

Title: Low-energy electrodynamics of topological insulator thin films

Date: May 02, 2016 03:30 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/16050013>

Abstract: <p>Topological insulators (TIs) are a recently discovered state of matter characterized by an "inverted" band structure driven by strong spin-orbit coupling. One of their most touted properties is the existence of robust "topologically protected" surface states. I will discuss what topological protection means for transport experiments and how it can be probed using the technique of time-domain THz spectroscopy applied to thin films of Bi₂Se₃. By measuring the low frequency optical response, we can follow their transport lifetimes as we drive these materials via chemical substitution through a quantum phase transition into a topologically trivial regime[1]. I will then discuss our work following the evolution of the response as a function of magnetic field from the semi-classical transport regime[2] to the quantum regime[3]. In the semi-classical regime, an anomalous increase of the transport scattering rate was observed at high field, which contribute from electron-phonon interaction[2]. In the highest quality samples[3,4], we observe a continuous crossover from a low field regime where the response is given by semi-classical transport and observed in the form of cyclotron resonance to a higher field quantum regime[3]. In the later case, we find evidence for Faraday and Kerr rotation angles quantized in units of the fine structure constant[3]. This quantized rotation angle can be seen as evidence for a novel magneto-electric of the TI's surface e.g. the much heralded axion electrodynamics of topological insulators. Among other aspects this give a purely solid-state measure of fine structure constant[3].</p>

<p></p>

<p>1. Wu, et al, Nat. Phys. 9, 410 (2013).</p>

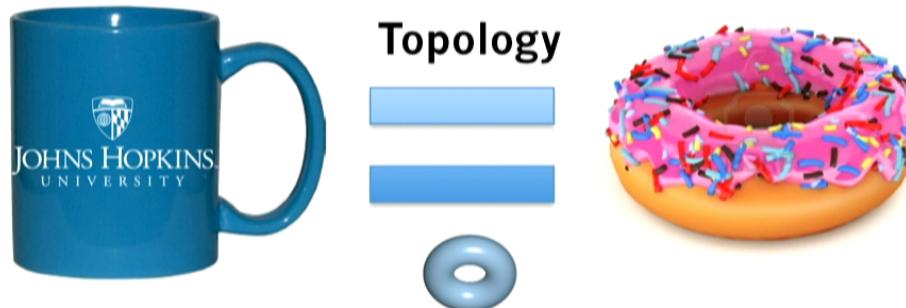
<p>2. Wu, et al, Phy. Rev. Lett. 115, 217602 (2015).</p>

<p>3. Wu, et al, arXiv. 1603.04317 (2016)</p>

<p>4. Nikesh, et al, Nano. Lett. 15, 8245 (2015)</p>

Low-energy electrodynamics of 3D topological insulator thin films

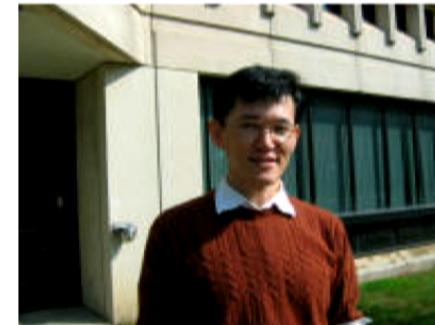
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Acknowledgement



Prof. Peter Armitage (JHU)



Prof. Seongshik Oh (Rutgers)

Matthew Brahlek (Rutgers→PSU)
Maryam Salehi (Rutgers)
Nikesh Koirala (Rutgers)

Theory: Wang-Kong Tse (LANL→UA)



Overview of results

1st part

- Why THz spectroscopy? --- Low energy, long wavelength limit
- Low-energy signatures of Surface states (SSs) in topological insulator (TI) Bi_2Se_3
- ‘Kill’ SSs by TI-conventional insulator transition in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$

2nd part

- Cyclotron resonances (CRs) from SSs, Landau Level transitions
- CR broadening → electron phonon coupling

3rd part

- Axion electrodynamics of SSs
- Quantized Faraday/Kerr rotation → Topological magneto-electric effect

THz (~meV) is the right energy to study these Physics!

Topological Insulators

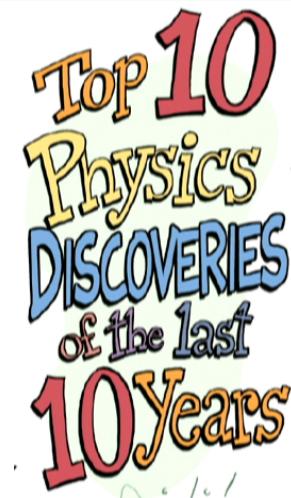
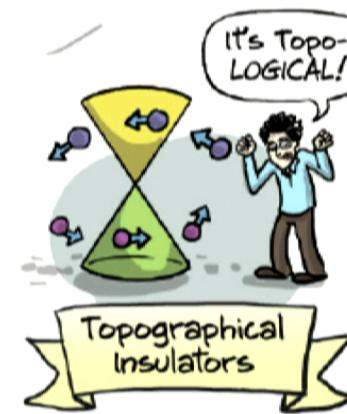
Exotic states of matter...
not characterized by broken symmetry

Insulating bulk

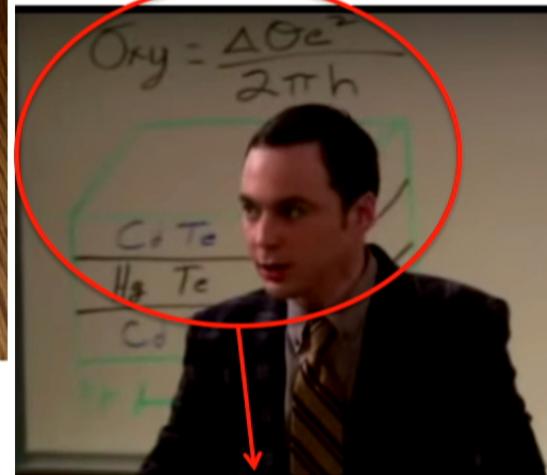


An 'unrealistic' demo made by me ...

Helical metallic surface



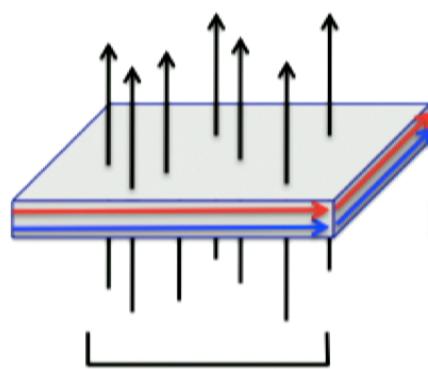
NATURE PHYSICS | VOL 11 | OCTOBER 2015



Topological insulators showed up in
'Big Bang Theory' TV series!

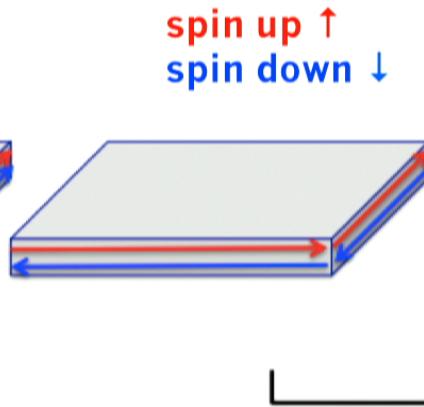
QHE in 3D without magnetic field?

States exist where role of B field is played by spin-orbit coupling



QH
broken time-reversal symmetry
Quantized resistance

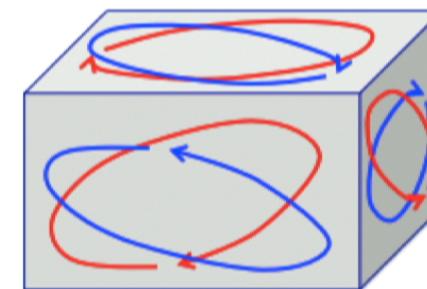
$$R_{xy} = \frac{1}{n} \frac{h}{e^2}$$



2D TI (QSH)
time-reversal symmetric

$$H_{\text{SOC}} = \frac{\hbar}{4m^2c^2} (\nabla V \times \vec{p}) \vec{\sigma}$$

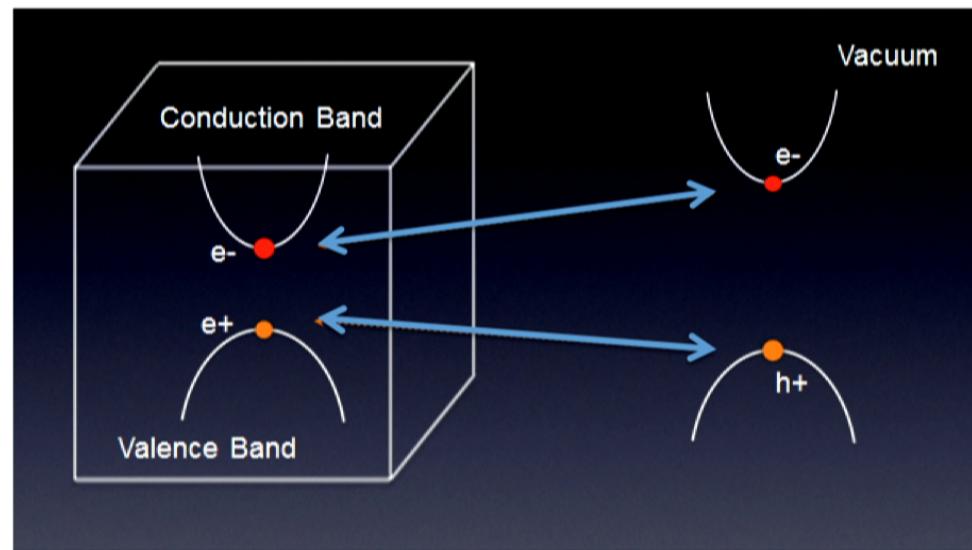
Spin-orbit coupling can look like a momentum dependent magnetic field



3D TI

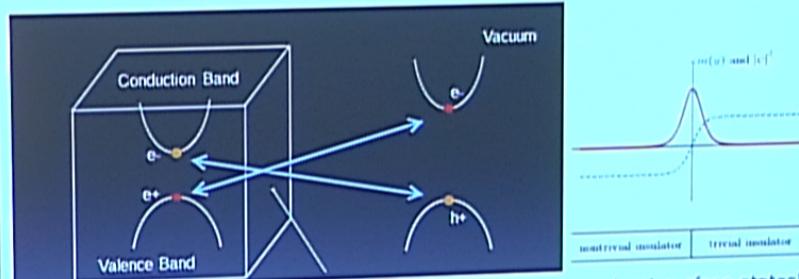
How to classify TIs?

Conventional Insulator (eg. GaAs) :
Adiabatically connected to the vacuum



1. Band Inversion \leftarrow strong spin-orbit coupling
2. "Bulk-boundary correspondence":
Bulk topology determines existence of topological surface states.
3. Respect time-reversal symmetry $\rightarrow Z_2$ invariant

Topological Insulator (eg. strained HgTe):
Adiabatically disconnected from the vacuum



Bulk gap closes at the interface \rightarrow Dirac (massless) surface states!

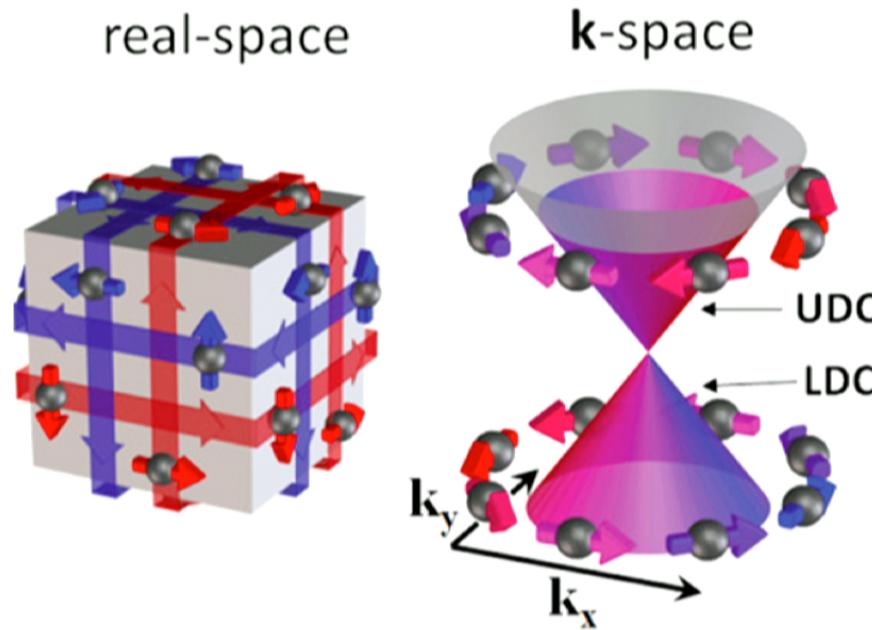
Hasan & Kane, RMP 82, 3045 (2010)., Qi & Zhang, RMP, 83, 1057 (2011).

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Proposed “*Flipper Bridge*” between Hong Kong (left-hand traffic) & Mainland China (right-hand traffic)

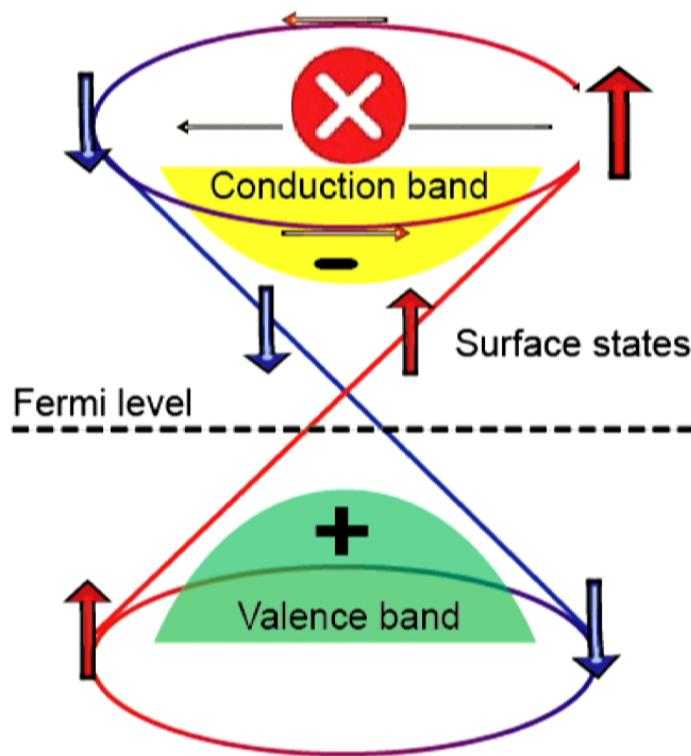


Dirac surface states



Fermion doubling theorem (Nielsen & Ninomiya 1983): Dirac points must come in pairs in a time-reversal invariant system. 3D TIs “**invades**” this theorem by putting one Dirac point on the opposite side.

Topological protection in transport



Transport is sensitive to backscattering.
Suppression of back scattering due to spin-momentum locking

$$1/\tau_{trans}^{TSS} = (1/\tau_{qp}) \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\theta \left(\frac{1 - \cos\theta}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1 + \cos\theta}{2} \right)$$

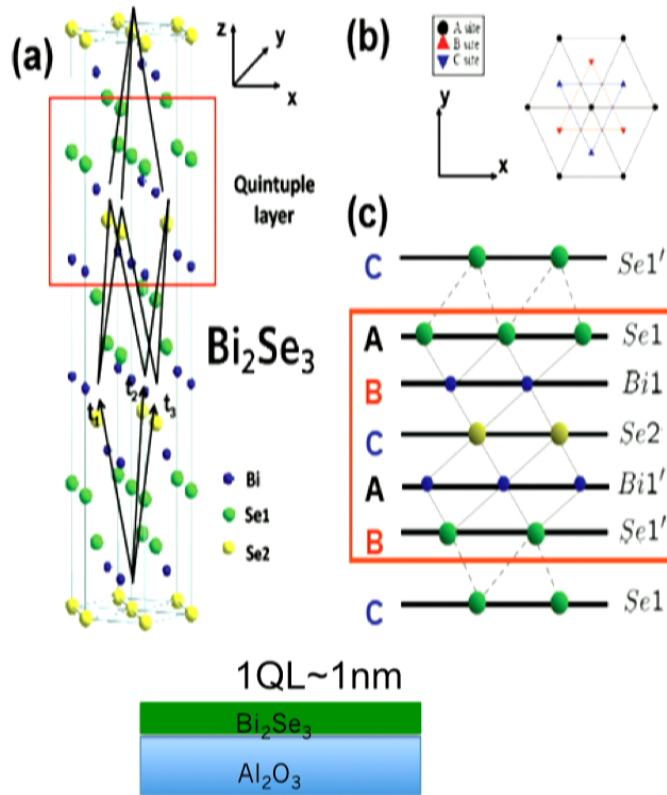
$$1/\tau_{trans}^{TSS} = \frac{1}{8} (1/\tau_{qp})$$

$$1/\tau_{trans} = (1/\tau_{qp}) \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\theta \left(\frac{1 - \cos\theta}{2} \right)$$

$$1/\tau_{trans} = \frac{1}{2} (1/\tau_{qp})$$

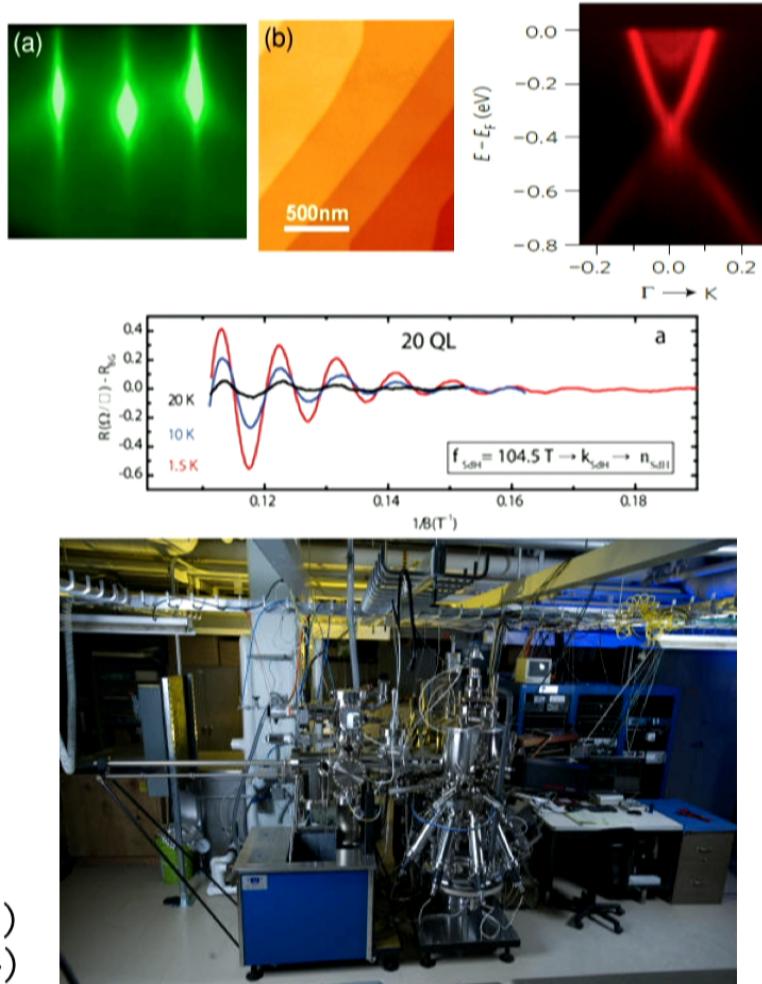
Enhancement of scattering rate by factor of unity when topological protection is lost.

MBE Bi_2Se_3 films from Rutgers

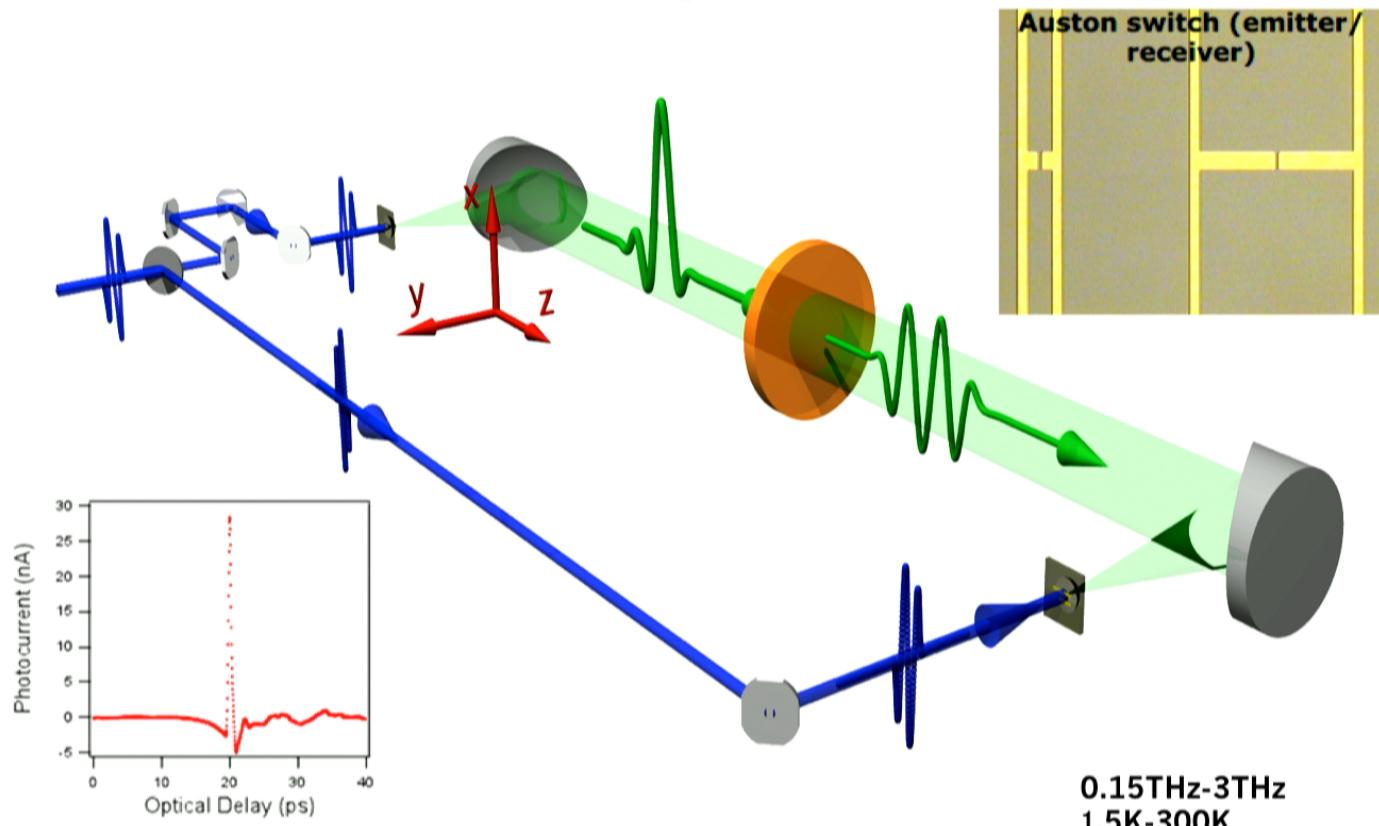


Two step growth on sapphire substrate.

Bansal *et al.* *PRL*, 109, 116804, (2012)
Brahlek *et al.* *PRL*, 113, 026801 (2014)



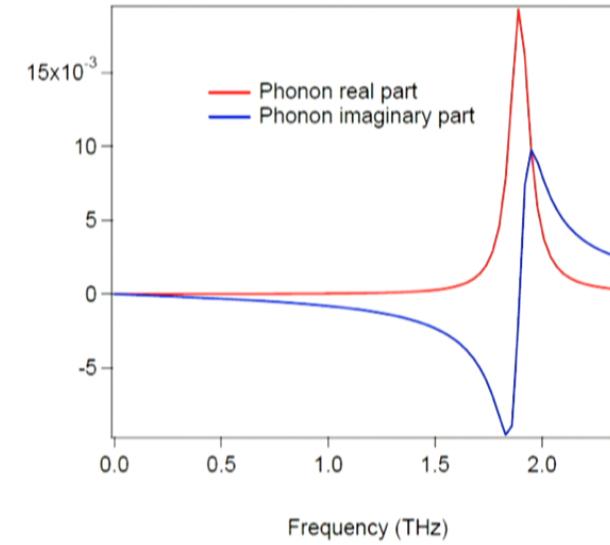
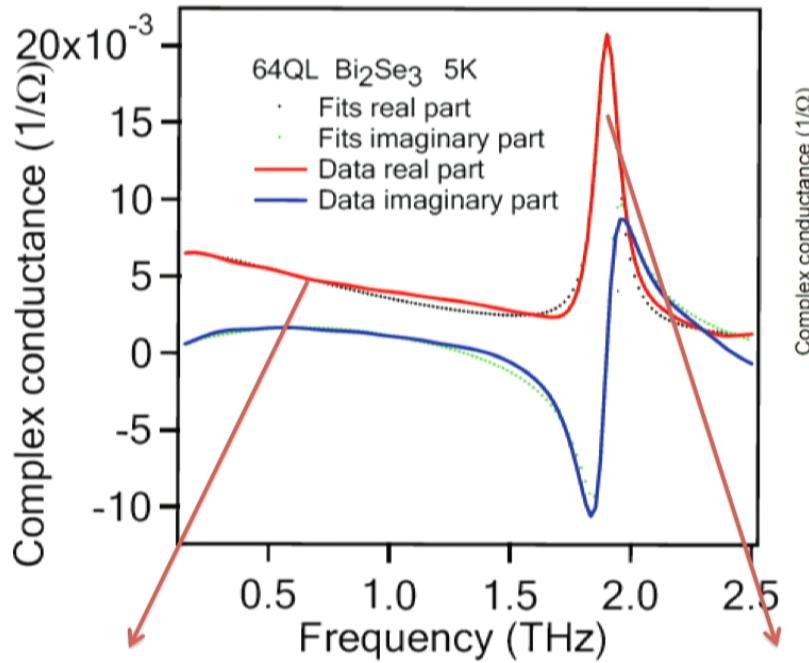
Time-domain THz spectroscopy (TDTS)



$$\tilde{T}(\bar{\omega}) = \frac{1+n}{1+n+Z_0\tilde{\sigma}(\bar{\omega})d} e^{i\Phi_s}$$

1THz~4meV~50K

Complex conductance in TI Bi_2Se_3



Sum rule

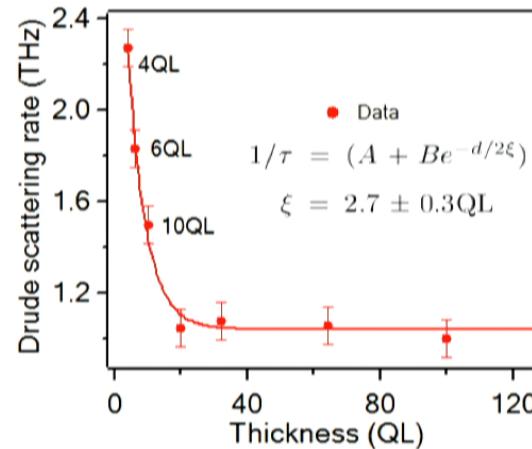
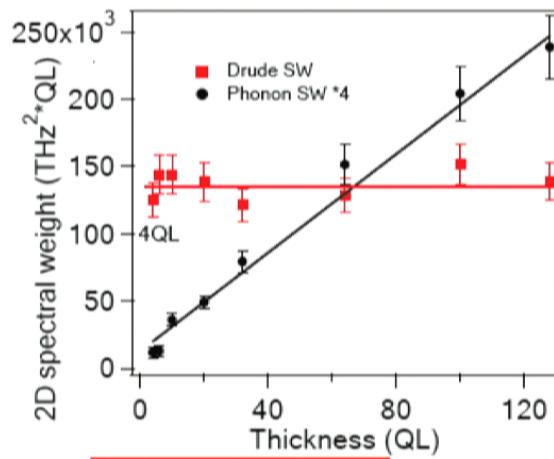
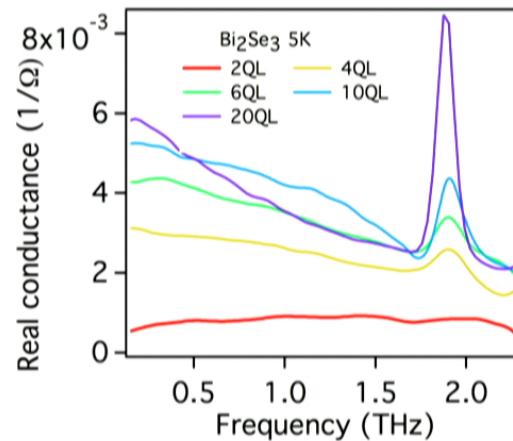
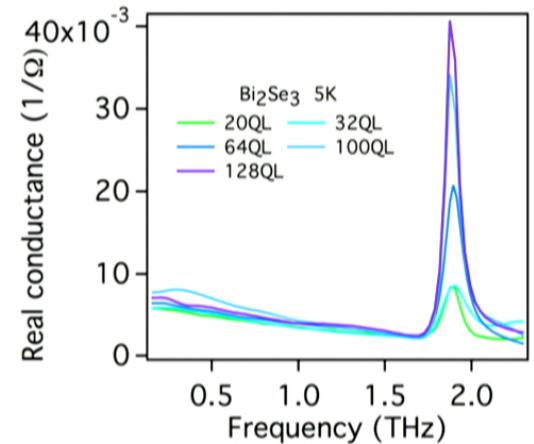
Drude response – motion of electrons

$$\sigma_{xx}(\omega) = \frac{\omega_{pD}^2/4\pi}{i\omega - \Gamma_D} - \frac{i\omega\omega_{pDL}^2/4\pi}{\omega_{DL}^2 - \omega^2 - i\omega\Gamma_{DL}} - \frac{i(\epsilon_\infty - 1)\omega}{4\pi}$$

Phonon

$$\frac{2}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int G_1 d\omega = \omega_p^2 d = \frac{n_{2D} e^2}{m^* \epsilon_0}$$

Surface state dominating transport



Valdes Aguilar, et al. PRL, **108**, 087403 (2012)
Wu, et al. Nat. Phys. **9** 410 (2013).

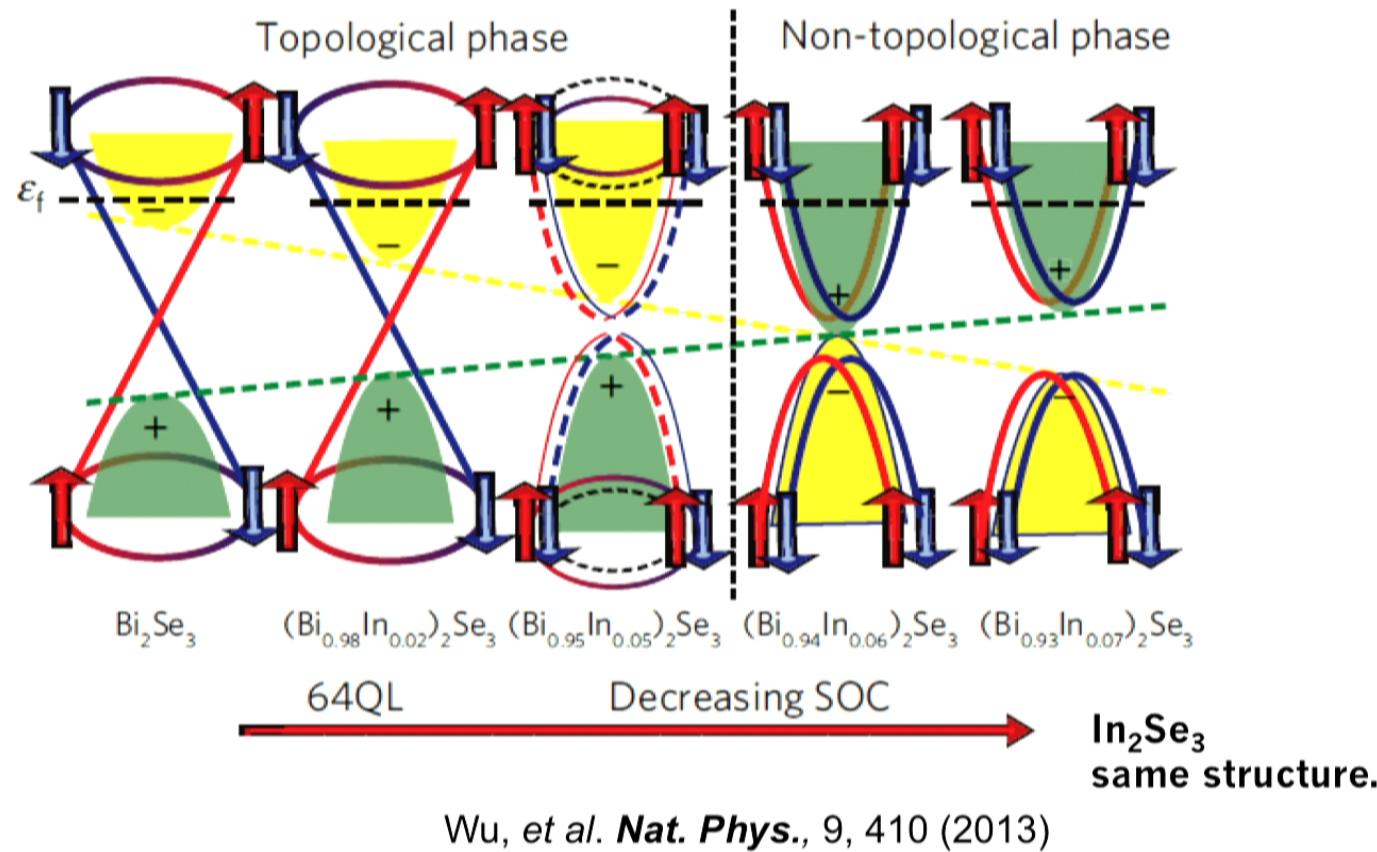
$$\frac{2}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int G_1 d\omega = \omega_p^2 d = \frac{n_{2D} e^2}{m^* \epsilon_0}$$



A man in a dark suit and glasses stands on the left side of a stage, facing a large projection screen. He is gesturing with his right hand. The projection screen displays a presentation slide with the following text:

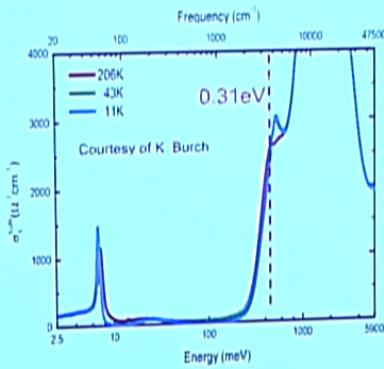
Topological phase transition in
 $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$

How to ‘kill’ surface states? Gap closing, Band Inversion



Topological phase transition (TPT) in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3^*$

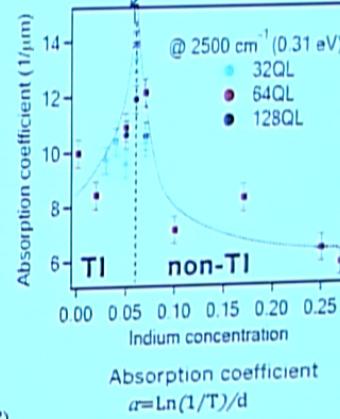
Absorption over wide frequency range



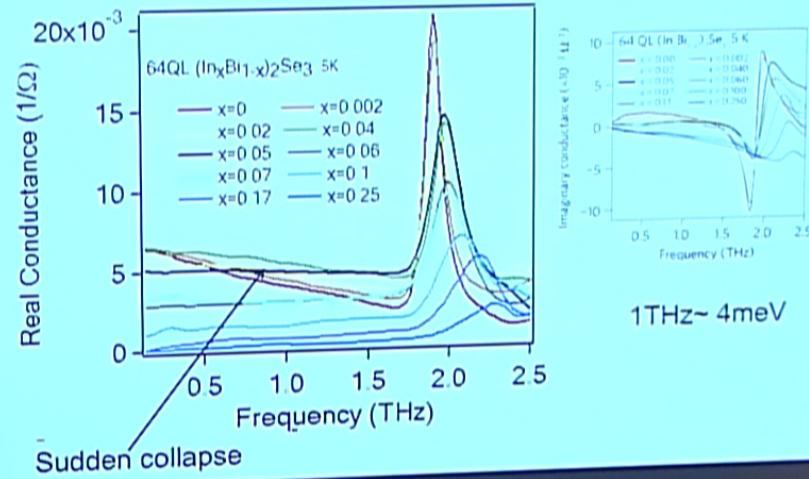
Bulk gap of $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3 \sim 350\text{meV}$
*Investigated also Braholek et al. PRL 109, 186403 (2012).

Bulk gap closure

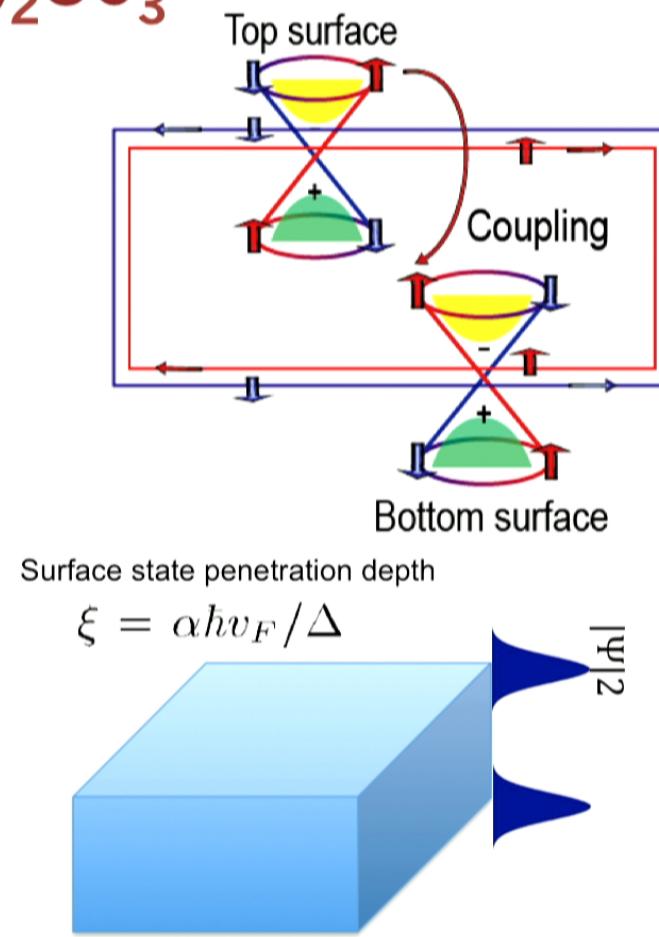
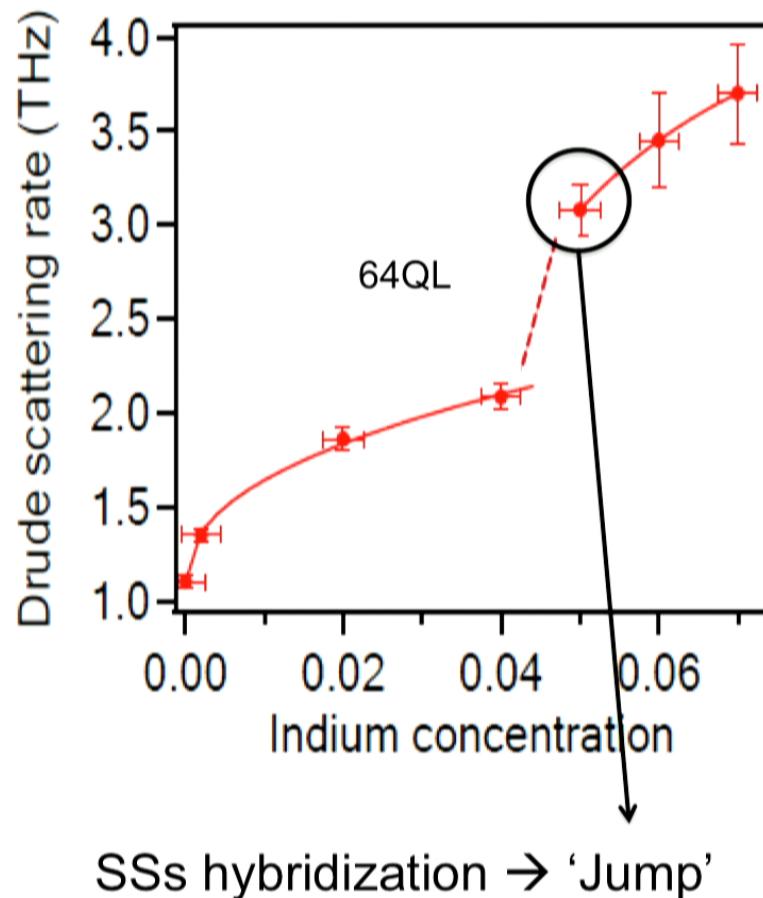
Mid-Infrared absorption (MIR)



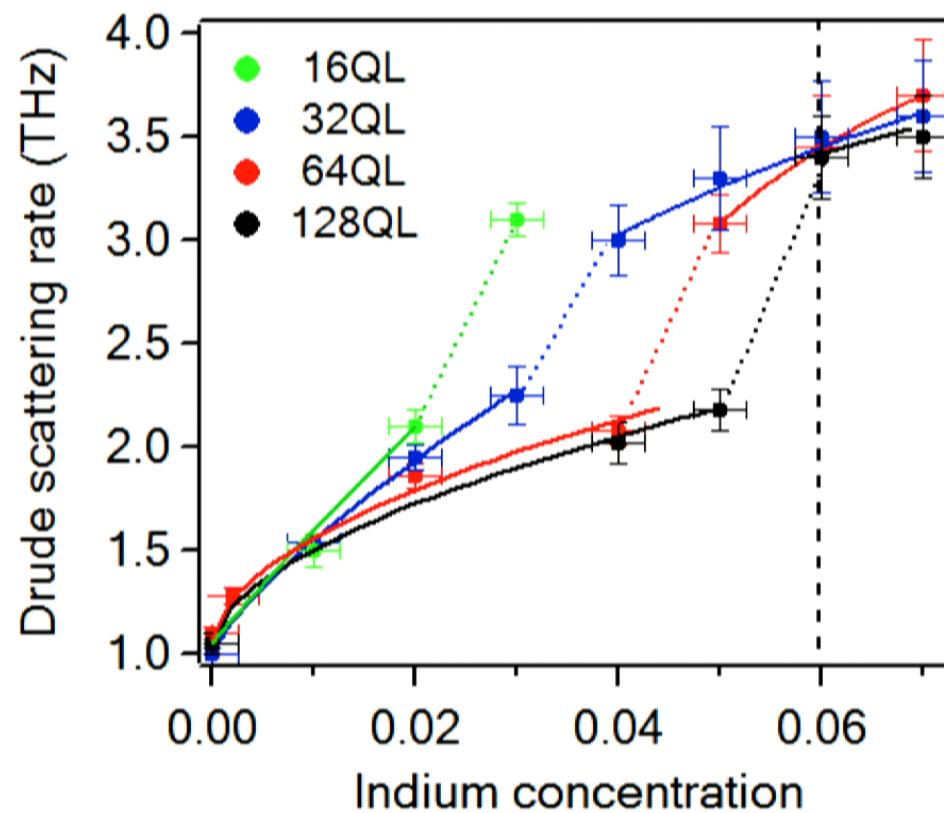
Topological phase transition in $(Bi_{1-x}In_x)_2Se_3$



Topological phase transition in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$



Novel finite size effect in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$

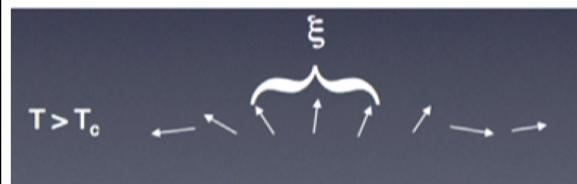


Surface states can hybridize before bulk gap closing in a finite-size system!

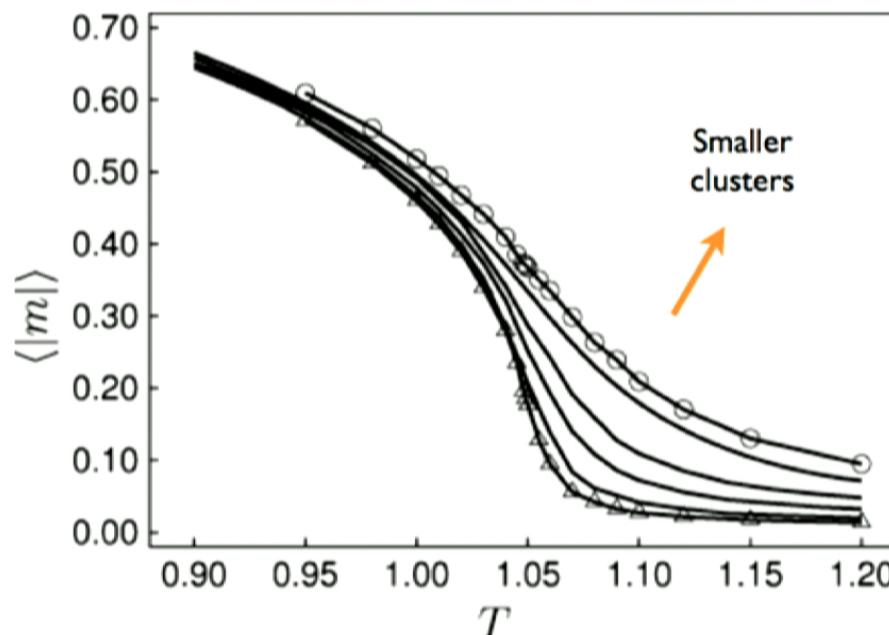
Conventional finite size effect near (continuous) phase transition

Discontinuity happens at phase transition point because of divergence of ξ . Finite size cuts off the divergence.

$$\xi = \xi_0 (1 - T/T_c)^{\nu}$$

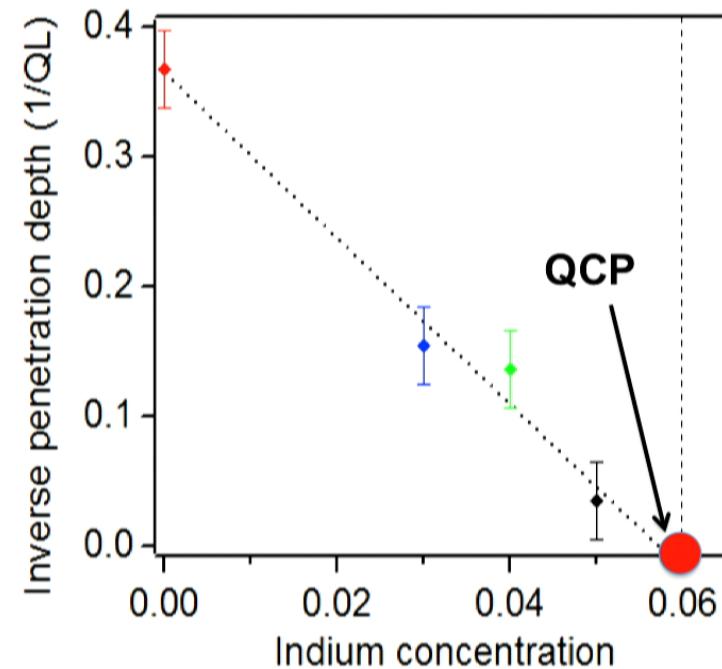
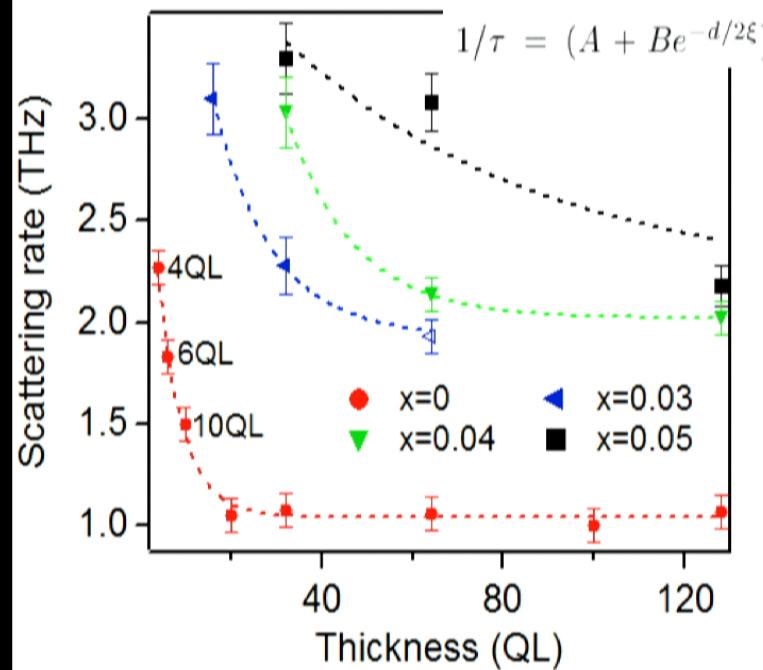


Magnetization of ferromagnetic nanoclusters



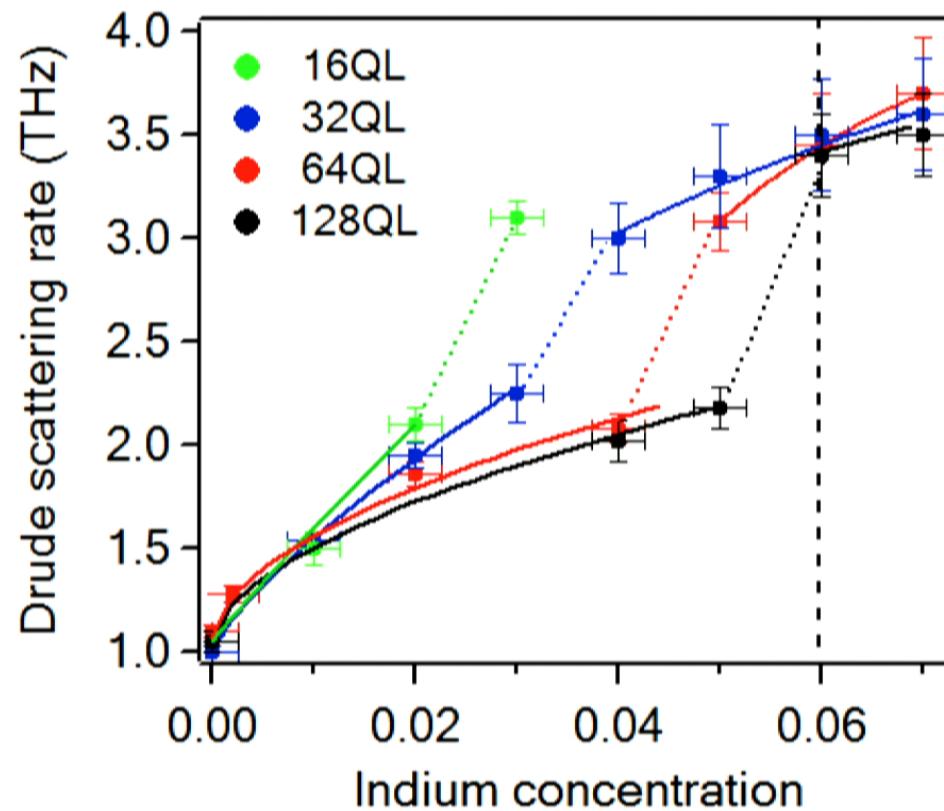
23

Finite size scaling on $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$



Evanescence length appears as the correlation length in the phase transition.
No order parameter.
Similar to percolation picture between different plateau transitions in QHE.

Novel finite size effect in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$



Surface states can hybridize before bulk gap closing in a finite-size system!

Energy independent evanescent decay length!

$$\Psi = \exp(-z/\xi)$$

$$\xi = i/kz$$

$$k_z = \sqrt{2m(E - V)/\hbar}$$

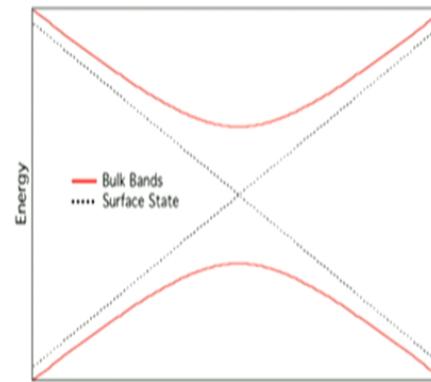
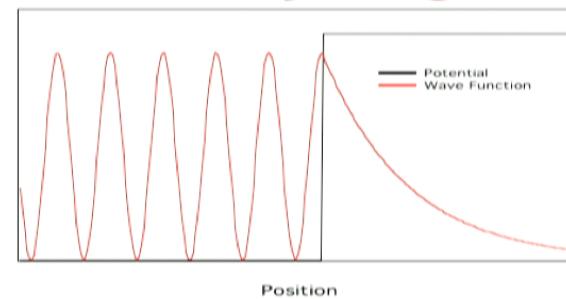
Binding energy decreases at finite $k_{||}$!

a toy model of the linearized Dirac Hamiltonian

$$H(k_z, k_{||}) = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta & \hbar(v_z k_z - iv_F k_{||}) \\ \hbar(v_z k_z + iv_F k_{||}) & -\Delta \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$k_z = \sqrt{E^2 - \Delta^2 - (\hbar v_F k_{||})^2}/\hbar v_z.$$

massless Dirac dispersion $E = \hbar v_F k_{||}$



$$k_z = i\Delta/\hbar v_z$$

$$\xi = \alpha \hbar v_F / \Delta$$

for all energies
at high symmetry
momentum points

Thanks discussion from
Fan Zhang, E.J. Mele, Liang Fu, Gil Rafael!

Particular properties
for Dirac Surface states

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Energy independence of evanescent length

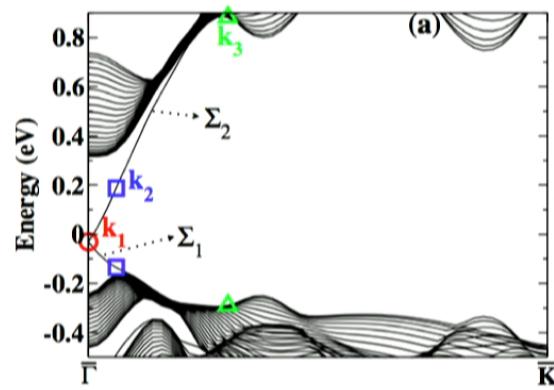
New Journal of Physics

The open-access journal for physics

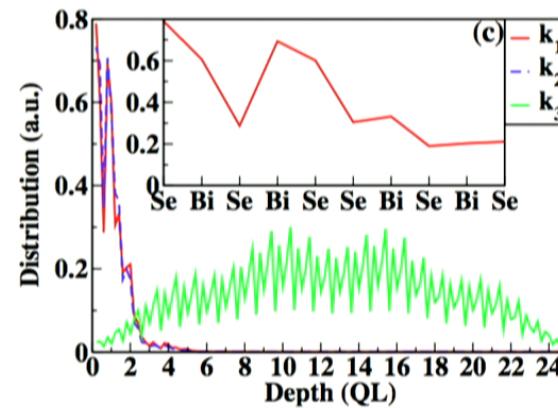
First-principles studies of the three-dimensional strong topological insulators Bi_2Te_3 , Bi_2Se_3 and Sb_2Te_3

Wei Zhang, Rui Yu, Hai-Jun Zhang, Xi Dai and Zhong Fang

Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics and Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, People's Republic of China
E-mail: zfang@iphy.ac.cn



Supported by first principles calculation



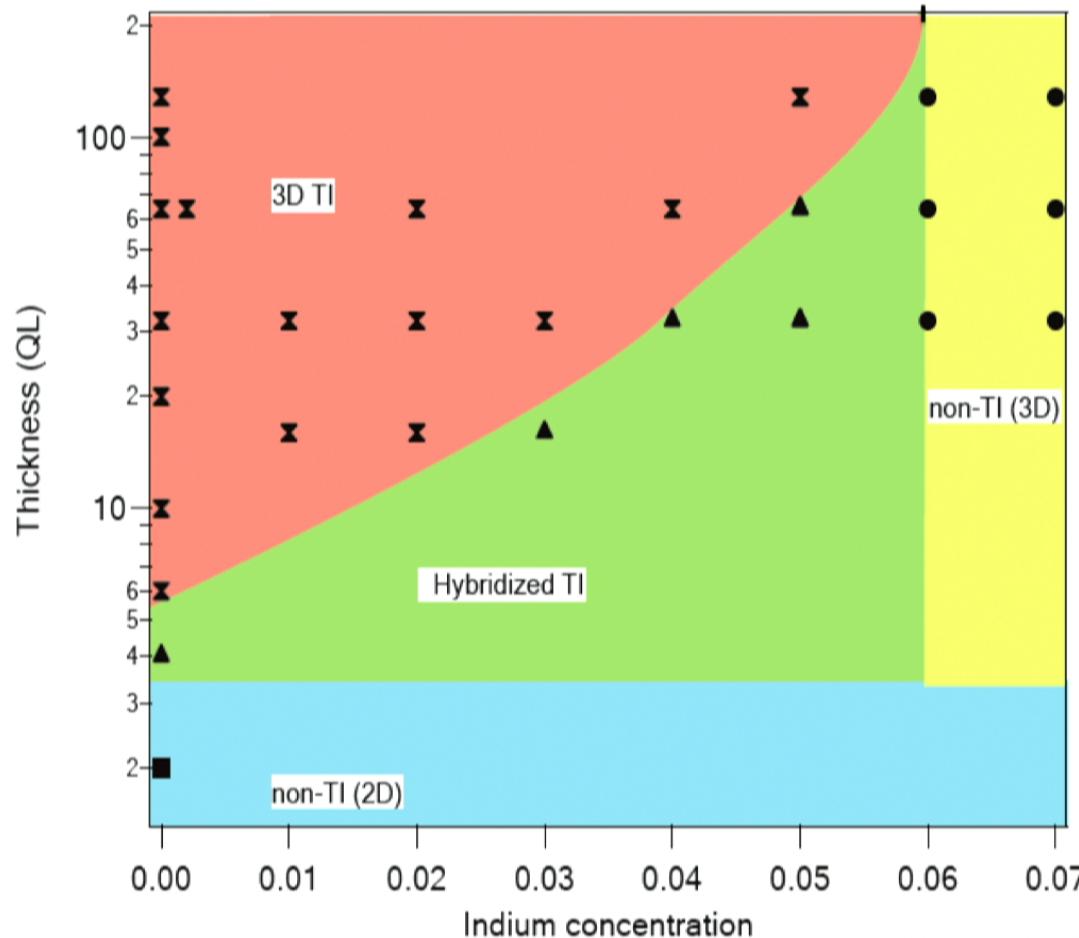
"By moving away from the Dirac point, the penetration depth increases, and finally for k_3 point, where the surface state almost merges with the bulk states, the eigenwavefunction becomes an extended state."

See also Fan Zhang, C. L. Kane, and E. J. Mele, PRB 2012

Phase diagram for $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$

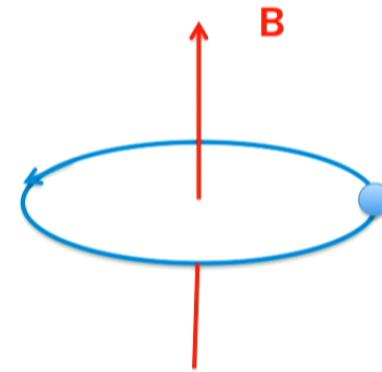
QCP

(host 3D Dirac point
in the bulk)

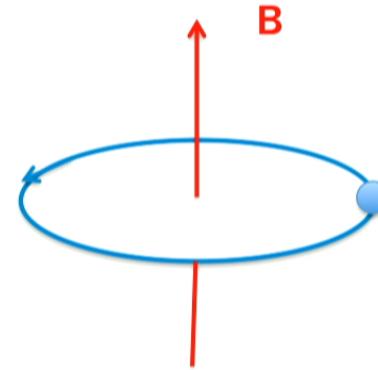


Wu, et al. *Nat. Phys.*, 9, 410 (2013)

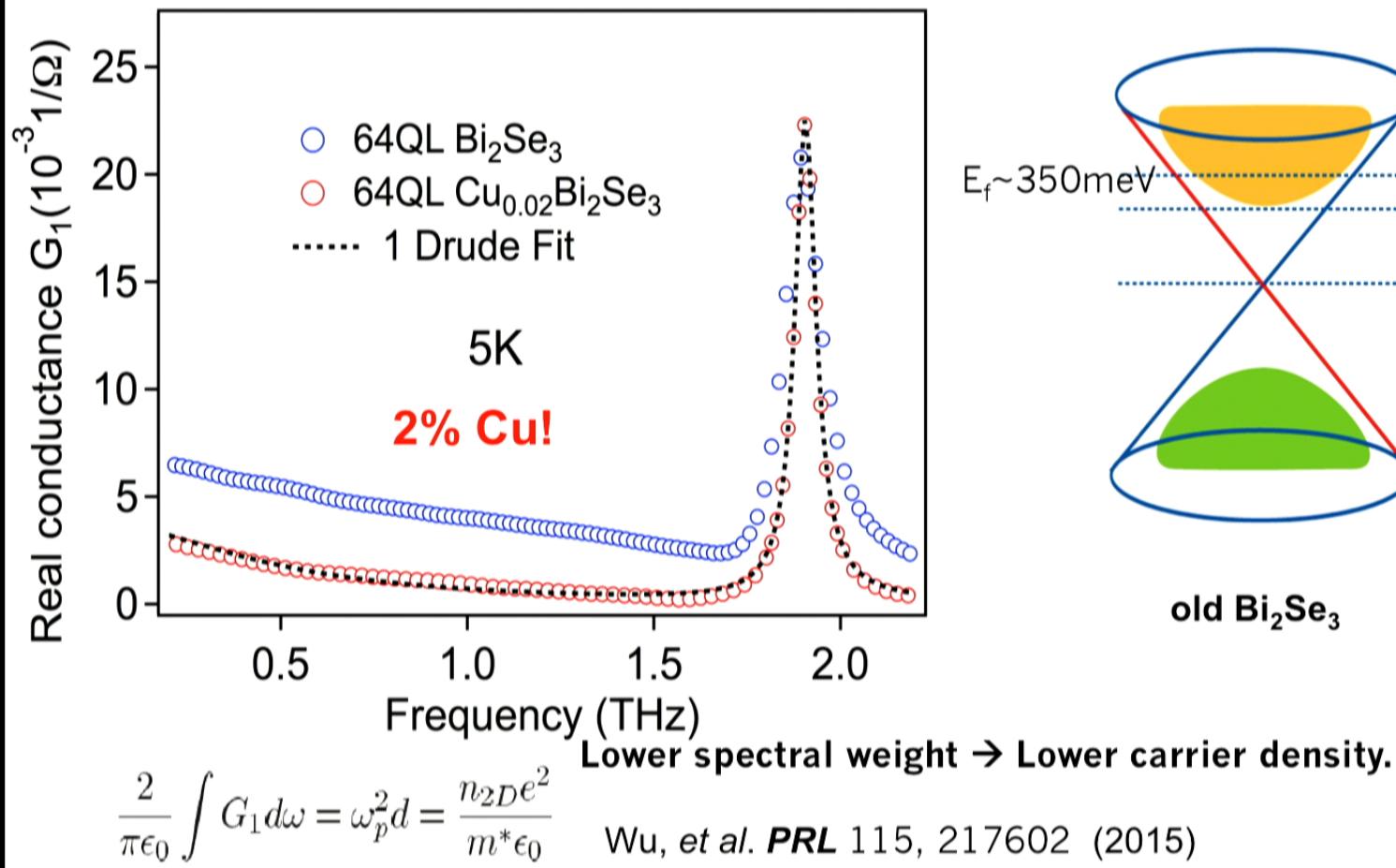
Cyclotron resonances & Electron-phonon interaction in bulk-insulating $\text{Cu}_{0.02}\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$



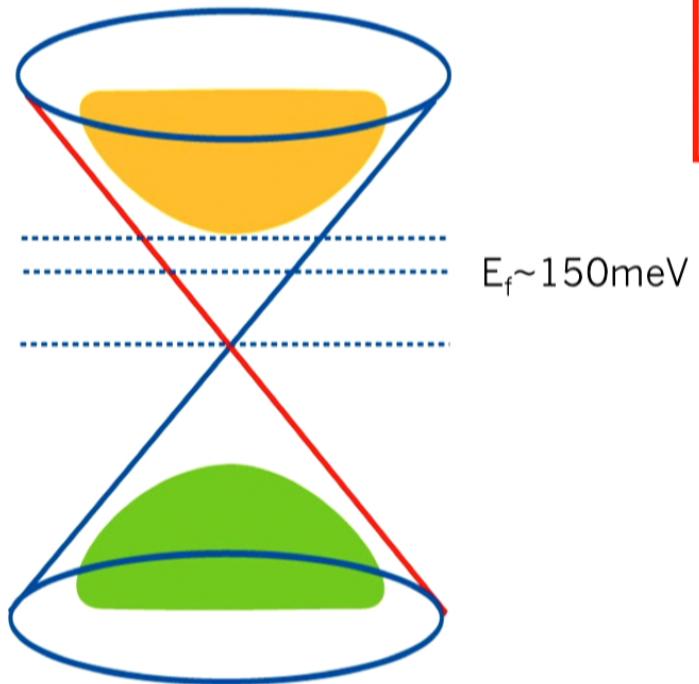
Cyclotron resonances & Electron-phonon interaction in bulk-insulating $\text{Cu}_{0.02}\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$



Lowering chemical potential...



Sum rule for Dirac fermion



$\text{Cu}_{0.02}\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3$
Wu, et al. *PRL* 115, 217602 (2015)

$$\frac{2}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int G_{D1} d\omega = \omega_{pD}^2 d = \frac{n_{2D} e^2}{m^* \epsilon_0}$$

$$n_{2D} = k_F^2 / 4\pi$$

$$E = Ak_F + Bk_F^2$$

$$v_F = \partial E_F / \hbar \partial k_F$$

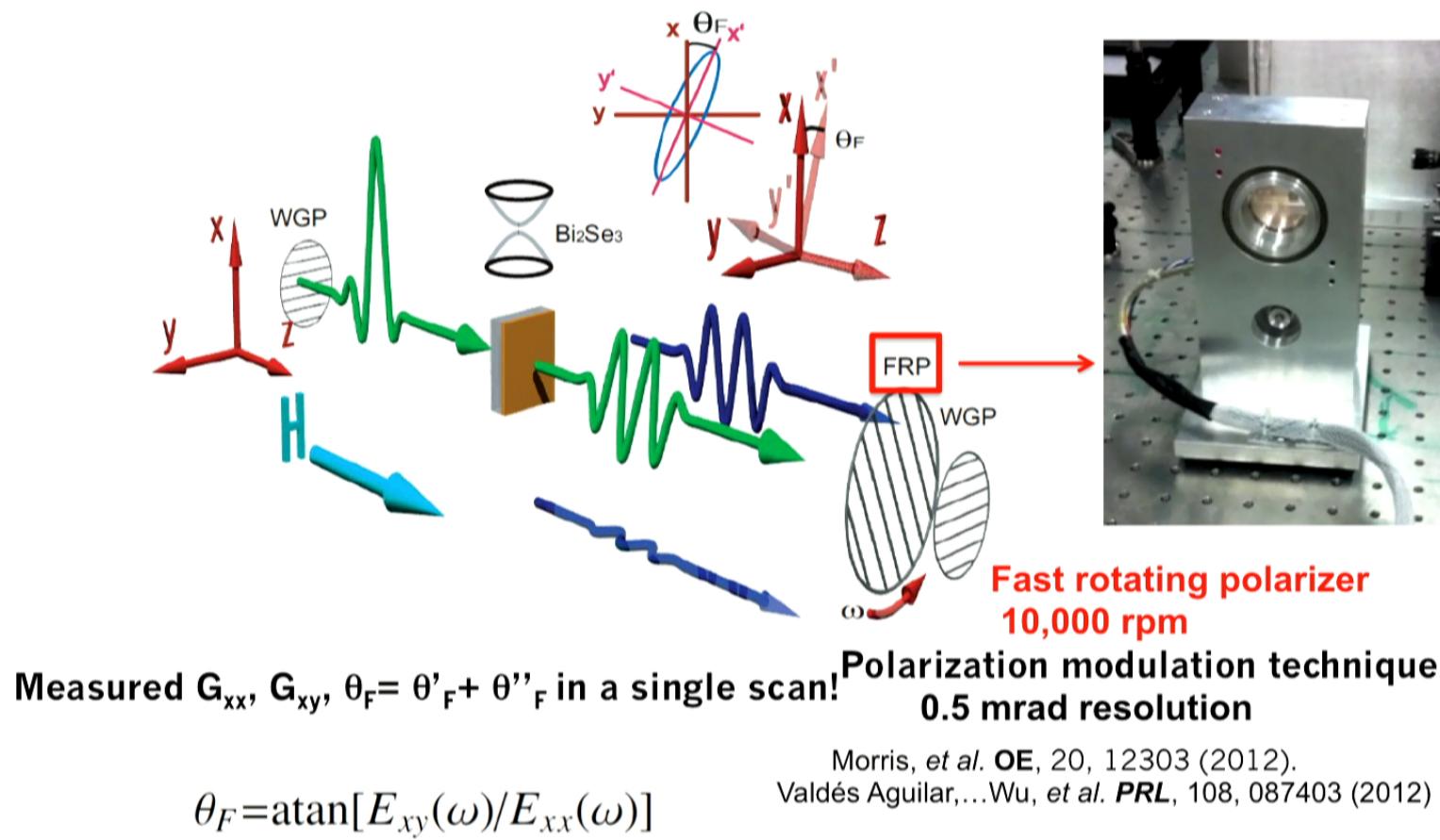
$$m^* = \hbar k_F / v_F$$

$$\omega_{pD}^2 d = \frac{k_F(A + 2Bk_F)e^2}{2\pi\hbar^2\epsilon_0}$$

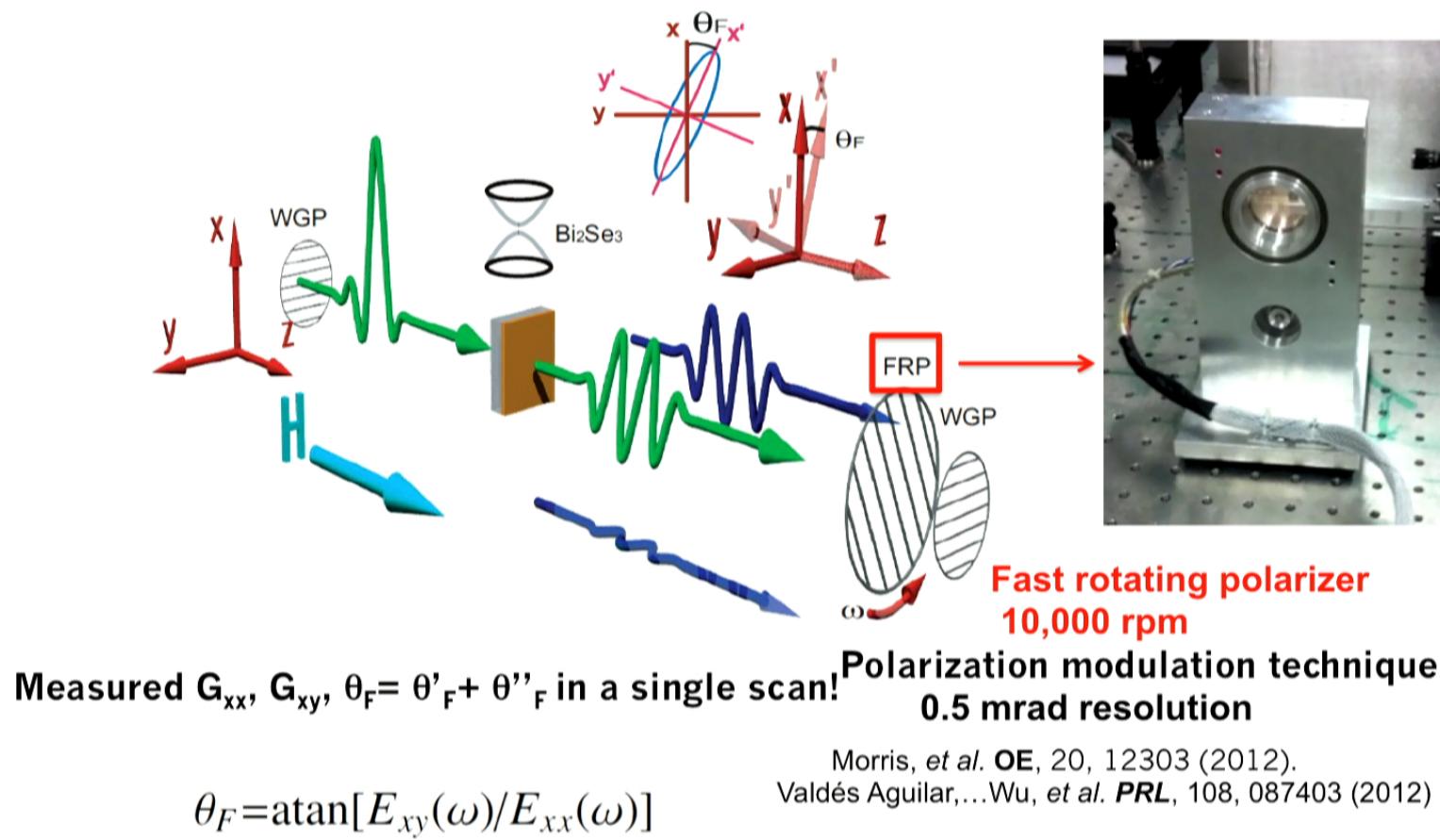
$$\mu \sim 4000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V} \cdot \text{s}$$

$$n_{2D} \sim 5 \times 10^{12}/\text{cm}^2$$

Cyclotron resonance (CR) experiments



Cyclotron resonance (CR) experiments



Jones matrix formalism

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_y^f \\ E_x^f \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{xx} & T_{xy} \\ T_{yx} & T_{yy} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_y^i \\ E_x^i \end{bmatrix}$$

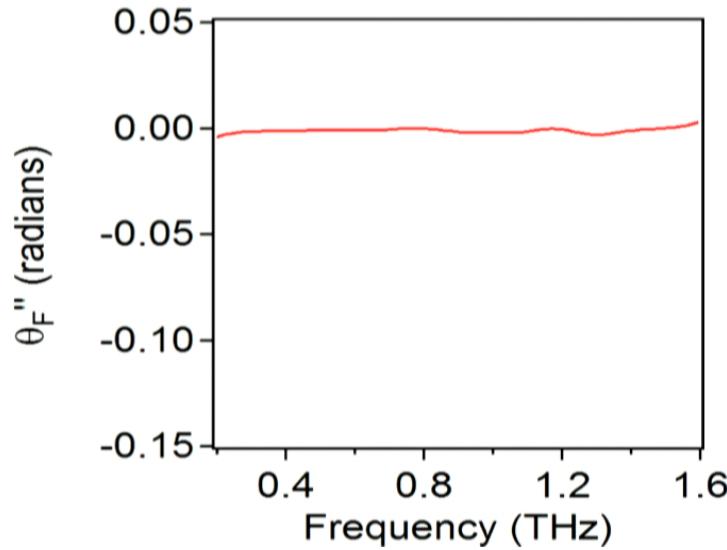
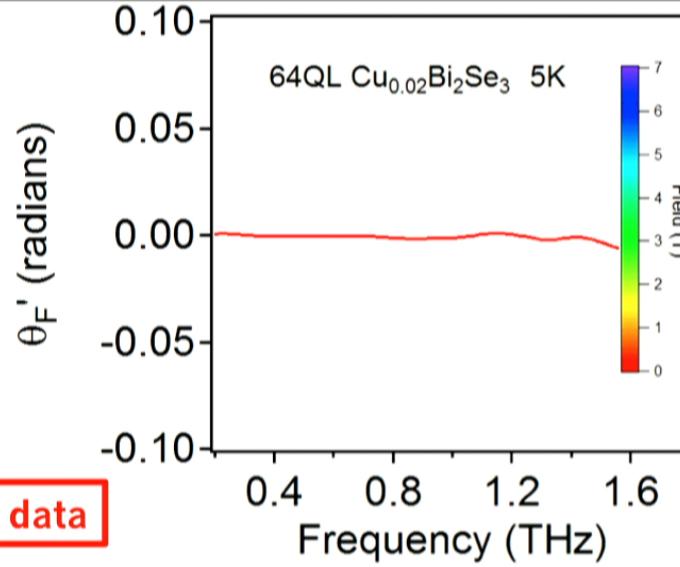
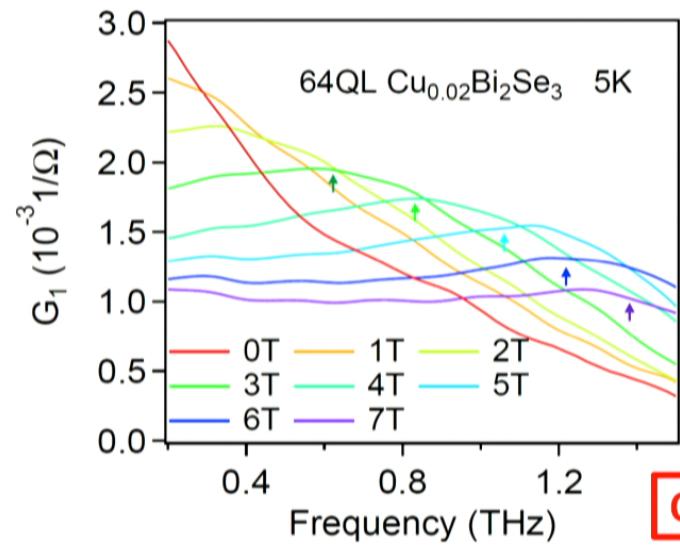
Bi₂Se₃ C₃ rotation

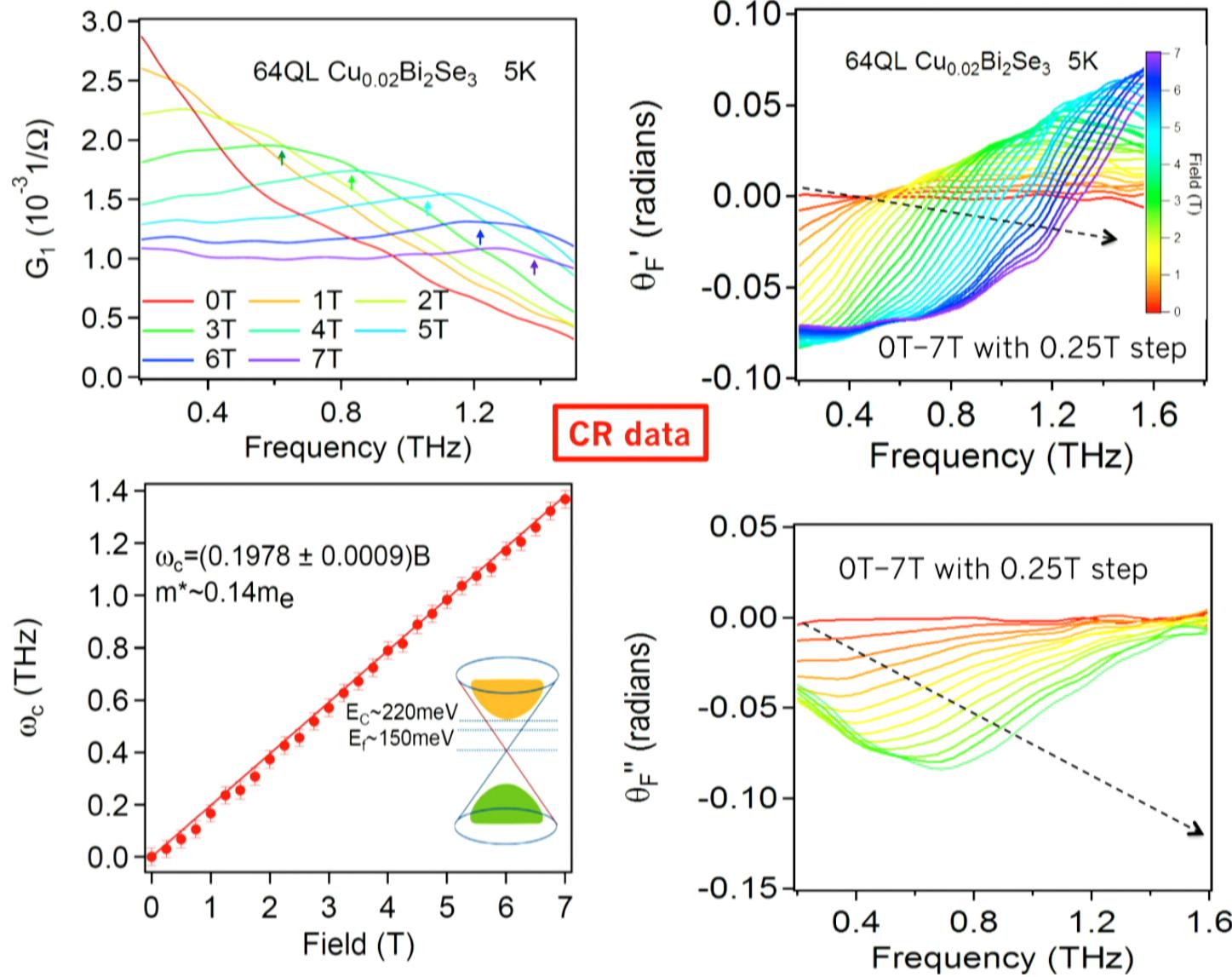
$$T_{xx} = T_{yy} \text{ and } T_{xy} = -T_{yx}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_{++} & T_{+-} \\ T_{-+} & T_{--} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{xx} + iT_{xy} & 0 \\ 0 & T_{xx} - iT_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} t_+ & 0 \\ 0 & t_- \end{bmatrix}$$

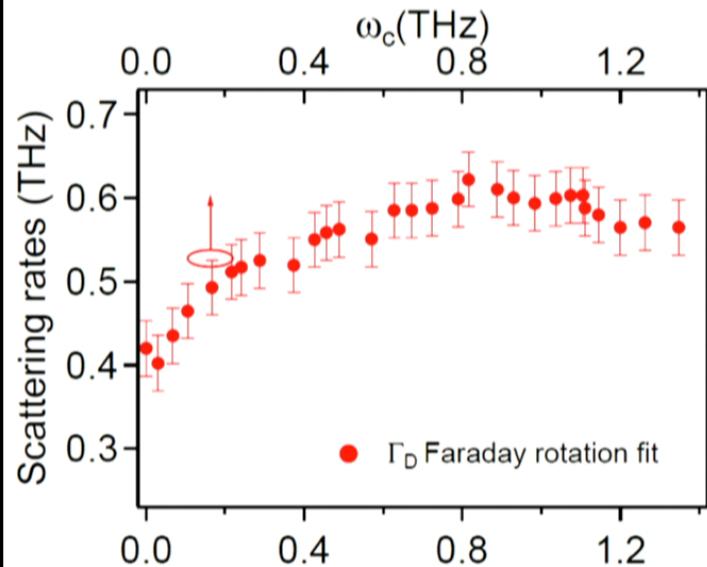
$$\tan(\theta_F) = -i \frac{t_+ - t_-}{t_+ + t_-} \quad \theta_F = \text{atan}[E_y(\omega)/E_x(\omega)]$$

Armitage **PRB** (2014).





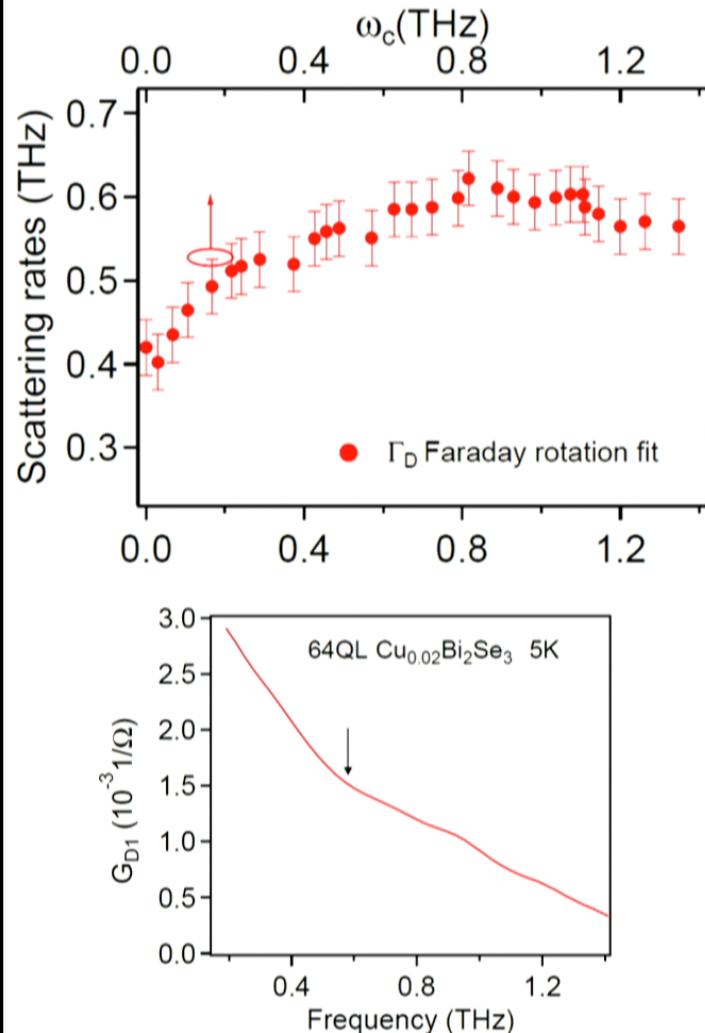
CR broadening ← electron-phonon interaction



Zeeman & orbital effect cannot explain field dependence.

Wu, et al. *PRL* 115, 217602 (2015)

CR broadening ← electron-phonon interaction



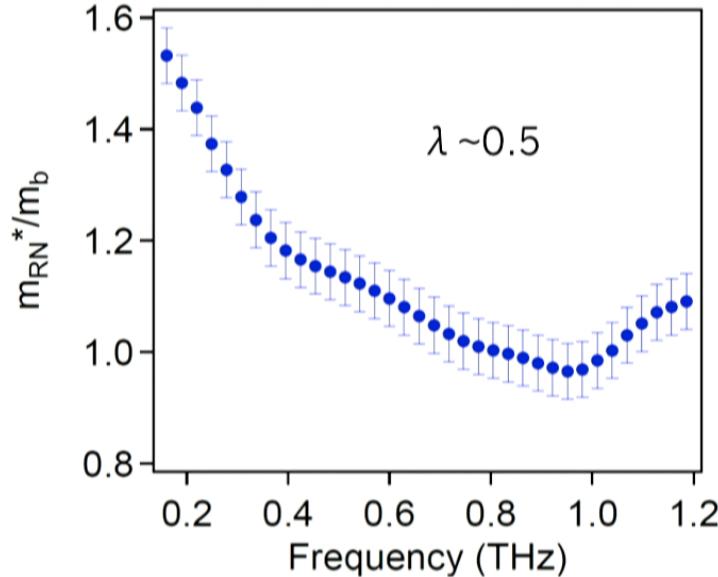
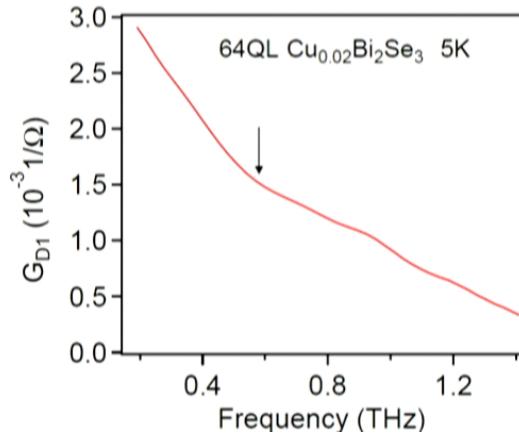
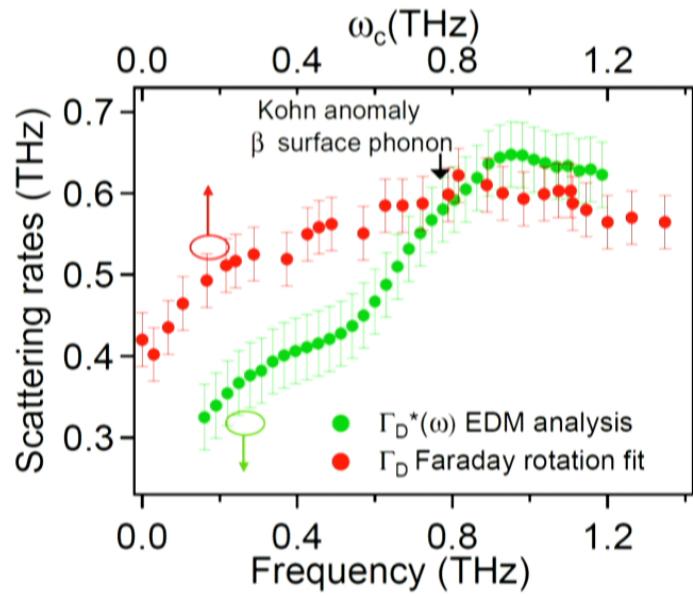
Extended Drude model

$$\Gamma_D(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\tau(\omega)} = \frac{\omega_{pD}^2 d}{2} \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{1}{G_D}\right)$$

$$\frac{m_{RN}^*(\omega)}{m_b} = -\frac{\omega_{pD}^2 d}{2\omega} \operatorname{Im}\left(\frac{1}{G_D}\right) = 1 + \lambda(\omega)$$

$$\Gamma_D(\omega)^* = \Gamma_D(\omega)/(1 + \lambda(\omega))$$

CR broadening ← electron-phonon interaction



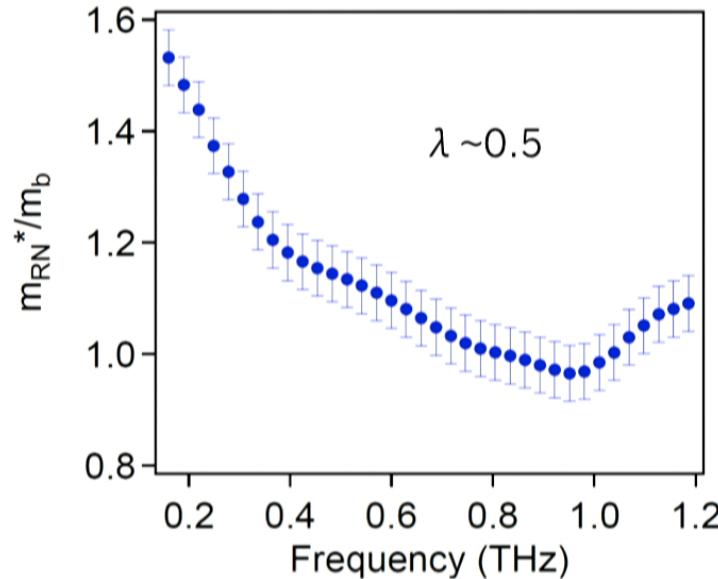
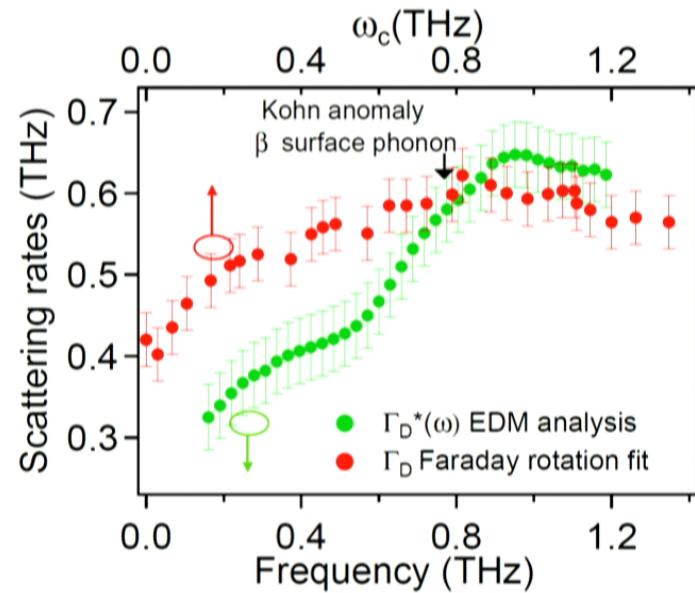
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Quantized Faraday (Kerr) rotation & Axion electrodynamics of TSSs

Axion electrodynamics of TSSs

$$\Delta L_{axion} = \theta \left(\frac{e^2}{2\pi hc} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho - e^2 / 2\pi hc (\nabla \theta \cdot \mathbf{B}), \quad \text{Wilczek } PRL (1987)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = \mathbf{j} + e^2 / 2\pi hc \left(\nabla \theta \times \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} (\partial_t \theta) \mathbf{B} \right)$$

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Provided that time reversal symmetry is respected,
all 3D insulators can be characterized by a quantized
value of the axion field in the bulk.

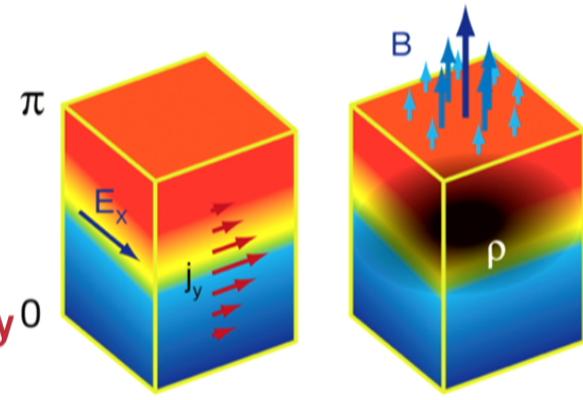
$$\theta = 2\pi(n + 1/2) \quad \text{TI}$$

$$\theta = 2\pi n \quad \text{Non-TI}$$

The extra charge and current density only⁰
appear at TI/non-TI boundary

→ Half-integer QHE

→ & topological magneto-electric effect (TME).



Qi, Hughes, Zhang *PRB* (2008)
36

Axion electrodynamics of TSSs

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Wilczek *PRL* (1987)

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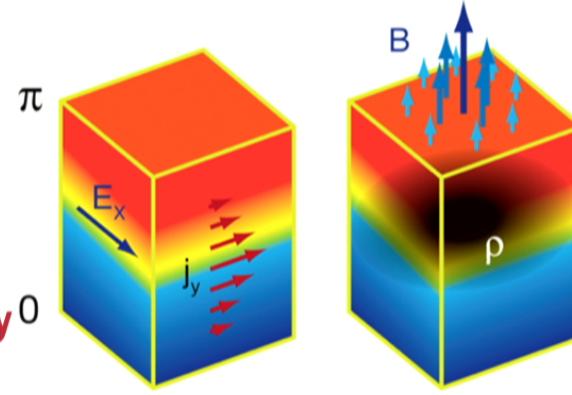
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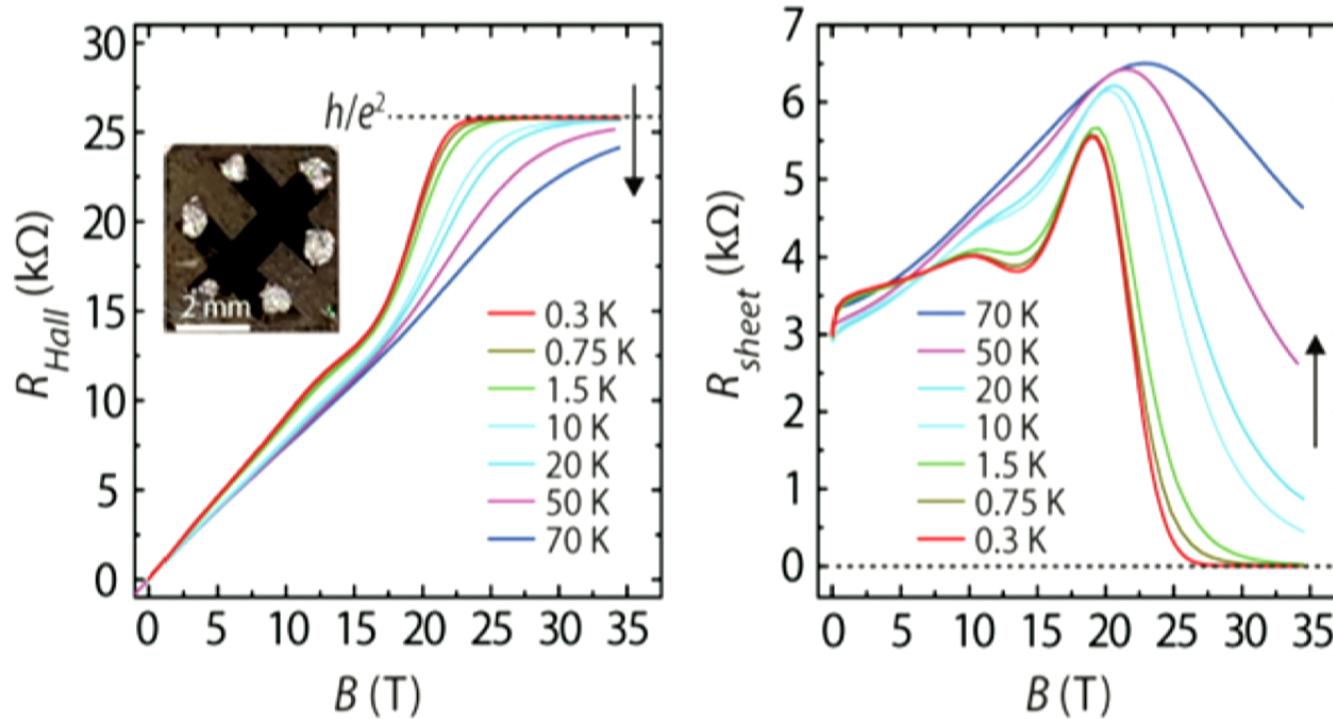
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Qi, Hughes, Zhang *PRB* (2008)
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Dissipationless Half-integer QHE

For each SS, $\sigma_H = e^2/h(\nu + 1/2)$ 8QL $\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3/\text{MoO}_3$



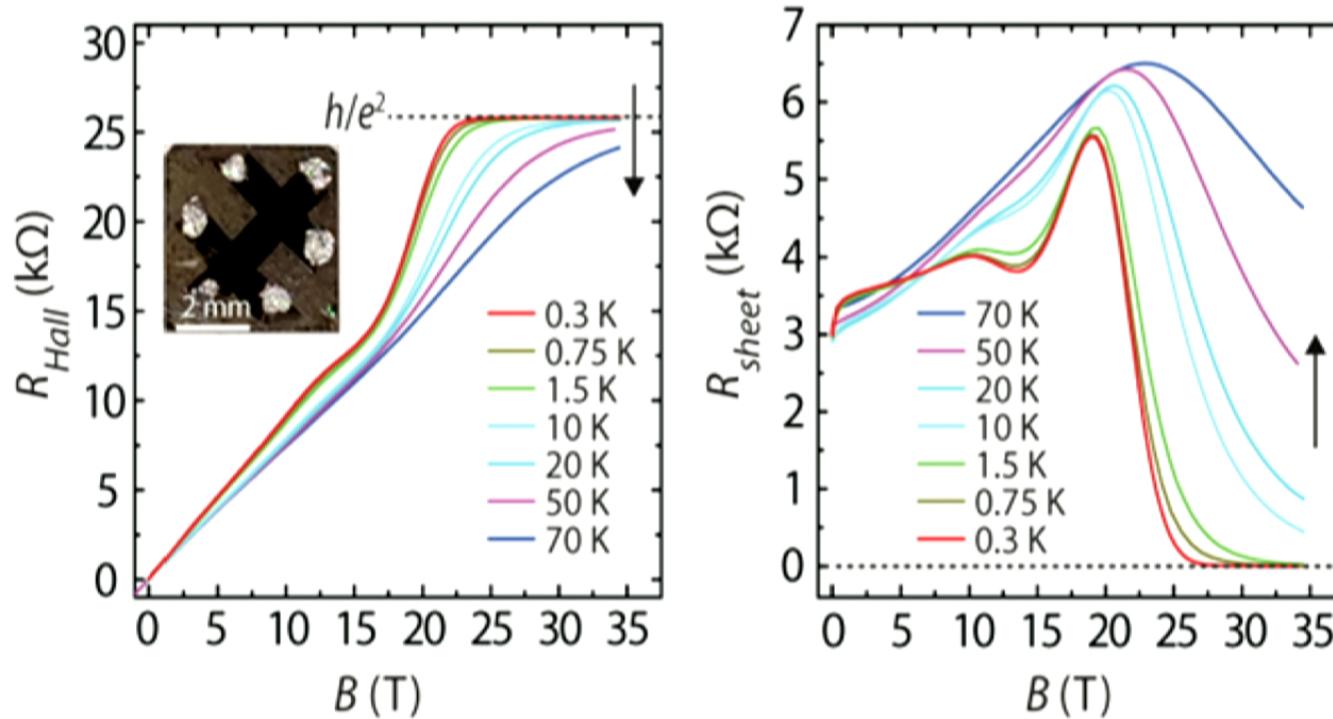
$$(1 + 0.00004) e^2/h!$$

Nikesh...Wu, et al. *Nano. Lett.* 15, 8245 (2015)

37

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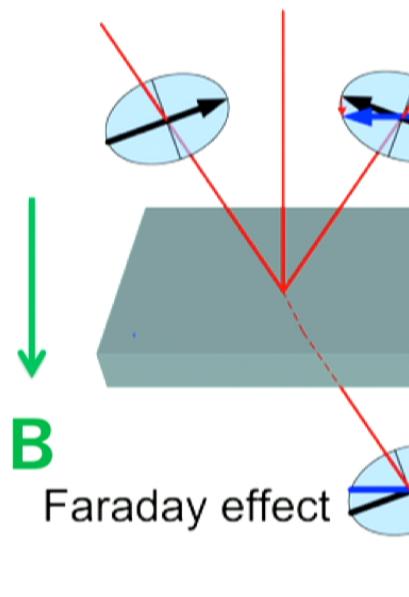
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Nikesh...Wu, et al. *Nano. Lett.* 15, 8245 (2015)

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Quantized Faraday and Kerr rotation

--- topological magneto-electric effect (TME)



Kerr effect

QHE regime

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h}(\nu + 1/2)$$

$$\tan(\phi_F) = \frac{2\alpha}{1+n}(N_t + \frac{1}{2} + N_b + \frac{1}{2})$$

$$\tan(\phi_K) = \frac{4n\alpha}{n^2 - 1}(N_t + \frac{1}{2} + N_b + \frac{1}{2})$$

α is fine structure constant.

n is substrate index of refraction

N_T, N_B : LL index for top/bottom SSs

Qi *et al.* **PRB** (08); Essin *et al.* **PRL** (09);
Tse *et al.* **PRL** (10), Maciejko, *et al.* **PRL** (10)

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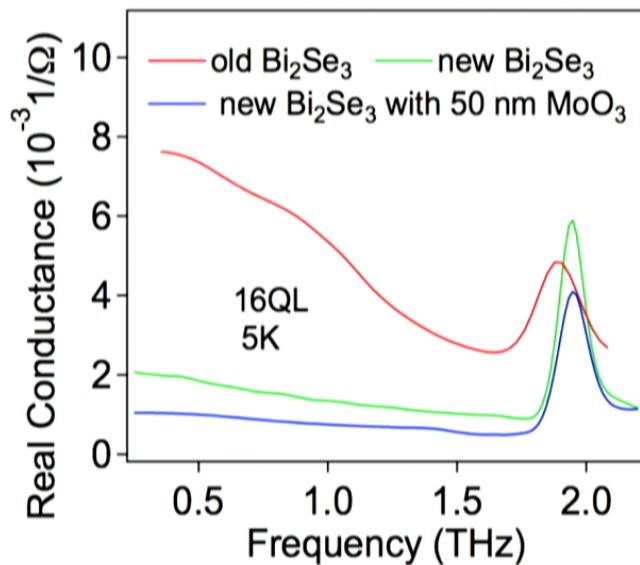
A few challenges to realize TME...

Qi *et al.* PRB (08); Essin *et al.* PRL (09);
Tse *et al.* PRL (10), Maciejko, *et al.* PRL (10)

- Bulk-insulating, very low carrier density
- Metallic gate has its own Faraday and Kerr effect → Gating doesn't work.
- Low frequency (THz), long wavelength → needs uniform samples with a few millimeters across
- Small rotation (mrad) → needs high-precision THz polarimetry

After three years, we solved all of the above problems!

Approaching the Dirac point



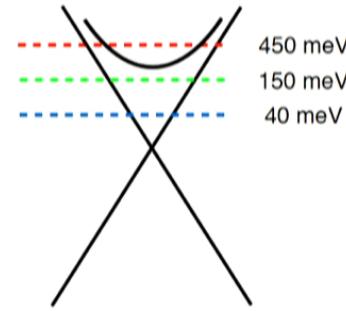
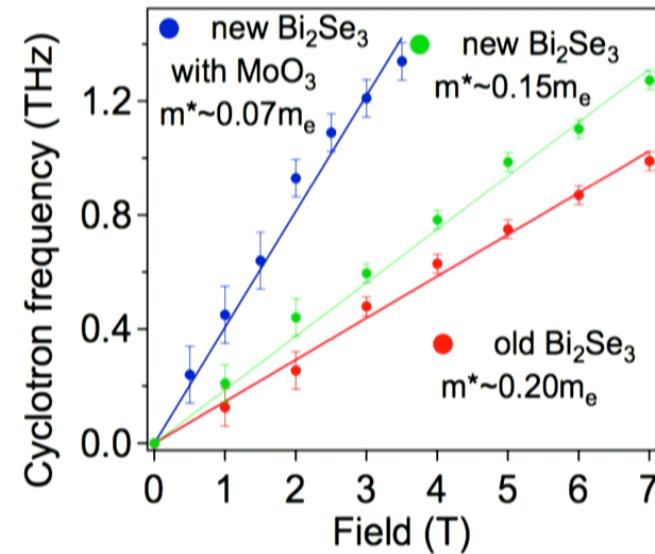
Sum rule

$$\frac{2}{\pi\epsilon_0} \int G_1 d\omega = \omega_p^2 d = \frac{n_2 D e^2}{m^* \epsilon_0}$$

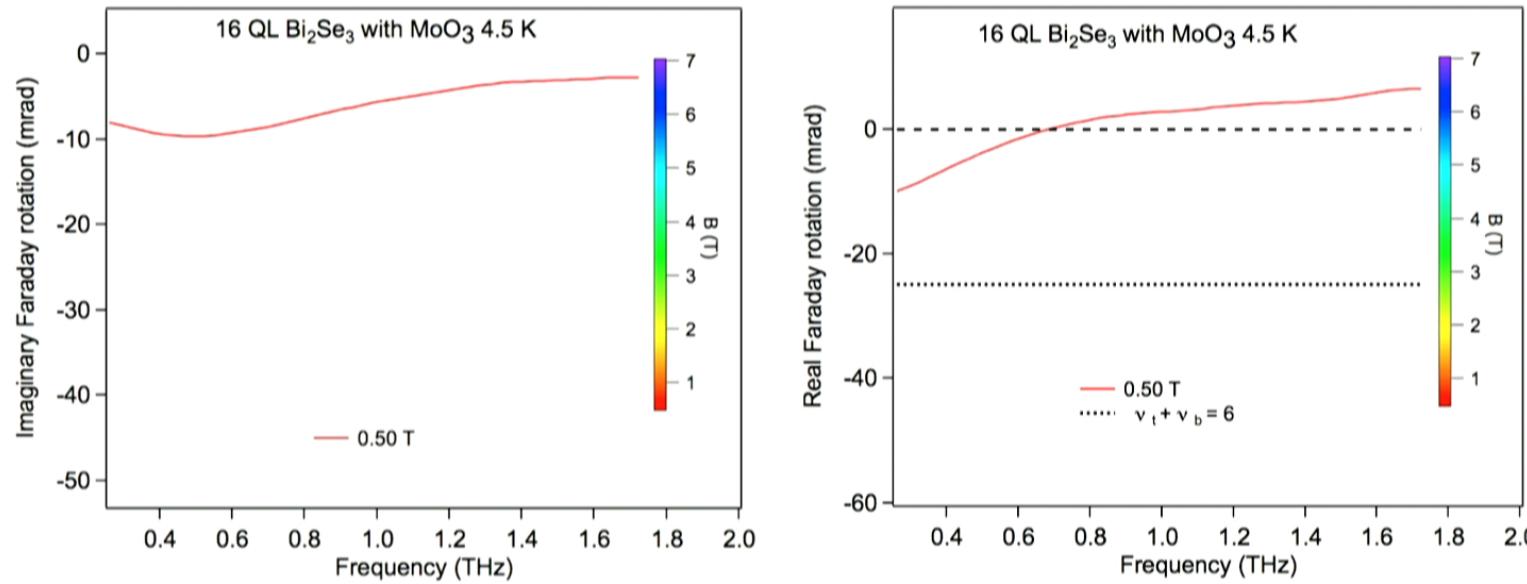
↑
Spectral weight

Detailed description: This equation represents the sum rule for the Drude model. It shows that the spectral weight (the integral of the conductance G_1 over frequency) is proportional to the square of the plasma frequency (ω_p^2) and the density of states ($n_2 D$). The proportionality constant is $\frac{2}{\pi\epsilon_0}$. An arrow points from the term $\omega_p^2 d$ to the text 'Spectral weight' below.

Wu, et al. arXiv.1603.04317 (2016)



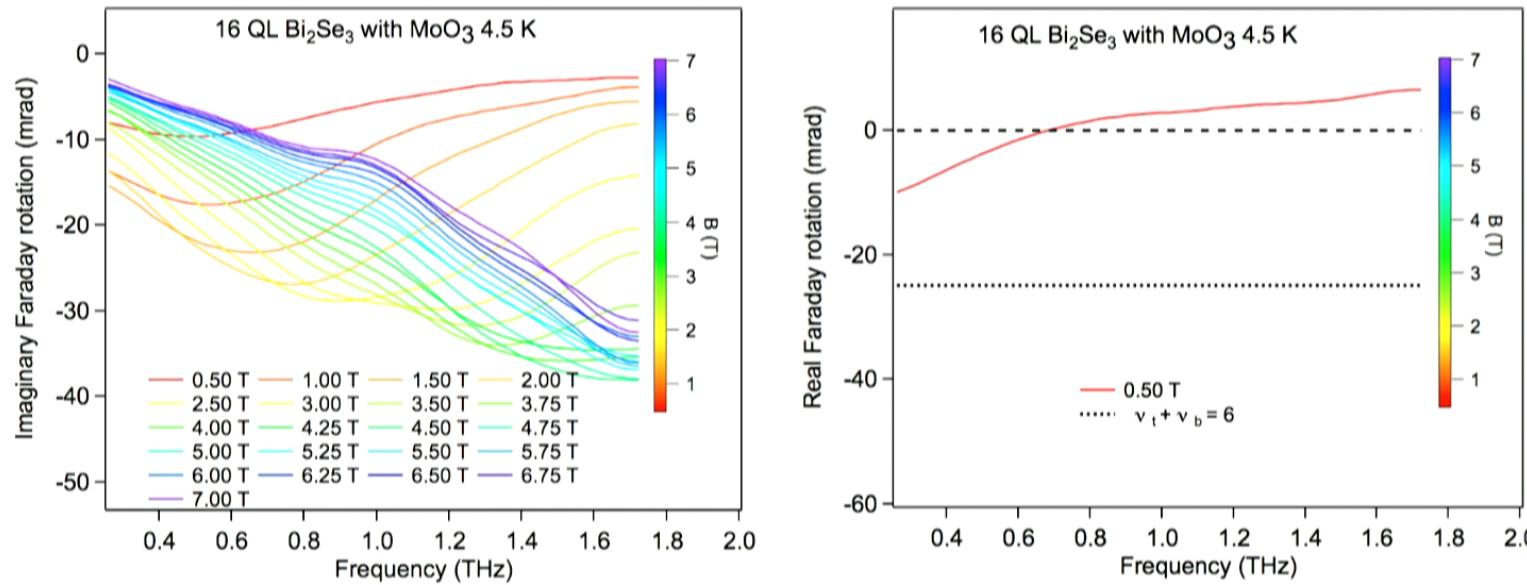
Crossover from cyclotron resonance to quantum regime



$$\tan(\phi_F) = \frac{2\alpha}{1+n} \left(N_t + \frac{1}{2} + N_b + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

Wu, et al. arXiv.1603.04317 (2016)

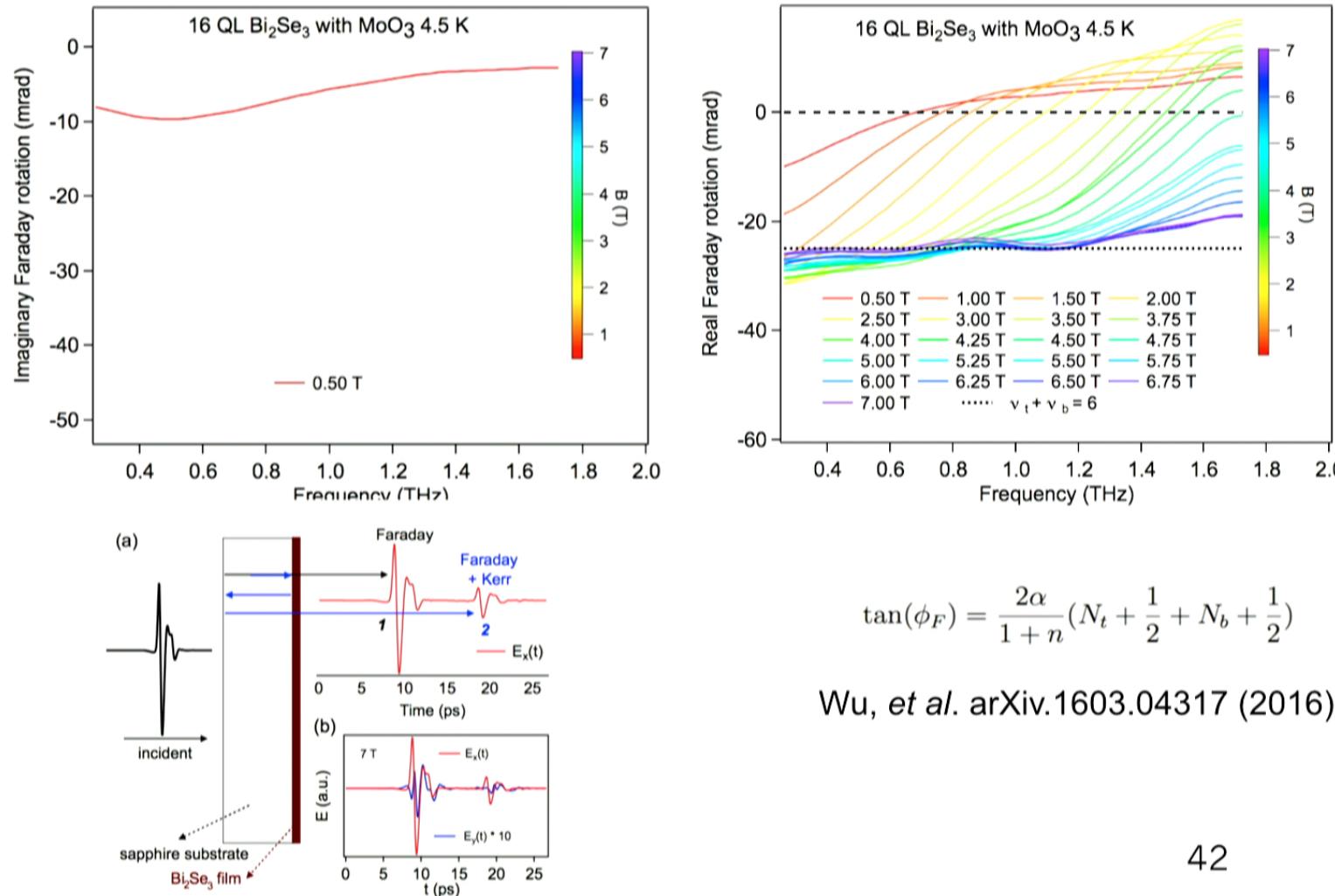
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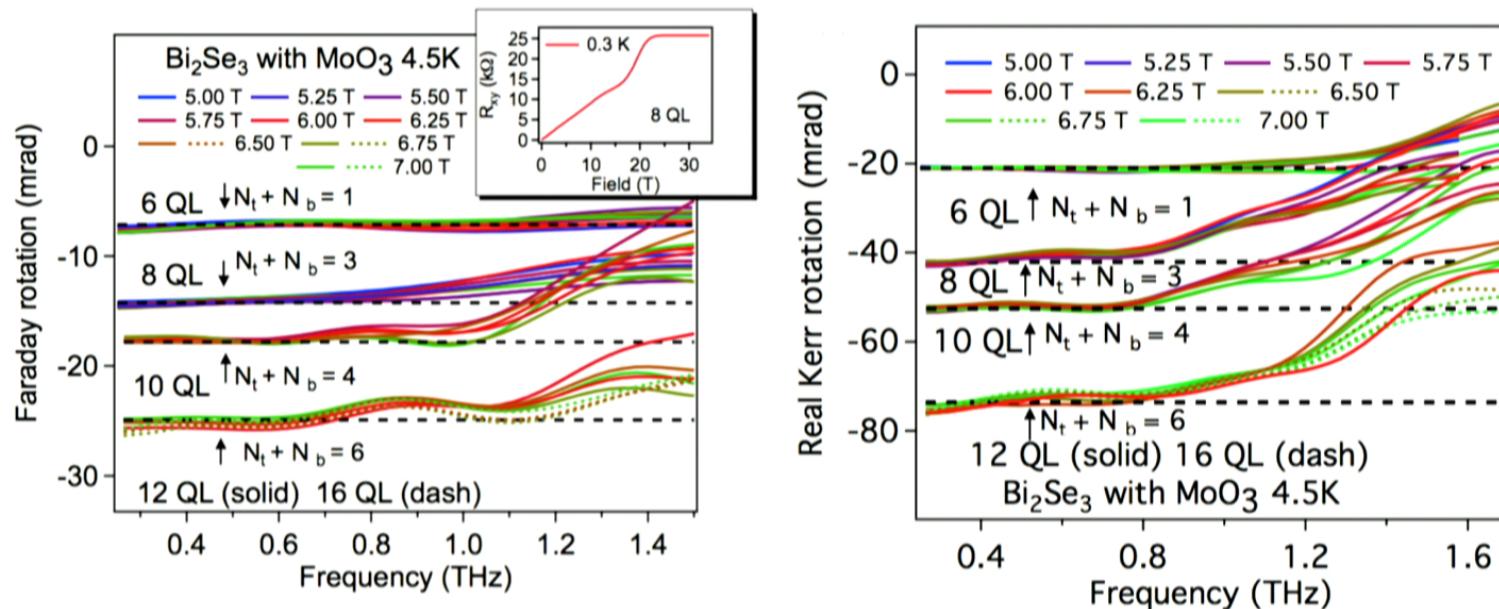
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Wu, et al. arXiv.1603.04317 (2016)

Quantized Faraday and Kerr rotation



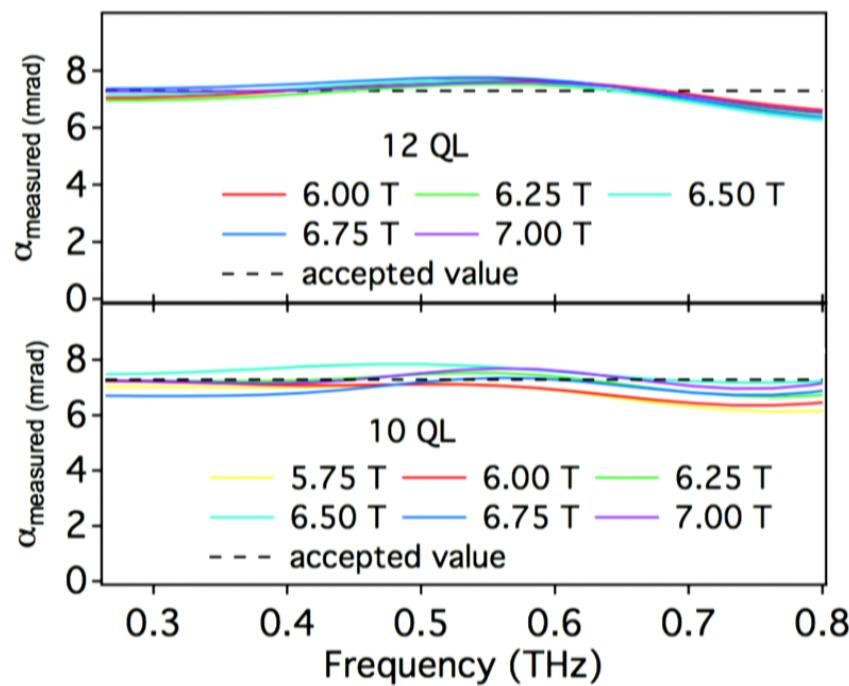
Wu, et al. arXiv.1603.04317 (2016)

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A solid-state measure of the fine structure constant

$$\alpha_{measured} = \frac{1}{N_t + N_b + 1/2 + 1/2} \frac{\tan(\phi_F)^2 - \tan(\phi_F) \tan(\phi_K)}{\tan(\phi_K) - 2 \tan(\phi_F)}$$



Average over three samples and all the fields (<0.8 THz)

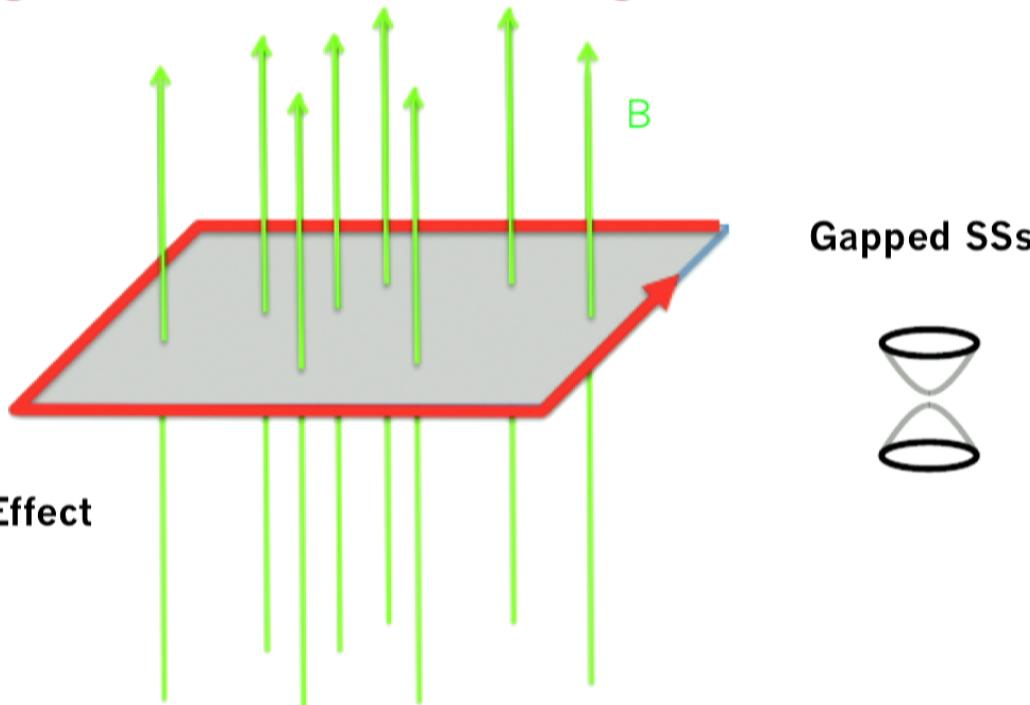
measured: $\alpha^{-1} \sim 137.9$

accepted: $\alpha^{-1} \sim 137.04$

Wu, et al. arXiv.1603.04317 (2016)

Topological Insulators in magnetic field

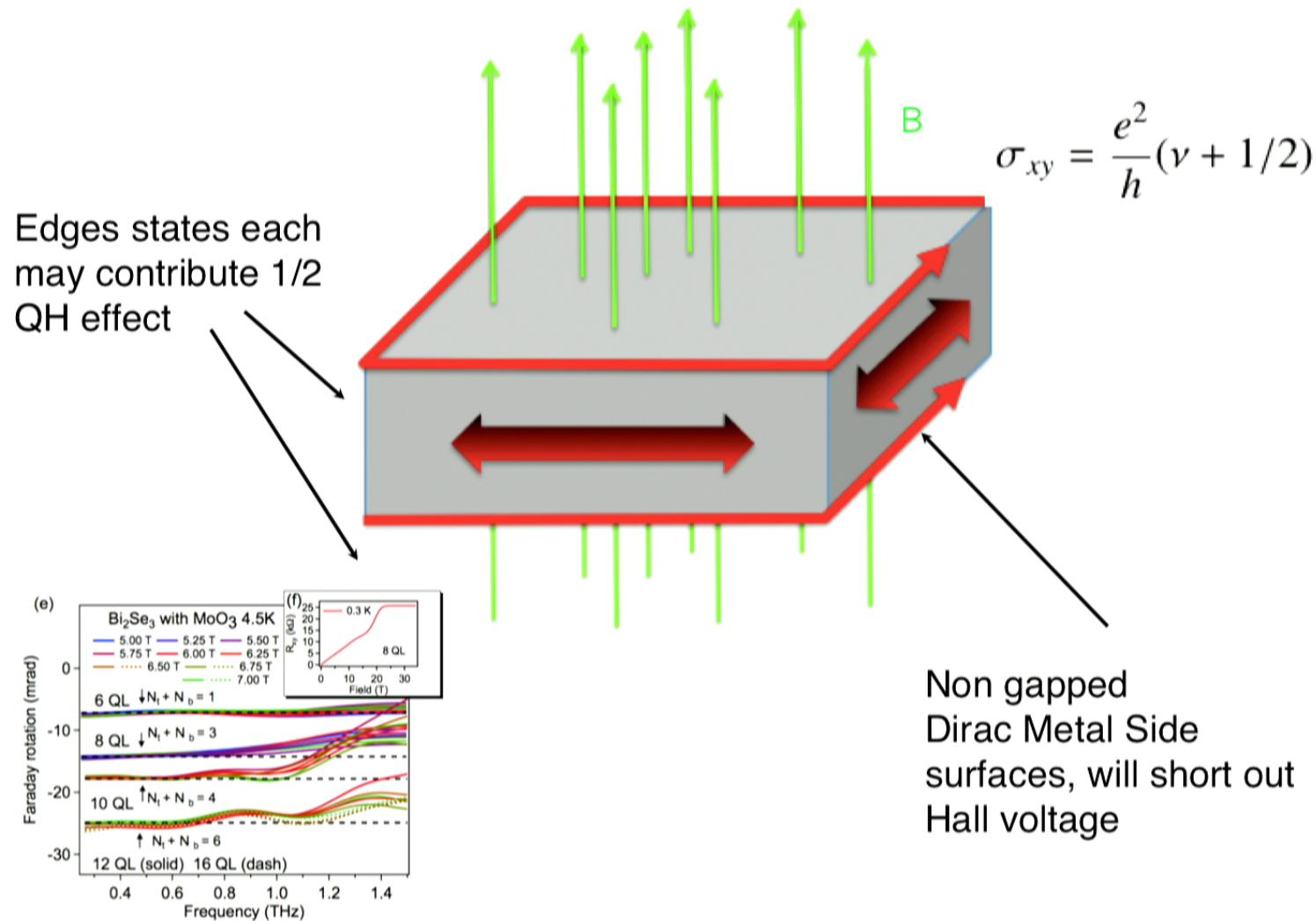
Half-quantized Hall Effect
‘1/4’ of graphene



$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h}(\nu + 1/2)$$

ν depends on filling factor
(Field, chemical potential),
but the 1/2 is a property
derived from bulk

Topological Insulators in magnetic field



Can we directly measure the $\frac{1}{2}$?

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 92, 245118 (2015)

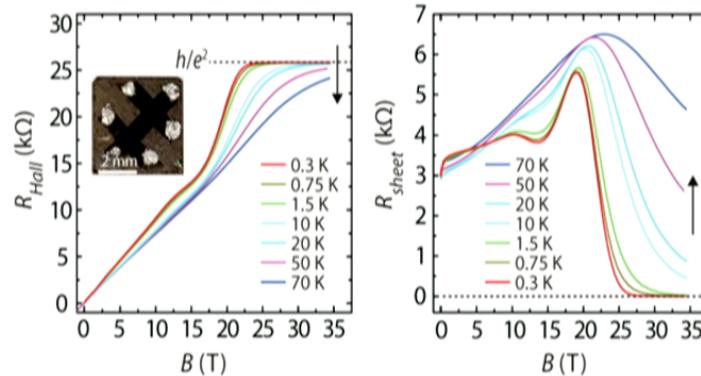


Interaction correction to the magnetoelectric polarizability of \mathbb{Z}_2 topological insulators

Karin Everschor-Sitte, Matthias Sitte, and Allan H. MacDonald

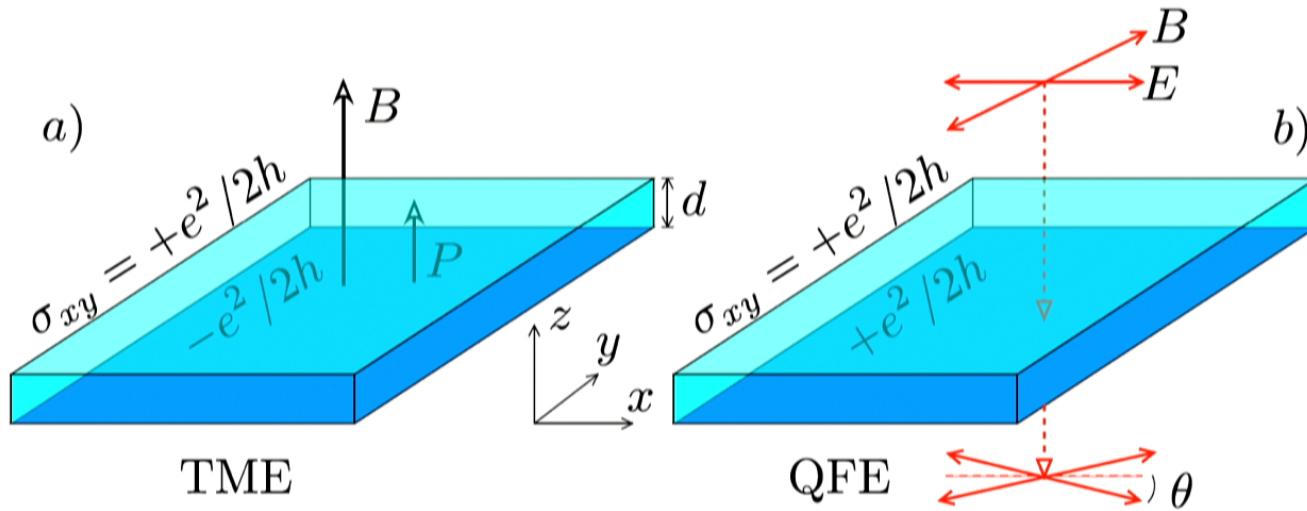
Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712, USA

(Received 17 August 2015; published 10 December 2015)



We show below that the surface Hall effect is no longer exactly half quantized when interactions between surface-state quasiparticles and quantum fluctuations of the bulk magnetization, described as magnons, are included. The total Hall effect obtained by summing over the top and bottom surfaces of a thin film remains quantized, however, in agreement with experiment.

TME vs QFE



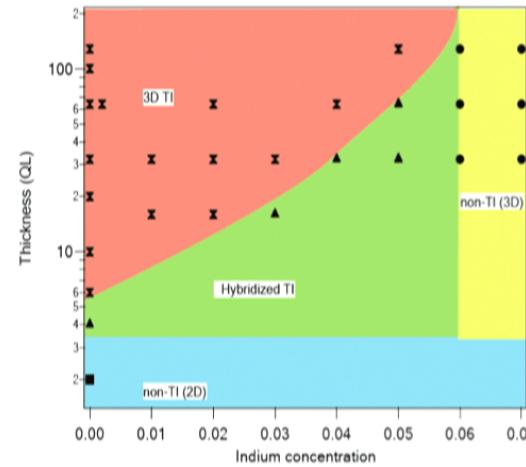
$$\chi_{\text{ME}} = 4\pi \partial P / \partial B = (\nu_T - \nu_B)\alpha, \quad \theta_F \simeq (\nu_T + \nu_B)\alpha$$

**Future works: Measure only one surface state
interaction driving nonuniversal corrections**

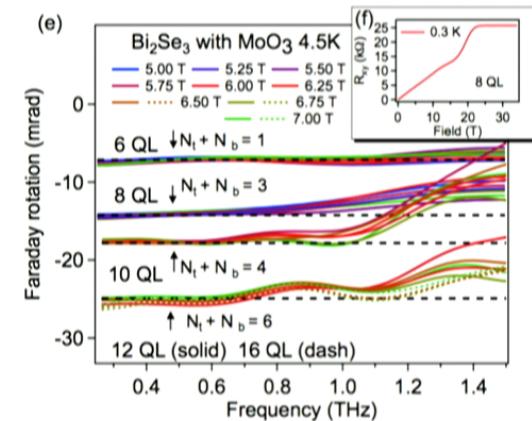
Summary

- Topological phase transition in $(\text{Bi}_{1-x}\text{In}_x)_2\text{Se}_3$.
- Novel finite size effect:
SSs hybridization can happen before gap closing.
- Cyclotron resonance (CR) from SSs
- CR broadening ← electron-phonon interaction.
- Quantized Faraday and Kerr rotation → Topological magneto-electric effect
- A solid-state measure of the fine structure constant for the first time as a topological invariant

○ Thanks ! ○



Wu, et al. *Nat. Phys.*, 9, 410 (2013)



Wu, et al. *PRL* 115, 217602 (2015)
Wu, et al. *arxiv*: 1603.04317 (2016)