

Experimental Observation of Hidden Berry Curvature in Inversion-Symmetric Bulk $2H\text{-WSe}_2$

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We investigate the hidden Berry curvature in bulk $2H\text{-WSe}_2$ by utilizing the surface sensitivity of angle resolved photoemission (ARPES). The symmetry in the electronic structure of transition metal dichalcogenides is used to uniquely determine the local orbital angular momentum (OAM) contribution to the circular dichroism (CD) in ARPES. The extracted CD signals for the K and K' valleys are almost identical, but their signs, which should be determined by the valley index, are opposite. In addition, the sign is found to be the same for the two spin-split bands, indicating that it is independent of spin state. These observed CD behaviors are what are expected from Berry curvature of a monolayer of WSe_2 . In order to see if CD-ARPES is indeed representative of hidden Berry curvature within a layer, we use tight binding analysis as well as density functional calculation to calculate the Berry curvature and local OAM of a monolayer WSe_2 . We find that measured CD-ARPES is approximately proportional to the calculated Berry curvature as well as local OAM, further supporting our interpretation.

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The broken inversion symmetry in a monolayer (ML) of transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDCs) $2H\text{-MX}_2$, together with strong spin-orbit coupling (SOC), results in inequivalent valleys with spin splitting at K and K' in the Brillouin zone (BZ) [1–4]. These inequivalent valleys at K and K' lead to the valley Hall effect which, unlike the ordinary Hall effect, produces not only charge but also spin imbalance at the edges [1,2,5–8]. The valley Hall effect has been understood in terms of the Berry curvature [2,9–13]; the symmetries in 1 ML $2H\text{-MX}_2$ cause a sign change in the Berry curvature as one goes from one valley (K) to an inequivalent valley (K') in the BZ [2,5,13–17]. This allows us to understand the valley Hall effect in terms of pseudo-spins, and provides possibilities to control the pseudo-spins by an external field [2,18–26].

On the other hand, the Berry curvature is expected to vanish in the bulk (so does the valley Hall effect) because the bulk TMDCs have an inversion symmetry [5,24]. However, one can imagine that the valley Hall in each layer could be nonvanishing—only the sum vanishes. This may naturally introduce the concept of “hidden Berry

curvature,” a nonvanishing Berry curvature localized in each layer. An analogous case can be found in the case of the hidden spin polarization proposed and measured recently [3,5,27–30]. Existence of hidden Berry curvature implies that the topology could be determined by local field; the local symmetry determines the physics [28,31,32]. While experimental verification of a hidden Berry phase in the Bloch state is highly desired, standard measurements such as quantum oscillation [33–35] cannot reveal a hidden Berry phase because these measurements represent an averaged quantity, with hidden quantity invisible.

However, if we use an external field [25] or surface sensitive technique such as angle resolved photoemission (ARPES) [36], then the direct measurement of such a hidden Berry curvature may be possible. In fact, the surface sensitivity of ARPES has recently been utilized in the measurement of hidden spin polarization [3,27,29,30]. Then, the question is if Berry curvature can be measured by means of ARPES. In this regard, we note a recent proposal, based on a tight-binding model calculation on a

simple cubic lattice with s and p orbitals, that the non-Abelian Berry curvature is approximately proportional to the local orbital angular momentum (OAM) in the Bloch state [37]. We use a similar approach and derived the relationship between OAM and the (Abelian) Berry curvature by using a three band, tight-binding model for in WSe_2 [2,15,16]. We find that there is a linear relationship between OAM and the Berry curvature (see Supplemental Material [38] for details). Even though circular dichroism (CD) ARPES is not a direct measure of the OAM in the initial state in general [40–44], it has been shown that CD-ARPES bears information on the OAM [45–53]. This fact can provide us a way to observe the existence of hidden Berry curvature by using CD-ARPES.

In actual measurements, an important challenge lies in the fact that CD-ARPES has contributions other than the one from OAM [54–57]. The most notable contribution comes from the geometrical effect, which is caused by a mirror symmetry breaking in the experimental geometry. Therefore, how we separate the Berry curvature and geometrical contributions holds the key to successful observation of the hidden Berry curvature. We exploit the unique valley configurations of TMDCs in the BZ to successfully disentangle the two contributions. The observed hidden Berry curvature has opposite signs at K and K' as theoretically predicted. Moreover, we find the hidden Berry curvature exists over a wide range in the BZ. These features are consistently explained within the first principles calculations and tight binding description.

ARPES measurements were performed at the beam line 4.0.3 of the Advanced Light Source at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Data were taken with left- and right-circularly polarized (LCP and RCP, respectively) 94 eV light, with the circular polarization of the light better than 80%. The energy resolution was better than 20 meV with a momentum resolution of 0.004 \AA^{-1} . Bulk $2H\text{-WSe}_2$ single crystals were purchased from HQ graphene and were cleaved *in situ* at 100 K in a vacuum better than 5×10^{-11} Torr. All the data were taken at 100 K.

Figure 1(a) shows the crystal structure of $2H\text{-WSe}_2$ for which the inversion symmetry is broken for a ML. In the bulk form of $2H\text{-WSe}_2$, the layers are stacked in a way that inversion symmetry is recovered. In the actual experiment, the contribution from the top layer to the ARPES signal is more than that from the sublayer, as illustrated by the dimmed color of the sublayer. Figure 1(b) schematically sketches the electronic structure with the hexagonal BZ of WSe_2 . The low energy electronic structures of $2H\text{-WSe}_2$ ML was found to be described by the massive Dirac-Fermion model [2,14–17,58], with hole bands at K and K' points [58–60]. These hole states at K and K' points have local atomic OAM of $2\hbar$ and $-2\hbar$, respectively, which works as the valley index [15,16]. The bands are then spin split due to the coupling between the spin and OAM.

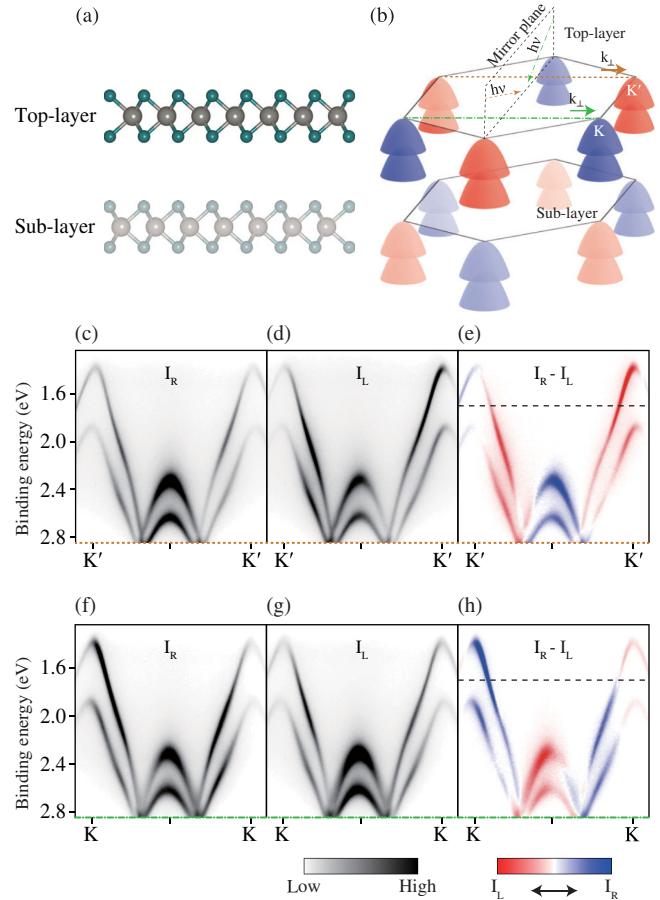


FIG. 1. (a) Side view of bulk $2H\text{-WSe}_2$. W and Se atoms are shown as gray and green balls, respectively. (b) Experimental geometry with the hexagonal BZ and spin-split bands. K and K' valleys are color coded in blue and red, respectively. The upper and lower BZs represent the top- and sublayer BZs, respectively. Green dash-dot and brown dashed lines mark the photon incident and cut directions for K - K and K' - K' cuts, respectively. The same mirror plane was used for the two cases. ARPES data along K' to K' valley taken with (c) right- (RCP) and (d) left- (LCP) circularly polarized 94 eV light. (e) Circular dichroism (CD) obtained from the difference between (c) and (d). This cut corresponds to the brown line in panel (b). (f) RCP, (g) LCP, and (h) CD intensities for the K to K cut. (f)–(h) correspond to the cut shown by the green line in panel (b).

In the bulk, layers are stacked in a way that K (K') of a layer is at the same momentum position as the K' (K) of next layer. Consequently, spin and valley symmetries are restored due to the recovered inversion symmetry and any valley sensitive signal should vanish [4,5,16,24]. On the other hand, the in-plane nature of the primary orbital character of the Bloch states (d_{xy} , $d_{x^2-y^2}$, p_x , and p_y orbitals) around the K and K' points and the graphene-like phase cancellation as well as the strong spin orbital coupling strongly suppress the interlayer hopping along the c axis and make them quasi-two dimensional [5,61]. In that case, the valley physics as well as the spin-split nature may

be retained within each layer as illustrated in Fig. 1(b) by the top- and sublayer spin-split bands (hidden nature). In that case, one may be able to measure the hidden Berry curvature by using ARPES because it preferentially probes the top layer due to its surface sensitivity as, once again, illustrated by the dimmed color of the sublayer. Since the signal is preferentially from the top layer, the situation becomes as if ARPES data are taken from the topmost layer of WSe₂, for which the inversion symmetry is broken [3,27,29,62].

As mentioned earlier, it was argued that OAM is directly related to the Berry curvature, which indeed has opposite signs at the K and K' points as OAM does [14,15]. Then, the hidden Berry curvature may be measured by using CD-ARPES, which was shown to be sensitive to OAM. However, CD-ARPES has aforementioned geometrical contribution due to the broken mirror symmetry (chirality) in the experimental geometry. In order to resolve the issue, we exploit the unique character of the electronic structures of TMDCs. The key idea is that, while the contribution from the geometrical effect is an odd function of k about the mirror plane [54–57], we can make the OAM contribution an even function. In that case, the two contributions can be easily isolated from each other. To make the OAM contribution an even function, we use the experimental geometry illustrated in Fig. 1(b). The experimental mirror plane, which is normal to the sample surface and contains the incident light wave vector, is precisely aligned to cross both K and K' points. In such experimental condition, the Berry curvature is mirror symmetric about the experimental mirror plane and so is its contribution to the CD-ARPES. Then, the CD-ARPES is taken along the momentum perpendicular to the mirror plane (k_{\perp}), i.e., from K to K and K' to K' as shown in Fig. 1(b) by green dash-dot and brown dashed lines, respectively. We point out that we kept the same light incident angle for K - K and K' - K' cuts [note the color pair for the cut and light incidence in Fig. 1(b)] to prevent any contribution other than those from Berry curvature and experimental chirality.

Figures 1(c)–1(e) show data along the K' - K' cut. The dispersion is very symmetric with the minimum binding energy at the K' point as expected. However, the intensity varies rather peculiarly; there appears to be no symmetry in the CD intensity in Fig. 1(e). The K - K cut in Figs. 1(f)–1(h) shows a similar behavior. While the dispersion is symmetric (and also identical to the K' - K' cut), the CD intensity in Fig. 1(h) at a glance does not seem to show a symmetric behavior. However, upon a close look of the CD data in Figs. 1(e) and 1(h), one finds that the two are remarkably similar; the two are almost exact mirror images of each other if the colors are swapped in one of the images. This is already an indication that the CD data reflect certain aspects of the electronic structure that are opposite at the K and K' points, most likely the hidden Berry curvature of bulk $2H$ -WSe₂.

We still need more analysis to extract the contribution from the hidden Berry curvature since CD-ARPES has a component from the experimental chirality. In order to extract the hidden Berry curvature contribution, we exploit the fact that the contributions from the hidden Berry curvature and photoemission chirality to the CD-ARPES have even and odd parities, respectively. We first define the CD-ARPES as $I_{\text{CD}} = I_R - I_L$ where I_R and I_L are ARPES intensities taken with RCP and LCP, respectively. Even and odd components of $I_{\text{CD}}(k)$ are then easily extracted by $I_{\text{CD}}^S(k) = [I_{\text{CD}}(k) + I_{\text{CD}}(-k)]/2$ and $I_{\text{CD}}^A = [I_{\text{CD}}(k) - I_{\text{CD}}(-k)]/2$ for a momentum distribution curve (MDC) at a binding energy, respectively (see Supplemental Material [38] for details). Remarkably, while the symmetric components are found to be almost exactly opposite for K - K and K' - K' cuts, the antisymmetric components are almost identical. The former is what is expected from the OAM and the Berry curvatures at K and K' . To relate the even component of the I_{CD} to the OAM, we performed CD-ARPES simulation on inversion symmetry broken states with or without OAM, and found that even the component of I_{CD} exactly reflects the OAM of the initial state (see Supplemental Material [38] for details).

One may use normalized CD I_{NCD} as a quantitative measure of the CD. It is defined as the difference between areas of an MDC peak taken with RCP and LCP, normalized by the sum of them [45,46,49,51,53–55]. The symmetric (I_{NCD}^S) and antisymmetric (I_{NCD}^A) components of I_{NCD} can be obtained similarly. I_{NCD}^S and I_{NCD}^A for all binding energies are plotted in Fig. 2 as a function of the momentum. Effectively, we move along a band and plot symmetric (I_{NCD}^S) and antisymmetric (I_{NCD}^A) contributions to the CD against the momentum for each point on the

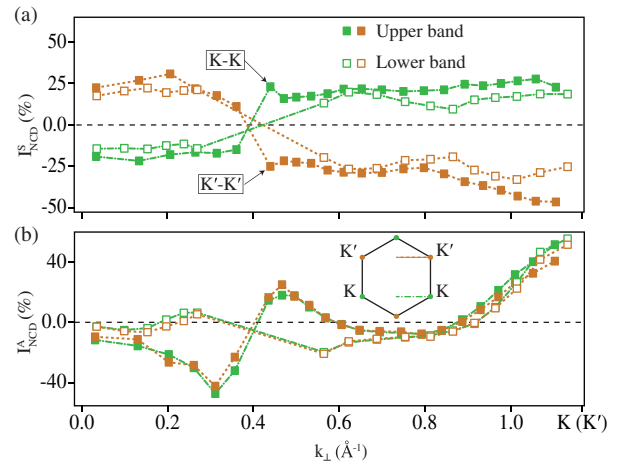


FIG. 2. (a) Symmetric (I_{NCD}^S) and (b) antisymmetric (I_{NCD}^A) parts of the normalized CD, I_{NCD} , plotted against the momentum of the MDC peak. The plot is made for only half of the momentum range of a cut, between the mirror plane and K or K' point. I_{NCD}^S and I_{NCD}^A are even and odd functions of k_{\perp} . The filled (empty) squares indicate the upper (lower) spin-split bands.

band. There are several aspects to be noticed from the figure. First of all, the symmetric part I_{NCD}^S for K - K (green) and K' - K' (brown) cuts have almost identical behavior except their signs are reversed as seen in Fig. 2(a). As the momentum changes away from K (K'), I_{NCD}^S maintains the same sign until it changes the sign near $k_{\perp} \approx 0.4 \text{ \AA}$. As we will show later, this sign changes occurs precisely on the entire Γ - M line. In addition, we find that I_{NCD}^S is almost the same for the two spin-split bands (filled and empty symbols). These observations on the behavior of I_{NCD}^S are consistent with what we expect from the Berry curvature; it is valley dependent but independent of the spin-split bands [2,5,13–15,17]. On the other hand, the antisymmetric parts I_{NCD}^A from K - K and K' - K' cuts shown in Fig. 2(b) stay very similar to each other over the whole momentum range. The results indicate careful execution of our experiments and trustworthiness of our analysis.

To study the behavior of I_{NCD}^S better, we expand the range from a cut to a map of I_{NCD}^S that covers the BZ. I_{NCD}^S of the upper spin-split band is obtained from the CD-ARPES data and plotted in Fig. 3(a). In addition, in order to understand the connection between I_{NCD}^S and Berry curvature as well as OAM, we performed tight binding (TB) analysis and first principles calculation for a ML WSe₂. For the Berry curvature calculation, we consider the tight binding Hamiltonian based on the hybridization between a W d orbital and a Se p orbital (see Supplemental Material

[38] for details). In the calculation, the parameters are adjusted until the dispersion fits the experimental one [59,60] and previous TB result [15–17]. Then, the Berry curvature of the upper band is calculated based on the TKNN formula and its map is plotted in Fig. 3(b). The momentum dependent local OAM (L_z) is obtained by density functional theory calculation. The resulting L_z map is depicted in Fig. 3(c). The in-plane components of the Berry curvature and OAM are also calculated but are found to be negligible over the whole BZ and thus are not presented. One can immediately note that the three plots of experimentally obtained I_{NCD}^S , Berry curvature from TB analysis, and local L_z from DFT calculation show remarkably similar behavior; their signs are determined by the valley indices and change only across the Γ - M line. In addition, all of them retain significant values quite far away from the K and K' points. Our observation shows that I_{NCD}^S can be considered as a measure of the OAM and Berry curvature. We also find that I^S taken with different photon energies shows no qualitative difference (see Supplemental Material [38] for details). These observations support the notion that I^S reflects an intrinsic property of the state, that is, OAM.

For a more quantitative comparison, we plot I_{NCD}^S , Berry curvature and OAM along the high symmetry lines (K' - Γ - K - M - K'). Once again, I_{NCD}^S , Berry curvature and OAM show very similar behavior. As the Bloch states at the Γ and M points possess inversion symmetry, I_{NCD}^S , and Berry curvature as well as OAM are all zero. One particular aspect worth noting is their behavior near the Γ point. They are approximately zero near the Γ point but suddenly increase about a third of the way to the K or K' point. Orbital projected band structure from TB calculation shows that this is when the orbital character of the wave function switches from out-of-plane d_{z^2} and p_z orbitals to in-plane d_{xy} , $d_{x^2-y^2}$, p_x , and p_y orbitals. This behavior can be understood from the fact that the local OAM (or valley) is formed by in-plane orbitals. These results strongly suggest that I_{NCD}^S is indeed representative of the (hidden) Berry curvature and that the Berry curvature is closely related to the local OAM, at least for TMDCs.

Characteristics of electron wave functions in the momentum space often play very important roles in macroscopic properties of solids. For example, topological nature of an insulator is determined by the characteristics of electron wave function at high symmetric points in the momentum space [45,52]. The Berry curvature which is also embedded in the nature of the electron wave function in the momentum space determines the Berry phase and thus macroscopic properties such as spin and valley Hall effects. Through our work, we demonstrated a way to map out the Berry curvature distribution over the Brillouin zone and provide a direct probe of the topological character of strongly spin-orbit-coupled materials. This stands in

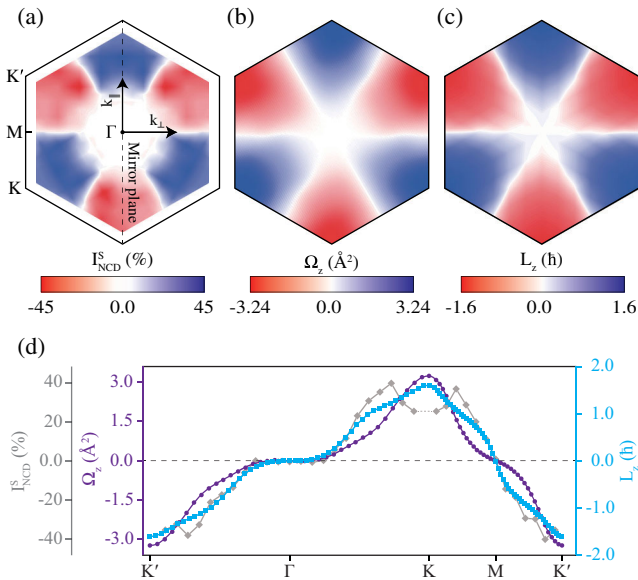


FIG. 3. Maps of (a) experimental I_{NCD}^S , (b) calculated Berry curvature from tight binding model calculation, and (c) orbital angular momentum from the first principles calculation. For the map in (a), I_{NCD}^S is obtained from the upper valence band CD-ARPES data. The original data covers one third of the BZ data which is then symmetrized to cover the whole BZ. (d) I_{NCD}^S (diamond shape), Berry curvature (circle), and OAM (square) values along the K' - Γ - K - M - K' .

contrast with transport measurement of spin and charge which reflect the global momentum-space average of the Berry curvature. In this regards, CD-ARPES can be a useful experimental tool to investigate certain aspects of the phase in electron wave functions [45–53,63] if one can disentangle different contributions in the CD-ARPES.

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