# Protected spin-orbit induced absorption divergence in distorted Landau levels

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The effect of spin-orbit (and Darwin) interaction on a two-dimensional (2D) electron gas subject to a radial symmetric, inhomogeneous 1/r magnetic field is discussed analytically in a perturbative and nonperturbative manner. For this purpose, we investigate the radial Hall conductivity that emerges from an additional homogeneous electric field perturbation perpendicular to the 2D electron gas, which solely interacts via spin-orbit coupling. Numerical calculations of the absorptive spin-orbit spectra show for an ideal InSb electron gas a behavior that is dominated by the localized (atomic) part of the distorted Landau levels. In contrast, however, we also find analytically that a (nonlocal) divergent static response emerges for Fermi energies close to the ionization energy in the thermodynamic limit. The divergent linear response implies that the external electric field is entirely absorbed outside the 2D electron gas by induced radial spin-orbit currents, as it would be the case inside a perfect conductor. This spin-orbit induced polarization mechanism depends on the effective g\* factor of the material for which it shows a critical behavior at  $g_c^* = 2$ , where it abruptly switches direction. The diverging absorption relies on the presence of degenerate energies with allowed selection rules that are imposed by the radial symmetry of our inhomogeneous setup. We show analytically the presence of a discrete Rydberg-like band structure that obeys these symmetry properties. While in our case this structure turns out to be of minor relevance, it is a promising property, which may facilitate the experimental realization in the future. In a last step, we investigate the robustness of the spectra by solving analytically the Dirac equation expanded up to order  $1/(mc)^2$ . We find that the distorted Landau levels, and thus the divergent spin-orbit polarization, remain protected with respect to slow changes of the applied 1/r magnetic field.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The Hall effect has been a cornerstone of solid-state physics for almost 150 years since its first discovery [1]. The basic mechanism, that a charge current gets deflected in a perpendicular magnetic field, does not only hold on a macroscopic scale, but numerous seminal experiments have been designed, where delicate quantum features of the materials become apparent in all sorts of different Hall setups. For example, the integer [2] and fractional [3,4] quantum Hall effect

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are potentially the most famous among those experiments. With growing experimental capabilities, more delicate experimental conditions have been realized over time, where even the quantization of the electromagnetic fields can become decisive, as for example under ultrastrong-coupling conditions in optical cavities [5–14]. All of these experiments have in common that they fundamentally rely on the emergence of quantized Landau levels for a two-dimensional (2D) electron gas [15,16], which provides a paradigmatic analytic model for materials in a (locally) homogeneous magnetic field.

So far, inhomogeneous fields were typically studied for externally applied electric fields, which can give rise to Landau quantization effects for typically neutral (atomic) setups [17–19]. Only very recently, a simple analytic solution was provided for charged particles in a truly inhomogeneous magnetic field instead, by assuming a rotationally symmetric and (1/r)-decaying magnetic field with respect to the distance r from the origin [20]. It has been shown that this B-field "impurity" introduces strongly distorted Landau levels in a noninteracting 2D electron gas that can fundamentally alter

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physical observables, compared with Landau-level physics or the homogeneous electron gas [20]. When creating distorted Landau levels with a strong spin dependency, it is now tempting to ask what spin-orbit effects could emerge in such a setting. In this paper we will uncover those basic mechanisms analytically and numerically for the spin-orbit Hall conductivity. Notice that our chosen setup is fundamentally different from the anomalous Hall effect in ferromagnetic materials [21] or the related spin Hall effect [22], which also emerge from spin-orbit interaction and are of particular interest for the flourishing field of spintronics [23]. In those cases, three dominant mechanisms are known: the intrinsic scattering contributions [24], which emerge from the topological Fermi liquid property [25], and two extrinsic contributions (skew [26,27] and side jump scattering [28]) that are related to the scattering at a scalar potential well (e.g., charged impurity). All of these effects can jointly be described by Kubo's linear response theory [29], which we will also rely on subsequently. However, in our case, the significant spin-orbit effects will not emerge from a scalar potential; instead they arise from the subtle interplay of a magnetic field impurity (affecting the Zeeman interaction) with its corresponding vector potential that couples to the momentum operator.

The paper is structured as follows: First, we shortly recapitulate the recently introduced analytical solution for distorted Landau levels in an inhomogeneous magnetic field. Based on this, we determine the radial Hall conductivity that emerges from spin-orbit interaction when applying a small electric field perturbation perpendicular to the 2D electron gas. In the next section, we focus on the static (DC) absorptive features of the radial Hall conductivity, which shows local as well as nonlocal (diverging) features depending on the Fermi energy. Furthermore, we discuss the influence of the effective  $g^*$  factor on the results, which gives rise to different phases. Afterwards, we focus on the robustness of the previously derived results with respect to slow variations of the externally applied magnetic fields, by solving analytically the corresponding quasistatic eigenvalue problem. Finally, we summarize our results and assess them with respect to their potential experimental verification.

# II. RADIAL HALL CONDUCTIVITY FROM SPIN-ORBIT INTERACTION

As the starting point of our investigation of transversal spin-orbit Hall conductivity effects in a noninteracting 2D electron gas subject to an inhomogeneous magnetic field B(r), we use the Pauli Hamiltonian [20,30]

$$\hat{H}_0 = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\hat{\mathbf{\Pi}}_j^2}{2m^*} - \frac{g^* q \hbar}{4m^*} \hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_j \cdot \boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{r}_j). \tag{1}$$

The recently introduced bound-state solution is given by [20]

$$E_{n,l,s} = \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} \left( 1 - \left[ \frac{2l + g^* s}{2n + 1} \right]^2 \right), \ n \geqslant l, \ l + l, g^* s / 2 > 0,$$
(2)

with hydrogenlike eigenstates,

$$\Psi_{n,l,s}(r,\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_{n,l,s}}} e^{il\phi} e^{-\frac{x(r)}{2}} x^l(r) L_{n-l}^{2l}(x(r)) \chi(s), \quad (3)$$

which are written in terms of generalized Laguerre polynomials  $L_w^{\nu}$ . We have introduced an energy-dependent radial scaling factor,

$$x(r) := \frac{2qA_{\phi}}{\hbar} \frac{2l + g^*s}{2n + 1} r,\tag{4}$$

and the normalization constant,

$$N_{n,l,s} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \Psi_{n,l,s}^*(r,\phi) \Psi_{n,l,s}(r,\phi) r dr d\phi$$

$$= 2\pi \frac{(n+l)!}{(n-l)!} (2n+1) \left( \frac{2qA_\phi}{\hbar} \frac{2l+g^*s}{2n+1} \right)^{-2}. \quad (5)$$

Notice that the inequality conditions for the allowed quantum numbers distinguishes the bound states from the unknown continuum solution, for which  $l + g^*s/2 \le 0$  holds [20]. The canonical momentum operator is defined as  $\hat{\mathbf{\Pi}}_i := \hat{\boldsymbol{p}}_i$  $qA(\mathbf{r}_i)$  and the effective electron mass is indicated by  $m^*$  with negative unit charge q = -e. The integer quantum numbers are labeled as n, l, where l corresponds to the angular momentum quantum number. Furthermore, the electron spin-half quantum numbers are indicated by s. We denote the usual position operator of particle j as  $r_j$  and the corresponding momentum operator as  $\hat{p}_i$ . The anisotropic external vector potential is denoted by A(r) and an effective g factor is introduced as g\*, which in our definition explicitly excludes modifications due to the effective mass of the electrons; i.e., it only accounts for relativistic corrections or other higher-order host material effects (e.g., the influence of Coulomb interaction or applied magnetic fields). Those mechanisms will not be discussed further. The Pauli vector for electron j is labeled by  $\sigma_i$ . In cylindrical coordinates the vector potential and corresponding magnetic field are given as [20]

$$A(\mathbf{r}) := A_{\phi} \mathbf{e}_{\phi},\tag{6}$$

$$\boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \nabla \wedge \boldsymbol{A} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (rA_{\phi})}{\partial r} \boldsymbol{e}_{z} = \frac{A_{\phi}}{r} \boldsymbol{e}_{z}, \tag{7}$$

such that  $A_{\phi}$  is constant, with  $e_{\phi} = \frac{1}{r}(-ye_x + xe_y)$  indicating the unit vector along the  $\phi$  direction. Notice that our inhomogeneous magnetic field B(r) corresponds to a radial external current density of the form  $J_{\text{ext}} = \frac{\nabla \wedge B}{\mu_0} = \frac{A_{\phi}}{\mu_0} \frac{1}{r^2} e_{\phi}$  if considered in free space; i.e., it does not correspond to a magnetic monopole. Equation (2) gives rise to a distorted Landau-level structure (see Fig. 1 for different  $g^*$  factors), which introduces a plethora of features such as infinite degeneracies, charge or current oscillations, as well as Hall conductivity phase transitions for in-plane static electric field perturbations which have been previously been discussed in Ref. [20]. Notice also that likewise, hydrogen-related spectra emerge for two-dimensional magnetic quantum dots [31,32].

In contrast to established properties within the context of Hall conductivity for in-plane perturbations, we will investigate the impact of a time-dependent, homogeneous electric field  $\mathbf{E}_z(t) = E_z e^{-i\omega t} \mathbf{e}_z$  perpendicular to the 2D electron gas (see Fig. 2). Notice that a related setup is discussed for a homogeneous magnetic field (Landau setting) in Ref. [33], regarding its impact on the degeneracies of the Landau levels. For this purpose, we apply Kubo's linear response formalism to our setup. The leading-order in-plane effects from  $\mathbf{E}_z(t)$  are

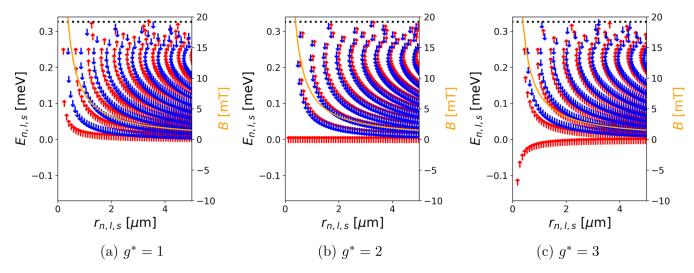


FIG. 1. Radially resolved bound-state eigenvalue spectrum for an InSb 2D electron gas  $(m^* = 0.015m_e)$  assuming different effective  $g^*$  factors and  $A_\phi = -0.0006$  a.u.. The radial position expectation values are defined as  $r_{n,l,s} := \langle \Psi_{n,l,s} | \hat{r} | \Psi_{n,l,s} \rangle$  based on the eigenstates introduced in Eq. (3). A distorted Landau-level structure becomes apparent caused by the applied 1/r-decaying magnetic field (orange) [20]. The up-spin (red) and down-spin (blue) dependencies are visualized as well as the ionization energy at  $E_{A^2} = q^2 A_\phi^2/(2m^*)$  (dashed black line). An increase in the externally applied vector potential  $A_\phi$  will result in an increase of the ionization threshold and simultaneously it will squeeze the states spatially more densely; i.e., it reduces the expected radial distance  $r_{n,l,s}$  with respect to the origin.

induced by the spin-orbit (and Darwin) interaction [according to the Foldy-Wouthuysen expansion of the Dirac equation up to order  $1/(m^*c)^2$ ]. The corresponding time-dependent perturbing Hamiltonian can be written as [30]

$$\hat{H}_{1}(t) = -\sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{q\hbar}{8m^{*2}c^{2}} [(\hat{\boldsymbol{p}}_{j} - q\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{r}_{j})) \cdot (\hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{j} \times \boldsymbol{E}_{z}(t)) + (\hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{j} \times \boldsymbol{E}_{z}(t)) \cdot (\hat{\boldsymbol{p}}_{j} - q\boldsymbol{A}(\boldsymbol{r}_{j}))]$$
(8)
$$= -\sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{q\hbar}{4m^{*2}c^{2}} [(\sigma_{y}(\cos(\phi)\boldsymbol{e}_{r} - \sin(\phi)\boldsymbol{e}_{\phi}) - \sigma_{x}(\sin(\phi)\boldsymbol{e}_{r} + \cos(\phi)\boldsymbol{e}_{\phi}))]_{j} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{\Pi}}_{j}E_{z}(t)$$
(9)
$$=: -\hat{d}_{1}E_{z}(t),$$
(10)

where the Darwin contribution  $\propto \operatorname{div} \boldsymbol{E}$  vanishes due to assuming a homogeneous electric field. From Eq. (9) we immediately notice that the perturbing Hamiltonian starts to mix the two different spin channels by  $\sigma_x$ ,  $\sigma_y$ . This has not been the case for our  $\hat{H}_0$ , which solely depends on the identity Pauli matrix  $\sigma_z$  instead. This has important implications, since it ensures that the only radially induced current  $\langle \hat{J}^r(t) \rangle$  must be induced by the spin-orbit current operator

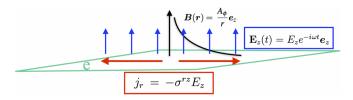


FIG. 2. Sketch of the 2D electron gas subject to the inhomogeneous magnetic field with applied perpendicular electric field perturbation (blue), giving rise to radial bound-state currents (red) by spin-orbit interactions.

 $\hat{\mathbf{j}}_{j}^{\text{SO}} := -\hbar q/(4m^{*2}c^2)(\hat{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}_{j} \times \boldsymbol{E})$  [34] within Kubo's linear response formalism. In contrast, paramagnetic, diamagnetic, and magnetization currents cannot induce radial currents perturbatively, since they are all spin-preserving operators. Notice that this property, i.e.,  $\hat{j}^{r} = \hat{\mathbf{j}}^{\text{SO}} \cdot \boldsymbol{e}_{r}$ , is universally true for any radially symmetric magnetic fields with a superimposed homogeneous electric field perturbation, which may simplify experimental realizations. Applying the Kubo linear response relation, the total radial current can be written as

$$\langle \hat{j}^r(t) \rangle = \langle \hat{j}^r(t) \rangle_0 - i \int_0^t dt' \langle [\hat{j}^r(t'), \hat{H}_1(t')] \rangle_0$$
 (11)

$$= -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' \hat{\sigma}^{rz}(t - t') E_z(t'), \tag{12}$$

where the first term becomes exactly zero [20]. The  $\langle \rangle_0$  indicates a ground state depending on temperature T. Additionally we introduced the radial Hall conductivity.

$$\sigma^{rz}(t-t') = -i\theta(t-t')\langle [\hat{j}^r(t), \hat{d}_1(t)]\rangle_0, \tag{13}$$

with unit step function  $\theta(t)$ . Taking the Laplace transform with respect to time transforms the convolution integral into

$$j^{r}(\omega, E_F, T) = -\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, T)E_z(\omega). \tag{14}$$

The frequency-dependent (AC) transversal conductivity can be written at temperature T [35,36],

$$\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, T) = -i \sum_{a,b} f(E_a)(1 - f(E_b)) \times \left[ \frac{\langle a|\hat{j}^r|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{d}_1|a\rangle}{E_a - E_b + \hbar\omega + i\Gamma} + \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_1|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{j}^r|a\rangle}{E_a - E_b - \hbar\omega - i\Gamma} \right],$$
(15)

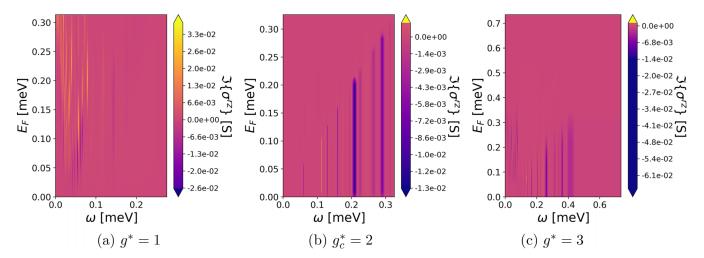


FIG. 3. Absorptive radial spin-orbit Hall conductivity spectra with respect to different Fermi energies  $E_F$  and driving frequencies  $\omega$  of the external  $E_z$ -field perturbation. The shown spectral features for our InSb 2D electron gas are mainly caused by the local discretization of the 2D electron gas in the vicinity of the magnetic field divergence at the origin. In contrast, the more delocalized electronic states, that are further away from the origin, do not contribute significantly to the spectral features, which is a consequence of vanishing overlap matrix elements.

assuming a Lorentzian line shape with a finite lifetime  $\Gamma > 0$  for the  $\delta$  distribution and the Fermi distribution is given by  $f(E_a) := 1/(e^{(E_a - E_F)/k_BT} + 1)$ . Notice that we implicitly restrict our subsequent analysis to bound-state currents and/or conductivities, since the continuum states giving rise to free currents are not known. However, restricting the  $\sum_{a,b}$  to bound states will not affect the validity of our calculations, as we will see later. The frequency-dependent absorptive (imaginary) part of the spin-orbit conductivity can be found by the identity  $1/(x+i\Gamma) = P(1/x) - i\pi\delta(x)$  [36], for which we find

$$\operatorname{Im}(\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, T))$$

$$= \pi i \sum_{a,b} f(E_a)(1 - f(E_b))$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{\langle a|\hat{j}^r|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{d}_1|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_a - E_b + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} - \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_1|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{j}^r|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_b - E_a + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} \right].$$
(16)

In a next step we compute the AC absorptive Hall conductivity under experimentally plausible conditions according to Eq. (16). For this purpose we focus on a 2D electron gas made of InSb, which possesses an extremely low effective electron mass of 0.015 a.u. that makes it an ideal candidate to investigate spin-orbit effects in magnetic fields [37]. For our calculations we assume a temperature of 20 mK and a static vector potential of  $A_{\phi} = -6 \times 10^{-4}$ , which gives rise to a (1/r)-decaying magnetic field in the z direction on a millitesla scale for radial distances from the origin in the micrometer regime. The homogeneous perturbing electric field along the z axis is chosen as  $E_z = -6 \times 10^{-6}$  a.u. which corresponds to  $-3.1 \text{ V/}\mu\text{m}$ . Furthermore, we assume relatively long-lived states by setting  $\tau = 1$  ms with corresponding sharp line shape  $\Gamma = 1/\tau$  that partially compensates for the small prefactors of spin-orbit effects. The numerical evaluation of Eq. (16) simplifies considerably when considering that the matrix element  $\langle a|\hat{d}_1|b\rangle$  imposes that only spin flips can have a nonzero transition matrix elements, i.e.,

$$s_a = -s_b, (17)$$

which leaves us with the spin-orbit current operator only,

$$\hat{j}^r = \hat{j}^{SO,r} = -\frac{\hbar q}{4m^{*2}c^2} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \times \boldsymbol{E}_z(0) \cdot \boldsymbol{e}_r$$
$$= -\frac{\hbar q}{4m^{*2}c^2} (\sigma_y \cos \phi - \sigma_x \sin \phi) E_z. \tag{18}$$

Eventually, Eqs. (17) and (18) jointly determine the angular selection rule

$$l_a - l_b = \pm 1. \tag{19}$$

Notice that those angular and spin selection rules remain valid for any radial symmetric magnetic fields. Furthermore, it also ensures that our restriction to bound states is valid, since any overlap with the (unknown) scattering states of the continuum must vanish except for the smallest angular momentum quantum numbers  $\min_{l}(l + g^*s/2) > 0$ , which separate the bound states from the continuum [20]. Eventually one can find a simplified expression for  $\text{Im}(\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, T))$ as derived in Appendix A, which was implemented for our numerical calculations. The resulting absorptive radial spin-orbit Hall conductivity spectra are shown in Fig. 3 for different effective g\* factors. Careful inspection of the AC spectrum reveals that the main contributions stem from localized electrons close to the origin; i.e., varying the finite number of numerical states does not change the strongest absorption peaks, which indicates that the overlap integrals become smaller, the more delocalized the eigenstates become. Thanks to this localization effect we can converge our numerical calculations. This also suggests that the local and/or atomic nature of the AC absorption is mainly related to the decaying magnetic field and the infinite ranging vector potential plays a minor role. We find that for small  $g^* =$ 1 significant absorption lines only occur for relatively low frequencies, whereas around  $g^* = 2$  a characteristic pattern occurs across the entire frequency regime. For the larger  $g^* =$ 3 only a few significant absorption peaks occur. However,

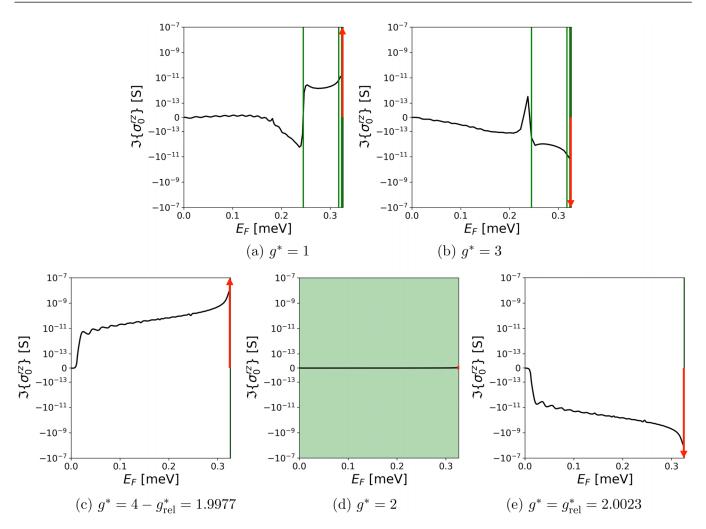


FIG. 4. Absorptive (imaginary) part of the DC ( $\omega \to 0$ ) Hall conductivity with respect to the Fermi energy  $E_F$  for different  $g^*$  factors at T=20 mK. The calculated pattern is mostly determined by only a few discrete eigenstates localized closest to the origin. Therefore, converged results are possible by exploring quantum numbers up to n=30 only, except for Fermi energies approaching the continuum limit at  $E_F=E_{A^2}$ . In this case only analytical considerations become feasible that indeed suggest a diverging absorptive Hall conductivity (red arrows) in the thermodynamic limit, i.e., for  $n \to \infty$ .

the range of allowed energetic transitions is significantly increased since the energetically lowest eigenvalue can become negative, while the ionization energy  $E_{A^2}$  remains constant independently of  $g^*$ .

At this point, we would also like to mention two additional properties of the induced radial spin-orbit Hall current that are immediately evident from the analytics. First, the orientation of the perturbing field does not influence the radial current response, since

$$j^r = -\sigma^{rz}(E_z, E_F, T)E_z \propto \frac{E_z^2}{m^{*4}c^4},$$
 (20)

and furthermore it is suppressed by  $m^{*4}c^4$ , which suggests a tiny effect overall. However, as we have seen in Fig. 3, a significant radial spin-orbit conductivity may still emerge for small effective electron masses and allowed transitions with long-lived states. Those aspects should be taken into account for a potential verification of the predicted effects.

# III. DIVERGENT ABSORPTION IN THE STATIC LIMIT $\omega \rightarrow 0$

In a next step, we investigate the zero-frequency limit  $\text{Im}(\sigma_0^{rz}(E_F,T)) = \lim_{\omega \to 0} \text{Im}(\sigma^{rz}(\omega,E_F,T))$  of our setup, which shows particularly interesting features that originate from allowed transitions of degenerate states  $E_a = E_b$ . In the static limit Eq. (16) reduces to

$$\operatorname{Im}\left(\sigma_{0}^{rz}(E_{F},T)\right)$$

$$= \pi i \sum_{a,b} f(E_{a})(1 - f(E_{b}))$$

$$\times \left[\frac{\langle a|\hat{f}^{r}|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{d}_{1}|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_{a} - E_{b})^{2} + \Gamma^{2}} - \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_{1}|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{f}^{r}|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_{b} - E_{a})^{2} + \Gamma^{2}}\right]. \tag{21}$$

which is evaluated for different  $g^*$  factors and Fermi energies at T=20 mK of our InSb 2D electron gas in Fig. 4. Numerics reveals that overall the DC limit of the spin-orbit absorptive conductivity remains small, as one expects from Eq. (20). However, close inspection of  $g^*$  factors in the vicinity of

the critical nonrelativistic  $g_c^* = 2$  value reveal a phase transition (i.e., sharp sign flip). In other words, by changing  $g^*$ , the external electric field will be absorbed by either radially inflowing or outflowing currents. Similarly to the AC case, we reach numerical convergence only, with a finite number

of states, thanks to the localization of the significant overlap integrals. However, we notice that this is no longer true for Fermi energies approaching the ionization energy  $E_{A^2} := \lim_{n\to\infty} E_{n,l,s} = q^2 A_\phi^2/(2m^*)$ , where the conductivity starts to scale with the finite system size.

In a next step, we try to better understand the aforementioned numerical absorption and scaling features by analytical considerations in the zero-temperature limit,

$$\operatorname{Im}(\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, 0)) = \pi \sum_{E_{\sigma} < E_F \leq E_h} \left[ \frac{\langle a|\hat{j}^r|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{d}_1|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_a - E_b + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} - \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_1|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{j}^r|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_b - E_a + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} \right]$$
(22)

$$= -\pi \Gamma \frac{\hbar^2 q^2 E_z}{16m^{*4}c^4} \sum_{E_a < E_x \le E_b} \mathcal{F}_{a,b} \langle R_a || R_b \rangle \tag{23}$$

with

$$\mathcal{F}_{a,b} := \begin{cases} + \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}| \frac{-\hbar l_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar \partial_{r}|R_{a} \rangle}{(E_{a} - E_{b} + \hbar \omega)^{2} + \Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}| \frac{-\hbar l_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + \hbar \partial_{r}|R_{b} \rangle}{(E_{b} - E_{a} + \hbar \omega)^{2} + \Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a} - l_{b}, 1} \delta_{s_{a}, \downarrow} \delta_{s_{b}, \uparrow} & \text{for } 0 < g^{*} < 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } g^{*} = 2 \\ - \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}| \frac{-\hbar l_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + \hbar \partial_{r}|R_{a} \rangle}{(E_{a} - E_{b} + \hbar \omega)^{2} + \Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}| \frac{-\hbar l_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar \partial_{r}|R_{b} \rangle}{(E_{b} - E_{a} + \hbar \omega)^{2} + \Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a} - l_{b}, -1} \delta_{s_{a}, \uparrow} \delta_{s_{b}, \downarrow} & \text{for } g^{*} > 2, \end{cases}$$

$$(24)$$

where the different cases with respect to  $g^*$  follow the selection rules of Eq. (A7) in combination with an exchange of the energetic order, i.e.,  $E_a \leq E_b \mapsto E_a \geq E_b$ , when crossing the critical value  $g_c^* = 2$ . While Eq. (23) already suggests a phase transition, further insights can be achieved by investigating the transition matrix elements in the asymptotic limit at the ionization threshold, i.e., by taking  $n \to \infty$  (i.e., energies closest to  $E_{A^2}$ ) and considering states  $E_a \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} E_b = E_F$  (see Appendix B):

$$\langle R_a || R_b \rangle = \langle R_b || R_a \rangle \stackrel{n \to \infty}{=} -1,$$
 (25)

$$\langle R_a | \frac{1}{r} | R_b \rangle = \langle R_b | \frac{1}{r} | R_a \rangle \stackrel{n \to \infty}{=} 0, \tag{26}$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \langle R_a | \partial_r | R_b \rangle = \lim_{n \to \infty} \langle R_b | \partial_r | R_a \rangle = \frac{1}{2}.$$
 (27)

This suggests, for the DC limit,

$$\left|\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathrm{Im} \left(\sigma_0^{rz}(E_{F,n},0)\right)\right| > \left| -\pi \, \Gamma \frac{\hbar^2 q^3 E_z A_\phi}{8m^{*4} c^4} \sum_{E_a < E_F = E_b} \times \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(E_a - E_b)^2 + \Gamma^2} \delta_{l_a - l_b, 1} \delta_{s_a,\downarrow} \delta_{s_b,\uparrow} & \text{for } 0 < g^* < 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } g^* = 2 \\ -\frac{1}{(E_a - E_b)^2 + \Gamma^2} \delta_{l_a - l_b, -1} \delta_{s_a,\uparrow} \delta_{s_b,\downarrow} & \text{for } g^* > 2 \end{cases} \right|,$$

which implies

$$\lim_{E_F \to E_{A^2}} \operatorname{Im} \left( \sigma_0^{rz}(E_F, 0) \right) = -\pi \Gamma \frac{\hbar^2 q^3 E_z A_\phi}{8m^{*4} c^4} \begin{cases} \infty & \text{for } 0 < g^* < 2 \\ 0 & \text{for } g^* = 2 \\ -\infty & \text{for } g^* > 2. \end{cases}$$
 (28)

To prove that the summation in Eq. (28) indeed diverges in the thermodynamic limit, we need to find an infinite number of state pairs  $|a\rangle$ ,  $|b\rangle$  that obey  $E_a < E_F \leqslant E_b$ . This can be seen by assuming  $g^* = 2 + 2\epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$ , setting  $E_F = E_b$ , and solving  $E_{n_a+k_c,l_a,1/2} = E_b = E_{n_a,l_a+1,-1/2} = E_F \stackrel{n_a \to \infty}{\longrightarrow} E_A^2$  for integer  $k_c$ , which yields

$$k_c = \frac{\epsilon (2n_a + 1)}{2l + 1 - \epsilon} \xrightarrow{n_a \to \infty} \infty, \ 0 < \epsilon < 2l + 1, \tag{29}$$

where an analogous argument holds for the case  $\epsilon < 0$ . An unbounded  $k_c$  implies that the summation in Eq. (28) indeed diverges; i.e., the number of contributing states grows at least with  $k_c$ , since they are either strictly positive or negative. We consider the resulting divergent DC absorption by spin-orbit interaction at the ionization threshold as one of the main results of this work. In other words, Eq. (28) suggests that

a (small) static, perpendicular electric field will be screened entirely by spin-orbit effects for Fermi energies approaching the ionization threshold. Depending on the  $g^*$  factor, radially in- or outflowing bound-state currents will cause this effect, which can be reinterpreted as a longitudinal polarization effect by looking at the Maxwell equations. From  $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0(\mathbf{J}_b + \mathbf{J}_f + \epsilon_0 \partial_t \mathbf{E})$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_b$  indicates bound current

density and  $J_f$  the free current density. The free currents can be safely discarded for our setting as mentioned previously. We then notice that the curl of the magnetic field cannot account for the radial spin-orbit currents, which automatically implies that the spin-orbit current density  $j_r(r)$  effectively corresponds to a longitudinal polarization  $P_r$  of the system in the macroscopic formulation of the Maxwell equations, i.e.,  $\partial_t P_r = i_r = -\sigma^{rz} E_z$ . In other words, the divergent absorptive (imaginary) part of  $\sigma^{rz}$  indicates that the external (perpendicular) electric field is entirely screened, as it would be the case *inside* a perfect conductor. This screening effect emerges in our setup merely as a consequence of the constant vector potential  $A_{\phi}$ ; i.e., it is an Aharonov-Bohm-like behavior for infinite degeneracies in the thermodynamic limit. Notice that the contributing states for  $E_F \to E_{A^2}$  can be considered as radially delocalized [20]. However, the observed divergence is not only an effect of delocalization, but rather caused by the distorted Landau-level structure, which is a consequence of delicate interplay between the vector potential and the magnetic field (Zeeman interaction) [20]. The resulting accumulation point at the ionization energy threshold can be occupied by any state with finite angular momentum in the thermodynamic limit (setting  $n \to \infty$ ). Hence, this highly degenerate state of matter will at least theoretically be very sensitive towards all sorts of external DC perturbations. However, clearly, for any experimental realization things will be much more complex. For example, a perfect constant  $A_{\phi}$ potential, i.e., a perfect 1/r magnetic field, is not feasible, which in practice means that states far enough away from the origin will always belong to the continuum solution. In other words, finite system sizes will reduce the effect and complicate the experimental verification. Furthermore, beyond linear response effects may in principle lift the contributing energetic degeneracies. In addition, finite lifetimes and thermal effects for electronic fillings up to (almost) the continuum limit (at least for our ideal setup, not involving any band gaps) may also hamper an experimental realization. Nevertheless, we believe distorted Landau levels should emerge in experiments with strong nonlocal behavior, provided that one can realize a radial symmetric setup, with sufficiently localized magnetic field and long-range vector potential.

Following this practical argument, it is tempting to ask if there are further divergences present in our system that the finite state numerics may have missed. While we have observed divergent absorptive DC behavior for the fillings arbitrarily close to the ionization energy, the question emerges if a similar effect could also occur at lower Fermi energies. To shine further light on this question, we search for degenerate eigenvalues obeying the angular and spin selection rules as follows:

$$E_{n_a,l_a,1/2}(g^*) = E_{n_b,l_a+1,-1/2}(g^*).$$
 (30)

By assuming a positive rational  $g^* = g_1/g_2 > 0$ ,  $\{g_1, g_2\} \in \mathbb{N}$ , it turns out that we can find an infinite set of quantum numbers  $n_a$ ,  $l_a$ ,  $n_b$  fulfilling Eq. (30), given that there is at least one solution. In more detail, we find a discrete set of infinitely degenerate energy levels at (see Appendix C)

$$E^{\infty}(g^* \in \mathbb{Q}_+^*) := \begin{cases} E_{n,l,1/2}, n \neq l & \text{for } g^* = 2\\ \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} \left(1 - \left[\frac{|2 - g^*|}{2k}\right]^2\right) > 0, \ k \in \mathbb{O} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

with  $\mathbb{Q}_+^*$  being the strictly positive rational numbers and  $\mathbb{O}$ the positive odd integer numbers. The resulting energy pattern resembles a squeezed Rydberg-like series that strongly depends on  $g^*$ , as can be seen by the vertical green lines in Fig. 4. Nevertheless, they all share an accumulation point at  $E^{\infty} \to E_{A^2}$ , independently of  $g^*$ , as can be seen for  $k \to \infty$ , which is in line with the previous considerations at the ionization threshold. Notice also that the density of the degenerate bands will in practice delicately depend on the chosen  $g^*$ factor. For our ideal 1/r magnetic field setup, numerics suggests that the Rydberg-like bands contribute only locally to the DC conductivity  $\text{Im}(\sigma_0^{rz}(E_F, 0))$  as it was the case for the AC response, since the matrix overlap seems to strongly decline for states localized further away from the origin. This drastically limits the absorbance for Fermi energies close to  $E^{\infty}(g^*)$  except for the previously discussed divergent case at the ionization threshold. However, this strong local suppression may no longer hold for different radially symmetric field shapes, which in turn could facilitate the detection of strong spin-orbit effects at specific Fermi energies, similarly to our ideal system at the ionization threshold.

# IV. ANALYTIC SOLUTION AND PROTECTED DEGENERACIES FOR TIME-DEPENDENT MAGNETIC FIELDS

We have seen so far that our system possesses intriguing linear response features that emerge in the DC limit due to the presence of (infinitely) degenerate states. This immediately raises the question of how robust those degeneracies are. As already mentioned, they will overall be very delicate to achieve in experiments for multiple reasons. However, surprisingly they seem to be protected with respect to slow enough changes of the applied strength of the 1/r magnetic field, as we subsequently will show. It turns out that we can find an analytical solution for the nonrelativistic Hamiltonian expanded up to order  $1/(m^*c)^2$  [30], i.e., including the spinorbit and Darwin interaction, in a similar spirit to Ref. [20]. In more detail we can solve the eigenvalue problem for

$$\hat{H}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2m^*} \hat{\boldsymbol{\Pi}}_j^2 - \frac{g^* q \hbar}{4m^*} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \cdot \boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{r}_j, t) - \frac{q \hbar}{8m^{*2}c^2} [\hat{\boldsymbol{\Pi}}_j \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \times \boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}_j, t)) + (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_j \times \boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}_j, t)) \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{\Pi}}_j] - \frac{q \hbar}{8m^{*2}c^2} \text{div} \boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}_j, t)$$
(31)

as well, instead of only solving Eq. (1). We now assume slowly varying external fields of the following form:  $A(\mathbf{r}, t) := A_{\phi}(t)\mathbf{e}_{\phi}$  and  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) = A_{\phi}(t)/r\mathbf{e}_z$ . The corresponding electric field is given by  $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{r}}V/e - (\partial/\partial_t)\mathbf{A} = -\dot{A}_{\phi}(t)\mathbf{e}_{\phi}$ , which immediately removes the Darwin interaction (last term) in our Hamiltonian formulation. By applying the method of Frobenius, we can

determine the bound-state spectrum (see Appendix D),

$$\tilde{E}_{n,l,s}(t) = \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} - \frac{16m^{*3}c^4}{q^2\hbar^2\dot{A}_{\phi}^2} \left[ 1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{q^4\hbar^2\dot{A}_{\phi}^2 A_{\phi}^2}{16m^{*4}c^4}} \left[ \frac{2l + g^*s}{2n + 1} \right]^2 \right], \ n \geqslant l, \ l + g^*s/2 > 0.$$
(32)

While at first glance the spectrum looks much different compared to the static Eq. (2), by taking the static limit one indeed recovers

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} \tilde{E}_{n,l,s}(t) = E_{n,l,s},\tag{33}$$

as one would expect. More remarkable, however, is that the spin-orbit interaction, which now contributes due to the time-dependent vector potential, does not change the structure of the spectrum, i.e., degeneracies are not lifted, since one can reformulate Eq. (32) as follows:

$$\tilde{E}(E_{n,l,s}(t),t) = \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} - \frac{16m^{*3}c^4}{q^2\hbar^2 \dot{A}_{\phi}^2} \times \left[1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{q^2\hbar^2 \dot{A}_{\phi}^2}{8m^{*3}c^4}(E_{n,l,s}(t) - E_{A^2})}\right].$$
(34)

Consequently, the degenerate states seem to be protected with respect to slow variations of  $A_{\phi}$  at least up to order  $1/(m^*c)^2$ . However, the overall squeezing of the energetic structure is extremely small as one can see in Fig. 5 for moderate time variations  $\dot{A}$ . Clearly, this picture might change for jumps in the magnetic field, but then one automatically violates the assumption of a slow field variation; i.e., one

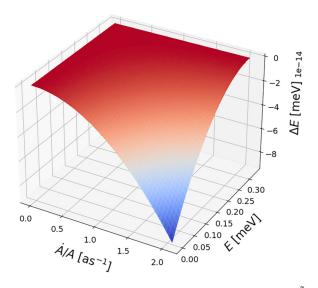


FIG. 5. Deviation of the time-dependent energy eigenvalue  $\tilde{E}$  for the chosen InSb setup, with respect to the strictly static energy E measured by  $\Delta E := \tilde{E}(E) - E$  for different small variations of the externally applied vector potential  $A_{\phi}$ . Notice the extremely small shift due to nonzero  $\dot{A}_{\phi}$ . However, as explained in the main text, the much more striking feature is that the structure of the static energy eigenvalues remains preserved exactly, i.e.,  $\tilde{E}(E)$ .

would need to solve the time-dependent Schrödinger problem instead.

We can determine not only analytic eigenvalues, but also the corresponding orthonormal eigenstates in terms of generalized Laguerre polynomials  $L_w^{\nu}(x)$  (see Appendix D),

$$\tilde{\Psi}_{n,l,s}(r,\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tilde{N}_{n,l,s}}} e^{il\phi} e^{-i\gamma(r)} e^{-\frac{\tilde{x}(r)}{2}} \tilde{x}^{l}(r) L_{n-l}^{2l}(\tilde{x}(r)) \chi(s),$$
(35)

which are identical to the static solution given in Eq. (3), except for an r-dependent complex phase factor,

$$\gamma(r) := \frac{\delta s}{\sqrt{1 - \delta^2}} x(r),\tag{36}$$

and a different scaling in radial coordinates,

$$\tilde{x}(r) := \sqrt{1 - \delta^2} \frac{2qA_\phi}{\hbar} \frac{2l + g^*s}{2n + 1} r,\tag{37}$$

where  $\delta:=\frac{q\hbar^2}{4m^{*2}c^2}\dot{A}_\phi\sqrt{\frac{m^*|\tilde{E}^-|}{2\hbar^2}}$  with  $\tilde{E}^-=\tilde{E}-E_{A^2}$ . The corresponding normalization is explicitly calculated as

$$\tilde{N}_{n,l,s} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \tilde{\Psi}_{n,l,s}^* \tilde{\Psi}_{n,l,s} r dr d\phi$$

$$= 2\pi \frac{(n+l)!}{(n-l)!} (2n+1) \left( \sqrt{1-\delta^2} \frac{2qA_{\phi}}{\hbar} \frac{2l+g^*s}{2n+1} \right)^{-2}.$$
(38)

Notice that for constant vector potential  $\dot{A}_{\phi}=0$ , we naturally recover the previously known static solution as given in Eq. (3). The emergence of a radially dependent phase factor opens interesting research perspectives with regards to geometric phases and topological protection for slow variations of  $A_{\phi}$ ,  $\dot{A}_{\phi}$ , which may substantiate theoretically the protected energetic structure of Eq. (34). However, this clearly goes beyond the scope of this work.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

We have investigated the effect of spin-orbit interaction in a 2D electron gas with distorted Landau-level structure that arises from an externally applied radially symmetric, (1/r)-decaying magnetic field. By applying a weak perpendicular electric field  $E_z$  with respect to the 2D electron gas (and in parallel with the applied magnetic field), we find that radial Hall currents emerge solely from spin-orbit interaction. The absorptive part of the radial Hall conductivity shows spectral features that are of atomistic nature, i.e., dominated by the discrete energy levels localized close to the origin. Overall the magnitude of absorption is expected to be small, because of the  $1/(m^*c)^4$  prefactor and the quadratic dependency of the radial Hall current on the  $E_z$  perturbation. Partially,

this suppression can be mediated by choosing a small effective electron mass of the host material (InSb) and by assuming long-lived states. Surprisingly, things change when approaching Fermi energies close to the ionization threshold, where we could show analytically that a divergent static spinorbit absorbance emerges in the thermodynamic limit due to the distorted Landau-level structure. This divergent linear response implies that the external electric field is entirely absorbed by induced radial spin-orbit currents, i.e., by radial polarization, where the induced flow and/or polarization direction depends on the effective  $g^*$  factor of the material. In other words, the small electric field perpendicular to the 2D electron gas is screened entirely, as would be the case inside a perfect conductor. Interestingly, the divergent bound-state currents also show a critical behavior at  $g_c^* = 2$ , where the radial current response is reversed. In our setup, the physical origin of the divergence is a consequence of the long-range (constant) vector potential (Aharonov-Bohm-like effect), which clearly in this form is experimentally out of reach, due to the associated magnetic field divergence at the origin. However, for other radial magnetic fields, which induce differently distorted Landau levels, we would still expect the generic emergence of some discrete level structure with possibly strong linear response to external perturbations, probably in a similar fashion to our case, for which we found a discrete, infinitely degenerate Rydberg-like band structure that obeys allowed angular momentum and spin selection rules. While this structure turns out to be of minor relevance for our setup, things may change for different (more realistic) radial field dependencies. One should also keep in mind that the proposed spin-orbit effects may depend nontrivially on many other external influences (e.g., Coulomb interaction, decoherence, impurities). Nevertheless, we could show analytically that the structure of the energy eigenvalues remains preserved exactly with respect to slow variations of the applied 1/r magnetic

field strength, by solving the Dirac equation expanded up to order  $1/(m^*c)^2$ . In particular, we find that the time-dependent field variations cannot lift the static degeneracies, which suggests a protection mechanism that will become the focus of future work. Clearly, there is still a long way to go, with many obstacles to overcome, for an experimental verification of our theoretical predictions. However, we believe the experimental realization of rotationally distorted Landau levels would not only be highly fruitful with respect to spin-orbit effects, but more generally by opening novel pathways to engineer (distorted) Landau-level physics from local to nonlocal degeneracies.

PYTHON implementation is available on reasonable request.

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D.S. initiated the project, derived the analytic solutions, performed numerical calculations and discovered the spin-orbit absorption divergence. M.R. contributed to the mathematical accuracy and rigorousness. All authors developed the physical interpretation and wrote the paper.

## APPENDIX A: RADIAL SPIN-ORBIT HALL CONDUCTIVITY SIMPLIFICATION

For our radially symmetric (1/r)-decaying magnetic field setup the radial spin-orbit Hall conductivity can be simplified by using the angular and spin-orbit selection rules that enter as follows:

$$\langle s_a, l_a | \sigma_y \cos \phi - \sigma_x \sin \phi | s_b, l_b \rangle = \begin{cases} -i & \text{for } l_a - l_b = -1, s_a = \uparrow, s_b = \downarrow \\ i & \text{for } l_a - l_b = 1, s_a = \downarrow, s_b = \uparrow \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$
(A1)

$$\langle s_a, l_a | -\sigma_y \sin \phi - \sigma_x \cos \phi | s_b, l_b \rangle = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{for } l_a - l_b = -1, s_a = \uparrow, s_b = \downarrow \\ -1 & \text{for } l_a - l_b = 1, s_a = \downarrow, s_b = \uparrow \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$
(A2)

which eventually yields

$$\operatorname{Im}(\sigma^{rz}(\omega, E_F, T)) = \pi i \sum_{a,b} f(E_a) (1 - f(E_b)) \left[ \frac{\langle a|\hat{j}^r|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{d}_1|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_a - E_b + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} - \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_1|b\rangle\langle b|\hat{j}^r|a\rangle\Gamma}{(E_b - E_a + \hbar\omega)^2 + \Gamma^2} \right]$$
(A3)

$$= \pi i \Gamma \frac{\hbar q}{4m^{*2}c^2} \sum_{a,b} f(E_a)(1 - f(E_b)) \langle a|\sigma_y \cos \phi - \sigma_x \sin \phi|b\rangle$$
 (A4)

$$\times \left[ \frac{\langle b|\hat{d}_{1}|a\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle a|\hat{d}_{1}|b\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right]$$

$$= \pi i \Gamma \frac{\hbar^{2}q^{2}E_{z}}{16m^{*4}c^{4}} \sum_{a,b} f(E_{a})(1-f(E_{b}))\langle a|\sigma_{y}\cos\phi - \sigma_{x}\sin\phi|b\rangle \qquad (A5)$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{\langle b|(-\sigma_{y}\sin\phi - \sigma_{x}\cos\phi) \cdot \left(-\frac{i\hbar}{r}\partial_{\phi} - qA_{\phi}\right) + (\sigma_{y}\cos\phi - \sigma_{x}\sin\phi) \cdot (-i\hbar\partial_{r})|a\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\langle a|(-\sigma_{y}\sin\phi - \sigma_{x}\cos\phi) \left(-\frac{i\hbar}{r}\partial_{\phi} - qA_{\phi}\right) + (\sigma_{y}\cos\phi - \sigma_{x}\sin\phi) \cdot (-i\hbar\partial_{r})|b\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}}$$

$$= \pi i \Gamma \frac{\hbar^{2}q^{2}E_{z}}{16m^{*4}c^{4}} \sum_{a,b} f(E_{a})(1-f(E_{b})) \left\{ -i\langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}|(-1) \cdot \left(\frac{hl_{a}}{r} - qA_{\phi}\right) + (i) \cdot (-i\hbar\partial_{r})|R_{a}\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},-1}\delta_{s_{a},\uparrow}\delta_{s_{b},\downarrow} + i\langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{\langle R_{a}|(-1)(\frac{hl_{a}}{r} - qA_{\phi}) + (-i) \cdot (-i\hbar\partial_{r})|R_{b}\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},1}\delta_{s_{a},\downarrow}\delta_{s_{b},\uparrow} \right\}$$

$$= -\pi \Gamma \frac{\hbar^{2}q^{2}E_{z}}{16m^{*4}c^{4}} \sum_{a,b} f(E_{a})(1-f(E_{b}))$$

$$\times \left\{ -\langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}|\frac{-hl_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + h\partial_{r}|R_{a}\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}|\frac{-hl_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{b}\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},1}\delta_{s_{a},\downarrow}\delta_{s_{b},\uparrow} \right\}$$

$$+ \langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}|\frac{-hl_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{a}\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}|\frac{-hl_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{b}\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},1}\delta_{s_{a},\uparrow}\delta_{s_{b},\uparrow} \right\}.$$

$$+ \langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}|\frac{-hl_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{a}\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}|\frac{-hl_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{b}\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},1}\delta_{s_{a},\uparrow}\delta_{s_{b},\uparrow} \right\}.$$

$$+ \langle R_{a}||R_{b}\rangle \left[ \frac{\langle R_{b}|\frac{-hl_{a}}{r} + qA_{\phi} - \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{a}\rangle}{(E_{a}-E_{b}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} + \frac{\langle R_{a}|\frac{-hl_{b}}{r} + qA_{\phi} + \hbar\partial_{r}|R_{b}\rangle}{(E_{b}-E_{a}+\hbar\omega)^{2}+\Gamma^{2}} \right] \delta_{l_{a}-l_{b},1}\delta_{s_{a},\uparrow}\delta_{s_{b},\uparrow} \right\}.$$

$$(A7)$$

## APPENDIX B: RADIAL OVERLAP INTEGRALS

For analytical accessibility, we assume that  $E_a \overset{n \to \infty}{\to} E_b$ , which means that the radial scaling factor  $x(r) =: \nu r$ , defined from Eq. (4), becomes equal for both states  $|a\rangle$  and  $|b\rangle$ . Notice that  $\nu \propto 1/(2n+1) \overset{n \to \infty}{\to} 0$ . The resulting radial overlap integrals can then be solved analytically:

$$\langle R_a || R_b \rangle \stackrel{\nu_a = \nu_b}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\nu r} (\nu r)^{2l+1} L_{n-l}^{2l} (\nu r) L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2} (\nu r) r dr$$
(B1)

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}} \nu^2} \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho}(\rho)^{2l+2} L_{n-l}^{2l}(\rho) L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) d\rho$$
 (B2)

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}} \nu^2} \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho}(\rho)^{2l+2} \left[ L_{n-l}^{2l+2}(\rho) - 2L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) + L_{n-l-2}^{2l+2}(\rho) \right] L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) d\rho$$
 (B3)

$$= -2\sqrt{\frac{(n-l)!}{(n+l)!(2n+1)}} \frac{(n-l-1)!}{(n+l+1)!(2n+1)} \frac{(n+l+1)!}{(n-l-1)!}$$
(B4)

$$\stackrel{n\to\infty}{=} -1,\tag{B5}$$

where we have used the following well-known three-point rule and orthogonality relation for the generalized Laguerre polynomials [38],

$$L_n^{\alpha} = L_n^{\alpha+1} - L_{n-1}^{\alpha+1},\tag{B6}$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} x^{\alpha} e^{-\alpha} L_{n}^{\alpha}(x) L_{m}^{\alpha}(x) dx = \frac{\Gamma(n+\alpha+1)}{n!} \delta_{n,m},$$
(B7)

with [20]

$$N_l = v^{-2} \frac{(n+l)!}{(n-l)!} (2n+1), \tag{B8}$$

and Mathematica [39] for the limiting procedure.

In a next step we similarly investigate

$$\langle R_a | \frac{1}{r} | R_b \rangle \stackrel{\nu_a = \nu_b}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\nu r} (\nu r)^{2l+1} L_{n-l}^{2l} (\nu r) L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2} (\nu r) dr$$
(B9)

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1} \nu}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho} (\rho)^{2l+1} L_{n-l}^{2l}(\rho) L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) d\rho$$
 (B10)

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1} \nu}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho} (\rho)^{2l+1} \left[ L_{n-l}^{2l+1}(\rho) - L_{n-l-1}^{2l+1}(\rho) \right]$$
 (B11)

$$\times \left[L_{n-l-1}^{2l+1}(\rho) + L_{n-l-2}^{2l+1}(\rho) + \cdots + L_{1}^{2l+1}(\rho) + 1\right]d\rho$$

$$= \nu \sqrt{\frac{(n-l)!}{(n+l)!(2n+1)} \frac{(n-l-1)!}{(n+l+1)!(2n+1)}}$$
(B12)

$$\times \left( \frac{(n+l+1)!}{(n-l)!} - \frac{(n+l)!}{(n-l-1)!} \right)$$

$$\stackrel{n\to\infty}{=} 0, \tag{B13}$$

and we find

$$\langle R_a | \partial_r | R_b \rangle \stackrel{\nu_a = \nu_b}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{\nu r}{2}} (\nu r)^{l+1} L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2} (\nu r) \left[ \partial_r e^{-\frac{\nu r}{2}} (\nu r)^l L_{n-l}^{2l} (\nu r) \right] r dr \tag{B14}$$

$$= -\langle R_a | | R_b \rangle + l \langle R_a | \frac{1}{r} | R_b \rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\nu r} (\nu r)^{2l+1} L_{n-l-1}^{2l+1} (\nu r) L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2} (\nu r) r dr$$
 (B15)

$$= -\langle R_a | | R_b \rangle + l \langle R_a | \frac{1}{r} | R_b \rangle \tag{B16}$$

$$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{N_l N_{l+1}} \nu^2} \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho}(\rho)^{2l+2} \left[ L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) - L_{n-l-2}^{2l+2}(\rho) \right] L_{n-l-1}^{2l+2}(\rho) d\rho$$

$$= -\langle R_a | | R_b \rangle + l \langle R_a | \frac{1}{r} | R_b \rangle \tag{B17}$$

$$-\sqrt{\frac{(n-l)!}{(n+l)!(2n+1)}} \frac{(n-l-1)!}{(n+l+1)!(2n+1)} \frac{(n+l+1)!}{(n-l-1)!}$$

$$\stackrel{n\to\infty}{=} \frac{1}{2}.$$
 (B18)

Analogous derivations can be applied to show that  $\langle R_b | \partial_r | R_a \rangle \rightarrow 1/2$ .

# APPENDIX C: DERIVATION OF SQUEEZED RYDBERG DIVERGENCES

To solve the integer value problem imposed by the energy degeneracy relation given in Eq. (30), three different regimes of rational  $g^* := g_1/g_2 > 0$  have to be considered separately. For  $0 < g^* < 2$  we find

$$\frac{2l_1 + g_1/(2g_2)}{2n_1 + 1} = \frac{2l_1 + g_1/(2g_2)}{2n_2 + 1} + \frac{2(1 - g_1/(2g_2))}{2n_2 + 1} \stackrel{!}{=} C, \quad (C1)$$

$$n_2 := n_1 + \Delta n, \, \Delta n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } \Delta n \leqslant n_1,$$
 (C2)

$$2g_2(2(n_1 + \Delta n) + 1) \frac{2l_1 + g_1/(2g_2)}{2n_1 + 1}$$

$$= 4g_2l_1 + g_1 + 2(2g_2 - g_1)$$
 (C3)

$$\frac{4g_2l_1+g_1}{2n_1+1} = \frac{2g_2-g_1}{k}, \ k \in \mathbb{N}$$
 (C5)

$$C = \frac{2g_2 - g_1}{2g_2 k},\tag{C6}$$

$$E^{\infty} := \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} \left( 1 - \left[ \frac{2g_2 - g_1}{2g_2 k} \right]^2 \right). \tag{C7}$$

A similar argument applies for  $2 < g^*$ , where we find an analogous expression, by using  $n_2 := n_1 - \Delta_n$ ,  $\Delta n \in \mathbb{N}$  instead,

$$C = \frac{|2g_2 - g_1|}{2g_2 k},\tag{C8}$$

which eventually yields

$$E^{\infty} = \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} \left( 1 - \left\lceil \frac{|2 - g^*|}{2k} \right\rceil^2 \right), \ g^* \in \mathbb{Q}_+^* \setminus \{2\}. \quad (C9)$$

So far we have not said anything about the allowed k numbers except that they must be positive integers. However, there are additional constraints with respect to  $g_1, g_2$  as well as the quantum numbers  $n_1, l_1, n_2, l_2$  to be obeyed. From the relation in Eq. (C5), we notice the following, depending on whether or not  $g_1$  is an even  $e \in \mathbb{E} := \{2n, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  or odd  $o \in \mathbb{O} := \{2n-1, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  number:

$$g_1 = o$$
,  $2g_2 = e \Rightarrow \frac{o_1}{o_2} = \frac{o_3}{k} \Rightarrow k \in \mathbb{O}$ , (C10)

$$g_1 = e, \ 2g_2 = e \Rightarrow \frac{e_1}{o_2} = \frac{e_3}{k} \Rightarrow k \in \mathbb{O}.$$
 (C11)

Hence we have found that k must be an odd number. In a last step, we look at the special nonrelativistic case  $g^* = 2$  for which we find trivially,

$$\frac{2l_1+1}{2n_1+1} = \frac{2l_1+1}{2n_2+1},\tag{C12}$$

$$n_2 = n_1, \tag{C13}$$

which implies that Eq. (30) holds almost everywhere expect for the lowest flat band [20], due to the condition  $l+g^*s/2>0$  for the angular quantum numbers. This inequality at the same time also imposes that

$$C < 1,$$
 (C14)

which sets limits on the minimally allowed quantum numbers k, depending on  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  according to Eqs. (C6) and (C8). The resulting expression for the squeezed Rydberg-like series, imposed by Eq. (30), is then given in Eq. (31) of the main text.

# APPENDIX D: DERIVATION OF AN ANALYTIC SOLUTION FOR A TIME-DEPENDENT MAGNETIC FIELD IN THE SLOWLY VARYING LIMIT

In order to solve the quasistatic eigenvalue problem of Eq. (31), we follow an analogous procedure to Ref. [20] and choose a cylindrical coordinate system, which yields

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} \nabla_j^2 + \frac{A_{\phi}q\hbar}{m^*} \left( i \frac{\partial}{r_j \partial \phi_j} - \frac{g_s^* \sigma_{z,j}}{4r_j} \right) - i \frac{q\hbar}{8m^{*2}c^2} \hbar \sigma_{z,j} \dot{A}_{\phi} \left[ \frac{1}{r_i} + 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r_i} \right] \right] + N \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*}, \quad (D1)$$

assuming a strictly two-dimensional electron gas. Fortunately, the contribution of the diamagnetic term  $E_{A^2} := \frac{q^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*}$  remains

constant for all N electrons in radial coordinates, which reduces the complexity of our problem considerably. In a next step, we introduce

$$\alpha := \frac{A_{\phi}q\hbar}{m^*} > 0, \tag{D2}$$

$$\epsilon := \frac{q\hbar^2}{4m^{*2}c^2}\dot{A}_{\phi},\tag{D3}$$

which allows a more compact notation, and the resulting eigenvalue problem for a single electron can be written as

$$\[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial}{r\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2}{r^2 \partial \phi^2} \right) \\
+ i\alpha \frac{\partial}{r\partial \phi} + \frac{\alpha g^* \sigma_z}{4r} - i\epsilon s \left[ \frac{1}{r} + 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right] \right] \tilde{\Psi} = \tilde{E}^{-} \tilde{\Psi}, \quad (D4)$$

where the constant  $E_{A^2}$  term is neglected for the moment. The angular and spin problem can trivially be solved by separation of variables as  $\tilde{\Psi}(r,\phi,s)=\tilde{R}(r)\Phi(\phi)\chi(s)$ , with spin function  $\chi$  and  $\Phi=e^{il\phi}$  with  $l\in Z$ ,  $s=\pm\frac{1}{2}$ , since  $[\hat{H},\frac{\partial}{\partial\phi_j}]=0$ . This leaves us with the radial problem

$$\hat{H}_{l,s}R := \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial}{r\partial r} - \frac{l^2}{r^2} \right) - \alpha \frac{l + g^* s/2}{r} - i\epsilon s \left[ \frac{1}{r} + 2\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right] \right] \tilde{R} = \tilde{E}^- \tilde{R}. \quad (D5)$$

Bound-state eigenvalues.. To solve for the attractive eigenvalue problem, we apply the method of Frobenius and match orders of a series expansion similar to Ref. [20]. Therefore, we define

$$\rho := \sqrt{\frac{8m^*|\tilde{E}^-|}{\hbar^2}} r \geqslant 0, \tag{D6}$$

$$\lambda_{l,s} := \alpha (l + g^* s/2) \sqrt{\frac{m^*}{2\hbar^2 |\tilde{E}^-|}},$$
 (D7)

$$\delta := \epsilon \sqrt{\frac{m^* |\tilde{E}^-|}{2\hbar^2}}, \ 0 \leqslant \delta^2 < 1, \tag{D8}$$

for which our radial problem assumes a convenient form,

$$\[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{\partial}{\rho \partial \rho} - \frac{l^2}{\rho^2} + \frac{\lambda_{l,s}}{\rho} - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{i\delta s}{\rho} - 2i\delta s \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \] \tilde{R}(\rho) = 0.$$
(D9)

To reach a simple closed-form solution, we introduce the ansatz

$$\tilde{R}(\rho) = e^{-\beta\rho} f(\rho) \tag{D10}$$

with

$$\beta := -i\delta s + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - 4\delta^2 s^2} = -i\delta s + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1 - \delta^2}.$$
 (D11)

This choice imposes an upper bound for  $\delta^2$ , i.e.,  $\delta^2 < 1$ . This ensures that we have a normalizable solution for  $\tilde{R}(\rho)$ , given in Eq. (D10), i.e., having an exponentially decaying real part for  $\rho \to \infty$ . Notice that large  $\delta^2$  values would also imply a rapidly changing external vector potential, which certainly contradicts the initial assumption of a slow (adiabatic)

time evolution. Consequently, we find an ordinary differential equation for  $f(\rho)$  of the following form:

$$\[ \left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \rho^2} - 2\beta \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial}{\rho \partial \rho} - \frac{l^2}{\rho^2} \right]$$

$$+ (\lambda_{l,s} - \beta) \frac{1}{\rho} - \frac{i\delta s}{\rho} - 2i\delta s \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \right] f(\rho) = 0. \quad (D12)$$

If we apply the series representation  $f(\rho) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} c_j \rho^j$  and match the different orders in  $\rho$ , we find, after an index shift  $j \mapsto j+1$  with  $c_{-1}=0$ ,

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{j=-1}^{\infty} c_{j+1} j(j+1) \rho^{j-1} - 2\beta c_{j} j \rho^{j-1} \\ &- 2i\delta s c_{j} j \rho^{j-1} + c_{j+1} (j+1) \rho^{j-1} - \beta c_{j} \rho^{j-1} \\ &- l^{2} c_{j+1} \rho^{j-1} + \lambda_{l,s} c_{j} \rho^{j-1} - i\delta s c_{j} \rho^{j-1} = 0. \end{split} \tag{D13}$$

This gives rise to the indicial equation

$$c_{j+1}[(j+1)^2 - l^2] = c_j \left[ \sqrt{1 - \delta^2} j + \frac{\sqrt{1 - \delta^2}}{2} - \lambda_{l,s} \right].$$
(D14)

It implies the "series switches on" for  $c_{j+1}$  when  $(j+1)^2=l^2$ , i.e., j+1=l, and it can terminate only if  $\sqrt{1-\delta^2(|\tilde{E}^-|)j}+\sqrt{1-\delta^2(|\tilde{E}^-|)/2}-\lambda_{l,s}(\tilde{E}^-)=0$ . Otherwise one would converge to a non-normalizable solution since  $c_{j+1}\to\frac{c_j}{j}$  for large j and  $f\to\sum_{j=0}^\infty\frac{\rho^j}{j!}$ . This also implies that  $\lambda>0$ ; i.e., we find a bound-state solution only for  $l+g^*s/2>0$  similar to the strictly static results [20]. Now, introducing quantum number n:=j leads to a quadratic equation in  $\tilde{E}^-$ :

$$\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)^{2} = \frac{\lambda^{2}}{1 - \delta^{2}} = \frac{\alpha^{2}(l + g^{*}s/2)^{2}m^{*}}{2\hbar^{2}}$$

$$\times \frac{1}{|\tilde{E}^{-}|} \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\epsilon^{2}m^{*}}{2\hbar^{2}}|\tilde{E}^{-}|} \right], \ n \geqslant l, \quad \text{(D15)}$$

with a simple closed-form solution for the energy eigenvalues,

$$\tilde{E}_{n,l,s}^{-} = \pm \frac{\hbar^2}{m^* \epsilon^2} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{\alpha^2 \epsilon^2 m^{*2}}{\hbar^4}} \left[ \frac{2l + g^* s}{2n + 1} \right]^2 \right],$$

$$n \geqslant l, \ l + g^* s / 2 > 0.$$
(D16)

We will subsequently see that the quantum numbers n, l, s uniquely define an eigenfunction of the partial differential equation (PDE) given in Eq. (D4) with corresponding unique eigenvalue  $\tilde{E}$ . To determine the correct sign, we notice that

for  $\epsilon \to 0$  our PDE given in Eq. (D4) reduces to the problem of a static vector potential ( $\dot{A}_{\phi} = 0$ ) with known solutions [20]. The known eigenvalues are indeed recovered exactly by choosing the negative signs twice, i.e., from

$$E_{n,l,s}^{-} \stackrel{!}{=} \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \tilde{E}_{n,l,s}^{-}$$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \left\{ -\frac{\hbar^2}{m^* \epsilon^2} \left[ 1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{\alpha^2 \epsilon^2 m^{*2}}{\hbar^4}} \left[ \frac{2l + g^* s}{2n + 1} \right]^2 \right] \right\}$$

$$= -\frac{g^2 A_{\phi}^2}{2m^*} \left[ \frac{2l + g^* s}{2n + 1} \right]^2,$$
(D18)

whereas a positive sign in front of the square root would lead to a divergent limit instead. Finally, we obtain Eqs. (32)–(34), as introduced in the main part of the paper.

Eigenfunctions. After having identified the bound-state energy eigenvalues for  $n \ge l$ ,  $l + g^*s/2 > 0$ , we can next find the corresponding eigenfunctions by expressing  $f(\rho) = \rho^l L(\rho)$  [40]. This turns Eq. (D12) into

$$\rho \frac{d^{2}L}{d\rho^{2}} + (2l + 1 - \sqrt{1 - \delta^{2}}\rho) \frac{dL}{d\rho} + \left[ -\frac{\sqrt{1 - \delta^{2}}}{2} - l\sqrt{1 - \delta^{2}} + \lambda \right] L = 0, \quad (D19)$$

which can be further simplified, by substituting  $\tilde{x} := \sqrt{1 - \delta^2} \rho$  and using Eq. (D15), to

$$\tilde{x}\frac{d^{2}L}{d\tilde{x}^{2}} + (2l+1-\tilde{x})\frac{dL}{d\tilde{x}} + (n-l)L = 0, \ n, l \in \mathbb{N}_{0}.$$
 (D20)

This PDE can be solved by the associated Laguerre polynomials  $L_{n-l}^{2l}$  of degree n-l and parameter 2l [41]. The associated Laguerre polynomials are given by Rodrigues's formula [41],

$$L_w^{\nu}(\tilde{x}) = \frac{\tilde{x}^{-\nu}e^{\tilde{x}}}{w!} \frac{d^w}{d\tilde{x}^w} (e^{-\tilde{x}}\tilde{x}^{w+\nu}). \tag{D21}$$

Therefore, the radial solution of our problem given in Eq. (D5) becomes

$$\tilde{R}_{n,l,s}(\tilde{x}) = e^{-i\frac{\delta s}{\sqrt{1-\delta^2}}\tilde{x}} e^{-\frac{\tilde{x}}{2}} \left(\frac{\tilde{x}}{\sqrt{1-\delta^2}}\right)^l L_{n-l}^{2l}(\tilde{x}). \quad (D22)$$

Consequently, the orthonormal eigenfunctions of the full problem are found as given in Eqs. (35)–(38) in the main section. The orthogonality of the eigenfunctions can be shown identically to the argument given in Ref. [20], where surprisingly the same degeneracy argument remains valid because of Eq. (34).

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