

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR08 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Quantum transport of 2D Dirac fermions: the 2D symplectic symmetry class of Anderson localization and the Z_2 topological term
SHINSEI RYU, Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CHRISTOPHER MUDRY, Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland, HIDEAKI OBUSE, AKIRA FURUSAKI, RIKEN, Japan — We discuss the quantum transport of the 2D non-interacting Dirac Hamiltonian, which, underlies theoretical descriptions of graphene and surface states of 3D Z_2 topological insulators. For a random scalar potential type disorder, a Z_2 topological term is derived in the non-linear sigma model encoding the physics of Anderson localization in the symplectic symmetry class. Unlike the Pruisken term (Chern integer) in the IQHE, the Z_2 topological term cannot be expressed, in general, as an integral of a local quantity, but as a sign of the Pfaffian of a family of Dirac operators. The Z_2 topological term has a significant effect on the renormalization group flow of the conductance.

Shinsei Ryu
Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara

Date submitted: 27 Nov 2007

Electronic form version 1.4