Majorana fermion is a hypothetical particle that is its own antiparticle. We report transport measurements that suggest the existence of one-dimensional chiral Majorana fermion modes in the hybrid system of a quantum anomalous Hall insulator thin film coupled with a superconductor. As the external magnetic field is swept, half-integer quantized conductance plateaus are observed at the locations of magnetization reversals, giving a distinct signature of the Majorana fermion modes. This transport signature is reproducible over many magnetic field sweeps and appears at different temperatures. This finding may open up an avenue to control Majorana fermions for implementing robust topological quantum computing.

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the TSC, which allows for a calculation of the propagation of charge and, therefore, the electrical conductivity (see the supplementary text).

To experimentally identify the CMEM, we fabricate a QAHI-TSC device (Fig. 1B). The QAHI bar with dimensions of 2 mm by 1 mm is implemented using a magnetic topological insulator thin film (Cr0.12Bi0.26Sb0.62)2Te3 grown on a GaAs (111)B substrate by molecular beam epitaxy. The Fermi level is within the surface gap without the assistance of electric-field tuning with a gate [38]. Because the hybridization gap, m_x, is important to control the proposed topological phase change, the QAHI film thickness is precisely controlled to be six quintuple layers, i.e., around 6 nm (38, 40). Across the central part of the QAHI bar, a superconductor bar (8 mm by 0.6 mm) is deposited, which contains a 200-nm-layer of Nb protected by a 5-nm layer of Au. A control QAHI Hall bar of the same dimension is also fabricated near the TSC device on the same wafer. The field-dependent total longitudinal conductance \( \sigma_{
abla} \) is obtained by passing an alternating current (I_0) through the outer two probes and measuring the potential drop across the inner two probes (Fig. 1B, points 1 and 2). In the control QAHI device, the example of the \( \sigma_{\nabla} \) can be identified experimentally with a unique transport signature of a half-integer longitudinal conductance plateau (0.5 \( e^2/\hbar \)) during the reversal of the magnetization (17, 18, 36). When the external field is large enough, the device fully reaches the QAHI scheme (\( \sigma_{\nabla} \)). In the TSC region, both of the two CMEMs exist, forming the phase of \( \sigma_{\nabla} \). Because the two CMEMs are topologically equivalent to one QAHI state (\( \sigma_{\nabla} \)), all incident edge modes can almost perfectly transmit through the device, as shown in Fig. 1A, (i) and (vii) (compared with (viii) in the QAHI regime). leading to a \( \sigma_{\nabla} \) (to be discussed in Fig. 2C). When the magnetic field is reduced, the TSC region experiences the first topological phase change, leading to \( \sigma_{\nabla} \). Such that one of the paired CMEMs vanishes. Because the QAHI regions are still in the \( \sigma_{\nabla} \) phase, the incident QAHI state can transmit only one of the CMEMs to the TSC region, whereas the other CMEM is almost perfectly reflected. This leads to the separation between the two CMEMs in the incident QAHI state [Fig. 1A, (ii) and (vii)], such that a half-integer plateau of the longitudinal conductance would occur (to be discussed in Fig. 2C). Further reducing the magnetic field drives the QAHI regions to the NI phase (\( \sigma_{\nabla} \)), where the surface hybridization gap shuts down the conducting channels (\( \sigma_{\nabla} \)). Although the TSC region still experiences two more topological transitions (\( \sigma_{\nabla} \)), no current should go through in these cases, as shown in Figs. 1A, (iii), (iv), and (v). Thus, during every reversal of the magnetization, \( \sigma_{\nabla} \) presents a half-integer plateau close to the coercive fields.

The transport channel formed by the CMEM of \( \sigma_{\nabla} \) is experimentally demonstrated by the longitudinal conductance signal of the QAHI-TSC device. Figure 2A illustrates the temperature-dependent upper critical field \( (H_{c2}) \) in the out-of-plane direction of the Nb bar using a standard four-probe method (magenta configuration in Fig. 1B). Here, the zero-resistance temperature (corresponding to the temperature at which the zero-resistance state is just achieved) is extracted from the temperature-dependent resistance characteristics under different perpendicular magnetic fields (Fig. 2A, inset). The resulting \( H_{c2} \) shows a linear temperature dependence, which follows the standard linearized Ginzburg-Landau theory for 2D superconductors. For comparison,
the temperature-dependent coercive field \( (\mu_0H_C) \) of the QAHI derived from the Hall measurements (fig. S1) is plotted in the same figure. Because \( \mu_0H_{C2} \) is more than one order of magnitude larger than \( \mu_0H_C \) of the QAHI, the superconductivity is ensured even when the QAHI is driven into a single magnetic domain regime under a relatively large external magnetic field. At 350 mK, two longitudinal conductance (\( \sigma_{12} \)) plateaus show up at the low-field shoulders of the \( \sigma_{12} \) valleys in Device I (Fig. 2B). These plateaus occur at \(+80 \) mT, with conductance values of \( 0.49 \frac{e^2}{h} \).

The plateaus at the high-field shoulders cannot be resolved as clearly as the low-field ones. They appear as kinks valued at \( 0.51(\pm0.05) \frac{e^2}{h} \). The pertinent data obtained from other two TSC devices (II and III) exhibit \( 0.52(\pm0.06) \) and \( 0.48(\pm0.07) \) \( \frac{e^2}{h} \) conductance plateaus at a

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**Fig. 2.** Half-integer longitudinal conductance as a signature of single chiral Majorana edge modes. (A) Temperature-dependent perpendicular upper critical field \( (\mu_0H_{C2}; \text{pink}) \) of the Nb bar and coercive field \( (\mu_0H_C; \text{cyan}) \) of the QAHI, in which the former was derived from the temperature at which the zero resistance state is just reached under various perpendicular magnetic fields (inset, temperature-dependent resistance curves under magnetic field from zero to 3.4 T in 200-mT steps), whereas the latter was extracted from the magnetic field dependences of Hall resistance at different temperatures (fig. S1). Standard linearized Ginzburg-Landau theory for superconducting film was used for the fitting of \( \mu_0H_{C2} \) (dotted line). The large difference between \( \mu_0H_{C2} \) and \( \mu_0H_C \) ensures the superconducting proximity effect from Nb to QAHI. (B) The longitudinal four-terminal conductance \( (\sigma_{12}) \) of three representative TSC devices as functions of perpendicular magnetic fields at 350 mK. The three devices all show conductance plateaus at the low-field shoulders of the \( \sigma_{12} \) valleys with values close to the predicted \( 0.5 \frac{e^2}{h} \), supporting the existence of single CMEM. Only Device I exhibits a sudden increase of \( \sigma_{12} \) at the high-field shoulder of the \( \sigma_{12} \) valley. (C) \( \sigma_{12} \) as a function of external perpendicular magnetic field obtained from Device I at 20 mK. When superconductivity is induced on the top surface of the QAHI, \( \sigma_{12} \) shows additional half-integer plateaus \( (~0.5 \frac{e^2}{h}) \) between the transitions of the QAHI \( C=\pm1 \) and the normal insulator. (Lower plot) Derivative of \( \sigma_{12} \) with respect to the magnetic field. Topological transitions are marked by dashed lines and arrows. (D) Without superconducting proximity effect, the Hall conductance \( (\sigma_{xy}) \) of the QAHI device demonstrates the evolution between QAHI \( C=\pm1 \) and the normal insulator, illustrating the surface-hybridization–induced zero plateaus at the coercive fields during magnetization reversals.

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**Fig. 3.** Temperature evolution of the total longitudinal conductance in a TSC device. (A to C) Four-terminal magnetoconductance in [(A) and (B)] a TSC Device I \( (\sigma_{12}) \), and (C) a QAHI device \( (\sigma_{12}) \), as functions of perpendicular magnetic fields at different temperatures. Traces are offset for clarity, except for the lowest traces at 20 mK in (A), 350 mK in (B), and 350 mK in (C), with 10-mK steps. To clearly demonstrate the temperature dependence, select traces are shown in bold, accompanied with corresponding temperatures. The half-integer plateaus gradually narrow down owing to the thermally activated bulk carriers and completely disappear above 400 mK for Device I as shown in (B) [compared with (C)]. Black and red dashed arrows indicate the half-plateau positions and solid black arrows denote field-scan directions.
Majorana fermions are charge neutral, the two channel of the CMEM in the $N = \pm 1$ phase [see Fig. 1A, (ii) and (vi)]. Despite the fact that Majorana fermions are charge neutral, the two CMEMs at the two edges of the TSC$_{N=\pm 1}$ constitute a coherent charged basis that transmits exactly one-half of the incoming charges. At 20 mK, distinct plateaus with the quantized value of $0.50(\pm 0.06) e^2/h$ are seen at both shoulders of the $\sigma_{23}$ valleys (Fig. 2C). Outside the half-plateau regimes, when the magnetization is fully saturated, the conductance reaches a quantized value of $0.98(\pm 0.04) e^2/h$, indicating the $C = \pm 1 / N = \pm 2$ phases [see Fig. 1A, (i) and (v)]. On the other hand, during the reversal of the magnetization, $\sigma_{23}$ dips into a valley corresponding to the NI phase of the QAHI regions [see Fig. 1A, (iii), (iv), and (v)]. Ideally, the NI phase should completely shut down the QAHI channels, leading to zero-conductance plateaus. However, this requires an ultra-smooth sample such that the electrostatic fluctuations throughout the device are smaller than the hybridization gap ($\sim 4$ meV) induced by the coupling between the top and bottom surface states of the QAHI thin film. Thanks to the proximity effect, bend-bending may occur at the Nb covered region, such that the device may not be fully insulating as expected, resulting in a vanishingly small but observable residual $\sigma_{23} \approx 0.05 e^2/h$ observed in the NI phase (Fig. 2C). Furthermore, in this field range, the resistance between leads 1 and 2 can increase to as high as 10 to 100 $\Omega$ (or even higher), which is comparable to the internal resistance of the lock-in amplifier instrument, making the accurate measurement of $\sigma_{23}$ very challenging. Consistent with the phase transitions during the magnetic reversal, the half-integer plateaus (or kinks) occur at every reversal of the magnetization in the hysteresis loop. Such magnetization reversals can also be seen in a QAHI device with its Hall conductance ($\sigma_{xy}$) plotted in Fig. 2D aligned to Fig. 2C, where two intermediate zero plateaus ($\sigma_{xy} \approx 0$) induced by the NI-QAHI transition occur at the coercive fields $H_C \approx \pm 170$ mT (38, 40). In these half-integer plateaus (Fig. 2C), the transport in the TSC region is, in principle, purely dominated by a collection of chiral Majorana fermions as 1D edge modes. This feature is distinct from the “zero-bias conductance anomalies” induced by OD Majorana bound states (20, 22, 27, 32), and is as a hallmark signature associated with the chiral Majorana edge transport channels in the TSC$_{N=\pm 1}$ phases.

To further confirm the transport signature of the CMEMs in the $N = \pm 1$ phase, we carried out measurements at higher temperatures (Fig. 3A). With increasing temperature, the thermal broadening of the transport window gradually smeared the half-integer plateaus, which became kinks of finite slopes and then eventually disappeared above 400, 470, and 390 mK for Devices I (Fig. 3B), II (fig. S2A), and III (fig. S2B), respectively. In all three devices, the kinks at high-field reversals are always narrower than the low-field plateaus, and they vanish earlier as the temperature increases. This discrepancy between low-field and high-field reversals may be attributed to the magnetic field hindering the superconducting phase. Although the external magnetic field is lower than the critical field of the Nb bar (as shown in Fig. 2A), the interface exchange coupling between the Nb and the QAHI may provide a much larger effective field, which suppresses the superconducting phase in the TSC region.

Other effects that might lead to the observed transport signatures, such as the Barkhausen effect (41), must be ruled out. When domains are small and not strongly pinned by impurities, domain walls abruptly jump during the magnetization reversal, and the resultant stochastic Barkhausen steps therefore often appear in bunches that are irreproducible during different magnetic field sweeps. These steps mainly occur at small magnetic fields (fig. S3), and none of them could reach $R_{\text{osc}} = 2 \Omega$ (supplementary text). In contrast, the CMEM-induced half-integer plateaus in Device I can be reproduced (fig. S4) with clear temperature traces (Fig. 3A), and they occur both in low-field and high-field cases (Fig. 2C). When large domains are pinned by impurities or defects, some Barkhausen steps can be retracetable at large magnetic fields, as shown in fig. S2A for Device II. However, these steps can be strongly suppressed with improved sample quality, as shown in Fig. 3A for Device I and fig. S2B for Device III. Among all three devices, only the $0.5 e^2/h$ plateaus survive in all cases, suggesting that they originate from a fundamentally different mechanism. Only the backscattering originating in the TSC$_{N=\pm 1}$ phase could lead to such a half-quantized conductance that persists in different batches of devices. Any backscattering processes from the TSC$_{N=\pm 2}$ or the NSC$_{N=0}$ phase would have a considerably smaller Andreev scattering, which cannot explain the half-integer conductance.

Another alternative explanation of the half-integer $\sigma_{23}$ might be that the two QAHI regions

![Fig. 4. Longitudinal conductance response to a high magnetic field and the conductance matrix in a TSC device. Shown are the data from Device I at 20 mK. (A) $\sigma_{23}$ as a function of high external perpendicular magnetic field. At the upper critical field of the Nb bar of about 4 T at 20 mK (Fig. 2A), the superconductivity of Nb and the topological superconductivity underneath are expected to be eliminated. Afterward, the Nb bar becomes a floating metal and connects its left and right QAHI bars in series. Thus, $\sigma_{23}$ gradually decreases as the field increases and quantizes to $\sim 0.5 e^2/h$ when the field reaches about 4 T. (B) Schematic configuration of a TSC device for the conductance measurements. The three-terminal conductance ($\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$) was obtained by passing a current from either the QAHI lead to the superconductor Nb ($I_{12}$ and $I_{23}$) and measuring the corresponding potential drop (across points 1-2 and 2-3). (C and D) The resulting $\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$ as functions of external magnetic fields, respectively. The dashed lines align with those in Fig. 2C and D; the arrows indicate magnetic field sweeping directions. During the transitions to a TSC ($N = \pm 1$), both $\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$ become close to $e^2/h$ but almost vanish otherwise, consistent with the theoretical prediction of the single CMEMs.](http://science.sciencemag.org/)
could have been connected in series by a non-superconducting, topologically trivial Nb covered region. To address this issue, two additional transport measurements were carried out using Device I, as explained below.

First, $\sigma_{12}$ was obtained at high magnetic fields as shown in Fig. 4A, using the same setup as Fig. 1B. After the magnetic field eliminates the superconducting phase in both layers, $\sigma_{12}$ indeed reaches $-0.5 \frac{e^2}{h}$, suggesting the scenario of two QAHI layers. However, the measurements show four peaks, instead of two valleys, in Fig. S5F. This behavior suggests that the Nb covered region was indeed a $TSC_{\gamma=2}$ phase before $\sigma_{12}$ started to drop back to $-0.5 \frac{e^2}{h}$. If the half-integer plateaus below the critical field were induced by this trivial picture, they would have persisted all the way throughout large fields (Fig. S5E). The behavior of these 0.5 and 1.0 $\frac{e^2}{h}$ plateaus in Fig. 4A rules out this trivial picture, providing again strong evidence that the low-field half-integer plateaus (within $\pm300$ mT) have an origin different from that of the high-field one ($4$ to $7$ T) and are likely associated with CMEMs.

Second, $\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$ were measured between electrodes 1-3 and 2-3 at 20 mK, respectively, using the setup shown in Fig. 4B. If the TSC was a trivial normal metal, the system should be equivalent to a QAHI that is directly contacted with a trivial normal metal, the system should have been connected in series as expected. Thus, a typical $\sigma_{13}$ behavior of a QAHI (Fig. 3C) should be observed—i.e., both $\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$ would exhibit two plateaus at $\pm150$ mT ($C = 0$) and then reach $\frac{e^2}{h}$ after the magnetization saturates ($C = \pm1$) as shown in Fig. S5F. However, the measurements (Figs. 4, C and D) show four peaks, instead of two valleys, in both $\sigma_{13}$ and $\sigma_{23}$, coinciding with the half-integer plateaus given by the measurements of $\sigma_{12}$. The height of these peaks reaches $-0.9 \frac{e^2}{h}$, very close to the quantized value expected from the Andreev reflection of a single CMEM ($N = \pm1$) (36) (for an elaborated theoretical explanation using the Laudau-Büttiker transport picture, see the supplementary text). This result also demonstrates that superconductivity in the QAHI layer was indeed induced owing to the proximity effect; otherwise, the observed peaks would not occur, and the conductance would remain small throughout the magnetic field scan.

The QAHI-superconductor system was realized as a prototype of the chiral TSC in two dimensions; more complex layouts could be engineered to host the bound states of Majorana fermions in solid state and enable their manipulation. The Majorana fermion modes are predicted to be topologically protected and thus may become a building block for robust topological quantum computing.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

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Materials and Methods

Supplementary Text

Figs. S1 to S6
A propagating Majorana mode
Although Majorana fermions remain elusive as elementary particles, their solid-state analogs have been observed in hybrid semiconductor-superconductor nanowires. In a nanowire setting, the Majorana states are localized at the ends of the wire. He et al. built a two-dimensional heterostructure in which a one-dimensional Majorana mode is predicted to run along the sample edge (see the Perspective by Pribiag). The heterostructure consisted of a quantum anomalous Hall insulator (QAHI) bar contacted by a superconductor. The authors used an external magnetic field as a “knob” to tune into a regime where a Majorana mode was propagating along the edge of the QAHI bar covered by the superconductor. A signature of this propagation—half-quantized conductance—was then observed in transport experiments.

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