

Narrow bands in magnetic field and strong-coupling Hofstadter spectra

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We develop an efficient and general method to determine the Hofstadter spectrum of isolated narrow bands. The method works for topological as well as for trivial narrow bands by projecting the zero \mathbf{B} -field hybrid Wannier states—which are localized in one direction and Bloch extended in another direction—onto a representation of the magnetic translation group in the Landau gauge. We then apply this method to find the Hofstadter spectrum for the exact single-particle charged excitations in the strong-coupling limit of the magic angle twisted bilayer graphene at the charge neutrality point and at $|\nu| = 2$ down to low magnetic fields when the flux through the moiré unit cell is only $\sim 1/25$ of the electronic flux quantum, i.e., ~ 1 T at the first magic angle. The resulting spectra provide a means to investigate Landau quantization of the quasiparticles even if their dispersion is interaction induced.

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The rise of moiré materials [1–16] has brought into focus the challenge to understand the physics of correlated narrow bands subject to quantizing magnetic field \mathbf{B} [17–24]. Such narrow bands can be topologically nontrivial even at $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$, as is the case for the magic angle twisted bilayer graphene (MATBG) [25–27]. Moreover, for a moiré period ~ 13 nm, as in MATBG, the magnetic flux through the unit cell, ϕ , can readily become comparable to or even exceed the flux quantum $\phi_0 = hc/e$ using existing high-field magnets, so that the interplay of strong correlation and Hofstadter physics can be realized in a laboratory [15,28–30].

The traditional way to determine the noninteracting Hofstadter spectrum in the MATBG is to minimally couple the magnetic vector potential \mathbf{A} to the continuum Bistritzer-MacDonald (BM) Hamiltonian [31] and then to expand it in the Landau level (LL) basis [17–20]. Although this provides a reliable method, it requires a large upper cutoff on the LL index [19] in order to converge, particularly at low \mathbf{B} , or close to simple rational values of $\phi/\phi_0 = p/q$ where the LL basis method becomes prohibitively computationally expensive. This is because many Landau quantized remote bands are kept together with the narrow bands of interest. Equivalently, at low \mathbf{B} , the real-space shape of the narrow-band wave functions—with peaks in the local density of states at the moiré triangular lattice sites—is mainly determined by the interlayer tunneling ($w_{0,1}$) induced periodic potential and a superposition of a large number of LLs is needed in order to recover such a real-space structure. The open-momentum space method introduced in Ref. [22] takes advantage of the sparse BM Hamiltonian matrix at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$, but faces difficulties in uniquely identifying and removing the spurious momentum edge states. Moreover, although the Coulomb interaction does not have a big effect on the remote bands, it dominates the dynamics of partially

filled narrow bands, which remain separated from the remote bands by a band gap even when $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ [see Fig. 2(a)]. If one is then interested in interaction induced phenomena within the resulting narrow bands a more efficient method is desirable.

The method introduced here avoids the mentioned difficulties. We illustrate it at low \mathbf{B} , but it is readily generalizable to vicinity of simple fractions p/q . Thus, we first solve the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ problem using standard (efficient) methods and find the hybrid Wannier states (hWSs) for the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ narrow bands [27,32–34]. Such states are exponentially localized in one direction and Bloch extended in another, say, the y direction [33] (see Fig. 1). We stress that even if the band is topologically nontrivial, there is no obstruction to one-dimensional (1D) exponential localization. The key insight is that at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$, for the hWS centered at and near the origin, the Landau gauge vector potential $\mathbf{A} = Bx\hat{\mathbf{y}}$ can be treated perturbatively, because the region in real space where \mathbf{A} is large gets suppressed by the exponential localization of the hWS (see Fig. 1). Moreover, the discrete translation symmetry along the y direction used in constructing the hWSs is preserved by such \mathbf{A} . Next, we generate the rest of the basis by projecting the hWSs centered at and near the origin onto a representation of the magnetic translation group (MTG). This gives two quantum numbers, $k_1 \in [0, 1)$ and $k_2 \in [0, 1/q)$, associated with magnetic translations by two noncollinear vectors \mathbf{L}_1 and $q\mathbf{L}_2$ (Fig. 1). States with different k_1 and k_2 are then guaranteed to be orthogonal. Because in the original ($\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$) Brillouin zone k_2 belonged to a larger range $[0, 1)$, we generate q states for each starting hWS at the same $k_1 \in [0, 1)$ and $k_2 \in [0, 1/q)$ when $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$. Thus, for each $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ narrow band (of which there are two per valley and spin in MATBG) and for each hWS center described by a discrete index n_0 , we have q states. The resulting states at the same $k_1 \in [0, 1)$ and $k_2 \in [0, 1/q)$ then typically are not orthogonal, but by adjusting the range of n_0 , the set of states can be readily made overcomplete and span the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space. A simple procedure involving

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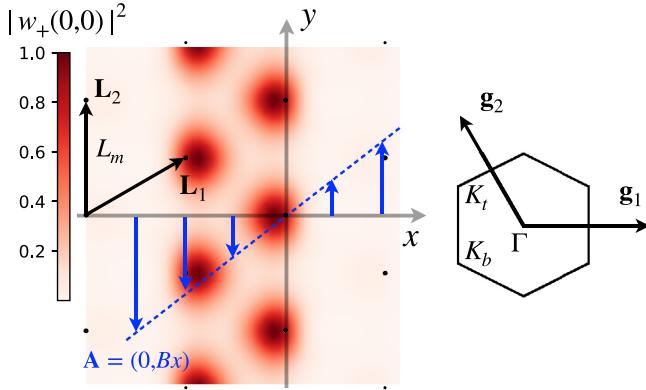


FIG. 1. Left: Illustrative real-space probability density of a hybrid Wannier state $|w_c(n_0, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle$, with Chern index $c = +1$, $n_0 = 0$, and $k_2 = 0$, and the Landau gauge magnetic vector potential $\mathbf{A} = Bx\hat{y}$. Moiré unit cell primitive vectors are $\mathbf{L}_{1,2}$. Right: Moiré Brillouin zone and reciprocal lattice vectors $\mathbf{g}_{1,2}$. $K_{t,b}$ denote the Dirac point from the top and bottom layers of the twisted bilayer graphene.

diagonalization of the overlap matrix and keeping the $2q$ largest overlap eigenvalues (per spin and valley) is then applied to obtain $2q$ orthogonal states within the MATBG narrow bands at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$. For MATBG and at low \mathbf{B} we find that the largest $2q$ overlap eigenvalues are clearly separated by a gap from the remaining small eigenvalues, and that the $2q$ orthogonal states have an almost perfect support by the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow bands only [see Figs. 2(b) and 2(c)].

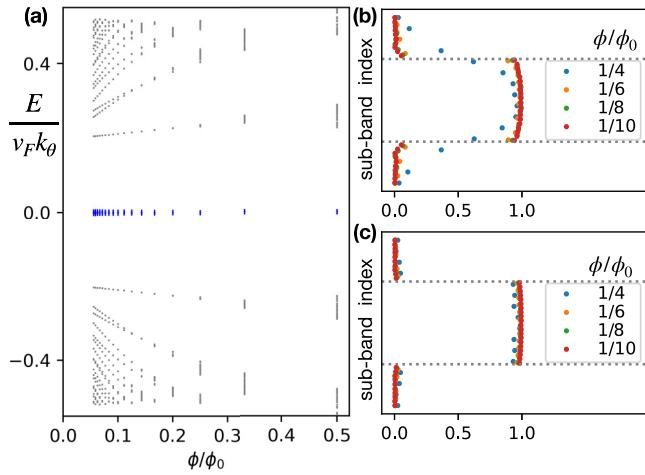


FIG. 2. (a) Hofstadter spectrum for the non-interacting BM Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{BM}^K(p_x, p_y - \frac{eB}{c}x)$ calculated using Landau level basis at magic angle $w_1/v_F k_\theta = 0.586$ [44] and $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$. The horizontal axes in (b) and (c) are the overlaps between the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band hybrid Wannier states projected onto the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ representation of the MTG $|V_a\rangle$, and the exact magnetic subband states at various energies obtained using the LL basis $\sum_a |\langle \Psi_{K,m}(k_1, k_2) | V_{K,a}(k_1, k_2) \rangle|^2$; the vertical axes are the subband index m . The states in between the dashed lines belong to the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow bands shown as blue in (a), demonstrating that at low \mathbf{B} , $|V_a\rangle$ have support almost exclusively within the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space. $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$ in (b) and (c) is at the chiral limit $w_0/w_1 = 0$.

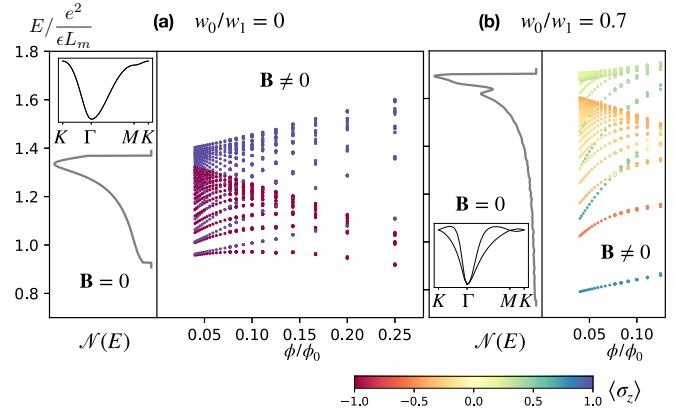


FIG. 3. Landau level spectrum at magic angle in the strong-coupling limit for (a) $w_0/w_1 = 0$ and (b) $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$. The gray lines denote the respective density of states $\mathcal{N}(E)$ at $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$, and the color of each magnetic subband denotes the average value of its sublattice polarization. Blue (red) denotes purely A (B) sublattice polarization.

If we use this method on a topologically trivial narrow band, then a single value of $n_0 = 0$ is sufficient and none of the overlap eigenvalues become small even when $\phi = \phi_0$. On the other hand, for the topologically nontrivial narrow bands of MATBG, we need to keep at least two starting states with $n_0 = 0$ and $n_0 = \pm 1$ (for either sign) in order to obtain a complete orthogonal basis spanning the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow bands. This is a direct consequence of the nontrivial topology of the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space, spanned by a band with Chern number $+1$ and a band with Chern number -1 , one of which is then deficient by p anomalous subbands while the other has an excess of p subbands when $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ (see Supplemental Material (SM) [35] and Refs. [36–38]). We confirm this by studying the sublattice polarization of the resulting states in Fig. 3 and analytical arguments in the chiral limit presented in SM.

Our basis can now be readily applied to finding the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ single-electron or single-hole excitation spectra in the strong-coupling problem by using the method introduced in Refs. [39,40]. Note that even at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$, the twofold rotation about the out-of-plane axis C_2 , the particle-hole P [19,27], and the valley $U(1)$ conservation symmetries of the BM Hamiltonian are preserved at any w_0/w_1 ; the time-reversal symmetry T is of course broken by \mathbf{B} . Therefore, C_2P guarantees that if $\Psi_{\mathbf{K},m,k_1,k_2}(\mathbf{r})$ is an eigenstate of $\hat{H}_{BM}^K(p_x, p_y - \frac{eB}{c}x)$ defined via Eq. (1) below with an eigenvalue $E_{\mathbf{K},m,k_1,k_2}$, then $-i\mu_y\sigma_x e^{-i\mathbf{q}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}}\Psi_{\mathbf{K},m,k_1,k_2}(\mathbf{r})$ is an opposite valley eigenstate of $\hat{H}_{BM}^K(p_x, p_y - \frac{eB}{c}x)$ with an eigenvalue $-E_{\mathbf{K},m,k_1,k_2}$. The Pauli matrices σ and μ act in the sublattice and layer spaces, respectively. Eliminating the remote magnetic subbands using the renormalization group (RG) procedure introduced in Ref. [39] therefore still results in the residual Coulomb interaction projected onto the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space to be of the form expressed in Eq. (7). Moreover, ignoring the Zeeman effect, C_2P guarantees that the spin valley $U(4)$ symmetry [24,41–43] is still present even at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$. We can therefore follow the double commutator method outlined in Refs. [39,40] in order to find the spectrum of the

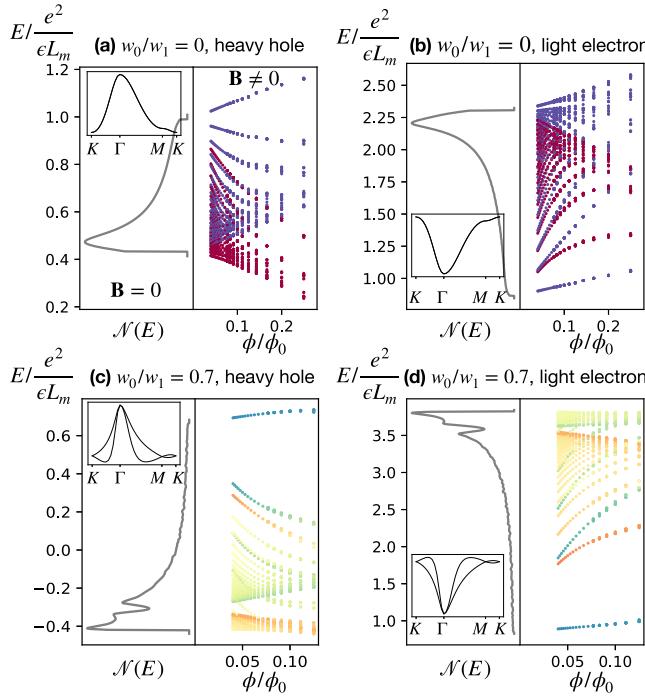


FIG. 4. Landau level spectrum of charge ± 1 excitations at $|v| = 2$ at magic angle in the strong-coupling limit. Heavy-hole [(a), (c)] and light-electron [(b), (d)] excitations for $w_0/w_1 = 0$ and $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$, respectively [40,46]. The color scale for sublattice polarization is the same as in Fig. 3.

single-particle or single-hole excitations at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$. The solutions of the Eq. (9) for a two-gate screened Coulomb interaction, $V_{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{2\pi e^2}{\epsilon|\mathbf{q}|} \tanh\left(\frac{|\mathbf{q}|\xi}{2}\right)$, with the gate separation $\xi = L_m$ are shown in the Fig. 3 for the charge neutral point (CNP, i.e., $v = 0$), together with their $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ density of states. The results at $|v| = 2$ for the heavy- and light-mass sides are shown in Fig. 4. Below we provide details of the calculations which lead to the stated results.

To obtain the narrow-band Hilbert space, we start by considering the BM model at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ in Landau gauge at $\mathbf{B} \neq 0$ in Landau gauge $\hat{H}_{\text{BM}}^{\mathbf{K}}(p_x, p_y - \frac{eB}{c}x)$ where at the valley \mathbf{K} ,

$$\hat{H}_{\text{BM}}^{\mathbf{K}}(p_x, p_y) = \begin{pmatrix} v_F \sigma \cdot \mathbf{p} & T(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{q}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}} \\ e^{-i\mathbf{q}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}} T^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) & v_F \sigma \cdot (\mathbf{p} + \hbar \mathbf{q}_1) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

The Hamiltonian in valley \mathbf{K}' can be obtained by first applying time reversal to $\hat{H}_{\text{BM}}^{\mathbf{K}}(p_x, p_y)$ followed by the minimal substitution $p_y \rightarrow p_y - \frac{eB}{c}x$. The Pauli matrices σ act in the sublattice space [45]. The interlayer hopping functions are $T(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{j=1}^3 T_j e^{-i\mathbf{q}_j \cdot \mathbf{r}}$ where $\mathbf{q}_1 = k_\theta(0, -1)$, $\mathbf{q}_{2,3} = k_\theta(\pm\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$, $k_\theta = \frac{8\pi}{3a_0} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 4\pi/(3L_m)$, $a_0 \approx 0.246$ nm, L_m is the period of the moiré lattice, and $T_{j+1} = w_0 1_n + w_1 [\cos(\frac{2\pi}{3}j)\sigma_x + \sin(\frac{2\pi}{3}j)\sigma_y]$, where 1_n is an $n \times n$ unit matrix. At $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$, $\hat{H}_{\text{BM}}^{\mathbf{K}}$ is invariant under discrete translations by any integer multiple of $\mathbf{L}_1 = L_m(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and $\mathbf{L}_2 = L_m(0, 1)$. At $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ and in the chosen gauge $\hat{H}_{\text{BM}}^{\mathbf{K}}$ is still invariant under the translation by \mathbf{L}_2 , but a translation by \mathbf{L}_1 needs to be

accompanied by a gauge transformation,

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1} \psi(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\frac{eB}{\hbar c} L_{1x} y} \psi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{L}_1). \quad (2)$$

Thus, if $\psi(\mathbf{r})$ is an eigenstate, then so is $e^{i\frac{eB}{\hbar c} L_{1x} y} \psi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{L}_1)$. Translations by \mathbf{L}_2 are generated by $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2} \psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{L}_2)$. Then $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2} \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1} = e^{-2\pi i \phi/\phi_0} \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1} \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2}$, where $\phi_0 = \frac{hc}{e}$ and $\phi = BL_{1x} L_m$. If $\phi/\phi_0 = p/q$, with p and q relatively prime integers, then $[\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2}^q, \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1}] = 0$.

The $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ hWSs, $|w_{\pm}(n, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle$, can be chosen to be eigenstates of the periodic position operator $\hat{O} = \hat{P} e^{-i\frac{1}{N_1} \mathbf{g}_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}} \hat{P}$, projected using \hat{P} onto the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space studied (for details, see Ref. [33]); here, N_1 is a large integer. The eigenvalues $e^{-2\pi i \frac{1}{N_1} (n + (x_{\pm k}/|\mathbf{L}_1|))}$ give the Wilson loops [27,32–34] for the Chern +1 and Chern -1 hWSs. These states are localized along \mathbf{L}_1 and Bloch extended along \mathbf{L}_2 , as illustrated in the Fig. 1. As shown in Ref. [33], they satisfy

$$\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1} |w_{\pm}(n, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle = e^{i\frac{eB}{\hbar c} L_{1x} y} |w_{\pm}(n + 1, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle, \quad (3)$$

$$\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2} |w_{\pm}(n, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle = e^{-2\pi i k_2} |w_{\pm}(n, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle. \quad (4)$$

We construct our basis for the narrow band at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ by projecting $|w_{\pm}(n_0, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle$ onto representation of the MTG. We include in our set a range of n_0 's near 0 as

$$|W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2; n_0)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{s=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s k_1} \hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1}^s |w_{\pm}(n_0, k_2 \mathbf{g}_2)\rangle, \quad (5)$$

with normalization factor N and for $k_1 \in [0, 1)$ and temporarily letting $k_2 \in [0, 1)$. The results in Figs. 2(b), 2(c), and 3 include $n_0 = 0$ and 1. Note that $|W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2; n_0)\rangle$ are simultaneous eigenstates of $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1}$ and $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2}^q$ with eigenvalues $e^{-2\pi i k_1}$ and $e^{-2\pi i q k_2}$, respectively. Thus the $q \mathbf{L}_2$ translations break up the k_2 domain into q pieces of equal width $1/q$. Therefore, we let $|W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2 + l/q; n_0)\rangle$, permanently fix $k_2 \in [0, 1/q)$, and let $l = 0, 1, \dots, q-1$. For different values of k_1 and k_2 in their respective domains $|W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2 + l/q; n_0)\rangle$'s are orthogonal because they have different eigenvalues under $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_1}$ and $\hat{t}_{\mathbf{L}_2}^q$. For the same k_1 and k_2 , but different l (and different n_0) the states $|W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2 + l/q; n_0)\rangle$'s are in general not orthogonal. To orthogonalize them we diagonalize the overlap matrix $M_{ab} = \langle W_a | W_b \rangle = (U^\dagger D U)_{ab}$ where D is diagonal. In the above we combined l , the Chern number index $c = \pm$, and n_0 into a single index a for each k_1 and k_2 , whose dependence we temporarily suppress. Then we let

$$|V_a\rangle = \sum_b |W_b\rangle U_{ba}^\dagger \frac{1}{\sqrt{D_a}} \quad (6)$$

where b runs over all the indices but a runs only over the $2q$ largest eigenvalues D_a . As demonstrated in Figs. 2(b) and 2(c), at low \mathbf{B} , the $2q$ orthogonal states $|V_a(k_1, k_2)\rangle$ at each k_1 and k_2 now form the basis spanning almost exclusively only the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow bands. At larger \mathbf{B} , we find a spillover into the remote bands; for the results presented the spillover is negligible.

Having constructed the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band Hilbert space from the noninteracting BM model, we proceed to study the spectrum of charged excitations in the strong-coupling limit at integer fillings of $v = 0$ and $|v| = 2$, where the ground states

at $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ have been shown to be correlated insulating states belonging to the $U(4)$ manifold [46], and the spectrum of charged excitations is entirely due to the Coulomb interaction projected onto the narrow-band Hilbert space. In this case the Hamiltonian consists of only the interaction $V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$ projected onto the $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band basis. As described earlier, the C_2P symmetry guarantees that the dominant term takes the form

$$\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} \int d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) \delta\rho(\mathbf{r}'), \quad (7)$$

where $\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho(\mathbf{r}) - \bar{\rho}(\mathbf{r})$. Restoring the indices on our $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ narrow-band basis functions $\langle \mathbf{r} | V_a \rangle$, the projected density operator is

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathbf{r}) = & \sum_{k_1, k_2, a} \sum_{k'_1, k'_2, a'} V_{\mathbf{K}, a}^\dagger(k_1, k_2; \mathbf{r}) V_{\mathbf{K}, a'}(k'_1, k'_2; \mathbf{r}) \\ & \times \mathfrak{d}_{a, k_1, k_2}^\dagger \mathfrak{d}_{a', k'_1, k'_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

We arranged the fermion creation operators with $2q$ discrete quantum numbers a and momentum k_1, k_2 into a 4-component “spinor,” $\mathfrak{d}_{a, k_1, k_2}^\dagger = (d_{\uparrow, \mathbf{K}; a, k_1, k_2}^\dagger, d_{\downarrow, \mathbf{K}; a, k_1, k_2}^\dagger, d_{\uparrow, \mathbf{K}' \times C_2P[a, k_1, k_2]}^\dagger, d_{\downarrow, \mathbf{K}' \times C_2P[a, k_1, k_2]}^\dagger)$. The $U(4)$ manifold can be generated from a valley polarized state, which is an eigenstate of $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ with the eigenvalue equal to $\bar{\rho}(\mathbf{r})$ at CNP, where it takes the form, say, $|\Phi_{v=0}\rangle = \prod_{a, k_1, k_2, \sigma=\uparrow, \downarrow} d_{\sigma, \mathbf{K}; a, k_1, k_2}^\dagger |0\rangle$. Excitations can be created using an operator X (see Ref. [39]) and their strong-coupling eigenenergies can be read off from the equation

$$\begin{aligned} EX|\Phi_v\rangle = & \frac{1}{2} \int d^2\mathbf{r} d^2\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') [\rho(\mathbf{r}), [\rho(\mathbf{r}'), X]] |\Phi_v\rangle \\ & + \int d^2\mathbf{r} d^2\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') [\rho(\mathbf{r}), X] \delta\rho(\mathbf{r}') |\Phi_v\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where we extended the result to include $v = \pm 2$ fillings [40,46]; the valley polarized states $|\Phi_v\rangle$ are eigenstates of $\delta\rho(\mathbf{r})$ with an eigenvalue $\delta\bar{\rho}(\mathbf{r})$ [47]. The eigenenergies of the strong-coupling single-particle or single-hole excitations can now be determined from diagonalizing a $2q \times 2q$ matrix for each k_1 and k_2 . Their degeneracy is determined by considering the action of X on $|\Phi_v\rangle$.

The resulting spectra at CNP are shown in the right-hand panel of Fig. 3(a) for the chiral limit $w_0/w_1 = 0$ and the right-hand panel of Fig. 3(b) for $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$; the spectra at $|v| = 2$ are shown in Fig. 4. We clearly see that despite being at strong coupling the excitations’ spectra are Landau quantized in $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$. In the chiral limit [Fig. 3(a)], the degeneracy of the low lying excitations limits to 4 at low \mathbf{B} due to spin and sublattice degrees of freedom, the latter taking on values ± 1 as marked by the blue and red colors. Because they originate from $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ Chern bands with opposite total Chern numbers, the B sublattice sector has $q - 1$ subbands while the A sublattice sector has $q + 1$ subbands for the $1/q$ sequence shown. Note that at small \mathbf{B} there is a small splitting between the low lying opposite sublattice polarized strong-coupling subbands

due to broken C_2T symmetry and that this splitting increases with increasing \mathbf{B} . A similar conclusion has been reached in a recent theoretical work [24], which reported energy splitting of the charge ± 1 excitations at full flux $\phi/\phi_0 = 1$. Also note the opposite evolution of the subbands emanating from the $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0}$ van Hove singularities. Many of the features are reproduced at $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$, except the smaller mean value of the sublattice polarization (as marked by the color scheme), and larger splitting between the low lying magnetic subbands. Interestingly, the sizable splitting between the light fermion LLs seen for $w_0/w_1 = 0.7$ in Figs. 3(b) and 4(d) even at small ϕ/ϕ_0 would give rise to prominent LL filling factors $|\nu_{\text{LL}}| = 0, 2$ at CNP, and $\nu_{\text{LL}} = 0, 1$ on the light-mass side of $v = 2$, as observed in Ref. [15] without invoking moiré translational symmetry breaking.

Superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID)-on-tip measurements found large orbital magnetic moments near $v = 3$ [48] and $v = 1$ [49]. We calculate the total energy cost per moiré unit cell to fully fill the Chern +1 and Chern -1 magnetic subbands in the chiral limit along the $\phi/\phi_0 = 1/q$ sequence, defined as $E_{\pm} = \frac{1}{qN} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sum_{i=1}^{q\pm 1} \varepsilon_{i, \mathbf{k}}$. Here, $\mathbf{k} \in [0, 1) \times [0, 1/q)$, and N is the total number of \mathbf{k} points in the discrete sum. $\varepsilon_{i, \mathbf{k}}$ are the eigenenergies shown in Figs. 3 and 4. We find that at $v = 0$ and $|v| = 2$, $E_{\pm} \approx E_0(v) \pm g\mu_B B$ (see SM Sec. IV), where $\mu_B = \frac{e\hbar}{2mc}$ is the Bohr magneton, and $g \approx \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\pi} \frac{mL_m^2}{\hbar^2} \frac{e^2}{\epsilon L_m}$. Taking $\frac{e^2}{\epsilon L_m} = 10$ meV gives $g \approx 13.4$ at the magic angle, which is within the range of experimental values [48,49].

Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) data [50] at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ show only results from regions with the values of heterostrain 0.1%–0.4%. It is known that even such small values of strain dramatically increase the noninteracting narrow bandwidth [51,52], making the kinetic energy comparable to or larger than the Coulomb interaction scale $e^2/\epsilon L_m$, and stabilizing energetically the proximate nematic state [33,52,53]. Therefore, the available STM data [50] at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ may not be in the limit dominated by the Coulomb interaction complicating the comparison with our result. Measurements on magic angle devices at $\mathbf{B} \neq \mathbf{0}$ with negligible strain would be highly desirable.

Our method is general, and can be used to find the Hofstadter spectrum at larger ϕ/ϕ_0 by starting with simple fractions $1/\bar{q}$, where $\bar{q} = 1, 2$, or 3, where the LL-based calculation is manageable, building the hWSs for the $2\bar{q}$ Hofstadter bands, and then projecting onto the representation of the MTG for ϕ/ϕ_0 away from $1/\bar{q}$ (see SM Sec. III D for a brief discussion). Such generalizations, as well as strain effects, will be presented in future work.

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