

Chirality blockade of Andreev reflection in a magnetic Weyl semimetal

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A Weyl semimetal with broken time-reversal symmetry has a minimum of two species of Weyl fermions, distinguished by their opposite chirality, in a pair of Weyl cones at opposite momenta $\pm K$ that are displaced in the direction of the magnetization. Andreev reflection at the interface between a Weyl semimetal in the normal state (N) and a superconductor (S) that pairs $\pm K$ must involve a switch of chirality, otherwise it is blocked. We show that this "chirality blockade" suppresses the superconducting proximity effect when the magnetization lies in the plane of the NS interface. A Zeeman field at the interface can provide the necessary chirality switch and activate Andreev reflection.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Spin-momentum locking is a key feature of topological states of matter: In both topological insulators and topological semimetals, the massless quasiparticles are governed by a Hamiltonian $H_{\pm} = \pm v_F p \cdot \sigma$ that ties the direction of motion to the spin polarization [1–4]. In a topological insulator the \pm sign distinguishes spatially separated states, e.g., the opposite edges of a quantum spin-Hall insulator along which a spin-up electron moves in opposite directions [5]. In a topological semimetal the \pm sign distinguishes Weyl cones in the band structure. A magnetic Weyl semimetal has the minimum number of two Weyl cones centered at opposite points $\pm K$ in the Brillouin zone, containing left-handed and right-handed Weyl fermions displaced in the direction of the magnetization [6].

It is the purpose of this paper to point out that the switch in chirality between the Weyl cones forms an obstacle to Andreev reflection from a superconductor with conventional, spin-singlet s-wave pairing, when the magnetization lies in the plane of the normal-superconductor (NS) interface. The obstruction is illustrated in Fig. 1. Andreev reflection is the backscattering of an electron as a hole, accompanied by the transfer of a Cooper pair to the superconductor. For a given spin band and a given Weyl cone, electrons and holes move in the same direction [7], so backscattering must involve either a switch in spin band ($\sigma \mapsto -\sigma$) or a switch in Weyl cone ($K \mapsto -K$), but not both. This is at odds with the requirement that zero spin and zero momentum is transferred to the Cooper pair.

This "chirality blockade" of Andreev reflection is specific for the conical dispersion in a Weyl semimetal, and it does not appear in other contexts where spin-momentum locking plays a role. In a quantum spin-Hall insulator, there is no need to switch the chirality because the hole can be reflected along the same edge as the incident electron [8]. There is a formal similarity with graphene [9], where Andreev reflection switches between valleys at $\pm K$, but there σ is an orbital pseudospin and the real spin is not tied to the direction of motion.

We will show that the chirality blockade can be lifted by breaking the requirement of zero-spin transfer with a Zeeman

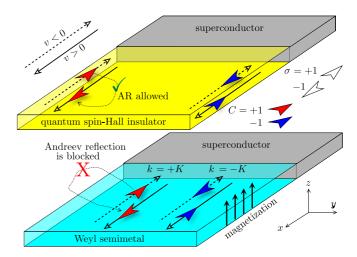


FIG. 1. Andreev reflection (AR) from a superconductor in a quantum spin-Hall insulator (top panel) and in a Weyl semimetal (bottom panel). The red and blue wedges designate electron and hole quasiparticles (Weyl fermions) moving toward or away from the interface (solid vs dashed arrows indicate v in the $\pm x$ direction). The orientation of the wedge distinguishes the polarization $\sigma = \pm 1$ of the spin band, and the color indicates the chirality $C = \operatorname{sgn}(v\sigma)$. Andreev reflection switches σ and v, which is blocked if it must also switch C.

field. We also discuss the subtle role played by inversion symmetry by contrasting a *scalar* with a *pseudoscalar* pair potential [10]. The absence of the chirality blockade for pseudoscalar pairing explains why it did not appear in the many previous studies of Andreev reflection in a Weyl semimetal [11–19].

The outline of this paper is as follows. In the next section, we introduce the model of an NS junction between a Weyl semimetal and a conventional superconductor. The 8×8 Bogoliubov–de Gennes Hamiltonian is block-diagonalized in Sec. III, after which the chirality blockade of Andreev reflection is obtained in Sec. IV. In Sec. V, we show how to remove the blockade by a spin-active interface or by an inversion-symmetry breaking interface. As an experimental signature, we calculate the conductance of the NS junction

in Sec. VI. To eliminate the effects of a lattice mismatch, we consider in Sec. VII the junction between a Weyl semimetal and a Weyl superconductor—which shows the same chirality blockade for a scalar spin-singlet pair potential. More general pairing symmetries (spin-triplet and pseudoscalar spin-singlet) are considered in an Appendix. The Josephson effect in an SNS junction is studied in Sec. VIII. We conclude in Sec. IX.

II. MODEL OF A WEYL SEMIMETAL-CONVENTIONAL SUPERCONDUCTOR JUNCTION

We study the junction between a Weyl semimetal in the normal state (N) and a conventional (spin-singlet, *s*-wave) superconductor (S) by first considering separately the Hamiltonians in the two regions and then modeling the interface.

Throughout the paper, we take the configuration of Fig. 1 (bottom panel), with the magnetization along z in the plane of the NS interface at x=0. An out-of-plane rotation of the magnetization by an angle α does not change the results for isotropic Weyl cones, provided that the Fermi surfaces of opposite chirality are not coupled upon reflection at the interface. The geometric condition for this is $\cos \alpha \geqslant k_F/K$, with k_F the Fermi wave vector and $(0,0,\pm K)$ the location of the two Weyl points. We assume $k_F/K \ll 1$ in order to have well-resolved Weyl cones, and then there is a broad range of magnetization angles α over which our analysis applies.

A. Weyl semimetal region

The Weyl semimetal in the region x > 0 has the generic Hamiltonian [20–22]

$$H_{W}(\mathbf{k}) = \tau_{z}(\sigma_{x}t_{x}\sin k_{x} + \sigma_{y}t_{y}\sin k_{y} + \sigma_{z}t_{z}\sin k_{z}) + m_{\mathbf{k}}\tau_{x}\sigma_{0} + \beta\tau_{0}\sigma_{z} - \mu_{W}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0},$$
(2.1a)

$$m_k = m_0 + t_x'(1 - \cos k_x) + t_y'(1 - \cos k_y) + t_z'(1 - \cos k_z).$$
 (2.1b)

The units are normalized by $\hbar \equiv 1$ and lattice constant $a_0 \equiv 1$. The Pauli matrices τ_{α} and σ_{α} refer to orbital and spin degrees of freedom (with τ_0, σ_0 the 2 × 2 unit matrix). The Weyl points are at $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, \pm K)$, with

$$K^2 \approx \frac{\beta^2 - m_0^2}{t_z^2 + t_z' m_0} \tag{2.2}$$

displaced by the magnetization β in the z direction. The mass term m_k ensures that there are no other states near the Fermi energy, so that we have the minimal number of two Weyl cones of opposite chirality.

While time-reversal symmetry is broken by the magnetization β , the inversion symmetry of the material is preserved:

$$\tau_x H_W(-\mathbf{k})\tau_x = H_W(\mathbf{k}). \tag{2.3}$$

The presence of inversion symmetry plays a crucial role when superconductivity enters, because the pair potential couples electrons and holes at opposite momentum.

To describe the superconducting proximity effect, we add the electron-hole degree of freedom ν , with electron and hole Hamiltonians related by the operation of time-reversal:

$$H_{W}^{(e)}(\mathbf{k}) = H_{W}(\mathbf{k}), \ H_{W}^{(h)}(\mathbf{k}) = \sigma_{v} H_{W}^{*}(-\mathbf{k}) \sigma_{v}.$$
 (2.4)

The two Hamiltonians are incorporated in the Bogoliubov-de Gennes (BdG) Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_{W} = \begin{pmatrix} H_{W}^{(e)} & 0\\ 0 & -H_{W}^{(h)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \nu_{z}\tau_{z}(\sigma_{x}t_{x}\sin k_{x} + \sigma_{y}t_{y}\sin k_{y} + \sigma_{z}t_{z}\sin k_{z})$$

$$+ m_{k}\nu_{z}\tau_{x}\sigma_{0} + \beta\nu_{0}\tau_{0}\sigma_{z} - \mu_{W}\nu_{z}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0}. \tag{2.5}$$

Electron-hole symmetry is expressed by

$$\nu_{v}\sigma_{v}\mathcal{H}_{W}^{*}(-\mathbf{k})\nu_{v}\sigma_{v} = -\mathcal{H}_{W}(\mathbf{k}). \tag{2.6}$$

Note that the electron-hole symmetry operation squares to +1, as it should in symmetry class D (fermions without spin-rotation or time-reversal symmetry).

B. Superconducting region

The region x < 0 contains a conventional spin-singlet s-wave superconductor (real pair potential Δ_0), with the BdG Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_{S} = \begin{pmatrix} p^2/2m - \mu_{S} & \Delta_0 \\ \Delta_0 & -p^2/2m + \mu_{S} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.7}$$

For a chemical potential $\mu_S \gg \mu_W$, the momentum components p_y, p_z parallel to the NS interface at x=0 can be neglected relative to the perpendicular component p_x . We expand $p_x=\pm p_F+k_x$ around the Fermi momentum $p_F=mv_F$ (with $\mu_S=p_F^2/2m$) by carrying out the unitary transformation

$$\mathcal{H}_{S} \mapsto e^{-i\tau_{z}p_{F}x}\mathcal{H}_{S}e^{i\tau_{z}p_{F}x}$$

$$= v_{F}k_{x}v_{z}\tau_{z}\sigma_{0} + \Delta_{0}v_{x}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0} + O(k_{x}^{2}). \tag{2.8}$$

Left-movers and right-movers in the x direction are distinguished by the τ degree of freedom, and we have inserted a σ_0 Pauli matrix to account for the spin degeneracy in S.

Electron-hole symmetry in S is expressed by

$$\nu_{y}\tau_{x}\sigma_{y}\mathcal{H}_{S}^{*}(-k_{x})\nu_{y}\tau_{x}\sigma_{y} = -\mathcal{H}_{S}(k_{x}). \tag{2.9}$$

There is an additional τ_x Pauli matrix, in comparison with the corresponding symmetry relation (2.6) in N, to account for the switch from $+p_F$ to $-p_F$. (The electron-hole symmetry operation still squares to +1.)

C. Interface transfer matrix

The wave functions ψ_W and ψ_S on the two sides of the NS interface at x=0 are related by a transfer matrix,

$$\psi_{\rm S} = (t_x/v_{\rm F})^{1/2} \mathcal{M} \psi_{\rm W}, \ \mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} M_e & 0 \\ 0 & M_h \end{pmatrix},$$
 (2.10)

which ensures that particle current is conserved across the interface. We assume that the interface does not couple electrons and holes [23], hence the block-diagonal structure, and we also assume that \mathcal{M} is independent of energy. The

symmetry relations (2.6) and (2.9) imply that the electron and hole transfer matrices are related by

$$M_h = \tau_x \sigma_y M_e^* \tau_0 \sigma_y. \tag{2.11}$$

Particle current conservation is expressed by

$$\langle \psi_{S} | v_{F} v_{z} \tau_{z} \sigma_{0} | \psi_{S} \rangle = \langle \psi_{W} | t_{x} v_{z} \tau_{z} \sigma_{x} | \psi_{W} \rangle, \tag{2.12}$$

where we have also linearized H_W in k_x . The resulting restriction on the electron transfer matrix is

$$M_e^{\dagger} \tau_z \sigma_0 M_e = \tau_z \sigma_x. \tag{2.13}$$

Equation (2.11) then implies that the hole transfer matrix M_h satisfies the same restriction.

It is helpful to factor out the unitary matrix Ξ_0 ,

$$M_e \equiv \Xi \Xi_0, \ \Xi_0 = \exp\left[i\frac{\pi}{4}\tau_x(\sigma_0 - \sigma_x)\right],$$
 (2.14)

with $\Xi_0 \tau_z \Xi_0^{\dagger} \tau_z = \Xi_0^2 = \sigma_x$, because now instead of Eq. (2.13) we have a quasiunitarity restriction

$$\Xi^{-1} = \tau_z \Xi^{\dagger} \tau_z \tag{2.15}$$

that is satisfied by the unit matrix.

The corresponding factorization of the hole transfer matrix is

$$M_h = \tau_x \sigma_y (\Xi \Xi_0)^* \tau_0 \sigma_y, \qquad (2.16)$$

as required by the electron-hole symmetry (2.11). For later use, we give the inverse

$$M_h^{-1} = (\sigma_v \Xi_0 \sigma_v)(\tau_z \sigma_v \Xi^T \tau_z \sigma_v) \tau_x, \qquad (2.17)$$

in view of the quasiunitarity (2.15). (The superscript T denotes the transpose of a matrix.)

As an aside, we note that if the interface preserves timereversal symmetry, we have the additional restriction

$$\Xi = \tau_x \sigma_y \Xi^* \tau_x \sigma_y. \tag{2.18}$$

Inversion symmetry is expressed by

$$\Xi = \tau_r \Xi^{-1} \tau_r. \tag{2.19}$$

III. BLOCK-DIAGONALIZATION OF THE WEYL HAMILTONIAN

For the mode-matching calculations at the NS interface, it is convenient to block-diagonalize \mathcal{H}_W in the τ degree of freedom, by means of the unitary transformation [24]

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{W} = \mathcal{U}\mathcal{H}_{W}\mathcal{U}^{\dagger}, \ \mathcal{U} = \begin{pmatrix} i\tau_{y}\sigma_{z}\Omega_{\theta} & 0\\ 0 & \Omega_{\theta} \end{pmatrix},
\Omega_{\theta} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}i\theta\tau_{y}\sigma_{z}\right),$$
(3.1)

with a k-dependent angle $\theta \in (0,\pi)$ defined by

$$\cos \theta = -\frac{t_z \sin k_z}{M_k}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{m_k}{M_k},$$

$$M_k = \sqrt{m_k^2 + t_z^2 \sin^2 k_z}.$$
(3.2)

Note that \mathcal{U} satisfies

$$\mathcal{U}(\mathbf{k}) = \nu_{\mathbf{y}} \sigma_{\mathbf{y}} \mathcal{U}^*(-\mathbf{k}) \nu_{\mathbf{y}} \sigma_{\mathbf{y}} \tag{3.3}$$

because $k \mapsto -k$ maps $\theta \mapsto \pi - \theta$, so the electron-hole symmetry relation (2.6) for \mathcal{H}_W is preserved upon the unitary transformation.

The transformed Hamiltonian,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{W}(\mathbf{k}) = \nu_{z} \tau_{z} (\sigma_{x} t_{x} \sin k_{x} + \sigma_{y} t_{y} \sin k_{y}) + M_{\mathbf{k}} \nu_{0} \tau_{z} \sigma_{z}
+ \beta \nu_{0} \tau_{0} \sigma_{z} - \mu_{W} \nu_{z} \tau_{0} \sigma_{0},$$
(3.4)

is block-diagonal in τ . The Weyl cones are in the $\tau=-1$ block, which has low-energy states near $\mathbf{k}=(0,0,\pm\beta/t_z)$ when $M_{\mathbf{k}}\approx\beta$. The $\tau=+1$ block is pushed to higher energies of order 2β .

The unitary transformation changes the wave function in N as $\tilde{\psi}_W = \mathcal{U}\psi_W$, and hence the matching equation (2.10) becomes

$$\psi_{\rm S} = (t_{\rm x}/v_{\rm F})^{1/2} \mathcal{M} \mathcal{U}^{\dagger} \tilde{\psi}_{\rm W}. \tag{3.5}$$

IV. ANDREEV REFLECTION

At excitation energies E below the superconducting gap Δ_0 , an electron incident on the superconductor from the Weyl semimetal is reflected, either as an electron (normal reflection, with amplitude r_{ee}) or as a hole (Andreev reflection, with amplitude r_{he}). We calculate these reflection amplitudes, initially restricting ourselves to normal incidence on the NS interface, in order to simplify the formulas. The angular dependence is included in Sec. VI when we calculate the conductance.

We include the energy dependence of the reflection amplitudes, but since we assume only the low-energy states in the $\tau=-1$ block are propagating, our analysis is restricted to $|E|\lesssim \beta$. Typically $\beta\simeq 100$ meV is much larger than $\Delta_0\simeq 0.1$ meV, so this covers the relevant energy range.

A. Effective boundary condition at the NS interface

As in the analogous problem for graphene [25], the effect of the superconducting region x < 0 on the Weyl semimetal region x > 0 can be described by an effective boundary condition on the wave functions in the limit $x \to 0$ from above, indicated as $x = 0^+$.

According to the Hamiltonian (2.8), the propagation of the wave function into the superconductor at energy E is governed by the differential equation

$$v_{\rm F} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x) = (i E v_z + \Delta_0 v_y) \tau_z \sigma_0 \psi(x) \equiv X_{\rm S} \psi(x).$$
 (4.1)

The eigenvalues of X_S are $\pm\sqrt{\Delta_0^2-E^2}$. To ensure a decaying wave function in the S region x<0 for $|E|<\Delta_0$, the state ψ_S at $x=0^-$ should be a linear superposition of the four eigenvectors with positive eigenvalue. This is expressed by the boundary condition

$$\nu_x \psi_S = \exp(i\alpha \nu_z \tau_z \sigma_0) \psi_S,$$

$$\alpha = \arccos(E/\Delta_0) \in (0.\pi/2).$$
(4.2)

If we decompose $\psi_S = (\psi_e, \psi_h)$ into electron and hole components, the boundary condition can be written as

$$\psi_h(0^-) = \exp(i\alpha \tau_z) \psi_e(0^-).$$
 (4.3)

This is a special case of the more general relation between electron and hole wave functions at an NS interface derived in Appendix A.

The combination of Eqs. (3.5) and (4.3) gives on the Weyl semimetal side of the NS interface the relation

$$\tilde{\psi}_h(0^+) = \mathcal{T}\tilde{\psi}_e(0^+),
\mathcal{T} = -i\Omega_\theta M_h^{-1} \exp(i\alpha\tau_z) M_e \Omega_\theta^\dagger \tau_\nu \sigma_z,$$
(4.4)

which can be worked out as

$$\mathcal{T} = -i\Omega_{\theta}(\sigma_{y}\Xi_{0}\sigma_{y})(\tau_{z}\sigma_{y}\Xi^{T}\tau_{z}\sigma_{y})\tau_{x}\exp(i\alpha\tau_{z})\Xi\Xi_{0}\Omega_{\theta}^{\dagger}\tau_{y}\sigma_{z}$$
$$= U_{\theta}^{\dagger}\tau_{y}\sigma_{x}\Xi^{T}\tau_{y}\sigma_{y}\exp(i\alpha\tau_{z})\Xi U_{\theta}, \tag{4.5a}$$

$$U_{\theta} \equiv \Xi_0 \Omega_{\theta}^{\dagger} \tau_{\nu} \sigma_{z}, \tag{4.5b}$$

upon substitution of Eq. (2.17) and using $\tau_y \sigma_z (\sigma_y \Xi_0 \sigma_y)$ $\tau_y \sigma_z = \Xi_0^{\dagger}$.

B. Reflection amplitudes

We consider an incident mode $\psi_{\rm incident} = (\psi_{e,\rm inc},\psi_{h,\rm inc})$ without a hole component, $\psi_{h,\rm inc} = 0$, and initially we take the simplest case of normal incidence, when $k_y = 0$ and $k_z = \pm K$ is at one of the two Weyl points. (The dependence on the angle of incidence is included later on.) We work in the transformed basis from Sec. III, when both Weyl points are in the $\tau_z = -1$ band.

The incident electron wave function $\tilde{\psi}_{e,\mathrm{inc}} = (0,0,1,1)$ has $\sigma_x = +1$ in the $\tau_z = -1$ band, so that its velocity $t_x v_z \tau_z \sigma_x$ is in the negative x-direction. The reflected wave function $\tilde{\psi}_{\mathrm{reflected}} = (\tilde{\psi}_{e,\mathrm{refl}}, \tilde{\psi}_{h,\mathrm{refl}})$ contains an electron component $\tilde{\psi}_{e,\mathrm{refl}} = r_{ee}(0,0,1,-1)$ with $\sigma_x = -1$, and a hole component $\tilde{\psi}_{h,\mathrm{refl}} = r_{he}(0,0,1,1)$ with $\sigma_x = +1$, both waves propagating in the positive x-direction. The reflected waves are related to the incident wave by the normal reflection amplitude r_{ee} and the Andreev reflection amplitude r_{he} .

At the interface, the propagating modes in the $\tau_z=-1$ band may excite evanescent modes in the $\tau_z=+1$ band. Their wave function $\tilde{\psi}_{\text{evan}}$ in N is an eigenstate of $v_z\sigma_y$ with eigenvalue +1, so that the Hamiltonian (3.4) produces a decay for $x\to\infty$. The electron and hole components of the evanescent mode are $\tilde{\psi}_{e,\text{evan}}=a(1,i,0,0)$ and $\tilde{\psi}_{h,\text{surf}}=b(1,-i,0,0)$, with unknown amplitudes a,b.

The boundary condition (4.4) then equates the vectors

$$\begin{pmatrix} b \\ -ib \\ r_{he} \\ r_{he} \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{T} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ ia \\ 1 + r_{ee} \\ 1 - r_{ee} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (4.6)

There is no dependence on the chemical potential μ_W in the Weyl semimetal for normal incidence.

For an inactive interface, with $\Xi = 1$, we have

$$T = \tau_{v}\sigma_{z}\cos\alpha - i\tau_{x}\sigma_{v}\sin\alpha, \tag{4.7}$$

and we find

$$r_{ee} = -ie^{-2i\alpha}, \ r_{he} = 0,$$
 (4.8)

i.e., fully suppressed Andreev reflection at all energies (and also at all angles of incidence; see Sec. VI). For $E < \Delta_0$, the incident electron is reflected as an electron with unit

probability, without any transfer of a Cooper pair into the superconductor. For $E > \Delta_0$, the angle $\alpha = -i \operatorname{arcosh}(E/\Delta_0)$ is imaginary and the incident electron is partly transmitted through the NS interface—but still without any Cooper pair transfer.

V. ACTIVATION OF ANDREEV REFLECTION

Andreev reflection can be restored by a suitably chosen interface potential. We examine two types of interfaces, one that breaks time-reversal symmetry by a Zeeman coupling to the spin, and another that breaks inversion symmetry by a tunnel coupling to the orbital degree of freedom.

A. Spin-active interface

We consider an interface with a Zeeman Hamiltonian $H_{\text{interf}} = g \mu_{\text{B}} \mathbf{B} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ on the S side, which gives a transfer matrix

$$\Xi = \exp[i(\ell/v_{\rm F})\tau_z H_{\rm interf}] = \exp[i\gamma\tau_z(\boldsymbol{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma})], \quad (5.1)$$

with $\gamma = g\mu_{\rm B}B\ell/v_{\rm F}$, n a unit vector in the B direction, and ℓ is the thickness of the interface layer. The superconducting coherence length $\xi = \hbar v_{\rm F}/\Delta_0$ is an upper bound on ℓ , and hence $\gamma \lesssim E_{\rm Zeeman}/\Delta_0$, with $E_{\rm Zeeman} = g\mu_{\rm B}B$ the Zeeman spin splitting.

Depending on the direction of the field, we find the Andreev reflection amplitudes

$$H_{\text{interf}} = B_x \sigma_x \Rightarrow r_{he} = -\frac{2\cos\alpha\sin2\gamma\sin\theta}{\sin^22\gamma\sin^2\theta + e^{2i\alpha}},$$
 (5.2a)

$$H_{\text{interf}} = B_y \sigma_y \Rightarrow r_{he} = \frac{2i \sin \alpha \sin 2\gamma \cos \theta}{\sin^2 2\gamma \cos^2 \theta - e^{2i\alpha}},$$
 (5.2b)

$$H_{\text{interf}} = B_z \sigma_z \Rightarrow r_{he} = -\frac{2i \cos \alpha \sin 2\gamma}{\sin^2 2\gamma + e^{2i\alpha}}.$$
 (5.2c)

At the Fermi level $(E = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = \pi/2)$, we have $r_{he} = 0$ for **B** in the x direction or in the z direction, while a field in the y direction activates the Andreev reflection.

For $m_0 \ll \beta \ll t_z$, we may approximate $K \approx \beta/t_z \ll 1$, $\sin \theta \approx \beta/2t_z \ll 1$, and $\cos \theta \approx \mp 1$. The Andreev reflection probability $R_{he} = |r_{he}|^2$ at the Fermi level for \boldsymbol{B} in the y direction is then given by

$$R_{he} = \frac{4\sin^2 2\gamma}{(1+\sin^2 2\gamma)^2}.$$
 (5.3)

It oscillates with γ , reaching a maximum of unity when $\gamma = \frac{1}{4}\pi \mod \pi / 2$.

B. Inversion-symmetry-breaking interface

We next consider interfaces that break inversion symmetry rather than time-reversal symmetry. A potential barrier on the S side of the interface couples $\pm k_{\rm F}$, and thereby switches the τ_z index. This is modeled by a tunnel Hamiltonian of the form $H_{\rm interf} = V_{\rm barrier} \tau_{\alpha}$ with $\alpha \in \{x,y\}$, which preserves time-reversal symmetry ($H_{\rm interf} = \tau_x \sigma_y H_{\rm interf}^* \tau_x \sigma_y$).

The choice $H_{\text{interf}} = V_{\text{barrier}} \tau_x$ gives the transfer matrix

$$\Xi = e^{-\gamma' \tau_y}, \ \gamma' = V_{\text{barrier}} \ell / v_F \lesssim V_{\text{barrier}} / \Delta_0.$$
 (5.4)

This preserves inversion symmetry [see Eq. (2.19)], and it does not activate Andreev reflection: $r_{he} = 0$ for all E.

If instead we take the Hamiltonian $H_{\text{interf}} = V_{\text{barrier}} \tau_y$, we have $\Xi = e^{\gamma' \tau_x}$. Inversion symmetry is broken, and we find activated Andreev reflection:

$$r_{he} = \frac{2i \sin \alpha \sinh 2\gamma' \cos \theta}{\sin^2 \alpha \sinh^2 2\gamma' \sin^2 \theta + (\sin \alpha \cosh 2\gamma' - i \cos \alpha)^2}.$$
(5.5)

At the Fermi level, and for $m_0 \ll \beta \ll t_z$, the Andreev reflection probability is

$$R_{he} = \frac{4\sinh^2 2\gamma'}{\cosh^4 2\gamma'}.$$
 (5.6)

It reaches a maximum of unity for $\gamma' = \frac{1}{2} \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) = 0.441$, decaying to zero for both smaller and larger γ' .

VI. CONDUCTANCE OF THE NS JUNCTION

The reflection probabilities $R_{ee} = |r_{ee}|^2$ and $R_{he} = |r_{he}|^2$ determine the differential conductance dI/dV = G(eV) of the NS junction, per unit surface area, according to [29]

$$G(E) = \frac{e^2}{h} \int \frac{dk_y}{2\pi} \int \frac{dk_z}{2\pi} (1 - R_{ee} + R_{he}).$$
 (6.1)

The reflection amplitudes r_{ee} and r_{he} , as a function of energy E and transverse momentum components k_y, k_z , follow from the solution of Eq. (4.6), suitably generalized to include an arbitrary angle of incidence.

We consider an incident electron near the Weyl point at $\mathbf{k} = (0,0,K)$, with $K \approx \beta/t_z \ll 1$. [The other Weyl cone at -K gives the same contribution to the conductance, and we may set $\theta = 0$ in the transfer matrix (4.5).] We take μ_W , E > 0 so the electron is above the Fermi level at energy $\mu_W + E$ in the upper half of the Weyl cone. The Andreev reflected hole is below the Fermi level at energy $\mu_W - E$, which drops into the lower half of the Weyl cone when $E > \mu_W$. For brevity, we denote $q_x = t_x k_x$, $q_y = t_y k_y$, and $q_z = t_z k_z - \beta$.

We normalize the conductance by the total number N(E) of propagating electron modes in the Weyl cones at energy E above μ_W , given by

$$N(E) = 2 \int \frac{dq_y}{2\pi t_y} \int \frac{dq_z}{2\pi t_z} \Theta[(E + \mu_W)^2 - q_y^2 - q_z^2]$$

$$= \frac{(E + \mu_W)^2}{2\pi t_y t_z}.$$
(6.2)

(The prefactor 2 sums the contributions from the two Weyl cones.)

The low-energy Hamiltonian H_K follows upon projection of the Hamiltonian (3.4) on the $\tau = -1$ band and expansion around the Weyl point,

$$H_K = -\nu_z(\sigma_x q_x + \sigma_y q_y) - \nu_0 \sigma_z q_z - \mu_W \nu_z \sigma_0. \tag{6.3}$$

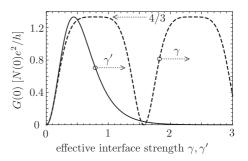


FIG. 2. Zero-bias conductance of the NS junction, calculated from Eq. (6.6), for the spin-active interface (dashed curve) and for the inversion-symmetry-breaking interface (solid curve). The conductance is normalized by the number of modes N from Eq. (6.2). For the inactive interface the conductance vanishes.

The x component of the momentum is $-q_x$ and $+q_x$ for the incident and reflected electron, and q'_x for the hole, with

$$q_x = \sqrt{(E + \mu_W)^2 - q_y^2 - q_z^2},$$

$$q_x' = \operatorname{sgn}(E - \mu_W)\sqrt{(E - \mu_W)^2 - q_y^2 - q_z^2}.$$
(6.4)

Only real q_x contribute to the wave-vector integration in Eq. (6.1), and when q_x' becomes imaginary one should set $R_{he} \equiv 0$.

Substitution of the corresponding spinors into Eq. (4.6) (normalized to unit flux) gives the mode-matching condition

$$\sqrt{\frac{q_{x}(E + \mu_{W} - q_{z})}{q'_{x}(E - \mu_{W} - q_{z})}} \begin{pmatrix} b \\ -ib \\ (q'_{x} + iq_{y})r_{he} \\ (E - \mu_{W} - q_{z})r_{he} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \mathcal{T} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ ia \\ q_{x} - iq_{y} + (q_{x} + iq_{y})r_{ee} \\ (E + \mu_{W} - q_{z})(1 - r_{ee}) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6.5}$$

For the inactive interface, when $\Xi=1$, the Andreev reflection amplitude vanishes at all energies for all angles of incidence. Andreev reflection is activated by the spin-active interface or by the inversion-symmetry-breaking interface, as discussed in Sec. V. At the Fermi level $(E=0,q_x'=-q_x)$ we recover the results (5.3) and (5.6) multiplied by the factor $q_x^2/(q_x^2+q_z^2)$ that accounts for the deviation from normal incidence. The resulting zero-bias conductance is given by

$$\lim_{V \to 0} \frac{dI}{dV} = \frac{16}{3} N(0) \frac{e^2}{h} \times \begin{cases} \sin^2 2\gamma / (1 + \sin^2 2\gamma)^2, \\ \sinh^2 2\gamma' / \cosh^4 2\gamma', \end{cases}$$
(6.6)

as plotted in Fig. 2, with $\gamma = E_{\rm Zeeman} \ell / v_{\rm F} \lesssim E_{\rm Zeeman} / \Delta_0$ in the spin-active interface Hamiltonian $H_{\rm interf} = E_{\rm Zeeman} \sigma_y$, and $\gamma' = V_{\rm barrier} \ell / v_{\rm F} \lesssim V_{\rm barrier} / \Delta_0$ in the inversion-symmetry-breaking case $H_{\rm interf} = V_{\rm barrier} \tau_y$.

The voltage-dependent differential conductance is plotted in Fig. 3. The conductance vanishes at $eV = \mu_W < \Delta_0$ when the hole touches the Weyl point. (The same feature appears at the Dirac point in graphene [30].)

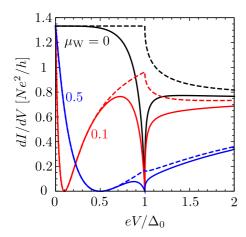


FIG. 3. Differential conductance of the NS junction, calculated from Eqs. (6.1) and (6.5), for the spin-active interface of Sec. V A (dashed curves, for $H_{\text{interf}} = E_{\text{Zeeman}} \sigma_y$ with $\gamma = \pi/4$), and for the inversion-symmetry-breaking interface of Sec. V B [solid curves, for $H_{\text{interf}} = V_{\text{barrier}} \tau_y$ with $\gamma' = \frac{1}{2} \ln(1 + \sqrt{2})$]. For $eV \gg \Delta_0$, all curves tend to the normal-state interface conductance of $0.8 Ne^2/h$.

VII. WEYL SEMIMETAL-WEYL SUPERCONDUCTOR JUNCTION

So far we have considered the junction between a Weyl semimetal and a superconductor formed from a conventional metal. A doped Weyl semimetal can itself become superconducting, forming a Weyl superconductor [3,4]. In this section, we study how the chirality blockade manifests itself in an NS junction between the normal and superconducting state of Weyl fermions. To make contact with a specific microscopic model, we consider the heterostructure approach of Burkov and Balents [6], which can describe both a Weyl semimetal and a Weyl superconductor [26,27].

A. Heterostructure model

For the Weyl semimetal, we start from a multilayer heterostructure, composed of layers of a magnetically doped topological insulator (such as Bi_2Se_3), separated by a normal-insulator spacer layer with periodicity d. Its Hamiltonian is [6,28,31]

$$H(\mathbf{k}) = v_{F}\tau_{z}(-\sigma_{y}k_{x} + \sigma_{x}k_{y}) + \beta\tau_{0}\sigma_{z}$$

$$+ (m_{k}\tau_{x} - \tau_{y}t_{z}\sin k_{z}d)\sigma_{0}, \qquad (7.1)$$

$$m_{k} = t'_{z} + t_{z}\cos k_{z}d.$$

The Pauli matrices σ_i act on the spin degree of freedom of the surface electrons in the topological insulator layers. The $\tau_z=\pm 1$ index distinguishes the orbitals on the top and bottom surfaces, coupled by the t_z' hopping within the same layer and by the t_z hopping from one layer to the next. Magnetic impurities in the topological insulator layers produce a perpendicular magnetization, leading to an exchange splitting β . The two Weyl points are at $\mathbf{k}=(0,0,\pi/d\pm K)$, with

$$K^2 \approx \frac{\beta^2 - (t_z - t_z')^2}{d^2 t_z t_z'}.$$
 (7.2)

They are closely spaced near the edge of the Brillouin zone for $|t_z - t_z'| \ll \beta \ll t_z d$.

To make contact with the generic Weyl Hamiltonian (2.1), we note the unitary transformation

$$U_0 H(\mathbf{k}) U_0^{\dagger} = v_F \tau_z (\sigma_x k_x + \sigma_y k_y) - \tau_z \sigma_z t_z \sin k_z d$$

$$+ m_k \tau_x \sigma_0 + \beta \tau_0 \sigma_z, \qquad (7.3)$$

$$U_0 = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{4} i \pi (\tau_0 + \tau_x) \sigma_z \right].$$

We will make use of this transformation later on.

Following Meng and Balents [26], the spacer layer may have a spin-singlet s-wave pair potential Δ , with a uniform phase throughout the heterostructure (which we set to zero, allowing us to take Δ real). The pair potential induces superconductivity in the top and bottom surfaces of the topological insulator layers, as described by the BdG Hamiltonian,

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = v_{F}v_{z}\tau_{z}(-\sigma_{y}k_{x} + \sigma_{x}k_{y}) + \beta v_{0}\tau_{0}\sigma_{z} + v_{z}(m_{k}\tau_{x} - \tau_{y}t_{z}\sin k_{z}d)\sigma_{0} - \mu v_{z}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0} + \mathbf{\Delta},$$

$$\mathbf{\Delta} = \Delta(x)v_{x}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0}. \tag{7.4}$$

It acts on eight-component Nambu spinors Ψ with elements

$$\Psi = (\psi_{+\uparrow}, \psi_{+\downarrow}, \psi_{-\uparrow}, \psi_{-\downarrow}, \psi_{+\downarrow}^*, -\psi_{+\uparrow}^*, \psi_{-\downarrow}^*, -\psi_{-\uparrow}^*), \quad (7.5)$$

where \pm refers to the top and bottom surface and \updownarrow refers to the spin band.

The pair potential Δ in Eq. (7.4) is diagonal in the τ and σ degrees of freedom. The corresponding BCS pairing interaction,

$$H_{\text{BCS}} = \Delta \sum_{\mathbf{k}} [c_{+\uparrow}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k})c_{+\downarrow}^{\dagger}(-\mathbf{k}) + c_{-\uparrow}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{k})c_{-\downarrow}^{\dagger}(-\mathbf{k})] + \text{H.c.},$$
(7.6)

represents zero-momentum pairing of spin-up and spin-down electrons within the same conducting surface of each topological insulator layer (inversion-symmetric, spin-singlet, intra-orbital pairing).

The BCS pairing interaction (7.6) corresponds to a scalar pair potential in the spin and orbital degrees of freedom. We restrict ourselves to that pairing symmetry in this section. Other BCS pair potentials (spin-triplet and pseudoscalar spin-singlet) are considered in Appendix B.

To describe a NS interface at x=0, we set $\Delta(x)=0$ for x>0 and $\Delta(x)=\Delta_0$ for x<0 (see Fig. 4). We also adjust the chemical potential $\mu(x)$, from a small value μ_W for x>0 to a large value μ_S for x<0. For the other parameters, we take x-independent values.

B. Mode matching at the NS interface

We can now follow the mode-matching analysis of the preceding sections, with one simplification and one complication. The simplification is that, because we have the same Weyl Hamiltonian on the two sides of the NS interface, we no longer need an interface matrix to conserve current across the interface. The complication is that the block-diagonalization in the τ degree of freedom on the N side of the interface introduces off-diagonal blocks in the pair potential on the S side.

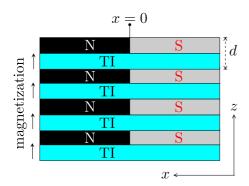


FIG. 4. Cross section through a layered Weyl semimetal-superconductor junction, based on the heterostructure model [6,26] of alternating topological insulator (TI) layers and normal (N) or superconducting (S) spacer layers. In this model, the orbital τ degree of freedom refers to the conducting top and bottom surfaces of the TI layers.

The unitary transformation that achieves this partial blockdiagonalization is

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{V}\mathcal{H}\mathcal{V}^{\dagger}, \quad \mathcal{V} = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_{y}\sigma_{z}\Omega_{\theta}U_{0} & 0\\ 0 & \Omega_{\theta}U_{0} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{7.7}$$

$$\Omega_{\theta} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}i\theta\tau_{y}\sigma_{z}\right),$$

with U_0 from Eq. (7.3). The k_z -dependent angle θ is defined by

$$\cos \theta = (t_z \sin k_z d)/M_k, \quad \sin \theta = m_k/M_k,$$

$$M_k = \sqrt{m_k^2 + t_z^2 \sin^2 k_z d}.$$
(7.8)

For closely spaced Weyl points (when $|t_z - t_z'| \ll \beta \ll t_z d$) we may approximate $\sin \theta \approx 0, |\cos \theta| \approx 1$.

The transformed Hamiltonian is

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\mathbf{k}) = v_{F}v_{z}\tau_{z}(\sigma_{x}k_{x} + \sigma_{y}k_{y}) + M_{k}v_{0}\tau_{z}\sigma_{z} + \beta v_{0}\tau_{0}\sigma_{z}
- \mu v_{z}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0} + \tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}},
\tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}} \equiv \mathcal{V}\mathbf{\Delta}\mathcal{V}^{\dagger} = \Delta(x)v_{x}\tau_{y}\sigma_{z}.$$
(7.9)

This has the same block-diagonal form (3.4) on the N side x > 0 of the interface (where $\Delta = 0$), but on the S side x < 0 the transformed pair potential $\tilde{\Delta}$ is off-diagonal in the τ degree of freedom [32].

We again assume $\mu_S \gg \mu_W$ so that in S we may neglect the transverse wave-vector component k_y and take k_z at the Weyl point, where $M_k = \beta$. The wave equation in S corresponding to the Hamiltonian (7.9) then reads

$$v_{\rm F} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x) = X_{\rm S} \psi(x), \quad x < 0,$$

$$X_{\rm S} = i(E v_z + \mu_{\rm S} v_0) \tau_z \sigma_x - \beta v_z (\tau_0 + \tau_z) \sigma_y$$

$$- \Delta_0 v_y \tau_x \sigma_y. \tag{7.10}$$

As derived in Appendix A, the decaying eigenvectors for $E < \Delta_0$ and $x \to -\infty$ satisfy

$$\nu_x \tau_y \sigma_z \psi = \exp(i\alpha \nu_z \tau_z \sigma_x) \psi, \tag{7.11}$$

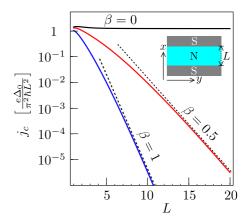


FIG. 5. Critical current density j_c of the SNS junction as a function of the separation L of the NS interfaces for different values of β , calculated from the Hamiltonian (7.4) for $\mu=0, v_{\rm F}=t_z=t_z'=d=1$. The dashed lines indicate the exponential decay $\propto e^{-c\beta \tilde{L}/v_{\rm F}}$ with c=1.7.

with $\alpha = \arccos(E/\Delta_0) \in (0, \pi/2)$. The corresponding boundary condition on $\psi = (\psi_e, \psi_h)$ is

$$\psi_h(0) = \mathcal{T}\psi_e(0), \quad \mathcal{T} = e^{i\alpha\tau_z\sigma_x}\tau_v\sigma_z.$$
 (7.12)

Because $\psi(x)$ is now continuous across the interface, we do not need to distinguish 0^+ and 0^- as we needed to do in Sec. IV A.

Substitution of \mathcal{T} into the mode-matching equation (6.5) gives $r_{he} \equiv 0$; fully suppressed Andreev reflection at all energies and all angles of incidence. This is the chirality blockade.

VIII. FERMI-ARC MEDIATED JOSEPHSON EFFECT

While the conductance of a single NS interface is fully suppressed by the chirality blockade, the supercurrent through an SNS junction is nonzero because of overlapping surface states (Fermi arcs) on the two NS interfaces. We have calculated this Fermi-arc mediated Josephson effect (see Appendix C), and we summarize the results.

The Fermi arcs connect the Weyl cones of opposite chirality [33]. As they pass through the center of the Brillouin zone, the chirality blockade is no longer operative and the Fermi arcs acquire a mixed electron-hole character. At $k_z = 0$, the surface states are charge neutral Majorana fermions [24].

The Fermi arcs are bound to the NS interface over a distance of order $v_{\rm F}/\beta$, so a coupling of the two NS interfaces is possible if their separation $L \lesssim v_{\rm F}/\beta$. For larger L, the critical current is suppressed $\propto \exp(-L/\xi_{\rm arc})$, with $\xi_{\rm arc} \simeq v_{\rm F}/\beta$ the penetration depth of the surface Fermi arc into the bulk (see Fig. 5).

IX. DISCUSSION

In conclusion, we have shown that Andreev reflection at the interface between a Weyl semimetal and a spin-singlet *s*-wave superconductor is suppressed by a mismatch of the chirality of the incident electron and the reflected hole. Zeromomentum (*s*-wave) pairing requires that the electron and hole have opposite chirality, while singlet pairing requires that they occupy opposite spin bands, and these two requirements are incompatible, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

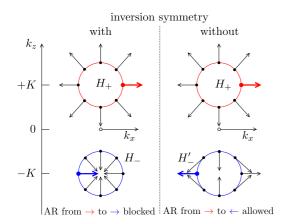


FIG. 6. Illustration of the spin-momentum locking for states at the Fermi energy in a pair of Weyl cones at $k = (0,0,\pm K)$. The arrows indicate the direction of the spin polarization for a momentum eigenstate at $k_y = 0$, as a function of k_x and k_z . The left column is for the Hamiltonian $H_W = (H_+, H_-)$ with inversion symmetry, the right column is for $H'_W = (H_+, H'_-)$ without inversion symmetry. Andreev reflection (AR) along the x direction on a superconductor with zero-momentum spin-singlet pairing is blocked for H_W (the red and blue arrows point in the same direction, so the spin is not inverted, as it should be for spin-singlet pairing), while it is allowed for H'_W (red and blue arrows point in opposite directions).

We have identified two mechanisms that can remove the chirality blockade and activate Andreev reflection. The first mechanism, a spin-active interface, has the same effect as spin-triplet pairing: it enables Andreev reflection by allowing an electron and a hole to be in the same spin band. The second mechanism, inversion-symmetry breaking either at the interface or in the pair potential, is more subtle, as we now discuss.

Consider the single-cone Weyl Hamiltonian centered at k = (0,0,+K),

$$H_{+} = v_x k_x \sigma_x + v_y k_y \sigma_y + v_z (k_z - K) \sigma_z.$$
 (9.1)

By definition, its chirality is $C = \operatorname{sgn}(v_x v_y v_z)$. For the second Weyl cone centered at $\mathbf{k} = (0,0,-K)$ of opposite chirality, we can take either

$$H_{-} = -v_x k_x \sigma_x - v_y k_y \sigma_y - v_z (k_z + K) \sigma_z \qquad (9.2)$$

or

$$H'_{-} = v_x k_x \sigma_x + v_y k_y \sigma_y - v_z (k_z + K) \sigma_z$$
 (9.3)

or some permutation of x,y,z, but either all three signs or one single sign of the velocity components must flip. The first choice satisfies inversion symmetry, $H_-(-k) = H_+(k)$, while the second choice does not. In Fig. 6 we show the spin-momentum locking in the pair of Weyl cones $H_{\rm W} = (H_+, H_-)$ and $H_{\rm W}' = (H_+, H_-')$ with and without inversion symmetry. We see that the chirality blockade can be removed by breaking inversion symmetry.

This explains why Uchida, Habe, and Asano [11] (who, with Cho, Bardarson, Lu, and Moore [34], fully appreciated the importance of spin-momentum locking for superconductivity in a Weyl semimetal) did not find any suppression of Andreev reflection at normal incidence on the NS interface. Their two-

band model of a Weyl semimetal [20,35,36] has the same spin texture as $H'_{\rm W}$, hence it breaks inversion symmetry and does not show the chirality blockade. The relevance of inversion symmetry also explains why no chirality blockade appeared in Refs. [12–14], where a pseudoscalar pair potential was used that breaks this symmetry (see Appendix B 2).

The chirality blockade suppresses the superconducting proximity effect, but since it can be lifted in a controlled way by a Zeeman field (see Fig. 2), it offers opportunities for spintronics applications. In the geometry of Fig. 1, a magnetic field in the y direction, in the plane of the NS interface and perpendicular to the magnetization, activates Andreev reflection when the Zeeman energy $E_{\rm Zeeman}$ becomes comparable to the superconducting gap Δ_0 . (To prevent pair-breaking effects from this Zeeman field, one can use a thin-film superconductor with strong spin-orbit coupling [37].) For a typical Zeeman energy of 1 meV/T and a typical gap of 0.1 meV, a 100 mT magnetic field can then activate the transfer of Cooper pairs through the NS interface. This provides a phase-insensitive alternative to the phase-sensitive control of Cooper pair transfer in a Josephson junction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: DERIVATION OF THE BOUNDARY CONDITION AT A WEYL SEMIMETAL-WEYL SUPERCONDUCTOR INTERFACE

Equation (4.2) gives the effective boundary condition at the NS interface between a Weyl semimetal and a conventional superconductor. Here we generalize this to the interface between a Weyl semimetal and a Weyl superconductor. We allow for a more general pairing symmetry than considered in the main text, and in Appendix B we apply the boundary condition to spin-triplet pairings and to a pseudoscalar spin-singlet pairing.

As discussed in the related context of graphene [25], the *local* coupling of electrons and holes at the NS interface that is expressed by the effective boundary condition holds under three conditions: (i) The chemical potential $\mu_{\rm S}$ in the superconducting region is the largest energy scale in the problem, much larger than the superconducting gap Δ_0 and much larger than the chemical potential $\mu_{\rm N}$ in the normal region; (ii) the interface is smooth and impurity-free on the scale of the superconducting coherence length $\hbar v_{\rm F}/\Delta_0$; and (iii) there is no lattice mismatch at the NS interface.

We start from Eq. (7.10), which governs the decay of the wave function in the superconducting region,

$$v_{\rm F} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \psi(x) = X_{\rm S} \psi(x), \quad x < 0,$$

$$X_{\rm S} = (i \mu_{\rm S} \tau_z \sigma_x + Y_{\rm S}), \quad Y_{\rm S} = i v_z \tau_z \sigma_x (E - \tilde{\Delta}). \tag{A1}$$

We have omitted the β term, which anticommutes with the μ_S term and can be neglected in the large- μ_S limit. We seek

a boundary condition on ψ at x = 0 that ensures decay for $x \to -\infty$.

In the most general case, $\tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}$ is a Hermitian 8 × 8 matrix that satisfies the electron-hole symmetry relation

$$\nu_{\nu}\sigma_{\nu}\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Delta}}^{*}\nu_{\nu}\sigma_{\nu} = -\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Delta}}.\tag{A2}$$

We make the following four additional assumptions:

- (i) $\tilde{\Delta}$ anticommutes with ν_z (so it is fully off-diagonal in the electron-hole degree of freedom).
- (ii) $\tilde{\Delta}$ commutes with $\tau_z \sigma_x$ (anticommuting terms do not contribute to the spectrum of X_S in the large- μ_S limit, so they may be ignored).
- (iii) $\tilde{\Delta}$ is independent of the momentum perpendicular to the NS interface (it may depend on the parallel momentum).
- (iv) $\tilde{\Delta}$ squares to a scalar Δ_0^2 (this assumption is not essential, but it allows for a simple closed-form answer).

Under these conditions, $X_{\rm S}$ and $Y_{\rm S}$ commute, so they can be diagonalized simultaneously. Moreover, $Y_{\rm S}^2 = \Delta_0^2 - E^2$, hence a decaying wave function for $E < \Delta_0$ is an eigenfunction of $Y_{\rm S}$ with eigenvalue $+\sqrt{\Delta_0^2 - E^2}$,

$$Y_{\rm S}\psi = \sqrt{\Delta_0^2 - E^2}\,\psi. \tag{A3}$$

We rearrange this to obtain a relation between the electron and hole components of $\psi = (\psi_e, \psi_h)$:

$$-i\nu_{z}\tau_{z}\sigma_{x}\tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}\psi = \left(-iE\nu_{z}\tau_{z}\sigma_{x} + \sqrt{\Delta_{0}^{2} - E^{2}}\right)\psi$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}\psi = \left(E + i\sqrt{\Delta_{0}^{2} - E^{2}}\nu_{z}\tau_{z}\sigma_{x}\right)\psi$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}\psi = \Delta_{0}\exp(i\alpha\nu_{z}\tau_{z}\sigma_{x})\psi, \tag{A4}$$

with $\alpha = \arccos(E/\Delta_0) \in (0,\pi/2)$. For a superconducting phase φ , we can decompose

$$\tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}} = \Delta_0(\nu_x \cos \varphi - \nu_y \sin \varphi) \mathbf{\chi},\tag{A5}$$

with χ a 4 × 4 Hermitian matrix that squares to unity and commutes with $\tau_z \sigma_x$. We thus arrive at the desired boundary condition,

$$e^{i\varphi} \chi \psi_h(0) = e^{i\alpha \tau_z \sigma_x} \psi_e(0). \tag{A6}$$

In a more general geometry, with a unit vector n in the x-y plane perpendicular to the NS interface and pointing from N to S, we can write the boundary condition as

$$\psi_h(0) = \mathcal{T}\psi_e(0), \quad \mathcal{T} = e^{-i\varphi} \exp[-i\alpha \tau_z(\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})] \boldsymbol{\chi}.$$
 (A7)

This was derived for subgap energies $E < \Delta_0$. The boundary condition still holds by analytic continuation for $E > \Delta_0$, when $\alpha = -i \operatorname{arcosh}(E/\Delta_0)$ is imaginary, provided that there is no particle current incident on the NS interface from the superconducting side.

APPENDIX B: GENERALIZATIONS TO OTHER PAIRING SYMMETRIES

The pair potential $\Delta = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_0 \sigma_0$ in the Meng-Balents Hamiltonian (7.4) represents inversion-symmetric, spin-singlet, intraorbital pairing, appropriate for the heterostructure model of Fig. 4. Other types of pairing may be relevant for Weyl semimetals with intrinsic superconductivity [27,31]. We calculate the corresponding Andreev reflection probabilities.

1. Spin-triplet pair potential

For the three s=x,y,z spin-triplet pairings, the relationship between the pair potential Δ_s in the Hamiltonian (7.4) and the transformed pair potential $\tilde{\Delta}_s$ in the Hamiltonian (7.9) is

$$\mathbf{\Delta}_{s} = \Delta_{0} \nu_{x} \tau_{y} \sigma_{s} \Rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}_{s} = -\Delta_{0} \nu_{y} \mathbf{\chi}_{s}, \tag{B1a}$$

$$\chi_x = -\tau_0 \sigma_x \cos \theta - \tau_v \sigma_v \sin \theta, \qquad (B1b)$$

$$\chi_{y} = -\tau_{0}\sigma_{y}\cos\theta + \tau_{y}\sigma_{x}\sin\theta, \qquad (B1c)$$

$$\chi_z = \tau_x \sigma_z \cos \theta - \tau_z \sigma_0 \sin \theta. \tag{B1d}$$

Each χ_s squares to unity, but only χ_x and χ_z commute with $\tau_z \sigma_x$. The s = y pairing anticommutes and does not open a gap in the large- μ_S limit. For the s = x and s = z pairings, we can read off the electron-hole coupling matrix \mathcal{T}_s from Eq. (A7),

$$\mathcal{T}_s = -ie^{i\alpha\tau_z\sigma_x} \mathbf{\chi}_s, \tag{B2}$$

and then derive the Andreev reflection amplitude by solving Eq. (6.5). The result for normal incidence is

$$r_{he} = \frac{2\sin\alpha\cos\theta}{\cos^2\theta - e^{2i\alpha}}$$
 for $s = x$, (B3a)

$$r_{he} = -\frac{2i\cos\alpha\sin\theta}{\sin^2\theta + e^{2i\alpha}}$$
 for $s = z$. (B3b)

More generally, for any angle of incidence, we have at the Fermi level (when $E=0 \Rightarrow \alpha=\pi/2$) the Andreev reflection probabilities

$$R_{he} = \frac{v_F^2 k_x^2}{\mu^2 - v_F^2 k_y^2} \frac{4\cos^2 \theta}{(1 + \cos^2 \theta)^2} \text{ for } s = x,$$
(B4)

$$R_{he} = 0$$
 for $s = z$.

2. Pseudoscalar spin-singlet pair potential

The pairing interaction

$$H'_{\rm BCS} = \Delta \sum_{\mathbf{k}} [c^{\dagger}_{+\uparrow}(\mathbf{k})c^{\dagger}_{+\downarrow}(-\mathbf{k}) - c^{\dagger}_{-\uparrow}(\mathbf{k})c^{\dagger}_{-\downarrow}(-\mathbf{k})] + \text{H.c.}$$

differs from H_{BCS} in Eq. (7.6) by a π phase shift of the pair potential on the top and bottom surfaces. The corresponding pair potential in the BdG Hamiltonian (7.4) is

$$\mathbf{\Delta}' = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_z \sigma_0. \tag{B6}$$

It anticommutes with τ_x and thus changes sign upon inversion, representing a pseudoscalar pairing in the classification of Ref. [10].

Bednik, Zyuzin, and Burkov [27] obtain the pseudoscalar pairing (B5) in a model where the pairing interaction is intrinsic to the Weyl semimetal, rather than proximity-induced as in the multilayer structure of Fig. 4. (The τ degree of freedom then refers to a molecular orbital instead of to a heterostructure layer.)

The change from scalar to pseudoscalar pairing has drastic consequences for Andreev reflection: The transformed pair potential in Eq. (7.9),

$$\tilde{\mathbf{\Delta}}' \equiv \mathcal{V} \mathbf{\Delta}' \mathcal{V}^{\dagger} = -\Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_0 \sigma_0, \tag{B7}$$

is *diagonal* rather than off-diagonal in the τ degree of freedom. We can therefore project the transformed Hamiltonian,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}'(\mathbf{k}) = v_{F}v_{z}\tau_{z}(\sigma_{x}k_{x} + \sigma_{y}k_{y}) + M_{k}v_{0}\tau_{z}\sigma_{z} + \beta v_{0}\tau_{0}\sigma_{z}
- \mu v_{z}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0} - \Delta_{0}v_{x}\tau_{0}\sigma_{0},$$
(B8)

onto the $\tau=-1$ subband without losing the pair potential. There is now no chirality blockade. The Andreev reflection amplitude is

$$r_{he} = -E/\Delta_0 + i\sqrt{1 - E^2/\Delta_0^2}$$
 at normal incidence for any energy, (B9a)
$$r_{he} = \frac{ik_x}{\sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2}}$$

at the Fermi level for any angle of incidence.

(B9b)

The projected Hamiltonian,

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}'_{\tau=-1} = -v_F v_z (\sigma_x k_x + \sigma_y k_y) + (\beta - M_k) v_0 \sigma_z
- \mu v_z \sigma_0 - \Delta_0 v_x \sigma_0,$$
(B10)

is essentially the one studied in Refs. [12–14]. This explains why no chirality blockade was obtained in those studies of Andreev reflection in a Weyl semimetal.

3. Comparison with tight-binding model simulations

To test these analytical formulas, we have discretized the eight-orbital Hamiltonian (7.4) on a cubic lattice, and we solved the scattering problem at the NS interface numerically, using the KWANT toolbox [38].

Equation (7.4) is linear in k_x and k_y , and a straightforward discretization, by replacing $k_x \mapsto \sin k_x$, $k_y \mapsto \sin k_y$, would suffer from fermion doubling. To avoid this, we follow Ref. [22] and add quadratic terms in k_x and k_y to the mass term m_k , resulting in the tight-binding Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{k}) = \nu_z \tau_z (-\sigma_y \sin k_x + \sigma_x \sin k_y) + \beta \nu_0 \tau_0 \sigma_z$$

= $+ \nu_z (m_k \tau_x - \tau_y \sin k_z) \sigma_0 - \mu \nu_z \tau_0 \sigma_0 + \mathbf{\Delta}$, (B11a)
 $m_k = 3 + \cos k_z - \cos k_x - \cos k_y$. (B11b)

For simplicity, we have set the Fermi velocity $v_{\rm F}$ and the hopping energies t_z, t_z' equal to unity, and we have taken the same lattice constant $d=a\equiv 1$ parallel and perpendicular to the layers.

The Weyl points are at $\mathbf{k} = (0,0,\pi \pm K)$, where

$$(1 - \cos K)^{2} + \sin^{2} K = \beta^{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow K = \arctan\left(\frac{\beta\sqrt{4 - \beta^{2}}}{2 - \beta^{2}}\right).$$
(B12)

Near the Weyl point, the normal-state dispersion is

$$(E + \mu_{\rm W})^2 = k_x^2 + k_y^2 + q_z^2,$$

 $q_z = (\pi - K - k_z)\cos\theta, \quad \cos^2\theta = 1 - \beta^2/4.$
(B13)

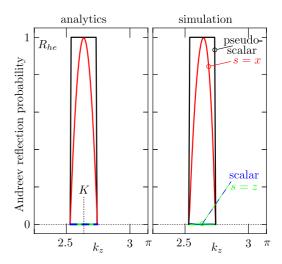


FIG. 7. Andreev reflection probability at the Fermi level of a Weyl semimetal–Weyl superconductor interface, for four different pairing symmetries in the superconductor (scalar and pseudoscalar spin-singlet, and s=x or s=z spin-triplet). The left panel shows the analytical results (B14) for $k_y=0,\beta=0.5,\mu_{\rm W}=0.1$. The right panel shows the results from a numerical simulation of the tight-binding model (B11), with additional parameters $\mu_{\rm S}=0.4, \Delta_0=0.55$. There are two Weyl points at $k_z=\pi\pm K$, only one of which is shown (the other gives the same results).

The analytical results for the Andreev reflection probability at the Fermi level (E=0), as a function of the transverse momenta k_y and q_z , are

$$R_{he} = \frac{4 - \beta^2}{(2 - \beta^2/4)^2} \frac{\mu_{\rm W}^2 - k_y^2 - q_z^2}{\mu_{\rm W}^2 - k_y^2},$$

$$s = x \quad \text{triplet pairing, } \Delta = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_y \sigma_x, \qquad \text{(B14a)}$$

$$R_{he} = 0, \quad s = z \quad \text{triplet pairing, } \Delta = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_y \sigma_z, \quad \text{(B14b)}$$

$$R_{he} = \frac{\mu_{\rm W}^2 - k_y^2 - q_z^2}{\mu_{\rm W}^2 - q_z^2}, \quad \text{pseudoscalar singlet pairing,}$$

$$\mathbf{\Delta} = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_z \sigma_0,$$
 (B14c)
 $R_{he} = 0$, scalar singlet pairing, $\mathbf{\Delta} = \Delta_0 \nu_x \tau_0 \sigma_0$. (B14d)

In Fig. 7 we compare the analytics with the numerical simulation, and we find good agreement without any fit parameter.

All of this is for a magnetization in the plane of the NS interface. If the magnetization is rotated out of the plane by an angle α , the Andreev reflection probability for scalar pairing shows the threshold behavior discussed in Sec. II; see Fig. 8. The threshold angle given by $\cos \alpha_c = k_F/K \approx \mu_W/\beta$ for an isotropic Weyl cone is in reasonable approximation with the numerical result, with some deviations because the Weyl cone of the Hamiltonian (B11) has a significant anisotropy.

APPENDIX C: CALCULATION OF THE FERMI-ARC MEDIATED JOSEPHSON EFFECT

We calculate the supercurrent flowing through an SNS junction in response to a phase difference ϕ between the superconducting pair potentials. As explained in Sec. VIII,

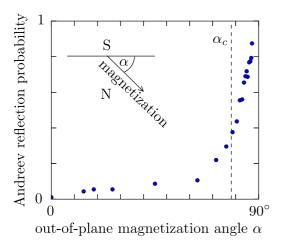


FIG. 8. Threshold dependence of the chirality blockade on the direction of the magnetization. The horizontal axis shows the out-of-plane rotation angle α of the magnetization, the vertical axis shows the Andreev reflection probability at the Fermi level for normal incidence. The data points are calculated numerically from the tight-binding model (B11) with a scalar pair potential (parameters $\mu_{\rm W}=0.18,\mu_{\rm S}=0.2,\Delta_0=0.9,\beta=0.85$). The dashed vertical line is the threshold angle $\alpha_c=\arccos{(\mu_{\rm W}/\beta)}=78^\circ$ expected for an isotropic Weyl cone.

because of the chirality blockade of Andreev reflection, this supercurrent is due entirely to overlapping Fermi arcs on the two NS surfaces. It is exponentially small when the distance L of the NS interfaces is large compared to the decay length v_F/β of the surface states into the bulk. This is the key difference between the present calculation for the Weyl semimetal Josephson junction and a similar calculation for a graphene Josephson junction in Ref. [25].

1. Andreev bound states

We start from the Hamiltonian (7.4),

$$\mathcal{H} = v_F v_z \tau_z (-\sigma_y k_x + \sigma_x k_y) + \beta v_0 \tau_0 \sigma_z$$
$$+ v_z (m_k \tau_x - \tau_y t_z \sin k_z d) \sigma_0 - \mu v_z \tau_0 \sigma_0$$
$$+ \Delta_0 (v_x \cos \varphi - v_y \sin \varphi) \tau_0 \sigma_0, \tag{C1}$$

generalized to account for a complex pair potential $\Delta_0 e^{i\varphi}$. In the N region |x| < L/2 we set $\Delta_0 = 0$, while in the S regions |x| > L/2 we have a nonzero gap Δ_0 and a phase φ equal to $\varphi/2$ for x > L/2 and equal to $-\varphi/2$ for x < -L/2.

We carry out a (partial) block-diagonalization by means of the unitary transformations $\mathcal{H} \mapsto \mathcal{W} \mathcal{V} \mathcal{H} \mathcal{V}^{\dagger} \mathcal{W}^{\dagger}$, with \mathcal{V} defined in Eq. (7.7) and \mathcal{W} defined by

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} i\tau_y \sigma_z & 0\\ 0 & \tau_0 \sigma_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (C2)

The resulting Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = v_F v_z \tau_z (k_x \sigma_x + k_y \sigma_y - M_k \sigma_z) + \beta v_0 \tau_0 \sigma_z$$
$$- \mu v_z \tau_0 \sigma_0 + \Delta_0 (v_x \cos \varphi - v_y \sin \varphi) \tau_0 \sigma_0 \tag{C3}$$

is diagonal in τ . We may therefore replace τ_z by the variable $\tau = \pm 1$ and τ_0 by 1.

At the NS interfaces $x = \pm L/2$ we have the boundary condition (A7),

$$\psi_h(\pm L/2) = \mathcal{T}^{\pm 1} \psi_e(\pm L/2),$$

$$\mathcal{T} = e^{-i\phi/2} e^{-i\alpha\tau\sigma_x}, \quad \alpha = \arccos(E/\Delta_0).$$
(C4)

Integration of $\mathcal{H}\psi = E\psi$, with $\psi = (\psi_+, \psi_-)$ the two ν components of the wave function, gives the x dependence in the N region,

$$\psi_{\pm}(x) = e^{x \Xi_{\pm}} \psi_{\pm}(0), -L/2 < x < L/2,$$
 (C5a)

$$\Xi_{\pm} = i\tau \sigma_x \frac{\mu \pm E}{v_F} - \sigma_y \frac{M_k \pm \tau \beta}{v_F} + \sigma_z k_y. \quad (C5b)$$

A bound state in the SNS junction, a so-called Andreev level, appears at energies when [25]

$$\det(1 - e^{-L \Xi_{+}} \mathcal{T} e^{L \Xi_{-}} \mathcal{T}) = 0.$$
 (C6)

We assume that the separation L of the NS interfaces is small compared to the superconducting coherence length $\xi = v_F/\Delta_0$. In this short-junction regime the energy dependence of Ξ_{\pm} can be neglected and only the energy dependence of \mathcal{T} needs to be retained [39].

Introducing the vector notation $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z)$ and defining

$$\mathbf{d}_{\pm} = (d_x, d_{\pm, y}, d_z) = \frac{L}{v_F} (i\tau \mu, -M_k \pm \tau \beta, v_F \sin k_y), \quad (C7)$$

the bound-state condition can be written as

$$\det(e^{-i\phi/2}e^{\mathbf{d}_{-}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} - e^{i\phi/2}e^{i\alpha\sigma_{x}}e^{\mathbf{d}_{+}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}}e^{i\alpha\sigma_{x}}) = 0.$$
 (C8)

To simplify the equations, we define

$$\sinh x = \frac{\sinh x}{x}.$$
 (C9)

The identity

$$e^{\mathbf{d}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \sigma_0 \cosh d + (\mathbf{d}\cdot\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \sinh c d, \quad d = \sqrt{\mathbf{d}\cdot\mathbf{d}}, \quad (C10)$$

allows us to evaluate the determinant Eq. (C8) as

$$\gamma_0^2 = \gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2 + \gamma_3^2,$$
 (C11)

where

$$\gamma_0 = e^{-i\phi/2} \cosh d_- - e^{i\phi/2} (\cos 2\alpha \cosh d_+ + i \sin 2\alpha d_x \sinh d_+), \tag{C12a}$$

$$\gamma_1 = e^{-i\phi/2} d_x \sinh c d_- - e^{i\phi/2} (i \sin 2\alpha \cosh d_+)$$

$$+\cos 2\alpha \, d_x \, \mathrm{sinhc} \, d_+),$$
 (C12b)

$$\gamma_2 = e^{-i\phi/2} d_{-\nu} \sinh c d_{-\nu} - e^{i\phi/2} d_{+\nu} \sinh c d_{+\nu}$$
 (C12c)

$$\gamma_3 = e^{-i\phi/2} d_z \sinh c d_- - e^{i\phi/2} d_z \sinh c d_+. \tag{C12d}$$

The phase dependence of the bound-state energy can be solved exactly from Eq. (C11) when the Fermi level is near the Weyl points, $|\mu| \ll v_F/L$:

$$E(\phi) = \Delta_0 \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} + p(\phi)} \tag{C13a}$$

$$p(\phi) = \frac{1 + (\mathbf{d}_{-} \cdot \mathbf{d}_{+}) \sinh c \, d_{-} \sinh c \, d_{+}}{2 \cosh d_{-} \cosh d_{+}} - \frac{\sin^{2}(\phi/2)}{\cosh d_{-} \cosh d_{+}},$$
(C13b)

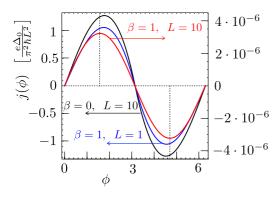


FIG. 9. Current-phase relationship of the Josephson current density for various values of β and L. The extrema are close to $\pi/2$ and $3\pi/2$, indicated by the dashed lines. This is calculated from Eq. (C16) for $v_F = t_z = t_z' = d = 1$.

where the \mathbf{d}_{\pm} are taken at $\mu=0$. The energy levels are doubly degenerate in $\tau=\pm 1$. This degeneracy is lifted by a finite chemical potential: The first-order correction δE_{\pm} to the bound state energy reads

$$\delta E_{\pm} = \pm \frac{L|\mu|\Delta_{0}}{2v_{\rm F}} \left| \frac{\tanh d_{+}}{d_{+}} - \frac{\tanh d_{-}}{d_{-}} \right| \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} - p(\phi)}. \quad (C14)$$

2. Josephson current

In the short-junction limit, only the Andreev levels contribute to the supercurrent density [39] according to

$$j(\phi) = -\frac{e}{\hbar} \sum_{\tau = +1} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk_y}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dk_z}{2\pi} \frac{dE(\phi)}{d\phi}.$$
 (C15)

We take $\mu \ll v_{\rm F}/L$ and substitute Eq. (C13) to arrive at

$$j(\phi) = \frac{e\Delta_0}{8\pi^2\hbar} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dk_y \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dk_z \frac{\sin\phi}{\cosh d_- \cosh d_+ \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} + p(\phi)}}.$$
(C16)

(The integrand is symmetric in $\tau = \pm$, so the sum over τ has been omitted in favor of an overall factor of 2.)

We take parameters $v_F = t_z = t_z' = d = 1$, when

$$M_k = \sqrt{(1 + \cos k_z)^2 + \sin^2 k_z} = 2\cos(k_z/2).$$
 (C17)

The current-phase relationship is close to sinusoidal; see Fig. 9. The critical current can then be accurately approximated by $j_c \approx j(\pi/2)$. This is plotted as a function of L in Fig. 5. It decays $\propto \exp(-L/\xi_{\rm arc})$, with $\xi_{\rm arc} \simeq v_{\rm F}/\beta$ the penetration depth of the surface Fermi arc into the bulk.

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