

**Collaborators:**

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*Petar Tomič*

*Giulia Zheng*

*Michele Masseroni*

*Klaus Ensslin*

**hBN supply:**

*Kenji Watanabe*

*Takashi Taniguchi*

**Theory:**

*Aitor Garcia-Ruiz*

*Vladimir Fal'ko*

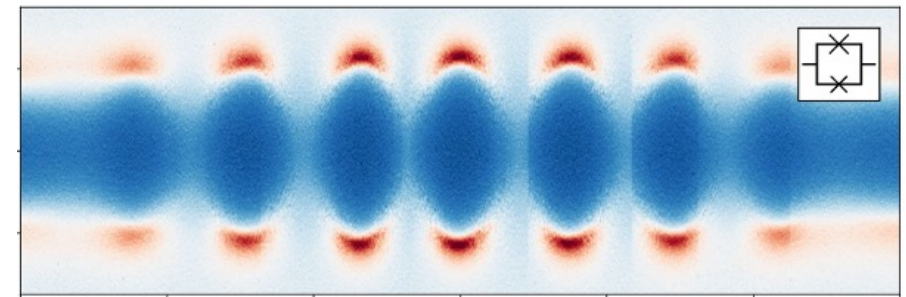
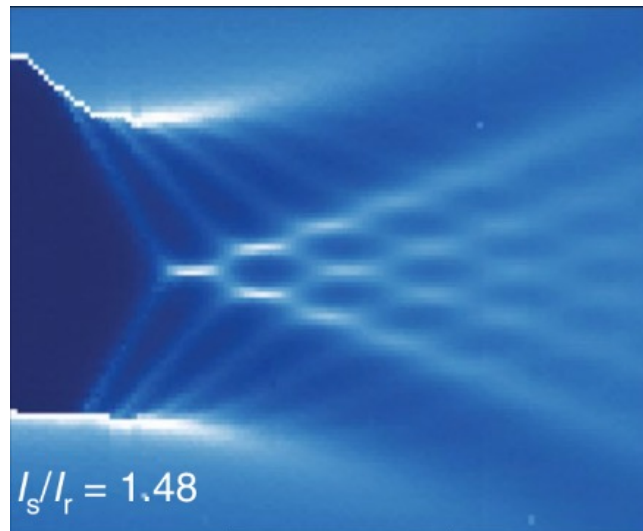
*Jihang Zhu*

*Allan McDonald*

# Graphene-based nanostructures

## Part II: Twisted bilayer graphene

*Thomas Ihn*



*Ming-Hao Liu*  
*Marcin Kurpas*  
*Klaus Richter*

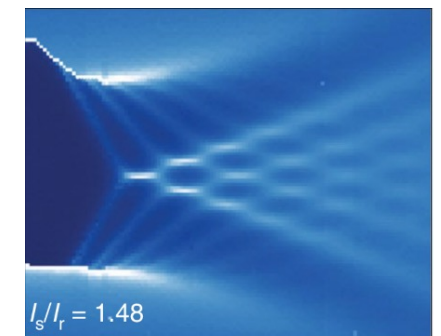
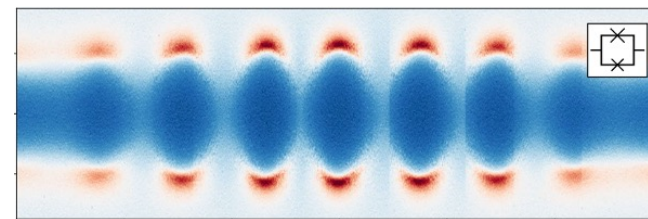
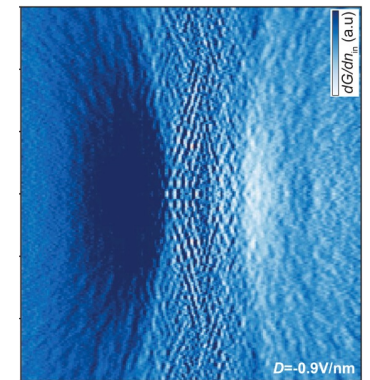
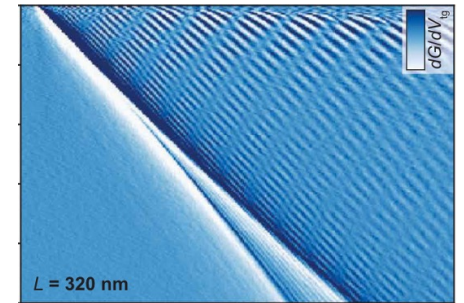
**QSIT** Quantum  
Science and  
Technology  
National Centre of Competence in Research



**ETH** Eidgenössische  
Technische Hochschule  
Zürich

# Outline

- Twisted bilayer graphene: brief historical introduction
- Fabrication
- Large twist angles
- Small twist angles
- Magic angle
- Twisted double bilayer graphene

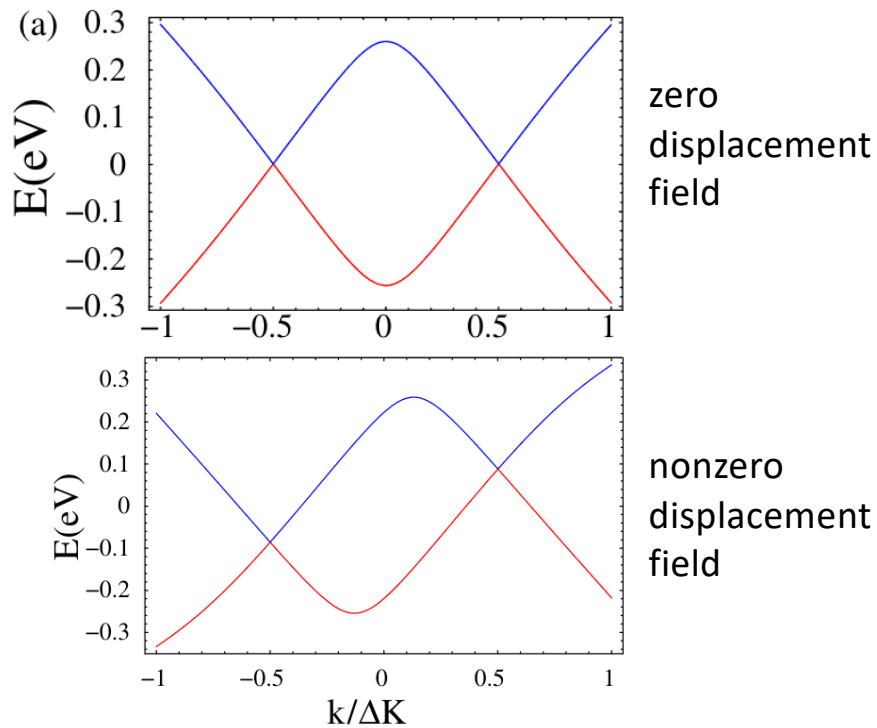


# Twisting graphene

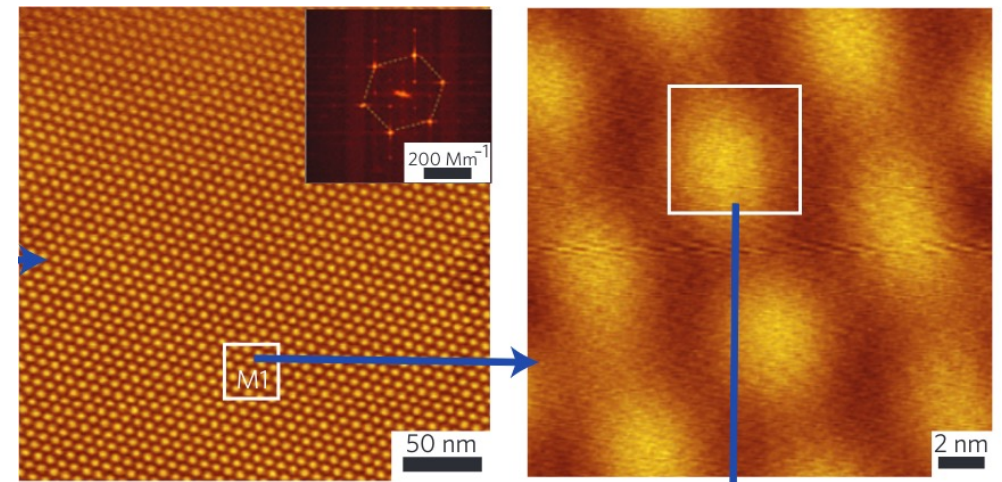
## Graphene Bilayer with a Twist: Electronic Structure

J. M. B. Lopes dos Santos,<sup>1</sup> N. M. R. Peres,<sup>2</sup> and A. H. Castro Neto<sup>3</sup>

Phys. Rev. Lett. **99**, 256802 (2007).



Moiré pattern – period 7.7 nm

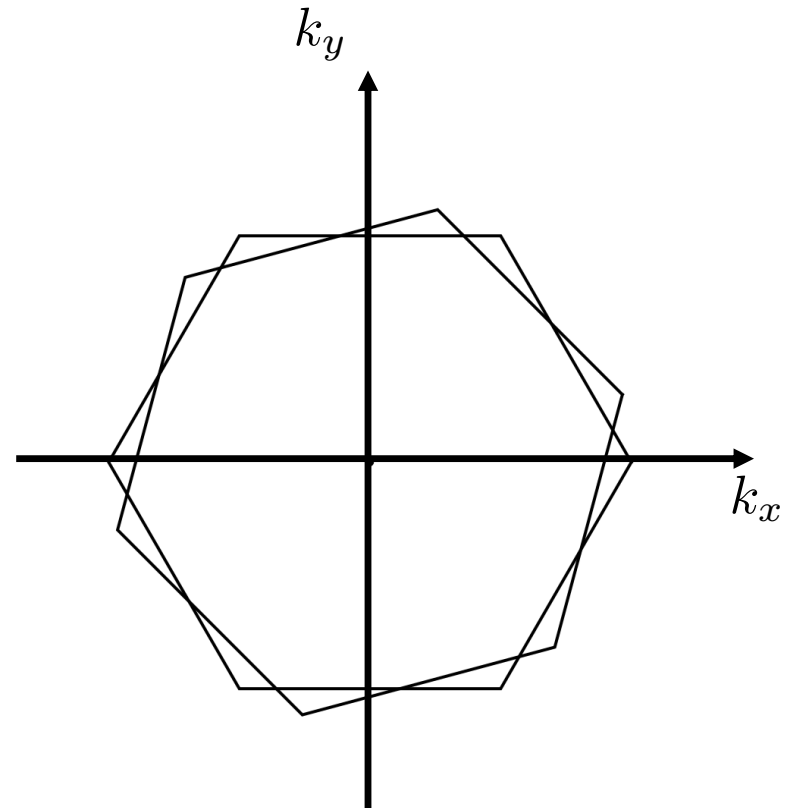
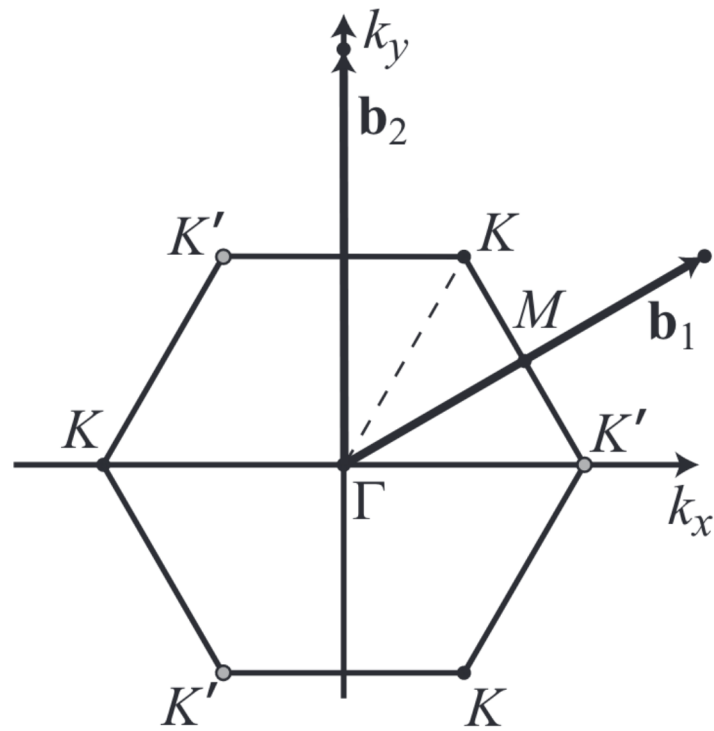


## Observation of Van Hove singularities in twisted graphene layers

Guohong Li<sup>1</sup>, A. Luican<sup>1</sup>, J. M. B. Lopes dos Santos<sup>2</sup>, A. H. Castro Neto<sup>3</sup>, A. Reina<sup>4</sup>, J. Kong<sup>5</sup> and E. Y. Andrei<sup>1\*</sup>

Nature Physics **6**, 109 (2010).

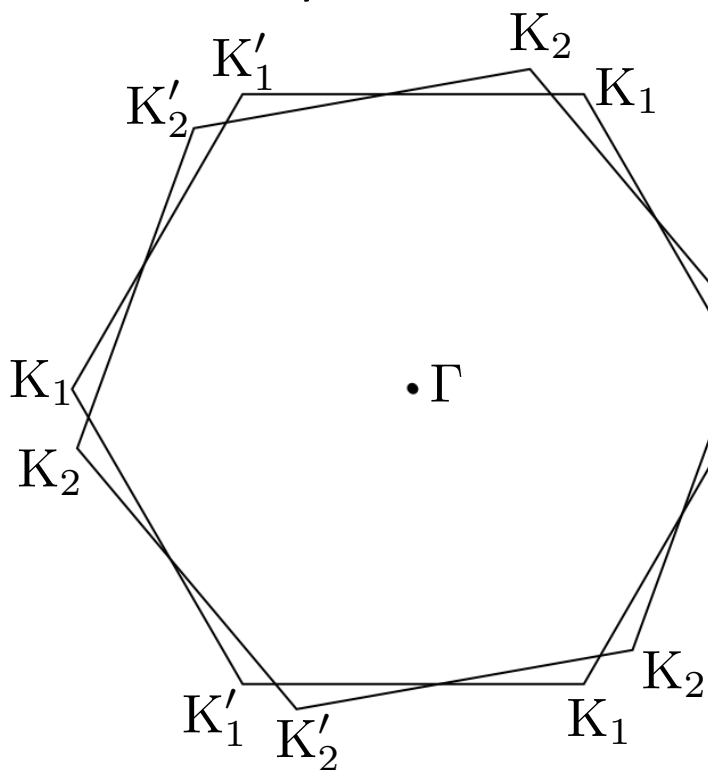
## Twisting graphene



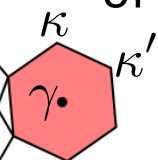
Two copies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brillouin zone are rotated relative to each other

# The mini Brillouin zone

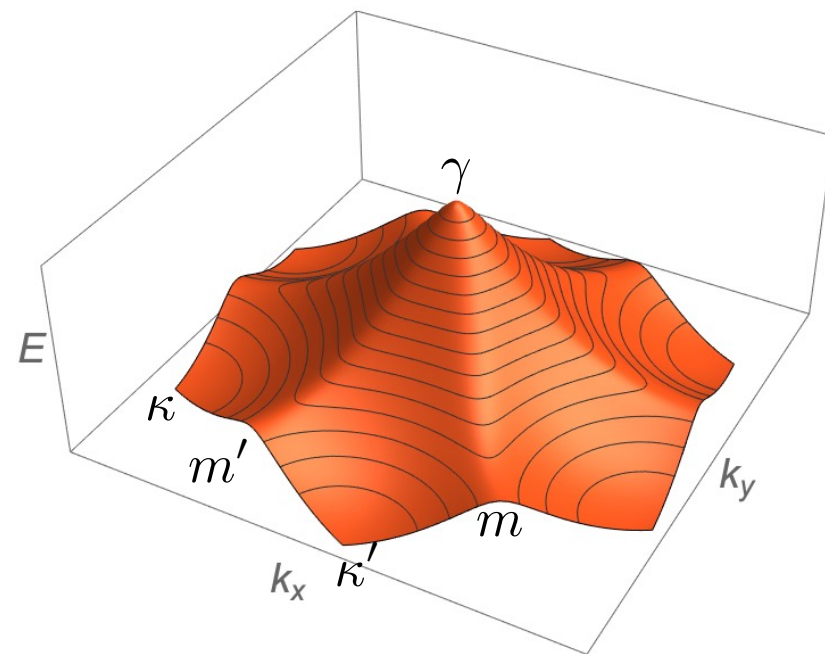
original Brillouin zones  
of layers 1 and 2



mini-Brillouin zone  
of Moiré superlattice

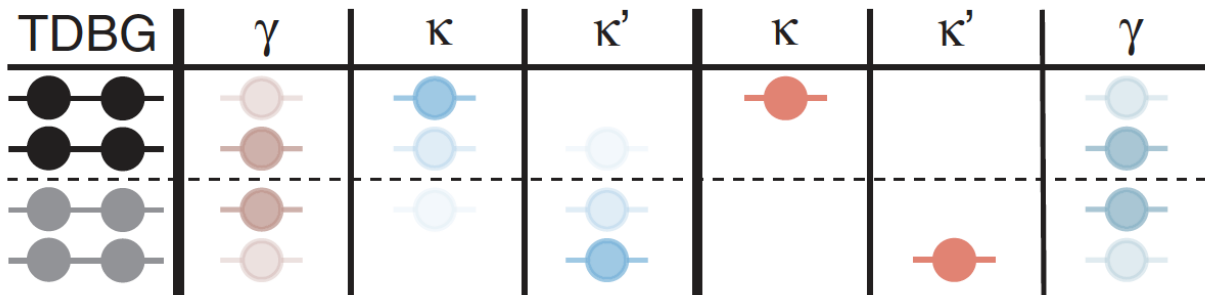


dispersion relation within  
the mini Brillouin zone



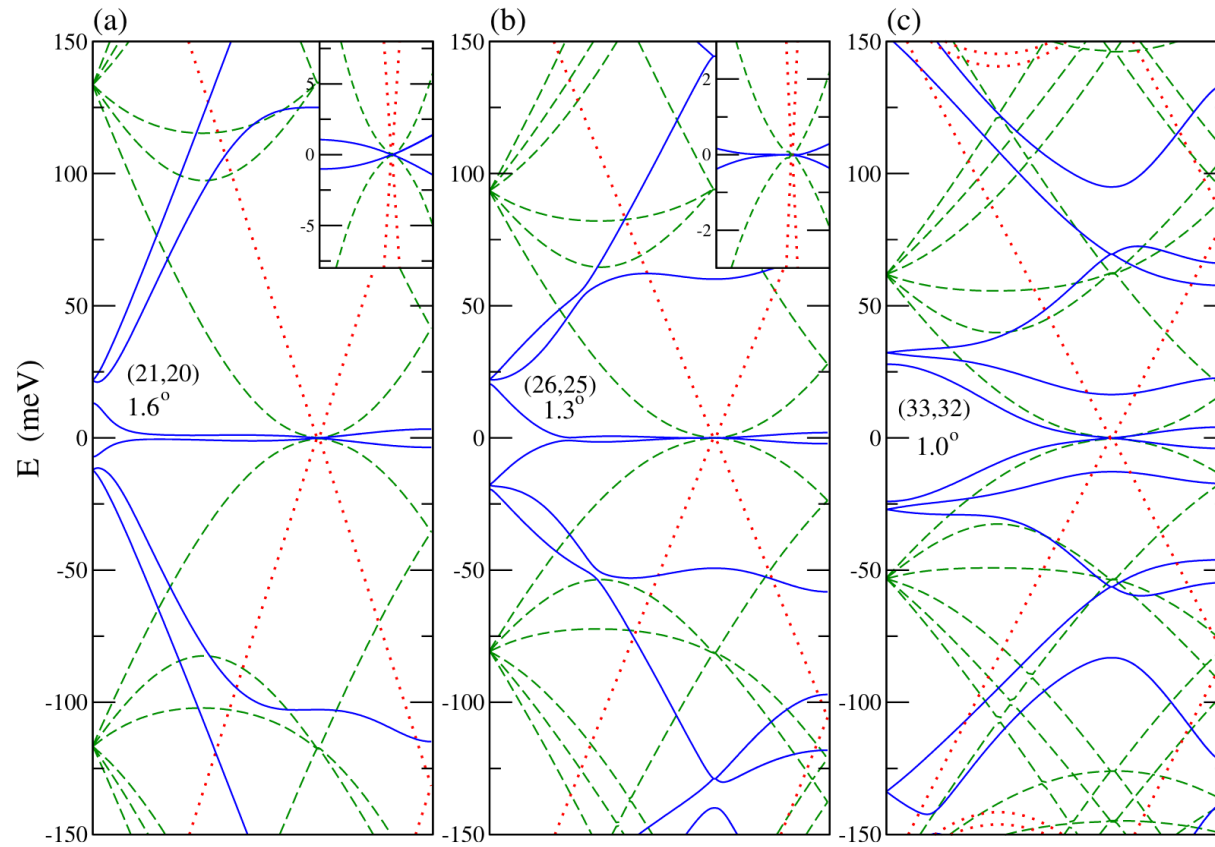
valence band

conduction band



# Flat bands emerge for small twist angles

E. Suárez Morell *et al*, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 121407 (2010).



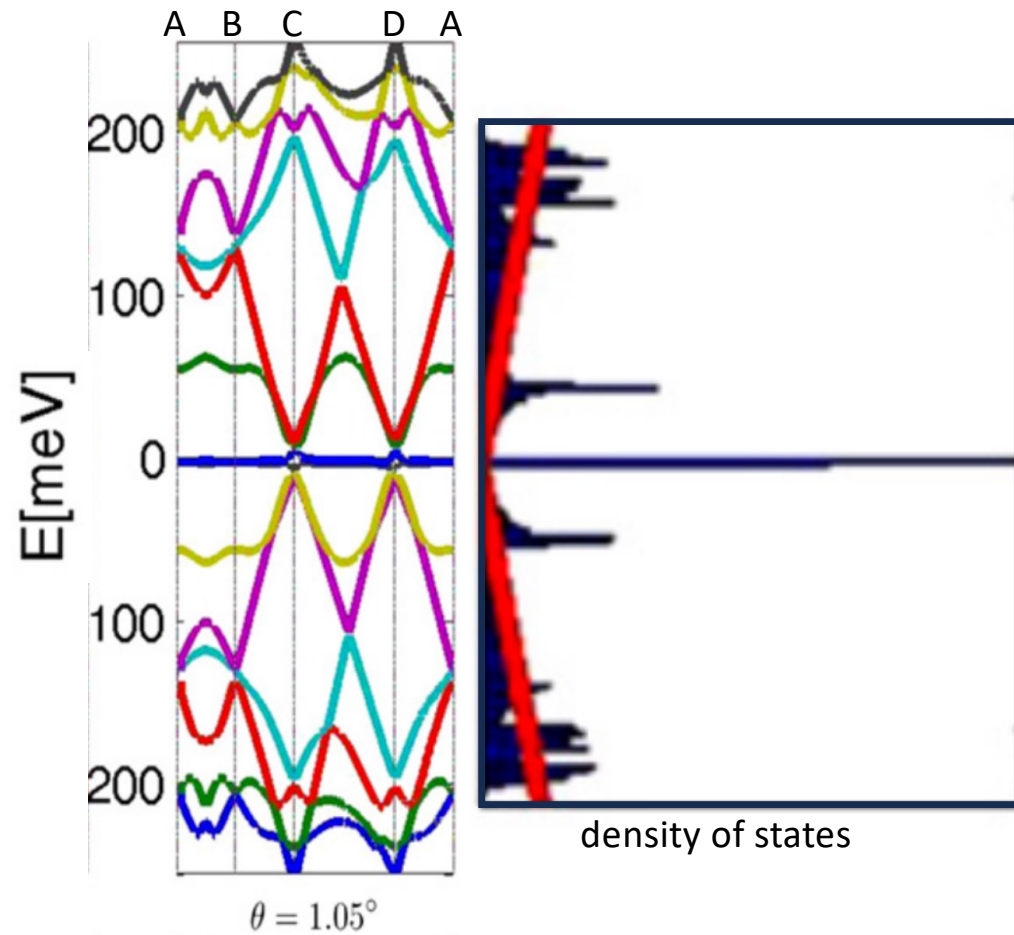
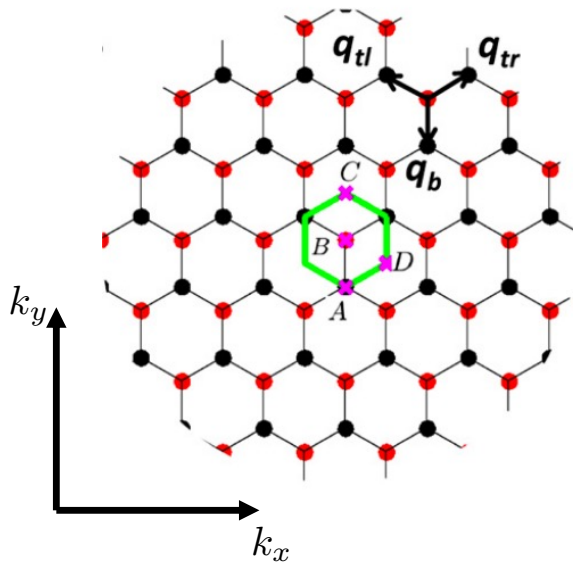
Tight binding model

also based on comparison  
to DFT calculations

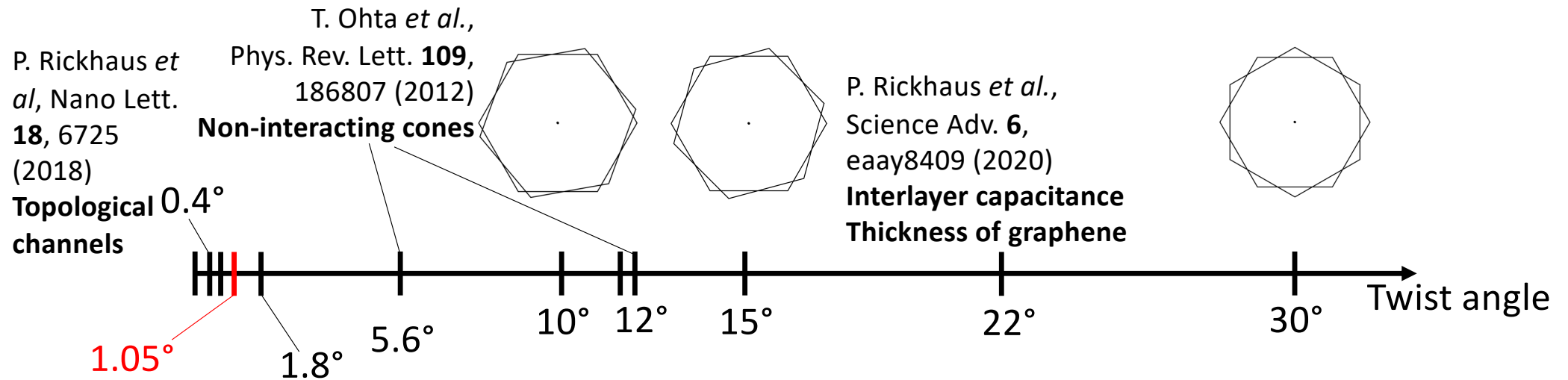
# Magic angles: the key to generate flat bands

R. Bistritzer and A. H. MacDonald, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. **108**, 12233 (2011).

Continuum model  
for interlayer tunneling



# Twist angle as a knob to tune the dispersion relation



Y. Cao *et al.*, Nature **556**, 43 (2018)  
**Superconductivity**,  
 ibid 80 (2018)  
**Correlated insulators**

Y. Cao *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 116804 (2016)  
**Insulating states**

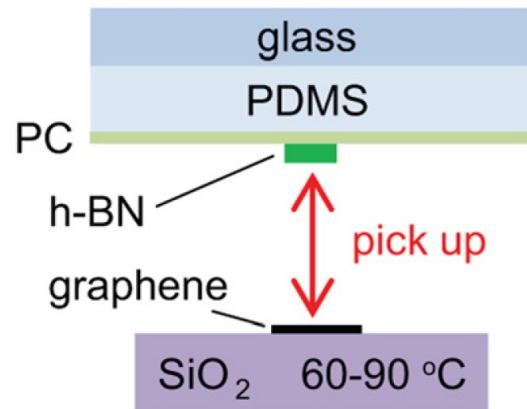
The twist angle is a knob to tune the interlayer coupling:  
 large angles: decoupled layers, strongly dispersive bands

small angles: strongly coupled layers, flat bands, correlated states

**intermediate angles: interlayer coupling tunable by gate voltages!**

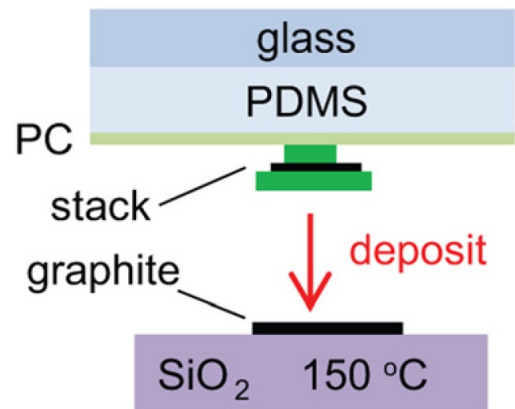


# Dry transfer technique



P.J. Zomer *et al*, Appl. Phys. Lett. **105**, 013101 (2014)

PC: Polycarbonate  
PDMS: Polydimethylsiloxane

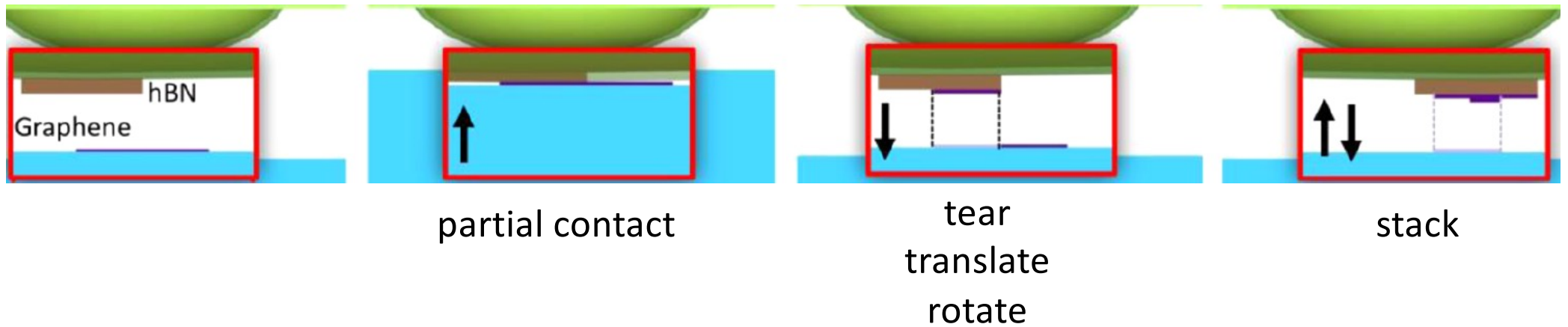


Pick-up performed in glove box with Ar atmosphere using a micromanipulator

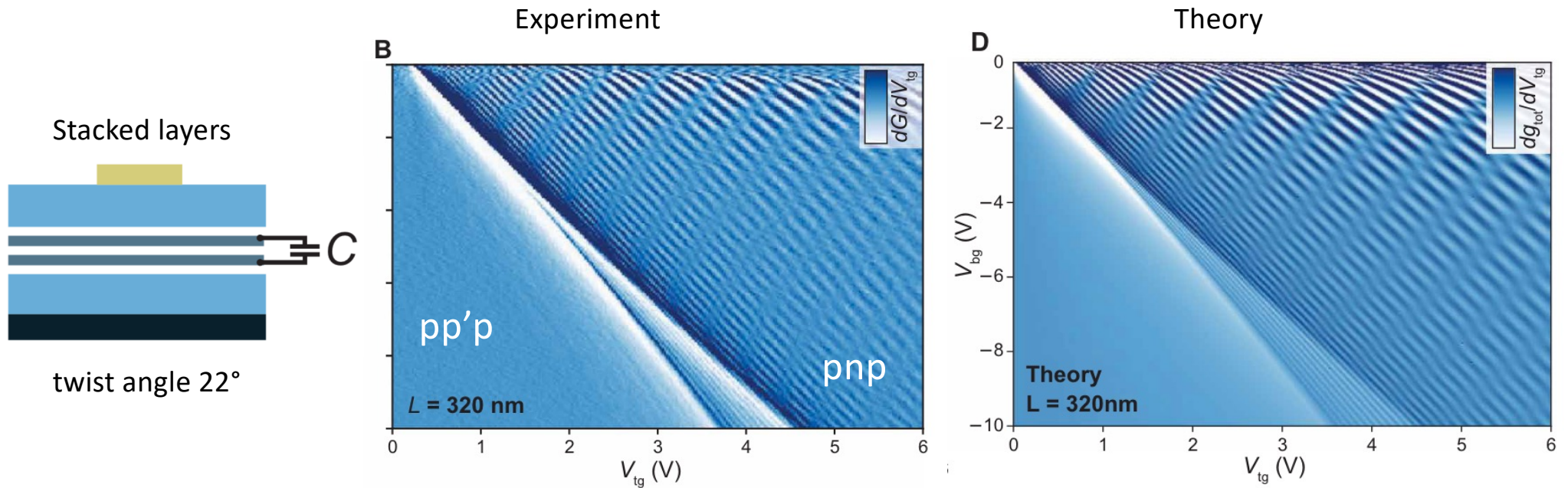
Annealing in Ar/H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 350°C

# The tear and stack method

K. Kim *et al.*, Nano Lett. **16**, 1989 (2016)



# Large twist angles: The electronic thickness of graphene



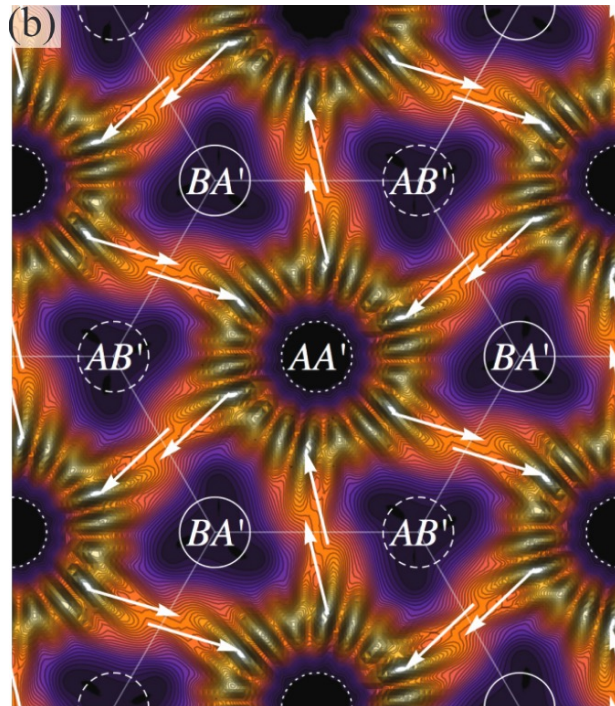
Extracted interlayer capacitance:  $C_m = 7.5 \mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$ , three times larger than expected from layer separation!

Consequence: graphene has a finite electronic thickness of  $t_g = 2.6 \text{ \AA}$  !

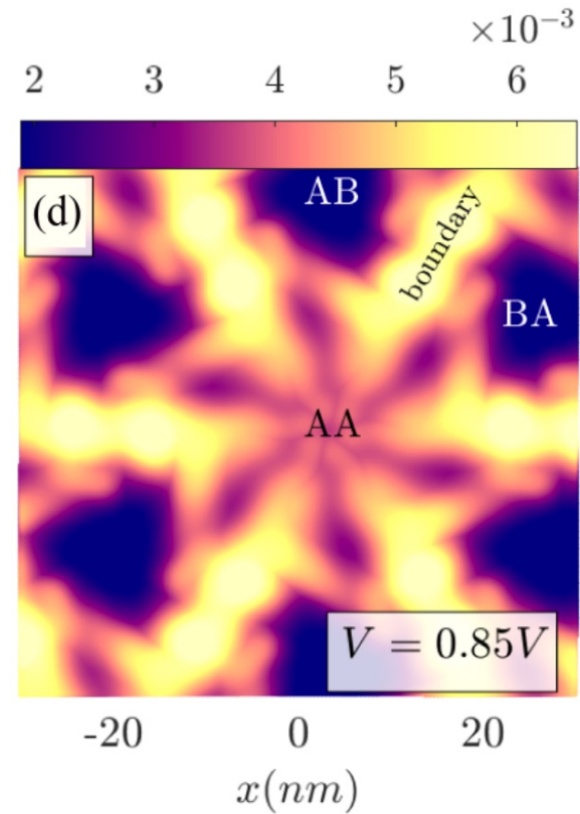
P. Rickhaus *et al*, Science Advances **6**, eaay8409 (2020).

# Small twist angles: Topology in twisted bilayer graphene

Probability density of a selected state (including directionality of helical currents)



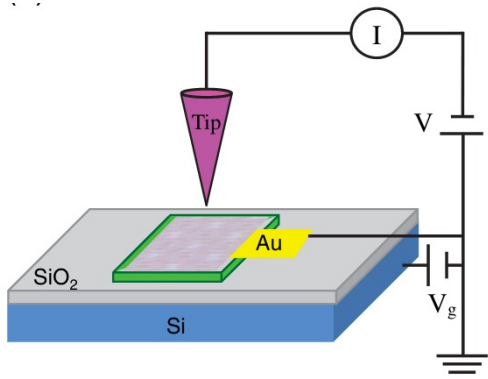
P. San-Jose and E. Prada, Phys. Rev. B **88**, 121408 (2013).



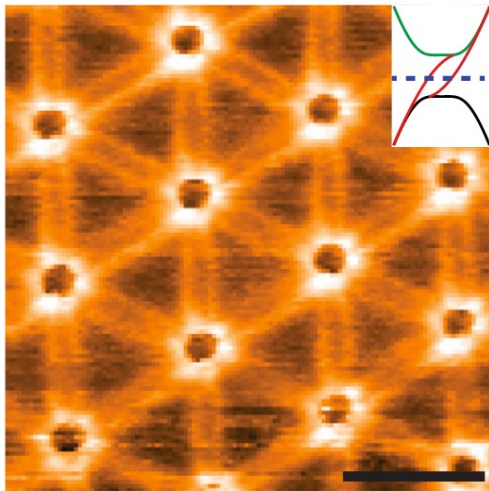
Local density of states (including lattice relaxation and disorder)

M. Anđelković *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Mater. **2**, 034004 (2018).

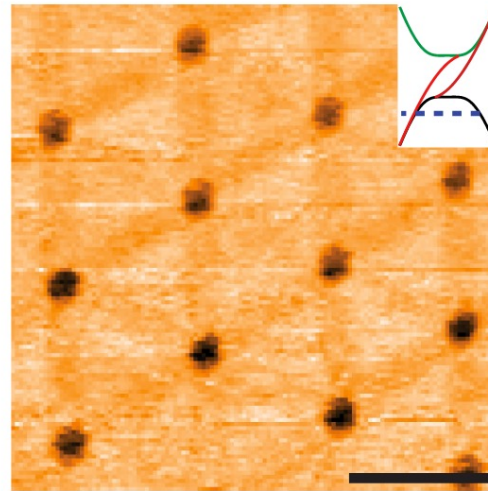
# Topology in twisted bilayer graphene



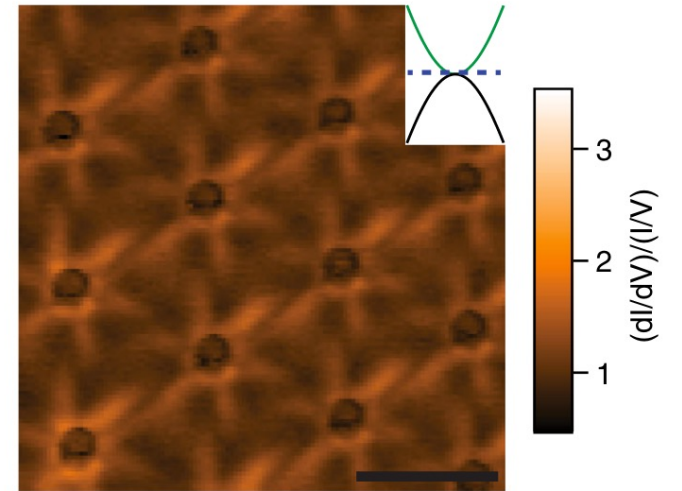
(a)  $V_g = 60 \text{ V}$ ,  $V = -0.11 \text{ V}$



(b)  $V_g = -60 \text{ V}$ ,  $V = -0.245 \text{ V}$



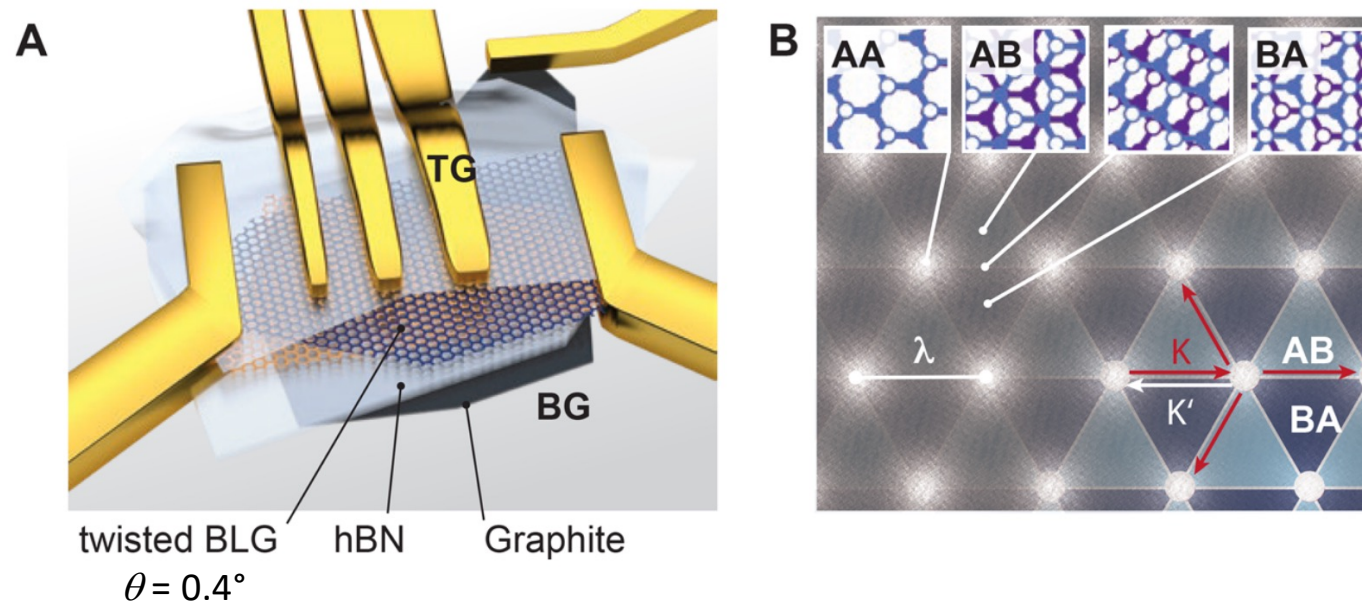
(c)  $V_g = -50 \text{ V}$ ,  $V = 0.1 \text{ V}$



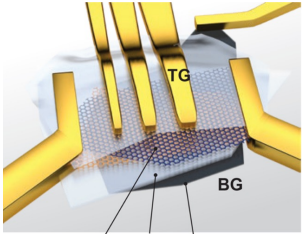
Local density  
of states  
measured by  
STM

S. Huang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **121**, 037702 (2018).

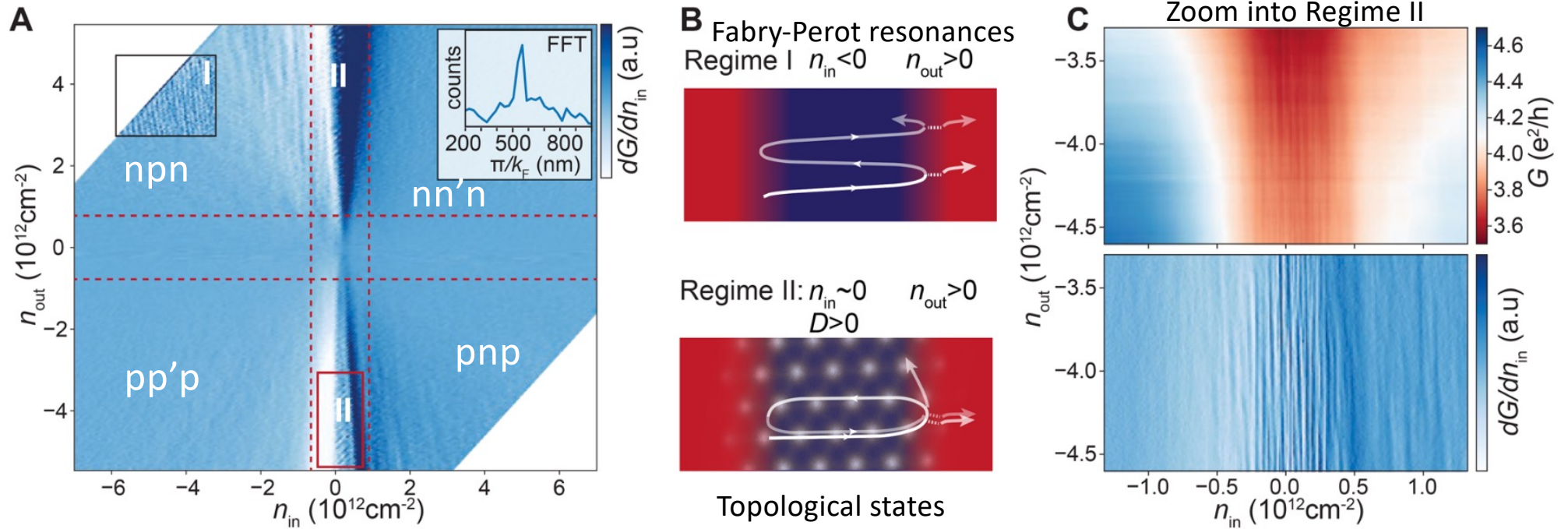
# Topology in twisted bilayer graphene



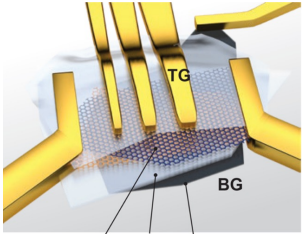
P. Rickhaus *et al*, Nano Lett. **18**, 6725 (2018).



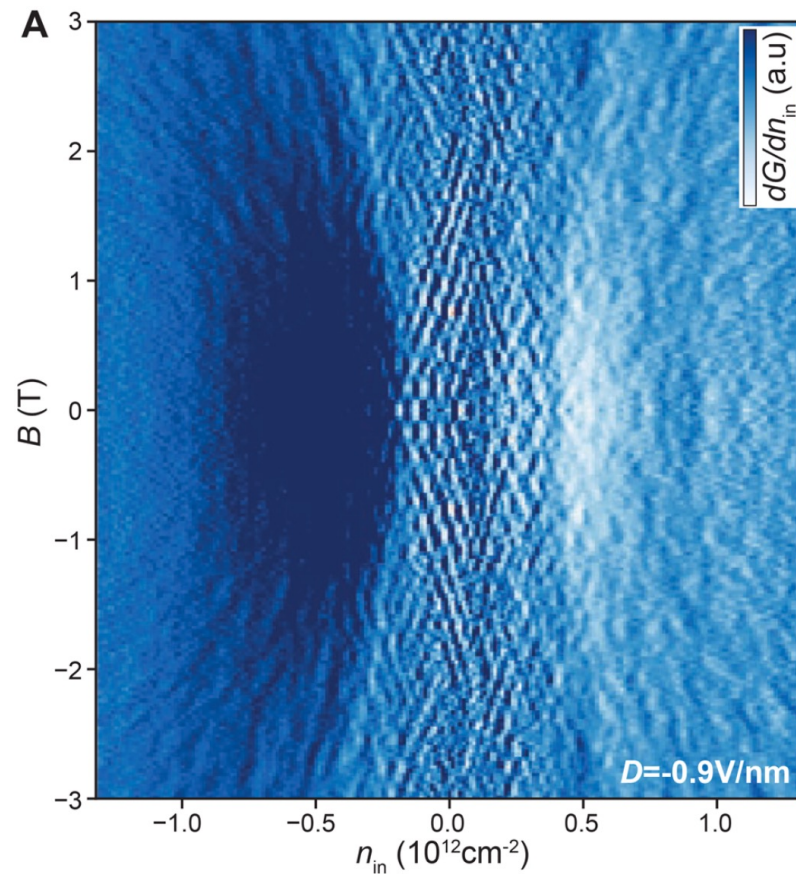
# Topology in twisted bilayer graphene



P. Rickhaus *et al*, Nano Lett. **18**, 6725 (2018).



## Topology in twisted bilayer graphene



in 1D:  $k_F \propto n_{in}$

Moiré periodicity:  $\lambda = 34 \text{ nm}$

Height of moiré unit cell:

$$h = \frac{\sqrt{3}\lambda}{2} = 29 \text{ nm}$$

Cavity length:  $L = 400 \text{ nm}$

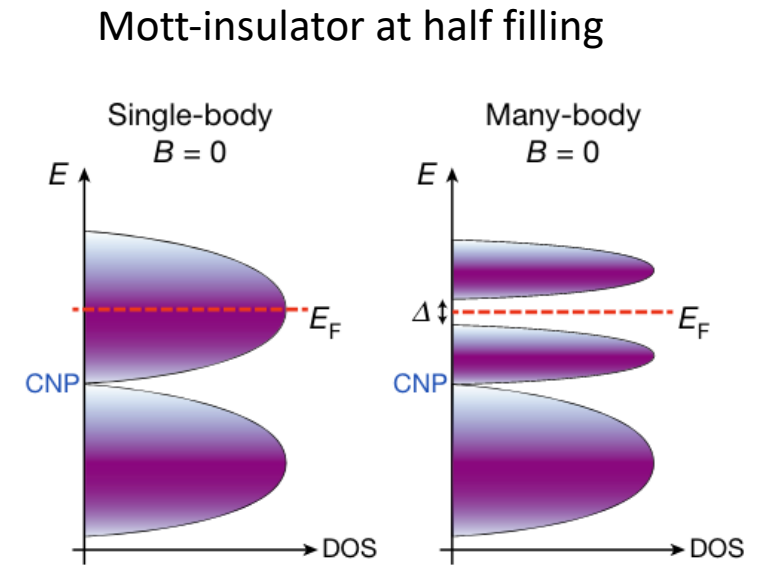
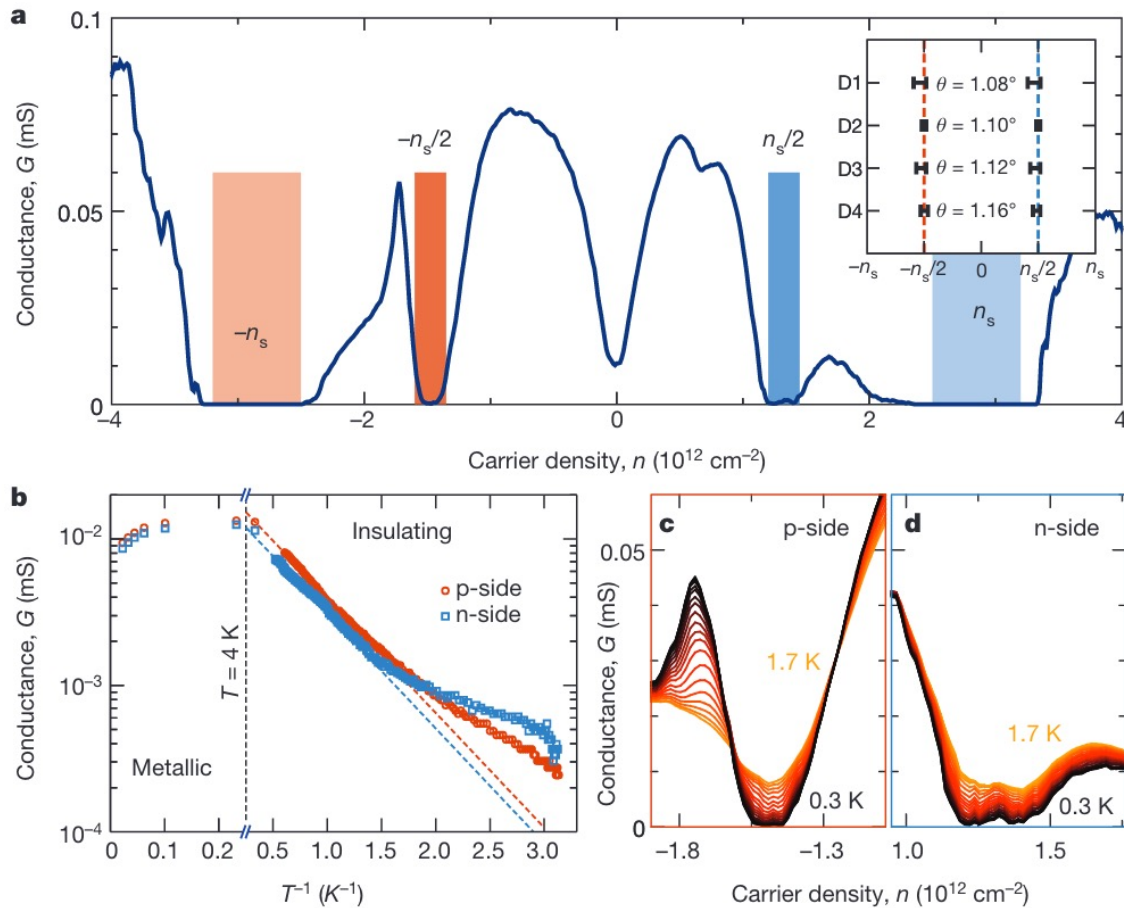
Magnetic field periodicity fits to

$$\Delta B = \frac{\Phi_0}{Lh} = \frac{h}{e Lh}$$

P. Rickhaus *et al*, Nano Lett. **18**, 6725 (2018).

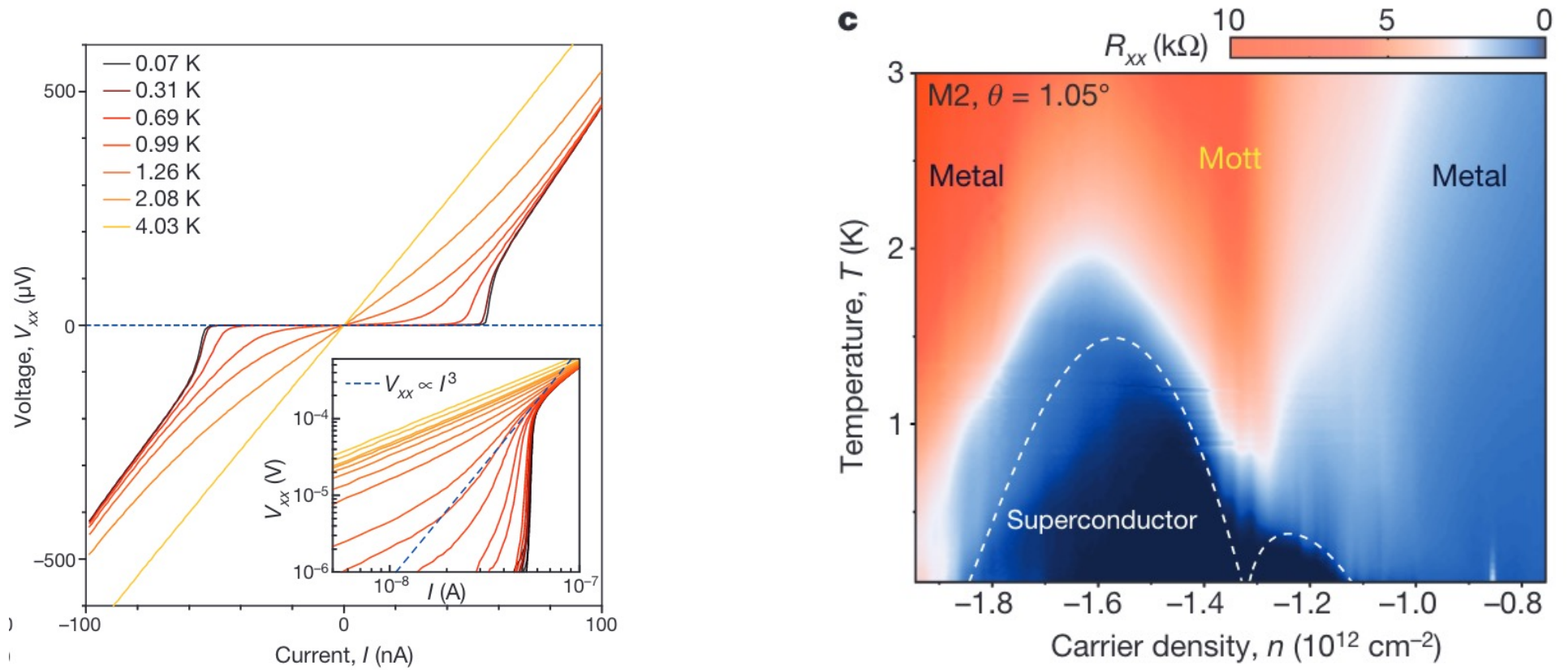


# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: correlated insulators



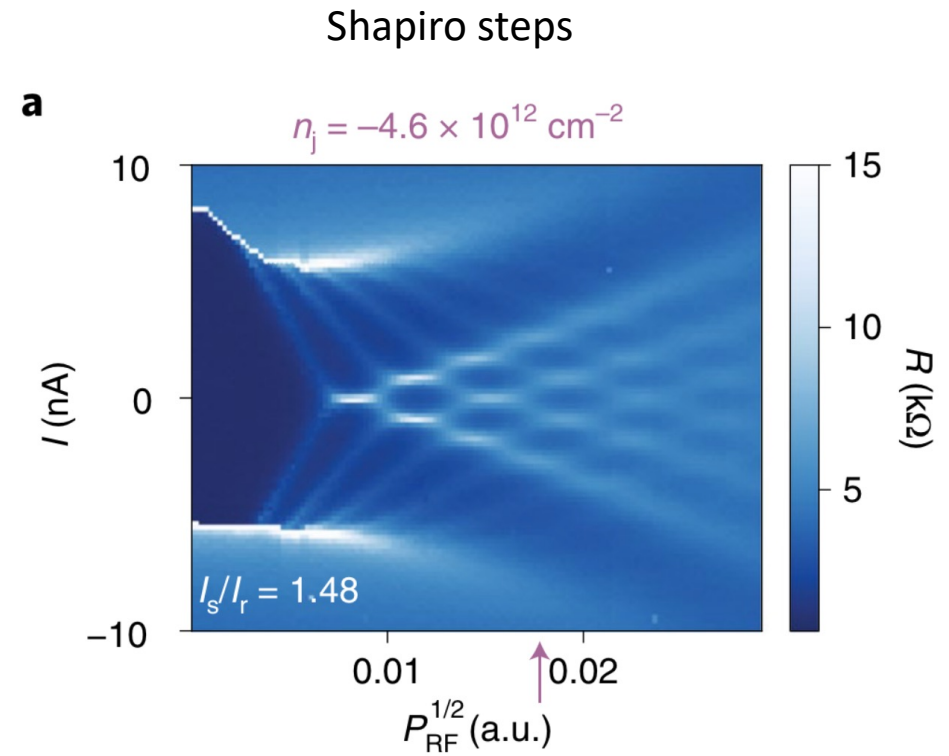
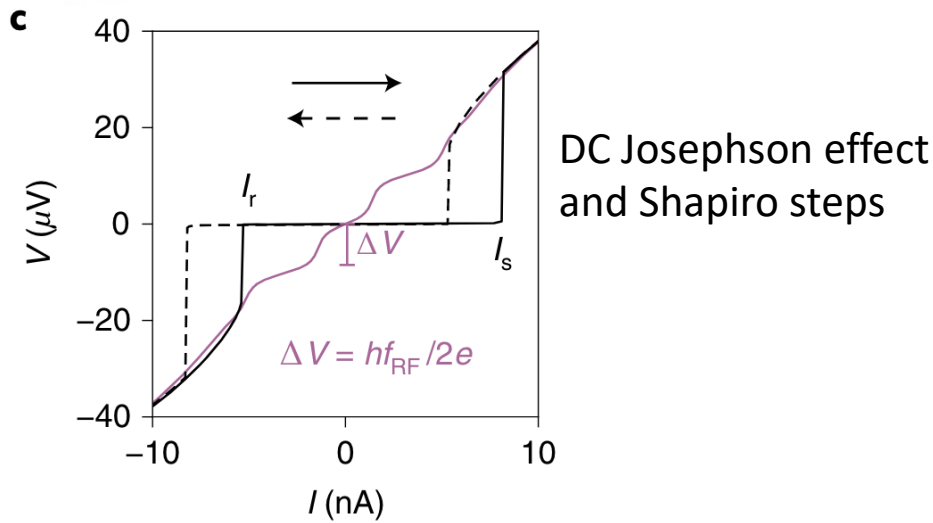
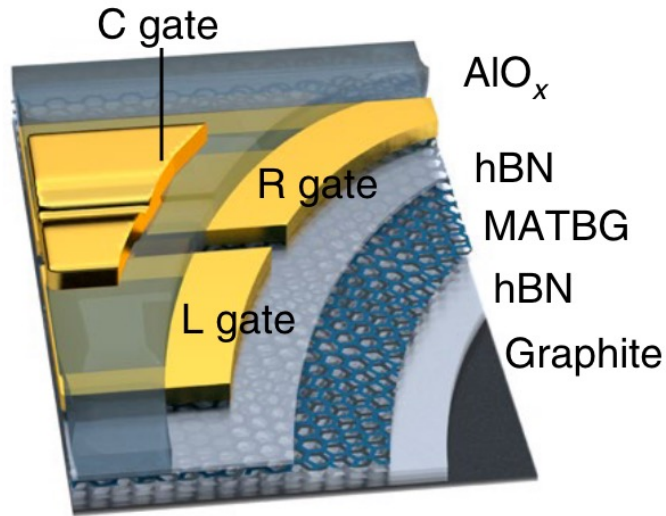
Y. Cao *et al*, Nature **556**, 80 (2018).

# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: superconductivity



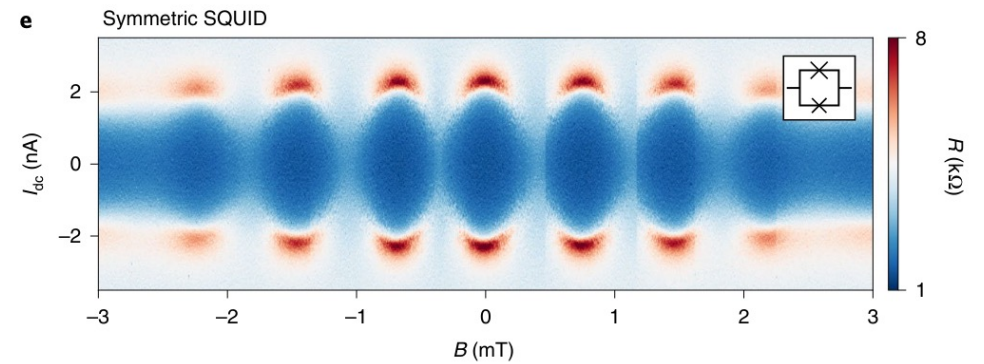
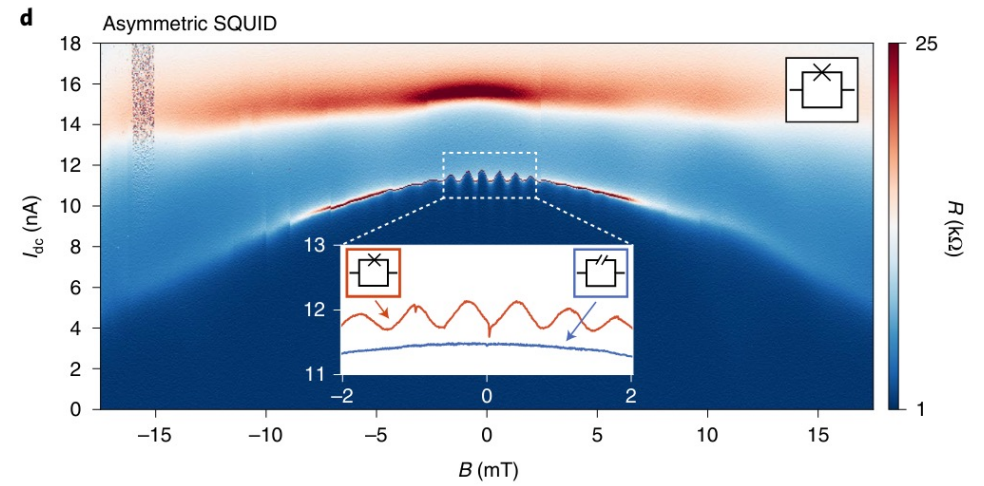
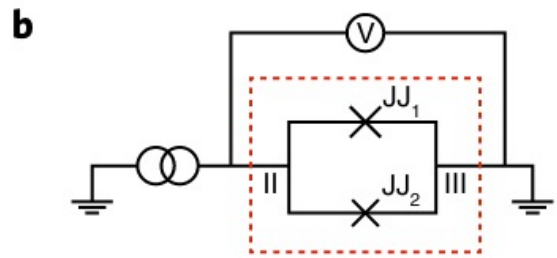
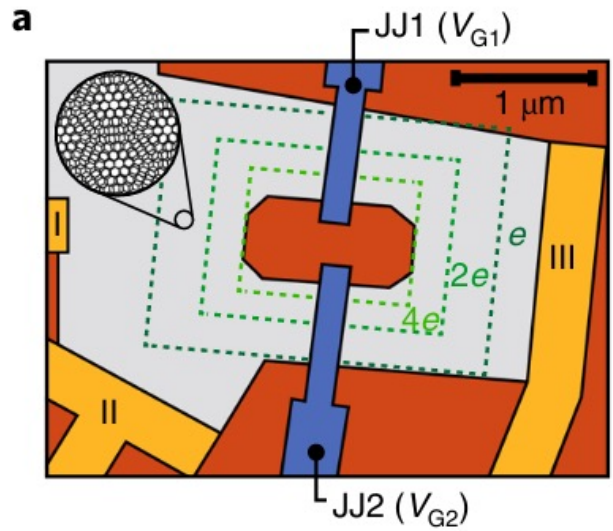
Y. Cao *et al*, Nature **556**, 43 (2018).

# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: gate tunable Josephson junction



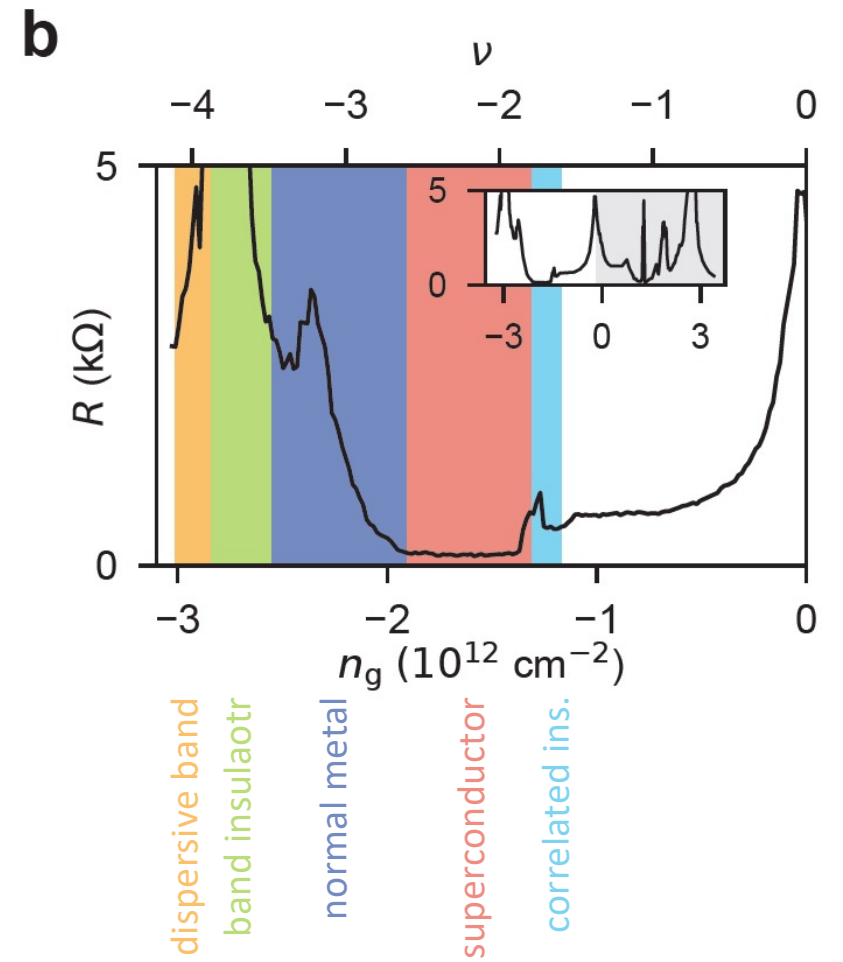
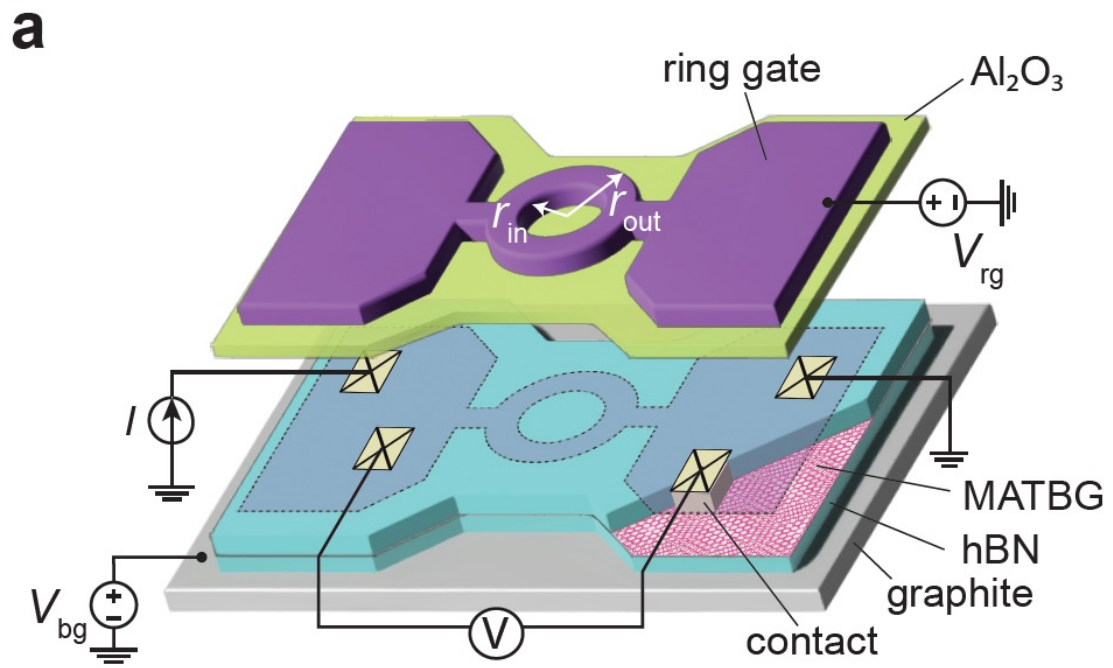
F. K. de Vries *et al*, Nat. Nanotechnol. **16**, 760 (2021).

# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: gate-tunable SQUID



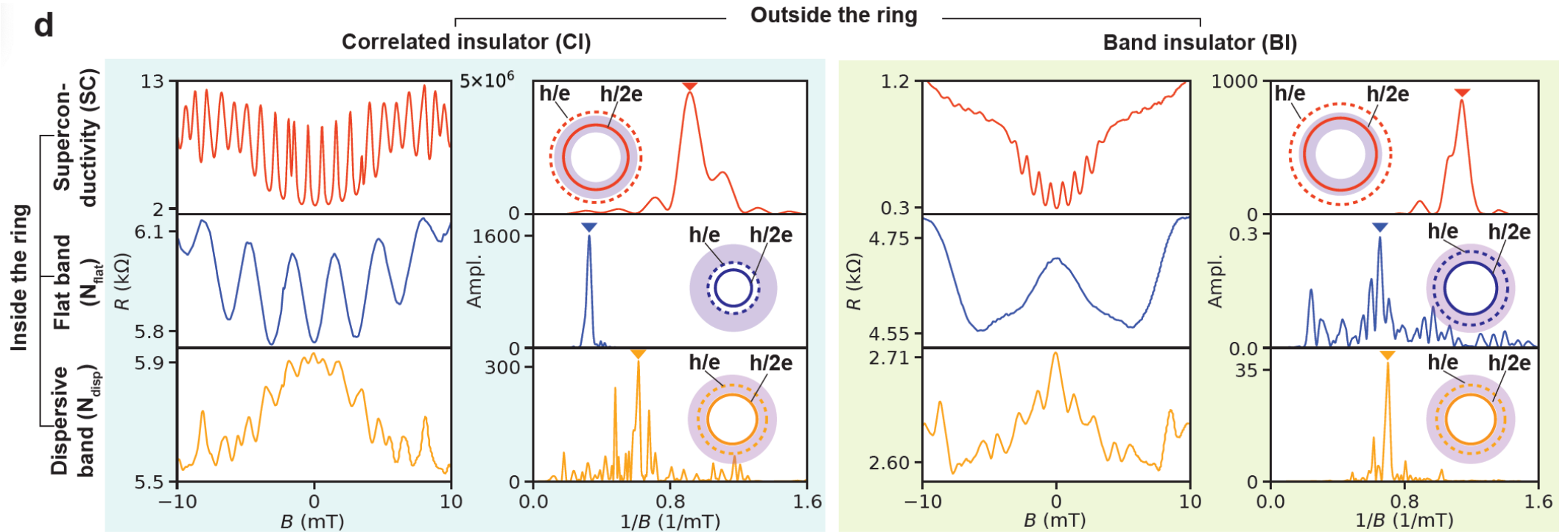
E. Portolés *et al*, 2D Mater. **9**, 014003 (2022).

# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: Little-Parks effect



S. Iwakiri *et al*, arXiv:2308.07400.

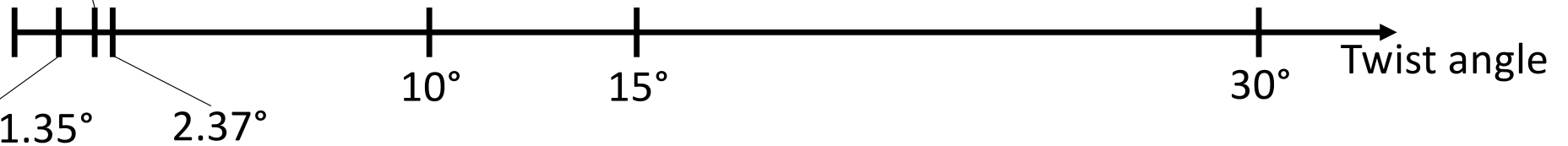
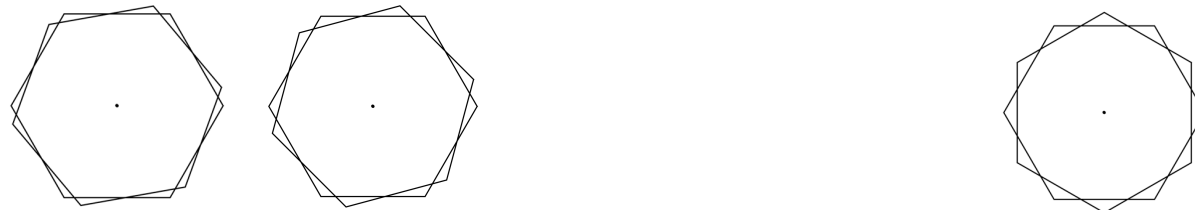
# Magic angle twisted bilayer graphene: Little-Parks effect



S. Iwakiri *et al*, arXiv:2308.07400.

# Twisted double bilayer graphene

X. Liu *et al.*,  
Nature **583**,  
221 (2020)  
**Correlated  
insulator**  
1.26°-2°



G. W. Burg *et al.*,  
Phys. Rev. Lett.  
**123**,  
197702 (2019)

**Correlated  
insulator**

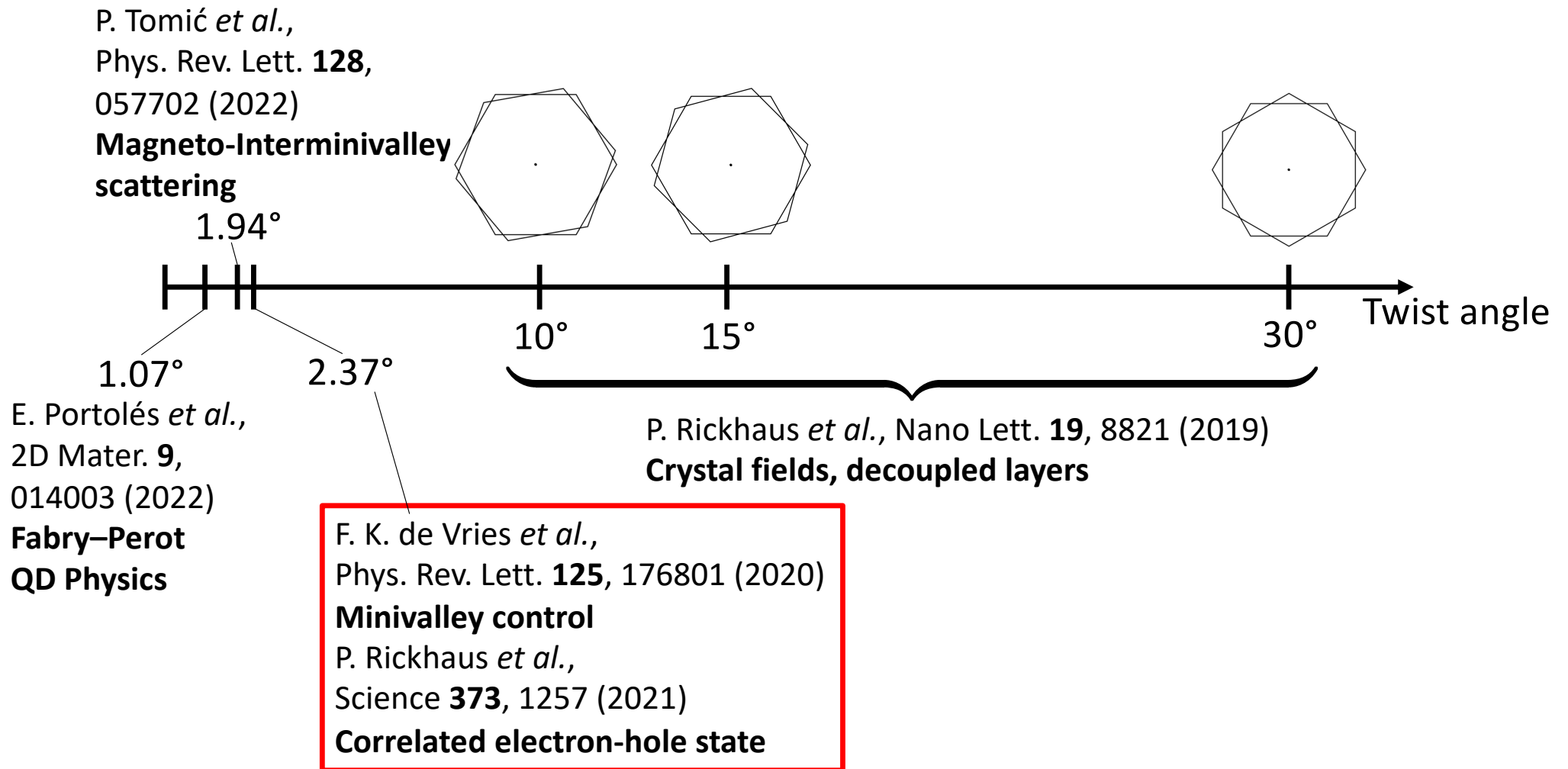
C. Shen *et al.*,  
Nature Phys. **16**,  
520 (2020).

The twist angle is a knob to tune the interlayer coupling:  
large angles: decoupled layers, strongly dispersive bands

small angles: strongly coupled layers, flat bands, correlated states

**intermediate angles: interlayer coupling tunable by gate voltages!**

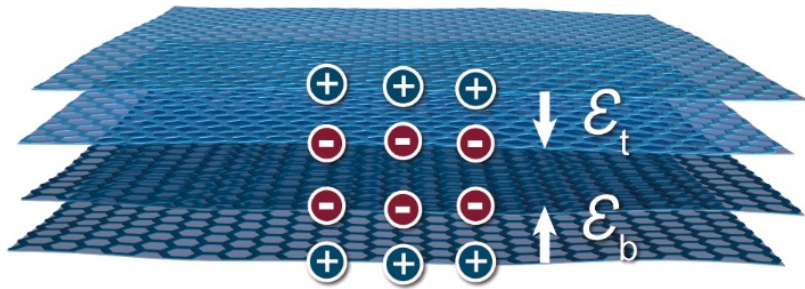
# Our work on twisted double bilayer graphene



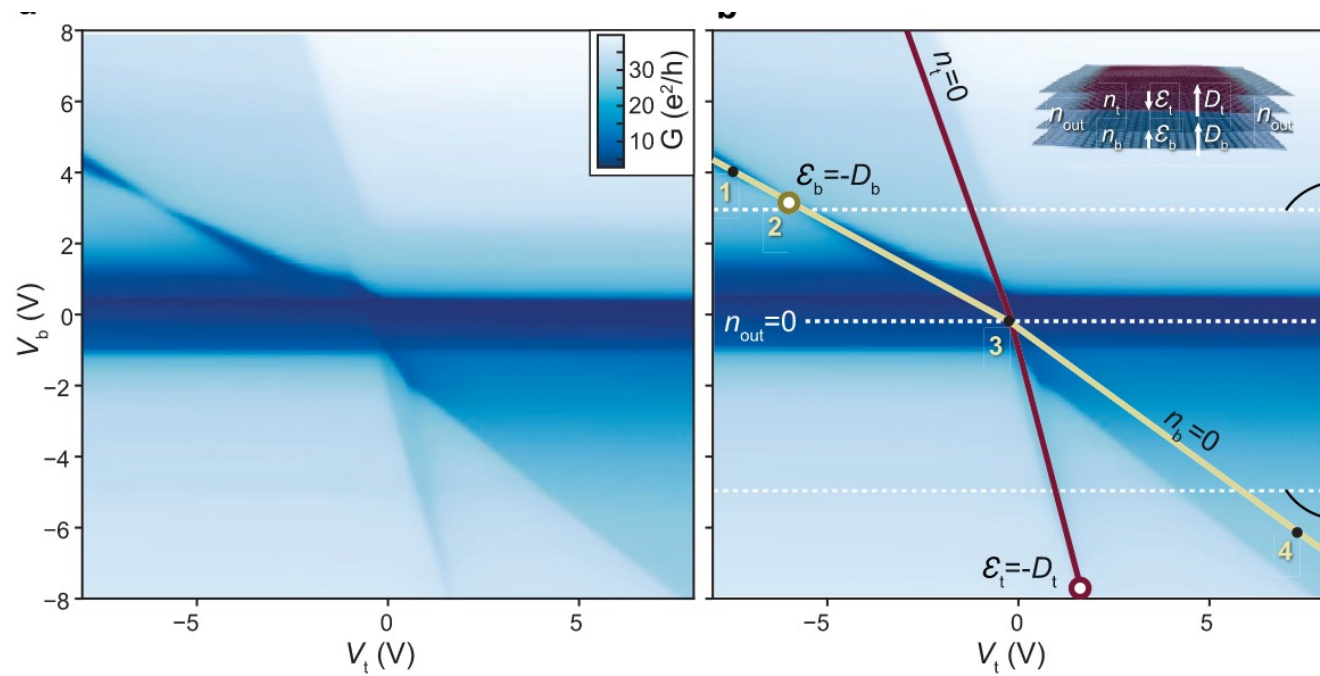


# Decoupled layers:

## Band gap in twisted double bilayer graphene by crystal fields

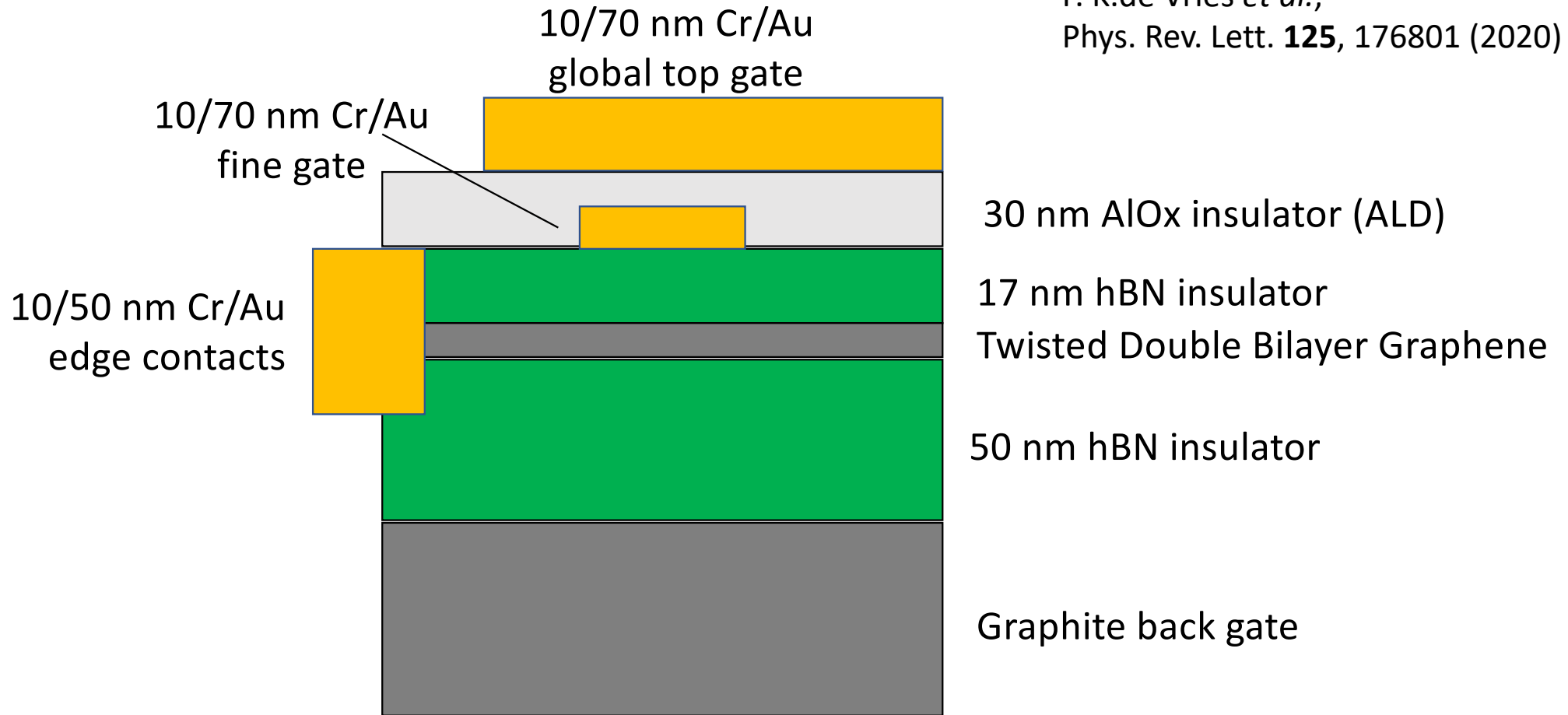


P. Rickhaus *et al*, Nano Lett. **19**, 8821 (2019).



# The $\theta = 2.37^\circ$ stack

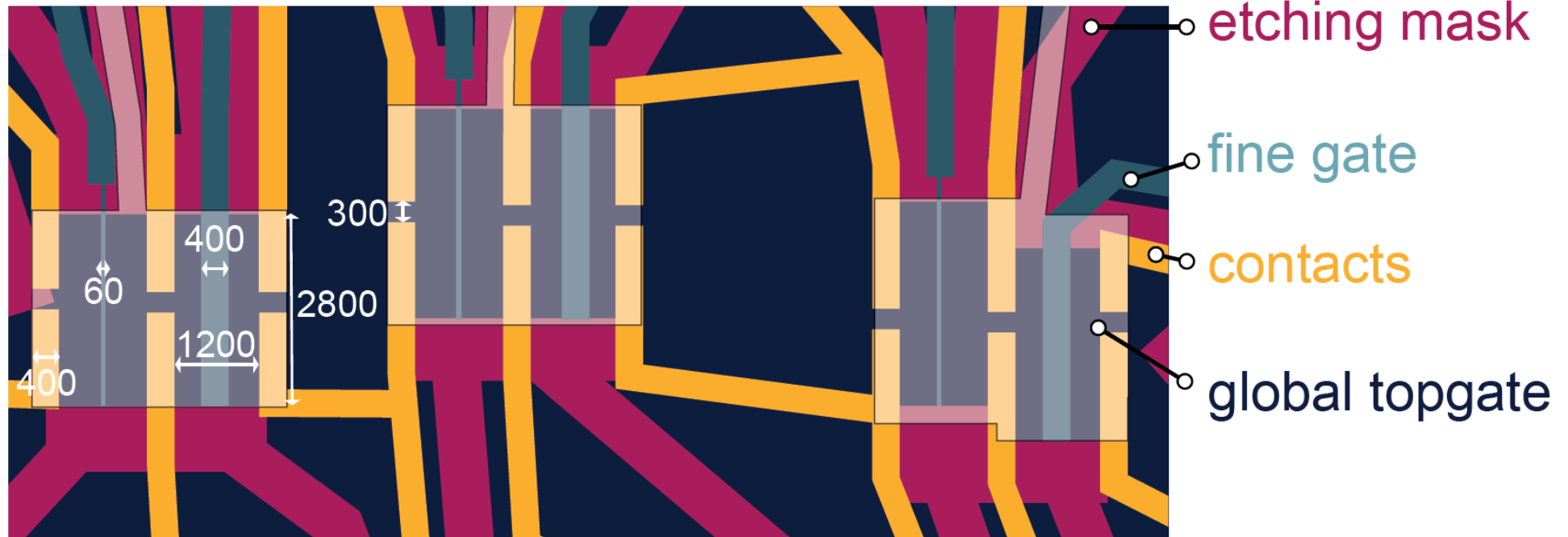
F. K.de Vries *et al.*,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 176801 (2020)



Here: the same gate voltage is applied to the fine gate and the top gate

# Lateral device layout

typical carrier mobility: 25'000 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs  
mean free path: ~ 350 nm  
Moiré lattice constant: ~ 6 nm

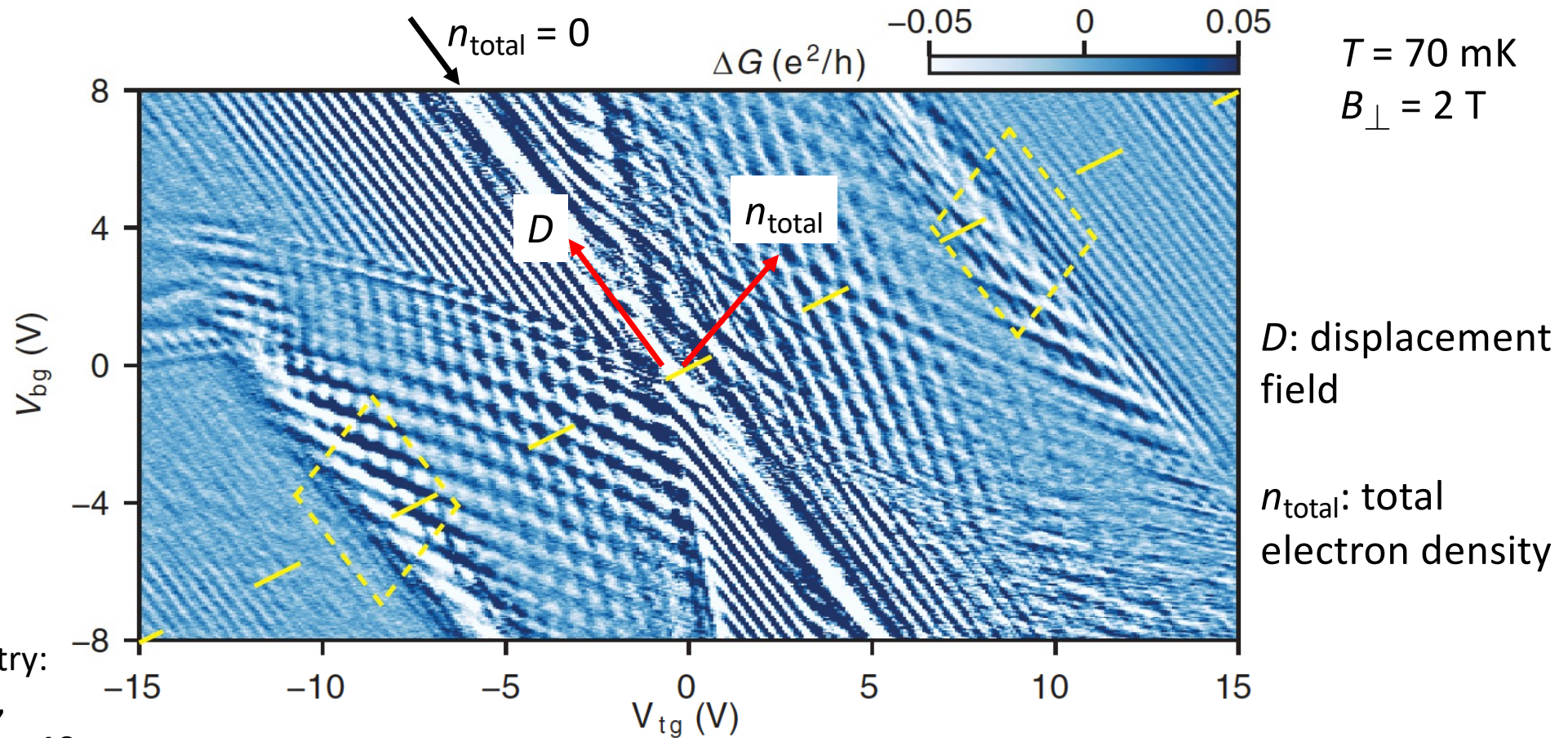


all lengths in nanometers

Here: the same gate voltage is applied to the fine gate and the top gate

# Shubnikov–de Haas oscillations

F. K. de Vries *et al.*,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 176801 (2020).

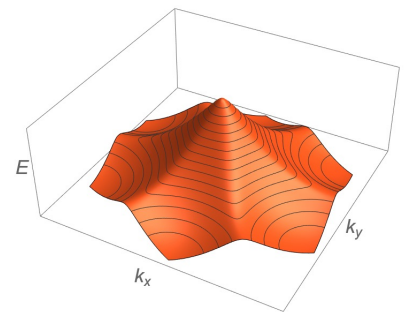
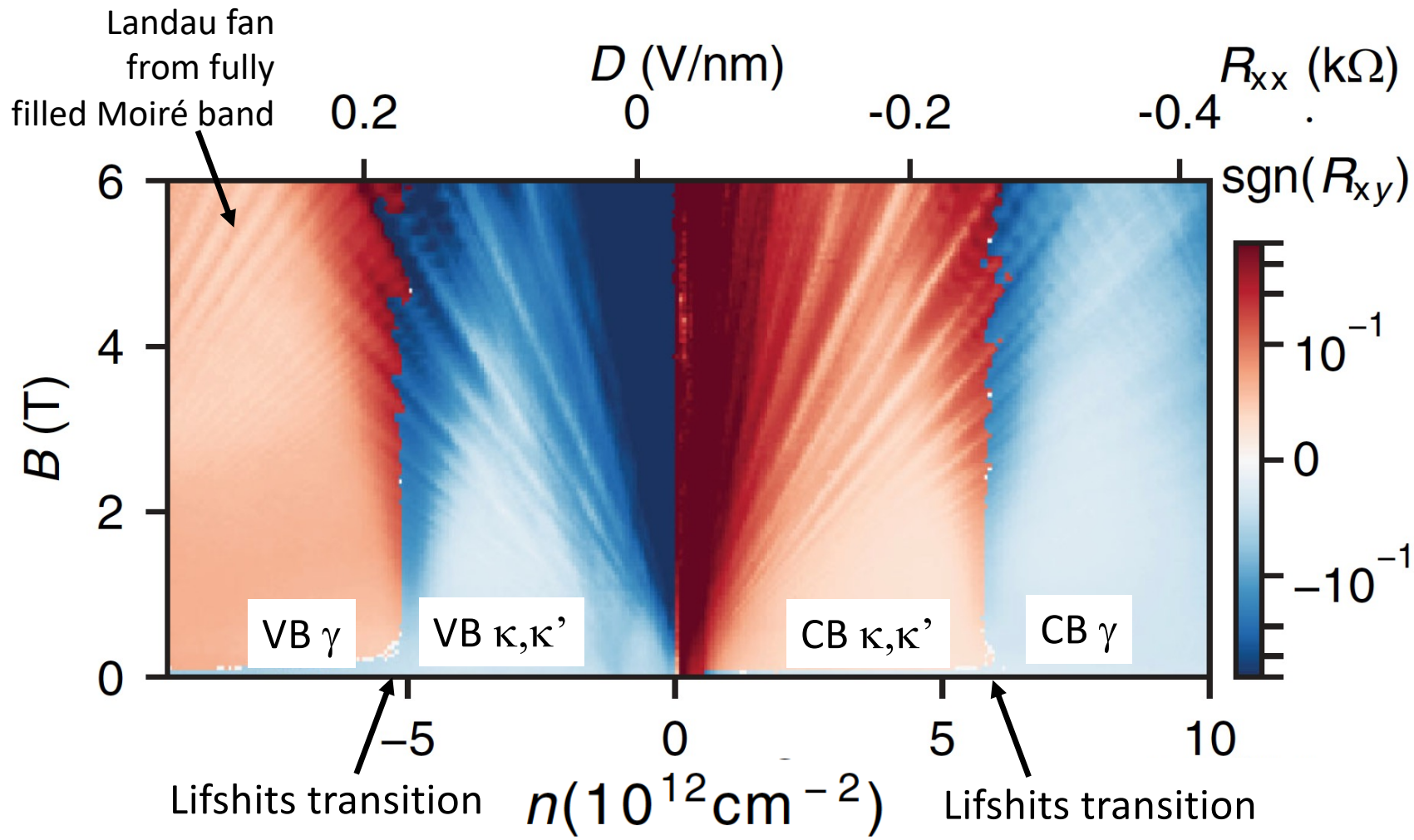


e-h asymmetry:  
J.Y. Lee *et al.*,  
Nat. Commun. **10**,  
5333 (2019)

$\Delta G$ : Smooth background subtracted from raw data

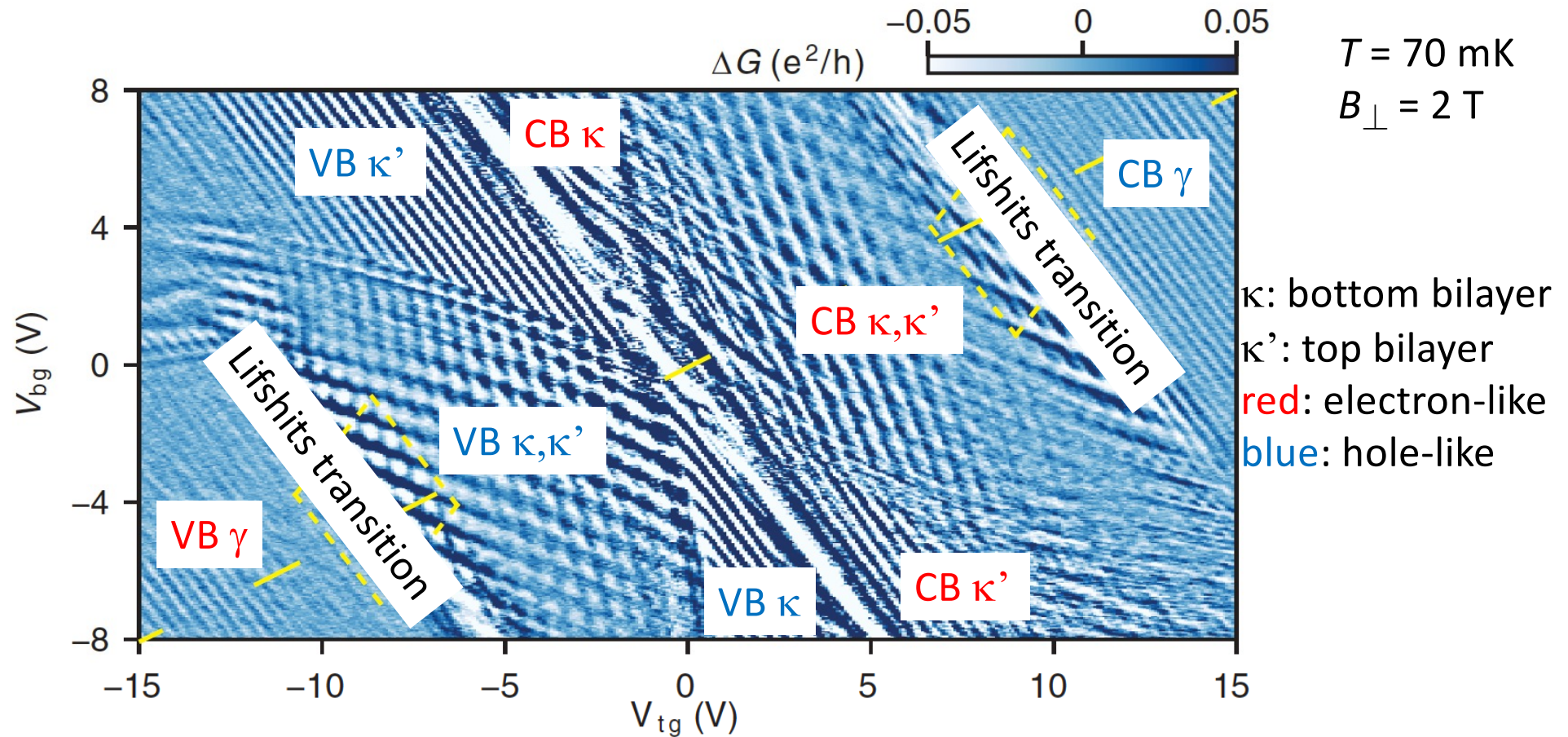
# Shubnikov–de Haas oscillations

F. K. de Vries *et al*,  
 Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 176801 (2020).



# Shubnikov–de Haas oscillations

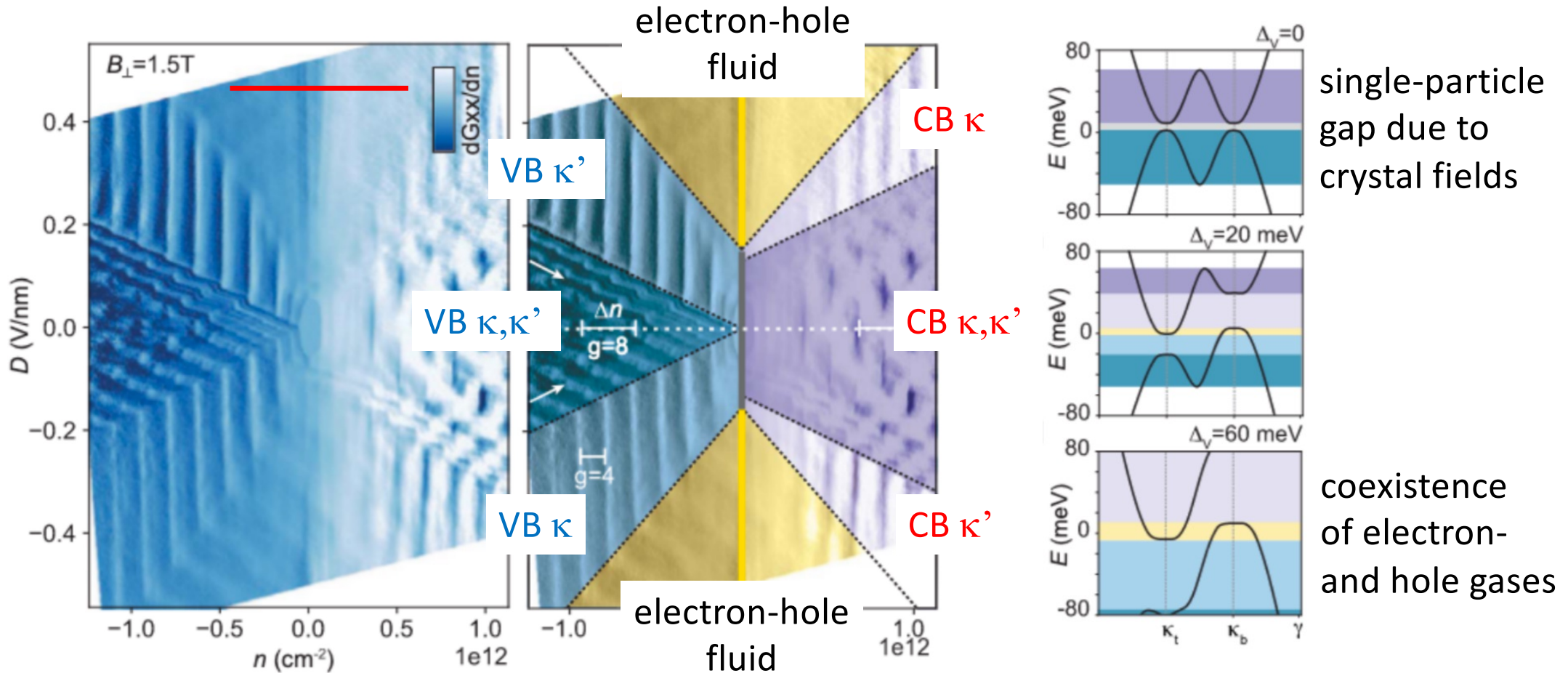
F. K. de Vries *et al*,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 176801 (2020).



$\Delta G$ : Smooth background subtracted from raw data



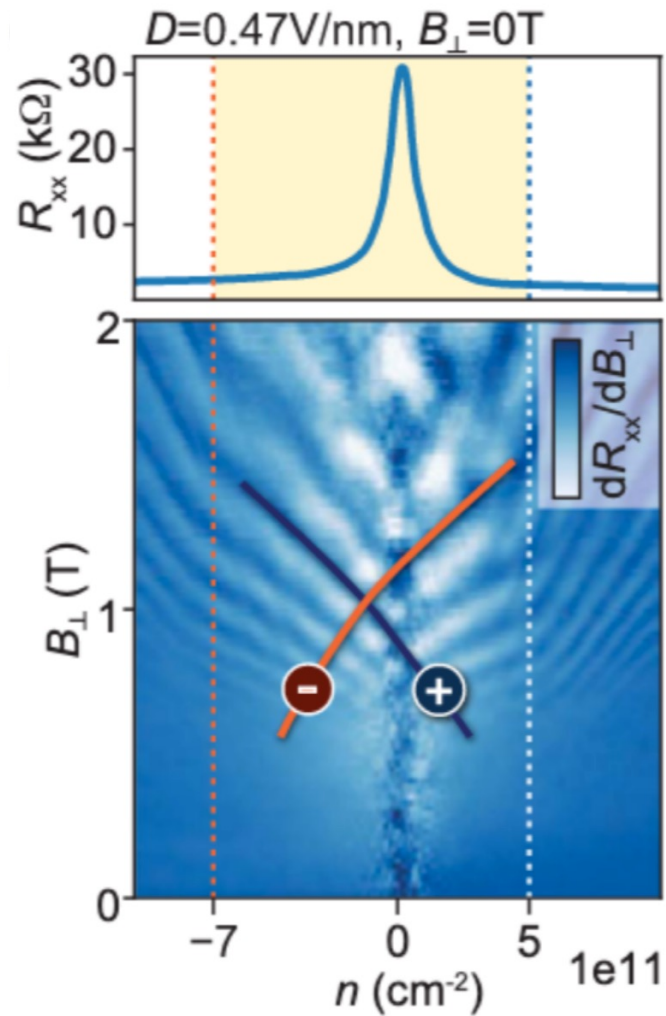
# Coexistence of electrons and holes in the two layers (new device!)



P. Rickhaus *et al.*, Science **373**, 1257 (2021)

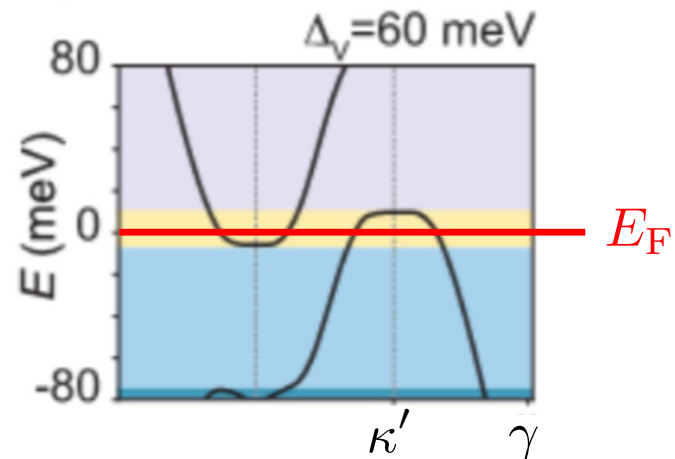


# Coexistence of electron and hole gases



Resistance peak at  $B_{\perp} = 0$ :  
 indicative of an energy gap  
 brought about by electron-hole correlations

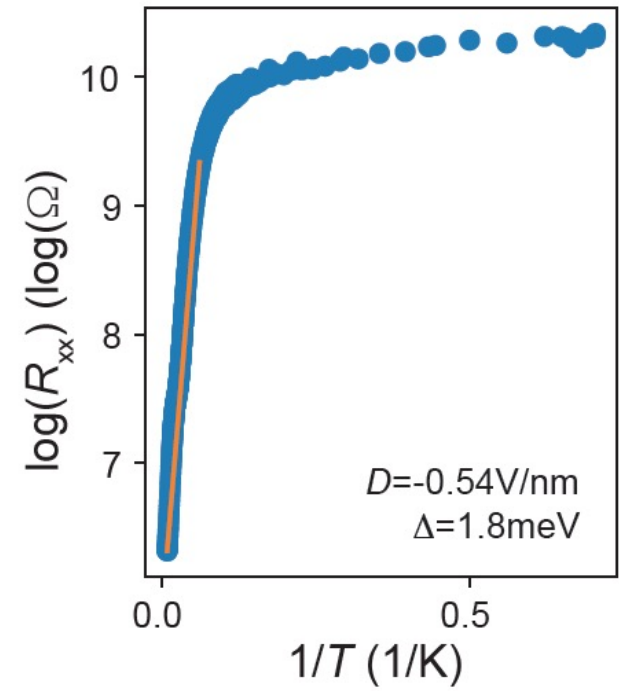
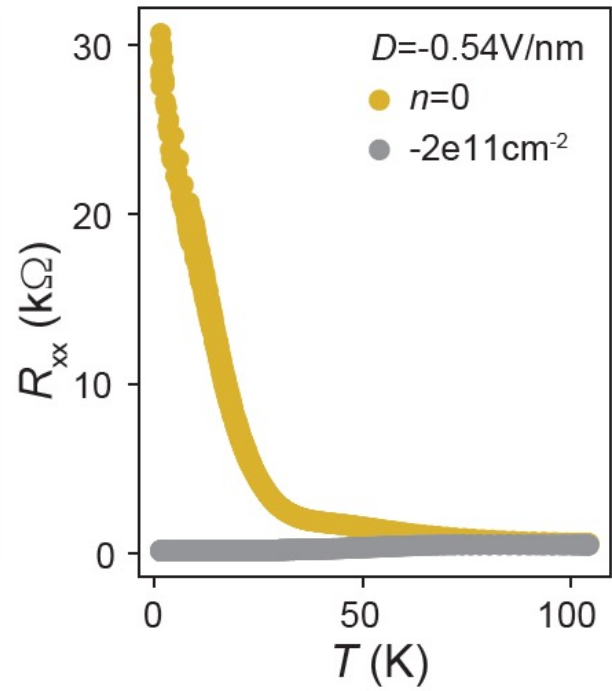
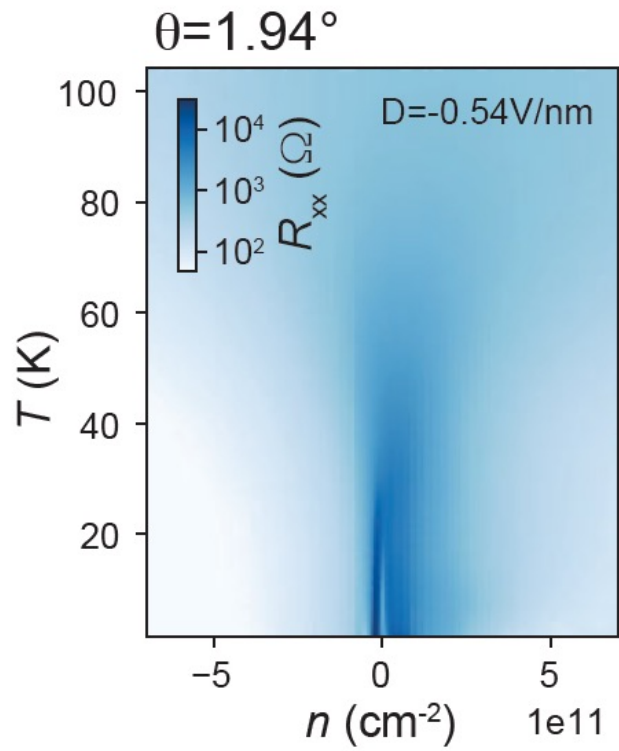
in-plane separation of carriers:  $\sim 10$  nm  
 separation of e/h layers:  $\sim 4$  Å



P. Rickhaus *et al.*, Science **373**, 1257 (2021)

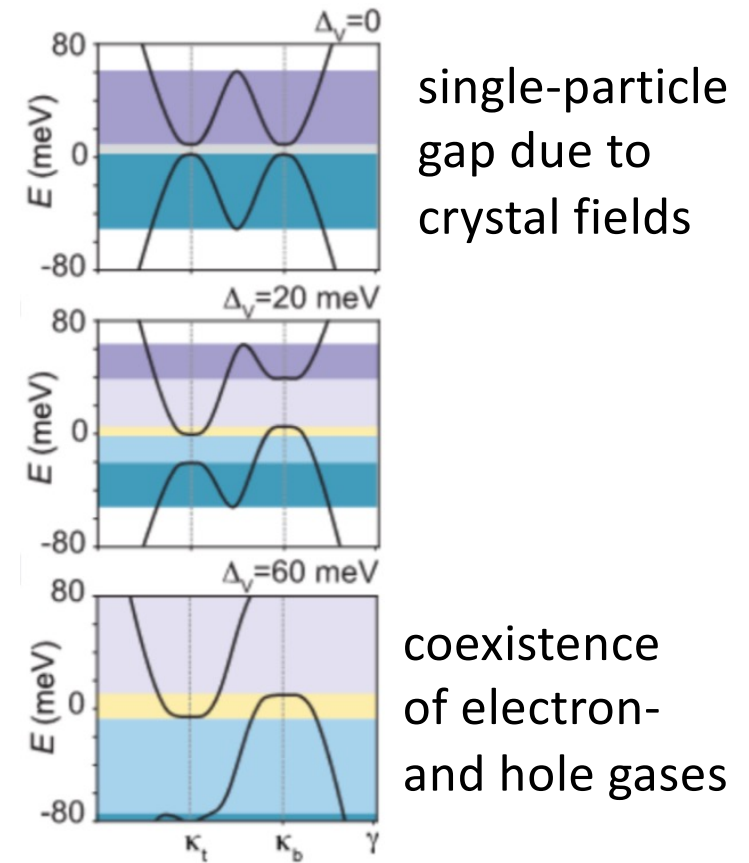
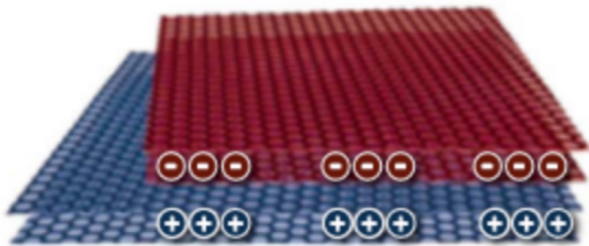
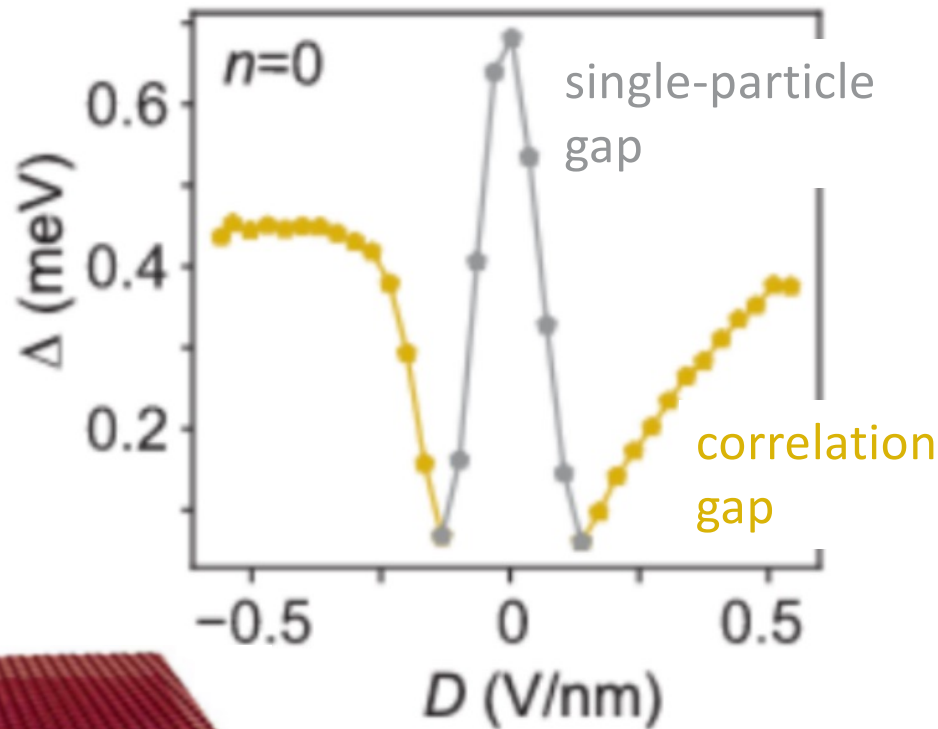
# Quantifying the energy gap

$$R_{xx} \propto \exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2k_B T}\right)$$



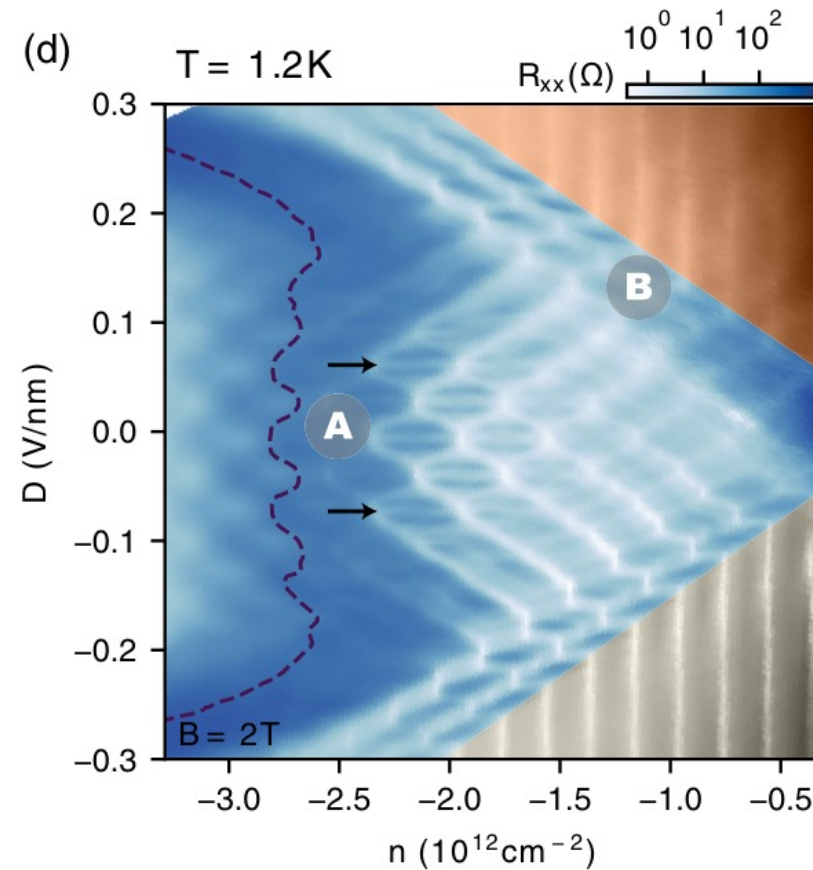
# Energy gap as a function of displacement field

measured at charge neutrality from activation

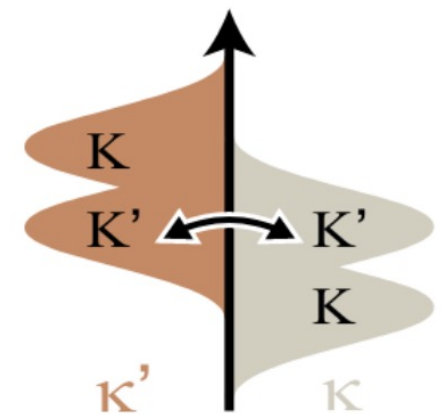


P. Rickhaus *et al.*, Science **373**, 1257 (2021)

# Scattering between minivalleys in twisted double bilayer graphene



Resistance peaks  
analogous to  
magneto-intersubband  
oscillations



P. Tomić *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **128**, 057702 (2022).

# Conclusion

- Twisting 2D materials offers completely new ways of tailoring materials
- The resulting physics is rich and full of surprises
- Twisted materials can be the basis for monolithic devices, in which multiple phases of matter are combined

