

# Nonunitary Scaling Theory of Non-Hermitian Localization

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**arXiv: 2005.00604**

# Outline

## 1. Introduction and motivation

- Non-Hermitian localization

## 2. Scaling theory of non-Hermitian localization

- Nonunitary scattering matrices
- Scaling equations
- Two-parameter scaling

## 3. Symmetry and non-Hermitian localization

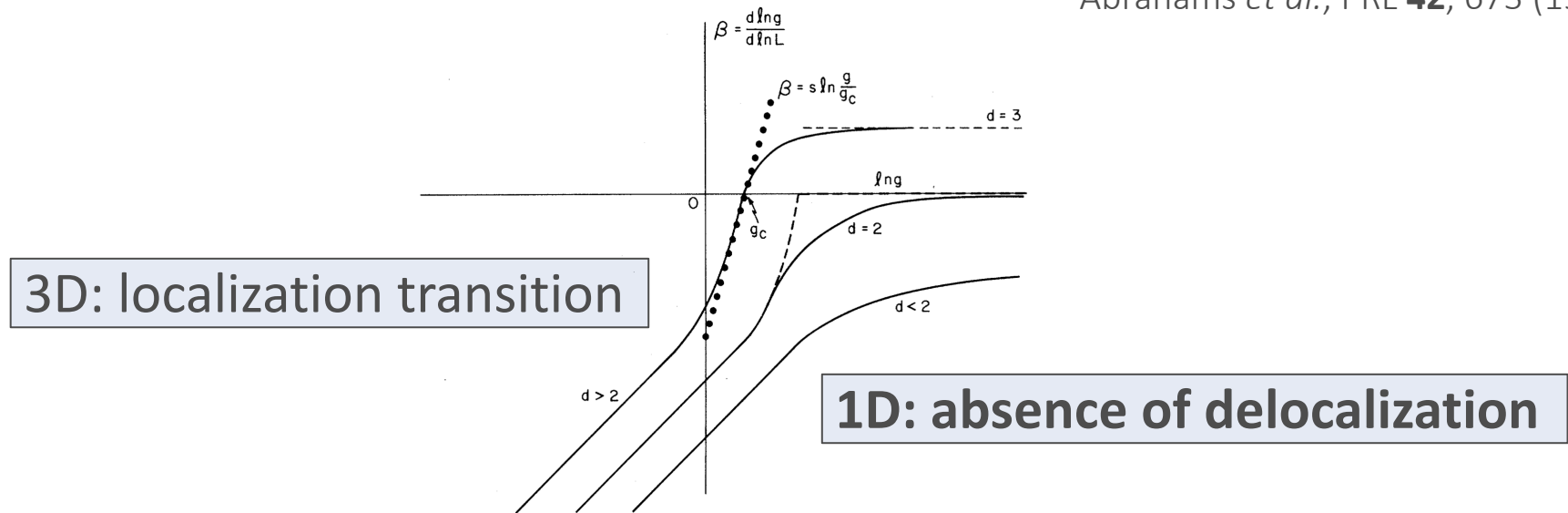
- No delocalization due to reciprocity (class  $A1^\dagger$ )
- Bidirectional delocalization protected by symplectic reciprocity (class  $A11^\dagger$ )

Anderson localization: disorder-induced localization of coherent waves

Anderson, PR **109**, 1492 (1958)

Unified understanding of localization: **scaling theory**

Abrahams *et al.*, PRL **42**, 673 (1979)



Assumption of the scaling theory: **one-parameter scaling**

$$\beta(G) := \frac{d \log G}{d \log L} \text{ is given solely by } G$$

$G$  : conductance       $L$  : length scale

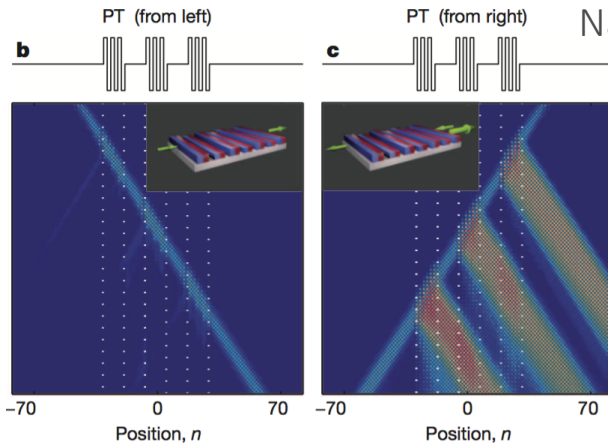
Despite the enormous success, Anderson localization has been mainly investigated in **closed and conservative (Hermitian) systems**.

→ **Richer properties appear in non-Hermitian systems.**  
**(non-Hermiticity can induce decoherence)**

☆ Non-Hermiticity arises from **non-conservation of energy and/or particles** (e.g. non-equilibrium open systems).

## • Photonic lattices with gain/loss

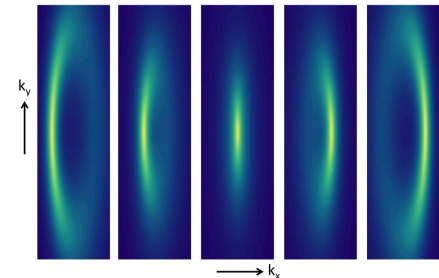
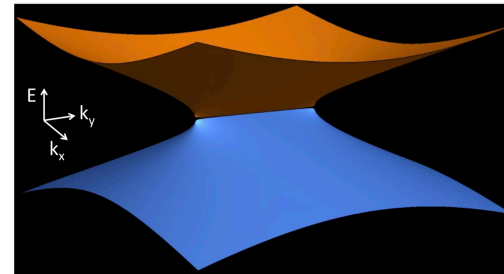
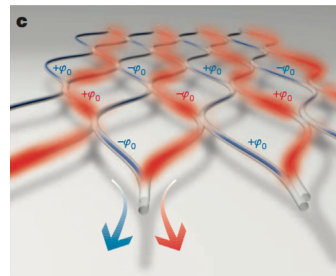
Unidirectional light transport. Regensburger *et al.*,  
Nature **488**, 167 (2012)



## • Finite-lifetime quasiparticles

Bulk Fermi arc due to non-Hermitian self-energy.

Kozii & Fu, arXiv:  
1708.05841

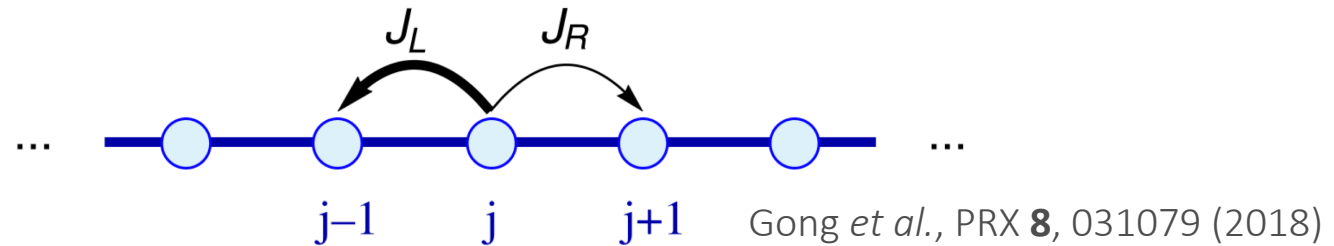


Delocalization is impossible in Hermitian systems in 1D.

→ **Delocalization is possible in the presence of non-Hermiticity!**

Hatano & Nelson, PRL **77**, 570 (1996)

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \underbrace{\left( J + \frac{\gamma}{2} \right)}_{\text{asymmetric hopping}} \hat{c}_{n+1}^\dagger \hat{c}_n + \underbrace{\left( J - \frac{\gamma}{2} \right)}_{\text{asymmetric hopping}} \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_{n+1} \right] + m_n \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_n \right\}$$



**Strong non-Hermiticity leads to delocalization even in 1D.**

Many subsequent works:

Efetov, PRL **79**, 491 (1997); Feinberg *et al.*, Nucl. Phys. B **504**, 579 (1997); Brouwer *et al.*, PRB **56**, R4333(R) (1997); Goldsheid *et al.*, PRL **80**, 2897 (1998); Mudry *et al.*, PRL **80**, 4257 (1998); Yurkevich *et al.*, PRL **82**, 5080 (1999)

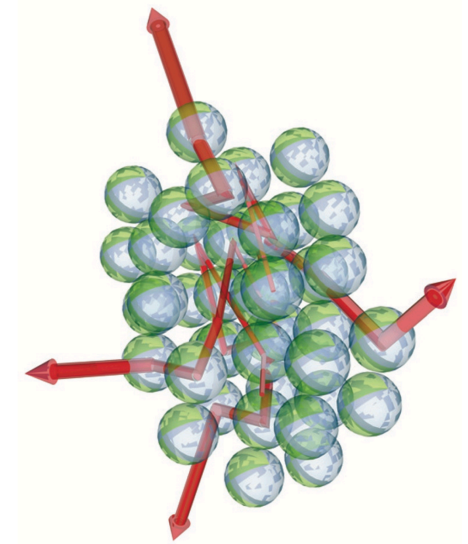
Random lasers can be described by non-Hermitian disordered systems:

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n \left\{ -\frac{J}{2} \left( \hat{c}_{n+1}^\dagger \hat{c}_n + \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_{n+1} \right) + \underbrace{(m_n + i\gamma_n)}_{\text{complex potential}} \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_n \right\}$$

(gain and/or loss)

**No delocalization** occurs in 1D and 2D,  
in contrast to the Hatano-Nelson model.

Delocalization occurs in 3D, and its  
criticality seems to be the **same as the  
Hermitian Anderson model.**



Wiersma, Nat. Phys. **4**, 359 (2008)

e.g. Tzortzakakis *et al.*, PRB **101**, 014202 (2020); Huang *et al.*, PRB **101**, 014204 (2020)  
(subsequent talk)

# Motivation

- Non-Hermitian disordered systems can exhibit delocalization **even in 1D** (e.g. Hatano-Nelson model).

- For Hermitian systems, **scaling theory** forbids delocalization in 1D.

→ **Scaling theory of localization should be changed in non-Hermitian systems.**

- While the Hatano-Nelson model exhibits delocalization, random lasers do not exhibit delocalization.

→ **What determines the universality of non-Hermitian localization?**

# Results

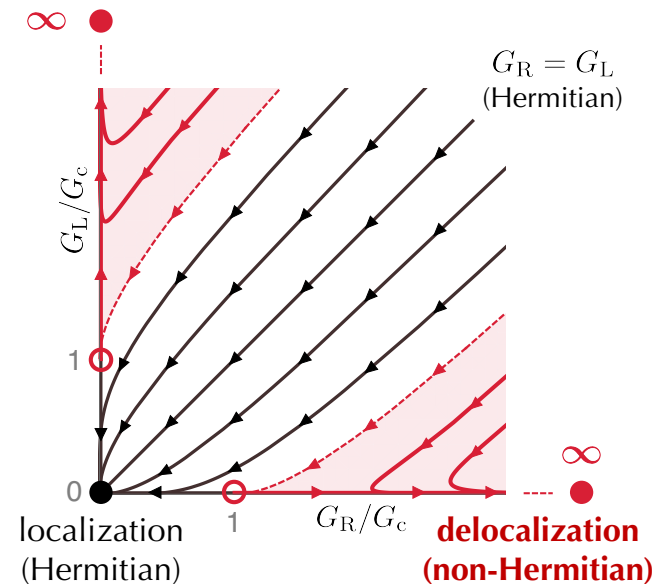
- We develop a scaling theory of localization in non-Hermitian systems.

- Non-Hermiticity introduces a new scale and **breaks down the one-parameter scaling.**



**Two-parameter scaling  
(origin of delocalization in 1D)**

- Threefold universality based on reciprocity**



Class	Symmetry	Delocalization	Conductances
A	No	Unidirectional	$e^{(\pm\gamma-1/\ell)L}$
$AI^\dagger$	$H^T = H$	No	$e^{-L/\ell}$
$AII^\dagger$	$\sigma_2 H^T \sigma_2^{-1} = H$	Bidirectional	$e^{( \gamma -1/\ell)L}$



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The conductance is obtained by the **scattering matrix** (Landauer formula)

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} r_L & t_L \\ t_R & r_R \end{pmatrix}$$

(reflection from right to left)      (transmission from right to left)  
(transmission from left to right)      (reflection from left to right)

Hermiticity of the Hamiltonian  $H$

↔ **Unitarity of the scattering matrix  $S$**

★ **The conductance is not necessarily finite in non-Hermitian systems.  
(direct consequence of non-conservation of particles)**

Unitarity of  $S$  ↔  $S^\dagger S = 1$

→  $T + R = 1$  →  $T \leq 1$   
(transmission and reflection  
amplitudes)

Scaling function  $\beta(G) := \frac{d \log G}{d \log L}$

$G$  : conductance  
 $L$  : length scale

Abrahams *et al.*, PRL **42**, 673 (1979)

Localized regime

localization  $\longrightarrow G \propto e^{-L/\xi} \longrightarrow \beta = \log G < 0$

Diffusive regime

Ohm's law  $\longrightarrow G \propto L^{d-2} \longrightarrow \beta = d - 2$

$\begin{cases} d = 1 & \beta < 0 & \text{no delocalization} \\ d = 3 & \beta > 0 & \text{delocalization (transition)} \end{cases}$

**Non-unitary regime**

non-conservation  
of particles

(amplification)

$G \propto e^{\gamma L} \longrightarrow \beta = \log G \underline{\geq 0}$

★ **Non-unitarity enables delocalization even in 1D.**

Thouless, Phys. Rep. **13**, 93 (1974)

☆ **Thouless time:** time for a particle to reach one end from the other end

diffusive transport  $\longrightarrow t_{\text{Th}} \propto L^2$

To realize this diffusive transport, we need  $t_{\text{Th}} < \Delta t$   
 $\Delta t \propto (\Delta E)^{-1} \propto L^d$   
(energy-level spacing)

**Diffusion is impossible in 1D:**  $d = 1 \rightarrow t_{\text{Th}}/\Delta t \propto L$

☆ **Non-unitarity enables a different type of transport.**

particle inflow from the environment  $>$  localization

$\longrightarrow$  **ballistic transport**  $t_{\text{N}} \propto L$

$\longrightarrow t_{\text{N}}/\Delta t \propto L^{1-d}$

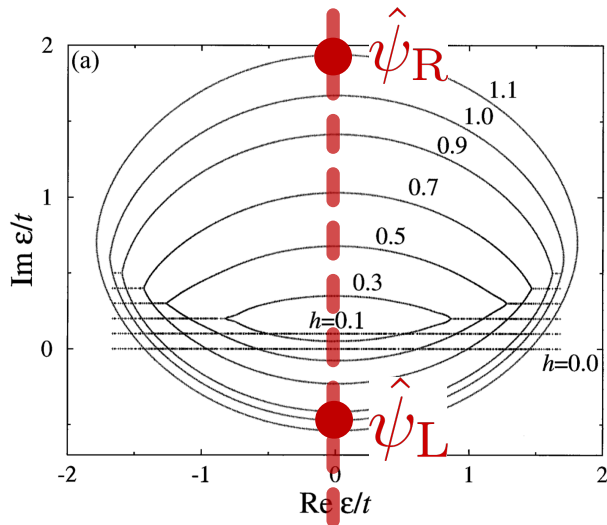
**can be smaller even in 1D**

R. Hamazaki (private communication)

Hatano-Nelson model

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( J + \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \hat{c}_{n+1}^\dagger \hat{c}_n + \left( J - \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_{n+1} \right] + m_n \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_n \right\}$$

To understand a universal feature of non-Hermitian localization, we consider a **continuum model** of the Hatano-Nelson model.



$\text{Re } E = 0$   
("Fermi surface")

Hatano & Nelson, PRL **77**, 570 (1996)

$$\hat{c}_n = e^{ik_F n} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}_R(n)}_{\text{right-moving}} + e^{-ik_F n} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}_L(n)}_{\text{left-moving}}$$

$$\longrightarrow \hat{H} = \int dx (\hat{\psi}_R^\dagger \hat{\psi}_L^\dagger) h_A (\hat{\psi}_R \hat{\psi}_L)^T$$

$$h_A = (-i\partial_x + i\gamma/2) \tau_3 + \underbrace{m_0(x)}_{\text{disorder (Gaussian)}} + \underbrace{m_1(x)}_{\text{disorder (Gaussian)}} \tau_1$$

☆ Independent from specific details of the model

We obtain the scaling equations for the continuum model  $h_A$   
(non-unitary generalization of the DMPK equations)

$$\frac{\langle dT_{R/L} \rangle}{dL} = \pm \gamma T_{R/L} - \frac{T_{R/L} (1 - R_{L/R})}{\ell}$$

non-Hermiticity mean-free path

Dorokhov, JETP Lett. **36**, 318 (1982);  
Mello *et al.*, Ann. Phys. **181**, 290 (1988)

- For  $\gamma > 0$ ,  $T_R$  is amplified, and  $T_L$  is attenuated ( $T_R \neq T_L$ ).

- $T_{R/L} =: e^{\pm \gamma L} \underline{\tilde{T}}$

transmission amplitude in Hermitian systems

$$\tilde{T} \sim e^{-L/\ell} \quad (L \gg \ell)$$

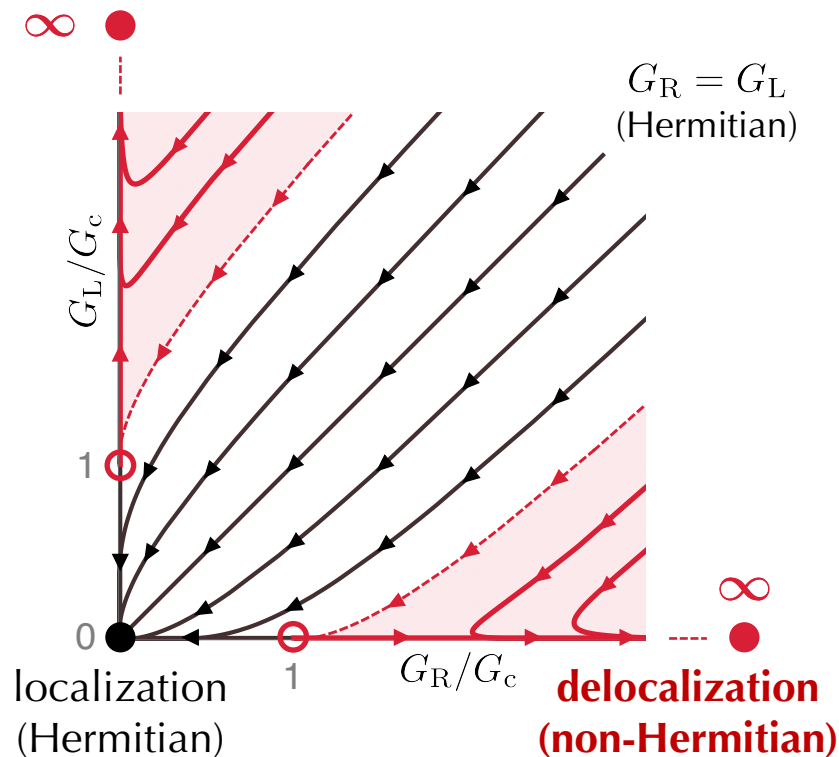
$$\longrightarrow \begin{cases} G_R = e^{+\gamma L} \tilde{G} = e^{(\gamma - 1/\ell)L} \\ G_L = e^{-\gamma L} \tilde{G} = e^{(-\gamma - 1/\ell)L} \end{cases}$$

Around  $\gamma = \gamma_c := 1/\ell$ ,  $G_R$  exhibits criticality.

$$|G_R - G_c| \propto |\gamma - \gamma_c|$$

Scaling equation 
$$\frac{\langle dT_{R/L} \rangle}{dL} = \pm \gamma T_{R/L} - \frac{T_{R/L} (1 - R_{L/R})}{\ell}$$

- Hermitian ( $\gamma = 0$ ) : the scaling equation is described solely by  $L/\ell$   
**(one-parameter scaling)**
- Non-Hermitian ( $\gamma \neq 0$ ) : **two length scales**  $\ell, \gamma^{-1}$



★ **Two-parameter scaling** ( $G_R$  &  $G_L$ )

The unusual delocalization originates from the breakdown of the one-parameter scaling.

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☆ Symmetry can change universality of Anderson localization.

## Threefold way by time-reversal symmetry (reciprocity)

Class A: no symmetry

Class AI:  $H^* = H^T = H$

Class AII:  $\sigma_2 H^* \sigma_2 = \sigma_2 H^T \sigma_2 = H$

- Localization is enhanced in class AI, while it is suppressed in class AII.

e.g. Delocalization in 2D class AII

Hikami *et al.*, PTP **63**, 707 (1980)

↔ NO delocalization in 2D class A

**Does symmetry change universality of localization even in non-Hermitian systems?**

# Reciprocity in non-Hermitian systems

☆ Symmetry ramifies in non-Hermitian systems.

Kawabata *et al.*,  
PRX **9**, 041015 (2019)

(Hermitian)

(non-Hermitian)

$$H = H^* = H^T \begin{cases} \rightarrow H = H^* & \text{time-reversal symmetry} \\ \rightarrow H = H^T & \text{reciprocity} \end{cases}$$

Two symmetry is different in non-Hermitian systems, while it is equivalent in Hermitian systems.

- Why is the latter symmetry reciprocity?

$$H = H^T \longleftrightarrow S = S^T \longleftrightarrow t_L = t_R^T$$

(reciprocal transport)

☆ Reciprocity leads to threefold universality of localization.

- Continuum model in class AI<sup>†</sup>

$$h_{\text{AI}^\dagger} = -i\tau_3\partial_x + m_0(x) + (m_1(x) + i\gamma/2)\tau_1$$

reciprocity:  $\tau_1 h_{\text{AI}^\dagger}^T \tau_1 = h_{\text{AI}^\dagger}$

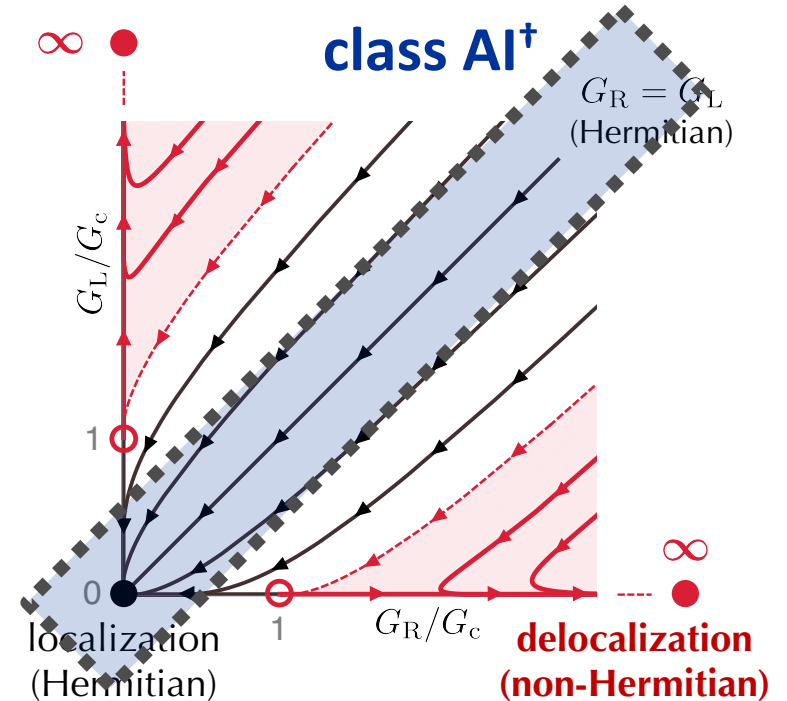
→  $S = S^T, G_R = G_L$

→ **The universality is the same as the Hermitian counterpart.**

☆ The absence of delocalization in random lasers originates from reciprocity.

Hermitian Hamiltonian in class AI + **complex onsite potential**

→ non-Hermitian Hamiltonian in class AI<sup>†</sup>



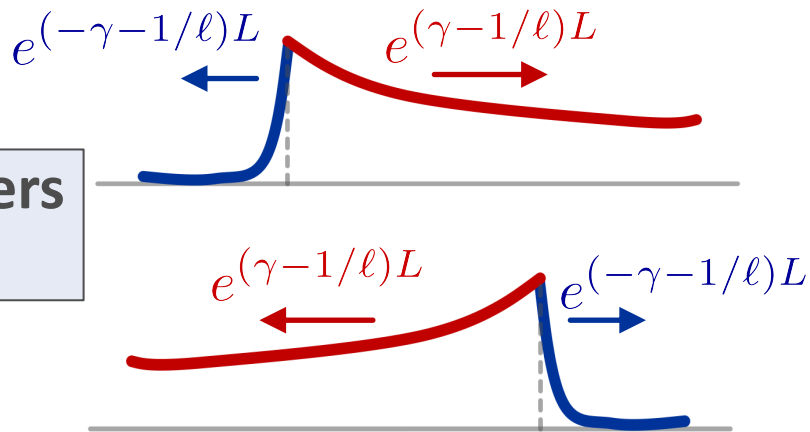
# Bidirectional delocalization (class AII<sup>†</sup>)

- Continuum model in class AII<sup>†</sup>

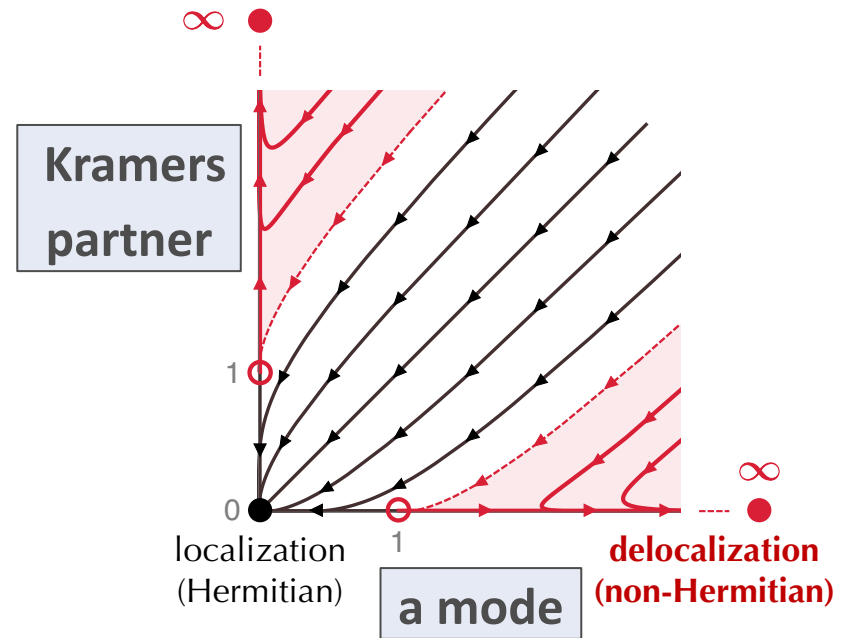
$$h_{\text{AII}^\dagger} = (-i\partial_x + \Delta\sigma_1 + i(\gamma/2)\underbrace{\sigma_3}_{\text{spin}})\tau_3 + m_0(x) + m_1(x)\underbrace{\tau_1}_{\text{orbit}}$$

reciprocity:  $(\sigma_2\tau_1) h_{\text{AII}^\dagger}^T (\sigma_2\tau_1) = h_{\text{AII}^\dagger}$

→ **Kramers degeneracy**



$$G_R = G_L \sim e^{(\gamma-1/\ell)L} + e^{(-\gamma-1/\ell)L}$$



☆ Symplectic reciprocity gives rise to a new type of delocalization.

## ☆ Threefold universality of non-Hermitian localization by reciprocity

Class	Symmetry	Delocalization	Conductances	
A	No	Unidirectional	$e^{(\pm\gamma-1/\ell)L}$	(Hatano-Nelson)
AI <sup>†</sup>	$H^T = H$	No	$e^{-L/\ell}$	(random laser)
AII <sup>†</sup>	$\sigma_2 H^T \sigma_2^{-1} = H$	Bidirectional	$e^{( \gamma -1/\ell)L}$	(symplectic Hatano-Nelson)

## ☆ Localization is enhanced in class AI<sup>†</sup>, while it is suppressed in class AII<sup>†</sup>.

Similar to the Hermitian counterparts,  
but the influence of reciprocity is more dramatic

## ☆ Time-reversal symmetry does not change universality.

$$(H^* = H, \sigma_2 H^* \sigma_2 = H)$$

Numerical calculations of localization lengths (**transfer-matrix method**).

e.g. Kramer *et al.*, Int. J. Mod. Phys. B **24**, 1841 (2010)

☆ **Two localization lengths in non-Hermitian systems**

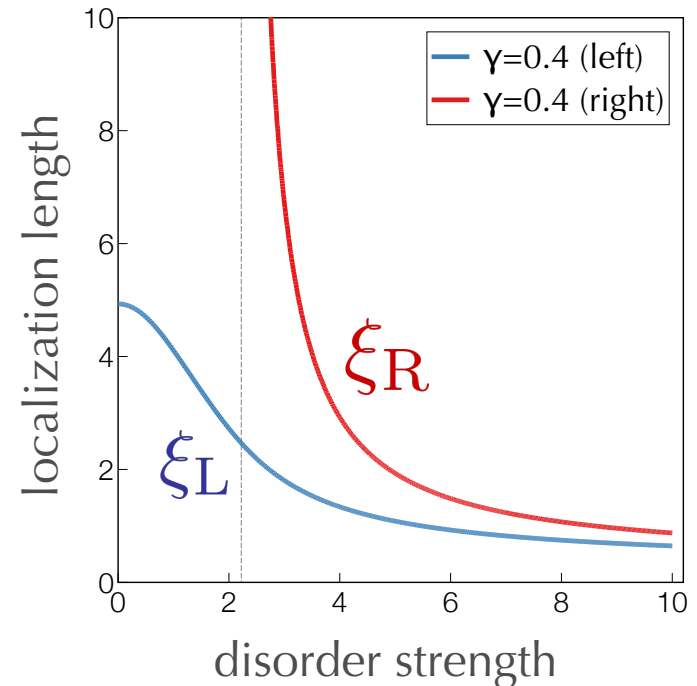


(non-Hermitian)  $\xi_L \neq \xi_R, G_L \neq G_R$   
 (Hermitian)  $\xi_L = \xi_R, G_L = G_R$

• **Hatano-Nelson model (class A)**

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( J + \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \hat{c}_{n+1}^\dagger \hat{c}_n + \left( J - \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_{n+1} \right] + m_n \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_n \right\}$$

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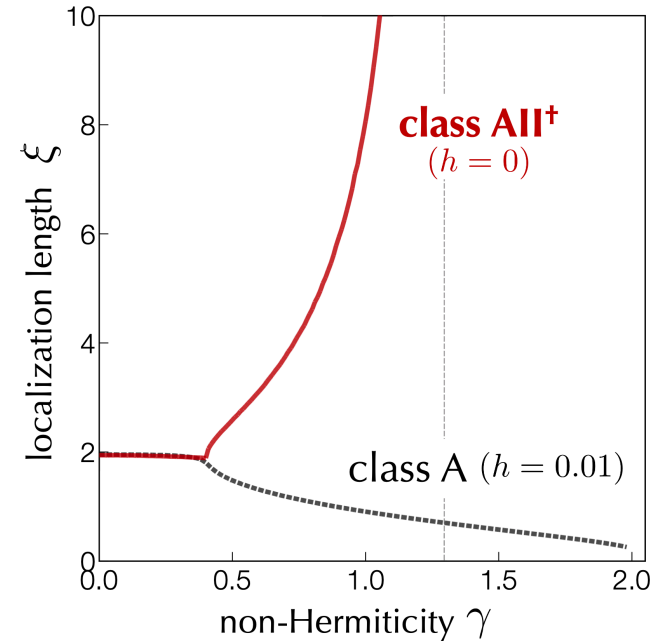


- **Symplectic Hatano-Nelson model (class AII<sup>†</sup>)** cf. Okuma *et al.*, PRL **124**, 086801 (2020)

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \hat{c}_{n+1}^\dagger \left( J + \frac{\gamma\sigma_3}{2} - i\Delta\sigma_1 \right) \hat{c}_n + \hat{c}_n^\dagger \left( J - \frac{\gamma\sigma_3}{2} + i\Delta\sigma_1 \right) \hat{c}_{n+1} \right] + \hat{c}_n^\dagger (m_n + h\sigma_3) \hat{c}_n \right\}$$

Class	Symmetry	Delocalization	Conductances
A	No	Unidirectional	$e^{(\pm\gamma-1/\ell)L}$
AII <sup>†</sup>	$H^T = H$	No	$e^{-L/\ell}$
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Reciprocity leads to  $\xi_L = \xi_R, G_L = G_R$



☆ **The delocalization is protected by reciprocity.**

A small symmetry-breaking perturbation destroys the delocalization.  
 $(h\sigma_z)$

cf. Okuma & Sato, PRL **123**, 097701 (2019)

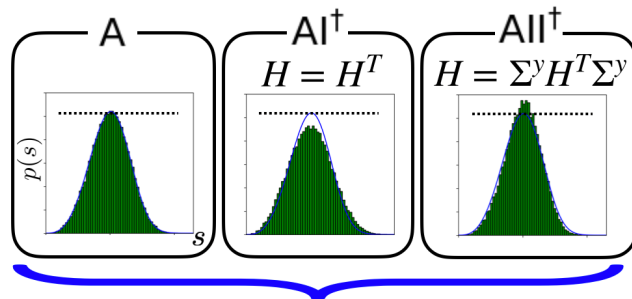
- **Other symmetry classes**

Dyson, PR **92**, 1331 (1953)

In the presence of chiral (sublattice) symmetry, delocalization can appear even in Hermitian systems in 1D.

$$\tau_1 H \tau_1 = -H \begin{cases} \rightarrow \tau_1 H \tau_1 = -H & \text{nonunitary delocalization} \\ & \text{(sublattice symmetry)} \\ \rightarrow \tau_1 H^\dagger \tau_1 = -H & \text{unitary delocalization} \\ & \text{(chiral symmetry)} \end{cases}$$

- **Random-matrix theory**



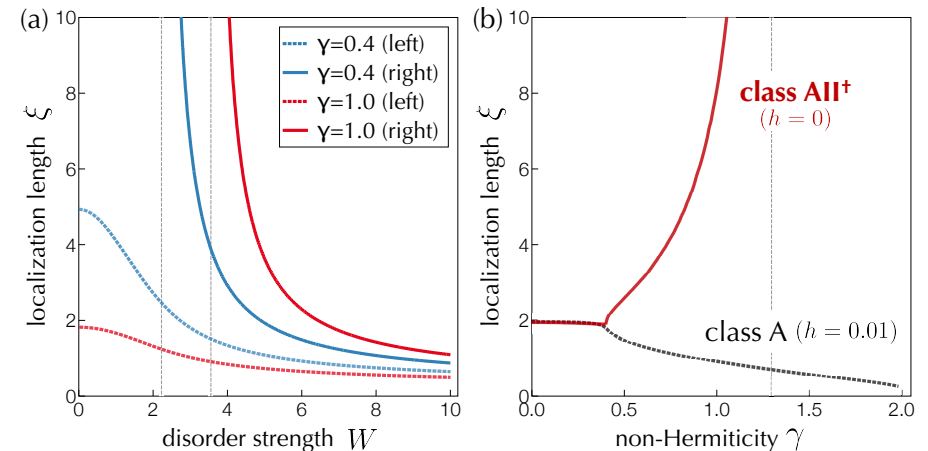
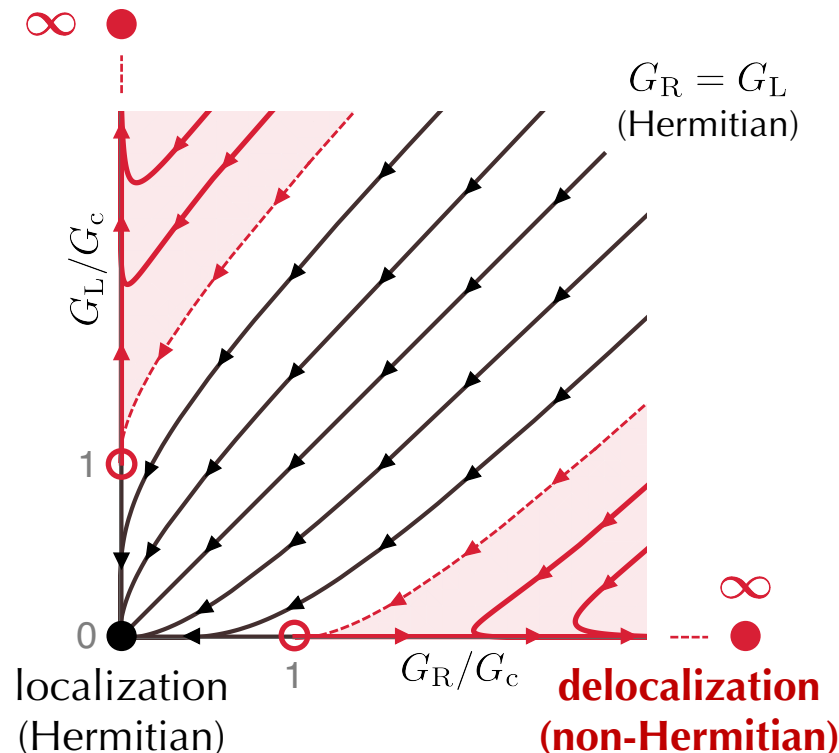
**Three universal statistics**

Reciprocity leads to **threefold universality of non-Hermitian random matrices.**

(Tomorrow's talk by Hamazaki)



- We develop a scaling theory of localization in non-Hermitian systems.
- Non-Hermiticity introduces a new scale and breaks down the one-parameter scaling: two-parameter scaling.
- Threefold universality based on reciprocity.



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