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## Realizing double Dirac particles in the presence of electronic interactions

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Double Dirac fermions have recently been identified as possible quasiparticles hosted by threedimensional crystals with particular non-symmorphic point group symmetries. Applying a combined approach of ab-initio methods and dynamical mean field theory, we investigate how interactions and double Dirac band topology conspire to form the electronic quantum state of  $Bi_2CuO_4$ . We derive a downfolded eight-band model of the pristine material at low energies around the Fermi level. By tuning the model parameters from the free band structure to the realistic strongly correlated regime, we find a persistence of the double Dirac dispersion until its constituting time reversal symmetry is broken due to the onset of magnetic ordering at the Mott transition. Our calculations suggest that the double-Dirac fermions in  $Bi_2CuO_4$  can be restored by experimentally accessible hydrostatic pressures. In light of the growing attention of the topological quantum chemistry approach, our results on  $Bi_2CuO_4$  shows how many-body effects must be included beyond the static mean-field level for reliable predictions on new materials.

Introduction. Electrons in solids witness a reduced spatial symmetry in comparison to the spacetime continuum. While the high-energy perspective constrains us to Majorana, Weyl, and Dirac fermions in accordance with the inhomogeneous Lorentz (or Poincaré) group, electronic quasiparticles in solids at low energies can display emergent fermionic behaviour within and even beyond this classification [1, 2]. Graphene constitutes one of the most prominent material discoveries where Dirac-type quasiparticles have been realized [3]. The current rise of Weyl semimetals [4], along with Majorana quasiparticles in superconducting heterostructures [5, 6], complements this evolution in contemporary condensed matter physics.

Recently, Wieder et al. [1] have brought up the possibility to realize double Dirac quasiparticles in certain 3D crystals with specific non-symmorphic point group symmetry. Such a type of fermion does not exist in high-energy physics due to its imcompatibility with the Lorentz group, and highlights the relevance of lattice fermion realizations not only in terms of quantum manybody, but also single-particle states of matter. Double Dirac fermions were identified by a systematic analysis of all double space groups (SGs) accounting for S = 1/2electrons in spin-orbit coupled crystals with time reversal symmetry [2]. In particular, SG 130 and 135 were found to establish eminently suited ground for generic double Dirac fermions protected by point group symmetry. Among all material candidates for SG 130, it was already realized in Ref. 2 that Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> might be a prime candidate due to its filling-enforced semimetallicity [7], nurturing the hope to observe double Dirac fermions close to the Fermi level. All such band structure classifications, however, always need to be extended to account for the role of interactions in the material, which turn out to be

of vital relevance in  $Bi_2CuO_4$ . Most of the topological band properties, even the metallic ones, display a certain degree of persistence against weak interactions as long as those do not break any protecting symmetry. Interactioninduced instabilities, however, do change the symmetry class of the quantum state, possibly affecting the whole range of constituting symmetries including charge conservation, time reversal, and point group operations.

As a paradigmatic change, the concept of topological quantum chemistry is firmly emerging, based on the idea that quantum chemistry and topology conspire to provide a new search principle for topological quantum states of matter [8]. Many new topological insulator and semimetal candidates were revealed within such a framework, where however strong electron interactions are neglected. In this Letter, to show how crucial for this search is to go beyond the single-particle description, we study strong interaction effects of double Dirac fermions, analyzing the band structure properties and electronic correlations in  $Bi_2CuO_4$ . From density functional theory, we distill an effective eight-band tight-binding Hubbard model which is dominated by the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  orbital of the four Cu atoms in the unit cell. Spin-orbit coupling (SOC) is found to be weak because the heavy atoms of the compound do not significantly contribute to the low-energy density of states. As expected, the double Dirac dispersion is located close to the Fermi energy, as identified by an 8-fold band degeneracy at the A point. We quantify the strength of electron-electron interactions by means of the constrained random phase approximation (cRPA). By employing a combined approach of density functional theory (DFT) and dynamical mean field theory (DMFT), we determine the critical value for the Mott transition at ambient pressure to be  $U_{\rm Mott} \approx 0.85 {\rm eV}$ . This value is

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FIG. 1: (Color online) (a) Tetragonal Brillouin zone of SG 130 P4/ncc with corresponding high-symmetry points. (b) Crystal structure of Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub>. Atom colors: Bi = blue, Cu = yellow, O = red. Blue plaquettes highlight the square-planar CuO<sub>4</sub> coordination. (c) DFT bandstructure in the paramagnetic metallic phase with (red solid line) and without (black dashed line) SOC. The left inset is a schematic representation of the square-planar crystal field and orbital filling for Cu-type d<sup>9</sup>. The right inset shows a zoom around the eightfold degenerate A-point, which comes along a characteristic four-fold degeneracy along the R-Z line.

approximately equal to the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  bandwidth, and substantially smaller than  $U_{\rm cRPA} \approx 1.58 \,{\rm eV}$  [9], suggesting that Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> at ambient pressure parametrically locates itself deep in the Heisenberg limit of the Mott regime. Below the Néel temperature  $T_N$ , the magnetic state displays an AFM-C type collinear order of the four local Cu magnetic moments. In the stochiometric compound at pristine conditions, magnetism thus dominates the electronic state, rendering the double Dirac fermions inaccessible. We explore the effect of hydrostatic pressure to drive  $Bi_2CuO_4$  into a metallic phase where the double Dirac fermions emerge. We find the bandstructure formation and correlation effects of  $Bi_2CuO_4$  to be highly sensitive to pressure. Starting from ambient pressure, we find an initial change of the magnetic ordering from AFM-C to AFM-G type, along with a reduced on-site Coulomb repulsion. This could pave the way towards a high-pressure double Dirac metal.

Band structure and effective tight-binding model. Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> crystallizes in the tetragonal spage group P4/ncc (SG 130) (Fig. 1(a)) [11]. Four inequivalent

TABLE I: Hopping integrals in meV between the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -type Wannier functions on different Cu atoms for different pressure P [GPa] with ambient pressure P = 0 GPa. The first row

Wannier functions on different Cu atoms for different pressure P [GPa] with ambient pressure P = 0 GPa. The first row takes over the notation introduced in Ref. [10], while  $t_{i,j}$  in the second row is the transfer integral between Cu-*i* and Cu-*j* site (i, j = 1...4) as in Fig. 2. When a *j* index has a superscript ±1 it refers to a Cu-*j* atom in the [00±1] unit cell.  $U_{cRPA}$  (eV) is the cRPA value for the effective onsite Coulomb interaction [9]. The P = 0 hopping values in parenthesis refer to Ref. [10].

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Р	$\mathbf{t}_{1u}^{AB}$	$\mathbf{t}_{1d}^{AB}$	$\mathbf{t}_{2u}^{AB}$	$\mathbf{t}_{2d}^{AB}$	$\mathbf{t}_1^A$	$\mathbf{t}_2^A$	$U_{\rm cRPA}$
	$t_{1,2}$	$t_{4,2}$	$t_{1,3}$	$t_{1,2-1}$	$t_{1,4}$	$t_{1,1^{1}}$	
0	66	40	5	-24	36	-20	1.58
	(74)	(36)	-	(-40)	(21)	(-18)	
30	80	21	6	-20	73	-16	1.45
50	88	13	2	-13	65	-7	1.36



FIG. 2: (Color online) Side view of the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -type MLWFs belonging to two neighbouring Cu-chains, responsible for the transfer integral  $t_{1u}^{AB}$  (Tab. I). Brown (green) color refers to positive (negative) values of the MLWF. The individual ML-WFs are not symmetric with respect to the CuO<sub>4</sub> plaquette plane. This is due to a small off-centering of the Cu atoms, in opposite directions for Cu-1 and Cu-2. The inset shows a top view on the Cu-1  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -type MLWF.

Cu atoms in the unit cell share a square-planar CuO<sub>4</sub> coordination, stacked along the out-of-plane direction and intercalated by Bi atoms, as depicted in Fig. 1(b). The Cu-O hybridization is quite strong, leading to a mixed *d-p* character of the band structure of the occupied states [12]. The Bi-*p* manifold only starts  $\approx 1.5$  eV above the Fermi level, suggesting that the low energy model is given by Cu and O electronic states. The square-planar crystal field is characterized by a higher-in-energy  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  orbital experiencing a head-to-head interaction with the O-*p*. The level separation is schematically drawn in the



FIG. 3: (Color online) (a) DMFT quasiparticle weight Z (main panel) and double occupancies (inset) as a function of U in the paramagnetic phase for a temperature  $\beta = 100 \text{ eV}^{-1}$ . The Mott transition occurs at  $U_{\text{Mott}} \approx 0.85 \text{ eV}$ . (b) Momentum-resolved DMFT spectral function  $A(k,\omega)$  for U = 0.2, 0.4, and 0.6 eV. Red lines denote the DFT band structure renormalized by the DMFT quasiparticle weight Z. For U = 0.4 eV, the zoom shows the preservation of the eight-fold degenerate A-point along with an already significant band renormalization.

left inset of Fig. 1(c). Cu is nominally in the oxidation state 2+ (i.e.  $d^9$  configuration). For this reason, a half-filled  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -derived single spin-degenerate band per Cu atom in the unit cell is expected to dominate at low energies. Fig. 1(c) displays the band dispersion of the electronic states around the Fermi level. Due to the dominant Cu orbital, the effect of SOC is almost negligible, only inducing small spin splittings. We estimate the energy scale of SOC to be  $\approx 20$  meV. Despite its small scale, however, SOC is a crucial ingredient for the symmetries in the double SG representation that ensures the existence of a double Dirac fermion with linear dispersion at the Brillouin zone corner  $A = (\pi, \pi, \pi)$ . As the band filling is given by an odd multiple of 4  $(180 = 8 \times 22 + 4)$ , the double Dirac fermion in  $Bi_2CuO_4$  is located almost at the Fermi level, as visible in the right inset of Fig. 1(c).

While the aforementioned electronic structure details, as well as the magnetic properties at ambient pressure, have already been analyzed previously [10, 13], a closer inspection of the hybridization profile and the Coulomb matrix elements in terms of ab-initio derived maximally localized Wannier functions (MLWFs) [14] is indispensible to further analyze the fate of double Dirac fermions in the presence of interactions. The relatively large extension of the MLWFs is a consequence of the strong Cu-O hybridization. Their lobes indeed stretch out over the O-atoms with a clockwise winding shape, as shown in the top view of Fig. 2. Our analysis elucidates the origin of the strong three-dimensional character of  $Bi_2CuO_4$ , as the MLWFs extend along the out-of-plane direction in an asymmetric manner, which is a consequence of buckled CuO<sub>4</sub> plaquettes. Moreover, two  $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -type ML-WFs localized on different chains have a strong overlap, even though they do not belong to the same ab-plane. This is illustrated by the  $t_{1u}^{AB}$  transfer integral shown in Fig. 2 and Tab. I. Coherent electron hopping is also enabled between neighbouring plaquettes along the normal c-direction. This process is accounted for by the transfer integral  $t_{1u}^A$ , which is indeed comparable with the hoppings  $t_{1u}^{AB}$  and  $t_{1d}^{AB}$  that involve a significant in-plane component. As further discussed below, the hoppings turn out to be rather sensitive to pressure, and even impose a change of the magnetic ordering pattern, which is relevant to classifying the possible topological character of symmetry-broken phases in Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> [15].

Mott transition and spectral function. Having obtained an effective band structure description of Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> close to  $E_{\rm F}$  in terms of a half-filled single band per Cu atom, we focus on the double Dirac point at the A-point. In particular, we analyze its evolution as a function of interaction strength, starting from the free electron limit up to the realistic cRPA value for the electron-electron interaction U [9]. Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> is parametrically located within the applicability bounds of DFT+DMFT, partly because of its three-dimensional character. Fig. 3(a) displays the quasiparticle weight  $Z = (1 - \partial \text{Re}\Sigma(\omega)/\partial \omega|_{\omega \to 0})^{-1}$ . Before reaching  $U_{cRPA}$ , we encounter a Mott-type metalto-insulator transition (MIT) at  $U_{\rm Mott} \approx 0.85$  eV. At the Mott transition, the quasiparticle weight is suppressed by interactions, and the fraction of doubly-occupied Cu-sites  $\langle n_{\uparrow}n_{\downarrow}\rangle$  reduces from the free-particle value of 1/4 towards zero (inset in Fig. 3(a)). At intermediate U, the spectral

TABLE II: DFT+U total energy differences (meV/unit cell) for the magnetic patterns at ambient pressure and at 30 GPa. The lowest-lying AFM type state is chosen as reference energy. Non-magnetic (NM) and ferromagnetic (FM) configurations are higher up in energy than the AFM states.

P (GPa)	U (eV)	NM	$\mathbf{FM}$	AFM-C	AFM-G	AFM-A
0						
	0.0	442	88	0	2.4	54
	0.5	555	77	0	2.2	49
	1.58	812	60	0	1.8	41
	2.1	940	54	0	1.6	37
30						
	1.45	636	97	28	0	65

function, as depicted in Fig. 3(b), is well described by the DFT single particle band structure renormalized in terms of bandwidth by the quasiparticle weight Z, along with the appearance of incoherent lower and upper Hubbard bands. Since the double Dirac fermion is located close to the Fermi level, it contributes to the quasiparticle peak for interaction strengths below the Mott transition. Even though the eightfold-degeneracy at the A-point remains discernible up to  $U_{Mott}$ , the Coulomb repulsion has a dramatic effect on the double Dirac feature. The velocities are substantially reduced and the linewidths increase rapidly due to the strong scattering. Even if the protecting symmetry is not yet broken by the magnetic ordering, the damping of the band structure as well as the transfer of spectral weight towards high-energy (Hubbard) bands are so pronounced that the whole double Dirac feature looses most of its distinctness already for  $U \ll U_{Mott}$ .

Magnetic order and hydrostatic pressure. At  $U_{cRPA}$ , allowing for magnetic ordering, the ground state of  $Bi_2CuO_4$  is not paramagnetic, but displays intra unit cell magnetic order. As a consequence, the Mott regime and the breaking of time-reversal symmetry independently suggest the absence of double Dirac cones. In Tab. II, we report the DFT+U energies at T = 0 for different magnetic configurations. Mapping these energies on a Heisenberg model and performing classical Monte Carlo simulations, we estimate a Néel temperature of 56 K for U = 1.58 eV, which compares reasonably well with the experimental value of 50 K [10–12]. The AFM-C type configuration, characterized by a ferromagnetic alignment of the chains along the *c*-direction, is found to be preferred. Independent of the considered interaction strength, however, it is always energetically close to an AFM-G type phase, where the magnetic moments are antiferromagnetically aligned along all three directions. This is the consequence of a competitive balance between  $t_1^A$  and  $t_{1d}^{AB}$  transfer integrals (Tab. I). This tuned frustration is relieved by pressure, favoring  $t_1^A$  over  $t_{1d}^{AB}$ . It explains why we observe a change to AFM-G type magnetic order as a function of pressure (see Tab. II).



FIG. 4: (Color online) (a-c) Evolution of the DFT band structure for P = 0 (ambient pressure), 6, and 30 GPa. Red symbols refer to the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  character. (d)  $U_{cRPA}$  and  $U_{Mott}$  as a function of pressure. It is suggestive to expect an insultar to metal transition around P = 50 - 60 GPa. (e-f) Momentumresolved DMFT spectral function  $A(k, \omega)$  for U = 0.85 and 0.95 eV at a pressure P = 50 GPa. A two-color palette has been used to better highlight the linear dispersion along the Z-A line. The maximum color intensity (arb. units) in panel (e) is twice as larger as that in panel (f).

Along with the change of the magnetic order, pressure has a profound impact on the electronic structure. As illustrated in Fig. 4(a-c), the bands above and below the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  manifold get closer to the Fermi level. This results in a more efficient screening of the Coulomb interaction for the target  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  states. Fig. 4(d) and TABLE I report the corresponding reduction of  $U_{cRPA}$ . In addition, the slight increase of the  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  bandwidth (~ 10%) leads to a larger critical  $U_{Mott}$  for the Mott transition. Even though  $U_{cRPA}$  remains larger than  $U_{Mott}$ all the way up to 50 GPa [16], the trend towards the restoration of the metallic phase is evident [17], as shown in Fig. 4(d,e,f). Assuming the absence of a structural phase transition [16], this suggests a transition into a high-pressure double Dirac metal for  $\simeq 60$  GPa.

Conclusion. Our analysis identifies  $Bi_2CuO_4$  as a prototypical material where crystal structure and orbital character, under pressure, conspire to give rise to correlated double Dirac fermions close to the Fermi level. At ambient pressure, the interactions turn out to drive the system into a Mott state along with magnetic intracell ordering where the double Dirac cone is absent. As a function of hydrostatic pressure, we find that the material could be driven into a metallic state where the double Dirac features would emerge. For this, our ab initio calculations indicate a pressure regime of  $\approx 60$  GPa, which is still within the range of experimental pressure cell transport setups. Our study suggests several routes to realize a double-Dirac metal in Bi<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> at low temperatures. For instance, a combined pressure and doping approach could establish a convenient perturbation of the pristine material in order to render correlated double Dirac fermions accessible to experimental investigation.

Beside the specific example of double Dirac fermions in  $Bi_2CuO_4$ , in this Letter we comunicate a rather general message, namely that all these new topological quantum chemistry developments need to be looked at more carefully, as interactions are systematically neglected [8]. This may constitute the most severe and harsh drawback of the whole approach, largely based on the single-particle band theory of electrons. On the other hand, we demonstrated how it is possible to restore the nontrivial new quasiparticles physics by means of external handles, curing this way the intrinsic failure of the topological quantum chemistry machinery.

This is crucial in light of future technological applications of such new quasiparticles. To give an example, it will be of relevant interest to study the effects of a magnetic field imposed on the double Dirac particle dispersion, similarly to what has been done in the case of Dirac and Weyl semimetals [18, 19]. Centered in the same conal center, the double Dirac particle features two Dirac cones of different opening angles. As a function of these angles, it is reasonable to foresee an unprecedented variety of band decompositions that promises to happen in response to a magnetic field, along with a likely highly non-trivial magnetoresistance profile. However, in analogy to the Fermi velocity renormalization effect by interactions in graphene [20], the renormalization of the double Dirac cone dispersion will play a quantitative key role.

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