

Homology Algebra and Applications

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Manuscript by Prof. Yuxin Zhao
Typed by Orkesh Nurbolat
Edited by Z.Zhang

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1 A little comment on theoretical physics

We all hear that experiment is the motive force of physics. However, theoretical physics is not derived by experiments.¹ I think the motive force of theoretical physics is "writing the theory in more elegant and more profound mathematical language". For example, classical mechanics had been established by Newton in 17th century and there was no new great physics theory until Maxwell in 19th century. What did theoretical physicists do in that period? In fact, we all know that Newton's mechanics was not the end of mechanics. Lagrangian mechanics and Hamiltonian mechanics were developed after it. It seems that analytical mechanics is just a rewriting of Newton's mechanics, which adds nothing new. But now, we all know analytical mechanics is important for quantum mechanics.² Lagrange and Hamilton were seen as mathematicians rather than physicists in their ages, and their work was not well-known by physicists until early 20th century.³ But they are surely physicists in our view and their work has become the basic vocabulary of physics. Another example is group theory, which was called "groupes" by Pauli in the beginning, but applied everywhere in physics sooner. So, something seems to be "too mathematic" today may become important physics tomorrow. It is necessary for you to learn some new mathematical language beyond what you learn in "Methods of Mathematical Physics".

2 Long Exact Sequence for calculation

We all know what means "equal" from our primary school. When you solve an equation, the right hand is equal to the left hand. This kind of equal means two numbers are equal. The old concept of equality is too strict to reveal the structure, so wider concept of equality has been adopted in modern math.

We can think two groups are "equal" if they are isomorphic to each other. Thus, an exact sequence is an "equation" of groups. If we know the groups on some sites, then we can derive the unknown groups on other sites. For example, if we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow \Gamma \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow 0$$

and we know A and Γ , then we can derive $B \cong \Gamma/A$. In last lecture, we have shown that we can construct long exact sequences of homology groups, which will enable us to calculate the unknown homology groups. Thus, Long exact sequence is an important calculation technique.

In general, if we have the following diagram:

$$0 \longrightarrow A_* \xrightarrow{i} C_* \xrightarrow{p} \frac{C_*}{A_*} \longrightarrow 0$$

¹We do not deny that experiment results in the needs of new theory, however, the development of theoretical physics has its own way.

²According to Feynman, it is worth to write a theory in different forms because you don't know which form will be useful when tackling a new problem.

³We recall that Dirac was not familiar with Poisson bracket and had to go to library.

which is actually:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & \dots & & \dots & & \dots \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \mapsto & A_n & \mapsto & C_n & \mapsto & \frac{C_n}{A_n} \mapsto 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \mapsto & A_m & \mapsto & C_m & \mapsto & \frac{C_m}{A_m} \mapsto 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
& & \dots & & \dots & & \dots
\end{array}$$

i is the inclusion map, p is the projection map. Every row is an exact sequence of groups and the diagram is commutative. Then we can have a long exact sequence:

$$\cdots \mapsto H_n(A_*) \mapsto H_n(C_*) \mapsto H_n\left(\frac{C_*}{A_*}\right) \xrightarrow{\partial} H_{n-1}(A_*) \mapsto \cdots$$

i) We have applied this to

$$0 \mapsto S_*(Y) \mapsto S_*(X) \mapsto S_*(X, Y) \mapsto 0$$

with $Y \subset X$, giving us the axiom of long exact sequence

$$\cdots \mapsto H_n(Y) \mapsto H_n(X) \mapsto H_n(X, Y) \mapsto H_{n-1}(Y) \mapsto \cdots$$

ii) Consider $\overset{\circ}{X} \cup \overset{\circ}{Y} = Z$, and $X \cap Y = A$
we can have

$$0 \mapsto S_*(A) \mapsto S_*(X) \oplus S_*(Y) \mapsto S_*(Z) \mapsto 0$$

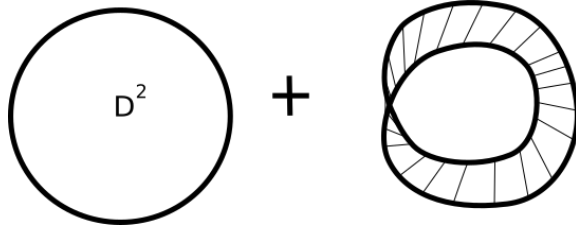
Then we can have a long exact sequence called Mayer-Veitoris exact sequence⁴:

$$\cdots \mapsto H_n(A) \xrightarrow{(i_{1\#}, i_{2\#})} H_n(X) \oplus H_n(Y) \xrightarrow{g\# - j\#} H_n(Z) \mapsto H_{n-1}(A) \mapsto \cdots$$

where $i_1 : A \mapsto X$, $i_2 : A \mapsto Y$, $g : X \mapsto Z$, $j : Y \mapsto Z$ are inclusions. And the map $(i_{1\#}, i_{2\#})$ is defined by $a_n \mapsto (i_{1\#}a_n, i_{2\#}a_n)$, $g\# - j\#$ is defined by $(x_n, y_n) \mapsto g\#x_n - j\#y_n$.

Example : RP^2 can be made by attaching a Mobius ring to a disk, we write $RP^2 = D^2 \cup M$ and $D^2 \cap M = S^1$.

⁴For serious reader who want to know this sequence clearly, we recommend to read Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of *An Introduction to Algebraic Topology* by Rotman.



From $M \subset RP^2$, we have the long exact sequence:

$$H_2(M) \hookrightarrow H_2(RP^2) \hookrightarrow H_2(RP^2, M) \hookrightarrow H_1(M) \hookrightarrow H_1(RP^2) \hookrightarrow H_1(RP^2, M)$$

Note $H_n(RP^2, M) \cong H_n(S^2, *)$, it's easy to know that

$$\begin{aligned} H_2(M) &= 0 \\ H_2(RP^2, M) &= \mathbb{Z} \\ H_1(M) &= \mathbb{Z} \\ H_1(RP^2, M) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

then the exact sequence turns into:

$$0 \hookrightarrow H_2(RP^2) \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{g} H_1(RP^2) \hookrightarrow 0$$

where the $\times 2$ is important. Because $\ker(\times 2) = 0 = \text{im } f$ and f is injective, so $H_2(RP^2) = 0$. Then $H_1(RP^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$.

From $D^2 \cap M = S^1$ and $D^2 \cup M = RP^2$, we have another long exact sequence:

$$H_2(S^1) \hookrightarrow H^2(M) \oplus H_2(D^2) \hookrightarrow H_2(RP^2) \hookrightarrow H_1(S^1) \xrightarrow{\times 2} H_1(M) \oplus H_1(D^2) \hookrightarrow H_1(RP^2) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

From

$$\begin{aligned} H_2(S^1) &\cong H_2(M) \cong H_2(D^2) = 0 \\ H_1(S^1) &\cong \mathbb{Z} \\ H_1(M) \oplus H_1(D^2) &\cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus 0 \cong \mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

we can also derive $H_2(RP^2) = 0$. Finish writing the above sequence, we have

$$0 \hookrightarrow 0 \hookrightarrow 0 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \oplus 0 \hookrightarrow H_1(RP^2) \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{i} \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow 0$$

Because $\text{im } f = \ker i = 0$, f maps $H_1(RP^2)$ to 0, we can have the following sequence:

$$0 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times 2} \mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow H_1(RP^2) \hookrightarrow 0$$

So we get $H_1(RP^2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$. The Euler character

$$\chi(RP^2) = 1 - 0 + 0 = 1$$

3 Homotopy of chain complex morphism

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc}
 \cdots & \longrightarrow & C_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & C_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial^C} & C_n & \xrightarrow{\partial^C} & C_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & C_{n-2} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\
 & & \downarrow & \nearrow P_{n+1} & \downarrow & \nearrow P_n & \downarrow & \nearrow P_{n-1} & \downarrow & \nearrow P_{n-2} & \downarrow & & \\
 & & f_1 - f_0 & & f_1 - f_0 & & f_1 - f_0 & & f_1 - f_0 & & f_1 - f_0 & & \\
 \cdots & \longrightarrow & D_{n+2} & \longrightarrow & D_{n+1} & \xrightarrow{\partial^D} & D_n & \xrightarrow{\partial^D} & D_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & D_{n-2} & \longrightarrow & \cdots
 \end{array}$$

$f_0, f_1 : C_* \mapsto D_*$, if $\exists P$ satisfy

$$f_1 - f_0 = \partial^D \circ P_n + P_{n-1} \circ \partial^C$$

then P is called a homotopy from f_0 to f_1 , $P : f_0 \simeq f_1$.

In last lecture, we have proved if $\exists P : f_0 \simeq f_1$, then $H_n(f_0) = H_n(f_1)$.

Applications:

i) Consider an exact sequence of free abelian groups (a free resolution of \mathbb{Z})

$$\cdots \mapsto F_{n+1} \mapsto F_n \mapsto F_{n-1} \mapsto \cdots \mapsto F_0 \mapsto \mathbb{Z} \mapsto 0$$

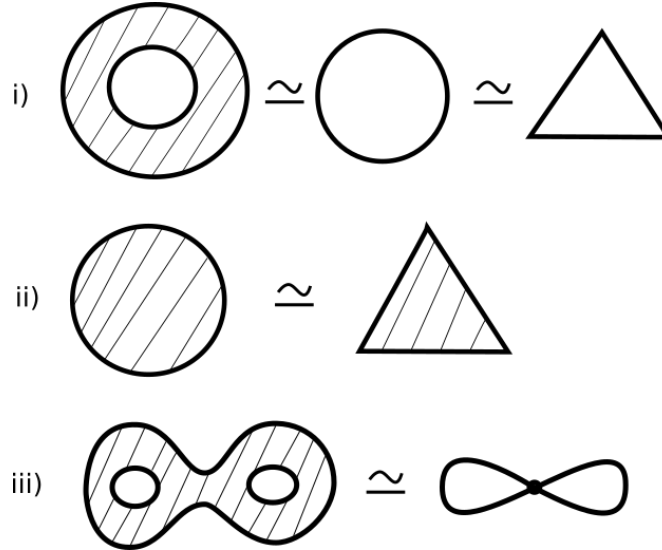
all such exact sequences are homotopy equivalent. We omit proof here, the result will be used in group (co)homology.

ii) We have proved in last lecture that

$$F : f_0 \simeq f_1 \implies \exists P : f_{0\#} \simeq f_{1\#} \implies H_*(f_0) = H_*(f_1)$$

This is also what the homotopy axiom says. An immediate consequence is : two spaces of the same homotopy type have isomorphic homology group.⁵

For example :



⁵The reader can proof it by copying the corresponding proof of the functor π_1 .

4 Hurewicz Theorem

the Hurewicz Theorem states that : if X is path connected then

$$H_1(X) \cong \text{the abelianization of } \pi_1(X)$$

For example, we have the following shape:



Then

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1(\infty) &\cong \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} \\ H_1(\infty) &\cong \text{Ab}\pi_1(\infty) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$ means $\pi_1(\infty)$ is generated by two generators a, b and $ab \neq ba$, $\pi_1(\infty)$ is not an abelian group. $\text{Ab}\pi_1(\infty)$ means the abelianization of $\pi_1(\infty)$, that is, we add a relation $ab = ba$, so $\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$ becomes $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$.

A group G can be defined by a set of generators $X = \{x_k : k \in K\}$ and relations : $\Delta = \{r_j = 1 : j \in J\}$. We define $G \cong F/R$, F is free⁶ on X and R is the normal subgroup of F generated by $\{r_j : j \in J\}$, and G is presented as $(X|\Delta)$.

For example :

$$\pi(T^2) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} = (\{a, b\} | aba^{-1}b^{-1})$$

The abelianization of a group means we demand any two generators to commute by adding new relations.

5 Seifert-van Kampen Theorem

Seifert-van Kampen Theorem:

$\overset{\circ}{X}_1 \cup \overset{\circ}{X}_2 = X$ and $X_1 \cap X_2$ is path connected, if

$$\begin{aligned}\pi(X_1, x_0) &= (K_1 | \Delta_1) \\ \pi(X_2, x_0) &= (K_2 | \Delta_2)\end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\pi_1(X, x_0) = (K_1 \cup K_2 | \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2 \cup \{i_{\#}^1(g)i_{\#}^2(g^{-1}) | g \in \pi(X_1 \cap X_2, x_0)\})$$

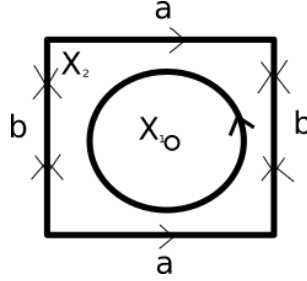
where $i^1 : X_1 \cap X_2 \hookrightarrow X_1$ and $i^2 : X_1 \cap X_2 \hookrightarrow X_2$ are inclusions, and

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1(X_1 \cap X_2) &\xrightarrow{i_{\#}^1} \pi_1(X_1, x_0) \\ \pi_1(X_1 \cap X_2) &\xrightarrow{i_{\#}^2} \pi_1(X_2, x_0)\end{aligned}$$

⁶F is free on X means F is generated by $\{x_k\}$ and there is no relation between the generators.

The theorem is really easy to understand although not easy to proof. It says, when you consider a big space which is the sum of two subspaces, the fundamental group is generated by the generators of the two subspaces and the old relations are held, except some new relations are added to identifying "the same things" in the intersectional area.

This theorem can help us to find the fundamental groups of some spaces. For example, consider T^2



We let X_2 be the square subtract the center point, and X_1 is a disk in the square. Then we have

$$X_2 \cong \infty \Rightarrow \pi_1(X_2) \cong \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}$$

$$X_1 \cong \text{disk} \cong * \Rightarrow \pi_1(X_1) \cong 1$$

$$X_1 \cap X_2 \cong \text{circle} \Rightarrow \pi_1(X_1 \cap X_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

We write the above groups by presentations:

$$\pi_1(X_2) = (\{a, b\} | \emptyset)$$

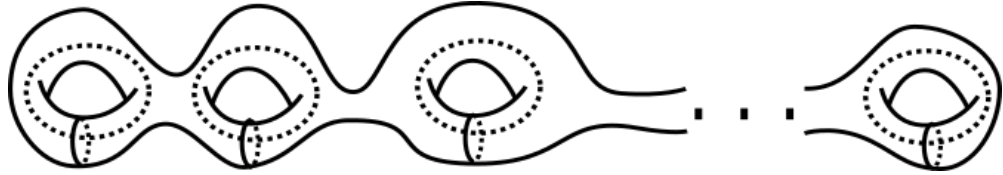
$$\pi_1(X_1) = (\emptyset | \emptyset)$$

$$\pi_1(X_1 \cap X_2) = (\{c\} | \emptyset)$$

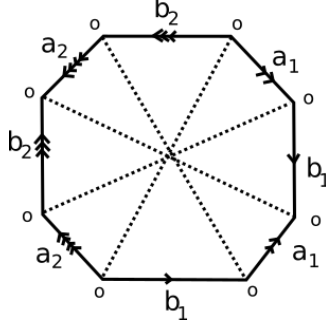
It's easy to see $i_{\#}^1 c = 1$, $i_{\#}^2 c = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$, so

$$\pi_1(T^2) = (\{a, b\} | aba^{-1}b^{-1}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$$

We can also find the fundamental group of \mathfrak{R}^g by the Seifert-van Kampen Theorem



For example, we consider \mathfrak{R}^2



Define X_1 and X_2 like in the T^2 case, then we have

$$\pi_1(X_2) = (\{a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2\} | \emptyset)$$

$$\pi_1(X_1) = (\emptyset | \emptyset)$$

$$\pi_1(X_1 \cap X_2) = (\{c\} | \emptyset)$$

$$\begin{aligned} i^2_{\#} c &= a_1 b_1 a_1^{-1} b_1^{-1} a_2 b_2 a_2^{-1} b_2^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow \pi_1(\mathfrak{R}^2) &\cong (\{a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2\} | a_1 b_1 a_1^{-1} b_1^{-1} a_2 b_2 a_2^{-1} b_2^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

In general,

$$\pi_1(\mathfrak{R}_g) \cong (\{a_1, b_1, \dots, a_g, b_g\} | a_1 b_1 a_1^{-1} b_1^{-1} a_2 b_2 a_2^{-1} b_2^{-1} \dots a_g b_g a_g^{-1} b_g^{-1})$$

if we define

$$[a, b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$$

then we can write

$$\pi_1(\mathfrak{R}^g) = (\{a_i, b_i\} | \prod_{i=1}^g [a_i, b_i])$$

Abelianization of $\pi_1(\mathfrak{R}^g)$ will give

$$H_1(\mathfrak{R}^g) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}$$

there are $2g$ \mathbb{Z} .

6 Applications in Physics

6.1 Braid Groups

Consider n identical particles in a space X , let them be hardcore particles, namely any two of them don't occupy the same position. We set Δ to be the space of (x_1, \dots, x_n) with $x_i = x_j$ for some pairs i, j . Then the configuration space is :

$$C_n(X) := (X^n - \Delta) / \sim = (X^n - \Delta) / S_n$$

where we think $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \sim (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ if there is a permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ s.t. $x_i = y_{\sigma(i)}$, because the particles are indential.

Define the braid group

$$B_n(X) = \pi_1(C_n(X), [x_0])$$

On the two dimentional plane \mathbb{R}^2

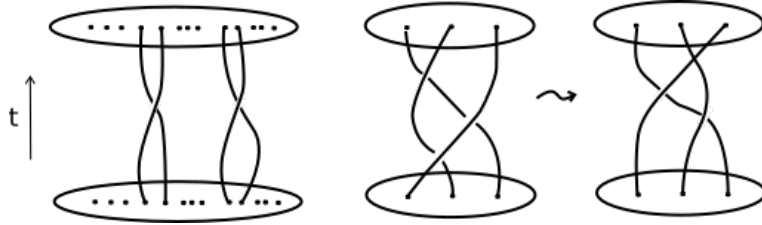
$$B_n := \pi_1(C_n(\mathbb{R}^2), [x_0])$$

This group can be generated by a set of generators $\{\sigma_i\}$ with following relations⁷:

i) $\sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i$ for $|i - j| \geq 2$

ii) $\sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}$

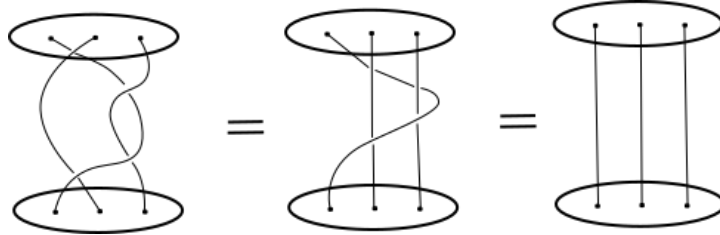
σ_i exchanges i_{th} and $(i + 1)_{th}$ particles, we can represent the relations in pictures⁸



How about $\pi_1(C_n(S^2))$? There is 2 new relations :

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_{n-2} \sigma_{n-1}^2 \sigma_{n-2} \dots \sigma_1 &= 1 \\ (\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_{n+1})^n &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

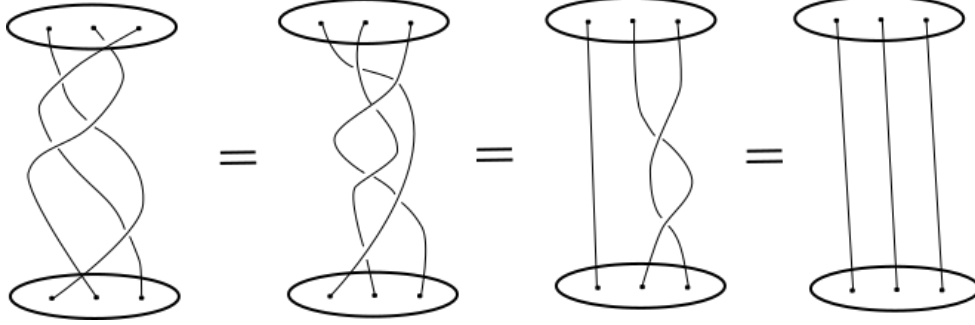
For example, when $n = 2$ we have $\sigma_1^2 = 1$ and $\pi_1(C_2(S^2)) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$. When $n = 3$, the first new relation $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_2 \sigma_1 = 1$ can be shown by



and $(\sigma_1 \sigma_2)^3 = 1$ is shown by

⁷We omit the proof.

⁸We can proof the braid group in \mathbb{R}^2 can be represented by this kind of pictures.

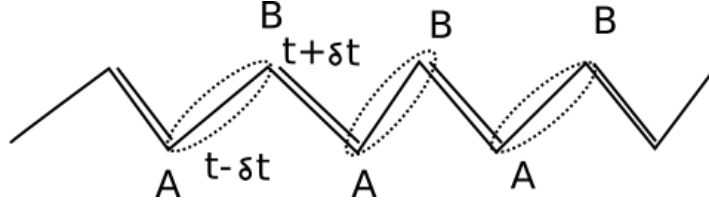


In 3D, $\pi_1(C_n(\mathbb{R}^3))$ is much simpler than in 2D.⁹ Its generators are commutative, and one can prove $\pi_1(C_n(\mathbb{R}^3))$ is just the permutation group S_n .

Why braid group so important? Because it is related to the statistics of identical particles. In 3D, there are only two one-dimensional representations of S_n , which correspond to Bosons and Fermions respectively. But in 2D, the non-Abelian group B_n leads to exotic statistics and anyons.¹⁰

6.2 SSH Model and 1 D Topological Insulator

There is a bipartite lattice, all transitions happen between A and B , and there are two different transition amplitudes. This model is called **SSH model**, which is the simplest topological insulator(TI).



The Hamiltonian in second quantization form of SSH model is :

$$\hat{H} = \sum_i (t - \delta t) C_{B_i}^\dagger C_{A_i} + (t + \delta t) C_{A_{i+1}}^\dagger C_{B_i} + h.c.$$

where h.c. means the Hermitian conjugation of the former term.

Do Fourier transformation on the coefficients

$$C_{A_j}^\dagger = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} e^{i(kj)} C_{A_k}^\dagger$$

⁹For some problems, higher dimension cases are simpler than low dimension cases, another famous example is the proof of Poincaré conjecture.

¹⁰This lecture is too short to discuss this topic, a serious reader needs to read other materials. For example, the original paper (PhysRevLett.52.2103) by Yong-Shi Wu.

$$C_{B_j}^\dagger = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} e^{i(kj)} C_{B_k}^\dagger$$

Then

$$\hat{H} = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} (C_{A_k}^\dagger, C_{B_k}^\dagger) \hat{H}_{SSH}(k) \begin{pmatrix} C_{A_k} \\ C_{B_k} \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\hat{H}_{SSH}(k) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & (t - \delta t) + (t + \delta t)e^{ik} \\ (t - \delta t) + (t + \delta t)e^{-ik} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & q(k) \\ q^\dagger(k) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Because $q(k) \neq 0$ for all the k , $\hat{H}_{SSH}(k)$ has an energy gap.

Now let us consider more generally.

For a Hamiltonian $\hat{H}(k)$, if $\{\hat{H}(k), \sigma_3\} = 0$, where

$$\sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1_N & 0 \\ 0 & -1_N \end{pmatrix}$$

then it's easy to proof

$$\hat{H}(k) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Q(k) \\ Q^\dagger(k) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

If $\text{Det}(Q(k)) \neq 0 \Rightarrow \hat{H}(k)$ has an energy gap. We call such $\hat{H}(k)$ has **chiral symmetry**.¹¹

Note that

$$Q(k) \in GL(N, \mathbb{C}) \simeq U(N)^{12}, \quad k \in BZ = S^1^{13}$$

So Q can be seen as a map from S^1 to $GL(N, \mathbb{C})$, $Q : S^1 \mapsto GL(N, \mathbb{C})$, topological distinct maps of this type are classified by the fundamental group $\pi_1(GL(N, \mathbb{C}))$, so 1D systems with chiral symmetry can also be classified by the fundamental group, this kind of topological insulators are in **class AIII**.

We have the following results:

$$\pi_1(GL(N, \mathbb{C})) \cong \pi_1(U(N)) \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

It can be obtained by the long exact sequence calculation technique. First, we construct a short sequence:

$$1 \mapsto SU(N) \xrightarrow{i} U(N) \xrightarrow{\text{Det}} U(1) \mapsto 1^{14}$$

Then we can get a long exact sequence:

$$\dots \mapsto \pi_n(SU(N)) \mapsto \pi_n(U(N)) \mapsto \pi_n(U(1)) \mapsto \pi_{n-1}(SU(N)) \mapsto \dots$$

¹¹This symmetry has the similar form with the chiral symmetry of the Dirac operator $D = i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu$, which satisfies $\{D, \gamma^5\} = 0$, but it's not a good name. It's better to call it CT symmetry.

¹² $GL(N, \mathbb{C})$ and $U(N)$ are of the same homotopy type. We note that $GL(N, \mathbb{C})$ and $U(N)$ are Lie groups which are also topological spaces.

¹³BZ means the first Brillouin zone.

¹⁴ $\text{Det}(MN) = \text{Det}(M) * \text{Det}(N)$ and $\text{Det}(U(N)) = U(1)$, so $\text{Det}: U(N) \mapsto U(1)$ is a group homeomorphism from $U(N)$ to $U(1)$. One can proof $U(1) \cong U(N)/SU(N)$.

For example, when $N = 2$, $SU(2) \cong S^3$,¹⁵ we have

$$\pi_1(S^3) \mapsto \pi_1(U(2)) \mapsto \pi_1(U(1)) \mapsto \pi_0(S^3)$$

By

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1(S^3) &= 0 \\ \pi_0(S^3) &= 0 \\ \pi_1(U(1)) &= \mathbb{Z}\end{aligned}$$

we get $\pi_1(U(2)) = \mathbb{Z}$. In general, we can get $\pi_1(U(N)) = \mathbb{Z}$.

Recall the winding number characterizes topological distinct loops in $U(1)$, we can calculate the winding number of $Q(k)$ by the formula:

$$\begin{aligned}Q &\mapsto q = \frac{\text{Det}(Q)}{|\text{Det}(Q)|} \\ v &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} q(k) \frac{dq^\dagger(k)}{dk} \in \mathbb{Z}^{16}\end{aligned}$$

Class AIII is just one class of TIs, now we introduce another two classes: **class A** and **class D**¹⁷

class A has a gapped Hermitain matrix like

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H} &= \hat{U}^\dagger \begin{pmatrix} E_+ & 0 \\ 0 & E_- \end{pmatrix} \hat{U} \quad \sim \quad \hat{U}^\dagger \begin{pmatrix} 1_N & 0 \\ 0 & -1_M \end{pmatrix} \hat{U} \\ C_0 &\simeq \frac{U(N+M)}{U(N) \times U(M)}\end{aligned}$$

class D has particle-hole symmetry

$$\{\hat{H}, \hat{C}\} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{H} = -\hat{H}^*$$

the charge conjugate operator \hat{C} satisfies $C^2 = 1$, $\{C, i\} = 0$. So we get $i\hat{H}$ is real. Class D's Hamiltonian looks like:

¹⁵If you don't know, try to proof it.

¹⁶What's the physical meaning of v ? First, it is a topological invariant of class AIII TIs. Physically speaking, if two gapped quantum phases can be transformed into each other through an adiabatic/a continuous path in the phase diagram without closing the gap (i.e., without encountering a quantum phase transition), then they are said to be topologically equivalent. If two AIII type systems are topological equivalent, they have the same winding number. Second, it corresponds to the number of zero modes when the system has a boundary, this close connection between nontrivial bulk topological properties and gapless boundary modes is known as the bulk-boundary correspondence.

¹⁷To learn the classification of topological insulators, one can refer to Rev. Mod. Phys. 88, 035005. This review covers nearly all we discussed in this section.

$$i\hat{H} = \hat{O}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E_1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ E_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -E_2 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & E_2 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \hat{O} \sim \hat{O}^T \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \hat{O}$$

$$i\hat{H} \sim \hat{O}^T (i\tau_2 \otimes 1_N) \hat{O} \\ \Rightarrow i\hat{H} \in R_2 = \frac{O(2N)}{U(N)} \subset \frac{U(2N)}{U(N) \times U(N)}$$

We have

$$\pi_1\left(\frac{U(2N)}{U(N) \times U(N)}\right) \mapsto \pi_1(C_0, R_2) \mapsto \pi_0(R_2) \mapsto \pi_0(C_0)$$

note the fact that $\pi_1\left(\frac{U(2N)}{U(N) \times U(N)}\right) = 0$ and $\pi_0(R_2) = \mathbb{Z}$, we get $\pi_1(C_0, R_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

Superconductor wire in one dimension, (waiting to be covered)
Kitaev's majorana chain:

$$H_0(k) \quad [H_0] \in \pi_1(C_0, R_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$$

what is the topological invariant?

$$i\hat{H}(0) = \hat{O}^T(0) i\tau_2 \otimes 1_N \hat{O}(0)$$

$$i\hat{H}(\pi) = \hat{O}^T(\pi) i\tau_2 \otimes 1_N \hat{O}(\pi)$$

$$v = \text{Det}(O(0)) \text{Det}(\pi) \in \{+1, -1\}$$

unpair Majorana modes:

