customized 2D properties.

Double Superconducting Dome of Quasi Two-Dimensional TaS₂ in Non-Centrosymmetric van der Waals Heterostructure

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wo-dimensional (2D) materials offer a significant platform for creating vertically tailor-made van der Waals heterostructures (vdWHs). The diverse interlayer coupling in vdWHs, which includes a plethora of 2D material choices,^{1,2} tunable stacking angles between layers,³⁻⁵ and variations in layer thickness,⁶ offers unprecedented desired properties and exotic phenomena.^{3,7–10} Thereinto, 2D MX₂ (M = V, Nb, Ta, Ti and X = S, Se, Te) transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) exhibit diverse superconductivity and charge density wave (CDW) states,^{1,11} making them ideal prototypes for studying the interaction between collective electronic states,^{12,13} akin to the situation in unconventional superconductors.^{14,15} However, due to interfacial misalignment and defects,¹⁶⁻¹⁸ the investigation into tuning the interlayer coupling of 2D-vdWHs is limited. Achieving a profound comprehension requires appropriate stable materials, along with effective tuning knobs and diagnostic tools to adjust interlayer coupling and consequently modify the superconductivity and CDW states in a controllable manner.

Recent intensive studies of natural bulk vdWH TMDs^{19–25} have drawn great attention, as they have been reported to exhibit many novel physical properties such as chiral superconductivity,¹⁹ topological superconductivity,²⁰ and spontaneous vortices.²¹ More importantly, the properties of superconductivity and CDW states in bulk vdWHs have been demonstrated to closely resemble those of their corresponding 2D-vdWHs.²² Additionally, the superconductivity and CDW

states of bulk vdWHs are dependent on factors such as stacking sequence order^{22,23} and chemical components,^{23,25} providing an exciting opportunity to uncover how different types of interlayer coupling influence these states. High pressure has been utilized as a clean and effective tool for modulating interlayer coupling, thereby leading to the emergence or re-enhancement of superconductivity.^{26–33} The emergence of the superconducting dome is generally regarded as the signal of competing and intertwined orders, such as CDW order,³⁴ orbital order,³⁵ and magnetic order.³⁶ The pictures of superconductivity competing and intertwining with CDW order in TMD systems might extend to understanding the behaviors of unconventional superconductivity.

Here, combining *in situ* high-pressure electrical transport measurements, Hall effect measurements, synchrotron X-ray diffraction (XRD), and the first-principles calculations, we systematically investigate the pressure-temperature (P-T) phase diagram of non-centrosymmetric 6R-TaS₂ constructed by alternately stacking H- and T-layers up to 53.3 GPa. The observed double superconducting dome phase diagram in

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Figure 1. Crystal structure and electrical transport measurements of 6R-TaS₂ at various pressures. (a) The crystal structure of 6R-TaS₂, consisting of alternately stacked octahedral (*T*) and trigonal prismatic (*H*) layers. (b) The $\rho(T)$ profiles of 6R-TaS₂ in the warming (red curve) and cooling (blue curve) processes at ambient pressure. The inset presents the zoomed-in view of the superconducting transition in the temperature range of 2–5 K. Here, the T_c is defined by the resistivity criterion of $\rho_c = 90\%\rho_n$, where ρ_n is the normal state resistivity just above its drop. (c) The resistivity of 6R-TaS₂ in the temperature range of 2–300 K at different pressures with the star symbols denoting new abnormal kinks observed upon compression. (d) The $\rho(T)$ profiles of 6R-TaS₂ in the pressure ranges of 0.5–2.3 GPa (upper panel) and 3.7–53.3 GPa (lower panel). (e) The $\rho(T)$ profiles at different magnetic fields for 1.9 GPa (right to left: 0, 0.01 T, 0.03 T, 0.05 T, 0.07 T, 0.1 T, 0.15 T, 0.2 T, 0.3 T, 0.4 T, 0.5 T, 0.6 T, 0.7 T, 0.8 T, 0.9 T, 1.0 T) and 18.3 GPa (right to left: 0, 0.01 T, 0.03 T, 0.05 T, 0.07 T, 0.1 T, 0.4 T, 0.5 T, 0.6 T), respectively. (f) Temperature-dependent upper critical field $\mu_0 H_{c2}$ at 1.9 and 18.3 GPa, with the solid lines representing the Ginzburg–Landau (G-L) fitting.⁴⁵

compressed 6R-TaS₂ is distinct from our recent work on the dual-layer superconducting phase diagram in centrosymmetric 4Hb-TaSe₂ (ref 25); this marks the first observation of a double superconducting dome phase diagram in TMD systems. The first superconducting dome is primarily influenced by pressure-induced modulation of the hole-type carrier density and the competition between the H-layer superconductivity and T-layer CDW states. The second superconducting dome is associated with the topological phase transition of the Fermi surface (namely, the Lifshitz transition³⁷) induced by the interaction between the *H*-layer and the T-layer. This unique double superconducting dome phase diagram shares similar mechanisms with unconventional superconductors (such as heavy fermions, cuprates, pnictides,^{14,15,38} and recently discovered Kagome metals^{39,40}). These findings not only highlight the potential for designing novel functional materials with 2D-tailored properties in bulk vdWHs but also open new avenues for studying superconductivity competing or intertwining with different electronic orders within natural bulk vdWHs.

As illustrated in Figure 1a, 6R-TaS₂ possesses a space group of R3m (No. 160), featuring alternate stacking of 1T-TaS₂ and 1H-TaS₂ layers. The three T (or H) layers are oriented in the same direction, with each T (or H) layer sliding by one-third of the lattice constant a relative to the adjacent T (or H) layer. These layers are connected by weak vdW force, forming a bulk 6R-TaS₂ heterostructure. Compared with the recently intensively studied centrosymmetric 4Hb-TaX₂ (X = S, Se),^{23,25,41,42} the inversion symmetry breaking in the H-layer of 6R-TaS₂ makes it more likely to exhibit properties akin to those of the free-standing monolayer 1H-TaS2. The pristine 6R-TaS₂ powder sample underwent examination using a laboratory X-ray diffractometer, confirming its high purity and good crystallinity with R3m symmetry²² (see Figure S1). To investigate the electronic properties of the T-layer and Hlayer within 6R-TaS₂, we conducted electrical transport measurements in the temperature range of 2-350 K (Figure 1b). A superconducting transition of 6R-TaS₂ was observed at ~2.7 K (compared to 0.6 K for bulk 2H-TaS₂ (ref 43), consistent with the superconducting transition temperature (T_c) of monolayer TaS₂ (~3 K)⁴⁴ and recent demonstrations of the 2D nature of superconductivity in 6R-TaS₂ (ref 22). The resistivity derivative $d\rho/dT$ (Figure S2) is utilized to ascertain the transition temperature of the CDW (T_{CDW}) phase transition. Above room temperature, two abnormal jumps in resistivity are observed at \sim 320 K (referred to as T-CDW¹) and ~305 K (T-CDW²), as shown in Figure 1b, corresponding to two local minima in Figure S2a. These abnormal resistivity signatures are consistent with the recent reports on two CDW transitions originating from the T-layer in 6R-TaS₂ (ref 22): an incommensurate CDW (ICCDW) to a nearly commensurate CDW (NCCDW) transition at ~320 K and a NCCDW to a commensurate CDW (CCDW) transition at ~305 K,²² respectively. Additionally, the rapid drop in the $\rho(T)$ curve is observed at ~65.8 K in Figure 1b (an upturn of $d\rho/dT$ in Figure S2b). This behavior of resistivity with temperature closely resembles the CDW transition observed in 2H-TaS₂ at ~76 K (ref 11), hereinafter referred to as H-CDW.

To investigate the interplay between the superconductivity and multiple CDW states in 6R-TaS₂, we have performed the in situ high-pressure electrical transport measurements on single-crystal flakes in the temperature range of 2-300 K. From the $\rho(T)$ curves at various pressures illustrated in Figure 1c, both an upturn $(T-CDW^1 \text{ and } T-CDW^2)$ and rapid drop (*H*-CDW) of resistivity are suppressed by pressure and quickly shift to the lower temperature range. Remarkably, a new kink of resistivity first appears at ~185 K from the $\rho(T)$ curve at 0.5 GPa, which resembles the CDW-like phase transition (referred to as a new state), and it persists up to 1.9 GPa. The T_c (Figure 1d) initially increases with pressure up to 4.6 K at 1.9 GPa, followed by a sharp drop until 2.7 GPa ($T_c \sim 3.2$ K). Then T_c subsequently increases to a maximum of 6 K at 15.9 GPa and falls back slowly once again. Figure 1e displays the $\rho(T)$ curves at different magnetic fields for 1.9 and 18.3 GPa, and the corresponding $\mu_0 H_{c2}$ as a function of the critical temperature $T_{\rm c}$ is given in Figure 1f, which can be well characterized by the Ginzburg-Landau (G-L) fittings.⁴⁵ It is noteworthy that the $\mu_0 H_{c2}(T)$ data follow a single G-L fitting curve rather than two for each pressure, indicating the T-layer of 6R-TaS₂ does not enter superconductivity (at least above 2 K). This distinguishes it from the pressure-induced dual-layer superconductivity observed in 4Hb-TaSe₂ (ref 25). The transition temperatures of CDW states from the T-layer and H-layer, along with the CDW-like new state (see Figure S2), are analyzed and plotted together with T_c in the phase diagram shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Pressure–temperature phase diagram of 6R-TaS₂. The inset is an enlarged view of the phase diagram in the pressure range of 0-3 GPa.

As illustrated in Figure 2, there are two superconducting domes at 0–3 GPa and 3–53.3 GPa, respectively. In the regime of the first superconducting dome, T_c maximizes to 4.6 K at 1.9 GPa, where both T-CDW¹ and T-CDW² are suppressed by pressure, indicating a strong competition between the *H*-layer superconductivity and *T*-layer CDW states. This competition between superconductivity and CDW states from different types of layers has also been observed in the 4*Hb*-TaSe₂ enters a superconducting state at ~9 GPa, forming dual-layer superconductivity, while the *T*-layer of 6*R*-TaS₂ does not exhibit any signature of the superconductivity within the pressure range in this work (0–53.3 GPa). Furthermore, the pressure-induced emergence and disappearance of a new

CDW-like state in 6R-TaS₂ has not been observed in compressed 4Hb-TaSe₂. More importantly, previous phase diagrams reported in 1T- and 2H-TMDs merely possess one superconducting dome therein.^{28,30,46} The double superconducting dome observed in 6R-TaS₂ has commonly been observed in unconventional superconductors,^{14,15,38-40} in which the formation of a double superconducting dome is associated with a quantum critical point (QCP),⁴⁷ non-Fermi liquid (NFL),¹⁴ Lifshitz transition,³⁸ or modification of the CDW order.⁴⁰ Notably, the tendency of $T_{\rm CDW}(P)$ of the CDW-like new state within 6R-TaS₂ is quite consistent with the $T_c(P)$ below 3 GPa, suggesting that this state may be intertwined with the superconductivity, as in the Kagome superconductor reported in CsV₃Sb₅ (ref 40). But the origin of this new state is unclear and needs further investigation.

To gain insight into the double superconducting dome of 6R-TaS₂, we analyze the $\rho(T)$ curves of the normal state with an empirical formula $\rho = \rho_0 + AT^n$ at $T_c < T \le 30$ K. Here, ρ_0 represents the residual resistivity contributed from impurity scattering, A is the prefactor, and n is the exponential parameter. The fitting results are shown in Figure S3. In the first superconducting dome region, the n(P) profile (Figure 3a) shows a dip at 1.5 GPa, coinciding with a peak of the A(P)profile (Figure 3b), which agrees with the fact that the T_c forms a dome shape accompanied by suppression of both T-CDW¹ and *T*-CDW². These behaviors are very similar to those observed in cases of the quantum fluctuation induced by the suppression of the CDW states in the TMD systems.^{28,30,46} It should be noticed that the H-layer CDW can survive until 6.4 GPa; thus, the first superconducting dome of 6R-TaS₂ is majorly associated with the competition between the CDW state of the T-layer and the superconductivity of the H-layer.

To investigate the possible electronic structure phase transition and the origin of the double superconducting dome of 6R-TaS₂, we first performed Hall effect measurements. The Hall resistances R_{xy} as a function of the magnetic field at different pressures are presented in Figure S4.

At ambient pressure, the $R_{xy}(H)$ data at 2 and 10 K show a nonlinear trend, similar to the alternately stacked 4Hb-TaS₂ (ref 23). However, its nonlinear behavior rapidly changes to a linear trend above 0.9 GPa, as shown in Figure S4, and the slope of the $R_{xy}(H)$ changes from positive to negative at a critical pressure of 15.9 GPa. The pressure-dependent Hall coefficient $R_{\rm H}$ extracted from the slope of the $R_{xy}(H)$ curves (Figure S4) in the pressure range of 0.9–30 GPa is plotted in Figure 3c.

The positive Hall coefficient $R_{\rm H}$ indicates that the hole-type carrier dominates the transport behavior for $0.9 \le P < 15.9$ GPa. In this pressure range, the $R_{\rm H}$ rapidly increases below 3 GPa, followed by a gradual increase in the pressure range of 3-5 GPa. However, the $R_{\rm H}$ sharply decreases with pressure beyond 5 GPa until 10 GPa. Eventually, the $R_{\rm H}$ changes its sign from positive to negative at 15.9 GPa, indicating a shift from hole-type to electron-type carriers at the Fermi surface. We also estimated the effective carrier concentration $n_{\rm H}$ (= 1/le × $R_{\rm H}$) with pressure, as displayed in Figure 3d. Surprisingly, the carrier density as a function of pressure shows a pronounced change at ~ 2 GPa (the inset in Figure 3d). Furthermore, the ratio of $(-dH_{c2}/dT|_{T=T_c})/T_c$ ($\propto 1/v_F^2$, where v_F is the Fermi velocity)⁴⁸ (shown in Figure S5) initially increases with pressure until 2.7 GPa but rapidly decreases, indicating a modulation of the electronic structure around 3 GPa, which is



Figure 3. Analysis of the normal resistance and the Hall effect measurements on 6R-TaS₂. (a and b) Pressure-dependent refined parameters *A* and *n* (based on the equation $\rho = \rho_0 + AT^n$, where ρ_0 is the residual resistivity and *A* and *n* are the coefficient and exponent of temperature), respectively. The fitting results are presented in Figure S3. The orange dashed line at 3 GPa is a guide to the eye. (c and d) Hall coefficient and carrier density as a function of pressure, respectively.



Figure 4. High-pressure synchrotron XRD measurements of 6R-TaS₂. (a) Representative powder XRD patterns between 0.3 and 40.8 GPa. (b) Pressure-dependent normalized compression ratio a/a_0 and c/c_0 (left) and c/a (right) extracted from powder diffraction Rietveld refinements. The solid lines are guides for the eyes. (c) Pressure-dependent unit-cell volume. Solid lines are the fitting curves with the Birch–Murnaghan equation of state.⁵²

concomitant with the re-enhancement of the *H*-layer superconductivity, as shown in Figure 2. As the pressure increases, the carrier density $n_{\rm H}$ increases by 2 orders of magnitude and reaches a maximum value at 15.9 GPa. Meanwhile, $T_{\rm c}$ reaches the highest value in the second superconducting dome (see Figure 2). Beyond 15.9 GPa, the dominant carrier type is changed to electron type, accompanied by a rapid decrease in carrier density. These behaviors suggest 6*R*-TaS₂ may undergo a Lifshitz transition at ~15.9 GPa, consequently dominating the second superconducting dome. Pressure can not only modulate electronic structure effectively but also induce crystal structural phase transition, such as layer sliding and interlayer bonding, which consequently influence the properties of superconductivity.^{31,49–51} To assess the structural evolution of 6R-TaS₂ under pressure, we performed *in situ* high-pressure synchrotron XRD measurements at the Advanced Photon Source. Figure 4a presents the selected XRD patterns between 0.3 and 40.8 GPa. All diffraction peaks shift to higher angle during compression, and no new peaks are observed, indicating that 6R-TaS₂ retains its ambient crystallographic symmetry. However, detailed

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Figure 5. Calculated Fermi surface nesting conditions, Fermi surface, and projected band structures of 6R-TaS₂. (a) The nesting function without spin-orbit coupling of 6R-TaS₂ at ambient pressure, 2 GPa, and 4 GPa, respectively. The highest value of the color bar corresponds to 30% of the intensity of the gamma point, and the lowest value of the color bar represents the minimum value of the real intensity. (b) The Fermi surface without spin-orbit coupling of the 6R-TaS₂ at ambient pressure and 8, 16, and 30 GPa, respectively. (c) The corresponding projected band structures without spin-orbit coupling. The blue and red data points denote the spectral weights contributed by the *H*-layer and *T*-layer, respectively.

analysis of the lattice parameters (Figure 4b) and unit cell volume (Figure 4c) reveals two isostructural phase transitions (iSPTs) occurred at 3.4 and 16.4 GPa, respectively. The normalized compression ratio a/a_0 continuously decreases with pressure, in stark contrast to the normalized compression ratio c/c_0 with two discontinuities at 3.4 and 16.4 GPa, respectively. This indicates that interlayer coupling plays a significant role in the structural changes. It should be noticed that the ratio of c/a presented in Figure 4b (right y-axis) rapidly decreases in the pressure range of 0-3.4 GPa and suddenly becomes robust and exhibits a flattened trend in the second pressure range (3.4-16.4 GPa). This evolution indicates a transformation from the original quasi-2D structure to a quasi-3D lattice. And consequently, the initial quasi-2D superconductivity may develop into a 3D superconductivity. While the further systematic characterization of high-pressure 2D superconductivity is warranted, it has not been explored in this study. Furthermore, the normal resistivity at 10 K also shows two discontinuities at 3.4 and 15.9 GPa (see Figure S6), indicating 6R-TaS₂ undergoes two iSPTs. These two critical pressures of the c/a ratio discontinuities are well consistent with the above Hall effect measurements, indicating a strong correlation between the crystal structure and electronic properties.

As shown in Figure 4c, the fitting with the second-order (B'_0 = 4.0) Birch–Murnaghan equation of state⁵² yields two bulk moduli for 0.3 GPa $\leq P \leq$ 3.4 and 16.5 GPa $\leq P \leq$ 40.8 GPa, respectively. Several recent works in TMD systems have also shown that the iSPT may be induced by the electronic

topological phase transition (or so-called Lifshitz phase transition³⁷), and the properties of superconductivity are highly related to such transition.^{50,53} As shown in Figure 4a, these iSPTs are reversible after fully releasing the applied pressure.

Next, to elucidate the behavior of the suppression of CDW states from different layers, the observed electronic structural modulation, and the double superconducting domes within the phase diagram of 6R-TaS₂, we calculated the Fermi surface nesting conditions (below 4 GPa), Fermi surface (0–40 GPa), and electronic band structure (0–40 GPa) for undistorted 6R-TaS₂ using the first-principles calculations. The Fermi surface nesting is thought to be one of the driving forces of the CDW order.^{54,55} If the CDW order originates from the Fermi-surface nesting, a maximum value of nesting function $\xi(Q)$ will appear at q_{CDW} in the Brillouin zone.^{56,57} Thus, we calculated the Fermi surface nesting function in the 6R-TaS₂ based on the formula

$$\xi(Q) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{k}, i, j} \delta(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}, i} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{F}}) \times \delta(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k} + Q, j} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{F}})$$

where the ε_k represents the Kohn–Sham eigenvalue, ε_F is the Fermi level, and *i* and *j* are the indices of the energy bands, respectively. As shown in Figure 5a, at ambient pressure, there are two maxima around the positions of $q_H \sim \frac{1}{3}a^*$ (red arrows for the *H*-layer) and $q_T \sim 0.297a^* + 0.049b^*$ (green arrows for monolayer *T*-layer), which are consistent with reported 2*H*-TaS₂ (ref 58) and 1*T*-TaS₂ (ref 59), respectively. The nesting

intensities located at the $q_{\rm CDW}$ are suppressed upon compression and almost disappear at 4 GPa, indicating the suppression of the CDW states. This result is qualitatively consistent with the electrical transport measurements shown in Figure 1c. Thus, the variation tendency of CDW temperature of both the *T*-layer and *H*-layer in 6R-TaS₂ is consistent with that of Fermi surface nesting strength as pressure increases, suggesting that the emergence of CDW states was caused by Fermi surface nesting of both the *T*-layer and *H*-layer in 6R-TaS₂.

To confirm the Lifshitz transition of 6R-TaS₂ at ~15.9 GPa, as indicated by the change in Hall coefficient sign and the rapid decrease in carrier density (Figure 3c and d), we also calculated the Fermi surface of the 6R-TaS2 under high pressures (see Figure 5b). An additional hole pocket emerges around the Γ point at 8 GPa, then transforms from a pancake to a torus upon further compression (see Figure 5b and Figure S7), but somehow disappears at P > 16 GPa. The further calculations on the projected band structures presented in Figure 5c and Figure S8 have shown that the emergence and the disappearance of the new hole pocket around the Γ point are induced by the band shift and inversion between the Tlayer and H-layer. Therefore, combining the results from theory and experiment, we can draw a conclusion that 6R-TaS₂ indeed undergoes a Lifshitz transition at ~16 GPa. Returning to the phase diagram in Figure 2, coincidently, we notice that the peak of the second superconducting dome is also located at ~16 GPa. Therefore, this Lifshitz phase transition dominates the second superconducting dome.

In summary, we comprehensively investigate the P-T phase diagram of 6R-TaS₂ through a combination of in situ highpressure experiments and theoretical calculations. We discovered a double superconducting dome with distinct mechanisms: one dome arises from the competition between the H-layer superconductivity and T-layer CDW states, while the other, with higher T_{o} is dominated by a Lifshitz transition induced by the H-layer and T-layer interaction. The distinctive phase diagram of 6R-TaS₂ not only paves the way for a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between superconductivity and charge density wave, extending insights to unconventional superconductivity featuring a similar double superconducting dome, but also establishes a viable approach to unravel interlayer coupling in diverse layered materials. Moreover, it offers valuable guidance for the future design of CDW-based bulk vdHWs materials with 2D customized properties.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.nanolett.4c00579.

Materials and methods; preparation and characterization of 6R-TaS₂, electrical transport measurements, Hall effect measurements, and first-principles calculations (PDF)

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Author Contributions

L.Y., K.B., and Z.L. contributed equally to this project. W.Y. and X.W. conceived and designed the project. L.Y., Z.L., W.X., and Y.G. synthesized the crystals. L.Y. performed high-pressure electrical transport, Hall effect, and XRD measurements. N.L., J.G., X.L., and D.Z. assisted with conducting the high-pressure XRD measurements. M.L. and J.N. helped to perform the electrical transport measurements and analysis of the electrical transport data. K.B. and Z.Z. performed the first-principles calculations. All authors contributed to the discussion of the results and revision of the manuscript.

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Notes

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ABBREVIATIONS

2D, two-dimensional; vdWHs, van der Waals heterostructures; TMD, transition metal dichalcogenide; CDW, charge density wave; T_{c} , superconducting transition temperature; $T_{\rm CDW}$, transition temperature of charge density wave; ICCDW, incommensurate charge density wave; NCCDW, nearly commensurate charge density wave; CCDW, commensurate charge density wave; XRD, X-ray diffraction; iSPT, isostructural phase transition

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