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Phys. Rev. B **98**, 060401 — Published 3 August 2018

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.98.060401](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.98.060401)

Fluctuation-induced Néel and Bloch skyrmions at topological insulator surfaces

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(Dated: Received July 23, 2018)

Ferromagnets in contact with a topological insulator have become appealing candidates for spintronics due to the presence of Dirac surface states with spin-momentum locking. Because of this bilayer Bi₂Se₃-EuS structures, for instance, show a finite magnetization at the interface at temperatures well exceeding the Curie temperature of bulk EuS. Here we determine theoretically the effective magnetic interactions at a topological insulator-ferromagnet interface *above* the magnetic ordering temperature. We show that by integrating out the Dirac fermion fluctuations an effective Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction and magnetic charging interaction emerge. As a result individual magnetic skyrmions and extended skyrmion lattices can form at interfaces of ferromagnets and topological insulators, the first indications of which have been very recently observed experimentally.

PACS numbers: 75.70.-i, 73.43.Nq, 64.70.Tg, 75.30.Gw

Introduction— The spin-momentum locking property of three-dimensional topological insulators (TIs)^{1,2} make them promising candidate materials for future spin-based electronic devices. One important consequence of spin-momentum locking in TIs is the topological electromagnetic response, which arises from induced Chern-Simons (CS) terms³ on each surface⁴. This happens for instance when time-reversal (TR) symmetry is broken, which renders the surface Dirac fermions gapped. This can be achieved, for example, by proximity-effect with a ferromagnetic insulator (FMI)^{5–15}. In this case, a CS term is generated if there are an odd number of *gapped* Dirac fermions, which is achieved only in the presence of out-of-plane exchange fields¹¹. The realization of several physical effects related to the CS term that have been predicted in the literature critically depend on growing technologies required for the fabrication of heterostructures involving both strong TIs and FMIs. Recently, high quality Bi₂Se₃-EuS bilayer structures have been shown to exhibit proximity-induced ferromagnetism on the surface of Bi₂Se₃^{6,16,17}. Other successful realizations of the stable ferromagnetic TI interfaces were demonstrated recently^{18,19}. In addition it was shown that the interface of FMI and TI can have magnetic ordering temperature much higher than the bulk ordering temperature⁵, indicating that topological surface states can strongly affect the magnetic properties of a proximity-coupled FMI.

These experimental advances motivate us to investigate the effective magnetic interactions that result from the fluctuating momentum-locked Dirac fermion surface states of a TI in contact with an FMI.

We show that even in the absence of any spontaneous

magnetization, at temperatures above the Curie temperature of the FMI, intriguing topologically stable magnetic textures, i.e., skyrmions, are induced as a result of quantum fluctuations of the Dirac fermions at the interface. In fact, we demonstrate that integrating out Dirac fermions coupled to a FMI thin film generates a Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction (DMI), that depending on the form of the Dirac Hamiltonian, favors either Néel- or Bloch-type skyrmions^{20–23}. However, skyrmions induced in TI-FMI structures feature in addition a "charging energy", due to the generation of a term proportional to the square of the so called magnetic charge, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$, where \mathbf{n} denotes the direction of the magnetization²⁴. An important feature of our finding is that the Dirac fermions that are integrated out *are not gapped*, since there is no spontaneous magnetization above T_c that would lead to a gap in the Dirac spectrum. Furthermore, the generated DMI **is only nonzero if the chemical potential does not vanish**. We obtain the phase diagram for the skyrmion solutions and identify the region of stability for skyrmion lattices in presence of the magnetic charging energy. This region we determine numerically by analyzing the excitation spectrum of the skyrmion solution. An important discovery is that the magnetic charging energy modifies the phase diagram significantly in the case of DMIs favoring Néel skyrmions, the situation relevant for Bi₂Se₃-EuS interface. Our theoretical findings support conceptually the recent experimental observation of a skyrmion texture at a ferromagnetic heterostructure of Cr doped Sb₂Te₃¹⁹. Having a skyrmion profile on a TI surface will cause significant changes in the conductance that may be observed in transport measurements²⁵.

Interface exchange interactions— The Hamiltonian governing the Dirac fermions at the interface of a FMI/TI heterostructure has the general form,

$$H_{\text{Dirac}}(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r})) = [\mathbf{d}(-i\hbar\nabla) - J_0\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r})] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \quad (1)$$

where $\mathbf{r} = (x, y)$, $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$ is a vector of Pauli matrices and J_0 is the interface exchange coupling. The operator \mathbf{d} is a function of the momentum operator $-i\hbar\nabla$. Here we consider the two possibilities [leading to a Dirac spectrum](#),

$$\mathbf{d}_1 = -i\hbar v_F \nabla, \quad \mathbf{d}_2 = -i\hbar v_F \nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}, \quad (2)$$

with the latter arising in TIs like Bi_2Se_3 , Bi_2Te_3 , and Sb_2Te_3 ²⁶. [Experimentally, in order for the effective Hamiltonian \(1\) to give a valid low-energy description of the physics at the interface, the TI must be at least 7 nm thick.](#) The end result will be that \mathbf{d}_1 induces a DMI of the type $\mathbf{n} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{n})$, which is often referred to as a bulk DMI, but for clarity we call it *Bloch DMI*. Instead \mathbf{d}_2 leads to different type of DMI, $\sim \mathbf{n} \cdot [(\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \nabla) \times \mathbf{n}] = (\mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla)n_z - n_z(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})$, in the magnetic literature sometimes known as surface DMI, but to which we refer as *Néel DMI*.

The effective energy E_{eff} of the system is obtained by integrating out the Dirac fermions $c = (c_\uparrow, c_\downarrow)$ in the partition function,

$$e^{-\beta E_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{n})} = e^{-\beta \rho_s L \int_S dS (\nabla \mathbf{n})^2} \times \int \mathcal{D}c^\dagger \mathcal{D}c e^{-\int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^2r c^\dagger [\partial_\tau - \mu + H_{\text{Dirac}}(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}))] c}, \quad (3)$$

where ρ_s is the magnetization stiffness of the FMI, L is the film thickness and the integration is over the film area S . Due to the nonzero z -component of the magnetization, the above model yields a gapped Dirac spectrum for $T < T_c$ with spin wave excitations, which give rise to a Chern-Simons term¹⁰. However, this gap does not occur for $T > T_c$. In the following we assume that the gap vanishes for $T \geq T_c$ and obtain the corresponding corrections to the free energy after integrating out the gapless Dirac fermions.

Effective free energy and induced DMI— The non-interacting Green function for a spin-momentum locked system can be written in general as

$$\mathcal{G}_{\alpha\beta}(\omega_n, \mathbf{k}) = G(\omega_n, \mathbf{k})\delta_{\alpha\beta} + \mathbf{F}(\omega_n, \mathbf{k}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}, \quad (4)$$

where $\omega_n = (2n+1)\pi/\beta$ is the fermionic Matsubara frequency. [From the Hamiltonian \(1\) and the functional integral in \(3\) we have,](#)

$$G(\omega_n, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{i\omega_n + \mu}{(i\omega_n + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{d}^2(\mathbf{k})}, \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{F}(\omega_n, \mathbf{k}) = -\frac{\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{k})}{(i\omega_n + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{d}^2(\mathbf{k})}, \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{k})$ is either \mathbf{d}_1 or \mathbf{d}_2 from Eq. (2) in momentum space. Integrating out the fermions and expanding the

free energy expression up to J_0^2 , we obtain after a long but straightforward calculation, the following correction to the effective free energy density²⁷

$$\delta\mathcal{F}_{\text{Dirac}}^{\text{mag}} = \frac{s}{2} \{ [\nabla \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r})]^2 + [\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r})]^2 \} + i\frac{a}{2} \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot [\mathbf{d}(-i\hbar\nabla) \times \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{r})], \quad (7)$$

where $(\nabla \mathbf{n})^2 = \sum_{i=x,y,z} (\nabla n_i)^2$ defines the usual exchange term, and we have defined $s = \beta J_0^2 / [24\pi \cosh^2(\beta\mu/2)]$ and $a = 3J_0^2 (\pi\hbar v_F)^{-1} \tanh(\beta\mu/2)$. We can drop the constant term $F_{\text{Dirac}}(0)$ from the free energy, since it does not depend on the field. Thus, we can safely write $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Dirac}} = \delta\mathcal{F}_{\text{Dirac}}$. The above expression features a DMI induced by Dirac fermion fluctuations. In addition, a contribution $\sim (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2$ is also generated. We will see below that the presence of this term leads to interesting physical properties when \mathbf{d}_2 is replaced for \mathbf{d} in Eq. (7), modifying in this way the behavior of Néel skyrmions. Note that differently from the case where the Dirac fermion is gapped¹⁵, no intrinsic anisotropy is generated by the Dirac fermions. [At the same time, we note that the form of \$\delta\mathcal{F}_{\text{Dirac}}^{\text{mag}}\$ including the DMI term will persist also below \$T_c\$ as long as the chemical potential is outside the gap, meaning that the TI surface is metallic, despite the generated mass \$m\$ for the Dirac fermions.](#)

Effective magnetic energy in an external field— The contributions from the FMI and Dirac fermions allows one to recast the effective energy for a thin ferromagnetic layer in the form,

$$E_{\text{eff}} = L \int_S \{ A [(\nabla \mathbf{n})^2 + \epsilon(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2] + D\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}} + M_s H(1 - n_z) \} dS, \quad (8)$$

where $A = \rho_s + s/(2L)$ is the effective magnetization stiffness including the fluctuations due to the Dirac fermions. We assumed that the sample lies in the presence of an external magnetic field H applied perpendicular to it. We have also introduced the parameter $\epsilon = s/(2AL) = s/(2\rho_s L + s)$. The DM coupling is given by $D = a/(2L)$. The DM interaction has the possible forms, $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}} = \mathbf{n} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{n})$ or $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}} = n_z \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla n_z$, depending on whether \mathbf{d}_1 or \mathbf{d}_2 arises in the Dirac Hamiltonian (1). The latter is more adequate for Bi_2Se_3 -EuS samples¹³. [The ab initio results from Ref. 28 indicate that \$J_0\$ is largely enhanced due to RKKY interactions at the \$\text{Bi}_2\text{Se}_3\$ -EuS interface, ranging from 35 to 40 meV. Using \$J_0 = 35\$ meV one can estimate that at room temperature \$s \in \[0.05, 0.63\]\$ meV, and therefore \$\epsilon \in \[0.08, 0.51\]\$ for 1 nm thick film and \$\mu \in \(0, 0.1\]\$ eV²⁹. Note that \$\epsilon\$ strongly depends on the value of \$\mu\$, which can be reduced by doping.](#)

[Although the temperature fluctuations usually destroys skyrmions in thin films, the individual skyrmions³⁰⁻³² as well as skyrmion lattices³³ are](#)

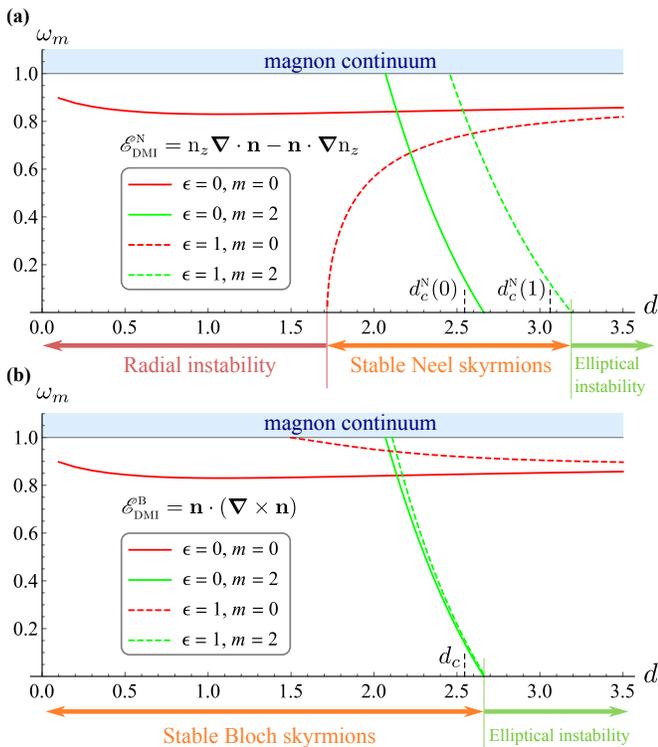


FIG. 1. Eigenfrequencies of two localized modes, namely radially-symmetric ($m = 0$) and elliptic ($m = 2$) are found by means of numerical solution of the eigenvalue problem for different DM terms. Modes, which do not demonstrate instability, are not shown. Stability/instability regions are indicated for the case $\epsilon = 1$.

observed in various multilayer structures for room temperatures. Therefore, in experiments, it is reasonable to use a multilayer structure in form of the periodically repeated stack TI/FMI/NI, where NI is a normal insulator. In the following we neglect the influence of the thermal fluctuations on the magnetization structure, which holds when model (8) is applied for a multilayer structure.

Before studying the energy functional (8), let us emphasize that while the DMI is absent for the case of a vanishing chemical potential, the term $(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2$ is always there, even if $\mu = 0$. Thus, this term is a unique feature of thin film FMIs proximate to a three-dimensional TI. In fact, it has been recently demonstrated that it is also induced for $\mu = 0$ at zero temperature when the surface Dirac fermions are gapped by proximity effect to the FMI¹⁵.

Ground states of system (8) are well studied for the case $\epsilon = 0$ ^{34–38}. The uniform saturation along the field is the ground state with $E_{\text{eff}} = 0$ for large field and weak DM interaction, and 1D structure in form of periodical sequence of 2π domain walls is the ground state with $E_{\text{eff}} < 0$ for small fields and strong DM interaction. The criterion for the periodical state appearance is negative energy of a single domain wall, it reads

$d > d_c = 8/\pi$, where $d = \sqrt{2D}/\sqrt{AM_s H}$ is dimensionless DM constant. In vicinity of the boundary $d \approx d_c$, an intermediate phase in form of 2D periodical structure (skyrmion lattice) forms the ground state^{20,21,34,39}. An isolated skyrmion^{21,22,35,40} may appear as a topologically stable excitation of the uniformly saturated state. The skyrmions and domain walls are of Bloch and Néel types for the DM interaction in form $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$, respectively.

Here we study how the ground states and individual skyrmions are changed when $\epsilon > 0$. Since $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n} \equiv 0$ for any domain wall and skyrmion of the Bloch type (induced by $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$) the influence of the term $(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})^2$ is not significant in this case. However, it drastically changes the ground state diagram and stability of the static solutions for the case of $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$. In this case, $d_c = d_c^{\text{N}}(\epsilon) = (8/\pi) \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + \epsilon(2\xi^2 - 1)^2} d\xi$ and period of the 1D structure is increased with ϵ ²⁷. Energy per period is $E_{\text{1D}}^{\text{N}}(d, \epsilon) \approx AL\mathcal{E}(d, \epsilon)$, where $\mathcal{E}(d, \epsilon)$ is determined by the implicit relation $d/d_c^{\text{N}}(\epsilon) = E(4/\mathcal{E})\sqrt{-\mathcal{E}/4}$, with $E(k)$ being the complete elliptic integral of the second kind⁴¹ (note that $\mathcal{E} < 0$). For the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ the 1D periodical structure is not affected by ϵ and one has $d_c^{\text{B}} = d_c^{\text{N}}(0)$ and $E_{\text{1D}}^{\text{B}}(d) = E_{\text{1D}}^{\text{N}}(d, 0)$ ²⁷.

Skyrmion solutions —Here we consider the topologically stable excitations of the saturated state $\mathbf{n} = \hat{z}$. First, we utilize the constraint $\mathbf{n}^2 = 1$ by expressing the direction of the magnetization in spherical coordinates, $\mathbf{n} = \sin \theta (\cos \phi \hat{x} + \sin \phi \hat{y}) + \cos \theta \hat{z}$. One can show²⁷ that for the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$ the total energy (8) has a local minimum if $\phi = \chi$ and function $\theta = \theta(\rho)$ is determined by the equation

$$(1 + \epsilon \cos^2 \theta) \nabla_\rho^2 \theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta \left(\frac{1 + \epsilon}{\rho^2} + \epsilon \theta'^2 \right) + d \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\rho} - \sin \theta = 0, \quad (9)$$

where we introduced the polar frame of reference $\{\rho, \chi\}$ with the radial distance ρ measured in units of $\ell = \sqrt{2A/(M_s H)}$ and $\nabla_\rho^2 f = \rho^{-1} \partial_\rho (\rho \partial_\rho f)$ denotes radial part of the Laplace operator. Equation (9) must be solved with the boundary conditions $\theta(0) = \pi$, $\theta(\infty) = 0$. A number of examples of skyrmion profiles determined by Eq. (9) for various values of parameters d and ϵ are shown in Fig. S2²⁷. Note that the skyrmion size is mainly determined by the parameter d , while the parameter ϵ weakly modifies the details of the skyrmion profile. For the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ the equilibrium solution is $\phi = \chi + \pi/2$ and the corresponding equation for the profile $\theta(\rho)$ coincides with (9) when $\epsilon = 0$. Note that in this case Eq. (9) is reduced to the well known skyrmion equation^{23,34,40}.

In order to analyze stability of the obtained static solutions we study spectrum of the skyrmion eigenexcitations by means of the methods commonly applied for skyrmions^{38,42} as well as for others two-dimensional magnetic topological solitons^{43–47}. Namely, we introduce time-dependent small deviations $\theta = \theta_0 + \vartheta$ and

$\phi = \phi_0 + \varphi/\sin\theta_0$, where ϑ , $\varphi \ll 1$ and $\theta_0 = \theta_0(\rho)$, ϕ_0 denotes the static profile. The linearization of the Landau-Lifshitz equations, $\sin\theta\partial_t\phi = \frac{\gamma}{M_s}\delta E_{\text{eff}}/\delta\theta$, $-\sin\theta\partial_t\theta = \frac{\gamma}{M_s}\delta E_{\text{eff}}/\delta\phi$, in the vicinity of the static solution results in solutions for the deviations in the form $\vartheta = f(\rho)\cos(\omega\tau + m\chi + \chi_0)$, $\varphi = g(\rho)\sin(\omega\tau + m\chi + \chi_0)$, where $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ is an azimuthal quantum number and χ_0 is an arbitrary phase. Here $\tau = t\Omega_0$ is the dimensionless time, where $\Omega_0 = \gamma H$ is the Larmor frequency with γ being the gyromagnetic ratio. The eigenfrequencies ω and the corresponding eigenfunctions f , g are determined by solving the Bogolyubov-de Gennes eigenvalue problem²⁷. The numerical solution was obtained for a range of d and a couple of values of ϵ . A number of bounded eigenmodes with $\omega < 1$ are found in the gap. Eigenfrequencies of the radially-symmetric ($m = 0$) and elliptic ($m = 2$) modes are shown in Fig. 1, where we compare both types of DM terms⁴⁸. If $\epsilon = 0$, the spectra are identical for both cases, in particular, the well known elliptical instability^{35,38} take place due to the softening of the elliptic mode in the region $d > d_c$, where the uniformly saturated state is thermodynamically unstable³⁸. For the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$ the ϵ -term shifts the elliptical instability to the larger values of d with the condition $d > d_c^{\text{N}}(\epsilon)$ kept, while in the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ the effect of the ϵ -term is negligible.

Remarkably, the ϵ -term influences oppositely on the breathing mode ($m = 0$), for different DM types. For the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ the eigenfrequency ω_0 is increased and for small d the breathing mode is pushed out from the gap into the magnon continuum. As a result, the small-radius skyrmions are free of the bounded states. This is in contrast to the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$, when the breathing mode eigenfrequency is rapidly decreased resulting in a radial instability for small d . In order to give some physical insight to the latter effect we consider the model, where the skyrmion profile is described by the linear Ansatz^{23,34} $\theta_a(\rho) = \frac{\pi}{R}(R - \rho)\text{H}(\rho - R)$, and $\phi = \chi + \Phi$. Here the variational parameters R and Φ describe the skyrmion radius and helicity, respectively, and $\text{H}(x)$ is the Heaviside step function. For this model total energy (8) with $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{N}}$ reads

$$\frac{E_{\text{tot}}^{\text{N}}}{2\pi AL} = e_{\text{ex}} + \epsilon e_{\epsilon} \cos^2\Phi - 2\delta \cos\Phi R + R^2 e_{\text{H}}, \quad (10)$$

where the constants $e_{\text{ex}} \approx 6.15$ ⁴⁹, $e_{\epsilon} = e_{\text{ex}} - \pi^2/4$ and $e_{\text{H}} = 1 - 4/\pi^2$ originate from the exchange, ϵ -term and Zeeman contributions, respectively. Here $\delta = d\pi/4$. The energy expression (10) shows that the equilibrium helicity Φ is determined by the competition of the ϵ -term, which tends to $\Phi = \pm\pi/2$ (Bloch skyrmion), and the DM term, which tends to $\Phi = 0$ (Néel skyrmion). In the same time, the equilibrium skyrmion radius is determined by the competition of the DM and Zeeman terms, and for the Bloch skyrmion one has $R = 0$. Thus, the skyrmion collapse is expected with the ϵ increasing. Indeed, the minimization of the total energy (10) with respect to the both variational parameters results in the critical value

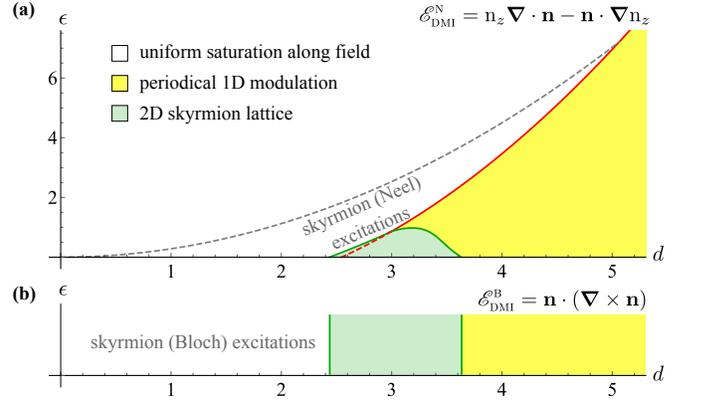


FIG. 2. Diagrams of the ground states for different kinds of DMI. (a): the red line is determined by the condition $d = d_c^{\text{N}}(\epsilon)$, it separates the uniform state and periodical 1D modulation. The green region of the Néel skyrmion lattices is determined by the conditions $E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{N}} < E_{1\text{D}}^{\text{N}}$ and $E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{N}} < 0$ to the right and to the left of the red line. The gray dashed line is the line of collapse of the Néel skyrmions, it is determined by the condition $\epsilon = \epsilon_c(d)$. (b): colors have the same meaning as on the panel (a), but periodical helical state and skyrmion lattices are of Bloch type. The excitations in form of isolated Bloch skyrmions are stable within all white region.

$\epsilon_c = \delta^2/(e_{\epsilon}e_{\text{H}})$: if $\epsilon < \epsilon_c$ then the equilibrium values of the variational parameters $R_0 = \delta/e_{\text{H}}$ and $\Phi_0 = 0$ determines the Néel skyrmion; if $\epsilon > \epsilon_c$ that the minimum of energy (10) is reached for $R_0 = 0$ and $\Phi_0 = \pm\pi/2$. The latter corresponds to a collapsed Bloch skyrmion. In other words, a stable Néel skyrmion exists for the case $\epsilon < \epsilon_c$. Surprisingly, there are no intermediate states with $0 < \Phi_0 < \pi/2$ when $\epsilon > \epsilon_c$.

Skyrmion lattice — In order to estimate the region of existence of the skyrmion lattice we use the circular cell approximation³⁴, when the lattice cell is approximated by a circle of radius R and the boundary condition $\theta(R) = 0$ is applied. The skyrmion profile is described by the same linear Ansatz as for the case of an isolated skyrmion. Minimizing the energy (10) per unit cell $E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{N}} = E_{\text{tot}}^{\text{N}}/(\pi R^2)$ one obtains the following equilibrium values of the variational parameters $\Phi_0^{\text{N}} = 0$, $R_0^{\text{N}}(\epsilon) = (e_{\text{ex}} + \epsilon e_{\epsilon})/\delta$, and the corresponding equilibrium energy reads $E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{N}}(\epsilon) = 2AL [e_{\text{H}} - \delta^2/(e_{\text{ex}} + \epsilon e_{\epsilon})]$. For the case $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DMI}}^{\text{B}}$ the same procedure results in the ϵ -independent values: $\Phi_0^{\text{B}} = \pi/2$, $R_0^{\text{B}} = R_0^{\text{N}}(0)$ and $E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{B}} = E_{2\text{D}}^{\text{N}}(0)$.

Comparing energies of three states, namely, the energy of the uniform magnetization along field $E = 0$, energy of the 1D periodical state (per period) $E_{1\text{D}}$, and energy of the skyrmion lattice per unit cell $E_{2\text{D}}$, we determine the phase diagram of the ground states, see Fig. 2. Note that for $\epsilon > \epsilon_0 \approx 0.98$ the skyrmion lattice is not a ground state. Given the dependence of ϵ with the exchange coupling J_0 , temperature, and chemical potential, the skyrmion lattice phase is likely to occur for a not too high temperature range as compared to the Curie temperature of EuS. The dimensionless DM parameter d

can then be tuned by the external field to attain the interval shown under the green area of Fig. 2(a).

Conclusions — We have shown that the effective magnetic energy for a TI-FMI heterostructure exhibits a Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya term induced by tracing out the surface Dirac fermions proximate to the FMI. A unique feature of the effective energy as compared to other DM systems is the presence of an additionally induced magnetic capacitance energy, given by a term proportional to the square of the magnetic charge $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$. Despite having a small magnitude in realistic samples, the interplay between this term and the DM one yields a phase diagram with interesting phase boundaries in the case of a Néel DMI, which is the situation relevant for, e.g., Bi_2Se_3 samples proximate to a FMI. Our theory is directly relevant for very recently synthesized TI - ferromagnetic thin

film heterostructures, in some of which the formation of a skyrmionic magnetic texture has been observed¹⁹.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

F.S.N. and I.E. thank the DFG Priority Program SPP 1666, "Topological Insulators", under Grant number, ER 463/9. J.v.d.B. acknowledges support from SFB 1143. FK and JSM. acknowledge the support from NSF Grants No. DMR-1207469, 1700137 ONR Grant No. N00014-13-1-0301, N00014-16-1-2657 and the STC Center for Integrated Quantum Materials under NSF Grant No. DMR-1231319. F.K. acknowledges the Science and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) through the BIDEB 2232 Program under award number 117C050 (Low-Dimensional Hybrid Topological Materials).

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