

Quantum of the Magnetic Flux Characteristic for Experiments Performed on the Integer and Fractional Quantum Hall Effects

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ABSTRACT

Experimentally the plateaus characteristic for the integer quantum Hall effect is obtained in vicinity of specific values of the magnetic induction. The paper demonstrates that the ratios of these induction values to carrier concentration in the planar crystalline samples approach systematically the quanta of the magnetic flux important for the behavior of superconductors. Moreover, the same quanta can be deduced from the Landau levels theory and their application in the magnetoresistance theory gives results being in accordance with experiments. The quanta of the magnetic flux similar to those for the integer quantum Hall effect can be obtained also for the fractional quantum Hall effect. This holds on condition the experimental ratio of the magnetic flux to carrier concentration is multiplied by the filling factor of the Landau level.

Keywords: Quantum Hall Effect-Integer and Fractional; Magnetic Induction; Carrier Concentration; Quanta of the Orbital Magnetic Flux

1. Introduction

Experimentally the discovery of the integer quantum Hall effect for the planar metallic-like crystals led to a result that the magnetic flux in such crystals is quantized with a very high accuracy by the values equal to

$$\Phi = \frac{hc}{e^*} \tag{1}$$

determined from the Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization condition imposed on the orbital motion of a charged particle in the magnetic field (see e.g. [1]). Equation (1) gives a tool in obtaining the effective charge e^* of that particle. A well-known result for Φ in case of the superconducting systems is [2,3]

$$\Phi = \frac{hc}{2e} = 2.07 \times 10^{-7} \text{ gauss} \times \text{cm}^2.$$
 (2)

Result in (2) implies that the effective charge carried in superconductors is a double of the electron charge, *i.e.*

$$e^* = 2e, (3)$$

leading to an idea of the coupled electron pairs as the particles providing the electric current. More recently, a

source of interest in Φ is raised by the fractional quantum Hall effect in which e^* is considered as a fraction of e [4.5].

Our aim is to examine the Φ in the quantum Hall effect beginning with the integer form of that effect:

$$\frac{h}{a^2}. (4)$$

In Section 2, we show that the flux in (2) leads to the result presented in (4).

The formula of (4) is characteristic for the magnetoresistance of the integer quantum Hall effect, but also the magnetoresistance values

$$\frac{h}{ve^2} \tag{5}$$

specific for the fractional quantum Hall effect can be obtained [6-8]. Here the coefficient ν is a simple fraction like

$$\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{5}, \cdots$$
 (6)

A predominant feature of (6) is that any fraction has an odd integer number in its denominator.

As a rule the experiments leading to (4)-(6) were performed for some definite value of the magnetic field induction B_z , or some plateau of these values. The B_z directed, say, parallelly to the axis z were assumed to be normal to the planar crystalline samples, so each experiment concerned a specific concentration n of the electric carriers (electrons or holes) present in the sample plane.

Theoretically an approach to the quanta of (4) and (5) can be attained by calculating the magnetoresistance of a metal on the basis of a single free-electron like band of states [9-12]. Here the off-diagonal Hall resistance and diagonal resistance can be considered. The change $\Delta \rho_{xx}$ of the diagonal tensor component of the electric resistance ρ_{xx} upon the action of the magnetic field is represented by the formula

$$\Delta \rho_{xx} = \frac{\Delta \rho_{xx}}{\rho_{yx}} \rho_{xx} = \frac{\tau_{el} \Omega_0}{\xi} \frac{m}{ne^2 \tau_{el}}.$$
 (7)

Expression (7) holds because [9-12]

$$\frac{\Delta \rho_{xx}}{\rho_{xx}} = \frac{\tau_{el}}{\tau_{mag}} = \frac{\tau_{el} \Omega_0}{\xi}$$
 (8)

and

$$\rho_{xx} = \frac{m}{ne^2 \tau_{el}}; (9)$$

see e.g. [13]. The $\tau_{\rm el}$ is the relaxation time for the electric resistance,

$$\Omega_0 = \frac{eB_z}{mc} \tag{10}$$

is the electron gyration frequency in the field B_z ,

$$\tau_{\text{mag}} = \frac{\xi}{\Omega_0} \tag{11}$$

is the relaxation time due to the presence of the magnetic field,

$$\xi = \frac{1}{2} \tag{12}$$

is a constant number entering formula (11) obtained on the basis of a quantum-mechanical calculation [9,11]. Because of (12) we obtain from (7):

$$\Delta \rho_{xx} = \frac{2B_z}{n_{PC}}.$$
 (13)

Expression (13) is equal to the double absolute value of the Hall resistance:

$$\left| \rho_{xy} \right| = \frac{B_z}{nec} \tag{14}$$

The formula (14) remains unmodified in comparison with the well-known result obtained before (see e.g. [14]) without any use of $\tau_{\rm mag}$. The lack of change is due to the

property of the tensor which is representing the modification of the electric resistance given by the presence of the magnetic field: the tensor contains τ_{mag} both in the numerator and denominator of the off-diagonal matrix element representing the Hall effect, so [9,11]:

$$\left| \Delta \rho_{xy} \right| = \frac{m\xi}{ne^2 \tau_{\text{mag}}} = \frac{m\Omega_0 \tau_{\text{mag}}}{ne^2 \tau_{\text{mag}}}$$

$$= \frac{m\Omega_0}{ne^2} = \frac{B_z}{nec} = \left| \rho_{xy} \right|$$
(15)

on condition we note that

$$\xi = \tau_{\text{mag}} \Omega_0 \tag{16}$$

because of the formula (11) for ξ . In the last step of (15), a conventional notation for the Hall resistance is applied. A similar property of independence on the relaxation time has the Hall matrix element of the original tensor for the magnetoresistance [13], but this concerns the relaxation time $\tau_{\rm el}$ due to the electric field and not $\tau_{\rm mag}$ for the magnetic field.

The plateaus of magnetoresistance which signalize the presence of the integer quantum Hall effect refer to some definite experimental values of B_z and n. Because of the ratio

$$B_z/n$$
 (17)

entering (13), (14) and (15) our aim is to examine (17) in some detail.

2. Electron Population of the Landau Levels Provides Us with the Quanta of Magnetoresistance and Those of the Magnetic Flux

For the magnetic field B_z strong enough to collect all electrons on a single Landau level, the number of electron orbits occupying that level is equal to [14]

$$D = \frac{eL^2}{2\pi\hbar c} B_z = \frac{n}{2} L^2.$$
 (18)

In the second step of (18) the spin degeneracy of the orbits is explicitly taken into account, L is the edge of the square occupied by the planar metallic-like sample. In a situation represented by (18) the ratio (17) becomes:

$$\frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{\pi \hbar c}{e} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{hc}{e} \tag{19}$$

which is identical with (2); see also [13]. The ratio of (19) can be substituted to the formulae (13) and (14)-(15). In the first case the result

$$\Delta \rho_{xx} = \frac{2}{\rho_C} \frac{1}{2} \frac{hc}{\rho} = \frac{h}{\rho^2}$$
 (20)

is identical to (4); in the second case we obtain

$$\left| \rho_{xy} \right| = \frac{1}{ec} \frac{1}{2} \frac{hc}{e} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{h}{e^2}$$
 (21)

which is a half of the diagonal magnetoresistance in (20). Henceforth we consider (21) as a quantum of the Hall resistance given by a fully occupied single Landau level.

An application of the formalism can be done for a text-book example of the experimental presentations of $\Delta \rho_{xx}$ and ρ_{xy} for which, however, no carrier concentration n for the examined two-dimensional system has been given [15]. The obtacle can be avoided when, in the first step, the equivalence of (14) and (21) for a completely filled Landau level is taken into account. In this case

$$\frac{B_z}{nec} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{h}{e^2} \tag{22}$$

so

$$n = \frac{2B_z e}{hc}. (23)$$

Experimentally the quantum Hall plateau corresponding to the Hall resistance (21) begins at $B_z = 4T = 4 \times 10^4$ gauss. Therefore from (23)

$$n = \frac{8 \times 10^4 \times 4.803 \times 10^{-10}}{6.62 \times 10^{-27} \times 3 \times 10^{10}}$$

$$= 1.93 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^2.$$
(24)

This n provides us with the ratio

$$\frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{4 \times 10^4}{1.93 \times 10^{11}}$$

$$= 2.07 \times 10^{-7} \text{ gauss} \times \text{cm}^2$$
(25)

being in a perfect agreement with (19); see (2).

The end point of the plateau is at $B_z \approx 7 \text{ T}$ and this gives the magnetic flux per electron

$$\frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{7 \times 10^4}{1.93 \times 10^{11}}$$

$$= 3.6 \times 10^{-7} \text{ gauss} \times \text{cm}^2,$$
(26)

therefore dispersion of Φ for a given n can be large.

3. Calculation of the Magnetic Flux from the Experimental Data for B_z and n

Rather surprisingly the ratio (17) leading to the quantum (21) of the Hall resistance seems to be not very extensively examined on the experimental basis. In **Table 1** we present a list of the values of B_z , n and ratios B_z/n associated with the plateaus of the quantum Hall resistance observed in different compounds; see [16-41]. This study shows that the experimental data for B_z/n approach the quantum value obtained for (2) and in (19). The dispersion of the data in **Table 1** is not much diffe-

Table 1. List of the experimental B_z values of the magnetic induction (in the tesla units) connected with the plateaus of the quantum integer Hall effect [equal to $(1/2)h/e^2$], carrier concentrations n (in $10^{11}~\rm cm^{-2}$) and the ratios B_z/n . In some cases the data are observed for other Landau levels than the first one and transformed to those corresponding to a single fully occupied Landau level.

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Reference	B_z	n	B_z/n
	(in T)	(in 10^{11} cm^{-2})	(in 10^{-7} gauss \times cm ²)
[16]	15	7.8	1.92
[17]	5	2.46	2.03
[18]	8	4.0	2.0
[19]	3	1.48	2.03
[20]	2.5	1.23	2.03
[21]	4.3	2.1	2.05
[22]	6.7	3.4	1.8
[23]	4.0	1.5	2.67
[24]	4	2.1	1.9
[24]	6.5	3.5	1.9
[25]	6.0	3.0	2.0
[26]	5.2	2.23	2.26
[27]	9.0	6.0	1.5
[28]	$1/2 \times 6.0$	1.45	2.07
[29]	5.0	2.4	2.08
[30]	2×5.4	5.6	1.93
[30]	3×3.8	5.6	2.04
[30]	4×2.8	5.6	2.0
[30]	5×2.2	5.6	1.96
[31]	0.8	0.4	2.0
[32]	2.0	1.04	1.92
[33]	1.2	0.571	2.1
[34]	1.5	0.581	2.58
[35]	2.25	1.06	2.12
[36]	10	4	2.5
[37]	2.7	1.26	2.14
[38]	1.5	0.66	2.27
[38]	0.9	0.41	2.2
[38]	2.5	1.26	1.98
[39]	4.3	1.93	2.2
[39]	6.0	3.0	2.0
[40]	3.2	1.53	2.09
[41] [41]	10.5 7.9	5.1 3.8	2.06 2.08
[41]	5.5	2.65	2.08
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rent from that observed in superconducting cyllinders [42].

For some experiments the ratio

$$\frac{\left|\rho_{xy}\right|}{\Delta\rho_{xx}} = \frac{1}{2}$$

[see (20) and (21)] could find its confirmation in the observed data obtained for almost the same induction value B_z [29,39].

4. Discussion: Reference to the Fractional Quantum Hall Effect

A natural extension of the problem of Φ considered for the integer quantum Hall effect concerns the fractional version of that effect. In this case the orbit population (18) a Landau level is changed by a factor of ν giving the relation

$$v\frac{eB_z}{hc} = \frac{n}{2}. (27)$$

Evidently in this case we obtain the formula

$$v\frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{hc}{e} \tag{28}$$

instead of (19), so the expected magnetic flux per one carrier unit becomes

$$\Phi = \frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{hc}{e^*} = \frac{hc}{2e\nu}.$$
 (29)

Here it should be noted that only a substitution of B_z/n from the formula (29) into (13) can provide us with the result

$$\Delta \rho_{xx} = \frac{2}{ec} \frac{hc}{2ev} = \frac{h}{e^2 v} \tag{30}$$

in accordance with experiment; see (5). Since we have mainly $\nu < 1$, the formula (29) implies the presence of the carriers having their charge

$$e^* = 2ev < 2e.$$
 (31)

However, an alternative approach to Φ can be obtained on the basis of the assumption that no $e^* < 2e$ are present but the number of the filled Landau levels which take part in experiment is increased from 1 to $1/\nu$; for the sake of simplicity we assume that $1/\nu$ is an integer number [43]. An increase of the filled levels number can be attained by a corresponding change of B_z for a single filled level to νB_z which makes on each level a decrease of the original concentration n to νn . In effect we obtain

$$\Phi_L = \frac{vB_z}{vn} = \frac{B_z}{n} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{hc}{e}$$
(32)

for each component level which is the same ratio as for a single filled Landau level; see (19). In result of that situation only a sum of Φ_L in (32) performed over all occupied $1/\nu$ levels can give the magnetic flux equal to that presented in (29).

Since ν is a constant and n is a discrete integer parameter, the behaviour of the magnetic flux in the quantum Hall effects indicates that B_z in (29) should be a quantized parameter. The quantum of eB_z is expected to be the smallest experimentally acceptable number of

$$\frac{n}{2\nu}hc \sim 10^{-16} \text{ dyne}$$
 (33)

obtained on condition we assume that $n \sim v \sim 1$.

By considering vB_z/n as the magnetic flux Φ it can be noted that the following relation exists between Φ , the energy E of the quantum state and current $j = nev_x$ [44]:

$$j = \alpha \frac{\partial E}{\partial \Phi} \tag{34}$$

where α is a constant. In fact, for a one electron energy on the Landau level obtained by the change of B_z to vB_z , viz.

$$E = \nu N_I \hbar \Omega_0, \tag{35}$$

we obtain from (34) the relation:

$$nev_{x} = ne\frac{\hbar k_{x}^{F}}{m} = \alpha \frac{\partial (v N_{L} \hbar \Omega_{0})}{\partial (v B_{z}/n)}$$

$$= \alpha \frac{\partial (N_{L} \hbar e B_{z} n)}{\partial (mc B_{z})} = \alpha \frac{N_{L} \hbar e n}{mc}$$
(36)

which gives

$$\alpha = \frac{ck_x^F}{N_L},\tag{37}$$

representing a number independent of v, B_z and n. The k_x^F is a component of the Fermi wave vector, N_L is the index of the Landau level.

5. Examples of the Magnetic Flux Calculated for the Fractional Quantum Hall Effect

In **Tables 2-4**, we present several examples of the quanta of the magnetic flux obtained when the measured data for B_z , n and ν entering the experiments on the fractional quantum Hall effect are substituted on the left-hand side of the formula (28). These quanta approach evidently the result given in (2), as it could be expected on the basis of (28). Similar quanta of **Table 1** are, in average, more distant from the result in (2) because the very existence of plateaus of B_z in the integer quantum Hall effect makes the calculations of Φ more uncertain than in

Table 2. Quanta of the magnetic flux $\frac{vB_z}{n}$ for the fractional quantum Hall effect deduced from the experimental data corresponding to a similar set of v but different carrier densities n are taken into account. See [38], Figure 9.15 and [37]. The factor of 2 in n is due to spin degeneracy.

ν	B_z	n	$\frac{vB_z}{n}$
	(in tesla units)	(in 10 ¹¹ cm ⁻²)	(in 10^{-7} gauss \times cm ²)
2/3	14.25	2×0.68	2.08
3/5	14.75	2×0.68	2.09
1/2	15.75	2×0.68	2.11
2/5	17.75	2×0.68	2.06
1/3	18.75	2×0.68	1.96
1/5	13.75	2×0.68	1.91
2/3	15.75	2×0.92	2.08
3/5	16.25	2×0.92	2.04
1/2	17.52	2×0.92	2.04
2/5	19.52	2×0.92	2.07
1/3	11.75	2×0.92	1.99
2/3	16.25	2×1.03	2.02
3/5	17.25	2×1.03	2.04
1/2	18.52	2×1.03	2.06
2/5	10.52	2×1.03	2.04
1/3	12.52	2×1.03	2.02
2/3	16.75	2×1.10	2.05
3/5	17.52	2×1.10	2.05
1/2	19.75	2×1.10	2.05
2/5	11.25	2×1.10	2.05
1/3	13.52	2×1.10	2.05
4/5	16.5	2×1.16	2.07
2/3	17.5	2×1.16	2.01
3/5	18.5	2×1.16	2.07
1/2	19.5	2×1.16	2.05
1/3	14.5	2×1.16	2.08
4/5	17	2×1.32	2.12
2/3	18	2×1.32	2.02
1/2	11	2×1.32	2.08
4/5	17.5	2×1.43	2.10
2/3	19.5	2×1.43	2.10
4/7	10.5	2×1.43	2.10
1/2	11.5	2×1.43	2.01
4/5	8.5	2×1.55	2.06
2/3	9.5	2×1.55	2.04
4/7	11.5	2×1.55	2.03
1/2	13.5	2×1.55	2.09

Table 3. List of the experimental B_z values of the magnetic induction (in the tesla units) connected with the magnetoresistance maxima due to the fractional quantum Hall effect observed for different filling factors ν and carrier concentration n (in 10^{11} cm⁻²) in different crystal samples [28]. The ratios $\nu B_z/n$ are calculated in 10^{-7} gauss \times cm² units. The n of [28] listed in the Table are doubled because of the spin degeneracy taken into account.

	ν	B_z	n	vB_z/n
		(in T)	(in 10^{11} cm^{-2})	(in 10^{-7} gauss \times cm ²)
1	/3	19	2×1.53	2.07
2	2/3	15	2×2.42	2.07
2	2/5	22	2×2.13	2.07
3	/5	14.7	2×2.13	2.07
5	/3	5.3	2×2.06	2.14
3	/7	20.6	2×2.13	2.07

Table 4. The magnetic flux calculated from the experimental data for v, B_z and n given in the diagrams of [45].

ν	B_z	n	vB_z/n
	(in tesla)	(in 10^{11} cm^{-2})	(in 10^{-7} gauss \times cm ²)
2	15.3	2×2.6	2.04
8/5	16.8	2×2.6	2.09
10/7	17.4	2×2.6	2.03
4/3	18.2	2×2.6	2.10
6/5	18.9	2×2.6	2.05
1	10.8	2×2.6	2.08
4/5	13.2	2×2.6	2.00
2/3	16.2	2×2.6	2.05
4/7	18.2	2×2.6	1.98
1/2	21.2	2×2.6	2.02
4/9	23.2	2×2.6	1.97
2/5	27.2	2×2.6	2.08
1/3	33.2	2×2.6	2.12

case of the fractional quantum Hall effect.

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