

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

LBL Publications

Title

Tuning commensurability in twisted van der Waals bilayers

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9w54m00q>

Journal

Nature, 625(7995)

ISSN

0028-0836

Authors

Li, Yanxing

Zhang, Fan

Ha, Viet-Anh

et al.

Publication Date

2024-01-18

DOI

10.1038/s41586-023-06904-w

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

1 **Title: Tuning commensurability in twisted van der Waals bilayers**

2 **Authors:** Yanxing Li^{1†}, Fan Zhang^{1†}, Viet-Anh Ha^{1,2}, Yu-Chuan Lin^{3,4}, Chengye Dong³, Qiang Gao¹,
3 Zhida Liu¹, Xiaohui Liu¹, Sae Hee Ryu⁵, Hyunsue Kim¹, Chris Jozwiak⁵, Aaron Bostwick⁵, Kenji Watanabe⁶,
4 Takashi Taniguchi⁶, Bishoy Kousa¹, Xiaoqin Li¹, Eli Rotenberg⁵, Eslam Khalaf¹, Joshua A. Robinson³,
5 Feliciano Giustino^{1,2}, Chih-Kang Shih^{1*}

6
7 ¹Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA

8 ²Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA

9 ³Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, USA

10 ⁴Department of Materials Science and Engineering, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan

11 ⁵The Molecular Foundry, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA

12 ⁶Research Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics, National Institute for Materials Science, Tsukuba, Japan

13 *Corresponding author email: shih@physics.utexas.edu

14
15 **Abstract: Moiré superlattices based on van der Waals materials (vdW) bilayers are created at small**
16 **twist angles leading to a long wavelength pattern with approximate translational symmetry. At large**
17 **twist angles, moiré patterns are, in general, incommensurate apart from a few discrete angles. Here**
18 **we show that large-angle twisted bilayers offer distinctly different new platforms. More specifically**
19 **by using twisted WSe₂ bilayers, we create the incommensurate dodecagon quasicrystals (QC) at $\theta =$**
20 **30° and the commensurate moiré crystals at $\theta = 21.8^\circ$ or 38.2° . Valley-resolved scanning**
21 **tunneling spectroscopy (STS) unveils disparate behaviors between moiré crystals (with translational**
22 **symmetry) and quasicrystals (with broken translational symmetry). In particular, the K-valley**
23 **exhibits rich electronic structures exemplified by the formation of mini gaps near the valence band**
24 **maximum. These discoveries demonstrate that bilayers with large twist angles offer a new design**
25 **platform to explore moiré physics beyond those formed with small twist angles.**

26 **Main text:**

27 The emergence of moiré superlattice (MSL) designed in van der Waals materials (vdW) bilayers has
28 created unprecedented opportunities to engineer 2D electronic materials with novel properties¹⁻²². Thus far,
29 most superlattices investigated are vdW bilayers with small twist angles. At small angles, the moiré
30 wavelength is long, and the pattern is either commensurate or nearly commensurate with the atomic lattices,
31 thus creating a periodically modulated electronic superlattice. At large twist angles, the moiré pattern is in
32 general incommensurate with atomic lattice except for a few angles²³⁻²⁶. The incommensurability disrupts
33 the translational symmetry and electronic superlattice is lost. Large angle moiré structures had been largely

34 unexplored until the discovery of dodecagonal quasicrystal in 30° twisted bilayer graphene (tBLG) in
35 2018^{27,28}. Although evidence for mini gap formations deep below the Dirac point (DP) has been observed
36 using angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy (ARPES), the absence of electronic coupling near the
37 Fermi level, E_F , has limited the effect of quasiperiodicity on other physical properties that are governed
38 primarily by states near E_F in a metallic system. For example, quantum hall effect measurements of 30°
39 tBLG show that the two layers act totally independent²⁹.

40 Here, we overcome this limitation by using WSe_2 twisted bilayers whose flatter dispersion makes the effects
41 of quasiperiodicity more pronounced at accessible doping^{30,31}. We show that large angle twisted WSe_2
42 bilayers offer an interesting platform to explore moiré physics beyond the MSL. We use two modes of STS,
43 constant height and constant current, which allow us to distinguish the momentum space features arising
44 from the K and Γ points. By contrasting the behavior of a large angle commensurate moiré crystal at $\theta_t =$
45 $21.8^\circ/38.2^\circ$ with the 12-fold symmetric 30° incommensurate moiré quasicrystal, we identify several
46 unique properties of the latter. These include the appearance of several Umklapp scattered K-valleys and
47 the existence of a dense set of diffraction spots that preserve the rotational symmetry without the
48 translational symmetry. Remarkably, we are able to resolve signals associated with interlayer Umklapp
49 scatterings up to at least third order suggesting strong interlayer hybridization. For moiré crystals, the new
50 electronic structures are well captured by the first-principle supercell calculations. For moiré quasicrystals,
51 we show that the dense diffraction spots facilitate electron scattering in a manner analogous to a quasi-
52 Bragg plane that couples the Umklapp scattered K-valleys and lead to the formation of a dense set of mini
53 gaps near the valence band maximum. These two moiré structures exemplify the new designer platform
54 enabled at the large twist angles.

55 **Umklapp scatterings in moiré crystal and moiré quasicrystal**

56 Fig. 1a is the experimental schematics with two models shown below, one representing the dodecagonal
57 quasicrystal formed with $\theta_t = 30^\circ$, and the other one the $\sqrt{7} \times \sqrt{7}$ commensurate moiré crystal with $\theta_t =$
58 21.8° (See angle determination in SI Fig. S1). STM images (Fig. 1b and c) indeed reveal the anticipated
59 moiré quasicrystal and the moiré crystal. The corresponding Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) patterns are
60 shown in Fig. 1d and e respectively. Fig. 1d exhibits a dense set of diffraction spots that are rotationally
61 symmetric but without translational symmetry, which is a characteristic of the quasicrystal. By contrast, the
62 diffraction spots of the moiré crystal, are commensurate with the atomic diffraction spots with a scaling
63 ratio of $1/\sqrt{7}$. The dense diffraction spots in Fig. 1d can be analyzed by considering “mutual Umklapp
64 scattering” between the upper and bottom layers, a method previously used for 30° tBLG^{27,28} (discussed in
65 SI, Fig. S2&3, Note 1). In our case, up to third-order Umklapp scattering can be identified. As a result, the

66 original K-valleys for individual layers are Umklapp scattered, creating a dense distribution of K-valleys
67 shown in Fig. 2a. As discussed below, the electronic coupling of these K-valleys endows the rich electronic
68 structures associated with the moiré quasicrystals. The distribution of K-valleys in the first quadrant is
69 shown in Fig. 2b where we also label three sets of K-valley pairs (in dashed rectangles). For each pair of
70 K-valleys, an electronic coupling will open a gap which is at the energy degenerate point (anti-crossing),
71 and is schematically shown in Fig. 2c. Fig. 2d is the simulated density of states (DOS) near the gap using
72 the two-band coupling model (See SI Note 2). Below the gap is a paraboloid local maximum while above
73 the gap is a saddle point which leads to a Van Hove singularity (VHS) with logarithmic divergence in DOS.
74 As a consequence of a dense set of diffraction spots in moiré quasicrystals, there are many K-valley pairs
75 whose couplings can lead to anti-crossings and gap openings. One thus expects the formation of many mini
76 gaps in moiré quasicrystals, which correspond to many VHS in DOS.

77 **Observation of VHS from mini gaps in moiré quasicrystal**

78 The electronic structures are investigated using valley-resolved scanning tunneling spectroscopy. Two
79 different modes of STS are simultaneously employed: (a) the conventional constant height STS (CHSTS)
80 and (b) the constant current STS (CCSTS). As discussed previously, K-valley states rapidly decay into the
81 vacuum (due to a large k_{\parallel}) and are thus difficult to be detected using CHSTS. This difficulty in detecting
82 the K-valley states can be overcome using the CCSTS.³² More detailed descriptions of this method can be
83 found in SI Note 3.

84 We first discuss the electronic structures for the moiré quasicrystal in Fig. 3. The STM image for the moiré
85 quasicrystal is shown in Fig. 3a with a few spatial locations marked where tunneling spectra are acquired.
86 The experimental condition to observe quasicrystal structure is discussed in SI Fig. S8. Shown in Fig. 3b
87 are spectra acquired using conventional STS. The two prominent peaks correspond to the two split Γ -valleys
88 resulting from the interlayer coupling. Here we find $\Delta_{\Gamma-\Gamma} = 0.61 \text{ eV}$, smaller than the value of 0.75 eV
89 observed in the regular R- or H-stacked bilayers (SI Fig. S9, 10). The smaller $\Delta_{\Gamma-\Gamma}$ is due to the reduction
90 of Γ - Γ repulsion at a large twist angle. Due to the rapid decay rate of K-valley states into vacuum, they are
91 very difficult to be detected in the CHSTS mode. In the CCSTS mode, as the sample bias is raised above
92 the highest Γ -state, the tip-to-sample-distance (Z) is automatically adjusted to a smaller value by the
93 feedback to detect the K-valley states (Fig. 3c). As the bias is raised above the VBM, the Z -value is reduced
94 further and the tunneling occurs between the tip and the BLG substrate. Such Z - V plots in the constant
95 current mode delineate different tunneling regimes (Γ -valley, K-valley, and BLG) from which the VBM
96 can also be determined precisely. The fine spectral features in the K-valley are revealed in the differential
97 conductivity $(\partial I/\partial V)_I$ (Fig. 3d-g). One can identify four sharp spectral features (peak 1-4) located at 26,

98 48, 93, and 154 meV below the VBM respectively (Fig. 3d). Among them, peaks 1 and 3 have a clear
 99 signature of VHS associated with saddle points above the gap while peaks 2 and 4 are interpreted as the
 100 VHS of the paraboloid below the gap (see more evidence in SI Fig. S11). At other spatial locations (Fig.
 101 3e-g), spectra show similar structures with some sharp peaks that can be identified as saddle points. As
 102 another example in Fig. 3f, the two sharp VHS (saddle points) features occur at 36 meV and 100 meV
 103 below the VBM, coincide closely with peaks 1 and 3 in Fig. 3d. The observations of these VHS in tunneling
 104 spectra provide unambiguous signatures for the existence of mini gaps due to coupled K-valleys that are
 105 Umklapp scattered. If we further interpret peaks 2 and 4 in Fig. 3d as the energy locations below the gap,
 106 we can estimate the energy locations (and sizes) of mini gaps at 37 meV ($\Delta = 21$ meV) and 124 meV ($\Delta =$
 107 60 meV) below the VBM respectively.

108 We have also carried out nano-ARPES (angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy) on exfoliated and
 109 stacked WSe₂ bilayers from which we confirm our valley assignments (Extended Data Fig. 1) and observe
 110 the band crossing of K_t and K_b occurring at 0.53 eV below the VBM (Extended Data Fig. 2). Given the fact
 111 that the energy crossing location is directly proportional to Δk^2 where Δk is the separation of two K-valleys
 112 in k-space, we can then estimate the energy locations of mini gaps due to coupling of $K_t^{1m'} - K_b^{1m'}$, $K_t -$
 113 $K_t^{1'}$ to be at 36 ± 5 meV and 134 ± 20 meV below the VBM (SI Note 4), matching quite well with the
 114 experimental observation using STS. The crossing of $K_t^{1'} - K_b^{1'}$ (at 270 ± 41 meV below VBM) might be
 115 too close to the Γ_1 to be visible by STS. More technical details of nano-ARPES investigations are discussed
 116 in in SI Note 5.

117 **Interlayer coherent couplings in moiré crystal**

118 We next discuss the electronic structure for moiré crystal. The commensurate moiré structures at $\theta_t =$
 119 21.8° and 38.2° have attracted significant interest in recent years, exemplified by the observation of
 120 coherent interlayer transport in BLG³³⁻³⁵ and coherent interlayer excitons in BL-TMDs³⁶. Thus far, however,
 121 STM/STS investigations had been lacking. It needs to be noted that for BLG there is no distinction between
 122 $\theta_t = 21.8^\circ$ and 38.2° because K and K' are degenerate. For BL-TMD, the situation is different because the
 123 K/K' degeneracy is lifted.

124 Shown in Fig. 4a is the STM image for a moiré crystal at $\theta_t = 38.2^\circ$. In our investigations, the majority
 125 (70%) of commensurate moiré structures are with $\theta_t = 38.2^\circ$ and the minority (30%) with $\theta_t = 21.8^\circ$. In
 126 addition, detailed atomic image analysis reveals isotropic strain ranging from +2% to -3% for different
 127 moiré crystals (SI Note 6). Conventional STS show similar structures as those observed in moiré
 128 quasicrystals where two Γ valleys are observable but not the K-valleys (SI Fig. S22). CCSTS (Fig. 4b), on
 129 the other hand, reveals additional structures above the upper Γ -valley. Two clear peaks (peak 1 and 2), with

130 60 meV separation are observed near the VBM. In addition, a weak shoulder (peak 3) is located at ~ 60
131 meV below peak 2. All moiré crystals show very similar spectral features regardless of $\theta_t = 21.8^\circ$ (Fig.
132 4c) or 38.2° . Moreover, we do not observe sharp VHS associated with saddle points.

133 To aid interpretation of spectral features, we carried out first-principle density functional theory (DFT)
134 calculations. Shown in Fig. 4d are the BZs for the top layer (red), the bottom layer (blue), and the
135 commensurate moiré structure (purple) for a $\theta_t = 21.8^\circ$ (38.2°) bilayer. A few critical points (μ, κ and κ')
136 in the moiré BZ (MBZ) are of interest. The two K-valleys, K_t and K_b intersect at the μ point where the anti-
137 crossing is expected. Indeed, the DFT calculation shows a gap of ~ 40 meV opening up at this point, albeit
138 it occurs at an energy level near the Γ_1 state (Fig. 4e). At 21.8° , all K_t (K_b) valleys are Umklapp scattered
139 to κ (κ') and thus crossing occurs only at the μ point. On the other hand, K_b' and K_t are scattered to the same
140 κ point. At 38.2° , however, the converse is true. K_t and K_b' will intersect at μ whereas K_t and K_b would be
141 scattered into the same κ point. If spin is conserved after Umklapp scattering, then for $\theta_t = 38.2^\circ$ bilayer,
142 one does not expect anti-crossing occurring at μ , but a K-K splitting at κ . DFT calculations for $\theta_t = 38.2^\circ$
143 bilayer indeed confirm the diminishing gap at μ , but only a small K-K splitting (2 meV) at κ (SI Fig. S25).
144 Experimental investigations in regular bilayers, nevertheless, show significant interlayer K-K coupling³⁷⁻
145 ⁴⁰. Moreover, in MoSe₂/WS₂ heterobilayers, splitting of moiré exciton states are found near both
146 commensurate angles, indicating that coherent coupling exists for both $K_t - K_b$ and $K_t - K_b'$ ^{10,41}. Another
147 evidence for $K - K'$ coupling is also found in the quasi-particle interference (QPI) analysis (SI note 7).
148 This mechanism provides an explanation of the observation of double peak structure near the VBM for both
149 twisting angles. In addition, it points to a possibility that anti-crossing can also exist for both angles, albeit
150 the energy location is too close to the Γ point to be observed by STS. Then the weak shoulder (peak 3)
151 could be interpreted as the remanent of the VHS (saddle point) above the Γ .

152 In summary, we have studied twisted WSe₂ bilayers at large twist angles and discovered distinct behavior
153 of incommensurate 12-fold rotationally symmetric 30° moiré quasicrystals and commensurate moiré
154 crystals at $21.8^\circ/38.2^\circ$. The former features an aperiodic long-range order which yields a dense set of
155 diffraction spots in k-space. By combining constant height and constant current STM signals, we can
156 resolve the spectral features arising from the K and Γ points. We observe the VHS signatures originating
157 from several mini gaps in the quasi-periodic structure which can be explained using a coupled K-valley
158 model with up to third Umklapp scattering suggesting strong interlayer coupling. For the commensurate
159 $21.8^\circ/38.2^\circ$ structure, two points in the MBZ are of interest: Anti-crossing at the μ point and the coherent
160 coupling at κ -point. The absence of VHS and the double peak structure near the VBM can be interpreted
161 as manifestation of band structures in commensurate moiré crystals. In contrast to previously-studied 30° -

162 twisted bilayer graphene, the flatter dispersion of our system leads to stronger interlayer coupling at smaller
163 bias voltage making it a very promising platform to study the physics of moiré quasicrystals at finite doping.
164 In addition, the crystallographically-forbidden 12-fold rotation symmetry makes our system distinct from
165 quasi-periodic multilayer moiré systems with multiple unrelated twist angle⁴². Moreover, TMD based moiré
166 quasicrystals is a semiconductor system with strong spin-orbit coupling which endows a rich interplay of
167 valley and spin degrees of freedom that impact both optical and transport properties. The theoretical
168 analysis further shows that such moiré quasicrystals can be generalized to multilayer structures with higher
169 rotation symmetry where the quasiperiodic interlayer coupling can be brought down in energy even further.
170 For example, using tri-layers with two consecutive 20° twists, a new type of quasicrystal with 18-fold
171 rotational symmetry and with an even denser set of diffraction patterns where the mini gaps are expected
172 to occur at smaller doping (SI Fig. S29). This work provides a proof of concept for using large twist angle
173 vdW structures as a new design platform to explore moiré physics beyond those formed at small twist
174 angles.

175 **References:**

- 176 1. Bistritzer, R. & MacDonald, A. H. Moiré bands in twisted double-layer graphene. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*
177 **108**, 12233–12237 (2011).
- 178 2. Zhang, C. *et al.* Interlayer couplings, Moiré patterns, and 2D electronic superlattices in MoS₂/WSe₂
179 hetero-bilayers. *Sci. Adv.* **3**, e1601459 (2017).
- 180 3. Cao, Y. *et al.* Correlated insulator behaviour at half-filling in magic-angle graphene superlattices.
181 *Nature* **556**, 80–84 (2018).
- 182 4. Cao, Y. *et al.* Unconventional superconductivity in magic-angle graphene superlattices. *Nature* **556**,
183 43–50 (2018).
- 184 5. Jin, C. *et al.* Observation of moiré excitons in WSe₂/WS₂ heterostructure superlattices. *Nature* **567**,
185 76–80 (2019).
- 186 6. Tran, K. *et al.* Evidence for moiré excitons in van der Waals heterostructures. *Nature* **567**, 71–75
187 (2019).
- 188 7. Seyler, K. L. *et al.* Signatures of moiré-trapped valley excitons in MoSe₂/WSe₂ heterobilayers. *Nature*
189 **567**, 66–70 (2019).
- 190 8. Lu, X. *et al.* Superconductors, orbital magnets and correlated states in magic-angle bilayer graphene.
191 *Nature* **574**, 653–657 (2019).
- 192 9. Zhang, Z. *et al.* Flat bands in twisted bilayer transition metal dichalcogenides. *Nat. Phys.* **16**, 1093–
193 1096 (2020).

- 194 10. Zhang, L. *et al.* Twist-angle dependence of moiré excitons in WS₂/MoSe₂ heterobilayers. *Nat.*
195 *Commun.* **11**, 5888 (2020).
- 196 11. Wang, L. *et al.* Correlated electronic phases in twisted bilayer transition metal dichalcogenides. *Nat.*
197 *Mater.* **19**, 861–866 (2020).
- 198 12. Xie, Y. *et al.* Fractional Chern insulators in magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene. *Nature* **600**, 439–
199 443 (2021).
- 200 13. Li, H. *et al.* Imaging moiré flat bands in three-dimensional reconstructed WSe₂/WS₂ superlattices.
201 *Nat. Mater.* **20**, 945–950 (2021).
- 202 14. Bai, Y. *et al.* Excitons in strain-induced one-dimensional moiré potentials at transition metal
203 dichalcogenide heterojunctions. *Nat. Mater.* **19**, 1068–1073 (2020).
- 204 15. Sharpe, A. L. *et al.* Emergent ferromagnetism near three-quarters filling in twisted bilayer graphene.
205 *Science* **365**, 605–608 (2019).
- 206 16. Oh, M. *et al.* Evidence for unconventional superconductivity in twisted bilayer graphene. *Nature* **600**,
207 240–245 (2021).
- 208 17. Li, T. *et al.* Quantum anomalous Hall effect from intertwined moiré bands. *Nature* **600**, 641–646
209 (2021).
- 210 18. Choi, Y. *et al.* Correlation-driven topological phases in magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene. *Nature*
211 **589**, 536–541 (2021).
- 212 19. Wang, X. *et al.* Interfacial ferroelectricity in rhombohedral-stacked bilayer transition metal
213 dichalcogenides. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **17**, 367–371 (2022).
- 214 20. Törmä, P., Peotta, S. & Bernevig, B. A. Superconductivity, superfluidity and quantum geometry in
215 twisted multilayer systems. *Nat. Rev. Phys.* **4**, 528–542 (2022).
- 216 21. Weston, A. *et al.* Interfacial ferroelectricity in marginally twisted 2D semiconductors. *Nat.*
217 *Nanotechnol.* **17**, 390–395 (2022).
- 218 22. Rozhkov, A. V., Sboychakov, A. O., Rakhmanov, A. L. & Nori, F. Electronic properties of graphene-
219 based bilayer systems. *Phys. Rep.* **648**, 1–104 (2016).
- 220 23. Lopes dos Santos, J. M. B., Peres, N. M. R. & Castro Neto, A. H. Continuum model of the twisted
221 graphene bilayer. *Phys. Rev. B* **86**, 155449 (2012).
- 222 24. Mele, E. J. Commensuration and interlayer coherence in twisted bilayer graphene. *Phys. Rev. B* **81**,
223 161405 (2010).
- 224 25. Sboychakov, A. O., Rakhmanov, A. L., Rozhkov, A. V. & Nori, F. Electronic spectrum of twisted bilayer
225 graphene. *Phys. Rev. B* **92**, 075402 (2015).

- 226 26. Rozhkov, A. V., Sboychakov, A. O., Rakhmanov, A. L. & Nori, F. Single-electron gap in the spectrum of
227 twisted bilayer graphene. *Phys. Rev. B* **95**, 045119 (2017).
- 228 27. Ahn, S. J. *et al.* Dirac electrons in a dodecagonal graphene quasicrystal. *Science* **361**, 782–786 (2018).
- 229 28. Yao, W. *et al.* Quasicrystalline 30° twisted bilayer graphene as an incommensurate superlattice with
230 strong interlayer coupling. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **115**, 6928–6933 (2018).
- 231 29. Pezzini, S. *et al.* 30°-Twisted Bilayer Graphene Quasicrystals from Chemical Vapor Deposition. *Nano*
232 *Lett.* **20**, 3313–3319 (2020).
- 233 30. Nguyen, P. V. *et al.* Visualizing electrostatic gating effects in two-dimensional heterostructures.
234 *Nature* **572**, 220–223 (2019).
- 235 31. Bisri, S. Z., Shimizu, S., Nakano, M. & Iwasa, Y. Endeavor of Iontronics: From Fundamentals to
236 Applications of Ion-Controlled Electronics. *Adv. Mater.* **29**, 1607054 (2017).
- 237 32. Zhang, C. *et al.* Probing Critical Point Energies of Transition Metal Dichalcogenides: Surprising Indirect
238 Gap of Single Layer WSe₂. *Nano Lett.* **15**, 6494–6500 (2015).
- 239 33. Koren, E. *et al.* Coherent commensurate electronic states at the interface between misoriented
240 graphene layers. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **11**, 752–757 (2016).
- 241 34. Inbar, A. *et al.* The quantum twisting microscope. *Nature* **614**, 682–687 (2023).
- 242 35. Chari, T., Ribeiro-Palau, R., Dean, C. R. & Shepard, K. Resistivity of Rotated Graphite–Graphene
243 Contacts. *Nano Lett.* **16**, 4477–4482 (2016).
- 244 36. Zhao, X. *et al.* Strong Moiré Excitons in High-Angle Twisted Transition Metal Dichalcogenide
245 Homobilayers with Robust Commensuration. *Nano Lett.* **22**, 203–210 (2022).
- 246 37. Weston, A. *et al.* Atomic reconstruction in twisted bilayers of transition metal dichalcogenides. *Nat.*
247 *Nanotechnol.* **15**, 592–597 (2020).
- 248 38. McCreary, K. M. *et al.* Stacking-dependent optical properties in bilayer WSe₂. *Nanoscale* **14**, 147–156
249 (2022).
- 250 39. Hsu, W.-T. *et al.* Quantitative determination of interlayer electronic coupling at various critical points
251 in bilayer MoS₂. *Phys. Rev. B* **106**, 125302 (2022).
- 252 40. Hsu, W.-T. *et al.* Tailoring excitonic states of van der Waals bilayers through stacking configuration,
253 band alignment, and valley spin. *Sci. Adv.* **5**, eaax7407 (2019).
- 254 41. Zhang, Y., Devakul, T. & Fu, L. Spin-textured Chern bands in AB-stacked transition metal
255 dichalcogenide bilayers. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **118**, e2112673118 (2021).
- 256 42. Uri, A. *et al.* Superconductivity and strong interactions in a tunable moiré quasiperiodic crystal.
257 Preprint at <http://arxiv.org/abs/2302.00686> (2023).

258 **Figure captions:**

259 **Figure 1 | WSe₂ commensurate moiré crystal and incommensurate moiré quasicrystal.** **a**, Top: Schematics of the
260 experimental set-up. Bottom: the simulated patterns for 30° incommensurate quasicrystal and 21.8° commensurate
261 moiré crystal. **b**, Typical STM topography for 30° incommensurate quasicrystal ($V_{Bias} = 0.3V$, $I = 30pA$). **c**, Typical
262 STM topography for 21.8° commensurate moiré. ($V_{Bias} = -0.6V$, $I = -20pA$). **d**, The FFT image of the quasicrystal
263 topography in **b** with a 6-fold rotational symmetrization. The red circles mark the 12-fold dodecagonal pattern. **e**, The
264 FFT image of the 21.8° commensurate moiré topography in **c** with a 6-fold rotational symmetrization. The outer and
265 inner dashed hexagons mark the frequency peaks of the WSe₂ reciprocal lattice vectors for the Bragg lattice and
266 commensurate moiré crystal, respectively.

267

268 **Figure 2 | Umklapp scatterings and mini gap formation.** **a**, The schematic of the first 3 orders of Umklapp
269 scatterings near the first BZ for 30° quasicrystal. The red and blue hexagons mark the top and bottom Brillouin zones
270 respectively. The red and blue color dots and circles represent the original K(K') valleys or Umklapp scattered K(K')
271 replicas originated from top and bottom layers respectively. **b**, The distribution of K-valleys in the first quadrant.
272 Three sets of K-valley pair whose couplings can lead to anti-crossing and gap opening are marked in dashed rectangles.
273 **c**, Schematic of a 3D band dispersion showing a mini gap formed by K-valleys' anti-crossing. Where the white and
274 yellow dashed lines represent the gapped band structures in k_x and k_y direction in the momentum space respectively.
275 **d**, Simulated density of states as a function of energy for a typical mini gap. The upper band edge (saddle point)
276 corresponds to a sharp VHS with logarithmic divergence while the lower edge (paraboloid) corresponds to a weak
277 VHS.

278

279 **Figure 3 | Observation of VHS in 30° moiré quasicrystal.** **a**, STM topography image for a typical 30° quasicrystal
280 region. The black dots mark the sites of the measurement respectively ($V_{Bias} = -0.75 V$, $I = -20 pA$). **b**, Large scale and
281 zoom-in (inset) regular constant height dI/dV spectroscopies taken from sites 1 to 4. The light blue arrow and blue
282 arrow mark the Γ_2 , Γ_1 , respectively ($V_{Bias} = -2.0 V / -1.2 V$, $I = -50 pA / -200 pA$). **c**, Zoom-in ZV spectroscopies from
283 sites 1 to 4 ($I = -30 pA$). **d-g**, Constant current $\partial I/\partial V$ spectroscopies respectively on site 1-4. All peak (shoulder)
284 locations above Γ_1 are marked by red dashed lines. The location of K_{VBM} is indicated with a black dash line ($V_{int} = -$
285 $1.2 V$, $I = -30 pA$, $V_{amp} = 10 mV$).

286

287 **Figure 4 | Interlayer couplings in 21.8°/38.2° commensurate moiré crystal.** **a**, STM topography image for a
288 typical 38.2° commensurate moiré crystal region ($V_{Bias} = -0.5 V$, $I = -20 pA$). **b**, Gaussian peak fittings for a zoom-in
289 constant current $\partial I/\partial V$ spectroscopies at 38.2° twisted region. The dashed curves represent the fitted peaks ($V_{int} = -$
290 $1.2 V$, $I = -20 pA$, $V_{amp} = 15 mV$). **c**, Gaussian peak fittings for a zoom-in constant current $\partial I/\partial V$ spectroscopies at
291 21.8° twisted region. The dashed curves represent the fitted peaks ($V_{int} = -1.2 V$, $I = -20 pA$, $V_{amp} = 15 mV$). **d**,

292 Schematic on the left showing the first Brillouin zones (BZs) for 21.8°(38.2°) twisted WSe₂ bilayer. The purple, red
293 and black hexagons mark the moiré BZs, top and bottom layer BZs respectively. The K_t , K'_t and K_b , K'_b points of the
294 top (bottom) layer BZ are respectively marked with red and blue circles, $\kappa(\kappa')$ points are marked with purple circles.
295 Schematics on the right show the anti-crossing coupling happened at μ and the coherent coupling at $\kappa(\kappa')$. **e**, DFT
296 calculated unfolded band structure of 21.8° commensurate moiré along the k -space path: $\Gamma - K_t - K_b - K'_t - \kappa' - \kappa$
297 $- \Gamma$. Inset: zoom-in band structure of K_t and K_b band-crossing showing the mini gap.

298

299

300

301

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317 **Methods**

318 **Sample growth**

319 High-quality buffer on SiC was synthesized via a two-step process. First, monolayer epitaxial graphene was
320 synthesized via silicon sublimation from Si face of semi-insulating SiC substrates (II-VI Inc.). Prior to the
321 growth, SiC substrates were annealed in 10% hydrogen (balance argon) at 1500 °C for 30 min to remove
322 subsurface damages due to the chemical and mechanical polishing. Then monolayer epitaxial graphene
323 (MLEG) was formed at 1800 °C for 30 min in a pure argon atmosphere. Second, Ni stressor layer was
324 employed to exfoliate the top graphene layer to obtain fresh and high-quality buffer on SiC. 270 nm Ni was
325 e-beam deposited on MLEG with a rate of 5 Å/s as a stressor layer. Then thermal release tape was used to
326 peel off the top graphene layer from the substrate. The growth of WSe₂ crystals on an EG substrate was
327 carried out at 800 °C in a custom-built vertical cold-wall chemical vapor deposition (CVD) reactor for 20
328 minutes⁴³. The tungsten hexacarbonyl (W(CO)₆) (99.99%, Sigma-Aldrich) source was kept inside a
329 stainless-steel bubbler where the temperature and pressure of the bubbler were always held at 37 °C and
330 730 Torr, respectively. Mass flow controllers were used to supply H₂ carrier gas to the bubbler to transport
331 W(CO)₆ precursor into the CVD chamber. The flow rate of the H₂ gas through the bubbler was maintained
332 at a constant 8 sccm (standard cubic centimeters per minute) which resulted in a W(CO)₆ flow rate of $9.0 \times$
333 10^{-4} sccm at the outlet of the bubbler. H₂Se (99.99%, Matheson) gas was supplied from a separate gas
334 manifold and introduced at the inlet of the reactor at a constant flow rate of 30 sccm.

335 **STM/STS measurements**

336 Scanning Tunneling Microscopy and Spectroscopy (STM/S) measurements were conducted at 4.3 K in the
337 STM chamber, with a base pressure $\sim 10^{-11}$ Torr. The W tip was prepared by electrochemical etching and
338 then cleaned by in situ electron-beam heating. STM dI/dV spectra were measured using a standard lock-in
339 technique, whose modulation frequency is 758 Hz. Two different modes of STS were simultaneously
340 employed: (a) the conventional constant height STS (CHSTS) and (b) the constant current STS (CCSTS).

341 **Sample fabrication for nano-ARPES measurements**

342 WSe₂ monolayers, bilayers and hBN layers were exfoliated from high-quality bulk crystals. We use the
343 tear-and-stack method to control the twist angle with an accuracy better than 0.1°. The thickness of bottom
344 hBN layers in all samples is around 3 nm, according to AFM measurements. All samples are firstly annealed
345 at 300 °C in an MBE chamber for 30 min with sufficient Se pressure and then annealed at 250 °C in an UHV
346 ($\sim 1 \times 10^{-10}$ Torr) chamber before the ARPES measurement.

347

348 **nano-ARPES measurements**

349 The experimental setup utilized in this study involved the implementation of nano-ARPES (nano-Angle-
350 Resolved PhotoEmission Spectroscopy) to investigate the electronic structure of the sample. NanoARPES
351 measurements were conducted at the MAESTRO beamline at the Advanced Light source. A capillary
352 mirror obtained from Sigray was employed to achieve a beam size of approximately 1 μm . The
353 measurements were performed at a temperature of approximately 20 K with the R4000 analyzer, equipped
354 with a custom electron deflector, and photon energy of 150 eV was employed during the experiments. To
355 identify the target region, XY scans were conducted with a step size of 0.5 μm . The thickness and the
356 rotation angle of the sample was determined by comparing the intensity of the core level spectrum of O 2s
357 obtained from the natively oxidized silicon substrate, and the valence band structure of the sample.

358 **Theoretical calculation**

359 The Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations were implemented in the Quantum ESPRESSO
360 suite.^{44,45} We employed the PBE exchange-correlation functional⁴⁶ in all DFT calculations. The structural
361 optimization was obtained with criteria for force < 0.025 eV/ \AA , pressure < 0.5 kbar, and total energy $<$
362 0.0014 eV. We utilized optimized norm-conserving pseudopotentials⁴⁷ from the PseudoDojo library⁴⁸ with
363 planewaves kinetic energy cutoff of 98 Ry as recommended. The Van der Waals interaction was taken into
364 account within the semiempirical approach Grimme-D3.⁴⁹ The spin-orbit coupling was also included. The
365 unfolded band structures were performed using BandUP code.⁵⁰⁻⁵²

366 **Method references**

- 367 43. Lin, Y.-C. *et al.* Realizing Large-Scale, Electronic-Grade Two-Dimensional Semiconductors. *ACS Nano*
368 **12**, 965–975 (2018).
- 369 44. Giannozzi, P. *et al.* QUANTUM ESPRESSO: a modular and open-source software project for quantum
370 simulations of materials. *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* **21**, 395502 (2009).
- 371 45. Giannozzi, P. *et al.* Advanced capabilities for materials modelling with Quantum ESPRESSO. *J. Phys.*
372 *Condens. Matter* **29**, 465901 (2017).
- 373 46. Perdew, J. P., Burke, K. & Ernzerhof, M. Generalized Gradient Approximation Made Simple. *Phys. Rev.*
374 *Lett.* **77**, 3865–3868 (1996).

- 375 47. Hamann, D. R. Optimized norm-conserving Vanderbilt pseudopotentials. *Phys. Rev. B* **88**, 085117
376 (2013).
- 377 48. van Setten, M. J. *et al.* The PseudoDojo: Training and grading a 85 element optimized norm-conserving
378 pseudopotential table. *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **226**, 39–54 (2018).
- 379 49. Grimme, S., Antony, J., Ehrlich, S. & Krieg, H. A consistent and accurate *ab initio* parametrization of
380 density functional dispersion correction (DFT-D) for the 94 elements H-Pu. *J. Chem. Phys.* **132**, 154104
381 (2010).
- 382 50. Medeiros, P. V. C., Stafström, S. & Björk, J. Effects of extrinsic and intrinsic perturbations on the
383 electronic structure of graphene: Retaining an effective primitive cell band structure by band
384 unfolding. *Phys. Rev. B* **89**, 041407 (2014).
- 385 51. Medeiros, P. V. C., Tsirkin, S. S., Stafström, S. & Björk, J. Unfolding spinor wave functions and
386 expectation values of general operators: Introducing the unfolding-density operator. *Phys. Rev. B* **91**,
387 041116 (2015).
- 388 52. Iraola, M. *et al.* IrRep: Symmetry eigenvalues and irreducible representations of ab initio band
389 structures. *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **272**, 108226 (2022).

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398 **Acknowledgments:** This work was primarily supported by the NSF through the Center for Dynamics and
399 Control of Materials: an NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Center under cooperative
400 agreement nos. DMR-1720595, DMR-2308817 and the US Air Force grant no. FA2386-21-1-4061. Other
401 supports were from NSF grant nos. DMR-1808751, DMR-2219610, and the Welch Foundation F-2164. V.-
402 A. Ha and F. Giustino were supported by the Welch foundation Grant No. F-2139-20230405 and the
403 National Science Foundation Grant No. 2103991. V.-A.H. and F.G. used resources of the National Energy
404 Research Scientific Computing Center and the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, which are DOE
405 Office of Science User Facilities supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy,
406 under Contracts No. DE-AC02-05CH11231 and DE-AC02-06CH11357, respectively. V.-A.H. and F.G.
407 acknowledge the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin for
408 providing access to Frontera, Lonestar6, and Texascale Days, that have contributed to the research results
409 reported within this paper (<http://www.tacc.utexas.edu>). Work at Penn State University was supported by
410 the Penn State Center for Nanoscale Science (NSF Grant DMR-2011839) and the Penn State 2DCC-MIP
411 (NSF DMR-1539916). E. R. and S. H. R. acknowledge funding of the QSA, supported by the U.S.
412 Department of Energy, Office of Science, National Quantum Information Science Research Centers. This
413 research used resources of the Advanced Light Source, which is a DOE Office of Science User Facility
414 under contract no. DE-AC02-05CH11231. Z. L., X. L. and X. Li gratefully acknowledge support from the
415 National Science Foundation via grant NSF ECCS-2130552, the Department of Energy, Office of Basic
416 Energy Sciences under grant DE-SC0019398 and the Welch Foundation grant F-1662. K.W. and T.T.
417 acknowledge support from the JSPS KAKENHI (Grant Numbers 20H00354, 21H05233 and 23H02052)
418 and World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI), NEXT, Japan.

419 **Author contributions:** C.K.S. conceived the experiment. Y.L. and F.Z. carried out STM/STS
420 measurements. V.H. and F.G. performed DFT calculations. Y.L., C.D., and J.A.R. prepared the MOCVD
421 sample. H.K. helped anneal the sample and perform LEED measurements. Q.G., B.K., and E.K. performed
422 theoretical model calculations. Z. L. and X. Liu. prepared the exfoliated sample. X. Li. involved in the
423 discussion. K.W. and T.T. synthesized the hBN bulk crystals. S. H. R. and E.R. performed the nano ARPES
424 measurement and analyzed the ARPES data. C. J. and A. B. helped with the nano ARPES setup. Y.L., F.Z.,
425 and C.K.S. analyzed the STM data. Y.L., F.Z. and C.K.S. wrote the manuscript with substantial
426 contributions from all the authors. †These authors contribute equally to this work.

427 **Competing Interests:** All the authors declare no competing interests.

428 **Data Availability:** Source data that reproduces the plots in the main text and extended data figures are
429 provided with this paper. Source data that reproduce the plots in supplementary information are available
430 upon request.

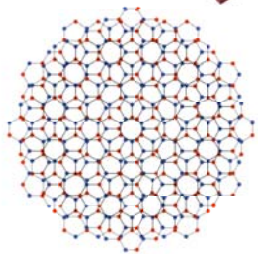
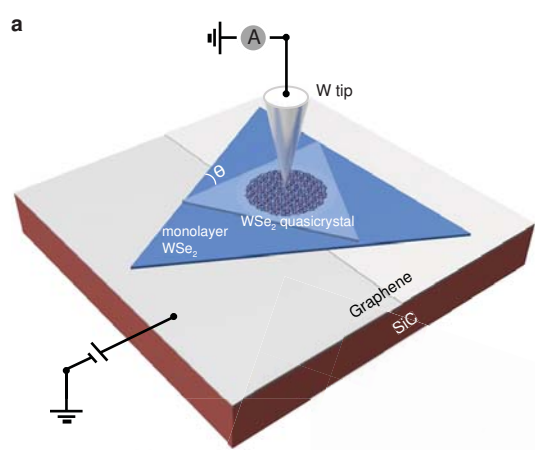
431 **Code Availability:** Source codes used in the manuscript are provided with the paper. The DFT calculations
432 presented in the paper were carried out using publicly available electronic structure codes (referenced in
433 Methods). All other codes in supplementary information are available upon reasonable request.

434

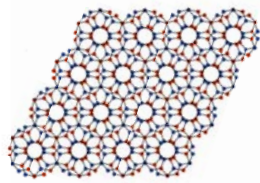
435 **Extended Data Figure captions**

436 **Extended Data Figure 1 | Comparison of valley assignments between CCSTS and nano-ARPES. a,**
437 The zoom-in CCSTS taken on quasicrystal. (same as Fig. 3d) **b,** The zoom in K-valley spectrum from the
438 nano-ARPES measurements. **c,** The zoom in Γ -valley spectrum from the nano-ARPES measurements.

439 **Extended Data Figure 2 | nano-ARPES results for quasicrystal. a,** The constant energy surface at $E = -$
440 1.9 eV. The trigonal K-valleys are labeled by the blue and red solid dots. The blue and red hole circles label
441 the expected locations of the 1st-order Umklapp scatterings. However, no clear features of Umklapp
442 replicas are observed. **b,** Energy distribution curve (EDC) across the center of Γ . Two peaks represent Γ_1 ($-$
443 1.97 eV) and Γ_2 (-2.44 eV) respectively. **c,** The measured band structure across the center of Γ ($k_y=0 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$).
444 **d,** The measured band structure across the center of K ($k_y=-0.4 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$), the K_{VBM} is estimated to be at -1.7 eV.
445 **e,** The measured band structure along the K_r - K_b direction ($k_x=-1.4 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$) shows the bands crossing. The
446 energy level of the crossing point is determined by the saddle point, at $E = -2.23$ eV.



30° moiré quasicrystal



21.8° moiré crystal

