Topological Mechanics



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Chen, Upadhyaya, Vitelli, *PNAS* (2014). Paulose, Chen, Vitelli, *Nat. Phys.* (2015). Paulose, Meussen, Vitelli, *PNAS* (2015).

videos: youtube VitelliLab



Tunable response (acoustic and failure)



Tunable response (acoustic and failure)



unit-cell geometry





(insensitive to smooth changes in material parameters)

Tunable response (acoustic and failure)



unit-cell geometry







topological invariants





unit-cell geometry





Can you have both ?

Mechanisms: propensity for motion zero modes





Rigid Miura Origami

Finite motions that obey constraint of zero stretching energy



Mechanisms: propensity for motion zero modes





Activated mechanisms: building blocks of robots



Maxwell counting





$$e_i = Q_{ij}^T u_j$$

degrees of freedom - #constraints = n_{zm}



Maxwell 1865 Calladine 1978

Maxwell counting



$$e_i = Q_{ij}^T u_j \qquad \qquad F_i = Q_{ij} t_j$$

degrees of freedom - #constraints = n_{zm} - n_{ss}

right hand side does not change unless you cut links



global

What determines motion in a structure?



8 degrees of freedom 4 constraints

#d.o.f. - #constraints = 4 = #zero modes



3 trivial (translations + rotation) 1 nontrivial

Maxwell 1865

What determines motion in a structure?



8 degrees of freedom 6 constraints

#d.o.f - #constraints = 2 = #zero modes - #states of self-stress



3 trivial zero modes (translations + rotation) 1 state of self-stress (redundant constraint)

Maxwell 1865 Calladine 1978

Maxwell counting





$$e_i = Q_{ij}^T u_j \qquad \qquad F_i = Q_{ij} t_j$$

0

degrees of freedom - #constraints = n_{zm} - n_{ss}

global



Index theorem

charge neutrality ?

Electrostatic analogy



global

Index theorem

charge neutrality ?

Polarized medium



dielectric



charge neutrality

Consider a finite patch: introduce edges



degrees of freedom - #constraints = n_{zm} - n_{ss}

Flux of polarization gives net charge



The simplest topological metamaterial





Kane and Lubensky, Nature Physics 2014

The simplest topological metamaterial



degrees of freedom = # constraints, in the bulk



Kane and Lubensky, Nature Physics 2014

The simplest topological metamaterial

 $\ell \sim 1/\bar{\theta}$



charges: constraints

Zero energy vibrational mode localized at only one edge

Kane and Lubensky, Nature Physics 2014

Linkages: ID origami



Soft motion localized at right edge chosen by P_T



Mechanical insulator within harmonic theory



What happens when we excite the zero energy mode ? go beyond linear analysis

The chain conducts mechanical energy !



An insulator at harmonic level becomes a conductor in non-linear theory

How does the edge mode move?







Zero energy kink that harbors a soft motion





Zero energy kink that harbors a soft motion





Restore springs





$$V(u) = \mathbf{k} (u^2 - \bar{u}^2)^2$$





Continuum theory







Chen, Upadhyaya, Vitelli, PNAS (2014).

initially ignore kinetic term



Topological boundary term







$$= k \int dx \left[\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^2 + (u^2 - \bar{u}^2)^2 \ominus 2(u^2 - \bar{u}^2) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right]$$

topological boundary term



















Kink width diverges as gap closes







Anti-kinks harbour states of self-stress





degrees of freedom - #constraints = n_{zm} - n_{ss}



BPS

perfect square: enforces constraint

$$\mathcal{L} = \int \frac{1}{2} \frac{Mr^2}{r^2 - u^2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}\right)^2 - \left|\frac{1}{2} K \frac{a^4}{4} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} K (\bar{u}^2 - u^2)^2 - K \frac{a^2}{2} (\bar{u}^2 - u^2) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right| dx$$

Topological defects

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Topological soft modes at topological defects



Paulose, Chen, Vitelli, Nat. Phys. (2015).



Where are the soft spots ?

d_A

dB

Paulose, Chen, Vitelli, Nat. Phys. (2015).

Rigid in the bulk



But there is one floppy spot!



Soft motion at dislocation self stress at anti-dislocation







floppy mode

state of self-stress

Mode count at dislocation:

$$\nu_T^S = \mathbf{P}_T \cdot \frac{\mathbf{d}}{V_{cell}}$$



d: dislocation dipole (perpendicular to Burgers vector) P_T : topological polarization



Mode count at dislocation:

$$\nu_T^S = \mathbf{P}_T \cdot \frac{\mathbf{d}}{V_{cell}}$$



You can insert topologically protected states of motion where you want

Lattice polarization and zero-energy mode count



Zero mode count \leftrightarrow Net "charge" in a region

Net charge = Polarization flux into region



Paulose, Chen, Vitelli, Nat Phys (in press) 2014

Zero mode count:



Electronic states in topological insulators:

Ran, Zhang, Vishwanath, *Nat Phys* 2009 Teo and Kane, *PRB* 2010

Topological control of material failure

Unit cell with topological polarization of phonon degrees of freedom





Take one of the lattices Tom described







Compression in plane of image

Side view



The road ahead



topological mechanisms





activated mechanisms robots & smart materials



molecular electronics





videos: search youtube for VitelliLab

molecular robotics

Kink costs zero energy $\begin{bmatrix} E \\ -\overline{u} \end{bmatrix} = +\overline{u}$



sign of flux of polarization

$$E = \int dx \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \int (u^2 - \bar{u}^2) \right]^2 \qquad + \bar{u} \qquad E = 0 \qquad E = 0 \qquad -\bar{u}$$
minus sign chooses kink
kink costs zero stretching energy \square

Chen, Upadhyaya, Vitelli, PNAS (2014).

anti kink suppressed



 $\mathbf{\nabla}$

Soft modes on right edge



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Phase transition when $\bar{u} = 0$ $\begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{E} \\ & -\bar{u} \end{bmatrix}$



Kink width diverges as gap closes





sign of flux of polarization

$$E = \int dx \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{1}{r} (u^2 - \bar{u}^2) \right]^2 \qquad E > 0 \quad \checkmark$$
anti-kink
needs +
kink costs zero stretching energy \checkmark

kink costs zero stretching energy

Chen, Upadhyaya, Vitelli, PNAS (2014).

anti kink suppressed



 $\mathbf{\nabla}$



sign of flux of polarization

$$E = \int dx \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{1}{4} (u^2 - \bar{u}^2) \right]^2 \qquad E > 0 \quad \checkmark$$
anti-kink
needs +
kink costs zero stretching energy \bigvee

Chen, Upadhyaya, Vitelli, PNAS (2014).

anti kink suppressed



 $\mathbf{\nabla}$