

# Berry phase in quantum field theory

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# Berry phase in quantum mechanics

- Systems with continuous external parameters  $\lambda$ , or slowly varying degree of freedom.
- Start with unique ground state  $|\psi_0(\lambda)\rangle$  with zero energy.

Adiabatically changing the parameter  $\lambda$  along a loop  $\gamma$  in the space of parameter without closing energy gap:

$$|\psi_0\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_0\rangle e^{i \oint_{\gamma} A} \quad \text{[Berry]}$$

where  $A = i\langle\psi_0(\lambda)|d_{\lambda}|\psi_0(\lambda)\rangle$  is the Berry connection.

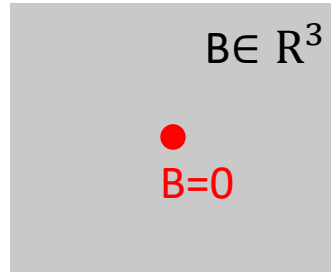
- Can be written using Berry curvature  $\oint_{\gamma} A = \int_{\Sigma} dA$  for  $\Sigma$  bounded by  $\gamma$

# Diabolical point in quantum mechanics

- Spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  in magnetic field  $B$ : two eigenstates with energy  $\pm\mu|B|$

$$H(B) = \mu\sigma \cdot B, \quad B \in \mathbb{R}^3$$

- $B = 0$ : **degenerate zero energy** states, codimension 3 in the parameter space  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .
- $B \neq 0$ : **unique ground state** with **energy gap (i.e. trivially gapped)**
- The point  $B = 0$  has **ground state differed from the surrounding region: “diabolical point”** in the parameter space. [Berry]
- For generic Hamiltonian without symmetry, level-crossing occurs in codimension 3 ( $H$  spanned by 3 Pauli matrices) [von Neumann, Wigner]



# Describe “diabolical point” using Berry phase

- Removing diabolical points from parameter space creates non-trivial topology  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus 0 \sim S^2_{\theta, \phi}$ . Detect diabolical point by the topology?
- Ground state wavefunction does not depend continuously on  $S^2_{(\theta, \phi)}$ :  
 $|0\rangle_N = \left( \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{i\phi}, -\cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right), |0\rangle_S = \left( \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, -\cos \frac{\theta}{2} e^{-i\phi} \right)$ .

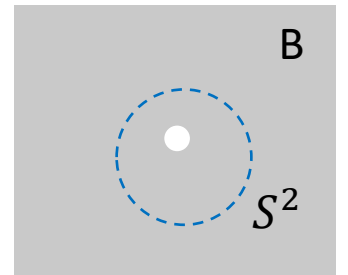
Transition function at equator  $|0\rangle_N = e^{i\phi} |0\rangle_S$  [Berry], [Simon]

$U(1)$  Berry connection  $A_B = i\langle 0 | \partial_B | 0 \rangle, A_\theta = 0, A_\phi = \sin^2(\theta/2)$

Non-trivial Berry curvature  $F_B = dA_B$  with quantized period

$$\text{Berry number: } \oint_{S^2} F_B / 2\pi = 1.$$

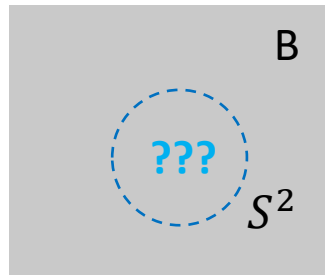
$F_{\theta\phi} = \frac{1}{2r^2} \sin(\theta) d\theta d\phi$  has monopole singularity at diabolical point.



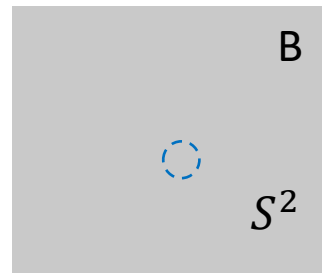
# Describe “diabolical point” using Berry phase

- Berry number  $\neq 0 \Rightarrow$  not the same phase in entire parameter space

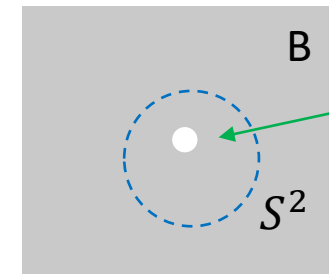
Suppose the theory were trivially gapped in entire  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $S^2$  would be *contractible*, and the Berry number would be zero instead of one.



Nonzero Berry number  
 $\oint F_B/2\pi \neq 0$



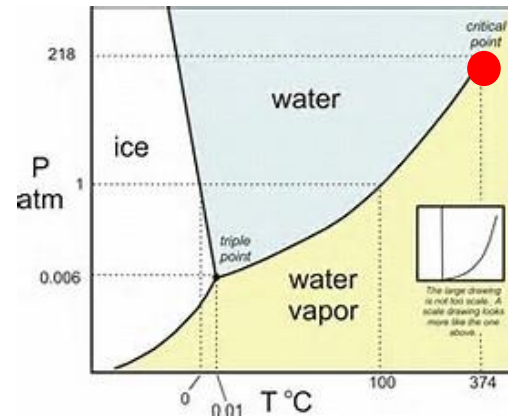
Contractible:  
Berry number  $\oint F_B/2\pi = 0$   
**Inconsistent**



Non-contractible  
Berry number  $\oint F_B/2\pi \neq 0$  possible  
**Consistent**

# Diabolical Points in Many Body Systems (Outline)

- Critical points often sit at the end of first order phase transition lines



Critical point connected to 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transition line

- There are also **isolated critical points** (diabolical points) in phase diagram **surrounded by gapped phase with non-degenerate vacuum.**

Q1: **What protects the stability** of such diabolical critical points?

# Usual argument: protected phase transition by symmetry

- Landau paradigm
- symmetry protected topological (SPT) phase: symmetric phase that cannot be connected to trivial phase without breaking symmetry.

Protects against symmetry preserving perturbations. 

- **Q1:** what about **symmetry-breaking perturbations** or systems **without symmetry**?
- **Ans: Berry phase.** Generalization of SPT.

# Diaboloic Points in Many Body Systems (Outline)

- The symmetry protected topological phase has non-trivial boundary physics constrained by bulk-boundary correspondence.

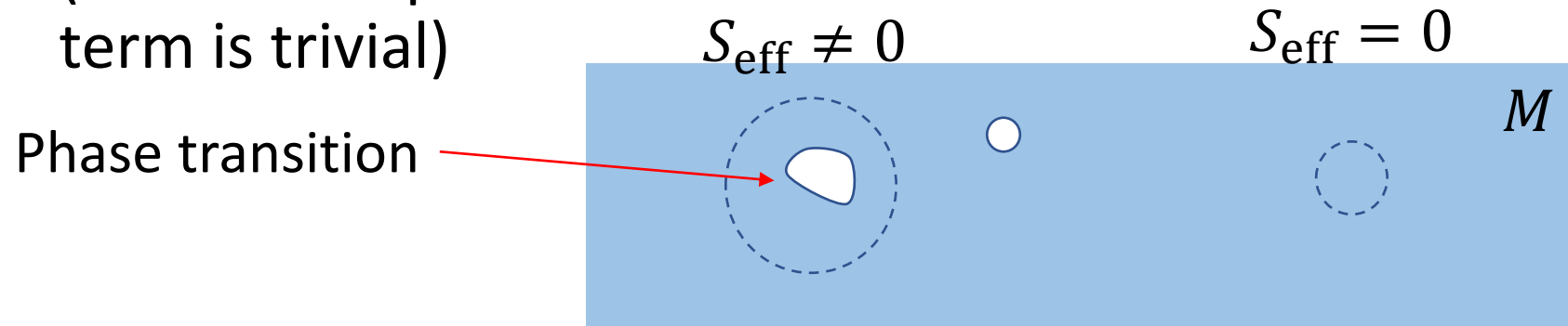
Example: edge of integer quantum Hall system has chiral current.

- **Q2:** Does Berry phase also have **bulk-boundary correspondence?** (Yes)
- The possible symmetry protected topological phases are classified by group cohomology or cobordism groups. [Chen,Gu,Liu,Wen],[Kapustin],[Freed,Hopkins]...
- **Q3:** What **classifies possible Berry phases?** (Some cobordism group)
- Applications: use Berry phase to **study Néel / Valence Bond Solid transition**, and new tests for infrared **Chern-Simons matter dualities**



# Berry Phase Protects Phase Transitions

- Parameter space  $M$  consists of trivially gapped phase (blue) with possible diabolical loci (white) removed: non-trivial topology
- Promote the parameters to be **position-dependent background fields**  
 $\phi: \text{spacetime} \rightarrow M$
- Non-trivial **topological term in effective action**  $S_{\text{eff}}[\phi]$  for configuration  $\phi(x) \in S^r \subset M$  protects **diabolical loci inside**.  
(otherwise sphere would be contractible in  $M$  and the topological term is trivial)



# Effective action in quantum mechanics

- Let the parameter (magnetic field) to be periodic in time

$$B: S_{\text{time}}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

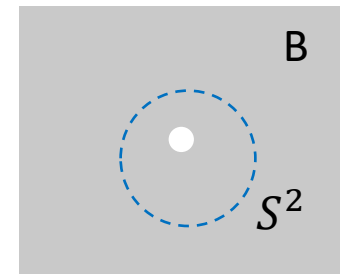
- Away from diabolical point (nonzero magnetic field),  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus 0 = S^2$ :  
unique ground state with topological effective action

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int B^* \tau_1$$

$\tau_1$  is a 1-form on  $S^2$  i.e. the Berry connection. Adiabatic  $|0\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle e^{iS_{\text{eff}}}$

$\tau_1$  undergoes gauge transformation across coordinate patches on  $S^2$ .

$e^{iS_{\text{eff}}}$  is gauge invariant, but the effective Lagrangian is not



# Effective action in quantum mechanics as Wess-Zumino-Witten term

- We can also write the effective action using the gauge invariant Berry curvature.
- Introduce one-parameter family of background  $B(t, s)$  defined on 2-manifold  $Y$  that bounds  $S_{\text{time}}^1$

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int_Y d(B^* \tau_1) = \int_Y B^* H_2$$

- Berry curvature  $H_2 = d\tau_1$  is a 2-form on  $S^2$  with quantized period
- The action is an example of **Wess-Zumino Witten (WZW) term**. It is characterized by non-trivial map  $S_{(t,s)}^2 \rightarrow S^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  whose degree is the Berry number  $\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

# Effective action in (d+1) Dimension Spacetime

- Promote parameters to be spacetime-dependent background field

$$\phi: X_{d+1}^{\text{spacetime}} \rightarrow M$$

Trivially gapped with diabolical loci removed, which creates topology.

The Berry phase is the topological term in effective action

$$S_{\text{eff}}[\phi] = \int \phi^* \tau_{d+1}$$

where  $\tau_{d+1}$  is a  $(d + 1)$ -form on parameter space  $M$ .  $\tau_{d+1} \rightarrow \tau_{d+1} + d\lambda_d$

- $S_{\text{eff}}[\phi] = \int_{Y_{d+2}} \phi^* H_{d+2}$  for  $Y_{d+2}$  bounds spacetime and  $H_{d+2} = d\tau_{d+1}$  has **quantized period**. Such WZW term can arise from  $\pi_{d+2}(M)$ .
- Family of lattice Hamiltonian systems: Berry phase is studied in [\[Kapustin, Spodyneiko\]1](#)

# Include global symmetry (generalization of SPT phase)

- $S_{\text{eff}}[\phi, A]$  with background gauge field  $A$  for the symmetry
- Example: Thouless pump for  $U(1)$  symmetry

$$S_{\text{eff}}[\phi, A] = \int_{X_{d+1}} A \wedge \phi^* \tau_d, \quad \tau_d: \text{closed } d\text{-form on parameter space}$$

- $U(1)$  current for spacetime-dependent parameter: charge associated with soliton configuration of  $\phi$

$$j = \star (\phi^* \tau_d), \quad Q = \oint_{S^d} \star j = \oint_{S^d} \phi^* \tau_d$$

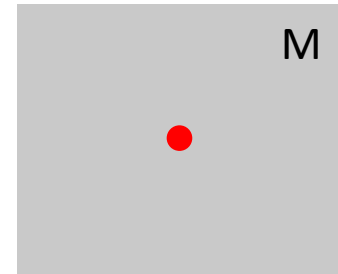
- Family of lattice Hamiltonian systems with  $U(1)$  symmetry: Thouless pump invariant studied in [\[Kapustin, Spodyneiko\]2](#)
- We will give example of diabolical points protected by higher-degree currents generating [higher-form symmetry](#) [\[Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett\]](#), [\[Wen\]](#)

# Example: Free Fermions in (1+1)d

- One Dirac fermion with complex mass  $M = me^{i\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^2$   
 $m\bar{\psi}e^{i\gamma_{01}\alpha}\psi = M\bar{\psi}_+\psi_- + \text{h.c.}$

The theory has  $U(1)_V$  symmetry  $\psi \rightarrow U\psi$ .

- $M \neq 0$ : gapped with a unique ground state.
- $M = 0$ : codimension 2 gapless diabolic point.
- $M = 0$ : mixed anomaly for  $U(1)_A - U(1)_V$ , but  $U(1)_A$  absent for  $M \neq 0$



Q: Can we add interaction to **gap out the system preserving only  $U(1)_V$  symmetry**? (**No**. Diabolic point **protected by Thouless pump invariant**.)

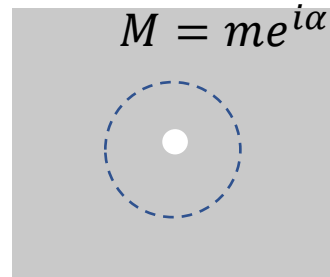
Q: Is there family of trivially gapped interfaces depend continuously on the parameters? (**No**, example of **bulk-boundary correspondence for Berry phase**)

# Diaboloic Point Protected by Thouless Pump

- Denote the  $U(1)_V$  background gauge field by  $A$ .

For  $|M| > 0$  the effective action for massive fermion has the Thouless pump invariant that protects the diaboloic point [Goldstone, Wilczek]

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int A \frac{d\alpha}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \alpha dA = \int A \star j$$



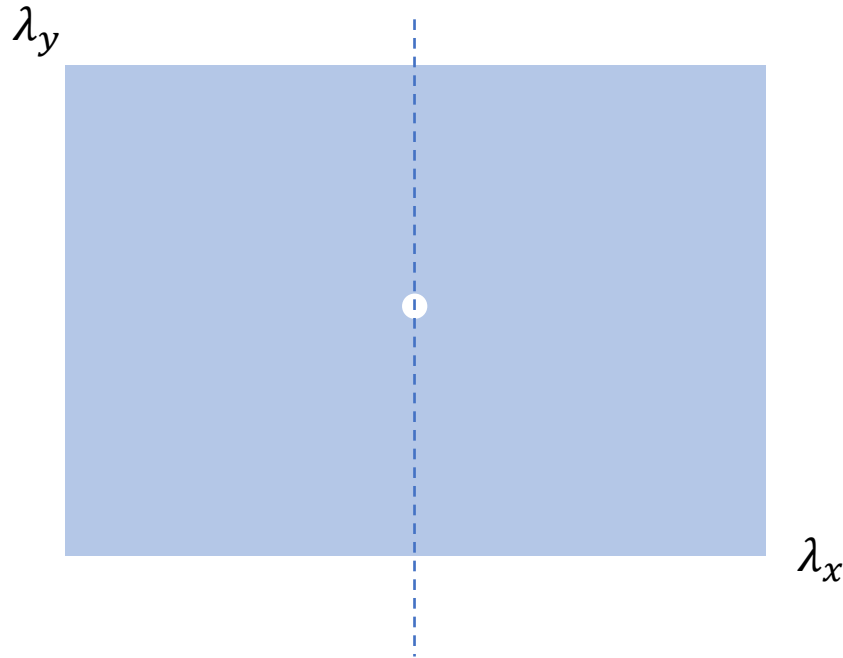
$\frac{1}{2\pi} \oint d\alpha = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint d \arg M = 1$ : the loop is not contractible. The gapless point at the origin cannot be completely removed.

- $U(1)_V$  current,  $j = \frac{1}{2\pi} \star d\alpha$ . For  $\alpha = \alpha(t)$  periodic in time and winds origin  $N$  times: pumps charge  $\Delta Q = \oint \star j = \frac{1}{2\pi} (\alpha(T) - \alpha(0)) = N$ .

[Thouless]

# Perturbation cannot remove the diabolical point

- Consider bosonization description of the free fermion in (1+1)d with periodic scalars  $\phi, \theta$ .  $U(1)_V$  symmetry  $\theta \rightarrow \theta + \alpha$ .
- Fermion mass corresponds to  $\lambda_x \sin\phi + \lambda_y \cos\phi$ ,  $M = \lambda_x + i\lambda_y$

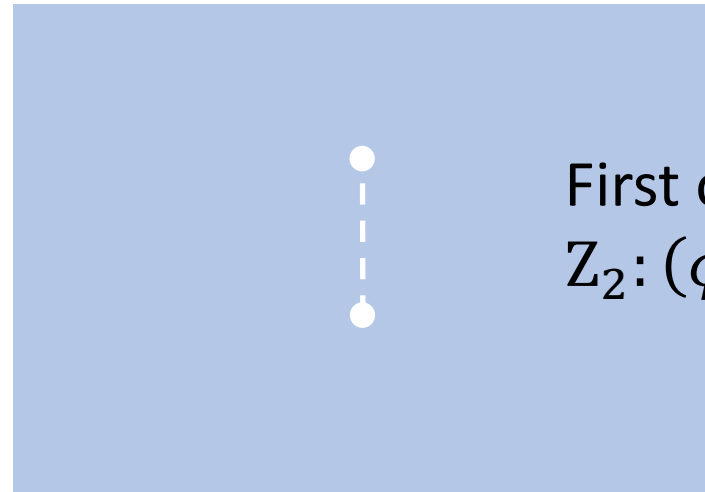


$\lambda_x = 0$ : charge conjugation  
symmetry  $Z_2: (\phi, \theta) \rightarrow (-\phi, -\theta)$



# Perturbation cannot remove the diabolical point

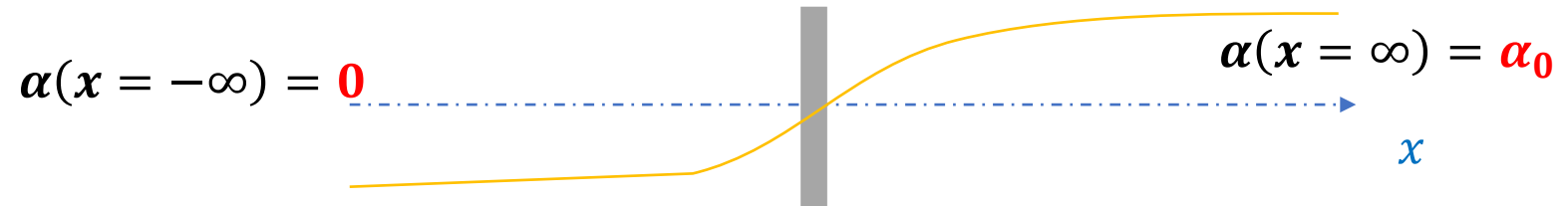
- Decrease radius pass through the self-dual point, new relevant perturbations  $\cos 2\phi$ ,  $\sin 2\phi$ . Deformation by  $\cos 2\phi$  changes the phase diagram



First order phase transition: broken  $Z_2: (\phi, \theta) \rightarrow (-\phi, -\theta)$

- Perturbation can only deform the diabolical point to be diabolical loci, and it persists in the phase diagram

# Family of Interfaces



- Interface labelled by  $\alpha_0$  has charge

$$\Delta q = \int \star j = \int d\alpha / 2\pi = \alpha_0 / 2\pi, \quad (\Delta q = 1 \text{ for } \alpha_0 = 2\pi)$$

- For  $\alpha(x) = \alpha_0 \theta(x)$ , bound state  $\psi = \psi(0) e^{-\beta|x|}$  for  $\beta > 0$ .  $\beta = m \sin(\alpha_0/2)$ , energy  $E = m \cos(\alpha_0/2)$

Single normalizable **zero mode** at  $\alpha_0 = \pi$  [Jackiw, Rebbi]

**Non-normalizable mode** at  $\alpha_0 = 0, 2\pi$ , **merges with the bulk modes**

- The existence of single zero mode and non-normalizable modes can also be found in smooth interfaces in this theory with Thouless pump

[Keil, Kobes]

# Boundary-Bulk Correspondence for interface

- The family of interfaces cannot be described by purely (0+1)d quantum mechanics for all  $\alpha_0$ . Suppose otherwise, effective action

$$\int q(\alpha_0) A_t dt$$

$q(\alpha_0) \in \mathbb{Z}$  is vacuum charge: jump only at **gapless points** and single-valued (sum of all jumps when  $\alpha_0$  varies from 0 to  $2\pi$  is  $\Delta q = 0$ )

- Thouless pump:  $\Delta q = 1$  when  $\alpha_0$  varies from 0 to  $2\pi$ . Contradiction.
- Reason:  $q$  can also jump at **delocalized point**.  $\Delta q$  from interface gapless points =  $-\Delta q$  from **non-normalizable modes escaped to bulk spatial infinity** (Thouless pump)

# General Bulk-Boundary Correspondence

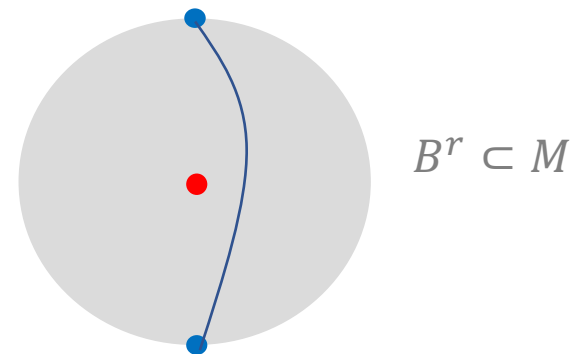
- Consider family of bulk with Berry phase in  $(d+1)$  dimension. Namely, the phase diagram has diabolical loci but otherwise trivially gapped with nontrivial topological term in the effective action
- If **bulk system with Berry phase** has a **boundary**, then the **gap must close on the boundary for some parameter**. This arises at boundary diabolical points (loci).
- **Boundary-bulk “Anomaly inflow”:**

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Total Berry number of boundary diabolical points} \\ & = \text{Total Berry number in the bulk.} \end{aligned}$$

(Similar to the Nielsen-Ninomiya theorem)

# General Bulk-Boundary Correspondence

- Consider a diabolic point (red) enclosed by the ball  $B^r \subset M$  described by bulk Berry phase.
- Consider a family of interfaces (special case: boundary) where the parameter interpolates between the North and South pole. The interpolation is a curve in  $B^r$  connecting the two points
- The interface whose curve hits the red point has diabolic point on the interface



# General Bulk-Boundary Correspondence

- What happens when the family of interfaces varies away from the diabolic point? Restrict curves to lie on  $S^{r-1}$

Bulk Berry phase implies that as the family of interfaces swipes around  $S^{r-1}$  there is additional phase, so the family cannot depend continuously on the parameters

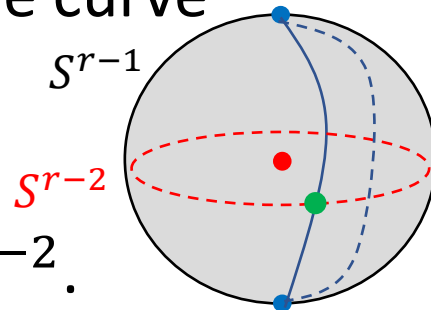
- Represent the parameter on interface as intersection (green) of the curve with the equator

$$M_{\text{interface}} = S^{r-2}$$

- Compute interface Berry phase: introduce 1-parameter family of background to count how many times green dot swipes around  $S^{r-2}$ .

As green dot swipes  $S^{r-2}$  once, the blue curve swipes around  $S^{r-1}$  once

**Boundary Berry number = Bulk Berry number**



# Example: particle on a circle

- Particle on circle  $x \sim x + 2\pi$  with  $U(1)$  symmetry and parameter  $\alpha$   
$$\frac{1}{2}\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2\pi}\alpha\dot{x}, \quad \alpha \sim \alpha + 2\pi, \quad U(1): x \rightarrow x + f$$
- Background  $U(1)$  gauge field  $A$ :  $\frac{1}{2}(\dot{x} - A)^2 + \frac{1}{2\pi}\alpha(\dot{x} - A)$
- $\alpha$  is no longer periodic, violated by  $\int A$ . “an anomaly” [Córdova,Freed,Lam,Seiberg]
- The theory lives on the boundary of the bulk with Berry phase  
$$S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{bulk}} = \int A \frac{d\alpha}{2\pi}$$
- Bulk-boundary correspondence: **level-crossing** occurs on boundary at some  $\alpha$  (in fact,  $\alpha = \pi$ )

# Berry phase v.s. Anomaly: Two Free Dirac fermions in (1+1)d

- Mass  $\bar{\psi}(M_0 + i\gamma^{01}M_i\sigma^i)\psi$ ,  $M_A = (M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3) \in \mathbb{R}^4$   
 $|M| > 0$ : gapped with a unique ground state.  $\mathbb{R}^4 - \{0\} \sim S^3$   
 $|M| = 0$  codimension-4 gapless diabolical point.
- Gapless point  $|M| = 0$  is protected by 't Hooft anomaly for *Spin*(4) symmetry only against symmetry-preserving perturbation
- Gapless point also protected by Berry phase, also against symmetry-breaking perturbations
- Effective action: one parameter family of background  $Y_{(t,x,s)}$  with Wess-Zumino term  $\pi_3(S^3) = \mathbb{Z}$ .  $S_{\text{eff}} = \int \omega_2$ ,  $H = d\omega_2$  the volume form of  $S^3$   
$$H = 1/(6\pi|M|^4) \epsilon^{ABCD} M_A dM_B dM_C dM_D$$

[Abanov, Wiegman]



# Free Fermion in (2+1)d: No Perturbative Anomaly

- Two Dirac fermions with mass term

$$mn_i \bar{\psi} \sigma^i \psi, \quad n_i \in S^2, \sum n_i^2 = 1$$

Gapped for  $m > 0$ , gapless for  $m = 0$  (diabolical point of codimension 3)

- $m = 0$  has  $SU(2)$  symmetry, protected by mixed parity-  $SU(2)$  anomaly

Also protected by Thouless pump invariant: skyrmion current  $\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$

$$S_{\text{eff}}[mn_i, A] = \int A_\mu j^\mu = \frac{1}{8\pi} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \epsilon^{ijk} \int A_\mu n_i \partial_\nu n_j \partial_\rho n_k \quad [\text{Abanov, Wiegman}]$$

- Berry phase has infinite order i.e. remains nontrivial in any N-copy systems

Parity anomaly has order 2: no anomaly by taking 2 copies, only robust against  $SU(2)$  sym preserving perturbation

- In addition, the effective action also has  $\theta = \pi$  Hopf term  $\pi_3(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$

# Web of diabolical points related by gauging $U(1)$ symmetry

- Starting from a system with diabolic loci protected by Thouless pump invariant, can we obtain new system protected by Thouless pump invariant?  
Gauging the  $U(1)$  symmetry

[Kapustin, Strassler], [Witten]

$$S_{\text{eff}}[\phi, A] \rightarrow \text{gauging } U(1) \rightarrow S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{new}}[\phi, B] = S_{\text{eff}}[\phi, a] + \frac{1}{4\pi} a da - \frac{1}{2\pi} a dB$$

New  $U(1)$  magnetic symmetry  $j = \star da/2\pi$ .

$$S_{\text{eff}}[\phi, A] = \int A \phi^* \tau_2, \quad S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{new}}[\phi, B] = \int B \phi^* \tau_2 + H[\phi] - \frac{1}{4\pi} B dB$$

- Two free Dirac fermions in  $(2+1)d \Rightarrow$  Interacting  $U(1)_1$  with two fermions (realizes phase transition betw  $S^1$  sigma model and  $U(1)_2$ ) protected by the same Thouless pump invariant

# $U(1)$ Gauge Theory with 2 Scalars in (2+1)d

- $U(1)$  gauge theory with two Wilson-Fisher scalars deformed by  $SU(2)$  triplet mass  $m^2 n_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$V(\phi) = m^2 n_i \phi^+ \sigma^i \phi + \lambda (\phi^+ \phi)^2$$

- $m \neq 0$ :  $SU(2)$  symmetry explicitly broken.  $U(1)$  gauge field is Higgsed

$$a = \frac{n_1 dn_2 - n_2 dn_1}{2(1 - n_3)} \Rightarrow da = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{ijk} n_i dn_j dn_k$$

Monopole  $\Rightarrow$  skyrmion  $\pi_2(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$

The  $U(1)$  magnetic symmetry  $j = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \star da$  has Thouless pump

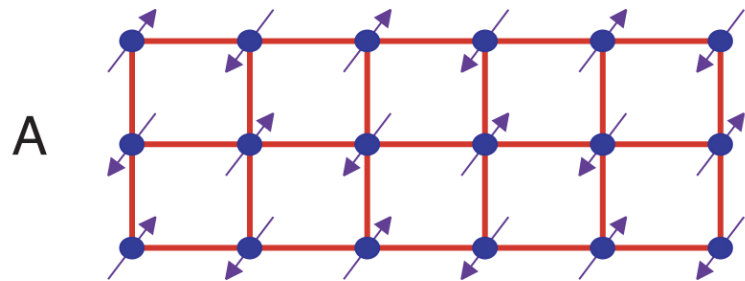
$$S_{\text{eff}}[m^2 n_i, A] = \frac{1}{8\pi} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \epsilon^{ijk} \int A_\mu n_i \partial_\nu n_j \partial_\rho n_k$$

The phase transition  $m = 0$  is **protected by the Thouless pump invariant**

# Application: Deconfined Quantum Criticality

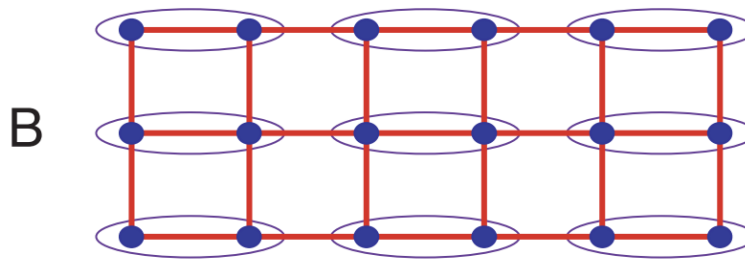
- Deconfined quantum critical point: scalar QED3 without Chern-Simons term is believed to describe a **deconfined quantum critical point** between the Néel state and the valence bound solid (VBS).

[Senthil,Vishwanath,Balents,Sachdev,Fisher]



Néel: broken  $SO(3)$  spin symmetry

$SO(3)$  vector  $N_i$  Néel field  $\sim SO(3)$  vector mass  $m^2 n_i$



VBS: broken  $Z_4$  lattice rotation symmetry

$U(1)$  with two scalars:  $SO(3) \times U(1)$  symmetry

$$\text{Oval} = (\vec{a} - \vec{b}) / \sqrt{2}$$

# Application: Deconfined Quantum Criticality

- The transition is protected by 't Hooft anomaly for  $SO(3) \times U(1)$  symmetry against symmetry preserving perturbations.

[Benini,Hsin,Seiberg],[Wang,Nahum,Metliski,Xu,Senthil],[Komargodski,Sharon,Thorngren,Zhou].....

- Symmetry of the action is

$$\left( U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times SU(2)_{\text{global}} \right) / \mathbb{Z}_2 \quad [\text{Benini,Hsin,Seiberg}]$$

Faithful flavor symmetry is  $SO(3)$

$SO(3)$  bundles that are not  $SU(2)$  bundles: changes the quantization of the flux of  $U(1)_{\text{gauge}}$ . Anomaly for the  $U(1)$  magnetic symmetry

$$\pi \int \frac{dA}{2\pi} w_2(SO(3))$$

# Application: Deconfined Quantum Criticality

- The anomaly has order 2
- For lattice that does not respect  $Z_2 \subset U(1)$  symmetry: the anomaly vanishes and does not offer protection to the phase transition.
  - For honeycomb lattice with  $Z_3$  symmetry there could be intermediate trivially gapped phase [Jian, Zaletel], [Po,Watanabe,Jian,Zaletel]
- Here we show if there is a  $Z_N \subset U(1)$  symmetry for any  $N \neq 1$  there is non-trivial transition **protected by the Thouless pump invariant.** **Does not need  $SO(3)$  symmetry.** Protection even on honeycomb lattice where  $N = 3$ .

# Generalization with Chern-Simons term and higher rank gauge group

- Chern-Simons matter theory: level  $k$  gives  $\theta = k\pi$  Hopf term for the parameter field associated with  $\pi_3(S^2) = \mathbb{Z}$  [Wilczek,Zee]

- Magnetic charge corresponds to Skyrmion number

$$\oint \frac{da}{2\pi} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \epsilon^{ijk} \oint n_i dn_j dn_k$$

Skyrmion has spin  $\frac{\theta}{2\pi} = \frac{k}{2}$ : agrees with the spin of the monopole  
[Wilczek,Zee]

- The discussion can be generalized to  $U(N)$  gauge theory

# Application: New Test for Boson/Fermion Duality

- $U(N)_1$  with Wilson-Fisher scalars are conjectured to flow to free Dirac fermions in the infrared [Hsin,Seiberg]

$$2\psi \boxed{\leftrightarrow} U(N)_1 + 2\phi, \quad N \geq 2$$

- New consistency check:  $SU(2)$  adjoint mass deformation on both sides

**Constant** mass: no information.

Novelty: promote mass to be **spacetime-dependent**.

- produces the **same Berry phase** effective action ( $\theta = \pi$  Hopf term and the Thouless pump invariant)
- The effective action cannot be removed by adding local counterterm, **must match across duality** (not well-define at  $m = 0$  where  $n_i$  are ill-defined)
- New test for web of dualities related by gauging or RG flow, e.g.

$$\psi \boxed{\leftrightarrow} U(1)_1 + \phi$$

[Seiberg,Senthil,Wang,Witten],[Karch, Tong]...



# Thouless Pump with Higher-Form Symmetry

- Similar analysis applies to (3+1)d  $U(1)$  gauge theory with 2 scalars
- The current  $j = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \star da$  is a 2-form in (3+1)d: magnetic  $U(1)$  1-form symmetry that transforms the 't Hooft line operators.
- Same computation implies that the phase transition is protected by Thouless pump invariant

$$S_{\text{eff}}[m^2 n_i, A^{(2)}] = \frac{1}{8\pi} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \epsilon^{ijkl} \int A_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} n_i \partial_\rho n_j \partial_\sigma n_k$$

$A_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$  : background gauge field for the  $U(1)$  1-form symmetry

# Further Examples: Thouless Pump with Gravitational Invariant

- Free Weyl fermion in (3+1)d with complex mass  $M = me^{i\alpha}$

$|M| = m > 0$ : gapped with a unique ground state

$|M| = 0$ : codimension 2 gapless diabolical point

- Diabolical point protected by effective action for  $m > 0$

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{384\pi^2} \int \alpha \text{Tr} R^2 = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\alpha \text{CS}_{\text{grav}}$$

- The effective action cannot be removed by a well-defined function of  $M$  since  $\alpha = \arg M$  is not well-defined at the origin. Berry curvature has singularity.
- This is called an “anomaly” in [\[Córdova,Freed,Lam,Seiberg\]](#)

# Further Examples: Thouless Pump with Gravitational Invariant

$$S_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\alpha \text{CS}_{\text{grav}}$$

- For  $\alpha = \arg M$  winds around the origin of  $x^1$ - $x^2$  plane  $n$  times, there will be gapless chiral edge mode propagating along  $x^3$  with  $c_- = \frac{n}{2}$ .
- If turn on coupled to  $U(1)$  gauge field, additional term  $\frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int \alpha \text{Tr} F^2$

# Classification of Berry Phase

- There is no stable diabolical locus (protected by Berry phase) without symmetry in codimension  $m > d + 3$ . Intuitively, for region  $B^m$  in the parameter space contains the diabolic point,  $\pi_{d+2}(S^{m-1}) = 0$  if  $m > d + 3$ .
- In general we propose the following classification for Berry phase: family of **trivially gapped theories parametrized by  $M$**  are classified by  $\Omega_s^{d+1}(M)$

Where  $s$  represents additional structure (e.g.  $SO, Spin$ )

- Including **symmetry  $G$** : replace the argument by  $M \times BG$  possibly with twist ( $G$  action on  $M$ ). If trivial  $M$ : known classification for SPT

[Kapustin], [Freed,Hopkins]

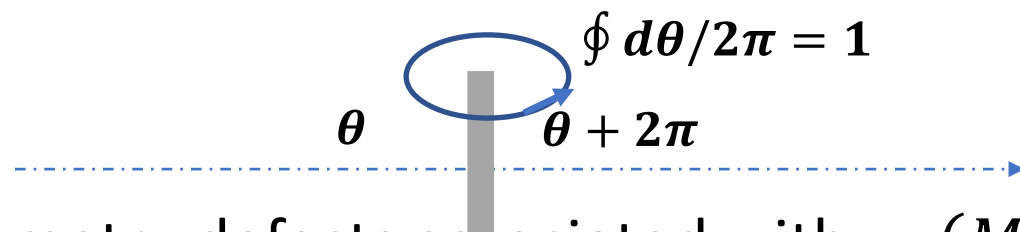
# Berry phases of other degrees as Symmetries

- Phase diagram can have topology not captured by the Berry phase in  $(d+1)$  dimension. E.g. What about  $\pi_k(M)$  for  $k \neq d + 2$ ?

They can define **symmetry defects**

- Example: 4d  $N = 1$   $SU(n)$  gauge theory with  $\theta$  angle,  $\theta \sim \theta + 2\pi$

Define interface such that  $\theta$  changes by  $2\pi$  across the interface



0-form symmetry defects associated with  $\pi_1(M) = \pi_1(S^1) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

Symmetry permutes  $n$  vacua: spontaneously broken. “vacuum-crossing”

# Berry phases of other degrees as Symmetries

- Similarly,  $\pi_k(M)$  can define symmetry defect of various codimensions and they generate higher form symmetries. The symmetries may not act faithfully and may be spontaneously broken.
- It would be interesting to explore the implications of these symmetries.

# Conclusion

- We use Berry phase to study diabolical points in phase diagram for system in general dimensions
- We argue that the theory with Berry phase implies the gap closes on the boundary for some parameter
- We discuss examples including free fermions and interacting gauge theory with bosons or fermions.
- Proposal for classifying family of invertible theories: cobordism group for the parameter space
- Applications include new evidence of the stability of the deconfined quantum critical point in Néel-VBS transition, and the infrared duality between free fermions and  $U(N)_1$  Chern-Simons matter theory with scalars.

Thank you and Stay Safe