

# Taming the Dirac fermion



Composite Dirac liquids and surface  
topological orders

Caltech

Andrew M. Essin

IQIM  
INSTITUTE FOR QUANTUM INFORMATION AND MATTER



BIZARRO'S WORLD!

ADDITIONAL  
COVERS  
BY  
GAD  
APPENDIX

88 \$1.50 US  
\$2.00 CAN  
75¢ UK



2UPERMAN

14

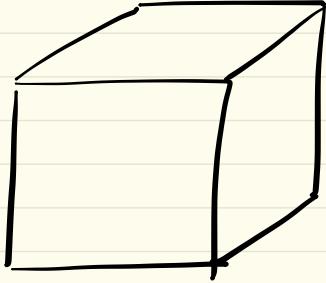


DIRECT SALES 08811  
6194120049

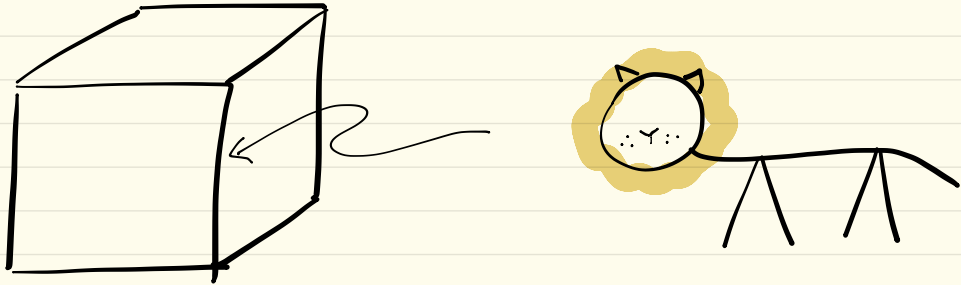
FALL OF BIZARRO!  
JURGENS • IMMENEN • RUBINSTEIN

mycomicshop

# TOPOLOGICAL INSULATORS



# TOPOLOGICAL INSULATORS



WORK WITH



DAVID M ROSS



JASON ALICEA

WORK WITH



DAVID M ROSS



JASON ALICEA

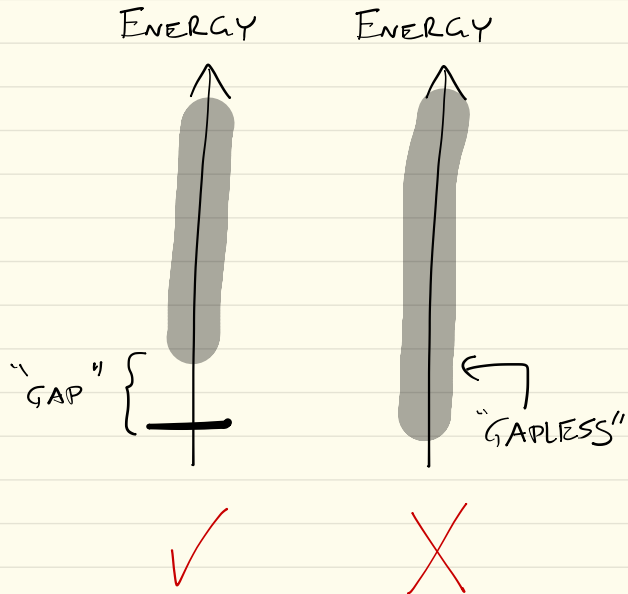
# OUTLINE - BACKGROUND

PREHISTORY (-30 YRS.) - FRACTIONAL QUANTUM HALL

ANCIENT HISTORY (-10 YRS.) - TOPOLOGICAL INSULATORS

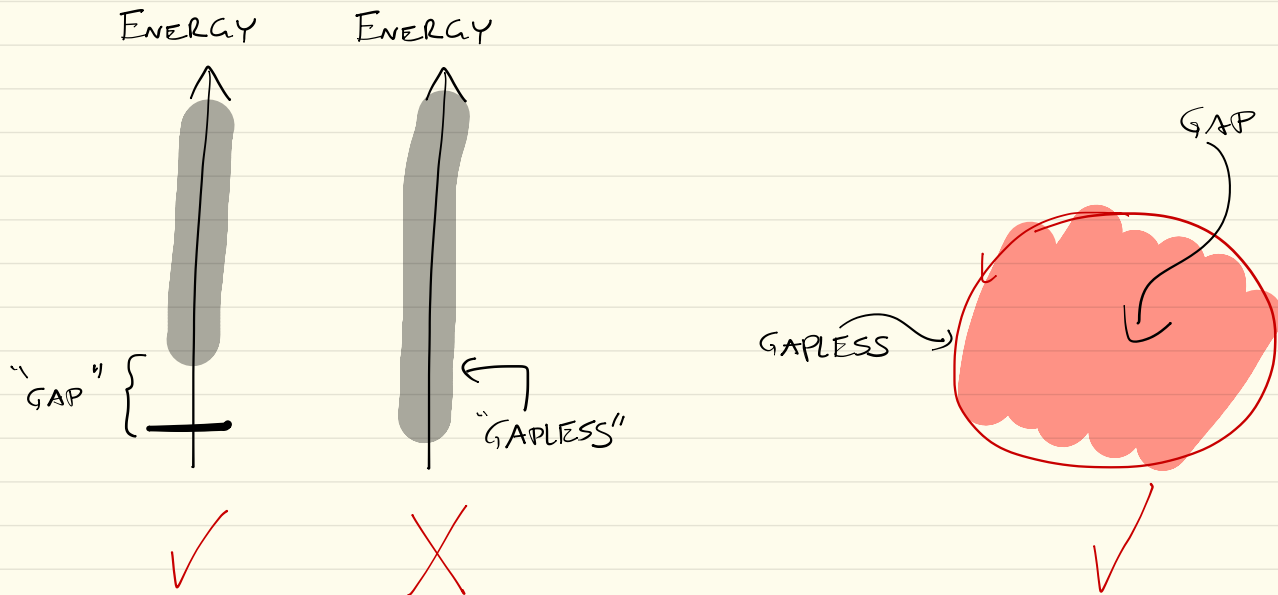
HISTORY (-1 YR) - SYMMETRIC TOPOLOGICAL SURFACES

# "TOPOLOGICAL" PHASES OF MATTER





# "TOPOLOGICAL" PHASES OF MATTER



# ELECTRONS

e

e

e

PROPERTIES:

- ENERGY
- CHARGE = 1
- SPIN =  $\frac{1}{2}$

↑

↓

SYMMETRIES

- PHASE ROTATION
- TIME REVERSAL

$$\Psi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \Psi$$

↑ ↔ ↓

- "STATISTICS"



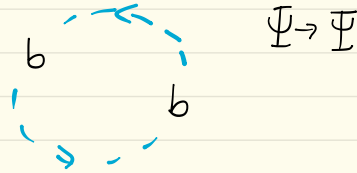
$$\Psi(\text{COORDS}) \rightarrow -\Psi(\text{COORDS})$$

FERMIONS

MORE GENERALLY,

"LOCAL FERMIONS" HAVE CHARGE = ODD INTEGER

LOCAL BOSONS HAVE CHARGE = EVEN



NOT NEUTRONS, SAY: FERMIONS, CHARGE = 0.



How TO GET A CAP

HOW TO GET A CAP

- FOR BOSONS, NEED STRONG INTERACTIONS:

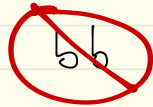
ENERGY COST FOR TWO BOSONS IN THE SAME STATE

~~bb~~

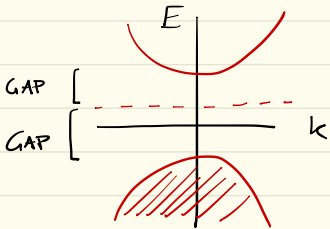
# HOW TO GET A GAP

- FOR BOSONS, NEED STRONG INTERACTIONS:

ENERGY COST FOR TWO BOSONS IN THE SAME STATE



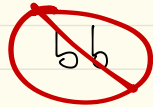
- FILLED FERMION BAND ("DIRAC SEA")



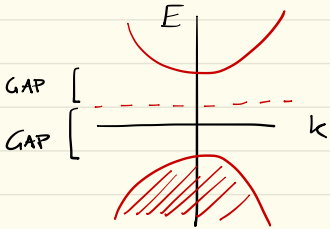
# HOW TO GET A GAP

- FOR BOSONS, NEED STRONG INTERACTIONS:

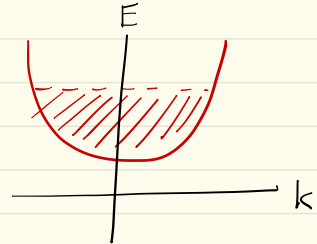
ENERGY COST FOR TWO BOSONS IN THE SAME STATE



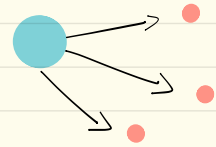
- FILLED FERMION BAND ("DIRAC SEA")



CONTRAST METAL



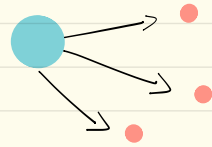
FRACTIONAL EXCITATIONS MAY HAVE  
OTHER STATISTICS, CHARGE



CONSIDER FRACTIONAL QUANTUM HALL AT  $\nu = 1/2$ .



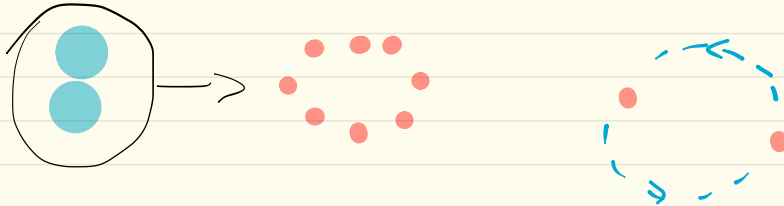
FRACTIONAL EXCITATIONS MAY HAVE  
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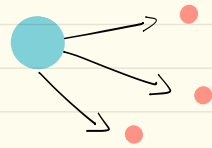
CONSIDER FRACTIONAL QUANTUM HALL AT  $\nu = 1/2$ .

OLD IDEA OF HALPERIN:

- ELECTRONS PAIR TO FORM CHARGE-2 BOSONS
- THESE PAIRS BREAK INTO 8 PIECES WITH CHARGE  $1/4$ , STATISTICS  $e^{i\pi/8}$



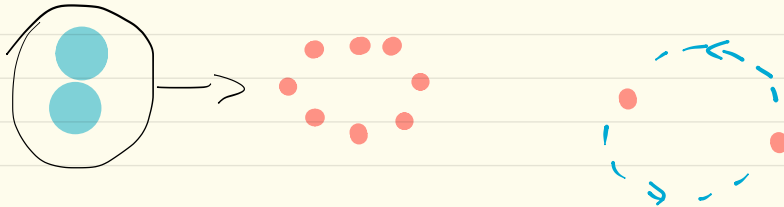
FRACTIONAL EXCITATIONS MAY HAVE OTHER STATISTICS, CHARGE



CONSIDER FRACTIONAL QUANTUM HALL AT  $\nu = 1/2$ .

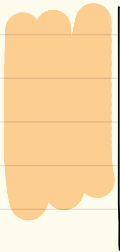
OLD IDEA OF HALPERIN:

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EDGE: CHARGE CONDUCTANCE  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2^2}{8} \rightarrow \nu = 1/2$

ENERGY CONDUCTANCE 1.  $\rightarrow c = 1$

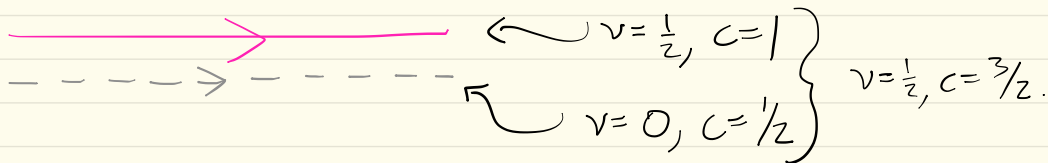
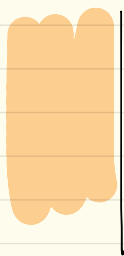


LATER IDEA (MOORE & READ): • •

CHARGE  $\frac{1}{4}$  ANYON CARRIES MAJORANA BOUND STATE,

→ NONABELIAN FUSION, BRAIDING.

EDGE



EXPERIMENTS SEE A GAPLESS STATE, SORT OF LIKE A METAL

"COMPOSITE FERMION LIQUID"

VERY CRUDELY, ONE CAN IMAGINE FRACTIONAL FERMIONS



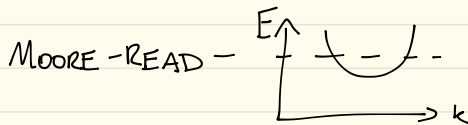
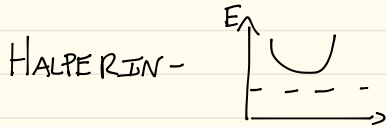
EXPERIMENTS SEE A GAPLESS STATE, SORT OF LIKE A METAL

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VERY CRUDELY, ONE CAN IMAGINE FRACTIONAL FERMIONS



THE TWO STATES CORRESPOND TO PAIRING OF THESE FERMIONS:



← PLAUSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR  
TOPOLOGICAL STATE AT  
FILLING  $5/2$ .

HASTINGS (OSHIKAWA; LIEB, SCHULTZ, MATTIS)

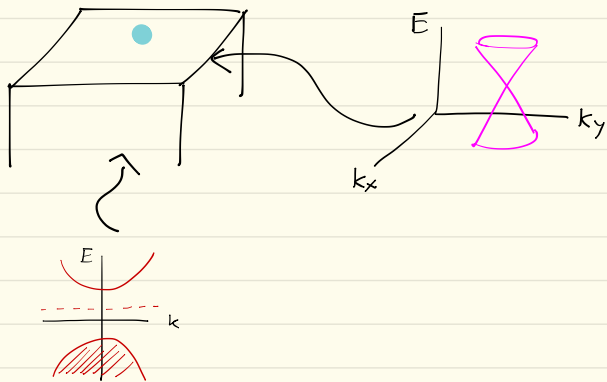
WITH APPROPRIATE SYMMETRIES AND CHARGES:

(0. BREAK SYMMETRY)

1. GAP + FRACTIONAL EXCITATIONS

2. GAPLESS

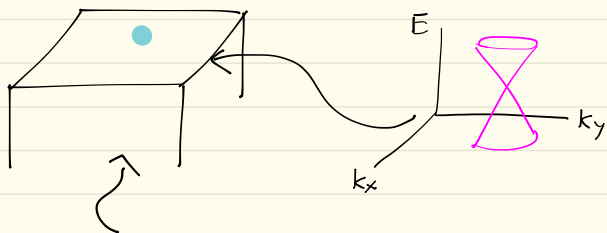
# 3D TOPOLOGICAL INSULATOR



$$H_{2D} = i\mathbb{F}^+ \sigma \cdot \nabla \mathbb{F}$$

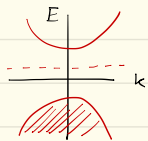
$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{\uparrow} \\ \psi_{\downarrow} \end{pmatrix}$$

# 3D TOPOLOGICAL INSULATOR



$$H_{2D} = i\Phi^\dagger \vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Psi$$

$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_\uparrow \\ \psi_\downarrow \end{pmatrix}$$

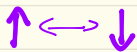


## SYMMETRY

TIME REVERSAL

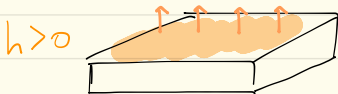
PHASE ROTATION

SYMMETRY ACTION



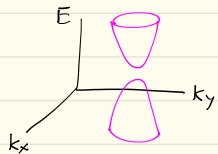
$$\Psi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \Psi$$

SYMMETRY-BREAKING



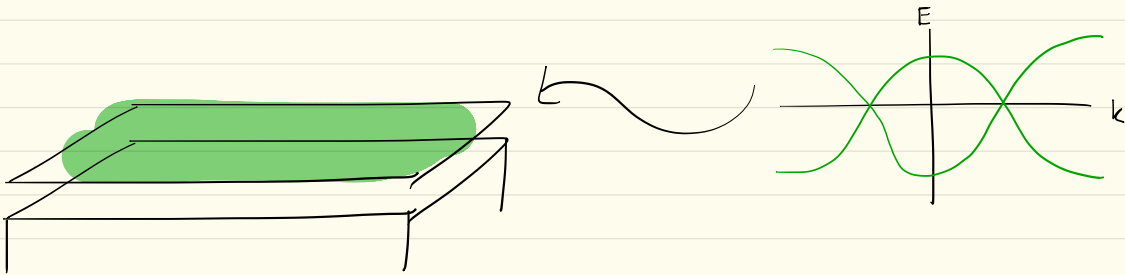
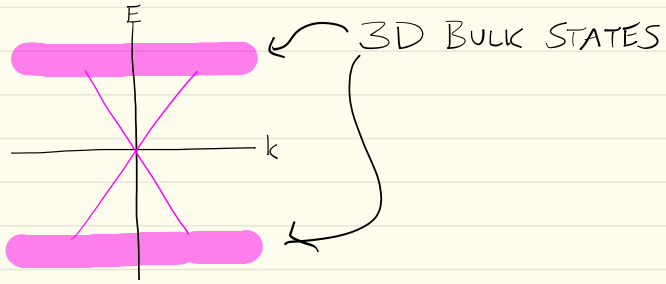
$$h \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\Delta \in \mathbb{C}$$





# 2D SURFACE V. 2D BULK

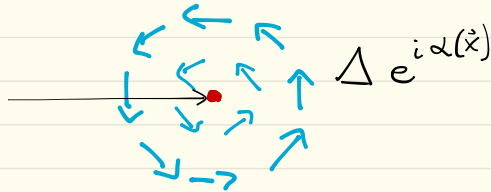


# SYMMETRY BREAKING - POINT DEFECTS

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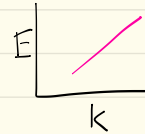
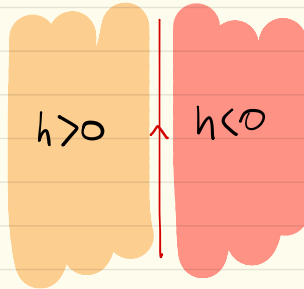
MAJORANA BOUND STATE

$$\gamma = \gamma^\dagger$$



# SYMMETRY BREAKING - LINE DEFECTS

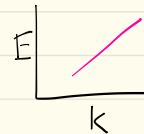
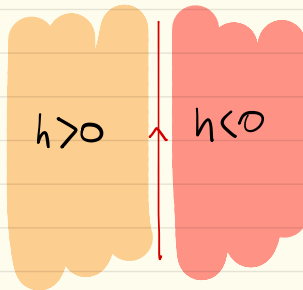
CHIRAL FERMION MODE



$$\nu = 1, c = 1$$

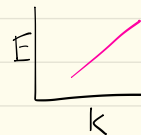
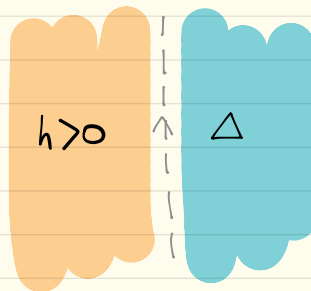
# SYMMETRY BREAKING - LINE DEFECTS

CHIRAL FERMION MODE



$$\nu = 1, c = 1$$

CHIRAL MAJORANA MODE



$$c = 1/2$$

# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

BONDERSON, NAYAK, QI

METLITSKI, KANE, FISHER

WANG, POTTER, SENTHIL

} VORTEX CONDENSATION

CHEN, FIDKOWSKI, VISHWANATH — WALKER-WANG MODELS

# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

BONDERSON, NAYAK, QI

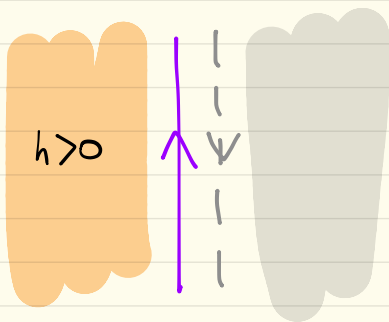
METLITSKI, KANE, FISHER

WANG, POTTER, SENTHIL

} VORTEX CONDENSATION

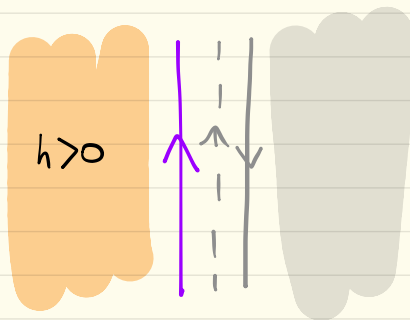
CHEN, FIDKOWSKI, VISHWANATH — WALKER-WANG MODELS

TWO POSSIBILITIES:



$$\nu = 1/2, c = 1/2$$

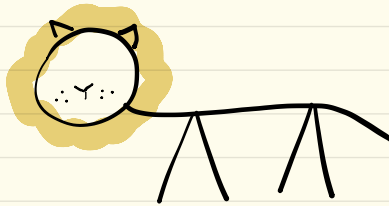
"T-PFAFFIAN"



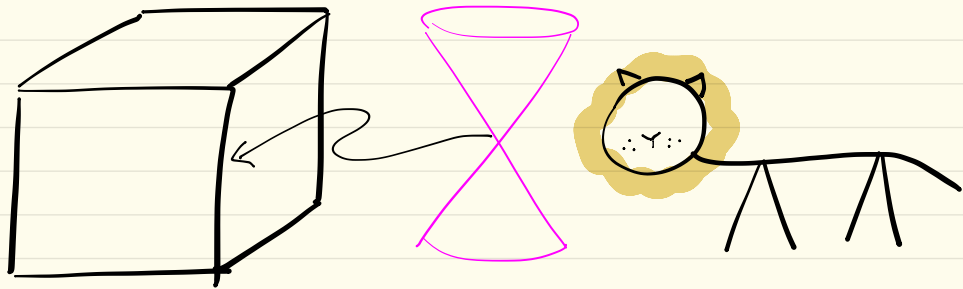
$$\nu = 1/2, c = 1/2$$

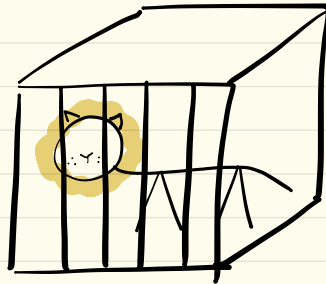
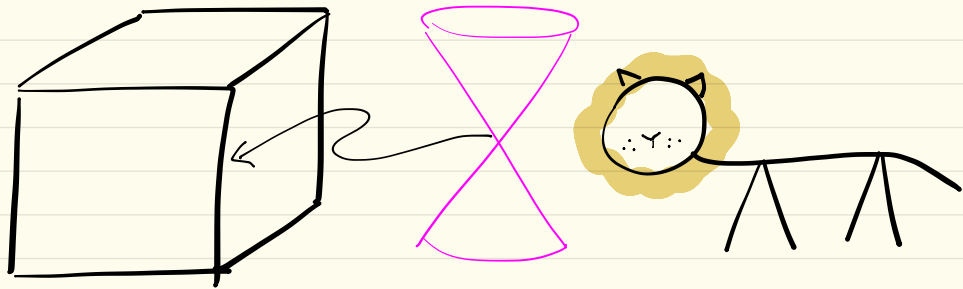
"PFAFFIAN-ANTISEMIION"

QUESTIONS ?

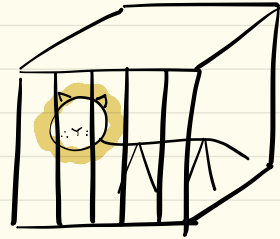




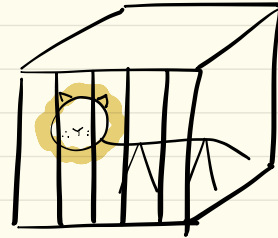




1. CAGE THE DIRAC FERMION



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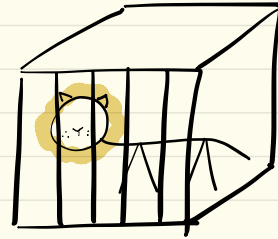
2. ENERGETICALLY BIND CHARGE



→ ALL CHARGES CAPPED.

→ NEUTRAL BOUND STATE →  $U(1)$  NOT BROKEN

1. CAGE THE DIRAC FERMION



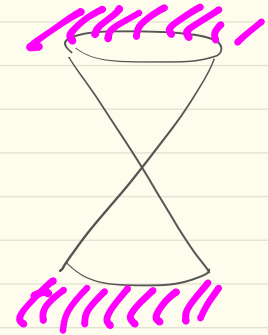
2. ENERGETICALLY BIND CHARGE



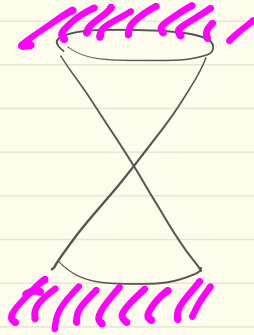
→ ALL CHARGES GAPPED.

3. GAPLESS, NEUTRAL DIRAC FERMION REMAINS

COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID



# COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID

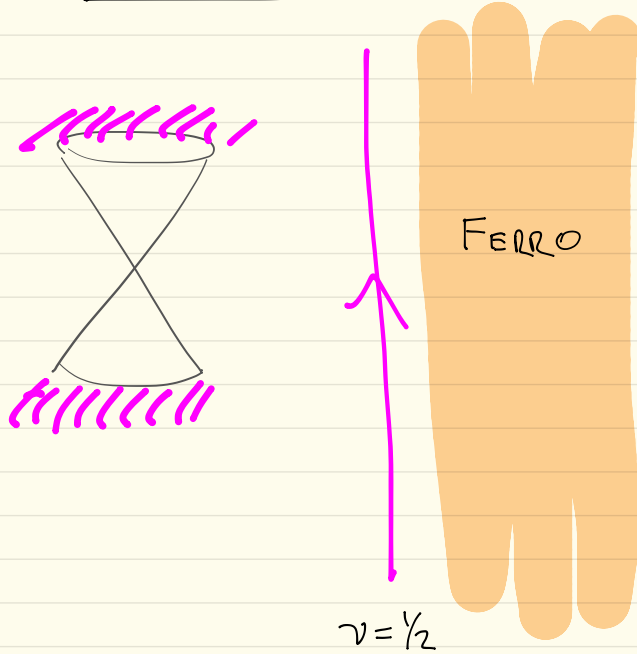


THERMAL TRANSPORT LIKE A DIRAC METAL

CHARGE INSULATOR

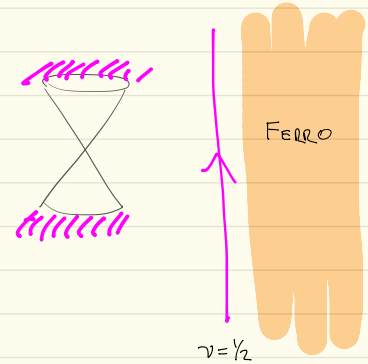
→ LIKE A GAPLESS SPIN LIQUID

# COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID



# COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID

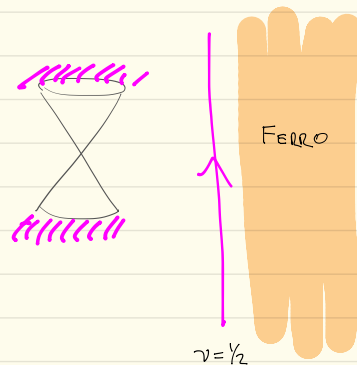
GAPLESS SPECTRUM ENFORCED BY  
FICTITIOUS  $\widetilde{U}(1)$  SYMMETRY.





# COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID

GAPLESS SPECTRUM ENFORCED BY  
FICTITIOUS  $U(1)$  SYMMETRY.



PAIR POTENTIAL  $\tilde{\Delta}$  BREAKS FICTITIOUS SYMMETRY

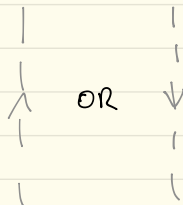
→ FULL GAP

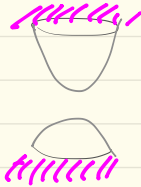


→ MAJORANA BOUND STATES

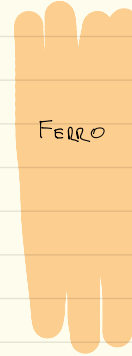


⇒ MAJORANA EDGE MODE

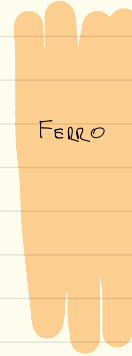
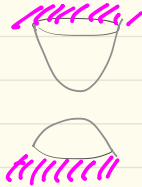




$$\sigma_{xy} = 0, \quad \kappa_{xy} = 0$$

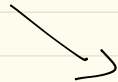


$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \kappa_{xy} = \frac{1}{2}$$

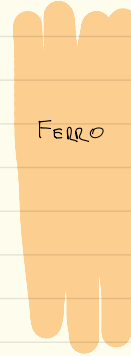
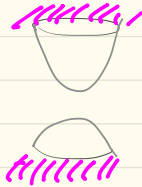


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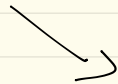


$$\nu = \frac{1}{2}, \quad c = \frac{1}{2}$$

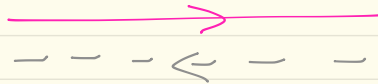


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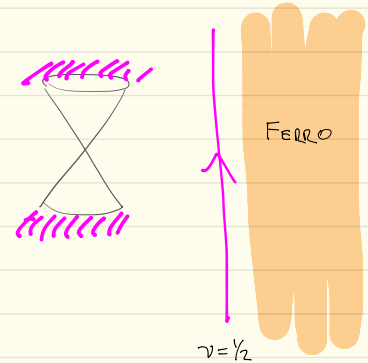


$$\nu = \frac{1}{2}, \quad c = \frac{1}{2}$$



# COMPOSITE DIRAC LIQUID

GAPLESS SPECTRUM ENFORCED BY  
FICTITIOUS  $U(1)$  SYMMETRY.

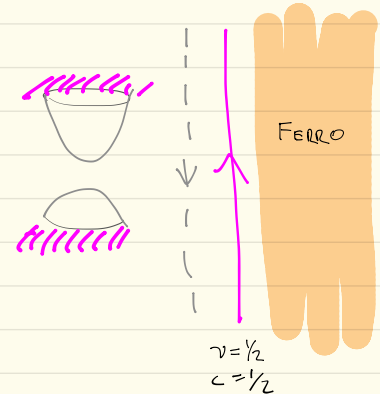
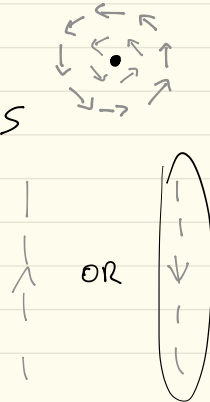


PAIR POTENTIAL  $\tilde{\Delta}$  BREAKS FICTITIOUS SYMMETRY

→ FULL GAP

→ MAJORANA BOUND STATES

→ MAJORANA EDGE MODE



# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

$U(1)$

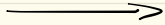


# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

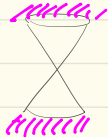
$U(1)$



GAP  $U(1)$  CHARGE



$U(1), \widetilde{U(1)}$



Fermi

$v = 1/2$

# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

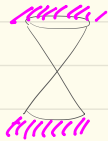
$U(1)$



GAP  $U(1)$  CHARGE  
→



$U(1), \widetilde{U(1)}$

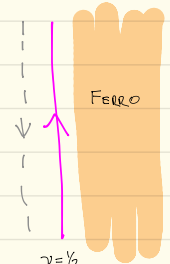


$\nu = 1/2$

BREAK  $\widetilde{U(1)}$   
→



TPF



$\nu = 1/2$   
 $c = 1/2$

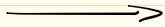


# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

$U(1)$



GAP  $U(1)$  CHARGE



$U(1), \widetilde{U}(1)$



$\nu = \frac{1}{2}$

BREAK  $\widetilde{U}(1)$

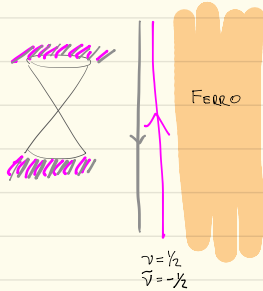


TPF



$\nu = \frac{1}{2}$   
 $c = \frac{1}{2}$

GAP  $\widetilde{U}(1)$  CHARGE



$\nu = \frac{1}{2}$   
 $\widetilde{\nu} = -\frac{1}{2}$

# SYMMETRIC, GAPPED SURFACES

$U(1)$



GAP  $U(1)$  CHARGE  
 $\longrightarrow$

$U(1), \widetilde{U}(1)$



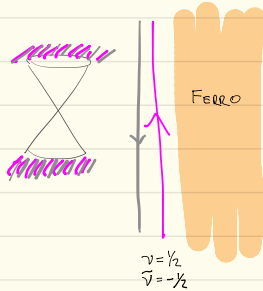
BREAK  $\widetilde{U}(1)$   
 $\longrightarrow$



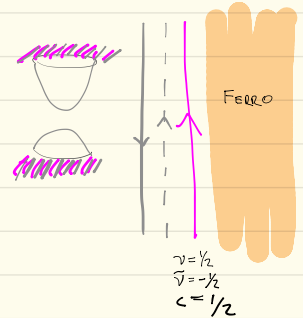
TPF



GAP  $\widetilde{U}(1)$  CHARGE  
 $\downarrow$

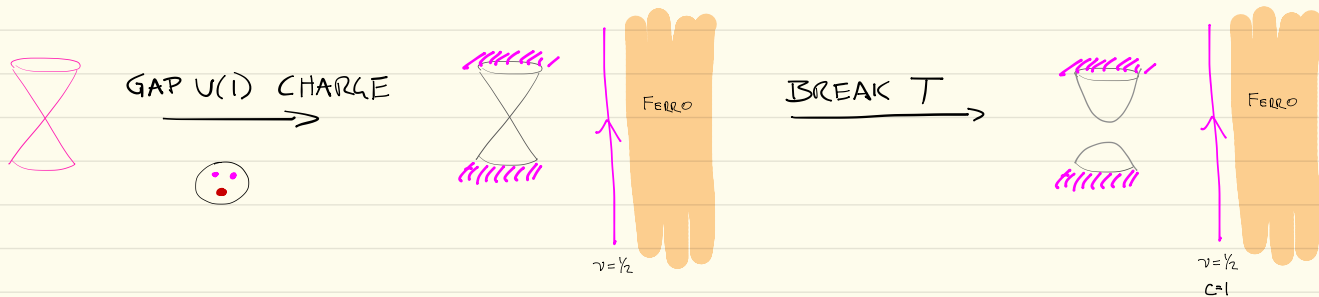


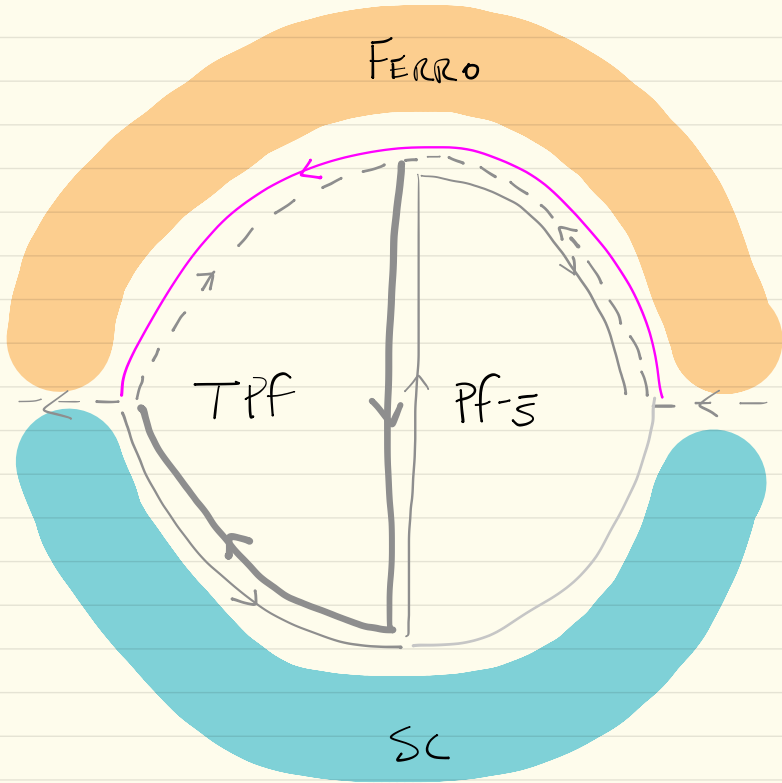
$\longrightarrow$





PF- $\bar{5}$


# OTHER GAPPED SURFACES ~ 2D STATES




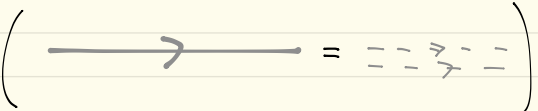


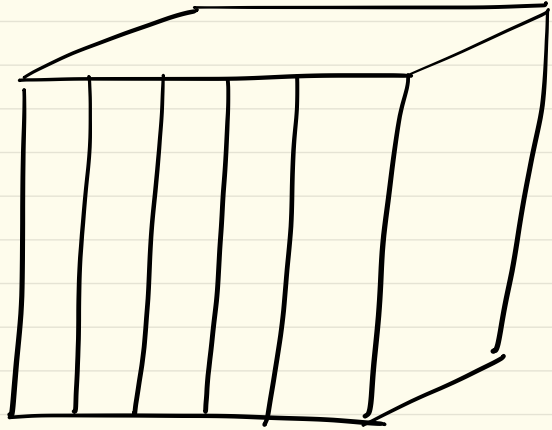
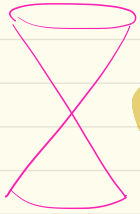

 $\nu = 1/2, c = 1$   
 SEMION

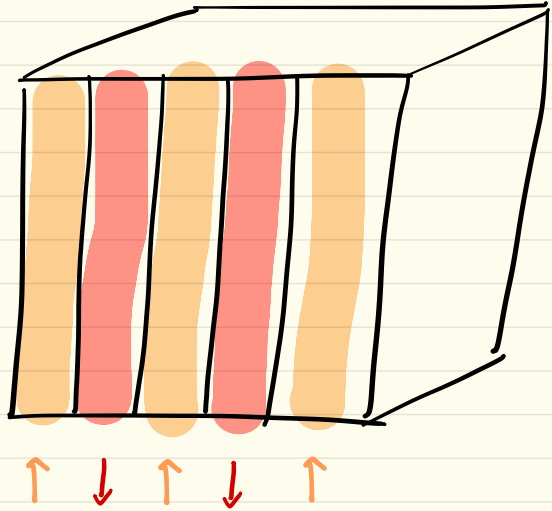

 $\nu = 0, c = 1$   
 SEMION

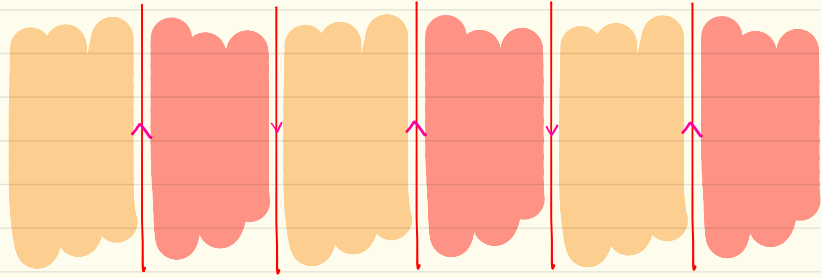
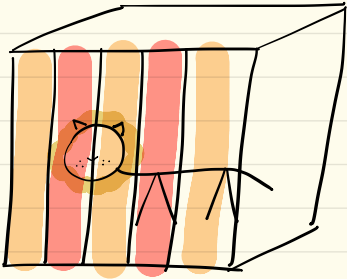

 $\nu = 0, c = 1$   
 FERMION


 $\nu = 0, c = 1/2$   
 MAJORANA  
 FERMION







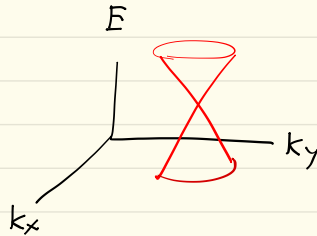


MODIFY TIME-REVERSAL SYMMETRY



$$\psi_{\uparrow} \rightarrow \psi_{\downarrow}, \psi_{\downarrow} \rightarrow -\psi_{\uparrow}$$

$$\psi_{\uparrow}(\vec{r}) \rightarrow \psi_{\downarrow}(\vec{r} + \hat{x}), \psi_{\downarrow}(\vec{r}) \rightarrow \psi_{\uparrow}(\vec{r} + \hat{x})$$

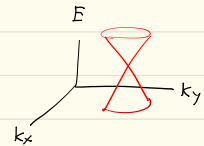
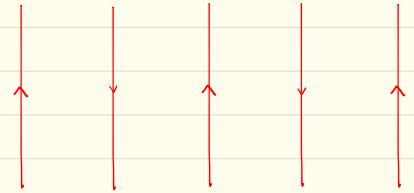


NOW: CONDENSE BOSONS TO GAP CHARGE

- NONCHIRAL, NEUTRAL

DON'T BREAK ANTIFERRO SYMMETRY

NOT STRONG ENOUGH





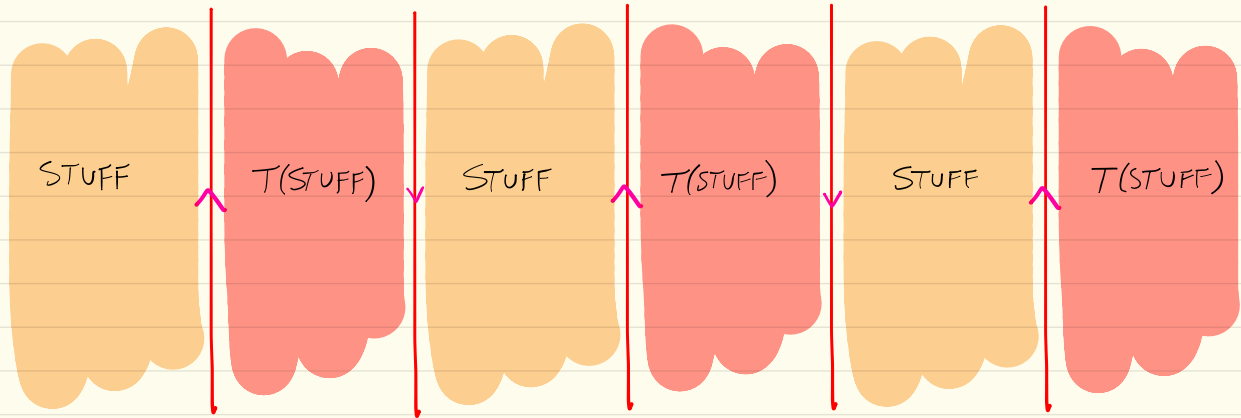
NOW: CONDENSE BOSONS TO GAP CHARGE

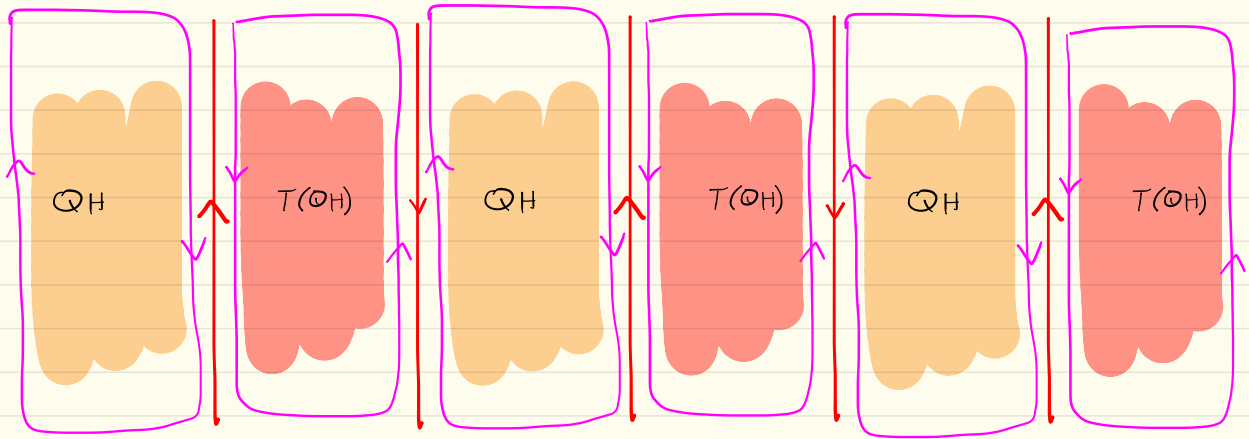
- NONCHIRAL, NEUTRAL

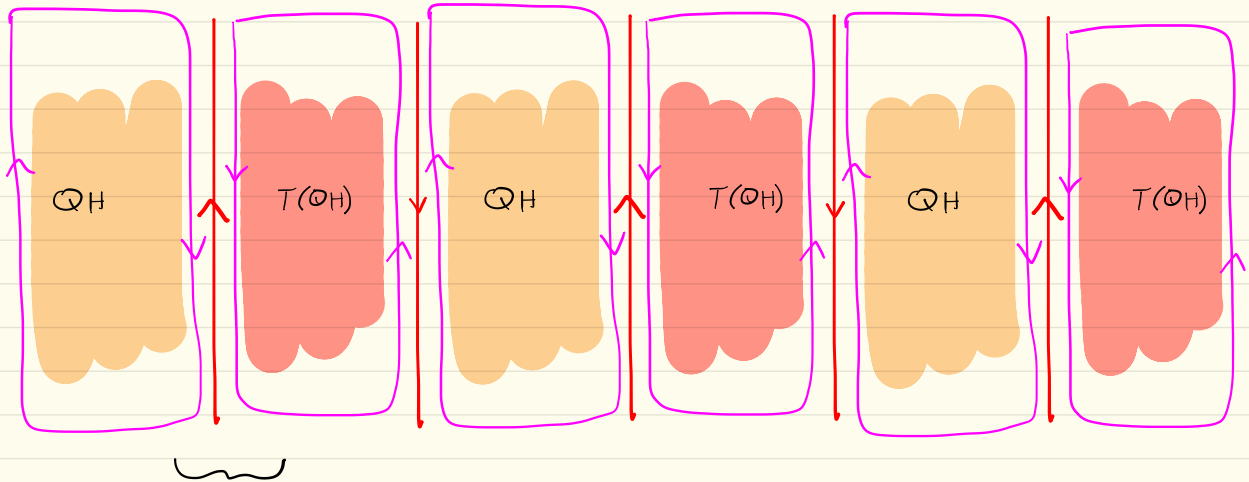
DON'T BREAK AF SYMMETRY



NOT STRONG ENOUGH



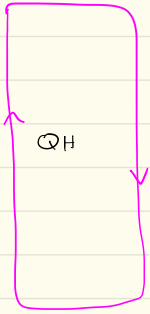




DEMAND  $v_{TOTAL} = 0$

$\longrightarrow$   $v = 1$

$\Rightarrow$   $\longrightarrow$   $v = 1/2$



$$\nu = 1/2$$

- ANY ABELIAN  $\nu = 1/2$  STATE.

- MOORE-READ

- NOT TPF, Pf- $\bar{5}$

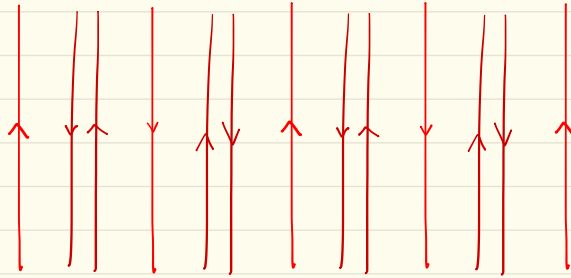


- SPINLESS ELECTRON WIRE

QUASI-1D APPROACH PIONEERED BY

KANE, MUKHOPADHYAY, LUBENSKY

TEO & KANE



$$\sum_i v_i = 0 \quad - \text{NEUTRAL}$$

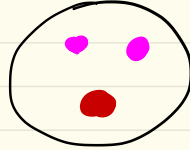
$$\sum_i (-1)^i v_i^2 = 0 \quad - \text{NONCHIRAL}$$

$$\sum_i (-1)^i v_i v_{i+3} = 0 \quad - \text{MUTUALLY LOCAL} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{SYMMETRIC} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\vec{V} = ( \dots 001 \quad -3 \quad 4 \quad -3 \quad 100 \dots )$$



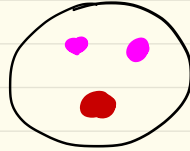
BIND



- 1 FERMION, CHARGE = 1
- 2 SEMIONS, CHARGE =  $-\frac{1}{2}$



BIND

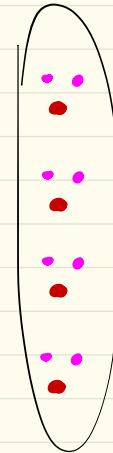


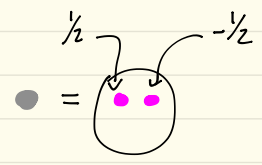
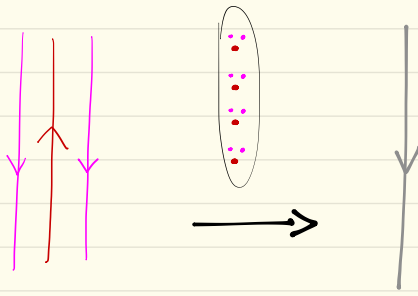
- 1 FERMION, CHARGE = 1
- 2 SEMIONS, CHARGE =  $-\frac{1}{2}$

NB.: PHYSICAL PROCESS MUST TAKE 4 SEMIONS FROM



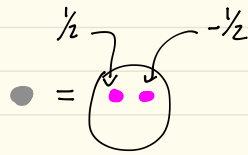
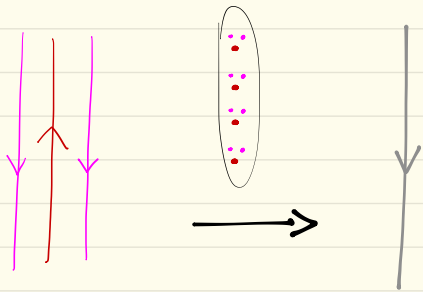
SO REALLY CONDENSE





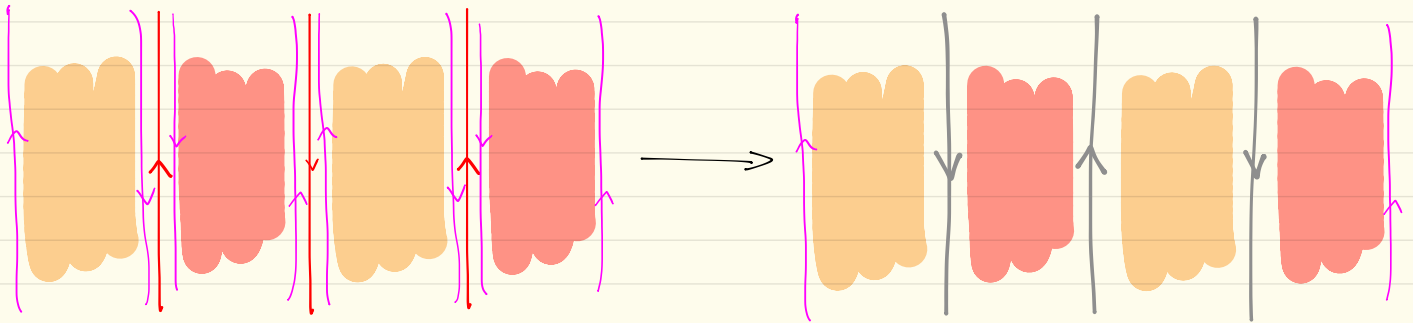
NEUTRAL FERMION  
(NOTE: CHIRALITY REVERSED)

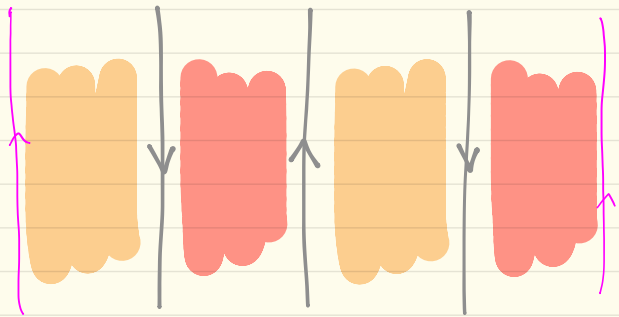




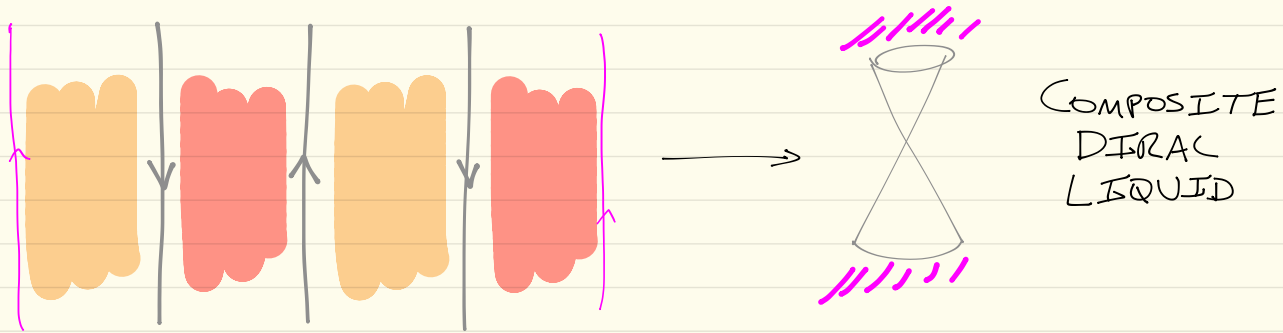
NEUTRAL FERMION

(NOTE: CHIRALITY REVERSED)

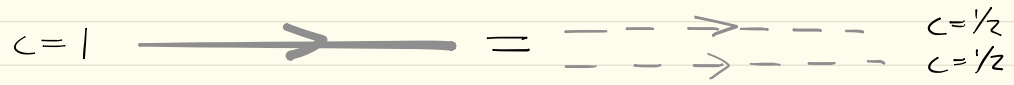




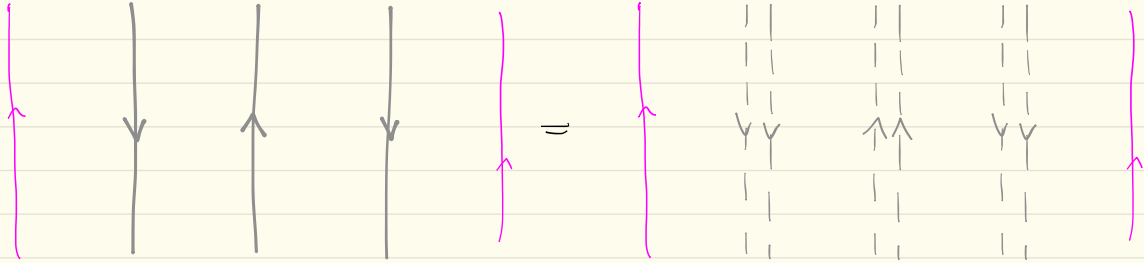
COMPOSITE  
DIRAC  
LIQUID



How ABOUT TPF?

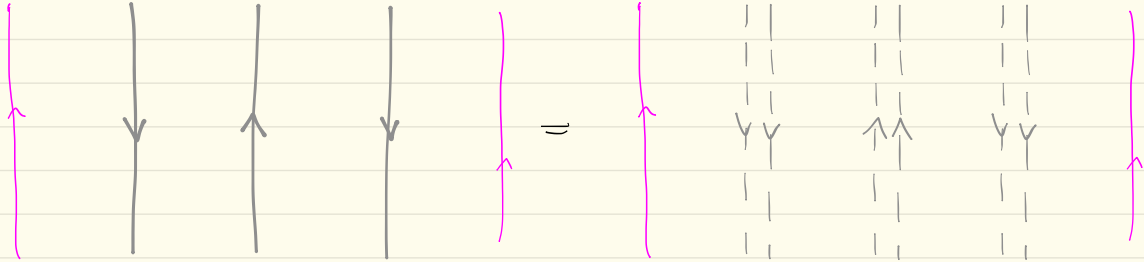


$$f = \chi + i\eta$$

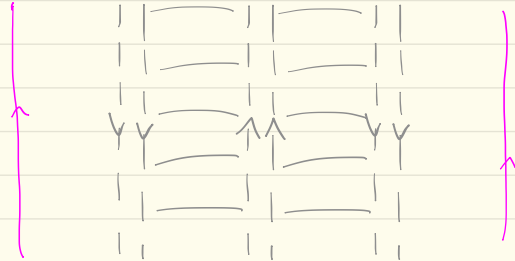


T-PFAFFIAN



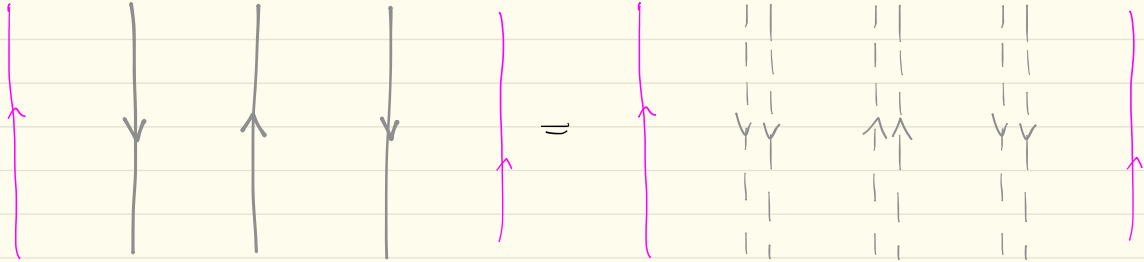


PAIRING

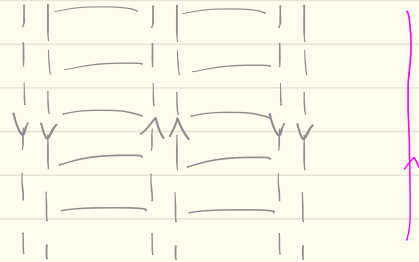


T-PFAFFIAN





PAIRING



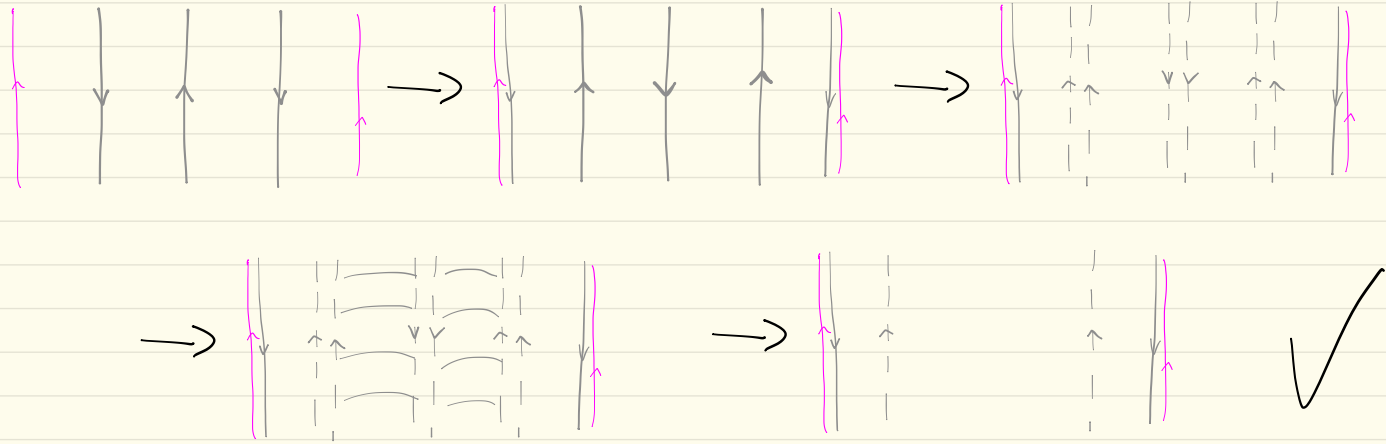
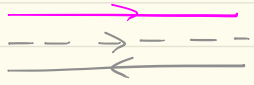
T-PFAFFIAN



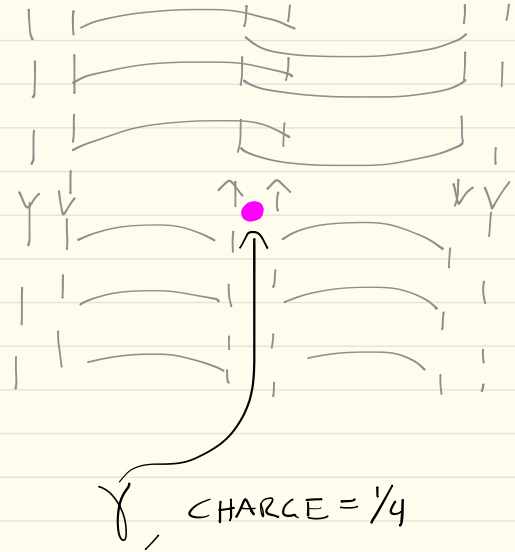
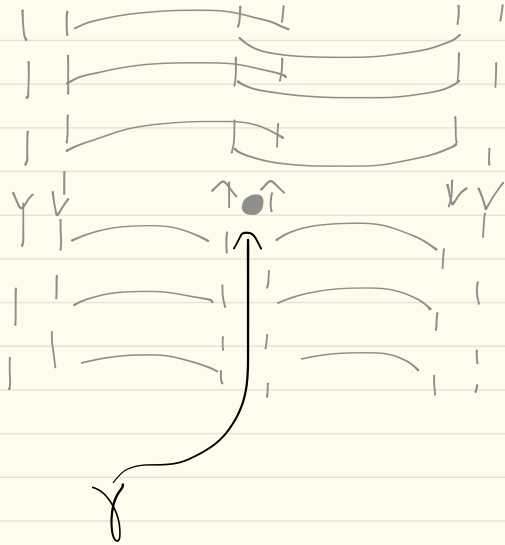
=



AND Pf- $\xi$ ?



# MAJORANA BOUND STATES?





## OPEN QUESTIONS

PROVE DECONFINED NONABELIAN ANYONS

CONTINUUM DESCRIPTION

$$T^2 = ? \quad (\bar{T}^2 = \text{TRANSLATION})$$

OTHER TOPOLOGICAL BULKS

- WEAK TOPOLOGICAL INSULATOR

- TOPOLOGICAL SUPERCONDUCTOR ?

THANK YOU

