

Quantum Transport

Week 4: more on the scattering approach and quantum Hall effect (QHE)

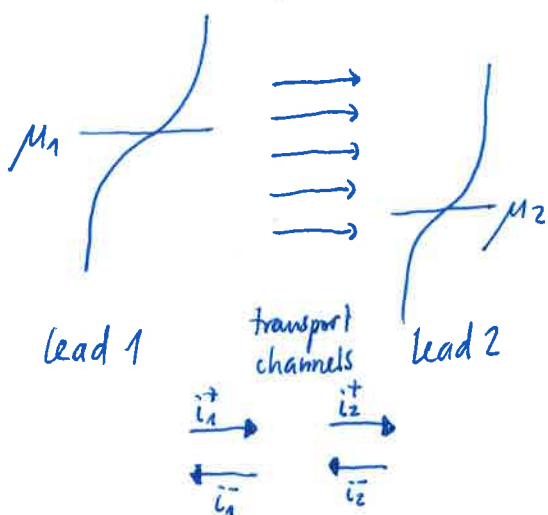
①

one result from last week: conductance from transmission for a 2-terminal device:

$$G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \cdot T \quad \text{for temperature } T=0.$$

Finite temperature:

intuitively (see schematic)



$$\text{lead 1: } i_1^+(E) = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot M_1(E) \cdot f_1(E)$$

$$\text{lead 2: } i_2^-(E) = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot M_2(E) \cdot f_2(E)$$

$$\text{from this } i_1^-(E) = \overbrace{[1-T(E)]}^{R(E)} \cdot i_1^+(E) + \tilde{T}(E) \cdot i_2^-(E)$$

$$i_2^+(E) = T(E) \cdot i_1^+(E) + \underbrace{[1-\tilde{T}(E)]}_{\tilde{R}(E)} \cdot i_2^-(E)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow i(E) &= i_1^+(E) - i_1^-(E) (= i_2^+(E) - i_2^-(E)) \\ &= \cancel{i_1^+(E)} - \cancel{i_1^+(E)} + T(E) i_1^+(E) - \tilde{T}(E) i_2^-(E) \\ &= \frac{2e}{h} [M_1 T(E) f_1(E) - M_2 \tilde{T}(E) f_2(E)] \\ &= \frac{2e}{h} [\tilde{T}(E) f_1(E) - \tilde{T}(E) f_2(E)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\underline{I}} = \int i(E) dE = \underline{\underline{\frac{2e}{h} \int \tilde{T}(E) [f_1(E) - f_2(E)] dE}}$$

assume $\tilde{T} = T$

Some small-print: - magnetic field might lead to non-orthogonal states in the leads. One can show that one can choose a separate gauge in each lead with orthogonal states [Phys. Rev. B 40, 8169 (1989)]

- should we not insert a factor $[1-f_i]$ to account for empty states where the electrons can tunnel to?
 ↳ NO! Scattering state (one total wave function) in equilibrium with origin-reservoir → ok as long as NO inelastic scattering.

Linear response:

(2)

- "sanity check": $\mu_1 = \mu_2 \Rightarrow I = 0$

Small bias $V = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{e} =: \frac{\Delta\mu}{e}$

$$\delta I = \frac{2e}{h} \int \left[\bar{T}_{eq}(E) \cdot \delta(f_1 - f_2) + \delta \bar{T}_{eq}(E) \cdot \underbrace{[f_1 - f_2]_{eq}}_{=0} \right] \cdot dE$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \Big|_{eq} \cdot (\mu_1 - \mu_2) = - \frac{\partial f}{\partial E} \cdot \Delta\mu$$

$$f = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{E - \mu}{kT}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta I = - \frac{2e}{h} \int \bar{T}_{eq}(E) \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial E} \cdot \Delta\mu \cdot dE \quad \Rightarrow \quad \underline{\underline{G = \frac{\delta I}{\Delta V} = - \frac{2e^2}{h} \int \bar{T}_{eq}(E) \frac{\partial f}{\partial E} \cdot dE}}$$

- check: $T \rightarrow 0$ $\Rightarrow - \frac{\partial f}{\partial E} \rightarrow \delta(E_F - E) \Rightarrow \underline{\underline{G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \cdot \bar{T}_{eq}(E_F)}}$

↳ When is the system response linear?

a) clearly for $kT \gg q\mu$ (Fermi function wider than transport window \rightarrow all features washed out)

↳ very restrictive: no linear transport for $T \rightarrow 0$!

b) if $T(E) = \text{const}$ between μ_1 and μ_2

$$\hookrightarrow I = \frac{2e}{h} \int \bar{T}(E) (f_1 - f_2) dE = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot \bar{T}(E_F) \cdot q\mu \text{ for all } T!$$

↳ "correlation energy" ϵ_c : $\bar{T}(E)$ independent of E for interval $[E, E + \epsilon_c]$

\Rightarrow linear response for $\boxed{\Delta\mu \ll kT + \epsilon_c}$

implicit assumption: $\bar{T}(E)$ independent of bias!

(e.g. tunnel barrier does not change with bias, ...)

Landauer-Büttiker Formalism

(3)

↳ more than 2 terminals

↳ all probes/terminals on equal footing

(i.e. no distinction between voltage probe and current contact)

- 2-terminals: $I = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot \bar{T} \cdot [\mu_1 - \mu_2]$

- N-terminals:
$$\underbrace{I_p}_{\text{terminal } p} = \frac{2e}{h} \sum_{q=1}^N [\bar{T}_{q \leftarrow p} \cdot \mu_p - \bar{T}_{p \leftarrow q} \cdot \mu_q] \stackrel{V_i = \mu_i/e}{\downarrow} = \sum_q [G_{qp} V_p - G_{pq} V_q]$$

with $G_{pq} = \frac{2e^2}{h} \cdot \bar{T}_{pq}$

"conductance matrix"

properties of G_{pq} :

- all terminals on same potential $V \Rightarrow$ all $I_p = 0 = V \cdot \sum_q [G_{qp} - G_{pq}]$

↳ $\sum_q G_{qp} = \sum_q G_{pq}$

$\Rightarrow I_p = \sum_q G_{pq} \cdot [V_p - V_q]$

- experimentally (and exact for coherent transport, see below):

$G_{pq}|_{-B} = G_{qp}|_{+B}$

(swap contacts and invert magnetic field \rightarrow same conductance)

↳ related: Onsager relations in thermodynamics.

- a voltage probe: $I_M = 0$ (by definition!)

↳ $V_M = \frac{\sum_{q \neq M} G_{Mq} V_q}{\sum_{q \neq M} G_{Mq}}$ (\Leftrightarrow average over potentials of other terminals, with the weight G_{Mq} .)

- $B=0 \Rightarrow G_{pq} = G_{qp}$

Reciprocity for coherent transport:

(5)

Schrödinger equation: $\left[E_s + \frac{(i\hbar\nabla + eA)^2}{2m^*} + U(r) \right] \Psi_B = E \Psi_B$
bottom of band

complex conjugate: $\left[E_s + \frac{(-i\hbar\nabla + eA)^2}{2m^*} + U(r) \right] \Psi_B^* = E \Psi_B^*$
real real

reverse B (and thus A): $\left[E_s + \frac{(i\hbar\nabla + eA)^2}{2m^*} + U(r) \right] \Psi_{-B}^* = E \Psi_{-B}^*$ or $H \Psi_{-B}^* = E \Psi_{-B}^*$

complex conjugate in leads: incoming (e^{ikz}) \rightarrow out-going (e^{-ikz}) \downarrow

$\Rightarrow \underline{b} = \underline{S}|_{+B} \underline{a} \Rightarrow \underline{b}^* = \underline{S}^*|_{+B} \underline{a}^*$ $\hookrightarrow \Psi_{-B}^* = \Psi_{+B}$

but also $\underline{a}^* = \underline{S}|_{-B} \underline{b}^*$ or $\underline{b}^* = (\underline{S}|_{+B})^{-1} \underline{a}^*$

$\hookrightarrow \underline{S}^*|_{+B} = (\underline{S}|_{-B})^{-1} = \underline{S}|_{-B}^+$ or $\underline{S}|_{+B} = \underline{S}^t|_{-B}$ (t: transpose without complex conj.)

unitary

$\hookrightarrow \underline{S}_{mn}|_{+B} = \underline{S}_{nm}|_{-B}$ (Element-wise)

\Rightarrow sum over all modes in lead p and q:

$\sum_{m \in p} \sum_{n \in q} |S_{mn}|_{+B}^2 = \sum_{m \in p} \sum_{n \in q} |S_{nm}|_{-B}^2$

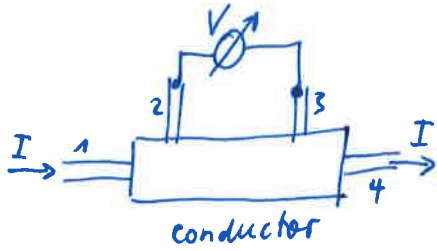
$\hookrightarrow \underline{T}_{pq}|_{+B} = \underline{T}_{qp}|_{-B}$

and thus $G_{pq}|_{+B} = G_{qp}|_{-B}$

Example: A 4-terminal device:

(6)

Without any microscopic knowledge (scattering matrix) we can describe the following device with 4 contacts:



Boundary conditions: from experiment!

$$I_2 = I_3 = 0 \quad (\text{voltage measurement})$$

$$I_1 = I, I_4 = -I$$

$$\Rightarrow I_p = \sum_q G_{pq} [V_p - V_q] = \sum_q G_{pq} V_p - \sum_q G_{qp} V_q$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{12} + G_{13} + G_{14} & -G_{12} & -G_{13} & -G_{14} \\ -G_{21} & G_{21} + G_{23} + G_{24} & -G_{23} & -G_{24} \\ -G_{31} & -G_{32} & G_{31} + G_{32} + G_{34} & -G_{34} \\ -G_{41} & -G_{42} & -G_{43} & G_{41} + G_{42} + G_{43} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \\ V_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

This system of equation is not independent (current conservation, Kirchhoff's rules).

↳ e.g. $I_4 = -(I_1 + I_2 + I_3) = -I_1 = -I \Rightarrow$ remove line 4

↳ set $V_4 = 0$ (only voltage differences matter) \Rightarrow remove ~~row~~ column 4

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \\ I_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{12} + G_{13} + G_{14} & -G_{12} & -G_{13} \\ -G_{21} & G_{21} + G_{23} + G_{24} & -G_{23} \\ -G_{31} & -G_{32} & G_{31} + G_{32} + G_{34} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{\tilde{I}} = \underline{\tilde{G}} \cdot \underline{\tilde{V}}$$

$\underline{\tilde{G}}$ can be inverted! $\Rightarrow \underline{\tilde{V}} = \underline{\tilde{G}}^{-1} \cdot \underline{\tilde{I}} \equiv \underline{\tilde{R}} \cdot \underline{\tilde{I}}$

↑
given!

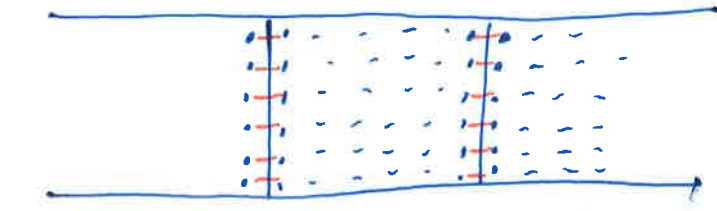
Example: $\underline{\tilde{I}} = \begin{pmatrix} I \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

The measured 4-terminal voltage (V in schematic) is given by

$$R_{4t} = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V_2 - V_3}{I} = \tilde{R}_{21} - \tilde{R}_{31}$$

Comment: since in terminals 2 and 3 the current is 0, R_{4t} does not contain any contact resistance, in contrast to a 2-terminal experiment, where the current flows through the voltage terminals.

Schematically: calculation of the scattering matrix:



infinite lead 1
 ↓
 but simple
 ↓
 analytical green's function

finite scattering region
 ↓
 but complex
 ↓
 numerics (finite differences)

infinite lead 2
 ↓
 but simple

⇒ Finite-size matrix Green's function with additional "self-energy" \sum^{ret}

$$G^{ret} = [E \cdot \mathbb{1} - H_c - \sum^{ret}]^{-1} \rightarrow \text{can be inverted!}$$

↑
finite scattering region

Connection to scattering matrix: Fisher-Lee relation

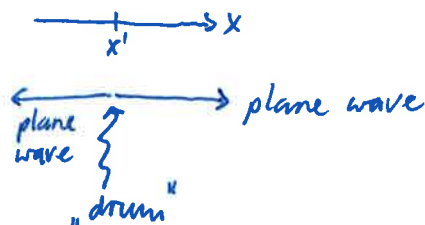
$$S_{pp} = -\delta_{pp} + i\hbar \sqrt{v_p v_p'} \cdot G_{pp}^{ret}$$

↑
leads

(Green's function: system response to δ -excitation)

$$\hookrightarrow (E-H)G = \delta(x-x')$$

e.g. 1D wire:



retarded: out-going (wave after bang)
 advanced: in-coming (wave join for bang)

Quantum Hall effect (QHE)

2DEG in (strong) magnetic field perpendicular to 2DEG, "bar"-shape.

Schrödinger equation:
$$\left[E_s + \frac{(i\hbar \nabla + e\mathbf{A})^2}{2m^*} + U(y) \right] \Psi(x,y) = E \Psi(x,y)$$
 ↑
 confinement only along y

- No confinement ($U \equiv 0$):

Gauge choice: $\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ B \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} By \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, so that $\nabla \wedge \mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ B \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \left[E_s + \frac{(i\hbar \partial_x + eBy)^2}{2m^*} + \frac{(i\hbar \partial_y)^2}{2m^*} \right] \Psi = E \Psi$$

Ansatz: $\Psi(x,y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \cdot e^{ikx} \cdot \chi(y) \Rightarrow$ plane waves along x

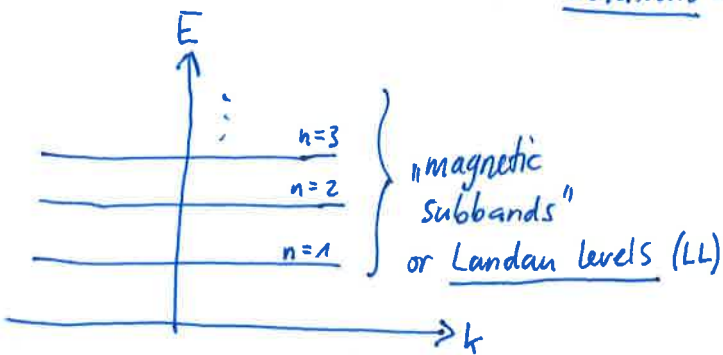
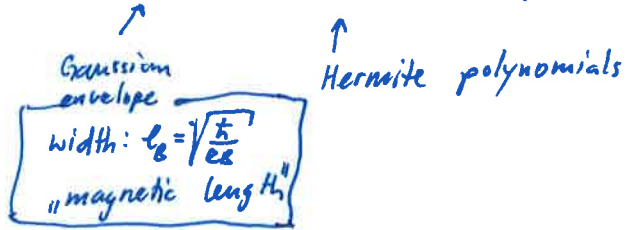
$$\hookrightarrow \left[E_s + \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} + \frac{(eBy + \hbar k)^2}{2m^*} \right] \chi = E \chi$$

or with $y_k = \frac{\hbar k}{eB}$ and $\omega_c = \frac{eB}{m^*}$ (cyclotron frequency)

$$\left[E_s + \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega_c^2 (y + y_k)^2 \right] \chi = E \chi$$

\hookrightarrow harmonic oscillator!

Solutions: $\chi_{n,k} = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{eB}{\hbar} (y - y_k)^2} \cdot H_n \left(\frac{eB}{\hbar} [y - y_k] \right)$



$$E_n = E_s + (n + 1/2) \cdot \hbar \omega_c, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

For $U \equiv 0$: $v_{n,k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial k} \equiv 0 \Leftrightarrow$ classically: circular orbits!

Degeneracy of subband n: spacing in k: $\Delta k = \frac{2\pi}{L}$
 \hookrightarrow spacing in y: $\Delta y = \frac{\hbar \Delta k}{eB} = \frac{2\pi \hbar}{eBL} = \frac{h}{eBL}$

\Rightarrow number of states in sample of width W: $N = \frac{2}{\hbar} \frac{W}{\Delta y} = \frac{2e \cdot BLW}{h} = 2 \cdot \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$; $\Phi_0 = \frac{h}{e}$

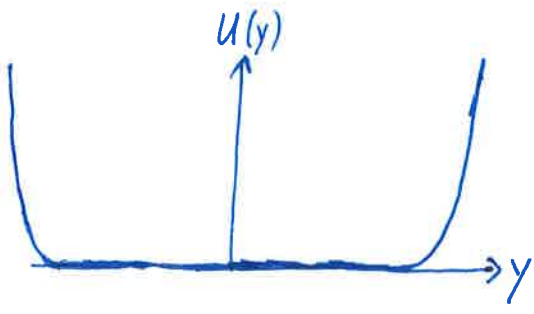
$\hookrightarrow \Delta E = E_n - E_{n-1} = \hbar \omega_c \propto B$ and $N_n = \frac{2\Phi}{\Phi_0} \propto B$

(Bulk-) filling factor: how many Landau levels (LL) are occupied? (9)

$$\nu = \frac{N_{tot}}{N_{LL}} = \frac{n \cdot WL}{\frac{eBWL}{h}} = \frac{h \cdot n}{eB} \leftarrow \text{electron density}$$

↑
count spin separately

Now we add a confinement potential along the y-direction:



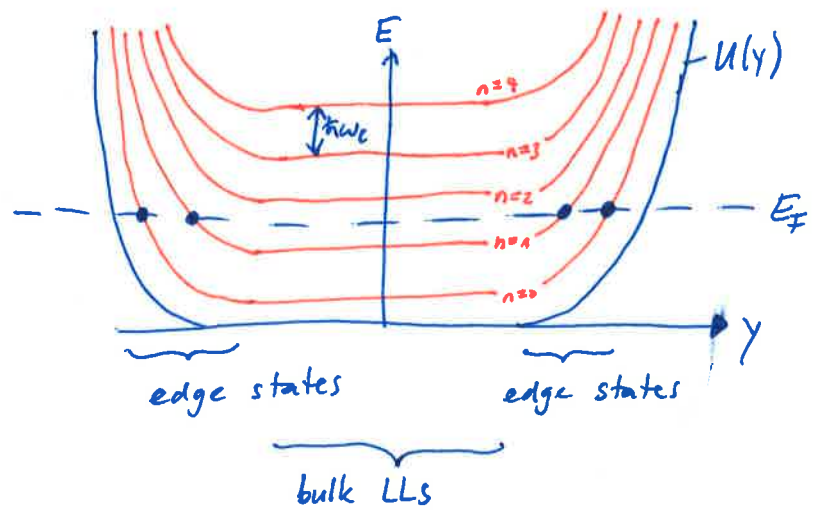
First-order perturbation:

$$E(n, k) = \underbrace{E_s + (n + 1/2)\hbar\omega_c}_{\text{unperturbed}} + \langle n, k | U(y) | n, k \rangle$$

Note that $\Psi_{n, k}(x, y)$ is centered at $y_k = \frac{\hbar k}{eB}$ and we assume that $U(y)$ is smooth on the length $l_B = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{eB}}$ (magnetic length), i.e. the extent of the wave function.

$\Rightarrow U(y) \approx \text{const.}$ for each state

$$\Rightarrow E(n, k) = E_s + (n + 1/2)\hbar\omega_c + U(y_k)$$

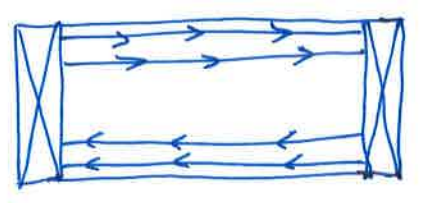


At E_F between LLs: edge states!

\hookrightarrow equipotential lines: $E(n, k) = E_F$

velocities: $v = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial E}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial U}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y_k} \cdot \frac{\partial y_k}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{eB} \frac{\partial U(y)}{\partial y}$

opposite sign on opposite edges!



number of edge states = ν (bulk filling factor)

$I_{2e} = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot M \cdot T \Delta\mu$; T: since the $+k$ and $-k$ states are spatially separated by sometimes macroscopic distances (width of Hallbar), "scattering" requires an electron to tunnel over a large distance $\Rightarrow T=1$

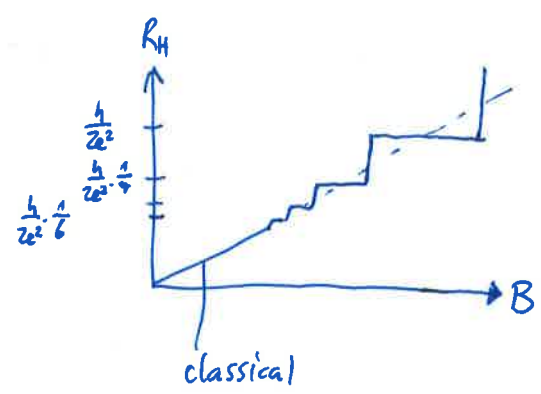
\hookrightarrow No momentum scattering \Rightarrow one edge carries the electrochemical potential of the left, the other edge carries μ of the right side

⇒ the voltage drops only in the contacts, like in a ballistic conductor. (10)

↳ inside the Hallbar $V_L \equiv 0 \Rightarrow R_L = \frac{V_L}{I} = 0$ (no longitudinal resistance)

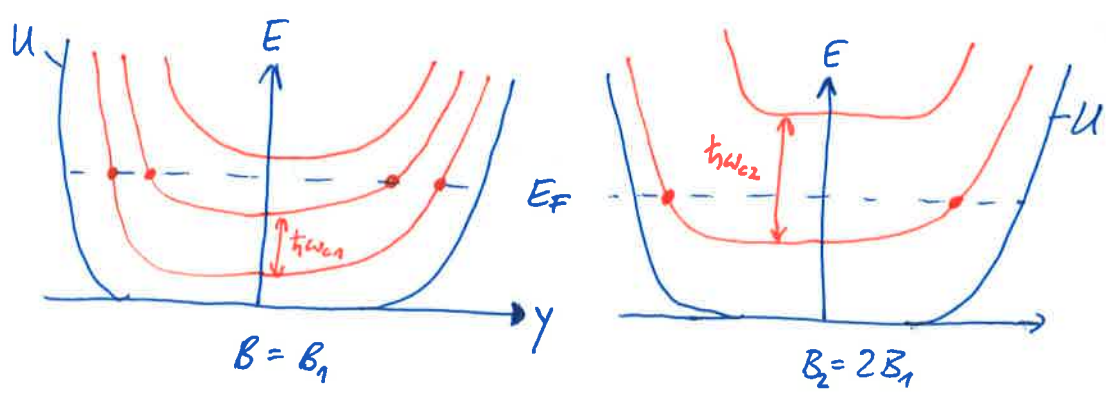
↳ $R_H = \frac{V_H}{I} = \frac{1/e \cdot (\mu_H - \mu_e)}{2e^2/h \cdot M \cdot g_{\mu}} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \cdot \frac{1}{M} \Rightarrow$ steps in R_H !

↑
number of edge channels
 $\equiv \nu$



The plateaus in R_H depend only on fundamental constants \Rightarrow metrology

$\nu \equiv M$ depends on B (and n):



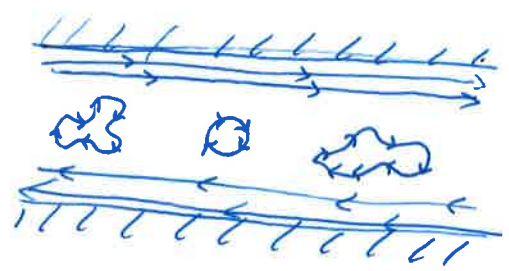
(E_F given by contacts)

But degeneracy also $\times 2 \Rightarrow$ constant electron density

Some fingerprint: Why can E_F lie between two LL (density of states = 0!?)

↳ $\nu n = N \cdot g_{\mu}$: small change in n can lead to large change in μ if N is small $\Rightarrow \mu(E_F)$ pinned to large DOS

⇒ localized states at potential fluctuations:



Compressible and incompressible strips:

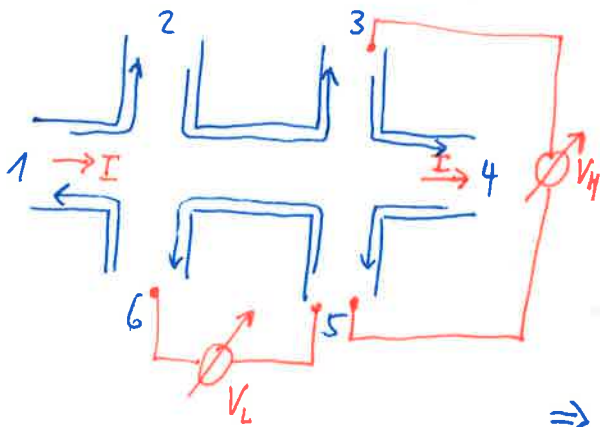
At the positions where a LL pierces E_F the electron density changes abruptly by $n_L = \frac{1}{2\pi l e^2}$ (the density of a LL)

\Rightarrow very large density gradient \Rightarrow unphysical ($\mu = \text{const} = E_F = \mu_{ch} + \mu_{el}$)

\hookrightarrow very large electric field \Rightarrow screened by mobile charges

\Rightarrow "edge reconstruction": see slides

Conductance matrix of a Hallbar:



transmissions: $T_{2\leftarrow 1} = T_{3\leftarrow 2} = T_{4\leftarrow 3} = T_{5\leftarrow 4} = T_{6\leftarrow 5} = T_{1\leftarrow 6} = M$
 $T_{\text{other}} = 0$
integer part of filling factor

sum of all rows and columns = 0 \Rightarrow diagonal elements

$$\Rightarrow G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \begin{pmatrix} M & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -M \\ -M & M & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -M & M & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -M & M & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -M & M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -M & M \end{pmatrix}$$

We can choose $I_4 = -\sum_{\text{all others}} I_i$ and $V_4 = 0$ and invert the resulting \tilde{G} .

Here it is simpler "by hand":

boundary conditions: $I_1 = -I_4$ (current terminals) and $I_2 = I_3 = I_5 = I_6 = 0$ (voltage terminals)

We see directly: $\left. \begin{matrix} V_2 = V_1 \\ V_3 = V_1 \\ V_5 = 0 (V_4) \\ V_6 = 0 (V_4) \end{matrix} \right\}$ edge states carry μ_1 (or μ_4)

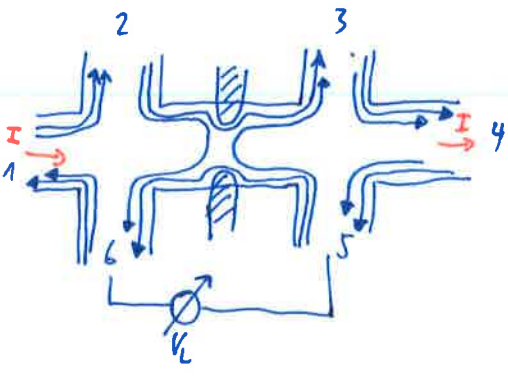
$$\Rightarrow I = I_1 = -I_4 = \frac{2e}{h} \cdot M (\mu_1 - \mu_6) = \frac{2e^2}{h} \cdot M \cdot V_1$$

$$\Rightarrow R_L = \frac{V_2 - V_3}{I} = 0 \quad (\text{zero resistance})$$

$$R_H = \frac{V_2 - V_6}{I} = \frac{V_2}{\frac{2e^2}{h} \cdot M V_1} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \cdot \frac{1}{M} \Rightarrow \text{plateaus}$$

Backscattering in a Hallbar:

we now investigate the effect on the Hall and longitudinal voltage when a constriction ("split-gate" or a scatterer) is introduced in the Hallbar.



We assume that of the M channels N are reflected at the constriction.

$$\Rightarrow T_{21} = T_{13} = T_{54} = T_{16} = M$$

$$T_{23} = M - N$$

$$T_{15} = N$$

$$T_{65} = M - N$$

$$T_{62} = N$$

$$T_{rest} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \\ I_3 \\ I_4 \\ I_5 \\ I_6 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2e^2}{h} \begin{pmatrix} -M & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & M \\ M & -M & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & N & -M & 0 & M-N & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & M & -M & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & M & -M & 0 \\ 0 & M-N & 0 & 0 & N & -M \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \\ V_3 \\ V_4 \\ V_5 \\ V_6 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{I} = \underline{G} \cdot \underline{V}$$

Again, we omit parts with terminal 4 (for example), since $I_4 = \sum_{i \in rest} I_i$ and $V_4 = 0$.

The resulting matrix \tilde{G} can be inverted, which gives \underline{V} for given \underline{I} , $\underline{V} = \tilde{G}^{-1} \cdot \underline{I}$. For example for the boundary condition

$$I_1 = I$$

$$I_4 = -I$$

$$I_{rest} = 0 \dots$$

Again, we calculate directly:

From a) $I = M G_0 V_1 - G_0 M V_6 = G_0 M (V_1 - V_6)$

b) $0 = G_0 M (V_2 - V_1) \Rightarrow V_1 = V_2$ (intuitive!)

c) $0 = G_0 M V_5 \Rightarrow V_5 = V_4 = 0$ (intuitive!)

d) $0 = -G_0 [V_2(M-N) + V_5 N - M V_6] \Rightarrow V_6 = \frac{M-N}{M} V_2 = \frac{M-N}{M} V_1$

\hookrightarrow a) $I = G_0 M V_1 [1 - \frac{M-N}{M}] = G_0 M V_1 \cdot \frac{N}{M} = G_0 N V_1$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{R}_H = \frac{V_2 - V_6}{I} = \frac{V_1 [1 - \frac{M-N}{M}]}{G_0 N V_1} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \cdot \frac{1}{M} \Rightarrow \text{Hall resistance plateau unaffected of scatterer inside the Hallbar!}$$

$$\underline{R}_L = \frac{V_6 - V_5}{I} = \frac{V_1 [\frac{M-N}{M} - 0]}{G_0 N V_1} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \frac{\frac{M-N}{M}}{N} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \left(\frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{M} \right) \neq 0!$$