

The effect of strains on electronic structures of group IV diamond like crystals – DFT based studies

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Materials composed of the group IV elements are promising candidates for designing the nano-optoelectronic devices integrated with Si based circuits. Special requirements concerning the electronic properties of the materials (direct band-gap, high mobility of carriers) can be met via the electronic structure engineering. One of methods of modifying the electronic structure is applying the strain [1, 2, 3], e.g. by the choice of unmatched lattices in epitaxial technologies. In this work the DFT based computational methods have been applied to investigate systematically the effect of strains on electronic structure, with the use of ABINIT program. In reference to available technologies the isotropic as well as uniaxial and biaxial strains for crystallographic planes (100), (110) and (111) in diamond like crystals of C, Si, Ge and Sn have been studied. The systems were strained in the range of +/-4%. The following characteristics have been evaluated as functions of the strain: Poisson's ratios, elastic coefficients, band gaps in between chosen band structure points and band offsets. A detailed discussion of observed effects (considering also the orbital composition of bands) such as indirect direct gap transition, opening/closing the gaps, strain induced symmetry breaking effect and band offsets, the effect of lowering the band gap on electron mobility, will be presented.

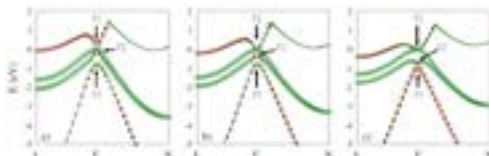


Figure: Sn under pressure showing characteristic features of electronic structure of group IV diamond like crystals

Recent Publications

1. Polak M P, Scharoch P and Kudrawiec R (2017) The electronic band structure of Ge_{1-x}Sn_x in the full composition range: indirect, direct, and inverted gaps regimes, band offsets, and the Burstein–Moss effect. *Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics* 50.19:195103.
2. Polak M P, Scharoch P and Kudrawiec R (2015) First-principles calculations of bismuth induced changes in the band structure of dilute Ga-V-Bi and In-V-Bi alloys: Chemical trends versus experimental data. *Semiconductor Science and Technology* 30(9):094001.
3. Kopaczek J, Polak M P, Scharoch P, Wu K, Chen B, Tongay S, et al. (2016) Direct optical transitions at K- and H-point of Brillouin zone in bulk MoS₂, MoSe₂, WS₂, and WSe₂. *Journal of Applied Physics* 119(23):235705.
4. Dybała F, Polak M P, Kopaczek J, Scharoch P, Wu K, Tongay S, et al. (2016) Pressure coefficients for direct optical transitions in MoS₂, MoSe₂, WS₂, and WSe₂ crystals and semiconductor to metal transitions. *Scientific reports* 6:26663.
5. Kudrawiec R, Kopaczek J, Polak M P, Scharoch P, Gladysiewicz M, Misiewicz J, et al. (2014) Experimental and theoretical studies of band gap alignment in GaAs_{1-x}Bix/GaAs quantum wells. *J Appl Phys*; 116(23).

Biography

Norbert Janik is a PhD student at Theoretical Physics Department and has his expertise in ab initio calculations of strained systems.

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