

## Intermediate phase induced by dilution in a correlated Dirac Fermi system

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Substituting magnetic ions with nonmagnetic ions is a new way to study dilution. Using determinant quantum Monte Carlo calculations, we investigate an interacting Dirac fermion model with the onsite Coulomb repulsion being randomly zero on a fraction  $x$  of sites. Based on conductivity, density of states, and antiferromagnetic structure factor, our results reveal a novel intermediate insulating phase induced by the competition between dilution and repulsion. With increasing doping level of nonmagnetic ions, this nonmagnetic intermediate phase is found to emerge from the zero-temperature quantum critical point separating a metallic and a Mott insulating phase, whose robustness is proven over a wide range of interactions. Under the premise of strongly correlated materials, we suggest that doping nonmagnetic ions can effectively convert the system back to the paramagnetic metallic phase. This result not only agrees with experiments on the effect of dilution on magnetic order but also provides a possible direction for studies focusing on the metal-insulator transition in honeycomb lattice-like materials.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Since a number of exotic phenomena are observed in graphene [1–3] and silicene [4–6], the honeycomb lattice has become another topic that has received much theoretical [7,8] and experimental [9,10] attention with respect to the square lattice. In the absence of interactions, itinerant electrons on a honeycomb lattice form a Dirac spectrum, and the density of state (DOS) near Fermi energy  $E = 0$  vanishes linearly, which is in strong contrast with the square lattice whose DOS diverges at  $E = 0$  [11]. The difference is directly reflected in the onset of long-range antiferromagnetic (AFM) correlations at half filling: the AFM order can be exhibited in the square lattice for arbitrarily small onsite Coulomb repulsion  $U$ , whereas a finite value  $U_c \sim 4t$  is required in the honeycomb lattice [12,13]. In addition, a transition from a Dirac semimetal phase to an insulating phase is also found at  $U_c$  [14,15]. The massless Dirac fermions have advanced our understanding of physics beyond Landau's theory of the Fermi liquid [16,17], which states that interacting metallic systems are similar to free Fermi systems.

In real materials, disorder is inevitably present and can be controlled by doping. Disorder plays an important role in many novel physical properties of modern science, touching upon topics from transport phase transition [18–20] and superconductivity [21,22] to quantum spin liquids [23–26]. However, different types of disorder may have opposite influences on the physical mechanism under the same model, which makes studies about disorder in correlated systems important and interesting. For example, the nearest-neighbor hopping disorder is proven to enhance localization in the

two-dimensional repulsion Hubbard model under half filling, while the site disorder reduces this effect. Interestingly, both types of disorder destroy the AFM order for dynamic properties [27]. Another example is using strong-coupling perturbation theory to study the Anderson Hubbard model on the honeycomb lattice, where an intermediate metallic state is present between the Anderson insulator and Mott insulator under binary-alloy disorder but absent under uniformly distributed disorder [28,29].

Site dilution is the disorder achieved by substitution of magnetic ions with nonmagnetic ions. It has been reported that doping nonmagnetic Pt and G into  $\text{GaFe}_4\text{As}_3$  produces a different modification of the electronic structure and transition property [30]. In an insulating honeycomb magnet  $\alpha - \text{RuCl}_3$ , replacing the magnetic ions  $\text{Ru}^{3+}$  with nonmagnetic ions  $\text{Ir}^{3+}$  suppresses the magnetic order and induces a dilute quantum spin liquid state in the low-temperature region [31–33]. Many models have been used to reveal the phases in diluted systems [34], and motivated by cuprates such as  $\text{La}_2\text{Cu}_x\text{Mg}_{1-x}\text{O}_4$ , the site diluted Hubbard model with onsite repulsion  $U$  being zero randomly on a fraction  $x$  of sites has been investigated in two and quasi-two dimensions. On the strong coupling square lattice, the AFM magnetic order at half filling disappears at  $x_c$ , which is consistent with the classical percolation threshold  $x_c^{(\text{perc, square})}$ , while on the Lieb lattice,  $x_c$  is almost twice that of  $x_c^{(\text{perc, lieb})}$  [35]. This difference emphasizes the central role of electron itinerancy in the magnetic response. In related experiments, the honeycomb lattice provides a great platform to study dilution. In  $\text{CoTiO}_3$ , a linear relation between dilution and the critical temperature of magnetic transition is observed over a wide dilution range [36]. Under out-of-plane interactions or second- and third-nearest-neighbor exchange interactions, the long-range AFM order survives well past the classical percolation threshold  $x_c = 0.3$  [36–38]. Our study

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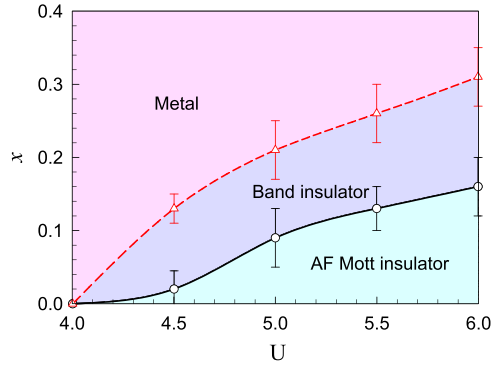


FIG. 1. Phase diagram of the Hubbard model on a  $L = 12$  honeycomb lattice at half filling and  $\beta = 12$ .  $x$  represents the percentage of the number of free sites with respect to the total number of lattice sites, and  $U$  labels the onsite Coulomb repulsive interaction. Phase boundaries are determined by the conductivity, density of states at the Fermi energy, and finite size scaling of the AFM spin structure factor. There exists an intermediate phase – band insulator – between the AFM Mott insulator and metal. These phases are labeled by different colors in the figure: AFM Mott insulator (green), band insulator (blue), and metal (pink). More details about error of critical point are in Appendix B.

focuses on the magnetic phase transition caused by dilution in the system with onsite interaction, and it is also interesting to study whether magnetic order transition and metal-insulator transition take place concomitantly.

Here, we use determinant quantum Monte Carlo (DQMC) simulations to examine the effect of dilution on the ground state properties of honeycomb lattices, including transport and magnetic properties, of the half-filled case. Our key result is that an intermediate gapped insulating phase without magnetic order is identified between the AFM Mott insulator and the metal, and is robust over a wide range of  $U$ , which is summarized in the phase diagram in Fig. 1. The red dashed line represents the phase boundary between the gapped insulator and metal, which is determined by the conductivity and density of states. The black solid line indicates an AFM phase transition confirmed by the spin structure factor. Our results have the possibility to be realized in optical lattice experiments and were previously demonstrated in a one-dimensional optical lattice to induce multiple phase transitions by introducing randomness into the interaction distribution via Feshbach resonances [39,40].

## II. MODEL AND METHOD

We consider a modified version of the Hubbard model with site-dependent repulsion, described by the Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{i \in A, j \in B, \sigma} (\hat{c}_{i\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{j\sigma} + H.c.) - \mu \sum_{i\sigma} \hat{n}_{i\sigma} + \sum_i U_i \left( \hat{n}_{i\uparrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( \hat{n}_{i\downarrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right). \quad (1)$$

Here,  $\hat{c}_{i\sigma}^\dagger$  ( $\hat{c}_j$ ) indicates creation (annihilation) electron operators in second-quantized formalism, and  $\hat{n}_{i\sigma} = \hat{c}_{i\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i\sigma}$  is the occupancy number operator. The first term on the right-hand

side of Eq. (1) denotes in-plane hopping between nearest neighbors, and in our paper, the hopping amplitude is set as  $t = 1$ , thus defining the energy scale. The last term includes the chemical potential  $\mu$ , and we set  $\mu = 0$ , a choice that makes the studied system precisely half-filled and protects particle-hole symmetry.

We introduce dilution by allowing for random distribution of the site-dependent Coulomb repulsion  $U_i$  in the second term, such that the onsite interaction on a fraction  $x$  of the sites is suppressed:

$$U_i = \begin{cases} U & 1-x \\ 0 & x \end{cases}. \quad (2)$$

This type of disorder is generated in a canonical ensemble, i.e., we have a fraction  $Nx$  of sites with  $U = 0$  for a given concentration  $x$ , where  $N$  is the total number of sites, so that there are no charge fluctuations on the free sites. Here, we consider a  $N = 2L^2$  honeycomb lattice with a linear size of  $L = 12$ . For dilution concentration  $x$ , where  $Nx$  is not an integer number, we calculate a weighted average of its adjacent integers. Our results are obtained by averaging over 20 disorder realizations.

We probe the transport and magnetic properties of the half-filled diluted honeycomb model by means of DQMC simulations. In this method, the Hamiltonian is mapped onto fermions moving in a fluctuating space- and imaginary time-dependent auxiliary field by the Hubbard-Stratonovich (HS) transform [41,42]. This HS field is initialized randomly, and a local flip is attempted with the acceptance rate determined by the Metropolis algorithm. A QMC sweep is completed when the process of changing the auxiliary field variable traverses the entire space-time. In our simulations, 4,000 warm-up sweeps were used to equilibrate the system, and then 48,000 sweeps were conducted for measurements. The number of measurements was split into 10 bins, which provide the basis of coarse-grain averages and errors estimated based on standard deviations from the averages. The errors from the Suzuki-Trotter decomposition are proportional to  $(\Delta\tau)^2$ , where  $\Delta\tau = \beta/M$  is the imaginary-time interval, so we set  $\Delta\tau = 0.1$  to guarantee that the systematic errors are smaller than those associated with statistical sampling [43]. As with many fermionic QMC methods, the DQMC method also suffers from the minus-sign problem; however, the particle-hole symmetry makes our system free of the sign problem so that the simulation can be performed at low enough temperature to converge to the ground state.

With the aim of exploring the phase transitions between metal and insulating phases, we compute the  $T$ -dependent direct-current conductivity:

$$\sigma_{dc}(T) = \frac{\beta^2}{\pi} \Lambda_{xx}(\mathbf{q} = 0, \tau = \beta/2), \quad (3)$$

where  $\beta = 1/T$  is the inverse temperature and the momentum  $\mathbf{q}$ – and imaginary time  $\tau$ -dependent current-current correlation functions  $\Lambda_{xx}(\mathbf{q}, \tau)$  are expressed as  $\Lambda_{xx}(\mathbf{q}, \tau) = \langle \hat{j}_x(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \hat{j}_x(-\mathbf{q}, 0) \rangle$ .  $\hat{j}_x(\mathbf{q}, \tau)$  is the Fourier transform of the  $\tau$ -dependent current density operator in the  $x$  direction. This approximation has been extensively employed to identify metal-insulator transitions for either disordered or clean systems [44,45]. To establish the existence of the Mott insulator,

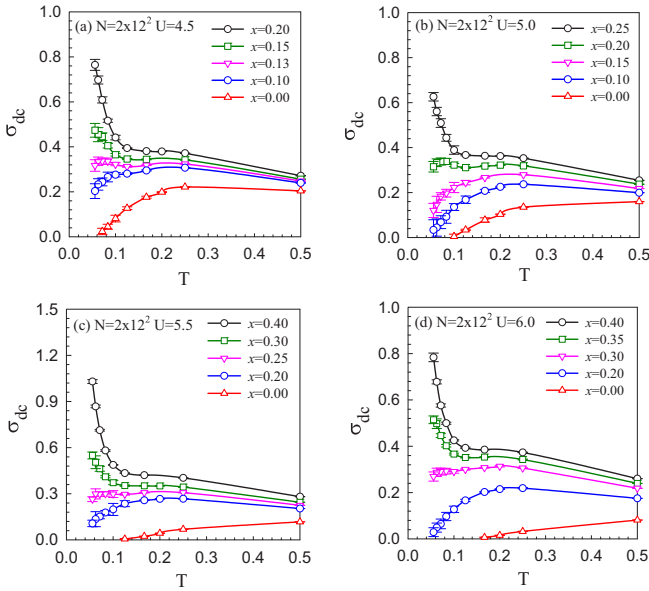


FIG. 2. The conductivity is shown as a function of temperature for various dilution concentrations at (a)  $U = 4.5$ , (b)  $U = 5.0$ , (c)  $U = 5.5$ , and (d)  $U = 6.0$ . Differences in the conductivity behavior indicate a dilution-driven insulator-metal transition. Data points are averages over 20 disorder realizations.

we define  $N(0)$ , the density of states at the Fermi energy, as

$$N(0) \simeq \beta \times G(\mathbf{r} = 0, \tau = \beta/2). \quad (4)$$

Here,  $G$  is the real-space single-particle Green function [46,47].

In addition to transport properties, we also examine the magnetic properties by investigating the antiferromagnetic structure factor [48]:

$$S_{\text{AFM}} = \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \left\langle \left( \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in A} \hat{S}_{\mathbf{r}}^z - \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in B} \hat{S}_{\mathbf{r}}^z \right)^2 \right\rangle \right\rangle, \quad (5)$$

where  $\hat{S}_{\mathbf{r}}^z$  represents the  $z$  component spin structure factor operator on the A/B sublattices of the honeycomb lattice.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned above, numerous studies have confirmed that the honeycomb lattice is in a Mott insulating phase at  $U \geq 4t$  [12]. When the system is diluted, the appearance of free lattices weakens the repulsive potential, making it impossible to maintain the half-filled system in an insulating state. Thus, we expect a critical point of dilution, which represents an insulator-metal transition. This can be checked by the conductivity calculated through Eq. (3). Figure 2 shows the temperature  $T$  dependence of conductivity  $\sigma_{dc}$  at  $U \geq 4.5$  for different dilution concentrations  $x$ . Regardless of  $x$ ,  $\sigma_{dc}$  increases as  $T$  decreases for  $T \geq 0.25$ . When  $T$  continues to decrease, the conductivity curves behave differently: at  $x = 0.00, 0.10$  shown in Fig. 2(a),  $\sigma_{dc}$  decreases as the temperature decreases, even approaching the origin as  $T \rightarrow 0$ , which is regarded as an insulating state; conversely, at  $x = 0.15, 0.20$ ,  $\sigma_{dc}$  continues to increase as the temperature decreases, which is regarded as a metallic state. The behavior

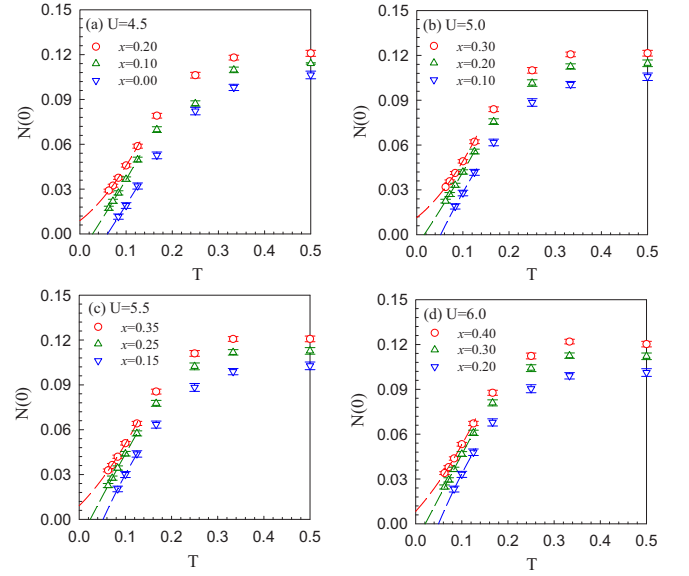


FIG. 3. The density of states at the Fermi energy  $N(0)$  computed as a function of temperature for various dilution concentrations at (a)  $U = 4.5$ , (b)  $U = 5.0$ , (c)  $U = 5.5$ , and (d)  $U = 6.0$ . When increasing the dilution concentration,  $N(0)$  approaches a finite value at  $T \rightarrow 0$ , which indicates that the system is a gapped system. The measurement of  $N(0)$  once again verifies the conclusion that dilution induces insulator-metal transition. Dashed lines are obtained by fitting the low temperature results through a quadratic polynomial.

of  $d\sigma_{dc}/dT$  changing from positive to negative indicates an insulator-metal transition (IMT). The point at which conductivity is independent of temperature is considered the critical IMT point of dilution  $x_c^{\text{IMT}}$ , and we can roughly estimate  $x_c^{\text{IMT}}$  for various interactions from Fig. 2:  $x_c^{\text{IMT}} \sim 0.13$  for  $U = 4.5$ ;  $x_c^{\text{IMT}} \sim 0.21$  for  $U = 5.0$ ;  $x_c^{\text{IMT}} \sim 0.26$  for  $U = 5.5$ ; and  $x_c^{\text{IMT}} \sim 0.31$  for  $U = 6.0$  (related details in Appendix B). The critical value becomes larger as the interaction strength increases.

To further support our analysis of the insulator-metal transition, we calculated the density of states at the Fermi energy  $N(0)$  for system behavior in metallic or insulating phases. In the honeycomb lattice, the existence of correlation interaction makes the density of states at Fermi energy finite. As the strength of interaction increases,  $N(0)$  decreases, and the system turns into a Mott insulating phase as  $N(0) \rightarrow 0$  [49]. In Fig. 3(a),  $N(0)$  approaches zero at  $T \rightarrow 0$  in the case of  $x \leq 0.1$ , suggesting that the system opens a gap. As  $x$  increases,  $N(0)$  in the thermodynamic limit gradually becomes a finite value, indicating that the gap closes [49]. The result of  $N(0)$  is consistent with that measured by conductivity; that is, an increased dilution concentration causes an insulator to become a metallic phase by closing the energy gap. The insulating phases are always gapped, as evidenced by the phenomenon that  $N(0)$  converges to zero, and are divided into two types by the following magnetic calculations.

Another physical property of interest is the magnetic order, which has been shown to be suppressed by dilution [35]. Figures 4(a) and 4(b) summarize the relationship between the AFM spin structure factor  $S_{\text{AFM}}$  and temperature for  $x = 0.0$

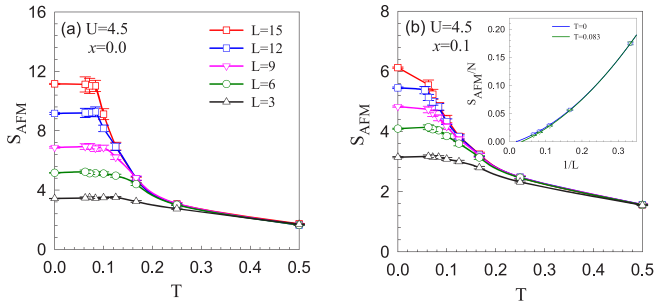


FIG. 4. Temperature dependence of the AFM spin structure factor  $S_{\text{AFM}}$  with different lattice sizes for (a)  $U = 4.5$ ,  $x = 0.0$  and (b)  $U = 4.5$ ,  $x = 0.1$ . Inset: finite size extrapolation of the AFM spin structure factor with different temperatures  $T = 0$  and  $T = 0.083$  for  $U = 4.5$ ,  $x = 0.1$ . The agreement of the qualitative results for  $T = 0$  and  $T \approx 0.083$  validates reliability for studying the ground state magnetism by using  $T \approx 0.083$  data.

and  $x = 0.1$ . In each case,  $S_{\text{AFM}}$  develops as the lattice size  $L$  increases and the temperature decreases. When reaching a lattice-dependent temperature of approximately  $T \approx 0.083$ ,  $S_{\text{AFM}}$  saturates, which is more obvious in the undiluted case. We compare the finite size scaling results for  $T = 0$  and  $T \approx 0.083$  in the inset of Fig. 4(b), in which the result of  $T = 0$  is obtained from the Algorithms for Lattice Fermions (ALF) package. This package provides a general implementation of both finite temperature and projected auxiliary field algorithms. In the projector approach, the ground state expectation of the observable are obtained by the propagation along imaginary time axis [50,51]:

$$\frac{\langle \Psi_0 | \hat{O} | \Psi_0 \rangle}{\langle \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle} = \lim_{\theta \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \Psi_T | e^{-\theta \hat{H}} e^{-(\mathcal{B}-\Delta\tau)\hat{H}} \hat{O} e^{-\Delta\tau\hat{H}} e^{-\theta \hat{H}} | \Psi_T \rangle}{\langle \Psi_T | e^{-(2\theta+\mathcal{B})\hat{H}} | \Psi_T \rangle}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathcal{B}$  denotes the imaginary time range where time-displaced observables are measured. The trial wave functions are assumed by the ground state of noninteracting Hamiltonians. The main involved projection parameters are set to  $\theta = 36$ , and the number of runs  $n_{\text{sweep}} = 120000$ , which are large enough to guarantee converged ground state quantities within statistical uncertainty. In Fig. 4(b), it can be seen that although there is a slight difference in the value of  $S_{\text{AFM}}$  between these two temperatures, the intercept with the vertical axis ( $1/L = 0$ ) is always negative, and the qualitative results are the same. Considering the temperature effect of antiferromagnetism, we hypothesize that the result of  $T \approx 0.083$  can be regarded as the result for the ground state.

Following the procedure adopted for the insert, in Fig. 5 we extrapolate the results of  $T \approx 0.083$  to  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , which is small enough to capture the ground-state magnetization and avoids unnecessarily complicated large simulations. It is known that  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} (S_{\text{AFM}}/N) > 0$  indicates the onset of long-range AFM order [52]. As shown in Fig. 5(a), the value of  $S_{\text{AFM}}(1/L \rightarrow 0)$  changes from positive to negative as  $x$  increases to 0.05 at  $U = 4.5$ , which demonstrates that the  $T = 0$  system undergoes a transition from magnetic order to magnetic disorder in the thermodynamic limit. Similarly, the critical values of the AFM phase transition  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  can

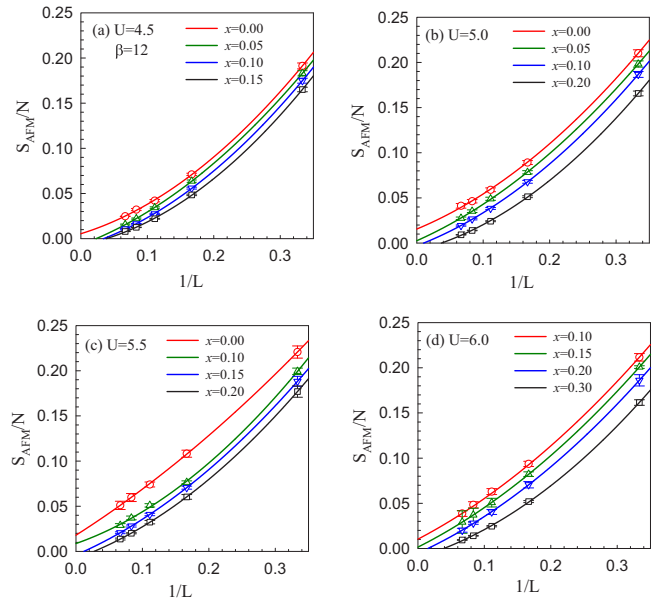


FIG. 5. The normalized AFM spin structure factor  $S_{\text{AFM}}/N$  plotted as a function of  $1/L$  for different dilution concentrations at fixed interactions: (a)  $U = 4.5$ , (b)  $U = 5.0$ , (c)  $U = 5.5$ , and (d)  $U = 6.0$ . Solid lines are obtained by fitting a second-order polynomial to the DQMC data. A finite y-axis intercept in the thermodynamic limit represents the existence of long-range antiferromagnetic order.

be obtained from Figs. 5(b)–5(d):  $x_c^{\text{AFM}} = 0.05 \sim 0.10$  for  $U = 5.0$ ,  $x_c^{\text{AFM}} = 0.10 \sim 0.15$  for  $U = 5.5$ , and  $x_c^{\text{AFM}} = 0.15$  for  $U = 6.0$ . The dilution suppresses the long-range AFM order, while  $U$  plays the opposite role. It is worth noting that for each interaction strength,  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  is smaller than  $x_c^{\text{IMT}}$ , and this difference is too large to be explained by errors. Thus, there is an intermediate phase existing between the AFM Mott insulating phase and metallic phase. This intermediate phase is denoted as a band insulating phase due to its insulativity, energy gap, and lack of magnetic order. We summarize these results as a two-dimensional phase diagram shown in Fig. 1.

The existence of the intermediate phase may be explained in such a way: Random interaction introduces a random symmetry, which energetically favor the splitting of the system into small regions of clustered spins, so that breaks the long-range order [53]. When dilution is large enough, there are not enough strongly repulsive  $U$  to sustain the insulating phase, and the gap would be closed, accompanied by changes in transport property. Experimental study has proven that the magnetism is more easily disrupted by dilution than transport property [54]. Therefore, because the energy gap and the antiferromagnetic order are different in sensitivity to dilution, there is an intermediate band insulating phase which occurs during the increase of the dilution.

Finally, we discuss the effect of dilution on the local moment defined as  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle \equiv \langle (\hat{n}_{i\uparrow} - \hat{n}_{i\downarrow})^2 \rangle$ . In the clean system, the local moment increases monotonically with increasing  $U$  [55]. At half filling, at  $U = 0$ , both up spin and down spin occupy 0.5, resulting in  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle = 1 - 2 * d = 0.5$ . When  $U$  approaches infinity, all sites are singly occupied so that  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle = 1$ , corresponding to the spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  Heisenberg case.



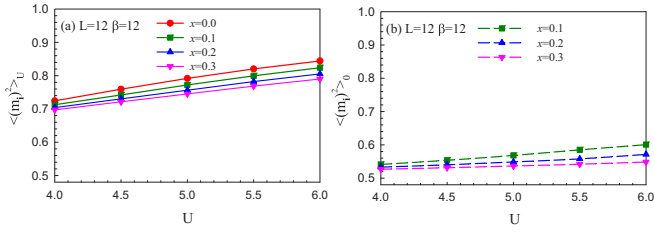


FIG. 6. Average local moment within repulsive (solid line) and free (dashed line) ( $U = 0$ ) sites as a function of repulsion strength for different dilution concentrations at temperature  $T \approx 0.083$ . The data of the local moment inversely illustrate the double occupancy behavior.

Figure 6 shows the dependence of the average local moment for repulsive  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_U$  and free sites  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_0$  on interaction. For the former,  $U$  has a positive role on  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_U$ ; conversely, dilution has a negative effect. The competition with the interaction also reflects that the insulator-metal transition may be driven by dilution. In Fig. 6(b),  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_0$  increases with  $U$  under each  $x$ , which is caused by the leaking of interaction into the free sites. In the range of  $U < 6$ , our results are consistent with Ref. [56], and when  $U$  increases to a large value, the repulsive sites push electrons to the free sites and induce them to be doubly occupied, so we speculate that  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_0$  will finally taper off to 0.5 [56].

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we use DQMC simulations to study the ground state properties of honeycomb lattices in the Hubbard model, with the onsite Coulomb repulsive interaction being deactivated randomly for a fraction  $Nx$  of sites. We employed the conductivity to examine the insulator-metal transition for  $U = 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0$  and found that the critical value of IMT  $x_c^{\text{IMT}}$  monotonously increases with the studied  $U$ . We also use the density of states at Fermi energy to verify that the insulating phase is always gapped. We calculated the AFM spin factor to investigate the influence of dilution on magnetic order, and the long-range AFM order vanishes as the dilution concentration increases at a fixed repulsion. Because  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  is lower than  $x_c^{\text{IMT}}$  for each repulsion, we suggest that a new band-insulating intermediate phase appears between the AFM Mott insulator and metal, in which the energy gap is present but the magnetic order is absent.

Magnetic dilution has been the subject of extensive research efforts in the context of percolation phenomena. The effect of dilution on magnetic order has received extensive attention for graphene-like materials [36,57]. In this paper, we focus on a Dirac fermion system with onsite interactions and study the effects of dilution on both the magnetic order and insulator-metal transition. Our results facilitate experimental studies related to honeycomb lattices, where phase transitions can be induced by doping nonmagnetic ions.

The relationship between  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  and the percolation threshold has been discussed in previous studies [58,59]. Although all values of  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  in our paper are smaller than the percolation threshold for the honeycomb lattice,  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  shows a clear growth trend with increasing repulsion. Reference [60] found

that the long-range AFM order depends on the existence of local moments at the  $U = 0$  sites. At fixed concentrations,  $\langle (\hat{m}_i^z)^2 \rangle_0$  increases with  $U$  (see Fig. 6), and it can be deduced that  $x_c^{\text{AFM}}$  will approach the percolation threshold when  $U$  increases to a certain extent.

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#### APPENDIX A: FINITE-SIZE EFFECT

To make our phase diagram more convincing, the order parameters calculated on a finite lattice must all be extrapolated to the thermodynamic limit. In the main text, we have demonstrated the finite size effect of the AFM spin structure factor and density of states. Here, we discuss the finite size effect of conductivity. In Fig. 7, we plot  $\sigma_{dc}$  as a function of  $T$  for different sizes  $L = 6, 9, 12, 15$ . Figures 7(a) and 7(c) show that the lattice size has little effect on  $\sigma_{dc}$ , and the behaviors of conductivity on all studied sizes are indicative of an insulating state. In Figs. 7(b) and 7(d), although there is a negative correlation between conductivity and lattice size, there is no qualitative change in their behavior, which always reflects the characteristics of the metallic phase. Moreover, as the lattice size increases, the size effect on conductivity weakens.

The above results are consistent with the consensus: the size effect is larger for metallic systems than for gapped

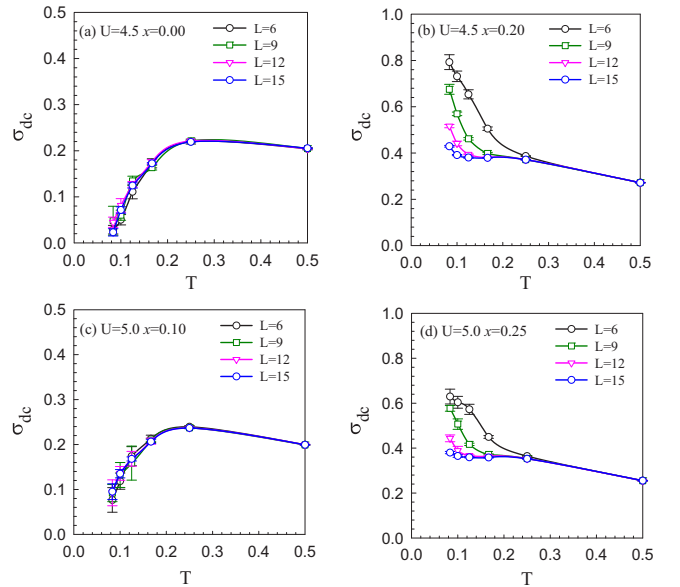


FIG. 7. The conductivity dependence on temperature for various lattice sizes at (a)  $U = 4.5, x = 0.0$ , (b)  $U = 4.5, x = 0.20$ , (c)  $U = 4.5, x = 0.10$ , and (d)  $U = 4.5, x = 0.25$ . In these figures, the systems of (a) and (c) are the insulating state, and those of (b) and (d) are the metallic phase.

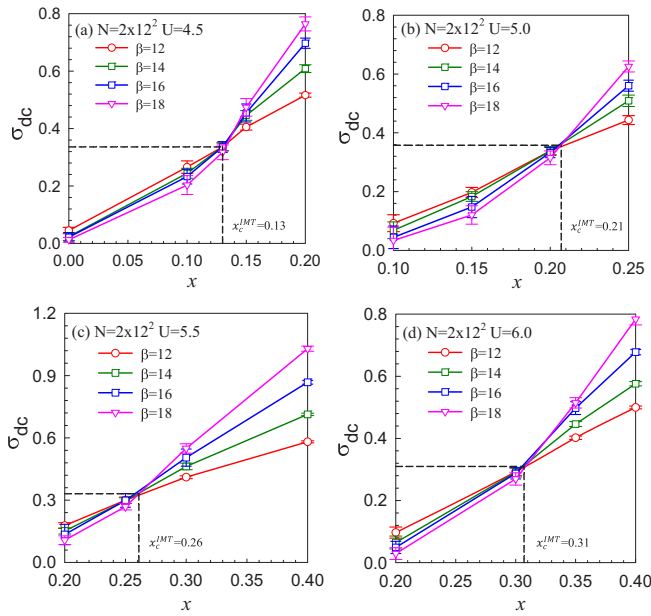


FIG. 8. The conductivity dependence on dilution concentration for various low temperatures  $\beta = 12, 14, 16, 18$  at (a)  $U = 4.5$ , (b)  $U = 5.0$ , (c)  $U = 5.5$ , and (d)  $U = 6.0$ . The intersection of the curves represents the critical point of the insulating-metal transition.

systems. The results in Fig. 7 guarantee the accuracy of the phase diagram.

## APPENDIX B: THE CRITICAL POINT

To determine the critical dilution value of the insulator-metal transition, we plot conductivity as a function of dilution concentration for the four lowest temperature  $\beta = 12, 14, 16, 18$ , based on Fig. 2. In Fig. 8, four curves intersect at a point, at which the conductivity is independent of temperature, thereby marking the critical dilution concentration for the insulator-metal transition. The corresponding error bars in the phase diagram shown in Fig. 1 stem from the difference between the critical point and the nearest dilution point where the system is in the metallic phase. For example, for  $U = 4.5$  as shown in Fig. 8(a), the critical IMT value is  $x_c^{\text{IMT}} = 0.13$ , and the nearest point in metallic phase is  $x = 0.15$ , thus the error bar is estimated to be  $0.15 - 0.13 = 0.02$ .

Furthermore, taking the dilution concentration as the abscissa and the intercept of the  $S_{\text{AFM}}/N$  curve as the ordinate, we can obtain a curve of the intercept as a function of dilution, and regard its intersection with x axis as the critical point of AFM phase transition. The corresponding error on the AFM transition boundary is the maximum difference between the critical point and the two nearby points.

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