

# Topological superconductivity and boundary modes of magnetic nanostructures

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Tadeusz DOMAŃSKI

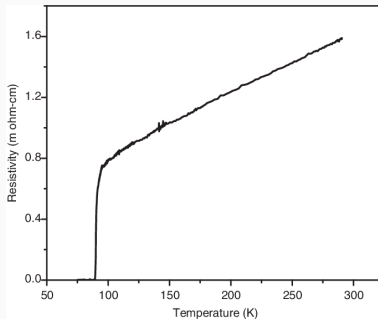
M. Curie-Skłodowska Univ.  
Lublin, Poland



# **Magnetism vs superconductivity**

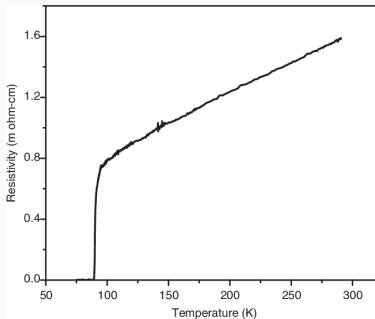
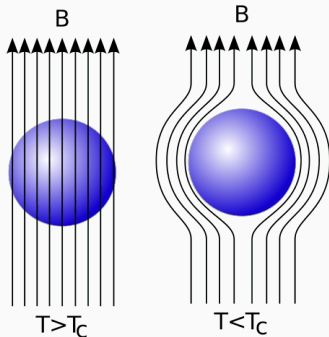
# BULK SUPERCONDUCTORS

## Perfect conductor



# BULK SUPERCONDUCTORS

## Perfect conductor



## Perfect diamagnet

# PAIRING VS MAGNETISM

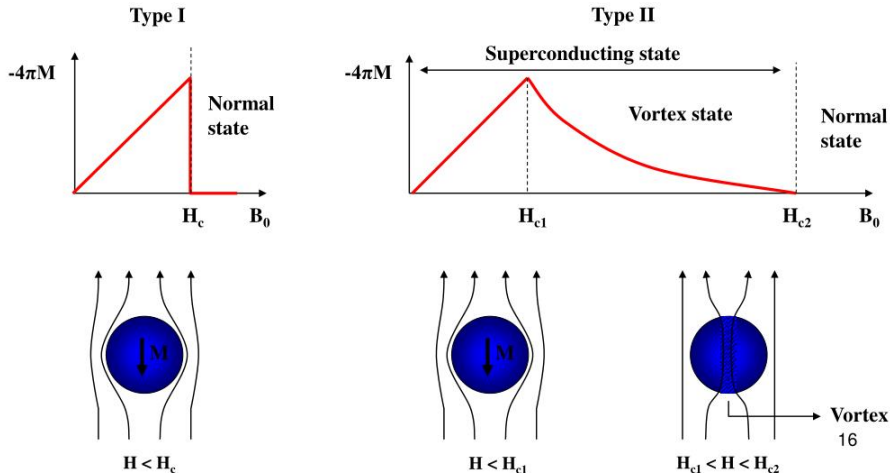
**Are they friends or foes ?**

# DESTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE OF MAGNETIC FIELD

**Magnetism and electron pairing are rather antagonistic ...**

# DESTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE OF MAGNETIC FIELD

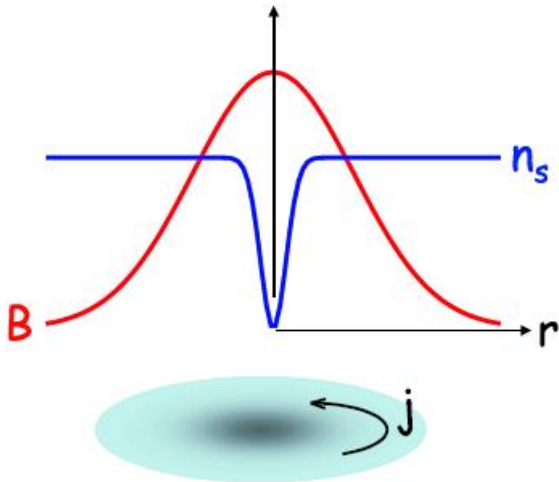
Magnetism and electron pairing are rather antagonistic ...



Magnetic field penetrates type-II superconductors (vortex-structure)

# VORTEX IN SUPERCONDUCTOR

Single vortex encloses the magnetic field flux  $\Phi = \frac{h}{2e}$ .



Vortex is a piece of normal region inside superconductor.



## BOUND FERMION STATES ON A VORTEX LINE IN A TYPE II SUPERCONDUCTOR

C. CAROLI, P. G. DE GENNES, J. MATRICON

*Service de Physique des Solides, Faculté des Sciences, Orsay (S & O)*

**Bound-states of the axisymmetric vortex in s-wave  
superconductors take a form:**

$$E_n = \omega_0 \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

where

$$\omega_0 \approx \frac{\Delta^2}{E_F}$$

## Fermion zero modes on vortices in chiral superconductors

G. E. Volovik

*Helsinki University of Technology, Low Temperature Laboratory, FIN-02015 HUT, Finland; Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences, 117334 Moscow, Russia*

(Submitted 30 September 1999)

Pis'ma Zh. Éksp. Teor. Fiz. **70**, No. 9, 601–606 (10 November 1999)

**Bound-states of the vortex in p-wave (triplet) superconductors are given by:**

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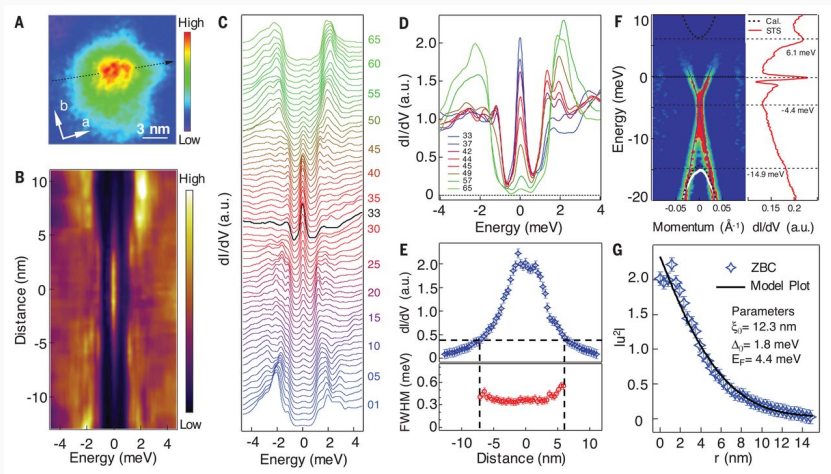
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$$E_n = \omega_0 n \qquad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

**implying the bound state at zero-energy !**

# BOUND STATES IN A VORTEX (EXPERIMENT)

**FeTe<sub>0.55</sub>Se<sub>0.45</sub> superconductor ( $T_c = 14.5$  K,  $\Delta = 1.8$  meV,  $E_F = 4.4$  meV).**

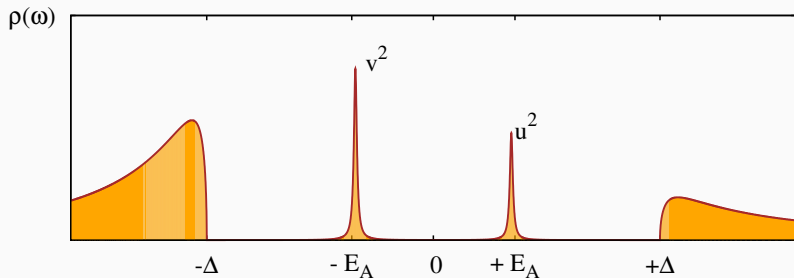


**D. Wang et al, Science 362, 333 (2018) /Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing)/**

# **Nanoscopic superconductors**

# SINGLE IMPURITY IN SUPERCONDUCTOR

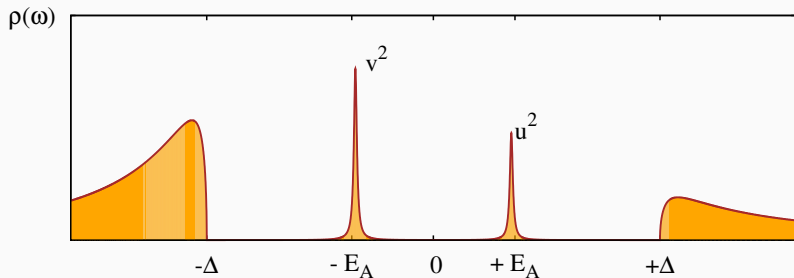
Typical spectrum of a single impurity in s-wave superconductor:



Bound states appearing in the subgap region  $E \in \langle -\Delta, \Delta \rangle$

# SINGLE IMPURITY IN SUPERCONDUCTOR

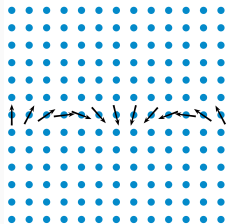
Typical spectrum of a single impurity in s-wave superconductor:



Bound states appearing in the subgap region  $E \in \langle -\Delta, \Delta \rangle$  are dubbed **Yu-Shiba-Rusinov (or Andreev) quasiparticles**.

# MAGNETIC OBJECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTORS

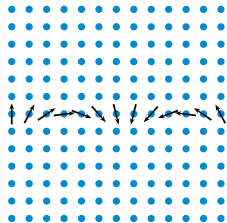
## Magnetic chains



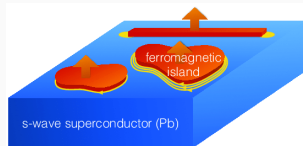


# MAGNETIC OBJECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTORS

## Magnetic chains

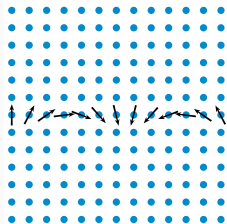


## or magnetic islands

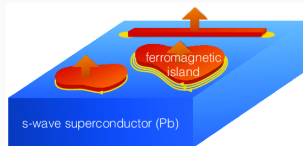


# MAGNETIC OBJECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTORS

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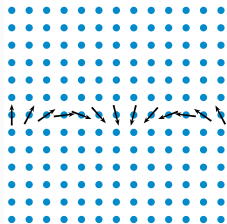
## or magnetic islands



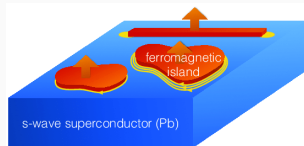
arrange their in-gap bound states in a form of the Shiba-bands.

# MAGNETIC OBJECTS IN SUPERCONDUCTORS

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## or magnetic islands



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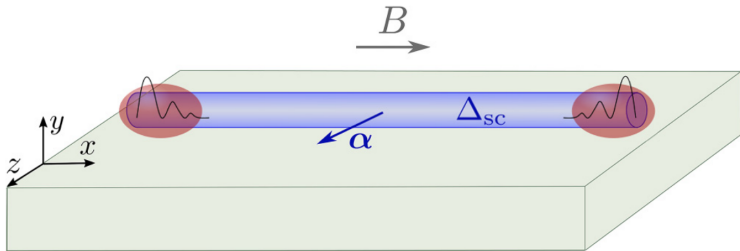
**Specific magnetic textures of chains and islands can guarantee topologically non-trivial phases, hosting the Majorana modes !**

**A few examples ...**

# **1. Rashba nanowires**

# TOPOLOGICAL SUPERCONDUCTING NANOWIRE

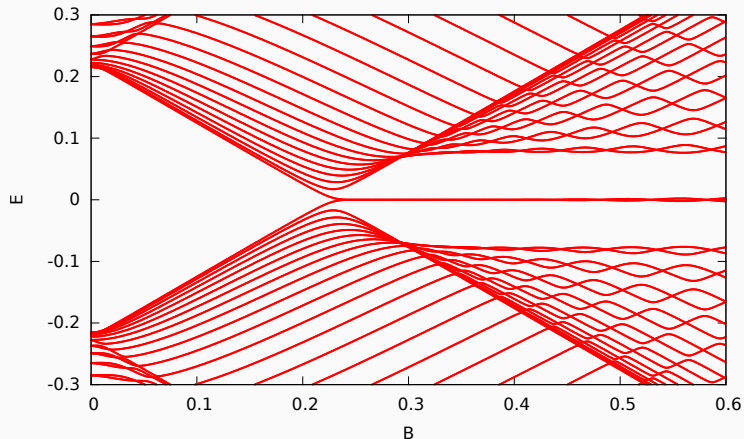
Spin-orbit (Rashba) interaction in presence of magnetic field applied to semiconducting nanowires proximitized to s-wave superconductor induces the triplet pairing of electrons, hosting Majorana modes.



**FIG. 1.** A nanowire (blue) placed on a superconducting substrate (green). The SOI vector  $\alpha$  is taken to lie along the  $z$  axis and determines the spin quantization axis. A magnetic field  $B$  is applied along the  $x$  axis such that it is oriented perpendicularly to the SOI vector. By proximity, the substrate induces a superconducting pairing of strength  $\Delta_{sc}$  in the nanowire. In the topological phase [see Eq. (41)], MBSs (red) emerge at the wire ends.

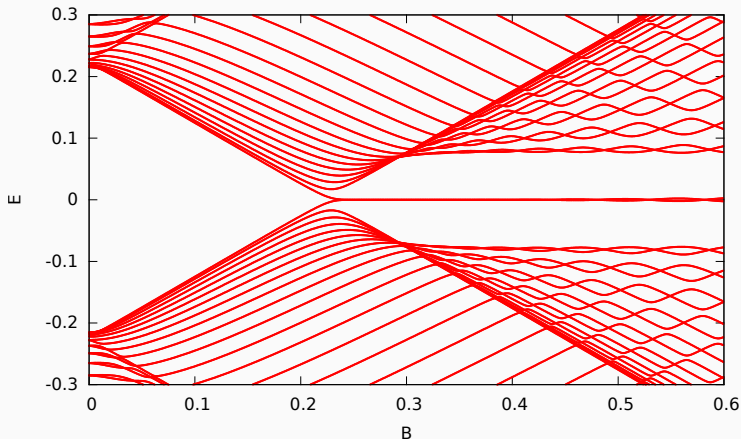
# TRANSITION TO TOPOLOGICAL PHASE

## Effective quasiparticle states of the Rashba nanowire



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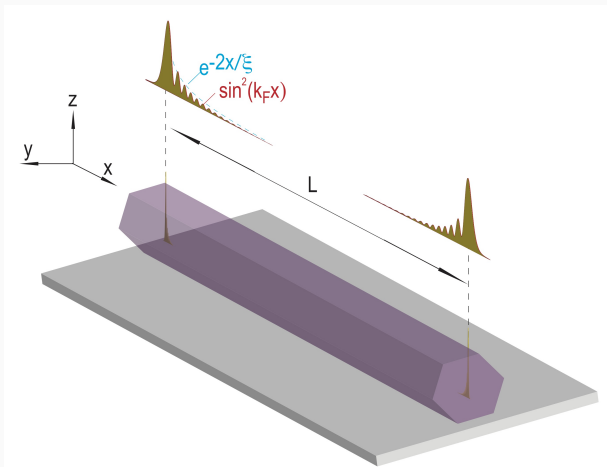
**Closing / reopening of a gap  $\iff$  band-inversion of topological insulators**

**M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).**



# SPATIAL PROFILE OF MAJORANA QPS

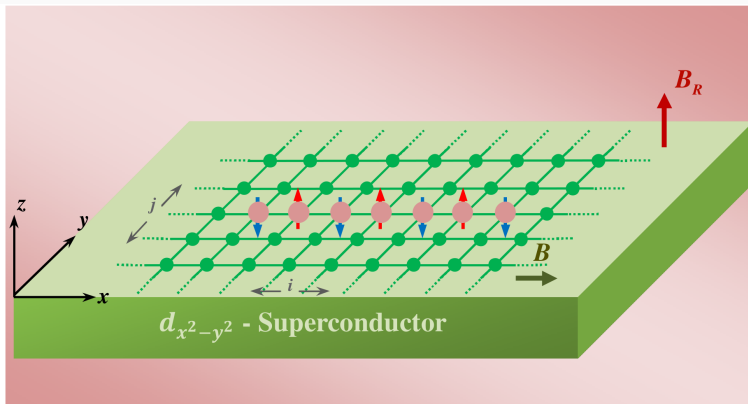
Majorana qps are localized near the edges



R. Aguado, Riv. Nuovo Cim. 40, 523 (2017).

# PROXIMITY TO D-WAVE SUPERCONDUCTOR

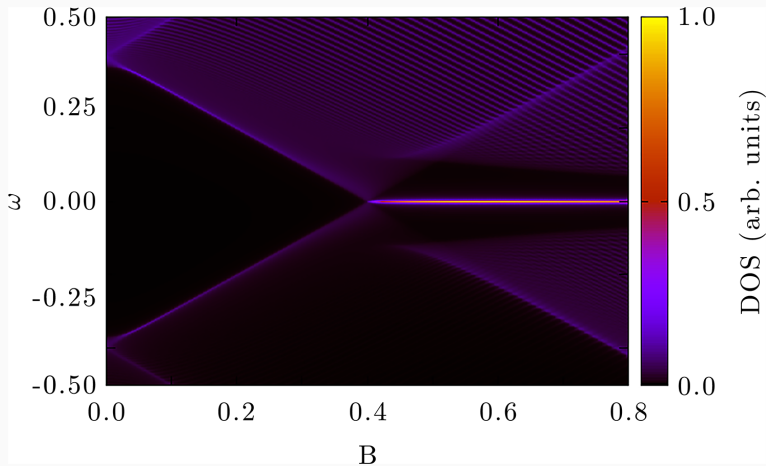
Rashba nanowire deposited along  $a$ -axis of high  $T_c$  superconductor



T. Domański, S. Vosoughinia, A. Kobińska, Acta Phys. Polon. A 142, 679 (2022).

# PROXIMITY TO D-WAVE SUPERCONDUCTOR

Transition to topological phase:

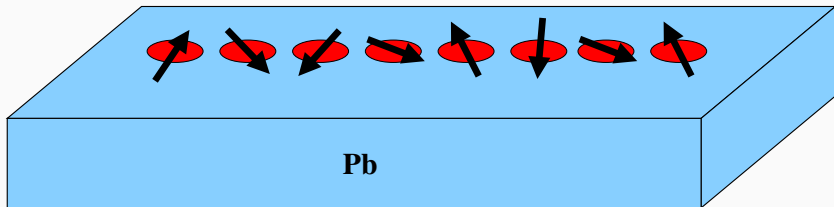


T. Domański, S. Vosoughinia, A. Kobińska, *Acta Phys. Polon. A* 142, 679 (2022).

## **2. Selforganised magnetic chains**

# MAGNETIC CHAINS ON SUPERCONDUCTORS

**Magnetic atoms (like Fe) on a surface of s-wave superconductor (for example Pb) arrange themselves into such spiral order, where topological superconducting phase is self-sustained**



# MICROSCOPIC MODEL

Itinerant electrons in the chain of magnetic impurities placed on a surface of isotropic superconductor can be described by the Hamiltonian:

$$H = -t \sum_{i,\sigma} \left( \hat{c}_{i,\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i+1,\sigma} + \text{H.c.} \right) - \mu \sum_{i,\sigma} \hat{c}_{i,\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i,\sigma} \\ + J \sum_i \vec{S}_i \cdot \hat{\vec{s}}_i + \sum_i \left( \Delta \hat{c}_{i\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i\downarrow}^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \right)$$

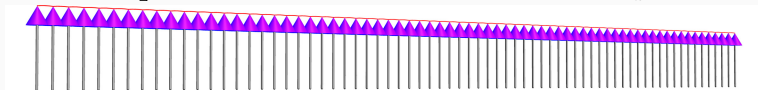
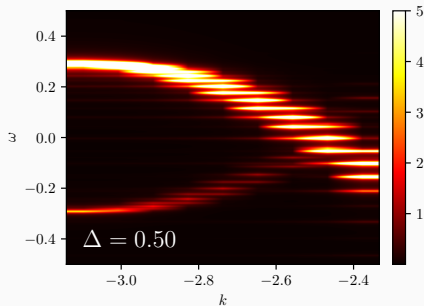
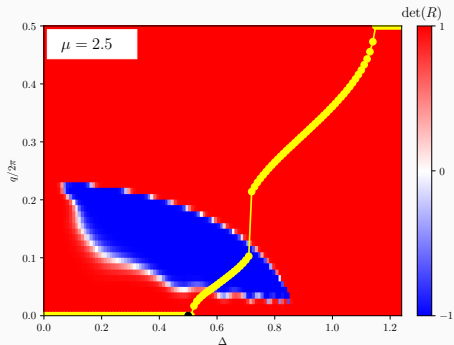
Here  $\vec{S}_i$  are the classical magnetic moments and  $\hat{\vec{s}}_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha,\beta} \hat{c}_{i,\alpha}^\dagger \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{c}_{i,\beta}$  denote the spins of mobile electrons

$\Rightarrow$   $J$  is the coupling between magnetic atoms and itinerant electrons

$\Rightarrow$   $\Delta$  is the proximity induced on-site pairing

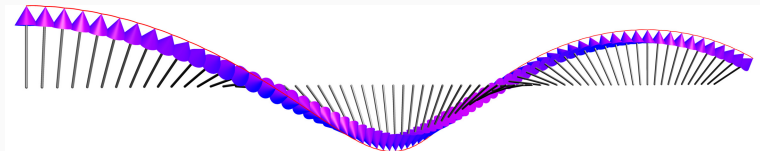
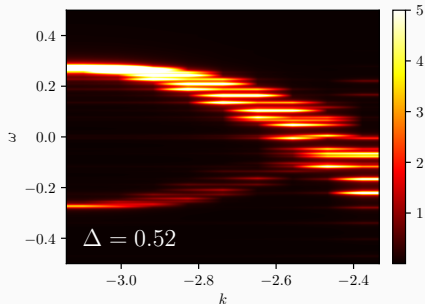
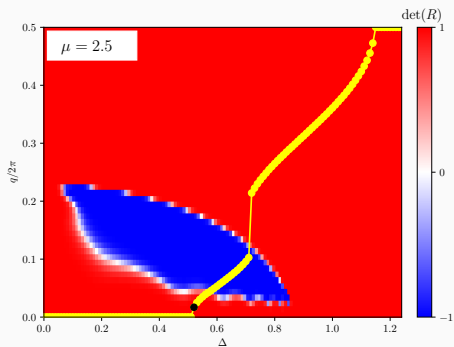
# SELFORGANISATION (TOPOFILIA)

A. Gorczyca-Goraj, T. Domański & M.M. Maška, Phys. Rev. B 99, 235430 (2019).



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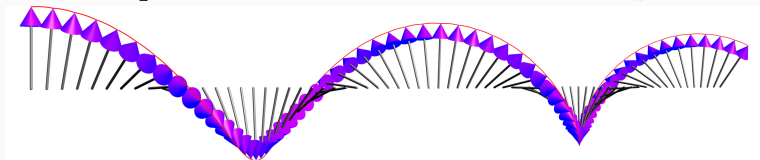
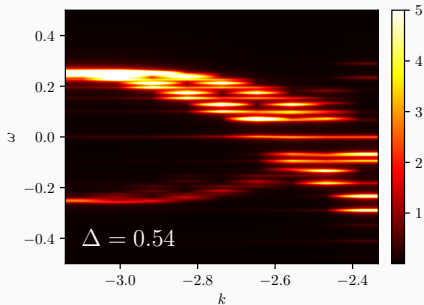
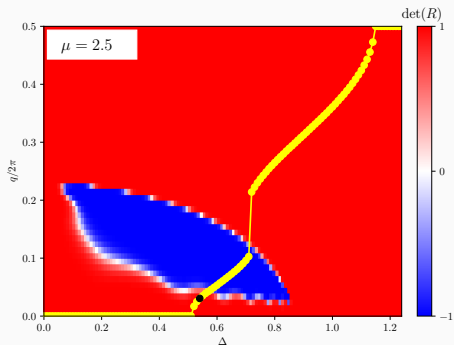
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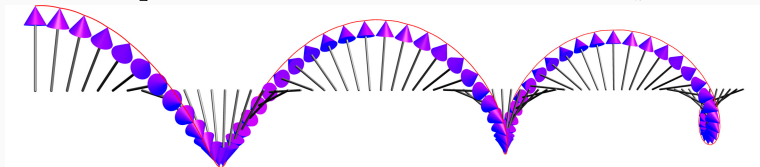
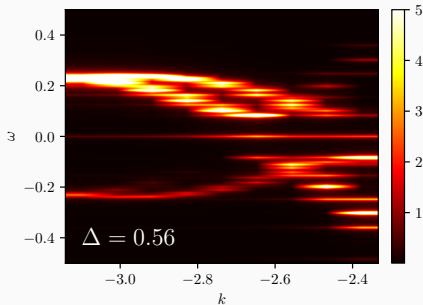
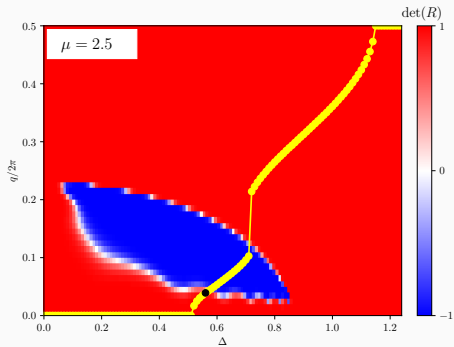
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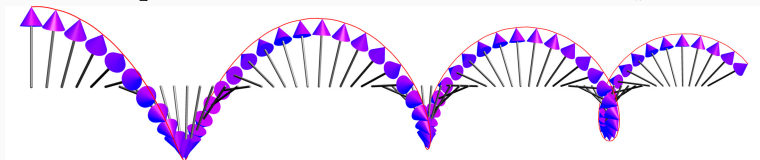
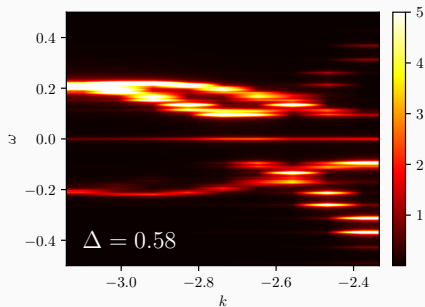
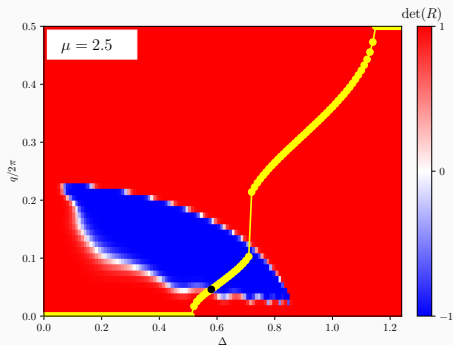
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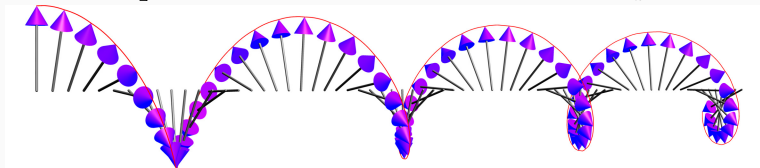
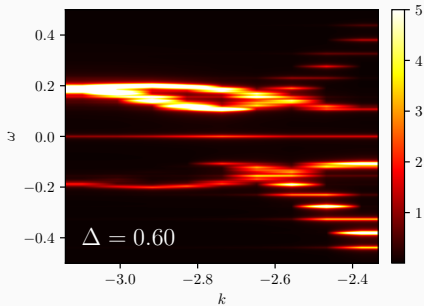
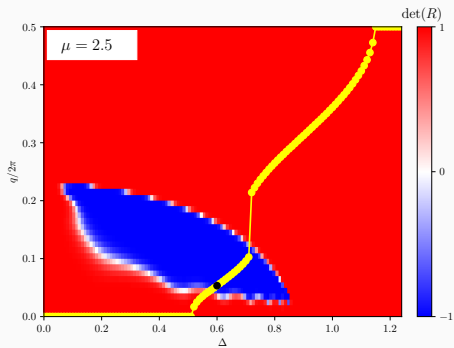
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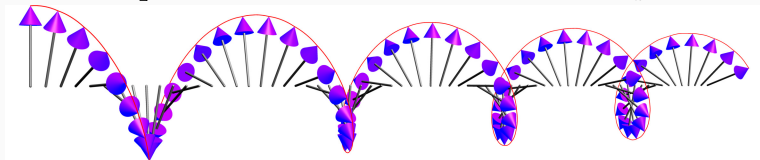
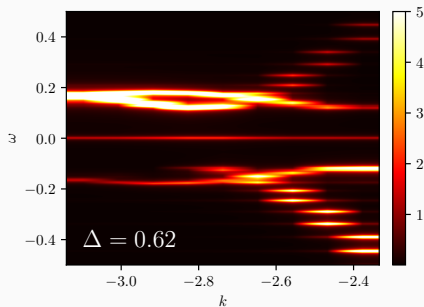
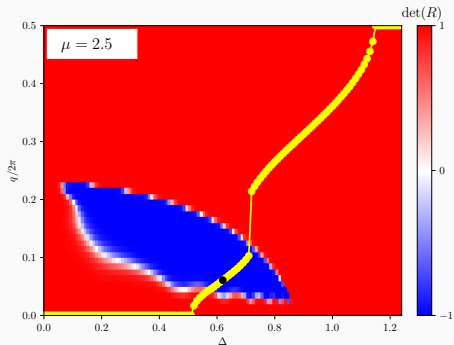
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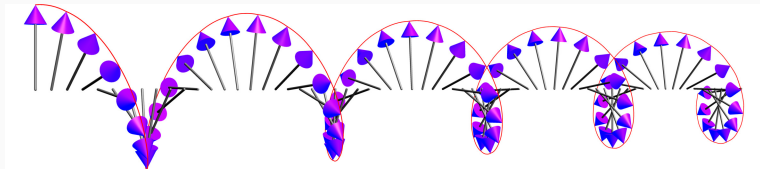
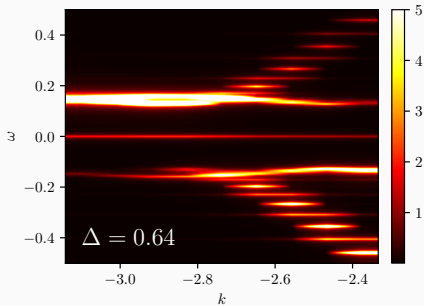
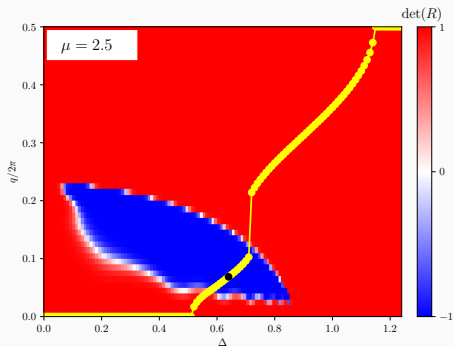
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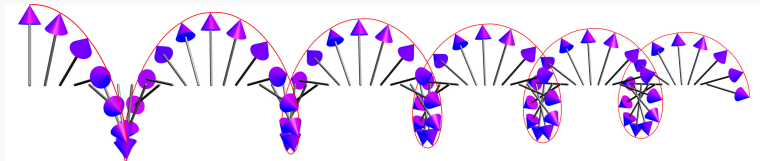
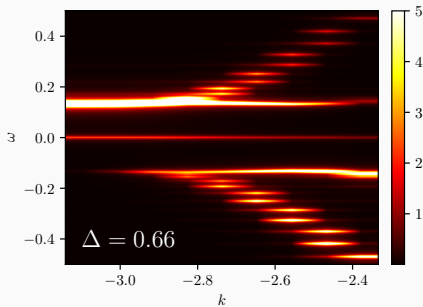
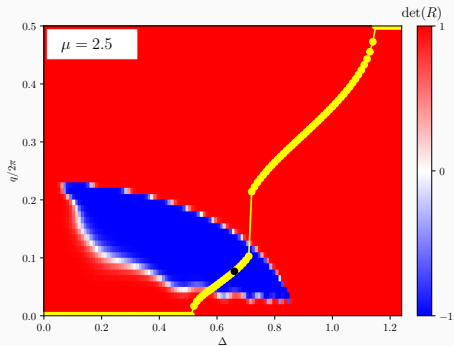
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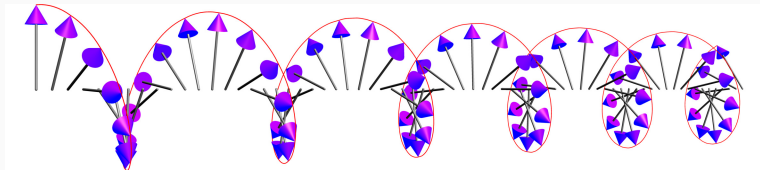
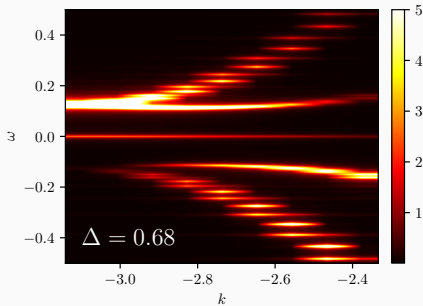
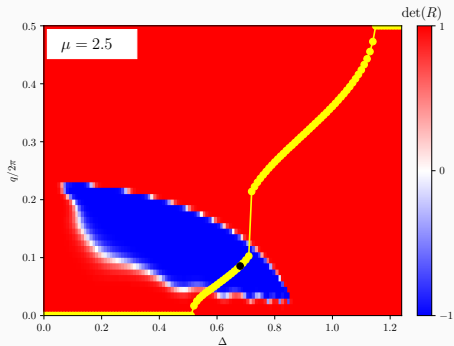
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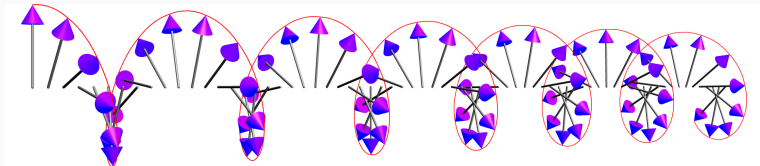
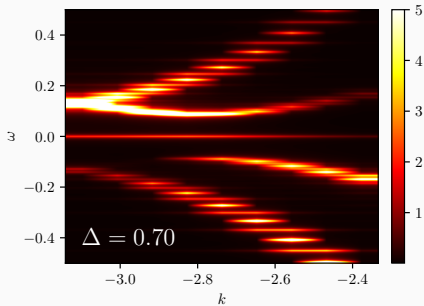
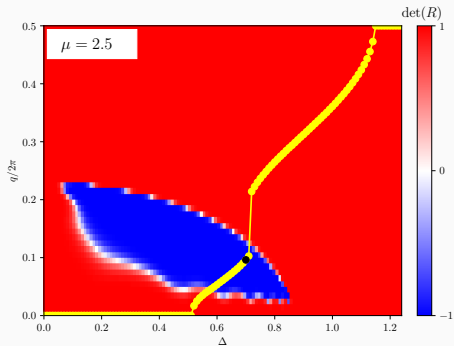
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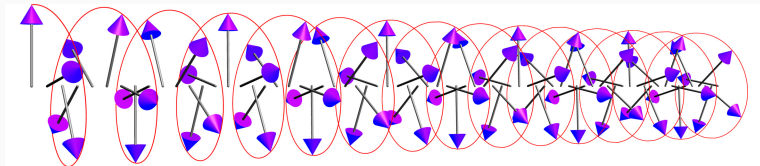
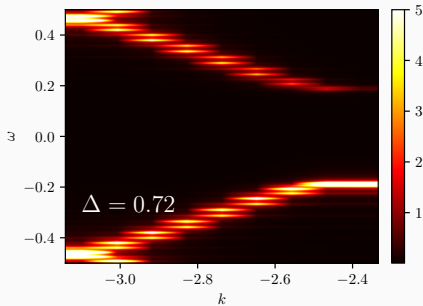
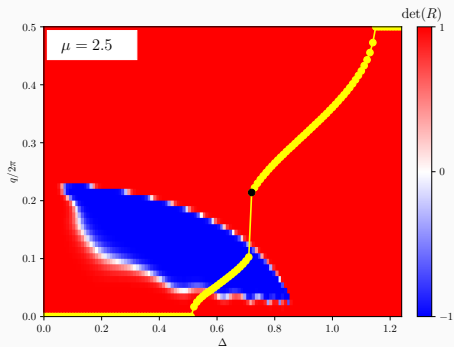
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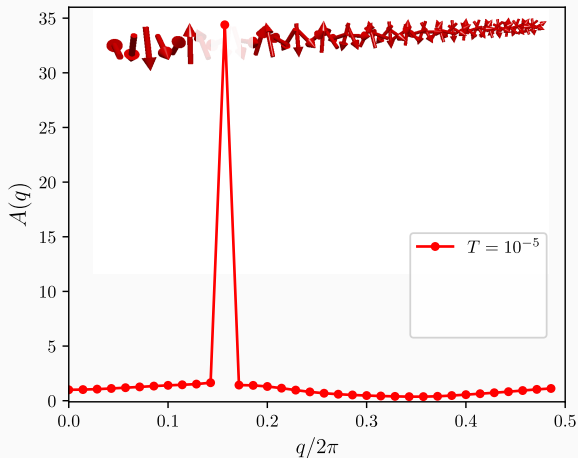
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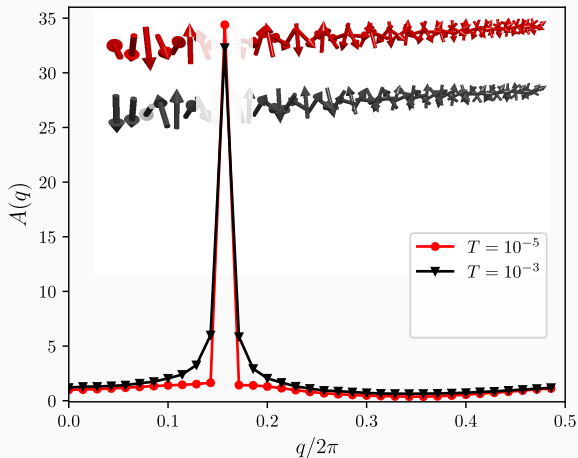
# SPIRAL ORDER AT FINITE TEMPERATURES

Structure factor:  $A(q) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{jk} e^{iq(j-k)} \langle \vec{S}_j \cdot \vec{S}_k \rangle$



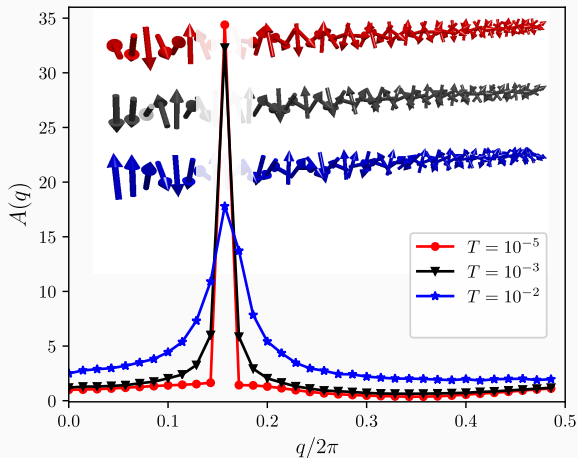
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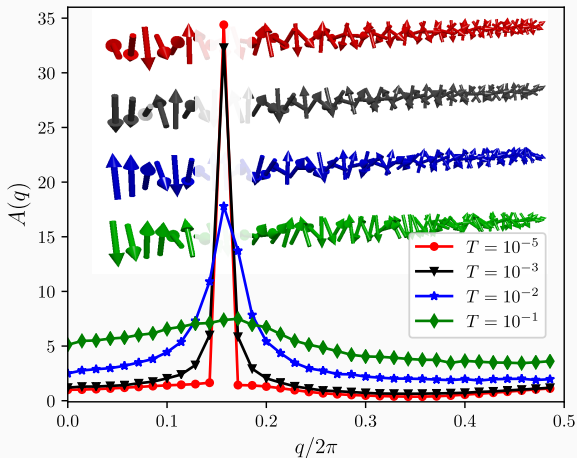
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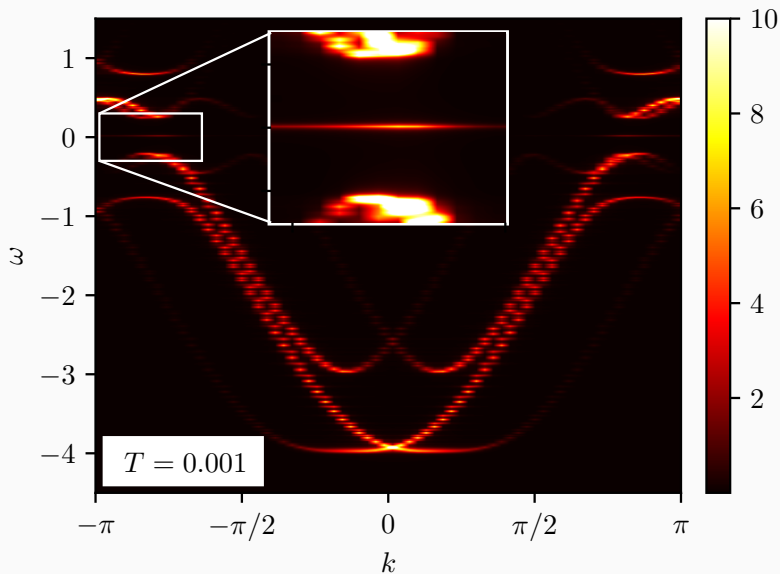


# SPIRAL ORDER AT FINITE TEMPERATURES

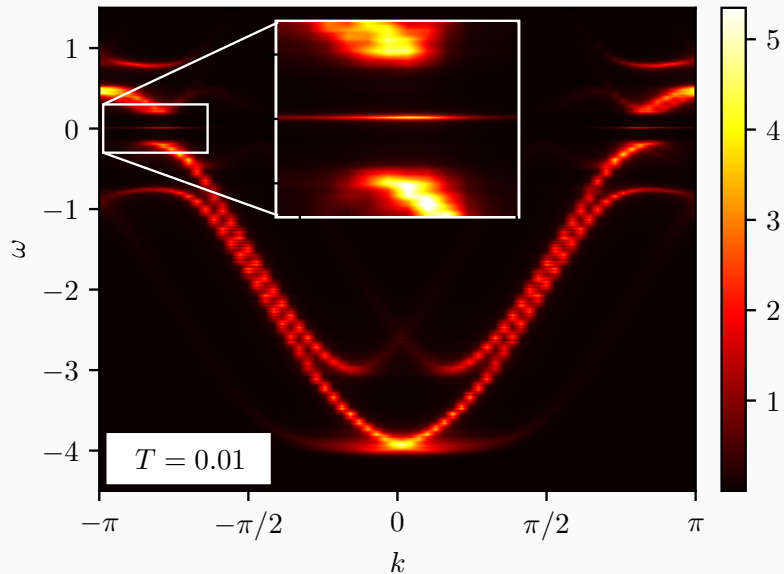
Structure factor:  $A(q) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{jk} e^{iq(j-k)} \langle \vec{S}_j \cdot \vec{S}_k \rangle$



# TEMPERATURE EFFECT ON MAJORANA QPS

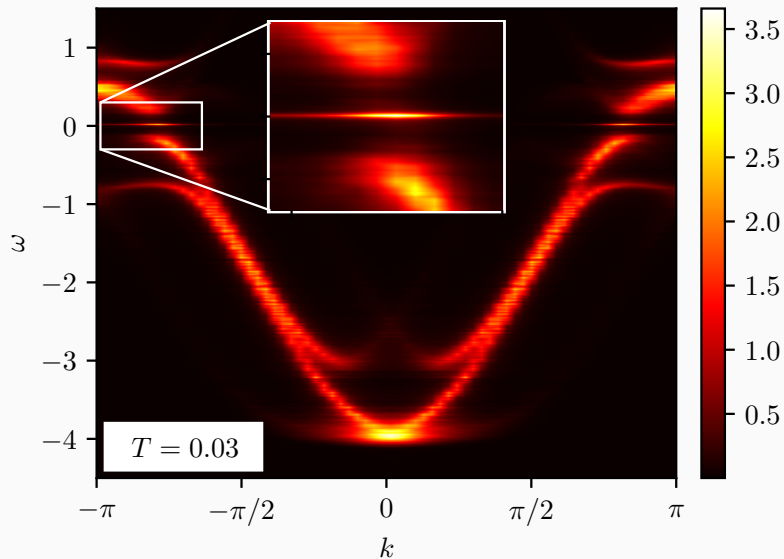


# INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON MAJORANA QPS

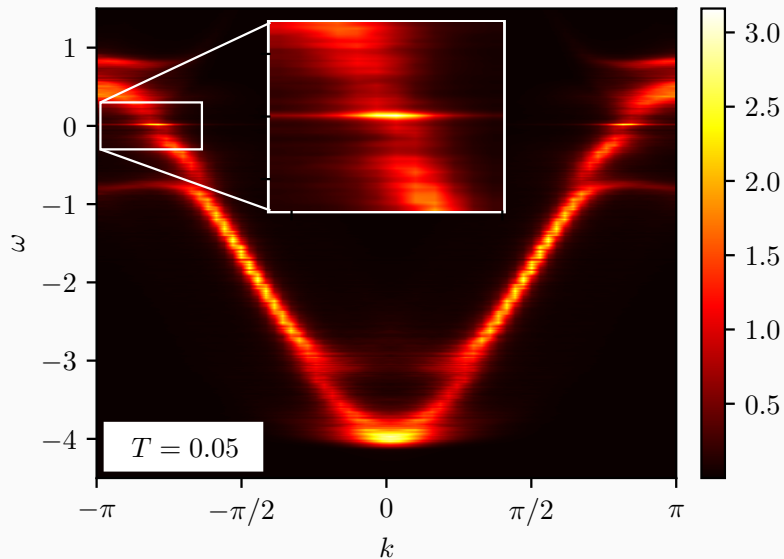




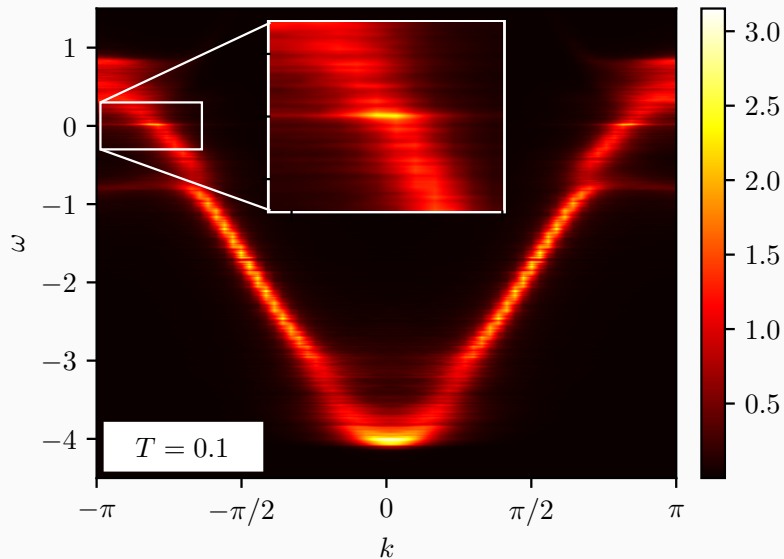
# INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON MAJORANA QPS



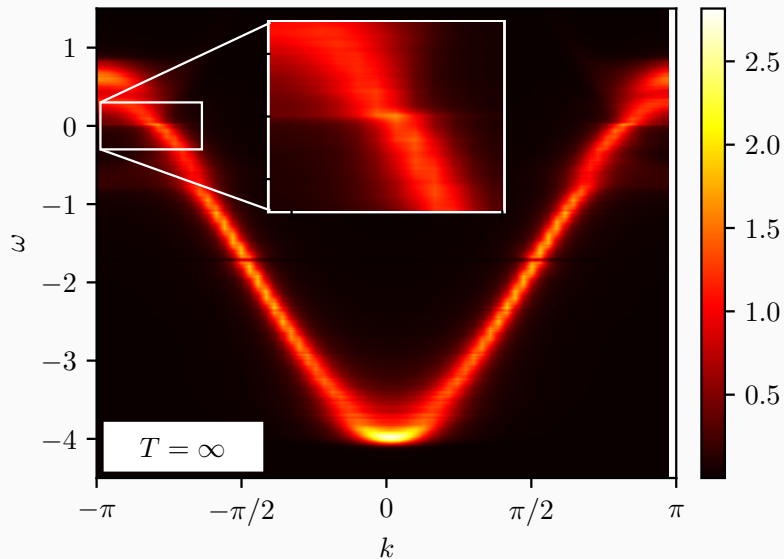
# INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON MAJORANA QPS



# INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON MAJORANA QPS



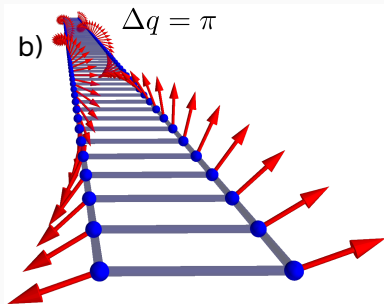
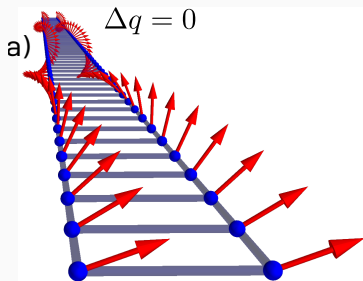
# INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE ON MAJORANA QPS



### **3. Magnetic ladders**

# TOPOLOGICAL MAGNETIC LADDER

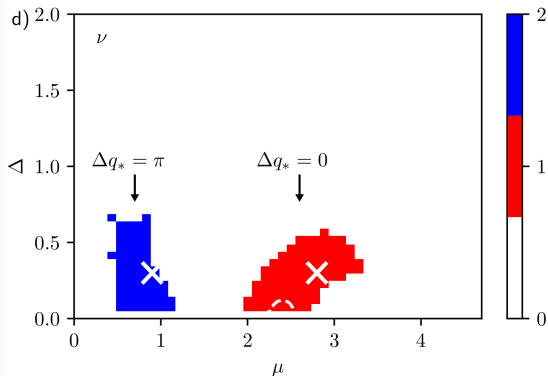
Spiral magnetic order in a ladder deposited on conventional superconductor.



M.M. Maška, N. Sedlmayr, A. Kobińska, T. Domański, Phys. Rev. B 103, 235419 (2021).

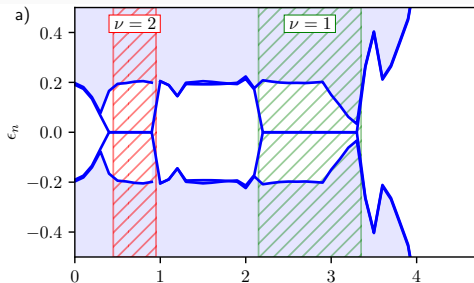
# TOPOLOGICAL PHASES

For thermodynamic limit ( $N \rightarrow \infty$ ) we have computed the topological invariant  $\mathbb{Z}$  of this system, belonging to Alll class.

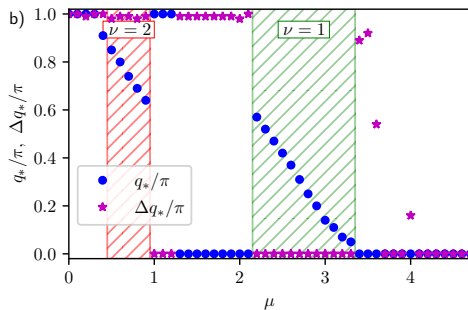


Regions of the topological superconducting phase coincide either with the antiparallel or parallel spiral arrangements of the magnetic ladder.

# UNCONVENTIONAL TOPOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS



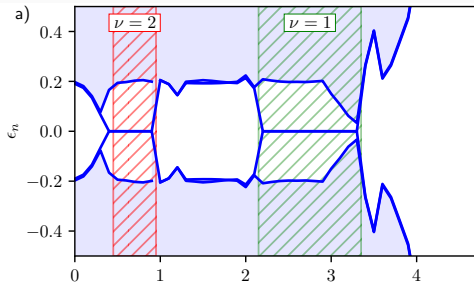
Variation of eigenenergies  
 $\epsilon_n$  against  $\mu$  for  $\Delta = 0.3$



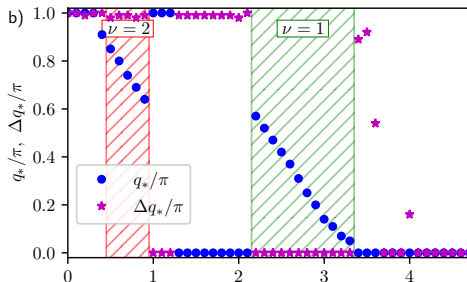
Variation of  $q_*$  and  $\Delta q_*$



# UNCONVENTIONAL TOPOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS



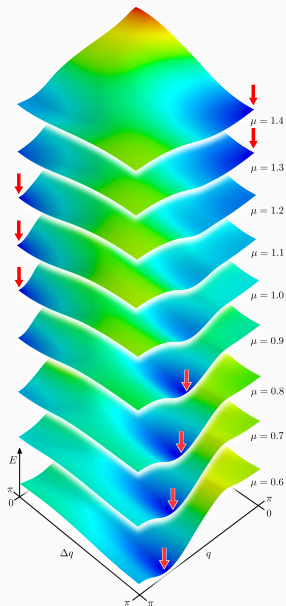
Variation of eigenenergies  
 $\epsilon_n$  against  $\mu$  for  $\Delta = 0.3$



Variation of  $q_*$  and  $\Delta q_*$

Discontinuous transitions to/from topological phase without gap closing!

# DISCONTINUOUS TRANSITIONS



Total energy as function of  $q$  and  $\Delta q$   
obtained for  $\Delta = 0.3t$  and several  $\mu$ .

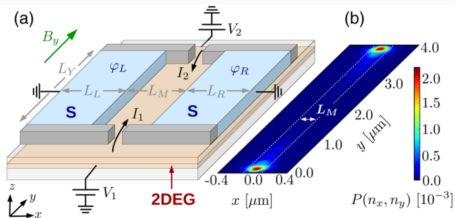
Red arrows indicate the minimum energy.

# Majorana modes in Josephson junctions

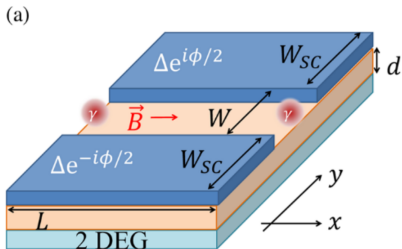
**Theoretical concept (2017)**

# PLANAR JOSEPHSON JUNCTIONS

**Idea:** Narrow metallic region with the strong spin-orbit interaction and in presence of magnetic field embedded between external superconductors.



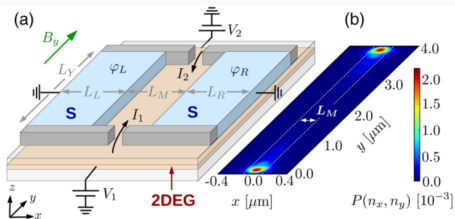
Michael Hell et al., PRL 118, 107701 (2017)



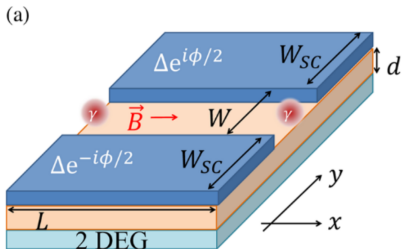
F. Pientka et al., Phys. Rev. X 7,021032 (2017)

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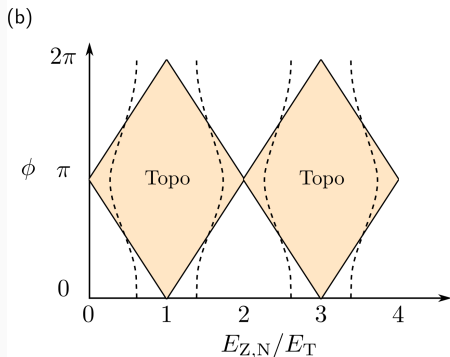
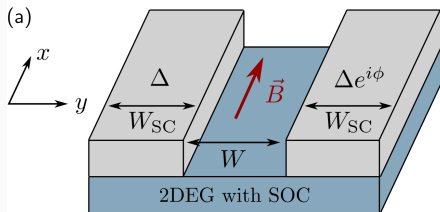


F. Pientka et al., Phys. Rev. X 7,021032 (2017)

**Benefit:**

Phase-tunable topological superconductivity induced in the metallic stripe.

# PLANAR JOSEPHSON JUNCTIONS



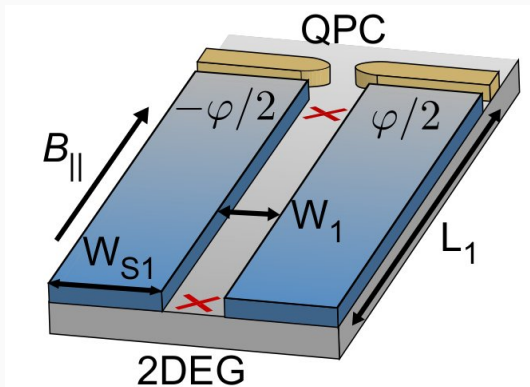
**Diagram of the topological superconducting state with respect to: phase difference  $\phi$  and in-plane magnetic field  $E_z$ .**

**Experimental realization (2019)**



# PLANAR JOSEPHSON JUNCTIONS

Two-dimensional electron gas of **InAs** epitaxially covered by a thin **Al** layer



Width:

$$W_1 = 80 \text{ nm}$$

Length:

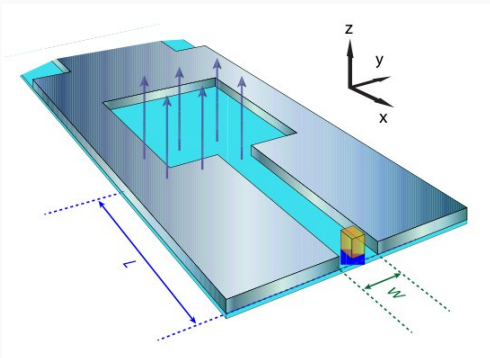
$$L_1 = 1.6 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

A. Fornieri, ..., [Ch. Marcus](#) and [F. Nichele](#), *Nature* **569**, 89 (2019).

Niels Bohr Institute (Copenhagen, Denmark)

# PLANAR JOSEPHSON JUNCTIONS

Two-dimensional **HgTe** quantum well coupled to 15 nm thick **Al** film



Width:

$$W = 600 \text{ nm}$$

Length:

$$L = 1.0 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

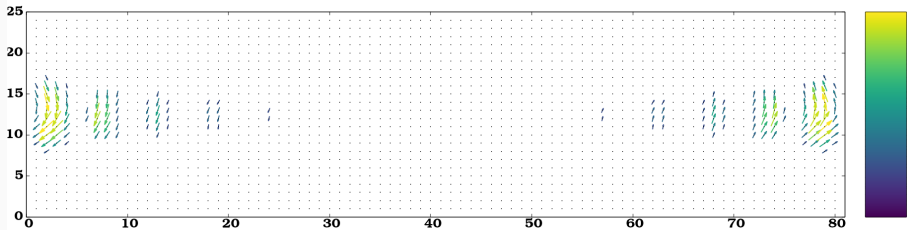
H. Ren, ..., [L.W. Molenkamp](#), B.I. Halperin & A. Yacoby, *Nature* **569**, 93 (2019).

Würzburg Univ. (Germany) + Harvard Univ. (USA)

# Topography of Majorana modes

# TOPOGRAPHY OF MAJORANA MODES

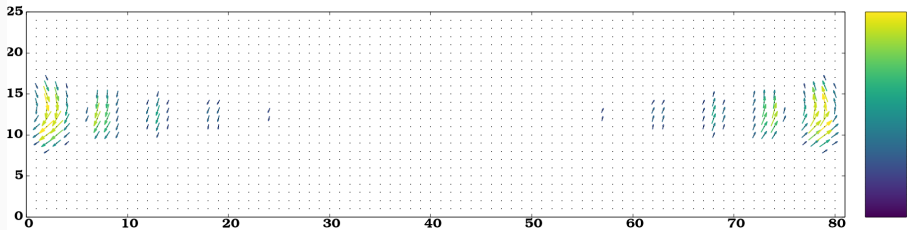
Spatial profile of the zero-energy quasiparticles of a homogeneous metallic strip embedded into the Josephson junction for the phase difference  $\phi = \pi$  (which is optimal for topological state).



Complex “Majorana polarization”  $u_{\uparrow,n}v_{\uparrow,n} - u_{\downarrow,n}v_{\downarrow,n}$  obtained for eigenvalue  $E_n = 0$ .

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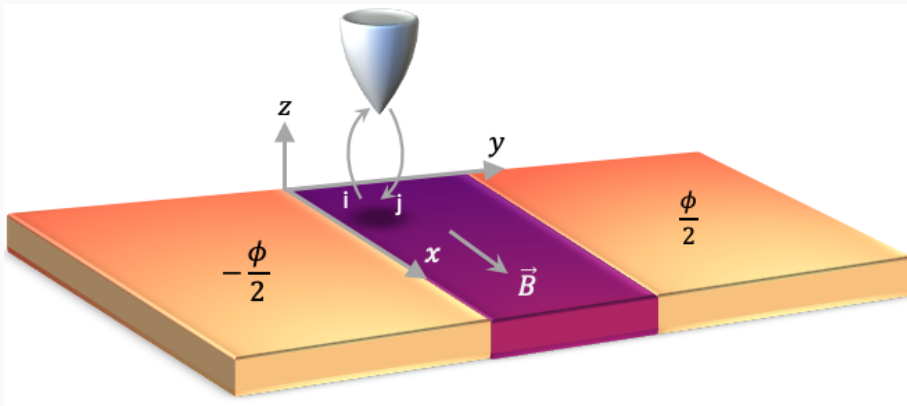


Complex “Majorana polarization”  $u_{\uparrow,n}v_{\uparrow,n} - u_{\downarrow,n}v_{\downarrow,n}$  obtained for eigenvalue  $E_n = 0$ . Magnitude of this quantity is measurable by the conductance of SESAR spectroscopy. For details see:

Sz. Głodzik, N. Sedlmayr & T. Domański, PRB [102](#), 085411 (2020).

# TOPOGRAPHY OF MAJORANA MODES

Selective Equal Spin Andreev Reflection (SESAR) spectroscopy:

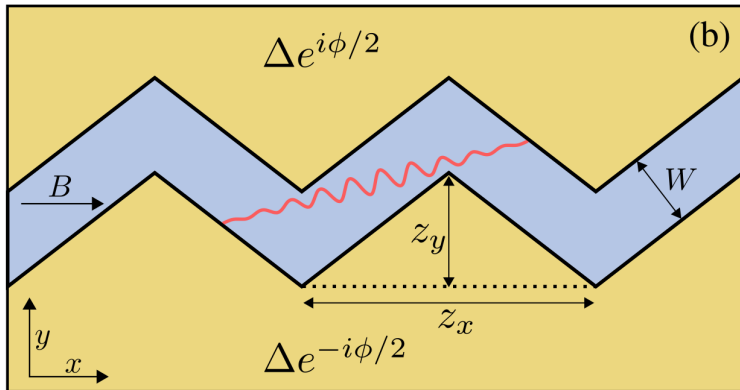


Sz. Głodzik, N. Sedlmayr & T. Domański, PRB 102, 085411 (2020).

**Means to localize Majoranas**

# I. DESHAPED JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

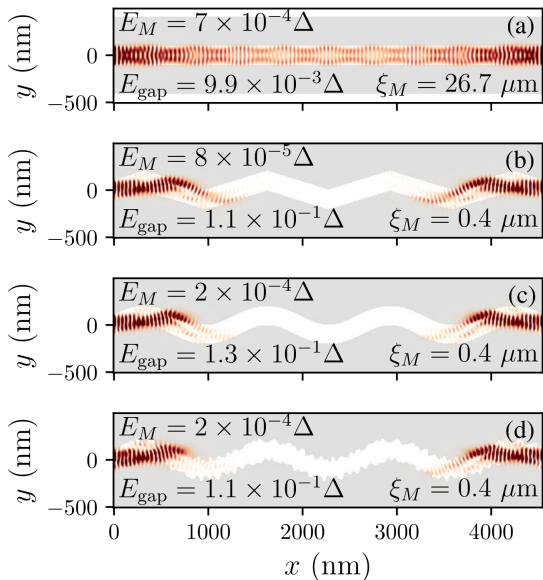
In order to reduce the spatial extent of the Majorana modes one can use zigzag-shape metallic stripe.



T. Laeven, B. Nijholt, M. Wimmer & A.R. Akhmerov, PRL 102, 086802 (2020).

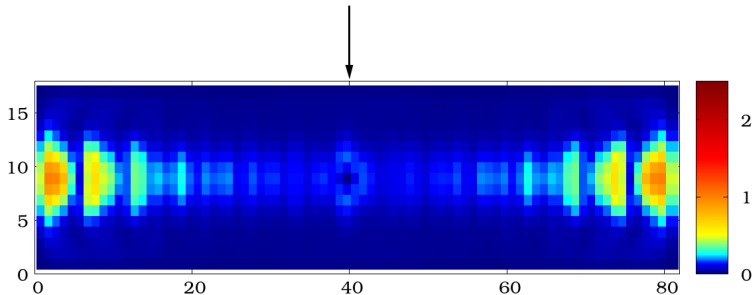


# I. DESHAPED JOSEPHSON JUNCTION



## II. LOCAL DEFECT IN JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

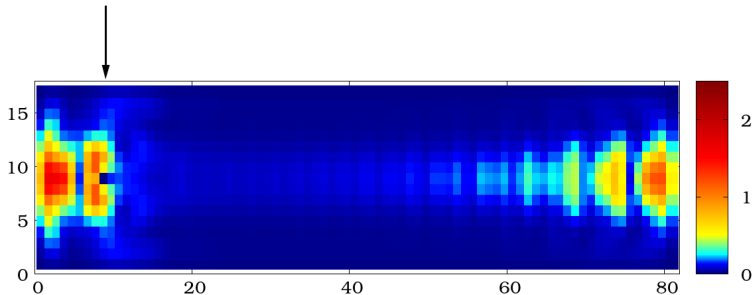
Spatial profile of the Majorana modes in presence of the strong electrostatic defect placed **in the center**.



Sz. Głodzik, N. Sedlmayr & T. Domański, PRB 102, 085411 (2020).

## II. LOCAL DEFECT IN JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

Spatial profile of the Majorana modes in presence of the strong electrostatic defect placed **near the edge**.



Sz. Głodzik, N. Sedlmayr & T. Domański, PRB [102](#), 085411 (2020).

### III. RANDOM DISORDER

#### "Benefits of Weak Disorder in dim=1 Topological Superconductors"

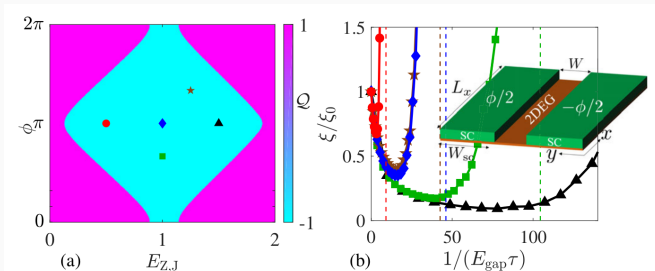
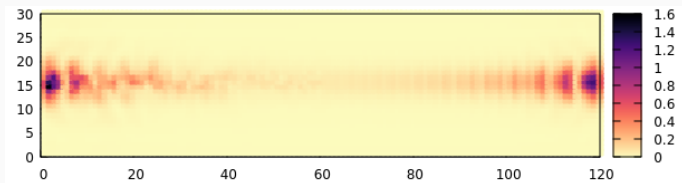


FIG. 1. (a) Phase diagram of the planar Josephson junction Eq. (1) in the clean limit. In the topological phase ( $Q = -1$ ), the system supports zero-energy MBSs at each end of the junction. (b) The Majorana localization length  $\xi$  versus the disorder-induced inverse mean free time  $\tau^{-1}$  for different points inside the topological phase [see markers in (a)].

**A. Haim & A. Stern, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 126801 (2019).**

### III. RANDOM DISORDER

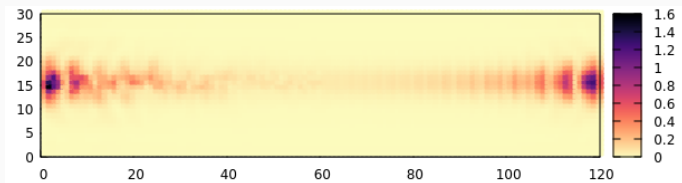
The left-hand-side part of the metallic stripe is randomly disordered



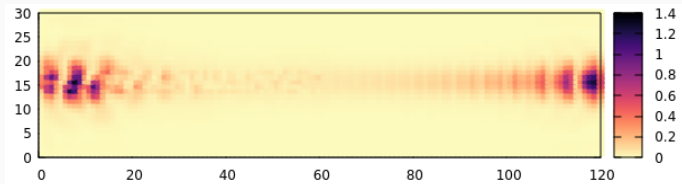
**weak disorder**

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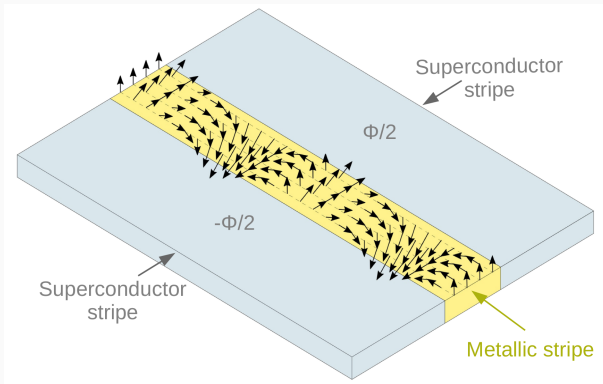
**moderate disorder**

Sz. Głodzik, N. Sedlmayr & T. Domański, PRB 102, 085411 (2020).

**Selforganized magnetic stripes**

# PLANAR MAGNETIC JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

A small metallic piece with the classical magnetic moments placed between two external superconductors, differing in phase  $\Phi$ .



M. Dziurawiec, M. Strzałka, M.M. Maśka – work in progress  
(Technical University in Wrocław)

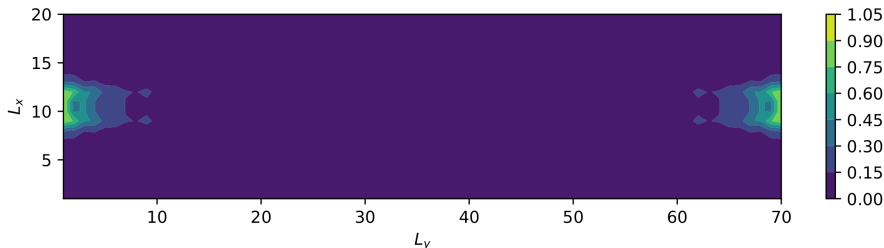


# PLANAR MAGNETIC JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

**Preliminary results:** numerical calculations reveal that magnetic moments arrange themselves in such textures, which sustain the topological superconducting state of the metallic stripe.

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**Spatial profile of Majorana modes obtained for phase difference  $\Phi = \pi$ .**

**M. Dziurawiec, M. Strzałka, M.M. Maśka – work in progress**

**(Technical University in Wrocław)**

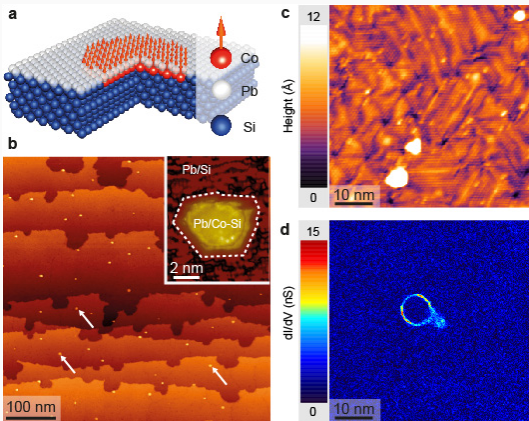
# Higher-dimensional topological textures

**Higher-dimensional topological textures**

**(platform for chiral Majorana modes)**

# TWO-DIMENSIONAL MAGNETIC STRUCTURES

Magnetic island of **Co** atoms deposited on the superconducting **Pb** surface



Diameter of island:

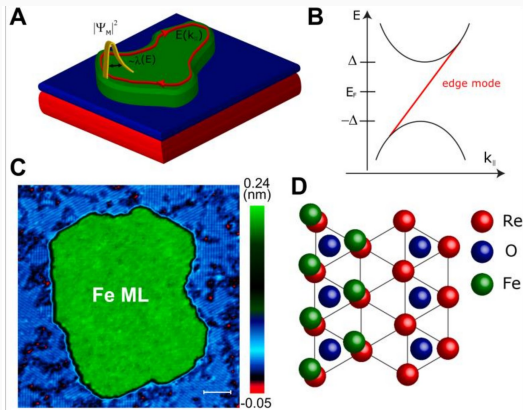
**5 – 10 nm**

G. Ménard, ..., and P. Simon, Nature Commun. 8, 2040 (2017).

Pierre & Marie Curie University (Paris, France)

# PROPAGATING MAJORANA EDGE MODES

Magnetic island of **Fe** atoms deposited on the superconducting **Re** surface

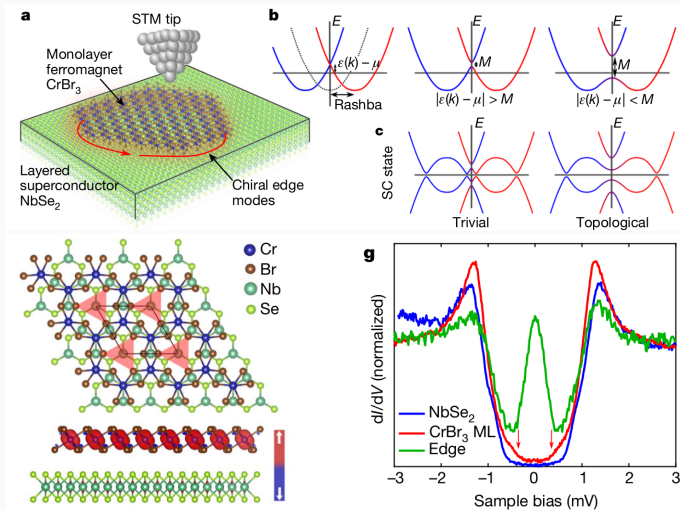


Chern number  
 $C = 20$

A. Palacio-Morales, ... & R. Wiesendanger, *Science Adv.* **5**, eaav6600 (2019).  
University of Hamburg (Germany)

# VAN DER WAALS HETEROSTRUCTURES

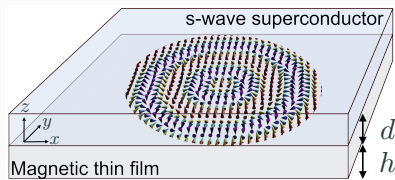
## Ferromagnetic island $\text{CrBr}_3$ deposited on superconducting $\text{NbSe}_2$



S. Kezilebieke ... Sz. Głodzik ... P. Liljeroth, *Nature* **424**, 588 (2020).

# MAGNETIC SKYRMION-TYPE TEXTURES

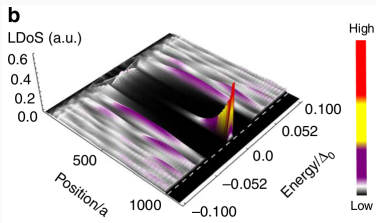
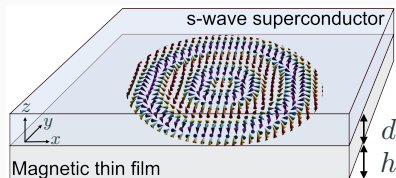
**Scenario for topological superconductivity induced in 2D magnetic thin film hosting a skyrmion deposited on conventional s-wave superconductor**





# MAGNETIC SKYRMION-TYPE TEXTURES

Scenario for topological superconductivity induced in 2D magnetic thin film hosting a skyrmion deposited on conventional s-wave superconductor



M. Garnier, A. Mesaros, P. Simon, *Comm. Phys.* **2**, 126 (2019).

# CONCLUSIONS

**Synergy of magnetism and superconductivity  
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**Synergy of magnetism and superconductivity  
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⇒ **allows for their constructive relationship**

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⇒ **hosting the Majorana boundary modes**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

⇒ **Maciek Maśka & coworkers**  
(Technical University, Wrocław)



⇒ **Nick Sedlmayr**  
(M. Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin)



⇒ **Aksel Kobiałka**  
(University of Basel, Switzerland)



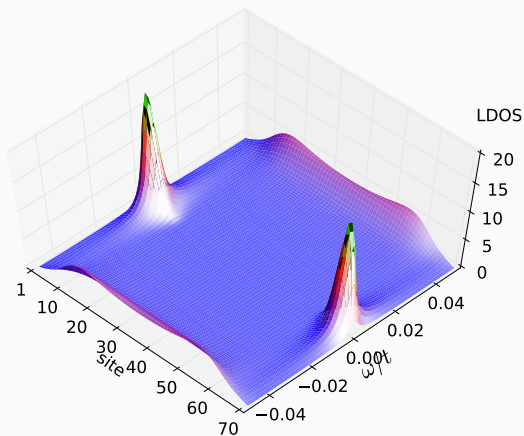
⇒ **Szczepan Głodzik**  
(University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)



# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 1.0$$

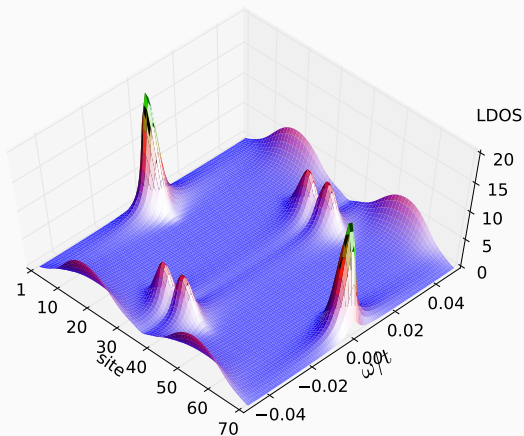


M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).

# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.8$$



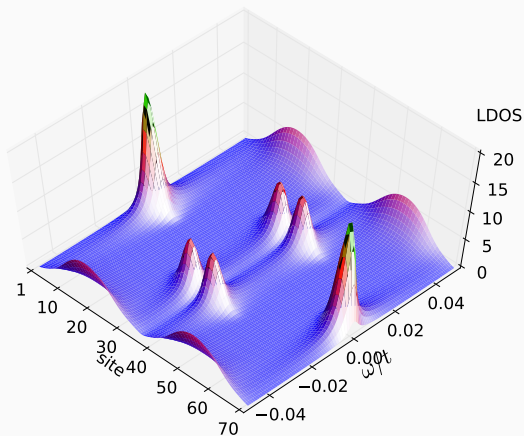
M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).



# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.6$$

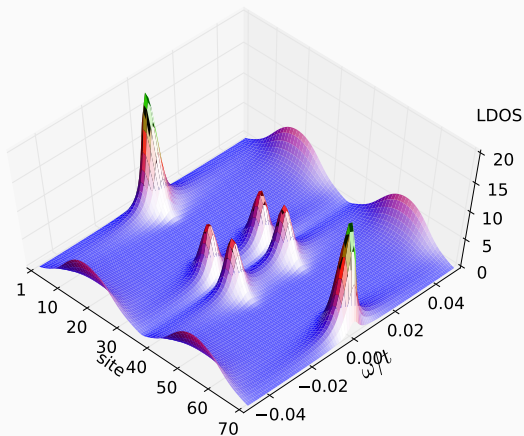


M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).

# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.4$$

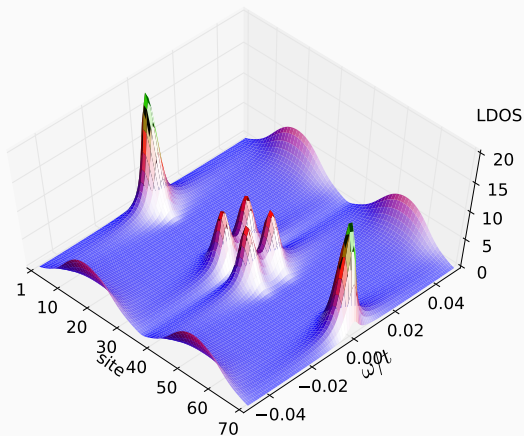


M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).

# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.2$$

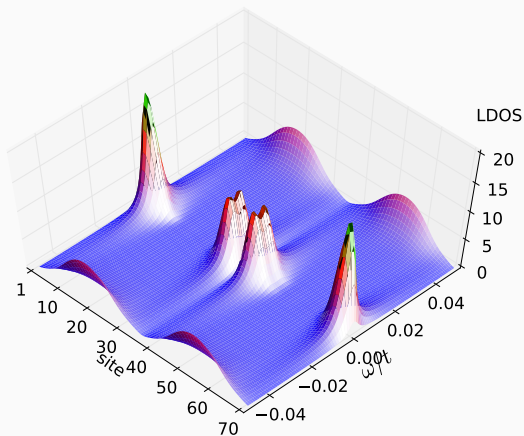


M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).

# TOPOLOGICAL PROTECTION

## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.1$$

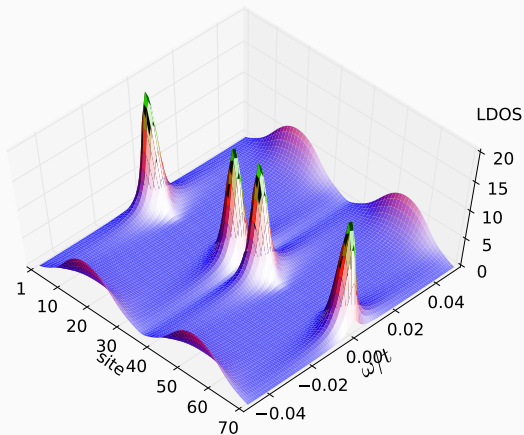


M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).

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## Low energy quasiparticles of the Rashba nanowire

$$t_{35}/t = 0.0$$



M.M. Maška, A. Gorczyca-Goraj, J. Tworzydło, T. Domański, PRB 95, 045429 (2017).