Excess equilibrium noise in a topological SNS junction between chiral Majorana liquids

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We consider a Josephson contact mediated by 1D chiral modes on a surface of a 3D topological insulator with superimposed superconducting and magnetic layers. The system represents an interferometer in which 1D chiral Majorana modes on the boundaries of superconducting electrodes are linked by ballistic chiral Dirac channels. This model may be realized also in recently fabricated heterostructures based on quantum anomalous Hall insulators. We investigate the noise of the Josephson current as a function of the dc phase bias and the Aharonov-Bohm flux. Starting from the scattering formalism, a Majorana representation of the Keldysh generating action for cumulants of the transmitted charge is found. At temperatures higher than the Thouless energy $E_{\rm Th}$, we obtain the usual Johnson-Nyquist noise, $4G_0k_BT$, characteristic for a single-channel wire with $G_0 \equiv e^2/(2\pi\hbar)$. At lower temperatures, the behavior is much richer. In particular, the equilibrium noise is strongly enhanced to a temperature-independent value $\sim G_0E_{\rm Th}$ if the Aharonov-Bohm and superconducting phases are both close to $2\pi n$, which are points of emergent degeneracy in the ground state of the junction. The equilibrium noise is related to the Josephson junction's impedance via the fluctuation-dissipation theorem. In a striking contrast to usual Josephson junctions (tunnel junctions between two s-wave superconductors), the real part of the impedance does not vanish, reflecting the gapless character of Majorana modes in the leads.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Noise of current as well as higher cumulants of charge fluctuations provide full information about quantum transport in mesoscopic systems [1-3]. The theoretical technique of choice for the investigation of noise is the method of full counting statistics (FCS), introduced by Levitov and Lesovik [4,5] and adjusted later for the Keldysh description of transport in quantum circuits [6,7]. This method allows for calculating the cumulant generating function (CGF) by means of a path integral with the generating term in the effective action. It has been found that the statistics of charge transfer is sensitive to electronic interactions which make individual tunneling events correlated. Thus the correlations may be probed by measuring the zero-frequency noise, i.e., the transferred charge fluctuations normalized by a counting period. For example, in a superconductor-normal metal-superconductor (SNS) junction, the Cooper correlations in the terminals result, in a certain range of parameters, in a giant equilibrium noise [8,9]. This noise results from dissipative processes: since the supercurrent flows in the ground state, an ideal Josephson junction is noiseless.

During the last decade, a considerable interest was generated by transport in topological superconductors hosting neutral Majorana edge modes [10]. The 1D Majorana chiral

channels can appear in artificial hybrid structures based on 3D topological insulators (3DTI). As shown by Fu and Kane [11], if one half of a surface of a 3D topological insulator is covered by an s-wave superconductor and another half by a magnetic insulator, a gapless and chiral Majorana mode emerges at the border between the two coverings. Signatures of 1D gapless Majorana modes were observed in STM spectroscopy of the Pb/Co/Si(111) structure [12], in conductance of NS junction with quantum anomalous Hall insulator (QAHI) realized in thin films of $(Cr_{0.12}Bi_{0.26}Sb_{0.62})_2Te_3$ [13,14] and in heat conductance of 2D α -RuCl $_3$ realizing the state of Kitaev quantum spin liquid [15].

Combining magnetic and superconducting interfaces on top of 3DTI allows implementing new quantum interferometers. The transport between normal metal terminals linked by the coherently propagating Majorana edge modes was studied in several papers. The Mach-Zehnder devices where a Y junction splits an electron into two Majorana fermions were addressed in Refs. [11,16]. The scattering theories of Fabry-Pérot and FCS of Hanbury Brown-Twiss interferometers were proposed in Ref. [17] and Refs. [18,19], respectively. It was shown that 3DTI based junctions with chiral Majorana channels reveal an unusual interferometry and cross-correlation of noise in terminals. Other realizations of chiral junctions with Majorana edge modes were proposed in Refs. [20–24]. Very recently, implementation of topological quantum gates and braiding protocols based on chiral Majorana modes were addressed in Refs. [25,26].

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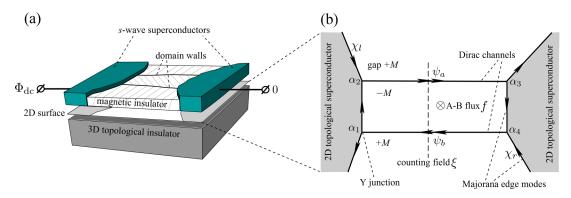


FIG. 1. (a) The chiral Josephson junction as a hybrid structure on a surface of a 3D topological insulator. Two *s*-wave superconducting terminals, biased by the dc phase difference Φ_{dc} , have a proximity effect with the 2D Dirac surface. The magnetic insulator film with two domain walls fills the space between the leads. (b) The schematic view of the chiral 1D liquids on the 2D Dirac surface. The induced topological superconductivity under the *s*-wave terminals is marked by gray color. The chiral Majorana liquids, marked by single arrows, are the edge modes supported by the interface of the superconducting and magnetic films. Magnetic domain walls separate Zeeman gaps of opposite signs $\pm M$ and support spinless Dirac channels $\psi_{a,b}$ marked by double arrows. The direction of an arrow stands for chirality which depends on the direction of the magnetization. These channels are coupled by four Y junctions with different scattering phases α_i (i = 1, 2, 3, 4). The interferometer contour is threaded by the Aharonov-Bohm (A-B) flux f resulting in the phase $\phi_{AB} = \pi f/\Phi_0$, where $\Phi_0 = h/(2e)$ is the superconducting flux quantum. The Majorana channels χ_l and χ_r are the equilibrium incident modes. Their quantum fields are used in the effective action. The Dirac complex fermions ψ_a and ψ_b describe the chiral Dirac channels connecting the two superconductors. The counting variable ξ , generating the FCS of the transmitted charge, is introduced in the middle of the Dirac channels.

In this work, we study noise of the dc supercurrent carried through a single-channel link (normal part of the interferometer) which connects two 2D superconductors induced on the surface of a 3D topological insulator. Such measurements are experimentally feasible; studies of noise in related topological structures, such as hybrid 3DTI-based NS junctions and edge modes of 2DTI, were reported in Refs. [28,29]. The topological SNS junction under consideration is a quantum interferometer with chiral 1D Majorana liquids in the leads. The gapless nature of the leads provides an additional scattering channel along with the Andreev one. The Andreev states in the 1D normal wire can be viewed as scattering states [3] of the incident Majorana fermions. This spectrum can be tuned into the degeneracy points by means of the gauge-invariant superconducting phase difference between the superconductors and by the Aharonov-Bohm phase in the normal channel. We show that this degeneracy leads to a strong enhancement of noise.

The studied Josephson setup and its schematic presentation in terms of a chiral SNS junction on a 2D surface of a 3D topological insulator are shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) respectively. The chiral Dirac modes (the N part of the SNS) separate the areas of Zeeman gaps with the opposite signs $\pm M$. This setup, previously studied in Ref. [27], is based on the ideas of the above mentioned interferometers [11,16–19], but it is actually dual to those interferometers because in our case the normal Fermi-liquid contacts are replaced by superconductors and Majorana edges while the interference loop involves the normal channels.

While we focus on 3DTI based setup, our model is also applicable to alternative realizations such as QAHI structures with superconducting terminals hosting a single Majorana chiral mode [13,14]. The distinction from 3DTI based system is that the QAHI possesses an internal exchange field and, hence, the magnetic insulators are not needed.

The equilibrium Josephson transport, the thermoelectric effect and the heat conductance controlled by the Aharonov-

Bohm flux, enclosed by the chiral loop [see Fig. 1(b)], were explored in Refs. [27,30] for this system. The current-phase relationships have spikes or infinite derivatives where both Aharonov-Bohm and the bias phases approach $2\pi n$, the points where the otherwise broadened spectrum of Andreev states becomes discrete. Generally, the density of states of the junction is continuous due to the coupling with the gapless contacts. At the degeneracy points the spectral current is rearranged and consists of singular points corresponding to discrete Andreev levels.

The central results of this paper are related to the quantum regime, $T \ll E_{\rm Th}$, where the Thouless energy $E_{\rm Th}$ is inversely proportional to the dwell time in the interferometer loop. We show that the zero-frequency noise in this limit (i) reveals periodic pattern as a function of superconducting and Aharonov-Bohm phases and (ii) is much larger (at the degeneracy points) than the thermal noise.

From the technical point of view, we use the method of FCS in order to calculate the fluctuations of the charge transmitted in the Dirac wires, where the definition of the current operator is straightforward. Our consideration is based on the FCS theory of SNS junction [31], which is formulated in terms of the Keldysh-Green functions in contacts and uses the scattering approach. The generating term (counting field) is introduced in the normal link, as shown in Fig. 1(b). Taking into account that the Dirac fermions in the normal channels are enslaved to the scattering states of incident Majorana modes, the generating Keldysh action is formulated in terms of Majorana variables and their equilibrium Green functions. We derive a generalized Levitov-Lesovik formula for CGF and, after that, the zero-frequency noise is obtained by performing the second order expansion in the quantum component of the counting field.

The paper is organized as follows. In Secs. II and III, the chiral Josephson junction and scattering formalism are introduced. In Sec. IV, the generating Keldysh action for

cumulants is presented. In Sec. V, the path integral is calculated and an expansion for the cumulant generating function is obtained. In Sec. VI, the results for zero-frequency noise and current are derived with the use of the FCS. Specifically, in Sec. VIA, the general expression for zero-frequency noise is presented, in Sec VIB, the result of Ref. [27] for the equilibrium current is rederived, while in Secs. VIC, VIE, and VIF the noise is calculated for the low-, intermediate-, and high-temperature regimes, respectively. In Sec. VII, we summarize and discuss obtained results.

II. CHIRAL JOSEPHSON JUNCTION

We assume the temperature to be much lower than the superconducting (Δ) and magnetic (M) gaps induced in the 2D surface, $T < \min\{\Delta, M\}$ (see Fig. 1). This allows us considering the system as a circuit of 1D wires and using the 1D scattering formalism. The transport of Cooper pairs under the phase bias Φ_{dc} is governed by interference between the fermions in the neutral (Majorana) and charged (normal, Dirac) 1D channels with energies in the subgap domain. The scattering matrix of Andreev processes is modified by the presence of the additional reflection channel into the Majorana edge mode (see Fig. 1). This is an important distinction from a conventional SNS contact: the charged modes in the normal link are the scattering states, or superpositions, of the incident Majorana fermions. In particular, the gapless nature of incident modes results in a considerable thermal conductance (see Ref. [30]), which is in contrast to its exponential suppression due to the quasiparticle gap in regular SNS contacts. Also, it is important that Andreev pairs are nonlocal in the split Dirac channels. Hence the magnetic flux f threading the area between the Dirac channels induces the single-electron Aharonov-Bohm phase $\phi_{AB} = 2\pi ef/h$. The period of the critical current pattern is doubled as compared to conventional SQUIDs, i.e., it is given by $2\Phi_0 = h/e$. Besides, the geometric asymmetry of contacts in the split normal channel together with the broken time-reversal symmetry allows for the " φ junction effect" (Ref. [32]). Namely, a nonzero supercurrent can flow without a phase bias or temperature gradient.

The incident chiral Majorana mode emerges in the 2D surface at an interface between superconducting and Zeeman gaps [11]. The Hamiltonian under consideration involves the spin-orbital interaction term of Rashba or Dresselhaus type and two terms related to the proximity effect of magnet (x > 0 half-plane) and s-wave superconductor (x < 0 half-plane). The corresponding solution of the Bogolyubov-de Gennes equation was found to be nondegenerate. The latter means that the Bogolyubov quasiparticle operator corresponding to this solution is a real Majorana fermion with

$$\hat{\chi}_k = \hat{\chi}_{-k}^+. \tag{1}$$

The dispersion of this mode reads $\varepsilon_k = [\operatorname{sign} M]vk$ where the direction depends on the sign of the Zeeman field and v is the Fermi velocity of the 2D Dirac surface. The chirality and gapless dispersion follows from the broken time reversal symmetry by the magnet. In contrast to Bogolyubov quasiparticles in conventional superconductors, the chiral Majorana excitation of a momentum k is composed of four components: electronlike states of k and k with the opposite spin

orientations and their holelike counterparts. The neutrality follows from the fact that four components of the Nambu eigenfunction have equal magnitudes for all the subgap energies. The gapless dispersion means that the Majorana quasiparticles are excited at arbitrary low temperatures in contrast to the case of a conventional superconductor with a quasiparticle gap. The isolated Majorana edge mode transfers energy with the heat conductance which equals to 1/2 of that of the normal single channel because the particle and antiparticle are not independent excitations. The Majorana mode is electrically neutral and does not carry charge or possess charge fluctuations. Nevertheless, the superposition of two Majorana fermions mixed in tunnel or Y-junction transports charge and, consequently, generates charge noise.

In our setup [Fig. 1(a)], there are two s-wave superconducting terminals, biased by the dc phase difference Φ_{dc} , which both cover the surface of 3DTI. The space between the leads is filled with magnetic insulator film with two domain walls. The superconductor/magnetic insulator structures and domain walls allows to implement the interferometer consisting of four Y junctions in 2D surface, see Fig. 1(b). The proximity induced topological superconductivity in the helical 2D Dirac states is marked by gray color with the Majorana edge modes are marked by single arrows. The direction of each arrow stands for chirality which depends on the magnetization sign. Magnets induce Zeeman gaps of different signs leading to the emergence of two chiral channels with spinless Dirac fermions (marked by double arrows). They form the split single channel Josephson link. The Cooper pairs are carried through these two chiral Dirac channels via the nonlocal Andreev pairs. The typical widths of the guiding channels for Majorana and Dirac modes are given by coherence lengths in gapped magnetic or superconducting sectors. All the 1D modes are spinless, due to the spin-momentum locking in the Dirac cone, meaning that there is no spin degeneracy, and that the wave function in the guiding channels has a spin texture. The latter results in nontrivial effects of Berry phase on the scattering phases α_i in the Y junctions' nodes. The single electron Aharonov-Bohm phase ϕ_{AB} is induced by an external magnetic flux f threading the interferometer bar.

In order to formulate the scattering approach we introduce the Hamiltonians of the Majorana and Dirac chiral liquids, \hat{H}_M and \hat{H}_D . They describe coherent propagation of neutral and charged 1D fermions and are derived from the Gor'kov-Nambu Hamiltonian for the 2D Dirac surface in proximity with magnets and superconductors. For the chiral Majorana liquid, one has

$$\hat{H}_M = \frac{v}{2} \sum_k k \hat{\chi}(-k) \hat{\chi}(k), \tag{2}$$

where the real fermion operators obey the condition (1). The prefactor of 1/2 is the consequence of the excitations with momenta k and -k being nonindependent. For the chiral Dirac mode, we have a standard chiral Hamiltonian with complex fermions $\psi(k) \neq \psi^+(-k)$,

$$\hat{H}_D = v \sum_k k \hat{\psi}^+(k) \hat{\psi}(k). \tag{3}$$

The Bogolyubov operators $\hat{\psi}(k)$ and $\hat{\chi}(k)$ and the effective 1D Hamiltonians follow from the solution of the

Bogolyubov-de Gennes equation (see Ref. [30] for details). They involve the electronic and hole operators of bare 2D states in the surface.

III. SCATTERING APPROACH

Here we describe the scattering approach to the investigation of the interferometer. The detailed derivation can be found in Ref. [30]. Let us illustrate this derivation for the left contact between the superconducting area and the split Dirac channels. In the Y junction No. 1, an electron and a hole from the Dirac channel convert into two outgoing Majorana fermions [Fig. 1(b)]. Incoming Majorana fermions are scattered in the Y junction No. 2. The general form of the scattering matrix of the Y junction No. 1 is given by [16]

$$S_{\mathrm{in},\alpha_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ i/\sqrt{2} & -i/\sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^{\mathrm{i}\alpha_1} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-\mathrm{i}\alpha_1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\psi}_{l,\text{out},k} \\ \hat{\chi}_{l,\text{out},k} \\ \hat{\psi}^{+}_{l,\text{out},-k} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2}e^{ikd+i(\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2})} & \frac{ie^{i\alpha_{2}}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2}e^{ikd-i(\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2})} \\ \frac{ie^{i\alpha_{1}}}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & -\frac{ie^{-i\alpha_{1}}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{2}e^{ikd+i(\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2})} & -\frac{ie^{-i\alpha_{2}}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2}e^{ikd-i(\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2})} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\psi}_{l,\text{in},k} \\ \hat{\chi}_{l,\text{in},k} \\ \hat{\psi}^{+}_{l,\text{in},-k} \end{bmatrix},$$
 (5)

where the subscript l refers to the left contact. To account for the nonzero superconducting bias phase $\Phi_{\rm dc}$ of the left superconducting contact, we employ the transformation $\hat{\psi}_l \to e^{i\Phi_{\rm dc}/2}\hat{\psi}_l$.

The left and right leads confine the Dirac channels and the electronic states in the normal region become enslaved to the incident Majorana modes in the left and right leads. Due to the partial Andreev reflection the electrons and holes of momenta k and -k are not independent. After some algebra we find a linear nonunitary transformation \mathbf{R}_k ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\psi}_a(k) \\ \hat{\psi}_b(k) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{R}_k \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\chi}_l(k) \\ \hat{\chi}_r(k) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{6}$$

which relates the fermionic fields in the middle of the lower and upper Dirac channels $\hat{\psi}_a$ and $\hat{\psi}_b$ to the fields $\hat{\chi}_l$ and $\hat{\chi}_r$ of the incident channels, as shown in the Fig. 1(b). The matrix \mathbf{R}_k is derived by eliminating the outgoing Majorana modes from the left and right lead's S matrix relations (5). A k-dependent dynamical phases in the chiral Dirac links of length L and the Aharonov-Bohm and superconducting phases are included in the matrix elements. For further convenience we introduce the phases Φ and ϕ , which include the scattering phases α_i . For the dc phase bias, this is akin to a " φ shift" (Refs. [32,33]), i.e.,

$$\Phi = \Phi_{dc} + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 - \alpha_3 + \alpha_4). \tag{7}$$

For the Aharonov-Bohm phase, the shift reads

$$\phi = \phi_{AB} + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4),$$

see Ref. [30] for details. For the rectangular setup of Fig. 1(b), the matrix \mathbf{R}_k is parametrized by the coefficients $r_1(k, \phi, \Phi)$

where the phase α_1 depends on microscopic details of the junction. For the Y junction No. 2 the scattering matrix has the form $S_{\text{out},\alpha_2} = S_{\text{in},\alpha_2}^T$. A conversion between Dirac and Majorana fermions is accompanied with a spin rotation and, hence, a geometric Berry phase is gained. This is contained in α_n which may be obtained from a solution of Dirac equation for a particular geometry of magnetic and superconducting sectors. The value of α_n is left arbitrary and is assumed to be independent of the momentum k of the scattered particles.

We eliminate the Majorana leg of length d, which connects between the Y-junction nodes No. 1 and No. 2 and in which the dynamic phase kd is acquired. As a result we obtain the S matrix of the left combined chiral contact. This S matrix describes the scattering of one incoming Dirac and one incoming Majorana modes into one outgoing Dirac and one outgoing Majorana modes. It acts on the vector of three amplitudes. The vector consists of the incident electron, Majorana fermion, and hole fields, $(\hat{\psi}_{\text{in},k}, \hat{\chi}_{\text{in},k}, \hat{\psi}_{\text{in},-k}^+)^T$. The outgoing fields are thus obtained through the S matrix as

and $r_2(k, \phi, \Phi)$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{R}_k = \begin{pmatrix} r_1(k, \phi, \Phi) & r_2(k, \phi, \Phi) \\ r_2(k, \phi, -\Phi) & r_1(k, \phi, -\Phi) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{8}$$

We obtain

$$r_1(k,\phi,\Phi) = \frac{i\sqrt{2}e^{\frac{1}{4}i(2Lk+\phi-\Phi)}(1+e^{i(\Phi+\phi)}-2e^{i(\phi-\varphi_k)})}{1+2e^{i\phi}\cos\Phi+e^{2i\phi}-4e^{i(\phi-\varphi_k)}},$$
(9)

$$r_2(k,\phi,\Phi) = \frac{2\sqrt{2}e^{\frac{1}{4}i(\frac{2Lk}{v} - 2\varphi_k + 5\phi - \Phi)}\sin\left(\frac{\Phi + \phi}{2}\right)}{1 + 2e^{i\phi}\cos\Phi + e^{2i\phi} - 4e^{i(\phi - \varphi_k)}},$$
 (10)

where the dynamic phase and the Thouless energy are given by

$$\varphi_k = \frac{\hbar v k}{E_{\text{Th}}}, \quad E_{\text{Th}} = \frac{\hbar v}{2d + 2L}.$$

At a first glance, relation (6) indicates the reduction of the number of degrees of freedom, making operators of scattered electrons and holes $\hat{\psi}_{a,b}^+(-k)$ and $\hat{\psi}_{a,b}(k)$ not independent of each other. This is, however, not the case because it rather reflects a *rearrangement* of the degrees of freedom with their number being conserved (see a discussion in Sec. VID).

The variety of the interference patterns, encoded by r_1 and r_2 , influence the transport of Cooper pairs. As shown previously [27], the interference amplitudes define the spectral current which is $2\pi E_{\rm Th}$ -periodic function of the energy and 2π -periodic function of the dc phase bias Φ . The remaining free parameter, the Aharonov-Bohm phase ϕ , modifies the width and the spectral shape of the spectral current. Analogously, a

periodic in phases function will appear in the energy integral providing the value of the zero-frequency noise $S(\Phi, \phi, T)$.

IV. GENERATING ACTION

In this section, we use relation (6) in order to find the effective Keldysh action, which leads to the generating function for the FCS of the transmitted charge. We use the Majorana representation, for which the path integral is formulated in terms of the real (Majorana) Grassmann variables. The matrix of the Green functions of the Majorana modes is diagonal in the channel space and correspond to the equilibrium free modes of momentum k. We introduce the counting field ξ in the center of the Dirac counter propagating channels. This is a natural choice because the electric current is defined straightforwardly in the 1D chiral channels rather than in the sectors covered by superconductors. Namely, the current operator is the difference between the chiral currents which flow in the upper and the lower Dirac channels

$$\hat{I} = (-e)v(\hat{\psi}_a^+ \hat{\psi}_a^- - \hat{\psi}_b^+ \hat{\psi}_b^-). \tag{11}$$

Here, e is electron charge and v is the Fermi velocity of the surface Dirac states. Note that our method is distinct from that of Ref. [31], where the counting field was inserted in one of the superconductors and the generating term was gauged out from the action by means of a transformation of the Green function of the corresponding lead.

The cumulants of the transported charge N during the counting time $0 < t < t_0$ are given by the logarithmic derivatives of the corresponding partition function $\mathcal{Z}[\xi]$. Namely, the CGF is given by

$$CGF(\xi) = \ln \frac{\mathcal{Z}[\xi]}{\mathcal{Z}[0]}$$
 (12)

with the cumulants are

$$C_n = (-\mathrm{i})^n \left. \frac{\partial^n \mathrm{CGF}(\xi)}{\partial \xi^n} \right|_{\xi=0}.$$
 (13)

The partition function is given by the path integral with the time-ordered exponent [34] along the Keldysh contour C,

$$\mathcal{Z}[\xi] = \left\langle \mathcal{T}e^{i\int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{\sigma_z}{2}\xi(t)I(t)dt} \right\rangle. \tag{14}$$

The variable ξ is the amplitude of counting field $\xi(t)$ which is fully quantum in terms of Keldysh formalism, i.e., we should take $\sigma_z = +1$ for the forward and $\sigma_z = -1$ for backward parts of the contour. Moreover,

$$\xi(t) = \xi \theta(t)\theta(t_0 - t), \tag{15}$$

i.e., the counting field is switched on and off at t=0 and $t=t_0$, respectively. Upon transition to the physical time t, the quantum counting field $\xi(t)$ is coupled to the classical component of the current defined as

$$I_{\rm cl}(t) = \frac{I(t_+) + I(t_-)}{2},$$

where t_+ and t_- represent the physical time t at the upper and lower branches of the Keldysh contour, respectively.

For the averaging in Eq. (14), we need the fermionic action describing the dynamics of the Dirac fields $\psi_{a,b}$, $\bar{\psi}_{a,b}$ in the split normal channel. As mentioned above, it is most natural

to express these fields in terms of the two incident Majorana variables $\chi_{l,r}$ and to perform the path integration in terms of these Grassmann variables. After this transformation, the current $I_{cl}(t)$ becomes a nondiagonal object.

The diagonal action S_0 for the incident Majorana fermions reads on the Keldysh contour

$$S_0 = \sum_{k, \gamma = L/R} \int_{\mathcal{C}} dt \left(\frac{\mathrm{i}}{2} \chi_{\gamma}(-k) \partial_t \chi_{\gamma}(k) - H_{\gamma} \right)$$
 (16)

with the Hamiltonians

$$H_{\gamma} = \frac{v}{2} \sum_{k} k \chi_{\gamma}(-k) \chi_{\gamma}(k). \tag{17}$$

The factor of 1/2 in time derivative of S_0 is because we are dealing with real fermions. Thus we obtain

$$S_0 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k, \gamma = l, r} \int_{\mathcal{C}} dt \ \chi_{\gamma}(t, -k) G_{\gamma, \gamma}^{-1}(t, t', k) \chi_{\gamma}(t', k), \quad (18)$$

where $G_{i,j}^{-1}(t,t',k)$ is the equilibrium inverse Green's function of usual charged fermions.

For the partition (generation) function, we obtain

$$\mathcal{Z}[\xi] = \int D[X] \exp(i\mathcal{S}_{\xi}[X]), \tag{19}$$

where the corresponding Grassmann fields after the Keldysh rotation are collected in the vector $X_k(t)$,

$$X_k^T(t) = [\chi_{1,l}(t,k); \chi_{2,l}(t,k); \chi_{1,r}(t,k); \chi_{2,r}(t,k)].$$

Here the first index (1,2) indicates the Keldysh component, whereas the channel index $\gamma = l, r$ stands for free modes incoming from the left/right leads. The Keldysh rotation is defined as

$$\chi_1(t) = \frac{\chi_+(t) + \chi_-(t)}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \chi_2(t) = \frac{\chi_+(t) - \chi_-(t)}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad (20)$$

where +/- stand for direct/inverse branches of $\mathcal C$ contour. The Gaussian integration over the real (Majorana) Grassmann variables gives

$$\int D[X] \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}X^T \hat{A} X\right) = \sqrt{\operatorname{Det} \hat{A}}.$$

The action S_{ξ} in Eq. (19) reads

$$\mathcal{S}_{\xi}[X] \sum_{k,p} \int dt dt' X_{-p}^{T}(t)$$

$$\times \left[\frac{1}{2} \delta_{p,k} \check{\mathbf{G}}_{k}^{-1}(t,t') + \xi(t) \delta(t-t') \check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} \right] X_{k}(t'). \quad (21)$$

This is a sum of the action $S_0[X]$ of the incident Majorana channels and the generating term $\xi(t)\check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k}$. The bold font stands for the matrix structure in channel space and "check" symbol means the Keldysh space. The structure of the matrix $\check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k}$, which parametrizes the current in the center of normal channels via the fields X_k , is to be derived with the help of \mathbf{R}_k matrix.

At this step, we define the matrix Green function in Eq. (21),

$$\check{\mathbf{G}}_{k}(t,t') = \begin{bmatrix} \check{G}_{l}(t,t',k) & 0\\ 0 & \check{G}_{r}(t,t',k) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{22}$$

The diagonal blocks $\check{G}_{l,r}$ are the Keldysh Green's functions

$$\check{G}_{l}(t,t',k) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{l}^{K}(t,t',k) & G_{l}^{R}(t,t',k) \\ G_{l}^{A}(t,t',k) & 0 \end{bmatrix}, (23)$$

$$\check{G}_{l}(t, t', k) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{l}^{K}(t, t', k) & G_{l}^{R}(t, t', k) \\ G_{l}^{A}(t, t', k) & 0 \end{bmatrix}, (23)$$

$$\check{G}_{r}(t, t', k) = \begin{bmatrix} G_{r}^{K}(t, t', k) & G_{r}^{R}(t, t', k) \\ G_{r}^{A}(t, t', k) & 0 \end{bmatrix}. (24)$$

We remind that these Green functions describe free chiral fermions. Let us introduce a Fourier representation of $X_{-k}(t)$ and $X_k(t)$ in Eq. (21) by the following rule:

$$X_{-k}(t) = \int \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} X_{-k}(\omega') e^{i\omega't}, \qquad (25)$$

$$X_k(t) = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} X_k(\omega) e^{-i\omega t}.$$
 (26)

Then, the inverse Green function from the action (21) is transformed into

$$\check{G}_{l,r}^{-1}(\omega,\omega',k)$$

$$=2\pi\delta(\omega'-\omega)\begin{bmatrix} 2\mathrm{i}o(1-2n_{l,r}(k)) & \omega-vk+\mathrm{i}o\\ \omega-vk-\mathrm{i}o & 0 \end{bmatrix}. (27)$$

In turn, the frequency representations of retarded (R), advanced (A), and Keldysh (K) components in Eqs. (23) and (24) read

$$G_{l,r}^{\mathrm{R}}(\omega,k) = \frac{1}{\omega - vk + \mathrm{i}o}, \quad G_{l,r}^{\mathrm{A}}(\omega,k) = \frac{1}{\omega - vk - \mathrm{i}o},$$

$$(28)$$

$$G_{l,r}^{K}(\omega, k) = -2\pi i \delta(\omega - vk)(1 - 2n_{l,r}(k)).$$
 (29)

The only constraint for the distribution function $n_{L/R}(k)$ follows from the fact that Majorana mode χ is real. It reads

$$n_{L/R}(k) = 1 - n_{L/R}(-k).$$
 (30)

Next, we calculate the current matrix $\mathbf{\check{J}}_{p,k}$ acting in the basis of X_k . The definition for the current in terms of usual Grassmann variables reads

$$I = (-e)v(\rho_a - \rho_b), \quad \rho_a = \bar{\psi}_a\psi_a, \quad \rho_b = \bar{\psi}_b\psi_b.$$
 (31)

The classical and quantum components of the charge densities read

$$\rho_{\rm cl} = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_+ + \rho_-), \quad \rho_{\rm q} = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_+ - \rho_-).$$
(32)

For the fermion variables, we introduce the Keldysh indices 1 and 2 exactly as for χ :

$$\psi_{1,2}(t) = \frac{\psi_{+}(t) \pm \psi_{-}(t)}{\sqrt{2}},$$

$$\bar{\psi}_{1,2}(t) = \frac{\bar{\psi}_{+}(t) \pm \bar{\psi}_{-}(t)}{\sqrt{2}}.$$
(33)

Using (33), we obtain

$$I_{cl} = \frac{(-e)v}{2} (\bar{\psi}_{a,1} \psi_{a,1} + \bar{\psi}_{a,2} \psi_{a,2} - \bar{\psi}_{b,1} \psi_{b,1} - \bar{\psi}_{b,2} \psi_{b,2}),$$
(34)

which can be rewritten as

$$I_{\rm cl}(t) = \sum_{p,k} \sum_{\gamma,\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\gamma,\sigma}(t,p) \check{\mathbf{I}}_{\gamma\gamma,\sigma\sigma} \psi_{\gamma,\sigma}(t,k). \tag{35}$$

Here, $\sigma = 1$, 2 is the Keldysh index and

$$\check{\mathbf{I}} = -\frac{ev}{2}\gamma^z \sigma^0,\tag{36}$$

where γ^z is the Pauli matrix in the channel space (a/b) and σ^0 is the unity matrix in the Keldysh space.

At this step, we introduce the complex Dirac field Ψ_k in the extended Gor'kov-Nambu τ space

$$\Psi^{T}(t,k) = [\psi_{a,1}(t,k), \psi_{a,2}(t,k), \psi_{b,1}(t,k), \psi_{b,2}(t,k), \\ \bar{\psi}_{a,1}(t,k), \bar{\psi}_{a,2}(t,k), \bar{\psi}_{b,1}(t,k), \bar{\psi}_{b,2}(t,k)],$$
(37)

with $\tau^z = +1$ for ψ -components and $\tau^z = -1$ for $\bar{\psi}$ components. Such an extension is necessary in order to take into account superconducting correlations of Dirac fermions. In terms of these fields, the current now reads

$$I_{\rm cl}(t) = \sum_{p,k} \bar{\Psi}^T(t,p) \frac{\tau^z}{2} \check{\mathbf{I}} \Psi(t,k). \tag{38}$$

The relation between scattered Dirac and incoming Majorana modes is given by Eq. (6). The extension of \mathbf{R}_k to the Keldysh σ -space requires a simple direct product with σ^0 . The relation between the four-dimensional X_k and the eight-dimensional Ψ_k reads

$$\Psi(t,k) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^0 \mathbf{R}_k X_k \\ \sigma^0 \mathbf{R}_{-k}^* X_k \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (39)

The Hermitian conjugation of the (39) reads

$$\bar{\Psi}^T(t,k) = \begin{bmatrix} X_{-k}^T \sigma^0 \mathbf{R}_k^+ & X_{-k}^T \sigma^0 \mathbf{R}_{-k}^T \end{bmatrix}. \tag{40}$$

Using Eq. (38), we obtain the expression for the current $I_{cl}(t)$ written in the X basis. The Nambu τ index is trivially traced out and the current in Majorana basis now reads

$$I_{\text{cl}}(t) = \sum_{p,k} X_{-p}^{T}(t) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} X_k(t), \tag{41}$$

where the kernel matrix $\mathbf{\check{J}}_{n,k}$ is obtained as follows:

$$\check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} = -\frac{ev}{4} \left(\mathbf{R}_p^+ \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k - \mathbf{R}_{-p}^T \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_{-k}^* \right) \sigma^0. \tag{42}$$

This matrix provides the generating counting term in the Majorana representation.

V. INTEGRATION OVER MAJORANA FIELDS

In this section, we perform the integration over the Majorana field $X_k(t)$ in the path integral (19). We start from a transformation of the action (21) into a frequency integral. After that it is transformed into a discrete sum with a step of $\Delta\omega$ and, finally, the CGF is found. The generating part of the action S_{ξ} (21) with $\xi(t) = \xi \theta(t) \theta(t_0 - t)$ transforms as

follows in the frequency representation

$$\int X_{-p}^{T}(t)\xi(t)\check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k}X_{k}(t)dt$$

$$= \xi \int f(\omega',\omega)X_{-p}^{T}(\omega')\check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k}X_{k}(\omega)\frac{d\omega d\omega'}{(2\pi)^{2}}.$$
 (43)

In the integral (43), we introduced $f(\omega', \omega)$, which is the Fourier transformation of $\xi(t)$:

$$f(\omega', \omega) = \int_0^{t_0} dt \, e^{\mathrm{i}(\omega' - \omega)t} = \mathrm{i} \frac{1 - e^{\mathrm{i}(\omega' - \omega)t_0}}{\omega' - \omega}. \tag{44}$$

Discretization assumes that $d\omega$ and $d\omega'$ are replaced by $\Delta\omega$ and the delta function transforms into Kronecker symbol as $\Delta\omega\delta(\omega'-\omega)\to\delta_{\omega',\omega}$ and $f(\omega',\omega)$ is considered as matrix. The generating action now reads as

$$S_{\xi}[X] = \sum_{p,k;\omega',\omega} X_{-p}(\omega') \left[\delta_{\omega',\omega} \delta_{p,k} \frac{1}{2} \check{\mathbf{G}}^{-1}(\omega,k) \frac{\Delta \omega}{2\pi} + \xi f(\omega',\omega) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} \left(\frac{\Delta \omega}{2\pi} \right)^{2} \right] X_{k}(\omega). \tag{45}$$

Calculation of the path integral with the discretized action from (45) and the definition (12) gives the generalized Levitov-Lesovik formula for CGF of the contact

$$CGF(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \ln \left[\delta_{\omega',\omega} \delta_{p,k} \gamma^0 \sigma^0 + 2\xi \check{\mathbf{G}}(\omega', p) f(\omega', \omega) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} \frac{\Delta}{2\pi} \right].$$
(46)

The factor of 1/2 in Eq. (46) results from square root of the determinant in integration over real Grassman variables. The sign Tr assumes the trace taken over p, k, ω' , ω and σ , γ indices. Calculation of the trace in a compact form is challenging due to the nondiagonal structure in momentum space of the generating term \mathbf{J} in the new Majorana basis. The formula (46) allows us to obtain the cumulants C_n through the logarithm expansion up to the nth order in ξ and using the definition (13). The second cumulant provides the central result of this paper for zero-frequency noise and is discussed in the next section.

VI. RESULTS FOR ZERO-FREQUENCY NOISE

A. General expressions for the average current and the noise

In this section, we obtain the general expression for the zero-frequency noise of the current S, which is the quantity of central interest of this work. The spectral density of noise $S_{\omega}(\phi, \Phi, T)$ is related to the symmetrized correlator as

$$S_{\omega}(\phi, \Phi, T) = \int dt (\langle I(t)I(0)\rangle + \langle I(0)I(t)\rangle - 2I^{2})e^{i\omega t}.$$
(47)

The zero-frequency value $S \equiv S_{\omega=0}$ is given by the second cumulant introduced above as

$$S = \lim_{t_0 \to \infty} 2 \frac{C_2}{t_0}.$$
 (48)

In order to calculate C_2 , we expand $CGF(\xi)$ up to the second order in ξ and transform sums into integrals over frequencies:

$$CGF(\xi) = \xi \sum_{k} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} f(\omega, \omega) tr[\check{\mathbf{G}}(\omega, k) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,k}]$$
$$- \xi^{2} \sum_{k,p} \int |f(\omega, \omega')|^{2}$$
$$\times tr[\check{\mathbf{G}}(\omega, p) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{p,k} \check{\mathbf{G}}(\omega', k) \check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,p}] \frac{d\omega d\omega'}{(2\pi)^{2}}. \tag{49}$$

Here, tr denotes the trace over σ and γ indices only. In the integrand of the second term, we took into account that $f(\omega, \omega') f(\omega', \omega) = |f(\omega, \omega')|^2$. For the first cumulant, we obtain

$$C_1 = t_0 \frac{ev}{2} \sum_{k} [(n_l(k) + n_r(k) - 1) \operatorname{tr}_{\gamma} [\mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k]$$

$$+ (n_l(k) - n_r(k)) \operatorname{tr}_{\gamma} [\gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k]], \qquad (50)$$

where tr_{γ} denotes the trace over the channel indices only. The first term in Eq. (50) is responsible for the Josephson current while the second one gives the thermoelectric effect discussed in Ref. [30]. The corresponding dimensionless spectral currents are given by $\text{tr}_{\gamma}[\mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k]$ and $\text{tr}_{\gamma}[\gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma^z \mathbf{R}_k]$, respectively. Note that Eq. (50) was simplified by accounting for the constraint (30) on the distribution functions of the Majorana fermions and using the limit of (44), which gives

$$\lim_{\omega'\to\omega} f(\omega',\omega) = t_0.$$

For the second cumulant, we have $|f(\omega, \omega')|^2$ in the integrand. Assuming the measurement time t_0 is long, i.e., $t_0 \gg E_{\text{Th}}^{-1}$, T^{-1} , we get the delta-function, i.e.,

$$|f(\omega,\omega')|^2 = \frac{2(1-\cos(\omega'-\omega)t_0)}{(\omega'-\omega)^2} \approx 2\pi t_0 \delta(\omega'-\omega).$$

Performing the integration over ω in the second line of (49) and summation over p in the continuous limit via $\sum_{p} \rightarrow \int \frac{dp}{2\pi}$, we obtain

$$C_{2} = 2t_{0} \sum_{k} \left(\frac{4}{v}\right) \left[\left(\check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,k}^{(1,1)}\right)^{2} n_{l}(k) n_{l}(-k) + \left(\check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,k}^{(2,2)}\right)^{2} n_{r}(k) n_{r}(-k) + \check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,k}^{(1,2)} \check{\mathbf{J}}_{k,k}^{(2,1)} \left[n_{l}(k) n_{r}(-k) + n_{r}(k) n_{l}(-k) \right] \right], \quad (51)$$

where the distribution functions $n_l(k)$ and $n_r(k)$ are arbitrary. The upper indices of $J_{k,k}$ are related to the channel space γ . Let us emphasize that the results (50) and (51) are quite general and can describe a nonequilibrium steady-state regime. In particular, temperatures of incident Majorana modes may be different. On the other hand, the voltage is assumed to be zero in order to avoid the ac Josephson effect. In the case of a finite voltage, the multiple Andreev reflection processes should be accounted for, which requires a modification of our formalism. As a result, the matrix $\mathbf{R}_{k,p}$ (6) acquires a nondiagonal structure in momentum space. The calculation of transport properties of the junction is an interesting problem and is left for a future research.

For the particular case of identical distribution functions, $n(k) = n_I(k) = n_r(k)$, we obtain

$$C_2 = t_0 e^2 v \sum_k n(k) n(-k) \operatorname{tr}_{\gamma} [(\mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma_z \mathbf{R}_k)^2 - \mathbf{R}_k^+ \gamma_z \mathbf{R}_k (\mathbf{R}_{-k}^+ \gamma_z \mathbf{R}_{-k})^T].$$
 (52)

We have also performed an alternative derivation and obtained the same result for C_2 from a direct calculation of the noise S_{ω} using the operator approach. In this method we employ the relation (6) between the Heisenberg operators $\hat{\psi}$ and $\hat{\chi}$ and insert them as linear combinations into the definition for noise correlator S_{ω} (47). In the course of the calculation of C_2 , we need the thermodynamic averaging of the cumulants of four Majorana operators, which have the following form:

$$\langle\langle\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{1}}(k_{1})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{2}}(k_{2})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{3}}(k_{3})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{4}}(k_{4})\rangle\rangle$$

$$\times\langle\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{1}}(k_{1})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{4}}(k_{4})\rangle\langle\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{2}}(k_{2})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{3}}(k_{3})\rangle$$

$$-\langle\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{1}}(k_{1})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{3}}(k_{3})\rangle\langle\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{2}}(k_{2})\hat{\chi}_{\gamma_{4}}(k_{4})\rangle, \tag{53}$$

where $\gamma_i = l, r$ for i = 1, 2, 3, 4. Comparing these two approaches, we observe that all the terms given by the first trace in Eq. (52) are identical to the second line in Eq. (53). The last term of (52) with the minus prefactor is given by the third line in Eq. (53).

B. Equilibrium current

In this section, we calculate the cumulants $C_{1,2}$ in equilibrium, with the temperatures of the leads being equal to each other, $T_l = T_r = T$, so that the distribution function of the incident Majorana particles reads

$$n(k) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{vk}{T}}}. (54)$$

Replacing the sum over k by the integral over the energy, $\sum_{k} \to \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi\hbar u}$, we obtain

$$C_{1} = t_{0} \frac{e}{4\pi \hbar} \sin \Phi$$

$$\times \int \frac{\sin \varphi_{\varepsilon} \tanh \frac{\varepsilon}{2T} d\varepsilon}{1 + \left(\frac{\cos \Phi + \cos \phi}{2}\right)^{2} - (\cos \Phi + \cos \phi) \cos \varphi_{\varepsilon}},$$
(55)

where the dynamical phase is labeled by the index ε :

$$arphi_{arepsilon} = rac{arepsilon}{E_{ ext{Th}}}.$$

Via the relation $I(\Phi, \phi) = C_1/t_0$ we arrive at the current-phase relationship obtained previously in Ref. [27]:

$$I(\Phi, \phi) = 4\pi \frac{ek_{\rm B}T}{h} \sin \Phi$$

$$\times \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2 \exp\left(\pi \frac{k_{\rm B}T(1+2n)}{E_{\rm Th}}\right) - \cos \phi - \cos \Phi}.$$
(56)

As shown in Ref. [27], in the low-temperature limit, $k_{\rm B}T \ll E_{\rm Th}$, the summation can be replaced by the integration and

the Josephson current shows nonsinusoidal oscillations as the function of the phases ϕ and Φ with the amplitude proportional to E_{Th} :

$$I(\Phi, \phi)_{T \ll E_{\text{Th}}} = -\frac{e}{\pi \hbar} E_{\text{Th}} \sin(\Phi) \frac{\ln\left(1 - \frac{\cos\phi + \cos\Phi}{2}\right)}{\cos\phi + \cos\Phi}.$$
 (57)

In analogy with usual SQUIDs, the Aharonov-Bohm phase ϕ modulates the amplitude of the Josephson oscillations $\propto \sin \Phi$, which have here an anharmonic form. The result (57) exhibits an interesting singular behavior near the points $\phi = 2\pi n$, $\Phi = 2\pi m$. In what follows, we conclude that at these points the system shows large excess noise.

C. Equilibrium noise: general expression

Using Eqs. (52) and (48), we obtain the following expression for the equilibrium zero-frequency noise:

$$S(\Phi, \phi, T) = G_0 \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{\cosh\frac{\varepsilon}{T} + 1} \mathcal{Y}(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon}), \tag{58}$$

where G_0 is the conductance quantum, $G_0 = \frac{e^2}{2\pi\hbar}$. The kernel function is given by

$$\mathcal{Y}(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon}) = -4 \frac{A_0(\Phi, \phi) + A_1(\Phi, \phi)\cos\varphi_{\varepsilon} + A_2(\Phi, \phi)\cos2\varphi_{\varepsilon}}{(B_0(\Phi, \phi) + B_1(\Phi, \phi)\cos\varphi_{\varepsilon})^2}$$
(59)

with

$$A_{0}(\Phi, \phi) = (14\cos\phi + \cos 3\phi)\cos\Phi + 2(\cos 2\phi + 6)$$

$$\times \cos 2\Phi + \cos 3\Phi\cos\phi - 4\cos 2\phi - 26;$$

$$A_{1}(\Phi, \phi) = -2(\cos 2\Phi + 3\cos 2\phi + 4)\cos\Phi$$

$$+ 5(5 - 2\cos 2\Phi)\cos\phi + \cos 3\phi;$$

$$A_{2}(\Phi, \phi) = 4(2 - \cos 2\Phi - \cos 2\phi);$$

$$B_{0}(\Phi, \phi) = \cos 2\Phi + 4\cos\Phi\cos\phi + \cos 2\phi + 10;$$

$$B_{1}(\Phi, \phi) = -8(\cos\Phi + \cos\phi).$$
(60)

Despite the function $\mathcal{Y}(\Phi,\phi,\varphi_{\varepsilon})$ being somewhat cumbersome, it can be simplified to a compact expression in the low-, $T \ll E_{\text{Th}}$, and high-, $T \gg E_{\text{Th}}$, temperature limits. Also, a certain simplification is possible for the degeneracy points $\Phi = 2\pi m, \phi = 2\pi n$, where an analytical calculation of (58) becomes possible for arbitrary temperatures. These three limits are discussed below.

It is important to note that the function $\mathcal Y$ is essentially the spectral weight of fluctuations. Its integral over the period of the dynamical phase, $-\pi < \varphi_{\varepsilon} < \pi$, is independent of Φ and ϕ :

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \mathcal{Y}(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon}) d\varphi_{\varepsilon} = 4\pi. \tag{61}$$

In the limit of zero phases $\Phi = \phi = 0$ (more precisely $\Phi = 2\pi m$, $\phi = 2\pi p$), the kernel \mathcal{Y} is a sum of delta functions with singularities at $\varphi_{\varepsilon} = 2\pi n$. This is the limit of the continuum of broadened Andreev states collapsing into a discrete set of levels with energies $\varepsilon_{\rm A} = 2\pi n E_{\rm Th}$. The normalization condition

(61) provides the coefficient in front of the delta functions:

$$\mathcal{Y}(\Phi = \phi = 0, \varepsilon) = 4\pi E_{\text{Th}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\varepsilon - 2\pi n E_{\text{Th}}).$$
 (62)

The presence of a level with $\varepsilon = 0$ implies the degeneracy of the many-body ground state.

D. Equilibrium noise: low-temperature limit

Our central results follow from Eq. (58) in the low temperature limit, $T \ll E_{\rm Th}$. The first result is the presence of the ϕ , Φ -dependent oscillations of the noise. The second one is the excess noise and, as a consequence, the large real part of the impedance of the system close to the degeneracy (as a representative point we take $\Phi = \phi = 0$). Let us discuss the latter point in more detail. If the distance from the degeneracy point on the ϕ , Φ plane is large, $\sqrt{\phi^2 + \Phi^2} \gg \sqrt{T/E_{\rm Th}}$, then we can expand the function $\mathcal Y$ given in Eq. (59) around $\varphi_\varepsilon = 0$ and we obtain

$$\begin{split} S_{T \ll E_{\text{Th}}}(\Phi, \phi) \\ &= 8G_0 T \frac{(1 - \cos \phi)(1 + \cos \Phi)}{(2 - \cos \phi - \cos \Phi)^2} + 32\pi^2 G_0 T^3 \\ &\times \frac{(\cos \phi - \cos \Phi)^3 + 8(2\sin^2 \Phi - \sin^2 \phi \cos \Phi)}{3E_{\text{Th}}^2 (2 - \cos \phi - \cos \Phi)^4} \\ &+ TG_0 O \left[T^4 / E_{\text{Th}}^4 \right], \quad \phi^2 + \Phi^2 \gg \frac{T}{E_{\text{Th}}}. \end{split} \tag{63}$$

The oscillations in Eq. (63) show the usual 2π -periodic pattern as a function of the superconducting phase Φ as expected for a system where the charge parity is not conserved. The dependence on the Aharonov-Bohm phase ϕ is also 2π periodic, which corresponds to an unconventional for superconducting systems h/e period in terms of the Aharonov-Bohm flux. This is due to the split chiral channels in our system and has been discussed in detail in Ref. [27].

The leading term in Eq. (63) can be obtained from (58) by replacing the thermal distribution the delta function as

$$\frac{1}{\cosh\frac{\varepsilon}{T} + 1} \approx 2T\delta(\varepsilon). \tag{64}$$

This delta-functional approximation is valid, however, only far enough from the singularity point, i.e., if

$$\phi^2 + \Phi^2 \gg \frac{T}{E_{\text{Th}}} \,. \tag{65}$$

In this case, the distribution function constitutes a sharp peak of width T compared to the smooth dependence of $\mathcal Y$ on the energy. Indeed, the function $\mathcal Y$ is peaked around $\varepsilon=0$ and the width of the peak is given by

$$\Delta \varepsilon = E_{\text{Th}} \frac{\phi^2 + \Phi^2}{4\sqrt{2}}.\tag{66}$$

This follows from the expansion of the denominator of $\mathcal{Y}(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon})$, which, if $\sqrt{\phi^2 + \Phi^2} \ll \pi$, reads

$$B_0(\Phi,\phi) + B_1(\Phi,\phi)\cos\varphi_{\varepsilon} \approx O\left[\varphi_{\varepsilon}^2 + \left(\frac{\phi^2 + \Phi^2}{4\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\right].$$

A comparison of the width of $\mathcal Y$ with that of the distribution function, $\Delta \varepsilon \sim T$, leads to the criterion (65). The second order term in Eq. (63) as well as the higher ones are small as $(T/E_{\rm Th})^{2n}$. Once we approach the singularity, i.e., once we reach the distance $\sqrt{\Phi^2 + \phi^2} \sim \sqrt{T/E_{\rm Th}}$, then all the terms in the φ_ε expansion of $\mathcal Y$ are of the same order and, as a result, all the terms in the expansion (63) are of the order $\sim G_0 E_{\rm Th}$. The strong dependence on the direction from which the singularity is approached, i.e., on the angle $\theta \equiv \arcsin \frac{\phi}{\sqrt{\phi^2 + \Phi^2}}$, in particular the vanishing of the leading term for $\theta = 0$, is washed out in the higher order terms.

Close to the singularity point, i.e., for $\phi^2 + \Phi^2 \ll \frac{T}{E_{\text{Th}}}$ the kernel \mathcal{Y} as a function of ε is more singular than the distribution function. This leads to our second main result:

$$S_{T \ll E_{\text{Th}}} = 2\pi G_0 E_{\text{Th}}, \quad \phi^2 + \Phi^2 \ll T/E_{\text{Th}}.$$
 (67)

This expression follows from the n=0 delta-function in Eq. (62) with the contributions of $n \neq 0$ being exponentially suppressed. As mentioned above, the strong dependence on the direction from which the singularity is approached, i.e., on the angle $\theta \equiv \arcsin\frac{\phi}{\sqrt{\phi^2+\Phi^2}}$, which is so prominent in the leading term of (63), is washed out completely as we come close enough to the singularity, i.e., for $\Phi^2 + \phi^2 \ll T/E_{\text{Th}}$. The excess noise (67) does not vanish at T=0. This may seem to be in conflict with the expected behavior of the equilibrium noise. The resolution of this apparent paradox is the fact that the area in the Φ , ϕ plane, where this value of the noise is obtained shrinks to zero with $T \to 0$.

Our main result is a strong enhancement of the noise near the singularity points Φ , $\phi = 0 \pmod{2\pi}$ in the quantum limit of $T \ll E_{\rm Th}$. We use the term "excess" here because the noise exceeds the value of the equilibrium Johnson-Nyquist noise in a single-channel normal conductor, $S_{\rm JN} = 4G_0T$.

In order to shed light on the origin of peculiar properties of the system (manifesting themselves in strong enhancement of the noise) at the singular points, we analyze the scattering states in this limit. Let us consider the first and the last lines of the left-contact scattering matrix, Eq. (5), and of its right-contact counterpart. Absorbing α_i into the Aharonov-Bohm phase, we get the following relations for the left and right Dirac-Majorana interfaces:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_a(k) \\ \psi_a^+(-k) \end{bmatrix} = Q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) \begin{bmatrix} \psi_b(k) \\ \psi_b^+(-k) \end{bmatrix} + q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) \chi_l(k),$$
 (68)

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_b(k) \\ \psi_b^+(-k) \end{bmatrix} = Q(-\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) \begin{bmatrix} \psi_a(k) \\ \psi_a^+(-k) \end{bmatrix} + q(-\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) \chi_r(k), \tag{69}$$

with

$$Q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) = \frac{e^{i\varphi_k/2}}{2} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & e^{i\Phi/2} \\ e^{-i\Phi/2} & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{70}$$

$$q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k) = \frac{ie^{i\varphi_k/4}}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/4} \\ -e^{-i\phi/4} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{71}$$

Excluding ψ_b and ψ_b^+ from these relations yields

$$[1 - Q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)Q(-\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)] \begin{bmatrix} \psi_a(k) \\ \psi_a^+(-k) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= Q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)q(-\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)\chi_r(k) + q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)\chi_l(k).$$
(72)

The determinant of the matrix in the square brackets is

$$\det[\mathbf{1} - Q(\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)Q(-\Phi, \phi, \varphi_k)]$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{2}e^{i\varphi_k}(\cos \Phi + \cos \phi). \tag{73}$$

If the determinant is nonzero, the fermion modes are the linear combinations of the incident χ_r and χ_l , as described by the Eq. (8). For the case of zero determinant (73), which holds for $\varphi_k = 2\pi n$, $\Phi = 2\pi m$, and $\phi = 2\pi l$, eigenvalues of $[1 - Q^2(2\pi n, 2\pi m, 2\pi l)]$ are 1 and 0, with the corresponding eigenvectors being $\lambda_1 = [1/\sqrt{2}; -1/\sqrt{2}]$ and $\lambda_0 = [1/\sqrt{2}; 1/\sqrt{2}]$. These two vectors define Majorana modes η and ζ , which are eigenmodes of the junction at the degeneracy points. The vectors λ_0 and λ_1 correspond to the modes

$$\eta_{a,b}(k) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi_{a,b}(k) + \psi_{a,b}^{+}(-k)]$$
(74)

and

$$\zeta_{a,b}(k) \equiv \frac{\mathrm{i}}{\sqrt{2}} [\psi_{a,b}^{+}(-k) - \psi_{a,b}(k)],$$
(75)

respectively. Now we reformulate Eq. (72) for the upper wire a in the new basis of η and ζ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1 - e^{i\varphi_k}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1 - e^{i\varphi_k}}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \eta_a(k) \\ \zeta_a(k) \end{bmatrix} = \chi_l \frac{i e^{i\varphi_k/4}}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (76)

For $\varphi_k \neq 2\pi l$ (and $\Phi = 2\pi m$ and $\phi = 2\pi l$), we obtain the solution of (76) in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \eta_a(k) \\ \zeta_a(k) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ e^{i\varphi_k/4} \chi_l(k) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{77}$$

At first glance, it may seem contradictory that the mode η is absent for these values of k, i.e., a part of degrees of freedom is absent. What actually happens is a redistribution of the continuous spectral weight of η into the singular points of $\varphi_k = 2\pi l$. Oppositely, the mode ζ_a has a constant spectral weight and does coincide with χ_l (up to the dynamical phase) and flows out in the right Majorana edge channel without a backscattering. The same holds for wire b, where $\zeta_b(k) = e^{i\varphi_k/4}\chi_r(k)$. Note that from (77), one obtains for the Dirac field for a generic value of $\varphi_k \neq 2\pi l$,

$$\psi_a(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\eta(k) + i\zeta(k)) = \frac{ie^{i\varphi_k/4}}{\sqrt{2}} \chi_l(k),$$
 (78)

$$\psi_a^+(-k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\eta(k) - i\zeta(k)) = -\frac{ie^{i\varphi_k/4}}{\sqrt{2}}\chi_l(k), \quad (79)$$

and thus $\psi_a(k) = -\psi_a^+(-k)$. Similarly,

$$\psi_b(k) = -\psi_b^+(-k) = \frac{ie^{i\varphi_k/4}}{\sqrt{2}}\chi_r(k).$$
 (80)

Hence particles and holes in a particular Dirac channel are not independent but rather form Majorana particles. This correlation results in zero values of the cumulants of the form

$$\langle \langle \psi_a^+(k)\psi_a(k)\psi_a^+(p)\psi_a(p)\rangle \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\delta_{k,p}[\langle \chi_l(-k)\chi_l(k)\rangle\langle \chi_l(k)\chi_l(-k)\rangle$$

$$-\langle \chi_l(k)\chi_l(-k)\rangle\langle \chi_l(-k)\chi_l(k)\rangle] = 0. \tag{81}$$

At the same time, the fermions in different wires are fully independent, $\langle \psi_a^+(k)\psi_b(k)\rangle = 0$, as follows from Eqs. (78) and (80). Consequently, there is no contribution to the noise from the off-resonant states.

Let us discuss the redistribution of the spectral weight of the new modes η and ζ . To this end, we first calculate the spectral weight for arbitrary values of the phases and then consider a transition to the singular limit, $\Phi \to 0$ and $\phi \to 0$. Using the 2×2 -matrix \mathbf{R}_k , Eq. (8), and definitions (74) and (75), we obtain for a given k:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \eta_{a}(k) \\ \zeta_{a}(k) \\ \eta_{b}(k) \\ \zeta_{b}(k) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,k}(\Phi,\phi) & x_{2,k}(\Phi,\phi) \\ z_{1,k}(\Phi,\phi) & z_{2,k}(\Phi,\phi) \\ x_{2,k}(-\Phi,\phi) & x_{1,k}(-\Phi,\phi) \\ z_{2,k}(-\Phi,\phi) & z_{1,k}(-\Phi,\phi) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \chi_{l}(k) \\ \chi_{r}(k) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (82)$$

The matrix elements in the above formula are related to $r_{1,2}$ from Eq. (10) as

$$x_{j,k}(\Phi,\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [r_j(\Phi,\phi,k) + r_j^*(\Phi,\phi,-k)],$$

$$z_{j,k}(\Phi,\phi) = \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} [r_j(\Phi,\phi,k) - r_j^*(\Phi,\phi,-k)], \quad j = 1, 2.$$
(83)

The scattering amplitudes x and z determine the density of states for the new modes in a and b wires:

$$\rho_{\eta,a}(\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon) = |x_{1,\varepsilon}(\Phi,\phi)|^2 + |x_{2,\varepsilon}(\Phi,\phi)|^2, \tag{84}$$

$$\rho_{\zeta,a}(\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon) = |z_{1,\varepsilon}(\Phi,\phi)|^2 + |z_{2,\varepsilon}(\Phi,\phi)|^2, \tag{85}$$

and

$$\rho_{\eta,b}(\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon) = \rho_{\eta,a}(-\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon),$$

$$\rho_{\zeta,b}(\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon) = \rho_{\zeta,a}(-\Phi,\phi,\varepsilon).$$

Calculating the limit of $\Phi \to 0$ and $\phi \to 0$, keeping φ_{ε} fixed and nonzero, one obtains that the mode ζ has constant density of states,

$$\rho_{\ell,a}(\varepsilon) = 1$$
,

while the mode η has a singular spectral weight located at the Andreev levels,

$$\rho_{\eta,a}(\varepsilon) = \sum_{n} \delta(\varphi_{\varepsilon} - 2\pi n).$$

It should be emphasized that both singular amplitudes are equal to each other,

$$|z_{1,\varepsilon}(0,0)|^2 = |z_{2,\varepsilon}(0,0)|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_n \delta(\varphi_{\varepsilon} - 2\pi n).$$

This means that the resonant mode η , which propagates in both of the Dirac wires, is an equal-amplitude superposition of χ_l and χ_r at the discrete energies ε_n . Such a resonant correlation between the Dirac states in a and b wires—which should be contrasted to the case of $\varepsilon \neq \varepsilon_n$ —is responsible for the noise enhancement.

E. Equilibrium noise at the degeneracy point

In this section, we generalize our result for the noise at the degeneracy point $\Phi = \phi = 0$ for arbitrary temperatures. From (58) and (62), we obtain

$$S_{\text{deg}}(T) = 4\pi G_0 E_{\text{Th}} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\cosh \frac{2\pi n E_{\text{Th}}}{T} + 1}$$
, (86)

where $S_{\text{deg}} \equiv S(\Phi = 0, \phi = 0)$. As already mentioned, in the low temperature limit the only term with n = 0 survives and we obtain (67). In the opposite limit of high temperature, $T \gg E_{\text{Th}}$, we replace the summation by an integral over $dx = 2\pi E_{\text{Th}}/T$ and obtain the thermal noise S_{JN} like in a normal channel:

$$\lim_{\frac{T}{E_{\text{Th}}} \to \infty} T^{-1} S_{\text{deg}}(T) = 4G_0 . \tag{87}$$

F. Equilibrium noise: high-temperature regime

Below we obtain the ϕ -dependent finite temperature correction to $S_{\rm JN}$ at the regime $T\gg E_{\rm Th}$ and zero Josephson current ($\Phi=0$). For this case, the zero-frequency noise is given by

$$S_{\Phi=0}(\phi, T) = G_0 \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{\cosh\frac{\varepsilon}{T} + 1} Y(\phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon}), \tag{88}$$

$$Y(\phi, \varepsilon) = \frac{(1 - \cos\phi)\left(1 + \cos\frac{\varepsilon}{E_{\text{Th}}}\right)}{1 + \frac{(1 + \cos\phi)^2}{4} - (1 + \cos\phi)\cos\frac{\varepsilon}{E_{\text{Th}}}},$$
 (89)

where $Y(\phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon}) = \mathcal{Y}(\Phi = 0, \phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon})$. At high temperatures, the distribution function decays smoothly with the energy while $Y(\phi, \varphi_{\varepsilon})$ rapidly oscillates. Thus we expand the kernel into a cosine series

$$Y(\phi, \varepsilon) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} y_n(\phi) \cos \frac{n\varepsilon}{E_{\text{Th}}}$$

and retain only the zeroth and the first Fourier harmonics

$$Y(\phi, \varepsilon) \approx y_0(\phi) + y_1(\phi) \cos \frac{\varepsilon}{E_{\text{Th}}}.$$
 (90)

We obtain $y_0(\phi) = 2$ and $y_1(\phi) = 3 + \cos \phi$. The zeroth harmonic yields the usual Johnson-Nyquist noise as leading term while the first harmonic gives a small ϕ -dependent correction:

$$S_{\Phi=0}(T \gg E_{\text{Th}}, \phi) = 4G_0T + \frac{2\pi(3 + \cos\phi)G_0T^2}{E_{\text{Th}}\sinh\frac{\pi T}{E_{\text{Th}}}}.$$
 (91)

This correction is exponentially suppressed for $T \gg E_{\rm Th}$ similar to the critical current in Eq. (56). In this case the thermal length is shorter than the normal region perimeter and the superconducting correlations and interference of Andreev pairs are destroyed by thermal fluctuations.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we have studied the equilibrium zerofrequency noise in a chiral link between two topological superconductors. This system can be realized on a surface of a 3D topological insulator covered with superconducting and magnetic films or, alternatively, in a superconductor-QAHIsuperconductor structure. Our system is a single-channel ballistic Josephson junction where the Andreev pairs can be thought of as being the scattering states of the incident chiral Majorana fermions in the leads. We have derived the effective action for the full counting statistics of the charge transfer in the Majorana representation. We have shown that for temperatures lower than the Thouless energy $k_{\rm B}T \ll E_{\rm Th}$ the system is characterized in equilibrium by an excess zerofrequency noise with the maximum of $S = 2\pi G_0 E_{\text{Th}}$, which is large compared to the thermal noise in a normal channel $S_{\rm JN}=4G_0k_{\rm B}T$. Here, $G_0=e^2/(2\pi\hbar)$. Moreover, we have obtained oscillations of the noise power as a function of the superconducting phase bias and the Aharonov-Bohm flux. The dependence on the Aharonov-Bohm flux has a fractional h/e period because of the chiral nature of the split conducting channels. The large noise is a consequence of the emergent ground state degeneracy at even Aharonov-Bohm and superconducting phases of $2\pi n$. The current-phase relation is also singular at these points. This is distinct from nontopological SNS contacts, where spikes are possible for odd phases of $\pi(2n+1)$. Hence the singularities at even phases can be considered as a signature of the gapless Majorana leads.

It is instructive to compare our results for the noise with that obtained for ordinary ballistic SNS junctions [8,9]. There, a large noise was obtained as a result of rare switching events (telegraph noise) between two Andreev levels [8]. For low temperatures, this occurs in a tiny region around $\pi(2n+1)$ phases where the Andreev levels approach zero (thus the degeneracy of the ground state); otherwise, the noise is exponentially suppressed. In contrast, in our interferometer the noise is never exponentially suppressed: away from the degeneracy it saturates to S_{JN} . The enhancement of noise in the ordinary ballistic SNS junctions and in our Majorana interferometer suggests a certain similarity between the two mechanisms. Indeed, in both cases the noise is strongly enhanced near the points where the Andreev levels approach zero and have a small width. It should be emphasized, however, that the analysis of Refs. [8,9] requires introduction of a rate δ of inelastic transitions between the Andreev levels induced by coupling to an external bath (in practice, phonons). On the other hand, a counterpart of this δ in our problem is the intrinsic width of the Andreev levels given by Eq. (66) due to the gapless nature of topological superconductor contacts. It is worth mentioning that, very recently, strong enhancement of noise due to the presence of a zero-energy Majorana mode was predicted for a topological multiterminal junction [35].

An important conclusion about the real part of the low-frequency impedance of the junction considered in this work follows from the fluctuation-dissipation theorem, $S = 4T\text{Re}[Z^{-1}]$. We observe that the inverse impedance of the junction must have a large real part at the low temperatures in addition to the usual inductive (imaginary) part describing

the Josephson effect. Namely,

$$\frac{1}{Z(\omega \to 0)} = \frac{1}{Z_J(\omega)} + \frac{1}{Z_{\text{diss}}}, \tag{92}$$

where $Z_J = -i\omega L_J$ and $L_J = (2\pi/\Phi_0)(\partial I(\Phi,\phi)/\partial \Phi)$ is the Josephson inductance. Our result means for the dissipative part that the following estimates hold at $T \ll E_{\rm Th}$,

$$\begin{split} &\frac{1}{Z_{\rm diss}} \sim G_0 \quad \text{for} \quad \Phi^2 + \phi^2 \gg T/E_{\rm Th} \;, \\ &\frac{1}{Z_{\rm diss}} \sim G_0 \frac{E_{\rm Th}}{T} \quad \text{for} \quad \Phi^2 + \phi^2 \ll T/E_{\rm Th} \;. \end{split} \tag{93}$$

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Thus our Josephson contact can be thought of as a parallel connection of a Josephson element and a resistive shunt, whose conductance is strongly dependent on the phases Φ and ϕ . We notice a certain similarity with Ref. [36] where a nonzero dissipative part of susceptibitity was predicted for topological SNS junction with a pair of zero-energy Majorana modes.

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