

# Homotopy Theory of Quantum systems

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# Motivation:

Model independent

Gapped Invertible  
Phases of Matter

equivalences  
classes of

Model dependent

Gapped invertible  
Quantum Systems

## Kitaev's Conjectures:

A. Phases are governed  
by ground state

B. Classifying Spaces

$G_0, G_1, G_2, \dots$

$\pi_0 G_d =$  Phases in space  
dim  $d$

$$G_d \simeq \Omega G_{d+1}$$

Get  $G$  a loop-spectrum!

203 talk @ Simons Center

205 talk @ IPAM

E.g. Quantum systems: QFT's

Gapped Invertible  
Phases of Matter

Deformation  
classes of

Reflection positive invertible  
extended field theories

Theorem (Freed-Hopkins, Grady)

For bosonic phases, no internal symmetries

$$G = \sum^2 I_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{MSO}$$

$$\text{so } G_0 = K(\mathbb{Z}, 2) \quad G_1 = K(\mathbb{Z}, 3) \quad G_2 = \mathbb{Z} \times K(\mathbb{Z}, 4) \quad \dots$$

This talk is not about QFT's ...

... but about lattice models

# Motivation:

Model independent

Gapped Invertible  
Phases of Matter

equivalences  
classes of

Model dependent

Gapped invertible  
Quantum Systems (q.s.)

## Kitaev's Conjectures:

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Get  $G_d$  a loop-spectrum!

2023 talk @ Simons Center  
2025 talk @ IPAM

## This talk:

I. Quantum systems as  
spaces of states on a lattice model  
... topological monoid

II Passage from quantum systems  
Phases as group completion

... output  $\infty$ -loop space  $\mathbb{Q}_d^\infty$

III (time permitting) Parametrized q.s.

Hope:  $G_d \simeq \mathbb{Q}_d^\infty$  for appropriate

Not in this talk:

- specific choices  $\mathbb{Q}_d^\infty$
- connection  $\mathbb{Q}_d^\infty \simeq \Omega \mathbb{Q}_{d+1}^\infty$

# I. Quantum Systems as Spaces of States

Hilb : obj finite dimensional non-zero  $\mathbb{C}$ -Hilbert spaces

mor linear isometries

monoidal product :  $\otimes$

Picture ( $d=1$ )



$d \geq 0$  Spatial dimension.

$\mathbb{Z}^d \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  : location of particles (sites)  
"lattice"

$\mathcal{H} \in \text{Hilb}$  Let  $B(\mathcal{H})$  linear operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ : observables localized at single site.

$\mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H}) = \overline{\bigotimes_{u \in \mathbb{Z}^d} B(\mathcal{H})}$  :  $(C^*)$ -algebra of observables.

States:

$$\mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H})^* = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H}), \mathbb{C}) \supset \mathcal{S}_d(\mathcal{H}) \supset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H})$$

linear dual with  
weak\* topology  
min. top. s.t. expectation  
values  $A \mapsto \omega(A)$   
are continuous

States  
• positive  $\omega(A^*A) \geq 0$   
• norm one  $\omega(I) = 1$

Pure states  
extremal points

Energy / time Evolution :

Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ finite}} H_{\Lambda}$$

self-adjoints on  $\otimes B(\mathcal{H})$

Locality

Time evolution

$$A \mapsto \alpha_t(A) = e^{itH} A e^{-itH}$$



invertible  
+  
gapped

}

unique ground state  $\omega$   
 $\omega \circ \alpha_t = \omega$  + minimizes energy  
 $\sigma(H) \subset \{E_{\min}\} \cup [E_{\min} + \Delta, \infty)$   $\Delta > 0$

# Kitaev's Conjectures:

(see Xiong arxiv: 1906.02892)

A. Phases are governed by ground state

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Gapped invertible} \\ \text{"H"} \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow[\substack{\simeq \\ \text{weak equivalence}}]{H \mapsto \omega} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ground states} \\ \text{of such "H"} \end{array} \right\} = \mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H})$$

Examples "bosonic, no symmetry":

$d=0$   $\mathcal{Q}_0(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$   $\mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{H}) \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H})$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{self-adjoint } H \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) \\ E_{\min} \text{ multiplicity } 1 \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow[\simeq]{} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Eigenspace} \\ E_{\min} \end{array} \right\} = \mathcal{Q}_0(\mathcal{H}) = \mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{H})$$

UPSHOT  $\mathcal{Q}_0(\mathcal{H}) := \mathcal{P}_0(\mathcal{H})$

Warning:

Theorem (Pflaum-Spiegel '23 arxiv:2402.03605)

If  $d > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{H})$  is weakly contractible.

$\mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{H})$  too big! Contains many "non-physical" states.

$$d > 0 \quad \mathcal{Q}_d(\mathbb{H}) \subsetneq \mathcal{P}_d(\mathbb{H})$$



# Kitaev's Conjectures:

A. Phases are governed by ground state

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Gapped invertible} \\ \text{"H"} \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow[\text{weak equivalence}]{H \mapsto w} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Ground states} \\ \text{of such "H"} \end{array} \right\} = \mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H})$$

Examples "bosonic, no symmetry":

$d=1$

$B(\mathcal{H}) \ B(\mathcal{H}) \ B(\mathcal{H}) \ \dots$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Gapped invertible} \\ \text{"H"} \end{array} \right\}$

MPS<sup>inj</sup>( $\mathcal{H}$ )

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Injective Matrix} \\ \text{Product States} \\ \text{with physical} \\ \text{on-site Hilbert} \\ \text{space } \mathcal{H}. \end{array} \right\} = \mathcal{Q}_1(\mathcal{H}) \subsetneq \mathcal{P}_1(\mathcal{H})$

Hastings: arxiv:cond-mat/0701055, 0705.2024

Verstraete-Cirac: arxiv:cond-mat/0505140



# Properties of States:

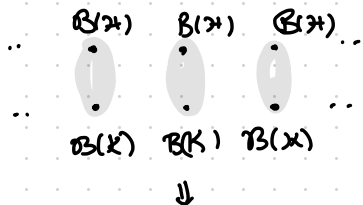
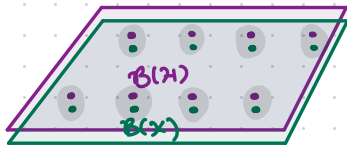
Functionality:  $f: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}$  a lin. isometry

$$\mathcal{P}_d(f): \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H}) \xrightarrow{\substack{\subset \\ \text{closed embedding}}} \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{K})$$

$$\omega \longmapsto \omega \circ \text{Ad}(\otimes f^*)$$

for  $\text{Ad}(f^*)(A) = f^* A f$

Stacking:



$$\mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H}) \times \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{K}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{K})$$

$$(\omega_{\mathcal{H}}, \omega_{\mathcal{K}}) \longmapsto \omega_{\mathcal{H}} \otimes \omega_{\mathcal{K}}$$

Theorem (BHMPQS; arxiv: 2303.07431)

$\mathcal{P}_d: \text{Hilb}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \text{Top}^{\times}$  is a topologically enriched lax monoidal functor.

Remark: Quantum systems also should form this structure.

Definition. A **quantum state type**  $Q_d$  is a sub(lax monoidal) functor of  $\mathcal{P}_d$

s.t.  $\cdot Q_d(f)$  are closed embeddings

$\cdot Q_d(\mathcal{H}) \subset \mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H})$  contains the **trivial states**.

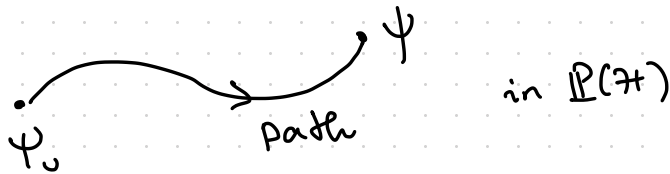
$Q_d$  is **invertible** if for each  $w \in Q_d(\mathcal{H})$ , there is  $w' \in Q_d(\mathcal{H}')$  s.t.  $w \otimes w' \in Q_d(\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}')$  is in the component of the **trivial states**.

Triviality :  $\Psi_0 \in \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H})$ ,  $\forall \psi \in \mathbb{L}^d$

$$\mathcal{P}_d(\mathcal{H}) \ni \bigotimes_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \Psi_j : \bigotimes_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} A_j \mapsto \prod_j \langle \Psi_j, A_j \Psi_j \rangle$$

"Trivial State"

If  $\Psi \in \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H})$  is the vacuum,



$\therefore$  trivial states can be deformed to vacuum

$$\Psi = \bigotimes_{j \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \Psi_j \in \mathcal{Q}_d(\mathcal{H})$$

Note: all states for  $d=0$  are Trivial.

## II From Quantum Systems to Phases

A phase is an equivalence class of states  $\omega$  where  $\omega \equiv \omega'$  is generated by:

1) Deformation:  $\omega \equiv \omega'$  if there is a path in  $Q_d(\mathcal{H})$   $\omega \rightarrow \omega'$

2) Stabilization:  $\omega \equiv \omega'$  if there are trivial states  $t, t'$  s.t.  $\omega \otimes t = \omega' \otimes t'$ .

think reduced K-theory

Group completion... Fix  $\mathcal{H} \in \text{Hilb}$ ,  $\dim \mathcal{H} \geq 2$

$$Q_d^{\otimes} = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} Q_d(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n})$$

Space of quantum systems. (top. monoid)

$$Q_d^{\infty} = \text{colim}_{\otimes \psi} Q_d(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n})$$

classifying space for phases

$$Q_d: \text{Hilb}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \text{Top}^*$$

equivalence relation implemented by

1) Taking  $\pi_0$

2) the colimit.

$$Q_d: \text{Vect}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \text{Top}$$

May's Recognition Principle: If  $Q_d$  is an invertible quantum state type  $Q_d^\infty$  is a grouplike  $E_\infty$ -space. So  $Q_d^\infty$  is an infinite loop space

$$\Omega B Q_d^\infty \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times Q_d^\infty .$$

Examples "bosonic, no symmetry":

Kitaev's spectrum  $G = (G_0, G_1, \dots)$

$d=0$

$$G_0 = Q_0^\infty = \operatorname{colim}_{\otimes \mathbb{Y}} \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n}) \simeq \mathbb{C}P^\infty \simeq K(\mathbb{Z}, 2).$$

$d=1$

Re-Theorem (Beaudry · Kerlek · Pflaum · Qi · Spiegel · Stephen)  
to appear

$$G_1 = Q_1^\infty \simeq \operatorname{colim}_{\otimes \mathbb{Y}} \operatorname{MPS}^{mj}(\mathcal{H}^{\otimes n}) \simeq K(\mathbb{Z}, 3) \cup_n'' BPU(n)$$

### III Parametrized systems.

Parameter space :  $X$  a finite CW complex.

Definition: A parametrized q.s. is

$$Q_d^{\otimes} = \bigsqcup_n Q_d(\mathbb{R}^{\otimes n})$$

$$w \in \text{Map}(X, Q_d^{\otimes}) =: Q^d(X)$$

We say  $w$  is trivial if it is constant at a trivial state.

Parametrized Phases :  $w \equiv w'$

1)  $w \simeq w'$

2)  $\exists t, t'$  trivial st.  $w \otimes t = w' \otimes t'$ .

Phases parametrized by  $X$  :

$$PQ^d(X) = [X, Q_d^{\infty}] \cong K_0(\pi_0 Q^d(X)) \times [X, \mathbb{Z}]$$



## Example

$d=0$

$$G^0(X) = PQ^0(X) = \text{Line}_c(X)$$

corresponding to ground  
state line bundle...

for Kitaev's cohomology theory  $G$

$$G_0 = \mathbb{K}(\mathbb{Z}_2)$$

"Berry phase"

canonical example ...

$$X = S^2 \rightarrow M_2(\mathbb{C})$$

$$\vec{x} \mapsto \vec{x} \cdot \vec{\sigma} = x_1 \sigma^1 + x_2 \sigma^2 + x_3 \sigma^3$$

H

Phase invariant:  $c_1 \neq 0 \in H^2(S^2; \mathbb{Z})$

# Example

$d=1$

$$Q'(X) = PQ'(X) = \text{Gerbes}_\mathbb{C}(X) = H^3(X; \mathbb{Z})$$

Canonical example  $X = S^3$

$$(\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4) \mapsto \sum_{P \in \mathbb{Z}L} (-1)^P (\omega_1 \sigma_P^1 + \omega_2 \sigma_P^2 + \omega_3 \sigma_P^3)$$

$$+ \phi^+(\omega) \sum_{P \in 2\mathbb{Z}+1} \sigma_P^1 \sigma_{P+1}^1 + \sigma_P^2 \sigma_{P+1}^2 + \sigma_P^3 \sigma_{P+1}^3$$

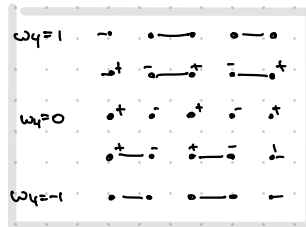
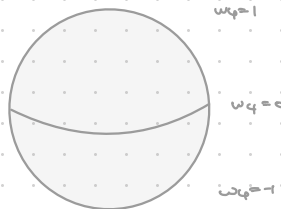
$$+ \phi^-(\omega) \sum_{P \in 2\mathbb{Z}} \sigma_P^1 \sigma_{P+1}^1 + \sigma_P^2 \sigma_{P+1}^2 + \sigma_P^3 \sigma_{P+1}^3$$

arXiv: 2112.07748

arXiv: 2305.07700

$$\phi^+(\omega) = \begin{cases} \omega_4 & 0 \leq \omega_4 \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$

$$\phi^-(\omega) = \begin{cases} -\omega_4 & -1 \leq \omega_4 \leq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$



Other work

Kapustin, Spodyneiko : arxiv: 2001.03454

Ohyama, Terashima, Shiozaki - arxiv: 2303.04252

Ohyama, Shinsei Ryu arxiv: 2405.05327.

Shiozaki, Heinsdorf, Ohyama : arxiv: 2305.08109

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Thank you.

