Berry Phase and Model Wave Function in the Half-Filled Landau Level

Scott D. Geraedts, Jie Wang, E. H. Rezayi, and F. D. M. Haldane

Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 147202 — Published 3 October 2018

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.147202](https://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.147202)
Berry Phase and Model Wavefunction in the Half-filled Landau Level

Scott D. Geraedts\textsuperscript{1,2}, Jie Wang\textsuperscript{1}, E. H. Rezayi\textsuperscript{3} and F. D. M. Haldane\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton NJ 08544, USA
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton NJ 08544, USA
\textsuperscript{3}Department of Physics, California State University, Los Angeles, CA 90032, USA

We construct model wavefunctions for the half-filled Landau level parameterized by “composite fermion occupation-number configurations” in a two-dimensional momentum space, which correspond to a Fermi sea with particle-hole excitations. When these correspond to a weakly-excited Fermi sea, they have large overlap with wavefunctions obtained by exact diagonalization of lowest-Landau-level electrons interacting with a Coulomb interaction, allowing exact states to be identified with quasiparticle configurations. We then formulate a many-body version of the single-particle Berry phase for adiabatic transport of a single quasiparticle around a path in momentum space, and evaluate it using a sequence of exact eigenstates in which a single quasiparticle moves incrementally. In this formulation the standard free-particle construction in terms of the overlap between “periodic parts of successive Bloch wavefunctions” is reinterpreted as the matrix element of a “momentum boost” operator between the full Bloch states, which becomes the matrix elements of a Girvin-MacDonald-Platzman density operator in the many-body context. This allows computation of the Berry phase for transport of a single composite fermion around the Fermi surface. In addition to a phase contributed by the density operator, we find a phase of exactly \(\pi\) for this process.

Two-dimensional gases of charge-e electrons in high magnetic fields exhibit a wide variety of interesting physical properties. Perhaps most notable of these is the quantum Hall effect, which is a classic example of a topological phase. Another interesting phase occurs at even-denominator filling, the so-called “composite Fermi liquid” (CFL) \textsuperscript{1}. This compressible phase is traditionally thought of as a Fermi liquid of “composite fermions” \textsuperscript{2, 3}–bound states of electrons and even numbers of flux quanta, which experience no net magnetic field.

The composite Fermi liquid has been described theoretically in a number of complementary ways, such as through a model wavefunction \textsuperscript{4}, an effective field theory, called Halperin-Lee-Read (HLR) theory \textsuperscript{1} and through flux attachment \textsuperscript{2}. When projected into a single Landau level, the problem at half-filling \((\nu = 1/2)\) has a particle-hole symmetry which takes \(\nu \rightarrow 1 - \nu\). It is unclear how the various descriptions realize this particle-hole symmetry. At small sizes the model wavefunction has numerically been found to be very close to particle hole symmetric. It is difficult to see how the other descriptions behave under particle-hole symmetry because in order for this symmetry to exist we must project into a single Landau level, an analytically difficult procedure. Before this projection, the descriptions are clearly not particle-hole symmetric, an issue which has been discussed in a number of previous works \textsuperscript{5–9}.

Recently Son \textsuperscript{10} has proposed an alternative to the HLR theory which is particle-hole symmetric even before Landau level projection. In Son’s theory the composite fermions are neutral Dirac fermions. One consequence of this is that the composite fermions should acquire a Berry phase of \(\pi\) when moved around the Fermi surface. This \(\pi\) Berry phase has been indirectly confirmed numerically by observing an absence of \(\pi\)-backscattering in a density matrix renormalization group study \textsuperscript{11} but only for composite fermions that sit exactly on the Fermi surface. A direct measurement of the Berry phase for a wider variety of paths in momentum space is the main result of this work.

The Berry phase factor \(\exp(i\tilde{\Phi}_\Gamma)\) is the phase acquired when a quantum state is adiabatically evolved around a closed path \(\Gamma\) in parameter space, while remaining in the same Hilbert space. When a single-particle Bloch state is evolved around a path in momentum space, this must be modified, as Bloch states with different Bloch vectors \(k\) belong to different Hilbert subspaces, and cannot be compared. The usual approach is to factorize the Bloch wavefunction \(\Psi_k(x)\) into a periodic part \(u_k(x)\) times a Bloch factor \(\exp(ik \cdot x)\), and treat the periodic factor alone as the “wavefunction”. We can reinterpret the overlap \(\langle u_{k_1}|u_{k_2}\rangle\) as the matrix element \(\langle \psi_{k_1} | \rho | \psi_{k_2}\rangle\), where \(\rho(q)\) is the Fourier-transformed density operator \(\exp(iq \cdot r)\).

We generalize the momentum space Berry phase to a many-body system in the following way:

\[
e^{i\tilde{\Phi}_\Gamma} = \prod_{\text{path}} \langle \Psi(\{k_i^0\}) | \rho(q) | \Psi(\{k_i\}) \rangle,
\]

\[
\rho(q) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} e^{i q \cdot r_i}, \quad k_i' = k_i + q \delta_{i,N}.
\]

In the above equation we have assumed that \(\Psi\) can be expressed as a Slater determinant of \(N\) composite fermions, each with momentum \(k_i\). The “path” is a closed path in momentum space taken by \(k_N\), the momentum of the composite fermion which moves around the path, while the others are unchanged.

In this paper we calculate the Berry phase from Eq. (1) using exact diagonalization (ED) in the basis of “guiding
center states” left after projection into a single Landau level. This also means that the operators $\rho(q)$ becomes the non-commutative Girvin-MacDonald-Platzman [12] (GMP) operators. Two body interaction is particle-hole symmetric at $\nu = 1/2$ if it is restricted in a single Landau level; in this work we use pure Coulomb interaction projected into the lowest Landau level which was known to favor the CFL state [4]. To apply Eq. (1) we need to show that the states produced by ED can indeed be identified with the analogs of Slater determinants of composite fermions, and assign a configuration $\{k\}$ to each ED state in the sequence. We accomplish this by comparing the ED states to a model wavefunction [13–15].

**Comparison of the model wavefunction and exact eigenstates.** The model wavefunction often used for the composite Fermi liquid is a determinant of translation operators acting on a bosonic $\nu = 1/2$ Laughlin state. Because the operator-valued determinant must be expanded, such a wavefunction has computational complexity $N!$ for $N$ electrons. We instead consider a model CFL wavefunction on the torus [16], which was previously used in [17], with only $N^3$ complexity, inspired by a similar construction on the sphere [18].

The $N$-particle wavefunction can describe a $\nu = 1/m$ CFL, although here we take $m = 2$. It is parameterized by a set of $N$ distinct displacements $\{d_i\}$ which obey the quantization condition $Nd_i \in \{L\}$, where $L$ are periods of the torus; $p_i = e d_i \times B (B$ normal to the 2D plane) are the “occupied momentum states” of the CFL “Fermi sea”. A linear complex structure $z(x) = e \cdot x$ maps the Euclidean plane into the complex plane: $z_i = z(x_i)$, $d_i = z(d_i)$ and $\Lambda = \{z(L)\}$. (The choice of $e$ is a variational parameter that determines the shape of the correlation hole formed around the particles by “flux attachment”)

Then, with $A = 2\pi mN\ell^2$ as the area of the primitive cell of the torus,

$$\Psi(\{x_i\}) \propto F(\{z_i\}, \{d_i\}) \cdot \Psi_{\text{cm}}(Z) \cdot \prod_i e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2} |z_i|^2 / \ell^2}. \tag{3}$$

where

$$F(\{z_i\}, \{d_i\}) = \det_{ij} \psi_i(d_j) \prod_{i<j} \sigma^{m-2}(z_i - z_j),$$

$$\psi_i(d) = e^{2\pi N d^* z_i / \Lambda} \prod_{j \neq i} \sigma(z_i - z_j - d + \bar{d}).$$

$$\Psi_{\text{cm}}(Z) = \prod_{k=1}^m \sigma(Z - \alpha_k), \quad m \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha_k = \sum_{i=1}^N d_i. \tag{4}$$

Here $z_i = (x_i + i y_i)/\sqrt{2}, Z = \sum_i z_i$, and $\Lambda = \{L\} = \{L^* + i L'\} / \sqrt{2}$ is the lattice of periodic translations, mapped to the complex plane; $\sigma(z) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2} C_2(\Lambda) z^2) \sigma(z|\Lambda)$ is a “modified sigma function” [19], where $C_2(\Lambda)$ vanishes for square and hexagonal lattices, and $\sigma(z|\Lambda)$ is the standard Weierstrass sigma function. The parameter $\bar{d}$ is a free parameter that can conveniently be chosen as $N^{-1} \sum_i d_i$, but it is not a variational parameter: changing $\bar{d}$ turns out to just multiply the model wavefunction by a complex constant, changing the normalization, but not the physical properties. This mathematical property reflects an invariance under a uniform translation of the set of “occupied orbitals” in “momentum space”. The model state is a member of an $m$-fold topologically-degenerate multiplet on the torus, parameterized by the set $\{\alpha_k\}$, constrained by $\sum_k \alpha_k = \sum_i d_i$.

The determinant can be interpreted as attaching each electron to an area of reduced density. The object which results from this flux attachment is neutral and has a dipole moment $d$ which is a free parameter of the wavefunction. We interpret this object as a composite fermion, and by the commutation relations of a single Landau level, the dipole moment specifies the momentum of this composite fermion, $(d_x, d_y) = (k_y, -k_x)$. In order for the wavefunction to satisfy translational symmetry, both the $d_x$ and $d_y$ must take values $\mathbb{Z}/N \mathbb{Z}$.

The final term in Eq. (4) is what is left of the Vandermonde factor after two powers of $(z_i - z_j)$ were used to construct the determinant.

We now wish to compare this model wavefunction to numerically obtained eigenstates expressed in second-quantized form. To second-quantize the model wavefunction, consider that any many-body wave function $\Psi(\{z\})$ evaluated on a set of points $\{z\}$ can be written as:

$$\Psi(\{z\}) = \sum_{\{n\}} c(\{n\}) \phi(\{z\}, \{n\}). \tag{5}$$

where $\phi(\{z\}, \{n\})$ is a Slater determinant of single-particle basis states for a single Landau level. The coefficients $c(\{n\})$ are of course independent of $\{z\}$, so by evaluating $\Psi(\{z\})$ and $\phi(\{z\}, \{n\})$ for many different sets of $\{z\}$ we can compute $c(\{n\})$ using a linear solver. This method relies on the fact that the wavefunction $\Psi(\{z\})$ is already projected into a single Landau level, so that there are a finite number of single-particle basis states. Note that depending on the chosen sets of $\{z\}$, the matrix $\phi(\{z\}, \{n\})$ can be quite numerically unstable. Therefore we actually find it necessary to evaluate the wavefunction at a number of $\{z\}$ points larger than the Hilbert space dimension, and to compute $c(\{n\})$ as the solution to a least-squares problem.

Carrying out this procedure allows us to compare the model wavefunction to ED states. The results of this study are shown in Fig. (1), where we choose a number of different $\{d\}$ configurations, and compute their energy, overlap with ED states and energy variance (which is zero for eigenstates of the Hamiltonian, and nonzero otherwise).

Fig. (1) shows us that states where the $\{d\}$ configurations are clustered are very close to the exact eigenstates. As the $\{d\}$ become less clustered, these properties are reduced and also the energy increases. Our interpretation of these results is that the ground state and a few
low-lying excited states can be well approximated by a composite fermion picture, but other states cannot. Note that Eq. (4) is invariant under changing all the \{d\} by a fixed amount. This implies that the wavefunction is independent of the location of the center of the Fermi sea, it only depends on the shape of the Fermi sea.

One can try to use the model wavefunction to obtain multiple states for the same momentum \(K\), by changing the \{d\} configurations in a manner corresponding to exciting composite fermions out of the Fermi surface. However, we find that the different “composite fermion excitations” are not linearly independent. We can construct the model wavefunctions for all possible excitations which move composite fermion momenta by one lattice spacing in some direction, and compute the overlap matrix for the resulting states. We find that the rank of this matrix is always one less than the number of states. A possible physical explanation for this observation is that there is an extra gauge degree of freedom that gaps out a Fermi surface excitation mode. This observation is analogous to the reduced central charge observed in Ref. (11) and is due to the non-Fermi liquid character of the CFL.

**Particle-Hole Symmetry and Berry Phase.** Analytically evaluating the action of particle-hole symmetry on Eq. (4) can in principle be done following Ref. (21), but is in practice intractable. Once we have expressed the model wavefunction in the second-quantized basis, however, particle-hole symmetry is easy to implement since we just interchange the filled and empty states. For a model state with composite fermion dipole moments \{d\} , we find that the overlap between its \(\mathcal{PH}\) conjugate and the model state with dipole moments \{-d\} is close to one, i.e. particle-hole symmetry flips the momenta of the composite fermions. Therefore the combination of \(\mathcal{PH}\) and a rotation by \(\pi\) \((R_{\pi})\) leaves the total momentum unchanged, so we can compute the quantity,

\[
\langle \Psi | \mathcal{PH} R_{\pi} | \Psi \rangle,
\]

and expect that it is 1 for \(\mathcal{PH}\) symmetric states. In Fig. (1) we give the values for this quantity for various \{d\} configurations, for both exact and model states. We see that the model states in which the composite fermions are clustered to form a Fermi sea are indeed nearly particle-hole symmetric.

We now measure the Berry phase. For a given ED state, we use the overlap with the model wavefunction to determine whether that state can be well-described in terms of composite fermions, and also which composite fermions are filled for that state. We prepare a sequence states which consist of a filled “Fermi surface” plus or minus one composite fermion. We can compute Eq. (1) for a sequence of states where this “extra” composite fermion moves around some closed path.

One subtlety when computing the Berry phase around the center of the Fermi sea is that the center of the Fermi sea is not gauge invariant: we can translate all the composite fermions by one lattice spacing without changing any physics. Therefore the notion of transporting a composite fermion “around the center of the Fermi sea” is only well-defined when a compact Fermi sea is present. Furthermore in order for a path around the Fermi surface to be defined we also have to exclude non-trivial paths around the torus. Therefore in what follows we must restrict ourself to the case where a composite Fermi sea exists, and the composite fermion we are moving is not too far from this Fermi sea (so that it cannot wind around the torus). The results of the previous section show that such states are the only states which are well described by a composite fermion picture.

Another issue when computing the “many-body Berry-like phase” defined in Eq. (1) is that we expect that the phase should behave smoothly in the thermodynamic limit as the individual steps in the path become infinitesimal and the the path in momentum space becomes smooth and continuous. However we did observe an additional geometric phase factor associated with the the projected GMP density operator \(\rho(q)\) in each segment of the path. Fortunately we can use the symmetries of the problem to determine what this phase is, and we summarize these results in Fig. (2). First consider the combination of particle hole and inversion symmetry discussed in Eq. (6). This symmetry takes \(\rho(q) \rightarrow -\rho(q)\) and \(i \rightarrow -i\). A simple overlap behaves like \(\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle \rightarrow \langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle^*\) under this symmetry, while the matrix element in Eq. (1) behaves like \(\langle \Psi_1 | \rho | \Psi_2 \rangle \rightarrow -\langle \Psi_1 | \rho | \Psi_2 \rangle^*\). From this we deduce that the extra phase contributed by the \(\rho(q)\) is purely imaginary.

Empirically, we observed that the expression for the phase factor defined by Eq. (1) appears to be

\[
e^{i\Phi_T} = (i)^{N_+} (-i)^{N_-} e^{i\Phi_T}.
\]

where \(N_+\) are the number of discrete steps around the Fermi surface that are in the positive (anticlockwise) sense and \(N_-\) is the number in the negative (clockwise) sense, and \(e^{i\Phi_T}\) is the “true” Berry phase factor which is
\((-1)^W\) if the path stays close to the Fermi surface with winding number \(W\).

Another constraint on the phase associated with \(\rho(q)\) can be found from an anti-unitary reflection symmetry about the \((e.g.)\ x\)-axis, which takes \(i \rightarrow -i\) and \(k_x \rightarrow -k_x\). Such a symmetry exists for a torus with square or hexagonal boundary conditions, and it also exists in the thermodynamic limit. For a given composite fermion momentum \(k\), we can define an angle \(\theta_k\) relative to the center of the Fermi sea. Such a definition requires that a compact Fermi sea exists, but we have seen in the previous section that this is true for composite Fermi liquid states. Given a composite fermion momentum \(k_i\) and a momentum change \(q\), we can then define \(d\theta_q = \theta_{k+q} - \theta_k\). The reflection symmetry takes \(d\theta_q \rightarrow -d\theta_q\). It takes \(\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle \rightarrow \langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle^*\) and (since we already established that \(\rho(q)\) contributes a purely imaginary phase) \(\langle \Psi_1 | ρ(d\theta_q) | \Psi_2 \rangle \rightarrow -⟨ \Psi_1 | ρ(-d\theta_q) | \Psi_2 \rangle^*\).

From this we know that the phase contributed by the \(\rho(d\theta_q)\) changes sign when the sign of \(d\theta_q\) changes sign.

Putting reflection and particle-hole symmetry together gives precisely the relation in Eq. (7). Note that for odd \(N_{\text{steps}}\) one can change the sign of the Berry phase by going around the path \(\Gamma\) in the opposite direction, to avoid dealing with this ambiguity we restrict to paths with even \(N_{\text{steps}}\). Also note that steps with \(d\theta_q = 0\) (perpendicular to the Fermi surface, see Fig. 2) are forbidden by the reflection symmetry.

The results of measuring the Berry phase can be seen in Fig. (3), where we show the \(\Phi_Γ\) extracted from Eq. (1) for a variety of system sizes, and paths taken by the composite fermion. In addition to computing these phases using exact wavefunction obtained from diagonalization of the Hamiltonian \(\Phi_{\text{exact}}\), we can compute them purely from the model wavefunction \(\Phi_{\text{model}}\), providing another way of estimating how close to exact the model wavefunction is. By comparing Figs. (3)(a-c) we observe the sign structure predicted from the above symmetry analysis. Using Eq. (7) we find that the true Berry phase \(\Phi_Γ = \pi\) for paths encircling the center of the Fermi surface. Note also that our Berry phase is always 0 or \(\pi\), there is no component related to the area enclosed by the path, consistent with the composite fermions seeing no external field.

In Fig. (4) we perform the same analysis, this time with \(N = 13\). This system size is too large to second quantize the model wavefunction, and therefore we only compute \(\Phi_{\text{exact}}\) from the Hamiltonian. In our paper Ref. (20), we describe an improved Monte Carlo procedure which enables us to compute the Berry phase \(\Phi_{\text{model}}\) of a model wavefunction for \(N\) up to 70. This supports the conclusions drawn in this work by allowing us to generate data like in Figs. (3) and (4) but for much larger sizes.

**Conclusion.** In this work we have used a model wavefunction for the half-filled Landau level to argue that the ground states obtained in exact diagonalization can be expressed as Slater determinants of non-interacting composite fermion states. We have shown that this description only holds when the composite fermion momenta are clustered into a Fermi surface-like configuration. These states are also particle-hole symmetric. We then computed the Berry phase upon taking a composite fermion
around the Fermi surface. We show that this Berry phase is $\pi$ when the path taken by the composite fermion encloses the Fermi surface, and zero otherwise. Emergent particle-hole symmetries have also been proposed at $\nu = 1$ for bosons [8, 22, 23]. In the Supplemental Material [24], we also tested how close to exact for other candidate model wavefunctions.

Our results are consistent with the theory of Son [10], in which the Berry phase arises from the Dirac nature of the composite fermions. However the composite fermions discussed in our work are single-component objects, and the relation to a two-component composite Dirac fermion is unclear. While the model wavefunction with a compact Fermi surface is unexpectedly close to being particle-hole symmetric, if a quasi-hole is moved inside the Fermi surface, this breaks down: the particle-hole conjugate states have less and less overlap and become orthogonal as the quasi-hole approaches the center of Fermi surface. By forming orthogonal linear combinations of particle-hole conjugate states, the Dirac cone is possible to be found.

We recently become aware of Ref. (15) by M. Fremling et al. where the authors performed similar analysis of CFL’s energy, particle-hole symmetry and overlap property [13], by a different lowest Landau level projection method. To compute the Berry phase, M. Fremling et al. moved two composite fermions at opposite sides of the Fermi disc for $N$ steps and found a phase of $e^{i\pi \cdot (N-1)}$, which is consistent with the rule in Eq. (7) and described in Ref. (13, 14, and 20) by taking $N_+ = 2N$, $N_- = 0$, $\Phi = \pi$.

We acknowledge financial support from Department of Energy BES Grant DE-SC0002140.