

On the interacting Majorana chain

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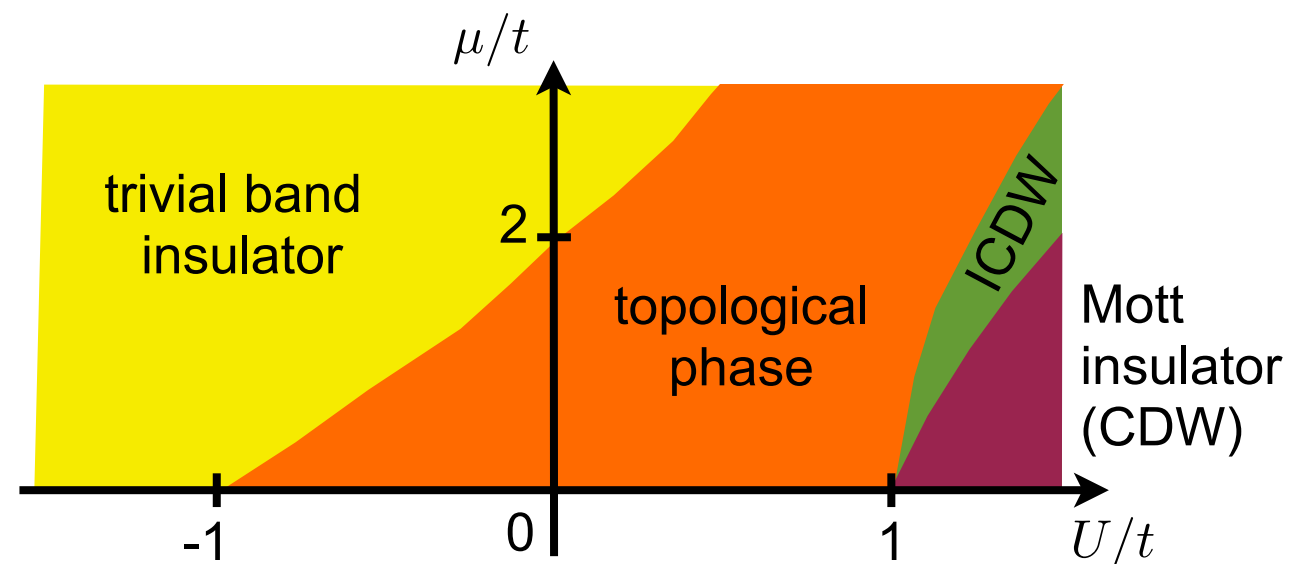


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EMMEΦ



Kitaev chain

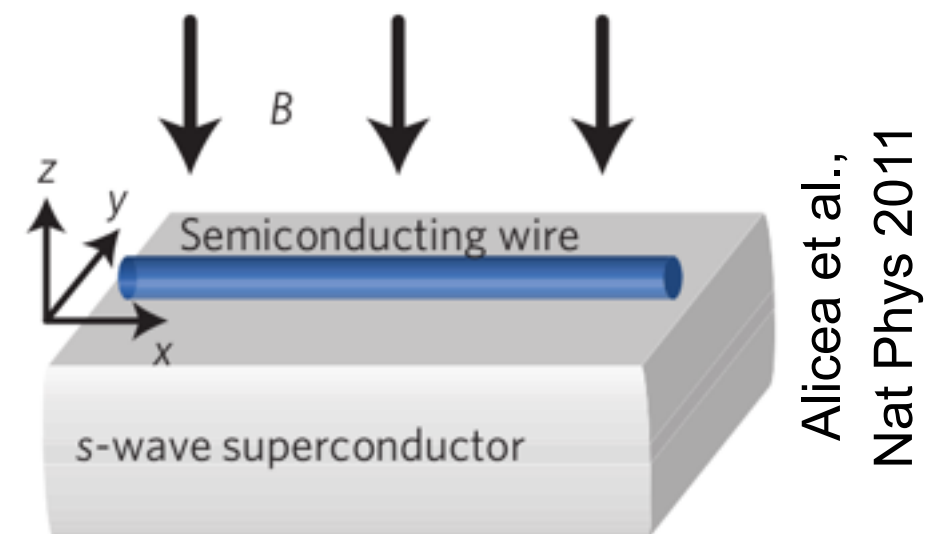
consider a chain of spinless fermions
(Kitaev, Phys Usp 2001)

site $i-1$ i $i+1$ $i+2$ $i+3$...

hopping pairing chemical potential

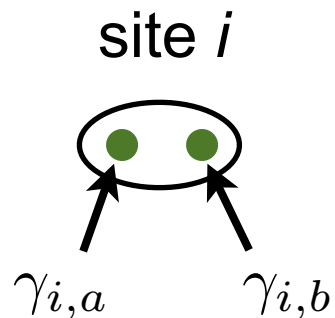
$$H = -t \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i) + \Delta \sum_i (c_i c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i^\dagger) - \mu \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_i - \frac{1}{2})$$

proposal: semiconductor nanowires with
spin-orbit interaction in a magnetic
field and proximity to superconductor
(Lutchyn et al., PRL 2010; Oreg et al., PRL 2010)



Kitaev chain

introduce two Majorana fermions per site



$$c_i = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{i,a} + i\gamma_{i,b}), \quad c_i^\dagger = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{i,a} - i\gamma_{i,b})$$

$$\gamma_{i,a}^\dagger = \gamma_{i,a}, \quad \gamma_{i,b}^\dagger = \gamma_{i,b}$$

$$\{\gamma_{i,a}, \gamma_{j,a}\} = \{\gamma_{i,b}, \gamma_{j,b}\} = 2\delta_{ij}$$

$$\{\gamma_{i,a}, \gamma_{j,b}\} = 0, \quad \gamma_{i,a}^2 = \gamma_{i,b}^2 = 1$$

long-range hopping

hopping

chemical potential

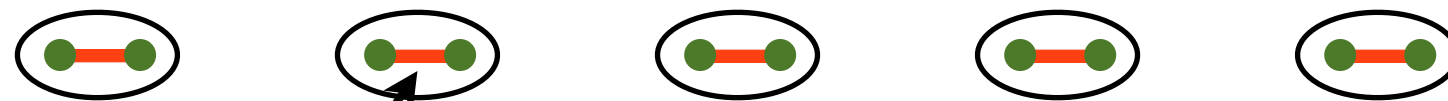
$$H = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_i (t - \Delta) \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i+1,b} + \frac{i}{2} \sum_i (t + \Delta) \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b}$$

long range \rightarrow assume $t=\Delta$ in the following

Phases in the Kitaev chain

- trivial phase, e.g. $t=\Delta=0$

$$H = -\mu \sum_i \left(c_i^\dagger c_i - \frac{1}{2} \right) = -\frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b}$$



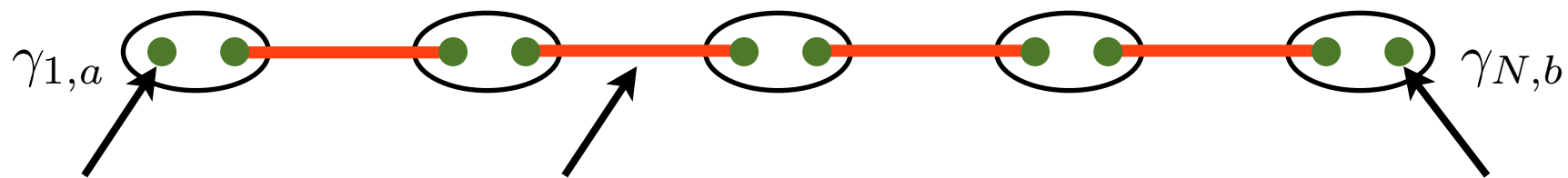
on-site pairing

→ filled or empty fermionic sites

→ band insulator

- topological phase, e.g. $t=\Delta, \mu=0$

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a}$$



unpaired Majorana

pairing between sites

unpaired Majorana

two-fold degenerate ground state

$$|\pm\rangle \text{ with } (-1)^F |\pm\rangle = \prod_i i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} = \pm |\pm\rangle$$

new, non-local fermionic mode

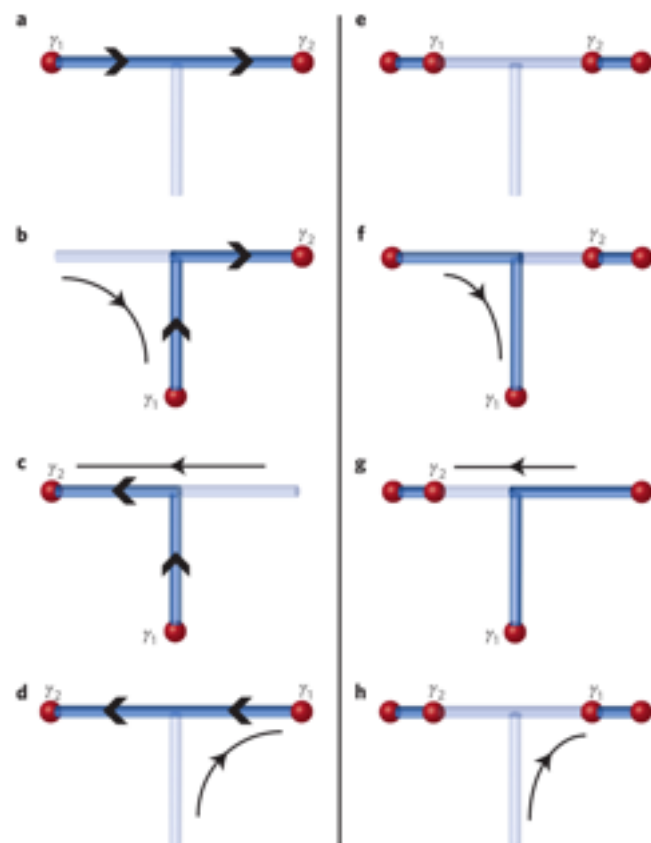
$$d = \frac{1}{2} (\gamma_{1,a} + i \gamma_{N,b})$$

Majorana fermions

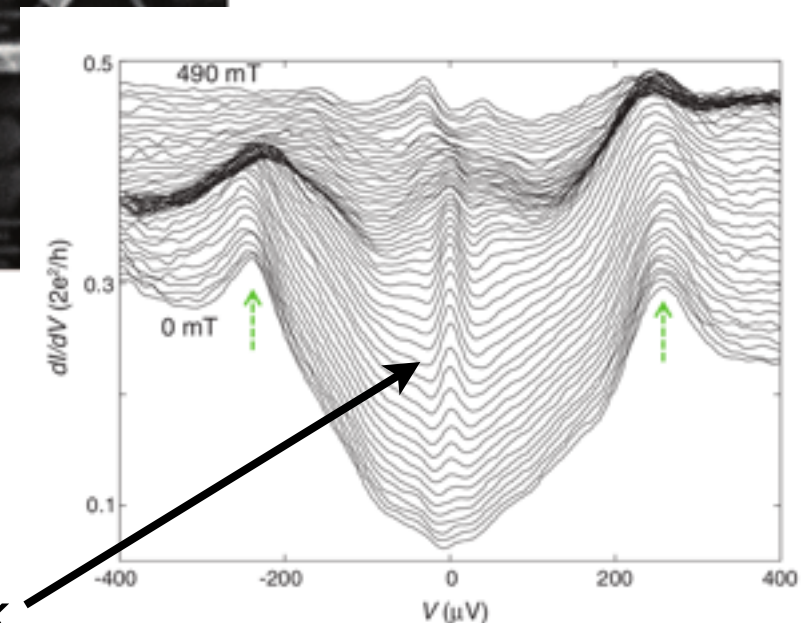
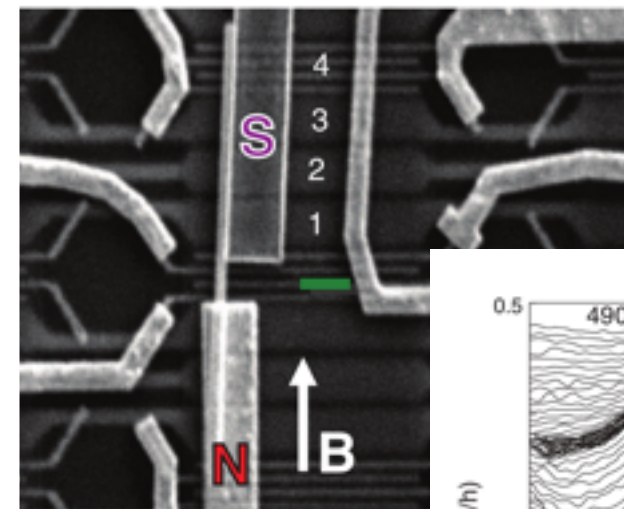
- non-local fermion mode can serve as topologically protected q-bit

$$|0\rangle, |1\rangle = d^\dagger |0\rangle$$

- Majorana fermions exhibit non-Abelian braiding statistics (Alicea et al., Nat Phys 2011)



- can be seen in experiments? (Mourik et al., Science 2012)



zero-bias peak

→ Majorana fermion?

we will not discuss these topics, but ...

Question

What is effect of interaction on topological phase and phase diagram?

$$H_U = U \sum_i (2c_i^\dagger c_i - 1)(2c_{i+1}^\dagger c_{i+1} - 1)$$

Outline

What is effect of interaction on topological phase and phase diagram?

$$H_U = U \sum_i (2c_i^\dagger c_i - 1)(2c_{i+1}^\dagger c_{i+1} - 1)$$

- rewrite interaction term in Majorana fermions
- possible realisation in Josephson junction arrays
- mapping to effective spin model
- discuss phase diagram

➡ repulsive interactions stabilise topological phase

- signatures in tunneling conductance

Interacting Majorana chain

chain of interacting spinless fermions with $t=\Delta$

$$H = -t \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i - c_i c_{i+1} - c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i^\dagger) - \mu \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_i - \frac{1}{2}) + U \sum_i (2c_i^\dagger c_i - 1)(2c_{i+1}^\dagger c_{i+1} - 1)$$

mapping to Majorana fermions as before

$$c_i = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{i,a} + i\gamma_{i,b}), \quad c_i^\dagger = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{i,a} - i\gamma_{i,b})$$

interacting Majorana chain with $t=\Delta$

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$$

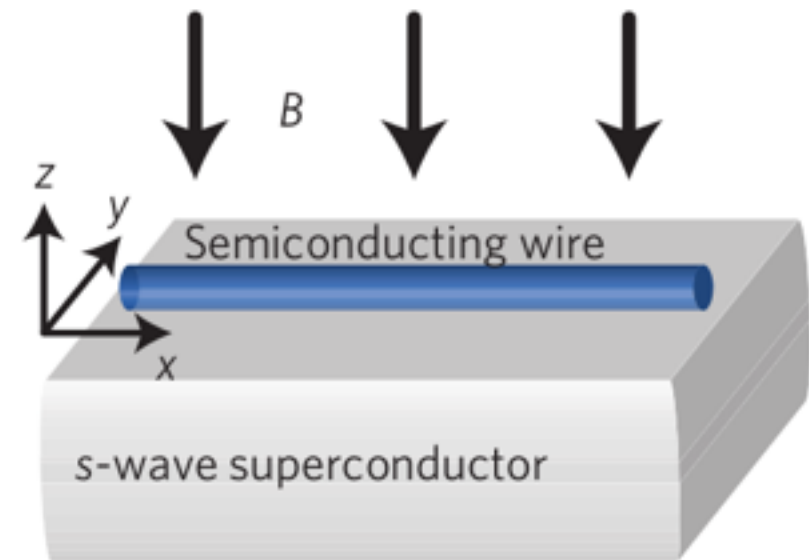
interaction

Possible realisation?

Interacting nanowires

semiconductor nanowire with spin-orbit interaction in a magnetic field and proximity to superconductor (Lutchyn et al., PRL 2010; Oreg et al., PRL 2010)

→ in principle there is a short-range interaction between the electrons



Alicea et al., Nat Phys 2011

$$H_{\text{NW}} = - \int dx \Psi^\dagger \left(\frac{\partial_x^2}{2m} + \mu + \underset{\substack{\nearrow \\ \text{spin orbit}}}{i\alpha\sigma^y\partial_x} + \underset{\substack{\nearrow \\ \text{Zeeman}}}{B\sigma^z} \right) \Psi + \int dx \left(\underset{\substack{\nearrow \\ \Psi = (\Psi_\uparrow, \Psi_\downarrow)}}{\Delta\Psi_\uparrow\Psi_\downarrow + \text{h.c.}} + \underset{\substack{\nearrow \\ \text{pairing}}}{U_0|\Psi_\uparrow(x)|^2|\Psi_\downarrow(x)|^2} \right)$$

spin orbit
Zeeman
 $\Psi = (\Psi_\uparrow, \Psi_\downarrow)$
pairing
interaction

but mapping to single-band model reduces interaction

$$\Psi_\downarrow = \frac{\alpha}{2B} (\vec{e}_y + i\vec{e}_x) \partial_x \Psi_\uparrow$$

$$\frac{U}{t} = \frac{mU_0\alpha^2}{LB^2} \ll 1$$

nanowires are in
weak-coupling regime

(cf. Stoudenmire et al., PRB 2011)

Josephson junction array

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$$

chain of superconducting islands with nanowires

→ each island has two **Majorana modes**

induced charge on island

$$q = C_g V_g$$

$$E_J \gg E_M, E_C$$

→ superconducting phases pinned

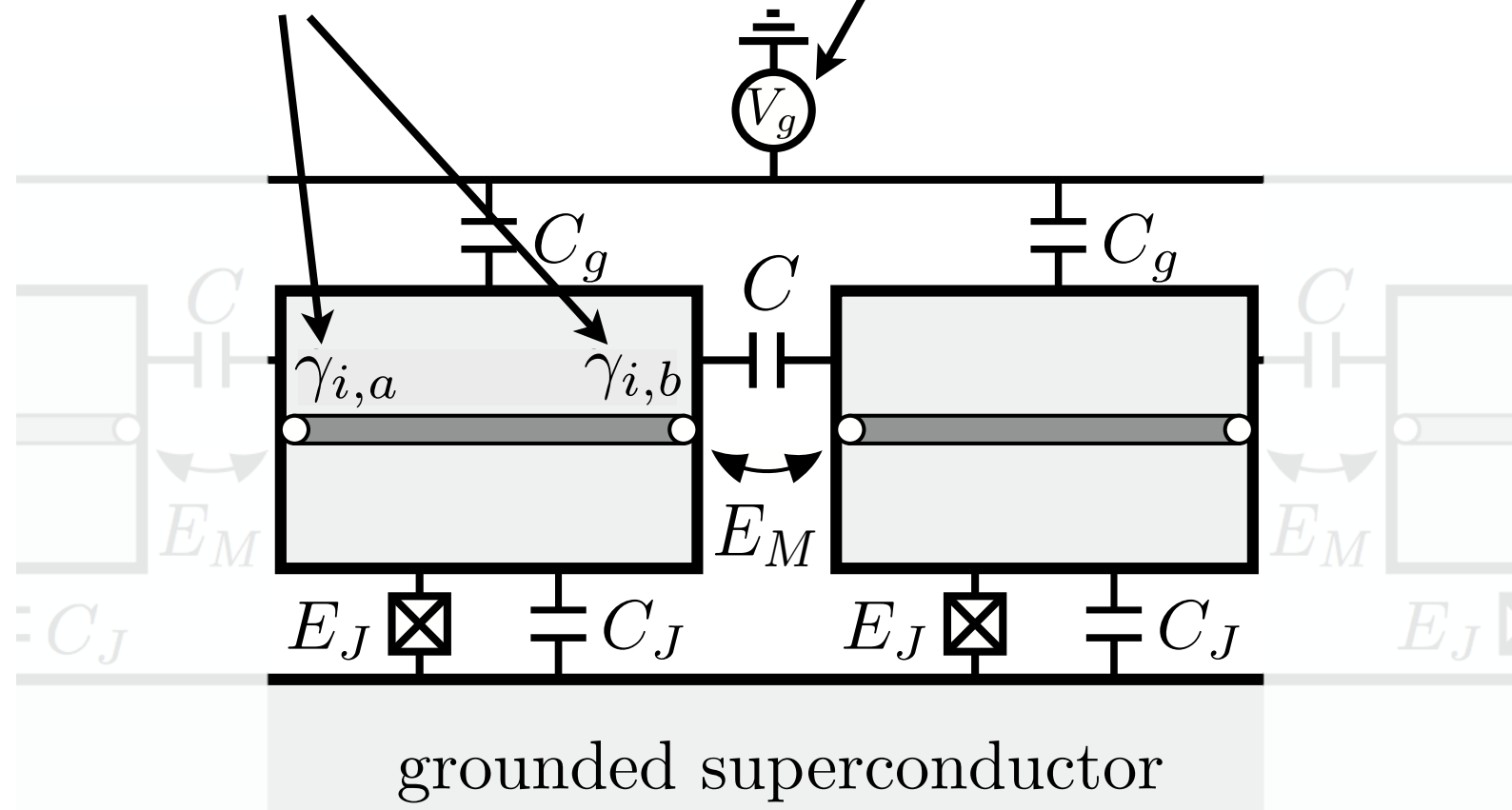
relation of parameters

$$t = E_M$$

$$\mu = 2\Gamma_\mu \cos(\pi q/e)$$

$$U = \Gamma_U \cos(2\pi q/e)$$

non-trivial functions of
 E_J, C_J, C_g, C



for $C=0$ ($U=0$): van Heck et al., PRB 2011; NJP 2012

Mapping to spin chain

interacting Majorana chain $H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$

Jordan-Wigner transformation

$$\sigma_i^z = 2c_i^\dagger c_i - 1 = i\gamma_{i,a}\gamma_{i,b} \quad \text{local transformation}$$

$$\sigma_i^x = \prod_{j<i} (1 - 2c_j^\dagger c_j) (c_i^\dagger + c_i) \quad \text{non-local transformation}$$

$$\longrightarrow i\gamma_{i,b}\gamma_{i+1,a} = \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x$$

effective spin model $H = t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$

invariant under $t \rightarrow -t$ and $\mu \rightarrow -\mu$ via $\sigma_i^{x,y} \rightarrow (-1)^i \sigma_i^{x,y}, \sigma_i^{x,z} \rightarrow -\sigma_i^{x,z}$

\longrightarrow consider $t \rightarrow -t$ with $t, \mu > 0$ in the following

Question: What is phase diagram?

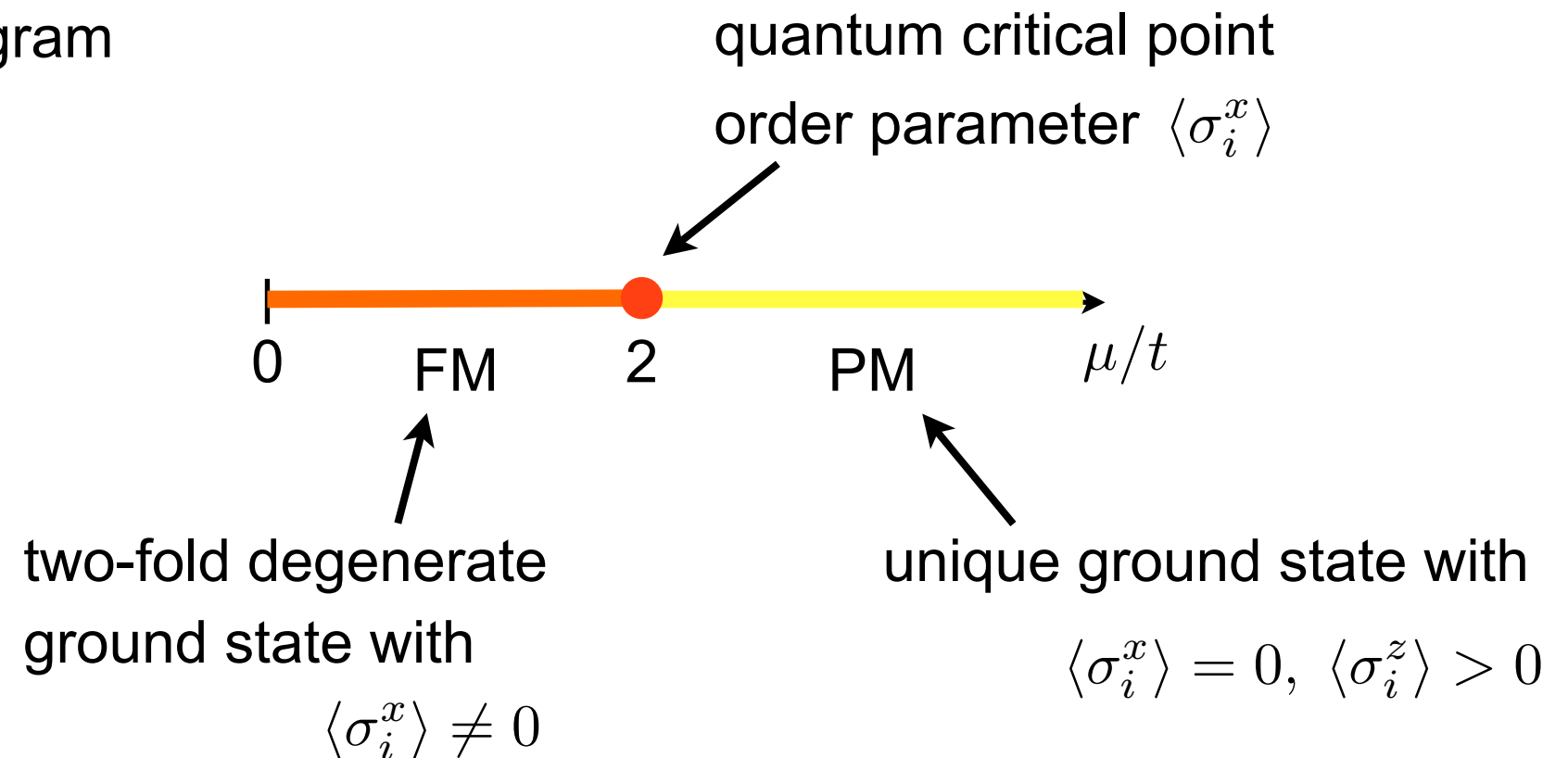
Non-interacting Majorana chain

Kitaev chain
(Kitaev, Phys Usp 2001)

non-interacting Majorana chain $H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b}$

transverse field Ising chain $H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z$

phase diagram



(and zero-energy boundary modes)

Non-interacting Majorana chain

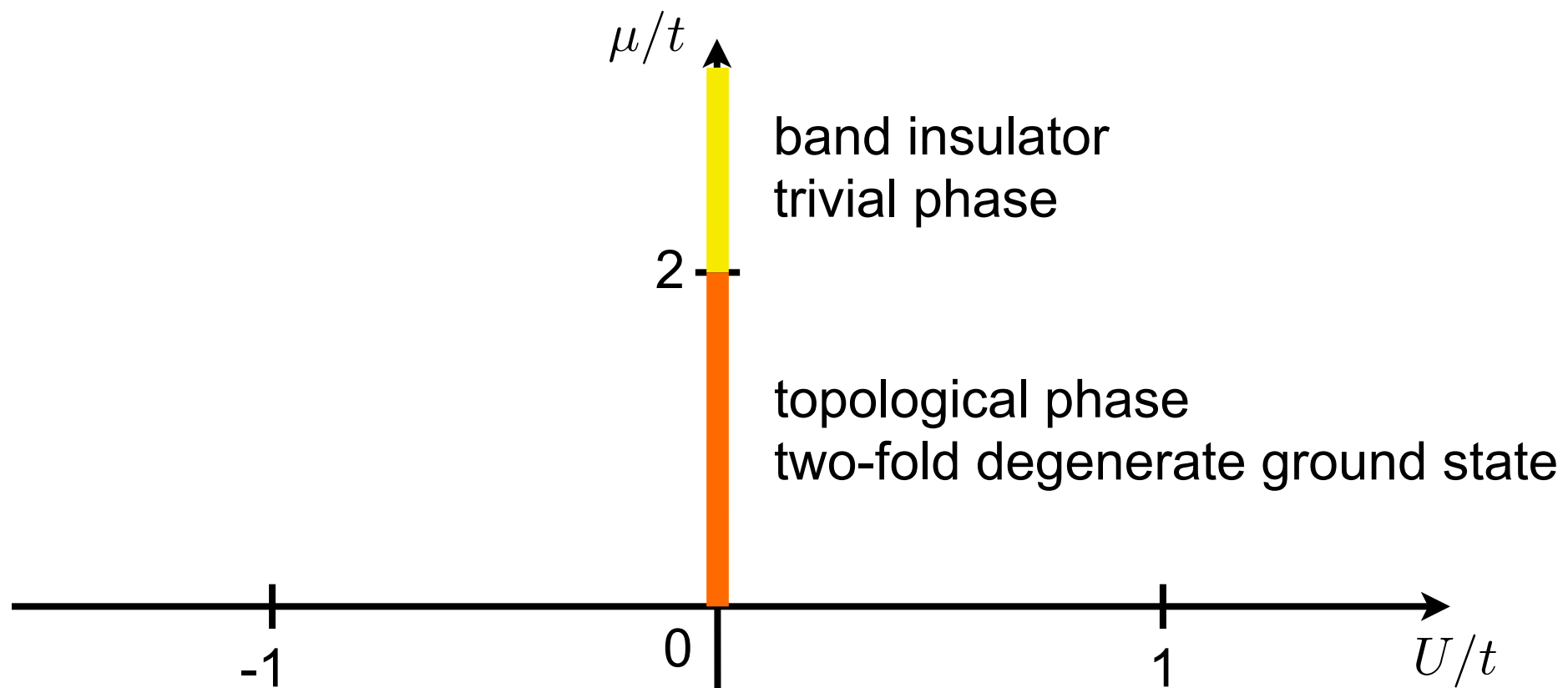
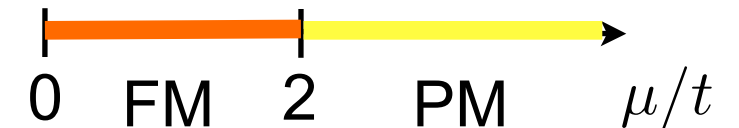
Kitaev chain
(Kitaev, Phys Usp 2001)

non-interacting Majorana chain

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b}$$

transverse field Ising chain

$$H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z$$



Interacting Majorana chain ($\mu=0$)

interacting Majorana chain

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$$

effective spin model

$$H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$$

duality transformation

$$\tau_i^z = \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x, \quad \tau_i^x = \prod_{j < i} \sigma_j^z$$

non-local transformation

→

$$H = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$$

two decoupled Ising chains

→ phase transitions at $U/t = \pm 1$

Interacting Majorana chain ($\mu=0$)

reminder
 $\sigma_i^z = 2c_i^\dagger c_i - 1$

interacting Majorana chain

$$H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$$

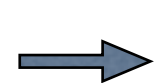
effective spin model

$$H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$$

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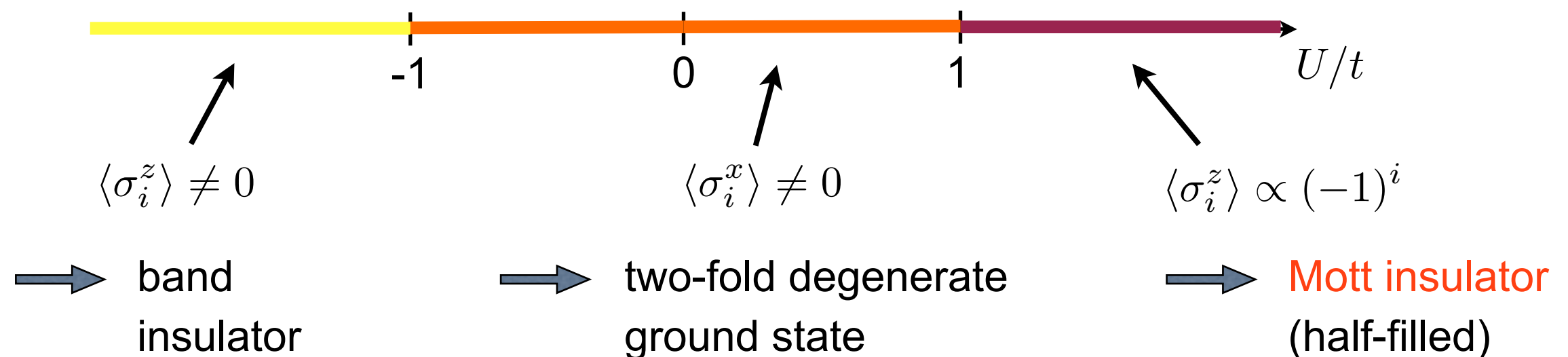
non-local transformation



$$H = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$$

two decoupled Ising chains

phase diagram

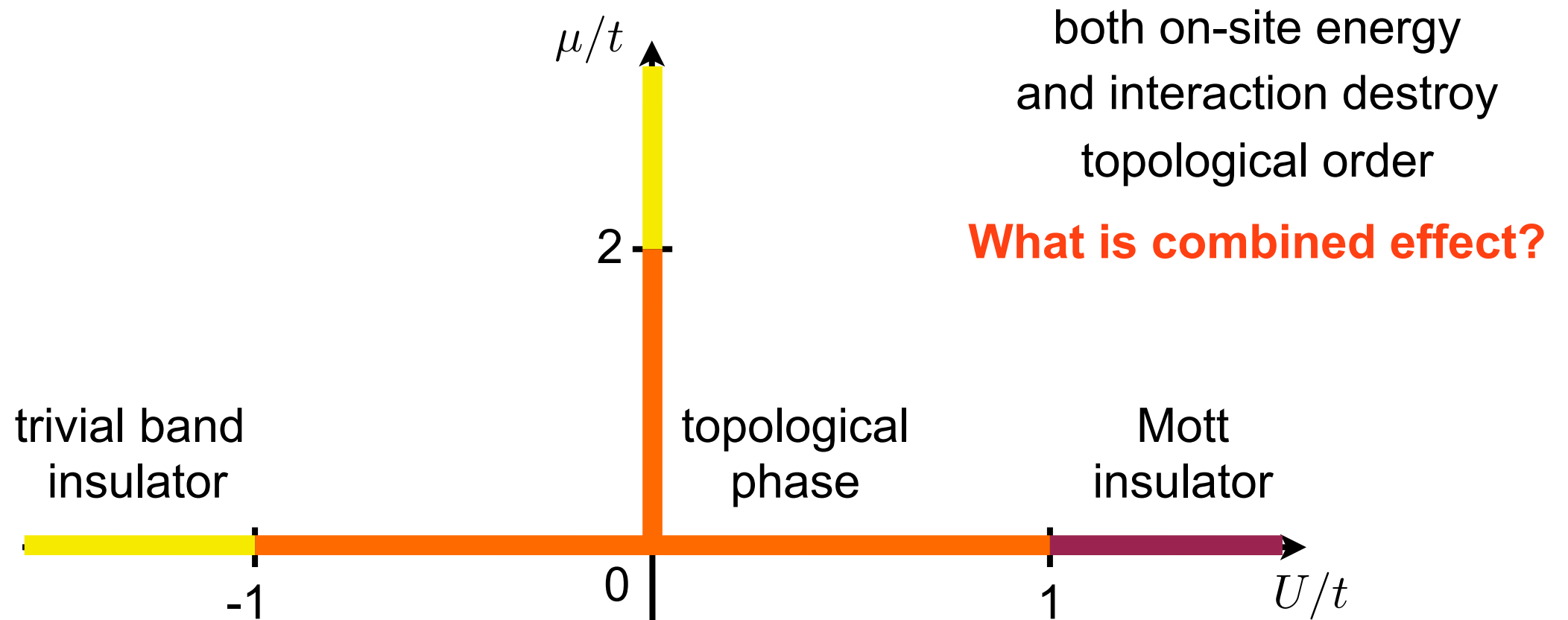


Interacting Majorana chain

interacting Majorana chain $H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$

effective spin model $H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$

duality transformation $H = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$



ANNNI model

axial next-nearest-neighbour Ising chain

$$H_{\text{ANNNI}} = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$$

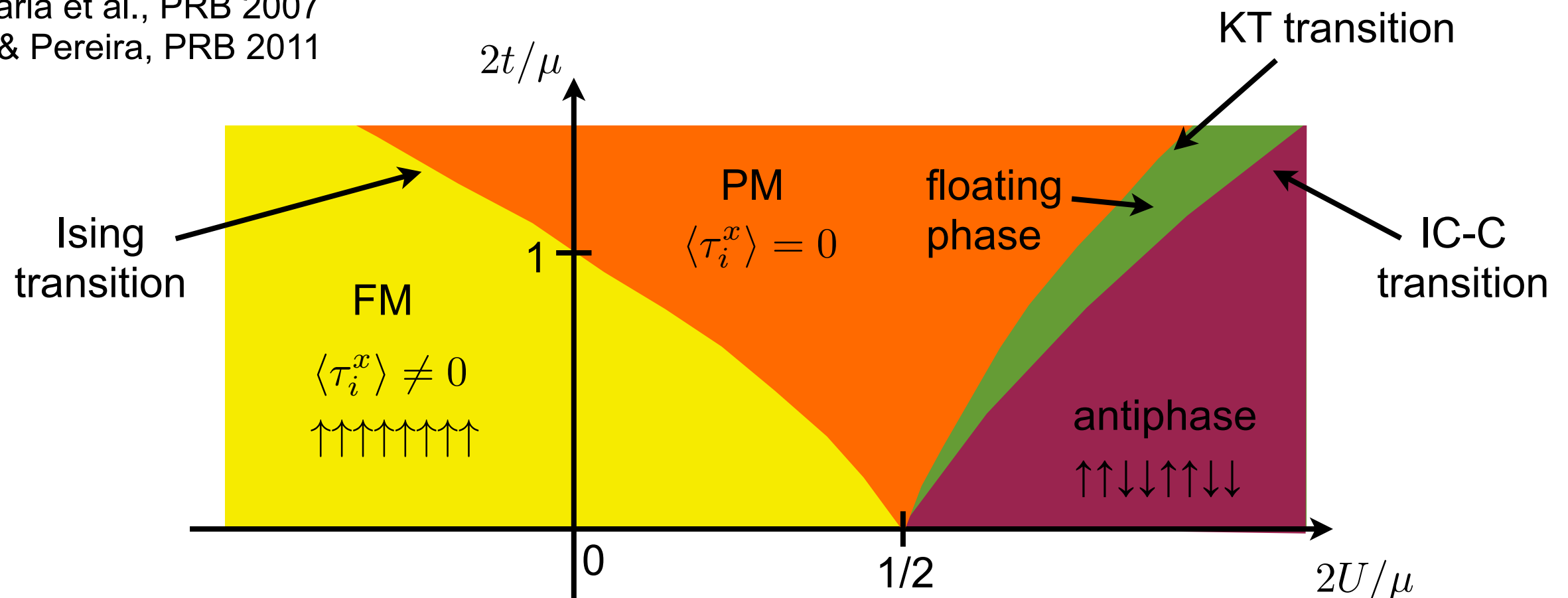
$$= -\frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \left(\tau_i^x \tau_{i+1}^x - \frac{2U}{\mu} \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x + \frac{2t}{\mu} \tau_i^z \right)$$

many studies in statistical mechanics (Selke, Phys Rep 1988)

phase diagram ANNNI model

Beccaria et al., PRB 2007

Sela & Pereira, PRB 2011

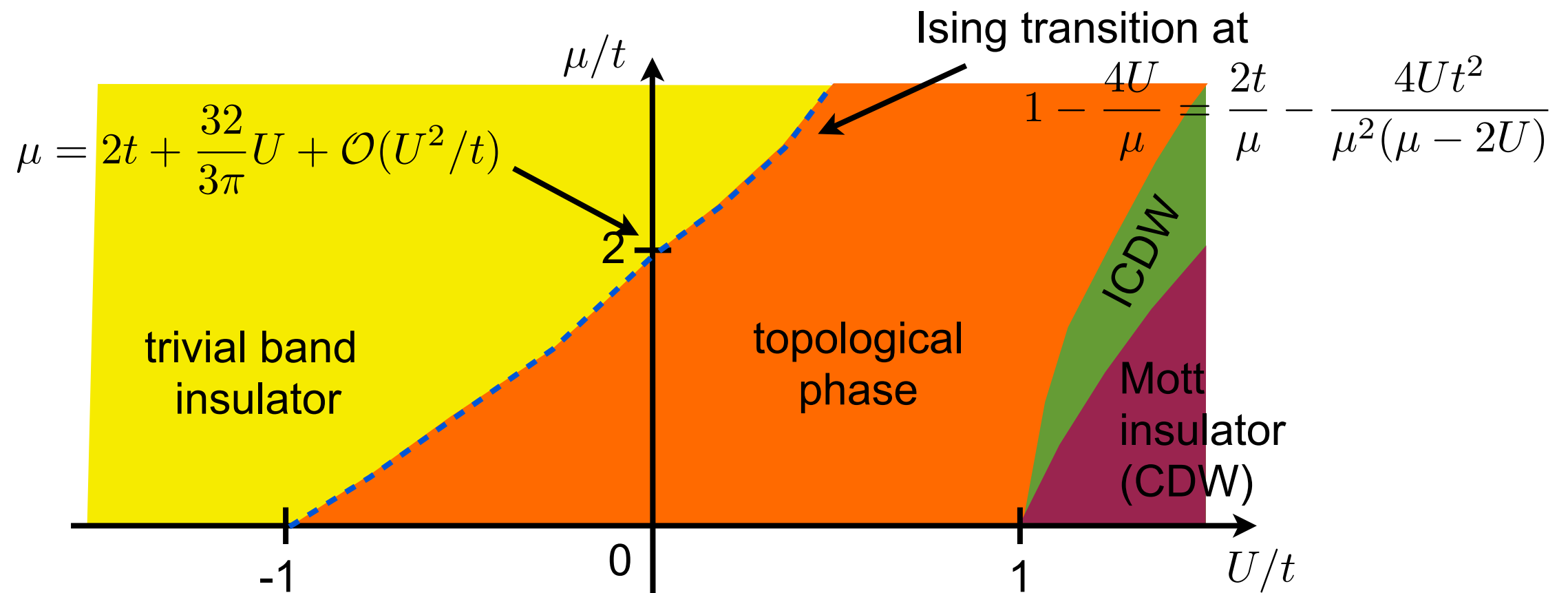


Phase diagram

interacting Majorana chain $H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$

effective spin model $H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$

duality transformation $H = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$

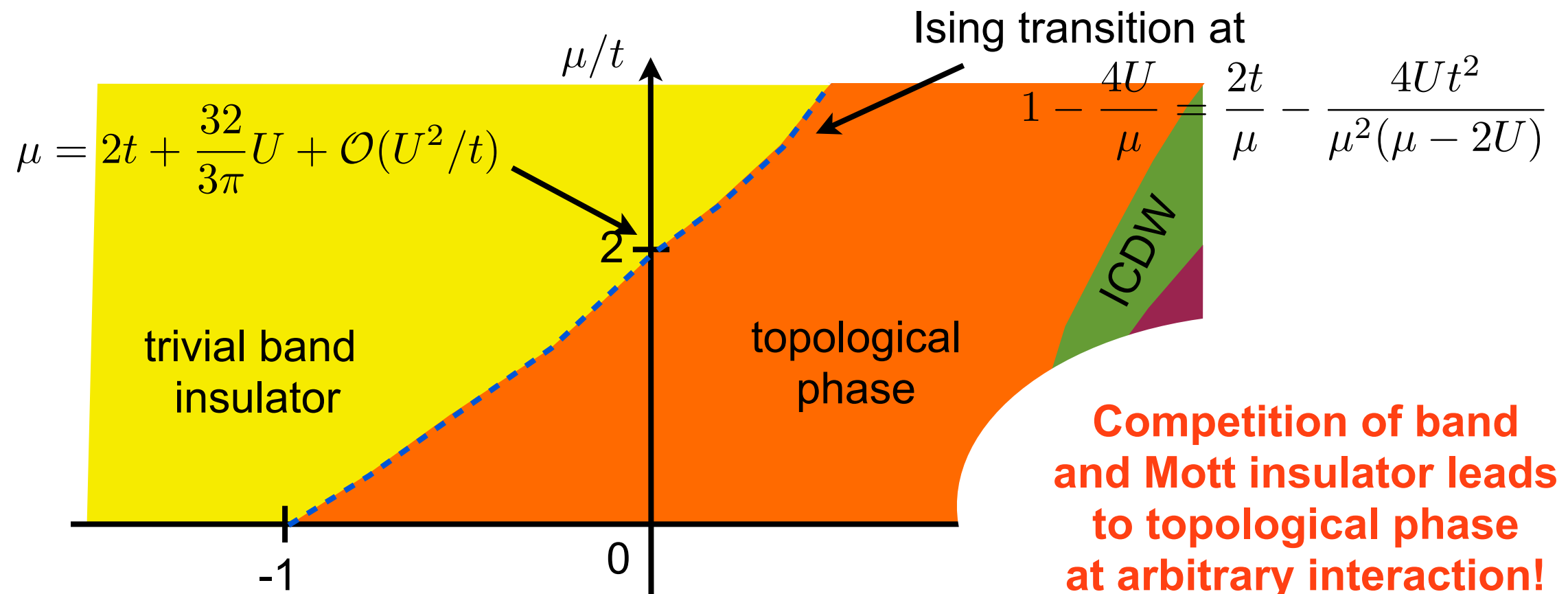


Phase diagram

interacting Majorana chain $H = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} \mu \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - U \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b}$

effective spin model $H = -t \sum_i \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z + U \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z$

duality transformation $H = -t \sum_i \tau_i^z - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+1}^x + U \sum_i \tau_i^x \tau_{i+2}^x$



Exactly solvable line

along $\mu = 4\sqrt{U(t+U)}$ two-fold degenerate ground state

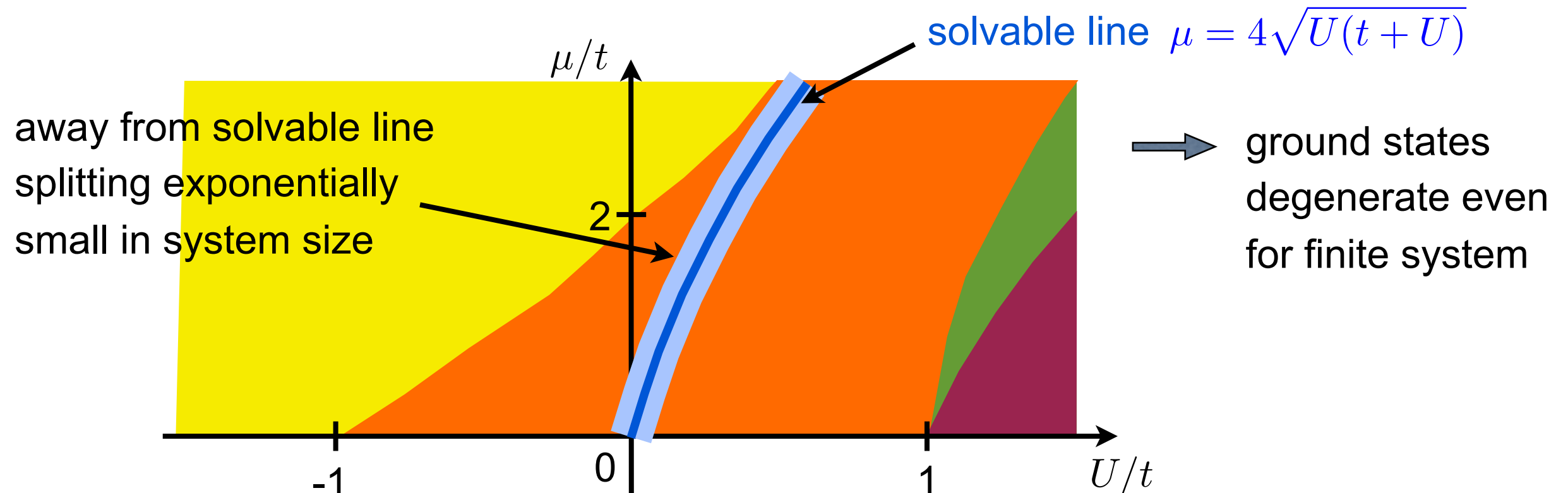
$$|\Psi_{\pm}\rangle = \prod_i \left(\cos \frac{\theta}{2} |+\rangle_i \pm \sin \frac{\theta}{2} |-\rangle_i \right), \quad \cos \theta = \frac{\mu}{4(t+U)}$$

fermion parity eigenstates

$$|\Phi_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{|\Psi_{+}\rangle \pm |\Psi_{-}\rangle}{\sqrt{2(1 \pm \cos^N \theta)}}, \quad (-1)^F |\Phi_{\pm}\rangle = \prod_i \sigma_i^z |\Phi_{\pm}\rangle = \pm |\Phi_{\pm}\rangle$$

ground states locally (in fermions) indistinguishable, e.g.

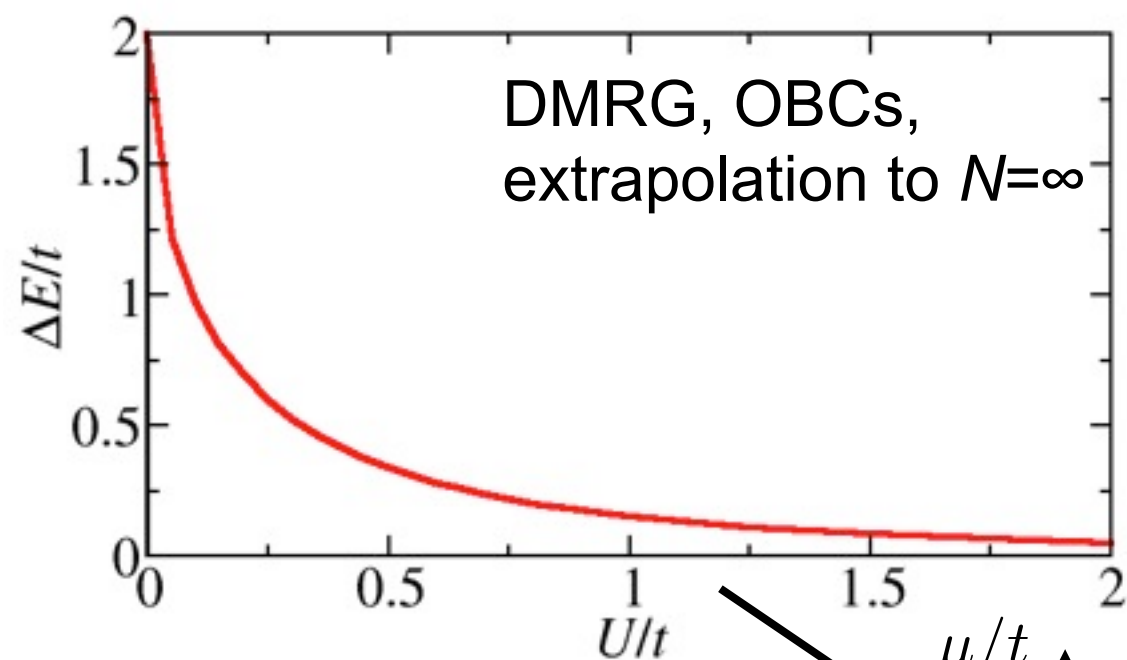
$$\langle \Phi_{+} | c_i^{\dagger} c_i | \Phi_{+} \rangle = \langle \Phi_{-} | c_i^{\dagger} c_i | \Phi_{-} \rangle, \quad \langle \Phi_{+} | c_i c_{i+1}^{\dagger} | \Phi_{+} \rangle = \langle \Phi_{-} | c_i c_{i+1}^{\dagger} | \Phi_{-} \rangle$$



Exactly solvable line

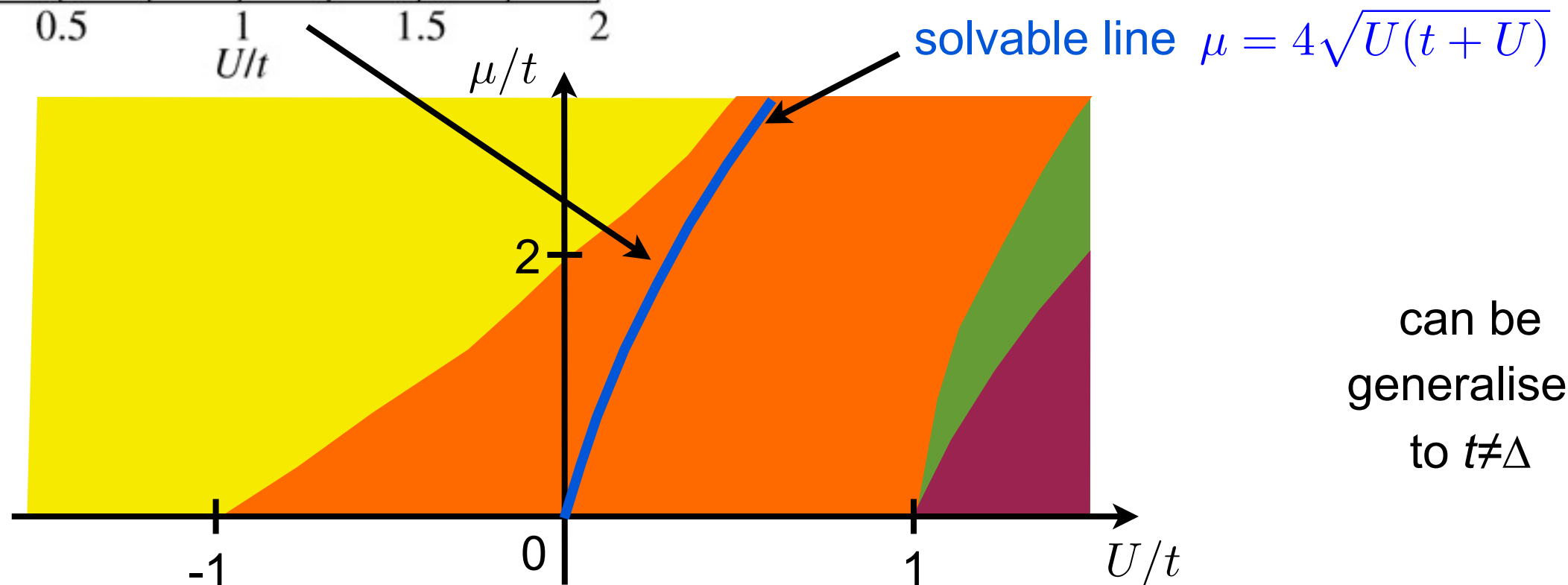
on solvable line: gap ΔE above $|\Phi_{\pm}\rangle$

e.g. use Knabe's method
(Knabe, J Stat Phys 1988)



→ $|\Phi_{\pm}\rangle$ adiabatically connected to
ground states of non-interacting
system in topological phase

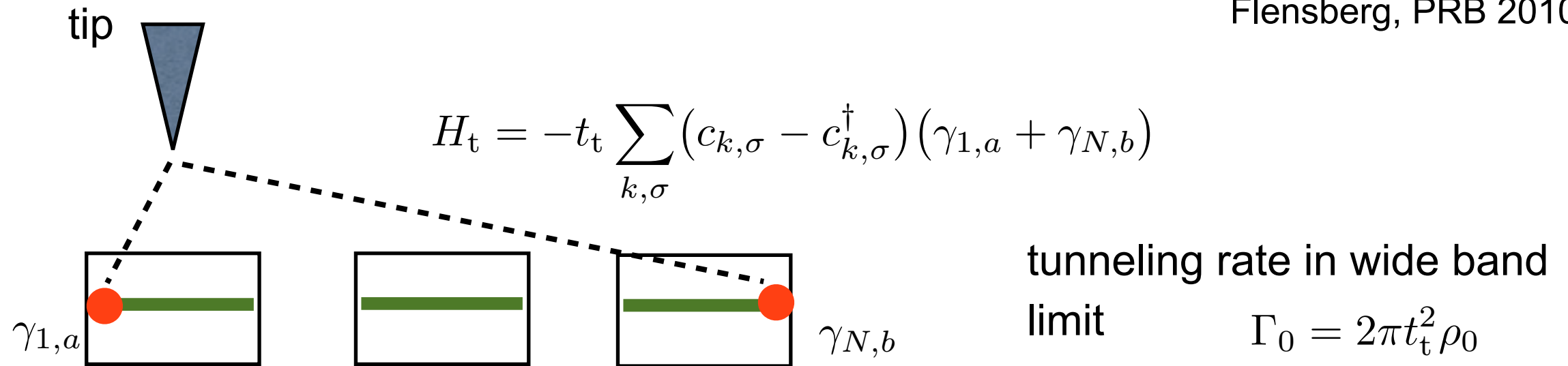
→ topological order



can be
generalised
to $t \neq \Delta$

Tunneling conductance

Law et al., PRL 2009
Flensberg, PRB 2010



consider effective two-level system

$$H_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{i}{2} \Delta E \gamma_{1,a} \gamma_{N,b}$$

energy splitting

tunneling rates into Majorana modes

$$\Gamma_{ij} = \Gamma_0 \psi_i(x=1) \psi_j(x=1)$$

Majorana wave functions

tunneling current

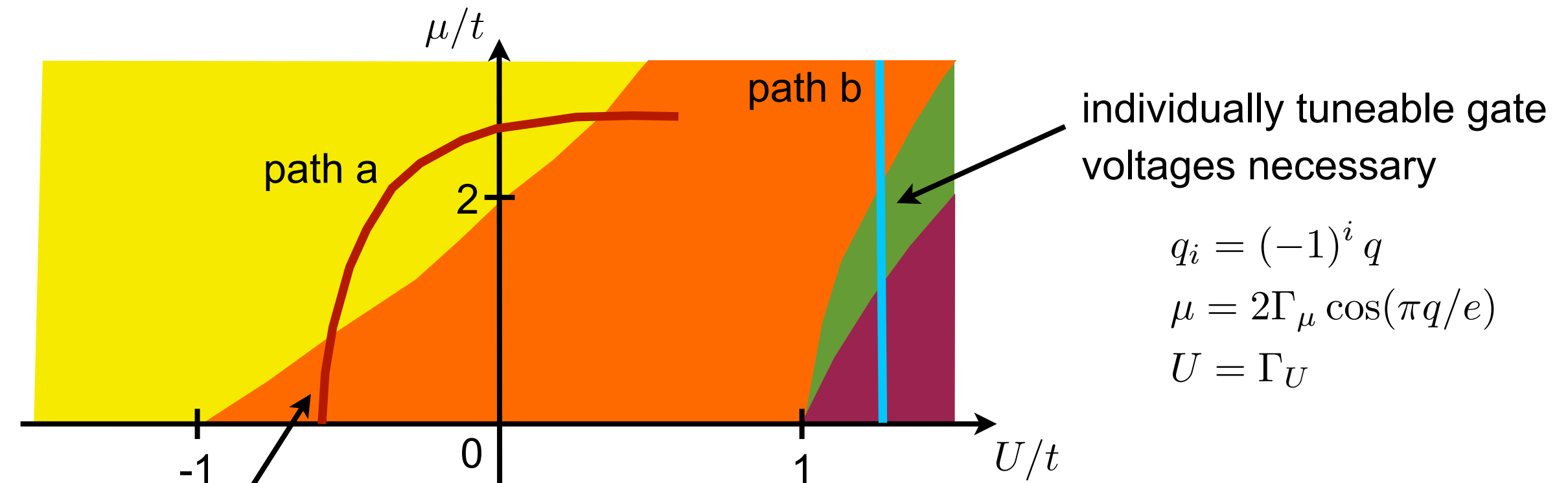
$$I = \frac{e}{h} \int d\omega \text{tr} \left[G^R(\omega) \Gamma^*(-\omega) G^A(\omega) \Gamma(\omega) \right] [f(eV - \omega) - f(\omega - eV)]$$

Majorana Green functions

broadened conductance

$$\bar{G} = \int_{-\Delta\omega/2}^{\Delta\omega/2} \frac{d(eV)}{\Delta\omega} G(V) \quad \Delta\omega \sim V, T, \dots$$

Tunneling conductance

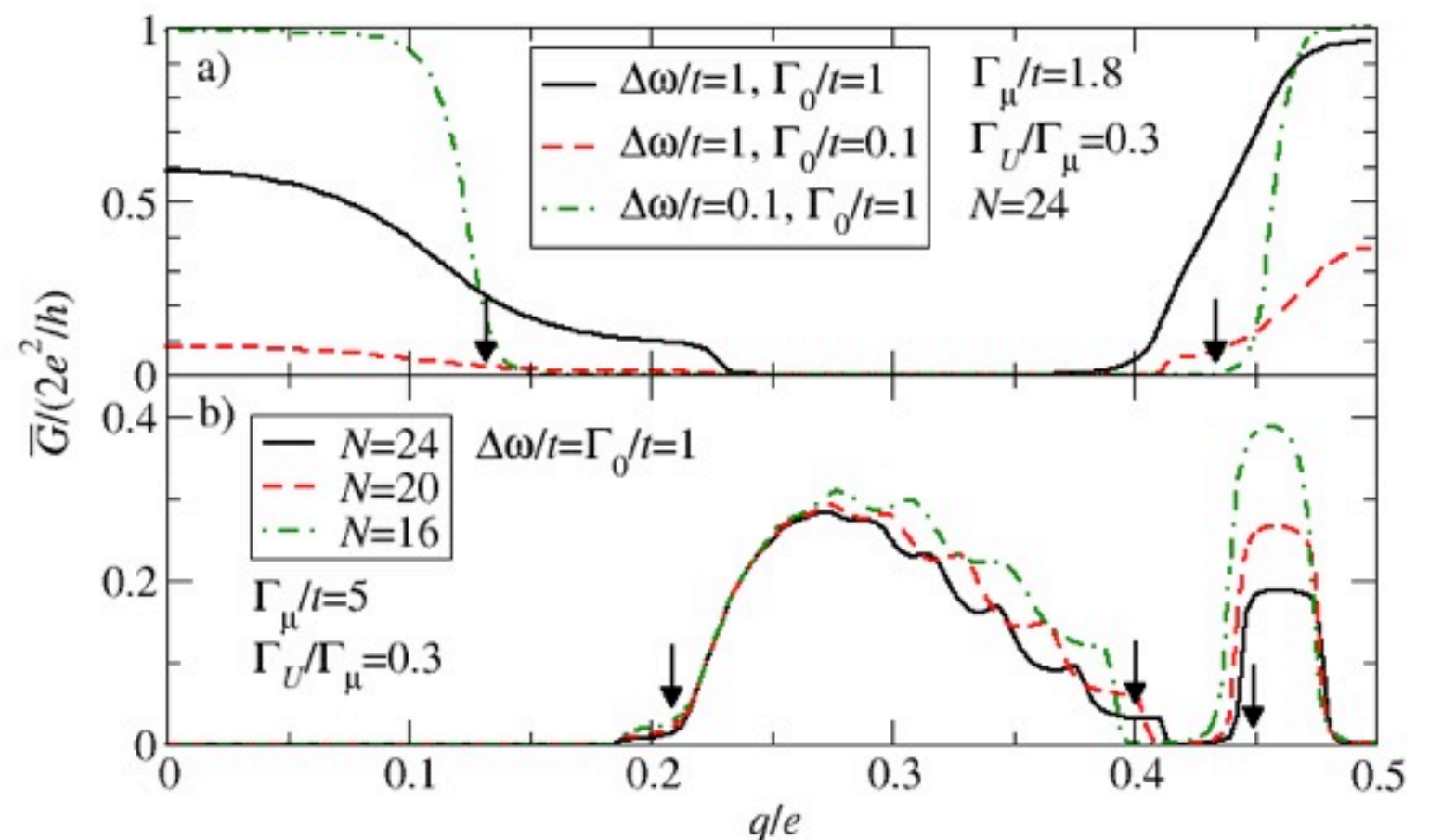


move around in phase diagram
by varying induced charge q

$$\mu = 2\Gamma_\mu \cos(\pi q/e)$$

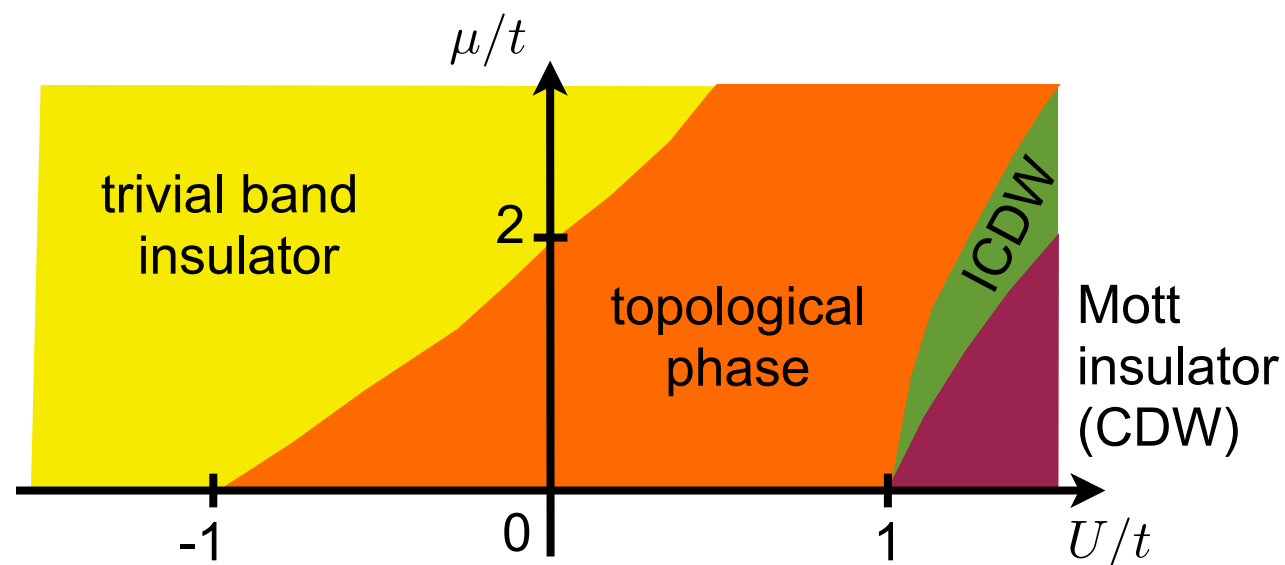
$$U = \Gamma_U \cos(2\pi q/e)$$

→ phase boundaries
clearly visible



Conclusions

- studied effect of interactions on Majorana chain
- chemical potential and strong interactions individually destroy topological phase
- competition between band and Mott insulator leads to topological phase at arbitrary interactions
- Josephson junction array with Majorana fermions implements ANNNI model
- explicit results along Peschel-Emery line
- signatures of phases in tunneling conductance
- reference (for parts of this talk): Hassler & Schuricht, New J Phys 14, 125018 (2012)

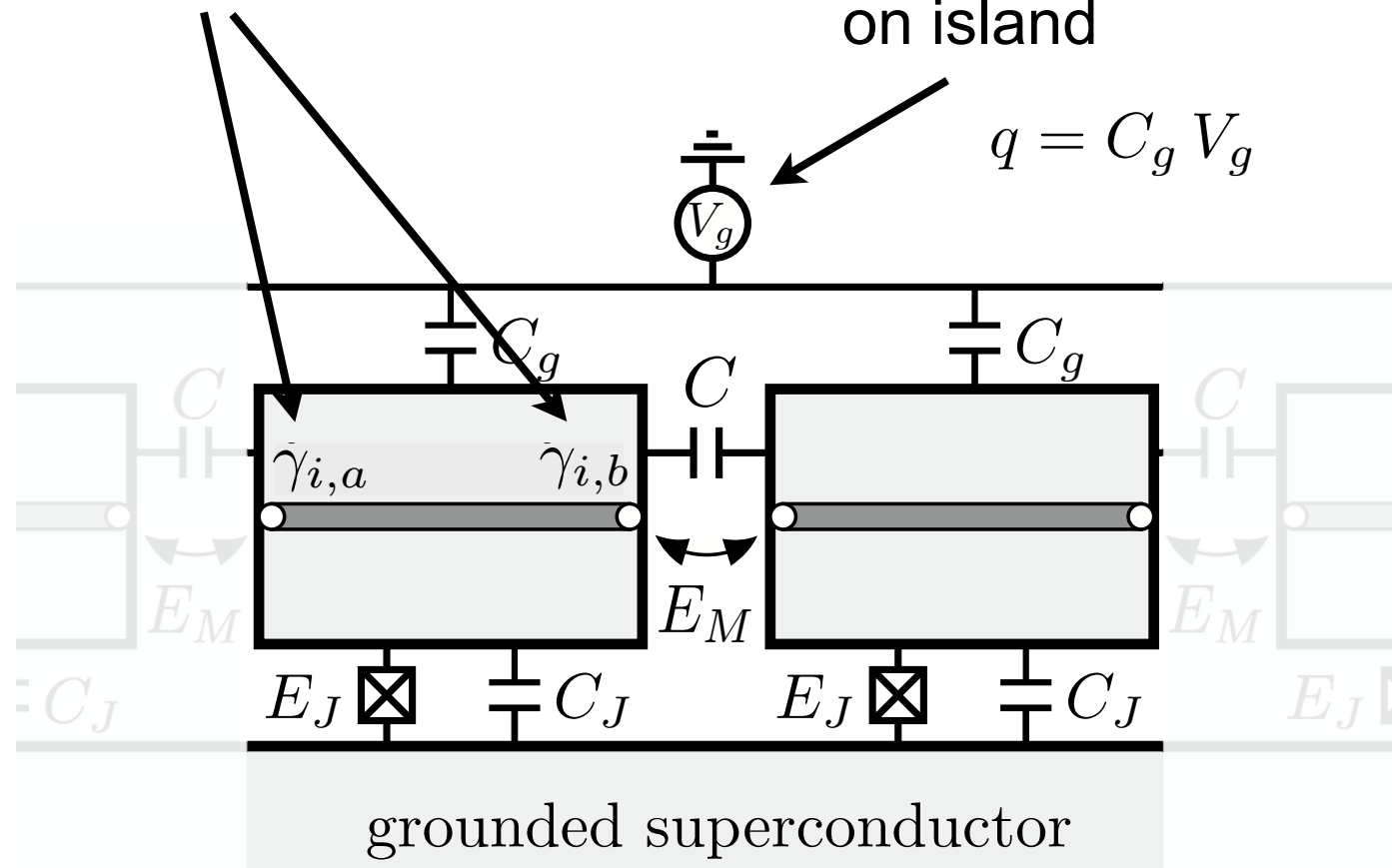


Appendix: Josephson junction array

Majorana modes

induced charge
on island

$$q = C_g V_g$$



$$H_M = i t \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \cos \frac{\phi_i - \phi_{i+1}}{2}$$

$$H_J = E_J \sum_i (1 - \cos \phi_i)$$

$$E_J \gg E_M, E_C$$

→ superconducting
phases pinned

relation of parameters

$$t = E_M$$

$$\mu = 2\Gamma_\mu \cos(\pi q/e)$$

$$U = \Gamma_U \cos(2\pi q/e)$$

quasi-classical calculation of quantum phase slip rates yields

$$\Gamma_\mu \simeq E_C^{1/4} E_J^{3/4} e^{-\sqrt{8E_J/E_C} [1 + (\pi^2 - 12)\eta^2/96]} + \dots$$

$$\Gamma_U \simeq E_C^{1/4} E_J^{3/4} e^{-\sqrt{16(2-\eta)E_J/E_C}} + \dots$$

$$\eta = \frac{2C}{2C + C_g + C_J}$$

Appendix: Exactly solvable line

open boundary conditions

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} h_i, \quad h_i = -t\sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + U\sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z - \frac{\mu}{4}(\sigma_i^z + \sigma_{i+1}^z)$$

chemical potential
halved at boundary

local Green function

$$\langle \Phi_{\pm} | c_i c_{i+1}^{\dagger} | \Phi_{\pm} \rangle = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{1 \pm \cos^N \theta} (1 \mp \cos^{N-2} \theta)$$

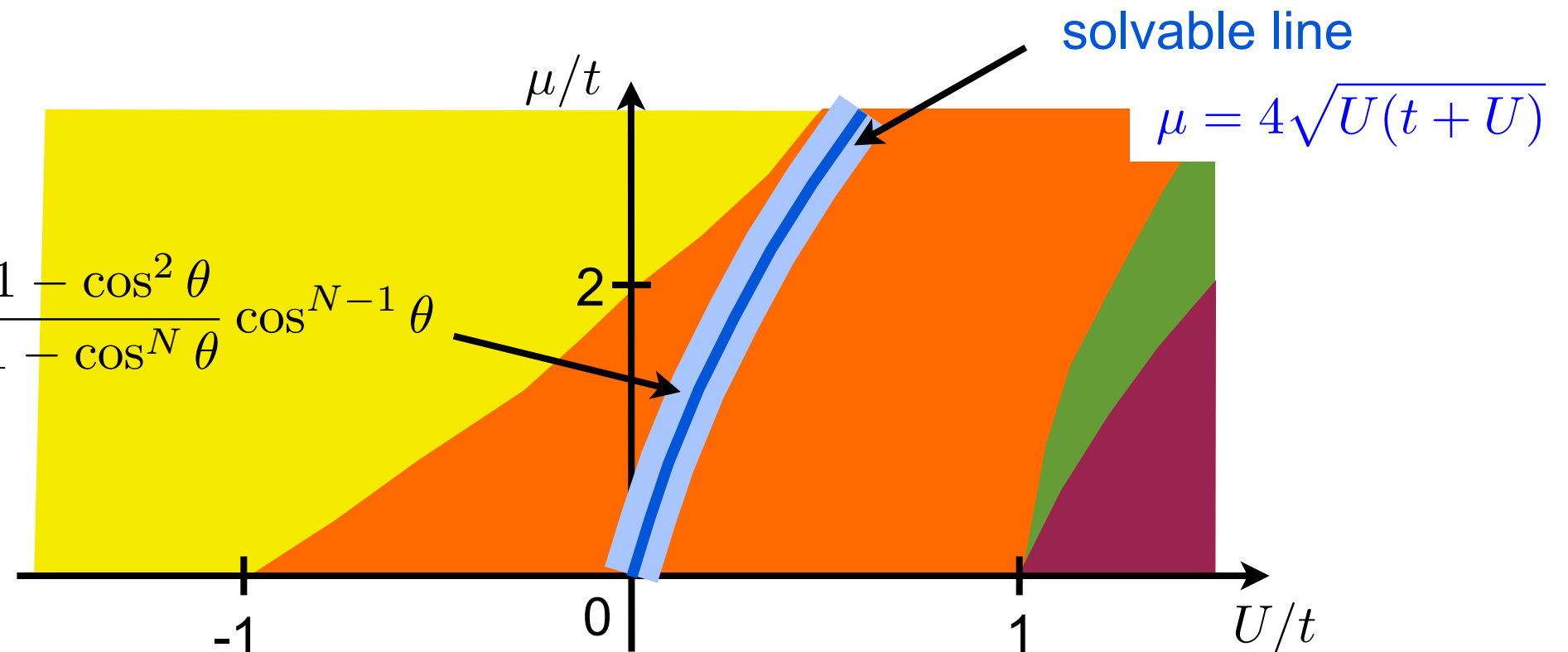
exponentially small in N

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\mu}{4(t+U)} = \frac{\sqrt{U(t+U)}}{t+U} < 1$$

perturbation

$$V = -\frac{\delta\mu}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z$$

$$\frac{\Delta E}{N} = -\frac{\delta\mu}{1 + \cos^N \theta} \frac{1 - \cos^2 \theta}{1 - \cos^N \theta} \cos^{N-1} \theta$$



Appendix: Knabe's method

rescale Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{H} = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \tilde{h}_i, \quad \tilde{h}_i = \frac{1}{2(t+2U)} (h_i + t + U)$$

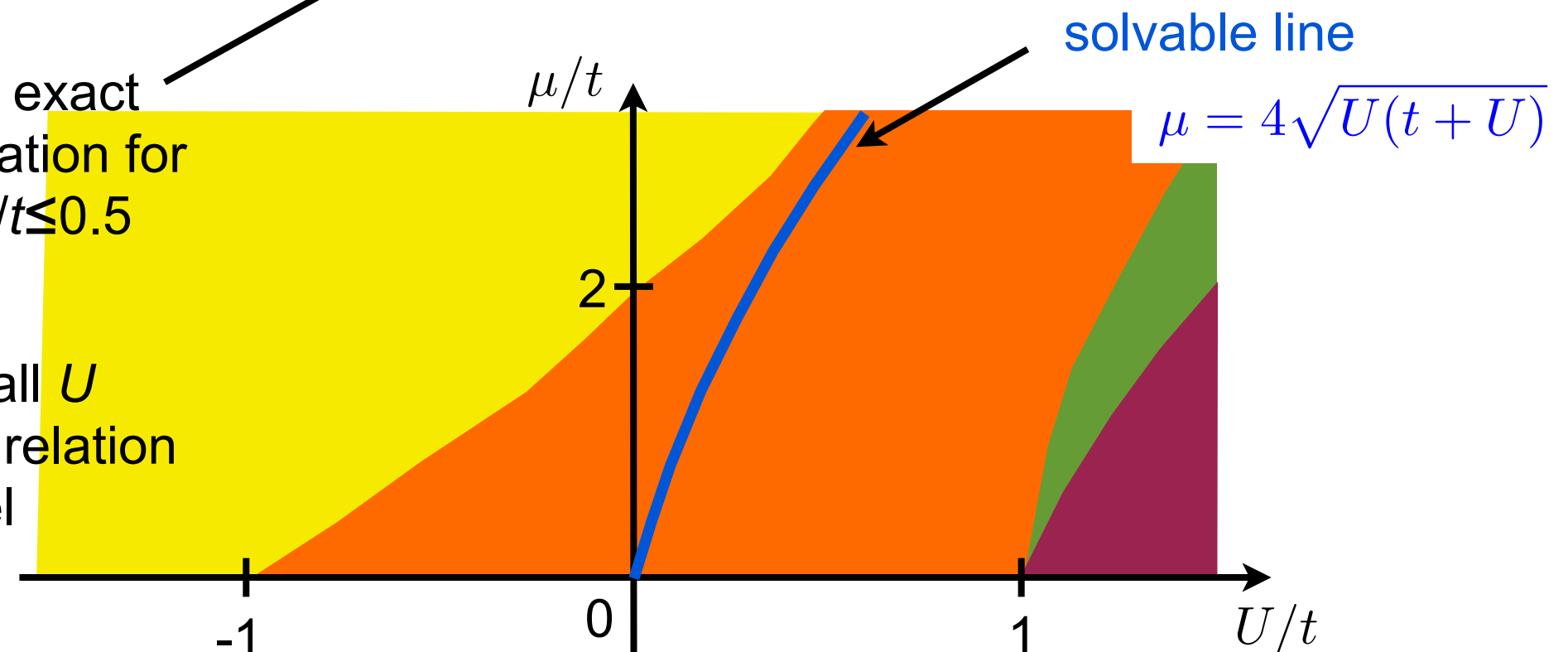
$$\rightarrow 0 \leq \tilde{h}_i \leq 1 \Rightarrow \tilde{h}_i^2 \leq \tilde{h}_i \quad \text{in the sense} \quad \langle \Psi | \tilde{h}_i^2 | \Psi \rangle \leq \langle \Psi | \tilde{h}_i | \Psi \rangle \leq \langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle$$

if $(m+1)$ -site Hamiltonian $\tilde{H}_m = \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{h}_i$ satisfies $\tilde{H}_m^2 \geq \epsilon_m \tilde{H}_m, \epsilon_m > \frac{1}{m}$

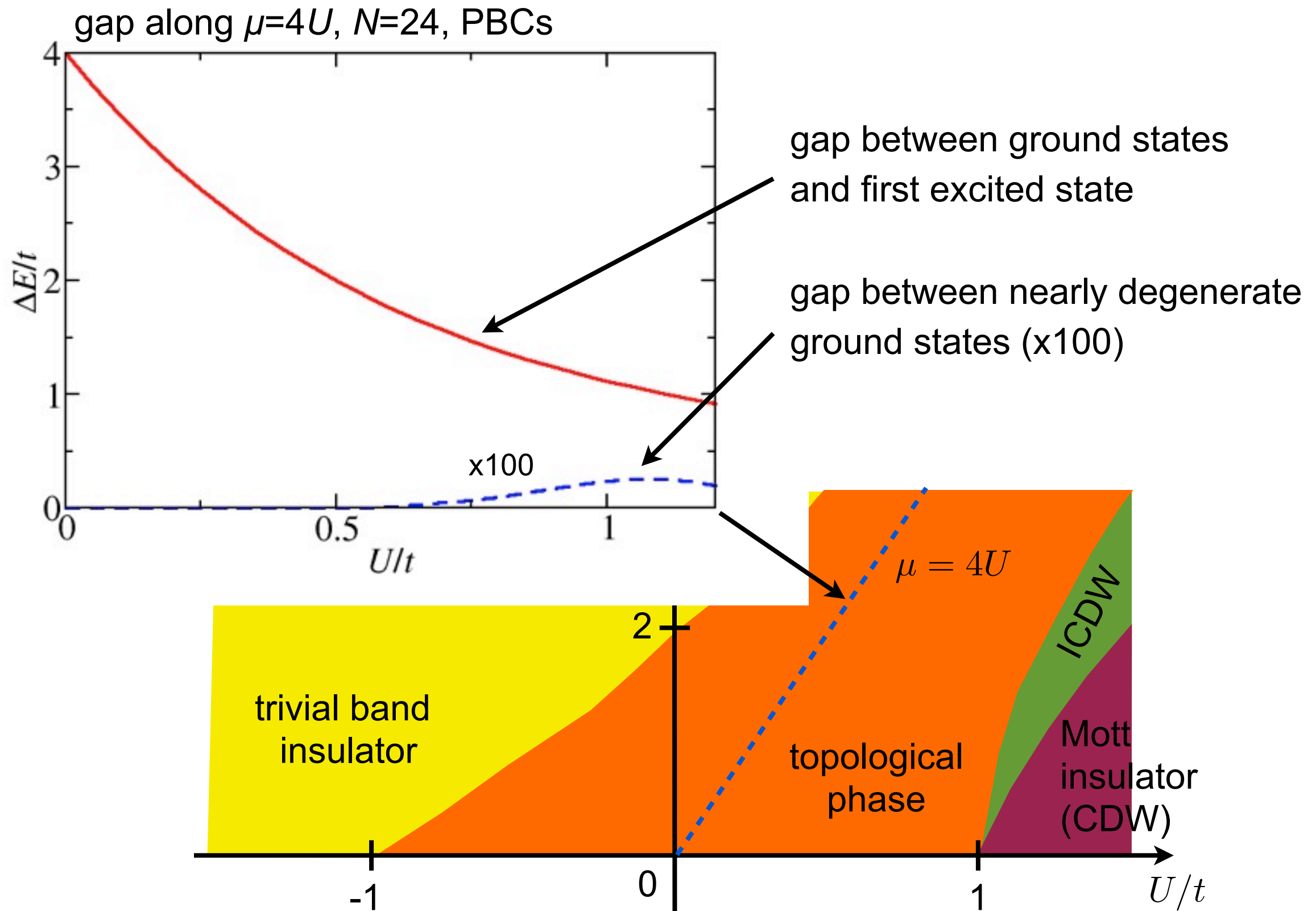
$$\rightarrow \tilde{H}^2 \geq \epsilon \tilde{H}, \quad \epsilon = \frac{m}{m-1} \left(\epsilon_m - \frac{1}{m} \right) > 0 \quad \rightarrow \text{gap of } H \quad \Delta E > 2(t+2U)\epsilon$$

verified by exact
diagonalisation for
 $m=9, 0 \leq U/t \leq 0.5$

existence of gap for all U
can be proven using relation
to free-fermion model



Appendix: Gap in topological phase

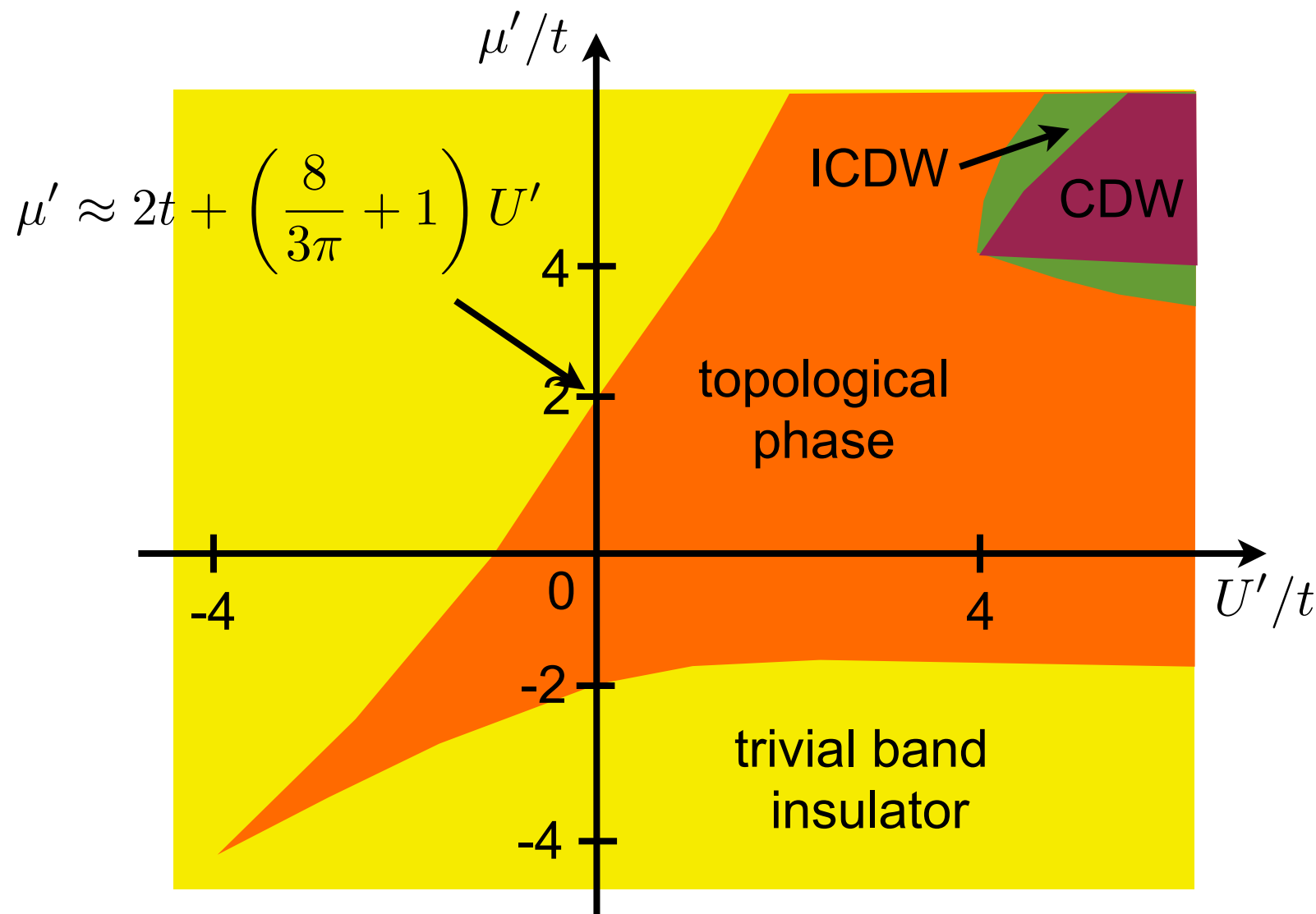


Appendix: Broken particle-hole symmetry

$$H' = -t \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i - c_i c_{i+1} - c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i^\dagger) - \mu' \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i + U' \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i c_{i+1}^\dagger c_{i+1}$$

mapping to Majorana fermions

$$H' = it \sum_i \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} - \frac{i}{2} (\mu' - U') \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} - \frac{U'}{4} \sum_i \gamma_{i,a} \gamma_{i,b} \gamma_{i+1,a} \gamma_{i+1,b} + \text{const}$$



relation of parameters

$$\mu = \mu' - U'$$

$$U = U'/4$$

phase diagram invariant under

$$(U', \mu') \rightarrow (U', -\mu' + 2U)$$

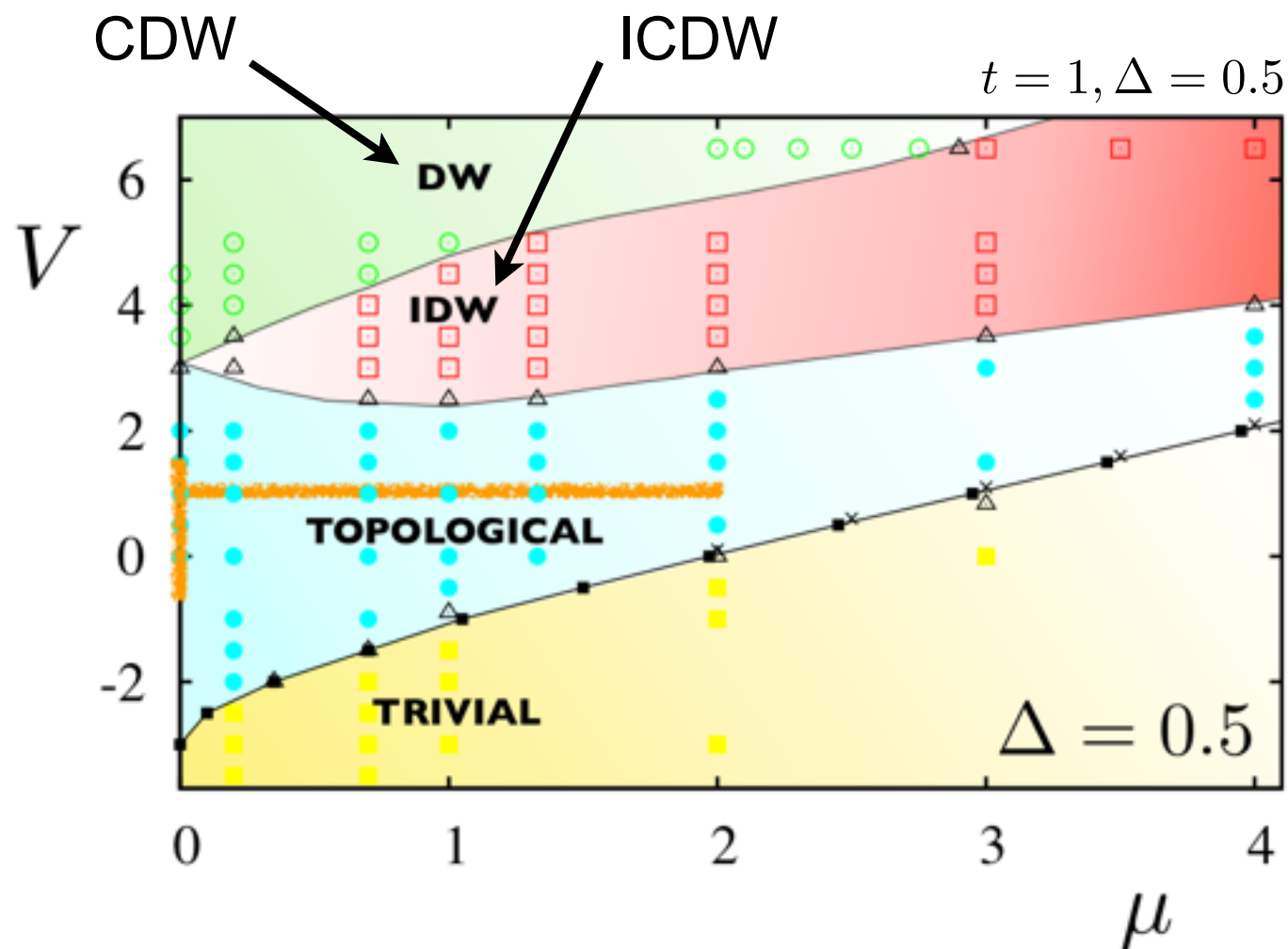
remark: H' is not invariant under particle-hole transformations

$$c_i \rightarrow (-1)^i c_i^\dagger$$

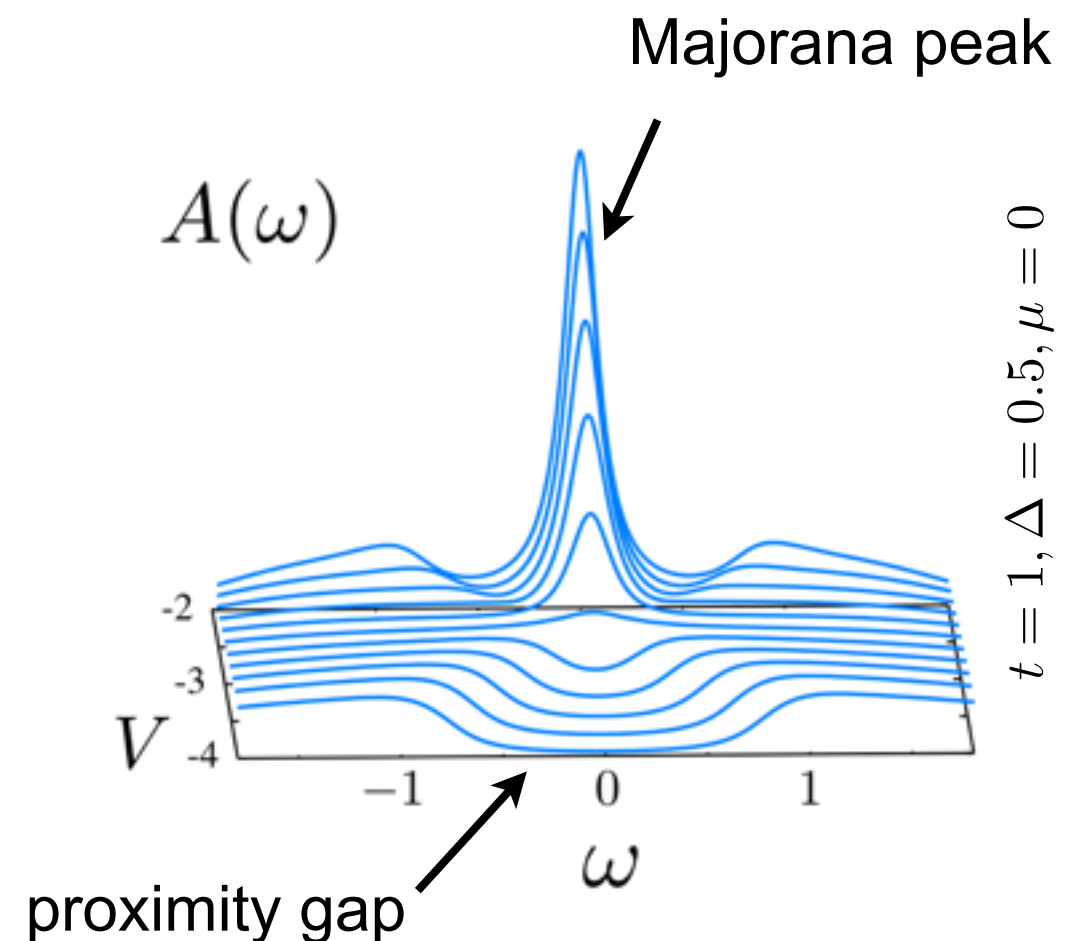
Appendix: DMRG study

Thomale et al.,
PRB 2013

$$H = \sum_i \left[-t(c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i) + \Delta(c_i c_{i+1} + c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i^\dagger) \right] - \mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i + V \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i c_{i+1}^\dagger c_{i+1}$$



phase diagram very similar
to our finding for $t=\Delta$



DMRG study for up to 96 sites
investigated also $t \neq \Delta$

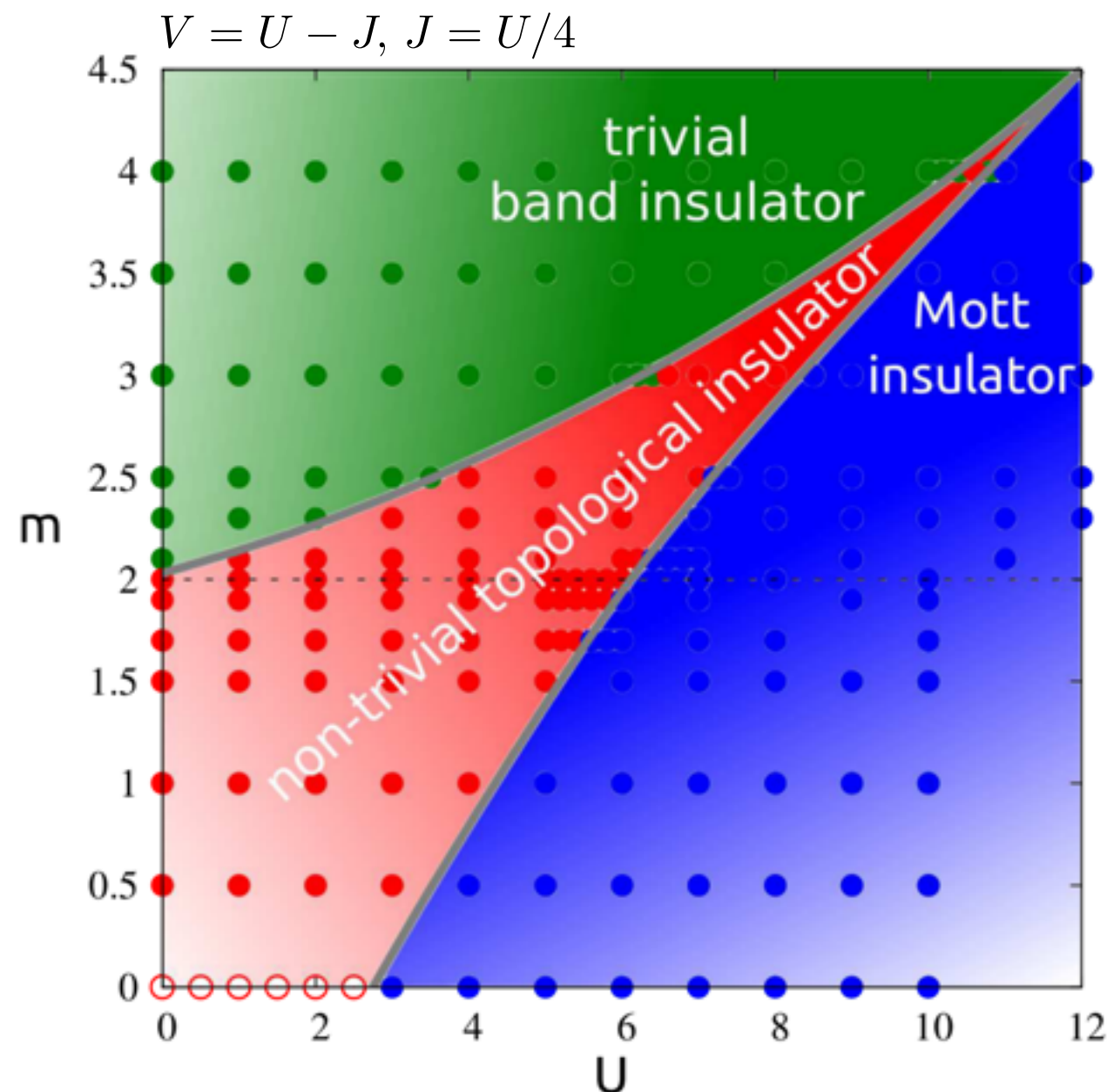
mean-field treatment: Manolescu et al., J Phys: Condens Matter 2014

Appendix: Hund insulator

Budich et al.,
PRB 2013

$$H = H_{\text{BHZ}} + H_U + H_V + H_J$$

electron and hole orbital intra-band interaction inter-band interaction Hund coupling



model for HgTe quantum wells

DMFT study of self energy

system can be driven into
topological phase by interactions

relation to interacting Majorana
chain unclear