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Study of the electronic properties of topological kagome metals YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6

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The synthesis and characterization of vanadium-based kagome metals YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 are presented. X-ray diffraction, magnetization, magnetotransport, and heat capacity measurements reveal an ideal kagome network of V-ions coordinated by Sn and separated by triangular lattice planes of rare-earth ions. The onset of low-temperature, likely noncollinear, magnetic order of Gd spins is detected in GdV_6Sn_6 , while V-ions in both compounds remain nonmagnetic. Density functional theory calculations are presented modeling the band structures of both compounds, which can be classified as \mathbb{Z}_2 topological metals in the paramagnetic state. Both compounds exhibit high mobility, multiband transport and present an interesting platform for controlling the interplay between magnetic order associated with the R -site sublattice and nontrivial band topology associated with the V-based kagome network. Our results invite future exploration of other RV_6Sn_6 (R =rare earth) variants where this interplay can be tuned via R -site substitution.

I. INTRODUCTION

The structural motif of a kagome net of metal ions gives rise to both Dirac points in the band structure as well as destructive interference-derived flat band effects. As a result, kagome metals have the potential to host topologically nontrivial band structures intertwined with electron-electron correlation effects. Electronic instabilities resulting from this interplay have been studied theoretically ranging from bond density wave order [1, 2], to charge density waves (CDW) [3] to superconductivity [1, 4]. Recent experiments have begun to probe this rich phase space and have uncovered the emergence of an unusually large anomalous Hall effect [5–7], complex itinerant magnetism [8, 9], charge density waves [10], spin density waves [11], and superconductivity [12, 13], validating the promise of kagome metals to form a rich frontier of unconventional electronic phenomena.

One family of kagome metals are the so-called “166” compounds that crystallize in the $MgFe_6Ge_6$ structural prototype. This class of materials is chemically very diverse, and considering the structure as AB_6X_6 , the A -site can host a variety of alkali, alkali earth, and rare earth metals (e.g. Li, Mg, Yb, Sm, Gd...). The B -site generally hosts a transition metal (e.g. Co, Cr, Mn, V, Ni...), and the X -site is generally restricted to the group IV elements (Si, Ge, Sn). Due to this chemical diversity, 166 materials host a wide variety of functionalities, particularly among those with magnetic host lattices. Examples include the existence of spin polarized Dirac cones in YMn_6Sn_6 [14]; large anomalous hall effects in $LiMn_6Sn_6$

[15], $GdMn_6Sn_6$ [16]; Chern topological magnetism in $TbMn_6Sn_6$ [17]; competing magnetic phases in YMn_6Sn_6 [18]; catalytic properties in $MgCo_6Ge_6$ [19]; negative magnetoresistance in $YMn_6Sn_{6-x}Ga_x$ [20]; and a cycloidal spin structure in $HoMn_{6-x}Cr_xGe_6$ [21].

One appeal of the chemical versatility of the 166 class of compounds is the ability design materials where magnetic interactions can be tuned independently from the kagome lattice. Nonmagnetic B -site variants, in principle, provide this flexibility and allow the interplay between magnetism and the kagome-derived band structures to be explored. This potentially allows access to new electronic phenomena derived from coupling the triangular-lattice planes of magnetic A -site ions and a nonmagnetic B -site kagome net. Nonmagnetic kagome metals are rather underexplored relative to their magnetic counterparts, and recent investigation of nonmagnetic AV_3Sb_5 compounds [22] have shown that unusual charge density wave instabilities and superconductivity may appear when local magnetic interactions are absent [23, 24]. Finding new, nonmagnetic kagome metal variants and tuning/proximitizing magnetic coupling allowed in the 166 structure via the neighboring layers is an appealing next step in this field.

In this work, we report the synthesis of single crystals of YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 kagome metal compounds and study their physical properties. X-ray diffraction, magnetization, resistivity, and heat capacity data reveal multiband, high-mobility electron transport and a nonmagnetic vanadium kagome lattice. Introduction of magnetic Gd ions results in the formation of magnetic order below 5.2 K, which, in zero field, suggests the formation of a canted or noncollinear antiferromagnetic state. *Ab initio* modeling of the band structures of these compounds establishes the presence of topological surface states at the Fermi

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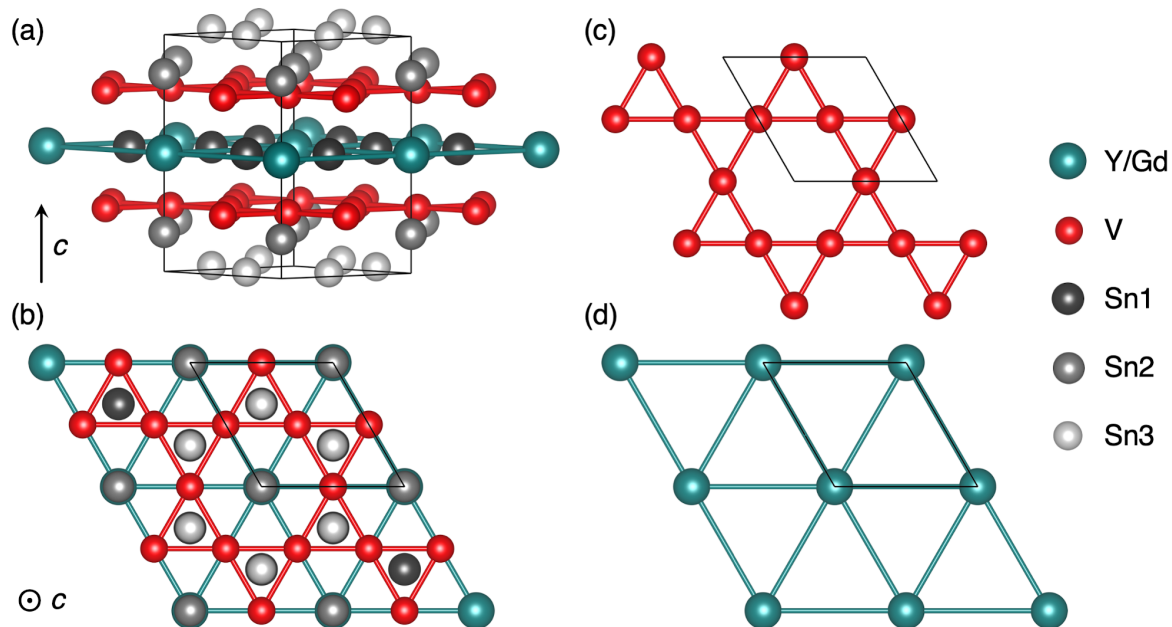


FIG. 1. Crystal structure of RV_6Sn_6 ($R = Gd, Y$) (a) RV_6Sn_6 lattice structure comprised of different layers of V_3Sn_2 , RSn_1 and Sn_3 atoms. The three different types of Sn sites are represented by Sn1, Sn2 and Sn3. (b) Top view of crystal structure looking along the c -axis and showing the kagome plane of V-atoms and projected Sn1 and Sn3 sites. (c) 2D kagome net of V-atoms. (d) Triangular lattice of R-site (Gd, Y) ions interwoven between kagome planes as shown looking along the c -axis.

level and categorizes the paramagnetic state as \mathbb{Z}_2 topological metal. Our results demonstrate that vanadium-based 166 kagome metals are interesting platforms to studying the interplay between nontrivial band topology and correlation effects endemic to a nonmagnetic kagome lattice proximitized to magnetic order in the neighboring rare-earth layers.

II. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Single crystals of YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 were synthesized via a flux-based technique. Gd (pieces, 99.9%), Y (powder, 99.9%), V (pieces, 99.7%), Sn (shot, 99.99%) were loaded inside an alumina crucible with the molar ratio of 1:6:20 and then heated at 1125°C for 12 hours. Then, the mixture was cooled at a rate of $2^\circ\text{C}/\text{h}$. The single crystals were separated from the flux via centrifuging at 780°C . Crystals grown via this method were generally a few millimeters in length and < 1 mm in thickness. The separated single crystals were subsequently cleaned with dilute HCl to remove any flux contamination. Crystals were then transferred into a small jar of mercury to further remove additional tin contamination to the crystals.

Single-crystal x-ray diffraction measurements were carried out on a Kappa Apex II single-crystal diffractometer with a charge coupled device (CCD) detector and a Mo source. Structural solutions were obtained using the SHELX software package [25]. Powder x-ray diffraction (PXRD) measurements were performed on a Panalytical Empyrean Powder Diffractometer using powdered single

TABLE I. Structural details of YV_6Sn_6 obtained from the refinement of single crystal x-ray diffraction data at $T = 300$ K. Cell refinement in $P6/mmm$ yields $R_f = 0.0175$, $WR_f = 0.0399$, and $a = b = 5.520(2)$, $c = 9.168(4)$ Å.

atom (site)	x	y	z	U_{ani}	occupancy
Y ($1a$)	1.0000	1.0000	0.5000	0.0085(3)	1
V ($6i$)	0.5000	0.5000	0.7481(1)	0.0053(3)	1
Sn ₁ ($2e$)	1.0000	1.0000	0.8335(1)	0.0066(2)	1
Sn ₂ ($2d$)	0.3333	0.6667	0.5000(1)	0.0063(2)	1
Sn ₃ ($2c$)	0.3333	0.6667	1.0000	0.0054(2)	1

TABLE II. Structural details of GdV_6Sn_6 obtained from the refinement of single crystal x-ray diffraction data at $T = 300$ K. Cell refinement in $P6/mmm$ yields $R_f = 0.039$, $WR_f = 0.085$, and $a = 5.5348(7)$, $c = 9.1797(11)$ Å.

atom (site)	x	y	z	U_{ani}	occupancy
Gd ($1b$)	1.0000	1.0000	0.5000	0.0063(4)	1
V ($6i$)	0.5000	0.5000	0.7487(2)	0.0055(4)	1
Sn ₁ ($2e$)	1.0000	1.0000	0.8344(1)	0.0072(4)	1
Sn ₂ ($2d$)	0.3333	0.6667	0.5000	0.0054(4)	1
Sn ₃ ($2c$)	0.3333	0.6667	1.0000	0.0064(4)	1

crystals. This was done to further verify the structure and phase purity over a larger volume.

Magnetization measurements were carried out using a Quantum Design Magnetic Properties Measurement Systems (MPMS-3). Plate-like single crystals were attached to quartz paddles using GE-Varnish. Measurements were

carried out with the magnetic field applied parallel to and perpendicular to the c -axis from 2 K to 300 K. The crystals were polished gently on the top and bottom surfaces prior to measurement. For heat capacity measurements, crystals of mass 3.68 mg (YV_6Sn_6) and 1.69 mg (GdV_6Sn_6) were mounted to the addenda using N-grease. Longitudinal, transverse and Hall magnetoresistance measurements were carried out using the electrical transport option (ETO) of the Quantum Design Dynacool Physical Properties Measurement System. Four-point measurements were used.

III. COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

Ab initio simulations were completed in VASP [26–28] using the PBE functional [29] with projector-augmented waves, [30, 31]. PAW potentials for V and Sn were selected based on the VASP $v5.2$ recommendations. For the calculations presented in the main text, Gd potentials with a frozen f -orbital core were chosen in order to approximate the paramagnetic phase previously investigated in ARPES experiments [32]. In the supporting material, electronic structure calculations are completed for the low-temperature ferromagnetic phase using complete Gd potentials with a Hubbard potential $U = 6$ eV applied to the Gd f orbitals. This choice of U gives a magnetic moment $\mu \approx 7 \mu_B$, consistent with experiment (a Hubbard U correction near 6 eV is generally expected for Gd [33]). Calculations employed an $11 \times 11 \times 5$ Γ -centered k -mesh and a plane wave energy cutoff of 400 eV. Structures were relaxed in VASP *via* the conjugate gradient descent algorithm with a force-energy cutoff of 10^{-4} eV. All calculations after relaxation employed spin-orbit coupling corrections with an energy convergence cutoff of 10^{-6} eV. Tight-binding models were constructed by projecting onto valence orbitals (Gd d ; V d ; Sn p ; inner window $E_F \pm 2$ eV; outer window $E > E_F - 5.3$ eV) using the disentanglement procedure in WANNIER90 [34]. Surface state Green's function calculations were completed in the WANNIER TOOLS package [35, 36]. Irreducible representations used to determine the Z_2 invariant were determined with IRVSP [37]. COHP calculations and orbital projections employed LOBSTER; these calculations do not incorporate spin-orbit coupling, which is not implemented in LOBSTER [38–41]. A Gaussian smoothing with standard deviation 0.1 eV was applied to the density of states and COHPs. Structures were visualized with VESTA [42]. Additional computational details, including an initial comparison of the *ab initio* band structure to experimental ARPES measurements, a comparison of the relaxed vs. experimental lattice parameters and the full Z_2 invariant calculations are available in the supporting material.

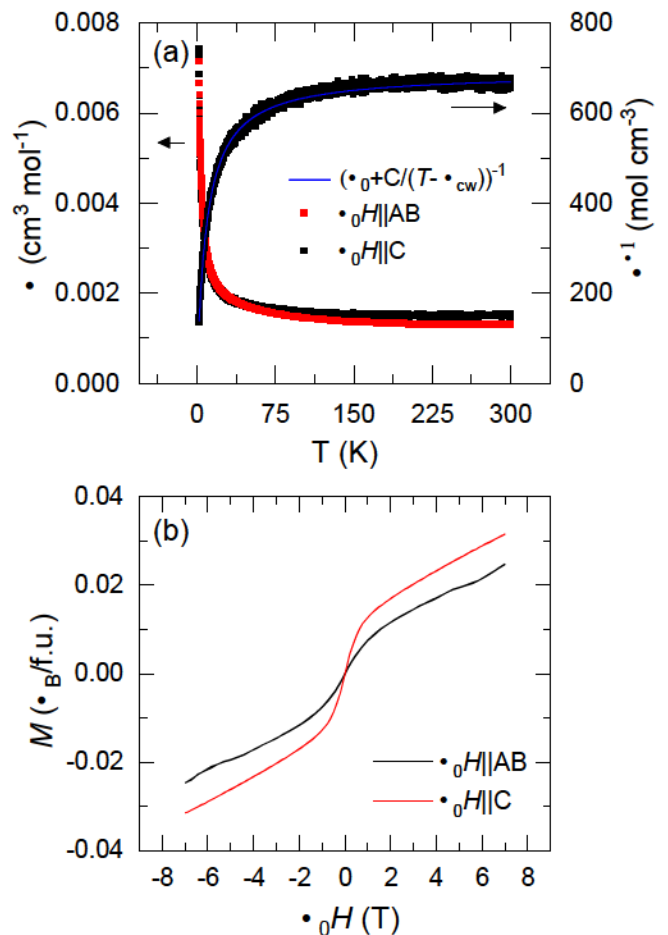


FIG. 2. Magnetization measurements from YV_6Sn_6 . (a) Temperature-dependent magnetic data plotted as magnetic susceptibility, $\chi = M/H$, and inverse magnetic susceptibility, χ^{-1} , collected with 100 mT applied parallel and perpendicular to the c -axis. Horizontal arrows indicate the corresponding axis for the data. The blue curve shows the result from a Curie-Weiss fit to the data with a temperature independent χ_0 term. (b) Field-dependent magnetization collected at 2 K with the field applied parallel and perpendicular to the c -axis. The non-linear field dependence arises due to quantum oscillations and the de Haas-van Alphen effect. The rapid upturns at low-T and low-H are due to the presence of weak paramagnetic impurities in the sample.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Crystal structure

The crystal structure of RV_6Sn_6 ($R = \text{Y, Gd}$) was obtained from the refinement of x-ray single crystal diffraction data and the structure is illustrated in Fig. 1. YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 both exhibit the MgFe_6Ge_6 -type structure with a stacking of the kagome layers of V-ions along the crystallographic c -axis. The Y/Gd ions as well as the vanadium ions occupy unique crystallographic sites; whereas Sn ions occupy three different types of

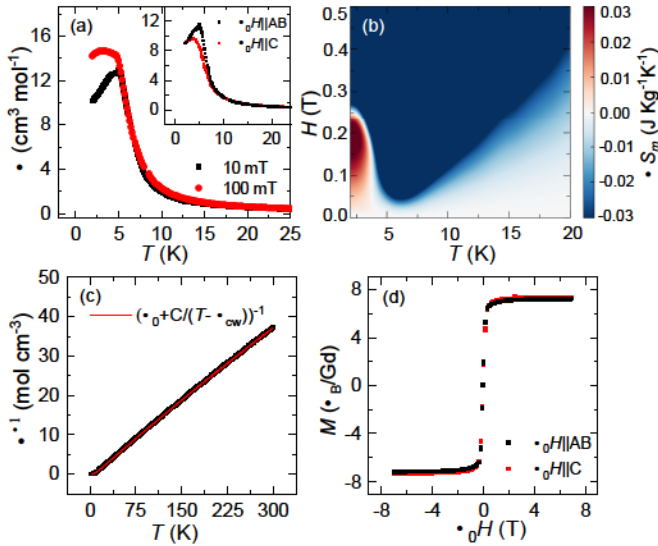


FIG. 3. Magnetization measurements from GdV_6Sn_6 . (a) Temperature-dependent magnetization data plotted as magnetic susceptibility, $\chi = M/H$, at fields of $\mu_0 H = 10$ and 100 mT applied perpendicular to the c -axis. A magnetic transition is observed at $T_m \sim 5.2$ K. The inset shows a comparison of χ for a magnetic field applied parallel and perpendicular to the c -axis. Weak anisotropy is observed near T_m . (b) Magnetoentropy map ($\Delta S_m(T, H)$) of GdV_6Sn_6 near the ordering temperature for the fields applied perpendicular to the c -axis. (c) Temperature-dependent inverse susceptibility, χ^{-1} , for fields applied parallel to the c -axis. The red solid line shows a Curie-Weiss fit to the data as described in the text. (d) Field-dependent magnetization data collected at 2 K for the field applied both parallel and perpendicular to the c -axis.

crystallographic sites denoted by Sn1, Sn2 and Sn3 in Fig. 1. A unit cell consists of the layers of V_3Sn_2 separated by two inequivalent layers of Sn3 and RSn1, forming $[\text{V}_3\text{Sn}_2][\text{RSn1}][\text{V}_3\text{Sn}_2][\text{Sn3}]$ layers along the c -axis. Fig. 1(b) reveals the topside view of the crystal structure where the V-atoms form a kagome layer within the ab -plane. Sn2 and Sn3 sites form stannene planes between the kagome layers of V atoms. The isolated kagome net of V atoms is shown in Fig. 1(c). The interstitial rare-earth atoms form a triangular lattice plane as shown in Fig. 1(d).

The refined structural parameters of YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 are shown in Table I. Nearest neighbor distances within the kagome plane are reasonably close with V-V distances being 2.76 Å in YV_6Sn_6 and 2.77 Å in GdV_6Sn_6 . Sn2 atoms center laterally within the hexagons of the V-based kagome plane and are displaced slightly upward/downward along the c -axis. This is analogous to the CoSn-B35 type structure where the R sites are empty and the Sn atoms reside within the kagome planes of Co-atoms [43]. In RV_6Sn_6 , steric effects introduced by the R atoms push the Sn2 atoms out of the kagome layer, and this arrangement is distinct from the structures of other well-known Sn-based kagome metals such as Fe_3Sn_2 [44, 45] and $\text{Co}_3\text{Sn}_2\text{S}_2$ [46] where the Sn atoms

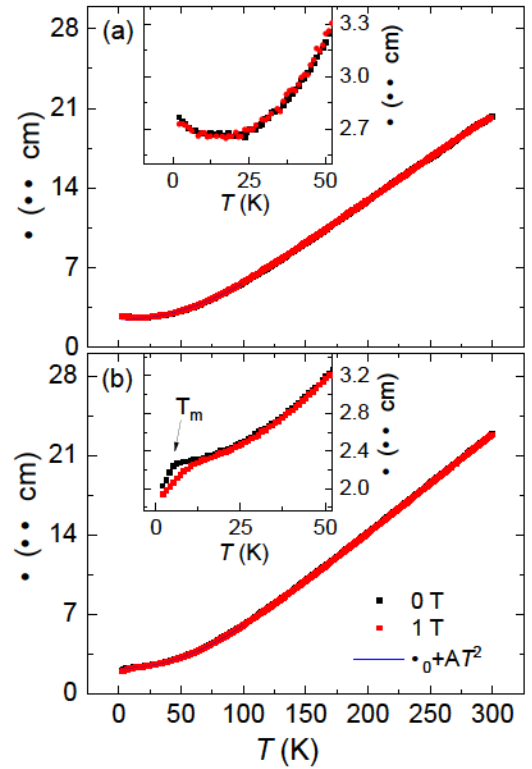


FIG. 4. Electrical transport measurements collected from YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 with current flowing in the ab -plane. $\rho(T)$ is plotted for YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 in panels (a) and (b) respectively. Data were collected under both 0 T and with 1 T applied along the c -axis. The blue curve shows an effective parameterization of the data via equation $\rho = \rho(0) + AT^2$.

almost lie within the kagome layers of Fe and Co atoms respectively.

B. Magnetic properties

Temperature-dependent magnetization measurements were carried out with the magnetic field applied both parallel and perpendicular to the (001) crystal surface. The results are summarized in Figures 2 and 3. In YV_6Sn_6 (Fig. 2), the measured magnetic susceptibility is small ($\approx 10^{-3}$ $\text{cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$) and, at high temperature, it shows predominantly Pauli-like, paramagnetic behavior. A weak upturn is observed upon cooling, likely due to a small fraction of impurity moments. To quantify this, the composite $\chi(T)$ is fit to a modified Curie-Weiss form adding a $\chi(0)$ contribution. This yields a $\chi(0)$ of $0.00145(6)$ $\text{cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}$, Curie constant of $0.01319(3)$ $\text{cm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-2}$ and Θ_{CW} of $-0.3(2)$ K. The Curie constant results in a weak effective moment of $0.3(1)$ $\mu_B/\text{f.u}$ and Θ_{CW} is zero within the error of the fit. There is no resolvable anisotropy in χ with the applied field parallel and perpendicular to the c -axis.

Fig. 2(b) shows isothermal magnetization data from YV_6Sn_6 collected at 2 K. The low-field magnetization is

dominated by the rapid polarization of the small impurity fraction, which at high magnetic field evolves into linear behavior from the dominant, Pauli-like susceptibility. Oscillations become apparent in the high-field magnetization when the field is aligned within the ab-plane due to the de Haas-van Alphen effect, suggesting a reasonably high mobility for the charge carriers. This is explored in greater depth in the next section.

Turning to GdV_6Sn_6 , an anomaly in the magnetic susceptibility, $M/H = \chi$, is evident at $T_m = 5.2(2)$ K, indicating a magnetic transition (Fig. 3). On cooling, a rapid divergence in the magnetization suggests the onset of ferromagnetic correlations; however the moment decreases below T_m under low field ($H = 10$ mT) measurements. The low-temperature downturn in magnetization persists in both zero-field and field-cooled measurements (not shown), suggesting antiferromagnetic correlations rather than conventional glass-like moment freezing. Upon applying a slightly higher magnetic field ($H = 100$ mT), the low-temperature downturn is largely suppressed and a ferromagnetic state is polarized as shown in the Fig. 3(a). The inset of Fig. 3(a) shows a comparison of χ for the magnetic field applied perpendicular and parallel to the c -axis. A weak anisotropy is observed below T_m suggesting a slight easy-plane anisotropy. The field and temperature dependence of the field-polarized ferromagnetic state, plotted as a magnetoentropy map $\Delta S_m(T, H)$ [47], is shown in Fig. 3(b). The $\Delta S_m(T, H)$ map indicates that the low-temperature phase boundary between the field-induced ferromagnetic state and the low field non-collinear magnetic state is near 200 mT.

Fig. 3(c) shows the inverse susceptibility, $1/\chi$, collected under 10 mT with a crystal of mass 0.26 mg. $1/\chi$ is linear above the magnetic ordering temperature and Curie-Weiss analysis incorporating a small χ_0 term of the form $\chi = \chi(0) + C/(T - \Theta_{CW})$ was performed above 100 K, yielding $C = 8.28(1) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$, $\Theta_{CW} = 7.56(2)$ K for the field applied perpendicular to the c -axis and $C = 7.33(1) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$, $\Theta_{CW} = 7.76(2)$ K for the field applied parallel to the c -axis. A positive Θ_{CW} is consistent with the presence of ferromagnetic correlations above T_m , and the effective paramagnetic moment $\mu_{eff} = 7.90(3) \mu_B/\text{Gd}$ is consistent with the that expected for $J = 7/2 \text{ Gd}^{3+}$ spins and the low-lying crystal field multiplets populated above 100 K. Isothermal magnetization data at 2 K are plotted in Fig 3(d). The magnetization rapidly increases with applied field and reaches saturation slightly below $\mu_0 H = 1$ T. The moment saturates near the expected value of $7 \mu_B/\text{Gd-ion}$ for both field parallel and perpendicular to the crystal surface, and no hysteresis is observed.

C. Transport properties

Electrical resistivity data $\rho_{xx}(T, H)$ were collected as a function of temperature and magnetic field for both YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 . Temperature dependent $\rho_{xx}(T, H)$ measurements at both 0 T and 1 T are shown for YV_6Sn_6

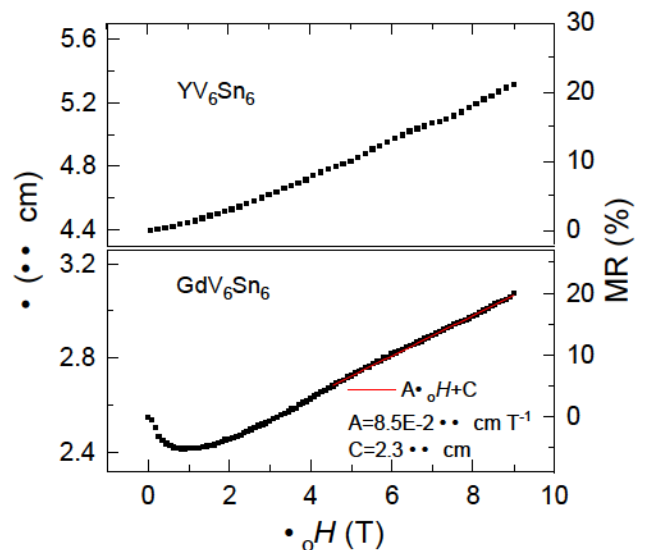


FIG. 5. Transverse magnetoresistance data collected from GdV_6Sn_6 (a) and YV_6Sn_6 (b). Isothermal $\rho(H)$ data exhibited weak asymmetry upon reversed field direction due to the contamination from Hall signal. The magnetoresistance component was isolated by averaging $\rho_{xx}(H)$ and $\rho_{xx}(-H)$. At high fields, $\rho(H)$ displays linear field dependence in GdV_6Sn_6 whereas a weak oscillating behavior is resolved in YV_6Sn_6 . The solid red line in (a) represents a linear fit to the high field $\rho(H)$ of GdV_6Sn_6 .

and GdV_6Sn_6 in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) respectively. Crystals show a residual resistivity ratio $\rho_{xx}(300 \text{ K})/\rho_{xx}(2 \text{ K}) \approx 10$. YV_6Sn_6 exhibits a weak upturn below ≈ 15 K, while GdV_6Sn_6 shows an inflection in $\rho_{xx}(T)$ when cooling below T_m . Above these low-temperature anomalies, $\rho(T)$ largely follows conventional Fermi-liquid $\rho \propto T^2$ behavior.

The low-temperature resistivity data in the paramagnetic state were fit to the form $\rho_{xx}(T) = \rho(0) + AT^2$ below 100 K. The resulting fits are shown as blue curves in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) with $\rho_{xx}(0) = 2.40(7) \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$ and $A = 0.00032(1) \mu\Omega \text{ cm K}^{-2}$ for YV_6Sn_6 and $\rho_{xx}(0) = 2.20(4) \mu\Omega \text{ cm}$ and $A = 0.00038(1) \mu\Omega \text{ cm K}^{-2}$ for GdV_6Sn_6 . At high temperature, $\rho_{xx}(T)$ evolves into a conventional, linear form.

The isothermal, longitudinal resistivity $\rho(H)$ and the resulting magnetoresistance (MR) at 2 K are plotted in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b) for YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 respectively. Nonsaturating, positive MR is observed in both compounds up to 9 T. $\rho(H)$ shows a weak asymmetry when the direction of applied field is reversed, which arises due to the mixing of the longitudinal resistance with a strong Hall signal. This mixing is removed and the MR isolated by examining the symmetric component via averaging the $\rho(H)$ values over the positive and negative field directions [48, 49]. The even component is plotted as $\rho(H)$ in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b).

At low fields, YV_6Sn_6 shows a weakly quadratic MR, that evolves into a quasi-linear MR in the high field limit.

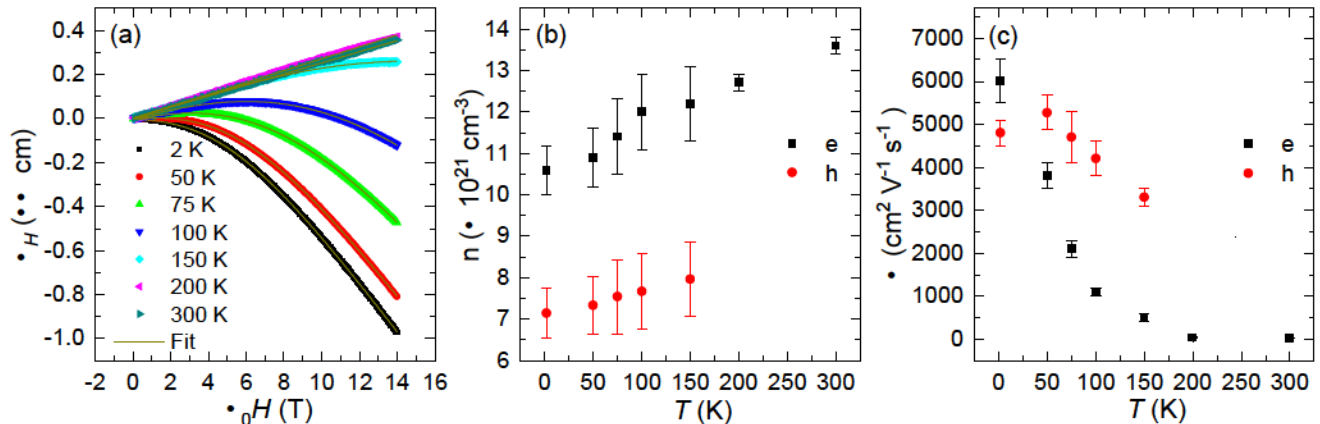


FIG. 6. Hall effect measurements on YV_6Sn_6 . (a) Field dependence of the Hall resistivity ρ_{xy} , measured at different temperatures. To remove contributions from the longitudinal resistivity, ρ_{xy} is isolated via $\rho_{xy} = \rho_{xy}(H) - \rho_{xy}(-H)$. Solid lines through the data show fits to a two-band model below 150 K and single band model above 200 K. (b) Temperature dependence of electron-type and hole-type carrier densities, n , obtained by the fits in panel (a). Electron and hole-type charge carriers are denoted by e and h in the figure. (c) Temperature dependence of the charge carrier mobilities, μ for each carrier type obtained from fits to the Hall data.

Weak oscillations are dressed on top of a linear MR, reflective of Shubnikov de Haas quantum oscillations in the magnetotransport, consistent with the de Haas van Alphen quantum oscillations observed in the magnetization data. More in-depth analysis of the quantum oscillations will require higher field strengths and lower temperatures; however Hall measurements can be used to further characterize the mobilities and carrier concentrations of the conduction bands. In contrast, magnetic GdV_6Sn_6 shows a negative MR at low-fields, which reaches a minimum near 1 T as the system enters the saturated, ferromagnetic state. Upon increasing field within the magnetically polarized state, the MR evolves and switches sign to become positive and linear at the high-field limit.

To better characterize the nature of conduction in YV_6Sn_6 , Hall $\rho_H(T, H)$ measurements were performed. Fig. 6(a) shows $\rho_H(H)$ measured at various temperatures with the magnetic field aligned parallel to the c -axis. At 2 K, ρ_H is not linear with field at low temperature, signifying the presence of multi-band transport. As the temperature is increased, a linear, single-band Hall response appears—by 300 K the transport can be described via an effective single-carrier model.

To parameterize the Hall data, ρ_H is fit with two different models at low ($T < 150$ K) and high ($T > 150$ K) temperature, where two-band and single-band fits, respectively, best describe the data. Fits are shown as lines in Fig. 6(a). Above 150 K, the ρ_H data are dominated by electron-like carriers whose mobility increases quickly upon cooling. Below 150 K, hole-like carriers contribute to the measured Hall response and the mobilities of each carrier type become comparable at the lowest measured temperature, 2 K. The carrier density, n , and mobility, μ , obtained from the fits are plotted in Fig 6(b) and 6(c) respectively.

D. Heat capacity measurements

Temperature-dependent heat capacity, $C_p(T)$, data characterizing both YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 were collected and are summarized in Fig. 7. C_p measurements reveal features consistent with both transport and magnetization data. Specifically, anomalies appear in the low temperature C_p for both compounds. In GdV_6Sn_6 a sharp cusp is observed at 5 K, coinciding with the onset of magnetic order below T_m . In case of YV_6Sn_6 , C_p follows the form $C_p = \gamma T + \beta T^2$ at low temperature; however fits to this form break down below ≈ 12 K. This breakdown occurs near the minimum in resistivity data shown in Fig. 4 (b), suggesting that the apparent localization of carriers in charge transport coincides with the depletion of the density of states sampled in C_p data. Above this breakdown, a fit parameterizing the Sommerfeld coefficient in YV_6Sn_6 is shown in Fig. 7 (b) with the effective coefficient prior to the suppression in the density of states being $\gamma = 0.067(6) \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-2}$.

V. ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE

The electronic structure of $(\text{Y,Gd})\text{V}_6\text{Sn}_6$ was modeled via density functional theory calculations. YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 show qualitatively similar band structures in the paramagnetic state and for clarity, we focus on the electronic structure of GdV_6Sn_6 in the paramagnetic phase in the following paragraphs.

Figure 8 shows the orbitally decomposed electronic structure of GdV_6Sn_6 with the orbital breakdown of the density of states shown in Fig. 8 (a). Fig. 8 (b) shows the crystal orbital Hamilton population curves projected for V-V, V-Sn, and Sn-Sn bonding interactions, where all are

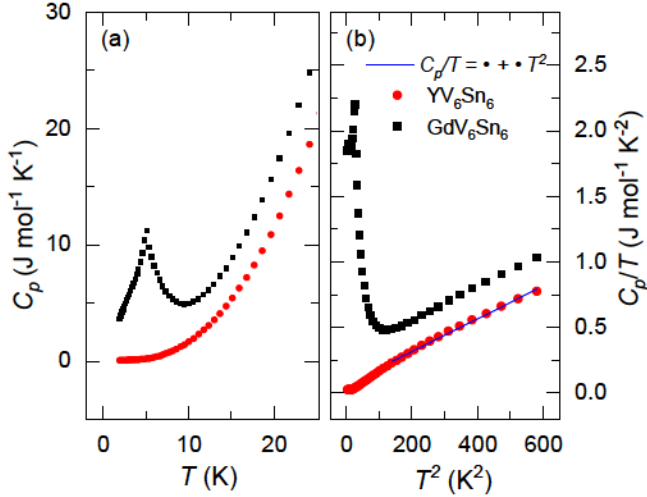


FIG. 7. (a) Temperature dependent heat capacity, $C_p(T)$, of GdV_6Sn_6 and YV_6Sn_6 measured in zero-magnetic field. (b) Temperature dependence of C_p/T plotted versus T^2 . To calculate the electronic and phonon contributions, Solid line shows the fit to the form $C_p(T) = \gamma T + \beta T^2$ as described in the text.

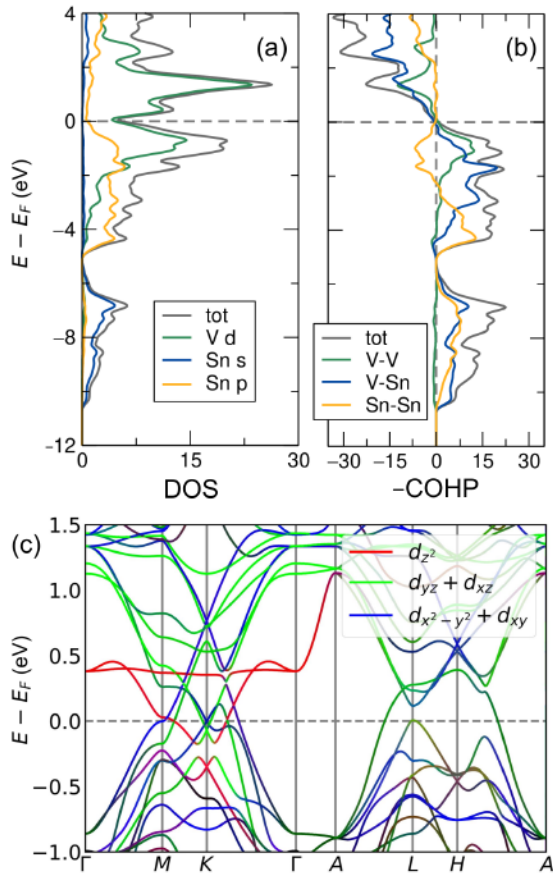


FIG. 8. Orbital origins of electronic structure. (a) orbital-projected density of states showing that the electronic structure near E_F derives primarily from the V d states. (b) crystal orbital Hamiltonian population curves for V-V, V-Sn, and Sn-Sn bonding. (c) V d orbital decomposed band structure.

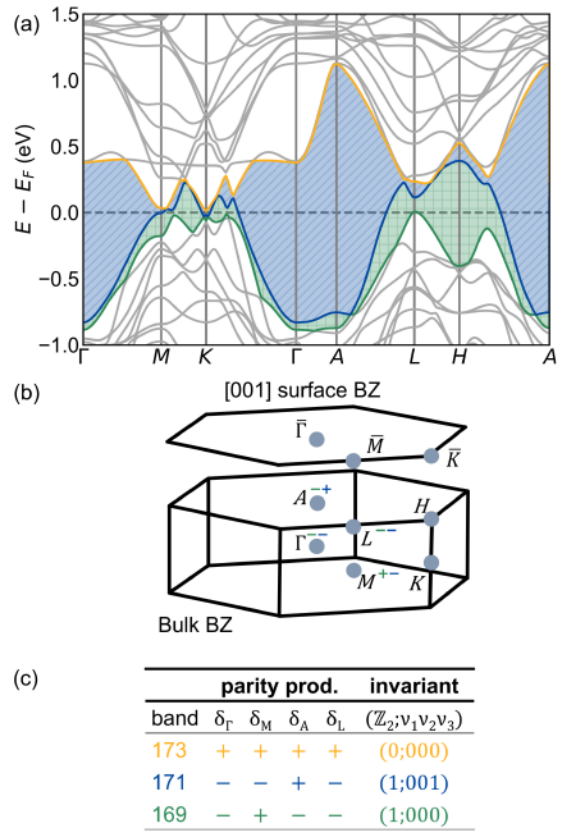


FIG. 9. Topological classification. (a) band structure with bands 169 (green), 171 (blue), and 173 (orange). Shaded regions show (E, k) space where topologically nontrivial states are expected to appear (b) visualization of the hexagonal Brillouin zone and projected [001] surface Brillouin zone, identifying high symmetry points. (c) Parity products classifying the \mathbb{Z}_2 invariant for each band. Bands 169 and 171 are characterized by a strong topological invariant, $\mathbb{Z}_2 = 1$. Band 173 is trivial with no topological invariants. In addition to the strong invariant, band 171 also supports a weak invariant $\nu_3 = 1$.

shown to contribute significantly near the Fermi-level. V-Sn and V-V bands are approximately half-filled, whereas states arising from the Sn p -Sn p interaction are fully filled. As a result, filled Sn p -Sn p antibonding states contribute near the Fermi level and likely play an important role in the structure. Fig. 8 (c) shows the V-based d -orbital band structure endemic to the kagome lattice. A prominent d_z^2 kagome flat-band can be seen above E_F , and Dirac cones and saddle points similar to those expected from minimal kagome tight-binding models lie at the Fermi level. Given the local kagome coordination in this structure, it is unsurprising that out-of-plane d_z^2 orbital states fill prior to $d_{yz} + d_{xz}$ and in-plane $d_{x^2-y^2} + d_{xy}$ states.

Figure 9 shows the band structure of GdV_6Sn_6 in the paramagnetic phase alongside the topological classification of the metallic state based on the bands crossing E_F . The band structure agrees well with ARPES data measuring the band structure [50]. Bands crossing E_F are high-

lighted in Fig. 9 (a) with high symmetry points labeled in Fig. 9 (b) for reference. Due to the presence of small, but continuous gaps between bands, the \mathbb{Z}_2 topological classification can be determined for each band using parity products, and a strong topological invariant $\mathbb{Z}_2 = 1$ can be assigned to bands 171 (blue) and 169 (green), while the topmost band 173 (yellow) is topologically trivial. As a result of these invariants, topological surface states are expected in the gaps between bands 169 and 171 (green, square-hatched) as well as between bands 171 and 173 (blue, diagonal-hatched) marked in Fig. 9 (a). Further classification is presented in the supplemental material accompanying this paper [50].

Exploring the possibility of topologically nontrivial surface states further, Fig. 10 plots projections of predicted surface states along the [001] surface with a Gd-terminated surface in Fig. 10 (a) and a Sn3-terminated surface in Fig. 10 (b). Comparing the two plots, many bright surface state bands can be identified in (b) which are not present in the bulk. Near-Fermi level surface bands can be seen emitting from the bulk Dirac cones on either side of \bar{K} . A pair of surface states bridge the large local band gap at $\bar{\Gamma}$, with a surface Weyl band crossing appearing at $E \approx -0.4$ eV. The presence of this rich surface state spectrum is expected from the topological invariant calculation described in Fig 9.

VI. DISCUSSION

The nature of the metallic state endemic to the V-based kagome net can be probed by examining the electronic properties of the nonmagnetic YV_6Sn_6 compound. Using the Sommerfeld coefficient γ , the effective quadratic coefficient A of temperature dependent resistivity $\rho(T)$, and χ_0 from susceptibility data, comparative metrics can be established. Using these, the Sommerfeld-Wilson ratio, ratio of Pauli susceptibility to the electronic contributions to the heat capacity, is $R = 2.23$ in units of $3\mu_B^2/4\pi^2K_B^2$ and is slightly enhanced above the nominal 1 for an uncorrelated metal. The Kadowaki-Woods ratio (A/γ^2) [51] similarly provides a slightly enhanced value of $7.1 \times 10^{-2} \mu\Omega \text{ cm mol}^2 \text{ K}^2 \text{ J}^{-2}$ for YV_6Sn_6 . These values suggest moderate correlation effects may be relevant for electron transport in these compounds; however we caution that the A and γ values are only effective parameters extracted prior to the low-temperature upturn in resistivity and suppression in the low-temperature density of states in this system.

Low-temperature Hall effect data show a multiband character to the electron transport onsets upon cooling. This behavior can be parameterized via two band fits, and at low temperatures, both electron-like and hole-like bands develop reasonably high mobilities nearly $6000 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. At 2 K, this results in the onset of weak, quantum oscillations in both the magnetoresistance as well as the magnetization. Future measurements at higher fields and lower temperatures will be required to fully

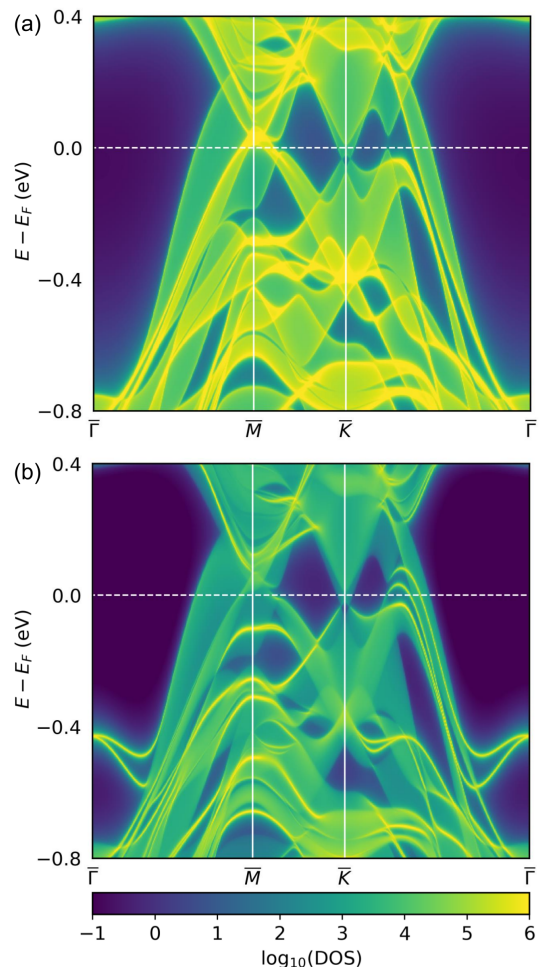


FIG. 10. [001] surface states. (a) and (b) display the surface Green's function projection of pure bulk states and the states on a Gd/Sn₁ terminated surface, respectively.

map these oscillations and connect them to extremal orbits modeled with *ab initio* models of the band structure.

Characterizing similar properties in the GdV_6Sn_6 compound is complicated by the presence of magnetic order and spin correlations influencing the low-temperature electron transport and heat capacity. The onset of ferromagnetic correlations is interrupted by an apparent freezing below $T_m = 5$ K with a potential second transition apparent as an inflection at 3 K in the ZFC data. Both features are rapidly quenched upon increasing magnetic field. This combined with the absence of a low field hysteresis in the magnetization suggests that a weak non-collinear magnetic order forms below 5 K, though future magnetic scattering (neutron or resonant x-ray) measurements are required to verify this.

Similar to the recently reported AV_3Sb_5 compounds [12, 23], the band structures of both YV_6Sn_6 and GdV_6Sn_6 in the paramagnetic phase can be categorized as \mathbb{Z}_2 topological metals with surface states predicted at E_F . Furthermore, a clear flat band appears in the band structure ≈ 400 meV above E_F , consistent with the interference

effects expected from a kagome-derived band. Multiple Dirac points appear near E_F at the K points as well as a van Hove singularity (vHs) near the M -point—both arise from the vanadium d -orbitals comprising the kagome lattice. Given the potential for nesting effects along the M -points at fillings that reach these vHs, slight carrier-doping in these systems is an appealing next step in engineering correlation effects.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The synthesis of single crystals of two new kagome metals GdV_6Sn_6 and YV_6Sn_6 , each with a nonmagnetic kagome sublattice, is presented, and the crystal structure and electronic ground state were studied via x-ray diffraction, magnetization, magnetotransport and heat capacity measurements. Both compounds possess an ideal $P6/mmm$ symmetry with perfect kagome nets of vanadium atoms coordinated by Sn ions and spaced into layers via interleaving triangular lattice nets of rare earth ions. In the paramagnetic state, DFT modeling categorizes these compounds as \mathbb{Z}_2 kagome metals with multiple Dirac crossings and vHs close to E_F . While YV_6Sn_6 is nonmagnetic, GdV_6Sn_6 shows signatures of magnetic order below 5 K, and magnetization data collected under low fields suggest the onset of a noncollinear magnetic ground state. The presence of topological surface

states, Dirac points, and vHs's near E_F in the bulk band structure combined with the ability to tune magnetic interactions in these compounds via control of the R -sites suggest they are promising platforms for unconventional electronic states born from a model kagome network proximitized with a tuneable magnetic layer.

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