



Aalto University  
School of Science

# Material for the Varenna Summer School lectures

Päivi Törmä  
Aalto University

International School of Physics "Enrico  
Fermi" Course 211 - Quantum Mixtures with Ultra-cold Atoms

23.7.2022



Centre for  
Quantum  
Engineering

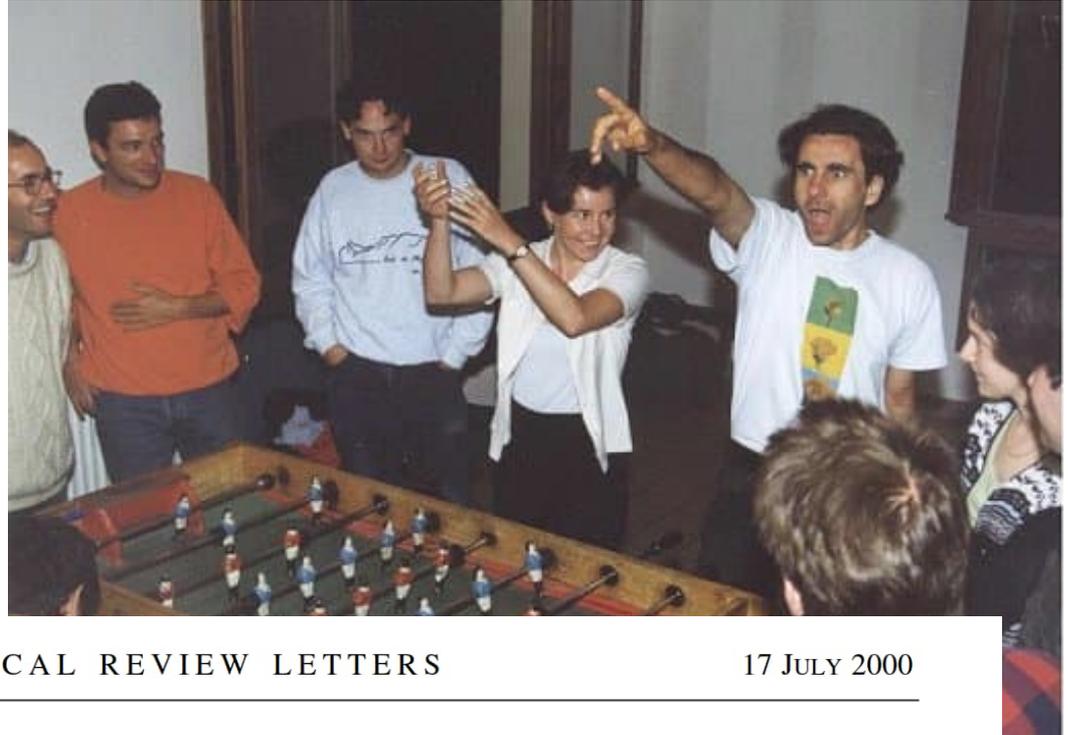


QUANTERA



# My summer school memories

## Les Houches 1999



VOLUME 85, NUMBER 3

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

17 JULY 2000

### Laser Probing of Atomic Cooper Pairs

P. Törmä<sup>1,2,3</sup> and P. Zoller<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Innsbruck, Technikerstraße 25, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria*

<sup>2</sup>*Helsinki Institute of Physics, P.O. Box 9, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland*

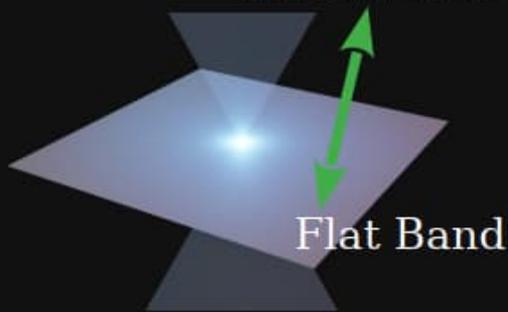
<sup>3</sup>*Laboratory of Computational Engineering, P.O. Box 9400, FIN-02015 Helsinki University of Technology, Finland*  
(Received 24 January 2000)

We consider a gas of attractively interacting cold fermionic atoms which are manipulated by laser light. The laser induces a transition from an internal state with large negative scattering length to one with almost no interactions. The process can be viewed as a tunneling of atomic population between the superconducting and the normal states of the gas. It can be used to detect the BCS ground state and to measure the superconducting order parameter.

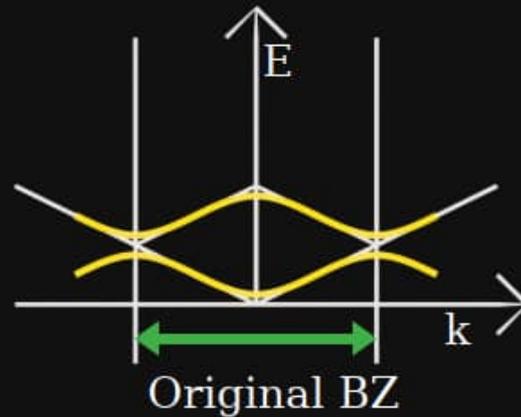
# Formation of flat bands



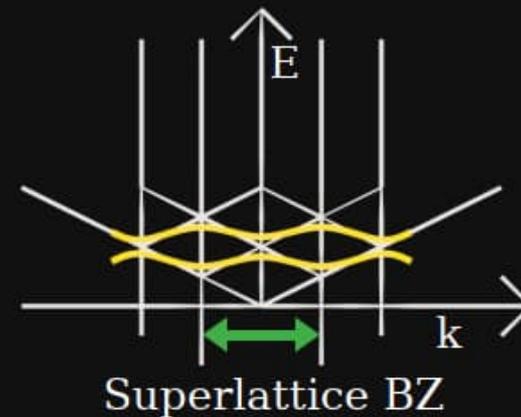
Destructive interference in tunneling  
→ Localization



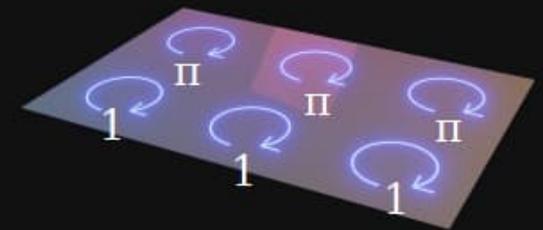
Flat Band



Original BZ



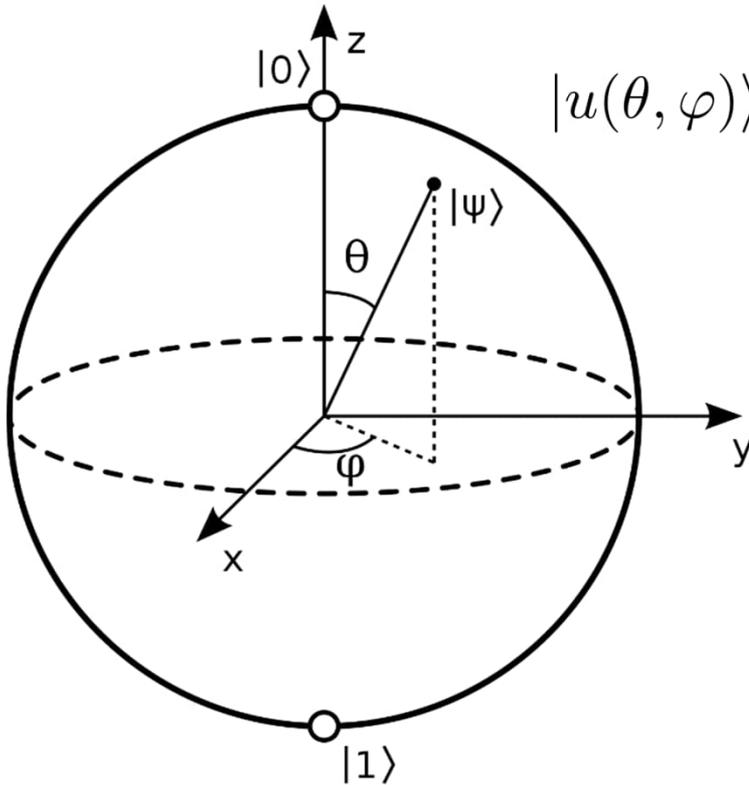
Superlattice BZ



Landau levels

$$\mathcal{B}_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = 2\langle \partial_{k_i} u | (1 - |u\rangle\langle u|) | \partial_{k_j} u \rangle$$

$$\text{Re } \mathcal{B}_{ij} = g_{ij} \quad \text{quantum metric} \quad dl^2 = \sum_{ij} g_{ij} dk_i dk_j$$



$$|u(\theta, \varphi)\rangle = e^{-i\varphi/2} \cos(\theta/2) |0\rangle + e^{i\varphi/2} \sin(\theta/2) |1\rangle$$

$$g_{\varphi\varphi} = \sin^2 \theta$$

# The Cooper problem: two particles

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER 15, 1956

## Letters to the Editor

**P**UBLICATION of brief reports of important discoveries in physics may be secured by addressing them to this department. The closing date for this department is five weeks prior to the date of issue. No proof will be sent to the authors. The Board of Editors does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by the correspondents. Communications should not exceed 600 words in length and should be submitted in duplicate.

### Bound Electron Pairs in a Degenerate Fermi Gas\*

LEON N. COOPER

Physics Department, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois  
(Received September 21, 1956)

**I**T has been proposed that a metal would display superconducting properties at low temperatures if the one-electron energy spectrum had a volume-independent energy gap of order  $\Delta \approx kT_c$ , between the ground state and the first excited state.<sup>1,2</sup> We should like to point out how, primarily as a result of the exclusion principle, such a situation could arise.

Consider a pair of electrons which interact above a

$= (1/V) \exp[i(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{r}_2)]$  which satisfy periodic boundary conditions in a box of volume  $V$ , and where  $\mathbf{r}_1$  and  $\mathbf{r}_2$  are the coordinates of electron one and electron two. (One can use antisymmetric functions and obtain essentially the same results, but alternatively we can choose the electrons of opposite spin.) Defining relative and center-of-mass coordinates,  $\mathbf{R} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2)$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1)$ ,  $\mathbf{K} = (\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2)$  and  $\mathbf{k} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_1)$ , and letting  $\mathcal{E}_K + \epsilon_k = (\hbar^2/m)(\frac{1}{4}K^2 + k^2)$ , the Schrödinger equation can be written

$$(\mathcal{E}_K + \epsilon_k - E)a_k + \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} a_{\mathbf{k}'} (\mathbf{k} | H_1 | \mathbf{k}') \times \delta(\mathbf{K} - \mathbf{K}') / \delta(0) = 0 \quad (1)$$

where

$$\Psi(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r}) = (1/\sqrt{V}) e^{i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{R}} \chi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{K}), \quad (2)$$

$$\chi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{K}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (a_{\mathbf{k}}/\sqrt{V}) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}},$$

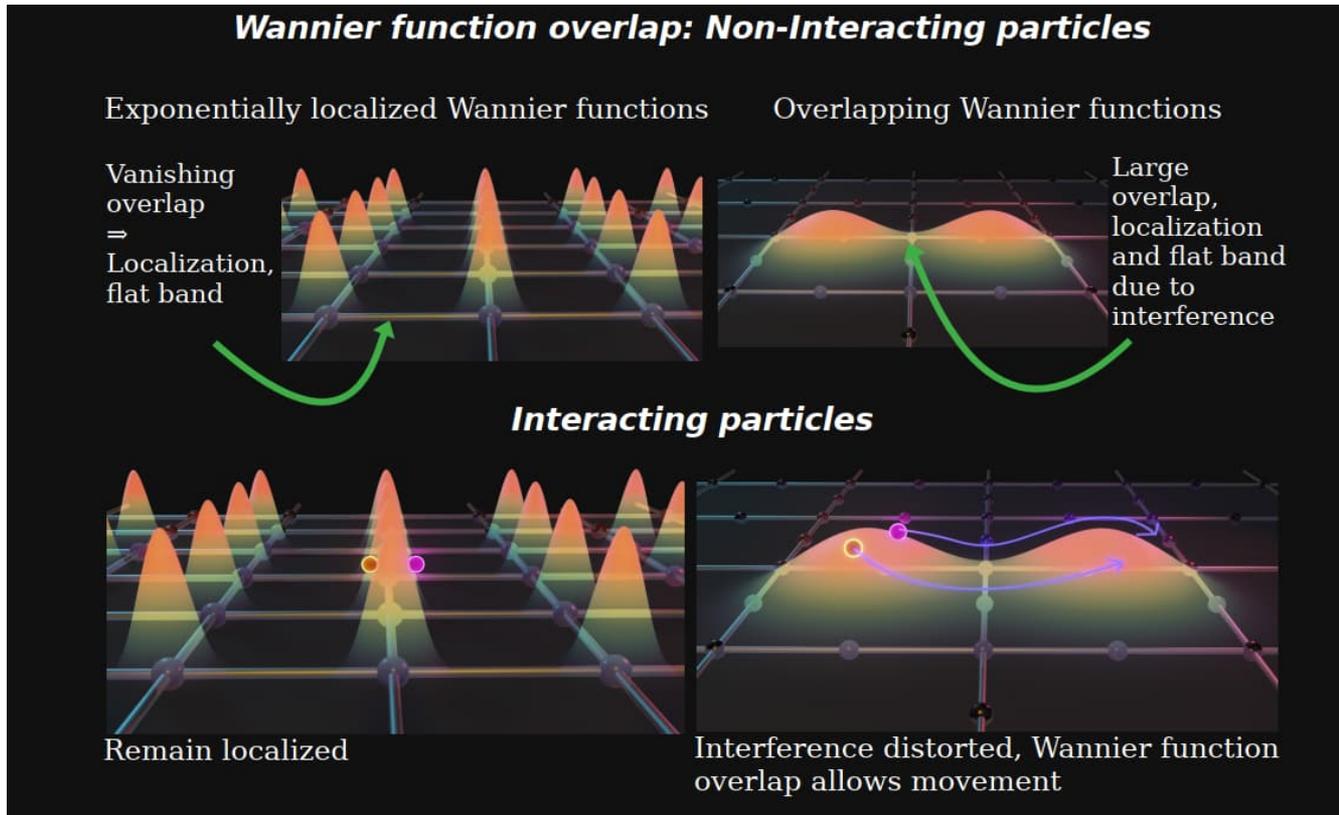
and

$$(\mathbf{k} | H_1 | \mathbf{k}') = \left( \frac{1}{V} \int d\mathbf{r} e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} H_1 e^{i\mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{r}} \right)_{0 \text{ phonons}}$$

We have assumed translational invariance in the metal. The summation over  $\mathbf{k}'$  is limited by the exclusion principle to values of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  larger than  $q_0$ , and by the delta function, which guarantees the conservation of the total momentum of the pair in a single scattering.

$$T_c \propto e^{-1/(U n_0 (E_f))}$$

# Why can there be transport in a flat band?

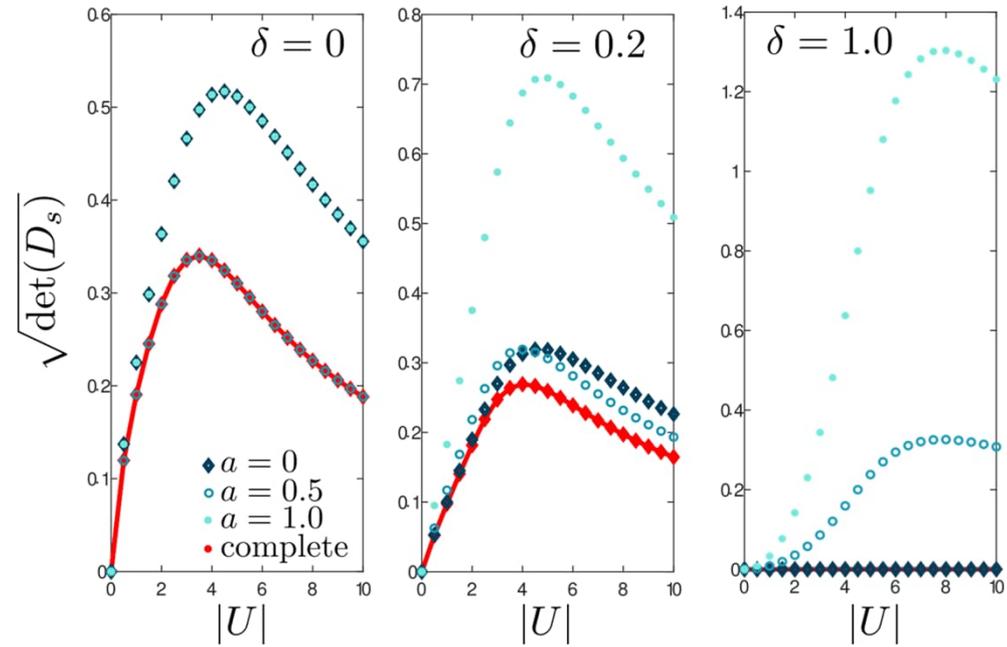
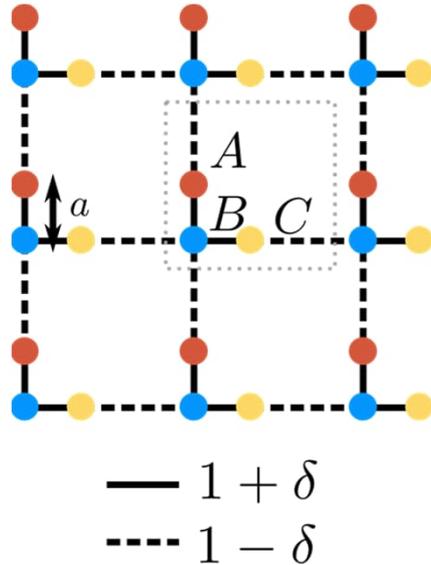


$$C \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{non-localized } w(\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{F}[u(\mathbf{k})]$$

Brouder, Panati, Calandra, Marzari, PRL 2007

$$D_S \propto g_{ij} \geq C$$

# Example: the Lieb lattice



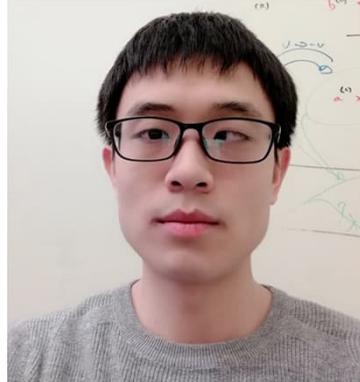
At worst,  $\frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial q_i \partial q_j} \Big|_{q=0}$  can give an incorrectly nonzero superfluid weight.

**When the orbitals are at high-symmetry positions, the quantum metric is guaranteed to be minimal**

# Superfluidity and quantum geometry



Sebastiano Peotta



Long Liang



Sebastian  
Huber



Murad  
Tovmasyan



Aleks  
Julku



Tuomas  
Vanhala

Peotta, PT, Nat Comm 2015

Julku, Peotta, Vanhala, Kim, PT, PRL 2016

Tovmasyan, Peotta, PT, Huber, PRB 2016

Liang, Vanhala, Peotta, Siro, Harju, PT, PRB 2017

Liang, Peotta, Harju, PT, PRB 2017

Tovmasyan, Peotta, Liang, PT, Huber, PRB 2018

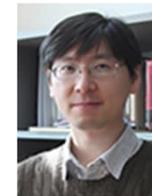
PT, Liang, Peotta, PRB(R) 2018



Ari Harju

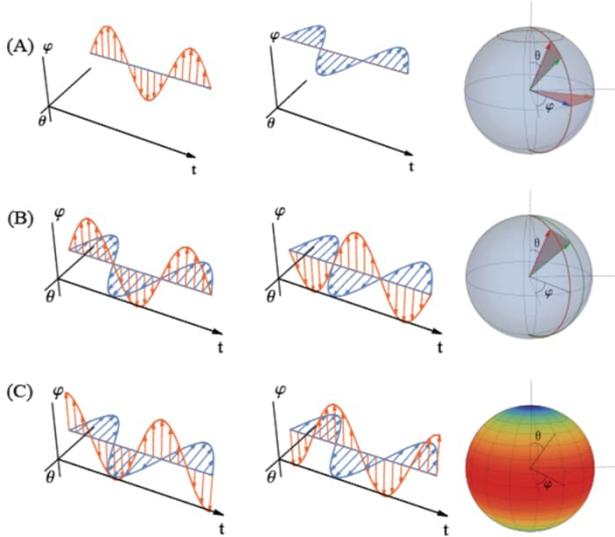


Topi Siro



Dong-Hee Kim

# Experimental observations of the quantum metric

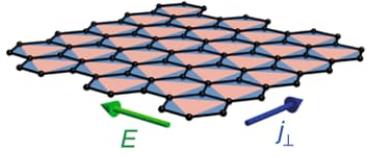


Observation of the quantum metric in a solid state spin system

Yu, Yang, Gong, Cao, Lu, Liu, Plenio, Jelezko, Ozawa, Goldman, Zhang, Cai, National Science Review 2020

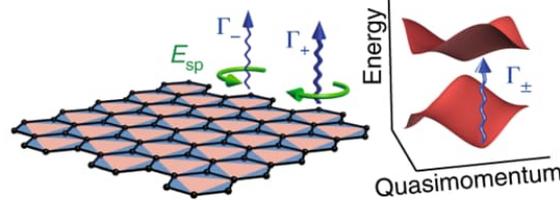
**a** Quantized transport  

$$j_{\perp} = (e^2/h)CE$$



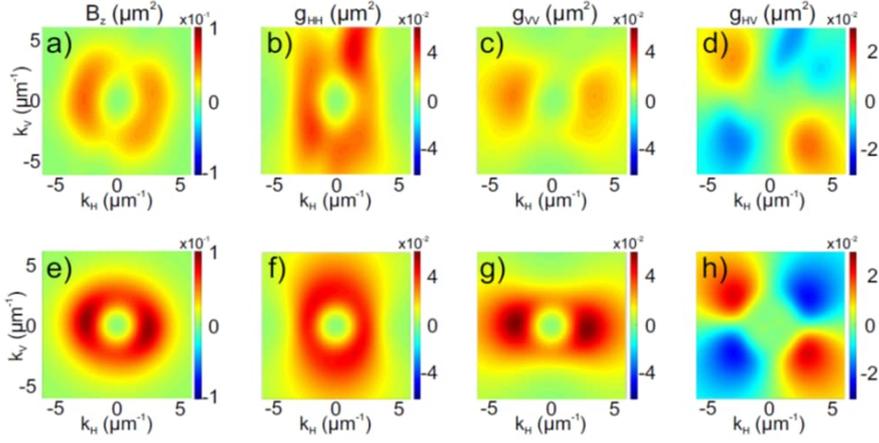
**b** Quantized depletion  

$$\Delta\Gamma_{\pm}^{int} / A_{cell} = (1/h^2)CE_{sp}^2$$



Observation of BZ-integrated quantum metric with ultracold gases

Asteria, Tran, Ozawa, Tarnowski, Rem, Fläschner, Sengstock, Goldman, Weitenberg, Nat. Phys. 2019



Observation of the quantum metric in a continuum polariton system  
 Gianfrate, Bleu, Dominici, Ardizzone, De Giorgi, Ballarini, West, Pfeiffer, Solnyshkov, Sanvitto, Malpuech, Nature 2019

# Revisiting flat band superconductivity: dependence on minimal quantum metric and band touchings



Kukka-Emilia Huhtinen

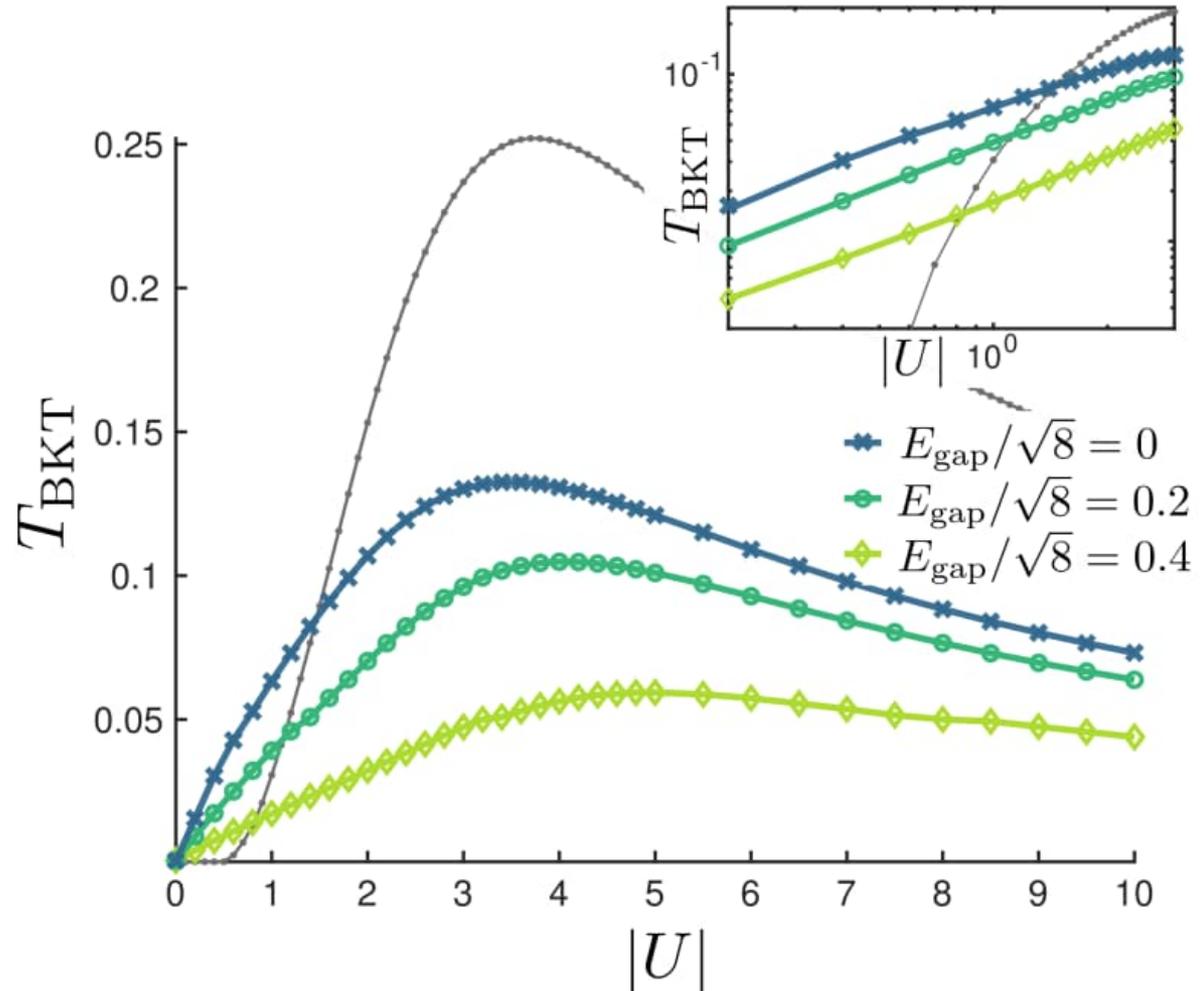
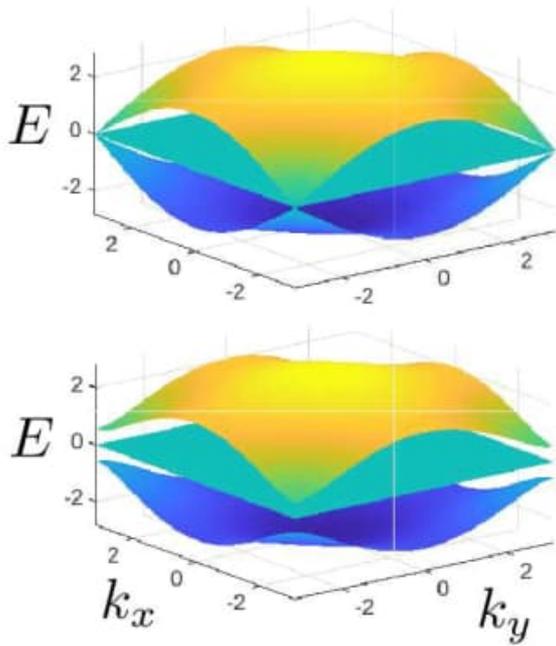
Jonah Herzog-Arbeitman

Aaron Chew

Andrei Bernevig

Huhtinen, Herzog-Arbeitsman, Chew, Bernevig, PT, PRB Editor's Suggestion  
arXiv:2203:11133 (2022)

Band touchings increase  
the critical temperature



For correct formulas on superconductivity and quantum geometry, use  
Huhtinen, Herzog-Arbeitsman, Chew, Bernevig, PT, arXiv:2203.11133 (2022)

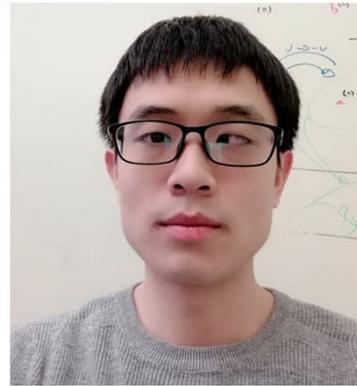
# Twisted bilayer graphene (TBG) superconductivity and quantum metric



Alexsi Julku



Teemu Peltonen



Long Liang



Tero Heikkilä

Julku, Peltonen, Liang, Heikkilä, PT, PRB(R) (2020); Editors' Suggestion  
For APS Physics news, google Geometry rescues superconductivity

# Twisted Bilayer Graphene (TBG) superconductivity since 2018

Reviews: L. Balents, C. Dean, D. Efetov, A. Young, Nat Phys 2020

E. Andrei, D. Efetov, P. Jarillo-Herrero, A. MacDonald, K. Mak, T. Senthil, E. Tutuc, A. Yazdani, A. Young, Nat Rev Mater 2021

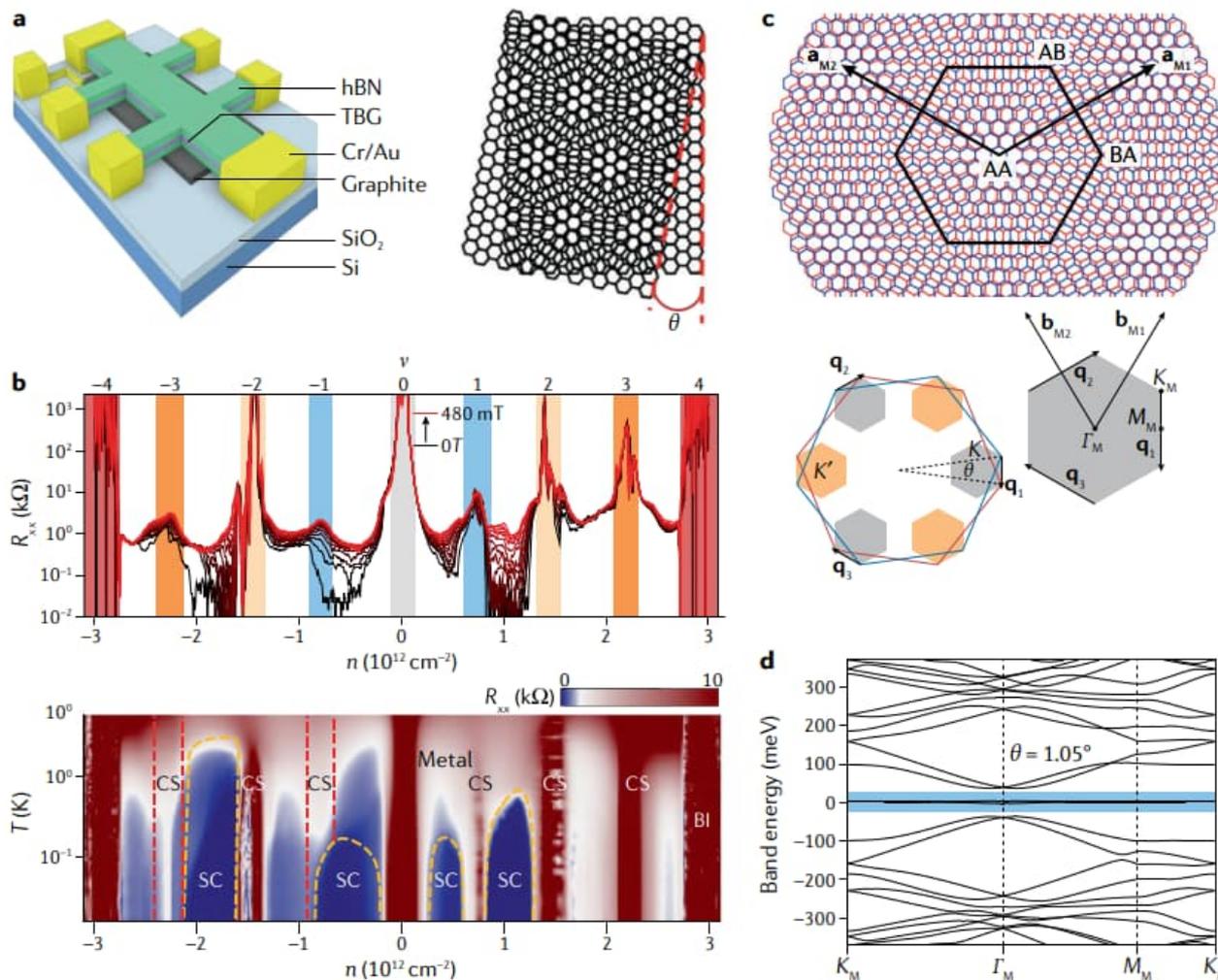


Figure credits see Fig.1 in PT, Peotta, Bernevig, Nat Rev Phys 2022

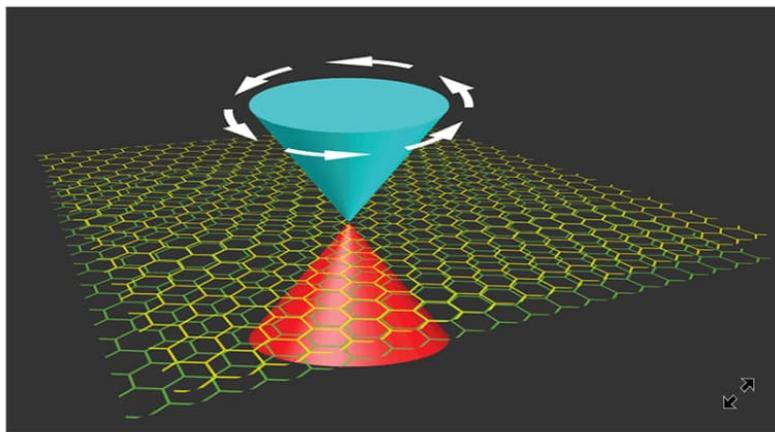
# Geometry Rescues Superconductivity in Twisted Graphene

Laura Classen

School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

February 24, 2020 • *Physics* 13, 23

Three papers connect the superconducting transition temperature of a graphene-based material to the geometry of its electronic wave functions.



APS/Alan Stonebraker

**Figure 1:** Electrons moving through the sheets of twisted bilayer graphene (TBG) have special points in their band structure where two cone-shaped bands meet. The inherent “curvature” of the states in these bands turns out to contribute to the magnitude of TBG’s... [Show more](#)

On its own, a sheet of graphene is a semimetal—its electrons interact only weakly with each other. But as experimentalists discovered in 2018 [1, 2], the situation changes when two sheets of graphene are stacked together, with a slight ( $\sim 1^\circ$ ) rotation between them (Fig. 1). At this so-called magic twist angle [3] and at low temperatures [1], the electrons become correlated, forming insulating or superconducting phases depending on the carrier density [2–7]. These phases appear to come from a twist-induced flattening of the electronic energy bands, which

## Geometric and Conventional Contribution to the Superfluid Weight in Twisted Bilayer Graphene

Xiang Hu, Timo Hyart, Dmitry I. Pikulin, and Enrico Rossi

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **123**, 237002 (2019)

Published December 5, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

## Superfluid weight and Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless transition temperature of twisted bilayer graphene

A. Julku, T. J. Peltonen, L. Liang, T. T. Heikkilä, and P. Törmä

*Phys. Rev. B* **101**, 060505 (2020)

Published February 24, 2020

[Read PDF](#)

## Topology-Bounded Superfluid Weight in Twisted Bilayer Graphene

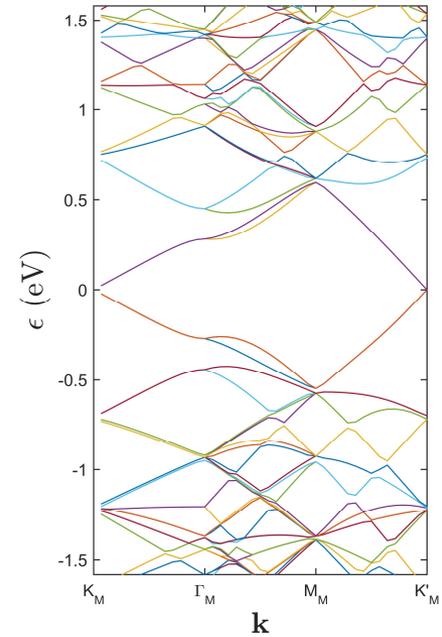
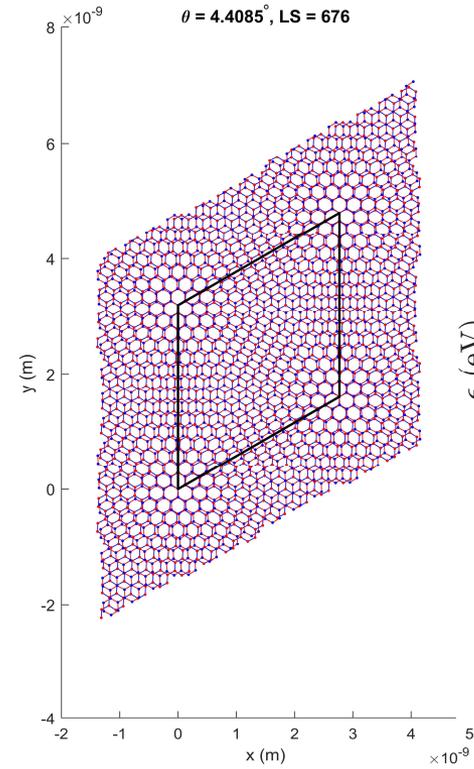
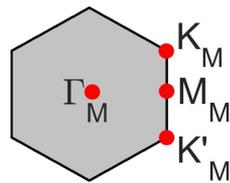
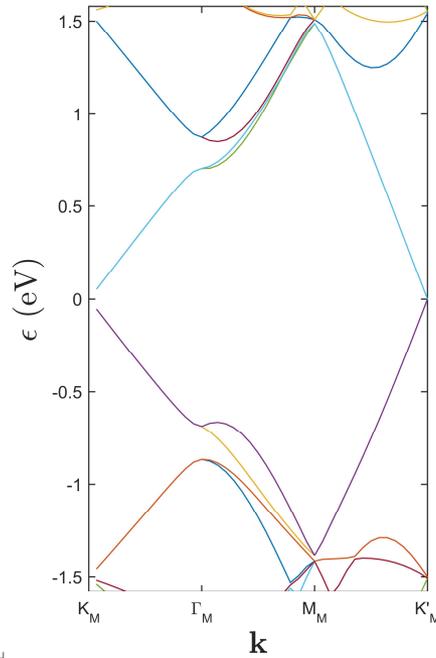
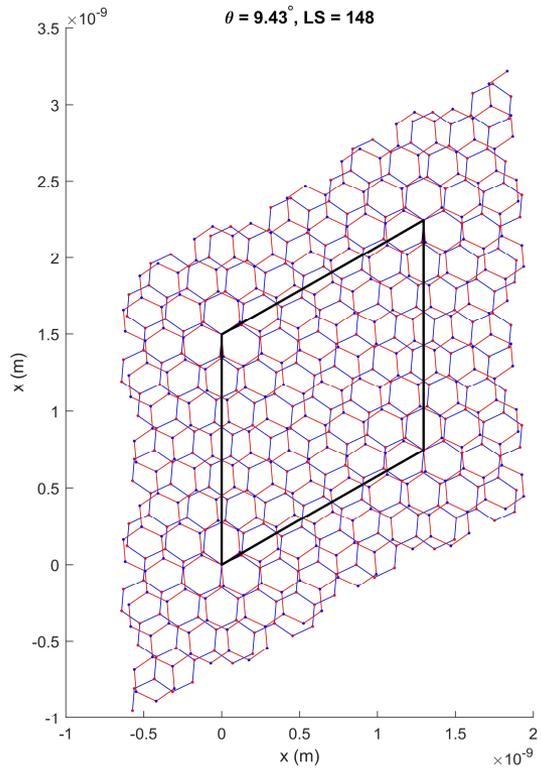
Fang Xie, Zhida Song, Biao Lian, and B. Andrei Bernevig

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **124**, 167002 (2020)

Published April 24, 2020

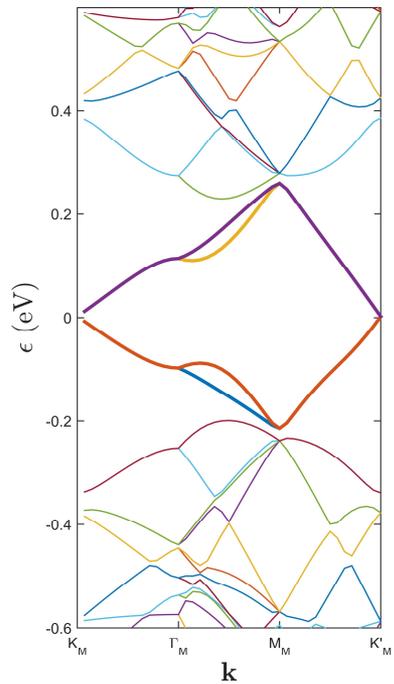
[Read PDF](#)

# Non-interacting bands

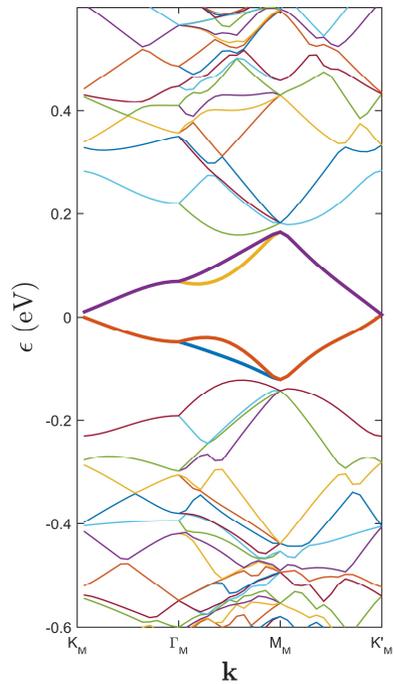


# Non-interacting bands

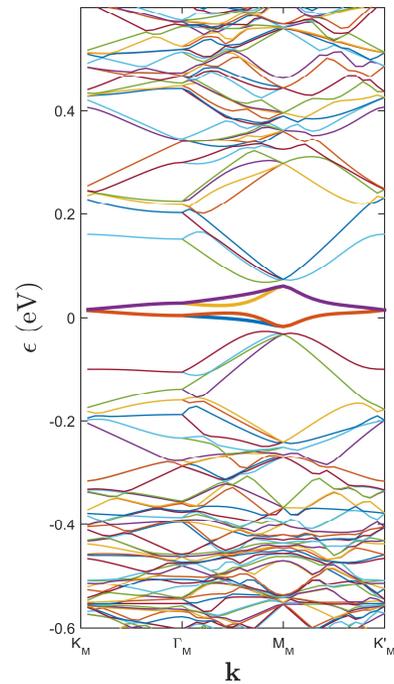
$\theta = 2.45^\circ$ , LS = 2188



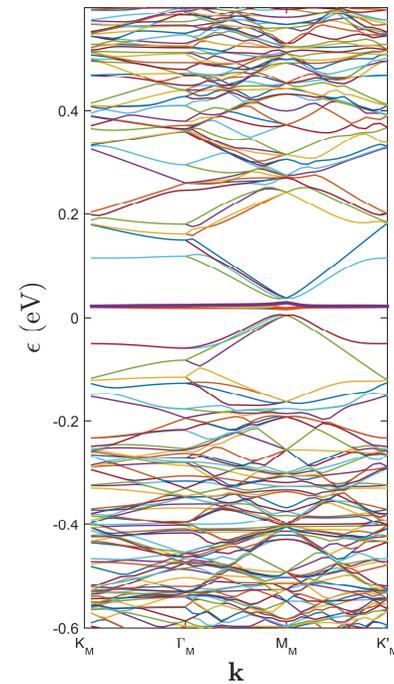
$\theta = 1.8901^\circ$ , LS = 3676



$\theta = 1.2482^\circ$ , LS = 8428



$\theta = 1.0178^\circ$ , LS = 12676

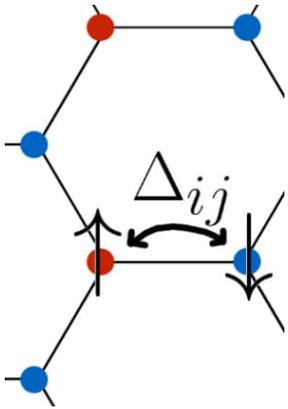


Fermi-Hubbard lattice model with TBG geometry:

$$H = \sum_{ij\sigma} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + H_{\text{int}}$$

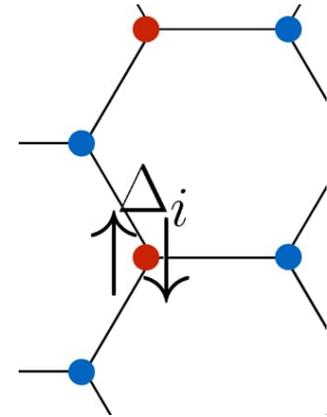
Two distinct pairing schemes:

$$H_{\text{int}} = J \sum_i c_{i\uparrow}^\dagger c_{i\uparrow} c_{i\downarrow}^\dagger c_{i\downarrow}$$



$$H_{\text{int}} = \frac{J}{2} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} h_{ij}^\dagger h_{ij}$$

$$h_{ij} = c_{i\downarrow} c_{j\uparrow} - c_{i\uparrow} c_{j\downarrow}$$

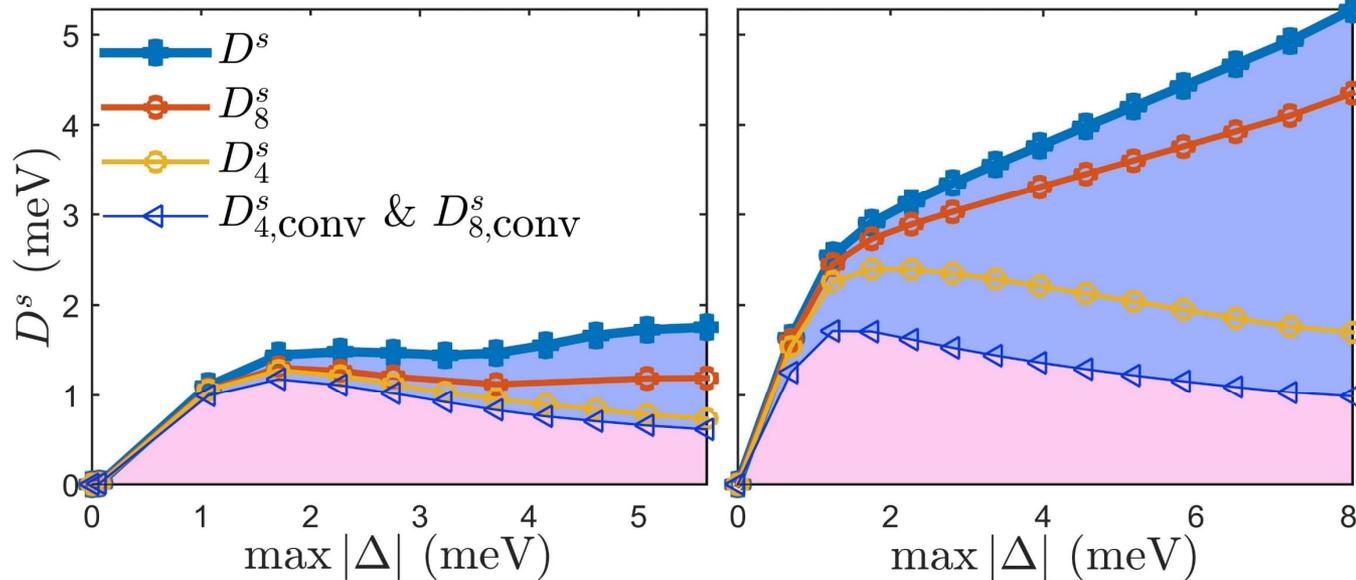


$J < 0$  is attractive interaction strength

# Geometric contribution in TBG

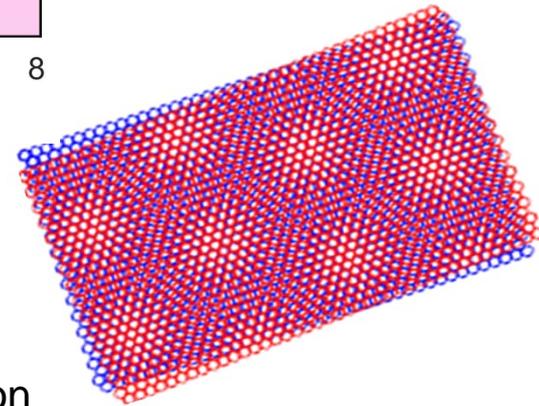
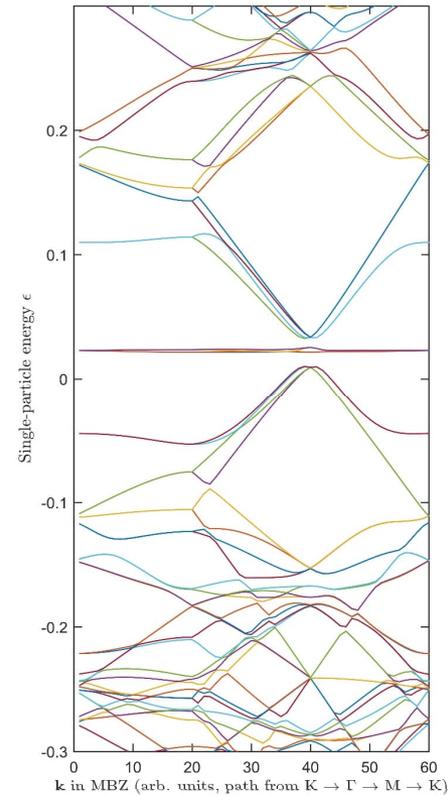
$$D^s = D_{\text{conv}}^s + D_{\text{geom}}^s$$

$$T_{\text{BKT}} = \frac{\pi}{8} \sqrt{\det D^s(T_{\text{BKT}})}$$



Non-local (RVB) interaction

Local (s-wave) interaction



Julku, Peltonen, Liang, Heikkilä, PT, PRB(R) (2020); Editors' Suggestion  
 Confirmed by (only s-wave): Hu, Hyart, Pikulin, Rossi, PRL (2019)

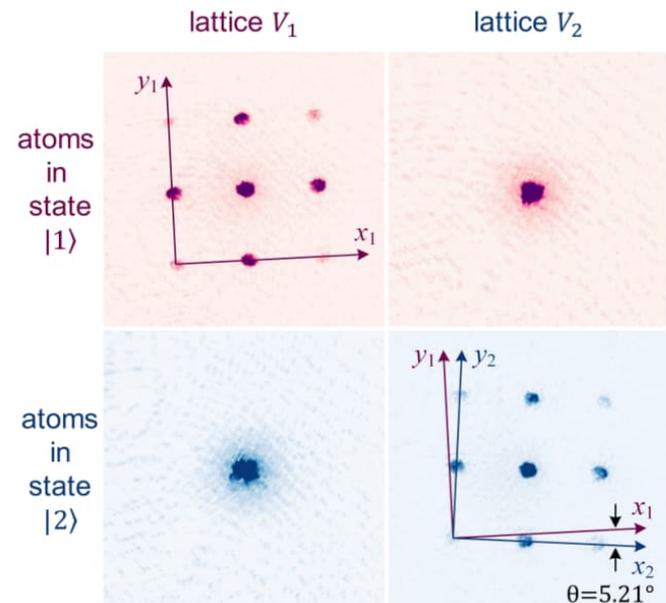
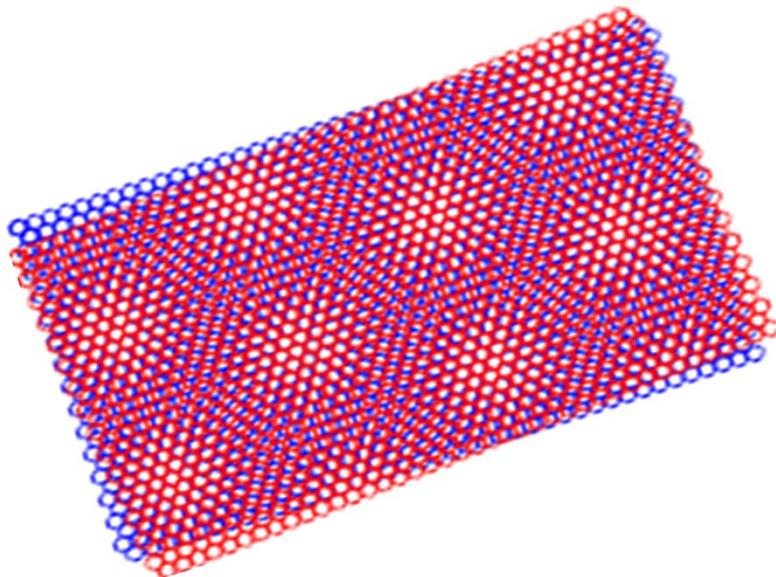
# Review

Superconductivity, superfluidity and quantum geometry in twisted multilayer systems

PT, S. Peotta, B.A. Bernevig,  
Nat. Rev. Phys. (2022)

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\text{BZ}} d^2k \operatorname{tr} g(\mathbf{k}) \geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\text{BZ}'} d^2k |f_{xy}|$$
$$\geq \left| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\text{BZ}'} d^2k f_{xy} \right| = |e_2|.$$

$$\det \mathcal{M}^R \geq \mathcal{C}^2, \text{ with } \mathcal{M}_{ij}^R = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d^2\mathbf{k} g_{ij}(\mathbf{k})$$



J. Zhang group

# How to experimentally confirm geometric origin of flat band superconductivity?

## *Linear dependence on $U$*

of critical temperature, pairing gap, superfluid density, etc.

Tunability of interactions ( $U$ ) crucial: ultracold gases!

# Flat band transport and Josephson effect through a saw-tooth lattice



Ville Pyykkönen



Sebastiano Peotta



Philipp Fabritius



Jeffrey Mohan

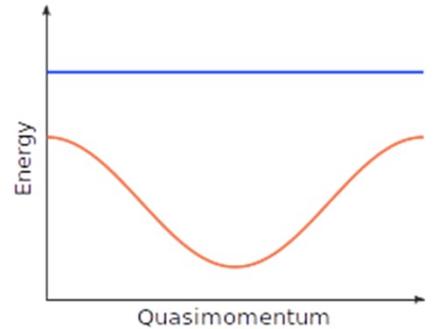
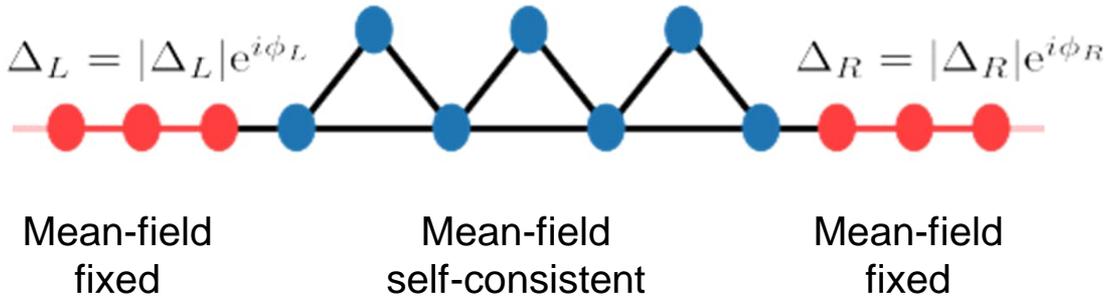
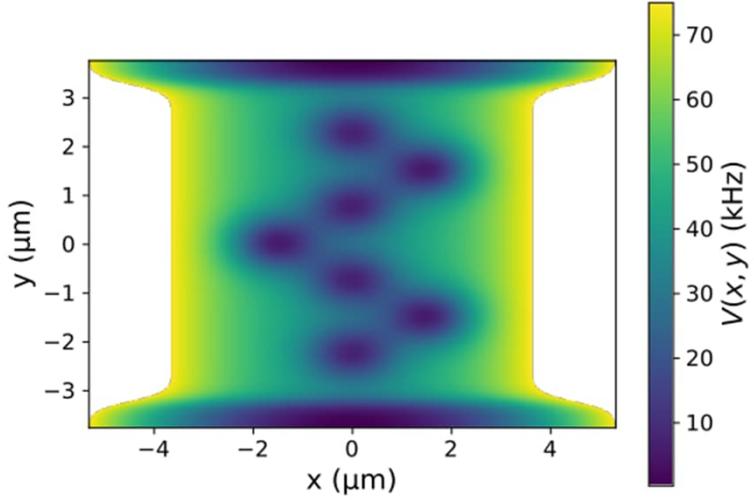
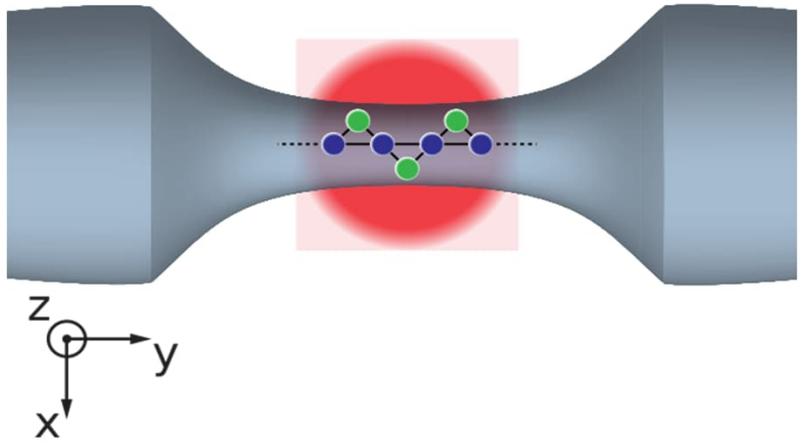


Tilman Esslinger

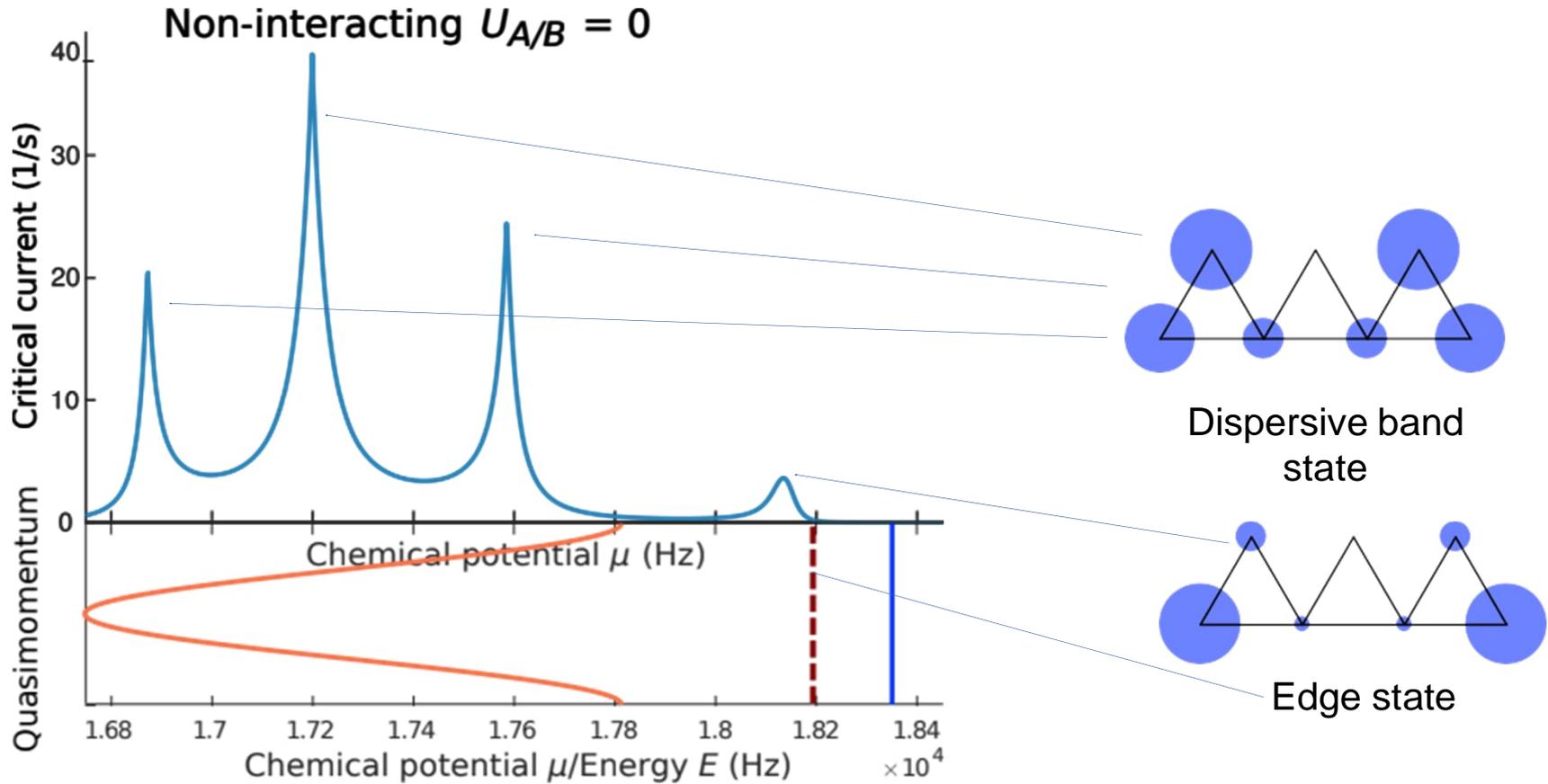
Pyykkönen, Peotta, Fabritius, Mohan, Esslinger, PT, PRB (2021)

Possible experiment: Lithium lab, ETH Zürich

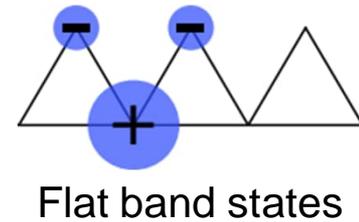
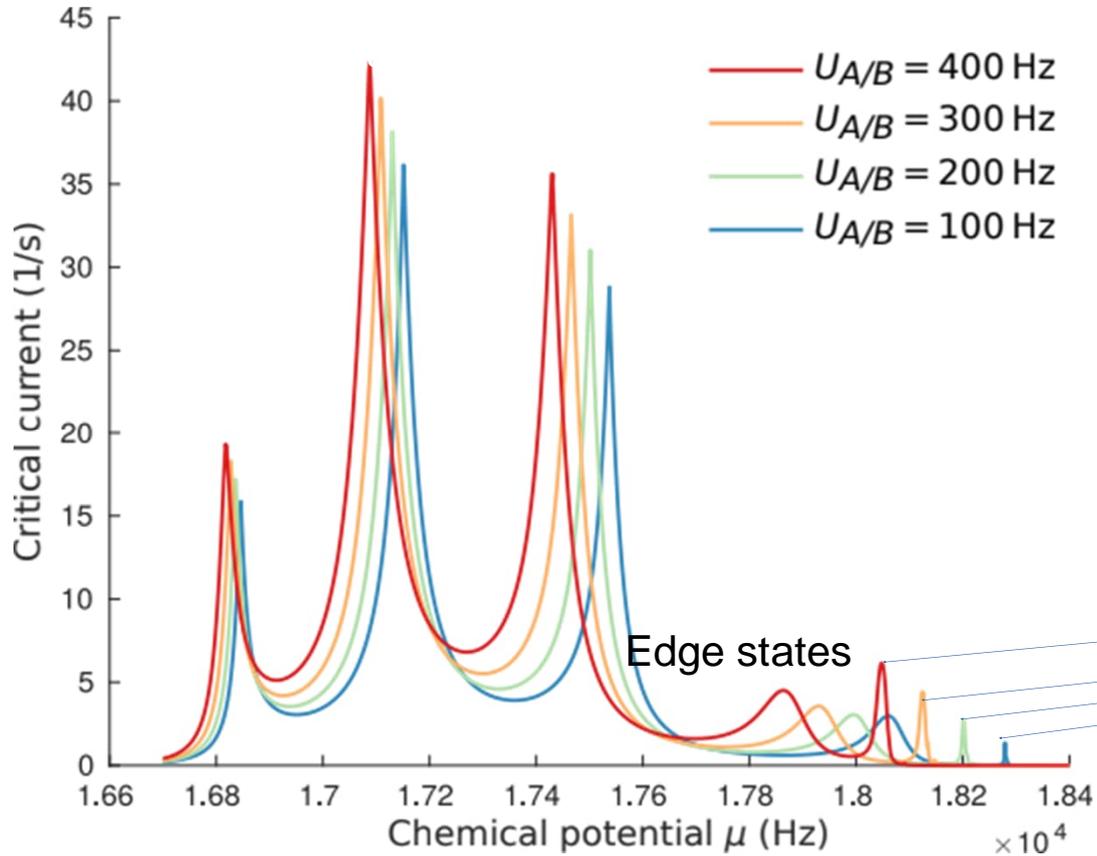
(a)



# Results: Non-interacting transport

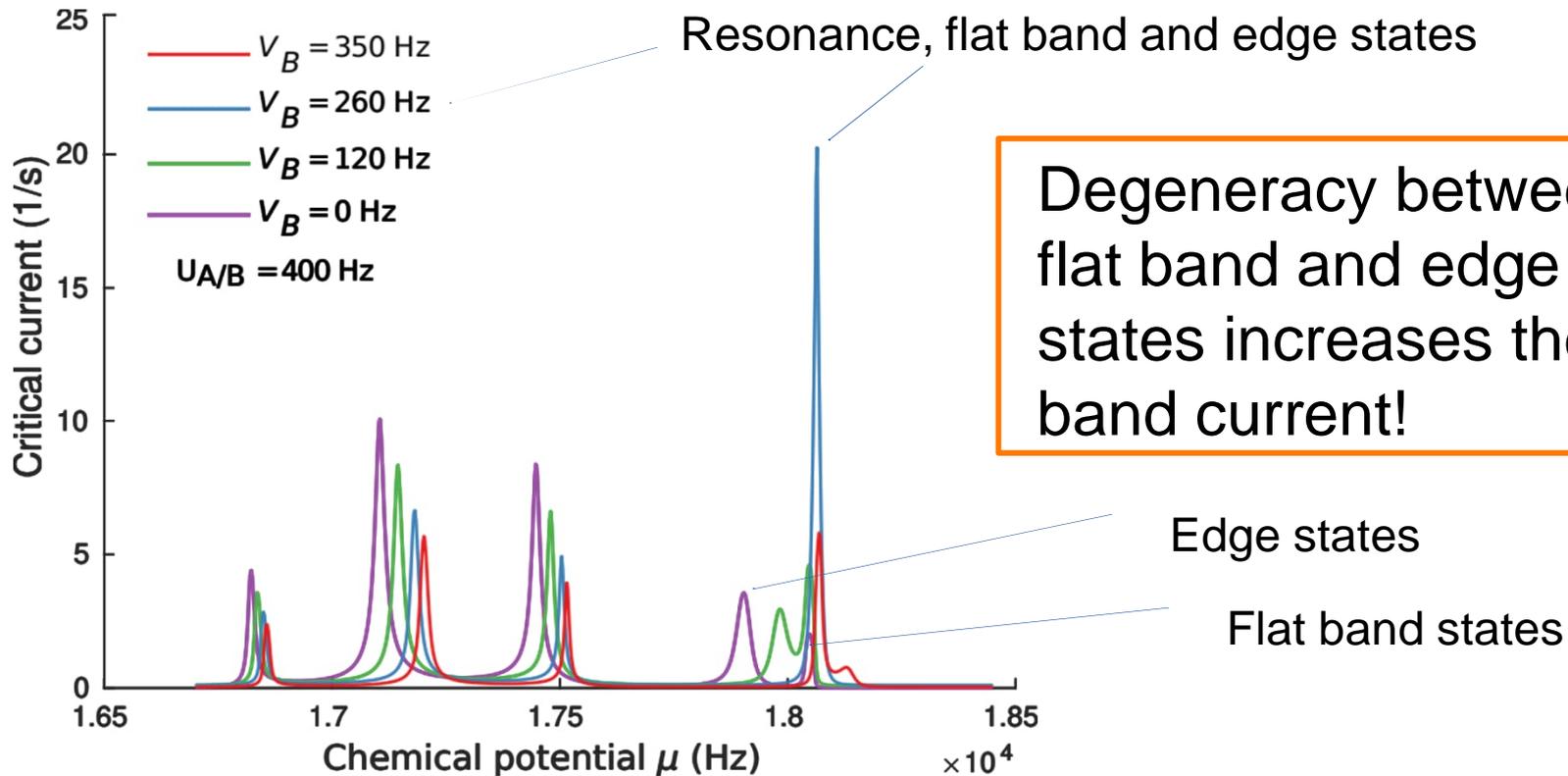
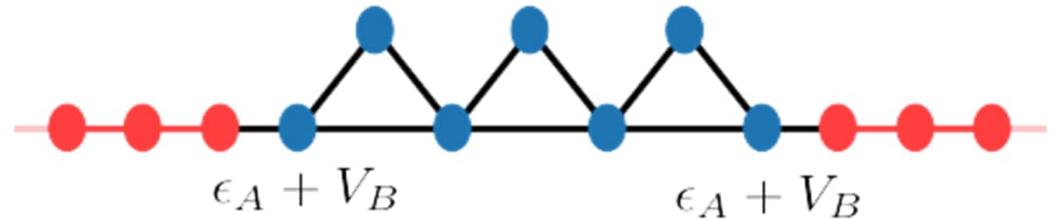


# Results: Interacting transport



Flat band current finite and linear in  $U$  but small

# Effect of boundary potential



# How to experimentally confirm geometric origin of flat band superconductivity?

## *Linear dependence on $U$*

of critical temperature, pairing gap, superfluid density, etc.

Tunability of interactions ( $U$ ) crucial: ultracold gases!

**But what about temperature...**

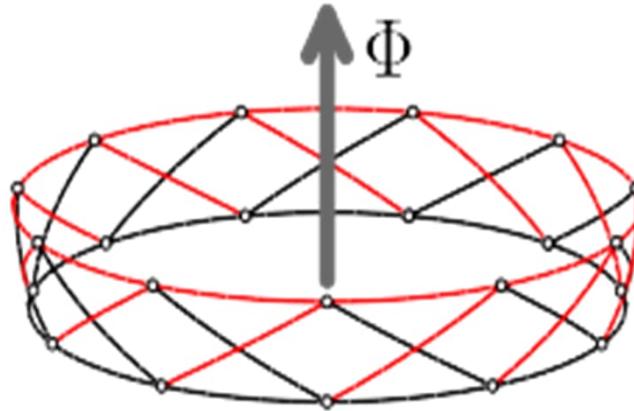
**Interesting effects visible already in the normal state!**

# Preformed pairs in a flat band

Tovmasyan, Peotta, Liang, PT, Huber, PRB 2018

What are the charge carriers in the ***normal state*** of a flat band superconductor?

**We find: only pairs move (Pi-periodic ground state); non Landau-Fermi liquid.**



Aharonov-Bohm effect in a ring geometry

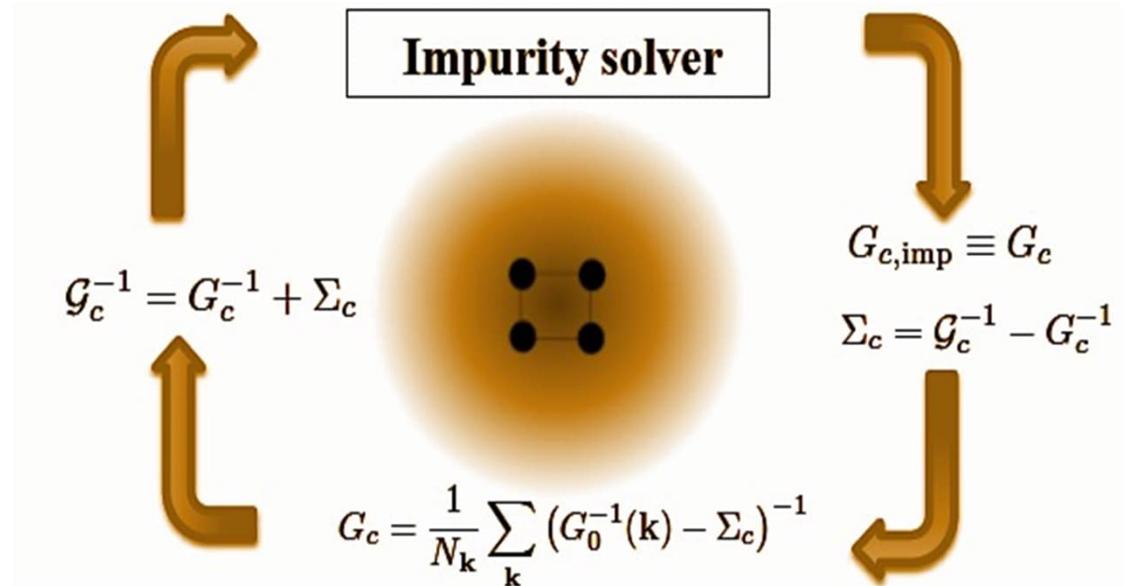
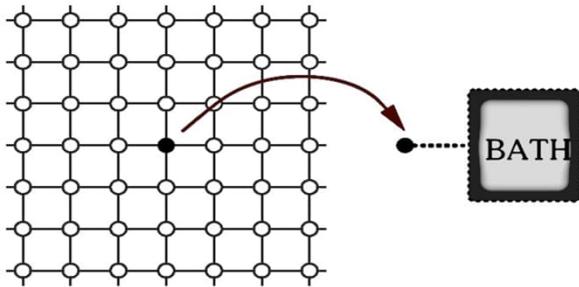
# Insulator – pseudogap crossover in the Lieb lattice normal state



Kukka-Emilia Huhtinen

KE Huhtinen, PT, PRB(L) (2021)

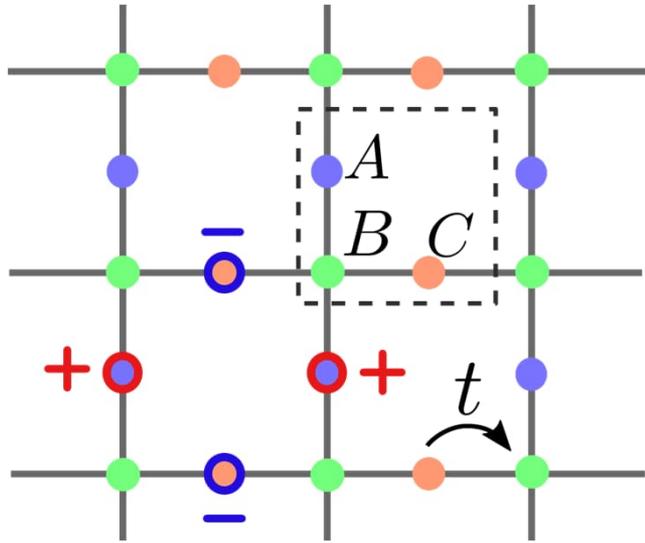
# Dynamical Mean Field Theory (DMFT) to capture quantum effects *beyond mean-field*



Single site DMFT

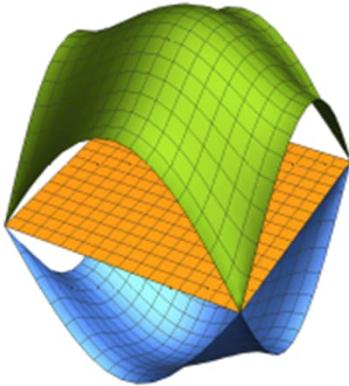
Cellular/cluster DMFT; Non-local correlations

# Hubbard model on the Lieb lattice



Attractive Hubbard model

$$H = \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{i\alpha, j\beta} t_{ij} c_{\sigma, i\alpha}^{\dagger} c_{\sigma, j\beta} - \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{i\alpha} \mu_{\sigma} n_{\sigma, i\alpha} + U \sum_{i\alpha} (n_{\uparrow, i\alpha} - 1/2)(n_{\downarrow, i\alpha} - 1/2)$$

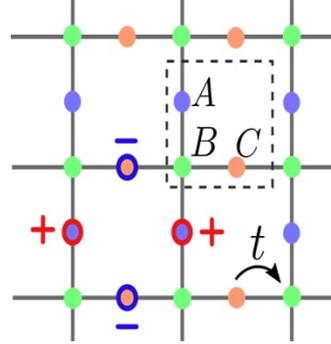


Flat band states reside at  $A$  and  $C$  sites

DMFT cluster:  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$

FOCUS ON THE NORMAL STATE ABOVE SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

# Large ( $U > t$ ) interactions: pseudogap



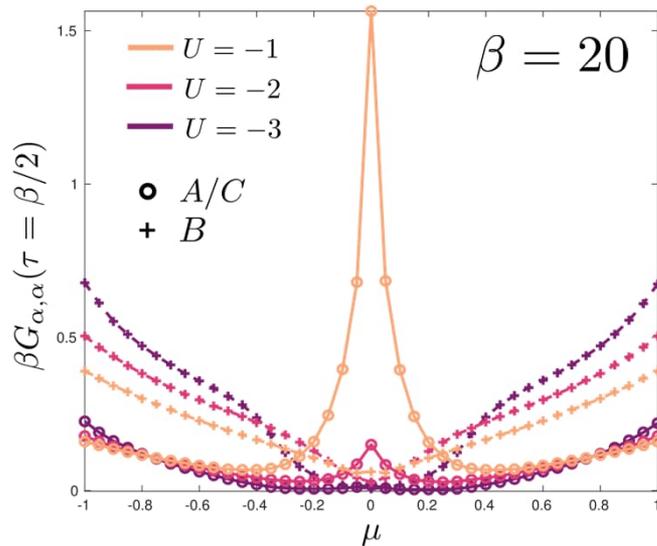
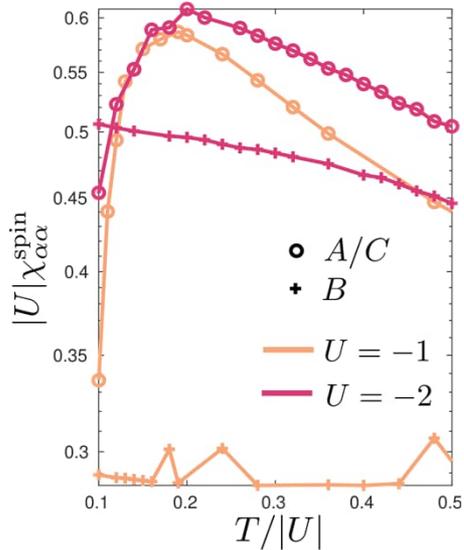
Generalized spin susceptibility:

$$\chi_{\alpha\alpha}^{\text{spin}} = \frac{2}{\beta^2} \sum_{\omega, \omega'} \left( \chi_{\uparrow\alpha, \uparrow\alpha, \uparrow\alpha, \uparrow\alpha}^{\text{ph}, \omega, \omega', \nu=0} - \chi_{\uparrow\alpha, \uparrow\alpha, \downarrow\alpha, \downarrow\alpha}^{\text{ph}, \omega, \omega', \nu=0} \right)$$

$$\chi_{ijkl}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3) = G_{ijkl}^{(4)}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3) - G_{ij}(\tau_1, \tau_2)G_{kl}(\tau_3, 0)$$

$$G_{ijkl}^{(4)}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3) = \langle T_{\tau} [c_i^{\dagger}(\tau_1) c_j(\tau_2) c_k^{\dagger}(\tau_3) c_l(0)] \rangle$$

$$G_{ij}(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \langle T_{\tau} [c_i^{\dagger}(\tau_1) c_j(\tau_2)] \rangle$$

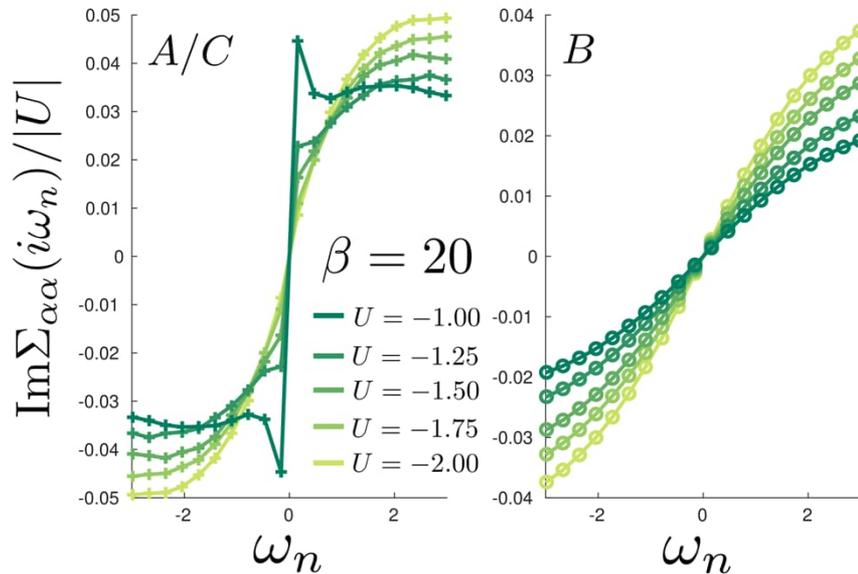
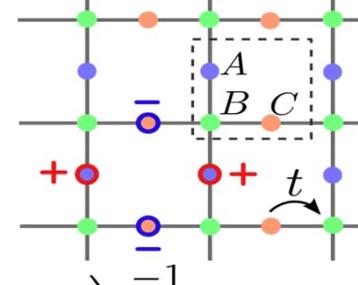


Local contribution to spin susceptibility decreases sharply with temperature at  $A/C$  sites.

At low temperatures,  $\beta G_{\alpha\alpha}(\beta/2) \approx \mathcal{A}_{\alpha}(\omega = 0)$ , where  $\mathcal{A}_{\alpha}$  is the orbital-resolved spectral function.

As interaction is increased, the spectral function becomes depleted around half-filling.

# Low interaction ( $U < t$ ): insulator

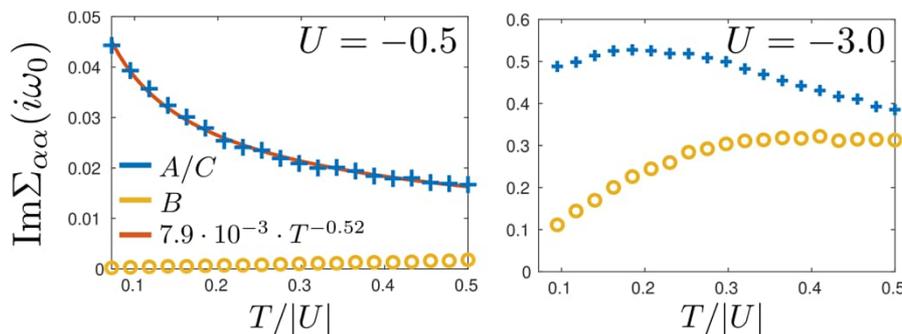


$$Z = \left( 1 - \frac{\text{Im}\Sigma(i\omega_n)}{\omega_n} \Big|_{\omega_n \rightarrow 0} \right)^{-1}$$

In DMFT,  $Z = m/m^*$ , where  $m$  is the bare mass and  $m^*$  is the effective mass.

The self-energy diverges at low frequencies when the interaction strength is decreased.

The temperature dependence is  $T^{-1/2}$  rather than  $T^{-1}$  found for Mott insulator.



## Flat band interacting normal state; Lieb lattice

- Non-Fermi liquid features in double occupancy and entropy
- $SU(N)$  scaling relation



Pramod Kumar



Sebastiano Peotta

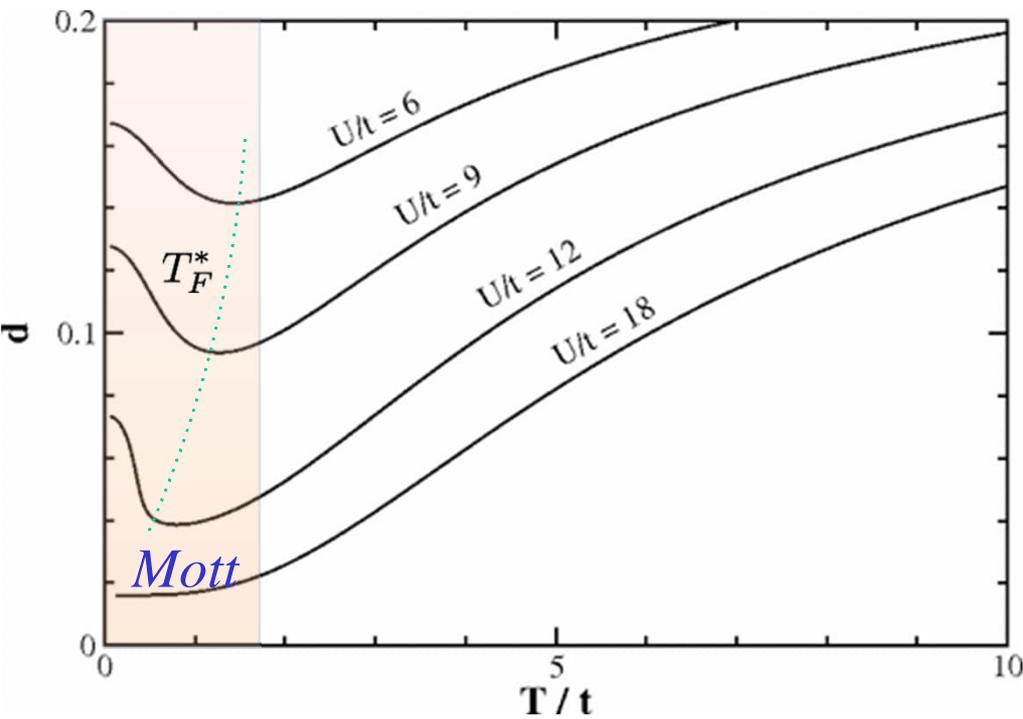


Yosuke Takasu



Yoshiro Takahashi

# Double occupancy and Fermi-liquid



Entropy of Fermi-liquid

$$s \propto m_{eff} T$$

Maxwell's relation

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial U} = - \frac{\partial d}{\partial T}$$

$$T < T_F^*$$

$$\partial_T d < 0$$

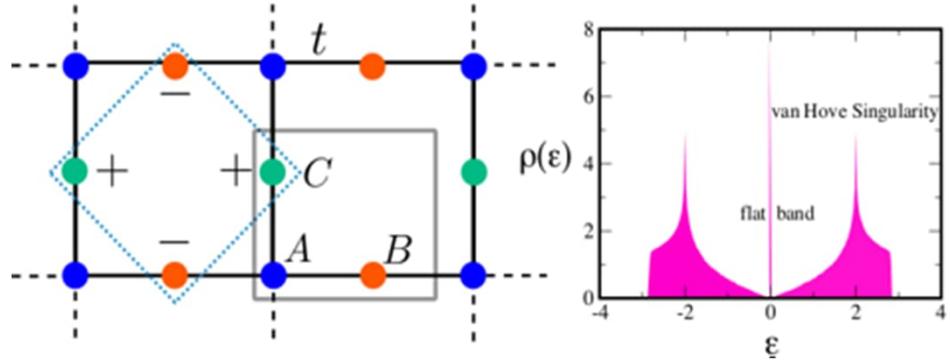
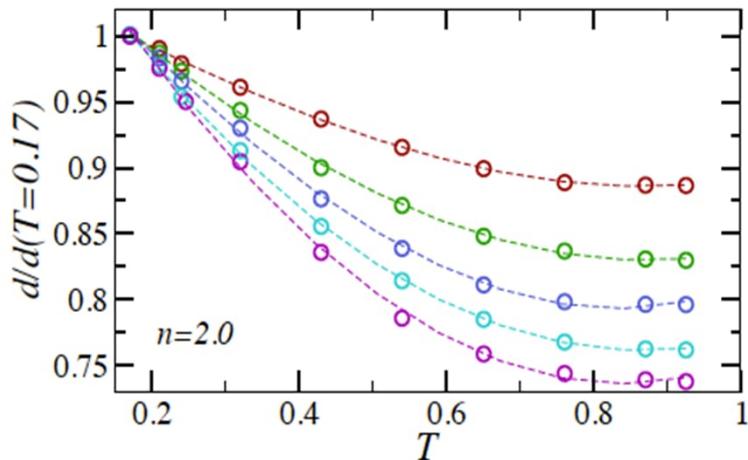
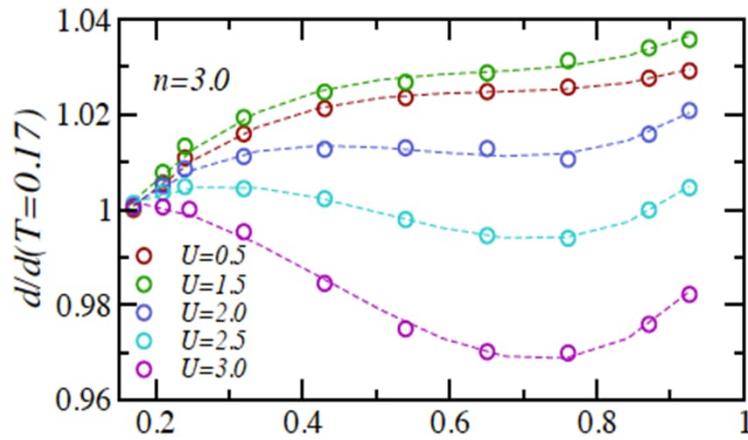
Hubbard model on Bethe lattice

Werner, Parcollet, Georges, Hassan  
PRL 95, 056401 (2005)

# Lieb lattice: repulsive Hubbard model

Normal state properties

average double occupancy



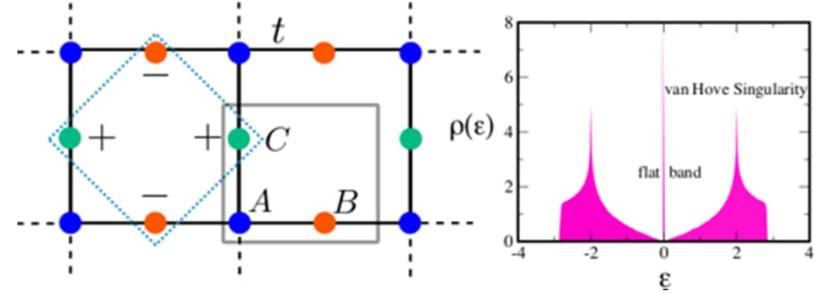
half-filling: flat band significant

*Non-Fermi liquid behavior  
for small interactions  
at the flat band*

lowest band filled

# Multi-component SU(N) fermions in a Lieb lattice

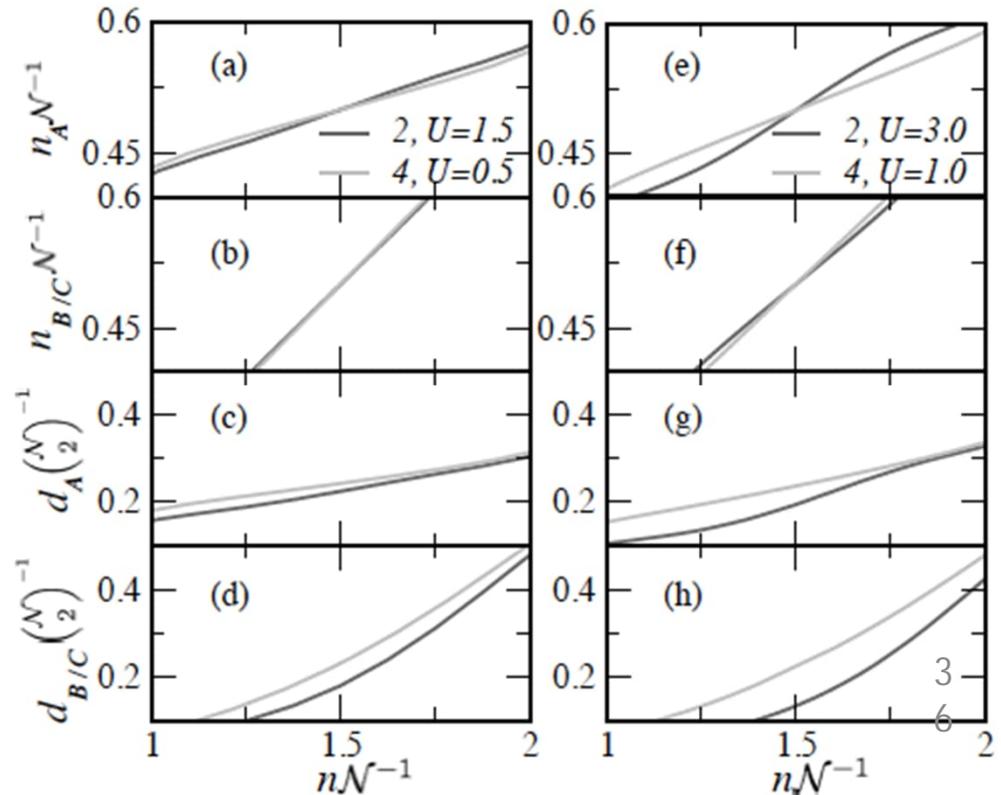
$Yb^{174}$



Scaling relation  
(Mean-Field theory)

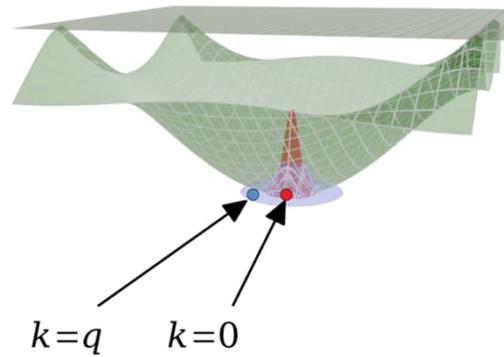
$$U(\mathcal{N} - 1) = U'(\mathcal{N}' - 1)$$

Scaling relation is consistent  
with DMFT for moderate  
interaction strength

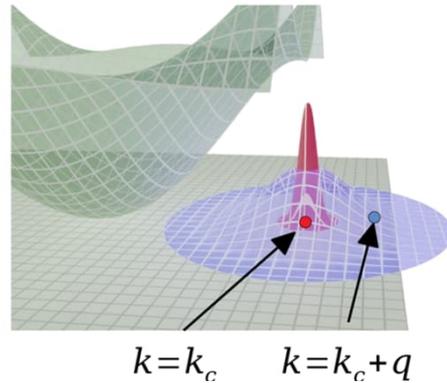


# Flat band BEC & quantum geometry

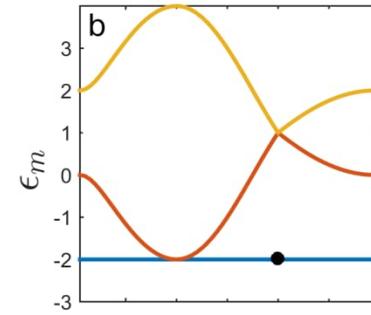
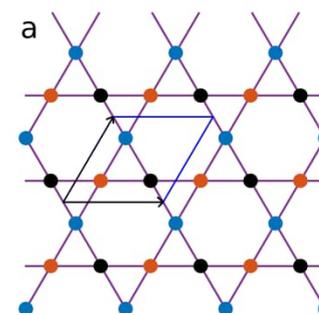
**DISPERSIVE BAND**



**FLAT BAND**



Kagome lattice:



Alekski Julku



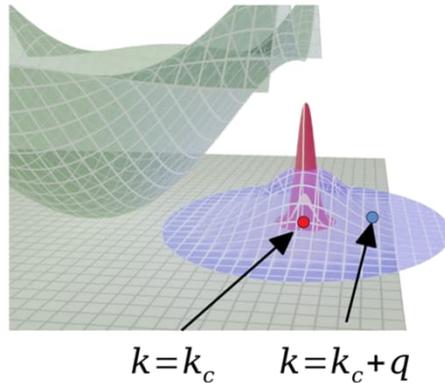
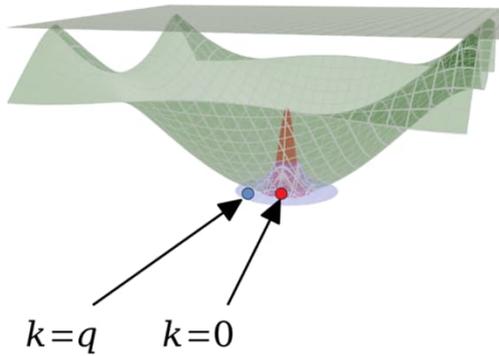
Georg Bruun

Julku, Bruun, PT, PRL 2021, PRB 2021

# Flat band BEC & quantum geometry

## DISPERSIVE BAND

## FLAT BAND



$n_0$  Condensate density  $n_e$  Excitation density  $U$  Interaction  $u(k)$  Bloch function

## SPEED OF SOUND

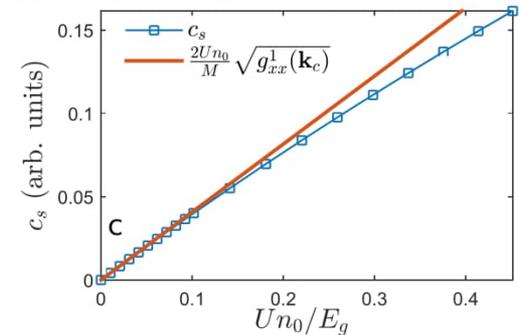
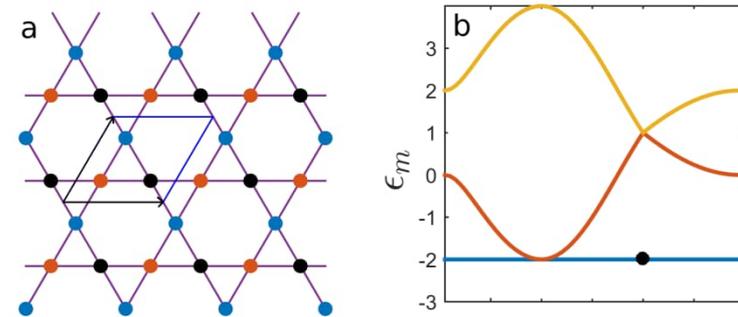
$$c_s \propto \sqrt{U} n_0$$

$$c_s \propto U n_0 \sqrt{g_{\alpha\beta}(k_c)}$$

Quantum metric

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = \Re[\langle \partial_\alpha u | \partial_\beta u \rangle - \langle \partial_\alpha u | u \rangle \langle u | \partial_\beta u \rangle]$$

## Kagome lattice:



Quantum metric dictates the speed of sound



Alexi Julku Georg Bruun

Julku, Bruun, PT, PRL 2021, PRB 2021

# Flat band BEC & quantum geometry

- Excitations do not cost energy? Can BEC stable?

Answer: Yes it can, finite **quantum distance** between Bloch states sets the limit for excitation density -> stable BEC

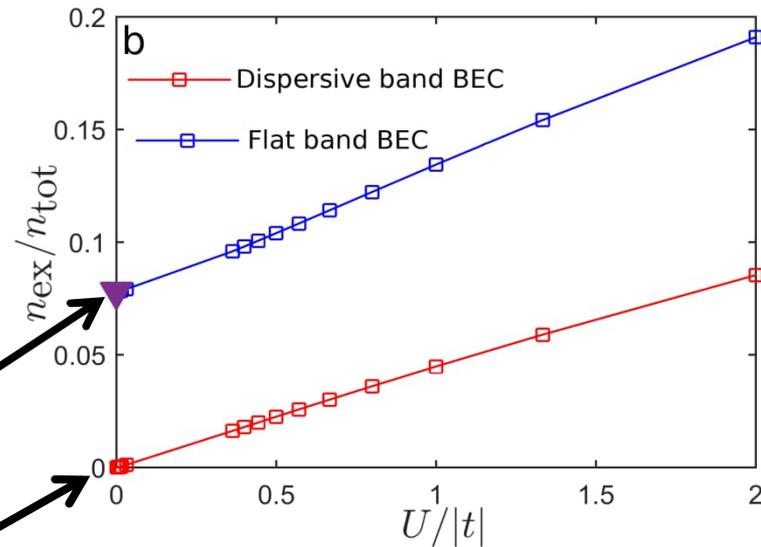
$$n_e(k) \xrightarrow{U \rightarrow 0} \frac{1-D}{2D}$$

Quantum distance

$$D = \sqrt{1 - \langle u(k_c + q) | u(k_c - q) \rangle^2}$$

Excitation density can be finite in the non-interacting limit...

...in contrast to dispersive band BEC

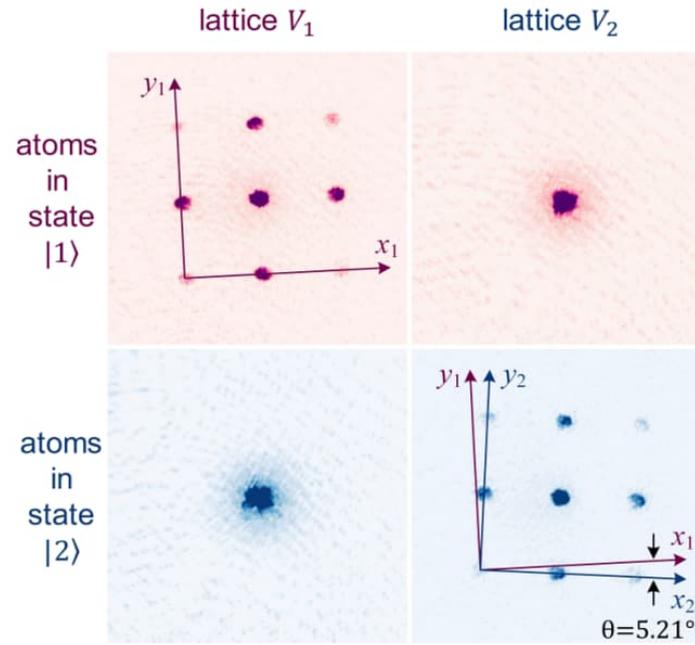


Interaction effects prominent even in the limit of vanishing interactions

# Summary

Quantum geometry governs

- flat band superfluidity
- normal state properties
- BEC excitations



# Outlook

Towards room temperature superconductivity

Flat bands in ultracold gases; tunable interactions, quantum fluctuations

