Wannier functions, electric polarization, orbital magnetoelectric coupling, and axion electrodynamics

LOOK INSIDE

Berry Phases in Electronic Structure Theory Electric Polarization, Orbital Magnetization and Topological Insulators DAVID VANDERBILT

Berry Phases in Electronic Structure Theory Electric Polarization, Orbital Magnetization and

Topological Insulators
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Outline

- Wannier functions for occupied subspace
 - Electric polarization
 - -Topological obstruction
- Wannier functions as a basis
 - -Wannier interpolation
- Orbital magnetoelectric coupling
 - -Axion electrodynamics



H₂ molecule





He₂ molecule





He₂ molecule



Construction of LMOs

Given a set of occupied states $|\Psi_n\rangle$, $n = \{1, N\}$ Find unitary transformation to $|\phi_i\rangle$, $j = \{1, N\}$

$$|\phi_j\rangle = \sum U_{nj} |\psi_n\rangle$$

such that the $|\phi_j\rangle$ are maximally localized. Foster-Boys criterion: Minimize

$$\Omega = \sum_{j} \left[\langle \phi_j | r^2 | \phi_j \rangle - | \langle \phi_j | \mathbf{r} | \phi_j \rangle |^2 \right]$$

Apply Foster-Boys criterion for crystalline solids?

Problem: $\langle \psi_{nk} | x | \psi_{nk} \rangle$ and $\langle \psi_{nk} | x^2 | \psi_{nk} \rangle$ are ill defined!





Maximally localized Wannier functions



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WANNIER 90

Maximally localized Wannier functions

$$\widetilde{\psi}_{j\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{n} U_{nj}(\mathbf{k}) |\psi_{n\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$
Pseudo-Bloch
(smooth in k)

$$\widetilde{\psi}_{n\mathbf{k}} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d^3k \, e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}} |\widetilde{\psi}_{n\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$
Wannier functions
(LMO's)
Wannier functions $\rightarrow |w_n\rangle = |w_{0,n}\rangle$
Minimize $\Omega = \sum \left[\langle w_n | r^2 | w_n \rangle - |\langle w_n | \mathbf{r} | w_n \rangle |^2 \right]$

n

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Bloch states

Bloch wavefunction





Choose Wannier functions as

$$w_n(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) = \int_{BZ} \psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}} d\mathbf{k}$$



Form wave-packet = "Wannier function"



Crystal in real space:



Brillouin zone in reciprocal space:



Crystal in real space:







Four occupied bands



Four occupied bands

Expect four WFs per cell



Multiband Wannier construction

$$\widetilde{\psi_{jk}} = \sum_{n} U_{nj}(\mathbf{k}) |\psi_{nk}\rangle$$
Heigenstates (Bloch)
Pseudo-Bloch
(smooth in k)

$$\widetilde{\psi_{jk}} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{BZ} d^3k \, e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}} |\widetilde{\psi}_{nk}\rangle$$
Wannier functions
(LMO's)
Wannier functions
in home unit cell
$$w_n = |w_{0,n}\rangle$$

Minimize
$$\Omega = \sum_{n} \left[\langle w_n | r^2 | w_n \rangle - | \langle w_n | \mathbf{r} | w_n \rangle |^2 \right]$$



Minimize spread relative to center

Choose unitary matrices to minimize quadratic spread

 $\Omega = \sum \left[\langle r^2 \rangle_n - \langle \mathbf{r} \rangle_n^2 \right]$ nwhere $\langle r^2 \rangle_n = \langle w_n | r^2 | w_n \rangle , \quad \langle \mathbf{r} \rangle_n = \langle w_n | \mathbf{r} | w_n \rangle .$ QMS23, August 21-25, 2023



Wannier functions: Si







Wannier functions: GaAs







WFs in SrTiO₃





Mapping to Wannier centers





Mapping to Wannier centers





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The Problem: Polarization





Textbook illustration

More realistic picture





 $\boldsymbol{P} = \boldsymbol{d}_{cell} / V_{cell}$?





 $\boldsymbol{P} = \boldsymbol{d}_{cell} / V_{cell}$?



 $\boldsymbol{d}_{\text{cell}} = \int_{\text{cell}} \boldsymbol{r} \rho(\boldsymbol{r}) d^3 r$

 $d_{cell} \approx 0$



 $\boldsymbol{P} = \boldsymbol{d}_{cell} / V_{cell}$?



 $\boldsymbol{d}_{\text{cell}} = \int_{\text{cell}} \boldsymbol{r} \rho(\boldsymbol{r}) d^3 r$





 $\boldsymbol{P} = \boldsymbol{d}_{cell} / V_{cell}$?



 $\boldsymbol{d}_{\text{cell}} = \int_{\text{cell}} \boldsymbol{r} \rho(\boldsymbol{r}) d^3 r$





Review: Bloch's Theorem



Define the cell-periodic Bloch function $u_k(x)$:

$$u_k(x) = e^{-ikx}\psi_k(x)$$



Theory of electric polarization

 $\mathbf{P} \propto \Sigma_{nk} \langle \psi_{nk} | \mathbf{r} | \psi_{nk} \rangle$? Ill-defined... Recall that in quantum mechanics $p \rightarrow -i \hbar V_r$ so it is plausible that $r \rightarrow i V_{k}$ $P \propto \Sigma_{nk} \langle \psi_{nk} | i \nabla_{k} | \psi_{nk} \rangle$? But also ill-defined $\mathbf{P} \propto \sum_{nk} \langle U_{nk} | i \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} | U_{nk} \rangle$? Yes!



Theory of electric polarization

Resta, 1992:
$$\Delta \mathbf{P} = \int \left(\frac{d\mathbf{P}}{dt}\right) dt$$

King-Smith and Vanderbilt, 1993:

 $\Delta \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}(t_2) - \mathbf{P}(t_1)$ where

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{ie}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{n} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d^3k \left\langle u_{nk} \right| \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| u_{nk} \right\rangle$$

where
$$\psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} u_{nk}(\mathbf{r})$$



Simplify: 1 band, 1D

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{-e}{2\pi} \int_{BZ} dk \, \langle u_{\mathbf{k}} | i \frac{d}{dk} | u_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle$$
Heuristically, $x \Leftrightarrow i \frac{d}{dk}$ (Compare $p \Leftrightarrow -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}$)
$$\mathbf{P} = -e \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \quad \text{where} \quad \phi = i \oint_{C} dk \, \langle u_{\mathbf{k}} | \frac{d}{dk} | u_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle$$
What is this?



Simplify: 1 band, 1D

- Reciprocal space is really periodic
- Brillouin zone can be regarded as a loop





Simplify: 1 band, 1D

$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{-e}{2\pi} \int_{BZ} dk \, \langle u_{\mathbf{k}} | i \frac{d}{dk} | u_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle$$
Heuristically, $x \Leftrightarrow i \frac{d}{dk}$ (Compare $p \Leftrightarrow -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}$)
$$\mathbf{P} = -e \frac{\phi}{2\pi} \quad \text{where} \quad \phi = i \oint_{C} dk \, \langle u_{\mathbf{k}} | \frac{d}{dk} | u_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle$$
This is a Berry phase!



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Relation to Wannier functions

Centers of Wannier functions:

$$\begin{split} w_{0} \rangle &= \frac{V}{(2\pi)^{3}} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d\mathbf{k} |\psi_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle \\ &= \frac{V}{(2\pi)^{3}} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d\mathbf{k} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} |u_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle \end{split}$$

$$\mathbf{r} |w_0\rangle = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d\mathbf{k} \left(-i\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \right) |u_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$

$$= i \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d\mathbf{k} \; e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| u_{\mathbf{k}} \right\rangle \right)$$

$$egin{aligned} &\langle w_{0} \, | \, \mathbf{r} \, | \, w_{0}
angle = i \, rac{V}{(2\pi)^{3}} \, \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d\mathbf{k} \, raket{u_{k}} \,
abla_{\mathbf{k}} \, | v_{\mathbf{k}}
angle \end{aligned}$$



Berry phases ↔ Wannier centers





Polarization ↔ Wannier centers

Centers of Wannier functions:



$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{ie}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{n} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d^3k \left\langle u_{nk} \right| \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| u_{nk} \right\rangle$$

as before !!



Polarization ↔ Wannier centers

Centers of Wannier functions:



$$\mathbf{P} = \frac{ie}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{n} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d^3k \left\langle u_{nk} \right| \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| u_{nk} \right\rangle$$

as before !!



Reprise: Quantum anomalous Hall



Reprise: Quantum anomalous Hall





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Maximally localized Wannier functions

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Pseudo-Bloch
(smooth in k)

$$\widetilde{\psi}_{n\mathbf{k}} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} d^3k \, e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}} |\widetilde{\psi}_{n\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$
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Minimize $\Omega = \sum \left[\langle w_n | r^2 | w_n \rangle - |\langle w_n | \mathbf{r} | w_n \rangle |^2 \right]$

n

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Maximally localized Wannier functions



n

Example: 2D QAH insulator

Berry potential ("gauge field") $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{k}) = \langle u_{n\mathbf{k}} | i \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} | u_{n\mathbf{k}} \rangle$



Boundary Berry phase = 2π

Not a periodic gauge Cannot construct WFS A(k) has vortex in interior



Boundary Berry phase = 0 Not a smooth gauge Cannot construct WFs



Topological obstruction

Conclusion

• Exponentially localized Wannier functions do not exist for QAH insulator

Other examples

- For TR-invariant strong topological insulator (e.g., Bi₂Se₃), it is not possible to choose WFs in a way that respects TR symmetry
- For crystalline topological insulators, it is not possible to choose WFs that respect the crystalline symmetries



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Wannier disentangling



From WannierTools Documentation

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Wannier disentangling





From WannierTools Documentation

Wannier interpolation

- Setup N x N x N supercell
- Compute

 $\begin{array}{l} \langle w_{0n} | H | w_{Rm} \rangle \\ \langle w_{0n} | x | w_{Rm} \rangle \\ \langle w_{0n} | y | w_{Rm} \rangle \\ \langle w_{0n} | z | w_{Rm} \rangle \end{array}$

- Up to some radius r_{cut} , $r_{cut} < Na/2$
- Solve this "tight binding" model



Wannier interpolation





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Dropped for time

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Theory of magnetoelectric axion angle $\boldsymbol{\theta}$



$$heta = -rac{1}{4\pi}\int d^3k \,\epsilon_{abc} \mathrm{tr} \left[A_a \partial_b A_c - rac{2i}{3}A_a A_b A_c
ight]$$

Berry connection $A_{a,nm} = i \langle u_{n\mathbf{k}} | \partial_a | u_{m\mathbf{k}} \rangle$

Qi, Hughes and Zhang, PRB **78**, 195424 (2008) *Essin, Moore and Vanderbilt, PRL* **120**, 146805 (2009)



Maxwell equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = 4\pi \left(\rho_{\rm f} + \rho_{\rm b} \right)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \left(\mathbf{J}_{\rm f} + \mathbf{J}_{\rm b} + \mathbf{J}_{\rm p} \right) + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}}{\partial t}$$

 $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}_0 + \alpha \, \mathbf{B} \, ,$ Separate out magnetoelectric part: $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}_0 + \alpha \, \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} \, ,$



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 $\cdot \mathbf{P}$.

Maxwell equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = 4\pi \left(\rho_{\mathrm{f}} + \tilde{\rho}_{\mathrm{b}} - (\nabla \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{B} \right)$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{b}} = \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_{0}$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{b}} = \partial \mathbf{P}_{0} / \partial t$$
$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{p}} = \partial \mathbf{P}_{0} / \partial t$$

Separate out $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}_0 + \alpha \mathbf{B}$, magnetoelectric part: $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}_0 + \alpha \mathbf{\mathcal{E}}$,



Maxwell equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = 4\pi \left(\rho_{\mathrm{f}} + \tilde{\rho}_{\mathrm{b}} - (\nabla \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{B} \right)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\int \mathbf{J}_{\mathrm{b}} = \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_{0}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{b}} = \partial \mathbf{P}_{0} / \partial t$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{p}} = \partial \mathbf{P}_{0} / \partial t$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \left(\mathbf{J}_{\mathrm{f}} + \tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{b}} + \tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{\mathrm{p}} + c \left(\nabla \alpha \right) \times \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} + \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} \mathbf{B} \right) + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\alpha(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{e^2}{2\pi hc} \,\theta(\mathbf{r},t)$$

Only spatial and time derivatives of θ enter field equations !



Equations of motion of fields

Equations of motion of electrons

$$\left(1 + \frac{e}{\hbar c} \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{\Omega}\right) \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{v}_{g} + \frac{e}{\hbar} \,\mathcal{E} \times \mathbf{\Omega} + \frac{e}{\hbar c} \left(\mathbf{v}_{g} \cdot \mathbf{\Omega}\right) \mathbf{B},$$
$$\left(1 + \frac{e}{\hbar c} \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{\Omega}\right) \dot{\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{e}{\hbar} \mathcal{E} - \frac{e}{\hbar c} \mathbf{v}_{g} \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{e^{2}}{\hbar^{2} c} \left(\mathcal{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}\right) \mathbf{\Omega}.$$



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Summary

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