

## Two-Dimensional Polymers: Playing with Structural Topology

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### Introduction

In two-dimensional (2D) world, beside graphene's honeycomb structure, there are a large amount of mathematically possible 2D lattices, e.g., square (**sql**), kagome (**kgm**) and hexagonal (**hxl**) lattice. These lattices might be difficult to synthesize as Haeckelites like graphene, but there are possibilities to realize them as conjugated 2D polymers. The electronic properties of these conjugated polymers are determined by structural topology and chemical composition. It has been shown that if 2D polymers can be designed within certain structural topology, similar characteristic bands could be obtained [1]. Hence, it's possible to efficiently look over lattices with different structural topology with tight-binding (TB) model, and then implement them in hypothetical 2D polymers with different fragments and linkers.

### Methods

Our TB model Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_i \varepsilon_i c_i^\dagger c_i + \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} t_1 c_i^\dagger c_j + \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} t_2 c_i^\dagger c_j + H_{\text{SOC}}$$

contains 1<sup>st</sup>- ( $t_1$ ) and 2<sup>nd</sup>-neighbor ( $t_2$ ) electron hopping parameters with on-site energies  $\varepsilon_i$ . Spin-orbit coupling (SOC) are also considered and it can be written in Haldane model form as,

$$H_{\text{SOC}} = \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \lambda e^{-i v_{ij} \phi} c_i^\dagger c_j,$$

or in Kane-Mele model form as,

$$H_{\text{SOC}} = i\lambda \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} v_{ij} c_i^\dagger \sigma_z c_j,$$

where  $\phi$  is staggered-flux parameter chosen to be  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ ,  $\lambda$  is spin-orbit coupling constant,  $\sigma_z$  is Pauli matrix, and  $v_{ij} = 1$  or  $-1$  indicates the orientation path of an electron traveling from vertex  $i$  to a 2<sup>nd</sup>-neighbor vertex  $j$ .

TB model



RCSR database [2]

A catalog of electronic structures for 101 different lattices [3]

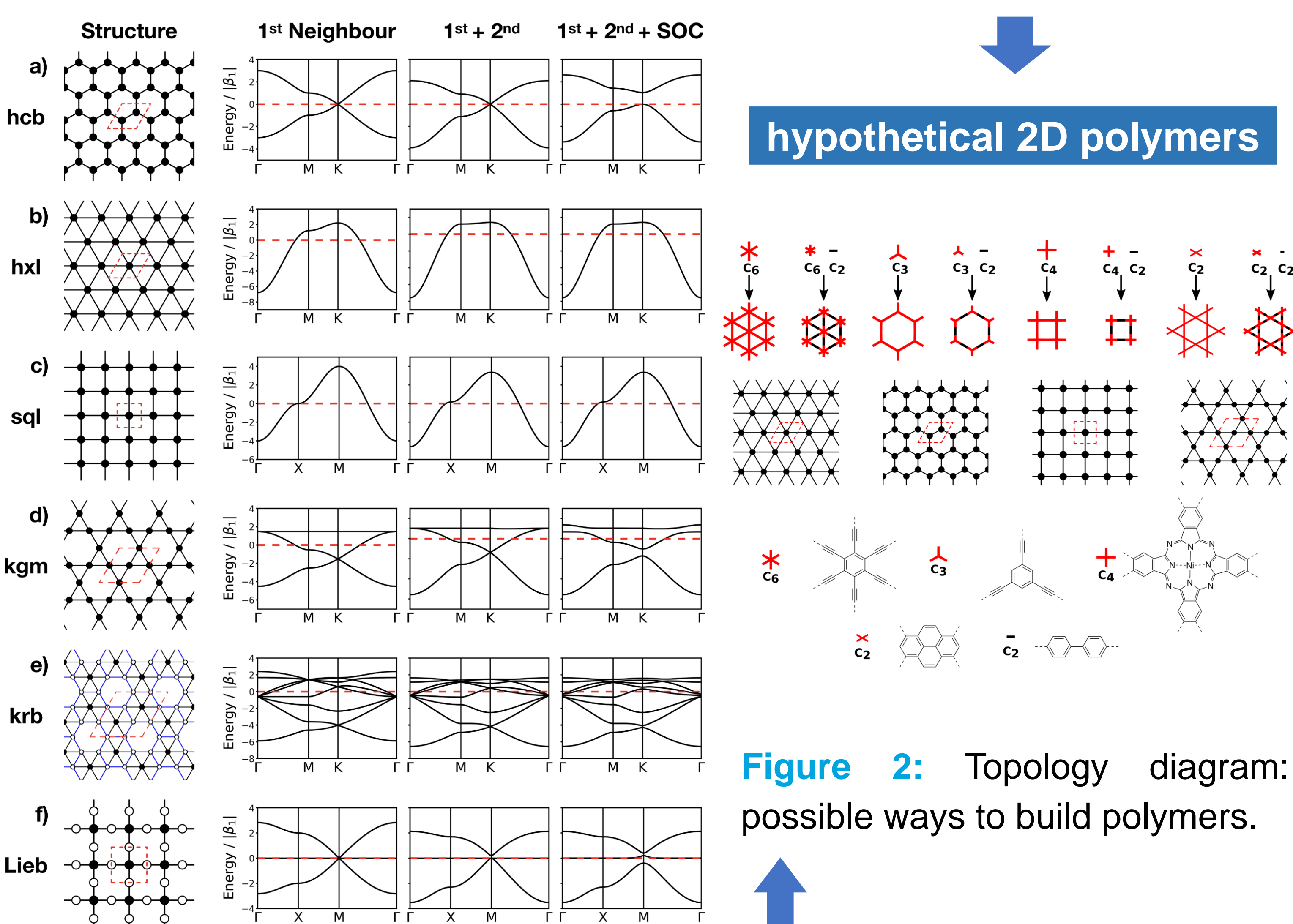


Figure 2: Topology diagram: possible ways to build polymers.

Figure 1: Some of electronic structures for different lattices.

Tailoring Bands

- By On-site energy  $\varepsilon$  → Replacing Carbons with Borons or Nitrides
- By Hopping  $t$  → Different linkers

### Results: fes lattice as an example

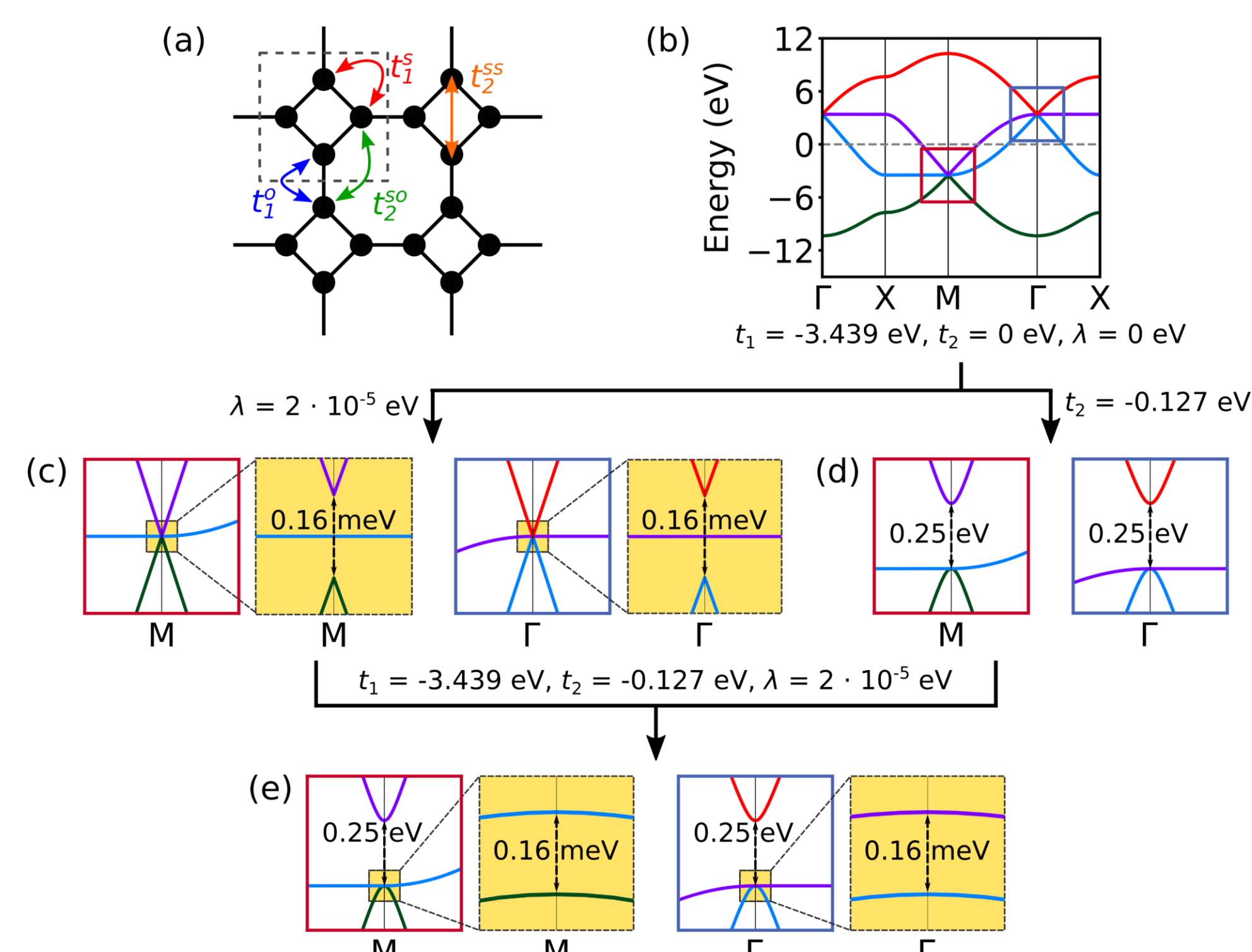


Figure 3: (a) fes lattice.

(b) Band structure with only 1<sup>st</sup>-neighbor hoppings ( $t_1^o = t_1^s$ ). (c)-(e) Band structure near originally triply degenerate points (M and  $\Gamma$ ) when other interactions are added, i.e., (c) 1<sup>st</sup>-neighbor hoppings + SOC, (d) 1<sup>st</sup>- + 2<sup>nd</sup>-neighbor hoppings, (e) 1<sup>st</sup>- + 2<sup>nd</sup>-neighbor hoppings + SOC.

### Tailoring Bands

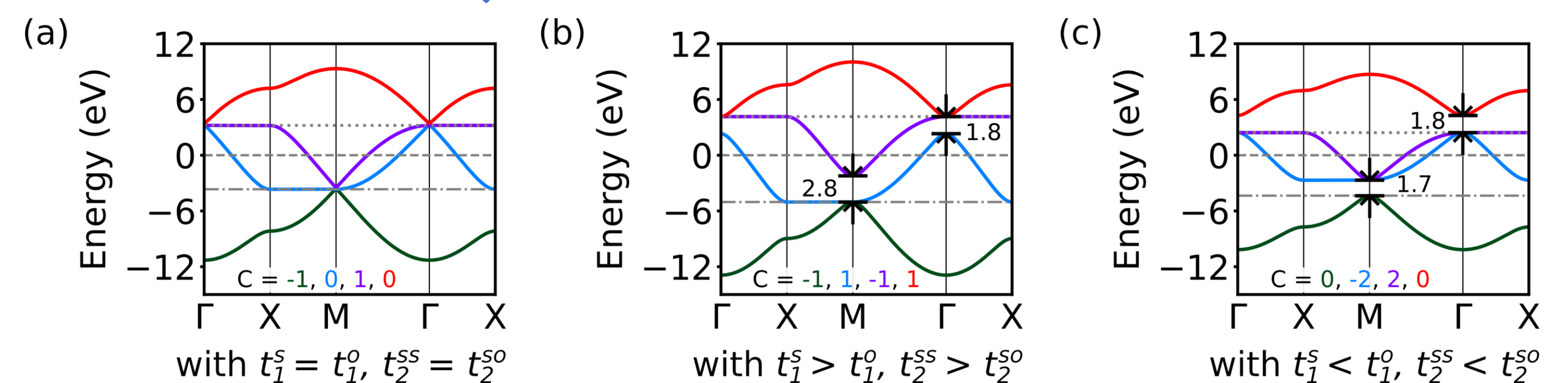


Figure 4: Band structures and corresponding Chern numbers for each band of fes lattice. With different 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-neighbor interactions  $t$ , gaps can be opened at certain high symmetry points.

### Making 2D polymers

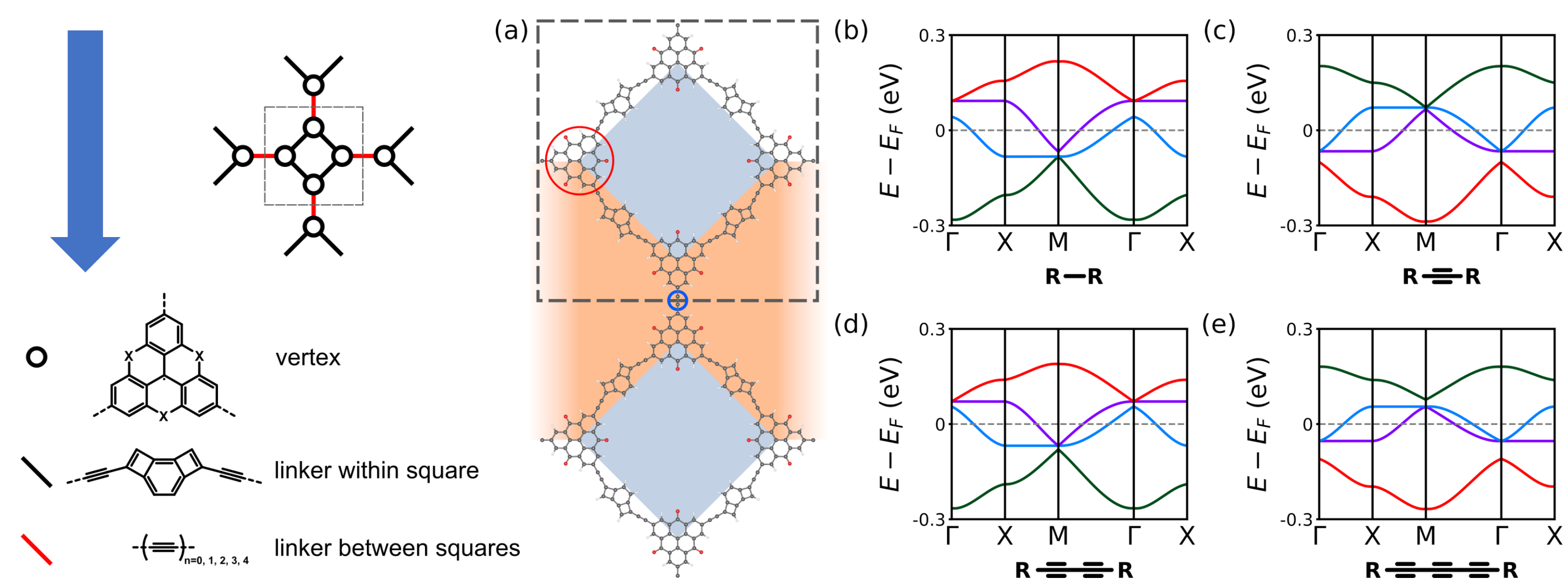


Figure 5: (a) Atomistic structure of a hypothetical 2D polymer with the underlying fes net topology and one connecting  $C_2$  unit (blue circle) between triangulene units (red circle). (b-e) Band structures of the hypothetical 2D polymers with different number of  $C_2$  units as linkers connecting the squares. For (b), the electronic effective mass is  $m_e^* = 0.01$  (blue band,  $\Gamma$ -point) and for holes is  $m_h^* = 0.05$  (purple band, M-point)

### Conclusion

- TB model can be used to explore 2D lattices and serves as guidance on building conjugated polymers with same structural topology.
- Example: fes lattice → hypothetical 2D polymers
  - Proposed 2D polymers as representative example for implementation → possibility to explore properties via structural modifications (e.g. changing linkers)
  - In this example, SOC-induced band gaps are too small for practical use but low effective masses can be found.

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### REFERENCES

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