

Topological Dirac Quasiparticles Tailored by Surface-Moiré Engineering

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Moiré heterostructures have become a promising platform for tailoring electronic states in a highly controllable manner. The emergent superlattice potential gives rise to band gaps in the folded moiré band structure, which lead to a quenching of kinetic energy and thus increase of electron-electron interactions. Emergent flat bands have been observed in nano-focused angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) experiments and demonstrated to trigger correlation-driven phenomena.

Here, we go beyond the mere creation of flat bands and demonstrate that surface moiré engineering allows transforming a 'simple' epitaxial monolayer-substrate heterostructure into topological Dirac matter. In particular, using ARPES experiments, we will (i) prove the existence of one-dimensional Dirac fermions in the moiré-driven band structure, (ii) show that those are robustly protected by the emergent superlattice symmetry, and (iii) demonstrate how the entire mini-band structure can be controlled by epitaxial manners and sample temperature. Overall, this expands the potential of moiré materials by shifting the focus from almost exclusively flat bands to the creation of new, highly controllable Dirac quasiparticles – that is, an 'innovative route to low-dimensional materials'.