

“Condensed matter physics meets relativistic quantum field theory”,

Le Studium Workshop, Tours, France, 13-16 June, 2016

# Anomalies, knots, and currents

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# Outline

- Chiral anomaly in a background magnetic field: the Chiral Magnetic Effect (CME)
- Observation of CME in  $\text{ZrTe}_5$  with Qiang Li et al
- CME and axion electrodynamics: self-similar inverse cascade of magnetic helicity towards the Chandrasekhar-Kendall state
- Quantized CME from knot reconnections  
with Yuji Hirono and Yi Yin

# Classical symmetries and Quantum anomalies

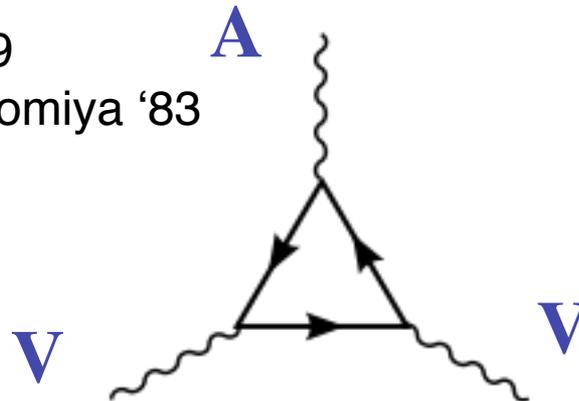
Anomalies: The classical symmetry of the Lagrangian is broken by quantum effects -

examples: chiral symmetry - chiral anomaly  $\partial_\mu j_A^\mu = C_A \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$   
scale symmetry - scale anomaly

Anomalies imply correlations between currents:

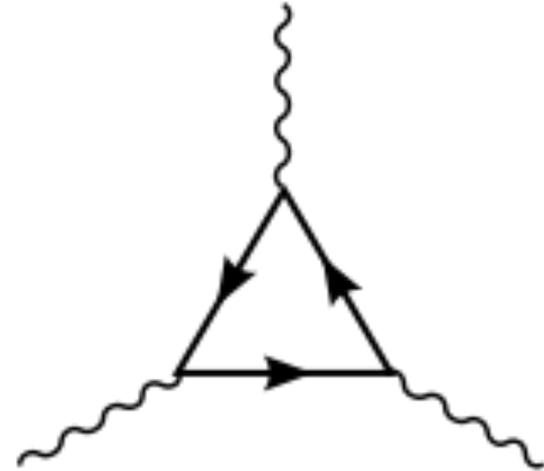
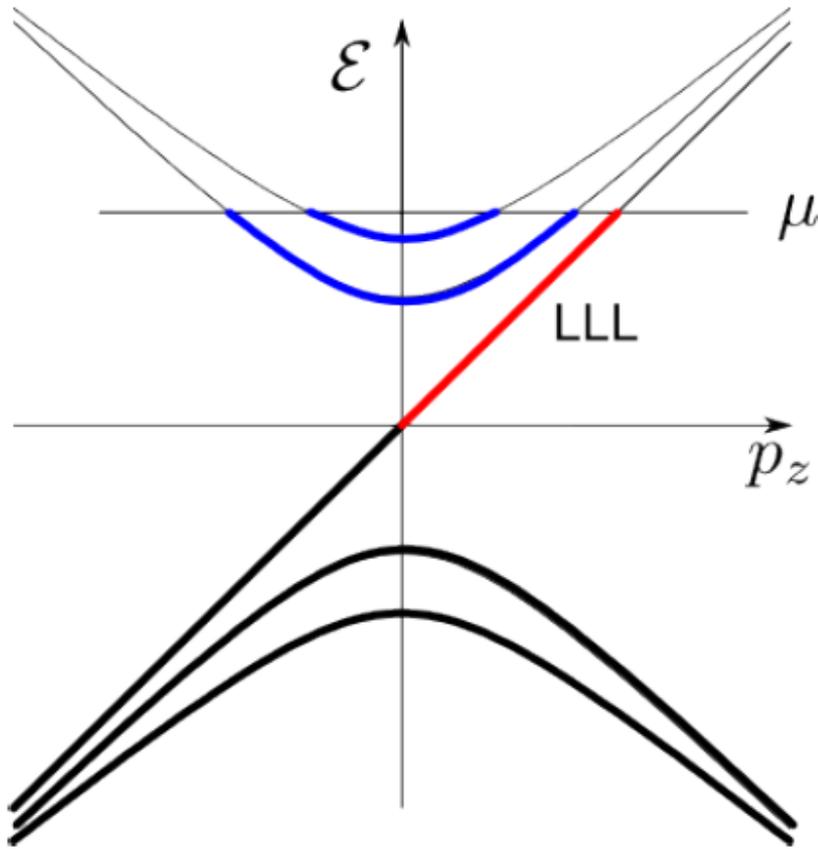
e.g. Adler; Bell, Jackiw '69  
crystals: Nielsen, Ninomiya '83

$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$   
decay



**if A, V are background fields, V is generated!**

# Chiral anomaly



**In classical background fields (E and B), chiral anomaly induces a collective motion in the Dirac sea**

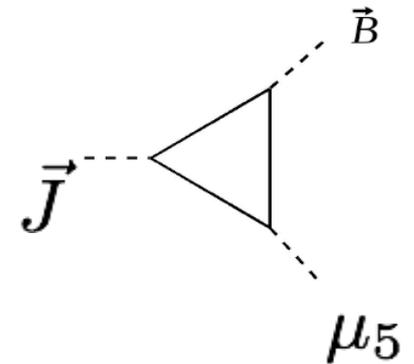
# Chiral Magnetic Effect

DK'04; K.Fukushima, DK, H.Warringa, PRD'08;  
Review and list of refs: DK, arXiv:1312.3348

Chiral chemical potential is formally equivalent to a background chiral gauge field:  $\mu_5 = A_5^0$

In this background, and in the presence of  $\vec{B}$ , vector e.m. current is generated:

$$\partial_\mu J^\mu = \frac{e^2}{16\pi^2} \left( F_L^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{L,\mu\nu} - F_R^{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}_{R,\mu\nu} \right)$$



Compute the current through

$$J^\mu = \frac{\partial \log Z[A_\mu, A_\mu^5]}{\partial A_\mu(x)}$$

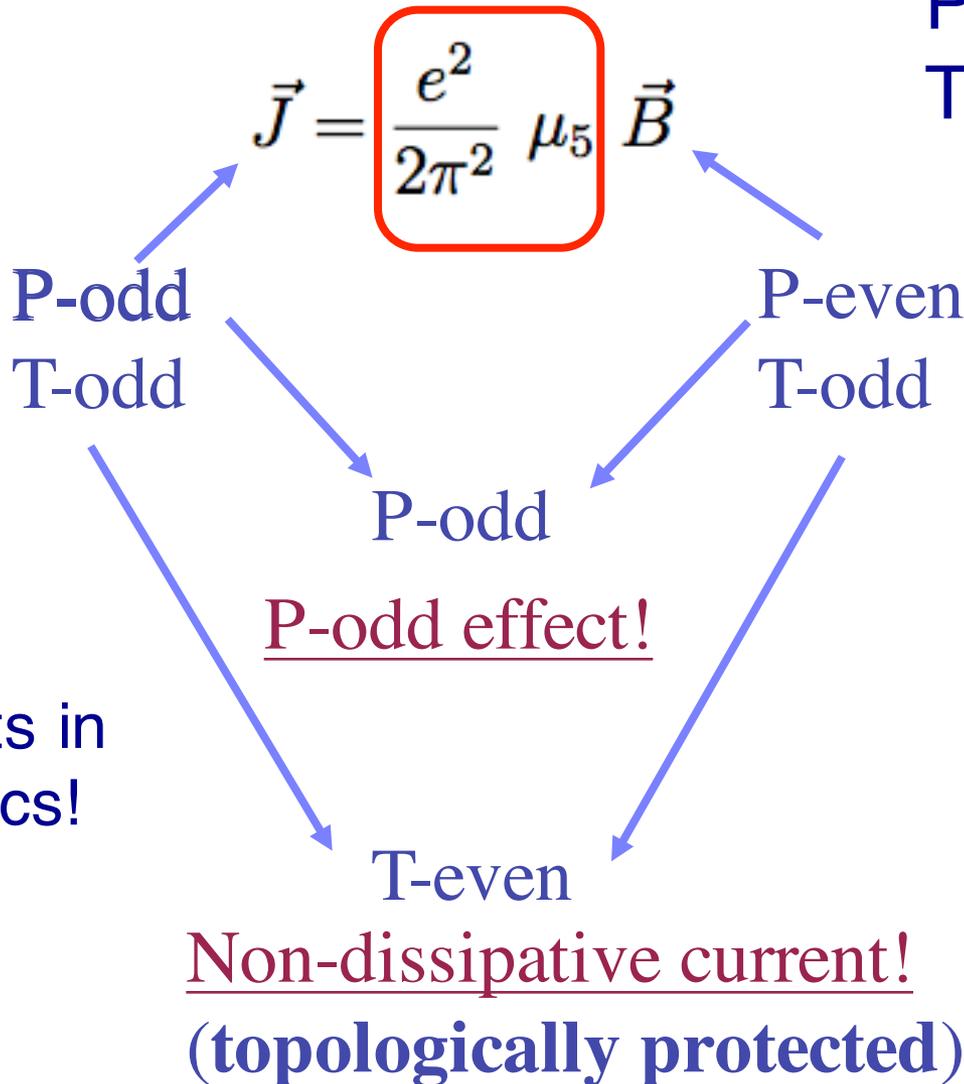
The result:

$$\vec{J} = \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_5 \vec{B}$$

Coefficient is fixed by the axial anomaly, no corrections

# Chiral magnetic conductivity: discrete symmetries

P – parity  
T – time reversal



Effect persists in hydrodynamics!

cf Ohmic conductivity:

$$\vec{J} = \sigma \vec{E}$$

T-odd,  
dissipative

# Systematics of anomalous conductivities

Magnetic field

Vorticity

Vector current	$\frac{\mu_A}{2\pi^2}$	$\frac{\mu\mu_A}{2\pi^2}$
Axial current	$\frac{\mu}{2\pi^2}$	$\frac{\mu^2 + \mu_A^2}{4\pi^2} + \frac{T^2}{12}$

C.M.E



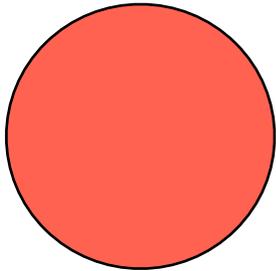
# Hydrodynamics and symmetries

- Hydrodynamics: an effective low-energy TOE. States that the response of the fluid to slowly varying perturbations is completely determined by conservation laws (energy, momentum, charge, ...)
- Conservation laws are a consequence of symmetries of the underlying theory
- What happens to hydrodynamics when these symmetries are broken by quantum effects (anomalies of QCD and QED)?

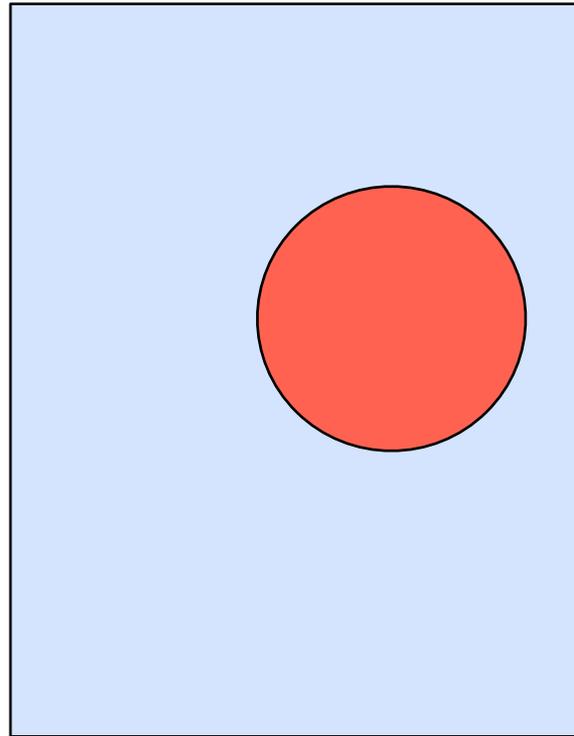
# No entropy production from P-odd anomalous terms

DK and H.-U. Yee, 1105.6360

Entropy grows



$$\partial_{\mu} s^{\mu} \geq 0$$



Mirror reflection:  
entropy decreases ?

$$\partial_{\mu} s^{\mu} \leq 0$$

Decrease is ruled out by 2nd law of thermodynamics



$$\partial_{\mu} s^{\mu} = 0_{10}$$

Allows to compute analytically 13 out of 18 anomalous transport coefficients in 2<sup>nd</sup> order relativistic hydrodynamics

# The CME in relativistic hydrodynamics: The Chiral Magnetic Wave

DK, H.-U. Yee,  
arXiv:1012.6026 [hep-th];  
PRD

$$\vec{j}_V = \frac{N_c e}{2\pi^2} \mu_A \vec{B}; \quad \vec{j}_A = \frac{N_c e}{2\pi^2} \mu_V \vec{B},$$

CME

Chiral separation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{j}_V \\ \vec{j}_A \end{pmatrix} = \frac{N_c e \vec{B}}{2\pi^2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_V \\ \mu_A \end{pmatrix}$$

Propagating chiral wave: (if chiral symmetry  
is restored)

$$\left( \partial_0 \mp \frac{N_c e B \alpha}{2\pi^2} \partial_1 - D_L \partial_1^2 \right) j_{L,R}^0 = 0$$

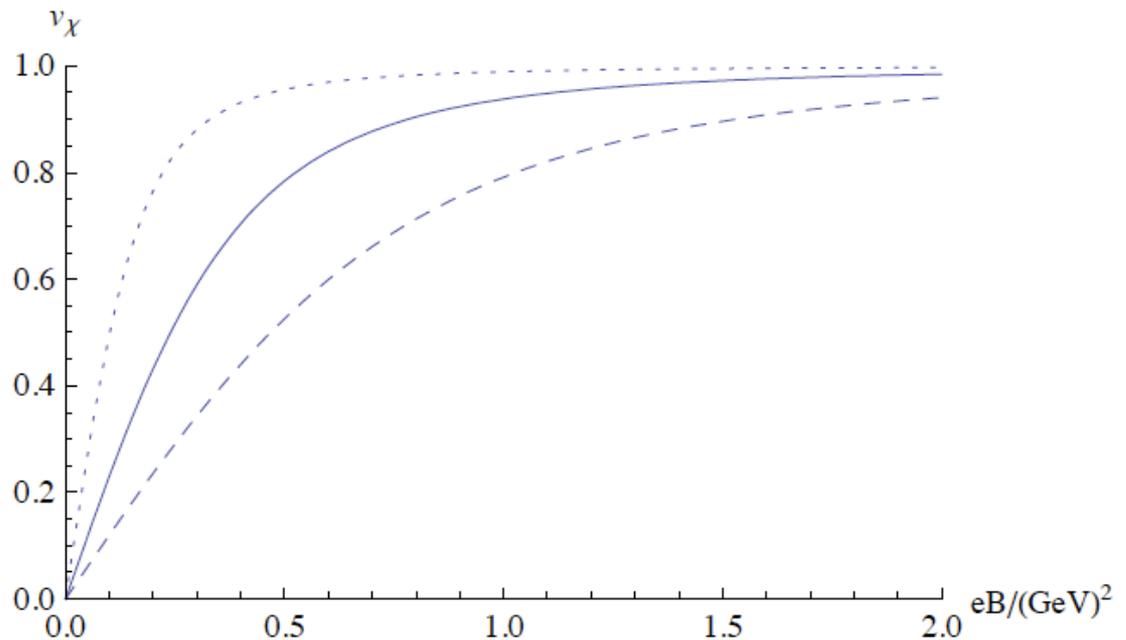
Gapless collective mode is the carrier of CME current in MHD:

$$\omega = \mp v_\chi k - i D_L k^2 + \dots$$



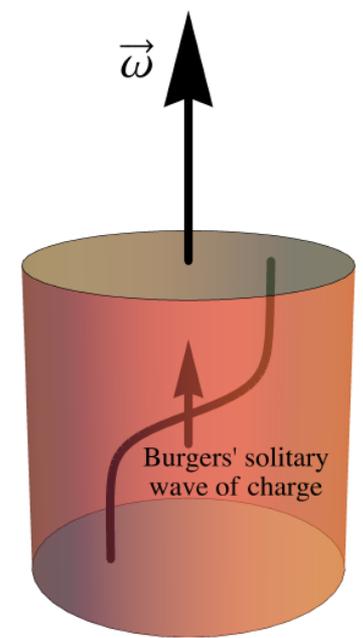
# The Chiral Magnetic Wave: oscillations of electric and chiral charges coupled by the chiral anomaly

In strong magnetic field, CMW  
propagates with the speed of light!



# Anomalous transport and the Burgers' equation

Consider a “hot” system (QGP, WSM) with  $\frac{\mu}{T} \ll 1$



The chemical potential is then proportional to charge density:

$$\mu \approx \chi^{-1} \rho + \mathcal{O}(\rho^3)$$

the CME current is

$$J^3 = \frac{ke}{4\pi^2} \left( \chi^{-2} \rho^2 + \frac{\pi^2}{3} T^2 \right) \omega - D \partial_3 \rho + \mathcal{O}(\partial^2, \rho^3)$$

and the charge conservation  $\partial_t \rho + \partial_3 J^3 = 0$  leads to

$$\partial_t \rho + C \rho \partial_x \rho - D \partial_x^2 \rho = 0 \quad C = \frac{kew}{2\pi^2 \chi^2} \quad x \equiv x^3$$

# The Burgers' equation

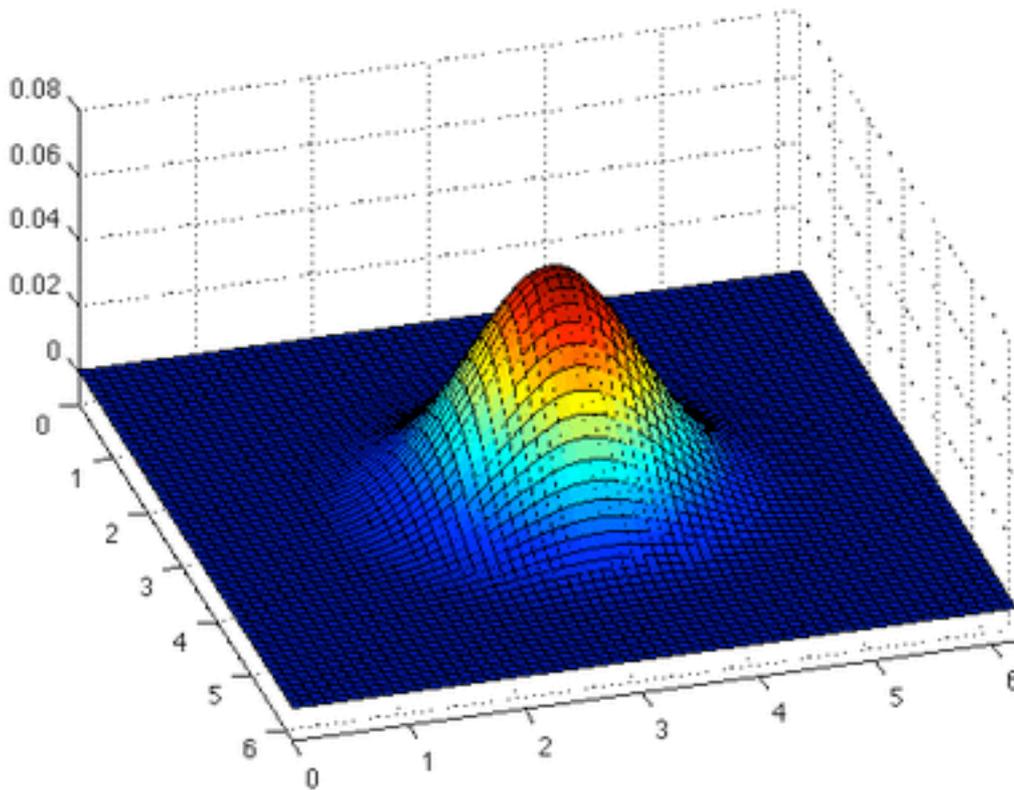
$$\partial_t \rho + C \rho \partial_x \rho - D \partial_x^2 \rho = 0$$



Exactly soluble by  
Cole-Hopf  
transformation -

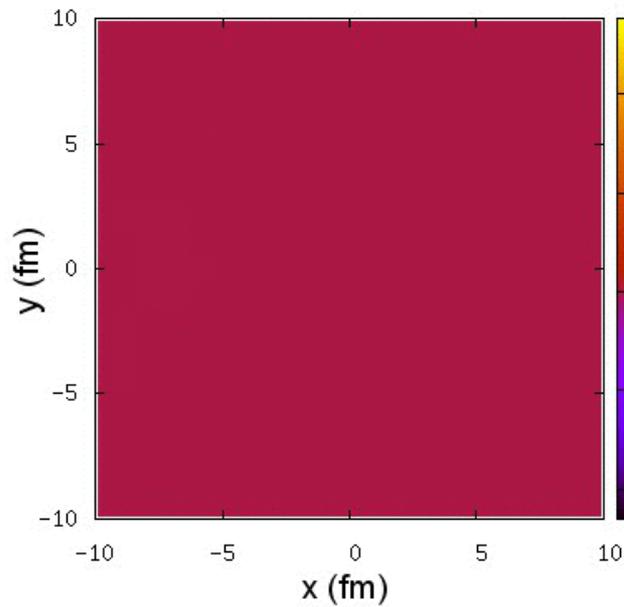
initial value problem,  
integrable dynamics

describes shock  
waves, **solitons**, ...

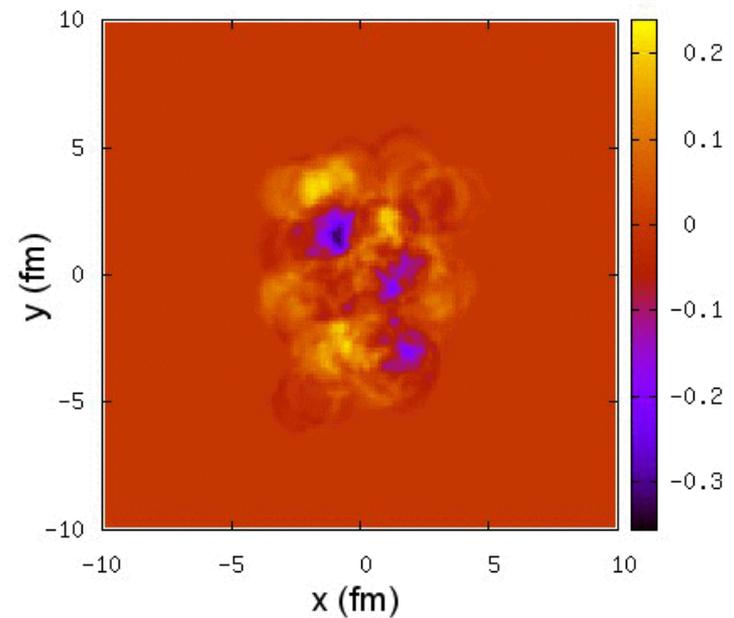


# CMHD

Electric charge



Chiral charge



Y.Hirono, T.Hirano, DK, (Stony Brook – Tokyo), arxiv:1412.0311  
(3+1) ideal CMHD (Chiral MagnetoHydroDynamics)

# Axion electrodynamics, or Maxwell-Chern-Simons theory

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MCS}} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - A_{\mu}J^{\mu} + \frac{c}{4}P_{\mu}J_{CS}^{\mu}$$

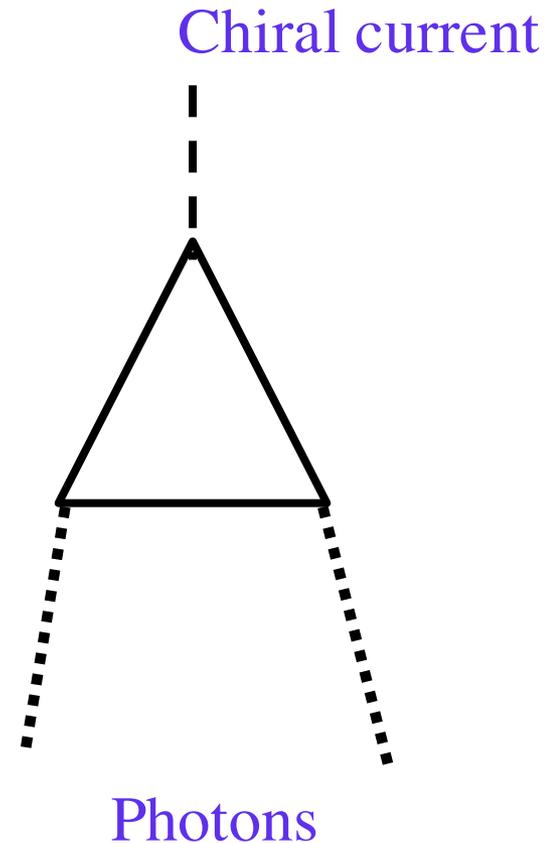
$$J_{CS}^{\mu} = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}A_{\nu}F_{\rho\sigma} \quad P_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu}\theta = (\dot{\theta}, \vec{P})$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} - \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = \vec{J} + c \left( \dot{\theta} \vec{B} - \vec{P} \times \vec{E} \right),$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \rho + c \vec{P} \cdot \vec{B},$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} + \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = 0,$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0,$$

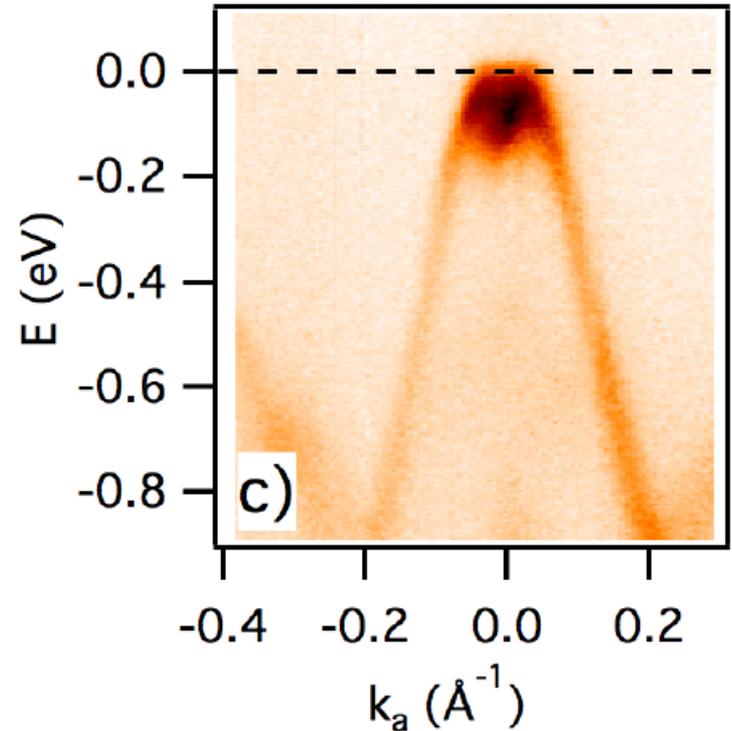
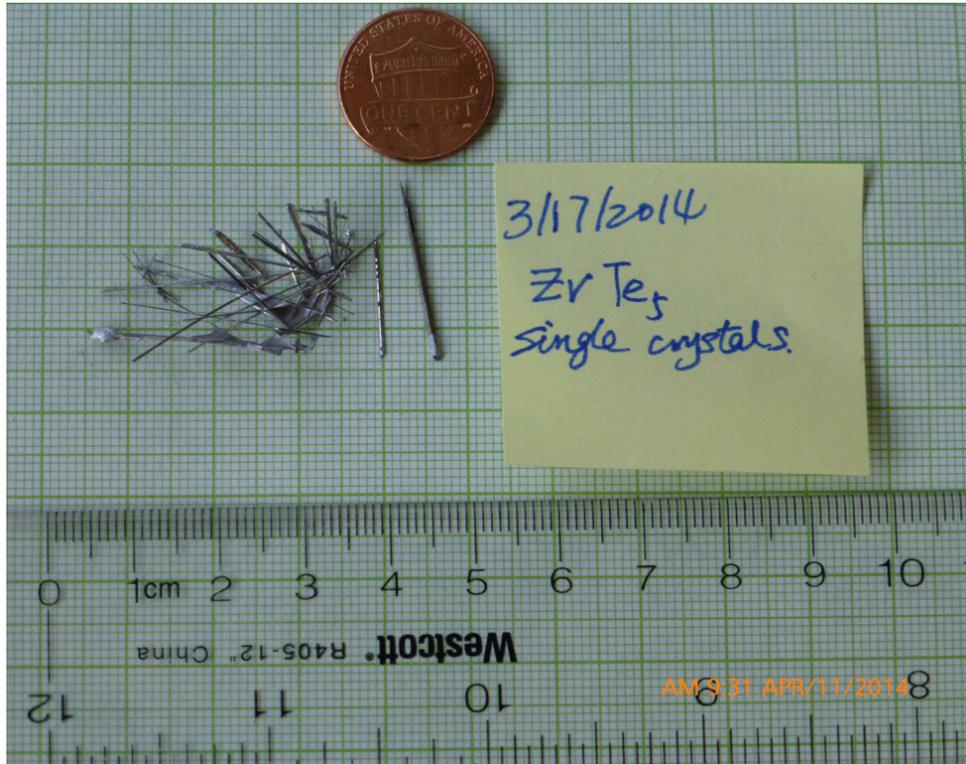


F. Wilczek, Phys.Rev.Lett.58  
(1987) 1799;

DK, Ann.Phys. 325(2010) 205

# Observation of the chiral magnetic effect in $\text{ZrTe}_5$

Qiang Li,<sup>1</sup> Dmitri E. Kharzeev,<sup>2,3</sup> Cheng Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Yuan Huang,<sup>4</sup> I. Pletikosić,<sup>1,5</sup>  
A. V. Fedorov,<sup>6</sup> R. D. Zhong,<sup>1</sup> J. A. Schneeloch,<sup>1</sup> G. D. Gu,<sup>1</sup> and T. Valla<sup>1</sup>



arXiv:1412.6543 (December 2014); Nature Physics **12**, 550 (2016)

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Put the crystal in parallel  $\mathbf{E}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$  fields – the anomaly generates chiral charge:

$$\frac{d\rho_5}{dt} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^2\hbar^2c} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} - \frac{\rho_5}{\tau_V}.$$

and thus the chiral chemical potential:

$$\mu_5 = \frac{3}{4} \frac{v^3}{\pi^2} \frac{e^2}{\hbar^2c} \frac{\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}}{T^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2}} \tau_V.$$

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so that there is a chiral magnetic current:

$$\vec{J}_{\text{CME}} = \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_5 \vec{B}.$$

resulting in the quadratic dependence of CME conductivity on  $B$ :

$$J_{\text{CME}}^i = \frac{e^2}{\pi\hbar} \frac{3}{8} \frac{e^2}{\hbar c} \frac{v^3}{\pi^3} \frac{\tau_V}{T^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{\pi^2}} B^i B^k E^k \equiv \sigma_{\text{CME}}^{ik} E^k.$$

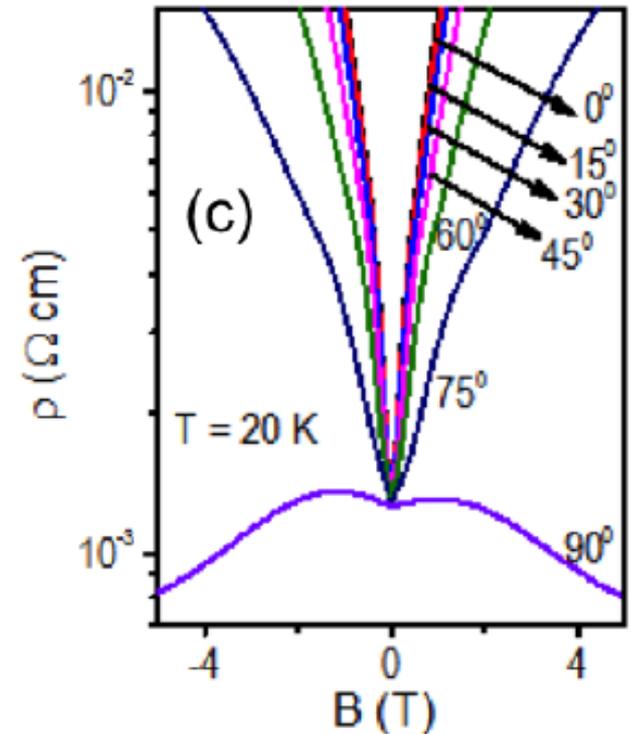
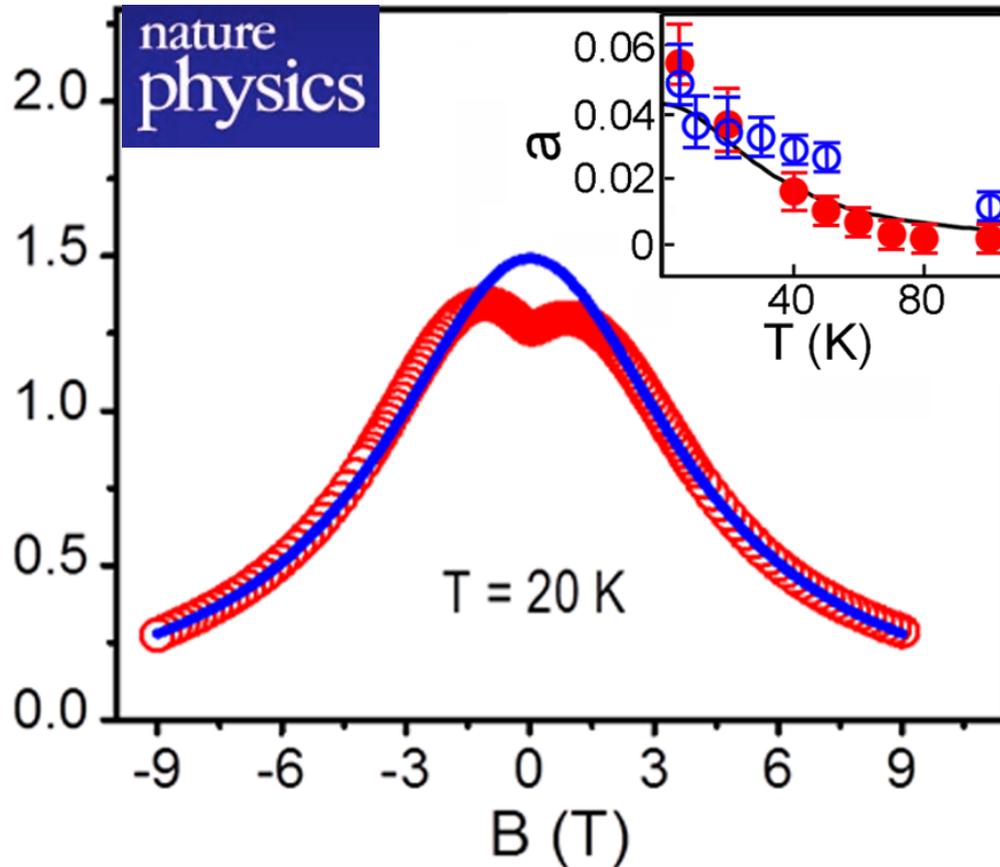
adding the Ohmic one – negative magnetoresistance

# Chiral Magnetic Effect Generates Quantum Current

Separating left- and right-handed particles in a semi-metallic material produces anomalously high conductivity

February 8, 2016

Nature Physics **12**, 550 (2016)



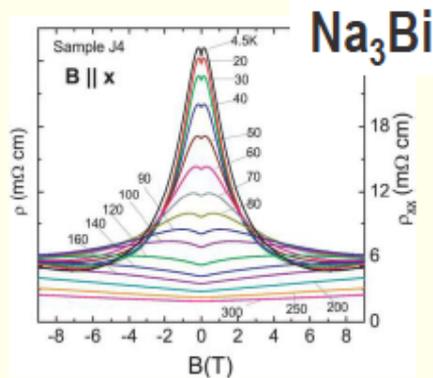
Qiang Li's Distinguished CQM lecture at Simons Center, Feb 19, 2016

on video:

[http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/video\\_portal/video.php?id=2458](http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/video_portal/video.php?id=2458)

# Chiral magnetic effect in Dirac/Weyl semimetals

## Dirac semimetals:



**Na<sub>3</sub>Bi**

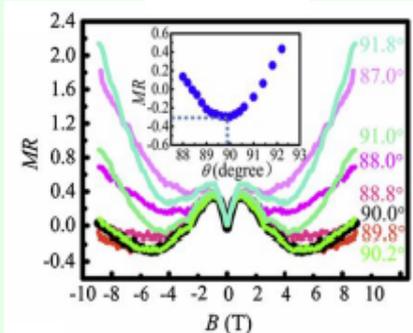
ZrTe<sub>5</sub> - Q. Li, D. Kharzeev, et al (BNL and Stony Brook Univ.)  
arXiv:[1412.6543](#); doi:10.1038/NPHYS3648

Na<sub>3</sub>Bi - J. Xiong, N. P. Ong et al (Princeton Univ.)  
arxiv:[1503.08179](#); Science 350:413,2015

Cd<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub> - C. Li et al (Peking Univ. China)  
arxiv:[1504.07398](#); Nature Commun. 6, 10137 (2015).

## Weyl semimetals

**TaAs**



TaAs - X. Huang et al (IOP, China)  
arxiv:[1503.01304](#); Phys. Rev. X 5, 031023

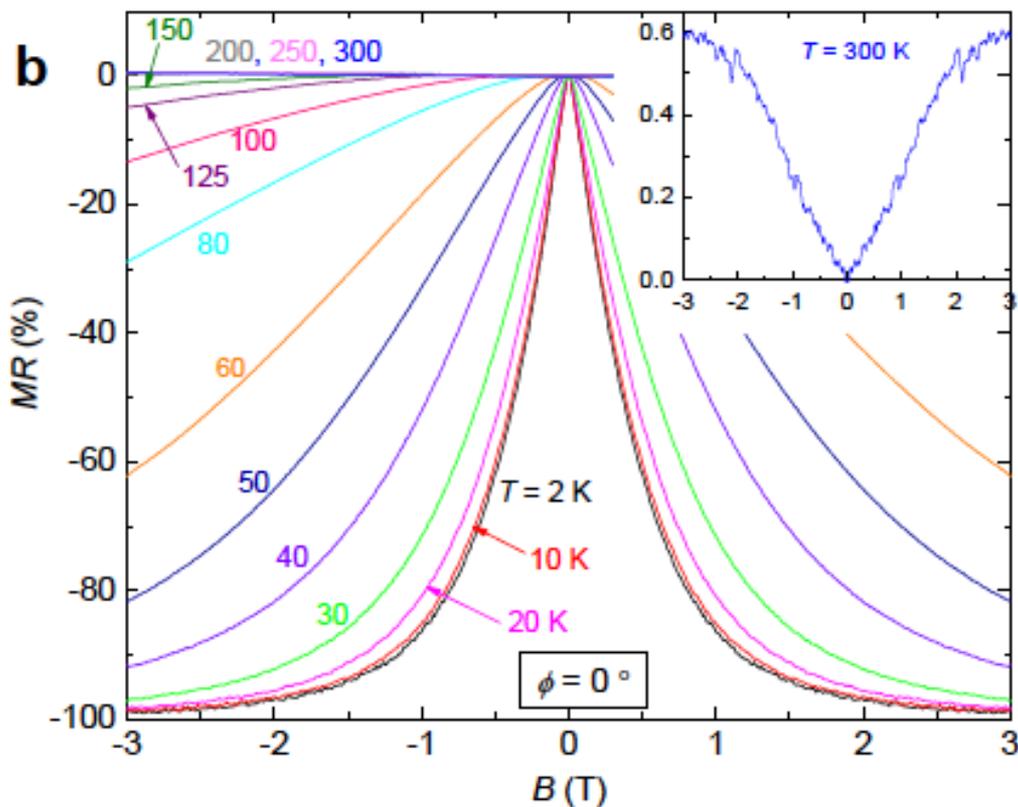
NbAs - X. Yang et al (Zhejiang Univ. China)  
arxiv:[1506.02283](#)

NbP - Z. Wang et al (Zhejiang Univ. China)  
arxiv:[1504.07398](#)

TaP - Shekhar, C. Felser, B. Yang et al (MPI-Dresden)  
arxiv:[1506.06577](#)

Bi<sub>1-x</sub>Sb<sub>x</sub> at  $x \approx 0.03$  - Kim, et al. "Dirac versus Weyl Fermions in Topological Insulators: Adler-Bell-Jackiw Anomaly in Transport Phenomena. Phys. Rev. Lett., 111, 246603 (2013).

# Negative MR in TaAs<sub>2</sub>



Y.Luo et al, 1601.05524;  
updated on June 8, 2016

**Ta:**  
Z=73,  
discovered  
in 1802  
in Uppsala,  
Sweden



Anders Gustaf Ekeberg  
(1767-1813)

"This metal I call *tantalum* ... partly in allusion to its incapacity, when immersed in acid, to absorb any and be saturated."



# CME as a new type of superconductivity

London theory of superconductors, '35:

$$\vec{J} = -\lambda^{-2} \vec{A} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$$



Fritz and Heinz London

$$\vec{E} = -\dot{\vec{A}}$$

$$\vec{E} = \lambda^2 \dot{\vec{J}}$$

assume that chirality  
is conserved:

$$\mu_5 \sim \vec{E} \vec{B} t$$

CME:

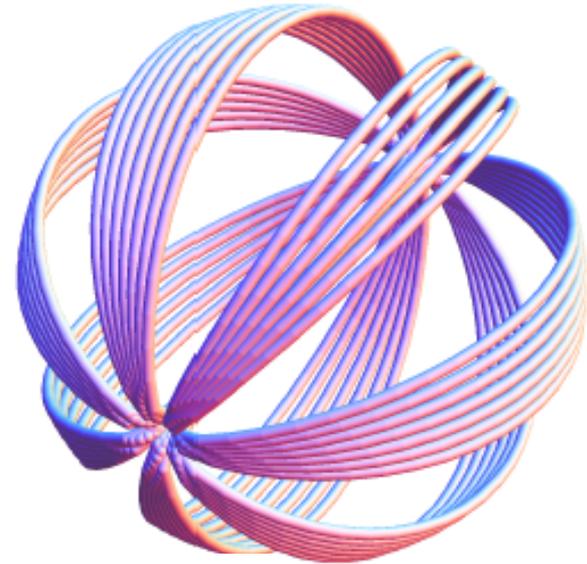
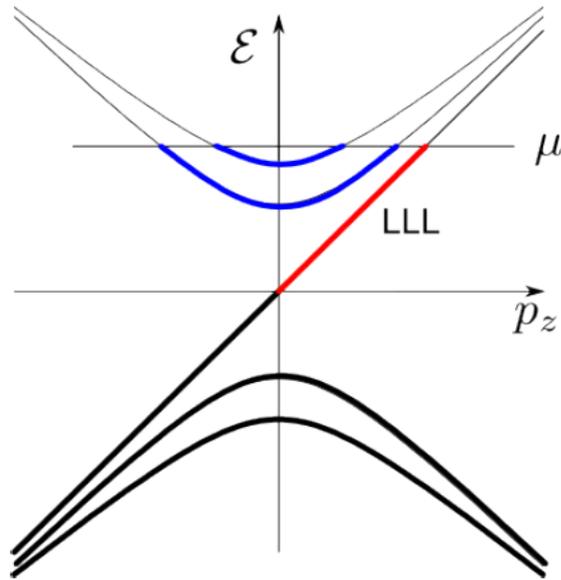
$$\vec{J} \sim \mu_5 \vec{B}$$

for  $\vec{E} \parallel \vec{B}$

$$\vec{E} \sim B^{-2} \dot{\vec{J}}$$

superconducting  
current, tunable  
by magnetic field!

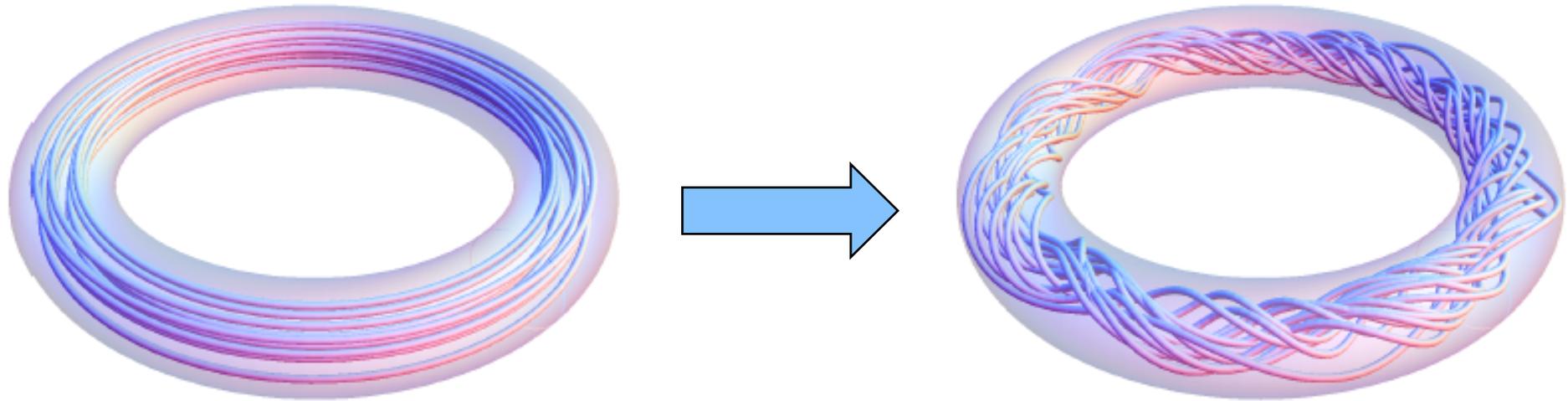
# Chirality transfer from fermions to magnetic helicity



$$h_m \equiv \int d^3x \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \quad \partial_\mu j_A^\mu = C_A \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

$$h_0 \equiv h_m + h_F = \text{const} \quad \int d^3x \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial h_m}{\partial t}$$

# Chirality transfer in axion electrodynamics



$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{j}$$

$$\mathbf{j}_{\text{CME}} = C_A \mu_A \mathbf{B} = \sigma_A \mathbf{B}$$



$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \sigma_A \mathbf{B}$$

# Chandrasekhar-Kendall states

Chandrasekhar-Kendall states minimize the energy at fixed helicity

$$h_m(\mathcal{K}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \phi_i^2 \mathcal{S}_i + 2 \sum_{i,j} \phi_i \phi_j \mathcal{L}_{ij}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \sigma_A \mathbf{B}$$

H.K. Moffatt, R. Ricca '92, ...

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{W}_{lm}^{\pm}(\mathbf{x}; k) = \pm k \mathbf{W}_{lm}^{\pm}(\mathbf{x}; k), \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{W}_{lm}^{\pm}(\mathbf{x}; k) = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{l,m} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dk}{\pi} k^2 [\alpha_{lm}^+(k, t) \mathbf{W}_{lm}^+(\mathbf{x}; k) + \alpha_{lm}^-(k, t) \mathbf{W}_{lm}^-(\mathbf{x}; k)]$$

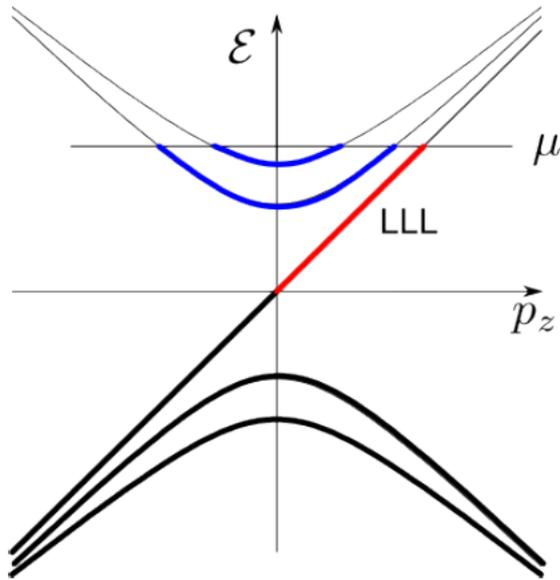
$$h_m(t) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dk}{\pi} k g(k, t), \quad g(k, t) \equiv g_+(k, t) - g_-(k, t)$$

Magnetic helicity spectrum:

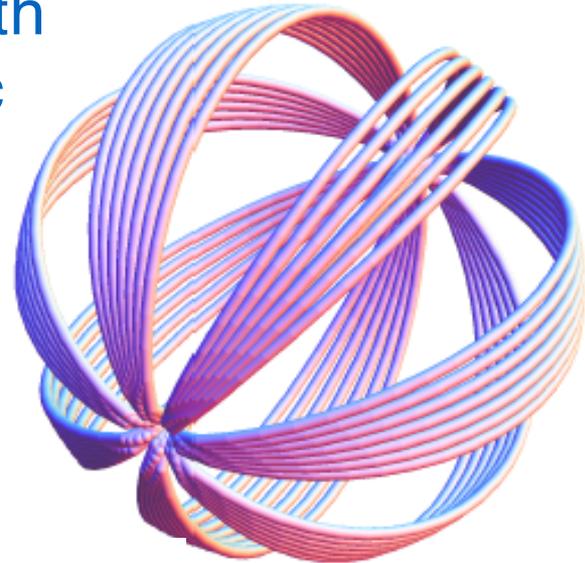
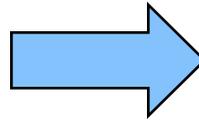
$$g_{\pm}(k, t) \equiv \sum_{l,m} |\alpha_{lm}^{\pm}(k, t)|^2$$

CK states in the QGP:  
M. Chernodub,  
arXiv:1002.1473

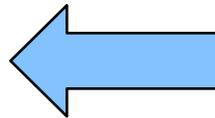
# Self-similar inverse cascade



Instability at  $k < C_A \mu_A$  leads to the growth of magnetic helicity

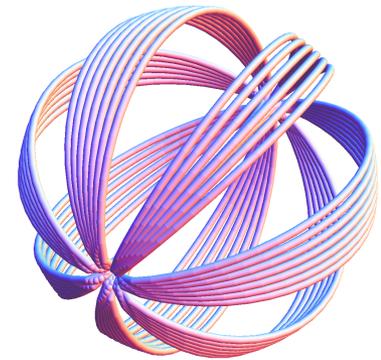
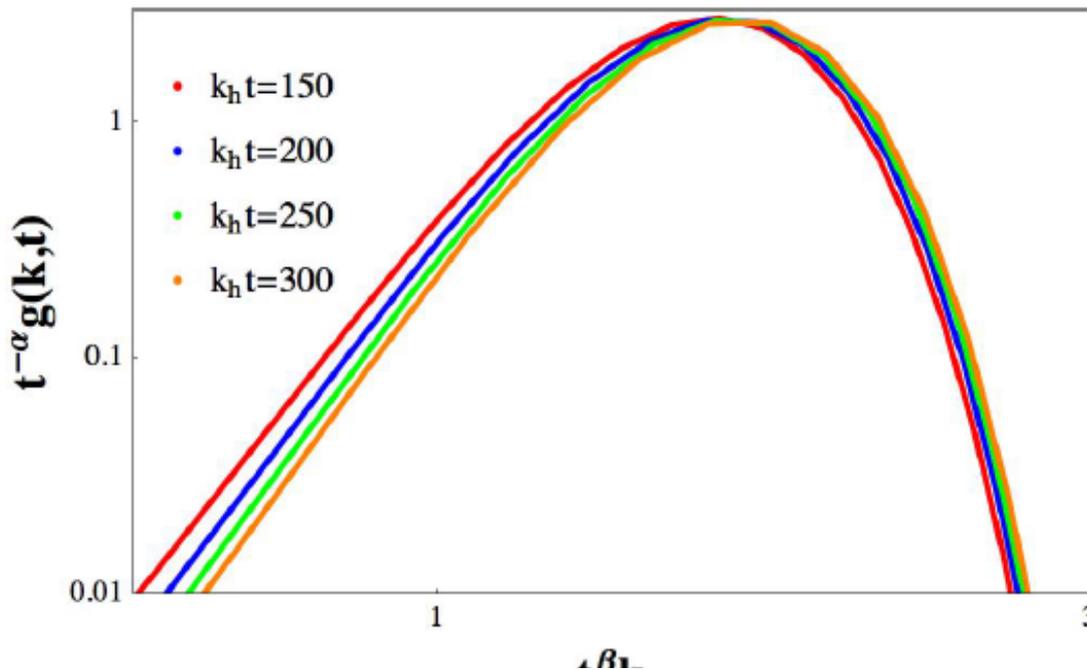


Increase of magnetic helicity reduces  $\mu_A$



Inverse cascade itself was noted earlier, see refs in  
Y. Hirono, DK, Y. Yin, Phys.Rev.D92 (2015) 125031,<sub>27</sub>

# Self-similar cascade of magnetic helicity driven by CME



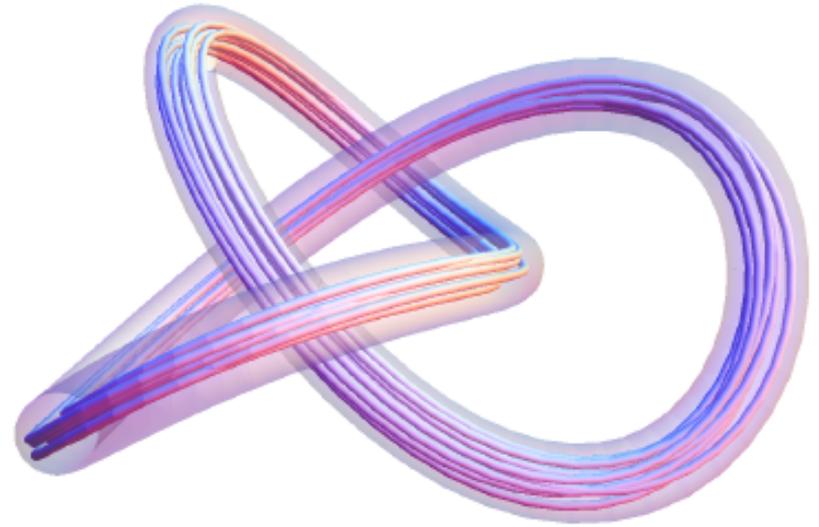
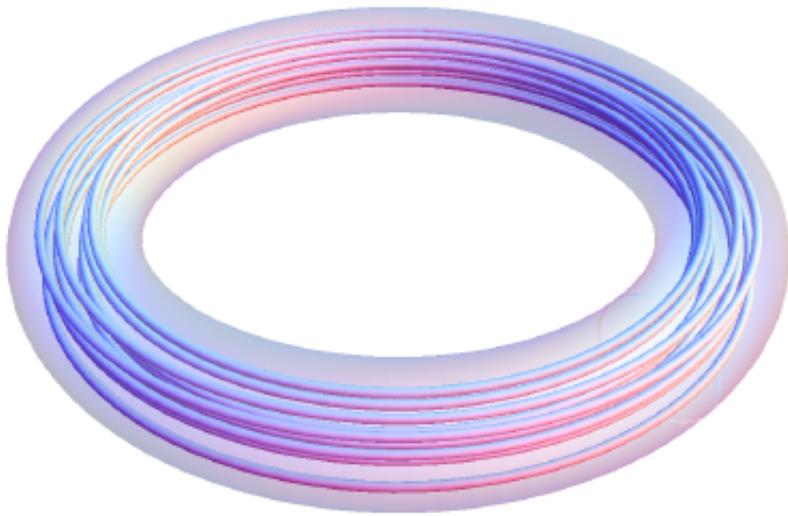
Hopfion states  
e.g. L.Faddeev, A.Niemi,  
PRL 85(2010)3416  
transform into CK ones

$$g(k, t) \sim t^\alpha \tilde{g}(t^\beta k) \quad \alpha = 1, \quad \beta = 1/2$$

Y. Hirono, DK, Y. Yin, Phys.Rev.D92 (2015) 125031

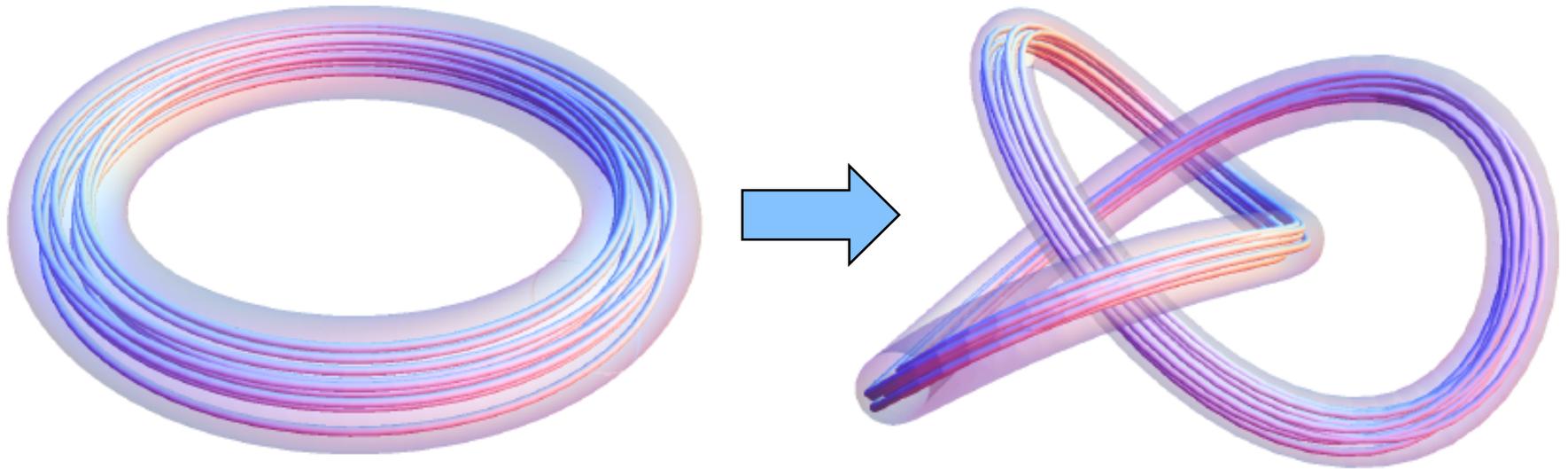
# Quantized CME from knot reconnections

Y. Hirono, DK, Y. Yin, to appear



Consider a tube (unknot) of magnetic flux, with chiral fermions localized on it.

To turn it into a (chiral) knot, we need a magnetic reconnection.  
**What happens to the fermions during the reconnection?**

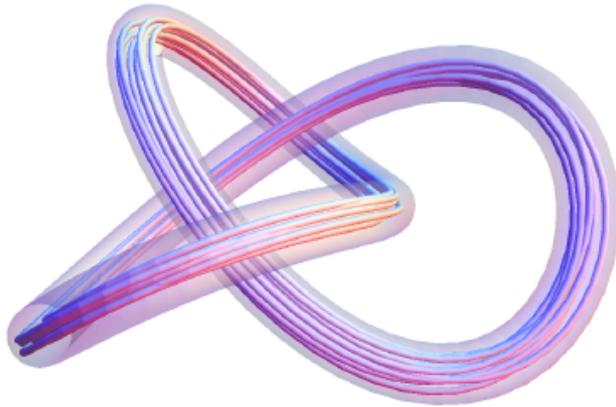


Changing magnetic flux through the area spanned by the tube will generate the electric field (Faraday's induction):

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Phi_B = - \oint_C \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$

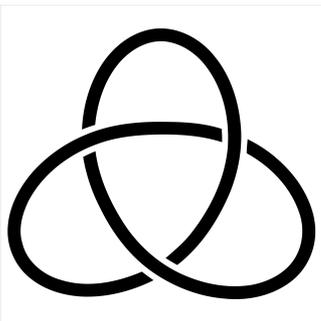
The electric field will generate electric current of fermions (chiral anomaly in 1+1 D):

$$\Delta J = \Delta J_R + \Delta J_L = \frac{q^3 \Phi^2}{2\pi^2 L}$$



Helicity change per magnetic reconnection is  $\Delta\mathcal{H} = 2\Phi^2$ .

Multiple magnetic reconnections leading to non-chiral knots do not induce net current (need to break left-right symmetry).



For  $N_+$  positive and  $N_-$  negative crossings on a planar knot diagram, the total magnetic helicity is:

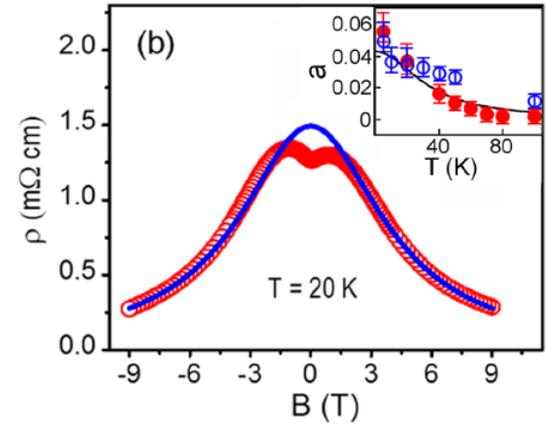
$$\mathcal{H} = 2(N_+ - N_-)\Phi^2$$

The total current induced by reconnections to a chiral knot:

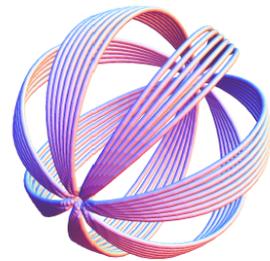
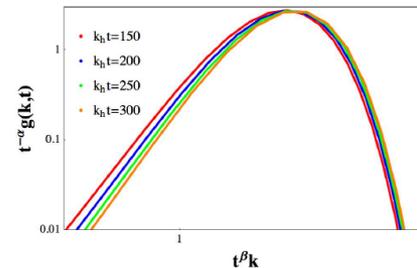
$$J = \frac{q^3\mathcal{H}}{4\pi^2 L}$$

# Summary-1

- Observation of CME in  $\text{ZrTe}_5$



- CME and axion electrodynamics: self-similar inverse cascade of magnetic helicity towards the Chandrasekhar-Kendall state



- Quantized CME from knot reconnections

$$J = \frac{q^3 \mathcal{H}}{4\pi^2 L}$$

# Summary-2

