

Ab-initio study of electronic and magneto-optical properties of InAs:Mn

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Abstract. Energy difference between the ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic collinear orderings has been calculated for the uniform and dimer Mn-pair geometries in order to find the ground state distribution of the Mn atoms in InAs host. We find the preference of the dimer ferromagnetic configuration of Mn dopants and an importance of optimizing the atomic site positions. The frequency-dependent optical and magneto-optical properties, namely the dielectric tensor (on- and off-diagonal components), the electron energy loss spectra, and the transversal Kerr effect (TKE), are calculated. Calculated TKE resonance in $\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{As}$ ($x=0.0625$) is found to be in good agreement with corresponding experimental magneto-optical spectra. The origin of the large TKE is discussed.

1 Introduction

Diluted magnetic semiconductors (DMS) are considered as promising materials for spintronics. However the Curie temperature (T_C) of the magnetic semiconductors is below room temperature and this fact limits their practical application. To increase T_C one should increase concentration of magnetic impurity in host semiconductor. In DMS the concentration is limited by low solubility of magnetic impurities in these materials. Exchange interaction between neighbouring Mn ions would be stronger in semiconductor based structures with inhomogeneous distribution of Mn ions, and achieved Curie temperature in such structures would be significantly higher than in DMS with uniform distribution of magnetic dopants. In this paper we study electronic and magneto-optical properties of InAs:Mn DMS regarding its possible application in spintronics.

2 Computational method

Our calculations are performed using the relativistic Augmented Plane Wave + local orbital (APW + lo) method as implemented in WIEN2k code [1]. The exchange-correlation effects are described within the Generalized Gradient Approximation (GGA) of density functional theory [2]. Density-functional calculations presented here are performed within the supercell (2x2x2 cubic zinc blende unit cell), corresponding to 64 atoms.

One or two Mn atoms are included in the supercell. We consider substitutional doping where In host atoms are replaced by Mn ones. Thus, the Mn concentration in our calculations varies in the experimentally relevant range ($x_{\text{Mn}}=0.0312$ and 0.0625). Experimental lattice parameter of InAs host ($a_0=6.058$ Å) [3] is also used for InAs:Mn DMS's. The 4d states of In and 3d states of As are included in the APW basis set and treated as the valence orbitals. Converged results are obtained at the cut-off energy for the interstitial plane-wave expansion of 125 eV. Relaxations of all atomic positions have been included in our calculations. The total energy difference between ferromagnetic (FM) and antiferromagnetic (AFM) collinear orderings has been calculated for the uniform and dimer Mn-pair geometries in order to find the ground state distribution of the Mn atoms in InAs host. The magneto-optical transversal Kerr effect of $\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{As}$ ($x=0.0625$) is calculated in the framework of the relativistic WIEN2k method [1], which takes into account the effect of spin-orbit coupling in the second variational procedure.

3 Results and Discussion

Optimization of the positions of all atoms in a supercell reveals that in InAs:Mn the bond length Mn-As shrinks by 2.5% in comparison with the unrelaxed case. Relaxation effects for the bonds Mn-In were found to be negligible (contraction by 0.1%). The calculated relativistic density of states (DOS) for an energetically

important Mn dimer configuration is shown in Fig. 1 for InAs:MnMn in the FM dimer and separate configurations and with Mn concentration equal to 0.0625. It is seen that InAs: Mn in both configurations is close to the half-metallic state. The main feature of

shown DOS's is the large exchange splitting of the 3d-states of Mn (~4 eV). We find the preference of the dimer configuration of Mn dopants, i.e. the configuration

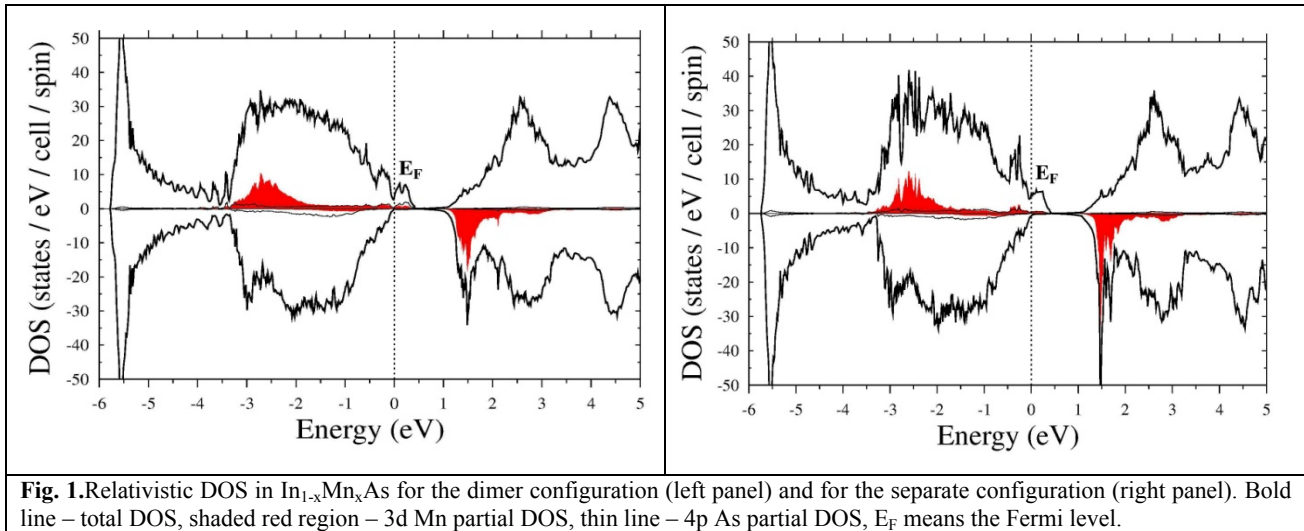


Fig. 1. Relativistic DOS in $\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{As}$ for the dimer configuration (left panel) and for the separate configuration (right panel). Bold line – total DOS, shaded red region – 3d Mn partial DOS, thin line – 4p As partial DOS, E_F means the Fermi level.

Table 1. The AFM and FM energy differences ($\Delta(E_{\text{AFM}}-E_{\text{FM}})$), total and local (in parentheses) magnetic moments (M_{FM} , M_{AFM}) in the FM and AFM phases, $\Delta(\text{FM})$ and $\Delta(\text{AFM})$ are the energies of the FM and AFM phases with respect to the energy of the FM dimer.

Configuration of Mn atoms	$\Delta(E_{\text{AFM}}-E_{\text{FM}})$, meV/Mn	M_{FM} , μ_B/cell (/Mn)	M_{AFM} , μ_B/cell (/Mn)	$\Delta(\text{FM})$ $\Delta(\text{AFM})$ meV/Mn
close (dimer)	+233	8.08 (+4.08)	0.002 (± 4.11)	0 +233
intermediate	+218	8.08 (+4.09)	0.003 (± 4.13)	+120 +338
separate	+ 55	8.13 (+4.11)	0 (± 4.14)	+125 +180

where the Mn atoms share the same neighbouring As site is always found to be energetically most favorable (see the 5-th column of Table 1). So our calculations show that clustering effect is energetically favorable in agreement with the experimental results [4]. Also we found that the FM order is the most stable magnetic state (Table 1, the 2-nd column). An interesting feature of DOS is a narrow unoccupied part of the valence band, which is placed just above the Fermi level. This area of 0.4 eV width is separated from the conducting band by the quasigap of 0.9 eV width. As is shown below, electron transitions from occupied states to this unoccupied part of the valence band and to the conduction band (across the quasigap) form important spectral features in the dielectric tensor and energy loss spectra.

It is known [5] that TKE is determined by both magneto-optical and optical parameters of a medium. The TKE value, $\delta_p = (I(H)-I_0)/I_0$, is the relative change in intensity of the reflected light caused by the magnetization of a sample in an external magnetic field whose direction is transverse to the plane of the light incidence. TKE observed at the angle of incidence φ can be expressed by

the off- and on-diagonal components of the dielectric function as

$$\delta_p = 2\sin(2\varphi)(A/(A^2 + B^2))\cdot\varepsilon'_1 + (B/(A^2 + B^2))\cdot\varepsilon'_2 = a\cdot\varepsilon'_1 + b\cdot\varepsilon'_2, \quad (1)$$

where ε'_1 and ε'_2 are the dispersive and absorptive parts of the off-diagonal dielectric tensor, respectively, while $A = \varepsilon_2 \cdot (2\varepsilon_1 \cdot \cos^2\varphi - 1)$ and $B = (\varepsilon_2^2 - \varepsilon_1^2) \cdot \cos^2\varphi + \varepsilon_1 - \sin^2\varphi$ are the functions of the on-diagonal components of the dielectric tensor ε_1 and ε_2 . Fig. 2 displays calculated TKE spectra, which show marked features in the infrared region. The energy position of our calculated MO resonance in $\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{As}$ ($x=0.0625$) are found to be in good agreement with the corresponding experimental TKE spectra (obtained by us in [6]) at ~0.7 eV.

Spectra of calculated and off- and on-diagonal components of the dielectric tensor and electron energy loss spectrum are shown in Figs. 3, 4. Although the MO property is a rather complicated function of the on-diagonal and off-diagonal components of the optical conductivity tensor, our calculation provides a clear insight about its origin (see Figs. 2-4). The special feature

of DOS noted above forms intensive electron transitions with $\hbar\omega < 0.4$ eV (to the unoccupied part of the valence band) and with $\hbar\omega > 1.3$ eV (to the conduction gap) and a peak of ϵ_2 at 2.2 eV (the left panel of Fig. 4). Large TKE observed in InAs:Mn can be understood as a combined effect of the on- and off-diagonal components, nearly maximal exchange splitting of the Mn3d states and large

spin-orbit coupling. Additional enhancement of the 0.7 eV TKE peak comes from the plasma resonance at about 0.65 eV, which occurs in our calculated electron energy loss spectrum (EELS) (the right panel of Fig. 4) near the minimum of ϵ_2 .

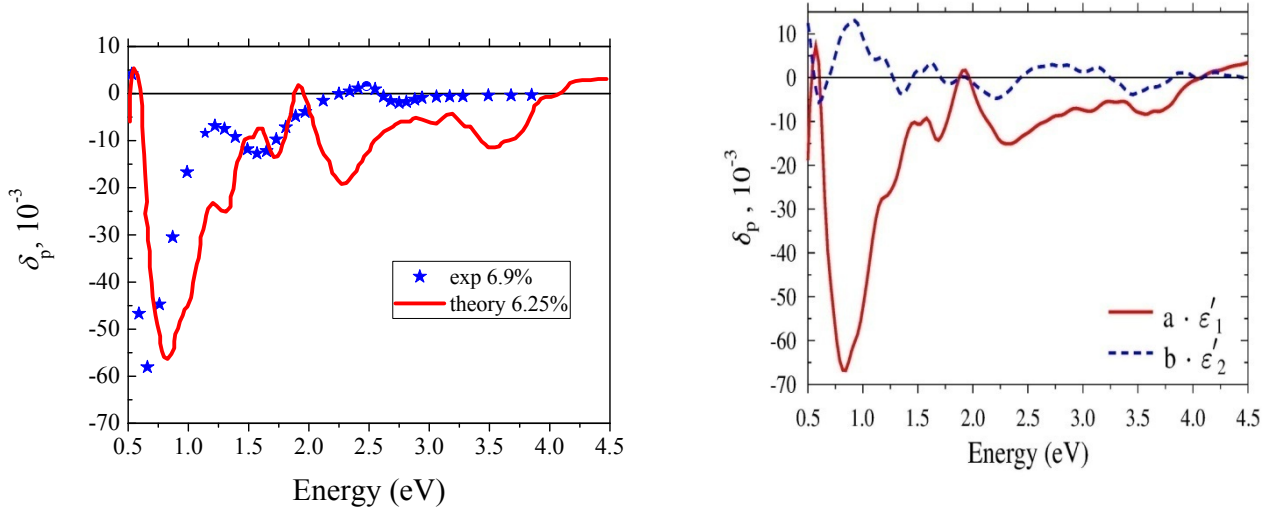


Fig. 2. Left panel: calculated TKE in InAs:Mn for the dimer configuration. Symbols are the experimental TKE data for InAs: Mn ($x = 0.069$) from [6]. Angle of light incidence $\phi = 66^\circ$. Right panel shows decomposition of δ_p into the sum of products (see Eq. (1)).

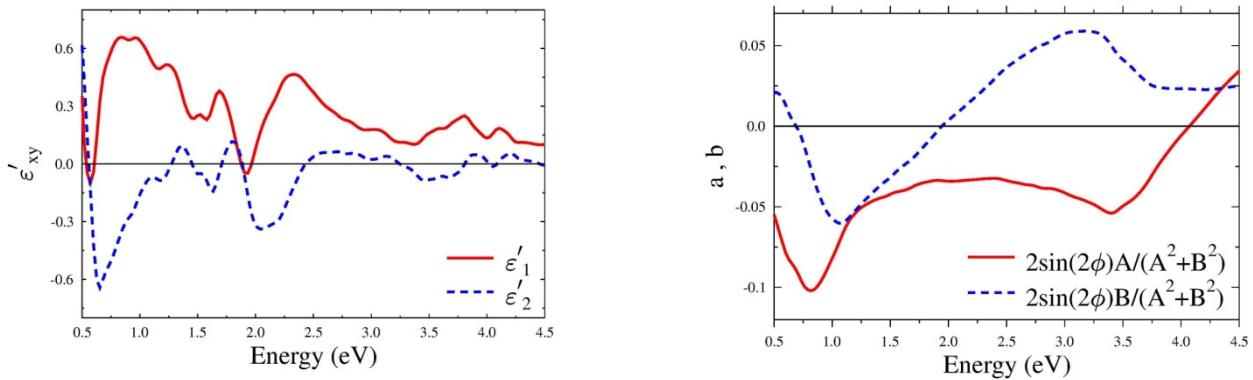


Fig. 3. Calculated off-diagonal components of the dielectric tensor $\epsilon'_{xy} = \epsilon'_1 + i\epsilon'_2$ (left panel) and **a, b** factors (see Eq. (1)) (right panel).

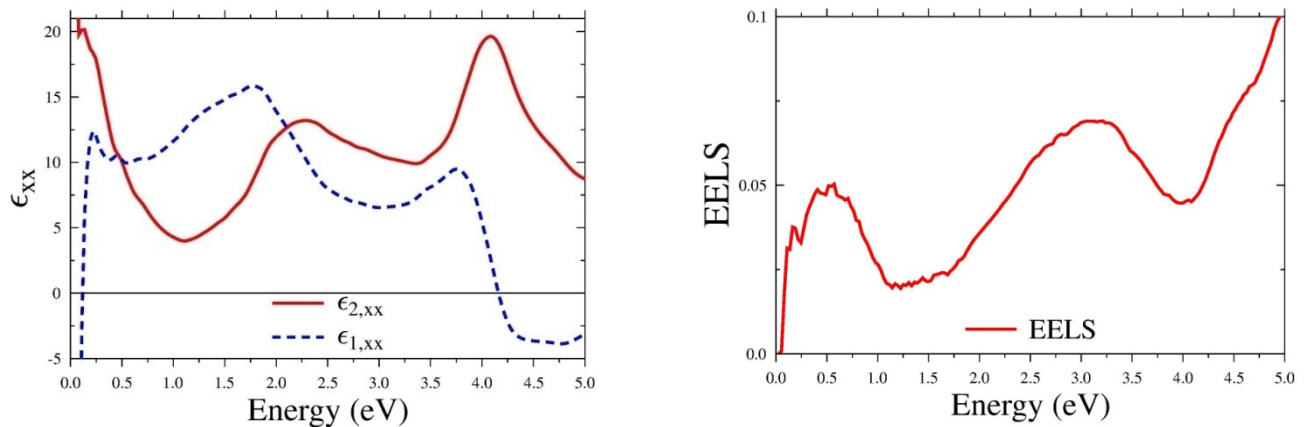


Fig. 4. Calculated on-diagonal components of the dielectric tensor $\epsilon_{xx} = \epsilon_1 + i\epsilon_2$ (left panel) and electron energy loss spectrum (right panel).

Conclusion

Based on the calculation of the relativistic density of states for InAs:Mn in the dimer and separate configurations is found that InAs:Mn in both configurations is close to the half-metallic state. But the dimer ferromagnetic configuration of Mn dopants is always found to be energetically most favorable. Also found that the FM order is the most stable magnetic state.

The frequency-dependent optical and magneto-optical properties, the electron energy loss spectra, on- and off-diagonal conductivity tensor components and the transversal Kerr effect (TKE) are calculated. The modeled TKE resonance in $\text{In}_{1-x}\text{Mn}_x\text{As}$ ($x=0.0625$) in near IR range is found to be in good agreement with the experimental magneto-optical spectrum. The additional enhancement of the 0.7 eV TKE peak comes from the plasma resonance at about 0.65 eV, which occurs in the calculated electron energy loss spectrum.

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