Fractional topological insulators

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Strong interacting limit in the jellium model

The (quantum) jellium model in a box of volume $V$ is defined by

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{\hat{p}_i^2}{2m_e} + \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\mathbf{q} \neq 0} \frac{2\pi e^2}{q^2} \left( \hat{\rho} + \mathbf{q} \hat{\rho}_- - N_e \right), \quad \hat{\rho} + \mathbf{q} := \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \hat{r}_i}.$$ 

The parameter

$$r_s := \frac{e^2}{\hbar^2/(2m_e a^2)} \equiv \frac{a}{a_B},$$

where

$$a := \left( \frac{N_e}{V} \right)^{-1/3}$$

measures the relative strength between the Coulomb and the kinetic energy.

The ground state is a featureless compressible liquid when $r_s \ll 1$, i.e., the Fermi liquid.

The ground state breaks spontaneously translation invariance when $r_s \gg 1$ by forming a Wigner crystal.
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2-dimensional Jellium model in a strong magnetic field

Assume the presence of a uniform magnetic field $B \hat{z}$ and of a confining potential along the $\hat{z}$ direction, so that the single-particle electronic levels are Landau levels.

The filling fraction of the Landau levels is the number

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At integer fillings of the Landau levels, the noninteracting ground state is unique and the screened Coulomb interaction $V_{\text{int}}$ can be treated perturbatively, as long as transitions between Landau levels or outside the confining potential $V_{\text{conf}}$ along the magnetic field are suppressed by the single-particle gaps:

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The fractional quantum Hall effect

At fractional fillings of a Landau level, $r_s$ is effectively $\infty$: A Landau level is a massively degenerate flat band of single-particle states.

Naively, one would expect a Wigner crystal (or more exotic ground states with broken symmetry) to be selected by the interaction out of all possible degenerate Slater determinants.

Instead, for “magic” filling fractions, featureless (i.e., liquid like) ground states are selected by the screened Coulomb interaction.

For example, whenever $1/\nu$ is an odd integer, the featureless ground state is an incompressible ground state called a Laughlin state.
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Distinctive signature

The conductivity tensor is given by the classical Drude formula

\[
\lim_{\tau \to \infty} j = \left( \begin{array}{cc}
0 & \left( BR_H \right)^{-1} \\
-(BR_H)^{-1} & 0
\end{array} \right) E, \quad R_H^{-1} := -n e c,
\]

in the ballistic regime when translation invariance is not broken.

In the presence of moderate static disorder, all but one single-particles are localized in a Landau level whereas many-body groundstates such as the Wigner crystal are pinned.

In the presence of moderate static disorder the magic filling fractions turn into plateaus at which

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\sigma_{xx} = 0, \quad \sigma_{xy} = \nu \times \frac{e^2}{h}
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Strong interacting limit in lattice models

In any lattice model, the single-particle Bloch spectrum is bounded from above and from below.

The only possible way to take the ratio

\[ r_s := \frac{V_{\text{int}}}{\Delta E_i} \rightarrow \infty \]

between the characteristic interaction energy scale \( V_{\text{int}} \) and the band width \( \Delta E_i \) of the \( i \)-th Bloch band without inducing inter-band transitions to the bands \( i-1 \) and \( i+1 \) is to flatten the \( i \)-th Bloch band, \( \Delta E_i \rightarrow 0 \) while keeping the gaps to the \( i-1 \) and \( i+1 \) Bloch bands much larger than \( V_{\text{int}} \).

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**Numerical answer:** Yes!

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1 Introduction

2 Definition of the noninteracting lattice models

3 Band flattening

4 Definition of the interacting lattice model

5 Fractional quantum Hall ground state

6 Numerical evidence thereof

7 Fractional quantum spin Hall ground state

8 Numerical evidence thereof

9 Summary
Definition of the noninteracting lattice models

Let $\Lambda = A \cup B$ be a bipartite 2-dimensional lattice.

Example 1: Honeycomb lattice

Example 2: Square lattice

If spinless electrons are hopping so as to preserve the point group sublattice symmetry of sublattice $A$, then

$$H_0 := \sum_{k \in \text{BZ}} \psi_k^\dagger \mathcal{H}_k \psi_k, \quad \mathcal{H}_k := B_{0,k} \sigma_0 + B_k \cdot \sigma, \quad \psi_k := \begin{pmatrix} C_{k,A} \\ C_{k,B} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Chern numbers

If we define

$$\hat{B}_k := \frac{B_k}{|B_k|}, \quad \tan \phi_k := \frac{\hat{B}_{2,k}}{\hat{B}_{1,k}}, \quad \cos \theta_k := \hat{B}_{3,k},$$

then eigenvalues and eigenvectors of Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}_k$ are

$$\varepsilon_{\pm,k} = B_{0,k} \pm |B_k|, \quad \chi_{+,k} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\phi_k/2} \cos \theta_k^2 \\ e^{i\phi_k/2} \sin \theta_k^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \chi_{-,k} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\phi_k/2} \sin \theta_k^2 \\ -e^{i\phi_k/2} \cos \theta_k^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$ 

The first Chern-numbers for the bands labeled by $\pm$ are

$$C_\pm = \mp \int_{k \in \text{BZ}} \frac{d^2 k}{4\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \left[ \partial_{k\mu} \cos \theta(k) \right] \left[ \partial_{k\nu} \phi(k) \right].$$

They have opposite signs if non-zero. All the information about the topology of the Bloch bands of a gaped system is encoded in the occupied single-particle Bloch wave functions.
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If the NN hopping amplitude, $t_1 > 0$, is positive (solid lines) and the NNN hopping amplitude are $t_2 e^{i2\pi \Phi/\Phi_0}$, with $t_2 \geq 0$, in the direction of the arrow (dotted lines), then

$$B_{0,k} := 2t_2 \cos \Phi \sum_{i=1}^{3} \cos k \cdot b_i,$$

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Example 2: Square lattice  (Wen, Wilczek, and Zee 1989)

If the NN hopping amplitudes are \( t_1 e^{i\pi/4} \), with \( t_1 > 0 \), in the direction of the arrow (solid lines) and the NNN hopping amplitudes are \( t_2 \geq 0 \) and \( -t_2 \) along the dashed and dotted lines, respectively.

then

\[
B_{0,k} := 0,
\]

\[
B_{1,k} + iB_{2,k} := t_1 e^{-i\pi/4} \left[ 1 + e^{i(k_y-k_x)} + t_1 e^{i\pi/4} \left[ e^{-ik_x} + e^{ik_y} \right] \right],
\]

\[
B_{3,k} := 2t_2 (\cos k_x - \cos k_y),
\]

\( t_1/t_2 = \sqrt{2} \) with the flatness ratio 1/5

\[\varepsilon/t_1 \]

\[-2 \quad 0 \quad 2\]

\[-\pi \quad 0 \quad \pi \quad \pi \]

\[k_x \quad 0 \quad \pi \quad \pi \]

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Band flattening

Band-flattening is defined by

\[ \mathcal{H}_k^{\text{flat}} := \frac{\mathcal{H}_k}{\varepsilon_{-,k}}. \]

Let there be \( N \) sites on sublattice A and \( N \) sites on sublattice B. We fix the number of spinless fermions to be \( N \) (half-filled \( \Lambda := A \cup B \)).

Before band-flattening, the half-filled groundstate is

\[ \langle r_1, \cdots, r_N| k_1, \cdots, k_N \rangle = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^{ik_1 \cdot r_1 \chi_{-,k_1}} & \cdots & e^{ik_N \cdot r_1 \chi_{-,k_N}} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ e^{ik_1 \cdot r_N \chi_{-,k_1}} & \cdots & e^{ik_N \cdot r_N \chi_{-,k_N}} \end{pmatrix}. \]

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Band flattening preserves locality

Let

$$\mathcal{O}_n(x) := \sum_{i \in \Lambda} a_{n,i} \delta(x - r_i), \quad n = 1, 2,$$

be any pair of two Hermitean local operators.

Define

$$C_{k_1, \cdots, k_N}^{(1,2)}(x, y) := \langle k_1, \cdots, k_N | \mathcal{O}_1(x) \mathcal{O}_2(y) | k_1, \cdots, k_N \rangle.$$

The correlation function

$$C^{(1,2)}(x, y) \propto e^{-\Delta|x-y|}$$

must decay exponentially before and after band flattening, for neither the existence of the single-particle gap $\Delta$ nor the eigenfunctions are affected by the band flattening.
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Definition of the interacting lattice model

Define the many-body Hamiltonian

\[ H := H_{0}^{\text{flat}} + H_{\text{int}} \]

where

\[ H_{\text{int}} := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \in \Lambda} \rho_{i} V_{i,j} \rho_{j} \equiv V \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \rho_{i} \rho_{j}, \quad V > 0, \]

and \( \rho_{i} \) is the \textbf{occupation number} on the site \( i \in \Lambda := \Lambda := A \cup B \) of the square lattice.

Define the \textbf{filling fraction} \( \nu \) to be the ratio

\[ \nu := \frac{N_{f}}{N} \]

where \( N_{f} \) is the \textbf{number of spinless fermions} and \( N \) the \textbf{number of sites in sublattice A of the square lattice.}
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Three distinctive properties of a fractional quantum Hall ground state at filling fraction $\nu < 1$ (where $\nu^{-1}$ is an odd integer) and with periodic boundary conditions (toroidal geometry) are

- the existence of a spectral gap above the ground state manifold,
- the $\nu^{-1}$-fold topological degeneracy of the ground state manifold in the thermodynamic limit,
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Spectral gap if $N = 3 \times 6$ and $N_f = 6$, i.e., $\nu = 1/3$

Add a sublattice-staggered chemical potential $4\mu_s$ to the single-particle Hamiltonian by replacing $B_{3,k} \rightarrow B_{3,k} + 4\mu_s$.

The parameters $t_2$ and $\mu_s$ of $H_{0}^{\text{flat}}$ interpolate between topological ($|t_2| > |\mu_s|$) and non-topological ($|t_2| < |\mu_s|$) single-particle bands.

Here, $g := (2/\pi) \arctan |t_2/\mu_s|$ and all energies are measured relative to the interacting band width $E_b$. The gap is of order $V$ when $g = 0$. 
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Fractional topological insulators
Topological degeneracy if $N = 3 \times 6$ and $N_f = 6$

Impose the \textit{twisted} boundary conditions

$$|\psi_\gamma(r + N_x x)\rangle = e^{i\gamma_x}|\psi_\gamma(r)\rangle, \quad |\psi_\gamma(r + N_y y)\rangle = e^{i\gamma_y}|\psi_\gamma(r)\rangle$$

where $\gamma^t = (\gamma_x, \gamma_y)$ are the twisting angles and $N_x \times N_y = N$ the number of unit cells.

Due to translational invariance, the Hamiltonian does not couple states with different center of mass momenta $Q := k_1 + \ldots + k_{N_f}$, where $k_i, \ i = 1, \ldots, N_f$ are the single-particle momenta of an $N_f$-particle state.

At 1/3 filling of the $3 \times 6$ sublattice A, the particle number $N_f = 6$ is commensurate with the lattice dimensions and all three topological states have the same $Q$.

As a consequence, their topological degeneracy is \textit{lifted} and a unique ground state appears.
Topological degeneracy if $N = 3 \times 6$ and $N_f = 6$

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As a consequence, their topological degeneracy is **lifted** and a unique ground state appears.
We can now use twisted boundary conditions to probe the topological nature of the ground state: varying $\gamma_x$ between 0 and $2\pi$ is equivalent to the adiabatic insertion of a flux quantum in the system.

During this process, a topological ground state with $\sigma_{xy} \times h/e^2 = 1/3$ should undergo two level crossings with the other two gaped topological states (Thouless 1989).
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Hall conductance if $N = 3 \times 6$ and $N_f = 6$

The Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$ is related to the Chern-number $C$ of the many-body ground state $|\Psi\rangle$ as

$$\sigma_{xy} = C \frac{e^2}{h}$$

where (Niu and Thouless 1984)

$$C := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int d^2\gamma \, \nabla_\gamma \wedge \langle \psi_\gamma | \nabla_\gamma | \psi_\gamma \rangle.$$  

Alternatively, we introduce

$$\tilde{C} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int d^2k \begin{array}{c} \nabla_k \wedge \left( \chi_-^\dagger_k \nabla_k \chi_- \right) \end{array}$$

where $n_{-,k} = \langle \psi | c_{-,k}^\dagger c_{-,k} | \psi \rangle$ is the occupation number of the single-particle Bloch state in the lower ($-$) band with wave vector $k$ evaluated in the many-body ground state.

It can be shown that $C = \tilde{C}$. 

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Definition of the lattice model supporting the FQSHE

Bernevig and Zhang 2006

Let

\[ H_0 := \sum_{k \in \text{BZ}} \left( \psi_k^{\dagger, \uparrow} \frac{B_k \cdot \tau}{|B_k|} \psi_k^{\uparrow} + \psi_k^{\dagger, \downarrow} \frac{B_{-k} \cdot \tau^t}{|B_{-k}|} \psi_k^{\downarrow} \right). \]

This kinetic energy supports the integer QSH quantization

\[ \sigma_{\text{xy}}^{\text{spin}} = \pm 2 \times \frac{e}{4\pi}. \]

We then choose the interaction

\[ H_{\text{int}} := U \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \rho_i^{\uparrow} \rho_i^{\downarrow} + V \sum_{\langle ij \rangle \in \Lambda} \left( \rho_i^{\uparrow} \rho_j^{\uparrow} + \rho_i^{\downarrow} \rho_j^{\downarrow} + 2\lambda \rho_i^{\uparrow} \rho_j^{\downarrow} \right), \]

\[ U, V \geq 0. \]
Definition of the lattice model supporting the FQSHE

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Summary
Numerical diagonalization results for 16 electrons when sublattice A is made of $3 \times 4$ sites and with $t_2/t_1 = 0.4$. (a) Ground state degeneracies. Denote with $E_n$ the $n$-th lowest energy eigenvalue of the many-body spectrum where $E_1$ is the many-body ground state, i.e., $E_{n+1} \geq E_n$ for $n = 1, 2, \ldots$. Define the parameter $\epsilon$ by $\epsilon_n := (E_{n+1} - E_n)/(E_n - E_1)$. If a large gap $E_{n+1} - E_n$ opens up between two consecutive levels $E_{n+1}$ and $E_n$ compared to the cumulative level splitting $E_n - E_1$ between the first $n$ many-body eigenstates induced by finite-size effects, then the parameter $\epsilon_n$ is much larger than unity. The parameter $\epsilon_n$ has been evaluated for $n = 3$ and $n = 9$, yielding the blue and red regions, respectively. For all other $n \neq 1$, no regions with $\epsilon_n \gtrsim O(1)$ of significant size were found. Within the limited range of available system sizes, it is thus not possible to decide on whether and how the level-splitting above the ground state in the white regions of the parameter space extrapolates in the thermodynamic limit. (b)-(d) The lowest eigenvalues with spin-dependent twisted boundary conditions as a function of the twisting angle $\gamma_x$. The number of low-lying states that are energetically separated from the other states is 9, 3, and 3, respectively. In panel (c), it is the lowest band parametrized by $\gamma_x$ that is 3-fold degenerate.
**Case $\lambda = U/V = 0$: decoupled FQH states**

The model decouples into two FQH-like states at $2/3$ filling, one for each spin orientation.

The low-energy effective theory for this state could be compatible with the choice

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} +1 & +1 & 0 & 0 \\ +1 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & +2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

for the $K$ matrix and the charge vector $Q$ in that it has degeneracy $|\det K| = 3^2 = 9$ as confirmed by the numerical results.

This phase is destabilized by introducing a sufficiently strong coupling between the two FQH states via $\lambda$ and $U$. 
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Case $\lambda = 1, \ U/V > 2$: Spontaneous symmetry breaking

We observe that the ground state has the maximal spin-polarization that is allowed by the Pauli principle (Stoner instability).

To interpret this numerical result, first recall that, after projection onto the lowest bands, at most $L_x \times L_y$ electrons may have the same spin, i.e., 12 for the case at hand. Now, the filling fraction is $2/3$, i.e., there are $4/3 \times L_x \times L_y = 16$ electrons. If 12 electrons are fully spin polarized, which is what we observe numerically, then the remaining $1/3 \times L_x \times L_y = 4$ electrons may form a $1/3$ FQH-like state.

We conjecture that the low-energy effective theory for this fully spin-polarized ground state is characterized by the $K$ matrix

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

with the filling fraction

$$\nu = Q^T K^{-1} Q = 2/3.$$

This $K$-matrix does not obey time-reversal symmetry since time-reversal symmetry is spontaneously broken. The degeneracy $|\det K| = 3$ is confirmed by the numerical results. The state thus obtained resembles the conventional double-layer $2/3$ FQH state, with the difference that the electron spins are not fully polarized.
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Case $\lambda = 1$, $U/V = 0$: Possible paired state

A time-reversal symmetric state with a spectral gap and a 3-fold ground state degeneracy is obtained for small $U/V$.

This state cannot be captured by the time-reversal symmetric Abelian Chern-Simons theory since its degeneracy is not the square of an integer, despite the time-reversal symmetry.

One may speculate that this state realizes some real-space pairing of spin-up with spin-down electrons, since for small $U/V$ it costs little energy to have two electrons of opposite spin at the same lattice site.
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- We have proposed a simple recipe to deform any non-interacting lattice model so as to obtain flat bands, while preserving locality.

- We flattened the bands of the chiral $\pi$-flux phase and then lifted the resulting macroscopic ground state degeneracy with repulsive interactions.

- Via exact diagonalization, we have found signatures for a FQH-like topological ground state at 1/3 filling.

- We took the same approach to construct a FQSH-state and found microscopic signatures for it.

- This opens the door for the possibility of realizing dissipativeless charge transport (quantum computing?) at room temperature.
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Bulk time-reversal symmetric effective theory (Abelian)

Define $S := S_0 + S_e + S_s$ with

$$S_0 := - \int dt \, d^2 x \, \epsilon^{\mu \nu \rho} \frac{1}{4\pi} K_{ij} \, a^i_\mu \, \partial_\nu \, a^j_\rho,$$

$$S_e := + \int dt \, d^2 x \, \epsilon^{\mu \nu \rho} \frac{e}{2\pi} Q_i \, A_\mu \partial_\nu \, a^i_\rho,$$

$$S_s := + \int dt \, d^2 x \, \epsilon^{\mu \nu \rho} \frac{s}{2\pi} \, S_i \, B_\mu \partial_\nu \, a^i_\rho,$$

and

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} \kappa & \Delta \\ \Delta^T & -\kappa \end{pmatrix}, \quad \kappa^T = \kappa \in \text{GL}(N, \mathbb{Z}), \quad \Delta^T = -\Delta \in \text{GL}(N, \mathbb{Z}),$$

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} \varrho \\ \varrho \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^{2N}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} \varrho \\ -\varrho \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^{2N}, \quad (-)^{Q_i} = (-)^{K_{ii}}.$$

Then

$$\nu_e := Q^T K^{-1} \, Q = 0, \quad \nu_s := \frac{1}{2} Q^T K^{-1} \, S \neq 0, \quad \sigma_{\text{SH}} := \frac{e}{2\pi} \times \nu_s.$$
Wave function for $N = 1$

If

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} +m & 0 \\ 0 & -m \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}), \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^2,$$

for some given positive odd integer $m$, then

$$\nu_s = \frac{1}{m}$$

and

$$\psi_{1/m} (\{z, \bar{z}\}_n \mid \{w, \bar{w}\}_n) = \left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} \prod_{j=i+1}^{n} (z_i - z_j)^m (\bar{w}_i - \bar{w}_j)^m \right] \prod_{i=1}^{n} \exp \left( - \frac{|z_i|^2 + |\bar{w}_i|^2}{4\ell^2} \right).$$
Wave function in the symmetric representation for $N = 2$

If

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & n \\ n & m_2 \end{pmatrix} \\ - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +d \\ -d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(4, \mathbb{Z}), \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^4,$$

with $m_1m_2 - n^2 > 0$, then

$$\nu_s = \frac{m_1 + m_2 - 2n}{m_1 m_2 - n^2 + d^2}$$

and [generalization of Halperin's $(m_1, m_2, n)$ bilayer function]

$$\Psi_{m_1,m_2,n,d}^{\text{symm}} \left( \{ Z_1, \bar{Z}_1 \}_{n_1} ; \{ Z_2, \bar{Z}_2 \}_{n_2} \mid \{ W_1, \bar{W}_1 \}_{n_1} ; \{ W_2, \bar{W}_2 \}_{n_2} \right) = \Psi_{1/m_1}^{m_1} \left( \{ Z_1, \bar{Z}_1 \}_{n_1} \mid \{ W_1, \bar{W}_1 \}_{n_1} \right) \times \Psi_{1/m_2}^{m_2} \left( \{ Z_2, \bar{Z}_2 \}_{n_2} \mid \{ W_2, \bar{W}_2 \}_{n_2} \right) \times \prod_{i=1}^{n_1} \prod_{j=1}^{n_2} (Z_{1,i} - Z_{2,j})^n (\bar{W}_{1,i} - \bar{W}_{2,j})^n (Z_{1,i} - W_{2,j})^d (\bar{W}_{1,i} - \bar{Z}_{2,j})^d.$$
Wave function in the hierarchical representation for $N = 2$

If

$$K = \begin{pmatrix} +m & +1 \\ +1 & -p \\ 0 & +d \\ -d & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +d \\ -d & 0 \\ +m & +1 \\ +1 & -p \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(4, \mathbb{Z}), \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^4,$$

with $m$ a positive odd integer and $p$ an even integer then

$$\nu_s = \frac{p}{mp + 1 - d^2}$$

and [generalization of Halperin’s $\nu = p/(mp + 1)$ bilayer function]

$$\Psi_{m, -p, 1, d}^{\text{hier}}(\{Z, \bar{Z}\}_pn | \{W, \bar{W}\}_pn) =$$

$$\left[ \prod_{i=1}^{n} \int_{\Omega} d^2 \eta_i \int_{\Omega} d^2 \xi_i \right] \times \Psi_{1/m}(\{Z, \bar{Z}\}_pn | \{W, \bar{W}\}_pn) \times \Psi_{1/p}(\{\xi, \bar{\xi}\}_n | \{\eta, \bar{\eta}\}_n)$$

$$\times \prod_{i=1}^{pn} \prod_{j=1}^{n} (Z_i - \eta_j) (\bar{W}_i - \bar{\xi}_j) (Z_i - \xi_j)^d (\bar{W}_i - \bar{\eta}_j)^d.$$
Edge theory with time-reversal symmetry

The bulk action with a two-body and translation-invariant interaction is equivalent to

$$\hat{H}_0 := \int_0^L dx \frac{1}{4\pi} \partial_x \hat{\Phi}^\text{T} V \partial_x \hat{\Phi}$$

where $V$ is a $2N \times 2N$ symmetric and positive definite matrix and

$$\left[ \hat{\Phi}_i(t, x), \hat{\Phi}_j(t, x') \right] = -i\pi \left( K_{ij}^{-1} \text{sgn}(x - x') + \Theta_{ij} \right).$$

Here,

$$\Theta_{ij} := K_{ik}^{-1} L_{kl} K_{lj}^{-1}$$

and the antisymmetric $2N \times 2N$ matrix $L$ is defined by (Haldane 1995)

$$L_{ij} = \text{sgn}(i - j) \left( K_{ij} + Q_i Q_j \right),$$

where $\text{sgn}(0) = 0$ is understood.
Tunneling of electronic charge among the different edge branches is

\[ \hat{H}_{\text{int}} := -\int_0^L \, dx \sum_{T \in \mathbb{L}} h_T(x) : \cos \left( T^T K \, \hat{\Phi}(x) + \alpha_T(x) \right) :. \]

The real functions \( h_T(x) \geq 0 \) and \( 0 \leq \alpha_T(x) \leq 2\pi \) encode information about the disorder along the edge when position dependent. The set

\[ \mathbb{L} := \{ T \in \mathbb{Z}^{2N} | T^T Q = 0 \} \]

encodes all the possible charge neutral tunneling processes, i.e., those that just rearrange charge among the branches.

At least one pair of Kramers degenerate edge state remains delocalized along the edge described by \( \hat{H} := \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{\text{int}} \) if the integer

\[ R := r \, \varrho^T (\kappa - \Delta)^{-1} \varrho \]

is odd. Here, the integer \( r \) is the smallest integer such that all the \( N \) components of the vector \( r (\kappa - \Delta)^{-1} \varrho \) are integers.