



## ENGINEERING

# Smart patterning for topological pumping of elastic surface waves

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Topological pumping allows waves to navigate a sample undisturbed by disorders and defects. We demonstrate this phenomenon with elastic surface waves by strategically patterning an elastic surface to create a synthetic dimension. The surface is decorated with arrays of resonating pillars that are connected by spatially slow-varying coupling bridges and support eigenmodes located below the sound cone. We establish a connection between the collective dynamics of the pillars and that of electrons in a magnetic field by developing a tight-binding model and a WKB (Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin) analysis. This enables us to predict the topological pumping pattern, which we validate through numerical and experimental steering of waves from one edge to the other. Furthermore, we observe the immune nature of the topologically pumped surface waves to disorder and defects. The combination of surface patterning and WKB analysis provides a versatile platform for controlling surface waves and exploring topological matter in higher dimensions.

## INTRODUCTION

Topological matter is a rapidly growing field in which topological concepts are exploited to discover and classify new phases of matter (1–4). In this context, a hallmark achievement was the discovery of the integer quantum Hall effect (5). In the past decade, topological phases analogous to quantum Hall insulators have been engineered across a wide range of time-modulated platforms, including electronics (6–8), photonics (9–14), acoustics (15–18), and mechanics (19–24). The existence of the conventional gapless edge states and surface states is guaranteed by the bulk-boundary correspondence. These time-dependent systems can provide outstanding opportunities not possible with passive materials, enabled by the high controllability and flexibility of these platforms. However, a physical realization of a dynamically controlled topological pumping that produces topological transport is extremely challenging because external or active physical fields are typically needed (25).

To overcome the challenges associated with time-modulated system, rendering synthetic dimensions via space modulations was recently suggested because it does not require any active materials or other external mechanisms to break the time-reversal symmetry (26, 27). The phases of the space modulations can be used as adiabatic parameters that augment the physical space. It is intriguing to see these phases as additional global degrees of freedom, usually called phasons, living on a torus. The central idea of synthetic dimensions is to exploit and harness such degrees of freedom with atoms, photons, or phonons to mimic the dynamic motion along extra spatial directions. The key advantage of synthetic dimensions is that pumping parameters can be engineered very naturally in the strength of the couplings along the extra dimension. Synthetic dimensions have led to new discoveries of the two-dimensional (2D) and 4D quantum Hall systems in ultracold atomic gases (28, 29),

photonics (30–32), and acoustics and mechanics (33–35) because of their flexibility. Rendering of the synthetic space is growing into one of the most appealing approaches to control and steer topological wave transport in different systems.

Surface elastic waves are a class of polarized waves that propagate on the surface of a semi-infinite elastic medium. They are confined within a superficial region whose thickness is comparable with their wavelength (36). Manipulating surface waves has been of considerable interest with widespread applications in earthquake mitigation, nondestructive evaluation, wave filtering, and sensing (37–39). On the basis of the Bragg scattering and local resonance mechanisms, manipulation and control of surface waves have been recently investigated in the phononic and metamaterial community for various applications such as exotic wave transmission and reflection, wave focusing, and cloaking (40–42). Among existing approaches, the metamaterial with pillar-type resonators is regarded as one of the most promising microstructure designs because of their simple structure and process-friendly fabrication. However, it is not trivial to apply pillar-type metamaterials for the topological surface wave transport. There is of fundamental and practical significance to physically realize space-modulated pillar-type metamaterials for topological surface wave transport along desired orbits (43, 44).

In this study, we present theoretical, numerical, and experimental investigations of Rayleigh wave topological pumping by leveraging a pillar-based platform with space modulations. The proposed structures can be described as aperiodic mechanical wave channels carrying different phason values that are stacked and coupled with each other. By slowly varying the phason along the stacking direction, we demonstrate here that, with such an approach, we can explore any continuous orbit inside the phason space and even control the speed along the path to shape the surface pumped pattern. As a result, we can render these abstract trajectories, occurring in the synthetic dimensions, on the physical dimension along the surface waves in space and the temporal phases of the signals.

With the control over the phason, we experimentally demonstrate edge-to-edge topological wave transport on the space-

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modulated mechanical metasurface, which is robust against random fluctuations in the couplings. The analytical study of pumping process under adiabatic condition is formulated by using the Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin (WKB) approximation and the modulation functions of parameters with nontrivial topological phases are also analytically obtained. On the basis of that, we further explore various ways in which we can control these pumping processes and validate topological mode steerings in time domain simulation. It is believed that our work breaks ground for engineering applications, where the couplings in a space-modulated mechanical metasurface can be programmed for selective and robust point-to-point transport of surface wave signals.

## RESULTS

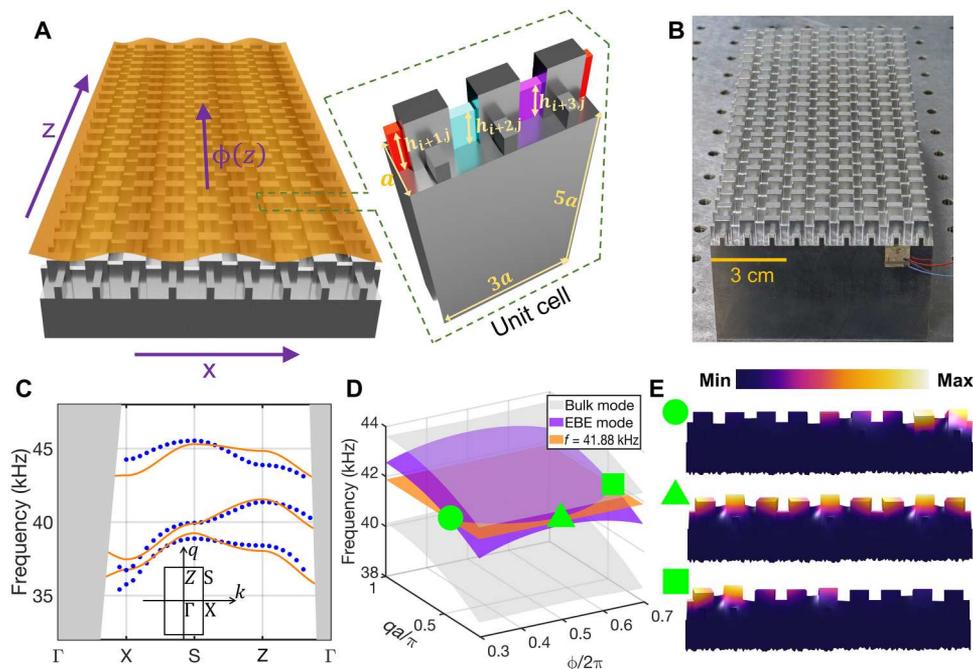
### Physical rendering of synthetic spaces

We start by explaining the principles of physical rendering of synthetic spaces in the context of surface wave transport. Figure 1 (A and B) shows our surface wave platform featuring a planar array of elastic pillar-type resonators coupled horizontally and vertically through thin plates (see Materials and Methods for fabrication details). Each resonator is assigned an address  $(i, j) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  in the  $x$ - $z$  plane. The heights of the connecting plates in the  $x$  direction are modulated according to the protocol  $h_{ij} = h_0[1 + \Delta_0 \cos(2\pi i/3 + \phi_j)]$ , while the geometry of the connecting thin plate along the  $z$

direction is uniform across the sample. Any such modulation has a phase that can take any value in the abstract interval  $[0, 2\pi]$ , representing here the synthetic space. In a time-modulated setting, one will dynamically drive the phase  $\phi$  by rapid reconfigurations of the systems (45). Instead, by setting the phason value of the  $j$ -th row as  $\phi_j = \phi_s + (\phi_f - \phi_s) \frac{j}{N}$ , with  $N$  being the total number of rows, we effectively render the synthetic space along the  $z$  axis. The parameters will be fixed as  $\phi_s = 0.6\pi$  and  $\phi_f = 1.4\pi$ .

As shown in Fig. 1A, each  $x$  directional row displays a unit cell containing three pillars. The dispersion curves of the unit cell obtained with COMSOL Multiphysics are shown in Fig. 1C. The computation was carried out by imposing Floquet boundary conditions in both  $x$  and  $z$  directions. Because the modulation amplitude  $\Delta_0$  is small,  $\phi_j$  is irrelevant for the dispersion curves and can be assumed as 0. Below the sound cone (white region), one can see three surface wave branches, whose eigenmodes are localized on the surface and decay quickly into the bulk (see the Supplementary Materials). The region above the sound cone, shown in gray, is referred to as the "bulk modes" region.

To facilitate the physical interpretation of the surface wave pumping and illuminate the function of the phason, we develop a discrete mass-spring model for the surface wave eigenmodes using the mode-coupling theory. This model takes the form of the following difference equation for the amplitudes  $\psi_{i,j}$  of the local



**Fig. 1. Design principle and dispersion analysis.** (A) Schematic illustration of the topological surface wave transport system. Each row in  $x$  corresponds to a supercell that includes three unit cells (inset). (B) Photograph of the experimental sample fabricated out of aluminum by a milling machine. The piezoelectric actuator on the bottom right serves as the excitation. (C) Numerically obtained dispersion curves (blue dots) for the unit cell with  $\phi_j = \pi$ . The orange curves represent the dispersion curves of the discrete mass-spring model obtained by numerical fitting. The gray regions are filled with bulk modes. Their interfaces with the surface wave region define the sound cone. (D) Dispersion diagram for the supercell terminated by free boundary conditions in the  $x$  direction and Floquet boundary conditions in the  $z$  direction. The edge-bulk-edge (EBE) mode is represented by the magenta surface, whereas the bulk bands are indicated by gray surfaces. The orange cut plane corresponds to the excitation frequency  $f_c = 41.88$  kHz. The interaction curve between excitation frequency plane and EBE surface gives the instantaneous wave number  $q(z)$  on which the circle is right edge mode, the triangle is the bulk mode, and the square is the left edge mode. (E) The top, middle, and bottom panels are the corresponding eigenmodes of supercell at  $\phi = 0.6\pi$  (circle),  $\pi$  (triangle), and  $1.4\pi$  (square) with  $q = \pi/a$  in (D).

resonances carried by the individual pillars (see the Supplementary Materials)

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa^0 \Psi_{ij} + \kappa_{i-1,j}^h \Psi_{i-1,j} + \kappa_{i,j}^h \Psi_{i+1,j} + \kappa^v [\Psi_{i,j-1} - 2\Psi_{i,j} + \Psi_{i,j+1}] \\ = -M\tilde{\omega}^2 \Psi_{ij} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Here,  $M$ ,  $\tilde{\omega}$ ,  $\kappa^0$ ,  $\kappa^v$ , and  $\kappa^h$  are interpreted as the effective mass; angular frequency; and grounded, vertical, and horizontal spring stiffnesses of the model, respectively. The values of these effective parameters are determined by fitting the dispersion curves of the continuous model (blue dots in Fig. 1C). Specifically, we obtain  $M = 1$  kg,  $\kappa^0 = 49.6$  GN/m,  $\kappa^v = 1.9$  GN/m, and  $\kappa_{i,j}^h = \kappa_0^h [1 + \Delta \cos(2i\pi/3 + \phi_j)]$ , where the modulation coefficients read  $\kappa_0^h = 5.5$  GN/m and  $\Delta = 0.67$ . As shown in Fig. 1C, the continuous and discrete dispersion curves exhibit satisfactory agreement, thereby demonstrating the reliability of the discrete model.

### WKB-type analysis

By replacing the index  $j$  with the coordinate  $z = ja$ , we rewrite  $\Psi_{i,j} = \Psi_i(z)$  and  $\phi_j = \phi(z)$ , as well as

$$\kappa_{i,j}^h = \kappa_i^h(z) = h_0 \left\{ 1 + \Delta \cos \left[ \frac{2\pi i}{3} + \phi(z) \right] \right\} \quad (2)$$

We also introduce the second-order central difference operator

$$\delta^2 f(z) = \frac{f(z+a) - 2f(z) + f(z-a)}{a^2} \quad (3)$$

In addition, a vector  $\Psi(z) = [\Psi_0(z), \Psi_1(z), \dots, \Psi_{3M}(z)]^T$  is defined including all the mode coefficients. By doing so, the dispersion equation (Eq. 1) can be written very compactly as

$$a^2 \delta^2 \Psi(z) + [\mathbf{K}(z) + \omega^2] \Psi(z) = 0 \quad (4)$$

in which normalized angular frequency  $\omega$  satisfies  $\omega^2 = \tilde{\omega}^2/\kappa^v$  and  $\mathbf{K}(z)$  is the matrix with the entries

$$K_{ik}(z) = [\kappa^0 \delta_{ik} + \kappa_i^h(z) \delta_{i,k+1} + \kappa_i^h(z) \delta_{i+1,k}] / \kappa^v \quad (5)$$

where  $\delta_{ik}$  is the Kronecker delta. Equation 4 is very close in spirit with the Schroedinger equation appearing in the setting of WKB approximation theory (46, 21). The difference is that, instead of dealing with a potential, we are dealing with the nondiagonal matrix  $\mathbf{K}(z)$ , which, nevertheless, is slowly varying with  $z$ . In this regime, the following WKB-type expansion is justified

$$\Psi(z) = e^{i\theta(z)/a} [\Psi^{(0)}(z) + a\Psi^{(1)}(z) + \dots] \quad (6)$$

and, by keeping track of the powers of  $a$ , we can derive the exact equations satisfied by each  $\Psi^{(a)}$ . In particular, we find for the leading term that this equation is (see the Supplementary Materials)

$$[\mathbf{K}(z) + \omega^2] \Psi^{(0)}(z) = 4\sin^2 \left[ \frac{\delta\theta(z)}{2} \right] \Psi^{(0)}(z) \quad (7)$$

where  $\delta\theta(z) = [\theta(z+a/2) - \theta(z-a/2)]/a$ . This equation has solutions of the form

$$\Psi_n(z) = A_n(z) e^{i \sum_{\xi=0}^{\xi=z} q_n(\xi)} \Phi_n(z) + o(a) \quad (8)$$

where  $\Phi_n(z)$  is the  $n$ -th eigenmode of the  $\mathbf{K}(z)$  matrix

$$\mathbf{K}(z) \Phi_n(z) = -\mu_n(z) \Phi_n(z) \quad (9)$$

at row  $z$  and  $q_n(z)$  satisfies the equation

$$4\sin^2 \frac{q_n(z)}{2} + \mu_n(z) = \omega^2 \quad (10)$$

As in the standard WKB theory (46), an analysis at the order-one level of the asymptotic expansion enables us to pinpoint the  $z$ -dependence amplitude  $A_n(z)$  (see the Supplementary Materials) and to lastly present the complete set of solutions for the dispersion (Eq. 4)

$$\Psi_n(z) = \frac{c_n}{\sqrt[4]{\omega^2 - \mu_n(z)}} e^{i \sum_{\xi=0}^{\xi=z} q_n(\xi)} \Phi_n(z) + o(a) \quad (11)$$

We recall that the derivation of these solutions relies only on the adiabatic evolution of the phason with  $z$  and no considerations of long wavelengths or paraxial approximation were made. Thus, our results cover the short-wavelength and nonparaxial regions. Last, because our samples are finite, we need to impose free boundary conditions on the top and bottom boundaries in the  $z$  direction. In this case, the mode shape of the  $n$ -th eigenmode is in the form of

$$\Psi_n(z) = \frac{c_n \sin Q_n(z) + d_n \cos Q_n(z)}{\sqrt[4]{\omega_n^2 - \mu_n(z)}} \Phi_n(z) \quad (12)$$

where  $c_n$  and  $d_n$  are coefficients of superposition,  $\omega_n$  is the eigenfrequency, and  $Q_n(z) = \sum_{\xi=0}^{\xi=z} q_n(\xi)$  is the dynamical phase produced by our derivation.

### Topological pumping

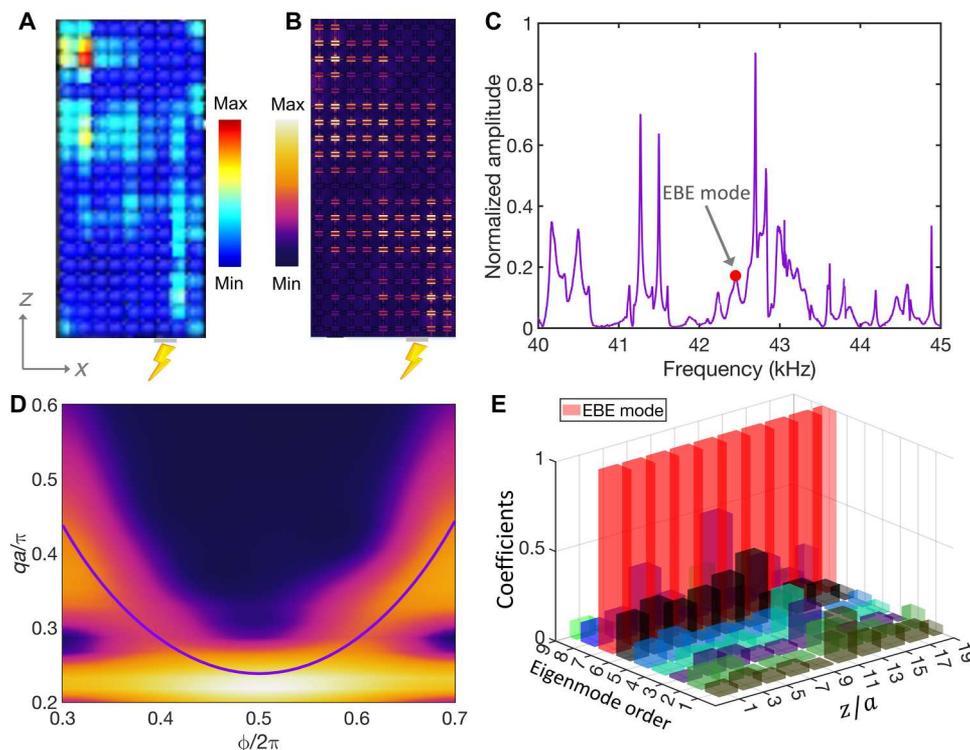
The complete set of solutions (Eq. 11) indicates that, when the metasurface is excited at pulsation  $\omega$  with a source placed at position  $z = 0$ , it will resonate very strongly with the mode that has its resonant frequency  $\mu_n(z = 0)$  close to  $\omega^2$ . Thus, we have a mechanism to selectively load a specific mode out of a fairly rich set of resonant modes. Furthermore, Eq. (11) indicates that, with such a source turned on, upon the inspection of row  $z$ , we will see the eigenmode  $\mu_n(z)$  of the 1D tight-binding operator  $\mathbf{K}(z)$  (up to a multiplicative factor). Because  $\mathbf{K}(z)$  depends only on the phason value  $\phi(z)$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{K}(z) = \mathbf{K}_\phi(z)$ , one can now see explicitly how the dependence of the spectral properties of  $\mathbf{K}_\phi$  on the phason has been rendered along the  $z$  coordinate, for us to experience, measure and use its resonant modes in future applications. Furthermore, by design, the phason is being pumped from  $\phi_s$  to  $\phi_f$  as the structure is examined from bottom ( $z = 0$ ) to the top ( $z = Na$ ).

The spectrum of an entire row of resonators  $q$ -twisted Floquet boundary conditions imposed in the  $z$  direction is reported in Fig. 1D as a function of  $\phi$  and  $q$ , and the topological edge modes can be seen as the sheet colored in magenta. Taking a slice at a fixed  $q$  reveals precisely one chiral edge band per edge and the slopes of these bands are consistent with the values of the Chern numbers (see the Supplementary Materials). Furthermore, examination of the eigenfunctions leads to the observation of right edge, bulk, and left edge modes for  $\phi = 0.6\pi$ ,  $\pi$ , and  $1.4\pi$  in the top, middle, and bottom panels of Fig. 1E, respectively.

### Demonstration of topological surface wave transport

We now focus on the demonstration of the topological surface wave transport. Experiments are first conducted on the system shown in Fig. 1 (A and B). Figure 2 (A and B) illustrates the magnitude of  $y$  directional displacement fields of the edge-bulk-edge (EBE) mode from experiments at 42.45 kHz and from numerical simulations at 41.88 kHz, respectively. As a matter of fact, the measurement of the  $y$  component is essentially equivalent to that of the  $z$  component because the  $y$  component has measurable intensity and displays the same spatial profiles of the EBE mode as the  $z$  component because of their linear relationship (see the Supplementary Materials). In addition, the experimentally measured frequency of the EBE mode could be different from the simulated eigenfrequency because of fabrication and material imperfections. To precisely determine the EBE frequency in the experiment, we perform a thorough analysis of the frequency spectra derived from measurements taken at the resonator with  $i = 2$  and  $j = 18$ , as shown in Fig. 2C. After deliberately examining the mode shapes in each resonance peak, we can determine the experimental EBE frequency as 42.45 kHz. It is worth mentioning that frequency spectra measured at other locations also exhibit the same resonance peaks as observed in the case of  $i = 2$  and  $j = 18$ , albeit with different intensities (see the Supplementary Materials). In other words, selecting different locations for frequency response measurements results in the identical observation of the EBE mode. As shown in Fig. 2 (A and B), vertical oscillation of the field profile in  $z$  is observed featured with modal

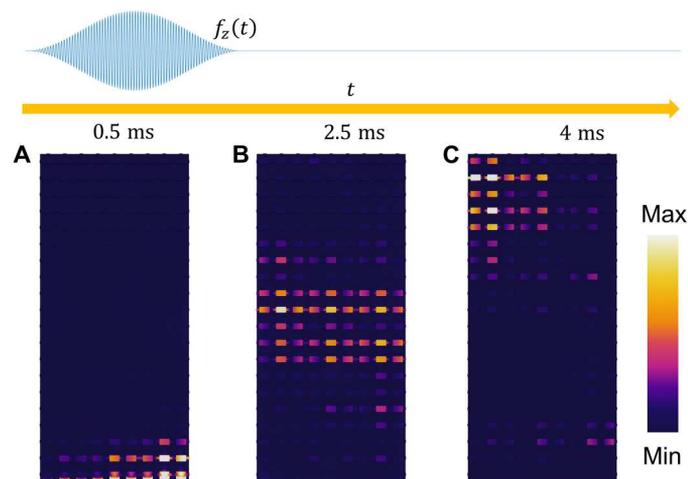
nodes and antinodes, owing to the  $z$ -directional dynamical phase. The experimental and numerical results provide satisfactory agreement. To quantitatively compare the retrieved mode profile in Fig. 2B with the analytical solution (Eq. 12), we apply wavelet transform and mode decomposition on the numerical mode profile. In detail, we first divided the cuboid into nine columns. Then, the wavelet transform technique is applied to the wave component of each column to determine the corresponding coefficients. Last, we calculate the average of the absolute values for these coefficients. The outcome after linear interpolation is illustrated as a heatmap in Fig. 2D. As a reference, a purple curve is given to provide the  $q$ - $\phi$  relation at 41.88 kHz on the cut plane of the dispersion diagram (Fig. 1D). Satisfactory agreement is found between the eigenmode analysis of the finite lattice and the dispersion diagram. Next, we adopt mode decomposition on each of the 20 supercells along the  $z$  direction to determine the relative strengths of all modes. Figure 2E illustrates the corresponding modal coefficients that are normalized with the maximum of coefficient at respective values of  $z$ . The bases for mode decomposition are from the corresponding mass-spring model whose parameters are extracted from Fig. 1C. Because only 20 supercells are involved in the synthetic dimension, the stiffness matrix does not evolve strictly adiabatically. As a result, other bulk modes always coexist. However, the EBE mode, labeled as the seventh mode in Fig. 2E, is always dominant in terms of modal coefficients of all the supercells, meaning that the length of the synthetic dimension is sufficiently long to approach adiabatic



**Fig. 2. Topological surface pumping on the elastic surface with space modulated pillars.** (A and B) Experimental (A) and numerical (B) modal profile of the magnitude of the  $y$  directional (out-of-plane) displacement field at the frequencies  $f = 42.45$  kHz and  $f = 41.88$  kHz, respectively, by a piezoelectric patch (gray part in the bottom of the cuboid) excitation. (C) Frequency spectrum of the resonator with indices  $i = 2$  and  $j = 18$  from experimental measurement. The resonance peak noted by red dot is the EBE mode. (D) The wavelet transform of the eigenmode from numerical simulation along synthetic dimension. The purple curve is the interaction curve from Fig. 1D. (E) The mode decomposition of the displacement field in (B) of each chain for different  $z$ .

limit. The consistency of the results from wavelet transform and mode decomposition analysis validates the correctness of the WKB solution. Moreover, it is noteworthy to mention that the topological pumping can occur at multiple frequencies, in addition to the frequency that we have experimentally demonstrated (see the Supplementary Materials). In the current design, the frequency range to exhibit the topological pumping is approximately 1 kHz, as evidenced by the frequency span of the magenta EBE surface (Fig. 1D). To broaden the frequency range of the topological pumping, one possibility to explore is the improvement of stiffness of the connecting plates in the  $z$  direction. This adjustment would result in the EBE surface at a broader frequency range.

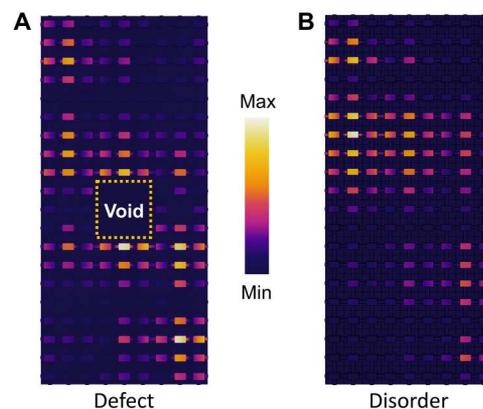
We conduct the transient analysis for better showcasing the pumping process. In particular, the right edge mode  $\varphi_n(0)$  ( $n = 7$ ) at the bottom supercell is excited by using a series of piezoelectric patches, each attached on one side of each resonator (see Materials and Methods). The polarization directions of these piezoelectric patches are identical, while the applied voltages are distributed as  $V_0\varphi_n(0)f_z(t)$ , where  $V_0 = 1$  V denotes the voltage amplitude and  $f_z(t)$  is a 50-cycle tone burst signal  $f_z(t) = H(50/f_c - t)[1 - \cos(2\pi f_c t/50)] \sin(2\pi f_c t)$  (Fig. 3, top), with  $H(t)$  being the Heaviside function and  $f_c = 41.88$  kHz. Figure 3 (A to C) displays the snapshots of surface wave propagation at representative time instants in terms of the magnitude of total displacement field. It should be mentioned that the total displacement field is very similar to its  $z$  directional component according to our numerical simulation. Initially, the right edge mode is excited on the bottom at  $t = 0.5$  ms (Fig. 3A). As time progresses, the wave packet propagates in the synthetic dimension  $z$  and transitions into the bulk mode at  $t = 2.5$  ms (see Fig. 3B). Eventually, the left edge mode is well formed on the top of the cuboid at  $t = 4$  ms (Fig. 3C). The wave packet will follow the same evolution path transitioning from the left edge mode back to the right one if the transient simulation continues. A more detailed demonstration can be found in movie S1.



**Fig. 3. Time response of the topological surface wave transport.** (A to C). The magnitude of total displacement field at 0.5 ms, 2.5 ms, and 4 ms, respectively. A 50-cycle tone burst signal centered at 41.88 kHz is simulated on the bottom supercell.

### Robustness of topological surface wave transport

The geometric imperfections in sample fabrication are inevitable because of the errors of millers of computer numerical control (CNC) machines, as minor discrepancies between simulations and measurement are visible in Fig. 2 (A and B). Nevertheless, the topological surface wave transport is evidently observed, thanks to some intriguing wave transport characteristics, such as robustness against geometrical impurities or defects. To illustrate this, Fig. 4A shows a lattice defect constructed by removing  $3 \times 3$  pillars in the middle of the structure. The corresponding eigenfrequency of the EBE mode of the defective cuboid (41.75 kHz) is quite close to that of a perfect cuboid (41.88 kHz). The resulting spatial profile shows that the topological pumping behavior survives and the edge modes can be smoothly pumped from one side to the other despite the large-scale geometric defect. Numerical analysis is also conducted showing that large-scale defects at different positions have minimal impact on the transport of the EBE mode, indicating its topological robustness irrespective of the defect's location (see the Supplementary Materials). Moreover, we also consider the influence of geometrical disorders. In the sample fabrication, the machining error is about 0.02 mm for our sample. Therefore, we introduce errors that satisfy a normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0 \text{ mm}, 0.02 \text{ mm})$  to the dimensions of all resonators, including their lengths, heights, and widths. The spatial profile of the EBE mode with disorders is shown in Fig. 4B. The eigenfrequency of the EBE mode shifts slightly, and the spatial profile agrees with that of the perfect lattice in the  $x$  direction, indicating that the topological pumping is robust against disorders. However, in the  $z$  direction, we see that amplitudes of resonators in the top part are larger than amplitudes of resonators in the bottom part, which is a sign of Anderson localization. Because along the  $z$  direction, the displacement field is harmonic, and the disorders make the eigenmode localized at the top. It is also observed in the experiment (Fig. 2A) that the eigenmode is localized at the top. Numerical simulations indicate that the wave transport efficiency is nearly perfect, approaching unity if the low damping factor of the material is considered, which is also in good agreement with our experimental measurement (see the Supplementary Materials). Therefore, the



**Fig. 4. Robust topological surface wave pumping.** (A) The eigenmode of the defective structure at 41.75 kHz. The defect is constructed by removing  $3$  by  $3$  pillars in the dotted line box (B) The eigenmode of the disordered structure where a random normal distribution of errors is added on all geometric parameters at 41.88 kHz.

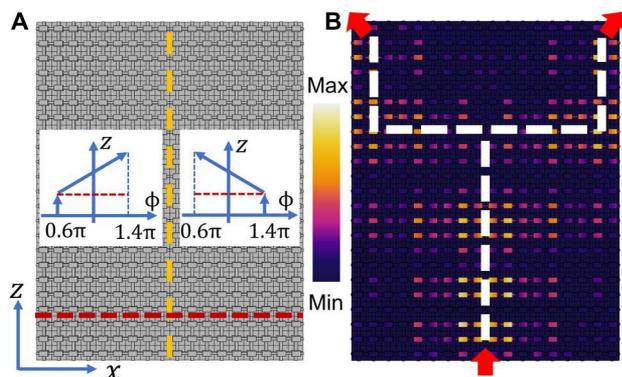
energy consumption associated with wave transport can be ignored in the present passive system.

### Application of topological wave transport as wave splitter

Surface wave topological pumping is promising for controlling wave paths in practical applications. To show that, we design a topological split-flow device that performs robust surface wave splitting. Other topological pumping patterns with more complicated paths can be engineered through selecting different phason trajectories (see the Supplementary Materials). As shown in Fig. 5A, the splitter is an assembly of two domains with opposite  $\phi$ - $z$  distributions, separated by a domain wall (yellow in Fig. 5A). Specifically, the upper section with 20 supercells of the left domain is designed with a linear  $\phi$  transition from  $0.6\pi$  to  $1.4\pi$ , whereas that of the right domain is assigned an opposite  $\phi$  transition, i.e., from  $1.4\pi$  to  $0.6\pi$ . As for the lower section with three supercells,  $\phi$  keeps constant at  $0.6\pi$  and  $1.4\pi$  for the left and right domains, respectively. The excitation is located in the middle of the bottom. Within the lower section of the surface wave splitter, there exists a localized interface mode. As the incidence reaches the upper half, because of the opposite gradients of  $\phi$ , the interface mode is split into two components, each following the typical EBE evolution but tracing opposite paths. Thanks to topological protection, the propagation is immune against back reflection from the discontinuity of the upper and lower sections. Hence, our design, based on phason engineering and topological pumping, provides an avenue for the application of elastic surface wave beam splitters. In addition, our design covers the short-wavelength range such that we have the opportunity to engineer the dispersion with respect to  $q$  quasi-momentum. This involves modulations along the vertical direction and opens up a new dimension in the design space for surface wave, which is yet to be explored.

### DISCUSSION

In conclusion, we have evidenced the topological surface wave transport in modulated phononic crystals through edge-to-edge topological pumpings associated with the 2D quantum Hall effects by the physical rendering of synthetic spaces. These observations imply



**Fig. 5. Topologically protected surface wave splitter.** (A) The schematic of surface wave pumping system and the corresponding phase modulation functions. (B) The magnitude of total displacement field distribution of the surface wave splitter. The surface wave is injected at the center of the bottom edge at the frequency  $f = 41.88$  kHz.

that the system is characterized by a non-zero Chern number, and therefore, the topological pumping is immune to bulk scattering and exhibits strong protection against design imperfections. The modulated phononic crystals with synthetic spaces offer a platform and route for efficient surface wave topological mode transport by engineering desired patterns on a phason-torus in the finite structure. The phason space augments the physical space and opens a door to higher-dimensional physics in acoustics and mechanics. Although we focused on the elastic implementation using synthetic spaces, our approach can be generalized to other degrees of freedom, such as additional frequency dimensions can also be harnessed for the frequency modulation. Going forward, it will be important to develop and explore such broader connections, as the idea of topological matter in synthetic dimensions is very general and the extension of this approach to other complex orbits is much awaited. At last, we emphasize that, to achieve a reasonable adiabatic regime, the number of chains in our experimental setups is appreciable, and while this is perfectly fine for the demonstration purposes, it could be an obstacle for practical applications. It will be interesting to explore if this strategy can be deployed for our phononic crystals to reduce the number of chains needed for the topological pumping of surface wave.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Sample fabrication

The experimental sample made of aluminum, having Young's module  $E = 69$  GPa, Poisson's ratio  $\nu = 0.33$ , and density  $\rho = 2700$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>, is fabricated using the computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine with a manufacturing precision of 0.02 mm. It consists of an array of resonators (6 mm×3.5 mm×10 mm) with the number of 9 along the  $x$ -direction and 20 along the  $z$  direction, which are integrated with a cuboid (150 mm by 50 mm by 200 mm). For convenience, each resonator has an address  $(i, j)$ . Along the  $x$  direction, resonators  $(i, j)$  and  $(i + 1, j)$  are connected by height-modulated pillars (4 mm by 1.5 mm by  $h_{ij}$ ), which satisfy the protocol  $h_{ij} = h_0[1 + \Delta_0 \cos(2\pi i/3 + \phi_j)]$ , where  $h_0 = 7$  mm and  $\Delta_0 = 0.15$  is the average thickness of horizontal channels. Besides,  $\phi_j = \phi_s + (\phi_f - \phi_s)j/N$ , where  $\phi_s = 0.6\pi$ ,  $\phi_f = 1.4\pi$ , and  $N = 20$ . In the  $z$  direction, all resonators are connected by pillars of the same size (2 mm by 6.5 mm by 3.8 mm).

#### Experimental testing

In the experiment, the sample is supported by four points to mimic the free boundary condition. A piezoelectric ceramic patch is attached to the right side of the cuboid to excite the target eigenmode state. A wide-spectrum pseudo-random excitation within the probing ranges from 20 to 50 kHz is generated by a Tektronix AFG3051C arbitrary waveform generator and amplified by a Krohn-Hite high-voltage power amplifier, which is lastly applied across the piezoelectric source. A 1D scanning laser Doppler vibrometer (SLDV, Polytech PSV-500) is used to measure the vibration velocity of resonators in the  $y$  direction, where high-gain reflective tape is stuck on the surface of each resonator to enhance the reflection of the laser. The piezoelectric actuators located on the bottom supercell are used for excitation. The decision to measure the  $y$  component instead of the dominant  $z$  component is motivated by the presence of neighboring resonators within the measurement area, which inevitably obstruct the scanning laser of the 1D laser

vibrometer (PSV-500). Consequently, physically measuring the  $z$  component becomes experimentally unfeasible. To ensure satisfactory measurement accuracy and consistency of the  $y$  directional displacements across different pillars, we carefully select the middle point  $\left[x = \frac{(2i-1)a}{2}, y = a, z = \frac{b}{2} + ja - \varepsilon\right]$  along one edge of the top surface of each pillar as the measurement point, where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 20$  are the pillar indices, and  $\varepsilon$  is the radius of the laser spot approximately equal to 0.25 mm (see the Supplementary Materials). The velocity signal from the vibrometer is further recorded by the PSV-500 data acquisition. Note that the experiment is repeated and averaged five times on each resonator of the system to filter out part of the noise. The normalized amplitude spectrum obtained by applying the Fourier transform to the time-domain signals collected at the resonator (2,18) is shown in Fig. 2C. A series of resonant peaks are observed in the frequency range. By checking the mode shape of each resonance peak in the frequency spectrum, the EBE state corresponding to the frequency at 42.45 kHz is identified. Moreover, a full field measurement at 42.45 kHz is conducted by exciting the system with a harmonic sine excitation, and the same EBE state is measured.

### Numerical simulations

The full-wave finite-element method simulations in this work are all performed using the commercial software COMSOL Multiphysics. The material of 3D structure is implemented by Aluminum [solid] from COMSOL Material Library. Eigenfrequency analysis within the "Solid Mechanics" is carried out to calculate the eigenfrequencies and eigenmode of the unit cell, supercell, and cuboid. The boundary conditions for all the cases are set as free boundary conditions except for Floquet periodicity boundary conditions of the unit cell along  $x$  and  $z$  direction and of the supercell along  $z$  direction. For the transient analysis in Fig. 3, time-dependent analysis in the Solid Mechanics is used. Piezoelectric patches (PZT-5H in COMSOL Material Library) are attached on one side of each resonator of the bottom supercell. The polarization directions of these piezoelectric patches are identical, while the applied voltages are distributed as  $V_0 \phi_n(0) f_z(t)$ .

### Supplementary Materials

This PDF file includes:

Supplementary Text  
Figs. S1 to S9  
Table S1  
Legend for movie S1

Other Supplementary Material for this manuscript includes the following:

Movie S1

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## Smart patterning for topological pumping of elastic surface waves

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