

Fluxon Dynamics in Elliptic Annular Josephson Junctions - DTU Orbit (09/11/2017)

Fluxon Dynamics in Elliptic Annular Josephson Junctions

We analyze the dynamics of a magnetic flux quantum (current vortex) trapped in a current-biased long planar elliptic annular Josephson tunnel junction. The system is modeled by a perturbed sine-Gordon equation that determines the spatial and temporal behavior of the phase difference across the tunnel barrier separating the two superconducting electrodes. In the absence of an external magnetic field, the fluxon dynamics in an elliptic annulus does not differ from that of a circular annulus where the stationary fluxon speed merely is determined by the system losses. The interaction between the vortex magnetic moment and a spatially homogeneous in-plane magnetic field gives rise to a tunable periodic non-sinusoidal potential which is strongly dependent on the annulus aspect ratio. We study the escape of the vortex from a well in the tilted potential when the bias current exceeds the depinning current. The smallest depinning current as well as the lowest sensitivity of the annulus to the external field is achieved when the axes ratio is equal to root 2. The presented extensive numerical results are in good agreement with the findings of the perturbative approach. We also probe the rectifying properties of an asymmetric potential implemented with an egg-shaped annulus formed by two semi-elliptic arcs.

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