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CCEPTED MANUSCR

Unfolding and effective bandstructure calculations as discrete real- and

reciprocal-space operations

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, alloy electronic structure calculations based on supercell Brillouin zone

unfolding have become popular. There are a number of formulations of the method which on the

surface might appear different. Here we show that a discrete real-space description, based on

discrete Fourier transforms, is fully general. Furthermore, such an approach can more easily

show the effects of alloy scattering. We present such a method for treating the random alloy

This treatment features straightforward mathematics and a transparent physical problem.

interpretation of the calculated effective (i.e., approximate) energy bands.

Keywords: unfolding; supercell; alloy

1. Introduction

Approximate concepts in physics are often the most difficult to articulate and quantify, but

quantification is essential for it establishes the range of validity of the approximation. The alloy

concept is one which is particularly easy to explain in qualitative terms but which can be

problematic to quantify. Semiconductor alloys are of particular technological interest, being

found in lasers and transistors incorporated into nearly all consumer and industrial electronic

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