## Observation of a Geometric Hall Effect in a Spinor Bose-Einstein Condensate with a Skyrmion Spin Texture

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For a spin-carrying particle moving in a spatially varying magnetic field, effective electromagnetic forces can arise due to the geometric phase associated with adiabatic spin rotation of the particle. We report the observation of a geometric Hall effect in a spinor Bose-Einstein condensate with a Skyrmion spin texture. Under translational oscillations of the spin texture, the condensate resonantly develops a circular motion in a harmonic trap, demonstrating the existence of an effective Lorentz force. When the condensate circulates, quantized vortices are nucleated in the boundary region of the condensate and the vortex number increases over 100 without significant heating. We attribute the vortex nucleation to the shearing effect of the effective Lorentz force from the inhomogeneous effective magnetic field.

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When a particle with a spin slowly moves in a spatially varying magnetic field and its spin adiabatically follows the field direction, the particle acquires a quantummechanical phase known as the Berry phase [1]. This phase originates from the geometrical properties of the parameter space of the system, and in the Hamiltonian description, it can be represented as a gauge potential [2]. Just like the vector potential for a charged particle, the gauge potential generates forces from its spatial and temporal variations [3], and the geometric forces act like magnetic and electric forces on the spin-carrying particle.

Emergent electromagnetism of this spin origin can lead to novel spin transport phenomena. In magnetic materials, because of the coupling of a spin current to magnetization, a noncoplanar spin texture of magnetization gives rise to an effective internal magnetic field, leading to the intrinsic anomalous Hall effect [4,5]. Recently, the topological Hall effects were observed in chiral magnets with Skyrmion lattice spin textures [6-8]. Since the Berry phase is proportional to the spin value, effective electromagnetic forces are intrinsically spin dependent and, thus, they have been actively investigated for spintronics applications [9–11]. In recent experiments with ultracold neutral atoms, artificial magnetic and electric fields were synthesized using atomlight interaction [12,13], presenting a new opportunity for exploring quantum many-body phenomena in gauge fields. This experimental technique is based on the Berry-phase effect from the pseudospin texture of light-dressed atoms [14].

In this Letter, we report the observation of a geometric Hall effect in a spin-polarized atomic Bose-Einstein condensate, where a rigid spin texture of Skyrmion configuration is imposed by a spatially varying external magnetic field. We investigate the condensate dynamics under translational oscillations of the spin texture and observe that a circular motion of the condensate is resonantly induced from the translational drive. This directly manifests the existence of the effective Lorentz force acting on the condensate. Furthermore, we observe that quantized vortices are dynamically nucleated in the circulating condensate, which we attribute to the inhomogeneity of the effective magnetic field.

This work presents an alternative method for generating an artificial gauge field for neutral atoms, in particular, without using light. Based on spatial and temporal control of the real atomic-spin texture, this method does not suffer from atom loss and heating associated with spontaneous scattering of light [14,15], and thus enables us to study superfluid dynamics in a gauge field in a more dissipationfree condition [16].

We consider a neutral atom with hyperfine spin Fmoving in a spatially and temporally varying magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ . The system's Hamiltonian is given as  $H = \mathbf{p}^2/2m - g_F \mu_B \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ , where *m* is the atomic mass,  $g_F$  is the Landé g factor,  $\mu_B$  is the Bohr magneton, and **F** is the spin operator. If we take a local unitary transformation  $U = \exp(-i\beta \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{F})$  that rotates the quantization axis for the spin from a fixed axis  $\hat{z}$  to the local magnetic field direction  $\hat{b} = \mathbf{B}/|\mathbf{B}|$ , where  $\beta$  is the tilting angle of  $\hat{b}$  from  $\hat{z}$  and  $\hat{n} = (\hat{b} \times \hat{z})/|\hat{b} \times \hat{z}|$ , then the Hamiltonian is transformed to  $H' = (\mathbf{p} + \hbar \mathcal{A})^2 / 2m + V - g_F \mu_B F_z |\mathbf{B}|$ , with a gauge potential  $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -iU\nabla U^{\dagger}$  and a scalar potential  $V(\mathbf{r}, t) = -i\hbar U \partial_t U^{\dagger}$ , where  $\hbar$  is the Planck constant hdivided by  $2\pi$ . In the adiabatic regime where the atom keeps its spin in the  $m_F$  state for the quantization axis along  $\hat{b}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ , the atom feels effective magnetic and electric fields [17,18]:

$$\mathbf{B}_{i}^{e} = -m_{F}\frac{\hbar}{2}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{ijk}\hat{b}\cdot(\partial_{j}\hat{b}\times\partial_{k}\hat{b}), \qquad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{i}^{e} = -m_{F}\hbar\hat{b}\cdot(\partial_{i}\hat{b}\times\partial_{i}\hat{b}), \qquad (2)$$

where *i*, *j*, *k* are spatial coordinates and  $\epsilon_{ijk}$  is the Levi-Cività symbol. The corresponding charge value of the atom is set to be unity.

Our system consists of a Bose-Einstein condensate of <sup>23</sup>Na atoms in the  $|F = 1, m_F = -1\rangle$  state. We prepare a nearly pure condensate in a pancake-shaped optical dipole trap with trapping frequencies of  $\omega_{x,y,z} = 2\pi \times (3, 3.9, 370)$  Hz and adiabatically ramp-up a three-dimensional magnetic quadrupole field

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{B_q}{2}(x\hat{x} + y\hat{y} - 2z\hat{z}) - B_x\hat{x} + B_z\hat{z}, \qquad (3)$$

with  $B_q = 7.6$  G/cm. The position of the zero-field center is controlled by external bias fields  $B_x$  and  $B_z$  as  $\mathbf{r}_m = (x_m, y_m, z_m) = (2B_x/B_q, 0, B_z/B_q)$  and initially placed above the condensate at  $\mathbf{r}_m = (0, 0, 36) \ \mu \text{m}$  [Fig. 1(a)]. In the z = 0 plane, the tilt angle  $\beta$  of  $\hat{b}$  increases with radial position  $r'_{\perp} = \sqrt{(x - x_m)^2 + (y - y_m)^2}$  as  $\tan \beta = r'_{\perp}/2z_m$  and the magnetic field imposes a spin texture of two-dimensional Skyrmion configuration on the condensate [19]. The Zeeman energy  $E_Z = -g_F \mu_B |\vec{B}|$ , with  $g_F = -\frac{1}{2}$ , provides an additional but dominant radial trapping potential. The radial trapping frequency is estimated



FIG. 1 (color online). Geometric Hall effect for a neutral atom moving in a three-dimensional magnetic quadrupole field. (a) The zero-field center of the magnetic field is indicated by a point Q. The atom (yellow ellipsoid) is in the  $|m_F = -1\rangle$  spin state for the local field direction denoted by an arrow. (b) Effective magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}^e$  for the atom. (c) When the atom and the zero-field center move with velocities  $\mathbf{v}_a$  and  $\mathbf{v}_m$ , respectively, an effective Lorentz force  $\mathbf{F}_B = \mathbf{v}_a \times \mathbf{B}^e$  and an effective electric force  $\mathbf{F}_E = -\mathbf{v}_m \times \mathbf{B}^e$  occur on the atom. (d) The Hall response of the atom to sinusoidal oscillations of the zero-field center [Eq. (6) for  $\omega_m = \omega_r$  and  $X_m = 2 \ \mu$ m]. A y-directional motion emerges from the *x*-directional modulation of Q.

to be  $\omega_r = \sqrt{\omega_{x,y}^2 + (\mu_B B_q / 8m z_m)} \approx 2\pi \times 40.3$  Hz at the trap center. For the typical atom number of  $N \approx 3.3 \times 10^6$ , the Thomas-Fermi radius of the condensate is  $R_{\text{TF}} \approx 44 \ \mu\text{m}$ .

For the spin-polarized condensate in the  $|m_F = -1\rangle$  state, the gauge potential and the effective magnetic field are given as

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{\sqrt{r_{\perp}^{\prime 2} + 4z^{\prime 2}} + 2z^{\prime}}{r_{\perp}^{\prime} \sqrt{r_{\perp}^{\prime 2} + 4z^{\prime 2}}}\hat{\theta},$$
(4)

$$\mathbf{B}^{e}(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{2\hbar}{(r_{\perp}^{\prime 2} + 4z^{\prime 2})^{3/2}}\mathbf{r}^{\prime},$$
(5)

where  $\hat{\theta}$  is the unit vector of the azimuthal direction with respect to the +z axis and  $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m$  [20]. We can associate the effective magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}^e$  with a monopole located at  $\mathbf{r}_m$  which carries effective flux of  $\oint \mathbf{B}^e \cdot d\boldsymbol{\sigma} =$ -2h [Fig. 1(b)] [21,22]. The magnetic flux passing through the condensate is  $\Phi_B^e/h = 0.13$ , which is much smaller than the critical value for having a singular vortex ground state [17,20,23].

We study a Hall response of the system under translational oscillations of the spin texture,  $\mathbf{r}_m(t) = X_m \sin \omega_m t \hat{x}$ , which is driven by sinusoidal modulation of the external bias field  $B_x$ . The temporal variation of the spin texture generates an effective electric field  $\mathbf{E}^e = -\dot{\mathbf{r}}_m \times \mathbf{B}^e$ [Eq. (2)], perpendicular to the driving direction  $\hat{x}$ . This field can be understood as an induced electric field from the moving magnetic monopole with velocity  $\mathbf{v}_m = \dot{\mathbf{r}}_m$ [Fig. 1(c)]. Including the restoring force from the magnetic trapping potential, the equation of motion for a single atom in the z = 0 plane is given as

$$m\frac{d^{2}\mathbf{r}_{\perp}}{dt^{2}} = -m\omega_{r}^{2}\mathbf{r}_{\perp}' + \frac{d\mathbf{r}_{\perp}'}{dt} \times B_{z}^{e}(r_{\perp}')\hat{z} + m\omega_{m}^{2}X_{m}\sin\omega_{m}t\hat{x},$$
(6)

where  $\mathbf{r}'_{\perp} = (x - x_m, y)$  and  $B_z^e(r'_{\perp}) = 2\hbar z_m/(r'_{\perp}^2 + 4z_m^2)^{3/2}$  from Eq. (5) [24]. In the reference frame of the spin texture, this describes a driven harmonic oscillator under a static magnetic field. When we start with an atom at rest, the atom will undergo forced oscillations along the *x* direction and its transverse motion will be induced by the effective Lorentz force [Fig. 1(d)]. This is a geometric Hall effect arising from the noncoplanar spin texture.

In our experimental condition, the cyclotron frequency  $\omega_c = |\mathbf{B}^e|/m \le \hbar/4mz_m^2$  is 3 orders of magnitude smaller than the trap frequency  $\omega_r$ , implying that it would be experimentally challenging to directly detect the Lorentz force by examining an atom's motion. However, the effects of the effective Lorentz force can be amplified through resonant behavior of the system because the trapping frequencies for the *x* and *y* directions are same.

When  $\omega_m = \omega_r$  in Eq. (6), the *x*-directional amplitude linearly increases as  $(\omega_r X_m/2)t$ , leading to a quadratic amplification of the *y*-directional motion as  $(\omega_c \omega_r X_m/8m)t^2$ . For  $\omega_c/\omega_r \sim 10^{-3}$ , the *y*-directional amplitude is expected to become comparable to the modulation amplitude  $X_m$  within 0.5 s [Fig. 1(d)].

We investigate the center-of-mass motion of the condensate by taking its *in situ* absorption images for various driving times  $t_m$  and  $X_m \approx 2 \ \mu m$  [25]. The condensate position was determined from a 2D Gaussian fit to the images. Figures 2(a)–2(d) display the temporal evolutions of the displacement of the condensate from its initial position for various driving frequencies  $\omega_m$  near the resonance. The initial increasing rate of the x-directional amplitude is measured to be about  $2.3 \times 10^{-4}$  m/s, which is close to the estimated value of  $\omega_r X_m/2 = 2.5 \times$  $10^{-4}$  m/s, and discernible y-directional motion appears after a few 100 ms. In the peak response at  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times$ 39.2 Hz, we observe that a circular motion with almost zero ellipticity develops for  $t_m > 600$  ms [Fig. 2(e)].



FIG. 2 (color online). (a)–(d) Temporal evolution of the condensate position under translational oscillations of the spin texture for various driving frequencies  $\omega_m$ . The condensate position was measured for every 4 ms and each data point was obtained from a single measurement. (e) Trajectory of the condensate in the *x*-*y* plane for  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times 39.2$  Hz. (f) External angular momentum  $L_z$  per atom in the condensate. The condensate velocity was determined from the position data, and  $L_z$  is displayed with 50 ms binning.

The radius of the trajectory is about 30  $\mu$ m, corresponding to external angular momentum  $L_z \approx -80\hbar$  per atom. The emergence of a circular motion under the translational drive characterizes the geometric Hall effect in our system.

We observe that the circulation direction of the condensate is always clockwise, giving negative  $L_z$  [Fig. 2(f)]. Numerical simulation of the single-particle dynamics predicts circulation in the opposite direction for large negative detuning of the driving frequency,  $(\omega_m - \omega_r)/$  $2\pi < -1$  Hz [24]. However, in our experiment for  $\omega_m < -1$  $2\pi \times 38.5$  Hz, there is no detectable y-directional motion and even the development of x-directional oscillation seems to be strongly suppressed [Fig. 2(a)]. Full accounting for the condensate dynamics requires a superfluid hydrodynamics description including the interplay between the spin texture and the internal mass current [26,27]. In the gauge field, the superfluid velocity  $\mathbf{v}_s$  is required to satisfy the Mermin-Ho relation  $\nabla \times \mathbf{v}_s =$  $-\mathbf{B}^{e}/m$  [17], and therefore the condensate always has an internal rotational motion. Note that the initial state of the condensate is a coreless vortex state with  $\mathbf{v}_s = (\hbar/m)\mathcal{A}$ due to the Skyrmion spin texture [28–30]. We speculate that the external circulation of the condensate might be rectified by its internal rotational motion.

Recently, the dynamics of a spinor condensate with a Skyrmion spin texture was theoretically investigated [31-33]. In the study of a rigid spin texture case [33], it was shown that the spin texture can precess around the center of the condensate and its precession direction is determined by the chirality of the spin texture. In terms of the relative motion between the rigid spin texture and the condensate center, the circulation direction observed in our experiment is consistent with the theoretical prediction. However, their direct comparison is limited because our system is an externally driven system.

Another remarkable observation in the condensate dynamics is the nucleation of quantized vortices. Figure 3 shows time-of-flight images of the condensate for various driving times  $t_m$ , where quantized vortices are detected with density-depleted cores. The condensate first deforms into an elliptical shape, and after a few 100 ms quantized vortices start to appear in its boundary region. Eventually, the condensate becomes packed with many vortices. For 2 s relaxation in a stationary trap, vortices form a triangular lattice [Figs. 3(f)-3(j)], indicating that they are of the same sign [34]. For  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times 39.2$  Hz, the vortex number  $N_v$ almost linearly increases for  $t_m < 1$  s and becomes saturated to  $N_v > 100$  within 3 s [Fig. 3(k)]. There is no significant heating during the process and the condensate fraction decreases by less than 20% [24].

We attribute the vortex nucleation in the circulating condensate to the inhomogeneity of the effective magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}^{e}(\mathbf{r})$ . The effective Lorentz force  $\mathbf{F}_{B} = \mathbf{v}_{s} \times \mathbf{B}^{e}$ has  $\nabla \times \mathbf{F}_{B} = -(\mathbf{v}_{s} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}^{e} \neq 0$  for uniform  $\mathbf{v}_{s}$  and, thus, it can play as a shearing force to deform the condensate



FIG. 3 (color online). Vortex nucleation in the spinor condensate circulating around the Skyrmion spin texture. (a)–(e) Absorption images after 15 ms time of flight for  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times 39.2$  Hz and various driving times  $t_m$ . The condensate deforms into an elliptical shape and quantized vortices are nucleated in its boundary. (f)–(j) Images after 2 s relaxation in a stationary trap [24]. (k) Temporal evolution of the vortex number  $N_v$  (solid circles) and the atom number  $N_a$  (open circles). (l)  $N_v$  for  $t_m = 1$  s versus  $\omega_m/2\pi$ . The dashed line is an asymmetric Gaussian curve fit to the data, giving the center frequency at 39.2 Hz, and the left and right  $1/e^2$  linewidths of 0.4 and 1.2 Hz, respectively. Each data point was obtained from at least eight measurements.

and consequently lead to the dynamical nucleation of quantized vortices in the boundary region. We observed that the vortex nucleation is affected by the axial trapping frequency  $\omega_z$  [24], implying that a three-dimensional description including the coupling between the axial and transverse motions might be necessary to explain the vortex nucleation dynamics.

In our experiment, we observe that the nucleated vortex number shows similar asymmetric dependence on the driving frequency  $\omega_m$  to that observed in the amplification rate of the y-directional motion [24]. This suggests that the



FIG. 4 (color online). Vortex nucleation rate  $\Gamma_v$  versus effective magnetic flux  $\Phi_B^e$  passing through the condensate. The inset displays the vortex number  $N_v$  as a function of driving time  $t_m$ , and  $\Gamma_v$  is determined from a linear fit (dashed line) to the data. The data were acquired with condensates containing about  $2.3 \times 10^6$  atoms for  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times 35.0$  Hz and  $X_m = 2.8 \ \mu m$ .

vortex nucleation rate  $\Gamma_v$  can be used as a quantitative measure for the geometric Hall effect in our superfluid system. We measure  $\Gamma_v$  for various values of the effective magnetic flux  $\Phi_B^e$  by changing the distance  $z_m$  of the zerofield center from the condensate [Fig. 4]. Here, we set  $\omega_m = 2\pi \times 35$  Hz and adjust the radial trapping frequency  $\omega_r \propto \sqrt{B_q^2/B_z}$  with  $B_q$  and  $B_z$  to obtain a maximum Hall response for a given  $z_m = B_z/B_q$ . The vortex nucleation rate  $\Gamma_v$  was determined from a linear fit of  $\Gamma_v(t_m - t_0) \times \theta(t_m - t_0)$  to  $N_v(t_m)$  for  $t_m \le 1$  s [Fig. 4, inset], where  $\theta(t)$  is the Heaviside step function. We find that  $\Gamma_v$  monotonically increases with  $\Phi_B^e$ . The onset time  $t_0 =$  $390 \pm 50$  ms, showing no clear dependence on  $\Phi_B^e$ .

In conclusion, we have observed the geometric Hall effect in a spinor Bose-Einstein condensate with a Skyrmion spin texture and presented the first study of superfluid dynamics in an inhomogeneous gauge field. We expect the spin-texture oscillation method to be extended to spin mixture systems for studying spin-dependent transport phenomena such as spin drag [35] and spin Hall effects [36,37]. Employing nanofabricated ferromagnetic structures might be envisaged to achieve a strong effective magnetic field [38].

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