

First-principles study of the double-dome superconductivity in the kagome material CsV_3Sb_5 under pressure

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Recent high-pressure experiments discovered abnormal double-dome superconductivities in the newly synthesized kagome materials AV_3Sb_5 ($A = \text{K}, \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}$), which also host abundant emergent quantum phenomena such as charge density wave (CDW), anomalous Hall effect, nontrivial topological property, and so on. In this work, by using first-principles electronic structure calculations, we studied the CDW state, superconductivity, and topological property in CsV_3Sb_5 under pressures (< 50 GPa). Based on the electron-phonon coupling theory, our calculated superconducting T_c s are consistent with the observed ones in the second superconducting dome at high pressure, but are much higher than the measured values at low pressure. The further calculations including the Hubbard U indicate that with modest electron-electron correlation the magnetism on the V atoms exists at low pressure and diminishes gradually at high pressure. We thus propose that the experimentally observed superconductivity in CsV_3Sb_5 at ambient/low pressures may still belong to the conventional Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) type, but is partially suppressed by the V magnetism, while the superconductivity under high pressure is fully conventional without invoking the magnetism. We also predict that there are a second weak CDW state and topological phase transitions in CsV_3Sb_5 under pressures. Our theoretical assertion calls for future experimental examination.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A new family of kagome materials AV_3Sb_5 ($A = \text{K}, \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}$) [1] has attracted intensive attentions recently [2–41] due to their abundant emergent quantum phenomena such as superconductivity [4–16], charge density wave (CDW) [14–30], nontrivial topological property [13,26,27], anomalous Hall effect [32–34], and so on. With the decreasing temperature, these kagome materials first undergo a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW transition [14–30], then show another unidirectional charge order with the reduction of rotation symmetry from C_6 to C_2 [28–31], and finally enter the superconducting region ($T_c = 0.9 \sim 2.5$ K) [4–16]. Regarding the characteristics of the superconductivity, different experimental approaches gave distinct results. The thermal conductivity measurement [39] suggests a nodal superconducting gap, but the penetration depth [7] and nuclear magnetic resonance [2] experiments propose a nodeless gap. Meanwhile, the scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) measurement [12] observes the coexistence of nodal and nodeless superconducting gaps. From the theoretical side, the density functional theory (DFT) calculation with the deformation potential approximation indicates that the conventional electron-phonon coupling (EPC) cannot afford the observed superconducting T_c [4]. The DFT plus dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT) calculations also suggest that the local correlation strength in these materials is too

weak to generate unconventional superconductivity [5]. With the absence of long-range magnetic order, but the possible existence of magnetic fluctuations or orbital order [1–3], the superconducting mechanism in these kagome materials is still under debate [2,4–7,11,12,14–16].

Beyond the measurements at ambient pressure, recent high-pressure experiments reported that this family of kagome materials displays similar superconducting behavior under pressure without the structural phase transition [35–41]. The pressure can first suppress the CDW state and meanwhile enhance the superconductivity. After the optimal pressure point, the superconducting T_c starts to decrease and then raises again at higher pressures, forming a second superconducting dome. Among these kagome materials, CsV_3Sb_5 owns the highest superconducting T_c and its T_c completely drops to 0 K around 12 GPa, demonstrating distinct double superconducting domes. The pressure evolution of the superconductivities in these kagome materials needs urgent theoretical elucidation, which may help us understand their superconducting mechanism as well as the relationship among the CDW state, superconductivity, and possible magnetism in the geometrically frustrated materials.

In this work, taking CsV_3Sb_5 as a prototype of these kagome materials, we performed first-principles calculations on the phonon spectra and the EPC strength to study the double-dome superconducting behavior under pressure. Unexpectedly, in the pressure range we investigated (< 50 GPa), the calculated superconducting T_c always keeps nonzero, which is much higher than the observed values at low pressure but agrees well with the measured ones at high pressure.

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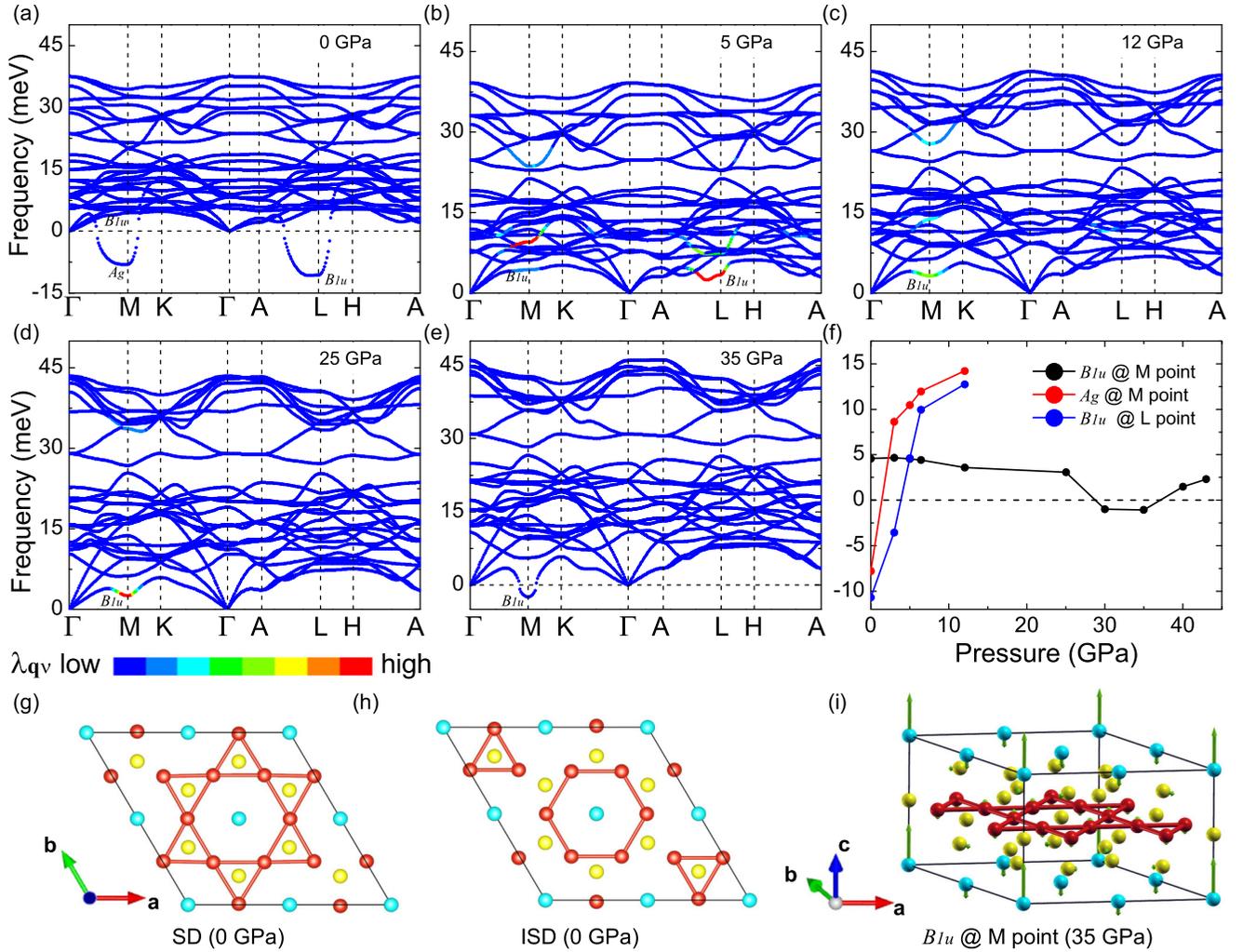


FIG. 1. Phonon spectra of CsV_3Sb_5 at (a) 0, (b) 5, (c) 12, (d) 25, and (e) 35 GPa, respectively. The line colors in the panels (b) to (d) correspond to the moment- and mode-resolved electron-phonon coupling strength λ_{qv} . The B_{1u} and A_g modes at the M point and the B_{1u} mode at the L point are labeled. (f) Pressure evolution of the phonon frequencies of the B_{1u} (black squares) and A_g (red dots) modes at the M point and the B_{1u} mode (blue triangles) at the L point. (g,h) Charge density wave (CDW) distortions for the imaginary A_g mode at the M point under ambient pressure, so called the (g) SD and (h) ISD patterns. The blue, red, and yellow balls represent the Cs, V, and Sb atoms, respectively. The distortion of the B_{1u} mode at the L point is equivalent to a layer by layer stacking of the panels (g) and (h). (i) Distortion for the imaginary B_{1u} mode at the M point under 35 GPa, which is mainly contributed by the movements of Cs atoms along the c axis.

The further DFT + U calculations indicate that the modest electron correlation can induce the magnetism on the V atoms while the pressure can effectively suppress the local magnetic moments. Combining these results, we deduce that it is the magnetism (much likely ferrimagnetism) that restrains the conventional superconducting T_c at ambient/low pressure, forming the first superconducting dome. Our calculations also predict a new weak CDW phase and the topological phase transitions under high pressures, which needs future experimental examination.

II. METHOD

The electronic structure, topological property, and phonon spectra of CsV_3Sb_5 under pressure were investigated based on the DFT [42,43] and density functional perturbation theory (DFPT) [44,45] calculations as implemented in the QUAN-

TUM ESPRESSO (QE) package [46]. The interactions between electrons and nuclei were described by the norm-conserving pseudopotentials [47]. The valence electron configurations were $5s^25p^66s^1$ for Cs, $3s^23p^63d^34s^2$ for V, and $4d^{10}5s^25p^3$ for Sb, respectively. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) [48] type was adopted for the exchange-correlation functional. The kinetic energy cutoff of plane-wave basis was set to be 80 Ry. A $12 \times 12 \times 8$ \mathbf{k} -point mesh was used for the Brillouin zone (BZ) sampling. The Gaussian smearing method with a width of 0.004 Ry was employed for the Fermi surface broadening. The lattice constants were fixed at the experimental values of Ref. [35] for better simulating the experimental situations and the internal atomic positions were fully relaxed until the forces on all atoms were smaller than 0.0002 Ry/Bohr. The unfolded band structure of the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW supercell was calculated with the WANNIERTOOLS package [49]. The

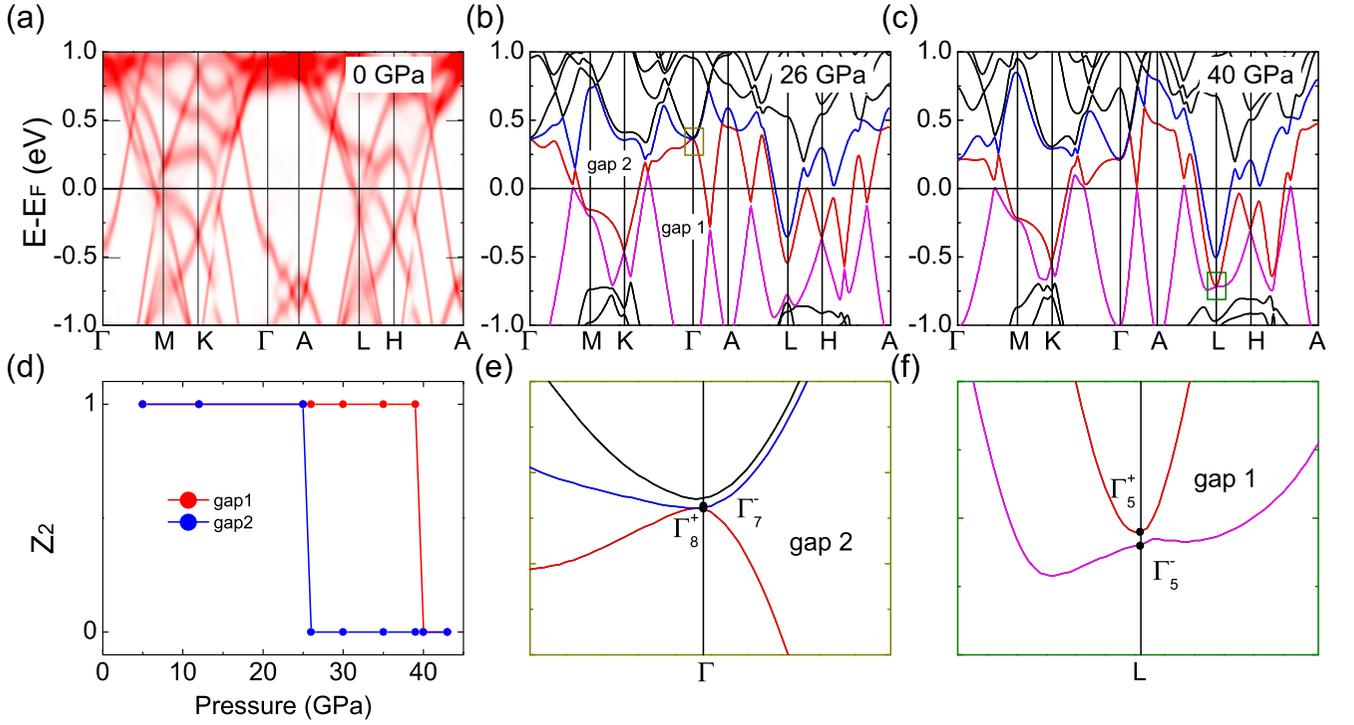


FIG. 2. (a) Unfolded band structure of CsV_3Sb_5 in the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW state with the alternately stacked ISD and SD distortions at 0 GPa. Band structures of CsV_3Sb_5 at (b) 26 GPa and (c) 40 GPa. (d) Calculated topological invariants Z_2 for the occupied states below the gap 1 and the gap 2 under different pressures, respectively. (e,f) Enlarged views of the parity inversion in panels (b) and (c), respectively, where “ Γ_7^- ”, “ Γ_8^+ ”, “ Γ_5^- ”, and “ Γ_5^+ ” are named by the bands’ irreducible representations of the corresponding point groups.

spin-orbit coupling (SOC) was included in the topological property calculations.

The superconductivity in CsV_3Sb_5 was studied based on the EPC theory with the electron-phonon WANNIER (EPW) software [50], which is interfaced with the QE [46] and WANNIER90 [51] packages. The $6 \times 6 \times 4$ \mathbf{k} -mesh and $6 \times 6 \times 2$ \mathbf{q} -mesh were adopted as coarse grids and the $48 \times 48 \times 32$ \mathbf{k} -mesh and $24 \times 24 \times 16$ \mathbf{q} -mesh were utilized as dense grids. The superconducting transition temperature T_c was calculated with the McMillan-Allen-Dynes formula [52,53]

$$T_c = \frac{\omega_{\log}}{1.2} \exp \left[\frac{-1.04(1 + \lambda)}{\lambda(1 - 0.62\mu^*) - \mu^*} \right], \quad (1)$$

where $\lambda = \sum_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \lambda_{\mathbf{q}\nu}$ is the total EPC strength and ω_{\log} is the logarithmic average of the Eliashberg spectral function $\alpha^2 F(\omega)$ [54]

$$\omega_{\log} = \exp \left[\frac{2}{\lambda} \int \frac{d\omega}{\omega} \alpha^2 F(\omega) \ln(\omega) \right], \quad (2)$$

$$\alpha^2 F(\omega) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \delta(\omega - \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}) \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \lambda_{\mathbf{q}\nu}, \quad (3)$$

here $\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}$ is the phonon frequency of the ν th mode at the wave vector \mathbf{q} and μ^* is the effective screened Coulomb repulsion constant, which was empirically set to 0.08 and 0.10 for comparison [55,56].

To study the possible magnetism of the V atoms and the correlation effect among the V- d electrons, we carried out the GGA + U calculations [57] by employing the Vienna *ab initio* Simulation Package (VASP) [58,59]. Several effective

Hubbard U values were adopted to check the influence of electron correlation strength on the magnetism.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We first studied the pressure-suppressed CDW state in CsV_3Sb_5 . Five experimental representative pressure conditions were picked out: 0 GPa (ambient pressure), 5 GPa (the pressure at which the CDW state is suppressed and the first superconducting dome appears), 12 GPa (the pressure at which the first superconducting dome is completely suppressed), and 25/35 GPa (the pressures in the second superconducting dome). Figures 1(a) to 1(e) show the calculated phonon spectra of CsV_3Sb_5 under the above pressures, respectively. At 0 GPa [Fig. 1(a)], the phonon spectra exhibit a large portion of imaginary frequencies around the M point (A_g mode) and the L point (B_{1u} mode), which can induce the experimentally observed $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW state [17]. The corresponding structure distortions are the theoretically proposed patterns of the Star of David [SD, Fig. 1(g)] and inverse Star of David [ISD, Fig. 1(h)] [4]. At 5 GPa, the imaginary phonon modes around the M and L points vanish, indicating that the pressure can suppress the CDW state, which agrees with the previous experimental study [35]. With further increasing pressure, a B_{1u} mode at the M point tends to perform an abnormal softening and eventually transfers to imaginary frequency under high pressure [Figs. 1(c) to 1(e)]. In Fig. 1(f), we summarize the pressure evolution of the frequencies for the B_{1u} mode (black dots) and the A_g mode (red dots) at the M point as well as the B_{1u} mode at the L point (blue dots). Apparently, the CDW

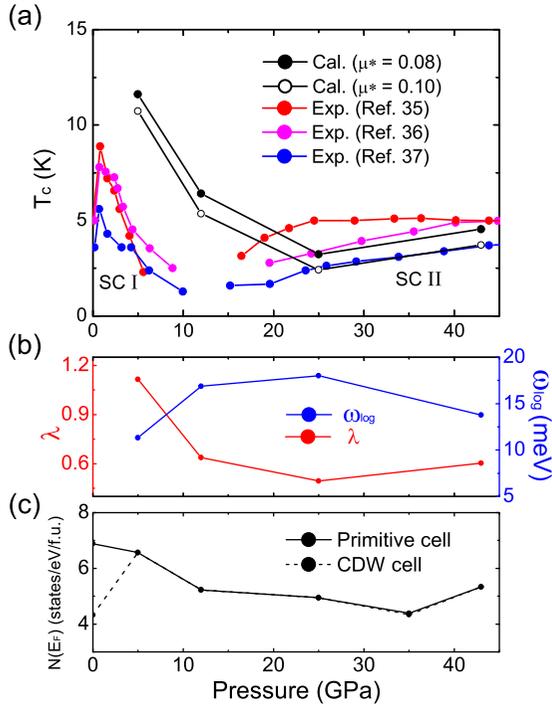


FIG. 3. (a) Superconducting T_c from our EPC calculations (black dots and circles) and previous experiments [35–37] (red, purple, and blue dots) under pressure. The black dots and circles represent the calculation results when the μ^* is set to 0.08 and 0.10, respectively. (b) Calculated total EPC constant λ and logarithmic frequency ω_{\log} . (c) Calculated electronic density of states at the Fermi level $N(E_F)$ before (solid line) and after (dash line) the CDW distortion.

state (CDW I) is completely suppressed around 4 GPa, while a new $2 \times 2 \times 1$ CDW state (CDW II) around 29 ~ 37 GPa is induced, as indicated by the imaginary frequency of the B_{1u} mode at the M point. The structural distortion of this CDW II state is displayed in Fig. 1(i), which mainly consists of the movements of Cs atoms along the c axis. This is quite different from the SD and ISD patterns in the CDW I state, which involve the distortions of V atoms in the ab plane. It is worth noting that although the distortion of the Cs atoms in the CDW II state can exceed 0.1 Å, the corresponding energy gain is very small. Meanwhile, the Cs distortion in the CDW II state has a small influence on the electronic states, as shown in Fig. 3(c) and the Supplemental Material [60]. Thus, the CDW II state cannot effectively affect the superconductivity at high pressure.

Besides the phonon hardening and softening, our calculations also reveal multiple inversions of the electronic bands after the CDW I state [Fig. 2(a)] is suppressed (~ 4 GPa), which changes the topology of the electronic band structure [61]. Specifically, the nontrivial topological invariants Z_2 below two curved band gaps around the Fermi level [13] transform, respectively, from 1 to 0 at 26 GPa and 40 GPa [Fig. 2(d)]. At 26 GPa, the two bands around the gap 2 at the Γ point have a parity inversion [highlighted by yellow block in Fig. 2(b)], as indicated by their irreducible representations of Γ_7^- and Γ_8^+ in the enlarged view of Fig. 2(e). At 40 GPa,

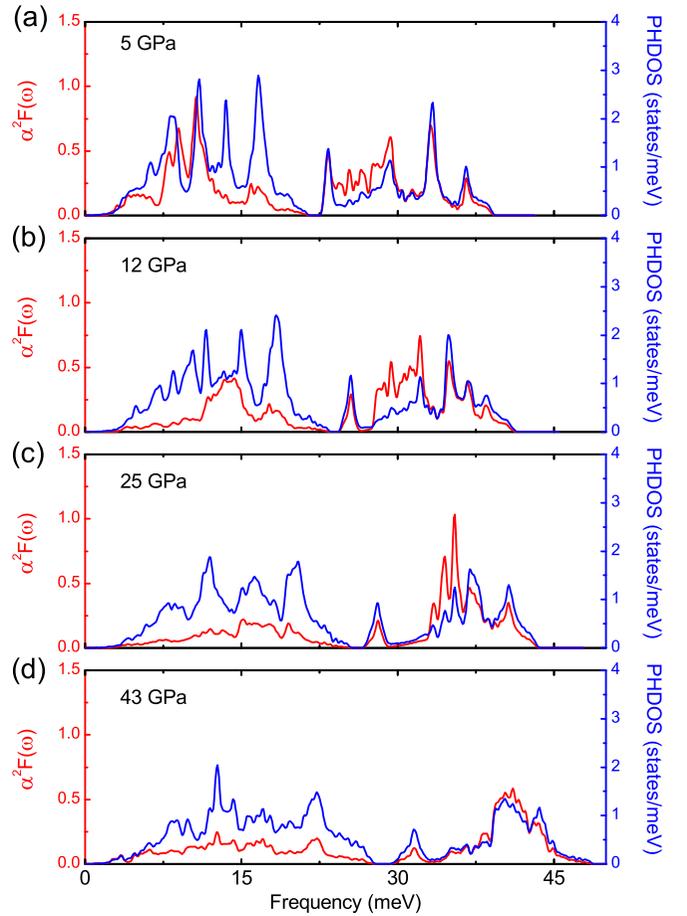


FIG. 4. (a)–(d) Calculated Eliashberg spectral function [$\alpha^2 F(\omega)$] and the phonon density of states (PHDOS) for CsV₃Sb₅ at (a) 5 GPa, (b) 12 GPa, (c) 25 GPa, and (d) 43 GPa, respectively.

the two bands around the gap 1 at the L point perform a parity inversion [highlighted by green block in Fig. 2(c)], as shown by their irreducible representations of Γ_5^- and Γ_5^+ in Fig. 2(f). The nontrivial topological band structure before the transition may thus give rise to the possibility of surface topological superconductivity via the proximate effect due to the superconducting bulk.

Based on the standard EPC calculations and the McMillan-Allen-Dynes formula, we further studied the superconductivity in CsV₃Sb₅ under the selective pressures without the CDW distortion. The calculated superconducting T_c at 5, 12, 25, and 43 GPa are shown in Fig. 3(a). The black dots and circles represent the calculation results with the effective Coulomb repulsion μ^* of 0.08 and 0.10, respectively. The experimental T_c s (red [35], purple [36], and blue [37] dots) are also presented for comparison. At 25 and 43 GPa, our calculated results agree well with previous measurements, indicating that the observed superconductivities around these pressures belong to the conventional BCS type. In contrast, the superconducting T_c s derived from the EPC calculations are much higher than the measured ones at 5 and 12 GPa [35–37], which suggests that some effects are not taken into account in our calculations. We will address this point later. The calculated total EPC strength λ and the logarithmic frequency ω_{\log} are

shown in Fig. 3(b), and the corresponding Eliashberg spectral function $\alpha^2F(\omega)$ and phonon density of states (PHDOS) can be found in Fig. 4. Apparently, the pressure evolution of the EPC strength coincides with the behavior of the superconducting T_c . From the moment- and mode-resolved EPC strength shown in Fig. 1, we can learn that the softening modes around the M and L points contribute most to the EPC. The distinct difference between our calculations and previous measurements at low pressures thus needs further exploration.

A natural thought is that the correlations among the V $3d$ electrons may play some role in the superconductivity at the ambient and low pressures. Although no static magnetic order has been reported for this family of kagome materials [1], there are still some experimental hints for the existence of magnetic interactions, such as the magnetic fluctuations [2,3] and the orbital order [3]. We performed the DFT + U calculations to examine the correlation effect and the possible magnetism on the V atoms with some effective Hubbard U values ranging from 0.5 to 2 eV. In the nonmagnetic case, the Hubbard U only induces slight changes on the electronic, phonon, and superconducting properties, as shown in the Supplemental Material [60]. We further considered several typical collinear or noncollinear magnetic configurations in a $2 \times 2 \times 1$ supercell (See Supplemental Material [60] for details). According to our calculations, the relative stability of the magnetic configurations is sensitive to the choice of Hubbard U strengths. With small U values (0.5 and 1.0 eV), a ferrimagnetic state has lower energy than the nonmagnetic and antiferromagnetic states. Figure 5(a) shows the pressure evolution of the energy difference between the ferrimagnetic state and the nonmagnetic state [$\Delta E = E(\text{FIM}) - E(\text{NM})$]. The corresponding total magnetic moments in the unit cell are between $0.2 \mu_B$ and $0.7 \mu_B$ at ambient pressure, as shown in Fig. 5(b). According to the BCS theory, the existence of the ferrimagnetism or ferrimagnetic fluctuations is harmful to the conventional superconductivity. This may explain the lower observed T_c s than our calculated values at low pressures [Fig. 3(a)]. As the pressure increases, the magnetism on the V atoms can be effectively suppressed [Fig. 5(b)], driving the system to a nonmagnetic state and meanwhile reviving the conventional superconductivity [Fig. 3(a)].

We simplify our opinion by a schematic superconducting phase diagram in Fig. 6. The green region represents the CDW state (CDW I) at ambient pressure. The red and blue regions show the experimentally observed double superconducting domes. The orange line represents our expected conventional EPC superconducting T_c without any magnetism and the black dashed line outlines the pressure-suppressed magnetic state. At ambient/low pressure, the CDW I state can repulse the electronic states around the Fermi level [Fig. 3(c)] and partly suppress the superconductivity [4], which is consistent with the competitive relation between the CDW state and the superconducting state in many CDW materials [62–64]. As shown in Fig. 3(c), our calculated electronic $N(E_F)$ after the CDW distortion is about 4.33 states/eV/f.u.. According to the measured [7] low-temperature Sommerfeld constant γ of 20.03 mJ/(mol \cdot K 2) and the equation: $N(E_F) = 3\gamma/\pi^2k_B^2(1 + \lambda_{ep})$, we can estimate the total EPC constant

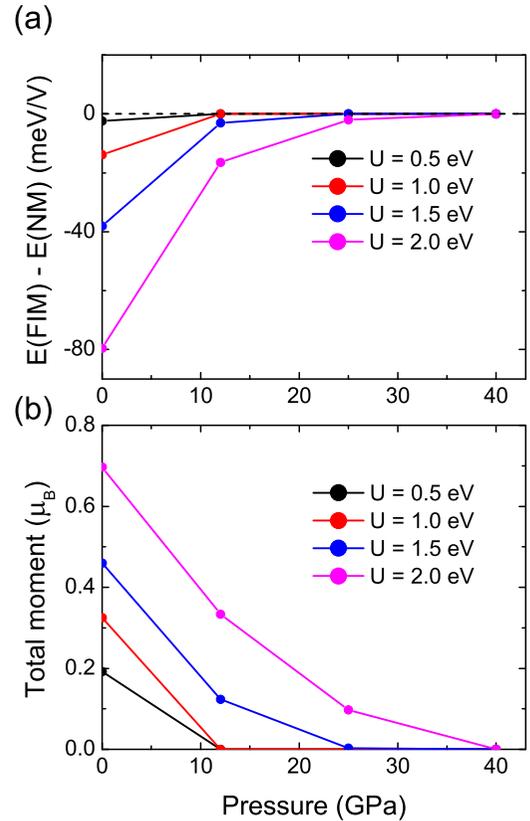


FIG. 5. (a) The pressure-dependent energy differences between the ferrimagnetic state and the nonmagnetic state [$\Delta E = E(\text{FIM}) - E(\text{NM})$] calculated with different Hubbard U values. (b) The corresponding total magnetic moment in a ferrimagnetic unit cell.

λ_{ep} after the CDW distortion at ambient pressure to be 0.96, which indicates a strong EPC superconductivity and a higher superconducting T_c than the experimentally measured values [35–37]. Thus, besides the CDW state, the hidden ferrimagnetism or other possible magnetic phases may restrain the conventional superconductivity. As a result, the observed superconducting T_c s are far below our theoretical expectation (represented by the yellow region) and even completely vanishes with the pressure, forming the first superconducting dome. In fact, the experimental pressure at which the CDW is suppressed (0.8 GPa) [35] is smaller than our calculated one [4 GPa in Fig. 1(f)], which may come from the restrained effect of the magnetism on the CDW state [65,66]. It is also worth noting that the experimentally proposed multiple-type (nodal or nodeless) superconducting gaps [2,7,12,39] may likely be due to the coexistence of the ferrimagnetic fluctuations and the s -wave superconductivities. At high pressure, the magnetism is completely suppressed and the system restores its original conventional superconductivity, forming the second superconducting dome. Interestingly, our nonmagnetic calculation at high pressure also predicts a transitory weak CDW state (CDW II). Nevertheless, its distortion is distinctly different from the CDW I state, which needs future experimental verification.

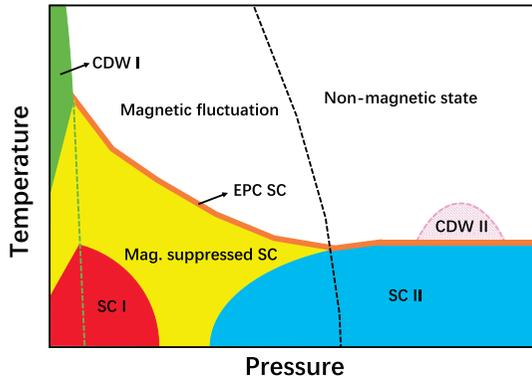


FIG. 6. A schematic superconducting phase diagram of CsV_3Sb_5 . The green region represents the original CDW state. The red and blue regions label the experimentally observed double superconducting domes, respectively. The orange line represents the conventional EPC-derived superconducting T_c without the magnetism. The black dashed line outlines the pressure-suppressed magnetic fluctuation. The yellow region represents the magnetism-suppressed superconductivity. The pink, shaded region covers our predicted second CDW dome.

IV. SUMMARY

In summary, we studied the pressure evolution of the CDW state, superconductivity, and topological properties of the kagome material CsV_3Sb_5 by using first-principles electronic structure calculations. Our calculations show that the CDW distortion in CsV_3Sb_5 is rapidly suppressed at low pressure. The calculated superconducting T_c based on the conventional EPC theory demonstrates an interesting behavior: it decreases

gradually from 5 to 25 GPa (low-pressure range) and stays stable between 25 and 43 GPa (high-pressure range). Our calculated T_c 's in the high-pressure range are in good accordance with the experimental observations, however, the low-pressure values show a distinct difference [35–37]. By performing the DFT + U calculations, we find that the modest electron-electron correlation can induce the magnetism on the V atom and the pressure can effectively suppress it. Based on these results, we deduce that the experimentally observed superconductivity in CsV_3Sb_5 at ambient/low pressure may belong to the conventional BCS type, but are partially suppressed by the magnetism (very likely ferrimagnetism) on the V atoms, while those at high pressure are fully of the BCS type with vanishing local moments. In addition, we also predict a weak $2 \times 2 \times 1$ CDW dome and the topological phase transition from nontrivial to trivial states at high pressures. Our studies may apply to other kagome materials KV_3Sb_5 and RbV_3Sb_5 , which show similar superconducting behaviors [37], and wait for further experimental confirmation.

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