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Quantum Phase Slips in Topological Josephson Junction Rings

ROSA RODRIGUEZ MOTA, McGill University, SMITHA VISHVESHWARA ,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, TAMI PEREG-BARNEA, McGill Uni-
versity — We study quantum phase slip processes (QPS) in a ring of N topological
superconducting islands joined by Josephson junctions and threaded by magnetic
flux. In this array, neighboring islands interact through the usual charge $2e$ Joseph-
son tunneling and the Majorana assisted charge e tunneling.¹ When the charging
energy associated with the island's capacitance is zero, the energy vs. flux relation
of the system is characterized by parabolas centered around even or odd multiples of
the superconducting flux quantum, depending on the parity of the system. For small
but non-zero charging energy, quantum fluctuations can lead to tunneling between
these classical states.² In this work, we calculate the amplitude of these tunneling
processes, commonly known as quantum phase slips. We also add gate voltages to
our system and study how the amplitude of QPS in these topological Josephson
array is modified by Aharonov-Casher interference effects.

¹A.Y. Kitaev, Phys.-Usp. 44, 131 (2001).

²K. A. Matveev, A. I. Larkin, and L. I. Glazman., Phys. Rev. Lett. 89, 096802
(2002).

Rosa Rodriguez Mota
McGill University

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