

# Non-Bloch PT symmetry of non-Hermitian systems

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# Outline

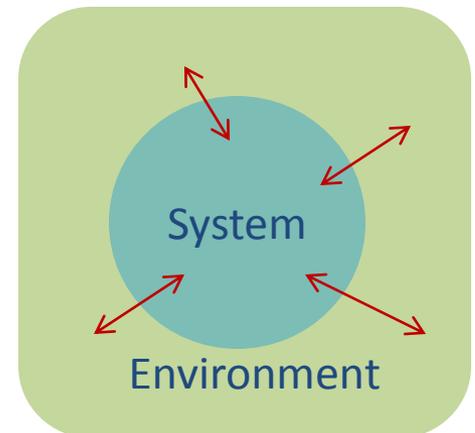
- Non-Hermitian physics and PT symmetry
- Non-Bloch band theory
- Non-Bloch parity-time symmetry: 1D and 2D

# Hermiticity vs non-Hermiticity

$$i \frac{d|\psi(t)\rangle}{dt} = H|\psi(t)\rangle$$

$H^\dagger = H$  for **closed** systems

$H^\dagger \neq H$  for **open** systems



# Many ways to non-Hermiticity

252

*Y. Ashida et al.*

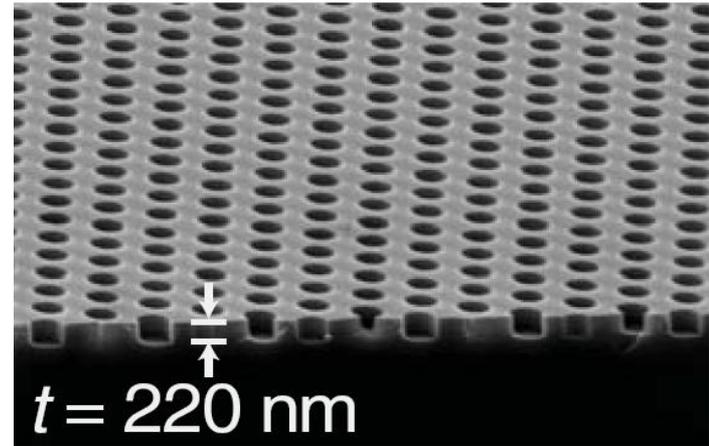
Table 1. A wide variety of classical and quantum systems described by non-Hermitian matrices/operators, the physical origins of non-Hermiticity, and theoretical methods presented in order of appearance in the present review.

Systems/processes	Physical origin of non-Hermiticity	Theoretical methods
Photonics	Gain and loss of photons	Maxwell equations [12,13]
Mechanics	Friction	Newton equation [14–16]
Electrical circuits	Joule heating	Circuit equation [17]
Stochastic processes	Nonreciprocity of state transitions	Fokker-Planck equation [18,19]
Soft matter and fluid	Nonlinear instability	Linearized hydrodynamics [20–22]
Nuclear reactions	Radioactive decays	Projection methods [4–6]
Mesoscopic systems	Finite lifetimes of resonances	Scattering theory [23,24]
Open quantum systems	Dissipation	Master equation [25,26]
Quantum measurement	Measurement backaction	Quantum trajectory approach [27–32]

# Open classical-wave systems

Photonic open systems  
(Loss by radiation)

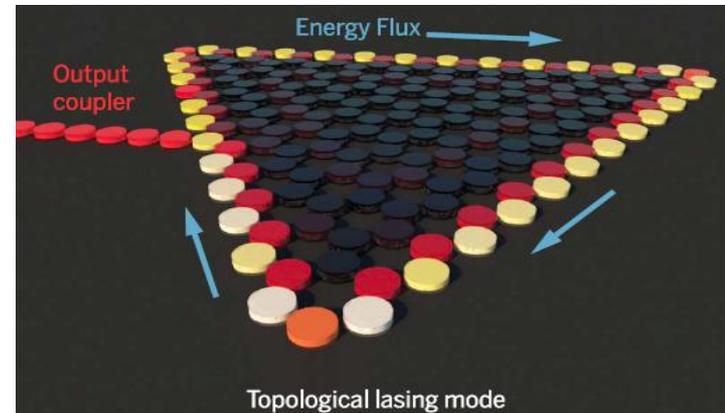
$$H_{\text{eff}} = \omega_D - i\gamma_0 + (v_g \delta k_x - i\gamma) \sigma_z + v_g \delta k_y \sigma_x$$



Zhou et al, Science 359, 1009 (2018)

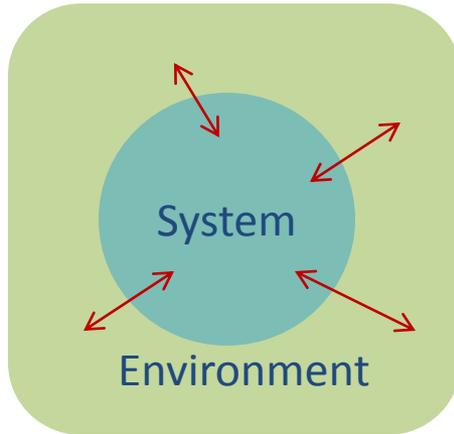
“Topological insulator laser”  
Non-Hermitian Haldane model  
(Gain by pumping)

$$i \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = H_{\text{Haldane}} \Psi - i\gamma \Psi + \frac{ig\mathbb{P}}{1 + |\Psi|^2/I_{\text{sat}}} \Psi + H_{\text{output}} \Psi$$



Harari, et al, Science, 359, 1230(2018)

# Open quantum systems: Density matrix



Quantum master equation:

$$\frac{d\rho(t)}{dt} = \mathcal{L}\rho = -i[H, \rho] + \sum_{\mu} \left( L_{\mu}\rho L_{\mu}^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2}\{L_{\mu}^{\dagger}L_{\mu}, \rho\} \right)$$

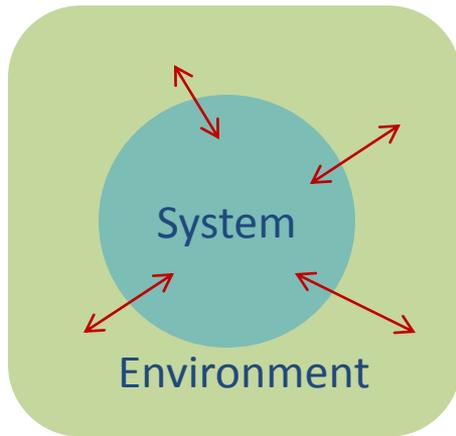
Environment effect

$$\rho = \sum_{m,n} \rho_{mn} |m\rangle\langle n| \Leftrightarrow \tilde{\rho} = \sum_{m,n} \rho_{mn} |m\rangle \otimes |n\rangle$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{\rho}(t)}{dt} = \tilde{\mathcal{L}}\tilde{\rho} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{L}} = -iH \otimes I + iI \otimes H^T + \sum_{\mu} (L_{\mu} \otimes L_{\mu}^* - \frac{1}{2}L_{\mu}^{\dagger}L_{\mu} \otimes I - \frac{1}{2}I \otimes L_{\mu}^T L_{\mu}^*)$$

- Liouvillian is non-Hermitian:  $i\tilde{\mathcal{L}} \neq (i\tilde{\mathcal{L}})^{\dagger}$
- Liouvillians as non-Hermitian “Hamiltonian” (density matrix as “wavefunction”)
- Applications in quantum optics, cold atom systems...

# Open quantum systems: Quantum trajectory



Quantum master equation:

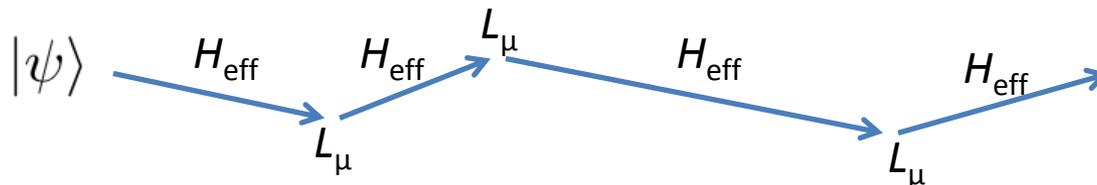
$$\frac{d\rho(t)}{dt} = \mathcal{L}\rho = -i[H, \rho] + \sum_{\mu} \left( L_{\mu}\rho L_{\mu}^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2}\{L_{\mu}^{\dagger}L_{\mu}, \rho\} \right)$$

$$H_{\text{eff}} = H - \frac{i}{2} \sum_{\mu} L_{\mu}^{\dagger}L_{\mu}$$

$$\frac{d\rho(t)}{dt} = -i(H_{\text{eff}}\rho - \rho H_{\text{eff}}^{\dagger}) + \sum_{\mu} L_{\mu}\rho L_{\mu}^{\dagger}$$

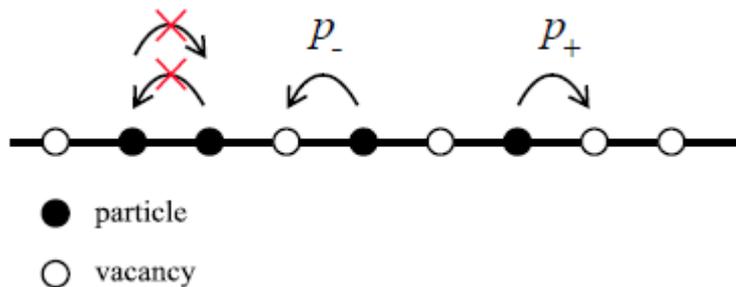
- $H_{\text{eff}}$  + Quantum jumps
- Post-selection  $\rightarrow H_{\text{eff}}$

$$i\frac{d|\psi\rangle}{dt} = H_{\text{eff}}|\psi\rangle \iff i\frac{d(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)}{dt} = H_{\text{eff}}|\psi\rangle\langle\psi| - |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|H_{\text{eff}}^{\dagger}$$



# Non-Hermitian Hamiltonian from statistical mechanics

Asymmetric exclusion process (ASEP):



Probability distribution

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = W \mathbf{p}$$

$$W = \sum_{j=1}^L \left[ p_+ \sigma_j^+ \sigma_{j+1}^- + p_- \sigma_j^- \sigma_{j+1}^+ + \frac{p_+ + p_-}{4} (\sigma_j^z \sigma_{j+1}^z - 1) \right]$$

For more examples, see Y. Ashida et al, *Advances in Physics*, 69, 249 (2020)



# Non-Bloch PT symmetry of non-Hermitian systems



Recent concept



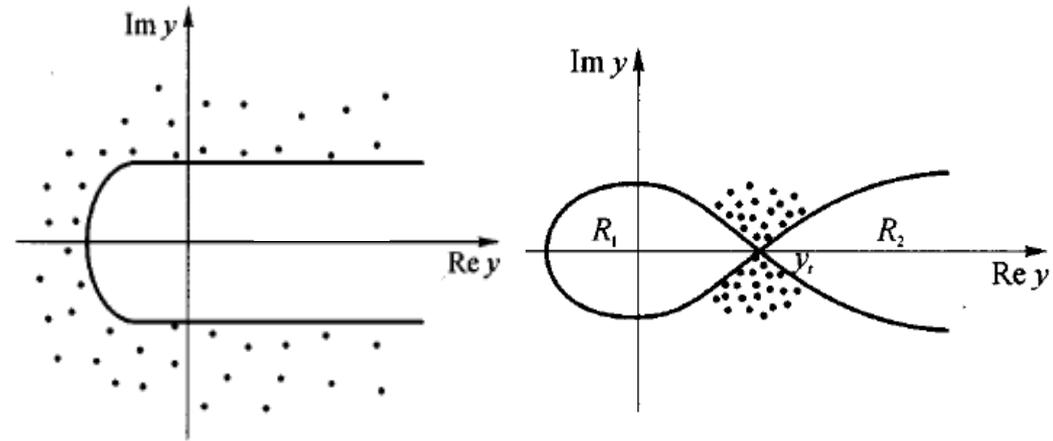
Bender-Boettcher 1998



Lee-Yang 1952



To understand phase transitions, Lee-Yang studied the behavior of partition function as a function of **complex-valued** chemical potential (or fugacity).



PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 87, NUMBER 3

AUGUST 1, 1952

**Statistical Theory of Equations of State and Phase Transitions. I. Theory of Condensation**

C. N. YANG AND T. D. LEE

*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey*

(Received March 31, 1952)

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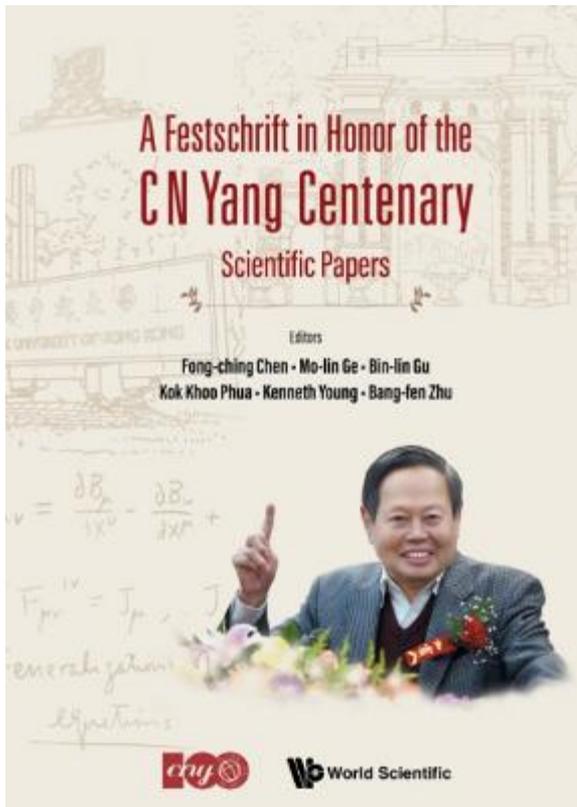
AUGUST 1, 1952

**Statistical Theory of Equations of State and Phase Transitions.  
II. Lattice Gas and Ising Model**

T. D. LEE AND C. N. YANG

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## Real Spectra in Non-Hermitian Hamiltonians Having $\mathcal{PT}$ Symmetry

Carl M. Bender<sup>1</sup> and Stefan Boettcher<sup>2,3</sup>

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(Received 1 December 1997; revised manuscript received 9 April 1998)

The condition of self-adjointness ensures that the eigenvalues of a Hamiltonian are real and bounded below. Replacing this condition by the weaker condition of  $\mathcal{PT}$  symmetry, one obtains new infinite classes of complex Hamiltonians whose spectra are also real and positive. These  $\mathcal{PT}$  symmetric theories may be viewed as analytic continuations of conventional theories from real to complex phase space. This paper describes the unusual classical and quantum properties of these theories. [S0031-9007(98)06371-6]

- [1] D. Bessis (private communication). This problem originated from discussions between Bessis and J. Zinn-Justin, who was studying Lee-Yang singularities using renormalization group methods. An  $i\phi^3$  field theory arises if one translates the field in a  $\phi^4$  theory by an imaginary term.

Several years ago, Bessis conjectured on the basis of numerical studies that the spectrum of the Hamiltonian  $H = p^2 + x^2 + ix^3$  is real and positive [1]. To date there is no rigorous proof of this conjecture. We claim that the reality of the spectrum of  $H$  is due to  $\mathcal{PT}$  symmetry. Note that  $H$  is invariant neither under parity

$$H = p^2 + m^2x^2 - (ix)^N \text{ invariant under PT: } p \rightarrow -p, x \rightarrow -x, \text{ and } i \rightarrow -i.$$

# PT symmetry and its breaking: a simplest model

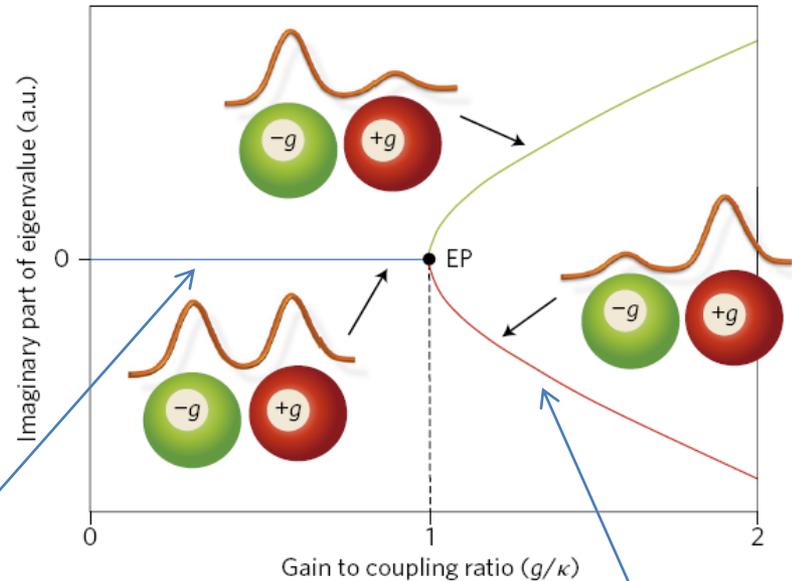
$$H = \begin{pmatrix} -ig & \kappa \\ \kappa & ig \end{pmatrix}$$

PT symmetry:  $\sigma_x H^* \sigma_x = H$

$$E_{\pm} = \pm \sqrt{\kappa^2 - g^2}$$

$E$  real-valued (PT-exact phase)

$$g < \kappa$$



$E$  complex-valued (PT-broken phase)

$$g > \kappa$$

A PT-symmetry Hamiltonian has two phases: **PT-exact** and **PT-broken** phases.

P (parity) is inessential; T (anti-unitary operation) is essential

## Generalized PT symmetry and real spectra

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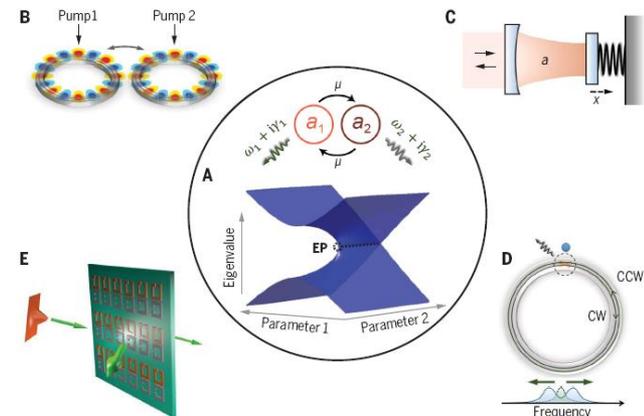
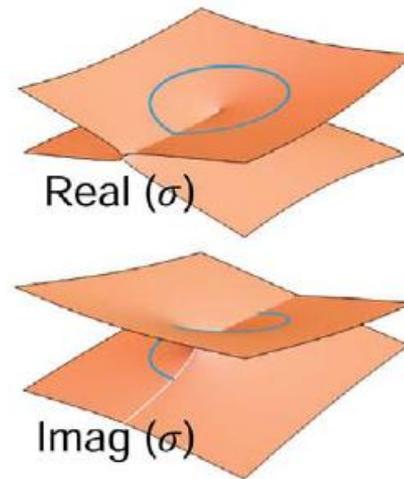
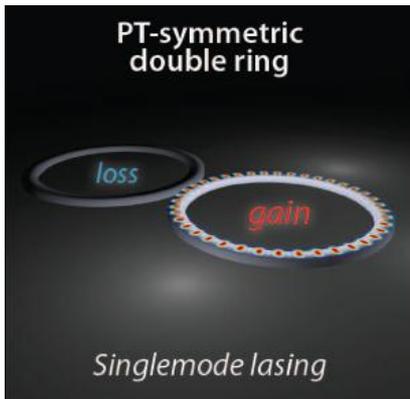
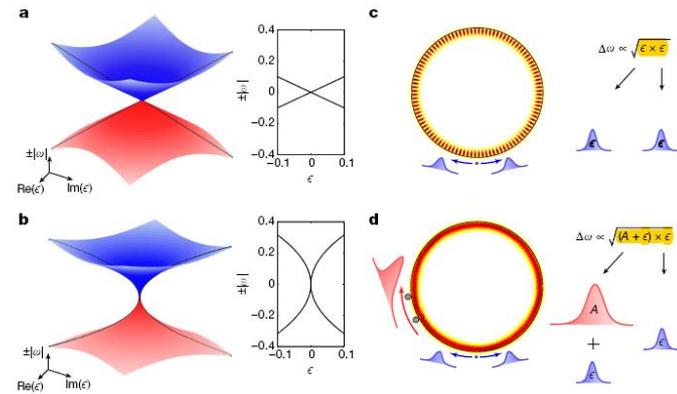
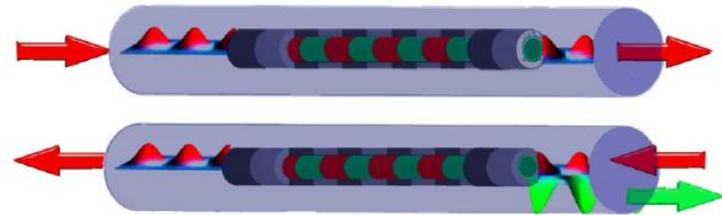
Online at [stacks.iop.org/JPhysA/35/L467](http://stacks.iop.org/JPhysA/35/L467)

### Abstract

The fact that eigenvalues of PT-symmetric Hamiltonians  $\mathbf{H}$  can be real for some values of a parameter and complex for others is explained by showing that the matrix elements of  $\mathbf{H}$ , and hence the secular equation, are real, not only for PT but also for any antiunitary operator  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfying  $\mathbf{A}^{2k} = 1$  with  $k$  odd. The argument is illustrated by a  $2 \times 2$  matrix Hamiltonian, and two examples of the generalization are given.

# Significance of PT symmetry

- PT-symmetric single-mode lasers
- Unidirectional invisibility
- Enhanced sensing
- Chiral mode conversion
- Robust wireless power transfer
- .....



R. El-Ganainy, et al, Nat. Phys. 14, 11(2018)  
 M. Miri, et al, Science 363, 42 (2019)

# Non-Bloch PT symmetry of non-Hermitian systems



Recent concept

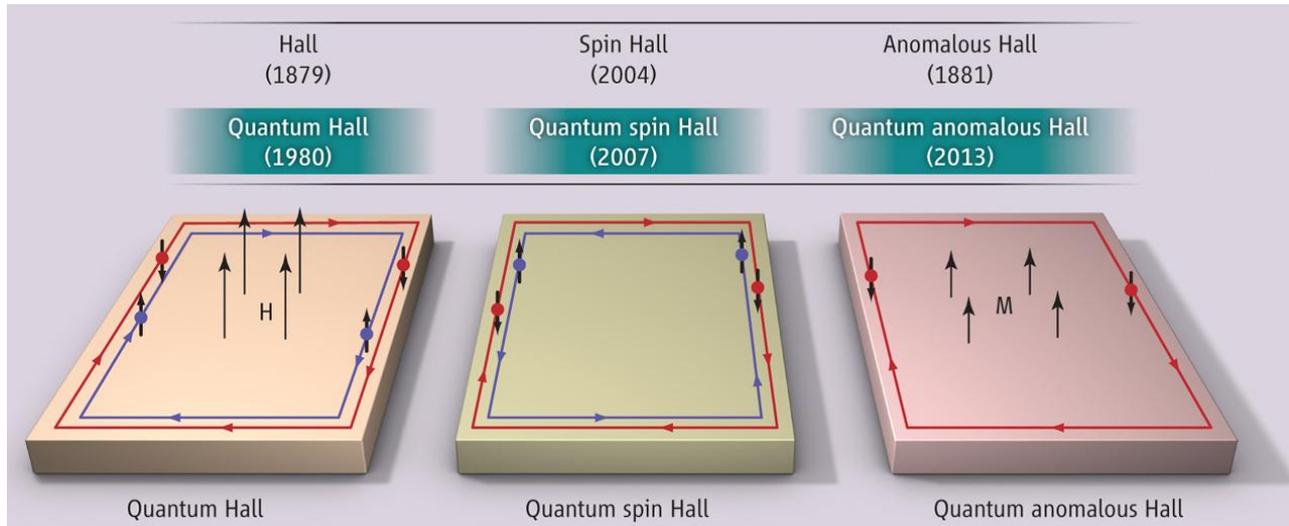
# Outline

- Non-Hermitian physics and PT symmetry
- Non-Bloch band theory
- Non-Bloch parity-time symmetry

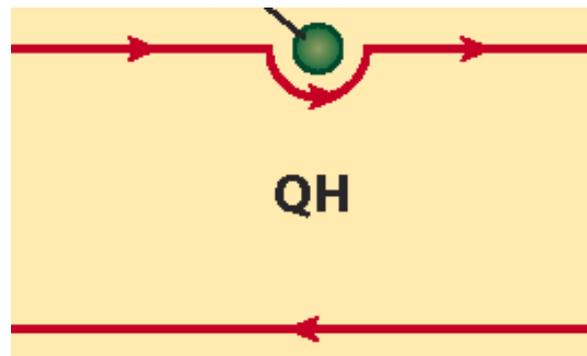


# Topological states of matter

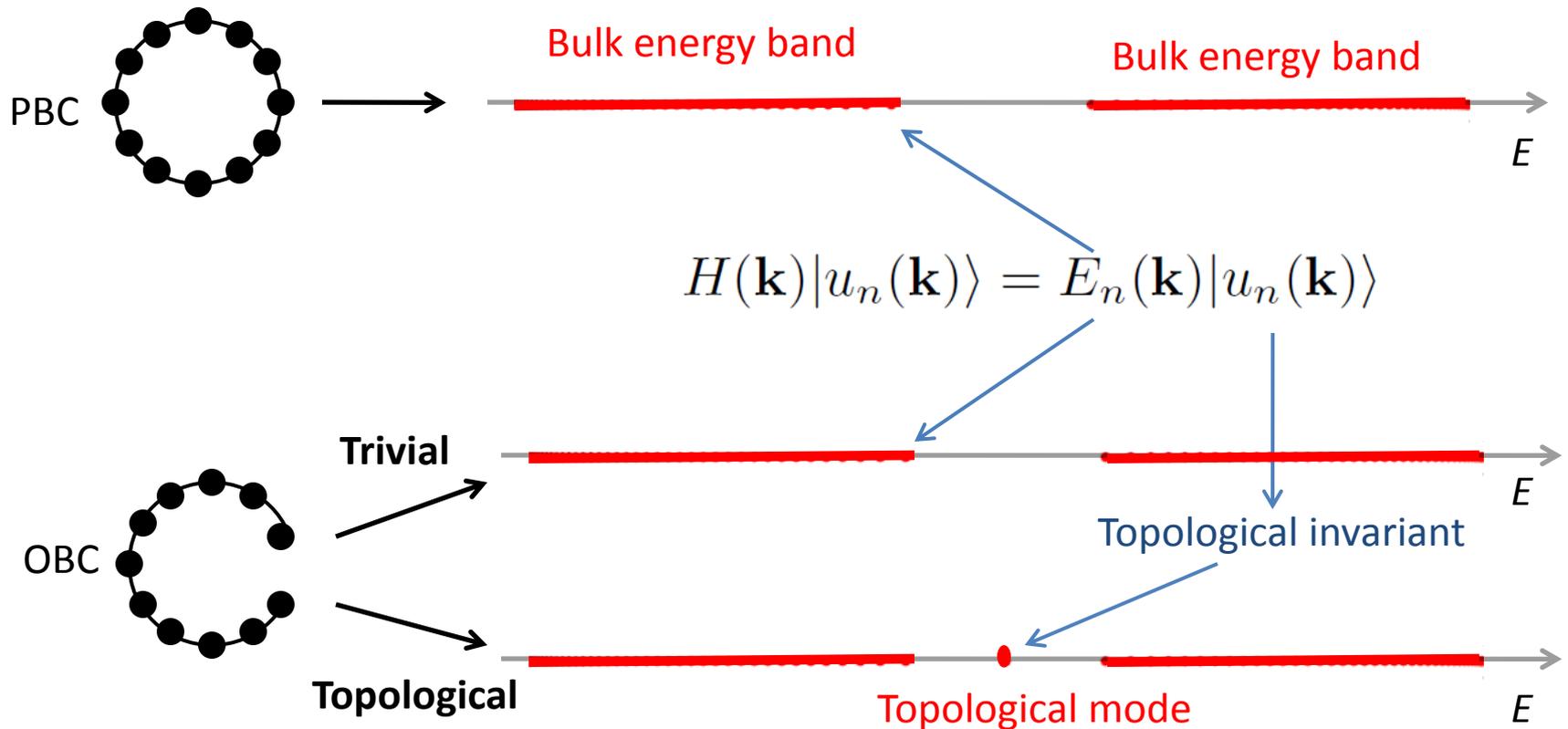
Robust boundary states; bulk-boundary correspondence



impurity

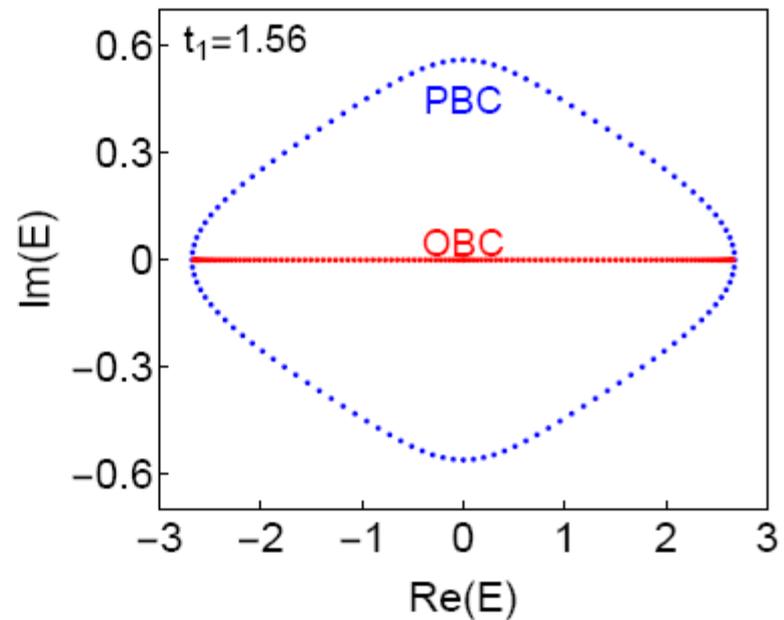
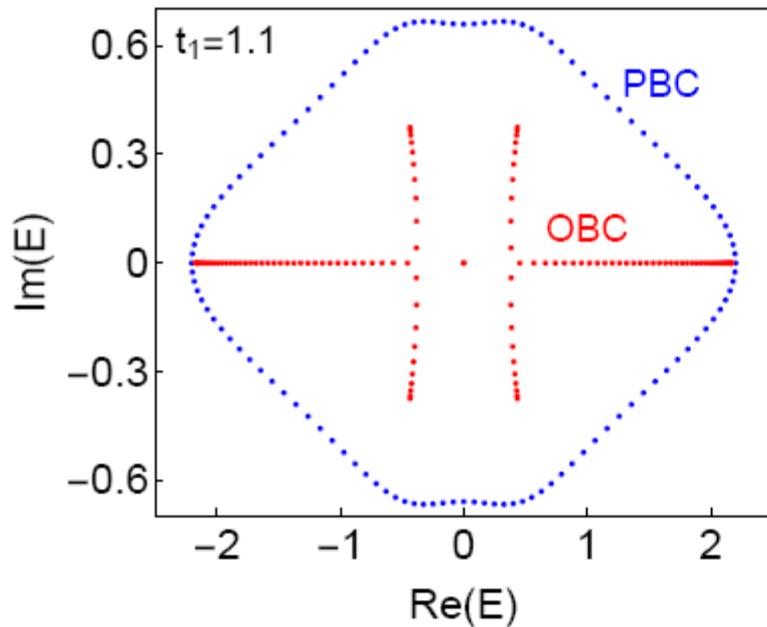
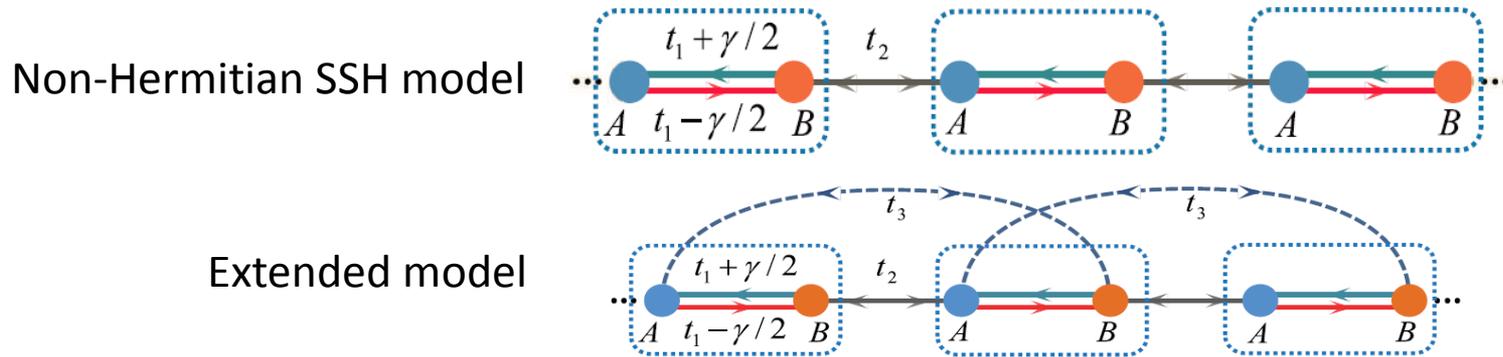


# Topological band theory: Simplicity in reciprocal space

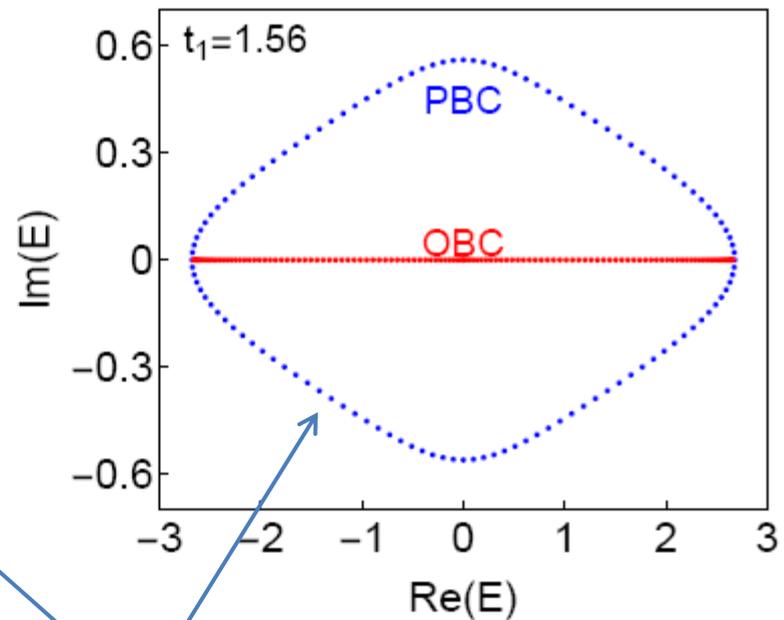
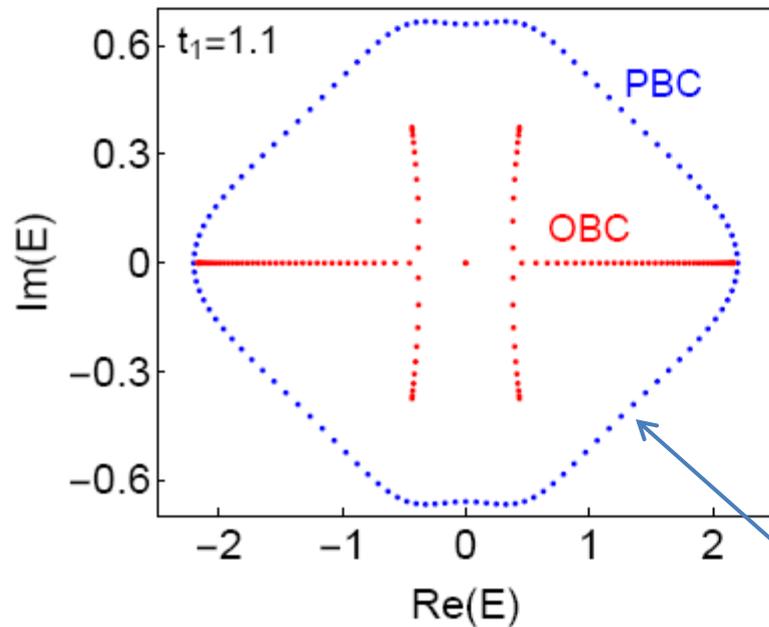
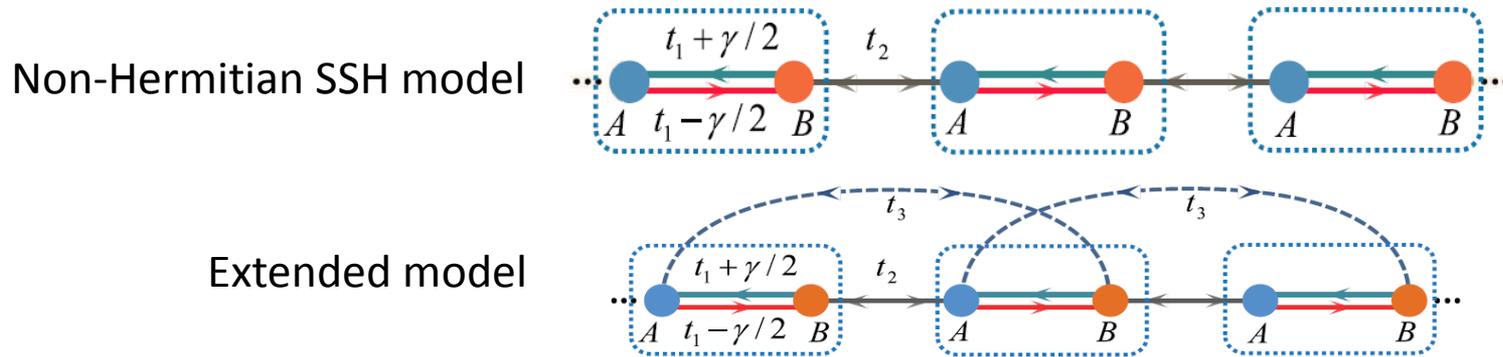


Generalize it to non-Hermitian systems?

# Difficulty: High sensitivity of spectrum to boundary condition



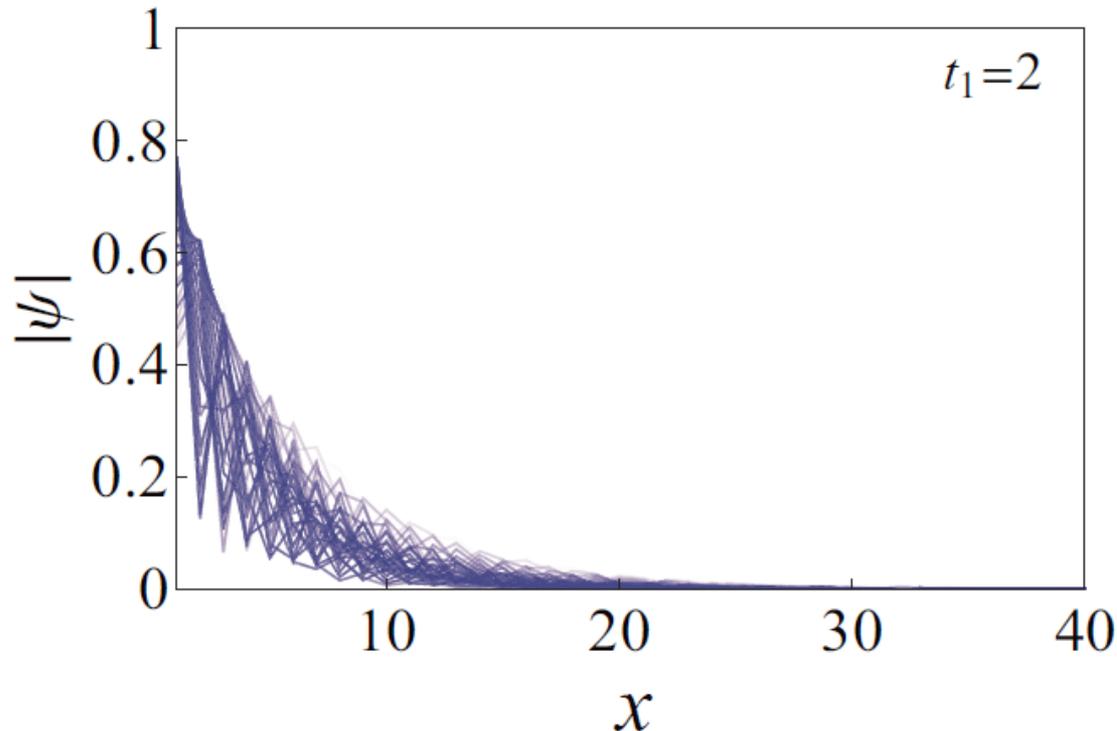
# Difficulty: High sensitivity of spectrum to boundary condition



$$H(\mathbf{k})|u_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle = E_n(\mathbf{k})|u_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

# The mechanism is Non-Hermitian Skin Effect (NHSE)

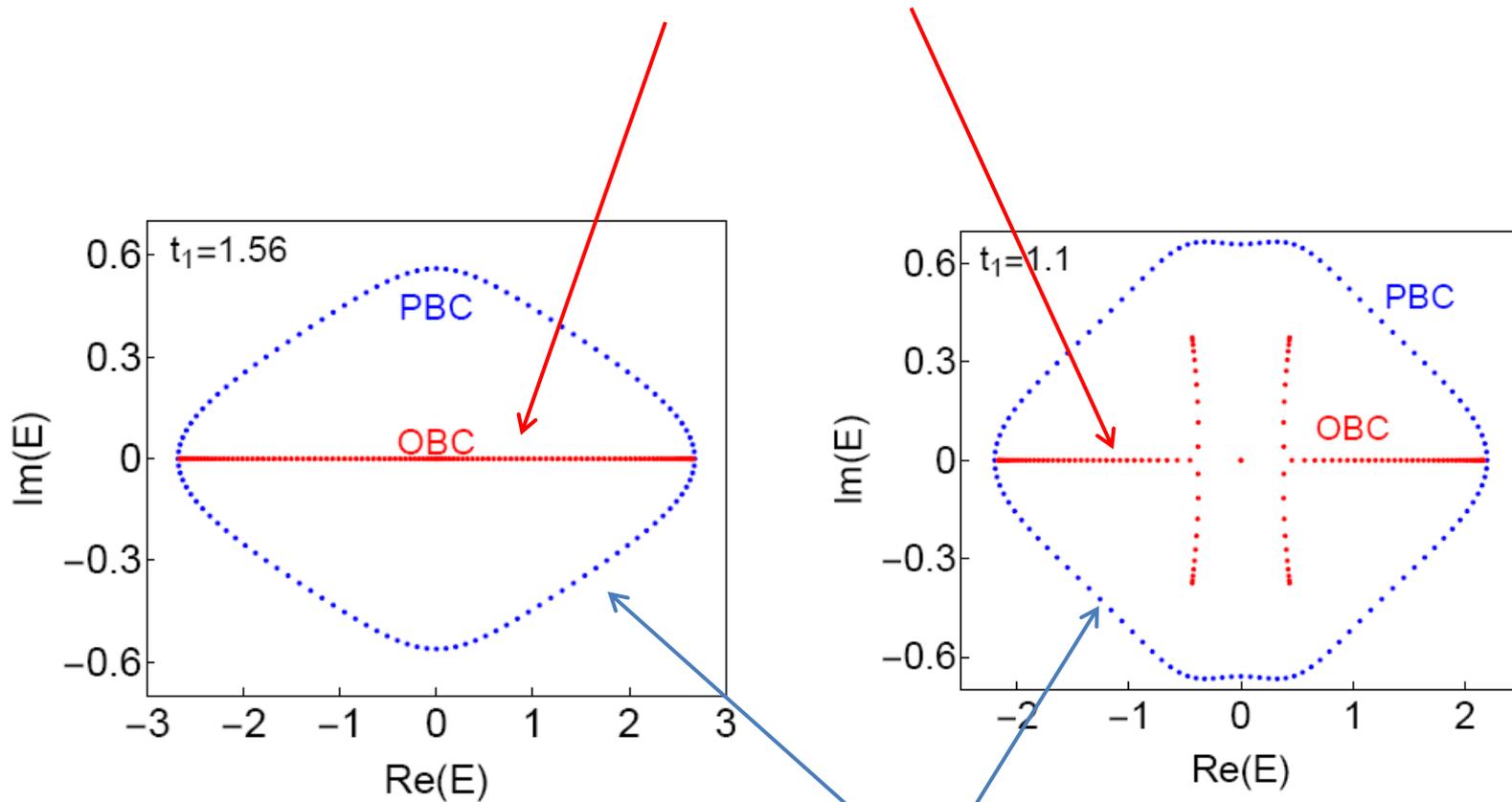
All eigenstates are localized at the boundary  
→ Bloch wave picture fails!



NHSE can happen because  
eigenstates are not orthogonal.

S. Yao, Z. Wang [PRL 121, 086803 \(2018\)](#);  
F. Kunst, et al [PRL 121, 026808 \(2018\)](#);  
C.H.Lee, R. Thomale [PRB 99, 201103 \(2019\)](#)

# Calculate energy spectrum from a general band theory?

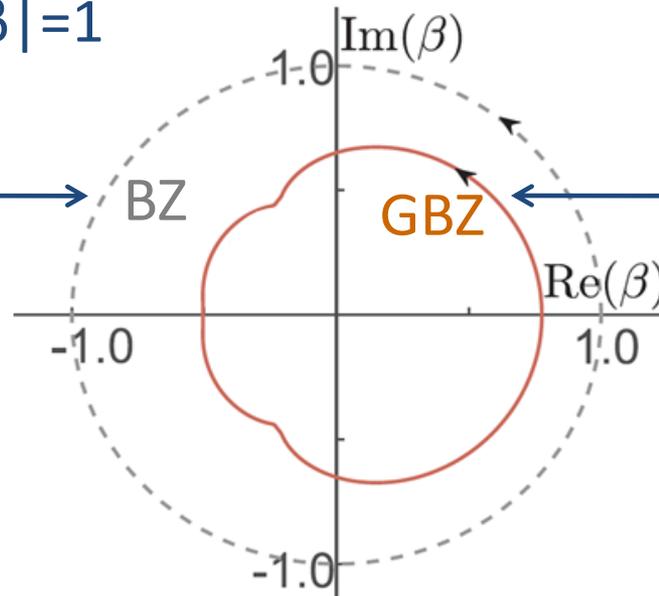
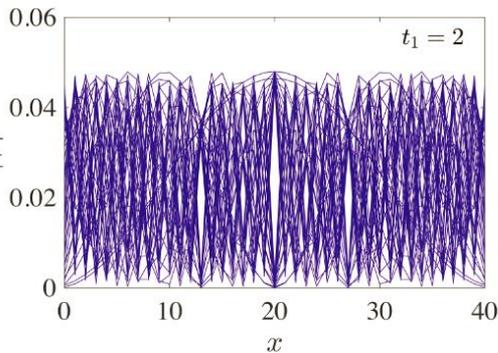


$$H(\mathbf{k})|u_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle = E_n(\mathbf{k})|u_n(\mathbf{k})\rangle$$

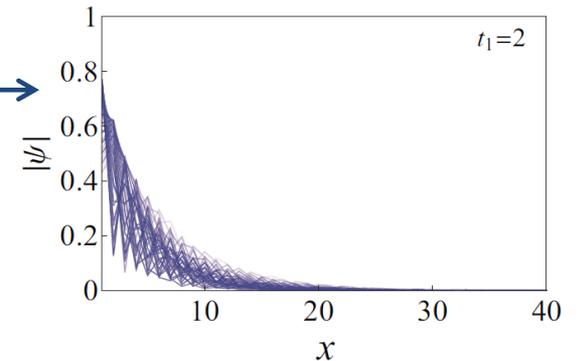
# Generalized Brillouin Zone (GBZ)

$$\psi(x) \sim e^{ikx} \xrightarrow{\beta = e^{ik}} \psi(x) \sim \beta^x$$

Bloch waves  $\leftrightarrow$  BZ:  $|\beta|=1$



Non-Hermitian skin effect  $\leftrightarrow$  GBZ:  $|\beta| \neq 1$



# Equation of generalized Brillouin zone (GBZ)

$$\det(H(\beta) - E\mathbb{I}) = 0$$



$$|\beta_1(E)| \leq |\beta_2(E)| \leq \cdots \leq |\beta_{2M}(E)|$$

Input boundary condition:



$$A_1[\beta_M(E)]^L + A_2[\beta_{M+1}(E)]^L = 0$$

Great simplification in the large- $L$  limit!

$A_1$  and  $A_2$  are very complicated



$$|\beta_M(E)| = |\beta_{M+1}(E)|$$

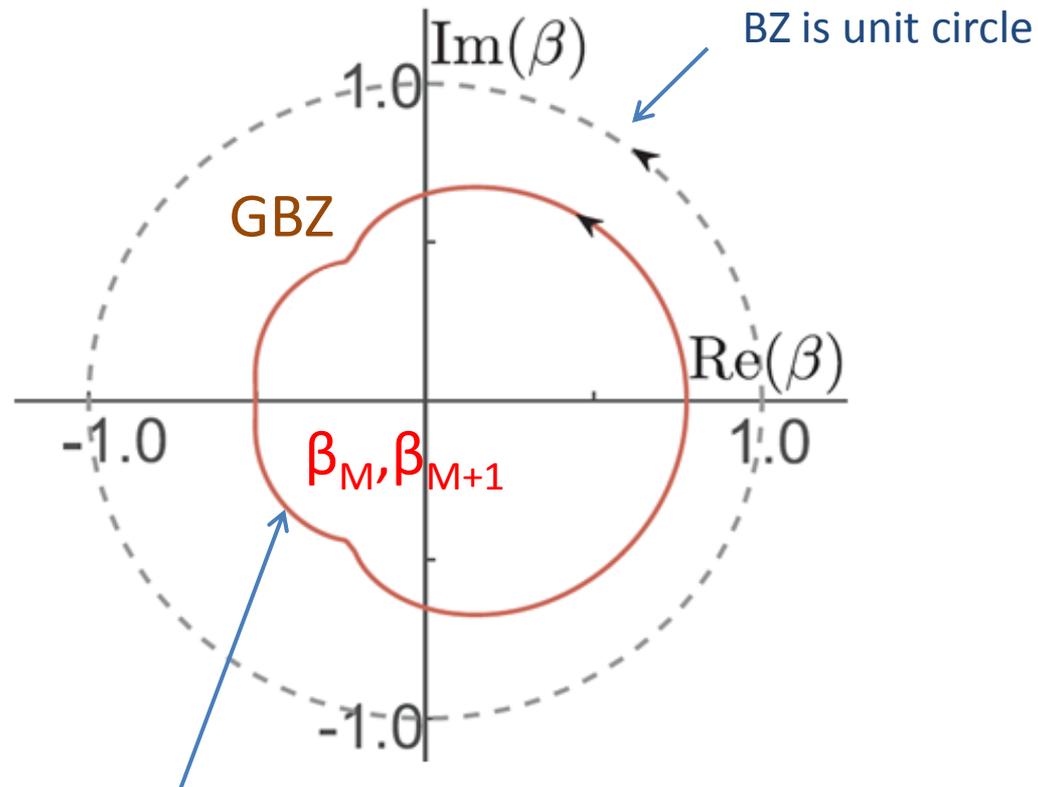
General derivation: K. Yokomizo, S. Murakami, [PRL 123, 066404 \(2019\)](#)

The simplest  $M=1$  case: S. Yao, Z. Wang, [PRL 121, 086803 \(2018\)](#)

Further extended in: Z. Yang, K. Zhang, C. Fang, J.P. Hu, [PRL, 125, 226402 \(2020\)](#)



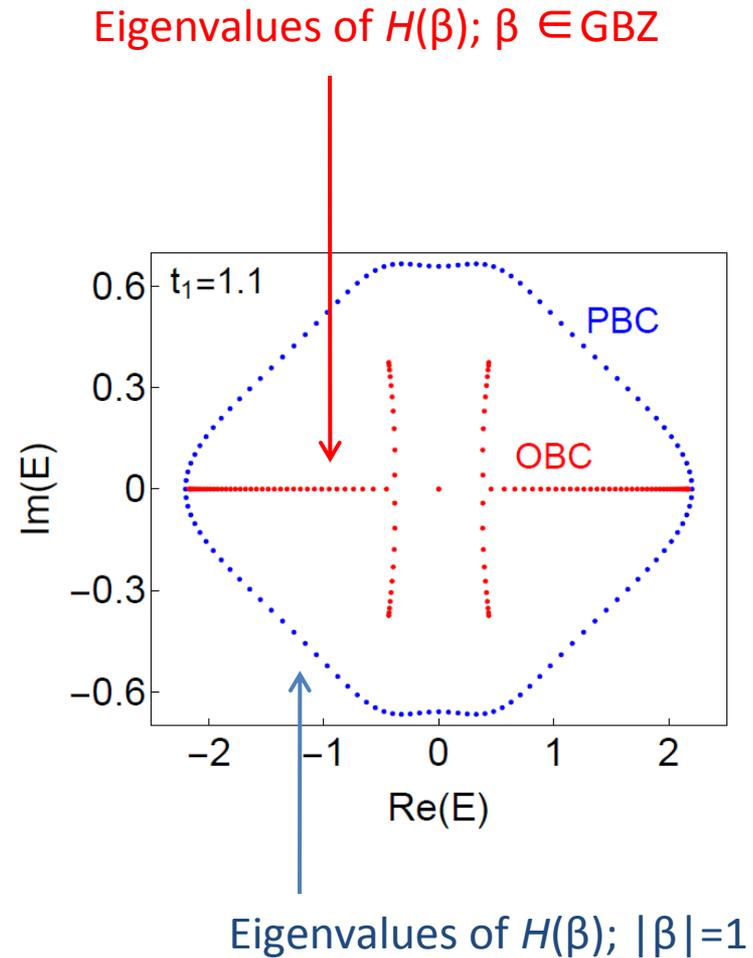
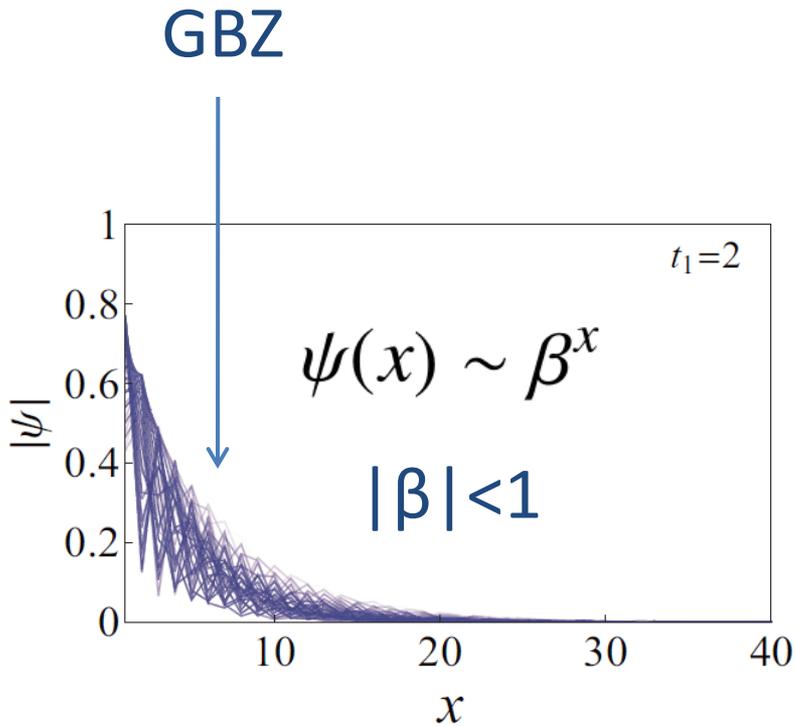
# GBZ = Trajectory of $\beta$



$$|\beta_M(E)| = |\beta_{M+1}(E)| \quad \det[H(\beta) - E] = 0$$

$$|\beta_1| \leq |\beta_2| \leq \dots \leq |\beta_{2M-1}| \leq |\beta_{2M}|$$

# Spectrums and wavefunction obtained from GBZ



## Non-Bloch band theory

Bloch band theory:

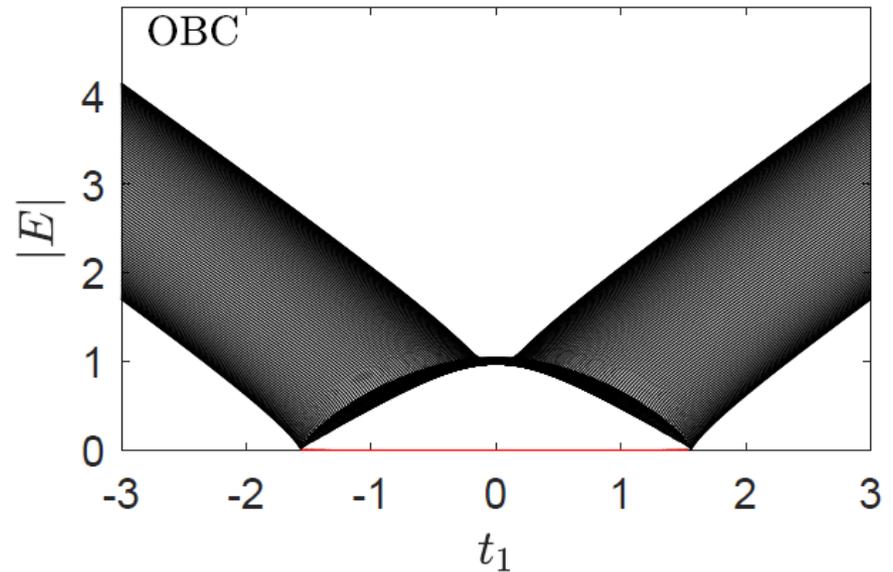
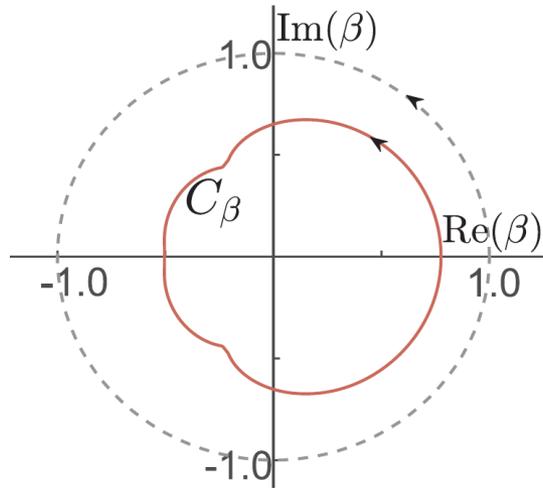
$$H(\beta)|u_n(\beta)\rangle = E_n(\beta)|u_n(\beta)\rangle \quad \begin{array}{l} \beta = e^{ik} \\ (|\beta|=1) \end{array}$$

Non-Bloch band theory:

$$H(\beta)|u_n(\beta)\rangle = E_n(\beta)|u_n(\beta)\rangle \quad (\beta \in \text{GBZ})$$

(Generalized Brillouin Zone)

# Topological invariants defined in GBZ: Non-Bloch bulk-boundary correspondence

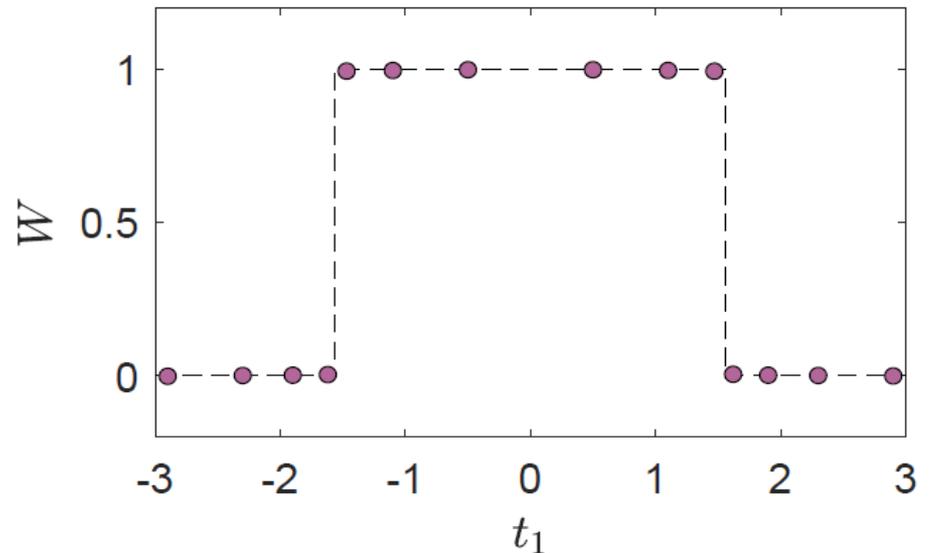


$$H(\beta)|u_R\rangle = E(\beta)|u_R\rangle$$

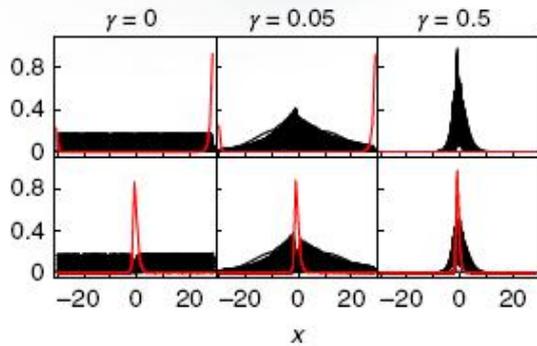
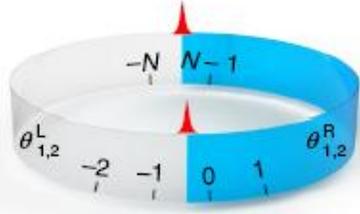
$$Q(\beta) = |u_{R1}(\beta)\rangle\langle u_{L1}(\beta)| - |u_{R2}(\beta)\rangle\langle u_{L2}(\beta)|$$

Non-Bloch winding number:

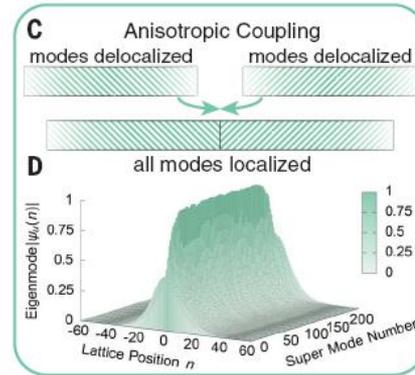
$$W = \frac{1}{4\pi i} \int_{\text{GBZ}} \text{Tr}[\sigma_z Q(\beta) dQ(\beta)],$$



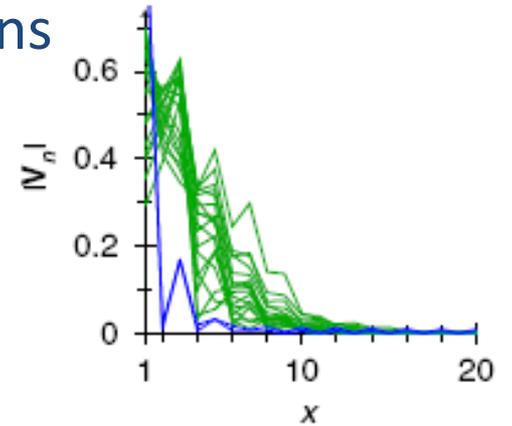
# Many experimental confirmations



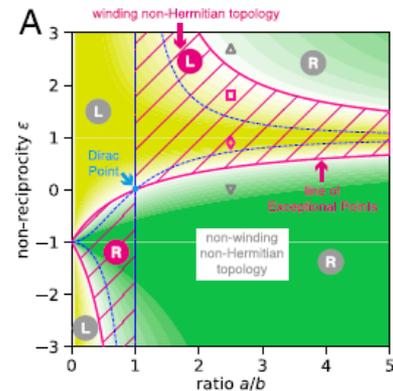
Beijing  
**Nat. Phys.** 2020  
 (Peng Xue group  
 + Wei Yi + Z.W.)



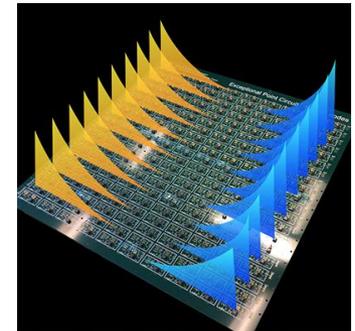
Rostock University  
**Science** 2020



Wurzburg University  
**Nat. Phys.** 2020  
 (R. Thomale +  
 L. W. Molenkamp +...)



Amsterdam University  
**PNAS** 2020



University of Zurich  
**PR Research** 2020  
 (T. Neupert group)

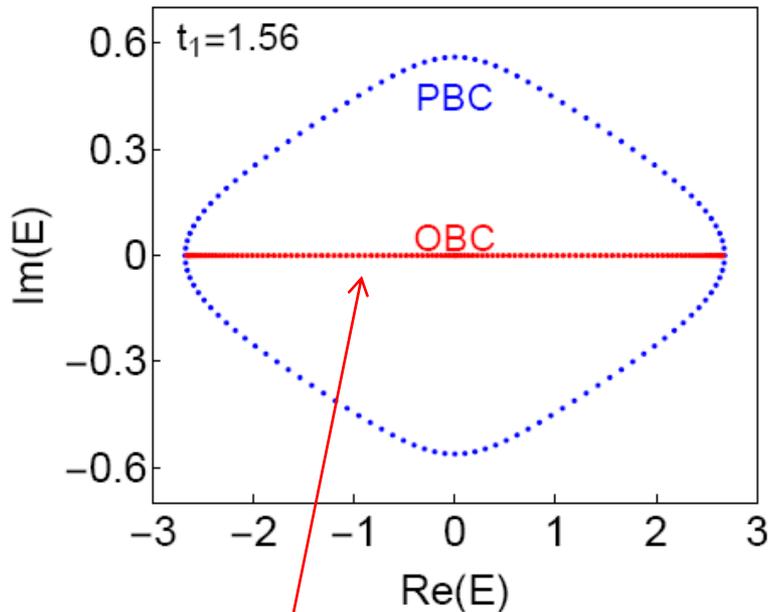
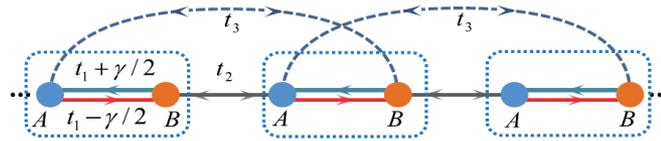
## Some of the subsequent progresses

- ◆ Correspondence between winding number and skin modes [PRL, 125, 126402 (2020); PRL 124, 086801 (2020)]
- ◆ NHSE in correlated systems [PRL, 126, 176601 (2021)]
- ◆ Critical non-Hermitian skin effect [Nat. Comm. 11, 5491 (2021)]
- ◆ Interplay between NHSE and disorders
- ◆ New relaxation pattern in open quantum systems [PRL, 123, 170401 (2019)]
- ◆ GBZ and aGBZ, and GBZ algorithm based on resultant [PRL, 125.226402 (2020)]
- ◆ Non-Bloch band collapse [PRL, 124, 066602 (2020)]
- ◆ Non-Bloch band theory for symplectic class [PRB, 101, 195147 (2020)]
- ◆ Dislocation NHSE [PRL, 127, 066401 (2020)]
- ◆ Higher-order NHSE  
[PRB, 102, 205118 (2020); Nat. Comm. 12, 4691(2021); Nat. Comm. 12, 5377(2021)]
- ◆ NHSE in elastic media [PRL, 125, 118001 (2020)]
- ◆ Topological switch of NHSE in lossy cold atom systems [PRL, 124, 250402 (2020)]
- ◆ NHSE-induced morphing of topological modes [Nature, 608, 50-55 (2022)]
- ◆ .....

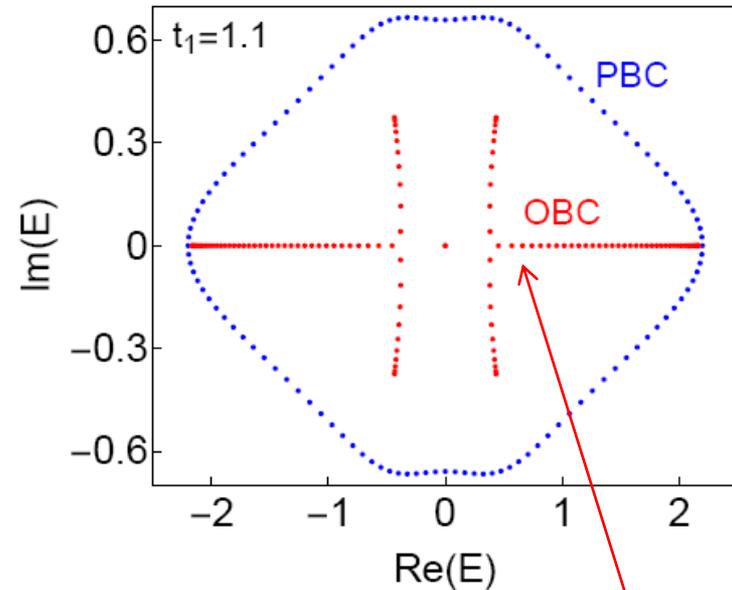
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# NHSE + PT symmetry = Non-Bloch PT symmetry



$E$  real-valued (PT-exact phase)



$E$  complex-valued (PT-broken phase)

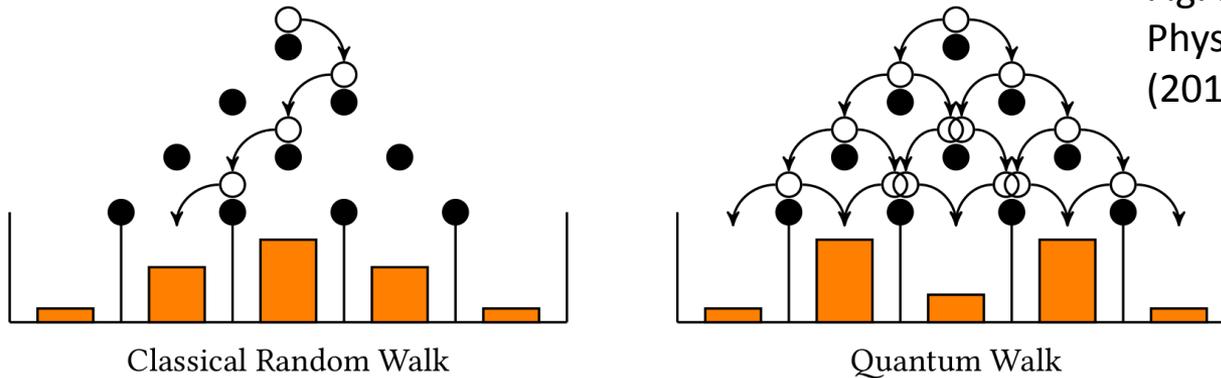
- Non-Bloch band theory → “**Non-Bloch PT symmetry**”
- It is a symmetry on the generalized Brillouin zone

$$\eta H(\beta) \eta^{-1} = H^\dagger(\beta)|_{\beta \in \text{GBZ}}$$



# Quantum walk

Fig. from S. Dadras et al,  
Phys. Rev. A 99, 043617  
(2019)



Non-Hermitian quantum walk of photons:

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = U^t |\psi(0)\rangle = \exp(-iH_{\text{eff}}t) |\psi(0)\rangle \quad t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$U := e^{-iH_{\text{eff}}}$$

$$U = R\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right) S_2 R\left(\frac{\theta_2}{2}\right) M R\left(\frac{\theta_2}{2}\right) S_1 R\left(\frac{\theta_1}{2}\right)$$

$$R(\theta) = \mathbb{1}_w \otimes e^{-i\theta\sigma_y}$$

State rotation

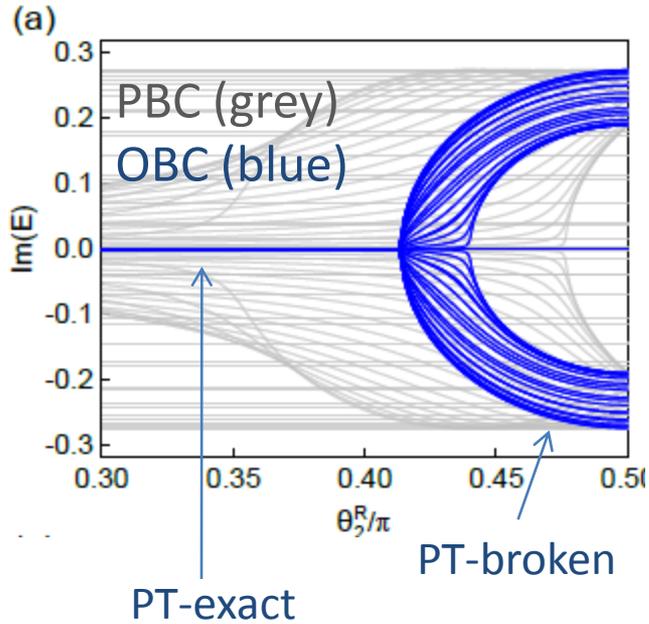
Spatial shift

$$M = \mathbb{1}_w \otimes (e^\gamma |0\rangle\langle 0| + e^{-\gamma} |1\rangle\langle 1|)$$

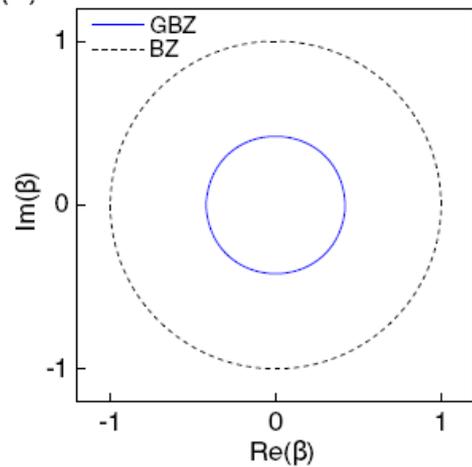
Onsite loss

Xiao et al (Peng Xue group), [Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 230402 \(2021\)](#)

# Non-Bloch PT symmetry

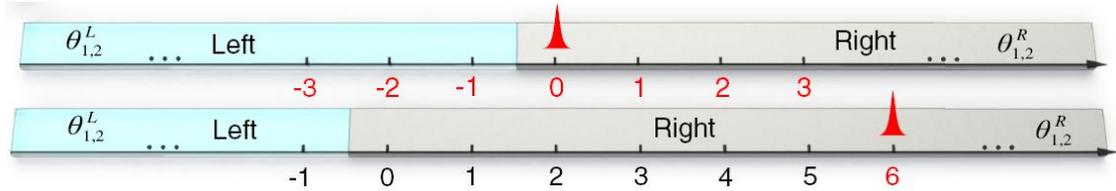
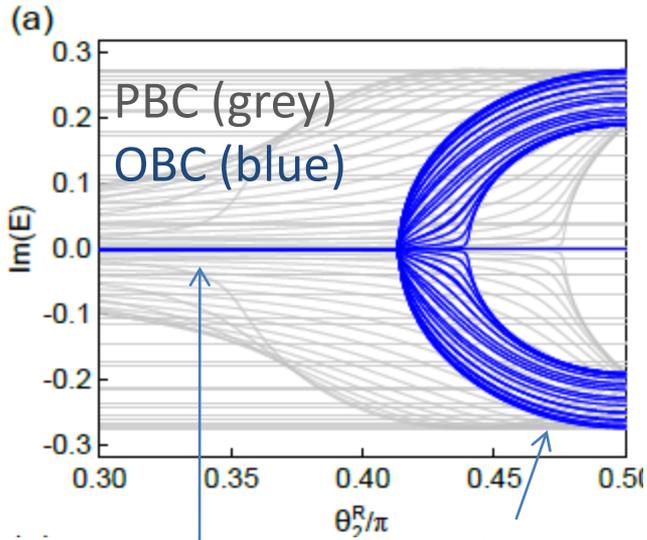


$$\eta H_{\text{eff}}(\beta) \eta^{-1} = H_{\text{eff}}^{\dagger}(\beta) |_{\beta \in \text{GBZ}}$$



Xiao et al (Peng Xue group), [Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 230402 \(2021\)](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.230402)

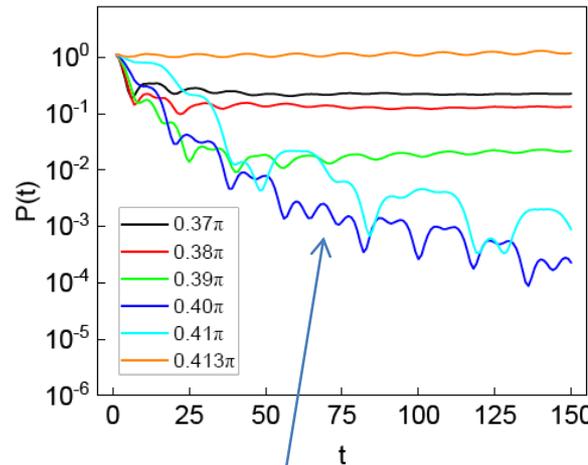
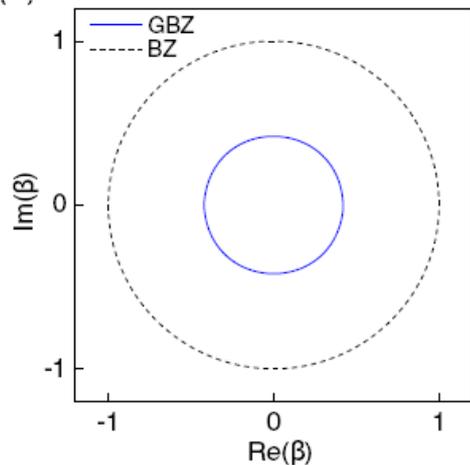
# Non-Bloch PT symmetry



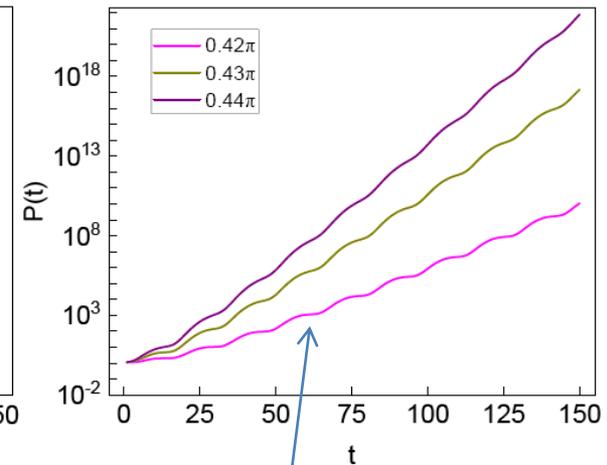
$$|\psi(t)\rangle = U^t |\psi(0)\rangle = \exp(-iH_{\text{eff}}t) |\psi(0)\rangle$$

$$P(t) = \langle \psi(t) | \psi(t) \rangle \sim e^{2\max[\text{Im}(E)]t}$$

$$\eta H_{\text{eff}}(\beta) \eta^{-1} = H_{\text{eff}}^\dagger(\beta) |_{\beta \in \text{GBZ}}$$



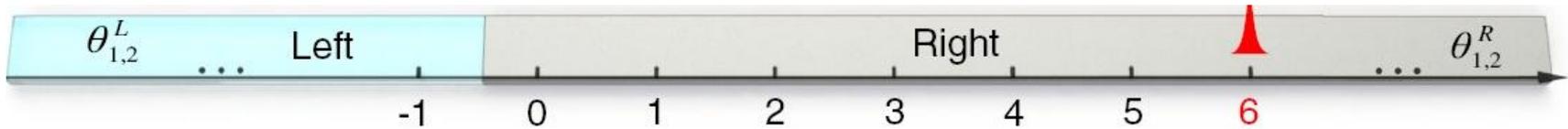
PT-exact



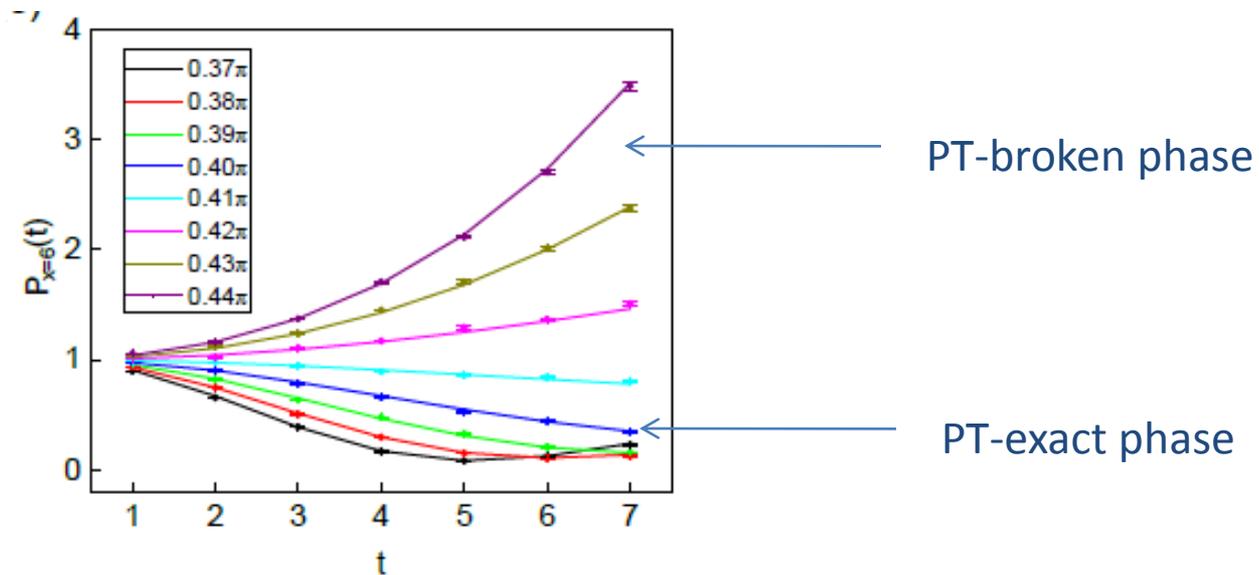
Numerical Simulation

PT-broken

# Non-Bloch PT symmetry



$$|\psi(t)\rangle = U^t |\psi(0)\rangle = \exp(-iH_{\text{eff}}t) |\psi(0)\rangle$$

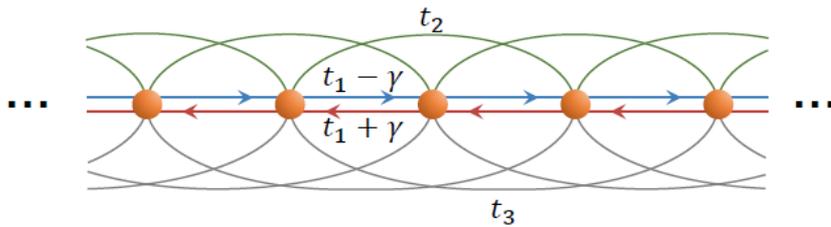


Experimentally observed

$$P(t) = \langle \psi(t) | \psi(t) \rangle \sim e^{2\max[\text{Im}(E)]t}$$

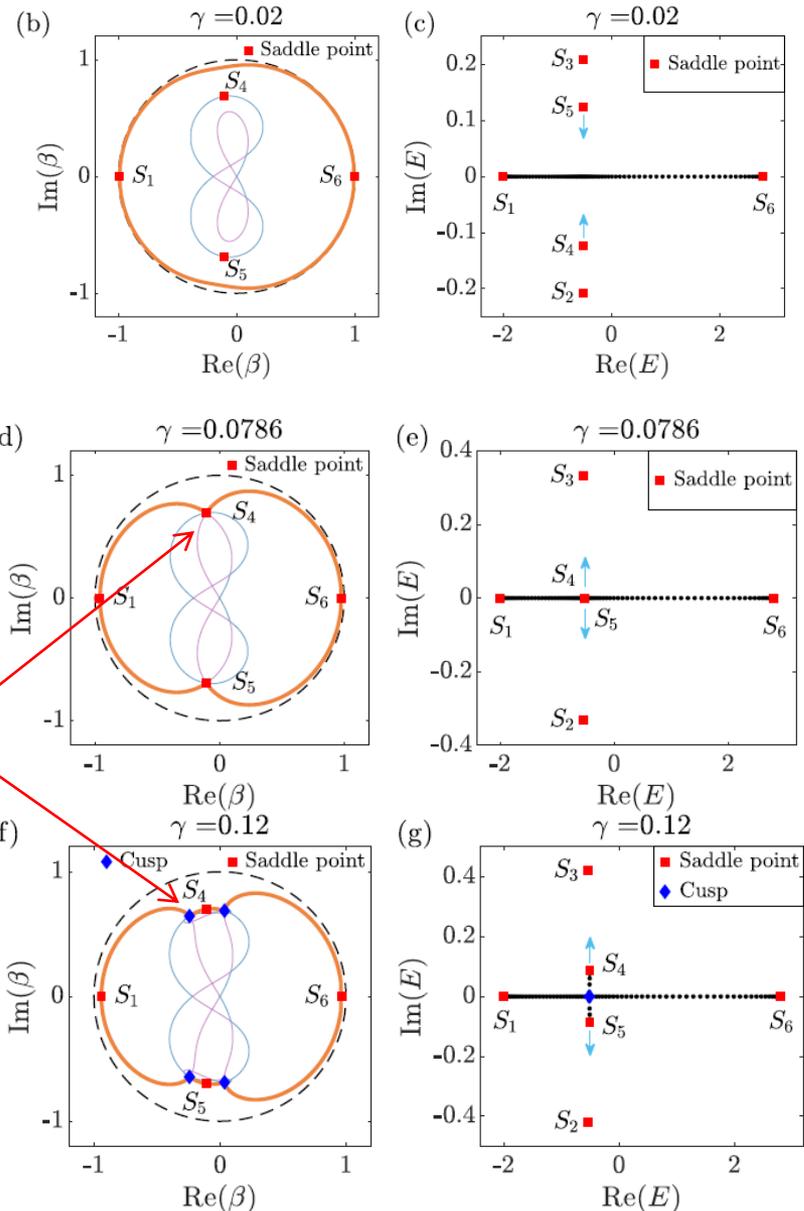
Xiao et al (Peng Xue group), [Phys. Rev. Lett. 126, 230402 \(2021\)](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.230402)

# Geometric origin of non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking in 1D



➤ See PT symmetry from the shape of GBZ

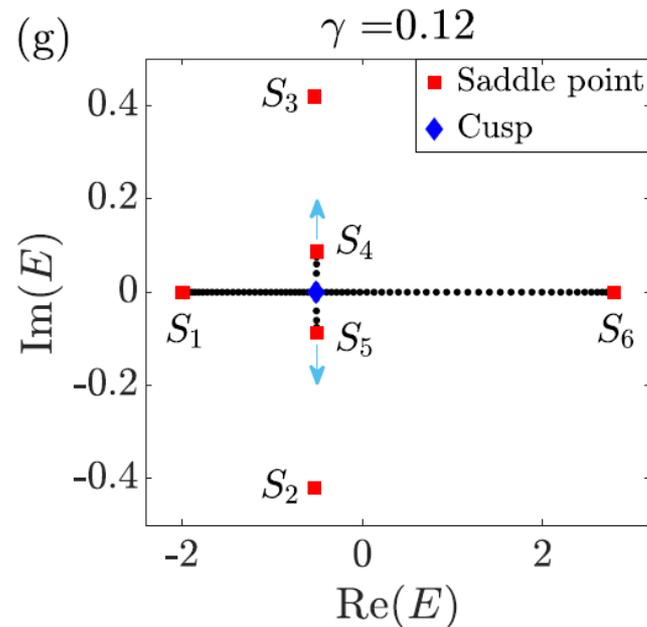
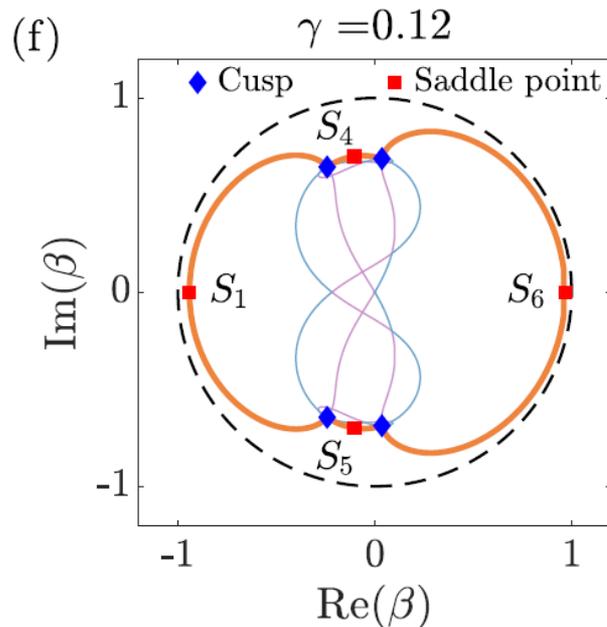
➤ GBZ cusps means PT symmetry breaking



# Geometric origin of non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking in 1D

$$E(\theta) = H(\beta(\theta)) = H(|\beta(\theta)|e^{i\theta}).$$

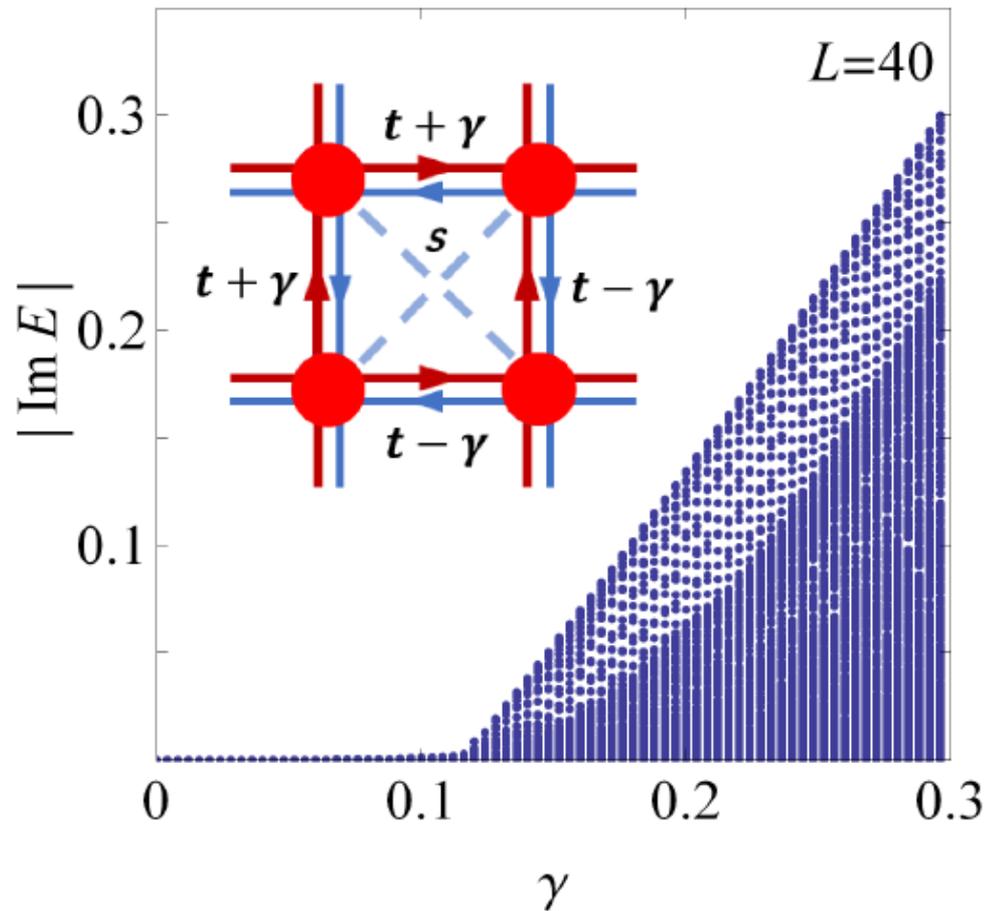
Discontinuous at GBZ cusp  $\longrightarrow \frac{dE(\theta)}{d\theta} = \frac{\partial H(\beta)}{\partial \beta} \left( \frac{\partial |\beta(\theta)|}{\partial \theta} e^{i\theta} + i\beta \right)$



See PT symmetry breaking from the shape of GBZ!

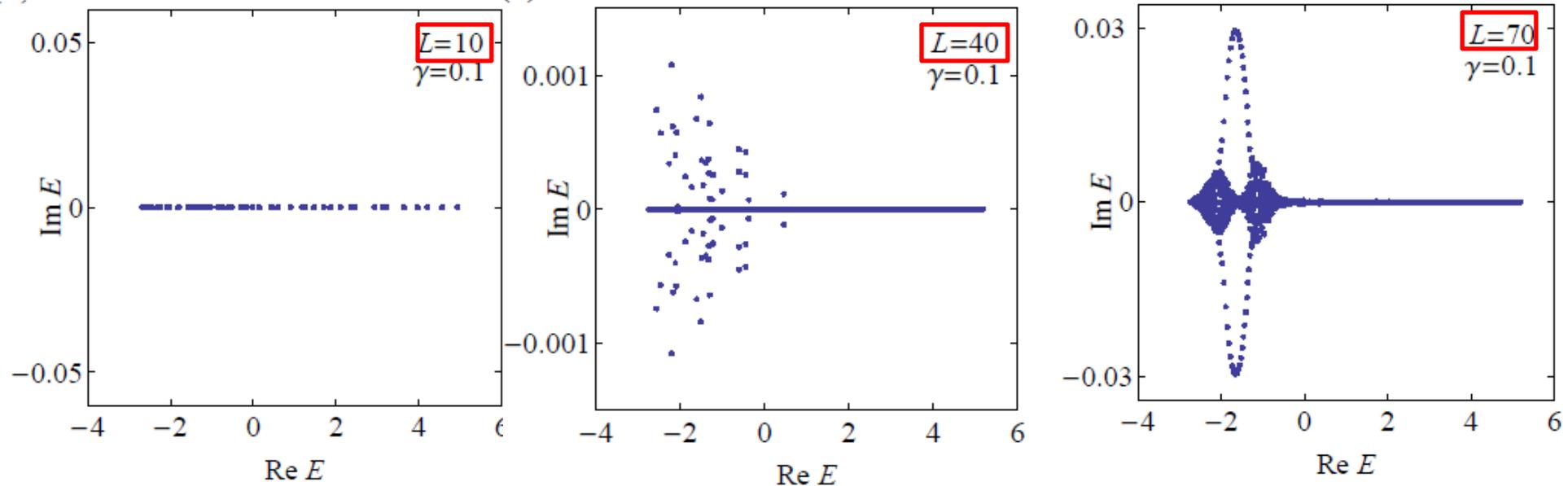
# 2D non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking

Seems normal



# 2D non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking

But the size dependence is strange

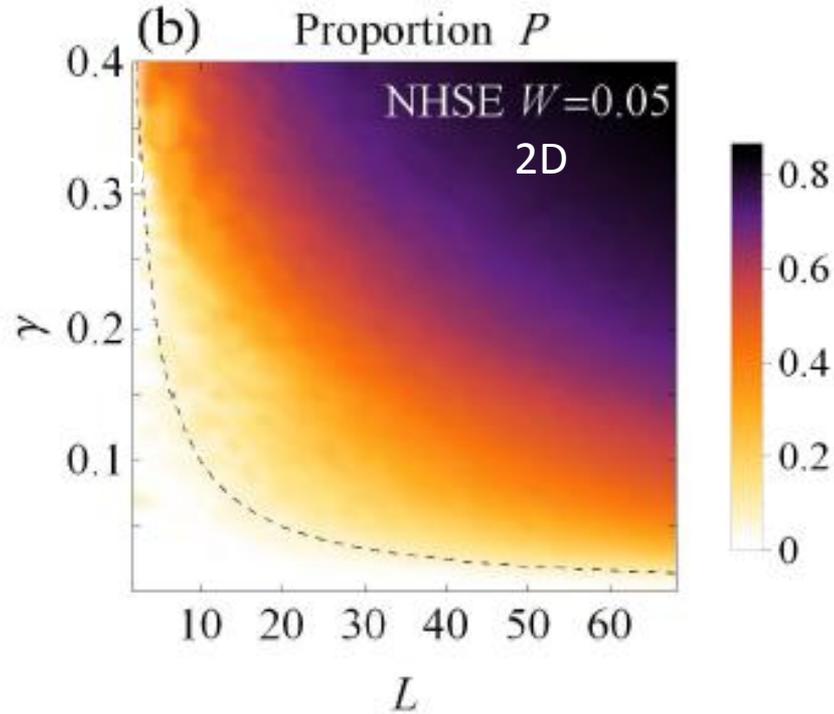


PT breaking induced by simply increasing size



# 2D non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking

$P$  = Proportion of complex-valued eigenenergies

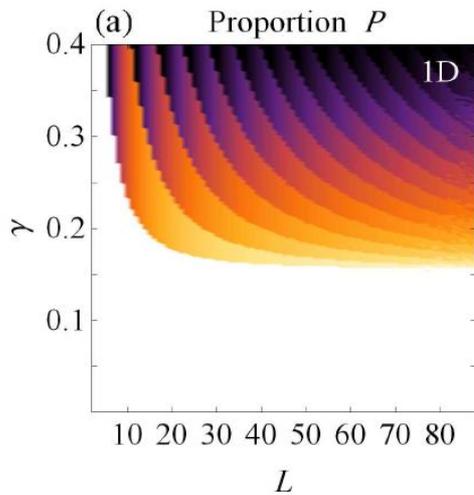


Threshold universally approaches 0 as size increases

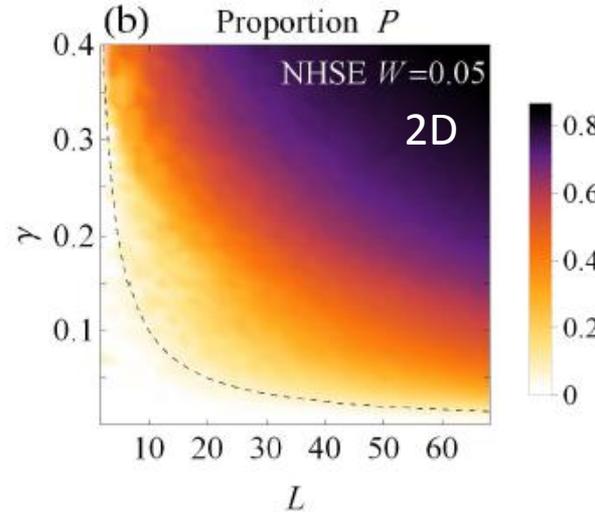
F. Song, H. Y. Wang, Z. Wang , [A Festschrift in Honor of the C N Yang Centenary, pp. 299-311 \(2022\)](#)

# 2D non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking

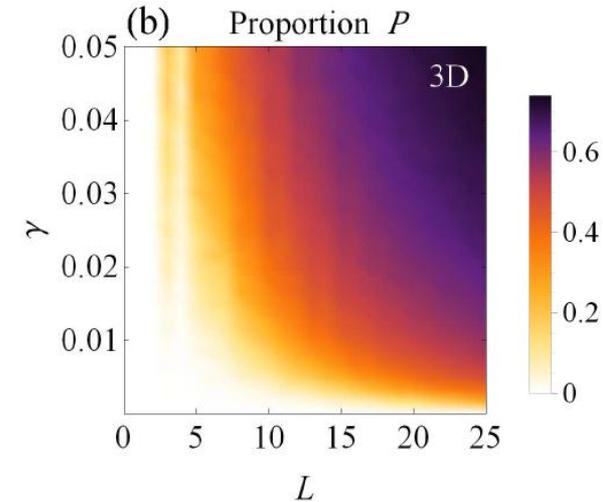
$P$  = Proportion of complex-valued eigenenergies



For Bloch or 1D non-Bloch PT breaking,  $P$  quickly saturates as size grows.



Threshold universally approaches 0 as size increases



3D is similar to 2D; both different from 1D

Open question: Universal functions characterizing the PT-breaking transitions beyond 1D?

# 2D non-Bloch PT symmetry breaking

Wave-function overlap

$$\eta(n, m) = \frac{|\langle \psi_n | \psi_m \rangle|}{\sqrt{\langle \psi_n | \psi_n \rangle \langle \psi_m | \psi_m \rangle}} \rightarrow 1 \text{ at PT breaking point}$$

Strong size sensitivity of non-Bloch bands:

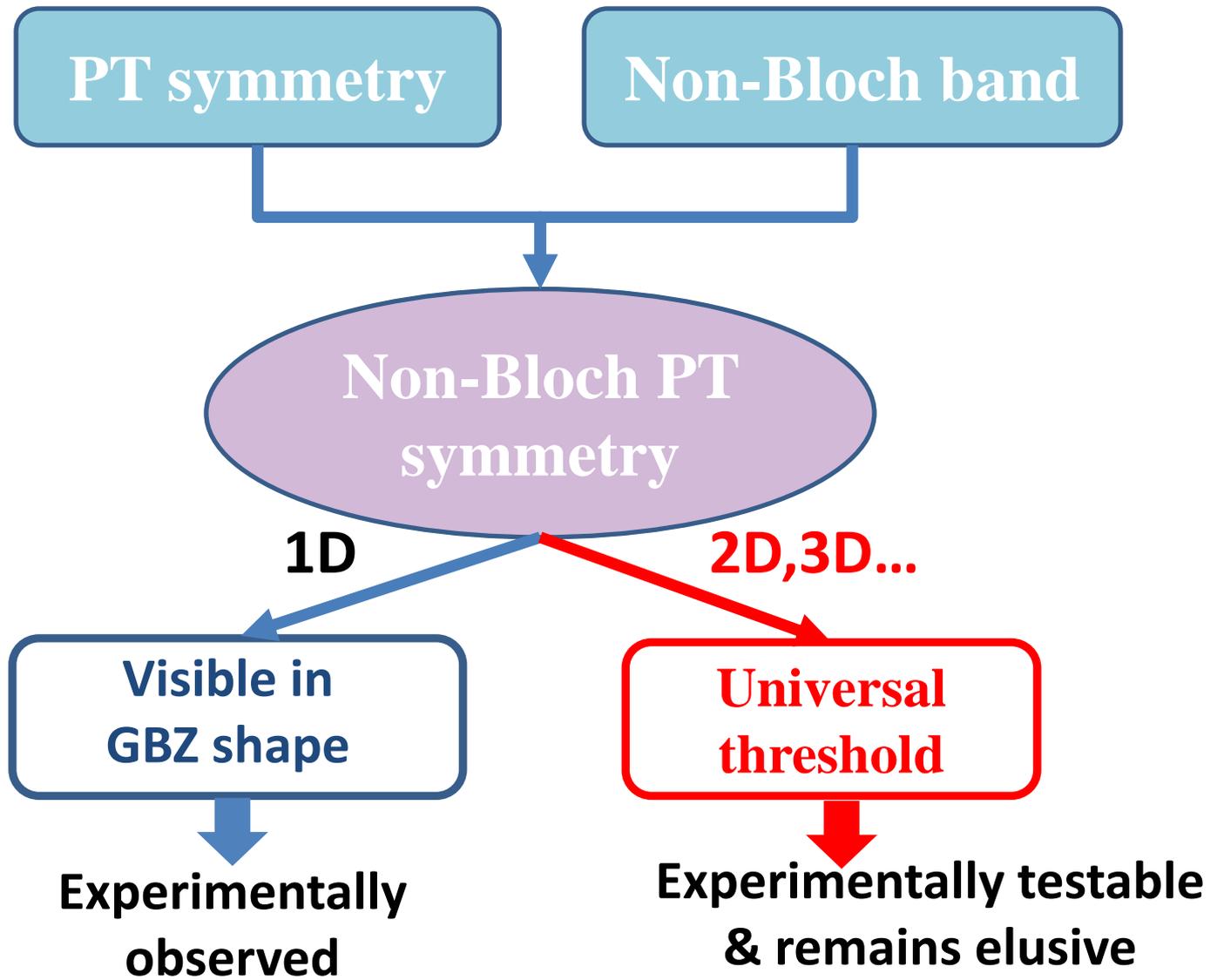
$$\eta(n, m) \sim \gamma L. \quad \text{Increases with size!}$$

**Question:** This explains the role of NHSE, but it seems independent of spatial dimensions. Why are 2D/3D drastically differ from 1D?

**Partial answer:** Because 1D is special; it is constrained by spectral theorems:

Kai Zhang, Zhesen Yang, and Chen Fang, "Correspondence between winding numbers and skin modes in non-hermitian systems," [Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 126402 \(2020\)](#).  
Nobuyuki Okuma, Kohei Kawabata, Ken Shiozaki, and Masatoshi Sato, "Topological origin of non-hermitian skin effects," [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 086801 \(2020\)](#).

F. Song, H. Y. Wang, Z. Wang, [A Festschrift in Honor of the C N Yang Centenary, pp. 299-311 \(2022\)](#)



H.-M. Hu, H.-Y. Wang, ZW, F. Song, to appear

F. Song, H.-Y. Wang, ZW , A Festschrift in Honor of the C N Yang Centenary, pp. 299-311 (2022)

# Outlook

- Other symmetries on the GBZ (non-Bloch symmetries)?
- Theory and experiments of higher-dimensional non-Bloch bands?
- Transport theory based on non-Bloch band theory?
- Many-body non-Hermitian physics?
- Many other open questions...



Students: Shunyu Yao  
(now at Stanford)



Fei Song



Hong-Yi Wang



Yu-Min Hu



Prof. Wei Yi



Prof. Peng Xue

Thank you!