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Possible star-of-David pattern charge density wave with additional modulation in the kagome superconductor CsV₃Sb₅

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 AV_3Sb_5 (A = K, Rb, Cs) is a novel kagome superconductor coexisting with the charge density wave (CDW) order. Identifying the structure of the CDW order is crucial for understanding the exotic normal state and superconductivity in this system. Here, we report ⁵¹V nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and ^{121/123}Sb nuclear quadrupole resonance (NQR) studies on kagome-metal CsV₃Sb₅. Below the CDW transition temperature $T_{CDW} \sim 98$ K, an abrupt change of spectra was observed, indicating that the transition is of the first order. By further analyzing the spectra, we find that the CDW order is commensurate. And most remarkably, the obtained experimental results suggest that the charge modulation of the CDW order is of star-of-David pattern and accompanied by an additional charge modulation in bulk below $T^* \sim 40$ K. Our results revealing the unconventional CDW order provide new insights into AV_3Sb_5 .

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INTRODUCTION

Compounds with kagome or honeycomb lattices provide a rich material base for exploring exotic physical phenomena, including topological electronic states¹, highly frustrated magnetisms^{2–4}, and quantum spin liquids^{5–9}. They are perfect platforms to study the relation between topology, frustration, and electron correlation. However, materials with geometrically frustrated lattices showing superconductivity are still very limited.

Recently, a new transition metal family AV_3Sb_5 (A = K, Rb, Cs) with perfect vanadium kagome-net was found¹⁰. Angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES), Shubnikov de Haas (SdH) oscillations and density functional theory (DFT) studies categorize AV₃Sb₅ into a Z₂ topological class with non-trivial topological bands^{11,12}. Furthermore, the AV₃Sb₅ system was found to be superconducting with T_c range from 0.9 K to 3 K^{12,13}. Above T_c another phase transition exists at 80 K~100 K revealed by magnetic susceptibility and resistivity measurements^{10,13}. Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM), optical spectroscopy and ARPES experiments infer that the phase transition around T = 80 K ~ 100 K is a CDW transition^{14–21}. In the CDW state, hard X-ray scattering and STM measurements observe a $2a_0 \times 2a_0 \times 2c_0$ superlattice^{14,22-26}. A star-of-David distortion, found in the known CDW of 17-TaS₂²⁷, was assumed in the kagome plane^{14,22,28}. As the cleavage surface is A or Sb plane, STM measurements can not directly detect the charge modulation in the vanadium kagome plane. Based on the DFT calculations, an inverse deformation to the star-of-David structure, Tri-hexagonal pattern, was suggested to be the distorted structure^{19,29,30}. However, this has not been clarified by any microscopic probe in the kagome plane yet. Moreover, a $4a_0$ charge modulation was suggested to emerge inside the CDW state below $T \sim 60 \text{ K}^{24,28}$. The additional charge modulation along the *c*-axis was also reported by X-ray scattering studies³⁰, while not confirmed by other STM and X-ray scattering studies^{22,23}.

Experiments under pressure further elaborated the importance of the CDW order. Transport measurements show that applying pressure can suppress the CDW order and enhance T_c by almost three times in $AV_3Sb_5^{31-34}$, making the pressure-temperature phase diagram resemble many unconventional superconductors^{35,36}. This behavior suggests a close relationship between CDW and superconductivity. The emergence of the pairing density wave in the superconducting state, which might be due to the influence of the CDW order, seems further support this view²⁴. In the current stage, the structure of the CDW order in AV_3Sb_5 is still indistinct and identifying it is very important for understanding the origin of the CDW order and its relation to the superconductivity.

In this work, we have performed ⁵¹V nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and ^{121/123}Sb nuclear quadrupole resonance (NQR) measurements on CsV₃Sb₅. By studying the spectra at low temperatures, we demonstrate that the CDW order is commensurate and our result is consistent with the star-of-David type structural distortion. Below $T^* \sim 40$ K, a further line splitting is observed in ⁵¹V-NMR spectra, while a line broadening was observed in ¹²¹Sb-NQR spectra. This behavior implies the appearance of an additional charge modulation and further demonstrates the unconventional nature of the CDW order.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Charge density wave order: ⁵¹V-NMR results

In the crystal structure of CsV₃Sb₅ shown in Fig. 1(a), three V atoms constitute one triangle which is corner-shared to other V triangles, forming a perfect V-kagome lattice. In the unit cell, all V sites are equivalent. A magnetic field of $B_0 = 11.997$ T along the *c*-axis is applied for ⁵¹V-NMR measurements. The total Hamiltonian under

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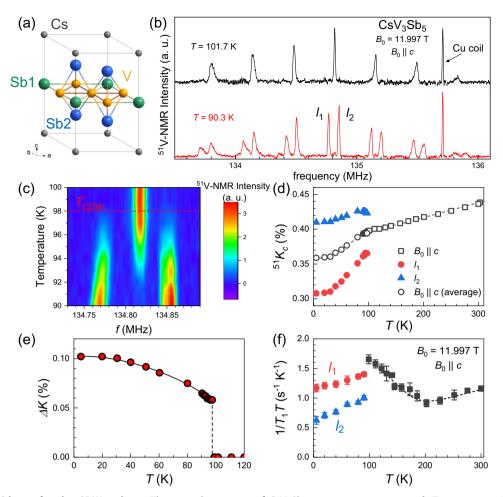


Fig. 1 ⁵¹**V**-**NMR evidence for the CDW order. a** The crystal structure of CsV_3Sb_5 at room temperature. **b** Temperature dependence of the ⁵¹V-NMR spectra above T_{CDW} (black color) and below T_{CDW} (red color) with the external magnetic field applied along the *c*-axis. The low- and high-frequency central peaks of 90.3 K were assigned as I_1 and I_2 , respectively. The sharp peak around 135.7 MHz is from the Cu coil. **c** Contour plot of the ⁵¹V central lines around T_{CDW} , there are three peaks between 98 K and 92 K. **d** Temperature dependence of the Knight shift K_c for ⁵¹V central line. The average K_c of the two peaks is plotted by black circles. **e** Temperature dependence of the Knight shift difference ΔK between the two split peaks. **f** Temperature-dependent $1/T_1T$ for ⁵¹V measured at the central lines. Below T_{CDW} , $1/T_1T$ and K_c of I_1 and I_2 are plotted by red dots and blue triangles, respectively. The dash lines are the guides to the eyes. The error bar of $1/T_1T$ is the s. d. in fitting the recovery curve.

magnetic field is³⁷:

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$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mathcal{H}_Q = -\gamma \hbar \mathbf{I} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 (1+K) + \frac{e^2 q Q}{4l(2l-1)} \left[(3l_z^2 - l^2) + \frac{1}{2} \eta (l_+^2 + l_-^2) \right]$$
(1)

where K is the Knight shift, $eq = V_{ZZ} = \frac{\partial V^2}{\partial Z^2}$ is the electric field gradient (EFG) along the principal axis, and V is the electric potential, Q is the nuclear quadrupole moment, and $\eta = |V_{XX} - V_{XX}|$ $V_{\gamma\gamma}|/|V_{ZZ}|$ is the asymmetry parameter of EFG. The nuclear quadrupole resonance frequency v_Q is defined as $\frac{3e^2 qQ}{2/(2l-1)\hbar}$, γ is the nuclear gyromagnetic ratio, which is 11.193 MHz/T for the ⁵¹V nucleus. Since the nuclear spin / of ⁵¹V is 7/2, there should appear seven transition lines. Indeed, the ⁵¹V-NMR spectrum at 101.7 K (above T_{CDW}) shown in Fig. 1(b) consists of one central peak and six satellite peaks. With decreasing temperature down to 90.3 K, we find that all NMR lines split into two lines with area ratio around 1:1 as illustrated in the bottom of Fig. 1(b). No spectral weight is lost during the transition. We also note that the splitting of the first low-frequency satellite, $\delta f_{satellite} = 0.0818$ MHz, is different from the splitting of the central peak, $\delta f_{center} =$ 0.0842 MHz, indicating that both magnetic and guadrupole shifts contribute to the observed line splitting. This behavior is the same with the CDW order in YBa₂Cu₃O_y and Bi₂Sr_{2-x}La_xCuO_{6+ δ}^{38,39}, suggesting that a charge modulation occurs at low temperatures. For the one dimensional (1D) incommensurate CDW order, the NMR spectrum should have two peaks of equal intensities, and most importantly, a continuum between the two peaks⁴⁰. For the 2D or 3D cases, if the amplitude of the charge modulation along one direction is much stronger than the others, the NMR spectrum should be similar to the 1D incommensurate CDW order⁴⁰. Otherwise, the spectrum should only have one symmetric peak⁴⁰. These features for the incommensurate CDW are not observed in ⁵¹V-NMR spectra, indicating that the observed CDW order is not incommensurate. On the other hand, the commensurate CDW results in discrete peaks⁴¹, which is consistent with our observation, proving that the CDW order is commensurate.

To further investigate the CDW evolution, we make a contour plot of the central lines from T = 100 to 90 K, as shown in Fig. 1(c) (the raw data is shown in Supplementary Fig. 2). Three lines are seen between T = 98 K and 93 K, implying the coexistence of the CDW and a charge-uniform phase. With decreasing temperature, the NMR intensity gradually shifts from the line of the charge-uniform state to the two split lines related to the CDW state. These are the typical features of the first-order transition. We fit the ⁵¹V-NMR spectra with the Lorentz function to get the resonance

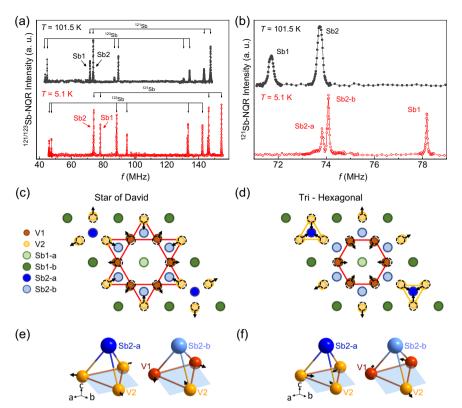


Fig. 2 ^{121/123}**Sb-NQR spectra and illustration of possible CDW patterns. a** The NQR spectra of ^{121/123}Sb at 101.5 K (above T_{CDW}) and 5.1 K (below T_{CDW}). There are five pairs of resonance peaks in the spectrum above T_{CDW} , marked by five pairs of arrows. Each pair of resonance peaks comes from two types of Sb sites in the crystal structure, namely, Sb1 and Sb2. **b** Close-up of the spectrum between 71MHz and 79MHz, corresponding to $\pm 1/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 3/2$ transitions of ¹²¹Sb. Below the CDW phase transition, one resonance peak from Sb2 splits into two peaks marked as Sb2-a and Sb2-b, and the peak from Sb1 shifts to high frequency. **c**, **d** show the star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal patterns, respectively. The black dashed open circles represent the V site in the pristine crystal structure. The dark yellow and shallow yellow solid circles represent two types of Sb1 sites. **e**, **f** show the local structure around the Sb2 site in star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal patterns, respectively. The black arrows indicate the lattice distortion direction.

frequency *f* of central peaks. After subtracting the second-order perturbation from the quadrupole interaction (see Supplementary Note 3 for additional analysis), we obtain the temperature-dependent Knight shift K_c plotted in Fig. 1(d). The difference of the Knight shift between I_1 and I_2 is contributed from the spatial distribution of charge density in the CDW phase. ΔK is defined as the Knight shift difference of two split central peaks, and the results are summarized in Fig. 1(e). ΔK abruptly increases to non-zero at 98 K, which is consistent with the temperature dependence of the quadrupole frequency difference Δv_Q (see Supplementary Fig. 4), again suggesting that the CDW transition is of the first order.

We further measure the temperature dependence of ⁵¹V-NMR spin-lattice relaxation rate divided by T, $1/T_1T$, as shown in Fig. 1(f). The $1/T_1T$ decreases with decreasing T down to around 200 K but starts to increase towards T_{CDW} . Since Knight shift decreases with decreasing temperatures, the decrease of $1/T_1T$ at high temperatures might be due to the band effect as Co or Ni-doped BaFe₂As₂ systems^{42,43}. At low temperatures, the increase of $1/T_1T$ down to T_{CDW} can be due to either CDW or spin fluctuations. In view that the CDW transition is of the first order, the contribution from spin fluctuations should not be neglected⁴⁴. Below T_{CDW} , $1/T_1T$ is measured at both l_1 and l_2 lines, and both are found to decrease with decreasing temperature due to the gap opening in the CDW state. In the end, we note that the averaged Knight shift of two split lines is smaller than the extrapolation from high temperature K_{c} , suggesting a partial gap opening at the Fermi surface in the CDW state.

The structure of CDW order: ^{121/123}Sb-NQR results

Next, we use ^{121/123}Sb-NQR to obtain more information about the structure of the CDW order. There are two types of Sb sites in CsV₃Sb₅. Namely, Sb1 is located in the center of the vanadium hexagon, and Sb2 is located above the vanadium triangle, as shown in Fig. 1(a). Sb has two type of isotopes, ¹²¹Sb (I = 5/2) and ¹²³Sb (I = 7/2). For ¹²¹Sb nucleus, the NQR spectrum should have two resonance peaks corresponding to $\pm 1/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 3/2$ and $\pm 3/2 \leftrightarrow$ ±5/2 transitions. For ¹²³Sb nucleus, the NQR spectrum should have three resonance peaks corresponding to $\pm 1/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 3/2, \pm 3/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 5/2$ 2 and $\pm 5/2 \leftrightarrow \pm 7/2$ transitions. So a total of ten lines should be observed in $^{121/123}\mbox{Sb-NQR}$ spectrum for $\mbox{CsV}_3\mbox{Sb}_5,$ which is indeed seen at $T > T_{CDW}$ in the normal state (see Fig. 2(a)). Considering that the atomic ratio between Sb1 and Sb2 is 1:4, we assign the lower and higher frequency line in each pair corresponding to Sb1 and Sb2, as indicated in the figure. Figure 2(b) shows the blow-up to compare the $^{121/123}$ Sb-NQR spectrum above and below $T_{\rm CDW}$. With decreasing temperature, an abrupt change of the Sb-NQR spectrum was seen in the CDW state (see Supplementary Fig. 5). Unlike a simple splitting observed in the ⁵¹V-NMR spectrum, the two Sb lines evolve into three in the the CDW state. We will show below how to assign these lines, and that the observed change of the Sb-NQR spectrum can be attributed to the star-of-David pattern in the CDW state.

Considering the atomic ratio between Sb1 and Sb2, we can assign that the two peaks around 74 MHz are from the Sb2 site, and another peak is from the Sb1 site. The frequencies of all lines are related to v_0 and the asymmetry parameter η . The deduced v_0

and n as shown in Table 1 (the detailed calculation is presented in Supplementary Note 6). As the change of lattice parameter is <1%in the CDW state¹⁰, the main contribution to the EFG change should be from the unclosed 5p shell of Sb, similar to the case of the O site in the CuO₂ plane of the cuprate high- T_c superconductors⁴⁵. For the Sb1 site, the increase in $v_{\rm O}$ as large as 9% indicates a strong band renormalization at Sb1-p orbitals in the CDW state. Meanwhile, the absence of a change of *n* suggests that the renormalization should occur at the orbital along the principal axis of EFG, which is along the *c*-axis (see Supplementary Note 7). Therefore, our results suggest a strong band renormalization at Sb1- p_z orbital in the CDW state, which is consistent with ARPES results²¹. In contrast to the Sb1 site, v_Q of the Sb2 site changes <1%, suggesting that the band renormalization of the Sb2- p_z orbital is small. However, η increases to ~ 0.1 in the CDW state, suggesting a population disparity between Sb2-5p_x and $5p_y$ orbitals, like the change of the As-4p orbitals inside the nematic state in iron-based high- T_c superconductors^{46,47}. The population disparity between Sb2-5 p_x and 5 p_y orbitals has not been captured by ARPES measurements so far, probably due to the limited energy resolution of the probe.

Along with the CDW transition, the star-of-David and Trihexagonal types of order as illustrated in Fig. 2(c) and (d), respectively, are proposed to be the possible structures^{14,29,48}. And based on these two proposed structures, we analyze our experimental results. These two types of order correspond to breathing-in and breathing-out phonon modes of the kagome lattice, respectively. The star-of-David type corresponds to the expansion of Sb1 centering V-hexagon and Sb2 centering Vtriangle, and vice versa for the Tri-hexagon type. Both structures form a $2a_0 \times 2a_0$ superlattice. Previous STM and X-ray scattering experiments found that the charge modulation exhibits a π -phase shift along the *c*-axis, suggesting a three-dimensional $2a_0 \times 2a_0 \times$

Table 1. Experimental results of the quadrupole frequency v_Q and the asymmetry parameter η of the Sb1 and Sb2 sites.				
Т	site	v _Q (¹²¹ Sb)	v _Q (¹²³ Sb)	η
101.5 K	Sb1	71.716	43.520	0
	Sb2	73.728	44.763	0
5.1 K	Sb1-a /Sb1-b	78.179	47.456	0
	Sb2-a	73.039	44.370	0.0974
	Sb2-b	73.295	44.505	0.0991
The detailed calculation process of η can be found in Supplementary Note				

6. The unit of $v_{
m Q}$ is MHz. η is a dimensionless parameter.

 $2c_0$ charge density wave ordering^{22,23}. For such ordering, the structural distortion pattern within different layers is the same. Moreover, considering that V and Sb1 sit in the V kagome plane and the Sb2 site is close to the plane, the main contribution to the EFG change should be from the in-plane structural distortion. In the analysis below, we only consider the structural distortion in the plane. In both star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal structures, two V sites exist with the atomic ratio of V1:V2 site = 1:1, which explains why ⁵¹V-NMR central peak splits into two peaks with the area ratio of 1:1. The other feature for the proposed structures is that the Sb2 site should become two distinct sites, namely Sb2-a and Sb2-b as illustrated in Fig. 2(e) and (f). The atomic ratio of Sb2a/Sb2-b should be 1:3. In our study, we find that the Sb2 peak indeed splits into two peaks with the ratio Sb2-a/Sb2-b around 1:3, which is consistent with both star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal patterns. We note that a structure with both star-of-David and Trihexagonal characters was reported³⁰. However, the coexistence of the two types of patterns will lead to four distinct Sb2 lines inside the CDW state, which is inconsistent with our observation. We note that more distinct V. Sb1 and Sb2 sites should emerge due to the influence of disorders or CDW domain boundaries. However, this is not observed in our NMR or NQR spectra, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Therefore, our observation suggests that disorders and CDW domain boundaries are rare in our sample. In principle, the Sb1 site can also become two distinct sites. As the six V atoms are very far from the Sb1 site, however, the difference between Sb1-a and Sb1-b site is very small, making the peak splitting unresolvable in the NQR spectrum.

Next, we distinguish between star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal patterns. For the star-of-David type structure, the average distance between Sb2-a and its nearest V atoms is longer than that between Sb2-b to its nearest V atoms. For the Tri-hexagonal structure, by contrast, the average distance between Sb2-a and its nearest V atoms is shorter than that between Sb2-b to its nearest V atoms. With the smaller distance between the V atom to the Sb atom, the influence to the local electron distribution of the Sb site will be more significant. By EFG calculation, we find that this will enhance the EFG of the Sb2 site (see Supplementary Note 7). Our result shows that the v_{Ω} of Sb2-a is smaller than that of Sb2-b (see Table 1 and Supplementary Fig. 5), suggesting the star-of-David structural distortion in the CDW state. Our observation is in contrast to the recent reports by combining DFT calculation with ultrafast pump-probe reflectivity experiments¹⁹, STM microscopy images²⁹, and quantum oscillation measurements³⁰, in which the Tri-hexagonal type structure distortion was suggested. In these studies, the electron correlation effect is not considered in the DFT calculation. Therefore, the neglected electron-electron interaction could be one possible reason for the contradiction between our and previous studies. However, we note that the displacement of

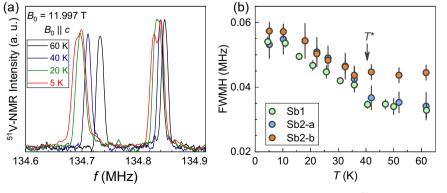


Fig. 3 Evidence for the additional charge modulation inside the CDW state. a Central peaks of ⁵¹V-NMR spectra at various temperatures below T = 60 K. b Temperature-dependent full width of half maximum (FWHM) of all Sb sites. The FWHM of both sites start to increase below $T^* \sim 40$ K marked by the black arrow. The error bar is the s.d. in fitting spectra by the Lorentz function.

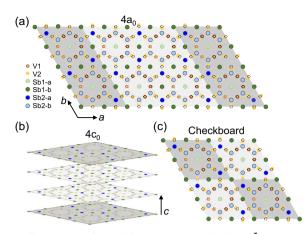


Fig. 4 Illustration of possible CDW patterns below T^* . $4a_0$, $4c_0$, and checkboard charge modulations compatible with the NMR spectra under the background of star-of-David type lattice distortion are shown in (**a**), (**b**), and (**c**), respectively. The gray level represents the charge density.

Sb atoms along c axis is not considered in our study based on the star-of-David and Tri-hexagonal patterns. It is also possible that the structure of the CDW pattern is much complex than the current proposed two structures. To further resolve this issue, NMR measurements on Sb sites are needed in the future.

Additional charge modulation inside the CDW state

Inside the CDW state, we further find another charge modulation at lower temperatures. As shown in Fig. 3(a), two central peaks of the V site start to broaden below $T^* \sim 40$ K, and further split into four at 5 K. Such further splitting is ten times smaller than the main splitting. So in a less clean sample, only a line broadening can be seen (see Supplementary Fig. 10), which also suggests that the splitting is not due to an impurity effect. The magnetic field is applied along the *c*-axis, which does not introduce any additional symmetry-breaking force. The possibility of magnetic phase transition can be excluded as there is no anomaly in the temperature dependence of $1/T_1T$ and the broadening is fielddependent (see Supplementary Fig. 11). Thus the change below T^* is mainly due to the Knight shift difference.

An orbital ordering could also cause a Knight shift splitting^{47,49}. Note, however, that the NMR line splitting inside the orbitalordered state is due to the formation of twinned domains^{47,49}. In different domains, the applied magnetic field is along different axes, resulting in the line splitting. For a de-twinned sample, only a frequency shift was seen due to the orbital ordering⁵⁰. For NQR measurements, on the other hand, no external magnetic field was applied, so the spectra for different domains are the same, resulting in a move of the NQR spectrum below the ordering temperature as seen in LaFeAsO_{1-x}F_x⁵¹ (see Supplementary Note 10). However, we find that the NQR frequencies of all Sb sites increase continuously with decreasing temperature with no anomaly across *T*^{*}(see Supplementary Fig. 5), indicating that our observation is unlikely due to an orbital order.

The increase of the FWHM of the spectra for all Sb sites below T^* , as can be seen in Fig. 3(b), suggests that the change is an effect related to local charge density. We first consider a charge inhomogeneity as a possible cause. An effect due to charge inhomogeneity related to the sample quality would exist already at high temperatures. Given that the line splitting can only be seen at low temperatures, our observation rather implies an emergence of a possible new charge modulation on top of the star-of-David pattern CDW order. The Sb-NQR line width is much broader than the ⁵¹V-NMR linewidth, so only a line broadening is observed down to 5 K. Around T^* , the temperature evolution of

Several charge modulation patterns that can be compatible with our NMR data, such as the $4a_0^{24,28}$, $4c_0^{30}$, and checkboard patterns as shown, in Fig. 4. In this work, we can not distinguish which is the correct pattern. However, we note that the breaking of the in-plane rotational symmetry was observed by measuring caxis resistivity with the in-plane rotation of the magnetic field⁵². This suggests that the $4a_0$ pattern, which breaks the rotational symmetry, is more likely. The $4a_0$ pattern was also reported by STM measurements^{24,28}. As STM can only obtain the images of surfaces, this $4a_0$ pattern was suggested to be due to electron correlations related to the surface instability and electron-phonon interaction²⁹. In contrast, NMR detects bulk information, so our results suggest a possible $4a_0$ pattern in bulk, forming the nematic order⁵³. Especially, we have noticed that the in-plane anisotropy of the magnetoresistance was observed in the superconducting state, suggesting the twofold feature of superconductivity^{52,54}. Therefore, intertwining between nematicity and superconductivity should be considered for further investigation of the pairing mechanism in CsV₃Sb₅.

In summary, we have performed NMR and NQR measurements on the kagome superconductor, CsV₃Sb₅. Below the CDW transition temperature $T_{CDW} = 98$ K, the abrupt changes of both ⁵¹V-NMR and ^{121/123}Sb-NQR spectra indicate that the CDW transition is of the first order. By analyzing the spectra in the CDW state, we suggest that the structural distortion is of the starof-David type, contrasting with DFT calculations. This implies that electron correlations should be considered for modeling this system. Below $T^* \sim 40$ K, we further find an additional splitting of ⁵¹V-NMR lines and broadening of ¹²¹Sb-NQR lines, implying the appearance of an additional charge modulation on top of the starof-David type CDW. All these show that the CDW order in CsV₃Sb₅ is unique, which will be important in future exploration of the relationship between CDW and superconductivity.

Note Added: During the preparation of this manuscript, we became aware of two similar NMR works on $CsV_3Sb_5^{44,55}$. Our ⁵¹V-NMR and ^{121/123}Sb-NQR spectra are in good agreement with these two works^{44,55}. The observation of commensurate CDW order and the first-order CDW transition are consistent with their results. However, knowledge about the charge modulation of the CDW order was not reported previously.

METHODS

Samples

Single crystal CsV₃Sb₅ was synthesized by the self-flux method¹⁰. The typical size of the single crystal is around $3 \text{ mm} \times 2 \text{ mm} \times 0.1 \text{ mm}$. T_c was determined by DC susceptibility measured by a superconducting quantum interference device with the applied field 1 Oe parallel to the *c*-axis (see Supplementary Fig. 1). T_c is close to 3.5 K, which is among the highest values for this compound, indicating its high quality.

NMR and NQR measurements

⁵¹V-NMR experiments were performed on one single crystal sample at a fixed magnetic field along the *c*-axis. The spectra were obtained by adding Fourier transforms of the spin-echo signal recorded for regularly spaced frequency values. ^{121/123}Sb-NQR spectra were measured on a collection of ~ 50 single crystals by sweeping the frequency point by point and integrating spin-echo intensity. By performing EFG calculation, we find that the EFG principal axis of ^{121/123}Sb is along the *c*-axis (details about EFG calculation is present in Supplementary Note 7). Thus, we arrange the

 CsV_3Sb_5 single-crystal flakes along the *c* direction, ensuring the radio-frequency field H_1 in the *ab* plane (see Supplementary Fig. 8).

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The single crystals were grown by Z.Z., H.T.Y. and H.J.G. The NMR measurements were performed by J.L., Z.Y.Z., J.Y., A.F.F. and R.Z. R.Z. and G.-q.Z. wrote the manuscript with inputs from J.L. All authors have discussed the results and the interpretation.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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