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Manipulation of half-integer flux quanta¹ C.J.M. VERWIJS, ARIANDO, J.A. BOSCHKER, H. HILGENKAMP, Faculty of Science and Technology and MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Twente — Because of the different pairing symmetry in high-T_c cuprates (d-wave) and low-T_c superconductors (s-wave) it is possible to realize hybrid superconducting rings with a built-in π -phase shift. These rings have a twofold degenerate groundstate characterized by spontaneously generated circulating currents corresponding to a half flux quantum. We have realized such rings by connecting the cuprate YBa₂Cu₃O_{7- δ} to the low-T_c superconductor Nb via ramp-type Josephson junctions. We present the integration of π -rings in a superconducting quantum electronics device, a toggle flip-flop, in which the fractional flux polarity is toggled by applying single flux quantum pulses. We will also present experiments in which the half flux quanta at the discontinuities of 0- π -0 Josephson corner junctions are manipulated.

¹work done in collaboration with J.R. Kirtley, C.C. Tsuei, T. Ortlepp, O. Mielke, S. Harkema, K.F.K. Foo, F.H. Uhlmann and H. Rogalla

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