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A Brief Introduction to Topology
and Differential Geometry in
Condensed Matter Physics
(Second Edition)

A Brief Introduction to Topology and Differential Geometry in Condensed Matter Physics (Second Edition)

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Dedicated to Rosangela, Henrique and Guilherme.

Contents

Preface to the first edition	xiii
Preface to the second edition	xiv
Acknowledgements	xv
Author biography	xvi
1 Path integral approach	1-1
1.1 Path integral	1-1
1.2 Path integral in quantum field theory	1-4
1.3 Spin	1-7
1.4 Path integral and statistical mechanics	1-10
1.5 Fermion path integral	1-11
References	1-13
2 Topology and vector spaces	2-1
2.1 Topological spaces	2-1
2.2 Group theory	2-5
2.3 Cocycle	2-6
2.4 Vector spaces	2-7
2.5 Linear maps	2-8
2.6 Dual space	2-9
2.7 Scalar product	2-9
2.8 Metric space	2-10
2.9 Tensors	2-10
2.10 p -Vectors and p -forms	2-11
2.11 Edge product	2-12
2.12 Pfaffian	2-13
References	2-14
3 Manifolds and fiber bundle	3-1
3.1 Manifolds	3-1
3.2 Lie algebra and Lie groups	3-5
3.3 Homotopy	3-7
3.4 Particle in a ring	3-11
3.5 Functions on manifolds	3-12
3.6 Tangent space	3-13

3.7	Cotangent space	3-15
3.8	Push-forward	3-16
3.9	Fiber bundle	3-17
3.10	Magnetic monopole	3-23
3.11	Tangent bundle	3-24
3.12	Vector field	3-25
	References	3-27
4	Metric and curvature	4-1
4.1	Metric in a vector space	4-1
4.2	Metric in manifolds	4-1
4.3	Symplectic manifold	4-3
4.4	Exterior derivative	4-3
4.5	The Hodge $*$ operator	4-4
4.6	The pull-back of a one-form	4-5
4.7	Orientation of a manifold	4-5
4.8	Integration on manifolds	4-6
4.9	Stokes' theorem	4-9
4.10	Homology	4-10
4.11	Cohomology	4-11
4.12	Degree of a map	4-12
4.13	Hopf–Poincaré theorem	4-14
4.14	Connection	4-14
4.15	Covariant derivative	4-16
4.16	Curvature	4-17
4.17	The Gauss–Bonnet theorem	4-19
4.18	Surfaces	4-21
4.19	Geodesics	4-22
4.20	Fundamental theorem of the Riemann geometry	4-24
	References	4-25
5	Dirac equation and gauge fields	5-1
5.1	The Dirac equation	5-1
5.2	Two-dimensional Dirac equation	5-4
5.3	Electrodynamics	5-5
5.4	Time reversal	5-7
5.5	Gauge field as a connection	5-7
5.6	Chern classes	5-9

5.7	Abelian gauge fields	5-11
5.8	Non-Abelian gauge fields	5-12
5.9	Chern numbers for non-Abelian gauge fields	5-13
5.10	Maxwell equations using differential forms	5-14
	References	5-16
6	Berry connection and particle moving in a magnetic field	6-1
6.1	Introduction	6-1
6.2	Berry phase	6-2
6.3	The Aharonov–Bohm effect	6-5
6.4	Non-Abelian Berry connections	6-6
6.5	The Aharonov–Casher effect	6-7
	References	6-8
7	Quantum Hall effect	7-1
7.1	Integer quantum Hall effect	7-1
7.2	Currents at the edge	7-6
7.3	Kubo formula	7-8
7.4	The quantum Hall state on a lattice	7-9
7.5	Particle on a lattice	7-11
7.6	The TKNN invariant	7-13
7.7	Quantum spin Hall effect	7-15
7.8	Chern–Simons action	7-16
7.9	The fractional quantum Hall effect	7-19
	References	7-21
8	Topological insulators	8-1
8.1	Two- and three-band insulators	8-1
8.2	Nielsen–Ninomiya theorem	8-5
8.3	Haldane model	8-6
8.4	Checkerboard lattice	8-8
8.5	States at the edge	8-10
8.6	The Z_2 topological invariants	8-11
8.7	The Kane–Mele model	8-13
8.8	Three-dimensional topological insulators	8-16
8.9	Calculation of edge modes	8-17
	References	8-19

9	Topological phases in one dimension	9-1
9.1	The Su–Schrieffer–Heeger model	9-1
9.2	Winding number and Zak phase	9-3
9.3	Finite chain	9-5
9.4	Alternative form of the SSH Hamiltonian	9-6
9.5	Localized states at a domain wall	9-6
9.6	The Ising chain in a transverse field	9-7
9.7	The Kitaev chain	9-10
9.8	Majorana fermion operators	9-10
9.9	Rashba spin–orbit superconductor in one dimension	9-13
	References	9-14
10	Topological superconductors	10-1
10.1	Basics of superconductivity	10-1
10.2	Two-dimensional chiral p -wave superconductors	10-3
10.3	Two-dimensional chiral p -wave superconductor on a lattice	10-5
10.4	Continuum limit	10-6
10.5	Non-Abelian statistics	10-10
10.6	d -Wave pairing symmetry	10-11
	References	10-12
11	Higher-order topological insulators	11-1
11.1	Crystalline symmetries	11-1
11.2	Second-order topological insulator in two dimensions	11-2
11.3	Gapless corner states	11-4
11.4	A three-dimensional chiral HOTI	11-6
	References	11-8
12	Classification of topological states with symmetries	12-1
12.1	Symmetries	12-1
12.2	Time-reversal symmetry	12-3
12.3	Particle–hole symmetry	12-4
12.4	Chiral symmetry	12-5
12.5	Periodic table	12-6
12.6	Complex classes	12-8
12.7	Real classes	12-16
12.8	Classification for zero dimensions	12-21

12.9 Dirac Hamiltonians	12-23
12.10 Dimension reduction	12-23
12.11 Topological defects	12-24
References	12-25
13 Weyl semimetals	13-1
13.1 The Weyl equation	13-1
13.2 Linear Weyl modes	13-3
13.3 Chern numbers	13-3
13.4 An example	13-5
13.5 Fermi arcs	13-6
13.6 Weyl semimetal in an external magnetic field	13-8
13.7 Type II Weyl semimetals	13-9
13.8 Weyl semimetals with spins higher than $\frac{1}{2}$	13-9
13.9 Chiral anomaly	13-10
13.10 Dirac semimetals	13-12
References	13-13
14 Kubo theory and transport	14-1
14.1 Linear response theory	14-1
14.2 Electron transport	14-5
14.3 Anomalous Hall effect	14-11
14.4 Orbital magnetization	14-14
14.5 Spin transport	14-15
14.6 Interacting topological insulators	14-17
References	14-22
15 Magnetic models	15-1
15.1 One-dimensional antiferromagnetic model	15-1
15.2 Sine-Gordon soliton	15-3
15.3 Two-dimensional non-linear sigma model	15-5
15.4 XY model	15-9
15.5 Theta terms	15-11
References	15-12
16 Topological magnon insulators	16-1
16.1 Magnon Hall effect	16-1

16.2	The ferromagnetic honeycomb lattice	16-3
16.3	Generalized Bogoliubov transformation	16-5
16.4	Antiferromagnetic honeycomb lattice	16-7
16.5	Thermal Hall conductivity	16-9
	References	16-10
17	<i>K</i>-theory	17-1
17.1	Rings	17-1
17.2	Equivalence relations	17-2
17.3	Grothendieck group	17-2
17.4	Sum of vector bundles	17-3
17.5	<i>K</i> -theory	17-3
17.6	<i>K</i> -theory and topological insulators	17-6
17.7	The $2\mathbb{Z}$ invariant	17-10
17.8	The Atiyah–Singer index theorem	17-10
	References	17-12
Appendices		
	Appendix A	A-1
	Appendix B	B-1
	Appendix C	C-1

Preface to the first edition

In recent years there have been significant advances in the applications of topology and differential geometry to problems in condensed matter physics. Concepts drawn from topology and geometry have become essential to the understanding of several phenomena in the area. Physicists have been creative in producing models for actual physical phenomena which realize mathematically exotic concepts, and new phases of matter have been discovered in condensed matter in which topology plays a leading role. An important classification paradigm is the concept of topological order, where the state characterizing a system does not break any symmetry, but it defines a topological phase in the sense that specific fundamental properties change only when the system passes through a quantum phase transition.

The primary purpose of this book is to provide a brief, self-contained introduction of some mathematical ideas and methods from differential geometry and topology and to show a few applications in condensed matter. It conveys to physicists the bases for many mathematical concepts, avoiding the detailed formality of most textbooks. The reader can supplement the description given here by consulting standard mathematical references such as those listed in the references.

There are many good books written about the subject, but they present a lot of material and demand time to gain a full understanding of the text. Here, I offer a summary of the main topics, which will provide readers with an introduction to the subject and will allow them to read the specialized literature.

Very little in this text is my original contribution since the goal of the book is pedagogy rather than originality. The material presented was mainly collected from the literature. Some time ago, I used to teach differential geometry in a graduate course about classical mechanics and wrote a book (in Portuguese) on the topic. Now, I have adapted that material and included ideas that appeared in the last years to write the present book.

Chapter 1 is an introduction to path integrals and it can be skipped if the reader is familiar with the subject. Chapters 2–4 are the core of the book, where the main ideas of topology and differential geometry are presented. In chapter 5, I discuss the Dirac equation and gauge theory, mainly applied to electrodynamics. In chapters 6–8, I show how the topics presented earlier can be applied to the quantum Hall effect and topological insulators. I will be mainly interested in the technical details, because there are excellent books and review articles dealing with the physical aspects. In chapter 9, I treat the application of topology to one- and two-dimensional antiferromagnets and the XY model. The same framework presented here can be used to study other systems, such as topological superconductors and quasimetals. The appendices, although important for the application of differential geometry to some problems in condensed matter, are more specific.

Preface to the second edition

After the publication of the first edition of this book, I have received some suggestions and comments. In the first edition, I aimed to present only the basic formalism of differential geometry and topology for condensed matter. However, I have been told that I should have discussed physics a little more. Therefore, new material has been added to the second edition. I have added new material to all chapters. In particular, chapter 4 has a new section on geodesics, and chapter 6 a new section on the Aharonov–Casher effect. Chapter 8 has been rewritten to include three-band insulators, a study of the checkerboard lattice, the Kane–Mele model, and three-dimensional topological insulators. Chapter 9 is now chapter 15. Chapters 9–14, 16 and 17 are entirely new. In chapter 9, I treat topological phases in one dimension. In chapter 10, I study topological superconductors. Chapter 11 is dedicated to higher-order topological insulators. I consider chapter 12 the principal addition because it treats in detail the classification of topological states of topological insulators and superconductors. In chapter 13, I discuss Weyl semimetals. Chapter 14 presents the Kubo theory for transport and a brief discussion of topological invariants for interacting topological insulators. Chapter 16 explores magnons in topological magnetic insulators, a subject that has caused substantial interest in recent years. I have changed appendix D on K -theory to chapter 17 and have added more material. The use of topology in condensed matter physics is still growing and it is almost impossible to keep up with the advances. For instance, the role of topology in non-Hermitian systems is attracting great interest. A lot of new phenomena appear, such as topological phases in single-band systems and anomalous relation between bulk and boundary physics, (Bergholtz *et al* 2021).

Some repetition of the material was made to make easier for the reader to read the chapters. My web site, <http://antpires.com> will have updates and corrections.

Reference

Bergholtz E J, Budich J C and Kunst F K 2021 Exceptional topology of non-Hermitian systems
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Author biography

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Antonio S T Pires graduated from the University of California in Santa Barbara in 1976. He is a Professor of Physics at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil researching quantum field theory applied to condensed matter. He is a member of the Brazilian Academy of Science, was the Editor of the *Brazilian Journal of Physics*, and a member of the Advisory Board of the *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter*. He has published the books *ADS/CFT correspondence in condensed matter* and *theoretical tools for spin models in magnetic systems*.