

A new route to a finite center-of-mass momentum pairing state; current driven FFLO state

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The previously studied Fulde-Ferrell-Larkin-Ovchinnikov (FFLO) state is stabilized by a magnetic field via the Zeeman coupling in spin-singlet superconductors. Here we suggest a new route to achieve non-zero center-of-mass momentum pairing states in superconductors with Fermi surface nesting. We investigate two-dimensional superconductors under a uniform external current, which leads to a finite pair-momentum of \mathbf{q}_e . We found that a FFLO state with a spontaneous pair-momentum of \mathbf{q}_s is stabilized above a certain critical current which depends on the direction of the external current. The total pair-momentum of $\mathbf{q}_t (= \mathbf{q}_s + \mathbf{q}_e)$ is perpendicular to the nesting vector in order to maximize the Cooper pairing between electrons with momentum $-\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}_t$ and $\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}_t$. We also suggest experimental signatures of the FFLO state.

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