

All-Optical dc Nanotesla Magnetometry Using Silicon Vacancy Fine Structure in Isotopically Purified Silicon Carbide

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We uncover the fine structure of a silicon vacancy in isotopically purified silicon carbide ($4\text{H-}^{28}\text{SiC}$) and reveal not yet considered terms in the spin Hamiltonian, originated from the trigonal pyramidal symmetry of this spin-3/2 color center. These terms give rise to additional spin transitions, which would be otherwise forbidden, and lead to a level anticrossing in an external magnetic field. We observe a sharp variation of the photoluminescence intensity in the vicinity of this level anticrossing, which can be used for a purely all-optical sensing of the magnetic field. We achieve dc magnetic field sensitivity better than $100 \text{ nT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ within a volume of $3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mm}^3$ at room temperature and demonstrate that this contactless method is robust at high temperatures up to at least 500 K. As our approach does not require application of radio-frequency fields, it is scalable to much larger volumes. For an optimized light-trapping waveguide of 3 mm^3 , the projection noise limit is below $100 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Vacancy-related color centers in the CMOS-compatible material silicon carbide (SiC) are promising for chip-scale quantum technologies [1–9] based on ensembles [10–22] as well as on single centers [23–28]. Similar to the spin $S = 1$ nitrogen-vacancy (NV) defect in diamond—which has become a standard solid-state system for the application of quantum sensing under ambient conditions [29–31]—the silicon vacancy (V_{Si}) in SiC possesses selectively addressable spin states through optically detected magnetic resonance (ODMR) [4]. Unlike the spin-1 defects, the higher half-integer spin $S = 3/2$ of V_{Si} [13,32] provides additional degree of freedom [33] and functionality [21], but these are usually unutilized. A major obstacle is that the structure of high-spin centers, being far more complicated, is not yet known. The level fine structure is the key to understanding spin dynamics and relaxation processes, which set limits for the performance of potential devices.

Here, we reveal the fine structure of the V_{Si} ground and excited states (GS and ES, respectively) in external magnetic fields. We show that the C_{3v} point group of the V_{Si} defect gives rise to additional terms in the spin Hamiltonian, which have not been considered so far. Particularly, the trigonal pyramidal symmetry of the V_{Si} defect enables spin transitions with a change of the spin projection $\Delta m_S = \pm 2$. As compared to the commonly studied spin transitions with $\Delta m_S = \pm 1$, they are induced by counter circularly polarized radiation and their energies shift with twice the slope in a magnetic field. Moreover, we observe two GS level anticrossings (LAC) between the $m_S = -3/2$ and both $m_S = -1/2$ (GSLAC-1) and $m_S = +1/2$ (GSLAC-2) spin sublevels. The GSLAC-2 can fundamentally occur for color centers with the spin $S \geq 3/2$ only. We develop a theory of the V_{Si} fine structure, which precisely takes into account the real atomic arrangement of the vacancy and quantitatively describes the experimental findings. The photoluminescence (PL) intensity demonstrates resonancelike behavior in the vicinity of LACs, and the sharpest resonance is detected for GSLAC-2, determined by the parameters related to the trigonal pyramidal symmetry of the V_{Si} center. In the following, we show that this optical phenomenon can be used to measure dc magnetic fields without the need to apply radio-frequency (rf) fields and we demonstrate sub-100-nT

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resolution within sub-1000 μm^3 . The effect is robust up to at least 500 K, suggesting a simple, contactless method to monitor weak magnetic fields in a broad temperature range.

Our approach is easily scalable, and for a probe volume on the order of 1 mm^3 with improved efficiency of optical pumping and light collection, we expect the magnetic field sensitivity to be about 100 fT per square root of Hz. While coming close to the sensitivity of other benchmark chip-scale magnetic field sensors [34,35], this technique relies neither on rf fields, as for the NV defects in diamond [34], nor on vapor heating, as for the microfabricated rubidium cells [35]. Furthermore, the proposed method is not restricted to magnetic sensing and can potentially be extended for radio-frequency-free sensing of other physical quantities, particularly temperature and strain.

II. EXPERIMENT

In natural SiC, the ODMR spectra of the V_{Si} defects are affected by the hyperfine interaction with the ^{29}Si -isotope nuclear spin $I = 1/2$ [13,36]. In order to elude this interaction, we use isotopically purified SiC with above 99.0% of ^{28}Si nuclei with $I = 0$. To obtain such a crystal, we first synthesize polycrystalline SiC with the use of silicon and carbon powders, the former being enriched with the ^{28}Si isotope. The polycrystalline substance is then used as a source for the growth of 4H- ^{28}SiC crystals by the sublimation method in a tantalum container [37]. The growth is performed in vacuum on 4H-SiC substrates at a temperature of 2000 °C. The growth rate is approximately 0.25 mm/h. Afterwards, we polish out the substrate, obtaining the sample with a thickness of about 500 μm . In order to introduce the silicon vacancies, the sample is irradiated with neutrons in a nuclear reactor with a fluence of $1 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, resulting in a nominal V_{Si} density of $2 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ [27].

To optically address the V_{Si} spin states, we use a 785-nm laser diode. The optical excitation followed by the spin-dependent recombination leads to a preferential population of the $m_S = \pm 1/2$ sublevels along the crystal symmetry c -axis [1]. The PL from V_{Si} occurs in the near-infrared spectral range [38], and it is selected and detected using a Si photodiode and a 900-nm long-pass filter. The PL intensity is spin dependent: in the case of the V_{Si} center we study here—the so-called V2 center—it is higher when the system is in the $m_S = \pm 3/2$ states and lower when the system is in the $m_S = \pm 1/2$ states [3,16,36]. The laser beam is focused onto the sample using a 20 \times optical objective (N.A. = 0.3), optimized for the near-infrared light, and the PL is collected through the same objective. The nominal excitation volume is 330 μm^3 . To additionally manipulate the V_{Si} spin states, we apply a rf field, provided by a signal generator. The rf is then amplified, guided to a 500- μm -thick stripline and terminated with a 50- Ω impedance. A static magnetic field can be applied in an arbitrary

direction, using a 3D coil arrangement in combination with a permanent magnet. The field direction and strength are calibrated using a 3D Hall sensor.

In the absence of an external magnetic field, the V_{Si} GS is split in two Kramers degenerate spin sublevels $m_S = \pm 3/2$ and $m_S = \pm 1/2$ with the zero-field splitting $2D = 70 \text{ MHz}$ [16,36]. When an external magnetic field \mathbf{B} is applied parallel to the c -axis, the spin states are further split and the splitting is linear with B_z ($z \parallel c$), as schematically shown in Fig. 1(a). A resonant rf field induces magnetic dipole transitions between the spin-split sublevels ($\pm 1/2 \rightarrow \pm 3/2$), resulting in a change of the PL intensity (ΔPL). The room-temperature evolution of the ODMR spectrum (i.e., the rf-dependent ODMR contrast $\Delta\text{PL}/\text{PL}$) with the external magnetic field B_z is presented in Fig. 1(b).

We first discuss the case of $B_z = 0$ [Fig. 1(c)]. At a low rf power of 9 dBm, we detect a single ODMR line at a frequency $\nu_0 = 70 \text{ MHz}$, which is equal to $2D$ in the GS. At much higher rf power (40 dBm), we detect another ODMR line at a frequency of 410 MHz. Below, we establish that it corresponds to the zero-field splitting $2D'$ in the ES [Fig. 1(a)]. A similar resonance was observed previously [16] and ascribed to the Frenkel pair [39].

Upon application of a magnetic field B_z , one of the rf-driven transitions is ($-1/2 \rightarrow -3/2$) with $\Delta m_S = -1$, and

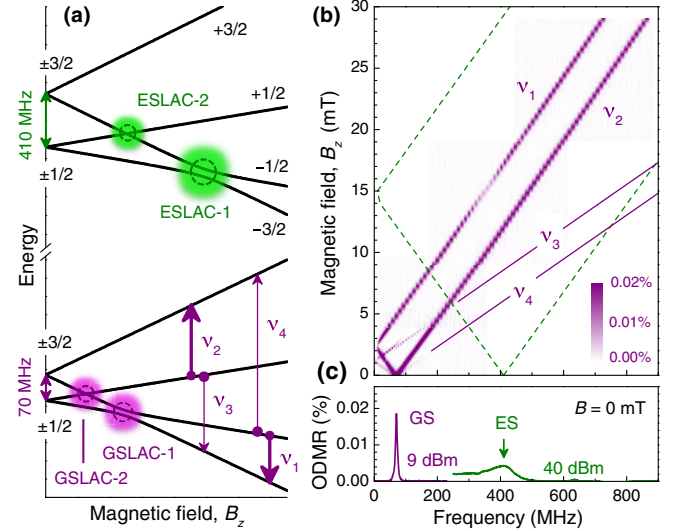


FIG. 1. (a) The GS ($2D = 70 \text{ MHz}$) and ES ($2D' = 410 \text{ MHz}$) spin sublevels of the V_{Si} point defect in external magnetic field $B_z \parallel c$, assuming a weak perpendicular component $B_{\perp} \ll B_z$. The vertical arrows indicate rf-driven spin transitions, their thicknesses mirroring the contrasts of the corresponding ODMR lines. The magnetic field evolutions of the GS and ES are shown schematically, i.e., not to scale. (b) Magnetic field versus frequency evolution of the V_{Si} ODMR signal recorded at room temperature and at low rf power. The solid and dashed lines are the positions of the ODMR peaks calculated for the $\Delta m_S = \pm 2$ transitions in the GS and $\Delta m_S = \pm 1$ transitions in the ES, respectively. (c) Low-rf-power (9 dBm) and high-rf-power (40 dBm) ODMR spectra in zero magnetic field.

the corresponding ODMR line $\nu_1 = |\nu_0 - g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z/h|$ shifts linearly with B_z . Another rf-driven transition is $(+1/2 \rightarrow +3/2)$ with $\Delta m_S = +1$, and the corresponding ODMR line $\nu_2 = \nu_0 + g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z/h$ shifts linearly towards higher frequencies. These two transitions are indicated by the thick arrows in Fig. 1(a) and the corresponding ODMR lines are clearly seen in Fig. 1(b), being in agreement with the previous results [16,21]. Remarkably, at a magnetic field $B_{G1} = h\nu_0/g_{\parallel}\mu_B = 2.5$ mT, the frequency of the ν_1 ODMR line [Fig. 1(b)] would tend to zero due to the level crossing in the ideal case. However, there is a gap opening at the crossing point caused by tiny perturbations of the transverse magnetic field component and/or nuclear field, resulting in GSLAC-1 [Fig. 1(a)].

We analyze the relative contrast of the ν_1 and ν_2 ODMR lines as a function of B_z and observe two pronounced dips [Fig. 2(a)]. One of them is at $B_{G1} = 2.5$ mT (i.e., exactly at GSLAC-1) and the other one is at $B_{E1} = 15$ mT. The dashed lines in Fig. 1(b) represent the calculated evolution of the ODMR spectrum associated with the $2D' = 410$ MHz resonance assuming the effective g-factor $g_{\parallel} \approx 2.0$. As expected, the ESLAC-1 occurs at B_{E1} . We hence can reconstruct the ES spin structure, as shown in Fig. 1(a). It agrees with the conclusion drawn from another recent experiment [20]. The observation of the dip at 15 mT in the ν_1 rather than in the ν_2 ODMR signal unambiguously

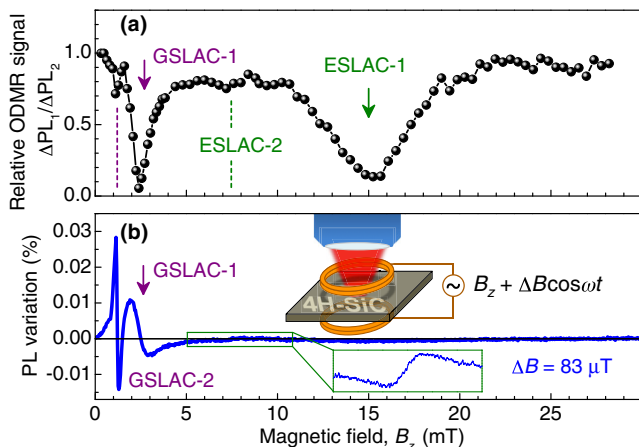


FIG. 2. (a) Relative strength of the ν_1 and ν_2 ODMR transitions ($\Delta PL_1/\Delta PL_2$) as a function of the magnetic field \mathbf{B} applied parallel to the c axis of 4H-SiC. The arrows indicate the positions of GSLAC-1 (2.5 mT) and ESLAC-1 (15 mT). The vertical dashed lines correspond to the expected positions of GSLAC-2 (lower field) and ESLAC-2 (higher field). (b) Lock-in detection of the PL variation $\Delta PL/PL$ as a function of the dc magnetic field B_z , where ΔPL is caused by the application of an additional weak oscillating magnetic field ΔB ; i.e., $B_z + \Delta B \cos \omega t$ with $\Delta B = 83 \mu\text{T}$ and $\omega/2\pi = 5$ kHz. The sharp resonancelike signal at 1.25 mT corresponds to GSLAC-2. Resonant rf field is not applied. Upper inset: A scheme of the experiment. Lower inset: A detailed measurement in the magnetic field range corresponding to ESLAC-2.

determines the order of the spin sublevels in the ES; i.e., the $m_S = \pm 3/2$ state has higher energy than the $m_S = \pm 1/2$ state ($D' > 0$).

The appearance of dips in the ODMR signal of Fig. 2(a) is explained by modification of the optical pumping cycle in the vicinity of LACs either in the GS or ES, which, in turn, results in a change of the PL intensity, as previously reported for some other systems and techniques [40–45]. This suggests that LACs can be detected even without application of rf, simply by monitoring the PL intensity as a function of B_z . A schematic of this experiment is presented in the inset of Fig. 2(b). In order to increase the sensitivity, we modulate the dc magnetic field B_z by additionally applying a small oscillating field $\Delta B \cos \omega t$ from the Helmholtz coils. The correspondingly oscillating PL signal detected by a photodiode is locked in, mirroring the first derivative of the PL on B_z . The experimental curve, recorded at a modulation frequency $\omega/2\pi = 5$ kHz with a modulation depth $\Delta B = 83 \mu\text{T}$, is presented in Fig. 2(b). Surprisingly, in addition to the GSLAC-1, we detect a pronounced resonancelike behavior around $B_{G2} = 1.25$ mT.

In order to understand the origin of two GSLACs, we measure the evolution of the ODMR spectrum as a function of B_z with higher precision, in particular, with compensated transverse components of the geomagnetic field, $B_x \approx B_y \approx 0 \pm \delta b \mu\text{T}$. The compensation uncertainty depends on B_z and is given by the alignment uncertainty $\delta\theta \approx 1^\circ$ as $\delta b = B_z \sin \delta\theta$. For instance, at the GSLAC-2, we have $\delta b = 22 \mu\text{T}$. The zoom-in of the spectral evolution in the vicinity of GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2 is shown in Fig. 3(a). Beside the ν_1 line, the ODMR spectrum contains an additional (ν_3) line, corresponding to the spin transition between the $m_S = +1/2$ and $m_S = -3/2$ GSs [sketched by a thin arrow in Fig. 1(a)]. The turning points of the ν_1 and ν_3 lines correspond to GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2, respectively. The corresponding spectral shifts of the turning points ν_1^{AC} and ν_3^{AC} , which are direct measures of the splitting values, are clearly detectable in Fig. 3(b) for various perpendicular components B_{\perp} of the magnetic field. The level splittings at both GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2 grow linearly with B_{\perp} , but with different slopes [Fig. 3(c)]. We emphasize that the amplitude of the ν_3 line would rapidly tend to zero and the GSLAC-2 would disappear in an uniaxial model of the defect for magnetic fields being only slightly misaligned from the c axis and, hence, should be vanishingly small in the experiment, assuming this model. Below, we present the exact calculation of the relative spin transition rates. Contrarily, the ν_3 ODMR line is clearly detectable in Fig. 3(a) with the relative strength of the ODMR transition $\Delta PL_3/\Delta PL_1 = 0.12 \pm 0.02$, and the most pronounced feature in Fig. 2(b) relates to the GSLAC-2.

While the magnetic disorder caused by hyperfine interaction with the residual ^{29}Si and ^{13}C nuclei or inaccurate orientation of the external magnetic field along the c -axis

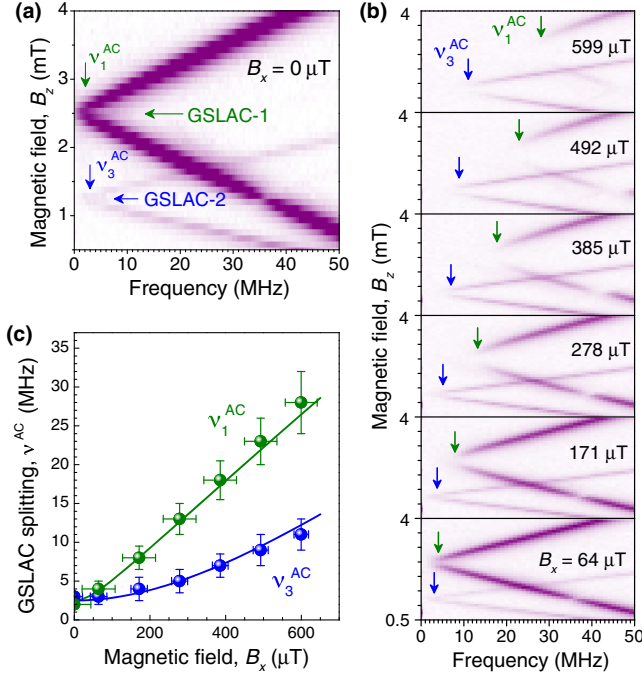


FIG. 3. (a) Evolution of the ν_1 and ν_3 ODMR lines in the vicinity of GSLACs as a function of the magnetic field B_z . The perpendicular components of the geomagnetic field are compensated. (b) Same as (a), but measured for nonzero B_x . The vertical arrows indicate the positions of the turning points ν_1^{AC} and ν_3^{AC} , which are a direct measure of the level splittings at GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2, respectively. (c) The GSLAC splittings as a function of B_x . The solid lines are calculations as explained in the text.

can, in principle, give rise to GSLAC-2 and the ν_3 line, we conclude that they are not responsible for the above effects. Calculations (see Appendix A) yield that, for the average nuclear field seen by the V_{Si} centers of about $(h/2\mu_B) \times 1$ MHz [32,46] or magnetic field misalignment of 1° , the contrast ratio between the ν_3 and ν_1 ODMR lines is estimated to be 10^{-3} , which is by 2 orders of magnitude lower than that observed in our experiments. Moreover, the amplitude of the ν_3 line is the same in the natural (presented below) and isotopically purified SiC samples, while the abundance of the spin-carrying ^{29}Si nuclei differs by a factor of 5. Considering these results, a whole new approach to the spin structure of the V_{Si} defect is needed and is thoroughly assembled below.

III. SILICON VACANCY FINE STRUCTURE

Our findings can be explained in the framework of the spin Hamiltonian, which precisely takes into account the real microscopic C_{3v} group symmetry of the defect [47]. The effective Hamiltonian to the first order in the magnetic field can be presented as a sum of three contributions,

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 + \mathcal{H}_{1\parallel} + \mathcal{H}_{1\perp}, \quad (1)$$

where \mathcal{H}_0 is the Hamiltonian in zero magnetic field, and $\mathcal{H}_{1\parallel} \propto B_z$ and $\mathcal{H}_{1\perp} \propto \mathbf{B}_\perp = (B_x, B_y)$ are the magnetic-field-induced terms. The Hamiltonians \mathcal{H}_0 , $\mathcal{H}_{1\parallel}$, and $\mathcal{H}_{1\perp}$ can be constructed applying the theory of group representations [48]; see Appendix B for details. In the C_{3v} group, the magnetic field component B_z and the spin operator S_z transform under the irreducible representation A_2 , the pairs of the in-plane components (S_x, S_y) and (B_x, B_y) transform under the representation E , and the Hamiltonian must be invariant (representation A_1). Using the multiplication table for the representations, one can construct all possible invariant combinations of the magnetic field components and the first, second, and third powers of the spin operator components. The fourth and higher powers of the spin-3/2 operator can be reduced to the operators of lower powers. Finally, taking into account that the Hamiltonian must be invariant with respect to the time reversal and, therefore, \mathcal{H}_0 is even in \mathbf{S} while $\mathcal{H}_{1\parallel}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{1\perp}$ are odd in \mathbf{S} , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_0 &= D \left(S_z^2 - \frac{5}{4} \right), \\ \mathcal{H}_{1\parallel} &= \left[g_{\parallel} S_z + g_{2\parallel} S_z \left(S_z^2 - \frac{5}{4} \right) + g_{3\parallel} \frac{S_+^3 - S_-^3}{4i} \right] \mu_B B_z, \\ \mathcal{H}_{1\perp} &= g_{\perp} \mu_B \mathbf{S}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{B}_\perp + 2g_{2\perp} \mu_B \left\{ \mathbf{S}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{B}_\perp, S_z^2 - \frac{3}{4} \right\} \\ &\quad + g_{3\perp} \mu_B \frac{\{S_+^2, S_z\} B_+ - \{S_-^2, S_z\} B_-}{2i}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Here, S_x, S_y, S_z are the spin-3/2 operators, $\mathbf{S}_\perp = (S_x, S_y)$, $S_\pm = S_x \pm iS_y$, $B_\pm = B_x \pm iB_y$, $\{A, B\} = (AB + BA)/2$ is the symmetrized product, z is parallel to the c axis, x and y are the perpendicular axes with y lying in a mirror reflection plane, and μ_B is the Bohr magneton. The six g-factors introduced in Eq. (2) are linearly independent in a structure of the C_{3v} point group. They can be determined from experimental data, as we do below, or obtained from *ab initio* calculations, which is out of the scope of this paper. The difference $g_{\parallel} - g_{\perp}$ as well as the nonzero values of D , $g_{2\parallel}$, and $g_{2\perp}$ are due to nonequivalence of the z axis and the perpendicular axes. The g-factors $g_{3\parallel}$ and $g_{3\perp}$ emerge due to the trigonal pyramidal symmetry of the defect. The Hamiltonian Eq. (2) can also be presented in the equivalent matrix form (see Appendix C).

The parameters of the Hamiltonian Eq. (2) can be determined from the experimental data. First, from the ODMR lines in the parallel B_z [Fig. 1(b)] and perpendicular B_x (Appendix D) magnetic fields, we confirm that to the second digit accuracy $g_{\parallel}, g_{\perp} \approx 2.0$, in agreement with earlier studies [36], and $|g_{2\parallel}|, |g_{2\perp}| \ll 1$. Then, using a procedure that is independent of the values of g_{\parallel} and g_{\perp} , we estimate the ratios $g_{2\parallel}/g_{\parallel}$ and $g_{2\perp}/g_{\perp}$ using Eqs. (D3) and (D5) (see Appendix D).

Furthermore, the Hamiltonian Eq. (2) describes the opening of spectral gaps due to the perpendicular field component B_{\perp} at GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2. The corresponding splittings Λ_1 and Λ_2 scale linearly with the perpendicular field for $\mu_B B_{\perp} \ll D$. Up to linear terms in $g_{2\parallel}$, $g_{2\perp}$ and quadratic terms in $g_{3\parallel}$, $g_{3\perp}$, the splittings in small fields are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda_1 &\approx \sqrt{3} \left(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}} - \frac{g_{3\parallel}g_{3\perp}}{g_{\parallel}g_{\perp}} - \frac{g_{3\parallel}^2}{8g_{\parallel}^2} \right) g_{\perp} \mu_B B_{\perp}, \\ \Lambda_2 &\approx \sqrt{3} \left(\frac{g_{3\perp}}{g_{\perp}} + \frac{g_{3\parallel}}{2g_{\parallel}} \right) g_{\perp} \mu_B B_{\perp}.\end{aligned}\quad (3)$$

The GSLAC-2 emerges due to the trigonal asymmetry of the silicon vacancy, and the corresponding energy splitting is expected to be smaller than that in the GSLAC-1, $\Lambda_2 < \Lambda_1$. Exactly such a behavior is observed in the experiment of Fig. 3. We fit the positions of the turning points as $h\nu_{1,3}^{\text{AC}} = [\Lambda_{1,2}^2(B_x) + \Lambda_0^2]^{1/2}$, where $\Lambda_0/h = 2.5$ MHz accounts for finite ODMR linewidth and inhomogeneity. From the best fit [the solid lines in Fig. 3(c)], we first obtain $g_{3\perp} + g_{3\parallel}/2 = 0.5 \pm 0.2$ using the data for Λ_2 and then estimate the value $g_{3\perp} - g_{3\parallel}/2 = -0.1 \pm 0.4$ using the data for Λ_1 . All the g-factors of the Hamiltonian Eq. (2) are summarized in Table I. It is instructive to compare the results with a high-symmetry defect of the T_d point group, where one expects the relation $g_{3\parallel}/g_{3\perp} = 2/3$ (see Appendix C).

We are now in a position to explain the appearance of the ν_3 and ν_4 ODMR lines in Figs. 1(b), 3(a), and 3(b), even when $B_{\perp} = 0$. It follows from the Hamiltonian Eq. (2) that the matrix elements of the allowed magnetic dipole transitions have the form

$$M_{\mp 3/2, \mp 1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}} \right) g_{\perp} \mu_B B_{1, \sigma^{\mp}}, \quad (4)$$

$$M_{\mp 3/2, \pm 1/2} = -i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(\frac{g_{3\perp}}{g_{\perp}} + \frac{g_{3\parallel}}{2g_{\parallel}} \right) g_{\perp} \mu_B B_{1, \sigma^{\pm}}, \quad (5)$$

where \mathbf{B}_1 is the rf magnetic field and $B_{1, \sigma^{\pm}} = B_{1,x} \mp iB_{1,y}$. The transitions $(+1/2 \rightarrow -3/2)$ and $(-1/2 \rightarrow +3/2)$, responsible for the ν_3 and ν_4 ODMR lines, respectively, occur due to the trigonal pyramidal symmetry of the spin-3/2 defect and are induced by the σ^+ and σ^- circularly

TABLE I. The g-factors in Hamiltonian Eq. (2) which, together with the zero-field splitting $2D = 70$ MHz and $g_{\parallel} \approx g_{\perp} \approx 2.0$, describe the GS fine structure of the silicon vacancy (V2 center in 4H-SiC) in a magnetic field.

$g_{2\parallel}$	$g_{2\perp}$	$g_{3\perp} + g_{3\parallel}/2$	$g_{3\perp} - g_{3\parallel}/2$
0.0 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.2	-0.1 ± 0.4

polarized rf radiation. There are two microscopic contributions to these transitions: (i) coupling of the $m_S = +3/2$ and $m_S = -3/2$ states by the longitudinal static field B_z (parameter $g_{3\parallel}$) [49,50] followed by the rf-driven transitions with $\Delta m = \pm 1$ and (ii) direct coupling of the $m_S = +3/2$ and $m_S = -1/2$ as well as $m_S = -3/2$ and $m_S = +1/2$ states by the transverse rf magnetic field (parameter $g_{3\perp}$). Far from LACs, the ratio of the ν_3 and ν_1 ODMR line intensities for the linearly polarized rf field is given by $|M_{-3/2, 1/2}|^2 / |M_{-3/2, -1/2}|^2 \approx (g_{3\perp} + g_{3\parallel}/2)^2 / 4$. Using $g_{3\perp} + g_{3\parallel}/2 = 0.5$ from the fit of ν_3^{AC} in Fig. 1(c), we obtain for the relative intensity 0.06. It is somewhat smaller than the measured value of $\Delta\text{PL}_3 / \Delta\text{PL}_1 \approx 0.1$. A detailed comparison of the experimental and theoretical ODMR contrasts requires the study of the linewidths and resonance shapes in the vicinity of GSLACs, which is beyond the scope of the present paper. Given this uncertainty, we find the agreement between the theory and experiment satisfactory.

IV. ALL-OPTICAL MAGNETOMETRY

Having established the fine structure, we propose to use its unique properties for all-optical magnetometry. The experimental procedure is straightforward and requires no rf field. First, we tune our system in the GSLAC-2, characterized by the narrowest resonance in Fig. 2(b). We then monitor the PL intensity through the lock-in in-phase photovoltage U_X , which is simply proportional to the deviation of the measured magnetic field from the bias field B_{G2} (provided this deviation is small) [Fig. 4(a)]. By applying sub- μT magnetic fields, we calibrate the lock-in signal $U_X / (B_z - B_{G2}) = 39 \mu\text{V}/\mu\text{T}$ [Fig. 4(b)]. The quadrature component U_Y of the lock-in signal, being

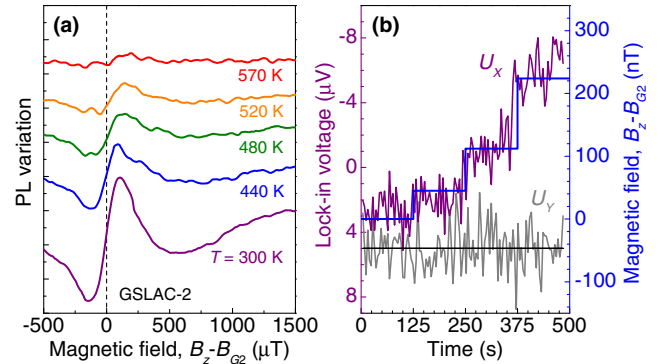


FIG. 4. (a) Lock-in detection of the PL variation in the vicinity of GSLAC-2 ($B_{G2} = 1.25$ mT) under application of a weak oscillating magnetic field, recorded at different temperatures. (b) The in-phase U_X and quadrature U_Y components of the lock-in photovoltage (left axis) for different magnetic fields (right axis), increased in sub- μT steps every 125 s. The horizontal line is the U_Y mean value. The maximum field sensitivity is obtained for the modulation depth $\Delta B = 200 \mu\text{T}$ and modulation frequency $\omega/2\pi = 511$ Hz. Temperature in (b) is $T = 300$ K.

independent of the magnetic field, is used to measure the noise level. Each data point in Fig. 4(b) corresponds to an integration time of 4s, and the dc magnetic field sensitivity is obtained to be $\delta B_z = 87 \text{ nT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$. Indeed, magnetic fields below 100 nT can be clearly resolved in Fig. 4(b).

We use an isotopically enriched crystal to exclude possible contributions related to the hyperfine interaction with ^{29}Si nuclei to the spin Hamiltonian of Eq. (2). Figure 5 demonstrates that the proposed all-optical magnetometry can also be performed using SiC with natural isotope abundance. By alignment of the bias magnetic field along the symmetry axis with an accuracy better than 1° [inset of Fig. 5(a)], it is possible to clearly separate the spin-carrying isotope contributions. The GSLAC-2 is generally narrower and less sensitive to the magnetic field misalignment in comparison to the GSLAC-1, as can be seen in Fig. 5(b). It is indeed expected that $\Delta_2 < \Delta_1$ because the peak-to-peak width Δ , as determined in Fig. 5(a), scales with the LAC splitting Λ . By inserting the experimentally determined g-factors of Table I into Eq. (3), one obtains $\Lambda_2 < \Lambda_1$.

The dynamic range of the proposed magnetometry is relatively small, several tens of μT . It can be extended by applying a transverse magnetic field at the expense of sensitivity. On the other hand, there are many applications where large dynamic range is not required [51]. We would like to clarify that the proposed magnetometry is highly sensitive to one particular orientation of the magnetic field (B_z) and, therefore, designed for applications where weak magnetic variations in a certain direction must be measured

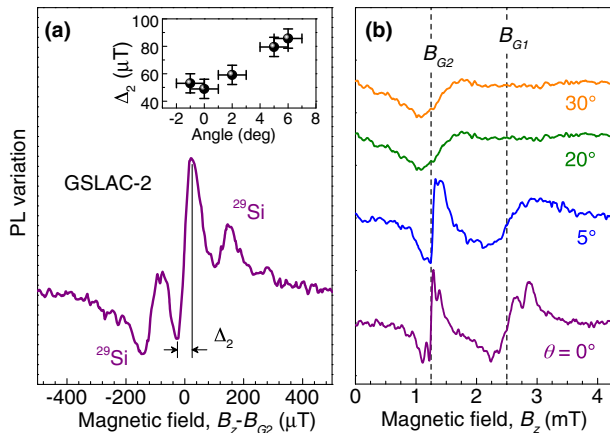


FIG. 5. (a) Lock-in detection of the PL variation in the vicinity of GSLAC-2 ($B_{G2} = 1.25 \text{ mT}$), performed in 4H-SiC with natural isotope abundance. Satellite resonances are due to the hyperfine interaction with ^{29}Si nuclei. Inset: Variation of the peak-to-peak width as a function of the magnetic field orientation. (b) PL variations at GSLAC-1 (at B_{G1}) and GSLAC-2 (at B_{G2}) for different magnetic field orientations with respect to the c -axis (polar angle θ). $T = 300 \text{ K}$. The nonzero peak-to-peak width for $\theta = 0^\circ$ is ascribed to magnetic fluctuations of the environment (nuclear spins and paramagnetic impurities) and magnetic field alignment uncertainty (1°).

with high accuracy. The change of the sensitivity ($\propto \Delta_2$) with the nonzero transverse field component B_\perp can be found from the inset of Fig. 5(a). Using $\theta = \arcsin(B_\perp/B_{G2})$, we empirically obtain for small angles $\delta B_z = \delta B_z^{(0)}(1 + 7.2B_\perp/B_{G2})$. Here, $\delta B_z^{(0)}$ is the ideal sensitivity for a perfectly aligned magnetic field. For $B_\perp = 22 \mu\text{T}$ ($\theta \approx 1^\circ$), the relative change of the sensitivity is 13%. In order to align the magnetometer, it is necessary to conduct several preliminary measurements of magnetic field sweeps around B_{G2} in differently oriented bias magnetic fields, until the maximal slope is obtained. An advantage is that the LAC can be observed even for short spin lifetimes which occur, e.g., in excited states. The detection of the ODMR signal in those conditions may be difficult because it would require the application of highly intense rf fields. On the contrary, a variation of the PL intensity at ESLAC when the ODMR signal is not detectable has been clearly demonstrated using GaAs/AlGaAs superlattices [42]. Our approach is robust and can be applied in a broad temperature range up to 520 K [Fig. 4(a)]. A crucial factor for field sensitivity is the PL intensity and stability of the pump laser. The latter factor can be compensated using a balanced detection scheme. By increasing the irradiation fluence, the V_{Si} density can be increased by more than 2 orders of magnitude [27], and the projected sensitivity in this case is a few $\text{nT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ within the same volume of $330 \mu\text{m}^3$. Alternatively, one can use light-trapping waveguides in bigger samples [34]. For a waveguide of $3 \text{ mm} \times 3 \text{ mm} \times 300 \mu\text{m}$ with improved collection efficiency by 3 orders of magnitude [34] and a V_{Si} density of $4 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ [27], we estimate the projection noise limit to be below $100 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$. In order to realize such an extremely high sensitivity, drift-compensation schemes [31,34] and magnetic noise screening similar to that usually used for optical magnetometry based on vapor cells [35] are necessary. The use of completely spin-free samples of high crystalline quality, containing ^{28}Si and ^{12}C isotopes only, can lead to further improvement due to the suppression of magnetic fluctuations caused by nuclear spins. In addition, rhombic SiC polytypes (15R) with even lower magnetic fields corresponding to the GSLACs [46] may have advantages compared to hexagonal 4H-SiC.

In conclusion, we reconstruct for the first time the fine structure of the V_{Si} center in 4H-SiC, quantifying its contributions. The presence and field-dependent behavior of two GSLACs can now be theoretically described and predicted. Our results on the spin Hamiltonian as well as the approach to study the fine structures of localized states are general. They can be directly applied for other spin-3/2 systems with the trigonal pyramidal symmetry known in the solid state, such as other color centers in zinc-blende-type crystals or Γ_8 -band holes in quantum dots [50]. They can also be straightforwardly generalized to high-spin

states such as transition-metal impurities in semiconductor structures of low spatial symmetry.

These findings are directly translated to a working application, namely, an all-optical magnetometry with sub-100-nT sensitivity. This is a general concept of all-optical sensing without rf fields, as it can be used to measure various physical quantities, such as temperature and strain, through their effect on the zero-field splitting and hence on the magnetic fields corresponding to LACs. An intriguing possibility is to image the PL from a SiC wafer onto a CCD camera to visualize magnetic fields with temporal and spatial resolution. Our results may potentially be applied for biomedical imaging and geophysical surveying, especially when rf fields cannot be applied.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: SPIN TRANSITIONS IN THE UNIAXIAL MODEL

In the uniaxial approximation, the effective Hamiltonian of a spin center has the form

$$H = D \left(S_z^2 - \frac{5}{4} \right) + g_{\parallel} \mu_B S_z B_z + g_{\perp} \mu_B \mathbf{S}_{\perp} \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\perp}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where g_{\parallel} and g_{\perp} are the longitudinal and transverse g-factors, B_z and $\mathbf{B}_{\perp} = (B_x, B_y)$ are the longitudinal and transverse components of the magnetic field, respectively, and \mathbf{S} is the vector composed of the spin-3/2 operators S_x , S_y , and S_z .

The transverse component of the magnetic field caused by inaccurate orientation of the external magnetic field along the c axis and/or originated from hyperfine interaction with nuclei couples the $+1/2$ and $-1/2$ spin states as well as the $-1/2$ and $-3/2$ spin states, thereby allowing the ν_3 ODMR line. Straightforward perturbation-theory calculations show that the ratio between the intensities of the ν_3 and ν_1 ODMR lines determined by the corresponding matrix elements of the transitions has the form

$$\frac{|M_{-3/2,+1/2}|^2}{|M_{-3/2,-1/2}|^2} = \left(\frac{2D}{2D - g_{\parallel} \mu_B B_z} \frac{g_{\perp} B_{\perp}}{g_{\parallel} B_z} \right)^2. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The experimental value of the relative ODMR contrast is about 0.1. To obtain such a contrast, e.g., for $g_{\parallel} \mu_B B_z = D$,

one has to assume that $B_{\perp}/B_z \approx 0.16$, which corresponds to an angle of approximately 10° between the total magnetic field acting upon spin centers and the c axis or $B_{\perp} \approx 0.2$ mT for $B_z = 1.25$ mT. Such a transverse magnetic field is an order of magnitude larger than the average nuclear field seen by the V_{Si} centers [46]. The precision of the external magnetic orientation in our experiments is also by an order of magnitude better [inset of Fig. 5(a)]. For such a precision, the contrast ratio between the ν_3 and ν_1 ODMR lines is estimated from Eq. (A2) to be at most 0.001, which is by 2 orders of magnitude lower than the experimentally determined ratio.

APPENDIX B: EFFECTIVE HAMILTONIAN FOR THE SPIN-3/2 CENTER OF THE C_{3v} POINT GROUP

We construct the effective spin Hamiltonian using the theory of group representations [48]. In the C_{3v} point group, there are three irreducible representations commonly denoted as A_1 , A_2 , and E . Accordingly, all physical quantities can be decomposed into the irreducible representations in accordance with their symmetry properties. The magnetic field components B_{α} ($\alpha = x, y, z$) and all possible linearly independent combinations of the spin operator components S_{α} are decomposed into the irreducible representations as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1: & S_z^2; S_x(3S_y^2 - S_x^2), \\ A_2: & B_z; S_z; S_z^3; S_y(3S_x^2 - S_y), \\ E: & (B_x, B_y); (S_x, S_y); (S_y S_z, -S_x S_z); (S_x S_z^2, S_y S_z^2); \\ & (S_x^2 - S_y^2, -2\{S_x, S_y\}); (2\{S_x, S_y\} S_z, (S_x^2 - S_y^2) S_z). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B1})$$

All other combinations of the spin operator components can be expressed via the above ones, taking into account the identity $S_x^2 + S_y^2 + S_z^2 = 15/4$ and the fact that the fourth and higher powers of the spin-3/2 operator components can be reduced to the operators of lower powers.

The effective Zeeman Hamiltonian is constructed as the sum of all possible products of the magnetic field components and the spin operator combinations that are invariant with respect to (i) symmetry operations of the point group and (ii) time reversal. Each invariant contribution is multiplied by a prefactor that has a physical sense of an effective g-factor component. The condition (i) implies that the invariant products are constructed from quantities belonging to the same irreducible representation. The condition (ii) implies that the Zeeman Hamiltonian is odd in \mathbf{S} . Taking both conditions into account, we obtain six linearly independent contributions to the Zeeman Hamiltonian, which are given in Eq. (2).

A similar procedure based on the theory of group representations can be applied to construct the

Hamiltonian describing the effect of strain on the V_{Si} spin center, hyperfine interaction, etc. The trigonal pyramidal symmetry of the defect gives rise to additional terms in the spin Hamiltonian, which are absent in the uniaxial model.

APPENDIX C: FINE STRUCTURE OF SPIN-3/2 CENTERS OF THE C_{3v} POINT GROUP

The spin Hamiltonian given by Eqs. (1) and (2) can be rewritten in the equivalent matrix form:

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} D + \frac{3}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel}})g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_- & -i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g_{3\perp}\mu_B B_+ & -i\frac{3}{2}g_{3\parallel}\mu_B B_z \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_+ & -D + \frac{1}{2}(1 - \frac{g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel}})g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z & (1 - \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_- & i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g_{3\perp}\mu_B B_+ \\ i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g_{3\perp}\mu_B B_- & (1 - \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_+ & -D - \frac{1}{2}(1 - \frac{g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel}})g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_- \\ i\frac{3}{2}g_{3\parallel}\mu_B B_z & -i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}g_{3\perp}\mu_B B_- & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}})g_{\perp}\mu_B B_+ & D - \frac{3}{2}(1 + \frac{g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel}})g_{\parallel}\mu_B B_z \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{C1})$$

where $B_{\pm} = B_x \pm iB_y = B_{\perp}e^{\pm i\phi}$, with ϕ denoting the azimuthal angle of \mathbf{B} . To derive this matrix, we use the explicit form of the spin-3/2 matrices:

$$S_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{C2})$$

$$S_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{C3})$$

$$S_z = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{3}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{C4})$$

1. Zeeman splitting of spin sublevels

Application of a magnetic field along the c -axis leads to the splitting of the spin sublevels. The energies of the states with the spin projections $m_S = \pm 1/2$ and $m_S = \pm 3/2$ are given by

$$E_{\pm 1/2} = -D \pm \frac{1}{2}g_{\parallel,1/2}\mu_B B_z, \quad (\text{C5})$$

$$E_{\pm 3/2} = D \pm \frac{3}{2}g_{\parallel,3/2}\mu_B B_z, \quad (\text{C6})$$

where the effective g-factors are

$$g_{\parallel,1/2} = g_{\parallel} - g_{2\parallel}, \quad (\text{C7})$$

$$g_{\parallel,3/2} = \sqrt{(g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel})^2 + g_{3\parallel}^2}. \quad (\text{C8})$$

The spin sublevel $m_S = -3/2$ crosses the spin sublevels $m_S = -1/2$ and $m_S = +1/2$ at the magnetic fields

$$B_{G1} = \frac{4D}{(3g_{\parallel,3/2} - g_{\parallel,1/2})\mu_B} \quad (\text{C9})$$

$$\text{and } B_{G2} = \frac{4D}{(3g_{\parallel,3/2} + g_{\parallel,1/2})\mu_B}, \quad (\text{C10})$$

respectively.

As we describe in the main text, application of a small additional perpendicular magnetic field B_{\perp} leads to level anticrossings, GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2 [Fig. 1(a)], at B_{G1} and B_{G2} , respectively.

In a magnetic field applied perpendicular to the c -axis, $B_{\perp} = (B_x^2 + B_y^2)^{1/2}$ and $B_z = 0$, the energy spectrum is given by

$$\begin{aligned} E_{3/2} &= \pm \frac{1}{2}(g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})\mu_B B_{\perp} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{[2D \mp (g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})\mu_B B_{\perp}]^2 + 3[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})^2 + g_{3\perp}^2]\mu_B^2 B_{\perp}^2}, \\ E_{1/2} &= \pm \frac{1}{2}(g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})\mu_B B_{\perp} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{[2D \mp (g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})\mu_B B_{\perp}]^2 + 3[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})^2 + g_{3\perp}^2]\mu_B^2 B_{\perp}^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C11})$$

Particularly, for small magnetic fields ($\mu_B B_\perp \ll 2D$), the linear-in- B_\perp splitting is described by the effective g-factors:

$$g_{\perp,3/2} = 0, \quad (\text{C12})$$

$$g_{\perp,1/2} = 2(g_\perp - g_{2\perp}). \quad (\text{C13})$$

2. Relation between g-factors in the T_d point group

The spatial arrangement of carbon atoms around the single silicon vacancy is close to the tetragonal structure, which is described by the T_d point group symmetry. The T_d group symmetry is higher than the real C_{3v} group symmetry of the vacancy but properly takes into account the threefold rotation c axis and allows for nonzero values of both $g_{3\parallel}$ and $g_{3\perp}$. Thus, one can expect that the relation between $g_{3\parallel}$ and $g_{3\perp}$ of the Si vacancy is close to that for the defect of the T_d point group.

In the T_d point group, the effective Zeeman Hamiltonian of the spin-3/2 defect in the cubic axes $x' \parallel [100]$, $y' \parallel [010]$, and $z' \parallel [001]$ is described by two linearly independent parameters g and q and reads [52]

$$\mathcal{H}_{T_d} = g\mu_B \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

$$+ q\mu_B \left(J_x^3 B_{x'} + J_y^3 B_{y'} + J_z^3 B_{z'} - \frac{41}{20} \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right). \quad (\text{C14})$$

In order to obtain the Hamiltonian in the axes $x \parallel [1\bar{1}0]$, $y \parallel [11\bar{2}]$, and $z \parallel [111]$, relevant to the vacancy orientation, we use the relation between the components of the vector \mathbf{B} in two coordinate frames,

$$\begin{aligned} B_{x'} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} B_x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} B_y + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} B_z, \\ B_{y'} &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} B_x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} B_y + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} B_z, \\ B_{z'} &= -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} B_y + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} B_z, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C15})$$

and similar equations for the components of the spin operator \mathbf{S} . This yields

$$\mathcal{H}_{T_d} = \mu_B \begin{pmatrix} (\frac{3}{2}g - \frac{1}{5}q)B_z & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(g + \frac{1}{5}q)B_- & -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}iqB_+ & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}iqB_z \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(g + \frac{1}{5}q)B_+ & (\frac{1}{2}g + \frac{3}{5}q)B_z & (g - \frac{3}{10}q)B_- & \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}iqB_+ \\ \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}iqB_- & (g - \frac{3}{10}q)B_+ & -(\frac{1}{2}g + \frac{3}{5}q)B_z & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(g + \frac{1}{5}q)B_- \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}iqB_z & -\sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}iqB_- & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(g + \frac{1}{5}q)B_+ & -(\frac{3}{2}g - \frac{1}{5}q)B_z \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{C16})$$

Comparing the Hamiltonians Eqs. (C1) and (C16), we obtain that $g_{3\parallel}$ and $g_{3\perp}$ are related to each other by

$$g_{3\parallel}/g_{3\perp} = 2/3 \quad (\text{C17})$$

for a defect of the T_d group symmetry.

APPENDIX D: EXTRACTING THE FINE STRUCTURE PARAMETERS

To obtain the value of $g_{2\parallel}$, we use the ODMR spectra, recorded in the magnetic field applied parallel to the c -axis. The linear shift of the ODMR lines is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{1,2} &= \nu_0 \pm \left(\frac{3}{2}g_{\parallel,3/2} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\parallel,1/2} \right) \mu_B B_z / h \\ &\approx \nu_0 \pm (g_\parallel + 2g_{2\parallel} + 3g_{3\parallel}^2/4g_\parallel) \mu_B B_z / h, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{3,4} &= \nu_0 \pm \left(\frac{3}{2}g_{\parallel,3/2} + \frac{1}{2}g_{\parallel,1/2} \right) \mu_B B_z / h \\ &\approx \nu_0 \pm (2g_\parallel + g_{2\parallel} + 3g_{3\parallel}^2/4g_\parallel) \mu_B B_z / h, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D2})$$

where $\nu_0 = 2D/h$. The experimentally measured ratio of the magnetic fields corresponding to the GSLAC-2 and GSLAC-1 points, $B_{G2}/B_{G1} = 0.503 \pm 0.005$, independent of the magnetic field calibration, allows us to extract the value of $g_{2\parallel}/g_\parallel$ using the formula

$$\frac{B_{G2}}{B_{G1}} \approx \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3g_{2\parallel}}{4g_\parallel} + \frac{3g_{3\parallel}^2}{16g_\parallel^2}. \quad (\text{D3})$$

For the first iteration we neglect the term $\propto g_{3\parallel}^2$.

To determine $g_{2\perp}$, we exploit the evolution of the ODMR spectrum in the magnetic field B_\perp applied perpendicular to the c axis, presented in Fig. 6(a). From Eq. (C11), we obtain the positions of the ν_1 and ν_2 ODMR lines up to B_\perp^2 :

$$\nu_{1,2} = \nu_0 \mp (g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp}) \frac{\mu_B B_{\perp}}{h} + \frac{3[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})^2 + g_{3\perp}^2]}{2\nu_0} \left(\frac{\mu_B B_{\perp}}{h} \right)^2. \quad (\text{D4})$$

One can represent the quadratic shift $(\nu_2 + \nu_1)/2$ versus the Zeeman splitting $\nu_2 - \nu_1 = 2(g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})B_{\perp}/h$, using the theoretical expression

$$\frac{\nu_2 + \nu_1}{2} - \nu_0 = \frac{3[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})^2 + g_{3\perp}^2]}{8(g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp})^2} \frac{(\nu_2 - \nu_1)^2}{\nu_0} \approx \left(1 + \frac{4g_{2\perp}}{g_{\perp}} + \frac{g_{3\perp}^2}{g_{\perp}^2} \right) \frac{3(\nu_2 - \nu_1)^2}{8\nu_0}. \quad (\text{D5})$$

From the linear fit of the experimental data in Fig. 6(b), we obtain the value of $g_{2\perp}/g_{\perp}$. Again, for the first iteration we neglect the term $\propto g_{3\perp}^2$.

Finally, we use the GSLAC-1 and GSLAC-2 splittings, described by Eq. (3) to determine the values of $g_{3\parallel}$ and $g_{3\perp}$. By iterating the described procedure, we obtain the values of the g-factors, as presented in Table I.

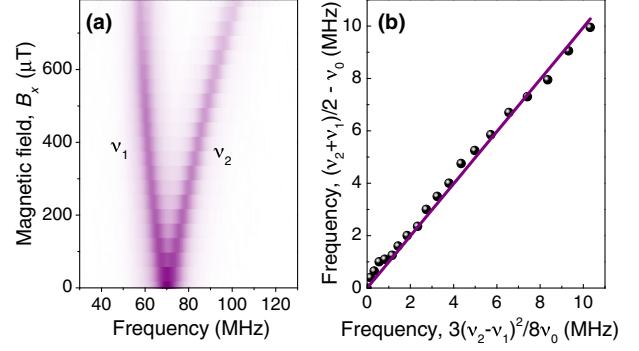


FIG. 6. (a) Evolution of the ODMR spectrum as a function of the perpendicular magnetic field $B_{\perp} = B_x$ ($B_y = 0$). (b) Points represent the quadratic shift $(\nu_2 + \nu_1)/2 - \nu_0$ versus the Zeeman splitting in terms of $3(\nu_2 - \nu_1)^2/8\nu_0$. Solid line is a linear fit to Eq. (D5) with a slope of 0.995 ± 0.01 .

APPENDIX E: ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE

The spin transition rates induced by the rf magnetic field \mathbf{B}_1 are determined by the matrix elements of Hamiltonian Eq. (C1). For a static magnetic field $\mathbf{B} \parallel z$, the matrix elements of the transitions up to linear in $g_{2\parallel}$, $g_{2\perp}$, $g_{3\parallel}$, and $g_{3\perp}$ terms are given by Eqs. (4) and (5) in the main text, and the full expressions have the form

$$M_{-3/2,-1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} \left[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp}) \sqrt{1 + \frac{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel,3/2}}} + \frac{g_{3\parallel} g_{3\perp}}{\sqrt{g_{\parallel,3/2}} \sqrt{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel} + g_{\parallel,3/2}}} \right] \mu_B (B_{1,x} + iB_{1,y}), \quad (\text{E1})$$

$$M_{3/2,1/2} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} \left[(g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp}) \sqrt{1 + \frac{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel,3/2}}} + \frac{g_{3\parallel} g_{3\perp}}{\sqrt{g_{\parallel,3/2}} \sqrt{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel} + g_{\parallel,3/2}}} \right] \mu_B (B_{1,x} - iB_{1,y}), \quad (\text{E2})$$

$$M_{-3/2,1/2} = -i \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} \left[\frac{g_{3\parallel} (g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})}{\sqrt{g_{\parallel,3/2}} \sqrt{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel} + g_{\parallel,3/2}}} + g_{3\perp} \sqrt{1 + \frac{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel,3/2}}} \right] \mu_B (B_{1,x} - iB_{1,y}), \quad (\text{E3})$$

$$M_{3/2,-1/2} = -i \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} \left[\frac{g_{3\parallel} (g_{\perp} + g_{2\perp})}{\sqrt{g_{\parallel,3/2}} \sqrt{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel} + g_{\parallel,3/2}}} + g_{3\perp} \sqrt{1 + \frac{g_{\parallel} + g_{2\parallel}}{g_{\parallel,3/2}}} \right] \mu_B (B_{1,x} + iB_{1,y}). \quad (\text{E4})$$

The matrix element for $(-1/2 \leftrightarrow +1/2)$ has the form $M_{1/2,-1/2} = (g_{\perp} - g_{2\perp}) \mu_B (B_{1,x} - iB_{1,y})$, while the spin transition $(-3/2 \leftrightarrow +3/2)$ is forbidden for $\mathbf{B} \parallel z$.

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