

Decomposition and (-1) -form symmetries in the Symmetry TFT

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Based on w.i.p
with Daniel G. Robbins and Subham Roy

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Plan of the talk

1. Motivation
2. Decomposition and (-1) -form symmetries
3. Description via Symmetry TFT (SymTFT)
4. Applications / Examples

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 - Gauging and quantum-dual symmetries via boundary conditions.
- Less explored extreme case: $p = -1 \rightarrow$ related to θ -angles and axions.
- Quantum-dual $(d-1)$ -form symmetry \rightarrow “decomposition” [Pantev/Sharpe '05, Hellerman et al '06]

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- “Stronger” than super-selection: universes separated by infinite-energy domain walls (“eternal false vacua” [Cherman/Jacobson '20]).

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- Many more examples in orbifold models [Sharpe + collaborators, '06 – now].

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- ➔ As quantum-dual pairs of symmetry, should have natural description in Symmetry TFT (SymTFT).

Lightning review of SymTFT

[see F. Benini's talk]

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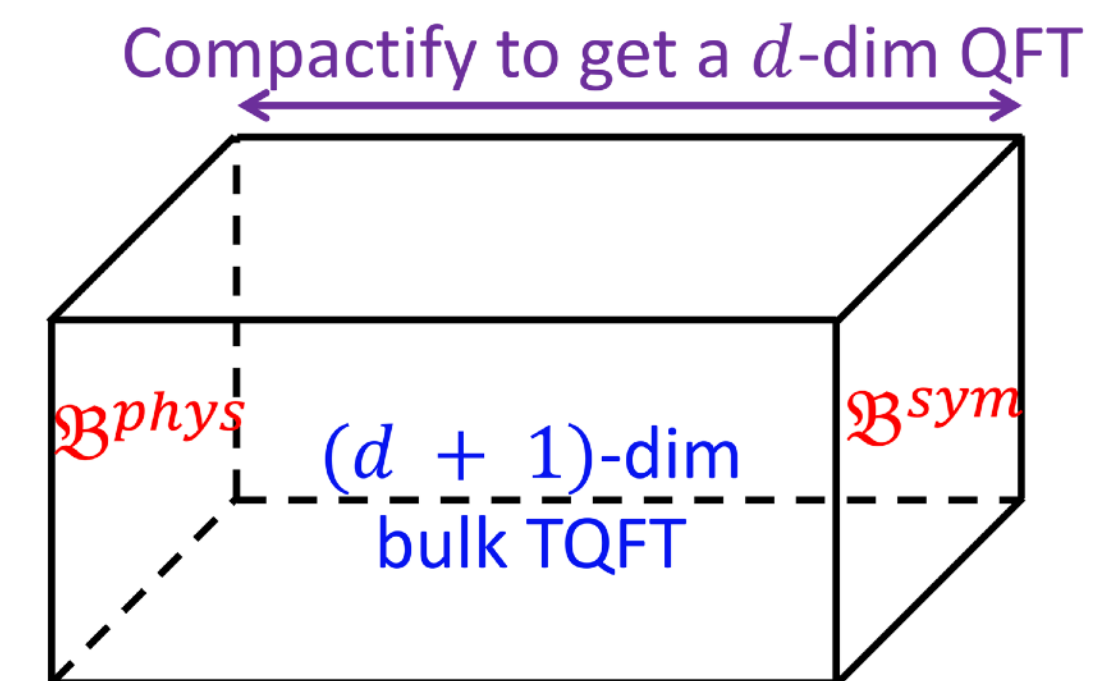
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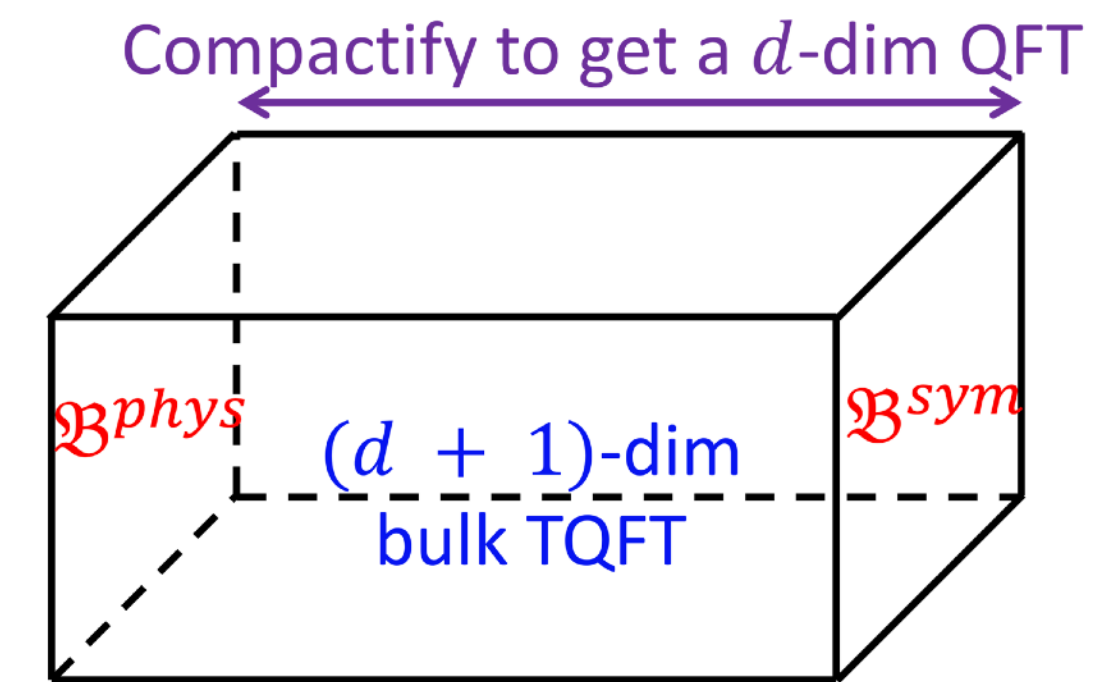
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- Topological operators live in $(d+1)$ -dim bulk TQFT; imposing boundary conditions at $\mathfrak{B}^{\text{sym}}$ + reducing interval \rightarrow QFT with specified global symmetry and charged operators
- Relationship to anomaly theory [Freed '14]: if $\mathfrak{B}^{\text{sym}}$ is a gapped interface, then “RHS” is anomaly theory; without $\mathfrak{B}^{\text{sym}}$: $\mathfrak{B}^{\text{phys}}$ is “relative” theory.



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- B.c.'s are states $|\mathfrak{B}_{\text{sym}}; \hat{c}\rangle$ of SymTFT; analogous description of $|\mathfrak{B}_{\text{sym}}; \hat{b}\rangle$.

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[Freed/Moore/Teleman '22, Kaidi/Ohmori/Zheng '22]

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[$(d-p-2)$ -form sym-transf.]

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[$(d-p-2)$ -form sym-transf.] $= \sum_{\gamma} e^{i \int_{\gamma} \hat{b}} \int \mathcal{D}\phi W(\gamma)^{-1} e^{-S[\phi; c \equiv 0]} \quad (\gamma \equiv \gamma_{p+1} = \text{PD}^{(d)}(c))$

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- ➔ projector $\sum_{\gamma} e^{i \int_{\gamma} \hat{b}} W(\gamma)^{-1} = \sum_{\gamma} e^{i \int_{\gamma} (\hat{b} - b)} \equiv \delta_{b, \hat{b}}$ on $\text{codim} \geq p + 3$ operators.

Features for $p = -1$

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 - ▶ Project back: $S_{\text{top}}[b, \lambda_3, c_4] = i \int b [\text{Tr}(F^2) - \frac{N}{2\pi}(d\lambda_3 + c_4)] + \int \frac{N\hat{b}}{2\pi} c_4$, and path-integrate over $c_4 \Rightarrow b = \hat{b}$ and $\int \text{Tr}(F^2) = \int \frac{N}{2\pi}(d\lambda_3 + c_4)$ can be any integer.

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- Conveniently describes mixed anomaly / 4-group with 1-form symmetry:
 $S_{\text{bulk}} \supset \frac{i\alpha}{2\pi} \int db \wedge B_2 \wedge B_2$, incorporates / generalizes findings of [Tanizaki/Ünsal '19]

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- What about shifts of b ? \rightsquigarrow non-invertible 0-form in 2d?

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 - May enhance symmetry category ($4d \rightarrow 2d$ example).
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