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Scanning tunneling microscopy across a superconductor/topological insulator interface

Stuart Tessmer

Michigan State University, USA

In this talk, I will present scanning tunneling microscopy data of a Bi_2Se_3 crystal with superconducting PbBi islands deposited on the surface. Local density of states measurements show induced superconductivity in the topological surface state with a coherence length of order 540 nm. At energies above the gap, the density of states exhibits oscillations due to scattering caused by a non-uniform order parameter. Strikingly, spectra taken on the superconductor side of the interface show Dirac-cone-like behavior suggesting an inverse proximity effect—that is topological states induced onto the superconductor.

Biography

Stuart Tessmer completed his PhD in 1995 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He studied as a Post-doc at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1995-1998. At Michigan State University, he specialized in experimental condensed matter physics and is currently the Physics Department Associate Chair & Undergraduate Program Director.

tessmer@pa.msu.edu

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