BCS-BEC crossover in the extended Falicov-Kimball model: Variational cluster approach

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We study the spontaneous symmetry breaking of the excitonic insulator state induced by the Coulomb interaction U in the two-dimensional extended Falicov-Kimball model. Using the variational cluster approximation (VCA) and Hartree-Fock approximation (HFA), we evaluate the order parameter, single-particle excitation gap, momentum distribution functions, coherence length of excitons, and single-particle and anomalous excitation spectra as functions of U at zero temperature. We find that in the weak-to-intermediate coupling regime, the Fermi surface plays an essential role and calculated results can be understood in close correspondence with the BCS theory, whereas in the strong-coupling regime, the Fermi surface plays no role and results are consistent with the picture of a Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC). Moreover, we find that HFA works well in both the weakand strong-coupling regimes, and that the difference between the results of VCA and HFA mostly appears in the intermediate-coupling regime. The reason for this is discussed from a viewpoint of the self-energy. We thereby clarify the excitonic insulator state that typifies either a BCS condensate of electron-hole pairs (weak-coupling regime) or a BEC of preformed excitons (strong-coupling regime).

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I. INTRODUCTION

The realization of excitonic insulators (EIs) on the proximity of the semimetal-semiconductor transition was suggested about half a century ago.^{1–3} Because of the weak screening of the Coulomb attraction between the electrons and holes due to the small number of carriers, the electrons and holes may spontaneously form bound states (excitons), giving rise to the EI state. As a candidate for EI, quasi-one-dimensional 1*T*-TiSe₂ has been studied both theoretically and experimentally.^{4,5} TaNi₂Se₅ has also been studied by angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) measurements. It was reported that the valence-band top is extremely flat, and the material can be a new candidate for an EI of bound pairs between Ni 3*d*–Se 4*p* holes and Ta 5*d* electrons.^{6,7}

From the theoretical point of view, the Falicov-Kimball model⁸ extended by including a finite valence bandwidth, i.e., the extended Falicov-Kimball model (EFKM), has been extensively studied in the context of the EI or electric ferroelectricity.^{9,10} The EFKM contains the large-bandwidth c electrons (with a hopping integral t_c and on-site energy ϵ_c), small-bandwidth f electrons (with a hopping integral t_f and on-site energy ϵ_f), and a Coulomb interaction (U) between the c and f electrons. The ground-state phase diagram of the EFKM in the weak-to-intermediate-coupling regime was obtained by the constrained path Monte Carlo (CPMC).⁹ In the strong-coupling regime, the EFKM can be mapped onto the spin-1/2 Ising-like XXZ model with a uniform magnetic field. In that case, the spontaneous EI ordering corresponds to the spontaneous magnetization in the XY plane and its phase diagram was also determined.¹⁰ The phase diagram of the EFKM is composed of three phases: the charge-density wave (CDW) with staggered orbital order (SOO) phase, the EI phase, and the band insulator (BI) phase. The CDW phase is characterized by the periodic modulation of the total density of c and f electrons, while the SOO phase is characterized by the periodic modulation in the difference between the c- and f-electron densities. The instability toward the CDW and SOO phases was studied in detail by Zenker et al.¹¹ The EI phase is characterized by the spontaneous c-f hybridization. The BI phase is characterized by the completely filled c or f band. Interestingly, the ground-state phase diagram in the weakto-intermediate-coupling regime obtained by a Hartree-Fock approximation (HFA)¹² agrees quite well with that obtained by CPMC. On the other hand, excitation properties of EFKM are still of great interest. Finite-temperature phase diagram and electron-hole bound state formation in EFKM were studied by HFA.¹³ The projector-based renormalization method (PRM) calculation on the one-dimensional EFKM¹⁴ reported that incoherent parts of the single-particle excitation spectra, which are related to the dissociation of the excitons, appear especially in the Bose-Einstein condensation (BEC) regime. Detailed studies on the dynamical excitonic susceptibility at finite temperature calculated by means of the PRM¹⁵ and slave boson (SB) technique¹¹ confirmed that tightly bound excitons exist even above the critical temperature for exciton condensation. The results strongly support the so-called excitonic halo suggested by Bronold and Fehske,¹⁶ where tightly bound excitons exist without condensation, and the scenario of the Bose-Einstein condensation of preformed excitons in the semiconductor side. Thus the effects of electron correlations on the static and dynamic properties of this model are worth studying.

In this paper, we study the EI state of the EFKM defined on the two-dimensional square lattice as a function of the Coulomb interaction strength U. We employ the variational cluster approximation (VCA)¹⁷ based on the self-energy functional theory (SFT)¹⁸ at zero temperature. The cluster perturbation theory (CPT)¹⁹ is used to calculate the singleparticle Green's functions. We also employ the HFA to clarify the effects of electron correlation that can be taken into account in the VCA. As far as we know, VCA has not been applied to the study of the EI state of EFKM. The advantage of VCA compared to HFA is that VCA can fully take into account static and dynamic effects of electron correlations within the range of a finite-size cluster. So far, VCA and CPT have been applied to a variety of strongly correlated electron systems—such as the half-filled Hubbard model with competing magnetic orders in two-dimensional²⁰ and three-dimensional systems,²¹ the periodic Anderson model with the competition between magnetic ordering induced by the Ruderman-Kittel-Kasuya-Yoshida interaction and nonmagnetic Kondo screening,²² a multiorbital system with spin-orbit coupling, *XY*-plane magnetic ordering,²³ etc.—and it turns out that the method is useful to discussing correlation effects on the symmetry breaking or single-particle excitation spectra, especially in the insulating state. Thus it is worth studying the EI state of the EFKM by applying VCA and CPT to investigate the effects of short-range correlations on the symmetry breaking or single-particle excitations.

We will first discuss the U dependence of the calculated EI order parameter and single-particle gap. In the weakcoupling regime, as expected from the BCS theory, the single-particle gap is scaled well by the order parameter, whereas in the strong-coupling regime, the order parameter rapidly decreases with increasing U. Then we will show the calculated momentum distribution functions as functions of U. In the weak-coupling regime, the momentum distribution functions behave like those in the BCS theory, whereas in the strong-coupling regime, the momentum dependence of the momentum distribution functions becomes weak, and the behavior is quite different from BCS theory. The coherence length of the exciton shows a shallow minimum at the crossover regime as a function of U. We further calculate the single-particle spectra, anomalous Green's functions, and density of states in order to investigate the electron correlation effects on the quasiparticles. Thus our study will shed light on the BCS-BEC crossover²⁴ in the EI state.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we introduce our model and method of calculation. In Sec. III, we present our results for the EI order parameter, single-particle gap, single-particle Green's function, anomalous Green's function, momentum distribution functions, and coherence length as functions of the Coulomb interaction strength U. Discussion on the efficiency of the HFA on this model and experimental implications are given in Sec. IV. We summarize our work in Sec. V.

II. MODEL AND METHOD

A. Extended Falicov-Kimball model

The Hamiltonian of the EFKM reads

$$\mathcal{H} = -t_c \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (c_i^{\dagger} c_j + \text{H.c.}) + (\epsilon_c - \mu) \sum_i n_{ic}$$
$$-t_f \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (f_i^{\dagger} f_j + \text{H.c.}) + (\epsilon_f - \mu) \sum_i n_{if}$$
$$+U \sum_i n_{ic} n_{if}, \qquad (1)$$

where c_i (c_i^{\dagger}) denotes the annihilation (creation) operator of an electron on the *c* orbital at site *i* and $n_{ic} = c_i^{\dagger}c_i \cdot t_c$ is the hopping integral between neighboring sites of the two-dimensional square lattice, and ϵ_c is the on-site energy level of the *c* orbitals. These are the same for the *f* orbitals. *U* is the interorbital



FIG. 1. (Color online) (Top) Noninteracting tight-binding band structure of the *c* orbital (dashed line) and *f* orbital (dash-dotted line). Parameter values are $t_c = 1$, $\epsilon_c = 0$, $\epsilon_f = -1$, and $t_f = -0.3$. The horizontal solid line represents the chemical potential at half-filling. (Bottom) Noninteracting Fermi surface at half-filling. The momentum path $(0,0) \rightarrow (\pi,\pi) \rightarrow (\pi,0) \rightarrow (0,0)$ is also shown (thick straight line).

Coulomb repulsion between electrons. The chemical potential μ is determined so as to maintain the average particle density n at half-filling n = 1. Throughout the paper, we set $\hbar = k_B = 1$ and lattice constant a = 1. We use $t_c = 1$ as the unit of energy, and we focus on the band parameter values $\epsilon_c = 0$, $\epsilon_f = -1$, and $t_f = -0.3$.

The noninteracting tight-binding band structure and corresponding Fermi surface at half-filling are shown in Fig. 1. At this parameter set, the *c* and *f* bands overlap each other. The level difference $\epsilon_f - \epsilon_c = -1$ causes an imbalance between the *c*- and *f* -electron densities, i.e., $n_c = 0.34$ and $n_f = 0.66$, where n_c and n_f are the average density of the *c* and *f* electrons, respectively, and we can see that $\mathbf{Q} = (\pi, \pi)$ is not a nesting vector of the Fermi surface. Thus, in this paper, we do not consider any periodic modulations characterized by \mathbf{Q} , such as the CDW phase, which is realized with small energy difference $|\epsilon_c - \epsilon_f|$ and $n_c = n_f = 0.5$.¹²

B. Variational cluster approximation

To analyze the EI state of the EFKM, we apply the VCA.¹⁷ Here we briefly review the formulation of the VCA in order to make our paper self-contained. Following Potthoff,¹⁸ the grand potential functional is given as

$$\Omega[\mathbf{\Sigma}] = \mathcal{F}[\mathbf{\Sigma}] - \operatorname{Tr} \ln\left(-\mathbf{G}_0^{-1} + \mathbf{\Sigma}\right), \qquad (2)$$

where $\mathcal{F}[\mathbf{\Sigma}]$ is the Legendre transform of the Luttinger-Ward functional $\Phi[\mathbf{G}]$,²⁵ \mathbf{G}_0 is the noninteracting Green's function, and we call $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ the trial self-energy. Tr represents the sum over fermionic Matsubara frequencies with temperature T and trace over the single-particle basis; the explicit definition of Tr will be given later [in Eq. (10)]. The stationarity condition $\delta\Omega[\mathbf{\Sigma}]/\delta\mathbf{\Sigma} = 0$ gives the Dyson equation, and the functional gives the grand potential of the system at the stationary point.¹⁸

SFT¹⁸ provides a way to compute Ω by using the fact that the functional form of $\mathcal{F}[\Sigma]$ depends only on the interaction terms of the Hamiltonian. Here we introduce a so-called reference system, which consists of disconnected finite-size clusters forming a superlattice. Note that because the interaction term of the Hamiltonian in Eq. (1) is local, the original and reference systems have the same interaction term. Therefore the functional form of $\mathcal{F}[\Sigma]$ is unchanged. The exact grand potential of the reference system is given as $\Omega' = \mathcal{F}[\Sigma'] - \text{Tr } \ln(-G'_0^{-1} + \Sigma')$, where Σ' is the exact self-energy of the reference system. Then, by restricting the trial Σ to Σ' , we can omit the functional $\mathcal{F}[\Sigma']$ and obtain

$$\Omega[\mathbf{\Sigma}'] = \Omega' - \operatorname{Tr} \ln(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{G}'), \qquad (3)$$

where I is the unit matrix, $V \equiv G'_0^{-1} - G_0^{-1}$ represents the difference of the one-body terms between the original and reference systems, and $G' = (G'_0^{-1} - \Sigma')^{-1}$ is the exact Green's function of the reference system. The size of these matrices are $2L_c \times 2L_c$, where L_c is the number of sites within a disconnected finite-size cluster.

The trial self-energy for the variational method is generated from the exact self-energy (or the exact Green's function) of the reference system. The Hamiltonian of the reference system is defined as

$$\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{pair}} + \mathcal{H}_{\text{local}},\tag{4}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{pair}} = \Delta' \sum_{i} (c_i^{\dagger} f_i + \text{H.c.}), \tag{5}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{local}} = \epsilon' \sum_{i} (n_{ic} + n_{if}), \tag{6}$$

where the Weiss field for the on-site electron-hole pairing Δ' and the orbital-independent potential ϵ' are variational parameters, which are optimized based on the variational principle, i.e., $(\partial \Omega / \partial \Delta', \partial \Omega / \partial \epsilon') = (0,0)$. Note that the solution with $\Delta' \neq 0$ corresponds to the spontaneous EI state. ϵ' is introduced in order to calculate the average particle density n correctly.²⁶ Then we solve the ground-state eigenvalue problem $\mathcal{H}' | \psi_0 \rangle = E_0 | \psi_0 \rangle$ of a finite-size cluster and calculate the trial single-particle Green's function by the Lanczos exact-diagonalization method. The Green's function matrix in Eq. (3) is defined as

$$\boldsymbol{G}'(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{G}'^{cc}(\omega) & \boldsymbol{G}'^{cf}(\omega) \\ \boldsymbol{G}'^{fc}(\omega) & \boldsymbol{G}'^{ff}(\omega) \end{pmatrix},$$
(7)

where $G^{\alpha\beta}$ are the $L_{\rm c} \times L_{\rm c}$ matrices. Each matrix element is defined as

$$G_{ij}^{\prime\alpha\beta}(\omega) = \langle \psi_0 | \alpha_i \frac{1}{\omega - \mathcal{H}' + E_0} \beta_j^{\dagger} | \psi_0 \rangle + \langle \psi_0 | \beta_j^{\dagger} \frac{1}{\omega + \mathcal{H}' - E_0} \alpha_i | \psi_0 \rangle, \qquad (8)$$

and these are calculated by the standard Lanczos technique. The matrix V is given as

$$V(\mathbf{K}) = \begin{pmatrix} T^{c}(\mathbf{K}) - \epsilon' I & -\Delta' I \\ -\Delta' I & T^{f}(\mathbf{K}) - \epsilon' I \end{pmatrix}, \qquad (9)$$

where $T^{\alpha}(\mathbf{K})$ is the intercluster hopping matrix for α electrons. The matrix elements are given as $T_{ij}^{\alpha}(\mathbf{K}) = t_{\alpha} \sum_{\mathbf{X},x} e^{i\mathbf{K}\cdot\mathbf{X}} \delta_{i+x,j} \delta_{\mathbf{R}+\mathbf{X},\mathbf{R}'}$, where *x* denotes the neighboring sites of the *i*th site and **X** denotes the neighboring clusters of the **R**th cluster.

Now all the physical quantities are diagonalized for Matsubara frequencies and superlattice wave vectors, but not for orbitals and sites within a cluster. Thus the Tr for a quantity Ais written explicitly as

$$\operatorname{Tr} \boldsymbol{A} = T \sum_{\omega_n} e^{i\omega_n 0} \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \sum_{\alpha=c,f} \sum_{i=1}^{L_c} A_{ii}^{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{K}, i\omega_n).$$
(10)

The **K** summation is done in the reduced Brillouin zone of the superlattice. For numerical calculations of Ω , the Matsubara-frequency sum is transformed to a contour integral with the complex Fermi function $f(\omega) = 1/(e^{\omega/T} + 1)$ by the theorem of residuum. Then the contour is deformed to a path enclosing the real axis by use of the convergence factor. Finally we obtain an expression for the functional,

$$\Omega = \Omega' - \oint \frac{d\omega}{2\pi i} \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \ln \det(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{K})\mathbf{G}'(\omega)). \quad (11)$$

The single-particle Green's functions are calculated by CPT¹⁹ with the optimized variational parameters. The CPT Green's function is defined as

$$\mathcal{G}^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{1}{L_{\rm c}} \sum_{i,j=1}^{L_{\rm c}} G^{\alpha\beta}_{\rm CPT,ij}(\mathbf{k},\omega) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)},\qquad(12)$$

where \mathbf{r}_i is the position of the *i*th site within a disconnected finite-size cluster and $\mathbf{G}_{CPT}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \mathbf{G}'(\omega)[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{k})\mathbf{G}'(\omega)]^{-1}$. The wave vector \mathbf{k} can take arbitrary values in the first Brillouin zone. Here we define $\mathcal{G}^{cc}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$, $\mathcal{G}^{ff}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$, and $\mathcal{G}^{cf}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ as the single-particle *c*-electron, *f*-electron, and anomalous Green's functions, respectively.

A cluster of the size $L_c = 8$ (16 orbital) is used as a reference system, thus the effects of statical and dynamical electron correlations within the cluster size are taken into account. Details of the VCA can be found in Refs. [27,28].

C. Hartree-Fock approximation

It was reported that the ground-state phase diagram of the two-dimensional EFKM obtained by the HFA quantitatively agrees with that by CPMC⁹ in the weak-to-intermediate coupling regime.¹² To compare VCA results with HFA results, we briefly review the mean-field theory for the EI state of

this model.¹³ Applying the HFA to the interaction term in the original Hamiltonian (1), i.e., $c_i^{\dagger}c_i f_i^{\dagger} f_i \rightarrow \langle c_i^{\dagger}c_i \rangle f_i^{\dagger} f_i + \langle f_i^{\dagger} f_i \rangle c_i^{\dagger} c_i - \langle f_i^{\dagger} c_i \rangle c_i^{\dagger} f_i - \langle c_i^{\dagger} f_i \rangle f_i^{\dagger} c_i$, where $\langle \cdots \rangle$ denotes the ground-state expectation value, and switching to momentum space, we obtain the mean-field Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{HFA}} &= \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (c_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \quad f_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}) \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c} & -\Delta \\ -\Delta & \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{\mathbf{k}} \\ f_{\mathbf{k}} \end{pmatrix}, \\ \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\alpha} &= 2t_{\alpha} (\cos k_{x} + \cos k_{y}) + \epsilon_{\alpha} - \mu + U n_{\bar{\alpha}}, \\ n_{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \langle \alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle, \\ \Delta &= \frac{U}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \langle f_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle, \end{aligned}$$
(13)

where *L* is the number of lattice sites and c_k (f_k) is the Fourier transform of c_i (f_i). $\alpha = c, f$ represents the orbital index and $\bar{\alpha}$ denotes the other orbital of α , i.e., $\bar{c} = f$ and vice versa. The order parameter Δ describes the coherent exciton formation between *c* electrons and *f* holes. Here we assumed Δ is real without loss of generality. Introducing the fermionic quasiparticles defined as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{+} \\ \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{-} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{\mathbf{k}} & v_{\mathbf{k}} \\ v_{\mathbf{k}} & -u_{\mathbf{k}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{\mathbf{k}} \\ f_{\mathbf{k}} \end{pmatrix},$$
(14)

with $u_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + v_{\mathbf{k}}^2 = 1$, and diagonalizing the matrix in Eq. (13) for each **k**, we obtain the mean-field Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_{\rm HFA} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} (E_{\mathbf{k}}^+ \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{+\dagger} \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^+ + E_{\mathbf{k}}^- \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{-\dagger} \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^-), \qquad (15)$$

with the quasiparticle dispersion

$$E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c} + \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f}) \pm \sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \Delta^2}, \qquad (16)$$

$$\xi_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{2} (\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f}). \tag{17}$$

Self-consistency equations for the particle density and the order parameter are

$$n_{c} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left[u_{\mathbf{k}}^{2} f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{+}) + v_{\mathbf{k}}^{2} f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{-}) \right],$$
(18)

$$n_f = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \left[v_{\mathbf{k}}^2 f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^+) + u_{\mathbf{k}}^2 f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^-) \right], \tag{19}$$

$$\Delta = \frac{U}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} u_{\mathbf{k}} v_{\mathbf{k}} [f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{+}) - f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{-})], \qquad (20)$$

respectively, where the quasiparticle density $\langle \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm\dagger} \gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} \rangle$ is replaced by the Fermi function $f(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}) = 1/(e^{E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}/T} + 1)$. The coefficients are given as

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}}{\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \Delta^2}} \right),\tag{21}$$

$$v_{\mathbf{k}}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}}{\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \Delta^2}} \right),\tag{22}$$

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}v_{\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{\Delta}{2\sqrt{\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \Delta^2}}.$$
(23)

The parameters n_c , n_f , and Δ are determined by solving the above equations self-consistently.

Inverting the matrix $(\omega - \mathcal{H}_k)$, where \mathcal{H}_k is the 2 × 2 matrix in the mean-field Hamiltonian (13), we obtain the *c*-orbital, *f*-orbital, and anomalous Green's functions

$$\mathcal{G}_{\rm HFA}^{cc}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c} - \frac{\Delta^2}{\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f}}},$$
(24)

$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{HFA}}^{ff}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f} - \frac{\Delta^2}{\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c}}},$$
(25)

$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{HFA}}^{cf}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{\Delta}{(\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}c})(\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}f}) - \Delta^2},$$
 (26)

respectively. From the imaginary part of each of the Green's functions, we obtain the c-orbital, f-orbital, and anomalous spectral functions

$$A_{\rm HFA}^{c}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = u_{\mathbf{k}}^{2}\delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{+}) + v_{\mathbf{k}}^{2}\delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{-}), \qquad (27)$$

$$A_{\rm HFA}^{f}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = v_{\mathbf{k}}^{2}\delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{+}) + u_{\mathbf{k}}^{2}\delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{-}), \qquad (28)$$

$$F_{\rm HFA}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = u_{\mathbf{k}}v_{\mathbf{k}}[\delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{+}) - \delta(\omega - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{-})], \quad (29)$$

respectively.

III. RESULTS OF CALCULATION

A. Order parameter and single-particle gap

We first calculate the U dependence of the order parameter for exciton condensation

$$2\Delta = \frac{U}{L} \sum_{i} \langle c_i^{\dagger} f_i + \text{H.c.} \rangle, \qquad (30)$$

and the single-particle excitation gap defined as

$$\Delta_{\rm gap} = \mu^+ - \mu^-, \tag{31}$$

where $\mu^{+(-)}$ is the upper (lower) bound of the chemical potential. Calculated results by VCA (HFA) are shown in the upper (lower) panel of Fig. 2. The factor 2 for the order parameter is introduced in order to compare with the single-particle gap, by analogy with the BCS mean-field theory.

We can see from the results that there is not only a lower bound of the Coulomb interaction strength U_{c1} but also an upper bound U_{c2} for the EI state. The obtained values are $(U_{c1}, U_{c2}) = (0.65, 6.6)$ for VCA and $(U_{c1}, U_{c2}) = (0.66, 6.95)$ for HFA. The existence of the upper bound U_{c2} seems to contradict the case of the attractive Hubbard model, which has no U_{c2} .^{29,30} What happens at $U = U_{c2}$ is that the Hartree potential makes the *f* band fully occupied and the *c* band empty, so there is no Coulomb interaction between *c* electrons and *f* holes. Thus the system is simply a band insulator above U_{c2} .

Note that, which band becomes empty or full at large U is determined by the particle density of each orbital at U = 0. In our case, $n_c < n_f$ at U = 0. Therefore the Hartree potential for the c band is larger than that for the f band. Thus, with



FIG. 2. (Color online) U dependence of the order parameter $2|\Delta|$ and the single-particle gap Δ_{gap} calculated by the VCA (upper panel) and by the HFA (lower panel). The dash-dotted straight line indicates the single-particle gap in the normal ($\Delta = 0$) state.

increasing U, the c band is pushed up rather than the f band, and finally the c band becomes empty.

In the weak-to-intermediate coupling regime ($U \leq 5$), both the order parameter and single-particle gap increase with increasing U with the relation $2|\Delta| \simeq \Delta_{gap}$ (upper panel). This result is consistent with the relation $2|\Delta| = \Delta_{gap}$ from the HFA (lower panel). In the strong-coupling regime ($U \gtrsim 5$), the order parameter rapidly decreases with increasing U but the singleparticle gap remains open. If we can assume that the energy scale of the single-particle gap Δ_{gap} and order parameter $2|\Delta|$ may correspond to that of the characteristic temperature for the exciton formation (T_{ex}) and critical temperature for the condensation of excitons (T_c) , respectively, then the two temperatures should be comparable $(T_{\rm ex} \simeq T_{\rm c})$ in the weakcoupling (BCS) regime but may be well separated $(T_{ex} \gg T_c)$ in the strong-coupling (BEC) regime. The BCS-BEC crossover may then be expected in this model although our calculations are done at zero temperature.

B. Momentum distribution function

We then consider the *c*-electron, *f*-electron, and anomalous momentum distribution functions defined as

$$n_{\alpha}(\mathbf{k}) = \oint_{C_{<}} \frac{dz}{2\pi i} \mathcal{G}^{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{k}, z), \qquad (32)$$

$$F(\mathbf{k}) = \oint_{C_{<}} \frac{dz}{2\pi i} \mathcal{G}^{cf}(\mathbf{k}, z), \qquad (33)$$



FIG. 3. (Color online) Calculated momentum distribution functions $n_c(\mathbf{k})$, $n_f(\mathbf{k})$, and $F(\mathbf{k})$ at U = 2, U = 5, and U = 6.5.

respectively, where the contour integral path $C_{<}$ encloses the poles of the integrand on the real axis below the chemical potential. The results are shown in Fig. 3. Here we define, by analogy with the BCS mean-field theory, the Fermi momentum $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ as

$$n_c(\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}) = n_f(\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}) = 0.5.$$
 (34)

Actually in the HFA, this definition means that the singleparticle gap is identical to $2|\Delta|$ and $2|F(\mathbf{k})| = 1$ at \mathbf{k}_F [see Eqs. (16) and (23), respectively]. At U = 2, $F(\mathbf{k})$ shows the sharp peak at \mathbf{k}_F , indicating the existence of weakly bound electron-hole pairs. At U = 6.5, \mathbf{k} dependence of the peak intensity of the anomalous Green's function is weak and $F(\mathbf{k})$ is spread out in momentum space. Thus, in real space, small electron-hole pairs exist in the strong-coupling regime.

To see the U dependence of the momentum distribution functions in more detail, we show the results along the $(0,0) \rightarrow$ (π,π) line in Fig. 4. We can see that, in the weak-coupling regime, $n_c(\mathbf{k})$ drops sharply across \mathbf{k}_F and $F(\mathbf{k})$ is peaked at \mathbf{k}_F . With increasing U, \mathbf{k}_F approaches (0,0) because the Hartree potential for the c electron reduces the c-electron density, and $F(\mathbf{k})$ becomes broad in momentum space, indicating that the radius of electron-hole pairs becomes small in real space. When U reaches the crossover regime $(U \sim 5)$, we have no \mathbf{k}_F and $|F(\mathbf{k})|$ decreases for all momenta with increasing U. This behavior is consistent with the rapid decrease of $|\Delta|$ in the strong-coupling regime (see Fig. 2).

C. Coherence length

We also evaluated the coherence length defined as

$$r_{\rm coh} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{\mathbf{k}} |\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} F(\mathbf{k})|^2}{\sum_{\mathbf{k}} |F(\mathbf{k})|^2}}$$
(35)

in order to directly see the spatial coherence of the excitons. The **k** summations were done with 100×100 **k** points in the first Brillouin zone. For VCA calculations, the derivative with respect to $k_{x,y}$ was evaluated by the four-point finite difference, while for HFA calculations, the analytical expression for $\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} F(\mathbf{k})$ was used. Calculated results are shown in Fig. 5. In the weak-coupling regime, $r_{\rm coh}$ is spread widely, about several lattice constants, and rapidly decreases with



FIG. 4. (Color online) Momentum distribution functions $n_c(\mathbf{k})$ and $2F(\mathbf{k})$ along $(0,0) \rightarrow (\pi,\pi)$ for various U calculated by the VCA (upper panel) and HFA (lower panel). The *f*-electron momentum distribution functions $n_f(\mathbf{k}) = 1 - n_c(\mathbf{k})$ are not shown.

increasing U. Note that the calculated result of $r_{\rm coh}$ by VCA is considerably smaller than that by HFA in the weak-coupling regime, especially for $r_{\rm coh} > 1$. At $U = 2 \sim 3$, $r_{\rm coh}$ is already the size of the lattice constant. A similar rapid decrease of the coherence length of the Cooper pairs as a function of the Coulomb interaction strength was also reported in a detailed exact-diagonalization study on the attractive Hubbard model.³¹ Furthermore, we find that $r_{\rm coh}$ has a shallow minimum at $U \simeq 5$ where the system is in crossover regime. This is because the denominator $\sum_{\bf k} |F({\bf k})|^2$ in Eq. (35) is largest in the crossover regime (see Fig. 4). Then $r_{\rm coh}$ slightly increases again with increasing U.

D. Single-particle spectra and density of state

We also calculated the single-particle and anomalous excitation spectra

$$A(\mathbf{k},\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi}\Im\sum_{\alpha=c,f}\mathcal{G}^{\alpha\alpha}(\mathbf{k},\omega+i\eta), \qquad (36)$$

$$F(\mathbf{k},\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi}\Im\mathcal{G}^{cf}(\mathbf{k},\omega+i\eta), \qquad (37)$$

and the density of states (DOSs)

$$o^{\alpha}(\omega) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} A^{\alpha}(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$$
(38)



FIG. 5. (Color online) U dependence of the coherence length calculated by VCA (circles) and HFA (solid line).

at U = 2 (BCS regime), U = 5 (crossover regime), and U = 6.5 (BEC regime). The results are shown in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively. The HFA quasiparticle dispersion $E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}$ is also shown in the lower panel of Fig. 6. Note that because of the artificial supercell structure introduced by the VCA, the spectra show artificial gaps due to Brillouin zone folding. At U = 2, $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ shows a small gap at the Fermi momentum $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ defined in Eq. (34). $F(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ shows a sharp peak near $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ and its intensity rapidly decreases as the momentum goes away from $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ or the frequency goes away from the Fermi level μ . At U = 5, the incoherent continua appear in the spectral function. We can see from the DOS and anomalous Green's functions that both the single-particle gap and hybridization are large. At U = 6.5, $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ shows a semiconductor-like dispersion mainly due to the Hartree potential. The momentum dependence of the intensity of $F(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ is weaker than that at U = 2 and 5. Note that, although U is large, the incoherent part of both $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ and $F(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ is smaller than that at U = 5. The dispersion relation is well described by the HFA quasiparticle dispersion $E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}$ in both the weak- and strong-coupling regimes. The reason will be discussed from the viewpoint of the self-energy in Sec. IV.

IV. DISCUSSIONS

A. Why HFA works well

Here we consider, from the viewpoint of the self-energy, why the HFA is successful not only in the weak-coupling regime but also in the strong-coupling regime for the EFKM. For simplicity, we neglect the order parameter Δ and Weiss field for electron-hole pairs Δ' .

Using the spectral representation,³² the self-energy can be written as

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{k},\omega) = g_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\nu} \frac{\sigma_{\mathbf{k},\nu}}{\omega - \zeta_{\mathbf{k},\nu}},$$
(39)

where $g_{\mathbf{k}}$ is the Hartree potential,³³ $\zeta_{\mathbf{k},\nu}$ is the ν th pole of the self-energy, and $\sigma_{\mathbf{k},\nu}$ is the corresponding spectral weight. In HFA, the Hartree potential is taken into account, but the second term (frequency dependence of the self-energy) is neglected. Note that the EFKM defined in Eq. (1) is nothing



FIG. 6. (Color online) Calculated anomalous spectra $F(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ (upper panel) and single-particle excitation spectra $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ (lower panel) at U = 2 (left), U = 5 (center), and U = 6.5 (right). In the lower panel, the HFA quasiparticle dispersion $E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}$ is also shown (solid line). The artificial Lorentzian broadening $\eta = 0.1$ is used.

but the asymmetric Hubbard model. Therefore we can apply the sum rule for the self-energy of the Hubbard model (see Ref. 34 and the Appendix). Then total weight of the self-energy "neglected" in the HFA is

$$-\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\eta \to 0+} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \operatorname{Im} \Sigma(\mathbf{k}, \omega + i\eta)$$
$$= \sum_{\nu} \sigma_{\mathbf{k},\nu} = U^2 n_c n_f.$$
(40)

Here the half-filling condition $n_c + n_f = 1$ is used. The U dependence of n_c , n_f , and $U^2 n_c n_f$ calculated by the HFA is shown in Fig. 8. We can see from the result that with increasing U, the Hartree potential causes particle-number imbalance of the c and f orbitals, and makes $n_c n_f$ smaller. Thus $U^2 n_c n_f$ has a maximum and decreases again with increasing U.

Moreover, we can see from the HFA Green's functions of Eqs. (24)–(26) that, if the order parameter Δ is finite, the single-particle gap can be generated from the hybridization gap in the weak-coupling regime. Thus HFA works well on the EFKM both in the weak- and strong-coupling regime.

The crucial differences between VCA and HFA will appear in one- and two-dimensional systems at finite temperature, where the spontaneous symmetry breaking is absent.^{35,36} Actually, it was reported that the critical temperature for exciton condensation of the EFKM evaluated by the SB technique is lower than that by the mean field due to the effects of electron correlations.³⁷ Moreover, the effects of the spatial fluctuations, which are also completely neglected in the mean-field theory, will also tend to destroy the ordering.

B. Experimental implications

Since the EI order parameter is not necessarily identical with the single-particle gap, especially in the BEC regime, experimental evidence for the realization of EI should be signaled as the spontaneous hybridization between the valence and conduction bands. Generally, ARPES experiments observe the imaginary part of the single-particle Green's function filtered by the dipole matrix element and the Fermi function.³⁸ The matrix element effects are determined by the selection rule from symmetries, photon energy dependence of the cross section, etc. Consideration of the matrix element effects becomes important for observation of Zhang-Rice singlet states in cuprate by ARPES.³⁹ If one can resolve dominant orbitals for the valence and conduction bands by the use of matrix element effects, the spontaneous hybridization between the valence and conduction bands can be observed by ARPES as the difference in the spectral intensity between that above and below the critical temperature. That is, the spectral intensity from the dominant conduction-band orbitals will be transferred to the valence-band top below the critical temperature. Therefore, experimental analyses of temperature dependence of the hybridization between the valence and conduction bands are desired.

The recent ARPES measurements on quasi-onedimensional Ta₂NiSe₅ were done with the photon energies hv = 10 eV and hv = 23 eV.⁶ The experimental results of the energy distribution curve (EDC) at T = 40 K showed that the EDC intensity is large near Γ with hv = 23 eV, but small with hv = 10 eV. From the cross-section table of atoms,⁴⁰ the Ta 5*d* weight should be large for hv = 23 eV,



FIG. 7. (Color online) Calculated density of states at U = 2 (top), U = 5 (middle), and U = 6.5 (bottom). The vertical line represents the Fermi energy. The artificial Lorentzian broadening $\eta = 0.1$ is used.

while the Se 4p weight should be large for hv = 10 eV. The result implies that the spectral weight of the conduction-band Ta 5d orbitals is transferred to the valence top due to the hybridization. The similar spectral-weight transfer can be seen in our calculated result for the orbital-resolved excitation spectra shown in Fig. 9. We can see from the results that near $\mathbf{k} = (0,0)$, the spectral weight of the dominant conduction-band orbital (c orbital) is transferred below the Fermi energy. This spectral-weight transfer also can be seen in the calculated DOS at U = 5 (middle panel of Fig. 7). Thus, temperature-dependent photoemission spectroscopy measurements with



FIG. 8. (Color online) U dependence of n_c (dashed line), n_f (dash-dotted line), and $U^2 n_c n_f$ (solid line) calculated by HFA.

various photon energies are desired to identify the orbital character of the band structure and estimate the hybridization between the valence and conduction bands in Ta_2NiSe_5 .

V. SUMMARY

In this paper we analyzed the excitonic insulator (EI) state of the extended Falicov-Kimball model (EFKM) by using the variational cluster approximation (VCA) and Hartree-Fock approximation (HFA) at zero temperature. We calculated the EI order parameter, single-particle gap, momentum distribution functions, coherence length, and single-particle Green's functions as functions of the Coulomb interaction strength U.

In the weak-coupling regime, we found that the magnitude of the single-particle gap Δ_{gap} is almost comparable to that of the order parameter $2|\Delta|$. This indicates that electron-hole pair formation and condensation may occur simultaneously, like Cooper pair formation and condensation in BCS theory. The quasiparticle dispersion obtained by the single-particle excitation spectra $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ is well described by mean-field theory. The Fermi momentum $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ is defined from the momentum distribution function. The anomalous excitation spectra $F(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ showed that their spectral weights are distributed



FIG. 9. (Color online) Calculated single-particle excitation spectra $A(\mathbf{k},\omega), A^c(\mathbf{k},\omega)$, and $A^f(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ (from left to right) at U = 5. The horizontal line represents the Fermi energy. The artificial Lorentzian broadening $\eta = 0.1$ is used.

mainly near the Fermi energy μ . The anomalous momentum distribution function $F(\mathbf{k})$ is peaked at $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$. Reflecting this, the coherence length of the exciton is widely spread for a several hundred lattice spacing. This indicates that the system is in the BCS-like weakly bound exciton condensation state. With increasing U, the momentum dependence of the condensation amplitude $F(\mathbf{k})$ becomes weak, and the coherence length decreases rapidly. The $A(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ show incoherent continua in their high-frequency parts in the intermediate-coupling regime. In the strong-coupling regime, the energy scale of the order parameter and single-particle gap become separated. This result indicates that the binding energy of the electronhole pairs (excitons) is larger than the energy scale of the critical temperature where excitons may obtain coherence. The Fermi momentum $\mathbf{k}_{\rm F}$ became ill defined. Accordingly, the Fermi surface plays no role and $F(\mathbf{k})$ is widely spread in momentum space, and the coherence length is smaller than the lattice constant, indicating that the system is in the BEC-like condensation state of strongly bound electron-hole pairs. Moreover, we found that HFA works well not only in the weak-coupling (small U) regime, but also in the strongcoupling (large U) regime. The reason was clarified from the viewpoint of the self-energy. Finally, we discussed the spectral feature of the EI state of the EFKM and gave experimental implications for photoemission spectroscopy measurements.

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APPENDIX

Here we derive the sum rule for the self-energy used in Eq. (40). The EFKM or the asymmetric Hubbard model in momentum space is give as

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + \frac{U}{L} \sum_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'\mathbf{q}} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}\uparrow}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}\uparrow} c_{\mathbf{k}'-\mathbf{q}\downarrow}^{\dagger} c_{\mathbf{k}'\downarrow}.$$
(A1)

Here we consider the second moment of Green's function of the electron with spin σ and momentum **k**, which is defined as⁴¹

$$M_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^{2} = \oint \frac{d\omega}{2\pi i} \omega^{2} G_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega), \qquad (A2)$$

where $G_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega)$ is the single-particle Green's function of the electron with spin σ , and the integral path encloses all singularities of the integrand. The Dyson equation gives Green's function with the form

$$G_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \left[\omega - \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} - \Sigma_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega)\right]^{-1}.$$
 (A3)

Then we substitute the spectral representation of the selfenergy³²

$$\Sigma_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + \sum_{\nu} \frac{\sigma_{\mathbf{k}\sigma,\nu}}{\omega - \zeta_{\mathbf{k}\sigma,\nu}}$$
(A4)

into Eq. (A3) and take the high-frequency expansion,

$$G_{\sigma}(\mathbf{k},\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega} + \frac{\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}}{\omega^2} + \frac{\sum_{\nu} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}\sigma,\nu} + (\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma})^2}{\omega^3} + O(\omega^{-4}).$$
(A5)

Substituting this expression into Eq. (A2) and using the theorem of residuum, we obtain

$$M_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^2 = \sum_{\nu} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}\sigma,\nu} + (\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma})^2 \,. \tag{A6}$$

The other expression for the second moment is given as⁴¹

$$M_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^2 = \langle \{ [c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}, \mathcal{H}], [\mathcal{H}, c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^{\dagger}] \}_+ \rangle, \tag{A7}$$

where $\{\cdots\}_+$ denotes the anticommutator. Calculating the (anti)commutators on the right-hand side, we obtain

$$M_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^2 = \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^2 + 2\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} U n_{\bar{\sigma}} + U^2 n_{\bar{\sigma}}, \qquad (A8)$$

where $\bar{\sigma}$ denotes the opposite spin direction of σ . Now we use the fact that $g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}$ is the Hartree potential,³³ i.e., $g_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} = Un_{\bar{\sigma}}$. Then comparing Eq. (A8) with Eq. (A6), we obtain

$$\sum_{\nu} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}\sigma,\nu} = U^2 n_{\bar{\sigma}} (1 - n_{\bar{\sigma}}). \tag{A9}$$

The right-hand side does not depend on the momentum **k** or dispersion $\epsilon_{k\sigma}$. By replacing $\sigma = \uparrow$, \downarrow to *c*, *f* and using the half-filling condition $n_c + n_f = 1$, we obtain Eq. (40).

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