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# The Ground State of Monolayer Graphene in a Strong Magnetic Field 


#### Abstract

Lian-Ao Wu ${ }^{1,2}$ \& Mike Guidry ${ }^{3}$ Experiments indicate that the ground state of graphene in a strong magnetic field exhibits spontaneous breaking of $S U(4)$ symmetry. However, the nature of the corresponding emergent state is unclear because existing theoretical methods approximate the broken-symmetry solutions, yielding nearlydegenerate candidate ground states having different emergent orders. Resolving this ambiguity in the nature of the strong-field ground state is highly desirable, given the importance of graphene for both fundamental physics and technical applications. We have discovered a new $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ symmetry that recovers standard graphene $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ quantum Hall physics, but predicts two new broken-SU(4) phases and new properties for potential ground states. Our solutions are analytical; thus we capture the essential physics of spontaneously-broken $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ states in a powerful yet solvable model useful both in correlating existing data and in suggesting new experiments.


Graphene in a strong magnetic field has approximate $S U(4)$ symmetry ${ }^{1-8}$, which permits examining explicit symmetry breaking by small terms in the Hamiltonian. However, the ground state is strongly insulating, with rapid divergence of longitudinal resistance at a critical magnetic field $B_{\mathrm{c}}{ }^{9}$. The dependence of $B_{\mathrm{c}}$ on sample impurities suggests that the resistance is an intrinsic property of an emergent state differing qualitatively from perturbed $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ solutions (spontaneous symmetry breaking) ${ }^{10}$. $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ symmetry can suggest the form of possible emergent states but cannot describe them quantitatively. Numerical simulations find various possible ground states having similar energies but differing structure. Thus the nature of the insulating ground state remains elusive.

Here we show that $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ symmetry can be extended to an $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ symmetry that recovers graphene $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ physics, but that implies new low-energy modes that transcend SU(4) symmetry and for which solutions may be obtained analytically. As a first application we revisit the nature of the ground state for undoped monolayer graphene in a magnetic field.

## Results

A General Hamiltonian. Good reviews of graphene physics are available ${ }^{8,11,12}$; we recall here only features relevant for the present discussion. Graphene is bipartite with sublattices A and B; the quantity specifying whether an electron is on the A or B sublattice is termed the sublattice pseudospin. The dispersion computed in tight-binding approximation ${ }^{11,12}$ indicates two inequivalent sets of points in the Brillouin zone, labeled $K$ and $K^{\prime}$. The twofold K degree of freedom is termed valley isospin. Near these K-points the dispersion is linear, leading to Dirac cones. For undoped graphene the Fermi surface lies at the apex of the cones, where the level density vanishes and the effective electronic mass tends to zero. Hence, near the K points low-energy electrons for undoped graphene in zero magnetic field obey a massless Dirac equation and behave mathematically as massless chiral fermions, with chirality related to projection of the sublattice pseudospin.

In a magnetic field the massless Dirac equation may be solved with an appropriate vector potential and the resulting Landau levels (LLs) are labeled by integers. The $n=0$ level is unusual in that it is half filled in the ground state of undoped graphene, leading to the anomalous counting observed in the graphene quantum Hall effect ${ }^{13,14}$. For low-energy excitations in each valley ( $K$ or $K^{\prime}$ ), inter-valley tunneling may be ignored and the electrons in the valley reside entirely on either the A or B sublattice, implying that for the $n=0 \mathrm{LL}$ valley isospin and sublattice pseudospin are equivalent labels. We shall be concerned primarily with this $n=0$ Landau level, which has, in addition to the Landau orbital degeneracy, a 4-fold degeneracy corresponding to spin and valley isospin.
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Figure 1. Isospin-spin quantum numbers and basis vectors.

The largest energy scales are the LL separation and Coulomb energy. For neutral graphene the LL separation is approximately three times larger than the Coulomb energy, which is in turn much larger than other interactions. Hence, we shall ignore inter-LL excitations and consider only a single $n=0$ LL. Justification and caveats for this approximation are discussed in ref. 5. We adopt a Hamiltonian ${ }^{5,6}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
H=H_{0}-H_{z}+\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j}\left[g_{z} \tau_{z}^{i} \tau_{z}^{j}+g_{\perp}\left(\tau_{x}^{i} \tau_{x}^{j}+\tau_{y}^{i} \tau_{y}^{j}\right)\right] \delta\left(\boldsymbol{r}_{i}-\boldsymbol{r}_{j}\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the Pauli matrices $\tau_{\alpha}$ operate on valley isospin, the Pauli matrices $\sigma_{\alpha}$ operate on electronic spin, $g_{z}$ and $g_{\perp}$ are coupling constants, $\mu_{\mathrm{B}}$ is the Bohr magneton, and the spin $z$ direction is assumed aligned with the magnetic field. The three terms in Eq. (1) represent the valley-independent Coulomb interaction, the Zeeman energy, and the short-range valley-dependent interactions, respectively.

The four internal states representing possible combinations of the projection of the spin $\sigma$ and the projection of the valley isospin $\tau$ are displayed in Fig. 1. Symmetries of the Hamiltonian (1) may be investigated by introducing the 15 operators

$$
\begin{gather*}
\mathcal{S}_{\alpha}=\sum_{m_{k}} \sum_{\sigma_{\sigma}^{\prime}}\left\langle\sigma^{\prime}\right| \sigma_{\alpha}|\sigma\rangle c_{\tau \sigma^{\prime} m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}  \tag{2}\\
T_{\alpha}=\sum_{m_{k}} \sum_{\sigma \tau \tau^{\prime}}\left\langle\tau^{\prime}\right| \tau_{\alpha}|\tau\rangle c_{\tau^{\prime} \sigma m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}  \tag{3}\\
N_{\alpha}=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{m_{k} \sigma \sigma^{\prime} \tau}\langle\tau| \tau_{z}|\tau\rangle\left\langle\sigma^{\prime}\right| \sigma_{\alpha}|\sigma\rangle c_{\tau \sigma^{\prime} m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}  \tag{4}\\
\Pi_{\alpha \beta}=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{m_{k} \sigma \sigma^{\prime} \tau \tau^{\prime}} \sum_{\tau^{\prime}}\left\langle\tau^{\prime}\right| \tau_{\beta}|\tau\rangle\left\langle\sigma^{\prime}\right| \sigma_{\alpha}|\sigma\rangle c_{\tau^{\prime} \sigma^{\prime} m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}} \tag{5}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $c^{\dagger}(c)$ create (annihilate) fermions, $\alpha=(x, y, z), \beta=(x, y), \tau$ and $\sigma$ are defined in Fig. 1, and $m_{k}$ labels orbitally-degenerate LL states. Physically, $\mathcal{S}_{\alpha}$ is total spin, $T_{\alpha}$ is total valley isospin, $N_{\alpha}$ is a Néel vector measuring the difference in spins on the A and B sublattices, and the $\Pi_{\alpha \beta}$ couple spin and valley isospin. Under commutation the operators (2-5) close an $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ algebra that commutes with the Coulomb interaction ${ }^{56}$. If terms 2 and 3 in Eq. (1) are small compared with the first, the Hamiltonian has approximate $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ invariance. Explicit breaking of $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ depends on the values of $g_{z}$ and $g_{\perp}$. Four symmetry-breaking patterns have been discussed ${ }^{5,6}$. Alternative approaches to the graphene problem have addressed some of the same issues discussed here (for example, refs 15-17) but our emphasis will be on approaches based on extensions of $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ symmetry.

Generators of our model. For a $2-N$ dimensional fermionic space the most general bilinear products $c_{i}^{\dagger} c_{j}$ of creation-annihilation operators and their hermitian conjugates generate an $\mathrm{SU}(2 \mathrm{~N})$ Lie algebra under commutation. Adding the most general pair operators $c_{i}^{\dagger} c_{j}^{\dagger}$ and $c_{i} c_{j}$ extends $\operatorname{SU}(2 N)$ to $\mathrm{SO}(4 N)^{18,19}$. The extended symmetry permits defining a (collective) subspace of the full Hilbert space spanned by products of pair creation operators acting on the pair vacuum. An effective Hamiltonian constructed from a polynomial in the Casimir invariants of all groups in the subgroup chains of $\mathrm{SO}(4 N)$ will then represent the most general Hamiltonian for the collective subspace, and will be diagonal in the subspace basis for each dynamical symmetry chain. Thus, the manybody problem can be solved exactly in the symmetry limits defined by each subgroup chain ${ }^{20}$, and


Figure 2. SO(8) subgroup chains with group generators. Dashed boundaries and darker shading indicate subgroups defining the $S U(4)$ quantum Hall model. We see that $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ subsumes graphene $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ but has a richer structure with additional subgroup chains.
analytically in coherent-state approximation ${ }^{21-25}$ otherwise. This approach has been applied extensively to strongly-correlated fermions in various fields; for representative examples see ${ }^{20,26-29}$.

For graphene we assume a single $n=0 \mathrm{LL}$ with creation operators $c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}^{\dagger}$ and hermitian conjugates $c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}$. Degeneracy of the LL is denoted by $2 \Omega$. Accounting for 4 -fold spin-valley degeneracy, $2 \Omega=4\left(2 \Omega_{k}\right)=4 B S /(h / e)$, where $2 \Omega_{k}$ is the LL orbital degeneracy, $B$ is magnetic field, and $S$ sample size. The fractional occupation of the LL is $f \equiv n / 2 \Omega$, where $n$ is electron number, and the filling factor is $\nu=4\left(f-\frac{1}{2}\right)$.

Now we add to the $15 \mathrm{SU}(4)$ generators of Eqs (2-5) the charge operator $S_{0}=\frac{1}{2}(n-\Omega)$, the 6 pairing operators $S^{\dagger}$ and $D_{\mu}^{\dagger}(\mu=0, \pm 1, \pm 2)$, and their 6 hermitian conjugates, with

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
S^{\dagger}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(A_{14}^{\dagger}-A_{23}^{\dagger}\right) & D_{0}^{\dagger}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(A_{14}^{\dagger}+A_{23}^{\dagger}\right) \\
D_{2}^{\dagger}=A_{12}^{\dagger} & D_{-2}^{\dagger}=A_{34}^{\dagger} & D_{1}^{\dagger}=A_{13}^{\dagger} \quad D_{-1}^{\dagger}=A_{24}^{\dagger} \tag{6}
\end{array}
$$

where $A_{a b}^{\dagger}$ creates a pair of electrons, one in the $a=\left(\tau_{1}, \sigma_{1}\right)$ level and one in the $b=\left(\tau_{2}, \sigma_{2}\right)$ level, with the total $m_{k}$ of each pair coupled to zero term by term:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{a b}^{\dagger}=\sum_{m_{k}} c_{a m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{b-m_{k}}^{\dagger} . \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

We also introduce for later use the linear combinations

$$
\begin{equation*}
Q_{ \pm}^{\dagger} \equiv \frac{1}{2}\left(S^{\dagger} \pm D_{0}^{\dagger}\right) . \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

The 28 operators $\left\{\mathcal{S}_{\alpha}, T_{\alpha}, N_{\alpha}, \Pi_{\alpha x}, \Pi_{\alpha y}, S_{0}, S, S^{\dagger}, D_{\mu}, D_{\mu}^{\dagger}\right\}$ generate an $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ algebra with a graphene $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ subalgebra. The full structure for $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ subgroup chains is given in Fig. 2.

Pair configurations created by generators of Eqs ( 6 and 8 ) operating on the pair vacuum are given in Fig. 3. Kharitonov ${ }^{5}$ has classified collective modes for the $n=0 \mathrm{LL}$ using pairs similar physically to ours: $D_{ \pm 2}^{\dagger}|0\rangle$ creates spin-singlet charge density waves (CDW), $D_{ \pm 1}^{\dagger}|0\rangle$ creates ferromagnetic (FM) states, and $Q_{ \pm}^{\dagger}|0\rangle$ creates antiferromagnetic (AF) states. These states may be classified according to $\left\langle\mathcal{S}_{z}\right\rangle$, which measures net spin and characterizes $F M$ order, $\left\langle T_{z}\right\rangle$, which measures the sublattice charge difference and characterizes CDW order, and $\left\langle N_{z}\right\rangle$, which measures the sublattice spin difference and characterizes $A F$ order. Thus pairs in Eqs (6-8) define modes already discussed ${ }^{5,6}$, but now $\operatorname{SO}(8)$ symmetry permits analytical solutions for corresponding collective modes.


Figure 3. Configurations created by the operators of Eqs ( 6 and 8 ) operating on the pair vacuum $|0\rangle$. Location of the dots ( $K$ or $K^{\prime}$ site) indicates the valley isospin; arrows indicate the spin polarization.

General wavefunction. Broken-symmetry states based on graphene $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ have been expressed in terms of the pair wavefunction ${ }^{5}$

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\psi\rangle=\prod_{m_{k}} \sum_{\tau \sigma \tau^{\prime} \sigma^{\prime}} \Phi_{\tau \sigma \tau^{\prime} \sigma^{\prime}}^{*} c_{\tau \sigma m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\tau^{\prime} \sigma^{\prime} m_{k}}^{\dagger}|0\rangle, \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the product is over the LL orbital degeneracy label $m_{k}$ and the sum is over spin and valley labels. Now let us consider $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ pairs. All states of an irreducible representation may be constructed by successive application of raising and lowering operators to a highest-weight (HW) state (Cartan-Dynkin method) ${ }^{19}$. Let $u$ denote the number of broken pairs. For $u=0$ states at half filling the pair number is $N=\frac{1}{2} \Omega=2 k+1$ and the $\mathrm{U}(4)$ representation is $\left(\frac{\Omega}{2}, \frac{\Omega}{2}, 0,0\right)$. We choose the HW state as the pair state that results from placing one electron in the $a=1$ and one in the $a=2$ basis states (see Fig. 1),

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\mathrm{HW}\rangle=\frac{1}{N!}\left(A_{12}^{\dagger}\right)^{N}|0\rangle=\frac{1}{N!}\left(\sum_{m_{k}} c_{1 m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{2,-m_{k}}^{\dagger}\right)^{N}|0\rangle, \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the sum runs over the $N$ states in the LL labeled by the $m_{k}=(-k,-k+1, \ldots, k-1, k)$ orbital quantum number. Writing the sum over $m_{k}$ in Eq. (10) out explicitly and invoking antisymmetry eliminates most terms and leaves

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\mathrm{HW}\rangle=\frac{1}{N!}\left(\sum_{m_{k}} c_{1 m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{2-m_{k}}^{\dagger}\right)^{N}|0\rangle=\prod_{m_{k}=-k}^{m_{k}=+k} c_{1 m_{k}}^{\dagger} c_{2 m_{k}}^{\dagger}|0\rangle . \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus the $\mathrm{SO}(8) u=0 \mathrm{HW}$ state is equivalent to a product of pairs, one for each $m_{k}$ in the LL.
Other states can be constructed by applying successively to $|\mathrm{HW}\rangle$ ladder operators that are functions of the generators $G=\left\{\mathcal{S}_{\alpha}, T_{\alpha}, N_{\alpha}, \Pi_{\alpha \beta}\right\}$ of Eqs (2-5). For for an arbitrary state $|\psi\rangle$ in the weight space $|\psi\rangle=F(G)|\mathrm{HW}\rangle$, where $F(G)$ is specified by the Cartan-Dynkin procedure. For example, applying the isospin lowering operator $T_{-}=F(G) \equiv \frac{1}{2}\left(T_{x}-i T_{y}\right)$ gives

$$
\begin{equation*}
|\psi\rangle=T_{-}|\mathrm{HW}\rangle=\prod_{\mathrm{m}_{\mathrm{k}}}\left(c_{3 \mathrm{~m}_{\mathrm{k}}}^{\dagger} c_{2 \mathrm{~m}_{\mathrm{k}}}^{\dagger}+c_{4 \mathrm{~m}_{\mathrm{k}}}^{\dagger} c_{1 \mathrm{~m}_{\mathrm{k}}}^{\dagger}\right)|0\rangle . \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

Likewise, all other states of the $u=0$ representation can be constructed by using successive applications of raising and lowering operators fashioned from the generators of Eqs (2-5), and they will take the product of sums form (12), just as for Eq. (9). Hence the $S O(8) \supset S U(4)$ symmetry introduced here recovers existing understanding ${ }^{5,6}$ of states expected from spontaneous breaking of $S U(4)$ by short-range correlations.

Group chains. Figure 2 contains 7 subgroup chains. Each defines a dynamical symmetry realized for specific choices of the $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ Hamiltonian parameters, and yields an exact manybody solution using standard techniques. We shall deal with these exact solutions in future papers. Here, we interpret the states implied by Fig. 2 using coherent state (CS) approximations ${ }^{25}$. The full coherent state solution will be presented in a later paper, but we illustrate here for subgroup chains containing SO(5) in Fig. 2, corresponding to solutions that are linear combinations of the symmetry-limit solutions for the $\mathrm{SO}(8) \supset \mathrm{SU}(4) \supset \mathrm{SO}(5) \supset \mathrm{SU}(2)$, the


Figure 4. (a-c) Coherent state energy surfaces as a function of AF order $\beta$ for three $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ dynamical symmetry limits. Curves labeled by fractional occupation $f=n / 2 \Omega$ (particles or holes, since the $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ theory is particlehole symmetric). (d-f) Ground-state energy for three symmetry limits. Diagrams indicate the wavefunctions suggested by Eq. (16). (g) Energy as a function of coupling strength ratio $q \equiv G_{0} / b_{2}$ for $f=0.5$. Solid green curves $(q \sim 0-0.5)$ indicate $S O(5) \times S U(2)$ symmetry, solid blue curves for $q \geq 1.5$ indicate $\operatorname{SU}(4)$ symmetry. Dashed red curves for $q \sim 1$ correspond to the critical $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ symmetry mediating the quantum phase transition from $S O(5) \times \operatorname{SU}(2)$ to $\operatorname{SU}(4)$. (h) Energy surfaces for different occupation fractions $f$ at fixed $G_{0}$ and $b_{2}$ ( $q=2.5$ ). Solid green curves for $f \sim 0-0.2$ indicate $S O(5) \times \operatorname{SU}(2)$ symmetry, Solid blue curves for $f \sim 0.3-0.5$ indicate $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ symmetry. Curves near $f \sim 0.25$ (dashed red) correspond to $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ symmetry mediating the $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2) \leftrightarrow \mathrm{SU}(4)$ quantum phase transition.
$\mathrm{SO}(8) \supset \mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)_{\mathrm{p}} \supset \mathrm{SO}(5) \supset \mathrm{SU}(2)$, and the $\mathrm{SO}(8) \supset \mathrm{SO}(7) \supset \mathrm{SO}(5) \supset \mathrm{SU}(2)$ dynamical symmetries. The required group theory is already known ${ }^{20,25,30-34}$, so we can (with suitable change of notation and basis) simply transcribe many equations and reinterpret them in terms of graphene physics. Details follow in a later paper but we show here results central to this paper.

Energy surfaces. The energy $E_{\mathrm{g}}(n, \beta)$ depends only on $n$ and a single order parameter $\beta$. For the symmetry groups g

$$
\begin{equation*}
E_{\mathrm{g}}(n, \beta)=N_{\mathrm{g}}\left[A_{\mathrm{g}} \beta^{4}+B_{\mathrm{g}}(n) \beta^{2}+C_{\mathrm{g}}(n)+D_{\mathrm{g}}(n, \beta)\right] \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the group-dependent coefficients are tabulated in ref. 32. This energy surface results from minimizing

$$
\begin{equation*}
\langle H\rangle \simeq G_{0}\left\langle C_{\mathrm{SU}(2)_{\mathrm{p}}}\right\rangle+b_{2}\left\langle C_{\mathrm{SU}(4)}\right\rangle, \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\left\rangle\right.$ is taken in the $\mathrm{CS}, C_{g}$ denotes the quadratic Casimir invariant of g , and $b_{2}$ and $G_{0}$ are coupling strengths.
Order Parameter. The order parameter $\beta$ distinguishes the phases associated with the subgroup chains in Fig. 2 that contain $\mathrm{SO}(5) . \beta$ measures AF, since it is related to the AF order parameter $\left\langle N_{z}\right\rangle$ by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\langle N_{z}\right\rangle=2 \Omega\left|b_{2}\right|\left(f-\beta^{2}\right)^{1 / 2} \beta . \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

Fluctuations. Coherent states violate translational, rotational, and gauge invariance. However, for realistic fields and sample sizes these violations are negligible, yielding a Ginzburg-Landau type theory with microscopic pedigree.

Wavefunctions. Closed forms are given for the $\mathrm{SO}(8) \mathrm{CS}$ wavefunctions in ref. 32. Evaluating these expressions in the $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ and $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ limits, respectively, gives

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|\mathrm{SO}_{5} \times \mathrm{SU}_{2}\right\rangle \simeq\left(S^{\dagger}\right)^{N}|0\rangle\left|\mathrm{SU}_{4}\right\rangle \simeq\left(Q_{ \pm}^{\dagger}\right)^{N}|0\rangle . \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus the $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ state is a superposition of $Q_{ \pm}$pairs, each with vanishing $\left\langle\mathcal{S}_{z}\right\rangle$ and $\left\langle T_{z}\right\rangle$ but finite AF order $\left\langle N_{z}\right\rangle$. Conversely, the $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \operatorname{SU}(2)$ state is a superposition of $S$ pairs, each with vanishing $\left\langle\mathcal{S}_{z}\right\rangle,\left\langle T_{z}\right\rangle$, and $\left\langle N_{z}\right\rangle$. The critical $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ state is realized in the transition from $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ to $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ and represents a complex mixture of these wavefunctions.

Energies for the $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \operatorname{SU}(2), \mathrm{SO}(7)$, and $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ limits are shown for several values of $f=n / 2 \Omega$ in Fig. 4(a-c). The solutions are distinguished by the AF order parameter $\beta$ at the minimum, which is zero for $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$, non-zero for $\operatorname{SU}(4)$, and indeterminate in the $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ critical dynamical symmetry that interpolates between
$\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ and $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ through fluctuations in AF order. For undoped graphene the ground state corresponds to the $f=0.5$ curves. These are shown in Fig. 4(d-f) for the three symmetry limits, along with a physical interpretation of the states in terms of the wavefunctions (16). Thus the $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ dynamical symmetry limits illustrated in Fig. 4(d-f) represent a rich set of collective states that can be distinguished by the expectation value and fluctuations associated with the order parameter $\beta$.

Quantum phase transitions between symmetry limits may be studied by varying coupling. We rewrite Eq. (14) in terms of a parameter $q \equiv b_{2} / G_{0}$, which favors $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ when $q \ll 1$, $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ when $q \gg 1$, and $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ when $q \sim 1$, since

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left\langle C_{\mathrm{SU}(2))_{\mathrm{p}}}\right\rangle+\left\langle C_{\mathrm{SU}(4)}\right\rangle \sim\left\langle C_{\mathrm{SO}(7)}\right\rangle \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

implies $\operatorname{SO}(7)$ symmetry if $G_{0} \sim b_{2}$. Variation of ground state energy with $q$ is shown in Fig. 4(g). Alternatively, at fixed $q$ phase transitions may be initiated by changing particle occupancy. Figure 4(h) displays a transition from $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ with $\beta=0$, through a critical $\mathrm{SO}(7)$ symmetry with energy highly degenerate in $\beta$, to $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ with $\beta \neq 0$, as $f$ is changed at constant $q$.

Thus SO(8) describes analytically a host of broken-SU(4) candidates for the states in graphene being unraveled in modern experiments ${ }^{7,35-37}$. These solutions provide a spectrum of excited states as well as ground states. We shall not discuss that here, except to note that all ground state solutions have a gap to electronic and collective excitations. The general theory to be discussed in forthcoming papers can accommodate FM, CDW, and AF states, but for dynamical symmetries containing $\mathrm{SO}(5)$ all solutions may be classified by a single parameter $\beta$ that measures AF order: $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ states have finite $\beta$ and AF order, but no CDW or FM order, $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ states have $\beta=0$ and no AF, CDW, or FM order, and SO(7) states define a critical dynamical symmetry that interpolates between $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ and $\mathrm{SO}(5) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$ with no AF order but large AF fluctuations, and with no CDW or FM order. We have neglected Zeeman coupling here but it is expected to be small for the $n=0 \mathrm{LL}^{7}$, primarily leading to AF canting ${ }^{5}$.

Transport properties are not manifest in the algebraic theory but the CS approximation is equivalent to symmetry-constrained Hartree-Fock-Boboliubov (HFB) theory ${ }^{25,33}$, suggesting that $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ theory can be mapped onto Hartree-Fock (HF) transport calculations. We shall deal with the transport properties of the current theory in future papers.

Solutions depend on $G_{0}$ and $b_{2}$ in Eq. (14), which define effective interactions in the truncated space [highly renormalized relative to parameters in Eq. (1)]. They may be fixed by systematic comparison with data, enabling a robust prediction for the nature of the ground and other low-energy states. We expect modest impurity levels to modify the effective interaction parameters but leave dynamical symmetries intact.

The present ideas are similar to ones found in nuclear physics ${ }^{20}$ and high- $T_{c}$ superconductors (SC) ${ }^{28,29}$, with all three cases exhibiting $\mathrm{SO}(8) \supset \mathrm{SU}(4)[\sim \mathrm{SO}(6)]$ symmetry and a critical dynamical symmetry generalizing a quantum critical point to a quantum critical phase linking other phases through quantum fluctuations. These similarities may have implications for cross-disciplinary understanding of quantum phase transitions.

## Discussion

We have introduced an $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ model of monolayer graphene in a magnetic field that recovers $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ quantum Hall physics but implies new collective modes transcending explicitly-broken $\mathrm{SU}(4)$ that are leading candidates for the high-field ground state. Graphene $\mathrm{SO}(8)$ is isomorphic to a symmetry describing many complex nuclei and very similar to one describing high- $T_{\mathrm{c}}$ superconductors, suggesting a deep mathematical connection among these phenomena.

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## Author Contributions

L.-A.W. contributed to the conception and the theoretical derivations, and M.G. to the calculations and physical analysis. M.G. wrote the manuscript. Both authors discussed the results and implications at all stages, and reviewed the manuscript.

## Additional Information

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