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Few-mode and anisotropic quantum transport in InSb nanoribbons using an all-van der Waals material-based gate

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Abstract

High-quality electrostatic gating is a fundamental ingredient for successful semiconducting device physics, and a key element of realizing clean quantum transport. Inspired by the widespread improvement of transport quality when two-dimensional van der Waals (vdW) materials are gated exclusively by other vdW materials, we have developed a method for gating non-vdW materials with an all-vdW gate stack, consisting of a hexagonal boron nitride dielectric layer and a few-layer graphite gate electrode. We demonstrate this gating approach on MOVPE-grown InSb nanoribbons (NRs), a novel variant of the InSb nanowire, with a flattened cross-section. In our all-vdW gated NR devices we observe conductance features that are reproducible and have low- to near-zero gate hysteresis. We also report quantized conductance, which persists to lower magnetic fields and longer channel lengths than typical InSb nanowire devices reported to date. Additionally, we observe level splitting that is highly anisotropic in an applied magnetic field, which we attribute to the ribbon cross-section. The performance of our devices is consistent with the reduced disorder expected from the all-vdW gating scheme, and marks the first report of ballistic, few-modes quantum transport in a non-vdW material with an all-vdW gate. Our results establish all-vdW gating as a promising approach for high-quality gating of non-vdW materials for quantum transport, which is in principle applicable generically, beyond InSb systems. In addition, the work showcases the specific potential of all-vdW gate/InSb NR devices for enabling clean quantum devices that may be relevant for spintronics and topological superconductivity studies.

1. Introduction

Control of the local electrostatic environment with gating is a cornerstone of semiconducting device physics, essential to reaching the ballistic, phase-coherent, few-mode, and few-electron regimes which define quantum transport [1]. Improving the quality of electrostatic gating is an ongoing effort in the pursuit of ever-cleaner quantum transport. In the study of two-dimensional (2D) van der Waals (vdW) materials, this demand for disorder reduction has led to the development of all-vdW gates [2], which employ hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) as a dielectric layer and few-layer graphite (FLG) as a gate electrode. Thanks to the low charge trap density and absence of dangling bonds of hBN [3–5], the enhanced disorder screening of FLG [6], and the overall atomic flatness of an all-vdW heterostructure, this approach has enabled substantial improvements in the resulting device quality across a range of vdW materials [7–11]. Some effort has been made to expand this technique to the gating of non-vdW materials, with improved transport quality reported in InSb [12, 13] and InAs [14] nanowires when hBN is used with non-vdW gate electrodes, and when FLG is used along with conventional thermal oxide dielectrics [15]. The potential of all-vdW gating of non-vdW materials, however, remains under-explored [16, 17], and the expansion of this technique to the few-modes, quantum transport regime in quasi-one-dimensional (1D) systems has to date remained an open challenge.

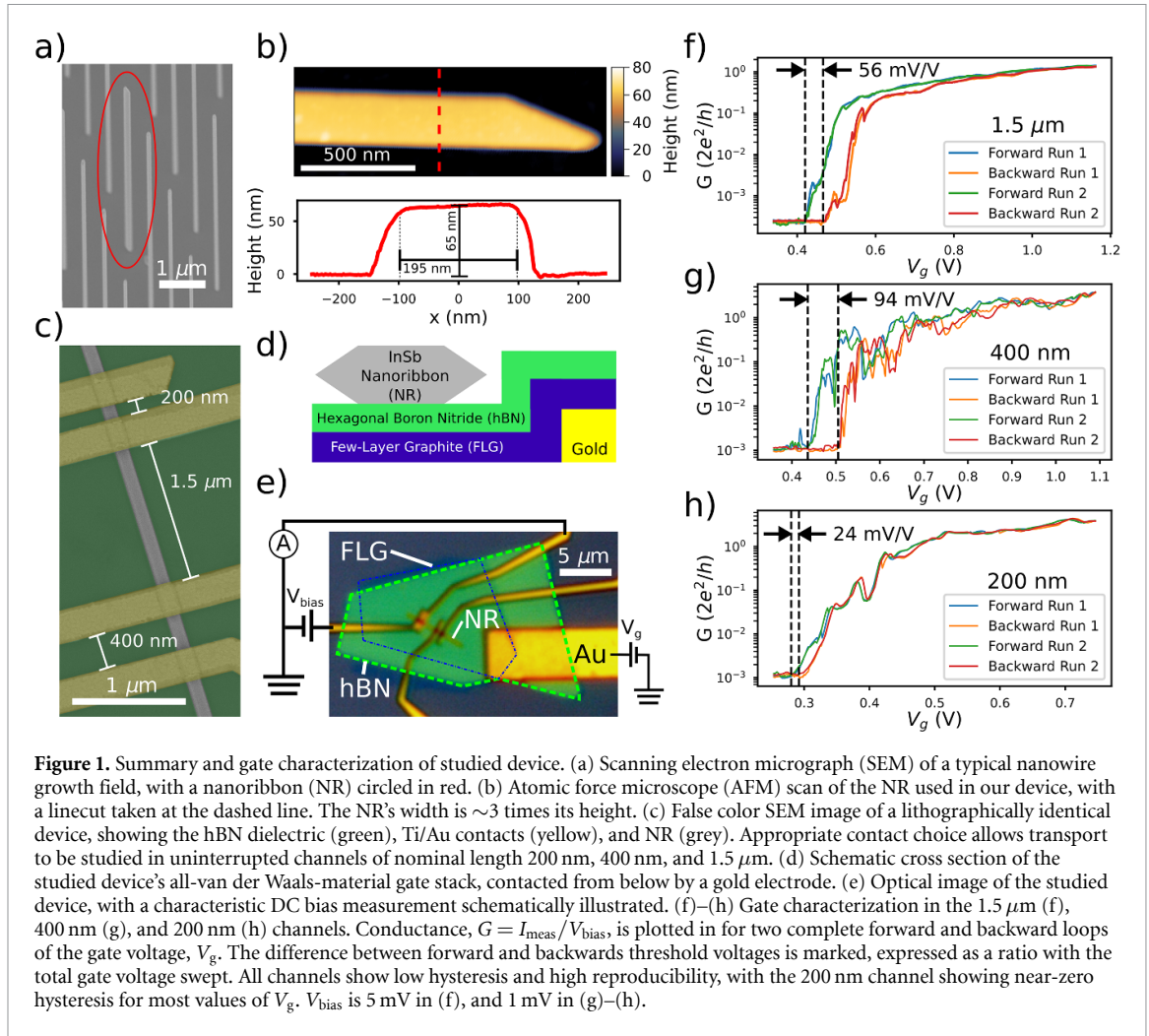
Here we address this challenge by developing an all-vdW gated semiconductor device platform and employing it to study transport in a novel non-vdW material: an InSb nanoribbon (NR). This NR belongs to the broader class of low-dimensional semiconducting materials with large spin-orbit interaction (SOI) [18], large Landé g -factors [19, 20], and relatively high mobility [21–23], such as InSb and InAs nanowires (NWs), which for more than a decade have underpinned research efforts ranging from topological superconductivity to spin-orbit qubits and spintronics. [24–34]. Compared to NWs, our NRs have a cross section that is wider than it is tall, introducing anisotropy to the transverse quantum confinement. Anisotropic confinement is expected to introduce a magnetic field angle dependence to both the g -factor and subband spacings in high-SOI materials [35–40]. Such angle dependence would enable the decoupling of the semiconductor g -factor from that of other materials, such as the superconductor in a hybrid device. If coexistent with 1D ballistic transport in a NR, this decoupling could offer an additional degree of tunability to topological superconductivity or spintronics devices. However, the quantum transport properties of non-vdW high-SOI NRs have not been studied, and neither ballistic, few-modes transport nor anisotropic field response have been realized. Additionally, high-SOI NR (and NW) devices represent an ideal candidate for exploring the potential of all-vdW gating. This is because they are in most respects an excellent platform for realizing highly-sought physics, such as Majorana zero modes (MZMs) [41–43], yet studies in this field to date have been limited by disorder [44–48], with some of this disorder being potentially introduced by the conventional metal-dielectric gate structures that have been typically used.

Using our all-vdW gated InSb NRs, we report in this work both the first successful realization of ballistic quantum transport in a non-vdW-material with an all-vdW gate, and the first study of the transport properties of non-vdW high-SOI NRs, measured across channel lengths of 1.5 μm , 400 nm, and 200 nm. In all channels, we observe very low to near-zero gate hysteresis, consistent with the reduced charge trap density of the all-vdW gate. In the 200 and 400 nm channels we observe quantized conductance, indicating that the NRs act as ballistic 1D channels [49, 50], and we demonstrate that this quantization survives even in magnetic fields of only a few hundred mT, indicative of low disorder throughout the fabricated NR devices. Finally, we observe field-angle anisotropy of the subband splittings coexistent with 1D ballistic transport, establishing NRs as a promising platform offering enhanced flexibility in experiments which typically use NWs. In the main text of this work, we fully characterize a single NR, with our multi-segment device geometry establishing our three channels as independently-probable segments, testing the NR across a total length of more than 2.5 μm . Full characterization data from an additional, lithographically identical, NR device on a separate all-vdW gate is presented in Supplementary Information section S9, and largely reproduces the results of the main text device.

2. Methods

The NRs used in our devices are grown by metal-organic vapor phase epitaxy alongside symmetric, ultra-thin NWs [15, 22], as shown in figure 1(a). The symmetry-breaking planar expansion of the NRs during growth is likely a consequence of slow, layer-by-layer lateral accumulation occurring alongside the conventional vertical, gold-catalyzed VLS growth, as discussed in [51]. For the NR studied in this work, AFM (figure 1(b)) and SEM scans reveal it to have a width of ~ 195 nm, and a height of ~ 65 nm, giving a cross sectional aspect ratio of 3:1. A similar cross-sectional aspect ratio is measured for the additional device in the supplemental information. Thus, our NRs can be understood as an intermediate between a sheet-like 2D nanoflake, which occurs when the lateral growth is comparable in rate to the VLS growth [16, 23, 51, 52], and the typical quasi-1D, hexagonally symmetric, NW, which occurs when the axial growth dominates. Importantly, since the NR growth is still VLS-dominated, the NR long axis, and thus transport, lies in the [-111] crystal axis, so that the NR has vanishing Dresselhaus [53] and large Rashba [54] SOC [18].

Our all-vdW gates, schematically illustrated in figure 1(d), were assembled from commercially sourced (hqGraphene) bulk hBN and natural graphite which has been mechanically exfoliated [55] and confirmed by AFM to be clean, atomically flat, and suitably thick (16.7 nm hBN, 0.95 nm FLG for the device in this work). The stack was assembled via a conventional dry transfer technique [56, 57] and deposited onto a substrate prepatterned with Ti/Au (10 nm/90 nm) alignment markers and backgate contact electrodes, such that the electrode touched a corner of the FLG from underneath. The sample was cleaned in hot chloroform to remove polymer residue and vacuum annealed at 400 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ for several hours to further clean the stack surface and remove interfacial bubbles. The NRs were transferred to this gate using a micromanipulator [58], ensuring the NRs sit entirely on the atomically flat portion of the gate, away from the Au electrode. Finally, contacts, patterned by electron beam lithography, were deposited (10 nm/120 nm Ti/Au) after a short *in-situ* Ar ion mill to remove the native oxide at the NR surface. Full fabrication details can be found in Supplementary Information section S1. An optical micrograph of the device studied in this work, along with a characteristic measurement schematic, is presented in figure 1(e). A scanning electron micrograph of the



second, lithographically identical device presented in the Supplementary Information is shown in figure 1(c), showing our contact spacing scheme. Measurements were performed in a dilution refrigerator with a base temperature of ~ 8 mK using either DC or conventional low-frequency lock-in techniques, as indicated.

3. Experimental results and discussion

3.1. Gate response and hysteresis

To understand the impact of our all-vdW scheme, we first characterize hysteresis and reproducibility in the NR gate response across all channel lengths. For each channel length, the corresponding contacts are DC-biased with V_{bias} (5 mV for the 1.5 μm channel, 1 mV for the 200 and 400 nm channels), and current, I_{meas} , is measured while the gate voltage, V_g , is twice swept forwards and backwards, without resetting to zero between direction changes. The resulting conductance, $G = I_{\text{meas}}/V_{\text{bias}}$, is plotted for each channel in figures 1(f)–(h). To enable comparison across channels, we quantify hysteresis as the ratio of the difference between forward and backward threshold voltages (marked with dashed lines in figures 1(f)–(h) to the total range of gate voltage swept through. We find near-pinchoff hysteresis values of 56 mV/V, 94 mV/V and 24 mV/V for the 1.5 μm , 400 nm, and 200 nm channels, respectively, with the 200 nm hysteresis approaching zero for $V_g \gtrsim 0.35$ V. These values match or outperform hysteresis values in optimized InSb devices on traditional oxide dielectrics [21], including one which we have fabricated and presented in Supplementary Information section S10, and are comparable to values reported in previous InSb devices with hBN dielectrics [13, 16]. This hysteresis behavior was also found to be largely independent of the gate sweep rate, as discussed in Supplementary Information section S2. Additionally, in all channels, we see that the conductance traces, including fluctuations, are reproducible in both sweep directions, indicating that the induced electrostatic environment of our vdW gate and our disorder configuration are stable in time, with minimal temporally-fluctuating charge traps. This combination of low hysteresis and good reproducibility

across multiple channel lengths is consistent with the improved electrostatic gating expected from all our all-vdW approach.

3.2. Quantized conductance in a fixed external magnetic field

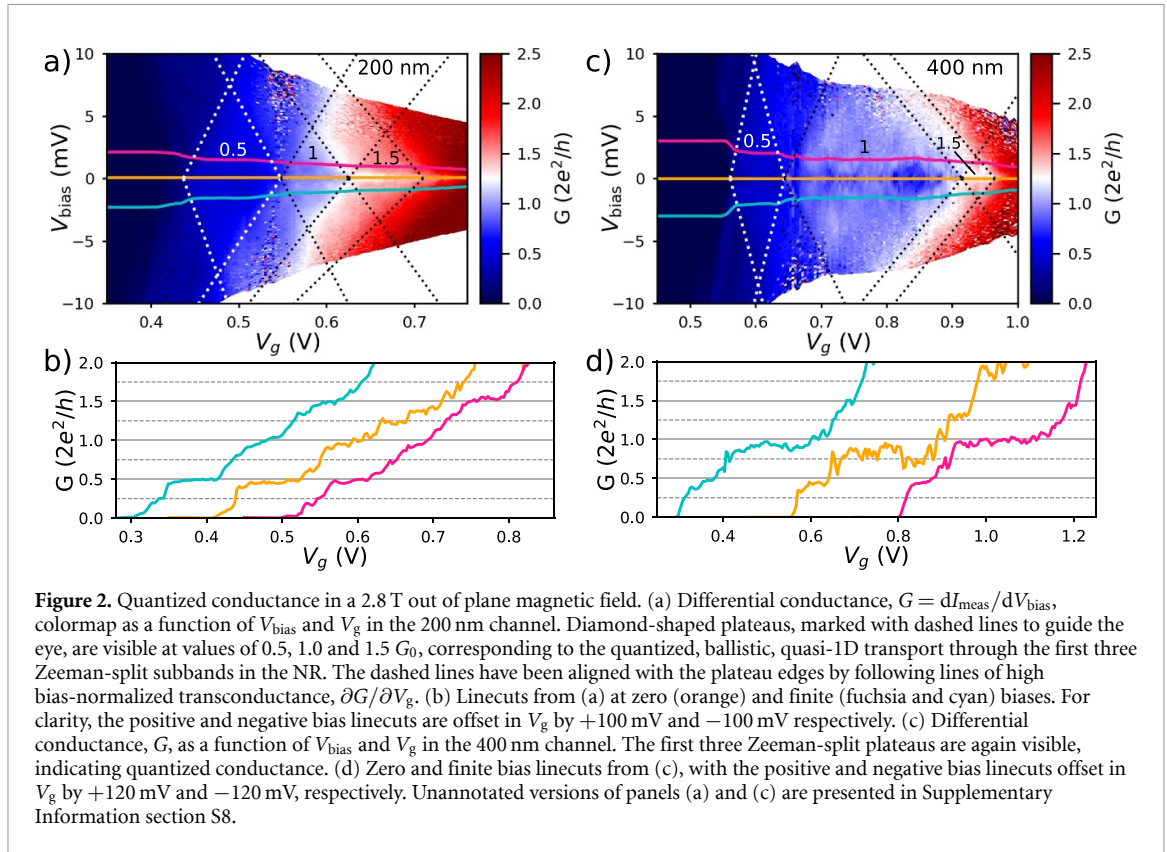
To more thoroughly probe the quality of our short (200 nm and 400 nm) channels, we apply an out-of plane magnetic field, $B_z = 2.8$ T, and search for quantized conductance. Because quantized resistance is easily spoiled by even small numbers of scattering events in the confined region, it constitutes a good benchmark of the electronic quality of the completed device and of the potential for using this nanofabrication approach more broadly in experiments requiring few-modes ballistic transport over the inter-contact distance. Using standard lock-in techniques, with an excitation voltage of $50 \mu\text{V}$ at 19 Hz, we measure differential conductance $G = dI_{\text{meas}}/dV_{\text{bias}}$ as function of V_{bias} and V_g . The resulting conductance colormaps are shown in figure 2(a) for the 200 nm channel, and figure 2(c) for the 400 nm channel, with linecuts in the V_g axis at zero and finite bias shown in figures 2(b) and (d). In both channels, clearly defined plateaus, visible as diamonds of uniform conductance in the colormaps (figures 2(a), (c)) and steps in the linecuts (figures 2(b), (d)) emerge. These plateaus align with half-integer values of the conductance quantum, $G_0 = 2e^2/h$, consistent with Zeeman splitting of the transverse quantum modes. Additionally, in both channels, we observe intermediate-valued plateaus ($G \sim 0.25, 0.75 G_0$), at finite V_{bias} , a non-linear effect common in clean ballistic 1D systems, which occurs when the source and drain electrode chemical potentials lie in different subbands [59]. Together, this quantized conductance, along with the formation of intermediate plateaus at finite bias convincingly demonstrate that, at this field, our NR hosts ballistic, quasi-1D transport through individual Zeeman-split, spin-resolved subbands [49, 50] at both the 200 and 400 nm length scales.

We note that we have subtracted a finite series resistance, R_s , of 12.3 k Ω (13.8 k Ω) from the conductance in the 200 (400) nm channel, which consists of the lump sum of the resistance of our signal line filters (5.7 k Ω), our transimpedance amplifier (3 k Ω), and the total resistance of the interface between the Ti/Au contacts and the NR. Removing the known resistances of the measurement setup, these R_s values give total contact resistances of 3.6 and 5.1 k Ω for the 200 and 400 nm channels respectively. In the case of these ballistic channels, R_s was determined by subtracting resistance such that the $G = 1.0 G_0$ plateau in the zero bias linecuts of figures 2(b) and (d) aligned with the quantized value, as is conventionally done in NW devices. However, the multi-probe design of our device allows us to independently determine the series resistance in the 1.5 μm channel as a fitting parameter for the channel's pinchoff curve (see Supplementary Information section S3 for further discussion), where we find $R_s = 12.2$ k Ω , corresponding to a contact resistance of 3.5 k Ω for the 1.5 μm channel. This fitting involves no manual intervention, and so the close agreement in contact resistance with those determined for the ballistic channels, and the fact that contact resistances of a several k Ω are the norm in literature [12, 20, 21, 60, 61], gives us additional confidence in these values.

The quantized plateaus can be used to determine the subband spacings, and thus the g -factor, in both ballistic NR channels. The diamond plateaus in figure 2 close for values of V_{bias} which place the source and drain electrochemical potentials at the bottom of successive subbands, providing a direct measure of the subband splitting in the NR [20]. At $B_z = 2.8$ T, the lowest two subbands in each channel are expected to be the Zeeman-split transverse orbital ground state, so the height of the $0.5 G_0$ plateau, $V_{0.5}$, is set by the Zeeman energy, $E_z = |E_{1\downarrow} - E_{1\uparrow}| = |g|\mu_B|\mathbf{B}| = eV_{0.5}$. For the 200 nm channel, we can read off a height of $V_{0.5} \sim 8.2$ mV, corresponding to $|g| \sim 51$. For the 400 nm channel, we can read off $V_{0.5} \sim 9.2$ mV, giving $|g| \sim 57$. Both of these values are reasonably consistent with the g -factor of conventional InSb NW [12, 19, 20, 22, 62, 63], suggesting that InSb NRs are relevant for MZM and spintronic applications where large g -factors are required.

Quantization in quasi-1D InSb NWs with comparable channel lengths to our 400 nm channel is not commonly reported in the literature, with quantization reports typically occurring in channels ~ 200 nm in length [12, 20, 22]. Our ballistic transport in the 400 nm channel is therefore indicative of a mean free path at least comparable to the best devices previously reported. Additionally, the 2.8 T external magnetic field we have applied is comparable to or smaller than those typically used to observe quantization in long-channel devices [62]. This magnetic field suppresses backscattering events which destroy quantization in geometrically defined 1D channels such as NWs and NRs [12, 20, 64–66], so the need for a smaller field indicates relatively low disorder in our channel, which is consistent with high quality ballistic transport performance in our all-vdW gated NR device. Further, while quantized conductance in InSb NW devices with channel lengths at or below 200 nm and conventional gating is more widely reported [12, 20, 22, 23, 63], the data from the 200 nm channel of our NR device is exceptionally clean, consistent with the low degree of disorder suggested by the near-zero hysteresis in figure 1(h).

We note that the energy difference between successive Landau levels is ~ 23 meV at $B = 2.8$ T, which does not dominate over the energy scale of the subband splitting due to geometric confinement, which we estimate from the plateau heights in figure 2 as ~ 10 meV. The relative equal footing of these energy scales at



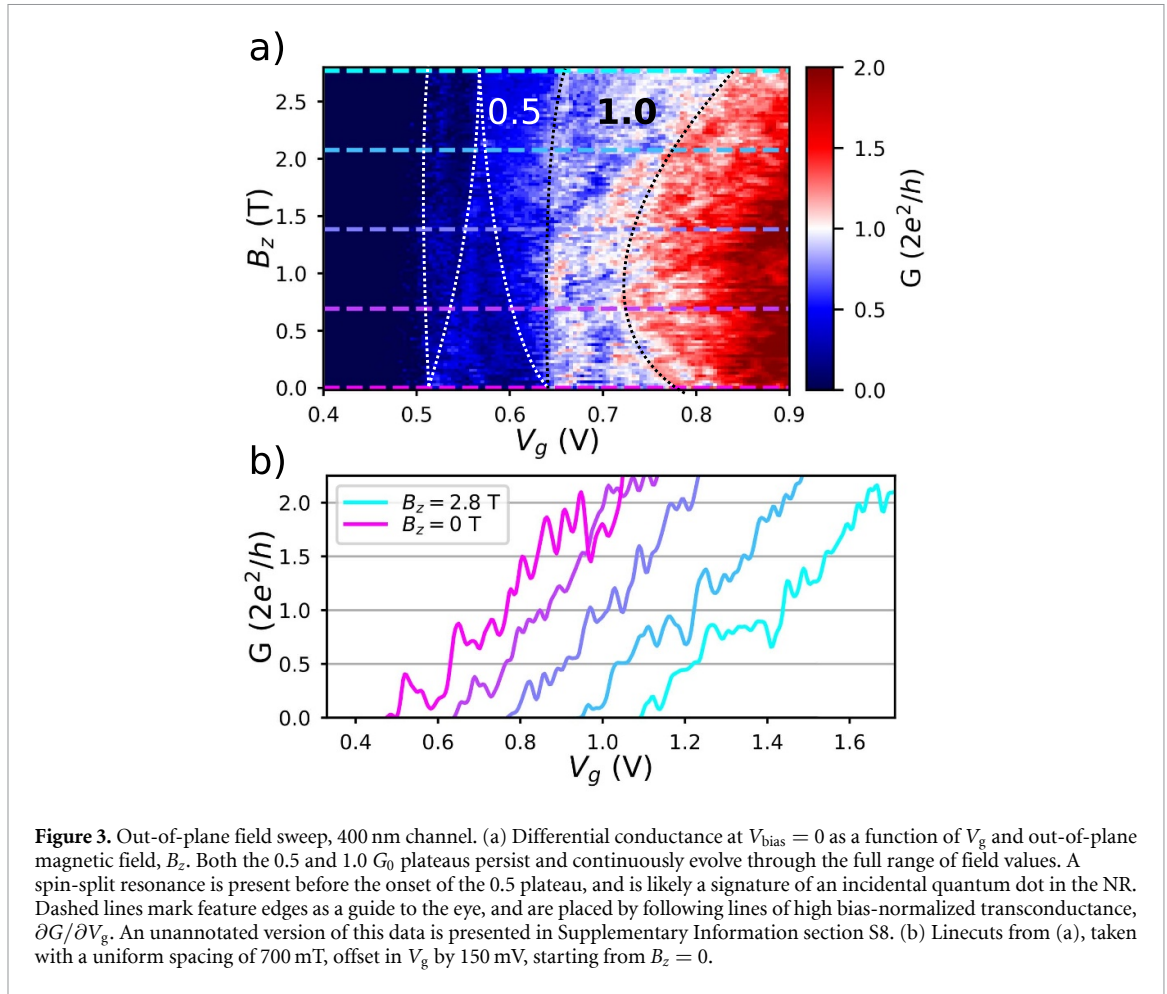
this field indicates that, while orbital effects play a substantial role in determining subband structure [67, 68], the quantized conductance cannot be attributed to the NR hosting a quantum Hall state [69].

3.3. Quantization as a function of external magnetic field strength

To further test the performance of our device, we study the quantization in our 400 nm channel at zero bias as the external out-of-plane magnetic field, B_z , is reduced. The resulting data is plotted in figure 3(a), with dashed lines added to the plateau edges to guide the eye. Linecuts at evenly spaced fields are shown in figure 3(b). Data from the 200 nm channel can be found in the Supplementary Information section S5. In the 400 nm channel, the 0.5 and 1.0 plateau appear to persist and continuously evolve, both in the colormap in figure 3(a) and the linecuts in figure 3(b), through the full range of the field sweep. The width of the 0.5 plateau in V_g monotonically decreases as B_z , and thus E_z , decreases, but only disappears for $B_z = 0$, when the spin degeneracy is restored. The 1.0 G_0 plateau also varies in V_g width, though non-monotonically. As the field is reduced from $B_z = 2.8$ T, it first narrows until $B_z \sim 1$ T, then widens, ultimately persisting at $B_z = 0$. As the 400 nm channel represents the edge of typical mean free path estimates in InSb NW, its quantization serves as a qualitative probe for disorder; the continuous evolution and persistence of plateaus as the backscattering-suppressing field goes to zero thus indicates low disorder in our NR device, potentially a consequence of the vdW gate.

We also note that a resonant feature resembling a residual 0.5 G_0 plateau is present at zero field in figure 3(b), but the higher-field linecuts show that the true 0.5 plateau emerges independent of it. We attribute this resonance to the formation of an incidental quantum dot in the NR at low carrier densities, a common occurrence in 1D transport experiments [70–72]. In our case, the exact origin of this dot is ambiguous, and may involve disorder in the contacts or NR channel, or tunnel barrier formation at the contact interface [36]. This dot resonance also undergoes Zeeman splitting as the field is increased, and we have tracked its evolution with dashed lines in figure 3(a).

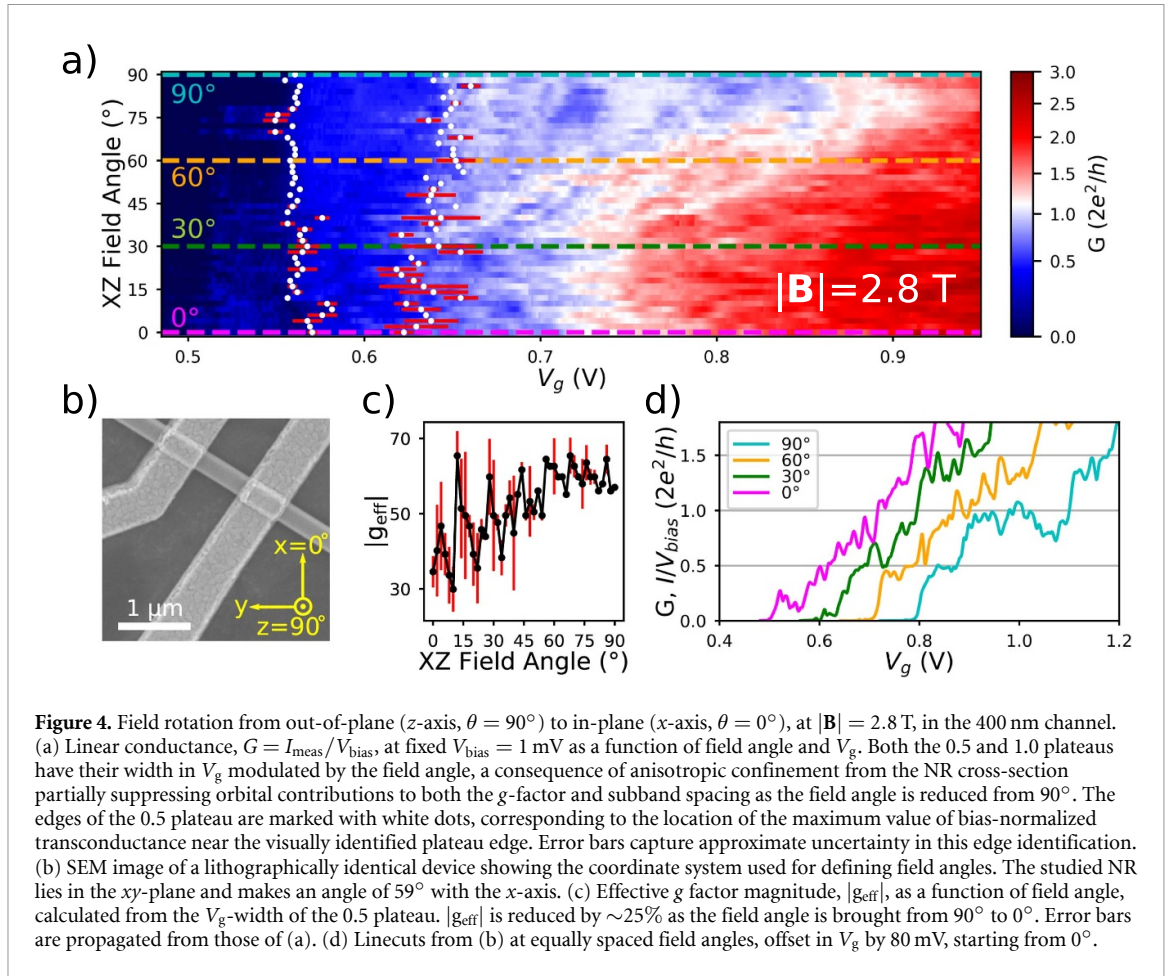
Ultimately, we refrain from claiming zero-field quantization, as for low fields, fluctuations in G become more prominent, preserving the plateaus but rendering the quantization increasingly imprecise. This could be due to defects at the NR contact interface introduced by the ion milling of the native oxide prior to contact deposition [31], which act as disorder and cause the contact to act non-Ohmically at low bias for certain values of V_g . The resulting aperiodic suppression of G can be seen prominently in figure 2(c), where several regions of $G < 1.0 G_0$ are visible at low bias throughout the 1.0 plateau, and in figure 2(d), where we observe fluctuations in G at $V_{\text{bias}} = 0$ which are greatly reduced at finite bias. The V_g values where these



suppressions occur vary with field, creating ‘scars’ in the 1.0 plateau in the field scan, as are visible in figure 3(a), which resemble previously reported disorder-induced features [63] that can mimic re-entrant signatures of the helical liquid phase in high-SOI materials [62, 73, 74]. Further discussion of possible contact damage and resistance can be found in Supplementary Information section S4.

3.4. Anisotropic magnetic field response

To probe for anisotropic magnetic field response in our NR, we study the dependence of the quantized conductance on the angle of the applied field. In order to do so, we return to $|\mathbf{B}| = 2.8$ T, and rotate the magnetic field from fully out of the NR plane (i.e. from the z -axis, $\theta = 90^\circ$) to fully in-plane (x -axis, $\theta = 0^\circ$) while applying a fixed $V_{\text{bias}} = 1$ mV across the 400 nm channel. The linear conductance, calculated as $G = I_{\text{meas}}/V_{\text{bias}}$, is plotted in figure 4(b), with linecuts in figure 4(d). Our plateaus persist through all angles of this field sweep, but we observe more pronounced fluctuations in the conductance for angles approaching zero, as seen in the linecuts. This is likely because the NR forms an angle of $\sim 59^\circ$ with the x -axis, resulting in an increasing portion of the field lying along the NR axis as the field angle is reduced, decreasing the efficacy of back-scattering suppression [65]. Additionally, the suppression of the conductance at low bias becomes more pronounced at low field angles, such that the contiguous 1.0 plateau region has $G < 1.0 G_0$ for $\theta \lesssim 30^\circ$. Nevertheless, we can still identify anisotropy in the field response. The 0.5 plateau is widest in V_g for $\theta \sim 90^\circ$, and subtly narrows with reducing field angle. To quantify this variation, we use the maximum of the bias-normalized transconductance, $\partial G/\partial V_g$, to identify the edges of this plateau, indicated by the white dots superimposed on figure 4(a). Assuming the ratio of the width of the 0.5 plateau in V_g to its height in V_{bias} to be angle-independent (see Supplementary Information section S6 for further discussion), we use the previously performed bias spectroscopy at $\theta = 90^\circ$ (figure 2) to convert this measured plateau width into an effective g factor, g_{eff} , as a function of field angle, plotted in figure 4(c). The resulting g_{eff} is largest for field angles near 90° , and is reduced by $\sim 25\%$ as the field angle approaches zero. Anisotropic variation in the V_g -width of the 1.0 plateau is much more pronounced, with an approximately threefold reduction in width as the field angle varies from 90° to 0° . Error bars in figures 4(a) and (c) capture the uncertainty in identification of the plateau edges, and thus width, due to the previously mentioned mesoscopic



conductance fluctuations. A more detailed discussion of the determination of this uncertainty can be found in Supplementary Information section S7.

To understand the observed anisotropy in both the 0.5 and 1.0 plateaus, we return to the intrinsic anisotropy of the NR. When the field is perpendicular to the NR, the confinement length relevant for field-induced orbital motion—the ~ 195 nm NR width—is much larger the electron gyroradius at 2.8 T (~ 20 nm). This enables the enhancement of the g -factor via SOI, as in bulk InSb, and also causes the subbands to adopt a hybrid magneto-electric character, wherein magneto-orbital effects introduce as an additional effective confining potential, increasing the subband spacing $E_2 - E_1$ in a phenomenon known as magnetic depopulation [37, 49, 67, 68]. As the field is made increasingly parallel to the NR, the relevant confinement length decreases, approaching the NR height, ~ 65 nm, as θ approaches 0. This partially suppresses orbital motion in the NR, reducing both the g -factor and the magneto-orbital enhancement of the subband spacing. Such anisotropic field response is common in both quantum dots in gate-defined quantum dots based on InAs [35] and InSb [40] NWs, and in ballistic quantum point contacts (QPCs) on InSb 2D electron gases (2DEGs) [37–39]. In contrast, here the anisotropic response arises naturally from the as-grown quasi-1D confinement, and is not due to gate-induced confinement.

These orbital effects also provide an explanation for the difference in field evolution of the 0.5 and 1.0 G_0 plateaus in figure 3(a). The 0.5 plateau monotonically increases in width with increasing field, as it is a product only of the Zeeman splitting of the spins in the first subband. As the field is increased from zero the width of the 1.0 plateau, which is tied to $E_{2\uparrow} - E_{1\downarrow}$, initially decreases, as Zeeman splitting increases $E_{1\downarrow}$ while decreasing $E_{2\uparrow}$, reducing their separation. However, as the field becomes larger, orbital enhancement of the splitting between the transverse subbands themselves outpaces the Zeeman effect, and $E_{2\uparrow} - E_{1\downarrow}$ begins to instead increase, causing the plateau to widen. This initial narrowing and subsequent broadening of the 1.0 plateau is exactly what we observe in figure 3(a), and further supports the orbital interpretation of anisotropy described above.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have demonstrated a technique for gating non-vdW materials using an all-vdW gate, and have used this gating scheme to perform the first transport characterization of VLS-grown InSb NRs, a novel high-SOI, quantum-confined material. With this platform, we have demonstrated remarkably clean transport in the NRs, including the first realization of few-modes, ballistic quantum transport in a non-vdW material with an all-vdW gate. In particular, we have shown low to near-zero gate hysteresis across length scales of 200 nm, 400 nm, and 1.5 μm , and quantized conductance plateaus in the 200 and 400 nm channels, which qualitatively persists with decreasing external magnetic field to fields as low as a few hundred mT. This behavior is largely reproduced in a lithographically identical second device, detailed in Supplementary Information section S9. These results, and their reproducibility, suggest that the all-vdW gate is effective at reducing disorder when compared to conventional oxide-based gates, and definitively establish NRs as quasi-1D objects, with a mean free path comparable to the best reported InSb NWs. Additionally, we have shown that the Zeeman and subband splittings in the NR studied in this work are anisotropic with the angle of the applied field, owing to the anisotropic transverse confinement and strong SOI in the NR. To our knowledge, such anisotropy is absent from ballistic III-V nanowires.

Our results have several implications. On a broad level, the all-vdW material gate scheme described in this work is a flexible platform. InSb NRs are not uniquely compatible with all-vdW gating, and our bottom-up implementation of vdW gating adds no additional processing steps to the semiconductor itself that a conventional gate approach would not also require. We thus believe our technique can be immediately applied beyond NRs to almost any non-vdW material which can be placed upon a vdW gate stack, and for which extremely high quality, low-hysteresis gating is desired. We also expect that for semiconductors which are compatible with the solvents and annealing temperatures used in depositing and cleaning the vdW gate stack, the stack can be used as a high-quality top gate. The specific case of InSb NRs gated with an all-vdW stack, as we have demonstrated, holds promise as a platform for realizing sought-after phenomena that rely on the ability to fabricate low-disorder gate-tunable ballistic quantum devices in strong-SOI 1D systems. For example, the low-field, long-channel quantized conductance which we have reported is highly conducive to proposed helical liquid experiments [73–75], and with further refinement, the InSb NR/vdW gate platform may aid in definitive observation of the helical liquid state, which would be a major milestone to the conclusive realization of MZMs. Our InSb NR/vdW gate platform is fully compatible with existing techniques, such as sulfur passivation [12, 31] and atomic hydrogen cleaning [76, 77], which have been shown to improve the contact quality of InSb NW devices, and suggest a promising route towards such refinement. Additionally, the g -factor anisotropy in a NR may enable further flexibility in Majorana device design, allowing the decoupling of Zeeman energy from the superconducting gap without introducing the large Dresselhaus contributions [37] and possible gate instabilities [39] endemic to existing anisotropic InSb 2DEG QPCs. These benefits are especially relevant to current efforts in selective-area-growth (SAG) methods [78–80], where the full control of aspect ratio allows for the creation of arbitrary NR networks with variable cross-sections, compatible with MZM braiding proposals [81]. Such SAG approaches, as well as recent advances [82] in growing stemless VLS NW networks, which could potentially be adapted for NR growth, represent an avenue toward scalability for the NR geometry.

Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available at the following URL/DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15391898>.

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Author contributions

C.J.R. and V.S.P. designed the experiments. C.J.R. and T.L. fabricated the devices. C.J.R. performed the measurements on all devices and analyzed the data. P.L., G.B., M.R., and E.P.A.M.B. grew the nanoribbons. C.J.R. prepared the manuscript, with input from all authors. V.S.P. and P.A.C. supervised the project.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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