

Proximity effect in superconducting heterostructures with strong spin-orbit coupling and spin splitting

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It has been shown that singlet Cooper pairs can be converted into triplet ones and diffuse into a ferromagnet over a long distance in a phenomenon known as the long-range proximity effect (LRPE). This happens in materials with inhomogeneous magnetism or spin-orbit coupling (SOC). Most of the previous studies focus on the cases with small SOC and exchange field. However, the physics was not clear when SOC and exchange field strength are both much greater than the disorder strength. In this work, we consider a two-dimensional system with a large Rashba-type SOC and exchange field in the case where only one band is partially occupied. We develop a generalized quasiclassical theory by projecting the Green function onto the partially occupied band (POB). We find that when the SOC energy scale is comparable with the exchange field, there is no LRPE. The reason is that the nonmagnetic impurities together with the large SOC and exchange field can effectively generate spin-flip scattering, which suppresses the proximity effect. We also show that when increasing either SOC or exchange field, the decay length of superconducting correlations can be significantly increased due to an approximately restored time reversal symmetry or spin rotation symmetry around the z (out-of-plane) axis.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The proximity effect in a superconductor (S)/ferromagnet (F) structure has been extensively studied during the past decades. Experimentally a significant increase of conductivity has been observed in S/F structures indicating that the Cooper pairs can penetrate into the ferromagnet over a long distance [1–4]. This LRPE is unexpected because the exchange field can destroy singlet Cooper pairs consisting of two electrons with opposite spins. The theoretical explanation of this unusual LRPE [5–7] is that the local inhomogeneity of magnetization in the vicinity of an S/F interface can create triplet pairing correlations that survive in the ferromagnet [8–15]. The decay length of triplet pairing correlations in the ferromagnet is of the order of the thermal coherence length $\xi_T = \sqrt{D/T}$ while the singlet pairing decays over a much shorter distance $\xi_h = \sqrt{D/h}$ where D , T , and h are diffusion constant, temperature, and strength of the exchange field, respectively. This LRPE also explains the long-range Josephson currents in S-F-S junctions made of half metals [16,17], ferromagnetic multilayers [16], and ferromagnets with intrinsic inhomogeneous magnetization [18]. Recently, it was realized that the LRPE also exists in systems where the SOC operator does not commute with the exchange field operator [19,20]. Interestingly, it has been shown that the system with SOC and a uniform exchange field is actually gauge equivalent to the system with an inhomogeneous exchange field. In particular, it has been demonstrated that the condition for the existence of LRPE is that the effective SU(2) electric field is finite.

The previous studies on the proximity effect in S/F hybrid structures focus on systems with a small spin splitting field. In that case, the exchange field and SOC can be treated perturbatively as the time and space components of an effective SU(2) potential [21–23]. To take into account the effective SU(2)

gauge field one just needs to replace the derivative operator in the quasiclassical equations by a covariant derivative including the SU(2) gauge field. The triplet pairing correlation is generated at the interface as long as the SU(2) electric field is finite. However, when considering systems where the exchange field and SOC strength are much greater than the disorder strength, both exchange field and SOC have to be treated unperturbatively, such that the conclusion drawn from the SU(2) fields no longer applies. Whether LRPE exists in systems with a large exchange field and SOC has remained therefore unclear.

In this work, we consider a two-dimensional system with SOC and an exchange field both much greater than the disorder strength. We assume that the spin splitting is large enough, such that only one band is partially occupied. The proximity effect in this system is very different from that of a system with a nearly degenerate Fermi surface. The reason is the following. First, due to spin-momentum locking the singlet and triplet pairing correlations are locked together and have the same decay length [24–28], in contrast to the case of a nearly degenerate Fermi surface in which singlet and triplet pairing correlations can be treated independently. Second, the effect of a nonmagnetic impurity self-energy depends on the spin texture [29–34] on the Fermi surface, which is much more complicated than that in the previous case. As a result, we expect a very different proximity behavior in this large spin splitting system. In order to investigate the proximity effect, we first develop a generalized quasiclassical theory by projecting the Green functions onto the POB. We derive the most general normalization condition $\hat{g}^2 = \hat{P}$ for this quasiclassical theory where \hat{g} is the quasiclassical Green function and \hat{P} is the projection operator onto the POB. We find that there is no LRPE when $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$, where α is the SOC strength, p_F is the Fermi momentum, and h_z is the z component of the exchange field. This is because the SOC and exchange field

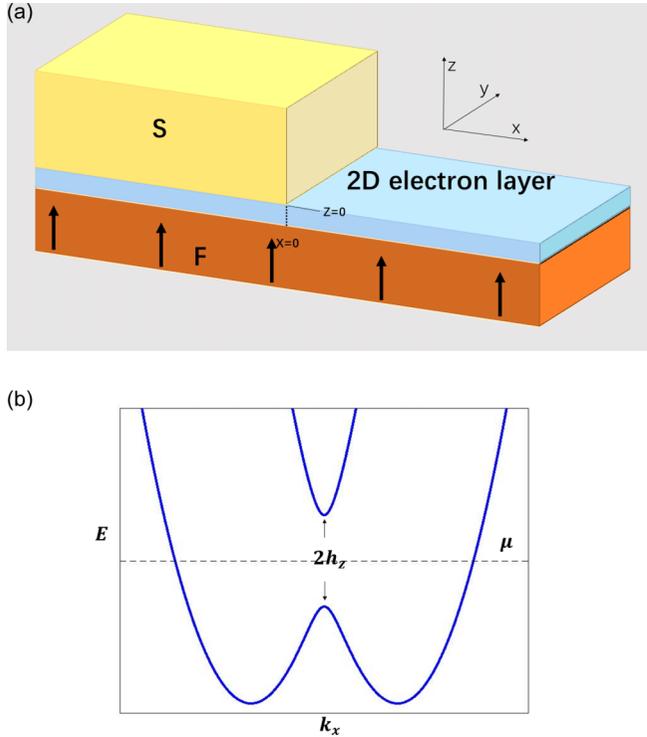


FIG. 1. (a) Sketch of the system under consideration. A bulk superconductor induces pairing correlation in a 2D electron layer placed under it. (b) Schematic picture of the band structure (with $k_y = 0$) of the 2D electron layer. The bands are split by the SOC and the exchange field, and the chemical potential is within the magnetic gap, such that the Green function can be projected to the POB.

break both spin rotation and time reversal symmetries, such that the nonmagnetic impurities can effectively generate spin-flip scattering, which hugely suppresses the proximity effect. Interestingly, for an increasing SOC, the proximity effect can be significantly enhanced until the decay length reaches the thermal coherence length ξ_T . This is because the time reversal symmetry is approximately restored in the limit $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$. Similarly, the LRPE can also exist in the limit $h_z \gg \alpha p_F$ due to spin rotation symmetry around the z axis.

II. MODEL

We consider a 2D electron layer with a large Rashba SOC and an exchange field (induced from a ferromagnetic insulator beneath it) placed under a bulk superconductor and coupled to it via tunneling through a thin insulator layer as shown in Fig. 1(a). The Hamiltonian describing this system is given by ($\hbar = k_B = 1$)

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_S + \hat{H}_N + \hat{H}_T, \quad (1)$$

where \hat{H}_N is the Hamiltonian of a 2D electron layer

$$\hat{H}_N = \int d^2r \ c^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \times \left[\frac{-\hat{\nabla}^2}{2m_N} + \alpha \hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathbf{h} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + U_N(\mathbf{r}) - \mu_N \right] c(\mathbf{r}), \quad (2)$$

and \hat{H}_S describes the bulk superconductor

$$\hat{H}_S = \int d^2r dz \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z) \left[\frac{-\hat{\nabla}^2 - \partial_z^2}{2m_S} + U_S(\mathbf{r}) - \mu_S \right] \Psi(\mathbf{r}, z) + \Delta \hat{\Psi}_\uparrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z) \hat{\Psi}_\downarrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z) + \Delta^* \hat{\Psi}_\downarrow(\mathbf{r}, z) \hat{\Psi}_\uparrow(\mathbf{r}, z). \quad (3)$$

The coupling Hamiltonian \hat{H}_T has the form

$$\hat{H}_T = \int d^2r d^2r' [c^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \hat{t} \Psi(\mathbf{r}', 0) + \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', 0) \hat{t}^\dagger c(\mathbf{r})]. \quad (4)$$

Here $\Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z) = [\Psi_\uparrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z), \Psi_\downarrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, z)]$ is the creation operator of an electron in the bulk superconductor and $c^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) = [c_\uparrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r}), c_\downarrow^\dagger(\mathbf{r})]$ is the electron creation operator in the 2D electron layer. \hat{t} is the operator representing tunneling between the bulk superconductor and the 2D electron layer. \mathbf{r} is a 2D vector in the plane of the 2D electron layer and z is the out-of-plane coordinate. The 2D gradient is $\hat{\nabla} = (\hat{\nabla}_x, \hat{\nabla}_y)$. $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$ are Pauli matrices acting on the spin space and $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ is defined by $\boldsymbol{\eta} = (-\sigma_y, \sigma_x)$. $m_{S/N}$, $\mu_{S/N}$, $U_{S/N}$, and Δ denote the effective mass, chemical potential, disorder potential, and pairing potential in the bulk superconductor/2D electron layer, respectively. \mathbf{h} is the exchange field. Here we assume that the strength of SOC and the z component of the exchange field are much greater than the disorder strength αp_F , $h_z \gg 1/\tau$, where τ is the scattering time, whereas the in-plane components of \mathbf{h} are small $h_x, h_y \ll 1/\tau$. We also assume that the chemical potential is within the magnetic gap and only one band is partially occupied as shown in Fig. 1(b). The S/F interface is located at $z = 0$ and the right edge of the bulk superconductor is at $x = 0$. Uniform pairing correlations can be induced in the left part (with $x < 0$) and the Cooper pairs penetrate into the right part (with $x > 0$) and decay along the x direction over a characteristic length ξ .

In this work, our focus is to study how the pairing correlation decays in the right part of the 2D electron layer. Before going into explicit calculations, we can qualitatively investigate the proximity effect by analyzing the properties of impurity scattering. In the case where the SOC strength is comparable with the strength of the exchange field $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$, the spins are on average polarized in the z direction but also have considerable in-plane components as shown in Fig. 2(a). In this case, nonmagnetic impurities couple quasiparticle states with different spins leading to an effective spin-flip scattering [dashed arrows in Fig. 2(a)], which suppresses the proximity effect. In this case LRPE does not take place. In the large SOC limit $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$, the spins are almost pinned in the xy plane and form a helical texture [Fig. 2(b)]. The electrons with opposite momenta also have nearly opposite spins, which means that the time reversal symmetry is approximately preserved. Therefore, the electron scattering that does not break the time reversal symmetry cannot lead to a large effective spin-flip scattering, allowing for the presence of LRPE. In the large exchange field limit $h_z \gg \alpha p_F$, the spins are almost polarized in the z direction and no spin can be flipped [35] [Fig. 2(c)]. Thus LRPE is allowed if equal spin pairing is formed.

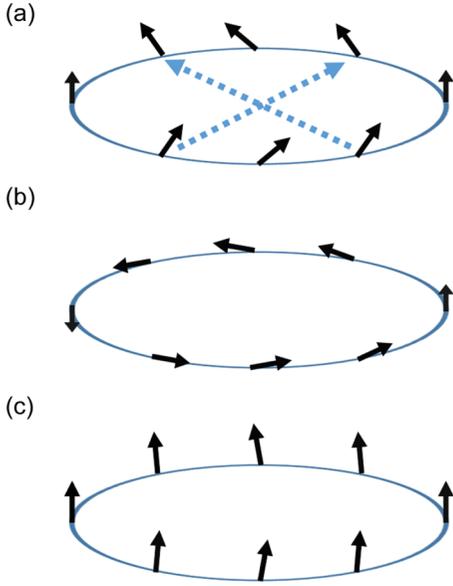


FIG. 2. Sketch of spin textures of the Fermi surfaces. The circles represent the Fermi surfaces, the solid arrows represent the directions of spin polarization, and the dashed arrows represent the effective spin-flip scattering. (a) When $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$ the in-plane and out-of-plane components of the spin polarization are comparable. (b) For $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ the spins are almost pinned in the xy plane and form a helical texture. (c) When $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$ the spins are almost polarized in the z direction.

III. QUASICLASSICAL THEORY

In order to quantitatively study the proximity effect, we first develop a quasiclassical theory for the 2D electron layer and then include the effect of the bulk superconductor as a boundary condition. We start with the Gorkov equation for the right part of the 2D electron layer. Within Born approximation and in spin \otimes particle-hole space, the Gorkov equation can be written as

$$(\hat{G}_0^{-1} + \mu - \hat{\Sigma})\hat{G} = 1 \quad (5)$$

$$\hat{G}_0^{-1} = -\frac{\hat{k}^2}{2m_N} - \alpha\hat{k} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta} + (i\omega_n + \mathbf{h} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})\tau_3. \quad (6)$$

Here, ω_n is the Matsubara frequency $\omega_n = (2n+1)\pi T$ with $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$; τ_3 is the Pauli matrix acting on the particle-hole basis, and $\hat{\Sigma}$ is the disorder self-energy obtained from Born approximation, $\hat{\Sigma} = \langle \hat{G} \rangle / \tau$, where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ means an angular average over the momentum directions. In order to solve the Gorkov equation, we perform the quasiclassical approximation and obtain the Eilenberger equation [36,37]

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{p_F}{m_N} \nabla \hat{g} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \{ \boldsymbol{\eta}, \nabla \hat{g} \} \\ & = \left[\hat{g}, \omega_n \tau_3 + i\mathbf{h}' \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' + ih_z \sigma_3 + i\alpha p_F \boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F + \frac{\langle \hat{g} \rangle}{2\tau} \right]. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

Here \mathbf{h}' and $\boldsymbol{\sigma}'$ are in-plane components of the exchange field and Pauli matrices, respectively, defined by $\mathbf{h}' = (h_x, h_y)$, $\boldsymbol{\sigma}' = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y)$. We have performed a Fourier transformation of the Green function in Eq. (5) with respect

to the relative space argument and then taken the integral over $\varepsilon_p = p^2/2m_N - S - \mu_N$ with $S = \sqrt{h_z^2 + \alpha^2 p^2}$, which results in

$$\hat{g}(\omega_n; \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{n}_F) = \int \frac{d\varepsilon_p}{i\pi} \hat{G}(\omega_n; \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{p}). \quad (8)$$

Here $\mathbf{n}_F = \mathbf{p}_F/|\mathbf{p}_F|$ is a unit vector in the direction of momentum \mathbf{p}_F at the Fermi level. Denoting $\hat{Q} \equiv ih_z \sigma_3 + i\alpha p_F \boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot \mathbf{n}_F$, we emphasize that the main difference between Eq. (7) and an ordinary Eilenberger equation is that on the right hand side the dominant term is \hat{Q} rather than $\langle \hat{g} \rangle / \tau$.

Since the dominant term on the right hand side of Eq. (7) is \hat{Q} , the leading term of the quasiclassical Green function \hat{g} should commute with \hat{Q} and all other terms are of the order of $1/\tau S_F \ll 1$ where S_F is the absolute value of the eigenvalue of \hat{Q} at the Fermi level, $S_F = \sqrt{\alpha^2 p_F^2 + h_z^2}$. Using the condition of $[\hat{g}, \hat{Q}] = 0$, we can write down the most general form of \hat{g}

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g} = & \sum_{\lambda=\pm} a_\lambda |\psi_{\lambda,e}\rangle \langle \psi_{\lambda,e}| + b_\lambda |\psi_{\lambda,h}\rangle \langle \psi_{\lambda,h}| \\ & + d_\lambda |\psi_{\lambda,e}\rangle \langle \psi_{\lambda,h}| + e_\lambda |\psi_{\lambda,h}\rangle \langle \psi_{\lambda,e}|, \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

where $|\psi_{\lambda,e/h}\rangle$ are eigenvectors of operator \hat{Q} satisfying $\hat{Q}|\psi_{\lambda,e/h}\rangle = \lambda iE|\psi_{\lambda,e/h}\rangle$ with $\lambda = \pm$ being band indices and e/h labeling particle and hole eigenvectors. As the upper band is very far away from the chemical potential, the quasiclassical Green function \hat{g} should contain no information of the upper band. Therefore, we can safely drop the $|\psi_{+,e/h}\rangle$ terms in \hat{g} and write it as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{g} = & a|\psi_{-,e}\rangle \langle \psi_{-,e}| + b|\psi_{-,h}\rangle \langle \psi_{-,h}| \\ & + d|\psi_{-,e}\rangle \langle \psi_{-,h}| + e|\psi_{-,h}\rangle \langle \psi_{-,e}| \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$|\psi_{-,e}\rangle = (-\alpha p_F e^{i\phi/2}, (S_F + h_z) e^{-i\phi/2}, 0, 0)^T / N \quad (11)$$

$$|\psi_{-,h}\rangle = (0, 0, (S_F + h_z) e^{i\phi/2}, -\alpha p_F e^{-i\phi/2})^T / N, \quad (12)$$

where a, b, d, e are arbitrary constants, N is the normalization factor $N = \sqrt{2S_F(S_F + h_z)}$ and ϕ is the angle between \mathbf{n}_F and the y axis so that $\cos(\phi) = n_y$, $\sin(\phi) = n_x$. By doing this we actually project the Green function onto the POB. Next we write Eq. (7) in the new basis $\psi_- = (\psi_{-,e}, \psi_{-,h})^T$ and obtain the effective low energy Eilenberger equation

$$v_F \nabla \hat{g} = \left[\hat{g}, w_n \tau_3 + i \frac{\alpha p_F}{S_F} (\mathbf{h}' \times \hat{z}) \cdot \mathbf{n}_F + \langle \hat{g} \rangle / 2\tau \right]. \quad (13)$$

Here \hat{z} is the unit vector in the z direction. Equation (13) cannot uniquely determine the quasiclassical Green function \hat{g} and has to be supplemented by a normalization condition. However, we cannot simply borrow the ordinary normalization condition $\hat{g}^2 = \hat{1}$ as \hat{g} lives only in a subspace of the whole Hilbert space. In order to find the normalization condition for this model, we project the single particle bulk Green function onto the POB and apply the quasiclassical approximation, which leads to

$$\hat{G} = \frac{\hat{P}}{\hat{P}(i\omega_n \tau_3 + iv_F \partial_r - U - \hat{\Sigma}_S) \hat{P} - \varepsilon_p \hat{P}}, \quad (14)$$

where $\hat{\Sigma}_S$ is the self-energy of the bulk superconductor and \hat{P} is given by $\hat{P} = |\psi_{-,e}\rangle\langle\psi_{-,e}| + |\psi_{-,h}\rangle\langle\psi_{-,h}|$. We define $\hat{O} = \hat{P}(i\omega_n\tau_3 + iv_F\partial_r - U - \hat{\Sigma}_S)\hat{P}$ and have $\hat{G} = \hat{P}/(\hat{O} - \varepsilon_p\hat{P})$. According to Eq. (8), the principal value integral along the real ε_p axis is equal to the sum of two integrals along contours which consist of the real axis (from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$) closed by semicircles in the upper and lower half planes $\int = \frac{1}{2}\oint_{up} + \frac{1}{2}\oint_{dn}$. Working out the contour integral, we obtain [38]

$$\hat{g} = \hat{P}_{up} - \hat{P}_{dn}. \quad (15)$$

Here, $\hat{P}_{up/dn}$ is the projection operator defined by $\hat{P}_{up/dn} = |\psi_{up/dn}\rangle\langle\psi_{up/dn}|$ and $|\psi_{up/dn}\rangle$ is the eigenvector of operator \hat{O} with eigenvalue having the positive/negative imaginary part. Therefore, we have $\hat{g}^2 = \hat{P}_{up} + \hat{P}_{dn}$. Since $\hat{P}_{up} + \hat{P}_{dn}$ is the identity operator in the ψ_- subspace, we immediately have $\hat{P}_{up} + \hat{P}_{dn} = \hat{P}$. Thus the normalization condition reads

$$\hat{g}^2 = \hat{P}. \quad (16)$$

For convenience, we can write \hat{g} in a more symmetric form $\hat{g} = \sum_{i=0}^3 g_i \tilde{\tau}_i$ where $\tilde{\tau}_0 = \hat{P}$ and other $\tilde{\tau}_i$ are operators which have a Pauli matrix representation in the ψ_- basis. In terms of the coefficients g_i , the normalization condition can be written as $g_0 = 0$, $g_1^2 + g_2^2 + g_3^2 = 1$.

IV. PROXIMITY EFFECT IN THE DIFFUSIVE LIMIT

Here, we consider the diffusive limit $1/\tau \gg \omega, h_x, h_y, \Delta$. In this limit, the dominant term on the right hand side of Eq. (13) is $\langle\hat{g}\rangle/2\tau$. Thus the leading term \hat{g}_0 of the quasiclassical Green function \hat{g} satisfies

$$[\hat{g}_0, \langle\hat{g}_0\rangle/2\tau] = 0. \quad (17)$$

We need to be careful when calculating $\langle\hat{g}_0\rangle$ since the basis $\tilde{\tau}$ is now \mathbf{n}_F dependent. The proper way to do the angular average is to write $\tilde{\tau}$ in the usual spin \otimes particle-hole basis, perform the angular average for the 4×4 matrix, and then project it back onto the ψ_- space. We first consider the case $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$. In this case, we find that the only solution of Eq. (17) is $\hat{g}_0 = g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}_3$ where $g_{s,3}$ is \mathbf{n}_F independent constant (details can be found in Appendix A). The $\tilde{\tau}_1$ and $\tilde{\tau}_2$ terms which represent pairing correlations do not appear in the leading term \hat{g}_0 . This means that there is almost no proximity effect when αp_F is comparable with h_z . The physical picture is that in this case, the time reversal symmetry and spin rotation symmetry are both broken and the disorder potential can effectively generate spin-flip scattering, which destroys the LRPE. In order to find the solution of \hat{g}_0 with a finite off-diagonal term, we need to consider the limits $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ and $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$. In the former case, the system has an approximate time reversal symmetry and in the latter case the spin rotation symmetry around the z axis is approximately restored.

A. Large SOC limit

Considering the limit $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$, we can find one approximate solution of Eq. (17), which is $\hat{g}_0 = \hat{g}_s = \sum_i g_{s,i} \tilde{\tau}_i$, where $g_{s,i}$ are \mathbf{n}_F independent coefficients. The angular average

is calculated as $\langle\hat{g}_0\rangle = \frac{1}{2}\hat{g}_0 + \frac{X}{2}\tilde{\tau}_3\hat{g}_0\tilde{\tau}_3$ with $X = h_z^2/S_F^2$ (see Appendix B). Hence we have

$$[\hat{g}_0, \langle\hat{g}_0\rangle/2\tau] = \frac{X}{2}[\hat{g}_0, \tilde{\tau}_3\hat{g}_0\tilde{\tau}_3/2\tau]. \quad (18)$$

It can be seen that this solution does not strictly satisfy Eq. (17) but only with a small error of the order of X . This error is acceptable since we already drop some small terms of the order of $\omega_n\tau$ in deriving Eq. (17). Then the Green function can be expanded up to the first two terms of the 2D harmonics $\hat{g} = \hat{g}_s + \mathbf{n}_F \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}}_{a,i} = \sum_i (g_{s,i} + \mathbf{n}_F \cdot \mathbf{g}_{a,i}) \tilde{\tau}_i$ where the zeroth harmonic is isotropic and its amplitude is much larger than that of the first harmonic. Substituting this expansion into Eq. (13) and taking an average over all directions of \mathbf{n}_F in the coefficients, we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2}v_F \tilde{\nabla} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_a = \left[\hat{g}_s, \omega_n \tilde{\tau}_3 + \frac{X}{2} \tilde{\tau}_3 \hat{g}_s \tilde{\tau}_3 / 2\tau \right], \quad (19)$$

where $\tilde{\nabla}$ is the covariant derivative $\tilde{\nabla} \cdot = \nabla \cdot + \frac{i\alpha p_F}{S_F v_F} \hat{z} \times \mathbf{h}'[\tilde{\tau}_3, \cdot]$, in which the small in-plane components of the exchange field h_x and h_y , play the role of the $U(1)$ gauge field. Multiplying Eq. (13) by \mathbf{n}_F and taking the angular average for the coefficients, we obtain

$$\tau v_F \tilde{\nabla} \hat{g}_s = \frac{1}{4} \hat{\mathbf{g}}_a \hat{g}_s, \quad (20)$$

where we have used the fact that $X \ll 1$, $w_n \ll 1/\tau$. Combining Eqs. (19) and (20), we arrive at the Usadel equation [39]

$$4D \tilde{\nabla} (\hat{g}_s \tilde{\nabla} \hat{g}_s) = \left[\omega_n \tilde{\tau}_3 + \frac{X}{4} \tilde{\tau}_3 \hat{g}_s \tilde{\tau}_3 / \tau, \hat{g}_s \right], \quad (21)$$

where the diffusion constant D is given by $D = \tau v_F^2/2$. Compared to the usual case, we have an extra term $\frac{X}{4} \tilde{\tau}_3 \hat{g}_s \tilde{\tau}_3 / \tau$, which represents an effective spin-flip scattering due to impurities coupling different spin-momentum locked states [40]. It is a small term proportional to X and does not totally destroy the proximity effect. We consider the weak proximity limit and write the Green function as $\hat{g}_s \approx \tilde{f} + \hat{f} = \tilde{f}_3 + f_1 \tilde{\tau}_1 + f_2 \tilde{\tau}_2$. Substituting this expansion into Eq. (21), we have

$$4\tau D \tilde{\nabla}^2 \hat{f} = X \hat{f} + 2\omega_n \tau \hat{f}. \quad (22)$$

Solving this equation, we get

$$\hat{f} = f_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-2i\alpha h_y x / S_F v_F} \\ e^{2i\alpha h_y x / S_F v_F} & 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{-\kappa x} \quad (x > 0), \quad (23)$$

where f_0 is a constant determined by the boundary condition and

$$\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{X}{4\tau D} + \frac{\omega_n}{2D} + \frac{4h_x^2 \alpha^2 p_F^2}{S_F^2 v_F^2}}. \quad (24)$$

The Pauli matrices $\tilde{\tau}_{1/2}$ written in the usual spin \otimes particle-hole space are given by

$$\tilde{\tau}_+ = \tilde{\tau}_-^\dagger = (\tilde{\tau}_1 + i\tilde{\tau}_2)/2$$

$$\hat{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\alpha p_F & (S_F - h_z)e^{i\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & (S_F + h_z)e^{-i\phi} & -\alpha p_F \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F. \quad (25)$$

The αp_F terms represent the singlet pairing correlations while the $S_F + h_z$ and $S_F - h_z$ terms represent the triplet pairing. One can see that the induced pairing correlation is a combination of singlet and triplet pairing, which are locked together and have the same decay length $\xi = 1/\kappa \approx \min\{\sqrt{4\tau D}/X, \sqrt{2D}/\omega_n, \frac{S_F v_F}{2h_x \alpha p_F}\}$. It can be seen that the different components of the exchange field play different roles in the proximity effect. h_z and h_x tend to suppress the decay length to be $\sqrt{4\tau D}/X$ and $\frac{S_F v_F}{2h_x \alpha p_F}$, respectively, while h_y does not affect the decay length but introduces a phase gradient in the induced pairing correlations, similar to the anomalous Josephson effect induced by the SOC and Zeeman effect [41–46]. In the case of no h_x and relatively small X , the decay length becomes $\xi \approx \sqrt{4\tau D}/X$. The decay length thus depends directly on the time reversal symmetry breaking factor X . When decreasing X , the time reversal symmetry is further restored and the proximity effect is promoted until the decay length reaches the thermal coherence length ξ_T . When increasing X , the time reversal symmetry is further broken, and the decay length is suppressed to the mean free path $l = \tau v_F$. Thus the system can smoothly cross over to the $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$ regime, where the decay length is of the order of l .

B. Large exchange field limit

Next, we consider the opposite limit $h_z \gg \alpha p_F$. In this limit, the spins of the Fermi surface are almost polarized in the z direction [Fig. 2(c)]. Thus the spin rotation symmetry around the z axis is almost restored. In this case, we can find another approximate solution of Eq. (17), which is

$$\hat{g}_0 = g_{s,+} e^{i\phi} \tilde{\tau}_+ + g_{s,-} e^{-i\phi} \tilde{\tau}_- + g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}_3, \quad (26)$$

where $\tilde{\tau}_+$ and $\tilde{\tau}_-$ are defined by $\tilde{\tau}_+ = (\tau_1 + i\tau_2)/2$, $\tilde{\tau}_- = (\tau_1 - i\tau_2)/2$, and $g_{s,+}, g_{s,-}, g_{s,3}$ are n_F independent constants. Unlike the large SOC limit, we have here a phase factor in the $\tilde{\tau}_-$ and $\tilde{\tau}_+$ terms. It is convenient to absorb the phase factor into the basis by defining a new basis $|\psi'_-\rangle = (|\psi'_{-,e}\rangle, |\psi'_{-,h}\rangle)^\top = (e^{i\phi/2}|\psi_{-,e}\rangle, e^{-i\phi/2}|\psi_{-,h}\rangle)^\top$. Then the solution can be written in this new basis as

$$\hat{g}_0 = \sum_i g_{s,i} \tilde{\tau}'_i, \quad (27)$$

where $\tilde{\tau}'_i$ are Pauli matrices acting on the $|\psi'_-\rangle$ basis and $g_{s,i}$ are constants. The angular average of \hat{g}_0 becomes $\langle \hat{g}_0 \rangle = \hat{g}_0 + \frac{Y}{2} \tilde{\tau}'_3 \hat{g}_0 \tilde{\tau}'_3$ with $Y = (S_F - h_z)^2 / 4S_F^2$ (see Appendix B). Using the same method as for the large SOC limit, we get the Usadel equation

$$D\tilde{\nabla}(\hat{g}_s \tilde{\nabla} \hat{g}_s) = \left[\omega_n \tilde{\tau}'_3 + \frac{Y}{4} \tilde{\tau}'_3 \hat{g}_s \tilde{\tau}'_3 / \tau, \hat{g}_s \right]. \quad (28)$$

Again in the weak proximity limit, we obtain the pair correlation in the magnet as

$$\hat{f} = f_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-2i\alpha h_x x / S_F v_F} \\ e^{2i\alpha h_x x / S_F v_F} & 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{-\kappa x} \quad (x > 0) \quad (29)$$

with

$$\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{Y}{\tau D} + \frac{2\omega_n}{D} + \frac{4h_x^2 \alpha^2 p_F^2}{S_F^2 v_F^2}}. \quad (30)$$

The representations of the operators $\tilde{\tau}'$ are Pauli matrices in the $|\psi'_-\rangle$ basis, and in the usual spin \otimes particle-hole space they are given by

$$\tilde{\tau}'_+ = \tilde{\tau}'_-^\dagger = (\tilde{\tau}'_1 + i\tilde{\tau}'_2)/2$$

$$\hat{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\alpha p_F e^{i\phi} & (S_F - h_z) e^{i2\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & (S_F + h_z) & -\alpha p_F e^{i\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F. \quad (31)$$

There hence exists LRPE with a decay length $\xi = 1/\kappa \approx \min\{\sqrt{\tau D}/Y, \sqrt{D}/2\omega_n, \frac{S_F v_F}{2h_x \alpha p_F}\}$ dominated by triplet pairing. Again in the case of no h_x and relatively small Y , the decay length becomes $\xi \approx \sqrt{\tau D}/Y$. It can be seen that now the spin rotation symmetry breaking factor Y takes the similar role of the time reversal symmetry breaking factor X in the opposite limit. Without h_x , the decay length can be increased up to the thermal coherence length when Y is decreased due to the further restored spin rotation symmetry around the z axis. On the other hand, when increasing Y , the decay length is suppressed to the mean free path $l = \tau v_F$ and the system again can smoothly cross over to the $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$ regime.

V. BOUNDARY CONDITION

In this section, we show how to calculate the constant f_0 in Eqs. (23) and (29) through a boundary condition. In this system the superconducting proximity effect contains two processes: One is inducing uniform pairing correlations in the left part ($x < 0$) of the 2D electron layer and the other is the Cooper pairs penetrating into the right part ($x > 0$). To calculate the induced pairing correlation in the left part, we add the self-energy of the bulk superconductor into the Gorkov equation of the 2D electron layer following Refs. [26,27,47]. The Gorkov equation for the left part of the 2D electron layer reads

$$(\hat{G}_0^{-1} + \mu - \hat{\Sigma} - \hat{\Sigma}_S) \hat{G} = 1. \quad (32)$$

Here, \hat{G}_0^{-1} , μ , and $\hat{\Sigma}$ are the same as defined in Sec. II. $\hat{\Sigma}_S$ is the self-energy of the bulk superconductor given by

$$\hat{\Sigma}_S = \hat{t}^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) \hat{G}_S(\mathbf{p}, z=0) \hat{t}(\mathbf{p}), \quad (33)$$

where \hat{t} is the tunneling operator as defined in Eq. (4) and \mathbf{p} is a 2D vector in the plane of the 2D electron layer. We assume translational invariance for the bulk superconductor and the

left part of the electron layer, such that the Green function \hat{G}_S has only one momentum parameter. $\hat{G}_S(\mathbf{p}, z = 0)$ is calculated as

$$\hat{G}_S(\mathbf{p}, z = 0) = \int \frac{dp_z}{2\pi} \hat{G}_S(\mathbf{p}, p_z) \quad (34)$$

and $\hat{G}_S(\mathbf{p}, p_z)$ is determined by the Born self-consistency equation

$$\left(i\omega_n \tau_3 - \frac{\mathbf{p}^2 + p_z^2}{2m_S} - \Delta \tau_1 + \mu_S - \frac{i}{2\tau_S} \langle \hat{G}_S \rangle \right) \hat{G}_S = 1, \quad (35)$$

where τ_S is the impurity scattering time in the bulk superconductor. The tunneling operator \hat{t} is in general a 4×4 matrix in spin \otimes particle-hole space. In the limit $t/S_F \ll 1$, only the quasiparticles in the ψ_- subspace can tunnel into the 2D electron layer, which means that the tunneling matrix has the form

$$\hat{t} = t\hat{P}_t, \quad (36)$$

where t is the tunneling amplitude. \hat{P}_t is defined by $\hat{P}_t = |\psi_{-,e}\rangle\langle\psi_{-,e}| + |\psi_{-,h}\rangle\langle\psi_{-,h}|$ for $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ and $\hat{P}_t = |\psi_{-,e}\rangle\langle\psi'_{-,e}| + |\psi_{-,h}\rangle\langle\psi'_{-,h}|$ for $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$. Substituting Eqs. (33)–(36) into Eq. (32), performing the quasiclassical approximation and projecting onto the POB, we obtain the Eilenberger equation for the left part of the 2D electron layer

$$v_F \nabla \hat{g} = \left[\hat{g}, w\tilde{\tau}_3 + i \frac{\alpha p_F}{S_F} (\mathbf{h}' \times \hat{z}) \cdot \mathbf{n}_F + t^2 \Delta' \tilde{\tau}_1 + \langle \hat{g} \rangle / 2\tau \right] \quad (x < 0). \quad (37)$$

Here, we have used the tunneling condition $t/\mu_N \ll 1$, such that the renormalization of μ_N by the bulk superconductor is negligible and the only effect of the bulk superconductor self-energy is introducing the $\Delta' \tilde{\tau}_1$ term defined by $\Delta' = \text{Tr}(\tilde{\tau}_1 \hat{\Sigma}_S)/2$, which is finite and proportional to $\alpha p_F/2S_F$ and Δ . The quasiclassical Green function \hat{g} can be obtained from Eq. (37) in the dirty limit as it is uniform and isotropic in the left part, $\nabla \hat{g} = 0$. Since the bulk superconductor does not change any property of the 2D electron layer except introducing the pairing correlation, the junction at $x = 0$ can be regarded as totally transparent. Therefore, we can use the continuous boundary condition at $x = 0$, which is $\hat{g}(x = 0^+) = \hat{g}(x < 0)$. Then f_0 can be straightforwardly read out from $\hat{g}(0^+)$. Substituting the expression of f_0 back into Eqs. (23) and (29), we get the complete form of the proximity induced pairing correlations.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL DETECTION

The proximity effect can be detected experimentally by measuring the Josephson current through an S/F/S junction [48–53] in a setup as shown in Fig. 3. For simplicity, we assume that the two superconductors have the same pairing amplitude but with a phase difference. We first consider the case of $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$. In the weak proximity limit, making use of Eq. (23) and (29) and matching the boundary conditions on the two sides $f(x = 0) = f_0 e^{-i\phi/2}$, $f(x = L) = f_0 e^{i\phi/2}$, we

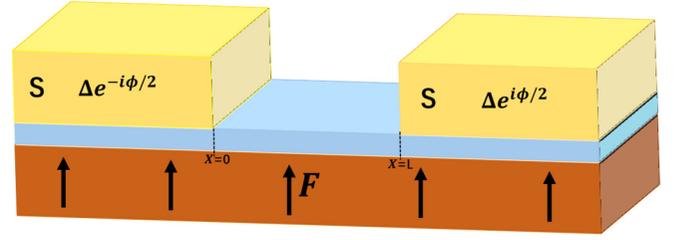


FIG. 3. The setup in which the supercurrent is measured. The two superconductors have the same pairing amplitude and a phase difference ϕ .

get the induced pairing correlations [25]

$$f = \frac{f_0}{\sinh(\kappa L)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ A^* & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (38)$$

with

$$A = e^{\frac{2i\alpha p_F h_y (x-L)}{S_F v_F} + i\phi/2} \sinh(\kappa x) - e^{\frac{-2i\alpha p_F h_y x}{S_F v_F} - i\phi/2} \sinh[\kappa(x-L)], \quad (39)$$

where L is the width of the junction. In the limit $\kappa L \gg 1$, the supercurrent density is calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} I &= -i \frac{\pi \sigma_N}{e} T \sum_{\omega_n > 0} \text{Tr}[\tilde{\tau}_3 \hat{g} \partial_x \hat{g}] \\ &= -\frac{\pi \sigma_N f_0^2}{e} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) T \sum_{\omega_n > 0} \frac{\kappa}{\sinh(\kappa L)} \\ &\approx -\frac{2\pi \sigma_N f_0^2}{e} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) T \sum_{\omega_n > 0} \kappa e^{-\kappa L}, \quad (40) \end{aligned}$$

where $\sigma_N = 2e^2 N_0 D$ is the normal-state conductivity and the lower line is valid for $\kappa L \gg 1$. At low temperatures $T \approx 0$, the frequency summation can be converted to an integral

$$\begin{aligned} I &= -\frac{2\pi \sigma_N f_0^2}{e} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) \int d\omega \kappa e^{-\kappa L} \\ &= -\frac{8\pi D \sigma_N f_0^2}{eL^3} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) \\ &\quad \times (CL^2 + 2\sqrt{CL} + 2)e^{-\sqrt{CL}}. \quad (41) \end{aligned}$$

Here, C depends on the x and z components of the exchange field, $C = \frac{X}{4\tau D} + \frac{4h_z^2 \alpha^2 p_F^2}{S_F^2 v_F^2}$. From the expression of the current, one can see that the critical supercurrent is suppressed by both h_z and h_x . Another feature of the supercurrent is that the zero supercurrent state corresponds to a finite phase difference $\phi_0 = -\frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}$, which is due to breaking the inversion and mirror symmetries in the x direction. At high temperature $T \gg 2DC$, D/L^2 , the lowest frequency gives the dominating part to the current. Thus we have

$$I \approx -\frac{2\pi \sigma_N f_0^2}{e} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) T \sqrt{\frac{\pi T}{2D}} e^{-\sqrt{\pi T/2DL}}, \quad (42)$$

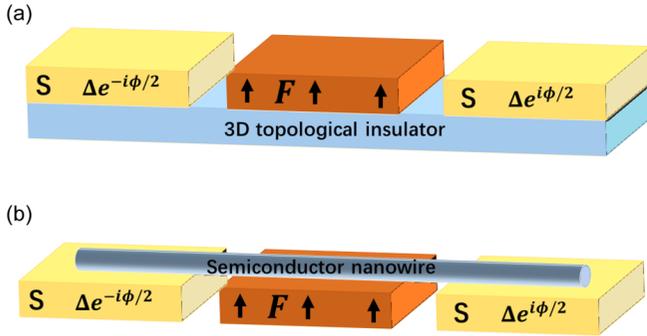


FIG. 4. Suggested experimental realizations: (a) The case $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$ is realized when the bulk superconductors and a ferromagnetic insulator are put on the top of a 3D TI. A barrier is created between the ferromagnetic insulator and TI, such that the induced exchange field is small. (b) The case $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$ can be obtained with a semiconductor nanowire placed on top of bulk superconductors and a ferromagnetic insulator, such that the induced exchange field is large compared with the Fermi energy of the nanowire.

which does not depend on h_x or h_z . In the case of $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$, we get the Josephson current using the same method

$$I = -\frac{\pi D \sigma_N f_0^2}{2eL^3} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) \times (C'L^2 + 2\sqrt{C'}L + 2)e^{-\sqrt{C'}L} \quad (43)$$

for $T \approx 0$, and C' is given by $C' = \frac{\gamma}{\tau D} + \frac{4h_z^2 \alpha^2 p_F^2}{S_F^2 v_F^2}$. At high temperatures, we have

$$I \approx -\frac{2\pi \sigma_N f_0^2}{e} \sin\left(\phi + \frac{2h_y \alpha p_F L}{S_F v_F}\right) T \sqrt{\frac{2\pi T}{D}} e^{-\sqrt{2\pi T/2DL}}. \quad (44)$$

In the case of $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$, the Josephson current vanishes as there is almost no proximity effect.

Let us briefly discuss the prospects of realizing our predictions experimentally in the presence of both spin-orbit coupling and exchange field, but in the two regimes where one is stronger than the other. In the case of $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$, we propose that one can use the surface of a doped 3D topological insulator (TI) such as Bi_2Se_3 [54–56] as the electron layer with bulk superconductors and a ferromagnetic insulator on top of it [Fig. 4(a)]. This system has a similar Fermi surface as that in Fig. 2(b), so that the proximity effect is described by Eq. (23). The case $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$ can be realized by using [57,58] multichannel semiconductor nanowires such as InAs as the electron layer put on top of superconductors and a ferromagnetic insulator [Fig. 4(b)]. Although we do theoretical calculations in two dimensions, our results are valid for quasi-one-dimensional systems as the proximity effect is homogeneous in the y direction.

VII. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

In conclusion, we consider the superconducting proximity effect in a 2D electron layer with large SOC and exchange field and assume that only one band is occupied. We derive a generalized quasiclassical theory for this system by pro-

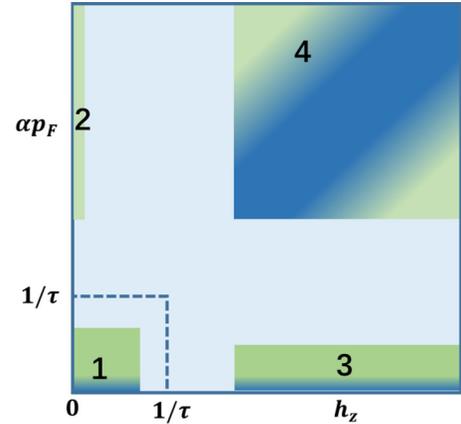


FIG. 5. Comparison of proximity effects in different parameter regimes. The blue (dark) areas correspond to the regimes in which there is no LRPE and the green (light) areas correspond to the regimes where there is LRPE. (1) $\alpha p_F, h_z \ll 1/\tau$ studied in Refs. [19,20], there is LRPE as long as αp_F is finite. (2) $\alpha p_F \gg 1/\tau$ and $h_z = 0$ studied in Ref. [25], there is always LRPE. (3) $\alpha p_F \ll 1/\tau$ and $h_z \gg 1/\tau$ studied in Ref. [35], there is LRPE as long as αp_F is finite. (4) $\alpha p_F, h_z \gg 1/\tau$ studied in the present work, LRPE exists in the $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ and $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$ limits.

jecting the Green function onto the POB. We show that the LRPE exists in $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ and $h_z \gg \alpha p_F$ limits while when $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$ there is no LRPE. Our work fills the theoretical research gap of studying proximity effect in systems with both large SOC and exchange fields. Our work is compared with previous works on proximity effect in other parameter regimes in Fig. 5. Although we study a specific model with large SOC and exchange field, our results also apply to the surface of a three-dimensional topological insulator in the presence of an exchange field, and a quantum anomalous Hall insulator because all these models have a similar spin texture of the Fermi surface. Our method is straightforward to generalize to any system with only one large nondegenerate Fermi surface or systems with multiple Fermi surfaces but very small interband scattering such as doped Weyl semimetals.

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APPENDIX A: CALCULATION OF g_0 IN THE CASE OF $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$

In this Appendix, we calculate g_0 in the cases of $\alpha p_F \approx h_z$. In general g_0 can be written as

$$g_0 = \sum g_{0,i}(\phi) \tilde{\tau}_i. \quad (A1)$$

In the diffusive limit, the pairing amplitude is independent of ϕ , such that

$$g_{0,i} = |g_{0,i}| e^{if(\phi)}, \quad (A2)$$

where $f(\phi)$ is an arbitrary function. Using the condition $g_{0,i}(\phi) = g_{0,i}(\phi + 2\pi)$, we find that $f(\phi)$ can only be

$f(\phi) = iN\phi$ with $N \in Z$. Therefore, we have

$$g_{0,i} = \sum_i |g_{0,i}| e^{iN\phi} \tilde{\tau}_i. \quad (\text{A3})$$

Written in the $|\psi_{-}\rangle$ space, the operators τ_i are Pauli matrices. On the other hand, their representation in the spin \otimes particle-hole basis is

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\tau}_1 &\hat{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\alpha p_F & (S_F - h_z)e^{i\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & (S_F + h_z)e^{-i\phi} & -\alpha p_F \\ -\alpha p_F & (S_F + h_z)e^{i\phi} & 0 & 0 \\ (S_F - h_z)e^{-i\phi} & -\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \tilde{\tau}_2 &\hat{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & i\alpha p_F & -i(S_F - h_z)e^{i\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & -i(S_F + h_z)e^{-i\phi} & i\alpha p_F \\ -i\alpha p_F & i(S_F + h_z)e^{i\phi} & 0 & 0 \\ i(S_F - h_z)e^{-i\phi} & -i\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \tilde{\tau}_3 &\hat{=} \begin{pmatrix} S_F + h_z & -\alpha p_F e^{i\phi} & 0 & 0 \\ -\alpha p_F e^{-i\phi} & S_F - h_z & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -S_F + h_z & \alpha p_F e^{i\phi} \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha p_F e^{-i\phi} & -S_F - h_z \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

It can be seen that for $|N| > 1$, $\langle e^{iN\phi} \tilde{\tau}_i \rangle = 0$. This means that $g_{0,i}$ only contains terms with $N = -1, 0, 1$. Checking all the possibilities of N , we find that the only solution for g_0 is $g_{0,3} = g_{s,3}$, $g_{0,1} = g_{0,2} = 0$ where $g_{s,3}$ is a ϕ independent constant.

APPENDIX B: CALCULATION OF $\langle g_0 \rangle$ IN THE CASES OF $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$ AND $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$

In this Appendix, we calculate the angular average of g_0 . First, we consider the case of $\alpha p_F \gg h_z$. According to Eq. (A4), we can get the angular average of $g_{0,i} \tilde{\tau}_i$ in the usual spin \otimes particle-hole basis,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle g_{0,1} \tilde{\tau}_1 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{0,1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\alpha p_F & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\alpha p_F \\ -\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \langle g_{0,2} \tilde{\tau}_2 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{0,2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & i\alpha p_F & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & i\alpha p_F \\ -i\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i\alpha p_F & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \langle g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}_3 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{s,3} \begin{pmatrix} S_F - h_z & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_F + h_z & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -S_F - h_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -S_F + h_z \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B1})$$

Projecting $\langle g_{0,i} \tilde{\tau}_i \rangle$ back onto the ψ_{-} basis, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle g_{s,1} \tilde{\tau}_1 \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{h_z^2}{2S_F^2} \right) g_{s,1} \tilde{\tau}_1 \\ \langle g_{s,2} \tilde{\tau}_2 \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{h_z^2}{2S_F^2} \right) g_{s,2} \tilde{\tau}_2 \\ \langle g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}_3 \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{h_z^2}{2S_F^2} \right) g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}_3. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

Therefore, we have

$$\langle g_s \rangle = \frac{1}{2} g_0 + \frac{X}{2} \tilde{\tau}_3 g_0 \tilde{\tau}_3 \quad (\text{B3})$$

with $X = \frac{h_z^2}{S_F^2}$.

Next, we consider $\alpha p_F \ll h_z$. In this case, $\langle g_{s,i} \tilde{\tau}'_i \rangle$ written in the usual spin \otimes particle-hole basis is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle g_{0,1} \tilde{\tau}'_1 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{0,1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_F + h_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ S_F + h_z & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \langle g_{0,2} \tilde{\tau}'_2 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{0,2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -iS_F - ih_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ iS_F + ih_z & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \\ \langle g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}'_3 \rangle &\hat{=} g_{s,3} \begin{pmatrix} S_F - h_z & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & S_F + h_z & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -S_F - h_z & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -S_F + h_z \end{pmatrix} / 2S_F \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B4})$$

Projecting $\langle g_{0,i} \tilde{\tau}'_i \rangle$ back onto the ψ'_{-} basis, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle g_{s,1} \tilde{\tau}'_1 \rangle &= \frac{(S_F + h_z)^2}{4S_F^2} g_{s,1} \tilde{\tau}'_1 \\ \langle g_{s,2} \tilde{\tau}'_2 \rangle &= \frac{(S_F + h_z)^2}{4S_F^2} g_{s,2} \tilde{\tau}'_2 \\ \langle g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}'_3 \rangle &= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{h_z^2}{2S_F^2} \right) g_{s,3} \tilde{\tau}'_3. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B5})$$

Therefore, we have

$$\langle g_s \rangle \approx g_0 + \frac{Y}{2} \tilde{\tau}'_3 g_0 \tilde{\tau}'_3 \quad (\text{B6})$$

with $Y = \frac{(S_F - h_z)^2}{4S_F^2}$.

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