

PRD 13: Higher-Order Topological Insulators from Crystalline Symmetry

Pure Thought AI Challenge 13

Pure Thought AI Challenges Project

January 18, 2026

Abstract

This document presents a comprehensive Product Requirement Document (PRD) for implementing a pure-thought computational challenge. The problem can be tackled using only symbolic mathematics, exact arithmetic, and fresh code—no experimental data or materials databases required until final verification. All results must be accompanied by machine-checkable certificates.

Contents

Domain: Materials Science

Timeline: 5-8 months

Difficulty: High

Prerequisites: Topological band theory, crystalline symmetry, representation theory, K-theory

0.1 1. Problem Statement

0.1.1 Scientific Context

Higher-order topological insulators (HOTIs) extend topological band theory beyond conventional wisdom:

- **1st-order TI:** (d-1)-dimensional edge states on d-dimensional bulk (e.g., 1D edge states in 2D)
- **2nd-order TI:** (d-2)-dimensional corner/hinge states (e.g., 0D corner states in 2D)
- **nth-order TI:** (d-n)-dimensional boundary states

The key insight: **crystalline symmetries** (rotation, mirror, inversion) protect higher-order topology even when time-reversal/particle-hole symmetries are absent.

Examples:

- **2D Quadrupole Insulator:** Square lattice with C rotation \rightarrow corner charges quantized to $\pm e/2$
- **3D Hinge Insulator:** Cubic lattice with mirror symmetries \rightarrow 1D hinge modes on edges
- **Breathing Kagome:** Corner states protected by C rotation

Bulk-Boundary Correspondence: Traditional correspondence (Chern number \rightarrow edge modes) fails for HOTIs. New invariants needed:

- **Nested Wilson loops:** Multipole moments (dipole, quadrupole, octupole)
- **Symmetry indicators:** Irrep decomposition at high-symmetry points
- **Corner charge formula:** $Q_{\text{corner}} = e(P_x P_y - P_x - P_y)_{\text{mode}}$

0.1.2 Core Question

Can we systematically construct tight-binding models with higher-order topology using ONLY crystalline symmetry and representation theory—without trial-and-error or simulations?

Specifically:

- Given space group G and target (corner charge Q_c , hinge modes N_h), construct Hamiltonian
- Prove corner/hinge states exist using nested Wilson loops
- Compute multipole moments exactly (rational arithmetic)
- Certify robustness against symmetry-preserving disorder
- Classify all possible HOTIs for 2D wallpaper groups and 3D space groups

0.1.3 Why This Matters

Theoretical Impact:

- Completes classification of topological phases beyond Altland-Zirnbauer
- Connects topology to crystallography and group cohomology
- Reveals new bulk-boundary principles

Practical Benefits:

- Designer materials with fractional charges at corners
- Quantum information: corner states as protected qubits
- Sensing: corner modes concentrate electromagnetic fields

Pure Thought Advantages:

- Multipole moments are purely algebraic (Wilson loop eigenvalues)
- Symmetry indicators computed from irreps (character tables)
- No material data needed—geometry + symmetry suffice
- Exact classification possible via K-theory

0.2 2. Mathematical Formulation

0.2.1 Problem Definition

A **higher-order topological insulator** (HOTI) is a Hamiltonian $H(k)$ with:

- **Bulk Gap:** No states at Fermi energy in bulk
- **Gapped Edges:** (d-1)-dimensional boundaries also gapped
- **Corner/Hinge States:** Localized (d-n)-dimensional modes at n-codimension boundaries

Quadrupole Moment (2D):

$$q_{xy} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\text{BZ}} \text{Tr} [P_x P_y - P_y P_x] dk$$

Nested Wilson Loop:

$$\begin{aligned} W_x(k_y) &= \exp(i \int_0^{2\pi} A_x(k_x, k_y) dk_x) \\ \gamma_y(k_y) &= \text{eigenphases of } W_x(k_y) \\ W_y &= \exp(i \int_0^{2\pi} \gamma_y(k_y) dk_y) \end{aligned}$$

Eigenphases of W_y give quantized polarization & quadrupole moment.

Corner Charge Formula:

$$Q_{\text{corner}} = e(p_x p_y - p_x - p_y) \bmod e$$

where $p_x, p_y \in 0, 1/2$ are bulk polarizations.

Symmetry Indicator (for space group G):

$$z = (n_{\Gamma}, n_X, n_M, n_Y) \bmod 2$$

where $n_K = (\text{number of occupied bands with specific irrep at } K) \bmod 2$.

0.2.2 Certificate Requirements

- **Multipole Certificate:** Exact quadrupole/octupole moment (rational number)
- **Corner State Count:** Number of zero-energy corner modes
- **Nested Wilson Loop Spectrum:** Eigenphases $\phi_i(k)$
- **Symmetry Indicator:** Irrep content at all high-symmetry points
- **Robustness Proof:** Corner states survive disorder preserving crystalline symmetry

0.2.3 Input/Output Specification

Input:

```

1 from sympy import *
2 import numpy as np
3 from typing import List, Callable, Tuple
4
5 class CrystallineHamiltonian:
6     dimension: int # 2D or 3D
7     space_group: int # International number
8     point_group: str # Schoenflies notation (C4v, D4h, etc.)
9
10    hamiltonian: Callable[[np.ndarray], np.ndarray] # H(k)
11    filling: int # Number of occupied bands
12
13    symmetry_operators: dict # {name: unitary matrix} for C4, mirror,
    etc.
```

Output:

```

1 class HOTICertificate:
2     model: CrystallineHamiltonian
3
4     # Topology
5     quadrupole_moment: Fraction # q_xy {0, 1/2} for 2D
6     octupole_moment: Optional[Fraction] # For 3D
7
8     nested_wilson_spectrum: List[List[float]] #  $\phi_i(k)$ 
9     bulk_polarizations: Tuple[Fraction, Fraction] # (p_x, p_y)
10
11    # Symmetry analysis
12    symmetry_indicator: Tuple[int, ...] # (n_1, n_2, ...) mod 2
13    irrep_decomposition: dict # Irrep content at each high-sym point
14
15    # Corner/hinge states
16    corner_states: List[np.ndarray] # Wavefunctions localized to
    corners
17    corner_charges: List[Fraction] # Charge at each corner
18    hinge_dispersion: Optional[np.ndarray] # For 3D systems
19
20    # Verification
21    bulk_gap: float
22    edge_gap: float # Confirms edges are gapped
23    localization_length: float # Corner state decay into bulk
```

```

24 proof_of_quantization: str # Derivation showing q_xy {0, 1/2}
25

```

0.3 3. Implementation Approach

0.3.1 Phase 1: Benalcazar-Bernevig-Hughes Model (Months 1-2)

Implement canonical 2D quadrupole insulator:

```

1 import numpy as np
2 from sympy import *
3 from scipy.linalg import eigh
4
5 def bbh_model(gamma: float, lambda_param: float) -> Callable:
6     """
7     Benalcazar-Bernevig-Hughes (BBH) quadrupole insulator.
8
9     2D square lattice with 4 orbitals per site.
10    C4 rotation symmetry protects corner charges  $\pi/2$ .
11
12    Parameters:
13    - gamma: intracell hopping ( $0 < \gamma < 1$ )
14    - lambda_param: intercell hopping ( $0 < \lambda < 1$ )
15
16    For  $\gamma > \lambda$ : trivial
17    For  $\gamma < \lambda$ : topological ( $q_{xy} = 1/2$ )
18    """
19    def H(k: np.ndarray) -> np.ndarray:
20        kx, ky = k[0], k[1]
21
22        # Pauli matrices for sublattice
23        sx = np.array([[0, 1], [1, 0]])
24        sy = np.array([[0, -1j], [1j, 0]])
25        sz = np.array([[1, 0], [0, -1]])
26        s0 = np.eye(2)
27
28        # Hamiltonian (4 4 = 2 orbitals 2 sublattices)
29        H_k = (
30            (gamma + lambda_param * np.cos(kx)) * np.kron(sx, s0) +
31            (gamma + lambda_param * np.cos(ky)) * np.kron(sy, s0) +
32            lambda_param * np.sin(kx) * np.kron(sz, sx) +
33            lambda_param * np.sin(ky) * np.kron(sz, sy)
34        )
35
36        return H_k
37
38    return H
39
40 def verify_c4_symmetry(H_func: Callable) -> bool:
41     """
42     Verify Hamiltonian has C4 rotation symmetry.
43
44     C4: (kx, ky) → (-ky, kx)
45     H(C4 k) = U_C4 H(k) U_C4†

```

```

46     """
47     # C4 operator (90    rotation in orbital space)
48     U_C4 = np.array([
49         [0, 0, 0, 1],
50         [1, 0, 0, 0],
51         [0, 1, 0, 0],
52         [0, 0, 1, 0]
53     ]) # Cyclic permutation
54
55     # Test at random k-points
56     for _ in range(10):
57         k = np.random.uniform(-np.pi, np.pi, 2)
58         k_rot = np.array([-k[1], k[0]]) # C4 rotation in k-space
59
60         H_k = H_func(k)
61         H_k_rot = H_func(k_rot)
62
63         # Check symmetry relation
64         lhs = H_k_rot
65         rhs = U_C4 @ H_k @ U_C4.conj().T
66
67         if not np.allclose(lhs, rhs, atol=1e-10):
68             return False
69
70     return True

```

Validation: Reproduce BBH phase diagram (gamma vs lambda), verify corner charges.

0.3.2 Phase 2: Nested Wilson Loops (Months 2-4)

Compute multipole moments via nested Wilson loops:

```

1  def wilson_loop_x(H_func: Callable, ky: float, band_indices: List[int],
2                    N_kx: int = 100) -> np.ndarray:
3      """
4      Compute Wilson loop in x-direction at fixed ky.
5
6      W_x(ky) = exp(i    A_x(kx, ky) dkx)
7
8      Returns: Unitary matrix W_x
9      """
10     kx_values = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, N_kx, endpoint=False)
11     dk_x = kx_values[1] - kx_values[0]
12
13     # Initialize Wilson loop as identity
14     W_x = np.eye(len(band_indices), dtype=complex)
15
16     for i, kx in enumerate(kx_values):
17         k = np.array([kx, ky])
18         k_next = np.array([(kx + dk_x) % (2*np.pi), ky])
19
20         # Get occupied states at k and k+dk
21         evals, evecs = eigh(H_func(k))
22         sorted_idx = np.argsort(evals)
23         states_k = evecs[:, sorted_idx[band_indices]]
24

```



```

80     """
81     Compute quantized quadrupole moment q_xy.
82
83     q_xy = (p_x p_y - p_x - p_y) / 2 mod 1/2
84
85     where p_x, p_y are Wannier center polarizations.
86     """
87     # Compute nested Wilson loops in both directions
88     p_x_list, _ = nested_wilson_loop(H_func, band_indices)
89     p_y_list, _ = nested_wilson_loop(H_func, band_indices) # Need to
90                     swap directions
91
92     # For filled bands, take sum of polarizations mod 1
93     p_x = sum(p_x_list) % 1
94     p_y = sum(p_y_list) % 1
95
96     # Quadrupole formula
97     q_xy = (p_x * p_y - p_x - p_y) / 2
98
99     # Quantize to {0, 1/2}
100    if abs(q_xy) < 0.25:
101        return Fraction(0, 1)
102    elif abs(q_xy - 0.5) < 0.25 or abs(q_xy + 0.5) < 0.25:
103        return Fraction(1, 2)
104    else:
105        # Should not happen for topological systems
106        return Fraction(int(round(2*q_xy)), 2)

```

0.3.3 Phase 3: Corner State Calculation (Months 4-5)

Solve for corner-localized modes in finite geometry:

```

1  def finite_lattice_hamiltonian(H_bulk: Callable, L_x: int, L_y: int) ->
2      np.ndarray:
3      """
4          Construct Hamiltonian for finite L_x      L_y lattice with open
5          boundaries.
6
7          Each unit cell has N_orb orbitals.
8          Total Hilbert space dimension: N_orb      L_x      L_y
9      """
10     # Get unit cell Hamiltonian dimension
11     H_test = H_bulk(np.array([0, 0]))
12     N_orb = H_test.shape[0]
13
14     dim = N_orb * L_x * L_y
15     H_finite = np.zeros((dim, dim), dtype=complex)
16
17     for ix in range(L_x):
18         for iy in range(L_y):
19             # On-site terms
20             idx = (ix * L_y + iy) * N_orb
21
22             # Intracell Hamiltonian (k=0 term)
23             H_00 = H_bulk(np.array([0, 0]))
24             H_finite[idx:idx+N_orb, idx:idx+N_orb] = H_00

```

```

23
24     # Hopping in x-direction
25     if ix < L_x - 1:
26         idx_next_x = ((ix+1) * L_y + iy) * N_orb
27
28         # Extract hopping from k-dependence
29         H_kx = H_bulk(np.array([np.pi/L_x, 0])) # Small kx
30         t_x = (H_kx - H_00) / (1j * np.pi/L_x) # Linear term
31
32         H_finite[idx:idx+N_orb, idx_next_x:idx_next_x+N_orb] =
33             t_x
34         H_finite[idx_next_x:idx_next_x+N_orb, idx:idx+N_orb] =
35             t_x.conj().T
36
37     # Hopping in y-direction
38     if iy < L_y - 1:
39         idx_next_y = (ix * L_y + (iy+1)) * N_orb
40
41         H_ky = H_bulk(np.array([0, np.pi/L_y]))
42         t_y = (H_ky - H_00) / (1j * np.pi/L_y)
43
44         H_finite[idx:idx+N_orb, idx_next_y:idx_next_y+N_orb] =
45             t_y
46         H_finite[idx_next_y:idx_next_y+N_orb, idx:idx+N_orb] =
47             t_y.conj().T
48
49     return H_finite
50
51 def find_corner_states(H_bulk: Callable, L_x: int = 20, L_y: int = 20,
52     energy_threshold: float = 0.01) ->
53     List[np.ndarray]:
54
55     """
56     Find in-gap corner states for finite system.
57     """
58     H_finite = finite_lattice_hamiltonian(H_bulk, L_x, L_y)
59
60     # Diagonalize
61     eigenvalues, eigenvectors = eigh(H_finite)
62
63     # Find states near zero energy (in gap)
64     gap_indices = np.where(np.abs(eigenvalues) < energy_threshold)[0]
65
66     corner_states = [eigenvectors[:, idx] for idx in gap_indices]
67
68     return corner_states, eigenvalues[gap_indices]
69
70 def compute_corner_charge(corner_state: np.ndarray, L_x: int, L_y: int,
71     N_orb: int) -> Fraction:
72
73     """
74     Compute charge localized at corner.
75
76     Integrate | | in corner region (e.g., 5 5 sites around corner).
77     """
78     # Reshape wavefunction to lattice
79     psi_lattice = corner_state.reshape((L_x, L_y, N_orb))

```

```

74 # Define corner region (bottom-left as example)
75 corner_size = min(5, L_x//4, L_y//4)
76
77 corner_charge = 0
78 for ix in range(corner_size):
79     for iy in range(corner_size):
80         # Sum over orbitals
81         corner_charge += np.sum(np.abs(psi_lattice[ix, iy, :])**2)
82
83 # Quantize (should be 1/2 for HOTI)
84 if abs(corner_charge - 0.5) < 0.1:
85     return Fraction(1, 2)
86 elif abs(corner_charge) < 0.1:
87     return Fraction(0, 1)
88 else:
89     return Fraction(int(round(2*corner_charge)), 2)

```

0.3.4 Phase 4: Symmetry Indicators (Months 5-6)

Compute irrep decomposition at high-symmetry points:

```

1 def compute_symmetry_indicator(H_func: Callable, space_group: int,
2                               band_indices: List[int]) -> Tuple[int,
3                               ...]:
4     """
5     Compute symmetry indicator  $z = (n_-, n_X, n_M, n_Y) \bmod 2$ .
6     For each high-symmetry point  $K$ , count occupied bands with specific
7     irreps.
8     """
9     # Get high-symmetry points for space group
10    high_sym_points = get_high_symmetry_points_2d(space_group)
11
12    indicators = []
13
14    for K_name, k_point in high_sym_points:
15        H_K = H_func(k_point)
16        evals, evecs = eigh(H_K)
17
18        # Get occupied states
19        sorted_idx = np.argsort(evals)
20        occupied_states = evecs[:, sorted_idx[band_indices]]
21
22        # Determine irrep content using character table
23        irrep_counts = decompose_into_irreps(H_K, occupied_states,
24                                              k_point, space_group)
25
26        # Specific indicator: e.g., number of A1g reps mod 2
27        n_K = irrep_counts['A1g'] % 2 # Convention depends on space
28        group
29
30        indicators.append(n_K)
31
32    return tuple(indicators)
33
34 def decompose_into_irreps(H_K: np.ndarray, states: np.ndarray,

```

```

32         k_point: np.ndarray, space_group: int) ->
33         dict:
34     """
35     Decompose occupied states into irreducible representations.
36
37     Uses character table for little group at K.
38     """
39     little_group = get_little_group(k_point, space_group)
40     character_table = get_character_table(little_group)
41
42     irrep_counts = {irrep: 0 for irrep in character_table.keys()}
43
44     # For each symmetry operation g in little group
45     for g_name, g_matrix in little_group.items():
46         # Compute character: Tr(g acting on occupied space)
47         char_occ = np.trace(g_matrix @ states @ states.conj().T @
48                             g_matrix.conj().T)
49
50         # Decompose using orthogonality of characters
51         for irrep, characters in character_table.items():
52             irrep_counts[irrep] += char_occ *
53                 np.conj(characters[g_name])
54
55     # Normalize by group order
56     group_order = len(little_group)
57     for irrep in irrep_counts:
58         irrep_counts[irrep] = int(round(irrep_counts[irrep].real /
59                                         group_order))
60
61     return irrep_counts

```

0.3.5 Phase 5: Robustness and Disorder (Months 6-7)

Test corner state protection:

```

1  def add_crystalline_disorder(H_func: Callable, disorder_type: str,
2                               strength: float) -> Callable:
3
4      """
5      Add disorder preserving crystalline symmetry.
6
7      disorder_type:
8      - 'C4_preserving': Disorder respects 4-fold rotation
9      - 'mirror_preserving': Respects mirror symmetries
10     - 'random': Breaks all symmetries (for comparison)
11     """
12     def H_disordered(k: np.ndarray) -> np.ndarray:
13         H_clean = H_func(k)
14
15         if disorder_type == 'C4_preserving':
16             # Add terms that commute with C4 operator
17             delta_H = strength * generate_c4_symmetric_perturbation()
18         elif disorder_type == 'random':
19             # Generic Hermitian perturbation
20             delta_H = strength *
21                 generate_random_hermitian(H_clean.shape[0])
22         else:

```

```

21         delta_H = np.zeros_like(H_clean)
22
23         return H_clean + delta_H
24
25     return H_disordered
26
27 def test_corner_state_robustness(H_bulk: Callable, disorder_levels:
28     List[float],
29                                     N_trials: int = 50) -> dict:
30     """
31     Test corner state survival vs disorder.
32     """
33     results = {}
34
35     for disorder in disorder_levels:
36         corner_survival = []
37
38         for trial in range(N_trials):
39             H_disorder = add_crystalline_disorder(H_bulk,
40                 'C4_preserving', disorder)
41
42             corner_states, energies = find_corner_states(H_disorder)
43
44             # Check if corner states still exist
45             survival = (len(corner_states) >= 4) # 4 corners in square
46             corner_survival.append(survival)
47
48         results[disorder] = {
49             'survival_probability': np.mean(corner_survival),
50             'mean_corner_count': np.mean([len(find_corner_states(
51                 add_crystalline_disorder(H_bulk, 'C4_preserving',
52                 disorder))[0])
53                 for _ in range(N_trials)])]
54         }
55
56     return results

```

0.3.6 Phase 6: Classification and Database (Months 7-8)

Enumerate all HOTIs for wallpaper groups:

```

1 def classify_hotis_2d(wallpaper_group: int, max_orbitals: int = 4) ->
2     List:
3     """
4     Enumerate all possible 2nd-order TIs for given 2D space group.
5
6     Uses symmetry indicator theory + K-theory classification.
7     """
8     hotis = []
9
10    # Get symmetry constraints
11    point_group = get_point_group_from_space_group(wallpaper_group)
12    allowed_indicators = compute_allowed_indicators(point_group)
13
14    # Generate models for each allowed indicator
15    for indicator in allowed_indicators:

```

```

15     # Construct minimal tight-binding model realizing this indicator
16     model = construct_from_indicator(indicator, wallpaper_group,
17                                     max_orbitals)
18
19     if model is not None:
20         cert = generate_hoti_certificate(model)
21
22         if cert.quadrupole_moment != Fraction(0, 1):
23             hotis.append({
24                 'space_group': wallpaper_group,
25                 'indicator': indicator,
26                 'quadrupole': cert.quadrupole_moment,
27                 'corner_states': cert.corner_charges,
28                 'model': model
29             })
30
31     return hotis
32
33 def generate_hoti_database() -> dict:
34     """
35     Generate complete database of HOTIs for all 2D wallpaper groups.
36     """
37     database = {'models': []}
38
39     # 17 wallpaper groups
40     for sg in range(1, 18):
41         print(f"Classifying space group {sg}...")
42
43         hotis = classify_hotis_2d(sg, max_orbitals=4)
44
45         for hoti in hotis:
46             cert = generate_hoti_certificate(hoti['model'])
47
48             database['models'].append({
49                 'space_group': sg,
50                 'quadrupole_moment': str(cert.quadrupole_moment),
51                 'symmetry_indicator': cert.symmetry_indicator,
52                 'corner_charge': str(cert.corner_charges[0]), # First
53                             corner
54                 'certificate_path': export_hoti_certificate(cert)
55             })
56
57     return database

```

0.4 4. Example Starting Prompt

```

1 You are a condensed matter theorist specializing in higher-order
2 topological phases. Design
3 tight-binding models with corner/hinge states using ONLY crystalline
4 symmetry no simulations.
5
6 OBJECTIVE: Construct BBH quadrupole insulator, compute  $q_{xy} = 1/2$ ,
7 verify corner charges  $e/2$ .

```

```

5
6 PHASE 1 (Months 1-2): BBH model implementation
7 - Code 4-band Hamiltonian on square lattice with C4 symmetry
8 - Verify C4 transformation:  $H(C4 \cdot k) = U_{C4} H(k) U_{C4}^\dagger$ 
9 - Compute bulk band structure, identify gap
10 - Test phase transition at  $\gamma = \lambda$ 
11
12 PHASE 2 (Months 2-4): Nested Wilson loops
13 - Implement  $W_x(k_y) = \exp(i \sum_x A_x dk_x)$ 
14 - Compute eigenphases  $\theta_i(k_y)$ 
15 - Second Wilson loop in y-direction
16 - Extract quantized polarizations  $p_x, p_y \in \{0, 1/2\}$ 
17
18 PHASE 3 (Months 4-5): Quadrupole and corners
19 - Compute  $q_{xy} = (p_x p_y - p_x - p_y)/2$ 
20 - Verify  $q_{xy} \in \{0, 1/2\}$  using exact arithmetic
21 - Solve finite  $20 \times 20$  lattice for corner states
22 - Measure corner charges:  $Q_c = e/2$ 
23
24 PHASE 4 (Months 5-6): Symmetry indicators
25 - Compute irrep decomposition at  $(\Gamma, X, M, Y)$ 
26 - Extract indicator  $z = (n_\Gamma, n_X, n_M, n_Y) \bmod 2$ 
27 - Verify formula:  $z = 0 \iff \text{HOTI}$ 
28
29 PHASE 5 (Months 6-7): Disorder robustness
30 - Add C4-preserving disorder:  $H$  with  $[U_{C4}, H] = 0$ 
31 - Test corner state survival at  $\gamma = 5\%, 10\%, 20\%$ 
32 - Compare to symmetry-breaking disorder
33
34 PHASE 6 (Months 7-8): Classification
35 - Enumerate HOTIs for  $p4$  (square),  $p6$  (hexagonal) groups
36 - Generate database with certificates
37 - Export minimal models for each topological class
38
39 SUCCESS CRITERIA:
40 - MVR: BBH model with verified  $q_{xy} = 1/2$ 
41 - Strong: Corner states computed, symmetry indicators working
42 - Publication: Complete 2D classification + database
43
44 VERIFICATION:
45 - Quadrupole moment exact:  $q_{xy} = 1/2$  (rational arithmetic)
46 - Corner charges quantized:  $Q_c = e/2$  within 1%
47 - 4 corner states for 4 corners (square geometry)
48 - Disorder threshold:  $\gamma_c > 15\%$  (C4-preserving)
49
50 Pure symmetry + linear algebra. No DFT, no experiments.
51 All results certificate-based with exact multipole moments.

```

0.5 5. Success Criteria

0.5.1 MVR (2-3 months)

- BBH model with $q_{xy} = 1/2$ verified

- Nested Wilson loops working

0.5.2 Strong (5-6 months)

- Corner states computed and visualized
- Symmetry indicators for 5 wallpaper groups
- Disorder robustness tested

0.5.3 Publication (7-8 months)

- Complete 2D HOTI classification
 - 3D hinge insulator examples
 - Database with certificates
-

0.6 6. Verification Protocol

Automated checks: multipole quantization, corner charge measurement, symmetry operator verification, disorder statistics.

0.7 7. Resources Milestones

References:

- Benalcazar, Bernevig, Hughes (2017): "Quantized Electric Multipole Insulators"
- Schindler et al. (2018): "Higher-Order Topological Insulators"
- Khalaf et al. (2018): "Symmetry Indicators and Anomalous Surface States"

Milestones:

- Month 2: BBH validated
 - Month 4: Nested Wilson loops extracting q_{xy}
 - Month 6: Symmetry indicators working
 - Month 8: Complete database
-

0.8 8. Extensions

- **3D Octupole Insulators**
 - **Interacting HOTIs:** Fractional corner charges
 - **Non-Hermitian HOTIs:** Exceptional points at corners
-

End of PRD 13