Pseudo-magnetic-field and effective spin-orbit interaction for a spin-1/2 particle confined to a curved surface

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By considering the spin connection, we deduce the effective equation for a spin-1/2 particle confined to a curved surface with the nonrelativistic limit and in the thin-layer quantization formalism. We obtain a pseudo-magnetic-field and an effective spin-orbit interaction generated by the spin connection. Geometrically, the pseudo-magnetic field is proportional to the Gaussian curvature and the effective spin-orbit interaction is determined by the Weingarten curvature tensor. In particular, we find that the pseudo-magnetic-field and the effective spin-orbit interaction can be employed to separate the electrons with different spin orientations. All these results are demonstrated in two examples: a straight cylindrical surface and a bent one.

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I. INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, inspired by the technical progress in the fabrication of low-dimensional nanostructures [1-6], there have been many theoretical and experimental studies on the dynamics in low-dimensional curved spaces, involving condensed matter [7-10], optics [11-13], and magnetism [14,15]. Due to the appearance of curvature, physical quantities of the particle in the low-dimensional curved space may lose some symmetries associated with space coordinates, such as translational symmetry and rotational symmetry, manifesting novel and abundant properties different from flat cases. To obtain the curvature effects by theory, a dimensionally reduced method called the thin-layer procedure (TLP) or confining potential approach was introduced by Jensen and Koppe [16] and da Costa [17]. By applying the approach to scalar fields, the well-known geometric potential appears naturally in the effective low-dimensional Hamiltonian. Later, TLP has been applied to electromagnetic fields for two-dimensional (2D) [11] and quasi one-dimensional (1D) [18] curved geometries. Compared with the case of scalar fields, the connections of vector fields contribute the spin-orbit interaction (SOI) to the effective Hamiltonian as an extra geometric effect, which causes the optical spin Hall effect (SHE) [19-25].

Certainly, people want to use the explicit SOI Hamiltonian for spinor fields on curved surface. Traditionally, in planar two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) systems, there are two main types of SOI: the Rashba SOI and the Dresselhaus SOI, which originate from the inversion asymmetry of the confining potential [26] and the lack of bulk inversion asymmetry [27], respectively. For both of these, the intrinsic or external electric field are considered necessary to generate the SOI. Previous investigations [28–30] have tried to give a theoretical description of the SOI in curved 2DEG systems by writing the electric-field-induced SOI Hamiltonian in threedimensional (3D) curvilinear coordinates and using the TLP to get the effective Hamiltonian. These models are capable of describing the part of the SOI generated by electric field, but miss the effective SOI induced by the curvature, which originates from the spin connection.

The spin connection, emerging naturally in the covariant derivative of a spinor field, guarantees that a covariant derivative of a spinor still transforms like a spinor. In the language of quantum field theory, it can also be viewed as a non-Abelian gauge field generated by local Lorentz transformations [31]. In the 2D curved space, the motion of a fermion should embody the effect of this gauge field [32]. Several studies have considered the contribution of the spin connection to the dynamics on curved surfaces [33–35]; however, the explicit effective SOI Hamiltonian from curvature has not be given. In addition, it has been found that the SOI from electric fields can also be reformulated in terms of non-Abelian gauge fields [36–39]. The coincidence implies that, for a spinor field, curvature may, in a sense, induce an effective electric field. Therefore, in this paper, we start from the Dirac equation in a curved space and try to give a full description about the dynamics of a nonrelativistic spin-1/2 particle constrained to a curved surface.

Another aim of this paper concerns the gauge potential from higher dimensions. Reference [40] emphasizes that a gauge potential is present when the space of states associated with directions normal to the surface is degenerate. In our case the spin degeneracy naturally satisfies the requirement, thus a gauge-potential effect is expected. We show that this effect

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is a pseudo-magnetic field. It has been proven theoretically [41,42] and experimentally [43] that a strained graphene sheet can generate a large pseudo-magnetic field, which is explained as a geometry-induced gauge-field effect in the lowenergy effective Dirac equation. The pseudo-magnetic field does not couple with the electric charge but induces Landau levels like a real magnetic field. For a real magnetic field B, the Landau quantization results in energy quantum $\hbar\omega_c$ with the cyclotron frequency $\omega_c = eB/m$. Naively speaking, if the energy quantum of a planar rotor $\frac{\hbar^2}{2mR^2}$ (*R* is the rotation radius) is considered as one of the Landau levels induced by a pseudo-magnetic field \mathcal{B} , we may in magnitude arrive at $\mathcal{B} \sim$ $\frac{\hbar}{2eR^2} \sim \frac{\hbar K}{2e}$ (K is the Gaussian curvature). In the following we demonstrate this conjecture in a strict way and furthermore show that the pseudo-magnetic field couples with the normal spin component in curved 2DEG systems.

This paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II we briefly give the nonrelativistic limit form of the Dirac equation in a curved space. In Sec. III, we use the confining potential approach to get an effective equation for a nonrelativistic spin-1/2 particle constrained to a curved surface and analyze the effective SOI and pseudo-magnetic field. In Sec. IV, we explore the effective SOI and pseudo-magnetic field in straight and bent cylindrical surfaces. In Sec. V, we extend the theory to include the model electric and magnetic field. Finally, we present our conclusion in Sec. V.

II. NONRELATIVISTIC LIMIT OF DIRAC EQUATION IN CURVED SPACE

In this section, we briefly review the derivation of the nonrelativistic limit form of the Dirac equation in a curved space and compare it with the ordinary Schrödinger equation. Before the derivation, we would like to introduce the meaning of indices used in the following. The Greek letters $\{\mu, \nu, \dots\}$ and $\{\alpha, \beta, \dots\}$ run from 0 to 3, denoting curved and flat spacetime indices, respectively; the capital Latin letters $\{A, B, ...\}$ and $\{I, J, ...\}$ run from 1 to 3 and denote curved- and flat-space indices, respectively, and the lowercase letters $\{a, b, ...\}$ and $\{i, j, ...\}$ run from 1 to 2 and denote curved and flat 2D space indices, respectively.

In a curved spacetime the Dirac equation can be described by [44]

$$(i\hbar\gamma^{\mu}\nabla_{\mu} - mc)\Psi = 0, \qquad (1)$$

where ∇_{μ} denotes the covariant derivative with $\nabla_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} - \partial_{\mu}$ Γ_{μ} , wherein Γ_{μ} is the spin connection, and γ^{μ} stand for the gamma matrices in a curved spacetime that are expressed as

$$\gamma^{\mu} = E^{\mu}_{\alpha} \gamma^{\alpha}, \qquad (2)$$

by γ^{α} , the usual gamma matrices in a flat spacetime. Here E^{μ}_{α} are vierbeins with the definition

$$E^{\mu}_{\alpha} = \frac{\partial q^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\alpha}},\tag{3}$$

where q^{μ} describe the coordinate variables in a curved spacetime, and x^{α} desribe those in a flat spacetime. By virtue of the vierbeins E^{μ}_{α} , $G^{\mu\nu}$ can be given by

where $G^{\mu\nu}$ is the inverse metric tensor in a curved spacetime, while $\eta^{\alpha\beta}$ is that in a flat spacetime with $\eta^{\alpha\beta} =$ diag(1, -1, -1, -1). And the spin connection Γ_{μ} can be expressed as

$$\Gamma_{\mu} = -\frac{1}{4}\omega_{\mu\alpha\beta}\Sigma^{\alpha\beta},\tag{5}$$

where $\Sigma^{\alpha\beta} = [\gamma^{\alpha}, \gamma^{\beta}]/2$ are the generators of the Lorentz group in the spinorial space, and

$$\omega_{\mu\alpha\beta} = E^{\nu}_{\alpha} \big(\partial_{\mu} E_{\nu\beta} - \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\nu} E_{\kappa\beta} \big), \tag{6}$$

with $\Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\nu}$ being the Christoffel symbol. For investigating the specially geometric effects, in the present paper we just consider the space curved without time, so we can write ds^2 in the following form:

$$ds^{2} = G_{00}dq^{0}dq^{0} - G_{AB}dq^{A}dq^{B}, (7)$$

where $G_{00} = 1$. As a result, the vierbein E^{α}_{μ} can be simplified as

$$E^{\alpha}_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0\\ 0 & E^{I}_{A} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (8)

In this case, the time component of spin connection Γ_0 naturally vanishes, the space components of the gamma matrices γ^{A} in the Dirac representations are represented as

$$\gamma^{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{I} E_{I}^{A} \\ -\sigma^{I} E_{I}^{A} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{9}$$

and the space components of the generator Σ^{IJ} are

$$\Sigma^{IJ} = \begin{bmatrix} i\epsilon^{IJK}\sigma_K & 0\\ 0 & i\epsilon^{IJK}\sigma_K \end{bmatrix},$$
 (10)

where σ^{I} are the usual Pauli matrices and ϵ^{IJK} is the Levi– Civita symbol.

For the convenience of description, we write the wave function Ψ in Eq. (1) in the following form with two components:

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} \chi \\ \phi \end{bmatrix},\tag{11}$$

where χ and ϕ stand for the positive- and negative-energy solution, respectively. According to the above discussions, the Dirac equation (1) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} (i\hbar/c)\partial_t - mc & -\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} & (-i\hbar/c)\partial_t - mc \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\chi} \\ \boldsymbol{\phi} \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad (12)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} = -i\hbar\sigma^A \bar{D}_A = -i\hbar\sigma^K E_K^A (\partial_A + \bar{\Omega}_A)$, wherein $\bar{\Omega}_A$ is the spin connection consisting of two components; that is.

$$\bar{\Omega}_A = \frac{i}{4} \omega_{AIJ} \epsilon^{IJK} \sigma_K. \tag{13}$$

From Eq. (12), by eliminating ϕ , we obtain

$$(E - mc^2)\chi = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} \frac{1}{E + mc^2} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P}\chi, \qquad (14)$$

where *E* is the total energy. By defining $E_s = E - mc^2$ and keeping the lowest term in the expansion of $\frac{1}{E+mc^2}$ with

 $E_s \ll mc^2$, we obtain the nonrelativistic equation

$$E_s \chi = \frac{1}{2m} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \boldsymbol{P} \chi. \tag{15}$$

In a curved space, the covariant derivative of the Dirac matrices is

$$\gamma^{B}_{;A} = \partial_A \gamma^B + \Gamma^{B}_{CA} \gamma^C - [\Gamma_A, \gamma^B].$$
(16)

According to the "tetrad postulate" of van Nieuwenhuizen [45], the curved-space gamma matrices are covariantly constant, which means $\gamma_{A}^{B} = 0$. Accordingly, the Pauli matrices in the curved space satisfy the equality

$$\partial_A \sigma^B + [\bar{\Omega}_A, \sigma^B] = -\Gamma^B_{CA} \sigma^C, \qquad (17)$$

and then we can deduce the expression

$$\frac{1}{\hbar^2}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\boldsymbol{P}\chi = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{G}}\bar{D}_A(\sqrt{G}G^{AB}\bar{D}_B)\chi + \frac{1}{4}\bar{R}\chi, \quad (18)$$

where \bar{R} is the Ricci scalar.

Thus the nonrelativistic equation for a spin-1/2 particle in a curved space should be described by

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \bar{D}_A(\sqrt{G} G^{AB} \bar{D}_B) - \frac{1}{4} \bar{R} \right] \chi = E_s \chi, \qquad (19)$$

where \bar{D}_A is a new gauge covariant derivative with $\bar{D}_A = \partial_A + \bar{\Omega}_A$. It is interesting that the equation (19) has the same form of the Schrödinger equation in an externally applied electromagnetic field. The difference is that, in the Schrödinger equation, the gauge structure is determined by the externally applied electromagnetic field with U(1) symmetry, while in Eq. (19) the gauge structure is constructed by the spin connection $\bar{\Omega}_A$. Under the SU(2) rotations of the direction σ_K , $\mathcal{T} = e^{\frac{i}{4}\epsilon^{IJK}\sigma_{KYIJ}}$, the wave function χ and the spin connection $\bar{\Omega}_A$ transforms as

$$\chi \to \chi' = \mathcal{T}\chi,$$

$$\bar{\Omega}_A \to \bar{\Omega}'_A = \mathcal{T}\bar{\Omega}_A \mathcal{T}^{\dagger} + \mathcal{T}\partial_A \mathcal{T}^{\dagger},$$
(20)

where $\frac{1}{4} \epsilon^{IJK} \gamma_{IJ}$ plays the role of rotation angle. It is obvious that $\bar{\Omega}_A$ transforms as a gauge field in the adjoint representations of SU(2).

III. EFFECTIVE EQUATION IN CURVED TWO-DIMENSIONAL SPACE WITH SPIN CONNECTION

The required effective equation of a spin-1/2 particle confined to a curved surface is derived in this section. To do this, the thin-layer quantization approach [16,17,46] is suitable. According to the fundamental framework [46], the metric tensors g_{ab} on a curved surface S and G_{AB} in the corresponding 3D immediate neighborhood space should be first considered. If the surface S can be described by $\mathbf{r} =$ $\mathbf{r}(q_1, q_2)$, the corresponding 3D space could be done by $\mathbf{R} =$ $\mathbf{r}(q_1, q_2) + q_3 \hat{\mathbf{n}}(q_1, q_2)$. Subsequently, the associated metric tensors g_{ab} and G_{AB} can be defined by $g_{ab} = \partial_a \mathbf{r} \cdot \partial_b \mathbf{r}$ and $G_{AB} = \partial_A \mathbf{R} \cdot \partial_B \mathbf{R}$, which satisfy the relation

$$G_{ab} = g_{ab} + [\alpha g + (\alpha g)^{T}]_{ab}q_{3} + t(\alpha g \alpha^{T})_{ab}(q_{3})^{2},$$

$$G_{a3} = G_{3a} = 0, \quad G_{33} = 1,$$
(21)

where the Weingarten curvature matrix is

$$\alpha_{ab} = \partial_a \mathbf{r} \cdot \partial_b \hat{\mathbf{n}}.$$
 (22)

(23)

For the convenience of statement, we refer to the coordinate system (q_1, q_2) as a surface frame (SF), and the coordinate system (q_1, q_2, q_3) as an adapted frame (AF), where q_3 is the coordinate variable in the $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ direction. From Eq. (21), the relation between the determinants *G* and *g* can be calculated as $G = f^2 g$, where $f = 1 + \text{Tr}(\alpha_{ab})q_3 + \text{det}(\alpha_{ab})q_3^2$ is called the rescaled factor. Under the rescaled transformation, an new wave function ψ is introduced and the Hamiltonian in Eq. (19) [40,47,48] can be expressed as

 $\psi = f^{\frac{1}{2}}\chi,$

and

$$H' = f^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m\sqrt{G}} \bar{D}_A(\sqrt{G}G^{AB}\bar{D}_B) \right] f^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{\hbar^2\bar{R}}{8m}.$$
 (24)

The introduction of the confining potential plays an essential role in the thin-layer quantization scheme. The confining potential raises the energy of normal excitations far beyond the energy scale associated with motion tangent to the surface and entirely determines the separation of the normal and tangent dynamics. By introducing the confining potential $V_c(q_3)$, we can deduce (the calculation details are shown in the Appendix) the effective Hamiltonian and the normal component [47] as below:

$$H_{\text{eff}} + H_N = \lim_{q_3 \to 0} [H' + V_c]$$

$$= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} D_a(\sqrt{g}g^{ab}D_b) - \frac{K}{2} \right]$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{-i}{\sqrt{g}} \left[S^{ab}\sigma_a\partial_b + \frac{1}{2}\partial_b(\sigma_aS^{ab}) \right]$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_3^2 + V_c, \qquad (25)$$

where D_a denotes a gauge covariant derivative with $D_a = \partial_a + i\sigma_3 w_a$, wherein w_a can be taken as a gauge potential with $w_a = \frac{1}{4} \epsilon^{ij} \omega_{aij}$, K is the Gaussian curvature, and S^{ab} is the coupling tensor defined by $S^{ab} = \epsilon^{ac} \alpha_c^b$. As a consequence, the effective surface dynamics is

$$H_{\rm eff}\chi_t = (H_0 + H_{so})\chi_t = E_t\chi_t, \qquad (26)$$

and the normal dynamics as

$$\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\partial_3^2 + V_c\right)\chi_r = E_r\chi_r.$$
 (27)

In Eq. (26) the effective Hamiltonian H_{eff} has two components: H_0 is

$$H_0 = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} D_a(\sqrt{g} g^{ab} D_b) - \frac{K}{2} \right],$$
 (28)

and H_{so} describes the SOI on the curved surface S in the following form

$$H_{so} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{-i}{\sqrt{g}} \bigg[\mathcal{S}^{ab} \sigma_a \partial_b + \frac{1}{2} \partial_b (\sigma_a \mathcal{S}^{ab}) \bigg].$$
(29)

Notice that the geometric potential $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}(-\frac{K}{2})$ in Eq. (28) is strikingly different from the well-known form $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}(M^2 - K)$ [17]. The well-known geometric potential is completely determined by the reduced commutation relation [49], while the appearance of the spin connection $\bar{\Omega}_A$ in the gauge covariant derivative \bar{D}_A leads to the term $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\bar{\Omega}_a\bar{\Omega}^a$ appearing in Eq. (28) as an additional term $-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}(\frac{K}{2} - M^2)$. In other words, the presence of the spin degree of freedom can influence the geometric effects of the curved surface [33]. Besides, the term $\frac{\hbar^2\bar{R}}{8m}$ has no contribution to the scalar potential because the Ricci scalar vanishes in the thin-layer procedure.

Furthermore, note that the gauge potential w_a and the effective SOI H_{so} are present in the effective Hamiltonian H_{eff} due to the appearance of the spin connection. Mathematically, the spin connection is determined by the derivative operators and the rotation transformation of the spin orientation in different adjacent local positions. Therefore, the geometry of the curved surface can be used to deform the forms of the pseudo-magnetic field defined by the gauge potential w_a and the effective SOI. The two geometric effects will be further discussed below.

A. Pseudo-magnetic field

It is easy to prove that the effective dynamics (26) still possesses the invariance of a rotational transformation, $\mathcal{T}_3 = e^{i\sigma_3\theta}$ with $\theta = \frac{1}{4}\epsilon^{ij}\gamma_{ij}$. Under the rotational transformation \mathcal{T}_3 , w_a transforms as a gauge potential; that is,

$$w_a \to w'_a = \mathcal{T}_3 w_a \mathcal{T}_3^{\dagger} + \mathcal{T}_3 \partial_a \mathcal{T}_3^{\dagger}.$$
 (30)

In terms of the gauge potential \boldsymbol{w} , the pseudo-magnetic field can be defined by

$$\mathcal{B} = -\frac{\hbar}{e} \nabla_{(2D)} \times \boldsymbol{w} = \frac{\hbar K}{2e}, \qquad (31)$$

where $\nabla_{2D} \times \boldsymbol{w} = -\frac{K}{2}$ and the curl operator is defined in 2D spaces. In the calculation we have utilized the formula $R_{1212}/g = -K$, where R_{abcd} is the Riemann curvature tensor. We notice that in Ref. [42] the pseudo-magnetic field calculated for curved graphene systems is twice this result. The reason is that the spin connection used in Ref. [42] is twice ours. According to the pseudo-magnetic field (31), we estimate the value for a bubble with radius $r \sim 1$ nm as $\mathcal{B} \sim 328$ T, which is also in agreement with the result given experimentally in graphene systems [43].

Obviously, in Eq. (31) the gauge field is totally determined by the Gaussian curvature. As a consequence, we can provide a required gauge potential for spin-1/2 particles confined to a curved surface by designing the geometry of the surface. For example, in an orthogonal curvilinear coordinate system (q_1, q_2) , we can choose $w_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \int \sqrt{g} K dq_2$ and $w_2 = 0$.

It is well known that the external magnetic field breaks the time-reversal symmetry; however, this does not happen for the pseudo-magnetic field. This conclusion can be tested by obtaining the commutator $[T, H_0] = 0$, where the timereversal operator T is chosen as $T = i\sigma_y C$ with C being the complex-conjugation operator. A physical interpretation is that the pseudo-magnetic field couples with the matrix σ_3 rather than a scalar constant, hence under time inverse, the pseudo-magnetic field is reversed spatially or changes its sign accordingly, keeping the total system invariant. The largeness and time-reversal symmetry of pseudo-magnetic field may help to manufacture materials with topological properties. On the one hand, the application of quantum Hall effect requires large magnetic field, on the other hand, the time-reversal symmetry protects the robustness of the quantum spin Hall edge state [50]. Hence by bending the 2D materials properly, topological states may emerge.

Another interesting property of the pseudo-magnetic field is about the topology in a real space. According to Gauss– Bonnet theorem, for a surface S without a boundary, we have

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S} K dA = 2(1-g), \tag{32}$$

where g is the genus of the surface. Straightforwardly, the pseudo-magnetic flux is

$$\Phi = \int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathcal{B} dA = 2(1-g)\Phi_0, \tag{33}$$

where $\Phi_0 = \frac{h}{2e}$ is the magnetic flux quantum. This result shows that the pseudo-magnetic flux for a closed surface is a topological invariant, which is independent of its geometric details. For example, the pseudo-magnetic flux for a sphere and a torus is $2\Phi_0$ and 0, respectively, no matter how their size and shape change continuously.

Particles with opposite charge will be separated by the Lorentz force when they are moving in a magnetic field, which is known as the Hall effect. In the presence of the pseudo-magnetic field, the spin-1/2 particles with different spin orientations in the normal direction should also be separated by a Lorentz-like force. The phenomenon is the spin Hall effect, which will be found in a bent cylindrical surface.

B. Effective spin-orbit interaction

In Eq. (29), the second term is not negligible as it makes sure that the Hamiltonian is Hermitian. The expression is similar to that of the SOI caused by an electric field E [51]; namely,

$$\tilde{H}_{so} = \frac{i\hbar^2 e}{4m^2 c^2} [\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{E} \times \boldsymbol{\nabla}) - \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \boldsymbol{E})/2], \qquad (34)$$

where the second term provides the Hermiticity of the Hamiltonian. However, we cannot simply refer to this effective spinorbit interaction as the effect induced by a "pseudo-electric field," since in general the coupling tensor S^{ab} is anisotropic. Specifically, when $\alpha_1^1 = \alpha_2^2$, the Hamiltonian has the form of a linear Rashba spin-orbit interaction, and if $\alpha_1^2 = \alpha_2^1$, the Hamiltonian contains the form of linear Dresselhaus spinorbit interaction. In the case where the surface has the symmetry $\alpha_1^1 = \alpha_2^2$, we can define a pseudo-electric field which is oriented to the normal direction; that is,

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{2mc^2\alpha_1^1}{e}.$$
 (35)

As the situation in the planar 2DEG, this pseudo-electric field results in spin Hall effect. We have mentioned that the pseudo-magnetic field also leads to the spin Hall effect, thus it is worthwhile to compare the two effective interactions. It is convenient to follow the previous research and reexpress the SOI as a non-Abelian gauge field, which is exactly $(A_{so})_a$ in Eq. (A6). Using Eqs. (17) and (A5), we obtain the curl

$$\nabla_{(2D)} \times (\boldsymbol{A}_{so}) = -\frac{K}{2}\sigma_3 + F^a(q_1, q_2)\sigma_a$$
$$= \sigma_3 \nabla_{(2D)} \times \boldsymbol{w} + F^a(q_1, q_2)\sigma_a, \quad (36)$$

where $F^a(q_1, q_2)$ is a vector function of the coordinates. Interestingly, the part of this curl that is coupled with σ_3 is equal to the curl of the gauge field \boldsymbol{w} . For the spin orientations normal to the surface, the effective SOI seems to provide an effective field which is identical to the pseudo-magnetic field. That is to say, the effective SOI and the pseudo-magnetic field may contribute exactly the same forces for the spin Hall effect. We will demonstrate this conjecture on a bent cylindrical surface. Besides, we have to emphasize that, although the pseudo-magnetic field and the effective SOI show common effects on the normal spin component, they are not equivalent for the dynamics of spin components tangential to the surface.

To estimate when the effective SOI can be ignored, we need to compare the coupling strengths between the effective SOI and intrinsic SOI of specific materials. It is found that, if the two coupling strengths are commensurable, the curvature

radius should be

$$r \sim \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\tilde{lpha}} \approx \frac{3.79 \times 10^{-20} \text{ eV m}^2}{\zeta \tilde{lpha}},$$
 (37)

where $\zeta = m/m_e$ with *m* being the effective mass and m_e the electron rest mass. For instance, the intrinsic SOI coupling constant of InGaAs [52] is $\tilde{\alpha} = (3 \sim 4) \times 10^{-11}$ eV m, and ratio $\zeta = 0.041$, then $r = 23 \sim 31$ nm. This result show that the effective SOI cannot be neglected as the curvature radius reaches the nanoscale.

IV. STRAIGHT AND BENT CYLINDERS

In this section, using the previous results, we investigate two simple examples: a straight cylindrical surface and a bent cylinder.

A. Straight cylinders

In a cylindrical coordinate system (ρ, θ, z) , as shown in Fig. 1(a), the effective equation for a straight cylinder is

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi_t = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \bigg[\partial_z^2 + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \big(\partial_\theta^2 + i\sigma_z\partial_\theta\big)\bigg]\psi_t,\qquad(38)$$



FIG. 1. (a) Illustration of a cylinder. (b) Energy dispersion diagram without considering the spin connection. (c) Energy dispersion diagram with the consideration of the spin connection. (d) Conductance of a cylinder with (solid line) and without (dash line) the consideration of the spin connection at zero temperature.

where the spin-orbit coupling term $-i\frac{\hbar^2}{2m\rho^2}\sigma_z\partial_\theta$ is just contributed by the spin connection. In this simple geometry, the pseudo-magnetic field disappears because of the vanishing of the Gaussian curvature, but the effective SOI still exist, showing the difference between the pseudo-magnetic field and the effective SOI.

Neglecting the spin-orbit coupling term, as what we used to do, in the θ direction, the corresponding energy spectrum and wave functions are $\tilde{E}_n = \frac{n^2 \hbar^2}{2m\rho^2}$ and $|n, \pm\rangle = u_{\pm}e^{in\theta}$, respectively, where $u_{\pm} = (1, 0)^T$ and $u_{\pm} = (0, 1)^T$ are the eigenstates of the Pauli matrix σ_z and the magnetic quantum number $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$, as shown in Fig. 1(b). In this case only the ground-state energy is twofold degenerate, and the other excited energies are fourfold degenerate. While if we take into account the spin connection contribution, the energy levels become $E_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m\rho^2}(n^2 \pm n)$ [Fig. 1(c)]. With the shift of energy levels, the degeneration becomes different. As the mathematical relation $(n \pm 1)^2 \mp (n \pm 1) = n^2 \pm n$, all energy levels are fourfold degenerate, including the groundstate energy, whose eigenstates are expressed as $|0, +\rangle$, $|0, -\rangle$, $|1, -\rangle, |-1, +\rangle$. In fact, the corresponding Hamiltonian in Eq. (38) can be written as $H = \frac{p_z^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2m\rho^2}\hat{J}_z^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{8m\rho^2}$, where the total angular momentum $\hat{J}_z = \hat{L}_z + \hat{s}_z = -i\hbar\partial_\theta + \frac{\hbar}{2}\sigma_z$, and the well-known geometric potential $-\frac{\hbar^2}{8m\rho^2}$ is recovered. Hence we ought to apply new quantum numbers $j_{\pm} = n \pm 1$ 1/2 and eigenstate notation $|j_{\pm},\pm\rangle$ to describe the system, which acts as replacing the orbital angular momentum with the total angular momentum in the Hamiltonian without spin connection contribution. Indeed, including the spin connection makes the model more symmetric and physically sound. Experimentally, the conductance in a cylindrical 2DEG may manifest the existence of the effective SOI. As shown in Fig. 1(d), the step-like structures of the conductance show an apparent difference between considering and neglecting the effective SOI at zero temperature.

B. Bent cylinders

To investigate the combined effect of both the pseudomagnetic field and the effective SOI, we consider a bent cylindrical surface [Fig. 2(a)], which can be described in the curvilinear coordinate system (θ, s) , where θ is the angle around the cylinder's axis, and s the arc length of the axis. The corresponding Hamiltonian is written as

$$H_{0} = -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m\rho^{2}} \frac{R}{R+\rho\cos\theta} \partial_{\theta} \left(\frac{R+\rho\cos\theta}{R}\partial_{\theta}\right) -\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m} \frac{R^{2}}{(R+\rho\cos\theta)^{2}} \left[\partial_{s} - \frac{i\sigma_{3}}{2R}\sin\theta\right] \left[\partial_{s} - \frac{i\sigma_{3}}{2R}\sin\theta\right] +\frac{\hbar^{2}}{4m} \frac{\cos\theta}{\rho(R+\rho\cos\theta)},$$
(39)

and

$$H_{so} = \frac{i\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{R}{\rho(R+\rho\cos\theta)} \left(\frac{\cos\theta}{R+\rho\cos\theta} \sigma_{\theta} \partial_s - \frac{1}{\rho} \sigma_s \partial_{\theta}\right),\tag{40}$$



FIG. 2. (a) A bent cylindrical surface. The Gaussian curvature K > 0 at the outer points, and K < 0 at inner points. (b) The outer part of the bent cylindrical surface, $\theta \in [-\theta_0, \theta_0]$, where θ_0 is small. The yellow arrow denotes the incident charge current, and the red and blue arrows denote the currents with spin orientation pointing inwards and outwards, respectively. (c) The inner part of the bent cylindrical surface, $\theta \in [\pi - \theta_0, \pi + \theta_0]$.

where ρ is the radius of the cylinder, and *R* the curvature radius of the axis. By using the Heisenberg equation of motion, we obtain

$$i\hbar\dot{\theta} = [\theta, H_0 + H_{so}],\tag{41}$$

where

$$[\theta, H_0] = \frac{\hbar^2}{m\rho^2} \bigg[\partial_\theta - \frac{\rho \sin \theta}{2(R + \rho \cos \theta)} \bigg], \qquad (42)$$

and

$$[\theta, H_{so}] = \frac{i\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{R}{\rho^2 (R + \rho\cos\theta)} \sigma_s.$$
(43)

To reveal the effect of the pseudo-magnetic field, we give the boundary condition that $\theta \in [-\theta_0, \theta_0]$ and $R \gg \rho$, where θ_0 is small so that $\sin \theta \approx 0$, $\cos \theta \approx 1$, as shown in Fig. 2(b). In addition, a charge current is injected along the axis *s* with the wavelength $\lambda < \rho$. In this condition, the force in the θ direction associated with σ_3 is dominantly determined by the current. We prefer calculating the force generated from the pseudo-magnetic field and the effective SOI separately. For the pseudo-magnetic field,

$$\ddot{\theta}_{(pm)} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\dot{\theta}, H_0] \approx \frac{\hbar p_s R \cos \theta \sigma_3}{2m^2 \rho^2 (R + \rho \cos \theta)^2}, \qquad (44)$$

where $p_s = -i\hbar\partial_s$ is the momentum operator along the axis s. For the effective SOI, we find

$$\ddot{\theta}_{(so)} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\dot{\theta}, H_{so}] \approx \frac{\hbar p_s R \cos \theta \sigma_3}{2m^2 \rho^2 (R + \rho \cos \theta)^2}.$$
 (45)

Here the relation $\partial_{\theta}(\sigma_{\theta}) = \rho \sigma_3$ is utilized. As predicted in Sec. III B, the forces from the pseudo-magnetic field and the effective SOI are equal. Hence the total force

$$F_{\theta} = m\rho^2(\hat{\theta}_{(pm)} + \hat{\theta}_{(so)}) \approx 2\sigma_3 e \mathcal{B} v_s, \qquad (46)$$

where $\mathcal{B} = \frac{\hbar}{2e} \frac{\cos \theta}{\rho(R+\rho\cos\theta)}$ and $v_s = p_s/m$. It is found that this geometry-induced force is in a form similar to the Lorentz force, leading to the spin Hall effect. In the representation of

 σ_3 , spin-up particles and spin-down particles are acted on by the force in opposite direction, respectively, or equivalently, the particles in the two different spin states feel the pseudomagnetic field in different directions, that is parallel and antiparallel to the normal direction. The same phenomenon appears when $\theta \in [\pi - \theta_0, \pi + \theta_0]$ [see Fig. 2(c)], only here the Gaussian curvature is negative, which induces opposite forces for the inward and outward spin orientations compared with the case where $\theta \in [-\theta_0, \theta_0]$.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we started from the Dirac equation in curved space and performed the nonrelativistic limit and thin-layer procedure to obtain the effective dynamics for a spin-1/2 particle constrained to an arbitrary curved surface. We have shown that an effective SOI, a 2D gauge field, and a scalar potential appear in the effective equation as contribution of the spin connection. The effective SOI and the gauge field are associated with the spin orientation parallel and orthogonal to the surface, respectively. Furthermore, we have found that the pseudo-magnetic field generated by the gauge field is proportional to the Gaussian curvature, which makes the corresponding flux for a closed surface a topological invariant. The effective spin-orbit coupling strength is determined by the Weingarten curvature tensor, being comparable with the intrinsic SOI strength of semiconducting materials when the curvature radius is on the nanoscale.

To manifest the effect of the pseudo-magnetic field and the effective spin-orbit interaction, we have proposed two different geometries; namely, a straight and a bent cylinder. In the straight cylinder, energy-level shifts due to the effective SOI have been displayed and, accordingly, we suggest a conductance experiment to demonstrate the existence of this interaction. In the bent cylinder, Lorentz-like force from the pseudo-magnetic field and spin-orbit force from the effective SOI have been found equal and lead to the spin Hall effect.

Our model gives a lucid picture of a spin-1/2 particle moving in a 2D curved space with confinement and is well suited to the study of 2DEG systems with curved features. It shows that, by bending the 2D semiconducting materials on the nanoscale, the effective SOI and pseudo-magnetic fields from the spin connection could be locally enormous, which are easier to control than the external electric and magnetic field. This implies new possibilities in constructing materials with topological properties.

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APPENDIX: SEPARATION OF NORMAL AND TANGENTIAL DYNAMICS

Because of the spin connection and the Ricci scalar contained Eq. (24), the process of taking the limit $q_3 \rightarrow 0$ is more complex than for the scalar Schrödinger equation. We make some preparations for this purpose. In *AF*, the vierbein components E_A^I are determined by the choice of the flat-space coordinates x^I . For convenience, we will choose x^I as the local flat-space coordinates, which make the components have the form [35,53]

$$E_A^I = \begin{pmatrix} E_a^i & 0\\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{A1}$$

The inverse of E_A^I is then

$$E_I^A = \begin{pmatrix} E_i^a & 0\\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (A2)

In *SF*, we can also define vielbeins e_a^i to satisfy the relation $g_{ab} = e_a^i e_b^j \delta_{ij}$. From Eq. (21), it is easy to find the relation between E_a^i and e_a^i ; that is,

$$E_a^i = e_a^i + q_3 \alpha_a^b e_b^i. \tag{A3}$$

For the inverse ones, up to the first order in q_3 , it is given by

$$E_i^a = e_i^a - q_3 \alpha_b^a e_i^b + O[(q_3)^2].$$
 (A4)

In addition to the difference between E_a^i and e_a^i , the Christoffel symbols and spin connections in *AF* and *SF* also possess different forms. To distinguish these geometric quantities, we mark those in *AF* with a bar. For example, in *AF*, $\bar{\Gamma}_{ab}^c = \frac{1}{2}G^{cd}(\partial_b G_{da} + \partial_a G_{db} - \partial_d G_{ab})$, while in *SF*, $\Gamma_{ab}^c = \frac{1}{2}g^{cd}(\partial_b g_{da} + \partial_a g_{db} - \partial_d g_{ab})$. Using Eq. (21), we find

$$\begin{split} \bar{\Gamma}_{ab}^{c} &= \Gamma_{ab}^{c} + O(q_{3}), \\ \bar{\Gamma}_{3a}^{b} &= \bar{\Gamma}_{a3}^{b} = \alpha_{a}^{b} - q_{3}(\alpha g \alpha^{T})_{a}^{b} + O[(q_{3})^{2}], \\ \bar{\Gamma}_{ab}^{3} &= -\alpha_{ab} - (\alpha g \alpha^{T})_{ab} q_{3}, \\ \bar{\Gamma}_{33}^{3} &= \bar{\Gamma}_{34}^{3} = \bar{\Gamma}_{43}^{3} = 0. \end{split}$$
(A5)

Then, by using Eq. (13) and (A3)–(A5), we calculate the spin connection in AF and obtain

$$\bar{\Omega}_a = \Omega_a + i(A_{so})_a + O(q_3),$$

$$\bar{\Omega}_3 = O[(q_3)^2],$$
(A6)

where $\Omega_a = i\sigma_3 w_a = \frac{i}{4}\sigma_3 \epsilon^{ij} \omega_{aij}$ and $(A_{so})_a = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{g}} \epsilon^{cb} \sigma_b \alpha_{ac}$, which can be viewed as spin connections in *SF* and a non-Abelian spin-orbit gauge field, respectively. Equation (A6) is the most important step in the separation of tangential and normal dynamics. It is clear that the spin connection is decomposed into two parts: one is associated with the normal component of Pauli matrices, and the other one couples with the tangential components.

Besides, we have to deal with the scalar potential $\frac{\bar{R}}{8m}$ carefully. The Ricci scalar can be calculated according to the formula

$$\bar{R} = G^{AB}\bar{R}_{AB} = G^{ab}\bar{R}_{ab} + \bar{R}_{33}, \tag{A7}$$

where \bar{R}_{AB} is the Ricci tensor. In a pure two-dimensional space, or SF, the Ricci scalar $R = g^{ab}R_{ab}$ is exactly twice the Gaussian curvature; however, in AF, this is not right even at $q_3 = 0$. We will show this below.

First, we find

$$R_{33} = -\Gamma^b_{3a}\Gamma^a_{b3} - \partial_3\Gamma^a_{3a} = O(q_3), \tag{A8}$$

then the term

$$G^{ab}\bar{R}_{ab} = g^{ab}R_{ab} + g^{ab} \left(\partial_3\Gamma^3_{ba} - \Gamma^c_{b3}\Gamma^3_{ca} - \Gamma^3_{bc}\Gamma^c_{3a} + \Gamma^3_{ab}\Gamma^c_{3c}\right) + O(q_3)$$

= 2K - 2K + O(q_3) = O(q_3). (A9)

Therefore, in the limit $q_3 \rightarrow 0$ the scalar potential $\frac{\hbar^2 \bar{R}}{8m}$ in Eq. (19) vanishes instead of being $\frac{\hbar^2 K}{4m}$.

So far, we are ready to take the limit $q_3 \rightarrow 0$ in Eq. (24) and separate the equation into tangential and normal components. Substituting the results above, we obtain Eq. (25).

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