Article

Fully-gapped superconductivity with rotational symmetry breaking in pressurized kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅

Received: 7 January 2025

Accepted: 8 April 2025

Published online: 17 April 2025

Check for updates

X. Y. Feng^{1,2}, Z. Zhao^{1,2}, J. Luo 1 , Y. Z. Zhou^{1,2}, J. Yang¹, A. F. Fang^{3,4}, H. T. Yang 1,2 , H.-J. Gao 1,2 , R. Zhou $^{1,2} \boxtimes$ & Guo-qing Zheng 5

The discovery of the kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅ has generated significant interest in its complex physical properties, particularly its superconducting behavior under different pressures, though its nature remains debated. Here, we performed low-temperature, high-pressure ^{121/123}Sb nuclear quadrupole resonance (NQR) measurements to explore the superconducting pairing symmetry in CsV₃Sb₅. At ambient pressure, we found that the spin-lattice relaxation rate 1/ T_1 exhibits a kink at T ~ 0.4 T_c within the superconducting state and follows a T^3 variation as temperature further decreases. This suggests the presence of two superconducting gaps with line nodes in the smaller one. As pressure increases beyond P_{c} ~ 1.85 GPa, where the charge-density wave phase is completely suppressed, $1/T_1$ shows no Hebel-Slichter peak just below T_{c_1} and decreases rapidly, even faster than T^5 , indicating that the gap is fully opened for pressures above $P_{\rm c}$. In this high pressure region, the angular dependence of the in-plane upper critical magnetic field H_{c2} breaks the C_6 rotational symmetry. We propose the *s* + *id* pairing at $P > P_c$ which explains both the $1/T_1$ and H_{c2} behaviors. Our findings indicate that CsV₃Sb₅ is an unconventional superconductor and its superconducting state is even more exotic at high pressures.

The kagome lattice, formed by a network of corner-sharing triangles, features Dirac fermions, flat bands, and van Hove singularities in its electronic structure. This makes it an ideal system for exploring geometric frustration, strongly correlated electronic states, and topological quantum phenomena¹⁻³. The Dirac cones support massless charge carriers, while flat bands result in highly localized electrons through destructive interference⁴. This electron localization amplifies electron-electron interactions, potentially fostering exotic phenomena such as quantum spin liquid states^{1,5,6}, fractional quantum Hall states^{7,8}, and unconventional superconductivity^{9,10}. While theoretical predictions suggest the unconventional pairing in kagome-lattice superconductors, most discovered materials with this structure exhibit conventional superconducting behaviors. For instance, CeRu₂, one of

the earliest superconductors with a kagome lattice^{11,12}, shows an *s*-wave gap symmetry¹³. Recently, the Copper(II)-based coordination polymer Cu-BHT^{14,15} emerged as a potential unconventional superconductor, exhibiting nonexponential temperature-dependent superfluid density, although further experiments are required to confirm its superconducting gap structure.

The AV_3Sb_5 (A = K, Cs, Rb) family, another kagome-lattice superconductor group, has recently attracted interests due to its unique electronic properties¹⁶⁻²². At ambient pressure, CsV₃Sb₅ undergoes a charge density wave (CDW) transition at $T_{CDW} = 94$ K, followed by a superconducting transition at $T_c = 2.5$ K²³. This CDW state is associated with unusual phenomena such as chirality²⁴⁻²⁶, nematicity²⁷, and timereversal symmetry breaking (TRSB)²⁸. Hydrostatic pressure gradually

¹Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics, Beijing 100190, China. ²School of Physical Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100190, China. ³School of Physics and Astronomy, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China. ⁴Key Laboratory of Multiscale Spin Physics, Ministry of Education, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China. ⁵Department of Physics, Okayama University, Okayama 700-8530, Japan. e-mail: rzhou@iphy.ac.cn



Fig. 1 | **The phase diagram of CsV₃Sb₅ and temperature-dependent 1/***T***₁ in the superconducting state. a** The black squares represent *T*_{CDW} values derived from our previous NQR study³¹, while blue circles indicate *T*_c × 4, obtained from ac susceptibility measurements⁴⁷. Red diamonds mark ¹²³ θ , extracted from Curie-Weiss fitting of the ¹²³Sb2 NQR linewidth (see Supplementary Fig. 4(a))⁴⁷. Color variations above *T*_{CDW} reflect the evolution of 1/*T*₁*T* of ¹²³Sb2 (see Supplementary Fig. 4(b))⁴⁷. Solid and dashed lines are guides for the eye. The error bar for θ is the s.d. in the fitting of linewidth. The error bar for *T*_{CDW} reflects the temperature interval used in NQR spectra measurements³¹. The error bar for *T*_c corresponds to the transition width evaluated from the 10-90% criterion. **b** The black and blue dots represent temperature-dependent 1/*T*₁*T* at ambient pressure and 1.89 GPa, respectively. The red dots represent temperature-dependent 1/*T*₁*T* of aluminum⁴⁸.

suppresses the CDW transition, which disappears around a critical pressure, $P_{\rm c} \sim 1.9$ GPa, while $T_{\rm c}$ forms a double-dome-shaped phase diagram, hinting at the unconventional nature of the superconductivity²⁹⁻³³. Some experimental observations indeed suggest unconventional superconducting behaviors in this system. The transport measurements reveal a two-fold rotational symmetry in the superconducting state under ambient pressure^{34,35}. Other exotic features of the superconducting state, such as the presence of Majorana zero modes within vortex cores³⁶, pairing density waves (PDW) and TRSB have also been observed³⁷⁻³⁹. However, the appearance of a Hebel-Slichter peak in NQR measurements⁴⁰, temperature-dependent superfluid density from transverse-field muon spin rotation (µSR) experiments^{41,42}, and magnetic penetration depth measurements⁴³ point to an s-wave gap. Given its nonmagnetic nature and relatively weak electron correlations, CsV₃Sb₅ is still often proposed to be a phonon-mediated conventional superconductor⁴⁴, though this is still under debate. The nature of superconductivity at high pressures is also contested, partly due to a limited number of high-pressure experiments. The μ SR measurements suggest spontaneous TRSB just below T_c and a nodeless superconducting gap when charge order is fully suppressed^{45,46}. However, NQR studies find no Hebel-Slichter peak in the spin-lattice relaxation rate $1/T_1$ below T_c^{30} , which appears inconsistent with a fully gapped state. Additional high-pressure measurements are essential to further investigate the unique properties of the superconducting state, which are crucial for understanding the pairing mechanism in CsV₃Sb₅.

In this study, we carried out low-temperature and high-pressure $^{121/123}$ Sb-NQR measurements to investigate the pairing symmetry in CsV₃Sb₅. At ambient pressure, a distinct kink was observed in the spinlattice relaxation rate $1/T_1$ at $T \sim 0.4 T_c$ followed by a T^3 behavior down

The $1/T_1T$ of aluminum shows a clear Hebel-Slichter peak below T_c , while just a small Hebel-Slichter peak below T_c was observed in CsV₃Sb₅. Above P_c , the Hebel-Slichter peak is absent below T_c (see Supplementary Fig. 5 for $P \ge 2.14$ GPa)⁴⁷. The dashed lines are guides for the eye. **c** Temperature dependence of the normalized spinlattice relaxation rates $[1/T_1(T)/1/T_1(T_c)]$ at ambient pressure. The blue dashed curve represents the simulation of the *s*-wave model, while the red solid curve represents the simulation of the *s*-wave + line-nodal gap model. **d** Temperature dependence of the normalized spin-lattice relaxation rates $[1/T_1(T)/1/T_1(T_c)]$ at P > 1.85 GPa. Solid lines represent the simulations of the fully-gapped model with a single energy gap. The dotted line indicates T^3 and T^5 behaviors as visual guides in (c) and (d), respectively. The solid arrows indicate T_c . The error bar in T_1 is the s.d. in fitting the nuclear magnetization recovery curve.

to the lowest temperatures. This behavior indicates multiple superconducting gaps, with line nodes present in the smaller one. When the pressure exceeds $P_c \sim 1.85$ GPa, where the CDW phase is completely suppressed, the temperature dependence of $1/T_1$ indicates that the superconducting gap fully opens. Most remarkably, the angular dependence of the in-plane upper critical magnetic field, H_{c2} , reveals an unexpected two-fold symmetry in the fully-gapped superconducting phase at $P > P_c$. We propose an s + id pairing that simultaneously explains the full gap and rotational-symmetry broken behavior of H_{c2} . We will also discuss a possible charge redistribution below T_c in the $P > P_c$ region suggested by an increase in both the NQR frequency and linewidth. Our findings provide new insights into the unconventional superconductivity of kagome metals.

Results

Evolution of the superconducting gap symmetry

Figure 1(a) represents the pressure-temperature phase diagram of $CsV_3Sb_5^{31}$, incorporating data on the parameter $^{123}\theta$, derived from fitting the NQR linewidth and spin-lattice relaxation rate $1/T_1T$ within the pressure range of 2 to 3 GPa (see Supplementary Fig. 4⁴⁷). The parameter θ indicates the presence of CDW correlations. As pressure *P* surpasses the critical value $P_c \sim 1.85$ GPa, a decrease in θ reflects a reduction in CDW fluctuations. At the same time, an increase in $1/T_1T$ with rising pressure suggests an enhancement in spin fluctuations. In the normal state, $1/T_1T$ increases only slightly with decreasing temperature at $P < P_c$. To explore the superconducting gap symmetry under varying pressures, we measured the temperature dependence of $1/T_1$ in the superconducting state. Figure 1(b) displays the temperature



Fig. 2 | **Evidence for persistent two-fold symmetry of** H_{c2} **at high pressures. a** The illustration depicts the field orientation in the hexagonal plane with respect to the *a* axis (angle ϕ), where an angle of $\phi = 0^{\circ}$ corresponds to H||a axis. **b**, **c** represent the angular dependence of H_{c2} respectively below and above P_{c} . The data

are obtained from ac susceptibility measurements at a fixed temperature T=1.6 K (see Supplementary Fig. 7)⁴⁷. The error was estimated from uncertainties in the determination of H_{c2} due to scatter in the raw field sweeps.

dependence of $1/T_1T$ for CsV₃Sb₅. At ambient pressure, we also observe a small Hebel-Slichter coherent peak below T_c , consistent with previous NQR studies^{30,40}. The presence of this coherence peak typically suggests the *s*-wave symmetry in the superconducting gap. However, its magnitude is notably smaller than that observed in conventional superconductors such as aluminum (see Fig. 1(b))⁴⁸. As temperature decreases, $1/T_1$ drops sharply below T_c but changes to a T^3 dependence below $T \sim 0.4 T_c$ as shown in Fig. 1(c). The T^3 variation is a characteristic behavior of line nodes in the gap function^{49,50}. The relaxation rate $1/T_1$ below T_c is expressed as⁵¹

$$\frac{T_1(T_c)}{T_{1s}} = \frac{2}{k_B T_c} \int \left(1 + \frac{\Delta^2}{E^2}\right) N_s(E)^2 f(E) [1 - f(E)] dE$$
(1)

where $N_s(E) = N_0 E / \sqrt{E^2 - \Delta^2}$ is the density of state (DOS) in the superconducting state, Δ is the magnitude of the energy gap, f(E) is the Fermi distribution function, and the $(1 + \Delta^2/E^2)$ is the coherence factor. For an *s*-wave gap, the coherence factor and the divergence of the DOS at $E = \Delta$ will lead to a Hebel-Slichter peak just below $T_c^{52,53}$. First, we used a single *s*-wave gap model to simulate $1/T_1$, with $\Delta_s = 1.85k_BT_c$, represented by the blue dashed line in Fig. 1(c). However, we found that the simulation results at low temperatures did not align with the experimental results. Considering that there exists a T^3 temperature-dependent relationship at low temperatures, we then used a two gap model, namely an *s*-wave gap + a line-nodal gap($\Delta(\Phi) = \Delta_0 \cos(2\Phi)$), to simulate the $1/T_1$ results.

We assume that the total superconducting DOS is contributed from two gaps as $N_{\text{tot}} = \alpha \cdot N_s + (1 - \alpha) \cdot N_L$, where N_s and N_L are the superconducting DOS from the s-wave and line-nodal gap, respectively. Using such two-gap model allowed us to successfully fit the data over the entire temperature range shown in Fig. 1(c), yielding $\Delta_s = 2.0k_BT_c$ and $\Delta_L = 0.63k_BT_c$ with a ratio of DOS on two bands (N_s : N_L = 0.9: 0.1). These results suggest that CsV₃Sb₅ features a small superconducting gap with line nodes. Nevertheless, both the relative weight and the gap size of the fully-opened gap are found to be much larger than this nodal gap. We also note that theoretical calculations on the kagome lattice have indicated the possibility of unconventional pairing states with a sign-changing gap structure, particularly d-wave gap, which may manifest as a small Hebel-Slichter peak in the temperature-dependent $1/T_1$ due to the destructive sublattice interference effects⁵⁴. It is probable that these factors result in a small coherence peak in $1/T_1$ as shown in Fig. 1(c). Given that both the size and the weight of the nodal gap are extremely small compared to the fully opened gap, the signature of this gap can only be observed at very low temperatures, which is indeed in agreement with the observation of a residual DOS in scanning tunneling spectroscopy^{37,38}. This is precisely why it was challenging to detect previously. In any case, our results show that CsV_3Sb_5 is already an unconventional superconductor at ambient pressure. The small component of the line-nodal gap is consistent with the temperature dependence of $1/T_1T$ in the normal state which points to weak spin fluctuations (see Fig. 1(a)).

Next, we examine the $1/T_1$ results at high pressures. For pressures above $P_c \sim 1.85$ GPa, we observe a rapid decrease in $1/T_1$ without a Hebel-Slichter coherence peak just below T_c (see Fig. 1(b) and Supplementary Fig. 5). At low temperatures, the decrease of $1/T_1$ is very steep, even faster than the T^5 -variation (see Fig. 1(d) and Supplementary Fig. 6), indicating a full gap. Such behavior is similar to the strong coupling superconductor Ca₃Ir₄Sn₁₃⁵⁵ and iron-based superconductor $Ba_{0.68}K_{0.32}Fe_2As_2^{56}$, where the Hebel-Slichter peak is absent in the fully gapped superconducting state. Nevertheless, the simulations of $1/T_1$ indicate that the gap size of CsV₃Sb₅ ($2\Delta \sim 3.3 k_{\rm B}T_{\rm c}$) is significantly smaller than that of Ca₃Ir₄Sn₁₃ ($2\Delta = 4.42 k_B T_c$). Hence, it is unlikely that the absence of the Hebel-Slichter coherence peak of CsV₃Sb₅ is attributed to the strong coupling. Instead, it might be similar to that of iron-based superconductors, which could be related to the signreversed gap structure of the superconducting gap⁵⁷ and the strong spin fluctuations⁵⁸, and this is in line with our observation of the enhanced spin fluctuations above P_c in CsV₃Sb₅(see Fig. 1(a)). To further explore the structure of the superconducting gap, we measured the in-plane upper critical magnetic field H_{c2} as shown below.

Two-fold symmetry of *H*_{c2}

By rotating the sample with the magnetic field applied in the *ab* plane, we measured the angular dependence of H_{c2} under pressures at $T \sim 1.6$ K (see Supplementary Fig. 7 for the field dependence of the ac susceptibility at various pressures⁴⁷). Here, ϕ represents the angle between the in-plane field orientation and the *a*-axis, as illustrated in Fig. 2(a). The angular dependence of H_{c2} at different pressures, shown in Fig. 2(b) and (c), reveals a clear two-fold symmetry at all pressures. However, the symmetry of the H_{c2} changes across P_c . At $P \leq 1.85$ GPa, the maximum H_{c2} value occurs when field direction is nearly perpendicular to the *a*-axis, indicating the maximum superconducting gap alignment in this direction. By contrast, when the pressure is larger than 1.85 GPa, the field direction corresponding to the maximum H_{c2} becomes approximately perpendicular to that at lower pressures, as shown in the Fig. 2(b) and (c). Namely the H_{c2} symmetry changes by 90°.

When the applied pressure is smaller than P_c , the two-fold symmetry of superconductivity can be linked to the presence of the CDW order. Firstly, the nematicity in the CDW state can induce an anisotropic Fermi surface^{27,35}, and then leads to a two-fold symmetry of the H_{c2} . Secondly, superconductivity emerges in the coexist state of the

CDW order and loop current state, which can also have a two-fold symmetry of H_{c2}^{59} . Besides these, the two-fold anisotropy in H_{c2} could also stem from the nodal superconducting gap component indicated by the T^3 behavior. We note that the phase of the H_{c2} symmetry reported from the *c*-axis resistivity³⁵ and specific heat⁶⁰ measurements differs from each other and also from our results. This suggests that the H_{c2} symmetry for $P < P_c$ is not due to intrinsic pairing symmetry, but is attributable to the crystal distortion or disorders in the sample. The crystal distortion or disorders can affect the electronic nematicity or loop current order, and thus affect the phase of the H_{c2} symmetry. Obviously, more detailed experimental investigations are still required to disclose the physical nature of the two-fold symmetry of H_{c2} for $P < P_c$.

However, with the increasing pressure above P_c , where the CDW order is completely suppressed and CDW fluctuations weaken, we observe a two-fold H_{c2} in which the direction of the maximum H_{c2} changed by nearly 90° (see Fig. 2(c)). Such an observation at high pressures is unpredicted. It is important to note that the observed twofold symmetry of superconductivity in the $P > P_c$ region cannot be ascribed to the CDW order. Moreover, no other rotational-symmetry breaking state has been reported in the normal state for $P > P_{c}$, so it is also difficult to attribute the two-fold symmetry in H_{c2} to a Fermi surface anisotropy. Therefore, the two-fold symmetry of H_{c2} is related to the intrinsic superconducting pairing symmetry. In the carrier-doped Bi₂Se₃ superconductors⁶¹⁻⁶⁴, the two-fold symmetry is due to a pinning of the dvector of the spin-triplet superconductivity^{61,65}. However, there is no evidence of spin-triplet in CsV₃Sb₅. Considering that the superconducting gap is fully opened and the time-reversal symmetry was found to be broken by high-pressure μ SR measurements⁴⁶, we propose a scenario in which a two-component superconductivity of s + id pairing appears for $P > P_c$. Such state was previously proposed in non-trivial multiband superconductors such as iron-based superconductors^{66,67} and heavy-fermion superconductors68,69. This pairing state violate the timereversal symmetry and also the C_4 rotation symmetry⁶⁶. Although the swave component might have six-fold symmetry due to the D_{6h} point group symmetry of CsV₃Sb₅ as observed by specific heat measurements⁶⁰, the *d*-wave component of the s + id state will result in a two-fold symmetry of Hc2. Meanwhile, the fully-opened superconducting gap of s + id pairing naturally explains the temperature dependence of $1/T_1$ below T_c .

Electric field gradient anomaly

Figure 3(a) shows the temperature dependence of the NQR frequency at various pressures. At ambient pressure, a reduction in the frequency is observed below T_c as presented in Fig. 3(a). A similar anomaly in the temperature dependence of NQR frequency was also observed in YBa₂Cu₄O₈⁷⁰, and it is attributed to lattice anomalies resulting from the strong electron-phonon coupling of the electrons. Specifically, the thermal expansion coefficient in CsV₃Sb₅ significantly increases along the *c*-axis below T_c^{71} , indicating the further *c*-axis lattice distortions in the superconducting state.

At $P > P_c$ region, instead of the decrease of the NQR frequency, an increase of the NQR frequency is observed below T_c . For P = 2.14 and 2.31 GPa, the NQR line initially shifts to the lower frequency below T_c , but begins to increase below $T \sim 0.9 T_c$, and eventually a significant enhancement can be seen at P > 2.5 GPa. For $P > P_c$ region, the opposite shift of the NQR line compared to the ambient pressure suggests that the main factors causing the observed shift of the NQR lines in the superconducting state⁴⁷, we can obtain the precise temperature dependence of v_Q and η for P = 2.87 GPa, as shown in Fig. 4. Below T_c , not only v_Q , but also η increases. The linewidth also increases as the temperature decreases (see Fig. 3(b)), indicating the emergence of the distribution of both v_Q and η . One possible explanation for all these



Fig. 3 | **NQR frequency and linewidth in the superconducting state. a** The temperature dependence of ¹²³Sb1 (ambient pressure) and ¹²³Sb2 ($P \ge 2.14$ GPa) NQR frequency *f* after subtracting the $f(T = T_c)^{47}$. **b** The temperature dependence of the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of ¹²³Sb1 (ambient pressure) and ¹²³Sb2 ($P \ge 2.14$ GPa) NQR spectra after subtracting FWHM($T = T_c$) under different pressures. The solid and dashed lines are guides for the eyes. Error bars are s.d. in the fits of the NQR spectra.



Fig. 4 | **The obtained** v_Q and η in the superconducting state. a, b are respectively the temperature dependence of v_Q and asymmetry parameter η of ¹²³Sb2 at P=2.87 GPa, which are deduced from the ¹²¹Sb2 and ¹²³Sb2 NQR spectra⁴⁷. The dashed line indicates T_c . Error bars are s.d. in the fits of the NQR spectra.

behaviors might be a charge redistribution resulting from the composite pairing in the superconducting state, as predicted in some heavy fermion superconductors by previous theoretical works⁷²⁻⁷⁴. In materials with mixed valence, it has been proposed that the composite pairing emerges as a low-energy consequence of valence fluctuations in two distinct symmetry channels. This kind of pairing can lead to a mixing of empty and doubly occupied states, causing a redistribution of charge associated with the superconducting transition.

As a result, this charge redistribution is anticipated to induce changes in the EFG around nuclear sites and shifts in NQR frequency below T_c . However, there is no evidence indicating that CsV₃Sb₅ is a mixed-valent metal. We also note that localized magnetic moments were suggested to play a direct role in pairing involving the condensation of bound states with conducting electrons in heavy fermion superconductors. Although we observed the enhancement of spin fluctuations under high pressures, there is no evidence of the formation of local moments in CsV₃Sb₅. Therefore, more works, both theoretical and experimental, are needed in this aspect.

Another possible explanation is more directly associated with the s + id pairing state. A previous theoretical study has shown that the local C_4 lattice rotation symmetry would be broken due to the spontaneous currents near disorders in s + id superconducting states⁶⁶. This should lead to an increase of η as we observed in Fig. 4(b). In this scenario⁶⁶, disorders in the sample would naturally lead to a distribution of both η and v_Q , and result in the quadrupole broadening of the NQR lines in the superconducting state as we found (Fig. 3(b))⁴⁷.

Discussions

We move to discuss the properties and pairing symmetry change across P_c . For $P < P_c$, we observed that the $1/T_1$ follows a T^3 behavior below $T < 0.4 T_c$ at ambient pressure, which indicates the line nodes in the superconducting gap. Nevertheless, both the relative weight and the gap size of this nodal gap are found to be significantly smaller than the fully opened gap. Recent theoretical study proposed that there can be possible accidental nodes along the *c*-axis for $P < P_c$ due to the spin fluctuations⁷⁵. For this type of pairing, the existence of nodes within the superconducting gap will not affect the symmetry of H_{c2} , which is in accordance with the observation of different phase of the H_{c2} symmetry in different studies^{35,60}.

For $P > P_c$, we note that the spin fluctuations are prominently enhanced after the CDW is suppressed (see the phase diagram in Fig. 1(a)), which was not taken into account in previous theoretical studies. Generally, spin fluctuations can help form the *d*-wave pairing as observed in cuprates⁴⁹. At ambient pressure where spin fluctuations are weak, the size of the nodal gap is small and its contribution to superconductivity is also relatively small. With the increasing pressure, the enhancement of spin fluctuations leads to an enhancement of *d*wave. This may cause the *s*-wave and *d*-wave gaps to become degenerate, then would facilitate the *s* + *id* pairing. Meanwhile, the enhancement of the *d*-wave component also leads to the reduction of the Hebel-Slichter peak as we observed (see Fig. 1(b)). The *s* + *id* state is less well studied. Our findings can inspire more microscopic experimental and theoretical studies.

Summary

In conclusion, we performed low-temperature and high-pressure ^{121/} ¹²³Sb-NQR measurements to investigate the superconducting pairing symmetry in CsV₃Sb₅. At ambient pressure, we observed a distinct kink in 1/*T*₁ at *T* ~ 0.4 *T*_c, which then follows a *T*³ behavior down to the lowest temperatures. This behavior indicates multiple superconducting gaps, with line nodes present in the smaller one. When the pressure exceeds *P*_c ~ 1.85 GPa, where the CDW phase is completely suppressed, 1/*T*₁ decreases faster than a *T*⁵ dependence below *T*_c. Although no Hebel-Slichter peak was observed, our data indicate that the superconducting gap fully opens for pressures above *P*_c. Most remarkably, the angular dependence of the in-plane upper critical magnetic field H_{c2} shows an unexpected two-fold symmetry in this high-pressure and fully-gapped superconducting phase. We propose the multi-component s + id pairing to coherently explain the results. An increase in both the NQR frequency and linewidth also occurs in the $P > P_c$ region, which may also be understood as arising from a breaking of the local C_6 lattice rotational symmetry due to the s + id pairing. Our results indicate that the CsV₃Sb₅ is an unconventional superconductor and its superconducting state is even more exotic at $P > P_c$, which provides new insights into the unconventional superconducting properties of kagome metals.

Methods

Sample preparation and NQR measurement

High-quality single crystals of CsV₃Sb₅ were synthesized through the self-flux method⁷⁶. The size of the single crystal used for H_{c2} measurements is approximately 2 mm × 2 mm × 0.1 mm. A commercial BeCu/NiCrAl clamp cell from Beijing Easymaterials Technology Co.,Ltd was employed as the pressure cell, and Daphne oil 7373 was utilized as a transmitting medium⁷⁷. The CsV₃Sb₅ single crystal flakes were placed inside the pressure cell along with Cu₂O powder, which is used for pressure calibration⁷⁸ via its ${}^{63}v_Q$ NQR frequency (refer to Supplementary Fig. 1 for the 63Cu NQR spectra of Cu₂O under different pressures)⁴⁷. The solidification of the pressure medium Daphne 7373 occurs at P > 2.2 GPa at room temperature⁷⁷. When pressurizing the pressure cell, we heat it up to at least 320 K to prevent the pressure medium Daphne 7373 from solidifying, ensuring a hydrostatic environment. NQR measurements were conducted using a phase-coherent pulsed NQR spectrometer. 121/123Sb spectra were obtained by sweeping the frequency point by point and integrating the spin-echo signal. The $1/T_1$ was determined using the saturation-recovery method. At ambient pressure, measurements below T = 1.5 K were conducted using a ³He-⁴He dilution refrigerator. To test the heat-up effect induced by RF pulses in the superconducting state, we adopt the same method as that of Pustogow et al⁷⁹. During the experiment in the superconducting state, we utilized less than one-third of the highest available energy we found. Further details can be found in Supplementary Fig. 3⁴⁷.

H_{c2} measurements

The single crystal used for the ac susceptibility measurements has naturally formed edges with the angle of about 120° for neighboured edges³⁵, which allows us to determine the crystallographic axes. The pressure cell was mounted onto the probe of a large bore cryostat such that the ab plane of the crystal was parallel to the magnetic field. The ac susceptibility was measured by the inductance of an in situ NQR coil. For the ac susceptibility measurement, Cu₂O is not used for pressure calibration to preclude the influence on the measurement. The applied pressure was obtained by the value of Sb2 NQR frequency at $T = 100 \text{ K}^{31}$. Angle-dependent measurements were carried out by rotating the pressure cell with a custom-made rotator. The accuracy in the in-plane angle ϕ is around a few degrees. The H_{c2} was extracted from the measured ac susceptibility, which is defined as a point off the straight line drawn from high-field value (the normal state)⁴⁷. One may argue that the two-fold symmetry at high pressures can be induced by the misalignment of the field direction to the c-axis. Indeed, although we cannot avoid this misalignment, however, this is unlikely for our results. All measurements under various pressures were conducted on the same single crystal through a continuous sequence of pressurizing and depressurizing cycles, without any reassembly of the pressure cell. The misalignment of the sample can not explain the nearly 90° change of the direction of the maximum H_{c2} across P_{c} .

Data availability

Any additional data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request. Source data are provided with this paper.

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-58941-w

References

- 1. Zhou, Y., Kanoda, K. & Ng, T. K. Quantum Spin Liquid States. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **89**, 025003 (2017).
- Yin, J. X., Lian, B. & Hasan, M. Z. Topological kagome magnets and superconductors. *Nature* 612, 647–657 (2022).
- Wang, Y. J., Wu, H., McCandless, G. T., Chan, J. Y. & Ali, M. N. Quantum states and intertwining phases in kagome materials. *Nat. Rev. Phys.* 5, 635–658 (2023).
- Neto, A. H. C., Guinea, F., Peres, N. M. R., Novoselov, K. S. & Geim, A. K. The electronic properties of graphene. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 81, 109 (2009).
- Han, T. H. et al. Fractionalized Excitations in the Spin-Liquid State of a Kagome-Lattice Antiferromagnet. *Nature* 492, 406–410 (2012).
- Yan, S., Huse, D. A. & White, S. R. Spin-Liquid Ground State of the S = 1/2 Kagome Heisenberg Antiferromagnet. Science 332, 1173–1176 (2011).
- Zhu, W., Gong, S. S., Zeng, T. S., Fu, L. & Sheng, D. N. Interactiondriven spontaneous quantum Hall effect on a kagome lattice. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **117**, 096402 (2016).
- 8. Liu, H. et al. High-temperature fractional quantum Hall state in the Floquet kagome flat band. *Phys. Rev. B* **105**, L161108 (2022).
- Ko, W. H., Lee, P. A. & Wen, X. G. Doped kagome system as exotic superconductor. *Phys. Rev. B* 79, 214502 (2009).
- Wen, C. Y., Zhu, X. C., Hao, N., Guo, H. M. & Feng, S. P. Unconventional ferromagnetism and spin-triplet superconductivity in the imbalanced kagome-lattice Hubbard model. *Phys. Rev. B* **105**, 245131 (2022).
- 11. Matthias, B. T., Suhl, H. & Corenzwit, E. Ferromagnetic superconductors. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1**, 449 (1958).
- Anderson, P. W. & Suhl, H. Spin alignment in the superconducting state. *Phys. Rev.* **116**, 898 (1959).
- Mielke III, C. et al. Local spectroscopic evidence for a nodeless magnetic kagome superconductor CeRu₂. J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 34, 485601 (2022).
- Huang, X. et al. Superconductivity in a copper(III)-based coordination polymer with perfect Kagome structure. *Angew. Chem.* 130, 152–156 (2018).
- 15. Takenaka, T. et al. Strongly correlated superconductivity in a copper-based metal-organic framework with a perfect kagome lattice. *Sci. Adv.* **7**, eabf3996 (2021).
- Wilson, S. D. & Ortiz, B. R. AV₃Sb₅ kagome superconductors. Nat. Rev. Mater. 9, 420–432 (2024).
- Ortiz, B. R. et al. CsV₃Sb₅: A Z₂ topological kagome metal with a superconducting ground state. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 247002 (2020).
- Hu, Y. et al. Topological surface states and flat bands in the kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. Sci. Bull. 67, 495–500 (2020).
- Kang, M. et al. Twofold van Hove singularity and origin of charge order in topological kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Nat. Phys.* 18, 301–308 (2022).
- 20. Hu, Y. et al. Rich nature of Van Hove singularities in Kagome superconductor CsV_3Sb_5 . *Nat. Commun.* **13**, 2220 (2022).
- Jeong, M. Y. et al. Crucial role of out-of-plane Sb p orbitals in Van Hove singularity formation and electronic correlations in the superconducting kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. B* **105**, 235145 (2022).
- Hao, Z. Y. et al. Dirac nodal lines and nodal loops in the topological kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. B* **106**, L081101 (2022).
- 23. Shrestha, K. et al. Nontrivial Fermi surface topology of the kagome superconductor CsV_3Sb_5 probed by de Haas-van Alphen oscillations. *Phys. Rev. B* **105**, 024508 (2022).
- Wang, Z. W. et al. Electronic nature of chiral charge order in the kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. B* **104**, 075148 (2021).

- 25. Feng, X. L., Jiang, K., Wang, Z. Q. & Hu, J. P. Chiral flux phase in the Kagome superconductor AV₃Sb₅. Sci. Bull. **66**, 1384–1388 (2021).
- 26. Guo, C. Y. et al. Switchable chiral transport in charge-ordered kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅. *Nature* **611**, 461–466 (2022).
- 27. Nie, L. P. et al. Charge-density-wave-driven electronic nematicity in a kagome superconductor. *Nature*. **604**, 59–64 (2022).
- 28. Khasanov, R. et al. Time-reversal symmetry broken by charge order in CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. Research* **4**, 023244 (2022).
- 29. Chen, K. Y. et al. Double superconducting dome and triple enhancement of T_c in the kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅ under high pressure. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **126**, 247001 (2021).
- 30. Zheng, L. X. et al. Emergent charge order in pressurized kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Nature* **611**, 682–687 (2022).
- Feng, X. Y. et al. Commensurate-to-incommensurate transition of charge-density-wave order and a possible quantum critical point in pressurized kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅. npj Quantum Mater. 8, 23 (2023).
- 32. Stier, F. et al. Pressure-dependent electronic superlattice in the Kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **133**, 236503 (2024).
- 33. Li, H. X. et al. Discovery of conjoined charge density waves in the kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Nat. Commun.* **13**, 6348 (2022).
- 34. Ni, S. L. et al. Anisotropic Superconducting Properties of Kagome Metal CsV_3Sb_5 . Chinese Phys. Lett. **38**, 057403 (2021).
- Xiang, Y. et al. Twofold symmetry of c-axis resistivity in topological kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅ with in-plane rotating magnetic field. *Nat. Commun.* 12, 6727 (2021).
- Liang, Z. W. et al. Three-Dimensional Charge Density Wave and Surface-Dependent Vortex-Core States in a Kagome Superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. X* **11**, 031026 (2021).
- Chen, H. et al. Roton pair density wave in a strong-coupling kagome superconductor. *Nature* 599, 222–228 (2021).
- Deng, H. B. et al. Chiral kagome superconductivity modulations with residual Fermi arcs. *Nature* 632, 775–781 (2024).
- 39. Le, T. et al. Superconducting diode effect and interference patterns in kagome CsV₃Sb₅. *Nature* **630**, 64–69 (2024).
- Mu, C. et al. S-Wave Superconductivity in Kagome Metal CsV₃Sb₅ Revealed by ^{121/123}Sb NQR and ⁵¹V NMR Measurements. *Chinese Phys. Lett.* **38**, 077402 (2021).
- 41. Shan, Z. Y. et al. Muon spin relaxation study of the layered kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. Research* **4**, 033145 (2022).
- 42. Gupta, R. et al. Microscopic evidence for anisotropic multigap superconductivity in the CsV_3Sb_5 kagome superconductor. *npj Quantum Mater.* **7**, 49 (2022).
- Duan, W. Y. et al. Nodeless superconductivity in the kagome metal CsV₃Sb₅. Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. **64**, 107462 (2021).
- Jiang, K. et al. Kagome superconductors AV₃Sb₅ (A = K, Rb, Cs). Natl. Sci. Rev. 10, nwac199 (2023).
- Guguchia, Z. et al. Tunable unconventional kagome superconductivity in charge ordered RbV₃Sb₅ and KV₃Sb₅. *Nat. Commun.* 14, 153 (2023).
- Gupta, R. et al. Two types of charge order with distinct interplay with superconductivity in the kagome material CsV₃Sb₅. *Commun. Phys.* 5, 232 (2022).
- 47. See Supplementary Material for additional data and analysis.
- Masuda, Y. & Redfield, A. G. Nuclear Spin-Lattice Relaxation in Superconducting Aluminum. *Phys. Rev.* 125, 159 (1962).
- Asayama, K., Zheng, G. Q., Kitaoka, Y., Ishida, K. & Fujiwara, K. NMR study of high-T_c superconductors. *Physica C: Superconductivity* 178, 281–286 (1991).
- Fujimoto, T. et al. Unconventional Superconductivity and Electron Correlations in the Cobalt Oxyhydrate Na_{0.35}CoO₂ · yH₂O from Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **92**, 047004 (2004).

- 51. MacLaughlin, D. E. Magnetic resonance in the superconducting state. *Solid State Phys.* **31**, 1–69 (1976).
- 52. Hebel, L. C. Theory of Nuclear Spin Relaxation in Superconductors. *Phys. Rev.* **116**, 79 (1959).
- 53. Hebel, L. C. & Slichter, C. P. Nuclear Spin Relaxation in Normal and Superconducting Aluminum. *Phys. Rev.* **113**, 1504 (1959).
- Dai, Y., Kreisel, A. & Andersen, B. M. Existence of Hebel-Slichter peak in unconventional kagome superconductors. *Phys. Rev. B* **110**, 144516 (2024).
- Luo, J., Yang, J., Maeda, S., Li, Z. & Zheng, G. Q. Structural phase transition, precursory electronic anomaly, and strong-coupling superconductivity in quasi-skutterudite (Sr_{1-x}Ca_x)₃Ir₄Sn₁₃ and Ca₃Rh₄Sn₁₃. *Chinese Phys. B* **27**, 077401 (2018).
- Li, Z. et al. Nodeless energy gaps of single-crystalline Ba_{0.68}K_{0.32}Fe₂As₂ as seen via ⁷⁵As NMR. *Phys. Rev. B* 83, 140506(R) (2011).
- Nagai, Y. et al. Nuclear magnetic relaxation and superfluid density in Fe-pnictide superconductors: an anisotropic ± s-wave scenario. New J. Phys. 10, 103026 (2008).
- Cavanagh, D. C. & Powell, B. J. Fate of the Hebel-Slichter peak in superconductors with strong antiferromagnetic fluctuations. *Phys. Rev. Research* 3, 013241 (2021).
- Tazai, R., Yamakawa, Y. & Kontani, H. Charge-loop current order and Z₃ nematicity mediated by bond order fluctuations in kagome metals. *Nat. Commun.* 14, 7845 (2023).
- Fukushima, K. et al. Violation of emergent rotational symmetry in the hexagonal Kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅. *Nat. Commun.* 15, 2888 (2024).
- Matano, K., Kriener, M., Segawa, K., Ando, Y. & Zheng, G. Q. Spinrotation symmetry breaking in the superconducting state of Cu_xBi₂Se₃. Nat. Phys. **12**, 852–854 (2016).
- Pan, Y. et al. Rotational symmetry breaking in the topological superconductor Sr_xBi₂Se₃ probed by upper-critical field experiments. Sci. Rep. 6, 28632 (2016).
- 63. Asaba, T. et al. Rotational Symmetry Breaking in a Trigonal Superconductor Nb-doped Bi₂Se₃. *Phys. Rev. X* **7**, 011009 (2017).
- Kawai, T. et al. Direction and symmetry transition of the vector order parameter in topological superconductors Cu_xBi₂Se₃. *Nat. Commun.* 11, 235 (2020).
- Yokoyama, M. et al. Manipulating the nematic director by magnetic fields in the spin-triplet superconducting state of Cu_xBi₂Se₃. *Phys. Rev. B* **107**, L100505 (2023).
- Lee, W. C., Zhang, S. C. & Wu, C. Pairing State with a Time-Reversal Symmetry Breaking in FeAs-Based Superconductors. *Phys. Rev. lett.* 102, 217002 (2009).
- Lin, S. Z., Maiti, S. & Chubukov, A. Distinguishing between s + *id* and s + *is* pairing symmetries in multiband superconductors through spontaneous magnetization pattern induced by a defect. *Phys. Rev.* B 94, 064519 (2016).
- Kumar, P. & Wolfle, P. Two-Component Order-Parameter Model for Pure and Thorium-Doped Superconducting UBe₁₃. *Phys. Rev. lett.* 59, 1954 (1987).
- 69. Nica, E. M. & Erten, O. Theory of (s + id) pairing in mixed-valent correlated metals. *Phys. Rev. B* **102**, 214509 (2020).
- Raffa, F. et al. Spin and charge dynamics in the Cu-O chains of YBa₂Cu₄O₈. *Phys. Rev. B* 60, 3636 (1999).
- Frachet, M. et al. Colossal c-Axis Response and Lack of Rotational Symmetry Breaking within the Kagome Planes of the CsV₃Sb₅ Superconductor. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **132**, 186001 (2024).
- 72. Flint, R., Dzero, M. & Coleman, P. Heavy electrons and the symplectic symmetry of spin. *Nat. Phys.* **4**, 643–648 (2008).

- Flint, R., Nevidomskyy, A. H. & Coleman, P. Composite pairing in a mixed-valent two-channel Anderson model. *Phys. Rev. B* 84, 064514 (2011).
- 74. Flint, R. & Coleman, P. Tandem Pairing in Heavy-Fermion Superconductors. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 246404 (2010).
- Tazai, R., Yamakawa, Y., Onari, S. & Kontani, H. Mechanism of exotic density-wave and beyond-Migdal unconventional superconductivity in kagome metal AV₃Sb₅ (A = K, Rb, Cs). Sci. Adv. 8, eabl4108 (2022).
- 76. Ortiz, B. R. et al. New kagome prototype materials: discovery of KV₃Sb₅, RbV₃Sb₅, and CsV₃Sb₅. *Phys. Rev. Mater.* **3**, 094407 (2019).
- Yokogawa, K., Murata, K., Yoshino, H. & Aoyama, S. Solidification of High-Pressure Medium Daphne 7373. *Jpn. J. Appl. Phys.* 46, 3636 (2007).
- 78. Reyes, A. P., Ahrens, E. T., Heffner, R. H., Hammel, P. C. & Thompson, J. D. Cuprous oxide manometer for high-pressure magnetic resonance experiments. *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **63**, 3120 (1992).
- 79. Pustogow, A. et al. Constraints on the superconducting order parameter in Sr_2RuO_4 from oxygen-17 nuclear magnetic resonance. Nature **574**, 72–75 (2019).

Acknowledgements

We thank Y. Yamakawa, S. Onari, H. Kontani and Z. Q. Wang for helpful discussions. This work was supported by the National Key Research and Development Projects of China (Grant No. 2024YFA1611302, No. 2023YFA1406103, No. 2024YFA1409200, No. 2022YFA1403402 and 2022YFA1204100), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 12374142, No. 12304170 and No. 62488201), the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Grant No. XDB33010100 and No. XDB33030100), Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics (Grant No. 2024BNLCMPKF005) and CAS PIFI program (2024PG0003). This work was supported by the Synergetic Extreme Condition User Facility (SECUF, https://cstr.cn/31123. 02.SECUF).

Author contributions

The single crystals were grown by Z.Z., H.T.Y. and H.J.G.; The ac susceptibility measurements were performed by X.Y.F. and R.Z.; The NQR measurements were performed by X.Y.F., J.L., Y.Z.Z., J.Y., A.F.F. and R.Z.; R.Z. and G.Q.Z. wrote the manuscript with inputs from X.Y.F.; All authors have discussed the results and the interpretation.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Supplementary information The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-58941-w.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to R. Zhou.

Peer review information *Nature Communications* thanks Qing-Ping Ding and Adam Dioguardi for their contribution to the peer review of this work. A peer review file is available.

Reprints and permissions information is available at http://www.nature.com/reprints

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/ licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2025