Two-body bound state of ultracold Fermi atoms with two-dimensional spin-orbit coupling

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In a recent experiment, a two-dimensional spin-orbit coupling (SOC) was realized for fermions in the continuum [Nat. Phys. 12, 540 (2016)], which represents an important step forward in the study of synthetic gauge fields using cold atoms. In the experiment it was shown that a Raman-induced two-dimensional SOC exists in the dressed-state basis close to a Dirac point of the single-particle spectrum. By contrast, the short-range interatomic interactions of the system are typically expressed in the hyperfine-spin basis. The interplay between synthetic SOC and interactions can potentially lead to interesting few- and many-body phenomena but has so far eluded theoretical attention. Here we study in detail properties of two-body bound states of such a system. We find that, due to the competition between SOC and interaction, the stability region of the two-body bound state is in general reduced. Particularly, the threshold of the lowest two-body bound state is shifted to a positive, SOC-dependent scattering length. Furthermore, the center-of-mass momentum of the lowest two-body bound state becomes nonzero, suggesting the emergence of Fulde-Ferrell pairing states in a many-body setting. Our results reveal the critical difference between the experimentally realized two-dimensional SOC and the more symmetric Rashba or Dresselhaus SOCs in an interacting system, paving the way for future characterizations of topological superfluid states in the experimentally relevant systems.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Spin-orbit coupling (SOC) plays a crucial role in a wide range of physical contexts, including atomic fine structures, high- T_c superconductors, and topological matter [1–3]. The implementation of synthetic SOCs in cold atomic systems thus offers exciting possibilities of quantum simulation using cold atoms [4–49]. Specifically, the recent experimental realizations of two-dimensional (2D) SOC [15-21] opens up the avenue of simulating topological phenomena in higher dimensions. For the 2D SOC realized using the Raman lattice [19–23], the nontrivial topology of single-particle band structures gives rise to dynamic topological phenomena in quench processes and can lead to topologically nontrivial phases when the lowest band is filled with fermions. In contrast, for fermions in the continuum under a Raman-induced 2D SOC [15–18], a topological superfluid phase may be stabilized by introducing a pairing gap at the Fermi surface. However, in these latter systems, the 2D synthetic SOC emerges in the dressed-state basis, whereas the short-range s-wave interaction potentials are diagonal in the hyperfine-spin basis. The interatomic interactions thus acquire a complicated form in

In this work, we study in detail properties of two-body bound states in an ultracold Fermi gas of three-component fermionic atoms with the Raman-induced 2D SOC implemented in Refs. [15-17]. For simplicity, we assume the s-wave interatomic interaction is non-negligible only when the two atoms are in two specific hyperfine states, which is naturally the case when the system is tuned close to an s-wave Feshbach resonance between these two states. We then exactly solve the two-body problem of this system for various scattering lengths a, center-of-mass (CoM) momenta, as well as with different frequencies and intensities of the Raman beams. Our work is therefore a first step toward a systematic understanding of the effects of interaction in these systems.

We focus on the impact of the SOC on the thresholds of two-body bound states. For our system, the two-body bound state of a given CoM momentum \mathbf{K} appears only when 1/ais larger than a threshold value $C_{th}(\mathbf{K})$, i.e., $1/a > C_{th}(\mathbf{K})$. In the absence of SOCs, it is well known that $C_{\rm th}=0$ for the two-body ground state, which features a vanishing CoM momentum $\mathbf{K} = 0$. In the presence of an SOC, the threshold $C_{\rm th}$ would be shifted, which signals the impact of SOC on the stability of two-body bound states. For systems with a highly symmetric synthetic SOC, such as a 2D Rashba- or Dresselhaus-type SOC or a three-dimensional isotropic SOC, it has been shown that [50,51] $C_{\rm th} = -\infty$ for the two-body

the dressed-state basis, which makes it difficult to have a direct understanding of pairing physics therein.

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ground state, which also has $\mathbf{K} = 0$, i.e., the two-body bound state can appear for an arbitrary scattering length. Thus, the stability region of the two-body bound state is significantly extended by symmetric SOCs. Nevertheless, for experimental systems with Raman-induced one-dimensional SOC in the continuum [4-14], previous theoretical [52,53] and experimental [54] studies show that $C_{th} > 0$ for the two-body ground state, which can acquire a finite K in the presence of a finite two-photon detuning. Here, the stability region of the twobody bound state is reduced by the SOC. All these studies show that different types of SOC can induce qualitatively different modifications of C_{th} . Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the influence of the Raman-induced 2D SOC on the threshold C_{th} of the two-body bound state. In this work, we calculate C_{th} for various cases under the experimentally implemented 2D SOC and show that in each case C_{th} is always shifted to a positive value which depends on the CoM momentum, i.e., $C_{th}(\mathbf{K}) > 0$ for any **K**. This result shows that the stability region of the two-body bound state is reduced by the Raman-induced 2D SOC, similar to that under a Ramaninduced one-dimensional SOC.

In addition, we investigate properties of the "ground" two-body bound state, which has the lowest energy under fixed scattering length and Raman beam parameters. We show that the binding energy of the ground bound state is smaller than that without Raman beams. Namely, the Raman-induced SOC makes the ground two-body bound state shallower. Furthermore, the CoM momentum of this ground two-body bound state is nonzero and typically lies in the plane of the 2D SOC. One would therefore expect the emergence of a Fulde-Ferrell pairing state in a many-body system, which would compete with the normal state.

Our results reveal that whereas the Raman-induced 2D SOC can be symmetric in the dressed-state basis on the single-particle level, interatomic interactions break both the rotational and inversion symmetries, giving rise to less stable two-body bound states with finite CoM momenta. These phenomena can be understood by projecting interatomic interactions into the dressed-state basis, where scattering states in the dressed states are momentum dependent. Our work reveals the nontrivial interplay of SOC and interaction in an experimentally relevant system, and provides the necessary basis for future studies of the system on the many-body level.

Our paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we review the coupling scheme for the Raman-induced two-dimensional SOC and present our theoretical approach from which two-body bound-state energies are calculated. We investigate the effects of Raman-induced SOC on the threshold and stability region of the two-body bound state in Sec. III. In Sec. IV we study the lowest two-body bound state. Finally, we summarize in Sec. V. Some details of our calculation and analysis are given in the Appendices.

II. CALCULATION OF TWO-BODY BOUND STATE

We consider two identical ultracold Fermi atoms 1 and 2. As discussed in Refs. [15–17] and shown in Fig. 1, the ground hyperfine states α , β , and γ of each atom are coupled to electronic-orbital excited manifolds ($^2P_{1/2}$ and $^2P_{3/2}$ manifolds) via far-off-resonant Raman laser beams propagating

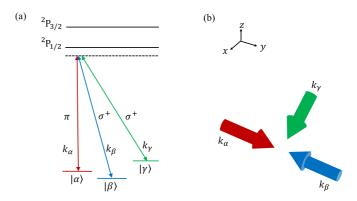


FIG. 1. (a) The schematic diagram of the Raman coupling between the hyperfine states α , β , and γ . In our system each atom has three internal states α , β , and γ , and the two-body interaction appears when one atom is in state α and another atom is in state β . (b) The directions of the Raman laser beams.

along different directions and with wave vectors

$$\mathbf{k}_{\alpha} = k_r \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{v}}, \quad \mathbf{k}_{\beta} = -k_r \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{v}}, \quad \mathbf{k}_{\nu} = k_r \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x}},$$
 (1)

respectively. Here \mathbf{e}_j (j = x, y, z) is the unit vector in the j direction. Notice that in the experiment, the norms of wave vectors of the three Raman beams are approximately the same.

The Raman lasers couple the three hyperfine (internal) states in a pairwise fashion. As a result, in the rotated frame, the free Hamiltonian $H^{(i)}$ for atom i (i = 1, 2) can be expressed as a function of its momentum $\mathbf{p}^{(i)}$:

$$H^{(i)} = H_{1b}(\mathbf{p}^{(i)}) \equiv \sum_{\xi = \alpha, \beta, \gamma} \left[\frac{\left(\mathbf{p}^{(i)} - \mathbf{k}_{\xi}\right)^{2}}{2m} + \delta_{\xi} \right] |\xi\rangle_{ii} \langle \xi|$$
$$- \sum_{\substack{\xi = \alpha, \beta, \gamma \\ \alpha, \beta, \gamma}} \sum_{\substack{\eta = \alpha, \beta, \gamma \\ \alpha, \beta, \gamma}} \frac{\Omega_{\xi\eta}}{2} |\xi\rangle_{ii} \langle \eta|, \tag{2}$$

where m is the single-atom mass, and $|\xi\rangle_i$ ($\xi=\alpha,\beta,\gamma$) is the internal state of atom i, δ_ξ ($\xi=\alpha,\beta,\gamma$) is the effective energy of the state $|\xi\rangle_i$, determined by the detuning of the laser beams. $\Omega_{\xi\eta}$ ($\xi,\eta=\alpha,\beta,\gamma$) is the effective Rabi frequency for the Raman transition between states $|\xi\rangle_i$ and $|\eta\rangle_i$, which satisfies $\Omega_{\xi\eta}=\Omega_{\eta\xi}^*$. Equation (2) shows that the atomic momentum in the x-y plane is coupled to the internal states via terms proportional to $\mathbf{k}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}$, which amounts to the Raman-induced 2D synthetic SOC.

To investigate two-body bound states under this configuration, we write the total Hamiltonian as

$$H = H_F + U, (3)$$

with $H_F = H_{1b}(\mathbf{p}^{(1)}) + H_{1b}(\mathbf{p}^{(2)})$ being the two-body free Hamiltonian and U being the interatomic interaction. In our system, the CoM momentum $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{p}^{(1)} + \mathbf{p}^{(2)}$ is conserved, and thus can be treated as a classical parameter (c number). Accordingly, the two-body free Hamiltonian can be expressed as

$$H_F = H_{1b} \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} + \mathbf{p} \right) + H_{1b} \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} - \mathbf{p} \right), \tag{4}$$

where $\mathbf{p} = (\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2)/2$ is the relative-momentum operator of the two atoms.

When **K** is fixed, we need to study only the quantum state of the two-atom relative spatial motion, as well as the internal states of the atoms. Thus, the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} of our system is given by $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_r \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s2}$, with \mathcal{H}_r being the Hilbert space for the two-atom spatial relative motion and \mathcal{H}_{si} (i = 1, 2) being that for the internal states of atom i. Similar to our previous work [52], we use the symbol $|\rangle$ to denote states in \mathcal{H}_r , $|\rangle$ for states in \mathcal{H}_{motion} , $|\rangle_i$ (i = 1, 2) for states in \mathcal{H}_{si} , and $|\rangle$ for states in $\mathcal{H}_{s1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s2}$.

Furthermore, we assume that when one atom is in the internal state α and the other in β , the interatomic interaction is strong and can be described by the *s*-wave scattering length α ; whereas for all other cases the interactions are negligible. One can experimentally realize such a configuration by tuning the magnetic field B close to a Feshbach resonance of the hyperfine-spin channel corresponding to the singlet state:

$$|S\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\rangle_1|\beta\rangle_2 - |\beta\rangle_1|\alpha\rangle_2). \tag{5}$$

For instance, for an ultracold gas of 40 K atoms, one can choose the internal states $|\alpha\rangle$, $|\beta\rangle$, and $|\gamma\rangle$ to be the hyperfine states $|F=9/2, m_F=-9/2\rangle$, $|F=9/2, m_F=-7/2\rangle$, and $|F=7/2, m_F=-7/2\rangle$, respectively. In this case, a wide magnetic Feshbach resonance exists for the hyperfine channel $|S\rangle$ at 202.1G [55,56]. When the magnetic field is close to this resonance point, the interaction between two atoms in state $|S\rangle$ is strong and tunable through the magnetic field, whereas interactions in other channels should be negligibly small [57].

As we have proved in Ref. [52], regardless of the presence of SOC, the interatomic interaction can always be described by the widely used renormalized contact interaction, with

$$U = \frac{U_0}{(2\pi)^3} |S\rangle\langle S| \otimes \int_{k,k' < k_c} |\mathbf{k}\rangle\langle \mathbf{k}'| d\mathbf{k} d\mathbf{k}'.$$
 (6)

Here $|\mathbf{k}\rangle$ is the eigenstate of the relative-momentum operator \mathbf{p} , and the momentum cutoff k_c satisfies the renormalization relation $(\hbar = 1)$ [52,58,59]:

$$\frac{m}{4\pi a} = \frac{1}{U_0} + \frac{m}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{k'' < k_c} \frac{1}{k''^2} d\mathbf{k}''. \tag{7}$$

Now we calculate the energy \mathcal{E}_b of the two-body bound state $|\Psi_b\rangle$. With straightforward calculations (Appendix A) based on the Schrödinger equation,

$$H|\Psi_b\rangle\rangle = \mathcal{E}_b|\Psi_b\rangle\rangle,$$
 (8)

we find that

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\mathbf{k} J[\mathcal{E}_b, \mathbf{k}; \mathbf{K}] = \frac{1}{4\pi a},\tag{9}$$

where the function $J[\mathcal{E}_b, \mathbf{k}; \mathbf{K}]$ is defined as

$$J[\mathcal{E}_b, \mathbf{k}; \mathbf{K}] = \sum_{\Lambda=1}^{9} \left[\frac{|\langle \Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K} | S \rangle|^2}{m(\mathcal{E}_b - E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}})} + \frac{|\langle \Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K} | S \rangle|^2}{k^2} \right].$$
(10)

Here the two-body hyperfine-spin state $|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle$ $(\Lambda = 1, 2, ..., 9)$ is the Λ th eigenstate of the operator $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}) \equiv H_{1b}(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} + \mathbf{k}) + H_{1b}(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} - \mathbf{k})$ and $E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}}$ is the corresponding

eigenenergy. Notice that in the definition of $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K})$, both \mathbf{K} and \mathbf{k} are c numbers, and thus $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K})$ is an operator in the nine-dimensional Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_{s1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s2}$, and thus the eigenstate $|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle$ of $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K})$ is an element of $\mathcal{H}_{s1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s2}$ [60].

In addition, it is clear that the two-body bound-state energy \mathcal{E}_b should also satisfy

$$\mathcal{E}_b \leqslant E_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{K}),$$
 (11)

where the threshold energy $E_{th}(\mathbf{K})$ is defined as the lowest eigenenergy of the two-body free Hamiltonian H_F for a fixed \mathbf{K} , i.e.,

$$E_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{K}) = \text{Min}[E_{\Lambda \mathbf{k} \mathbf{K}}]. \tag{12}$$

We numerically solve Eq. (10) under condition (11) and obtain the bound-state energy \mathcal{E}_b for each case with given values of scattering length a, Rabi frequencies $\Omega_{\xi\eta}$ ($\xi, \eta = \alpha, \beta, \gamma$), effective energies δ_{ξ} ($\xi = \alpha, \beta, \gamma$), and CoM momentum **K**.

III. THRESHOLD OF TWO-BODY BOUND STATE

In our system, two-body bound states appear only when 1/a is larger than a threshold which we denote as C_{th} , i.e.,

$$\frac{1}{a} \geqslant C_{\text{th}}.\tag{13}$$

In the absence of SOCs, it is well known that $C_{\rm th}=0$ for *s*-wave interactions in three dimensions. In the presence of the SOC, the location of the threshold $C_{\rm th}$ depends on the form of SOC, the dimensionality of the system, as well as the CoM momentum of the bound state. Specifically, for the Ramaninduced 2D SOC considered here, the threshold depends on the *x* and *y* components of the CoM momentum \mathbf{K} , i.e., $C_{\rm th}=C_{\rm th}(\mathbf{K})=C_{\rm th}(K_x,K_y)$.

We numerically calculate $C_{\rm th}$ via the approach shown in Sec. II and illustrate our results for typical experimental parameters with real [15] and complex [16] effective Rabi frequencies, respectively. In Figs. 2(a)–2(c) and Figs. 3(a)–3(c) we show $C_{\rm th}$ as a function of (K_x, K_y) , while in Figs. 2(d) and 3(d), $C_{\rm th}$ is plotted as a function of $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$. In addition, we systematically characterize the behavior of $C_{\rm th}$ with varying Rabi frequencies and detunings, and show the results in Appendix B. All these results clearly show that, in the presence of SOC, we always have

$$C_{\rm th}(K_x, K_y) > 0, \tag{14}$$

which suggests that, on the "1/a axis," the parameter regime for the existence of two-body bound states is reduced by the Raman-induced SOC. In other words, the two-body bound state becomes more difficult to form under the Raman-induced 2D SOC.

The result above is similar to those under Raman-induced one-dimensional SOCs [52–54]. In comparison, previous studies [50] on three-dimensional Fermi gases under the 2D Rashba- and Dresselhaus-type SOCs show that for such systems $C_{\rm th} = -\infty$, i.e., the two-body bound state can always be formed at an arbitrary scattering length. The stability region for the two-body bound state is therefore significantly broadened by the Rashba- or Dresselhaus-type SOCs. Thus, our

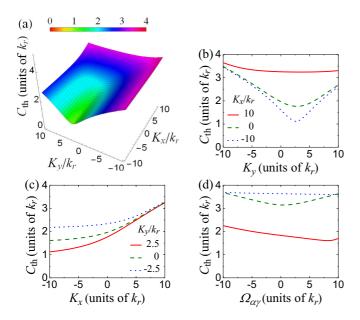


FIG. 2. The two-body bound-state threshold C_{th} for systems under the scheme of Ref. [15], with typical experimental parameters: $\Omega_{\alpha\beta} = 3.58E_r$, $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma} = -3.94E_r$, $\Omega_{\beta\gamma} = -4.66E_r$, $\delta_{\alpha} = 0$, $\delta_{\beta} = -5.14E_r$, and $\delta_{\gamma} = -3.23E_r$. (a) C_{th} as a function of CoM momentum (K_x, K_y) . (b) C_{th} as a function K_y for $K_x = 10k_r$ (red solid line), $K_x = 0k_r$ (green dashed line), $K_x = -10k_r$ (blue dotted line). (c) C_{th} as a function K_x for $K_y = 2.5k_r$ (red solid line), $K_y = 0k_r$ (green dashed line), $K_y = -2.5k_r$ (blue dotted line). (d) The threshold $C_{th}(K_x, K_y)$ as a function of the effective Rabi frequency $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$ for cases with CoM momentum $(K_x, K_y) = (0, 0)$ (red solid line), $(K_x, K_y) = (10k_r, 10k_r)$ (green dashed line), and $(K_x, K_y) = (10k_r, -10k_r)$ (blue dotted line).

result for the Raman-induced 2D SOC is in sharp contrast with these results and highlights the critical difference between the Raman-induced 2D SOC and the more symmetric Rashba or Dresselhaus SOCs in interacting systems.

Furthermore, as illustrated in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) and Figs. 3(a) and 3(b), the bound-state threshold $C_{\rm th}$ increases with the CoM momentum $|K_y|$, i.e., the two-body bound state is more difficult to form when $|K_y|$ is large. This can be understood as the following. In the two-body free Hamiltonian H_F , the component K_y contributes a term

$$W \equiv \frac{K_y k_r}{2m} \sum_{j=1,2} (|\beta\rangle_{jj} \langle \beta| - |\alpha\rangle_{jj} \langle \alpha|), \tag{15}$$

which is proportional to the SOC intensity k_r . Under the influence of this term and for a large enough $|K_y|$, the threshold energy $E_{\rm th}(\mathbf{K})$ would decrease with increasing $|K_y|$. As a result, the stability region of the bound state \mathcal{E}_b , shown in Eq. (11), would be reduced by the increase of $|K_y|$, rendering the two-body bound state more difficult to form. For a similar reason, the critical value $C_{\rm th}$ also becomes very large when K_x takes a *positive* large value and tends to a constant when K_x takes a *negative* large value, as shown in Figs. 2(a), 2(c), 3(a), and 3(c). In Appendix C, we show a more detailed explanation for this physical picture.

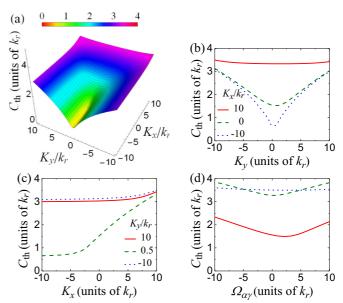


FIG. 3. The two-body bound-state threshold C_{th} for systems under the scheme of Ref. [16] with typical experimental parameters: $\Omega_{\alpha\beta} = -2.49(1+i)E_r$, $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma} = 3.86E_r$, $\Omega_{\beta\gamma} = 4.58E_r$, $\delta_{\alpha} = 0$, $\delta_{\beta} = -0.5E_r$, and $\delta_{\gamma} = -1.8E_r$. (a) C_{th} as a function of CoM momentum (K_x, K_y) . (b) C_{th} as a function K_y for $K_x = 10k_r$ (red solid line), $K_x = 0k_r$ (green dashed line), and $K_x = -10k_r$ (blue dotted line). (c) C_{th} as a function K_x for $K_y = 10k_r$ (red solid line), $K_y = 0.5k_r$ (green dashed line), and $K_y = -10k_r$ (blue dotted line). (d) The threshold C_{th} as a function of the effective Rabi frequency $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$ for cases with CoM momentum $(K_x, K_y) = (0, 0)$ (red solid line), $(K_x, K_y) = (10k_r, 10k_r)$ (green dashed line), and $(K_x, K_y) = (10k_r, -10k_r)$ (blue dotted line).

IV. PROPERTIES OF TWO-BODY BOUND STATE

In this section we investigate the properties of the two-body bound state. For the convenience of our discussion, we define the two-body bound state with the *lowest* energy in the **K** space as the *ground bound state* and denote the energy of this bound state as $\mathcal{E}_b^{\text{ground}}$. Namely, for any given scattering length a and the laser parameters, $\mathcal{E}_b^{\text{ground}}$ is the minimum value of the bound-state energy $E_b(\mathbf{K})$ in the **K** space, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{E}_b^{\text{ground}} = \text{Min}[E_b(\mathbf{K})]. \tag{16}$$

In addition, we introduce two parameters $C_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ and $E_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$, which are defined as the minimum values of the threshold $C_{\rm th}(K_x, K_y)$ and the threshold energy $E_{\rm th}(\mathbf{K})$ in the **K** space, respectively. That is, we have

$$C_{\rm th}^{\rm min} \equiv {\rm Min}[C_{\rm th}(K_x, K_y)] \tag{17}$$

and

$$E_{\rm th}^{\rm min} \equiv {\rm Min}[E_{\rm th}(\mathbf{K})]. \tag{18}$$

According to the above definitions, when the condition $1/a > C_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ is satisfied, two-body bound states can appear in some region of the **K** space. However, as $\mathcal{E}_b^{\rm ground}$ and $E_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ typically occur at different CoM momentum **K**, $\mathcal{E}_b^{\rm ground}$ can be lower than $E_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ only when 1/a is larger than another critical

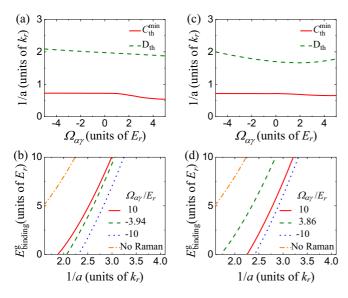


FIG. 4. (a), (b) The properties of a two-body bound state for systems with real effective Rabi frequencies, as in Ref. [15]. (a) The thresholds $C_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ and $D_{\rm th}$ as functions of $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$. (b) Binding energy $E_{\rm binding}^g$ as a function of 1/a for $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-3.94E_r$, $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-10E_r$, and $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=10E_r$, as well as the curve $E_{\rm binding}^g=-1/(ma^2)$ for the case without Raman beams (orange dashed-dotted line). All the other parameters of (a), (b) are same as in Fig. 2(a). (c), (d) The properties of a two-body bound state for the systems with complex effective Rabi frequencies, as in Ref. [16]. (c) The thresholds $C_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ and $D_{\rm th}$ as functions of $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$. (d) Binding energy $E_{\rm binding}^g$ as a function of 1/a for $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=3.86E_r$, $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-10E_r$, and $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=10E_r$, as well as the curve $E_{\rm binding}^g=-1/(ma^2)$ for the case without Raman beams (orange dashed-dotted line). All the other parameters of (c), (d) are same as in Fig. 3(a).

value D_{th} , with $D_{th} > C_{th}^{min}$, i.e., we have

$$E_b^{\text{ground}} < E_{\text{th}}^{\min}, \quad \text{for } \frac{1}{a} > D_{\text{th}}.$$
 (19)

In Figs. 4(a) and 4(c), we illustrate $C_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ and $D_{\rm th}$ as functions of the Rabi frequencies under different experimental schemes. Importantly, stable two-body bound states exist only for $1/a > D_{\rm th}$. On one hand, when

$$C_{\rm th}^{\rm min} < \frac{1}{a} < D_{\rm th},\tag{20}$$

the energies of all the two-body bound states are higher than $E_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$, and $\mathcal{E}_b(\mathbf{K})$ crosses $E_{\rm th}(\mathbf{K})$ in the \mathbf{K} space. It is clear that $E_{\rm th}^{\rm min}$ is the minimal eigenenergy of the two-body free Hamiltonian H_F , which is the lower bound of the energies of the two-body scattering states. Thus, under the condition (20), for any two-body bound state, there are always some scattering states with lower energies, albeit at different CoM momentum than the bound state. It follows that in a many-body system, these two-body bound states are unstable and can decay to the scattering-state continuum via three-atom or four-atom collisions. On the other hand, when the condition

$$\frac{1}{a} > D_{\text{th}} \tag{21}$$

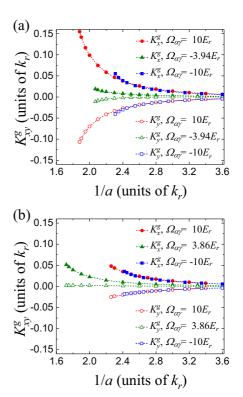


FIG. 5. (a) The CoM momentum K_x^g (filled symbols) and K_y^g (empty symbols) of the ground two-body bound state, as a function of 1/a, for $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=10E_r$ (red circles), $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-3.94E_r$ (green triangles), and $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-10E_r$ (blue squares). All the other parameters of (a) are the same as in Fig. 2(a). (b) The CoM momentum K_x^g (filled symbols) and K_y^g (empty symbols) of the ground two-body bound state, as a function of 1/a, $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=10E_r$ (red circles), $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=3.86E_r$ (green triangles), and $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}=-10E_r$ (blue squares). All the other parameters of (b) are the same as in Fig. 3(a).

is satisfied, $\mathcal{E}_b^{\text{ground}}$ would be lower than the minimal energy E_{th}^{\min} of the scattering states, and the ground bound state is stable.

In the following, we investigate the property of the ground bound state under the condition (21). For convenience, we denote the CoM momentum corresponding to the ground bound state as $\mathbf{K}^g = (K_x^g, K_y^g, K_z^g)$. We also define the binding energy of the ground bound state as

$$E_{\text{binding}}^g \equiv E_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{K}^g) - \mathcal{E}_b(\mathbf{K}^g). \tag{22}$$

In the absence of SOC, we have $\mathbf{K}^g = 0$ and $E_{\text{binding}}^g = 1/(ma^2)$. For our systems with Raman-induced 2D SOC, as shown in Figs. 4(b) and 4(d), E_{binding}^g becomes smaller than $1/(ma^2)$, i.e., the bound state becomes shallower. Furthermore, in the presence of SOC, we still have $K_z^g = 0$ whereas (K_x^g, K_y^g) becomes nonzero, since the ground two-body bound state has nonzero CoM momentum, as illustrated in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b).

The existence of a ground bound state with a finite CoM momentum suggests the emergence of Fulde-Ferrell pairing states in a many-body setting. Similar to the SOC-induced Fulde-Ferrell states discussed previously [28], the appearance of the finite CoM momentum pairing is due to the explicit

breaking of rotational symmetry in the single-particle spectrum.

At the end of this section, we emphasis that since the threshold $C_{\text{th}}(\mathbf{K})$ tends to positive infinity in the limit $|K_y| \to +\infty$ or $K_x \to +\infty$, for any given scattering length a, the condition $1/a > C_{\text{th}}(K_x, K_y)$ can never be satisfied when $|K_y|$ or K_x is too large, and the two-body bound state appears only for sufficiently small $|K_y|$ and K_x .

V. SUMMARY

In summary, we have studied two-body bound states for fermions under the Raman-induced two-dimensional SOC and with s-wave interactions. While the presence of SOC reduces the stability of two-body bound states, the ground two-body bound state acquires a finite CoM momentum in the x-y plane as SOC breaks rotational symmetry of the single-particle spectrum. Based on these results, we expect that for a many-body system on the mean-field level, competition between Fulde-Ferrell pairing states and normal states should give rise to a rich phase diagram. Such a competition is induced by the interplay of the two-dimensional SOC in the dressed-state basis and contact interaction in the hyperfine-spin basis. In the future, it would be interesting to further explore the stability of a possible topological Fulde-Ferrell pairing state in the system.

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APPENDIX A: DERIVATION OF EQ. (9)

In this Appendix we show how to derive Eq. (9) in the main text. Here our notations for various Hilbert spaces and the quantum states in each space are the same as those in Sec. II. Substituting Eq. (3) into the Schrödinger equation (8), we obtain

$$|\Psi_b\rangle\rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_b - H_F} U |\Psi_b\rangle\rangle.$$
 (A1)

Furthermore, the interaction U defined in Eq. (6) can be reexpressed as a separable form

$$U = U_0 |S\rangle\langle S| \otimes |\phi\rangle\langle \phi|, \tag{A2}$$

with the state $|\phi\rangle$ being defined as

$$|\phi\rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \int_{k < k_c} d\mathbf{k} |\mathbf{k}\rangle. \tag{A3}$$

Substituting Eq. (A2) into Eq. (A1), we further derive

$$\chi_b = U_0 \langle S | (\phi | \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_b - H_E} | \phi) | S \rangle \chi_b, \tag{A4}$$

with $\chi_b = \langle S | (\phi | \Psi_b \rangle)$. Equation (A4) yields

$$\frac{1}{U_0} = \langle S | (\phi | \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_b - H_E} | \phi) | S \rangle. \tag{A5}$$

On the other hand, as shown in Sec. II, we define the twobody internal state $|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{s1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{s2}$ ($\Lambda = 1, 2, ..., 9$) and the energy $E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}}$ as the Λ th eigenstate of the operator $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}) \equiv H_{1b}(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} + \mathbf{k}) + H_{1b}(\frac{\mathbf{K}}{2} - \mathbf{k})$ and the corresponding eigenenergy, respectively. Thus, the eigenstate of the operator H_F , which should be a vector in the complete Hilbert space \mathcal{H} , is the product state $|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle |\mathbf{k}\rangle$, and the corresponding eigenenergy is just $E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}}$. Namely, we have

$$H_F|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle|\mathbf{k}\rangle = E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}}|\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle|\mathbf{k}\rangle.$$
 (A6)

Using this result, we can reexpress the operator $1/(\mathcal{E}_b - H_F)$ as

$$\frac{1}{\mathcal{E}_b - H_F} = \int d\mathbf{k} \sum_{\Lambda=1}^{9} \frac{|\mathbf{k}\rangle\langle\mathbf{k}| \otimes |\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}\rangle\langle\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}|}{\mathcal{E}_b - E_{\Lambda, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K}}}.$$
 (A7)

Substituting Eq. (A7) and the renormalization relation (7) into Eq. (A5), we obtain

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{k < k} d\mathbf{k} J[\mathcal{E}_b, \mathbf{k}; \mathbf{K}] = \frac{1}{4\pi a}, \tag{A8}$$

with the function $J[\mathcal{E}_b, \mathbf{k}; \mathbf{K}]$ being defined in Eq. (10). Taking $k_c \to \infty$ for Eq. (A8), we immediately derive Eq. (9).

APPENDIX B: C_{th} UNDER OTHER PARAMETERS

As mentioned in Sec. III, we numerically calculate the threshold C_{th} of the two-body bound state, following experimental systems with real [15] and complex [16] effective Rabi frequencies. Some results are shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the main text. Here we illustrate the results for more cases with various Rabi frequencies $\Omega_{\alpha\beta(\alpha\gamma)}$ and detunings $\delta_{\beta(\gamma)}$ in Figs. 6 and 7. All our results support our conclusion in the main text that C_{th} is shifted to the positive side of the 1/a axis.

APPENDIX C: THRESHOLD OF BOUND STATE FOR LARGE K_y AND K_x

As illustrated in Sec. III, the threshold $C_{\rm th}$ of the two-body bound state becomes very large in the limit $|K_y| \to \infty$ or $K_x \to +\infty$. This is because, in such limits, the threshold energy $E_{\rm th}$ becomes very low, which makes the bound state difficult to form. In this Appendix, we show some detailed analysis supporting this picture.

For the convenience of our discussion, here we denote the Hilbert space where the atoms are in the two-body internal states $|i\rangle_1|j\rangle_2$ $(i,j=\alpha,\beta)$ as $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}$ and denote the space with the atoms being in $|\gamma\rangle_1|j\rangle_2$ or $|j\rangle_1|\gamma\rangle_2$ $(j=\alpha,\beta)$ as \mathcal{H}_{γ} . It is clear that the total Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is the direct sum of these two spaces, i.e., $\mathcal{H}=\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}\oplus\mathcal{H}_{\gamma}$.

Furthermore, we can reexpress the total Hamiltonian H as

$$H = H_1 + H_2 + H_3,$$
 (C1)

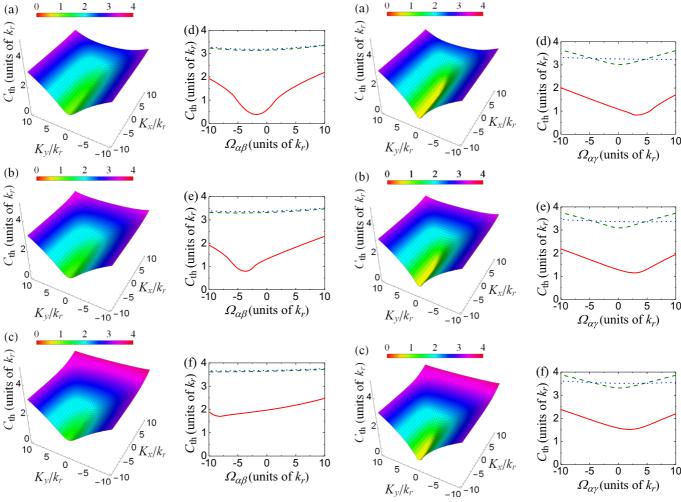


FIG. 6. (a)–(c) The two-body bound-state threshold $C_{\rm th}$ as a function of CoM momentum (K_x,K_y) , with real effective Rabi frequencies. For all subplots, we have $\delta_\beta=0E_r$, $\delta_\gamma=3.23E_r$ (a); $\delta_\beta=0E_r$, $\delta_\gamma=0E_r$ (b); $\delta_\beta=0E_r$, $\delta_\gamma=-3.23E_r$ (c); and the other parameters are the same as those in Fig. 2. (d)–(f) The threshold $C_{\rm th}$ as a function of the effective Rabi frequency $\Omega_{\alpha\beta}$, for cases with CoM momentum $(K_x,K_y)=(0,0)$ (red solid line), $(K_x,K_y)=(10k_r,10k_r)$ (green dashed line), and $(K_x,K_y)=(10k_r,-10k_r)$ (blue dotted line). Other parameters of (d), (e), and (f) are the same as (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

FIG. 7. (a)–(c) The two-body bound-state threshold $C_{\rm th}$ as a function of CoM momentum (K_x,K_y) , with complex effective Rabi frequencies. For all subplots, we have $\delta_\beta=0E_r,\,\delta_\gamma=1.8E_r$ (a); $\delta_\beta=0E_r,\,\delta_\gamma=0E_r$ (b); $\delta_\beta=0E_r,\,\delta_\gamma=-1.8E_r$ (c); and other parameters are the same as those in Fig. 3. (d)–(f) The threshold $C_{\rm th}$ as a function of the effective Rabi frequency $\Omega_{\alpha\gamma}$, for cases with CoM momentum $(K_x,K_y)=(0,0)$ (red solid line), $(K_x,K_y)=(10k_r,10k_r)$ (green dashed line), and $(K_x,K_y)=(10k_r,-10k_r)$ (blue dotted line). Other parameters of (d), (e), and (f) are the same as (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

where

$$H_2 = -\sum_{\xi = \alpha, \beta, \gamma} \sum_{\eta = \alpha, \beta, \gamma} \frac{\Omega_{\xi \eta}}{2} (|\xi\rangle_{11} \langle \eta| + |\xi\rangle_{22} \langle \eta|), \quad (C2)$$

$$H_3 = -\sum_{\xi = \alpha, \beta, \gamma} \left(\frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{k}_{\xi}}{m} \right) (|\xi\rangle_{11} \langle \xi| - |\xi\rangle_{22} \langle \xi|), \quad (C3)$$

and

$$H_1 \equiv H - H_2 - H_3. \tag{C4}$$

We first consider the Hamiltonian H_1 . It is clear that H_1 does not include the coupling between the states in $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}$ nor the states in \mathcal{H}_{γ} . Thus, we have

$$H_1 = H_{\alpha\beta} + H_{\gamma},\tag{C5}$$

with $H_{\alpha\beta}$ and H_{β} being the operators of the spaces $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}$ and \mathcal{H}_{γ} , respectively, and can be expressed as

$$H_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{\xi=\alpha,\beta} \sum_{\eta=\alpha,\beta} \left[\frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{m} + \tilde{\delta}_{\xi} + \tilde{\delta}_{\eta} \right] \otimes |\xi\rangle_{11} \langle \xi| \otimes |\eta\rangle_{22} \langle \eta| + U$$

$$\equiv H_{\alpha\beta}^{(F)} + U; \tag{C6}$$

$$H_{\gamma} = \sum_{\eta=\alpha,\beta} \left[\frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{m} + \tilde{\delta}_{\gamma} + \tilde{\delta}_{\eta} \right]$$

$$\otimes (|\gamma\rangle_{11} \langle \gamma| \otimes |\eta\rangle_{22} \langle \eta| + |\eta\rangle_{11} \langle \eta| \otimes |\gamma\rangle_{22} \langle \gamma|), \tag{C7}$$

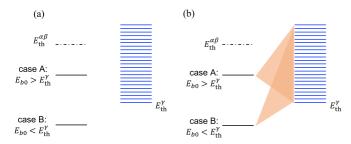


FIG. 8. (a) Some eigenlevels of H_1 . The black solid line indicates the bound state contributed by $H_{\alpha\beta}$, while the blue solid line indicates a continuous spectrum contributed by H_{γ} . In addition, $E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta}$ (black dashed-dotted line) is the lower bound of other continuous eigenlevels contributed by the projection of $H_{\alpha\beta}$ in the subspace where the two atoms are in different internal states [61]. If H_2 and H_3 were zero, the bound state would always be stable, whether the energy E_{b0} be higher (case A) or lower (case B) than the lower bound $E_{\rm th}^{\gamma}$ of the continuous spectrum of H_{γ} , since the bound state is not coupled to states in the continuous. (b) In the presence of H_2 , the bound state is coupled to the continuous spectrum of H_{γ} , with the coupling being shown as a brown shadow. As a result, the bound state is stable only if the energy is lower than the lower bound $E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta}$ of this spectrum.

where

$$\tilde{\delta}_{\alpha} = \delta_{\alpha} - \frac{K_{y}k_{r}}{2m}; \quad \tilde{\delta}_{\beta} = \delta_{\beta} + \frac{K_{y}k_{r}}{2m}; \quad \tilde{\delta}_{\gamma} = \delta_{\gamma} - \frac{K_{x}k_{r}}{2m}.$$

Therefore, if both H_2 and H_3 were zero, the two atoms could form a bound state only if 1/a > 0, which is supported by $H_{\alpha\beta}$ and can be denoted by $|\Phi_{b0}\rangle\rangle$. The energy of this bound state is

$$E_{b0} = E_{\text{th}}^{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{ma^2},\tag{C9}$$

where

$$E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{\alpha} + \delta_{\beta} \tag{C10}$$

is the minimum eigenenergy of the projection of $H_{\alpha\beta}^{(F)}$ (i.e., the "free Hamiltonian in the space $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}$ ") in the subspace where the two atoms are in different internal states [61]. On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 8(a), the Hamiltonian $H=H_1$ also has many eigenstates with continuous eigenenergies, which are eigenstates of H_{γ} . The lower bound of this continuous spectrum is

$$E_{\rm th}^{\gamma} \equiv \operatorname{Min}[\tilde{\delta}_{\gamma} + \tilde{\delta}_{\beta}, \tilde{\delta}_{\gamma} + \tilde{\delta}_{\alpha}]. \tag{C11}$$

Here we emphasis that the bound-state energy E_{b0} may be either higher or lower than E_{th}^{γ} . Nevertheless, the bound state $|\Phi_{b0}\rangle\rangle$ is always stable because it is not coupled to these continuous states H_{γ} .

Now we consider the effect from H_2 . For simplicity, here we also ignore H_3 . As shown in Fig. 8(b), the Hamiltonian H_2 can induce the coupling between the bound state $|\Phi_{b0}\rangle\rangle$ and the continuous eigenlevels of H_{γ} . In this case, the bound state is no longer stable when energy E_{b0} is higher than the lower-bound E_{th}^{γ} of this continuous spectrum, while it is still stable when E_{b0} is lower than E_{th}^{γ} . Therefore, in the presence of H_2 , the two atoms can form a bound state only when $E_{b0} < E_{th}^{\gamma}$ or

$$\frac{1}{ma^2} > E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta} - E_{\rm th}^{\gamma}. \tag{C12}$$

Furthermore, when $|K_y|$ is very large, E_{th}^{γ} would be much lower than $E_{th}^{\alpha\beta}$. That is due to the term W defined in Eq. (15), which is now a part of H_{γ} . As a result, only the very deep bound state could be stable. Explicitly, in this case the condition (C12) can be approximately expressed as

$$\frac{1}{a} > \sqrt{k_r \frac{|K_y|}{2}},\tag{C13}$$

and thus the threshold C_{th} is approximately $\sqrt{k_r|K_y|/2}$, which increases with $|K_y|$, as shown in Sec. III.

Similarly, when K_x takes a *positive* large value, due to the term $-K_x k_r/(2m)$ in the expression (C8) of $\tilde{\delta}_{\gamma}$, $E_{\rm th}^{\gamma}$ would also be much lower than $E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta}$. As a result, the threshold $C_{\rm th}$ can be approximately expressed as $C_{\rm th} \approx \sqrt{k_r K_x/2}$ and increases with K_x . On the other hand, when K_x takes a *negative* large value, $E_{\rm th}^{\gamma}$ becomes much higher than $E_{\rm th}^{\alpha\beta}$. Namely, the energy of the space \mathcal{H}_{γ} is much higher than the bound state of $H_{\alpha\beta}$. Thus, the threshold $C_{\rm th}$ of the two-body bound state is hardly affected by the interspace coupling H_2 but tends to a constant, as shown in Figs. 2(a), 2(c), 3(a), and 3(c).

Finally, we consider the effect of H_3 . Since H_3 is independent of \mathbf{K} and does not include the coupling between the spaces $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta}$ and \mathcal{H}_{γ} , it induces a \mathbf{K} -independent modification only for the threshold energies $E_{\mathrm{th}}^{\alpha\beta}$ and E_{th}^{γ} , as well as the expressions of the bound state E_{b0} . Therefore, in the presence of H_3 , our above analysis is still qualitatively correct.

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- [60] Notice that $h(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{K})$ is different from the operator H_F defined in Eq. (4). In Eq. (4), \mathbf{p} is an operator of the space \mathcal{H}_r , rather than a c number, and thus H_F is an operator of the complete space \mathcal{H} .
- [61] For our system, the Hamiltonian is close in the subspace where the two atoms are in different internal states, and the bound state is also an element of this subspace. Thus, only the projection of $H_{\alpha\beta}$ in this subspace is relevant for our problem.