

# Synopsis of geometrical observables

## Part 2: Many-body formulation

Raffaele Resta

Based on:

<https://www.cond-mat.de/events/correl20/manuscripts/resta.pdf>

Trieste, 2023

# Outline

- 1 Geometrical observables
- 2 Quantum geometry & Hilbert spaces
- 3 Polarization
  - Single-point Berry phase
  - $\mathbb{Z}_2$  invariant in centrosymmetric systems
  - Topological transition  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even
- 4 The insulating state of matter
  - Resta-Sorella  $\lambda^2$
  - Drude weight
- 5 Anomalous Hall conductivity & many-body Chern number
- 6 Geometry within open boundary conditions
  - Model Anderson insulator in 1d
  - Local theory of the insulating state
  - Anderson metal-insulator transition in 3d

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# Band insulators and band metals

- Most geometry and topology is addressed at the independent-particle level (Hartree Fock or Kohn-Sham)
- In crystalline solids the physics is embedded in the geometry of the occupied Bloch manifold
- For both **band insulators** and **band metals** the formal expressions are Fermi-volume integrals of **reciprocal-space differential forms**

In mathematical speak:

- the **Berry connection** is a Chern-Simons 1-form
- the **Berry curvature** (a 2-form) is called first Chern form

References about **band-structure** geometry and topology:

- D. Vanderbilt, *Berry Phases in Electronic Structure Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)
- R. Resta, Lecture Notes,

<http://www-dft.ts.infn.it/~resta/gtse/draft.pdf>

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# Band insulators and band metals

- Geometrical/topological observables come in two very different classes:
  - **Class (i)** Observables whose bulk value is only defined modulo  $2\pi$  (in dimensionless units)
  - **Class (ii)** Observables whose bulk value is single-valued
- All of the known class (ii) observables are rooted in a 2-form
- Those in class (ii) are rooted in a 1-form and a 3-form

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# Synopsis (band insulators and band metals)

## Class (i)

Chern-Simons 1-form	Polarization (insulators only)
Chern-Simons 3-form	Axion term in magnetoelectrics (insulators only)

## Class (ii)

<b>Time-reversal odd</b> (antisymmetric 2-forms)	<b>Time-reversal even</b> (symmetric 2-forms)
Anomalous Hall conductivity metals and insulators	Souza-Wilkens-Martin sum rule insulators only
Circular dichroism sum rule metals and insulators	??
Orbital magnetization metals and insulators	Drude weight metals only



# From geometry to topology

## Class (i)

Chern-Simons 1-form	Polarization Topological $\mathbb{Z}_2$ with I-symmetry
Chern-Simons 3-form	Axion term in magnetoelectrics $\mathbb{Z}_2$ with either T- or I-symmetry

## Class (ii)

<b>Time-reversal odd</b> (antisymmetric 2-forms)	<b>Time-reversal even</b> (symmetric 2-forms)
Anomalous Hall conductivity Topological $\mathbb{Z}$ in 2d insulators: QAHE	SWM sum rule
Circular dichroism sum rule	
Orbital magnetization	Drude weight

# From band structure to many-body physics

- Some—**not all**—geometrical/topological observables can be defined for correlated many-electron system
- There is no  $\mathbf{k}$ -vector to speak of: a **different Hilbert space** is needed

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- Why sum rules are **ground-state** properties?

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# The simplest geometrical property: Distance

Two state vectors  $|\psi_1\rangle$  and  $|\psi_2\rangle$  in the **same** Hilbert space

$$D_{12}^2 = -\ln |\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle|^2$$

- $D_{12}^2$  clearly **gauge-invariant**
- $D_{12}^2 = 0$  if the two quantum states coincide apart for an irrelevant phase
- $D_{12}^2 = \infty$  if the two states are orthogonal
- **Caveat:** It is a **pseudodistance**

## A second geometrical property: Connection

$$D_{12}^2 = -\ln |\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle|^2 = -\ln \langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle - \ln \langle \Psi_2 | \Psi_1 \rangle$$

- The two terms are **not** gauge-invariant
- Each of the two terms is a complex number
- What is the meaning of  **$\text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle$**  ?

$$\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle = |\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle| e^{i\varphi_{12}}$$

$$-\text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle = \varphi_{12}, \quad \varphi_{21} = -\varphi_{12}$$

- The connection fixes the **phase difference**
- The connection is **arbitrary**
- Given that it is arbitrary, **why bother?**

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# Metric, connection, curvature

- $|\Psi_{\kappa}\rangle$  a **differentiable** function of  $\kappa$

- Quantum metric  $g_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa)$ :

$$D_{\kappa, \kappa+d\kappa}^2 = g_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) d\kappa_{\alpha} d\kappa_{\beta}$$

- Berry connection  $\mathcal{A}_{\alpha}(\kappa)$ :

$$\varphi_{\kappa, \kappa+d\kappa} = \mathcal{A}_{\alpha}(\kappa) d\kappa_{\alpha}$$

- Berry curvature  $\Omega_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa)$  (curl of the connection):

$$\Omega_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) d\kappa_{\alpha} d\kappa_{\beta} = [\partial_{\kappa_{\alpha}} \mathcal{A}_{\beta}(\kappa) - \partial_{\kappa_{\beta}} \mathcal{A}_{\alpha}(\kappa)] d\kappa_{\alpha} d\kappa_{\beta}$$

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# Metric, connection, curvature

- Quantum metric **gauge-invariant 2-form**:

$$g_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) = \text{Re} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \Psi_\kappa \rangle \langle \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$

- Berry connection **(gauge-dependent 1-form)**:

$$\mathcal{A}_\alpha(\kappa) = i \langle \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$

- Berry curvature **(gauge-invariant 2-form)**:

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) &= i ( \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa \rangle ) \\ &= -2 \text{Im} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- One more **gauge-invariant 2-form**:

$$\langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | (H_\kappa - E_\kappa) | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$

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# Kohn's Hamiltonian

- $N$  electrons in a cubic box of volume  $L^d$
- Eventually  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $L \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $N/L^d$  constant
- Hamiltonian with a “flux” (a gauge transformation):

$$\hat{H}_{\kappa} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^N |\mathbf{p}_i + \hbar\boldsymbol{\kappa}|^2 + \hat{V}$$

- $\hat{V}$  includes one-body and two-body terms
- Crystalline and noncrystalline systems
- Thermodynamic limit **after** taking  $\boldsymbol{\kappa}$ -derivatives

# Geometrical forms

- All forms evaluated on the **ground state** at  $\kappa = 0$
- All forms **real** and **extensive**

- Connection:

$$\mathcal{A}_\alpha(\kappa) = i \langle \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$

- Metric:

$$g_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) = \text{Re} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | \Psi_\kappa \rangle \langle \Psi_\kappa | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$

- Curvature:

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- One more 2-form:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\alpha\beta}(\kappa) = \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_\kappa | ( \hat{H}_\kappa - E_{0\kappa} ) | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_\kappa \rangle$$



# Two different Hilbert spaces

$$\hat{H}_\kappa = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^N |\mathbf{p}_i + \hbar\boldsymbol{\kappa}|^2 + \hat{V}$$

- OBC: the flux is easily “gauged away”
  - Eigenvalues  $\kappa$ -independent
  - $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle = e^{-i\boldsymbol{\kappa}\cdot\hat{\mathbf{r}}}\langle\Psi_0\rangle$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{r}_i$
  - $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle$  obeys Schrödinger Eq. and OBCs at **any**  $\kappa$
- Born-von-Kàrmàn PBCs violate gauge invariance
  - The coordinates  $r_{i\alpha}$  are actually **angles**  $\varphi_{i\alpha} = 2\pi r_{i\alpha}/L$
  - The position  $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{r}_i$  is a **forbidden** operator
  - $E_{0\kappa}$  **does** depend on  $\kappa$ .
  - $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle = e^{-i\boldsymbol{\kappa}\cdot\hat{\mathbf{r}}}\langle\Psi_0\rangle$  **does not** obey PBCs (for a generic  $\kappa$ )

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# A lattice of special $\kappa$ vectors

- If the  $\kappa$  components are **integer multiples** of  $2\pi/L$  then:
  - $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle = e^{-i\kappa\cdot\hat{r}}|\Psi_0\rangle$  obeys Schrödinger Eq. and PBCs
  - It is an eigenstate of  $\hat{H}_\kappa$  with eigenvalue  $E_0$
  - Is it the **ground eigenstate????**

- Set  $\kappa_1 = (\frac{2\pi}{L}, 0, 0)$ :

$$\beta_N^{(x)} = \langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_0 \rangle = \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_i x_i} | \Psi_0 \rangle = \langle \Psi_0 | U | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

- $U$  many-body unitary operator
- $\beta_N^{(x)}$  complex number,  $|\beta_N^{(x)}| \leq 1$
- Polarization and Resta-Sorella theory of the insulating state both rooted in  $\beta_N^{(x)}$  (in the large- $N$  limit)

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# Discretized connection and metric

- Phase difference between  $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1}\rangle$  and  $|\Psi_0\rangle$ :

$$\gamma_x^{(\text{el})} = \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_i x_i} | \Psi_0 \rangle = \text{Im} \ln \beta_N^{(x)}$$

- **Single-point Berry phase** (electronic term)
- Discretized connection in a **specific gauge**:

$$\gamma_x^{(\text{el})} \simeq \mathcal{A}(0) \cdot \Delta\kappa = \mathcal{A}_x(0) \frac{2\pi}{L}$$

- Quantum distance between  $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1}\rangle$  and  $|\Psi_0\rangle$ :

$$D_{0,\kappa_1}^2 = -\ln |\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_0 \rangle|^2 = -\ln |\beta_N^{(x)}|^2$$

- Discretized metric:

$$-\ln |\beta_N^{(x)}|^2 \simeq g_{xx}(0) (\Delta\kappa_x)^2 = g_{xx}(0) \left( \frac{2\pi}{L} \right)^2$$

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# Center of charge (1d & quasi-1d systems)

According e.g. to **Kittel textbook**  $\mathbf{P}$  is nonzero when  
“...the **center** of positive charge does not coincide with the  
**center** of negative charge”

- $N$  spinless electrons in a segment of length  $L$ :

$$\Psi_0 = \Psi_0(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_N),$$

- Periodic boundary conditions:

$$\Psi_0 = \Psi_0(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j, \dots, x_N) = \Psi_0(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j + L, \dots, x_N)$$

- Nuclei of charge  $eZ_\ell$  at sites  $X_\ell$
- **Centers of charge:**

$$\sum_{\ell} Z_{\ell} X_{\ell} - \langle \Psi_0 | \sum_j x_j | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

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# Center of charge, better

R. Resta, Phys. Rev. Lett. 1998

- Within PBCs coordinates are actually **angles**
- The two “centers” must be defined **modulo  $L$**
- Their **difference** must be origin-invariant

$$\sum_{\ell} z_{\ell} X_{\ell} - \langle \Psi_0 | \sum_j x_j | \Psi_0 \rangle$$
$$\longrightarrow \frac{L}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln e^{i \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_{\ell} z_{\ell} X_{\ell}} + \frac{L}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{-i \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_j x_j} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

- Polarization:

$$P = -\frac{e}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i \frac{2\pi}{L} (\sum_j x_j - \sum_{\ell} z_{\ell} X_{\ell})} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

# Center of charge, better

R. Resta, Phys. Rev. Lett. 1998

- Within PBCs coordinates are actually **angles**
- The two “centers” must be defined **modulo  $L$**
- Their **difference** must be origin-invariant

$$\sum_{\ell} z_{\ell} X_{\ell} - \langle \Psi_0 | \sum_j x_j | \Psi_0 \rangle$$
$$\longrightarrow \frac{L}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln e^{i \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_{\ell} z_{\ell} X_{\ell}} + \frac{L}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{-i \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_j x_j} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

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# The single-point Berry phase

$$\gamma = \text{Im In } \delta N + \gamma^{(\text{nucl})} = \text{Im In } \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L}(\sum_j x_j - \sum_\ell Z_\ell X_\ell)} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

$$P = -e\frac{\gamma}{2\pi} \quad \text{defined modulo } e$$

- $\gamma$  is the Berry phase in disguise
- $\gamma$  includes the nuclear contribution
- The electronic term is the **discretized connection** in a specific gauge
- $P$  is a **multivalued** bulk observable:  
“modulo” ambiguity fixed after terminations are specified
- Matrix element real in centrosymmetric systems:  
 $\gamma$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  topological invariant

# The single-point Berry phase

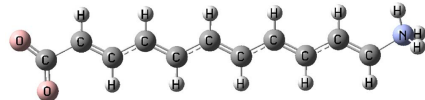
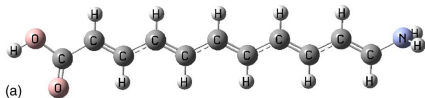
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# Polarization is a multivalued observable

(K. Kudin, R. Car, & R. Resta, J. Chem Phys. 2007)



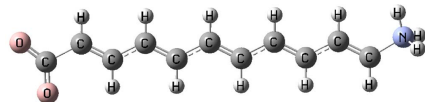
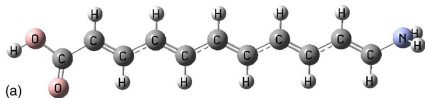
Centrosymmetric “bulk”

Two different  
asymmetric terminations



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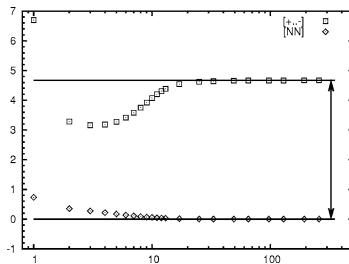


Centrosymmetric “bulk”

Two different  
asymmetric terminations

$$\text{dipole/length} = P$$

Polyacetylene  
is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even



dipole per monomer

# Outline

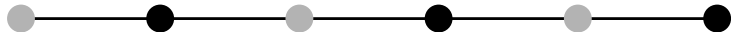
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# $\mathbb{Z}_2$ classification of centrosymmetric polymers



$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even:  $P = 0 \pmod{e}$

Alternant polyacetylene, model molecular crystal.....



$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd:  $P = e/2 \pmod{e}$

Model ionic crystal.....

■  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  invariant **topological**:

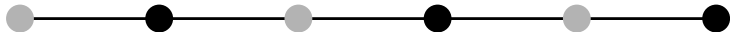
- Independent e.g. of ionicity difference
- Independent of the theory level (tight-binding, first-principle...)
- Robust by continuous deformation of the wavefunction

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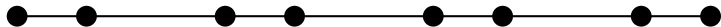


$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd:  $P = e/2 \pmod{e}$

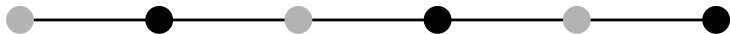
Model ionic crystal.....

- $\mathbb{Z}_2$  invariant **topological**:
  - Independent e.g. of ionicity difference
  - Independent of the theory level (tight-binding, first-principle...)
  - Robust by continuous deformation of the wavefunction

# Simple tight-binding Hamiltonians



$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even: Onsite  $\epsilon_j$  constant, alternating hoppings  $t$  and  $t'$



$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd: Constant hopping  $t$ , alternating  $\epsilon_j$

- $\mathbb{Z}_2$  invariant protected by **centrosymmetry**
- When joining the two with a continuous & centrosymmetric deformation of the Hamiltonian **the gap closes!**

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# Model 1d ionic crystal



$$\gamma = \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i \frac{2\pi}{L} (\sum_j x_j - \sum_\ell Z_\ell X_\ell)} | \Psi_0 \rangle = \pi \pmod{2\pi}$$

- Tight-binding Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_j [ (-1)^j \Delta c_j^\dagger c_j - t c_j^\dagger c_{j+1} - t c_{j+1}^\dagger c_j ]$$

- $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd:  $P = e/2 \pmod e$

# Tight binding 1d binary crystal again

- Introducing spin:

$$H = \sum_{j\sigma} [ (-1)^j \Delta c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} - t(c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{j+1\sigma} + \text{H.c.}) ]$$

- Introducing Hubbard on-site repulsion:

$$H = \sum_{j\sigma} [ (-1)^j \Delta c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} - t(c_{j\sigma}^\dagger c_{j+1\sigma} + \text{H.c.}) ] + U \sum_j n_{j\uparrow} n_{j\downarrow}.$$

The  $t = 0$  case has an obvious exact solution



# The $\mathbb{Z}_2$ invariant

$$P = -\frac{e}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L}(\sum_j x_j - \sum_\ell Z_\ell X_\ell)} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

- Matrix element real in inversion-symmetric systems:
  - $\langle \Psi_0 | U | \Psi_0 \rangle > 0 \implies \mathbb{Z}_2\text{-even}$
  - $\langle \Psi_0 | U | \Psi_0 \rangle < 0 \implies \mathbb{Z}_2\text{-odd}$
- Topological invariant “protected” by inversion symmetry
- Parity may switch only crossing  $\mathfrak{z}_N = 0$ : metallic state!

$$|\langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L}(\sum_j x_j - \sum_\ell Z_\ell X_\ell)} | \Psi_0 \rangle| = |\langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_j x_j} | \Psi_0 \rangle| = |\mathfrak{z}_N| = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^2 = -\frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^2 \text{Im} \ln |\mathfrak{z}_N|^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

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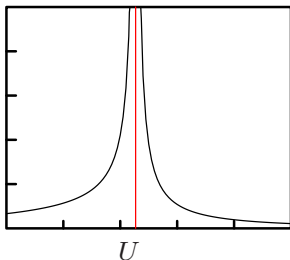
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# Topological insulator-insulator transition

- Plot of  $\lambda^2$  (intensive quantity) at half filling:



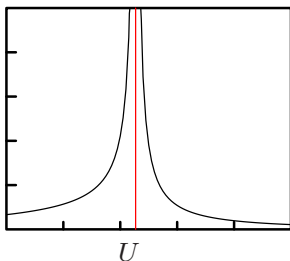
After:

R. Resta & S. Sorella,  
PRL 1999

- **Metallic** only for a special  $U$  value
- On the left it is a **band-like insulator**
- On the right it is a **Mott-like insulator**
- **Topological transition:** From  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even

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# “Exotic” insulators

- In some materials, the insulating character is dominated by disorder: **Anderson insulators**
- In some materials, the insulating character dominated by electron-electron interaction: **Mott insulators**
- Other kinds of exotic insulators exist.  
Example: a two-dimensional electron fluid in the quantum-Hall regime: **Quantum Hall insulators**
- The nonexotic textbook insulators will be called in the following **band insulators**

# Which property characterizes all insulators? (band insulators & exotic insulators)

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 133, NUMBER 1A

6 JANUARY 1964

## Theory of the Insulating State\*

WALTER KOHN

*University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California*

(Received 30 August 1963)

In this paper a new and more comprehensive characterization of the insulating state of matter is developed. This characterization includes the conventional insulators with energy gap as well as systems discussed by Mott which, in band theory, would be metals. The essential property is this: Every low-lying wave function  $\Phi$  of an insulating ring breaks up into a sum of functions,  $\Phi = \sum_{M=-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi_M$ , which are localized in disconnected regions of the many-particle configuration space and have essentially vanishing overlap. This property is the analog of localization for a single particle and leads directly to the electrical properties characteristic of insulators. An Appendix deals with a soluble model exhibiting a transition between an insulating and a conducting state.

### ■ **Kohn's revolutionary message:**

The insulating behavior reflects a certain type of organization of the electrons in their **ground state**

Spectral gap **not** required



# Basic postulate

R. Resta & S. Sorella, Phys. Rev. Lett. **82**, 370 (1999)

- Electronic term in polarization

$$P^{(e1)} = -\frac{e}{2\pi} \text{Im} \ln \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{z}_N$$

- It is impossible to **define** polarization whenever

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{z}_N = 0$$

**all insulators:**  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} |\mathfrak{z}_N| = 1$

**all metals:**  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{z}_N = 0$

# A quantitative probe of the insulating character

$$\lambda^2 = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^2 \ln |\mathfrak{z}_N|^2 = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} g_{xx}(0)$$

- Intensive quantity (tensor in  $3d$ )
- $\lambda^2$  is finite in all insulators
- $\lambda^2$  diverges in all metals
  
- Very general: **all kinds** of insulators:
  - **Correlated insulator**
  - Independent electrons, crystalline  
a.k.a. "**band insulator**"
  - Independent electrons, **disordered**
  - Quantum Hall insulator

# A quantitative probe of the insulating character

$$\lambda^2 = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^2 \ln |\delta_N|^2 = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} g_{xx}(0)$$

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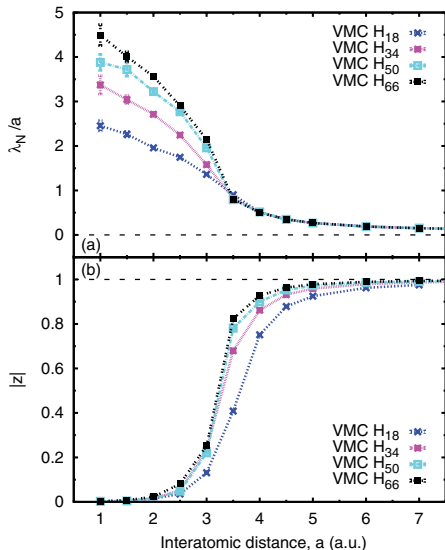
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# Mott metal-insulator transition in $H_N$ chains

Stella, Attaccalite, Sorella & Rubio, PRB 2011



**Paradigmatic system  
for the Mott transition**

$$\lambda_N^2 = -\frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^2 \ln |\delta_N|^2$$

Transition:  $\simeq 3.5$  bohr

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# Definition

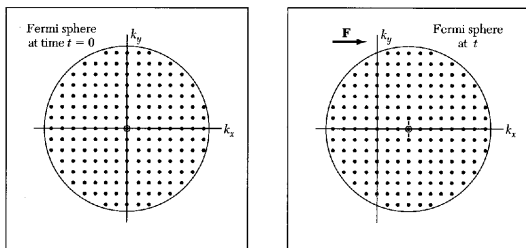
- Charge transport in a metal is a balance between free acceleration and dissipation (Ohm's law)
- QM addresses the **free-acceleration** side of the problem
- The **Drude weight**  $D$  (a.k.a. adiabatic **charge stiffness**) measures the inverse inertia of the many-electron system
- $D = 0$  in insulators
- It is a **ground-state** property (also retrieved from the Kubo formula for conductivity)

# Free electrons

- Classical physics (Ashcroft-Mermin, Ch.1)

$$\sigma(\omega) = D_{\text{free}} \left[ \delta(\omega) + \frac{i}{\pi\omega} \right], \quad D_{\text{free}} = \pi e^2 \frac{n}{m}$$

- Quantum physics (Kittel ISSP, Ch. 6):



- In an  $\mathbf{E}$  field the velocity grows linearly with time  
 $D_{\text{free}} = \pi e^2 \frac{n}{m}$  **same** as in the classical case



# Longitudinal conductivity (zero T, no dissipation)

- In a real metal:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(+)}(\omega) &= D_{\alpha\beta} \left[ \delta(\omega) + \frac{i}{\pi\omega} \right] + \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{regular})}(\omega) \\ &= \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{Drude})}(\omega) + \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{regular})}(\omega)\end{aligned}$$

- The insulating state requires **both**:
  - $D_{\alpha\beta} = 0$
  - $\text{Re } \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{regular})}(\omega)$  goes to zero for  $\omega \rightarrow 0$
- The metallic state requires **either**:
  - $D_{\alpha\beta} > 0$  (in crystalline systems, including correlation)
  - $\text{Re } \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{regular})}(0) > 0$  (only allowed in noncrystalline systems)

# Drude weight (Kohn's formula, 1964)

$$D_{\alpha\beta} = \pi e^2 \left( \frac{n}{m} \right)_{\text{effective}} = \frac{\pi e^2}{\hbar^2 L^d} \left. \frac{\partial^2 E_{0\mathbf{\kappa}}}{\partial \kappa_\alpha \partial \kappa_\beta} \right|_{\mathbf{\kappa}=0} \quad (\text{PBCs})$$

- Equivalent geometrical expression (gauge-invariant 2-form)

$$D_{\alpha\beta} = D_{\text{free}} \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{2\pi e^2}{\hbar^2 L^d} \text{Re} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | (\hat{H} - E_0) | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle$$

- Spectral weight transferred from  $D_{\text{free}}$  to the regular term
- $f$ -sum rule

$$\int_0^\infty d\omega \text{Re} \sigma_{\alpha\beta}(\omega) = \frac{D_{\alpha\beta}}{2} + \int_0^\infty d\omega \text{Re} \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{regular})}(\omega) = \frac{D_{\text{free}}}{2} \delta_{\alpha\beta}$$

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# Why $\lambda^2$ discriminate insulators from metals

If the  $\kappa$  components are **integer multiples** of  $2\pi/L$  then:

- $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle = e^{-i\kappa \cdot \hat{r}}|\Psi_0\rangle$  obeys Schrödinger Eq. and PBCs
- It is an eigenstate of  $\hat{H}_\kappa$  with eigenvalue  $E_0$
- Does it coincide with the genuine  $|\Psi_{0\kappa}\rangle$  (evaluated according to Kohn's prescription)?
  - **Yes** (modulo a phase) if  $D = 0$
  - **No** if  $D \neq 0$ :  
 $E_{0\kappa} > E_0$ ,  $|\Psi_{0\kappa}\rangle$  orthogonal to  $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle$

# Why RS discriminate insulators from metals (cont'd)

$$\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{r}} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = 0, \quad D \neq 0$$

$$\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{r}} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = e^{i\gamma}, \quad D = 0$$

To lowest order in  $1/L$ :

$$|\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle| = |\langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{r}} | \Psi_0 \rangle| \simeq 0, \quad D \neq 0$$

$$|\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle| = |\langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{r}} | \Psi_0 \rangle| \simeq 1, \quad D = 0$$

# Why RS discriminate insulators from metals (cont'd)

$$\langle \tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa_1} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = \langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}} | \Psi_{0\kappa_1} \rangle = 0, \quad D \neq 0$$

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To lowest order in  $1/L$ :

$$|\mathfrak{z}N| = |\langle \Psi_0 | e^{i\kappa_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}} | \Psi_0 \rangle| \simeq 0, \quad D \neq 0$$

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# Kubo formula

- Need to break time-reversal symmetry at  $\kappa = 0$ :

$$\hat{H}_\kappa = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \mathbf{p}_i + \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}_i) + \hbar \boldsymbol{\kappa} \right]^2 + \hat{V}$$

- Intrinsic Hall conductivity:

$$\text{Re } \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(-)}(0) = \frac{2\hbar e^2}{L^d} \sum_{n \neq 0}' \frac{\text{Im} \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{v}_\alpha | \Psi_n \rangle \langle \Psi_n | \hat{v}_\beta | \Psi_0 \rangle}{(E_n - E_0)^2}$$

- $\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}$  expansion:

$$|\partial_{\boldsymbol{\kappa}} \Psi_0\rangle = \sum_{n \neq 0} |\Psi_n\rangle \frac{\langle \Psi_n | \partial_{\boldsymbol{\kappa}} \hat{H} | \Psi_0 \rangle}{E_0 - E_n} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{n \neq 0} |\Psi_n\rangle \frac{\langle \Psi_n | \hat{\mathbf{v}} | \Psi_0 \rangle}{E_0 - E_n}$$



# From Kubo formula to Berry curvature

- Substituting and exploiting completeness:

$$\text{Re } \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(-)}(0) = -\frac{e^2}{\hbar L^d} \Omega_{\alpha\beta}(0)$$

- Many-body Berry curvature (extensive):

$$\Omega_{\alpha\beta}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}) = i( \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 \rangle )$$

- Insulators and metals,  $2d$  and  $3d$

- Mean-value theorem in  $2d$  (in the  $L \rightarrow \infty$  limit):

$$\frac{1}{L^2} \Omega_{xy}(0) = \frac{1}{L^2} \frac{L^2}{4\pi^2} \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{L}} d\kappa_x \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{L}} d\kappa_y \Omega_{xy}(\boldsymbol{\kappa})$$

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# Many-body Chern number

- In the insulating case (and **only** in the insulating case):

$$|\Psi_{0, \kappa + \kappa_s}\rangle = e^{-i\kappa_s \cdot \hat{r}} |\Psi_{0\kappa}\rangle, \quad \kappa_1 = \left(\frac{2\pi}{L}, 0\right), \quad \kappa_2 = \left(0, \frac{2\pi}{L}\right)$$

- The integral is on a torus:

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{L}} d\kappa_x \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{L}} d\kappa_y \Omega_{xy}(\kappa) = C_1, \quad \text{Re } \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{(-)}(0) = -\frac{e}{h} C_1$$

Niu, Thouless, and Wu, Phys. Rev. B **31**, 3372 (1985)

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# Kohn's Hamiltonian in the OBCs Hilbert space

- Same Hamiltonian with a “flux”, but now within **OBCs**:

$$\hat{H}_{\kappa} = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^N |\mathbf{p}_i + \hbar\kappa|^2 + \hat{V}$$

- The operator  $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i$  is well defined
  - $|\tilde{\Psi}_{0\kappa}\rangle = e^{-i\kappa \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}} |\Psi_0\rangle$  obeys Schrödinger Eq.
  - It also obeys OBCs
- Ergo  $e^{-i\kappa \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}} |\Psi_0(0)\rangle$  is the ground eigenstate of  $\hat{H}_{\kappa}$  with eigenvalue  $E_0$ ,  $\kappa$ -independent:

$$|\partial_{\kappa_{\alpha}} \Psi_0\rangle = i \hat{r}_{\alpha} |\Psi_0\rangle$$

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# Many-body quantum metric within OBCs

- Quantum metric tensor (derivatives taken at  $\kappa = 0$ )

$$\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{N} (\text{Re} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle \langle \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle )$$

- Intensive ground state property, gauge-invariant (dimensions: squared length)

- **Basic tenet of the theory of the insulating state:**

The OBCs metric  $\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}$  in the thermodynamic limit

- Diverges in all metals
- Converges in all insulators
- $\tilde{g}_{xx}$  converges to  $\lambda^2$  (isotropic case)

# Many-body quantum metric within OBCs

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{N}(\operatorname{Re} \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle - \langle \partial_{\kappa_\alpha} \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle \langle \Psi_0 | \partial_{\kappa_\beta} \Psi_0 \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{N}(\langle \Psi_0 | \hat{r}_\alpha \hat{r}_\beta | \Psi_0 \rangle - \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{r}_\alpha | \Psi_0 \rangle \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{r}_\beta | \Psi_0 \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2N} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')_\alpha (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')_\beta [n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}') - n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')] \end{aligned}$$

- Exchange-correlation hole (integrates to  $-1$ ):

$$n_{xc}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') - n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}')$$

- $\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}$  is the second moment of the XC hole, averaged over the sample



# Special case: independent electrons

- Isotropic system in dimension  $d$ :

$$\tilde{g}_{xx} = \lambda^2 = \frac{1}{2N^d} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 [n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}') - n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')] ]$$

- **Independent electrons:**  $n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$  is a function of  $\langle \mathbf{r} | \mathcal{P} | \mathbf{r}' \rangle$ :

$$\begin{aligned} n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}') - n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') &= 2 |\langle \mathbf{r} | \mathcal{P} | \mathbf{r}' \rangle|^2 && \text{(spinful)} \\ &= |\langle \mathbf{r} | \mathcal{P} | \mathbf{r}' \rangle|^2 && \text{(spinless)} \end{aligned}$$

- **Special case:** band insulators and band metals

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$$\tilde{g}_{xx} = \lambda^2 = \frac{1}{2Nd} \int d\mathbf{r}d\mathbf{r}' |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^2 [n(\mathbf{r})n(\mathbf{r}') - n^{(2)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')] ]$$

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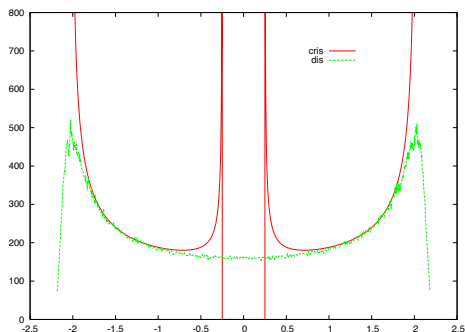
- **Special case:** band insulators and band metals

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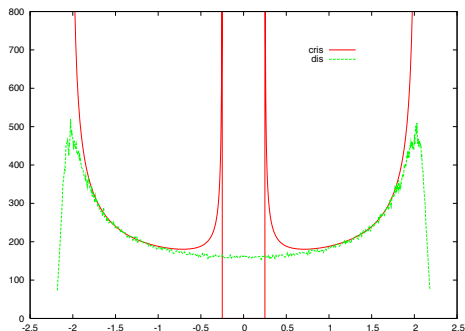


# Density of states



- At half filling both (crystalline and disordered) are insulating
- At any other filling the crystalline is conducting and the disordered is insulating.
- What about  $\tilde{g}$  (a.k.a.  $\lambda^2$ )?

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- At half filling both (crystalline and disordered) are insulating
- At any other filling the crystalline is conducting and the disordered is insulating.
- What about  $\tilde{g}$  (a.k.a.  $\lambda^2$ )?

# Results of the simulations

(5000 sites, 1000 replicas, 1/2 & 1/4 filling)

$$\tilde{g} = \frac{1}{2N} \int dx dx' (x - x')^2 |\langle x | \mathcal{P} | x' \rangle|^2 = \frac{a^2}{2N} \sum_{\ell, \ell'=1}^N P_{\ell\ell'}^2 (\ell - \ell')^2$$

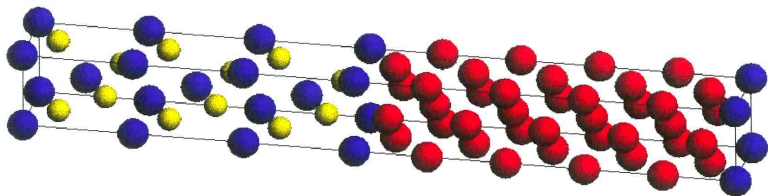
- In the crystalline case  $\tilde{g}$  converges to a finite limit for 1/2 filling, diverges for 1/4 (as expected).
- In the disordered case  $\tilde{g}$  always converge (to a very similar value for the two cases).
- The disordered case  $\tilde{g}$  is about 20 times larger than the crystalline one. Why?
- The insulating mechanism (band vs. Anderson) is quite different, despite the very similar Hamiltonian.

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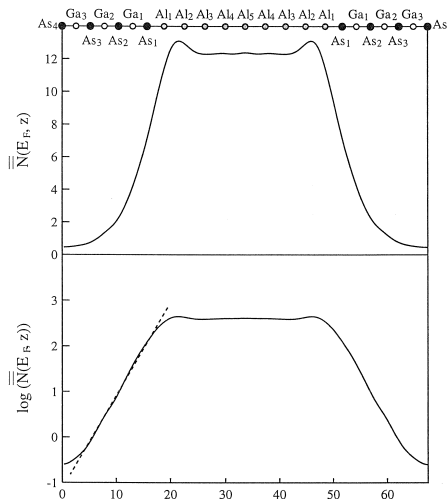


# A metal-semiconductor heterojunction



- (001)Al/GaAs heterojunction
- The **local density of states** at the Fermi level is the obvious **local marker** to discriminate insulating vs. metallic regions

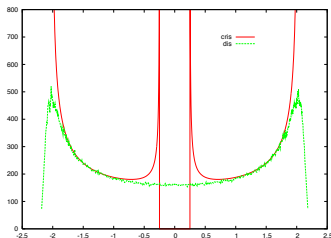
# Local density of states at the Fermi level



LDOS  
(macroscopic average)  
at the Fermi level

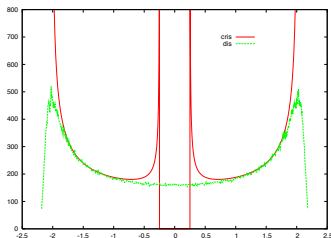
Notice the evanescent  
states

# The problem



- The local density of states at the Fermi level cannot work for Anderson insulators: **gapless**
- The OBCs quantum metric
  - Diverges in all metals
  - Converge to a finite value in all insulators
  - It can probe a inhomogeneous system **locally**

# The problem



- The local density of states at the Fermi level cannot work for Anderson insulators: **gapless**
- The OBCs quantum metric
  - Diverges in all metals
  - Converge to a finite value in all insulators
  - It can probe a inhomogeneous system **locally**

# Simulations for 1d heterojunctions

- Convert into a “localization density”

$$\tilde{g} = \frac{1}{N} \int dx dx' (x - x')^2 |\langle x | \mathcal{P} | x' \rangle|^2 \quad (\text{spinful})$$

$$\begin{aligned} n \tilde{g} &= \frac{1}{L} \int dx dx' (x - x')^2 |\langle x | \mathcal{P} | x' \rangle|^2 \\ &= -\frac{1}{L} \int_{\text{sample}} dx \langle x | \mathcal{P} [x, \mathcal{P}] [x, \mathcal{P}] | x \rangle \end{aligned}$$

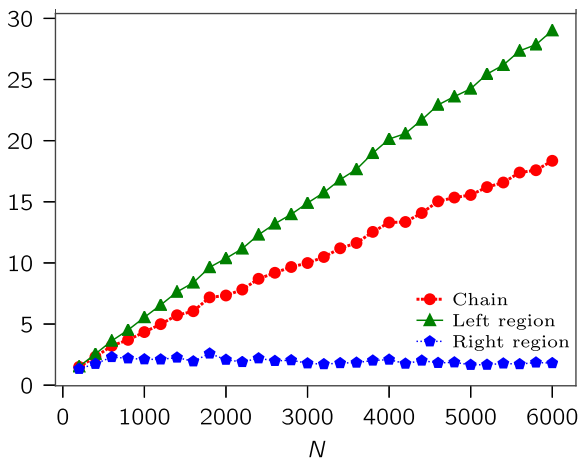
- **Local probe** of the insulating state:

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = -\langle x | \mathcal{P} [x, \mathcal{P}] [x, \mathcal{P}] | x \rangle$$

# Simulations for 1d heterojunctions

A. Marrazzo and R. Resta, Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 166602 (2019)

## Local OBCs metric



Left half-chain: Metal

Right half-chain: Anderson insulator

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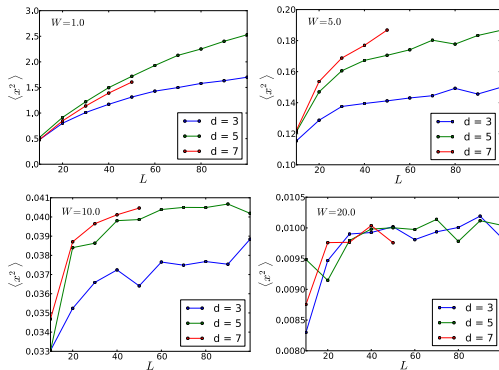
# The benchmark model 3d system

- Need a 3d system to observe the **M-I transition**
- A standard 3d tight-binding Hamiltonian is known from previous literature to undergo the transition at  $W_c = 8.25$  ( $W$  is the amount of tunable disorder, in appropriate units)
- In our (and others') simulations:
  - Computational samples are long rods of square section
  - Results are averaged over several disorder realizations
- The novelty here: using the quantum metric to detect the transition **in the ground state**



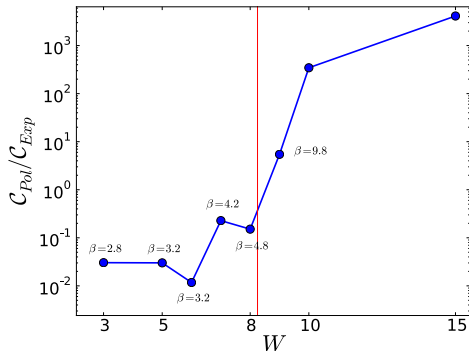
# Anderson transition as a ground-state property

T. Olsen, R. Resta, and I. Souza, Phys. Rev. B **95**, 045109 (2017)



Localization length  $\lambda = \sqrt{\tilde{g}_{\alpha\alpha}}$  as a function of rod length  $L$   
(average over 100 disorder realizations)

# A smarter way to estimate $W_c$ (by Thomas Olsen)



Our best estimate:  $W_c = 8.5$

We are probing “the organization” of the electrons in their **ground state**

Thank you for your  
attention!