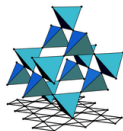


# Anyons, Flux Crystals and Emergent Fractionalized Excitations in Quantum Spin-Orbital Liquids

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Entanglement in Strongly Correlated Systems, Benasque, Spain,  
2 March 2022



## References for this talk

- ▶ '*Microscopic models for Kitaev's sixteenfold way of anyon theories*', **SC**, Urban F. P. Seifert, Matthias Vojtá, Lukas Janssen, and Hong-Hao Tu, Phys. Rev. B **102**, 201111(R) (2020)
- ▶ '*Flux crystals, Majorana metals, and flat bands in exactly solvable spin-orbital liquids*', **SC**, Lukas Janssen, Matthias Vojtá, Hong-Hao Tu, and Urban F. P. Seifert, Phys. Rev. B **103**, 075144 (2021)
- ▶ '*Fractionalized Fermionic Quantum Criticality in Spin-Orbital Mott Insulators*', Urban F.P. Seifert, Xiao-Yu Dong, **SC**, Matthias Vojtá, Hong-Hao Tu, and Lukas Janssen, Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 257202 (2020)

# Outline

## Kitaev Honeycomb Model

QSOLs: Anyons

QSOLs: Flux Crystals

Onsite spin magnetic field

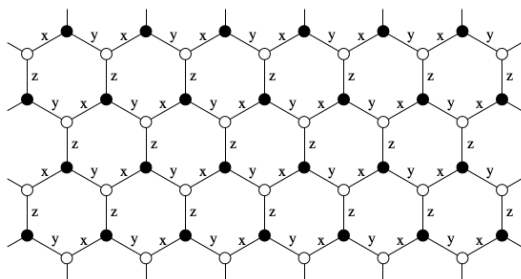
Nearest neighbour interactions

QSOLs: Emergent Fractionalized Quasiparticles

# Kitaev honeycomb model

► Model Hamiltonian [1]

$$H = -J_x \sum_{\text{x-links}} \sigma_j^x \sigma_k^x - J_y \sum_{\text{y-links}} \sigma_j^y \sigma_k^y - J_z \sum_{\text{z-links}} \sigma_j^z \sigma_k^z$$



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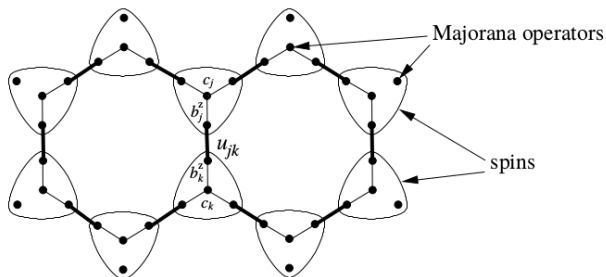
[1] Kitaev. "Anyons in an exactly solved model and beyond". 2006. *Ann. Phys.* 321 1

## Kitaev honeycomb model: solution

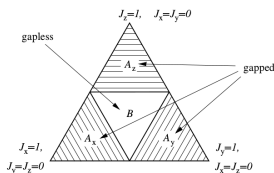
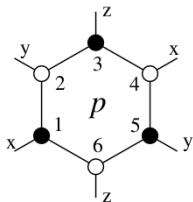
- ▶ Majorana decomposition:  $\sigma^\alpha = ib^\alpha c$  for  $\alpha = x, y, z$

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{\langle jk \rangle_\alpha} iJ_\alpha u_{jk} c_j c_k$$

where  $u_{jk} = ib_j^\alpha b_k^\alpha$  is a  $Z_2$  gauge field which commutes with  $\tilde{H}$ .  
Fermion parity constraint:  $b^x b^y b^z c = 1$



# Loop operators and phase diagram



Phase Diagram

$$W_p = \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^y \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^x \sigma_5^y \sigma_6^z = \prod_{\langle jk \rangle \in p} (-iu_{jk})$$

Ground state flux configuration is zero flux (Lieb's theorem), i.e.,

$$W_p = +1 \quad \forall p.$$

Gapless phase features Dirac excitations.

## Anyonic excitations

- ▶ In the gapless phase, on adding appropriate weak magnetic field perturbation, Kitaev showed that there exist non-Abelian anyonic excitations ( $W_p = -1$ ) characterized by an anyon topological spin of  $\theta_a = \pi/8$  and a Chern number  $\nu = \pm 1$ .

Anyonic qp	CFT primary field $a$	$h_a$	$\theta_a = 2\pi h_a$
Vacuum	$\mathbb{I}$	0	0
Fermion	$\psi$	1/2	$\pi$
Non-Abelian Anyon	$\sigma$	1/16	$\pi/8$

**Kitaev's sixteenfold way** is a classification of topological orders of a  $Z_2$  gauge theory coupled to free or weakly interacting fermions (gapped spectrum) with a spectral Chern number of  $\nu$ .  
Classification:  $\nu \bmod 16$  into sixteen distinct types.

## Why quantum spin-orbital models?

- ▶ Spin-orbital models were first introduced in the context of Kugel-Khomskii-type models for transition metal oxides (Kugel and Khomskii 1982).
- ▶ SU(4)-symmetric point in the parameter space could possibly explain the disordered ground state in the spin-orbital system  $\text{Ba}_3\text{CuSb}_2\text{O}_9$  observed experimentally (Nakatsuji et al., Science **336** (2012)).
- ▶ Frustrated inter-orbital interactions: The double perovskite  $\text{Ba}_2\text{YMoO}_6$ , which has effective  $j_{\text{eff}} = 3/2$  moments as a result of degenerate  $t_{2g}$  orbitals and spin-orbit coupling, and does not order down to low temperatures (Vries et al. PRL **104** (2010)).



# Outline

Kitaev Honeycomb Model

QSOLs: Anyons

QSOLs: Flux Crystals

Onsite spin magnetic field

Nearest neighbour interactions

QSOLs: Emergent Fractionalized Quasiparticles

## Main Idea

- ▶ Combining systems of Chern number 1 (in some non-trivial way) to obtain systems of higher Chern number.
- ▶ A useful mathematical tool for achieving this is the Clifford Algebra of order  $n$ .

$$\{\Gamma^\alpha, \Gamma^\beta\} = 2\delta_{\alpha\beta} \quad \Gamma^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{i}{2}[\Gamma^\alpha, \Gamma^\beta]$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  can take any value from 1 to  $2n - 1$ . In the simplest representation,  $\Gamma$  matrices are  $2^{n-1} \times 2^{n-1}$  matrices. It has a Majorana representation [2] as follows:

$$\Gamma^\alpha = ib^\alpha c \quad \Gamma^{\alpha\beta} = ib^\alpha b^\beta$$

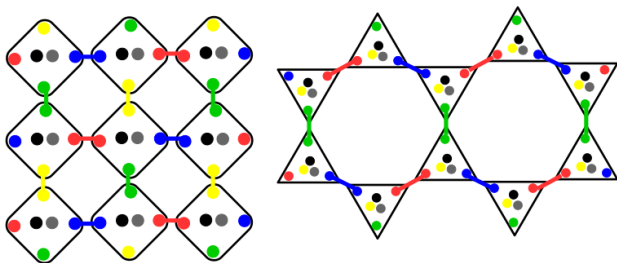
Thus there are  $2n$  Majorana operators.

- ▶ Clifford Algebra of order 2 is satisfied by Pauli matrices.

[2] Wu, Arovas and Hung. "Gamma-matrix generalization of the Kitaev model".  
2009. *Phys. Rev. B* 79

## A possible way of achieving $\nu = 2, 3$

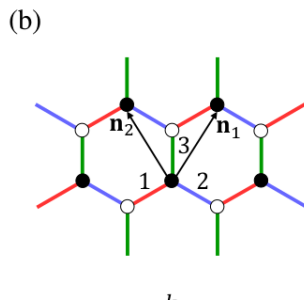
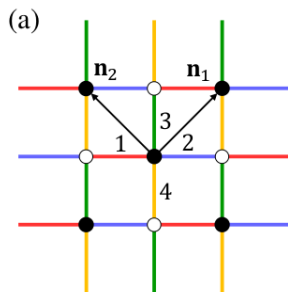
- ▶ For  $\nu = 2, 3$  we use Clifford Algebra of order 3, which has 5  $4 \times 4$   $\Gamma$  matrices and requires six Majorana fermions.



- ▶ Coloured dots  $\rightarrow$  Majorana operators, Black rounded square and triangle  $\rightarrow$  spins. Left diagram could corresponds to  $\nu = 2$  since it has two itinerant Majorana modes. Similarly right to  $\nu = 3$ .

# Lattice Systems

- ▶ Thus, in order to realize sixteenfold way models we need to use square and honeycomb lattice for even and odd  $\nu$  respectively.



## Model

- ▶ Model Hamiltonian (for Chern number  $\nu$ ):

$$H = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma \left( \Gamma_i^\gamma \Gamma_j^\gamma + \sum_{\beta=\gamma_m+1}^{2q+3} \Gamma_i^{\gamma\beta} \Gamma_j^{\gamma\beta} \right),$$

where  $\nu = 2q(2q+1)$  and  $\gamma_m = 4$  (3) for square (honeycomb) lattice.

- ▶ In Majorana representation, we have:

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma u_{ij} \left( ic_i c_j + \sum_{\beta=\gamma_m+1}^{2q+3} ib_i^\beta b_j^\beta \right),$$

- ▶ Itinerant Majorana modes decouple once we fix the static  $Z_2$  gauge field configuration.
- ▶ Fermion parity constraint:

$$D_j \equiv i^{q+2} b_j^1 b_j^2 \dots b_j^{2q+3} c_j = -1,$$

# Anyons in quantum spin-orbital liquid

$$H = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma (\vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_j) \otimes (\tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma), \quad (1)$$

Spin-orbital model on a honeycomb lattice with Heisenberg coupling in the spin sector and a Kitaev coupling in the orbital sector (Yao and Lee, PRL **107** (2011)).

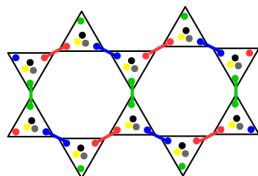
Four dimensional representation of Clifford Algebra:

$$(\Gamma^\alpha)_{\alpha=1,\dots,5} = (\sigma^y \otimes \tau^x, \sigma^y \otimes \tau^y, \sigma^y \otimes \tau^z, \sigma^x \otimes \mathbb{1}, \sigma^z \otimes \mathbb{1}).$$

Majorana representation:  $\Gamma^\alpha = ib^\alpha c$ .

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma u_{ij} (ic_i c_j + ib_i^4 b_j^4 + ib_i^5 b_j^5),$$

3 Dirac cones in the gapless B phase.  
 $\implies \nu = 3$  after breaking TRS.



## Anyons in quantum spin-orbital liquid

Anyonic qp	CFT primary field $a$	$h_a$	$\theta_a = 2\pi h_a$
Vacuum	$\mathbb{I}$	0	0
Fermion	$\psi$	1/2	$\pi$
Non-Abelian Anyon	$\sigma$	1/16	$\pi/8$

Table: Kitaev Spin Liquid

Anyonic qp	CFT primary field $a$	$h_a$	$\theta_a = 2\pi h_a$
Vacuum	$\mathbb{I}$	0	0
Fermion	$\psi$	1/2	$\pi$
Non-Abelian Anyon	$\sigma$	3/16	$3\pi/8$

Table:  $\nu = 3$  Quantum Spin-Orbital Liquid

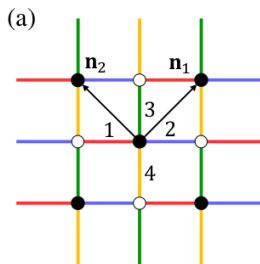
Odd  $\nu$  theories have non-abelian anyons while even  $\nu$  theories have abelian anyons. (For more details, see Phys. Rev. B **102**, 201111(R) (2020)).

# Spin-orbital liquid on a square lattice with $\nu = 2$

A spin-orbital model on the square lattice with an XY coupling in the spin sector and a Kitaev coupling in the orbital sector (Nakai et al., PRB **85** (2012)).

$$H = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma (\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y) \otimes (\tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma),$$

$$(\tau^\gamma)_{\gamma=1,\dots,4} = (\tau^x, \tau^y, \tau^z, \mathbb{1}).$$





# Outline

Kitaev Honeycomb Model

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QSOLs: Flux Crystals

Onsite spin magnetic field

Nearest neighbour interactions

QSOLs: Emergent Fractionalized Quasiparticles

# Onsite spin magnetic field

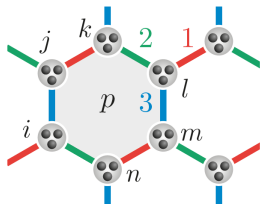
(Chulliparambil et al., Phys. Rev. B **103**, 075144 (2021))

Plaquette operators ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$  flux operator):  $W_p = \mathbb{1} \otimes \tau_i^x \tau_j^y \tau_k^z \tau_l^x \tau_m^y \tau_n^z$ .  
Coupling **only spin** to magnetic field.

$$\mathcal{H}_h^{(3)} = -\vec{h} \cdot \sum_i \vec{\sigma}_i \otimes \mathbb{1}.$$

Majorana representation:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_h^{(3)} = \sum_i (h^x c_i^y c_i^z + h^y c_i^z c_i^x + h^z c_i^x c_i^y).$$

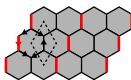


Dispersion relation depends only on  $|\vec{h}|$ . **Ground state flux configuration?**

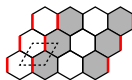
# Onsite spin magnetic field: Ground state flux configuration



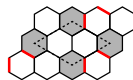
(a) Flux free



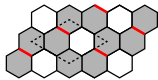
(b)  $\pi$  flux



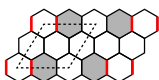
(c) 1/2-flux stripy



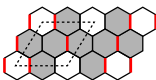
(d) 1/3-flux crystal



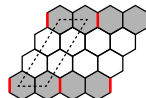
(e) 2/3-flux crystal



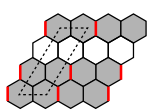
(f) 1/4-flux crystal



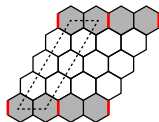
(g) 3/4-flux crystal



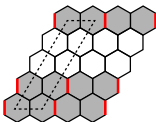
(h) 1/3-flux stripy



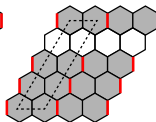
(i) 2/3-flux stripy



(j) 1/4-flux stripy



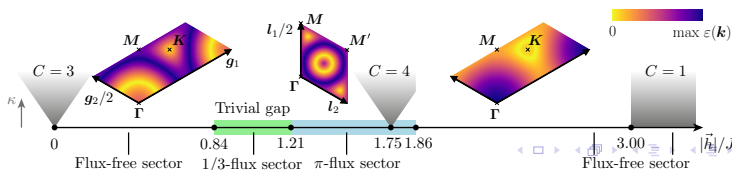
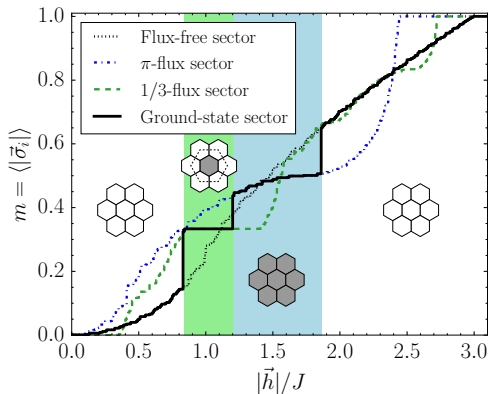
(k) 2/4-flux stripy



(l) 3/4-flux stripy

# Onsite spin magnetic field: Average magnetization per site

Majorana fermi surfaces, Dirac cones,...



## Nearest neighbour interactions:

### 1. Spatially isotropic $\bar{\Gamma}$ interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_{\bar{\Gamma}}^{(3)} = \bar{\Gamma} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_{\gamma}} \left[ \sigma_i^{\alpha} \sigma_j^{\beta} + \sigma_i^{\beta} \sigma_j^{\alpha} + \sigma_i^{\gamma} \sigma_j^{\alpha} + \sigma_i^{\alpha} \sigma_j^{\gamma} + \sigma_i^{\gamma} \sigma_j^{\beta} + \sigma_i^{\beta} \sigma_j^{\gamma} \right] \otimes \tau_i^{\gamma} \tau_j^{\gamma},$$

Majorana representation:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_J^{(3)} + \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\bar{\Gamma}}^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} u_{ij} \left[ J \sum_{\alpha} c_i^{\alpha} c_j^{\alpha} - \bar{\Gamma} \sum_{\alpha < \beta} \left( c_i^{\alpha} c_j^{\beta} + c_i^{\beta} c_j^{\alpha} \right) \right].$$

Using appropriate unitary transformation:

$$\mathcal{H}^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}_{\bar{\Gamma}}^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_{\mu}} iu_{ij} \left( (J - 2\bar{\Gamma}) d_i^1 d_j^1 + (J + \bar{\Gamma}) (d_i^2 d_j^2 + d_i^3 d_j^3) \right),$$

Majorana flat bands at  $J = 2\bar{\Gamma}$  and  $J = -\bar{\Gamma}$ !

# Nearest neighbour interactions:

## 2. Bond-dependent diagonal $K$ interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_K^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \left[ -K \sigma_i^\gamma \sigma_j^\gamma \right] \otimes \tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma,$$

Majorana representation:

$$\mathcal{H}_J^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}_K^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} i u_{ij} \left[ (J + K) c_i^\gamma c_j^\gamma + \sum_{\beta \neq \gamma} J c_i^\beta c_j^\beta \right].$$

- ▶ Finite  $K$  spoils  $SO(3)$  symmetry. As  $K/J \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\gamma$ -type Majoranas are localized on  $\gamma$ -type bonds leading to gapped dispersion and flat bands.
- ▶  $\epsilon^\alpha(\vec{k}) = \pm |f(\vec{k}) + 2K e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \delta_\alpha}|$  with  $\delta_\alpha = \vec{n}_1, \vec{n}_2, 0$  for  $\alpha = x, y, z$  respectively.

# Outline

Kitaev Honeycomb Model

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QSOLs: Emergent Fractionalized Quasiparticles

# Néel antiferromagnet on a honeycomb lattice

Seifert et al. PRL **125**,257202 (2020)

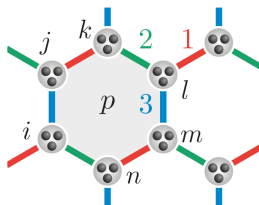
$$\text{QSOL:} \quad H_K = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma (\vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_j) \otimes (\tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma).$$

$$W_p = \mathbb{1} \otimes \tau_i^x \tau_j^y \tau_k^z \tau_l^x \tau_m^y \tau_n^z.$$

Antiferromagnetic

interactions in the spin degree of freedom :

$$H_J = J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_j \otimes \mathbb{1}_i \mathbb{1}_j, \quad J > 0.$$



$[H_J, W_p] = 0 \quad \forall p, \implies$  static

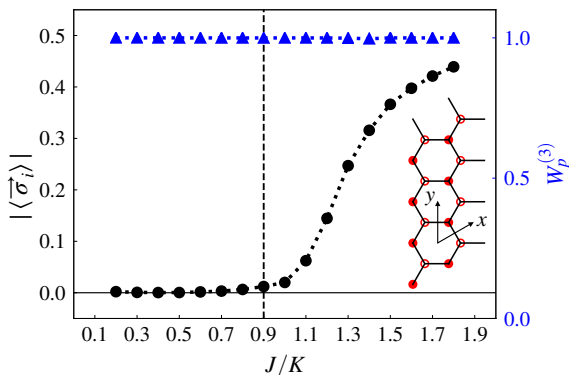
$\mathbb{Z}_2$  gauge fields. In the Majorana form,

$H_J \mapsto \frac{J}{4} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (c_i^\top \vec{L} c_i) \cdot (c_j^\top \vec{L} c_j)$ , with the  $SO(3)$  generators

$L_{\beta\gamma}^\alpha = -i\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}$ . **Not exactly solvable!**

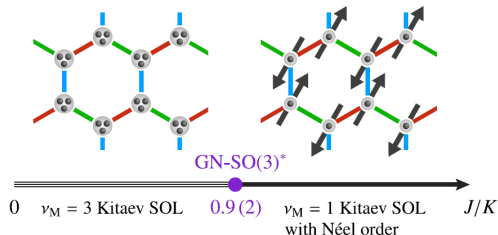


# Continuous phase transition



- ▶ For  $J \ll K$  semimetal with three flavours of gapless Dirac excitations corresponding to  $\nu = 3$  Kitaev spin-orbital liquid.
- ▶ For  $J \gg K \implies \langle \vec{n} \rangle = \langle \vec{\sigma}_{i,A} - \vec{\sigma}_{j,B} \rangle / 2 \neq 0$ , a flavour of gapless Dirac excitation ( $\nu = 1$  Kitaev spin-orbital liquid) along with anti-ferromagnetic Néel order.

# Fractionalized fermionic quantum criticality



The criticality was studied using  $\epsilon$ -expansion, large N methods and DMRG to reveal Gross-Neveu- $\text{SO}(3)^*$  criticality. (Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 257202 (2020)).

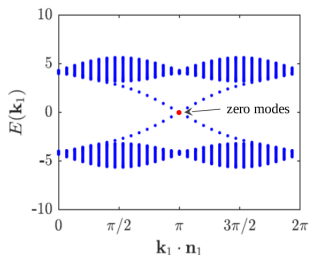
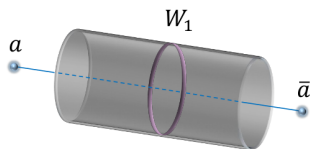
Thank you for your attention..

- ▶ QSOLs, in addition to Kitaev Spin Liquids are also excellent starting points for the study of anyons (both Abelian and non-Abelian) and exotic topological orders ([Phys. Rev. B 102, 201111\(R\) \(2020\)](#)).
- ▶ On adding onsite magnetic fields and nearest neighbour interactions, we observe first order phase transition into non-trivial flux crystals featuring Majorana fermi surfaces, quadratic band touching points and flat bands ([Phys. Rev. B 103, 075144 \(2021\)](#)).
- ▶ Nearest neighbour antiferromagnetic spin interactions lead to novel continuous phase transition characterized by novel Gross Neveu\* quantum criticalities ([Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 257202 \(2020\)](#)).

# Characterising Topological Order

## Edge States and Topological Spin of Anyons

On solving the QSOL models on a cylinder one can show that there exist exactly  $\nu$  pairs of gapless Majorana edge modes in the gapless phase in presence of weak magnetic field perturbation that gaps the system.



## Types of Anyonic Quasiparticles [3]

Anyonic qp	CFT primary field $a$	$h_a$	$\theta_a = 2\pi h_a$
Vacuum	$\mathbb{I}$	0	0
Fermion	$\psi$	1/2	$\pi$
Non-Abelian Anyon	$\sigma$	$\nu/16$	$\pi\nu/8$

Table: Odd  $\nu$  theories and  $SO(\nu)_1$  CFT

Anyonic qp	CFT primary field $a$	$h_a$	$\theta_a = 2\pi h_a$
Vacuum	$\mathbb{I}$	0	0
Fermion	$\psi$	1/2	$\pi$
Abelian Anyons	$\lambda_1, \lambda_2$	$\nu/16$	$\pi\nu/8$

Table: Even  $\nu$  theories and  $SO(\nu)_1$  CFT

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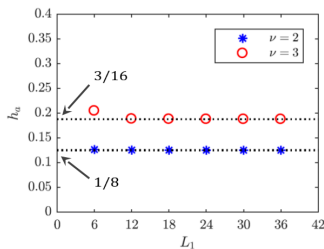
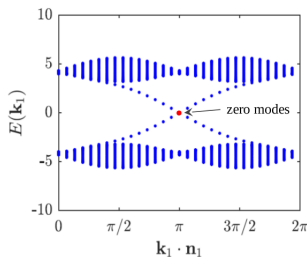
[3] Francesco, Mathieu and Sénéchal. *Conformal Field Theory*. 1997

# Topological Spin of Anyon Quasiparticle

- ▶ Contribution to energy from edge states:

$$E_a - E_0 = \frac{2\pi\nu}{L_1}(h_a + h_{\bar{a}})$$

- ▶ The topological spin of the anyonic quasiparticle  $\theta = 2\pi h_a$  [1]; [4].
- ▶ Our results match with the CFT predicted value of anyonic topological spin of  $\theta = \nu\pi/8$ .



[4] Tu, Zhang and Qi. "Momentum polarization: An entanglement measure of topological spin and chiral central charge". 2013. *Phys. Rev. B* 88

# Topological Ground State Degeneracy On A Torus

- ▶ Four candidate degenerate states:

$$Q|\Psi_F(\{u_0^{\pm\pm}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{\pm\pm}\}\rangle = |\Psi_F(\{u_0^{\pm\pm}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{\pm\pm}\}\rangle,$$

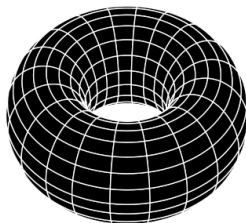
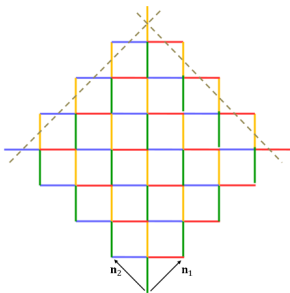
- ▶ Fermion parity

$$Q|\Psi_F(\{u_0^{--}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{--}\}\rangle = |\Psi_F(\{u_0^{--}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{--}\}\rangle,$$

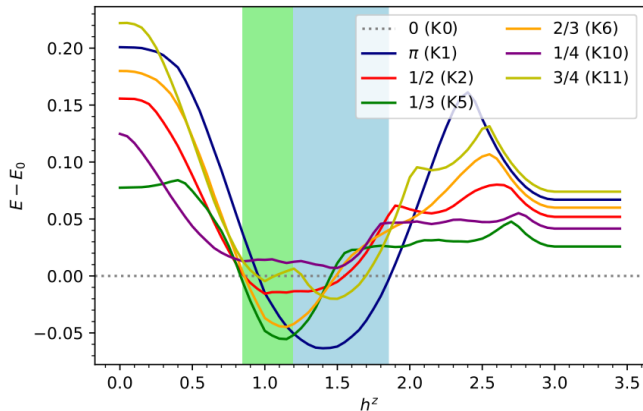
$$Q|\Psi_F(\{u_0^{-+}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{-+}\}\rangle = |\Psi_F(\{u_0^{-+}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{-+}\}\rangle,$$

$$Q|\Psi_F(\{u_0^{+-}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{+-}\}\rangle = |\Psi_F(\{u_0^{+-}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{+-}\}\rangle,$$

$$Q|\Psi_F(\{u_0^{++}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{++}\}\rangle = (-1)^\nu |\Psi_F(\{u_0^{++}\})\rangle \otimes |\{u_0^{++}\}\rangle$$



# Onsite spin magnetic field on honeycomb: Ground state flux configuration





# Onsite spin magnetic field: Flux free sector ( $|\vec{h}|/J < 0.84$ )

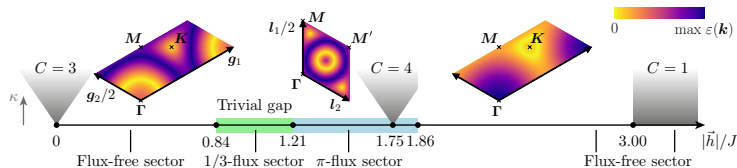
- ▶ At  $\vec{h} = 0$ ,  $C = 3$ .
- ▶ As we increase  $|\vec{h}|$ , two of the three Dirac cones are shifted away from zero energy  $\rightarrow$  Fermi surface. (**Majorana metal!**)

$$\varepsilon_{1,2}(\vec{k}) = 2|\vec{h}| \pm |f(\vec{k})|, \quad \varepsilon_{3,4}(\vec{k}) = -2|\vec{h}| \pm |f(\vec{k})|,$$

and  $\varepsilon_{5,6}(\vec{k}) = \pm |f(\vec{k})|.$

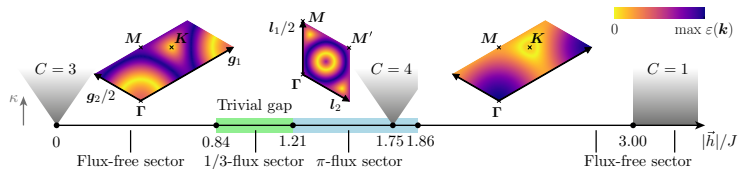
where  $f(\vec{k}) = 2J(1 + e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{n}_1} + e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{n}_2})$ , where  $\vec{n}_{1,2} = (\pm\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$  are the honeycomb lattice vectors.

- ▶  $C = 1$ .



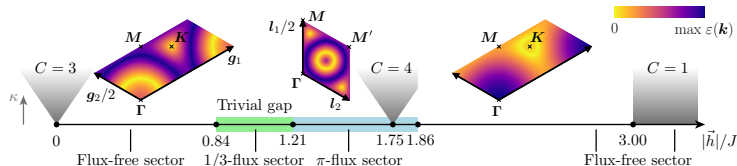
# Onsite spin magnetic field: 1/3- flux sector

- ▶ Trivial gap for all three Majoranas.



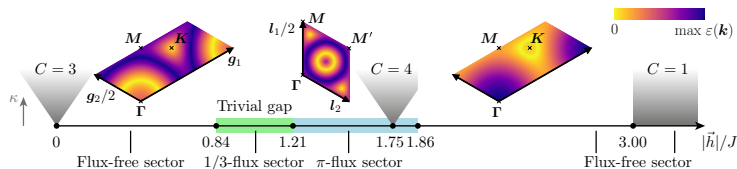
## Onsite spin magnetic field: $\pi$ -flux sector

- ▶ Gapless spectrum features two Dirac cones and a Fermi surface resulting in  $C = 2$ .
- ▶ This Fermi surface is formed by the intersection of a Dirac node at  $\mathbf{M}'/2 = (\pi, \pi/\sqrt{3})/2$ , centered at some nonzero elevated energy with its particle-hole-symmetric counterpart.
- ▶ At  $|\vec{h}| = 1.75J$ , at which the Fermi surface shrinks to an isolated point.
- ▶ All four Dirac cones now give rise to  $C = 4$ .



# Onsite spin magnetic field: Flux free sector for large $|\vec{h}|/J$

- ▶ At  $|\vec{h}| = 3J$  two Fermi surfaces shrink to isolated points with quadratic dispersion at the  $\Gamma = (0, 0)$  point in BZ/2.
- ▶ At  $h^z > 3J$ , two of the three bands are completely filled and empty, respectively, and only the Dirac cone at  $\mathbf{K}$  remains, yielding  $C = 1$ .



# Nearest neighbour interactions on a honeycomb lattice:

## 3. Bond-dependent off-diagonal $\Gamma$ interaction

$$\mathcal{H}_\Gamma^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} \Gamma \left[ \left( \sigma_i^\gamma \sigma_j^\alpha + \sigma_i^\alpha \sigma_j^\gamma + \sigma_i^\gamma \sigma_j^\beta + \sigma_i^\beta \sigma_j^\gamma \right) \right] \otimes \tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma, \quad (2)$$

Majorana representation:

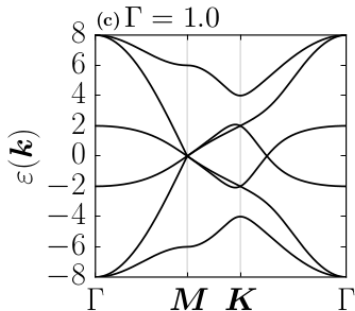
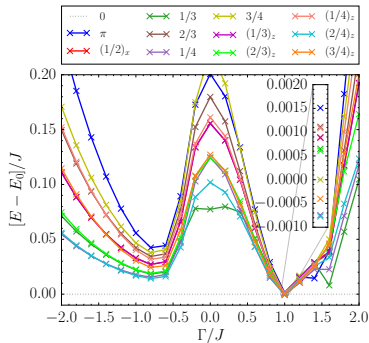
$$\mathcal{H}_J^{(3)} + \mathcal{H}_\Gamma^{(3)} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_{\alpha(\beta\gamma)}} iu_{ij} \left[ Jc_i^\alpha c_j^\alpha - \Gamma(c_i^\beta c_j^\gamma + c_i^\gamma c_j^\beta) \right]. \quad (3)$$

- ▶ 0-flux is the ground state flux configuration except at  $\Gamma/J = 1$  where several other fluxes are close in energy.

# Nearest neighbour interactions on a honeycomb lattice:

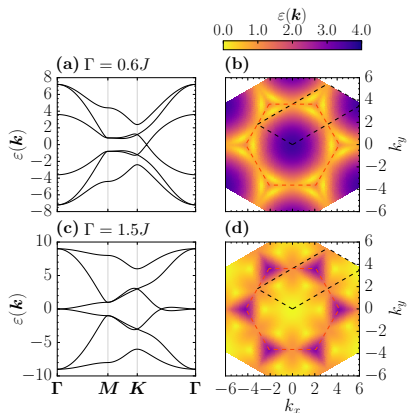
## 3. Bond-dependent off-diagonal $\Gamma$ interaction

Ground state flux configuration study and nodal lines at  $\Gamma = 1.0$ :



# Nearest neighbour interactions on a honeycomb lattice:

## 3. Bond-dependent off-diagonal $\Gamma$ interaction



The spectrum becomes fully gapped at  $\Gamma = 1.6J$ .

## QSOL on a square lattice

This model has a chiral gapless quantum spin orbital liquid with  $\nu = 2$  when  $J_\gamma = 1$  ((Phys. Rev. B **102**, 201111(R) (2020))).

$$H = - \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma (\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y) \otimes (\tau_i^\gamma \tau_j^\gamma),$$

where  $\gamma = 1, 2, 3, 4$  denotes the four inequivalent bonds in a two-site unit cell and  $(\tau^\gamma) = (\tau^x, \tau^y, \tau^z, \mathbb{1})$  for  $\nu = 3$ .

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle_\gamma} J_\gamma u_{ij} \left( ic_i^x c_j^x + ic_i^y c_j^y \right),$$

Conserved Plaquette operators:

$$W_p = \sigma_k^z \sigma_n^z \otimes \tau_i^x \tau_j^y \tau_k^x \tau_n^y,$$

$$W_{p'} = \sigma_k^z \sigma_n^z \otimes \tau_k^y \tau_l^x \tau_m^y \tau_n^x.$$



# Flux crystals on a square lattice: Onsite spin magnetic field

These terms couple the spin degree of freedom to magnetic field [5].

$$\mathcal{H}_h^{(2)} = -h^z \sum_i \sigma_i^z \otimes \mathbb{1}.$$

Majorana representation:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_h^{(2)} = h^z \sum_i c_i^x c_i^y,$$

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[5] Chulliparambil **and others**. “Flux crystals, Majorana metals, and flat bands in exactly solvable spin-orbital liquids”. 2021. *Phys. Rev. B* 103

# Onsite spin magnetic field: Average magnetization per site

