Untwisting Twisted MatterAn Invitation to Topological Phases of Electrons

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Overview

- Background Electronic phases: A brief excursion of quantum condensed matter physics
- Electronic Phases A quick illustration of "topology"
- Electronic Phases A summary of what we know today
- Open questions
- ...
- Very brief intro to talks by Mandar and Zlatko

Topological Matter Matters



Photo: A. Mahmoud **David J. Thouless Prize share:** 1/2



Photo: A. Mahmoud F. Duncan M. Haldane Prize share: 1/4



Photo: A. Mahmoud J. Michael Kosterlitz Prize share: 1/4

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2016 was awarded with one half to David J. Thouless, and the other half to F. Duncan M. Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz "for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter".

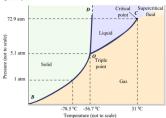
Phases of Electrons

Matter...and its Phases

• Matter broadly appears in three distinct phases (at human scales)



• ...gas, liquid and solid



(Phase Diagram of CO₂, source:Internet)

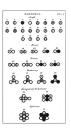
Whence Phases?

• Ancient wisdom...the panchabhootas...



• ...to ideas of Dalton...the atomic hypothesis (early 1800s)

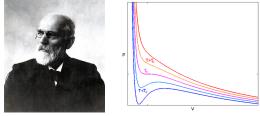




(Wikipedia)

Atomic Theory...to Theory of Phases

• van der Waals (later part of 1800s) showed how liquids and gases can arise from the same constituent atoms/molecules...



...offering a framework to understand gas, liquid and solid phases

- Interactions between constituent atoms (in large numbers) can lead to different phases
- Puzzle: Why are there insulators and conductors?

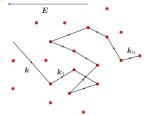
Electrons...and Electronic Phases

• Key milestone: Discovery of the electron (Thomson, 1890s)...



• ...to the first theory of electronic phases – Drudé (1900)



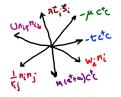


with remarkable success...resolution of a 50 year old puzzle – the Wiedemann-Franz law ($\frac{\kappa}{\sigma T}$ = universal number)...

• **But**...with a confounding new puzzle: Drude predicts $C_V = 3R + \frac{3}{2}R = \frac{9}{2}R$ at "high" temperatures...measured $C_V = 3R!$

Quantum Condensed Matter Physics – Bird's Eye View

- Resolution of the puzzle: Quantum mechanics
- Electrons in materials "see" many things...

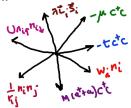


...space of all possible Hamiltonains (includes kinetic energy, spin-orbit coupling, Coulomb interaction, interaction with the lattice, disorder etc..)

- Quantum condensed matter physics aims to study and classify the phases of many electrons (many identical particles, in general)
- Many of the modern technologies from cell phones to night vision goggles owe much to this area of physics!

Taking Stock...

• Quantum theory of many electrons – offers insights into insulators and metals...



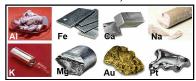
Traditional ideas of classifying many-fermion phases

- Symmetry: A magnet breaks spin-rotation symmetry (Landau)
- "Properties": Metals and insulators

Distinct phases are separated by phase transitions

Summary of a Grad Course!

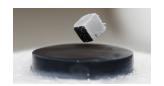
- Gist of our understanding...essentially captured by four states
- Gapless (single fermion excitation)¹



1. The filled Fermi sea

Gapped states







2. Band insulator

3. BCS superconductor 4. Filled Landau level

¹All images are from the internet

Current Status

- Recent developments two ideas (in addition to symmetry, properties etc.)
 - 1. **Topology:** Hinted by the quantum hall effect
 - 2. **Entanglement:** How "complicated" is the state?

Focus of this talk: "Topology"

 Recent developments – Complete "topological" classification of gapped (non-interacting) many fermion systems

$\operatorname{Cartan} d$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
Complex case:										
A	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	
AIII	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	
Real case:										
AI	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	
BDI	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	
D	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	
DIII	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	
AII	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	
CII	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	
C	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	
CI	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	

(Kitaev (2009), Ryu et. al. (2010), Ludwig:1512:08882)

The tenfold way!

Electronic Phases ...What and Why Topology?

Essential Quantum Ideas

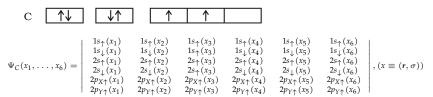
- Quantum mechanics
 - Kinematics: Identical particles are indistinguishable
 Fermions obey Pauli's principle
 For two fermionic particles

$$\Psi(x_2,x_1) = -\Psi(x_1,x_2)$$

- ► Dynamics "encoding" the Heisenberg uncertainty principle
- Immediate goal: Construct simplest electronic phases with focus on non-interacting systems

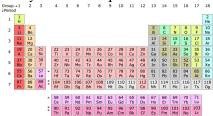
Warm Up: Atomic Structure – Few Electrons

- Carbon atom: Six electrons in the nuclear potential with charge +6
- Electronic structure (wave function) (NCERT 11th Class Chemistry)



...Slater determinant wave function

• Structure known for any atom...the periodic table



• Question: Analogous table of many (10^{23}) electron phases?

• Simple model of a metal (spinless electrons)...tight binding model



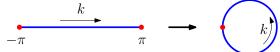
...N-site chain with periodic boundary conditions

$$H = -t \sum_{I} |I + 1\rangle \langle I| + \text{h.c.}$$

Diagonalized by crystal momentum k

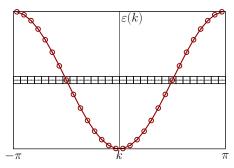
$$|k\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{I} e^{-ikI} |I\rangle, \qquad H = \sum_{k} \varepsilon(k) |k\rangle \langle k|, \quad \varepsilon(k) = -2t \cos k$$

• Crystal momentum k lives in the Brillouin Zone (BZ)... $k \in [-\pi, \pi]$ with $-\pi$ and π identified...one dimensional torus

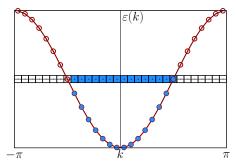


• In *d*-dimensions k in T^d , the *d*-torus

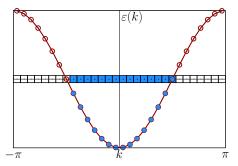
- Filling of electrons 1/2 per site, need to fill N/2 electrons
- In an *N*-site chain, there are *N* distinct *k* points $k = -\pi, -\pi + \frac{2\pi}{N}, -\pi + 2\frac{2\pi}{N}, \dots, \pi \frac{2\pi}{N}$ with $\Delta k = \frac{2\pi}{N}$



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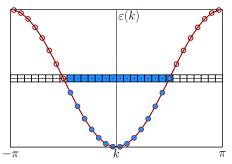


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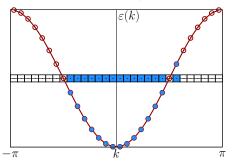


• Ground state is the filled Fermi sea (filled "pigeon holes" make up the Slater determinant wave function)

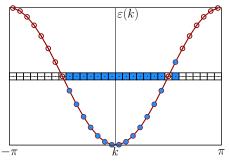
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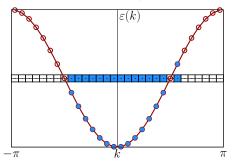


... excitation energy vanishes

$$\Delta E \sim \Delta k \sim \frac{2\pi}{N} \to 0$$

- Metal: small stimulus can produce finite responses liquid state
- Fermi energy ($\sim t$), is much larger than temperature T, resolving the specific puzzle of the Drude theory

• Gapless excitations in the thermodynamic limit $(N \to \infty)$



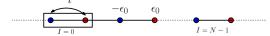
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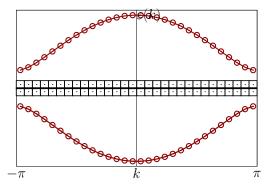
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- Puzzle...Insulators?

..and Insulators

• Poor man's insulator (NaCl)

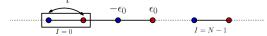


• *Two* bands (with separate pigeon holes) separated by a band gap $\sim \epsilon_0$...there are no electronic states in the energy gap

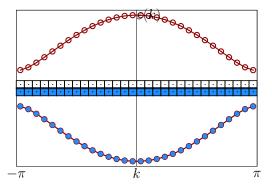


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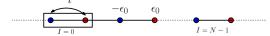


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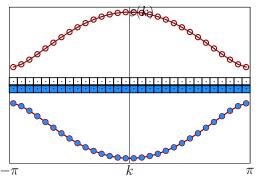


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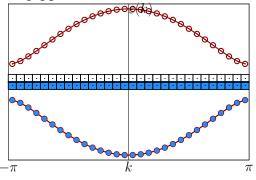


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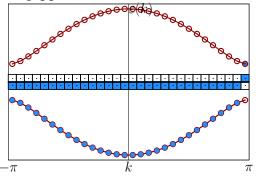


• At 1/2 electron per site, ground state is the filled "valance band" ("conduction band" is empty)

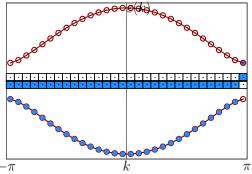
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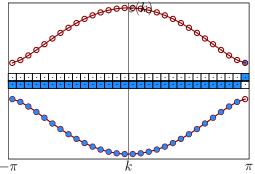


Excitations are gapped



• Insulators play a pivotal role in electronics – *doped* insulators (semiconductors) are behind much of modern technology

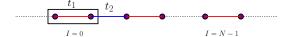
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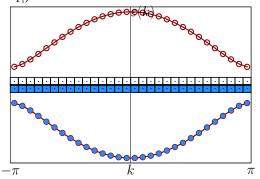
- Insulators play a pivotal role in electronics doped insulators (semiconductors) are behind much of modern technology
- Question: Is this the only possible insulating phase?

Topology of Electron Phases – Whetting the Appetite

• A different insulator – SSH (Su-Schrieffer-Heeger) model

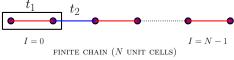


• Band structure looks qualitatively identical to the NaCl system $(gap \sim |t_2 - t_1|)$

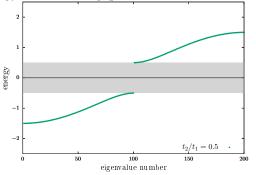


 Cannot distinguish between NaCl and SSH by looking at the bulk band structure

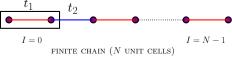
Topology...Revealed in a Finite Chain



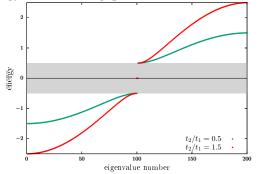
- Energy eigenvalues
 - ► No energy levels in the gap for $t_2 < t_1$ (NaCl is similar)



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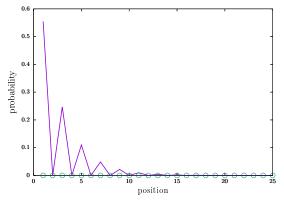


▶ Two zero energy states when $t_2 > t_1$

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Topology...on the *Edge*

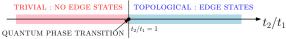
• For $t_2 > t_1$ the zero energy states are *edge states*...they are eigenstates localized near the edges ("surfaces") of the finite sample



• Insulating phase for $t_2 > t_1$ has a distinguishing character – presence of edge states

Phases Distinguished by Topology...and Phase Transitions

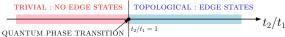
• Phase diagram



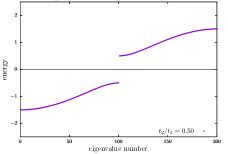
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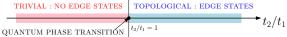
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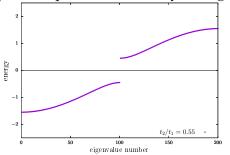


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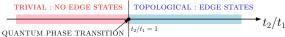


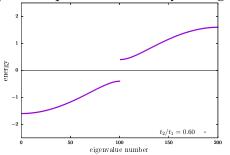
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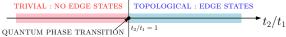


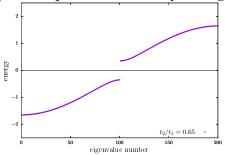
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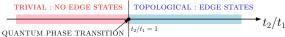


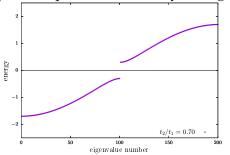
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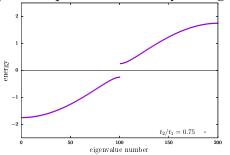
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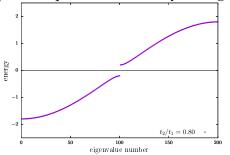
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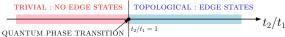


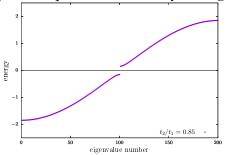
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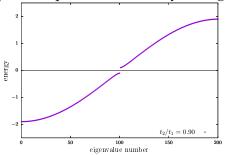
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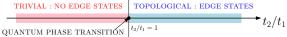


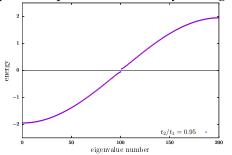
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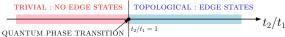


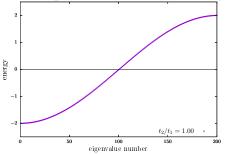
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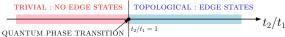


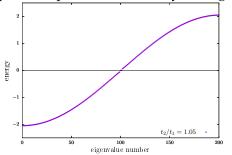
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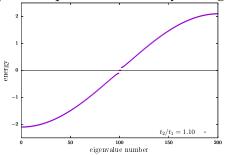
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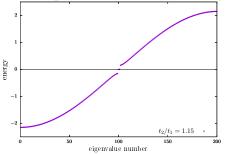
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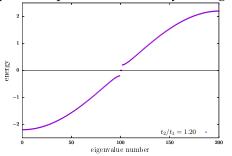
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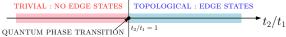


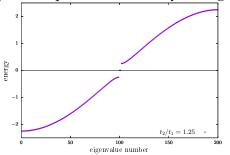
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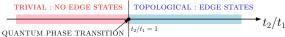


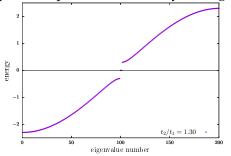
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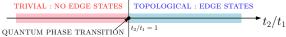


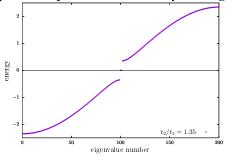
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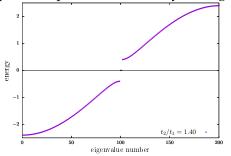
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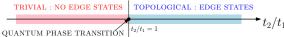


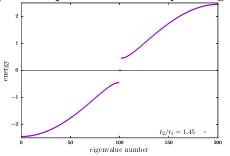
• Phase diagram



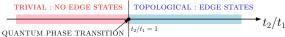


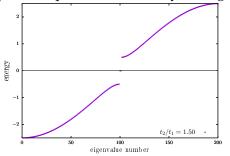
• Phase diagram



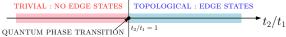


• Phase diagram

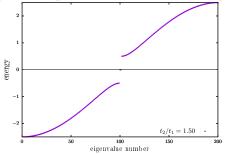




Phase diagram

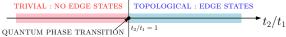


• Can drive a quantum phase transition by tuning t_2

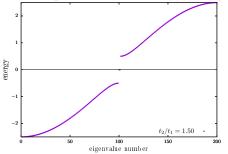


Insulating phase for $t_2 > t_1$ has a distinguishing character – presence of edge states

Phase diagram



 \bullet Can drive a quantum phase transition by tuning t_2



Insulating phase for $t_2 > t_1$ has a distinguishing character – presence of edge states

• Question: Where IS the topology?

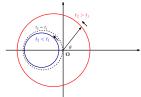
Topology of Electron Phases

- VB wave function $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ e^{\mathrm{i}\theta(k)} \end{pmatrix}$ with $\theta(\pi) = \theta(-\pi) + 2\pi n$, Key: The state at k can be thought of as a two dimensional unit vector
- Ground state is filled valance band



can be viewed as an endless ribbon(Demonstration)

• For $t_2 > t_1$ the ground state ribbon is "twisted"

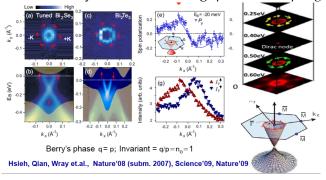


- The ground state of $t_1 < t_2$ cannot be deformed to that of $t_2 > t_1$ without closing the gap (tearing)
- Topology is encoded in the twist of the many particle wave function

Topological Insulators

- Such physics can be realized in higher dimensions
- Topological insulators:Insulators in bulk, metals on the surface

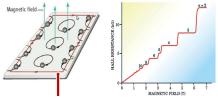
• Realized material systems with strong spin orbit coupling



(Pinceton group, BiSb system)

Topological Insulators for Technology

- Insulating bulk and conducting surfaces offer many possibilities
- Surface state transport is dissipation-less and quantized...more energy efficient devices
- Useful in metrology (standards), resistance quantized to better than one part in a billion (von Kiltzing (2012))



- Topological insulators combined with other systems such as magnets and superconductors can lead to even more interesting physics (..most recent: discovery of Majorana modes using topological phases (Science, July 21, 2017))...useful in qauntum computing
- Challenge: Finding "good" topological insulators, need topology at room temperature

Summary

This talk (Ask me in person for references/review articles)

- Key message: Ideas of topology and entanglement are crucial in understanding/classifying phases of many fermions
- Tenfold way of classifying fermionic systems

-										
$Cartan \backslash d$	0	1	2	3	4	- 5	6	7		8
Complex case:										
A	Z	0	Z	0	Z	0	Z	0	Z	
AIII	0	Z	0	Z	0	Z	0	Z	0	
Real case:										
AI	Z	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	
BDI	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	
D	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	
DIII	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	
AII	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	
CII	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	0	
C	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	Z	0	0	
CI	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_{2}	Z	0	

Instrinsic symmetries of fermions realize "symmetric spaces", classification has nice mathematics: ask in the discussion session, if interested

Open issues

- Topological classification in presence of interactions ...exciting times in condensed matter physics
- Finding and using topological phases more efficient electronics to quantum computers

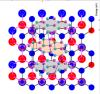
This Session

Upcoming Talks

 Zlatko: Interaction effects: How they influence patterns of entanglement to produce fascinating new excitations



• Mandar: Berry phases/topology in graphene systems



Topology/Entanglement: Making Physics Great Again

Topology/Entanglement: Making Physics Great Again

Current Understanding/Status

- Need two new ideas topology and entanglement to describe phases of many degrees of freedom
- For short ranged entangled phases, gapped fermionic phases are completely classified
- Several topological materials have been discovered
- Interacting systems have been explored, novel excitations probed

Open Questions/New Directions

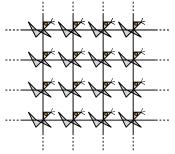
- Theory: Classification of phases based on topology/entanglement (connections to mathematics: classification of vector bundles, group cohomology, etc...)
- Materials Science/Chemistry: Development of new topological materials
- Devices/Mesoscopic Systems: Possible use of topological phases to make, for example, platforms for quantum computation
- Light/Photonics: Topological photonics
- Mechanics: Mechanical systems with topological excitations
- ...
- Your idea here

Details

- Kitaev, AIP Conference Proceedings, 1134, 22 (2009).
- Ryu, Schnyder, Furusaki, and Ludwig, New Journal of Physics, 12, 065010 (2010).
- Chiu, Teo, Schnyder, Ryu, arXiv:1505.03535
- Ludwig, arXiv:1512.08882

From GFS to Lattice

• Make a lattice out of GFSs in *d*-dimensions



- Ψ_I^{\dagger} fermion operators at site *I*
- Non-ordinary symmetries implemented "locally" (simplest case)

$$\mathscr{U}\Psi_I^{\dagger}\mathscr{U}^{-1} = \Psi_I^{\dagger}\mathbf{U}$$
 or $\Psi_I^T\mathbf{U}$

1

Hamiltonian

$$\mathscr{H} = \sum_{IJ} \Psi_I^{\dagger} \mathbf{H}(I, J) \Psi_J$$

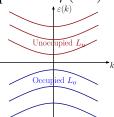
Bands etc.

Bloch picture

$$\mathscr{H} = \sum_{k} \Psi_{k}^{\dagger} \mathbf{H}(k) \Psi_{k}$$

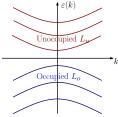
k is in the 1st Brillouin zone – T_d , the d-torus

- Symmetries constrain $\mathbf{H}(k)$, e.g., time reversal implies $\mathbf{H}(-k) = \mathbf{H}^*(k)$...i.e., symmetries determine the "character" of the Bloch states
- Focus on gapped systems...ground state obtained by "filling" bands below the chemical potential $\mu(=0)$



Ground State...and Topology

• Ground state $|GS\rangle$ – filled bands below μ



- Two systems \mathcal{H}_1 and \mathcal{H}_2 in the same symmetry class are topologically equivalent if the there is a continuous deformation of the Hamiltonian from \mathcal{H}_1 to \mathcal{H}_2 that takes $|GS_1\rangle$ to $|GS_2\rangle$ without closing the gap in the deformation process
- Key question: Given a symmetry class, how many topologically equivalent subclasses are there in *d*-dimensions?

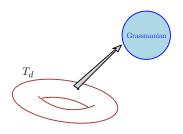
Topology of Ground States

- Focus on class A: Ground state at any *k* is a Slater determinant of the occupied Bloch states
- "Gauge freedom" in describing this Slater determinant has to be removed ground state at *k* is an object that looks like

$$\frac{U(L)}{U(L_o)\times U(L_u)}$$

a point on a Grassmanian manifold (symmetric space!)

• The ground state can be viewed as a map from T_d to the Grassmanian



- Question: how many topologically distinct ground states are there?
- Look at the homotopy group (Kitaev)

$$\pi_{T_d}(Grassmanian),$$

in general, π_{T_d} (Symmetric Space)

Topology of Ground States

• Calculation of homotopy groups is hard! Remarkable simplification occurs when *L* is "large"

	π1	π2	π3	π4	π ₅	π ₆	π7	π8	π9	π ₁₀	π11	π ₁₂	π ₁₃	π ₁₄	π ₁₅
s ⁰	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
s ¹	z	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
s²	0	z	z	Z ₂	z ₂	Z ₁₂	Z ₂	z ₂	Z 3	Z ₁₅	z ₂	Z ₂ ²	Z ₁₂ × Z ₂	Z ₈₄ × Z ₂ ²	Z ₂ ²
s³	0	0	z	Z ₂	z ₂	Z ₁₂	Z ₂	Z ₂	Z ₃	Z ₁₅	Z ₂	Z ₂ ²	Z ₁₂ × Z ₂	Z ₈₄ × Z ₂ ²	Z ₂ ²
s ⁴	0	0	0	z	Z 2	z ₂	Z×Z ₁₂	\mathbf{z}_2^2	Z ₂ ²	Z ₂₄ × Z ₃	Z ₁₅	Z ₂	Z ₂ ³	Z ₁₂₀ × Z ₁₂ × Z ₂	Z ₈₄ × Z ₂ ⁵
S ⁵	0	0	0	0	z	Z 2	Z ₂	Z ₂₄	z ₂	Z ₂	Z ₂	Z ₃₀	Z 2	Z ₂ ³	Z ₇₂ × Z ₂
s ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	z	Z 2	Z ₂	Z ₂₄	0	z	Z 2	Z ₆₀	Z ₂₄ × Z ₂	Z 2 ³
s ⁷	0	0	0	0	0	0	z	Z ₂	Z 2	Z ₂₄	0	0	z ₂	Z ₁₂₀	Z 2 ³
s ⁸	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	z	Z ₂	Z ₂	Z ₂₄	0	0	z ₂	Z×Z ₁₂₀

(Wikipedia)

• Homotopy groups for large L are familiar Abelian groups (\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}_2)

...leads to

Periodic Table

$\operatorname{Cartan} \backslash d$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
Complex case:										
A	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	
AIII	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	
Real case:										
AI	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	
BDI	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	
D	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	
DIII	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	
AII	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	
CII	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	
C	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	
CI	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}	0	

(Kitaev (2009), Ryu et. al. (2010), Ludwig:1512:08882)

Key features

- In any *d* there are 5 classes that host topologically distinct states
- Bott periodicity: The table has a periodicity of 2 for the "complex" classes, and a periodicity of 8 for "real" classes
- The "nontrivial" classes in d+1 dimension are related to those in d
- Nontrivial topology will reflect in properties, gapless surface states etc...

Periodic Table...for "normal" human beings

Simple illustration of the idea in d = 0 with L = 2 with a single fermion

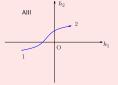
$\operatorname{Cartan} d$	0
Complex case:	
A	\mathbb{Z}
AIII	0
$Real\ case:$	
AI	\mathbb{Z}
BDI	\mathbb{Z}_2
D	\mathbb{Z}_2
DIII	0
AII	$2\mathbb{Z}$
CII	0
C	0
CI	0

Class AIII

Hamiltonian

$$\mathbf{H} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & h_1 + ih_2 \\ h_1 - ih_2 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

• Eigenvalues $\pm \sqrt{h_1^2 + h_2^2}$, negative state occupied



 Can deform any typical system 1 to 2 without closing the gap...topologically trivial

Class BDI

Hamiltonian

$$\mathbf{H} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & h_1 \\ h_1 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

• Eigenvalues $\pm |h_1|$, negative state occupied



 Cannot deform system 1 to 2 without closing the gap...two distinct "topologies" described by a "parity" Z₂!