



東京大学 物性研究所  
THE INSTITUTE FOR SOLID STATE PHYSICS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

# Hermitian Bulk – Non-Hermitian Boundary Correspondence

Kohei Kawabata

(Institute for Solid State Physics, University of Tokyo)

**PRX Quantum 4, 030315 (2023)**

**arXiv:2405.10015**

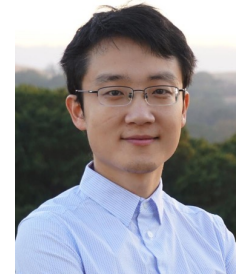
# PRX Quantum 4, 030315 (2023)



Frank Schindler  
(Princeton → Imperial  
College London)

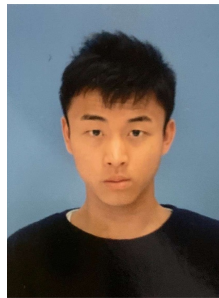


Kaiyuan Gu  
(Princeton)



Biao Lian  
(Princeton)

**arXiv:2405.10015**



Shu Hamanaka (Kyoto)



Tsuneya Yoshida (Kyoto)

# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Non-Hermitian topology (review)
3. Hermitian bulk – non-Hermitian boundary correspondence
4. Non-Hermitian topology in Hermitian topological matter

Despite the enormous success, the existing framework of topological phases is **confined to Hermitian systems at equilibrium.**

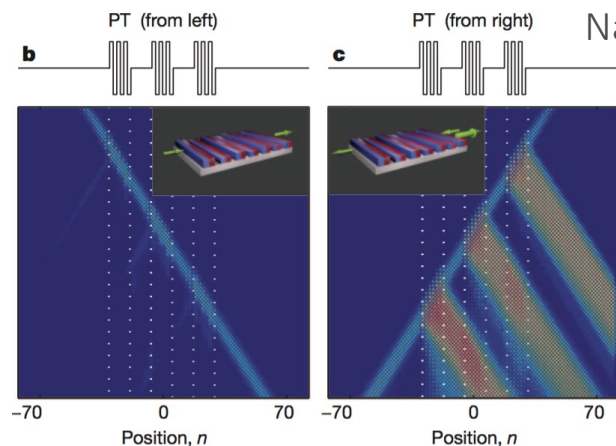
➔ **Richer properties appear in non-Hermitian systems!**

☆ Non-Hermiticity arises from **dissipation**, i.e., exchanges of energy or particles with an environment.

El-Ganainy *et al.*, Nat. Phys. **14**, 11 (2018)

## • Photonic lattices with gain/loss

Unidirectional light transport

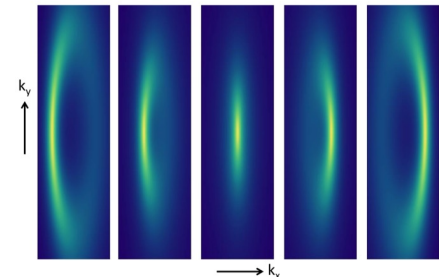
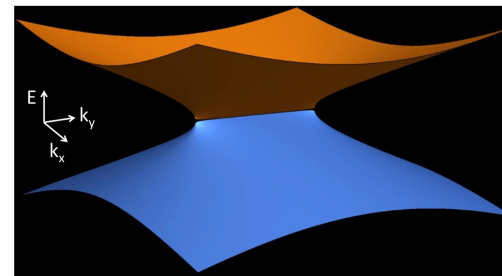
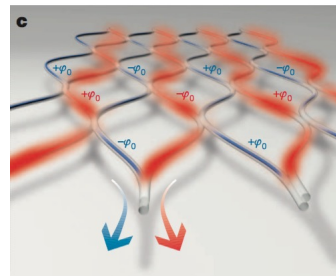


Regensburger *et al.*,  
Nature **488**, 167 (2012)

## • Finite-lifetime quasiparticles

Bulk Fermi arc due to non-Hermitian self-energy

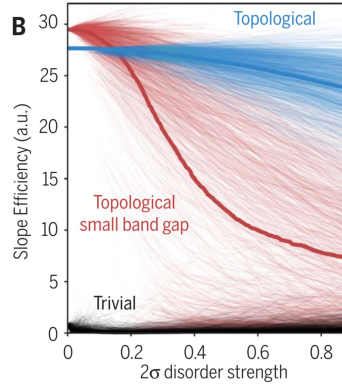
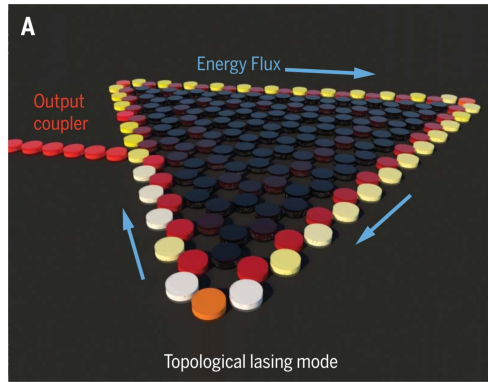
Kozii & Fu, arXiv:  
1708.05841



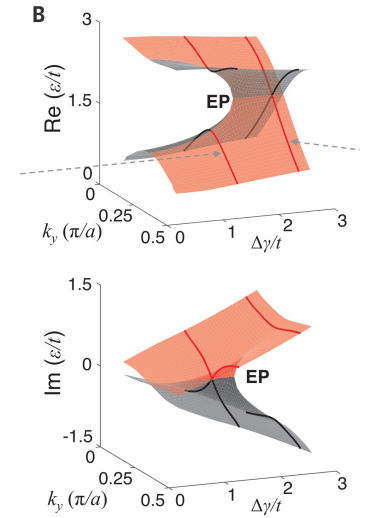
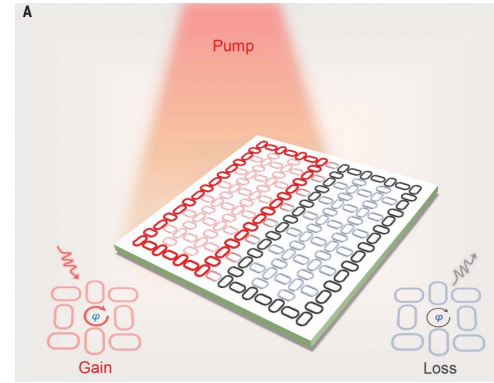


## • Topological laser

New laser with high efficiency due to the interplay of non-Hermiticity and topology.



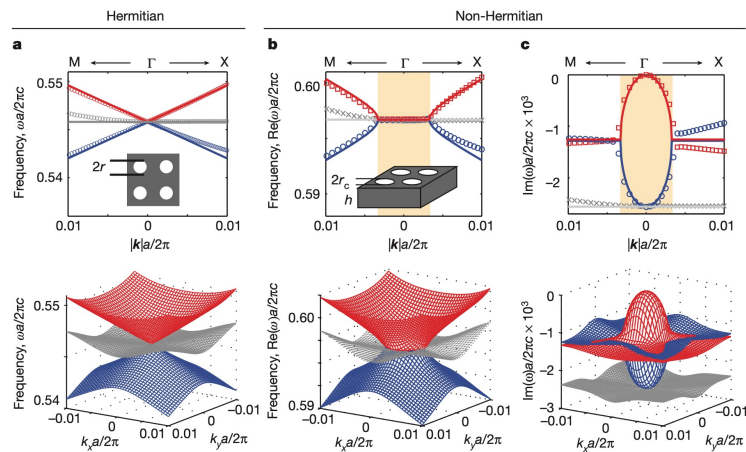
Bandres *et al.*, Science **359**, eaar4005 (2018)



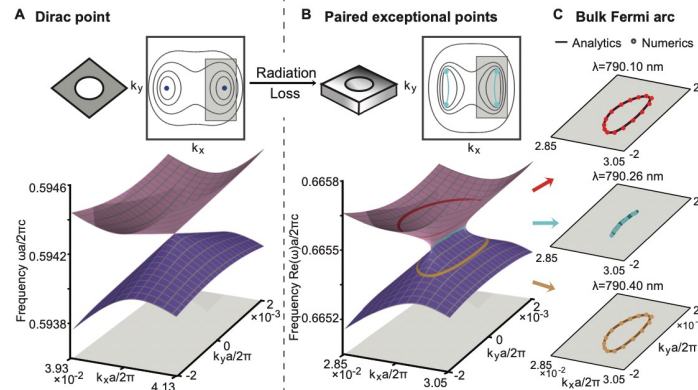
Zhao *et al.*, Science **365**, 1163 (2019)

## • Exceptional point

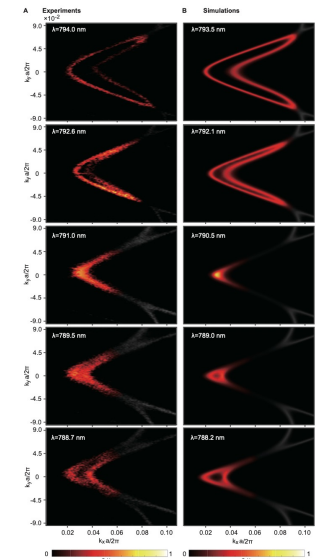
Nondiagonalizable gapless point (Jordan matrix)



Zhen *et al.*, Nature **525**, 354 (2015)



Zhou *et al.*, Science **359**, 1009 (2018)

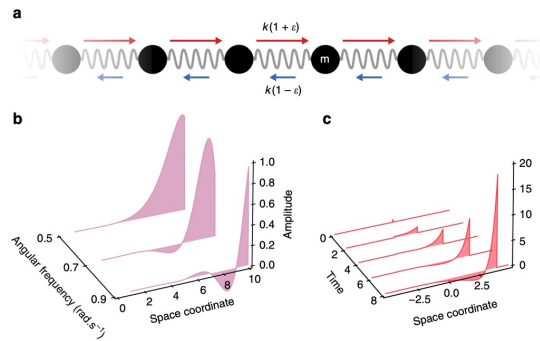


## ★ Non-Hermitian skin effect

Lee, PRL **116**, 133903 (2016); Yao & Wang, PRL **121**, 086803 (2018); Kunst *et al.*, PRL **121**, 026808 (2018)

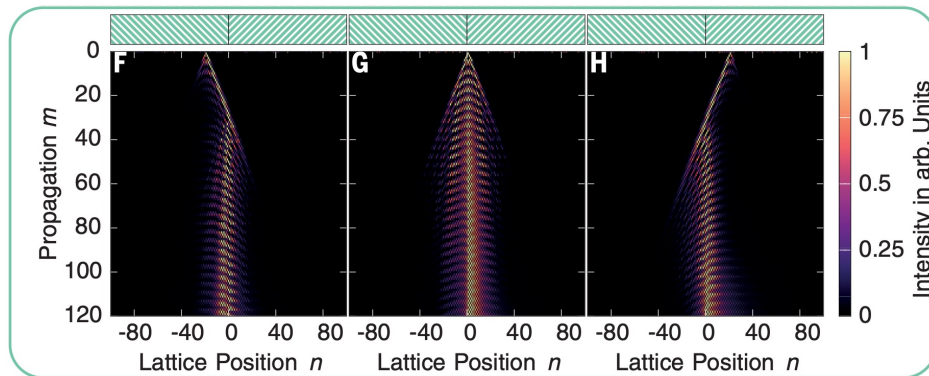
## Localization of an extensive number of eigenmodes due to non-Hermitian topology

### • Mechanical metamaterials



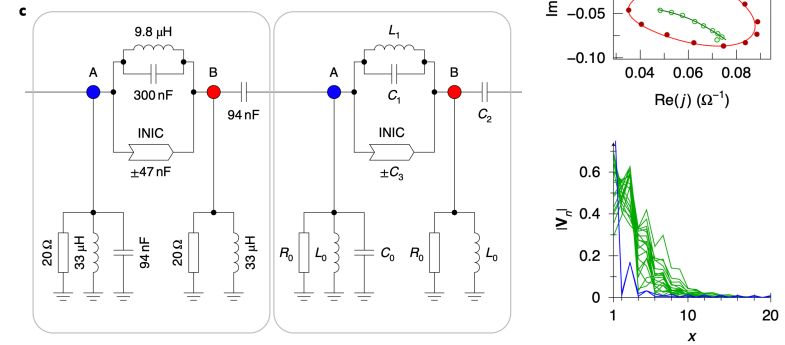
Brandenbourger *et al.*, Nat. Commun. **10**, 4608 (2019)

### • Photonic lattice



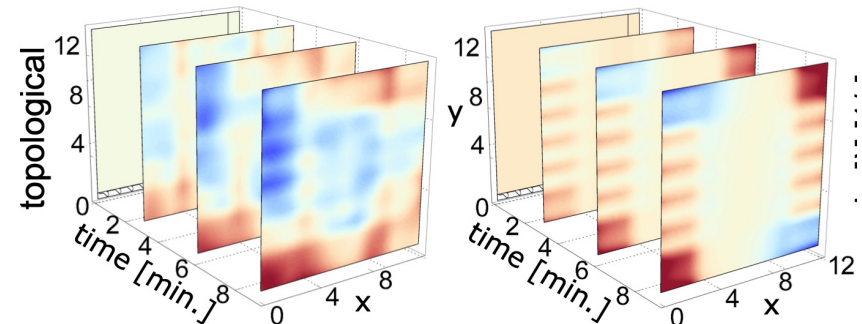
Weidemann *et al.*, Science **368**, 311 (2020)

### • Electrical circuits



Helbig *et al.*, Nat. Phys. **16**, 747 (2020)

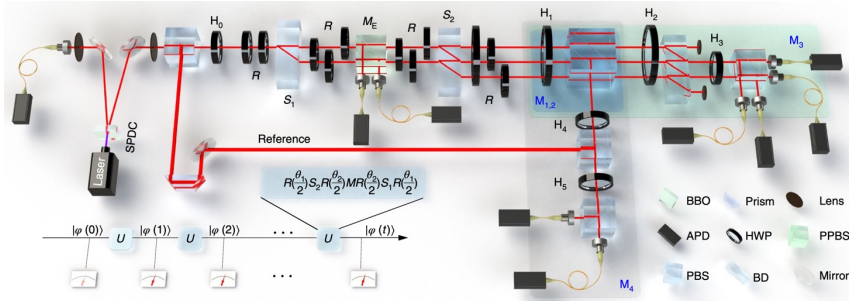
### • Active matter



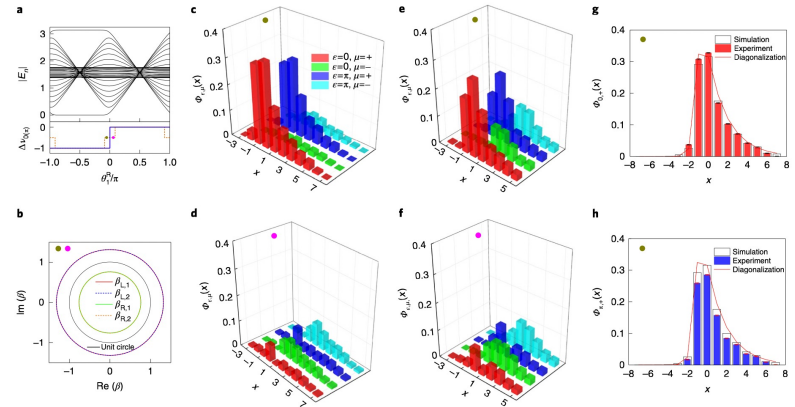
Palacios *et al.*, Nat. Commun. **12**, 4691 (2021)

Skin effect has been observed also in recent quantum experiments.

## Quantum walk (single photons)

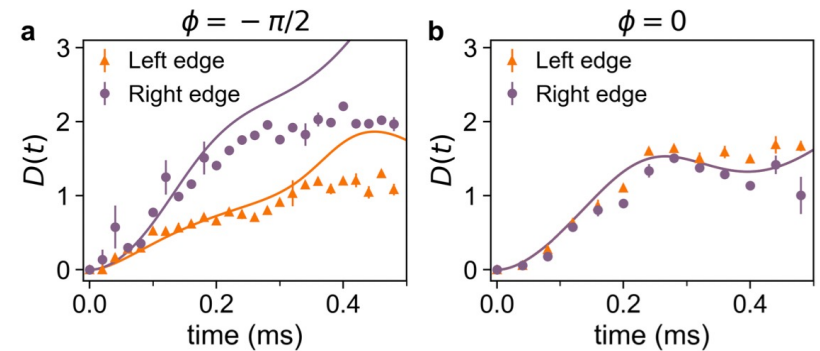
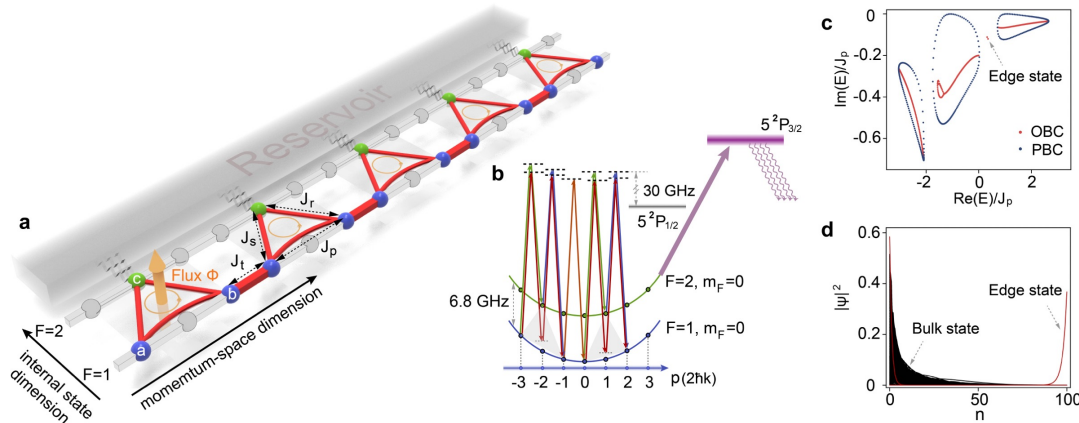


Xiao *et al.*, Nat. Phys. **16**, 761 (2020)



## Ultracold atoms

Liang *et al.*, PRL **129**, 070401 (2022)



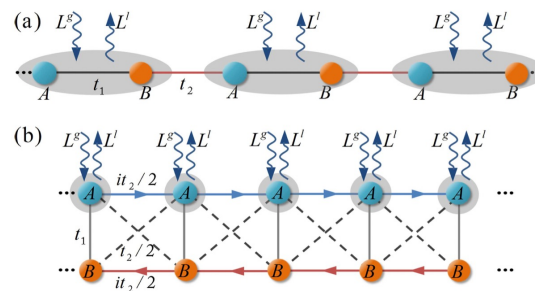
Non-Hermitian topology is relevant even to more generic open quantum systems that are not characterized by Hamiltonians.

Song, Yao & Wang, PRL **123**, 170401 (2019)

- Master equation

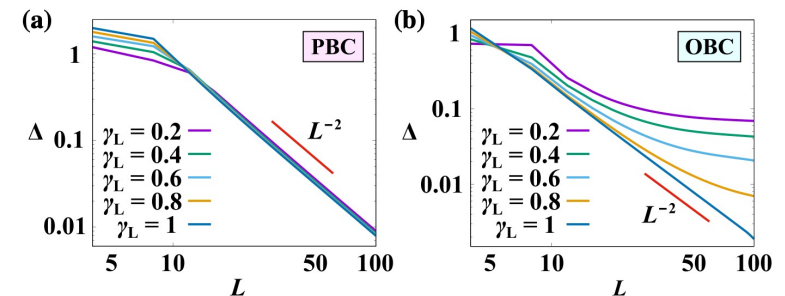
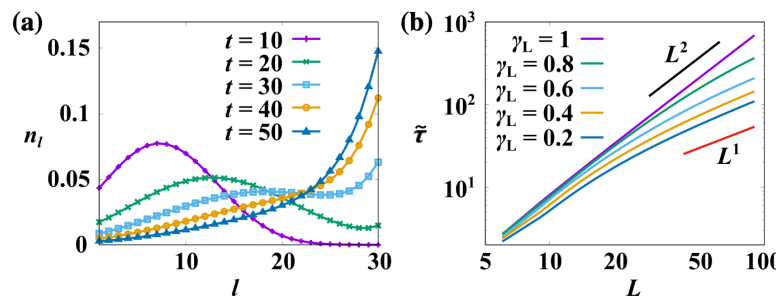
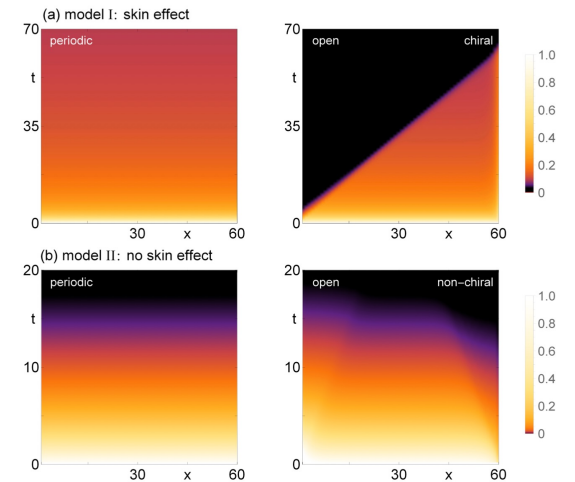
$$d\hat{\rho}/dt = \underline{\mathcal{L}}\hat{\rho}$$

Non-Hermitian  
superoperator  
(Liouvillian)



Chiral damping due to the skin effect

Slowdown of relaxation due to the skin effect



Haga *et al.*, PRL **127**, 070402 (2021); Mori *et al.*, PRL **125**, 230604 (2020)

# Motivation

Non-Hermiticity gives rise to unique topological phases that have no Hermitian counterparts.

Meanwhile, open systems can be embedded in larger closed systems.

→ Can we connect intrinsic non-Hermitian topology with Hermitian topology?





# Results (1)

**We find a new topological correspondence between Hermitian bulk and non-Hermitian boundary.**

**$d$ -dim Hermitian bulk .....  $(d-1)$ -dim non-Hermitian boundary**

Topological boundary modes + non-Hermiticity (dissipation)  
→ intrinsic non-Hermitian topology

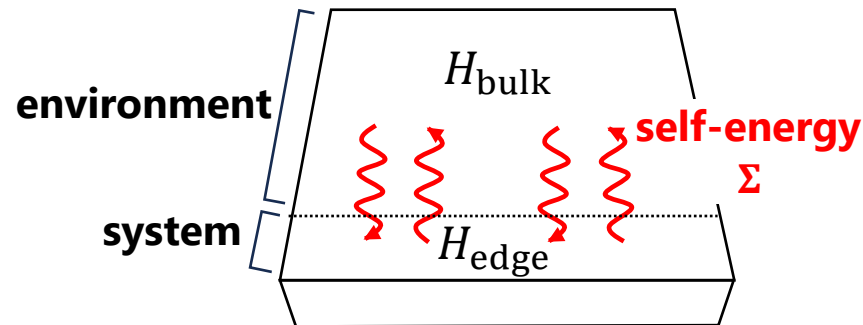
**New boundary phenomena:**

- corner skin effect of chiral edge modes
- chiral hinge modes due to non-Hermiticity

Schindler, Gu, Lian & **Kawabata**, PRX Quantum **4**, 030315 (2023)  
cf. Nakamura, Inaka, Okuma & Sato, PRL **131**, 256602 (2023)

# Results (2)

We develop the same correspondence even in Hermitian topological insulators (without non-Hermiticity)



The self-energy captures the particle exchange between the bulk and boundary, and detects Hermitian topology in the bulk and non-Hermitian topology at the boundary.

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1. Introduction

2. Non-Hermitian topology (review)

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4. Non-Hermitian topology in Hermitian topological matter



An “**energy gap**” is needed to define a topological phase.  
However, a non-Hermitian extension of an “**energy gap**”  
is nontrivial since the **spectrum is complex**.

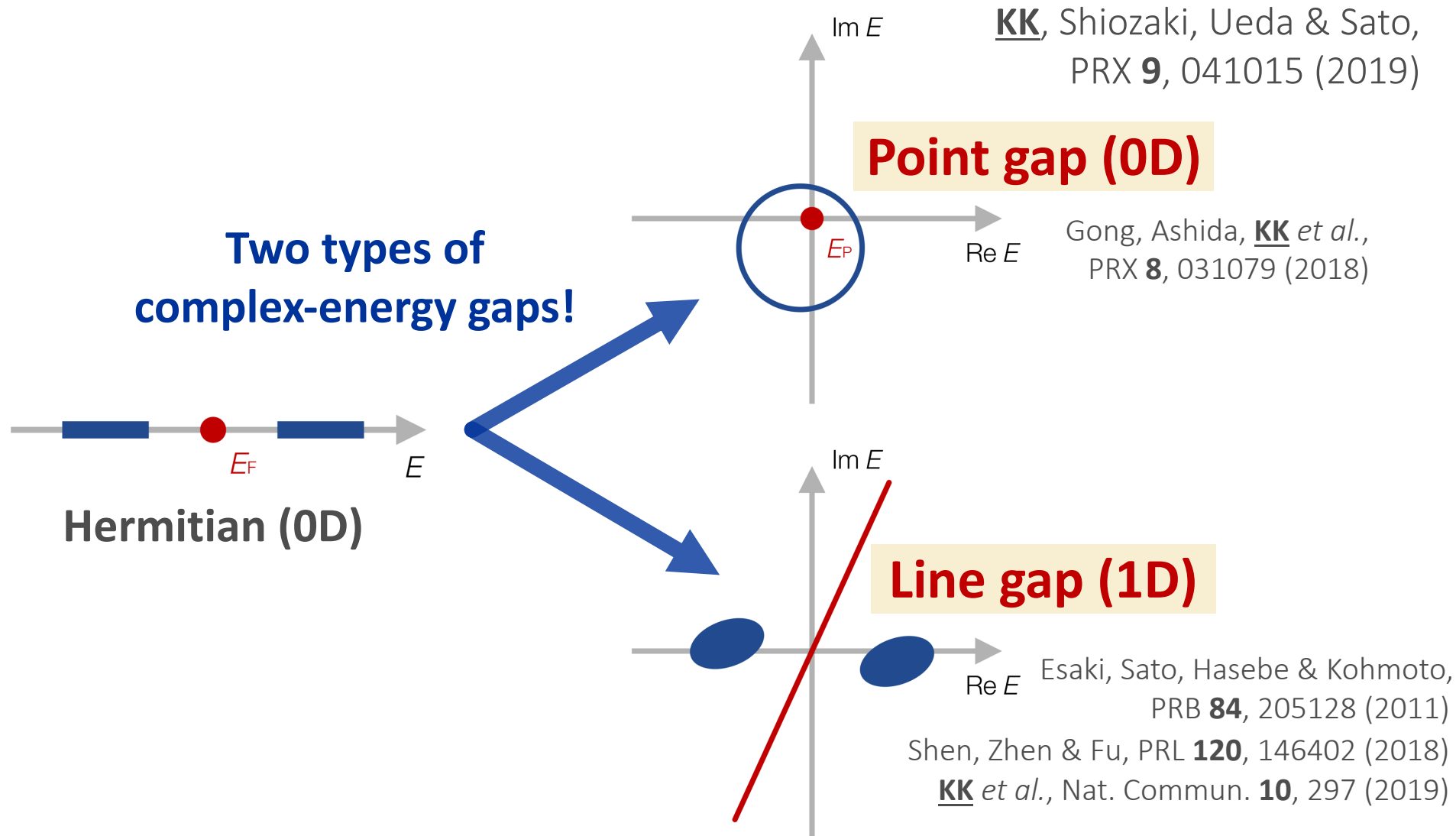
Energy gap in Hermitian systems:



Hermitian

- Energy regions where states are **forbidden to be present**.
- They should be **point-like (0D)** since the **real spectrum is 1D**.

➔ Since the **complex spectrum is 2D (real and imaginary)**,  
such vacant regions can be **either 0D or 1D!**



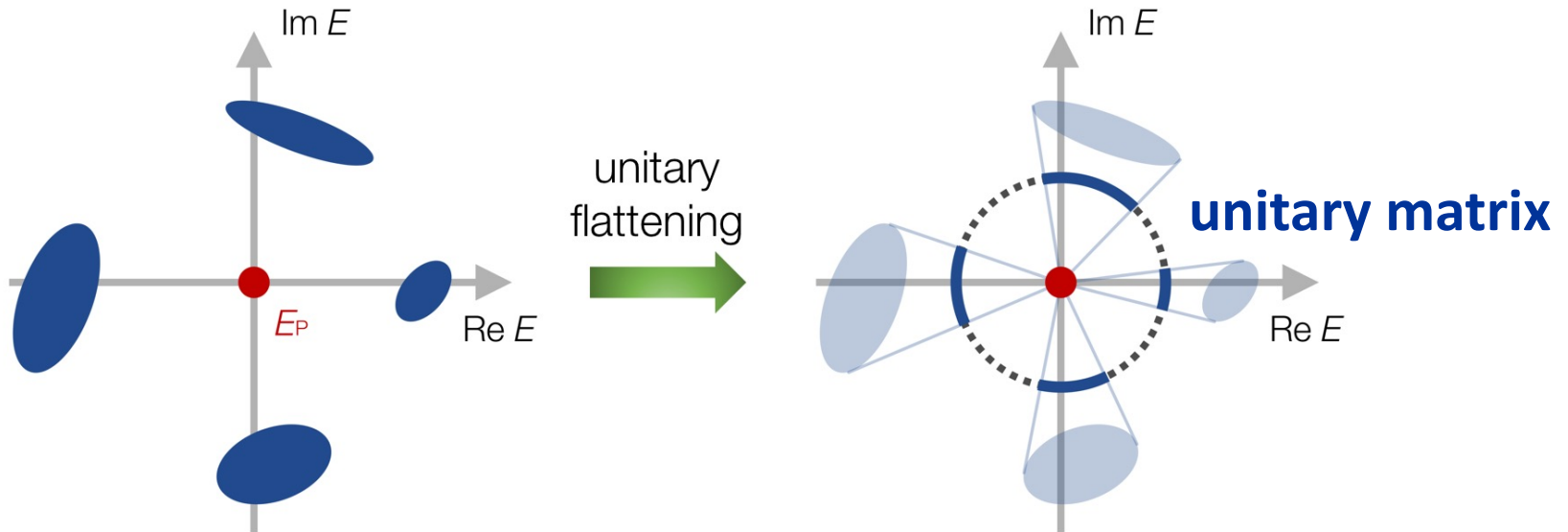
NOTE: The definition that should be adopted depends on the individual physical situations that we are interested in.

## Unitary flattening for a point gap:

A non-Hermitian Hamiltonian with a **point gap** can be continuously deformed into a **unitary matrix** while having symmetry and the point gap.

non-Hermitian  $H$   $\longleftrightarrow$  unitary  $U$   $\longleftrightarrow$  Hermitian  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & U \\ U^\dagger & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

**Classification is well established!**

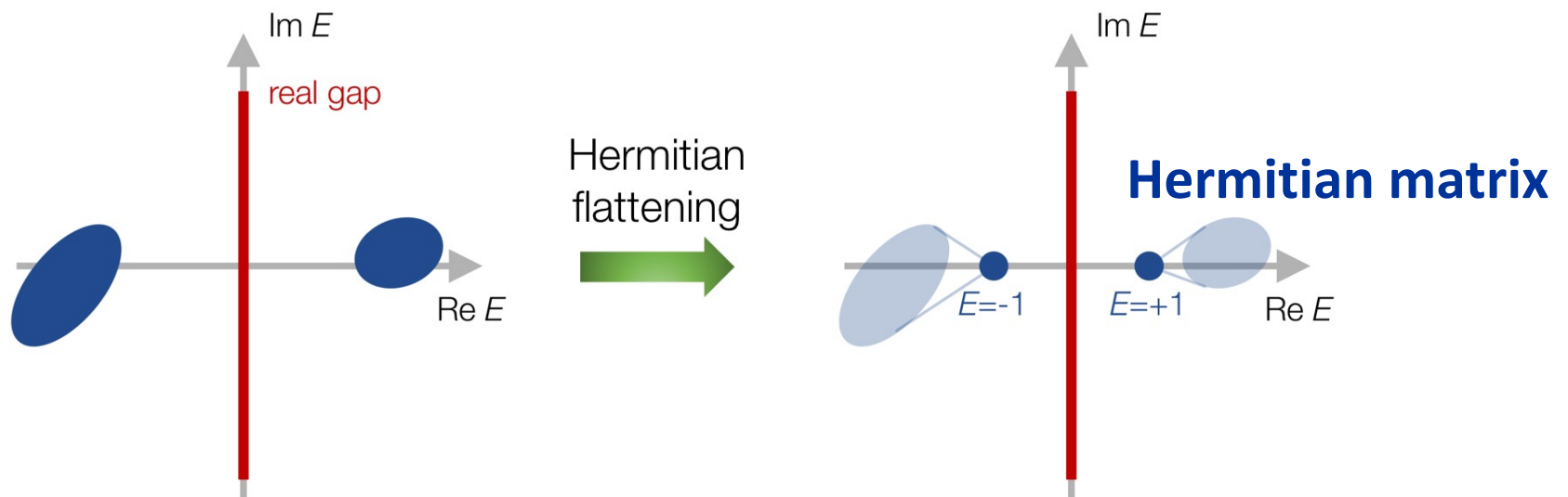


## Hermitian flattening for a line gap:

A non-Hermitian Hamiltonian with a **line gap** can be continuously deformed into a **Hermitian matrix** while having symmetry and the line gap.

non-Hermitian  $H$   $\longleftrightarrow$  Hermitian  $\tilde{H}$

**Classification is well established!**



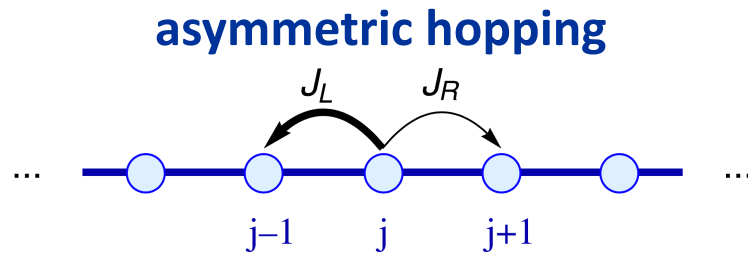


Line-gap topology: stability of Hermitian topology against non-Hermiticity

**↔ Point-gap topology: intrinsic non-Hermitian topology**

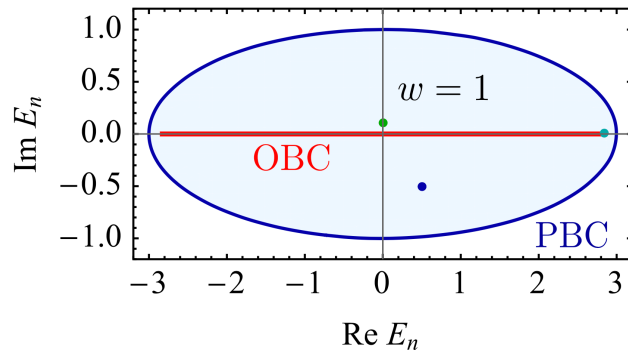
• **Hatano-Nelson model**

Hatano & Nelson, PRL **77**, 570 (1996)



$$\hat{H}_{\text{HN}} = \sum_i \left( J_R \hat{c}_{i+1}^\dagger \hat{c}_i + J_L \hat{c}_i^\dagger \hat{c}_{i+1} \right)$$

$$H_{\text{HN}}(k) = J_R e^{ik} + J_L e^{-ik}$$



**Winding of complex energy!**

$$W(E) := \oint \frac{dk}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{dk} \log \det (H(k) - E)$$

**(ill-defined in Hermitian systems)**

Gong, Ashida, **KK** *et al.*, PRX **8**, 031079 (2018)

★ **Skin effect: bulk-boundary correspondence for point-gap topology**

Emergence of an extensive number of boundary modes!

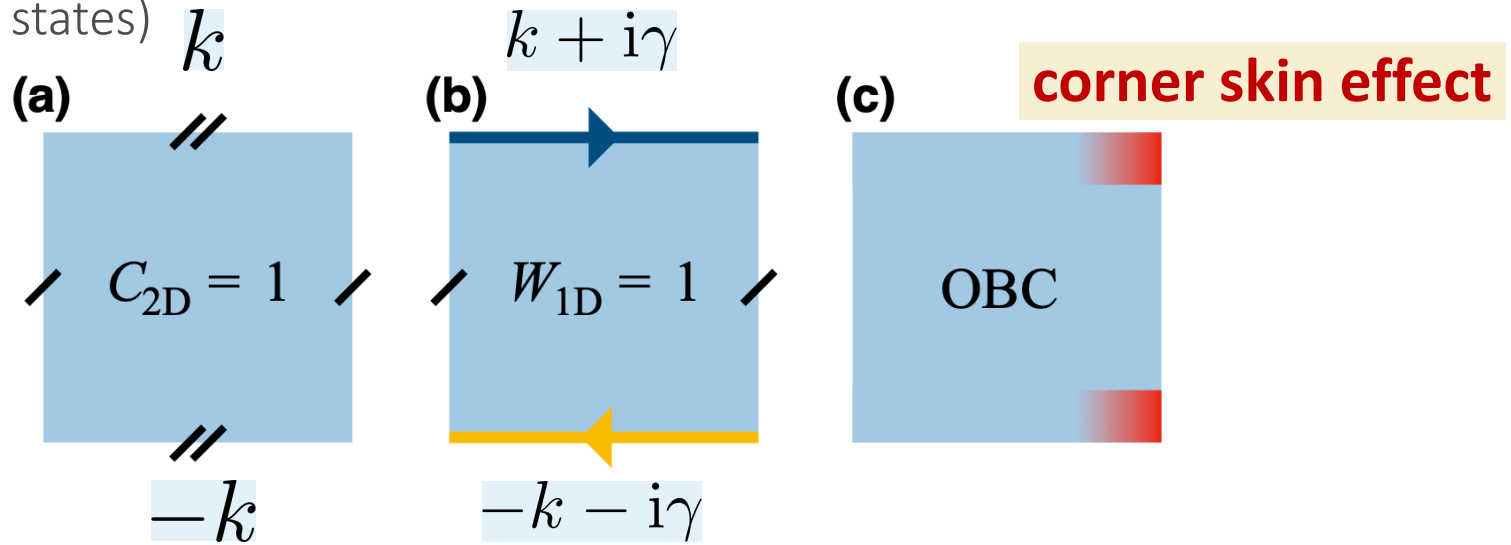
Okuma, **KK**, Shiozaki & Sato, PRL **124**, 086801 (2020); Zhang, Yang & Fang, PRL **125**, 126402 (2020)

# Outline

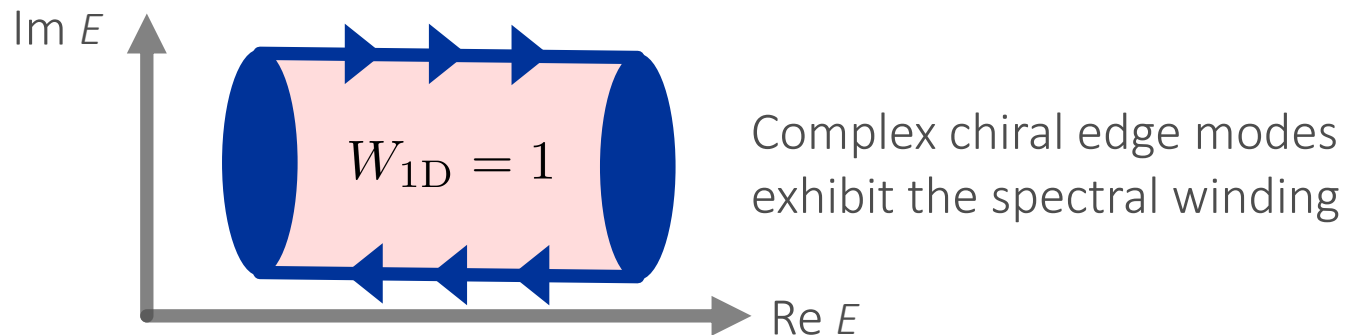
1. Introduction
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☆ Chiral edge modes in 2D topological insulators exhibit 1D non-Hermitian topology and skin effect!

(chiral edge states)



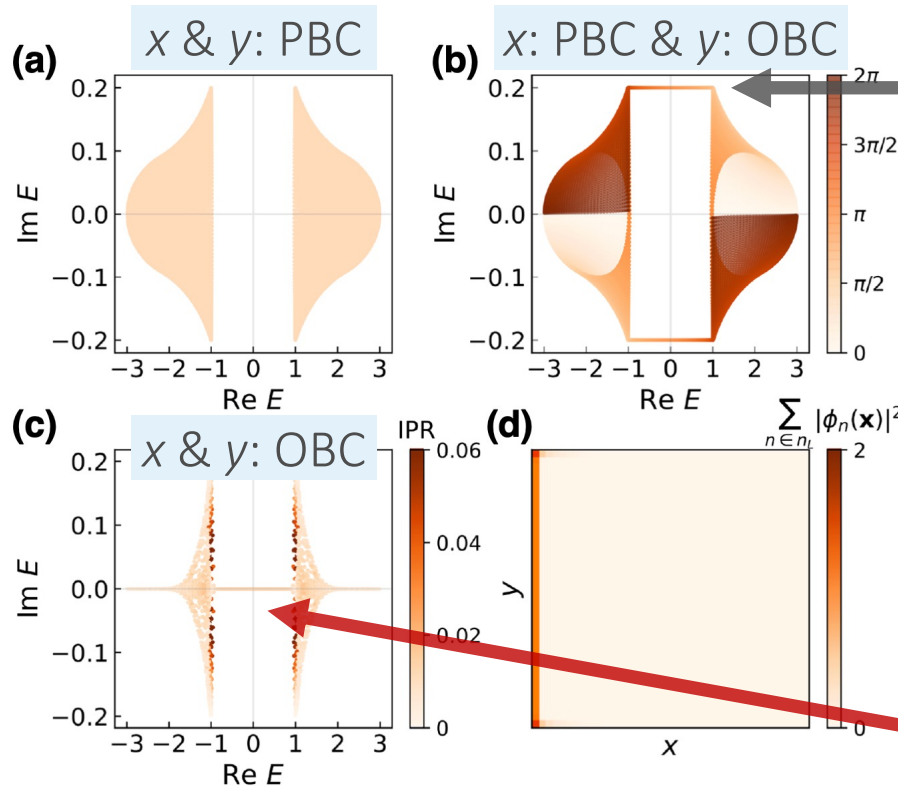
(add gain/loss at boundaries)





cf. **Kawabata et al.**, PRB **98**, 165148 (2018)

$$H(\mathbf{k}) = (m + t \cos k_x + t \cos k_y) \sigma_x + (t \sin k_x + \underline{i\gamma}) \sigma_y + (t \sin k_y) \sigma_z$$



**chiral edge states**  
 $\sin k_x + i\gamma$

$$C_{2D} = W_{1D}$$

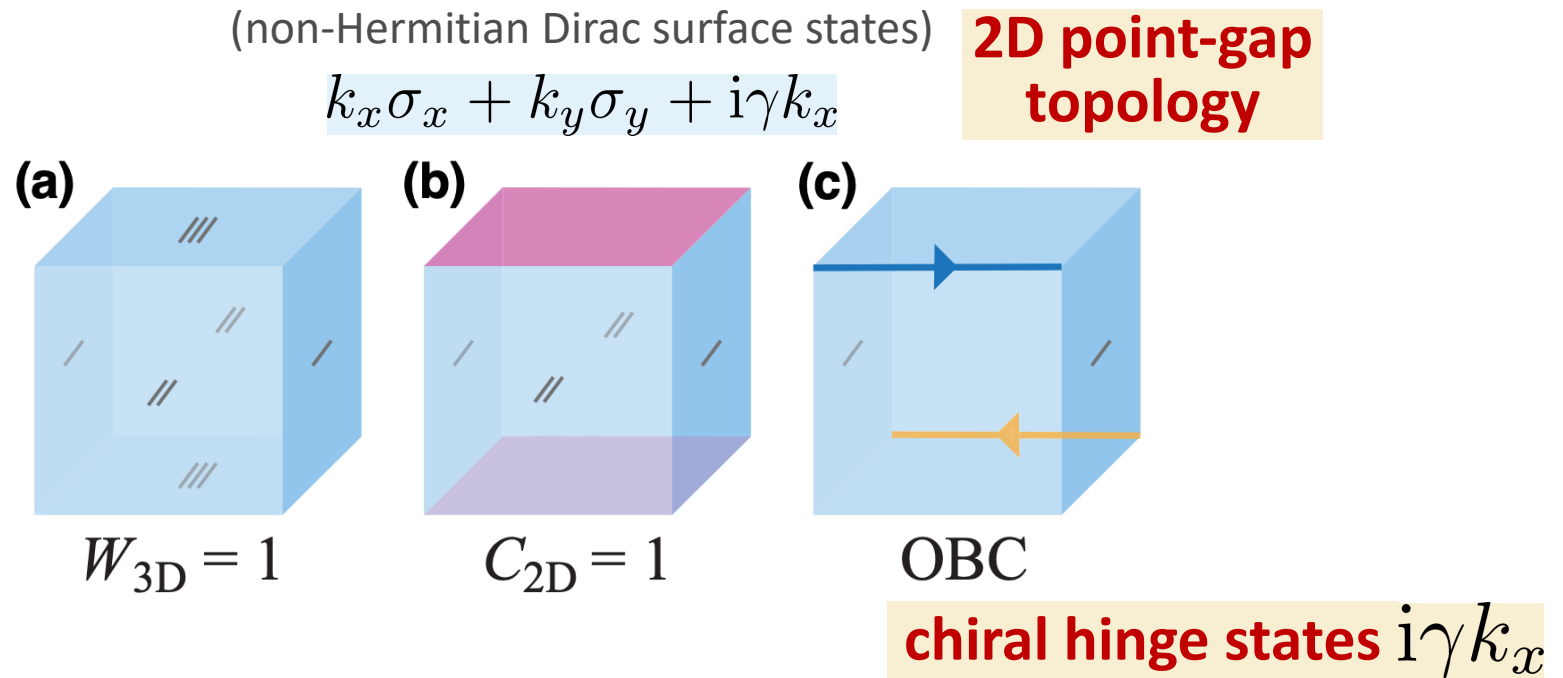
(can be shown in the presence of pseudo inversion symmetry)

**New type of corner skin effect**

- We can realize boundary non-Hermitian topology by a non-Hermitian perturbation only at the boundary.

cf. Nakamura, Inaka, Okuma & Sato, PRL **131**, 256602 (2023)

☆ Dirac surface states in 3D topological insulators exhibit 2D non-Hermitian topology and chiral hinge states!



$$W_{3D} = C_{2D}$$

**(3D Hermitian bulk)**

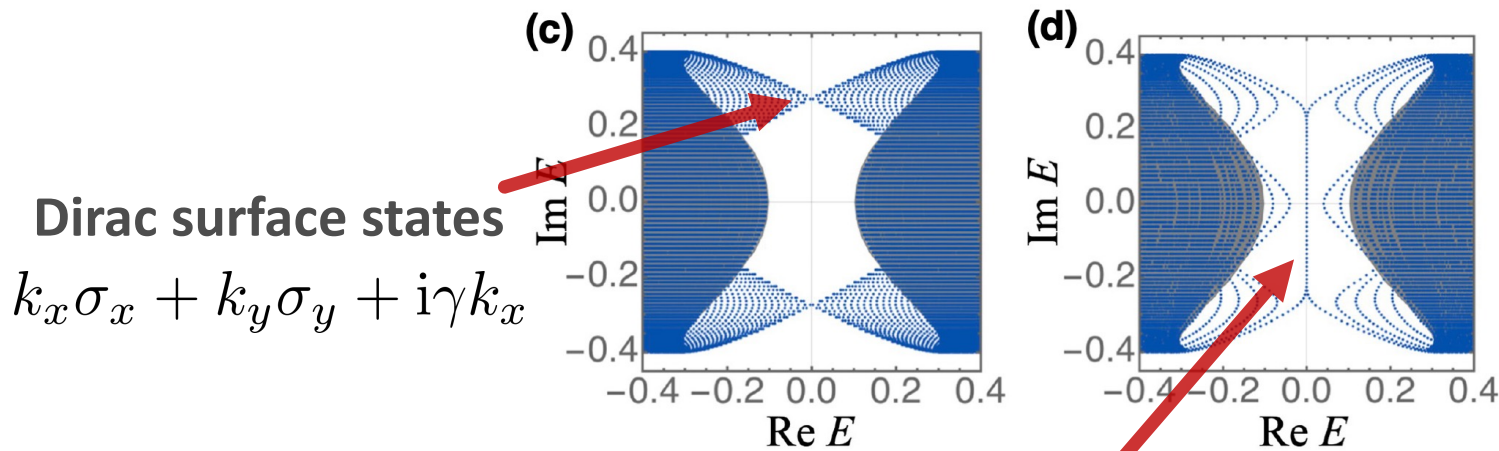
**(2D non-Hermitian boundary)**

# Non-Hermitian 3D topological insulator 17/30

$$H(\mathbf{k}) = (m + t_1 \cos k_x + t_1 \cos k_y + t_1 \cos k_z) \tau_y + t_2 (\sigma_x \sin k_x + \sigma_y \sin k_y + \sigma_z \sin k_z) \tau_x \\ + \delta (\cos k_x + \cos k_y) \sigma_y \tau_y + \underline{i\gamma \sin k_x}$$

x & y: PBC, z: OBC

x: PBC, y & z: OBC



**chiral hinge states!**  $i\gamma k_x$

**New type of second-order topological insulator induced by non-Hermiticity!**

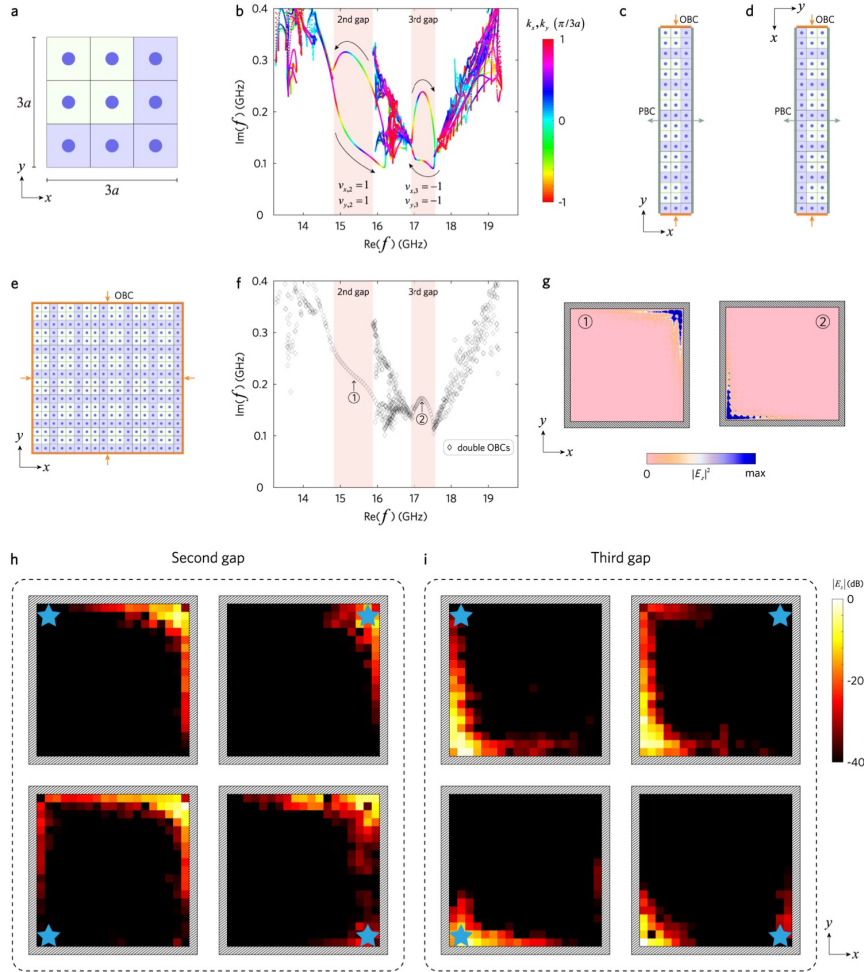
☆ We classify possible non-Hermitian boundary topology for all the tenfold classes of topological insulators.

Different non-Hermitian boundary phenomena appear for different symmetry classes and spatial dimensions.

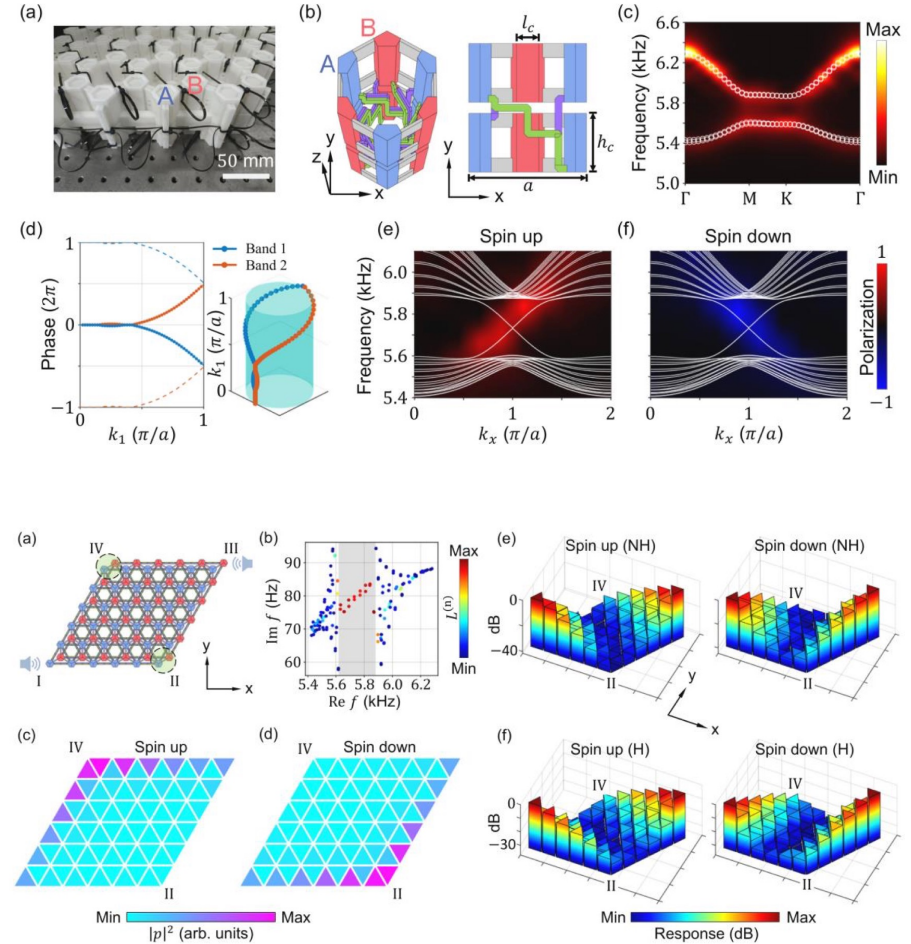
$d = 2$ Line-gap topology		$d = 1$ Point-gap topology	
H class	Invariant	NH class	Invariant (with $\mathcal{T}^\dagger$ )
A ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C \in \mathbb{Z}$	A ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W(E_F) = C \pmod{2}$
D ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C \in \mathbb{Z}$	D ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	...
		D $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W(0) = C \pmod{2}$
DIII ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu \in \{0, 1\}$	DIII $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu(0) = \nu$
AII ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu \in \{0, 1\}$	AII ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W(E_F) = 2\nu \pmod{4}$
		AII $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu(E_F) = \nu$
C ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C \in 2\mathbb{Z}$	C $^\dagger$ ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W(0) = C \pmod{4}$

$d = 3$ Line-gap topology		$d = 2$ Point-gap topology	
H class	Invariant	NH class	Invariant (with $\mathcal{T}^\dagger$ )
AIII ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W \in \mathbb{Z}$	AIII ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C(0) = W \pmod{2}$
DIII ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W \in \mathbb{Z}$	DIII ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	...
		DIII $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C(0) = W \pmod{2}$
AII ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu \in \{0, 1\}$	AII $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu(E_F) = \nu$
CII ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu \in \{0, 1\}$	CII ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C(0) = 2\nu \pmod{4}$
		CII $^\dagger$ ( $\mathbb{Z}_2$ )	$\nu(0) = \nu$
CI ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$W \in 2\mathbb{Z}$	CI $^\dagger$ ( $2\mathbb{Z}$ )	$C(0) = W \pmod{4}$

## Photonic crystal

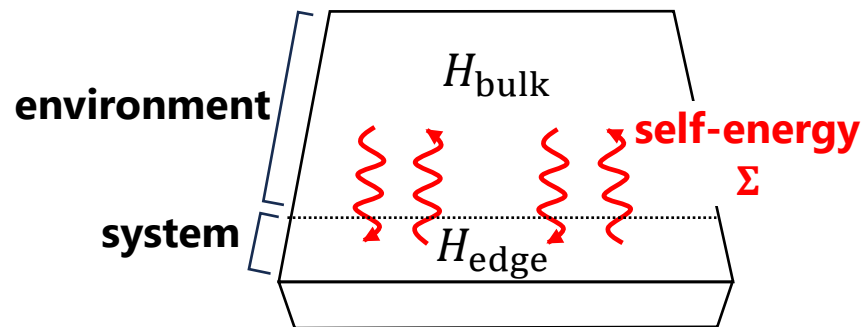


## Phononic crystal



So far, we have realized non-Hermitian topology by explicitly adding non-Hermiticity to the boundaries.

→ **We develop the Hermitian bulk – non-Hermitian boundary correspondence even in Hermitian topological insulators.**  
(no dissipation)



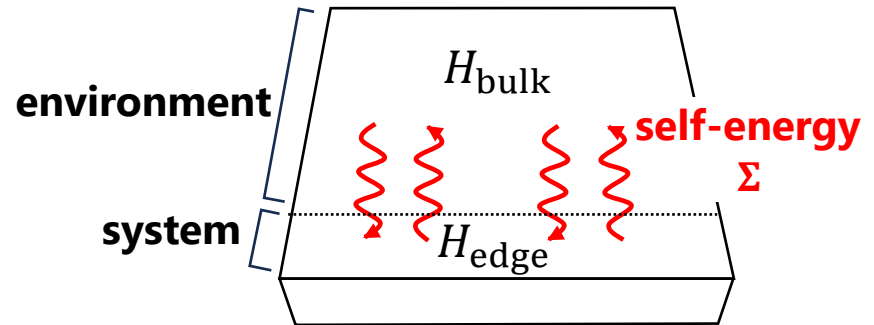
Although no dissipation is added externally, the coupling between the bulk and boundary leads to non-Hermitian topology!

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Single-particle Hermitian Hamiltonian:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} H_{\text{bulk}} & T \\ T^\dagger & H_{\text{edge}} \end{pmatrix}$$



Single-particle Schrödinger equation:

$$H \begin{pmatrix} |\psi_{\text{bulk}}\rangle \\ |\psi_{\text{edge}}\rangle \end{pmatrix} = (E + i\eta) \begin{pmatrix} |\psi_{\text{bulk}}\rangle \\ |\psi_{\text{edge}}\rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

➔ **Effective non-Hermitian Hamiltonian at the boundary:**

$$H_{\text{eff}}(E) = H_{\text{edge}} + \underline{\Sigma(E)}$$

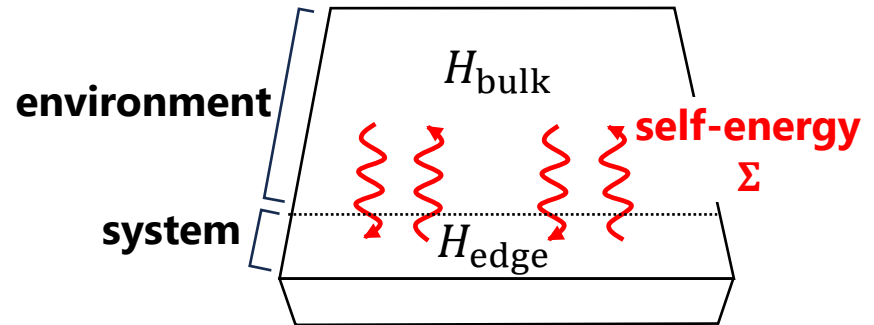
$$\text{self-energy } \Sigma(E) := T^\dagger (E + i\eta - H_{\text{bulk}})^{-1} T$$

★ **Self-energy is generally non-Hermitian and captures the particle exchange between the bulk and boundary.**



Single-particle Hermitian Hamiltonian:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} H_{\text{bulk}} & T \\ T^\dagger & H_{\text{edge}} \end{pmatrix}$$



Single-particle Schrödinger equation:

$H$  **Topology of the original Hermitian Hamiltonian should leave an imprint on that of the effective non-Hermitian Hamiltonian at the boundary!**

$$H_{\text{eff}}(E) = H_{\text{edge}} + \underline{\Sigma(E)}$$

$$\text{self-energy } \Sigma(E) := T^\dagger (E + i\eta - H_{\text{bulk}})^{-1} T$$

★ Self-energy is generally non-Hermitian and captures the particle exchange between the bulk and boundary.

SSH model:  $H_{\text{SSH}}(k) = (v + t \cos k) \sigma_x + (t \sin k) \sigma_y$

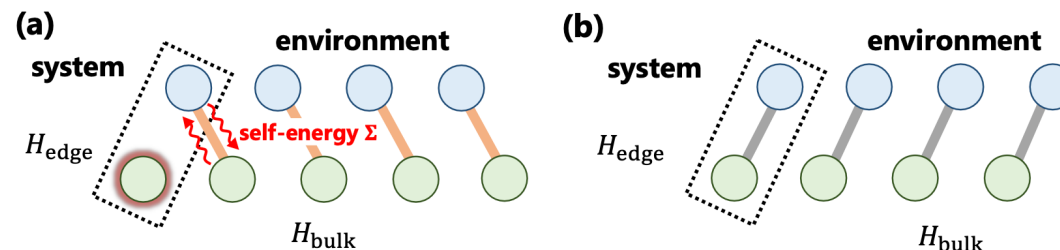
→ edge mode  $|\psi_0\rangle \propto \sum_x \left(-\frac{v}{t}\right)^x |x\rangle \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  (top. phase:  $|v/t| < 1$ )

**0D self-energy between the bulk and edge:**

$$\Sigma(E) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i\pi (t^2 - v^2) \delta(E) \theta(t - v) \end{pmatrix}$$

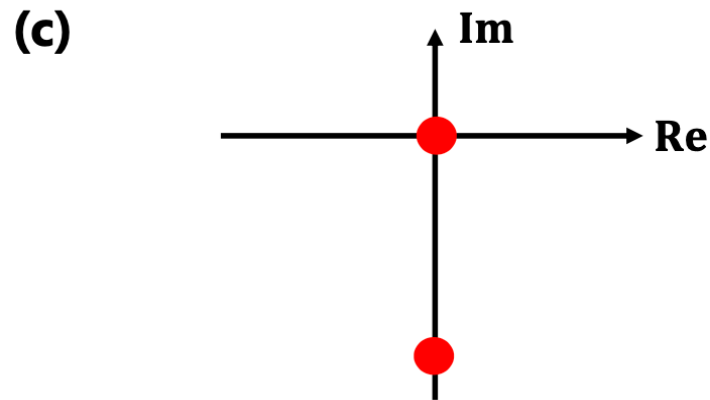
chiral symmetry:  $\sigma_z H_{\text{SSH}}(k) \sigma_z = -H_{\text{SSH}}(k)$

→  $\sigma_z H_{\text{eff}}^\dagger(E=0) \sigma_z = -H_{\text{eff}}(E=0)$

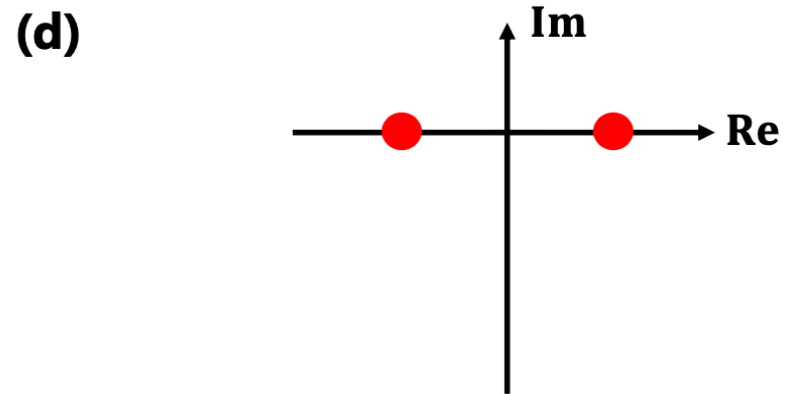


$$\Sigma(E) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i\pi(t^2 - v^2)\delta(E)\theta(t - v) \end{pmatrix}$$

topological



trivial



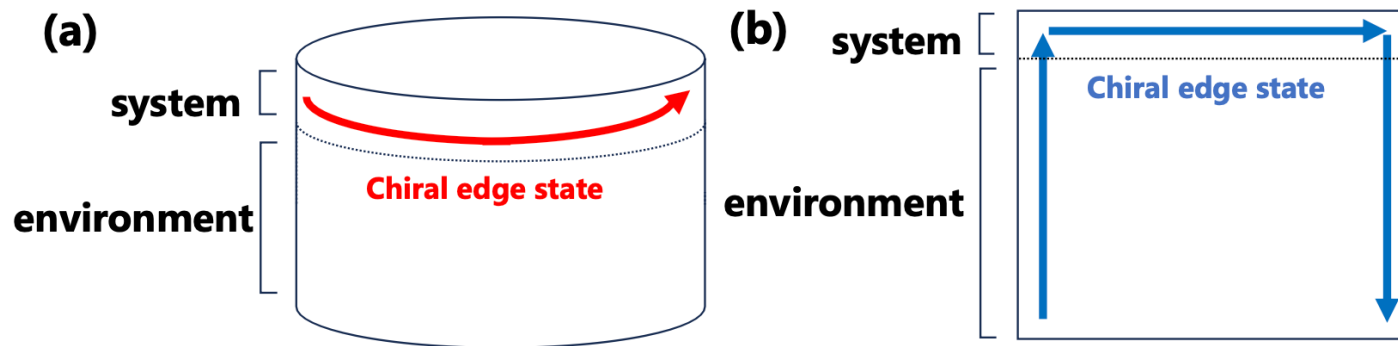
$$H_{\text{eff}}(E=0) = v\sigma_x + \Sigma(E=0)$$

**exhibits point-gap topology in 0D protected by chiral symmetry**  
(0th Chern number of  $iH_{\text{eff}}\sigma_z$ )

**ensures the persistence of zero modes**

$$H_{\text{Chern}}(\mathbf{k}) = (t \sin k_x) \sigma_x + (t \sin k_y) \sigma_y + (m + t \cos k_x + t \cos k_y) \sigma_z$$

(1st) Chern number: 
$$C_1 = \begin{cases} \text{sgn}(m/t) & (|m/t| < 2) \\ 0 & (|m/t| > 2) \end{cases}$$

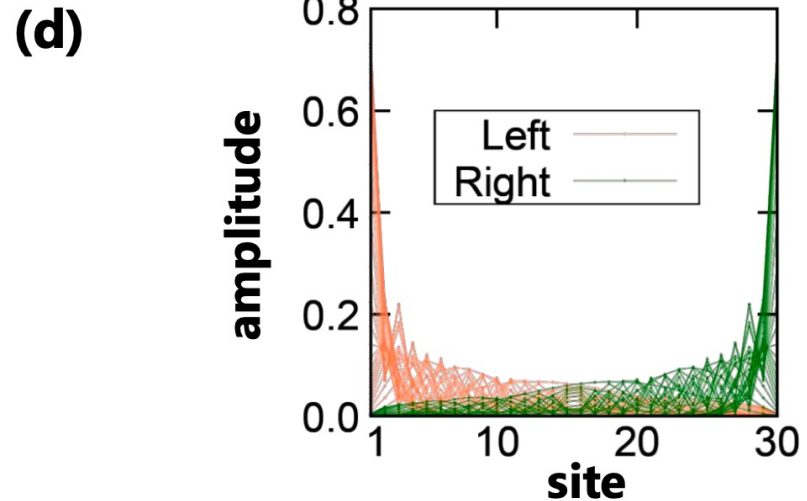
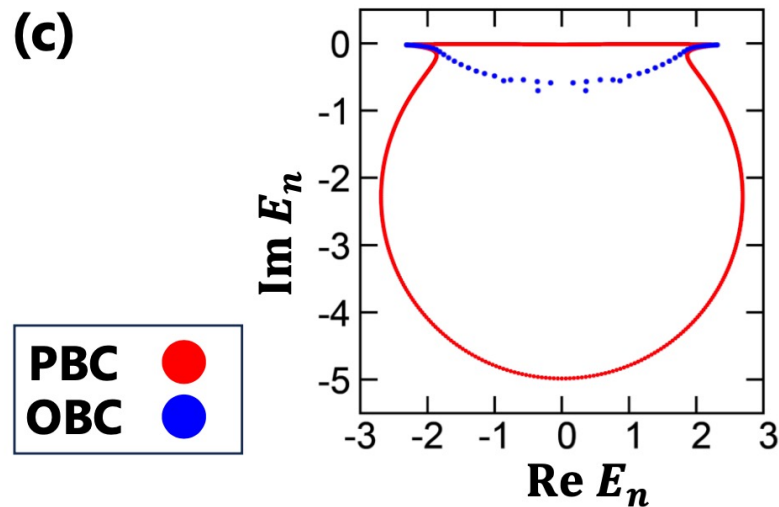


1D self-energy between the bulk and edge:

$$\Sigma(E, k_y) = \frac{t^2 - (m + t \cos k_y)^2}{2(E + i\eta - t \sin k_y)} (\sigma_0 - \sigma_y)$$

$$H_{\text{eff}}(E, k_y) = (t \sin k_y) \sigma_y + (m + t \cos k_y) \sigma_z + \Sigma(E, k_y)$$

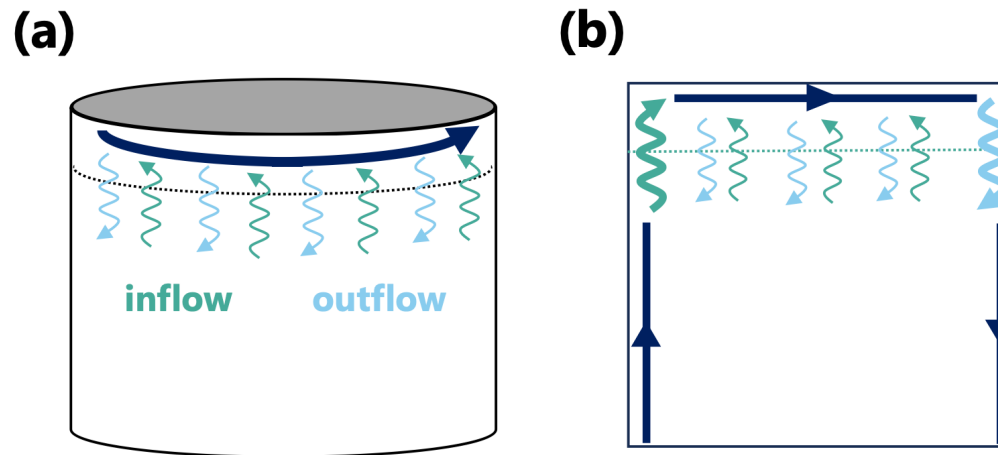
The complex spectrum of  $H_{\text{eff}}$  exhibits winding.  
(i.e., 1D point-gap topology)



As a consequence of the point-gap topology,  
 $H_{\text{eff}}$  also exhibits the non-Hermitian skin effect.  
(localized at the corners)

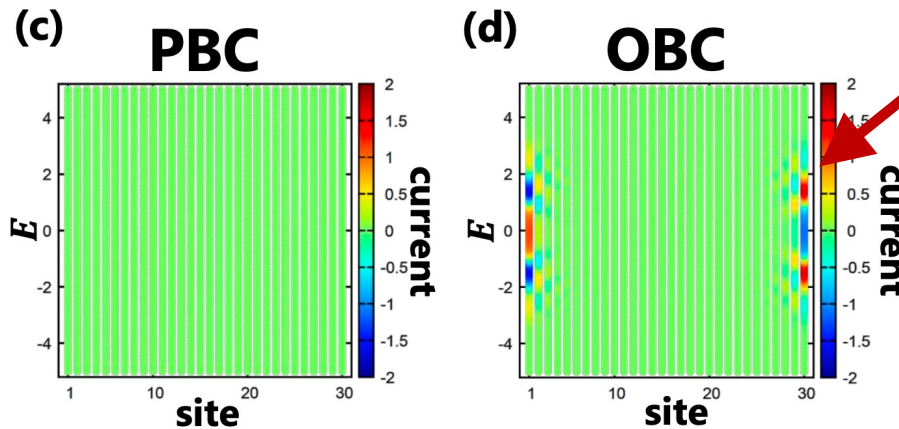
What is a physical consequence of the point-gap topology and skin effect in the effective boundary non-Hermitian Hamiltonian?

→ **Skin effect of the chiral edge modes results in the localized current distributions.**

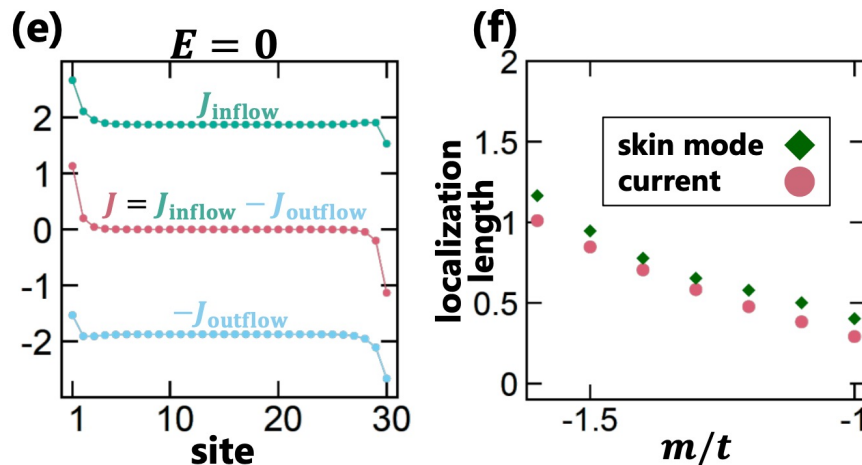


- **Inflow** from the bulk to the edge at one corner
- **Outflow** from the bulk to the edge at the other corner

$E$ -resolved current:  $J(E) = -[H_{\text{edge}}, G_{\text{edge}}(E)] - [H_{\text{edge}}, G_{\text{edge}}(E)]^\dagger$



**Localized current arises only under the OBC**

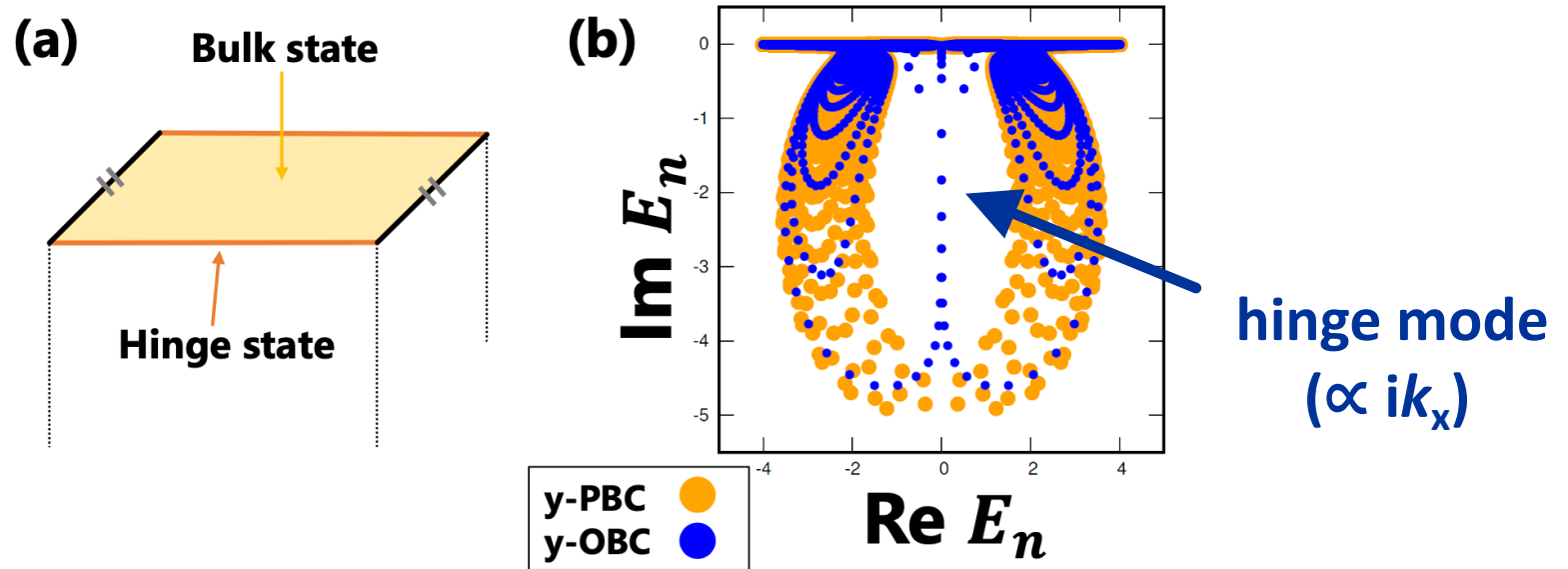


**Localized current due to the skin effect**

$$J_y \simeq j_1 e^{-y/\xi} - j_2 e^{-(L-y)/\xi}$$

$\xi$ : localization length of skin mode

3D topological insulator:  $H_{3\text{D TI}}(\mathbf{k}) = (m + t \cos k_x + t \cos k_y + t \cos k_z) \tau_y$   
 $+ (t \sin k_x) \sigma_x \tau_x + (t \sin k_y) \sigma_y \tau_x$   
 $+ (t \sin k_z) \sigma_z \tau_x + \delta (\cos k_x + \cos k_y) \sigma_y \tau_y$



$H_{\text{eff}}$  exhibits 2D point-gap topology, leading to the chiral hinge modes!  
(1st Chern number of  $iH_{\text{eff}}\sigma_z$ )



When the original Hermitian Hamiltonians respect AZ symmetry, the effective non-Hermitian Hamiltonians  $H_{\text{eff}}$  respect  $AZ^\dagger$  symmetry.

→  $H_{\text{eff}}$  can generally exhibit point-gap topology

AZ class	TRS	PHS	CS	$d = 1$	$d = 2$	$d = 3$
A	0	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}^*$	0
AIII	0	0	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}$
AI	+1	0	0	0	0	0
BDI	+1	+1	1	$\mathbb{Z}$	0	0
D	0	+1	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}^*$	0
DIII	-1	+1	1	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^*$	$\mathbb{Z}^{**}$
AI	-1	0	0	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2^*$	$\mathbb{Z}_2^*$
CII	-1	-1	1	$2\mathbb{Z}$	0	$\mathbb{Z}_2$
C	0	-1	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}^*$	0
CI	+1	-1	1	0	0	$2\mathbb{Z}$

skin effect

hinge mode

# Summary

# PRX Quantum 4, 030315 (2023)

# arXiv:2405.10015

- We establish the topological correspondence between the Hermitian bulk and non-Hermitian boundary.
- We find new boundary physics, such as corner skin effect of chiral edge modes and chiral hinge modes due to non-Hermiticity.
- We develop this correspondence even in Hermitian topological insulators.

