

Classification of Photonic Topological Insulators and Their Effective Dynamics

Max Lein

in collaboration with Giuseppe De Nittis

AIMR

2015.09.28@Tohoku University

Talk Based on

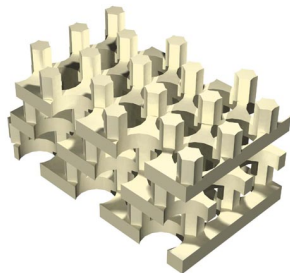
Collaboration with **Giuseppe De Nittis**

- *On the Role of Symmetries in the Theory of Photonic Crystals*
Annals of Physics **350**, pp. 568--587, 2014
- *Effective Light Dynamics in Perturbed Photonic Crystals*
Comm. Math. Phys. **332**, issue 1, pp. 221--260, 2014
- *Derivation of Ray Optics Equations in Photonic Crystals Via a Semiclassical Limit*
arxiv:1502.07235, submitted for publication, 2015

Periodic Light Conductors

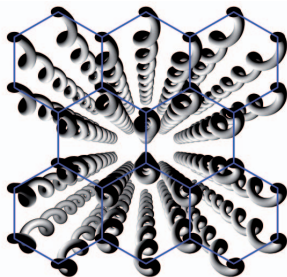
Photonic Crystals

Johnson & Joannopoulos (2004)



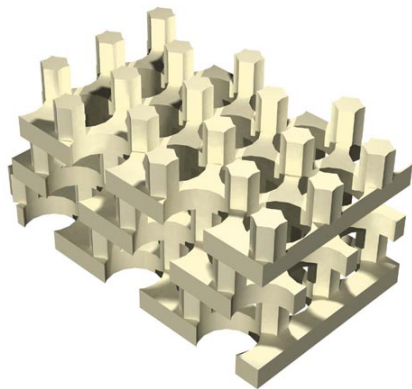
Periodic Waveguide Arrays

Rechtsman, Szameit et al (2013)



- periodic structure \implies *peculiar light conduction properties*
- “*band structure engineering*”
 - \rightsquigarrow **photonic band gaps**, slow light, low-dispersion materials
- artificial PLCs can be *engineered arbitrarily and inexpensively*
- natural photonic crystals: gem stones, beetle shells, butterfly wings

Periodic Light Conductors



Johnson & Joannopoulos (2004)

Maxwell equations

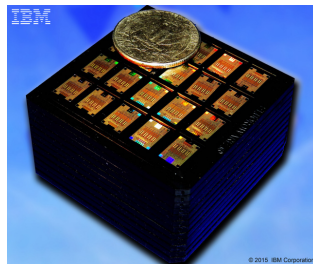
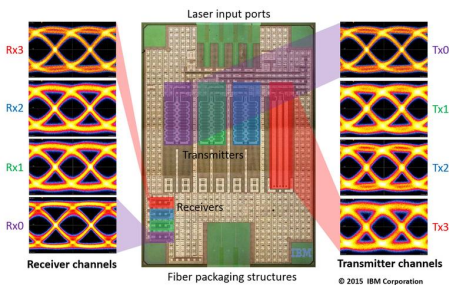
Dynamical equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & \chi \\ \chi^* & \mu \end{pmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\nabla \times \mathbf{H} \\ +\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \end{pmatrix}$$

Absence of sources

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \mathbf{E} + \chi \mathbf{H}) \\ \nabla \cdot (\chi^* \mathbf{E} + \mu \mathbf{H}) \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

PLCs as *Building Blocks* of Future Photonic Devices

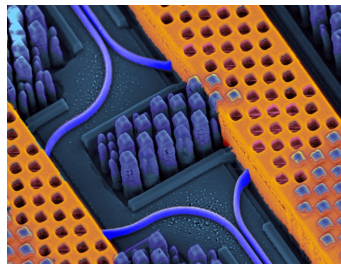
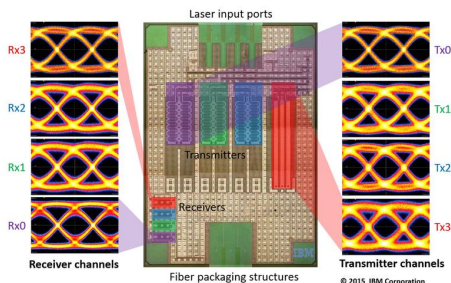


Wavelength-multiplexed silicon photonics chip by IBM (2015)

Integration of photonics and electronics

- Moving photonics closer to the CPUs and GPUs
- Server chassis → motherboard → chip package → die
- Ultimately optical processing
(eliminates need for optical-electrical-optical conversion)
- *Advantages:* lower power consumption, no interference, higher bandwidth, lower latency, longer distances

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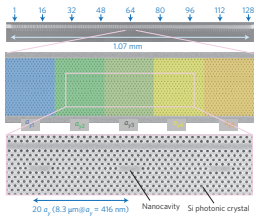
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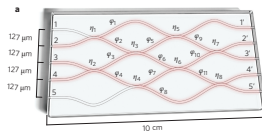
PhC-based photonic memory

Kuramochi et al, NTT Nanophotonics Center (2014)



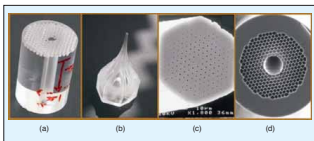
Quantum computing logic

Szameit et al, Jena (2013)



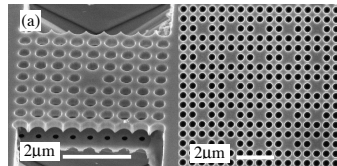
PhC-based waveguides

Russel, Max Planck Institute for Light (2014)



PhC-based laser cavities

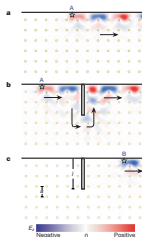
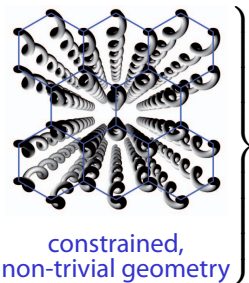
Altug and Vučković, Stanford (2005)



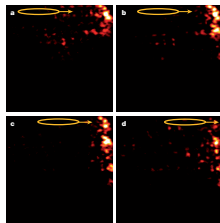
A Novel Class of Materials: Photonic Topological Insulators

$$\left. \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\epsilon} & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{\mu} \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \mu \end{pmatrix} \right\} \Rightarrow$$

symmetry breaking



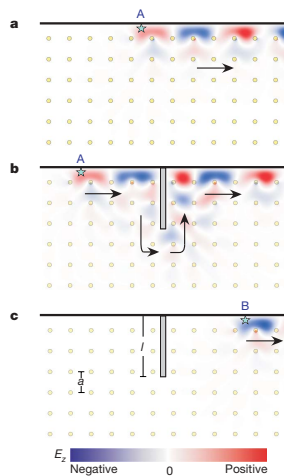
Joannopoulos, Soljačić et al (2009)



Rechtsman, Szameit et al (2013)

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Joannopoulos, Soljačić et al (2009)

A Novel Class of Materials: Photonic Topological Insulators

*Understand **how topological effects emerge from electrodynamics**, starting from Maxwells equations.*

Part 1

Photonic Crystals

Part 2

Photonic Topological Insulators

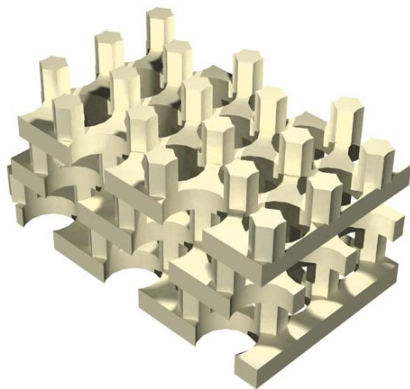
Part 3

Effective Models

Part 1

Photonic Crystals

Photonic Crystals



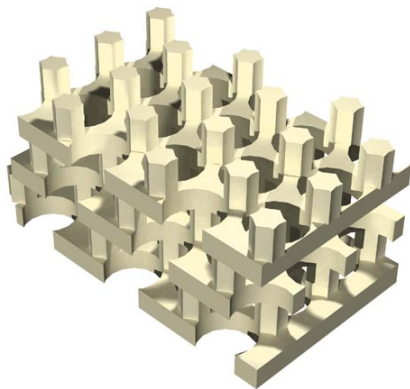
Johnson & Joannopoulos (2004)

Assumption (Material weights)

$$W(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) & \chi(\mathbf{x}) \\ \chi(\mathbf{x})^* & \mu(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}$$

- ① $W^* = W$ (*lossless*)
- ② $0 < \mathbf{c} \mathbf{1} \leq W \leq \mathbf{C} \mathbf{1}$
(*excludes negative index mat.*)
- ③ W *frequency-independent*
(*response instantaneous*)
- ④ W *periodic wrt lattice* $\Gamma \simeq \mathbb{Z}^3$

Photonic Crystals



Johnson & Joannopoulos (2004)

Maxwell equations

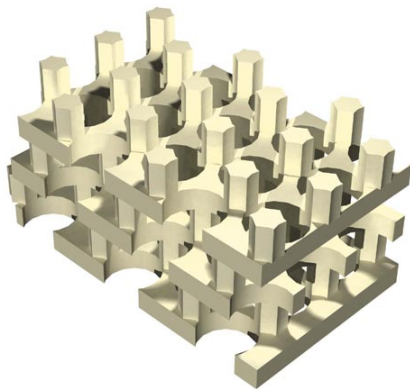
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Symmetries of Ordinary Materials

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Re } \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \text{Re } \mu \end{pmatrix}, \quad \varepsilon \not\propto \mu$$

3 symmetries: $UW = WU$ where $U =$

- ① $C : (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \mapsto (\bar{\mathbf{E}}, \bar{\mathbf{H}})$ complex conjugation
relies on $\varepsilon, \mu, \chi \in \mathbb{R}$, "real fields remain real"
- ② $J : (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \mapsto (\mathbf{E}, -\mathbf{H})$ implements time-reversal
relies on $\chi = 0$
- ③ $T = JC : (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \mapsto (\bar{\mathbf{E}}, -\bar{\mathbf{H}})$ implements time-reversal

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Symmetries of Ordinary Materials

These **3 symmetries** can
be broken separately!

Part 2

Photonic Topological Insulators

Quantum-Light Analogies

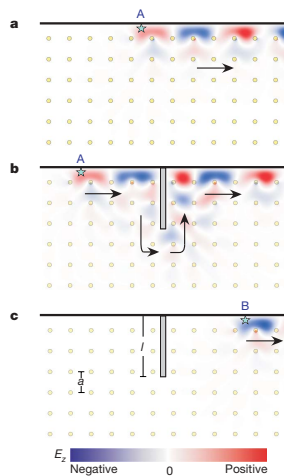
*»A photonic crystal is to light what
a crystalline solid is to an electron.«*

Photonic Topological Insulators

- 1987-2005** Research focuses on photonic crystals with *photonic band gap*
- 2005-now** Two seminal work by *Onoda, Murakami & Nagaosa* as well as *Raghu & Haldane*: study of *topological* properties

Topologically Protected Edge Modes

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Joannopoulos, Soljačić et al (2009)

Classification of Topological Insulators in QM

Cartan-Altland-Zirnbauer classification scheme

Classifies according to discrete symmetries

- 3 types of (pseudo) symmetries:

U unitary/antiunitary, $U^2 = \pm \text{id}$,

$$UH(k)U^{-1} = +H(-k) \quad \text{time-reversal symmetry } (\pm\text{TR})$$

$$UH(k)U^{-1} = -H(-k) \quad \text{particle-hole (pseudo) symmetry } (\pm\text{PH})$$

$$UH(k)U^{-1} = -H(+k) \quad \text{chiral (pseudo) symmetry } (\chi)$$

- 10 CAZ classes
- Relies on $i\partial_t\psi = H\psi$ (Schrödinger equation)

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① *Field energy*

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} dx \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) & \chi(\mathbf{x}) \\ \chi(\mathbf{x})^* & \mu(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}) \\ \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}$$

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- ① *Field energy* $(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \in L_w^2(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{C}^6)$ with energy norm

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- ③ *No sources*

$$J_w = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} \in L_w^2(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{C}^6) \mid \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{div} & 0 \\ 0 & \operatorname{div} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & \chi \\ \chi^* & \mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = 0 \right\}$$

Schrödinger Formalism of the Maxwell Equations

- ① *Field energy* $(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \in L_w^2(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{C}^6)$ with energy norm

$$\|(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H})\|_{L_w^2}^2 = \langle (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}), W(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{H}) \rangle_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{C}^6)}$$

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$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix}}_{=\Psi} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & \chi \\ \chi^* & \mu \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +i\nabla^\times \\ -i\nabla^\times & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{=M} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix}$$

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This is only a **mathematical procedure**,
allows to **adapt many techniques**
initially developed for quantum mechanics
to classical electromagnetism.

The Maxwell Operator

$$\begin{aligned}
 M &= \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) & \chi(\mathbf{x}) \\ \chi(\mathbf{x})^* & \mu(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +i\nabla^\times \\ -i\nabla^\times & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= W^{-1} \text{Rot}
 \end{aligned}$$

$M = M^*$ hermitian on *weighted* Hilbert space

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \Psi, M\Phi \rangle_w &= \langle \Psi, W W^{-1} \text{Rot}\Phi \rangle = \langle \text{Rot}\Psi, \Psi \rangle \\
 &= \langle W M \Psi, \Phi \rangle = \langle M \Psi, W \Phi \rangle = \langle M \Psi, \Phi \rangle_w
 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow e^{-itM}$ **unitary**, yields **conservation of energy**

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The Frequency Band Picture

$$\begin{aligned}
 M \cong M^{\mathcal{F}} &= \int_{\mathbb{B}}^{\oplus} dk M(k) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{B}}^{\oplus} dk \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & \chi \\ \chi^* & \mu \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +(-i\nabla_y + k)^{\times} \\ -(-i\nabla_y + k)^{\times} & 0 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathfrak{D}(M(k)) = \underbrace{(H^1(\mathbb{T}^3, \mathbb{C}^6) \cap J_w(k))}_{\text{physical states}} \oplus G(k) \subset L_w^2(\mathbb{T}^3, \mathbb{C}^6)$$

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The Frequency Band Picture

Physical bands

$$M(k)\varphi_n(k) = \omega_n(k)\varphi_n(k)$$

- **Frequency band functions** $k \mapsto \omega_n(k)$
- **Bloch functions** $k \mapsto \varphi_n(k)$
- both locally continuous everywhere
- both locally analytic *away from band crossings*

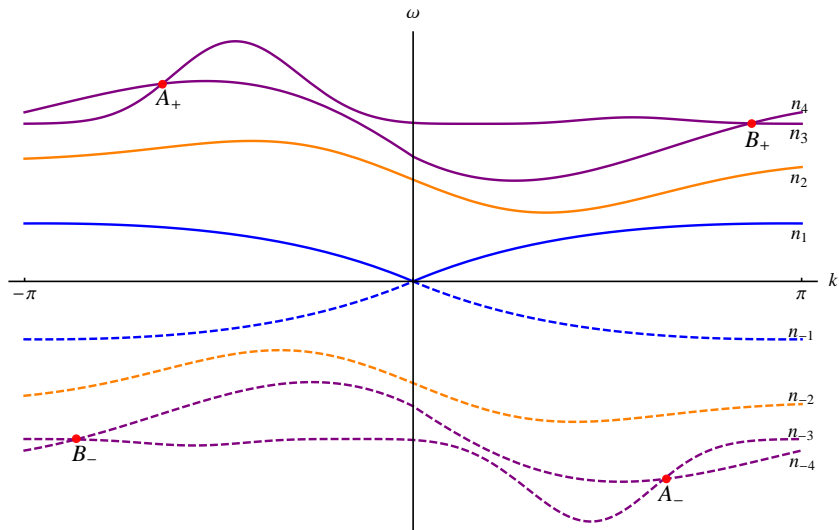
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CAZ Classification of Ordinary PhCs

Symmetry	Action	Classified as	Physical meaning
C	$CM(k)C = -M(-k)$	+PH	"real states remain real"
$J = \sigma_3 \otimes \text{id}$	$JM(k)J = -M(+k)$	χ	implements time-reversal
$T = JC$	$TM(k)T = +M(-k)$	+TR	implements time-reversal

⇒ Ordinary PhCs are of class BDI

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Comparison Between Photonics and Quantum Mechanics

Material	Photonics	Quantum mechanics
ordinary	class BDI +PH, +TR, χ	class AI +TR
exhibiting edge currents	class AIII χ	class A/All none/-TR

Important consequences

- Class BDI **not topologically trivial**
(also relevant in theory of topological superconductors)
- Existing derivations of topological effects in crystalline solids **do not automatically apply** to photonic crystals

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What about **other symmetries?**

Symmetries of Maxwell Operator in Matter

Product structure of $M = W^{-1} \text{Rot}$:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} U \text{Rot} U^{-1} &= \pm \text{Rot} \\ U W U^{-1} &= \pm W \end{aligned} \right\} \implies U M U^{-1} = \pm M$$

(Signs may be different)

What form do the symmetries U take?

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Symmetries of the Free Maxwell Operator Rot

$$\text{Rot} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +i\nabla^\times \\ -i\nabla^\times & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\sigma_2 \otimes \nabla^\times$$

Symmetries

For $n = 1, 2, 3$

- ① Complex conjugation C (antilinear)
- ② $J_n = \sigma_n \otimes \text{id}$ (linear)
- ③ $T_n = J_n C$ (antilinear)

Connection to symmetries in ordinary materials: $J = J_3, T = T_3$

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Action of symmetries on Rot

- ① $C \text{Rot} C = -\text{Rot}$
- ② $J_n \text{Rot} J_n^{-1} = -\text{Rot}, n = 1, 3$
 $J_2 \text{Rot} J_2^{-1} = +\text{Rot}$
- ③ $T_n \text{Rot} T_n^{-1} = +\text{Rot}, n = 1, 3$
 $T_2 \text{Rot} T_2^{-1} = -\text{Rot}$

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(Signs may be different)

Symmetries $U = T_n, C, J_n, n = 1, 2, 3$

CAZ \ realized			
A	<i>none</i>		
AIII	$J_1 \equiv \chi$	$J_2 \equiv \chi$	$J_3 \equiv \chi$
AI	$T_1 \equiv +\text{TR}$	$T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$	$C \equiv +\text{TR}$
AII	$T_2 \equiv -\text{TR}$		
D	$T_1 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_3 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$C \equiv +\text{PH}$
C	$T_2 \equiv -\text{PH}$		

CAZ \ realized			
BDI	$T_1 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $C \equiv +\text{PH}$	$C \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_1 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $C \equiv +\text{PH}$
BDI	$C \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_3 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_1 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_1 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_3 \equiv +\text{PH}$
DIII	$T_2 \equiv -\text{TR}$ $T_1 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_2 \equiv -\text{TR}$ $T_3 \equiv +\text{PH}$	$T_2 \equiv -\text{TR}$ $C \equiv +\text{PH}$
CI	$T_1 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_2 \equiv -\text{PH}$	$T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_2 \equiv -\text{PH}$	$C \equiv +\text{TR}$ $T_2 \equiv -\text{PH}$

Symmetries present	CAZ class	ϵ, μ	χ	Realized?
<i>none</i>	A	\mathbb{C}	\mathbb{C}	Yes
T_3	AI	\mathbb{R}	$i\mathbb{R}$	Yes
J_3	AIII	\mathbb{C}	0	Yes
C	D	\mathbb{R}	\mathbb{R}	Unknown
C, J_3, T_3	BDI	\mathbb{R}	0	Yes

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C	D	\mathbb{R}	\mathbb{R}	Unknown
C, J_3, T_3	BDI	\mathbb{R}	0	Yes

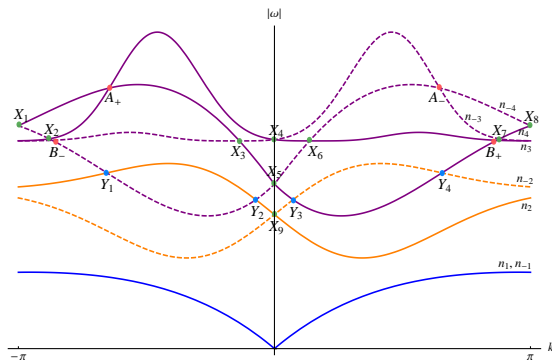
Symmetries present	CAZ class	Reduced K -group in dimension			
		$d = 1$	$d = 2$	$d = 3$	$d = 4$
<i>none</i>	A	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}^3	\mathbb{Z}^7
$T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$	AI	0	0	0	\mathbb{Z}
$J_3 \equiv \chi$	AIII	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}^2	\mathbb{Z}^4	\mathbb{Z}^8
$C \equiv +\text{PH}$	D	\mathbb{Z}_2	$\mathbb{Z}_2^2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^3 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^3$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}^6$
$J_3 \equiv \chi$ $C \equiv +\text{PH}$	BDI	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}^2	\mathbb{Z}^3	\mathbb{Z}^4
$T_2 \equiv -\text{PH}$ $T_3 \equiv +\text{TR}$	CI	0	0	\mathbb{Z}	\mathbb{Z}^4

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Part 3

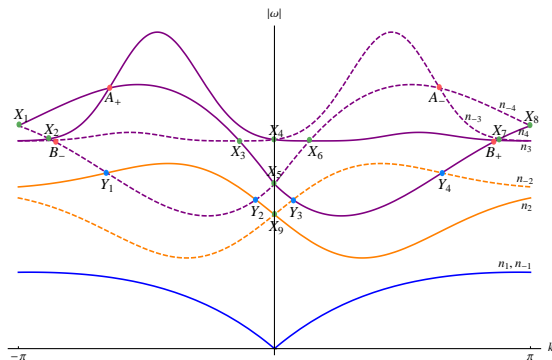
Effective Models

Tight-Binding Models from Ad Hoc Considerations



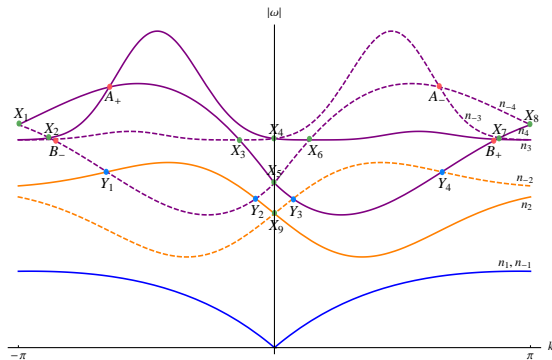
- ① Obtain band spectrum by solving a *second-order* equation for electric/magnetic field only, e. g. $M(k)_{EE}^2 \varphi_n^E(k) = \lambda_n(k)^2 \varphi_n^E(k)$
- ② Pick a family of bands, e. g. with a conical intersection (A_+ , Y_1)
- ③ Use a graphene-type tight-binding model to understand light propagation for states located near intersection

Tight-Binding Models from Ad Hoc Considerations



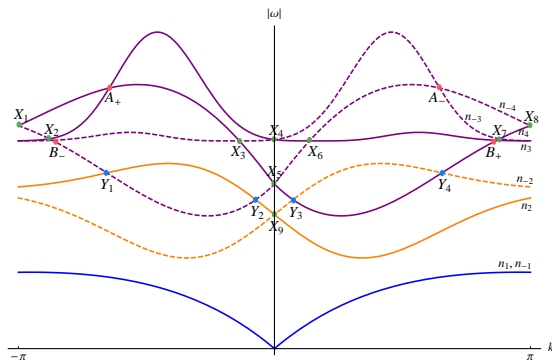
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Caution!

Procedure yields tight-binding operator M_{eff}

Problems

- ① Connection of M_{eff} to dynamics?
- ② Nature of symmetries?
- ③ Correct notion of Berry connection?

Caution!

Procedure yields tight-binding operator M_{eff}

Problems

- 1 Connection of M_{eff} to dynamics?
- 2 Nature of symmetries?
- 3 Correct notion of Berry connection?

First- vs. Second-Order Framework

Assume $\chi = 0$ (no bianisotropy).

First- vs. Second-Order Framework

first order

$$i\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +i\epsilon^{-1}\nabla^\times \\ -i\mu^{-1}\nabla^\times & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M(k)\varphi_n(k) = \omega_n(k)\varphi_n(k)$$

\iff

second order

$$(\partial_t^2 + M^2) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$M^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{-1}\nabla^\times & \mu^{-1}\nabla^\times \\ 0 & \mu^{-1}\nabla^\times & 0 \\ \mu^{-1}\nabla^\times & \epsilon^{-1}\nabla^\times \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M(k)^2\varphi_n(k) = (\omega_n(k))^2\varphi_n(k)$$

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$$i\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} \iff (\partial_t^2 + M^2) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$M \text{ block-offdiagonal} \implies M^2 \text{ block-diagonal}$$

$$M(k)\varphi_n(k) = \omega_n(k) \varphi_n(k) \implies M(k)^2 \varphi_n(k) = (\omega_n(k))^2 \varphi_n(k)$$

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First- vs. Second-Order Framework

Compute frequency bands *starting* from

$$M(k)_{EE}^2 \varphi_n^E(k) = (\lambda_n(k))^2 \varphi_n^E(k)$$

Assumption $\lambda_n(k) \geq 0 \implies$ yields $|\omega|$ spectrum

\rightsquigarrow Sign important for dynamics!

$$0 = (\partial_t^2 + M(k)^2) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = (\partial_t + iM(k)) (\partial_t - iM(k)) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix}$$

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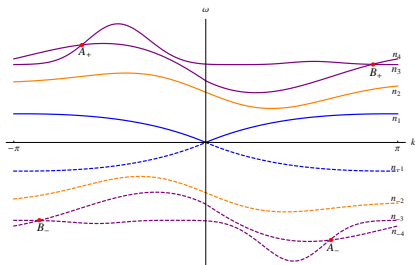
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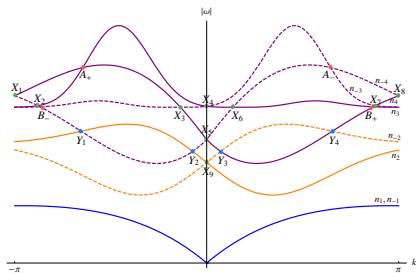
First-order formulation

$$M(k)\varphi_n(k) = \omega_n(k) \varphi_n(k)$$

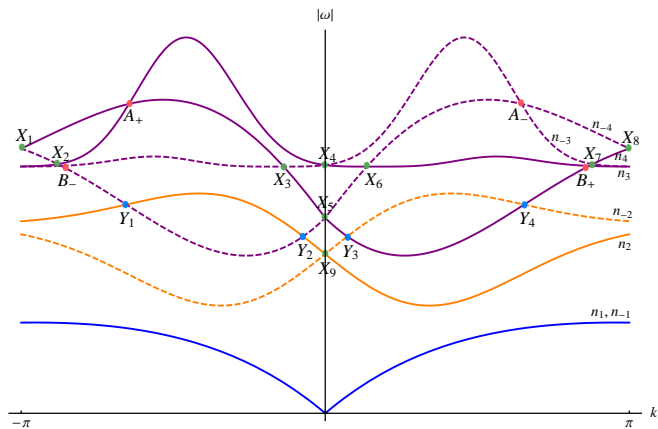


Second-order formulation

$$M(k)^2\varphi_n(k) = |\omega_n(k)|^2 \varphi_n(k)$$

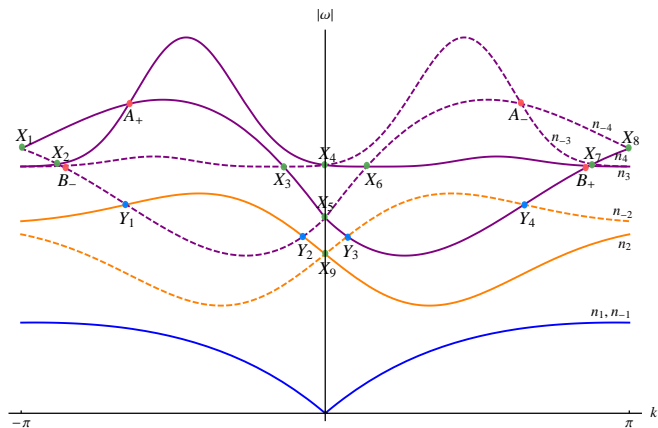


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- Points X_j and Y_j are *artificial band crossings*
- No graphene-like physics
 - ↪ eigenfunctions well-behaved at artificial crossings

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Symmetries

Classification of (anti-)unitary U with $U^2 = \pm \text{id}$ with

$$UM(k)^2 U^{-1} = M(\pm k)^2$$

in Cartan-Altlund-Zirnbauer scheme, e. g.

$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{array}{l} CM(k)C = -M(-k) \\ CM(k)^2 C = +M(-k)^2 \end{array} \right\} \text{ vs. } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} TM(k)T = +M(-k) \\ TM(k)^2 T = +M(-k)^2 \end{array} \right.$$

\Rightarrow No way to distinguish PH and TR symmetry!

Ditto for chiral vs. proper symmetry

\Rightarrow CAZ classification **impossible** in second-order framework!

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Proper definition of the Berry Connection

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}(k) &= i \langle \varphi_n(k), \nabla_k \varphi_n(k) \rangle_w = i \langle \varphi_n(k), W \nabla_k \varphi_n(k) \rangle \\ &= i \langle \varphi_n^E(k), \varepsilon \nabla_k \varphi_n(k) \rangle + i \langle \varphi_n^H(k), \mu \nabla_k \varphi_n^H(k) \rangle\end{aligned}$$

- Berry connection sometimes computed using only $\varphi_n^E(k)$
- However: $\|\mathbf{E}(t)\|_\varepsilon^2 = \langle \mathbf{E}(t), \varepsilon \mathbf{E}(t) \rangle$ *not* conserved quantity!
- $\Rightarrow \mathcal{A}^E(k) = i \langle \varphi_n^E(k), \varepsilon \nabla_k \varphi_n^E(k) \rangle$ *not* a connection
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Effective Tight-Binding Models

Goal: Find

- ① an orthogonal projection P and
- ② a **simpler** effective operator M_{eff}
(equivalent to a tight-binding operator)

so that for states from $\text{ran } P$ we have

$$e^{-itM} P = e^{-itM_{\text{eff}}} P + \text{error}.$$

Effective Models Should Retain All Symmetries!

For *topological* effects: M and M_{eff} which enter

$$e^{-itM} \rho = e^{-itM_{\text{eff}}} \rho + \text{error}$$

should be in the same CAZ class

- M and M_{eff} possess the same number and type of symmetries
- Due to misclassification of PhCs in earlier works: **disregarded** in the literature

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Conclusion

Covered in the talk today

Part 2

Classification of photonic topological insulators

- Schrödinger formalism of electromagnetism
 \rightsquigarrow application of CAZ scheme for TIs
- Complete classification table in publication
- Ordinary material in class BDI (3 symmetries)
 \rightsquigarrow different from time-reversal-invariant quantum systems!
 \rightsquigarrow each symmetry can be broken individually

Part 3

Effective light dynamics

- For topological effects: M and M_{eff} of same CAZ class
- For adiabatic perturbations: explicit form of corrections available
- Ray optics equations also available

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- ① Realize many effects for light at **optical** frequencies.
↪ Necessary for integration with optical devices
- ② Rely as much as possible on **ordinary** materials.
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- ③ Include **non-linear** effects.
↪ Should be particularly **strong in topological edge modes** (remain localized!)

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Thank you for your attention!

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Part 4

Encore

Open Problems

- Better understanding of topological classes BDI and AIII
~> also relevant for **topological superconductors**
- Effective dynamics for classes BDI, D and AIII ~> edge currents
- Bulk-edge correspondences
~> photonic analog of transverse conductivity?
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- Persistence of edge currents in presence of **random** impurities
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Mathematically irrelevant symmetries, e. g.

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Physically irrelevant symmetries

Symmetry leads to unphysical conditions on weights, e. g.

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