

Dipolar excitonic insulator in a moiré lattice

Jie Gu

Cornell University

Liguo Ma

Cornell University

Song Liu

Columbia University

Kenji Watanabe

National Institute for Materials Science <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3701-8119>

Takashi Taniguchi

National Institute for Materials Science, Tsukuba, Ibaraki <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1467-3105>

James Hone

Columbia University <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8084-3301>

Jie Shan

Department of Physics and School of Applied and Engineering Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Kin Fai Mak (✉ kfaimak@gmail.com)

Cornell University <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5768-199X>

Letter

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Abstract

Two-dimensional (2D) moiré materials provide a highly-controllable solid-state platform for studies of correlated quantum phenomena. To date, experimental studies have focused on the correlated electronic states; the correlated bosonic states in moiré materials have remained practically unexplored. Here, we report a correlated dipolar excitonic insulator—a charge insulating state driven by exciton formation—in a Coulomb-coupled WSe₂ monolayer and WSe₂/WS₂ moiré bilayer at total hole doping density equal to the moiré density. The system is a Mott insulator when all the holes reside in the moiré layer. Under an out-of-plane electric field, the holes can be continuously transferred to the WSe₂ monolayer, but remain strongly bound to the empty moiré sites. This is effectively an interlayer exciton fluid in the moiré lattice under a particle-hole transformation. We identify the phase space and determine the charge gap energy of the excitonic insulating state by optical spectroscopy and capacitance measurements, respectively. We further observe the emergence of local magnetic moments in the WSe₂ monolayer induced by the strong interlayer Coulomb correlation. Our result paves the path for realizing correlated bosonic quantum phenomena described by the Bose-Hubbard model in a solid-state system.

Full Text

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