

Topological Quantum Phenomena in Condensed Matter with Broken Symmetries

Topological Superconductors

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Review paper

Y. Tanaka, MS, N. Nagaosa, "Symmetry and Topology in Superconductor" Journal of Physical Society of Japan, 81 (2012) 011013 (open access)

















Outline

Part 1. What is topological superconductor ?

- 1. Why topological phase is useful ?
- 2. Prototype of topological phase quantum Hall state
- 3. Topological superconductors
- 4. Majorana fermions
- 5. Which system supports Majorana fermions

Part 2. Symmetry Protected Majorana fermions in unconventional SCs

Part 1. What is topological superconductor ?



1 Gapped system such as insulators and superconductors

(2) Topological

- $\neq 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Topological phase} \\ = 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Non-topological phase} \end{array} \end{array}$

③ Topological # cannot change unless the bulk gap closes



Why topological phase is useful?

• The bulk state is gapped, so it is stable against local perturbation (i.e. **decoherence free**)



• Nevertheless, it support gapless states on the boundary, so at the same time there exist manageable quantum states (i.e. **qubits**)

Considering these two properties, we can expect that topological phase is an ideal platform of quantum devices (i.e. topological quantum computer)

Quantum Hall state: Prototype of topological phase



$$\sigma_{xy} \equiv \frac{J}{E} = \frac{e^2}{h}\nu$$

e: electron charge h: Planck const.

Hall conductance is quantized in the unit of e^2/h





Bulk of QH state

• QH states are gapped in the bulk due to the formation of Landau level.

• They have a non-zero topological #. Thouless-Kohmoto

Thouless-Kohmoto et al. (82) Kohmoto (85)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{i}(k) &= i \sum_{n \in \mathsf{filled}} \langle u_{n,k} | \partial_{k_{i}} u_{n,k} \rangle & \text{Landau level in a crystal filed} \\ \\ \text{Bloch wave fn. of occupied state} & \epsilon(\mathbf{k}) & \mathbf{k} & \mathbf{k} \\ \\ \mathcal{V}_{\mathrm{Ch}} &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathrm{BZ}} dk_{x} dk_{y} \left[\partial_{k_{x}} \mathcal{A}_{y} - \partial_{k_{y}} \mathcal{A}_{x} \right] \\ \end{aligned}$$

TKNN # (or Chern #)1

• The quantization of Hall conductance is explained by the quantization of topological #

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \nu_{\rm Ch}$$

$$\nu_{\rm Ch} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\rm BZ} dk_x dk_y \left[\partial_{k_x} \mathcal{A}_y - \partial_{k_y} \mathcal{A}_x \right]$$



Edge of QH state

To obtain the edge, we introduce confining potential



• Due to the confining potential, occupied Landau levels cross the Fermi energy near the edge. So there exist gapless states localized on the boundary.

• The quantization of Hall conductance is explained by the quantization of the number of edge states. e^2

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \nu_{\text{edge}}$$

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We have two different views of Hall conductance



The number of the edge states should be the same as topological #

bulk-edge correspondence

QH states (summary)

- QH states are gapped systems with non-zero topological #.
- QH states support gapless edge states.
- The gapless states are ensured by the bulk topological #.



The Hall current is well-controlled and the quantization is extremely accurate.

Ex.) Hall effect devices

Topological Superconductors

A close similarity between quantum Hall states and SCs

	Integer quantum Hall state	Superconducting state
bulk	gapped (Landau level)	gapped (gap function)
edge	Gapless edge state	Andreev bound state

We can naturally expect that topological phase is possible for superconducting state.



Qi et al.(09), Schnyder et al (08), MS (09), Roy (08), ...

Topologically protected state = Majorana fermion

Majorana Fermion



Dirac fermion with Majorana condition

1. Dirac Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}(\boldsymbol{k}) = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{k}, \text{ or } \quad \mathcal{H}(k_x) = ck_x$$

2. Majorana condition

 $\Psi = C \Psi^* \checkmark \qquad \text{particle = antiparticle}$

For the gapless boundary states, their Hamiltonians are naturally given by the Dirac Hamiltonians

Why the Majorana condition ?

The Majorana condition is imposed by superconductivity



different bulk topological

= different Majorana fermions

2+1D time-reversal breaking SC	2+1D time-reversal invariant SC	3+1D time-reversal invariant SC
1 st Chern #	Z ₂ number	3D winding #
(TKNN82, Kohmoto85)	(Kane-Mele 06, Qi et al (08))	(Schnyder et al (08))
1+1D chiral	1+1D helical	2+1D helical
edge mode	edge mode	surface fermion
Sr ₂ RuO ₄	Noncentosymmetric SC (MS-Fujimto(09))	³ He B

Which system support Majorana fermions ?

• Spin-triplet (odd-parity) superconductors

Volovik (86), Read-Green(00)

• Superconducting states with SO interaction

MS, Physics Letters B535,126 (03), Fu-Kane (08)

MS, Takahashi, Fujimoto PRL(09) PRB(10), J.Sau et al (11)

A representative example of topological SC: spinless chiral p-wave SC in 2+1 dimensions

[Read-Green (00)]

BdG Hamiltonian

spinless chiral p-wave SC

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{k}} \epsilon(\boldsymbol{k}) c_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\boldsymbol{k}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\boldsymbol{k}} \left[\Delta(\boldsymbol{k}) c_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger} c_{-\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger} + \text{h.c} \right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\boldsymbol{k}} \left(c_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger}, c_{-\boldsymbol{k}} \right) \mathcal{H}(\boldsymbol{k}) \left(\begin{array}{c} c_{\boldsymbol{k}} \\ c_{-\boldsymbol{k}}^{\dagger} \end{array} \right) + \text{const.}$$

with

$$\mathcal{H}(k) = \left(egin{array}{cc} \epsilon(k) & \Delta(k) \ \Delta(k)^* & -\epsilon(k) \end{array}
ight)$$

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{k}) = -2t_x \cos k_x - 2t_y \cos k_y - \mu$$
$$\Delta(\mathbf{k}) = d(\sin k_x + i \sin k_y)$$
$$\sim d(k_x + ik_y)$$
chiral p-wave

Topological number = 1st Chern number

TKNN (82), Kohmoto(85)

$$A_{i}(\boldsymbol{k}) = i \sum_{a \in \text{filled}} \langle u_{a}(\boldsymbol{k}) | \frac{\partial}{\partial k_{i}} | u_{a}(\boldsymbol{k}) \rangle$$

$$\nu_{\rm Ch} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d^2 k [\partial_{k_x} A_y(\boldsymbol{k}) - \partial_{k_y} A_x(\boldsymbol{k})]$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\Delta(k_0)=0} \operatorname{sgn}\epsilon(k_0) \cdot \operatorname{sgn}[\det(\partial_i R^j(k_0))] \quad \text{MS (09)}$$

$$(\Delta(\boldsymbol{k}) = R^1(\boldsymbol{k}) + iR^2(\boldsymbol{k}))$$

Edge state



In the second case, there also exist a single Majorana zero mode in a vortex

$$\gamma_0^{\dagger} = \gamma_0$$

We need a pair of the zero modes to define creation op.



non-Abelian anyon

topological quantum computer

For spin-triplet SCs (or odd parity SCs), there exists a simple criterion for topological phases

If the number of TRIMs enclosed by the Fermi surface is odd, the spin-triplet SC is (strongly) topological.



3D time-reversal invariant spin-triplet SC)



With proper topology of the Fermi surface, spin-triplet SCs (or odd-parity SCs) naturally become topological.

Recently, it has been found that s-wave superconductors also can support Majorana fermion.

- A) MS, Physics Letters B535, 126 (03), Fu-Kane PRL (08)
- B) MS-Takahashi-Fujimoto ,Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 020401 (09);
 MS-Takahashi-Fujimoto, Phys. Rev. B82, 134521 (10) (Editor's suggestion),
 J. Sau et al, PRL (10), J. Alicea PRB (10)

Key point: Spin-orbit interaction

Majorna fermion in spin-singlet SC

MS, Physics Letters B535, 126 (03)



1 2+1 dim Dirac fermion + s-wave Cooper pair

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\sigma_i\partial_i & \Phi^* \\ \Phi & -i\sigma_i\partial_i \end{pmatrix} \qquad \Phi = \Phi_0 f(r)e^{i\theta} \quad \text{vortex}$$

Zero mode in a vortex[Jackiw-Rossi (81), Callan-Harvey(85)]With Majorana condition, non-Abelian anyon is realized
[MS (03)]

ELSEVIER	Available online at www.sciencedirect.com	PHYSICS LETTERS B www.elsevier.com/locate/physletb		
Non-Abelian statistics of axion strings				
Masatoshi Sato				

On the surface of topological insulator [Fu-Kane (08)]



Nishide et al., PRB (2010)







Spin-orbit interaction
=> topological insulator

2. S-wave superconductor with Rashba SO interaction

[MS, Takahashi, Fujimoto PRL(09) PRB(10)]

$$\mathcal{H}(\boldsymbol{k}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(\hbar \boldsymbol{k})^2}{2m} - E_{\mathrm{F}} + \boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{k}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \mu_{\mathrm{B}} H_{z} \sigma_{z} & i\Delta_{0}\sigma_{y} & -\frac{(\hbar \boldsymbol{k})^{2}}{2m} + E_{\mathrm{F}} + \boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{k}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{*} + \mu_{\mathrm{B}} H_{z} \sigma_{z} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{D}}(\boldsymbol{k}) = D\mathcal{H}(\boldsymbol{k})D^{\dagger}, \quad D = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i\sigma_{y} \\ i\sigma_{y} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{D}}(\boldsymbol{k}) = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{0} - \mu_{\mathrm{B}} H_{z}\sigma_{z} & -i\left[\frac{(\hbar \boldsymbol{k})^{2}}{2m} - E_{\mathrm{F}}\right]\sigma_{y} - i\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{k}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}\sigma_{y} \\ i\left[\frac{(\hbar \boldsymbol{k})^{2}}{2m} - E_{\mathrm{F}}\right]\sigma_{y} + i\boldsymbol{g}_{\boldsymbol{k}}\sigma_{y} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} & -\Delta_{0} + \mu_{\mathrm{B}} H_{z}\sigma_{z} \end{pmatrix}$$

p-wave gap is induced by Rashba SO int.

Topological superconductivity can be obtained if we choose a suitable Fermi surface



Majorana fermions are realized under a strong magnetic field satisfying $\mu_{\rm B}H_z > \sqrt{\Delta_0^2 + E_{\rm F}^2}$



MS-Takahashi-Fujimoto (09)

(2e²/h) 0.3

0.2

0.1

Lutchyn et al (10), Oreg et al (10)

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Majorana fermions are not merely a theoretical possibility now, but they are what we can realize somehow in experiments.

Topological superconductor is not a fancy way to rewrite the existing theory of the Andreev bound state, but it can be a useful way to predict novel properties in SCs.

Symmetry Protected MFs in Superconductors

Y. Ueno, A. Yamakage, Y. Tanaka, MS, arXiv:1303.0202 MS, A. Yamakage, T. Mizushima, arXiv:1305.7469

Chui, Yao, Ryu, arXiv: 1303.1843 Zhang, Kane, Mele, arXiv:1303.4144

Majorana Fermions

• Majorana fermions are naturally realized in spinless SCs



Why Majorana Fermions favor spinless SCs ?

For spinless SCs, we have the Majorana condition naturally.



However, the spin degrees of freedoms obscure the Majorana condition

Nitta's talk at JPSJ meeting (12)



Moreover, spinful SCs support MFs in pairs because of the spin degeneracy.

$$\gamma_{0\uparrow} \gamma_{0\downarrow} \qquad \gamma_{0\uparrow}^{\dagger} = \gamma_{0\uparrow} \quad \gamma_{0\downarrow}^{\dagger} = \gamma_{0\downarrow}$$

They can be considered as Dirac fermions as well as MFs

$$\psi = \gamma_{0\uparrow} + i\gamma_{0\downarrow}$$

The Dirac fermions are easily gapped away by the Dirac mass term $m\psi^{\dagger}\psi$

No topologically stable MFs

To avoid these difficulties, a half-quantum vortex has been considered.



$$\boldsymbol{d}(\boldsymbol{k},\boldsymbol{r}) = i\Delta_0 e^{i\theta/2} (\sin\theta/2,\cos\theta/2,0)$$

Twist in spin space

$$\hat{\Delta}(\boldsymbol{k},\boldsymbol{r}) = i\boldsymbol{d}(\boldsymbol{k},\boldsymbol{r}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}\sigma_{y} = \begin{pmatrix} -\Delta_{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & \Delta_{0}e^{i\theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

Only downspin sector $\hat{\Delta}_{\downarrow\downarrow}$ supports a vortex

= A vortex in spinless SCs

Topologically stabbe MF

However, the twist in spin space makes the configuration unstable, so the experimental realization is challenging.

Chung-Bluhm-Kim(07)

Question

Is there another way to realize Majorana fermions in spinful SCs ?

Key observation

If there is an additional symmetry such as time-reversal symmetry, Majorana fermions can be realized in spinful SCs

Cu_xBi₂Se₃

Fu-Berg (10)



Sasaki-Kriener-Segawa-Yada-Tanaka-MS -Ando(11)

Yamakage--Yada-MS-Tanaka(12)



Ex.) 1D spinful p_x -wave superconductor



Kramers theorem

 \Rightarrow No scattering between $\gamma_{0\uparrow}$ and $\gamma_{0\downarrow}$

Thus, they naturally can be considered as two independent particles, not as a single Dirac fermion. $\psi = \gamma_{0\downarrow} + i\gamma_{0\downarrow}$

Actually, the Dirac mass term is forbidden by the time-reversal symmetry. $m\psi^{\dagger}\psi = 2im\gamma_{0\uparrow}\gamma_{0\downarrow}$

Topologically stable MF

Our idea

To obtain topologically stable MFs in spinful SCs, we use symmetry specific to material structures.

Ex.) point group symmetry



In particular, we consider the mirror reflection symmetry



coordinate

$$(x,y,z) \to (x,y,-z)$$

spin

$$(\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z) \to (-\sigma_x, -\sigma_y, \sigma_z)$$

Now consider how the mirror reflection symmetry protect MFs

Our system

2dim spinful SC

BdG Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}(m{k}) = \left(egin{array}{cc} \mathcal{E}(m{k}) & \Delta(m{k}) \ \Delta^{\dagger}(m{k}) & -\mathcal{E}^{T}(-m{k}) \end{array}
ight)$$

Mirror symmetry $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy}$ with respect to xy-plane

$$\begin{aligned} k_x \to k_x & k_y \to k_y \\ \sigma_x \to -\sigma_x & \sigma_y \to -\sigma_y & \sigma_z \to \sigma_z \qquad (\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy} \sim i\sigma_z) \\ \left[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy}, \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) \right] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Basic idea

Using the eigen value of mirror operator, spinful SC can be separated into a pair of spinless SCs



For each spinless SCs, the mirror Chern number can be defined like topological crystalline insulators (TCI).

However, there is an important difference between TCIs and SCs



Key point

Two different mirror symmetries are possible in SCs.

a)
$$\mathcal{M}_{xy}\Delta(k)\mathcal{M}_{xy}^t = \Delta(k)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{S-wave SC} & \Delta(\boldsymbol{k}) = i\psi\sigma_y \\ \text{Spin-triplet SC} & \Delta(\boldsymbol{k}) = i\boldsymbol{d}(\boldsymbol{k})\boldsymbol{\sigma}\sigma_y \\ \text{with } \boldsymbol{d} \parallel \boldsymbol{z} \end{array} \right. \quad (\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy} \sim i\sigma_z)$$

b) $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy}\Delta(k)\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{xy}^t = -\Delta(k)$ U(1) gauge sym $\Delta(k)$

Spin-triplet SC
$$\Delta({m k}) = i {m d}({m k}) {m \sigma} \sigma_y$$
 with ${m d} \perp {m z}$

$$\mathcal{M}_{xy}\Delta(m{k})\mathcal{M}_{xy}^t=\Delta(m{k})$$
 Even



- Mirror subsector does not support its own particle-hole symmetry.
- Mirror subsector is topologically the same as quantum Hall states.
- Symmetry protected topological states are Dirac fermions.



- Mirror subsector supports its own particle-hole symmetry .
- Mirror subsector is topologically the same as spinless SCs.
- Symmetry protected topological states are Majorana fermions
- Majorana zero mode can exit in a vortex or in a dislocation



$$\mathcal{M}_{xy}\Delta(\boldsymbol{k})\mathcal{M}_{xy}^t = \Delta(\boldsymbol{k})$$

 $\mathcal{M}_{xy}\Delta(m{k})\mathcal{M}_{xy}^t = -\Delta(m{k})$

- No PH symmetry in mirror subsector
- Mirror subsector is class A
- Only Dirac fermions are possible

- PH symmetry in mirror subsector
- Mirror subsector is class D

Majorana fermions are possible in each mirror sector

Application to Sr₂RuO₄



C. Bergemann

 (quasi) 2-dimensional time-reversal breaking spin-triplet SC

Maeno, Kittaka, Nomura, Yonezawa, Ishida, JPSJ (12)

 Interestingly, the NMR measurements have suggested that dvector is normal to the z-direction in the presence of magnetic fields along the z-direction.



$$\mathcal{M}_{xy}\Delta(k)\mathcal{M}_{xy}^t=-\Delta(k)$$
 Odd We can expect Majorana Fermions !!

Our model

All three bands and relevant SO int. are taken into account.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{kin}} &= \sum_{k,s} (c_{ks1}^{\dagger}, c_{ks2}^{\dagger}, c_{ks3}^{\dagger}) \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{k1} & g_{k} & 0 \\ g_{k} & \epsilon_{k2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \epsilon_{k3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{ks1} \\ c_{ks2} \\ c_{ks3} \end{pmatrix} \text{ Fermi surface} \\ \\ \mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{SO}} &= i\lambda \sum_{lmn} \epsilon_{lmn} \sum_{kss'} c_{ksl}^{\dagger} c_{ks'm} \sigma_{ss'}^{n} \\ \\ \mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{pair}} &= \frac{i}{2} \sum_{klss'} \Delta^{l} d(k) (\sigma \sigma_{y})_{ss'} c_{ksl}^{\dagger} c_{-ks'l}^{\dagger} + \mathrm{h.c.} \\ \\ \hline \frac{\Gamma}{4u} \frac{d}{x} \sin k_{x} + \hat{y} \sin k_{y} \quad \text{odd} \quad \text{class D} \quad [\pm 1, 1, 1]_{\lambda = \pm i} \\ \hat{x} \sin k_{y} - \hat{y} \sin k_{x} \\ B_{u} \quad \hat{x} \sin k_{x} - \hat{y} \sin k_{x} \\ \hline E_{u} \quad \hat{z} (\sin k_{x} + i \sin k_{y}) \quad \text{even} \quad \text{class A} \quad [1, -, -]_{\lambda = \pm i} \end{aligned}$$



The other three mirror odd gap functions also show qualitatively the same results.

Our arguments also work for other unconventional SCs/SFs

Thin film of ³He-A

MS, Yamakage, Mizushima (13)



$$\boldsymbol{d} = \hat{\boldsymbol{n}}(k_x + ik_y)$$

LDOS at core of integer vortex



Majorana zero modes exist in integer vortex when $d \perp z \ (\theta_d = \pi/2)$

Remark

These symmetry protected MFs show non-trivial phenomena like usual MF if the mirror symmetry is preserved.



Due to the existence of MF, a vortex in each mirror subsector obeys non-Abelian statisitics . Therefore, a vortex in original spinful SC also obeys non-Abelian statistics

Summary

- 1. We have revealed the condition necessary to obtain Majorana fermions protected by the mirror symmetry.
- 2. With the mirror symmetry, unconventinal spinful SCs can host Majorana fermions

In particular, Sr_2RuO_4 can hosts Majorana zero mode in a vortex and a dislocation without considering halfquantum vortex

3. Our arguments are general and applicable to 3 dimensional spinful SCs.