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# Detecting induced $p \pm ip$ pairing at the Al-InAs interface with a quantum microwave circuit

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Superconductor-semiconductor hybrid devices are at the heart of several proposed approaches to quantum information processing, but their basic properties remain to be understood. We embed a two-dimensional Al-InAs hybrid system in a resonant microwave circuit, probing the breakdown of superconductivity due to an applied magnetic field. We find a fingerprint from the two-component nature of the hybrid system, and quantitatively compare with a theory that includes the contribution of intraband  $p \pm ip$  pairing in the InAs, as well as the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces due to magnetic field. Separately resolving the Al and InAs contributions allows us to determine the carrier density and mobility in the InAs.

Hybrids of superconducting and semiconducting materials are under investigation as platforms for integrated superconducting devices [1, 2], superconducting qubits [3–6], and engineered  $p$ -wave superconductivity [7–10]. Hindering progress towards these goals, basic semiconductor properties such as carrier density, mobility, and induced pairing are currently inaccessible because the superconductor acts as a perfectly conductive shunt. This problem is especially acute in the ongoing effort to conclusively identify Majorana modes [11–20]. Due to the bulk-boundary correspondence, the presence of these modes should be controlled by bulk, as yet undetermined, semiconductor parameters. In particular, depending on parameter values, application of a magnetic field can result in transitions to the normal state [21–23], partial Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces [24], gapless  $p_x$  phases [25], or chiral  $p$ -wave phases with Majorana modes [25–30].

In this Letter, we experimentally study induced superconductivity in a two-dimensional Al-InAs hybrid system using a resonant microwave circuit. Above a characteristic field we discover anisotropic suppression of superfluid density and enhanced dissipation, consistent with a picture of two fully gapped, intraband  $p \pm ip$  superconductors transitioning to partial Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces. Observation of this transition allows for the characterization of key system properties such as induced pairing, carrier density, and carrier mobility. We therefore demonstrate the first evidence of two-dimensional induced  $p$ -wave pairing, the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces, and a general method for characterizing otherwise invisible properties of superconductor-semiconductor hybrid devices.

The basic picture of proximity effect in Al-InAs is presented in Fig. 1. An aluminum layer with a spin-degenerate Fermi-surface is strongly coupled to a high-mobility InAs two-dimensional electron gas. InAs has a pair of spin-orbit coupled Fermi surfaces which results in  $p \pm ip$  intraband pairing of the form  $\Delta(k_x \pm ik_y)/|k|$  for

pure Rashba spin-orbit interaction, where  $k$  is the momentum at the Fermi surface labeled by  $\pm$  [7, 25]. This pairing holds a special importance because a state with single, chiral  $p_x + ip_y$  pairing is topologically nontrivial, and therefore capable of hosting Majorana modes [32]. Application of an in-plane magnetic field probes the nature of the induced pairing. For weak spin-orbit coupling, interband  $s$ -wave pairing quickly emerges [25, 33], and the system eventually transitions to an isotropic normal state [23]. In contrast, strong spin-orbit coupling makes the  $p \pm ip$  pairing robust. Magnetic field then generates anisotropic suppression of the induced gap, eventually causing the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces [24]. Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces, however, may be subject to

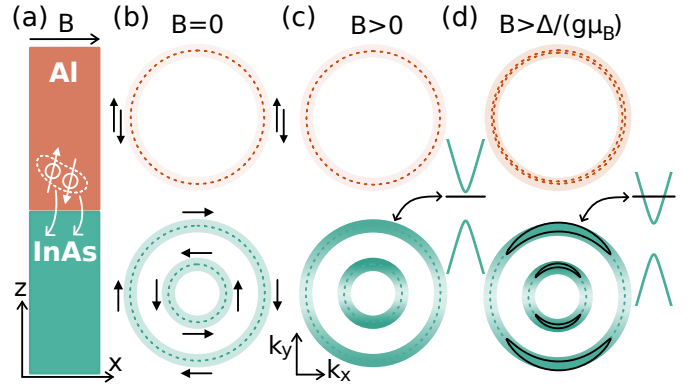


Figure 1. (a) Physical picture of proximity effect between Al in InAs. Field direction,  $B$ , indicated. (b) Al has a spin-degenerate Fermi surface gapped by superconductivity (orange). InAs has two spin-orbit coupled Fermi surfaces with intraband  $p \pm ip$  pairing (green). (c) Magnetic field anisotropically reduces InAs gap (color intensity) Hyperbolas indicate quasiparticles dispersion. Black line indicates chemical potential. (d) For  $B > \Delta/(g\mu_B)$  the InAs gap closes in isolated regions, forming connected arcs of zero-energy electron-like and hole-like quasiparticles, known as Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces.

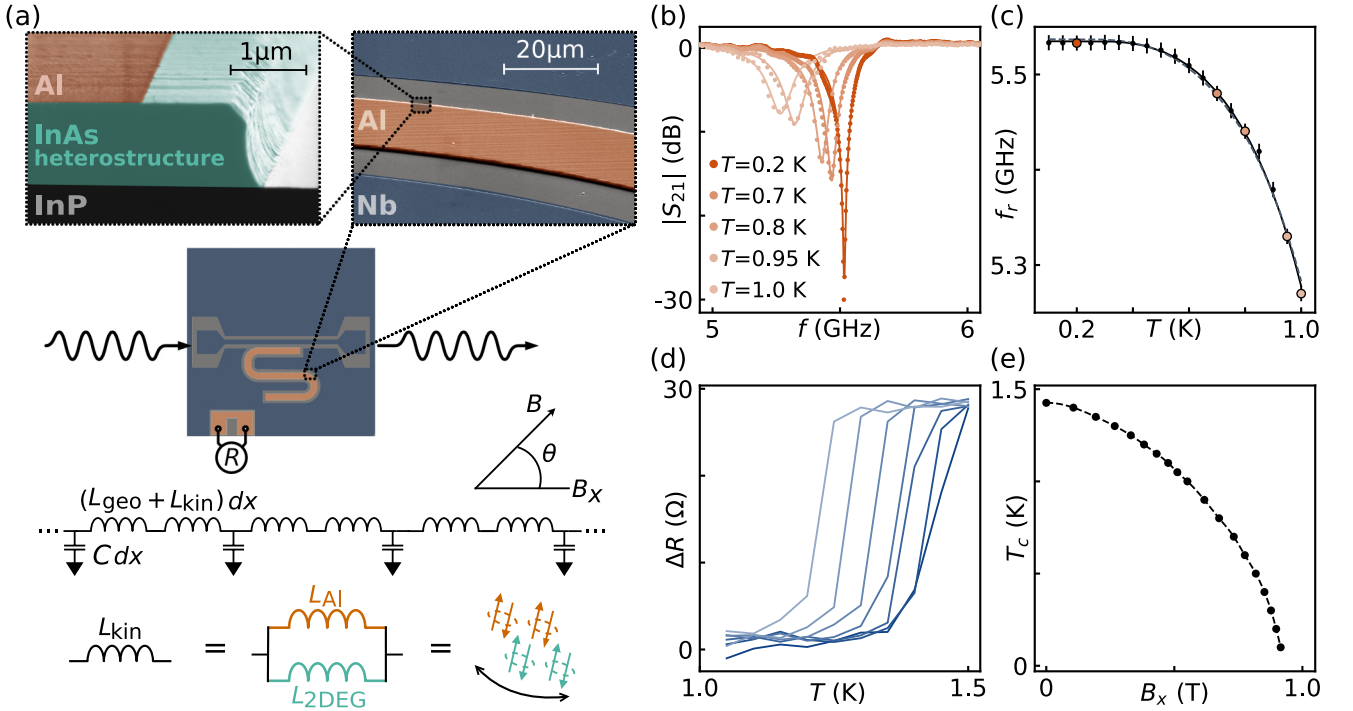


Figure 2. (a) False-color scanning-electron micrographs of an example Al-InAs device. The InAs heterostructure houses a two-dimensional electron gas (top). Schematic of the chip layout with microwave resonator, transport device allowing for measurement of resistance  $R$ , magnetic-field angle  $\theta$  (middle). Transmission-line model with geometric inductance  $L_{\text{geo}}$  and kinetic inductance  $L_{\text{kin}}$ , which receives a contribution from the Al and from the InAs. (b) Microwave transmission  $S_{21}$  as a function of frequency, measured for different cryostat temperatures. Solid lines are fits using method of Ref. [31]. (c) Resonant frequency  $f_r$  extracted from (a) versus cryostat temperature  $T$ , colored points match like-colored traces in (b). Solid line is a fit to  $s$ -wave theory including disorder ( $c_p=0$ ), dashed line is a fit to the two-component model. (d) Resistance  $R$  vs temperature  $T$ . Curves from right to left have  $B_x$  uniformly increasing from 0 to 0.36 T. A  $15 \Omega$  overall offset has been subtracted from the data. (e) Critical temperature  $T_c$  as a function of  $x$ -oriented magnetic field  $B_x$ . Points joined by an interpolating function, used for smoothly estimating  $T_c(B)$  in the pair-breaking numerical fit.

68 an instability that was explored in related systems [34–  
69 38]. Thus the presence of  $p \pm ip$  pairing qualitatively af-  
70 fects the response of superconductivity to in-plane mag-  
71 netic fields, motivating the present study.

72 In order to probe the effect of magnetic field on in-  
73 duced superconductivity, we construct a half-wave coplanar  
74 waveguide resonator with a center pin made from  
75 an Al-InAs superconductor-semiconductor heterostruc-  
76 ture [39–41], shown in Fig. 2(a) with more material de-  
77 tails in [42]. The resonant frequency of this circuit is  
78 altered by the condensate kinetic inductance, which is  
79 inversely proportional to superfluid density  $\rho_{\text{SF}}$  [43, 44].  
80 The emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs is expected to  
81 deplete the contribution of InAs to  $\rho_{\text{SF}}$ , and thus alter  
82 the circuit resonant frequency.

83 The resonator is modeled as a distributed LC circuit  
84 consisting of infinitesimal inductances and capacitances  
85 extending over the resonator length  $l$  [Fig. 2(b)]. The  
86 circuit’s resonant frequency  $f_r$  depends on the geomet-  
87 ric resonance  $f_{\text{geo}}$  and kinetic contribution  $f_{\text{kin}}$  added in

88 inverse quadrature [45],

$$\frac{1}{f_r^2} = \frac{1}{f_{\text{geo}}^2} + \frac{1}{f_{\text{kin}}^2}, \quad (1)$$

89 where  $f_{\text{geo}} = (2l\sqrt{L_{\text{geo}}C})^{-1}$  and  $f_{\text{kin}} = (2l\sqrt{L_{\text{kin}}C})^{-1}$ .  
90 The inductance (capacitance) per unit length  $L_{\text{geo}}$  ( $C$ ) is  
91 determined by geometry. In contrast, the kinetic induc-  
92 tance,  $L_{\text{kin}}$ , probes the superconducting condensate and  
93 has two contributions

$$f_{\text{kin}}^2 = c_s n_s + c_p n_p, \quad (2)$$

94 where  $n_s$  ( $n_p$ ) are normalized superfluid densities asso-  
95 ciated with the contribution of  $s$ -wave Al ( $p \pm ip$  InAs)  
96 superconductors. Dimensionless densities  $n_{s,p}$  are nor-  
97 malized to zero-temperature and zero-field limit values,  
98 while the parameters  $c_s$ ,  $c_p$  encode the zero-temperature  
99 and zero-field value of superfluid density and geometry  
100 of the sample, thus giving access to the properties of cor-  
101 responding material. The function  $n_s$  accounts for the  
102 depairing effect of magnetic field and depletion of super-  
103 fluid density due to thermally activated quasiparticles

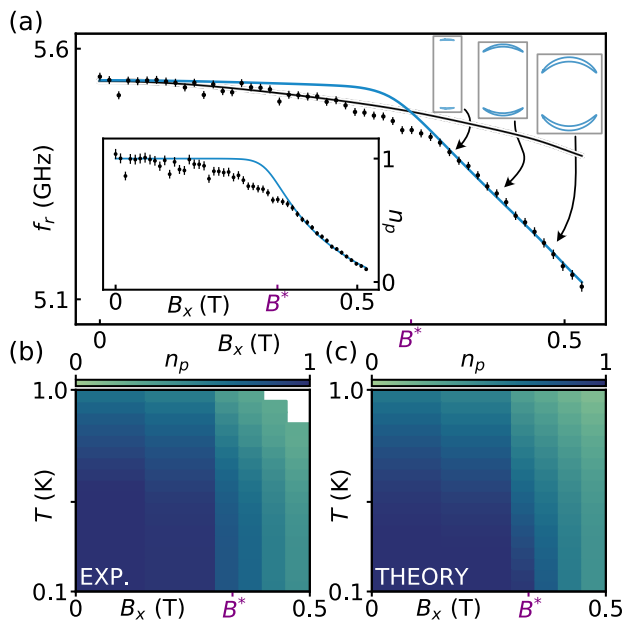


Figure 3. (a) Points show measured resonant frequency  $f_r$  versus  $B_x$ . Lines correspond to single-component  $s$ -wave superconductor model, Eq. 2 with  $c_p = 0$  (black) and to the two-component model with nonzero  $c_s$  and  $c_p$  (blue). Two-component model Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces are indicated. Fit to two-component model is performed by simultaneously fitting linear region of the data for  $B > B^*$  and the temperature dependence  $f_r(T, B = 0)$  in Fig. 2(c). Inset shows inferred superfluid density  $n_p$  with the same  $x$ -axis as the main figure [42]. (b) Experimental inference of  $n_p$  versus magnetic field and temperature. (c) Theoretical prediction for  $n_p$  versus magnetic field and temperature from two-component model.

in Al. The function  $n_p$  quantifies the depletion of superfluid density in InAs with  $p \pm ip$  pairing (assuming high-density and strong spin-orbit coupling, so that interband pairing can be ignored) due to the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces for sufficiently strong magnetic fields. We treat the resonator as probing only the  $x$ -component of  $n_p$  because 80% of the resonator is oriented in this  $x$ -direction.

Microwave access is provided by capacitively coupling the resonator to a transmission line, allowing the transmission coefficient  $S_{21}$  to be measured. The device is placed in a magnetic field with the axis  $B_x$  parallel to the transmission line, which can be rotated by an angle  $\theta$  in the  $B_x$ - $B_y$  plane. A co-fabricated device is used for transport characterization. Measuring circuit transmission at  $B = 0$  and  $T = 0.1$  K, a prominent resonance is observed as a dip in the total transmission at a frequency  $f_r \approx 5.53$  GHz [Fig. 2(b)]. Increasing the cryostat temperature  $T$ , a frequency down-shift and reduction in quality factor is observed. As shown in Fig. 2(c), the  $B = 0$  temperature dependence of  $f_r$  is nearly identical for the single-component  $s$ -wave superconductor (solid curve), and a full two-component model that includes the

contribution of  $p \pm ip$  pairing in the InAs (dashed curve). To resolve the contribution of the InAs, it is therefore necessary to apply a magnetic field, where one expects large qualitative differences from the standard response of a disordered  $s$ -wave superconductor (see Fig. 1).

The measured dependence of resonant frequency on the value of in-plane field is shown in Fig. 3(a), where careful cancellation of perpendicular field was ensured [42]. Increasing the magnetic field from zero initially causes only a slight decrease in  $f_r$ , which is qualitatively consistent with the pair-breaking effect of magnetic field on aluminum. In fact, the black line in Fig. 3a shows the prediction of the pair-breaking theory of a single-component  $s$ -wave superconductor. This theory utilizes the suppression of critical temperature with in-plane magnetic field,  $T_c(B)/T_c(0)$ , measured on a co-fabricated transport device [Fig. 2(e)], and therefore has no free fitting parameters. Crucially, the resonator response decreases abruptly at a characteristic field scale  $B^* \sim 0.33$  T, in violation of the expectations from pair breaking in pure aluminum.

The decrease of resonator frequency caused by a rapid suppression of superfluid density can be understood by considering the two-component nature of the superconducting condensate. The model in Eq. 2 that incorporates superfluid density contribution of both Al and InAs is able to adequately capture the full range of frequency behavior (blue line in Fig. 3a): it accounts for the conventional behavior at  $B < B^*$ , corresponding to a fully gapped  $p$ -wave component, and shows the rapid downturn at  $B > B^*$ , corresponding to the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces in the InAs. The model struggles in the regime  $B \sim B^*$  because it does not incorporate the role of disorder in the InAs, and therefore underestimates orbital pair-breaking effects. The rapid onset of the frequency suppression with in-plane field not only provides experimental evidence for the  $p \pm ip$  proximity-induced pairing in the InAs semiconductor, but also allows *in situ* characterization of InAs material properties.

Access to material properties is provided via the fit to the theoretical model. The fit geometric resonant frequency  $f_{\text{geo}}$  is  $5.96 \pm 0.01$  GHz which differs by  $< 2\%$  with the expected value based on electromagnetic simulations and provides a strong consistency check.  $c_s$  gives the Al sheet resistance  $R_{\text{Al}} = 6.7 \pm 0.2 \Omega$ , in line with independent transport measurements on MBE-grown Al thin films.  $c_p$  gives the InAs density,  $4 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , which combined with the total measured sheet resistance yields an InAs mobility of  $2 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^2/(\text{Vs})$ . The density is an order of magnitude larger than without Al, as expected due to band bending of InAs [46–50], whereas the mobility is comparable to the Hall value.  $B^*$  gives a bulk  $g$ -factor in the  $x$ -direction,  $g_x = 11.2 \pm 0.2$ , which is consistent with measured  $g$ -factors in similar quantum wells [51–54]. These parameters give key independent information on the proximity effect in InAs. Fermi velocity mismatch between the InAs and Al ( $v_{F,\text{InAs}}/v_{F,\text{Al}} \sim 3$ )

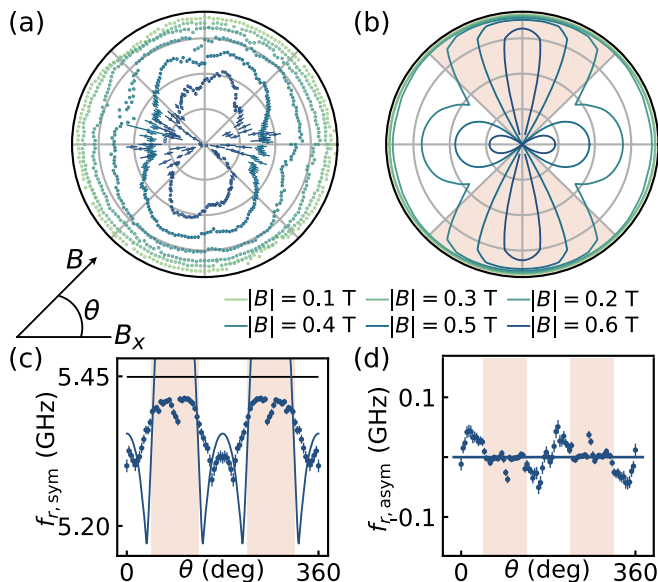


Figure 4. (a) Measured magnetic-field orientation dependence of resonant frequency in a polar plot. Radial divisions start at  $f_r = 4.8$  GHz and are in 100 MHz increments. (b) Theoretically predicted dependence of frequency on magnetic field orientation, with single free parameter fixed in (c). (c) Measured  $f_r$  at  $|B| = 0.4$  T symmetrized about  $\theta = 180^\circ$ . Shaded regions indicate angles for which instability can play a role, which are excluded from the fit for  $g_y$ . Black curve is prediction of the  $s$ -wave pair-breaking theory. Blue curve is a single-parameter fit for  $B_y^*$  in the two-component model, which exceeds the value of the pair-breaking model because it does not include disorder. (d) Antisymmetric part of  $f_r$  vs magnetic field angle  $\theta$ , blue curve is the theoretical expectation  $f_{r,\text{asym}} = 0$ .

184 results in a moderate interface transparency with weak  $g$ -  
 185 factor renormalization while maintaining a large induced  
 186 gap due to disorder in the Al [50]. Incorporation of dis-  
 187 order in the InAs will cause quantitative corrections to  
 188 quantities inferred from the fit.

189 With all parameters fixed, the normalized  $p$ -wave su-  
 190 perfluid density can now be extracted directly from mea-  
 191 sured frequencies (Fig. 3(a) inset). Experimentally map-  
 192 ping out a phase diagram for  $n_p$  in the  $B_x$ - $T$  plane reveals  
 193 that the superfluid density is depleted both by increasing  
 194 the field above  $B^*$ , and by raising the temperature, in line  
 195 with the theoretical model that accounts for both thermal  
 196 effects and depairing in the  $p$ -wave system [Fig. 3(b),(c)].  
 197 This comparison has no free parameters, which provides  
 198 further strong evidence in favor of the  $p \pm ip$  theory.

199 Motivated by the anisotropic nature of the Bogoliubov-  
 200 Fermi surfaces, we have systematically studied the  
 201 anisotropy of the circuit response with respect to field  
 202 direction in Fig. 4(a). Measuring resonant frequency  $f_r$   
 203 as a function of field angle  $\theta$  reveals nearly isotropic re-  
 204 sponse for weak values of magnetic field  $B < B^*$ . In  
 205 contrast, for  $B > B^*$  we observe strong frequency sup-  
 206 pression in the  $x$ -direction compared to the  $y$ -direction,

207 resulting in a pronounced two-lobe structure in a polar  
 208 frequency plot [Fig. 4(a)], with the two prominent lobes  
 209 at  $\theta = \pm 90^\circ$ . There is an additional hint of two smaller  
 210 lobes at  $\theta = 0^\circ, 180^\circ$ .

211 In order to compare the measured field-direction-  
 212 dependence of  $f_r$  with theory, we extend our model to  
 213 include a  $g$ -factor in the  $y$ -direction  $g_y$  which is expected  
 214 to differ from  $g_x$  for the present case of an asymmetric  
 215 (100) quantum wells [55–57]. Holding all other param-  
 216 eters of the theoretical model fixed, a single-parameter fit  
 217 in Fig. 4(c) yields a value  $g_y = 4$  [42], consistent with the  
 218 expected level of in-plane  $g$ -factor anisotropy [55–57], and  
 219 with literature values of in similar quantum wells of  $g$ -  
 220 factors in the range of 3–11 [51–54]. Remarkably, the ad-  
 221 dition of this single extra parameter explains the key ob-  
 222 served anisotropic features in the dataset [Fig. 4(b)]. In  
 223 particular, theory predicts two major lobes for  $B > B^*$ ,  
 224 associated with a regime where no Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs  
 225 emerge due to the relatively small value of  $g_y$ , and two  
 226 minor lobes associated with the dependence of arc orien-  
 227 tation on field direction. Both the major and minor lobes  
 228 predicted by the theoretical model are more prominent  
 229 than those in the experiment, which we attribute primar-  
 230 ily to the theory being in the clean limit, which tends to  
 231 result in an overestimated frequency for  $B < B^*$ , as is  
 232 already apparent in Fig. 3(a). In addition in this sample  
 233 there is a small odd-angle contribution to the resonant  
 234 frequency [Fig. 4(d)], which is completely absent in the-  
 235 ory. Further experimental work is needed to see if the  
 236 small odd-angle contribution is experimentally robust.

237 Interestingly, the semiclassical model predicts that  
 238 a magnetic field oriented near the  $y$ -direction (shaded  
 239 regions in Fig. 4), which causes the emergence of  
 240 Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs aligned with the primary ( $x$ ) di-  
 241 rection of the resonator, can result in negative values of  
 242 the  $p \pm ip$  superfluid density ( $n_p < 0$ ). Physically, the neg-  
 243 ative superfluid density emerges from the large density of  
 244 quasiparticles due to presence of Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs,  
 245 and signals an instability which has been discussed in  
 246 related contexts [34–38]. We do not observe indications  
 247 of the instability in the experiment, possibly due to the  
 248 presence of Al layer and smearing of density of states in  
 249 InAs due to disorder. The consequences of the instabil-  
 250 ity for the present system remain to be understood and  
 251 will be addressed in the future work. In practice, the  
 252 relatively small value of  $g_y$  obtained from the fit leads  
 253 to the absence of Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs in this region,  
 254 which effectively masks the role of the unstable region for  
 255 current experimental parameters.

256 To test the origin of the anisotropic response, we have  
 257 fabricated two additional samples on  $90^\circ$  rotated crystal  
 258 axes, and found that the anisotropic circuit response is  
 259  $90^\circ$  rotated as well [42]. This shows that the origin of  
 260 anisotropy is associated with the crystal, consistent with  
 261 an anisotropic  $g$ -tensor. It is not currently possible to  
 262 quantitatively study these orientations because the  $90^\circ$

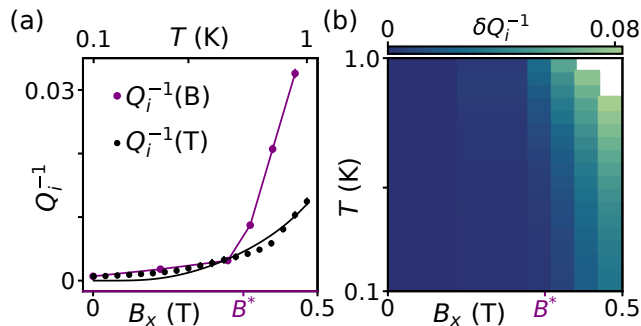


Figure 5. (a) Dependence of inverse quality factor on magnetic field  $Q_i^{-1}(B)$  at a fixed  $T = 0.1$  K (purple), and dependence on temperature  $Q_i^{-1}(T)$  at a fixed  $B = 0$ . Black curve is the zero-field Mattis-Bardeen expectation with no free parameters [42]. (b) Relative dissipation,  $\delta Q_i^{-1}$ , as a function of magnetic field and temperature.  $B^*$  indicates the inferred crossover to Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs from Fig. 3.

rotated devices strongly sample the unstable region in the currently available  $p \pm ip$  theory. Thus, constructing a more general theory of the induced  $p \pm ip$  superfluid response is an outstanding theoretical challenge which must be overcome to analyze all sample orientations.

An additional check of the  $p \pm ip$  picture is given by circuit dissipation. The circuit's inverse quality-factor  $Q_i^{-1}$  increases abruptly at the characteristic field  $B^*$  [Fig. 5(a)], signaling the onset of enhanced dissipation. Currently available theory does not include disorder in the InAs, so is unable to make predictions for dissipation signatures of Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs. We therefore introduce the model-independent dissipation metric

$$\delta Q_i^{-1}(B, T) = Q_i(B, T)^{-1} - Q_i(0, T)^{-1}. \quad (3)$$

$\delta Q_i^{-1}$  represents an inference of the enhanced dissipation due to magnetic field, covering both the high-temperature limit where  $Q_i(0, T)^{-1}$  approaches the Mattis-Bardeen prediction [Fig. 5(a), black], and the low-temperature limit where  $Q_i(0, T)^{-1}$  saturates, presumably due to generic effects such as material imperfections. Experimentally mapping  $\delta Q_i^{-1}$  as a function of magnetic field and temperature confirms that there is a generic increase in dissipation for  $B > B^*$ . The behavior of  $\delta Q_i^{-1}$  bears a striking resemblance to the behavior of  $n_p$  in Fig. 3(c,d), suggesting the straightforward physical interpretation that the emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi arcs introduces excess dissipation in the resonator. Such dissipation is different from the usual Fermi liquid, since carriers have a continuously variable charge which depends on both their momentum and magnetic field, highlighting the need for development of a theoretical description.

Summarizing, we have studied the magnetic field and temperature dependence of an Al-InAs superconducting resonator, observing strong departures from the  $s$ -wave theory, and good agreement with a theory including the effect of  $p \pm ip$  induced superconductivity in the InAs.

Within this picture, a sufficiently strong magnetic field induces anisotropic response and leads to emergence of Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces, which result in a rapid shift of the frequency of the resonator and cause sharp onset of excess dissipation. We have considered other origins of the decreased superfluid density. A pure induced  $s$ -wave pairing in the InAs is unable to account for our observations [42]. Another scenario is that, despite the careful magnetic-field alignment and lack of contribution below  $B^*$ , there is a depinning transition of vortices [58]. The absence of extra frequency shifts below  $B^*$ , the weak temperature dependence above  $B^*$  [59], and the isotropic response of control samples without an InAs heterostructure [42] all point against this scenario. Anomalous field dependence has been observed in Nb thin films in prior work [60]; we have verified this is not the case for our films [42].

Looking ahead, our technique can now be used to study the properties of different hybrid systems, and to explore alternative geometries that could use Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces to generate topological phases [61]. During preparation we became aware of a related result reporting Bogoliubov-Fermi surfaces [62].

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