Abstract Submitted
for the DAMOP20 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Anderson localization in a Rydberg composite MATTHEW EILES, ALEX EISFELD, JAN MICHAEL ROST, Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems — We demonstrate the localization of a Rydberg electron in a Rydberg composite, a system containing a Rydberg atom coupled to a structured environment of neutral ground state atoms. This localization is caused by weak disorder in the arrangement of the atoms and increases with the number of atoms M and principal quantum number ν. We develop a mapping between the electronic Hamiltonian in the basis of degenerate Rydberg states and a tight-binding Hamiltonian in the so-called "trilobite" basis, and then use this concept to pursue a rigorous limiting procedure to reach the thermodynamic limit in this system, taken as both M and ν become infinite, in order to show that Anderson localization takes place. This system provides avenues to study aspects of Anderson localization under a variety of conditions, e.g. for a wide range of interactions or with correlated/uncorrelated disorder.

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Date submitted: 31 Jan 2020 Electronic form version 1.4