

Anyonic Topological Order in Twisted Equivariant Differential (TED) K-Theory

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Abstract

While the classification of non-interacting crystalline topological insulator phases by equivariant K-theory has become widely accepted, its generalization to anyonic interacting phases – hence to phases with topologically ordered ground states supporting topological braid quantum gates – has remained wide open.

On the contrary, the success of K-theory with classifying non-interacting phases seems to have tacitly been perceived as precluding a K-theoretic classification of interacting topological order; and instead a mix of other proposals has been explored. However, only K-theory connects closely to the actual physics of valence electrons; and self-consistency demands that any other proposal must connect to K-theory.

Here we provide a detailed argument for the classification of symmetry protected/enhanced \mathfrak{su}_2 -anyonic topological order, specifically in interacting 2d semi-metals, by the *twisted equivariant differential* (TED) K-theory of *configuration spaces of points* in the complement of nodal points inside the crystal’s Brillouin torus orbifold.

We argue, in particular, that:

- (1) topological 2d semi-metal phases modulo global mass terms are classified by the *flat differential* twisted equivariant K-theory of the complement of the nodal points;
- (2) n -electron interacting phases are classified by the K-theory of configuration spaces of n points in the Brillouin torus;
- (3) the somewhat neglected twisting of equivariant K-theory by “inner local systems” reflects the effective “fictitious” gauge interaction of Chen, Wilceck, Witten & Halperin (1989), which turns fermions into anyonic quanta;
- (4) the induced \mathfrak{su}_2 -anyonic topological order is reflected in the *twisted* Chern classes of the interacting valence bundle over configuration space, constituting the *hypergeometric integral construction* of monodromy braid representations.

A tight dictionary relates these arguments to those for classifying defect brane charges in string theory [SS22-Any], which we expect to be the images of momentum-space \mathfrak{su}_2 -anyons under a non-perturbative version of the AdS/CMT correspondence.

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1 Introduction

A profound and celebrated conjecture in condensed matter theory (reviewed in §2) says that symmetry-protected/enhanced “topological phases” of *non-interacting*¹ gapped crystalline materials – “topological insulators” – are classified, up to adiabatic deformations (Rem. 1.1), by the twisted equivariant topological K-theory of their Brillouin tori, orbi-orientifolded by the crystallographic point group and/or by CPT quantum symmetry groups. There is some experimental evidence and some theoretical arguments for this conjecture, which have been repeated in a wealth of publications on the subject, but there have remained conceptual gaps (see Rem. 2.7) large enough that one of the most highly cited sources for the statement actually dis-claimed it:

Although [K-theory] is used in the condensed matter literature, it is not clear to us that it is well motivated.
[FM12, p. 57]

To start with, on this point we observe below (see Fact 2.3) that careful mathematical analysis of free-electron field theory in background fields shows [KS77][CHO82] that (relativistic) quantum ground states of free electrons in Coulomb potentials are classified by *Fredholm operators*, and hence that valence electron states in crystals ought to be classified by Bloch families of Fredholm operators (Conjecture 2.4). But it is a classical result that families of Fredholm operators are, in turn, classified by K-theory; in fact it is the Fredholm-operator picture which most naturally supports twisted equivariant K-theory ([AS04][SS21-Bun][SS22-Any][SS22-TED]). We suggest that this logic is what ties K-theory to the classification of topological insulators (Fact 2.5).

At the same time, much of the thrust in the field of topological phases of matter lies *beyond topological insulator-phases* [TV13] in semi-metallic and/or topologically ordered interacting phases (recalled in §3): It is topological order which supports the most drastic expected application of topological physics – namely to topological quantum computation by braiding of anyonic defects (Rem. 1.1, [SS22-TQC]); and it is topological semi-metal phases which may be the most realistic substrate for topological order, namely for momentum-space anyons (Rem. 3.9).

In summary, this means that a major open problem in the condensed matter theory of topological phases has been to provide a *detailed argument* for a classification of crystalline topological phases *subsuming all* of: (1) free, (2) semi-metallic, (3) interacting, and (4) topologically ordered phases, such that – at least on free and globally gapped phases – it reduces to the twisted equivariant K-theory of the orbi-orientifolded Brioullin torus.

Here we offer such a detailed argument, leading to the conjecture (Conjectures 3.7, 3.19) that the complete classification of crystalline topological phases of matter – subsuming the traditional folklore for topological insulators but encompassing also interacting SPT semi-metal phases and their anyonic topological order – is given by the twisted equivariant differential (TED) K-theory of configuration spaces of points inside the complement of nodal points in the orbi-orientifolded Brillouin torus. We phrase this as a conjecture to stay true to the standards in mathematical physics, but the level of supporting arguments we provide seems to be no less than what supports related statements in topological condensed matter theory.

The key mathematical insight which makes this work is the recent result of the authors [SS22-Any]: A “well-known”, but previously somewhat neglected, extra twisting of equivariant K-theory by “inner local systems” makes the twisted equivariant K-theory of “internal” $\mathbb{Z}_\kappa \subset U(1)$ -symmetry (§2.3) have (twisted) Chern characters in de Rham cohomology with local systems of coefficients. Furthermore, on configuration spaces this twisted cohomology constitutes the “hypergeometric integral-construction” of anyonic braid group representations. This is the content of the concluding section §3.3.

In unwinding this mathematical statement we find a neat match between the various physical phenomena involved and the fine detail of the inner workings of stacky Fredholm-operator TED-K theory. For instance, beyond the now famous reflection of the “10-fold way” of CPT quantum symmetries in the internal twists of KR-theory (Fact. 2.12, which we review in streamlined form in §2.2) we find that the traditional “fictitious gauge field”, which encodes the effective interactions of anyonic quanta (*Table 2*), is identified with the “inner local system”-twist of TED-K theory; and the *logarithmic* conformal block structure of topologically ordered ground states emerges from the “delocalized” direct sum nature of equivariant K-theory (see below *Figure 13*).

In [SS22-Any], these same mathematical results were matched to phenomena expected for defect branes in string theory, as part of the authors’ program of understanding “M-theory” in terms of the generalized cohomology of Cohomotopy moduli stacks (see [SS22-Conf][CSS21]). Indeed, there is a tight dictionary (*Table 1*) relating condensed matter theory (CMT) to stringy brane physics via TED-K-theory, reminiscent of the expectations in the AdS/CMT correspondence (Rem. 2.8).

¹ Here “non-interacting” means that the screened/dressed electrons in the crystalline material may be well approximated as not interacting with each other, but just with the effective classical Coulomb field of the crystal lattice (e.g. [Li06, §4.5], cf. Fact 2.3). Technically, this means that the ground state of the crystalline material is well approximated by filling the lowest single-electron *Bloch states* (recalled as Fact 2.1 below). We go beyond this approximation in §3.2

By way of outlook, the comprehensive reflection which we establish, of crystalline topological phases of matter in the mathematics of TED-K-theory of configuration spaces, provides new theoretical leverage for further investigations, notably into topological quantum computation (Rem. 1.1). We are discussing this in [SS22-TQC].

Outline:

- §2 reviews the expected/accepted K-theoretic classification of crystalline free fermion topological phases. Here we prepare the ground for §3 by phrasing all K-theory constructions in terms of the cohesive moduli stack of Fredholm operators, developed in [SS21-Bun][SS22-Any][SS22-TED]. The dictionary (Table 1) between this twisted equivariant K-theory and the physics of valence electrons (as well as that of stable D-branes, see Rem. 2.8) is so close that readers familiar with one of the sides may regard it as providing the explanation of the other(s).
- §3 presents our argument for generalizing the K-theory classification *beyond topological insulators*, namely to (2d) topological semi-metals and to their interacting topologically ordered phases.

In closing this introduction we recall the following general principle, which appears in several guises in the main text.

Remark 1.1 (Adiabatic transformations of parameterized quantum systems). A *parameterized* quantum system is a set of quantum systems continuously parameterized by a “classical” parameter space. A basic example are time-dependent quantum systems, dependent on a time classical parameter. The examples of interest here are:

1. Bloch states parameterized by a Bloch momentum (Fact 2.1);
2. topologically ordered phases of matter parameterized by the (time-dependent) positions of anyonic defects (§3.2).

The *quantum adiabatic theorem* ([BF28][Ka50][Nen80]) states that in the limit of arbitrarily slow movement of its parameters (relative to the relaxation time of the quantum system), a parameterized quantum system remains in a joint eigenstate of a given commuting set of quantum observables, even if the eigenvalues change significantly. This means that the paths in the parameter space of a parameterized quantum system define, by adiabatic movement of the system along these paths, unitary transformations of the system’s eigenspaces, compatible under composition of paths. These are known as (non-abelian) *Berry phases* ([Be84][WZ84], review includes [St20, §2][CS21, §IV.C]).

The adiabatic parameter-action on ground-states of quantum materials is one model for quantum computation (“adiabatic quantum computation”, e.g. [AL16][CLBFN15]). When these *adiabatic quantum gates* depend only on the isotopy classes of paths in parameter space, and when these are non-trivial – such as when the parameter space is a configuration space (47) of positions/momenta of *defect anyons* in a 2d crystal/Brillouin torus (Table 5) – then we are dealing with *topological quantum computation via braid quantum gates*.

This is a popular idea (review includes [St20][FS18][RW18], going back to [Ki03][FKLW03][FLW02][NSSFS08]) but has remained somewhat elusive, both theoretically (cf. [Ki06, p. 8][SRN15, p. 7-8]) as well as experimentally ([Kou+21][Kou+22]). The new theory presented in §3 may help elucidate the issue.

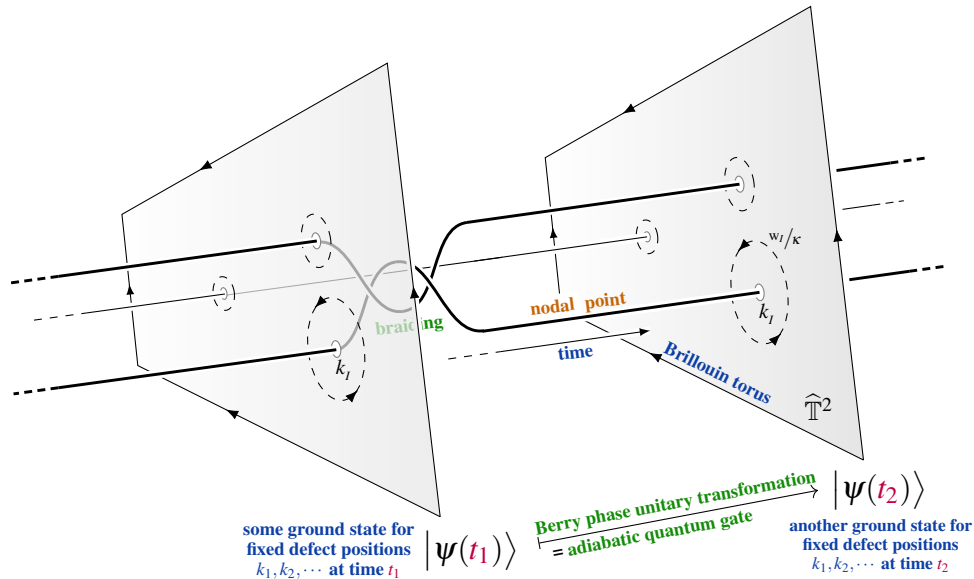


Figure 1 – Adiabatic braid quantum gate. Schematically indicated is the unitary transformation induced on the topologically ordered ground state (as discussed below in §3.3) of an effectively 2-dimensional topological semi-metal (as in §3.1) under adiabatic braiding (Rem. 1.1) of nodal points in the Brillouin torus (Rem. 3.9).

2 TED-K classifies free topological phases

The following is a joint review, with some new developments, of:

1. the basic idea of non-interacting gapped *topological phases* of crystalline quantum materials (topological insulators),
2. the general concept of *twisted equivariant KR-theory*, and
3. the classification of symmetry protected crystalline topological phases by the twisted equivariant K-theory of the material’s crystallographic orbi-orientifold Brillouin torus.

The basic idea of topological phases of quantum materials is the following syllogism:

- (A) The topic of *topology* (e.g. [Mu00][tD08]) is, in essence, invariance under “gentle” (continuous) deformations.
- (B) The eponymous hallmark of *quantum physics* (e.g. [Na03, §1][La17]) is transitions occurring in potentially discrete quanta of energies.
- (C) Therefore, a quantum material’s ground state whose possible excitations are separated by an energy *gap* is invariant under deformations which are “gentle” (technically: *adiabatic*, Rem. 1.1) in that they do not bring in energy above the gap. The global properties of such *gapped systems* in their ground state should hence be well-described by topology.

In itself, the phenomenon of energy gaps in quantum physics is not exotic, on the contrary: For practically isolated atoms, such as those in dilute gases, the energy gaps between their excitations are famous since the dawn of quantum theory. But since there is no external parameter to tune these gapped ground states, there is no non-trivial topological property associated with them.

However, when many atoms *condense* to form tightly packed solid matter such as crystalline materials, then the electron orbitals of the individual atomic sites in the crystal overlap to form mixed states whose energy gaps generically shrink away (e.g. [Li06, Fig. 4.3, 4.17]). Hence if very special conditions are met so that a condensed matter system retains an energy gap, then it may have a degenerate ground state below that gap which is characterized by non-trivial topological properties (such as a non-trivial valence bundle). These are the exotic *topological phases of matter* of interest here (e.g. [FC13][MM21]).

We now elaborate on all this in more detail.

2.1 Relativistic electron vacua and topological K-theory

Crystalline Brillouin torus of quasi-momenta. In the spirit of Klein’s Erlanger program, the geometry of (ideal) d dimensional crystals is essentially the group and representation theory of their symmetry groups: Such a *crystallographic group* G_{chr} (e.g. [Hi1903][Mi72, §2][Fa81][En86]) – is an extension by a full lattice $\mathbb{Z}^d \simeq \Lambda \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ (e.g. [EMS04, §1.2.1]) – representing translations along the *crystal lattice* – of a finite *point group* $G \subset O(d)$ of orthogonal transformations:²

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & 1 & & 1 & \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 \text{Crystal} & \Lambda & \longleftrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^d & \text{Euclidean} \\
 \text{lattice} & & & & \text{translation} \\
 \text{(full)} & & & & \text{group} \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 \text{Crystallographic} & G_{\text{cr}} & \longleftrightarrow & \mathbb{R}^d \rtimes O(d) & \text{Euclidean} \\
 \text{group} & & & & \text{isometry} \\
 \text{(discrete)} & & & & \text{group} \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 \text{Point} & G_{\text{pt}} & \longleftrightarrow & O(d) & \text{Euclidean} \\
 \text{group} & & & & \text{rotation} \\
 \text{(finite)} & & & & \text{group} \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\
 & 1 & & 1 &
 \end{array} \tag{1}$$

The corresponding *dual lattice* (e.g. [RS78, p. 311][To17, §2.2.2], in CMT often: “reciprocal lattice” [Ki53, p. 27]) characterizes the space of distinguishable wave-vectors/momenta (of electrons, phonons, ...) in the crystal, which is the *Brillouin torus* (e.g. [FM12, p. 57]):

$$\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d := \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbb{R}) / \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \text{Hom}(\Lambda, \text{U}(1)). \tag{2}$$

Notice that the Brillouin torus inherits an action of the point group G_{pt} ; we come back to this below in §2.2:

$$G_{\text{pt}} \curvearrowright \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d = \text{Hom}(G_{\text{pt}} \curvearrowright \Lambda, \text{U}(1)) \tag{3}$$

²Historically, the original notion of “crystallographic group” was less explicit, defined to be any discrete subgroup $G_{\text{cr}} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \rtimes O(d)$ such that the corresponding quotient group is compact (review in [Fa81, §III]). That this implies (a) the translations sub-group being a full lattice and (b) the point group being finite, as shown in (1), is known as *Bieberbach’s first theorem* ([Bi1910, §III][Fa81, Thm. 14][Ch86, Thm. I 3.1], see also [To20, Thm. 2.3]).

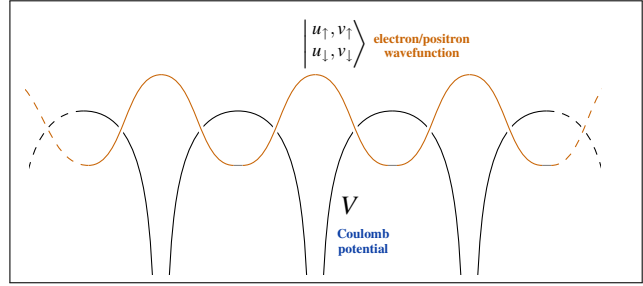
Bloch states of electrons and the valence vector bundle. By lattice-translation invariance, the energies of excitations of a crystal depend *independently* on:

1. their wave-vector k , which ranges through the *Brillouin torus* $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ (2);
2. their internal degrees of freedom, such as the atomic sites in a unit cell, their atomic orbitals and the spin degrees of freedom of the electrons that are involved in the excitation.

Figure 2. Schematics of a Bloch wave state in a periodic (crystalline) Coulomb potential background (e.g. [Rö04, Fig. 2.1][Li06, Fig. 4.5] [Van18, Fig. 4.1, 4.9]). The actual Bloch wave functions are periodic only up to a complex phase (not shown here) depending on the inverse wave-length k (see Fact 2.1).

The possible positronic admixture indicated in the figure (cf. [KS77, (2.3)] [Th92, §1.4.6]) is traditionally first disregarded in solid state physics, but later implicitly re-invoked to account for spin-orbit coupling (cf. Ex. 3.5).

We find that taking positronic contributions to the valence bundle into account (see Fact 2.3) is crucial for bringing out the expected K-theoretic classification of topological insulators (see Fact 2.5).



Fact 2.1 (Energy levels of free electron/positrons in the Coulomb potential of a crystal lattice). *The Hilbert space of states of a single electron propagating in the Coulomb potential of the lattice of nuclei inside a crystal ([RS78, p. 312]) may be identified with the space of square integrable sections of an infinite-rank Hilbert space bundle $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \times \mathcal{B}$ over the Brillouin torus $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ (2), such that the total Hamiltonian is the direct integral [RS78, (137)] of Hamiltonians H_k acting on the fibers (the “Bloch-Floquet transform”, e.g. [RS78, Thm. XIII.99][FM12, (D.19-22)][MP15, §1.1]):*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{Quantum system of} \\ \text{single electron/positron} \\ \text{in crystal lattice} \end{array} & \xrightarrow{\text{Bloch-Floquet transform}} & \begin{array}{c} \text{Direct integral of} \\ \text{Bloch wave systems} \end{array} \\
 \begin{array}{c} \text{Hilbert space of} \\ \text{quantum states} \end{array} \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \int_{k \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d} (\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}) \, d^d k \simeq L^2(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d; (\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H})) \\
 \text{Hamiltonian} \quad H & \longmapsto & \int_{k \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d} H_k \, d^d k \quad \text{Direct integral of Bloch Hamiltonians}
 \end{array} \quad (4)$$

Square integrable sections of relativistic Bloch bundle

The collections of available energies at fixed k (hence the eigenvalue spectra of the Bloch Hamiltonians H_k) form graphs over the Brillouin torus, called the *energy bands* (e.g. [See04, §2][Li06, §1], see *Figure 3*).

In its ground state under given ambient conditions (strain, temperature, etc.), the material is in the Fock state which inhabits all the electron quantum states of energy $\leq \mu_F$, where $\mu_F \in \mathbb{R}$ is the chemical potential (or Fermi energy). If this energy lies in a *band gap* then the band right below the gap energy is called the *valence bundle*, while the band right above is called the *conduction bundle*. Accordingly, we will say that the sub-bundle of Bloch states of energy below the gap (e.g. [FM12, Prop. D.13]) is the *valence bundle*:³

$$\text{Valence bundle} \quad \mathcal{V} = \left\{ k \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d, |\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{B}_k \mid |\langle \psi | H_k | \psi \rangle| \leq \mu_F \right\} \subset \mathcal{B} \quad \text{Bundle of all relativistic Bloch states} \quad (5)$$

Depending on the position of the lowest energy bands in relation to the maximal energy at which modes are excited (“occupied”) in the material (the *Fermi energy* or “chemical potential” μ_F) the material is (e.g. [RS78, p. 314]):

1. a *metallconductor* if the chemical potential is inside an energy band;
2. a *semi-conductor* if the chemical potential is inside a small gap between two bands;
3. an *insulator* if the chemical potential is inside a substantial gap between bands.

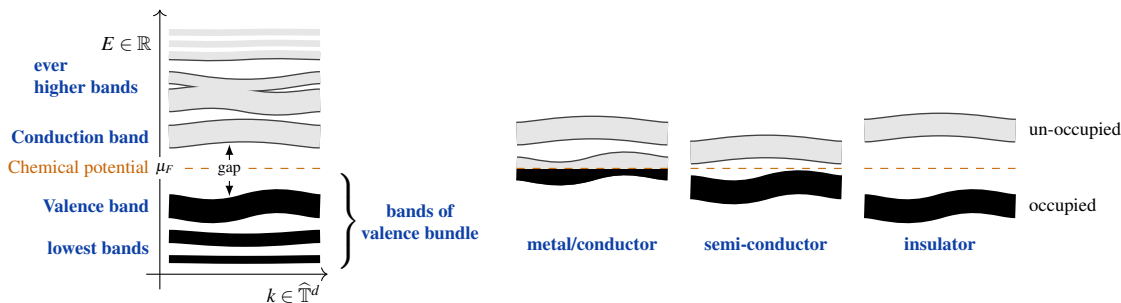


Figure 3 – Electron band structure in crystals. The remaining case of *semi-metals* is shown in *Figure 6*.

We are to be concerned with *topological insulators*: those insulators whose valence bundle has a non-trivial K-class.

³Sometimes (e.g. in [Pa06] and its followups ([DNL11][MP15]), the “valence bundle” (5) is called the “Bloch bundle”. This seems unnecessarily confusing (cf. [FC13, p. 5]), since “Bloch bundle” would instead seem to be the canonical name for the full bundle \mathcal{B} of all Bloch states.

The electron/positron field and Fredholm operators. Fact 2.1 serves to determine the energy levels of single electrons in the crystal (Figure 3). But even in the approximation of non-interacting¹ electrons in a background of fixed (possibly screened) nuclei in the crystal, the proper description of the electronic ground state – hence of the valence bundle – requires treating them as excitations of the “second quantized” free relativistic Dirac field (e.g. [Th92][St98]) subject to the classical electromagnetic background sourced by the comparatively heavy nuclei (see also [Bon18][HLS05]).

Indeed, the electron’s spin-orbit coupling (e.g. [Ma19, (10)]) – a key phenomenon underlying the existence of topological insulators outside of an external magnetic field (*quantum spin Hall* materials [MHZ11]) – is a relativistic effect invisible in the non-relativistic approximation. But in this relativistic description, the single electron Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is necessarily accompanied by a copy of the single *positron*⁴ Hilbert space, to form a \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}$ of the single Dirac particle.

We now observe (Fact 2.3 below) that these charged electron/positron ground states are naturally encoded by Fredholm operators and, as such, naturally classified by K-theory (Fact 2.5 below). To appreciate this, recall that a *Fredholm operator* ([AA67, App.], review in [Ar02, §33]) is a bounded linear map between Hilbert spaces, whose kernel and cokernel are of finite dimension:

$$\left\{ \psi \in \mathcal{H} \mid \forall \phi \langle \phi | F | \psi \rangle = 0 \right\} \simeq \ker(F) \xrightarrow[\text{finite-dimensional kernel}]{\text{Fredholm operator } F} \mathcal{H} \xrightarrow[\text{bounded linear}]{} \mathcal{H} \twoheadrightarrow \text{coker}(F) \simeq \left\{ \psi \in \mathcal{H} \mid \forall \phi \langle \psi | F | \phi \rangle = 0 \right\}. \quad (6)$$

finite-dimensional cokernel

The *index* of a Fredholm operator is the difference of these dimensions:

$$\text{ind}(F) := \dim(\ker(F)) - \dim(\text{coker}(F)) \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (7)$$

Fredholm index

Example 2.2 (Raising and lowering operators). To get an intuition for Fredholm operators, choose an ordered Hilbert space basis $\{|E_n\rangle \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ for \mathcal{H} (4) with linear shift operators c, a given by $c|E_n\rangle := |E_{n+1}\rangle, a|E_{n+1}\rangle := |E_n\rangle, a|E_0\rangle = 0$. Then, for all $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, the following composite raising/lowering operator is Fredholm, with its index measuring a *net* shift in “energy levels”:

$$F := c^n a^m \Rightarrow \ker(F) \simeq \text{span}\{E_k \mid k < m\}, \quad \text{coker}(F) \simeq \text{span}\{E_k \mid k < n\}, \quad \text{ind}(F) = m - n.$$

The nature of this simple example may help to conceptualize the following profound example:

Fact 2.3 (Fermi sea ground states of the relativistic free electron/positron field in the Coulomb potential of a crystal lattice). *The Fermi sea ground states of the free electron/positron field in a classical Coulomb potential (“dressed vacua”, see Figure 2) are characterized by Fredholm operators (6) of the form*

$$F = \gamma \circ P_+ U P_+, \quad (8)$$

where

- (i) P_+ denotes the projector onto the single dressed electron Hilbert space \mathcal{H} ;
 - (ii) U denotes the unitary operator [KS77, (3.9)] on the single particle Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}$ which implements (e.g. [Th92, §10.2.1]) on the corresponding fermionic Fock space the transformation from the dressed to the bare field vacuum;
 - (iii) γ denotes an isomorphism exchanging the electron/positron summands: $\gamma \circ P_{\pm} = P_{\mp} \circ \gamma$;
- such that the total charge is given by the Fredholm index (7):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Electron states in dressed vacuum} & \ker(F) \longleftarrow \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \text{coker}(F) \\ & \oplus & \oplus \\ & \mathcal{H} & \\ \text{single positron Hilbert space} & & \text{Positron states in dressed vacuum} \end{array} \quad (9)$$

single electron Hilbert space
dressed vacuum Fredholm operator

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total charge in dressed vacuum} \quad \text{ind}(F) &= \text{number of electrons in dressed vacuum state} \quad \dim(\ker(F)) - \text{number of positrons in dressed vacuum state} \quad \dim(\text{coker}(F)) \\ &= \dim(\text{coker}(F^\dagger)) - \dim(\ker(F^\dagger)). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Proof. The first statement is due to [KS77] (the dressed vacuum appears in equation (3.48) there), while the second is made explicit in [CHO82]. In presenting this, there is freedom in choosing various isomorphisms; notably, in (8) we have used the freedom to postcompose the expression $P_+ U P_+$ considered in [CHO82, p. 364] with the isomorphism γ so that as to make not only its kernel but also its cokernel be subspaces of the dressed electron- and positron-Hilbert space, respectively (9). \square

⁴Here we speak of the fundamental but dressed electron/positron field ([KS77, (3.2)]) propagating in the electromagnetic background field ([KS77, (1.1) (2.12)]) that is sourced by the crystal’s nuclei and their tightly bound electrons. On the other hand, in solid state physics it is tradition to speak of an effective “electron/hole” field, which practically refers to the creation/annihilation operators in ad-hoc Fock space Hamiltonians (such as lattice hopping models) which are imagined to provide a tractable effective description of the complicated real physics embodied by the fundamental electron/hole field.

Relativistic Bloch Hamiltonians and topological K-theory. The (anti-)particle physics of Fact 2.3 clearly suggests to regard the Fredholm operator F as odd-graded and as a summand in a self-adjoint operator $\widehat{F} := F + F^\dagger$, as shown above. Strikingly, this also turns out, much less obviously so ([AtSi69][Ka70]), to be the most fruitful mathematical definition of Fredholm operators; so that we take the space of all Fredholm operators (suitably topologized, see [AS04, Def. 3.2][FHT11, Def. A.39]) to be:

$$\text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bounded self-adjoint operators} \\ \text{of odd degree on } \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H} \\ \text{with finite-dimensional (co-)kernels} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bounded oper. } \widehat{F} : \mathcal{H}^2 \xrightarrow[\mathbb{C}\text{-linear}]{\text{bounded}} \mathcal{H}^2 \\ \text{Odd degree } \widehat{F} \circ \beta = -\beta \circ \widehat{F} \\ \text{Self-adjoint } \widehat{F}^* = \widehat{F} := F + F^* \\ \text{Fredholm } \dim(\ker(\widehat{F})) < \infty \end{array} \right\}. \quad (11)$$

Here $\beta := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ denotes the grading operator as usual in Dirac theory (e.g. [Th92, (1.9)]).

In combining Fact 2.1 with Fact 2.3, the following statement seems rather plausible and its proof should be a fairly straightforward variation on the analysis in [KS77]. But, since here is not the place to enter into detailed solid state physics, we state this as a conjecture (cf. Rem. 2.7 below):

Conjecture 2.4 (Families of relativistic Bloch vacua). *Under passage through the Bloch-Floquet transform of Fact 2.1:*

- (i) *The analogous statement of Fact 2.3 applies to each of the Bloch Hamiltonians (4) of relevance for topological insulators.*
- (ii) *The resulting family $F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}$ of Fredholm operators over the Brillouin torus is continuous.*
- (iii) *Its homotopy class corresponds to the physical deformation class of the crystalline material.*

The first two points of Conjecture 2.4 mean that the Fredholm operator (9) decomposes into a family of what we might call ‘‘Bloch Fredholm operators’’, being a continuous function of momenta in the Brillouin torus with values in the space Fred (11):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Bloch family of} & F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2} : \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 & \xrightarrow{\text{cnts}} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 \\ \text{Fredholm operators} & & \text{Topological space of} \\ & & \text{all Fredholm operators.} \end{array} \quad (12)$$

This is, equivalently, a morphism of Bloch state bundles (4) which is fiberwise Fredholm, so that its kernel and cokernel are finite-rank sub-bundles, to be thought of here as the valence bundle of electron and of positron states, respectively:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Bloch bundle of electron states} & & \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}^\dagger} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{\quad} \text{coker}(F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}^\dagger) \text{ valence bundle} \\ & \searrow \text{Bloch family of dressed} & \text{of electron states} \\ & \text{vacuum Fredholm operators} & \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{\quad} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{\quad} \text{coker}(F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}) \text{ anti-valence bundle} \\ & \text{Bloch bundle of positron states} & \text{of positron states} \end{array} \quad (13)$$

The third point of Conjecture 2.4 means that *homotopies* of such Fredholm families, namely continuous 1-parameter deformations of them

$$F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2} \underset{\text{htpy}}{\sim} F'_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2} : \begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}} & \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0, \\ \downarrow & \dashrightarrow \exists \text{---} & \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times [0, 1] & & \\ \uparrow & & \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \times \{0\} & \xrightarrow{F_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2}} & \end{array}$$

correspond to sufficiently gentle (e.g. adiabatic, Rem. 1.1) deformations of the physical material and its properties.

Now it is a famous fact about topological K-theory ([Ka70][AS04, p. 14][FHT11, §A.5], which the non-expert reader may take as the definition) that for any compact domain space X , such homotopy classes of Fredholm operators are in natural bijection to the K-cohomology group of X (the *Atiyah-Jänich Theorem* [Jä65][AA67], see [BB77][Ka78]), namely to the group completion $\{[\mathcal{V}] - [\mathcal{W}] \mid [\mathcal{V}], [\mathcal{W}]\}$ of the semigroup (under fiberwise direct sum) of stable equivalence classes $[\mathcal{V}]$ of complex vector bundles \mathcal{V} on X :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Homotopy classes of continuous} & \left\{ X \xrightarrow{\text{cnts}} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 \right\} & \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{KU}^0(X) \text{ Complex K-cohomology} \\ \text{families of Fredholm operators} & / \sim_{\text{htpy}} & \\ & F_X & \longmapsto [\ker(F_X)] - [\text{coker}(F_X)]. \end{array} \quad (14)$$

In more generality, there is an analogous statement – discussed around (19) below – for the case that the crystal’s dynamics, and hence the families of Fredholm operators that characterize its ground state valence bundle, obey certain ‘‘quantum symmetries’’, in which case the ‘‘K-theory’’ appearing here is to be understood as referring *twisted equivariant K-theory*.

Therefore:

Fact 2.5 (K-Theory classification of topological insulators). *Assuming Conjecture 2.4, the deformation classes of non-interacting crystalline topological insulators are classified by the topological K-theory class of the formal difference between the electronic valence bundle and the positronic anti-valence bundle over the material’s Brillouin torus.*

Proof. By Fact 2.3 and Conjecture 2.4, the topological phase is characterized by the homotopy class of the family of Fredholm operators over the Brillouin torus which characterizes the dressed electron/positron field vacua of the Bloch Hamiltonians. By (14), this is the K-theory class of the virtual difference of the kernel and cokernel of these Fredholm operators. \square

Remark 2.6 (The role of relativistic band theory for topological phases). Concretely, the crux of the above discussion is the following: *In a proper relativistic treatment, the valence electron bundle of a topological insulator is accompanied by an anti-valence bundle of positrons which – while locally annihilating with valence electrons – may globally annihilate only up to a residue class in K-theory, thus reflecting the topological phase of the material.*

Compare this to the arguments traditionally provided in the literature:

Remark 2.7 (State of the K-theory classification of topological phases in the previous literature).

(i) The proposal of [Ki09], that topological insulators are classified by some form of K-theory has become folklore (e.g. [Th16][SSG17][SdBKP18]); but the available justification offered in existing literature seems not to have gone beyond the original motivation from [Ki09, p. 4], which – in its entirety – reads:

We generally augment by a trivial system, i.e., a set of local, disjoint modes, like inner atomic shells. This corresponds to adding an extra flat band on an insulator.

(ii) It seems to us that:

- (a) The quoted statement has not actually been supported by Bloch theory, in general. (Compare [Pa06][DNL11][FMP14a][FMP14b][MP15] for the kind of strong assumptions and hard analysis that is required to prove similar statements).
- (b) Even if this could be justified, it would motivate only the passage to the semigroup of *stable-* or *Murray-von Neumann-* equivalence classes (e.g. [RLL09, Def. 2.2.1, Prop. 2.2.2, 2.2.7]), but not passage to their K-theory class, which involves further *group completion* (e.g. [RLL09, Def. 2.3.3, Def. 3.1.4]; see [Bl86, §1.7] for translation).

Indeed, in [FM12], which has practically become the other main reference for the claim that K-theory classifies topological phases, the authors openly say that no such claim is made (p. 57):

Although [K-theory] is used in the condensed matter literature, it is not clear to us that it is well motivated.

(iii) Accordingly, it had remained unclear (cf. [Th15, §3], p. 7) even which K-theory class is supposed to characterize the topological phase: The first proposal of [FM12, p. 57] (“Type F”, p. 56) was to use the class of the formal difference between the valence bundle and some finite-rank conduction bundle, in an apparent attempt to identify the physics role of the group completion. The second proposal (“Type I”, p. 57), which is tacitly followed by later authors (notably [SSG17, §III.A][SdBKP18]) chooses to classify just the valence bundle, without commenting on how to find then a physics interpretation of the virtual bundles appearing in the K-theory classification, and highlighting that there is then no mathematical place for the physically important Hamiltonian inversion (i.e., the case $c = -1$ in [FM12, Def. 3.7] then plays no apparent role, as highlighted in lines 6-8 on p. 56, leading to the truncated classification statement of Cor. 10.28 there).

(iv) It seems to us that all these issues are resolved (as stated in Fact 2.5) by Fact 2.3 about proper relativistic band theory, where it is the admixture of positronic contributions that accurately brings out all the structure seen in the K-theory. While this still relies on a conjecture about details of the solid state physics (Conjecture 2.4), this conjecture makes no surprising claims and is concrete enough to allow fairly straightforward (if possibly laborious) verification.

Remark 2.8 (Analogy with D-branes in string theory and CMT/ST duality).

(i) The discussion culminating in Remark 2.6 reveals a close analogy (shown in *Table 1*) between the **K-theory classification** of:

- (1) **topological phases in solid state physics**, as discussed here in §2, and specifically of anyonic topological order as discussed below in §3;
- (2) **stable D-branes in string theory** ([Wi01], see [Fr08][GS17][GS19]) and here specifically of anyonic defect branes as discussed in [SS22-Any].

(ii) Indeed, the *AdS/CMT correspondence* predicts (e.g. [ZLSS15][HLS18][Za21]) that solid state systems as in the left column of *Table 1* may effectively approximate the worldvolume field theory on $N \gg 1$ coincident *classical* (“black”) branes in string theory.

(iii) *Table 1* suggests an identification between topological phases and D-brane vacua which remains valid for individual D-branes ($N \sim 1$, and here notably for those that are stable but non-supersymmetric) whose *quantum* ground states are elements of K-theory groups, here specifically of finite torsion subgroups (such as those classifying *TI*-semimetals in Exp. 3.3) for which a large N -limit does not even make sense.

(iv) But for such small value of N (i.e. in the large $1/N$ -limit) that is relevant for many topological phases of matter (cf. all the finite torsion subgroups in (31)), the string theory-side of the would-be AdS/CMT correspondence is known to be *strongly coupled*, and hence requires a formulation of the widely expected but elusive “M-theory”. It is in the context of proposing a (partial) mathematical solution (“Hypothesis H”, see pointers in [SS21-MF] and in [SS22-Any, Rem. 4.1]) to the problem of formulation M-theory that the reflection of anyonic topological order withing TED-K-theory was discovered in [SS22-Any].

(v) In particular, it is the passage from the K-theory of the plain domain space (here: of the Brillouin torus (2)) to that of its *configuration space of points* (see §3.2) which “Hypothesis H” predicts ([SS22-Conf]) as the non-perturbative – meaning: strongly-interacting – completion of brane charge quantization laws.

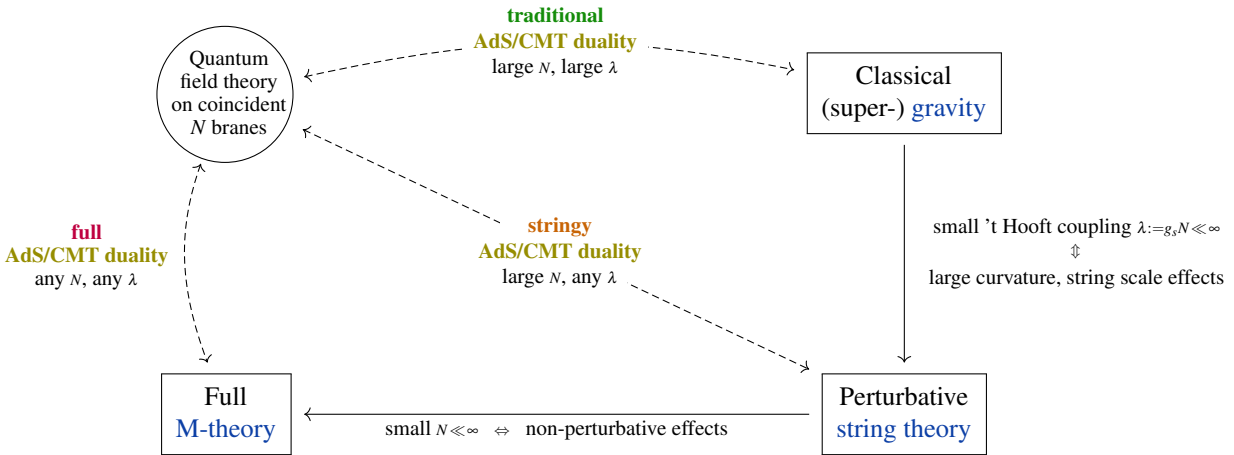


Figure 4 – Regimes of ST/CMT-duality. Holographic duality (Rem. 2.8) has been widely discussed in the regime of weakly coupled stringy bulk theory, and here mostly in the weakly curved regime of (super-)gravity. This is because the full duality – subsuming the case of small numbers N of branes – involves (see pointers in [SS21-MF]) the expected but elusive non-perturbative completion of string theory to “M-theory”. In [SS22-Conf][SS22-Any] we explain how our “Hypothesis H” about M-theory (see pointers in [SS21-MF]) predicts that the full duality involves brane charges in the K-cohomology of configuration spaces of points. In §3.3 we find this to correctly match the dual phenomenon of anyonic defects.

Topological phases	Topological K theory	String/M theory	
Single-electron state in d -dim crystal	Line bundle over Brillouin d -torus	Single probe D-brane of codimension d	§2
Single positron state	Virtual line bundle over Brillouin torus	Single anti \bar{D} -brane of codimension d	
Bloch-Floquet transform	Hilbert space bundle over Brillouin d -torus	Unstable (tachyonic) $D9/\bar{D}9$ -brane state	
Dressed Dirac vacuum operator	Family of Fredholm operators	Tachyon field	
Valence bundle of electron/positron states	Virtual bundle of their kernels and cokernels	stable D-brane state after tachyon condensation	
Topological phase	K-theory class	Stable D-brane charge	
Symmetry protection	Twisted equivariance	Global symmetries	
CPT symmetry	KR/KU/KO-theory	Type I/IIA/IIB	§2.2
Crystallographic symmetry	Orbifold K-theory	Spacetime orbifolding	§2.2
Gauged internal symmetry	Inner local system-twist	Inside of orbi-singularity	§2.3
Topological order	Twisted differentiability	Gauge symmetries	§3
Berry connection	Differential K-theory	Chan-Paton gauge field	§3.1
Mass terms	Differential K-LES	Axio-Dilaton RR-field	§3.2
Nodal point charge	Flat K-theory	Defect brane charge	
Anyonic defects	TED-K of Configurations	Defect branes	§3.3
N band nodes	N -punctured Brillouin torus	N defect branes	
Interacting n -electron states around N band nodes	Vector bundle over n -point configuration space in N -punctured Brillouin torus	Interacting n probe branes around N defect branes	
\mathfrak{su}_2 -anyon species	Holonomy of inner local system	$SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ -charges of defect branes	
Anyon braiding	TED-K Gauss-Manin connections	Defect brane monodromy	[SS22-TQC]

↑ folklore
↓ novel

Table 1 – Rosetta stone CMT ↔ TED-K ↔ ST.

The mathematics of TE(D)-K-theory is widely conjectured (and partially known) to equivalently describe non-perturbative vacua in two rather different looking but supposedly “dual” situations in physics:

- On the left, the topological ground states of crystalline materials in condensed matter theory (observed in experiment on mesoscopic atomic scales);
- On the right, the stable quantum ground states of D-branes in string theory (hypothetical physics at truly microscopic sub-nuclear scale).

The upper parts of this dictionary are more widely appreciated in existing literature, while less has previously been known or even just conjectured about the items further down in the table.

2.2 Quantum symmetries and twisted equivariant K-theory

Quantum symmetries and twisted equivariant KR-theory. More precisely, in general the dynamics inside a given crystalline material (its *Hamiltonian*) obeys certain *quantum symmetries*, and only those Bloch modes suitably respecting these symmetries can actually be excited. We discuss now (following [FM12] and [SS21-Bun]) how taking this into account means to understand the K-theory in Fact 2.5 as *twisted equivariant KR-theory*.

First, by the classical *Wigner theorem* (reviewed and amplified in [Fr12][FM12, §1]), adapted to electron/positron systems:

A *quantum symmetry* is a projective $\left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{unitary or} \\ \text{anti-unitary} \end{array} \right\rangle$ operator $\left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{preserving or} \\ \text{exchanging} \end{array} \right\rangle$ the electron/positron Hilbert spaces.

Concretely, the quantum symmetries form the semidirect product of the projective unitary group on the \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded electron/positron Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}$ (6) with (a) grading involution P , (b) complex conjugation T , (c) the combination $C := PT$:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Even projective unitary group} \\ \frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times \left(\underbrace{\mathbb{Z}_2}_{\{e, P\}} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}_2}_{\{e, T\}} \right), \\ \text{group of quantum symmetries} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} P \cdot [U_+, U_-] := [U_-, U_+] \cdot P, \\ T \cdot [U_+, U_-] := [\bar{U}_+, \bar{U}_-] \cdot T, \end{array} \quad C := P \cdot T. \quad (15)$$

These quantum symmetries naturally act by conjugation on the above Fredholm operators (6):

$$\begin{array}{c} \left(\frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}) \right) \times \mathrm{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 \xrightarrow{(-) \cdot (-)} \mathrm{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 \\ [U_+, U_-] : F \mapsto U_+^{-1} \circ F \circ U_- \\ C \cdot [U_+, U_-] : F \mapsto U_-^{-1} \circ F^t \circ U_+ \\ P \cdot [U_+, U_-] : F \mapsto U_-^{-1} \circ F^* \circ U_+ \\ T \cdot [U_+, U_-] : F \mapsto U_+^{-1} \circ \bar{F} \circ U_- \end{array} \quad (16)$$

Here for $P \cdot F$ we used (11) that the full Fredholm operator on the graded space is of the form $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & F^\dagger \\ F & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

In conclusion, a *group G of quantum symmetries* is a (finite) group G equipped with a group homomorphism to (15):

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{group acting by} \\ \text{quantum symmetries} \end{array} G \xrightarrow{\widehat{(-)}} \frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}). \quad (17)$$

Through the defining action (15), this induces an action of G on the space of Fredholm operators. If G also acts on the Brillouin torus $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2$, by crystallographic point group symmetries (3), then the map from the orbifold quotient (see [SS20-Orb]) to the moduli stack of the quantum symmetry group (see [SS21-Bun, Ex. 1.2.7]) encodes the crystal's quantum symmetries:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{twist of equivariant K-theory} \\ \text{encoding} \\ \text{crystal quantum symmetries} \end{array} \tau : \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 // G \xrightarrow{\widehat{(-)}} \mathbf{B}G \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B}(\widehat{-})} \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}) \right). \quad (18)$$

Under the correspondingly refined Conjecture 2.4, the statement of Fact 2.5 is that (Fact 2.17): Topological phases *protected* (Rem. 2.9) by quantum G -symmetries are labeled by homotopy classes of τ -equivariant maps from $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2$ to Fredholm operators. In generalization of (14), these form the following *twisted equivariant K-theory* group (from [SS21-Bun, (4.128)]):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{crystallographic} \\ \text{orbi-orientifold} \end{array} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 // G \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbf{B}G \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B}(\widehat{-})} \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}) \right) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B}(\widehat{-})} \mathbf{B}(\{e, C\} \times \{e, T\}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{htpy} \\ \text{crystal symmetries} \quad \text{realized as} \quad \text{quantum symmetries} \\ \text{underlying} \\ \text{CPT-symmetry} \\ (15) \\ \text{grading} \\ \text{involution} \\ \text{complex} \\ \text{conjugation} \\ \text{C} = PT \\ \text{equivariant family of} \\ \text{Fredholm operators} \\ \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // G \xrightarrow{\text{(pb)}} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \left(\frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}) \right) \\ \text{Quotient stack of odd self-adjoint Fredholm operators (11)} \\ \text{by conjugation action of quantum symmetries (16)} \\ \tau\text{-twisted } G\text{-equivariant} \\ \text{KR-cohomology} \\ \mathbf{K}^\tau(X // G) := \left. \begin{array}{c} \text{crystallographic} \\ \text{orbi-orientifold} \end{array} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 // G \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbf{B}G \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B}(\widehat{-})} \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{\mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\mathrm{U}(1)} \times (\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}) \right) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B}(\widehat{-})} \mathbf{B}(\{e, C\} \times \{e, T\}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{htpy} \right\} \quad (19)$$

We refer the reader to [SS20-Orb][SS21-Bun] for full details on such diagrams of stacks (see [SS22-Surv] for a gentle exposition), but the following special cases should serve to illustrate the natural inner working of these diagrams.

The twisted equivariance in (19) captures diverse phenomenon that in condensed matter theory are known as “symmetry protection” and more generally as “symmetry enhancement” of topological phases of matter (Rem. 2.9), as shown in *Table 2*.

Twisted equivariance	Sector of TED-K	Type of symmetry protection
Projective involutions	KR/KU/KO-theory	Quantum CPT-symmetries
Orbifolding	Orbifold K-theory	Crystallographic symmetries
Orbi-singularity	Fixed point theory	Internal symmetries
Orbi-singularity with Inner local system	Twisted differential Fixed point theory	“fictitious” gauge symmetries (anyonic braiding phases)

Fact 2.12 [Ki09]
Fact 2.17 [FM12]
§2.3
§3.3

Table 2 – SPT/SET phases in TED K-theory. That twisted equivariant K-theory captures symmetry protection/enhancement (Rem. 2.9) by CPT-symmetries and by crystallographic point symmetries is essentially the proposal of [FM12] (but cf. Rem. 2.7). The crucial case of *internal* SET/SPT seems not to have been discussed in terms of equivariant K-theory before; we show in §2.3 how this connects to the widely expected description in terms of higher group cohomology. Moreover, we find in §3.3 that the gauging of internal SPT/SET via inner local system-twists of TED-K accounts for anyonic topological order.

Remark 2.9 (On symmetry protected/enhanced topological phases of matter).

(i) By a phase of matter which is “symmetry protected” (“SPT”, [PBTO12][GW09]) or “symmetry enhanced” (“SET”, [CGLW13, p. 3][CLM12, p 2]) one means a topological phase of matter which is G -equivariantly non-trivial, in that it cannot be adiabatically deformed (Rem. 1.1) *while respecting given G -quantum symmetry*, to a topologically trivial phase. In the case of SPT one in addition requires that the underlying topological phase (i.e. when forgetting the quantum symmetry) is trivial.

(ii) Mathematically, this evidently corresponds to the basic phenomenon of *equivariant homotopy classes* (19) being finer than plain homotopy classes (see [SS20-Orb, §B]).

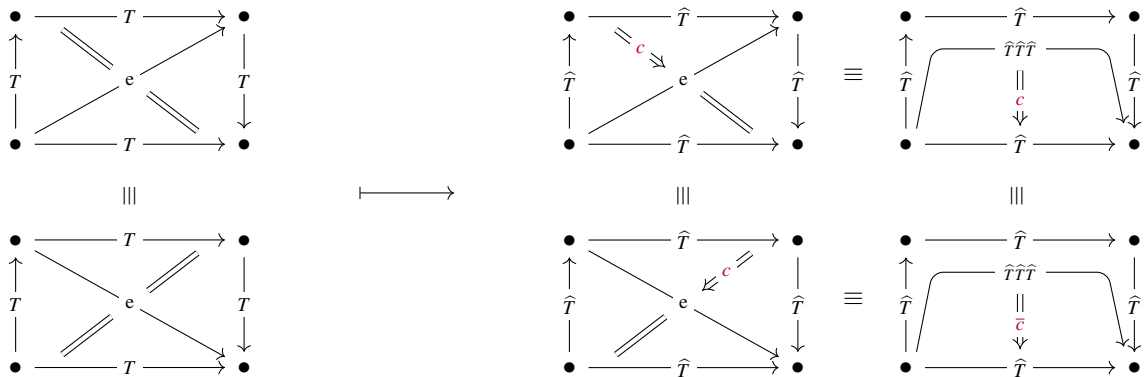
(iii) Therefore we may translate “*symmetry protected/enhanced phase*” to “*equivariant homotopy class*” and hence via (19) to “*equivariant K-theory class*” (cf. *Table 1*). For CPT- and crystallographic symmetries this is essentially the point that was made in [FM12], which we review now. More generally, for internal symmetries (see *Table 4*) and for “fictitious gauge symmetries” we further develop this in §2.3 and in §3.3 below.

CPT-protected topological phases and KR/KU/KO-theory. Specifically, a realization of the group element T (from (15)) as a quantum symmetry \hat{T} (see (17)) is a map (of smooth stacks [SS21-Bun], for exposition see [SS22-Surv]) of this form:

$$\mathbf{B}(\{e, T\}) \xrightarrow{T \mapsto \hat{T}} \mathbf{B}\left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H}) \times U(\mathcal{H})}{U(1)} \rtimes \{e, T\}\right) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}(BU(1) \rtimes \{e, T\}). \quad (20)$$

\searrow $\mathbf{B}(\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\})$ \swarrow

In components, this means (see [SS21-Bun, Rem. 3.3.38, Ex. 3.3.27]) that \hat{T} is a simplicial map of this form:



Here the identification on the bottom right uses that T acts by complex conjugation on unitary operators (15). With this, the identification on the far right shows that the phase must be real, $c = \bar{c}$, which means that either

$$\hat{T} \cdot \hat{T} = \pm 1. \quad (21)$$

The same holds for coboundaries of these cocycles, so that these two choices exhaust the gauge-equivalence classes of choices in group cohomology $H_{\text{Grp}}^2(\{e, T\}; \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2$. Moreover, the directly analogous argument shows that the available choices for $\hat{C} = \widehat{PT}$ are classified by

$$\hat{C} \cdot \hat{C} = \pm 1. \quad (22)$$

On the other hand, for \widehat{P} alone the phase could be any $U(1)$ -valued cocycle on $\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{e, P\}$. But since $H_{\text{Grp}}^2(\{e, P\}; U(1)) \simeq 0$ these are all trivializable, so that there is only one gauge equivalence class of choices \widehat{P} for realizing P as a quantum symmetry:

$$\widehat{P} \cdot \widehat{P} = +1. \quad (23)$$

Remark 2.10 (CPT-symmetry). As the notation indicates, the above analysis reproduces the structure of the Charge/Parity/Time-symmetry (CPT) theory of the relativistic Dirac equation (e.g. [Th92, §3.4]), identifying (e.g. [Th92, Ex. 3.11]):

- P with the unitary operation of “parity reversal” ([Th92, (2.147)]),
- T with the anti-unitary operation of time-reversal (e.g. [Th92, Thm. 3.10, cf (1.26)]),
- $C := PT$ with the operation of “charge conjugation” (e.g. [Th92, Thm. 3.10, cf (1.81)]).

Notice how this definition of C expresses the fundamental fact (e.g. [SW01][Le16]) of both theoretical and experimental physics that the combination $C \cdot P \cdot T$ is an exact symmetry of observed fundamental processes (since with this definition it is given by multiplication with $C \cdot P \cdot T = (P \cdot T) \cdot P \cdot T = P^2 \cdot T^2 = e \cdot e = e$).

It is somewhat remarkable that this situation of CPT-symmetry in fundamental physics finds such an accurate and natural reflection in the structure of twisted equivariant K-theory.

Example 2.11 (Time-reversal symmetry and KR-theory). If $X = \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \simeq \mathbb{R}^d / \mathbb{Z}^d$ is thought of as a Brillouin torus of quasi-momenta k in a crystal (as in Fact 2.1), then in condensed matter theory it is understood by default that the element $T \in \{e, T\}$ in (20) acts on this torus by “inversion” (point reflection) of quasi-momenta (this in addition to its action (16) on Fredholm operators by complex conjugation):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d & \xrightarrow{T} & \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d & & \text{Fred} & \xrightarrow{T} & \text{Fred} \\ [k] & \mapsto & [-k], & & F & \mapsto & \bar{F}. \end{array} \quad (24)$$

We always mean this inversion action when we write the orbifold $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // \{e, T\}$ (to be contrasted with the quotient by the trivial action, which we denote by $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \times * // \{e, TI\}$, see Ex. 2.15). With this inversion action (24) of T on $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ understood, the $\{e, \widehat{T}\}$ -equivariant $k \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ -parameterized families of Fredholm operators (19) are those that satisfy

$$F_{[k]} = \bar{F}_{[-k]}. \quad (25)$$

If, furthermore, the quantum symmetry action of T on Fred is given by $\widehat{T}^2 = +1$, then the homotopy classes of these “time-reversal equivariant” Fredholm families constitute the cohomology group of $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ known as “Atiyah’s Real K-theory” (with a capital “R”, to be distinguished from the “real K-theory” groups denoted KO), or *KR-theory*, for short:

$$\text{KR}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & & \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \{e, T\} \\ & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // \{e, T\} & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbf{B}\{e, T\} \end{array} \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}}. \quad (26)$$

In the string theory literature, under the dictionary of *Table 1*, these are known as *orientifolds* [Gu00][SS19-Tad].

Under the identification of Fact 2.5 this classifies topological phases of *time-reversal invariant* insulators (e.g. [Van18, §2.1.6]) whose valence quasi-particles behave like *bosons*.

Noticed that the inversion action (24) has 2^d fixed points, forming the set

$$\{0, 1/2\}^d \subset \mathbb{R}^d \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d / \mathbb{Z}^d \simeq \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d.$$

These are also called the *time-reversal invariant momenta* (TRIM, e.g. [Van18, p. 51]). Over these fixed points, the equivariance condition (25) becomes an *invariance*-condition (see also Ex. 2.15 below). We now consider the spaces of invariant Fredholm operators under all possible quantum CPT-symmetries.

Fact 2.12 (The 10-fold way of twistings of CPT-equivariant K-theory). *There are evidently 10 possibilities for realizing the quantum CPT-symmetries (21) - (23), shown in the top part of Table 3.*

The remainder of *Table 3* indicates the corresponding twisted equivariant K-theory groups (19), following via Karoubi’s theorem (Prop. 2.13 with Lem. 2.14 below). In a different but closely related form ([Ki09, Table 2], reviewed e.g. in [CTSR16, Table IV]), this has become famous as the *10-fold way*; our *Table 3* expresses instead the Fredholm-operator version of the statement in [FM12, Prop. 6.4, B.4]. In actuality, this “10-fold way” (see Fact 2.12) is another incarnation of *Bott periodicity* (e.g. [HJS08, §15]) being a 2-fold periodicity over the complex numbers and an 8-fold periodicity over the real numbers, for a total of $2 + 8 = 10$ distinct possibilities:

Equivariance group	$G =$	$\{e\}$	$\{e, P\}$	$\{e, T\}$	$\{e, C\}$	$\{e, T\} \times \{e, C\}$					
Realization as quantum symmetry	$\tau : \widehat{T}^2 =$			+1	-1			+1	-1	-1	+1
	$\widehat{C}^2 =$					+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	-1
Maximal induced Clifford action anticommuting with all G -invariant odd Fredholm operators	$E_{-3} =$								$i\widehat{T}\widehat{C}\beta$		
	$E_{-2} =$					$i\widehat{C}\beta$			$i\widehat{C}\beta$		
	$E_{-1} =$		$\widehat{P}\beta$			$\widehat{C}\beta$		$\widehat{C}\beta$	$\widehat{C}\beta$		
	$E_{+0} =$	β	β	β	$\begin{pmatrix} \beta & 0 \\ 0 & -\beta \end{pmatrix}$	β	β	β	β	β	β
	$E_{+1} =$				$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$		$\widehat{C}\beta$			$\widehat{C}\beta$	$\widehat{C}\beta$
	$E_{+2} =$				$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$		$i\widehat{C}\beta$			$i\widehat{C}\beta$	
	$E_{+3} =$				$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\widehat{T} \\ \widehat{T} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$					$i\widehat{T}\widehat{C}\beta$	
	$E_{+4} =$				$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & i\widehat{T} \\ i\widehat{T} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$						
τ -twisted G -equivariant K-theory of fixed loci	$K^\tau =$	KU^0	KU^1	KO^0	KO^4	KO^2	KO^6	KO^1	KO^3	KO^5	KO^7

Table 3 – CPT Quantum symmetries as twists of equivariant KR-theory. The table indicates how the K-theoretic “10-fold way”-classification proposed in [Ki09] and elaborated on in [FM12] comes about, via Thm. 2.13, in terms of fixed loci of spaces of Fredholm operators (27) whose homotopy quotients by quantum symmetries (16) classify twisted equivariant K-theory (19).

- The top part shows the 10 different ways to choose quantum symmetry lifts $\widehat{(-)}$ (17) of subgroups of the CPT group $\{e, P\} \times \{e, T\}$ (20) according to the analysis around (21), (22), (23).
- The middle part shows how, under the action (16) of quantum symmetries on odd Fredholm operators \widehat{F} , $\widehat{F} \circ \beta = -\beta \circ \widehat{F}$, these quantum symmetries equivalently constitute a collection of Clifford generators anti-commuting with all the Fredholm operators that are fixed by these quantum symmetries. For example, the second column shows that when parity symmetry $\{e, P\}$ acts, with its essentially unique lift (23) to a quantum symmetry \widehat{P} , then invariance of \widehat{F} under the conjugation action, $\widehat{F} \circ \widehat{P} = \widehat{P} \circ \widehat{F}$, equivalently means that that \widehat{F} , β and $\widehat{P}\beta$ anti-commute:

$$\widehat{F} \in (\text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0)^{\widehat{P}} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \widehat{F} \in \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{F} \circ (\widehat{P}\beta) = -(\widehat{P}\beta) \circ \widehat{F}.$$

- The bottom part shows how these compatible Clifford actions exhibit the spaces of Fredholm operators fixed by the quantum symmetries (27) as classifying spaces for KU- and KO-theories (by Karoubi’s theorem, Prop. 2.13 and using Lemma 2.14).

The analysis indicated in *Table 3* shows that subspaces of odd Fredholm operators (11) which are fixed by one of the 10 possible quantum CPT symmetries are of the following form, for $p \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ (the latter if T and/or $C = PT$ are contained in the given subgroup):

Space of self-adjoint Fredholm operators graded-commuting with $p+1$ Clifford generators

$$\text{Fred}_{\mathbb{K}}^{-p} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Bounded opers.} \quad \widehat{F} : \mathcal{H}^2 \xrightarrow[\mathbb{K}\text{-linear}]{\text{bounded}} \mathcal{H}^2 \\ \text{self-adjoint} \quad \widehat{F}^* = \widehat{F} := F + F^* \\ \text{Fredholm} \quad \dim(\ker(\widehat{F})) < \infty \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \text{graded comm.} \\ E_i \circ \widehat{F} = -\widehat{F} \circ E_i \end{array} \text{ with } \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Bounded oper.} \quad E_0, \dots, E_p : \mathcal{H}^2 \xrightarrow[\mathbb{K}\text{-linear}]{\text{bounded}} \mathcal{H}^2 \\ \text{(anti-)self-adjoint} \quad (E_i)^* = \text{sgn}_i \cdot E_i \\ \text{Clifford gen.} \quad E_i \circ E_j + E_j \circ E_i = 2\text{sgn}_i \cdot \delta_{ij} \end{array} \right\} \quad (27)$$

where:

- we have abbreviated $\text{sgn}_i := \begin{cases} +1 & |i| \geq 0, \\ -1 & |i| < 0; \end{cases}$
- it is understood that the ± 1 -eigenspaces of the Clifford generators E_i are both infinite-dimensional.

With this, the reader may take the following Prop. 2.13, generalizing (14), to be the *definition* of the KU- and KO-theory groups:

Proposition 2.13 (ASK-theorem [Ka70][AtSi69]). *The Fredholm operator spaces (27) classify the K-theory groups that go by the following names:*

$$\left\{ X \xrightarrow{\text{cnts}} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{K}}^p \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}} = \begin{cases} \text{KU}^p(X) \underset{\text{Bott per.}}{\simeq} \text{KU}^{p+2}(X) & | \quad \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}, \\ \text{KO}^p(X) \underset{\text{Bott per.}}{\simeq} \text{KO}^{p+8}(X) & | \quad \mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}. \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

This is the result indicated in the last row of *Table 3*.

Before we turn to discussing examples, notice that in order to be able to apply Karoubi's theorem (Prop. 2.13) to deduce the last row in *Table 3*, one needs the following observation, to confirm that the operators shown in the middle part of *Table 3* are (anti-)self-adjointed as required in (27):

Lemma 2.14 (Adjointness of quantum CPT). *If the quantum symmetry operator \widehat{T} (20) squares to $+1$ or -1 (21) then it is self-adjoint or anti-self-adjoint, respectively; similarly for the operator \widehat{C} (22):*

$$\begin{aligned} (\widehat{T})^2 = \pm 1 & \Rightarrow (\widehat{T})^* = \pm \widehat{C}^*, \\ (\widehat{C})^2 = \pm 1 & \Rightarrow (\widehat{C})^* = \pm \widehat{T}^*. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We write $(-)^t$ for the transpose operation on complex-linear operators over the complex numbers, and $\overline{(-)}$ for complex conjugation. The star-operation $A^* := \overline{A}^t$ on complex linear operators agrees with the canonical star operation on their underlying real-linear operators $A_{\mathbb{R}}$, in that $(A^*)_{\mathbb{R}} = (A_{\mathbb{R}})^*$, since $i_{\mathbb{R}}$ is a skew-symmetric real operator. In particular the parity operator satisfies $P^* = P$, regarded either over the complex or over the real numbers. With complex conjugation itself regarded as a real-linear operator, $T := \overline{(-)}$, we have in addition:

$$T \circ A_{\mathbb{R}} = (\overline{A})_{\mathbb{R}} \circ T, \quad T^* = T.$$

Moreover, the lifts in (20) are of the form $\widehat{T} = U_{\mathbb{R}} T$ and $\widehat{C} = U_{\mathbb{R}} P T$ for U a unitary operator (hence complex-linear with $U^{-1} = U^* = \overline{U}^t$). Using all this we have (suppressing now the $(-)$ -subscript on U , for readability):

$$U^{-1} U^t = \overline{U}^t U^t = (U \overline{U})^t = (U(TUT))^t = ((UT)(UT))^t = (\widehat{T}^2)^t = (\pm 1)^t = \pm 1,$$

which means

$$U^t = \pm U,$$

and hence

$$(\widehat{T})^* = (UT)^* = T^* U^* = T \overline{U}^t = U^t T = \pm U T = \pm \widehat{T}. \quad \square$$

Example 2.15 (Joint time-reversal and inversion symmetry (space-time inversion symmetry)). The situation where time reversal acts as a quantum symmetry (21) on Fredholm operators but *trivially* on the Brillouin torus may be understood as the combination TI of:

- an *inversion symmetry* I (point reflection in) acting by $[k] \mapsto [-k]$ on quasi-momenta (29) but trivially on Bloch observables:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d & \xrightarrow{I} & \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \\ [k] & \mapsto & [-k], \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fred} & \xrightarrow{I} & \text{Fred} \\ F & \mapsto & F \end{array} \quad (29)$$

- With the *time-reversal symmetry* T (24) of Ex. 2.11, acting non-trivially both on momenta and on Bloch observables:

Such TI symmetry is exhibited, notably, by graphene (e.g. [CS21, pp. 41]).

Under this combined *time-reversal- and inversion-symmetry* (e.g. [FWDF16, §II.B][Van18, §2.1.6, 5.5.2])

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d & \xrightarrow{TI} & \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \\ [k] & \mapsto & [k], \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fred} & \xrightarrow{TI} & \text{Fred} \\ F & \mapsto & \overline{F} \end{array} \quad (30)$$

the equivariantly indexed Fredholm operators (19) are those satisfying $F_k = \overline{F}_k$, hence are the *real* Fredholm operators. In this case, *Table 3* shows that the topological insulating phases of time-reversal- and inversion-symmetric crystals are classified by quaternionic K-theory:

$n =$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	...	
$\text{K}^{(\widehat{T}^2 = +1)}(X \times * // \{e, T\}) \simeq \text{KO}^0(X)$	$\text{KO}^0(S_*^n) =$	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2	...
$\text{K}^{(\widehat{T}^2 = -1)}(X \times * // \{e, T\}) \simeq \text{KO}^4(X)$	$\text{KO}^4(S_*^n) =$	\mathbb{Z}	0	0	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}_2	\mathbb{Z}_2	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	...

(31)

We come back to this example of TI -symmetric topological materials below in Ex. 3.3 in the discussion of classification of topological semi-metals.

Example 2.16 (No quantum symmetry and Chern insulators). Mathematically, the simplest example is certainly that of *no* non-trivial quantum symmetry. In this case, *Table 3* shows that the corresponding topological insulator phases are classified by plain complex K-theory:

$n =$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	...
$KU^0(S_*^n) =$	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	\mathbb{Z}	0	...

For effectively 2-dimensional materials, this means (by comparison with *Figure 7*) that these “un-protected” topological phases are classified by the integers. From the theory of characteristic Chern classes c_i (e.g. [MiSt74]), this integer may be identified with the *first Chern number* $c_1[V] = \int_{\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2} c_1(V)$ of the valence bundle V :

$$\begin{aligned} KU^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}_*^2) &\simeq KU^0(S_*^2) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \\ [V] &\longmapsto c_1[V]. \end{aligned}$$

For this reason, the topological insulators which are “un-protected” by any quantum symmetry are also called *Chern insulators* (e.g. [Van18, §5.1]). While this is mathematically the most immediate case, in solid state physics Chern insulators are typically thought of as realized only with some effort by breaking symmetries in a material which by itself does enjoy time-reversal quantum symmetry and/or inversion symmetry (Ex. 2.15).

In closing this example, notice that:

- on the one hand, time-reversal symmetry is easily broken by placing a material into a strong magnetic field B , in which the Bloch state with momentum vector k is subject to a *Lorentz force* $B \cdot k$ which is *opposite* that for the time-reversed momentum $-k$. This is the situation of quantum Hall materials;
- On the other hand, a T -breaking effect intrinsic to the material, present also in the absence of an external magnetic field, can be induced from spin-orbit coupling but is much more subtle to analyze and realize. This was the achievement of the *Haldane model* ([Ha15], [Van18, §5.1.1]), see Ex. 3.5.

Topological crystalline insulator phases and orbifold K-theory. Beware that the 10-fold way of Fact 2.12 applies only to global CPT-symmetries which act trivially on the crystal. This case does (effectively) occur (Ex. 2.15, Ex. 3.5), but in general, the C- and T-symmetries (20) act by reflection on the Brillouin torus (Ex. 2.11) and form semidirect products with the crystallographic point group symmetries (1). These we will call the *external symmetry group* (*Table 4*), and we call the *orbifold quotient* (see pointers in [SS20-Orb]) by this group action on a momentum space the *crystallographic orbifold*:

$$G_{\text{ext}} := G_{\text{pt}} \rtimes (\{e, T\} \times \{e, C\}) \quad \vdash \quad \mathbf{X} // G_{\text{ext}}. \quad (32)$$

external symmetry
crystallographic point symmetry
CP-symmetries
crystallographic orbifold

The topological insulator-phases which are protected/enriched (Rem. 2.9) by such an external symmetry are known as *topological crystalline insulators*-phases: [Fu11][SMJZ13][SC14][AF15][KdBvWKS17][LWQG20].

For emphasis, we restate the classification statement so far, making this fully explicit:

Fact 2.17 (Classification of external-SPT/SET phases). *To the extent that topological phases are classified by twisted equivariant K-theory (cf. Fact 2.5), the external-SPT/SET phases are classified specifically by the TED-K theory (19) of the crystallographic orbifold (32):*

$$\left\{ G_{\text{ext-SPT/SET}} \text{ crystalline insulator phases} \right\} = \coprod_{[\tau]} KR^\tau(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G_{\text{ext}}) \simeq \coprod_{[\tau]} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H}) \times U(\mathcal{H})}{U(1)} \rtimes \{e, P\} \times \{e, T\} \right) \\ \swarrow \text{dashed arrow} \quad \downarrow \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G_{\text{ext}} \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H}) \times U(\mathcal{H})}{U(1)} \rtimes \{e, P\} \times \{e, T\} \right) \end{array} \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}}$$

2.3 Internal symmetry protection and K-valued group cohomology.

Internal symmetries in crystalline materials. In addition to CPT symmetries (§2.2) and crystallographic symmetries G_{pt} (§2.2), hence in addition to *external symmetries* (32), a crystalline material may exhibit *internal symmetries*, which typically arise from symmetries among electron degrees of freedom located separately at each atomic site of the underlying crystal lattice, whence they are also called *on-site symmetries*.

Example 2.18 (Spin rotation symmetry). If external magnetic fields and spin-orbit coupling are both negligible, then the energy of the electrons in the material is typically independent of their spin, and the $\text{Spin}(3) \simeq \text{SU}(2)$ -group of spin rotations will be an internal symmetry of the system, including in particular the spin flip operation

$$|\uparrow\rangle \xleftrightarrow{S} |\downarrow\rangle \quad (33)$$

with respect to any experimentally preferred spin-basis. More generally, if a number κ of (spinful) electron orbitals around any one atomic site have negligible energy difference, then their permutation group $\text{Sym}(\kappa)$ will act as an approximate internal symmetry group on the system.

Mathematically, this simply means that an internal symmetry group is a direct factor subgroup

$$G_{\text{int}} \subset G_{\text{ext}} \times G_{\text{in}} \simeq G \quad (34)$$

(of the equivariance group G that enters the relevant twisted G -equivariant K-theory (19)), whose action on the Brillouin torus domain is trivial:

$$\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G \simeq \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G_{\text{ext}} \times * // G_{\text{int}}. \quad (35)$$

In this sense, also the parity symmetry P (15) is an internal symmetry, while time-reversal T is not (Ex. 2.11) and neither is spatial inversion (29), but their combination TI again is an internal symmetry (Ex. 2.15), as indicated in *Table 4*:

Symmetries G		
External G_{ext}		Internal G_{int}
Crystallographic G_{pt} , e.g. $\{e, I\}$	Time-reversal $\{e, T\}, \{e, C\}$	On-site e.g. $\{e, P\}, \{e, S\}$

$$\overbrace{G_{\text{pt}} \times \{e, T/C\} \times \{e, P\} \times \{e, S\}}^G$$

$$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{G_{\text{ext}}} \quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{G_{\text{int}}}$$

orbi-orienti-folded Brillouin torus

$$\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G \simeq \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d // G_{\text{ext}} \times * // G_{\text{int}}$$

Symmetry name		Action	
G_{pt}	<i>Crystallographic point transformation</i>	Orthogonal transformation on BT	(1)
I	<i>Inversion</i>	Point reflection on BT	(29)
T	<i>Time reversal</i>	Point reflection on BT & complex conj. on obs.	(24)
C	<i>Charge conjugation</i>	Point reflection on BT & complex conj. + deg. flip on obs.	(15)
P	<i>Parity reversal</i>	No action on BT & degree flip on obs.	
S	<i>Spin flip</i>	No action on BT & some projective action on obs.	(33)

Table 4 – Possible symmetry groups of electron dynamics in a crystalline material. Here “BT” refers to the *Brillouin torus* $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$ (2), while “obs” refers to the ground state *observables*, i.e., the Fredholm operators (13).

Any of these symmetries may be respected in a given quantum material (e.g. none of them, which is the case of plain Chern insulators, Ex. 2.16). In experimental practice, symmetries are often *approximately* respected, hence effectively respected up to some scale of resolution but broken at higher resolution. (Ultimately, at sub-atomic resolution the dynamics of the nuclei in the crystal lattice will become visible and the entire picture of electron dynamics in a fixed background field breaks down.)

The list of possible external symmetries displayed is meant to be exhaustive, but there can be any number of further internal symmetries, reflecting the internal degrees of freedom at each crystal site (e.g. accidental orbital energy degeneracies that remain unresolved).

Remark 2.19 (Internal-symmetry protection in the literature). Even with the conjectured classification of *external*-SPT phases in twisted equivariant K-theory (as in §2.2, §2.2) becoming widely appreciated (beginning with [Ki09]) it was felt that K-theory could apply only to systems well-approximated by (fermionic and) *free* dynamics, and that internal-symmetry protection specifically of interacting phases needed an approach different from K-theory. (We address the issue of interacting phases in K-theory below in §3.2).

(i) A first influential proposal asserted [CGLW13][CGLW12] that “bosonic” and interacting G_{int} -SPT phases of dimension d are classified by the group cohomology of G_{int} in degree $d+1$ with coefficients in $U(1)$ (and that for fermionic and interacting such systems an analogous statement holds for a suitable notion of group super-cohomology was claimed in [GW14]). In our language of stacks, such group cohomology is given by homotopy classes of maps as shown on the right here (e.g. [FSS20-Cha, Ex. 2.4]):

$$H_{\text{grp}}^{d+1}(G_{\text{int}}; U(1)) \simeq \left\{ \mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{B}^{d+1}U(1) \right\}_{/\sim_{\text{htpy}}}$$

A physics motivation for this proposal is offered in [CLW11, §V]. However, this proposal is now “known not to be complete” [WS14, p. 2]; in fact, on the general question of classification of SPT/SETs: “a completely general understanding is lacking, and many questions remain. [...] the current understanding of fractionalization of quantum numbers, along with the classification and characterization of SETs is incomplete.” [BPCW19, p. 3].

(ii) Another proposal has been put forward in [BPCW19][Wan18, §2.2] based (somewhat tacitly) on the reasonable idea that G_{int} -symmetry protection should mean that all relevant structures found in the underlying topological phase/order acquire G_{int} -equivariant enhancements. Concretely, using the common (also conjectural, but see Rem. 3.12) assumption that an anyonic topological order is characterized by a *unitary fusion category* \mathcal{C} , the proposal of [BPCW19, (1)] says that the G_{int} -symmetry enrichments of the given topological phase are classified by (we paraphrase slightly, see [FSS20-Cha, Rem. 2.9]) the *2-group cohomology* of G_{int} with coefficients in the *automorphism 2-group* $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{C})$ of \mathcal{C} (i.e., the 2-group whose objects are braided monoidal endofunctors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ which are equivalences of braided monoidal categories, and whose morphisms are compatible natural isomorphisms between these, this is implicit in [BPCW19, (81)]):

$$H_{\text{grp}}^1(G_{\text{int}}; \text{Aut}(\mathcal{C})) \simeq \{ \mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{BAut}(\mathcal{C}) \} / \sim_{\text{htpy}} . \quad (36)$$

2-group cohomology
Automorphism 2-group of unit. fusion category of anyon species
Equivalence classes of maps of moduli 2-stacks

Due to the 2-groupal nature of $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{C})$ there are ordinary but higher degree group cohomology classes in $H^3(G_{\text{int}}; \mathcal{A})$ underlying this 2-group cohomology, with coefficients in (we again paraphrase slightly) the Picard group $\mathcal{A} := \text{Pic}(\mathcal{C})/\sim$ (of invertible anyons species).

(iii) The proposal (36) is conceptually robust relative to its assumption: To the extent that unitary fusion categories indeed reflect aspects of topological orders in solid state physics, their internal-symmetry protected incarnation essentially must be such a 2-group cohomology class (36) if the notion of fusion categories is at all the appropriate mathematical structure to speak about topological order.

(iv) Still, the question remains how to connect this proposal to the widely expected K-theory classification of free topological phases. This physics demands that the K-theory classification of (symmetry protected) topological phases ought to be recovered by a more general classification of (symmetry protected) topological order in the special case or limit of “trivial order”. However, the fusion category \mathcal{C} reflecting trivial order is itself trivial, and has trivial automorphism 2-group, so that (36) collapses in this case.

Internal-SPT in TED-K-theory. We now observe that our stacky formulation of twisted equivariant K-theory (19) allows us to *read off* which kind of (higher) group cohomology must classify G_{int} -symmetry-protected phases. (For the moment we discuss this for non-interacting phases to which (19) is thought to apply, by Fact 2.3, but the argument will generalize verbatim to the case of interacting phases, as discussed below in §3.2). All we need here is the evident assumption (35) on the nature of “internal symmetry” G_{int} , together with the *mapping stack adjunction* (reviewed in [SS20-Orb, Prop. 2.31][SS21-Bun, Prop. 3.2.44]), which says that for any triple \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} and \mathcal{Z} of stacks, there are *natural equivalences* between the following types of maps between them:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \{ \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \xrightarrow{(x,y) \mapsto f(x,y)} \mathcal{Z} \} & \\
 & \swarrow \sim & \searrow \sim \\
 \{ \mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{x \mapsto (y \mapsto f(x,y))} \text{Map}(\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}) \} & \xrightarrow{\text{mapping stack adjunction}} & \{ \mathcal{Y} \xrightarrow{y \mapsto (x \mapsto f(x,y))} \text{Map}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Z}) \} .
 \end{array} \quad (37)$$

Hence we get the two identifications of the TED-K cohomology group in the presence of internal symmetries (35) shown in Fig. 5

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{TE-K cohomology group} \\
\text{KR}_{G_{\text{ext}} \times G_{\text{int}}}^{\tau}(\mathbf{X}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \\ \text{quantum symmetries} \end{array} \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}} \\
\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{X} // G_{\text{ext}} \times * // G_{\text{int}} \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \\ \text{external symmetry} \quad \text{internal} \quad \text{equivariant twist} \end{array} \right\} \\
\begin{array}{l} \text{mapping stack adjunction} \\ \text{on internal factor} \end{array} \\
\begin{array}{l} \text{mapping stack adjunction} \\ \text{on external factor} \end{array} \\
\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{moduli stack of internal-symmetry protected topological observables} \\ \text{Map} \left(\mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}}, \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \\ \downarrow \\ \text{X} // G_{\text{ext}} \xrightarrow{\text{inner local system}} \text{Map} \left(\mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}}, \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \right) \\ \text{moduli stack of internal quantum symmetries} \end{array} \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}} \\
\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{moduli stack of external-symmetry protected topological phases} \\ \text{Map} \left(\text{X} // G_{\text{ext}}, \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}} \xrightarrow{\infty\text{-group cohom. cocycle}} \text{Map} \left(\text{X} // G_{\text{ext}}, \mathbf{B} \left(\frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \right) \\ \text{moduli stack of external quantum symmetries} \end{array} \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}}
\end{array}$$

Figure 5. An “internal symmetry” group G_{int} in TED-K theory is one whose action on the remaining domain space/orbifold is trivial, hence which exhibits the domain as being “inside a G_{int} -orbi-singularity” (35).

The above Fig. 5 shows how the mapping stack adjunction (37) identifies the TED-K cohomology groups with respect to such an internal symmetry G_{int} with both:

1. inner local system-twisted G_{int} -fixed TE-K-theory of the given domain, and
2. ∞ -group cohomology of G_{int} with coefficients in the symmetry ∞ -group of external-SPT phases on the given domain.

Here the adjunction on the right identifies the TED-K cohomology group with an ∞ -group cohomology of a form analogous to the above proposal (36):

$$H_{\text{grp}}^{1+\tilde{\tau}}(\mathbf{B}G_{\text{int}}; \text{Aut}(\mathcal{V})) \simeq \left\{ G_{\text{int}} \dashrightarrow \mathbf{BAut}(\mathcal{V}) \right\} / \sim_{\text{htpy}}. \quad (38)$$

On the right we have the *automorphism ∞ -group* of the underlying external-SPT phase

$$[\mathcal{V}] \in \text{KR}^{\tau(-,*)}(\text{X} // G_{\text{ext}})$$

in the twisted *external*-equivariant K-theory cocycle space:

$$\text{Aut}(\mathcal{V}) := \Omega_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\text{Map} \left(\text{X} // G_{\text{ext}}, \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0 // \frac{U(\mathcal{H})^2}{U(1)} \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2^2 \right) \right), \quad (39)$$

both regarded as sliced over the moduli stack of *external*-equivariant twists. In conclusion we have:

Fact 2.20 (Classification of internal-SPT/SET phases). *To the extent that topological phases are classified by twisted equivariant K-theory (cf. Fact 2.5), the internal-symmetry protected/enriched such phases with underlying external-symmetry protected phase $[\mathcal{V}]$ (as in Fact. 2.17) are classified by the ∞ -group cohomology (38) of the given internal symmetry group G_{int} (34) with coefficients in the automorphism ∞ -group (39) of \mathcal{V} formed in the TED-K cocycle stack.*

We observe that this should *subsume* the proposal of [BPCW19] that SPT phases are reflected in 2-groupal automorphisms (36) of the fusion category which characterizes the corresponding topological order: It remains to see how this internal/external-SPT classification in TED-K theory reflects any anyonic topological order. This, too, turns out to be a question which the mathematics of TED-K theory answers for us – we discuss this in §3.2 below.

3 TED-K classifies interacting topological order

We now take the mechanism of K-theory classification of topological phases “beyond band insulators” (in the words of [TV13]) in that we argue that TED-K theory naturally classifies the generalization of topological insulator phases to:

- §3.1 – topological 2d semimetal-phases;
- §3.2 – interacting topological phases;
- §3.3 – topologically ordered phases.

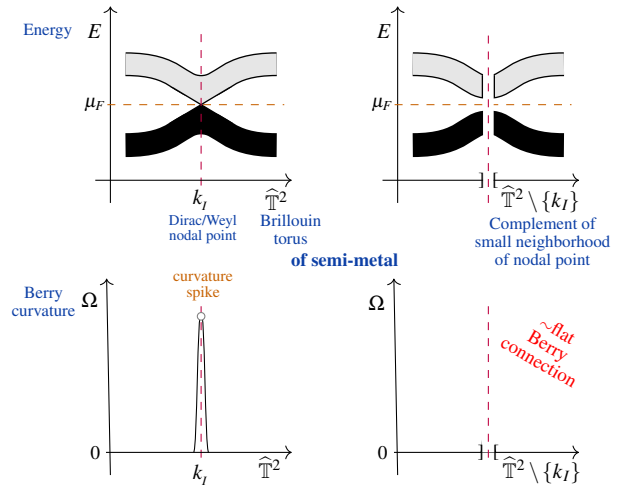
3.1 Berry phases and Differential K-theory

Semi-metals and flat K-theory. In generalization of the situation of topological insulators (*Figure 3*), it may happen that a quantum material is not strictly gapped but that the gap closes only over a lower-dimensional sub-manifold of “nodal points” in the Brillouin torus (*Figure 6*, cf. [Van18, Fig. 5.20]). In this case one speaks of a topological *semi-metal*. These are now often considered as 3-dimensional materials (e.g. [BHB11][FWDF16][AMV18][GVKR19]) but the concept applies notably also to effectively 2-dimensional materials (general review includes [Van18, §5][FZWY21]), in fact the original and archetypical example of a semi-metal is the effectively 2-dimensional graphene [WZ⁺12]⁵ (this was predicted already in [Wal47], long before the modern terminology was coined, but observed only after graphene was synthesized by [NG⁺04]).

Figure 6. – Band structure of 2d semi-metals.

Top row: In a semi-metal there is a global gap between the valence band and the conduction band as for a topological insulator (*Figure 3*) *except* over a lower-dimensional submanifold of *nodal points* in the Brillouin torus, where the two valence band and the conduction band touch right at the Fermi sea level μ_F . (If the gap closes over an isolated point then one speaks of a “Dirac point” or a “Weyl point”, depending on the order of degeneracy, while if it closes over a 1-dimensional submanifold one speaks of a “nodal line”, etc.). This means that over the *complement* of the nodal points (shown on the right) the band structure of a semi-metal is like that of a topological insulator (cf. *Figure 3*), while over the nodal points the semi-metal band structure is singular.

Bottom row: The singularity at the nodal points in 2-dimensions is reflected in the fact that the Berry curvature is typically tightly concentrated (often spiked) close to the nodal points k_i (and un-defined right at the nodal points), such that the complement of a tubular neighborhood of the nodal points in the Brillouin torus carries a Berry connection which is effectively flat. This is the case notably for the Haldane model (e.g. [At16, Fig. 2.7][DTC21]). Moreover, in the special case of materials with time&space-reflection-symmetric Bloch dynamics the Berry curvature strictly vanishes away from nodal points, by symmetry reasons (see [XCN10, §III.B][Van18, p. 105] and Ex. 3.3), hence is to be thought as spiked right at the nodal points in the sense of a Dirac delta-distribution. This is the case for graphene (e.g. [At16, (2.72)][CS21, p. 41]). The general phenomenon is highlighted in [SF15, p. 3][ZNT21, p. 1], examples are in [FPGM10, Fig. 1][YXL14, Fig. 1][SSL15, Fig. 3][PRFM16, Fig. 1][At16, §3.4][WXL17, Fig. 3g][KMM20][Jin⁺20, Fig. 3c][JRN21, Fig. 4]⁶.



Generally, the (hypothetical) adiabatic transport (Rem. 1.1) of gapped valence states (5) along closed curves in the Brillouin torus (2) picks up a relative quantum phase factor ([Zak89][Van18, §3.4], see also [CN08][XCN10, §I.D]) known as a *Berry phase* ([Be84], review includes [CS21, IV.C]). This is the holonomy of a canonical connection ∇ on the valence bundle ([Si83][Na03, §10]). The holonomy of this connection around the non-trivial 1-cycles of the Brillouin torus (denoted S_a^1, S_b^1 in *Figure 7*) is a special case of Berry phase known as the *Zak phase* ([Zak89][Van18, pp. 106]); see also *Figure 8*.

Thinking of the 2-torus as the Brillouin torus of an effectively 2-dimensional semi-metal with nodal points at the given punctures (see *Figure 6*), the holonomy of the flat Berry connection (see also *Figure 8*) around S_a^1 and S_b^1 (*Figure 7*) separately gives the *Zak phases* while holonomy along non-trivial composites of edges gives the Berry phases associated with the nodal points.

For example, if both Zak phases happen to be trivial, then, in the case of two punctures, the Berry phase around one nodal point is the holonomy along the diagonal edge, and that around the other nodal point is necessarily the inverse of that (since the diagonal edge goes clockwise around one puncture and anti-clockwise around the other).

⁵A tiny spin-orbit coupling in graphene de facto opens the gap at the would-be nodal points, making graphene theoretically a topological insulator; but since the gap at the nodal points is too small to be visible in most experiments, graphene behaves like a semi-metal for most practical purposes.

⁶This essential vanishing of the Berry curvature away from a neighborhood of the nodal points in concrete examples of 2d semi-metals seems to not have found a systematic theoretical discussion yet. It is a plausible consequence in situations where small effects, such as spin-orbit coupling, perturb the system away from a point in parameter space where time&space-reflection-symmetries enforce the strict vanishing of the Berry curvature away from nodal points.

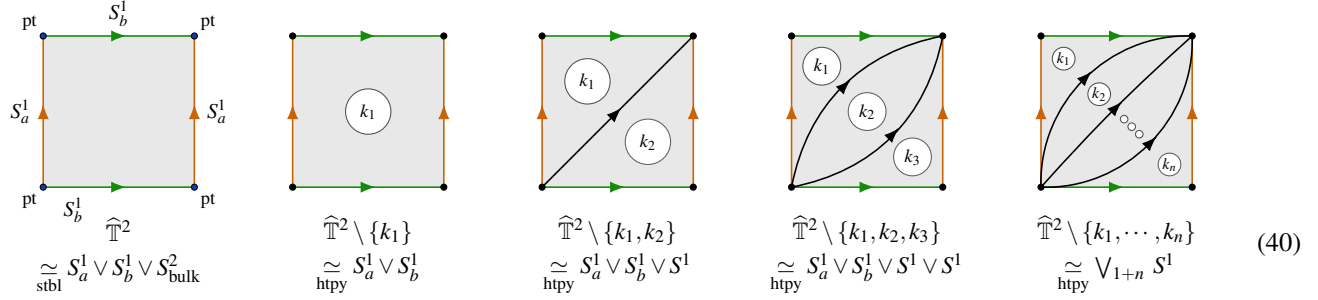


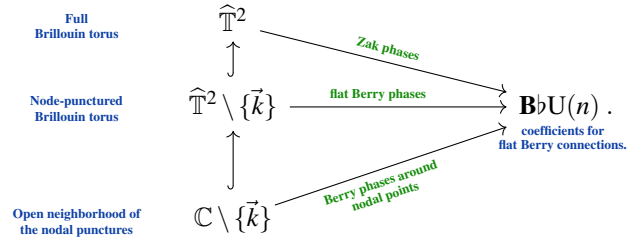
Figure 7 – Homotopy type of the N -punctured 2-torus. The 2-torus with $N \geq 1$ punctures is homotopy equivalent to the wedge sum of $N + 1$ circles (i.e., the gluing at their basepoint, denoted “pt” in the graphics, see e.g. [Mu00, §71][tD08, p. 31]). Two of these circles, denoted S_a^1 and S_b^1 , represent the two non-trivial 1-cycles of the torus. (The usual identifications apply, of vertices and edges at the boundary of the square, as shown.) The un-punctured torus is still *stably* homotopy equivalent to the wedge sum of these two circles with a 2-sphere that represents the un-punctured torus bulk (e.g. [FM12, Thm. 11.8], shown on the bottom left above).

While it is intuitively plausible that the Berry phases around nodal points should be indicators of the topological phases of 2d-semimetals, a full mathematical statement along these lines seems not to have received substantial attention before – certainly not in a way that would connect to the K-theoretic classification of topological insulators according to the widely accepted Fact 2.5, which however ought to be subsumed as a degenerate special case of the classification of semi-metals. We now observe that a phenomenon well-known in the condensed matter literature strongly suggests that topological phases of 2d semi-metals are controlled by *flat* K-theory (we formulate this as Conjecture 3.1 below):

- For 2-dimensional semi-metals the Bianchi identity on the curvature 2-form is vacuous by degree-reasons⁷, but in practice one observes that the 2-dimensional Berry curvature is still strongly constrained, namely it tends to be concentrated (spiked) on a tubular neighborhood of the nodal points and to be practically vanishing away from the nodal points (e.g. [KMM20], see *Figure 6* for illustration and further references).
- When the Berry curvature is concentrated at or around the nodal points in this way, it means that on the complement of a tubular neighborhood of the nodal points the Berry curvature *vanishes* for practical purposes, hence that the Berry connection is practically *flat* on the complement.
- If a complex vector bundle admits a flat connection then all its Chern classes vanish. Now for 3d semi-metals the first Chern class has often been argued to classify the topological charge carried by the nodal points (e.g. [Li⁺20, (3)][MT16][MT17]), but for 2d semi-metals Chern classes cannot carry any information, in that the ordinary cohomology of the punctured torus vanishes in degree 2 and higher (see *Figure 7*).
- However, the datum of a flat connection itself entails “secondary” characteristic classes (e.g. [FSS20-Cha, §4.3]), which for 2-dimensional semi-metals are the holonomies of the flat connection along any loop around nodal points. Due to the flatness of the connection these *Berry phases around nodal points* are independent of the shape of the loop and must be addressed as the topological charge carried by the nodal points, reflecting the obstruction to the semi-metal phase turning into an insulating phase.

Figure 8. The flat Berry connection on the valence bundle over the complement of (a tubular neighbourhood of) the nodal points in the Brillouin torus of a 2d semi-metal (cf. *Figure 6*) has two contributions:

- (1) The holonomy around 1-cycles in the full Brillouin torus (denoted S_a^1, S_b^1 in *Figure 7*) gives the Zak phases that may be present also in topological insulators (i.e. in the absence of nodal points).
- (2) The holonomy around nodal points reflects their “momentum-space charge”, the obstruction to opening up the gap closure, measuring how far the topological semi-metal phase is from being a topological insulator.



In view of Fact 2.5, this suggests that phases of 2-dimensional topological semi-metals ought to be classified by a version of K-theory (evaluated on the complement of the nodal points) which is appropriate for flat vector bundles, or more generally for vector bundles equipped with a trivialization of their Chern classes. The evident candidate cohomology theory is the version of differential K-theory (e.g. [BS12][FSS20-Cha, Ex. 4.41]) known as *flat K-theory*, whose cohomology groups are characterized as arranging into a hexagonal commuting diagram ([SiSu08, §2][BNV13, §6]), the lower part of which looks as follows, where the bottom sequence of groups is long exact ([Ka87, §7.21][Ka90, Ex. 3][Lo94, (16)]):

⁷In contrast, for 3-dimensional semi-metals the Bianchi identity $dF_{\nabla} = 0$ satisfied by the curvature 2-form of the Berry connection implies that nodal points behave in momentum space much as Dirac’s hypothetical magnetic monopoles would behave in position space.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
& & \text{Differential K-theory} & & \\
& \nearrow & \text{KU}_{\text{diff}}^{n-1}(\mathbb{X}) & \searrow & \\
\text{KU}^{n-2}(\mathbb{X}; \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{KU}^{n-1}(\mathbb{X}; \mathbb{C}) \\
& \searrow \text{secondary Chern character} & & \nearrow \text{Chern character} & \\
& & \text{KU}_b^{n-1}(\mathbb{X}) & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \text{KU}^{n-1}(\mathbb{X}) \\
& & \text{Flat K-theory} & & \text{Underlying plain K-theory}
\end{array} \tag{41}$$

In analogy with Fact 2.5, this leads us to state:

Conjecture 3.1 (Flat TED-K-theory classification of semi-metals). *The deformation classes of 2-dimensional crystalline semi-metals are classified by the (twisted equivariant) flat K-cohomology class of their Berry-flat valence bundle over the complement of (a tubular neighborhood of) the nodal points in the material's (orbifolded) Brillouin torus. Here the restriction of the (twisted equivariant) flat K-cohomology to small circles S^1 surrounding the l -th nodal points is identified with the class of the Berry phase around that circle, hence with the topological charge carried by that nodal point:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) // G & \xleftarrow{l_1} & S^1 // G \quad \text{Neighborhood around } l\text{-th nodal point} \\
\text{Twisted equivariant flat K-theory of nodal-punctured Brillouin torus} & \text{KU}_b^\tau((\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) // G) & \xrightarrow{l_1^*} \text{KU}_b^{*\tau}(S^1 // G) \quad \text{Group of Berry phases around/topological charges of } l\text{th nodal point}
\end{array} \tag{42}$$

and similarly the restriction to S_a^1 and S_b^1 is identified with the deformation classes of the corresponding Zak phase (Figure 8).

Remark 3.2 (Comparison to the literature). A comprehensive proposal for the classification of topological semi-metals aligned with the K-theoretic classification of topological insulators (Fact 2.5) has not been available in the literature. We are aware of the following partial suggestions:

- (i) [YN14] means to classify the quantum symmetries which may fix nodal points – this is subsumed in Conjecture 3.1 by employing *equivariant* K-theory.
- (ii) [Schn18][Schn20] suggests (following [MF13][CTSR16]) that topologically protected band crossings are those for which the linearized Hamiltonian in the vicinity of a nodal point does *not* admit a mass term (whose addition would open a mass gap), hence for which the Clifford module structure (as in Table 3.) does not extend to one further Clifford generator. It seems to be left open how this local argument is meant to classify the semi-metal globally. But since addition of a Clifford generator has the effect of shifting the K-theory degree (Table 3), one may think of the left term $\mathbf{K}^{\bullet-1}(\dots)$ in (44) as implementing the quotient by globally defined mass terms, in this sense.
- (iii) [MT16][MT17] propose global classification of semi-metals by the *ordinary cohomology* of the complement of the nodal points, following tradition for 3d semi-metals in solid state physics (e.g. [Li⁺20, (3)]) and suggesting that this might also apply to 2d semi-metals. It seems clear that this proposal needs to be refined from ordinary cohomology to K-theory in order to connect to the classification of topological insulators by Fact 2.5, and we may think of Conjecture 3.1 as providing this refinement.

Example 3.3 (Classification of TI -symmetric 2d semi-metals). We check that the statement of Conjecture 3.1 reproduces the expectation in the literature (e.g. [ZZ⁺16][FWDF16] [Van18, §5]), for the case of 2d semi-metals subject to joint time and inversion symmetry TI (from Ex. 2.15): By the discussion around (31), the relevant twisted equivariant KR-theory in this case is KO^0 (assuming that the system's excitations are bosonic, namely that $\widehat{T}^2 = +1$, see (21)), and the plain KO^0 groups of the N -punctured torus ($N \geq 1$) are a direct sum of copies of \mathbb{Z}_2 and hence pure torsion:

$$\text{KO}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\}) \underset{(40)}{\simeq} \text{KO}^0\left(\bigvee_{N+1} S^1\right) \simeq \bigoplus_{N+1} \text{KO}^0(S^1) \underset{(31)}{\simeq} \bigoplus_{N+1} \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

This implies that the Chern-(Pontrjagin) character in this case is trivial (in fact, even its (co-)domain is trivial), so that the relevant long exact sequence (41) implies that the flat KO^0 -cohomology of the N -punctured torus canonically coincides with the plain KO^0 -cohomology:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{KO}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}; \mathbb{R}) & \xrightarrow{\text{ch}_{\text{KO}}^{-1}} & \text{KO}_b^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) & \longrightarrow & \text{KO}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) & \xrightarrow{\text{ch}_{\text{KO}}} & \text{KO}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}; \mathbb{R}) \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{\{\vec{k}\}} \mathbb{Z}_2 & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \bigoplus_{\{\vec{k}\}} \mathbb{Z}_2 & \longrightarrow & 0.
\end{array} \tag{43}$$

This may be understood as saying that gapped and TI -equivariant (namely real) valence bundles on $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}$ carry, up to adiabatic and TI -equivariant deformation equivalence, a *unique* flat Berry connection, whose holonomy – hence whose two Zak phases and N Berry phases around the nodal points according to (42) – all take values in \mathbb{Z}_2 . Hence, in this case,

m of the effective *mass term* $m\gamma_0$ in the Dirac equation. If this happens to all nodal points (while keeping the band gap open everywhere else), it means that the topological semi-metal phase decays into a topological insulator-phase. A necessary condition for such a *mass term* to exist at all is that a further Clifford generator γ_0 is represented on the Bloch-Hilbert space of electrons such that it skew-commutes with all Clifford momenta \not{k} .

By Karoubi/Atiyah-Singer-type theorems (Prop. 2.13), such mass terms are typically again classified by topological K-theory groups. Note that, interestingly, this means that the topological *semi-metal*-phase must be classified in a group *modulo* the K-group of mass terms.

Remark 3.4 (Literature on mass term gap openings). In attempts towards the classification of topological semi-metal phases, it has been argued ([CS14, §A.2], reviewed in [Schn18, §II.A][Schn20, §2.1] and following [MF13, §V][CTSR16, §III.C]) by appeal to the ASK-Theorem (Prop. 2.13) or related statements, that possible choices of such mass-terms – hence of “nodal gap openings” (Figure 9) – are again classified by topological K-theory. However, we need to beware of the following subtleties, which may not always have received due attention in the literature:

- (i) Mass terms indicate the *absence* of a semi-metal phase. Hence topological semi-metal-phases ought to be classified by *quotienting out* a group of mass terms (cf. [FH16, Thm. 9.63]) from a group of potential charges at nodal points.
- (ii) Since in general there are multiple nodal points which jointly satisfy constraints on their total topological charge (see Ex. 3.5), the group of mass terms cannot be a K-theory group of a point, as considered in the above references, but must somehow be identified with the K-theory group of the whole punctured Brillouin torus.

Both of these effects can be seen explicitly in the celebrated Haldane model:

Example 3.5 (The Haldane model). The archetypical example of transitioning between 2-dimensional topological semi-metal- and insulator-phases by switching on a mass term (Figure 9) is the *Haldane model* ([Ha15], good review is in [At16][DTC21]), originally motivated as a theoretical model for the non-trivial Chern insulator phase (Ex. 2.16) of graphene with its spin-orbit coupling not neglected (which, however, has remained elusive to experimental detection). In fact, the Haldane model is obtained (from a simple model for the semi-metal phase of graphene) by adding *two* summands:

1. an actual mass term of the form $m\gamma_0$ (Figure 9), ie. for a *constant* $m \in \mathbb{R}$;
2. an interaction or “background field” term $t \cdot I(k)\gamma_0$ for a *non-constant* function I on the Brillouin torus, scaled by another parameter $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

The interest in the Haldane model draws from the fact (see Figure 10) that at $m \neq 0$ and beyond some interaction strength $|t| > t_{\text{crit}}(m)$ it realizes a non-trivial Chern-insulator phase (Ex. 2.16). But in fact, for $m \neq 0$ but $|t| \leq t_{\text{crit}}$ – and hence in particular for the case of a pure mass term deformation $m \neq 0, t = 0$ – the Haldane model is in a topologically *trivial* Chern insulator phase (ie. the valence bundle is gapped but has vanishing first Chern class, $c_1 = 0$, and hence is isomorphic to a trivial complex vector bundle).

This trivial insulator phase (with $c_1 = 0$) of the non-interacting Haldane model at $m \neq 0$ but $t = 0$ is traditionally perceived as the problem which the seminal model building by Haldane did overcome, but for the purpose of uncovering the mathematical classification of 2d semi-metal phases (Conj. 3.1) we highlight this as a most interesting datapoint:

To the extent that the properties of the Haldane model are generic for 2d semi-metal phases with effectively flat Berry connection away from the nodal points (Figure 6), it shows that the deformation by an actual (namely constant) mass term (Figure 9) leads to a Chern-insulator phase which, while non-vanishing Chern numbers are still associated with the vicinity of each nodal point, is globally topologically trivial in that the total global Chern number vanishes.

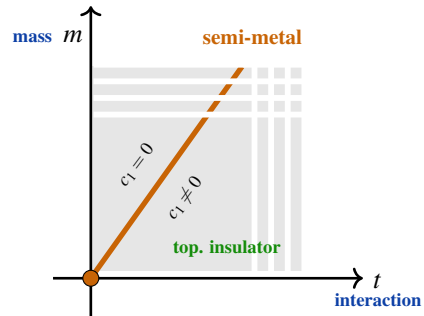


Figure 10. Indicated is the phase diagram of the Haldane model in dependence of the pure mass term m and the interaction strength t .

The topological semi-metal phase right at the origin ($m = 0, t = 0$) is the graphene-like phase with two Dirac points. The semi-metal phase on the slope $t = t_{\text{crit}}(m)$ for $m > 0$ has a single Dirac point and interpolates between a trivial and a non-trivial topological insulator phase. In particular, when the interaction vanishes, $t = 0$, and only a pure mass term $m > 0$ is turned on, then the graphene-like semi-metal phase is gapped into a *trivial* insulator phase: The Berry curvature is still concentrated at the locations k_I where the Dirac points used to be – and hence reflects a local topological charge $c_1[\mathcal{V}|_{S^2}]$ in the compactly

supported K-theory around these points—, but the sum of these contributions, being the integral of the Berry curvature over the whole Brillouin torus and hence equal to the first Chern class of the valence bundle, vanishes:

$$c_1[\mathcal{V}] = \sum_I c_1[\mathcal{V}|_{S_I^2}] = 0.$$

We now observe that this peculiar property of the Haldane model is accurately reflected by Conj. 3.1:

Example 3.6 (Classification of 2d Chern semi-metals). We may combine the flat K-theory exact sequence (41) with the exact sequences induced from the homotopy cofiber sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Complement of} & & \text{Brillouin torus} & & \text{Tubular nbhds} \\ \text{nodal points in} & \hookrightarrow & \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 & \twoheadrightarrow & \text{of nodal points} \\ \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\} & & & & \bigvee_{k_I} S_I^2 \end{array}$$

(where S_I^2 denotes the white disk labeled k_I in *Figure 7*, where the grey boundary area is all identified with a single basepoint) to obtain the following exact sequence of exact sequences:

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{l} \text{Zak phases} \\ \text{Zak phases among} \\ \text{Berry-Zak phases} \\ \text{Berry-Zak phases /} \\ \text{nodal point charges} \\ \text{Local Berry curv. /} \\ \text{local top. charges} \\ \text{at gapped nodes} \\ \text{Local top. charges} \\ \text{modulo gapped} \\ \text{node charges} \\ \text{Global} \\ \text{topological phases} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{K-theory} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Ordinary cohomology} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{Flat K-theory} \\ \begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2; \mathbb{C}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}_b^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) & & \\ \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow \wr & & \\ 0 \simeq \ker(\text{ch}^{-1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) \xrightarrow{\text{ch}^{-1}} \mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}; \mathbb{C}) & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbf{K}_b^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) \simeq 0 \\ \text{valence bundles with mass term} & & \text{naïve nodal point charges} & & \text{top. semi-metal phases} & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 \simeq \ker(\text{ch}^0) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^0(\bigvee_{\vec{k}} S^2) \xrightarrow{\text{ch}^0} \mathbf{K}^0(\bigvee_{\vec{k}} S^2; \mathbb{C}) & \twoheadrightarrow & \mathbf{K}_b^1(\bigvee_{\vec{k}} S^2) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^1(\bigvee_{\vec{k}} S^2) \simeq 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow & & \\ \mathbf{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2; \mathbb{C}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{K}_b^1(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) & & \\ \text{top. insulator phases} & & & & & & \end{array} \end{array} \quad (44) \end{array}$$

Here:

1. The column labeled “ordinary cohomology” essentially coincides with the Mayer-Vietoris sequence considered in [MT16, (2.3)] [MT17, (2)] (there thought of as applying to integer coefficients, but all pertinent arguments hold verbatim also for complex coefficients). The following argument is akin to that in these articles, but the shift in Brillouin torus dimension from 3 (there) to 2 (here) makes a real difference for the physical interpretation: In 2d the Chern class c_1 and hence the \mathbf{K}^0 -groups cannot reflect nodal point charges (which instead is accomplished now by \mathbf{K}_b^0) but remain indicative of the global gapped topological phases, in accord with Fact 2.5.
2. At the boundaries of the diagram we have used the nature of the homotopy type of the punctured torus (*Figure 7*) to evaluate the given cohomology groups. For example (recalling that all cohomology groups we display are *reduced*) we see that would-be topological insulator phases necessarily trivialize on the complement of some points:

$$\mathbf{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\}) \simeq \mathbf{K}^0(\bigvee_{N+1} S^1) \simeq \bigoplus_{n+1} \mathbf{K}^0(S^1) \simeq 0,$$

while it is now the shifted K-group which reflects potential charges associated with the nodal points, both rationally

$$\mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\}; \mathbb{C}) \simeq \bigoplus_k \mathbf{H}^{2k+1}(\bigvee_{N+1} S^1; \mathbb{C}) \simeq \bigoplus_{N+1} \mathbf{H}^1(S^1) \simeq \mathbb{C}^{N+1}$$

as well as integrally:

$$\mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^{N+1} \xrightarrow{\text{ch}^{-1}} \mathbb{C}^{N+1} \simeq \mathbf{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\}; \mathbb{C}).$$

These boundary identifications are special to the symmetry un-protected case of Chern phases considered here, but the structure of the diagram generalizes to (twisted) *equivariant* K-theory groups describing SPT/SET semi-metal phases if the boundary groups are instead replaced by their appropriate cohomological truncation. For example, when $\mathbf{K}_G^{\tau}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\})$ does not vanish, then the analogous diagram still characterizes those SPT semi-metal phases whose image in this group vanishes.

3. In this vein, the green arrows indicate the long exact sequence implied by the Snake lemma, which yields no further information in the case of Chern phases at hand, but may be non-trivial for SPT/SET phases.

Finally, the squiggly dashed arrows indicates where the “gapping” of band nodes by mass terms is reflected in this diagram: Given a set of naive nodal point charges which happen to be “accidental” or “spurious” in that there exists a mass term which opens the node crossings, then

- (i) exactness of the middle horizontal exact sequence implies that the underlying semi-metal phase is trivial;
- (ii) exactness of the left vertical exact sequence shows that the resulting local topological charges $c_1[S_I^2]$ (may each be non-trivial but) have vanishing total topological charge $\sum_I c_1[S_I^2] = 0$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}; \mathbb{C}) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{K}_b^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus \{\vec{k}\}) \\
 \downarrow & \supseteq & \longleftarrow & \longleftarrow & \downarrow \\
 & \text{choice of} & \text{nodal point} & \text{but trivial} & \\
 & \text{mass term} & \text{charges} & \text{semimetal phase} & \\
 & \downarrow & \swarrow & \longrightarrow & \\
 & \text{local Berry} & \text{gap out band nodes} & & \\
 & \text{curvatures} & & & \\
 \mathbb{K}^0(\bigvee_N S^2) \ni & & & & \mathbb{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) \ni \\
 \downarrow \sum_{I=1}^N & & & & \\
 \mathbb{K}^0(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2) \ni & & & & 0 \\
 & & & & \downarrow \\
 & & & & \text{necessarily trivial} \\
 & & & & \text{insulator phase}
 \end{array} \tag{45}$$

This is exactly the phenomenon seen in the Haldane model (*Figure 10*) for constant mass terms.

In summary, Examples 3.3 and 3.6 seem to provide decent evidence for Conjecture 3.1. The following discussion of topological interacting phases does not strictly depend on this conjecture, but together the two give a coherent picture.

3.2 Interacting phases and TED-K of configurations

So far we considered Bloch band theory, which is based on the assumption that the (screened) electrons in the crystal may be regarded as *free*, namely as not interacting with each other, but only with the effective background Coulomb field (this entered in Fact 2.3). It is remarkable that this assumption works so well (when it does, such as for many topological phases of matter) in that there is a good match between electron band theory and experimental observation: Apparently the strong mutual Coulomb interaction between real pairs of electrons in a crystal averages out in these cases (a fully satisfactory theoretical derivation of this phenomenon from first principles seems not to be available).

Topological order. However, it is thought that the free-electron approximation certainly does break down in other crystalline materials and specifically in some topological phases of matter, a now famous phenomenon which goes by a variety of technical terms that we may schematically organize into the following list of implications (which may be gleaned from reviews such as [ZCZW19]):

Topological phase with...

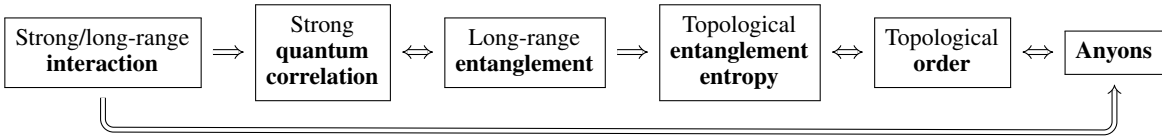


Figure 11 – Topological order from non-negligible electron-interactions.

Specifically, by *topological order* ([Wen91a][GW09, p. 2][ZCZW19, §III]), one means particularly rich topological phases of 2-dimensional quantum materials which may host defects (or “non-local quasi-particle excitations”) whose adiabatic braiding (Rem. 1.1) around each other has the effect of transforming the Hilbert space of ground states according to a non-trivial braid group representation, see around *Table 5* and *Figure 12* below. (If this braid representation is non-abelian – hence if there are *non-abelian anyons* – then the ground state energy must be degenerate in that the Hilbert space of joint ground states must be higher dimensional – this property was the original definition of “topological order” [Wen89][WN90][Wen91b][Wen93][Wen95]).

⁷[ZLSS15, p. 527]: “In a way it appears obvious that the strongly interacting bosonic quantum critical state is subject to long-range entanglement. Nonetheless, the status of this claim is conjectural. It is at present impossible to arrive at more solid conclusions that are based on rigorous mathematical procedures.”

It is thought that *topological order* is characterized by a non-vanishing constant contribution to the entanglement entropy of the ground state – called *topological entanglement entropy* ([KP06][LW06], review in [Gr13][ZCZW19, §5]) – which signifies the presence of *long-range entanglement* ([CGW10, §V]) in the ground state (and the *absence* of *short-range entanglement* [Ki11][Ki13][Fr14]).

Beware that this is often referred to as *strong correlation* (e.g. [Wen91a]) which, however, is meant as “quantum correlation” and as such synonymous with “quantum entanglement” (cf. [ZCZW19, §1.5] and generally [LL03, p. 2]). In contrast, *classical* long-range correlation is indicative of Landau-theory phases and hence orthogonal to topological order.

Last but not least, the typical source of long-range entanglement in the ground state are expected to be non-negligible long-range electron-electron *interactions* (e.g. [ZLSS15, p. 527][LV22, p. 1]).

The open problem of classifying topological order. Little to no aspect of the schematic sequence of implications in *Figure 11* has previously found a mathematical formulation akin to the K-theory classification of non-interacting topological phases (Fact 2.5). In fact, the success of K-theory in capturing non-interaction topological phases seems to have been tacitly understood as implying that K-theory cannot play a role in the classification of interacting topological phases.

We highlight now that this is not actually a problem of K-theory as such, but of the *domain space* on which it is evaluated: The n -electron interactions are instead captured by the K-cohomology of the *configuration space of n points* (47) in the Brillouin torus. This observation combined with the main theorem of [SS22-Any] suggests a mathematical formulation and classification of *anyonic topological order* which captures the outermost part of the diagram in *Figure 11*.

K-theory of n -electron states over the configuration space of n points. As one considers non-negligible n -electron interaction, the relevant wavefunctions are superpositions (linear combinations) of *Slater determinant states* $|\Psi_{i_1, \dots, i_n}\rangle$,

$$\Psi_{i_1, \dots, i_n} \left((k^1, s^1), \dots, (k^n, s^n) \right) := \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sym}(n)} (-1)^{\text{sgn}(\sigma)} \psi_{i_1}(k^{\sigma(1)}, s^{\sigma(1)}) \cdot \psi_{i_2}(k^{\sigma(2)}, s^{\sigma(2)}) \dots \psi_{i_n}(k^{\sigma(n)}, s^{\sigma(n)}) \quad (46)$$

(e.g. [SO82, §2.2.3][LCD86, p. 196]) of n -tuples of single electron Bloch wavefunctions $|\psi_i\rangle$, regarded as functions of momentum $k \in \mathbb{T}^d$ and spin polarization $s \in \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}$ (with respect to any fixed axis). To these Slater determinants, Bloch theory still applies (“ n -electron band theory”, e.g. [GLG88, p. 4]) and shows that the interacting energy bands become functions on the product spaces of n -tuples of Bloch momenta:

$$(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d)^n = \{(k^1, \dots, k^n) \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d\}.$$

For $n = 2$ this is worked out for explicit examples in [HGZ21]. For $n = 1$ this reduces to ordinary band theory (*Figure 3*).

These interacting bands over $(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d)^n$ will be the eigenvalue bands of vector bundles spanned by the underlying n -electron states, much as is the case for $n = 1$, by standard Bloch theory (Fact 2.1). The only subtlety to beware of here is that all n -electron wave-functions (of the same spin) necessarily vanish where any pair among the n electrons has coinciding momenta – due to the skew-symmetry enforced by the Slater determinants (46), expressing the “fermion statistics” of electrons, and hence the “Pauli exclusion principle” by which no two electrons inhabit the same single-particle state:

$$\exists_{i \neq j} (k^i = k^j \text{ and } s^i = s^j) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Psi_{i_1, \dots, i_n} \left((k^1, s^1), \dots, (k^n, s^n) \right) = 0.$$

Therefore, such a vector bundle of n -electron Bloch wavefunctions cannot exist over all of $(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d)^n$, since its fibers would degenerate on the “fat diagonal”

$$\Delta_X^n := \left\{ (k^1, \dots, k^n) \in X^{x^n} \mid \exists_{i \neq j} k^i = k^j \right\} \subset X^{x^n}.$$

But the n -electron Bloch vector bundle should exist over the complement of these problematic points (cf. [FGR96, p. 334]), which is the *configuration space of n “probe” points* (e.g. [SS22-Conf, §2.2]):

$$\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}}(X) := X^{x^n} \setminus \Delta_X^n. \quad (47)$$

Notice how this manifestly embodies the *Pauli Exclusion Principle*: the points where electron states would coincide (in momentum space $X = \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d$) are *excluded* from the configuration space.

More generally, if there are N band nodes as in *Figure 6*, then the valence bundle in *interacting n -electron approximation* should be a complex vector bundle over the configuration space of n (probe) points inside the complement of N (nodal) points inside the Brillouin torus:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Slater-Bloch valence bundle of} \\ \text{interacting } n\text{-electron states} \end{array} \quad \mathcal{V}_n \subset \coprod_{(k^1, \dots, k^n)} \text{Span} \left\{ \Psi_{i_1, \dots, i_n} \left((k^1, s^1), \dots, (k^n, s^n) \right) \right\}_{\substack{(i_1, \dots, i_n) \\ (s^1, \dots, s^n)}} \quad \text{Slater determinants of Bloch states} \quad (48)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{configuration space of} \\ n \text{ “probe” points} \end{array} \quad \text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \left(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\} \right) = \left\{ (k^1, \dots, k^n) \in (\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d)^n \mid \forall_{i \neq j} k^i \neq k^j \text{ and } \forall_{i, l} k^i \neq k_l \right\}.$$

in complement of N “nodal” points inside the Brillouin torus Pauli exclusion nodal singularities

(Moreover, this should descend to a vector bundle over the *un*-ordered configuration space, but here we stick with the ordered configuration space.)

In conclusion:

Conjecture 3.7 (K-Theory classification of crystalline SPT order). *The adiabatic deformation classes of symmetry protected (Figure 2) topological order of interacting electrons (according to Figure 11), for non-negligible $\leq n$ -electron interactions, is still classified by TED-K-theory (as in Fact 2.5 and Conj. 3.1), but now of the configuration space of n points (48) in the complement of any given N nodal points inside the Brillouin torus:*

$$[\mathcal{V}_n] \in \text{KR}^{\tau}_{\text{SPT classes}} \left(\left(\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \left(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^d \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\} \right) \right) // G_{\text{ext}} \right). \quad (49)$$

State-block where bundle
("fictitious" gauge)
symmetry protected topological order
Symmetry protection

Remark 3.8 (Interacting topological phases subsume free topological phases). In the degenerate case that $n = 1$, hence for the case of vanishing effective electron-electron interaction, we have

$$\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, 1\}}(X) = X \quad (50)$$

and the statement of Conjecture 3.7 reduces to that of Fact 2.17.

Besides the clear physical motivation (48) for Conjecture 3.7, the key evidence, which we turn to next, comes from the observation ([SS22-Any]) that (flat) TED-K-theory groups of the form (49) do reflect the presence of non-abelian anyons as expected/demanded for a topological order (Figure 11), in that they naturally contain the expected anyon ground state wave functions (namely *conformal blocks*) which do constitute braid group representations (“anyon statistics”) under movement of the nodal points k_I . This is the result of [SS22-Any], which we now review and further connect to condensed matter theory.

3.3 Anyonic topological order and Inner local system-TED-K

Notions of anyons – quanta & defects, in position- & momentum-space. The idea of *anyon particles* in $2 + 1$ dimensions (review in [Wil90][Le92][Rao16], following [LM77] [Wil82b], cf. Figure 11) is that their wave-functions pick up *any* (whence the name) fixed unitary transformation (instead of just multiplication by -1 , as for fermions) whenever one of them completes a full rotation around another (as made precise in a moment). We may recognize *two distinct* conceptualizations of anyons implicit in the literature, which we will refer to as shown in Table 5:

Anyonic quanta (abelian)	like fermionic quanta (such as electrons) but subject to <i>additional</i> abelian braiding phases, understood as Aharonov-Bohm phases due to a flat abelian “fictitious” gauge field (56) which is sourced by and coupled to each of the quanta.	([CWWH89] following [ASWZ85], reviewed in [Wil90, §I.3][Wil91], see also [IL92])
Anyonic defects (possibly non-abelian)	like solitonic defects (such as vortices) whose position is a classical parameter (boundary condition) to the quantum system and whose <i>adiabatic movement</i> (Rem. 1.1) acts on the quantum ground state by (non-abelian) Berry phases .	(e.g. [ASW84, p. 1] [FKLW03, pp. 6] [NSSFS08, §II.A.2] [CGDS11][CLBFN15] [BP20][St20, p. 321])

Table 5 – Notions of anyons. – Even though the term *anyon* (or *plekton*) is traditionally used indiscriminately, we highlight that *anyonic quanta* and *anyonic defects* are on distinct conceptual footing. Below we formalize both notions and find them unified within the TED-K theory of configuration spaces of points (reflecting the anyonic quanta) inside surfaces with punctures (reflecting the anyonic defects).

While the common terminology of “anyon statistics” evokes the notion of anyonic *quanta* (quasi-particles), the early motivation of anyons as particles “bound” to practically infinite solenoids/magnetic flux tubes ([GMS81, §III][Wil82a][Wil90, p. 5]) refers to their incarnation as *defects*. In fact, the braiding of defects of co-dimension=2 had been discussed in detail ([Mer79][LP93]) before and while the notion of “anyons” became established terminology. More recently, this is gaining renewed attention:

Anyonic particles are best viewed as a kind of topological defects that reveal nontrivial properties of the ground state. [Ki06, p. 4].

Specifically, anyonic *vortex defects* are realized in Bose-Einstein condensates [MPSS19] and other superfluids [MMN21]. Vortices with bound Majorana zero modes are among the most studied anyon species for potential laboratory realization [DSFN15] (cf. [MMB⁺19, Fig. 1]). This is expected to generalize to $su(2)$ -anyons given by zero modes bound to solitonic defects in parafermion models [Ts14, p. 2][Bor18, pp. 3]. Therefore, it is important to make explicit that, besides their incarnation as quanta or quasi-particles, anyons have *another* incarnation as defects:

Anyons can arise in two ways: as localised excitations of an interacting quantum Hamiltonian or as defects in an ordered system. [DSFN15, p. 1].

We will present in the following a theory (TED-K theory of configuration spaces) which brings out and unifies both these distinct notions of anyons. But first we note that a notion of defects subject to adiabatic braiding (Rem. 1.1) is clearly not constrained to defects in position space:

Remark 3.9 (Momentum-space anyons.). (i) Solitonic defects also exist in “momentum space” (“reciprocal space”), namely in the guise of the familiar and ubiquitous band nodes in the Brillouin torus of a semi-metal (*Figure 6*) – an observation recently highlighted in [APY19], whose authors refer to “*band crossing points, henceforth called vortices*”. This notion of semi-metal band nodes as anyon-like defects in momentum space is recently finding attention [BW⁺20][TB20][JBL⁺21][PBSM22], notably for the case of (twisted bilayer) graphene (see [KV20, Fig. 18]). In particular, the all-important *adiabatic movement* (braiding) of anyons is quite tractable for band nodes in momentum space [CBSM22] [PBMS22][PGZO22]⁸, while it remains elusive for defect anyons in position space (cf. [Ki06, p. 8][SRN15, p. 7-8] and [Kou⁺21][Kou⁺22]).

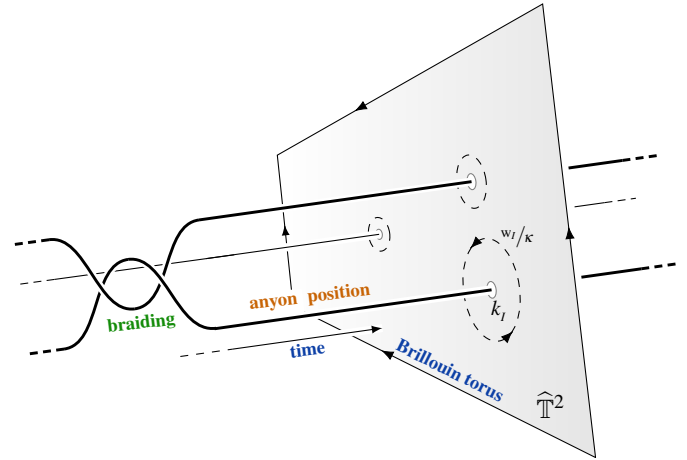
(ii) At the same time, a theoretical underpinning for understanding band nodes as *anyons in momentum space* had been missing. We suggest that the results developed below §3.3 go towards providing this theory.

(iii) In the following we show that TED-K-theory of configuration spaces provides a theory which formalizes and unifies both anyonic quanta and anyonic defects in a way that subsumes their existing mathematical models.

The resulting picture is most coherent for anyons in momentum/reciprocal-space:

Figure 12 – Anyon braiding. Shown is a configuration of three points on a surface, evolving in time such that two of the points rotate around each other with their worldlines forming a braid. In the text we consider this general situation for the non-standard case where the points are in *momentum space* (“reciprocal space”), namely in the Brillouin torus of a topological semi-metal. Here, in the terminology of *Table 5*:

- the *anyonic quanta* are interacting Bloch electron states (46) whose interaction involves an effective “fictitious gauge field” (in momentum space) inducing abelian Aharonov-Bohm phases under braiding;
- the *anyonic defects* are nodal points, namely loci of band nodes (*Figure 6*), which are singular defects in momentum space, for instance in that they act as delta-sources for Berry curvature.



⁸[JBL⁺21]: “we consider an exotic type of topological phases beyond the above paradigms that, instead, depend on topological charge conversion processes when band nodes are braided with respect to each other in momentum space or recombined over the Brillouin zone. The braiding of band nodes is in some sense the reciprocal space analog of the non-Abelian braiding of particles in real space. [...] we experimentally observe non-Abelian topological semimetals and their evolutions using acoustic Bloch bands in Kagome acoustic metamaterials. By tuning the geometry of the metamaterials, we experimentally confirm the creation, annihilation, moving, merging and splitting of the topological band nodes in multiple bandgaps and the associated non-Abelian topological phase transitions”

[CBSM22]: “Our work opens up routes to readily manipulate Weyl nodes using only slight external parameter changes, paving the way for the practical realization of reciprocal space braiding.”

[PBMS22]: “new opportunities for exploring non-Abelian braiding of band crossing points (nodes) in reciprocal space, providing an alternative to the real space braiding exploited by other strategies. Real space braiding is practically constrained to boundary states, which has made experimental observation and manipulation difficult; instead, reciprocal space braiding occurs in the bulk states of the band structures and we demonstrate in this work that this provides a straightforward platform for non-Abelian braiding.”

[PBMS22]: “it is possible to controllably braid Kagome band nodes in monolayer Si_2O_3 using strain and/or an external electric field.”

Remark 3.10 (Natural toroidal geometry for momentum-space topological order).

- (i) Crystalline momentum/reciprocal space naturally provides the toroidal geometry – in form of the Brillouin torus (2) – which is thought (starting with [Wen89]) to be so important for realizing non-trivial topological order.
- (ii) In contrast, it was never clear (cf. [La19, p. 1]) how anyons inside toroidal position-space geometry (envisioned by so many authors, e.g. [Ei90][HH92][GW92][PJ21]) would be realized in solid state physics. Even with the crystal lattice being periodic in position space, the position of anyon defects would hardly be. But for Bloch features in momentum space (such as band nodes), all this is natural and automatic.
- (iii) Last but not least, topological order formulated in momentum space naturally connects (as shown in the following) to the established understanding of topological gapped phases (Fact 2.5) which is all concerned with phenomena in momentum space.

Therefore, we regard the following analysis (culminating in Facts 3.13 and 3.14) as a prediction from TED-K-theory of a good momentum-space anyon phenomenology (see also Rem. 3.15 below).

Anyon quanta and Equivariant valence bundles. In mathematical detail, the nature of *anyonic quanta* (in the sense of Table 5) propagating on some (position- or momentum-) space X is (e.g. [BCMS93, (1.2)][DFT97, (1.3)]) that their n -particle wave-functions Ψ (see (48)) are complex functions on the configuration space (47) which are “multi-valued” according to the anyon braiding phases. That is, these are actual complex functions $\widehat{\Psi}$ on the universal covering space

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Br}_X(n) & & \mathbb{Z}_\kappa \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \widehat{\text{Conf}}(X) & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\Psi}} & \mathbb{C} \\
 \{1, \dots, n\} & \text{anyonic } n\text{-quanta} & \\
 & \text{wave-function} & \\
 \downarrow \text{universal cover} & & \\
 \text{Conf}(X) & & \\
 \{1, \dots, n\} & &
 \end{array} \tag{51}$$

that are *equivariant* with respect to the action of *braids*, namely of loops in configuration space:

$$[\gamma] \in \text{Br}_X(n) := \pi_1(\text{Conf}(X)). \tag{52}$$

The latter condition means that they satisfy the following constraint

$$\widehat{\Psi}([\gamma] \cdot (k^1, \dots, k^n)) = \phi(\gamma) \cdot \widehat{\Psi}(k^1, \dots, k^n) \tag{53}$$

for all braids $[\gamma]$ and n -tuples of positions $k^1, \dots, k^n \in X$, and for a given choice of *braiding phases*, given by a group homomorphism

$$\phi : \text{Br}_X(n) \xrightarrow{\text{braiding phases}} \mathbb{Z}_\kappa \hookrightarrow \text{U}(1). \tag{54}$$

This (53) was essentially understood in [Wu84][IIS90], a clear account is in [MuSc95], see also [FGM90, p. 20][BCMS93, §1][DFT97, §1]; and for references specifically in the context of solid state physics see also [DMV03][MuSh09]. Here we highlight that (53) means that the vector bundle $\widehat{\mathcal{V}}_n$ of which the wave-functions $\widehat{\Psi}$ are the sections – notably: the anyonic generalization of the n -electron valence bundle \mathcal{V}_n (48) – is equipped with *equivariant bundle structure* relative to ϕ (see [SS21-Bun] for exposition and pointers):

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_n([\gamma_1](k^1, \dots, k^n)) & \\
 \nearrow \phi([\gamma_1]) & & \searrow \phi([\gamma_2]) \\
 \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_n((k^1, \dots, k^n)) & \xrightarrow{\text{multiplication by braiding phases}} & \widehat{\mathcal{V}}_n([\gamma_2 \cdot \gamma_1](k^1, \dots, k^n)) \\
 \text{Fiber of anyonic } n\text{-particle} & & \text{Fiber of anyonic } n\text{-particle} \\
 \text{valence bundle at some} & & \text{valence bundle at braided} \\
 \text{ } n\text{-tuple of momenta} & & \text{ } n\text{-tuple of momenta}
 \end{array}$$

In the convenient language of stacks (as laid out in [SS20-Orb][SS21-Bun]), with $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$ denoting the moduli stack of complex vector bundles, we may sum this up as saying that the n -particle valence bundle of *anyonic quanta* is given by a system of horizontal maps making the following diagram homotopy-commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Universal cover} & \begin{array}{c} \text{Br}_X(n) \\ \downarrow \\ \text{Conf}(X)_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \end{array} & \xrightarrow[\text{anyonic braiding equivariance}]{\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}} \\
& & \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}} \\
\text{Configuration space of } n \text{ anyonic quanta} & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
& \text{Conf}(X)_{\{1, \dots, n\}} & \xrightarrow[\text{interacting } n\text{-particle valence bundle}]{\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}} // \mathbb{Z}_K} \\
& & \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}} // \mathbb{Z}_K \\
\text{Classifying stack of fundamental group} & \downarrow & \downarrow \\
& \mathbf{B} \pi_1(\text{Conf}(X)_{\{1, \dots, n\}}) & \xrightarrow[\text{braiding phases}]{\mathbf{B}\phi} \mathbf{B} \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}_K}_{\subset \text{U}(1)} \\
& \underbrace{=: \text{Br}_X(n)}_{\text{braid group}} & \\
& & \text{Moduli stack of anyon phases}
\end{array} \tag{55}$$

Anyon defects and Local system-twisted de Rham cohomology of configuration spaces. The presentation (55) makes it clear how the theory of Chern classes of valence bundles – as familiar from the topological phases of Chern insulators (Exp. 2.16) – generalizes to the case of interacting and anyonic topological order (Figure 11):

The Chern classes of anyonic n -particle valence bundles are in the cohomology of the n -point configuration space *with local coefficients* given by the braiding phases.

In detail, assume that X is a smooth manifold and let ω_1 be a closed differential 1-form, whose holonomy gives the prescribed braiding phases (54), hence let ω_1 be a *vector potential of the “fictitious gauge field”* from Table 5:

$$\omega_1 \in \Omega^1(\text{Conf}(X); \mathbb{C})|_{d=0} \tag{56}$$

such that

$$\forall_{[\gamma] \in \pi_1} \exp\left(2\pi i \int_{\gamma} \omega_1\right) = \phi([\gamma]) \in \mathbb{Z}_K \subset \text{U}(1) \subset \mathbb{C}^\times. \tag{57}$$

Then the Chern forms of the ϕ -anyonic valence bundles (55) are in the ω_1 -twisted complex-valued de Rham cohomology ([De70, §2, 6][ESV92], review in [Vo03I, §9.2.1][Di04, §2.5], cf. [GS18]):

$$H^n(\text{Conf}(X); \phi) \simeq H_{\text{dR}}^{q+\omega_1}(\text{Conf}(X); \mathbb{C}) := H^q\left(\underbrace{\Omega_{\text{dR}}^{\bullet}(\text{Conf}(X); \mathbb{C})}_{\omega_1\text{-twisted de Rham complex}}, d + \omega_1 \wedge\right). \tag{58}$$

Hence we may equivalently re-formulate the previous statement as:

The Chern classes of anyonic n -particle valence bundles are in the complex de Rham cohomology of the n -point configuration space *twisted by* the “fictitious” gauge potential.

Strikingly, this *implies* that defects (punctures) appear as *defect anyons* (according to Table 5), as we now explain.

Consider the case of interest where X is the Brillouin torus of a 2d semi-metal with nodal points k_1, \dots, k_N removed (Figure 6); or rather: consider for the moment the *annulus* resulting from cutting this punctured Brillouin torus along one of its non-trivial 1-cycles $S_a^1 \subset \widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2$ (as in Figure 7, hence assumed to be disjoint from the nodal points):

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Brillouin torus cut along a 1-cycle} & \text{annulus with } N \text{ punctures} & \text{complex plane with } N+1 \text{ punctures} & \text{Riemann sphere with } N+2 \text{ punctures} \\
\text{with } N \text{ nodal punctures} & & & \\
\left(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus S_a^1\right) \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\} & \simeq (\mathbb{D}^2 \setminus \{k_0\}) \setminus \{k_1, \dots, k_N\} & \simeq \mathbb{C} \setminus \{k_0, k_1, \dots, k_N\} & \simeq \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{k_0, k_1, \dots, k_N, k_{N+1}\}. \tag{59}
\end{array}$$

(On the far right of (59), k_0, k_{N+1} are any further pairwise distinct points which, without restriction of generality, we may think of as fixed to $k_0 = 0$ and $k_{N+1} = \infty$.) The corresponding configuration space inherits the evident complex structure, whose canonical holomorphic coordinate functions we denote by

$$k^1, \dots, k^n : \text{Conf}(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{k_0, k_1, \dots, k_N, k_{N+1}\}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}. \tag{60}$$

In terms of these holomorphic coordinates, the “fictitious” vector potential (56) may be chosen to be the following holomorphic differential form (cf. [SS22-Any, (41)] following [FSV94, (19)], and compare *Figure 1*):

$$\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa) := \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \frac{2}{\kappa} \frac{dk^i}{(k^i - k^j)} - \sum_{\substack{0 \leq I \leq N \\ 1 \leq i \leq n}} \frac{w_I}{\kappa} \frac{dk^i}{(k^i - k_I)}. \quad (61)$$

“fictitious” gauge potential
quanta-quanta (qq) braiding phases
quanta-defect (qd) braiding phases

Here the first sum in (61) gives the constant braiding phases among the anyon quanta as considered in [CWWH89, (1.1)]; concretely, our κ equals 4 times the “ n ” used in [CWWH89]. Then the second summand in (61) specifies the additional phases obtained when braiding an anyonic quantum around an anyonic defect. Such a mixed quanta/defect-phase is parameterized by an integer w_I modulo κ , to be called the *weight of/at the I -th defect*:

$$w_I \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad [w_I] \in \mathbb{Z}_\kappa, \quad \vec{w} := (w_0, w_1, \dots, w_N), \quad w_{N+1} := \left(\sum_{I=0}^N w_I \right) - n.$$

“incoming” weights
“outgoing” weight

Concretely, a differential form Ψ on the configuration space which is ω_1 -twisted closed is equivalently an ordinary closed form $\widehat{\Psi}$ (51) on the universal cover of the configuration space of the following form (cf. [SS22-Any, (42)] following [FSV94, (20)][SV90, (2.1)], called the “master function” in [SIVa19, §2.1]):

$$\text{Twisted-closed wavefunction on configuration space} \quad d\Psi + \omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa) \wedge \Psi = 0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{Equivariant closed wavefunction on universal cover} \quad \widehat{\Psi}(\widehat{k}^1, \dots, \widehat{k}^n) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\widehat{k}^i - \widehat{k}^j)^{2/\kappa} \prod_{\substack{0 \leq I \leq N \\ 1 \leq i \leq n}} (\widehat{k}^i - k_I)^{w_I/\kappa} \cdot \Psi(k^1, \dots, k^i), \quad (62)$$

quanta-quanta (qq) braiding phases
quanta-defect (qd) braiding phases

where \widehat{k}^i denote coordinates on the universal cover, while k^i denote the pullbacks of the corresponding coordinates (60) on the configuration space itself.

Remark 3.11 (Generalized Laughlin wavefunctions with mixed quanta-defect braiding phases). The form (62) is just that of *generalized Laughlin wavefunctions* for anyons considered in [Hal84, (11)][NSSFS08, (89), (93)][La19, (3)], which generalize the original *Laughlin wavefunctions* [Lau83][MR91, §2.2] (review in [Gi04, §2.1]) to a situation with mixed quanta-defect braiding phases.

Hence for given $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}_+$ – determining the phase picked up by braiding any two anyonic quanta around each other – equation (61) parameterizes general quanta-defect braiding phases, subject only to the constraint that these come in integer multiples of *half* the quanta-quanta braiding phases. This curious constraint has its secret origin in the root lattice geometry of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{su}_2 and guarantees that the following crucial fact holds ([FSV94, Cor. 3.4.2, Rem. 3.4.3][SS22-Any, Prop. 2.17]⁹):

The complex de Rham cohomology of configuration space, twisted (58) by the “fictitious vector potential” (61), naturally contains the space of \mathfrak{su}_2 -conformal blocks, identified with the following Laughlin state (Rem. 3.11) Slater determinants (46) weighted by the canonical holomorphic volume form:

$$\text{CnfBck}_{\widehat{\mathfrak{su}_2}^{\kappa-2}} \left((k_I)_{I=0}^{N+1}, \left\{ (w_I)_{I=0}^N, w_{N+1} = \left(\sum_{I=0}^N w_I \right) - n \right\} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{de Rham cohomology twisted by “fictitious” vector potential}} H_{\text{dR}}^{n+\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa)} \left(\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \left((\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus S_a^1) \setminus \{k_I\}_{I=1}^N \right); \mathbb{C} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{configuration space of } n \text{ quanta among } N \text{ defects}} \left[\det \left(\frac{w_{Ij}}{\kappa} \frac{1}{k^i - k_I^j} \right)_{i,j=1}^n dk^1 \wedge \dots \wedge dk^n \right]. \quad (63)$$

“conformal block for N punctures and n insertions” (cf. [FSV94, 2.3.3, 2.3.6][SS22-Any, Ex. 2.14])
Slater determinant Laughlin state

Remark 3.12 (Topologically ordered anyonic ground states in terms of modular tensor categories).

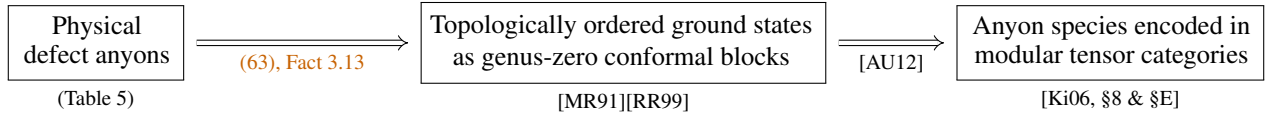
(i) Chiral *conformal blocks* as appearing in (63) are thought to be the Laughlin-type ground state wavefunctions of non-abelian defect anyons (this is due to [MR91][RR99], reviewed in [NSSFS08, III.D.2], further developments in [GHL21][ZWXT21], review in [Le92, §9][Wan10, §8.3][Su18]), specifically ([Ino98]) of “ \mathfrak{su}_2 -anyons” (i.e. described by an $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}_2}^{\kappa-2}$ CS/WZW theory, as in [FLW02]) such as Majorana/Ising-anyons for $\kappa - 2 = 2$ and Fibonacci-anyons for $\kappa - 2 = 3$ (e.g. [TTWL08][GAT⁺13][SRN15, p. 11][JS21, §III]). In general this is the case for *fractional* shifted levels κ/r , see further below around *Table 12*.

⁹The discussion in [FSV94][SS22-Any] is in terms of ω_1 -twisted *holomorphic* de Rham cohomology. This is still equivalent (58) to the complex cohomology (with local system ϕ of coefficients) of the configuration space, since (e.g. [Di04, Thm. 2.5.11]) configuration spaces of points in punctured Riemann surfaces are complex Stein domains [SS22-Any, Rem. 2.2].

(ii) In fact, the unitary *modular tensor categories* (MTCs) which arise as representation categories of chiral 2d conformal field theories (CFTs) such as of the \mathfrak{su}_2 -affine CFT above (the chiral \mathfrak{su}_2 WZW model), specifically of their *vertex operator algebras* (VOAs), are expected to be the mathematical structure accurately encoding topological order and anyon species. In particular, modular tensor categories are *braided fusion categories*, and their category-theoretic braiding is widely thought to reflect the corresponding anyonic braiding. The origin of this idea may be [Ki06, §8, §E], where it is argued in a concrete model. The general statement has become folklore, traditionally re-iterated without proof or even attribution (e.g. in [NSSFS08, pp. 28][Wan10, §6.3][RW18, §2.4][Bo21]) and claimed to be “mature” in [Wan18, p. 1]. That a proof had actually been missing was highlighted recently in [Val21] (which goes on to establish a list of sufficient conditions that need to be established for the statement to hold.)

Here we find a derivation of MTC structure of anyon braiding from a first-principles definition of anyons as in *Table 5*:

(iii) We may observe that the braiding structure in an MTC arising as a representation category of 2d CFT is entirely determined by the CFT’s conformal blocks on the punctured Riemann sphere (this fact is highlighted in [EGNO15, p. 266][Run, p. 36]; phrased in terms of modular functors this is a result due to [AU12]). In this sense, the conformal blocks appearing in (63) may be regarded as the missing link between the physics of anyons according to *Table 5* and the expected classification of species of anyons (really: *defect anyons*) by MTCs:



Hence, in view of Rem. 3.12, the combination of the above boxed facts yields the following conclusion:

Fact 3.13 (Topologically ordered ground states via Chern forms of interacting valence bundles). *The complex vector space of complex Chern-de Rham classes of interacting valence bundles of any number $n \geq 1$ of anyonic quanta among N anyonic nodal defects in the cut Brillouin torus $\widehat{\mathbb{T}^2} \setminus S_a^1$ naturally contains the Hilbert space of topologically ordered ground states of $\{0, \dots, I, \dots, N+1\}$ \mathfrak{su}_2 -anyons, whose:*

- level (i.e. species: Majorana, Ising, Fibonacci, ...) is $k = 2/\phi^{qa} - 2$, for $\phi^{qa} \in \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \simeq \text{U}(1)$ being the phase picked up by braiding a pair of the anyonic quanta;
- weight (i.e. \mathfrak{su}_2^k -spin) is $w_I = 1/\phi_I^{qd}$, for $\phi_I^{qd} \in \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \simeq \text{U}(1)$ being the phase picked up by braiding an anyonic quantum around the I th anyonic defect.

It remains to discuss how exactly this encodes the non-abelian braiding statistics expected in topologically ordered ground states:

Non-abelian topological order and hypergeometric KZ-solutions. It is familiar from the discussion 3d Chern semimetals (e.g. [MT16, (2.3)]) that the topological charge of a nodal point is the integral of the valence bundle’s Chern form over a cycle in the Brillouin torus which encloses the nodal point. In evident variation of this principle, we must regard cycles with complex coefficients in the local system ϕ (55) – hence the homology-dual of the twisted cohomology (58) – as reflecting the nodal configurations of the anyonic n -particle interacting system:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{\color{blue} } N\text{-nodal points} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{\color{blue} } n\text{-cycle around nodal points} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{\color{red} } \text{homology of configuration space with local system of coefficients} \\
 \{k_I\}_{I=1}^N \xrightarrow[\text{\color{green} } \text{flat section of GM connection}]{\hspace{2cm}} \sigma(\{k_I\}_{I=1}^N) \in H_n \left(\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \left((\widehat{\mathbb{T}^2} \setminus S_a^1) \setminus \{k_I\}_{I=1}^N \right); \phi \right). \tag{64}
 \end{array}$$

In degree 1 such twisted cycles are *Pochhammer loops* (see around [Va95, Fig. 1.1][EFK98, Fig. 4.1]); for a construction in general degrees see [EFK98, §7.6]. Here one wants to assume that the choice of the twisted cycle σ in (64) is carried along with the positions k_I of the nodal defects. Technically, this makes sense since the twisted homology groups on the right (64) canonically form a *flat* vector bundle over $\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, N\}}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}^2} \setminus S_a^1)$, known as the *Gauss-Manin connection* (GM, see e.g. [Ku98][Vo03I, Def. 9.13] for the general concept and see [EFK98, §7.5][SS22-TQC] for the case at hand); and we agree that σ in (64) denotes a parallel section with respect to this flat GM connection.

Now Fact 3.13 says that the possible topological fluxes through such a cycle around the nodal points subsume those indexed by $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}_2^{k-2}$ -conformal blocks and, as such, are given by evaluating their associated twisted cocycles (63) on the twisted cycles (64):

Possible topological charges (Chern numbers)
of anyonic nodal configuration σ

$$\begin{aligned}
c[\sigma] : \text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, N\}}(\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus S_a^1) &\xrightarrow{\text{section of dual conformal block bundle}} \left(\text{CnfBlck}_{\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}_2^{\kappa-2}}((w_I)_{I=0}^{N+1}) \right)^* \\
(k_1, \dots, k_N) &\longmapsto \underbrace{\left(f_{I_1} \cdots f_{I_n} | v_1^0 \cdots, v_N^0 \rangle \right)}_{\text{possible Chern forms (63) of anyonic interacting } n\text{-particle valence bundle}} \mapsto \underbrace{\int_{\sigma(\{k_I\}_{I=1}^N)} \det \left(\left(\frac{w_{I_j}}{\kappa} \frac{1}{k^i - k_{I_j}} \right)_{i,j=1}^n \right) dk^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dk^n}_{\text{anyonic nodal charges}}. \quad (65)
\end{aligned}$$

Recognizing this expression (65) as a *hypergeometric KZ-solution* (due to [DJMM90][SV90, Thm. 1], here specifically [FSV94, Cor. 3.4.2]; for exposition see [EFK98, §4.3, 4.4]) we find that these systems of charges of anyonic defects satisfy – in their dependence on the anyon defect positions k_I – the Knizhnik-Zamolodchikov equation (e.g. [EFK98, §3.4][Ko02, §1.5]) and as such constitute a non-abelian *monodromy braid representation* (e.g. [EFK98, §8][Ko02, §2.1]).

In conclusion, this means that we have derived the following fact – a prediction of *momentum space anyon statistics* (Rem. 3.9¹⁰ obtained from the above re-analysis of the established notion of multi-valued anyon wavefunctions (53)):

Fact 3.14 (Non-abelian anyon statistics of band nodes). *The systems (65) of charges carried by anyonic nodal points exhibit the braiding statistics and hence the topological order of $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}_2^{\kappa-2}$ -anyons.*

Remark 3.15 (Physical origin of non-abelian anyonic braiding). Observe that Facts 3.13 and 3.14 explain, via (63) and (65), the origin (for $\kappa \geq 3$) of *non-abelian* anyonic phases emerging from abelian braiding phases (54) and their abelian Laughlin states (Rem. 3.11), an expected phenomenon whose explanation had previously remained at least unclear:

The non-abelian structure arises via (65) not (just) from the global n -particle Laughlin wavefunctions (62) which in themselves just see abelian braiding phases, but from the topology (the Chern classes) of the twisted/equivariant n -particle Bloch bundle (55) which they span.

Remark 3.16 (Towards full classification). While Facts 3.13 and 3.14 seem remarkable (Rem. 3.15), it is not yet the full answer to the classification of anyonic topological order (to which we turn next):

- It pertains to complex-linear combinations of twisted Chern forms, while the bare interacting valence bundles will contribute only a lattice of integral twisted Chern forms. Instead, the complex-linear combinations of Chern forms appear as *secondary* Chern forms of flat Berry connections on these interacting valence bundles, hence by passage to *flat differential* K-theory, according to Conjecture 3.1.
- It pertains to unitary interacting valence bundles and hence to the special case of completely broken symmetry protection (reducing, in the degenerate case of trivial topological order, to the case of Chern insulators, Ex. 2.16). After understanding the statement of Fact 3.13 in terms of flat differential K-theory, this will be generalized by passing to the full TED-K-theory of the orbi-orientifolded configuration space of points in the Brillouin torus, in generalization of Fact 2.17.

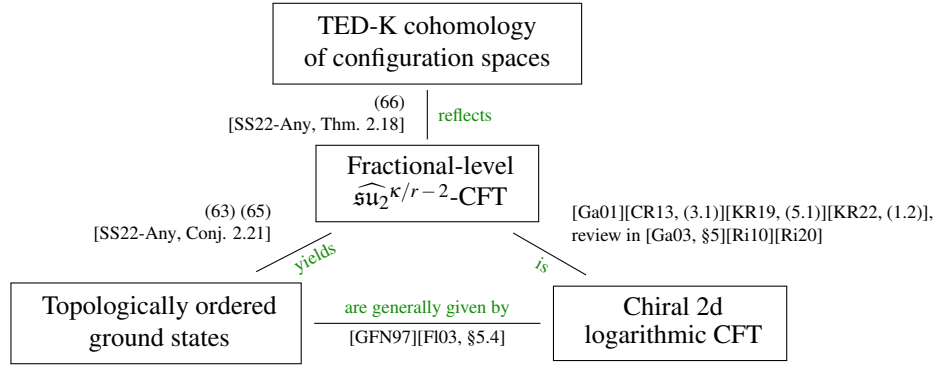
This is what we turn to next.

Logarithmic topological order and Inner local systems of K-theory. In more detail, the chiral conformal blocks appearing as topologically ordered ground states (Rem. 3.12) are in general not just those of a rational 2dCFT like the $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}_2^{\kappa-2}$ -WZW model at integral level $\kappa - 2 \in \mathbb{N}$, but those of a *logarithmic* conformal field theory [GFN97][F103, §5.4] (whose representation categories are still braided tensor categories [CLR21] encoding anyonic braiding). But in recent years it became understood (see the references in *Figure 13*) that prime examples of (chiral 2d) logarithmic CFTs are again $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}_2^{\kappa/r-2}$ -CFTs, but now at *fractional* (meaning: rational) shifted level κ/r (for which $k := \kappa/r - 2$ is called an *admissible fractional level*, see [SS22-Any, Rem. 2.22]). But the hypergeometric integral construction of braid statistics (65) works verbatim at any fractional level (this was the original generality in which the construction was conceived); and it is expected (though a proof is not yet in the literature) that its relation to conformal blocks (63) remains valid for admissible fractional levels.

¹⁰The mathematics expressed in (63) and (63) is indifferent to whether the variables k^i , k_j are thought of as momenta or positions, and an analogous conclusion would hold for defect anyons in position space, to the extent that this concept makes good sense in itself (cf. Rem. 3.10).

Figure 13 – Expected relations between the chiral WZW model CFTs at admissible fractional level (as obtained from TED-K) to logarithmic CFTs.

In particular, the level $\kappa - 2 = 0$ (cf. [PP94][Sm93]) is admissible and essentially identified ([Ni02a][Ni02b]) with the logarithmic triplet algebra of the “ $c = -2$ ” model ([GK96][Ga03, §3]) that is related to Laughlin wave-functions in [GFN97][FI03, §5.4].



Hence assuming the situation in *Figure 13*, we conclude that in general the shifted level κ appearing in Facts 3.13 and 3.14 must be understood as a rational number. Equivalently, for fixed $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 2}$ and fixed form $\omega_1(\vec{w}, -)$ of the “fictitious” gauge potential (61) we find the full space of topologically ordered ground states (63) with braiding phases being κ -th roots of unity inside the direct sum of $\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa/r)$ -twisted cohomology groups as the denominator r ranges between 1 and κ :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Topologically ordered ground states of} \\ n \text{ anyonic quanta among } N \text{ anyon defects} \\ \text{with braiding phases in } \mathbb{Z}_\kappa \subset \text{U}(1) \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \bigoplus_{\substack{\vec{w} \in \\ \{0, \dots, \kappa-1\}^{N+1}}} \underbrace{\bigoplus_{1 \leq r \leq \kappa} H_{\text{dR}}^{n+\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa/r)} \left(\text{Conf}_{\{1, \dots, n\}} \left((\widehat{\mathbb{T}}^2 \setminus S_a^1) \setminus \{k_I\}_{I=1}^N \right) \right)}_{\substack{\text{de Rham cohomology twisted} \\ \text{by “fictitious” vector potential} \\ \text{at some shifted fractional level}}} \left(\text{configuration space of} \right. \\ \left. n \text{ quanta among } N \text{ defects} \right). \quad (66)$$

$\text{KU}^{n+\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa)} \left(((-) \times * // \mathbb{Z}_\kappa; \mathbb{C} \right)$
 \mathbb{Z}_κ -equivariant complex K-theory with complex coefficients
 twisted by the inner local system given by $\omega_1(\vec{w}, \kappa)$

Remarkably, as shown under the brace, just this kind of direct sum of twisted de Rham cohomology groups is equal ([SS22-Any, Prop. 2.1, Thm. 2.19]) to a certain TED-K-theory group, namely to the equivariant K-theory “with complex coefficients” (in the terminology of [FHT07]) of the trivial \mathbb{Z}_κ -action *twisted* by the “fictitious” vector potential regarded as an “inner local system”.

That this is the case may be extracted from [TX06, Def. 3.10, Thm. 1.1][FHT07, Def. 3.6, Thm. 3.9]. We briefly recall the detailed argument provided in [SS22-Any, §3], also to highlight that this phenomenon is neatly brought out by the stacky Fredholm formulation of K-theory (19):

Remark 3.17 (Understanding the inner local system twist of equivariant K-theory [SS22-Any, §3]).

- (i) There is an essentially unique “stable” group homomorphism (see [SS21-Bun, Lem. 4.1.44]) from a finite cyclic group to the projective unitary group

$$\mathbb{Z}_\kappa \xrightarrow{\text{stable}} \frac{\text{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\text{U}(1)}, \quad (67)$$

hence a unique “stable” κ -cyclic group of quantum symmetries (17).

- (ii) The space $(\text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0)^{\mathbb{Z}_\kappa}$ of Fredholm operators which are fixed ([SS22-Any, (56)]) by the induced \mathbb{Z}_κ -action (16) is weakly equivalent to the disjoint union of Fredholm operators indexed by \mathbb{Z}_κ irreps ([SS22-Any, (58)]):

$$(\text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0)^{\mathbb{Z}_\kappa} \underset{\text{whe}}{\simeq} \coprod_{\rho \in \mathbb{Z}_\kappa^*} \text{Fred}_{\mathbb{C}}^0. \quad (68)$$

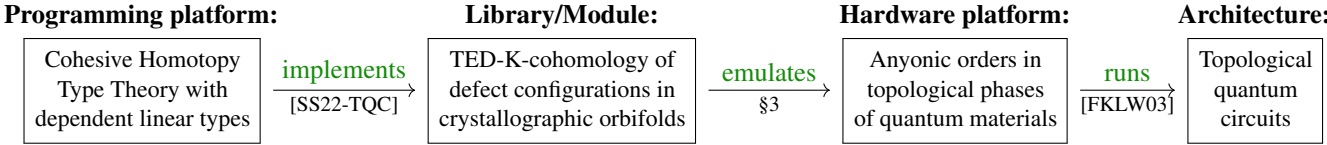
- (iii) The group of automorphisms of the delooping $\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}_\kappa \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\frac{\text{U}(\mathcal{H})}{\text{U}(1)}$ of the stable homomorphism (67) is ([SS21-Bun, (4.101)][SS22-Any, (54)]) equivalently the Pontrjagin dual group of characters

$$\mathbb{Z}_\kappa^* := \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_\kappa, \text{U}(1)) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_\kappa,$$

and its induced action on the fixed locus (68) is by multiplication of the irrep labels.

- (iv) By the mapping stack adjunction for internal symmetries (*Figure 5*), this means that inside a \mathbb{Z}_κ -singularity the twists of equivariant K-theory subsume flat-connections ω_1 on a $\mathbb{Z}_\kappa^* \subset \text{U}(1)$ -principal bundle:

Conclusion. It remains to produce further checks and examples of Conjecture 3.19; but the point here is that this is now, to a large extent, a problem purely in (twisted equivariant differential) topological K-theory, for which a good supply of powerful tools exist. In particular, TED K-theory is (by [SS21-Bun][SS22-TED]) a natural construction in the foundational context of *cohesive ∞ -topos theory*. For such constructions there exists a novel *programming language* known as *cohesive homotopy type theory* (cohesive HoTT, see [SS20-Orb, p. 5-6] for pointers). We see here through Conjecture 3.19, and in view of its tight relation to the hardware model of topological quantum computation (*Figure 1*), that *cohesive HoTT may naturally implement topological quantum computation* in a way which is fully “hardware aware” of the fine detail of topological q-bits and their braid quantum gates. This point is further discussed in [SS22-TQC].



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