# Topological order at finite temperatures

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What is topological order at  $T \neq 0$ ?

What is the classical counterpart of quantum topological order ?

How to define a measure of either ?

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# T=0 (still)

Levin & Wen, Kitaev & Preskill (2006)

#### B

#### Topological entropy



von Neumann entropy Given a pure state density matrix

 $\hat{\rho} = |\Psi_{\rm GS}\rangle\langle\Psi_{\rm GS}|$   $\rightarrow$   $\hat{\rho}_A = \operatorname{tr}_B \hat{\rho}$   $\rightarrow$   $S_A = -\operatorname{tr}_A (\hat{\rho}_A \ln \hat{\rho}_A)$  $S_A = S_B = \alpha \, \mathcal{S}_{AB} - \gamma_{AB} + \dots$  $S_{\text{topo}} = -S_{1A} + S_{2A} + S_{3A} - S_{4A}$ 

T≠0



## Topological piece within T≠0 equilibrium density matrix

Castelnovo & C<sup>3</sup> (2007)

B

$$S_A = s \mathcal{V}_A + \alpha \mathcal{S}_{AB} - \gamma_{AB} + \dots$$



#### Volume and surface terms do cancel (1-2-3+4)

$$S_{\rm topo} = -S_{1A} + S_{2A} + S_{3A} - S_{4A}$$

## Case study: toric code in 2D, 3D, ...

Kitaev (1997) Hamma, Zanardi, and Wen (2005)

$$H = -\lambda_A \sum_s A_s - \lambda_B \sum_p B_p$$







# In any D ...

The contributions to the entropies from the two terms (plaquettes and stars) in the Hamiltonian are <u>additive</u>

$$S_{\rm VN}(\mathcal{A};T) = S_{\rm VN}^{(S)}(\mathcal{A};T/\lambda_A) + S_{\rm VN}^{(P)}(\mathcal{A};T/\lambda_B)$$

$$S_{\rm topo}(T) = S_{\rm topo}^{(S)}(T/\lambda_A) + S_{\rm topo}^{(P)}(T/\lambda_B).$$



The non-vanishing quantum topological entropy arises from the plaquette and star terms in the Hamiltonian as two equal and independent (i.e., classical) contributions

# In 2D



Entropy vanishes when the number of defects on a system of size N is O(1)

 $Ne^{-\lambda_{A/B}/T} \sim 1$ 

Two (deconfined) defects immediately spoil the order parameter  $\Gamma_1 = \prod_{i \in \gamma_1} \sigma_i^z$ order only if NO defects at all!



Non-local operators distinguishing the different sectors are winding loops and winding membranes





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**ROBUST!** 

fragile

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fragile



 $\Gamma_1 = \langle \prod_{i \in \gamma_1} \sigma_i^z \rangle \to \frac{1}{N_{\gamma_1}} \sum_{\gamma_1} \langle \prod_{i \in \gamma_1} \sigma_i^z \rangle$ 

Non-local operators distinguishing the different sectors are winding loops and winding membranes



fragile



## 3D continued ...

- An exact expression can be derived for the von Neumann and topological entropies at any T
- Shell and donut type partitions, chosen symmetrically respective to  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$



# Topological entropy in 3D



- it is able to distinguish between the fragile and robust behavior
- the low temperature phase has non vanishing topological entropy
- the classical origin of each piece of the topological information is manifest (no need for hard constraints in 3D)

$$\rho(T) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta \hat{H}}$$
$$= \frac{\sum_{\alpha,\beta} \langle \alpha | e^{-\beta \lambda_A S} e^{-\beta \lambda_B P} | \beta \rangle | \alpha \rangle \langle \beta |}{\sum_{\alpha} \langle \alpha | e^{-\beta \lambda_A S} e^{-\beta \lambda_B P} | \alpha \rangle}$$



















$$\rho(T) = \sum_{g \in G} \frac{Z_J^{\text{tot}}(g)}{Z_J^{\text{tot}}(1)} \sum_{\alpha} \frac{e^{\beta \lambda_A M_s(\alpha)}}{Z_s} |\alpha\rangle \langle \alpha | g$$

**3D** Ising partition function with  $e^{-2J} = \tanh \beta \lambda_B$ 

3D random-bond Ising partition (group element g translates into -J bonds)

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**3D** Ising partition function with  $e^{-2J} = \tanh \beta \lambda_B$ 

plus collective ops.



$$S_{\text{topo}}(T) = S_{\text{topo}}^{(S)}(T/\lambda_A) + S_{\text{topo}}^{(P)}(T/\lambda_B).$$

$$S_{\text{topo}}^{(S)}(T/\lambda_A) = \begin{cases} \ln 2 & T = 0\\ 0 & T > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$S_{\text{topo}}^{(P)}(T/\lambda_B) = \begin{cases} \ln 2 & T < T_c\\ 0 & T > T_c \end{cases}$$

x-basis

z-basis

$$\begin{cases} S_{\text{topo}}^{3\text{D}}(T) = \begin{cases} 2\ln 2 & T = 0\\ \ln 2 & 0 < T < T_c\\ 0 & T > T_c \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Quantum topological order at T=0 follows from the superposition of the two classical pieces

# What is the physical interpretation?

Prepare the system (at T=0) in a superposition of different sectors at  $t=t_i$ 

 $(\alpha)$ 

- Heat it to a temperature below T<sub>c</sub>
- Cool it to T=0 at  $t=t_f$



fragile

$$S_{\text{topo}}^{(S)}(T > 0) = 0$$
$$\langle \Psi_{\text{in}} | \prod_{i \in \xi} \sigma_i^x | \Psi_{\text{in}} \rangle \neq \langle \Psi_{\text{fi}} | \prod_{i \in \xi} \sigma_i^x | \Psi_{\text{fi}} \rangle$$



$$S_{\rm topo}^{(P)}(T < T_c) = \ln 2$$

$$\langle \Psi_{\rm in} | \prod_{i \in \gamma} \sigma_i^z | \Psi_{\rm in} \rangle = \langle \Psi_{\rm fi} | \prod_{i \in \gamma} \sigma_i^z | \Psi_{\rm fi} \rangle$$

## Physical interpretation...

$$\langle \Psi_{\rm in} | \prod_{i \in \gamma} \sigma_i^z | \Psi_{\rm in} \rangle = \langle \Psi_{\rm fi} | \prod_{i \in \gamma} \sigma_i^z | \Psi_{\rm fi} \rangle$$

$$|\Psi_{\rm in}\rangle = \sum_{I=0}^{2^3-1} \sqrt{p_I} |I\rangle \implies |\Psi_{\rm fi}\rangle = \sum_{I=0}^{2^3-1} \sqrt{p_I} e^{i\varphi_I} |I\rangle$$

PBIT - probability bit

#### What if ...



error correction schemes in 4D

Dennis, Kitaev, Landahl, and Preskill J. Math. Phys. (2002).

#### self-correcting system

## "Boomerang" effect



#### **Toric-boson model**

Hamma, Castelnovo & C<sup>3</sup>



$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{i < j} g_i g_j \log |\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j| \qquad d = 2,$$

#### Toric-boson model



## Conclusions

- Topological order can be well defined for  $T \neq 0$ , mixed states.
- There are well-defined classical counterparts in hard constrained models in 2D, or in 3D without need for hard constraints.
- Quantum order can (in some instances) be thought of superimposed classical topologically ordered system.
- Confined defects retain order at finite temperature.
- Topological entropy captures finite temperature order with equilibrium density matrices as starting point.
- Stable memories possible as long as system remains within the finite T topological phase.