

Moiré Band Topology in Twisted Bilayer Graphene

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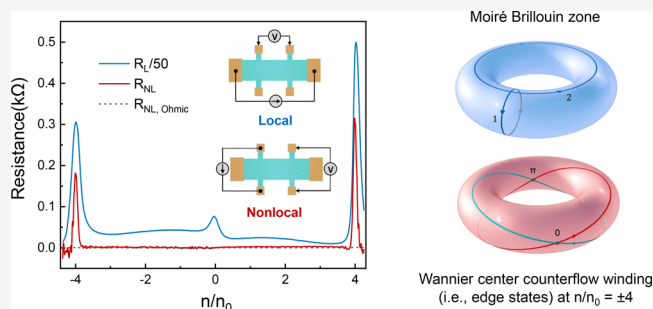
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ABSTRACT: Recently twisted bilayer graphene (t-BLG) has emerged as a strongly correlated physical platform. Besides the apparent significance of band flatness, band topology may be another critical element in t-BLG and yet receives much less attention. Here we report the compelling evidence for nontrivial noninteracting Moiré band topology in t-BLG through a systematic nonlocal transport study and a K -theory examination. The nontrivial topology manifests itself as two pronounced nonlocal responses in the electron and hole superlattice gaps. We show that the nonlocal responses are robust to the twist angle and edge termination, exhibiting a universal scaling law. We elucidate that, although Berry curvature is symmetry-trivialized, two nontrivial Z_2 invariants characterize the Moiré Dirac bands, validating the topological origin of the observed nonlocal responses. Our findings not only provide a new perspective for understanding the strongly correlated t-BLG but also suggest a potential strategy to achieve topological metamaterials from trivial vdW materials.

KEYWORDS: twisted bilayer graphene, band topology, nonlocal resistance, superlattice gap, Moiré band, Z_2 invariant



It is widely known that overlaying two identical periodic lattices with a relative twist generates a larger-scale interference structure, i.e., the Moiré pattern. For two-dimensional (2D) materials, such twists create Moiré superlattices by reducing translation symmetry in real space and folds electron Bloch bands into Moiré Brillouin zones (MBZ) in momentum space.^{1–5} The Moiré bands can exhibit striking phenomena such as the Hofstadter’s butterfly in the fractal quantum Hall effect^{6–8} and the Moiré potential-modulated interlayer excitons.^{9–12} Remarkably, strongly correlated electron behavior including Mott-like insulating phases and possibly unconventional superconductivity have been discovered in twisted bilayer graphene^{13–17} (t-BLG) near a magic angle⁴ ($\sim 1.1^\circ$) and in aligned trilayer graphene/hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) heterostructures.^{18,19} Besides, their extreme band flatness, nontrivial band topology may be another crucial feature in determining the observed strongly correlated phases. One celebrated example is the well-studied incompressible fractional quantum Hall effect,²⁰ in which the partially filled Landau level has a nontrivial Chern number.²¹ Another example is the predicted Z_4 parafermions,²² for which the 8π Josephson effect is mediated by a helical edge state of a 2D topological insulator (TI)²³ with a sufficiently small velocity. Therefore, it is of significance to investigate the possible noninteracting band topology of the active Moiré bands in these correlated systems. Although topological features such as nontrivial Wilson loop spectral flows have been obtained theoretically^{24–26} in t-BLG (via different

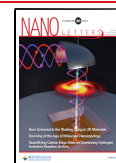
methods), there is no experimental evidence yet to support any nontrivial band topology in t-BLG.

Here we experimentally reveal the universal and unique Moiré band topology of t-BLG at small twist angles by using systematic nonlocal transport measurements.^{27–31} Previously, a nonlocal measurement scheme has been employed in detecting the helical edge state of 2D TI²⁷ and the topological valley current driven by Berry curvature.^{28–31} In this work, pronounced nonlocal responses are observed in both the electron and hole superlattice-induced band gaps (four electrons or holes per unit cell) of t-BLG³² and consistently observed in more than 15 t-BLG devices with twist angles between $\sim 1.3^\circ$ and $\sim 1.9^\circ$, showing their robustness to twist angle and edge termination. Moreover, the nonlocal responses persist in a wide range of applied displacement fields from 0 to 0.62 V/nm. However, the nonlocal responses disappear in t-BLG with twist angles of $\sim 0.75^\circ$ and $\sim 0.42^\circ$, in which the superlattice band gaps vanish. We elucidate that the unique $C_{2z}T$ symmetry of t-BLG, though trivializing any Berry curvature, gives rise to two nontrivial bulk Z_2 invariants that

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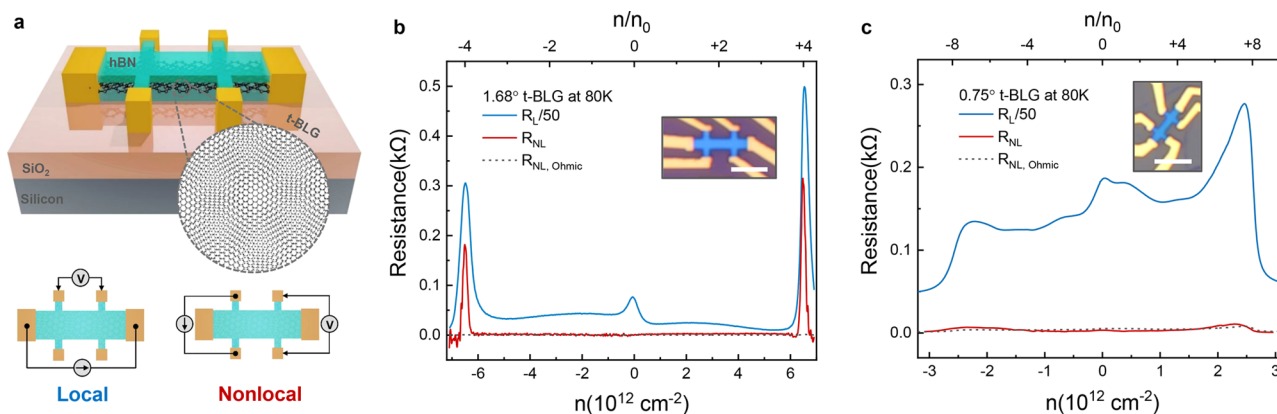


Figure 1. Local and nonlocal transport properties in twist bilayer graphene. (a) Top: schematic of a typical single-gate device with a t-BLG channel. The carrier concentration n is tuned by a global silicon back gate. Inset: schematic Moiré pattern of t-BLG consisting of two layers of monolayer graphene with a twist. Bottom: schematics of local and nonlocal measurement schemes. (b) Local and nonlocal resistances measured in a t-BLG device (D1) with a 1.68° twist angle at 80 K. The three local resistance maxima correspond to the Dirac points $n/n_0 = 0$ (at charge neutrality) and the superlattice gaps $n/n_0 = \pm 4$ (at $n \approx \pm 6.50 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$). Pronounced nonlocal responses are observed inside the superlattice gaps. Inset: optical image of device D1. Scale bar: $4 \mu\text{m}$. (c) Local and nonlocal resistances measured in another t-BLG device (D2) with a 0.75° twist angle at 80 K. Filling factor n/n_0 is determined by the low-temperature magneto-transport (Figure S3b). No significant nonlocal responses are observed at $n/n_0 = \pm 4$ ($n \approx \pm 1.31 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) due to the closure of the superlattice gaps. Inset: optical image of device D2. Scale bar: $4 \mu\text{m}$.

previously appeared in six and seven dimensions in the celebrated periodic table of topological classification.³³ While one invariant protects the Moiré Dirac points, the other dictates the presence of one pair of counter-propagating edge states per spin-valley in each superlattice gap. We further show that the observed nonquantization and universal scaling of nonlocal resistance are consistent with the $C_{2z}T$ and valley symmetry breaking at edges. Our findings not only unveil the appealing Moiré band topology of t-BLG but also may offer a universal pathway for creating topological metamaterials by twist engineering 2D materials. The discovered Moiré band topology may provide a new perspective for deciphering the tantalizing strongly correlated phenomena^{13–17,34} in magic-angle t-BLG.

A schematic of our typical t-BLG devices is shown in the top panel of Figure 1a. We employed a “tear-and-stack” technique to fabricate hBN encapsulated t-BLG heterostructures as reported previously (Methods).^{5,32,35} A Hall-bar geometry was defined through reactive ion etching, and electrical contacts to t-BLG were made at the edge.³⁵ The total carrier concentration n in t-BLG is controlled by tuning the voltage applied to the global silicon back gate. The schemes of local and nonlocal measurements are illustrated in the lower panels in Figure 1a. We first characterize the t-BLG Moiré superlattice by measuring the four-probe local resistance R_L as a function of n in two devices (D1 and D2) shown in the insets in Figure 1b,c.

Three resistance maxima are observed at the charge neutrality point and at $n = \pm n_s \approx \pm 6.50 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (Figure 1b) for D1 at 80 K, at which the Fermi level crosses the degenerate Dirac points from the two original graphene monolayers and the two Moiré superlattice-induced band gaps due to the interlayer hybridizations,³² respectively. Here, $n_s/n_0 = 4$, where n_0 corresponds to one electron per Moiré unit cell,³² from which we can deduce the twist angle of this device to be $\sim 1.68^\circ$. The error is estimated to be around $\pm 0.05^\circ$. The superlattice gaps are extracted to be $\sim 40 \text{ meV}$ based on the temperature-dependent transport measurements (see Figure S1a,b for the complete temperature dependence of R_L and superlattice band gap extraction). Strikingly, pronounced

nonlocal responses $R_{NL} = V_{NL}/I$ are observed in the superlattice gaps on both the electron and hole sides, as featured in Figure 1b at 80 K. The peaks of R_{NL} have a narrower range in n compared with that of R_L and attenuate to zero away from $\pm n_s$. The R_{NL} at a lower temperature is discussed and presented in Supporting Information and Figure S1c.

We first exclude the possibility of the observed nonlocal resistance in D1 being an Ohmic contribution induced by stray currents, where the Ohmic nonlocal resistance can be estimated by the van der Pauw relation^{28–30,36–39} $R_{NL,Ohmic} = (R_L w / \pi L) \exp(-\pi L / w)$. Here $L = 3 \mu\text{m}$ is the channel length between the driving and probing terminals, and $w = 1.2 \mu\text{m}$ is the channel width in D1. The Ohmic contribution only yields $R_{NL,Ohmic} < 1 \Omega$ at the superlattice gaps, which is at least 2 orders of magnitude smaller than our observed R_{NL} peak values. In addition, experimental artifacts may arise from the diffusive charge transport in an imperfect device, e.g., a Hall bar device with a pair of unintentionally misaligned side terminals. Such experimental artifacts should produce a nonlocal resistance proportional to the local resistance in the same device. However, pronounced nonlocal resistances are only observed in the two superlattice gaps but not at the Dirac point (charge neutrality), as shown in Figure 1b, although the local resistances at the superlattice gaps and the Dirac point only differ by a few times. Were the nonlocal signals at the superlattice gaps due to the experimental artifacts, we should have observed a similarly strong signal at the Dirac point. In fact, as discussed below, we do not observe meaningful nonlocal resistance at the Dirac point for all of our t-BLG devices with twist angles between $\sim 1.3^\circ$ and $\sim 1.9^\circ$. Moreover, experimental errors from measurement set-ups are estimated to be negligible compared with the observed nonlocal signals (Figure S2). Finally, we also exclude the trivial mechanisms such as the edge conduction induced by charge inhomogeneity at device edges based on five pieces of evidence we will present in the main text below, which are summarized in Supporting Information. Therefore, the observed strong nonlocal signals are intrinsic properties that are related to the superlattice gaps of t-BLG at $n_s/n_0 = \pm 4$.

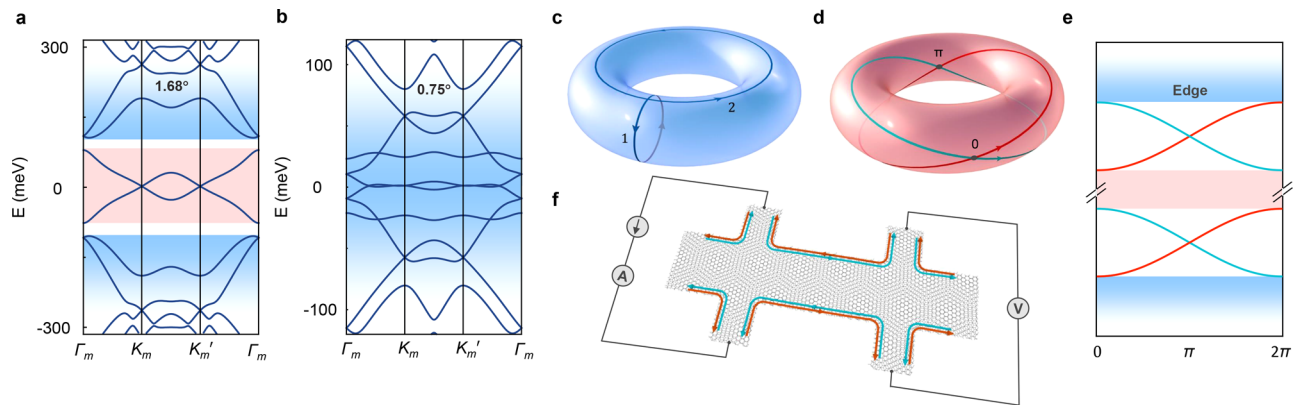


Figure 2. Band structure, band topology, and delocalized edge modes of twisted bilayer graphene. (a) The calculated Moiré band structure of 1.68° t-BLG. Superlattice gaps are denoted by the white regions, while the two lowest Moiré Dirac bands with a nontrivial Z_2 index are denoted by the red shaded region. (b) The calculated Moiré band structure of 0.75° t-BLG. Superlattice gaps are absent in this t-BLG system. (c) Schematic torus illustrating the first Moiré Brillouin zone. Two Wannier centers of the two Moiré Dirac bands along circle 1 are computed, and their counterflow along circle 2 is depicted in panel d. (d) Red and cyan traces illustrating the nontrivial Wannier-center counterflow winding, and the crossings labeled by 0 and π are symmetry-enforced stable points. (e) Illustration of the counter-propagating edge states per spin-valley (red and cyan curves) in the superlattice band gaps. Due to the broken $C_{2z}T$ and valley symmetries at t-BLG device boundaries, the edge states acquire gaps with random signs in different mesoscopic domains. (f) Schematic of the nonlocal detection of the two counter-propagating edge states in a t-BLG Hall bar.

As for the device with a twist angle of $\sim 0.75^\circ$ (D2 measured at 80 K, Figure 1c), due to the reduced energy dispersion of the Moiré band,^{13,40,41} resistance maxima at the charge neutrality and other positions are thermally smeared at 80 K. By lowering the temperature down to 2 K, we observe two insulating peaks at $n = \pm 2.60 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and an additional peak at $n = +1.31 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ that has a metallic behavior (Figure S3a). In the Landau level fan diagram (Figure S3b), Landau level fans emanating from both sides of the charge neutrality point and of $n = +1.31 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ can be clearly resolved. On the basis of the Wannier theory,^{13–17,34} we assign $+1.31 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ to $n/n_0 = +4$ and estimate the twist angle to be 0.75° . As such, our observation of the insulating states at $n/n_0 = \pm 8$ is also consistent with previous works,^{13,40} where this unusual insulating behavior was attributed to strong electron correlations. In this device, the strong nonlocal resistance is absent at all carrier concentrations at 80 K (Figure 1c); in fact, the nonlocal resistance is always on the order of the Ohmic contribution down to 2 K (Supporting Information and Figure S3c). In particular, the absence of nonlocal responses at the $n/n_0 = \pm 8$ insulating states precludes trivial edge conduction induced by the charge inhomogeneity at device edges; otherwise, similar nonlocal responses should have shown up, as what we have observed at the superlattice gaps in device D1. Moreover, for $\sim 0.42^\circ$ t-BLG (device D3), local resistance peaks appear at single-particle band fillings without any thermal activation behaviors, and no significant nonlocal responses are observed at all temperatures (Supporting Information and Figure S4c).

In order to identify the physical origin of the strong nonlocal signals in D1, we performed temperature-dependent measurements. With lowering the temperature to 1.7 K, R_{NL} continues to grow and exhibits fluctuations without any obvious quantization in D1 (Figure S1c), which excludes the presence of protected gapless edge states like those in topological insulators.²⁷ In addition, theoretical analysis (Supporting Information) shows that Berry curvature vanishes in t-BLG, which precludes the possibility of valence-band Berry curvatures⁴²-driven nonlocal transport that was studied in several 2D materials.^{28–31}

We now turn to the intrinsic band properties of t-BLG. Figure 2a,b shows the calculated Moiré band structures of 1.68° and 0.75° t-BLG (Methods), respectively. The difference between these two cases is evident. In Figure 2a, the red region in the middle and the two white regions adjacent to it highlight the two Moiré Dirac bands (per spin-valley) and the two superlattice gaps, respectively. On the contrary, the superlattice gaps close in Figure 2b, consistent with a previous report.⁴⁰ It is clear that the existence of superlattice gaps is critical for the observation of the strong nonlocal signals. For t-BLG with superlattice gaps at $n/n_0 = \pm 4$, the presence of a nontrivial topological invariant for the entire Moiré Dirac bands is possible. For t-BLG without the superlattice gaps, the Moiré Dirac bands are no longer energetically isolated, and such a topological property becomes irrelevant. Below we use symmetry and the K -theory to elucidate the nontrivial band topology of t-BLG with superlattice gaps at $n/n_0 = \pm 4$ and show that this unprecedented property gives rise to delocalized topological edge modes responsible for the observed strong nonlocal signals.

In t-BLG, because $(C_{2z}T)H(\mathbf{k})(C_{2z}T)^{-1} = H(\mathbf{k})$ and $(C_{2z}T)^2 = 1$, the Hamiltonian $H(\mathbf{k})$ belongs to class AI in the celebrated periodic table of topological classification rooted in K -theory.³³ In this classification (Table 1), the topological invariant of $H(\mathbf{k})$ is determined by the effective dimensions $d-D$, where d (D) denotes the number of dimensions in which momentum is odd (even) under $C_{2z}T$. Evidently, t-BLG can be characterized by two independent Z_2 invariants, as $H(\mathbf{k})$ is

Table 1. Topological Classification³³ for Class AI in the Altland–Zirnbauer Table^a

$(d-D) \bmod 8$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
invariant	Z	0	0	0	$2Z$	0	Z_2	Z_2

^aThe cases with the dimensions $d = 0$ and $D = 1, 2$ are relevant for the Moiré Dirac bands of t-BLG. Because of the unique $C_{2z}T$ symmetry, the nontrivial Z_2 index of the effective dimensions $(d-D) \bmod 8 = 7$ protects each bulk Dirac point, and the nontrivial Z_2 index of the effective dimensions $(d-D) \bmod 8 = 6$ (Figure 2d) leads to the counter-propagating edge states in each superlattice gap (Figure 2e).

featured by $d = 0$ and $D = 1$ or 2 . We find that both invariants are nontrivial for the Moiré Dirac bands of t-BLG (per spin-valley). One Z_2 invariant ($(d-D) \bmod 8 = 7$ in Table 1) amounts to the quantized Berry phase (0 or π without distinguishing the sign) of the lower band along a loop in the MBZ. The π Berry phase ensures the presence of Dirac points at K_m or K'_m in the MBZ, which is confirmed by our observation of minimum conductivity at the charge neutrality below ~ 60 K (Figure S1a) and previous measurements by other groups.^{32,40}

The other Z_2 invariant ($(d-D) \bmod 8 = 6$ in Table 1) over the entire MBZ can be visualized by computing the Wilson loop spectral flow⁴³ of the two Moiré Dirac bands. This spectral flow corresponds to a Wannier-center counterflow (calculated by using circle 1 in Figure 2c) along a loop (circle 2 in Figure 2c) around the MBZ (torus in Figure 2c), and the Z_2 invariant characterizes the parity of the counterflow winding. In Figure 2d, the red and cyan traces illustrate the counterflow winding for the two Moiré Dirac bands, and the two crossings are symmetry-enforced stable points (Supporting Information and Figure S5). The nontrivial counterflow, reminiscent of that of 2D TI,⁴³ implies the presence of a pair of counter-propagating edge states per spin-valley in the electron superlattice gap (red and cyan curves in Figure 2e). Consistent topological features including similar nontrivial Wilson loop spectral flows have been predicted previously^{24–26} based on different approaches. Because of the particle-hole symmetry evidenced in Figure 2a, such edge states also exist in the hole superlattice gap. Yet, due to the breaking of $C_{2z}T$ and valley symmetries by the t-BLG boundary, the edge states acquire gaps. This is consistent with our observation of nonquantized nonlocal responses at low temperatures; the gapped edge states can form quasi-one-dimensional diffusion channels.

Here we want to emphasize that these gapped topological edge states should be distinguished from those nontopological ones. The nontopological modes, which have an edge origin, inevitably become localized in the presence of substantial edge disorder and roughness, i.e., the case for our devices, and cannot produce any significant nonlocal transport signals. By sharp contrast, the topological edge states acquire mass terms with different signs in random mesoscopic domains, and the sign reversal at each domain wall yields a 0D zero mode per spin-valley. On the statistical average,^{44–46} these zero modes weakly couple and form delocalized, diffusive, quasi-1D channels (Figure 2f) that can be responsible for our observed strong, nonquantized, nonlocal signature.

We extend our nonlocal measurements to t-BLG of different twist angles above the magic angle. We observe that the nonlocal responses are universal in all our t-BLG devices with twist angles from $\sim 1.3^\circ$ to $\sim 1.9^\circ$. Figure 3 denotes the nonlocal measurement results from devices D4 to D8. For each twist angle, the red curve plots the measured R_{NL} data recorded at 80 K, whereas the blue curve plots the calculated density of states (DOS) as a function of carrier concentration n (Methods and Supporting Information). For each twist angle, the pronounced R_{NL} peaks coincide well with the DOS minima, which correspond to the two superlattice gaps separating the Moiré Dirac bands in t-BLG spectra. We note that the Moiré Dirac bands of our studied small-angle t-BLG are topologically equivalent since the superlattice gaps do not close as the twist angle decrease from $\sim 2^\circ$ to the magic angle $\sim 1.1^\circ$ (Supporting Information and Figure S6a–d). Thus, our observation above the magic angle reveals the nontrivial band

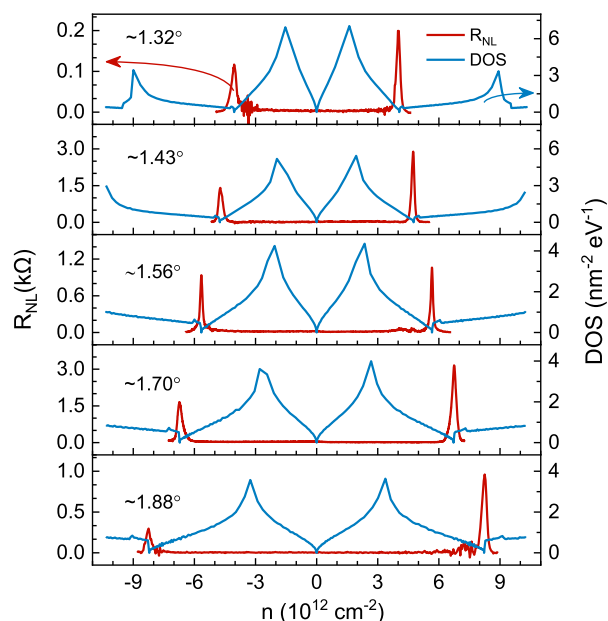


Figure 3. Twist angle dependence of nonlocal resistance and DOS. Measured nonlocal resistance (red curves) and calculated density of states (DOS) as functions of n measured in various t-BLG devices (D4 to D8) with different twist angles from $\sim 1.3^\circ$ to $\sim 1.9^\circ$ at 80 K (See Supporting Information for device details). Nonlocal resistance peaks appear at the DOS minima corresponding to the superlattice band gaps in each t-BLG.

topology of the Moiré Dirac bands as a whole near the magic angle unambiguously. Moreover, the standard etching process (Methods) defined arbitrary edge terminations in our devices. Thus, the existence of strong nonlocal responses in these devices implies the robustness of the observed phenomenon against the edge termination.

We also examine the impact of the displacement field on the nonlocal responses using a dual-gate device (Supporting Information). The nonlocal responses persist in a wide range of fields from -0.02 V/nm to $+0.62$ V/nm (-0.06 V/nm to $+0.2$ V/nm) at the electron-side (hole-side) superlattice gap (Figure S7b) and remain close to zero elsewhere. Especially at zero displacement field, nonlocal responses are strong with the values of $\gtrsim 900 \Omega$ and $\gtrsim 800 \Omega$ at the electron-side and hole-side superlattice gaps, respectively. This observation supports our earlier exclusion of inversion symmetry breaking by a displacement field as the origin of the observed nonlocal signals. Moreover, it is also reasonable that a finite field does not remove the nonlocal signal. The field neither breaks the $C_{2z}T$ symmetry nor closes the superlattice gaps (Supporting Information and Figure S6i–l), and thus, the presence of delocalized edge modes is intact. We note that R_{NL} at both superlattice gaps changes as the displacement field varies. Two possible mechanisms are proposed in the Supporting Information to account for the impact of a displacement field on R_{NL} .

In addition, twist-angle inhomogeneity has been shown to present in t-BLG.^{15,17} We evaluated the twist-angle homogeneity of our devices from the alignment of insulating states measured with different pairs of contacts. In particular, we find the nonlocal transport is suppressed at the presence of large twist-angle inhomogeneity, as evidenced by the weak and broadened peaks in R_{NL} . The impact of twist-angle

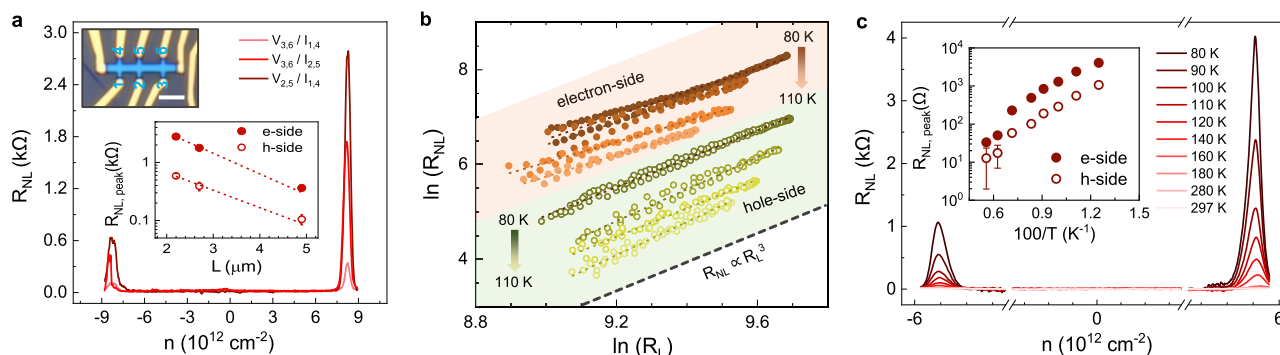


Figure 4. Length and temperature dependence of nonlocal resistance. (a) Length dependence of nonlocal responses in a multiterminal device (D9) measured at 80 K. Three sets of R_{NL} are measured by driving current I and probing voltage drop V using different pairs of terminals as indicated in the figure legend. Top left inset: optical image of D9. Scale bar: 3 μm . Middle inset: semilog plot of R_{NL} peaks versus channel length L . The nonlocal responses exponentially decay with L . Solid points and circles represent the electron- and hole-side R_{NL} peak values, respectively. The fittings (dashed lines) yield diffusion lengths of 1.2 and 1.4 μm for electron and hole sides, respectively. (b) Scaling relation between R_{NL} and R_L measured in D10 at different temperatures. Data points around the $R_{NL}(R_L)$ peaks are extracted in the range $n \pm \Delta n = 5.54 \pm 0.22$ and -5.54 ± 0.28 (10^{12} cm^{-2}) for the electron (orange shaded region) and hole (green shaded region) sides. A linear relation between $\ln R_{NL}$ and $\ln R_L$ gives a slope of 3.00 (2.51), 3.37 (2.36), 3.01 (2.17), and 3.50 (2.29) for hole-side (electron-side) responses at 80, 90, 100, and 110 K, respectively. (c) Temperature dependence of R_{NL} from 80 K up to room temperature. Inset: semilog plot of R_{NL} peak values versus $100/T$. Above 80 K, R_{NL} also exhibits thermal activation behavior with the activation energies extracted to be 157 ± 20 meV and 129 ± 16 meV for the electron and hole sides, respectively.

inhomogeneity on nonlocal responses is discussed in detail in the Supporting Information.

To further elaborate the physical mechanism of the observed nonlocal responses, we measure the length dependence of R_{NL} in a multiterminal Hall bar device (D9, 1.89°) at 80 K. Figure 4a displays three sets of R_{NL} data obtained by choosing three channels with different pairs of contacts, as illustrated by the device micrograph in the upper inset in Figure 4a. We notice that the peak positions of different channels are slightly off aligned, which is likely due to the charge inhomogeneity in the sample.²⁹ Quantitatively, the R_{NL} peak values exponentially decay with the channel length L (lower inset in Figure 4a), and the linear fitting in the semilog plot yields characteristic diffusion lengths $\lambda_e \approx 1.2 \mu\text{m}$ and $\lambda_h \approx 1.4 \mu\text{m}$ for the electron- and hole-side, respectively.

The scaling between R_{NL} and R_L is essential to understand the nonlocal transport mechanism. A power-law relation, $R_{NL} \sim R_L^\alpha$, is revealed by the Arrhenius plot (Figure 4b) for the data points around R_{NL} (R_L) peaks in the range $n \pm \Delta n = -5.54 \pm 0.28$ and 5.54 ± 0.22 (10^{12} cm^{-2}) measured in a 1.54° t-BLG device (D10). The fitting parameter α is found to be 3.00 (2.51), 3.37 (2.36), 3.01 (2.17) and 3.50 (2.29) for hole-side (electron-side) responses at 80, 90, 100, and 110 K, respectively. This power-law scaling, together with the above-revealed diffusion behavior, suggests that $R_{NL} \sim R_L^\alpha e^{-L/\lambda}$. Furthermore, the magnitude of R_{NL} on both electron and hole sides is reduced by ~ 100 times from 80 to 180 K (Figure 4c). At room temperature, the nonlocal responses can no longer be clearly identified. From the semilog plot of R_{NL} peak versus $1/T$ (inset in Figure 4c), it is clear that R_{NL} has similar thermal activation behavior as R_L in the superlattice gaps. The activation energies E_{NL} (E_L) are extracted to be 157 ± 20 meV (36 ± 1 meV) and 129 ± 16 meV (34 ± 2 meV) for the electron and hole sides, respectively, with $E_{NL}/E_L \sim 4$. We attribute this deviation from α to the temperature dependence of λ , since stronger scattering at higher temperature reduces λ and effectively enhances E_{NL}/E_L . The exponentially decayed R_{NL} with respect to the length, the thermal activation behavior, and the power-law scaling relation again imply that the strong

nonlocal responses are not due to the charge inhomogeneity-induced edge conduction in which linear-in-length and metallic behaviors of R_{NL} are expected. Besides, we find that a perpendicular magnetic field can suppress the nonlocal responses at the superlattice gaps. This observation is consistent with our theoretical expectation that a finite magnetic field would break the $C_{2z}T$ symmetry and thus destroy the revealed Moiré band topology (see Supporting Information).

The observed scaling relation between R_{NL} and R_L in t-BLG is rather unusual. Previously, similar behavior is suggested for the spin Hall effect⁴⁷ and seen for the valley Hall effects,^{28–31} where the nonlocal transport is captured by a cubic law $R_{NL} \sim R_L^3 \sigma_{xy}^{v,s} e^{-L/\lambda} v_s/\lambda^{v,s}$. Here $\sigma_{xy}^{v,s}$ and $\lambda^{v,s}$ refer to the valley (spin) Hall conductivity and the valley (spin) diffusion length, respectively. In t-BLG, the symmetry-trivialized Berry curvature and negligibly weak spin–orbit coupling imply vanishing $\sigma_{xy}^{v,s}$. However, the gapped yet delocalized edge states forms quasi-one-dimensional diffusion channels and support the nonlocal transport over 1 μm at 80 K. Future measurements through scanning tunneling microscopy,^{40,48} scanning superconducting quantum interference,^{49,50} and microwave impedance microscopy⁵¹ may directly image such edge channels in the t-BLG superlattice gaps. Nevertheless, the robustness of observed nonlocal signatures against the interlayer electric field, twist angle, and edge termination not only provides compelling evidence for the nontrivial band topology of t-BLG but also may open a new avenue for creating, engineering, and exploiting Moiré quantum information by twistronics and nonlocal means.

Methods. Device Fabrication. The hBN encapsulated t-BLG were fabricated using a “tear-and-stack” dry-transfer technique.^{5,32,35} Graphene and hBN flakes were exfoliated onto SiO_2/Si wafers and assembled by using the van der Waals force. Standard electron-beam lithography and reactive ion etching were applied to create Hall bars and expose graphene edges. Electrical contacts were made by the deposition of Cr/Au (3 nm/47 nm).

Theoretical Model of *t*-BLG. We obtained the Moiré band structures of *t*-BLG with small twist angles by using the 2011 Bistritzer–MacDonald model.⁴ The AA and AB tunneling energies used in this model are $t_{AA} = t_{AB} = 110$ meV, the Fermi velocity is $v_F = 1 \times 10^6$ m/s, and the first magic angle is 1.08° .⁴ To take into account the corrugation effect due to lattice relaxation, Koshino et al. suggested⁵² $t_{AA} = 79.7$ meV, $t_{AB} = 97.5$ meV, and $v_F = 7.98 \times 10^5$ m/s, which are used in this work. To obtain the DOS, we discretized the first MBZ into a mesh with 120 000 points (with the hexagonal symmetry intact) and used 1 meV as the integrated energy interval.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.nanolett.0c02131>.

Supplementary transport data for local and nonlocal resistances in device D1 (1.68°); estimation of experimental errors in the nonlocal measurements; supplementary transport data for local and nonlocal resistances in device D2 (0.75°); transport data for local and nonlocal resistances in device D3 (0.42°); Moiré Brillouin zone and Wilson loop spectral flow for the two Moiré Dirac bands; Moiré band structures and DOS of *t*-BLG; displacement field dependence of local and nonlocal resistances; the impact of twist-angle inhomogeneity on nonlocal responses; magnetic field dependence of R_{NL} in device D10; additional local R_L and nonlocal resistance R_{NL} measurements at 80 K for device D13–17; experimental details of all devices presented in this work (PDF)

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Author Contributions

C.M. and Q.W. contributed equally to this work. C.M. fabricated the devices. Q.W. performed theoretical calculations. C.M. and S.M. carried out the measurements, with the help from X.C., B.D., S.Y., and C.L. C.M., F.X., F.Z., and X.D. analyzed the data. K.W. and T.T. provided hBN crystals. F.X., F.Z., and X.D. cosupervised the project. All authors contributed to the writing of the manuscript.

Notes

During the peer review, we became aware of three important experiments that observed correlated topological phases in *t*-BLG and ABC-trilayer graphene/h-BN systems.^{34,53,54} Orbital magnetism and nontrivial Chern numbers emerge at partial fillings of their Moiré Dirac bands as consequences of electron–electron interactions, reminiscent of the spontaneously broken time-reversal symmetry states in ref 55. By contrast, our present work discovered and elucidated an overlooked, unprecedented, noninteracting, band topology of *t*-BLG at the superlattice gaps, i.e., when the Moiré Dirac bands are completely filled or empty.

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