

# The Relativistic World of Graphene

Gordon W. Semenoff

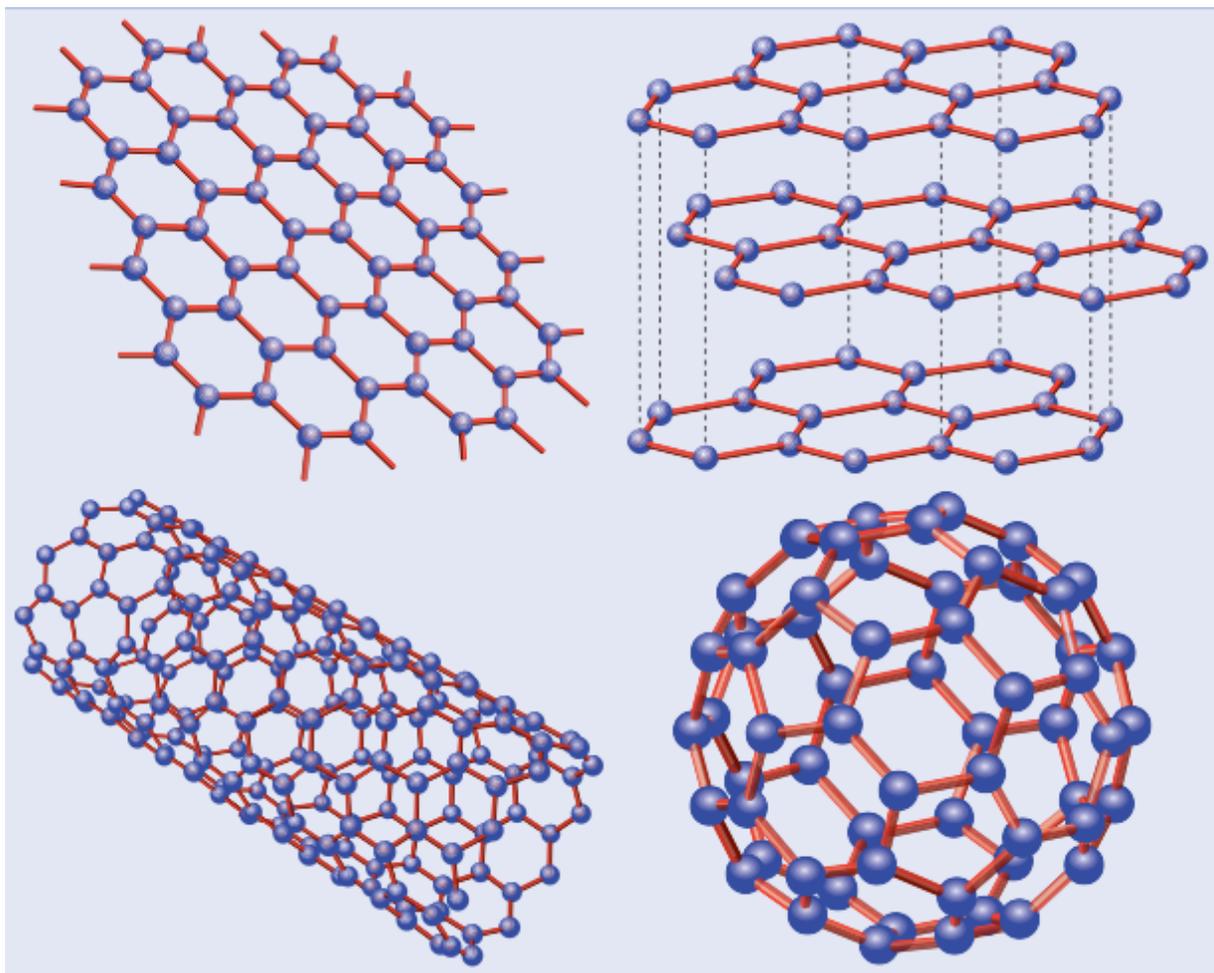
University of British Columbia

Strong and Electroweak Matter

Lausanne, Switzerland

July 18, 2014

Graphene is a 2-dimensional array of carbon atoms with a hexagonal lattice structure



# Graphene was produced and identified in the laboratory in 2004

- Micromechanical cleavage of bulk graphite up to 100 micrometer in size via adhesive tapes !

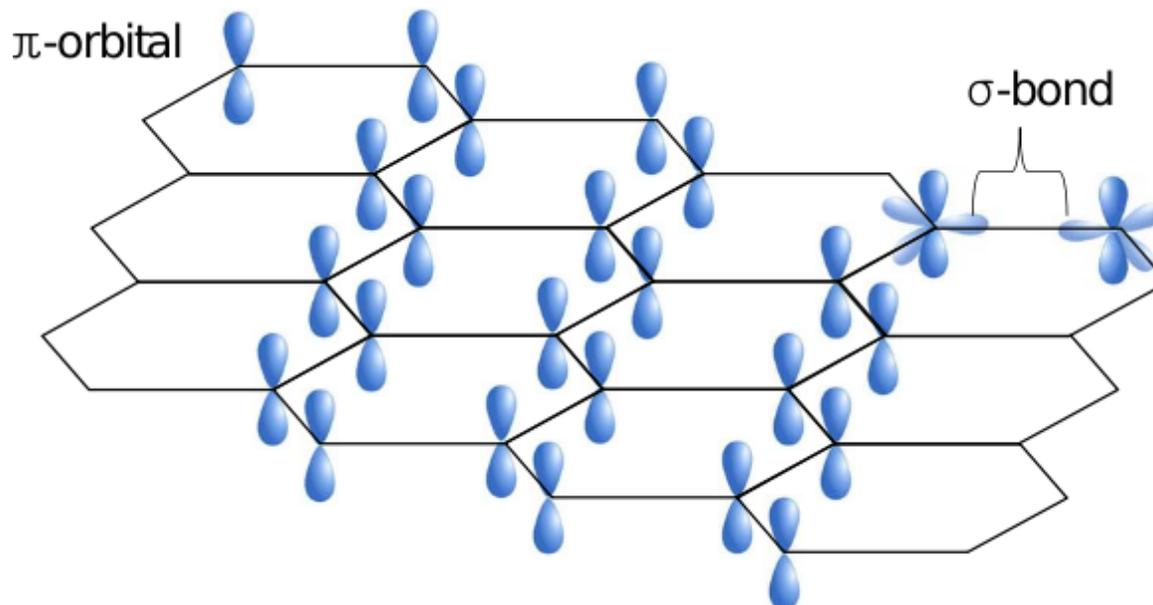
Novoselov et al, Science **306**, 666 (2004)



Kostya  
Novoselov

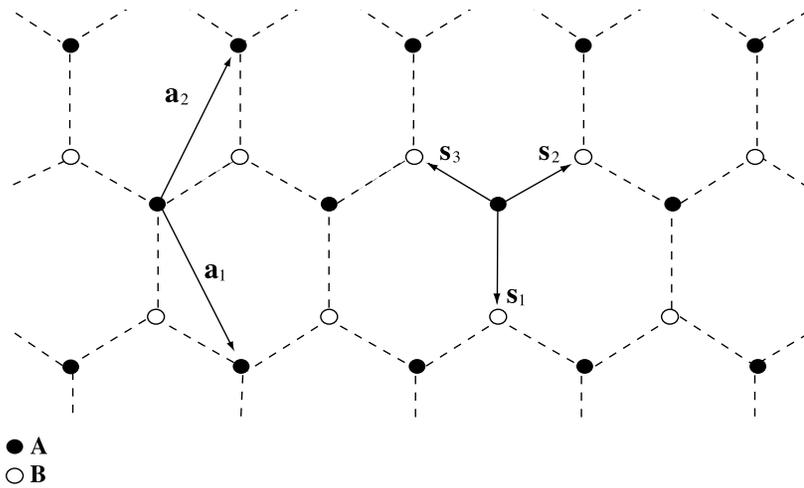


Andre Geim



A carbon atom has four valence electrons. Three of these electrons form strong covalent  $\sigma$ -bonds with neighboring atoms. The fourth,  $\pi$ -orbital is un-paired.

## Tight-binding model



hexagonal lattice = two triangular sub-lattices  $\vec{A}$  and  $\vec{B}$  connected by vectors  $\vec{s}_1, \vec{s}_2, \vec{s}_3$ .

$$H = \sum_{\vec{A}, i} \left( t b_{\vec{A}+\vec{s}_i}^\dagger a_{\vec{A}} + t^* a_{\vec{A}}^\dagger b_{\vec{A}+\vec{s}_i} \right) , \quad t \sim 2.7\text{eV} \quad |\vec{s}_i| \sim 1.4\text{\AA}$$

**P. R. Wallace**, *Phys. Rev.* 71, 622 (1947)

**J. C. Slonczewski and P. R. Weiss**, *Phys. Rev.* 109, 272 (1958).

**G. W. S.**, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 53, 2449 (1984)

## Tight-binding model

$$H = \sum_{\vec{A}, i} \left( t b_{\vec{A}+\vec{s}_i}^\dagger a_{\vec{A}} + t^* a_{\vec{A}}^\dagger b_{\vec{A}+\vec{s}_i} \right)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{da_{\vec{A}}}{dt} = t \sum_i b_{\vec{A}+\vec{s}_i} \quad , \quad i\hbar \frac{db_{\vec{B}}}{dt} = t^* \sum_i a_{\vec{B}-\vec{s}_i}$$

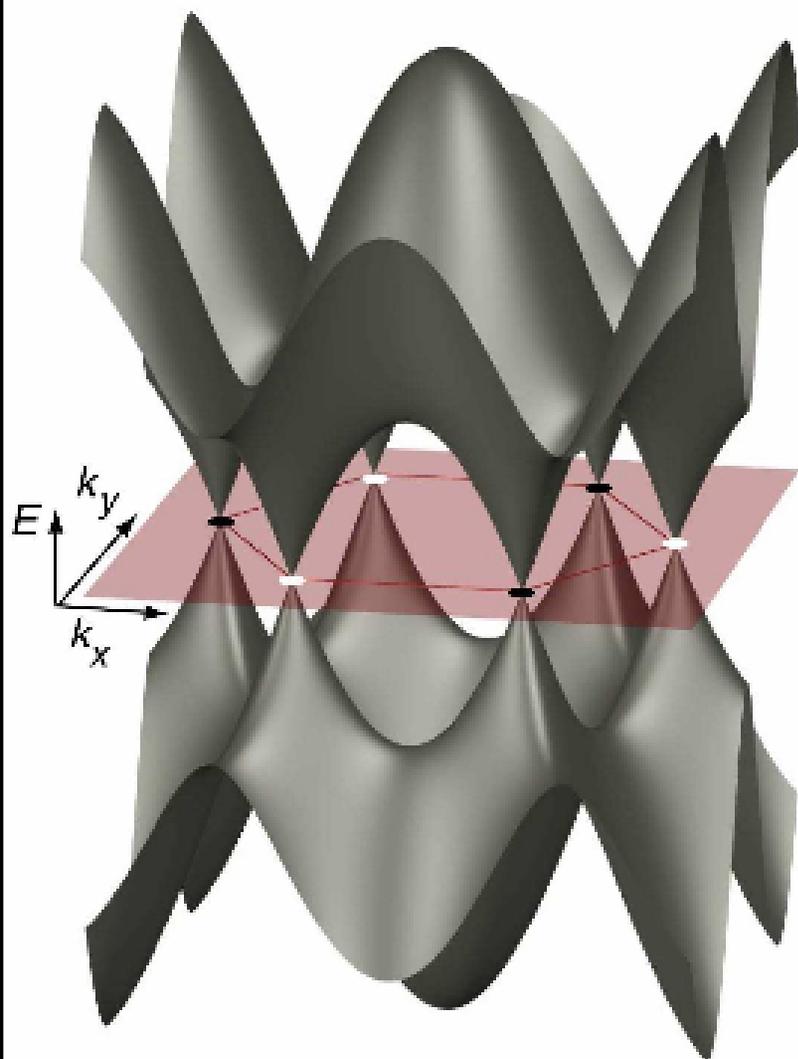
$$a_{\vec{A}} = e^{i\frac{E}{\hbar}t + i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{A}} a_0 \quad , \quad b_{\vec{B}} = e^{-i\frac{E}{\hbar}t + i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{B}} b_0$$

$$E \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & t \sum_i e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{s}_i} \\ t^* \sum_i e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{s}_i} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ b_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

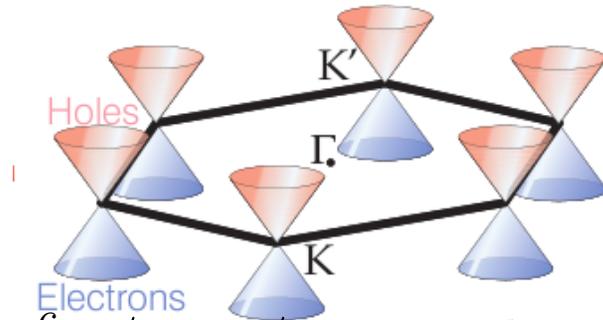
Two energy bands:

$$E(k) = \pm |t| \sqrt{\left(1 + 2 \cos\left(\frac{3k_y}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}k_x}{2}\right)\right)^2 + \sin^2\left(\frac{3k_y}{2}\right)}$$

# Band structure of graphene



## Linearize spectrum near degeneracy points



$$E(k) = \hbar v_F |\vec{k}|$$

$v_F \sim 10^6 \text{ m/s} \sim c/300$ , good up to  $\sim 1 \text{ eV}$

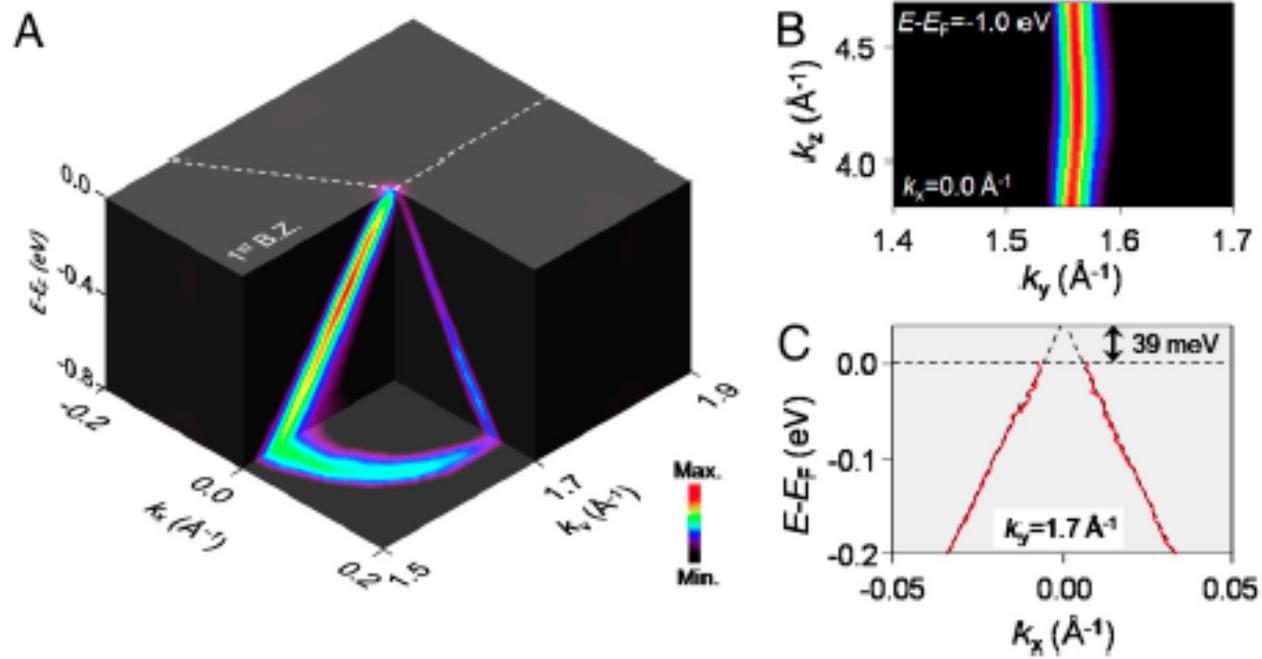
2 valleys  $\times$  2 spin states = 4 2-component spinors  $\psi$

$$H\psi = \hbar v_F \begin{bmatrix} 0 & k_x - ik_y & 0 & 0 \\ k_x + ik_y & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & k_x - ik_y \\ 0 & 0 & k_x + ik_y & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_A(k - K) \\ \psi_B(k - K) \\ \psi_B(k - K') \\ \psi_A(k - K') \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S = \int d^3x \sum_{\sigma=1}^4 \bar{\psi}^\sigma i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi^\sigma + \text{interactions}$$

# Electron dispersion relation with ARPES

D.A. Siegel et. al. PNAS,1100242108



## The Dirac equation in condensed matter

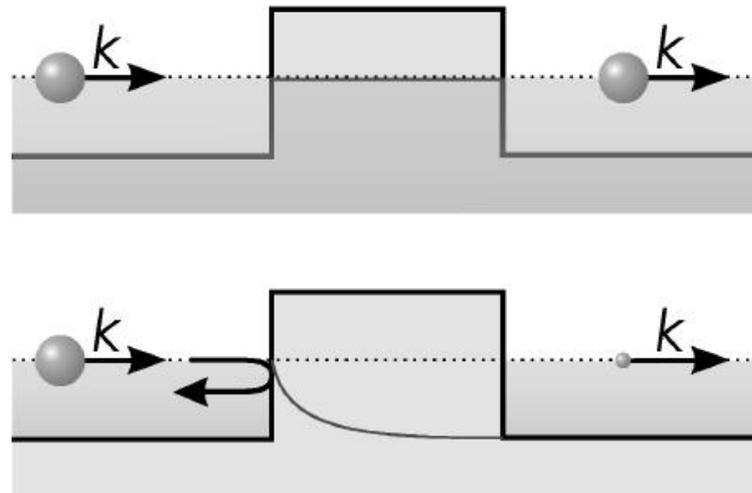
- unusual electronic properties:  
redo semiconductor physics with  
Schrödinger  $\rightarrow$  Dirac
- electronics using graphene
- nanotechnology using graphene
- explore issues in relativistic quantum mechanics which are otherwise inaccessible to experiment  
Zitterbewegung  
Klein effect  
supercritical atoms
- explore dynamical issues in graphene as an analog of those in quantum field theory, e.g. symmetry breaking, phase transitions, quantum critical behavior

## Klein Effect

O. Klein, *Z. Phys.* 33, 157 (1929)

M. Katsnelson, K. S. Novoselov and A. Geim, *Nature Physics* 2, 620 (2006)

Unsuppressed tunneling through a potential barrier

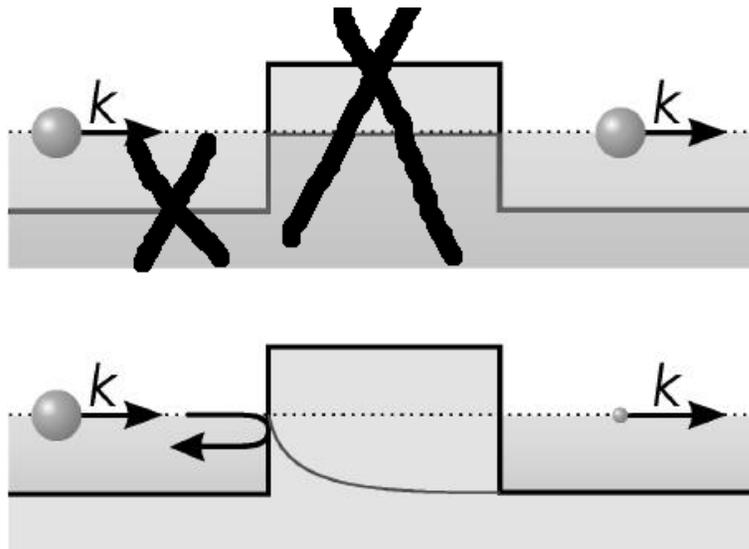


## Klein Effect

O. Klein, *Z. Phys.* 33, 157 (1929)

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Unsuppressed tunneling through a potential barrier



(attempts to observe in QED in collisions of large  $Z$  nuclei)

## Graphene with Coulomb interaction $V(r) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi r}$

$$S = \int dt dx dy \sum_{k=1}^4 \bar{\psi}_k \left[ \gamma^t (i\partial_t - A_t) + v_F \vec{\gamma} \cdot (i\vec{\nabla} - \vec{A}) \right] \psi_k$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4e^2} \int dt dx dy dz \left[ \frac{1}{c} F_{0i} F_{0i} - c F_{ij} F_{ij} \right]$$

- Scale invariant but the Kinetic terms have different speeds of light. ( $v_F \sim c/300$ ).
- The graphene fine structure constant is larger than one,

$$\alpha_{\text{graphene}} = \frac{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\lambda}}{\hbar v_F / \lambda} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \frac{c}{v_F} \approx \frac{300}{137}$$

- radiative corrections  $v_F(\omega) = v_F \left( 1 + \pi \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} \ln \frac{\Lambda}{\omega} + \dots \right)$

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$$+ \frac{1}{4e^2} \int dt d^2x \left[ F_{0i} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2\nabla^2}} F_{0i} - F_{ij} \frac{c^2}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2\nabla^2}} F_{ij} \right]$$

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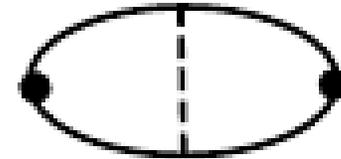
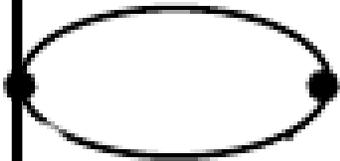
$$\alpha_{\text{graphene}} = \frac{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\lambda}}{\hbar v_F / \lambda} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \frac{c}{v_F} \approx \frac{300}{137}$$

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## AC Conductivity of Neutral Graphene $\omega \gg k_B T$

Two-loop correction

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \left[ 1 + \frac{11 - 3\pi}{6} \cdot 4\pi \cdot \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} + \dots \right]$$



**V. Juricic et.al. Phys. Rev. B 82, 235402 (2010)**

Experiments  $\sigma(\omega) \simeq \frac{e^2}{4\hbar}$ ,  $\omega$ -independent

**R. Nair et.al., Science 320, 1308 2008.**

## Large N approximation

$$S = \int dt d^2x \sum_{k=1}^N \bar{\psi}_k \left[ \gamma^t (i\partial_t - A_t) + v_F \vec{\gamma} \cdot (i\vec{\nabla} - \vec{A}) \right] \psi_k$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4e^2} \int dt d^2x \left[ F_{0i} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2 \nabla^2}} F_{0i} - F_{ij} \frac{c^2}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2 \nabla^2}} F_{ij} \right]$$

In this large N limit, we integrate out fermions to get effective action

$$S = \frac{N}{32} \int dt d^2x \left[ F_{0i} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - v_F^2 \nabla^2}} F_{0i} - v_F^2 F_{ij} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - v_F^2 \nabla^2}} F_{ij} \right] + \dots$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4e^2} \int dt d^2x \left[ F_{0i} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2 \nabla^2}} F_{0i} - F_{ij} \frac{c^2}{2\sqrt{\partial_t^2 - c^2 \nabla^2}} F_{ij} \right]$$

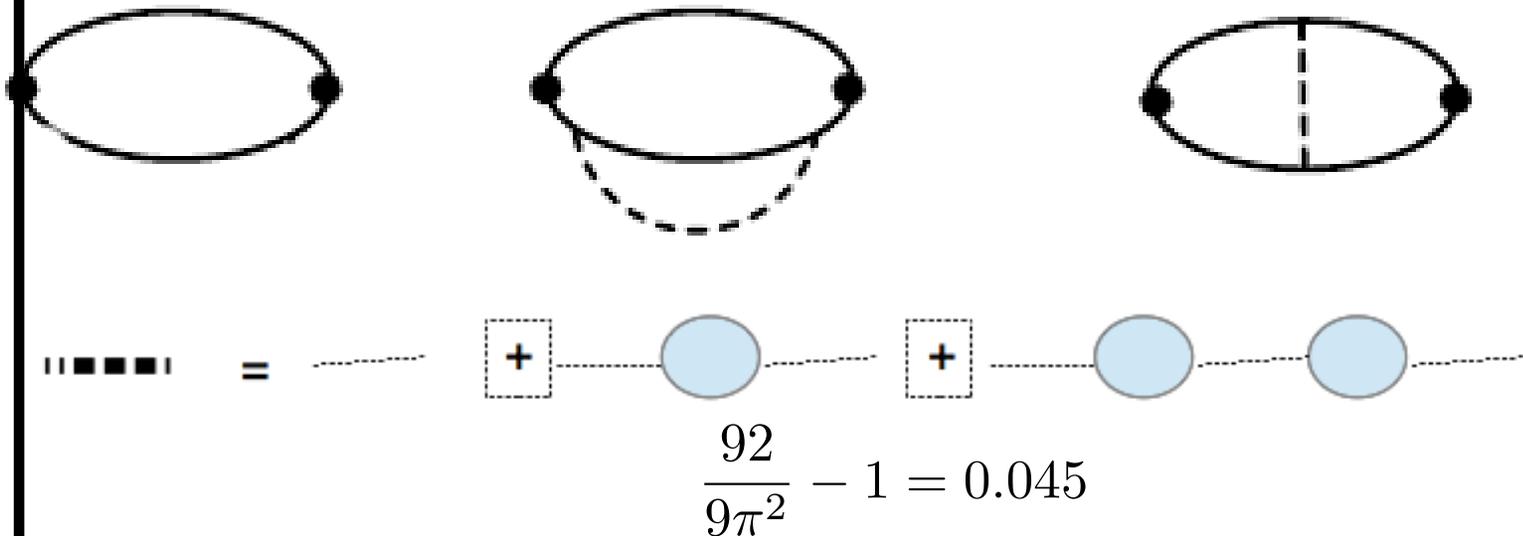
# AC Conductivity of Neutral Graphene

Perturbation theory in coupling constant:

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \left[ 1 + \frac{11 - 3\pi}{6} \cdot 4\pi \cdot \frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar v_F} + \dots \right]$$

Large N approximation:

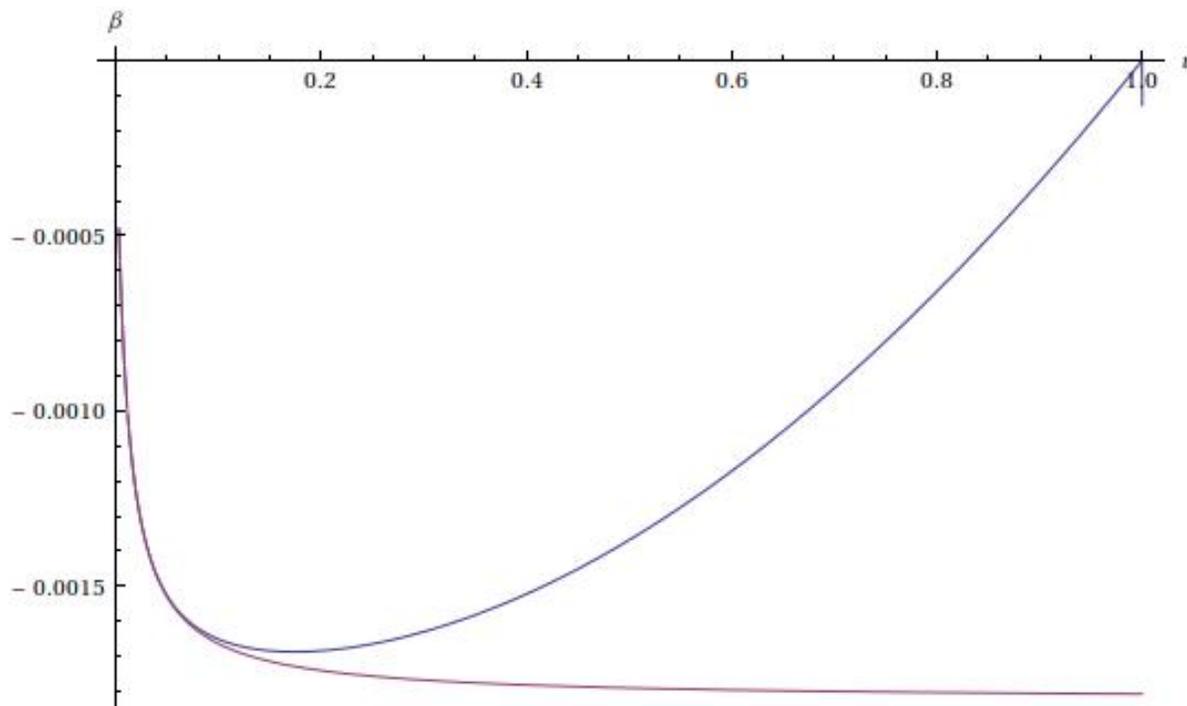
$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \frac{N}{4} \left[ 1 + \frac{4}{N} \left( \frac{92}{9\pi^2} - 1 \right) + \dots \right]$$



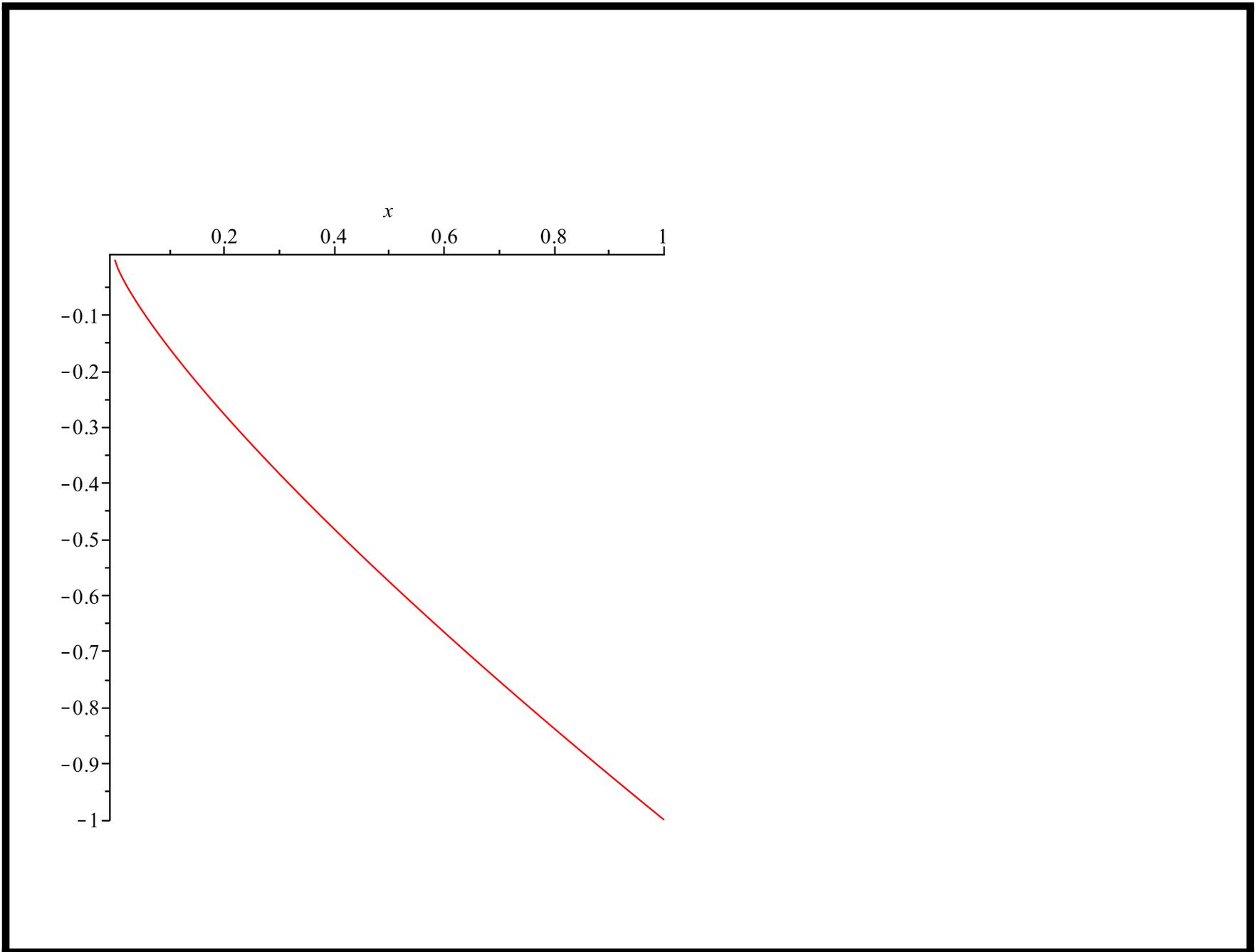
## Beta function at Large N

D.T.Son cond-mat/0701501

$$\beta = \Lambda \frac{d}{d\Lambda} v_F$$



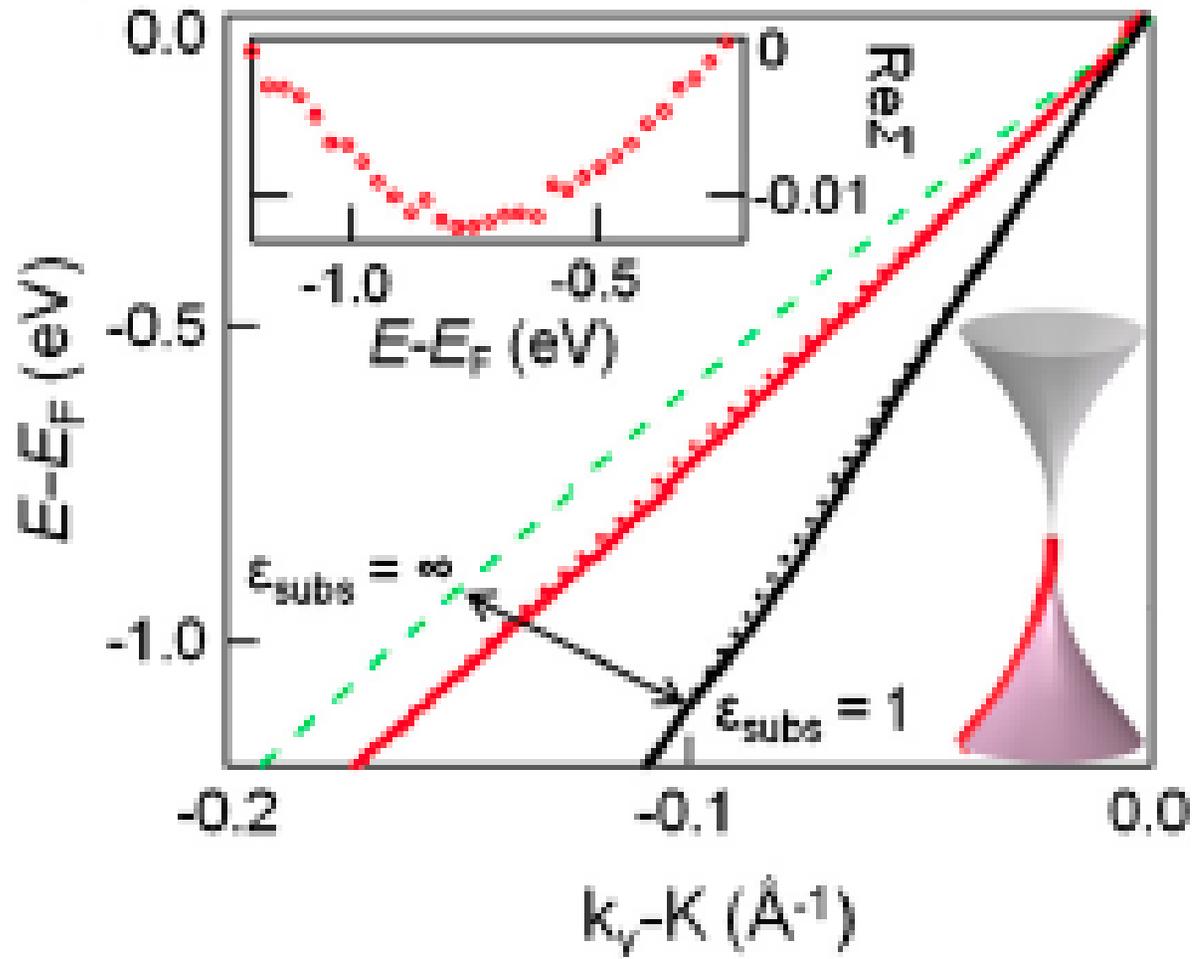
$$v_F \approx \left( \frac{p}{\Lambda} \right)^{-\frac{8}{\pi^2 N}}$$



SEWM, Lausanne, Switzerland, July 18, 2014

# Does $v_F$ really run?

D.A. Siegel et. al. PNAS,1100242108



## Does $v_F$ really run?

**“Dirac cones reshaped by interaction effects in suspended graphene”**

D.C.Elias, R.V.Gorbachev, A.S.Mayorov, S.V.Morozov,  
A.A.Zhukov, P.Blake, L.A.Ponomarenko, I.V.Grigorieva,  
K.S.Novoselov, F.Guinea, A.K.Geim

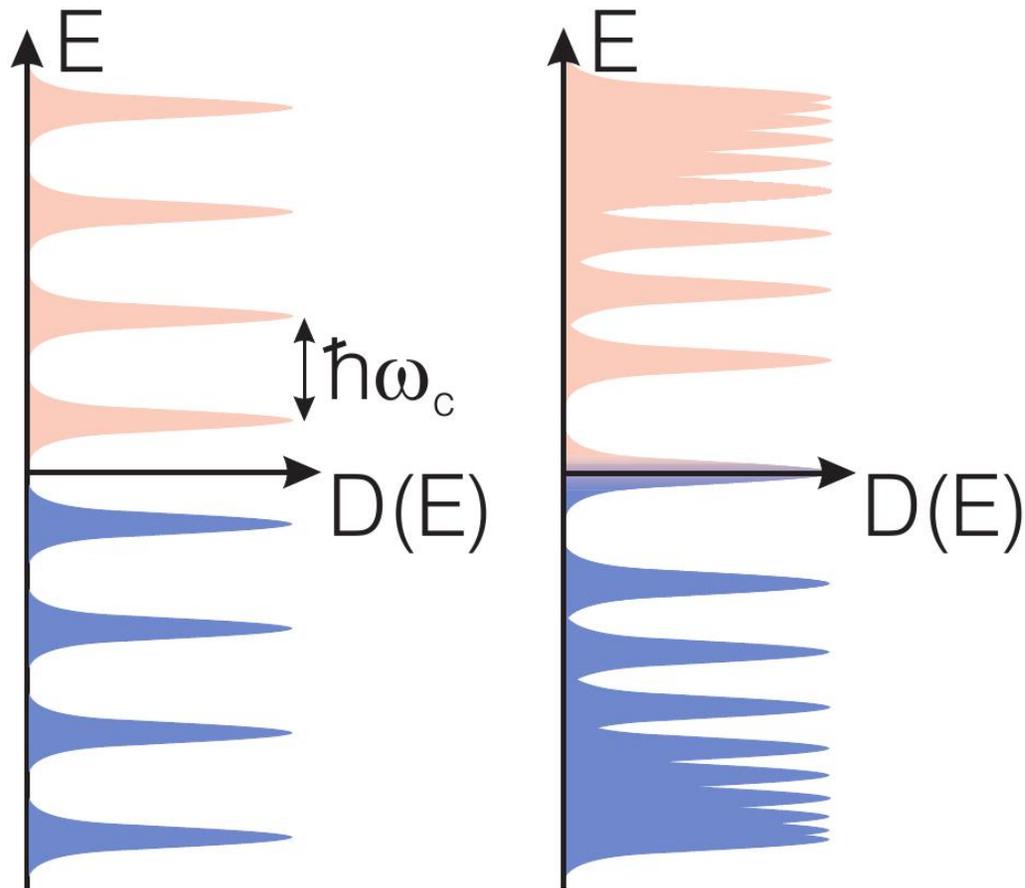
Nature Physics 7, 701704 (2011) doi:10.1038/nphys2049

Received 01 April 2011 Accepted 17 June 2011 Published online 24  
July 2011 Corrected online 21 December 2011 Corrigendum  
(February, 2012)

**“Renormalization of the Graphene Dispersion Velocity  
Determined from Scanning Tunneling Spectroscopy”,**

J.Chae, S.Jung, A.F.Young, C.R.Dean, L.Wang, Y.Gao,  
K.Watanabe, T.Taniguchi, J.Hone, K.L.Shepard, P.Kim,  
N.B.Zhitenev, J.A.Stroscio Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 116802 (2012).

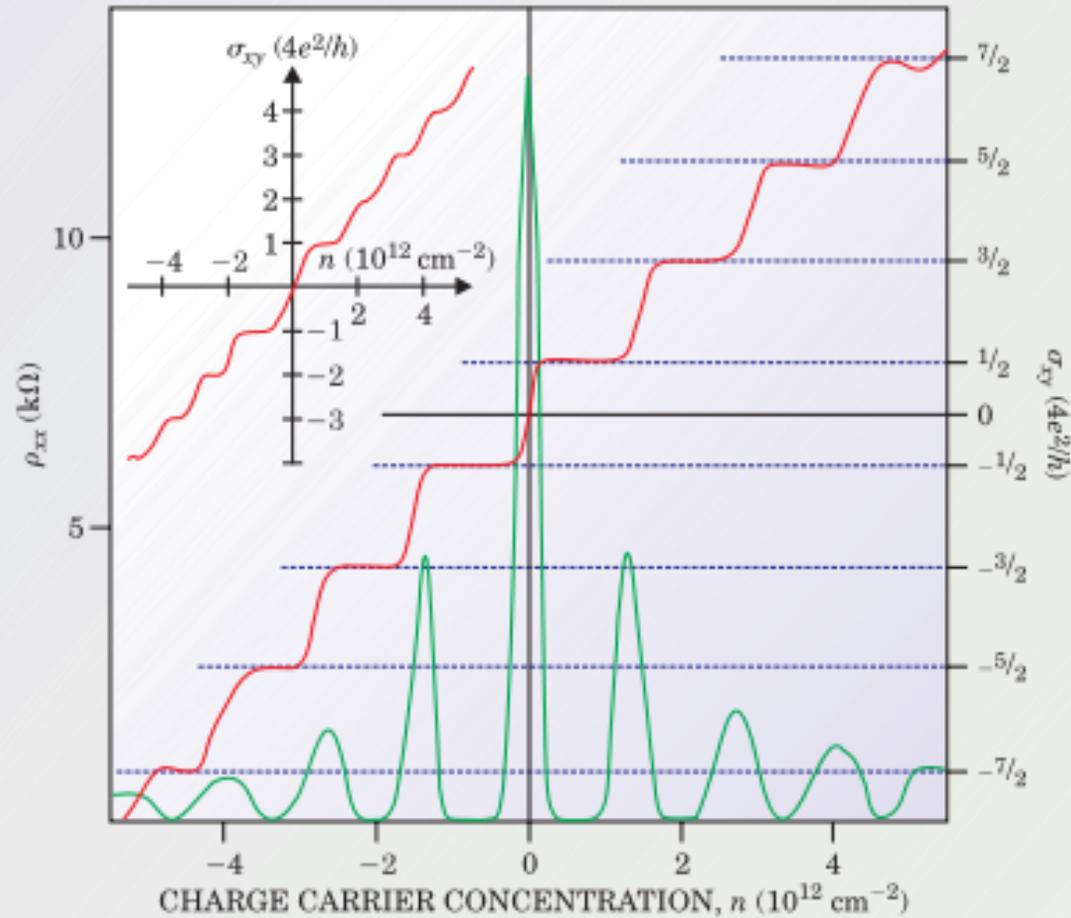
## Graphene Landau Levels



Relativistic  $E = \pm \hbar v_F \sqrt{|B|n}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  degeneracy =  $4 \cdot \frac{e|B|}{2\pi}$

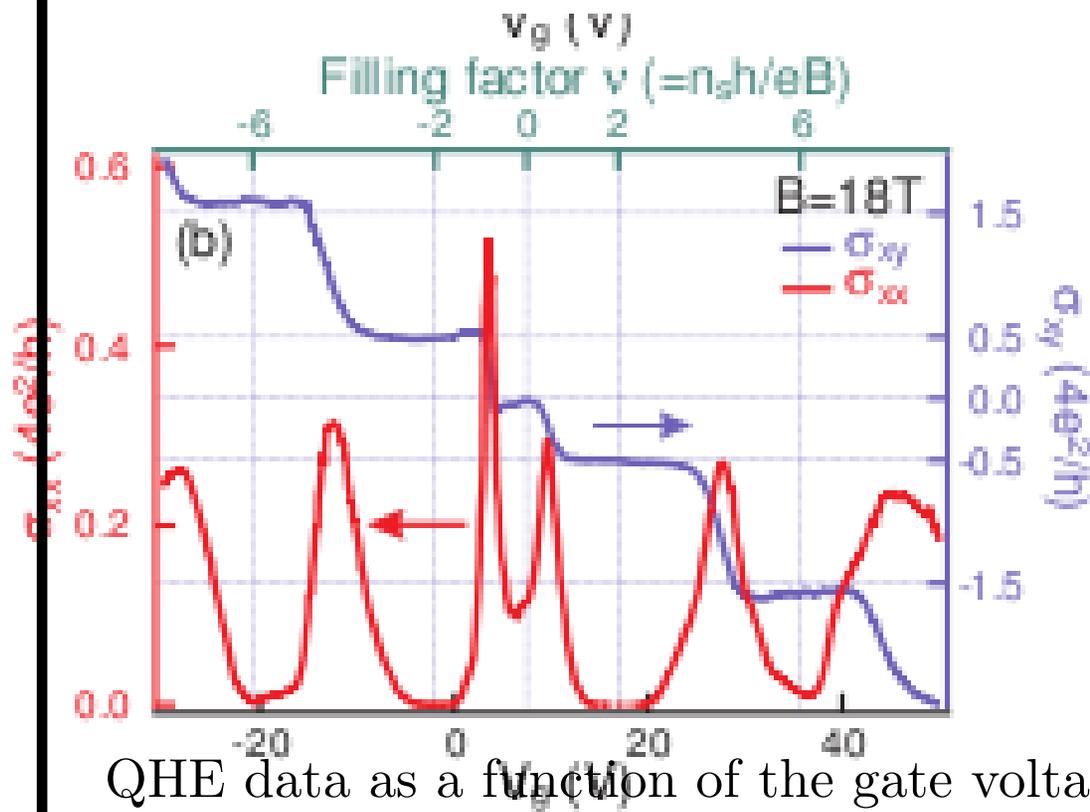
K. Novoselov et. al. *Nature* 438, 197 (2005)

Y. Zhang et. al. *Nature* 438, 201 (2005)



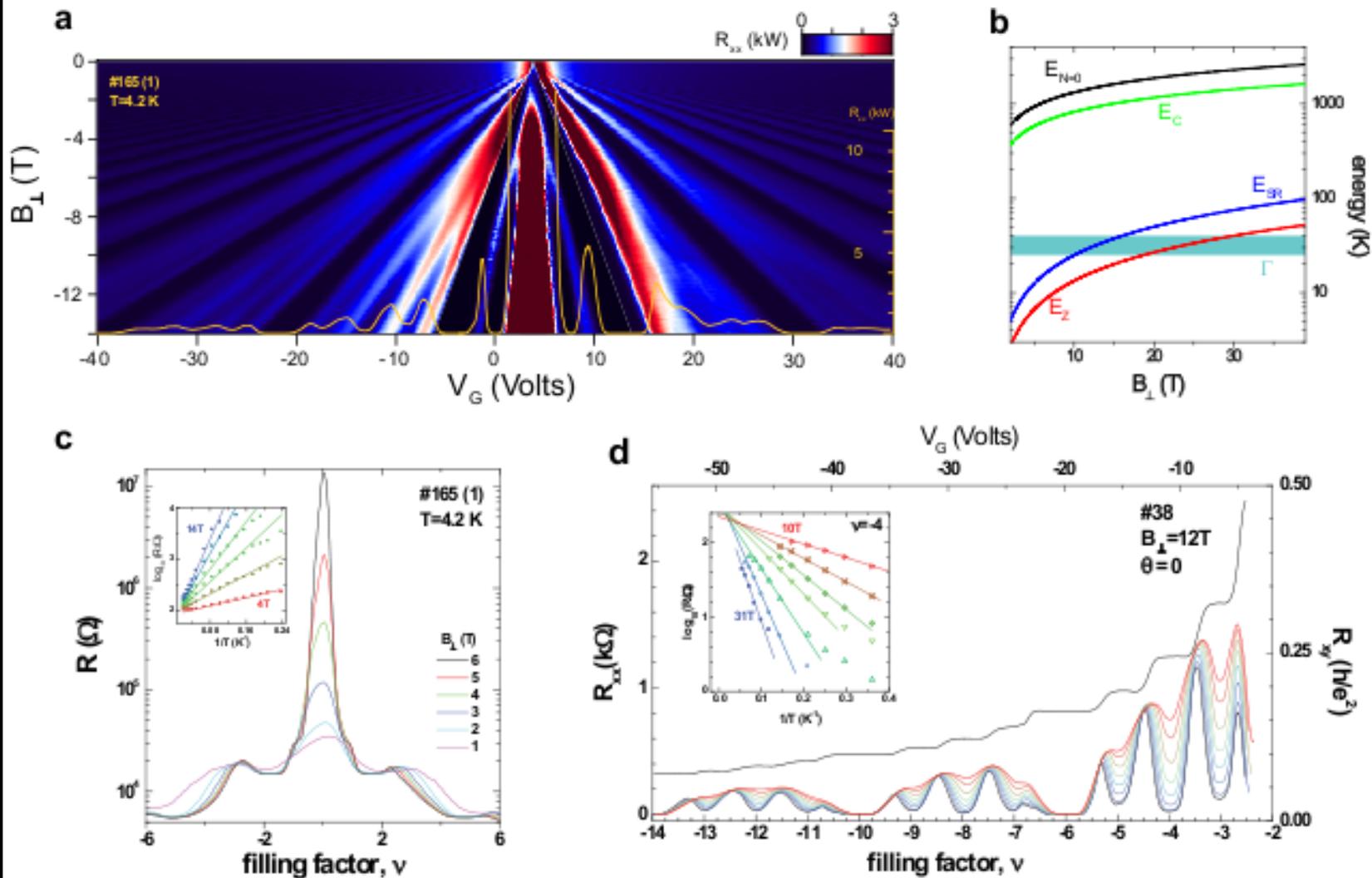
$$\sigma_{xy} = 4 \frac{e^2}{h} \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

Splitting of  $\nu = 0$  Landau level Zhang et.al.  
arXiv:1003.2738

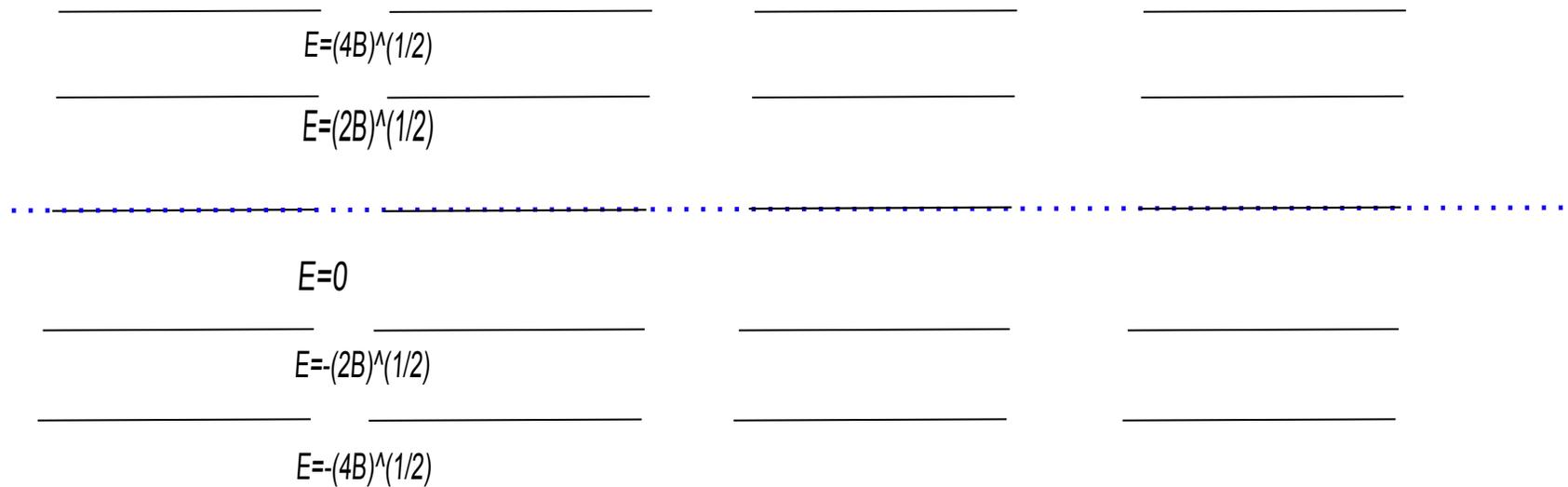


QHE data as a function of the gate voltage  $V_g$ , for  $B = 18$  T at  $T = 0.25$  K

# Splitting of $\nu = 0$ Landau level A.F.Young et.al., Nat. Phys. 2012



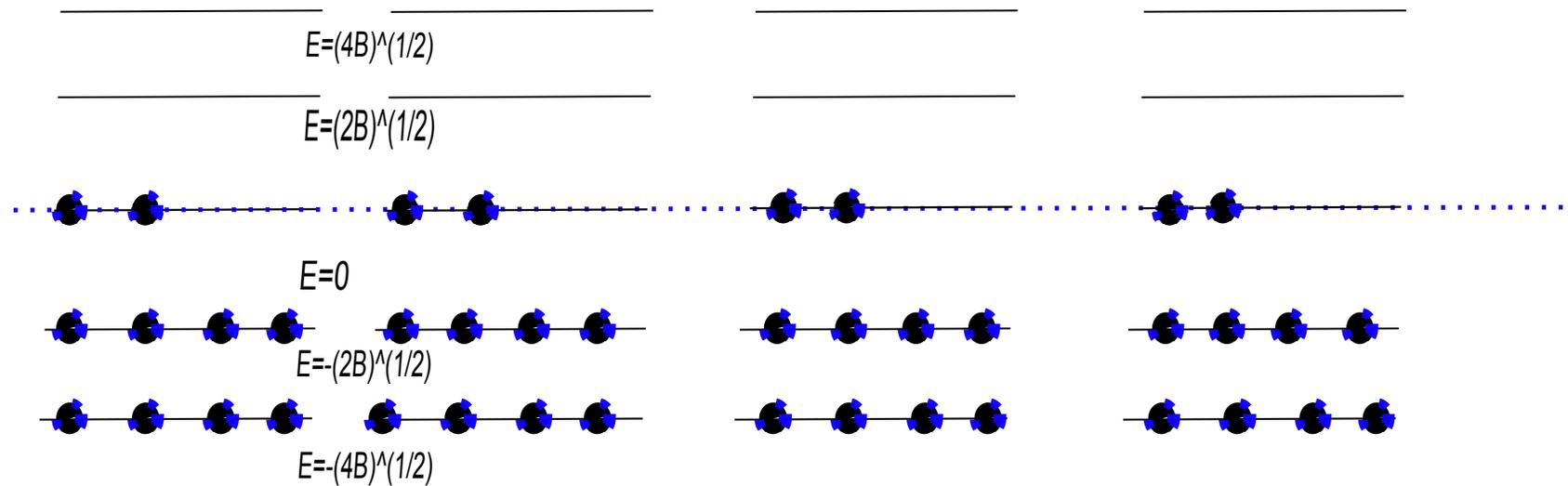
# Four flavors of massless fermions in a magnetic field: Landau levels



# Four flavors of massless fermions in a magnetic field: Landau levels

Ground state has negative energy levels filled

The zero energy states should be half-filled



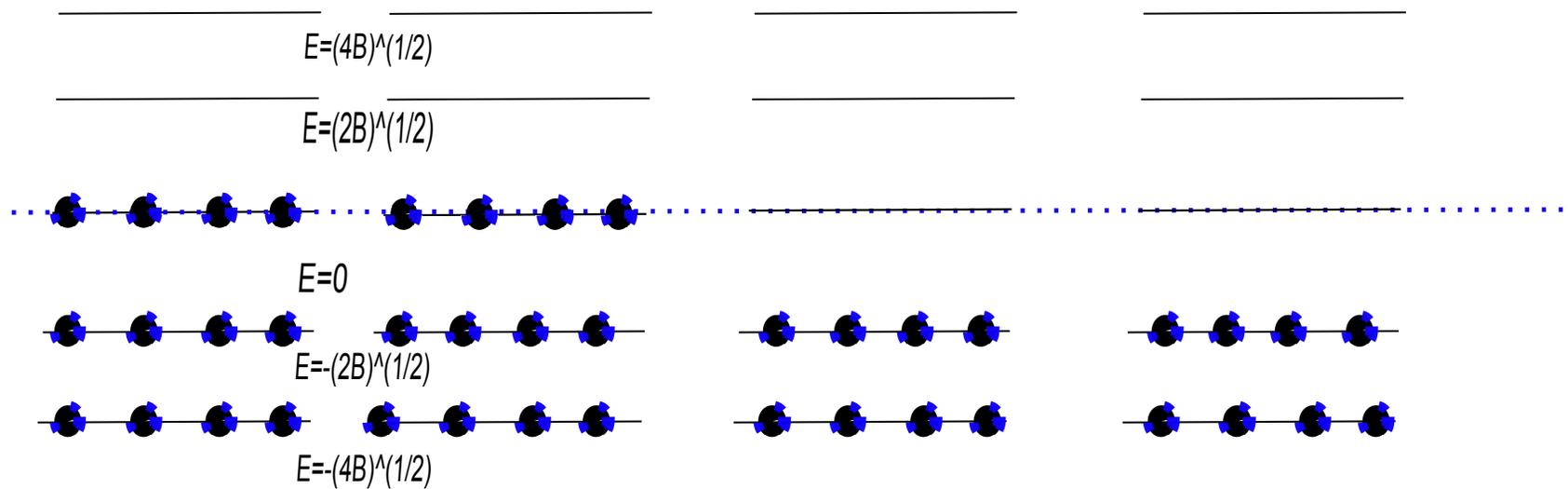
# Quantum Hall Ferromagnet/Magnetic Catalysis:

Spontaneous breaking  $U(4) \rightarrow U(2) \times U(2)$

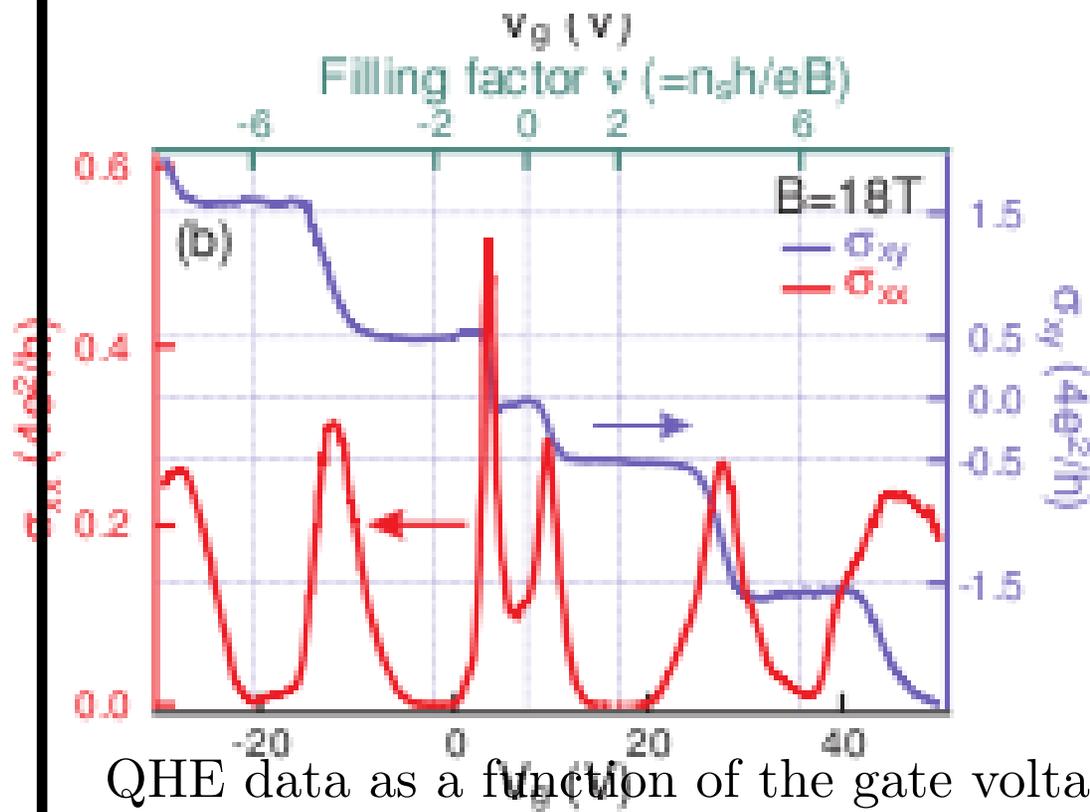
Weak Coulomb interaction

$$H_{\text{Coulomb}} = \frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon} \int \psi^\dagger(r)\psi(r) \frac{1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}'|} \psi^\dagger(r')\psi(r')$$

$$\rho = \langle \psi^\dagger \psi \rangle = \frac{B}{4\pi} (1, 1, -1, -1) \quad , \quad \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle = \frac{B}{4\pi} (1, 1, -1, -1) [1 + \dots]$$



Splitting of  $\nu = 0$  Landau level Zhang et.al.  
arXiv:1003.2738



QHE data as a function of the gate voltage  $V_g$ , for  $B = 18$  T at  $T = 0.25$  K

## Holographic quantum Hall ferromagnet

Quantum Hall ferromagnetic states in strong coupling limit:

D3-probe-D5 branes:

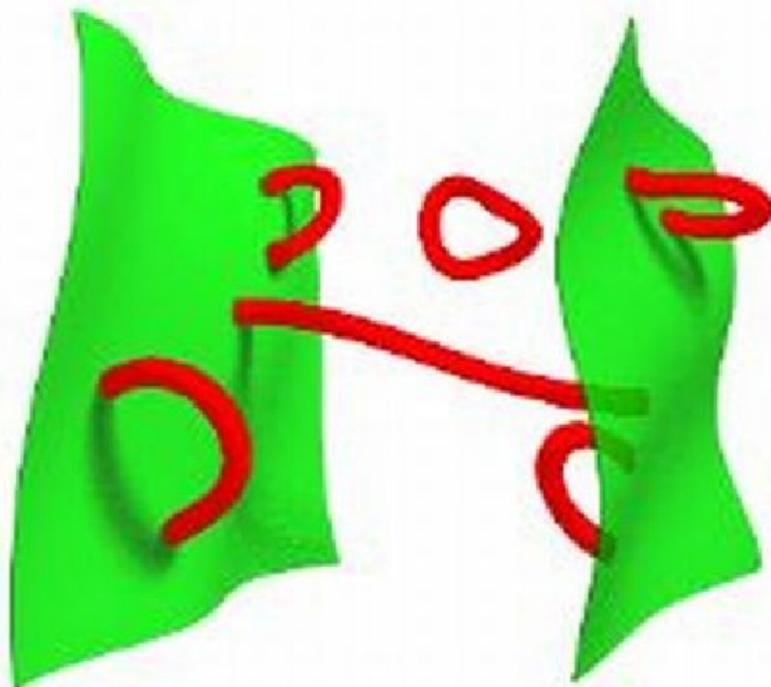
**C. Kristjansen and G. W. Semenoff, Giant D5 Brane Holographic Hall State, JHEP 1306, 048 (2013) [arXiv:1212.5609 [hep-th]].**

**C. Kristjansen, R. Pourhasan and G. W. Semenoff, A Holographic Quantum Hall Ferromagnet, arXiv:1311.6999 [hep-th].**

D3-probe-D7 branes:

**appearing soon**

## Holographic graphene



D3 branes

D7 branes

## D3-D7 system

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
D3	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O
D7	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	O

branes extend in directions  $X$

# $ND = 6$  system – no supersymmetry – no tachyon – only zero modes of 3-7 strings are in R-sector and are 2-component fermions ( $N_7$  flavors and  $N_3$  colors).

$$S = \frac{1}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int d^4x \text{Tr} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + (D_\mu \Phi^I)^2 + \dots \right]$$
$$+ \int d^3x \sum_{\sigma=1}^{N_7} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_3} \bar{\psi}_\alpha^\sigma [i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu + \gamma^\mu A_\mu - g\Phi^9] \psi_\alpha^\sigma$$

$N_3 \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\lambda = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N_3$  fixed  $\rightarrow$  replace D3's by  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ , large  $\lambda$

## D3-D7 system

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>D3</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>O</i>
<i>D7</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>O</i>

D7 brane worldvolume  $AdS_4 \subset AdS_5 \times S^4 \subset S^5$

**S. J. Rey, Talk at Strings 2007;**

**Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 177, 128 (2009) arXiv:0911.5295**

**D. Kutasov, J. Lin, A.Parnachev, arXiv:1107.2324**

This embedding is unstable: Fluctuation of  $x^9$  violate BF bound for  $AdS_4$

CFT when  $\lambda < \lambda^*$ , Chiral symmetry broken when  $\lambda > \lambda^*$  with  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle \sim \Lambda e^{-1/\sqrt{\lambda-\lambda^*}}$

Stabilize with internal flux

Embed in black D3-brane background (resembles cutoff)

## Some Results:

### AC conductivity

$$\sigma(\omega) \simeq \frac{2e^2}{\pi^2\hbar} \quad \left( \sigma(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \right)$$

### Debye screening length

$$L_D \simeq \frac{e}{\mu} \simeq \frac{5}{\mu} \quad \left( L_D \simeq \frac{1.6}{\mu} \right)$$

### Diamagnetism

$$M \simeq -(0.24)e\sqrt{B} \simeq -1.25\sqrt{B} \quad \left( M \simeq -0.28\sqrt{B} \right)$$

## Conclusions

- Graphene contains emergent massless relativistic electrons
- Graphene is a promising material for electronic technology.
- Coulomb interaction is strong.
- Is graphene in a nontrivial 3-dimensional conformal field theory?
- D3-D7 brane model
- three computations of the AC conductivity
- Magnetic catalysis of chiral symmetry breaking with D7 branes.