Effect of many-body interaction on de Haas-van Alphen oscillations in insulators

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The de Haas-van Alphen (dHvA) oscillations are oscillations in the magnetization as a function of the inverse magnetic field. These oscillations are usually considered to be a property of the Fermi surface and, hence, a metallic property. Recently, however, such oscillations have been shown to arise, both experimentally and theoretically, in certain insulators which have a narrow gap and an inverted band structure. In this Letter, we develop a theory to study the effect of many-body interactions on these unconventional oscillations. We consider a weak interaction, focusing on the effect of renormalization of the quasiparticle spectrum on these oscillations. We find that the interaction has an unusual effect: Unlike in metals, in a certain regime the amplitude of oscillations may be enhanced substantially, both at zero and nonzero temperatures, even when the interaction is perturbatively weak.

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One of the striking consequences of Landau quantization in a magnetic field in metals is the appearance of quantum oscillations. These are oscillations in physical observables of metals, both thermodynamic and transport, with a change in the magnetic field. The underlying mechanism is simple: As the magnetic field increases, the spacing between the Landau levels widens. This forces the highest occupied level to spill out of the Fermi level and become depopulated periodically, which manifests as oscillations in various observables. Evidently, these oscillations are expected only in metals and are measured routinely in experiments to map the Fermi surface of such systems [1,2].

In recent years, however, quantum oscillations have been reported experimentally in various insulators. The de Haas– van Alphen (dHvA) oscillations, which refer to oscillations in the magnetization, have been observed in the Kondo insulator SmB_6 [3–6], while Shubnikov–de Haas (SdH) oscillations, which refer to oscillations in the resistivity, have been observed in the Kondo insulator YbB₁₂ [7], quantum well heterostructures [8,9], WTe₂ [10], and moiré graphene [11]. Such unexpected findings prompted intensive theoretical investigations which have now revealed that contrary to the canonical picture, quantum oscillations can indeed arise in insulators, provided the insulators have a narrow gap and an inverted band structure [12–16].

Although the phenomenon is now well understood at the noninteracting level, the effect of interactions on these unconventional oscillations remains insufficiently explored. Research in this direction has predominantly concentrated on specific models of correlated insulators where the interaction causes the opening of the gap [17-20] but not on generic band insulators with an interaction. Exploring the latter is important since it offers a controlled approach to compare oscillations in insulators with those in metals. Moreover, from an experimental perspective, investigating this aspect is significant since some of the systems where unconventional oscillations have been observed are of this nature [8,9], and the abundance of possibilities in this category suggests more explorations in the future.

In this Letter, we develop a theory of quantum oscillations in interacting band insulators, focusing specifically on dHvA oscillations. We consider weak interactions, incorporating them within the Hartree-Fock approximation. Notably, we find that in a certain parameter regime, even weak interactions can significantly modify the amplitude of oscillations unlike in metals. This arises because interactions now compete with a new energy scale in the form of a gap which is absent in a metal, thus influencing oscillations in a qualitatively different manner.

To put our results for the insulator in context, we first review the theory of dHvA oscillations in metals. The oscillating part of the magnetization is given by $M_{\rm osc} = -\frac{\partial \Omega_{\rm osc}}{\partial B}$, where $\Omega_{\rm osc}$ is the oscillating part of the grand potential and *B* is the external magnetic field. In a three-dimensional interacting metal with a parabolic spectrum of spinless electrons, considering only the renormalization of the energy spectrum due to a static interaction potential at the Hartree-Fock level, it is found that [2,21] ($\hbar = 1$)

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\rm osc} = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \tilde{A}_l(T) \cos\left[2\pi l \frac{\tilde{\mu}}{\tilde{\omega}_c} - \pi \left(l + \frac{1}{4}\right)\right], \qquad (1)$$

where $\tilde{\omega}_c = eB/\tilde{m}$ is the cyclotron frequency with *e* as the absolute value of the charge and \tilde{m} as the mass of an electron, respectively, $\tilde{\mu}$ is the chemical potential, and $\tilde{A}_l(T)$ is the temperature (*T*)-dependent amplitude of the *l*th harmonic of oscillations given by ($k_B = 1$)

$$\tilde{A}_{l}(T) = \tilde{\omega}_{c} \frac{(eB)^{3/2}}{8\pi^{4} l^{5/2}} \frac{2\pi^{2} lT / \tilde{\omega}_{c}}{\sinh(2\pi^{2} lT / \tilde{\omega}_{c})}.$$
(2)

Above, and henceforth, the presence (absence) of a tilde denotes renormalized (bare) values of the respective quantities. Expressions (1) and (2) are, in fact, identical to the ones that



FIG. 1. Schematic band structure for the Hamiltonian in (4) with ϵ_{1k} and ϵ_{2k} having curvatures of different sign. Dotted curves show bands before hybridization. The hybridization results in a gap.

appear in the noninteracting case, except for the appearance of renormalized parameters [22,23],

$$\mu \to \tilde{\mu} = \mu(1+b), \tag{3a}$$

$$\omega_c \to \tilde{\omega}_c = \frac{eB}{\tilde{m}} = \frac{eB}{m}(1+a),$$
 (3b)

where *b* and *a* capture the degree of renormalization in μ and *m*, respectively. One can readily summarize the following salient features:

(1) The phase does not change with interaction.

(2) The change in frequency is negligible: Because $\mu \gg \omega_c$, V, where V is the strength of interaction, $\tilde{\mu}/\tilde{\omega}_c \approx \mu/\omega_c$.

(3) At T = 0, the change in the amplitude is small in proportion to the strength of the weak interaction since $\tilde{A}_l(0) \sim \tilde{\omega}_c$. The amplitude decreases monotonically with rise in T.

We now proceed to investigate dHvA oscillations in an insulator. Consider the following Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_{i,\mathbf{k}} \varepsilon_{i\mathbf{k}} c_{i\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} c_{i\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (\gamma_{\mathbf{k}} c_{1\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} c_{2\mathbf{k}} + \text{H.c.}) + H_{\text{int}}.$$
 (4)

Here, $c_{i\mathbf{k}}^{\mathsf{T}}$ ($c_{i\mathbf{k}}$), i = 1, 2, denotes the creation (destruction) operators for particles with momentum **k** in the *i*th band with dispersion $\varepsilon_{i\mathbf{k}}$ in three dimensions. These two bands are hybridized by $\gamma_{\mathbf{k}}$. For simplicity, we choose $\varepsilon_{1\mathbf{k}} = \frac{k^2}{2m_1} - \Delta$ and $\varepsilon_{2\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{k^2}{2m_2}$ with $m_{1,2}$, $\Delta > 0$, and assume $\gamma_{\mathbf{k}} = \gamma$ to be independent of **k** with $|\gamma| \ll \Delta$. Also, all particles are assumed to be spinless. The first two terms in Eq. (4) describe the noninteracting part, which is easily diagonalized leading to an insulator with an inverted band structure and a narrow gap—see Fig. 1. The chemical potential μ is chosen to lie inside the gap. The last term in Eq. (4), H_{int} , introduces an interparticle interaction, whose exact form is not necessary for the results to be derived—we only assume that the interaction is static and weak so that its effect can be included perturbatively at the Hartree-Fock level which leads to a renormalization of the energy levels but no broadening.

In the presence of a magnetic field, discrete Landau levels are produced that are affected by the interaction. We calculate the grand potential using the standard formula [22]

$$\tilde{\Omega} = -T \operatorname{Tr}\left(\sum_{\zeta_m} \ln\{-[\tilde{G}^{-1}(\zeta_m)]\}\right).$$
(5)

Here, $\xi_m = (2m + 1)\pi T$, with $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, are the Matsubara frequencies, Tr stands for the trace over all energy states, and \tilde{G} is the Green's function corresponding to (4) in a magnetic field given by $\tilde{G}^{-1} = G^{-1} - \Sigma$, where *G* is the noninteracting Green's function and Σ is the self-energy due to the interaction. In the band basis, we have $G_{11}^{-1} = i\zeta_m - \omega_{c1}(n + \frac{1}{2}) - \frac{k_c^2}{2m_1} + \Delta + \mu$, $G_{22}^{-1} = i\zeta_m + \omega_{c2}(n + \frac{1}{2}) + \frac{k_c^2}{2m_2} + \mu$, and $G_{12}^{-1} = G_{21}^{-1} = -\gamma$, where *n* is the Landau level index and $\omega_{c1,2} = eB/m_{1,2}$. In general, Σ is a function of both *B* and *T* and requires a substantial effort to calculate. However, as far as dHvA oscillations in three dimensions are concerned, it suffices to consider Σ calculated at zero *B* and *T*—as in the case of metals, the effect of nonzero *B* and *T* leads to subleading corrections in orders of $\omega_{c1,2}/\Delta \ll 1$ and $T/\Delta \ll 1$, respectively [23–25]. Within this approximation, we evaluate the oscillating part of Eq. (5) and find

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\rm osc} = \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \tilde{A}_l(T) \cos\left[2\pi l \frac{\tilde{\Delta}}{\tilde{\omega}_{c1} + \tilde{\omega}_{c2}} - \pi \left(l + \frac{1}{4}\right)\right], \quad (6)$$

where

$$\tilde{A}_{l}(T) = \frac{(eB)^{3/2}}{\pi^{2}l^{3/2}} T \sum_{\zeta_{m}>0} e^{-\frac{\pi l}{\tilde{\omega}_{c1}\bar{\omega}_{c2}}\sqrt{\zeta_{m}^{2}(\tilde{\omega}_{c1}+\tilde{\omega}_{c2})^{2}+4\tilde{\omega}_{c1}\bar{\omega}_{c2}\tilde{\gamma}^{2}}} \times \cosh\left[\frac{\pi l\zeta_{m}(\tilde{\omega}_{c2}-\tilde{\omega}_{c1})}{\tilde{\omega}_{c1}\tilde{\omega}_{c2}}\right].$$
(7)

Details of the derivation are provided in the Supplemental Material (SM) [26]. The above expressions are characterized by the following renormalized parameters:

$$\omega_{c1,2} \to \tilde{\omega}_{c1,2} = \frac{eB}{\tilde{m}_{1,2}} = \frac{eB}{m_{1,2}}(1+a_{1,2}),$$
 (8a)

$$\Delta \to \tilde{\Delta} = \Delta(1+b), \tag{8b}$$

$$\gamma \to \tilde{\gamma} = \gamma (1+t),$$
 (8c)

$$\mu \to \tilde{\mu} = \mu + \delta \mu. \tag{8d}$$

Note that, while $\tilde{\omega}_{c1,2}$, $\tilde{\Delta}$, and $\tilde{\gamma}$ appear explicitly in Eqs. (6) and (7), $\tilde{\mu}$ enters implicitly through the Matsubara sum. Thus, it affects only the T dependence of the oscillations, and has no effect on the T = 0 behavior, as long as μ and $\tilde{\mu}$ lie in the gap. For simplicity, we have assumed $\tilde{\mu} = -\frac{\tilde{\Delta}\tilde{m}_1}{\tilde{m}_1 + \tilde{m}_2}$, chosen such that it lies at the intersection of the two renormalized bands prior to hybridization [27]. Equation (6) along with Eqs. (7) and (8) generalize Eqs. (1)–(4) from an interacting metallic system to an interacting gapped system. Thus, for a given form of H_{int} in Eq. (4), one simply needs to calculate the renormalization parameters a_i, b, t to study the effect of the interaction on dHvA oscillations. We will come back to this calculation later; for now, we discuss the qualitative features that arise from these expressions. It is seen that the phase remains unaltered and the frequency does not change appreciably since $1 \ll \frac{\tilde{\Delta}}{\tilde{\omega}_{c1} + \tilde{\omega}_{c2}} \approx \frac{\Delta}{\omega_{c1} + \omega_{c2}}$; thus, both these quantities remain qualitatively similar to those in metals. In contrast, the



FIG. 2. The effect of the interaction on the amplitude at T = 0 according to Eqs. (8) and (9). $\tilde{A}_1(0)$ denotes the amplitude of the first harmonic at T = 0 in the presence of the interaction. It is normalized by its noninteracting value $A_1(0)$. We show its variation with a_1 and t keeping $a_2 = 0.2$ fixed in all the plots. The points Q, R, and S are arbitrarily chosen in the interaction-parameter space defined by (a_1, a_2, t) which are referred to in Fig. 3.

amplitude is significantly affected by interactions, in a way that is qualitatively different from that in metals.

First, we consider $\tilde{A}_l(0)$, the amplitude at T = 0. Changing the summation to an integral over the frequency in Eq. (7), we find

$$\tilde{A}_{l}(0) = \frac{|\tilde{\gamma}| (eB)^{3/2}}{2\pi^{3} l^{3/2}} K_{l} \left(\frac{4\pi l |\tilde{\gamma}|}{\tilde{\omega}_{c1} + \tilde{\omega}_{c2}} \right), \tag{9}$$

where K_{α} is the modified Bessel function of the second kind. Equation (9), together with Eq. (8), gives a quantitative description of how the amplitude is affected by an interaction. It leads to an unusual feature that is unique to the insulating case: Even a weak interaction can lead to a substantial change in the amplitude of oscillations at zero temperature. Indeed, the fate is decided by a delicate interplay between $\tilde{\gamma}$ and $\tilde{m}_{1,2}$ in Eq. (9). Using the parametrization of Eq. (8) in Eq. (9), we plot the first-harmonic amplitude in Fig. 2 for different values of m_1/m_2 (determining the particle-hole asymmetry) and γ/ω_{c1} (determining the strength of the gap as compared to the Landau level spacing). It is seen that when $\gamma/\omega_{c1} \sim 1$, there is a pronounced enhancement in the zero-temperature amplitude, which can amount to even an order of magnitude.

Next, we consider the dependence of the amplitude on *T*. This is calculated numerically from Eq. (7) and is presented in Fig. 3 for various choices of interaction parameters m_1/m_2 and γ/ω_{c1} as used in Fig. 2. In the limit $T \gg \gamma$, as expected, the *T* dependence follows the usual metallic behavior, contributed by the two participating bands. It only depends on $\tilde{m}_{1,2}$ and is independent of $\tilde{\gamma}$. In the other limit, $T \leq \gamma$, the *T*

dependence deviates from the metallic behavior, and depends on both $\tilde{m}_{1,2}$ and $\tilde{\gamma}$. The deviation is most striking when $m_1/m_2 \gg 1$ and $\gamma/\omega_{c1} \sim 1$. In this regime [Fig. 3(d)], there is a sizable enhancement in the amplitude in the form of a nonmonotonic upturn driven by *T* on top of the enhancement at T = 0 discussed earlier. An interesting observation is that since the behavior of the amplitude at low *T* in the particlehole asymmetric case is very sensitive to γ/ω_{c1} , for a given material (with a fixed γ and $\tilde{\gamma}$) the effect of temperature depends crucially on the field at which the oscillations are being studied to extract the amplitude. Indeed, Figs. 3(c) and 3(d) can be interpreted as the temperature dependence of the amplitude of the same dHvA oscillation but at different field values.

An expression for the T dependence of the amplitude at low T can be obtained by employing the Euler-Maclaurin formula to carry out the Matsubara sum in Eq. (7),

$$\tilde{A}_{k}(T) \approx \tilde{A}_{k}(0) - \alpha \left[\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi T} f(x) dx - \frac{T}{2} f(\pi T) + \frac{T}{12} f'(\pi T) \right],$$
(10)

where f(x) is the summand in Eq. (7) with $\zeta_m \to x$ and $\alpha = \frac{(eB)^{3/2}}{\pi^{2}l^{3/2}}$. Equation (10) reproduces the numerically obtained curve for $\tilde{A}_1(T)$ very well for $T \leq \gamma$. This can be further reduced to a closed analytical form by expanding in *T*; however, the resulting expression is accurate only when $T \ll \gamma$ and



FIG. 3. The temperature dependence of the amplitude in the presence of the interaction. $\tilde{A}_1(T)$ denotes the amplitude of the first harmonic at temperature *T* in the presence of the interaction. It is normalized by its noninteracting zero-temperature value $A_1(0)$. We show its variation with *T* for the various cases considered in Fig. 2. *Q*, *R*, *S* denote three choices of (a_1, a_2, t) defined in Fig. 2. *P* denotes the noninteracting case. The curves are derived from a numerical calculation of Eq. (7).

does not describe the features that arise at $T \leq \gamma$. We discuss this in SM [26].

Having discussed the qualitative features, we now return to the calculation of the renormalization parameters a_i, b, t . These are related to the self-energy Σ as follows (see SM [26]),

$$a_i = v_{Fi}^{-1} \partial_k \Sigma_{ii}|_{k_F}, \qquad (11a)$$

$$b = \frac{1}{\Delta} [\Sigma_{22} - \Sigma_{11} + \mu(a_1 - a_2)]|_{k_F}, \qquad (11b)$$

$$t = \frac{1}{\gamma} \Sigma_{12}|_{k_F},\tag{11c}$$

$$\delta \mu = \mu a_2 - \Sigma_{22}|_{k_F},\tag{11d}$$

where v_F and k_F are the Fermi velocity and momentum, respectively. To calculate Σ , we need H_{int} . We consider the following form (volume taken as unity):

$$H_{\text{int}} = \sum_{i,j,\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}',\mathbf{q}} V_{ij\mathbf{q}} c^{\dagger}_{i\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} c^{\dagger}_{j\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{q}} c_{j\mathbf{k}'} c_{i\mathbf{k}}.$$
 (12)

The above term describes an interaction of strength V_{ijq} between particles belonging to either the same band (i = j) or different bands $(i \neq j)$. For simplicity, we have only considered an interband interaction which preserves the band index, but extending the calculation to a more general form of the interaction is straightforward. As remarked earlier, Σ needs to be calculated at zero *B* and *T*. At the Hartree-Fock level, we have $\Sigma_{ii}(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} [(V_{ii0} - V_{ii\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k}}) \langle c^{\dagger}_{\mathbf{ik}'}c_{\mathbf{ik}'} \rangle +$ $V_{120}\langle c_{j\mathbf{k}'}^{\dagger}c_{j\mathbf{k}'}\rangle] \ (j \neq i) \text{ and } \Sigma_{12}(\mathbf{k}) = -\sum_{\mathbf{k}'} V_{12\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k}}\langle c_{1\mathbf{k}'}^{\dagger}c_{2\mathbf{k}'}\rangle.$ The averages over the ground state at T = 0, denoted by $\langle \cdots \rangle$, are easily computed (see SM [26]). Finally, we obtain

$$\Sigma_{ii}(\mathbf{k}) \approx \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} [(V_{ii0} - V_{ii\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k}})n_F(\xi_{i\mathbf{k}'}) + V_{120}n_F(\xi_{j\mathbf{k}'})],$$
(13a)

$$\Sigma_{12}(\mathbf{k}) = \gamma \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} V_{12\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{k}} \frac{n_F(E_{-\mathbf{k}'})}{(E_{+\mathbf{k}'}-E_{-\mathbf{k}'})},$$
(13b)

where $\xi_{i\mathbf{k}'} = \varepsilon_{i\mathbf{k}'} - \mu$, $n_F(x)$ is the Fermi function, and $E_{\pm\mathbf{k}'} = \frac{1}{2}[(\varepsilon_{1\mathbf{k}'} + \varepsilon_{2\mathbf{k}'}) \pm \sqrt{(\varepsilon_{1\mathbf{k}'} - \varepsilon_{2\mathbf{k}'})^2 + 4\gamma^2}]$. In deriving Σ_{ii} , we have neglected terms of $O(\gamma^2/\Delta^2)$.

The amplitude of oscillations is determined by $\tilde{\omega}_{c1,2}$ and $\tilde{\gamma}$, which depend on a_i and t, respectively. Using Eqs. (13) in (11), we make an important observation: The two parameters depend on the interaction in qualitatively different ways. While t is proportional to the interaction potential, a_i is proportional to its derivative. Thus, while t relies solely on the interaction strength, a_i is influenced by the momentum dependence of the interactions are more likely to influence oscillations in an insulator by renormalizing the gap rather than the mass, and oscillations in insulators are more susceptible to interactions compared to metals. For instance, if one assumes a contact potential with $V_{ijq} = U$, a constant, a_i vanishes but t is nonzero. Consequently, oscillations in a metal would remain unchanged, whereas they would be affected in



FIG. 4. Comparison of amplitude between (a) an insulator and (b) a metal with (solid) and without (dashed) interactions. The amplitude is calculated using Eq. (7) and is normalized by its non-interacting value at T = 0, We have used $m_1 = m_2 = m$ (electron's mass), B = 1 T, and $\frac{\Delta}{\omega_c} = 4.3 \times 10^5$. In (a) $\frac{\gamma}{\omega_c} = 0.9$ and in (b) $\gamma = 0$ [*T* is scaled with the γ used in (a) for comparison]. The interaction term is taken as $V_{ijq} = \frac{e^2}{\epsilon_0(q^2+\kappa^2)}$, where κ is the Thomas-Fermi wave vector. This yields $a_1 = a_2 = 0.022$ and t = 0.329 in Eqs. (11).

an insulator, highlighting a key distinction between metals and insulators. As another example, we consider a particle-hole symmetric insulator $(m_1 = m_2)$ interacting via the Thomas-Fermi screened Coulomb interaction $V_{ij\mathbf{q}} = \frac{e^2}{\epsilon_0(q^2 + \kappa^2)}$, where κ is the Thomas-Fermi wave vector and ϵ_0 is the electrical permittivity of free space. We plot the amplitude as a function of *T* in Fig. 4, comparing the insulating case with its metallic counterpart. The change in amplitude due to the interaction is considerably more pronounced in the insulating case.

In summary, we observe the following salient features of dHvA oscillations in interacting insulators:

(1) The phase does not change with interaction.

(2) The change in frequency is negligible: Because $\Delta \gg \omega_{c1,2}$, *V*, where *V* is the strength of interaction, $\tilde{\Delta}/(\tilde{\omega}_{c1} + \tilde{\omega}_{c2}) \approx \Delta/(\omega_{c1} + \omega_{c2})$.

(3) The change in the amplitude can be substantial even in a weak interaction, at both T = 0 and $T \neq 0$, in a certain regime. The amplitude may vary nonmonotonically with T showing an upturn at low T, which is greatly amplified by interactions.

In comparing the above features with their counterpart for metals stated earlier, we find that, while the phase and the frequency behave similarly, the behavior of the amplitude is very different, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

In this Letter, we have considered a weak interaction at the Hartree-Fock level. Going beyond, one can include the effects of a finite lifetime induced by interactions or disorder, which is expected to give rise to other features distinct from that in metals. We defer these questions for future investigations. Note, however, the assumption of a weak interaction does not necessarily imply that our results do not apply to correlated insulators, such as Kondo and excitonic insulators [28,29], where the interaction is strong. In such systems, the strong interaction is primarily responsible for giving rise to the insulating gap via a phase transition. Once such a phase is reached, the effective interaction between the new quasiparticles may indeed be weak. In passing, we note that in the Kondo insulator SmB₆, the dHvA oscillations show an unusual enhancement of the amplitude at low T [4–6]. This material is strongly particle-hole asymmetric and is most likely in the regime of Fig. 3(d). The upturn observed in SmB₆ experimentally [see, for example, Fig. 5(c) in Ref. [6]] bears some resemblance to the upturn in Fig. 3(d).

In conclusion, we have presented a theory to study the effect of many-body interactions on dHvA oscillations in insulators at the Hartree-Fock level. We have shown that the amplitude of oscillations can change substantially even if the interaction is weak, unlike in metals. The difference originates from the interplay between interactions and the gap in the band structure, a feature absent in metals.

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