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Journal of Low Temperature Physics

ISSN 0022-2291

Volume 202

Combined 1-2

J Low Temp Phys (2021) 202:247-262

DOI 10.1007/s10909-020-02532-0

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How Should We Choose the Boundary Conditions in a Simulation Which Could Detect Anyons in One and Two Dimensions?

Riccardo Fantoni¹ 

Received: 18 February 2020 / Accepted: 13 September 2020 / Published online: 1 October 2020
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Abstract

We discuss the problem of anyonic statistics in one and two spatial dimensions from the point of view of statistical physics. In particular, we want to understand how the choice of the Born–von Karman or the twisted periodic boundary conditions necessary in a Monte Carlo simulation to mimic the thermodynamic limit of the many body system influences the statistical nature of the particles. The particles can either be just bosons, when the configuration space is simply connected as for example for particles on a line. They can be bosons and fermions, when the configuration space is doubly connected as for example for particles in the tridimensional space or in a Riemannian surface of genus greater or equal to one (on the torus, etc.). They can be scalar anyons with arbitrary statistics, when the configuration space is infinitely connected as for particles on the plane or in the circle. They can be scalar anyons with fractional statistics, when the configuration space is the one of particles on a sphere. One can further have multi-components anyons with fractional statistics when the configuration space is doubly connected as for particles on a Riemannian surface of genus greater or equal to one. We determine an expression for the canonical partition function of hard core particles (including anyons) on various geometries. We then show how the choice of boundary condition (periodic or open) in one and two dimensions determines which particles can exist on the considered surface.

Keywords Statistical physics · Fractional statistics · Anyons · Computer simulation · Periodic boundary conditions · Twisted boundary conditions

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1 Introduction

For the statistical mechanics of a systems of many anyons, very partial results can be obtained, because the exact solution of a gas of anyons is not known. In fact, in contrast to the bosonic or fermionic case where the statistics is implemented by hand on the many body Hilbert space by constructing completely symmetric or antisymmetric products of single particle wave functions, for anyons the complicated boundary conditions for the interchange of any two particles require the knowledge of the complete many-body configurations. Only the two-body problem is exactly soluble for anyons, and hence only the two-body partition function can be computed exactly. Since the thermodynamic limit cannot be performed, one has to resort to approximate or alternative methods to study the statistical mechanics of anyons [1, 2]. For example, if the thermodynamic functions are analytic in the particle density, it is well-known that the low density, or equivalently the high temperature limit, of a (free) gas can be investigated using the virial expansion.

Anyons have had important physical applications, and it would be wrong to convey the idea that they are just mathematical fantasies. For example, physical objects which can be described as anyons are the quasi-particle and quasi-hole excitations of planar systems of electrons exhibiting the fractional quantum Hall effect (QHE) (for a review see for instance [3]). Most of the great interest that anyonic theories have attracted in the past few years derives precisely from their relevance to a better understanding of the fractional QHE [4], in conjunction with several claims that anyons can provide also a non-standard explanation of the mechanism of high temperature superconductivity [5]. Even if recent experiments have cast some shadow on the relevance of fractional statistics to the observed high temperature superconductivity [6–8].

In this work, we focus on the important problem of how the boundary conditions on the simulation box influence the statistics of the anyonic (see chapter 2 of Ref. [9]) particles. We will consider various cases: the infinite line, the circle, the infinite plane, the torus, and the sphere. In each case, we will determine the nature of the statistics of the many anyons system. This is important because in a simulation of a real material one usually chooses periodic boundary conditions in order to approach the thermodynamic limit.

Another interesting problem is the determination of a spinor for an anyon with a given rational or even irrational (either algebraic or even transcendental) statistics. If the spin-statistics theorem [10] which states that, as a consequence of Lorentz invariance and of locality, half integer spin particles must obey to Fermi statistics and integer spin particles must obey to Bose statistics, there is nothing similar for anyonic statistics [11]. Citing Wilczek [12] we can say that “The basic difficulty, which makes this problem much more difficult for generic anyons than for bosons or fermions, is that for generic anyons the many-body Hilbert space is in no sense the tensor product of the one-particle Hilbert space. This circumstance can be understood in various ways. Its root is that in the general case the weighting supplied by anyon statistics depends not only on the initial and final

states, but also on a (topological) property of the trajectory connecting them. This means that in the general case it is impossible to summarize the effect of quantum statistics by projection on the appropriate weighted states, as we do for bosons and fermions—where, of course, we project, respectively, on symmetric and antisymmetric states.” We will consider this problem in a future work.

The work is organized as follows: in Sect. 2, we describe the statistical physics anyons problem in two dimensions; in Sect. 3, we prove for a two particle case that the periodic boundary conditions of the Born–von-Karman type needed in a simulation of a real material play a relevant role in the anyons problem and we review, accordingly, various cases: For scalar, many body wave functions on the segment or the infinite line one can have only bosons, on the circle one can only have anyons with arbitrary statistics, on the square or the infinite plane one can also have only anyons with arbitrary statistics, and on the torus which has two periodicities only bosons and fermions are allowed as on the infinite three-dimensional Euclidean space. We gave an original proof of these different behaviors for just a system of two, body with scalar wave functions; Sect. 4 is for our final remarks and conclusions.

2 The Statistical Physics Anyon Problem in Two Dimensions

The statistical mechanical properties of a quantum system of N hard core particles in a volume V in d spatial dimensions occupying positions $q \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^N$ and described by an Hamiltonian $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ in thermal equilibrium at the inverse temperature $\beta = 1/k_B T$, with k_B the Boltzmann constant and T the absolute temperature, are obtainable from the thermal density matrix operator [13],

$$\hat{\rho} = \exp(-\beta\hat{\mathcal{H}}). \tag{1}$$

In the configurations space representation, the thermal density matrix can be written using the following path integral notation,

$$\rho(q', q; \beta) = \sum_{\alpha \in \pi_1(M_N^d)} \chi(\alpha) \iint_{q_\alpha(0)=q}^{q_\alpha(\hbar\beta)=q'} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_0^{\hbar\beta} d\tau \mathcal{H}(q_\alpha(\tau), \dot{q}_\alpha(\tau))} \mathcal{D}q_\alpha, \tag{2}$$

where $\mathcal{H}(q, \dot{q})$ is the classical Hamiltonian of the N hard core, identical particles. The meaning of $\pi_1(M_N^d)$ and of the phases χ will be shown in the next two sections.

The canonical partition function can then be found from the trace of the density matrix,

$$Z(N, V, T) = \int \rho(q, q; \beta) dq. \tag{3}$$

2.1 M_N^d and Its Fundamental Group

Consider a system of N identical hard core particles moving in the Euclidean d -dimensional space, \mathbf{R}^d . A configuration of such a system is clearly specified by the N coordinates of the particles, i.e., by an element of $(\mathbf{R}^d)^N$. However, because of the hard core assumption, any two particles cannot occupy the same position. So from $(\mathbf{R}^d)^N$ we have to remove the diagonal,

$$\Delta = \{(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) \in (\mathbf{R}^d)^N : \mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{r}_j \text{ for some } i \neq j\}. \tag{4}$$

Furthermore, our particles are identical and indistinguishable, so we should identify configurations which differ only in the ordering of the particles. In other words, we should divide by the permutation group S_N . Therefore, we conclude that the configuration space for our system is

$$M_N^d = \frac{(\mathbf{R}^d)^N - \Delta}{S_N}. \tag{5}$$

To find the fundamental group of such space is a standard problem in algebraic topology, which was solved in the early 60's [14–16]. It turns out that the fundamental group of M_N^d is given by

$$\pi_1(M_N^d) = \begin{cases} S_N & \text{if } d \geq 3 \\ B_N & \text{if } d = 2 \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

where B_N is Artin's braid group of N objects which has the permutation group S_N as a homomorphic image [17, 18].

Even from this formal point of view, we see that there is a crucial difference between two and three or more dimensions. To have a more explicit understanding of (6), let us consider a two particle example in light of what we have just observed. Let us start with the case of two dimensions. Instead of assigning the position vectors \mathbf{r}_1 and \mathbf{r}_2 for the two particles, is more convenient to introduce the center of mass coordinate,

$$\mathbf{R} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2) \in \mathbf{R}^2, \tag{7}$$

and the relative coordinate,

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2 \in \mathbf{R}^2 - \{0\}. \tag{8}$$

We have removed the origin because of the hard core requirement. Since \mathbf{R} is invariant under the permutations of S_2 , we can write,

$$M_2^2 = r_2^2 \times \mathbf{R}^2, \tag{9}$$

where r_2^2 is some space describing the two degrees of freedom of the relative motion. We now argue that r_2^2 has the topology of a cone. Since two configurations which differ only in the ordering of the particle indexes are indistinguishable, \mathbf{r} and $-\mathbf{r}$

Fig. 1 Schematic representation of r_2^2 with the topology of a cone without the tip. It is an infinitely connected space (Color figure online)

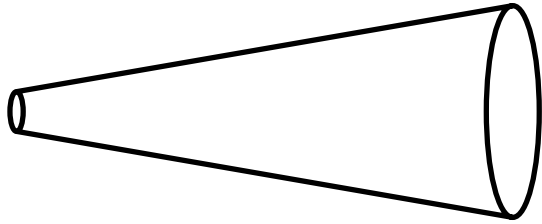
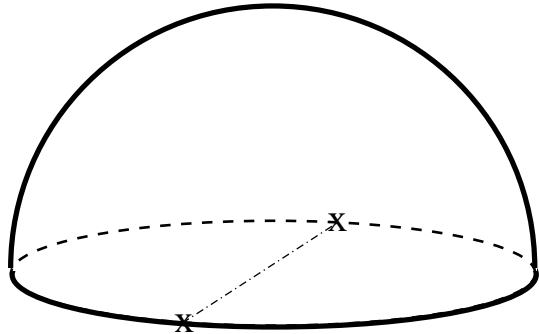


Fig. 2 Schematic representation of \mathcal{P}_2 as the northern hemisphere with opposite points on the equator being identified. It is a doubly connected space (Color figure online)



must be identified. The space r_2^2 is then the upper half plane without the origin and with the positive x -axis identified with the negative one, i.e., is a cone without the tip (see Fig. 1).

According to the decomposition (9), any loop in M_2^2 can be classified by the number of times it winds around the cone r_2^2 . Two loops q and q' with different winding numbers are homotopically inequivalent: it is not possible to deform one into the other since the vertex of the cone has been removed. Thus, the space r_2^2 and $r_2^2 \times R^2$ are infinitely connected, and,

$$\pi_1(M_2^2) = \pi_1(r_2^2 \times R^2) = \mathbb{Z} = B_2. \tag{10}$$

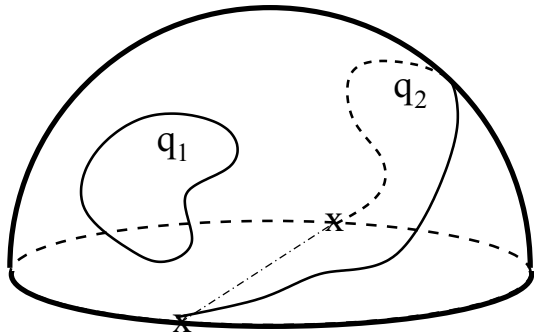
It is important to realize that if the vertex of the cone was included (i.e., allowing particles to occupy the same position in space), the configuration space would be simply connected. Any loop, even when winding around the cone, would be contracted to a point by deforming and unwinding it through the tip. Thus, if we do not impose the hard core constraint on the particles, we can describe only bosonic statistics.

Let us now turn to the case of two particles in three dimensions. After introducing the center of mass coordinate $\mathbf{R} \in R^3$, we can decompose the configurations space as,

$$M_2^3 = r_2^3 \times R^3, \tag{11}$$

where the space r_2^3 describes the three degrees of freedom of the relative motion. These are the length and the two angles of the relative coordinate \mathbf{r} . As before, \mathbf{r} and $-\mathbf{r}$ are identified. It is easy to realize that r_2^3 is just the product of the semi-infinite

Fig. 3 Schematic representation of a typical contractible loop q_1 and a typical non-contractible loop q_2 on M_2^3 which is a doubly connected space. The two points marked with an X are the same point. The path q_1 cannot be deformed continuously into the path q_2 (Color figure online)



line describing $|\mathbf{r}|$ and the projective space \mathcal{P}_2 describing the orientation of $\pm\mathbf{r}/|\mathbf{r}|$. In turn, \mathcal{P}_2 can be described as the northern hemisphere with opposite points on the equator being identified (see Fig. 2).

The space \mathcal{P}_2 is doubly connected and admits two classes of loops: those which can be shrunk to a point by a continuous transformation and those which cannot. In Fig. 3, we exhibit a typical contractible loop q_1 and a typical non-contractible loop q_2 .

Therefore, from the decomposition (11) and the topology of r_2^3 , we deduce that,

$$\pi_1(M_2^3) = \pi_1(r_2^3 \times R^3) = \mathbb{Z}_2 = S_2. \tag{12}$$

Thus, only bosons and fermions can exist, the former corresponding to contractible loops and the latter to non-contractible loops.

We have seen that at the heart of the anyonic statistics, there is the braid group B_N in place of the permutation group S_N which is responsible for ordinary statistics. There are only two one-dimensional unitary representations of S_N , namely the identical one, $\chi(\text{even and odd permutations}) = +1$ (bosonic statistics) and the alternating one, $\chi(\text{even permutations}) = +1, \chi(\text{odd permutations}) = -1$ (fermionic statistics). Whereas the braid group admits a whole variety of one-dimensional¹ unitary representations whose labeling parameter will be identified with the parameter v also called the *statistics*.

2.2 Statistical Mechanics Problem

One is usually interested in calculating the partition function of the system which is given by the trace of the density matrix. So we choose $q = q'$, or loops in M_N^d . Two loops are considered equivalent (or homotopic) if one can be obtained from the other by a continuous deformation. All homotopic loops are grouped into one class and the set of all such classes is called the *fundamental group* and is denoted by π_1 .²

¹ When dealing with non-scalar quantum mechanics, i.e., when the wave functions are multiplets instead of one component objects as assumed in the discussion, appropriate higher-dimensional representations of $\pi_1(M_N^d)$ would be necessary.

² In the set π_1 one can define a product \cdot in a very simple and natural way: if α_1 and α_2 are two classes with representatives path q_1 and q_2 , then $\alpha_1 \cdot \alpha_2$ is the class whose representative is the path $q_1 q_2$ (that is the path q_1 followed by the path q_2). It can be shown that this product furnishes π_1 with a group structure.

Thus, an element of $\pi_1(M_N^d)$ is simply the set of all loops in M_N^d which can be continuously deformed into each other. On the other hand, loops belonging to two different elements of $\pi_1(M_N^d)$ cannot be connected by a continuous transformation. Naturally, $\rho(q', q; \beta)$ has to be a real positive probability function.

In order for (2) to make sense as a probability amplitude, the complex weights $\chi(\alpha)$ cannot be arbitrary. In fact, since we want to maintain the usual rule for combining probabilities,

$$\rho(q', q; \beta) = \int_{M_N^d} dq_o \rho(q', q_o; t_o/\hbar) \rho(q_o, q; \beta - t_o/\hbar), \tag{13}$$

the weights $\chi(\alpha)$ must satisfy,

$$\chi(\alpha_1) \chi^*(\alpha_2) = \chi(\alpha_1 \cdot \alpha_2), \tag{14}$$

for any α_1 and α_2 . Equation (14) can also be read as the statement that $\chi(\alpha)$ must be a one-dimensional unitary ($|\chi|^2 = 1$) representation of the fundamental group $\pi_1(M_N^d)$ [19]. To see which representations are possible, we have to specify better what is M_N^d and its fundamental group.

This means that we have to look for one-dimensional unitary representations $\chi(\alpha)$ of the fundamental group, i.e.,

$$\chi(\alpha) = e^{-i\nu n_\alpha \pi}, \quad n_\alpha \text{ integer}, \tag{15}$$

or in the notation used by Wilczek [12], $n = 4\omega$ and $\nu = \theta/2\pi$ where ω is the winding number and ν the relative angular momentum in units of \hbar quantized in units of $\nu + \text{integer}$ in each sector α .

In $d \geq 3$, there are only 2 possible representations of the permutation group: the one corresponding to the bosonic statistics ($\nu = 0 \pmod 2$) and the one corresponding to the fermionic statistics ($\nu = 1 \pmod 2$). In $d = 2$, one has to choose representations of the braid group (see chapter 2 of Ref. [9]) and the statistical parameter ν can be arbitrary at least in principle.³ Particles with this property are called *anyons*. In $d = 2$, it is not enough to specify the initial and final configurations to completely characterize the system; it is also necessary to specify how the different trajectories wind or *braid* around each other. In other words, the time evolution of the particles is important and cannot be neglected in $d = 2$. This fact implies that in order to classify and characterize anyons, and the representations of the permutation group must be replaced by those of the more complicated *braid group*.

The following is always true (here t and t' are two different imaginary times at which particles are found at the same spatial positions),

³ There are restrictions on ν coming from the topology of the two-dimensional space. For example for particles moving on a torus (or a 2D box with periodic boundary conditions), ν can only be a rational number (see Sect. 3.4).

$$\sum_{i < j} [\theta_{ij}(t') - \theta_{ij}(t)] = n\pi, \tag{16}$$

where the symbol θ_{ij} denotes the azimuthal angle of particle j with respect to particle i and n is an integer. This can be interpreted by saying that to complete a loop in configuration space an integer number of exchanges is always necessary. And one can write (see chapter 2 of Ref. [9])

$$\theta_{ij} = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x_j^2 - x_i^2}{x_j^1 - x_i^1} \right), \tag{17}$$

$(x_i^1 - x_i^2)$ being the Cartesian coordinates of the i th particle.

So, we can formally express

$$\chi(\alpha) = \exp \left[-i\nu \sum_{i,j} \int_0^{\hbar\beta} d\tau \frac{d}{d\tau} \theta_{ij}^{(\alpha)}(\tau) \right]. \tag{18}$$

Notice that the functions $\theta_{ij}^{(\alpha)}(\tau)$, where α represents an arbitrary braiding (see chapter 2 of Ref. [9]) are in general very complicated and can be specified only when the dynamics of the particles is fully taken into account. However, the formal definition (18) may come useful when inserted into the density matrix expression (19). So that the expression for the diagonal of the density matrix gets the suggestive form,

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(q, q; \beta) &= \sum_{\alpha \in \pi_1(M_N^2)} \chi(\alpha) \rho_\alpha(q, q; \beta) \\ &= \sum_{\alpha \in \pi_1(M_N^2)} \iint_{q_\alpha(0)=q}^{q_\alpha(\hbar\beta)=q} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_0^{\hbar\beta} d\tau \left[\mathcal{H}(q_\alpha(\tau), \dot{q}_\alpha(\tau)) + i\hbar\nu \sum_{i,j} \frac{d\theta_{ij}^{(\alpha)}(\tau)}{d\tau} \right]} \mathcal{D}q_\alpha. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Expression (2) tells us that instead of dealing with anyons governed with the Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} , we can work with bosons whose dynamics is dictated by the new Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H} + i\hbar\nu \sum_{i,j} d\theta_{ij}^{(\alpha)}(\tau)/d\tau$. In particular, we could treat fermions governed by an Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} as bosons with a “fictitious” Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H} + i\hbar \sum_{i,j} d\theta_{ij}^{(\alpha)}(\tau)/d\tau$. Notice that this statistical interaction is very peculiar and intrinsically topological in nature (it is actually a total derivative). Its addition to the Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} does not change the equations of motion, which are a reflection of the local structure of the configuration space, but does change the statistical properties of the particles, which are instead related to the global topological structure of the configuration space (it can be locally realized as a gauge theory with a Chern–Simons kinetic term).

Now, since $\rho(q, q; \beta)$ has to be a real positive function as well as all the $\rho_\alpha(q, q; \beta)$ one has to add the constraints

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \pi_1(M_N^2)} \sin(vn_\alpha \pi) \rho_\alpha(q, q; \beta) = 0, \tag{20}$$

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \pi_1(M_N^2)} \cos(vn_\alpha \pi) \rho_\alpha(q, q; \beta) > 0. \tag{21}$$

3 Periodic Boundary Conditions

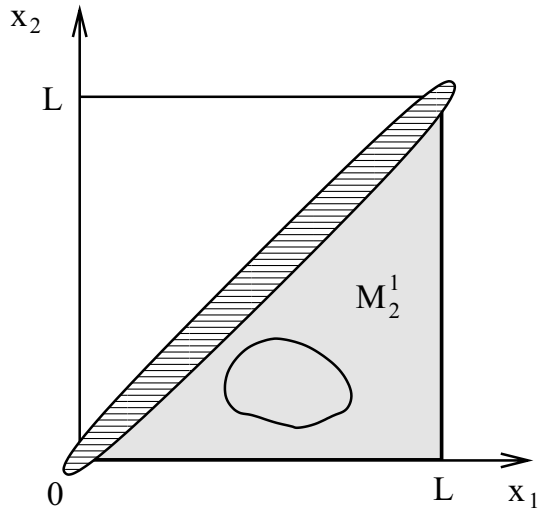
The configuration space M of identical hard core two-dimensional particles has a non-trivial topology.

- If the particles are free to move in \mathbb{R}^2 or in a finite $L \times L$ box, then the configuration space is infinitely connected (see Fig. 1). Its fundamental group is the braid group whose representations are labeled by an arbitrary parameter v . This unusual statistics can be implemented on ordinary particles (for instance bosons) by the addition of a topological statistical interaction as we saw in Eq. (19).
- If the particles are free to move in a finite box with periodic boundary conditions, a torus, a compact Riemannian surface of genus 1, then only bosons and fermions are possible [9] if the multi-particle wavefunctions carry a one-dimensional (appropriate for scalar wave functions) unitary representation of the braid group. However, anyons are possible even on a torus provided that wave functions with many components are considered, as for example for spin one-half electrons. In this case, one has to look at higher-dimensional representations of the braid group which lead to the concepts of *generalized fractional statistics and generalized anyons* [20–23]. Now, only fractional statistics are possible and $v = p/q$ can only be a rational number, with p and q coprime integers and $N = qn$ where n is a nonnegative integer. This is essentially due to the requirement to have nonzero winding numbers along the two periods (the two handles) of the torus: one periodicity winding acts on a wave function with k components by multiplying all components by the same phase factor, while the other periodicity winding mix among themselves the components of the wave function (at the end of chapter 2 of Ref. [9] the general case of a Riemannian surface of a generic genus is also made).

In order to avoid periodic boundary conditions, one could work on the surface of a sphere, in this case scalar anyons with fractional statistics will emerge [9].

So, this poses the following conceptual problem. If one is to simulate, for example through the Monte Carlo technique, a system of identical hard core particles living in two dimensions, he should use, for the many body wave function of the system contained in a two-dimensional box of sides L_1 and L_2 , either the Born–von Karman periodic boundary conditions

Fig. 4 In the plane (x_1, x_2) , the uniformly shaded region M_2^1 of Eq. (24) is simply connected. The slashed shaded region is the forbidden one (Color figure online)



$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j + \mathbf{L}, \dots) = e^{i\Theta/2} \psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots), \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, N \quad (22)$$

with $\Theta = 0$ and $\mathbf{L} = (L_1, L_2)$ or the twisted boundary conditions [24], with $\Theta \neq 0$, to mimic the thermodynamic limit. Then, the fractional statistics or the anyonic nature of the particles is necessarily changed by the topological change of the configurational space. Moreover, as we will discuss in the conclusions the twisted boundary conditions, even if they do not alter the qualitative picture respect to the Born–von Karman boundary conditions, regarding the topological properties of the underlying configurational space, they become essential in the description of anyons or the fractional QHE (see [9] chapter 4). We can in fact say that in the interchange of two particles each one of the two changes identity when winding across the boundary (22) as follows,

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_k, \dots) = e^{i\Theta} \psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_k, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots). \quad (23)$$

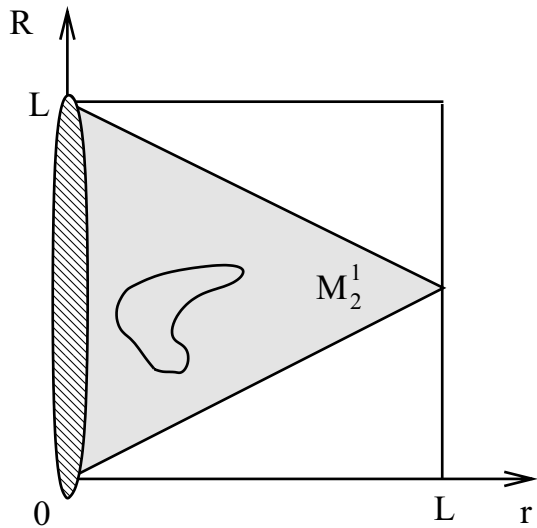
Since the discovery of the twisted boundary conditions by Chang Lin et al. in 2001 to optimize the approach to the thermodynamic limit of a generic Monte Carlo simulation of a many-body system, we are unaware of their use in computer experiment for anyons as in Eq. (23).

Let us now reduce ourselves to the $N = 2$ case. We have seen that when the particles are free to move on all \mathbf{R}^d , then the center of mass coordinate splits off in a trivial way. Let us see what we can easily say about the configuration spaces of particles confined in a box (B) or in a periodic box (PB). We start with a one-dimensional space and then, study the two-dimensional one.

3.1 For a Box in $d = 1$ [1d-B]

Call $x_1 \in [0, L]$ and $x_2 \in [0, L]$ the particles coordinates. In this case (see Fig. 4),

Fig. 5 Another view of M_2^1 of Eq. (24), now in the plane (r, R) with R the center of mass coordinate and r the relative coordinate r . Again, the slashed region is the forbidden one (Color figure online)



$$M_2^1 = \{(x_1, x_2) : x_2 \in [0, L], x_2 < x_1 \leq L\}, \tag{24}$$

which is simply connected. So, only boson statistics is allowed.

We could, as well, have introduced the center of mass coordinate $R = (x_1 + x_2)/2 \in]0, L[$ and the relative coordinate $r = x_1 - x_2$. Using this coordinates, $M_2^1 = r_2^1 \times]0, L[$ (see Fig. 5).

As expected again, M_2^1 is simply connected.

3.2 For a Box with Periodic Boundary Conditions in $d = 1$ [1d-PB]

We now consider the case of particles on a circle of length L . Using the center of mass coordinate $R = (x_1 + x_2)/2$ and the relative coordinate $r = x_1 - x_2$, one sees by inspection that,

$$\begin{aligned} M_2^1 = \{ & (r, R) : R \in [0, L/2], 2R - L \leq r \leq 2R, \\ & (2R, R) = (2R - L, R), (-r, 0) = (r, L/2) \} \\ & - \{(0, R) \forall R, (-L, 0), (0, L/2)\}, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

which is infinitely connected (as shown in Fig. 6 two loops with different winding around the missing point $(-L, 0) = (L, L/2)$ are homotopically inequivalent). So, anyons with arbitrary statistics ν is allowed.

The same thing can be seen introducing the center of mass angle ϕ and the relative angle θ (see Fig. 7). The rectangle in the (ϕ, θ) plane defined by $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ and $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ includes all possible configurations, except for the left and right edges where $(0, \theta)$ and $(\pi, 2\pi - \theta)$ both represent the same configuration. Because of this identification, the rectangle becomes a Möbius band which is still infinitely connected. In this case, though even with a multi-component wave function the statistics

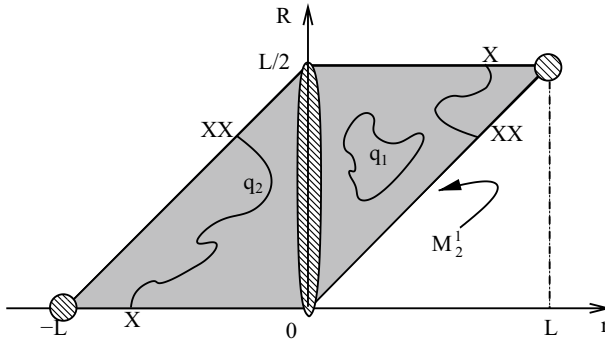


Fig. 6 In the plane (r, R) with R the center of mass coordinate and r the relative coordinate r , we show the uniformly shaded region M_2^1 of Eq. (25) which is infinitely connected. The points labeled X are the same point. The points labeled XX are the same point. The slashed shaded regions are the forbidden ones. The path q_1 cannot be deformed continuously into the path q_2 (Color figure online)

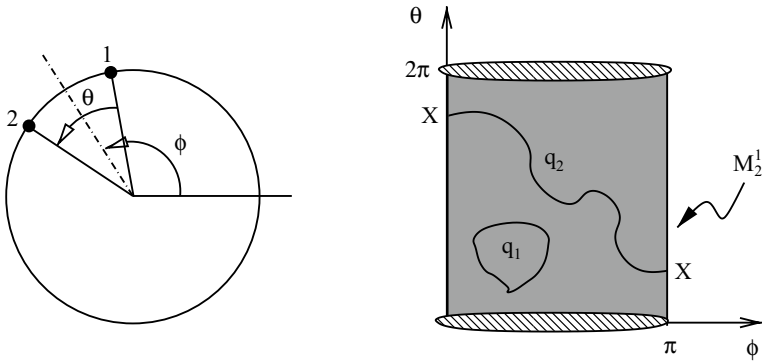


Fig. 7 On the right, we show the meaning of the angles θ , between the two particles 1 and 2 on the circle, and ϕ , the polar angle to the line joining the center of the circle to the center of mass of the two particles. The uniformly shaded region M_2^1 of Eq. (25) is infinitely connected. The points labeled X are coincident. The slashed shaded regions are the forbidden ones. The path q_1 cannot be deformed continuously into the path q_2 (Color figure online)

must remain arbitrary and not fractionary as in the two-dimensional one since we have only one periodicity.

3.3 For a Box in $d = 2[2d-B]$

Using the same argument used for the $[1d-B]$, we can say that $M_2^2 = r_2^2 \times [0, L]^2$ where r_2^2 is a space with the same topology as the cone without the tip introduced in the case of particles without boundaries. The only difference being that the cone now does not extend to infinity but is finite and its height depends on L . So once again, since r_2^2 is infinitely connected, also M_2^2 is. And anyon statistics is allowed with arbitrary ν .

3.4 For a Box with Periodic Boundary Conditions in $d = 2$ [2d-PB]

In this case, we can say that something similar was happening from going from the 2d plane (M infinitely connected) to the 3d space (M doubly connected). Now, in [1d-PB] M is infinitely connected and in [2d-PB] M is doubly connected. We split again M_2^2 into the product of the center of mass configuration space and of the two impenetrable particles relative coordinates one, r_2^2 . It turns out that now, due to the periodic boundary conditions, r_2^2 is a cone without the tip, of finite height, as in Fig. 1, and with the end points of a diameter of the base identified. This is a doubly connected space. All this is only true if we consider scalar wave functions, i.e., one-dimensional representations of the fundamental group of the configuration space. For wave functions with many components, the generators of the representations of the fundamental group of the configuration space are such that [9] $\nu = p/q$ a rational number, with p and q coprime numbers and a restriction on the total number of particles, $N = qn$, where n is a nonnegative integer. For an extensive discussion of anyons on compact surfaces and on the torus in particular, we refer the reader to the review by Lengo and Lechner [25].

4 Conclusions

Twisted boundary conditions play a relevant role in the anyons problem where the topology of the underlying configuration space determines the statistics of the particles. We review various cases. For scalar, many body wave functions on the segment or the infinite line one can have only bosons, on the circle one can only have anyons with arbitrary statistics, on the square or the infinite plane one can also have only anyons with arbitrary statistics, and on the torus which has two periodicities only bosons and fermions are allowed as on the infinite three-dimensional Euclidean space. In Sect. 3, we gave an original proof of these different behaviors for just a two-body system. This is enough to determine the anyonic symmetry of the many-body wave function as we discussed in Sect. 2.2, but one cannot exclude other kinds of three and higher body symmetries where it is necessary to substitute θ_{ij} of Eq. (17) with a different $\theta_{ijk\dots}$. We gave proofs of these circumstances based on the geometrical topological properties of the configurational space in each case, which we regard as the simplest way to proceed.

If we allow for a many components wave function on the torus, we may have anyons *but* with only *fractional statistics* which proved to give an interpretation for the fractional QHE. In this case, a series of new states of matter emerge as incompressible quantum liquids [26, 27] around which the low-energy excitations are localized quasi-particles with unusual fractional quantum numbers, i.e., anyons. The Laughlin variational ground-state wave functions requires the statistics, ν , to be an odd integer m , whereas the excited states require it to be rational. Laughlin chooses the trial ground-state wave function of the Bijl–Dingle–Jastrow product form

$$\psi_m = \mathcal{N}_m \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^m e^{-\frac{1}{4\ell_0^2} \sum_i |z_i|^2}, \tag{26}$$

where $\ell_0 = \sqrt{\hbar c/eB}$ is the magnetic length, B the magnetic field orthogonal to the metallic plate, z_i is the complex coordinate of the i -th electron and \mathcal{N}_m is a normalization factor. Since m is an odd integer, ψ is totally antisymmetric, and so it describes ordinary fermions. The prefactor $(z_i - z_j)^m$ is also of the Jastrow type: it has a zero of order m at coincident points ($z_i = z_j$), showing that electrons tend very strongly to repel each other in a way that is appropriate to minimize the Coulomb interaction. If z_i goes around z_j by an angle $\Delta\theta$, the wave function acquires a phase $e^{im\Delta\theta}$, as if each particle carried m units of flux. This allows Laughlin to use the fact that the $|\psi_m|^2$ can be interpreted as the Boltzmann factor $e^{-\beta\varphi}$ of a One Component Plasma of classical particles of charge $Q = m$ living in two dimensions where the neutralizing background has a surface charge density $\sigma = m/2\pi\ell_0^2$ at an inverse temperature $\beta = 2/m$. The coupling constant of the plasma is $\Gamma = \beta Q^2 = 2m^2$, and its properties are available exactly analytically at the special value of the coupling constant $\Gamma = 2$ [28–30] when the two-dimensional electron gas corresponds to a full Landau level $m = 1$ (see Ref. [9] chapter 8).

A word of caution when thinking at the physical implications of all this is nonetheless necessary. From a purely conceptual point of view, the fact that in order to have a fractional statistics one has to impose twisted periodic boundary conditions that are an artificial means to approach the thermodynamic limit and have no physical meaning sheds some doubts on the relevance of the anyonic theory on the interpretation of the fractional QHE. From the point of view of the numerical experiment, the presence of a magnetic field implies that the ground state wave function will, in general, be complex valued and in order to deal with the symmetry given by the anyonic statistics one should use methods similar to the ones used in Ref. [31, 32]. Also, we proposed to combine these methods with the twisted boundary conditions first employed in 2001 by Chang Lin et al. [24] for a generic many-body system. It would be desirable to perform the simulation on a sphere with a Dirac magnetic monopole at the center [33] in order to be able to simulate scalar anyons with fractional statistics, without the necessity of implementing any sort of boundary conditions.

Another issue in disfavor of the description of the physically observed QHE is the fact that in a laboratory the electrons will surely not be exactly living in a two-dimensional world, but one deals rather with a quasi-two-dimensional, very very thin, metallic layer [34] at the interface between two different semiconductors or between a semiconductor and an insulator even if the low temperature and/or the strong magnetic field freezes the motion along the direction perpendicular to the layer (something similar as explained in the satirical novella by the English schoolmaster Edwin Abbott: “Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions” first published in 1884 by Seeley & Co. of London). This of course would modify also the Coulomb potential of interaction between the electrons from one $\propto -\log(r/L)$ to one $\propto 1/r$, with r the separation between electrons, which are in any case

both divergent at $r = 0$. Naturally, the Coulomb repulsion is essential to give the incompressibility condition avoiding two particles to overlap.

The real experiment is too complicated to describe in its completeness so one has to resort to approximations and the approximation of considering the electrons as “living” in a two-dimensional world with periodic twisted boundary conditions seems to be an effective one. There are many experiments in the field. A mostly interesting one is described in Ref. [35] where it is shown that the sign of the Hall effect in the transport properties of doped lanthanum manganites films for small polaron [36, 37] hopping can be “anomalous.” A small polaron based on an electron can be deflected in a magnetic field as if it was positively charged and, conversely, a hole-based polaron can be deflected in the sense of a free electron. Measurements of the high-temperature Hall coefficient of manganite samples reveal that it exhibits Arrhenius behavior and a sign anomaly relative to both the nominal doping and the thermoelectric power. The results are discussed in terms of an extension of the Emin–Holstein theory of the Hall mobility in the adiabatic limit.

There are now several proposed experiments aimed at identifying the existence of non-Abelian statistics in nature. Non-Abelian phases are gapped phases of matter in which the adiabatic transport of one excitation around another implies a unitary transformation within a subspace of degenerate wavefunctions which differ from each other only globally [38].

Another more recent experimental interest in anyons is for topological quantum computation [39, 40]: Systems exhibiting non-Abelian statistics can store topologically protected qubits [41].

Acknowledgements I would like to acknowledge fruitful discussions with Rob Leigh, Eduardo Fradkin, Michael Stone, and last but not least Myron Salamon who showed me the physics of calorimeters, way back in 2000 in Urbana.

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