

Leon Balents

Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106 U.S.A.

Phone: 805-893-6381

Email: balents@kitp.ucsb.edu

URL: <https://spinsandelectrons.com/>

Born: July 24, 1967—New Jersey, USA
Nationality: American

Current position

Professor and Permanent Member, Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, UCSB

Areas of specialization

Theoretical condensed matter physics

Appointments held

1994-1998	ITP Research Fellow, ITP, Santa Barbara
1998-1999	Member of Technical Staff, Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies
1999-2001	Assistant Professor of Physics, UC Santa Barbara
2001-2002	Associate Professor of Physics, UC Santa Barbara
2002-present	Professor of Physics, UC Santa Barbara
2008-present	Permanent Member, Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, UCSB

Education

1989	SB in Physics and Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1994	PhD in Physics, Harvard University

Grants, honors & awards

2000	Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship
2000	David and Lucile Packard Fellowship
2000	NSF Career Award
2013	APS Fellowship

Service to the profession

- 2007 Coauthor, BESAC report on Grand Challenges in Basic Energy Sciences
- 2007-2009 Member, ICAM science steering committee
- 2009-2010 Member, Program Committee for HFM2010 conference
- 2009-2011 Molecular and Materials Science Evaluation Committee, TRIUMF
- 2009-present Contributing Member, Journal Club for Condensed Matter Physics
- 2010-2011 Member, International Advisory Board for LT26 conference
- 2010-2012 Member, advisory committee of Princeton Center for Complex Materials
- 2011-2012 Co-chair, Program Committee for HFM2012 conference
- 2011-2012 Member, IPhT Evaluation Committee, Saclay, France
- 2012 Member, International Review Panel for CIFAR Quantum Materials Program
- 2012-present Program co-chair, International Conference in Magnetism, (San Francisco, 2018).
- 2013 Member, APS Buckley Prize Committee
- 2013-2014 Member, International Advisory Board for LT27 conference
- 2013-present Foreign Associate, CIFAR Quantum Materials program.
- 2014-present Distinguished Visiting Research Chair, Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.
- 2015-2016 Member, International Advisory Board for LT28 conference
- 2015-present Member, advisory board for IQM, Johns-Hopkins University
- 2015-present Member, Fine Theoretical Physics Institute Oversight Board
- 2015-present Member, Science Review Committee for Neutron Sciences at ORNL

Major workshops organized

- 2007 KITP Program on *Moments and Multiplets in Mott Materials*
- 2008 Chair, Gordon Research Conference on *Correlated Electron Systems*
- 2012 Aspen workshop on *Spin-Orbit Physics in Correlated Electron Systems*
- 2013 KITP Program on *Spintronics: Progress in Theory, Materials, and Devices*
- 2016 Laguna Beach conference on *Intertwined Orders in Strongly Correlated Systems*

Public lectures

- 2014 “[Particles, Quasi-particles, and beyond](#)”, Maggie and Nick DeWolf public lecture, Wheeler Opera House, Aspen, CO
- 2016 “[Strange stuff: a second quantum revolution](#)”, lecture associated with the Boulder summer school on condensed matter physics, Boulder, CO
- 2017 “[Strange stuff: a second quantum revolution](#)”, H.L. Welsh lecture in physics, University of Toronto.

Courses at advanced physics schools

- 2008 “Frustrated Magnetism”, Boulder summer school for condensed matter and materials physics, 2008.
- 2009 “Frustrated Magnetism”, ICTS Winter School, Mahabaleshwar, India, December 2009.
- 2013 “Topological insulators and their implications”, MANEP 2013 school, Les Diablerets ,

- Switzerland, June 2013.
- 2013 “Frustration, structure, and symmetry of interactions”, 12th annual PSI summer school, Zuoz, Switzerland, August 2013.
- 2016 “Quantum spin liquids”, CIFAR quantum materials school, April 2016.
- 2016 “Quantum spin liquids”, Boulder summer school for condensed matter and materials physics, July 2016.

other Invited talks

- 2016- Please see the list at <https://spinsandelectrons.com/talks/>
 2004-2016 Earlier talks are shown at <http://gabriel.physics.ucsb.edu/balents/talks.html>

Publications

- [1] L. Balents and M. Kardar, “Directed paths on percolation clusters”, *Journal of Statistical Physics*, **67**: 1–11 (1992).
- [2] L. Balents and M. Kardar, “Roughening of anisotropically reconstructed surfaces and the hubbard-model”, *Physical Review B*, **46**: 16031–16044 (1992).
- [3] L. Balents, R. D. Kamien, P. Ledoussal, and E. Zaslav, “On the isotropic-nematic transition for polymers in liquid-crystals”, *Journal de Physique I*, **2**: 263–272 (1992).
- [4] L. Balents and M. Kardar, “A system of n-interacting fermions and its unusual n-]o limit”, *Nuclear Physics B*, **393**: 480–494 (1993).
- [5] L. Balents, “Localization of elastic layers by correlated disorder”, *Europhysics Letters*, **24**: 489–494 (1993).
- [6] L. Balents and M. Kardar, “Delocalization of flux lines from extended defects by bulk randomness”, *Europhysics Letters*, **23**: 503–509 (1993).
- [7] L. Balents and D. S. Fisher, “Large-n expansion of (4-epsilon)-dimensional oriented manifolds in random-media”, *Physical Review B*, **48**: 5949–5963 (1993).
- [8] L. Balents and M. Kardar, “Disorder-induced unbinding of a flux-line from an extended defect”, *Physical Review B*, **49**: 13030–13048 (1994).
- [9] L. Balents and D. R. Nelson, “Fluctuations and intrinsic pinning in layered superconductors”, *Physical Review Letters*, **73**: 2618–2621 (1994).
- [10] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Temporal-order in dirty driven periodic media”, *Physical Review Letters*, **75**: 4270–4273 (1995).
- [11] L. Balents and S. H. Simon, “Problems with the vortex-boson mapping in 1+1 dimensions”, *Physical Review B*, **51**: 15610–15612 (1995).
- [12] L. Balents and S. H. Simon, “Commensurability effects in large josephson-junctions”, *Physical Review B*, **51**: 6515–6525 (1995).
- [13] L. Balents and D. R. Nelson, “Quantum smectic and supersolid order in helium films and vortex arrays”, *Physical Review B*, **52**: 12951–12968 (1995).
- [14] L. Balents and L. Radzihovsky, “Continuous 3D freezing transition in layered superconductors”, *Physical Review Letters*, **76**: 3416–3419 (1996).
- [15] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Chiral surface states in the bulk quantum Hall effect”, *Physical Review Letters*, **76**: 2782–2785 (1996).
- [16] L. Balents, J. P. Bouchaud, and M. Mezard, “The large scale energy landscape of ran-

- domly pinned objects”, *Journal de Physique I*, **6**: 1007–1020 (1996).
- [17] L. Balents, “Spatially ordered fractional quantum Hall states”, *Europhysics Letters*, **33**: 291–296 (1996).
- [18] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Weak-coupling phase diagram of the two-chain Hubbard model”, *Physical Review B*, **53**: 12133–12141 (1996).
- [19] L. W. Chen, L. Balents, M. P. A. Fisher, and M. C. Marchetti, “Dynamical transition in sliding charge-density waves with quenched disorder”, *Physical Review B*, **54**: 12798–12806 (1996).
- [20] C. Kane, L. Balents, and M. P. A. Fisher, “Coulomb interactions and mesoscopic effects in carbon nanotubes”, *Physical Review Letters*, **79**: 5086–5089 (1997).
- [21] S. Cho, L. Balents, and M. P. A. Fisher, “Transport of surface states in the bulk quantum Hall effect”, *Physical Review B*, **56**: 15814–15821 (1997).
- [22] E. Frey and L. Balents, “Critical behavior of the supersolid transition in Bose-Hubbard models”, *Physical Review B*, **55**: 1050–1067 (1997).
- [23] L. Balents, M. C. Marchetti, and L. Radzihovsky, “Moving glass phase of driven lattices: Comment”, *Physical Review Letters*, **78**: 751–751 (1997).
- [24] L. Balents, M. P. A. Fisher, and M. R. Zirnbauer, “Chiral metal as a ferromagnetic super spin chain”, *Nuclear Physics B*, **483**: 601–636 (1997).
- [25] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Correlation effects in carbon nanotubes”, *Physical Review B*, **55**: 11973–11976 (1997).
- [26] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Delocalization transition via supersymmetry in one dimension”, *Physical Review B*, **56**: 12970–12991 (1997).
- [27] H. H. Lin, L. Balents, and M. P. A. Fisher, “N-chain Hubbard model in weak coupling”, *Physical Review B*, **56**: 6569–6593 (1997).
- [28] L. Balents, M. C. Marchetti, and L. Radzihovsky, “Nonequilibrium steady states of driven periodic media”, *Physical Review B*, **57**: 7705–7739 (1998).
- [29] L. Balents, M. P. A. Fisher, and C. Nayak, “Nodal liquid theory of the pseudo-gap phase of high-T_c superconductors”, *International Journal of Modern Physics B*, **12**: 1033–1068 (1998).
- [30] H. H. Lin, L. Balents, and M. P. A. Fisher, “Exact SO(8) symmetry in the weakly-interacting two-leg ladder”, *Physical Review B*, **58**: 1794–1825 (1998).
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- [34] L. Balents and C. M. Varma, “Ferromagnetism in doped excitonic insulators”, *Physical Review Letters*, **84**: 1264–1267 (2000).
- [35] L. Balents, “X-ray-edge singularities in nanotubes and quantum wires with multiple subbands”, *Physical Review B*, **61**: 4429–4432 (2000).
- [36] A. L. Moustakas, H. U. Baranger, L. Balents, A. M. Sengupta, and S. H. Simon, “Communication through a diffusive medium: Coherence and capacity”, *Science*, **287**: 287–290 (2000).
- [37] L. Balents, “Excitonic order at strong coupling: Pseudospin, doping, and ferromagnetism”, *Physical Review B*, **62**: 2346–2357 (2000).

- [38] L. Balents, M. P. A. Fisher, and C. Nayak, “Dual vortex theory of strongly interacting electrons: A non-Fermi liquid with a twist”, *Physical Review B*, **61**: 6307–6319 (2000).
- [39] L. Balents and R. Egger, “Spin transport in interacting quantum wires and carbon nanotubes”, *Physical Review Letters*, **85**: 3464–3467 (2000).
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- [51] D. Carpentier, C. Peca, and L. Balents, “Momentum-resolved tunneling between Luttinger liquids”, *Physical Review B*, **66**: 153304 (2002).
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- [60] A. Vishwanath, L. Balents, and T. Senthil, “Quantum criticality and deconfinement in

- phase transitions between valence bond solids”, *Physical Review B*, **69**: 224416 (2004).
- [61] A. W. Sandvik, L. Balents, and D. K. Campbell, “Ground state phases of the half-filled one-dimensional extended Hubbard model”, *Physical Review Letters*, **92**: 236401 (2004).
- [62] A. A. Burkov and L. Balents, “Spin relaxation in a two-dimensional electron gas in a perpendicular magnetic field”, *Physical Review B*, **69**: 245312 (2004).
- [63] L. Balents and P. Le Doussal, “Broad relaxation spectrum and the field theory of glassy dynamics for pinned elastic systems”, *Physical Review E*, **69**: 061107 (2004).
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- [65] L. Balents and P. Le Doussal, “Field theory of statics and dynamics of glasses: Rare events and barrier distributions”, *Europhysics Letters*, **65**: 685–691 (2004).
- [66] G. A. Fiete and L. Balents, “Green’s function for magnetically incoherent interacting electrons in one dimension”, *Physical Review Letters*, **93**: 226401 (2004).
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- [72] L. Balents and M. P. A. Fisher, “Roton Fermi liquid: A metallic phase of two-dimensional electrons”, *Physical Review B*, **71**: 085119 (2005).
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- [78] G. A. Fiete, K. Le Hur, and L. Balents, “Transport in a spin-incoherent Luttinger liquid”, *Physical Review B*, **72**: 125416 (2005).
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- Luttinger liquids”, *Physical Review B*, **73**: 165104 (2006).
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- [82] L. Bartosch, L. Balents, and S. Sachdev, “Detecting the quantum zero-point motion of vortices in the cuprate superconductors”, *Annals of Physics*, **321**: 1528–1546 (2006).
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- [97] Masanori Kohno, Oleg A. Starykh, and Leon Balents, “Spinons and triplons in spatially anisotropic frustrated antiferromagnets”, *Nature Physics*, **3**: 790–795 (2007).
- [98] Ryuichi Shindou and Leon Balents, “Gradient expansion approach to multiple-band Fermi liquids”, *Physical Review B*, **77**: 035110 (2008).
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- antiferromagnet in a magnetic field”, *Physical Review B*, **77**: 174414 (2008).
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- [108] Jason Alicea and Leon Balents, “Bismuth in strong magnetic fields: Unconventional Zeeman coupling and correlation effects”, *Physical Review B (Condensed Matter and Materials Physics)*, **79**: 241101 (2009).
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- [110] Gang Chen, Jan Gukelberger, Simon Trebst, Fabien Alet, and Leon Balents, “Coulomb gas transitions in three-dimensional classical dimer models”, *Physical Review B (Condensed Matter and Materials Physics)*, **80**: 045112 (2009).
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