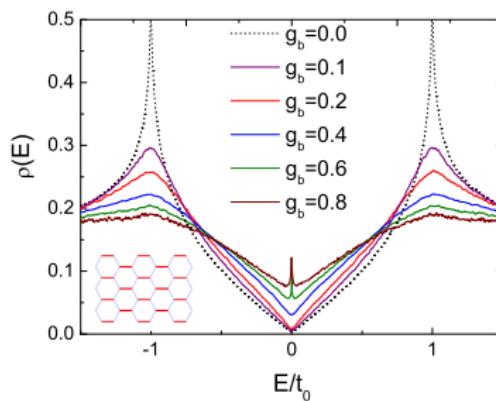
Singularity of DOS

## Average density of states

$$\rho(E) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \overline{\left| \langle \psi | \frac{1}{E - H + i\gamma} | \psi \rangle \right|^2}, \quad \gamma \sim 1/L$$

 $\pi$ -flux model

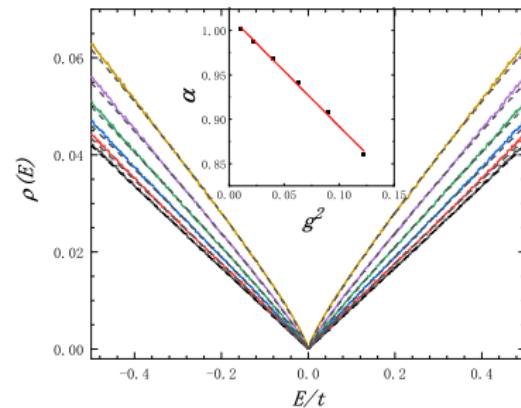
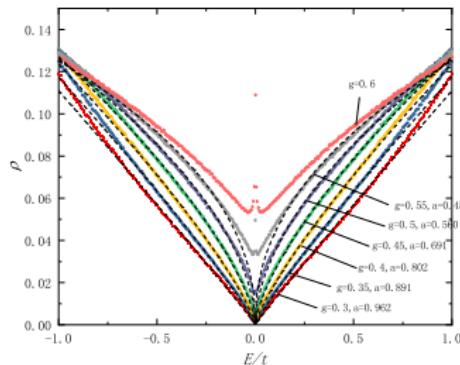
graphene



Singularity of DOS

## Low energy DOS for weak disorder: Power Law

- $g_b = 0$ ,  $\rho(E) = |E|$
- $g_b < g_b^c$ ,  $\rho(E) = \rho_1 |E|^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha = 1.05 - 1.24g_b$

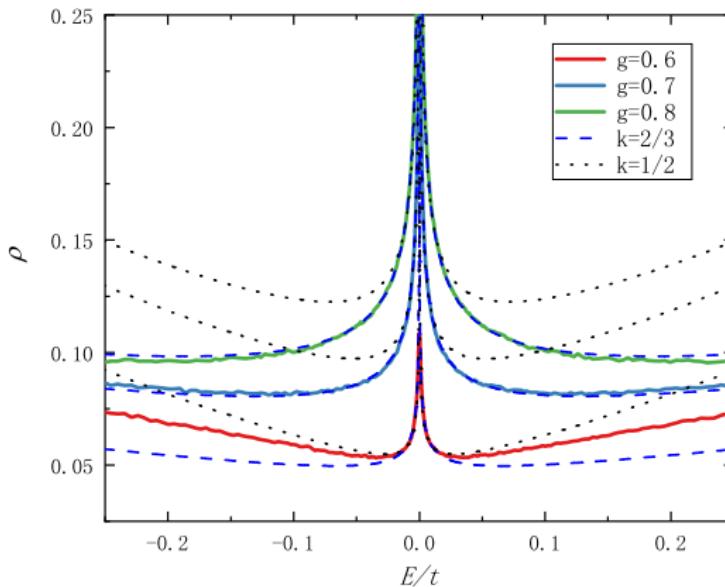


Born Approximation:

$$\rho(E) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \langle G_{rr} \rangle = \frac{A_c \lambda}{2\pi v^2} \left( \frac{E}{\lambda} \right)^{1-(2gA_c/\pi v^2)} .$$

Singularity of DOS

## Low energy DOS for strong disorder: Singularity

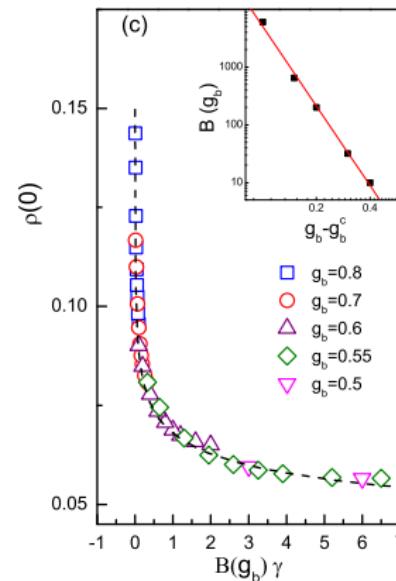
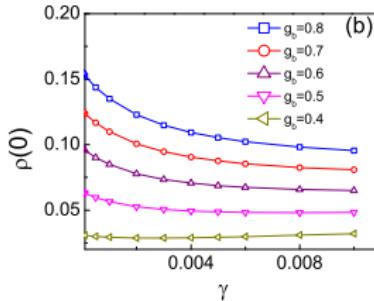
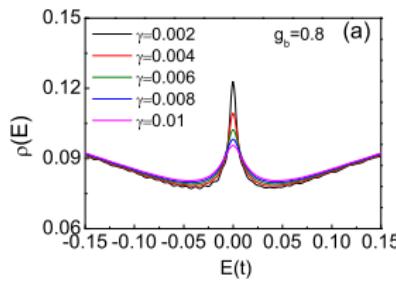
Gade's Model:  $\rho(E) = \frac{1}{E} \exp(-c \ln|E|^{1/x})$ ,  $x = \frac{3}{2}$  or 2?  $x = \frac{3}{2}$ 

Gade, et al, Nucl. Phys. B 398, 499 (1993); Mudry, et al, Phys. Rev. B 67, 064202 (2003)

Singularity of DOS

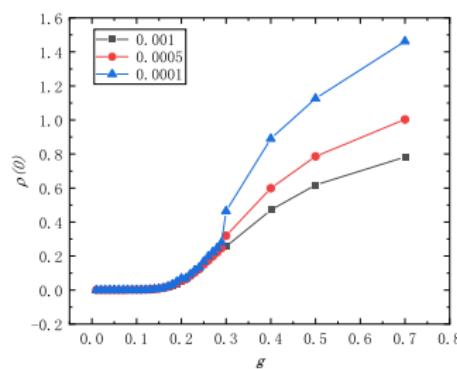
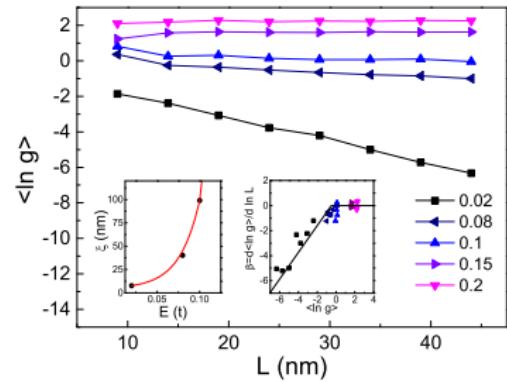
## Low energy DOS for strong disorder

- $g_b > g_b^c$ ,  $\rho(0) = \frac{A}{(B\gamma)^\nu}$ ,  $B(g_b) = \frac{1}{(g_b - g_b^c)^\kappa}$   
with critical exponent  $\nu = 0.12$  and  $A = 0.07$



Singularity of DOS

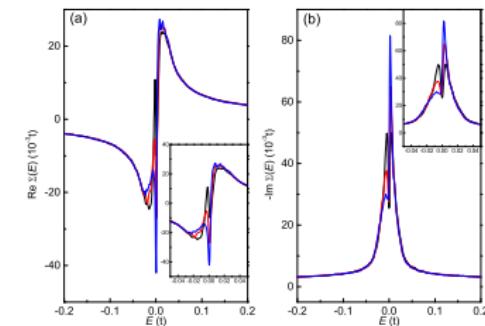
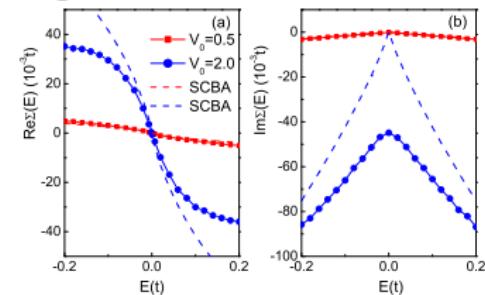
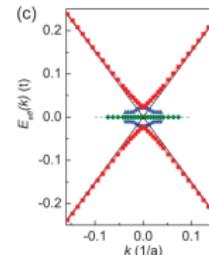
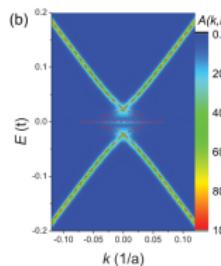
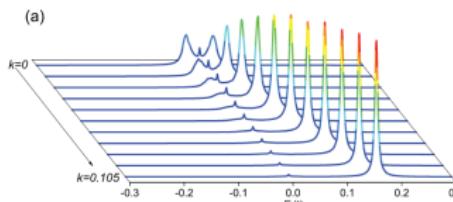
## Crossover: semi-metal to diffusion metal

power-law behavior  $\rightarrow$  singular behavior $\rho(0)$  vs  $g$   
for different  $\gamma$ one-parameter scaling theory  
at  $g = 0.7$ 

$k$ -dependent self-energy and minimal conductivity

# Accurate calculation of self-energy of Dirac fermions

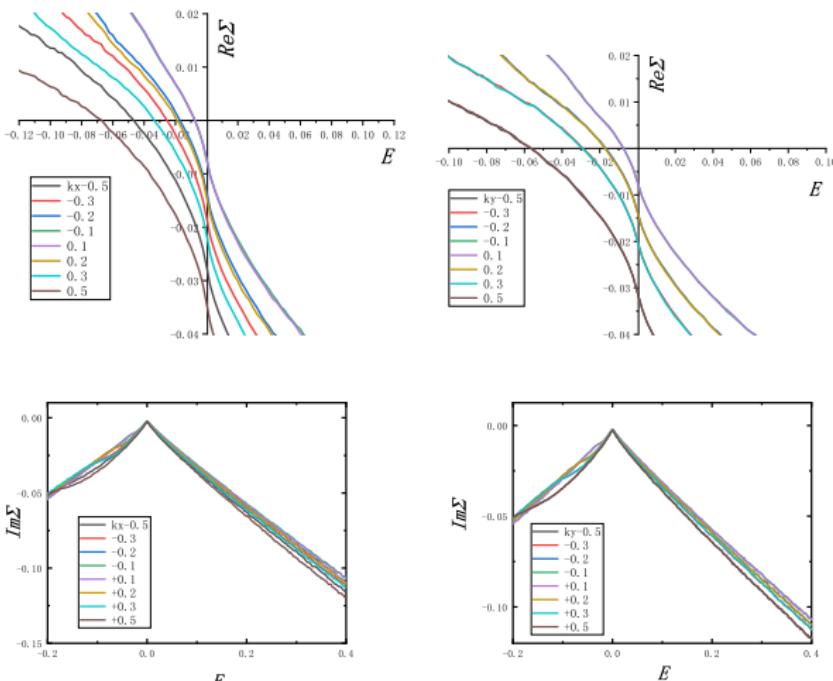
spectral function and self-energy of strong disorder



Zhu et al., Phys. Rev. B 85 .073407 (2012)

$k$ -dependent self-energy and minimal conductivity

# $k$ -dependent of self-energy



$k$ -dependent self-energy and minimal conductivity

## Born approximation of self-energy

self-energy function  $\Sigma(\mathbf{k}, E) = G_0^{-1}(\mathbf{k}, E) - G^{-1}(\mathbf{k}, E)$

Random hopping disorder

$$\Re e \Sigma(k, E) = \gamma \left[ -\frac{6E}{\pi} \ln \frac{\omega_c}{|E|} - \frac{3sa^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} \left( \omega_c^2 + 2E^2 \ln \frac{\omega_c}{|E|} \right) \mathbf{k} \right]$$

$$\Im m \Sigma(k, E) = -\gamma \left( 3|E| + \frac{3sa^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} E^2 \mathbf{k} \right)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{A_c n_i}{4\pi^2 \hbar v_F} \frac{\pi}{\hbar^2 v_F^2} \frac{w^2}{12}$$

lattice disorder

$$\Sigma(k, E) = \gamma \left[ -\frac{2E}{\pi} \ln \frac{\omega_c}{|E|} - i|E| \right]$$

$k$ -dependent self-energy and minimal conductivity

## Minimal conductivity

Sample-dependent minimal conductivity  $\sigma_{min} = \frac{1}{1-\alpha^2} \frac{4e^2}{\pi h}$

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{k}s, E) = \Sigma_1(E) - \alpha s \hbar v_F k + i \Sigma_2(E) = E - a - \alpha s \hbar v_F k + i \eta$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{xx}^0(E) &= \sigma_{xx}^{0,RA}(E) - \Re e[\sigma_{xx}^{0,RR}(E)] \\ &= \frac{2e^2}{\pi h} \frac{1}{1-\alpha^2} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{a}{\eta} + \frac{\eta}{a} \right) \arctan \frac{a}{\eta} \right] = \frac{4e^2}{\pi h} \frac{1}{1-\alpha(g_b)^2} \Big|_{E \rightarrow 0}\end{aligned}$$

- scattering-independent value  $\sigma_{min} = \frac{4e^2}{\pi h}$
- universal value  $\sigma_{min} = \frac{4e^2}{h}$
- disorder-dependent value  $\sigma_{min}$
- Experimental measurements :  $\sigma_{min} \approx \frac{4e^2}{h} = C \times \frac{4e^2}{\pi h}$ ,  $C = 1.7 \sim 10$

Nature 438,197 (2005), Nature 438,201 (2005), PNAS 102,10451(2005); PRL 99,216602(2007), PRL 98,076602(2007), PRL 98,256801(2007). PNAS 104 18392(2009)

# Summary

## Random hopping disorder in $\pi$ -flux model

- ①  $g_b = 0, \quad \rho(E) = |E|$
- ②  $g_b < g_b^c, \quad \rho(E) = \rho_1 |E|^\alpha, \alpha = 1.05 - 1.24 g_b$
- ③  $g_b > g_b^c, \quad \rho(0) = \frac{A}{(B\gamma)^\nu}, \quad B(g_b) = \frac{1}{(g_b - g_b^c)^\kappa}$
- ④  $g_b > g_b^c, \quad \rho(E) = \frac{1}{E} \exp(-c \ln |E|^{2/3})$
- ⑤ Crossover: semi-metal to diffusion metal
- ⑥  $k$ -dependent self-energy and sample-dependent minimal conductivity

*Singularity of density of states in the pi-flux lattice, to be submitted*

Criticism or suggestion welcome!