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DOI

[10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.076803](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.076803)

Publication date

2009

Document Version

Final published version

Published in

Physical Review Letters

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Grosfeld, E., & Schoutens, K. (2009). Non-Abelian anyons: when Ising meets Fibonacci. *Physical Review Letters*, 103(7), 076803. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.076803>

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Non-Abelian Anyons: When Ising Meets Fibonacci

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(Received 20 October 2008; published 13 August 2009)

We consider an interface between two non-Abelian quantum Hall states: the Moore-Read state, supporting Ising anyons, and the $k = 2$ non-Abelian spin-singlet state, supporting Fibonacci anyons. It is shown that the interface supports neutral excitations described by a $(1 + 1)$ -dimensional conformal field theory with a central charge $c = 7/10$. We discuss effects of the mismatch of the quantum statistical properties of the quasiholes between the two sides, as reflected by the interface theory.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.103.076803

PACS numbers: 73.43.Cd

The quantum statistics of particles confined to two spatial dimensions is not confined to be either bosonic or fermionic. Particles called (Abelian) anyons pick up phase factors upon braiding, while for non-Abelian anyons braiding is represented by nontrivial matrices acting on multi-component wave functions or state vectors. Non-Abelian anyons offer most exciting perspectives for what is called topological quantum computation (TQC) [1,2]. The idea is that a collection of non-Abelian anyons, realized as excitations in a suitable quantum medium, open up a quantum register whose dimension depends on the number and the type of the anyons. This register can then be manipulated via a braiding of world lines of the anyons, leading to quantum logic gates.

The leading candidate for physical systems that can support non-Abelian anyons is specific fractional quantum Hall (QH) liquids. Current experimental investigations seek to confirm the tentative identification of the state underlying QH plateau observed at filling fraction $5/2$ with the Moore-Read (MR) state [3], or a close relative thereof [4,5]. This state is known to support non-Abelian anyons of so-called Ising type, the name deriving from an underlying algebraic structure which it has in common with the 2D Ising model at criticality. The braid matrices for Ising anyons are nontrivial, but they fall short of allowing universal TQC.

The other prototypical class of non-Abelian anyons is the so-called Fibonacci anyons. Their name derives from the fact that the dimensionality of the quantum register for an n -anyon state is the n th entry in the famous Fibonacci sequence $f_n = 1, 2, 3, 5, \dots, f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$. Matrices generated by successive braidings of such Fibonacci anyons are dense in the unitary group, implying that they are universal for TQC. All logic operations on the quantum register can be approximated to arbitrary accuracy by successive braidings (see, for example, [6]).

Two relatively simple quantum Hall states are known to support Fibonacci anyons (see, e.g. [7]). The first is the so-called Read-Rezayi state with order $k = 3$ clustering, at filling $\nu = 3/5$ (possibly related to a quantum Hall plateau observed at $\nu = 12/5$). The other is the $k = 2$ non-Abelian

spin-singlet (NASS) state proposed by Ardonne and one of the present authors in 1999 [8], at filling $\nu = 4/7$. In many ways, this NASS state is similar to the MR state, the main difference being that it describes two species of fermions, which can be the spin-up and spin-down states of spin-1/2 electrons.

For general quantum Hall liquids, an edge separating the liquid from vacuum carries one or more gapless modes, described by a chiral conformal field theory (CFT). There is always a charge mode, which is responsible for the low-energy transport properties characteristic of quantum Hall liquids. A non-Abelian state has neutral edge modes, which can be linked to the fusion channel degeneracies of the bulk non-Abelian state. For the MR state this neutral mode is a Majorana (Ising) fermion (CFT with central charge $c = 1/2$) while for the $k = 2$ NASS state the neutral modes are particular parafermions [descending from an $SU(3)$ structure, with a CFT central charge $c = 6/5$]; see [7–9] for details.

In this Letter we consider an interface between the MR liquid (supporting Ising anyons) and the $k = 2$ NASS liquid (supporting Fibonacci anyons) and we investigate how the mismatch between the underlying topological orders plays out in the properties of this interface. We establish that the interface supports gapless neutral modes described by a specific CFT of central charge $c = 7/10$. Dragging a Fibonacci anyon through this interface turns it into an Ising anyon, in the process exciting a specific ($h = 3/80$) neutral interface mode. We also investigate to what extent processes where neutral bulk excitations tunnel to and from the interface can relax the internal state of qubits spanned by pairs of quasiholes.

For a MR-NASS interface to be possible experimentally, it will be necessary to have electronic interactions such that both the MR state (in the polarized case) and the NASS states (in the unpolarized case and at zero Zeeman splitting) represent stable phases. Exact diagonalization studies [10] in the second Landau level (LL) indicate that it is indeed possible to modify the Coulomb interaction such that both the MR and the NASS wave functions (for up to $N = 12$ particles) have high overlaps

with numerically obtained ground states in the appropriate regimes.

MR and NASS states.—The kinematic setting for the QH states we consider is the lowest Landau level (LLL), where N -body wave functions $\Psi(z_1, \dots, z_N)$ factor into an analytic, polynomial expression $\tilde{\Psi}(z_1, \dots, z_N)$ times a Gaussian factor. Below we first describe the bosonic versions of the MR and NASS wave functions (at filling $\nu = 1$ and $\nu = 4/3$, respectively). Their fermionic counterparts at $\nu = 1/2$ and $\nu = 4/7$ are obtained by multiplication with an overall Jastrow factor $\prod_{i<j}(z_i - z_j)$. The bosonic MR and NASS wave functions can be characterized as the maximal density, zero-energy eigenstates of [11]

$$H = \sum_{i<j<k} \delta^{(2)}(z_i - z_j) \delta^{(2)}(z_i - z_k). \quad (1)$$

For the NASS states the coordinates $\{z_i\}$ split as $\{z_i^\uparrow, z_j^\downarrow\}$.

The MR wave function can be written as

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{\text{MR}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \sum_{S_1, S_2} \prod_{i<j \in S_1} (z_i - z_j)^2 \prod_{k<l \in S_2} (z_k - z_l)^2, \quad (2)$$

where the sum is over all inequivalent ways of dividing the N coordinates into groups S_1, S_2 with $N/2$ coordinates each. In a similar way, the bosonic NASS wave function for N_\downarrow spin-down particles and N_\uparrow spin-up particles is

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{\text{NASS}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \sum_{S_1, S_2} \Psi_{S_1}^{221}(z_i^\uparrow, z_j^\downarrow) \Psi_{S_2}^{221}(z_k^\uparrow, z_l^\downarrow), \quad (3)$$

where the sum is over all inequivalent ways of dividing the coordinates to two groups, each containing $N_\uparrow/2$ spin-up and $N_\downarrow/2$ spin-down, and

$$\Psi_{S_a}^{221}(z_i^\uparrow, z_j^\downarrow) = \prod_{i<j \in S_a} (z_i^\uparrow - z_j^\uparrow)^2 \prod_{i'<j' \in S_a} (z_{i'}^\downarrow - z_{j'}^\downarrow)^2 \prod_{i,j' \in S_a} (z_i^\uparrow - z_{j'}^\downarrow). \quad (4)$$

Ising and Fibonacci anyons.—For Ising anyons there are three particle types, I, ψ , and σ , with fusion rules

$$\psi \times \psi = I, \quad \sigma \times \psi = \sigma, \quad \sigma \times \sigma = I + \psi. \quad (5)$$

In addition, $I \times x = x$ for $x = I, \psi, \sigma$. For Fibonacci anyons there are only two particle types, I and ϕ ,

$$I \times I = I, \quad I \times \phi = \phi, \quad \phi \times \phi = I + \phi. \quad (6)$$

The Virasoro primaries I, ψ , and σ in the $c = 1/2$ Ising CFT, of conformal dimensions $h_\psi = 1/2, h_\sigma = 1/16$, are in direct correspondence with the particle types I, ψ , and

σ . The relation between the Fibonacci particle types I and ϕ and the $c = 6/5$ parafermion theory is more subtle. The parafermion CFT has eight fields that are primary with respect to the parafermionic chiral algebra: the identity I , three $h = 1/2$ parafermion fields ψ_1, ψ_2 , and ψ_{12} , three $h = 1/10$ spin fields σ_1, σ_2 , and σ_3 , and the $h = 3/5$ spin field ρ . The correspondence is

$$I \leftrightarrow \{I, \psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_{12}\}, \quad \phi \leftrightarrow \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \rho\}. \quad (7)$$

A further subtle point is that the parafermion sector denoted as “ ρ ” contains two leading Virasoro primaries ρ_c and ρ_s , of dimension $h = 3/5$. The Virasoro fusion rule $\sigma_3 \sigma_3 = [1 + \rho_c]$ shows that ρ_c acts as fusion channel changing operator for two σ_3 fields, which correspond to the spinless quasiholes over NASS state. Similarly, the fusion rule $\sigma_1 \sigma_1 = \psi_{12} [1 + \rho_s]$ shows that ρ_s changes the fusion channel for fields σ_1 and σ_1 , which come with spin-full quasiholes. We refer to [7] for a complete description of the fusion rules and operator product expansions in the $c = 6/5$ CFT.

Quasihole counting formulas and edge characters.—Our strategy for obtaining the partition sum for a MR-NASS interface theory will be by reduction from a counting formula for quasihole degeneracies in spherical geometry (“giant hole approach”). In the presence of N_ϕ flux quanta piercing through the sphere, the LLL orbitals form an angular momentum multiplet with $L = N_\phi/2$, with, up to stereographical projection, the wave function z^m corresponding to the orbital with $L_z = m - N_\phi/2$, for $m = 0, \dots, N_\phi$. The Hamiltonian Eq. (1) acts on many-body wave functions with N_\uparrow, N_\downarrow spin-up and spin-down electrons present. For $N_\uparrow = N_\downarrow$ and flux $N_\phi = \frac{3}{4}N - 2$ there is a unique zero-energy eigenstate, which is the bosonic NASS state whose asymptotic filling is $\nu = 4/3$. If we now add ΔN_ϕ extra flux quanta and unbalance the numbers of up and down electrons, we create n_\uparrow, n_\downarrow spin-up and spin-down quasiholes, with $n_\uparrow + n_\downarrow = 4\Delta N_\phi, N_\uparrow + n_\downarrow = N_\uparrow + n_\uparrow$.

The zero-energy quasihole states in the presence of ΔN_ϕ are degenerate for two reasons. The first is a choice of orbital for the quasiholes and the second is a choice of fusion channel. The full structure of the space of zero-energy states is captured by a zero-energy quasihole partition sum $Z_{\text{sphere}}[N_\uparrow, N_\downarrow; n_\uparrow, n_\downarrow](q) = \text{tr}_{E=0}[q^{L_z}]$. For the Laughlin and MR states, expressions for $Z_{\text{sphere}}(q)$ have been given in [12]. For the $k = 2$ NASS the following expression was obtained in [9]:

$$\sum_{\substack{F_1 = N_\uparrow \bmod 2 \\ F_2 = N_\downarrow \bmod 2}} q^{(F_1^2 + F_2^2 - F_1 F_2)/2} \binom{\frac{n_\uparrow + F_1}{2}}{F_1}_q \binom{\frac{n_\downarrow + F_1}{2}}{F_2}_q \binom{\frac{N_\uparrow - F_1}{2} + n_\uparrow}{n_\uparrow}_q \binom{\frac{N_\downarrow - F_2}{2} + n_\downarrow}{n_\downarrow}_q. \quad (8)$$

The q binomial is [here $(q)_n \equiv (1-q)(1-q^2)\cdots(1-q^n)$]

$$\binom{n}{m}_q \equiv \frac{(q)_n}{(q)_m (q)_{n-m}}. \quad (9)$$

Putting $N_\uparrow = N, N_\downarrow = 0, n_\uparrow = n, n_\downarrow = N + n$, the formula reduces to the case of the N -particle MR state with n quasiholes,

$$\sum_{F, (-1)^F = (-1)^N} q^{F^2/2} \binom{n/2}{F}_q \binom{\frac{N-F}{2} + n}{n}_q. \quad (10)$$

Let us now consider the MR state and demonstrate how to extract the edge characters from the bulk counting formula. The exact physical mechanism will be described in the next section, but here we notice that if we take a large number n of quasiholes in Eq. (10) and take the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$, the counting formula reduces to

$$\left[\frac{1}{(q)_n} \right] \left[\sum_{F=0,2,\dots} q^{F^2/2} \binom{n/2}{F}_q \right]. \quad (11)$$

The first bracket coincides with the boson character when the limit $n \rightarrow \infty$ is taken. The second bracket coincides with the Ising vacuum character when $n \rightarrow \infty$. The edge content of the MR state is thus completely reproduced.

MR-NASS interface.—We now use the “giant hole” technique to investigate the MR-NASS interface. We wish to consider a 2-fluid configuration on the sphere with N_{NASS} particles making up a NASS state and N_{MR} particles making up a MR state, so that $N_{\uparrow} = \frac{1}{2}N_{\text{NASS}} + N_{\text{MR}}$ and $N_{\downarrow} = \frac{1}{2}N_{\text{NASS}}$. The number of flux quanta needed to accommodate this 2-fluid state is $N_{\phi} = \frac{3}{4}N_{\text{NASS}} + N_{\text{MR}} - 2$. Comparing with a situation where all $N_{\text{NASS}} + N_{\text{MR}}$ particles form a NASS state we have an excess flux of $\Delta N_{\phi} = \frac{1}{4}N_{\text{MR}}$, giving rise to the presence of $n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow} = 4\Delta N_{\phi} = N_{\text{MR}}$ quasiparticles. Using $N_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow} = N_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow}$ we infer that $n_{\uparrow} = 0$, $n_{\downarrow} = N_{\text{MR}}$.

For the values of N_{\uparrow} , N_{\downarrow} , n_{\uparrow} , and n_{\downarrow} thus specified, the Hamiltonian (1) allows a large number of zero-energy eigenstates, as given in Eq. (8). However, in the presence of more realistic Coulomb interactions these states will no longer be degenerate. One expects that the lowest energy states will be phase-separated, with regions of NASS and MR liquids separated by an interface. The other states in Eq. (8) then correspond to excitations of this interface. One can further stabilize such a configuration by assuming an orbital-dependent Zeeman term which favors the liquid to be spin polarized in a specific region, say near the south pole on the sphere.

In the limit of $N_{\uparrow}, N_{\downarrow} \rightarrow \infty$ Eq. (8) reduces to a charge boson factor times the following factor, accounting for neutral interface excitations

$$\sum_{F_1, F_2=0,2,4,\dots} q^{(F_1^2 + F_2^2 - F_1 F_2)/2} \binom{n_1 + F_1}{F_2}_q \binom{F_2/2}{F_1}_q. \quad (12)$$

This expression coincides with a finitized chiral character for the vacuum sector in a $c = 7/10$ minimal model of CFT [13]. We conclude that the MR-NASS interface supports neutral excitations described by this precise CFT [Table I] [15].

The fields of the CFT at $c = 6/5$ can be written as a direct product of fields of the CFTs at $c = 7/10$ and $c = 1/2$. We identify the correspondence by the use of a character formula and through the discrete symmetries

TABLE I. Primary fields of the conformal field theory at central charge $c = 7/10$, along with their conformal dimensions h , and fusion rules (see, e.g., [14]).

	h	ϵ	ϵ'	ϵ''	$\tilde{\sigma}$	$\tilde{\sigma}'$
ϵ	1/10	$I + \epsilon'$				
ϵ'	3/5	$\epsilon + \epsilon''$	$I + \epsilon'$			
ϵ''	3/2	ϵ'	ϵ	I		
$\tilde{\sigma}$	3/80	$\tilde{\sigma} + \tilde{\sigma}'$	$\tilde{\sigma} + \tilde{\sigma}'$	$\tilde{\sigma}$	$I + \epsilon + \epsilon' + \epsilon''$	
$\tilde{\sigma}'$	7/16	$\tilde{\sigma}$	$\tilde{\sigma}$	$\tilde{\sigma}'$	$\epsilon + \epsilon'$	$I + \epsilon''$

associated with the fields. This requires one to consider an extended algebra produced by explicitly adding a fermion parity operator to both the $c = 7/10$ and the $c = 1/2$ theories, $(-1)^F$ and $(-1)^{F'}$, which satisfy $\{(-1)^F, \epsilon''\} = 0$ and $\{(-1)^{F'}, \psi\} = 0$. The Ramond sector is then effectively “doubled,” so σ , $\tilde{\sigma}$, and $\tilde{\sigma}'$ are replaced, respectively, by σ_{\pm} , $\tilde{\sigma}_{\pm}$, and $\tilde{\sigma}'_{\pm}$, each having a well-defined fermion parity given by the subscript. Their fusion rules are now constrained so that fermion parity is respected.

The fields are related through the following relations

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\downarrow} &= \tilde{\sigma}_{+} \otimes \sigma_{+} + \tilde{\sigma}_{-} \otimes \sigma_{-}, & \sigma_{\uparrow} &= \tilde{\sigma}_{+} \otimes \sigma_{-} + \tilde{\sigma}_{-} \otimes \sigma_{+}, \\ \sigma_3 &= \epsilon' \otimes \psi + \epsilon \otimes I, & \psi_1 &= \tilde{\sigma}'_{+} \otimes \sigma_{-} + \tilde{\sigma}'_{-} \otimes \sigma_{+}, \\ \psi_2 &= \tilde{\sigma}'_{+} \otimes \sigma_{+} + \tilde{\sigma}'_{-} \otimes \sigma_{-}, & \psi_{12} &= \epsilon'' \otimes I + I \otimes \psi, \\ \rho &= \epsilon' \otimes I + \epsilon \otimes \psi, & I &= \epsilon'' \otimes \psi + I \otimes I, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where the notation $\phi_1 \otimes \phi_2$ describes a direct product of a field in the $c = 7/10$ theory (ϕ_1) and a field in the $c = 1/2$ theory (ϕ_2). In addition, the two Virasoro primaries ρ_s and ρ_c have the following decompositions:

$$\rho_s = \epsilon \otimes \psi, \quad \rho_c = \epsilon' \otimes I. \quad (14)$$

A physical way of viewing the creation of the $c = 7/10$ edge between the MR state and the NASS state is by starting with counterpropagating edges, with $\bar{c} = 1/2$ and $c = 6/5 = 1/2 + 7/10$, respectively, and introducing tunneling between the two edges. As the tunneling increases, the counterpropagating Majorana fermions gap out, leaving behind only the $c = 7/10$ edge. It is useful in this case to consider an inverted form of Eq. (13), which contains explicitly both counterpropagating modes. In this way, one can identify those degrees of freedom which gap out and those which remain behind. For example, at the level of the characters the following relation holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\psi} \psi_{12} + \bar{I}_{1/2} I_{6/5} &= I_{7/10} (\bar{\psi} \psi + \bar{I}_{1/2} I_{1/2}) \\ &+ \epsilon'' (\bar{\psi} I_{1/2} + \bar{I}_{1/2} \psi). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Here $I_{1/2}$, $I_{7/10}$, and $I_{6/5}$ are the identity fields for the three theories. The combinations of fields appearing within parentheses gap out when an effective mass term $m \bar{\psi} \psi$ is generated by tunneling, leaving only the $c = 7/10$ degrees of freedom behind on the edge.

Gedanken experiments.—To illustrate the role of the $c = 7/10$ interface as a “mediator” between two regions of

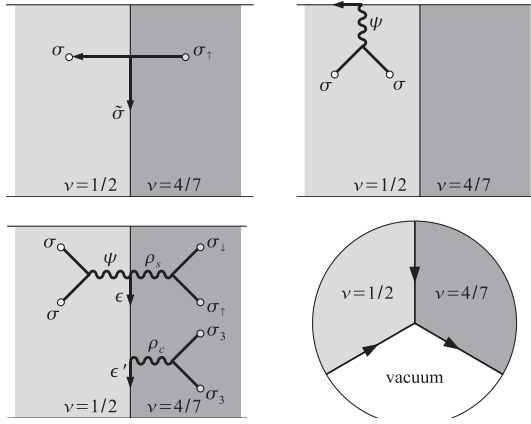


FIG. 1. Upper left: Dragging a quasihole through the MR-NASS interface. Upper right: Relaxation of an Ising qubit via edge to vacuum. Lower left: Qubit relaxation via MR-NASS interface. Lower right: Y junction.

different quantum statistical properties, we consider several gedanken experiments.

(i) *Dragging a quasihole across the interface.*—A σ_1 quasihole (charge $q = 1/7$) is dragged from the $\nu = 4/7$ side to the $\nu = 1/2$ side, emerging as a $q = 1/4$ σ quasihole. During this process, a $\tilde{\sigma}$ is emitted into the edge, and a charge of $3/28$ is absorbed. (Fig. 1, upper left).

(ii) *Qubit relaxation.*—In both non-Abelian quantum Hall states, a pair of bulk quasiholes constitutes a qubit with two possible internal states. For a finite system, a qubit may relax its state by exchanging a neutral particle with a nearby edge or interface [16], through exponentially small tunneling matrix elements. An edge to vacuum can always relax a qubit state (see Fig. 1, upper right, for an example where two quasiholes in a MR state exchange a Majorana fermion with a MR-vacuum edge). Equations (13) and (14) lead to constraints on qubit relaxation via the MR-NASS interface. Two σ_3 quasiholes can relax their state by exchanging a ρ_c with a MR-NASS interface. However, this same interface cannot relax the state of two σ quasiholes on the MR side, or of a σ_1 - σ_1 qubit on the NASS side. The combined process, involving a ρ_s on the NASS side and a ψ on the MR side, is possible (Fig. 1, lower left).

(iii) *Y junctions.*—Consider a Y junction between a NASS state, a MR state, and the vacuum (Fig. 1, lower right). Thermal current through the junction splits proportionally to the central charge, unidirectionally as depicted in the figure, providing an observable which is directly sensitive to the gapping out of the two counterpropagating $c = 1/2$ theories described in the above.

Our discussion is easily generalized to an interface between k -clustered Read-Rezayi and NASS states, leading to a neutral mode CFT of central charge $c_k = \frac{2(2k+3)(k-1)}{(k+3)(k+2)}$.

We close by mentioning some ideas related to the work presented here. The authors of [17] discuss how condensing a boson can transform a non-Abelian topological phase (NA) into a phase with different topological order (NA'). This construction naturally leads to properties of a NA-NA' interface. In [18] a finite density of non-Abelian anyons is shown to nucleate a different topological liquid within a “parent” non-Abelian liquid. Their interface is shown to provide examples of edge states between non-Abelian phases. Clearly, the various approaches to NA-NA' interfaces are complementary, and they illustrate distinct features of the underlying physics.

We thank E. Ardonne, F. A. Bais, and A. W. W. Ludwig for discussions and for sending us their manuscripts prior to publication. This work was supported by the foundation FOM of the Netherlands and by the ICMT.

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