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Structural and electronic properties of silicon carbide polytypes as predicted by exact exchange calculations

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Abstract

A full-potential band structure calculation within the exact exchange-optimized effective potential (EXX-OEP) approach was performed for the 3C, 6H, 15R, 4H, and 2H polytypes of SiC. The calculated lattice constants and energy band gaps were found to be in a good agreement with experimental values; therefore, the EXX-OEP method, although computationally expensive, is a viable method for solving the long-standing band gap problem of density functional theory (DFT). Throughout the paper, the results obtained using EXX-OEP are compared with those obtained using regular DFT calculations.

Keywords: silicon carbide, semiconductors, lattice parameters, electronic structure, EXX-OEP approach

1. Introduction

The exact exchange (EXX) method, which uses the Fock term calculated on the Kohn-Sham orbitals, provides a method to extend the traditional density functional theory (DFT) formalism, which employs approximate exchangecorrelation functionals. Since the Fock term depends on the density only implicitly via the Kohn-Sham orbitals, ϕ_i [n], the functional derivative of the exchangecorrelation energy, E_{xc} , that is $\delta E_{xc}/\delta n = u_{xc}$, cannot be calculated directly. Instead, indirect approaches must be used to minimize the total energy functional,

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