

Title: On the Brink of Fractionalization - Yichen Hu

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Abstract: 

Systems of strongly interacting particles can give rise to topological phases beyond non-interacting limit. Although unique features of strongly interacting topological phases, such as fractionalization of quantum degrees of freedom, have important applications in quantum information processing, these topological phases are still far from experimental realizations. In this talk, by presenting constructions of two strongly interacting topological phases, I will argue the key mechanism of their realizations is to add interactions near topological phase transitions. I will first introduce a model of interacting Majorana fermions that describes a superconducting phase with Fibonacci topological order. Then I will show that a correlated fluid of electrons and holes, dubbed fractional excitonic insulator phase, can exhibit a fractional quantum Hall effect at zero magnetic field. I will present physical evidence and conjecture that this phase can be realized in a higher angular momentum excitonic paired system in the presence of interactions.



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# On the Brink of Fractionalization

Yichen Hu

Department of Astronomy and Physics  
University of Pennsylvania

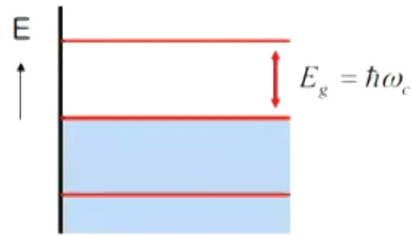
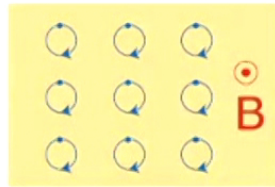
Perimeter Institute, Dec 4th 2018





# Band Paradigm

## ► Fractional quantum Hall state

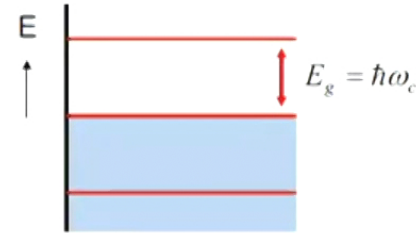
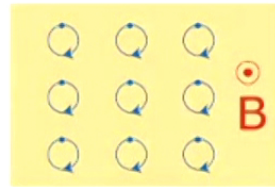




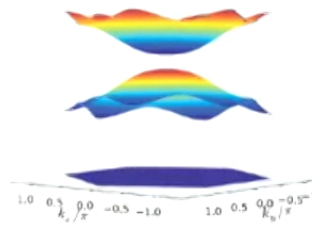
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# Band Paradigm

## ► Fractional quantum Hall state



## ► Fractional Chern insulator



Tang, et al. '11; Neupert et al. '11  
Sun et al. '11; Regnault, Bernevig '11



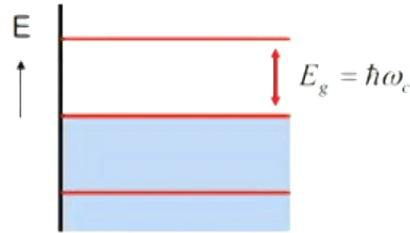
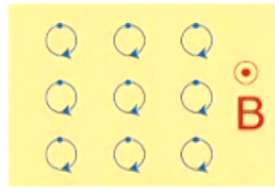




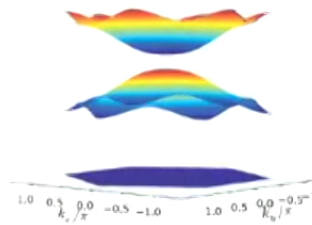
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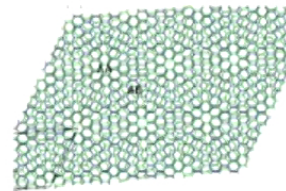


- ▶ Fractional Chern insulator



Tang, et al. '11; Neupert et al. '11  
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- ▶ Twisted bilayer graphene



Jarillo-Herrero et al. '18

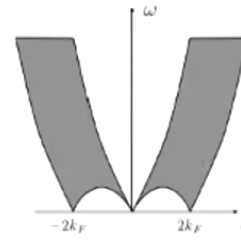
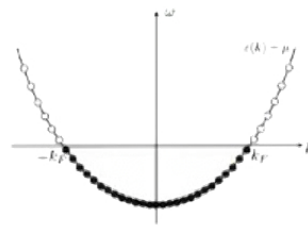




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# Alternative?

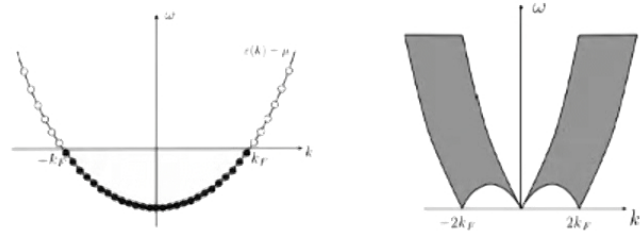
- ▶ 1D: Luttinger liquid



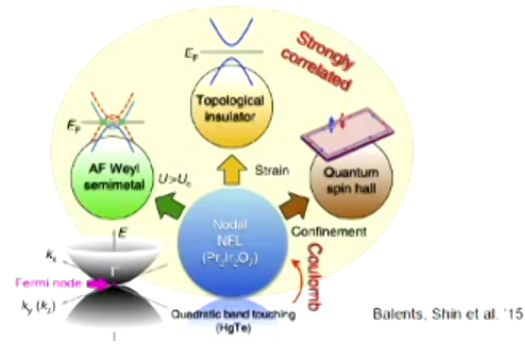


# Alternative?

- ▶ 1D: Luttinger liquid



- ▶ 2D,3D: Quadratic Fermi node

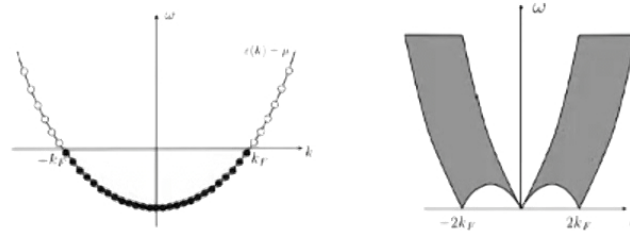




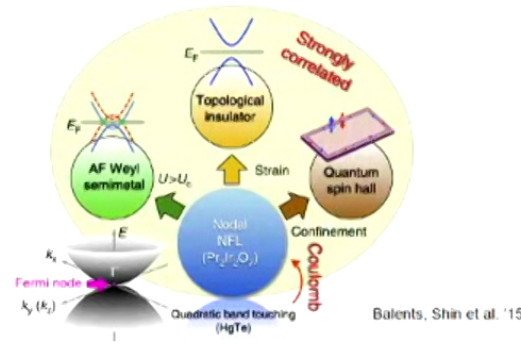
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# Alternative?

- ▶ 1D: Luttinger liquid



- ▶ 2D,3D: Quadratic Fermi node



- ▶ Interactions near topological phase transitions=Strongly interacting topological phases?





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## Fibonacci Topological Superconductor

Majorana fermions in topological SC

Fibonacci anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

Network construction

## Fractional Excitonic Insulator

Chern insulator as  $p_x + ip_y$  excitonic insulator

Fractional excitonic insulator phase

Higher angular momentum band inversion





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## Majorana fermions in topological SC

▶  $\gamma_i = \gamma_i^\dagger$  and  $\{\gamma_i, \gamma_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}$ .



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## Majorana fermions in topological SC

- ▶  $\gamma_i = \gamma_i^\dagger$  and  $\{\gamma_i, \gamma_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}$ .
- ▶ a Bogoliubov quasiparticle ( $e + h$ ) in superconductor.

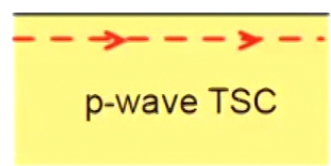
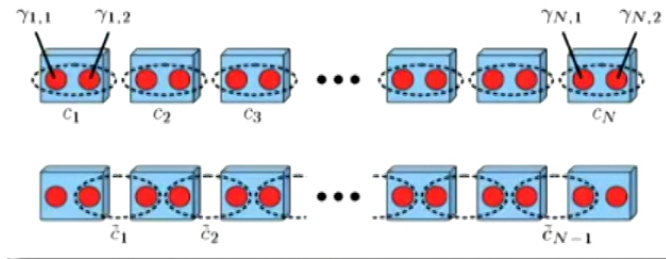




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# Majorana fermions in topological SC

- ▶  $\gamma_i = \gamma_i^\dagger$  and  $\{\gamma_i, \gamma_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}$ .
  - ▶ a Bogoliubov quasiparticle( $e + h$ ) in superconductor.
- ▶ Majorana bound states on the edge of topological SC
  - ▶ 1D Kitaev chain Kitaev, '01
  - ▶ 2D  $p$ -wave topological superconductor Read and Green, '00







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# Majorana fermions in topological SC

## g Dirac fermion



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# Majorana fermions in topological SC

g Dirac fermion

▶  $c_{Dirac} = 1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$  with  $c_{MF} = \frac{1}{2}$



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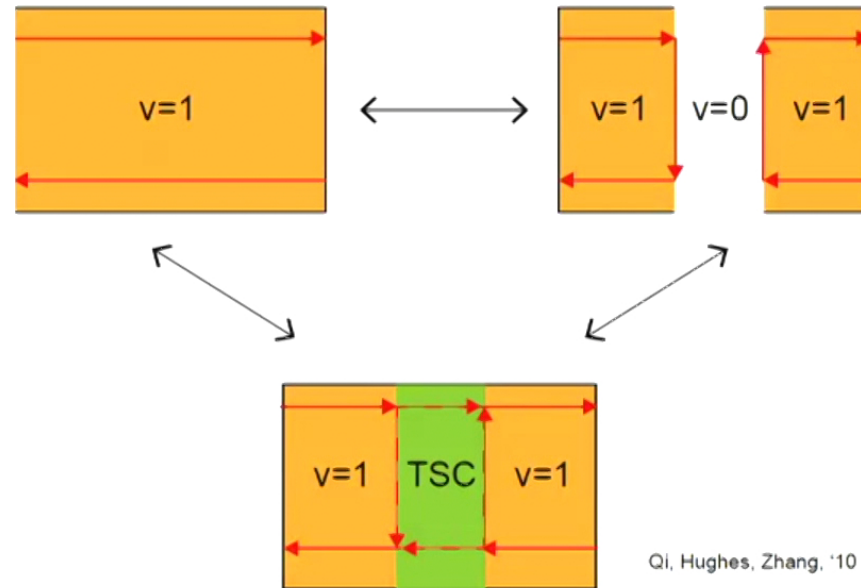
# Majorana fermions in topological SC

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►  $c_{Dirac} = 1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$  with  $c_{MF} = \frac{1}{2}$



► Splitting of integer quantum Hall transition



Qi, Hughes, Zhang, '10





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# Fibonacci anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

Topological order

- ▶ Anyon type:
  1. Vacuum  $\mathbb{1}$
  2. Fibonacci anyon  $\tau$
- ▶ Fusion rule:
$$\tau \times \tau = \mathbb{1} + \tau$$
- ▶ Ground state degeneracy:  $\phi^{N_\tau}$ ,  $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$
- ▶ Braiding Fib anyons allows for universal quantum computation
- ▶  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  parafermion CFT:
  1.  $\nu = \frac{12}{5}$  FQH state Read and Rezayi, '98
  2. Trench construction ( $\nu = \frac{2}{3}$  FQH+SC) Mong et al. '14; Vaezi '14





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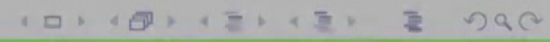
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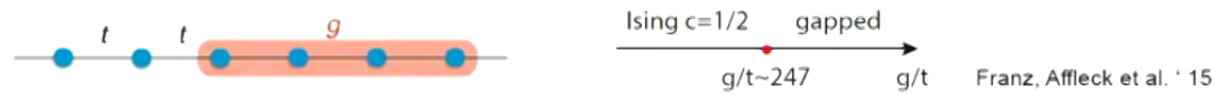
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# Majorana anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

and Coset

▶ Tri-critical Ising in 1D interacting Majorana fermion chain

$$H = \sum_i -it\gamma_i\gamma_{i+1} + g\gamma_i\gamma_{i+1}\gamma_{i+2}\gamma_{i+3}$$



Anyon types

$\mathbb{I}$	$\sigma$	$\sigma'$	$\epsilon$	$\epsilon'$	$\epsilon''$
0	3/80	7/16	1/10	3/5	3/2







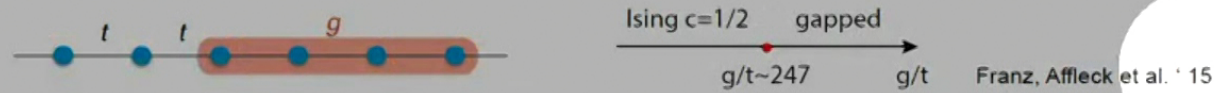
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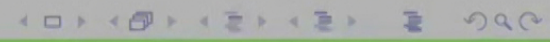
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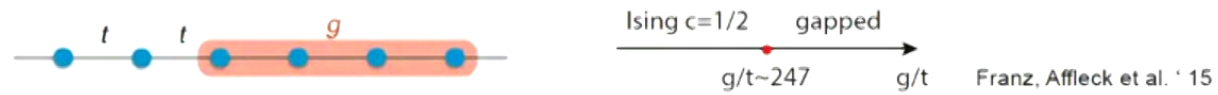
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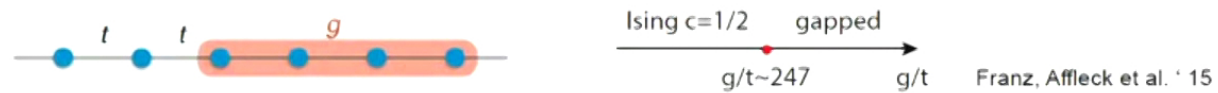
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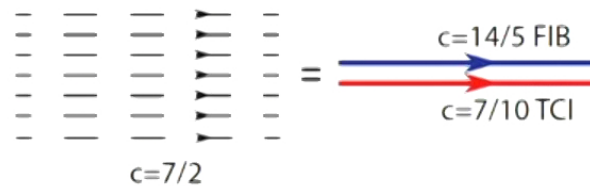


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$\mathbb{I}$	$\sigma$	$\sigma'$	$\epsilon$	$\epsilon'$	$\epsilon''$
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- ▶  $SO(7)_1$  coset Shatashvili and Vafa, '95

$$SO(7)_1 = \frac{SO(7)_1}{(G_2)_1} \times (G_2)_1, (G_2)_1 = \text{FIB} \text{ and } \frac{SO(7)_1}{(G_2)_1} = \text{TCI}$$





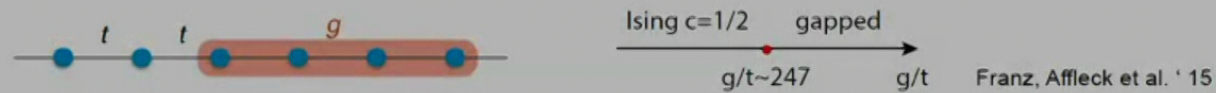
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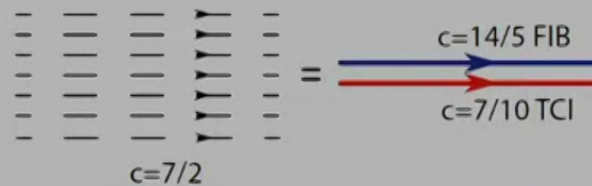


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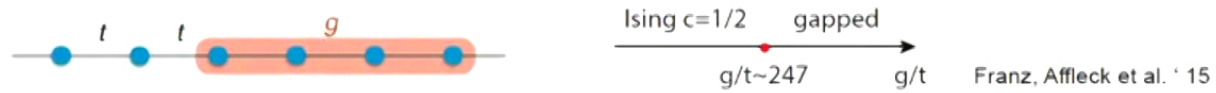
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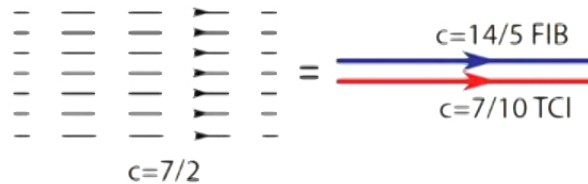


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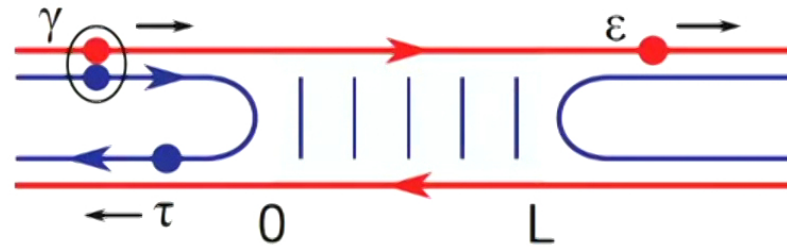


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# Fibonacci anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

g Majorana fermion

- ▶ Gap out the Fibonacci sector



$$H = -\frac{i\nu}{2} \sum_{a=1}^7 (\gamma_{aR} \partial_x \gamma_{aR} - \gamma_{aL} \partial_x \gamma_{aL}) + \lambda \sum_{A=1}^{14} J_R^A J_L^A$$

$(G_2)_1$  currents\*

$$J_{L/R}^A = M_{ab}^A \gamma_a^{L/R} \gamma_b^{L/R}$$

$$\gamma = \tau \times \epsilon$$



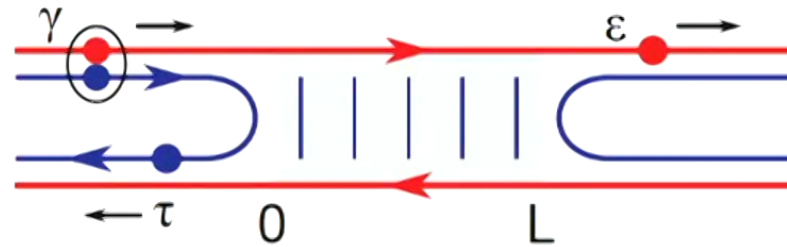


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Chern insulator as  $p_x + ip_y$  excitonic insulator

Fractional excitonic insulator phase

Higher angular momentum band inversion





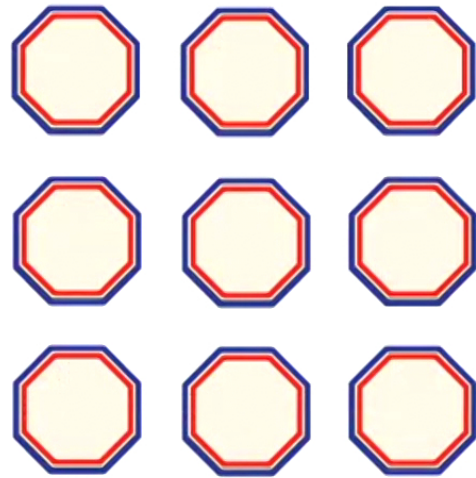


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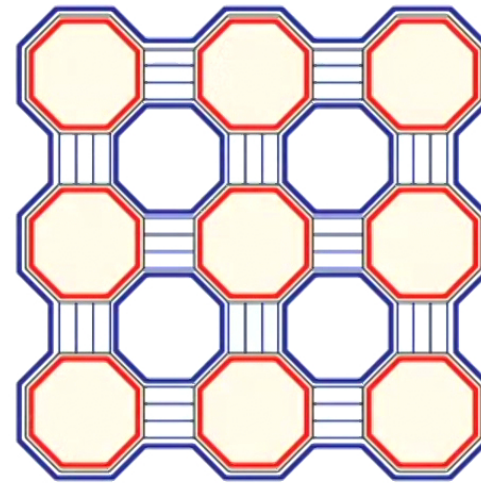
# Work Construction

Topological phase

- ▶ Islands of  $n = 7$  topological SCs



Trivial phase  $c=0$



$c=14/5$  FIB



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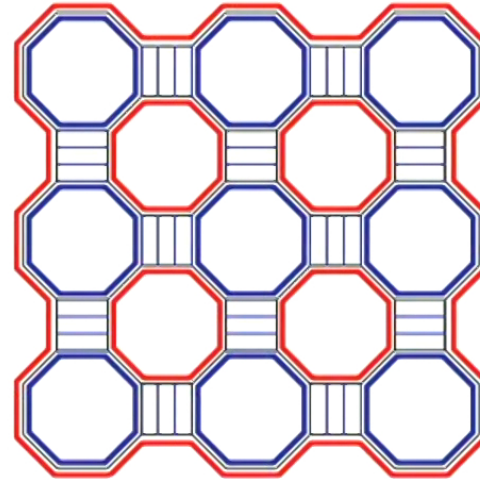
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## Work Construction

Fibonacci phase

▶ “Particle-hole” conjugate of the Fibonacci phase

$$c = 7/2 - 14/5 = 7/10$$



$c=7/10$ TCI



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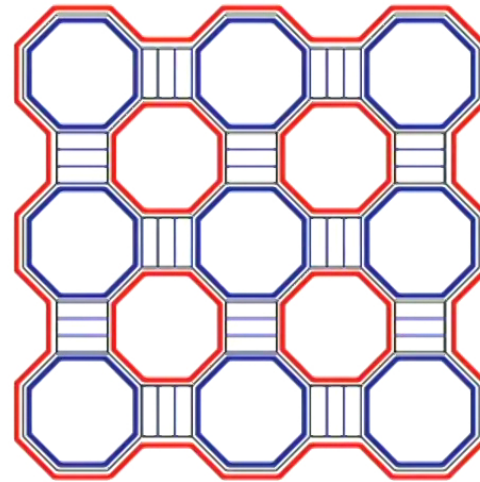


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Fibonacci phase

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► TCI=FIB×Ising

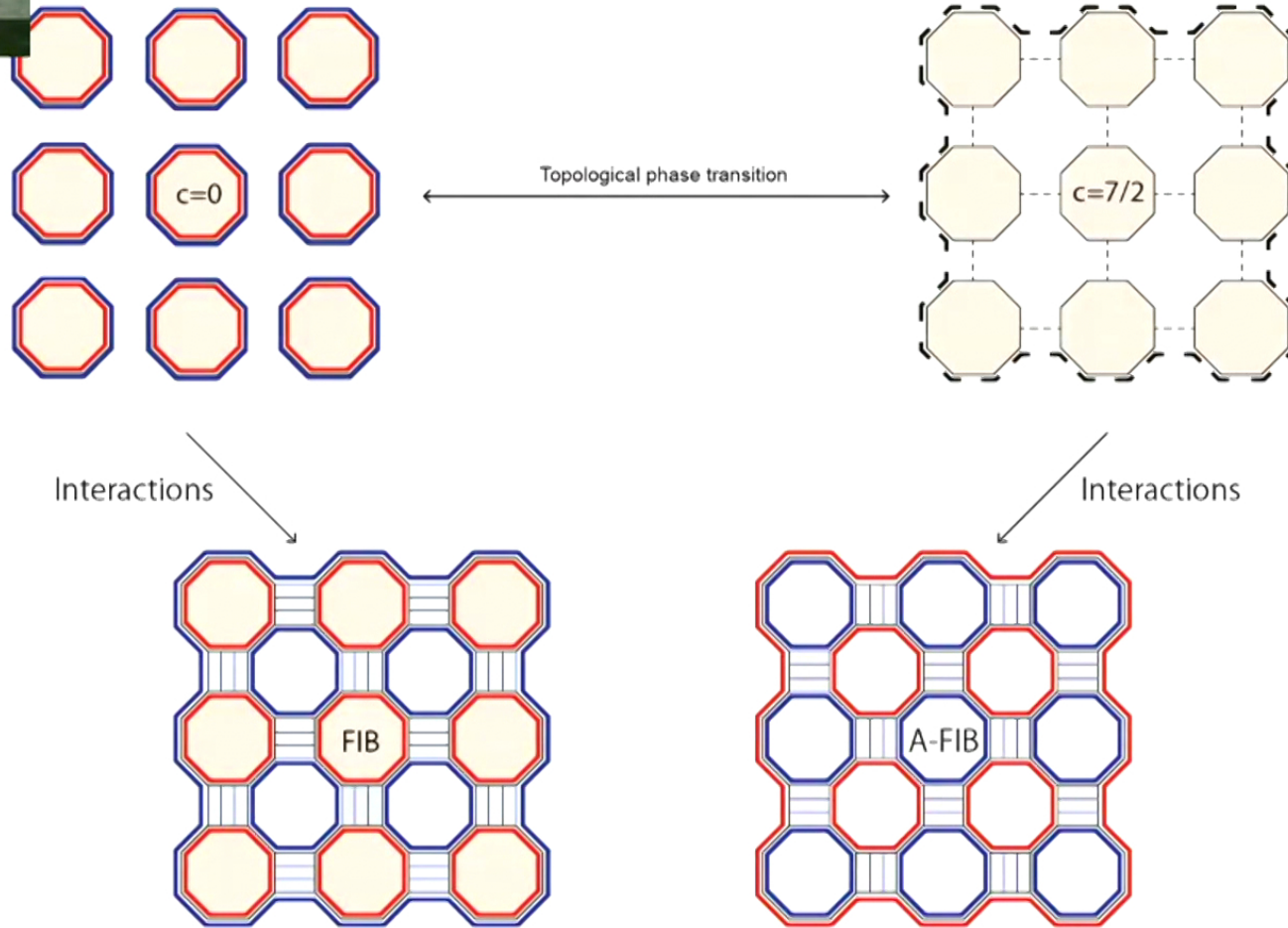
	$\mathbb{I}$	$\sigma$	$\psi$
$\mathbb{I}$	$\mathbb{I}$	$\sigma'$	$\epsilon''$
$\tau$	$\epsilon$	$\sigma$	$\epsilon'$





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# Timing of Topological Phase Transition





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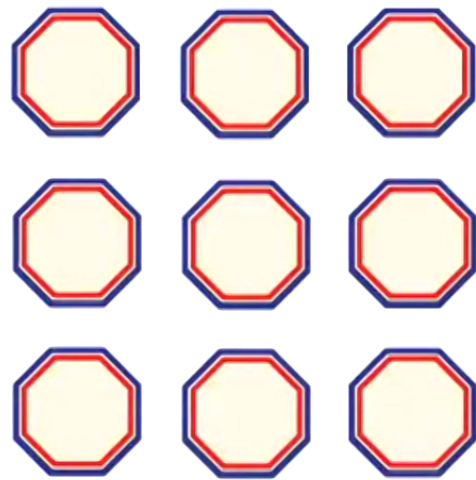




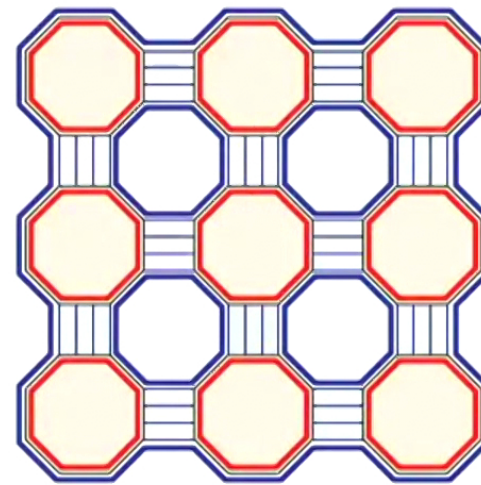
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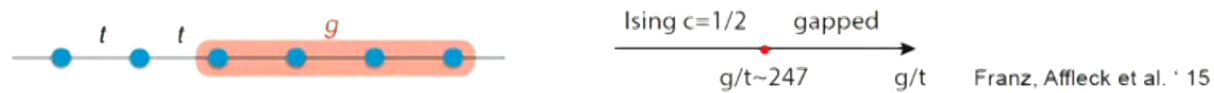
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# Abelian anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

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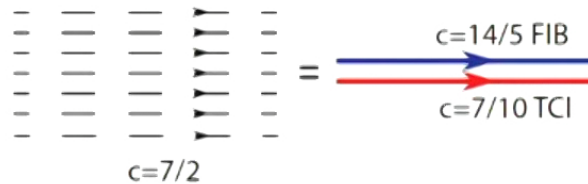


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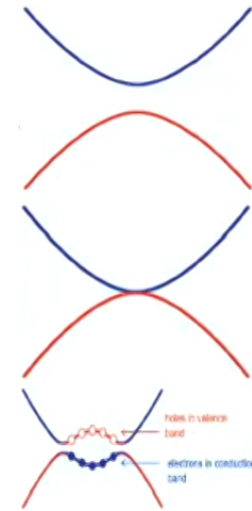
# n insulator

y excitonic insulator

amiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{\mathbf{ek}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{ek}} + \psi_{\mathbf{hk}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{hk}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{ek}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h-k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

with  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = (k^2 + m_D)/2$ ;  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = v(k_x + ik_y)$ .



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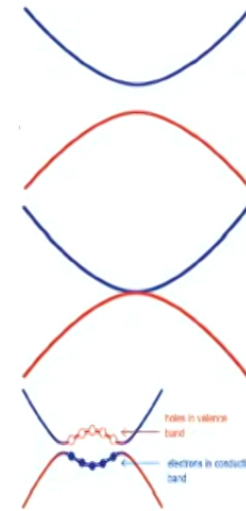
amiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{e\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{e\mathbf{k}} + \psi_{h\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{h\mathbf{k}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{e\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{h-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

with  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = (k^2 + m_D)/2$ ;  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = v(k_x + ik_y)$ .

“BCS” ground state Read and Green '00

$$|\psi_{m=1}\rangle = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} (u_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{e\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{h-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger) |0\rangle,$$





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# n insulator

y excitonic insulator

## amiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{\mathbf{ek}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{ek}} + \psi_{\mathbf{hk}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{hk}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{ek}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h-k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

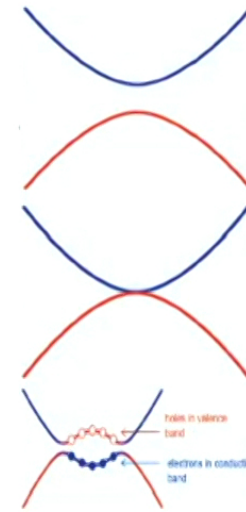
with  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = (k^2 + m_D)/2$ ;  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = v(k_x + ik_y)$ .

“BCS” ground state Read and Green '00

$$|\psi_{m=1}\rangle = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} (u_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{ek}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h-k}}^\dagger) |0\rangle,$$

Pairing function

$$g_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{v_{\mathbf{k}}}{u_{\mathbf{k}}} \Leftrightarrow g(z = x + iy \rightarrow \infty) = \begin{cases} m_D > 0 & e^{-|z|/\xi} \\ m_D < 0 & \frac{1}{z} \end{cases}$$





# n insulator

y excitonic insulator

## hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{e\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{e\mathbf{k}} + \psi_{h\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{h\mathbf{k}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{e\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{h-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

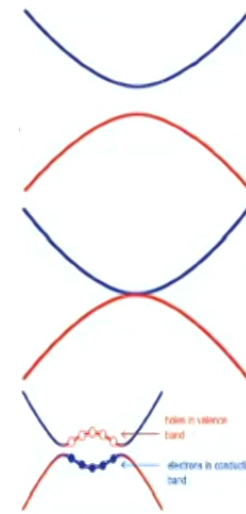
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p-wave excitonic condensate

$$|\psi_{m=1}\rangle = \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \frac{f^N}{N!} |\psi_{m=1}^N\rangle \propto e^{\int dz dw g(z-w) \psi_e^\dagger(z) \psi_h^\dagger(w)} |0\rangle$$

$$m_D = -v^2 \rightarrow \psi_{m=1}^N(\{z_i, w_j\}) = \det [g(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{w})]$$

$$= \frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'}) \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'})}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)}$$





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## Fibonacci Topological Superconductor

Majorana fermions in topological SC

Fibonacci anyons from interacting Majorana fermions

Network construction

## Fractional Excitonic Insulator

Chern insulator as  $p_x + ip_y$  excitonic insulator

Fractional excitonic insulator phase

Higher angular momentum band inversion





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## fractional excitonic insulator

### Wavefunction

$$\psi_m^N(\{z_i, w_j\}) = \frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'})^m \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'})^m}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m}$$

(see also Dubail and Read '15)

$$|\psi_m\rangle = \sum_N \frac{f^N}{N!} |\psi_m^N\rangle \text{ with } f = \frac{\nu}{2\pi}.$$

Similar to Laughlin(or Halperin) type wavefunction, except:

- ▶ No Gaussian factor
- ▶ Singular denominator



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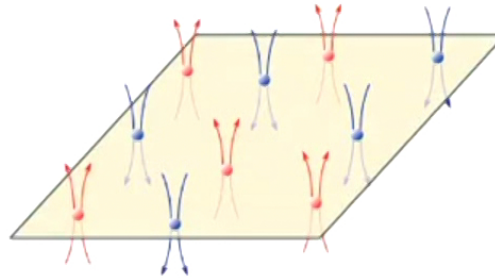




# fractional excitonic insulator

fractional quantum Hall physics?

composite fermion theory



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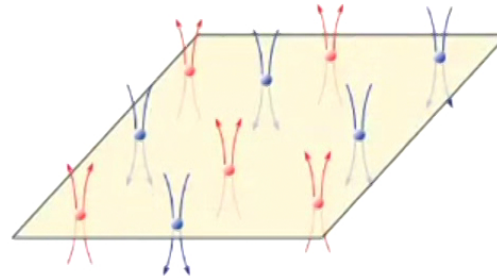


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# fractional excitonic insulator

fractional quantum Hall physics?

composite fermion theory



Singular gauge transformation

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{a} = 2\pi(m-1)(\psi_e^\dagger \psi_e - \psi_h^\dagger \psi_h)$$



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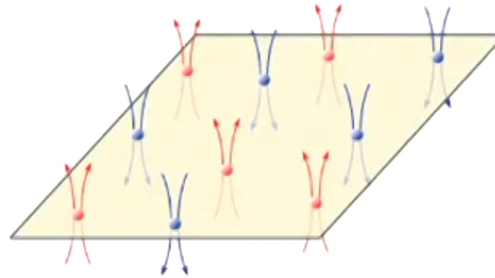


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# fractional excitonic insulator

fractional quantum Hall physics?

## Composite fermion theory



### Singular gauge transformation

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{a} = 2\pi(m - 1)(\psi_e^\dagger \psi_e - \psi_h^\dagger \psi_h)$$

### Mean field

If  $\langle \rho_e \rangle = \langle \rho_h \rangle$ , then  $B_{av} = 0$ .

Composite fermions form Chern insulator ( $C = 1$ )  $\Leftrightarrow$  original fermions form a FQH fluid with  $\sigma_{xy} = \frac{1}{m} \frac{e^2}{h}$ .







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# fractional excitonic insulator

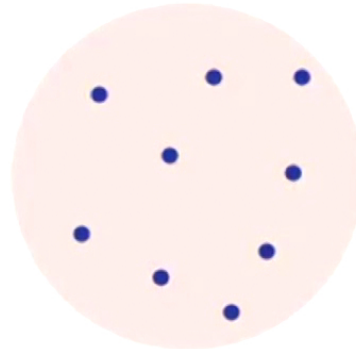
fractional quantum Hall physics?

## plasma analogy for Laughlin's wavefunction

$\langle \psi_m | \psi_m \rangle =$  partition function for classical plasma.

$$-\beta V = \sum_{i < j} 2mq_i q_j \log |z_i - z_j| / \xi.$$

$$\prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^m e^{-\sum_i |z_i|^2 / 4l_B^2} \quad \begin{cases} m \lesssim 11 & \text{fluid (screening plasma)} \\ m \gtrsim 11 & \text{Wigner crystal} \end{cases}$$





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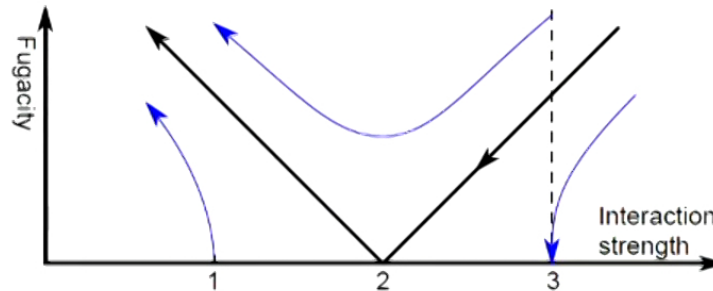
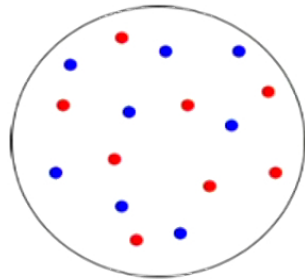
# fractional excitonic insulator

fractional quantum Hall physics?

## Plasma analogy (see also Dubail and Read '15)

$\langle \psi_m | \psi_m \rangle =$  partition function for classical plasma.

$$-\beta V = \sum_{i < j} 2mq_i q_j \log |z_i - z_j| / \xi.$$





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## fractional excitonic insulator

We shall do just the opposite - start with a ground state and solve for the Hamiltonian, matching questions to answers as in the show "Jeopardy"

### Exact Question to the Answer Arovas and Girvin, '92

Define

$$Q_e(z) = 2\partial_{z^*}\psi_e - v_m(\partial_z - ia)^{m-1}\psi_h^\dagger$$

$$Q_h(z) = 2\partial_{z^*}\psi_h - v_m(\partial_z + ia)^{m-1}\psi_e^\dagger$$

with  $v_m = \frac{2\pi f}{(m-1)!}$  and  $a(z) = m \int d^2u \frac{\rho(u)}{i(z-u)}$ ;  $\rho = \psi_e^\dagger\psi_e - \psi_h^\dagger\psi_h$ .

$$Q_{e(h)}|\psi_m\rangle = 0$$

$$\mathcal{H}_m = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2z \left[ Q_e^\dagger(z)Q_e(z) + Q_h^\dagger(z)Q_h(z) \right].$$





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## Non-interacting excitonic insulator

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Non-interacting limit ( $a = 0$ )





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## Excitonic insulator

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### Non-interacting limit ( $a = 0$ )

- ▶  $m = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_1^{a=0}$  is the  $(p + ip)$  excitonic paired system.



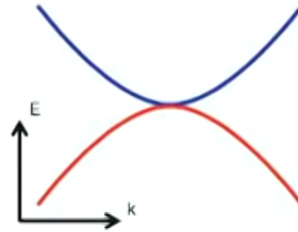


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# fractional excitonic insulator

"d" zeros

Hamiltonian



$$\mathcal{H}_m^{a=0} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}} + \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

with  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = k^2/2$ ;  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = v_m(k_x + ik_y)^m / 2^{m-1}$ .

## Wavefunction

$$g(z \rightarrow \infty) \propto \frac{1}{z^m}$$

$$\phi_m^N(\{z_i, w_j\}) = \det [g(z_i - w_j)] = \frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'}) \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'}) P(\{z_i, w_j\})}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m}$$





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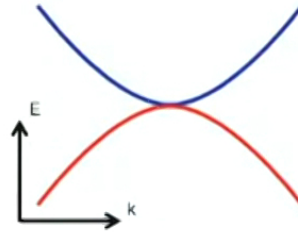


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# fractional excitonic insulator

"wasted" zeros

Hamiltonian



$$\mathcal{H}_m^{a=0} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}} + \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

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## Conjecture

Short-range repulsive interaction is effective at putting "wasted" zeros on top of particles.

$$\frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'}) \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'}) P(\{z_i, w_j\})}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m} \rightarrow \frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'})^m \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'})^m}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m}$$



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Higher angular momentum band inversion



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## Fractional Excitonic Insulator

Chern insulator as  $p_x + ip_y$  excitonic insulator

$$\underline{j'}P(\{z_i, w_j\})$$

Fractional excitonic insulator phase

Higher angular momentum band inversion



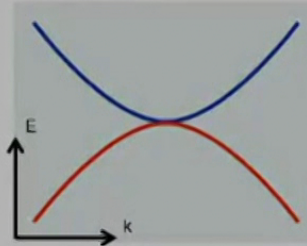


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# fractional excitonic insulator

"wasted" zeros

Hamiltonian



$$\mathcal{H}_m^{a=0} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} (\psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}} + \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{k}}) + \Delta_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \psi_{\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + h.c.,$$

with  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = k^2/2$ ;  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}} = v_m(k_x + ik_y)^m / 2^{m-1}$ .

## Wavefunction

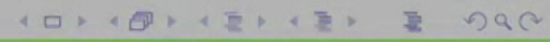
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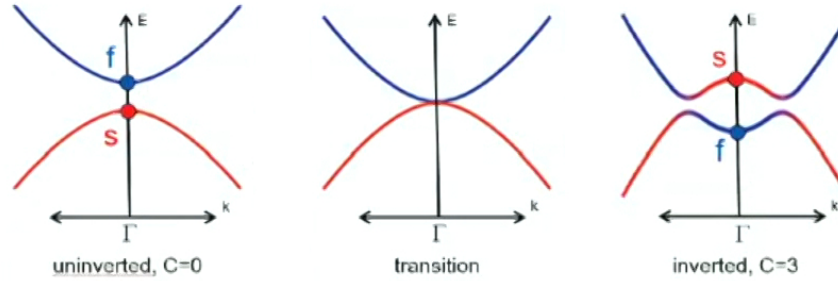
$$\frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'}) \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'}) P(\{z_i, w_j\})}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m} \rightarrow \frac{\prod_{i < i'} (z_i - z_{i'})^m \prod_{j < j'} (w_j - w_{j'})^m}{\prod_{i,j} (z_i - w_j)^m}$$





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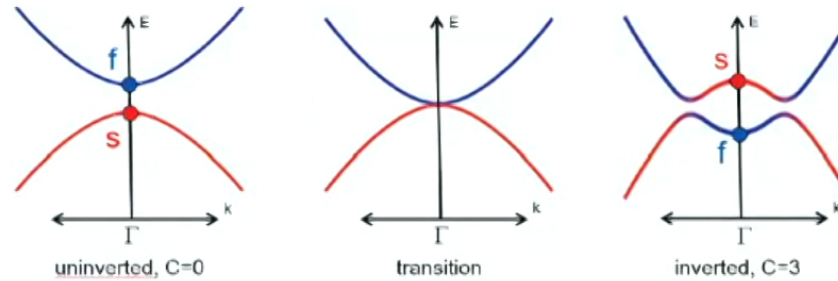
# Higher angular momentum (HAM) band inversion





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# Higher angular momentum (HAM) band inversion



- ▶  $C_6$  rotational symmetry
- ▶ Invert bands differ in angular momentum by 3 at  $\Gamma$
- ▶ Chern number changes by 3 at transition
- ▶ Quadratic band touching  $\rightarrow$  interactions are important
- ▶ Target for band structure engineering (see arXiv:1809.10665)



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## Conclusion

### Summary

- ▶ Interactions near topological phase transitions=Strongly interacting topological phases?
- ▶ the Fibonacci phase in topological superconducting systems
- ▶ Fractional excitonic insulator phase

### Future directions

- ▶ **Phase diagram**
- ▶ **Materials** with higher angular momentum inversion.
- ▶ **Extensions** to other strongly interacting topological phases.

