Time Reversal Symmetry Breaking in Unconventional Superconductors

Aharon Kapitulnik^{*1}

¹Department of Physics and Applied Physics, Stanford University (GLAM) – Mc Cullough Building, United States

Abstract

In this talk we will survey current searches for topological superconductors, concentrating on several classes of systems. Our studies utilize a modified Sagnac interferometer, that can measure polar Kerr effect with resolution exceeding 10-8 rad, which is sensitive to time reversal symmetry breaking since it measures the existence of an antisymmetric contribution to the real and imaginary parts of the frequency-dependent conductivity tensor. First is Strontium ruthenate (Sr2RuO4), which is an odd-parity superconductor with odd orbital angular momentum and symmetric spin-triplet (p-wave) pairing. Discussing our studies of Sr2RuO4, we will continue to review our recent studies of the heavy fermion superconductors URu2Si2 and UPt3 and discuss their possible pairing symmetry as a result of our measurements. Finally we will discuss results on hybrid systems involving proximity effect between super conductors and magnetoc systems.

*Speaker