

Coexistence of two intertwined charge density waves in a kagome system

Cong Li,^{1,2,*} Xianxin Wu,^{3,4,*} Hongxiong Liu,^{5,*} Craig Polley,⁶ Qinda Guo,¹ Yang Wang,⁵ Xinloong Han,⁷ Maciej Dendzik,¹ Magnus H. Berntsen,¹ Balasubramanian Thiagarajan,⁶ Youguo Shi,⁵ Andreas P. Schnyder,³ and Oscar Tjernberg^{1,‡}

¹Department of Applied Physics, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm 11419, Sweden

²Department of Applied Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA

³Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1, D-70569 Stuttgart, Germany

⁴CAS Key Laboratory of Theoretical Physics, Institute of Theoretical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

⁵Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China

⁶MAX IV Laboratory, Lund University, 22100 Lund, Sweden

⁷Kavli Institute of Theoretical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China



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Materials with a kagome lattice structure display a wealth of intriguing magnetic properties due to their geometric frustration and intrinsically flat band structure. Recently, topological and superconducting states have also been observed in kagome systems. The kagome lattice may also host a “breathing” mode that leads to charge density wave (CDW) states, if there is strong electron-phonon coupling, electron-electron interaction, or external excitation of the material. This “breathing” mode can give rise to candidate distortions such as the star of David (SoD) or its inverse structure [trihexagonal (TrH)]. To date, in most materials, only a single type of distortion has been observed. Here, we present angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy measurements on the kagome superconductor CsV_3Sb_5 at multiple temperatures and photon energies to reveal the nature of the CDW in this material. It is shown that CsV_3Sb_5 displays two intertwined CDW orders corresponding to the SoD and TrH distortions. These two distinct types of distortions are stacked along the c direction to form a three-dimensional CDW order where the two 2-fold CDWs are phase shifted along the c axis. The presented results provide not only key insights into the nature of the unconventional CDW order in CsV_3Sb_5 , but also an important reference for further studies on the relationship between the CDW and superconducting order.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, the kagome lattice provides an ideal playground to explore quantum magnetism [1–4], such as the quantum spin liquid, owing to the intrinsic flat bands and geometric frustration. Recently, many novel quantum orders have been discussed in the context of kagome systems [5–7] and rich topological phenomena have been discovered in transition-metal-based kagome materials. These materials offer an exotic platform to study correlated quantum states intertwined with nontrivial band topology [8–14]. When considering electron-phonon coupling, electron-electron interaction, or external excitation (such as photoexcitation), the kagome lattice breathing mode can give rise to candidate distortions such as a trihexagonal (TrH) distortion [Fig. 1(e)] and a star-of-David (SoD) distortion [Fig. 1(f)]. So far, only one type of the aforementioned distortions has been observed

at once. For example, the SoD distortion was observed in materials with a so-called 1T polytype structure (such as TaS_2 , TaSe_2 , NbTe_2 , TiSe_2 , TiTe_2 , etc.) [15]. TrH distortion, on the other hand, was reported in KV_3Sb_5 , one member of the recently discovered kagome metal family AV_3Sb_5 ($A = \text{K}, \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}$), promoted by strong electron-phonon coupling [16].

The recently discovered kagome metal family AV_3Sb_5 ($A = \text{K}, \text{Rb}, \text{Cs}$) has attracted tremendous attention since it exhibits a variety of intriguing phenomena, including the giant anomalous Hall effect [17,18] in the absence of magnetic order [19], topologically nontrivial electronic structures [20–24], an unconventional charge density wave (CDW) [23,25–44], and a rare occurrence of superconductivity in a kagome system [20,21,45–48]. The CDW phase transition in AV_3Sb_5 occurs at 78–103 K and its highly unconventional nature was derived from recent experiments [49]. A 2×2 in-plane distortion in the V kagome layers was observed in scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) experiments and magnetic-field-dependent measurements further suggested a chiral CDW order [20,25,49]. Direct evidence of time-reversal-symmetry breaking in the CDW phase was provided in recent muon spin relaxation (μSR) measurements [50]. It indicates that the CDW order may be intimately related to an anomalous Hall effect [18] and unconventional superconductivity [27,32,45,46,51–53]. Besides the in-plane distortion, the CDW order turns out to possess three-dimensional (3D)

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

†Corresponding author: conli@kth.se

‡Corresponding author: oscar@kth.se

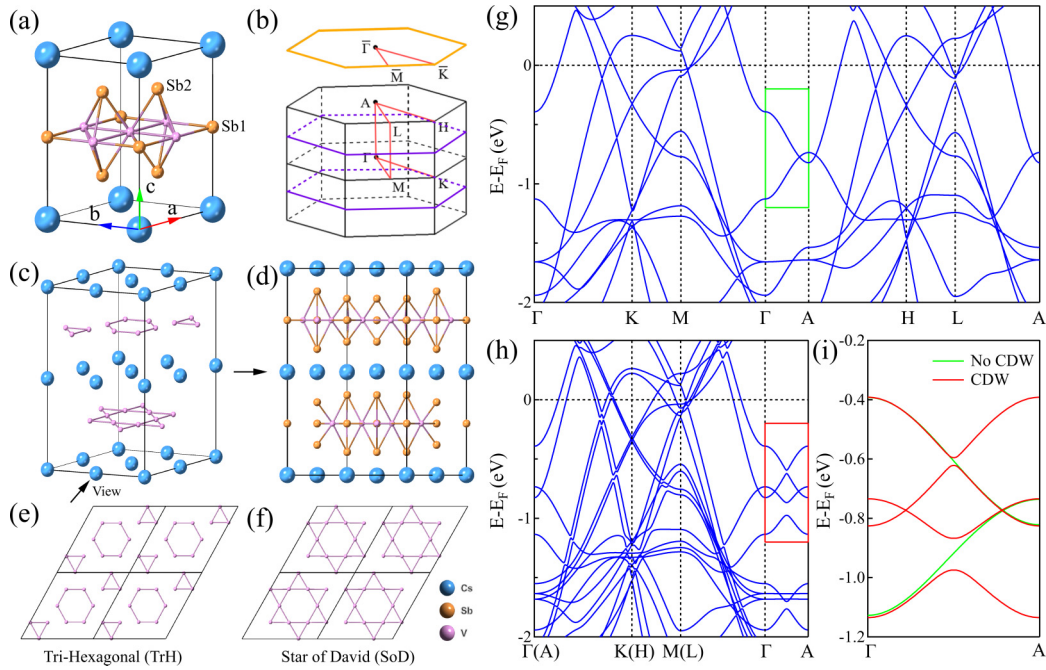


FIG. 1. Crystal structure and band structure calculations of CsV_3Sb_5 . (a) The crystal structure of CsV_3Sb_5 with a space group $P6/mmm$. The Sb atom in the V-Sb plane is labeled as Sb1, and the Sb atom outside the V-Sb plane is labeled as Sb2. (b) Three-dimensional Brillouin zone (BZ) of the original unit cell (black lines) and considering a two-fold reconstruction along the c axis (purple lines) of CsV_3Sb_5 , and the corresponding two-dimensional BZ projected on the (001) plane (orange lines) in the pristine phase in (a). (c) One unit cell of CsV_3Sb_5 , considering the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction due to the CDW. To get a clear view of the V atoms in the kagome layer, the Sb atoms are removed from it. (d) The side view of (c) but retaining Sb atoms, where their distortion along the c axis is exaggerated. [(e), (f)] Two different distortions of V atoms in the kagome layer due to the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction caused by the CDW: (e) trihexagonal (TrH)-like distortion and (f) star-of-David (SoD)-like distortion. [(g), (h)] Calculated band structure of CsV_3Sb_5 along high-symmetry directions across the Brillouin zone (g) without and (h) with considering the two-fold lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW. (i) The zoom-in of the band structure along the Γ -A direction with (red curves) and without (green curves) considering the two-fold lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW.

character: a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction is revealed by STM [32], hard x-ray scattering [54], and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) [55] measurements and even a $2 \times 2 \times 4$ lattice reconstruction is suggested in CsV_3Sb_5 [36,37].

In this article, we present angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) measurements and band structure calculations to investigate the effect of the CDW order on the electronic structure of CsV_3Sb_5 . We find evidence for a 3D CDW order with a possible four-fold lattice reconstruction along the c direction, after excluding a surface state associated with a Cs covered surface, which was previously believed to be quantum well states [56] or band folding effects due to a CDW order along the c direction [40]. Combined with band calculations, we provide the first strong evidence that the 3D CDW configuration originates from the coexistence of SoD and TrH distortions in adjacent kagome layers. The results provide key insights into the origin of the unconventional CDW in CsV_3Sb_5 and also a reference for further studies on the relationship between the CDW and superconductivity.

II. DISCUSSION

CsV_3Sb_5 has a layered crystal structure with the space group $P6/mmm$ (No. 191). The vanadium atoms form a kagome lattice that consists of a two-dimensional network of corner-sharing triangles, which are intercalated by Sb atoms

forming a honeycomb lattice. The V_3Sb_5 kagome planes are separated by layers of Cs ions forming triangular networks [Fig. 1(a)]. Below the CDW transition temperature ($T_{\text{CDW}} = 94$ K) of CsV_3Sb_5 , the vanadium kagome planes exhibit a 2×2 reconstruction suggested by STM measurements [27,46,57]. There are two possible distortions: a TrH distortion [Fig. 1(e)] or a SoD distortion [Fig. 1(f)]. SoD-like (TrH-like) distortions in the kagome layer will further induce a positive (negative) out-of-plane A_{1g} distortion mode of Sb2 atoms, as shown in Fig. 1(d), implying an intrinsic 3D feature of the CDW order. As a matter of fact, recent experiments suggest a 3D $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction [32,54,55]. Although the details of this 3D reconstruction are still lacking, it may be related to the distinct distortions in the adjacent kagome layers. Figure 1(c) displays one possible configuration with alternating stacking of SoD and TrH distortions. To illustrate the effect of CDW order on the electronic structure, we first show the normal electronic structure in Fig. 1(g) from density functional theory (DFT) calculations (the orbital-resolved band structure is shown in Fig. S1 in the Supplemental Material [58]). In the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW order phase, there is in-plane and out-of-plane folding and the folded bands are displayed in Fig. S2 in the Supplemental Material [58]. Here, we focus on the folding solely along the c axis. When the lattice is doubled along the c axis in CsV_3Sb_5 , which is introduced artificially in our calculations by moving the Cs atoms along the c axis, the

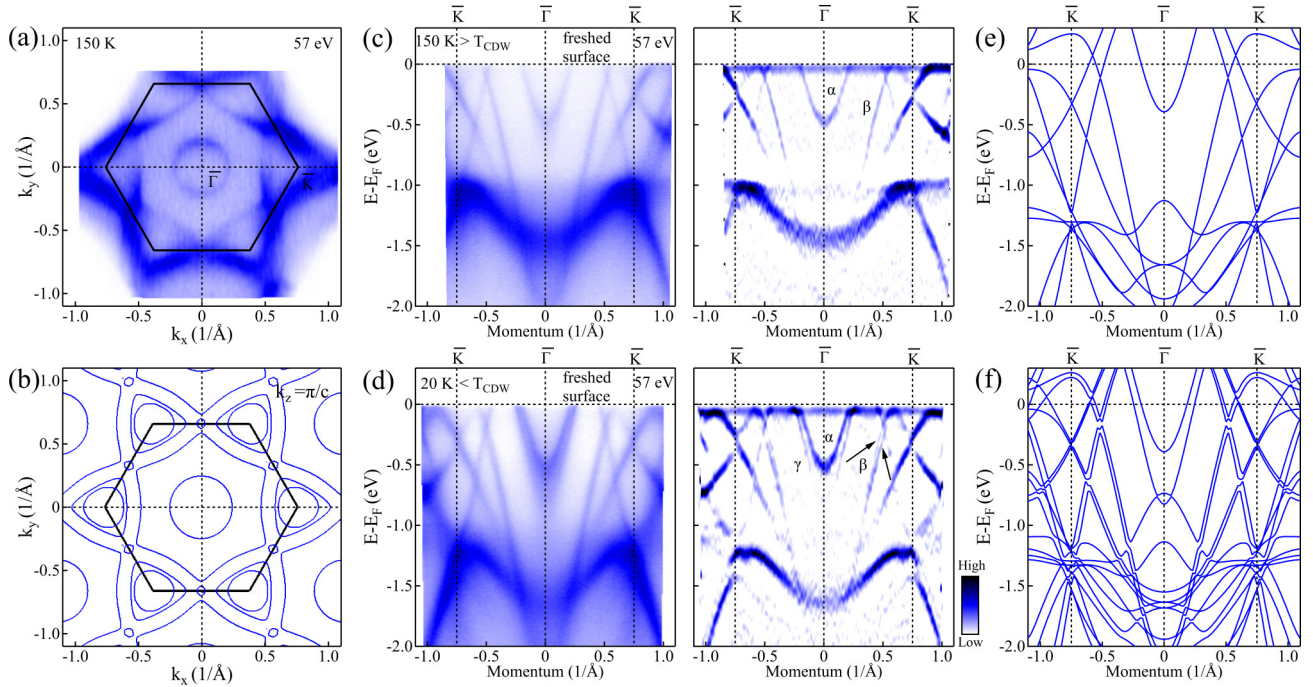


FIG. 2. Fermi surface mapping and band structures of CsV_3Sb_5 . (a) The Fermi surface mapping of CsV_3Sb_5 measured at 150 K with a photon energy of 57 eV. (b) Calculated Fermi surface of CsV_3Sb_5 at the $k_z = \pi/c$ plane. The BZ is defined by black solid lines. [(c), (d)] The band structures (left side) and the corresponding energy distribution curve (EDC) second derivative image along the $\bar{K}$ - $\bar{\Gamma}$ - $\bar{K}$ direction measured at (c) 150 K and (d) 20 K with the photon energy of 57 eV. The sample in (c) is cleaved at 150 K, and the sample in (d) is cleaved at 20 K. [(e), (f)] Calculated band structure of CsV_3Sb_5 along the $\bar{K}$ - $\bar{\Gamma}$ - $\bar{K}$ direction (e) without and (f) with considering the two-fold lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW.

band structure in the $k_z = \pi/c$ plane will be folded onto the $k_z = 0$ plane, as shown in Fig. 1(h). Moreover, by comparing the band structure along the $\bar{\Gamma}$ -A direction in Fig. 1(i), with the CDW order (red curves) and without (green curves), we can identify band doubling and the folding gap at $k_z = \pi/2c$, with the latter being smoking-gun evidence for a 3D CDW order.

Figure 2 displays the comparison between ARPES measurements and DFT calculated electronic structure of CsV_3Sb_5 . Figure 2(a) shows the Fermi surface map of CsV_3Sb_5 measured at 150 K with a photon energy of 57 eV. A circular pocket centered at the BZ center can be identified as well as two triangular holelike pockets around $\bar{K}$. By comparing with DFT calculations (Fig. S1 in the Supplemental Material [58]), we find that the singular Fermi pocket around the BZ center is mainly originating from the p_z orbital of the Sb atoms. Figure 2(b) shows the calculated Fermi surface at $k_z = \pi/c$ for the pristine crystal structure in Fig. 1(a), which is consistent with the Fermi surface observed in Fig. 2(a). Figures 2(c) and 2(d) show the measured band structure along the $\bar{K}$ - $\bar{\Gamma}$ - $\bar{K}$ direction for temperatures above [150 K, Fig. 2(c)] and below [20 K, Fig. 2(d)] the CDW transition temperature ($T_{\text{CDW}} = 94$ K). Both measurements are performed on freshly cleaved surfaces. However, no folding of the band structure [Fig. 2(d)] or Fermi surface reconstruction (Fig. S3 in the Supplemental Material [58]) due to the 2×2 in-plane CDW at 20 K is discernible. This is despite the fact that this reconstruction was observed in several STM measurements [27,32,46,57]. To date, no ARPES measurement has reported on the observation of an in-plane CDW folding in CsV_3Sb_5 . Only in KV_3Sb_5 has this been reported [43]. This

may suggest a weaker in-plane CDW folding in CsV_3Sb_5 . Further comparing Figs. 2(c) and 2(d), it is observed that only one electronlike band [α band in Fig. 2(c)] can be discerned in the vicinity of the BZ center at 150 K [Fig. 2(c)], but two electronlike bands [α and γ bands in Fig. 2(d)] can be observed at 20 K [Fig. 2(d)]. In addition, it is noted that when the temperature is lowered from 150 to 20 K, the β band splits into two bands. To understand our observations, we performed DFT band structure calculations without [Fig. 2(e)] and with [Fig. 2(f)] the two-fold lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW. It can be noted that all bands in Fig. 2(c) can be well explained by Fig. 2(e). When the temperature drops below the CDW transition temperature, the splitting of the β band in Fig. 2(d) can be interpreted as a band folding due to the CDW along the c axis [Fig. 2(f)]. Moreover, we see that the γ band around the BZ center in Fig. 2(d) is similar in energy position to the folded band induced by the CDW in Fig. 2(f). This band has been observed by several other groups using various photon energies [40,56], but its origin is still under debate. There are mainly two explanations: CDW folding along the c axis [40], or quantum well states due to quantum confinement [56].

To further reveal the origin of the γ band in Fig. 2(d), we performed detailed photon-energy-dependent measurements, as shown in Fig. 3. First, we examine the band structure close to the $\bar{\Gamma}$ point along the $\bar{K}$ - $\bar{\Gamma}$ - $\bar{K}$ direction for the sample cleaved at low temperature (20 K), as shown in the top panel of Fig. 3. Figure 3(a) shows the photon-energy-dependent ARPES spectral intensity map at a binding energy of 0.2 eV along the $\bar{K}$ - $\bar{\Gamma}$ - $\bar{K}$ direction measured at 20 K. The

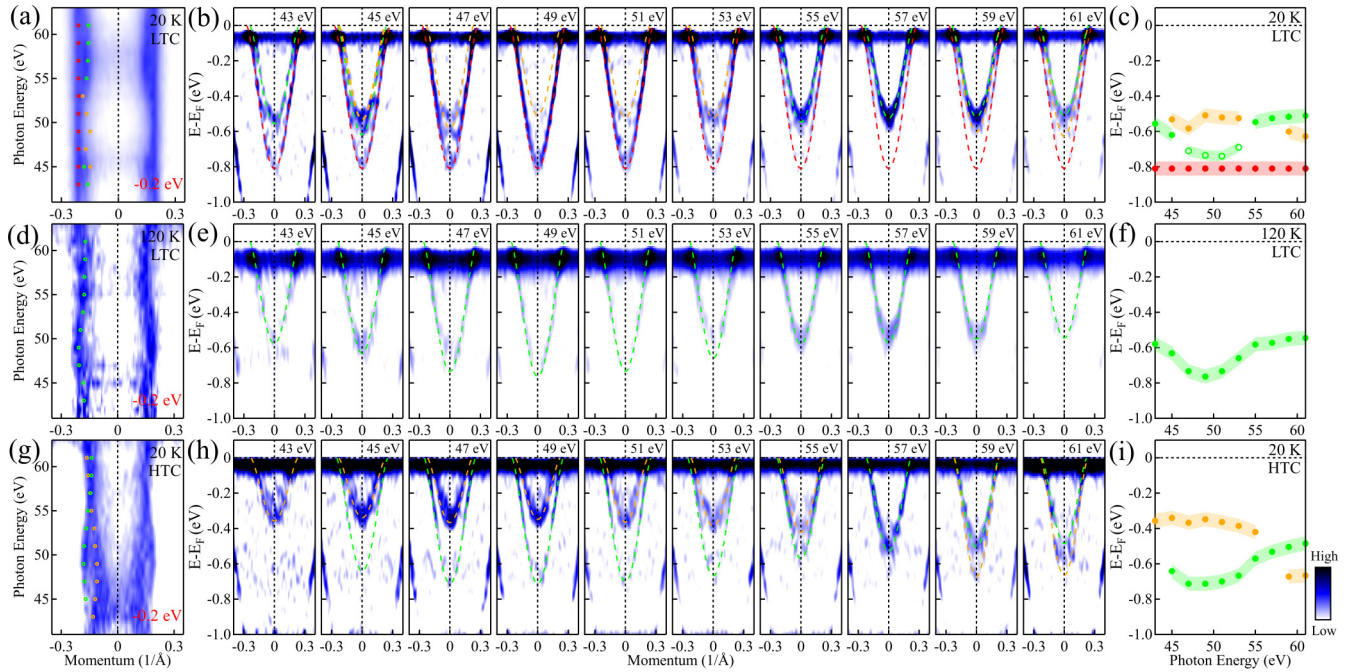


FIG. 3. Photon-energy-dependent electronic structures of CsV_3Sb_5 . (a) Photon-energy-dependent ARPES spectral intensity map at the binding energy of 0.2 eV along the $\bar{K}-\bar{\Gamma}-\bar{K}$ direction measured at 20 K with the samples of low-temperature (20 K) cleave (LTC). (b) Band structure around the BZ center measured with a series of photon energies from 43 to 61 eV. Main subbands are labeled by the red (surface states), green (original bands), and orange (CDW folding bands) dashed lines (guide to the eye). (c) The extracted band bottoms (solid circles) from the main subbands in (b), where the line width represents the error bar. [(d)–(f)] Similar measurements as in (a)–(c), but acquired at a sample temperature of 120 K. [(g)–(i)] Similar measurements as in (a)–(c), but with the sample cleaved at 150 K and subsequently cooled to 20 K for the measurements. The green open circles in (c) are the extracted band bottoms by the EDC analysis in Fig. S4 in the Supplemental Material [58], which are hard to distinguish from surface states in (b). The red, green, and orange open circles in (a), (d), and (g) are the momentum positions for the bands extracted from panels (b), (e), and (h), respectively, at a binding energy of 0.2 eV.

corresponding photon-energy-dependent band structure is shown in Fig. 3(b). Partially observable bands are labeled by red, green, and orange dashed lines in Fig. 3(b) (for the detailed energy distribution curve (EDC) analysis see Fig. S4 in the Supplemental Material [58]). The corresponding band minima from Fig. 3(b) are summarized in Fig. 3(c), where one prominent feature is that the red band has almost no dispersion along k_z . The bands' momentum positions at a binding energy of 0.2 eV are extracted from Fig. 3(b) and displayed in Fig. 3(a) with red, green, and orange open circles. Figures 3(d)–3(f) show similar data as Figs. 3(a)–3(c) but at a temperature of 120 K. At this temperature, it is evident that only one band in the vicinity of the $\bar{\Gamma}$ point can be observed and the red dashed band in Fig. 3(b) is absent in Fig. 3(e) (for the detailed EDC analysis see Fig. S5 in the Supplemental Material [58]). This also becomes clear by comparing the photon-energy-dependent ARPES spectral intensity maps for the two temperatures shown in Figs. 3(a) and 3(d). Furthermore, the bottom of the band marked in Fig. 3(e) has a clear photon-energy dependence and reaches an energy minimum at a photon energy around 49 eV. The temperature dependence of the bands around $\bar{\Gamma}$ in samples cleaved at low temperature further motivates us to carry out additional measurements at low temperature for the sample cleaved at high temperature (150 K). The data are shown in Figs. 3(g)–3(i). By comparing Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) and Figs. 3(g) and 3(h) we are looking at data collected at the same temperature (20 K) but for samples

with different cleave temperatures. It is clear that the red dashed band around the $\bar{\Gamma}$ point can only be observed in the sample cleaved at low temperature (20 K) and not in the sample cleaved at high temperature (150 K). This clearly indicates that the γ band in Fig. 2(d) does not originate from the CDW order. In addition, the γ band in Fig. 2(d) also cannot be attributed to quantum well states from quantum confinement, as they should be observed in all measurements independent of cleave and measurement temperature. We believe that the γ band is most likely a surface state due to its nondispersive nature along the k_z direction [red open circle in Fig. 3(a)]. To confirm this, we performed theoretical calculations for a slab of CsV_3Sb_5 with two distinct terminations (Cs or Sb) and the band structure can be found in Fig. S6 in the Supplemental Material [58]. The surface state in blue (Fig. S6(b) in the Supplemental Material [58]) around $\bar{\Gamma}$ is mainly attributed to surface Sb1 atoms on the Cs-terminated surface. It is below the bulk bands in energy owing to the electron doping from the top Cs surface layer. This surface is consistent with the γ band in Figs. 2(d) and 3(b) in our measurement. Many STM measurements show that there are two types of terminated surfaces in CsV_3Sb_5 : a hexagonal lattice that is attributed to the Cs layer, and a honeycomblike surface structure ascribed to the Sb layer [27,46,57]. However, the Cs surface layer is unstable, often resulting in randomly distributed Cs atoms prone to clustering [57], and they can escape from the surface at high temperatures. This process is irreversible and leads to

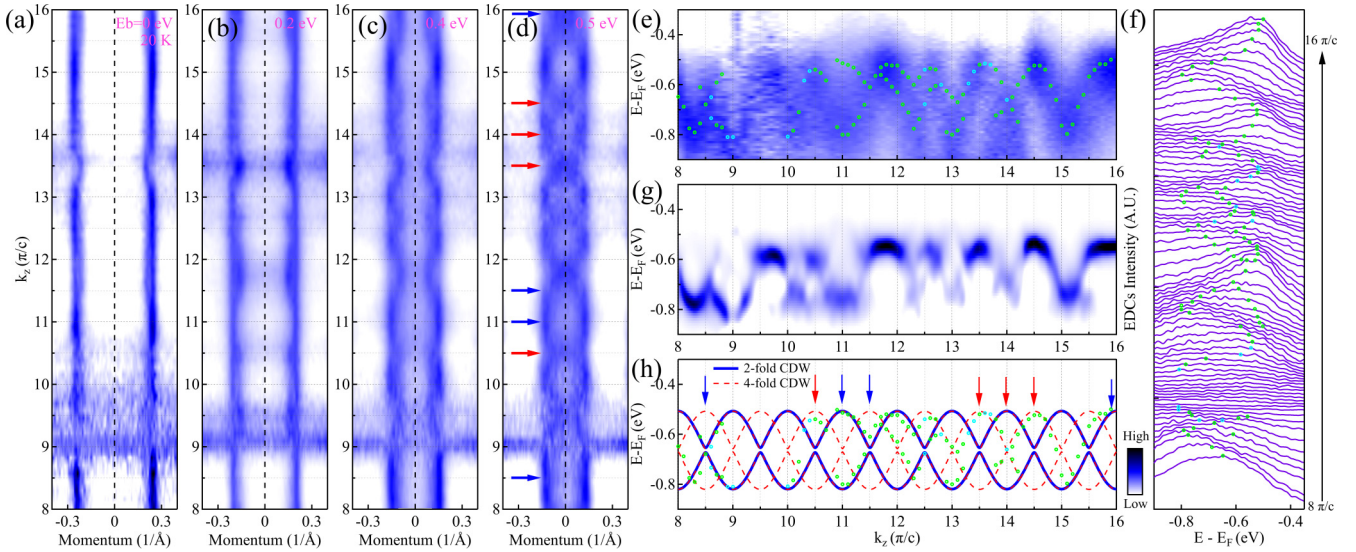


FIG. 4. Electronic structure folding due to the CDW along the c axis. [(a)–(d)] Photon-energy-dependent measurements of CsV₃Sb₅ crossing the zone center along the $\bar{K}$ – Γ – $\bar{K}$ direction at a binding energy of (a) 0 eV, (b) 0.2 eV, (c) 0.4 eV, and (d) 0.5 eV. (e) The band structure along the k_z direction around the BZ center. The EDC intensities are normalized in the range of -0.8 to -0.5 eV. The green and cyan open circles mark the peak positions of the main subbands which are extracted from (f) by fitting EDCs with Lorentzian curves (green open circles) combined with manually determining the position of local extrema in some regions (cyan open circles) where fitting was difficult. (f) The EDC stack of (e) but without intensity normalized. (g) The corresponding EDC curvature image of (e) [60]. For comparison purposes, the extracted peak positions of the main subbands of (f) are replotted in (h). The blue solid (red dashed) curves are the calculated band structures along the k_z direction around the BZ center when considering two-fold (four-fold) lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW. In order to reach a quantitative agreement with the experimental data, we have rescaled the calculated band structures in energy with a factor 0.72 and introduced an energy shift of -0.225 eV. The blue (red) arrows in (h) mark the band features that can be explained by blue (red dashed) lines. The corresponding arrows are also labeled in (d).

dominantly Sb-terminated surfaces at high temperature. Therefore, the surface states of the Cs-terminated surfaces are usually not observed, either at high measurement temperatures for samples cleaved at a low temperature or at low measurement temperatures for samples cleaved at a high temperature. From the above three measurements [Figs. 3(b), 3(e) and 3(h)], we can infer that the bands labeled by the green dashed line are the original bands and the bands labeled by the orange dashed line are directly related to the CDW order. We also notice that the bands caused by the CDW folding in Figs. 3(h)–3(i) exhibit an energy shift towards the Fermi level relative to the CDW folded bands in Figs. 3(b) and 3(c), which may be attributed to hole doping from the escape or oxidation of surface Cs atoms at high temperature [59].

After having identified the surface state, we study the band folding along k_z in the CDW ordered state. According to the above analysis, the photon energy near 49 eV in Fig. 3(e) should correspond to the A point in the BZ, from which the inner potential V_0 of CsV₃Sb₅ is estimated to be approximately 7.3 eV. We then convert the photon-energy-dependent ARPES spectral intensity map (Fig. S7 in the Supplemental Material [58]) into a Fermi surface map along the k_z direction. Figures 4(a)–4(d) show constant energy maps around the BZ center along the k_z and $\bar{K}$ – Γ – $\bar{K}$ directions at binding energies of 0, 0.2, 0.4, and 0.5 eV, respectively. It is evident that these contours show a periodic variation along the k_z direction. Figure 4(e) displays the band structure along the k_z direction close to the BZ center (the corresponding photon-energy-dependent spectra for photoemission intensity at the BZ center are shown

in Fig. S8 in the Supplemental Material [58]). Due to matrix element effects and variations in the beam intensity at different photon energies, we perform intensity normalization of the measured data based on the intensity in the energy range of -0.8 to -0.5 eV to make the EDC intensities at different photon energies uniform. Figure 4(f) shows stacked EDCs extracted from the original band structure along the k_z direction without normalization. The green and cyan open circles mark the peak position of main subbands in Fig. 4(e) which are extracted from Fig. 4(f). To better distinguish the features described, we replot Fig. 4(e) [Fig. S9(a)] and Fig. 4(f) [Fig. S9(c)] in Figs. S9(b) and S9(d) in the Supplemental Material [58] but remove the green and cyan open circles from them. Figure 4(g) shows the corresponding EDC curvature image of Fig. 4(e) [60], with renormalization around -0.8 eV. The extracted peak positions of main subbands of Fig. 4(f) are replotted in Fig. 4(h) together with bands from the theoretical calculations. The blue solid curves are the calculated band structures along the k_z direction close to the BZ center with a doubling of the unit cell along c , simulating the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW order. The observed band folding around $k_z = 8.5\pi/c$, $11\pi/c$, and $11.5\pi/c$, labeled by blue arrows, is consistent with calculations. However, the bands marked by red arrows in Fig. 4(h), especially the appearance of folding at $k_z = n\pi/c$ (n is an integer), cannot be explained by the folding from a doubling of the unit cell along the c axis. Their $\pi/2c$ shift relative to the blue curves further motivates us to consider a quadrupling of the unit cell along c in the CDW phase and the corresponding bands due to this four-fold folding are shown

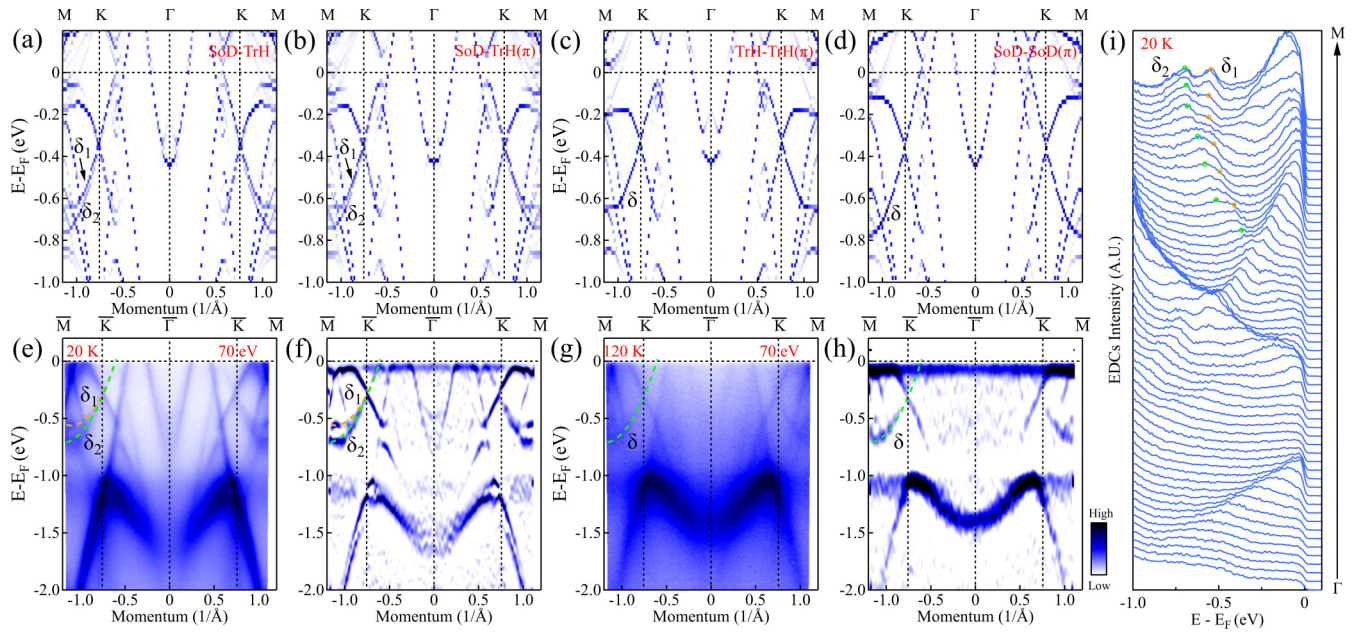


FIG. 5. Distinguishing the CDW configurations that result in a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction in CsV_3Sb_5 . [(a)–(d)] Calculated band structure of CsV_3Sb_5 along the $M-K-\Gamma-K-M$ direction when considering the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ lattice reconstruction due to the CDW with (a) alternate stacking of SoD- and TrH-like distortions along the c axis, (b) the alternate stacking of SoD- and TrH-like distortions with in-plane π phase shift along the c axis, (c) the alternate stacking of the TrH-like distortions and its in-plane π phase shift, and (d) the alternate stacking of the SoD-like distortions and its in-plane π phase shift. [(e), (g)] Band structure along the $M-K-\Gamma-K-M$ direction measured at (e) 20 K and (g) 120 K with a photon energy of 70 eV. [(f), (h)] The corresponding EDC second derivative image of (e) and (g). (i) The corresponding EDC stacking of (e). The green and orange open circles mark the peak positions of the main subbands.

as dashed red curves in Fig. 4(h). In this case, the bands at $k_z = 10.5\pi/c$, $13.5\pi/c$, $14\pi/c$, and $14.5\pi/c$ are consistent with calculations. Thus, the experimental bands along k_z close to the BZ center [green and cyan open circles in Fig. 4(h)] can be well explained [red dashed lines in Fig. 4(h)] within the range of experimental error. The observed band dispersion from our ARPES measurements is the direct evidence for the 3D nature of a CDW order with a possible quadrupling of the unit cell along the c axis in CsV_3Sb_5 . At the same time, we note that if there is a four-fold lattice reconstruction along the c direction, we should observe four separate bands at some photon energy. Most likely due to finite resolution, we are not able to resolve them all in our measurements. In addition, we also note that ARPES is a surface-sensitive technique, but at the same time, it is also an ideal technique to look at the electronic band structure—the fundamental property of matter driving CDW phenomena. We find that our observation of the possible four-fold lattice reconstruction along the c axis due to the CDW is consistent with previous x-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements that observed clear peaks at Miller indices $L = 0.25$ or 0.75 [36,61] and NMR measurements [37].

The above observation of the out-of-plane band folding directly demonstrates the 3D nature of the CDW order. The SoD-like (TrH-like) distortions in the V kagome layer can induce a positive (negative) out-of-plane A_{1g} distortion mode on Sb2 atoms, which naturally introduces interlayer coupling between distorted kagome layers. These distortions further couple with Sb1 p_z orbitals along the c axis, resulting in the observed band folding along the $\Gamma-A$ direction. Moreover, the observed small folding gap indicates that the distortion along the c axis in the CDW phase couples weakly with the Sb1 p_z

orbital and is related to a different stacking of distortions in the V kagome layers.

With permutations of SoD-like and TrH-like distortions of kagome layer along the c direction, two kinds of stacking can occur. The first one is the alternate stacking of the SoD-like and TrH-like distortions along the c axis (case 1), leading to a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ CDW order, as shown in Figs. S2(a) and S2(b) in the Supplemental Material [58]. The other case is the alternating stacking of the SoD-like (TrH-like) distortions with an in-plane π phase shift (case 2), as shown in Fig. S2(c) (TrH-like) and Fig. S2(d) (SoD-like) in the Supplemental Material [55,58]. However, different stacking will lead to distinctly folded bands along the c axis. In contrast to the same out-of-plane distortion for each layer in case 2, the opposite out-of-plane distortions between adjacent layers in case 1 induce stronger charge modulation along the c axis, leading to a stronger k_z folding. It is also confirmed by theoretical calculations that the folding gaps of the Sb p_z band at $k_z = \pi/2c$ are larger in case 1. Moreover, the band structure in these two cases exhibits different behavior around the M point in the BZ, as shown in Figs. 5(a)–5(d). For case 1, the δ band around the M point splits into two bands (δ_1 and δ_2 bands) [Figs. 5(a) and 5(b)] due to the CDW order, but for case 2, the δ band does not split [Figs. 5(c) and 5(d)]. According to our ARPES measurements, it can be clearly observed that there are two bands (δ_1 band and δ_2 band) around the M point at 20 K [Figs. 5(e) and 5(f) and Fig. 5(i)] but only one band (δ band) around the M point at 120 K [Figs. 5(g) and 5(h)]. Thus, it can be inferred that the emergent δ_1 band at 20 K [Figs. 5(e) and 5(f) and Fig. 5(i)] is the band folding due to the CDW. By comparing our measurements [Figs. 5(e) and 5(f)] with band calculations

[Figs. 5(a)–5(d)] and combining the observed prominent k_z folding [Fig. 4(h)], it can be inferred that the 3D CDW order may originate from the alternating stacking of the SoD- and TrH-like distortions along the c axis. Furthermore, a “TTSS” (T, TrH; S, SoD) or “TTSS” (“TTSS,” “TTSS,” “TTSS,” “TSTS,” “TSTS”) ($\bar{T}$, TrH with π phase in-plane shift; $\bar{S}$, SoD with π phase in-plane shift) stacking will result in a quadrupled unit cell along the c axis, which can induce a quadruple folding at $k_z = n\pi/c$, $n\pi/2c$ (n is an integer) as observed in our measurements. Compared with the out-of-plane direction, it is difficult to detect any noticeable in-plane folding in our measurements, despite the 2×2 in-plane pattern revealed in STM measurements [27,32,46,57]. Supporting evidence of in-plane folding has, on the other hand, been provided in KV_3Sb_5 by ARPES measurements [43]. The difference between the two systems may be related to the complicated stacking of SoD- and TrH-like distortions along the c axis in CsV_3Sb_5 , which could generate destructive in-plane folding. It should also be mentioned that there are recent XRD measurements claiming a different CDW stacking pattern as compared to the present results [61]. The stacking pattern claimed by Xiao *et al.* [61] is, however, based on DFT calculations and not experimentally determined. We believe that the present results provide more direct information on the CDW stacking pattern in CsV_3Sb_5 .

The observed CDW order can be suppressed by external pressure and vanishes around 2 GPa, at which point the superconducting transition temperature reaches its maximum [51]. In this regime, the in-plane lattice constant a shows negligible change while the out-of-plane lattice constant c is significantly reduced [51]. Moreover, recent experiments show that the CDW order is suppressed in thin films [59,62]. These observations imply that moderate interlayer coupling stabilizes the CDW order but strong interlayer coupling suppresses it, demonstrating that the 3D CDW order can be tuned through the coupling strength along the c axis. As the CDW order competes with superconductivity, studying the origin of CDW order can be helpful for understanding the mechanism behind superconductivity. To further understand the primary driving force for the CDW order, studying thinner films or even monolayer kagome metals could turn out to be crucial. So far the origin of the CDW order is still controversial [16,33,34,54,63–68]. Our spectroscopic observation of the 3D character provides crucial insights into the nature of the CDW order. Particularly, the observation of more than two folding along the c axis, if it is a general feature of all AV_3Sb_5 kagome metals, would point to the importance of electron-phonon interaction in promoting the CDW order as Fermi surface nesting at the corresponding vector is not prominent.

III. CONCLUSION

In summary, ARPES measurements and band structure calculations that give insights into the nature of the CDW orders in CsV_3Sb_5 have been presented. Band features that were previously interpreted as band folding due to a CDW or quantum well states are demonstrated to be surface states associated with the Cs-terminated surface. In addition to the two-fold lattice reconstruction, a possible four-fold lattice reconstruction along the c direction, driven by the 3D CDW

order, is observed in the ARPES data. Combined with band calculations, the ARPES data provide strong evidence that this 3D CDW configuration originates from the intertwined coexistence of the SoD and the TrH distortions in adjacent kagome layers. These results provide key insights to the origin of the unconventional CDW in CsV_3Sb_5 and may also serve as a reference for further studies on the relationship between the CDW and superconducting order in this system.

IV. METHODS

A. Sample

Single crystals of CsV_3Sb_5 were grown from $CsSb_2$ alloy and Sb as flux. Cs, V, and Sb elements and $CsSb_2$ precursors were sealed in a Ta crucible in a molar ratio of 1:3:14:10, which was finally sealed in a highly evacuated quartz tube. The tube was heated up to 1273 K, where it remained for 20 h and was then cooled down to 763 K slowly. Single crystals with silvery luster were separated from the flux by centrifuging.

B. ARPES measurements

High-resolution ARPES measurements were performed at the Bloch beam line of MAX IV. The total energy resolution (analyzer and beam line) was set at 15 meV for the measurements. The angular resolution of the analyzer was $\sim 0.1^\circ$. The beam line spot size on the sample was about $12 \mu m \times 15 \mu m$. All measurements were carried out with linear-horizontal (LH) polarization. The samples were cleaved *in situ* and measured at different temperatures in ultrahigh vacuum with a base pressure better than 1.0×10^{-10} mbar.

C. DFT calculations

Our DFT calculations employ the projector augmented wave method encoded in the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package, and the local density approximation for the exchange correlation functional is used. Throughout this work, the cut-off energy of 500 eV is taken for expanding the wave functions into plane-wave basis. In the calculation, the Brillouin zone is sampled in the k space within the Monkhorst-Pack scheme. The number of these k points depends on unit cells: $10 \times 10 \times 6$ for a normal unit cell, $10 \times 10 \times 3$ for a $1 \times 1 \times 2$ supercell, and $5 \times 5 \times 3$ for a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ supercell. We used the experimental lattice parameters $a = 5.495 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 9.309 \text{ \AA}$ for the normal unit cell. In the $2 \times 2 \times 2$ supercell, the alternating stacking of SoD and TrH distortion in V kagome layers was initialized and then we performed the relaxation of atomic positions. To simulate the band folding along the c axis from the 3D CDW order but avoid complex in-plane folding, we introduced Cs movement along the c axis while the V kagome lattice remains undistorted.

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calculations and theoretical discussion; C.L. carried out the experiment with the assistance from C.P. and Q.D.G.; C.L. contributed to software development for data analysis; C.L. analyzed the data with assistance from Y.W.; C.L. wrote the paper with X.X.W., A.P.S., and O.T.; B.T., M.D., M.H.B., A.P.S., and O.T. supervised the project and provided necessary scientific infrastructure. All authors participated in discussions and commented on the paper.

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