

# Field Theory Description of Topological States of Matter

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## Outline

- Topological states of matter
- Quantum Hall effect: bulk and edge
- Effective field theory & chiral anomaly
- Ten-fold classification of topological states for non-interacting electrons
- Interacting fermions & anomalies

# Topological States of Matter

- System with bulk gap but non-trivial at energies below the gap
- global effects and global degrees of freedom:

→ massless edge states, exchange phases, ground-state degeneracies

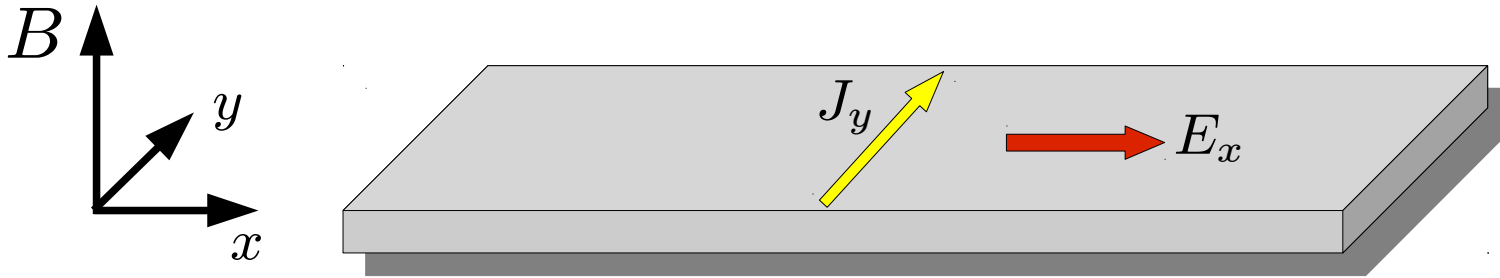
- not described by symmetry breaking and Landau-Ginzburg approach
- quantum Hall effect is chiral (B field breaks T symmetry)
- quantum spin Hall effect is non-chiral (T symmetric)
- other systems: QAnomalousHE, Chern Insulators, Topological Insulators and Superconductors, Weyl Semimetals in  $d=1,2,3$
- Ten-fold classification of non-interacting systems (electron bands)

Topological Insulators have been observed in  $d=2$  &  $3$

(Molenkamp et al. '07;  
Hasan et al. '08)

# Quantum Hall Effect

2 dim electron gas at low temperature  $T \sim 10\text{-}100$  mK  
and high magnetic field  $B \sim 5\text{-}10$  Tesla



Conductance tensor  $J_i = \sigma_{ij} E_j$ ,  $\sigma_{ij} = R_{ij}^{-1}$ ,  $i, j = x, y$

Plateaus:  $\sigma_{xx} = 0$  no Ohmic conduction  $\longrightarrow$  gap

High precision & universality

$$\sigma_{xy} = R_{xy}^{-1} = \frac{e^2}{h} \nu, \quad \nu = 1(\pm 10^{-9}), 2, 3, \dots, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{5}(\pm 10^{-6})$$

Uniform density ground state:  $\rho_o = \frac{eB}{hc} \nu$

Incompressible fluid

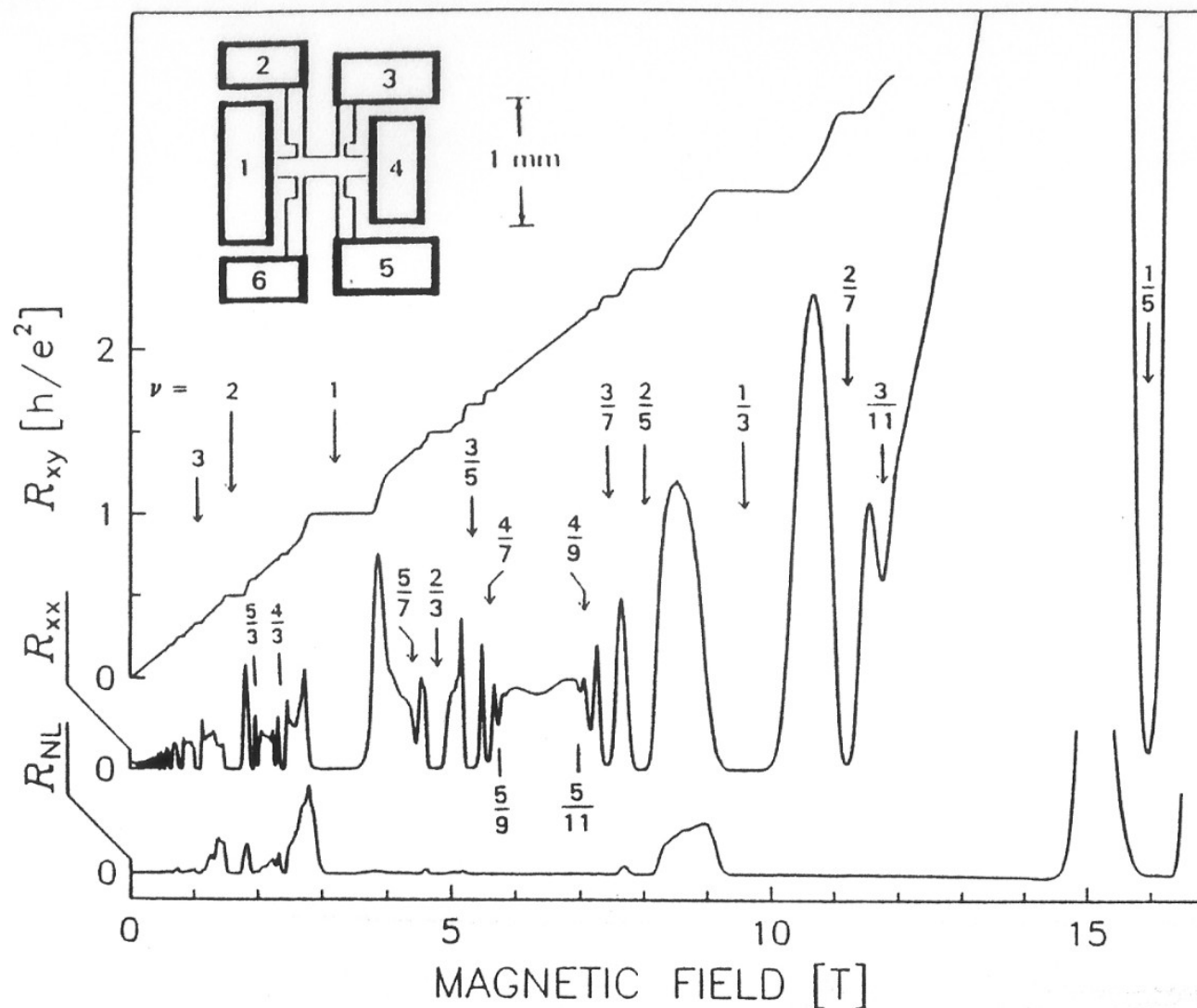


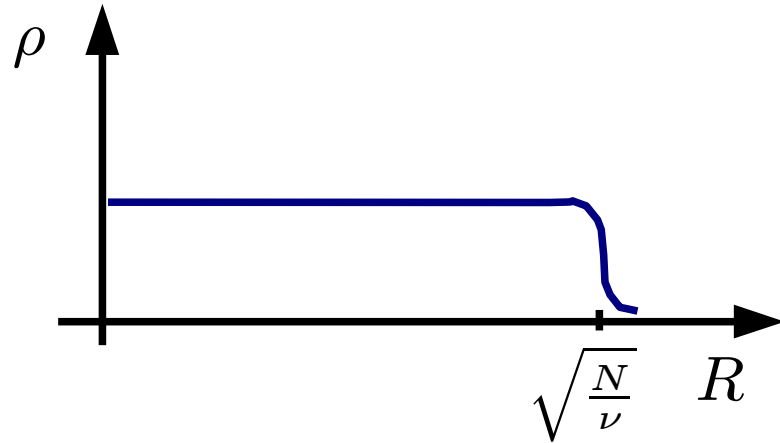
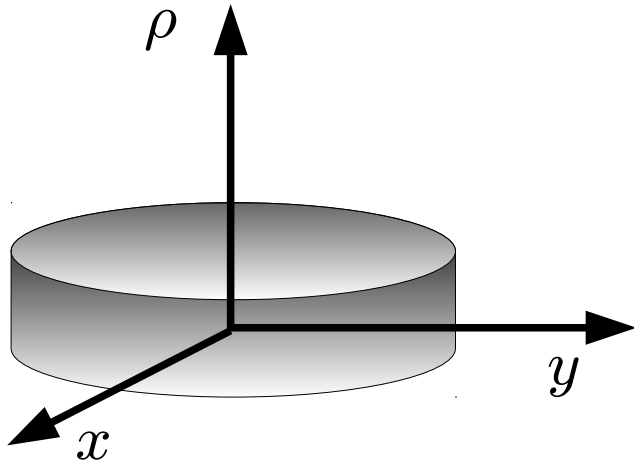
Figure 1. This figure shows a quantum Hall experiment trace. (Source: Goldman *et al.* [2].) The sample geometry is shown in the inset. The various resistances are defined as: Hall resistance  $R_{xy} = V_{26}/I_{14}$ ; longitudinal resistance  $R_{xx} = V_{23}/I_{14}$ ; and non-local resistance  $R_{NL} = V_{26}/I_{35}$ . Here,  $V_{jk}$  denotes the voltage difference between the leads  $j$  and  $k$ , and  $I_{jk}$  denotes the current from lead  $j$  to lead  $k$ . The experiment was performed at 40 mK.

# Laughlin's quantum incompressible fluid

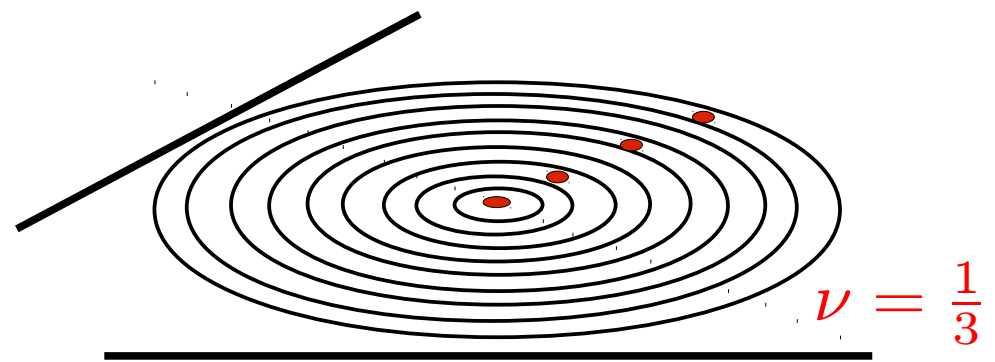
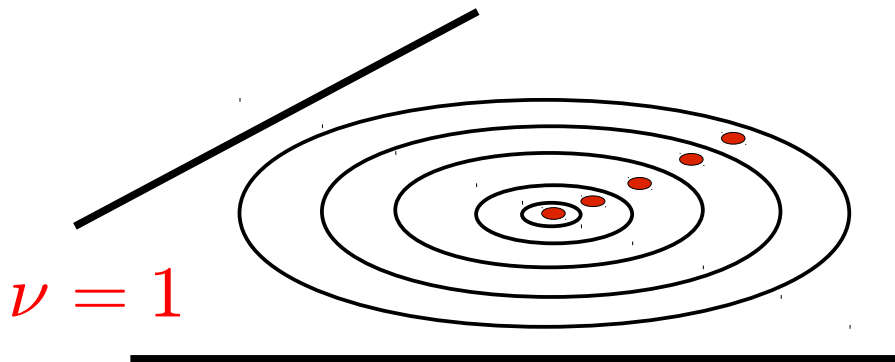
Electrons form a droplet of fluid:

→ incompressible: gap

→ fluid:  $\rho(x, y) = \rho_o = \text{const.}$

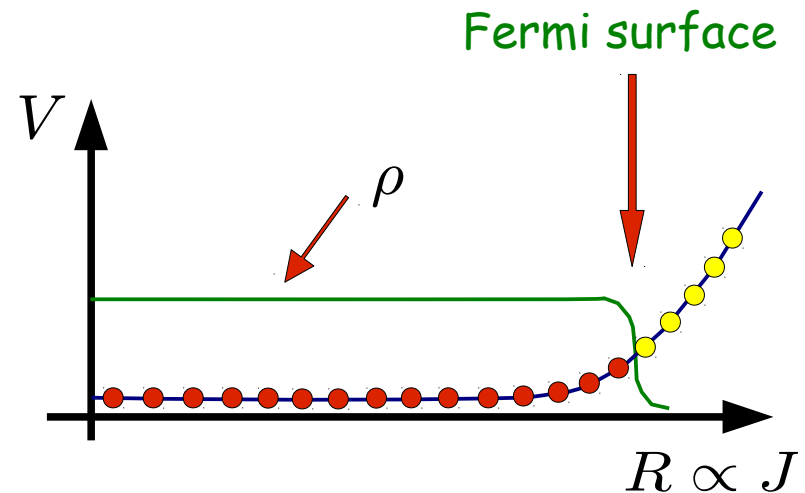
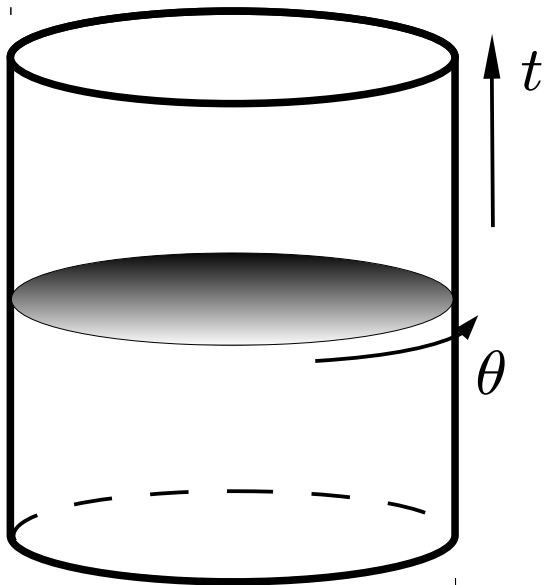


filling fraction:  $\nu = \frac{N}{\mathcal{D}_A} = \frac{N}{\Phi/\Phi_o} = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$        $\Phi_o = \frac{hc}{e}$



# Edge excitations

The edge of the droplet can fluctuate: massless (1+1)-dimensional edge waves



edge  $\sim$  Fermi surface: linearize energy

$$\varepsilon(k) = \frac{v}{R}(k - k_F), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}$$

relativistic field theory in (1+1) dimensions with chiral excitations (X.G.Wen)

➔ conformal field theory of edge excitations (chiral Luttinger liquid)

➔ CFT modelling describes nonperturbative quantum effects

➔ experimental predictions for conduction and tunneling

# Effective field theory

## Quantum field theory in a nutshell:

- Take a massive phase and fix a maximal energy scale  $\Lambda$
- Guess the low-energy degrees of freedom (fields) and symmetries
- Write the action compatible with them, as a power series in the fields and their derivatives ( $1/\Lambda$  expansion). Ex. Landau-Ginzburg:

$$S[J] = \int (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + a \phi + b \phi^2 + c \phi^4 + \dots + \phi J \quad a, b, c, \dots \text{ to be fitted}$$

➔ Successful examples: LG, SC, FL, SM, SYM, AdS/CFT, you name it

➔ Successful if leading terms are simple: universality

- Topological states need effective theories beyond Landau-Ginzburg, Higgs etc.

➔ Topological gauge theories and anomalies

Bulk & boundary

# Chern-Simons effective action of QHE

$$S[A] = \frac{\nu}{4\pi} \int dx^3 \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} A_\mu \partial_\nu A_\rho = \frac{\nu}{4\pi} \int AdA \quad \text{Laughlin state} \quad \nu = 1, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$$

- no local degrees of freedom in (2+1) dim., only global effects

$$\rho = \frac{\delta S}{\delta A_0} = \frac{\nu}{2\pi} \mathcal{B} \quad \text{Density} \quad J^i = \frac{\delta S}{\delta A_i} = \frac{\nu}{2\pi} \varepsilon^{ij} \mathcal{E}^j \quad \text{Hall current}$$

- Hall current is topological, i.e. robust
- Introduce Wen's hydrodynamic matter field  $a_\mu$  and current  $j^\mu = \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \partial_\nu a_\rho$

$$S[A] = \int -\frac{\pi}{\nu} a da + A_\mu j^\mu = S_{\text{matt}}[a] + (\text{e.m. coupl.})$$

- Sources of  $a_\mu$  field are anyons (Aharonov-Bohm phases  $\frac{\theta}{\pi} = \nu = \frac{1}{3}, \dots$ )
- Gauge invariance requires a boundary term in the action:

$$S_{\text{matt}}[a] \rightarrow S_{\text{matt}}[a] + S_{CFT}[\varphi], \quad \partial_\mu \varphi = a_\mu|_b \quad \longrightarrow \quad \underline{\text{massless edge states}}$$

- Bulk topological theory is tantamount to conformal field theory on boundary



# CFT on the boundary and chiral anomaly

- edge states are chiral fermions/bosons
- chiral anomaly: boundary charge is not conserved
- bulk (B) and boundary (b) compensate:

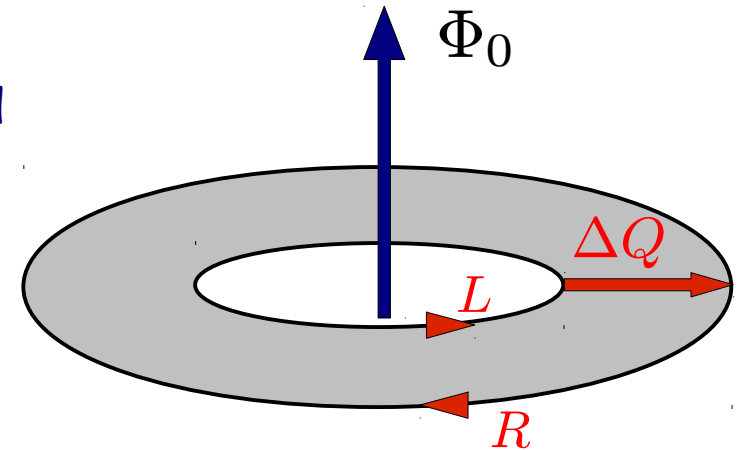
$$\partial_i J^i + \partial_t \rho = 0, \rightarrow \oint dx J_B + \partial_t Q_b = 0$$

- adiabatic flux insertion (Laughlin)

$$\Phi \rightarrow \Phi + \Phi_0,$$

$$Q_R \rightarrow Q_R + \Delta Q_b = \nu, \quad \Delta Q_b = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt \oint dx \partial_t \rho_R = \nu \int F_R = \nu n \quad \text{chiral anomaly}$$

- Anomaly inflow Index theorem: exact quantization of Hall current
- edge chiral anomaly = response of topological bulk to e.m. background
- chiral edge states cannot be gapped  $\longleftrightarrow$  topological phase is stable



# Summary

- Quantum Hall effect is a Topological State of Matter:
  - bulk gap and massless edge states
  - electrons non-interacting  $\nu = 1$  and interacting  $\nu = \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$
  - effective theory is Chern-Simons (bulk) + CFT (edge)
  - topological and geometrical effects
  - chiral edge states and chiral anomaly

## next

- Many other Topological states:
  - non-interacting fermions  $\longrightarrow$  band systems  $\longrightarrow$  ten-fold classification
  - interacting fermions  $\longrightarrow$  anomalies  $\longrightarrow$  continuous & discrete



Effective FTs

# Ten-fold classification (non interacting)

		class \ $\delta$	T	C	S	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	space dim. $d$
IQHE	→	A	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	} period 2
		AIII	0	0	1	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	
Top. Ins.	→	AI	+	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	} period 8 (Bott)
		BDI	+	+	1	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	
		D	0	+	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	
		DIII	-	+	1	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	
		AII	-	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	
		CII	-	-	1	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	
		C	0	-	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	
		CI	+	-	1	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	

- Study T, C, P symmetries of quadratic fermionic Hamiltonians

(A. Kitaev;  
Ludwig et al. 09)

- Matches classes of disordered systems/random matrices/Clifford algebras

- Does it extend to interacting systems? YES - NO - ???



study field theory anomalies

# Ten-fold classification

- Fermionic bulk Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,j} c_i^\dagger M_{ij} c_j$$

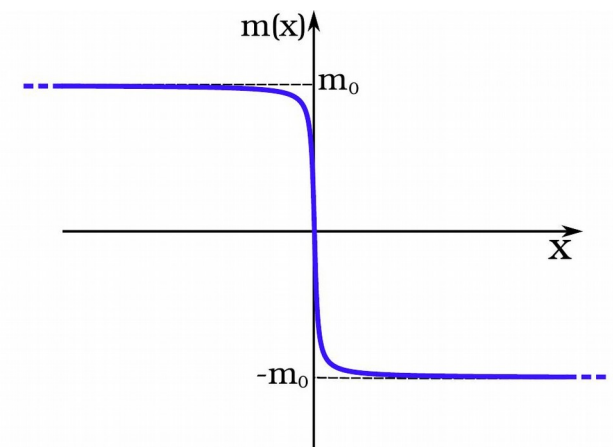
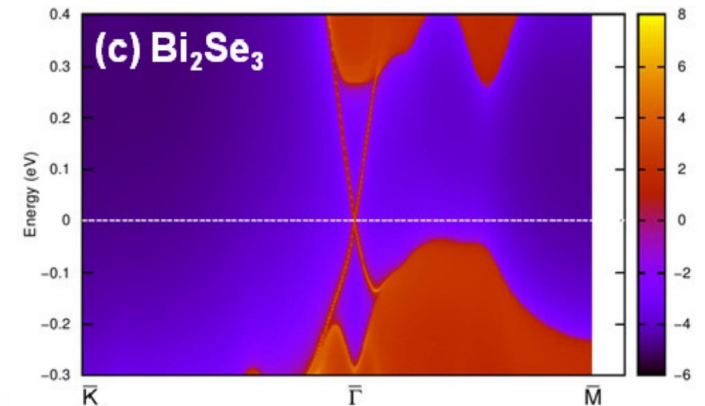
classes of matrices  $M_{ij}$  depend on  $C, P, T$  symmetries and  $C^2 = \pm 1, T^2 = \pm 1$

↔ random systems (Altland-Zirnbauer; Cartan symmetric spaces)

- Massless states: fermion bands with level crossing

- zoom at low energy
- approximate translation & Lorentz invariance
- massive Dirac fermion with kink mass  $m(x)$
- boundary  $(d - 1)$  dim. massless fermion localized at  $x = 0$  (Jackiw-Rebbi)

↔ Clifford algebras



# Classification by chiral anomalies: $\mathbb{Z}$ classes

Cartan \ d	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	...	
U(1) anomaly	A	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	...
	AIII	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	...
gravitational & mixed anomalies	AI	$\mathbb{Z}^{\spadesuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\spadesuit}$	0	0	0	...
	BDI	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\clubsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\clubsuit}$	0	0	...
	D	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\heartsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\heartsuit}$	0	...
	DIII	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\diamondsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\diamondsuit}$	...
	AII	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\spadesuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	...
	CII	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\clubsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	...
	C	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\heartsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	...
	CI	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^{\diamondsuit}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	...

- $d = \text{even}$  boundary anomaly, bulk Chern-Simons theory (QHE, A class)
- $d = \text{odd}$  bulk anomaly, bulk theta term, ex.  $d=3$  U(1) gauge theory (AIII)

$$S[A] = \frac{\theta}{32\pi^2} \int F \wedge F = \frac{\theta}{4\pi^2} \int dx^4 E \cdot B \quad \text{magneto-electric effect}$$

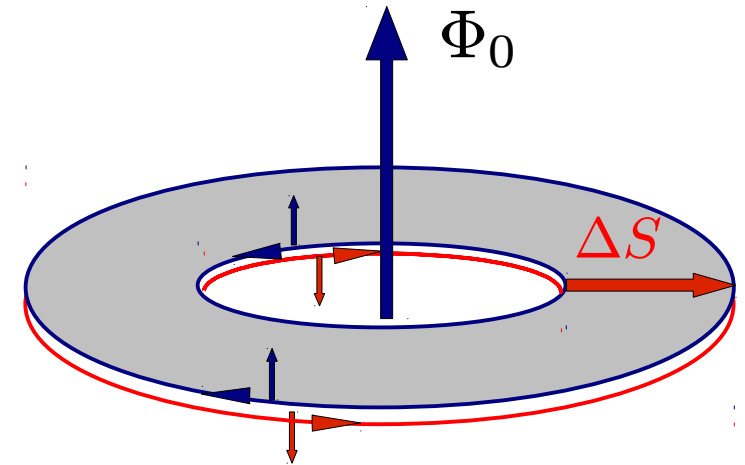
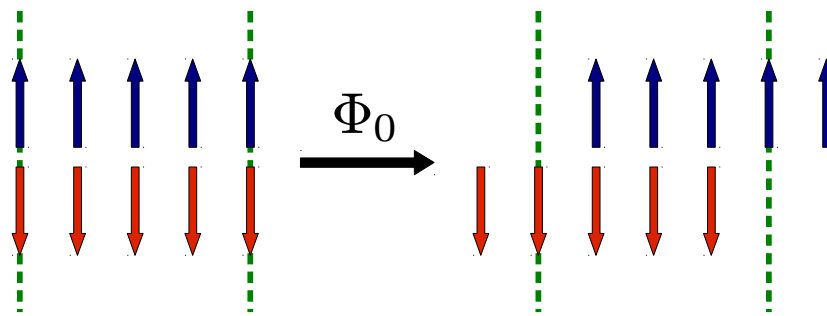
- gravitational anomaly = non-conservation of the thermal current

(A.Ludwig, Furusaki, J. Moore, S. Ryu, Schnyder '08-12)

# Non-chiral states & discrete anomalies

## Quantum Spin Hall Effect

- take two  $\nu = 1$  Hall states of spins  $\uparrow \downarrow$
- system is Time-reversal invariant:  
 $\mathcal{T} : \psi_{k\uparrow} \rightarrow \psi_{-k\downarrow}, \quad \psi_{k\downarrow} \rightarrow -\psi_{-k\uparrow}$
- non-chiral CFT with  $U(1)_Q \times U(1)_S$  symmetry
- adding flux pumps spin  $\rightarrow U(1)_S$  anomaly



(I. Fu, C. Kane, E. Mele 06)

$$\Delta Q = \Delta Q^\uparrow + \Delta Q^\downarrow = 1 - 1 = 0$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{1}{2} - \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = 1$$

- in Topological Insulators  $U(1)_S$  is explicitly broken by spin-orbit interaction
- no currents  $\sigma_H = \sigma_{sH} = 0$
- yet  $\mathcal{T}$  is a good symmetry  $\mathcal{T}^2 = (-1)^F$

# Topological Insulators (T symmetry)

class \ $\delta$	T	C	S	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0
AIII	0	0	1	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$
AI	+	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
BDI	+	+	1	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
D	0	+	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0
DIII	-	+	1	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$
AII	-	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0	0
CII	-	-	1	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0
C	0	-	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$	0
CI	+	-	1	0	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}$

Top. Ins.  $\longrightarrow$

- stability of TI  $\longleftrightarrow$  stability of non-chiral edge states
- T symmetry forbids a mass term for one fermion (for odd numbers)

$$\mathcal{T} : H_{\text{int.}} = m \int \psi_{\uparrow}^{\dagger} \psi_{\downarrow} + h.c. \rightarrow -H_{\text{int.}}$$

$\mathbb{Z}_2$  classification (free fermions)

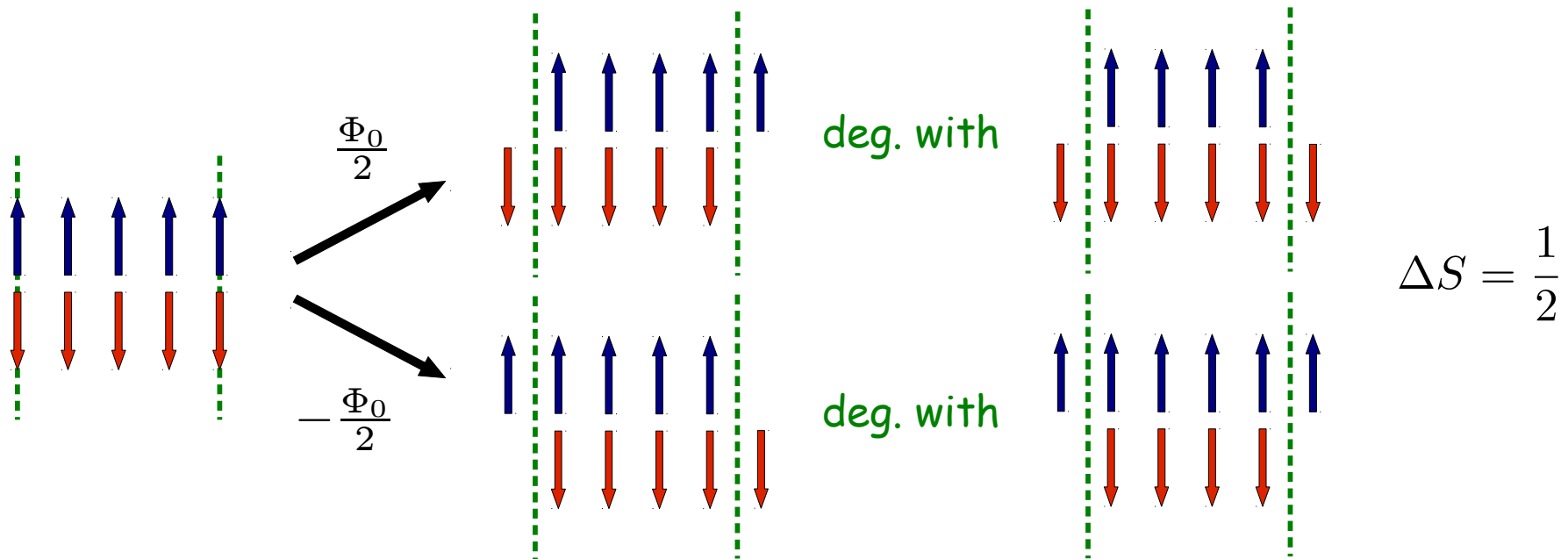
# Flux insertion argument

(Fu, Kane, Mele '05-06;  
Levin, Stern '10-13)

- T symmetry:  $\mathcal{T}H[\Phi]\mathcal{T}^{-1} = H[-\Phi]$  &  $H[\Phi + \Phi_0] = H[\Phi]$
- T-invariant points:  $\Phi = 0, \frac{\Phi_0}{2}, \Phi_0, \frac{3\Phi_0}{2}, \dots$
- Kane et al. defined a T-invariant  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  polarization of band system, equal to the "spin parity" at the edge

$$(-1)^{2S} = (-1)^{N_{\uparrow} + N_{\downarrow}}$$

- if  $(-1)^{2S} = -1$  there exists a pair of edge states degenerate by Kramers theorem, owing to  $\mathcal{T}^2 = -1$

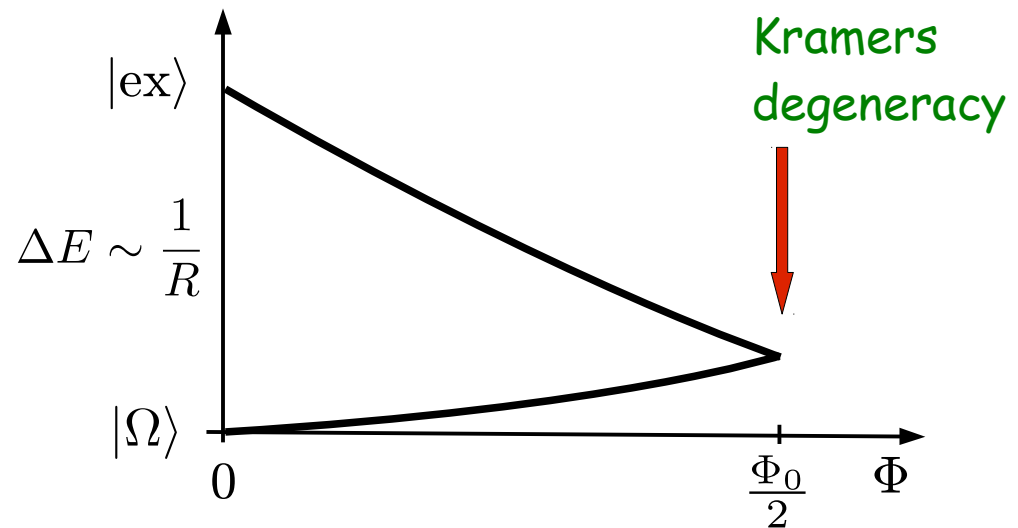




$$\Phi = 0 : \quad (-1)^{2S} |\Omega\rangle = |\Omega\rangle$$

$$\Phi = \frac{\Phi_0}{2} : \quad (-1)^{2S} |\Omega\rangle = -|\Omega\rangle$$

$|\text{ex}\rangle$  gapless edge state



## Conclusions

- topological phase is protected by T symmetry ( $N_f$  odd)
- spin parity is anomalous, discrete remnant of spin anomaly  $U(1)_S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$

Fu-Kane argument is Laughlin's argument for  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  anomaly:  $(-1)^{2\Delta S} = -1$

Question: Can we extend this argument to fermions with T-invariant interactions?

Answer: Yes!



Fractional topological insulators

# $\mathbb{Z}_2$ anomaly in fractional topological insulators

## Strategy:

- Study partition functions of TI (& QSHE) using known general results for QHE  
(AC, Zemba '97; AC, Viola '10)
- Use them to analyze flux insertions and repeat stability argument  
→  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  classification extends to interacting & non-Abelian CFT edges  
(AC, Randellini '14 -15)

$$\begin{array}{ll} (-1)^{2\Delta S} = +1 & \text{unstable} \\ & -1 & \text{stable} \end{array}$$

$$2\Delta S = \frac{\sigma_{sH}}{e^*} = \frac{\nu^\uparrow}{e^*}$$

spin-Hall conduct. = chiral Hall conduct.  
minimal fractional charge

(Levin, Stern, '09, '12)

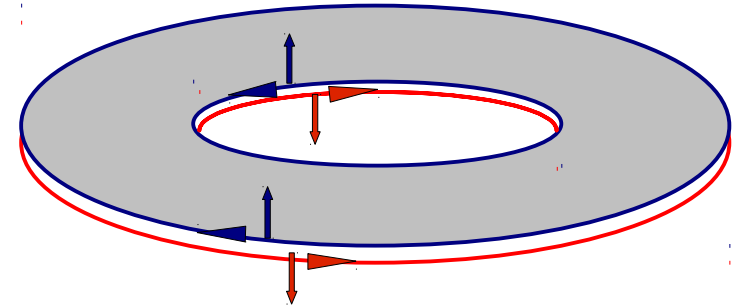
- Stability, i.e.  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  anomaly, is associated to a discrete gravitational anomaly, i.e. to the lack of modular invariance of the partition function (S. Ryu, S.-C. Zhang '12)

# Partition Function of Topological Insulators

- Grand-canonical partition function of  
a single edge, combining the two chiralities

- Four sectors of fermionic systems

$$NS, \widetilde{NS}, R, \widetilde{R}, \text{ resp. } (AA), (AP), (PA), (PP)$$



- Neveu-Schwarz sector describes ground state and integer flux insertions:

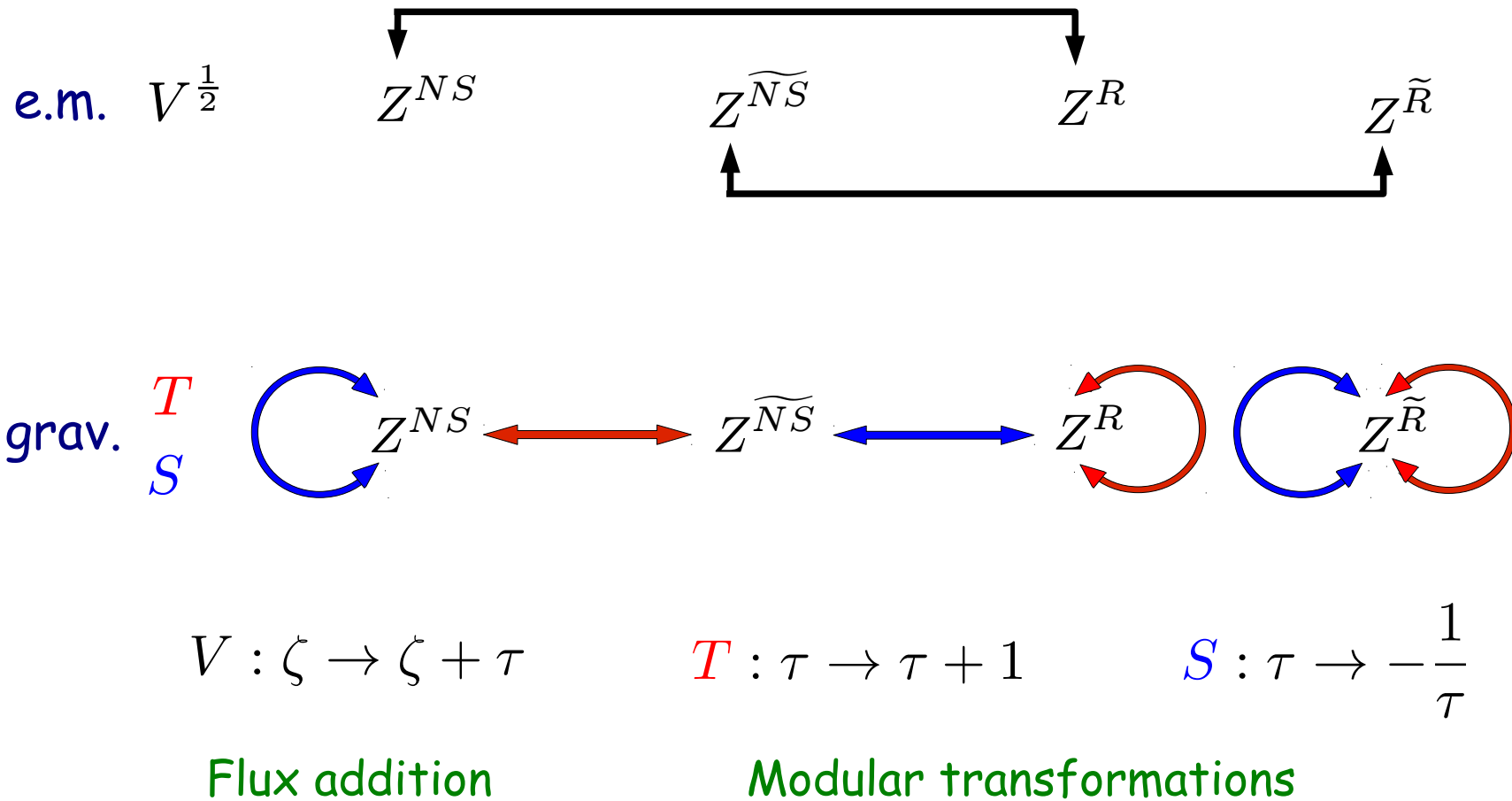
$$Z^{NS}(\tau, \zeta) = Z^{NS}(\tau, \zeta + \tau), \quad V : \zeta \rightarrow \zeta + \tau \quad \text{adds a flux} \quad \Phi \rightarrow \Phi + \Phi_0,$$

$$\tau = i\beta/L, \quad \zeta = \beta(iV_o + \mu)$$

- Ramond sector describes half-flux insertions:  $\frac{\Phi_0}{2}, \frac{3\Phi_0}{2}, \dots$

$$V^{\frac{1}{2}} : Z^{NS}(\tau, \zeta) \rightarrow Z^{NS}\left(\tau, \zeta + \frac{\tau}{2}\right) = Z^R(\zeta, \tau)$$

# E.m. & gravitational responses



# Conclusion

- Many topological states of matter exist and are actively investigated both theoretically and experimentally
- Effective field theories of massless edge excitations and their anomalies describe universal properties and characterize interacting systems
- Theoretical problems both practical and technical:
  - study signatures and observables of topological phases
  - study discrete anomalies (gravitational) in 2d, 3d, K-theory,....

(S. Ryu et al.; G. Moore; E. Witten, N. Seiberg)

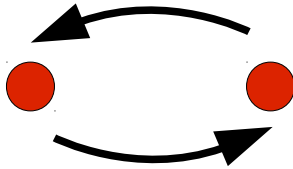
- Technological applications of topologically protected excitations:
  - quantum information and computation
  - conduction without dissipation
  - quantum devices, quantum sensors, etc

# Readings

- M. Franz, L. Molenkamp eds., "Topological Insulators", Elsevier (2013)
- X. L. Qi, S. C. Zhang, Rev. Mod. Phys. 83 (2011) 1057
- C. K. Chiu, J. C. Y. Teo, A. P. Schnyder, S. Ryu, arXiv:1505.03535  
(to appear in RMP)

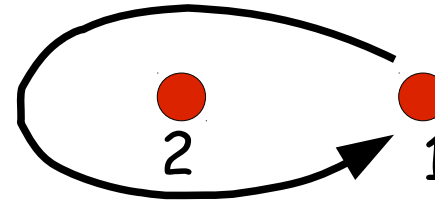
# Fractional statistics in 2+1 dimensions

Exchange



$$e^{i\theta}$$

Monodromy



$$\Psi [(z_1 - z_2)e^{i2\pi}, z_2] = e^{i2\theta} \Psi [z_1, z_2]$$

$\theta = \pi\nu$ , e.g.  $\nu = 1/3$  fractional  $e^{i2\theta} \neq \pm 1$

exchange of identical particles described by the Braid group

$e^{i\theta} \neq e^{-i\theta}$  violates P and T symmetries

If excitations are described by m-dimensional multiplets  $\Psi_a$

$$\Psi_a [z_1, z_2] \rightarrow U_{ab} \Psi_b [z_1, z_2]$$

$$a, b = 1, \dots, m$$

➔ m-dim unitary repres. of braid group

Non-Abelian statistics

# Non-Abelian fractional statistics

$\nu = \frac{5}{2}$  described by Moore-Read "Pfaffian state" ~ Ising CFT x boson

Ising fields:  $I$  identity,  $\psi$  Majorana = electron,  $\sigma$  spin = anyon

fusion rules:

$$\psi \cdot \psi = I$$

2 electrons fuse into bosonic bound state

$$\sigma \cdot \sigma = I + \psi$$

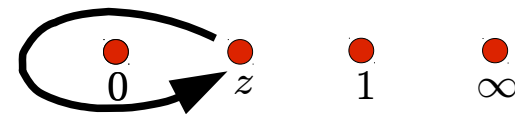
2 channels of fusion = 2 "conformal blocks"

$$\langle \sigma(0)\sigma(z)\sigma(1)\sigma(\infty) \rangle = a_1 F_1(z) + a_2 F_2(z) \quad \text{Hypergeometric functions}$$

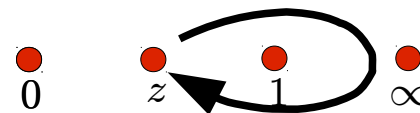
→ state of 4 anyons is two-fold degenerate (Moore, Read '91)

statistics of anyons ~ analytic continuation → 2x2 matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} (ze^{i2\pi}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} (z)$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} ((z-1)e^{i2\pi}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} (z)$$



(CFT tech: Verlinde; Moore, Seiberg; Alvarez-Gaume, Gomez, Sierra)



# Quantum computation

qubit = two-state quantum system, e.g. spin  $\frac{1}{2}$ :  $|\chi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$

boolean gates  $\longrightarrow$  unitary transformations on qubits

$\longrightarrow$  discrete subgroup of  $U(2^n)$  transformations in  $n$  qubit Hilbert space

minimal set of generators:

2x2 Pauli matrices + one specific 4x4 matrix

“Universal Quantum Computation”

$\longrightarrow$  many proposals of systems for QC: excitement & money

quantum computer is unavoidable & useful (e.g. for war, electronic)

big problem: decoherence by the environment

# Topological quantum computation

Proposal: use non-Abelian anyons for qubits and operate by braiding

(C. Nayak, S. Simon,  
A. Stern, M. Freedman,  
S. Das Sarma, 07)

e.g. in Ising-like state  $\nu = \frac{5}{2}$

anyons are topologically protected from decoherence (local perturbations):

decay due to finite size  $P \sim \exp(-L/\xi)$ , (system size)/ $\ell = O(10^4)$

thermal pair creation  $P \sim \exp(-\Delta/T)$ ,  $\Delta/T = O(10^2)$

use 4-spin system  $\alpha|F_1\rangle + \beta|F_2\rangle$  as 1 qubit (2n spin has dim =  $2^{n-1}$ )

consider multi-gate bar geometry:

➔ perform anyon exchanges by tuning the various gate voltages

Ising is not universal QC;  $Z_3$  parafermions  $\nu = \frac{12}{5}$  are OK & others

study other anyonic media, e.g. array of Josephson junctions

many ideas & open problems