

# Bulk-edge duality for topological insulators

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Journées Méthodes Spectrales  
*Spectral Days 2014*  
CIRM  
June 9, 2014

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joint work with **Marcello Porta**  
thanks to **Yosi Avron**

Introduction

Rueda de casino

Hamiltonians

Indices

Further results

# Topological insulators: first impressions

- ▶ **Insulator** in the Bulk: Excitation gap  
For independent electrons: band gap at Fermi energy

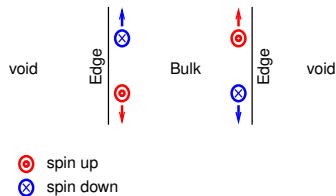


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- ▶ Time-reversal invariant fermionic system

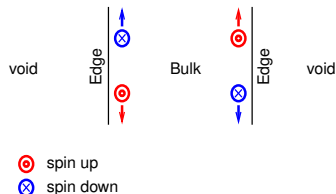
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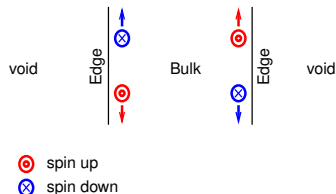
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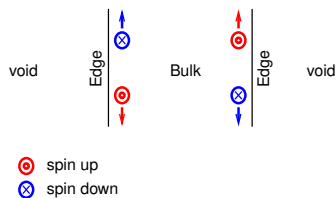
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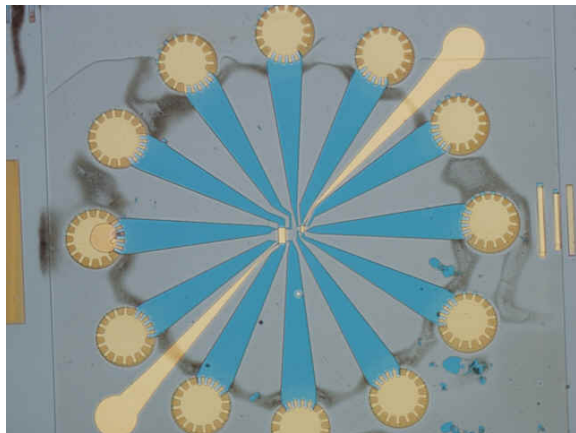


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Contributors to the field: Kane, Mele, Zhang, Moore; Fröhlich; Hasan

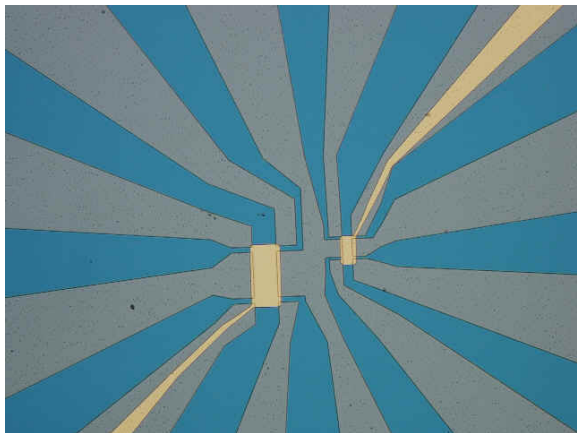
# Pictures

Material: InAs/GaSb (quantum well); AlSb (barrier)



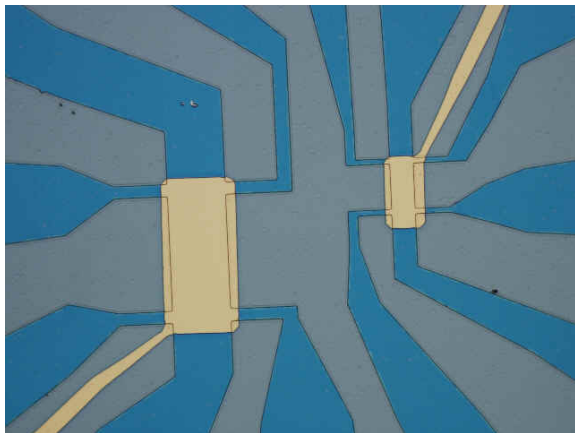
Courtesy: S. Müller, K. Ensslin

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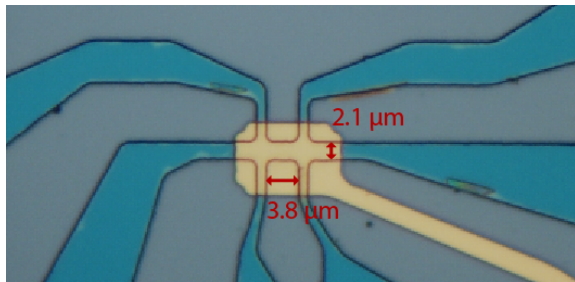
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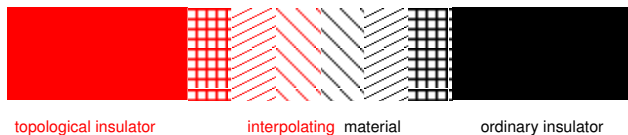
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# Bulk-edge correspondence

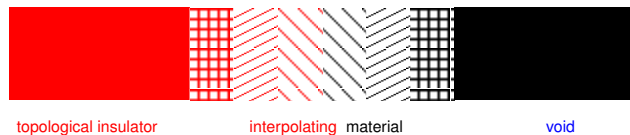
Deformation as interpolation in physical space:



- ▶ Gap must close somewhere in between. Hence: **Interface states** at Fermi energy.

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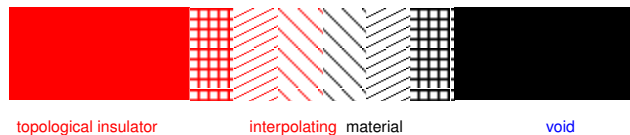
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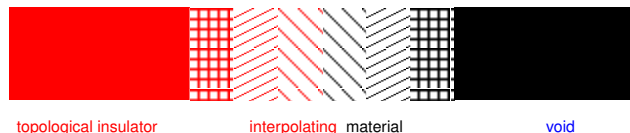
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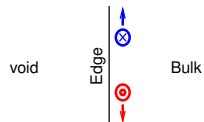
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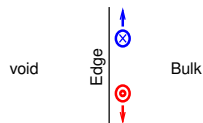
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- ▶ **Bulk-edge correspondence**: Termination of **bulk** of a **topological insulator** implies **edge states**. (But not conversely!)

# Bulk-edge correspondence



In a nutshell: Termination of bulk of a **topological insulator** implies **edge states**

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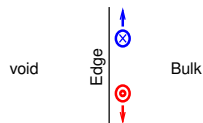


In a nutshell: Termination of bulk of a **topological insulator** implies **edge states**

- ▶ Goal: State the (intrinsic) topological property distinguishing different classes of insulators.

More precisely:

# Bulk-edge correspondence



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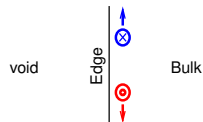
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- ▶ Express that property as an **Index** relating to the **Bulk**, resp. to the **Edge**.



# Bulk-edge correspondence



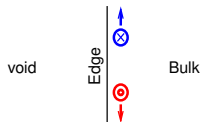
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- ▶ **Bulk-edge duality**: Can it be shown that the two indices agree?

# Bulk-edge correspondence. Done?



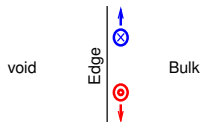
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- ▶ Goal: State the (intrinsic) topological property distinguishing different classes of insulators.

More precisely:

- ▶ Express that property as an **Index** relating to the **Bulk**, resp. to the **Edge**. Yes, e.g. Kane and Mele.
- ▶ **Bulk-edge duality**: Can it be shown that the two indices agree? Schulz-Baldes et al.; Essin & Gurarie

# Bulk-edge correspondence. Today



In a nutshell: Termination of bulk of a **topological insulator** implies **edge states**

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Introduction

**Rueda de casino**

Hamiltonians

Indices

Further results

## Rueda de casino. Time 0'15''



## Rueda de casino. Time 0'25''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'35''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'44"





# Rueda de casino. Time 0'44.25''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'44.50''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'44.75''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'45''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'45.25''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'45.50''





# Rueda de casino. Time 0'46''



# Rueda de casino. Time 0'47"





## Rueda de casino. Time 0'55''



# Rueda de casino. Time 1'16"



# Rueda de casino. Time 3'23''



# Rules of the dance

## Dancers

- ▶ start in pairs, anywhere
- ▶ end in pairs, anywhere (possibly elseways & elsewhere)
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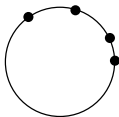
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There are dances which can **not be deformed** into one another.

What is the index that makes the difference?

# The index of a Rueda

A snapshot of the dance

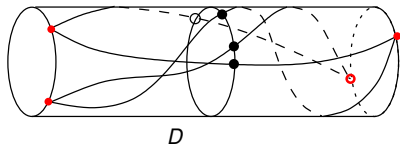


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Dance  $D$  as a whole



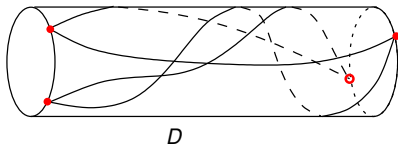


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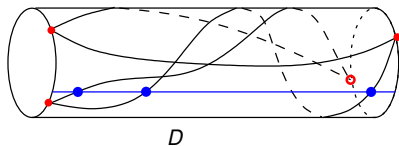


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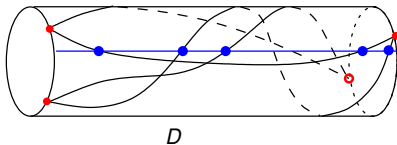


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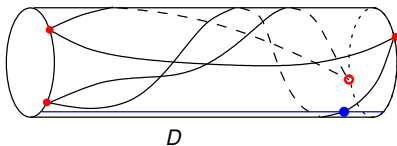


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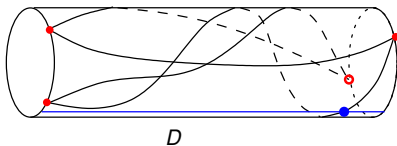


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Dance  $D$  as a whole



$\mathcal{I}(D) =$  parity of number of crossings of fiducial line

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Rueda de casino

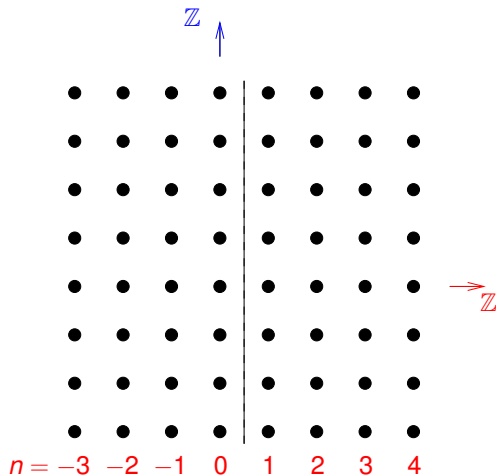
**Hamiltonians**

Indices

Further results

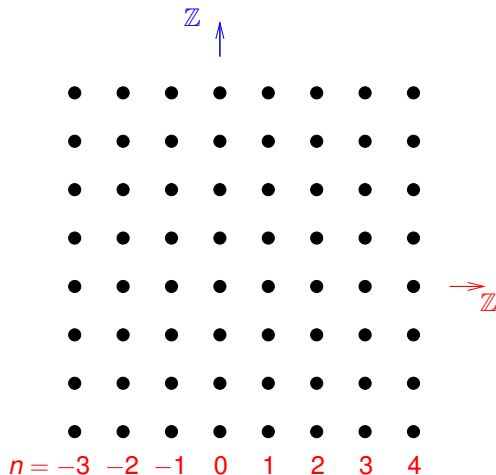
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Hamiltonian on the lattice  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  (plane)



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End up with wave-functions  $\psi = (\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}; \mathbb{C}^N)$  and Bulk Hamiltonian

$$(H(k)\psi)_n = A(k)\psi_{n-1} + A(k)^*\psi_{n+1} + V_n(k)\psi_n$$

with

$V_n(k) = V_n(k)^* \in M_N(\mathbb{C})$  (potential)

$A(k) \in GL(N)$  (hopping)

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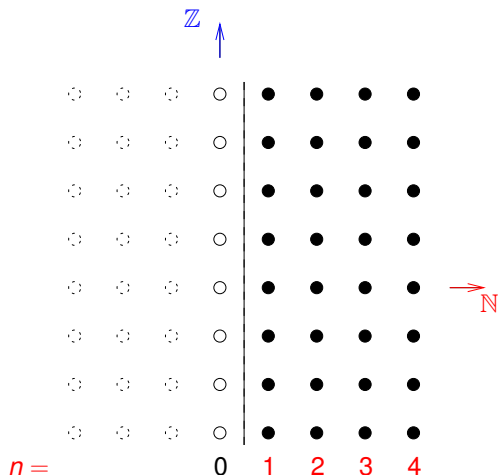
$V_n(k) = V_n(k)^* \in M_N(\mathbb{C})$  (potential)

$A(k) \in GL(N)$  (hopping) : Schrödinger eq. is the 2nd order difference equation



# Edge Hamiltonian

Hamiltonian on the lattice  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}$  (half-plane) with  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$



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Note:  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(H^\sharp(k)) \subset \sigma_{\text{ess}}(H(k))$ , but typically

$\sigma_{\text{disc}}(H^\sharp(k)) \not\subset \sigma_{\text{disc}}(H(k))$

# General assumptions

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$$\mu \notin \sigma(H(k))$$

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- ▶ **Fermionic time-reversal symmetry:**  $\Theta : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ 
  - ▶  $\Theta$  is anti-unitary and  $\Theta^2 = -1$ ;
  - ▶  $\Theta$  induces map on  $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}; \mathbb{C}^N)$ , pointwise in  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ;
  - ▶ For all  $k \in S^1$ ,

$$H(-k) = \Theta H(k) \Theta^{-1}$$

Likewise for  $H^\sharp(k)$

## Elementary consequences of $H(-k) = \Theta H(k)\Theta^{-1}$

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Indeed

$$H\psi = E\psi \implies H(\Theta\psi) = E(\Theta\psi)$$

and  $\Theta\psi = \lambda\psi$ , ( $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ) is impossible:

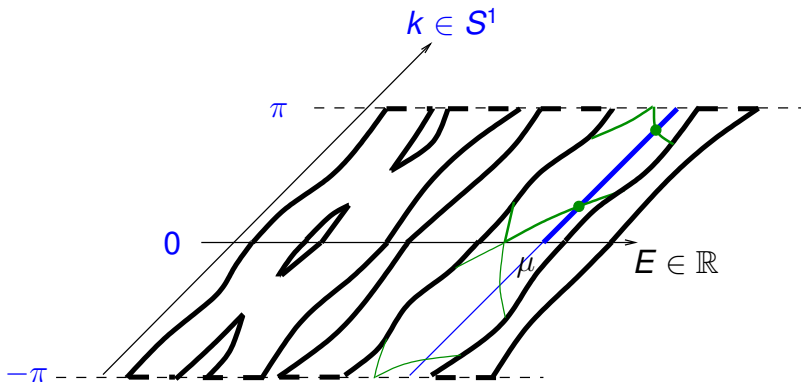
$$-\psi = \Theta^2\psi = \bar{\lambda}\Theta\psi = \bar{\lambda}\lambda\psi \quad (\implies \Leftarrow)$$

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Bands, Fermi line (one half fat), edge states

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Rueda de casino

Hamiltonians

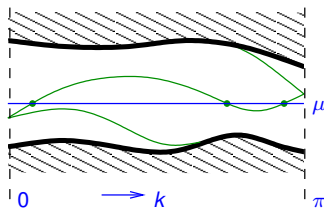
**Indices**

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# The edge index

The spectrum of  $H^\sharp(k)$

symmetric on  $-\pi \leq k \leq 0$



Bands, Fermi line, edge states

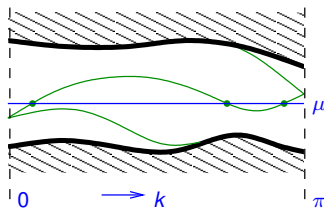
Definition: Edge Index

$\mathcal{I}^\sharp$  = parity of number of eigenvalue crossings

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Bands, Fermi line, edge states

Definition: Edge Index

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Collapse upper/lower band to a line and fold to a cylinder: Get rueda and its index.

# Towards the bulk index

Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . The Schrödinger equation

$$(H(k) - z)\psi = 0$$

(as a 2nd order difference equation) has  $2N$  solutions

$$\psi = (\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}, \psi_n \in \mathbb{C}^N.$$



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Let  $z \notin \sigma(H(k))$ . Then

$$E_{z,k} = \{\psi \mid \psi \text{ solution, } \psi_n \rightarrow 0, (n \rightarrow +\infty)\}$$

has

▶  $\dim E_{z,k} = N$ .

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 $\psi = (\psi_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ ,  $\psi_n \in \mathbb{C}^N$ .

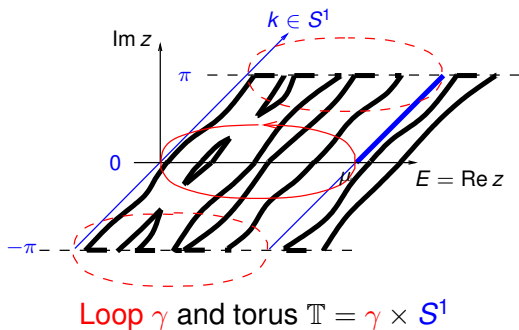
Let  $z \notin \sigma(H(k))$ . Then

$$E_{z,k} = \{\psi \mid \psi \text{ solution, } \psi_n \rightarrow 0, (n \rightarrow +\infty)\}$$

has

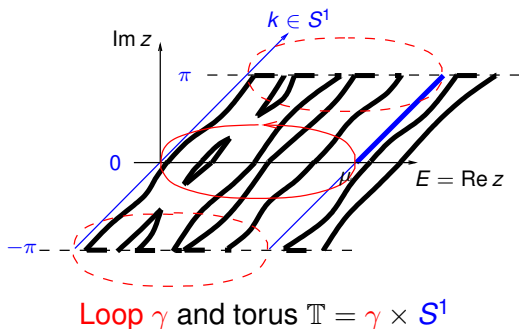
- ▶  $\dim E_{z,k} = N$ .
- ▶  $E_{\bar{z}, -k} = \Theta E_{z,k}$

# The bulk index



Vector bundle  $E$  with base  $\mathbb{T} \ni (z, k)$ , fibers  $E_{z,k}$ , and  $\Theta^2 = -1$ .

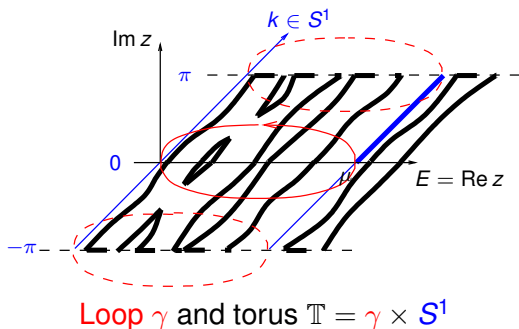
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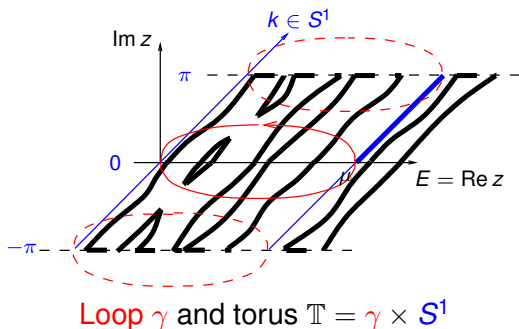
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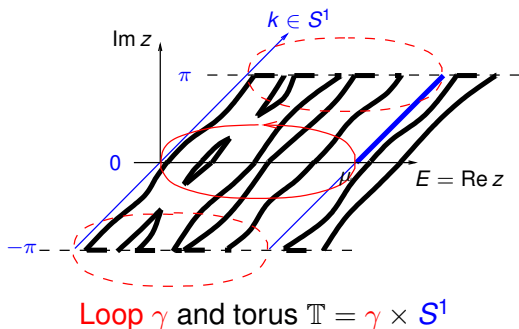
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## Time-reversal invariant bundles on the torus

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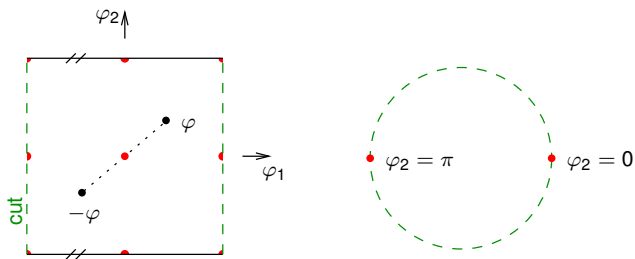
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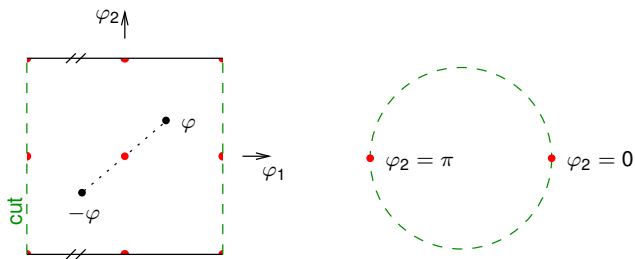


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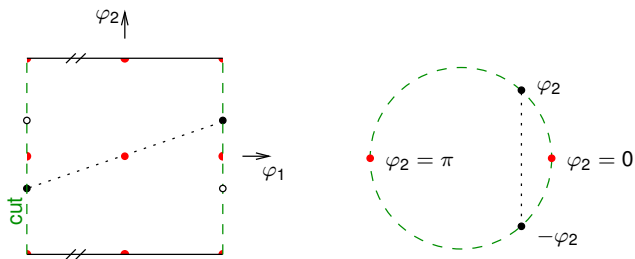
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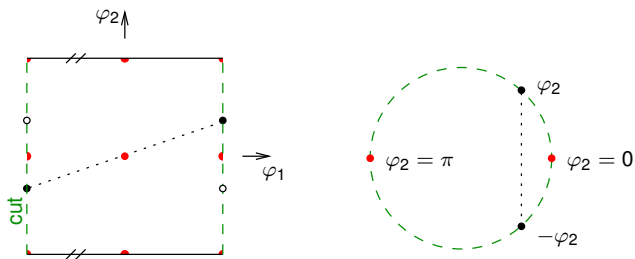
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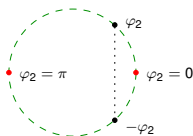
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$$\Theta_0 T(\varphi_2) = T^{-1}(-\varphi_2) \Theta_0, \quad (\varphi_2 \in S^1)$$

with  $\Theta_0 : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$  antilinear,  $\Theta_0^2 = -1$

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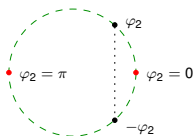


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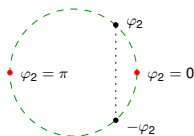
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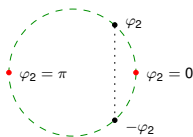
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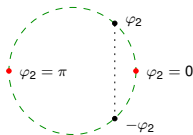
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**Definition (Index):**  $\mathcal{I}(E) := \mathcal{I}(D)$

**Remark:**  $\mathcal{I}(E)$  agrees (in value) with the Pfaffian index of Kane and Mele.

... aside ends here.

# Main result

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$\mathcal{I} = +1$ : ordinary insulator

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Introduction

Rueda de casino

Hamiltonians

Indices

**Further results**

# Further results

- ▶ Alternate formulation of bulk index
- ▶ Direct link to edge picture
- ▶ Application to graphene

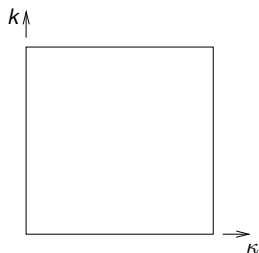
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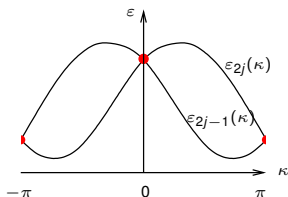
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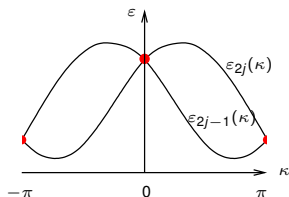
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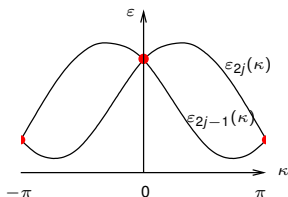


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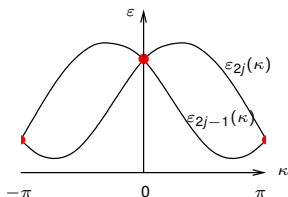


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**Theorem**

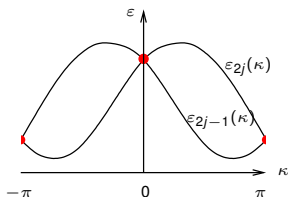
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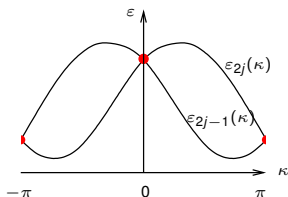
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Proof using Bloch variety (Kohn)

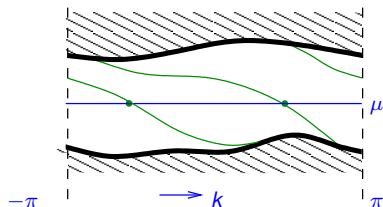
# A direct link to the edge

A direct link between indices of Bloch bundles and the edge index.



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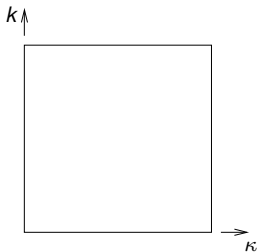
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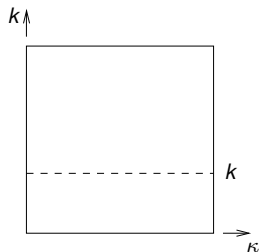
(cf. Hatsugai) Here via scattering and Levinson's theorem.

# Duality via scattering

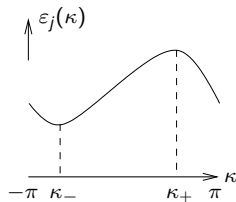


Brillouin zone  $\ni (\kappa, k)$   
Energy band  $\varepsilon_j(\kappa, k)$

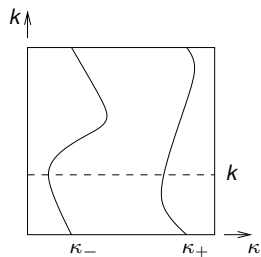
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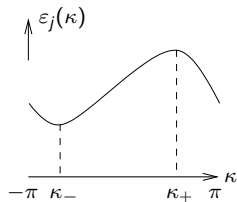
Minima  $\kappa_-(k)$  and maxima  $\kappa_+(k)$  of energy band  $\varepsilon_j(\kappa, k)$  in  $\kappa$  at fixed  $k$



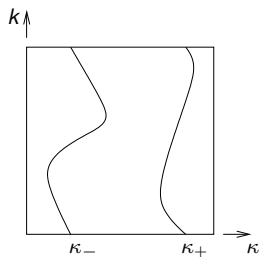
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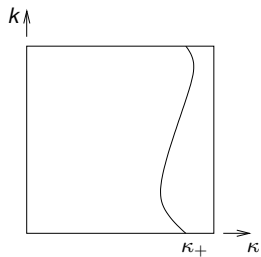
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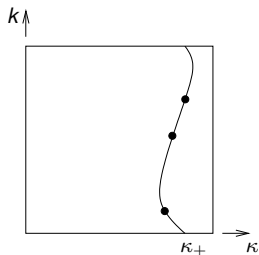


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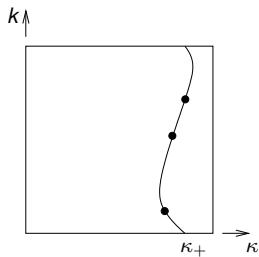
Maxima  $\kappa_+(k)$

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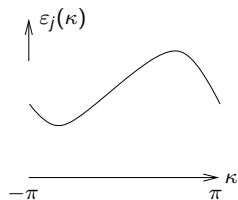


Maxima  $\kappa_+(k)$  with **semi-bound states** (to be explained)

# Duality via scattering

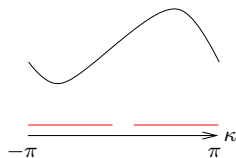


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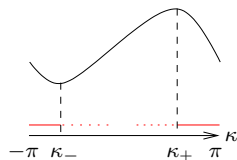
At fixed  $k$ : Energy band  $\varepsilon_j(\kappa, k)$  and the line bundle  $E_j$  of Bloch states

# Duality via scattering



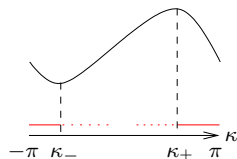
**Line** indicates choice of a section  $|\kappa\rangle$  of Bloch states (from the given band). No global section in  $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$  is possible, as a rule.

# Duality via scattering

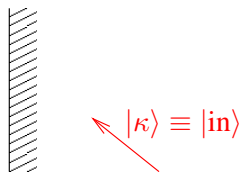


States  $|\kappa\rangle$  above the **solid line** are left movers ( $\varepsilon'_j(\kappa) < 0$ )

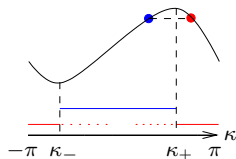
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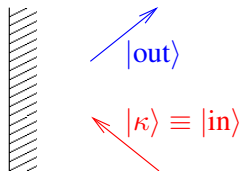
They are **incoming** asymptotic (bulk) states for scattering at edge (from inside)



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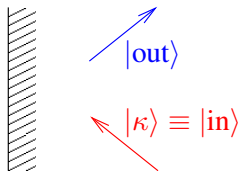
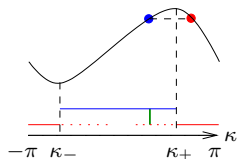


Scattering determines section  $|\text{out}\rangle$   
of right movers above **line**





# Duality via scattering

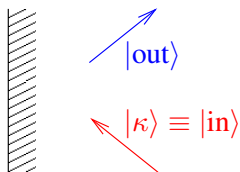
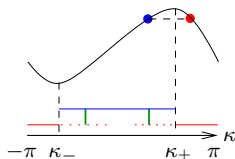


Scattering matrix

$$|\text{out}\rangle = \mathbf{S}_+ |\kappa\rangle$$

as relative phase between two sections of the same fiber (near  $\kappa_+$ )

# Duality via scattering



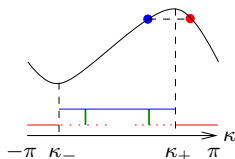
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Likewise  $S_-$  near  $\kappa_-$ .

# Duality via scattering

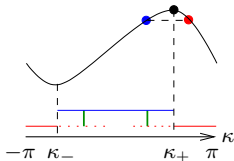


Chern number computed by sewing

$$\text{ch}(E_j) = \mathcal{N}(S_+) - \mathcal{N}(S_-)$$

with  $\mathcal{N}(S_{\pm})$  the winding of  $S_{\pm} = S_{\pm}(k)$  as  $k = 0 \dots \pi$ .

# Duality via scattering



As  $\kappa \rightarrow \kappa_+$ , whence

$$|\text{in}\rangle = |\kappa\rangle \rightarrow |\kappa_+\rangle \quad |\text{out}\rangle = \mathbf{S}_+|\kappa\rangle \rightarrow |\kappa_+\rangle \text{ (up to phase)}$$

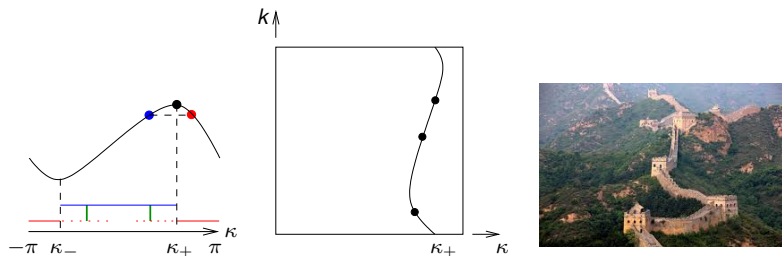
their limiting span is that of

$$|\kappa_+\rangle, \quad \left. \frac{d|\kappa\rangle}{d\kappa} \right|_{\kappa_+}$$

(bounded, resp. unbounded in space). The span contains the limiting scattering state  $|\psi\rangle \propto |\text{in}\rangle + |\text{out}\rangle$ .

If (exceptionally)  $|\psi\rangle \propto |\kappa_+\rangle$  then  $|\psi\rangle$  is a **semi-bound state**.

# Duality via scattering



As a function of  $k$ , semi-bound states occur exceptionally.

# Levinson's theorem

Recall from two-body potential scattering: The scattering phase at threshold equals the number of bound states

$$\sigma(p^2 + V)$$



$$\arg S|_{E=0+} = 2\pi N$$

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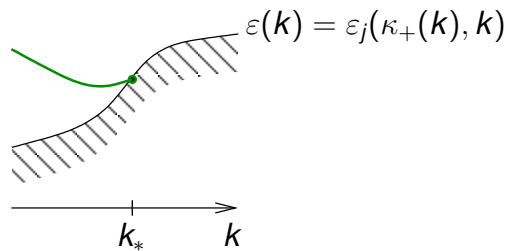


$$\arg S|_{E=0+} = 2\pi N$$

$N$  changes with the potential  $V$  when bound state reaches threshold (semi-bound state  $\equiv$  incipient bound state)

# Levinson's theorem (relative version)

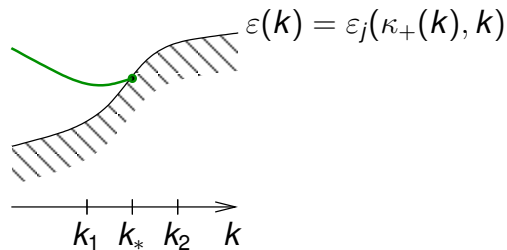
Spectrum of edge Hamiltonian





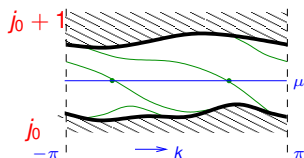
# Levinson's theorem (relative version)

Spectrum of edge Hamiltonian



$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \arg S_+(\epsilon(k) - \delta) \Big|_{k_1}^{k_2} = \pm 2\pi$$

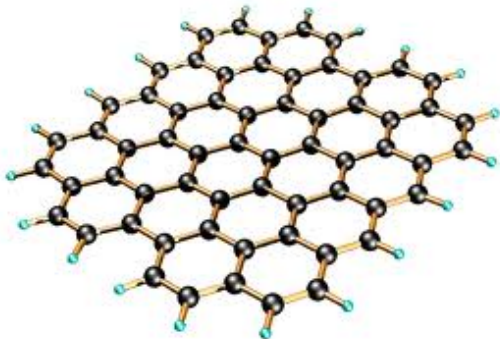
# Proof



$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{N}^\# &= \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{S}_+^{(j_0)}) \quad (= \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{S}_-^{(j_0+1)})) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{j_0} \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{S}_+^{(j)}) - \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{S}_-^{(j)}) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{j_0} \text{ch}(E_j)\end{aligned}$$

$$(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{S}_-^{(1)}) = 0)$$

# An application: Quantum Hall in graphene

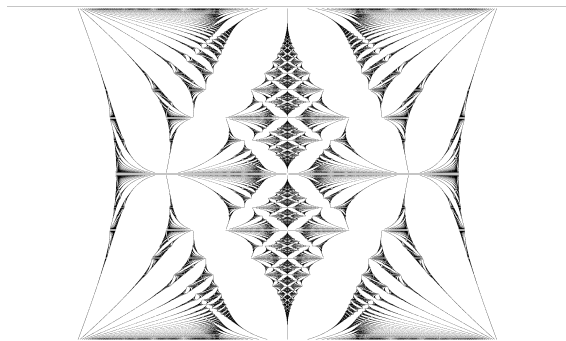


# An application: Quantum Hall in graphene

Hamiltonian: Nearest neighbor hopping with flux  $\Phi$  per plaquette.

# An application: Quantum Hall in graphene

Spectrum in black

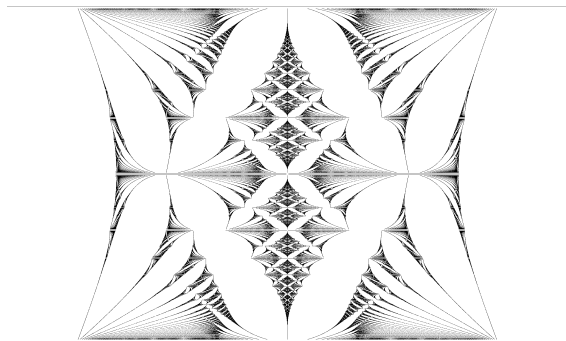


$\Phi \pmod{2\pi}$

$E$

# An application: Quantum Hall in graphene

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What is the Hall conductance (Chern number) in any white point?

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Bulk approach (Thouless): If  $\Phi = p/q$ , ( $p, q$  coprime) then

$$r = sp + tq$$

where:

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- ▶  $s, t$  integers

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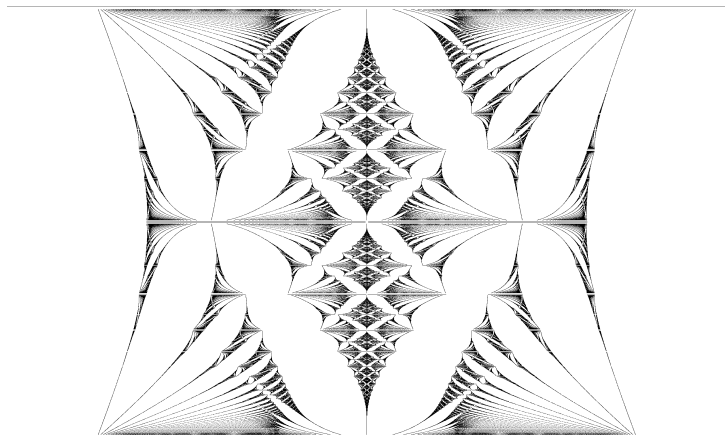
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→ Edge approach (with Agazzi, Eckmann), method by Schulz-Baldes et al.

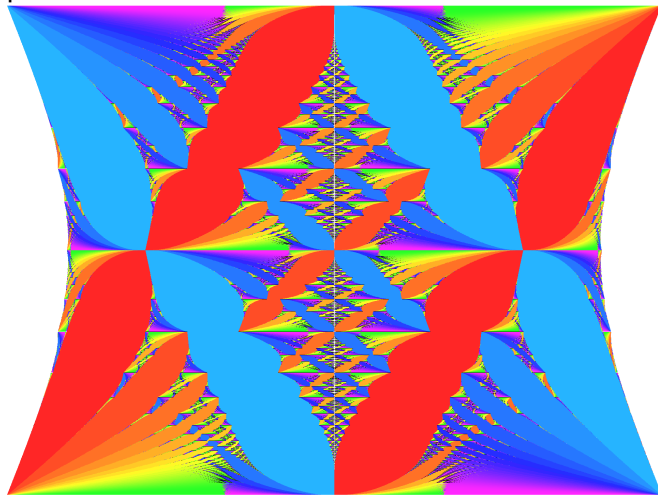
# The colors of graphene

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# Summary

Bulk = Edge

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}^\#$$



# Summary

Bulk = Edge

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- ▶ The bulk and the indices of a topological insulator (of reduced symmetry) are indices of suitable *ruedas*
- ▶ In case of full translational symmetry, bulk index can be defined and linked to edge in other ways
- ▶ Application (Quantum Hall): graphene
- ▶ Three dimensions ...
- ▶ Open questions: No periodicity (disordered case)?