Interacting Topological Materials

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Why topology + interactions?

• New paradigm in many-body physics



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Why topology + interactions?

 Possibly relevant to many quantum materials of current interest with strong SOC + strong interactions – at least to understand much of the theoretical literature on these materials



Outline

- I. Stability of free-fermion topological phases to interactions
 - Perturbative stability
 - Spontaneous symmetry breaking
 - Reduction of the free-fermion classification

II. Interaction-induced topological phases

- Topological Mott insulators
- Topological Kondo insulators
- III. Strongly correlated topological phases
 - Symmetry-protected topological phases
 - Fractionalized topological phases

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Free-fermion topological phases



- Cannot be smoothly connected to atomic insulator (product state) unless some discrete protecting symmetry is broken
- TIs: time reversal; WSMs: lattice translation (+ plethora of phases protected by point/space group symmetries: topological crystalline insulators, Dirac/ nodal line semimetals, higher-order topological insulators...)
- Smoothly = without a phase transition: topological phases should be **stable** against small symmetry-preserving perturbations, including **interactions**

Interacting topological insulators

• Topological insulators: bulk is gapped, perturbation theory converges

$$\Delta E_0 = \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{|\langle n|V|0\rangle|^2}{\underbrace{E_0 - E_n}}$$

gap

- Noninteracting edge/surface is gapless, naive perturbation theory diverges!
- Stability of interacting edge/surface metals: highly dependent on **dimensionality**
- Quantum spin Hall effect: d=1 edge,
 3D topological insulator: d=2 surface



Quantum spin Hall effect

- T-invariant generalization of the QHE (Kane & Mele, PRL '05)
- 2 counterpropagating edge modes with opposite spin



Quantum Hall system

Quantum spin Hall system



Prediction in HgTe/CdTe quantum wells (Bernevig, Hughes, Zhang, Science '06)

QSHE in HgTe

- 2-terminal conductance quantized to 2e²/h
- Quantized nonlocal edge transport without magnetic fields







Brüne, Roth, Buhmann, Hankiewicz, Molenkamp, JM, Qi, Zhang, Nat. Phys. '12

Seeing the edge states

 $j_x(\boldsymbol{r})$







Nowack et al., Nat. Mater. '13

0.1

0.0

-0.1

Seeing the edge states

 $oldsymbol{j}(oldsymbol{r})$







Nowack et al., Nat. Mater. '13

Edge metal-insulator transition

 With interactions, edge is a helical Luttinger liquid (LL) ~ "spinless" LL (Wu, Bernevig, Zhang, PRL' 06; Xu, Moore, PRB '06): interaction strength described by the Luttinger parameter K



 Spinless LL: single impurity can induce a metal-insulator transition at K=1 (Kane & Fisher, PRB '92)



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Helical LL: metal-insulator transition is at K=1/4 (Wu, Bernevig, Zhang, PRL '06; JM et al., PRL '09), spontaneous T breaking for K < 1/4

$$G(T) \propto \left(\frac{T}{T^*}\right)^{2(1/4K-1)} \xrightarrow{K < 1/4} T$$

1-vs 2-particle backscattering

• 1-particle backscattering forbidden by T symmetry

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$$\int dx \,\delta(x)\psi_{R\uparrow}^{\dagger}\psi_{L\downarrow} + \text{h.c.} \sim \cos 2\sqrt{\pi}\phi(0)$$

• 2-particle backscattering allowed by T symmetry

$$\int dx \,\delta(x)\psi_{R\uparrow}^{\dagger}\partial_x\psi_{R\uparrow}^{\dagger}\psi_{L\downarrow}\partial_x\psi_{L\downarrow} + \text{h.c.} \sim \cos 4\sqrt{\pi}\phi(0)$$



ground state nondegenerate (potential scattering: Kane & Fisher, PRB '92)

ground state 2-fold degenerate (related by T)

Charge fractionalization

- Expect fractionalization from ground state degeneracy (cf. Su-Schrieffer-Heeger model of polyacetylene)
- Instanton (temporal soliton) pumps charge e/2: Fano factor = 1/2



A helical Luttinger liquid?

• Effects of interactions in 1D edge channels? HgTe is weakly interacting:

 $K\sim 0.8$ Teo & Kane, PRB '09

• Possibility of stronger interaction effects in InAs/GaSb QW:

$$K \sim 0.2$$
 JM et al., PRL '09

• K < 1/4 in InAs/GaSb?



 G quantized to better than 1% (better than HgTe)

Helical LL in InAs/GaSb?

PRL 115, 136804 (2015)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 25 SEPTEMBER 2015

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Observation of a Helical Luttinger Liquid in InAs/GaSb Quantum Spin Hall Edges

Tingxin Li,^{1,4} Pengjie Wang,^{1,4} Hailong Fu,^{1,4} Lingjie Du,² Kate A. Schreiber,³ Xiaoyang Mu,^{1,4} Xiaoxue Liu,^{1,4} Gerard Sullivan,⁵ Gábor A. Csáthy,³ Xi Lin,^{1,4} and Rui-Rui Du^{1,2,4,*}



- Insulating behavior
- Power-law T dependence, saturates below $T_{\rm cutoff} \sim eV/k_B$

 $G \propto T^{2(1/4K-1)}$

 $K \approx 0.21$

- Fano factor = 1/2?
- K in principle tunable by bandgap engineering: observe M-I transition?

3D topological insulators

- 3D generalization of the QSHE (Fu, Kane, Mele, PRL '07); predicted in Bi_{1-x}Sb_x (Fu, Kane, PRB '07)
- Odd # of 2D massless Dirac fermions on the surface: Z₂ invariant, like QSHE (Moore & Balents, PRB '07; Roy, PRB '09)
- Single Dirac cone: prediction in Bi₂Se₃, Bi₂Te₃, Sb₂Te₃ (Zhang et al., Nat. Phys. '09)
- Observed with ARPES (M. Z. Hasan, Z. X. Shen)



Axion electrodynamics

- E&M response contains magnetoelectric ~θE·B coupling with quantized θ=π (Qi, Hughes, Zhang, PRB '08)
- θ angle can be measured via Kerr/Faraday effect



Spin-momentum locking

 Single nondegenerate Fermi surface with spin-momentum locking: spin-resolved ARPES

Hsieh et al., Nature '09



Spin-momentum locking

Single nondegenerate Fermi surface with spin-momentum locking: spin-resolved ARPES



For rotationally invariant FS, interactions ٠ described by helical Landau Fermi liquid theory: 10 Landau parameters

 $F_{\ell}^{lpha}, \, lpha=1,\ldots,10$ (Lundgren & JM, PRL '15)

Hsieh et al., Nature '09 $E_{\rm B} = -20 \text{ meV}$ ∇P_v





Particle-hole instabilities

- As on QSH edge, strong repulsive interactions can lead to spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB) on the TI surface...
 - Ising ferromagnetic order: breaks T (Xu, PRB '10), $\sigma_{xy} = \pm e^2/2h$

- XY ferromagnetic order: breaks T + rotation
 (Xu, PRB '10)
- Nematic order: breaks rotation but not T (Lundgren, Yerzhakov, JM, PRB '17)



18 3/4

1/4

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Superconducting instabilities

• ... while attractive interactions generate (topological) superconductivity







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Semimetal-superconductor QCP

 QCP has an emergent (2+1)D supersymmetry: N=2 Wess-Zumino model (Grover, Sheng, Vishwanath, Science '14; Ponte, Lee, NJP '14)



 $\mathcal{L} = i\bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\partial_{\mu}\psi + |\partial_{\mu}\phi|^2 + r|\phi|^2 + h^2|\phi|^4 + h(\phi^*\psi^T i\sigma^y\psi + \text{h.c.})$

SUSY QCP: critical exponents

 Strongly coupled QCP: anomalous dimensions exactly known from SUSY (Aharony et al., NPB '97)

$$\eta_{\phi} = \eta_{\psi} = \frac{1}{3}$$
 QP

• Correlation length exponent: $\xi \sim (g - g_c)^{-\nu}$

$$\begin{split} \nu &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \approx 0.75 \quad \text{1-loop RG (Thomas, '05; Lee, PRB '07)} \\ \nu &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{4} + \frac{\epsilon^2}{24} + \left(\frac{\zeta(3)}{6} - \frac{1}{144}\right)\epsilon^3 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4) \approx 0.985 \\ \text{3-loop RG (Zerf, Lin, JM, PRB '16)} \end{split}$$

 $\nu\approx 0.9174 \qquad {\rm Padé\ extrapolation\ of\ 3-loop\ result\ (Fei\ et\ al.,\ PTEP\ '16)} \\ \nu\approx 0.9173 \qquad {\rm conformal\ bootstrap\ (Bobev\ et\ al.,\ PRL\ '15)} \end{cases}$

SUSY QCP: QMC study

 Single Dirac cone + attractive Hubbard U can be simulated on a 2D lattice with long-range hopping (Li et al., arXiv '17)



- QCP found in sign-problem-free QMC at $U_c/t \approx 0.83$
- Critical exponents: v = 0.87 ± 0.05, η_{ϕ} = 0.32 ± 0.02, η_{ψ} = 0.34 ± 0.05
- Consistent with SUSY! ($v \approx 0.917$, $\eta_{\phi} = \eta_{\psi} = 1/3$)

SUSY QCP: optical conductivity

 Optical conductivity at a 2D QCP (T=0) should be spectrally flat, given by a universal constant (Damle & Sachdev, PRB '97)



- Can be calculated exactly using SUSY at the strongly correlated Dirac SM-SC QCP (Witczak-Krempa and JM, PRL '16)
- Benchmark for QMC study

$$\sigma(\omega, 0) = \frac{5(16\pi - 9\sqrt{3})}{243\pi} \frac{e^2}{\hbar} \approx 0.2271 \frac{e^2}{\hbar}$$

Bulk symmetry breaking

- When interaction strength ~ bulk gap, bulk SSB is possible: destroys bulk topology
- Model for interacting QSHE: Kane-Mele-Hubbard (KMH) model, yields in-plane (XY) antiferromagnetism





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Interacting Weyl semimetals

• Bulk is gapless, but perturbatively stable: interactions renormalize quasiparticle residue (Witczak-Krempa, Knap, Abanin, PRL '14)



- For strong enough interactions, protecting lattice translation symmetry can be broken spontaneously: CDW / SDW order (Wang, Zhang, PRB '13; JM, Nandkishore, PRB '14)
- Topological defects = "axion strings", trap chiral fermion zero modes (Callan, Harvey, NPB '85)
- Sliding mode = "dynamical axion field", couples to $E\cdot B$
- Search for interacting Weyl materials: CeRu₄Sn₆, CeSb, ... 0.4-



Reduction of the classification

- Interactions can "reduce the classification": adiabatically connect two phases thought to be distinct without interactions (Fidkowski & Kitaev, PRB '10)
- Example: BDI class in d=1, Majorana zero modes (MZM) protected by "spinless TRS"



• Noninteracting (quadratic) terms that can gap out the MZM are of the form $i\gamma_j\gamma_k$, forbidden by TRS: Z invariant v, counts number of MZM

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• TRS-preserving interaction with v = 4:

$$\frac{U}{4}\gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4 = -U(n_1 - \frac{1}{2})(n_2 - \frac{1}{2})$$

• Ground state has energy –U/4, but 2-fold degenerate ($|00\rangle$ and $|11\rangle$): still distinct from trivial state v = 0 (no MZM, unique ground state)

Reduction of the classification: Z to Z₈

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 $JS_1 \cdot S_2$: for J > 0, unique (singlet) gapped ground state, adiabatically connected to trivial phase v = 0

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Topology from interactions

• Can a topological bandstructure emerge spontaneously (in a mean-field sense) from interactions?

Topological superconductivity (-fluidity)

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- First example: topological superconductors/superfluids! Dynamical generation of topological pairing gap from interactions; support edge/surface Majorana fermions (Read & Green, PRB '00; Roy, PRB '09; Volovik, PRB '09; Qi et al., PRL '09)
- Materials: Sr₂RuO₄ (?), B phase of superfluid ³He

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- Materials: Sr₂RuO₄ (?), B phase of superfluid ³He
- Edge/surface Majorana fermions can interact by exchanging SC/SF order parameter fluctuations (Park, Chung, JM, PRB '15)
- Can induce spontaneous T breaking on the surface: possibility of QCPs with emergent N=1 SUSY (Grover, Sheng, Vishwanath, Science '14)



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Topological Mott insulators

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- Contrasts with weak-coupling BCS instability towards paired states. Can topological Mott insulators be stabilized for weak interactions?

Quadratic band crossings

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- Contrasts with weak-coupling BCS instability towards paired states. Can topological Mott insulators be stabilized for weak interactions?
- Quadratic band crossings in 2D: finite DOS at Fermi level enhances particle-hole instabilities → topological Mott insulators (e.g. QSH) stabilized for infinitesimal interactions (Sun et al., PRL '09)



- Examples: checkerboard lattice (QBC protected by TRS and C₄ symmetry), kagome lattice (TRS and C₆ symmetry)
- In 3D: "gapless semiconductors" (HgTe, α-Sn), may realize a 3D topological Mott insulator at low T (Herbut, Janssen, PRL '14)

Topological Kondo insulators

- Two main mechanisms to open a topological gap from interactions:
 - Spontaneous generation of spin-orbit coupling (topological Mott insulators): spontaneous breaking of SU(2) spin rotation symmetry, sharp phase transition below critical temperature T_c (in 3D)
 - Kondo hybridization between strongly spin-orbit coupled, localized *f* electrons, and extended *d* electrons: crossover from metallic behavior to topological Kondo insulator below coherence temperature T* (Dzero et al., PRL '10)



SmB₆, a topological Kondo insulator?

 First-principles studies predict that SmB₆ is a topological Kondo insulator with Dirac surface states at the X points on the (001) surface (Lu et al., PRL '13)





Topological surface states may explain long-standing puzzle of residual low-T resistivity in SmB₆ (Allen, Batlogg, Wachter, PRB '79)

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 Spin-resolved ARPES consistent with helical surface states, but still controversial

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Symmetry-protected topological phases

- Free-fermion topological insulators, topological superconductors, topological Mott/Kondo insulators: adiabatically connected to free-fermion topological insulators (ignoring Goldstone/collective modes)
- Simplest examples of SPT phases (Chen, Gu, Wen, PRB '10): cannot be adiabatically connected to a trivial product state if symmetry is preserved
- Generally interacting, but assume not fractionalized: unique ground state, no deconfined bulk excitations with fractional quantum numbers/statistics
- Are there SPT phases that are **not** adiabatically connected to free-fermion topological phases?

Surface terminations

- First, back to ordinary 3D topological insulator. Protected by T and U(1) symmetries. Possible surface "terminations" with interactions?
 - Helical Fermi liquid: gapless, T and U(1) symmetric
 - Ising FM order: gapped, U(1) symmetric, breaks T
 - s-wave SC order: gapped, T symmetric, breaks U(1)
- Can we gap out the surface without breaking symmetries?

Surface topological order

- Yes! But at the expense of developing surface topological order = 2D surface must support anyonic excitations (Bonderson, Nayak, Qi, J. Stat. Mech. '13; Wang, Potter, Senthil, PRB '13; Chen, Fidkowski, Vishwanath, PRB '14; Metlitski, Kane, Fisher, PRB '15)
- Basic idea: start from U(1)-breaking SC surface; attempt to trigger 2D superconductor-insulator transition by condensing vortices to restore U(1) symmetry (Fisher, Weichman, Grinstein, Fisher, PRB '89)
- Unlike ordinary SC, vortices on SC surface host Majorana fermions (Fu, Kane, PRL '08): not bosonic (non-Abelian!), single hc/2e vortex cannot condense
- Simplest bosonic object that can condense while preserving T is 4-fold (2hc/ e) vortex; destroys SC order and gaps surface but introduces non-Abelian topological order

Interacting 3D topological insulators

- Classifying all possible types of topological order that can only exist on 2D boundary of 3D system ("anomalous"), consistent with T and U(1) symmetries, enables one to classify all possible 3D interacting topological insulators = 3D fermionic SPT phases protected by T and U(1)
- In total: 8, of which 6 not adiabatically connected to free-fermion insulator (Wang, Potter, Senthil, Science '14)
- 6 nontrivial SPT phases = electronic Mott insulator where spins form a "bosonic SPT" phase protected by T

Fractionalized topological insulators

- SPT phase = simplest kind of interacting topological insulator: no fractionalization in the bulk (but allowed on the surface)
- We know strong correlations can induce fractionalization: spin-charge separation (quantum spin liquids), fractionalization of charge (FQHE)
- Novel types of correlated topological insulators if fractionalization is allowed in the bulk?
- Basic idea: assume fractionalized excitations (e.g. spinons, fractionally charged quasiparticles) occupy a topological bandstructrure

Fractionalized topological insulators

- Strong repulsive interactions + strong spin-orbit coupling: assume fermionic spinons (charge 0, spin 1/2) occupy a topological bandstructure
- In 2D, fractionalized QSHE (Young, Lee, Kallin, PRB '08; Rachel & Le Hur, PRB '10): unstable against gauge fluctuations (instanton proliferation)



- In 3D, fractionalized topological insulator (Pesin & Balents, Nat. Phys. '10): stable against gauge fluctuations = 3D U(1) spin liquid with emergent gapless "photon" and helical spinon surface states
- Potentially relevant to pyrochlore iridates

Fractional topological insulators

- Another possibility: electron (charge e) fractionalizes into quasiparticles of charge e/N
- 2D: fractional quantum spin Hall effect (Bernevig & Zhang, PRL '06; Levin & Stern, PRL '09) ≈ two copies of FQHE with opposite chirality for opposite spins
- 3D: fractional topological insulator (JM et al., PRL '10; Swingle et al., PRB '11), exhibits quantized but fractional magnetoelectric effect (θ=π/N) while preserving T symmetry
- Surface states gapless = could be seen in ARPES, but electron spectral function is power-law due to fractionalization (Swingle, PRB '12)



Outlook

- Topics not covered: effect of interactions in...
 - Chern insulators (including fractional Chern insulators)
 - Novel topological semimetals (nodal line, type-II Weyl, "new fermions"/ higher-order band crossings...)
 - Beyond electrons: topological phases with ultracold atoms, topological magnon/phonon bandstructures, topoelectrical circuits...
 - Nonequilibrium topological phases (Floquet)
- Many concepts overlap with topics in frustrated magnetism (spin liquids) and FQHE physics
- Ongoing search for experimental candidates, in particular materials with strong spin-orbit coupling + correlations