# **Topological Electronic Devices**

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# Why Devices?

- Societal impact
- Funding
- Focuses direction of research



- Band gap
- Surface States
- Lack of backscattering

- Magneto-electric effect
- Spin-momentum locking
- Accessible materials

→ Great for studying charge & spin transport devices



# What Devices?

"Electronic devices are components for controlling the flow of electrical currents for the purpose of information processing and system control."

- FETs
- Interconnects
- pn junctions
- Superconducting/Qubit
- Magnetic
- Emergent/tunable quantum states

Requirement for Devices:

- Dominant surface states
- Tunability (magnetic, electronic, strain, etc)
- Good material properties: low disorder, clean interfaces, etc

# Outline

- Device fabrication, tunability and achieving surface-state regime
- Interconnects, FETs
- TI Josephson Junctions
- Emergent Phenomena (finite momentum states)
- TI Magnetic Devices (Tomorrow!)

Goals:

- Understand promise & limitations of topological devices
- Clarify typical experimental signals, challenges, and opportunities for transport in topological insulators

#### References:

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# **3D Topological Insulators**



Kane, Moore, Phys. World 2011

### 3D TIs (surface states):

e.g., BiSe

- Strong spin-orbit coupling
- Insulating bulk
- Spin-momentum locked conducting surface states





### Topological Materials

Layered Chalcogenides	3D Topological I Bi <sub>2</sub> Se <sub>3</sub> , Bi <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>3</sub> , Sb <sub>2</sub> Te (Bi,Sb) <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>3</sub> , Bi <sub>2-x</sub> Sl Sb <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>2</sub> Se, TIBiSe TIBi(S,Se) <sub>2</sub> , PbBi <sub>2</sub> Te GeBi <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>4</sub> , PbB	2D Topological Insulator: 1T'-WTe <sub>2</sub>			Magnetic 3D Topological Insulator (Axion Insulator): Cr doped (Bi <sub>1-x</sub> Sb <sub>x</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>3</sub> , V doped (Bi <sub>1-x</sub> Sb <sub>x</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>3</sub> , MnBi <sub>2</sub> Te <sub>4</sub>					
	Weyl Semim T <sub>d</sub> -WTe <sub>2</sub> , T <sub>d</sub> -N	ietal: NoTe <sub>2</sub>		Highe	r-Order Top 1T'-WTe <sub>2'</sub>	oological Ins , 1T'-MoTe <sub>2</sub>	ulator:	Hig	iher-Or Supe MoTe	rder Topological rconductor: e <sub>2</sub> , FeTe <sub>1-×</sub> Se
Other	2D Topological I	nsulat	tor:	Торо	ological Cry	stalline Insul	ator:		Che	rn Insulator:
Chalcogenides	(Hg,Cd)Te Quant	um W	/ells	Pb <sub>1-x</sub> Sn <sub>x</sub> Te				Mn doped HgTe		
Pnictides	3D Topological I Bi, "Sb	nsulat	tor:		Weyl Se TaAs, TaP,	emimetal: NbP, NbAs		Dirac Semimetal: Cd <sub>2</sub> As <sub>2</sub> , MoP		
Heusler and Half-Heuslers	GdPtBi, NdPtBi, LuP	Ma dBi, C	gnetic We Co <sub>2</sub> MnX (X	eyl Semimetal: ( = Si, Ge, Sn), Co <sub>2</sub> TiX (X = Si, Ge, Sn) Quadratic Band Touching: YPtBi, ScPtBi						
Oxides	Dirac Semin SrlrO <sub>3</sub>	Quadratic Band Touching: Pr <sub>2</sub> Ir <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>			Double Dirac Semimetal: Sn(PbO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Pb <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> , Mg(PbO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Bi <sub>2</sub> AuO <sub>5</sub>					
	Kramers-Weyl Se Ag <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	Kramers-Weyl Semimetal: Ag <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>			ological S Sr <sub>2</sub> l	uperconduct RuO <sub>4</sub>	tor:	Mg(PbO <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Bi <sub>2</sub> AuO <sub>5</sub> Mgnetic Weyl Semimetal: Nd <sub>2</sub> Ir <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	Weyl Semimetal: Nd <sub>2</sub> Ir <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	
Elemental	2D Topological Insula monolayer hexagonal-Sn, Sb	itor:	Wey Se, Te (	/l Semin (under p	netal: pressure)	Quadratic	Band To β-Sn	nd Touching: Higher-Order Topological Insulator Bi		Higher-Order pological Insulator: Bi
Graphene and non-graphene- based moirés	2D Topological Insula MoTe <sub>2</sub> /MoTe <sub>2</sub> */WTe	itor: e <sub>2</sub>	Supe Topo Magio bilay	rconductor in logical Bands: : angle twisted yer graphene		or: d bilayer ABC e/hBN	2D Topological Insulator: Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene			
	2D Topological Insulator: BiH <sub>3</sub> β-Bi <sub>4</sub> I <sub>4</sub>			logical Topological I : Insulato SmB <sub>6</sub> , Yb		ical Kondo Ilator: , YbB <sub>12</sub>	Dirac Semime Na <sub>3</sub> Bi		etal:	Triple Point Dirac Semimetal: WC
Other	Double Weyl Semimetal: SrSi <sub>2</sub>	U W	Double Spi leyl Semim RhSi	n-1 letal:	Magnetic Weyl Semimetal: Mn <sub>3</sub> Ge, Mn <sub>3</sub> Sn		Topological Crystalline Insulator: α-Bi <sub>4</sub> Br <sub>4</sub>			

Goldhaber-Gordon, Rechtsman, Mason, Armitage, Future Directions Workshop series: "Topological Sciences," (2019)

Table 1 Topological Materials, categorized by broad classes. 3D topological insulators (blue), 2D topological insulators (yellow), topological semimetals (orange), higher-order topological insulators (green), topological crystalline insulators (pink), and topological superconductors (purple). Magnetic materials are indicated by italics and superconductors by boldface. Inspired by a table of 2D materials in (Geim & Grigorieva, 2013).

# 3D TI: Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>

One of first, and best, examples of 3D TI is Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>:



Angle resolved photoemission (ARPES) experiment on  $Bi_2Se_3$ .

•Dirac surface bandstructure and the topologically protected states evident.

•Gap between the bulk valence band and bulk conduction band is 0.35 eV.

•Topologically protected states are evident at room temperature

•Spin-resolved ARPES → spin-momentum locked surface states

D. Hseih et al., Nature **452**, 970 (2008). J. G. Analytis et al., PRB **81**, 205407 (2010). H. Zhang et al., Nat. Phys. **5**, 438 (2009).

# **Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>: large bulk contribution to conductance**



Fermi energy of as-grown  $Bi_2Se_3$  is not in the gap due to Se vacancies (bulk is a metal, not an insulator)

It is difficult to measure only surface states, determine topological properties in 3D TIs via standard transport

Problem common to most 3D TIs found to date

Solutions:

- Gating (top and back) [sometimes not strong enough]
- Doping with Sb, Te, e.g., BST, BSTS [may introduce disorder]
- Chemical doping [hard to control]
- Heterostructures, e.g. BiSe/BiTe [may change properties]

Or use other materials (non-chalcogenide) e.g. SmB<sub>6</sub> [Kondo insulator; complicated bulk behavior]

# **Device fabrication and approaching TI regime**





- 1. a thin(~10nm) **Sb**-doped  $Bi_2Se_3$  ( $Bi_{1.33}Sb_{0.67}Se_3$ )
  - Sb compensates for Se vacancies (grown by Gu)
  - Exfoliate thin flakes
- 2. Deposit contacts
- 3. Chemical doping with F4TCNQ
  - strong electron affinity, so electrons transfer to interface layer
  - see Kim, Cho et al, Nat. Phys. 8, 2012
- 4. Apply backgate through 300nm SiO<sub>2</sub> at low temperature

# **Device characterization - Hall measurement**

Hall measurements to make sure that we can access the topological regime



 $R_{\text{Hall}} = -1/(ne)$ 



# **Device characterization - Hall measurement**

### Hall measurements to make sure that we can access the topological regime



- **Dirac point** a peak in  $\rho_{xx}$  and sign change in  $n_H$  near  $V_g \sim -55V$  as charge carrier type changes.
  - Bottom of bulk conduction band:  $n \sim 0.8 \times 10^{13}$ /cm<sup>2</sup> near  $V_g \sim -18$ V.



# **Fabricating BiSe Devices**



SEM image of TI (Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>) nanowire device

- Scotch tape exfoliate, hunt for nanowires

Length = 200nm, width = 110nm, thickness = 15nm

Molecular doping to deplete bulk states



# **Fabricating BiSe Devices**

8

6

0

-40

 $G(e^{2/h})$ 

B = 0, T = 16mK

-20



SEM image of TI (Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub>) nanowire device

- Scotch tape exfoliate, hunt for nanowires

Length = 200nm, width = 110nm, thickness = 15nm



Vg(V)

20

What are other unique properties of the surface state? How do we know we are measuring the surface state in transport?

# **3D TI Surface States**

Other evidence of surface states:



#### STM: lack of backscattering (BiSb)



# Aharonov-Bohm oscillations in surface states

For a hollow wire, electrons in each sub-band traverse circumference of wire

Now apply magnetic field through hollow wire:

$$\Psi \to \Psi \exp\left(i\frac{\oint eB \cdot Area}{\hbar}\right) = \Psi \exp\left(i2\pi\frac{e\Phi}{h}\right)$$

Aharonov-Bohm effect: Conductance oscillates as a function of magnetic flux enclosed by the ring, where the period of oscillation is  $\Phi_0 = h/e$ 

$$k_{\perp} = \frac{2\pi}{C} \left( l - \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \right)$$
 For our samples,  
Area ~ 10<sup>-15</sup> m<sup>2</sup>,  $\Phi_0$  ~ 2.5T

**Requires:** 

- Well-defined path around circumference
   → hollow wire or surface states
- Phase coherence
- Ballistic or quasi-ballistic transport

# AB Oscillations: Signatures of the Gapless 1D-Topological Mode

In TIs, spin-momentum locking gives electrons an extra phase of  $\pi$ 



$$k_{\perp} = \frac{2\pi}{C} \left( l + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \right)$$

Leads to gap at  $\Phi$  = 0 for 1<sup>st</sup> subband

But extra phase cancelled by AB phase for  $\phi = \phi_0/2$ , leading to reappearance of mode

- → tuning of topologically protected, 1D helical mode!
- Bardarson *et al* PRL **105**, 156803 (2010).
- Zhang et al PRL **105**, 206601 (2010).
- Rosenberg et al PRB 82, 041104(R) (2010)



Conductance of TI nanowire at Dirac point is expected to oscillate with a period of  $\phi_0(h/e)$  and have a maximum at  $\phi = \phi_0/2$  (a minimum at  $\phi = 0$ )

### **AB Oscillations: Signatures of the Gapless 1D-Topological Mode**





# h/e oscillations at the Dirac point



# h/e oscillations: phase alternations with V<sub>Gate</sub>



# Simulations of AB oscillations (M.J. Gilbert, UIUC)



Finite conductance at
 \$\Phi\$ = 0 consistent with
 small shifts away from
 Dirac point, off-resonant
 conduction across
 contacts and slight band
 bending

- Good fit between theory and experiment

- AB data consistent with simulations for TI surface states
- Consistent with theoretical expectation:  $G \sim e^2/h$  at  $n = \varphi/\varphi_0 = 1/2$  at Dirac point  $\rightarrow$  Signature of 1D topological mode
- Evidence of 1D mode manipulation in TI nanowire
- Clear signature of surface states and coherent transport in 3D TI nanowire

### Are surface states useful for devices? Maybe FETs or interconnects?

# **Example: TI FET**

V<sub>gs</sub> [V] = - 1.4

5

Benefits: No impurity scattering, dissipationless channel down to small scales



S. Cho et al, Nano Lett 11, 1925 (2011)



Reality:

30

50

40 30

20

10 0

0

I<sub>DS</sub> [ μΑ ]

Shows characteristic IV curves

2

 $V_{DS}[V]$ 

3

4

- Low mobility due to low DOS



#### Potential:

- Theoretical benefits of high performance FETs
- Could use topological-tonontopological switching
- Need greater control of surface state quality, Fermi energy location

H. Zhu et al, Sci. Rep. 3, 1757 (2013)

# **TI Interconnects**

Edge roughness and grain-boundary scattering make copper interconnects too resistive as they scale. Are TIs better?



**Fig. 4 Topological interconnects.** a Numerically calculated mobility of electrons in Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> nanowire interconnects when considering non-ideal effects, such as roughness scattering and phonons, as a function of the simulation temperature for various Fermi levels<sup>59</sup>. Reprinted by permission from ref. <sup>59</sup>, copyright 2014. **b** Theoretical resistance, normalized by the length, of different interconnect technologies compared to that of Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> nanowire interconnects as calculated for two different mean-free paths of 10 nm (blue) and 100 nm (orange)<sup>60</sup>.

Scattering & e-ph interactions decrease both bulk and surface mobility. And density of states in surface states alone too small (compared to Cu) However, may have use in ultra-narrow wires ( < 10 nm)

### But maybe surface states are "useful" in hybrid or quantum topological devices?

### **Topological Insulator-Superconducting Devices**



### **Topological Insulator-Superconducting Devices**

Lateral S-TI-S junctions for topological quantum computing?

Not the favorite system of most because of the complexity:

- 2D width (multiple channels)
- Multiple surfaces (top, edges, bottom)
- Conducting bulk states and trivial surface states in the TI

Advantages:

- Supports topological excitations without a strong magnetic field.
- Allows access to barrier for probes and imaging
- Expandable into networks
- Enables multiple modes of operation to control Majorana fermions by phase, current, or voltage
- Schemes proposed to braid and perform logical operations.

Trade-off stability for functionalization !

# Probing surface states in a S-TI-S junction



# **Gate-dependent supercurrent**



 $I_c$  decreases as normal resistance in the junction increases

# Supercurrents in the topological regime



- Purple area: supercurrents, boundary ~  $I_c$ 
  - No change in  $I_c$  when pass into pure topological regime (past bottom of BCB)
  - Finite *I*<sub>c</sub> at Dirac point: residual densities in electron-hole puddles due to charged impurity potential.
  - Critical current does not increase in hole region ( $V_g$  < -55V): asymmetric contact resistances or lack of clear surface states in valence band

### **Quantum Transport Theory: surface states carry supercurrent**

Compare data to transport simulations considering superconducting leads and TI Hamiltonian

Supercurrents and density of states (DOS) profiles calculated in the non-equilibrium Green function formalism (see Cho et al, Nat. Comm. 2013)



*I*<sub>c</sub> closely follows surface DOS

Adding surface disorder rapidly degrades supercurrent

→ surface states carry supercurrent!

# **TI Majorana Modes?**

# $4\pi$ -periodic Josephson supercurrent in HgTe-based topological Josephson junctions

J. Wiedenmann<sup>1,\*</sup>, E. Bocquillon<sup>1,\*</sup>, R.S. Deacon<sup>2,3,\*</sup>, S. Hartinger<sup>1</sup>, O. Herrmann<sup>1</sup>, T.M. Klapwijk<sup>4,5</sup>, L. Maier<sup>1</sup>, C. Ames<sup>1</sup>, C. Brüne<sup>1</sup>, C. Gould<sup>1</sup>, A. Oiwa<sup>6</sup>, K. Ishibashi<sup>2,3</sup>, S. Tarucha<sup>3,7</sup>, H. Buhmann<sup>1</sup> & L.W. Molenkamp<sup>1</sup>





 Disorder can cause anomalous junction behavior

#### Anomalous Fraunhofer Patterns in Gated Josephson Junctions Based on the Bulk-Insulating Topological Insulator BiSbTeSe<sub>2</sub>

Subhamoy Ghatak,<sup>†</sup> Oliver Breunig,<sup>†</sup> Fan Yang,<sup>\*,†</sup> Zhiwei Wang, Alexey A. Taskin,<sup>©</sup> and Yoichi Ando<sup>\*</sup>



IOP Publishing

J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 33 (2021) 425601 (7pp)

Journal of Physics: Condensed Matte https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-648X/ac15d7

# Asymmetric Fraunhofer spectra in a topological insulator-based Josephson junction

Alexander Beach<sup>®</sup>, Dalmau Reig-i-Plessis<sup>®</sup>, Gregory MacDougall<sup>®</sup> and Nadya Mason<sup>\*</sup>

Small, spatially varying disorder (like a step in the material) can add phases, induce anomalous Fraunhofer patterns and transport features



# **TI Majorana Modes?**

### New ideas for finding MZMs in TIs in wires ...

#### PHYSICAL REVIEW B 104, 165405 (2021)

#### Majorana bound states in topological insulators without a vortex

Henry F. Legg , Daniel Loss, and Jelena Klinovaja Department of Physics, University of Basel, Klingelbergstrasse 82, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland

(Received 24 March 2021; revised 17 September 2021; accepted 20 September 2021; published 4 October 2021)

We consider a three-dimensional topological insulator (TI) wire with a nonuniform chemical potential induced by gating across the cross section. This inhomogeneity in chemical potential lifts the degeneracy between two one-dimensional surface state subbands. A magnetic field applied along the wire, due to orbital effects, breaks time-reversal symmetry and lifts the Kramers degeneracy at zero momentum. If placed in proximity to an *s*-wave superconductor, the system can be brought into a topological phase at relatively weak magnetic fields. Majorana bound states (MBSs), localized at the ends of the TI wire, emerge and are present for an exceptionally large region of parameter space in realistic systems. Unlike in previous proposals, these MBSs occur without the requirement of a vortex in the superconducting pairing potential, which represents a significant simplification for experiments. Our results open a pathway to the realization of MBSs in present-day TI wire devices.

#### Integration of Topological Insulator Josephson Junctions in Superconducting Qubit Circuits

Tobias W. Schmitt, Malcolm R. Connolly,\* Michael Schleenvoigt, Chenlu Liu, Oscar Kennedy, José M. Chávez-Garcia, Abdur R. Jalil, Benjamin Bennemann, Stefan Trellenkamp, Florian Lentz, Elmar Neumann, Tobias Lindström, Sebastian E. de Graaf, Erwin Berenschot, Niels Tas, Gregor Mussler, Karl D. Petersson, Detlev Grützmacher, and Peter Schüffelgen\*



#### Transmon gubit circuit

# **Emergent Physics in TI Devices**

### Can useful new electronic states be induced? For known or unknown applications?

Example: Fulde–Ferrell–Larkin–Ovchinnikov (FFLO) phase

- Finite momentum Cooper pairs with spatially non-uniform order parameter
- Very long-range superconducting pairing
- Could lead to superconducting diode effect (Yuan & Fu, PNAS, 2022)

Evidence of FFLO-like state (Cooper pairing with shifted momentum) in 2D TIs when in-plane field perpendicular to current is added

Hart et al., Nat. Phys. 13, 3877 (2017).



### What about in a 3D topological insulator?

### Finite momentum pairing studied via Fraunhofer Spectroscopy



When magnetic field is applied through a uniform junction, the local Josephson current density oscillates sinusoidally with position due to single-valuedness of the phase



# Fraunhofer spectroscopy in 3D TIs

Adding an in-plane field (along current direction) shifts the momentum (and corresponding Dirac cone & Fermi surface)

 $\frac{g\mu}{\hbar v_f}$ 

$$H_{Dirac} = -\hbar v_F \left( k_x - \frac{g\mu B_y}{\hbar v_f} \right) \sigma_y + \hbar v_f k_y \sigma_x$$



This gives center-of-mass momentum to Cooper pairs  $\rightarrow \Delta_{L,R} \approx \Delta_0 e^{i\frac{2g\mu B_y}{\hbar v_f}x}$  $2B_y(x_1 - x_2)$ 

 $k_{x}$ 

and adds a phase across the junction  $\phi_1(x_1) - \phi_2(x_2) = \frac{2B_y(x_1 - x_2)g\mu}{\hbar v_f}$ "Zeeman term"

# Fraunhofer spectroscopy in 3D TIs

An in-plane field also adds an Aharonov-Bohm term to the phase across the junction (this scales with thickness *t*):





B\_(mT

"AB term"

Using the total phase difference:

$$\phi_1(x_1) - \phi_2(x_2) = \frac{2\pi B_z d(x_1 + x_2)}{2\Phi_0} + \frac{2B_y (x_1 - x_2)g\mu}{\hbar v_f} + \frac{\pi B_y (x_1 - x_2)t}{\Phi_0}$$

to model the transport current

$$I(\phi, B_y, B_z) = \int_{-\frac{W_1}{2}}^{\frac{W_2}{2}} \int_{-\frac{W_2}{2}}^{\frac{W_2}{2}} dx_1 dx_2 \frac{1}{d^2 + (x_1 - x_2)^2} \sin(\Delta \phi + \phi_1(x_1) - \phi_2(x_2))$$
  
gives simulated Fraunhofer patterns with in-plane field ...

# Simulated Fraunhofer spectroscopy (M. Gilbert, UIUC)



Simulations show spectral weight is shifted to larger B<sub>z</sub> values as in-plane field B<sub>y</sub> increased

Leading to "trident" patterns in 2D Resistance plots of B<sub>y</sub> vs B<sub>z</sub>

Where the slope depends on Zeeman and AB terms:

$$m = \frac{\Delta B_{y}}{\Delta B_{z}} = \frac{\pi d / \Phi_{0}}{\frac{2g\mu}{\hbar v_{f}} + \frac{\pi t}{\Phi_{0}}}$$



### **Fraunhofer device characteristics**



1 µm

- Bi<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>3</sub> flake, 120 nm x ٠ 1.5; thickness: 25 nm
- NbTiN/NbTi ٠ superconducting leads



Critical current ~ 1uA



#### n-doped regime



Standard Fraunhofer pattern without in-plane field



Data similar to simulation of finite momentum shifted Cooper pairs!



Data similar to simulation of finite momentum shifted Cooper pairs!



Data similar to simulation of finite momentum shifted Cooper pairs!

The "tilt" is due to the shape of the junction ...







Device number	t (nm)	Average W	d (nm)	$W_1$
		(nm)		$\alpha = \frac{1}{W_2}$
1	9	920	110	1.07
2	11	1930	240	1.04
3	12	570	160	1.15
4	20	730	150	1.02
5	21	500	270	1.00

We observe finite momentum pairing!

We can simulate & understand Fraunhofer spectra for a wide variety of junctions!



# **Research Challenges in Topological Insulators**

Topological insulators do not seem to have immediate application in conventional computing elements such as FETs & interconnects, or a Josephson devices

But ... may be useful for special applications (e.g., low current devices) and also for studying new emergent states.

It's really hard to displace Si/CMOS!

Some advances are needed, such as:

- Making materials having limited disorder
- Increasing topological gap energies
- Demonstrating topological properties at high temperatures
- Simple measurements that are sensitive to topology

There's also a lot of potential in **Topological Spintronics** 

Goldhaber-Gordon, Rechtsman, Mason, Armitage, Future Directions Workshop series: "Topological Sciences," (2019)