Stripe and superconducting order competing in the Hubbard model on a square lattice studied by a combined variational Monte Carlo and tensor network method

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The long-studied Hubbard model is one of the simplest models of copper-oxide superconductors. However, the connection between the model and the experimental phase diagram is still under debate, in particular regarding the existence and extent of the *d*-wave superconducting phase. Recent rapid progress in improving the accuracy of numerical solvers has opened a way to answer this question reliably. Here, we study the hole-doping concentration (δ) dependence of the Hubbard model in the ground states on a square lattice at strong coupling U/t = 10, for the on-site interaction *U* and the transfer *t*, using a variational Monte Carlo method. The method, which combines tensor network and Lanczos methods on top of Pfaffian wave functions, reveals a rich phase diagram, in which many orders compete severely and degenerate within the energy range of 0.01*t*. We have identified distinct phases including a uniform *d*-wave superconducting phase for $0.17 \leq \delta \leq 0.22$ and a stripe charge/spin ordered phase for $\delta \leq 0.17$ with the stripe period depending on δ , together with presumable spatially coexisting antiferromagnetic and stripe order for $\delta \leq 0.07$ and coexisting stripe and *d*-wave superconductivity for $0.07 \leq \delta \leq 0.17$. The present, improved method revealed a wider region of a charge uniform superconductors. The superconducting order parameter is largest at doping of around $\delta = 0.17$ in the ground state, which undergoes phase transitions from an inhomogeneous to a uniform state.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The mechanism of high-temperature superconductivity in doped Mott insulators remains a challenging open issue [1–6]. In such systems, superconductivity severely competes with charge inhomogeneities [7–12], and resolving the different orders requires careful and accurate estimates. While a strong effective attractive interaction could be responsible for both Cooper pair formation and charge inhomogeneity (or the charge susceptibility enhancement) [4,13–22], a true microscopic origin of these phenomena and their relationship is yet to be understood.

For this issue, an analysis of the single-band Hubbard model on a square lattice offers one of the simplest starting points. Many numerical studies [23-31] have shown that the Hubbard model is a unique playground which exibits a large number of strongly competing orders observed in the cuprates, including *d*-wave superconducting, and charge/spin stripe orders. Despite its simple form with only nearest-neighbor transfer (*t*) and on-site Hubbard interaction (*U*) terms, the ground-state phase diagram of the Hubbard model is still under active debate.

Recent advancement of sophisticated numerical techniques and growing computational power have potentially brought the phase diagram of the Hubbard model within reach. The auxiliary-field quantum Monte Carlo method (AFQMC) [32,33] has enabled clarification of the instability to the charge inhomogeneity signaled by the diverging charge susceptibility near $\delta = 0$ at a moderate coupling U/t = 4 [14,34].

At stronger coupling (U/t > 6), it has turned out that the charge instability with the critical divergence at $\delta = 0$ is more expanded and the phase separation region occupies the lowdoping region [22]. By allowing stripe-type charge inhomogeneity with the period of several lattice constants, a part of phase separation region at the strong coupling is replaced by the stripe ground state. A recent paper [30] employed various numerical methods such as density matrix embedding theory (DMET) [35], constrained path AFQMC [16], infinite projected entangled-pair states (iPEPS) [36], and density matrix renormalization group (DMRG) [37,38] to study the ground state at 1/8 doping. This study mainly considered U/t = 8, but less comprehensive results were also presented for U/t = 6 and 12. All the methods support the stripe ground state with a near degeneracy of stripes with periods from 5 to 8.

Systematic doping dependence has been studied by the many-variable variational Monte Carlo (mVMC) method [39,40] (see also Refs. [41–44] and a review [45]) and by various embedding methods [35,46–51]. Among embedding methods, DMET was used to investigate the doping dependence for $U/t \leq 8$ [52]. However, due to the restricted size of the embedded clusters used in that study, the roles of different period stripes could not be compared. Another embedding method, cellular dynamical mean-field theory, was also recently applied to the $U/t = 6 \mod [53]$. While cluster sizes were allowed to vary to allow consideration of long stripe periods, certain discrepancies in this work compared to other works, for instance, in the energetically preferred stripe

periods [30], suggests that conclusive results had not yet been reached.

The mVMC results for doping dependence suggest a charge/spin stripe ground state with the period increasing with decreasing δ [31]. However, these ground states are severely competing with superconducting excited states. Because the energy difference is tiny (~0.01*t* per site, which corresponds to roughly ~50 K in the scale of the cuprates), improving the accuracy of wave functions might lead to different conclusions.

In this work, we use a method developed in Ref. [54], which combines the mVMC method with a tensor network (TN) method, to study the doping concentration dependence of the ground state in the strongly coupled U/t = 10 Hubbard model, taking into account both homogeneous and inhomogeneous orders. The wave function is further improved with first-step Lanczos, and ground-state energies are finally obtained by extrapolation to zero energy variance. In this way, we obtain energy estimates that are comparable to state-of-the-art calculations at $\delta = 1/8$ [30], and substantially better than the previous mVMC study [31]. Systems of various sizes are considered, and finite-size effects are carefully examined to estimate the thermodynamic limit.

One of the most important findings of the present paper is that there is a stable uniform nonmagnetic ground state showing superconductivity in the doping region of 0.17 $\lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.22$, which has not been seen in the previous study [31]. For the doping region with concentration between 0.07 $\lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.17$, we find stripe-ordered ground states. The superconductivity of stripe states in this region appears less robust than for the uniform region. However, a possible region of phase separation for $0.12 \lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.19$ suggests that a uniform state with higher doping could largely account for the superconductivity in the doping range $0.12 \lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.19$, where a mixture of stripe and superconducting ordered domains could be stabilized.

II. DEFINITIONS AND METHOD

The target of the present study is the single-band Hubbard model on a square lattice, given by

$$\mathcal{H} = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle,\sigma} c^{\dagger}_{i\sigma} c_{j\sigma} + U \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} , \qquad (1)$$

where the first sum is taken over all nearest-neighbor pairs, $c_{i\sigma}$ is the annihilation operator for an electron at site *i* with spin σ , $n_{i\sigma} = c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{i\sigma}$ is the corresponding number operator, and $N_s = L_x L_y$ is the number of lattice sites. This study will primarily focus on the strong interaction regime with U/t = 10 (except for benchmark calculations).

At large U/t, the low energy space of the model is expected to host many different types of order, which must be accurately described by the numerical method. For this purpose, we employ a tensor-network method on top of variational Monte Carlo method. The wave function can be written as [54]

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{x} \mathcal{P}(x)\mathcal{M}(x)\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)|x\rangle$$
, (2)

where $\{|x\rangle\}$ is a basis of real-space configurations, $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$ is a Pfaffian, $\mathcal{P}(x)$ are correlation factors, and $\mathcal{M}(x)$ is a fat tree tensor network. Full details of the definitions and roles of each factor are included in Appendix A. Further improvement to the wave function is obtained using first-step Lanczos [55] where the optimized variational wave function $|\psi\rangle$ is replaced with $|\psi'\rangle = (1 + \alpha \mathcal{H})|\psi\rangle$ with a single variational parameter α .

The ground-state energy is arrived at by extrapolation with respect to the energy variance $\Delta_{\text{var}} := (\langle \mathcal{H}^2 \rangle - \langle \mathcal{H} \rangle^2) / \langle \mathcal{H} \rangle^2$, which is zero for the true ground state. Both the energy and energy variance are calculated for the optimized variational wave function with and without the tensor network factor, and with and without first-step Lanczos. Since linear relationship between variance and energy is shown if the obtained variational wave function is a good approximation containing substantial portion of the true ground state [41,56-58], we regard the ground-state energy as the y intercept for this linear fit of the above described four data points. See Ref. [57] for the basis of the linearity. In almost all of our calculations (as in Fig. 3 in Appendix A), linear relationship between the energy and variance can been seen, resulting in a small fitting error. The only exception is seen close to the critical point in the uniform state. We remark that any deviation from this linear behavior that could occur at low energies is not taken into account in this method, and thus the linear approximation is a potential source of error not included in fitting error bars. However, when the variance is small enough, we can expect that the error from the linear approximation is small.

For most of our calculations we have used twisted boundary conditions which are periodic in the *y* direction and antiperiodic in the *x* direction. This choice appears to improve the optimization and resulted in small finite-size effects. Inhomogeneous charge and spin stripe orders could be optimized using a unit cell size commensurate with the period of the stripe. For stripes of odd charge period λ , a unit cell of size $\lambda \times 2$ was used, while for even period stripes a $2\lambda \times 2$ unit cell was used. This is because the length of spin period is twice larger than (equal to) that of charge when the charge period is even (odd) [31,59]. Examples of stripes with odd and even λ are shown in Fig. 1(a). Charge density variation is always chosen to be in the *x* direction. For charge uniform states, a 2 × 2 unit cell was used, which can accommodate antiferromagnetic and *d*-wave superconducting order.

The system size was varied to examine finite-size effects and extrapolation of physical quantities. The largest systems used in our calculations were 24×24 , 36×16 , and 72×8 , which have $N_s = 576$ sites, however, certain quantities converged rapidly to thermodynamic limit (TL) values, and so only smaller sizes were required. Details of finite-size effects are included in Appendix B.

We have tested the accuracy of the method against various relevant benchmarks. Results of these benchmarks are provided in Appendix C. At half-filling with U/t = 8, a discrepancy of about 0.005t is observed in the energy per site, however, this is reduced to less than 0.001t if quantum number projections are applied. In the following study, however, we do not apply quantum number projections due to numerical cost, because, as we demonstrate in Appendix D, the effect of quantum number projections on other physical quantities



FIG. 1. (a) Examples of hole density and $\langle S_z \rangle$ in a $2\lambda \times 2$ cell for an odd and even period stripe obtained by optimization at U/t = 10. Hole density is proportional to the diameter of the circle, while $\langle S_z \rangle$ is proportional to the length of the arrow. (b) Energies of stripe and uniform states per site in units of t as a function of doping for $L_y = 8$ systems (U/t = 10). L_x is indicated in the legend. As finite-size effects are found to be small (see Appendix B) we note that the result here essentially represents the thermodynamic limit. A linear function $f(\delta) = 1.835\delta + 0.4304$ has been added to the energy in (b) to improve visibility. (c) Ground-state phase diagram with phase separation (PS), stripe spin and charge order coexisting with weak d-wave superconductivity (SO + weak SC), charge uniform d-wave SC (SC) and charge uniform paramagnetic normal (PM) regions indicated. Checkerboard region indicates a possible region of phase separation between SO and uniform SC phases. (d) Thermodynamic limit extrapolations of order parameters of the ground state in different regions: peak of charge structure factor is plotted for the SO region, and Δ_{SC} is plotted in the PM region. Charge structure of several different stripe periods is plotted simultaneously as different stripe periods are near degenerate.

is relatively small. Away from half-filling, exact results are not available for comparison, however, the method achieves close agreement with the recent results from other methods at 1/8 doping at U/t = 8, a point which was recently intensively studied [30].

III. PHASE DIAGRAM

The energies of charge uniform and various stripe states, with charge periods ranging from 4 to 9, were calculated as a function of doping as shown in Fig. 1(b). The strength of the on-site Coulomb repulsion was fixed to U/t = 10, which is close to *ab initio* estimates for cuprates [60]. Each point represents the ground state of an $L_y = 8$ system obtained

by variance extrapolation. While only fixed system sizes are displayed, we have carried out a careful analysis of size effects, finding that further increasing the system size makes only a small change to energies, and does not change the essential features in the diagram. Full details of finite-size checks are included in Appendix B.

Firstly, we remark that for values of doping up to $\delta = 0.25$, many different orders are severely competing and the groundstate phase is determined by subtle energy balance: the energy differences between different stripe states and uniform states is small, typically less than $0.01t ~(\sim 50 \text{ K in cuprate energy})$ scale [60]). This is smaller by about a factor of two compared to the energy difference observed using the variational mVMC energies in Ref. [31]. This tendency indicates that improving the accuracy of the wave function results in a larger energy reduction for the charge uniform (superconducting as will be clarified later) state than the stripe ordered state. This was also observed in iPEPS [61]. Relative stabilization of the charge uniform state for a better wave function may be understood by the fact that the charge uniform metal and d-wave superconducting off-diagonal ordered states are subject to larger quantum fluctuations than simple charge/spin symmetry-broken states and require more sophisticated wave functions. In contrast, the stripe-type diagonal symmetrybroken states can be represented already by the mean-field level relatively well and the sophisticated wave functions do not improve the energy as much as the charge uniform states.

The ground-state phase diagram from $\delta = 0$ to $\delta = 0.25$ is shown in Fig. 1(c) and the relevant order parameters determined by TL extrapolation are shown in Fig. 1(d).

For large values of doping $0.17 \leq \delta \leq 0.25$, the ground state is homogeneous. The uniform ground state was not observed in the less accurate mVMC study for this doping range [31] and could provide insight into the mechanism for high-temperature superconductivity in cuprates. The superconductivity is seen in the region $0.17 \leq \delta \leq 0.22$. The staggered antiferromagnetic order, seen at low doping of uniform state, happens to disappear continuously at $\delta = 0.17$ as we discuss later.

In the region $0.07 \lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.17$, the ground state is stripe ordered with very small energy differences between stripes states of different periods. The preferred stripe period decreases with increasing doping, as the mean distance between the holes decreases. The extent of this region agrees well with experiments on cuprates, in which charge inhomogeneities have been observed in the doping range $0.05 \lesssim \delta \lesssim 0.2$ [7,62–73].

Although we have used a larger coupling strength of U/t = 10, our results qualitatively agree with those of Ref. [30] with U/t = 8 at doping point $\delta = 0.125$. We observe near degeneracy of stripes with periods from 5 to 8, with period 4 stripe and uniform states being about 0.01t higher in energy. Although in agreement with other numerical methods, this deviates from the experimentally observed period of around 4 at $\delta \approx 1/8$ in La-based cuprates [7,62]. As was recently shown in Ref. [31], this discrepancy can be explained by the absence of next-nearest hopping in the simple square-lattice model.

In the region $\delta \leq 0.07$, the energy follows a slightly downward concave path as the ground-state transitions from

uniform state to a long period stripe. This suggests that phase separation occurs between the Mott insulator at half-filling and a long period stripe. We have limited our calculations to a maximum charge period of 9. Longer charge periods were not considered due to their prohibitive computational cost. Since the period of the stripe in the ground state increases with decreasing carrier doping, it is conceivable that longer period stripe may appear for $\delta < 0.07$, which fills the phase separation region. This is left for future studies.

IV. CHARGE AND SPIN CORRELATIONS

We now discuss the physical properties of the ground state in more detail. We have found that applying first-step Lanczos to the variational wave function makes little change to spin, charge and pairing correlations, in agreement with Ref. [31] (see Appendix D of that work for more details). Therefore, unless otherwise specified, physical quantities in the following discussion are obtained using the variational wave function which includes the tensor network correlation factor but without first-step Lanczos applied.

In order to quantify charge and spin correlations, we have calculated structure factors as a function of doping. The spin structure factor is defined as

$$S_s(\boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{3N_s} \sum_{i,j} \langle \boldsymbol{S}_i \cdot \boldsymbol{S}_j \rangle e^{i\boldsymbol{q} \cdot (\boldsymbol{r}_i - \boldsymbol{r}_j)}, \qquad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{r} = (r_x, r_y)$ is the site position. The charge structure factor is defined as

$$S_c(\boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{i,j} \langle (n_i - n)(n_j - n) \rangle e^{-i\boldsymbol{q} \cdot (\boldsymbol{r}_i - \boldsymbol{r}_j)}, \quad (4)$$

where $n = N/N_s$.

The peak values of $S_s(q)$ and $S_c(q)$ for different states as a function of doping are shown in Figs. 1(d) and 2(a), respectively. For $S_s(q)$, results for both finite-size systems and TL extrapolated values are shown. Details of the TL extrapolation are included in Appendix B 2.

In the stripe region, we obtain nonzero TL values for $S_s(q)$ and $S_c(q)$, which confirms that stripe order persists in the TL. For the charge uniform state, a transition from an antiferromagnetic phase to a paramagnetic phase is observed at $\delta_c \approx 0.17$, where the continuous reduction of S_s to zero is consistent with a continuous or very weak first-order transition. We establish the robustness of anti-ferromagnetic order below δ_c using the correlation ratio [74,75], defined as

$$R = 1 - \frac{S_s(\boldsymbol{q}_{\text{peak}} + \delta \boldsymbol{q})}{S_s(\boldsymbol{q}_{\text{peak}})},$$
(5)

where q_{peak} is the point where S_s takes its maximum value and $q_{\text{peak}} + \delta q$ the closest neighboring point. As the system size tends to infinity, $R \rightarrow 1$ in an ordered phase, $R \rightarrow 0$ in a disordered phase and R will be a constant independent of N_s at a critical point. The correlation ratio is plotted as a function of doping in Fig. 2(c), in which the antiferromagnetic quantum critical point is again suggested at $\delta \approx 0.17$. Although the weak first-order transition is not excluded, the transition point $\delta = 0.17$ is well determined.



FIG. 2. (a) Peak values of spin structure factor and (b) correlation ratio as a function of doping δ . In (a) dots are from finite-size $(L_y = 16)$ calculations, while cross symbols are obtained as values after the TL extrapolation. (a) shows results with the tensor network correlation factor, while (b) is calculated without it due to computational cost.

V. SUPERCONDUCTING ORDER

Here we investigate superconducting correlations in various low energy states of the Hubbard model. We quantify superconductivity with the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -wave superconducting correlation function

$$P_d(\boldsymbol{r}) = \frac{1}{2N_s} \sum_{\boldsymbol{r}_i} \langle \Delta_d^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}_i) \Delta_d(\boldsymbol{r}_i + \boldsymbol{r}) + \Delta_d(\boldsymbol{r}_i) \Delta_d^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}_i + \boldsymbol{r}) \rangle,$$
(6)

where

$$\Delta_d(\mathbf{r}_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{\mathbf{r}} f_d(\mathbf{r}) (c_{\mathbf{r}_i \uparrow} c_{\mathbf{r}_i + \mathbf{r} \downarrow} - c_{\mathbf{r}_i \downarrow} c_{\mathbf{r}_i + \mathbf{r} \uparrow}), \quad (7)$$

 $f_d(\mathbf{r}) = \delta_{r_y,0}(\delta_{r_x,1} + \delta_{r_x,-1}) - \delta_{r_x,0}(\delta_{r_y,1} + \delta_{r_y,-1})$ is the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ -wave form factor and $\delta_{i,j}$ is the Kronecker delta. In our calculations we define the superconducting order parameter as $\Delta_{SC} = \sqrt{P_d^{\infty}}$, where $P_d^{\infty} = \frac{1}{|A|} \sum_{\mathbf{r} \in A} P_d(\mathbf{r})$ is the long-range correlation function, which is averaged over a set *A* of sufficiently large displacements to smooth out fluctuations. For stripe states, rather than averaging over all sites \mathbf{r}_i in Eq. (6), we measure correlations along hole rich stripes, which typically have stronger correlations.

The main question that we seek to answer is whether stable superconducting phase exists in the Hubbard model or not. In the charge uniform state, the doping dependence of superconducting order has a dome shape with a maximum at around $\delta = 0.125$. The dependence for a finite sized system was found to be qualitatively identical to that shown in Ref. [31], so we have not included the figure here. After the TL

extrapolation (see details in Appendix B 2), the superconducting order survives up to $\delta \approx 0.22$, as shown in Fig. 1(d). Below $\delta \approx 0.17$, superconducting and antiferromagnetic orders coexist.

We also have indications for nonzero Δ_{SC} in certain stripe states, however, it is much smaller than the uniform state, and does not have systematic size dependence, making TL extrapolation difficult. A rough extrapolation was performed using the mVMC wave function without the TN. We found $\Delta_{SC} = 0.052 \pm 0.023$ in a $\lambda = 7$ stripe at $\delta = 0.107$ and $\Delta_{SC} = 0.045 \pm 0.018$ in a $\lambda = 6$ stripe at $\delta = 0.125$. We also found nonzero Δ_{SC} in $\lambda = 8$ and 9 stripes for finitesize systems, with similar magnitude to the $\lambda = 6$ and 7 stripes. However, due to computational cost, we were unable to estimate TL values for these systems.

It appears that Δ_{SC} is a challenging quantity to estimate, with different methods obtaining different values in stripe and uniform states [30]. Nevertheless, in agreement with DMET and iPEPS in Ref. [30], we have shown that Δ_{SC} is more robust in charge uniform states than stripe states. The uniform state is the ground state at $\delta \gtrsim 0.17$ and Δ_{SC} decreases with doping in this region, as seen in Fig. 1(d). At lower doping $\delta \lesssim 0.17$, this state competes with the stripe states, which are less superconducting. Superconductivity in the ground state therefore appears optimal at around $\delta \approx 0.17$, which is in good agreement with the optimal doping in cuprates of around $\delta \approx 0.16$ [76].

Figure 1 hints at an intriguing possibility of phase separation between the superconducting state at $\delta \approx 0.19$ and the stripe state at $\delta \approx 0.12$. This could explain the gradual decrease in critical temperature away from optimal doping in this region. In reality, this region may remain as the charge inhomogeneous phase with the volume fraction of the superconducting states $R_s = (\delta - 0.12)/(0.19 - 0.12)$ and $R_c = 1 - R_s$ for the stripe states. Such reduction of the volume fraction may alter the critical temperature as in the granular superconductivity [77,78]. However, the existence of phase separation depends on the precise shape of the uniform state's energy curve. Precise numerical calculations are challenging in this region due to the antiferromagnetic quantum critical point at around $\delta \approx 0.17$. We leave the detailed study of this feature to future work.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this work, we have performed a systematic study of the hole-doped Hubbard model on a square lattice at strong coupling U/t = 10, focusing on how the ground-state properties vary as a function of doping. We have employed a variational wave function which combines a Pfaffian with a tensor network to efficiently represent the different types of entanglement likely to be present. Our method is substantially more accurate than the previous mVMC study [31]. Our improved method has enabled us to uncover a charge uniform and strong d-wave superconducting phase near $\delta \approx$ 0.2 sandwiched by the paramagnetic normal metal phase for $\delta \gtrsim 0.22$ and stripe phase with doping-dependent periodicity for $\delta \leq 0.17$. This region was formerly identified as the stripe ordered ground state with either period 5 or 8 [31]. However, the present, more accurate method has exposed the existence of a small window with the superconducting order in the socalled overdoped region. These phases are severely competing within the energy scale of 0.01*t* for all the doping $\delta > 0$ studied. The possible phase separation suggests a coexistence of stripe and superconducting domains roughly for $0.12 \leq \delta \leq 0.19$. Possible weak superconductivity is also found in the stripe ground states at low doping. It is remarkable that the simplest Hubbard model studied here qualitatively reproduces the basic experimental phase diagram of the cuprates with various similarities.

However, a very wide region $(0.07 \leq \delta \leq 0.17)$ of stripe long-range order with strongly suppressed (or vanishing) dwave superconducting order is required to be critically compared in the future with the experimental phase diagrams for most of cuprate compounds dominated by the d-wave superconductivity at lowest temperatures. An interesting direction for future study would be to observe how physical properties change when additional terms are added to the Hamiltonian to more realistically describe the physics of cuprates, for instance, terms obtained from ab initio studies [60]. Starting from an accurate *ab initio* effective Hamiltonian for the cuprates, its reliable solution with detailed and quantitative comparison with the cuprates will open the materials design for further enhancing superconductivity. For instance, the enhancement of superconductivity due to laser irradiation [79] has recently been investigated using a similar VMC technique.

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APPENDIX A: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF METHOD

Here, we provide a more detailed description of the method. The variational wave function in Eq (2), has three components: a Pfaffian $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$, correlation factors $\mathcal{P}(x)$, and a fat tree tensor network $\mathcal{M}(x)$. The Pfaffian term represents a pair-product wave function, defined as

$$|\psi_{\text{pair}}\rangle = \left(\sum_{i,j} f_{ij} c^{\dagger}_{i\uparrow} c^{\dagger}_{j\downarrow}\right)^{N/2} |0\rangle , \qquad (A1)$$

where f_{ij} are variational parameters. This wave function can exactly represent various types of states typically found in strongly correlated quantum systems, including meanfield superconducting, charge-ordered and antiferromagnetic states, resonating valence bond solid states and many others. For any real space configuration $|x\rangle$, the overlap $\psi_{pair}(x) := \langle x | \psi_{pair} \rangle$ is the Pfaffian of a matrix, which can be computed efficiently.



FIG. 3. Variance extrapolation of the energy per site in units of t at $\delta = 0.0625$ on a 16×8 system at U/t = 10. Points on this plot from highest to lowest energy are the VMC wave function without TN, VMC wave function with TN and D = 2, VMC wave function without TN with first-step Lanczos applied and VMC wave function with D = 2 TN and first-step Lanczos.

The correlation factors are given by $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}_J \mathcal{P}_G \mathcal{P}_{d-h}$, where $\mathcal{P}_G = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\sum g_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow}\right]$ is the Gutzwiller factor, $\mathcal{P}_J = \exp\left[\frac{1}{2}\sum v_{ij} n_i n_j\right]$ is the Jastrow factor, and $\mathcal{P}_{d-h} = \exp\left[-\sum_{m=0}^{4} \alpha_{(m)} \sum \xi_{(m)}\right]$ is the doublon-holon factor, $n_i = n_{i\uparrow} + n_{i\downarrow}$ is the number of electrons at site *i*, and $\xi_{(m)}$ is 1 when a doublon (holon) exists at site *i*, with *m* holons (doublons) at nearest-neighbor sites. These factors are all diagonal in the real-space configuration basis. The variational parameters g_i , v_{ij} , and $\alpha_{(m)}$ are optimized by the method. The Gutzwiller factor can take into account local correlation effects, while the Jastrow factor and doublon holon factors can take into account longer range correlations, which are particularly important in describing correlations in Mott insulators [80].

The combination of the tensor network $\mathcal{M}(x)$ and $\mathcal{P}|\psi_{\text{pair}}\rangle$ was first introduced in Ref. [54], in which a full description is available. In this tensor network, entangled plaquettes of four sites are coupled via a binary tree tensor network. Such a tensor network can flexibly represent types of area law entanglement that are not captured by \mathcal{P} or ψ_{pair} . A parameter D specifies the bond dimension, with larger D resulting in a larger number of parameters, and a more accurate variational wave function. Evaluation of $\mathcal{M}(x)$ for any given real space configuration x consists of the contraction of a binary tree tensor network, which can be performed exactly and efficiently in time $\mathcal{O}(D^3N_s)$. In most of our calculations, we set D = 2. While it is possible to obtain a more accurate wave function by increasing D, we found it more efficient to apply first-order Lanczos to the D = 2 wave function than to increase D.

In variational Monte Carlo, expectation values of local observables are estimated by sampling over the probability distribution $p(x) = \langle \psi | x \rangle \langle x | \psi \rangle / \langle \psi | \psi \rangle$ using Markov chain Monte Carlo. This is possible for the variational wave function in Eq. (2), because $\mathcal{P}(x)$, $\mathcal{M}(x)$ and $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$ can be efficiently calculated for any x. The doping δ is fixed by sampling only over configurations $|x\rangle$ with a fixed number of electrons N.

Given that derivatives of the wave function with respect to variational parameters can be calculated, the variational parameters can be optimized with respect to the energy using the stochastic reconfiguration (SR) method [41]. We use a version of SR that employs conjugate gradient to avoid constructing the SR matrix explicitly, allowing a large number of parameters to be simultaneously optimized [81].

Calculating the energy requires time complexity scaled by $\mathcal{O}(n_s(N_s^3 + D^3N_s \log_2(N_s)))$, where n_s is the number of samples. The first term comes from the calculation of the Pfaffian, while the second term comes from the tensor network contraction. The optimization has a time complexity of $\mathcal{O}(n_s n_p n_{\text{iter}})$, where n_{iter} is the number of iterations in solving the SR equation with conjugate gradient and n_p is the number of parameters, which scales as $\mathcal{O}(N_s^2 + N_s D^3)$ if a full unit cell is used.

The ground state of a finite sized system has a number of symmetries which can be exploited to further improve the energy. Projections that restore translation, SU(2) and rotational C_4 symmetry, denoted respectively by \mathcal{L}^K , \mathcal{L}^S , and \mathcal{L}^{C_4} , can be applied to the ground state by modifying the $\mathcal{M}(x)$ and $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$ terms in Eq. (2). Details of how such quantum number projections [82] are implemented can be found in Ref. [40]. Since these projections are computationally expensive and result in a relatively small improvement for large system sizes, they are used only in certain cases. As we show in Sec. D, these projections also have a negligible effect on other physical quantities, such as spin and charge correlations.

APPENDIX B: FINITE-SIZE EFFECT AND THERMODYNAMIC LIMIT

To ensure that the quantities calculated are representative of the TL values, we have performed a number of finite-size checks. Regarding the energy, our basic observation is that under our calculation conditions, and for sufficiently large systems, the energies obtained by variance extrapolation are largely insensitive to system size. Since we employ the periodic boundary condition in the y direction while antiperiodic in the x direction, the two directions are not equivalent. Then we discuss below the L_x and L_y dependencies separately. Of course, in the limit of both L_x , $L_y \rightarrow \infty$, the unique TL values should be recovered.

1. Size dependence of energy

Let us first discuss L_y dependence. Although we have presented only the $L_y = 8$ plot in Fig. 1 in the main text, we have also calculated energies for different sized systems. The entire plot for $L_y = 16$ is shown below the $L_y = 8$ plot in Fig. 4. All essential features of the diagram and even the energy differences of various stripe orders and uniform state are preserved within the range of error bars. The insensitivity supports that the results obtained by the size $L_y = 8$ is close to the TL results.

We adopted $L_y = 8$ because we can perform more stable energy-variance extrapolations for the following reason: although the energy is relatively weakly dependent on the energy variance, the improvement of the energy variance obtained from taking first-step Lanczos and employing larger number of tensor dimension in the tensor network part tends to decrease when the system size becomes larger. Namely, the energy variance stays relatively higher for larger systems for the same level of Lanczos and tensor-network treatment and remains more distant from the limit of the



FIG. 4. Comparison of energy per site (in units of t) vs doping plot at U/t = 10 for two different system sizes: (a) with $L_y = 8$ and (b) with $L_y = 16$. Essential features of the diagram appear unaffected by increasing size beyond $L_y = 8$. A linear function $f(\delta) = 1.835\delta + 0.4304$ has been added to the energy to improve visibility.

zero-energy-variance extrapolation. Then the extrapolation causes larger errors in the extrapolated energy. This explains why the error bars on the $L_y = 16$ plot are relatively larger than on the $L_y = 8$ plot in Fig. 4. Since the energies at $L_y = 8$ lie more or less within the increased error-bar range of $L_y = 16$, the size extrapolation is not meaningful. However, the weak system size dependence of the energies suggests that the results at $L_y = 8$ are already close to the TL energies even for the relative order of energies for different periods of stripes despite their severe competitions. Therefore we show the result for $L_y = 8$ as a good estimate of the TL phase diagram.

We next discuss the L_x dependence. At certain doping points, system size was also extended in the L_x direction, and we observe similar size insensitivity. Energies obtained with different system sizes at U/t = 10 are shown in Table I. The energies depend very little on the system size again and the energies of different sizes are indistinguishable within the error bars, if L_x is larger than 10. Even when we perform the energy extrapolation using the variance, for both stripe and uniform states, doubling the system size results in only a slight decrease in extrapolated energy of approximately $\sim 0.001t$ to 0.002t and the relative energy difference of various competing orders hardly changes. Therefore, in the main text, we use $12 \leq L_x \leq 20$.

TABLE I. Energies per site in units of t obtained for different system sizes at U/t = 10.

=

System size $(L_x \times L_y)$		Energy per site	
Stripe $\lambda = 5, \ \delta = 0.2$			
10×8		-0.8195(6)	
10×16		-0.8180(8)	
20×8		-0.8165(3)	
20×16		-0.8175(9)	
	Stripe $\lambda = 6$, δ	6 = 0.167	
12×8		-0.7579(5)	
24×8		-0.7589(2)	
12×16		-0.7601(9)	
	Stripe $\lambda = 7, \delta$	6 = 0.143	
14×8		-0.7144(3)	
28×8		-0.7150(3)	
14×16		-0.716(1)	
	Stripe $\lambda = 8$, δ	6 = 0.125	
16×8		-0.6798(5)	
16×16		-0.6813(5)	
32×8		-0.681(1)	
	Uniform, $\delta =$	= 0.125	
16×8		-0.674(1)	
16×16		-0.676(1)	
32×8		-0.677(2)	

2. Size extrapolation of physical quantities

In this section, we describe how TL values are calculated for charge, spin and superconducting correlation functions. As mentioned in the main text, applying first-step Lanczos resulted in little change to physical quantities except for the energy. Physical quantities also changed little when the tensor-network bond dimension was increased beyond D = 2. The physical quantities described below are therefore calculated using the variational wave function without first-step Lanczos applied, and with the tensor-network bond dimension set to D = 2.

a. Spin and charge structure factors and orders

In order to obtain the TL values of structure factors, we first fix L_y and extrapolate to infinite L_x , giving the structure factor of an infinitely long strip. This is shown for an $\lambda = 7$ stripe in Fig. 5 for $L_y = 4, 8, 16$. We observed that infinite L_x -extrapolated values for spin and charge structure factor peaks was the same when L_y was set to 8 or 16 implying that an infinitely long $L_y = 8$ system is already representative of the TL for spin and charge structure factors. We note that taking the limit as $L_x \to \infty$ with fixed L_y is expected to yild a Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid with vanishing long-range order, i.e., $S_s/N_s \rightarrow 0$. While this is the expected behavior when $L_x \gg L_y$, in our calculations, where $L_x \sim L_y$ the value of S_s and S_c appears largely independent of system shape when N_s is fixed because the employed system sizes here are essentially in the two-dimensional scaling region and the characteristic one-dimensional size dependence is expected to appear at much larger aspect ratio. For instance, the peak values of S_s are close (within 0.5%) for a 28×16 system and a 56×8 system for the $\lambda = 7$ stripe. Thus, for the system sizes used in



FIG. 5. System-size extrapolation for (a) spin structure factor peak and (b) charge structure factor peak for a $\lambda = 7$ stripe at $\delta = 0.142$ and U/t = 10. Error bars are smaller than marker sizes. Extrapolated values for infinitely long $L_y = 8$ systems and $L_y = 16$ systems are essentially indistinguishable. For these system sizes, the one and two dimensional extrapolations with respect to N_s are nearly identical, therefore, we have taken the one dimensional extrapolation with fixed $L_y = 8$ as the TL extrapolated values of S_s and S_c .

these calculations, the one and two dimensional extrapolations with respect to N_s are comparable, which justifies the use of one-dimensional extrapolations. TL values in Figs. 1 and 2 were therefore obtained by extrapolation of an $L_y = 8$ strip.

b. Superconducting order

We now provide details on how TL values of Δ_{SC} were calculated. In Fig. 6, we plot Δ_{SC} versus system size for the charge uniform state at three dopings $\delta = 0.125, 0.1875, 0.2188$. For $\delta = 0.125$, four sizes were considered: $12 \times 12, 16 \times 16, 20 \times 20$ and 24×24 . At this doping, superconducting order Δ_{SC} scales linearly with the inverse linear dimension $1/\sqrt{N_s}$, and extrapolation to the TL yields a large nonzero value of $\Delta_{SC} = 0.172(2)$.

For the other values of doping, different system sizes, including nonsquare systems, had to be used (since the method requires an integer number of electron pairs, a given doping can only be supported on certain system sizes). The sizes used in both $\delta = 0.1875$ and $\delta = 0.2188$ were 16×8 , $12 \times$ 16, 16×16 , 20×16 , 32×16 , and 24×24 . The extrapolation was performed with respect to $\sqrt{N_s}$ which equals *L* for square systems. Some fluctuation in system size was observed, which was reduced by averaging over results obtained by periodic-periodic and antiperiodic-periodic boundary conditions. We observed that Δ_{SC} remained robust at $\delta = 0.1875$, although somewhat smaller than at $\delta = 0.125$. Superconductivity decreased rapidly to near zero at $\delta = 0.2188$.

We have also estimated Δ_{SC} in certain stripe states. We remark that calculating superconductivity in stripe states is challenging and different methods do not agree on the value of Δ_{SC} . For example, in Ref. [30], iPEPS found nonzero Δ_{SC} in $\lambda = 5$ and 7 stripes at $\delta = 0.125$ and U/t = 8, while DMET



FIG. 6. Size extrapolation of Δ_{SC} in charge uniform states. Calculations were performed at U/t = 10 and the system size is varied. At $\delta = 0.125$, only square systems with $L_x = L_y$ were used, however, at other dopings, nonsquare lattices were needed (since square systems could not support the specified doping for an integer number of electron pairs). The system dimension is labeled for $\delta = 0.1875$. The same dimensions were used for $\delta = 0.2188$. For $\delta = 1875$ and 0.2188, values obtained with antiperiodic-periodic and periodic-periodic boundary conditions were averaged to reduce finite-size effects. The tensor-network bond dimension was fixed to D = 2, as we observed little change with increasing D beyond this.

only found nonzero Δ_{SC} in $\lambda = 9$ and in a metastable excited stripe state with $\lambda = 5$.

We obtain some evidence for nonzero SC in stripe states, however it is not conclusive. In Fig. 7, we plot Δ_{SC} measured along a hole rich stripe as a function of system size for a $\lambda =$ 6, and $\lambda =$ 7 stripe, which was calculated using the mVMC wave function without the tensor-network factor. The stripe periods and dopings selected exibited large Δ_{SC} in finite-size calculations. As can be seen, Δ_{SC} remains large for large systems and extrapolates to a nonzero value (albeit with large error bars). While these calculations suggest superconductivity may be present in stripe states, it is substantially less robust than in the charge uniform state.



FIG. 7. Size dependence of Δ_{SC} in stripe states at U/t = 10. Although Δ_{SC} does not vary smoothly with system size, a linear extrapolation is plotted, providing rough approximations for the TL values of Δ_{SC} . The tensor network factor is not used in these calculations due to computational cost. Although the TL value of Δ_{SC} is not precisely determined, it is clearly less than Δ_{SC} in uniform states in the region $0.125 \le \delta \le 0.1875$ (see Fig. 6).



FIG. 8. Comparison of extrapolated energies for U/t = 8 at halffilling with numerically exact QMC energies for various system sizes in units of t. The green line is without quantum number projections applied. The red line is obtained with \mathcal{L}^{K} and \mathcal{L}^{S} applied to $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$ and \mathcal{L}^{K} to $\mathcal{M}(x)$. 2 × 2 unit cell is used in the calculations without quantum number projections, while the full unit cell is used when they are applied.

APPENDIX C: BENCHMARK CALCULATIONS

We have performed a number of benchmark calculations to evaluate the accuracy of the method. At half-filling, we compare our results to quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) data, which can be regarded as exact within the statistical error [83]. A comparison of our results with those obtained with QMC at U/t = 8 are shown in Fig. 8. We have performed the calculations both with and without quantum number projections applied to the variational wave function. As seen in the benchmarks in Fig. 8, there is a discrepancy with the exact energies which decreases with system size to around 0.005tfor a 16×16 system when quantum number projections are not applied to the wave function. However, when \mathcal{L}^{K} and \mathcal{L}^{S} are applied to $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$ and \mathcal{L}^{C_4} to $\mathcal{M}(x)$, the discrepancy decreases to less than 0.001t. Due to the large numerical cost, we did not apply quantum number projections to obtain the results in the main text. While the quantum number projections improve the energy, we show in Appendix D that they appear to have a relatively small effect on other physical quantities.

Away from half filling, exact results are not available. However, the 1/8 doping point at U/t = 8 was recently studied using the density matrix renormalization group (DMRG), infinite projected entangled pair states (iPEPS), auxilliary field quantum Monte Carlo (AFQMC), and density matrix embedding theory (DMET) [30]. The different methods provided evidence of a stripe ground state with a near degeneracy of stripes with periods from 5-8. We remark that, due to the extrapolations and approximations used, none of the results from these methods can be regarded as variational upper bounds to the true ground-state energy. Therefore a lower energy does not imply a more accurate method. However, the energies obtained using the different methods are close and varied within the range of 0.01t, indicating that the ground-state energy is likely around -0.76t or -0.77t with the uncertainty of 0.01t. To compare with the above methods, we have calculated the energy of the $\lambda = 7$ stripe at U/t = 8with $\delta = 0.125$. The results of these calculations are included

TABLE II. Benchmark calculations of a period 7 stripe at $\delta = 0.125$. Lowest variational energy (using tensor network correlation factor and first-step Lanczos) and energy obtained by variance extrapolation with and without quantum number projections applied are shown per site in units of *t*. When quantum number projections are applied, \mathcal{L}^{K} and \mathcal{L}^{S} are applied to $\psi_{pair}(x)$ and \mathcal{L}^{K} is applied to $\mathcal{M}(x)$. Different unit cell sizes are indicated in parentheses.

System size (unit cell)	Energy per site TN+Lanczos	Energy per site Var. Extrap.
	No quantum number projection	
$14 \times 8 (7 \times 2)$	-0.7456(2)	-0.7539(4)
$14 \times 16 (7 \times 2)$	-0.7446(2)	-0.7547(1)
$28\times8~(7\times2)$	-0.7446(2)	-0.755(1)
	Quantum number projection	
$14 \times 8 (7 \times 2)$	-0.7477(1)	-0.7562(2)
$14 \times 16 (7 \times 2)$	-0.7449(2)	-0.7560(1)
$\frac{14\times8~(14\times8)}{}$	-0.7508(1)	-0.7578(2)

in tabular form in Table II. We have included results with various lattice and unit cell sizes, with and without quantum number projections.

We observe a non-negligible improvement in the extrapolated energy when quantum number projections are applied to the variational wave function. This improvement is around 0.0015t for the 14×16 system. Finite-size effects are very small: after quantum number projections are applied, the extrapolated energies of 14×8 and 14×16 systems are within error bars. Using a full lattice for the unit cell, rather than a 7×2 unit cell results in a further slight improvement of 0.002t to the energy when quantum number projections are applied.

Comparing the energy with the results of Ref. [30] (shown in Table III), we see that the lowest energy obtained with our method is close but slightly higher than those obtained with other methods (about 0.003t above the error bars of DMRG and iPEPS). However, by considering the variation in the energy estimate among different methods and considering the nonvariational aspects of several methods, our energy

TABLE III. Energies per site, in units of *t*, obtained using four methods in Ref. [30] for U/t = 8 at 1/8 doping for $\lambda = 8$ and $\lambda = 7$. Results represent approximations to TL values, except for the final two AFQMC entries, which correspond to finite-size systems with period boundary conditions. Note that these results are not variational, so lower does not necessarily imply more accurate.

Method	Energy per site
DMRG ($\lambda = 7$) DMRG ($\lambda = 8$) iPEPS ($\lambda = 7$) iPEPS ($\lambda = 8$) DMET ($\lambda = 7$)	$\begin{array}{c} -0.762(1) \\ -0.762(1) \\ -0.763(2) \\ -0.767(2) \\ -0.7704(3) \end{array}$
DMET ($\lambda = 8$) AFQMC ($\lambda = 8$) AFQMC ($\lambda = 8$, 16 × 8 PBC) AFQMC ($\lambda = 7$, 14 × 8 PBC)	$\begin{array}{c} -0.7706(1) \\ -0.7656(4) \\ -0.7668(2) \\ -0.7653(2) \end{array}$



FIG. 9. Comparisons of different physical quantities with and without quantum number projections $\mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{K}}$ and $\mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{S}}$ applied to $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$, which are denoted by "S = 0, k = 0" and "no proj" in the graph legends, respectively. Structure factor for (a) charge, (b) spin and (c) superconducting correlations in the *x* direction for a period 7 stripe at U/t = 8 at $\delta = 0.125$ on a 14 × 8 system. (d) Spin structure factor at half filling on a 8 × 8 system at U/t = 8.

estimate is within the uncertainty range, 0.01t in the previous study. In addition, the severe competition of the stripe states

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with the period of 5 to 8 lattice spacing is also consistent. Direct comparison of finite-size systems for benchmarking is difficult due to, for instance, the different boundary conditions required by different methods and other possible biases (e.g., the constrained path bias for AFQMC). We have, nevertheless, included finite-size results of AFQMC for comparison in Table III. Additional benchmarks of the method at different U/t can be found in Ref. [54].

APPENDIX D: QUANTUM NUMBER PROJECTIONS

For finite-size systems, applying quantum number projections, which restore translational symmetry, SU(2) symmetry and space group C_4 symmetry can improve the energy of the wave function. This improvement is computationally expensive, so we have not used it in most of our calculations. While we have observed an improvement in energy when these projections are applied (see benchmarks in Appendix C), the quantum number projections result in very little change in other physical quantities. The biggest improvement in energy was obtained by applying \mathcal{L}^{K} and \mathcal{L}^{S} to $\psi_{\text{pair}}(x)$, which we test here. We have plotted charge structure factor, spin structure factor and superconducting correlations in stripe and uniform states with and without quantum number projections in Fig. 9. As can be seen, the values of the physical quantities change little when quantum number projections are applied to the variational wave function.

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