Diamagnetism of nodal fermions

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Free nodal fermionic excitations are simple but interesting examples of fermionic quantum criticality in which the dynamic critical exponent $z = 1$, and the quasiparticles are well defined. They arise in a number of physical contexts. We derive the scaling form of the diamagnetic susceptibility, $\chi$, at finite temperatures and for finite chemical potential. From measurements in graphene, or in Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$ ($x = 0.04$), one may be able to infer the striking Landau diamagnetic susceptibility of the system at the quantum critical point. Although the quasiparticles in the mean field description of the proposed $d$-density wave (DDW) condensate in high temperature superconductors is another example of nodal quasiparticles, the crossover from the high temperature behavior to the quantum critical behavior takes place at a far lower temperature due to the reduction of the velocity scale from the fermi velocity $v_F$ in graphene to $\sqrt{v_F v_{DDW}}$, where $v_{DDW}$ is the velocity in the direction orthogonal to the nodal direction at the Fermi point of the spectra of the DDW condensate.

I. INTRODUCTION

In a class of quantum critical points (QCP), Lorentz invariance appears as an emergent symmetry, but in general the quasiparticle residue, as inferred from the one-particle Green’s function may vanish. In rare cases, when the quasiparticle residue is finite, depending on the statistics of the excitations, the Lorentz invariant QCP is described by either a relativistic massless bosonic free field theory (massless Klein Gordon action) or a relativistic massless fermionic free field theory (massless Dirac action). Only in (1+1)-dimension are both descriptions identical due to transmutation of statistics. Though the theory has a relativistic form, the speed of excitations is usually about two orders of magnitude smaller than the physical speed of light. Due to fluctuations on all length scales in a critical system, many physical quantities exhibit power laws and obey scaling in the vicinity of the QCP. Even in the simplest of such systems, there are surprises buried in their diamagnetic response because a magnetic field is never a small perturbation: any perturbation that changes the spectra from continuous to discrete can not be considered small. Here, we hope to elaborate on this topic and present estimates that may be tested in experiments.

For a class of tight binding models in the half filled limit, for example graphite or graphene, the energy vanishes at distinct points of the Brillouin zone known as the nodal points and in the long wavelength and low frequency limit the dynamics are well described by Dirac fermions obtained by linearizing the spectrum around the nodes. The nodal spectra can also arise from a condensate. An example is nodal fermionic quasiparticles of a particle-hole condensate in $l = 2$ angular momentum channel, as in a singlet $d$-density wave (DDW), staggered flux phase, or an orbital antiferromagnet.

The electromagnetic charge is a conserved quantity for a tight binding model of an electron. This is also true if the order parameter is a particle-hole condensate, as in a DDW. In these cases, the electromagnetic field can be incorporated via the minimal gauge coupling. We shall restrict ourselves to such systems and not consider nodal Bogoliubov quasiparticles of a $d$-wave superconductor. The contrasting response of $d$-wave superconductor (DSC) and DDW is evident. The quasiparticles in a superconductor do not minimally couple to the vector potential $A$, but to the supercurrent $\mathbf{j} = (\nabla \varphi - 2e\mathbf{A}/\hbar c)$, where $\varphi$ is the phase of the superconducting order parameter, $e$ is the electronic charge, and $c$ is the velocity of light.

The effect of the chemical potential, $\mu$, is extremely important, as it can introduce electron or hole pockets and render the linearized free Dirac theory invalid. However, for small $\mu$ one can still use the linearized continuum theory; $\mu = 0$ describes the vacuum of the relativistic massless theory and hence is critical. But, for a finite $\mu$, one is dealing with a finite density of excitations. Thus, one is perturbed away from the criticality, and this should provide a cutoff.

For the diamagnetic response at $\mu = 0$ and zero temperature ($T = 0$), one can use a simple quantum critical scaling analysis to find the power laws satisfied by the magnetization and the susceptibility. In this paragraph we shall set $\hbar = e = c = 1$. From gauge invariance, the vector potential $A$ has the same scaling dimension as the momentum which is $L^{-1}$, where $L$ is a length. Therefore the magnetic field $H$ has the scaling dimension $L^{-2}$ or there is a length scale $L \sim H^{-1/2}$. One can immediately see that this length, which acts as a cutoff at the quantum critical point of the free Dirac fermions, is proportional to the Landau length. Since the hyperscaling should be valid for $d = 2$ and the dynamic critical exponent $z = 1$, the singular part of the ground state energy density, $\Omega_0$, multiplied by the correlation volume, $L^{d+z}$, should be a universal number that is, $\Omega_0 \sim H^{3/2}$. Therefore, the magnetization behaves as $M \sim -H^{d+1}$ and the diamagnetic susceptibility behaves as $\chi \sim -H^{-2}$. In the $H \rightarrow 0$ limit, $\chi$ diverges, which will be cut off by a number of physical effects not contained in this argument, and the stability of the state may not be in question.

The diamagnetic sign cannot be obtained from the scaling argument. The energy levels in a magnetic field
are bunched (discrete spectra) although the mean density of states is unchanged. The number of quasiparticles that can be accommodated below any given energy depends on whether or not this energy coincides with an eigenvalue of the Landau spectrum or falls in between two eigenvalues. For the nonrelativistic case it is easy to see that on average the energy is increased, because near $E = 0$ we always start with an empty interval. For the relativistic continuum theory of nodal fermions where we have to impose an ultraviolet cutoff, this is subtle and requires a proper regularization. Using the work of many authors involving $\zeta$-function regularization we can show that the answers are indeed cutoff independent and the energy is increased. This was also checked by considering a lattice version and Peierls substitution to incorporate the magnetic field.

We cannot apply the same scaling argument to free Dirac fermions in $(3 + 1)$-dimensions because hyperscaling is violated. This case is best described by a mean field theory with logarithmic corrections. It is known from explicit calculations that the singular part of the ground state energy density $\Omega_0 \sim H^2 \log H$. A naive application of the above scaling argument gives only a regular contribution, $\Omega_0 \sim H^2$, which is not surprising. Thus, we feel confident that the quantum critical scaling analyses are indeed meaningful.

Consider $d = 2$; some aspects of the finite temperature and finite chemical potential results can be understood from the notion of quantum criticality. From finite size scaling, the correlation length, $\xi(T)$, is proportional to the thermal wave length,

$$\lambda_T = \frac{\hbar v_F}{k_B T},$$

that is,

$$\xi(T) = A_Q \frac{\hbar v_F}{k_B T},$$

where $A_Q$ is a universal number of the order of unity and $v_F$ is the Fermi velocity. Tuned to $\mu = 0$, the quantum criticality will persist until $\xi(T)$ is the order of the lattice spacing $a$. Since $v_F$ is large, one would naively expect the singular diamagnetic susceptibility $\chi \propto -H^{-1/2}$ to persist over a wide temperature range. In fact, $\chi$ is governed by a balance between two length scales: the Landau length, $l_B = (\hbar c/2eB)^{1/2}$, and $\xi(T)$. If $\xi(T) > l_B$, then $\chi$ follows the power law indicating the quantum critical behavior, and in the opposite limit we obtain linear response, $\chi \sim -1/T$. At $T = 0$, non-zero $\mu$ tunes the system away from criticality. For small $\mu$ one can still use the linearized spectrum, and this introduces another length scale, which is essentially the interparticle spacing $\lambda \sim \hbar v_F/\mu$. For $\lambda > l_B$, $\chi$ follows a power law and in the opposite limit $\chi \propto -1/\mu$.

Quantum criticality of relativistic Fermions is experimentally relevant for graphene for which a linear spectrum has been established experimentally. These quasiparticles are charged fermions and show anomalous integer quantum Hall effect, as well as Shubnikov-de Haas oscillations. It is then natural to expect that, as $T \to 0$, graphene should have the signature of a diamagnetic “instability” consistent with quantum criticality described above. Similarly, the diamagnetic susceptibility of Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$ ($x = 0.04$) for which the linear dispersion of the fermionic excitations is known to be present remains unexplored. This should be approximately describable in terms of a $(2 + 1)$-dimensional Dirac theory with weak interlayer coupling. As mentioned above, it has been suggested that the pseudogap phase of the high $T_c$ superconductors can be described by DDW, whose quasiparticle excitations for $\mu = 0$ are Dirac fermions, as was recognized a long ago. Our work is an extension of these early analyses of diamagnetism of nodal fermions to finite temperatures and finite chemical potential, which leads to interesting results.

In a set of magnetization measurements, Ong and his collaborators have uncovered unusual diamagnetism in the pseudogap state of the high temperature superconductor Bi$_2$Sr$_2$CaCu$_2$O$_{8+\delta}$ (BSCCO). In the pseudogap regime, above the superconducting transition temperature, the diamagnetic susceptibility diverges as $\chi \sim -H^{(1-\delta)/2}$, $H \to 0$, where the effective exponent $\delta(T)$ is greater than unity over a very broad range of temperature. Such a divergent susceptibility above a phase transition calls for new ideas, because the response in general should be linear. Only at a critical point, where there are fluctuations on all scales, is it possible to obtain such a nonlinearity. In particular, it is known that for two-dimensional Kosterlitz-Thouless theory $\delta = 15$ at criticality $T = T_{KT}$, but the response is linear for any temperature $T > T_{KT}$. To the extent that the critical region is sufficiently wide, it is of course possible to obtain a large value of susceptibility, but not a divergent susceptibility, as seen in measurements where fields as small as 5 Gauss were used. Taken at its face value, experiments indicate a critical phase extending over a wide region of the pseudogap state.

Long ago it was suggested that a weakly coupled stack of $XY$-systems could exhibit a floating phase in which the three-dimensional behavior at low temperatures converts to a floating power-law phase (a stack of decoupled layers) at intermediate temperatures and finally to the disordered phase at high temperatures. It is now rigorously known that if the coupling between the layers is Josephson-like (a likely scenario), a floating phase is ruled out even for arbitrarily long-range couplings. Very special, finely tuned, interlayer couplings are necessary to produce a floating phase, which appears to be unlikely.

Although we find that a sizable diamagnetism sets in with the DDW gap over and above the conduction electron diamagnetism, our results cannot explain the data of Ong and his coworkers: (a) there is no finite temperature critical phase; (b) the relevant scales are vastly different. As mentioned above, Kosterlitz-Thouless theory cannot account for a critical phase above $T_c$, though the order of magnitude is reasonably close. We hope that our calculated crossover behavior of the diamagnetic response will
be observable, at least in graphene or in Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$.

The paper is organized as follow: in Sec. II we will describe the effective model for nodal fermions in two dimensions and outline the formalism for computing the grand thermodynamic potential. In Sec. III we will describe our results for two dimensions (2D). We first describe the results for the case $\mu = 0$ and then proceed to the discussion of $\mu \neq 0$. In Sec. IV we consider weak interlayer coupling in the context of a three dimensional (3D) system. In Sec. V we consider numerical estimates of the effects that are experimentally relevant and in Sec. VI we conclude. There are two appendices that contain certain mathematical details.

II. NODEAL FERMIONS: TWO-DIMENSIONAL SYSTEMS

A. Graphene

When linearized about the two inequivalent vertices of the Brillouin zone, the tight binding Hamiltonian, $H$, defined on a honeycomb lattice of a sheet of graphene involving only nearest neighbor hopping, with matrix element $t$, becomes in the continuum limit (lattice spacing $a \to 0$ such that $at$ is finite)

\[ H = \hbar v_F \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \begin{pmatrix} k_x \sigma_2 - k_y \sigma_1 \end{pmatrix} \psi^\dagger \psi, \]

where $\psi$ is a two-component Dirac fermion. We are using a reducible representation of $\gamma$-matrices formed from the standard Pauli-matrices $\sigma$'s:

\[ \gamma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \gamma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \gamma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \]

The Landau level problem in the tight binding formulation is a Hofstadter problem. But, for weak enough magnetic fields we can analyze the continuum model by incorporating the magnetic field by minimal coupling prescription. So, the hamiltonian of interest takes the form

\[ H = -i\hbar v_F \sum_{j=1}^2 \int d^2x \bar{\psi} \gamma^j D_j \psi, \]

where $D_j = \partial_j - iZ A_j$ is the covariant derivative. Landau levels can be easily found by squaring the hamiltonian to be

\[ E_n = \pm \frac{\hbar v_F}{l_B} \sqrt{n} = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} Bn \]

where $l_B = (\hbar c/2eB)^{1/2}$ is the magnetic length. We have introduced $\alpha = 2\hbar v_F^2/c$ for notational clarity. The same formalism can be applied to the nodal spectra of Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$ ($x = 0.04$).

B. $d$-density wave

The nodal spectra of the DDW is also a well studied problem\textsuperscript{1,5} The low-energy quasiparticle Hamiltonian for the DDW state is

\[ H^{DDW} = \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ \epsilon(k) - \mu \right] c^\dagger(k) c(k) + iW(k) c^\dagger(k) c(k + Q), \]

where $\epsilon(k)$ is the single-particle energy, commonly chosen to be

\[ \epsilon(k) = -2t (\cos k_x a + \cos k_y a) + 4t' \cos k_x a \cos k_y a, \]

and $Q = (\pi/a, \pi/a)$. The nearest neighbor hopping matrix element is $t$ and the next nearest neighbor matrix element is $t'$. The spin-singlet DDW order parameter takes the form:

\[ \langle c^\dagger(k + Q, t) c^\dagger(k, t) \rangle = iW(k) \delta^d_{s}, \]

where the gap function is given by

\[ W(k) = \frac{W_0(T)}{2} (\cos k_x a - \cos k_y a). \]

As the order parameter breaks translational invariance by a lattice spacing $a$, it is convenient to halve the Brillouin zone and form a two-component Dirac spinor. Then, in the reduced Brillouin zone, the mean field Hamiltonian is

\[ H = \int \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon(k) + \epsilon(k + Q)) - \mu \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} \chi_{1s} \\ \chi_{2s} \end{array} \right), \]

where

\[ \left( \begin{array}{c} \chi_{1s} \\ \chi_{2s} \end{array} \right) = \left( \begin{array}{c} c^\dagger_{s}(k) \\ ic\chi_{s}(k + Q) \end{array} \right). \]

The spin index $s$ can again be dropped, as this will not enter in our calculation except for an overall multiplicative factor.

The quasiparticle energies are

\[ E_\pm(k) = \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon(k) + \epsilon(k + Q)) \]
At half-filling, $\mu = 0$, there are 4 gapless nodal points at $(\pm \frac{\pi}{2\alpha}, \pm \frac{\pi}{2\alpha})$, the Dirac points. A non-zero value of $\mu$ will open up fermi pockets. The low-energy physics will be dominated by these gapless fermionic excitations. We choose a single pair of nodal points, $(\frac{\pi}{2\alpha}, \frac{\pi}{2\alpha})$ and $(-\frac{\pi}{2\alpha}, -\frac{\pi}{2\alpha})$ and include the other pair of nodes into our final result. We take the x-axis to be perpendicular to the free-electron Fermi surface and the y-axis parallel to it at one antipodal pair of nodes; similarly, the x-axis is parallel to the free-electron Fermi surface and the y-axis is perpendicular to it at the other pair. Linearizing the spectrum about the nodes, the dispersion relation is

$$\varepsilon(k) = \pm \hbar v_F k_x^2 + v_{\text{DDW}} k_y^2$$

(15)

where $v_F = 2\sqrt{\tau}a/\hbar$ and $v_{\text{DDW}} = W_0(T = 0)\alpha/\sqrt{\tau}h$. It is important to note that the parameter $\alpha$ does not enter at linear order. It is now obvious that the formalism is identical to that described in the previous subsection provided we replace $v_F$ by $(v_F v_{\text{DDW}})^{1/2}$ and rescale $k_x \rightarrow k_x \sqrt{v_{\text{DDW}}/v_F}$ and $k_y \rightarrow k_y \sqrt{v_F/v_{\text{DDW}}}$ to account for the DDW gap anisotropy.

C. Grand canonical potential

Consider the grand canonical thermodynamic potential per unit area of a two-dimensional (2D) system:

$$\Omega(T, \mu) = -k_B T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\varepsilon D(\varepsilon) \log \left( 2 \cosh \frac{\varepsilon - \mu}{2k_B T} \right)$$

(16)

Here, $D(\varepsilon)$ is the density of states (DOS), which in the presence of an applied perpendicular magnetic field $B$, takes the following form:

$$D(\varepsilon) = CB \left[ \delta(\varepsilon) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \delta(\varepsilon - E_n) + \delta(\varepsilon + E_n) \right) \right]$$

(17)

where $C = N_f e/\hbar c$ is an universal constant, such that, $CB$ represents the Landau level (LL) degeneracy factor, i.e. the magnetic flux per unit area due to the applied field measured in the unit of flux quantum. $N_f$ is the number of electron flavors - $N_f = 4$ for both graphene and DDW. Note that in Eq. (17) we have assumed a pure system. The presence of disorder broadens the sharp $\delta$-functions in $D(\varepsilon)$, however, we restrict our discussions to a clean system in this paper for simplicity.

Substituting $D(\varepsilon)$ in Eq. (16), we can write $\Omega(\mu, T) = \Omega_0(\mu) + \Omega_T(\mu)$, where $\Omega_0(\mu)$ is the temperature independent part (hence contributes even at $T = 0$) given by

$$\Omega_0(\mu)/CB = \sum_{n=n_c+1}^{\infty} (\mu - E_n)$$

$$= -\mu(n_c + 1/2) - \sqrt{\alpha} B^{1/2} \zeta(-1/2, 1 + n_c)$$

Here we assumed $\mu > 0$ (electron doping), and thus the positive LL’s are filled only up to $n_c = \text{Int}[\mu^2/\alpha B]$ at $T = 0$ while all the negative LL’s are filled for the ‘integer part’. Here $\zeta(s, q) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k + q)^{-s}$ is the standard Hurwitz $\zeta$-function. It is straightforward to show that $\mu < 0$. The $T$-dependent contribution is

$$\Omega_T(\mu)/CBk_B T = \left[ \log(1 + e^{-\mu/k_B T}) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-E_n/k_B T}) \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-E_n/k_B T}) + \sum_{n=n_c+1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\mu/k_B T})$$

(19)

Note that at finite $T$ the thermal energy can excite electrons across $\mu$ to arbitrarily high (positive) LLs, and thus the $n$-sum must include the whole of Dirac cone, as shown explicitly in Eq. (19).

III. RESULTS: TWO DIMENSIONS

A. Undoped system, $\mu = 0$

Consider the half-filled system: $\mu = 0$, hence $n_c = 0$. At any temperature, the length scale of the critical fluctuations is the correlation length $\xi(T)$. Thus, in order to observe the $T = 0$ critical behavior the largest length scale for the system must be this length. In the presence of a magnetic field $B$, the response of the system will show critical behavior only when $\xi(T) > l_B$. At $T = 0$, this condition is trivially satisfied, because the length scale of the critical fluctuations is infinite, and we obtain

$$\Omega_0 = -C \sqrt{\alpha} B^{3/2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{n}$$

(20)

$$= -C \sqrt{\alpha} B^{3/2} \zeta(-1/2)$$

(21)

$$= C \sqrt{\alpha} B^{3/2} \zeta(3/2)$$

(22)

$$= \frac{4}{3} N_0 N_f g_2 e^{2\mu_B B} \sqrt{B_0} B^{3/2}.$$  

(23)

Here $\zeta(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-s}$ is the Riemann $\zeta$-function, $N_0 = 3\zeta(3/2)/8\pi \approx 0.312$, $\mu_B = \hbar/2mc$, the Bohr magneton, with $m$ the free electron mass. The scale $B_0 = \mu_c B/\mu_B$ is a material dependent constant and has the dimension of a magnetic field. The transition from the second expression to the third is an example of standard $\zeta$-function regularization of a divergent sum over $n$. The proof follows from the remarkable result due to Riemann that

$$2^{1-s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \cos \left( \frac{1}{2} \pi s \right) = \pi^{s} \zeta(1-s)$$

(24)

The logic is that the “divergent” sum is physically cut off at some value of $n$ and is not truly divergent, but
a gauge invariant regularization is necessary. This is accomplished by the analytic continuation given by the Riemann reflection in principle. Other regularizations are given in Refs. 4 and 10.

For reasons of physical transparency we shall often express our formulas in terms of an equivalent non-relativistic free electron gas, while keeping in mind that the real parameters that enter our calculations, such as \(v_F, N_f\), etc., bear no real relation to this free electron system with a circular Fermi surface and two flavors of spin. Thus, we have written

\[
g_{2D} = m/\pi \hbar^2 ,
\]

which is the standard, energy independent DOS of a two-dimensional (2D) non-relativistic Fermi gas. Similarly, we can express

\[
\rho_{2D} = g_{2D} m v_F^2 / 2
\]

where \(\rho_{2D}\) is the 2D areal density. Here we have used the transcription \(v_F = \hbar k_F/m\), where \(i k_F\) is the Fermi wave vector of the equivalent non-relativistic Fermi gas.

The corresponding \(T \neq 0\) contribution takes the following form:

\[
\Omega_T = -\frac{k_B T}{l_B} \left[ \log 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log \left( 1 + e^{-\lambda_T \sqrt{n}/l_B} \right) \right].
\]

It becomes clear from Eq. (27) that \(\Omega_T\) is a function of the ratio of the two fundamental length scales \(\lambda_T/l_B\), and thus it must have a scaling form.

We calculate the magnetization \(M\) and the susceptibility \(\chi\) from

\[
M = -\partial \Omega / \partial B ,
\]

\[
\chi = \partial M / \partial H ,
\]

where \(H\) is the magnetic field strength. These also have scaling forms. If we introduce

\[
b = \lambda_T/l_B ,
\]

we obtain:

\[
\chi = \chi_0 + \chi_T
\]

\[
\chi_0 = -\frac{3 C \sqrt{\pi}}{4 \sqrt{B}} \frac{\zeta(3/2)}{4 \pi} = -N_0 N_f g_{2D} \mu_B^2 \left( \frac{B_0}{B} \right)^{1/2}
\]

\[
\chi_T = \frac{4 \pi}{\zeta(3/2)} \left( S + \frac{b}{3} \left( \partial S / \partial b \right) \right) = \chi_0 f(b),
\]

where \(S\) is given by

\[
S = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{1 + e^{n \sqrt{n}}}
\]

The function \(f(b)\) defined in Eq. (33) is a universal function of its dimensionless argument, which can be written as a series expansion in \(b\) (See Appendix A):

\[
f(b) = -1 + \frac{4 \pi}{\zeta(3/2)} \left[ \frac{b}{18} - \frac{8}{3} \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \frac{b^{4q+1}}{(4q + 1)!} \times (q + 1) \eta(-4q - 1) \zeta(-2q - 1) \right]
\]

where, \(\eta(s) = \left[1 - 2^{1-s}\right] \zeta(s)\) is standard Dirichlet \(\eta\)-function.

In the limit \(\lambda_T \gg l_B\), or equivalently \(b \gg 1\), it is the quantum criticality that dictates the response of the system, and Eq. (35) is not particularly useful. Instead, we can obtain the analytic expression for \(f(b)\) in this regime by replacing \(S = 2 \sum_n \sqrt{n} \exp(-b \sqrt{n})\) in Eq. (33) to get (See Appendix B for details)

\[
f(b) = F_{3/2}(b) - b^2 F_{5/2}(b) + \frac{b^4}{12} F_{7/2}(b),
\]

where we have defined a (convergent) \(b\)-dependent integral \(F_p(b)\) as,

\[
F_p(b) = \frac{4 \sqrt{\pi}}{\zeta(3/2)} \int_0^\infty dx e^{-b^2/4x^p} \frac{1}{x^p}.
\]

In fact, it is possible to obtain an explicit \(b\)-dependence of \(\chi\) by estimating the saddle-point approximation of \(F_p\)'s, which results in

\[
\chi(\lambda_T \gg l_B) \approx \chi_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{b}{1 + \frac{N_{3/2}}{(e^{b^2/6} - 1)} - \frac{N_{5/2}}{(e^{b^2/10} - 1)} + \frac{N_{7/2}}{(e^{b^2/14} - 1)} } \right]
\]

where, \(N_p\) is a pure constant given by

\[
N_p = \frac{\pi}{\zeta(3/2)} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2b^3}} \left[ 1 + \text{erf}(\sqrt{b^2/2}) \right] e^{-p[1 - \log(4p)]}
\]

The message from Eq. (38) is transparent: for \(b \gg 1\) the first term, \(\chi_0\), dominates, causing the \(B^{-1/2}\) behavior in the susceptibility, while the rest of the terms in \(\chi_T\) vanish exponentially. As \(b\) is decreased, \(\chi_T\) grows, modifying the non-linearity of \(\chi\) in \(B\). This behavior continues until \(b \sim 1\), that is, until \(\xi(T) \sim \lambda_T \sim l_B\). Finally, for \(b \leq 1\) the critical fluctuations fail to describe the magnetic response, and the susceptibility follows linear response. For \(b \ll 1\), we can keep only the first two terms in Eq. (35); the next term is \(\sim b^5\) and hence negligibly small. The first term exactly cancels \(\chi_0\) and we have,

\[
\chi = -\frac{C \alpha}{24 k_B T} = -N_f \frac{\rho_{2D} \mu_B^2}{3 k_B T}
\]

It is the expected diamagnetic, \(B\)-independent behavior in the high temperature limit if we absorb \(N_f\) in the definition of the areal density.25

We plot \(\log f(b)\) as a function of \(\log b\) in Fig. 1, using three following methods: (a) by numerically evaluating
we get
\[ \chi - \lambda f \]
however, that Eq. (18) and Landau diamagnetism prevails.

In the limit of linear response, simple expressions for the susceptibility can be derived, and we get
\[ \chi_l \sim \frac{1}{B+\mu^2/\alpha} \]
and we get
\[ \chi_0(\mu, B = 0) = \frac{C\alpha}{12\mu^2} \]  
(42)

This is of course expected because the chemical potential tunes the system away from the quantum criticality. For finite $B$, in the (non-critical) regime of $\lambda < l_B$ we expect de-Haas Van Alphen (dHVA) oscillation in the magnetization due to the cutoff introduced by $\mu$.

For $T \neq 0$, the additional $T$-dependent part in Eq. (19) becomes important; see Eq. (A5). Because we now have three different length scales: $\lambda_T$, $l_B$ and $\lambda$, the expression for $\Omega (\text{and } \chi)$ will depend on their relative magnitudes. The most important regime from the perspective of criticality, $l_B \ll \lambda < \lambda_T$, is particularly simple. In this case we can use similar approximations as in Eq. (38), yielding:

\[ \chi(l_B \ll \lambda < \lambda_T) = \chi_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{6} \left\{ \cosh(\lambda T/\lambda) \right\} \right] \times \left( F_{3/2}(b) - b^2 F_{5/2}(b) + \frac{b^4}{12} F_{7/2}(b) \right) \]  
(43)

Thus, the susceptibility has a scaling form in terms of two independent dimensionless variables: $\lambda_T/\lambda$ and $b = \lambda_T/l_B$. The expression for $\chi$ in Eq. (43) is valid even if $l_B < \lambda < \lambda_T$, but the latter condition invalidates the applicability of the linearized theory due to large $\mu$.

In the opposite limit of linear response, simple expressions for the susceptibility can be derived, and we get
\[ \chi(\lambda_T \ll l_B, \lambda = -N_f \frac{\rho_{2D} l_B^2}{3k_B T} \sech^2 \left( \frac{\lambda_T}{2\lambda} \right) \]  
(44)

which reduces to Eq. (40) when $\mu = 0$, as expected.

IV. THREE DIMENSIONS: EFFECT OF WEAK INTERLAYER COUPLING

Materials where this 2D nodal fermion theory is applicable are layered (quasi-2D) systems, an exception being graphene, which is indeed atomically thin. If we include weak interlayer coupling in a tight binding hamiltonian, the energy spectrum acquires an additional quadratic dispersion given by
\[ E(\vec{k}) = t_\perp k_x^2 \ell^2 \pm \hbar v_F \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2} \]  
(45)

where $t_\perp$ is the interlayer hopping matrix element and $\ell$ is the interlayer spacing. Introduction of this new energy scale will cut the divergence off $\chi(T \to 0)$ when the magnetic energy scale becomes smaller than $t_\perp$. The corresponding Landau energy spectrum is
\[ E_n(k_z) = t_\perp k_x^2 \ell^2 \pm \sqrt{\alpha B n} \]  
(46)
For \( T = 0, \mu = 0 \) limit, we get
\[
\frac{2\pi\Omega_{0}^{3D}}{CB} = \int_{-\pi/\ell}^{\pi/\ell} dk_{z} \sum_{n=n_{c}+1}^{\infty} \left[ t_{\perp}k_{z}^{2}\ell^{2} - \sqrt{\alpha B n} \right]
\]
(47)
where \( n_{c} = \text{Int} \left[ \left( t_{\perp}k_{z}^{2}\ell^{2}/\sqrt{\alpha B} \right) \right] \). Performing the \( n \) sum we get
\[
\Omega_{0}^{3D} = \frac{CB}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/\ell}^{\pi/\ell} dk_{z} \left[ t_{\perp}k_{z}^{2}\ell^{2}\zeta(0, n_{c} + 1) \right.
\]
\[- \sqrt{\alpha B} \zeta(-1/2, n_{c} + 1) \left. \right]
(48)
If \( (t_{\perp}k_{z}^{2}\ell^{2}/\sqrt{\alpha B})^{2} < 1 \) for any value of \( k_{z} \) within the cutoff, \( n_{c} = 0 \), and the \( k_{z} \) integrals can be done trivially. Thus,
\[
\Omega_{0}^{3D} = -\frac{CB\pi^{2}t_{\perp}}{6\ell} - \frac{C\sqrt{\alpha B}^{3/2}\zeta(-1/2)}{\ell}
\]
(49)
The susceptibility now is just the previous zero temperature result divided by \( \ell \). This implies \( \hbar v_{F}/l_{B}t_{\perp} < \pi^{2} \), which leads to a lower cutoff in the magnetic field, given by \( B_{c} = \pi^{4}t_{\perp}^{2}c/(2\hbar v_{F}^{2}) \). For a given \( t_{\perp} \), and \( B > B_{c} \), \( \chi \sim B^{-1/2} \). When \( t_{\perp} \) is vanishingly small, \( B_{c} \) is also vanishingly small and can be ignored. When \( (t_{\perp}k_{z}^{2}\ell^{2}/\sqrt{\alpha B})^{2} > 1 \) for any value of \( k_{z} \), the result is more complicated and will be representative of a truly 3D system.

However, in 3D electrodynamics one has to distinguish between \( B \) and \( H \), which leads to another cutoff. Following Ref. [4] we provide the appropriate formulas for \( \chi \) at \( \mu = 0 \). In 3D electrodynamics the magnetic induction \( B \) and \( H \) must be distinguished:
\[
B = H + 4\pi M_{3D}(B).
\]
(50)
For \( \chi \) we must find \( B \) as a function of \( H \). Since, \( M \) in general is a function of \( B \) and \( T \), \( B \) is a function of \( H \) and \( T \). From Eq. (23) we get for \( \lambda_{T} \gg l_{B} \)
\[
M_{3D}(T = 0) = -2N_{0}N_{f}g_{2D}\mu_{B}^{2}B_{0}/\ell
\]
(51)
Now using Eq. (51) we obtain the relation between \( B \) and \( H \):
\[
B(H, T = 0) = [(H + H_{e})^{1/2} - H_{e}^{1/2}]^{2}
\]
(52)
where,
\[
H_{e} = (4\pi N_{0}N_{f}g_{2D}\mu_{B}^{2}B_{0}/\ell)^{-2}
\]
(53)
and has the dimension of \( H \). Plugging Eq. (52) into Eq. (51) we get,
\[
\chi_{3D}(T = 0) = \frac{\partial M_{3D}}{\partial H} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{H}{H_{e}} \right)^{-1/2}
\]
(54)
The same analysis in the linear response regime, \( \lambda_{T} \ll l_{B} \), yields
\[
B(H, \lambda_{T} \ll l_{B}) = \frac{H}{1 + T_{0}/T}
\]
(55)
and
\[
\chi_{3D}(\lambda_{T} \ll l_{B}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{1 + T_{0}/T}
\]
(56)
where \( T_{0} = 4\pi N_{f}\rho_{2D}\mu_{B}^{2}/3k_{B}k_{0} \).

V. EXPERIMENTAL RELEVANCE

We have established in Sec. [4] that the diamagnetic susceptibility undergoes a crossover as a function of \( T \), from its zero temperature power-law behavior \( (\chi \sim -B^{-1/2}) \) to high temperature linear behavior \( (\chi \sim -1/T) \). It is interesting to ask if this crossover is observable. Consider graphene; we take the experimental value of \( v_{F} = 10^{6} \text{ cm/s} \) and use Eq. (40) for the high-\( T \) regime. We obtain
\[
\chi_{2D} = -\frac{9.88 \times 10^{-10}}{T} \text{ emu/cm}^{2},
\]
(57)
where the temperature \( T \) must be expressed in Kelvin. Note that \( \chi_{2D} \equiv \chi \) of Eq. (32).

In order to compare with experiments on layered (quasi 2D) materials we calculate the susceptibility by dividing Eq. (10) by \( \ell \). If we now take \( \ell = 3.35 \text{ Å} \) (the value for graphite), we obtain
\[
\frac{\chi_{2D}}{\ell} \approx -\frac{2.95 \times 10^{-2}}{T}.
\]
(58)
The corresponding susceptibility per unit mass is
\[
\frac{\chi_{2D}}{\ell\rho_{3D}} = -\frac{0.0134}{T} \text{ emu/gm},
\]
(59)
using the mass density of graphite\[^{38}\] \( \rho_{3D}^{m} = 2.22 \text{ g/cm}^{3} \), which agrees very well with the experimental results.\[^{28,29}\]

Upon lowering \( T \), \( \chi_{2D} \) is strongly enhanced and the power-law region can be accessed for \( \lambda_{T} \gg l_{B} \). This implies that in graphene for \( B > 5.6 \times 10^{-2} \text{T} \) (Gauss) we must use Eq. (38) instead of Eq. (40) for the estimation of \( \chi_{2D} \). In particular, in the \( T \to 0 \) limit we obtain
\[
\frac{\chi_{2D}}{\ell\rho_{3D}} = -\frac{0.012}{B^{1/2}} \text{ emu/gm}.
\]
(60)
We demonstrate in Fig. 2 the behavior of \( \chi_{2D}/\ell\rho_{3D}^{m} \) as a function of \( T \) by numerically evaluating Eq. (32) to illustrate the aforementioned crossover behavior.

However, if we use Eq. (53) to take into account the demagnetization effect due to interlayer coupling in 3D graphite, we obtain
\[
\chi_{3D} \approx -\frac{2.95 \times 10^{-2}}{(T + 0.37)}
\]
(61)
and this is a very small effect for high temperatures. For 3D graphite, when $\lambda_T > l_B$, we use Eq. (53) and Eq. (54). For graphite $H_s = 0.11$ G and
\[ \chi_{3D} = \frac{1}{4\pi (1 + 9.1B)^{1/2}}. \]

Therefore, in the limit of $H \ll 0.11$ Gauss graphite should become a perfect diamagnet (1), which, however, is a very small field. If the condition, $\lambda_T > l_B$ is combined with the value of the scale $H_s$, we find that when $T \leq 1.5K$, the demagnetization effect will be important.

In Sec. II B we described the DDW phase of high $T_c$ superconductors by the Hartree-Fock theory of the nodal fermions in the copper-oxide layers. We shall estimate the strength of the diamagnetic susceptibility from the DDW order, using the following experimental parameters for typical cuprates (18, 30) $v_F = 3 \times 10^7$ cm/s and $\ell = 12\AA$, where $v_{DDW}$ is estimated assuming a fully formed DDW gap $W_0 \approx 35$ meV which leads to the anisotropy in the velocity $v_F/v_{DDW} \approx 28.6$ if $t = 250$ meV.

In the linear regime ($\chi \sim -1/T$) regime, we obtain from Eq. (54),
\[ \chi_{3D} \approx -\frac{2.6 \times 10^{-5}}{T + 3.3 \times 10^{-4}} \approx \frac{2.6 \times 10^{-5}}{T}. \]

When $\lambda_T > l_B$, we use Eq. (53) and Eq. (54) to obtain $H_s = 2.7 \times 10^{-5}$ G and
\[ \chi_{3D} = \frac{1}{4\pi (1 + 3.7 \times 10^4H)^{1/2}}. \]

This indicates that the diamagnetic susceptibility of DDW from nodal fermions may be measurable. The discussion above would imply that DDW would become a perfect diamagnet when $H \ll 2.7 \times 10^{-5}$ G, which, however, is such a small field that many other effects will intervene, and one would observe $\chi \sim -H^{-1/2}$, but not perfect diamagnetism.

In the experiment on BSCCO (18) a $T$-dependent power law is observed over a wide range of temperature in the small $H$ limit. Moreover, at the smallest value of the magnetic field in Ref. (18), $H = 5$ G, we get from the DDW calculations $\chi_{3D} \approx 1.9 \times 10^{-4}$ in CGS units as $T \rightarrow 0$. This is orders of magnitude smaller than that found in the experiment. Therefore, the magnitude of the diamagnetic susceptibility of Ref. (18) can not be explained within a DDW framework alone. One must note however that as the temperature is lowered, the system will generically enter from the DDW phase to a coexisting DDW and $d$-wave superconducting phase for much of the parameter regime. Thus it is clear that the superconducting diamagnetic effects of the Kosterlitz-Thouless theory cannot be ignored. But of course none of these considerations can explain the observed critical phase, which requires new ideas.

VI. CONCLUSION

We have shown that the notion of quantum criticality, although restricted to non-interacting nodal fermions as elementary excitations, offers interesting insights to diamagnetism of semimetals. When the chemical potential is zero, the system is inherently quantum critical, and we derived the scaling function for $\chi$. The scaling form suggests that the non-linear behavior of $\chi$ as a function of $B$, due to quantum criticality, can persist up to a large enough temperature, which may be accessible in measurements in graphene. We have also discussed how $\mu$ tunes the system away from the quantum critical region. The root of the large magnitude of the diamagnetic susceptibility in graphene or graphite is of course the large Fermi velocity $v_F$.

There are a number of difficult but obvious questions regarding the roles of electron-electron interaction and disorder. These could be topics for future work. We have seen that our simple picture of the DDW does not explain the remarkable experiments in the high-temperature superconductors. We do not know if the generalization of the Hartree-Fock picture of the DDW to the six-vertex model where a power law high temperature phase was found will be able to explain these experiments. It is certainly worth exploring. We stress, for the reasons stated above, that these experiments are not fully explained by Kosterlitz-Thouless theory, as is sometimes claimed.

It is clear that the Euler-MacLaurin summation approach to compute Landau diamagnetism for non-relativistic fermions fails because of the non-analyticity.
due to massless Dirac fermions in semimetals. It is not known to us if there are any systems for which $(3 + 1)$-dimensional quantum critical behavior $\chi \sim \log H$ is experimentally observable. The material Bi$_1$–Sb$_x$ is lamellar, as is bismuth telluride, and is better described as a two-dimensional system with weak interlayer coupling. Nonetheless, it would be interesting to study the diamagnetism of this material as a function composition.

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**APPENDIX A: HIGH TEMPERATURE SERIES:**

We will now expand both the summations (we call them $I_1$ and $I_2$ respectively), first the logarithms in powers of the exponentials and subsequently $e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}$ in a power series to write

$$I_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}})$$

$$I_2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} b^r \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}})^k}{k!} \sum_{n_{c+1}}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}).$$

We will now expand both the summations (we call them

In the third step above, we interchanged the order of summation, which in general leads to a correction, but in this particular case it is zero (for details see Ref. 9).

And in the final step we have used the standard definition of Polylogarithm $\text{Li}_k(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k^r}$ and the Riemann $\zeta$-function. Similar manipulations for $I_2$ lead to the following:

$$I_2 = \sum_{n_{c+1}}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}) = -\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} b^r \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}})^k}{k!} \sum_{n_{c+1}}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}).$$

where we get Hurwitz’s $\zeta$-function instead of Riemann $\zeta$-function. Employing similar simplification to each term of

The grand canonical thermodynamic potential is given by

$$\Omega(T, \mu) = -CBk_BT \left[ \log \left(2 \cosh \left(\frac{\mu}{2k_BT}\right)\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log \left(2 \cosh \left(\frac{\mu - E_n}{2k_BT}\right)\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \log \left(2 \cosh \left(\frac{\mu + E_n}{2k_BT}\right)\right) \right].$$

Each individual LL sum fails standard convergent tests. The technique to deal with such sums in the quantum critical regime is discussed in the text. The strategy in the other limit, where linear response holds, is to convert the LL sums to express them as series in powers of $b \sim 1/T$, so that meaningful conclusions could be drawn about the small $b$ limit (equivalently, high $T$ limit) by considering leading order terms systematically. The procedure relies on $\zeta$-function regularization, details of which could be found in literature, but the purpose of this appendix is to provide a self contained description. Separating out the zero temperature part $\Omega_0(\mu)$ and finite temperature part $\Omega_T(\mu)$ we obtain Eq. (18) and Eq. (19) respectively. We now wish to express $\Omega_T(\mu)$ as a series expansion in powers of $b$. For this purpose we focus below to one term in Eq. (19), say, the following one:

$$I = \sum_{n=1}^{n_c} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}})$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{n_c} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}) - \sum_{n_{c+1}}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\frac{n+\mu}{n^r \tau}}).$$

We now expand both the summations (we call them
Eq. (B1), we finally obtain the desired high temperature series expansion:

\[
\Omega_T(\mu) = -CBk_B T \left[ \log \left( 1 + e^{-\frac{\mu}{T}} \right) - \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{b^r}{r!} \Gamma_{1-r} \left( -e^{-\frac{\mu}{T}} \right) \left[ 1 + (-1)^r \right] \left( -\frac{r}{2} \right) + \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{b^r}{r!} \left( -\frac{r}{2} \right) \left( 1 + n_c \right) \right]
\]

We arrive at Eq. (35) by letting \( \mu = 0 \). Also, starting from Eq. (A5), we can derive Eq. (44).

**APPENDIX B: SUM FOR \( \lambda_T \gg l_B \)**

When \( b \gg 1 \), one can simplify in Eq. (34) \( S = \partial I / \partial b \), where

\[
I = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-b\sqrt{n}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-b)^r}{r!} n^{r/2}. \tag{B1}
\]

Using the integral representation of the \( \Gamma \)-function in Eq. (B1), we have

\[
I = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-b)^r}{r!} \frac{1}{\Gamma(r/2)} \int_0^\infty dx x^{r/2-1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-nx}. \tag{B2}
\]

Note that the change of the order of sum and integral does not result in any extra terms.

The sum over \( n \) can now be trivially performed and using the relation

\[
\frac{1}{\Gamma(r/2)} = -\frac{\Gamma(1+r/2)}{\pi} \sin \left( \frac{\pi r}{2} \right), \tag{B3}
\]

we get

\[
I = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^{(r+1)/2}} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{\Gamma(r+1)} \left( \frac{b}{\sqrt{x}} \right)^r \sin \left( \frac{\pi r}{2} \right) \Gamma \left( 1 + \frac{r}{2} \right). \tag{B4}
\]

After carrying out the \( r \)-sum we get

\[
I = \int_0^\infty dx \frac{e^{-b^2/4x} x^{-3/2}}{e^x - 1}. \tag{B5}
\]

This gives \( \chi_T \) in Eq. (35). Alternatively, we could have expanded the logarithm term in \( \Omega_T \) and have kept only the first term in that expansion for \( b \gg 1 \); one has \( \Omega_T = -CTBI \). Thus, one arrives at the same expression for \( \chi_T \) as in Eq. (35).

For the saddle-point approximation of \( F_p(b) \) as defined in Eq. (37), we write:

\[
F_p = \int_0^\infty dx g(x) e^{-h(x)} \approx g(x_0) e^{-h(x_0)} \int_0^\infty dx \exp \left[ -\frac{h''(x_0)}{2} (x - x_0)^2 \right]. \tag{B6}
\]

with \( g(x) = [\sqrt{\pi}(e^x - 1)]^{-1} \) and \( h(x) = b^2/4x + p \log x \), and \( x_0 \) is defined by \( h'(x_0) = 0 \) (the prime refers to derivative). Simple manipulations following this scheme yield Eq. (38) and Eq. (39).

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