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研究課題名(和文) Interacting topological phases and operator algebras

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研究成果の概要(和文)：本プロジェクトはギャップのある基底状態のトポロジカルな性質を研究することです。すなわち、低エネルギーの量子力学において少し変化しても、不変量の性質です。作用素環、非可換指数理論といった枠組みを用いて研究しました。作用素環のホモロジー・コホモロジーを使用して、さまざまなギャップのある基底状態の位相的な性質を明らかにしました。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

Ground states give the most basic information about quantum mechanical system. By understanding the topological properties of ground states, we can understand which systems can be loosely connected and which are manifestly distinct. This aids our conceptual understanding of materials.

研究成果の概要(英文)：The project was an exploration of topological properties of gapped ground states. That is, properties of low-energy quantum mechanical systems which are stable under small perturbations and deformations. Our primary method for studying such problems was to use methods from operator algebras and non-commutative index theory. Homology and cohomology are mathematical tools that give a simple algebraic description of a potential complicated setting (for example, how many holes in a shape). By using homology and cohomology theories for operator algebras, which describe quantum mechanical systems, we mathematically characterised stable properties of a wide variety of gapped ground states.

研究分野：作用素環論

キーワード：Topological phase Operator algebras Index theory 作用素環論 トポロジカル相 指数理論

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1 Background leading to to research project

At the beginning of the research project (2019), topological phases of matter was an active area of research in physics and was gaining further attention in the mathematical physics community. The field's mathematical developments could loosely be separated into two related but distinct categories:

- (i) *Topological* properties of free-fermionic and symmetric Hamiltonians with a spectral gap (topological insulators and superconductors),
- (ii) *Analytic* properties of the many-body ground states of lattice systems with a spectral gap above the ground state energy in the infinite volume limit.

Both areas of research are concerned with showing certain invariance properties of mathematical objects that can be constructed in their respective setting. Examples include the stability of currents localised at the boundary of a free-fermionic Hamiltonian or the stability of the spectral gap of many-body ground states under perturbations of the many-body interaction.

While (i) and (ii) have important implications in condensed matter physics with potential applications in topological quantum computing, their mathematical techniques are quite distinct. At the time, it was unclear to what extent ideas from one area of study may be of relevance to the other.

2 Purpose of research

The central aim of the research project was to investigate the links between the research areas (i) and (ii) by investigating topological properties of a special class of many-body systems. In more detail, the broad aims of the project were the following:

- (a) Expand our understanding of topological phases of matter to systems with many-body interactions,
- (b) Investigate and establish new connections between the topological and analytical approaches to gapped systems,
- (c) Prove theorems of independent mathematical interest.

The Principal Investigator (PI) had previously studied on topological phases of free-fermionic Hamiltonians. The project aimed to expand this knowledge to a much wider class of important examples.

3 Research methods

To make precise both the definition of gapped many-body ground state as well as its phase, it is desirable to work in the infinite volume limit. Such a setting necessitates the use of operator algebraic methods. In certain simpler settings, gapped ground states can also be characterised via certain elements of a C^* -algebra, for example the Fermi projection of a free-fermionic Hamiltonian. Hence, the project was primarily focused in studying properties of a special class of states or elements of a C^* -algebra that characterises the physical system.

In order to extract topological properties of states or elements of a C^* -algebra, one must study topological properties of the underlying algebra. Starting with a C^* -algebra A , there are a variety of mathematical tools to study its topological properties. One such example are the K -theory and K -homology groups of A , which then also provides potential connections to index theory and noncommutative geometry. In another setting, one may be interested in characterising symmetric Hamiltonians or ground states, which leads to the study of group actions on operator algebras. Topologically characterising such group actions may also lead to connections with group cohomology or other cohomology theories.

Depending on the system of study, a variety of approaches can be used to both define and characterise its topological phase. Though all of these approaches have a natural description in the language of operator algebras. As such, the projects goals were investigated using the framework of operator algebras, index theory and cohomology.

4 Research results

Let us give a brief summary of the results obtained through the KAKENHI project.

4.1 Results on gapped ground states

As a first step to consider more general gapped ground states, one-dimensional fermionic systems were considered. That is, a class of ground states on the infinite one-dimensional canonical anti-commutation relations (CAR) algebra $A_{\mathbb{Z}}^{\text{car}}$. An important difference between the fermionic and bosonic systems, which are described via quantum spin chains, is that the CAR algebra comes with a canonical \mathbb{Z}_2 -grading from the fermionic parity. It is physically reasonable to restrict one's attention to gapped ground states that respect this fermionic parity. Building from work by Matsui [10], a \mathbb{Z}_2 -valued index was defined for such parity-symmetric gapped ground states on $A_{\mathbb{Z}}^{\text{car}}$ and its basic stability properties were shown in the paper [7]. This work was further developed and generalised in [6], which defined a group cohomology-valued index for gapped fermionic ground states in one dimension and with an additional finite group symmetry G . Specifically, the index takes value in $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times H^1(G, \mathbb{Z}_2) \times H^2(G, U(1))$, where $H^\bullet(G, K)$ denote the group cohomology with coefficients in K . This index is indeed an invariant of gapped ground states and so can be considered as the topological phase of G -symmetric fermionic gapped ground states in one dimension.

We also remark that the paper [6] also develops the theory of fermionic matrix product states, which provide a computationally convenient approach to study translation-symmetric gapped ground states in one dimension.

More general gapped ground states of fermionic systems, e.g. in higher dimension, are studied via states on the more general CAR algebra $A^{\text{car}}(\mathcal{H})$, where \mathcal{H} describes the underlying system. Such a class of states is extremely large, so it is convenient to either restrict the underlying setting or the type of ground state. A particularly amenable class of ground states are the so-called quasifree states of $A^{\text{car}}(\mathcal{H})$, which have a close relationship to the Bogoliubov–de Gennes description of superconductors, an intrinsically many-body phenomenon. In the paper [1], we studied G -symmetric quasifree ground states with reference to an underlying space M . Using the space M , a notion of locally equivalent states was considered and it was shown that there is a topological obstruction for locally equivalent states homotopically connected. This obstruction takes values in the G -symmetric K -homology of the space M , $K_*^G(M)$. Of particular note is that both M and G can be non-compact. The coarse index, an index-theoretic map for non-compact spaces, can also be used to relate this K -homology index to the K -theoretic indices that are constructed for superconducting systems via the K -theory Roe C^* -algebras.

4.2 Mathematical results

The project's analysis of topological phases and gapped ground states also gave rise to more mathematical questions and studies. While motivated and with applications in the project's physical systems, these results are of independent mathematical interest.

The study of fermions and the CAR algebra requires a careful study of operator algebras with a \mathbb{Z}_2 -grading. An approach to K -theory for \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded operator algebras that is particularly amenable to the study of gapped Hamiltonians was introduced by van Daele [8]. An explicit connection between van Daele K -theory and more standard approaches to operator algebraic K -theory via Kasparov's KK -theory had not been shown. The paper [4] fills this gap via an explicit isomorphism using a \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded version of the Cayley transform of a self-adjoint or unitary operator. The relevance of this map to bulk and edge systems of free-fermionic topological phases was also shown.

The study of topological obstructions to homotopies of quasifree gapped ground states of the CAR algebra in [1] motivated a more general study of spectral flow of the (skew-adjoint) Fredholm operators in real Hilbert spaces with Clifford symmetries. A comprehensive analysis of this question was carried out in the paper [3], where it was also shown that the spectral flow can be described as the via the skew-adjoint Fredholm index of a Dirac-like Hamiltonian.

Quasifree ground states of the CAR algebra with a $U(1)$ -symmetry can be characterised by the spectral projection of a Hamiltonian. If the Hamiltonian is a Schrödinger operator that with a potential that is periodic with respect to an underlying lattice, the Bloch–Floquet transform can be used to give

a set of functions whose lattice translations generate an orthonormal basis of this spectral subspace. Interestingly, the regularity of these functions can be used to determine if the spectral subspace and corresponding ground state is topologically trivial or not. In the paper [5], this result is extended to aperiodic potentials, where the Bloch–Floquet transform is unavailable. This result is shown by constructing a discrete groupoid \mathcal{G} and then studying the K -theory of the corresponding groupoid C^* -algebra.

4.3 Other results

The goal of the project is to construct and understand topological indices for a gapped Hamiltonians and ground states in a variety of settings. Methods from quantum information theory have also been quite effective in understanding further properties of ground states. As such, we also began to investigate topological properties of a few simple descriptions of time evolutions and operations on quantum states. Quantum walks provide a flexible model for the discrete time step of a Hamiltonian. In the paper [2], we defined topological indices for quantum walks with an additional chiral symmetry in the very general setting of Hilbert C^* -modules. This result also has implications for edge/boundary properties of Hamiltonians on half-space systems.

These results in [2] can be considered as the first steps towards a larger study of the relevance of methods from index theory and noncommutative geometry in the study of quantum information theory.

Discussion and conclusion

With regards to the projects desired outcomes and obtained results, we are generally quite satisfied with what we have been able to accomplish. Namely, we were able to characterise the topological phase of gapped ground states in a wide variety of different settings. A limitation of our results is that we were only able to obtain results for general many-body ground states in one dimension. Understanding topological phases of higher dimensional many-body systems seems to require further restrictions on the types of gapped ground states considered (namely, ground states that are homotopic to a product state) as well as quite different mathematical techniques, cf. [9]. Another possible direction for new research is to consider higher-dimensional gapped ground states, but where the allowed deformations are much more restricted and controlled by some auxiliary C^* -algebra contained within the CAR algebra.

The new connections between index theory and quantum walks considered in [2] also open up new directions to study the connections between index theory and systems in quantum information theory. We aim to further study this question in future work, which may also be relevant for developing our understanding of operations and elementary excitations of gapped ground states. Such excitations have been proposed as a mechanism for constructing quantum computational algorithms. Clarifying some of these questions may therefore be of much broader significance.

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3. 雑誌名 Journal of Fourier Analysis and Applications	6. 最初と最後の頁 1-39
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） 10.1007/s00041-021-09873-8	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスではない、又はオープンアクセスが困難	国際共著 該当する
1. 著者名 Bourne Chris	4. 巻 55 (104004)
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1. 発表者名 Chris Bourne
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〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

Personal academic webpage https://sites.google.com/site/khomologyzone/home
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6. 研究組織

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研究協力者	Carey Alan (Carey Alan)		
研究協力者	Lesch Matthias (Lesch Matthias)		

7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

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