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S F

Nonsemisimple Topological Quantum Computation

Topological Quantum Field Theory Club

AARON LAUDA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & PHYSICS

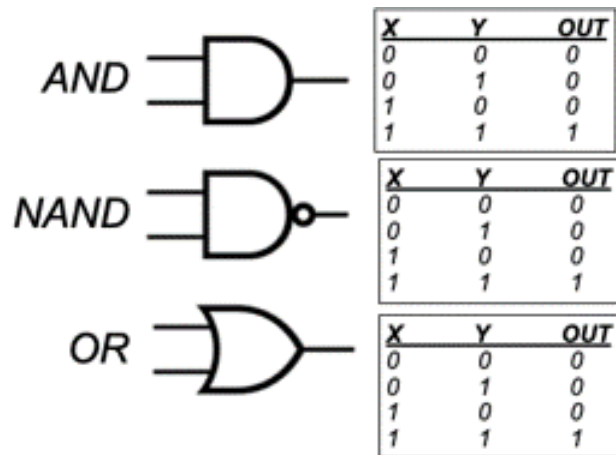
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 13th, 2025

Classical versus Quantum Computation

Classical Computation

- ▶ Classical bits 0, 1
- ▶ Computes functions
 $f : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$
- ▶ Basic Logic Gates

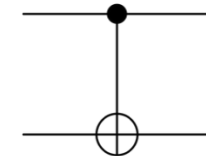
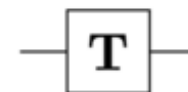
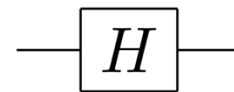


- ▶ Universal computation with AND, OR, NOT

Quantum Computation

- ▶ Basis vectors $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$ of a 2-dimensional Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$
- ▶ Computation performed by unitary transformation $U^\dagger = U^{-1}$
 $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$
- ▶ Basic logic: a choice of certain matrices that can be physically implemented

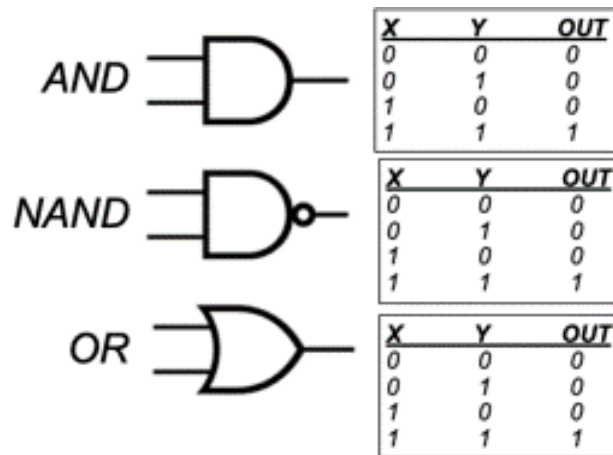
$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\frac{\pi}{4}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{CNOT} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Classical versus Quantum Computation

Classical Computation

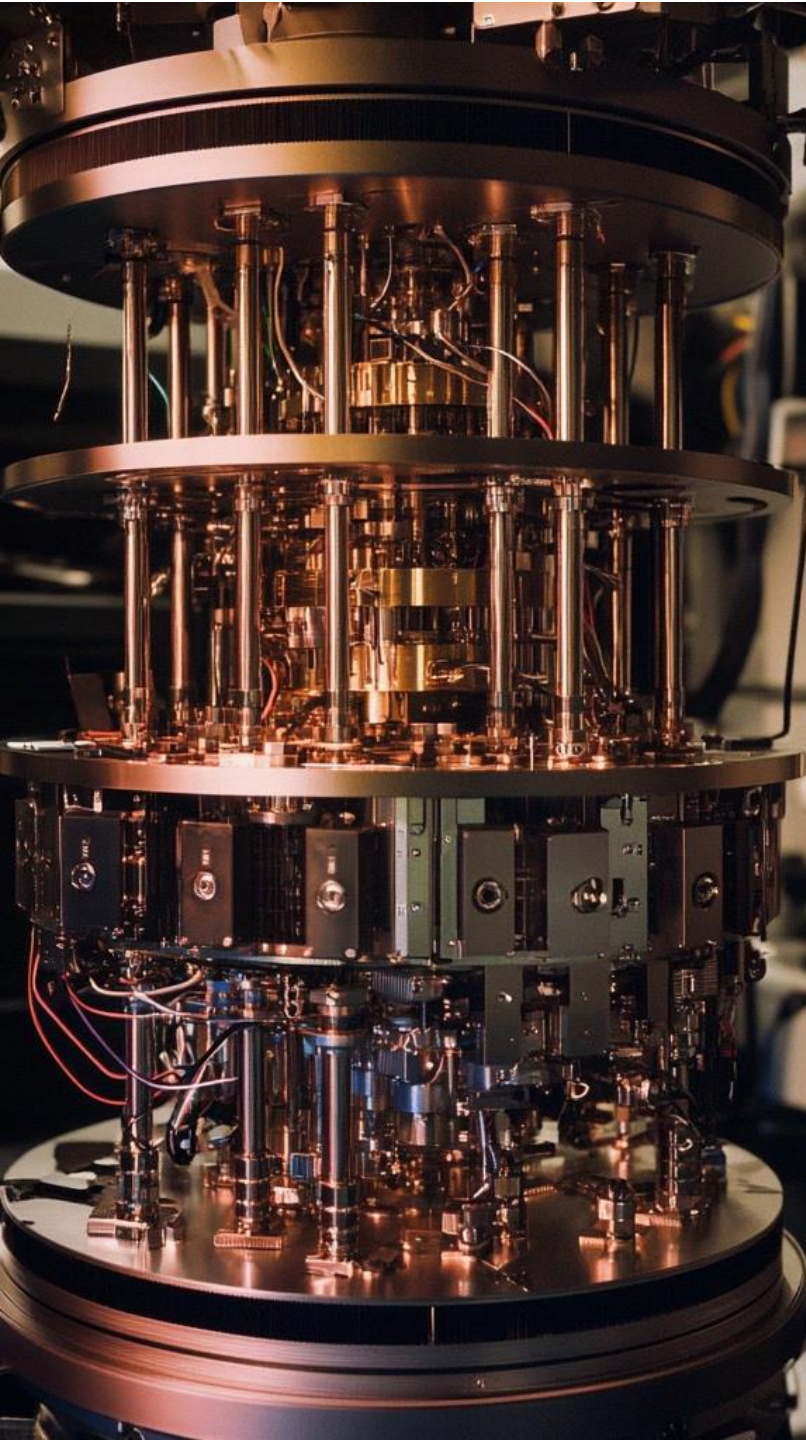
- ▶ Classical bits 0, 1
- ▶ Computes functions
$$f : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$
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- ▶ Universal computation with AND, OR, NOT

Quantum Computation

- ▶ Basis vectors $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$ of a 2-dimensional Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$
- ▶ Computation performed by unitary transformation $U^\dagger = U^{-1}$
$$U: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$$
- ▶ Basic logic: a choice of certain matrices that can be physically implemented
- ▶ Universal quantum computer if we can approximate any U to arbitrary accuracy using basic gates

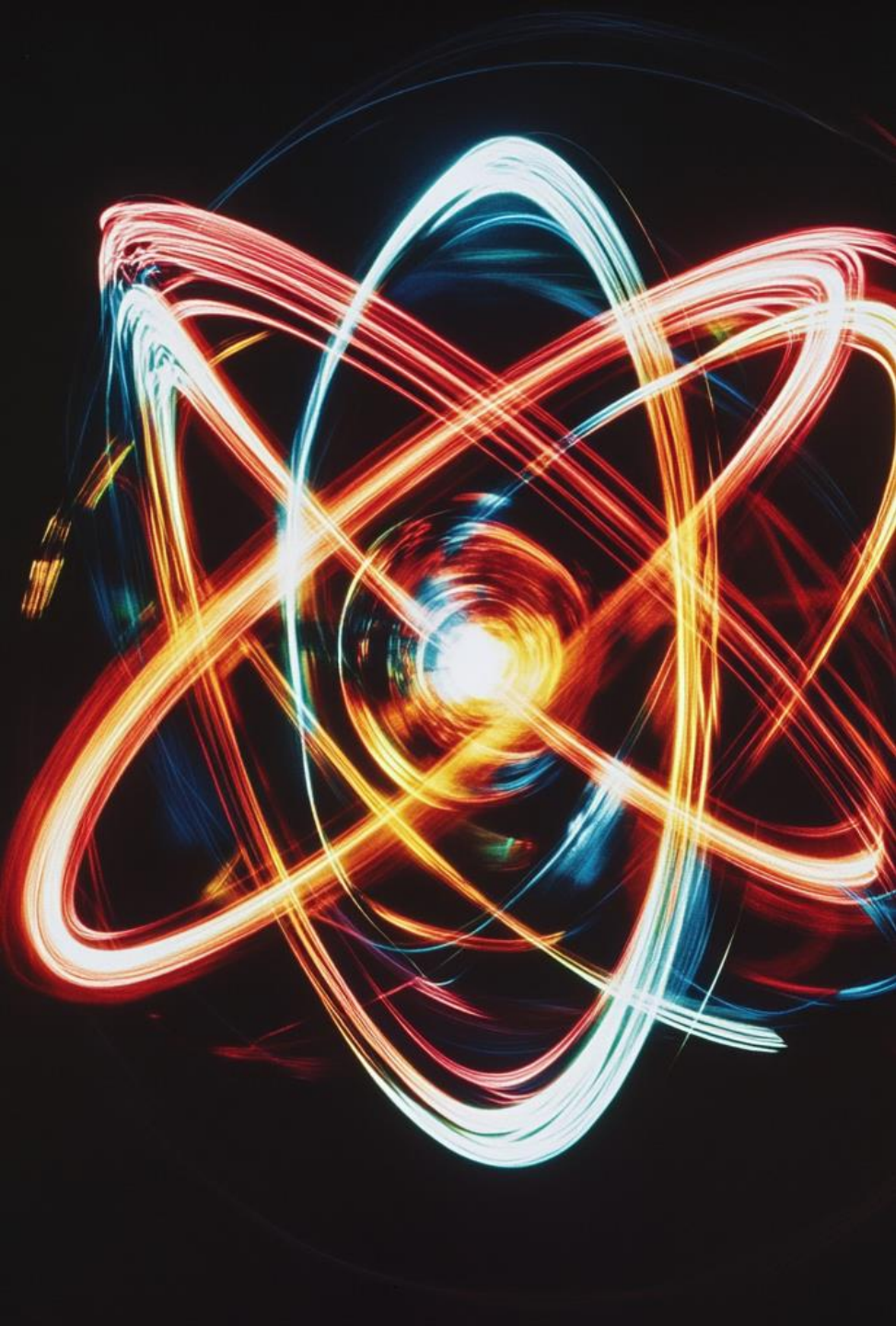


Advantages of quantum computation

- ▶ Unlike classical bits that are either 0 or 1, **qubits** exist in a superposition of both 0 and 1 simultaneously

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle, \quad \text{where } |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$

- ▶ **Superposition** allows a quantum computer to process multiple possible outcomes of a computation at once. This exponentially increases the power of quantum computers for certain tasks compared to classical systems.
- ▶ Shor's algorithm for factoring large numbers and Grover's search algorithm demonstrate the potential power of quantum computers



Challenges in Quantum Computing

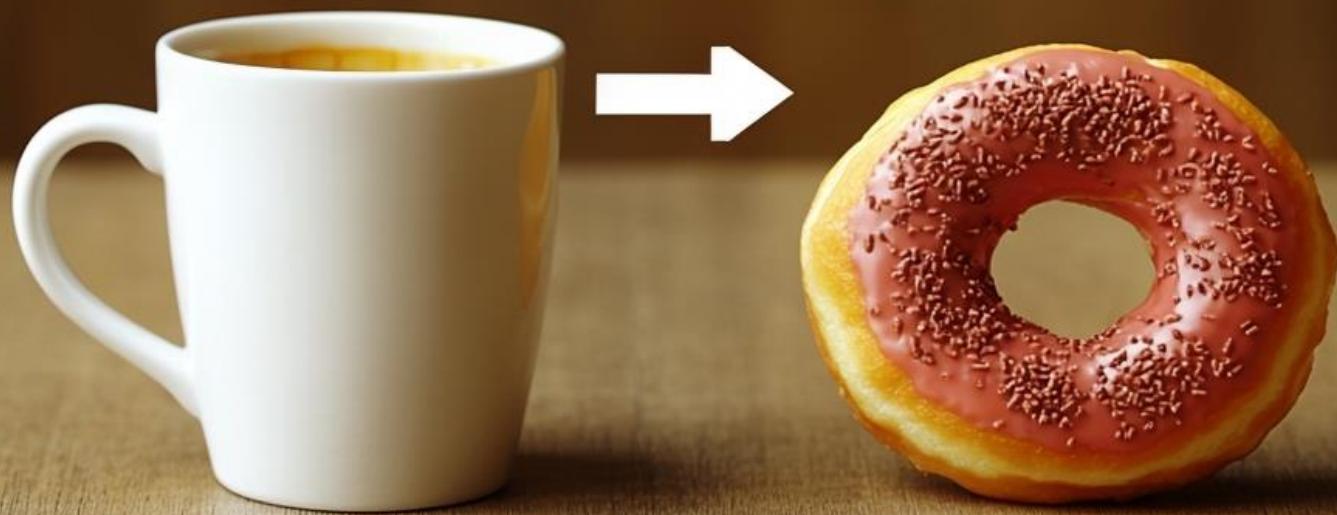
Quantum Decoherence

One of the main challenges in quantum computing is **decoherence**, where the quantum system interacts with its environment, causing the delicate quantum states (superposition and entanglement) to collapse into classical states. This leads to errors in computation.

Use topology to get fault-tolerant quantum computation



Alexei Kitaev

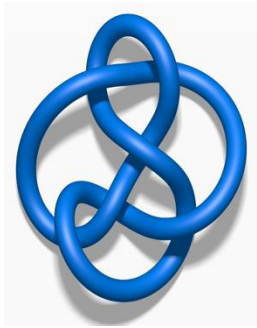


Topology in Quantum Computation

LEVERAGE TOPOLOGY TO
OVERCOME DECOHERENCE

Quantum Algorithms for the Jones Polynomial

Computing Jones
polynomials



$$-q^3 + 2q^2 - 2q + 3 - 2q^{-1} + 2q^{-2} - q^{-3}$$

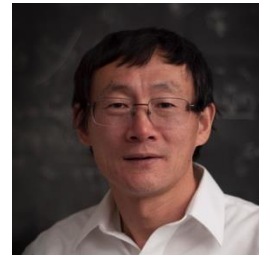
Approximating the Jones polynomial at certain roots of unity is as hard as the hardest problem that can be efficiently solved by a quantum computer



Mike Freedman



Michael Larsen



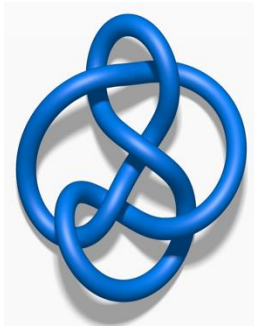
Zhenghan Wang

Quantum Algorithms for the Jones Polynomial

Computing Jones
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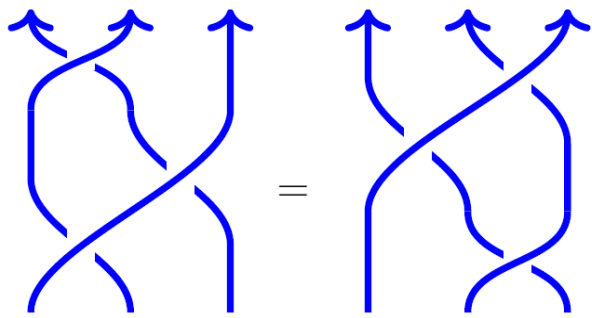


Prime Factorization



$$-q^3 + 2q^2 - 2q + 3 - 2q^{-1} + 2q^{-2} - q^{-3}$$

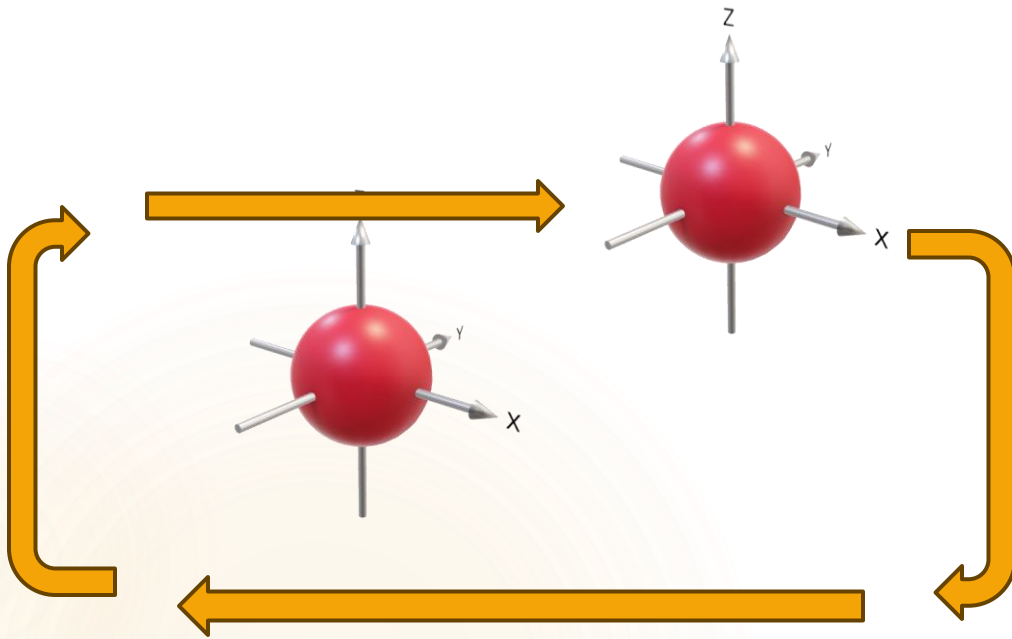
$$1389864140741 \\ = 1178803 \times 1179047$$



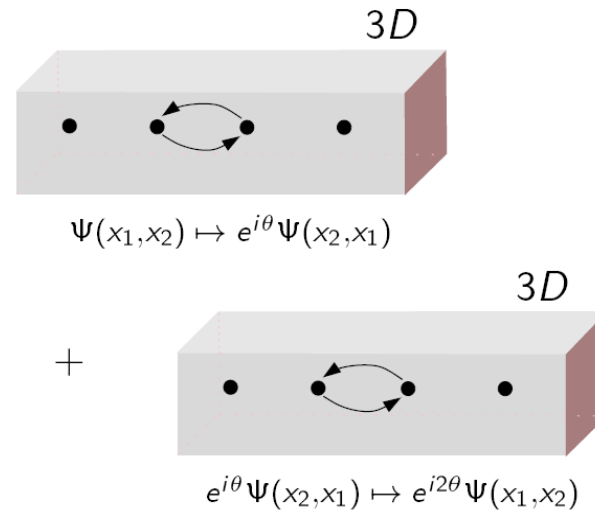
Braiding in physical systems

ANYONS IN TWO-DIMENSIONAL SYSTEMS

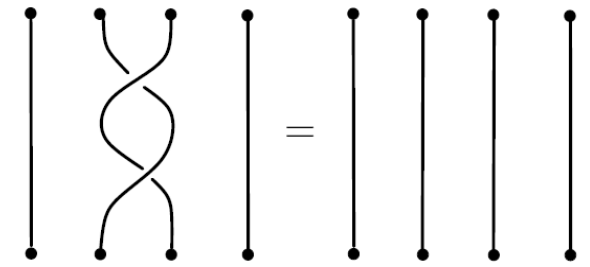
Particles in 3D



Path deforms continuously
to constant path



Trajectory = 4D



$$e^{2i\theta} \Psi(x_1, x_2) = \Psi(x_1, x_2) \\ \Rightarrow \theta = 0, \pi$$

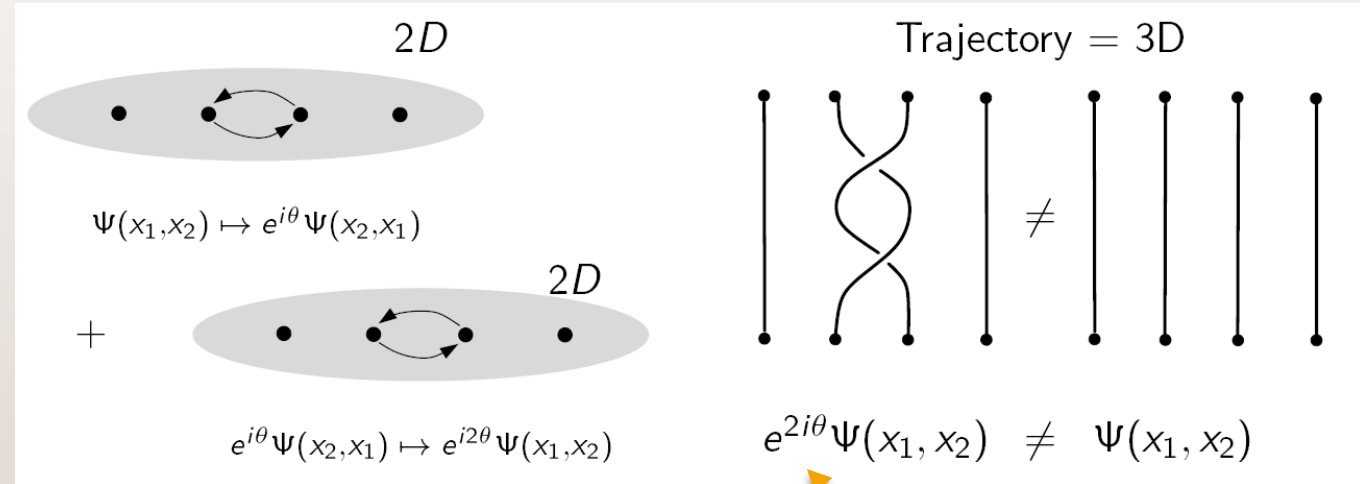
Implies two types of point particle statistics in 3D

$$\theta = 0, \Psi(x_1, x_2) = \Psi(x_2, x_1) \rightarrow \text{Bosons}$$

$$\theta = \pi, \Psi(x_1, x_2) = -\Psi(x_2, x_1) \rightarrow \text{Fermions}$$

Particles in 2D

No longer
deforms to
constant
path



Can be a nontrivial
phase!

Implies statistics can change by an arbitrary phase

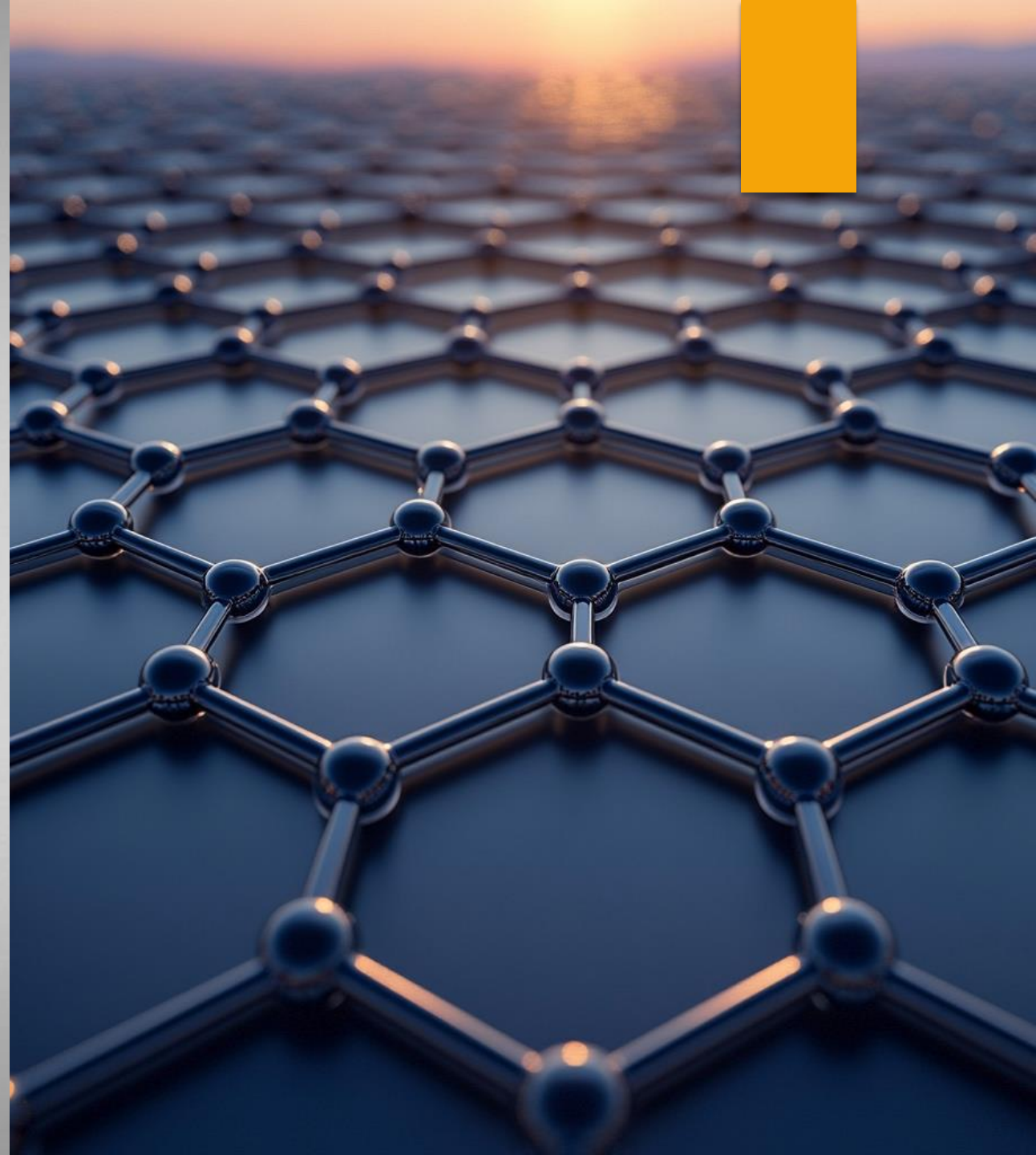
$\Psi(x_1, x_2) = e^{i\theta} \Psi(x_2, x_1) \rightarrow$ Anyons (abelian)

Or more generally

$\Psi(x_1, x_2) = U \Psi(x_2, x_1) \rightarrow$ non abelian Anyons

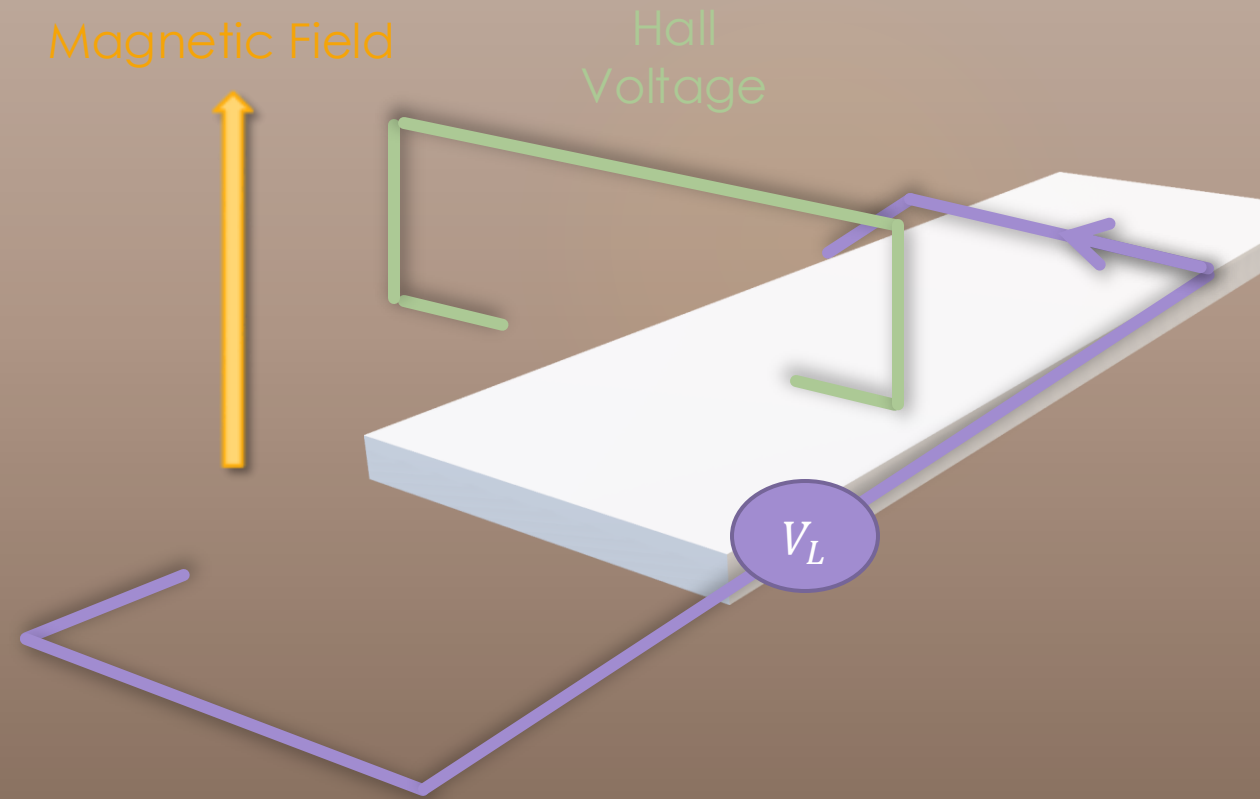
Need physical
system where
braiding relates
to the Jones
polynomials

CHERN SIMONS THEORY IN MANY
BODY PHYSICS

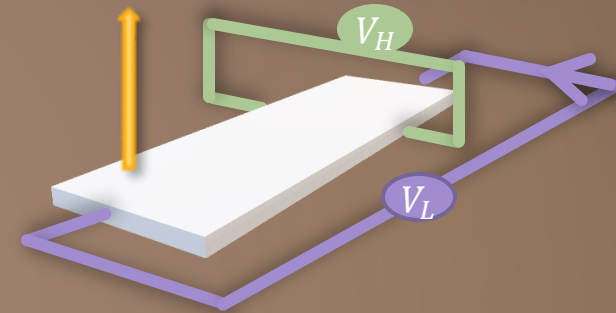
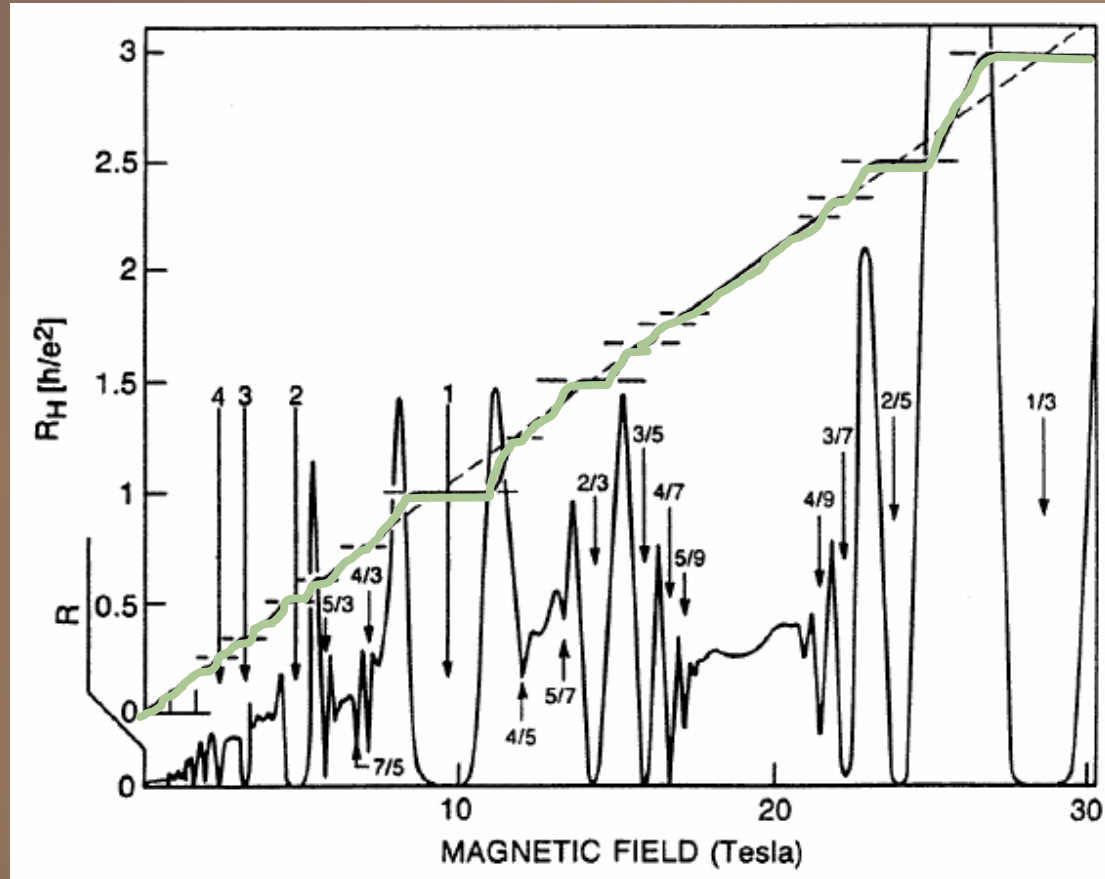


Quantum Hall Effect

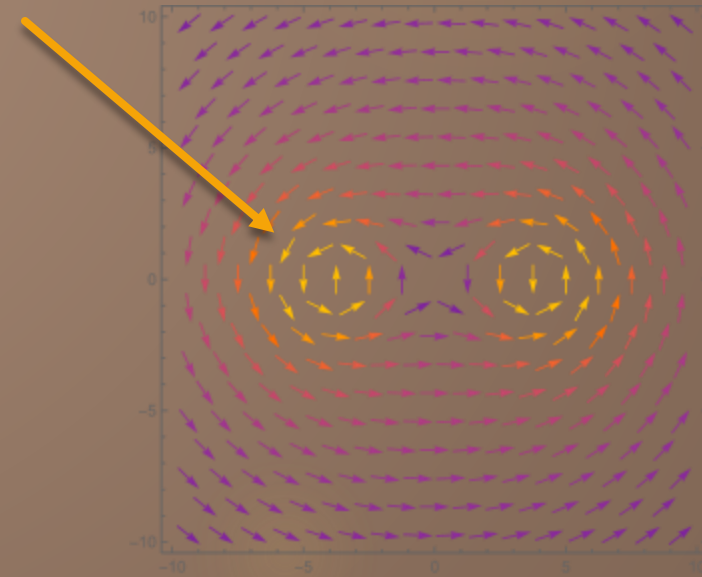
- ▶ 2-dimensional electron system
- ▶ Low temperature
- ▶ High Magnetic Field
- ▶ High purity/low disorder
- ▶ Depends on a parameter called the filling fraction ν



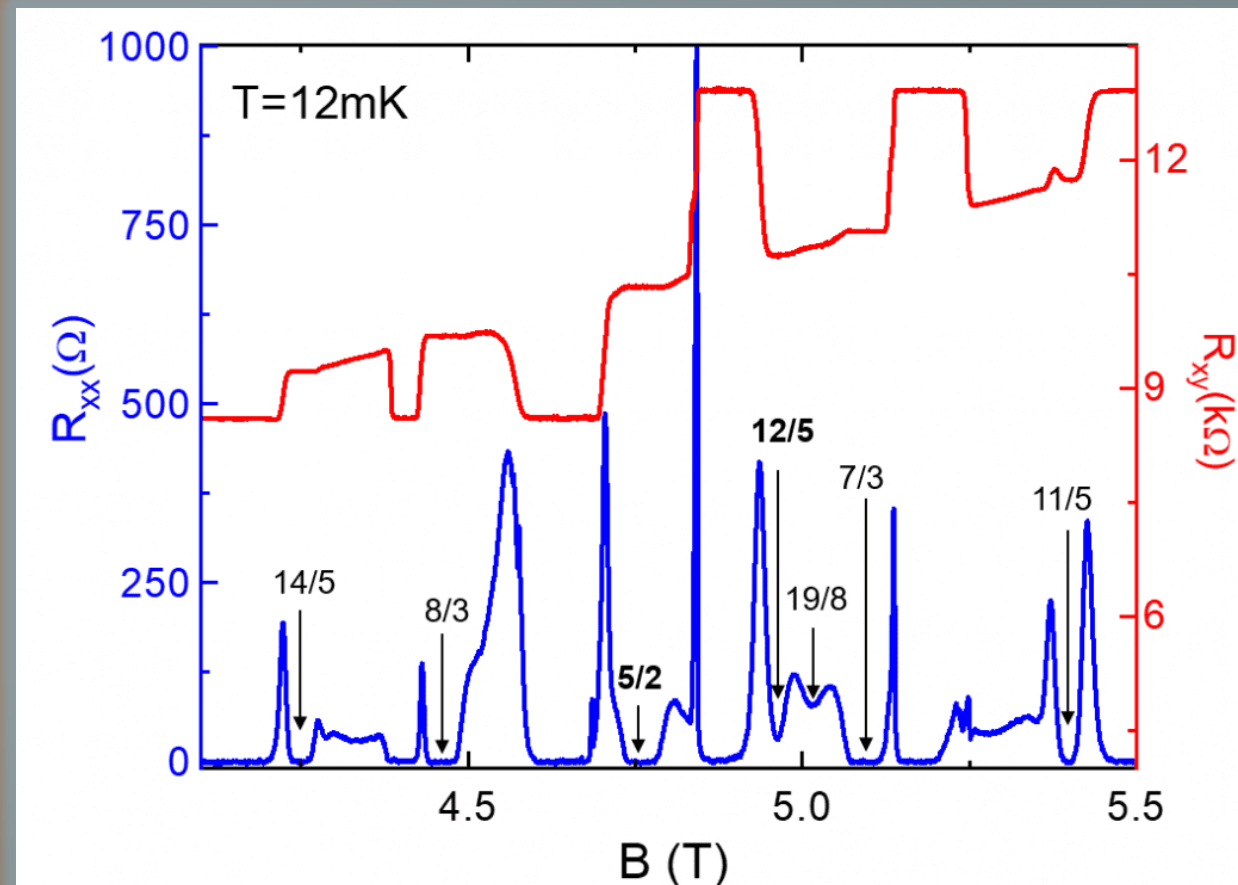
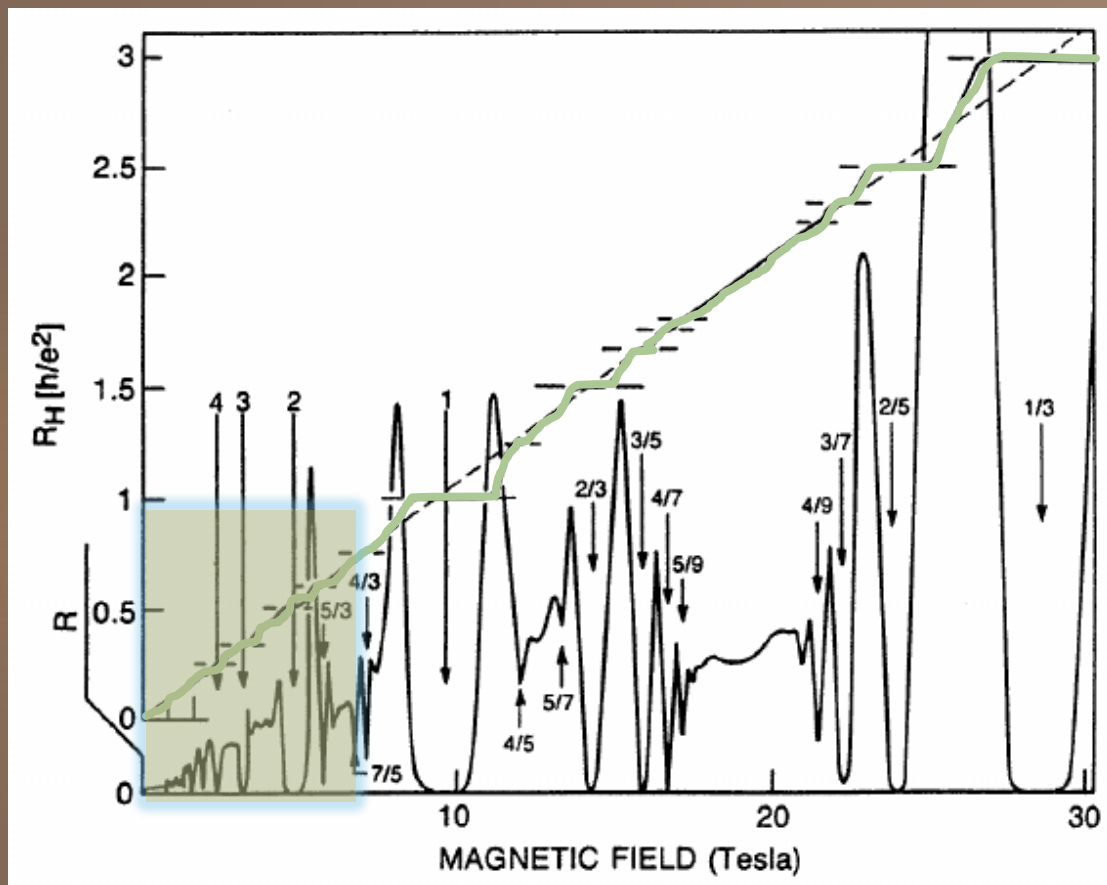
Quantum Hall Effect



Vortices = anyons



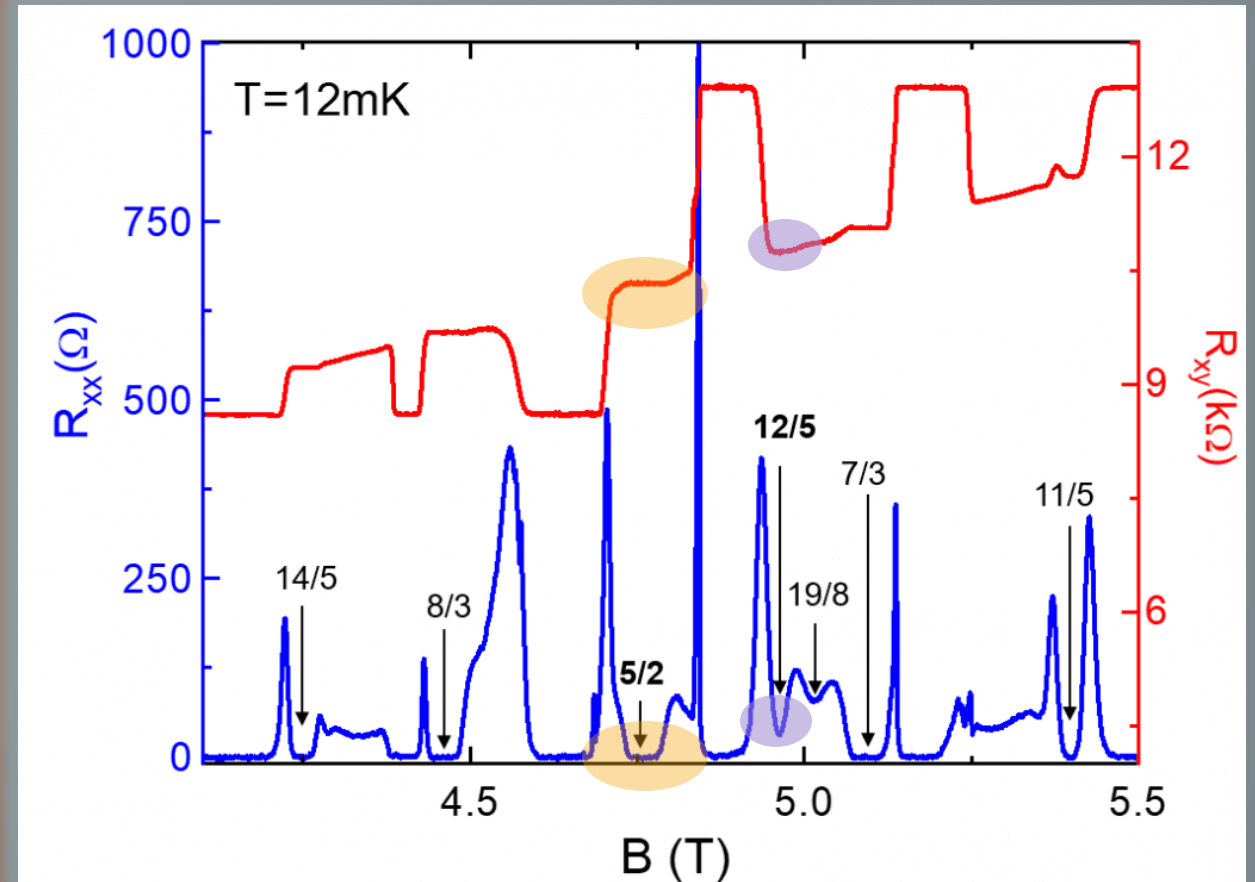
Quantum Hall Effect

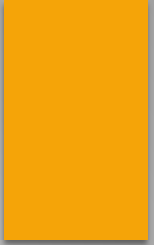


Quantum Hall Effect

Topological phases at different filling fractions described by different values of quantum parameter in the Jones polynomial

- ▶ $\nu = \frac{5}{2}$ corresponds to $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{8}}$
 - ▶ Anyons called *Ising anyons*
- ▶ $\nu = \frac{12}{5}$ corresponds to $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{10}}$
 - ▶ Anyons called *Fibonacci anyons*





Mathematical description of TQFTs

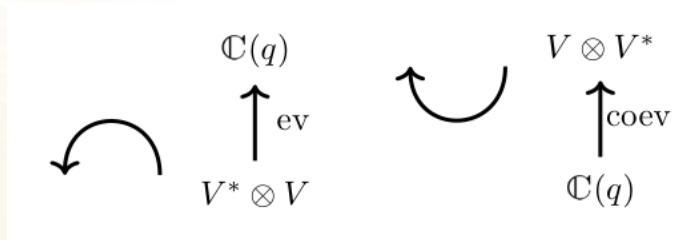
MODULAR TENSOR CATEGORIES

Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev TQFTs

3D TQFTs



Modular Tensor
Category



- ▶ Finite # of simple objects $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n$
- ▶ Tensor products $X_i \otimes X_j = \bigoplus_k X_k$
- ▶ Duals X_i^*

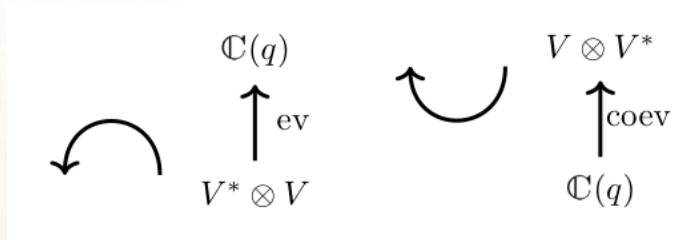
Semisimple
Fusion Rules

Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev TQFTs

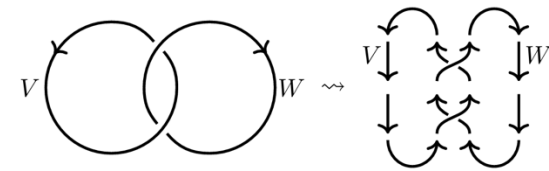
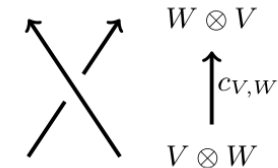
3D TQFTs



Modular Tensor Category



- ▶ Finite # of simple objects $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_n$
- ▶ Tensor products $X_i \otimes X_j = \bigoplus_k X_k$
- ▶ Duals X_i^*
- ▶ Braiding
- ▶ Nondegeneracy



Gives invariants of knots colored by simple objects

Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev TQFTs

3D TQFTs



**Modular Tensor
Category**

M a 3-manifold

- Obtained from surgery along a link $L \subset S^3$

Kirby Color: $\Omega = \sum_i \text{qdim}(X_i) X_i$

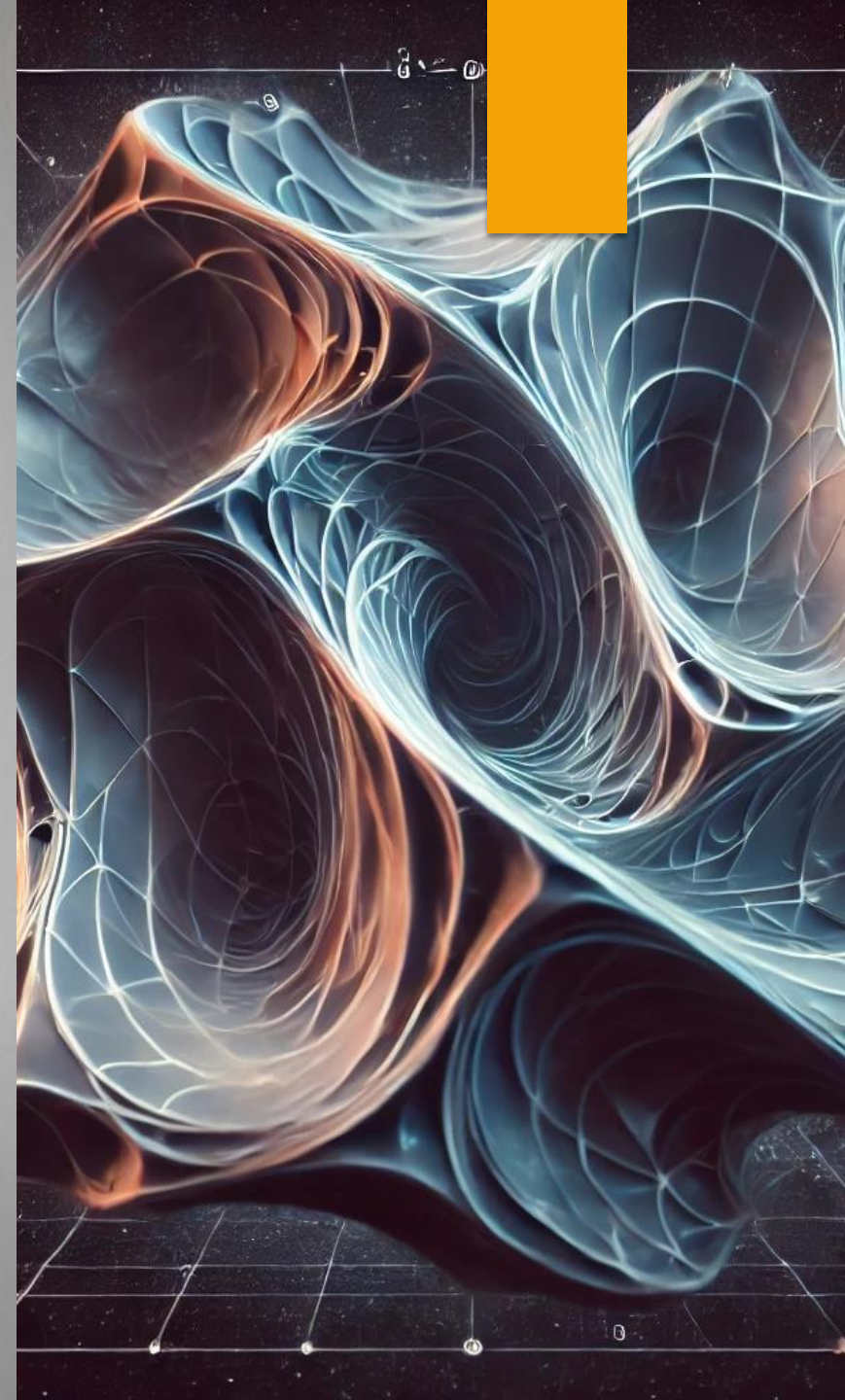
$$\text{qdim}(X_i) := \text{link diagram of } X_i$$



$Z_{WRT}(M) = \Omega\text{-colored link invariant} \times (\text{framing correction})$

Where do modular tensor categories come from?

QUANTUM GROUPS – BUT NOT COMPLETELY
STRAIGHTFORWARD



Quantum spin representations

Generic parameter

The quantum group $U_q(sl_2)$ is the $\mathbb{C}(q)$ -algebra

$$KK^{-1} = K^{-1}K = 1, \quad KEK^{-1} = q^2 E,$$

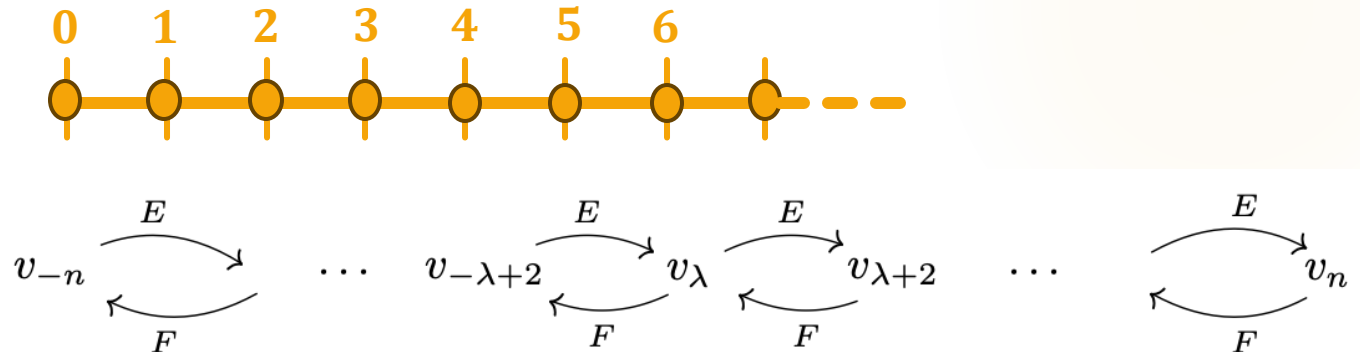
- Simple objects indexed by $\mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$

$$KFK^{-1} = q^{-2} F, \quad [E, F] = \frac{K - K^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}$$

Spin Representations

$$S_n = \langle v_n, FV_n, \dots, F^n v_n \rangle$$

$$Ev_n = 0, \quad KV_n = q^n v_n$$



- Semisimple, braided tensor category, ∞ **number of simples**

$$\text{qdim}(S_n) = [n + 1] = \frac{q^{n+1} - q^{-(n+1)}}{q - q^{-1}}$$

Bad for 3-manifolds
Fine for knot invariants

Chop down some representations

- ▶ $\bar{U}_q(sl_2)$ is the specialization to a primitive $2r$ th root of unity $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{2r}}$ and $E^r = F^r = 0$
- ▶ This actually makes the problem worse!

Simple-Projective Modules

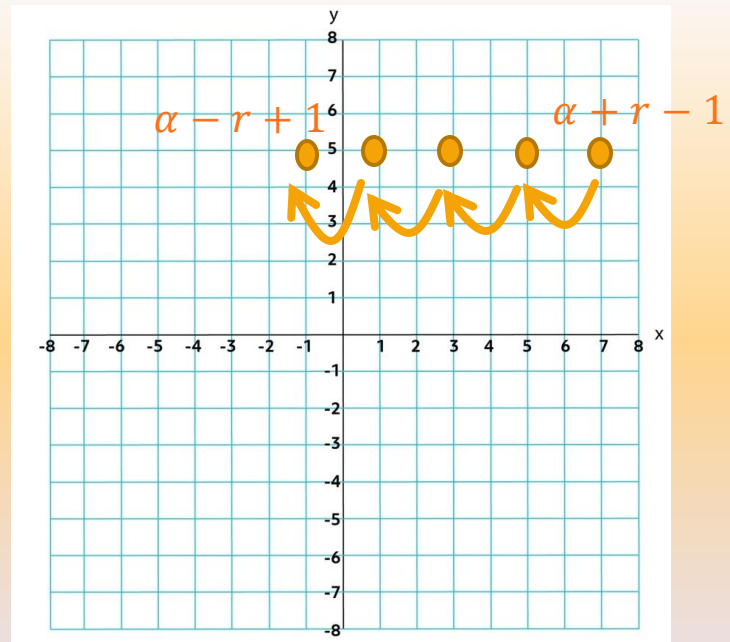
$V_\alpha = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{r-1} \rangle$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$

Generated by a highest weight vector $\alpha + r - 1$

$$K.v_i = q^{(\alpha+r-1-2i)}v_i, \quad E.v_i = \frac{\{i\}\{i-\alpha\}}{\{1\}^2}v_{i-1}, \quad F.v_i = v_{i+1}$$

They are all simple for $\alpha \in (\mathbb{C} - \mathbb{Z})/2r\mathbb{Z}$

$$\text{qdim}(V_\alpha) = q^{\alpha+r-1}(1 + q^2 + q^4 + \dots + q^{2(r-1)}) = 0$$

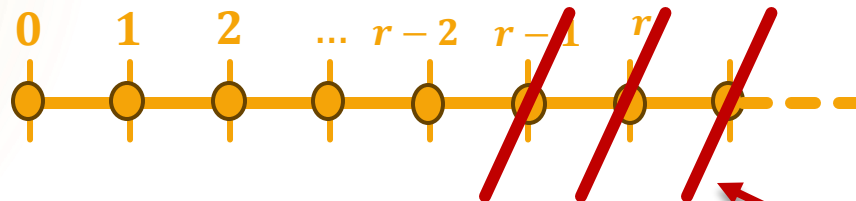


Semisimplification

- Specialize to a primitive $2r$ th root of unity $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{2r}}$ and $E^r = F^r = 0$
- To get a semisimple category with finite number of simple objects, throw away all quantum dimension zero representations

Previously simple modules now have quantum dimension zero

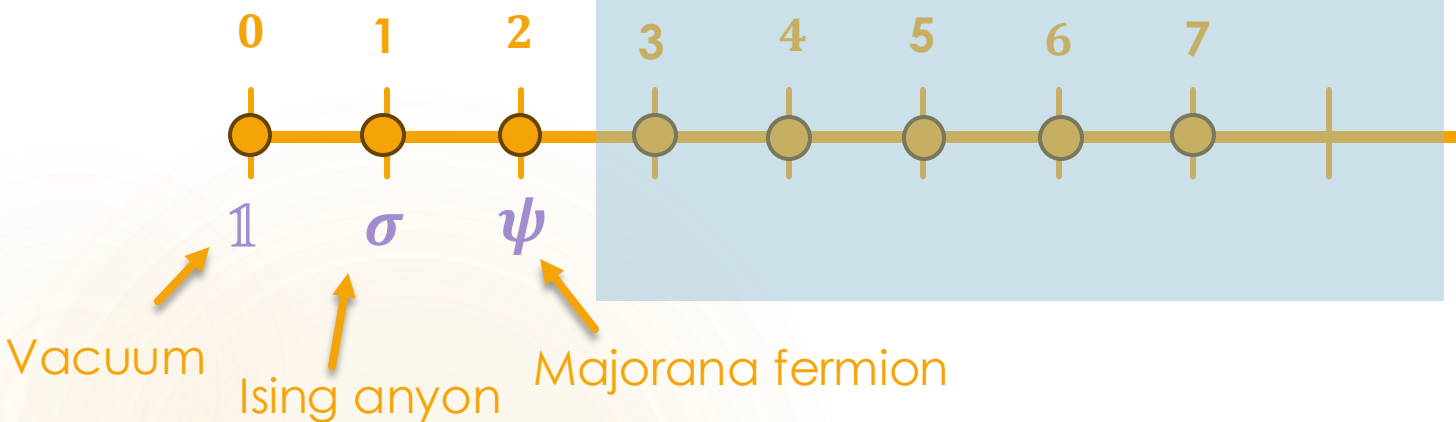
$$\text{qdim}(S_{r-1}) = [r] = \frac{q^r - q^{-r}}{q - q^{-1}} = q^{-r} \frac{(q^{2r} - 1)}{q - q^{-1}} = 0$$



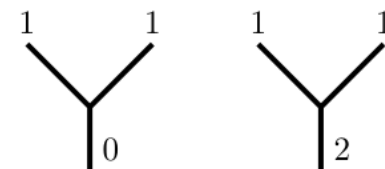
Removed in semisimplification

Example: Ising Category ($q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{8}}$)

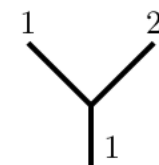
Quantum parameter truncates
allowed topological q -spins



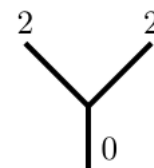
► $S_1 \otimes S_1 = S_0 \oplus S_2$ Unique map $S_2 \rightarrow S_1 \otimes S_1$



► $S_1 \otimes S_2 = S_1 \oplus S_3$



► $S_2 \otimes S_2 = S_0 \oplus S_2 \oplus S_4$



Nonsemisimple
rep $\text{qdim} = 0$

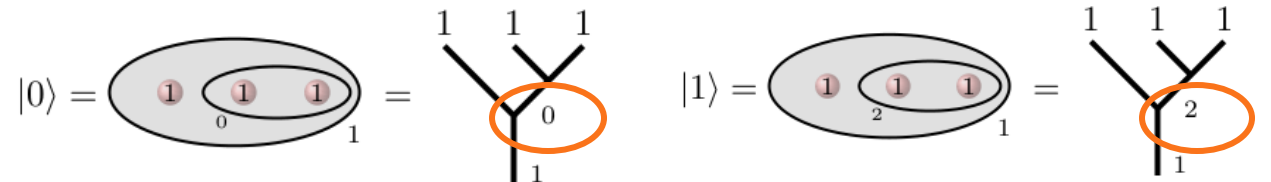
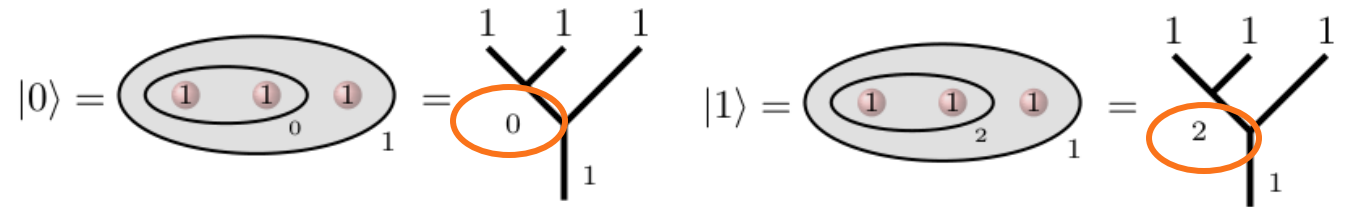
Where are the qubits?

Idea: qubits are encoded into collective quantum states of a group of anyons

$$S_1 \otimes S_1 = S_0 \oplus S_2$$

- ▶ Hilbert space $\text{Hom}(S_1, S_1^{\otimes 3})$
- ▶ Basis coming from fixed choices of trivalent vertices
- ▶ Just one possible choice of basis
- ▶ Change of basis using 'F-symbols'

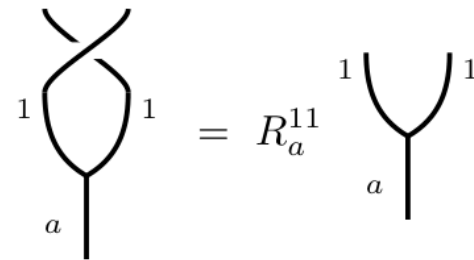
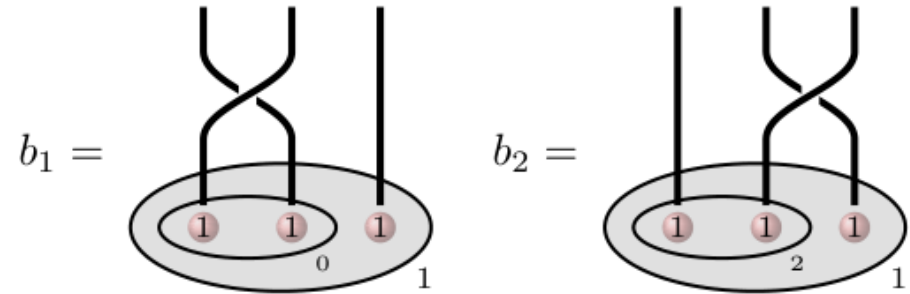
Three anyons = one qubit



$$\begin{array}{c} a \\ \swarrow \\ e \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \swarrow \\ e \end{array} \begin{array}{c} c \\ \swarrow \\ e \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ d \end{array} = \sum_f F_{def}^{abc} \begin{array}{c} a \\ \swarrow \\ f \end{array} \begin{array}{c} b \\ \swarrow \\ f \end{array} \begin{array}{c} c \\ \swarrow \\ f \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ d \end{array}$$

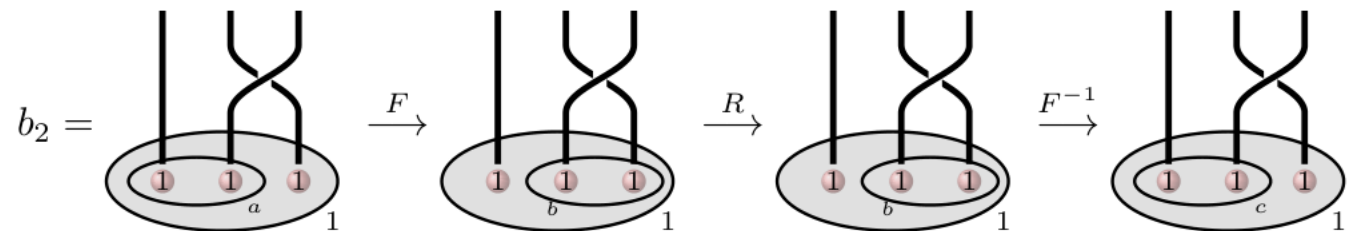
Quantum gates via braiding

- ▶ Basic gates on our qubit become elementary swaps of anyons
- ▶ Because our anyons are nonabelian these braids give nontrivial unitary transformations
- ▶ Stacking elementary braids and their inverses give more complex unitary transformations



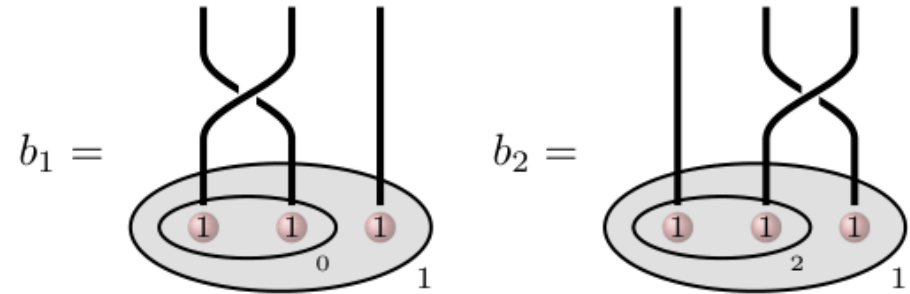
$$b_1|0\rangle = R_0^{11}|0\rangle$$

$$b_1|1\rangle = R_1^{11}|1\rangle$$



Quantum gates via braiding

- ▶ Basic gates on our qubit become elementary swaps of anyons
- ▶ Because our anyons are nonabelian these braids give nontrivial unitary transformations
- ▶ Stacking elementary braids and their inverses give more complex unitary transformations



$$b_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$b_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & i \end{pmatrix}$$



ISING ANYONS NOT UNIVERSAL

Only generate Pauli matrices
No irrational Phases

Not dense in $SU(2)$

Universal Quantum Computation

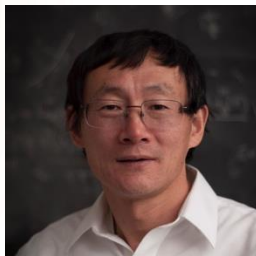
- ▶ Unfortunately, **Ising anyons are not universal for quantum computation** (despite being the best candidate for study in physical systems)
- ▶ However, Freedman-Larsen-Wang showed that Fibonacci anyons at $\nu = \frac{12}{5}$ are universal for quantum computation



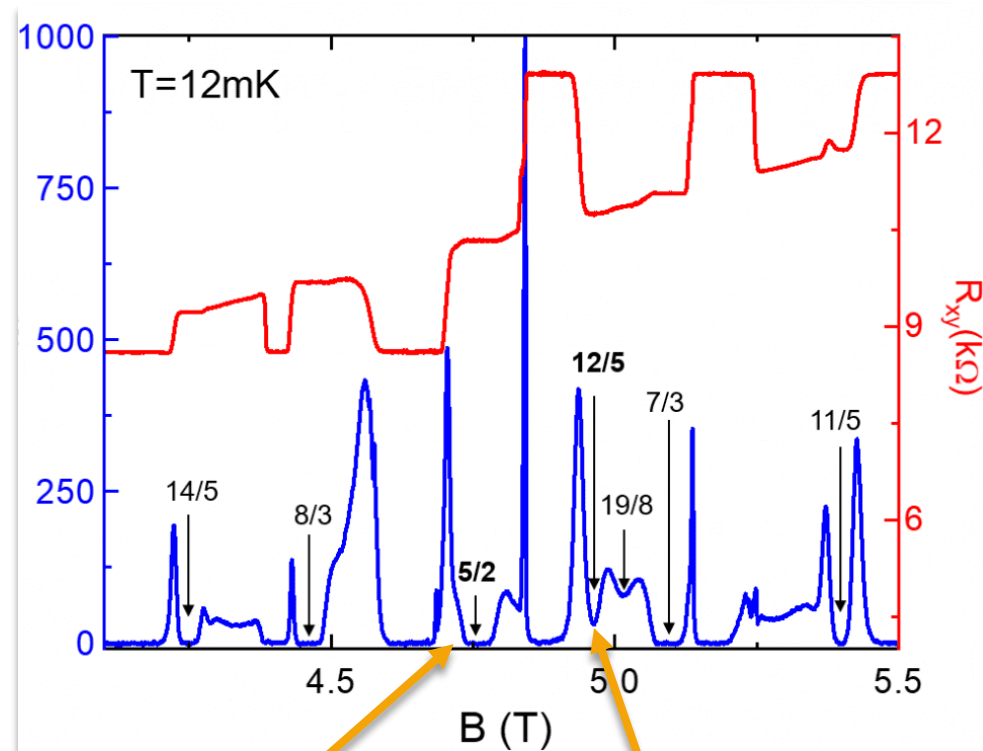
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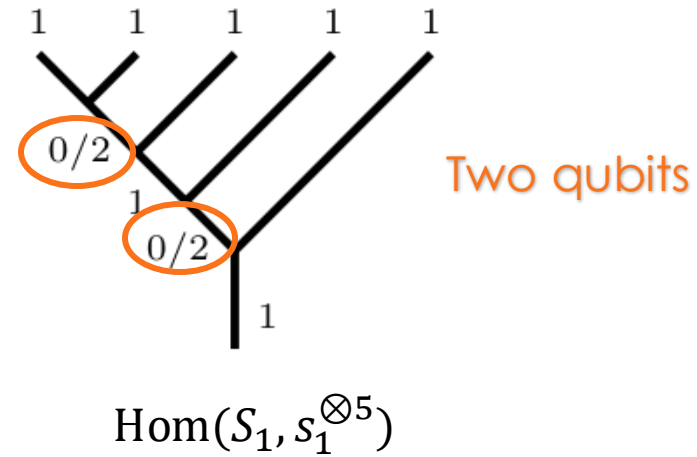
Not universal

Universal

Corresponds to $SU(2)$
at a 10th root of unity

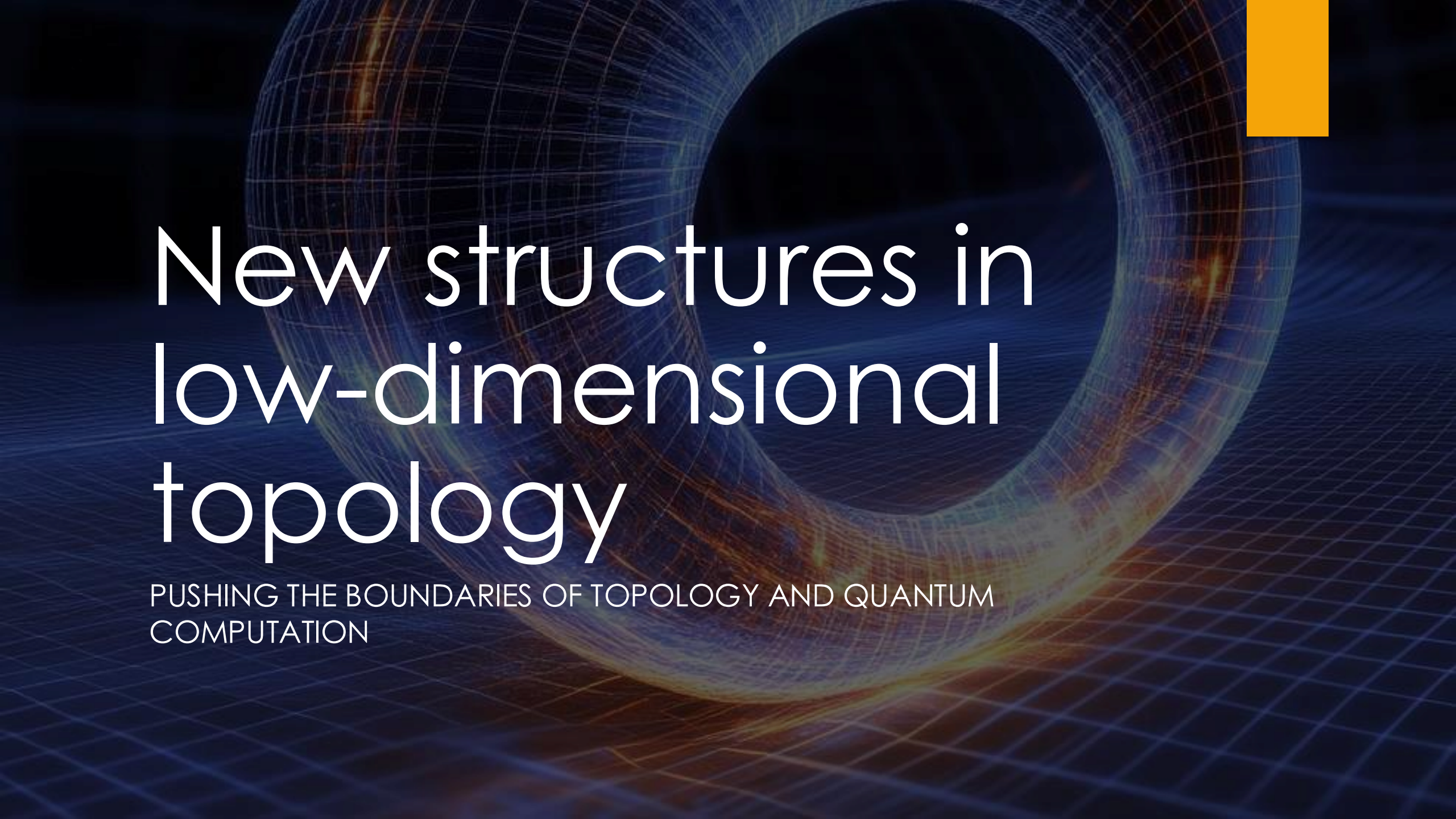
Quantum gates via braiding

- ▶ Ising anyons do give entangling gates between pairs of qubits





Can the standard TQFT
approach be enhanced to
make Ising anyons
universal?



New structures in low-dimensional topology

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF TOPOLOGY AND QUANTUM
COMPUTATION

New 'nonsemisimple' TQFTs

- ▶ Very recently, new kinds of topological quantum field theories have been discovered that are closely connected to Chern-Simons theories
- ▶ Blanchet, Costantino, Geer, Patureau-Mirand found a way to 'renormalize' quantum dimensions



Blanchet



Costantino



Geer



Patureau-Mirand

$$d(i) := \begin{array}{c} \text{Id}_{V_i} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ V_i \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ i \end{array}$$

Renormalized dimension

Given a closed ribbon graph labelled by objects of $\mathcal{C}$



Given some set of simples $A \subset \mathcal{C}$ define modified trace (A, d)
 $d: A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ $d(V) = d(V^*)$ $d(V) = d(V')$ $V \cong V'$

if

$$d(V) \langle T_V \rangle = d(V') \langle T_{V'} \rangle$$

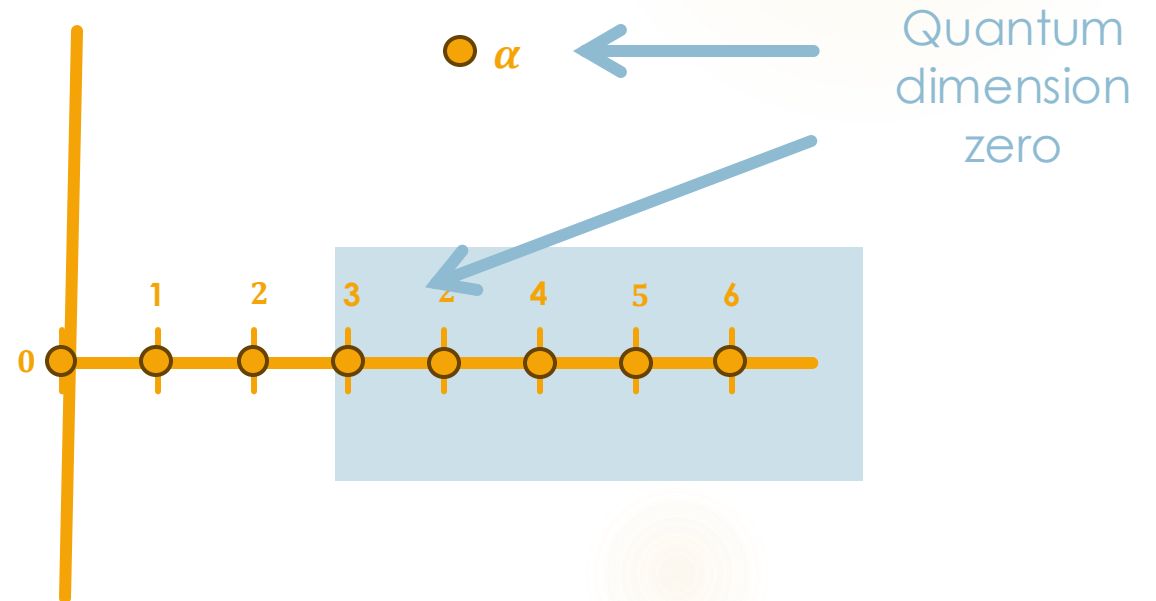
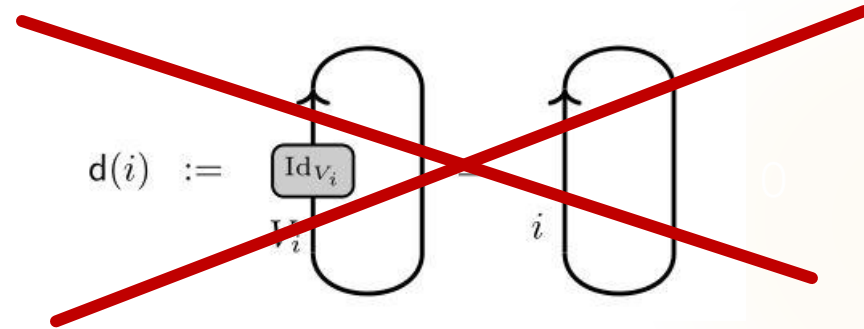
for all ribbon graphs with at least one color from A

EX: for $\overline{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ we have

$$d(V_\alpha) = \frac{q^\alpha - q^{-\alpha}}{q^{r\alpha} - q^{-r\alpha}} \neq 0$$

Nonsemisimple TQFT

- ▶ Prior approaches to (2+1)-dimensional TQFT throws out all topological spins with quantum dimension zero
- ▶ Before semisimplification we have quantum dimension zero particles for generic values of $\alpha \in \mathbb{C} - \mathbb{Z}$



Nonsemisimple TQFT

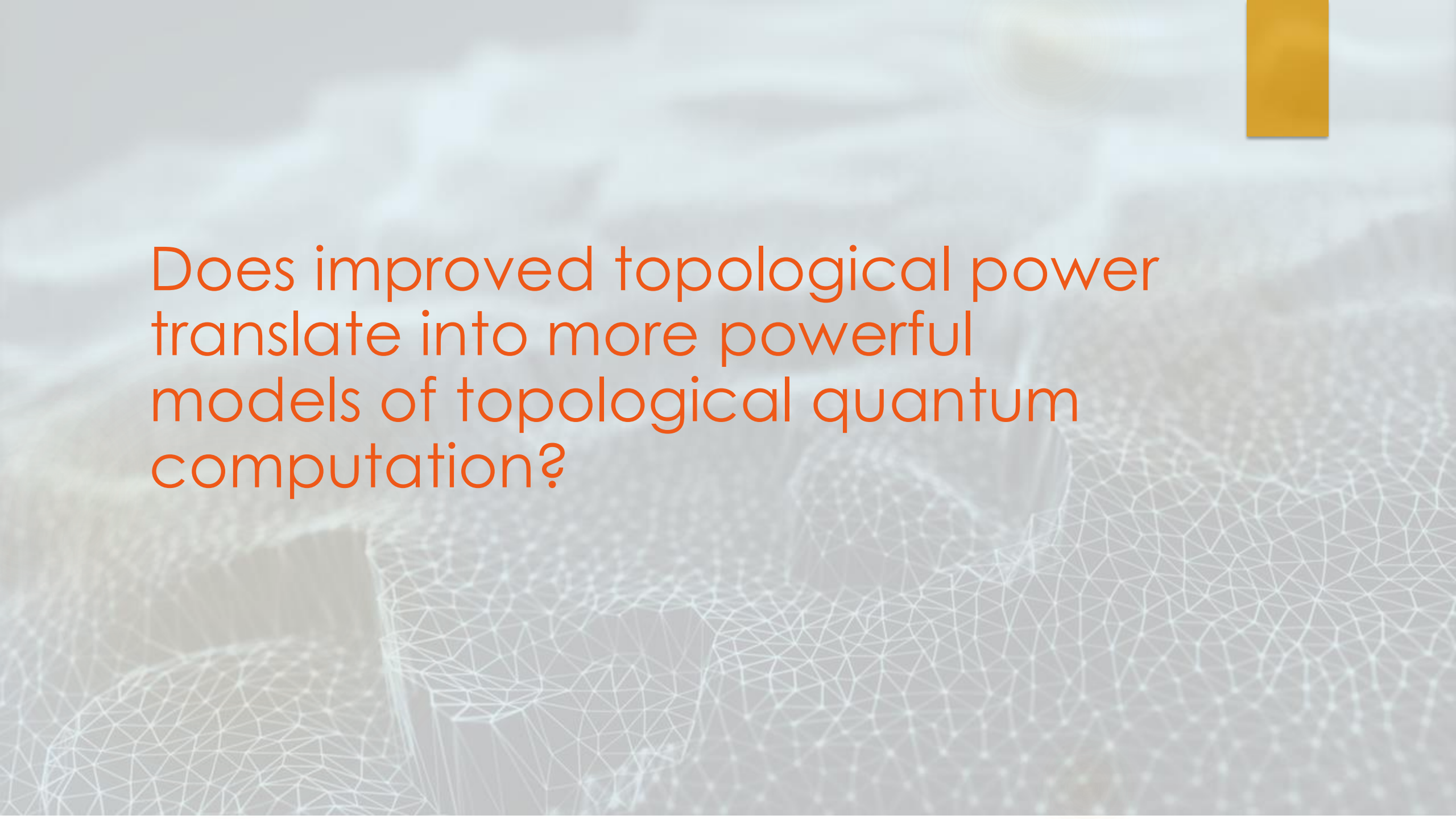
- ▶ Leverages quantum dimension zero objects
- ▶ Renormalizes the trace
- ▶ Gives renormalized WRT invariants defined using modified dimensions

Semisimple WRT

- can't distinguish lens spaces
- Dehn twist on torus has finite order

Nonsemisimple WRT

- Can distinguish lens spaces
- Dehn twist on a torus has infinite order



Does improved topological power
translate into more powerful
models of topological quantum
computation?

Unitarity

For physics applications, it is important that TQFTs are Hermitian and Unitary

- ▶ A dagger on a tensor category sends $f: V \rightarrow W$ to $f^\dagger: W \rightarrow V$ satisfying

$$f^{\dagger\dagger} = f, \quad (f \otimes g)^\dagger = f^\dagger \otimes g^\dagger, \quad (g \circ f)^\dagger = f^\dagger \circ g^\dagger$$

- ▶ A Hermitian ribbon category $\mathcal{C}$ is a ribbon category with $\dagger$ satisfying

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc} V & W \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ W & V \end{array} \right)^\dagger = \begin{array}{cc} W & V \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ V & W \end{array} \quad \left(\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{cup} \end{array} \right)^\dagger = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{cap} \end{array} \quad (\text{cap})^\dagger = \text{cup} \quad \dots$$

- ▶ Gives an inner product $\langle f, g \rangle: \text{Hom}(V, W) \otimes \text{Hom}(V, W) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$$f \otimes g \rightarrow \text{tr}(f^\dagger g)$$

Unitary TQFTs $\longrightarrow$ Homs are Hilbert spaces

Hermitian $\longrightarrow \langle f, g \rangle = \overline{\langle g, f \rangle}$
 $\longrightarrow$ Nondegenerate
 Unitary $\longrightarrow \langle, \rangle$ is positive definite

Are nonsemisimple TQFTs Physical?

Theorem(Geer, L-, Patureau-Mirand, Sussan)
Nonsemisimple TQFTs are Hermitian but (indefinite) unitary



Geer



Patureau-Mirand



Sussan

- ▶ Leads to Hilbert spaces with indefinite forms
- ▶ Leads to Hamiltonian theories that are 'pseudo' unitary
- ▶ Related to logarithmic conformal field theory
- ▶ May be boundary of a unitary theory

Nonsemisimple Ising Model

Consider representations of $\bar{U}_q(sl_2)$ at $q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{8}}$

- ▶ Need to encode our qubits into Hom spaces
- ▶ Want density for $SU(2)$

Add a single negligible representation

Neglecton???

New q-dim 0 particle

$$|0\rangle = \text{diagram} = \text{tree diagram}$$

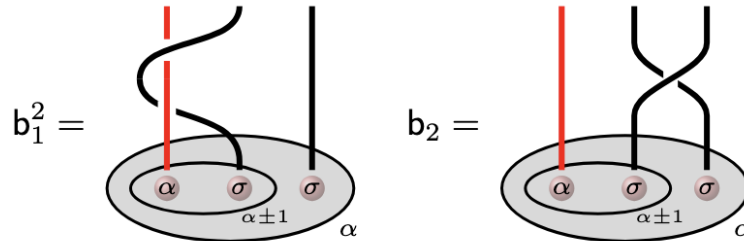
The diagram for $|0\rangle$ consists of a gray oval containing three small circles labeled α , σ , and σ . The bottom circle is labeled $\alpha+1$ and the right circle is labeled α . This is equal to a tree diagram with a root node labeled α at the bottom, which branches into two nodes labeled $\alpha+1$ and α , which then branches into three nodes labeled α , σ , and σ at the top.

$$|1\rangle = \text{diagram} = \text{tree diagram}$$

The diagram for $|1\rangle$ consists of a gray oval containing three small circles labeled α , σ , and σ . The bottom circle is labeled $\alpha-1$ and the right circle is labeled α . This is equal to a tree diagram with a root node labeled α at the bottom, which branches into two nodes labeled $\alpha-1$ and α , which then branches into three nodes labeled α , σ , and σ at the top.

Universal nonsemisimple Ising anyons

- ▶ Inner product is positive definite for α in appropriate range
- ▶ Unlike the semisimple model, single qubit operations are dense in $SU(2)$



$$b_1^2 = -q (b_1^{\alpha\sigma\sigma})^2 = \begin{pmatrix} q^\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & q^{-\alpha} \end{pmatrix},$$

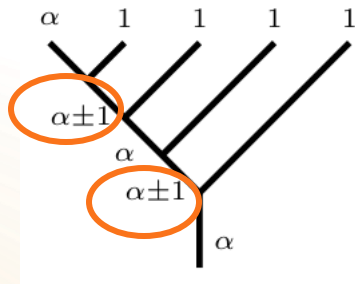
$$b_2 = q^{-\frac{3}{2}} b_2^{\alpha\sigma\sigma} = q^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+q^2}{1-q^{2\alpha}} & q^{-1} \frac{\sqrt{B_{\alpha+1}}}{\sqrt{B_{\alpha-1}}} \\ q^{-1} \frac{\sqrt{B_{\alpha+1}}}{\sqrt{B_{\alpha-1}}} & \frac{1+q^2}{1-q^{-2\alpha}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$B_{\alpha+1} := \frac{\sqrt{2}}{-1 + \cot \frac{\pi(\alpha+1)}{4}}$$

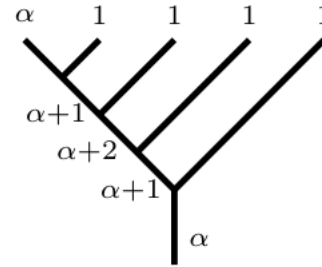
$$B_{\alpha-1} := \frac{\sqrt{2}}{-1 + \cot \frac{\pi\alpha}{4}},$$

Universal nonsemisimple Ising anyons

- ▶ Multiqubit Hilbert space $\text{Hom}(S_\alpha, V_\alpha \otimes S_1^{2n})$



4-dimensional
Computation space



2-dimensional Non-
Computation space

- ▶ There exists α where computational space is positive definite
- ▶ Can construct low leakage entangling gates

More powerful computation

Theorem (Iulianelli, Kim, L, Sussan)

For nonsemisimple **Ising TQFT**

- Qubit spaces can be encoded into (positive-definite) computational Hilbert spaces
- Nonsemisimple Ising model is **universal** for quantum computation



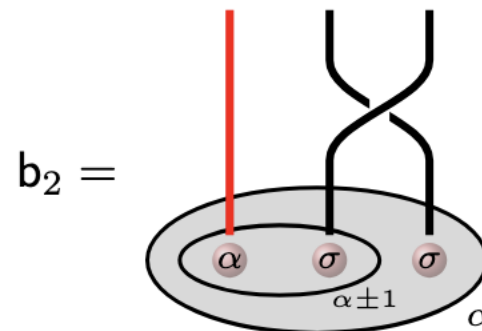
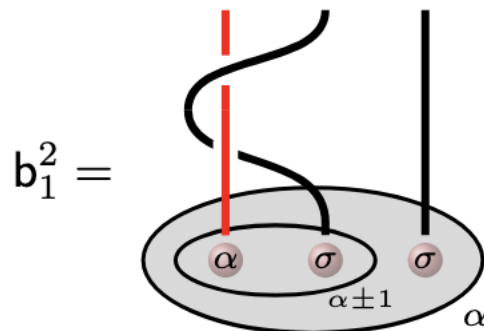
Filippo Iulianelli



Sung Kim



Josh Sussan



Open questions

- ▶ Condensed matter systems supporting new anyons?
- ▶ What can new developments in topology tell us about topological phases and opportunities for new quantum technologies

