Supplemental Material: Random-gate-voltage induced Al'tshuler-Aronov-Spivak effect in topological edge states

Kun Luo,¹ Wei Chen,^{1,2,*} Li Sheng,^{1,2} and D. Y. Xing^{1,2}

¹National Laboratory of Solid State Microstructures and school of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing, 210093, China ²Collaborative Innovation Center of Advanced Microstructures, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, China

(Dated: September 29, 2021)

I. LATTICE MODEL FOR NUMERICAL CALCULATION

Here, we elucidate the parameters for the interferometer sketched in main text Fig. 1(a). The hard-wall boundary in the y direction is described by the following function

$$|y(x)| = \begin{cases} \left(W - (W - W_{PC}e^{-(x+L_M/2+L_{PC})^2/30^2}) \right)/2, & -L < x < -(L_M/2+L_{PC}), \\ W_{PC}/2, & -(L_M/2+L_{PC}) \le x \le -L_M/2, \\ \left(W - (W - W_{PC}e^{-(x+L_M/2)^2/30^2}) \right)/2, & -L_M/2 < x < 0, \\ \left(W - (W - W_{PC}e^{-(x-L_M/2)^2/30^2}) \right)/2, & 0 \le x < L_M/2, \\ W_{PC}/2, & L_M/2 \le x \le (L_M/2+L_{PC}), \\ \left(W - (W - W_{PC}e^{-(x-L_M/2-L_{PC})^2/30^2}) \right)/2, & (L_M/2+L_{PC}) < x < L, \end{cases}$$
(1)

where W is the width of the lead, W_{PC} and L_{PC} are the width and length of PC.

The whole devices can be described by Hamiltonian $H = H_{QSH} + H_R$, where H_{QSH} is the Hamiltonian of QSHI and H_R is the Hamiltonian of SOC. Here, we use HgTe/CdTe quantum wells in our proposal, which can be described by Bernevig-Hughes-Zhang model as

$$\begin{aligned} H_{QSH} &= -Dk^2 + Ak_x \tau_x \sigma_z - Ak_y \tau_y + (M - Bk^2) \tau_z \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} D_k + M_k & Ak_+ & 0 & 0 \\ Ak_- & D_k - M_k & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_k + M_k & -Ak_- \\ 0 & 0 & -Ak_+ & D_k - M_k \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\sigma_{x,y,z}$ and $\tau_{x,y,z}$ are Pauli matrices of spin and orbital respectively. $k_{\pm} = k_x \pm ik_y$, $k^2 = k_x^2 + k_y^2$, $D_k = -Dk^2$, and $M_k = M - Bk^2$. A, B, D and M are the material parameters which can be controlled by experiment. The Hamiltonian of SOC is

$$H_R = 0.5\alpha(1 + \tau_z)(k_x\sigma_y - k_y\sigma_x) \\ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i\alpha k_- & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ i\alpha k_+ & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where α is Rashba coefficient.

In order to run numerical calculations, we use a square lattice model for whole system by discretizing the continuous effective hamiltonian H. By using $k^2 = 2a^{-2}[2 - \cos(k_x a) - \cos(k_y a)]$, $k_x = a^{-1}\sin(k_x a)$, $k_y = a^{-1}\sin(k_y a)$, we can derive the Hamiltonian to real space. The lattice Hamiltonian is

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i^{\dagger} H_{ii} c_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i^{\dagger} H_{i,i+a_x} c_{i+a_x} + \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i^{\dagger} H_{i,i+a_y} c_{i+a_y} + H.C.,$$
(2)

where $c_i = (c_{s,\uparrow,i}, c_{p,\uparrow,i}, c_{s,\downarrow,i}, c_{p,\downarrow,i})$ are the annihilate operators of electron with spin up and spin down in s and p orbits at site i. The H_{ii} , $H_{i,i+a_x}$ and $H_{i,i+a_y}$ are 4×4 Hamiltonians,

$$H_{ii} = -\frac{4D}{a^2} - \frac{4B}{a^2}\tau_z + M\tau_z,$$

$$H_{i,i+a_x} = \frac{D + B\tau_z}{a^2} + \frac{A\tau_x\sigma_z}{2ia} + \frac{\alpha(1+\tau_z)\sigma_y}{4ia},$$
 (3)

$$H_{i,i+a_y} = \frac{D + B\tau_z}{a^2} + \frac{iA\tau_y}{2a} + \frac{i\alpha(1+\tau_z)\sigma_x}{4a},$$

where lattice constant is a = 3nm. As a weak magnetic field is applied along z-direction, the nearest neighbour hopping T_{ij} should add a Peierls phase, $T_{ij} \times \exp(i\frac{e}{\hbar}\int_{i}^{j} \mathbf{A} \cdot$

^{*} Corresponding author: pchenweis@gmail.com



FIG. 1. Oscillation patterns of scattering probabilities by lattice simulation for (a) $V_g = 0$ and (b) random V_g with $\mathcal{W} =$ 10meV. The FFT spectrum of (c) the return probability $R(\bar{R})$ and (d) the transmission probability $T(\bar{T})$. All parameters are the same as those in main text Fig. 2 except for $\alpha_R = 180$ nm meV.



FIG. 2. Oscillation patterns of scattering probabilities and their FFT spectra. All parameters are the same as those in main text Fig. 2 except for $L_{RPC} = 180$ nm.

dr), where T_{ij} is the hopping for site *i* to site *j*. The vector potential is chosen as $\mathbf{A} = (-B_z y, 0, 0)$.

II. NUMERICAL RESULTS FOR DIFFERENT PARAMETERS

First, we change the Rashba coefficient α_R at the right PC. The scattering probabilities $T, R, T_{31}, T_{41}, T_{\text{total}}$ $(\bar{T}, \bar{R}, \bar{T}_{31}, \bar{T}_{41}, \bar{T}_{\text{total}})$ without (with) V_g averaging are shown in Fig. 1. One can see that the main results still hold, i.e., the random V_g quenches the Φ_0 -period oscillation and leads to a dominant $\Phi_0/2$ -period oscillation as shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). There are three peaks in the frequency domain of R, and only a single peak at $2/\Phi_0$ survives in \bar{R} after V_g averaging; see Fig.

1(c). Accordingly, the $\Phi_0/2$ -period AAS oscillation overwhelms the Φ_0 -period AB oscillation in the transmission



FIG. 3. Oscillation patterns of scattering probabilities and their FFT spectra. All parameters are the same as those in main text Fig. 2 except for a different incident energy of 2 meV.



FIG. 4. Oscillation patterns of scattering probabilities and their FFT spectra with disorder strength 5 meV. All parameters are the same as those in main text Fig. 2.

probability \overline{T} as shown in Fig. 1 (d). Similar results also hold as one varies the length L_{RPC} of the right PC as shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 3 shows the similar results with a different incident energy. The $\Phi_0/2$ -period oscillation dominates the return probability $(R \text{ and } \overline{R})$ before and after V_q averaging. The Φ_0 -period oscillation of the transmission probability is strongly suppressed by the random V_q , while the $\Phi_0/2$ component remains unaffected. We also show in Fig. 4 that our results are robust against disorder. Since the main results are stabilized by the time-reversal symmetry, the modification of the sample details will not change the qualitative results. From Figs. 1-4, one can see that the averaged return probability $\overline{R}(\Phi = 0) = 0$ generally holds for various sample parameters, indicating the universality of the predicted signal of the helical edge states.