Fermi Surface Expansion above Critical Temperature in a Hund Ferromagnet

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Using a cluster extension of the dynamical mean-field theory, we show that strongly correlated metals subject to Hund's physics exhibit significant electronic structure modulations above magnetic transition temperatures. In particular, in a ferromagnet having a large local moment due to Hund's coupling (Hund's ferromagnet), the Fermi surface expands even above the Curie temperature (T_C) as if a spin polarization occurred. Behind this phenomenon, effective "Hund's physics" works in momentum space, originating from ferromagnetic fluctuations in the strong-coupling regime. The resulting significantly momentumdependent (spatially nonlocal) electron correlations induce an electronic structure reconstruction involving a Fermi surface volume change and a redistribution of the momentum-space occupation. Our finding will give a deeper insight into the physics of Hund's ferromagnets above T_c .

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Introduction.—The concept of the Fermi liquid offers a firm basis to understand the behavior of interacting electrons in metals. However, properties of strongly correlated metals often deviate from the Fermi-liquid behavior. A famous example is a pseudogap or strange metal behavior seen in doped cuprates [[1](#page-4-1)]. Since various fascinating phenomena such as superconductivity and magnetism emerge from these states, understanding correlation effects beyond the Fermi-liquid theory poses a fundamental issue in condensed matter physics. Although the origin of the pseudogap in the cuprates is still controversial, one of the widely discussed scenarios is an antiferromagnetic (AFM)-fluctuation-induced mechanism [\[2](#page-4-2)–[5](#page-4-3)]: Even without symmetry breaking, the AFM fluctuation induces a significant momentum-dependent self-energy, giving rise to the pseudogaplike behavior.

Recently, a ferromagnetic (FM) quantum critical point and associated strange metal behavior were observed in a heavy-fermion material $CerRh_6Ge_4$ [\[6\]](#page-4-4). The effect of a FM quantum critical point was also studied for a tailored Hamiltonian in which itinerant fermions couple to a critical FM bosonic mode of the transverse-field Ising model, and non-Fermi-liquid behavior was reported [\[7,](#page-4-5)[8](#page-4-6)]. Unusual spectral properties involving a splitting of the spectrum in the vicinity of a FM instability were reported in Refs. [[9,](#page-4-7)[10](#page-4-8)].

However, in comparison to the metallic state subject to AFM fluctuations, our understanding of that under FM fluctuations is still scarce. Of particular interest is a strongcoupling regime, where the local moment is formed well above the Curie temperature (T_C) and affects the metallic behavior. This may result in a non-Fermi-liquid state distinct from the strong-coupling AFM one, where the Mott physics renders the local-moment formation above the Néel temperature.

Such a strong-coupling FM regime is expected in the multiorbital Hubbard model, where Hund's coupling stabilizes a large local moment. This large local moment indeed gives rise to strong local correlations[[11](#page-4-9)–[13](#page-4-10)], as revealed by the previous studies based on the dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT) [[14](#page-4-11),[15](#page-4-12)]. Beyond the DMFT, Hund's coupling also induces significant *nonlocal* correlations [\[16\]](#page-4-13) while its effect on spectral properties remains unexplored.

In this Letter, we study the two-orbital Hubbard model with the cellular dynamical mean-field theory (cDMFT) [\[17](#page-4-14)[,18\]](#page-4-15), a cluster extension [[19](#page-4-16)] of the DMFT, revealing how the Hund-induced nonlocal spin correlations influence the single-particle properties. The model exhibits two distinct regimes, one governed by the AFM fluctuation and the other governed by the FM fluctuation, depending on the electron filling. We first show that the different types of spin correlations bring about different momentum dependencies of the electron self-energy, reconstructing the Fermi surface (FS) differently.

Then, focusing on the FM-fluctuation regime, we find a FS-volume expansion *above* T_c : while it is natural to see a volume expansion of the majority-spin FS in the FM longrange-ordered metal below T_c , we find a similar spectrum even above T_c in the strong-coupling regime with the large preformed local moment. We discuss the emergence of "Hund's physics" in momentum space behind this unusual behavior.

Model and methods.—We study a degenerate two-orbital Hubbard model on a square lattice. The interaction part of the Hamiltonian reads

$$
\mathcal{H}_{int} = U \sum_{i,l} n_{li}^{\uparrow} n_{li}^{\downarrow} + U' \sum_{i,\sigma} n_{1i}^{\sigma} n_{2i}^{-\sigma} + (U' - J) \sum_{i,\sigma} n_{1i}^{\sigma} n_{2i}^{\sigma} \n+ J \sum_{i,l \neq m} c_{li}^{\uparrow \uparrow} c_{mi}^{\uparrow} c_{mi}^{\downarrow} + J \sum_{i,l \neq m} c_{li}^{\uparrow \uparrow} c_{ni}^{\uparrow} c_{li}^{\downarrow} c_{mi}^{\downarrow}, \tag{1}
$$

where $c_{li}^{\sigma\dagger}$ (c_{li}^{σ}) creates (annihilates) an *l*th-orbital electron $(l = 1, 2)$ with spin σ at site i and $n_{li}^{\sigma} \equiv \hat{c}_{li}^{\sigma^{\dagger}} \hat{c}_{li}^{\sigma}$. The intraand interorbital Coulomb interactions $(\overrightarrow{U}$ and $U')$, and Hund's coupling (J) satisfy $U' = U - 2J$ to keep the Hamiltonian rotationally invariant in orbital and spin spaces. We consider the noninteracting dispersion of $\varepsilon_k =$ $-2t(\cos k_x + \cos k_y) - 4t' \cos k_x \cos k_y$ for each orbital $(t$ and t' are nearest-neighbor (NN) and next-nearestneighbor (NNN) hoppings, respectively). We set $t = 1$ as the energy unit and study the case of $t'/t = -0.2$ and $J/U = 1/4$. We consider the paramagnetic and paraorbital phase. Then, the Green's function is given by $G_k(i\omega_k)$ = $[ia_ν + \mu - \varepsilon_k - \Sigma_k(i\omega_\nu)]^{-1}$ with the Matsubara frequency $\omega_{\nu} = (2\nu + 1)\pi T$ (T = 1/ β is the temperature), the chemical potential μ , and the self-energy $\Sigma_k(i\omega_\nu)$. Hereafter, we omit spin and orbital indices for simplicity.

Within the cDMFT, we map the lattice model onto a 2×2 cluster impurity problem under a self-consistent condition. Solving the latter model numerically, we incorporate short-range correlations within the cluster size. We use a continuous-time quantum Monte Carlo method with an interaction expansion [[20](#page-4-17)[,21\]](#page-4-18) developed in Ref. [[22](#page-4-19)] to solve the impurity problem. It is computationally demanding to solve a cluster multiorbital impurity problem because of the large expansion order (∼1000) and the sign problem. We have implemented the submatrix update [[23](#page-4-20)] to handle the large expansion order and the double-vertex update [\[22\]](#page-4-19) to mitigate the sign problem. Even with these techniques, at a temperature of $T \leq W/100$ (W: bandwidth), the average sign becomes less than 0.01 in the worst case. When considering the expansion order and the sign problem, the 2×2 cluster is the maximum cluster size that we can handle within a realistic computational time [\[24\]](#page-4-21).

Results.—We study two different fillings $n = 1.9$ (5%) hole doping from the half-filling) and $n = 1.5$ (25% hole doping). The temperature is set to $T = 0.06$ (0.08 [\[26\]](#page-4-22)) for $n = 1.9$ (1.5). The former filling favors the AFM correlation [Fig. [1\(a\)](#page-1-0)], whereas the latter favors the FM correlation [Fig. [1\(b\)\]](#page-1-0) at large interaction parameters due to the double exchange mechanism. The appearance of these magnetic correlations is qualitatively similar to the single-site DMFT results [\[27](#page-4-23)–[30](#page-5-0)]. Under strong Hund's coupling, the paramagnetic solution of the DMFT shows a spin-freezing behavior [[11](#page-4-9)], which is also seen in Figs. $1(a)$ and $1(b)$ for the on-site correlation function: The slow decay against the imaginary time τ implies a frozen ($\omega = 0$) component. In addition, our cDMFT results show a freezing behavior also in the nonlocal (NN and NNN) spin-spin correlations. As the local unscreened frozen moment induces local electron correlations giving bad metallic behavior [[11](#page-4-9)], the frozen nonlocal spin correlation might induce exotic nonlocal electron correlations, which are the main subject of this study.

Indeed, at both fillings, the self-energy shows bad metallic behavior with a strong momentum dependence

FIG. 1. Real-space spin-spin correlation function and imaginary part of the self-energy at the momenta $(0, 0)$, $(\pi, 0)$ [or equivalently $(0, \pi)$, and (π, π) . (a),(c) Results for $n = 1.9$ and $U = 4J = 6$. (b),(d) Results for $n = 1.5$ and $U = 4J = 12$.

[Figs. $1(c)$ and $1(d)$]. Interestingly, however, the momentum dependence differs qualitatively between the two fillings.

First, for $n = 1.9$, due to the strong nonlocal AFM correlation, the self-energy becomes large around $k =$ (π, π) [Fig. [1\(c\)\]](#page-1-0). Although the 2 × 2 cDMFT gives a coarse momentum resolution of $(0, 0)$, $(\pi, 0)$, $(0, \pi)$, and (π, π) , the fully momentum-dependent self-energy can be inferred through the periodization scheme [[18](#page-4-15)]. Here, we use the cumulant periodization [[31](#page-5-1)], which gives a fast convergence of the periodized self-energy against the cluster size: For the single-orbital model, the results of the 2×2 cluster qualitatively agree with the converged results at a temperature similar to that used in this study [\[32\]](#page-5-2).

The periodized self-energy is shown in Fig. [2\(a\).](#page-2-0) It shows qualitatively similar behavior to that of the singleorbital model (Fig. S1(a) in the Supplemental Material (SM) [\[33\]](#page-5-3)) at the same doping ratio (5%). However, in the two-orbital model, strong momentum dependence develops at smaller interaction values than those in the single-orbital model. This confirms a significant role of Hund's coupling in inducing strong electron correlations through forming a large local moment.

As a result of the strongly momentum-dependent selfenergy, the FS is considerably modified. Figure [2\(b\)](#page-2-0) shows this by approximating the spectral weight at the Fermi level by $-\beta G_k(\tau = \beta/2)$. The FS shows hot and cold spots, and the scattering rate shows a strong angle dependence.

FIG. 2. Results for $n = 1.9$. (a) Imaginary part of the periodized self-energy for various values of $U = 4J$. (b) The FS ($-\beta G_k(\tau)$ β /2) normalized by its maximum value) at $U = 4J = 6$. The light green curve in (b) shows the FS at $U = J = 0$.

This feature is qualitatively similar to that of the singleorbital model (Fig. S1(b) in SM), as well as to angleresolved photoemission spectroscopy results for the cuprates [\[1,](#page-4-1)[36\]](#page-5-4). The results suggest that an exotic pseudogaplike feature might also be seen in the multiorbital systems with strong AFM correlations.

Next, we turn to the 25% hole-doping $(n = 1.5)$ case. In the single-orbital model, the filling corresponds to the overdoped regime of cuprates, where the Fermi-liquid behavior is observed. However, in the two-orbital model, we find a strong FM spin correlation due to Hund's coupling, where the local moment is formed well above T_C . This poses an intriguing issue: How does the strong FM correlation affect the single-particle quantities? As we see in Fig. [1\(d\)](#page-1-0), in stark contrast with the AFM case, the selfenergy becomes largest at around $\mathbf{k} = (0,0)$. Then, the FS shape will be modulated differently.

Using the periodization method again, we investigate the change of the FS between $U = 8$ and 12 [Figs. [3\(a\)](#page-2-1) and [3\(b\)\]](#page-2-1). At $U = 8$, the momentum dependence of the self-energy is not significant [red curve in Fig. [3\(c\)](#page-2-1)]. The nonlocal spin correlation is not large either (Fig. S4(a) in the SM). Nevertheless, the spin-freezing behavior is seen for the local spin correlation. This makes the quasiparticle lifetime short and broadens the low-energy spectral weight [Fig. [3\(a\)](#page-2-1)]. These features are consistent with the Hund's metal behavior investigated intensively with the single-site DMFT [\[13](#page-4-10)].

However, as U increases, the nonlocal FM correlation grows. Simultaneously, the self-energy acquires a significant momentum dependence [Fig. $3(c)$]. Figure $3(b)$ shows the FS with the strongly momentum-dependent self-energy at $U = 12$. In contrast to the $n = 1.9$ case, we do not see a clear angle dependence of the scattering rate on the FS. However, interestingly, the volume inside the FS expands compared to the noninteracting case. In the Fermi liquid, the volume should not change according to Luttinger's theorem [\[37\]](#page-5-5). Thus, a change in the volume indicates an appearance of an unusual metallic state. Note that, for a smaller Hund's coupling $(J/U = 1/8)$, the momentum dependence of the self-energy becomes much weaker [dashed curve in Fig. $3(c)$]. This evidences that Hund's coupling is the trigger of the unusual nonlocal correlation effect.

To further analyze the FS at $n = 1.5$, in Fig. [3\(d\)](#page-2-1), we show the effective single-particle energy dispersion $\xi_k^{\text{eff}} =$ $\epsilon_k + \text{Re}\Sigma_k(0) - \mu$, where $\text{Re}\Sigma_k(0)$ is approximated by Re $\Sigma_k(i\omega_0)$. $\xi_k^{\text{eff}} = 0$ determines the position of the FS, unless the imaginary part of the self-energy is large. As the interaction increases, the effective dispersion is modified by the correlation effect. As is clear from the inset of Fig. [3\(d\)](#page-2-1), the momenta for $\xi_k^{\text{eff}} = 0$ at $U = 12$ (white region) deviate from the noninteracting ones (green curve), consistent with the FS expansion shown in Fig. [3\(b\)](#page-2-1). We note that at the momenta $k = (\pi, 0)$ and $(0, \pi)$, directly accessible by the 2 × 2 cDMFT, ξ_k^{eff} is negative for $U = 12$ (i.e., $k = (\pi, 0)$) and $(0, \pi)$ are inside the FS), in contrast with the $U = 0$ case showing a positive ξ_k^{eff} [\[38\]](#page-5-6). Thus, the volume expansion of the FS is not an artifact of the periodization.

Under the strong freezing FM correlations, even though the long-time average is zero, a spin-polarized state is

FIG. 3. Results for $n = 1.5$ and $J/U = 1/4$. (a),(b) The FS ($-\beta G_k(\tau = \beta/2)$ normalized by its maximum value), (c) the imaginary part of the periodized self-energy, and (d) the effective dispersion $\xi_k^{\text{eff}} = \epsilon_k + \text{Re}\Sigma_k(0) - \mu$ [where $\text{Re}\Sigma_k(0)$ is approximated by $\text{Re}\Sigma_k(i\omega_0)$] with the inset showing the contour map of ξ_k^{eff} for $U = 12$. The light green curves in (a),(b) and the inset of (d) show the FS at $U = J = 0$. In (c), for comparison, the result for $U = 8J = 12$ (dashed curve) is also shown.

FIG. 4. (a) Change in the momentum-space occupation Δn_k per orbital from the noninteracting case, calculated for $n = 1.5$, $U = 4J = 12$, and $T = 0.08$. The shaded part indicates the region inside the FS at $U = 0$. The result with the densitydensity-type interaction (dotted curve) is also shown for comparison. (b) Spectral function $A_k(\omega) = -(1/\pi)\text{Im}G_k(\omega)$ at $n = 1.5$, $U = 4J = 12$, and $T = 0.06$ for the density-densitytype interaction model, where the correlation effect is exaggerated compared to the rotationally invariant case. The solid (dashed) curve indicates the noninteracting (fully polarized ferromagnetic majority-spin) band dispersion. For the analytic continuation, we used the MAXENT package [[40](#page-5-12)].

realized as a snapshot. Then, it acts like an effective "Hund's coupling" in momentum space, as the FM exchange interaction in real space aligns spins also in momentum space [\[16\]](#page-4-13). Then, the effective "Hund's coupling" competes with an effective "crystal-field splitting" (energy difference in ϵ_k between different momenta). As Hund's coupling effectively reduces the crystal-field splitting and pump electrons into unoccupied orbitals to realize high-spin states in real space, the effective "Hund's coupling" brings about the rearrangement of the electron distribution in momentum space.

The effective "Hund's coupling" not only affects the FS but also rearranges the electron occupation n_k in the whole momentum space. Figure [4\(a\)](#page-3-0) shows the change Δn_k of the occupation from the noninteracting value. Inside the original FS at $U = 0$, Δn_k is close to -1, which means that n_k is close to half-filling. This is due to the strong imaginary part of the self-energy around $k = (0, 0)$ [Fig. [3\(c\)](#page-2-1)], which reduces the occupation significantly inside the original FS by producing the incoherent weight on the unoccupied side [[39](#page-5-7)]. To compensate the occupation loss around $k = (0, 0)$, the occupation increases significantly outside the original FS and inside the expanded FS: in this region, the effective "Hund's coupling" lowers the energy of the originally unoccupied momenta, making ξ_k^{eff} negative [Fig. [3\(d\)](#page-2-1)].

When the interaction is restricted to the density-density type, i.e., Hund's coupling is assumed to be Ising-like with only S_zS_z components, the correlation effect is exaggerated compared to the original rotationally invariant case. The self-energy at $k = (0, 0)$ becomes more divergent, and the reconstruction of the FS is seen more clearly (Figs. S5 and S6 in the SM). Also, the momentum-space redistribution of the electron occupation is more significant [Fig. $4(a)$]: The occupation inside the original FS is closer to half-filling $n_k = 1$. This shows more clearly that, in the unusual metallic state, the effective "Hund's coupling" surpasses the effective "crystal-field splitting," forming a "highspin"-like configuration in momentum space.

Figure [4\(b\)](#page-3-0) shows the single-particle spectral function in the strong-coupling FM-fluctuation regime ($U = 12$, $T =$ 0.06 with the density-density-type interaction). The peak of the spectral function deviates significantly (on the order of t) from the noninteracting paramagnetic band dispersion (solid curve). Rather, it is close to the majority-spin band dispersion (dashed curve) with a mass renormalization. We also see a feature around $\omega = 1$ that looks like a blurred minority-spin band. Thus, even in the paramagnetic state, we see a spectral feature as if a spin polarization occurred [\[41\]](#page-5-8). As we shall discuss below, this is characteristic of the strong-coupling regime, where the local moment is formed well above T_C .

Discussion.—Recently, unusual metallic behaviors have been reported under strong FM fluctuations [[6](#page-4-4)–[8](#page-4-6)] as is mentioned in the introduction. Whereas these studies consider the coupling of itinerant fermions to critical spin systems, our study suggests that the d-electron systems represented by the multiorbital Hubbard model may offer another excellent playground to study unusual metallic behaviors subject to FM fluctuations. Although there exists a FM fluctuating regime [[42](#page-5-9),[43](#page-5-10)] in the single-orbital Hubbard model with a large t' around 50% hole doping, the correlation effect is rather weak due to the small electron density (see Fig. S2 in the SM). This suggests that Hund's ferromagnets in the strong-coupling regime, where unscreened large local moments are fluctuating above T_c , are suitable to see the FS expansion clearly.

The present cDMFT results go beyond the conventional Hund's metal picture discussed within the DMFT. The strongly momentum-dependent self-energy modifies the effective dispersion and brings about the momentum-space electron redistribution through producing the incoherent spectral weight. Furthermore, in contrast with the DMFT result, in which a Fermi-liquid behavior recovers at very low temperatures [\[13](#page-4-10)[,44\]](#page-5-11), the divergence of the self-energy at $k = (0, 0)$ becomes significant as T decreases (Fig. 5 in the SM). Thus, the present bad metallic behavior at finite temperatures may persist down to low temperatures, and a non-Fermi-liquid phase, which cannot be connected adiabatically to the Fermi-liquid fixed point, may emerge at $T = 0$.

Summary.—Using the cDMFT, we have revealed a different aspect of Hund's physics discussed so far locally in real space. Associated with the strong AFM and FM fluctuations, the electron self-energy acquires a strong momentum dependence in different ways. In particular, the FM spin correlation induces effective "Hund's physics"

in momentum space, leading to a significant modulation of the momentum-space occupation. The resulting FS shows a volume change at finite temperatures, differently from the AFM-fluctuating metals. Finally, we note that, to detect the unusual metallic state experimentally, FM materials exhibiting large local moments are suitable (e.g., FM layered manganites [\[45\]](#page-5-13)), and the orbital and momentum dependence of the self-energy must be disentangled carefully.

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