Tuning the Chern number in quantum anomalous Hall insulators

Yi-Fan Zhao1,3, Ruoxi Zhang1,3, Ruobing Mei1,3, Ling-Jie Zhou1, Hemian Yi1, Ya-Qi Zhang1, Jiabin Yu1, Run Xiao1, Ke Wang1, Nitin Samarth1, Moses H. W. Chan1, Chao-Xing Liu1,2, & Cui-Zu Chang1

A quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) state is a two-dimensional topological insulating state that has a quantized Hall resistance of $h/(Ce^2)$ and vanishing longitudinal resistance under zero magnetic field (where $h$ is the Planck constant, $e$ is the elementary charge, and the Chern number $C$ is an integer)$^{1,2}$. The QAH effect has been realized in magnetic topological insulators$^{3-9}$ and magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene$^{10,11}$. However, the QAH effect at zero magnetic field has so far been realized only for $C=1$. Here we realize a well quantized QAH effect with tunable Chern number (up to $C=5$) in multilayer structures consisting of alternating magnetic and undoped topological insulator layers, fabricated using molecular beam epitaxy. The Chern number of these QAH insulators is determined by the number of undoped topological insulator layers in the multilayer structure. Moreover, we demonstrate that the Chern number of a given multilayer structure can be tuned by varying either the magnetic doping concentration in the magnetic topological insulator layers or the thickness of the interior magnetic topological insulator layer. We develop a theoretical model to explain our experimental observations and establish phase diagrams for QAH insulators with high, tunable Chern number. The realization of such insulators facilitates the application of dissipationless chiral edge currents in energy-efficient electronic devices, and opens up opportunities for developing multi-channel quantum computing and higher-capacity chiral circuit interconnects.

The Chern number, also known as the Thouless–Kohmoto–Nightingale–Nijs (TKNN) number, is an integer that defines the topological phase in the quantum Hall effect$^{14}$. It is calculated as the integral of the Berry curvature over the entire first Brillouin zone and determines the number of topologically protected chiral edge channels along the edge of a sample$^{15}$. The QAH effect may be considered as the quantum Hall effect under zero magnetic field and can be realized in a time-reversal symmetry-breaking system with the inverted electronic band structure$^{1,3,14,15}$. The QAH effect under zero magnetic field has so far been realized in only three systems: (1) molecular beam epitaxy (MBE)-grown magnetically doped topological insulator films, such as Cr- and/or V-doped (Bi,Sb)$_2$Te$_3$ (refs. $^{3,4,9}$); (2) mechanically exfoliated intrinsic magnetic topological insulator MnBi$_2$Te$_4$ thin flakes with an odd number of layers$^8$; and (3) manually assembled twisted bilayer graphene$^{10,11}$. The QAH states observed in these systems were limited to $C=1$. In $C=1$ QAH insulators, the chiral edge current is dissipationless, but the contact resistance between the normal metal electrodes and the chiral edge channels is limited to a minimum value ($h/(Ce^2)$), set by Landauer–Büttiker theory$^{16,17}$. This contact resistance constrains even proof-of-concept device technologies that may seek to take advantage of chiral edge channel transport. A solution is to greatly reduce the contact resistance by increasing the number of parallel chiral edge channels in QAH devices, with an effective Hall resistance of $h/(Ce^2)$ for high $C$$^{18,19}$. Larger $C$ also increases the effective breakdown current of chiral edge states and thus facilitates the practical applications of QAH devices. A $C=2$ Chern insulator has recently been realized under a finite external magnetic field, but without well-defined Landau levels, in thin MnBi$_2$Te$_4$ flakes$^{20}$ and in a rhombohedral trilayer graphene–hexagonal boron nitride moiré superlattice$^{21}$. Here, we report the realization of high-$C$ QAH insulators (with $C$ tunable to integer values up to 5) with good quantization and vanishing longitudinal resistance at zero magnetic field.

The high-$C$ QAH effect has been theoretically proposed in Cr-doped Bi$_2$(Se,Te)$_3$ (ref. $^{18}$) and magnetically doped topological crystalline insulator SnTe (ref. $^{19}$) films. The high-$C$ QAH effect in the former system is predicted when two or more pairs of inverted sub-bands are induced by strong exchange fields$^{18,22}$, whereas the high-$C$ QAH effect in the latter system is conjectured in the presence of multiple Dirac surface states$^{19}$. In practice, the realization of the high-$C$ QAH state in Cr-doped Bi$_2$(Se,Te)$_3$ films for strong exchange fields is unlikely, owing to non-square or hysteresis-free loop and the possible metallic phase$^{22,23}$. Realizing the high-$C$ QAH state in magnetically doped SnTe is also challenging, owing to the absence of ferromagnetism and/or the fact that multiple Dirac points are normally located at different energies. These properties make it difficult to have a fully gapped surface in the SnTe system$^{20,21}$. In addition to these two systems, the...
The high-C QAH state may also be realized in magnetic topological insulator multilayer structures with alternating $C = 1$ QAH and normal insulator layers (Fig. 1a). The thickness of the normal insulator layer modulates the coupling between two $C = 1$ QAH layers and thus tunes the Chern number of QAH multilayer samples. Experimental efforts in this direction have demonstrated the possibility of having multiple QAH layers connected in parallel using insulating CdSe layers. Because CdSe has a wurzite structure, which is different from the tetradymite structure of magnetic topological insulators, stacking faults inevitably arise in QAH–CdSe multilayer samples. These defects might be responsible for the reported large longitudinal resistance and Hall resistances greater than the corresponding quantized values.

**High-C QAH effect**

Similar to $C = 1$ QAH insulators, high-C QAH insulators harbour C dissipationless chiral edge channels. These edge states are spin-polarized and their chirality is determined by the internal magnetization of the sample (Fig. 1b). In our alternating magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayer structures, the heavily Cr-doped (Bi, Sb)$_2$Te$_3$ layer ($x = 0.24$ in (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$) has two roles. First, its magnetism breaks the time-reversal symmetry of the 4 quintuple layer (QL) (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$ layer and thus allows the $C = 1$ QAH effect to emerge in the 3QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$–4QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Te$_3$ bilayer (Fig. 2a). Second, the bulk bandgap of the magnetic topological insulator layer may become non-inverted because the heavy Cr doping greatly reduces the spin–orbit coupling of the system. In addition, the Chern number of our multilayer structures can be determined by the strength of the coupling between two adjacent $C = 1$ QAH layers—that is, by the thickness of the interior magnetic topological insulator layers. High-C QAH insulators emerge when this coupling is weak (when the magnetic topological insulator layer is thick). When the coupling is stronger than a critical value (when the magnetic topological insulator is thin enough or absent), the sample exhibits a QAH state with $C = 1$.

In Fig. 1c, we show a cross-sectional scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM) image of the $m = 2$ multilayer sample, where $m$ is the number of undoped topological insulator layers in the multilayers. Because the magnetically doped and undoped topological insulators have the same lattice structure, our samples have a highly ordered lattice structure (Extended Data Fig. 1). As we show in detail below, this structure is very important for realizing the tunable high-C QAH effect with good quantization.

We carried out magneto-transport measurements on 3QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$–4QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Te$_3$, 3QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$, and 4QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Te$_3$ multilayer samples at $T = 25$ mK, with the bottom gate voltage $V_g$ tuned at the charge neutral point $V_g = 0$ (Fig. 2). All five samples exhibit the QAH effect, with varying degrees of quantization precision and longitudinal resistance minima. For the $m = 1$ sample, the Hall resistance $\rho_{xy}$ has a quantized value of $0.994h/e^2$, and the longitudinal resistance $\rho_{xx}$ is $0.0001h/e^2$ (about 2.3 $\Omega$) under zero magnetic field, corresponding to a QAH state with $C = 1$ (Fig. 2a). By inserting one more period of the 3QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$–4QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Te$_3$ bilayer ($m = 2$ sample), $\rho_{xy}$ displays a quantized value of $0.498h/e^2$, and $\rho_{xx}$ is $0.0069h/e^2$ under zero magnetic field, giving rise to a QAH state with $C = 2$ (Fig. 2b). By inserting more periods of the 3QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Cr$_x$Te$_3$–4QL (Bi, Sb)$_{2−x}$Te$_3$ bilayers, $\rho_{xy}$ displays quantized values of $0.329h/e^2$, $0.234h/e^2$ and $0.185h/e^2$ ($m = 3$, $4$ and $5$ samples, respectively). The corresponding values of $\rho_{xx}$ in these samples are $0.022h/e^2$, $0.039h/e^2$ and $0.044h/e^2$ under zero magnetic field (Fig. 2c–e). These are QAH states with $C = 3, 4$ and $5$. We speculate that the increasing value of $\rho_{xy}$ under zero magnetic field with increasing number of periods in the multilayer samples probably comes from three sources. First, conduction from the dissipative quasi-helical side surface states increases in thicker samples; second, conduction from the dissipative residual bulk carriers increases in thicker samples; and third, tuning the chemical potentials of two surfaces simultaneously into magnetic exchange gaps via a single bottom gate $V_g$ becomes harder in thicker QAH samples. Further studies are needed to clarify which source is dominant in these thick multilayer samples.

The realization of high-C QAH insulators ($C = 1$–$5$) in magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayer structures is further validated by the $V_g$ dependence of $\rho_{xx}^0$ and $\rho_{xy}^0$ at zero magnetic field ($\rho_{xx}^0(0)$ and $\rho_{xy}^0(0)$; Fig. 3). In all five samples, $\rho_{xx}^0(0)$ exhibits distinct plateaux at the quantized value $h/(C^2e^2)$, centred at $V_g = V_g^0$. Accompanying the quantization in $\rho_{xy}^0(0)$, $\rho_{xy}^0(0)$ is greatly suppressed for the $m = 1$–$5$ samples (Fig. 3). The ratio $\rho_{xy}^0(0)/\rho_{xx}^0(0)$ corresponds to anomalous Hall angles of $89.99^\circ$, $89.08^\circ$, $86.17^\circ$, $80.54^\circ$ and $76.55^\circ$ for the $m = 1$–$5$ samples, respectively. Here, we define the critical temperature of the high-C QAH state as that at which $\rho_{xy}^0(0)/\rho_{xx}^0(0) = 1$ (the crossing point between the $\rho_{xy}^0(0)−T$ and $\rho_{xx}^0(0)−T$ curves in Extended Data Figs. 2–6). The critical temperatures are 3.5 K, 2.6 K, 8.3 K, 6.7 K and 6.3 K for the $C = 1$–$5$ samples, respectively.

**Tuning the Chern number in QAH insulators**

We show that the Chern numbers of these QAH insulators can be tuned by controlling either the magnetic doping concentration in the magnetic topological insulator layers or the thickness of the interior magnetic topological insulator layers. We first systematically change the Cr doping concentration in the magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayer structures with alternating $C = 1$ QAH and normal insulator layers (Fig. 1a). We take a $C = 3$ QAH insulator as an example. Three chiral edge channels are shown in real space (left) and momentum space (right) for positive (top) and negative (bottom) magnetization. The blue arrows illustrate the chiral edge channels of the QAH insulators.
of the longitudinal resistance $\rho_{xx}$ multilayer structures for the QAH effect with topological insulator multilayer structures.

Trivial interface states are formed at the interface between the interior and magnetic topological insulator layers. As a result, nontrivial interface states disappear at the trivial regime but also reduces their spin splitting from exchange interaction. As a result, nontrivial interface states disappear at the trivial regime but also reduces their spin splitting from exchange interaction.

Indeed, $\rho_{xy}(0)$ is quantized at $0.996h/e^2$ for $d = 0$ and at $0.996h/e^2$ for $d = 1$ (Fig. 4b). For $d \geq 2$, the interaction between the top and bottom QAH layers is reduced and one more pair of nontrivial interface states emerges (Fig. 4c), resulting in the $C = 2$ QAH effect. In this case, $\rho_{xy}(0)$ is quantized at $0.469h/e^2$ for $d = 2$ and at $0.491h/e^2$ for $d = 4$ (Fig. 4b).
Theoretical simulation

To support our interpretation, we numerically simulated the magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayer structures using a four-band model with Hamiltonian

\[ H(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) = \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) + M(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) \tau_z + B(-i\partial_z) \tau_y \]

\[ = A(\mathbf{k}_\parallel) \sigma_z - k_z \sigma_y + g(z) \sigma_y, \]

where

\[ \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) = C_0 + C_1(-\partial_z^2) + C_2 k_z^2, \]

\[ M(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) = M_0(z) + M_1(-\partial_z^2) + M_2 k_z^2, \]

\[ k_z = (k_x, k_y) \]

is the in-plane momentum, and \( C_0, C_1, C_2, M_0, M_1, M_2, A, B \) and \( g \) are material-dependent parameters. \( M_0 \) is the key parameter that characterizes the inverted \( (M_0 < 0) \) and non-inverted \( (M_0 > 0) \) band structures. The Pauli matrices \( \sigma \) represent spin and orbital degrees of freedom. To simulate multilayer structures with total multilayer thickness \( L \), we considered the eigen-equation

\[ H(\mathbf{k}_\parallel - i\partial_z) \psi_{k_\parallel}(z) = \mathcal{E} \psi_{k_\parallel}(z) \]

with open boundary condition \( \psi_{k_\parallel}(z = 0) = \psi_{k_\parallel}(z = L) = 0 \). We noted above that the Cr doping has two roles. First, it reduces the spin–orbit coupling of the magnetic topological insulator layers and drives their bulk energy gap towards the non-inverted insulator regime (described by \( M_0 \)). Second, it introduces magnetic moments in topological insulators, resulting in a spin splitting (described by \( g \)) due to the exchange coupling. Consequently, we considered the \( z \) dependence of these parameters as

\[ M_0(z), g(z) = \begin{cases} M_0, & z \in \text{Cr-doped topological insulator layer} \\ 0, & z \in \text{undoped topological insulator layer} \end{cases} \]

We numerically solve the eigen-equation and compute the Hall conductance \( \sigma_y \) (Methods). In the following, we focus on the \( m = 2 \) multilayer structure \( L = 17 \) nm to interpret the tunable Chern number observed in our experiments (Fig. 4a, b).
We first study the process of varying the Cr doping concentration. Because Cr dopants primarily affect the parameters $M_i$ and $g$ in the magnetic topological insulator layers, we plot the bulk energy gap of the $m = 2$ multilayer structure as a function of $M_i$ and $g$ (Fig. 4d). The energy-gap closing is depicted by the bright yellow lines, which separate different phases. The process of adding Cr dopants in our experiments qualitatively corresponds to moving from point I to point V along the dashed line in Fig. 4d, which shows that increasing the Cr doping concentration increases $M_i$ and $g$. Our calculation suggests that the Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$ takes the value $e^2/h$ for points I, II and III ($C = 1$) and $2e^2/h$ for points IV and V ($C = 2$), qualitatively reproducing the influence of Cr doping in our experiments (Fig. 4a).

Our simulation provides more insights into the physical mechanism. We find that the Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$ comes predominantly from the interface Dirac bands, that is, the bands that have dispersions similar to those of gapped Dirac fermions and that are spatially localized at the interfaces between the magnetic and undoped topological insulator layers (Supplementary Fig. 5). For the $m = 2$ sample, there are four interfaces, two outer ones and two inner ones (Fig. 4c), and each interface possesses one occupied interface Dirac band. Because each interface Dirac band contributes $e^2/(2h)$ to the total Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$, four Dirac bands add up to $2e^2/h$ ($C = 2$; Fig. 4c, I, Supplementary Fig. 5). On reducing the Cr doping concentration in the magnetic topological insulator layer, two sets of Dirac bands at two inner interfaces penetrate more into the bulk, leading to a gap closing and re-opening with a trivial hybridization gap. After this topological phase transition, the Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$ comes only from the Dirac bands at two outer interfaces (Fig. 4c, I, Supplementary Fig. 6).

Next, we turn to the process of reducing the thickness of the middle magnetic topological insulator layer in the $m = 2$ multilayer sample. As shown in Fig. 4e, reducing $d$ may also induce the topological phase transition from $C = 2$ to $C = 1$ QAH insulators. With appropriate values of $M_i$ and $g$, our calculation indicates that the critical thickness value for the transition lies between 1 nm and 2 nm ($d - 1$ and $d - 2$), which coincides with our experimental observations of the change in Chern number in Fig. 4b.

To summarize, we fabricated alternating magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayer structures and realized QAH insulators with Chern numbers of 1–5. The Chern number in the same sample configuration may be tuned by varying either the magnetic doping concentration in magnetic topological insulator layers or the thickness of the interior magnetic topological insulator layers. The realization of QAH insulators with tunable Chern number elucidates and expands the known topological phases of quantum matter. This advance also provides a platform for demonstrating proof-of-concept applications that exploit the dissipationless chiral edge current of QAH insulators. The greatly reduced contact resistance in high-$C$ QAH devices allows information to be multiplexed over multiple chiral edge channels. The tuning of the Chern number in QAH insulators introduces the channel degree of freedom of chiral edge states and opens up the possibility of using topologically protected and dissipationless chiral edge states to store and transfer quantum information. Finally, magnetic–undoped topological insulator multilayers could enable the discovery and study of many other emergent topological phenomena, such as time-reversal-symmetry-breaking Weyl semimetal phases with only one pair of Weyl nodes and axion electrodynamics.

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Growth of magnetic–undoped topological insulator (TI) multilayer structures

Magnetic TI/TI multilayer structures were fabricated in a commercial MBE system (Scienta Omicron Lab10) with a base pressure lower than 2 × 10⁻¹⁰ mbar. The insulating 0.25-mm SrTiO₃(111) substrates used for growth were first soaked in hot deionized water (about 80 °C) for 1.5 h and then annealed at 982 °C for 3 h in a tube furnace with flowing oxygen. Through this annealing process, the surface of SrTiO₃ substrates was passivated and atomically flat, suitable for the MBE growth of TI films. The heat-treated SrTiO₃(111) substrates were next loaded into the MBE chamber and outgassed at 600 °C for 1 h before the growth of magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples. High-purity Bi (99.999%), Sb (99.9999%), Cr (99.999%) and Te (99.9999%) were evaporated from Knudsen effusion cells. During the growth of the samples, the substrate was maintained at around 230 °C. The flux ratio of Te per (Bi + Sb + Cr) was set to greater than 10 to prevent Te deficiency in the films. The Bi/Sb ratio in each layer was optimized to tune the chemical potential for the entire multilayer near the charge-neutral point. The growth rate for the films was about 0.22ÅL per minute. Epitaxial growth was monitored by in situ reflection high-energy electron diffraction (RHEED) patterns, where the high crystal quality and the atomically flat surface were confirmed by the streaky and sharp 1 × 1 patterns (Extended Data Fig. 1b). No capping layer was involved in the ex situ electrical transport measurements.

Hall bar device fabrication

Magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples on 2 mm × 10 mm SrTiO₃(111) substrates were transferred into a Hall bar geometry using a computer-controlled probe station. The effective area of the Hall bar device is roughly 1 mm × 0.5 mm (Supplementary Fig. 1). The electrical ohmic contacts for transport measurements were made by pressing indium dots on the Hall bar. The bottom gate electrode was prepared by flattening indium spheres on the backside of the SrTiO₃ substrate.

Electrical transport measurements

Transport measurements were conducted using a Quantum Design Physical Property Measurement System (PPMS; 2 K, 9 T) and a Leiden Cryogenics dilution refrigerator (10 mK, 9 T), with the magnetic field applied perpendicular to the plane of the film. The bottom gate voltage Vₒ was applied using a Keithley 2450. The excitation currents used in the PPMS were 1 μA and 1 nA, respectively. The results reported here were reproduced on at least three samples for each Chern number (Extended Data Fig. 8). All magneto-transport results shown were symmetric or anti-symmetric as a function of the magnetic field to eliminate the effect of electrode misalignment. The raw data for Fig. 2 are shown in Supplementary Fig. 2. More transport results are shown in Extended Data Figs. 2–10.

Theoretical simulations and calculations

To numerically solve the eigen-equation for magnetic TI/TI multilayer structures, we expanded the wavefunction of the system as

\[ \psi_{k'}(z) = \sum_{n,\lambda} a_{n,\lambda}(k') \left[ \frac{2}{L} \sin \left( \frac{nnz}{L} \right) \right] |\lambda\rangle, \]

with the basis function

\[ |n,\lambda\rangle = \frac{2}{L} \sin \left( \frac{nnz}{L} \right) |\lambda\rangle, \]

where \( \sin(nnz/L) \) satisfies the open boundary condition \( \psi_{k'}(z = 0) = \psi_{k'}(z = L) = 0 \). \(|\lambda\rangle\) is the basis of the four-band model, \( a_{n,\lambda}(k') \) is the expansion coefficient, \( N \) is the overall normalization factor, and \( n = 1, \ldots, N \). From the eigen-equation and the expansion form, we obtain

\[ \sum_{n,\lambda} a_{n,\lambda}(n,\lambda) |\lambda\rangle \langle H_{\text{ex}}(n,\lambda) |\lambda\rangle = E_a n,\lambda, \]

in which each matrix element is given by

\[ \langle n,\lambda | H_{\text{ex}} | n',\lambda' \rangle = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L \sin \left( \frac{nnz}{L} \right) \sin \left( \frac{nn'z}{L} \right) d\zeta. \]

The parameters \( M_\text{f} \) and \( g \) in the Hamiltonian matrix element \( H_{\text{ex}} \) take different values for the Cr-doped and undoped TI layers; thus, \( H_{\text{ex}} \) is z-dependent. In our calculations, we choose \( \varepsilon = 0, M_\text{f} = -0.28 \text{ eV}, M_\text{f} = 6.86 \text{ eV}^2, M_\text{f} = 44.5 \text{ eV}^2, A = 3.33 \text{ eV} \text{ Å}, B = 2.26 \text{ eV} \text{ Å} \text{ and } N = 50 \). All these parameters are for Bi₂Se₃, from table 4 of ref. 30. As examined in Supplementary Information, the energy dispersion obtained from this model describes our magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples well. We also did the same calculations using the parameters for Sb₂Te₃ (Supplementary Fig. 3) and found phase diagrams qualitatively similar to those shown in Fig. 4d, e.

To confirm the topological property of the system, we computed the Hall conductance \( \sigma_{xy} \) of a few points in Fig. 4d, e, using the Kubo formula

\[ \sigma_{xy} = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_{n=\text{occupied}} C_{xy}(n) \]

and for the Chern number it is calculated by

\[ C_{xy}(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \varepsilon_n - \varepsilon_m \right) \left( \eta_n \partial \varepsilon_n / \partial k_y \right) d\varepsilon_n d\varepsilon_m, \]

where \( \partial \varepsilon_n / \partial k_y \) is the derivative of the band energy with respect to the Fermi level, \( n \) and \( m \) are the band index, and \( \varepsilon_n \) and \( u_n \) are the eigenvalue and eigenvector (corresponding to the periodic part of the Bloch state) for the \( n \)th band.

Data availability

The datasets generated and/or analysed during this study are available from the corresponding authors on reasonable request.

Code availability

The codes used in theoretical simulations and calculations are available from the corresponding authors on reasonable request.

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Author contributions

C.-Z.C. conceived and designed the experiment. Y.-F.Z., L.-J.Z. and Y.-Q.Z. grew the magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples and carried out the PPMS transport measurements, with help from C.-Z.C. K.W. performed the TEM measurements. R.Z., L.-J.Z. and Y.-Q.Z. carried out the dilution transport measurements, with help from M.H.W.C. and C.-Z.C. R.M., J.Y. and C.-X.L. did all calculations and provided theoretical support. Y.-F.Z., R.Z., R.M., C.-X.L. and C.-Z.C. analysed the data and wrote the manuscript, with input from all authors.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to C.-X.L. or C.-Z.C.

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Extended Data Fig. 1 | Characterization of magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples. a, RHEED patterns of the heat-treated SrTiO₃(111) substrate. The reconstruction pattern indicates its atomic flat surface, which is crucial for the MBE growth of the high-quality TI films. b, RHEED patterns of the [3QL Cr-doped (Bi,Sb)₂Te₃–4QL (Bi,Sb)₂Te₃]₂–3QL Cr-doped (Bi,Sb)₂Te₃ sample. The sharp and streaky 1 × 1 patterns indicate the high quality of our magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples. c, d, STEM images of the m = 2 (c) and m = 3 (d) magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples grown on SrTiO₃ substrate (left), accompanied by the energy-dispersive spectroscopy maps of Cr distribution (right).
Extended Data Fig. 2 | Transport results for the $C=1$ sample. a, Dependence of $\rho_{yx}(0)$ (blue squares) and $\rho_{xx}(0)$ (red circles) on $T$. All measurements were taken at $\mu_0 H = 0$ T after magnetic training. b, c, Dependence of $\rho_{yx}$ (b) and $\rho_{xx}$ (c) on $\mu_0 H$, measured at different temperatures and $V_g = V_{g,0}$. d–g, Dependence of $\rho_{yx}$ (d, e) and $\rho_{xx}$ (f, g) on $\mu_0 H$, measured at different gate voltages ($V_g < V_{g,0}$; $V_g > V_{g,0}$), and $T = 25$ mK. When $V_g$ is tuned away from $V_{g,0}$, $\rho_{yx}$ and $\rho_{xx}$ show additional transition features once the external magnetic field changes the polarity. We speculate that these features are probably a result of the heating generated in the dilution fridge and/or the indium contacts used in our samples.
Extended Data Fig. 3 | Transport results for the $C=2$ sample. As in Extended Data Fig. 2, but for the $C=2$ sample.
Extended Data Fig. 4 | Transport results for the $C = 3$ sample. As in Extended Data Fig. 2, but for the $C = 3$ sample.
Extended Data Fig. 5 | Transport results of the \( C=4 \) sample. As in Extended Data Fig. 2, but for the \( C=4 \) sample.
Extended Data Fig. 6 | Transport results of the C = 5 sample. As in Extended Data Fig. 2, but for the C = 5 sample.
Extended Data Fig. 7 | Hall and longitudinal conductance results for the C = 1–5 samples. a–e, Dependence of the longitudinal conductance $\sigma_{xx}$ (red) and Hall conductance $\sigma_{xy}$ (blue) on $\mu_0 H$ for the C = 1–5 samples. All measurements were taken at the charge-neutral point ($V_g = V_g^0$) and $T = 25$ mK.

f–j, Dependence of $\sigma_{xy}(0)$ (blue squares) and $\sigma_{xx}(0)$ (red circles) on gate voltage ($V_g - V_g^0$) for the C = 1–5 samples. All measurements were taken at $T = 25$ mK and $\mu_0 H = 0$ T after magnetic training.
Extended Data Fig. 8 | The high-CQAH effect observed in another group of magnetic TI/TI multilayer samples. a–d, Dependence of \( \rho_{xx} \) (red) and \( \rho_{yx} \) (blue) on \( \mu_0 H \), measured at the charge-neutral point (\( V_g = V_g^0 \)) and \( T = 25 \) mK. \( \rho_{yx} \) displays the quantized values of \( \frac{0.494}{e} \), \( \frac{0.307}{e} \), \( \frac{0.231}{e} \) and \( \frac{0.169}{e} \) for the samples with \( C = 2, 3, 4 \) and 5, respectively. The corresponding \( \rho_{xx} \) values are \( \frac{0.010}{e} \), \( \frac{0.050}{e} \), \( \frac{0.039}{e} \) and \( \frac{0.087}{e} \). \( V_g^0 \) values for the four samples are +15 V (\( C = 2 \)), -3 V (\( C = 3 \)), -15 V (\( C = 4 \)) and +5 V (\( C = 5 \)).

e–h, Dependence of \( \rho_{yx}(0) \) (blue squares) and \( \rho_{xx}(0) \) (red circles) on gate voltage (\( V_g - V_g^0 \)) for the \( C = 2–5 \) samples. All measurements were taken at \( T = 25 \) mK and \( \mu_0 H = 0 T \) after magnetic training.
Extended Data Fig. 9 | Chern number tuned by varying the Cr doping level in magnetic TI layers. a–d, Dependence of $\rho_{xx}$ (red) and $\rho_{yx}$ (blue) on $\mu_0H$ for the $m=2$ sample, with different Cr doping levels $x$. All measurements were taken at the charge-neutral point ($V_g = V_g^0$) and $T = 25$ mK. $\rho_{yx}(0)$ displays the quantized values of $0.969h/e^2$, $0.994h/e^2$, $0.498h/e^2$ and $0.497h/e^2$ for the samples with $x = 0.13$, $0.15$, $0.24$ and $0.35$, respectively. The corresponding $\rho_{xx}(0)$ values are $0.078h/e^2$, $0.002h/e^2$, $0.008h/e^2$ and $0.010h/e^2$. e–h, Dependence of $\rho_{yx}(0)$ (blue squares) and $\rho_{xx}(0)$ (red circles) on gate voltage ($V_g - V_g^0$) for $x = 0.13$, $0.15$, $0.24$ and $0.35$. All measurements were taken at $T = 25$ mK and $\mu_0H = 0$ T after magnetic training.
Extended Data Fig. 10 | Chern number tuned by controlling the thickness of the middle magnetic TI layer. a–d, Dependence of \( \rho_{xx} \) (red) and \( \rho_{yx} \) (blue) on \( \mu_0 H \) for the \( m = 2 \) sample, with different middle magnetic TI layer thicknesses \( d \). All measurements were taken at the charge-neutral point \( (V_g = V_{g,0}) \) and \( T = 25 \text{ mK} \). \( \rho_{yx} \) displays the quantized values of 0.995\( h/e^2 \), 0.996\( h/e^2 \), 0.469\( h/e^2 \), 0.498\( h/e^2 \) and 0.490\( h/e^2 \) for the samples with \( d = 0, 1, 2, 3 \) and 4, respectively. The corresponding \( \rho_{xx} \) values are 0.0001\( h/e^2 \), 0.0009\( h/e^2 \), 0.089\( h/e^2 \), 0.008\( h/e^2 \) and 0.024\( h/e^2 \). e–h, Dependence of \( \rho_{xx}(0) \) (blue squares) and \( \rho_{yx}(0) \) (red circles) on gate voltage \( (V_g - V_{g,0}) \) for \( d = 0, 1, 2, 3 \) and 4. All measurements were taken at \( T = 25 \text{ mK} \) and \( \mu_0 H = 0 \text{ T} \) after magnetic training. Because the \( d = 2 \) sample is near the topological phase transition regime and therefore has a smaller hybridization gap (Fig. 4d), it has a larger \( \rho_{xx} \). For the \( d = 4 \) sample, the larger \( \rho_{xx} \) is probably induced by the enhanced dissipative quasi-helical side surface states and/or residual bulk carriers with increasing sample thickness.