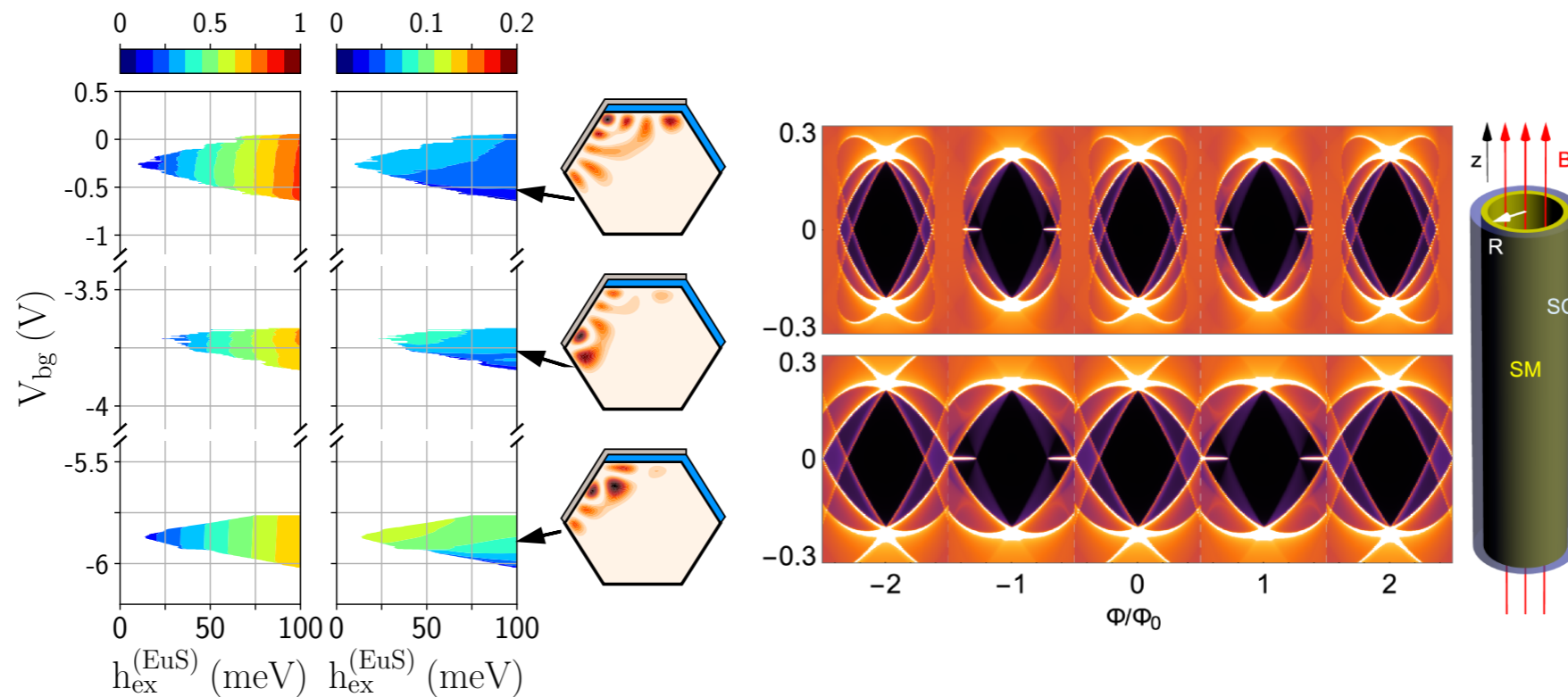


Latest Majorana nanowire designs: ferromagnetic and full-shell hybrid nanowires

Elsa Prada

Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid - CSIC



Presentation



Home My group Publications CV Teaching Outreach

Elsa Prada's homepage

Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid - CSIC

Department: Theory and Simulation of Materials
Group: Theory of Quantum Materials and Solid State Quantum Technologies

INSTITUTO DE CIENCIA DE MATERIALES DE MADRID - CSIC
C/ Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz 3, E-28049 Cantoblanco, Madrid, Spain
Office: 346 — Tel.: (+34) 91 334 9080
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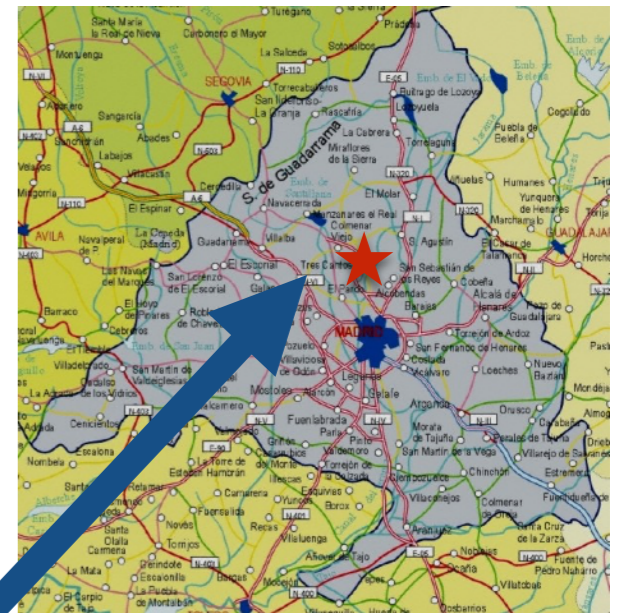
Hi! My name is Elsa Prada and I'm a condensed matter theorist working on systems where quantum phenomena play an important role, such as low dimensional materials and nanostructures. As of July 2020 I belong to the Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM-CSIC) as a tenured scientist.

Research interests:

Throughout my career my research has dealt with the following topics:

- **Topology in electronic systems**
 - Topological insulators
 - Topological superconductors
 - Majorana zero modes in nanostructures
- **Graphene and other 2D crystals**
 - Monolayers, multilayers, twisted bilayers, superlattices
 - Disorder
 - Magnetotransport, quantum Hall effect

...



Web of Science ResearcherID:

[A-4792-2010](#)

ORCID:

[0000-0001-7522-4795](#)



Majoranas in Madrid: people involved

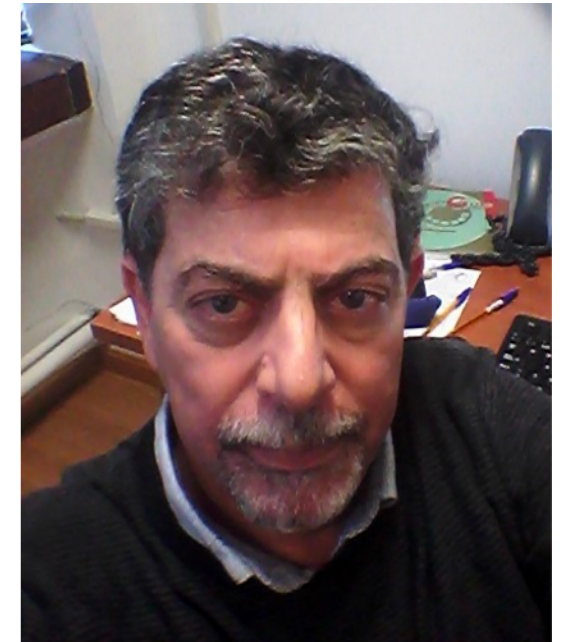


Pablo San-Jose



Ramón Aguado

icmm



Alfredo Levy Yeyati

PhD Students



Samuel D. Escribano



Fernando Peñaranda

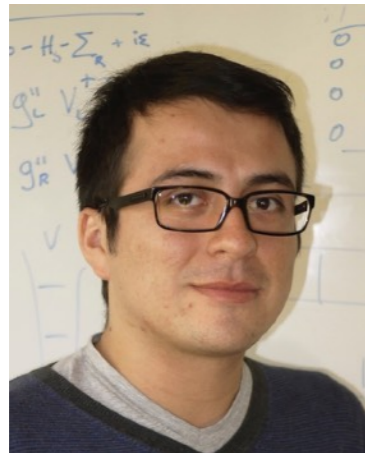


Jesús Ávila

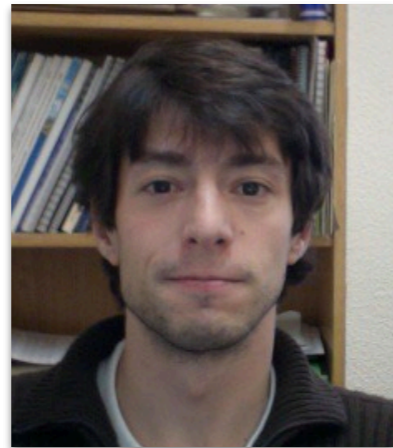


Eduardo Lee

Other collaborators in Majoranas



Jorge Cayao



Fernando Domínguez



Annica Black-Schaffer



Jelena Klinovaja



Yuval Oreg



Mintang Deng



Saulius Vaitiekėnas



Jesper Nygard



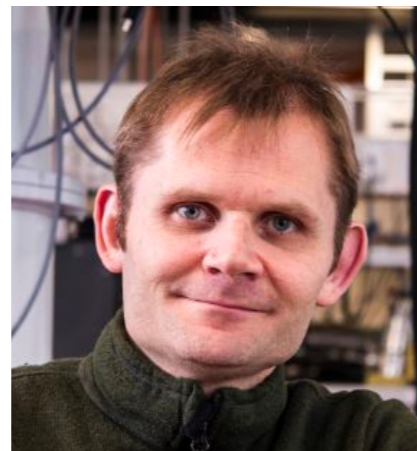
Peter Krogstrup



Charlie Marcus



Marco Valentini



Georgios Katsaros



Sergey Frolov



Attila Geresdi



Leo Kouwenhoven

Building a 1D Topological Superconductor

Oreg-Lutchyn proposal \longrightarrow Majorana Nanowire

1D SM wire with strong Spin Orbit Coupling

+

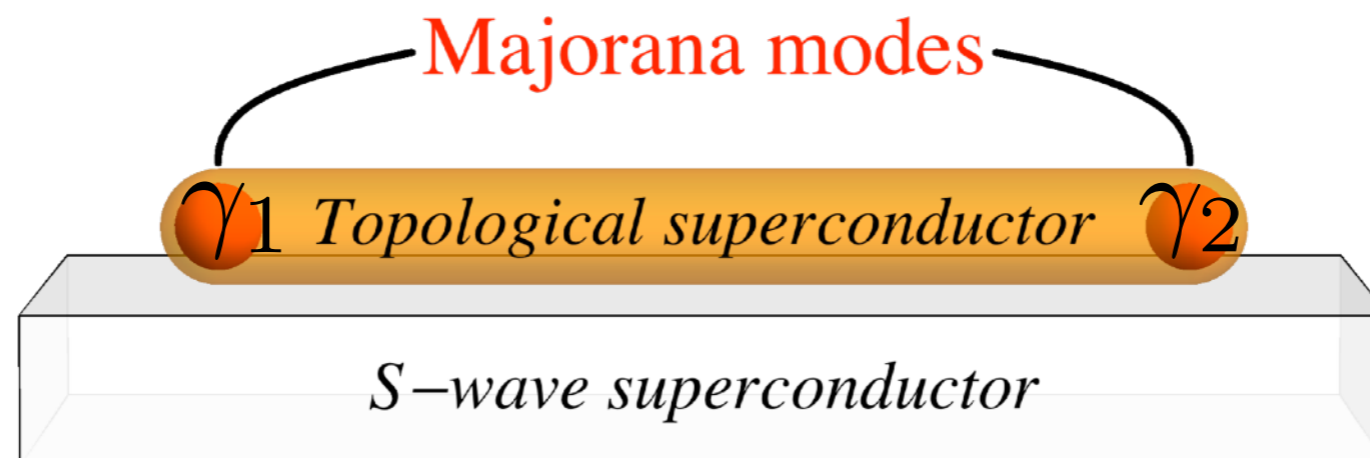
Zeeman field perpendicular to SO term \longrightarrow
spinless helical liquid

+

proximity to s-wave superconductor

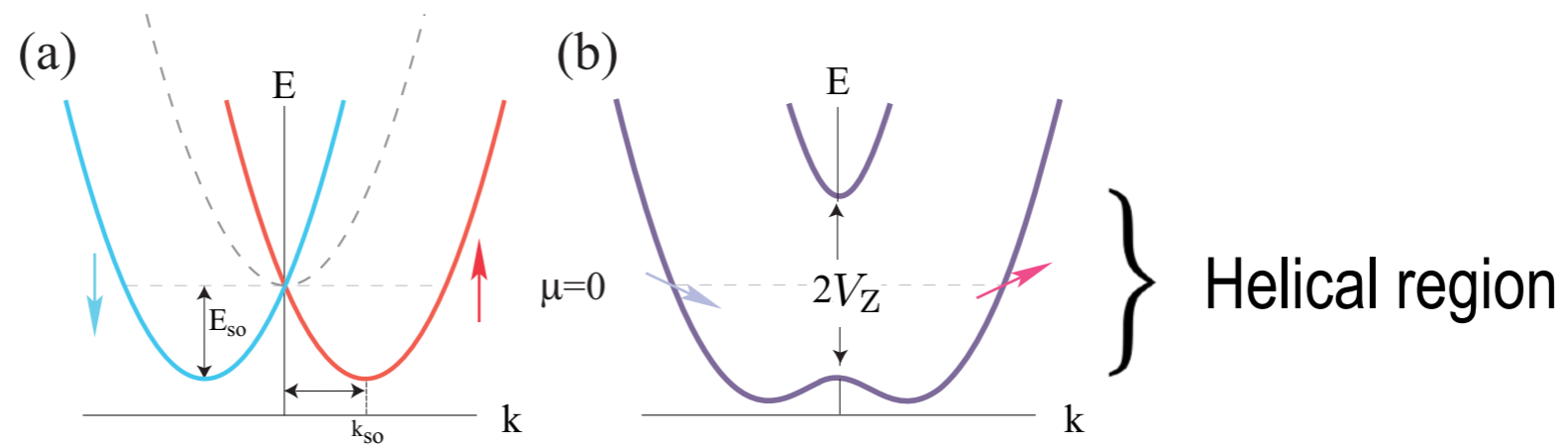
Topological p-wave Superconductor

$B > B_c$
 \longrightarrow

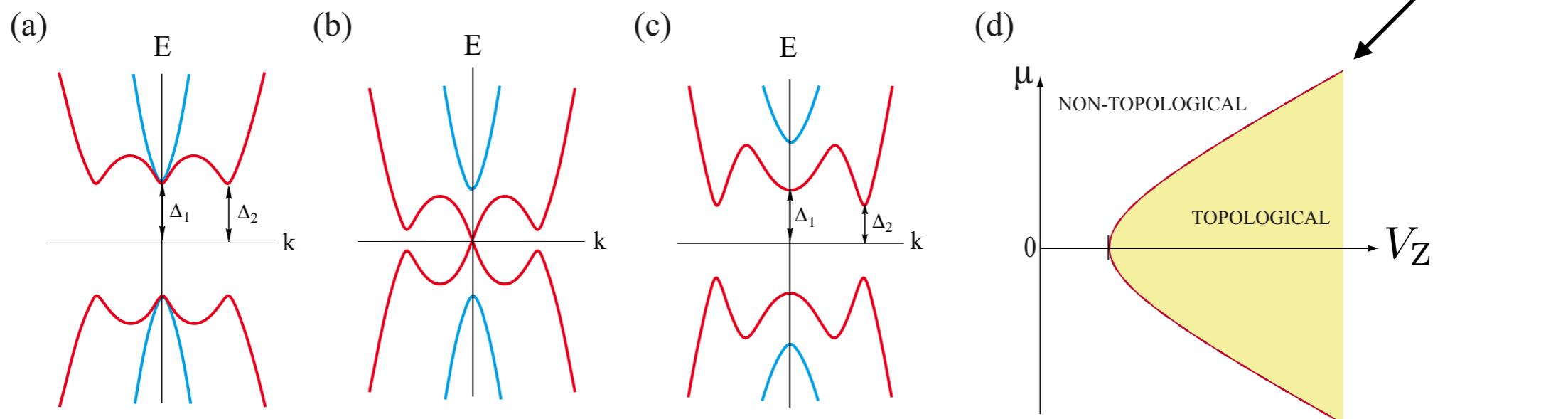


1D (idealised) model for the hybrid wire

$$H_0 = \int dx \psi^\dagger(x) \left[\frac{-\partial_x^2}{2m} - i\alpha_{\text{so}}\sigma_y\partial_x + \overset{V_Z = g\mu_B B/2}{V_Z\sigma_x} + U(x) - \mu \right] \psi(x)$$



$$H_{\text{pairing}} = \int dx \psi^\dagger(x) i\Delta(x)\sigma_y\psi(x) + \text{h.c.}$$






Nanowires beyond the minimal model

- 3D wires with multiple transverse subbands
- Band bending and inhomogeneous charge density distribution across the wire section
- Effects of electrostatic environment
- Partial proximity effect
- Renormalized g-factors and SO couplings, metallization by the parent SC
- Orbital effects of B
- Smooth density/pairing inhomogeneities along the wire
- Disorder
- QD physics...

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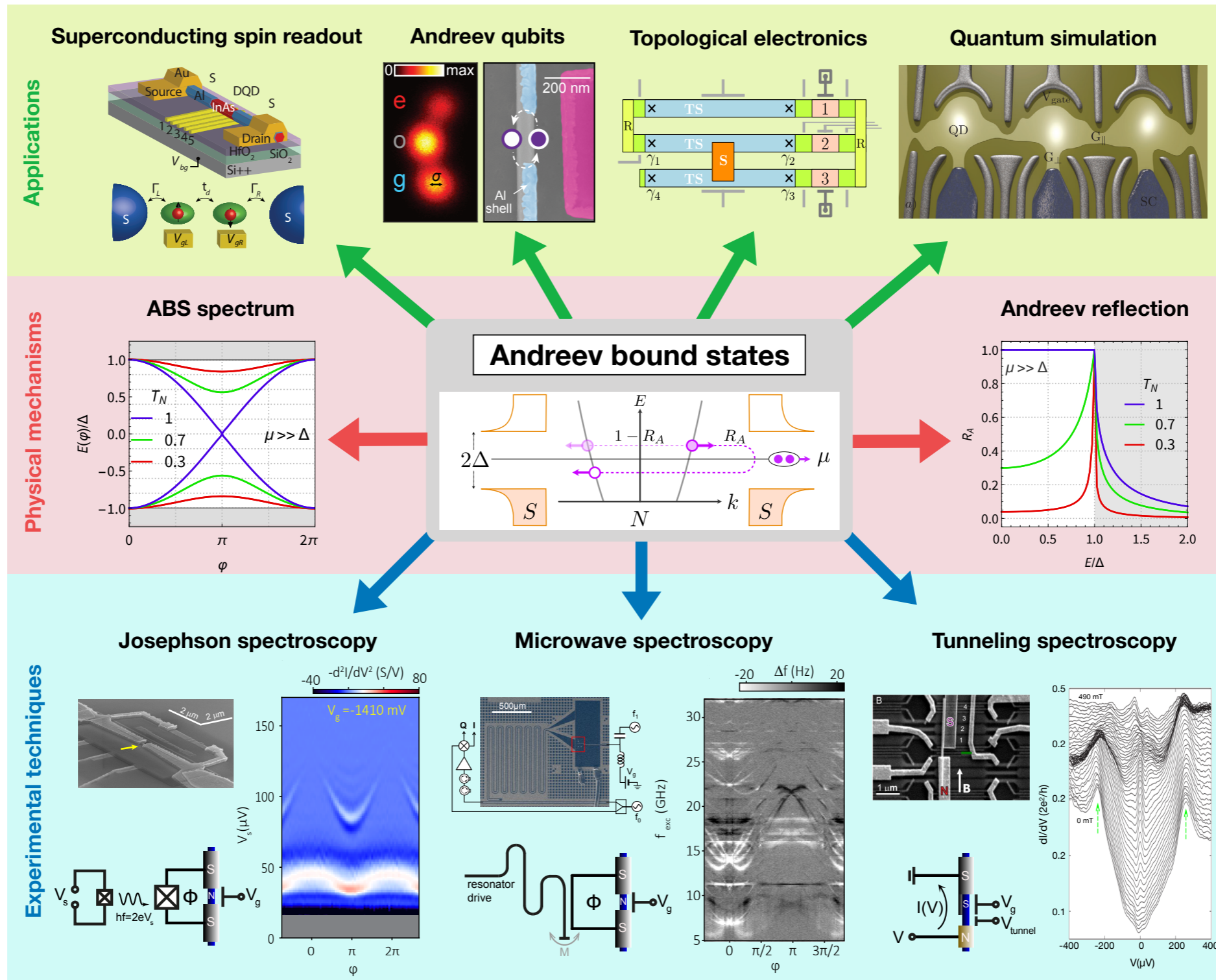
From Andreev to Majorana bound states in hybrid superconductor–semiconductor nanowires

Elsa Prada ¹✉, Pablo San-Jose ², Michiel W. A. de Moor³, Attila Geresdi³, Eduardo J. H. Lee¹, Jelena Klinovaja⁴, Daniel Loss⁴, Jesper Nygård ⁵, Ramón Aguado² and Leo P. Kouwenhoven^{3,6}

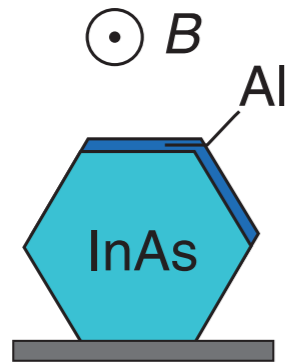
Abstract | Inhomogeneous superconductors can host electronic excitations, known as Andreev bound states (ABSs), below the superconducting energy gap. With the advent of topological superconductivity, a new kind of zero-energy ABS with exotic qualities, known as a Majorana bound state (MBS), has been discovered. A special property of MBS wavefunctions is their non-locality, which, together with non-Abelian braiding, is the key to their promise in topological quantum computation. We focus on hybrid superconductor–semiconductor nanowires as a flexible and promising experimental platform to realize one-dimensional topological superconductivity and MBSs. We review the main properties of ABSs and MBSs, state-of-the-art techniques for their detection and theoretical progress beyond minimal models, including different types of robust zero modes that may emerge without a band-topological transition.

From Andreev to Majorana bound states in hybrid superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

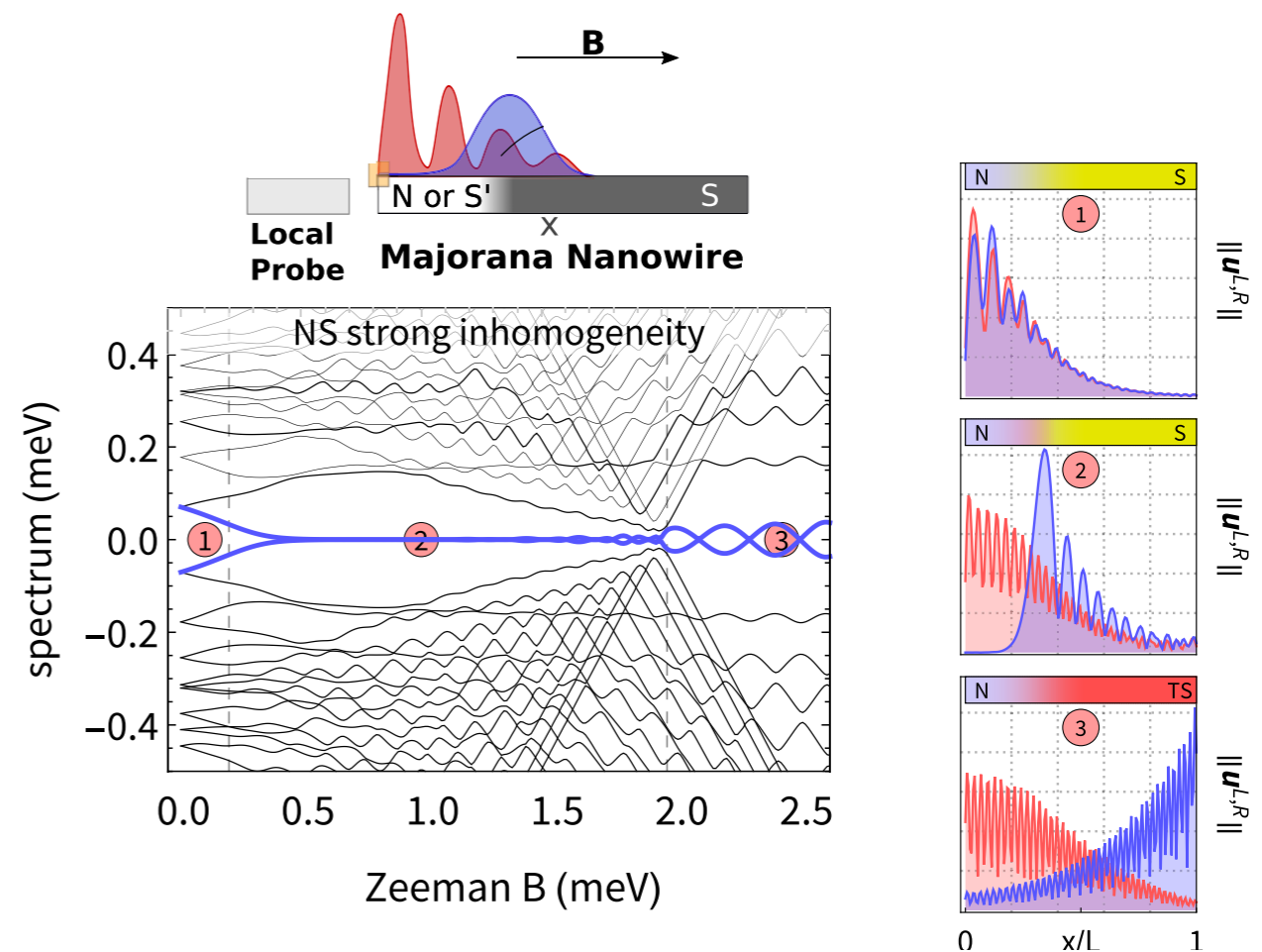
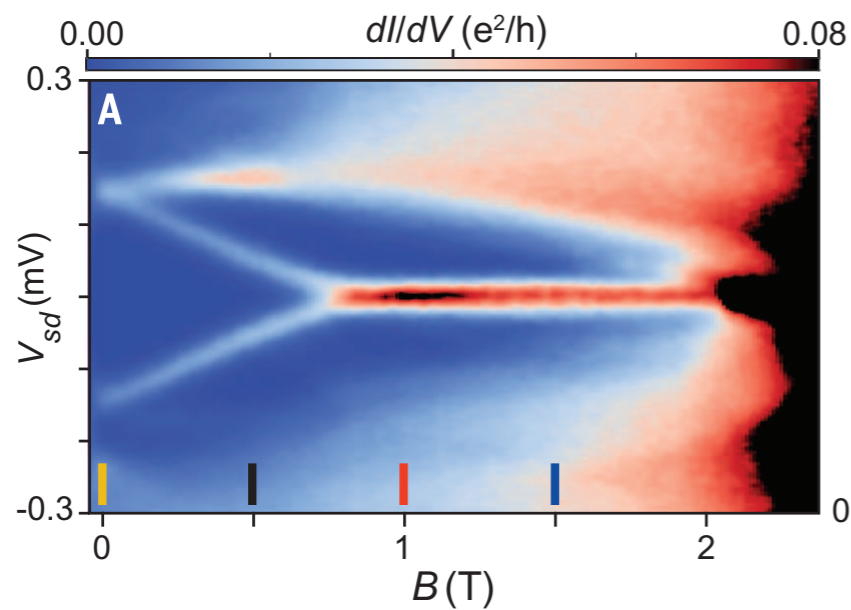
Elsa Prada¹, Pablo San-Jose², Michiel W. A. de Moor³, Attila Geresdi³, Eduardo J. H. Lee¹, Jelena Klinovaja⁴, Daniel Loss⁴, Jesper Nygård⁵, Ramón Aguado², Leo P. Kouwenhoven^{3,6}



One of the problems of partial-shell nanowires is...



The need to apply **large magnetic fields** to drive the wire into the topological regime

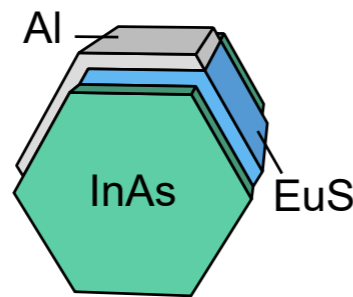


Deng, Vaitiekėnas, Hansen, Danon, Leijnse, Flensberg,
Nygård, Krogstrup, and Marcus
Science **354**, 1557 (2016)

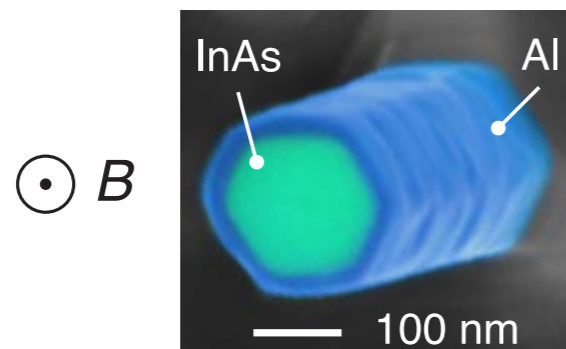
Peñaranda, Aguado, San-Jose and Prada
Phys. Rev. B **98**, 235406 (2018)

In this talk...

Alternative hybrid nanowire designs with no or small applied magnetic field



- Ferromagnetic hybrid nanowires



- Full-shell hybrid nanowires

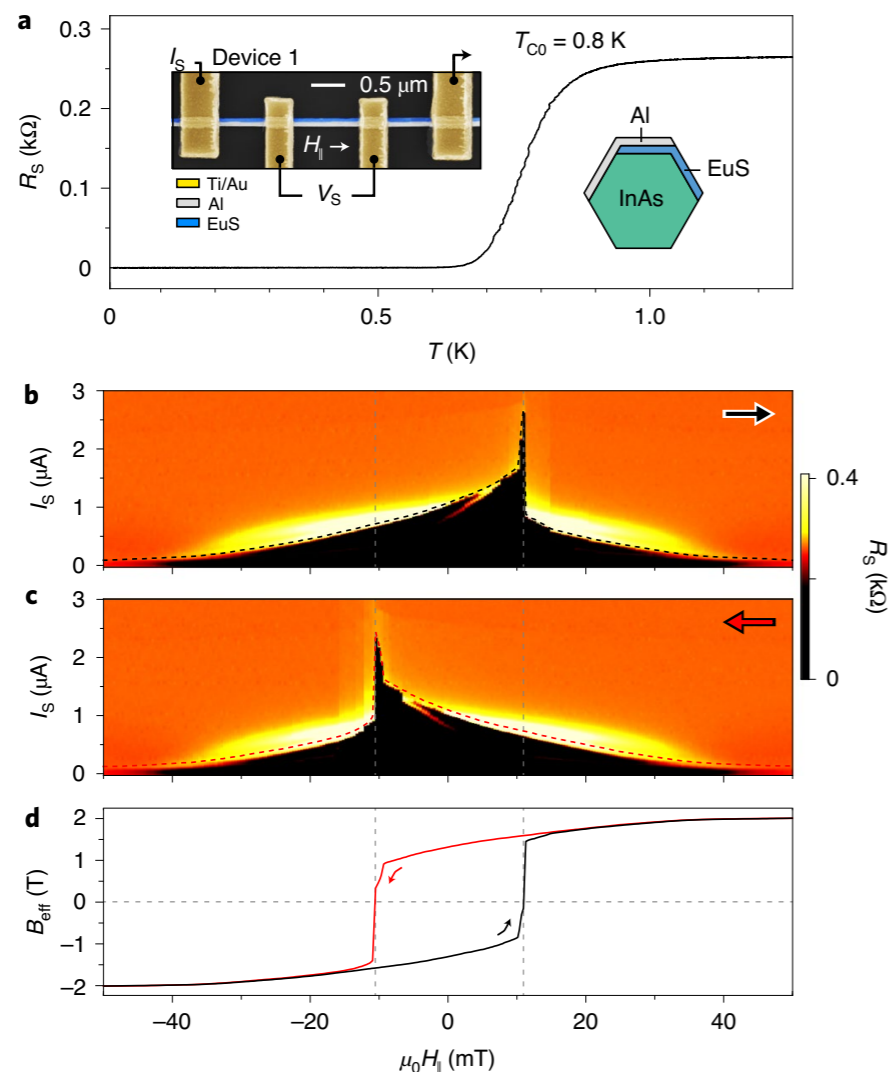
Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires



Zero-bias peaks at zero magnetic field in ferromagnetic hybrid nanowires

S. Vaitiekėnas^{1,2}, Y. Liu^{1,3}, P. Krogstrup^{1,3} and C. M. Marcus^{1,2}✉

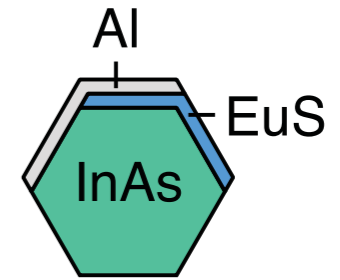
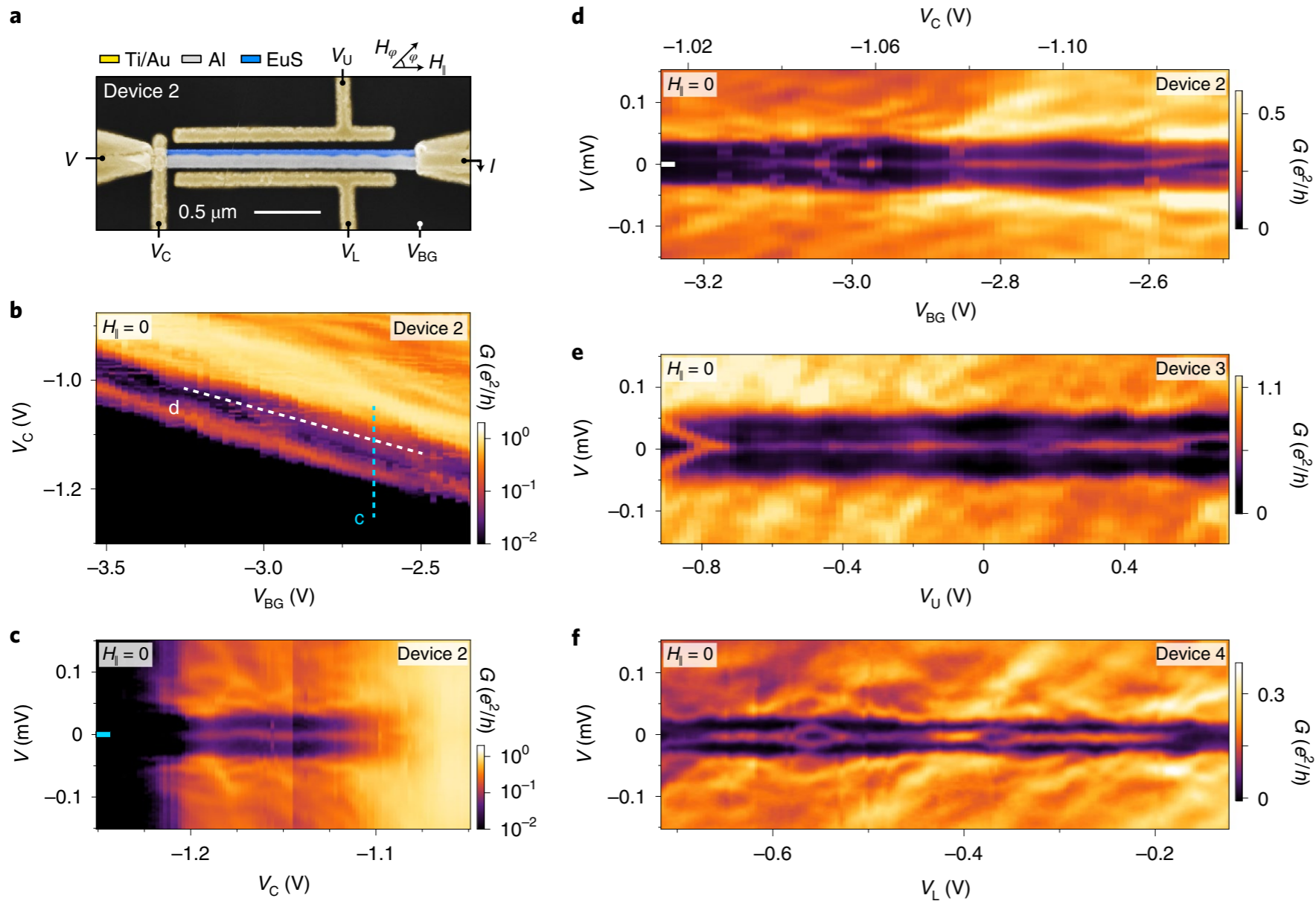
Al/EuS shell characteristics



- InAs nanowires grown using molecular beam epitaxy with epitaxial EuS on two facets and Al on two either partly overlapping or adjacent facets.
- Reduced T_C and hysteretic behaviour consistent with an exchange coupling between Al and EuS, which becomes magnetized along the wire axis
- Ferromagnetic exchange coupling results from spin-dependent scattering at the Al-EuS interface
- Effective Zeeman field exceeding 1 T
- Stray magnetic fields are estimated to be smaller than 1 mT

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Bias spectroscopy at zero magnetic field

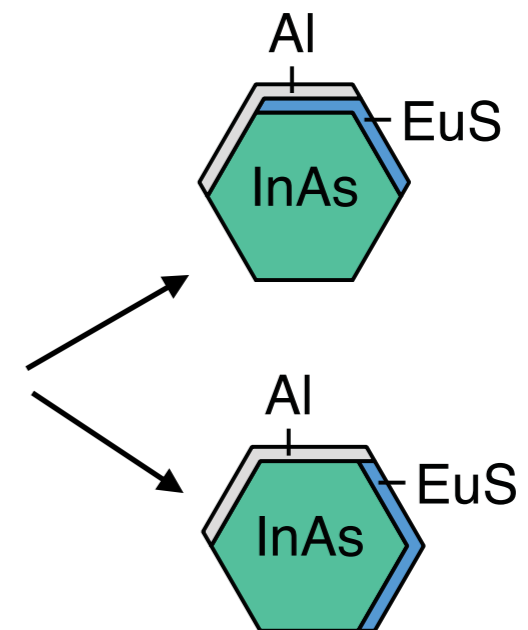


- In overlapping devices, stable zero-bias conductance peaks in bias spectroscopy at zero applied field, "consistent with topological superconductivity".

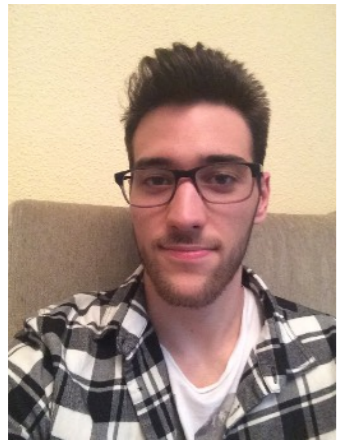
Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Open questions:

- Is a topological phase possible in actual devices?
Simplified model in Sau et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 040502 (2010)
- Why is there a dramatic difference between overlapping and non-overlapping devices? (Only ZBPs in the former).
- What is the exact mechanism of induced magnetization in the InAs wire? (Direct/indirect exchange coupling)



Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires



Tunable proximity effects and topological superconductivity in ferromagnetic hybrid nanowires

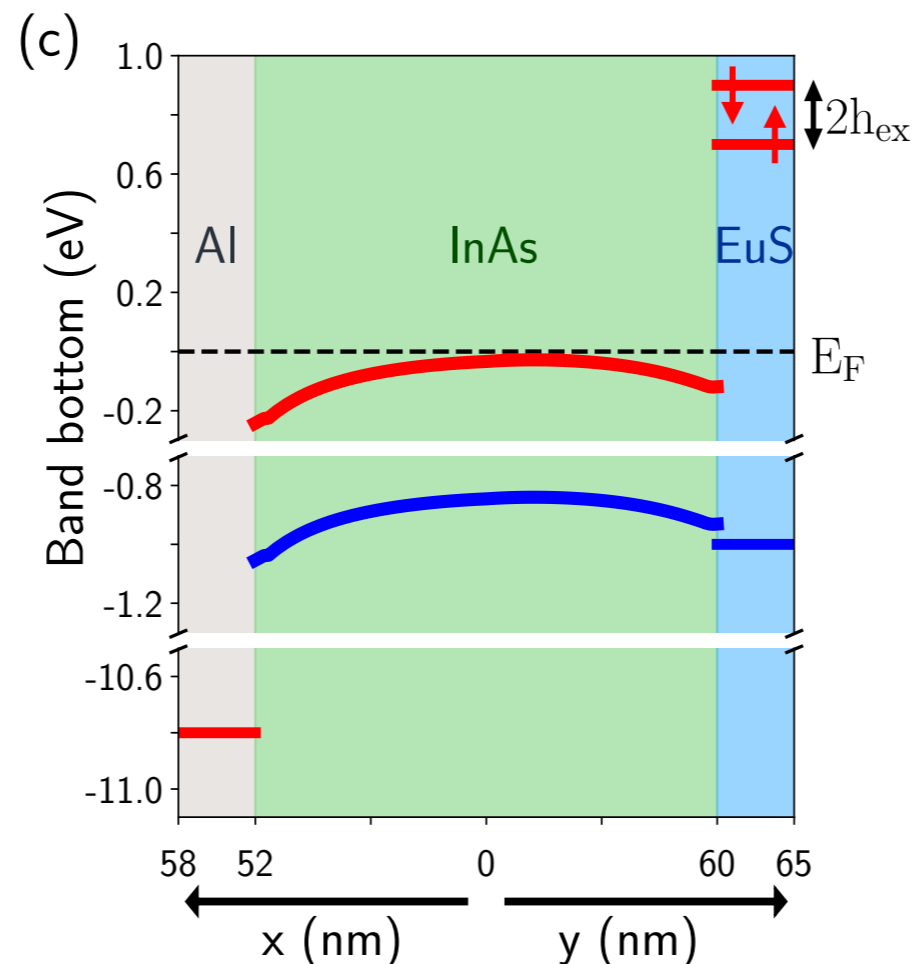
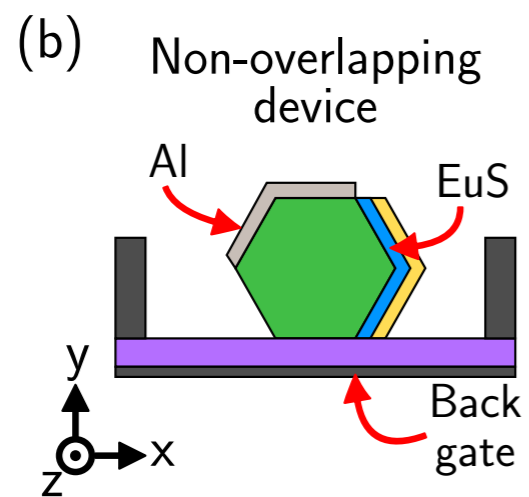
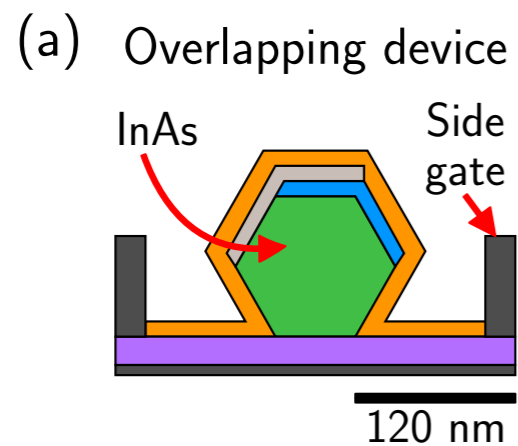
Samuel D. Escribano,¹ Elsa Prada,² Yuval Oreg,³ and Alfredo Levy Yeyati¹

¹*Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada C5, Condensed Matter Physics Center (IFIMAC) and Instituto Nicolás Cabrera, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain*

²*Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM),*

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), E-28049 Madrid, Spain

³*Department of Condensed Matter Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel 7610*



- Microscopic numerical simulations of 3D realistic devices.
- Interaction with the electrostatic environment by solving the Schrödinger-Poisson equations self-consistently.
- $h_{ex} \sim \pm 100 \text{ meV}$

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Continuous full model Hamiltonian:

$$H = \left[\vec{k} \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\text{eff}}(\vec{r})} \vec{k} - E_{\text{F}}(\vec{r}) + e\phi(\vec{r}) + h_{\text{ex}}(\vec{r})\sigma_z \right] \tau_z + \frac{1}{2} \left[\vec{\alpha}(\vec{r}) \cdot (\vec{\sigma} \times \vec{k}) + (\vec{\sigma} \times \vec{k}) \cdot \vec{\alpha}(\vec{r}) \right] \tau_z + \Delta(\vec{r})\sigma_y\tau_y$$

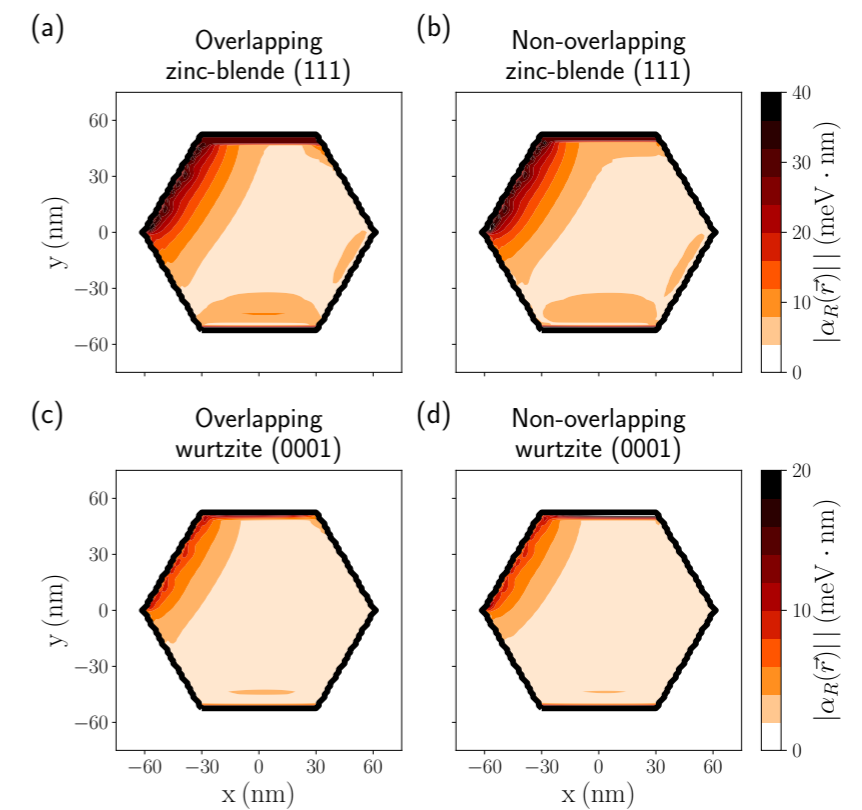
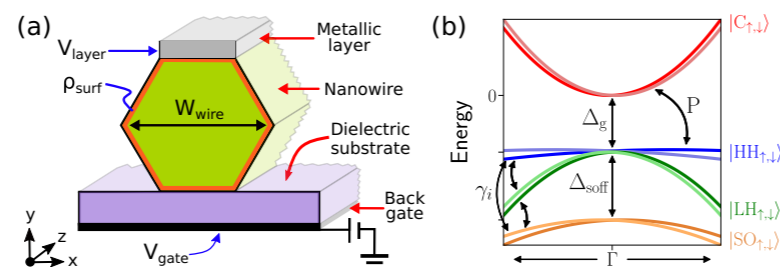
$$\vec{r} = (x, y), \vec{k} = (-i\vec{\nabla}_r, k_z)$$

Realistic SOC in nanowires

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 2, 033264 (2020)

Improved effective equation for the Rashba spin-orbit coupling in semiconductor nanowires

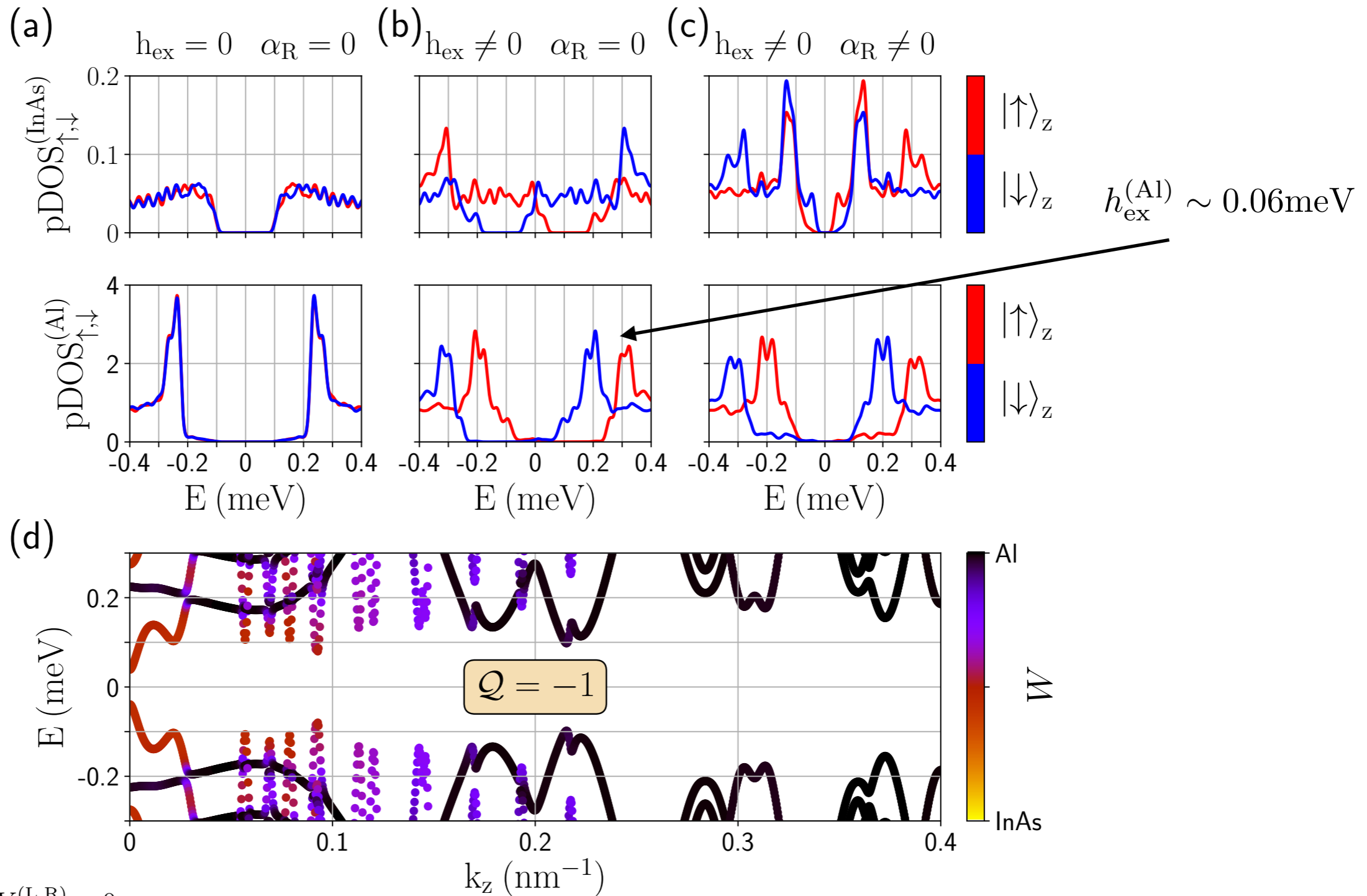
Samuel D. Escribano^{1,3}, Alfredo Levy Yeyati^{2,3} and Elsa Prada^{1,3,*}



Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Full model results:

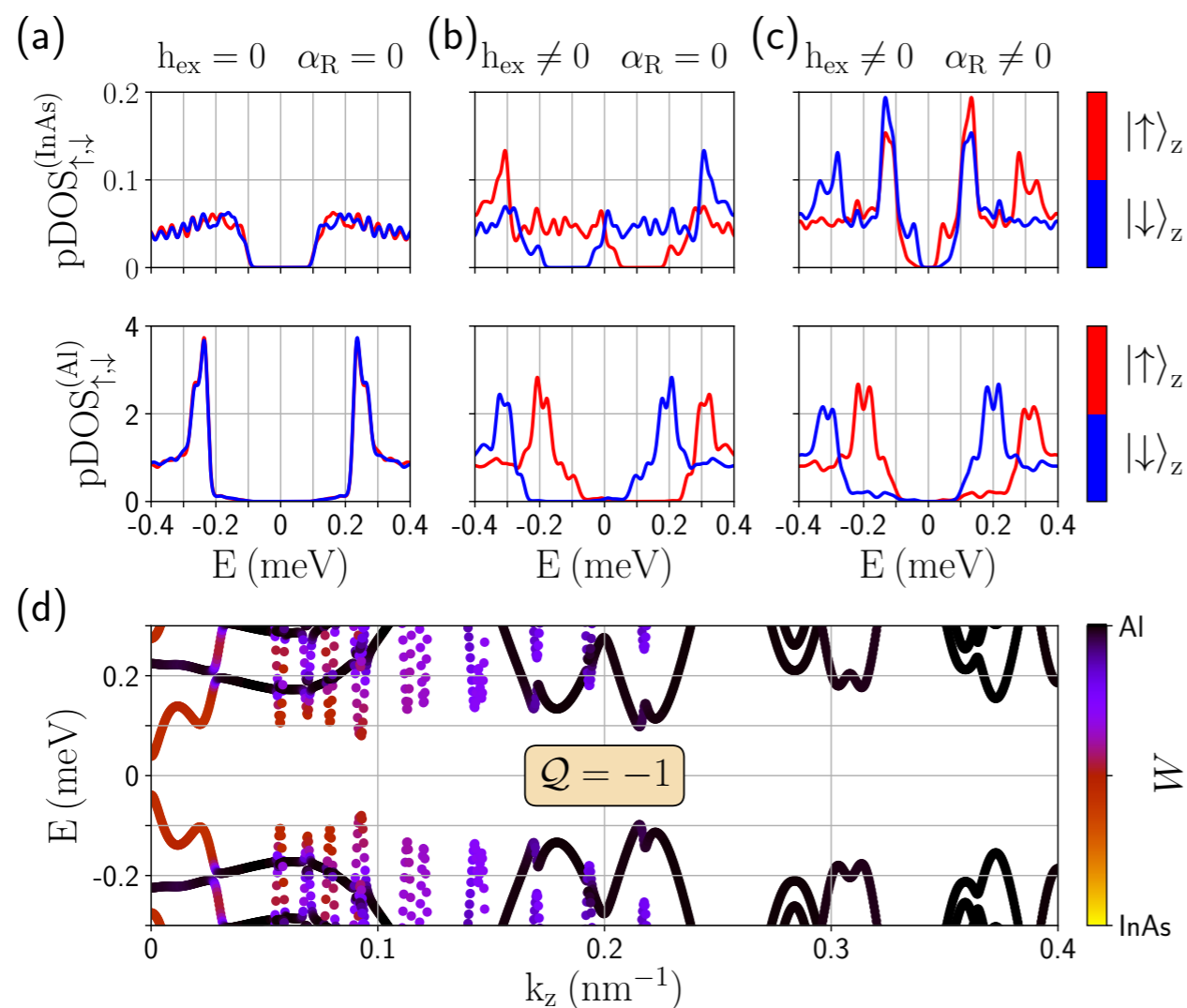
Overlapping device



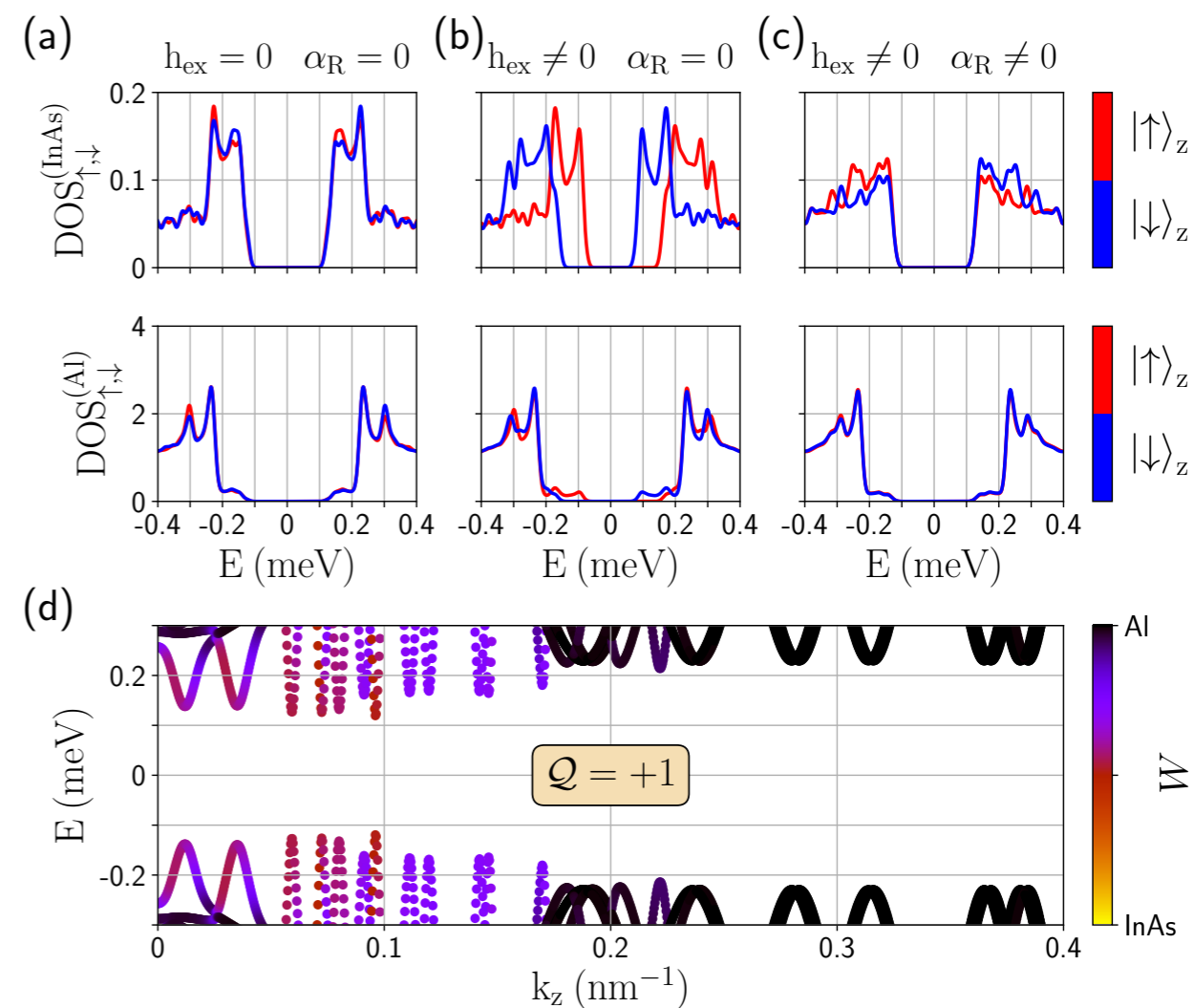
$V_{bg} = -0.95\text{V}$ $V_{sg}^{(\text{L,R})} = 0$

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Overlapping device



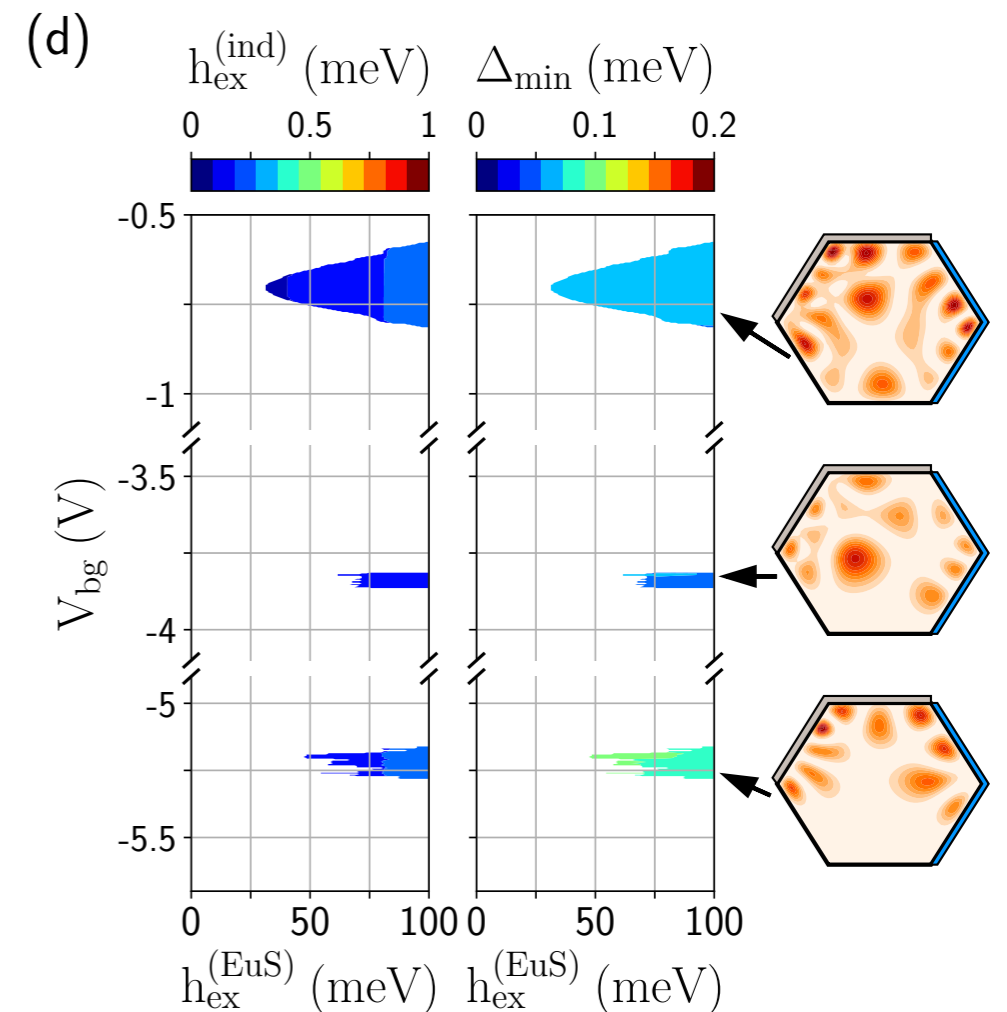
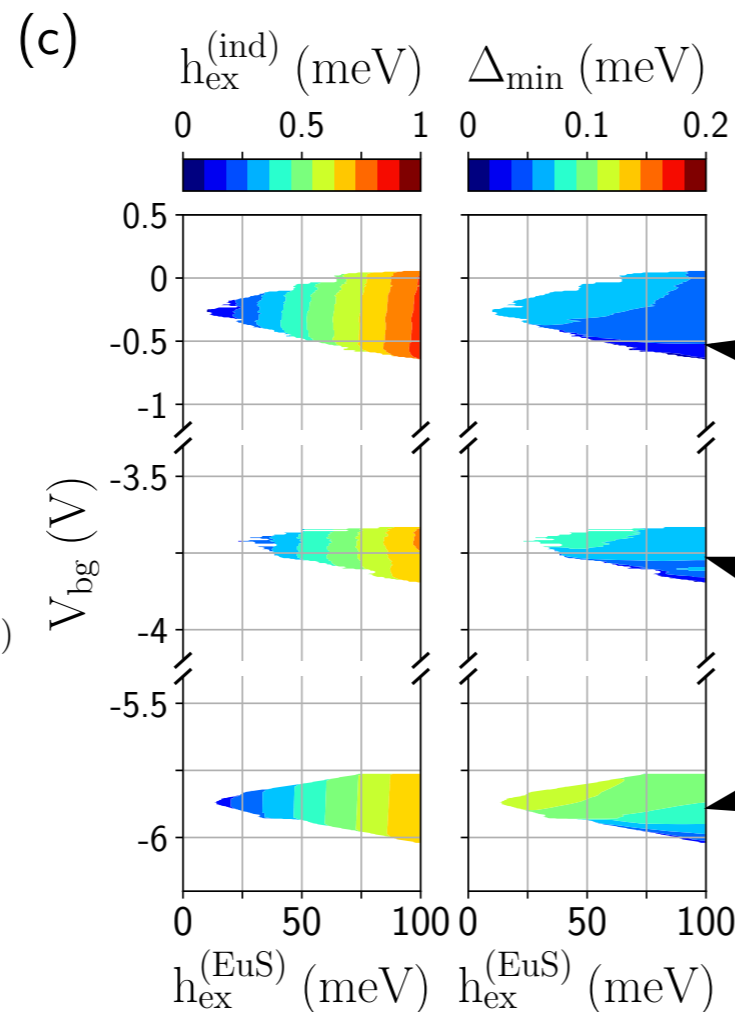
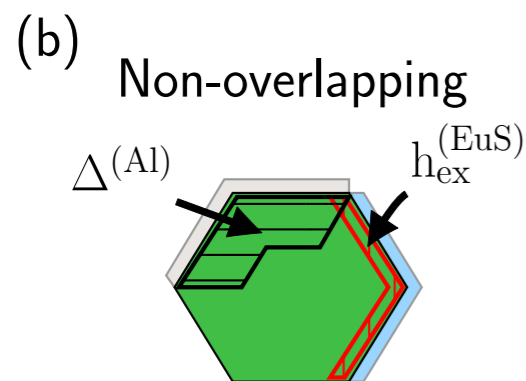
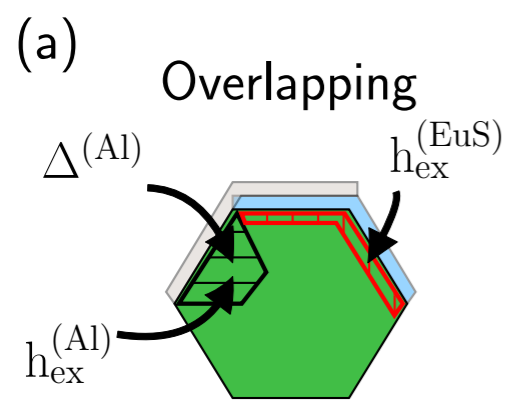
Non-overlapping device



Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Effective model
results:

Phase diagrams and wave function distribution



$$\Delta^{(Al)} = 0.23\text{meV}$$

$$h_{\text{ex}}^{(EuS)} = 100\text{meV}$$

$$h_{\text{ex}}^{(Al)} = 0.06\text{meV}$$

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Conclusions

- From calculations of the DOS, band structure, topological invariant and the phase diagram, we conclude that the hybrid InAs/Al/EuS nanowires can exhibit topological superconductivity under certain geometrical and gating conditions.
- For a topological phase to exist, the nanowire wavefunction must acquire both superconducting and magnetic correlations such that the induced exchange field exceeds the induced pairing.
- Since the proximity effects occur only in wire cross-section regions close to the Al and EuS layers, the wavefunction needs to be pushed simultaneously close to both materials by means of nearby gates.
- Our numerical simulations demonstrate that this is electrostatically favorable in device geometries where the Al and EuS shells overlap over some wire facet.
- Apart from a direct magnetization from the EuS layer in contact to the wire, there is an indirect one through the Al layer, which favors reaching the topological condition.

Concurrently...

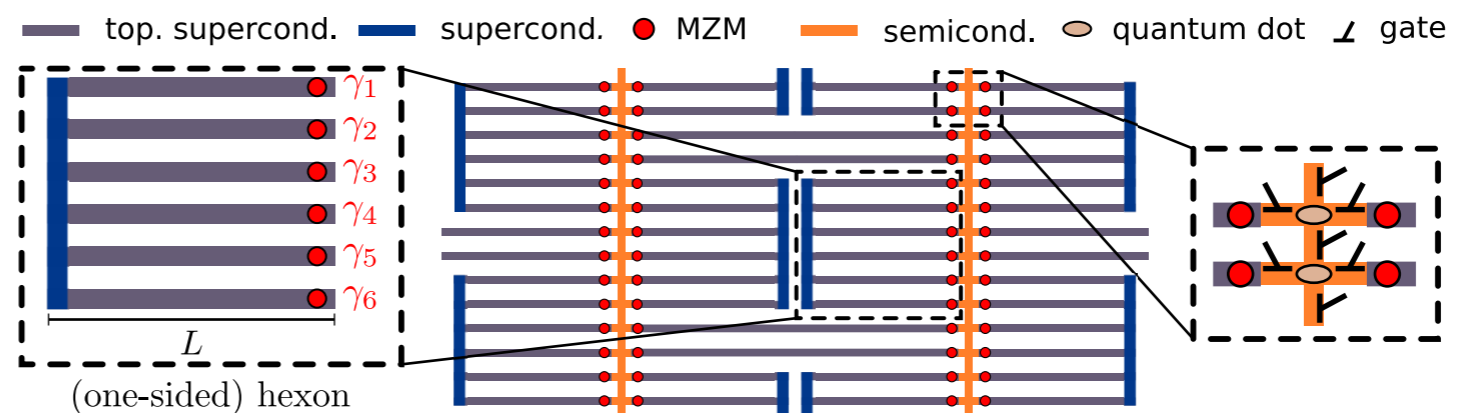


- 22/Sep/2020: Sam presents our (basically finished) work in the CMD2020GEFES virtual conference: https://youtu.be/vmSYmj_vqk8?t=2669
- 03/Nov/2020: ***Electrostatic effects and topological superconductivity in semiconductor-superconductor-magnetic insulator hybrid wires*** by Benjamin D. Woods and Tudor D. Stanescu
- 12/Nov/2020: ***Microscopic analysis of topological superconductivity in ferromagnetic hybrid nanowires*** by Samuel D. Escibano, Elsa Prada, Yuval Oreg, and Alfredo Levy Yeyati
- 12/Nov/2020: ***Electronic properties of InAs/EuS/Al hybrid nanowires*** by Chun-Xiao Liu, Sergej Schuwalow, Yu Liu, Kostas Vilkelis, A. L. R. Manesco, P. Krogstrup, and Michael Wimmer
- 12/Nov/2020: ***Topological superconductivity in semiconductor-superconductor-magnetic insulator heterostructures*** by A. Maiani, R. Seoane Souto, M. Leijnse, and K. Flensberg
- 12/Nov/2020: ***Topological superconductivity in tripartite superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires*** by Josias Langbehn, Sergio Acero González, Piet W. Brouwer, and Felix von Oppen
- 23/Dec/2020: ***Topological superconductivity in nanowires proximate to a diffusive superconductor-magnetic insulator bilayer*** by Aleksei Khindanov, Jason Alicea, Patrick Lee, William S. Cole, and Andrey E. Antipov

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Advantages of this new design:

- No need to apply external magnetic field; magnetic fields are detrimental for superconductivity, constrain device materials and operation
- No detrimental orbital effects (just Zeeman-type exchange coupling)
- Facilitates device layout in multiwire setups, e.g. not constrained to parallel wires



Karzig et al., PRB 95, 235305 (2017)

Superconductor-ferromagnet-semiconductor nanowires

Drawbacks

- Need to grow tripartite wires; only some configurations of the epitaxial layers give topology
- Induced Zeeman field is not tunable (topological phase transition only tunable through gates)
- The ferromagnetic insulator may suffer from magnetic domains
- This hybrid system should display similar problems as conventional partial-shell superconductor-semiconductor wires: inhomogeneous potentials → quasi-Majoranas, disorder, QD formation...

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

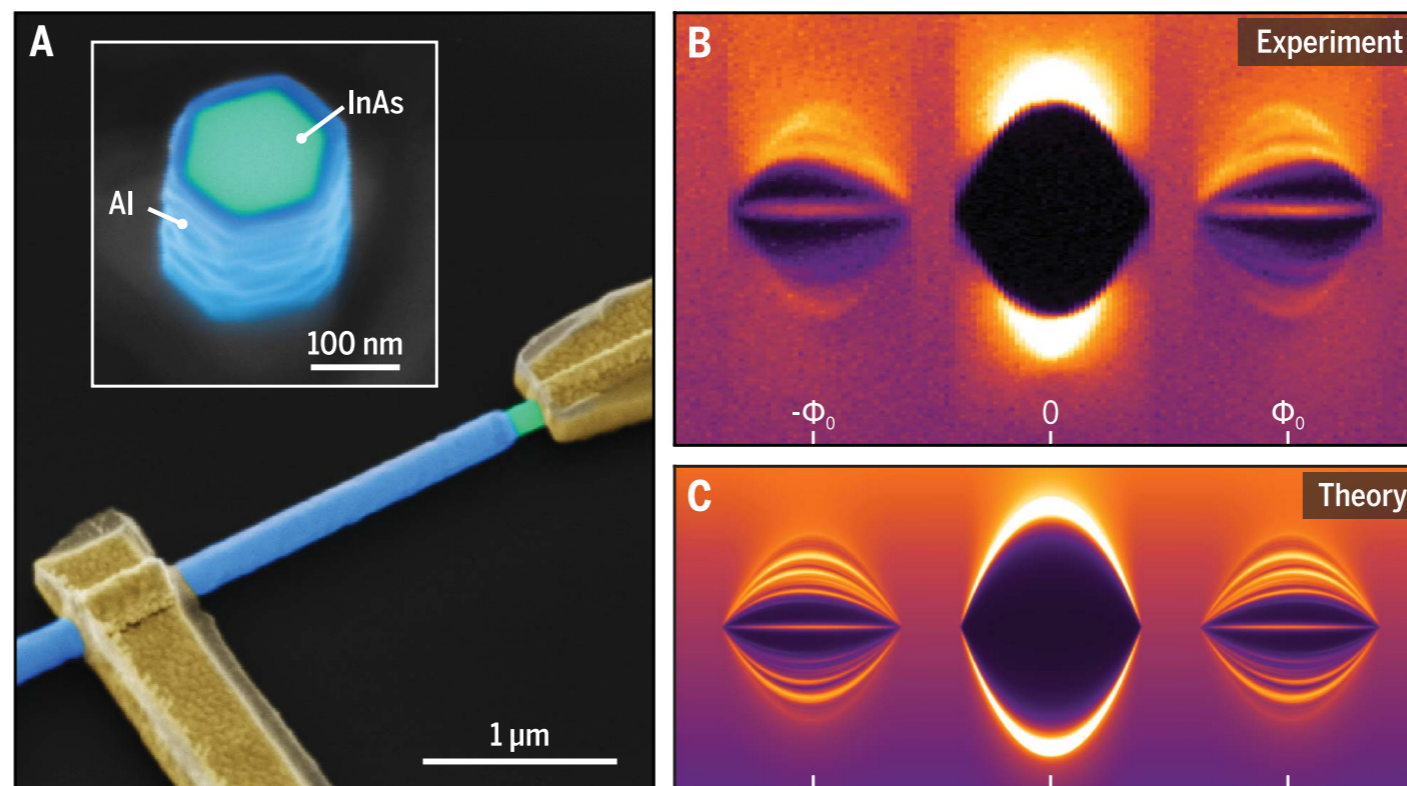
RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY

TOPOLOGICAL MATTER

Vaitiekėnas *et al.*, *Science* **367**, 1442 (2020) 27 March 2020

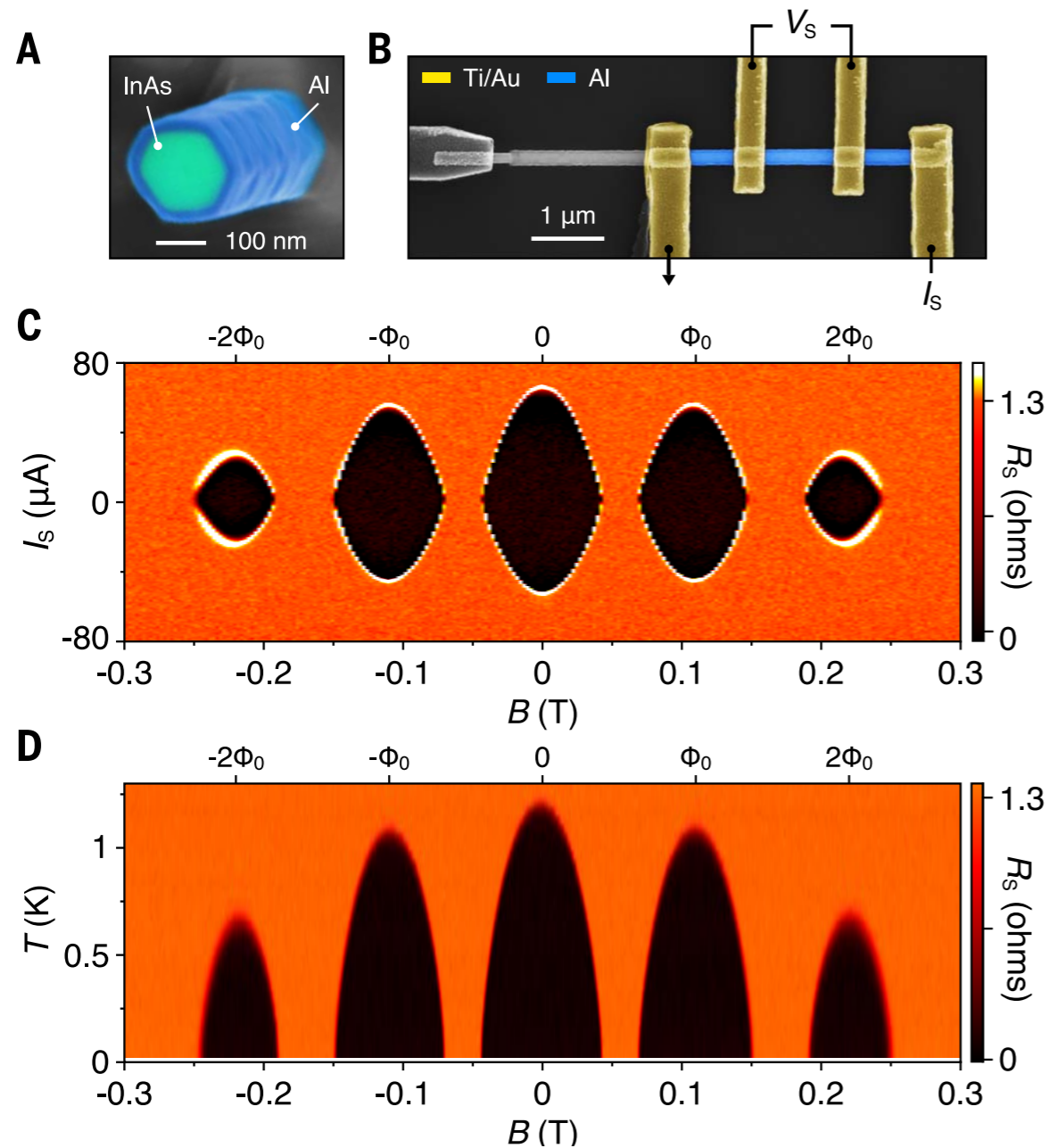
Flux-induced topological superconductivity in full-shell nanowires

S. Vaitiekėnas, G. W. Winkler, B. van Heck, T. Karzig, M.-T. Deng, K. Flensberg, L. I. Glazman, C. Nayak, P. Krogstrup, R. M. Lutchyn*, C. M. Marcus*

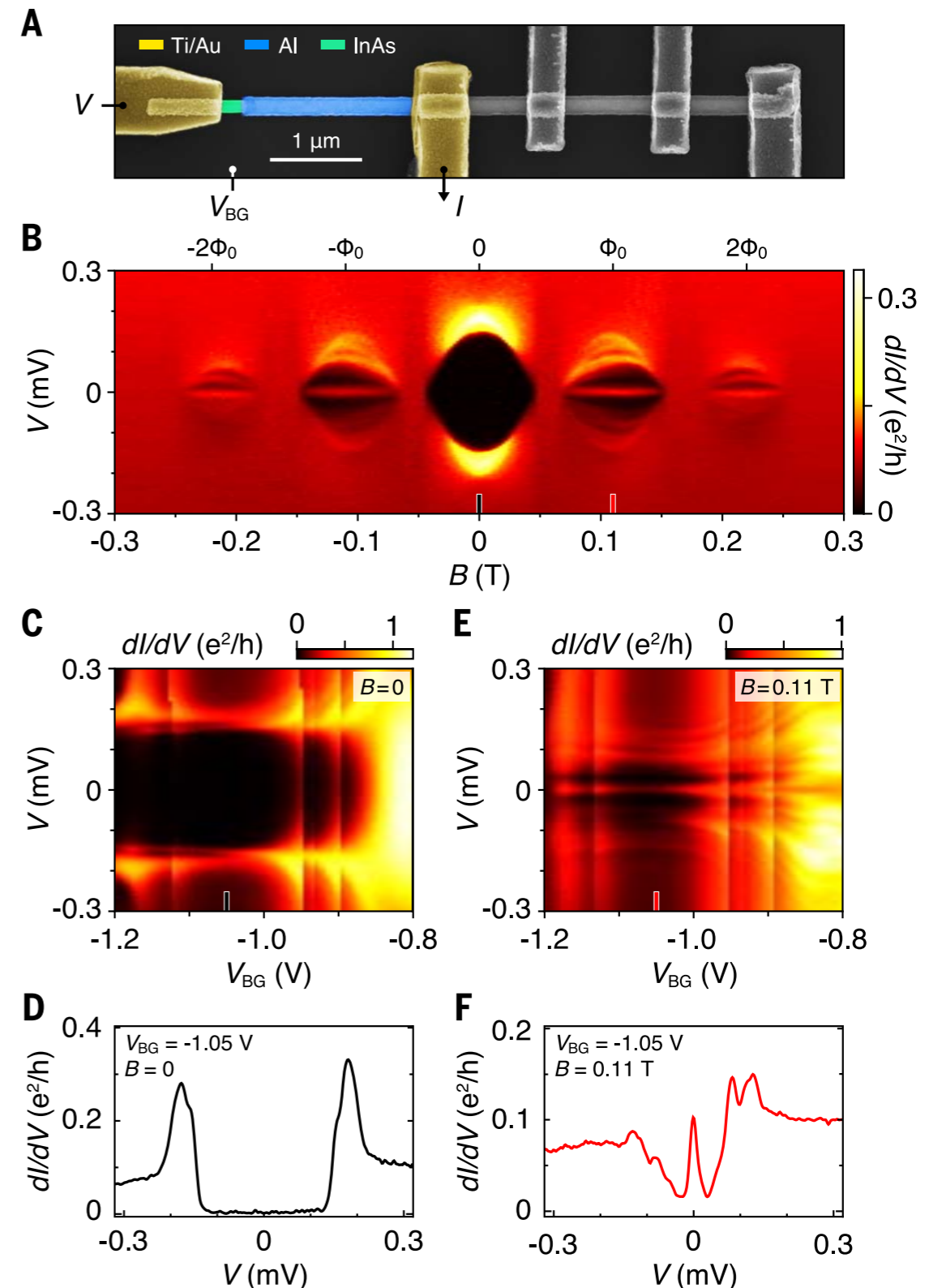


Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Destructive Little-Parks regime



Experimental tunneling spectrum



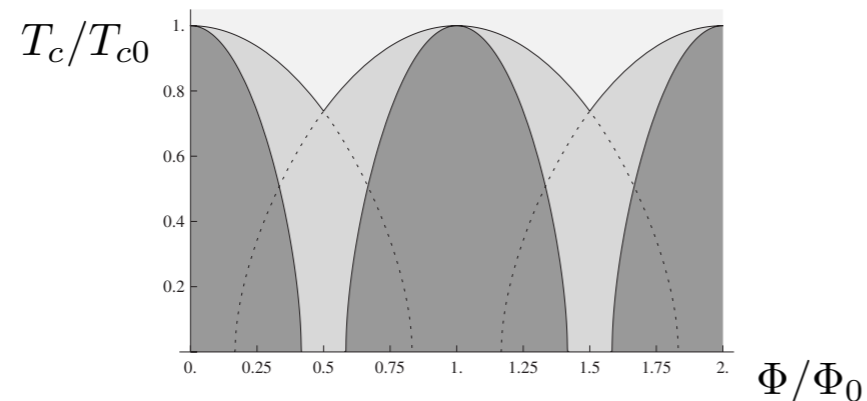
Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

The magnetic field induces a **winding** of the superconducting phase of the order parameter:

$$\Delta(\vec{r}) = \Delta(r)e^{-in\varphi}$$

where $n = \lfloor \Phi/\Phi_0 \rfloor \in \mathbb{Z}$ is the winding number ($\Phi_0 = h/2e$) \longrightarrow **Fluxoid** quantization

The **Little-Parks (LP) effect** arises, whereby the superconducting gap $\Delta(r)$ becomes suppressed (even completely in the “destructive” regime) around half-integer flux.



Schwiete, Oreg, PRB 82, 214514 (2010)
Schwiete, Oreg, PRL 103, 037001 (2009)

Weak LP: $R/\xi \gtrsim 1$

Destructive LP: $R/\xi < 0.6$

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Little-Parks (LP) effect:

G. Schwiete, Y. Oreg, Persistent current in small superconducting rings. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103**, 037001 (2009).

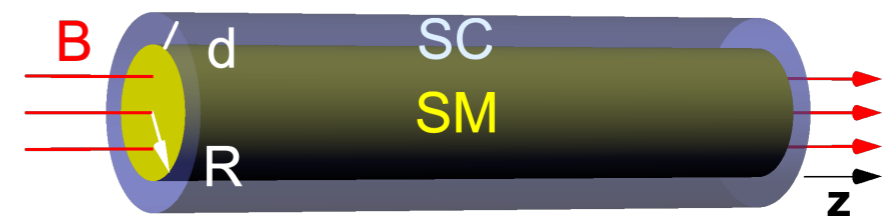
$$\ln \left(\frac{T_c(\Phi)}{T_c^0} \right) + \mathcal{D} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\Lambda_n(\Phi)}{2\pi T_c(\Phi)} \right) - \mathcal{D} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = 0$$

\mathcal{D} Digamma function

Pair-breaking term derived from the Ginzburg-Landau equations in the presence of impurities

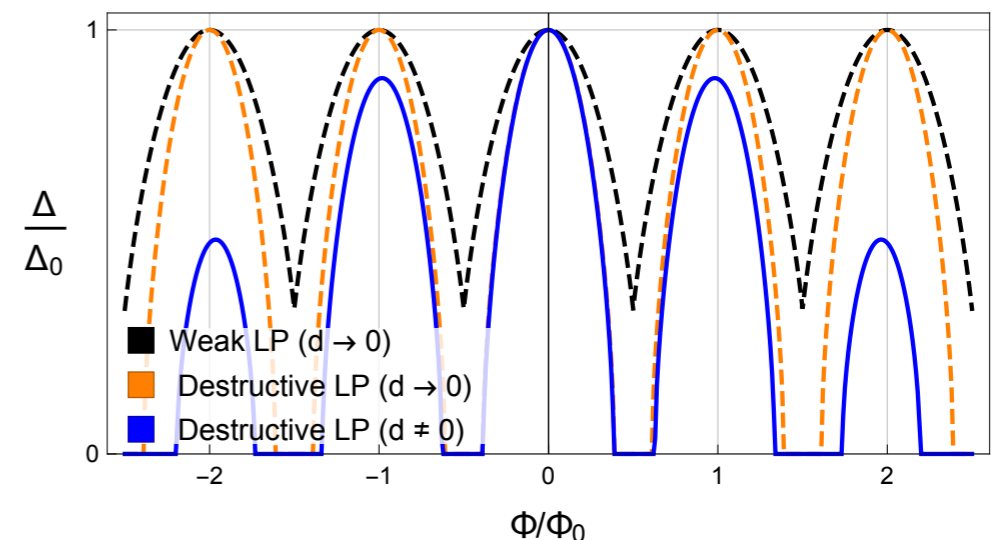
$$\Lambda_n(\Phi) = \frac{T_c^0 \xi^2}{\pi R^2} \left[4 \left(n - \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \right)^2 + \frac{d^2}{R^2} \left(\frac{\Phi^2}{\Phi_0^2} + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{d^2}{20R^2} \right) n^2 \right) \right] \quad R/\xi < 0,6$$

$$d \ll R \quad \frac{|\Delta(\Phi)|}{|\Delta(\Phi = 0)|} = \left(\frac{T_c(\Phi)}{T_c^0} \right)^{3/2}$$



Weak LP: $R/\xi \gtrsim 1$

Destructive LP: $R/\xi < 0.6$

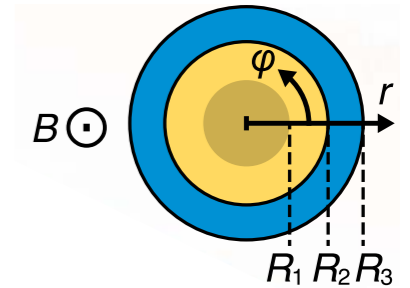


Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

3D Hamiltonian in cylindrical coordinates

Effective Hamiltonian for the semiconducting core:

$$H_0 = \frac{(\vec{p} + eA_\varphi \hat{\varphi})^2}{2m^*} - \mu + \alpha \hat{r} \cdot [\vec{\sigma} \times (\vec{p} + eA_\varphi \hat{\varphi})] \quad A_\varphi = \Phi(r)/2\pi r; \quad \Phi(r) = \pi B r^2$$



$$R_3 - R_2 \ll \lambda_L$$

Bogoliubov–de Gennes (BdG) Hamiltonian for the proximitized nanowire:

$$H_{\text{BdG}} = \begin{bmatrix} H_0(\vec{A}) & \Delta(\vec{r}) \\ \Delta^*(\vec{r}) & -\sigma_y H_0(-\vec{A})^* \sigma_y \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Nambu basis } \Psi = (\psi_\uparrow, \psi_\downarrow, \psi_\downarrow^\dagger, -\psi_\uparrow^\dagger)$$

Rotational symmetry of the BdG Hamiltonian: $[J_z, H_{\text{BdG}}] = 0$ m_J : generalized angular quantum number

Hollow-core toy model $R_1 \approx R_2$

$$\tilde{H}_{m_J} = \left[\frac{p_z^2}{2m^*} - \mu_{m_J} \right] \tau_z + V_Z \sigma_z + A_{m_J} + C_{m_J} \sigma_z \tau_z + \alpha p_z \sigma_y \tau_z + \Delta \tau_x \quad \Delta \equiv \Delta(R_2)$$

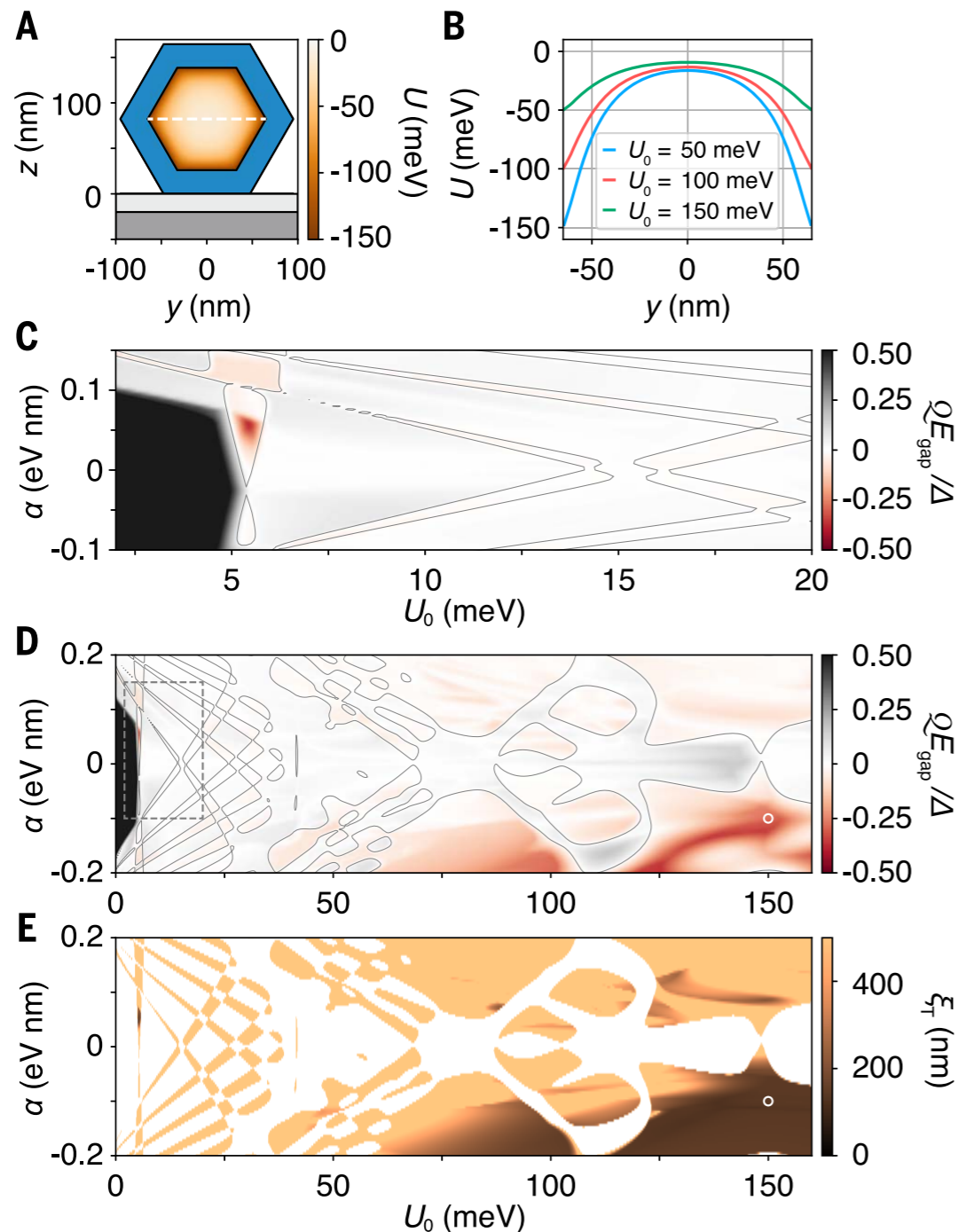
$$V_Z = \phi \left(\frac{1}{4m^* R_2^2} + \frac{\alpha}{2R_2} \right) \quad \phi = n - \Phi(R_2)/\Phi_0$$

For $m_J=0$ in the first lobe ($n=1$), A_0 and $C_0=0$, and the Hamiltonian can be **mapped** to the **Oreg-Lutchyn model**

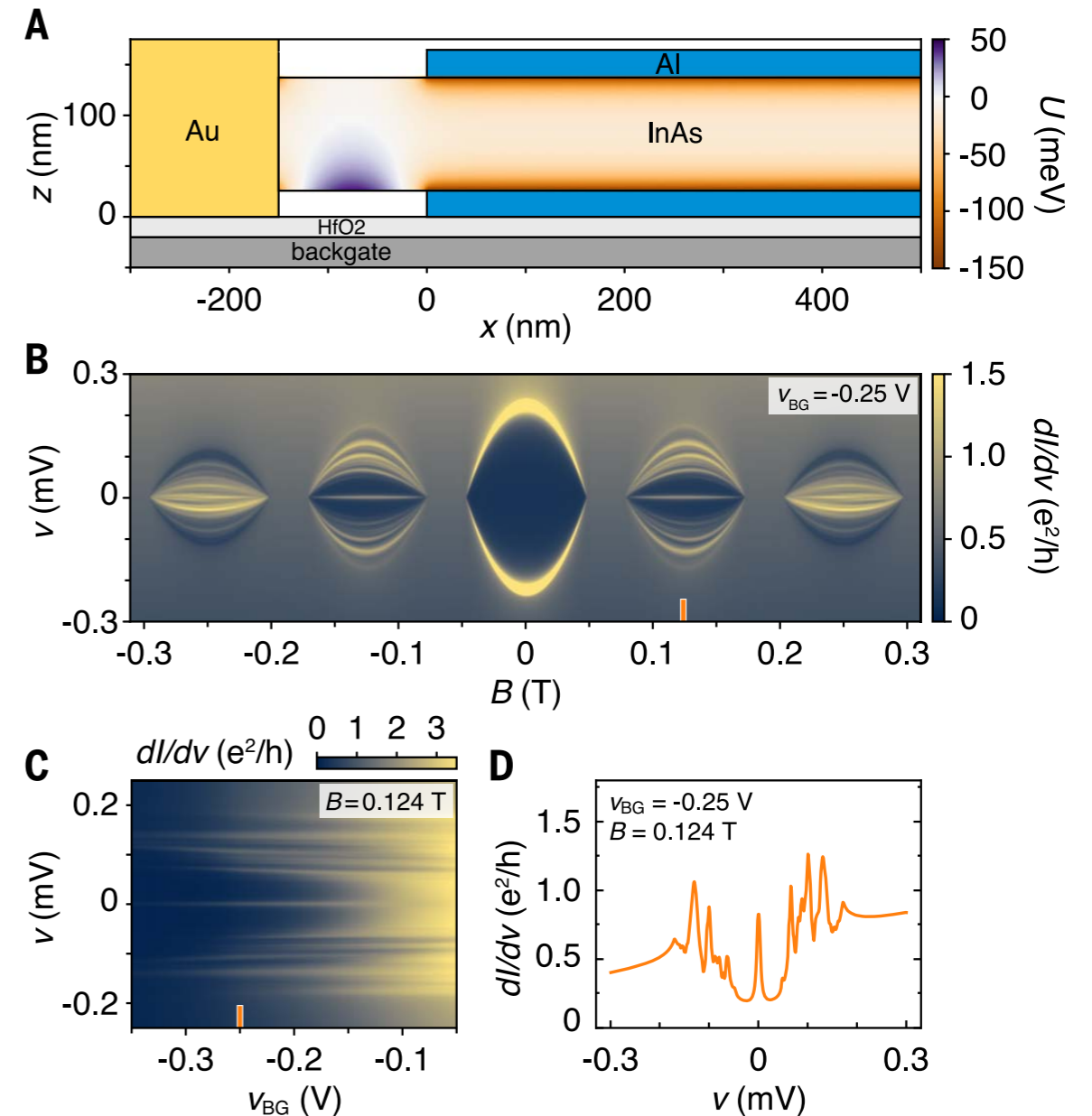
The effective Zeeman term has an orbital origin here and is present even when the g factor in the semiconductor is zero

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Phase diagram



Simulation of tunneling transport



Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 2, 023171 (2020)



Even-odd effect and Majorana states in full-shell nanowires

Fernando Peñaranda^{1,2}, Ramón Aguado¹, Pablo San-Jose¹ and Elsa Prada²

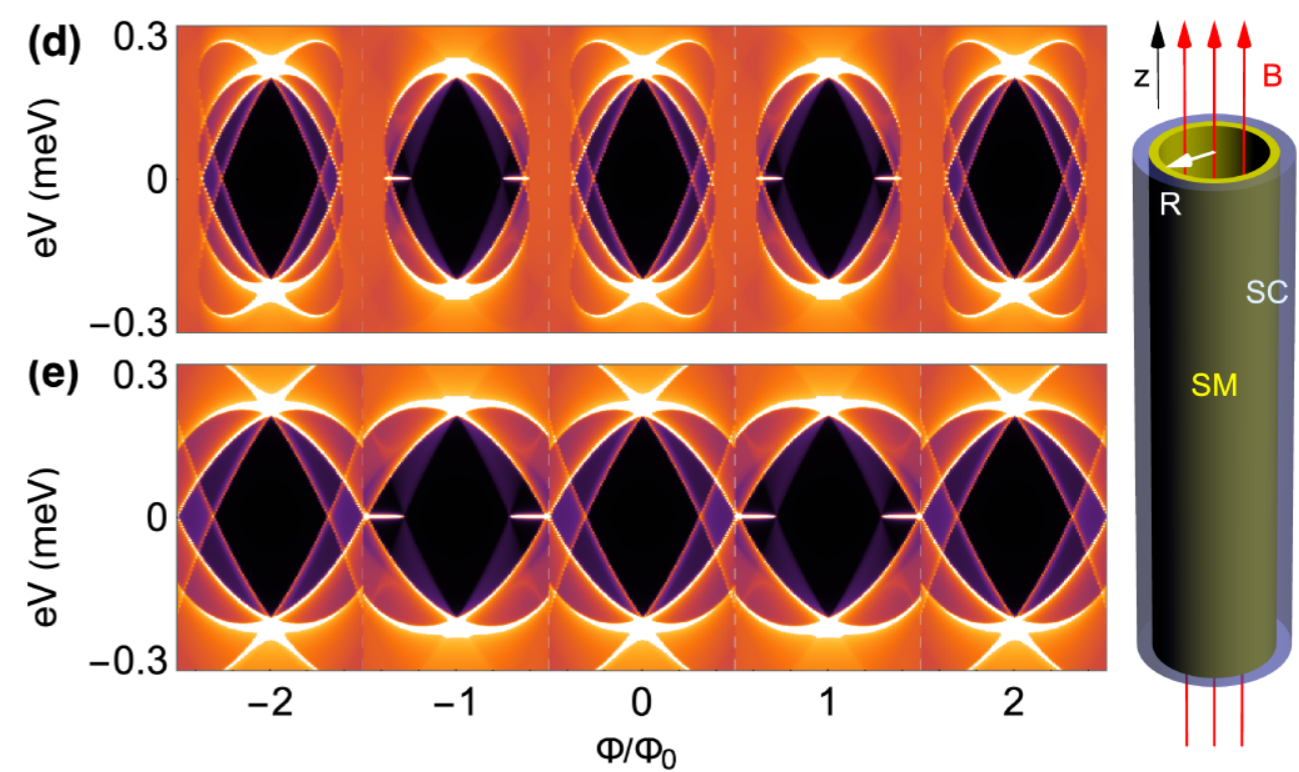
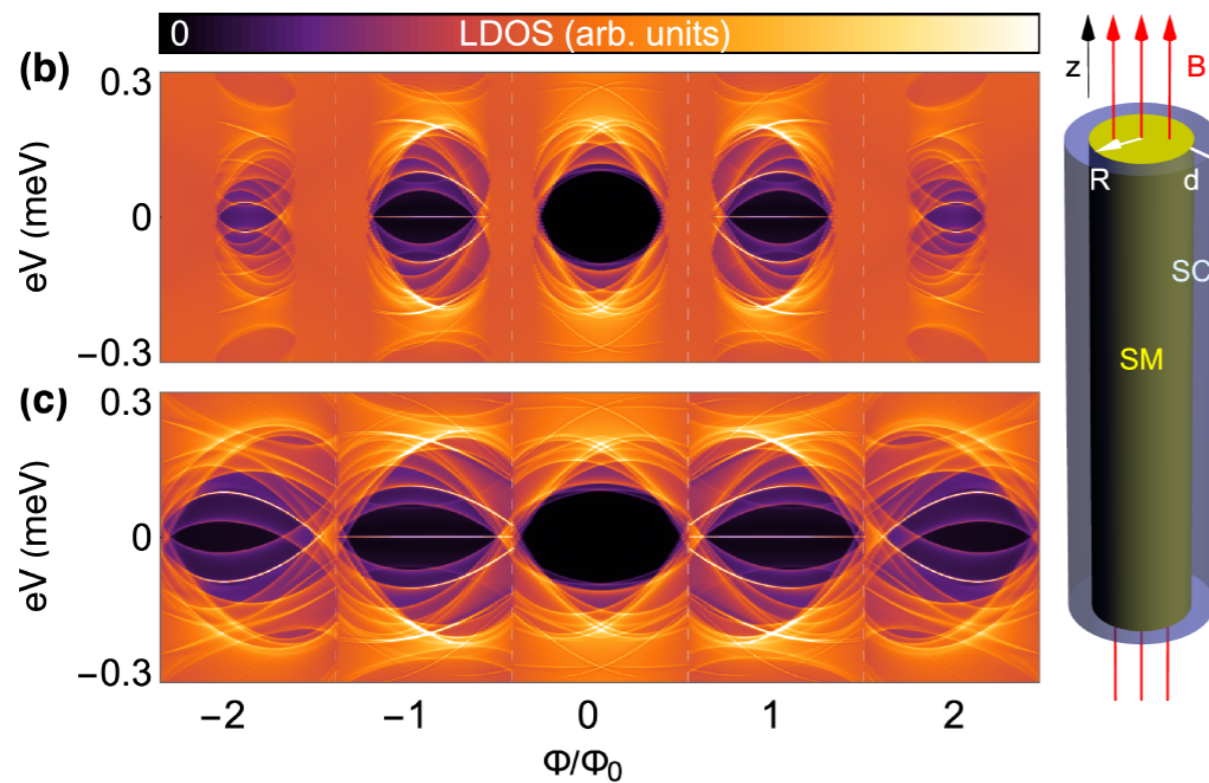
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(Received 16 December 2019; accepted 6 April 2020; published 19 May 2020)

Solid-core wire

Hollow-core wire



$\Delta = 0.2 \text{ meV}, \alpha = 20 \text{ meV nm}$

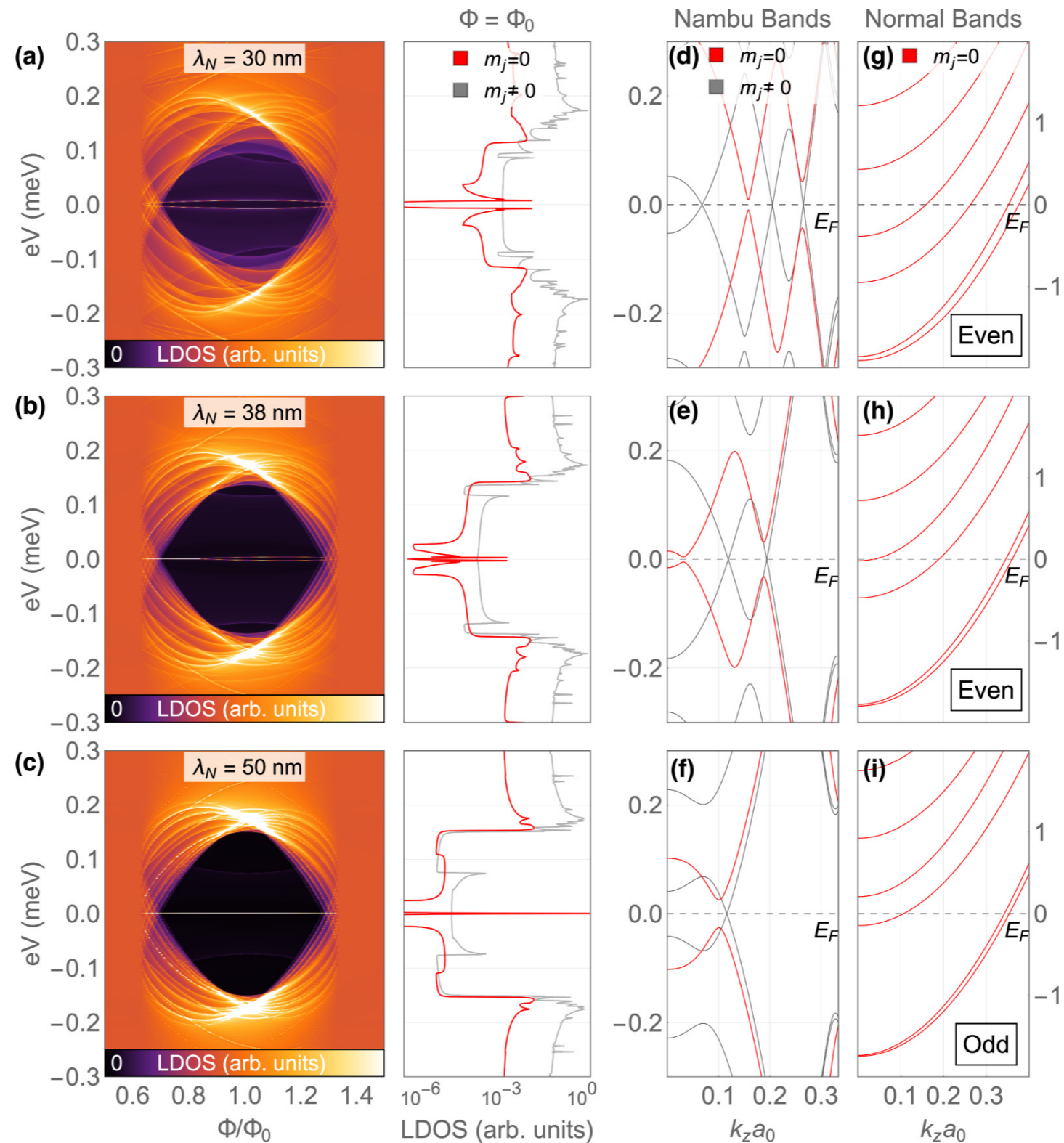
Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Even-odd effect in full-shell wires

First lobe

$$\lambda_{N,S} = \frac{\hbar}{2m^*\mu_{N,S}}$$

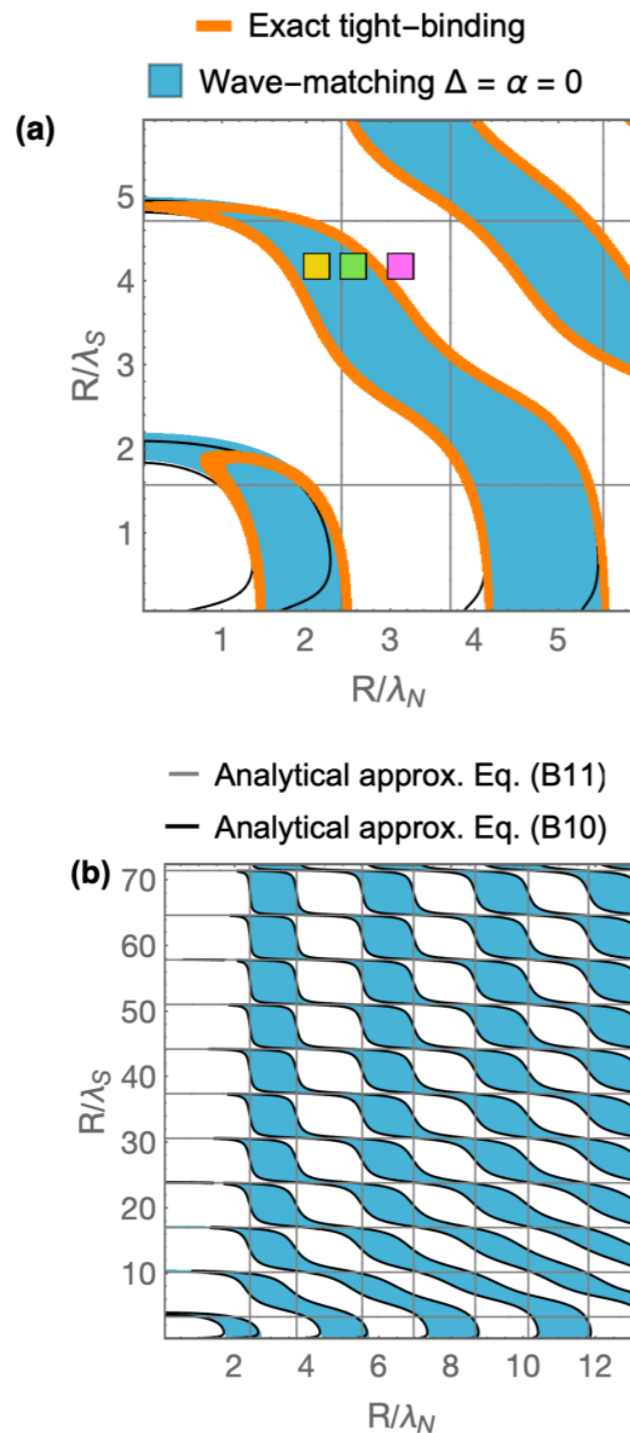
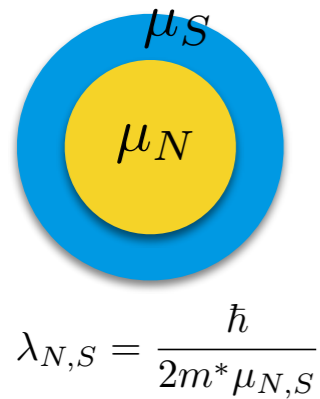
m_j : generalized angular quantum number



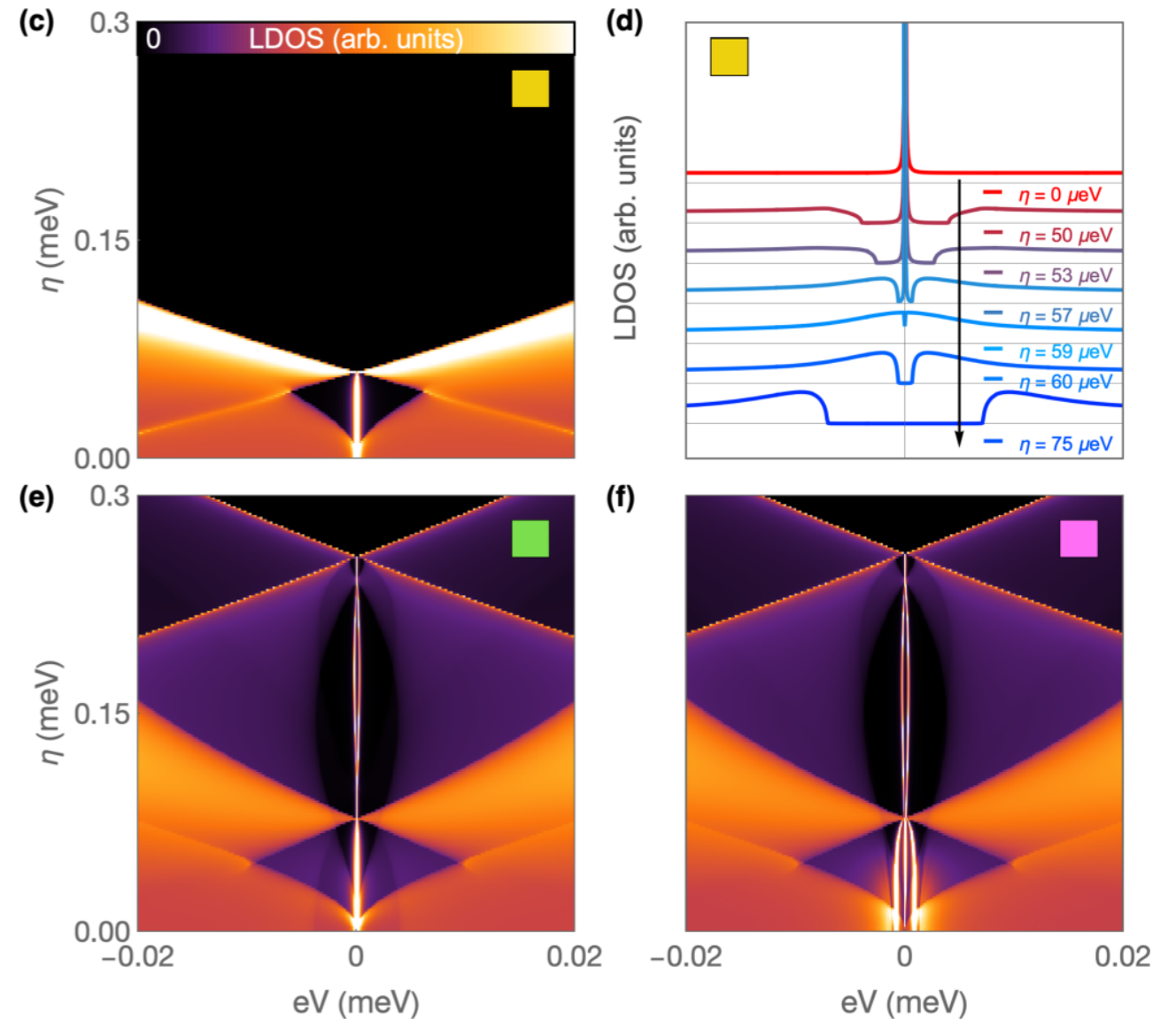
Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

$$\Phi/\Phi_0 = 1$$

Phase diagram



Effective model for subband mixing



$$\eta = \langle \phi_{\pm 1} | \hat{V}_\eta | \phi_0 \rangle \quad m_j = 0, \pm 1$$

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Conclusions

- We have established the minimal ingredients necessary to model and explain the subgap tunneling dI/dV phenomenology of full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires of recent experiments.
- The hollow-core version never shows ZBAs throughout a full LP lobe. It is necessary to consider solid-core nanowires with a nonzero charge density throughout the full nanowire section to obtain ZBAs similar to the experiment.
- ZBAs emerge for odd normal-state occupation of the radial $m_j = 0$ subbands. We have mapped analytically and numerically this even-odd effect in the emergence of ZBAs at odd LP lobes throughout the full phase diagram of the system's model, and established the connection between the ZBAs to topologically unprotected $m_j = 0$ Majorana zero modes.
- ZBAs should be a common occurrence in these devices, occupying roughly half of their microscopic parameter space.
- The effect of angular subband mixing on the Majoranas is quite complex, ranging from topological minigap opening to mode splitting or broadening, but always ends up by destroying the Majorana states at sufficiently strong mixing.

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Advantages of this new design:

- The core of the wire is shielded from unwanted effects of the environment and surface disorder
- Needs smaller applied magnetic fields for topological transition (good to preserve the superconducting state of the parent SC)
- No need for large g-factor semiconducting wires
- Majorana bound states are predicted to appear at very specific regions of parameter space, particularly at the odd LP lobes (this might be useful to distinguish them from other unwanted trivial states)

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Drawbacks

- Chemical potential of the wire is not tunable through direct gating
- SO coupling is not tunable through gates
- Higher angular momentum subbands are in principle not gapped — Majorana bound state coexists with a finite background conductance
- This hybrid system could display some of the problems as conventional partial-shell superconductor-semiconductor wires: inhomogeneous potentials (not inside the wire, but at the ends?) → quasi-Majoranas, disorder, QD formation...



Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

arXiv:2008.02348v2



Non-topological zero bias peaks in full-shell nanowires induced by flux tunable Andreev states



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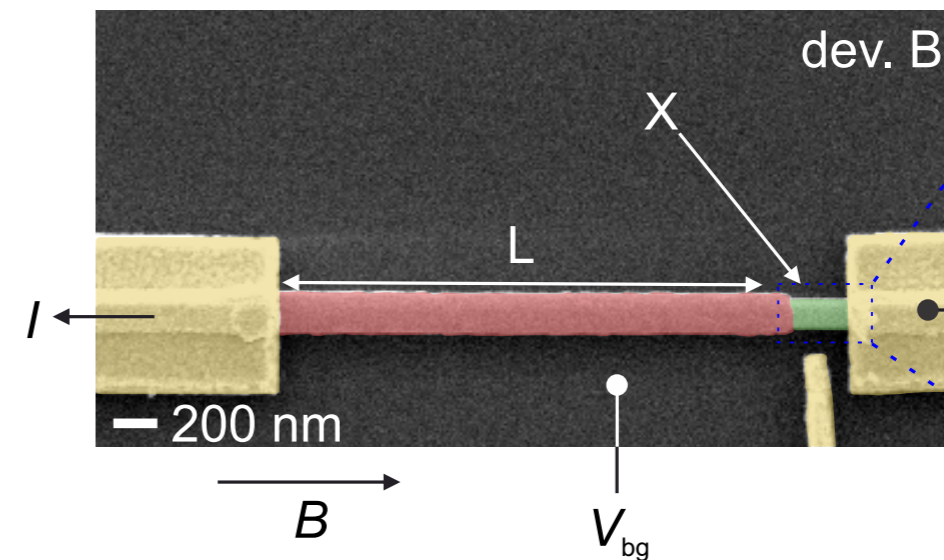
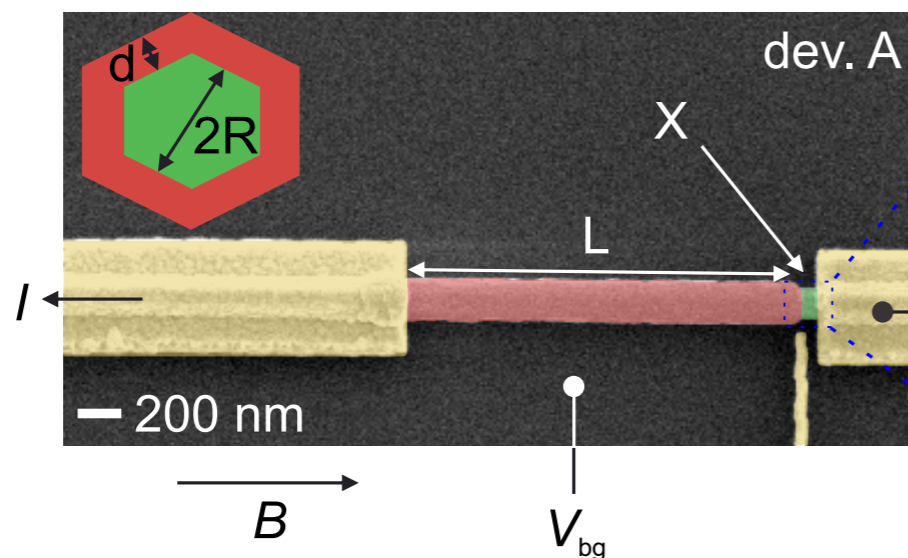
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⁴Departamento de Física de la Materia Condensada, Condensed Matter Physics Center (IFIMAC) and Instituto Nicolás Cabrera, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain

(Dated: October 12, 2020)

$X \lesssim 100\text{nm}$

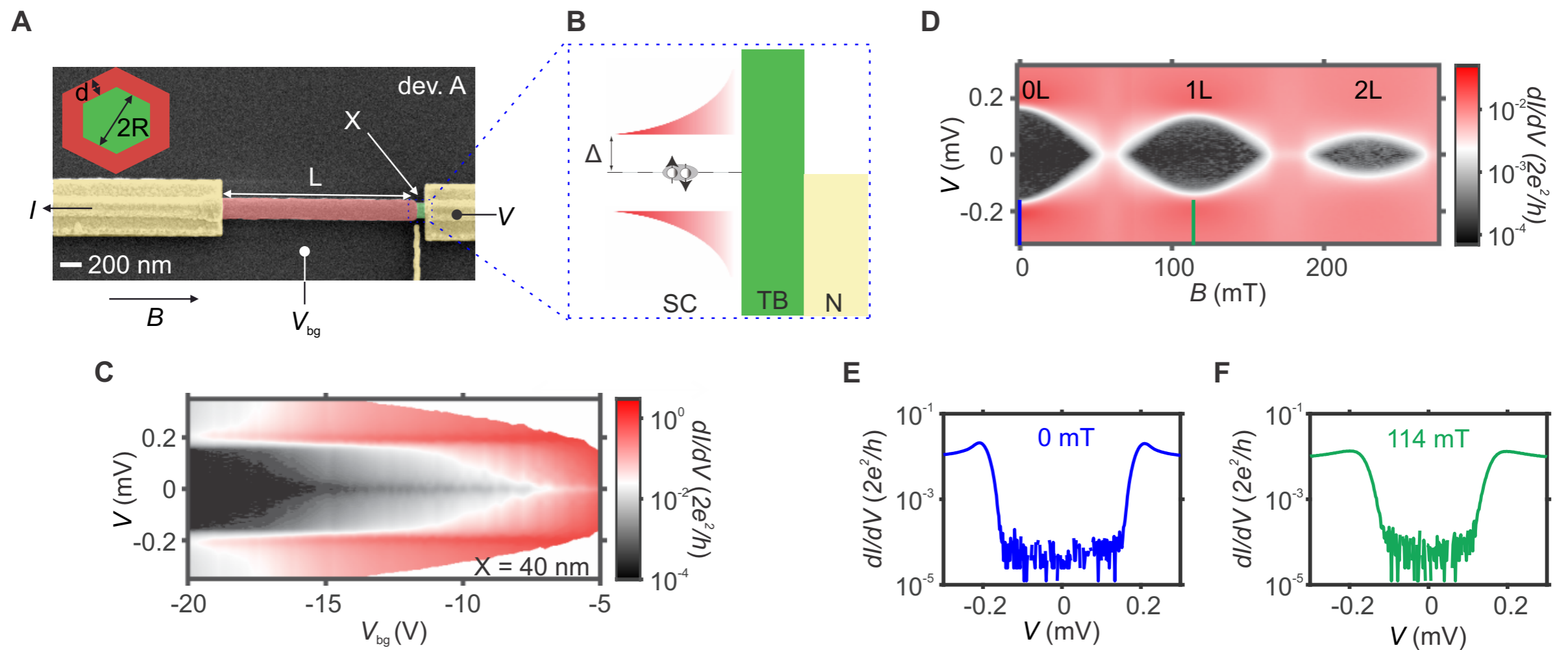
$X \gtrsim 150\text{nm}$



Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Tunneling spectroscopy of a short-junction device

$X \approx 40\text{nm}$

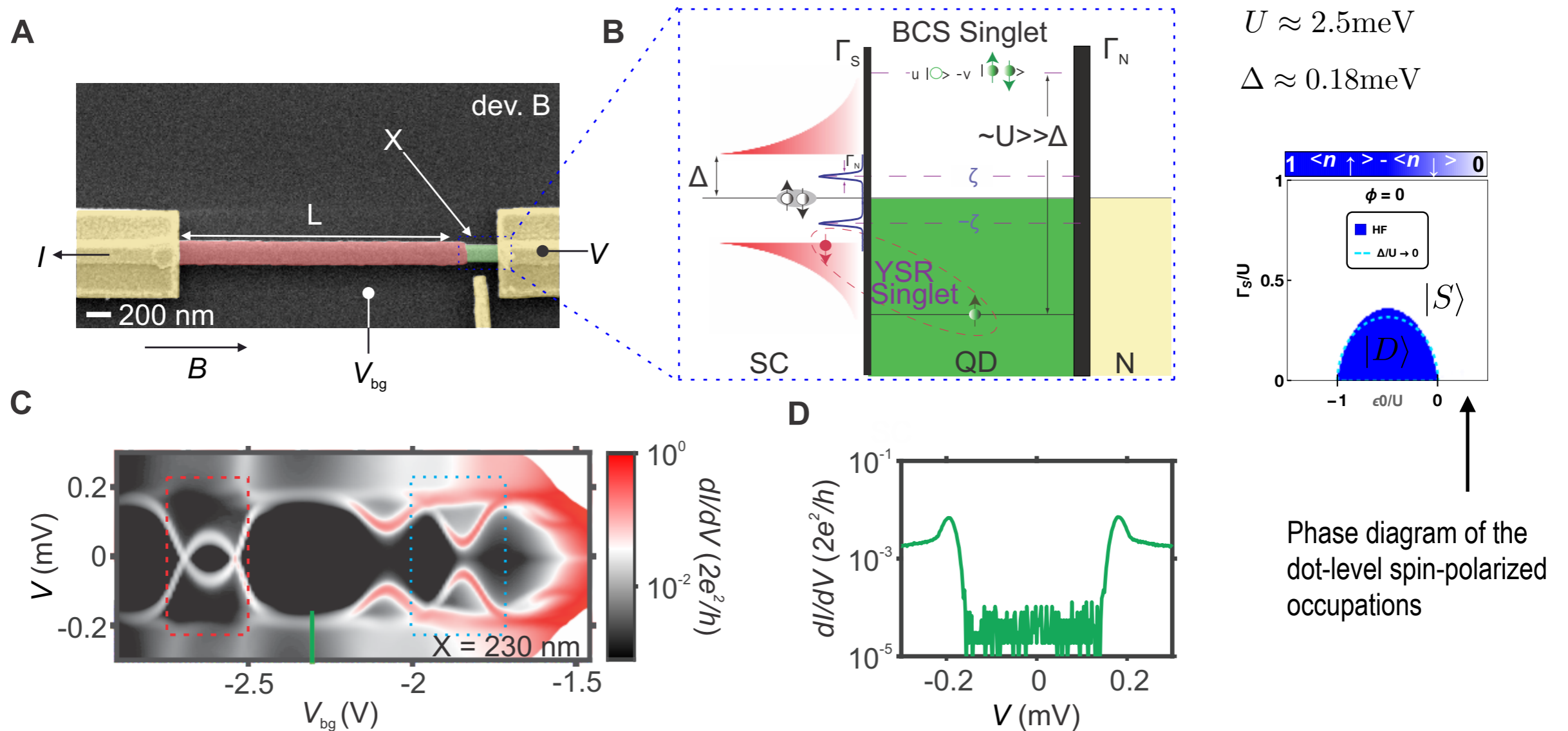


$R \approx 55\text{nm}$ $d \approx 30\text{nm}$ $\xi \approx 160\text{nm}$

Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Tunneling spectroscopy of a of a long-junction device

$X \approx 230\text{nm}$

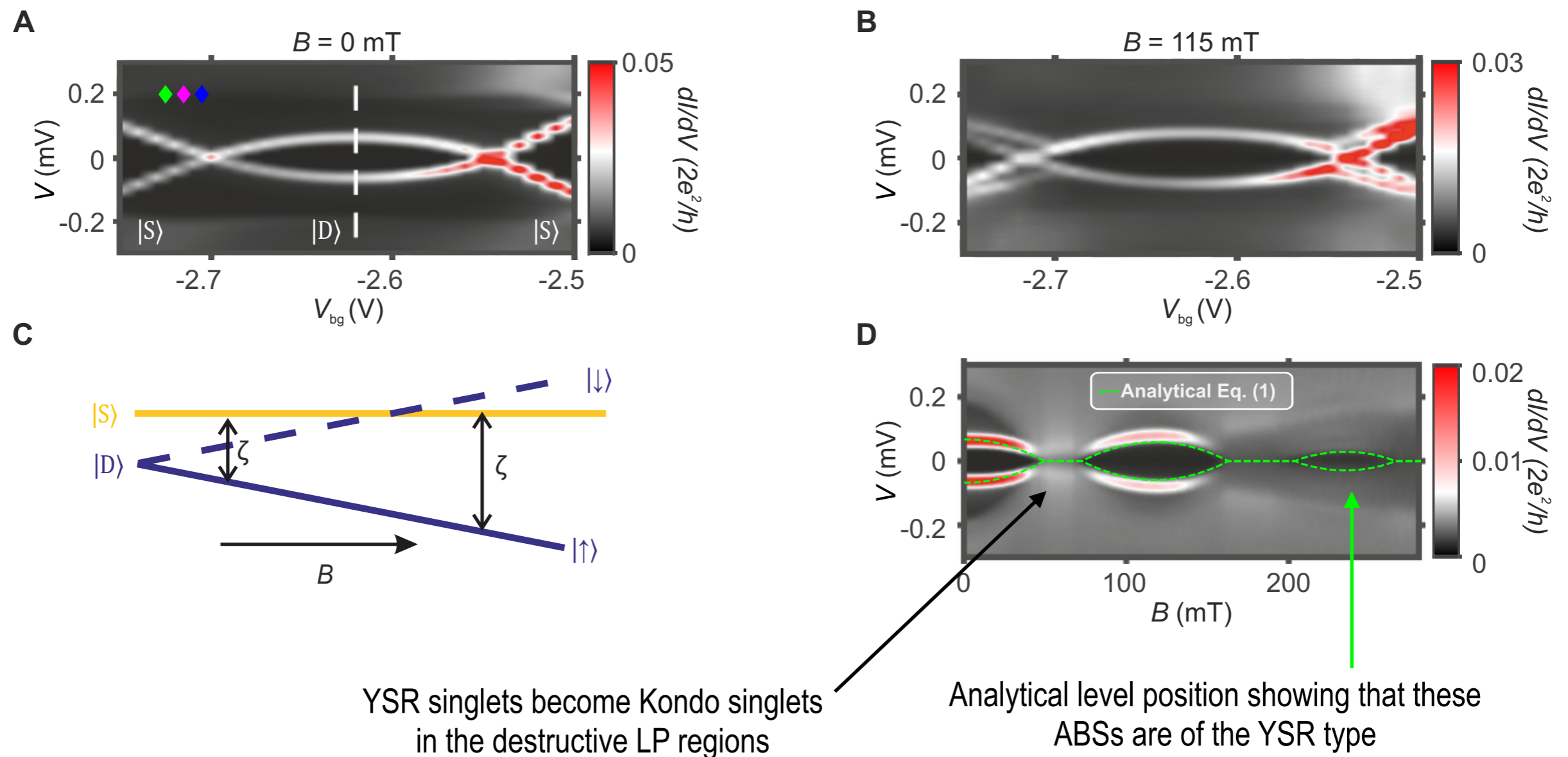


Theoretical modeling: \longrightarrow

Superconducting single-impurity Anderson model:
Coulomb blocked QD coupled to a SC lead

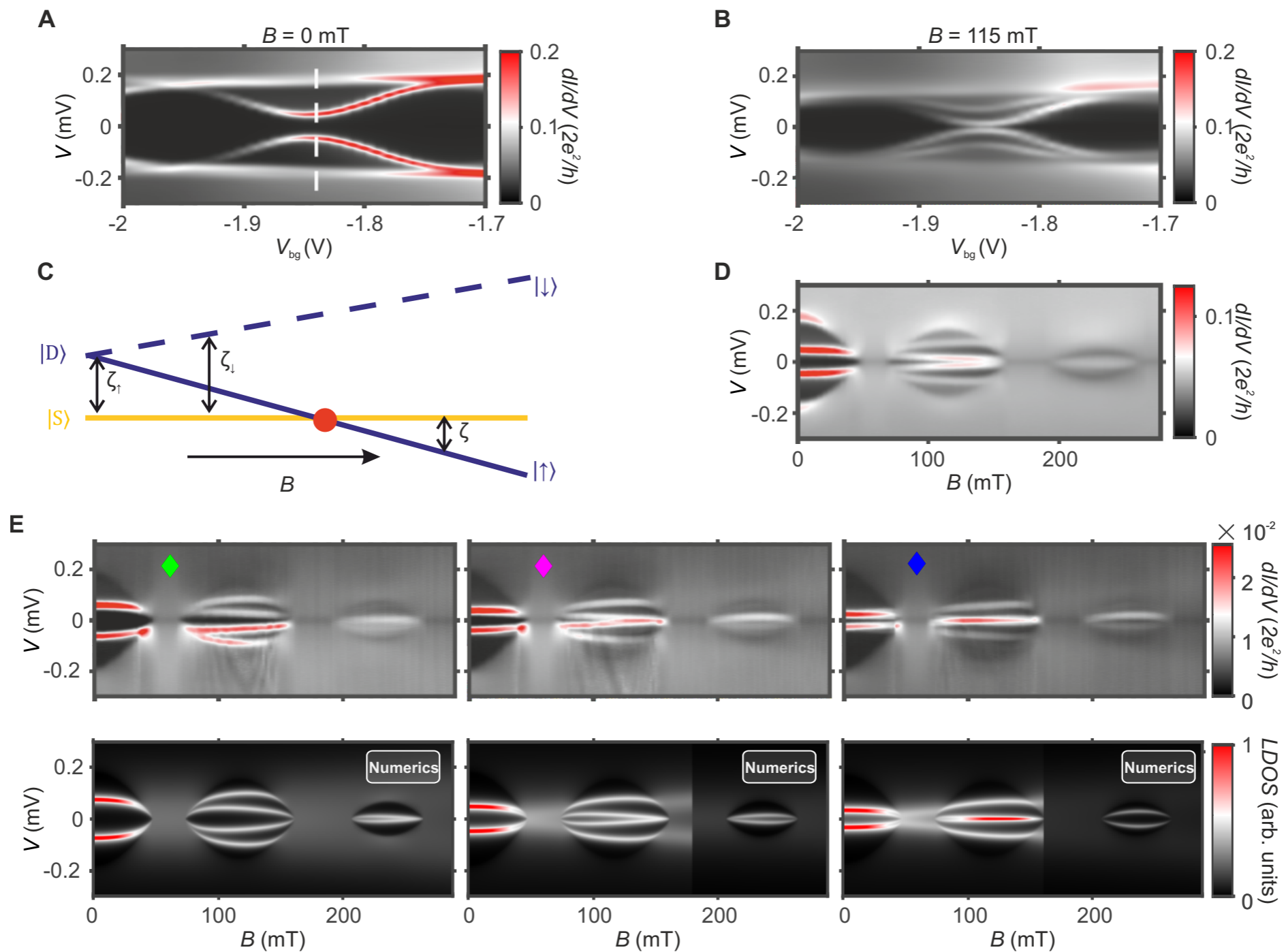
Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Andreev bound states in the Little-Parks regime with a doublet ground state



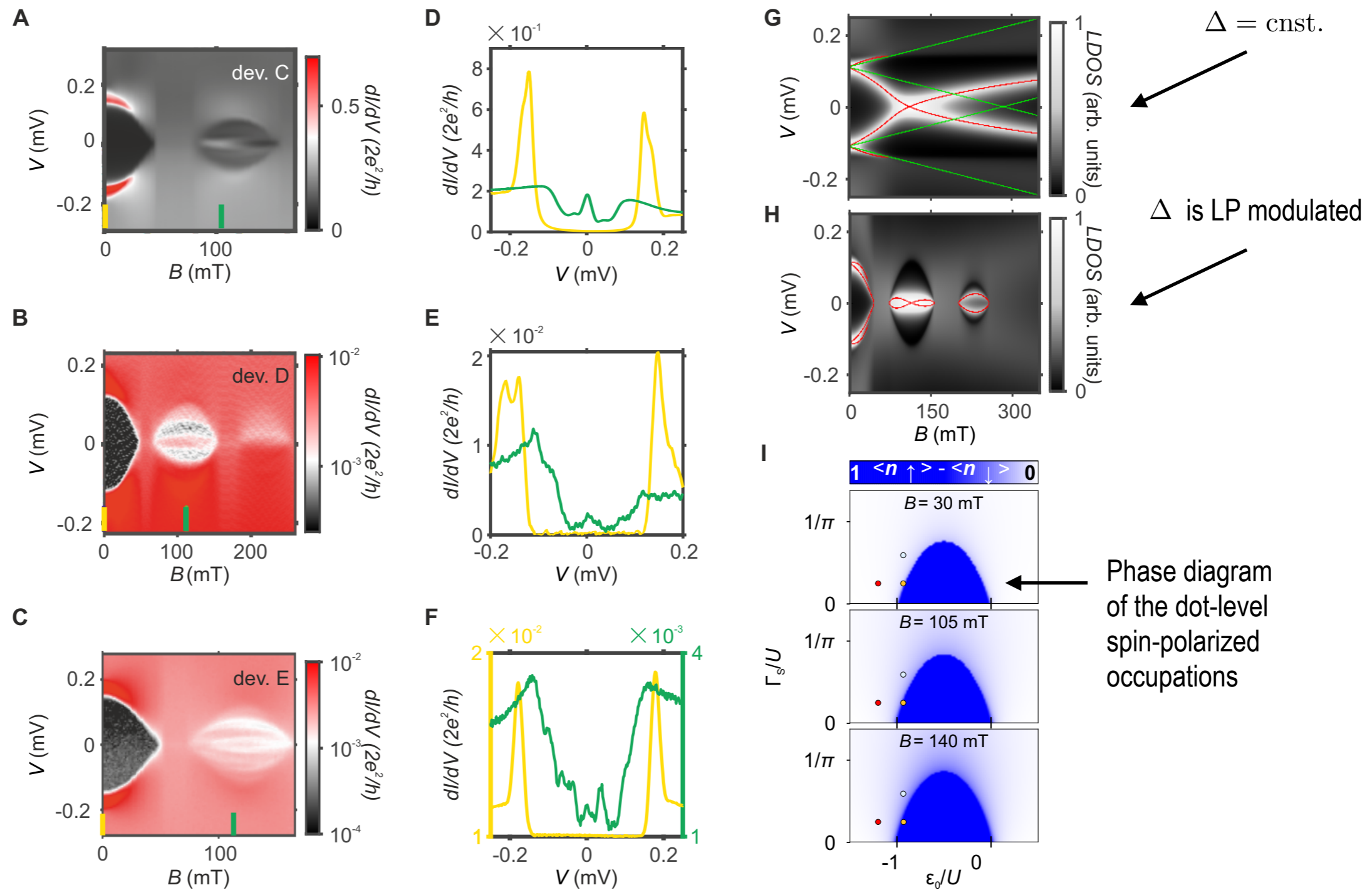
Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Andreev bound states in the Little-Parks regime with a singlet ground state



Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

ZBPs arising from ABSs "hidden" in the superconducting gap edge



Full-shell superconductor-semiconductor nanowires

Conclusions

- Tunneling spectroscopy measurements on hybrid full-shell InAs/Al NWs have shown that, for short junction devices with $X \lesssim 100\text{nm}$, no ABSs or other subgap states are observed.
- For long junctions, a rich spectral structure arises in the LP lobes and destructive regimes.
- When the GS is odd, we demonstrate that the subgap excitations of the system are YSR singlets. In the metallic state within the destructive LP regions, these YSR singlets fully develop a Kondo effect, confirming our interpretation in terms of QDs.
- When the GS is a singlet, the flux may induce a QPT to a spin-polarized odd GS. This zero-energy fermionic parity crossing leads to a ZBP. Depending on different gate conditions, this ZBP can persist for an extended magnetic field range in the first LP lobe around $\Phi \sim \Phi_0$.
- When the ABS energy at zero magnetic field is close to the superconducting gap, such robust ZBPs could be mistaken with topological Majorana zero modes.

Thanks for your attention!

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