Global phase diagram of two-dimensional Dirac fermions in random potentials

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Anderson localization is studied for two flavors of massless Dirac fermions in two-dimensional space perturbed by static disorder that is invariant under a chiral symmetry (chS) and a time-reversal symmetry (TRS) operation which, when squared, is equal either to plus or minus the identity. The former TRS (symmetry class BDI) can, for example, be realized when the Dirac fermions emerge from spinless fermions hopping on a two-dimensional lattice with a linear energy dispersion such as the honeycomb lattice (graphene) or the square lattice with \( \pi \) flux per plaquette. The latter TRS is realized by the surface states of three-dimensional \( Z_2 \)-topological band insulators in symmetry class CII. In the phase diagram parametrized by the disorder strengths, there is an infrared stable line of critical points for both symmetry classes BDI and CII. Here we discuss a “global phase diagram” in which disordered Dirac fermion systems in all three chiral symmetry classes, AII, CII, and BDI, occur in four quadrants, sharing one corner which represents the clean Dirac fermion limit. This phase diagram also includes symmetry classes AII [e.g., appearing at the surface of a disordered three-dimensional \( Z_2 \)-topological band insulator in the spin-orbit (symplectic) symmetry class] and D (e.g., the random bond Ising model in two dimensions) as boundaries separating regions of the phase diagram belonging to the three chS classes AII, BDI, and CII. Moreover, we argue that physics of Anderson localization in the CII phase can be presented in terms of a non-linear-\( \sigma \) model (NL\( \sigma \)M) with a \( Z_2 \)-topological term. We thereby complete the derivation of topological or Wess-Zumino-Novikov-Witten terms in the NL\( \sigma \)M description of disordered fermionic models in all ten symmetry classes relevant to Anderson localization in two spatial dimensions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Dirac fermions in condensed-matter physics

Massless Dirac fermions emerge quite naturally from noninteracting and bipartite tight-binding Hamiltonians at low energies and long wavelengths when the fermion spectrum of energy eigenvalues is symmetric about the band center and the Fermi surface reduces to a finite number of discrete Fermi points at the band center. This situation is generic for noninteracting electrons hopping with a uniform nearest-neighbor amplitude \( t \) along a one-dimensional chain. For noninteracting electrons hopping on higher dimensional lattices, this situation is the exception rather than the rule, for it is fulfilled only when the hopping amplitudes are fine tuned to the lattice.

In the case of graphene, when described by the uniform hopping amplitude \( t \) between the nearest-neighbor sites of the honeycomb lattice, there are two bands in the Brillouin zone of the underlying triangular Bravais lattice that touch at the six corners of the Brillouin zone [see Fig. 1(a)].1 Because the unit cell contains two sites and because the number of inequivalent Fermi points is two, these Dirac fermions realize a four-dimensional representation of the Dirac equation in two-dimensional space if we ignore the spin degrees of freedom.

For noninteracting spinless electrons hopping on the square (hyper-)cubic lattices, Dirac fermions emerge in the vicinity of the band center whenever the translation invariance of the lattice is broken by choosing the sign of the nearest-neighbor hopping amplitudes of uniform magnitude \( t \) in such a way that their products along any elementary closed path (a plaquette) is \( -t^4 \) [see Fig. 1(b)]. This pattern of nearest-neighbor hopping amplitudes preserves time-reversal symmetry. It amounts to threading each plaquette by a magnetic flux of \( \pi \) or, equivalently, \( -\pi \) in appropriate units and is thus called the \( \pi \) flux phase. In the \( \pi \)-flux phase for the \( d \)-dimensional hypercubic lattice, there are \( 2^d \) nonequivalent sublattices. Correspondingly, there are \( 2^d \) Fermi points and the emerging Dirac Hamiltonian in the vicinity of these Fermi points is \( 2^d \) dimensional. Because the minimal irreducible representation of the Dirac equation in \( d \) dimensions is \( 2^{(d+1)/2} \) dimensional \( (|x| \) denotes the largest integer smaller than or equal to \( x \)), the \( \pi \)-flux phase yields a representation of the Dirac equation larger than the minimal one in all dimensions except for \( d = 1 \). This is called the fermion doubling problem, for it prevents a lattice regularization of the standard model of Elementary Particle Physics that represents its particle content (quarks, leptons).2

The fact that the fermion-doubling problem affects both graphene and the \( \pi \)-flux phase in two dimensions is not a coincidence. The fermion-doubling problem is a generic property of noninteracting local tight-binding Hamiltonians with time-reversal symmetry.3

It is possible to circumvent the fermion-doubling problem in the following way.

We consider first a one-dimensional chain along which a spinless electron hops with the uniform nearest-neighbor amplitude \( t \). We also impose periodic boundary conditions [see Fig. 2(a)]. We fold the spinless electron’s dispersion on half of its Brillouin zone and open a gap at the folded zone boundaries by dimerization of the hopping amplitude, \( t \rightarrow t \pm \delta t \), as it occurs, for example, through its interaction with...
an optical phonon within a Born-Oppenheimer approximation. At low energies, the effective fermionic Hamiltonian is the one-dimensional massive Dirac equation with the mass set by the dimensionless parameter $\delta t/t$ assumed to be smaller than unity. Imagine now that the dimerization pattern is defective at two sites that are far apart relative to the characteristic length scale $(t/\delta t)a$, where $a$ is the lattice spacing [see Fig. 2(c)]. At the level of the effective Dirac equation, this means that the mass term changes sign twice, once at each defective site. Two bound (i.e., normalizable) states appear in the spectrum [see Fig. 2(d)] with the remarkable property that they have opposite helicity (chirality) and an exponentially small overlap or, equivalently, energy splitting, for they are exponentially localized with the localization length of order $(t/\delta t)a$ around their respective defective sites.4,5

The same mechanism applies in any $d$-dimensional space, be it for the massive Dirac equation$^6$ or for tight-binding Hamiltonians with sublattice symmetry [see Fig. 2(e)]$^7,8$ and has been used in lattice gauge theory as a means to overcome the fermion doubling problem.$^9,10$ For example, the massive Dirac equation in odd $d$-dimensional space supports massless boundary states with a common helicity (chirality) along even $(d - 1)$-dimensional boundary where the mass term vanishes. A complete classification of all such two-dimensional boundary states was part of the classification of topological insulators in spatial dimensions $d = 1,2,3$ given in Ref. 11 in terms of the generic symmetry classes arising from the antiunitary operations of time-reversal and particle-hole symmetry [underlying the work of Altland and Zirnbauer on random matrix theory (RMT)].$^{12-14}$ A systematic regularity (periodicity) of the classification as the dimensionality is varied, in general dimension, was discovered upon the use of K-theory by Kitaev$^{15}$ (see also Ref. 16). As shown in Refs. 17 and 18, this can, alternatively, be understood in terms of the lack of Anderson localization at the boundaries. More recently, an understanding of this classification of topological insulators in terms of quantum anomalies was developed.$^{19}$

B. Anderson localization for Dirac fermions in two dimensions

Anderson localization$^{20}$ for noninteracting two-dimensional Dirac fermions was first studied in narrow gap semiconductors by Fradkin in 1986.$^{21}$ This work was followed up in the 1990s with nonperturbative results motivated by the physics of the integer quantum Hall effect (IQHE), the random bond Ising model, and dirty $d$-wave...
superconductors.22–30 With the recently available transport measurements in mesoscopic samples of graphene, as well as the identifications of the alloy Bi₁₋ₓSbx in a certain range of compositions x,31–33 the compounds Bi₃Te₅,34,35 Sb₂Te₃,34 and Bi₂Se₃,34,36 and the prediction for another 50-and-counting materials as three-dimensional Z₃-topological band insulators that support surface Dirac fermions,37–39 the localization properties of random Dirac fermions have become relevant from an experimental point of view.

While all these examples share the massless Dirac spectrum as the energy dispersion in the noninteracting and clean limit, the effects induced by randomness—weak localization, universal conductance fluctuations, localization, metal-insulator transition, spectral singularities, etc.—vary with (i) the intrinsic symmetries respected by the disorder, (ii) the dimensionality of the Dirac matrices representing the Dirac Hamiltonian, and (iii) the strength and/or correlations in space of the disorder.

When space is effectively zero dimensional, that is, at the level of RMT, ten symmetry classes have originally been identified and labeled according to the Cartan classification of symmetric spaces (see Table I).12–14

As emphasized in Refs. 40 and 41, the two-dimensional fermionic replicated NLσMs in eight of the ten symmetry classes allow for terms of topological origin, in the form of either θ terms42 or Wess-Zumino-Novikov-Witten (WZNW) terms43–45 (see Table I). Symmetry classes A, C, and D support Pruisken (θ) terms.46–48 Symmetry classes AIII, DIII, and CI support WZNW terms. Finally, symmetry classes AII and CII support Z₂-topological terms.

WZNW terms in symmetry classes AIII, DIII, and CI appear when Dirac fermions propagate in the presence of static vector-gauge-like randomness.32–30 This can only be achieved at the lattice level if the fermion doubling problem has been overcome, as is the case with the surface states of three-dimensional Z₃-topological band insulators.

The Z₃-topological term in symmetry class AII was derived in the context of disordered graphene with long-range correlated disorder50,51 or two-dimensional surfaces of three-dimensional Z₃-topological band insulators.51

LeClair and Bernard have extended the RMT classification by demanding that all perturbations to the two-dimensional Dirac Hamiltonian with Nf flavors preserve the Dirac structure.52 In this way, the ten-fold classification can be refined by discriminating the parity of Nf for the three symmetry classes AIII, DIII, and CI. These three subclasses correspond to the fact that the replicated principal chiral models (PCMs) whose target space correspond to symmetry classes AIII, DIII, and CI, respectively, can be augmented by WZNW terms. The realization of any of these additional three subclasses in a lattice model requires overcoming the fermion doubling problem.

The parity of the flavor number Nf of random Dirac fermions also matters for symmetry classes AII and CII. The fermionic replicated NLσMs derived from the random Dirac Hamiltonians in symmetry classes AII and CII can acquire a Z₂ topological term on account of the dimensionality of the Dirac matrices (twice the number Nf of flavors) that represents the random Dirac Hamiltonian. Deriving these Z₂ topological terms from lattice models is not automatic because the fermion doubling problem must be surmounted.

In this paper, by identifying a disordered fermionic model that gives rise to the Z₂-topological term in symmetry class CII, we complete the derivation for noninteracting fermions subject to a weak white-noise correlated random potential of topological or WZNW terms in all ten symmetry classes

| Cartan label | TRS | PHS | SLS | Target space | Topological term | 3d-TI/TSC |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| A (orthogonal) | +1 | 0 | 0 | \(Sp(4N)/Sp(2N) \times Sp(2N)\) | 0 | |
| A (unitary) | 0 | 0 | 0 | \(U(2N)/U(N) \times U(N)\) | \(\theta\) term | 0 |
| AII (symplectic) | −1 | 0 | 0 | \(O(2N)/O(N) \times O(N)\) | \(Z₂\) term | \(Z₂\) |
| BDI (chiral orthogonal) | +1 | +1 | 1 | \(U(2N)/Sp(2N)\) | 0 | |
| AIII (chiral unitary) | 0 | 0 | 1 | \(U(N) \times U(N)/U(N)\) | WZNW term | \(Z\) |
| CII (chiral symplectic) | −1 | 0 | 1 | \(U(N)/O(N)\) | \(Z₂\) term | \(Z₂\) |
| CI (BdG) | +1 | −1 | 1 | \(Sp(2N) \times Sp(2N)/Sp(2N)\) | WZNW term | \(Z\) |
| C (BdG) | 0 | −1 | 0 | \(Sp(2N)/U(N)\) | \(\theta\) term | 0 |
| DIII (BdG) | −1 | +1 | 1 | \(O(N) \times O(N)/O(N)\) | WZNW term | \(Z\) |
| D (BdG) | 0 | +1 | 0 | \(O(2N)/U(N)\) | \(\theta\) term | 0 |
relevant to two-dimensional Anderson localization. The microscopic fermionic model is realized by the surface states of a three-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$ topological band insulator in symmetry class CII of Ref. 11. (See Ref. 53 for a particular lattice model of a three-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$ topological insulator in symmetry class CII.)

C. Global phase diagram

In this paper, we start from the kinetic Hamiltonian $\mathcal{K}$ for $N_f = 2$ flavors of Dirac fermions that make up a (reducible) four-dimensional representation of the homogeneous Lorentz group $SO(1,2)$. We then subject $\mathcal{K}$ to a static and chiral-symmetric random potential $V$; that is, the random Dirac Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{K} + V$ must anticommute with a unitary matrix $\mathcal{C}_c, [\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{C}_c] = 0$, which squares to the identity. By imposing the condition that $\mathcal{H}$ is invariant under a representation $T = T^\dagger$ of time reversal for spinless single-particle states, $\mathcal{H}$ belongs to symmetry class BDI in the tenfold classification (see Table I). This corresponds to an antunitary time-reversal operator whose square equals minus the identity.

It is also known that such a Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}$ describes graphene (see Fig. 3) or the two-dimensional $\pi$-flux phase, in the presence of real-valued, nearest-neighbor, spin-independent, random hopping amplitudes when the Fermi energy is at the band center and once the long-wavelength limit has been taken with respect to the discrete Fermi points. For the case of graphene, static random real-valued nearest-neighbor hopping amplitudes are induced by neglecting the dynamics of phonons relative to that of the electrons to which they couple. We emphasize that it is imperative to treat all channels (see Fig. 3) of disorder compatible with the chiral and time-reversal symmetries.

The first result of this paper is that analytical continuation of the real-valued random hopping amplitudes to imaginary ones in the aforementioned bipartite lattice models yields a random Dirac Hamiltonian that belongs to symmetry class CII, as it now turns out to obey the time-reversal symmetry (TRS) generated by an operator $T' = -T^{\dagger}$ acting on an isospin-$1/2$ single-particle state. This corresponds to an antunitary time-reversal operator whose square equals minus the identity.

Second, we argue that, this random Dirac Hamiltonian captures the (nearly) critical localization properties of the surface states of a lattice model that, in the clean limit, realizes a three-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological band insulator in symmetry class CII.

More specifically, we show that the phase diagram depicted in Fig. 4 encodes the localization properties of the random Dirac Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{K} + V$ when the chiral-symmetric random potential $V$ is assigned the three possible independent disorder strengths $g_{\text{Re}m}, g_{\text{Im}m}, g_{\text{Re}r}$ which are not irrelevant under the the renormalization group (RG). Here we discuss a “global phase diagram,” depicted in Fig. 4(a), in the space of these three couplings which is projected onto the $g_{\text{Re}m} - g_{\text{Im}m} - g_{\text{Re}r}$ plane (with $g_{\text{Re}} = 0$). In this phase diagram, disordered Dirac fermion systems in all three chiral symmetry classes, AII, CII, and BDI occur in four quadrants, sharing one corner which represents the clean Dirac fermion limit. Also realized in the phase diagram are the symmetry classes AII and D at the boundaries separating the three chiral symmetry classes, whereby the parametrization of class D turns out to follow from analytic continuation of the relevant disorder strength that parametrizes class AII in the phase diagram.

The random Dirac Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}$ whose potential $V$ is restricted to symmetry class AII captures the transport properties at long wavelengths of the surface states of a disordered three-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological band insulator in symmetry class AII (say, Bi$_2$Se$_3$SB). The random Dirac Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}$ whose potential $V$ is restricted to symmetry class D captures the transport properties of the fermionic quasiparticles of a disordered two-dimensional chiral $p$-wave superconductor (say, Sr$_2$RuO$_4$) or their counterparts in the random bond Ising model at long wavelengths.

Located in the center of the phase diagram of Fig. 4(a) is a vertical dashed line. There exists a sector of the theory that decouples from the random U(1) gauge potential. This sector is critical along the dashed line in Fig. 4(a). We will call the dashed line in Fig. 4(a) a line of nearly critical points to account for the noncritical sector that is not depicted in Fig. 4(a).

It is argued in Sec. IV that along the dashed line in region CII of Fig. 4(a), the transport properties of $\mathcal{H}$ are also encoded by those of a NLσM on the target manifold appropriate for this symmetry class. (Such a possibility was also discussed, independently and from a different perspective, in Refs. 62–65.) Remarkably, the standard kinetic energy of the NLσM must be augmented by a $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological term (see Appendix A). Here, the necessary requirement for the

![FIG. 3](image-url)

FIG. 3. The four independent dimerization patterns for the real-valued nearest-neighbor hopping amplitudes of a spinless electron on the honeycomb lattice that preserve the sublattice symmetry and the time-reversal symmetry for a spinless particle. The two triangular sublattices of the honeycomb lattice are distinguished by the coloring of their sites (white or black circles). Strong and weak bonds are depicted by thick and thin lines, respectively. The two independent Kekule dimerization patterns (a) and (b) are responsible for the opening of a complex-valued gap in the continuum approximation by a 4 x 4 Dirac equation. The two independent columnar dimerization patterns (c) and (d) are responsible for the emergence of an axial vector gauge field or, equivalently, the complex-valued axial gauge field $a'$ in the continuum approximation by a 4 x 4 Dirac equation.

235115-4
FIG. 4. Global phase diagram for random Dirac fermion defined by Eqs. (2.12)–(2.14), (2.23), and (2.29). (a) Flows of the coupling constants close to the clean Dirac point (the origin denoted by an open circle). Along the boundaries D and AII, the coupling constant \( g_\alpha \) is not generated under the RG, so \( g_\alpha = 0 \) can be imposed in a consistent way. In fact, symmetry classes D and AII require \( g_\alpha = 0 \). Away from these boundaries, \( g_\alpha \) grows under the RG and we have projected the flows onto the \( g_\alpha = 0 \) plane in the regime where \( g_\alpha \) is still small. In the region denoted BDI of the phase diagram, there exists a line of (nearly) critical points denoted by a dashed line as a result of Eq. (2.59b). This line of (nearly) critical points is perturbatively unstable under the RG flow (2.65). (d) Infrared RG flows of Eq. (2.65) in the surface defined by the dashed line as a result of Eq. (2.62b). This line of (nearly) critical points appears to be perturbatively stable under the RG flow (2.63). In the region denoted CII of the phase diagram, there exists a line of (nearly) critical points denoted by a dashed line as a result of Eq. (2.62b). This line of (nearly) critical points appears to be perturbatively unstable under the RG flow (2.65) for small values of \( g_\alpha \). (b) Infrared flows dictated by Eq. (2.63) close to the clean Dirac point when \( g_\alpha > 0 \). The slopes of the flows on the BDI boundaries \( g_\text{lim} \), \( g_\text{Recm} \) have changed compared to the case when \( g_\alpha = 0 \). (c) Infrared flows dictated by Eq. (2.65) close to the clean Dirac point when \( g_\alpha > g_\alpha^\prime \) with \( g_\alpha^\prime := g_\text{lim} \pm g_\text{Recm} \) and \( g_\alpha > |g_\alpha^\prime| \). The slopes of the flows on the CII boundaries \( g_\text{lim} \), \( g_\text{Recm} \) have changed as compared to the case when \( g_\alpha = 0 \). Moreover, because of the condition \( g_\alpha > g_\alpha^\prime \), the RG flows in the quadrant CII are toward the surface defined by the dashed line of (nearly) critical points \( (g_\alpha^\prime \text{ axis}) \) and the out-of-plane \( g_\alpha \) axis. The plane \( g_\text{lim} \) \( g_\alpha^\prime \) \( g_\text{Recm} \) \( g_\alpha \) \( g_\alpha^\prime \) with \( g_\text{Recm} > 0 \) and \( g_\alpha > 0 \) and the plane \( g_\text{Recm} \) \( g_\alpha \) \( g_\alpha^\prime \) with \( g_\text{Recm} = 0 \) and \( g_\alpha > 0 \) are always unstable under the one-loop flow (2.65). (d) Infrared RG flows of Eq. (2.65) in the surface defined by the \( g_\alpha^\prime \) axis as the horizontal axis and the \( g_\alpha \) axis as vertical axis of the quadrant CII.

The presence of the \( Z_2 \)-topological term is that the number \( N_f \) of flavors be two times an odd integer \( n \), i.e. \( N_f = 2n \). However, any purely two-dimensional noninteracting local tight-binding Hamiltonian with Fermi points at the band center that breaks the spin-rotation symmetry but preserves the time-reversal and sublattice symmetries yields a Dirac equation with \( N_f = 2n \) where \( n \) is an even integer because of the fermion doubling problem. The fermion doubling problem for fermions in two dimensions can be circumvented by working with fermions localized at the two-dimensional boundary of a three-dimensional crystal, that is, with the boundary states of a topological band insulator in symmetry class CII. It is the nearly critical localization properties of these surface states that are captured by the dashed line in region CII of Fig. 4. Thus, we can view the \( Z_2 \)-topological term in the NL\( \sigma \)M for symmetry class CII as the signature of the physics of (de)localization, that arises from the existence of boundary states in the clean limit, the defining property of three-dimensional \( Z_2 \)-topological band insulators in symmetry class CII.

Third, we argue that the initial flow away from the apparently unstable nearly critical line in region CII depicted in Fig. 4(a) is not a crossover flow to the diffusive metallic fixed point of the NL\( \sigma \)M in symmetry class CII augmented by a \( Z_2 \) topological term. Rather, it is the flow depicted in Fig. 4(c) that bends back toward the nearly critical plane defined by the dashed line and the out-of-plane axis for the coupling \( g_\alpha \) as a result of the RG flow of the coupling \( g_\alpha \) to strong coupling. This flow on sufficiently large length scales along trajectories in the three-dimensional coupling space is depicted through the two-dimensional cuts presented in Figs. 4(b)–4(d). The full RG flow along the boundary AII, a separatrix of the RG flow, was computed numerically in Refs. 66 and 67 owing to the presence of a \( Z_2 \)-topological term on the target manifold of the NL\( \sigma \)M appropriate for symmetry class AII.

Finally, in the quadrant labeled by BDI, the dashed line also represents a line of nearly critical points. This line of nearly-critical points is stable, without the reentrant behavior of the kind mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The one-loop RG flow along the boundary D, again a separatrix of the RG flow, was computed in Refs. 68–70.

The fact that the quadrant in symmetry class BDI can be analytically continued to the quadrant in symmetry class CII suggests that one can compute properties of the latter phase from the former one. In particular, sets of nonperturbative and exact results have been obtained for, for example, boundary multifractal exponents for the point contact conductance on the critical line in symmetry class BDI. These results will also apply to the critical line in symmetry class CII upon suitable analytical continuation.

D. Outline

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: The noninteracting random Dirac fermion model is defined in Sec. II. The main result of this section is captured by Fig. 4. We argue in Secs. III and IV that the generating function for the moments of the retarded Green’s functions for microscopic parameters
corresponding to the quadrant CII in Fig. 4 realizes a replicated fermionic or, alternatively, a supersymmetric (SUSY) NLoM augmented by a \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-topological term. We conclude in Sec. V.

II. DEFINITIONS AND PHASE DIAGRAM

We begin in Sec. II A by defining a noninteracting random Dirac Hamiltonian and proceed with a symmetry analysis. To identify the axis of the phase diagram in Fig. 4, a generating function for the disorder average over products of \( N \) retarded single-particle Green’s functions is needed. This is done using the SUSY formalism in Secs. II B and II C. The flows in Fig. 4 to or away from the nearly critical line follow once it is shown in Sec. II D that the SUSY generating function defines a \( \tgh(2N|2N)_{k=1} \) SUSY Thirring model studied in Refs. 55 and 56.

A. Definitions

Common to all the aforementioned microscopic examples is the existence of four Fermi points at the relevant Fermi energy around which linearization in momentum space yields the continuum Dirac kinetic energy,

\[
\mathcal{K}(p) := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & p \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{p} & 0 \\ 0 & p & 0 & 0 \\ \tilde{p} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma_x p_x + \sigma_y p_y & 0 \\ \sigma_x p_x + \sigma_y p_y & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}
\]

up to a unitary transformation. Here, the momentum \( p = (p_x, p_y, \tilde{p}) \) is measured relative to the Fermi points at the band center. The complex notation \( p = p_x - i p_y \) and \( \tilde{p} = p_x + i p_y \) is occasionally used for conciseness. The unit \( 2 \times 2 \) matrix \( \sigma_0 \) and the three Pauli matrices \( (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3) \) are reserved for the spinor indices of \( \text{SO}(1,2) \). The unit \( 2 \times 2 \) matrix \( \rho_0 \) and the three Pauli matrices \( (\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3) \) are reserved for the two-dimensional flavor subspace.

This kinetic energy has two interesting properties. First, it anticommutes with the \( 4 \times 4 \) unitary and Hermitian matrices

\[
C_1 := \rho_3 \otimes \sigma_0, \quad C_1^\dagger = C_1 = +C_1^* = 1, \\
C_2 := \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_0, \quad C_2^\dagger = C_2 = -C_2^* = 1, \\
C_3 := \rho_0 \otimes \sigma_1, \quad C_3^\dagger = C_3 = +C_3^* = 1, \\
C_4 := \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_3, \quad C_4^\dagger = C_4 = +C_4^* = 1.
\]

Second, the operations on \( \mathcal{K} \) consisting of the momentum inversion \( p \to -p \), complex conjugation, and matrix multiplication from the left and from the right by the \( 4 \times 4 \) unitary and Hermitian matrices,

\[
T_1 := \rho_3 \otimes \sigma_1, \quad T_1^\dagger = T_1 = +T_1^* = 1, \\
T_2 := \rho_0 \otimes \sigma_2, \quad T_2^\dagger = T_2 = -T_2^* = 1, \\
T_3 := \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2, \quad T_3^\dagger = T_3 = -T_3^* = 1, \\
T_4 := \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_1, \quad T_4^\dagger = T_4 = -T_4^* = 1.
\]

all yield \( \mathcal{K} \) again. For any \( i, j = 1, \ldots, 4 \), the property

\[
C_i \mathcal{K}(p) C_j = -\mathcal{K}(p),
\]

which we call (abusively) chiral symmetry (chS), is compatible with the property

\[
T_i \mathcal{K}(-p) T_j = \mathcal{K}(p),
\]

which we call TRS, if and only if

\[
[C_i, T_j] = 0.
\]

In this paper, we assume that the lattice model from which \( \mathcal{K}(p) \) emerges imposes the chS generated by

\[
\mathcal{C} \equiv C_1.
\]

This chS commutes with

\[
T \equiv T_1
\]

and with

\[
T' \equiv T_2.
\]

(Observe that \( T \) and \( T' \) anticommute. They are not compatible. ) This leads to two possible forms of TRS, either the one appropriate for particles with integer isospin when

\[
T^T = +T
\]

is imposed as a symmetry, or the one for particles with half-integer isospin when

\[
T'^T = -T'
\]

is imposed as a symmetry. Again, the choice between \( T \) and \( T' \) is dictated by the underlying lattice model.

The most general static random potential that anticommutes with \( \mathcal{C} \) is of the form

\[
V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & V \\ V^\dagger & 0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
V = \sigma_1 A_1 + \sigma_2 A_2 + \sigma_3 M_3 + \sigma_0 M_0,
\]

where the complex-valued

\[
A_1 = a_1 - i a_1', \\
A_2 = a_2 - i a_2', \\
M_3 = m_3 - i m_3', \\
M_0 = m_0' - i m_0,
\]

represent sources of (static) randomness, that is, complex-valued functions of the space coordinates \( \mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \). (The unusual sign conventions are chosen to make contact with the notation of Ref. 56.) It yields the random Dirac Hamiltonian

\[
\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{r}) := (\mathcal{K} + V)(\mathbf{r})
\]

\[
= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & D(\mathbf{r}) \\ D^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) & 0 \end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
= -i \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_1 \partial_1 - i \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \partial_2 + \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_1 a_1(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2 a_2(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_1 a_1'(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_2 a_2'(\mathbf{r}) - \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_3 m_3(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_0 m_0(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_3 m_3'(\mathbf{r}) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_0 m_0'(\mathbf{r}).
\]
By construction, Hamiltonian (2.12c) is a member of the AIII symmetry class (chiral-unitary symmetry class) of Anderson localization in two dimensions.

When the disorder (2.12b) is restricted to

$$A_\mu = -i\tilde{a}_\mu \in i\mathbb{R}, \quad M_3 = -m_3 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad M_0 = -im_0 \in i\mathbb{R},$$

(2.13a)

the random Hamiltonian (2.12c) reduces to

$$\mathcal{H}(r) = -i\rho_1 \otimes \sigma_1 \partial_1 - i\rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \partial_2$$

$$+ \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_1 \tilde{a}_1(r) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \tilde{a}_2(r)$$

$$- \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_3 m_3(r) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_0 m_0(r)$$

(2.13b)

and hence is invariant under the time reversal

$$\mathcal{T}' \mathcal{H}'(r) \mathcal{T} = \mathcal{H}(r), \quad \mathcal{T} := \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_1,$$

(2.13c)

for any realization of the disorder (2.13a). Accordingly, this Hamiltonian is a member of the BDI symmetry class (chiral-unitary symmetry class) in Anderson localization.

On the other hand, when the disorder (2.12b) is restricted to

$$A_\mu = -i\tilde{a}_\mu \in i\mathbb{R}, \quad M_3 = -im_3 \in i\mathbb{R}, \quad M_0 = m_0 \in \mathbb{R},$$

(2.14a)

the random Hamiltonian (2.12c) reduces to

$$\mathcal{H}(r) = -i\rho_1 \otimes \sigma_1 \partial_1 - i\rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \partial_2$$

$$+ \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_1 \tilde{a}_1(r) + \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \tilde{a}_2(r)$$

$$+ \rho_2 \otimes \sigma_0 m_3(r) + \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_0 m_0(r)$$

(2.14b)

and hence is invariant under the time reversal

$$\mathcal{T}' \mathcal{H}'(r) \mathcal{T} = \mathcal{H}(r), \quad \mathcal{T} := \rho_1 \otimes \sigma_2,$$

(2.14c)

for any realization of the disorder (2.14a). Accordingly, this Hamiltonian is a member of the CII symmetry class (chiral-symplectic symmetry class) in Anderson localization.

The BDI case (2.13) can be derived as the continuum limit of a real-valued, nearest-neighbor, spin-independent, and random hopping model on a bipartite lattice, the honeycomb lattice of graphene or the square lattice with a $\pi$-flux phase, say.\(^{34}\) The four-dimensional subspace associated with the $\rho$'s and $\sigma$'s originates from the two-sublattice structure and the two nonequivalent Fermi points at the band center. The electronic spin here plays no role besides an overall degeneracy factor as spin-orbit coupling is neglected. In the context of graphene, the random fields $\tilde{a}_1$ and $\tilde{a}_2$ are called ripples [see Figs. 3(c) and 3(d)].\(^{73}\) While the random masses $m_3$ and $m_0$ are smooth bond fluctuations about the Kekulé dimerization pattern of the nearest-neighbour hopping amplitude [see Figs. 3(a) and 3(b)].\(^{74}\) In the context of the $\pi$-flux phase, the random fields $\tilde{a}_1$ and $\tilde{a}_2$ are smooth fluctuations of the nearest-neighbor hopping amplitudes about the two wave vectors for the two independent staggered dimerization patterns, while the random masses $m_3$ and $m_0$ are smooth bond fluctuations about the two independent columnar dimerization pattern.\(^{75}\)

The CII case (2.14) can be derived as the restriction to a two-dimensional boundary of a disordered, three-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological band insulator in the chiral-symplectic class of Anderson localization.\(^{11}\)

### TABLE II. Symmetry conditions on the static random fields in the Hamiltonian (2.12).

| $A_\mu$ | $M_3$ | $M_0$ |
|---------|-------|-------|
| $a_1 - ia'_1$ | $-im_3$ | $m_0$ |
| $a_2 - ia'_2$ | $-im_3$ | $m_0$ |
| $-m_3 - im'_3$ | $-m_3 - im'_3$ | $m_0$ |
| $m_0 - im_0$ | $im_0$ | $m_0 - im_0$ |

When the disorder is restricted to

$$A_\mu = 0, \quad M_3 = -m_3 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad M_0 = 0,$$

(2.15a)

we observe that Hamiltonian (2.12c) reduces to

$$\mathcal{H} = \rho_1 \otimes D,$$

(2.15b)

with

$$D = D^\dagger, \quad \sigma_1 D^\ast \sigma_1 = -D,$$

(2.15c)

and can be thought of as a random Hamiltonian belonging to the symmetry class D (BdG Hamiltonians with both TRS and spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ rotation symmetry broken) in Anderson localization, for $\mathcal{H}$ is then unitarily equivalent to

$$\begin{pmatrix} D & 0 \\ 0 & -D \end{pmatrix}$$

(2.15d)

with the unitary transformation $(\rho_1 + i\rho_2) \otimes \sigma_0 / \sqrt{2}$.

Finally, when the disorder is restricted to

$$A_\mu = 0, \quad M_3 = 0, \quad M_0 = m_0 \in \mathbb{R},$$

(2.16a)

we observe that Hamiltonian (2.12c) reduces to

$$\mathcal{H} = \rho_1 \otimes D,$$

(2.16b)

with

$$D = D^\dagger, \quad \sigma_2 D^\ast \sigma_2 = D,$$

(2.16c)

and can be thought of as a random Hamiltonian belonging to symmetry class AII (a spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ electron with TRS but without spin-rotation symmetry) in Anderson localization, for $\mathcal{H}$ can then be brought to the block diagonal form (2.15d) by the same unitary transformation used to reach (2.15d).

All four symmetry conditions are summarized in Table II. The defining conditions on classes D and AII can be made slightly more general than in Eqs. (2.15a) and (2.16a) as becomes clear at the end of Sec. II.C.

### B. Path integral representation of the single-particle Green’s function

In Anderson localization, physical quantities are expressed by (products of) the retarded ($+i\eta, \eta > 0$) and advanced ($-i\eta$) Green’s functions

$$\mathcal{G}^{R/A}(E) := (E \pm i\eta - \mathcal{H})^{-1}.$$  

(2.17)

At the band center $E = 0$, the retarded and advanced Green’s functions are related by the chS through

$$\mathcal{C} \mathcal{G}^{R}(E = 0) \mathcal{C} = -\mathcal{G}^{A}(E = 0).$$  

(2.18)
Hence, any arbitrary product of retarded or advanced Green’s function at the band center equates, up to a sign, a product of retarded Green’s functions at the band center. From now on we omit the energy argument of the Green’s function, bearing in mind that it is always fixed to the band center $E = 0$.

Because of Eq. (2.18), it suffices to introduce functional integrals for the retarded Green’s function defined with the help of the SUSY partition function

$$Z := Z_F \times Z_B,$$

$$Z_F := \int \mathcal{D}[\tilde{x}, x] \exp \left( i \int d^2 r \tilde{x} \left( i \eta - \mathcal{H} \right) \chi \right),$$

$$Z_B := \int \mathcal{D}[\tilde{\xi}, \xi] \exp \left( i \int d^2 r \tilde{\xi} \left( i \eta - \mathcal{H} \right) \xi \right).$$

Here, $(\tilde{x}, x)$ is a pair of two independent four-component fermionic fields, and $(\tilde{\xi}, \xi)$ is a pair of four-component bosonic fields related by complex conjugation. For any $\eta > 0$,

$$Z = 1$$

holds. The matrix elements of the retarded Green’s function can be represented as

$$i\mathcal{G}_R^{\alpha}(r, r') = \langle \chi(r) \tilde{\chi}(r') \rangle = \langle \xi(r) \tilde{\xi}(r') \rangle,$$

where $(\cdots)$ denoting the expectation value taken with the partition function $Z$.

We now perform the change of integration variables from $(\tilde{x}, x)$ to $(\tilde{\psi}^a, \psi^a, \tilde{\psi}^a, \psi^a)$ in the fermionic sector and from $(\tilde{\xi}, \xi)$ to $(\tilde{\beta}^a, \beta^a, \tilde{\beta}^a, \beta^a)$ in the bosonic sector where $a = 1, 2$, and

$$\tilde{x} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \tilde{\psi}^{1 \dagger} + i \psi^{1 \dagger} - i \tilde{\psi}_2 - i \psi_2 \right),$$

$$\chi := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( -i \psi^{2 \dagger} + i \tilde{\psi}^{2 \dagger} \psi_1 \tilde{\psi}_1 \right)^T,$$

$$\tilde{\xi} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( -i \beta^{1 \dagger} - i \beta^{2 \dagger} \beta_1 \beta_2 \right)^T,$$

$$\xi := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( i \beta^{1 \dagger} + i \beta^{2 \dagger} \beta_1 \beta_2 \right)^T.$$

Any correlation function such as the retarded Green’s function (2.20) is, under this or any similar change of integration variable, to be computed with the SUSY partition function

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}[\tilde{\psi}, \psi, \tilde{\beta}, \beta] \frac{\mathcal{D}[\tilde{x}]}{\mathcal{D}[\tilde{\psi}] \mathcal{D}[\psi] \mathcal{D}[\tilde{\beta}] \mathcal{D}[\beta]} \times \exp \left( i \int d^2 r \tilde{\chi}(\tilde{\psi}, \psi) \left( i \eta - \mathcal{H} \right) \chi(\tilde{\psi}, \psi) \right) \times \exp \left( i \int d^2 r \tilde{\xi}(\tilde{\beta}, \beta) \left( i \eta - \mathcal{H} \right) \xi(\tilde{\beta}, \beta) \right).$$

The message conveyed by Eq. (2.22) is that we are free to relabel all integration variables in Eq. (2.19a) independently from each other, provided the correct bookkeeping with the integration variables in the convergent path integral (2.19a) is kept. In this context the symbols $-$ and $\dagger$ on the right-hand side of Eq. (2.21) are only distinctive labels; that is, here they are not to be confused with complex conjugation. The change of integration variable (2.21) is made to bring the effective action to a form identical to that found in Ref. 56 in which important symmetries of the partition function in the limit $\eta = 0$ become manifest.

We also introduce

$$a \equiv a_1 - ia_2 \equiv \text{Re} \ A_1 - i \text{Re} \ A_2,$$

$$a' \equiv a_1' - ia_2' \equiv -\text{Im} \ A_1 + i \text{Im} \ A_2,$$

$$m \equiv m_0 - im_1 \equiv -\text{Im} \ M_0 + i \text{Re} \ M_1,$$

$$m' \equiv m_0' - im_1' \equiv \text{Re} \ M_0 + i \text{Im} \ M_1,$$

and their complex conjugate $\bar{a}, \bar{a}', \bar{m}, \bar{m}'$, in terms of which symmetry class BDI is defined by the conditions

$$a = 0, \quad a' \in \mathbb{C}, \quad m \in \mathbb{C}, \quad m' = 0,$$

while symmetry class CII is defined by the conditions

$$a = 0, \quad a' \in \mathbb{C}, \quad m = 0, \quad m' \in \mathbb{C}.$$
and the bosonic part of the effective action given by

$$L_{\text{B}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{a=1}^{2} (\beta^a \bar{\psi}^a \gamma^r \psi^a - i(-1)^a a + a' \beta^a) + \beta^a [2\beta^a - i(-1)^a a + a'] \beta_a^a$$

$$+ \mu + (-1)^{a+1} i m \bar{\beta}^a \beta_a^a$$

and

$$L_{\text{B}}^{c} = \frac{i \eta}{2\pi} (-\beta^1 \bar{\beta}^2 - \bar{\beta}^1 \beta^2 - \beta_1 \beta_2 - \bar{\beta}_1 \bar{\beta}_2),$$

(2.28d)

where $2\beta = \beta_1 - i \beta_2$ and $2\bar{\beta} = \bar{\beta}_1 + i \bar{\beta}_2$. The asymmetry between fermions and bosons in $L_{\text{B}}^{c}$ and $L_{\text{B}}^{c}$, a consequence of the asymmetry between the $\psi$'s and $\beta$'s on the right-hand side of Eq. (2.21), is the price to be paid in order to make a GL(2|2) supersymmetry of $L_{\text{F}} + L_{\text{B}}$ explicit, as is shown in Refs. 55 and 56.76

The Nth moment of the retarded single-particle Green's function evaluated at the band center is obtained by allowing the index $a$ to run from 1 to $2N$ in Eq. (2.28).

C. Phase diagram

We now assume that the disorder potentials are white-noise correlated following the Gaussian laws with vanishing mean and nonvanishing variances

$$w(r) = 0, \quad \bar{w}(r) w(r') = g_{\text{u}}(r - r').$$

(2.29a)

Here, $\bar{w} \delta^2(r - r')$ is the two-dimensional $\delta$ function, $(\cdots)$ represents disorder averaging.

$$w \in W := \{\text{Re} a, \text{Im} a, \text{Re} a', \text{Im} a', \text{Re} m, \text{Im} m, \text{Re} m', \text{Im} m'\},$$

(2.29b)

and the disorder strengths $g_{\text{u}}$ are all positive. We treat symmetry class BDI defined by

$$g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'} = 0$$

(2.30)

and symmetry class CII defined by

$$g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'} = 0$$

(2.31)

Their boundaries

$$0 = g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'} = g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'}$$

(2.32)

and

$$0 = g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'} = g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a} = g_{\text{Re} a'} = g_{\text{Im} a'}$$

(2.33)

to symmetry class AIII are in symmetry class D and in symmetry class AII, respectively. All four symmetry conditions are summarized in Table IV. The defining conditions on classes D and AII can be made slightly more general than in Eqs. (2.32) and (2.33), as will become clear shortly.

The phase diagram for the random Dirac fermions defined by Eqs. (2.12)–(2.14), (2.23), and (2.29) belongs to the eight-dimensional parameter space

$$\Omega_{\text{AIII}} := \{g_{\text{u}} \in \mathbb{R} | 0 \leq g_{\text{u}} < \infty, w \in W\},$$

(2.34)

with the origin representing the clean limit. Imposing on $\Omega_{\text{AIII}}$ the constraints summarized in Table IV yields the four-dimensional subspaces

$$\Omega_{\text{BDI}} \subset \Omega_{\text{AIII}}, \quad \Omega_{\text{CII}} \subset \Omega_{\text{AIII}},$$

(2.35)

and the one-dimensional subspaces

$$\Omega_{\text{D}} \subset \Omega_{\text{AIII}}, \quad \Omega_{\text{AII}} \subset \Omega_{\text{AIII}}.$$ (2.36)

We are going to analyze the phase diagram and the projected RG flows of its couplings through two-dimensional cuts in $\Omega_{\text{AIII}}$ which we depict with Fig. 4. All those cuts belong to the six-dimensional subspace

$$\Omega_{\text{AIII}}^\perp := \{g_{\text{u}} \in \Omega_{\text{AIII}} | 0 \leq g_{\text{Re} a} = g_{\text{Im} a}\}.$$ (2.37)

The cuts will involve a plane with the variance of the gauge potential $a'$ set to either zero in Fig. 4(a) or a nonvanishing value in Figs. 4(b) and 4(c). We also represent the effect of the RG flow to strong coupling of the variance of $a'$ on the coupling $g_{\text{m}} := g_{\text{Im} m} - g_{\text{Re} m}$ in Fig. 4(d).

To this end, we observe that the quadrant

$$g_{\text{Re} m} > 0, \quad g_{\text{Im} m} > 0,$$ (2.38)

belongs to symmetry class BDI in Fig. 4(a). The quadrant

$$g_{\text{Re} m} < 0, \quad g_{\text{Im} m} < 0,$$ (2.39)

in Fig. 4(a) belongs to symmetry class CII, as we now demonstrate. This is expected from the fact that $m_{0,3}$ present in the CII model is the imaginary counterpart of $m_{0,3}$ present in the BDI model.

We begin with the Lagrangian (2.28b) on which we perform the transformation

$$\tilde{\psi}^2 \rightarrow -\tilde{\psi}^2, \quad \tilde{\psi} \rightarrow -\tilde{\psi}.$$ (2.40)

Under this transformation,

$$\sum_{a=1}^{2} (-1)^{a+1} \tilde{\psi}^a \psi_a \rightarrow \sum_{a=1}^{2} \tilde{\psi}^a \psi_a,$$

$$\sum_{a=1}^{2} (-1)^{a+1} \bar{\psi}^a \tilde{\psi}_a \rightarrow \sum_{a=1}^{2} \bar{\psi}^a \tilde{\psi}_a.$$
and (2.43)]. Upon disorder averaging, the analytical continuation (2.42) amounts to mapping the CII quadrant $S. RYU, C. MUDRY, A. W. W. LUDWIG, AND A. FURUSAKI PHYSICAL REVIEW B 85, 235115 (2012)

$$\sum_{a=1}^{2} \psi_{a}^\dagger \psi_{a} + \sum_{a=1}^{2} (-1)^{a+1} \psi_{a}^\dagger \psi_{a},$$

(2.41)

while all other terms in Lagrangian (2.28b) remain unchanged.

We conclude that Lagrangian (2.28b) remains unchanged by combining transformation (2.40) with the transformation

$$Re m \leftrightarrow i Re m', \quad Im m \leftrightarrow i Im m'. \quad (2.42)$$

As the same argument carries through in the bosonic sector by combining transformation (2.42) with

$$\beta^2 \rightarrow -\beta^2, \quad \beta_2 \rightarrow -\beta_2,$$

(2.43)

we conclude that a disorder realization in symmetry class CII is obtained from the analytical continuation (2.42) of a disorder realization in symmetry class BDI when $\eta = 0$ [Eqs. (2.39) and (2.40)] are not invariant under the transformations (2.40), (2.42), and (2.43). Upon disorder averaging, the analytical continuation (2.42) amounts to mapping the CII quadrant

$$g_{Re m'} > 0, \quad g_{Im m'} > 0, \quad (2.44)$$

one-to-one into the quadrant (2.39) through the mapping

$$g_{Re m'} \rightarrow -g_{Re m}, \quad g_{Im m'} \rightarrow -g_{Im m},$$

(2.45)

that relates the positive variances $g_{Re m'}$ and $g_{Im m'}$ in symmetry class CII to the negative variances $g_{Re m}$ and $g_{Im m}$. The remaining quadrants in Fig. 4(a)

$$0 < g_{Re m}, \quad 0 > g_{Im m} = -g_{Im m'}, \quad (2.46)$$

and

$$0 > g_{Re m} = -g_{Re m'}, \quad 0 < g_{Im m}, \quad (2.47)$$

belong to symmetry class AIII as their corresponding disorder potential $\rho_2 \otimes (\sigma m_0 + \sigma m_1^\dagger)$ and $\rho_1 \otimes (\sigma m_0^\dagger - \sigma m_1)$ are not invariant under neither the time-reversal operation $T$ nor the time-reversal operation $T'$. The one-dimensional boundary

$$0 = g_{Re m}, \quad 0 < g_{Im m}, \quad (2.48)$$

of the BDI quadrant,

$$0 < g_{Re m}, \quad 0 < g_{Im m}, \quad (2.49)$$

belongs to symmetry class D according to Eq. (2.32). The one-dimensional boundary

$$0 < g_{Re m}, \quad 0 = g_{Im m}, \quad (2.50)$$

of the CII quadrant (2.44) belongs to symmetry class AII according to Eq. (2.33). The one-dimensional boundaries

$$0 < g_{Re m}, \quad 0 = g_{Im m}, \quad (2.51)$$

and

$$0 = g_{Re m'}, \quad 0 < g_{Im m'}, \quad (2.52)$$

also belong to symmetry classes D and AII, respectively, as follows from the mirror symmetry about the line

$$Re m \equiv g_{Re m} = g_{Im m}. \quad (2.53)$$

To derive this mirror symmetry, one observes, when $\eta = 0$, the invariance of the generating function (2.28) under the combined transformations ($a = 1, 2$

$$\psi_{a}^\dagger \rightarrow \psi_{a}^\dagger, \quad \psi_{a} \rightarrow \psi_{a},$$

$$\psi_{a} \rightarrow -i \psi_{a}^\dagger, \quad \psi_{a} \rightarrow +i \psi_{a},$$

$$\beta^2 \rightarrow -\beta^2, \quad \beta_2 \rightarrow -\beta_2,$$

(2.54)

$$\beta^2 \rightarrow -i\beta^2, \quad \beta_2 \rightarrow +i\beta_2,$$

Re m \rightarrow Im m, \quad Im m \rightarrow -Re m,$$

Re m’ \rightarrow Im m’, \quad Im m’ \rightarrow -Re m’.$$

However, the signs of the random fields $Re m, Im m, Re m'$, and $Im m'$ are innocuous after disorder averaging, for these fields are Gaussian distributed with a vanishing mean according to Eq. (2.29). Hence, a mirror symmetry along the vertical axis in Fig. 4(a) must hold.

The RG flows along the boundaries D and AII are known and shown in Fig. 4(a). In symmetry class D, the RG flow is to the clean Dirac limit (see Refs. 68–70, 48 and 71), while the RG flow is to the metallic fixed point in symmetry class AII (see Refs. 51, 66, and 67). The random vector potentials $a_1 - ia_1^\dagger$ and $a_2 - ia_2^\dagger$ are not generated under the RG on the boundaries D and AII.

The RG flows away from the boundaries D shown in Fig. 4(a) are consistent with the fact that the line (2.53) is a stable line of nearly critical points in the BDI quadrant. As we show below, they also follow from a one-loop stability analysis summarized in Fig. 4(b). The RG flows away from the boundaries AII shown in Fig. 4(a) are a more subtle matter. They are drawn to be consistent with the fact that the nearly critical line (2.53) appears to be unstable in the CII quadrant of Fig. 4(a) when the approximation $g_{\alpha} \approx 0$ is used. However, as we show below, relaxing this approximation and allowing the RG flow to reach length scales such that $g_{\alpha}$ becomes sufficiently large changes the flow depicted in Fig. 4(a) to that depicted in Fig. 4(c). This change is a consequence of the flow depicted in Fig. 4(d).

D. The plane $g_{M} \equiv g_{Re m} = g_{Im m} \equiv 0$

Consider the line (2.53) in Fig. 4(a). By combining the results of Refs. 55 and 56 with the results of Sec. II C, we show that this line is a line of nearly critical points. To this end, we assume that rotation symmetry is preserved at the statistical level. This means that we can assume

$$S_{Re \alpha} = g_{Im \alpha} \equiv g_{\alpha}, \quad S_{Re \alpha} = g_{Im \alpha} \equiv g_{\alpha}. \quad (2.55)$$

1. The plane $g_{M} \equiv g_{Re m} = g_{Im m} \equiv 0$ and $g_{\alpha} \equiv 0$

We begin with the plane

$$0 < g_{M} \equiv g_{Re m} = g_{Im m}, \quad 0 \leq g_{\alpha}, \quad (2.56)$$

in Fig. 4 along which the generating function for the average retarded Green’s function, which is nothing but the $gl(2|2)_{\kappa=1}$ Thirring model studied in Refs. 55 and 56. Indeed, by setting $\eta = 0$ in Eq. (2.28) and integrating over the random potentials,
one finds the partition function
\[
Z_{\phi(2|2)} = \int D[\psi, \bar{\psi}] \exp (-S_{\phi(2|2)}),
\]
and
\[
\beta_{\mathcal{S}_M} := \frac{d \beta_{\mathcal{S}_M}}{d \beta_{\mathcal{S}_M}} = 0.
\] 
Observe that the coupling constant \(0 < g_M\) does not flow (we emphasize that this is a nonperturbative result) while the coupling constant \(g_{\mathcal{A}}\) flows to strong coupling even when it is initially zero. This is what is meant with the statement that the plane defined by \(S_{\phi(2|2)}\) (and its projection onto a half line) is nearly-critical: it is critical (in spite of the flow of the coupling \(g_{\mathcal{A}}\)) for all correlation functions of fields that are unaffected by the flow of \(g_{\mathcal{A}}\). The half line (2.56) in Fig. 4(a) belongs to the two-dimensional symmetry class BDI in the ten-fold classification of Anderson localization (see Refs. 12–14 and Appendix B).

2. The plane \(g_M = g_{\text{Re}m} = g_{\text{Im}m} \geq 0\) and \(g_{\mathcal{A}} > 0\)

We continue with the plane
\[
g_{\phi} \equiv g_{\text{Re}m} = g_{\text{Im}m} \geq 0, \quad g_{\mathcal{A}} > 0,
\]
in Fig. 4. The half line obtained from the projection to \(g_{\mathcal{A}} = 0\) of this plane is also a line of nearly critical points that now belongs to the two-dimensional symmetry class CII in the ten-fold classification of Anderson localization (Refs. 12–14). Indeed, the counterpart to Eq. (2.57) is
\[
Z_{\phi(2|2)} = \int D[\psi, \bar{\psi}] \exp (-S_{\phi(2|2)}),
\]
and
\[
\frac{d \beta_{\mathcal{S}_M}}{d \beta_{\mathcal{S}_M}} = 0.
\]
Observe that the measure integration in Eq. (2.57a) and the free action (2.57b) is both invariant under the local chiral GL(2|2) × GL(2) transformation
\[
\tilde{\psi}^A \rightarrow \tilde{\psi}^B L_B^{-1} \tilde{A}, \quad \tilde{A} \rightarrow L_B \tilde{A},
\]
and
\[
\psi^A \rightarrow \psi^B R_B^{-1} \psi^B, \quad \psi^A \rightarrow R_B \psi^B,
\]
for any anti-holomorphic \(L(z)\) and holomorphic \(R(z)\) in the fundamental representation of GL(2|2). The transformation law of the currents under (2.58a) and (2.58b) is
\[
J_A^\mathcal{A} \rightarrow R_B^{\mathcal{C}} J_C^{\mathcal{D}} R_D^{-1} B, \quad J_A^\mathcal{B} \rightarrow L_C^\mathcal{C} L_D^{-1} B.
\]
Hence, the Thirring model (2.57) is invariant under the global diagonal subgroup of the global transformation (2.58a) and (2.58b) defined by choosing
\[
R = L
\]
in Eqs. (2.58a) and (2.58b) to be independent of space. It can be shown that the \(\eta\) term responsible for the convergence of the integrals in the bosonic sector that has been neglected so far breaks this symmetry down to the subsupergroup OSp(2|2). In fact, the symmetry-breaking pattern GL(2|2) → OSp(2|2) occurs due to superfield bilinears acquiring an expectation value with the consequence of a diverging density of states (DOS) at the band center.35,56

The (infrared) \(\beta\) functions for the couplings \(g_{\mathcal{A}}\) and \(g_M\) have been computed nonperturbatively in Ref. 55. They are\(^{31}\)
\[
\beta_{g_{\mathcal{A}}} := \frac{dg_{\mathcal{A}}}{d\beta_{g_M}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{g_M}{1 + g_M/\pi}\right)^2
\] 
and
\[
\beta_{g_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0 \quad (2.62b)
\] 
where one must impose the condition
\[
0 \leq g_M < \pi
\] 
and
\[
\beta_{g_{\mathcal{A}}} = 0
\] 

E. Conjectured RG flows in Fig. 4

We are now going to justify why we have conjectured the RG flows depicted in Fig. 4. More precisely, we make the following claims.

(i) The boundaries D and AII in the plane \(g_{\mathcal{A}} = 0\) are RG separatrices.

(ii) The plane defined by the dashed line in Fig. 4(a) and the out-of-plane \(g_{\mathcal{A}}\) axis is a stable nearly critical plane in that all RG trajectories from region BDI or CII, except the fine-tuned
RG flows along the separatrix D and AII, reach this plane asymptotically in the infrared limit.

(iii) The rationale that allows us to deduce from one-loop flows nonperturbative statements is that the anomalous scaling dimension of the operator that couples to the ‘asymmetry flows nonperturbative statements is that the anomalous scaling asymptotically in the infrared limit.

RG flows along the separatrix D and AII, reach this plane S. RYU, C. MUDRY, A. W. W. LUDWIG, AND A. FURUSAKI PHYSICAL REVIEW B

flows in the region BDI from Eq.(2.63a) after projection to the nonperturbative results from Ref. 55 that the spanned by the dashed line and the out-of-plane axis flows are from the BDI boundaries to the nearly critical plane

In Fig. 4(a), we plotted the Kosterlitz-Thouless flows(2.66) which accurately capture the flows (2.65) when $g'_{a} \approx 0$. However, in the region CII defined by the condition $g'_{a} > |g'_{-}|$, the variance $g'_{a}$ flows to strong coupling and the RG flows follow three-dimensional trajectories. We depict them by using two-dimensional projections in Fig. 4(c) and 4(d). The perturbative flows in the region CII from Eq. (2.65a) after projection to the $g_{Rem}^{*}g_{Imm}$ plane are depicted in Fig. 4(c) when $g'_{a}$ is large. These flows show the instability of the CII boundaries $g_{Rem}^{*} \geq 0$, $g_{Imm}^{*} = 0$ and $g_{Rem}^{*} = 0$, $g_{Imm}^{*} \geq 0$ to any $g'_{a} > 0$. Moreover, these flows also show the infrared flow toward the nearly critical plane $g'_{-} = 0$ due to a reversal in the direction along the $g'_{-}$ axis of the infrared flows caused by the growth of $g'_{a}$ as is depicted in Fig. 4(d). It can be shown by adapting nonperturbative results from Ref. 55 that the change in the sign of the $\beta$ function for the coupling $g'_{a}$ holds to all orders in $g'_{a}$ and to linear order in $g'_{-}$. Hence, we conjecture that the infrared flows emerging from the CII boundaries continue to the nearly-critical plane $g'_{-} = 0$ in Fig. 4(c) for the entire quadrant CII.

III. PROJECTED THIRRING MODEL

We now proceed by discussing the dashed line in Fig. 4, $g_{Rem} = g_{Imm}$ and $g_{Rem} = g_{Imm}^{*}$.

If we are only interested in correlation functions that are not affected by the flow (to strong coupling) of $g'_{a}$, we can set $g'_{a} = 0$ in Sec. II. This is because, along the dashed line, the coupling $g'_{a}$ turns out to never feed into the RG equations for the remaining two couplings, $g_{Rem}$ and $g_{Imm}^{*}$ or $g_{Rem}^{*}$ and $g_{Imm}$.

A mathematically consistent way to achieve this is to replace the affine Lie superalgebra $gl(2|2)$ with its affine Lie subalgebra $psl(2|2)$, which is the, $gl(2|2)$, Thirring models (2.57) and (2.61) are combined into the $psl(2|2)$, Thirring model defined by

$$Z_{gl(2|2)} = \int D[\psi^\dagger, \psi, \psi^\dagger, \psi] \exp (-S_{gl(2|2)}),$$

$$S_{gl(2|2)} = S_0 + \int dz dz' g_{M} \pi O_M, \pi O_M = -i J^{A}_{\pi} \hat{J}_{\pi}^{A}(-1)^{A},$$

subject to the $psl(2|2)$ constraints

$$0 = J^{A}_{\pi}(-)^{A} = \hat{J}_{\pi}^{A}(-)^{A}$$

and

$$0 = J^{A}_{\pi} = \hat{J}_{\pi}^{A}$$

along the now critical line $g_{M} \in \mathbb{R}$. The constraint (3.1b) justifies setting $g'_{a} = 0$. The sign of the variance $g'_{M}$ distinguishes symmetry class BDI ($g'_{M} > 0$) from symmetry class CII.
(g_M < 0). The graded index A runs from 1 to 4N when dealing with the Nth moment of the single-particle Green’s function.

IV. RELATIONSHIP TO A NLσM

So far, we have relied on a description of the global phase diagram and, in particular, of the vertical dashed line of nearly critical points in region CII of Fig. 4 that makes explicit the Dirac structure underlying the clean limit of the theory. In this section, we seek an alternative description of this line, in particular far away from the clean Dirac limit.

To this end, we first observe that we can derive a replicated NLσM by integrating out replicated Dirac fermions in favor of Goldstone modes as is done in Appendix A. We find a replicated NLσM augmented by a term of topological origin, the θ term at θ = π. The same calculation also applies to the SUSY formulation of the disordered system, yielding a θ term at θ = π for the NLσM defined on the SUSY target manifold given in Eq. (4.4) below.

Without the θ term at θ = π, this NLσM was already derived starting from a different microscopic model within the chiral symplectic symmetry class CII by Gade in Ref. 87. This NLσM has two coupling constants t_M and t_P that are positive numbers, in addition to the topological coupling θ = π. The labels of these couplings are chosen to convey the fact that t_M does not flow (Ref. 87), whereas t_P does flow away from its value at the Gaussian fixed point (Ref. 87), by analogy to the flow of the couplings g_M and g_P in Eq. (2.61), respectively. The topological coupling does not flow, for it can only take discrete values.

The question we want to address in this section is what is the relationship between this NLσM with a θ term at θ = π and the Thirring model defined in Eq. (2.61). We are going to argue that they are dual in a sense that will become more precise as we proceed. To this end, we rely on the SUSY description used to represent the Thirring model defined in Eq. (2.61).

We begin by establishing the relevant pattern of symmetry breaking. The field theory (2.61) is a GL(2) × GL(2) × GL(2) × GL(2) term at level k = 1 when the couplings g_M = g_P = 0. This means that the theory at g_M = g_P = 0 is invariant under the symmetry supergroup

\[ \text{GL}(2|2) \times \text{GL}(2|2). \]  

(4.1)

The current-current perturbations for any g_M > 0 in Eq. (2.61) lower this symmetry down to the diagonal supergroup

\[ \text{GL}(2|2). \]  

(4.2)

In turn, the symmetry GL(2|2) can be further reduced if fermion bilinears acquire an expectation value, as must be the case if the global DOS is nonvanishing at the band center due to the disorder. This is, in fact, what happens if the analysis of Refs. 55 and 56 along the nearly critical line in the BDI quadrant of Fig. 4 is repeated for the case at hand, with the remaining residual symmetry being

\[ \text{OSp}(2|2). \]  

(4.3)

The Goldstone modes associated with this pattern of symmetry breaking generate the supermanifold

\[ \text{GL}(2|2)/\text{OSp}(2|2), \]  

(4.4)

which is nothing but the SUSY target space for a NLσM model in symmetry class CII (see Ref. 12 and Appendix B of this paper). The critical vertical dashed line in quadrant CII of Fig. 4 arises from removing the sector GL(1; R) × U(1) from the field theory (2.61). The ensuing projected field theory is given by Eq. (3.1). The corresponding operation on the target space (4.4) of the NLσM for symmetry class CII yields the manifold

\[ \text{PSL}(2|2)/\text{OSp}(2|2) \sim \text{PSL}(2|2)/\text{SU}(2|1) \sim \text{U}(2|2)/[\text{U}(1) \times \text{U}(2|1)] \sim \mathbb{C} P^{2|1}. \]  

(4.5)

We have used here the isomorphism between OSp(2|2) and SU(2|1). By setting all fermionic coordinates to zero on this SUSY manifold, one obtains the bosonic submanifold given by

\[ \text{SU}^*(2)/\text{Sp}(2) \times \text{SU}(2)/\text{SO}(2). \]  

(4.6)

[The definition of the group U^*(2) is given in Appendix D.] We close this symmetry analysis by recalling89 that the second homotopy group of the compact part of the submanifold (4.6) is not trivial and given by

\[ \pi_2(\text{SU}(2)/\text{SO}(2)) = \mathbb{Z}_2. \]  

(4.7)

We are now going to argue that, under certain natural assumptions detailed below, the vertical dashed line of nearly critical points in region CII of Fig. 4 is described by a NLσM with a θ term at θ = π on the \( \mathbb{C} P^{2|1} \) target space [Eq. (4.5)].

To understand what could prevent the identification of the vertical dashed line of nearly critical points as realizing the \( \mathbb{C} P^{2|1} \) NLσM with \( \theta = \pi \), we are first going to review the connection between the O(3) NLσM with \( \theta = \pi \) and the SU(2) \_1 WZNW field theory perturbed by the current-current interaction.\(^{50}\)

The O(3) NLσM with \( \theta = \pi \) captures the low-energy and long-wave-length excitations of antiferromagnetic spin-1/2 Heisenberg chains. This field theory is related to the SU(2) \_1 WZNW field theory by perturbing the latter with a symmetry-breaking potential (coupling constant \( h \)), which has the effect of changing the target manifold of the principal chiral model, at \( h = 0 \), to that of the NLσM, at \( h = \infty \). (see Fig. 5). When the WZNW model is near its weakly coupled ultraviolet (UV) Gaussian fixed point, the flow of the coupling \( h \) away from this Gaussian fixed point is the strongest and brings the theory into the vicinity of the weakly coupled (UV, Gaussian) fixed point of the O(3) NLσM augmented by a \( \theta \) term at \( \theta = \pi \). In the vicinity of the SU(2) \_1 WZNW critical point, the symmetry-breaking potential (coupling \( h \)) reduces to the marginally irrelevant current-current interaction up to more irrelevant interactions (some discrete symmetries must here be invoked). When the coupling constant \( \lambda \) of the SU(2) PCM augmented by the level \( k = 1 \) WZNW term is close to its critical value \( \lambda = 1/k = 1 \), the symmetry-breaking potential generates RG flows that are close to those of O(3) NLσM with a \( \theta \) term at \( \theta = \pi \). When the coupling constant of the SU(2) PCM augmented by the level \( k = 1 \) WZNW term is small, the symmetry-breaking potential generates RG flows that are
close to the weakly coupled (Gaussian) fixed point of the O(3) NLσM with a θ term at θ = π. The envelope of all these RG flows can be thought of as the RG flow from the Gaussian fixed point of the O(3) NLσM with a θ term at θ = π; it is depicted by a solid square. The fact that there are operators more relevant than the current-current interaction induced by the symmetry-breaking potential is indicated by the presence of a third axis in coupling space. This third axis quantifies the running of the current-current coupling constant g_{cc} that is marginally irrelevant.

A similar projection from the WZNW model onto the NLσM with θ term at θ = π can also be implemented for symmetry class AI, when the level k = 1 and the WZNW critical point is at the AII target space [see Fig. 6(b)]. On the other hand, the most relevant operator in the vicinity of the fixed point of the WZNW model on OSP(4n|4n) at level k = 1 which has the symmetries of the symmetry breaking potential is the current-current interaction between the Noether currents. This operator is marginally relevant. Thus, the RG flow emerging from the

relevant or marginal interactions other than the current-current interaction are allowed at the PSL(2|2) WZNW critical point at level k = 1 when the PSL(2|2) × PSL(2|2) symmetry of the WZNW model is lowered to its diagonal PSL(2|2) symmetry upon introduction of the symmetry-breaking potential (a natural assumption for the level k = 1 case under consideration), then we obtain with Fig. 5(b) the desired relation between the PSL(2|2) WZNW theory perturbed by the current-current interaction and the C P^{21} PCM with a θ term at θ = π. By analogy with the SU(2)_{k>1} WZNW critical point, we do not expect this assumption to be fulfilled when the level |k| > 1.
unstable fixed point of the WZNW model on OSp(4n|4n) at level \( k = 1 \) ends up in the infrared at the weakly coupled NLσM in symmetry class AII [see Fig. 6(b)]. This is one way of understanding that the NLσM in class AII with the \( Z_2 \) term always flows to weak coupling (as discussed in Refs. 66 and 67), for it simply inherits this feature from the RG flow of the underlying WZNW model.

In summary, based on this reasoning we argue that the line of nearly critical points in region CII of Fig. 4 (the vertical dashed line in region CII of Fig. 4) has two descriptions: one in terms of the PSL(2|2) WZNW model perturbed by current-current interactions and one in terms of the \( CP^{2|1} \) NLσM at \( \theta = \pi \) (\( Z_2 \) topological term). These descriptions are dual to each other in the sense that, in the vicinity of the origin of our global phase diagram in Fig. 4 the PSL(2|2) WZNW model is weakly perturbed, whereas the \( CP^{2|1} \) NLσM is strongly interacting. On the other hand, for large values of the coupling constant \( g_M \) of the current-current interaction about the Dirac point, a measure of the distance downward along the dotted line away from the clean Dirac point at the center of Fig. 4, the resulting Thirring model is strongly interacting, whereas the \( CP^{2|1} \) NLσM is weakly interacting. We recall that, because the coupling constant \( g_M \) is exactly marginal, and so is the coupling constant of the corresponding NLσM, \(^{87}\) it is possible to continuously interpolate between these two limits by tuning \( g_M \). (The possibility of such a duality was also discussed, independently and from a different perspective, in Refs. 62–64.)

V. DISCUSSION

A. \( Z_2 \) topological term in the symmetry class CII of two-dimensional Anderson localization

A systematic study of random Dirac fermions in \( d \)-dimensional space provides a road-map to uncovering universal properties of Anderson localization. This is so because random Dirac fermions build a bridge between models for Anderson localization that are defined on lattices—and thus are nonuniversal—and effective field theories (NLσMs) that solely depend on the underlying symmetries and dimensionality of space and, as such, are universal.

In one-dimensional space, Dirac fermions generically emerge after linearization of the energy dispersion around the Fermi energy in the clean limit. The effects of weak static disorder are then elegantly encoded by a description of quasi-one-dimensional quantum transport in terms of diffusive processes on noncompact symmetric spaces.\(^ {84–90}\) This long-wavelength description is sufficiently fine to account for nonperturbative effects such as parity effects in the numbers of propagating channels in the chS classes AIII, CII, and BDI.\(^ {106}\) A parity effect can also be derived for the symplectic symmetry class AII in quasi-one dimension.\(^ {101,102}\) Although the latter parity effect is not generic in quasi-one-dimensional space because of the fermion-doubling obstruction, it is generic on one-dimensional boundaries of two-dimensional \( Z_2 \)-topological band insulators.\(^ {103}\)

Dirac fermions are the exception rather than the rule in band theory when the dimensionality of space \( d \) is larger than one. Fine-tuning between the lattice and the hopping amplitudes is needed to select a linear energy dispersion. There is a parallel to this fact in the context of Anderson localization.

For example, in two-dimensional space, the symmetries respected by the static disorder do not enforce, on their own, the presence of WZNW or \( Z_2 \)-topological terms in the NLσM effective long-wave length description of the physics of localization.

Ludwig et al.\(^ {22}\) (Nersesyan et al.\(^ {23}\)) have shown that nonperturbative effects can modify the localization properties encoded by the two-dimensional NLσM with a WZNW term in symmetry class AII when studying the random Dirac Hamiltonian with \( N_f = 1 \) (\( N_f > 1 \)) flavors. Analogous physics can appear in symmetry classes DIII and CII in two spatial dimensions.\(^ {11,17,104}\) However, because of the fermion-doubling obstruction, these conditions cannot be met in purely two-dimensional lattice models for Anderson localization.

On the other hand, they can always be fulfilled on the two-dimensional boundaries of three-dimensional topological band insulators (that are characterized by an integer topological index)\(^ {11,18}\).

A similar situation holds for the \( Z_2 \)-topological terms. The number of Dirac flavors \( N_f \) matters crucially to obtain a \( Z_2 \)-topological term in symmetry class AII, as shown by Ryu et al. in Ref. 51. In the present paper, we have completed the derivation of topological terms of two-dimensional NLσM by constructing the \( Z_2 \)-topological term for a NLσM in symmetry class CII as a sign ambiguity in the Pfaffian of disordered Majorana spinors. Our derivation suggests that this \( Z_2 \)-topological term cannot arise from two-dimensional local lattice models of Anderson localization because of the fermion-doubling obstruction, but requires a three-dimensional topological band insulator with two-dimensional boundaries.

B. Global phase diagram at the band center

The main results of this paper are summarized in Fig. 4. They apply to \( N_f = 2 \) flavors of random Dirac fermions.

Figure 4 should be compared with Fig. 9 from Ref. 22, which captures the phase diagram for \( N_f = 1 \) flavors of random Dirac fermions or, more precisely, with its projection onto the plane \( g_A = 0 \) in Ref. 22 (\( \Delta_x = 0 \) in the notation of Ref. 22). The phase diagram in Fig. 4 is also obtained after projecting a three-dimensional flow to a two-dimensional subspace of \( g_M \) and \( \Delta_x \).

The three chiral phases AIII, BDI, and CII in Fig. 4 meet at the origin of the phase diagram. This meeting point realizes the clean Dirac limit. We showed that analytical continuation of the disorder at the level of the Dirac fermions allows one to move between the BDI and CII phases. However, at the microscopic scale of the two-dimensional lattice model that realizes the BDI phase, this analytical continuation is meaningless. This is yet another manifestation of the fermion-doubling obstruction. A realization as a local lattice model of the CII phase in Fig. 4 must go through the two-dimensional boundary of a three-dimensional topological band insulator.

The quadrant BDI in Fig. 4 is fairly well understood if we assume that the perturbative flows to the nearly critical dashed line extend all the way to the boundary D. Bulk\(^ {56}\) and boundary\(^ {71}\) multifractality and an analytic dependence of the conductance on the disorder strength \( g_M \) at the band center \( E = 0 \) are governed in the thermodynamic limit by their dependence on \( g_M \) along the nearly critical dashed line.
The dashed line in region CII of Fig. 4 is a line of nearly critical points, each of which is captured by a projected Thirring model. We have argued that the strong coupling regime of this theory is “dual” to a weakly coupled NLσM augmented by a $\mathbb{Z}_2$ topological term with the target space of symmetry class CII.

We would like to emphasize that the RG flows in the CII quadrant of Fig. 4, first away from and then to the nearly critical plane defined by the dashed line and the out-of-plane $g_\sigma$ axis, are perturbative in $g_\sigma^2$ (nonperturbative in $g_\sigma$). They are derived under the assumption that no relevant or marginal interactions other than the current-current interactions are allowed. The continuation of these flows to strong coupling is a conjecture. At strong coupling, it is tempting to ask if these two-parameter flows might be captured by a NLσM. Evidently, a NLσM whose target space is a symmetric target space will not do since it would only be characterized by one running coupling constant. A NLσM on a homogeneous but not symmetric target space with two independent coupling constants in addition to the Gade term would do. (We refer the reader to Ref. 105 for a systematic study of NLσM on Riemannian manifolds, of which homogeneous and symmetric spaces are special examples, as is explained in the context of disordered systems in Ref. 106.) We propose that this scenario is captured by a NLσM with the following homogeneous, but not symmetric target space ($n$ is an integer; see Appendix E)

$$GL(2n|2n)/[OSp(n|n) \times OSp(n|n)].$$

The situation here is analogous to the NLσM discussed in Ref. 106 in the context of the random-bond Ising model in two dimensions. The NLσM on the homogeneous target space in Eq. (5.1) has two coupling constants [in addition to the coupling constant of the “Gade” term (“projected out” in our global phase diagram in Fig. 4), of the kind that we previously denoted by $g_\sigma$ in the present paper]. The NLσM on this homogeneous space interpolates between the two NLσMs on the symmetric target spaces corresponding to symmetry classes CII and AII, which are specific limits within the two-parameter coupling constant space of the NLσM on this homogeneous space (in a manner analogous to the situation discussed in Ref. 106). See Appendix E for more details.

C. Weak breaking of the chiral symmetry in the vicinity of the band center

The effects of a finite Fermi energy $E_F$ on the physics of localization for the quadrants BDI and CII in Fig. 4 are dramatic in that, in both cases, a finite $E_F$ breaks the chiral symmetry chS.

Turning on a finite Fermi energy $E_F$ in the quadrant BDI in Fig. 4 reduces the symmetry class to AI. All states at finite $E_F$ are then localized. The band center is a quantum critical point separating two insulating phases, one defined by $E_F < 0$ and another one defined by $E_F > 0$, very much as is the case in the IQHE (see Ref. 20 for a review on plateau transitions in the IQHE). The global DOS $\nu(E_F)$ diverges as

$$\nu(E_F) \sim \frac{1}{|E_F|} \exp(-c|\ln|E_F||^{2/3}),$$

with $c$ a nonuniversal number when $E_F$ approaches the band center. The state at the band center is critical. (The robustness to strong disorder of the critical behavior of the band center in the chiral classes is well documented in quasi-one and two dimensions. However, contrary to the quadrant BDI in Fig 4, the band center is not any more a quantum critical point separating two insulating phases. Indeed, the localized nature as a function of the chemical potential of these two-dimensional states is that of the surface states of a three-dimensional time-reversal-symmetric weak topological insulator. The issue of Anderson localization as a function of the chemical potential for such surface states was recently discussed in Refs. 108 and 109. According to the numerical study in Ref. 109 (corresponding to the case of a mean value $m = 0$ of the random mass $m$ in Ref. 109), these surface states remain extended (metallic) in the presence of disorder even though the characteristic energy at which the upturn of the diverging global DOS becomes sizable relative to the clean DOS shown in Fig. 7(a) is exponentially small for weak disorder.

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APPENDIX A: THE SIGN AMBIGUITY OF A PFAFFIAN

In this section, we are going to argue that the dashed line in the phase diagram of Fig. 4 that belongs to the chiral symplectic class CII, has the particularity that, within the fermionic replica NLσM representation, there appears a $Z_2$-topological term in addition to the standard kinetic energy.

To this end, it will be useful to enlarge the dimensionality of the representation of the Dirac Hamiltonian by a factor of 2 in order to treat the isospin-$\frac{1}{2}$ TRS. To avoid ambiguities, we use the Greek letters for the Pauli matrices acting on the three relevant two-dimensional subspaces—$\rho$ in flavor subspace, $\sigma$ in Lorentz subspace, and $\tau$ in the time-reversal subspace to be introduced below—as subindices to specify the chosen representations. In this section we use indices $x, y, z$, instead of 1, 2, 3, in the $\sigma$ and $\tau$ subspaces. For example, we denote the Dirac Hamiltonian (2.12) when Eq. (2.14) holds by

$$\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\sigma} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & D_{\sigma} \\ D_{\sigma}^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\rho}, \quad (A1a)$$

where $A_{\mu} = -i\gamma_{\mu}^c, \in i\mathbb{R}$, $M_{\mu} = -im_{\mu}^c, \in i\mathbb{R}$, $M_0 = m_0^c, \in \mathbb{R}$, and with the simultaneous chS

$$(\rho_\tau \otimes \sigma_\rho)\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\sigma}(\rho_\sigma \otimes \sigma_\rho) = -\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\sigma} \quad (A1b)$$

and isospin-$\frac{1}{2}$ TRS

$$(i\rho_\rho \otimes \sigma_\rho)\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\sigma}^T(-i\rho_\rho \otimes \sigma_\rho) = \mathcal{H}_{\rho,\sigma}. \quad (A1c)$$

1. Fermionic functional integral representation of the retarded Green’s function

The generating function for the retarded Green’s function is the partition function

$$Z := \int \mathcal{D}[\tilde{\chi}, \chi] \exp \left( -\int d^2 r \mathcal{L} \right), \quad (A2a)$$

$$\mathcal{L} := -i\tilde{\chi}(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\sigma}\chi.$$

Here, we have chosen

$$\tilde{\chi} \equiv (\tilde{\chi}_1 \tilde{\chi}_2)_{\rho,\sigma} \equiv (\tilde{\chi}_{1\uparrow} \tilde{\chi}_{1\downarrow} \tilde{\chi}_{2\uparrow} \tilde{\chi}_{2\downarrow})_{\rho,\sigma} \quad (A2b)$$

to be a four-component row spinor with Grassmann-valued entries.

Similarly,

$$\chi \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \chi_1 \\ \chi_2 \end{pmatrix}_{\rho} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{1\uparrow} \\ \chi_{1\downarrow} \\ \chi_{2\uparrow} \\ \chi_{2\downarrow} \end{pmatrix}_{\rho,\sigma} \quad (A2c)$$

is a four-component column spinor with Grassmann-valued entries. All eight Grassmann-valued entries labeled by the flavor indices 1 and 2 on which the matrices $(\rho_0, \rho_{z, \rho, y} \rho_x)$ act and by the Lorentz indices $\uparrow$ and $\downarrow$ on which the matrices $(\sigma_0, \sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$ act are independent. For the retarded Green’s function, $\eta > 0$.

It is useful to make the TRS (A1c) explicit. To this end, following Ref. 110, we make the manipulation

$$\mathcal{L} = -i\tilde{\chi}(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\sigma}\chi$$

$$= +i\tilde{\chi}^T(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\sigma}\tilde{\chi}^T$$

$$= -i\tilde{\chi}^T(-i\rho_\rho \otimes \sigma_\rho)(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\sigma}(-i\rho_\rho \otimes \sigma_\rho)\tilde{\chi}^T$$

$$= -i\tilde{\Psi}(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\tau,\sigma}\Psi,$$  

by which we have doubled the number of Grassmann-valued entries in $\tilde{\Psi}$ and $\Psi$ through the definitions

$$(i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\rho,\tau,\sigma} := (i\eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho,\rho} \otimes \tau_0 \quad (A3a)$$

and

$$\tilde{\Psi} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{\chi}_{\uparrow} \tilde{\chi}_{\downarrow}^T \tilde{\chi}_{\downarrow}^T - \tilde{\chi}_{\uparrow}^T)_{\tau,\sigma}, \quad (A3b)$$

$$\Psi := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\begin{pmatrix} \chi_{\uparrow} \\ \chi_{\downarrow} \\ \tilde{\chi}_{\downarrow}^T \\ \tilde{\chi}_{\uparrow}^T \end{pmatrix})_{\tau,\sigma} \quad (A3c)$$

Here, the subindex $\tau$ denotes the, by now, explicit time-reversal subspace that is spanned by the unit $2 \times 2$ matrix $\tau_0$ and the three Pauli matrices ($\tau_x, \tau_y, \tau_z$). Of course, the number of independent Grassmann-valued entries remains unchanged in the representation (A3) as the TRS (A1c) is now represented by the constraint

$$\tilde{\Psi} = \Psi^T(-i\rho_0 \otimes \tau_x \otimes \sigma_y). \quad (A4)$$

On the other hand, the representation of the chS (A1b) is

$$(\rho_\tau \otimes \tau_0 \otimes \sigma_\rho)\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\tau,\sigma}(\rho_\sigma \otimes \tau_0 \otimes \sigma_\rho) = -\mathcal{H}_{\rho,\tau,\sigma}. \quad (A5)$$

Instead of Eq. (A4), we seek a representation of the TRS in terms of eight-component Grassmann-valued spinors obeying the Majorana constraint

$$\tilde{\Psi} = \Psi^T(-i\rho_0 \otimes \tau_0 \otimes \sigma_y). \quad (A6)$$

This can be achieved by observing that the “square root” of $\tau_x$ is given by

$$\tau_x = -i\tau_{z,y}^T \tau_{z,y}, \quad \tau_{z,y} := \frac{\tau_x - \tau_{y}}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (A7)$$

Now, we take advantage of the fact that the kernel (A3b) commutes with

$$T_{z,y} := \rho_0 \otimes \tau_{z,y} \otimes \sigma_0. \quad (A8)$$
so that
\[
\mathcal{L} = -i \bar{\psi}(i \gamma - \mathcal{H})_{\rho, \tau, \sigma} \psi
\]
\[
= \psi^T T_{\tau, \sigma} (i \rho_0 \otimes \tau_0 \otimes \sigma_i) (i \eta - H)_{\rho, \tau, \sigma} T_{\tau, \sigma} \psi
\]
\[
= - \bar{\psi} (i \eta - \mathcal{H})_{\rho, \tau, \sigma} \psi ,
\]
where
\[
\psi : = T_{\tau, \sigma} \psi \quad \text{(A9b)}
\]
determines \(\bar{\psi}\) through the Majorana constraint Eq. (A6) that follows because of the isospin \(\frac{1}{2} \) TRS. In view of the Majorana constraint (A6), the isospin \(\frac{1}{2} \) TRS is now equivalent to the global O(2) invariance under the transformation
\[
\bar{\psi} \rightarrow \bar{\psi} (\rho_0 \otimes \sigma_0 \otimes O^T), \quad \psi \rightarrow (\rho_0 \otimes \sigma_0 \otimes O) \psi \quad \text{(A10)}
\]
for any \(2 \times 2\) orthogonal matrix \(O\), acting in the \(\tau\) subspace.

Finally, it is time to make use of the chS (A1b). By making the flavor subspace explicit,
\[
\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_1 D_{\tau, \sigma} \psi_2 + \bar{\psi}_2 D_{\tau, \sigma}^\dagger \psi_1 - i \eta (\bar{\psi}_1 \psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_2 \psi_2),
\]
where \((a^\prime_\mu, m^\prime_\nu, \tilde{m}^\prime_\nu) \in \mathbb{R})
\[
D_{\tau, \sigma} := \tau_0 \otimes (- i \sigma_\mu \partial_\mu + V),
\]
\[
V := i \sigma_\mu a^\prime_\mu - i \sigma_\nu m^\prime_\nu + \sigma_0 m^\prime_0 ,
\]
acts on the two independent four-component Grassmann-valued spinors \(\psi_1\) and \(\psi_2\), while the spinors \(\bar{\psi}_1\) and \(\bar{\psi}_2\) obey the Majorana condition \((\Sigma_\tau := \tau_0 \otimes \sigma_\tau)\)
\[
\bar{\psi}_1 = \psi_1^T (-i \Sigma_\tau), \quad \bar{\psi}_2 = \psi_2^T (-i \Sigma_\tau). \quad \text{(A11c)}
\]

With the help of the identity
\[
\bar{\psi}_2 D_{\tau, \sigma} \psi_1 = - \psi_1^T D_{\tau, \sigma}^\dagger \bar{\psi}_2 = \bar{\psi}_1 D_{\tau, \sigma} \psi_2
\]
we arrive at
\[
\mathcal{L} = 2 \bar{\psi}_1 D_{\tau, \sigma} \psi_2 - i \eta (\bar{\psi}_1 \psi_1 + \bar{\psi}_2 \psi_2). \quad \text{(A13)}
\]

This presentation of the Lagrangian reveals that, upon quantization, \(\bar{\psi}_1\) and \(\psi_2\) form a canonical pair of fermionic operators. In other words, because of the chS, the kinetic part \(\bar{\psi}_1 D_{\tau, \sigma} \psi_2\) of the Lagrangian is invariant under any global U(2) transformation
\[
\bar{\psi}_1 \rightarrow \bar{\psi}_1 (\sigma_0 \otimes U_1), \quad \psi_2 \rightarrow (\sigma_0 \otimes U_1) \psi_2 , \quad \text{(A14)}
\]
where \(U_1\) is a \(2 \times 2\) unitary matrix acting in the \(\tau\) subspace.

2. Replicas and disorder averaging

We now assume that \(a^\prime_\mu, a'^\prime_\nu, m'^\prime_\nu\) and \(m^\prime_\nu\) from Eq. (A11) are all white-noise distributed with the same variance \(g\). In doing so, we limit ourselves to the nearly critical line of region CII in Fig. 4.

We replicate the Lagrangian \(N_r\) times,
\[
\mathcal{L}_{N_r} = \sum_{a=1}^{2N_r} [2 \bar{\psi}_{a1} (-i \sigma_\mu \partial_\mu + V) \psi_{a2} - i \eta (\bar{\psi}_{a1} \psi_{a1} + \bar{\psi}_{a2} \psi_{a2})]. \quad \text{(A15)}
\]
This Lagrangian is invariant under any global O(2\(N_r\)) rotation in the \(\tau\) and replica subspaces. After disorder averaging has been performed, we arrive at the interacting Lagrangian
\[
\mathcal{L}_{N_r} = 2 \sum_{a=1}^{2N_r} d_a^\dagger (-i \sigma_\mu \partial_\mu) d_a + i \eta \sum_{a=1}^{2N_r} [d_a^\dagger i \sigma_\gamma d_a^\dagger \sigma_\gamma, \quad \text{(A16a)}
\]
\[
+ 8g \sum_{a,b=1}^{2N_r} \left( \bar{\psi}_a^\dagger \cdot \bar{\psi}_b - \frac{1}{4} n_a n_b \right). \quad \text{(A16b)}
\]

It is worth remembering that the replicated “spin” \(\bar{\psi}_a\) in the \(\tau\)-like Lagrangian (A16a) originates from the \(\sigma\) subspace and not the true electronic spin \(\frac{1}{2}\). When \(\eta = 0\) and in accordance with the global symmetry (A14), the action is invariant under any global U(2\(N_r\)) rotation,
\[
d_a^\dagger \rightarrow d_a^\dagger U_{ab}^*, \quad d_a \rightarrow U_{ac} d_a, \quad U_{ab} U_{ac} = \delta_{bc} . \quad \text{(A17)}
\]
while, in accordance with the global symmetry (A10), any nonzero \(\eta\) breaks this symmetry down to the global O(2\(N_r\)) rotation,
\[
d_a^\dagger \rightarrow d_a^\dagger O_{ab}^*, \quad d_a \rightarrow O_{ac} d_a, \quad O_{ab} O_{ac} = \delta_{bc} . \quad \text{(A18)}
\]
where summation over repeated indices is assumed.

3. Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation

It is time to introduce auxiliary (Hubbard-Stratonovich) fields that decouple the interactions among replicas. A possible channel for decoupling is singlet superconductivity as it is favored by the symmetry breaking term \(\eta\). Hence, for any \(a, b = 1, \ldots, 2N_r\), we introduce the order parameters
\[
O_{ab} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} d_a^\dagger i \sigma_\gamma d_b^\dagger,
\]
\[
O_{ab} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} d_a^\dagger i \sigma_\gamma d_b
\]
in terms of which the “exchange term” becomes
\[
\bar{\psi}_a \cdot \bar{\psi}_b - \frac{1}{4} n_a n_b = -O_{ab}^\dagger O_{ab} , \quad \text{(A20)}
\]
and, in turn, the Lagrangian becomes
\[
\mathcal{L}_{N_r} = 2 \sum_{a=1}^{2N_r} d_a^\dagger (-i \sigma_\mu \partial_\mu) d_a + i \sqrt{2} \eta \sum_{a=1}^{2N_r} (O_{aa} - O_{aa}^\dagger)
\]
\[
- 8g \sum_{a,b=1}^{2N_r} O_{ab}^\dagger O_{ab} . \quad \text{(A21)}
\]
The interacting term is then decoupled by the $2N_f \times 2N_f$ Hubbard-Stratonovich field $\Delta_{ab}$ and its complex conjugate $\Delta_{ab}^\ast$. 

$$
\mathcal{L}_N = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{a=1}^{2N_f} \sum_{b=1}^{2N_f} (O_{ab} - O_{ba}^\dagger) + \sum_{a,b=1}^{2N_f} \left( \frac{1}{8g} \Delta_{ab} \Delta_{ba} - O_{ab}^\dagger \Delta_{ba} - O_{ab} \Delta_{ba}^\ast \right).
$$

(A22)

No approximation has yet been invoked. As the interacting Lagrangian (A22) is not readily tractable, we shall restrict the path integral to slowly varying bosonic degrees of freedom (Nambu-Goldstone bosons). We first look for a diffusive saddle point of the Lagrangian (A22). In the diffusive regime, the effective Lagrangian becomes

$$
\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_{a,b=1}^{2N_f} \tilde{\gamma}_a D_{ab}[\Delta] \gamma_b
$$

(A28a)

where

$$
\tilde{\gamma}_a = \left( d d^T (-i\sigma_y) \right)_a, \quad \gamma_a = \left( i\sigma_y (d^T) \right)_a
$$

(A28b)

are related by the Majorana condition

$$
\tilde{\gamma}_a = (-i\sigma_y \otimes i\tau_y \gamma_a)^T,
$$

(A28c)

with $\tau_y$ acting in the Nambu space, and the kernel is

$$
D_{ab}[\Delta] = \left( \frac{-i\delta_{ab} \sigma_\mu \delta_\mu}{\Delta_{ba}^\ast(r)} \Delta_{ba}(r) + i\delta_{ab} \sigma_\mu \delta^\mu \right).
$$

(A28d)

(We have absorbed $i\sqrt{2} \eta$ in a rescaling of $\Delta$.) Because of Eq. (A27) $\Delta_{ab} = \Delta_{ba}$ and thus $D_{ab}[\Delta]$ is Hermitian. Observe that the eigenvalues of the kernel (A28d) are real-valued and the nonvanishing ones come in pairs of opposite sign. Indeed, we could have equally well presented the effective Lagrangian (A28) as

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \left( d d^T \right) \left( K^{\ast} \right)^{-1} \left( i\sigma_y \Delta(r) \right)^T (d^T r),
$$

(A29)

where the kinetic energy $K$ was defined in Eq. (2.1) and we use a matrix convention to make explicit the BdG particle-hole symmetry responsible for the aforementioned pairing of eigenvalues.

The effective field theory $S_{\text{eff}}[\Delta]$ describing the dynamics of the slowly varying bosonic field $\Delta_{ab}$ follows from integrating out the fermionic fields $d^T$ and $d$ in the partition function,

$$
e^{-S_{\text{eff}}[\Delta]} = \int \mathcal{D}[d^T, d] \exp \left( - \int d^2 r \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \right) = \chi \left| \det D[\Delta] \right|, \quad \text{Pf} \left[ D[\Delta] \right].
$$

(A30)

Here, the Pfaffian Pf $D[\Delta]$ implements the isospin-$\frac{1}{2}$ TRS through the Majorana condition (A28c) [see also Eq. (A11c)]. A gradient expansion of the exponentiated Pfaffian gives the standard kinetic energy of the NLσM on the target space $U(2N_f)/O(2N_f)$. However, since the second homotopy group of $G/H = U(2N_f)/O(2N_f)$ is nontrivial,

$$
\pi_2[\text{SU}(M)/O(M)] = \mathbb{Z}_2, \quad \text{for } M > 2,
$$

(A31)

the NLσM is allowed to have a topological term of the $\mathbb{Z}_2$ type. In other words, Eq. (A31) tells us that the space of all field configurations is divided into two sectors that are not smoothly connected. Consequently, these two sectors can be weighted differently in the effective partition function. This possibility is encoded in the ambiguity in defining the sign of the Pfaffian (A30), a global property of the target manifold $G/H = U(2N_f)/O(2N_f)$. In the following, we use the same approach as in Ref. 51 to show that the ambiguity in defining the sign of the Pfaffian can be interpreted as the presence of a $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological term.

4. $\mathbb{Z}_2$ configurations of the $\Delta$ field

In this section, we construct representative $\Delta$-field configurations that belong to the two complementary $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological
sectors as defined by the second homotopy group (A31). To this end, we introduce the generator

$$\lambda_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in o(2N_L)$$

(A32)

of the symmetry-broken group U(2N_L) that leaves the saddle points (A25) invariant. We also define the generators $\lambda_1$ and $\lambda_3$ through

$$\lambda_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$ 

(A33)

Here, $0_{2N_L-2}$ is the $(N_L - 2) \times (N_L - 2)$ matrix with 0 in all entries. The three matrices $\lambda_1, \lambda_2,$ and $\lambda_3$ generate an SU(2) algebra. Unlike $\lambda_2$, neither $\lambda_1$ nor $\lambda_3$ leave the saddle points (A25) invariant. Hence, neither $\lambda_1$ nor $\lambda_3$ belong to the unbroken symmetry group $H = O(2N_L)$.

Let $S^2$ denote the two-sphere and choose the polar $-\pi/2 \leq \theta \leq +\pi/2$ and azimuthal $0 \leq \phi < 2\pi$ angles as spherical coordinates of $S^2$. Following Weinberg et al. in Ref. 111 we define on $S^2$ the unitary matrices

$$U_1(\theta, \phi) := e^{i\lambda_1 \theta/2} e^{i\lambda_2 \phi/2} e^{-i\lambda_3 \phi/2} \in U(2N_L)$$

(A34)

that we label by the integer $l \in \mathbb{Z}$. Finally, we define the family

$$\Delta_l(\theta, \phi) := -i|\Delta_0|U_1U_1^T$$

$$= -i|\Delta_0| \begin{pmatrix} R_l(\theta, \phi) & 0 \\ 0 & I_{2N_L-2} \end{pmatrix}$$

(A35a)

in U(2N_L)/O(2N_L), where

$$R_l(\theta, \phi) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \cos l\phi & -i \sin \theta \sin l\phi \\ -i \sin \theta \sin l\phi & \cos \theta - i \sin \theta \cos l\phi \end{pmatrix}. $$

(A35b)

is labeled by the integer $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ but is independent of the replica number $N_r$.

The $\mathbb{Z}$ configurations of the $\Delta$ field on the two-dimensional torus $T^2$ with the coordinates $0 \leq x, y \leq L$ ($L$ is serving as an infrared cutoff) can be obtained from the parametrization of the unit sphere $S^2$ in terms of the $L$-periodic unit vector

$$n(x, y) := \frac{r(x, y)}{|r(x, y)|}.$$ 

(A36a)

itself given by the $L$-periodic vector

$$r(x, y) := \begin{pmatrix} -\sin(2\pi y/L) \\ -\sin(2\pi x/L) \\ \cos(2\pi x/L) + \cos(2\pi y/L) - 1 \end{pmatrix}. $$

(A36b)

For example, the $L$-periodic $\Delta_{i=1}(x, y)$ is obtained from Eq. (A35) by replacing $R_{i=1}(\theta, \phi)$ with

$$R_{i=1}(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} n_x + i n_y & -i n_y \\ -i n_y & n_x - i n_y \end{pmatrix}. $$

(A37)

5. Spectral flow

We are going to argue numerically that

$$\text{sgn Pf}(D[\Delta_l]) = -\text{sgn Pf}(D[\Delta_{l+1}]), \quad l \in \mathbb{Z},$$

(A38)

by looking at the spectral flow of the kernel

$$\Delta(t) := (1 - t) \Delta_i + t \Delta_j$$

(A39)

as a function of $0 \leq t \leq 1$. Here, the initial, $\Delta_i$, and final, $\Delta_j$, configurations belong to $G/H = U(2N_r)/O(2N_r)$, while $\Delta(t)$ is not a member of $G/H = U(2N_r)/O(2N_r)$ for $0 < t < 1$. According to Eq. (A29), the spectrum $\lambda_i(t)$ of $D[\Delta(t)]$ is symmetric about the band center at the energy zero. Configurations $\Delta_i$ and $\Delta_j$ have Pfaffians of opposite signs whenever an odd number of level crossings occur at the band center (“spectral flow”) during the $t$ evolution of the kernel $D[\Delta(t)]$. This is accompanied by the closing of the spectral gap of $D[\Delta(t)]$ by an odd number of pairs $(-\lambda_i(t), +\lambda_j(t))$ as $t$ interpolates between 0 and 1. The spectral $t$ evolution is obtained numerically using the regularization of the kernel $D[\Delta(t)]$ by choosing the family on the torus $T^2$. In this way, the index $x$ takes discrete values. In Fig. 8, we show the evolution of the eigenvalues for $\Delta(t)$ interpolating between $\Delta_{i=0}$ and $\Delta_{i=1}$. Observe that in $\Delta_i$ the part responsible for the winding configuration $R_i(\theta, \phi)$ is entirely localized in the sector of the first replica. Thus, when computing the spectral flow, we can focus on this sector alone. Since level crossing at the band center takes place for a single pair of levels, we conclude that $\text{Pf}(D[\Delta_{i=0}])$ and $\text{Pf}(D[\Delta_{i=1}])$ differ by their sign. This supports numerically Eq. (A38).

6. Summary

In summary, after integration over the Majorana spinors along the nearly critical line of region CII in Fig. 4, the effective action for the Nambu-Goldstone field $\Delta$, a symmetric and unitary matrix, is given by

$$Z_{\text{topo}}^{\text{NLG}} = \int D[\Delta] (-1)^{\nu[\Delta]} e^{-S[\Delta]},$$

(A40a)
where $S[\Delta]$ is the (fermionic replica version of the) action for the NLσM on $G/H = U(2N)/O(2N)$; that is, 

$$
S[\Delta] = \frac{1}{t_M} \int d^2r \, \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \Delta^\dagger(\partial_\mu \Delta)) + \frac{1}{t_M'} \int d^2r \, \text{tr}(\Delta^\dagger \partial_\mu \Delta)\text{tr}(\Delta \partial_\mu \Delta^\dagger), \quad (A40b)
$$

while

$$
n[\Delta] = 0.1, \quad (A40c)
$$

the $\mathbb{Z}_2$-topological quantum number of $\Delta$, reflects the ambiguity in defining globally the sign of the Pfaffian of Majorana spinors. Because of the block structure $(A35b)$, the topological quantum number $n[\Delta] = 0.1$ is expected to survive the replica limit $N \to 0$.

**APPENDIX B: PATTERNS OF SYMMETRY BREAKING AND SUPERMANIFOLDS**

There are ten target spaces $G/H$ for the NLσMs of relevance to the ten symmetry classes of Anderson localization.\footnote{12-14} They encode 10 distinct patterns of symmetry breaking. These patterns have been exhaustively classified within a SUSY approach by Zirnbauer in Ref. 12. Each target superspace $G/H$ is a Riemannian symmetric supermanifold that can be parametrized in its bosonic sector by the Riemannian symmetric manifold

$$
M_B = M_{BB} \times M_{FF}. \quad (B1)
$$

Here, $M_B$ is the direct product between a noncompact Riemannian symmetric manifold $M_{BB}$ originating from the boson-boson sector of the Riemannian symmetric supermanifold and a compact Riemannian symmetric manifold $M_{FF}$ originating from the fermion-fermion sector of the Riemannian symmetric supermanifold. The target superspaces $G/H$ and Riemannian symmetric manifolds $M_B = M_{BB} \times M_{FF}$ relevant to this paper are

1. $G/H = GL(n|n) \times GL(n|n)/GL(n|n) = GL(n|n)$ with the Riemannian symmetric manifolds,

$$
M_{BB} = GL(n,\mathbb{C})/U(n), \quad M_{FF} = U(n). \quad (B2)
$$

for the chS class AIII;

2. $G/H = GL(2n|2n)/OSp(2n|2n)$ with the Riemannian symmetric manifolds,

$$
M_{BB} = GL(2n,\mathbb{R})/O(2n), \quad M_{FF} = U(2n)/Sp(2n), \quad (B3)
$$

for the chS class BDI;

3. $G/H = GL(2n|2n)/OSp(2n|2n)$ with the Riemannian symmetric manifolds,

$$
M_{BB} = U^*(2n)/Sp(2n), \quad M_{FF} = U(2n)/O(2n), \quad (B4)
$$

for the chS class CII;

4. $G/H = OSp(2n|2n)/GL(n|n)$ with the Riemannian symmetric manifolds,

$$
M_{BB} = Sp(4n,\mathbb{R})/U(n), \quad M_{FF} = O(2n)/U(n), \quad (B5)
$$

for the BdG symmetry class D;

5. $G/H = OSp(4n|4n)/OSp(2n|2n) \times OSp(2n|2n)$ with the Riemannian symmetric manifolds,

$$
M_{BB} = Sp(2n,2n)/Sp(2n) \times Sp(2n), \quad M_{FF} = SO(4n)/SO(2n) \times SO(2n), \quad (B6)
$$

for the symplectic symmetry class All.

The compatibility of these target superspaces with the addition of a topological term in the corresponding NLσM is solely determined by the compact Riemannian symmetric manifold $M_{FF}$: A topological term requires a nontrivial second homotopy group of $M_{FF}$ (e.g., CI and AII). In this context, observe that the Riemannian symmetric supermanifolds for symmetry classes BDI and CII merely differ by the exchange of the boson-boson and fermion-fermion stabilizers $O(2n)$ and $Sp(2n)$ [in that regard, it is convenient to view $U^*(2n)$ as a noncompact real subgroup of $GL(2n,\mathbb{C})$]. This small difference is of great consequence since the NLσM for the symmetric class BDI cannot be augmented by a topological term.

For simplicity, we consider symmetry class CII with $n = 1$. According to Eq. (B4), the target superspace is

$$
GL(2|2)/OSp(2|2) \approx GL(2|2)/SL(1|2), \quad (B7)
$$

whereby we used the isomorphism $OSp(2|2) \approx SL(1|2)$. The projected CII target superspace obtained by quotienting out the two diagonal generators of $GL(2|2)$ is

$$
PSL(2|2)/OSp(2|2) \approx PSL(2|2)/SL(1|2). \quad (B8a)
$$

One must carry this projection on the noncompact and compact Riemannian symmetric manifolds (B4). This is done by quotienting out their $\mathbb{R}_+$ and $U(1)$ factors, respectively. Hence, the projected boson-boson Riemannian symmetric manifold is

$$
SU^*(2)/Sp(2) \approx SU^*(2)/SU(2), \quad (B8b)
$$

while the projected fermion-fermion Riemannian symmetric manifold is

$$
SU(2)/O(2) \sim S^2. \quad (B8c)
$$

**APPENDIX C: THE SUPERGROUP PSL(n|n)**

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ be an integer and denote with $\text{smat}(n|n)$ the set of all real $(n|n)$ supermatrices $M$, that is, matrices of the form

$$
M := \begin{pmatrix} M_{BB} & M_{BF} \\ M_{FB} & M_{FF} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (C1)
$$

where $M_{BB}$ and $M_{FF}$ are $n \times n$ real-valued matrices while $M_{BF}$ and $M_{FB}$ are $n \times n$ Grassmann-valued matrices. We denote with $I$ and $J$ the $(n|n)$ diagonal supermatrices

$$
I := \text{diag}(1 \cdots 1 \ 1 \cdots 1), \quad (C2)
$$

$$
J := \text{diag}(1 \cdots 1 \ -1 \cdots -1),
$$

respectively. For any element $M \in \text{smat}(n|n)$, the supertrace is defined by

$$
\text{str} M := \text{tr} M_{BB} - \text{tr} M_{FF}. \quad (C3)
$$
Observe that

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{tr } M_{BB} &= \frac{1}{2} (\text{str } M + \text{str } M^*), \\
\text{tr } M_{BF} &= \frac{1}{2} (\text{str } M - \text{str } M^*);
\end{align*}
\]

that is, demanding that \(\text{tr } M_{BB}\) and \(\text{tr } M_{BF}\) both vanish is equivalent to demanding that \(\text{str } M\) and \(\text{str } M^*\) both vanish. For any element \(M \in \text{smat}(n|n)\) with \(\text{det } M_{FF}^* \neq 0\) or \(\text{det } M_{BB}^* \neq 0\) the superdeterminant is defined by

\[
\text{sdet } M := \frac{\det(M_{BB} - M_{BF}^* M_{BF}^{-1} M_{FF})}{\det M_{BB}^*},
\]

or

\[
\text{sdet } M := \frac{\det(M_{FF} - M_{BF}^* M_{BB}^{-1} M_{FF})}{\det M_{BB}^*},
\]

respectively.

An obvious generalization of \(\text{smat}(n|n)\) is achieved through the complexification

\[
M \rightarrow M + i M', \quad M, M' \in \text{smat}(n|n).
\]

Another one follows from the substitution

\[
\text{smat}(n|n) \rightarrow \text{smat}(m|n),
\]

where the supermatrices from the set \(\text{smat}(m|n)\) are of the form (C1) with the entries of the \(m \times m\) matrix \(M_{BB}\) and the \(n \times n\) matrix \(M_{FF}\) commuting numbers while the entries of the \(m \times m\) matrix \(M_{BF}\) and the \(n \times m\) matrix \(M_{FB}\) are anticommuting numbers.

The following definitions apply to both real and complex supermatrices. The supergroup \(\text{PSL}(n|n)\) is constructed from the supergroup \(\text{GL}(n|n) \subset \text{smat}(n|n)\) as follows. The supergroup \(\text{GL}(n|n)\) consists of all \((n|n)\) supermatrices for which both \(M_{BB}\) and \(M_{BF}\) are nonsingular (i.e., have nonvanishing determinants) and with the matrix multiplication as the group operation. The supergroup \(\text{GL}(n|n)\) is not semisimple. It possesses the matrix subgroup \(\text{SL}(n|n)\) that follows from restricting the superdeterminants in \(\text{GL}(n|n)\) to one. The supergroup \(\text{SL}(n|n)\) is also not semisimple, for it contains the \((n|n)\) unit supermatrix \(1\) that commutes with all \((n|n)\) supermatrices. All elements of \(\text{SL}(n|n)\) are generated through exponentiation of elements of the Lie superalgebra \(\text{sl}(n|n)\), whereby any element of \(\text{sl}(n|n)\) is a \((n|n)\) supermatrix of the form

\[
X := \begin{pmatrix} X_{BB} & X_{BF} \\ X_{FB} & X_{FF} \end{pmatrix},
\]

with \(X_{BB}\) and \(X_{FF}\) \(n \times n\) real-valued matrices while \(X_{BF}\) and \(X_{FB}\) are \(n \times n\) Grassmann-valued matrices with the vanishing supertrace

\[
\text{str } X = 0.
\]

The supergroup \(\text{PSL}(n|n)\) is defined to be the factor group \(\text{SL}(n|n) / \mathbb{R}_+\) (\(\mathbb{R}_+\) the set of positive real numbers) by which any two elements in \(\text{sl}(n|n)\) that differ by a multiple of the unit element \(1\) generate upon exponentiation the very same element of \(\text{PSL}(n|n)\). The supergroup \(\text{PSL}(n|n)\) is semisimple; an element of \(\text{PSL}(n|n)\) cannot be written as a supermatrix.

**APPENDIX D: THE LIE GROUP \(U^*(2)\)**

Let \(n \in \mathbb{N}\). The Lie group \(U^*(2n)\) is the set of matrices in \(\text{GL}(2n, \mathbb{C})\) that commutes with the linear transformation

\[
\psi : \mathbb{C}^{2n} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{2n},
\]

\[
\begin{pmatrix} z_1 & z_2 \\ z_2^* & z_1^* \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} & i \frac{z_{n+1}^*}{z_n^*} \\ i \frac{z_n^*}{z_{n+1}} & -\frac{z_n}{z_{n+1}} \end{pmatrix},
\]

where complex conjugation is denoted by \(^\ast\). It follows that the Lie algebra \(u^*(2n)\) is the set of matrices in \(\text{GL}(2n, \mathbb{C})\) of the form

\[
\begin{pmatrix} Z_1 & Z_2 \\ Z_2^* & Z_1^* \end{pmatrix},
\]

where \(Z_1\) and \(Z_2\) are any complex-valued \(n \times n\) matrices.

We now specialize to the Lie group \(U^*(2)\) with the Lie algebra \(u^*(2)\). Let \(X \in u^*(2)\). There exist the complex numbers \(z_1\) and \(z_2\) such that

\[
X = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 & z_2 \\ -z_2^* & z_1^* \end{pmatrix} = \text{Re} \ z_1 \sigma_0 + i \text{Im} \ z_2 \sigma_1 + i \text{Re} \ z_2 \sigma_2 + i \text{Im} \ z_1 \sigma_3.
\]

Here, we have introduced the unit \(2 \times 2\) matrix \(\sigma_0\) and the three Pauli matrices \((\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3)\). Evidently, \(u^*(2)\) and \(\text{GL}(1, \mathbb{R}) \otimes \text{SU}(2)\) share the same Lie algebra,

\[
u^*(2) \approx \mathbb{R} \oplus \text{su}(2).
\]

Locally, one thus has the isomorphism

\[
u^*(2) \approx \mathbb{R}_+ \oplus \text{SU}(2),
\]

where \(\mathbb{R}_+\) is the set of positive real numbers.

**APPENDIX E: NLσM ON HOMOGENEOUS TARGET SPACES VERSUS NLσM ON SYMMETRIC TARGET SPACES**

In this Appendix we briefly summarize a number of facts about NL\(\sigma\)M on target spaces which are homogeneous spaces \(G/H\). (For more details we refer the reader, for example, to the Appendix of 106, and references therein.)

The essential properties of a NL\(\sigma\)M whose target space is of the form of a coset space \(G/H\), where \(G\) is a Lie group and \(H\) a Lie-subgroup, are as follows.

If \(H\) is a maximal subgroup of \(G\), then the NL\(\sigma\)M has precisely one coupling constant (the target space \(G/H\) is then what is known as a “symmetric space”). If, on the other hand, there exists precisely one intervening subgroup \(H'\), that is,

\[
H \subset H' \subset G,
\]

then the NL\(\sigma\)M with target space \(G/H\) turns out to have precisely two independent coupling constants. If, in the latter case, we were to run the RG into the infrared (i.e., to large length scales), then one of the two coupling constants will disappear. In this case one ends up, asymptotically at long
scales, with a NLσM with one coupling constant, whose target space will be either $G/H$ or $H'/H$ (both are, by assumption, symmetric spaces in the sense of maximal subgroups). The number of coupling constants for a NLσM on a homogeneous space with more intervening subgroups increases accordingly.

The relevance of the symmetric space NLσM for the universal physics appearing at large length scales is thus simply a consequence of the RG. If we begin with a NLσM on a general homogeneous space, the RG will select, asymptotically at long length scales, a target space which is a symmetric space $G/H$, where $H$ is a maximal subgroup of $G$. So, all NLσM on coset spaces become NLσM on symmetric spaces, asymptotically at long length scales. It is for this reason that they are the “stable” large-scale limits, and appear naturally, without fine tuning.

The appearance of a NLσM (on a, in general, possibly homogeneous and not necessarily symmetric space) arises in a physical context from the general principle of symmetry breaking. The group $G$ is the global symmetry group of the problem. The subgroup $H$ (not necessarily maximal) characterizes the symmetries which are preserved when the global symmetry $G$ is broken.

In the situation discussed in this article, the global symmetry group is

$$G = \text{GL}(2m | 2m), \quad m = 1, 2, \ldots$$

(E2)

When a global DOS is generated in the Dirac fermion formulation of the theory, the resulting expectation value breaks the symmetry $G$ but preserves the symmetry $H \subset G$. It follows from Ref. 55 that on the “dotted line” in our global phase diagram in Fig. 4 this subgroup is $H' = \text{OSp}(2m | 2m)$. The manifold $G'/H' = \text{GL}(2m | 2m)/\text{OSp}(2m | 2m)$ is the symmetric space corresponding to symmetry class CII. On the boundary of the CII region the symmetry class is AII, corresponding to a target manifold $H'/H = \text{OSp}(2m | 2m)/[\text{OSp}(m | m) \times \text{OSp}(m | m)]$. Thus, the entire lower half of our global phase diagram in Fig. 4 can be described by the NLσM on the homogeneous space

$$G/H = \text{GL}(2m | 2m)/[\text{OSp}(m | m) \times \text{OSp}(m | m)],$$

(E3)

which has two coupling constants (besides the coupling of the Gade term). This is analogous to the discussion in Ref. 106.

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Here, we are using the conventions from Ref. 56 for the normalization of the variances and for the normalization of the integration variables in the path integral (2.28). Be aware that the beta function is denoted by $\beta g_{\sigma}$ in Eq. (5.2) from Ref. 56, contains a typographical error: The beta function in Ref. 51 must be doubled to account for the product of a pair of retarded and advanced Green’s functions.

The analysis made in Ref. 51 applies to the case (2.50) or (2.52) although the corresponding Hamiltonian in this paper is in twice as large a representation of the Dirac equation than in Ref. 51. Indeed, the chS at the band center here implies that there is no need to distinguish retarded from advanced Green’s functions and thus to add another two-dimensional subspace for that purpose. There is no chS in Ref. 51 so that the representation of the Dirac Hamiltonian in Ref. 51 must be doubled to account for the product of a pair of retarded and advanced Green’s functions.

Such a type of RG flow from a free Dirac state to a metallic state had been conjectured by M. Bocquet, D. Serban, and M. R. Zirnbauer in Ref. 27. However, in that work the symmetry class in which this flow takes place was misidentified as class D, as opposed to the correct class AH. Moreover, the presence of a $Z_{2}$ topological term on the sigma model side of the flow was overlooked. The latter is absolutely crucial, and was correctly identified in the recent works (Refs. 50 and 51).

For our conventions of graded objects, see Ref. 77 and references therein.

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The RG flows may be derived from the three coupled perturbative RG flows computed by D. Bernard, in Low Dimensional Applications of Quantum Field Theory, edited by L. Baulieu et al., Vol. 362 of NATO Advanced Study Series B: Physics (Plenum, New York, 1997), for the random Hamiltonian

$$H = \sigma \cdot (p + A) + V \sigma_{0} + M \sigma_{1},$$

with the static random vector potential $A \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$ (variance $g_{A}$), the static scalar potential $V \in \mathbb{R}$ (variance $g_{V}$), and the static random mass $M \in \mathbb{R}$ (variance $g_{M}$). With our normalization conventions, the RG flows are

$$\beta_{g_{A}} = \frac{g_{V}g_{M}}{\pi} + \cdots,$n

$$\beta_{g_{V}} - \beta_{g_{M}} = \frac{(g_{V} + g_{M})^{2}}{4\pi} + \cdots,$n

$$\beta_{g_{V}} + \beta_{g_{M}} = \frac{(g_{V} - g_{M})^{2}}{4\pi} + \cdots.$n

The stability of the vertical dotted line in region BDI of Fig. 4 follows from the analytical continuation $g_{A} \rightarrow -g_{A}$, $g_{V} \rightarrow -g_{V}$, and $g_{M} \rightarrow +g_{M}$ of these flows, as pointed out in Ref. 54.

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$$\beta_{g_{A}} = \frac{g_{V}g_{M}}{\pi} + \cdots,$n

$$\beta_{g_{V}} - \beta_{g_{M}} = \frac{(g_{V} + g_{M})^{2}}{4\pi} + \cdots,$n

$$\beta_{g_{V}} + \beta_{g_{M}} = \frac{(g_{V} - g_{M})^{2}}{4\pi} + \cdots.$$
Similarly, the stability of the vertical dotted line in region CII of Fig. 4 follows from the analytical continuation $g_A \to -g_A$, $g_v \to +g_{\text{im}v}$, and $g_M \to -g_{\text{re}m}$ of these flows.

\footnote{Observe that $g_v > 0$ does not flow along the BDI boundaries $g_v^2 = g_0^2$ or the CII boundaries $g_v^2 = g_{\text{im}v}^2$. The projected slope in region BDI is

$$\frac{\beta g_{\text{im}v}}{\beta g_{\text{re}m}} = - \frac{2g_{\text{im}v} + g_v}{2g_{\text{re}m} + g_v}$$

in Fig. 4(b). The projected slope in region CII is

$$\frac{\beta g_{\text{im}v}}{\beta g_{\text{re}m}} = - \frac{2g_{\text{im}v} - g_v}{2g_{\text{re}m} - g_v}$$

in Fig. 4(b). Given these finite slopes of the flows out of the boundaries of regions BDI and CII, the reader might conclude that it is possible to flow from the region AIII to the regions BDI or CII. This is not so, however, as any pair of couplings $g_{\text{re}m} > 0$ and $g_{\text{im}v} > 0$ or $g_{\text{re}m} < 0$ and $g_{\text{im}v} < 0$ in region AIII always generates a flow to strong coupling of the variance $g_v$ associated to the vector gauge potentials that break TRS [see Eq. (4.84) from Ref. 55]. These flows thus escape the regions BDI and CII for which $g_v = 0$.

\footnote{See Eq. (4.20) from Ref. 55 or Eq. (5.7) from Ref. 56.}

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\footnote{Such a symmetry-breaking potential can be chosen to be

$$V(G) := - \lambda [\text{str}(G^2) + (\text{str}(G^2)^*)^2],$$

where $\lambda > 0$ and $G$ is the fundamental (super) matrix field of the PSL(2|2)\text{\textunderscore}WZNW model (and PCM), which is a 4 $\times$ 4 (super) matrix, arranged in four blocks of 2 $\times$ 2 matrices as

$$G := \begin{pmatrix} G_{BB} & G_{BF} \\ G_{FB} & G_{FF} \end{pmatrix}.$$}

\footnote{Here, matrix elements are all bosonic for $G_{BB}$ and $G_{FF}$ and all fermionic for $G_{BF}$ and $G_{FB}$. This potential breaks the PSL(2|2)\text{\textunderscore}WZNW model down to the diagonal PSL(2|2) symmetry group. Moreover, for any value of the coupling constant of the PCM, this potential is a relevant perturbation. In particular, at weak coupling it is strongly relevant since the scaling dimension of the fundamental matrix field $G$ is close to zero. Consider the weakly coupled PSL(2|2)-PCM, where the coupling constant $\lambda$ of the potential grows large very rapidly. For very large values of $\lambda$ only the configurations of the matrix field $G$ that minimize the potential

$$\text{str}(G^2) + (\text{str}(G^2)^*)^2 = \text{tr}(G_{BB})^2 - \text{tr}(G_{FF})^2 + \text{tr}(G_{BF}G_{FB}) - \text{tr}(G_{FB}G_{BB})$$

will contribute to the functional integral. The matrix elements of $G_{BF}$ and $G_{FB}$ are fermionic, and vanish at the minimum of the potential. In terms of the eigenvalues $e^{\text{str}i\phi}$ of $G_{BB}$ and the eigenvalues $e^{\text{str}i\phi}$ of $G_{FF}$, the potential in the absence of fermionic coordinates reads

$$V(G) \propto 2[\cos(2\phi) - \cos(2\phi)].$$

Then the minimum occurs at $\phi' = 0$, and $\phi = \pi$. The matrix field

$$G_0 = \text{diag}(0, 0, 1, 1)$$

that minimizes the potential is thus invariant under conjugation by the $Sp(2) \times SU(2)$ subgroup of the bosonic part $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ of the PSL(2|2) symmetry. Therefore, the addition of the relevant potential perturbation to the action reduces the target space PSL(2|2) of the principle chiral model to the target space PSL(2|2)/$Sp(2) \times SU(2)$ of the NL$\sigma$M in symmetry class CII. At the same time, the WZ term reduces to a $0^\theta$ term at $\theta = \pi$ in the NL$\sigma$M.}

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