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## A Single Pair of Weyl Fermions in Half-metallic EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> Semimetal

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#### Abstract

Materials with the ideal case of a single pair of Weyl points (WPs) is highly desirable for elucidating the unique properties of Weyl fermions. EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is an anti-ferromagnetic topological insulator or Dirac semimetal depending on the different magnetic configurations. Using first-principles band structure calculations, we show that inducing ferromagnetism in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> can generate a single pair of WPs from splitting the single pair of anti-ferromagnetic Dirac points due to its half-metallic nature. Analysis with a low-energy effective Hamiltonian shows that a single pair of WPs is obtained in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> because the DPs are very close to the zone center and the ferromagnetic exchange splitting is large enough to push one pair of WPs to merge and annihilate at  $\Gamma$  while the other pair survives. Furthermore, we predict that alloying with Ba at the Eu site can stabilize the ferromagnetic configuration and generate a single pair of Weyl points without application of a magnetic field.

#### Introduction

Discoveries of symmetry-protected topological states in condensed matter physics and materials science have attracted great interest.<sup>1.4</sup> Among the different symmetries, time-reversal symmetry (TRS)  $\Theta$  is key to understand many topological states, such as topological insulator (TI), because  $\Theta$  is antiunitary for electrons and gives the degeneracy of Kramer pairs. Breaking TRS with magnetism can introduce other interesting topological states. For example, the quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) has been realized in ferromagnetic TIs with magnetic dopants.<sup>5</sup> AFM-TIs have also been proposed<sup>6</sup> where an effective TRS can be defined by combining  $\Theta$  and non-symmorphic translation  $\tau_{1/2}$  ( $S=\Theta\tau_{1/2}$ ). The preservation of *S* can lead to topological  $Z_2$  classification even though  $\Theta$  is broken. The surface states of an AFM-TI can either gap out or form a surface Dirac point (DP), depending on whether the surface orientation breaks or preserves *S*, with the former being proposed to host topological axion states<sup>7</sup> with quantized magnetoelectric effects. Very recently, such an intrinsic AFM-TI has been reported in MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub>.<sup>8-10</sup>

TRS is also a key factor in topological semimetals where broken TRS can lift the degeneracy of bulk DPs into Weyl points (WPs) of opposite chirality. Weyl points (WPs) were first proposed in TRS-broken systems, such as noncollinear antiferromagnetic (AFM) pyrochlore iridates<sup>11</sup>, magnetically doped TI/normal insulator heterostructures<sup>12</sup>, ferromagnetic (FM) HgCr<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>4</sub><sup>13</sup> and strained Hg<sub>1-x-y</sub>Cd<sub>x</sub>Mn<sub>y</sub>Te in a magnetic field<sup>14</sup> before they were realized in compounds with broken inversion symmetry (IS) *P*, such as TaAs<sup>15-18</sup> and WTe<sub>2</sub> families<sup>19-23</sup>. However, bulk DPs can also exist in AFM systems, such as CuMnAs, due to the protection of the combined  $\Theta P$ , although each of  $\Theta$  and *P* by itself is broken.<sup>24</sup> Clearly, the interplay of magnetism, crystalline

symmetry, and topology provides a mechanism whereby magnetism can be used to control topological states.

For Weyl semimetals, a major challenge is to discover a material with the minimally possible, i.e., a single pair of WPs in the full Brillouin zone (BZ), which would greatly simplify the elucidation of their unique transport and optical properties, such as the universal form of anomalous Hall conductivity depending only on the distance between a single pair of WPs<sup>25</sup>. MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub> has recently been predicted to host a single pair of FM-WPs in the FM phase<sup>8</sup>. However, first-principles electronic structure calculations using experimentally determined lattice parameters found that the FM configuration of MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub> is not semimetallic. The AFM-TI ground state of MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub> has a band gap of 200 meV and the FM configuration is 46 meV/f.u. less stable. To form a pair of WPs in MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub>, the insulating gap needs to be closed by expanding the structure in the basal plane or under negative pressure. Given such requirements, it is not straightforward to realize the single pair of FM-WPs in semiconducting MnBi<sub>2</sub>Te<sub>4</sub>. In earlier studies, magnetically doped TI/normal insulator heterostructures<sup>12</sup> has been proposed to host a single pair of FM-WPs, but it has not been realized in real materials. Although a pair of FM-WPs with chirality of 2 has been predicted<sup>13</sup> to exist in Chern semimetal HgCr<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>4</sub> along the magnetization axis, there is an additional nodal loop protected by mirror symmetry at  $k_z=0$  plane. The single pair of WPs has been proposed in strained Hg<sub>1-x-v</sub>Cd<sub>x</sub>Mn<sub>v</sub>Te in a magnetic field by splitting the single DP at the  $\Gamma$  point<sup>14</sup>, but this DP can only exist at the phase boundary between TI and normal insulator transition, thus not stable. For the stable DPs protected by crystal symmetry, such as a pair of DPs along  $\Gamma A$  in BaAgBi<sup>26</sup>, the splitting due to breaking TRS with Eu substitution results in two pairs of WPs, not a single pair. The pair of FM-WPs along

[110] axis in magnetic Heusler alloys<sup>27</sup> can be tuned to the Fermi energy ( $E_F$ ), but there are other sets of WPs between the valence and conduction bands.

Thus, a FM semimetal hosting the ideal case of a single pair of WPs has not been found yet. A better starting place to search for such an ideal case is an AFM-DP semimetal or AFM-TI with a very small band gap.<sup>28, 29</sup> EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is AFM with a Neel temperature of 9.5 K<sup>30, 31</sup> and strong coupling is observed between transport and magnetism<sup>32</sup>. Resonant *x*-ray scattering measurements by Rahn *et al.*<sup>29</sup> have shown that the ground state magnetic structure of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is an A-type AFM with moments aligned in the hexagonal layer. The A-type order with in-plane moments breaks the 3-fold rotational symmetry and an AFM-TI state with a band gap of 10 meV arises from the band inversion near the  $\Gamma$  point. A recent theoretical study by Hua *et al.*<sup>28</sup> found that if the AFM moment can be turned along *c*-axis in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> to restore the 3-fold rotational symmetry, then a single pair of AFM-DP can appear along  $\Gamma$ A and is protected by *SP* combination.<sup>28</sup> Additionally, each of the AFM-DPs can be split into a pair of triply degenerated nodal points (TDNPs) when breaking *P*.

As shown in the calculation by Krishna *et al.*<sup>33</sup>, the energy difference between AFM and FM is as small as ~2 meV/f.u, suggesting that the FM state is accessible under typical laboratory conditions. Rahn *et al.*<sup>29</sup> have shown that the saturation magnetic field to stabilize FM along *c* axis is about 1.5 T at 2 K. However, the topological properties of the FM configuration have not been studied yet. Here we use first-principles band structure calculations and discover that a FM configuration with moments along *c* axis of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> actually hosts a single pair of WPs, a unique feature due to half metallic nature of the system. Furthermore, we propose that alloying with Ba at the Eu site introduces an effective negative pressure that can stabilize FM over AFM. By introducing exchange splitting terms explicitly in a 4-band low-energy Hamiltonian for the DPs, we find that a single pair of DPs will split into a single pair of WPs under the following conditions; (1) the DPs should be close to the BZ center and (2) the exchange splitting must be large enough to push two WPs from the opposite side of  $\Gamma$  point to merge and annihilate, while the other pair of WPs survive by being pushed away from the  $\Gamma$  point.

#### **Computational Methods**

All density functional theory<sup>34, 35</sup> (DFT) calculations with and without spin-orbit coupling (SOC) were performed with the PBE<sup>36</sup> exchange-correlation functional using a plane-wave basis set and projector augmented wave<sup>37</sup> method, as implemented in the Vienna Ab-initio Simulation Package<sup>38, 39</sup> (VASP). Using maximally localized Wannier functions<sup>40-42</sup>, tight-binding models were constructed to reproduce closely the band structure including SOC within ±1eV of the  $E_F$  with Eu *s*-*d*-*f*, Cd *s*-*p* and As *p* orbitals. The surface Fermi arcs and spectral functions, we used a kinetic energy cutoff of 318 eV,  $\Gamma$ -centered Monkhorst-Pack<sup>48</sup> (11×11×3) *k*-point mesh, and a Gaussian smearing of 0.05 eV. To account for the strongly localized Eu 4*f* orbitals, an onsite U=5.0 eV is used<sup>28, 33</sup>. For band structure calculations of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, the atomic basis positions and unit cell vectors are fixed to the experimental values<sup>31</sup>. To study the effect of alloying with Ba on the Eu site, a 20-atom supercell along *c* with alternating Ba and Ba/Eu layers (at 50% Ba substitution in every other layer) is fully relaxed in the FM and AFM configurations. The magnitude of force on each atom is reduced to below 0.01 eV/Å.

#### **Results and Discussion**

Figure 1 shows the bulk band structures and topological features of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> in different magnetic configurations. The crystal structure<sup>31</sup> of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, with the primitive hexagonal unit cell of 5 atoms in space group 164 (P-3m1), is shown in Fig.1(b). The Eu atoms form a simple

hexagonal lattice at the 1*a* Wyckoff position. The As and Cd atoms at the 2*b* positions form the other four atomic layers with the sequence of -Cd-As-Eu-As-Cd- along the *c* axis. The As layer binds to Eu on one side and Cd on the other side. The structure has inversion symmetry, *P*. The Eu half-filled 4*f* shell hosts a large local magnetic moment. In EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, the Eu moments prefer an intralayer FM coupling and an interlayer AFM coupling along *c* axis, i.e., an A-type AFM (AFMA), which requires doubling the unit cell along *c* direction. The insets of Fig.1(c) and (d) show two such magnetic configurations by singling out Eu atoms with magnetic moment directions along *c* (AFMAc) and along *a* (AFMAa), respectively. Because EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> has a layered hexagonal lattice, the intralayer AFM will be frustrated and less stable than the AFMA configuration, which has been confirmed by the earlier DFT study<sup>28</sup>. Our calculated magnetic moment of 6.99  $\mu_B$  on Eu site agrees with the earlier study<sup>28</sup>. Experiment showed an effective moment of 7.88  $\mu_B$  and a saturated moment of 6.7  $\mu_B/Eu^{31}$ .

Although magnetism breaks  $\Theta$ , for the AFMA in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>,  $\Theta$  can be coupled with a lattice translation along *c*, giving the non-symmorphic TRS<sup>6, 28</sup>  $S = \Theta \tau_{1/2}$ . For example, starting with either AFMA configurations in the inset of Fig.1(c) or (d), the magnetic moments are switched to the opposite direction under  $\Theta$  and a translation  $\tau_{1/2}$  along *c* returns the system to the starting configuration. The combination of *S* and *P* is antiunitary,  $(SP)^2 = -1$ , thus the bands at each general k-point are doubly degenerate for AFMA EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> in the presence of SOC due to Kramer's theorem.

For EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, different magnetic configurations affect the topological features of the system. Figure 1 presents the band structures of different magnetic configurations including the ground state AFMAa configuration found experimentally<sup>29</sup>. Starting with the AFMAc band structure (Fig.1(a)), there is a sizable gap between valence and conduction bands along all the highsymmetric directions except near  $\Gamma$ . The zoom in along  $\Gamma$ A in Fig.1(c) shows the band inversion between Cd *s* and As *p* derived orbitals near  $\Gamma$ . For AFMAc, the crossing is not gapped out due to the protection from the 3-fold rotational symmetry similar to a class-I<sup>49</sup> DP in a non-magnetic system, resulting in a pair of AFM-DPs at (0.0, 0.0, ±0.004 Å<sup>-1</sup>). When the magnetic moments are oriented along *a* (Fig.1(d)) for AFMAa, the AFM-DPs are gapped out by breaking the 3-fold rotational symmetry and the system becomes an AFM-TI. Hua *et al.*<sup>28</sup> have also shown that the application of strain along the *a* axis is another way to break the 3-fold rotational symmetry and open up a band gap in the AFMAc phase. The AFM-TI has a special gapped surface state if the open boundary is along *c*, resulting in half-integer quantum Hall effect and axion states. In summary, our DFT+U+SOC calculations and analysis agree with earlier studies<sup>29, 33</sup> for EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> on the topological features of the AFMA states.

If the AFMAa ground state can be switched into a FMc configuration, then *S* will be broken and the double degeneracy will be lifted. Rahn *et al.*<sup>29</sup> have shown that the saturation magnetic field to stabilize FM along *c* axis is about 1.5 T at 2 K. In Fig.1(e), we show that yet another interesting topological feature, a single pair of WPs, will emerge in the FMc state. This is a unique feature due to the half-metallic nature of the system (see below). The Berry curvature calculation in Fig.1(f) indeed shows the source and sink for this single pair of WPs at (0.0, 0.0,  $\pm 0.03 \text{ 1/Å}$ ) on either side of the  $\Gamma$  point. Note that the distance between FM-WPs is increased compared to AFM-DPs because the band crossing is pushed away from  $\Gamma$ .

When projected onto the crystalline (001) surface of  $EuCd_2As_2$ , the WPs of opposite chirality overlap in the FMc state, thus there will be no open Fermi arcs. In contrast, the single pair of WPs do not overlap when projected on (110) surface and open Fermi arcs connecting the projected WPs are expected. Figure 2 shows such open Fermi arcs on both the top and bottom (110) surfaces of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> with Cd termination. In Fig.2(a) and (b) the Fermi arcs connect two hole pockets right at  $E_F$ , each on the opposite (110) surface. At higher energies, the hole pockets shrink and eventually reach the energy of the WPs at  $E_F$ +48 meV where the size of the Fermi arcs is maximal, spanning 0.06 1/Å. This situation corresponds to the ideal case of two open Fermi arcs connecting a single pair of WPs in the full BZ, each on the opposite surface, which has only been described schematically and without confirmation in any material system. Here we predict that such an ideal case of a single pair of WPs can be realized in FM EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>.

Normally, we expect that one pair of DPs will split into two pairs of WPs when breaking  $\Theta$  or, in our case, *S*. Where does the other pair of WPs go in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>? To clarify why and how a single pair of FM-WPs can arise from a single pair of AFM-DPs in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> upon breaking *S*, we present the evolution of band structures along  $\Gamma$ A direction in Fig.3 for different magnetic configurations. First, we turn off the magnetism in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> by treating the Eu 4*f* orbitals as core electrons. The system retains both  $\Theta$  and *P* symmetries. The non-magnetic band structure without SOC is shown in Fig.3(a). It is a semiconductor with a band gap of 200 meV. The valence band has orbital degeneracy of As  $p_x$  and  $p_y$ , thus is 4-fold degenerated when spin is included. The conduction band is derived from Cd *s* orbital and has 2-fold degeneracy from spin. Turning on SOC in Fig.3(b), the orbital degeneracy between As  $p_x$  and  $p_y$  is lifted, but still maintains 2-fold degeneracy from spin because of  $\Theta$  and *P*. The band gap is reduced to 100 meV.

For AFMA with 4*f* moment on Eu atoms and the unit cell doubled along *c* axis,  $\Theta$  is broken, but *S* is not broken. The combination of *S* and *P* still gives 2-fold degeneracy for a general *k*point. Comparing Fig.3(c) to Fig.3(a) (without SOC) and Fig.3(d) to Fig.3(b) (with SOC), the main effect of AFMAc order is a band folding due to doubling of the unit cell along *c*. Without SOC in Fig.3(c), the valence band has 4-fold degeneracy from both the spin and orbital degeneracy (As  $p_x$  and  $p_y$ ), while the conduction band derived from Cd *s* orbital only has 2-fold spin degeneracy. The orbital degeneracy for the valence band can be clearly seen in the color-coding of the folded branch from -0.7 at  $\Gamma$  to -0.5 eV at A, which has the opposite dispersion to the valence band. The lower branch of the valence band crosses another band mostly of As  $p_z$  (Eu *f*) character near  $\Gamma$  (A). The conduction band has flat folded branch with Cd *s* character and the higher energy conduction band is mostly of Cd *s*,  $p_z$  and As  $p_z$  character. Each of these three conduction bands has 2-fold spin degeneracy.

Without SOC, the AFMA valence and conduction bands still do not cross, and a small band gap remains at  $\Gamma$ . When SOC is turned on in Fig.3(d), the orbital degeneracy of As  $p_x$  and  $p_y$ valence bands are lifted. Because of SOC, now *j* is good quantum number. The valence band with a total angular momentum of J=3/2 is split into two, one with  $j_z=\pm 3/2$  and the other  $j_z=\pm 1/2$ ; each is 2-fold degenerate due to *S* and *P*. The J=1/2 conduction band is also 2-fold degenerate. Importantly, SOC induces a band inversion around  $\Gamma$  between the valence  $\left|\frac{3}{2}, \pm \frac{1}{2}\right\rangle$  and conduction  $\left|\frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{1}{2}\right\rangle$ . The system becomes a topological semimetal with a single pair of AFM-DPs, as discussed by Hua *et al.*<sup>28</sup>

We now consider the case for FM order, where *S* is broken and the 2-fold spin degeneracy is lifted. Without SOC, comparing Fig.3(e) to Fig.3(a), there is a large exchange splitting effect, giving two sets of bands, spin up and down. This results in a unique half-metallic feature where only the spin-up valence and conduction bands cross each other at  $E_F$ , while the spin-down bands do not cross and maintain a gap. This crossing between the spin-up valence and conduction bands is a TDNP because the valence band has the 2-fold orbital degeneracy between As  $p_x$  and  $p_y$ . When SOC is turned on for the FMc configuration in Fig.3(f), both the orbital and spin degeneracies are fully lifted, and the 4-fold degenerate valence band in Fig.1(a) now becomes four individual bands. The spin and orbital degeneracies of other bands (including the conduction band) are already fully lifted by the broken *S* in the FM state. The crossing of half-metallic spin-up valence and conduction bands near  $\Gamma$  is preserved with SOC. Importantly, the degeneracy of this crossing is reduced from three for TDNP to two, thus generating a WP.

The connection between the AFM-DPs (Fig.3(d)) and the FM-WPs (Fig.3(f)) can be understood by unfolding the bands and then lifting the spin degeneracy due to the breakdown of  $(SP)^2=-1$ . The usual scenario of a single DP splitting into two WPs does not work here because of the half-metallicity. Or equivalently, the WP closer to  $\Gamma$  can merge with another WP of the opposite chirality from the other side of  $\Gamma$  and annihilate to form a gap.

To get a more generic picture of splitting a single pair of DPs into a single pair of WPs in a half-metal, we introduce the relevant low-energy Hamiltonian. We start with the 4-band k.p model for AFM-DP in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> with  $\left|\frac{1}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}\right\rangle$ ,  $\left|\frac{3}{2}, +\frac{3}{2}\right\rangle$ ,  $\left|\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}\right\rangle$  and  $\left|\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}\right\rangle$  in that order. This is similar to class-I DP in Na<sub>3</sub>Bi<sup>50</sup> and Cd<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub><sup>51</sup>, except that the off-diagonal matrix elements are in the  $k_{\pm}$  order. We can add the FM exchange splitting as two terms, one is orbital dependent  $h_1\sigma_z\otimes\tau_z$  and the other spin dependent  $h_2\sigma_z\otimes I$ , where  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are exchange splitting parameters,  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  are the Pauli matrices for spin and orbital, respectively, and I is the identity matrix. Then the total Hamiltonian is

$$H_{eff}(k) = H_{eff}(k) = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} M(k) + h_1 + h_2 & Ak_+ & 0 & Bk_+ \\ Ak_- & -M(k) - h_1 + h_2 & Bk_+ & 0 \\ 0 & Bk_- & M(k) + h_1 - h_2 & -Ak_- \\ Bk_- & 0 & -Ak_+ & -M(k) - h_1 - h_2 \end{array} \right)$$
(1)

where  $k_{\pm} = k_x \pm ik_y$ ,  $M(k) = M_0 - M_1k_z^2 - M_2(k_x^2 + k_y^2)$  and  $\varepsilon_0(k) = C_0 + C_1k_z^2 + C_2(k_x^2 + k_y^2)$ . After diagonalization, the solutions for the eigenvalues are

$$E(k) = \varepsilon_0(k) \pm \sqrt{(M(k) + sgn h_1)^2 + (A^2 + B^2)(k_x^2 + k_y^2)} + sgn h_2$$
(2)

where *sgn* takes on  $\pm$  independently from the one before the square root. When fitted to DFT calculated band structures of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, the following parameters are obtained, C<sub>0</sub>=-0.0005 eV, C<sub>1</sub>=47.8237 eVÅ<sup>2</sup>, C<sub>2</sub>=55.0803 eVÅ<sup>2</sup>, M<sub>0</sub>=-0.0039 eV, M<sub>1</sub>=-54.5293 eVÅ<sup>2</sup>, M<sub>2</sub>=1.6425 eVÅ<sup>2</sup> and  $\tilde{A}$ =2.6902 eVÅ for  $\tilde{A}^2 = A^2 + B^2$ .

In Fig.4, we plot the bands from the low-energy effective Hamiltonian (Eqn.(2)) with different values of  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ . When  $h_1 = h_2 = 0$  in Fig.4(a), we have a 4-fold degenerate AFM-DP due to the combined *SP*. When *S* is broken with  $h_1$ =3.0 meV and  $h_2$ =0 in Fig.4(b), a pair of FM-WPs split from the AFM-DPs. By increasing  $h_2$  such that  $h_1 = h_2 = 3.0$  meV in Fig.4(c), two TDNPs are produced because the valence band is 2-fold degenerate, but not the conduction band. Increasing  $h_1$  to 6.0 meV in Fig.4(d) is enough to create a gap between one pair of valence and conduction bands. In effect, one of the two WPs pairs on opposite sides of  $\Gamma$  meet and annihilate, while the other pair of WPs is pushed further away from  $\Gamma$ . This can happen in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is because AFM-DPs are very close to  $\Gamma$  at ±0.004 (1/Å), comparing to ±0.084 and ±0.032 (1/Å) in Na<sub>3</sub>Bi<sup>50</sup> and Cd<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub><sup>51</sup>, respectively.

Although the FM configuration of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> hosts the desirable single pair of WPs, experiment has shown that the ground state of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> is AFMA with magnetic moments lying in-plane. To stabilize FM vs. AFMA, one can apply a saturation magnetic field of about 1.5 T along the c axis at 2 K as shown by Rahn et al.<sup>29</sup> Due to the small difference in energy between AFMA and FM states, another possibility is to stabilize the FM state by expanding the lattice using strain or by the application of an effective negative pressure by alloying. For example, in the same crystal structure, the lattice constants of BaCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> are  $\sim$ 5% larger than EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>. As a proof of principle, we have constructed a 20-atom supercell along c with an alternating Ba and Eu layers (i.e. with equal concentrations of Ba and Eu). For pure EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, the DFT+U+SOC relaxed lattice constants of a=4.49 Å and c=7.38 Å agree very well with experimental data<sup>31</sup> of a=4.4499 Å and c=7.35 Å (within 1%). For EuBaCd<sub>4</sub>As<sub>4</sub>, the lattice constants increase to a=4.53Å and c=7.56 Å, and FMc is 0.25 meV/f.u. more stable than AFMAc. Figure 5 shows the band structures of EuBaCd<sub>4</sub>As<sub>4</sub> along ΓA for the AFMAc and FMc configurations. The single pair of DPs for AFMAc in Fig.5(a) and single pair of WPs for FM in Fig.5(b) are retained. The Baderived bands do not affect the half-metallic feature and the crossings between As p and Cd s derived bands near the  $E_F$ . The increased lattice constants obtained from alloying with Ba at the Eu site result in a ground state FMc configuration with a single pair of WPs. To prove that the proposed EuBaCd<sub>4</sub>As<sub>4</sub> is thermally stable, we have also calculated the phonon dispersion in a  $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$  supercell as shown in Fig.6. Indeed, there are no negative phonon modes and the structure is thermally stable.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, first-principles band structure calculations show that  $EuCd_2As_2$  in a ferromagnetic configuration can host an ideal case of a single pair of Weyl points due to the half-

metallic nature of the system. Analysis with a low-energy effective Hamiltonian shows that this ideal case is obtained in EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> because the Dirac points in the AFMA state are very close to the zone center and the ferromagnetic exchange splitting is large enough to push one pair of WPs, one from each side of  $\Gamma$ , to merge and annihilate. Furthermore, we have shown that by alloying with Ba at the Eu site, the ferromagnetic configuration can become the ground state. EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> thin films grown with molecular beam epitaxy along a (110) surface and stabilized into the FM state with strain engineering or Ba alloying will be desirable systems to investigate such an ideal case of a single pair of Weyl points.

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*Note added*: Recently, we learned a similar work on EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> by Soh *et al.*<sup>52</sup>

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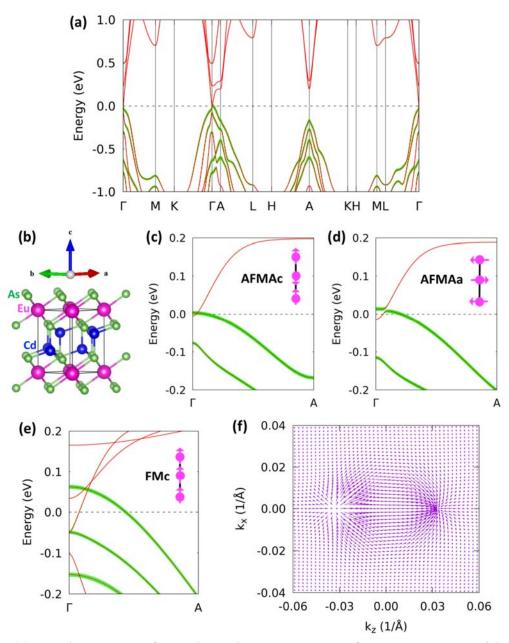


Figure 1. (a) Band structure of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> in PBE+U+SOC for A-type AFM with magnetic moment along *c* axis (AFMAc). (b) crystal structure of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> in space group 164 (*P*-3*m1*). Band structure along  $\Gamma$ A for (c) AFMAc, (d) moments in-plane along major axis (AFMAa) breaking 3-fold rotational symmetry, and (e) FM moment along c (FMc) breaking the combined  $S=\Theta\tau_{1/2}$  symmetry. The green shade over the band structure stands for the projection of As *p* 

orbitals. (f) Berry curvature on the  $k_x$ - $k_z$  plane showing chirality for the single pair of Weyl points in (e).

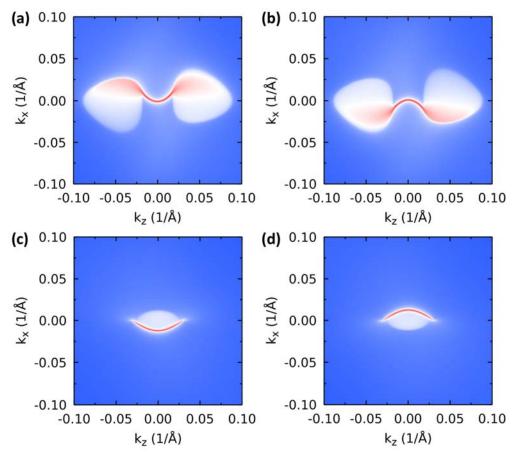


Figure 2. Fermi arcs at  $E_F$  on the (a) top and (b) bottom (110) surfaces of EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> in FMc with a single pair of Weyl points; and those at  $E_F$ +0.048 eV on the (c) top and (d) bottom (110) surfaces. The color scheme of the intensity from high to low is red, white and blue.

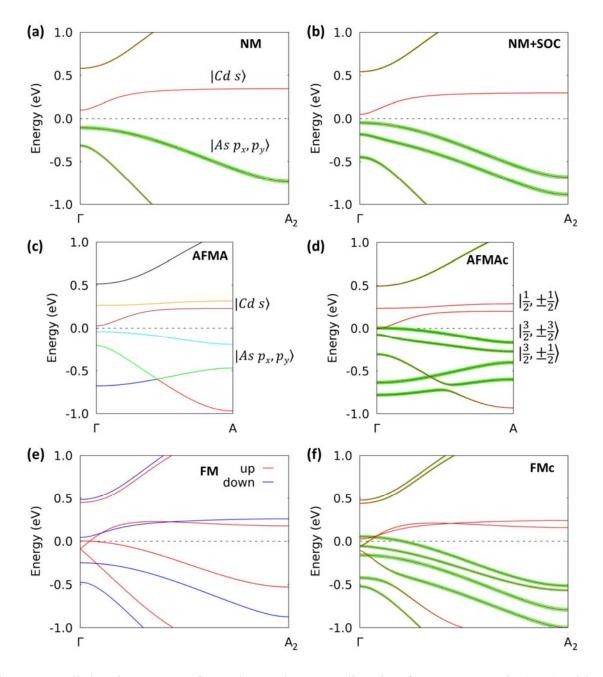
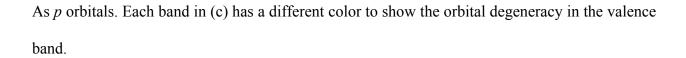


Figure 3. Bulk band structure of  $EuCd_2As_2$  along  $\Gamma A$  direction for non-magnetic (NM) without Eu 4*f* in (a) PBE and (b) PBE+SOC; AFM in (c) PBE+U and (d) PBE+U+SOC; and FM in (e) PBE+U and (f) PBE+U+SOC. The NM and FM have the primitive 5-atom unit cell. The AFM has the 10-atom unit cell by doubling along *c* direction. The green shade shows the projection on



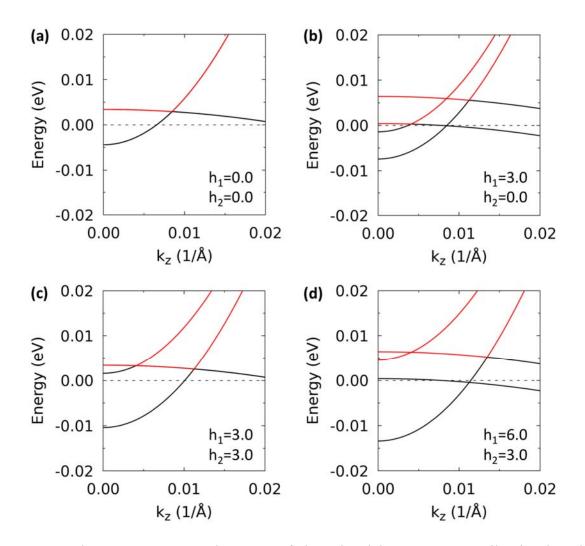


Figure 4. Band structure near  $\Gamma$  along  $\Gamma A$  of the 4-band low-energy Hamiltonian based on EuCd<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> with different values of exchange splitting parameters h<sub>1</sub> and h<sub>2</sub> in meV.

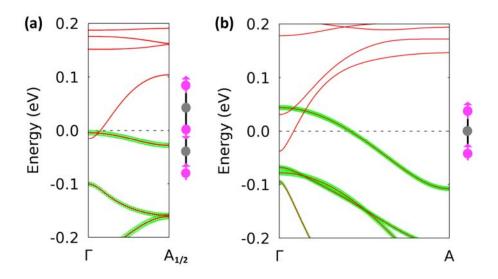


Figure 5. Band structure of 50% Ba (gray) substituted  $EuCd_2As_2$ , or  $EuBaCd_4As_4$ , for (a) AFMAc and (b) FMc with moment along *c*. Unit cells are fully relaxed and FMc is preferred. The green shade shows the projection on As *p* orbitals.

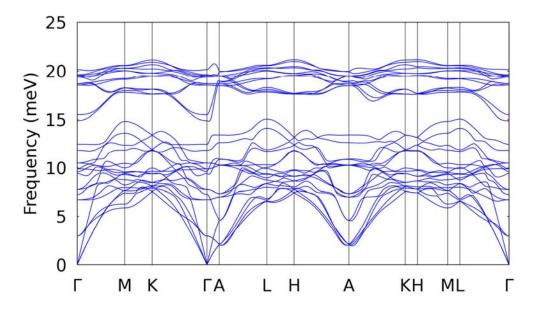


Figure 6. Phonon dispersion of EuBaCd<sub>4</sub>As<sub>4</sub> calculated in a  $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$  supercell of the FM configuration.

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