



Structure of the moiré exciton captured by imaging its electron and hole

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30 **Introductory paragraph:**

31 Interlayer excitons (ILXs) – electron-hole pairs bound across two atomically thin layered
32 semiconductors – have emerged as attractive platforms to study exciton condensation,¹⁻⁴ single-
33 photon emission and other quantum-information applications⁵⁻⁷. Yet, despite extensive optical
34 spectroscopic investigations⁸⁻¹², critical information about their size, valley configuration and the
35 influence of the moiré potential remains unknown. Here, in a WSe₂/MoS₂ heterostructure, we
36 captured images of the time- and momentum-resolved distribution of *both* the particles that bind
37 to form the ILX: the electron and the hole. We thereby obtain a direct measurement of both the
38 ILX diameter of ~5.2 nm, comparable to the moiré unit-cell length of 6.1 nm, and the
39 localization of its center-of-mass (COM). Surprisingly, this large ILX is found pinned to a region
40 of only 1.8 nm diameter within the moiré cell, smaller than the size of the exciton itself. This
41 high degree of localization of the ILX is backed by Bethe-Salpeter equation calculations and
42 demonstrates that the ILX can be localized within small moiré unit cells. Unlike large moiré

43 cells, these are uniform over large regions, allowing the formation of extended arrays of
44 localized excitations for quantum technology.

45

46 **Main Text:**

47 Heterobilayers made by stacking different monolayers (1L) of transition-metal dichalcogenide
48 (TMDC) semiconductors support ILX states, where electrons and holes residing in separate
49 layers bind to one another to form a neutral excitation⁸. The utilization of these long-lived and
50 tunable excitations for quantum applications or for studying new many-exciton phases and
51 interactions requires critical knowledge about the real- and momentum-space structure of the
52 ILX: the valley character of its constituent electron and hole; its size, namely the extent of the
53 electron distribution around its hole counterpart; and the degree of the ILX confinement within
54 the moiré potential. These attributes are key to determining the nature of the light-matter
55 interactions with the ILX, such as their direct bandgap character and their polarization selection
56 rules, as well as the ability of the ILX to form uniform periodic arrays of localized quantum
57 emitters in the moiré pattern⁵. Additionally, the ILX size and localizability determine their
58 density-dependent many-body physics – at low densities strong COM confinement inhibits the
59 formation of condensates¹³, while at higher densities, the size and localization determine Mott
60 dissociation thresholds² or the formation of multi-ILX complexes^{3,4}.

61

62 So far, studies on moiré-localized ILXs have been focused on large moiré unit cells due to the
63 prevailing assumption that moiré confinement requires a moiré-period much larger than the ILX
64 itself^{9,14}. Such systems were studied by optical spectroscopy that could only access a narrow
65 sector of the momentum-space distribution of the ILX wavefunction^{9,10,12,15}. While such optical

66 spectra were qualitatively consistent with a theoretical picture of ILXs spatially localized by the
67 moiré-potential, these experiments did not yield the ILX size, and often relied on
68 phenomenological moiré potentials that were not expected from first-principles calculations^{9,16}.
69 The valley configuration of the electron and hole of the ILX also remained contested^{9,17}.
70 Furthermore, such systems exhibit significant inhomogeneities in the moiré lattice periodicity
71 due to strain fields¹⁸, and hence cannot support the formation of extended arrays of localized ILX
72 that are the starting point of recent quantum technology proposals. Revealing those hidden
73 properties together with a direct measurement of the extent of the ILX COM localization requires
74 knowing the full momentum-space distributions of *both* of its constituent particles. Recent time-
75 and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy experiments on microscopic samples (TR- μ -
76 ARPES) measured the size of the exciton in 1L WSe₂ via the momentum distribution of only the
77 exciton-bound electron¹⁹⁻²¹. However, accessing the coordinates of the exciton-bound hole has
78 remained beyond reach. Conceptually, one needs to first relate the hole coordinates in
79 momentum-space to the photo-induced reduction in the 2D valence band (VB) electron density.
80 Experimentally, measuring this small, *momentum-resolved*, reduction needs high signal to noise,
81 and high-quality samples with narrow initial VB linewidths. The short excitonic lifetimes also
82 add to these challenges, as substantial thermal broadening of the VB spectra occurs at early time-
83 delays after photoexcitation, obscuring the hole footprint.

84

85 Here we show unprecedented images of *both* the ILX-bound electron and hole in momentum-
86 space in a TMDC heterobilayer exhibiting a relatively small moiré pattern. From these
87 distributions, we determine the ILX properties along both its defining coordinates: the relative
88 electron-hole separation, and their COM. We extract the ILX size and its COM confinement, and

89 find, surprisingly, that even though the ILX diameter is comparable to the moiré-period, its COM
90 coordinate is tightly confined by the moiré-potential. Further, we observe the direct bandgap
91 nature of the ILX with the electron and hole residing in the K-valleys of the two layers, and the
92 anomalous negative dispersion of the photoemitted electron, establishing the excitonic origin of
93 the signal. Finally, the hole images, acquired independently of the photoemission matrix
94 elements, offer a direct quantitative measurement of the ILX density and exhibit a broadening in
95 momentum distribution when their density surpasses one ILX per moiré site, akin to excitons in
96 quantum dots. In all, these findings promote the prospect of using small-period moiré patterns,
97 which are homogeneous and more robust against strain than the large moiré lattices^{18,22}, to host
98 arrays of quantum emitters.

99

100 **Unperturbed heterobilayer band-structure**

101 The studied heterobilayer consisted of 1L WSe₂ placed on top of 1L MoS₂ (Fig. 1d) with a
102 relatively small moiré pattern period of 6.1 nm, based on the lattice mismatch and the
103 crystallographic twist-angle between the layers⁵. Confirming the coupling between the WSe₂ and
104 MoS₂ layers, the photoluminescence (PL) spectrum from the sample (Fig. 1b) exhibits an ILX
105 peak at 1 eV¹¹, and its optical reflection spectrum exhibits the expected moiré pattern signatures:
106 a splitting-up of the absorption feature associated with WSe₂ excitons into several resonances¹⁶
107 (Extended Data Fig. 1).

108

109 We first characterized the unperturbed band-structure of the heterobilayer at 100 K using our
110 TR- μ -ARPES capabilities^{19,23}, that are based on a photoelectron momentum microscope^{24,25} (see
111 Fig. 1a, Methods, and Extended Data Fig. 2 for apparatus details and distortion correction
112 procedures). We observe a band-structure consistent with previous calculations (Fig. 2a)^{11,26}. The

113 VB maxima (VBM) appear at the K valleys (defining the zero of our energy scale), with both the
114 spin-orbit split bands of WSe₂ clearly visible and separated by 0.5 eV. At lower energies (-0.85
115 eV) a single broad band is seen (Extended Data Fig 3), corresponding to the two spin-orbit split
116 VBs of MoS₂ that are unresolvable in our measurement due to inhomogeneous broadening.
117 Figure 2b presents a view of the band-structure in 2D momentum space integrated over a small
118 energy range (-0.2 to 0.2 eV) around the VBM. We clearly see the photoemission from the Γ , the
119 K, and the K' valleys. The variations in photoemission intensity across the image originate from
120 the differing photoemission matrix elements²⁷, which depend sensitively on the incidence angle
121 and the polarization of the XUV pulse²⁸.

122

123 **Signatures of the ILX in TR-ARPES**

124 Having identified the signatures of the unperturbed heterobilayer, we turned to study the ILX and
125 the momentum-resolved distributions of its electron and hole by photoexciting the sample
126 resonantly at the A-exciton in WSe₂ with a 170 fs, 1.67 eV pump pulse. A rapid transfer of the
127 electron from WSe₂ to MoS₂ results in the formation of the ILX (schematic in Fig. 1c). After a
128 time-delay (Δt) of a few tens of picoseconds, we applied the XUV probe pulse to record the
129 momentum- and energy-resolved photoemission spectra from the photoexcited heterobilayer
130 after the ILX cooled and reached quasi-equilibrium.

131

132 The signatures of the ILX are immediately recognized (Fig. 2c, e) in the TR- μ -ARPES data:
133 Photoemitted electrons appear in all the corners of the BZ 1eV above the VBM, in agreement
134 with the PL associated with the ILX. It also appears at a distinctly lower energy than the free
135 conduction band (CB) electrons that can be seen when exciting above the bandgap of MoS₂ and
136 WSe₂ (Extended Data Fig. 5). Furthermore, the dispersion curve of the photoemitted signal at 1

137 eV clearly shows a negative curvature, similar to the negative dispersion of the K (and K') valley
138 VB of WSe₂ (see Fig. 2f and Extended Data Fig. 4). The observation of this anomalous
139 dispersion at long time delays is exclusively a hallmark of the excitonic origin of the ARPES
140 response^{19,29,30}. In contrast, similar signatures observed at short time delays can be associated
141 with other phenomena such as Bloch-Floquet effects^{31,32}, or Shockley surface states³³. Besides
142 this signal, we observe a striking depletion of the ARPES signal around the WSe₂ VBM. This
143 depletion, seen in all K and K' valleys (Fig. 2d), corresponds to the holes created in WSe₂ as part
144 of the ILX (See Methods for supporting evidence). This momentum-resolved distribution of the
145 hole within an exciton provides a new route to understand excitons, well beyond recent
146 experiments that measure only the properties of the electron¹⁹.

147
148 To obtain the quantitative 2D momentum distributions of the holes, independent of the k-
149 dependence of the photoemission matrix elements, we compared the TR- μ -ARPES spectra taken
150 before and after the excitation (See Methods and Extended Data Fig. 6). The long lifetime of the
151 ILX allows making this comparison at long time delays, by when the VB linewidths are
152 comparable to the pre-excitation values, allowing the accurate extraction of the exciton-bound
153 hole momentum-space distribution. At long delays, when the excitons are in quasi-equilibrium at
154 the lattice temperature, the depleted signal at wavevector \mathbf{k} in the VB provides the probability of
155 finding a hole with momentum $-\hbar\mathbf{k}$ (See Supplementary Material for the derivation). We note
156 that integrating this quantity over all k-space provides a direct measurement of the ILX density at
157 any given delay (Fig. 3d) – an important quantity that can only be roughly estimated in time-
158 resolved optical experiments. In addition to momentum-space images of the hole distribution, we
159 also obtained the momentum-resolved images of the electron distribution directly from the

160 photoexcited TR- μ -ARPES spectrum¹⁹. We extracted quantitative parameters at different time
 161 delays by fitting these momentum-space electron and hole images to Gaussian distributions (Fig.
 162 3a).

163
 164 One of the extracted parameters is the Gaussian widths of these momentum-space distributions,
 165 which provide important information about the ILX. This can be understood by expressing the
 166 wavefunction of an idealized ILX, unconfined by any moiré potential, and with COM

167 momentum $\hbar\mathbf{Q}$, as: $|X^{\mathbf{Q}}\rangle = \sum_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}} A_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{Q}} c_{c,\mathbf{k}+\alpha\mathbf{Q}}^{\dagger} c_{v,\mathbf{k}-\beta\mathbf{Q}} |0\rangle$, where $\alpha = \frac{m_e}{m_e+m_h}$ and $\beta = \frac{m_h}{m_e+m_h}$.

168 Here $A_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{Q}}$ is the envelope function of the unconfined ILX, $c_{n,\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger}$ is the creation operator of an
 169 electron in band n with wavevector \mathbf{k} , and $|0\rangle$ is the un-photoexcited ground state of the
 170 system²⁹. For $\mathbf{Q} = 0$, the momentum distributions of the electron and hole are identical and
 171 directly provide the size of the exciton, *i.e.*, the relative electron-hole coordinate in real-space
 172 (Fig. 3b)^{19,29,30}. For finite \mathbf{Q} , the electron and hole distributions are mainly offset in momentum
 173 by different amounts, $\alpha\mathbf{Q}$ and $\beta\mathbf{Q}$, respectively. Thus, a distribution of excitons with finite \mathbf{Q}
 174 yields electrons and holes displaying distinct momentum distributions (Fig. 3c). In general, there
 175 are two processes that may lead to a distribution of excitons with finite \mathbf{Q} : thermal effects and
 176 spatial confinement. For sufficiently low temperatures – smaller than the energy gap between
 177 different moiré-exciton bands, yet larger than the moiré-exciton bandwidth – thermal effects
 178 contribute a small and temperature-independent broadening that can be neglected (see
 179 Supplementary Material). This is indeed the case in our experiments, as the extents of the
 180 electron and hole distributions display no meaningful temperature dependence (see Extended
 181 Data Fig. 7). In contrast, the moiré potential localizes the COM coordinate of the ILX, resulting
 182 in a distribution of finite values of \mathbf{Q} , which is encoded in the inequivalent electron and hole

183 momentum distribution. We note that the above discussion assumes low-enough exciton
 184 densities to avoid multi-exciton and state-filling effects, and sufficiently long time-delays to
 185 allow the excitons to cool to the lattice temperatures. In our measurements, these conditions are
 186 achieved at photoexcitation densities below $3 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (Fig. 3e) and after a few tens of
 187 picoseconds (Fig. 3f). The density range corresponds to less than one ILX per moiré cell, in
 188 accord with the density threshold per moiré site indicated by previous PL reports of ILX
 189 localization¹⁰. The relaxed ILX then exhibits a hole distribution width of $\sigma_k^h = 0.042 \pm$
 190 0.002 \AA^{-1} , and an electron distribution width of $\sigma_k^e = 0.061 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$.

191

192 **Structure of the ILX**

193 To deduce the ILX size and spatial confinement from the measured momentum distributions of
 194 the electron and hole, we express the moiré-localized ILX $|X_m\rangle$ as a linear combination of
 195 unconfined ILXs $|X^{\mathbf{Q}}\rangle$ with different COM momenta $\hbar \mathbf{Q} = \hbar \mathbf{G}$, $|X_m\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} C(\mathbf{G}) |X^{\mathbf{G}}\rangle$, where \mathbf{G}
 196 is a reciprocal moiré lattice vector and $C(\mathbf{G})$ are expansion coefficients. The measured intensity
 197 distributions of the ILX-bound electron and hole, $I_e(\mathbf{k})$ and $I_h(\mathbf{k})$, are expressed in terms of the
 198 expansion coefficients $A_{vc\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{Q}}$ and $C(\mathbf{G})$, as $I_e(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} |C(\mathbf{G}) A_{\mathbf{k}-\alpha\mathbf{G}}^{\mathbf{G}}|^2$ and
 199 $I_h(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} |C(\mathbf{G}) A_{\mathbf{k}+\beta\mathbf{G}}^{\mathbf{G}}|^2$. For Wannier-like excitons, the simultaneous measurement of these
 200 distributions allowed us to extract both $A_{vc\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{Q}=0}$ and $C(\mathbf{G})$. Their Fourier transforms provided the
 201 envelope functions of the relative electron-hole separation \mathbf{r} as $\psi(\mathbf{r})$, and the COM coordinate
 202 \mathbf{R} as $C(\mathbf{R})$, respectively. With this, one can approximate the envelope of the two body exciton
 203 wavefunction as a product of $\psi(\mathbf{r})$ and $C(\mathbf{R})$, with the real-space exciton radius and its COM
 204 localization being inversely proportional to the extent in momentum-space of $|A_{vc\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{Q}=0}|^2$ and

205 $|C(\mathbf{G})|^2$, respectively (see Supplementary Material). Accordingly, we deduce an experimental
 206 ILX radius (*i.e.*, the root-mean-square (RMS) radius of its relative electron-hole separation
 207 distribution) of 2.6 ± 0.4 nm (5.2 ± 0.8 nm diameter), consistently larger than the 1.4 nm
 208 radius of the intra-layer exciton in WSe_2 ¹⁹. We also obtain an RMS localization of the COM
 209 distribution of 0.9 ± 0.1 nm, revealing an ILX whose COM coordinate is rather tightly pinned
 210 to the minimum of the moiré potential landscape. The higher temperature of our moiré
 211 confinement in $\text{MoS}_2/\text{Wse}_2$ heterobilayers, compared with previous results on $\text{MoSe}_2/\text{Wse}_2$
 212 heterobilayers^{10,34}, is attributed to the former's band-structure, where the Q and K CB edges are
 213 spectrally further apart^{11,17}, leading to enhanced robustness of the moiré-localized ILX.
 214
 215 Our experimental results on the spatial size and localization of the ILX in a well-characterized
 216 sample motivate us to seek deeper physical insight into the nature of moiré-confined ILXs using
 217 state-of-the-art many-body perturbation theory calculations. We have accordingly carried out a
 218 set of first-principles and effective-Hamiltonian calculations. We first performed *ab initio* GW
 219 plus Bethe-Salpeter equation calculations^{35,36} of the $\mathbf{Q} = 0$ ILX wavefunction distribution in an
 220 artificially commensurate $\text{MoS}_2/\text{Wse}_2$ heterobilayer to obtain $A_{vck}^{\mathbf{Q}=0}$. This yielded an RMS radius
 221 of 2.4 nm (4.8 nm diameter) in real-space (See Fig. 4a). A further calculation employing an
 222 effective moiré ILX Hamiltonian^{9,14} yielded a COM coordinate that is localized in real-space to
 223 within an RMS radius of 1.3 nm around the moiré potential minimum (Fig. 4b). Our calculations
 224 show that both $|A_{vck}^{\mathbf{Q}=0}|^2$ and $|C(\mathbf{G})|^2$ are well-described by Gaussian distributions, and both the
 225 ILX size and its COM localization are in reasonable agreement with our experiment (see
 226 Methods for details). These conclusions remain unaltered when going beyond the effective moiré
 227 ILX Hamiltonian, as described in the Supplementary Material.

228

229 **Discussion**

230 Our simultaneous measurement of the electron and hole momentum distributions in a bound state
231 provides previously inaccessible information about both the relative and COM coordinates that
232 characterize the ILX two-body wavefunction. A measurement of the relative coordinate of the
233 ILX provides, for the first time, its size – a critical parameter in determining the nature and
234 thresholds of various many-exciton processes, such as the Mott transition³⁷ and exciton-exciton
235 annihilation³⁸. The COM coordinate of the exciton also plays an important role in its underlying
236 physics. The observed localization, taken together with the onset of momentum-space
237 broadening as the ILX density crosses one per moiré cell, resembles the behavior of excitons in
238 impurity-based quantum dots^{3,4}. Such observations support emerging schemes in quantum
239 technology that utilize an array of quantum-dot-like states created by the periodic moiré
240 potential^{5,7}. Compared to larger moiré periods, our use of lattice-mismatched heterobilayers with
241 a small moiré period possesses the crucial benefit of extended spatial homogeneity and
242 robustness against strain fields¹⁸. Our observations also raise interesting questions about how the
243 moiré period impacts exciton-exciton interactions and moiré-localization. Lastly, the COM
244 distribution provides direct access to the temperature of an ensemble of excitons. Combined with
245 the ability to read the exciton density directly from the data, our measurements provide an
246 important new tool to study many-body excitonic states, their interactions with correlated
247 electrons³⁹, and the corresponding phase diagrams.

248

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331

332 **Main figure legends:**

333

334 **Fig. 1 - Sample structure and experimental configuration.** **a.** Schematic representation of the
335 TR- μ -ARPES setup and sample structure. The XUV probe pulse impinges on the sample at a
336 delay Δt relative to the optical pump pulse. Photoemitted electrons from the excited sample are
337 filtered through a micron-scale spatially selective aperture and resolved in energy and
338 momentum by a 3D time-of-flight detector. We obtained a volumetric dataset of the band-
339 structure of the entire Brillouin zone (BZ) with an energy range covering the relevant VB and the
340 photoexcited electron features (Top). **b.** Low temperature (10 K) infrared PL of the 1L MoS₂
341 (yellow), WSe₂ (red), and the heterobilayer (blue). **c.** Schematic of the band-edge alignment of
342 the layers and the electron-transfer process leading to formation of the ILX. **d.** The layer
343 arrangement of the sample heterostructure. The heterobilayer is isolated from the conductive
344 silicon substrate by a thin hexagonal boron nitride layer (see Methods).

345 **Fig. 2 - Static and photoexcited TR- μ -ARPES measurements. a, c.** Energy-momentum cuts
 346 along the K- Γ direction without (a) and 25 ps after (c) optical excitation. **b, d, e.** Momentum-
 347 space images around VBM (b), as well as 25 ps after photoexcitation around VBM (d) and
 348 around the ILX energy (e). These ARPES intensity maps are formed by integrating over the
 349 energy ranges defined by the blue brackets in (a) and (c). Clear signatures of the ILX-bound
 350 electron and hole at 1 eV and at the VBM, respectively, can be seen after photoexcitation (c, d
 351 and e) in all K valleys. In (b), the dashed line marks the K_3 - Γ - K_6 cut used in (a) and (c). In (c),
 352 the counts above 0.85 eV are enhanced by a factor of 50 for visibility. **f.** Emission from the ILX-
 353 bound electron exhibiting the anomalous negative dispersion¹⁹ of the VB. This establishes the
 354 bound nature of the observed electrons and holes. Inset: Line-cuts of the dispersion of the ILX-
 355 bound electron (dashed) and VB (continuous) along k_x axis.

356 **Fig 3 – Time- and momentum-resolved distributions of the ILX electrons and holes. a.**
 357 Distributions around the K valley (K_6 from Fig. 2). Point clouds and heat maps represent the
 358 data. Teal surfaces are Gaussian fits. The coordinate $(k_x, k_y)=(0,0)$ is set to the VB maximum.
 359 Delay values are indicated above each panel. The normalized photoexcited electron distribution
 360 (top row) exhibits a much larger width than the hole distribution (bottom row). **b.** Schematic of
 361 the momentum distributions (yellow) of the electron and hole constituting an unconfined exciton
 362 with zero COM momentum, showing identical extents. The black curves indicate the CB and VB
 363 with their different curvatures. **c.** Similar schematic for a confined exciton, composed of multiple
 364 non-zero Q states (blue, yellow, and red). The electron and hole each carry only a fraction of Q
 365 that is proportional to their respective effective mass, resulting in unequal momentum
 366 distributions as shown. **d.** Hole density, indicative of ILX density, as function of delay. The
 367 exponential fit yields a lifetime of 115 ± 34 ps, much longer than that of intralayer excitons. **e.**

368 The quasi-equilibrium photoexcited electron and hole distribution widths at different densities,
369 indicating the onset of a broadening at $\sim 3 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, corresponding to more than one ILX
370 per moiré lattice. **f.** Width of the momentum distribution of the electron and hole versus time-
371 delay showing the two distinct values for quasi-equilibrium at long-time delays. The Gaussian
372 fits were performed to obtain estimation errors of 3% in the population, and 5% in the widths, as
373 depicted by the error bars.

374 **Fig. 4 - ILX wavefunctions in real-space. a.** Modulus squared of the ILX wavefunction
375 $|\psi(\mathbf{r}_e, \mathbf{r}_h)|^2$ (red) as a function of the electron coordinate \mathbf{r}_e , for the hole coordinate \mathbf{r}_h fixed as
376 indicated in black. The moiré confinement was not included in this plot. **b.** The calculated real-
377 space envelope function squared for the COM coordinate of the ILX, $|C(\mathbf{R})|^2$, on top of the
378 calculated spatial landscape of the moiré potential $V(\mathbf{R})$.

379

380 **Methods**

381 Sample fabrication

382 1L MoS₂ (2D Semiconductors) and 1L WSe₂ (flux-grown, Columbia University, NY, USA)
383 flakes were exfoliated onto transparent polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) stamps and identified by
384 their optical contrast and their photoluminescence (PL). To isolate the sample and the ILX from
385 the conducting bare silicon substrate (with a 1-2 nm thick native oxide), while still preventing the
386 sample from charging during the photoemission measurement, a flat and thin (18 nm, measured
387 by AFM)) hexagonal boron nitride flake (hBN-National Institute for Material Science, Japan)
388 was directly exfoliated on the substrate prior to stacking the heterobilayer^{19,23} (see Fig. 1d). The
389 heterostructure (clear area of 25x8 μm^2) was assembled by dry-transfer of the monolayer flakes
390 onto the hBN, and then vacuum-annealed for 2 hr at 150° C. The crystallographic alignment of

391 1L WSe₂ and 1L MoS₂ was established judging by the sharp edges of the flakes. After
392 fabrication, a polarization-resolved second-harmonic generation measurement determined the
393 twist angle to be $2.2\pm 0.8^\circ$. The lattice mismatch between the layers is 3.8 %.

394

395 Optical characterization of the samples

396 The PL spectra of the monolayers and their heterostructure were measured in a home-built
397 confocal microscope setup. The sample was held at a controlled temperature in a cryostat
398 (Montana Instruments). Laser light at 532 nm wavelength was used for excitation and was
399 focused to a diffraction-limited spot ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$) on the sample by a microscope objective (Olympus
400 LCPLN50xIR). The infrared PL was collected by the same objective; it was detected and
401 analyzed by a Jobin Yvon iHR550 spectrometer equipped with a Spectrum One InGaAs array.
402 For reflection-contrast measurements (shown in Extended Data Fig. 1) white light from a
403 stabilized tungsten-halogen light source (Thorlabs SLS201L) was delivered to the sample, and its
404 reflection collected, through the same optical setup. To analyze the reflection spectrum in the
405 visible range a Synapse CCD camera was employed as a detector.

406

407 Time- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy

408 Time- and angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy is performed by coupling ultrafast pulses
409 with an angle-resolved, energy-resolved electron microscope (Metis 1000, SPECS GmbH)^{19,23}.
410 To monitor carrier dynamics, a pump-probe scheme has been developed with a tunable optical
411 pump pulse that photo-excites the sample and an XUV probe pulse that photo-emits the
412 electrons. Both pulses originate in a Yb-doped fiber laser producing 250 fs, 50 μJ pulses at a

413 wavelength of 1030 nm and a repetition rate of 2 MHz. The optical pump pulse, at 1.67 eV (740
414 nm), is produced by a non-colinear optical parametric amplifier (NOPA) pumped by part of the
415 fundamental laser power. The high-energy XUV photons are produced by high-harmonic
416 generation (HHG), achieved by frequency doubling the remaining of the fundamental laser light,
417 and then focusing it into Kr gas. One of the high harmonics, at an energy of 21.67 eV is selected
418 using a combination of Al and Sn filters. Both the pump and the probe are focused onto the
419 region of interest on the sample. The pump energy was tuned in resonance with one of the
420 absorption peaks of WSe₂ in the heterobilayer at the relevant experimental temperatures ranging
421 between 80 K to 100 K. The probe energy is sufficient to photo-emit electrons with momenta
422 covering the entire BZ of the sample, which emerge with different energies and at different
423 angles. The photoelectrons are guided by the electrostatic lenses of the electron microscope and
424 are detected by a time-of-flight detector, which measures the energy of the emitted electrons.
425 Finally, the electrons are imaged either in real space (spatial- and energy-resolved) or in *k*-space
426 (momentum- and energy-resolved) for different pump-probe time delays. The obtained data sets
427 are corrected for the distortions in the apparatus using a two-stage procedure detailed in the
428 following Methods section. More details of the TR- μ -ARPES instrumentation can be found in
429 Ref.^{19,23}

430

431 Distortion correction procedures in the momentum microscope

432 In the momentum microscope, the mapping of momentum-space images is done in two key
433 elements. The first element is the cathode objective lens. As shown in Extended Data Fig. 2a at
434 the front-end of the microscope, the objective lens, floating at a high potential, is used to collect
435 photoemitted electrons from the sample and then to focus electrons emitted at different angles

436 onto the back focal plane, forming the angle resolved momentum space image. The second
437 element is the rest of the imaging optics which serve to project a magnified momentum space
438 image onto the time-of-flight detector. Perfect imaging optics should project an exact copy of the
439 momentum space image with fixed magnification factor and without any distortion. However, in
440 the actual system, aberrations in the lenses are unavoidable, which can induce radial distortion
441 such as barrel and pincushion distortion to the projected images. In addition, imperfection in
442 machining, mechanical misalignment, and external effects such as stray magnetic field can also
443 induce translation and shearing distortion, scaling variation on different image directions, and
444 other higher order nonlinear distortions. Below we introduce the two-part image processing
445 routines that we use to remove such distortions from the acquired images.

446 1. Removing the distortions caused by the imaging optics in the momentum microscope.

447 Visualizing these distortions is easily done by inserting a grid at the back focal plane of the
448 objective lens. In Extended Data Fig. 2b we show an image of the grid overlaid on some
449 band structure. The grid has a square pattern with known periodicity. We use it to calibrate
450 the magnification of the imaging optics and remove distortion in the images. We generally
451 make sure the alignment of the lenses in the microscope is at optimal setting, meaning the
452 electrons are going through the optical axis of the lenses, ensuring minimal distortion due to
453 misalignments. Observing the yellow square box in the image, we see that the distortion of
454 the grid is quite small. Tiny amount of pincushion distortion is visible. The grids are also
455 slightly elongated in the horizontal direction. To correct these image distortions, we apply a
456 polynomial distortion model, commonly known as the Brown-Conrady model⁴⁰. We utilize
457 the regular pattern of the grid to obtain the correction coefficient of the model. After that we

458 apply geometric transformation to remap the distorted image into a rectified, undistorted
459 output image (Extended Data Fig. 2c).

460 In general, the action of the lenses, and hence the distortion field, changes as a function of
461 electron kinetic energy. The lens action could change very strongly when particular lens
462 elements, such as the high pass energy filter, are active in the microscope. Extended Data
463 Fig. 2d shows a cut of the 3D data cube, plotting the momentum k_x versus electron kinetic
464 energy E_{kin} , in this image we can see strong variation of magnification in the momentum
465 space image with respect to changing E_{kin} . To correct this, we deduce the distortion
466 correction coefficient at different kinetic energies using the same algorithm as above and
467 apply an energy dependent distortion correction on the 3D data cube. This procedure
468 produces a distortion free image as shown in Extended Data Fig. 2e. This grid distortion
469 correction procedure removes the intrinsic distortion originating from the lenses of the
470 momentum microscope. It is sample independent and does not require any standard sample
471 with known band structure to work properly. The procedure is required only when the
472 microscope alignment is changed. Since the alignment grid can provide a lot of reference
473 points for the distortion field, it also facilitates correction of high order distortion if
474 necessary.

475 2. Removing distortions from the objective lens and sample alignment: In general, grid
476 distortion correction on its own is sufficient to remove most of the image distortion we get in
477 the momentum microscope. However, this procedure cannot correct distortions before the
478 back focal plane of the objective lens, including distortion from the objective lens, sample tilt
479 and inhomogeneous field from the sample. To account for these distortions, we use high
480 symmetry features in the band structure of the measured sample and apply a method similar

481 to what has been discussed previously reported⁴¹. The positions of valence band (VB)
482 maxima at high symmetry valleys, such as the K and Γ valleys in the measured data, provide
483 seven reference points. Their positions are indicated by the maxima of the band dispersions
484 to avoid the misleading influences of the nonuniform photoemission matrix element. The
485 symmetry of the crystal tells us exactly where the valleys should be. With seven reference
486 points, we can detect distortions such as shearing, or direction scaling, and eliminate them by
487 geometric transformation. We also take care of any energy-dependent distortion by mapping
488 out the distortion field at different electron kinetic energy. This is done by varying the sample
489 bias voltage U_{bias} . The energy of the photoemitted electrons is giving by $E_{kin} = h\nu - E_b -$
490 $W + U_{bias}$, where $h\nu$ is the photon energy, E_b is binding energy, and W is work function of
491 the measured material. When we adjust U_{bias} , we effectively shift the kinetic energy of the
492 photoemitted electrons entering the microscope. This lets us shift the kinetic energy of the
493 VB edges. In our measurement, we are interested in an energy range from 3 eV above to -3
494 eV below the top of the VB edges. This range includes the exciton-bound electrons and part
495 of the VBs. We shift the spectrum up and down by 1eV steps and take a minimum of seven
496 reference points in energy. At each U_{bias} , we take a snapshot of the 3D ARPES image and
497 determine the position of the high symmetry points. Based on the seven energy steps, we can
498 interpolate the positions of the valleys and the distortion coefficients, and thus correct for any
499 image distortion at any intermediate energies.

500

501 Procedure to extract band energy dispersions

502 In order to extract band dispersions either of the VB or of the exciton-bound electron feature the
503 following procedure was followed:

- 504 1. For each point in $[k_x, k_y]$, the energy spectrum of the measurement (known in other reports as
505 Energy Distribution Curve, or EDC) over the relevant energy range was selected, integrating
506 over a small environment of 3x3 k-pixels (in the case of VB) or 5x5 k-pixels (in the case of
507 the ILX-bound electron band), to improve the signal-to-noise ratio, yet without changing our
508 momentum-resolution significantly.
- 509 2. The spectra were fitted with Gaussian curves. In the VB, we assigned three Gaussians to the
510 WSe₂ two spin-split VB and to MoS₂ VBs. For the ILX-bound electron band we used a
511 single Gaussian. The Gaussians peak energies and their variation across the k-plane represent
512 the extracted dispersions. Extended Data Fig. 4 shows the result for the ILX-bound electron
513 band. Three spectra are presented, alongside their Gaussian fits, and the resulting peak
514 energy curve as function of the k-vector, around the center of the exciton distribution.
515 Alternatively, instead of this peak energy, one can also use the spectral center-of-mass of the
516 EDC in the relevant energy range (Fig. 2f), yielding near identical results.

517
518

519 Supporting evidence for the ILX origin of the photoexcited electron and hole

520 The main evidence that tie the photoexcited electron and hole to the ILX are the match of their
521 energy difference to the ILX PL peak, the negative curvature of the electron band dispersion
522 (Extended Data Fig. 4), and the long lifetime. We further support this assignment as follows:

- 523 1. Following an above band gap excitation, at 2.5 eV, which excites both constituent layers of
524 our heterobilayer, we initially observe a broad cluster of photoexcited electrons at energies
525 above 1.3 eV (See Extended Data Fig. 5a and b). With clear signs of normal, CB-like,

526 dispersion, these are identified as unbound electrons in the CB. In contrast, after 50 ps, the
527 excited electrons look differently (Extended Data Fig. 5c and d): they are concentrated at the
528 K point, at 1 eV energy, and show an oppositely curved dispersion (Extended Data Fig. 4).
529 These differences demonstrate clearly that the observed electrons are now bound to holes as
530 excitons.

531

532 2. At the same delay, a careful examination of the VBs signals in comparison to their
533 equilibrium spectrum reveals the holes at the top, WSe₂, VB, whereas the VBs associated
534 with MoS₂ show no reduction in counts (Extended Data Fig. 5d). Thus, it is clear that the
535 exciton-bound electrons 1 eV above the VB maximum (VBM), associated with MoS₂ (they
536 are too low in energy to be located in WSe₂, whose intralayer excitonic features sit above 1.5
537 eV, including defect states⁴²), must be bound to the WSe₂ holes. This fulfils the definition of
538 this state as the interlayer exciton.

539

540 3. From our Gaussian fit procedure, the centers of the electron and hole distributions are found
541 with a relative shift in momentum (See Extended Data Fig. 5e and f). It is consistent with the
542 ILX assignment of these distributions, since the ILX-bound electrons and holes are expected
543 to be offset in momentum depending on the lattice and orientation mismatch between the
544 layers and the corresponding band extrema. We note that this shift does not affect our
545 conclusions about the ILX spatial attributes as these depend only on the measured
546 momentum width of the electron and hole distributions.

547

548 Procedure to deduce the hole momentum distribution from the experimental data

549 This procedure is a series of steps:

550 1. Separate the ARPES signal from the highest VB from that of the other VBs:

551 The photo-excited holes appear only at the highest-lying VB. To obtain a clear picture of
552 their distribution in momentum space, it is necessary to compare the readings of that band
553 with and without photoexcitation, independently of the other VBs. To that end, the highest
554 band energy and counts for each (k_x, k_y) in a region of interest ($0.2 \text{ \AA}^{-1} \times 0.2 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ environment
555 around the K_6 point) are extracted by fitting the local photoemission spectrum with Gaussian
556 peaks (shown in Extended Data Fig. 6a and b for the unexcited case, and Extended Data Fig.
557 6c and d for the excited case). The highest energy peak is assigned to the upper VB, and its
558 count rate and energy are used thereafter.

559 2. Correcting the momentum offset between measurements:

560 Using the dispersion relation as determined above, we align the position of the band edge in
561 both the excited and un-excited data sets. We do so by fitting the dispersion with a two-
562 dimensional paraboloid around the center of the window of interest.

563 3. Computing the hole distribution:

564 Sharing the same coordinate grid in k-space, we can correct for variations in the experimental
565 conditions between measurements by normalizing the data by the count rate at an area that is
566 unaffected by the photoexcitation (namely, outside the hole feature). This environment is
567 marked by red squares in Extended Data Fig. 6e and f, showing the counts of the top VB in
568 our region of interest, for the un-excited and excited measurements, respectively. Subtracting

569 the ratio of normalized excited and un-excited ARPES signals from one yields the hole
 570 occupancy distribution:

$$f[k_x, k_y] = 1 - \frac{C_{un-pump}[k_{x0}, k_{y0}]}{C_{pump}[k_{x0}, k_{y0}]} \frac{C_{pump}[k_x, k_y]}{C_{un-pump}[k_x, k_y]}$$

571
 572 Such a distribution is demonstrated in Extended Data Fig. 6g, as well as in the distributions
 573 presented (for different delay points) in Fig. 3a of the main text. As both pumped and
 574 unpumped images have similar photoemission matrix element profiles across the region of
 575 interest, their ratio removes the dependence of the resulting hole distribution on the
 576 photoemission matrix element.

577
 578 Calculating ILX density from the data

579 The actual hole (and therefore, ILX) density is given by multiplying their occupancy distribution,
 580 $f[k_x, k_y]$, with the density of hole states in momentum and summing over the entire distribution:

$$n = \frac{2}{L^2} \iint f[k_x, k_y] \frac{dk_x dk_y}{\frac{4\pi^2}{L^2}}$$

581 $dk_{x/y}$ is the k coordinate grid spacing in the $k_{x/y}$ directions. In our data $dk_x = dk_y =$
 582 0.0066 \AA^{-1} . The prefactor of 2 stands for the two valleys that share the BZ.

583 Ab initio calculations

584 We performed our mean-field density-functional theory (DFT) calculations with a Perdew-
 585 Burke-Ernzerhof exchange-correlation functional using the Quantum Espresso code⁴³. The
 586 calculations were done on a unit cell in the plane-wave basis using the Optimized Norm-
 587 Conserving Vanderbilt pseudopotentials from the SG-15 dataset⁴⁴. We first considered a unit
 588 cell for an artificially periodic MoS₂/WSe₂ heterobilayer, for which we take the lattice constant

589 as the average of the individual MoS₂ and WSe₂ experimental lattice constants, 3.22 Å. The
590 distance between repeated unit cells in the out-of-plane direction was taken as 25 Å and the
591 Coulomb interaction was truncated⁴⁵ to effectively remove interaction between the repeated
592 simulation cells along the out-of-plane direction.

593

594 We relaxed the atomic positions for the MoS₂/WSe₂ heterostructure in the R_h^X stacking⁵
595 including van der Waals interactions within the frameworks of Dione *et al.*⁴⁶ and Cooper⁴⁷, and
596 obtained a separation of 6.2 Å between the center of MoS₂ and WSe₂ layers. The dielectric
597 matrices used to solve the Bethe-Salpeter equation (BSE) to obtain excitonic states were
598 evaluated up to a cutoff of 6 Ry on a 90x90x1 Monkhorst-Pack k -point grid and computed with
599 the BerkeleyGW software package⁴⁸.

600

601 To solve for the BSE, we first evaluated the electron-hole interaction kernel on a coarse 90x90x1
602 k -grid with a fully relativistic framework, which was then interpolated onto a patch of a
603 600x600x1 k -point grid around the K-valley. We diagonalized the BSE Hamiltonian with the
604 BerkeleyGW package keeping four CBs and four VBs. Similarly to previous calculations⁴⁹, the
605 sample patch only includes the 9593 k -points within 0.2 Å⁻¹ of the K point of the BZ and
606 properly includes all the qualitative features of the desired ILXs.

607

608 Model-Hamiltonian calculations of the exciton confinement

609 In the absence of any moiré effects, the excitons that we computed from first principles in the
610 previous section can be labeled with respect to a principal band and wavevector (\mathbf{Q}) quantum

611 numbers. To a good approximation, because of vanishingly small exchange terms for ILX, these
 612 excitons can be described with an effective-mass approximation. The energy of the lowest moiré-
 613 unconfined ILX is given by $E_{\mathbf{Q}} = E_0 + \hbar^2 Q^2 / (2M)$, where E_0 is the energy of the lowest ILX
 614 and M is the total exciton mass. However, the presence of a moiré pattern with a periodicity
 615 larger than the lattice constants of the constituent monolayers allows for multiple excitons with
 616 distinct wavevectors (and, to lesser extent, band indices) to mix. This mixing can be rationalized
 617 in terms of an effective moiré potential, $\Delta(\mathbf{R})$, that describes the local variation of the bandgap
 618 across the moiré unit cell stemming from a different atomic registry at each point \mathbf{R} .

619 We follow refs. ¹⁴ and ⁹ and describe the effective Hamiltonian for an ILX with wavevector \mathbf{q}
 620 inside the moiré BZ that experiences a moiré potential as

$$H_{\mathbf{q}} = E_0 + \frac{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{q} - \kappa|^2}{2M} + \Delta(\mathbf{R}),$$

621 where the momentum offset of κ (κ is the K point of the hexagonal moiré BZ) is due to the finite
 622 twist angle between the two individual TMDC layers ⁵⁰.

623
 624 The moiré potential energy is a smooth periodic function with extrema at specific high-symmetry
 625 points of the moiré lattice and can be approximated in the lowest-order harmonic expansion ^{9,14}
 626 as

$$\Delta(\mathbf{R}) \approx \sum_{j=1}^6 V_j \exp(i\mathbf{G}_j \cdot \mathbf{R}),$$

627 where \mathbf{G}_j are the first-shell reciprocal lattice vectors of the moiré BZ ^{9,14}. We first fit the potential
 628 parameters V_j by performing DFT calculations on a series of high-symmetry stacking
 629 configurations and obtain a total potential width (maximum-to-minimum) $\Delta(\mathbf{R})$ of ~ 100 meV,

630 similarly to previous calculations^{5,51}, and rescale it to 125 meV to account for the underestimate
 631 of DFT-derived potentials⁵¹. The potential parameters are $|V_j|_{j=1..6} = 12.5$ meV.

632
 633 The model Hamiltonian expressed as such is solved in a plane-wave basis, where we retain moiré
 634 reciprocal-lattice vectors \mathbf{G} with maximum magnitude of $|\mathbf{G}| = 10\mathbf{G}_1$. For each moiré-confined
 635 ILX with wavevector \mathbf{q} , we obtain the ILX envelope function $C_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{G})$, as defined in the main text,
 636 by diagonalizing $H_{\mathbf{q}}$. The envelope function squared of the lowest-energy eigenstate can be
 637 approximated as an effective 2D Gaussian distribution whose width σ_{COM}^r can be deduced from
 638 its momentum distribution – more specifically, from the variance
 639 $\langle |\mathbf{G}|^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{q}=\kappa} \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{G}} |\mathbf{G}|^2 |C_{\mathbf{q}=\kappa}(\mathbf{G})|^2 = 2\sigma_{\text{COM}}^2$. We find numerically $\sigma_{\text{COM}} \approx 0.053 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$. At 0 K, this
 640 width is directly related to the reciprocal of the COM localization radius (see Supplementary
 641 Material).

642
 643 To account for thermal effects, we must consider the momentum distribution of $|C_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{G})|^2$ for a
 644 range of values of \mathbf{q} in the moiré BZ, the variance of which is related to an effective, thermally
 645 averaged width $\sigma_{\text{COM},T}$. Because we are in a regime where $W < k_b T < \Delta E$, where W is the
 646 bandwidth of the lowest-energy moiré exciton (~ 2 meV, from our calculations), T is the
 647 temperature, and ΔE is the energy difference between the first and second moiré-exciton bands
 648 (~ 30 meV, from our calculations), we may assume that the lowest exciton band across the
 649 moiré BZ is uniformly occupied while higher bands are empty. From our numerical calculations,
 650 we find that finite-temperature effects increase σ_{COM} to a value $\sigma_{\text{COM},T}$ that is less than 10%
 651 larger. Furthermore, for sufficiently large σ_{COM} , one can approximate the thermal effects as

652 $\sigma_{\text{COM},T}^2 \approx \sigma_{\text{COM}}^2 + \sigma_T^2$, where $\sigma_T = \sqrt{7/6} |\mathbf{G}_1|/4 \approx 0.032 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ is an effective thermal broadening
653 contribution to the width of the COM distribution in reciprocal space and which only depends on
654 the geometry of the moiré BZ.

655

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657

658

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660

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731 **Author contributions:**

732 OK, EB and KMD conceived the project. KW and TT, BK and KB supplied raw materials for
733 sample fabrication. EB and OK, supported by ALO, HBR, and JH, fabricated the samples. VP,
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735 and JM. VP, MKLM, CS, NSC and XZ performed preliminary analysis. EB and OK analyzed
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739 **Competing interests:**

740 J.M., M.K.L.M., and K.M.D. are inventors on a patent application related to this work filed by
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746

747 **Data and materials availability:**

748 All data are available in the main text or the supplementary materials.

749

750 **Extended Data figure legends:**

751 **Extended Data Fig. 1. Reflection contrast spectra of the sample. Top:** reflection of the 1L
752 WSe₂ region, showing its lowest excitonic resonance at 1.7 eV, marked with a grey dashed line.
753 **Middle:** the same, for 1L MoS₂, with its lowest resonance at 1.95 eV. **Bottom:** the same, for the
754 heterobilayer region. It shows multiple resonances, marked I, II, and III instead of a single line in
755 the vicinity of the WSe₂ resonance. This signature has been categorized as evidence for the
756 emergence of the moiré pattern¹⁶. All measurements were done at 80 K.

757 **Extended Data Fig. 2. Distortion correction procedures in the momentum-microscope a.**
758 Schematic of the imaging optics in the momentum-microscope. To correct for the distortions in
759 the imaging optics, a physical grid was inserted at the back focal plane of the objective lens. **b.** A
760 cut in the k_x - k_y plane in the presence of the grid as imaged by the detector before correction.

761 Overlaid on top is a yellow square box representing a perfect square. It is visible that the pattern
762 of the grid is not perfectly square. A weak pincushion distortion is also visible. **c.** The same, after
763 correction, showing the grid lines conforming to the yellow square **d.** A 2D projection of the grid
764 at different electron kinetic energies E_{kin} , before corrections. The variation of the distortion and
765 magnification with different E_{kin} is obvious. **e.** The same, after energy dependent grid distortion
766 corrections.

767 **Extended data Fig. 3. Static ARPES data with VB assignment near the K-points.** A re-
768 scaled version of Fig. 2a of the main text, highlighting the MoS₂ VBs around the K-valleys.

769 **Extended data Fig 4. Extracting the exciton-bound electron dispersion.** **a.** k_x ARPES cut of
770 the photoexcited electron signal around the K point. The dashed yellow line is the VB dispersion.
771 **b.** Selected spectra (EDC) along the dashed orange, green, and red lines marked in (a), together
772 with the Gaussian fits, demonstrating the negative dispersion of the signal.

773 **Extended Data Fig. 5. TR- μ -ARPES data with above band-gap photoexcitation.** **a.** A
774 momentum-slice along the Γ -K axis of the BZ at $t=0$ ps. The photoexcited electrons are scattered
775 over a wide momentum and the shaded energy range above the dashed orange line, with a clear
776 CB dispersion around the K point (yellow dashed indicator). **b.** Normalized EDC at the K point.
777 The green plot is the equilibrium data. The black plot refers to the data at $t=0$ ps. **c.** The same as
778 (a), at $t=50$ ps. The photoexcited electrons are concentrated at 1 eV energy (magenta dashed line)
779 with an anomalous dispersion curvature. **d.** The same as (b), for $t=50$ ps. The red plot refers to
780 the data at 50 ps delay. This highlights the spectral differences between the unbound (at $t=0$ ps)
781 and exciton-bound (at later times) electrons showing up at different energies. The dashed
782 magenta lines at energies below 0 eV indicate the band-edge energies for each VB. In
783 comparison to the equilibrium VB EDC, at $t=50$ ps a reduction in counts is clearly registered for

784 VB 1, associated with WSe₂, whereas none is registered for the other VBs, deducing that no
785 holes are accumulating in MoS₂. **e.** Average momentum deviation from the VBM, $(k_x, k_y) = (0, 0)$
786 \AA^{-1} , of the ILX-bound hole distributions, determined at various time delays using the Gaussian
787 fit. The distribution are clustered on average around $(k_x, k_y) = (0.002, 0.0088) \pm (0.0056, 0.0042) \text{\AA}^{-1}$
788 ¹, effectively (within a single pixel error) at the VBM. **f.** The same for the ILX-bound electrons.
789 Their distributions are broadly clustered around $(k_x, k_y) = (-0.0139, 0.0381) \pm (0.0019, 0.0035) \text{\AA}^{-1}$,
790 deviating from the hole momentum. This is attributed to the expected momentum-mismatch
791 between the ILX-bound electrons and holes of a moiré exciton.

792 **Extended Data Fig. 6. Extracting the photoexcited hole distribution.** **a.** APRES energy-
793 momentum cut along K- Γ direction around a specific K point for unexcited conditions. **b.** Fitting
794 the VB with three gaussians in energy near the center of the plot in (a). **c.** The same as (a), after
795 the photoexcitation. **d.** The same as (b), after the photoexcitation. **e.** Heatmap of the
796 photoemitted counts associated with the top VB of the unperturbed sample. **f.** The same, after the
797 excitation. Red squares mark the region used to normalize the counts from each measurement. **g.**
798 The hole occupation distribution map resulting from the comparison between panels (e) and (f).

799 **Extended Data Fig. 7. Temperature dependence of ILX density and momentum-**
800 **distribution widths at 50 ps delay.** **a.** ILX density, acquired for two excitation powers, at 100 K
801 and 300 K. The reduction of ILX density with temperature is in line with the expected shortening
802 of their lifetime in elevated temperatures. **b.** Fitted Gaussian widths of the ILX-bound hole and
803 electron distributions at 100 K and 300 K. The width of the ILX-bound hole distribution does
804 hardly change, while the electron distribution displays some broadening within our experimental
805 accuracy. This is consistent with the analysis in the Supplementary Material that predicts little
806 temperature dependence for the widths of $I^e(\mathbf{k})$ and $I^h(\mathbf{k})$. Both excitation powers show very

807 similar distribution widths, ruling out low signal-to-noise issues or many-body effects. The later
808 is also consistent with the ILX densities being lower than their broadening onset described in
809 Fig. 3e.

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