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Thermal Hall Effect and Geometry with Torsion.

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We formulate a geometric framework that allows to study momentum and energy transport in non-relativistic systems. It amounts to coupling of the non-relativistic system to the Newton-Cartan geometry with *torsion*. The approach generalizes the classic Luttinger's formulation of thermal transport. In particular, we clarify the geometric meaning of the fields conjugated to energy and energy current. These fields describe the geometric background with non-vanishing temporal torsion. We use the developed formalism to construct the equilibrium partition function of a non-relativistic system coupled to the NC geometry in 2+1 dimensions and to derive various thermodynamic relations.

1. Introduction. In the seminal work of 1964 Luttinger developed a linear response theory for thermoelectric transport. [1] An essential part of his approach is the coupling of the many body system to an auxiliary external “gravitational potential” conjugated to the energy density. The evolution of the energy density is defined by the divergence of energy current, the latter is a fundamental object in the theory of thermal transport. In this paper we identify the appropriate sources of the momentum, energy, and energy current in *non-relativistic* systems. We use the developed general formalism to derive thermodynamic relations involving thermal Hall current in the presence of external fields.

In *relativistic* systems the energy density and the corresponding current are naturally combined into a stress-energy tensor $T^{\mu\nu}$ coupled to an external gravitational field described by the spacetime metric. The energy-momentum and charge conservation laws can be written as

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = F^{\nu\rho} J_\rho, \quad \partial_\mu J^\mu = 0, \quad (1)$$

where $T^{\mu\nu}$ is a stress-energy tensor defined as a response to the external metric $g_{\mu\nu}$. Here, we introduced an electric current J^μ and an external electromagnetic field $F_{\rho\sigma} = \partial_\rho A_\sigma - \partial_\sigma A_\rho$. Given a matter action S we can compute the energy-momentum tensor and the electric current as

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}}, \quad J^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta A_\mu}. \quad (2)$$

In the absence of the external sources the first equation in (1) encodes two conservation laws: conservation of momentum and conservation of energy

$$\dot{P}^j + \partial_i T^{ij} = 0, \quad \dot{\varepsilon} + \partial_i J_E^i = 0, \quad (3)$$

where we introduced momentum, energy and energy current as $P^j \equiv T^{0j}$, $\varepsilon = T^{00}$ and $J_E^i = T^{i0}$. These notations will be very natural later on. In *relativistic* systems the stress-energy tensor $T^{\mu\nu}$ (being defined as response

to the external space-time metric) is symmetric. This implies equality of momentum and energy current $P^i = J_E^i$.

In *non-relativistic systems* this equality no longer holds. For example, for a single massive non-relativistic particle with mass m moving with velocity v^i we have $P^i = mv^i$ and $J_E^i = \frac{mv^2}{2} v^i$.

The first result of this Letter is the identification of the appropriate sources for the momentum, energy and energy current. We introduce a non-relativistic analogue of (2). This is achieved by replacing the space-time metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ by a different geometric data known as Newton-Cartan (NC) geometry with *torsion*. We explain how to couple a given non-relativistic system to the NC geometry. Our analysis does *not* assume Galilean symmetry and is valid in systems without boost symmetry. The NC geometry has appeared in the context of Quantum Hall effect [2], non-relativistic (Lifshitz) Holography [3] and fluid dynamics [4]. The relation between the thermal transport and geometry with (and without) torsion was also discussed in [5, 6]. The torsional responses in relativistic systems were discussed in [7–9].

While the coupling to NC geometry can be used in any non-relativistic field theory we are mainly motivated by applications to non-relativistic fluid dynamics. In fluid dynamics in addition to standard symmetry constraints of field theory there is an additional set of conditions that ensure that solutions of (3) are compatible with the (local) second law of thermodynamics [10]. Recently these constraints became a subject of active research in relativistic hydrodynamics [11, 12]. It turns out that some of these constraints can be obtained systematically demanding that solutions of equations (1) consistently describe thermal equilibrium in the presence of static external sources [11, 13]. Here we are interested in non-relativistic applications of these ideas.

The second result of this Letter is a construction of the generating functional of Euclidean static correlation functions consistent with local space-time and gauge symmetries. Consistency of these static correlation functions with stationary solutions of non-relativistic

hydrodynamics provide constraints on the latter. We note here that equilibrium analysis should be valid for rather general, not necessarily Galilean invariant systems. Throughout the letter we assume that we are in 2+1 dimensions, but most of the analysis is valid in any dimension with obvious modifications.

2. *Coupling to Newton-Cartan geometry.* Conservation laws (3) follow from the space and time translation symmetries. In what follows we will introduce external fields that naturally couple to momentum, energy and energy current by making these symmetries local.

Before going to general formulations we consider an example of free fermions. The action is given by

$$S = \int dt d^2x \left(i\Psi^\dagger \partial_0 \Psi - \frac{1}{2m} (\partial_A \Psi)^\dagger (\partial_A \Psi) \right). \quad (4)$$

In order to make this action coordinate independent, *i.e.* gauge the time and space translations we introduce frame fields (or vielbeins) E_a^μ and their inverse e_μ^a [14] and replace the derivatives in (4) as follows

$$\partial_A \rightarrow E_A^\mu \partial_\mu, \quad \partial_0 \rightarrow E_0^\mu \partial_\mu. \quad (5)$$

The second replacement can be understood as a material derivative so that the vielbein E_0^μ is the velocity field. Then the action (4) takes the form

$$S = \int dV \mathcal{L}, \quad \mathcal{L} = \left(\frac{i}{2} v^\mu (\Psi^\dagger \partial_\mu \Psi - \partial_\mu \Psi^\dagger \Psi) - \frac{h^{\mu\nu}}{2m} \partial_\mu \Psi^\dagger \partial_\nu \Psi \right). \quad (6)$$

Our conventions $a, b, \dots = 0, 1, 2$ and $\mu, \nu, \dots = 0, 1, 2$, also $A, B, \dots = 1, 2$ and $i, j, \dots = 1, 2$. General coordinate transformations act on the greek indices and local frame transformations act on the latin a, b, \dots indices.

We have defined a *degenerate* “metric” $h^{\mu\nu} = \delta^{AB} E_A^\mu E_B^\nu$, 1-form $n_\mu = e_\mu^0$ and a vector $v^\mu = E_0^\mu$. Notice, that the spatial part of the metric h^{ij} is a (inverse) metric on a fixed time slice, it is symmetric and invertible. The introduced objects are not independent, but obey the relations

$$v^\mu n_\mu = 1, \quad h^{\mu\nu} n_\nu = 0. \quad (7)$$

These are precisely the conditions satisfied by the NC geometry data [2, 15][16]. Some detailed discussion of the first order (*i.e.* using the vielbeins) formulation of the NC geometry can be found in [17, 18].

The action (6) can be viewed as an action (4) written in an arbitrary coordinate system. The invariant volume element is $dV = e dt d^2x$ with $e = \sqrt{\det(e_\mu^a e_\nu^a)}$. Due to the spatial isotropy of (4) the vielbeins naturally combine into the degenerate metric $h^{\mu\nu}$. Similarly, the temporal components of vielbeins (denoted v^μ and n_μ) stand aside in (6) explicitly breaking the (local) Lorentz symmetry

down to $SO(2)$. If the physical system was anisotropic the replacement (5) would still make sense, but one would have to treat each vielbein as an independent object, *i.e.* not constrained by any local symmetries of the tangent space.

To couple a generic matter action to the NC geometry one has to proceed in the same way as for the example considered above. Namely, one should modify the derivatives according to (5). Then the objects v^μ , n_μ and $h^{\mu\nu}$ (NC data) will naturally arise (we assume spatial isotropy from now on). When the 1-form n_μ is not closed we define the Newton-Cartan *temporal torsion* 2-form as

$$\mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu n_\nu - \partial_\nu n_\mu. \quad (8)$$

In practice, it is convenient to use a particular parametrization of the NC background fields. Let us specify the spatial part h^{ij} of the degenerate metric and assume that $n_\mu = (n_0, n_i)$ and $v^\mu = (v^0, v^i)$ are also specified and satisfy the first relation in (7). Then we

find from other relations in (7) $h^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{n^2}{n_0^2} & -\frac{n^i}{n_0} \\ -\frac{n^i}{n_0} & h^{ij} \end{pmatrix}$, where we defined $n^i = h^{ij} n_j$, $n^2 = n_i n_j h^{ij}$. In this parametrization the invariant volume element is given by $dV = \sqrt{h} n_0 dt d^2x$, where we have denoted $\det(h^{ij}) = h^{-1}$.

The momentum, stress, energy and energy current are identified as responses to the NC geometry as follows

$$P_i = -v^0 \frac{\delta S}{\delta v^i}, \quad T_{ij} = -2 \frac{\delta S}{\delta h^{ij}}, \quad (9)$$

$$\varepsilon = - \left(n_0 \frac{\delta S}{\delta n_0} - v^0 \frac{\delta S}{\delta v^0} \right), \quad J_E^i = -n_0 \frac{\delta S}{\delta n_i}. \quad (10)$$

where we turn off the fields n_i and v_i after the variation is taken.

The introduced NC geometry is general and reduces to some cases considered in literature. For example, the choice $n_\mu = (1, 0, 0)$, $v = (1, v^i)$ corresponds to the *torsionless* NC background which turned out to be convenient in studying Galilean invariant actions [2, 19–22].

Another particular limit is given by $n_\mu = (e^\psi, 0, 0)$, $v^\nu = (e^{-\psi}, 0, 0)$. This is an example of the NC geometry with *temporal torsion*. The torsion is given by

$$\mathcal{T} = e^\psi (\partial_i \psi) dx^i \wedge dt. \quad (11)$$

In this case the only non-vanishing component of the torsion tensor is \mathcal{T}_{0i} . This NC geometry essentially appeared in the procedure introduced by Luttinger [1, 23]. The field ψ is precisely the “gravitational potential” introduced in [1]. The disadvantage of this choice of geometry is the absence of the field n_i that couples to the energy current.

In the following we consider a general case keeping all of the components of NC geometry turned on.

Before proceeding let us illustrate how one can derive expressions for conserved currents using the coupling to NC geometry.

Consider a system of free fermions. We have already introduced the NC fields into the action of free fermions in (6). Then the direct application of (10), using equations of motion, and turning off NC fields after the variations we obtain the familiar expressions for energy and energy current in flat space

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{1}{2m}(\partial_i \Psi)^\dagger (\partial_i \Psi), \quad (12)$$

$$J_i^E = \frac{i}{4m^2} (\partial^2 \Psi^\dagger \partial_i \Psi - \partial_i \Psi^\dagger \partial^2 \Psi). \quad (13)$$

3. Equilibrium. We construct the most general partition function, consistent with time independent, local space and time translations and gauge symmetries. The partition function can be written as a Euclidian functional integral

$$W = -\ln \text{tr} \exp \left\{ -\frac{H - \bar{\mu}N}{T} \right\} = -\ln \int D\Psi D\Psi^\dagger e^{-S_E}. \quad (14)$$

Here we introduced a Euclidean action [24]

$$S_E[\{\Psi, \Psi^\dagger\}; A_\mu, n_\mu, v^\mu, h^{ij}] = \int d^2x \sqrt{h} \oint_0^{1/\bar{T}} d\tau n_0 \mathcal{L}_E, \quad (15)$$

where $\{\Psi, \Psi^\dagger\}$ refers to a collection of matter fields. This action is coupled to the NC geometry as explained in the previous section. We have also coupled the theory to external e/m field described by the vector potential A_μ .

The time-independent field n_0 can be viewed as an inhomogeneous temperature $T(x)$ defined according to

$$\oint_0^{1/\bar{T}} d\tau n_0 \rightarrow \oint_0^{1/T(x)} d\tau', \quad \frac{1}{T(x)} = \frac{n_0}{\bar{T}}. \quad (16)$$

The NC geometry allows to introduce spatial variations in the size of the compact imaginary time direction.

Rescaling the Euclidean time $\tau \rightarrow \tau'/\bar{T}$ in (15) and correspondingly transforming the fields n_0, A_0, v^0 we find that the action depends on \bar{T} as follows

$$S_E = S_E \left[\Psi, \Psi^\dagger; \frac{A_0}{\bar{T}}, \frac{n_0}{\bar{T}}, v^0 \bar{T}, A_i, \frac{n_i}{n_0} \bar{T}, v^i, h^{ij} \right]. \quad (17)$$

In (local) equilibrium external fields do not depend on Euclidean time. The generating functional W depends on the temperature T and external sources. We also assume that W can be written as an integral of a local density so that

$$W = \int d^2x \sqrt{h} \frac{n_0}{\bar{T}} \mathcal{P} \left(\frac{A_0}{\bar{T}}, \frac{n_0}{\bar{T}}, v^0 \bar{T}, A_i, \frac{n_i}{n_0} \bar{T}, v^i, h^{ij} \right), \quad (18)$$

where we have already replaced the integral over Euclidean time by the overall factor $1/\bar{T}$. It is worth noting

that results derived from the Euclidean generating functional can be used to obtain the zero frequency correlation functions in real time upon a Wick rotation.

4. Local time shifts. We are mainly interested in the thermal transport, so from now on we set the external field $v^i = 0$ and parametrize $v^0 = \frac{1}{n_0} \equiv e^{-\psi}$ in order to satisfy (7). This field configuration is preserved by the time independent space and time translations.

The transformation law of the external field n_i under a local time shift $t \rightarrow t + \zeta(x)$ takes form

$$\delta(e^{-\psi} n_i) = -\partial_i \zeta, \quad (19)$$

i.e. the field $e^{-\psi} n_i$ transforms like a $U(1)$ gauge field under a local time shift. This field can be regarded as a connection on an S^1 bundle over the base manifold, where S^1 is the thermal circle. The field strength is related to the NC temporal torsion.

It is convenient to introduce $\mathcal{A}_i = A_i - A_0 e^{-\psi} n_i$. This field transform like a gauge field under electro-magnetic gauge transformations and it is *invariant* under local time shifts.

Invariance of the generating functional w.r.t. the transformation (19) implies a local conservation law of the *thermal current*

$$J_Q^i = -\frac{\bar{T}}{\sqrt{h}} \left(\frac{\delta W}{\delta e^{-\psi} n_i} + A_0 \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_i} \right) = J_E^i - A_0 J^i. \quad (20)$$

This current is conserved

$$\nabla_i J_Q^i = 0, \quad (21)$$

where $\nabla_i X^i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{h}} \partial_i (\sqrt{h} X^i)$ is the covariant divergence.

5. Generating functional in derivative expansion We present the partition function as an expansion in derivatives of the external NC and electromagnetic fields. We consider the following generating functional

$$W = \int d^2x \sqrt{h} \frac{1}{\bar{T}} \mathcal{P}(\mu, T, \mathcal{B}, B_E), \quad (22)$$

where we have defined the local chemical potential and temperature in terms of external fields.

$$\frac{1}{T(x)} = \frac{e^\psi}{\bar{T}}, \quad \mu(x) = e^{-\psi} A_0(x), \quad (23)$$

and defined gauge invariant (pseudo) scalars

$$\mathcal{B} = \epsilon^{ij} \partial_i \mathcal{A}_j, \quad B_E = \epsilon^{ij} \partial_i (e^{-\psi} n_j). \quad (24)$$

Writing (22) we assumed that both \mathcal{B} and B might be large, while their derivatives are small and can be neglected. We also assumed that gradients of both μ and T are small.

The generating functional (22) encodes various local thermodynamic quantities and relations. For example,

the energy (in flat space) can be found with the help of (10), appropriately modified for the presence of the gauge field

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon &= \bar{T} \frac{\delta W}{\delta e^\psi} + T A_0 \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_0} = \frac{\partial(\mathcal{P}/T)}{\partial(1/T)} - \mu \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \mu} \\ &= \mathcal{P} + sT + n\mu,\end{aligned}\quad (25)$$

where we made the identifications

$$n(x) = \bar{T} \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_0} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \mu} \quad (26)$$

and

$$s(x) = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial T}. \quad (27)$$

The relation (25) suggests that $\mathcal{P}(\mu, T, \mathcal{B}, B_E)$ is the density of the grand thermodynamic potential (in the presence of external fields) and that (25) is the local version of the known thermodynamic relation $\mathcal{P} = E - \bar{T}S - \bar{\mu}N$.

It is instructive to find the pressure in the presence of external fields, also known as *internal* pressure

$$P_{int} = \bar{T} \frac{\delta W}{\delta h^i_i} = P_{(0)} - M\mathcal{B} - M_E B_E, \quad (28)$$

where we have introduced the magnetization $M = e^\psi \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial \mathcal{B}}$, the energy magnetization $M_E = e^\psi \frac{\partial \mathcal{P}}{\partial B_E}$ and $P_{(0)}$ is the pressure at zero magnetic field.

The additional contribution to the pressure given by the second term in (28) comes from the Lorentz force acting on magnetization currents. The last term of (28) gives a similar contribution present in non-vanishing background field B_E .

6. Magnetization currents. While all transport currents vanish in thermal equilibrium, there are still electric and energy *magnetization* currents circulating in a material even at equilibrium. These currents cannot be measured in transport experiments [23]. However, e.g., the electric magnetization current can be in principle observed in spectroscopy experiments or by measuring the magnetic field created by moving charges. The energy current can (at least in principle) be observed by the frame drag [25] due to distortions in the gravitational field created by the flow of energy. In the presence of the inhomogeneous external fields magnetization currents can flow in the bulk of the material, otherwise they are concentrated on the boundary of the sample.

Knowing magnetization currents is important as this knowledge can be used to separate transport currents from the magnetization ones for systems driven out of equilibrium [23]. Also, for a particular case of the chemical potential lying in the excitation gap the magnetization currents are the only currents responsible for the Hall effect [26].

In the following we consider both electric and thermal magnetization currents. They are given, respectively, by

$$J^i = \bar{T} \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_i} = \epsilon^{ij} \partial_j M, \quad (29)$$

$$J_Q^i = \epsilon^{ij} \partial_j M_E. \quad (30)$$

The currents (29) and (30) are conserved in the presence of arbitrary temperature profile $T(x)$ set by (23) and coincide with the ones found in [23, 27, 28] at the level of linear response.

We note here that usually the energy magnetization M_E is *defined* by the Eq. (30) while the NC "magnetic field" B_E (usually denoted as B_g and referred to as gravimagnetic field) is defined as a quantity thermodynamically conjugated to M_E . In this work we clarified how one can systematically introduce external fields n_i in *non-relativistic* system and couple the system to B_E (24). Previous approaches explicitly used the presence of Lorentz symmetry [25, 28] and cannot be applied in majority of condensed matter systems.

7. Streda formulas. It is possible to express the Hall conductivity and other parity odd responses purely in terms of derivatives of thermodynamic quantities. We define electric and thermal conductivities as

$$J^i = \epsilon^{ij} (\sigma_H \partial_j \mu + \sigma_H^T \partial_j T), \quad (31)$$

$$J_E^i = \epsilon^{ij} (\kappa_H^\mu \partial_j \mu + \kappa_H \partial_j T). \quad (32)$$

Comparing with (29-30) we obtain using the Maxwell's relations [29]

$$\sigma_H = \left(\frac{\partial M}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, \mathcal{B}, B_E} = \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial \mathcal{B}} \right)_{T, \mu, B_E}, \quad (33)$$

$$\sigma_H^T = \left(\frac{\partial M}{\partial T} \right)_{\mu, \mathcal{B}, B_E} = \left(\frac{\partial s}{\partial \mathcal{B}} \right)_{T, \mu, B_E}, \quad (34)$$

$$\kappa_H^\mu = \left(\frac{\partial M_E}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, \mathcal{B}, B_E} = \left(\frac{\partial n}{\partial B_E} \right)_{T, \mu, \mathcal{B}}, \quad (35)$$

$$\kappa_H = \left(\frac{\partial M_E}{\partial T} \right)_{\mu, \mathcal{B}, B_E} = \left(\frac{\partial s}{\partial B_E} \right)_{T, \mu, \mathcal{B}}. \quad (36)$$

These are thermodynamic Streda-type formulas [30, 31] for the response coefficients.

8. Galilean and Lorentz symmetries. So far we assumed that the (un-perturbed) system under consideration is gauge invariant, spatially isotropic and homogeneous, and time translation invariant. In this general case there are no additional relations between electric current, momentum and energy current. Several new relations appear if additional symmetries are present. For simplicity, we assume below that the underlying microscopic system consists of charged particles of a single species or several species with the same e/m (electric charge to mass) ratio.

If the system is *Galilean* invariant the electric current is proportional to the momentum $J^i = \frac{e}{m} P^i$, therefore, the magnetization density is proportional to the density

of the angular momentum $M = \frac{e}{m} L_z$. Then from (33) we have

$$\sigma_H = \frac{e}{m} \left(\frac{\partial L_z}{\partial \mu} \right)_{T, \mathcal{B}, B_E}, \quad (37)$$

that is Hall conductivity can be expressed in terms of derivatives of the angular momentum.

If the system is *Lorentz* invariant then there is an additional equality between momentum and energy current as we pointed out in the introduction $J_E^i = P^i$ and, therefore, $M_E = L_z$. Therefore, we have another version of Streda formula for thermal Hall conductivity [28]

$$\kappa_H = \left(\frac{\partial L_z}{\partial T} \right)_{\mu, \mathcal{B}, B_E}. \quad (38)$$

In general case, when no additional symmetries are present the angular momentum is *not* related to either electric or thermal magnetization and the relations (37)-(38) do not hold.

9. Conclusions. To conclude, it is shown that coupling the physical system to the Newton-Cartan geometry introduces the appropriate sources for energy, momentum, and energy current. Variations of the action with respect to different components of the NC geometry give familiar expressions for energy, momentum, and energy current densities. It turns out that in order to introduce the temperature gradients one has to couple a physical system to the NC geometry with *temporal torsion*. We stress that the formalism does not assume either *Lorentz* or *Galilean* symmetry. Those symmetries can be imposed afterwards to restrict the responses of the physical system.

The developed formalism was used to construct a general local equilibrium partition function of a non-relativistic system. With the partition function at hand known thermodynamic relations have been obtained in the presence of external gauge and Newton-Cartan fields. It was found that upon linearization the found general expressions for electric and thermal magnetization currents agree with the linear response expressions known in literature.

The constructed formalism is expected to have many potential applications in condensed matter systems and hydrodynamics. For example, the general *geometric* effective action constructed in the presence of the torsional NC background will not be restricted by the the Lorentz symmetry and, therefore, is more natural in condensed matter context. The Galilean symmetry can be implemented by adding additional constraints on the action coupled to NC geometry. The generalization to systems with internal degrees of freedom such as spin may prove to be of interest in the context of spin Hall effect.

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During the preparation of this work we were made aware of complementary results [32]. After the work was completed we learned about the work [33] where the NC geometry with torsion was related to the energy transport in Galilean invariant systems.

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