

# Diagonal parameter shifts due to nearest-neighbor displacements in empirical tight-binding theory

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Nanoscale heterostructures are generally characterized by local strain variations. Because the atoms in such systems can be irregularly positioned, theoretical models and parameterizations that are restricted to hydrostatic and uniaxial strain are generally not applicable. To address this shortcoming, a method that enables the incorporation of general distortions into the empirical tight binding model is presented. The method shifts the diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements due to displacements of neighboring atoms from their ideal bulk positions. The new, efficient, and flexible method is developed for zincblende semiconductors and employed to calculate gaps for GaAs and InAs under hydrostatic and uniaxial strain. Where experimental and theoretical data are available our new method compares favorably with other methods, yet it is not restricted to the cases of uniaxial or hydrostatic strain. Because our method handles arbitrary nearest-neighbor displacements it permits the incorporation of diagonal parameter shifts in general, three-dimensional nanoscale electronic structure simulations, such as the nanoelectronic modeling tool (NEMO 3D).

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Since the pioneering work of Slater and Koster,<sup>1</sup> empirical tight-binding models have provided a convenient and accurate method for modeling semiconductors. Later work by Vogl, Hjalmarson, and Dow<sup>2</sup> and Jancu *et al.*,<sup>3</sup> has further improved tight-binding models by demonstrating that important gaps and masses can be better fit by models which include an excited  $s$ -like orbital,  $s^*$  (Ref. 2), and excited- $d$  orbitals (Ref. 3). Tight-binding models have enjoyed considerable success in semiconductor heterostructure calculations in a wide variety of materials systems, some of which involve strain. In such systems highly accurate modeling requires modifying the Hamiltonian matrix elements to take into account the displacements of the atoms from their positions in an unstrained material.

In such strained systems the most obvious modification is to adjust the matrix elements involving orbitals centered on different atoms to take into account the altered environment in terms of both bond angle and length. Bond length alterations are generally included by scaling the Slater-Koster<sup>1</sup> two-center integrals from which the matrix elements are constructed by a factor  $(d_0/d)^n$ , where  $d_0$  ( $d$ ) is the ideal (altered) bond length.<sup>3-6</sup> This modification is a generalized version of Harrison's<sup>7</sup>  $d^{-2}$  scaling law.<sup>8</sup> Changes in the bond angle are automatically incorporated via the direction cosines in the Slater-Koster<sup>1</sup> tables of matrix elements in terms of the two-center integrals.

Since the atomic-like orbitals of tight-binding models are not true atomic orbitals (more typically they are the orthogonalized Löwdin orbitals<sup>9</sup>), it is clear that in principle, the diagonal matrix elements, too, might vary in response to displacements of neighboring atoms. In the case of uniaxial [001] strain, which lifts the degeneracy of the diagonal  $p_z$ - and  $d_{xy}$ - energies versus their  $(p_x, p_y)$ - and  $(d_{yz}, d_{zx})$ - counterparts, differing treatments of the diagonal matrix ele-

ments have been suggested. Priester *et al.*<sup>4</sup> achieve a good fit for the spin-orbit  $sp^3s^*$  model without adjusting the diagonal  $p$ -matrix elements. Others, however, model the effect of the strain by introducing a new fitting parameter which alters the diagonal  $p$ - or  $d$ -matrix elements in proportion to the strain.<sup>3,6</sup> Tserbak *et al.*,<sup>6</sup> include a diagonal  $p$ -matrix element shift in their third-near neighbor  $sp^3s^*$  model, while Jancu *et al.*,<sup>3</sup> shift only the diagonal  $d$ -matrix elements in their  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model. Thus the degree to which such diagonal parameter adjustments are needed appears model dependent.

In those models requiring diagonal parameter shifts, the effect can be dramatic, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Here we plot the conduction- and valence-band edges of GaAs under

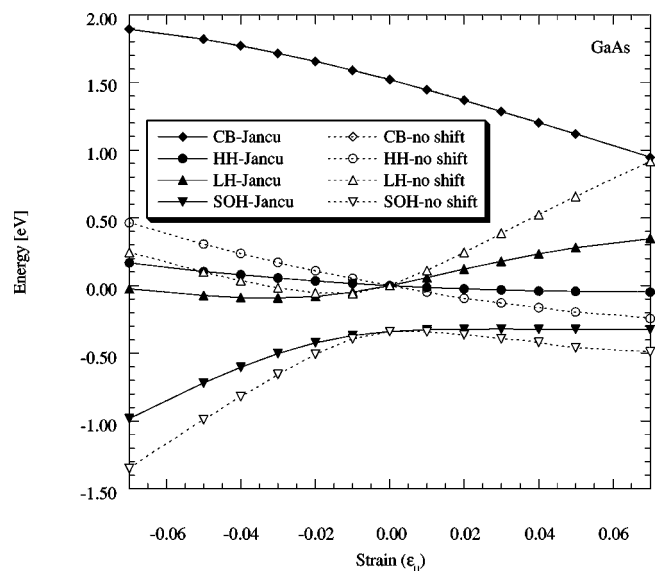


FIG. 1. Conduction- and valence-band edges of GaAs in the parameterization of Ref. 3 as calculated with and without their special diagonal  $d$ -matrix element shift.

uniaxial strain using the  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model and parameters and scaling exponents of Ref. 3 both with and without their special diagonal  $d$ -only matrix element adjustment. The differences are striking, especially for the light-hole band edge, which is highly inaccurate when the shifts are turned off. Since diagonal parameter adjustments are required for the  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model in the case of uniaxial [001] strain, it expected that they will be necessary for the more general case of irregular displacements of neighboring atoms. Although the modification of Ref. 3 is readily implemented and is entirely satisfactory for systems in which *only* uniaxial strain is present, it is not easily extended to the more general case of strained quantum dots, where displacements are, from the electronic structure perspective, arbitrary, and in which one cannot define a global strain tensor. A more general approach is therefore needed.

Here we present a method for adjusting the diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements to take into account more general differences in neighboring atoms. Although our method is in no way restricted to regular distortions of the crystal, such as one encounters under both hydrostatic and uniaxial [001] strain, we use these commonly modeled cases to test the predictions of our approach. In Sec. II we discuss the model and in Sec. III the results, comparing them to **kp**, and experimental results. We present our conclusions in Sec. IV.

## II. MODEL

The modifications to the diagonal- and neighboring-atom Hamiltonian matrix elements due to displacements of the atoms in a nonideal (e.g., strained) crystal take different forms. (In our model we do not alter the spin-orbit matrix elements.) For neighboring-atom matrix elements the changes in bond angle appear through the direction cosines in the Slater-Koster<sup>1</sup> tables. We adjust the magnitudes of the two-center integrals in the Slater-Koster<sup>1</sup> tables using the customary generalization of Harrison's<sup>7</sup>  $d^{-2}$  scaling law:  $U = U_0(d_0/d)^{\eta}$ , where  $U_0$  is an ideal-crystal two-center integral and  $d_0$  and  $d$  are the ideal and actual bond lengths, respectively.<sup>8</sup> Below we discuss adjusting the diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements.

The starting point for our treatment of diagonal parameter shifts is the Löwdin orthogonalization procedure,<sup>9</sup> which, for a true atomic orbital of type  $\alpha$  on the  $i$ th atom,  $|\Phi_{i,\alpha}\rangle$ , generates an orthonormal atomic-like orbital of the same type on the same atom,  $|\varphi_{i,\alpha}\rangle$ . Because our aim is a treatment suitable for strained quantum dot systems, in which diagonalizing the Hamiltonian is quite costly, it is essential to expend minimum effort on Hamiltonian construction, and a reasonable tradeoff between accuracy and speed is desirable. We therefore drop all overlaps and Hamiltonian matrix elements beyond nearest-neighbor and retain only the linear correction in the Löwdin procedure,<sup>9</sup>

$$|\varphi_{i,\alpha}\rangle \approx |\Phi_{i,\alpha}\rangle - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j,\beta} S_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} |\Phi_{j,\beta}\rangle, \quad (1)$$

$$S_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} = \langle \Phi_{j,\beta} | \Phi_{i,\alpha} \rangle - \delta_{i,j} \delta_{\alpha,\beta}, \quad (2)$$

where atomic orbitals on the same atom are assumed orthogonal. The diagonal parameters of an empirical tight-binding model are the Löwdin matrix elements  $\varepsilon_{i,\alpha} = \langle \varphi_{i,\alpha} | \hat{H} | \varphi_{i,\alpha} \rangle$ , which differ from their free atom counterparts,  $\varepsilon_{i,\alpha}^{(0)} = \langle \Phi_{i,\alpha} | \hat{H}_i | \Phi_{i,\alpha} \rangle$ , due to the neighboring-atom contributions in Eq. (1). We neglect all other effects such as charge transfer. Given our need for computational efficiency and the approximations we must make for the generally larger (net) overlap effects below, this seems reasonable. (Most tight-binding models in fact omit the effects of charge transfer on the diagonal matrix elements, even for polar semiconductors; see Sec. 2.3-E of Ref. 7 for an excellent discussion.) Likewise, in the spirit of the bulk model, which ignores same-atom  $s$ - $s^*$  matrix elements, we exclude any (small) Hamiltonian matrix elements between same-atom orbitals of different symmetry that might arise due to an asymmetric deformation.

We now make three further simplifying restrictions: (i) the atomic orbitals are real; (ii) there are no common nearest-neighbors for a given nearest-neighbor pair; and (iii) only two-center integrals are significant. Restriction (iii) yields the particularly useful approximation for matrix elements between atomic orbitals on different ( $n \neq n'$ ) atoms,

$$v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}^{(0)} \approx \frac{1}{2} [\varepsilon_{n',\mu'}^{(0)} + \varepsilon_{n,\mu}^{(0)}] S_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)} + \frac{1}{2} \langle \Phi_{n',\mu'} | \hat{V}_n + \hat{V}_{n'} | \Phi_{n,\mu} \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where  $\hat{H}_j$  is the free-atom Hamiltonian and  $\hat{V}_j$  the potential for the  $j$ th atom,  $\hat{H}_j |\Phi_{j,\nu}\rangle = \varepsilon_{j,\nu}^{(0)} |\Phi_{j,\nu}\rangle$ , and  $\langle \Phi_{n',\mu'} | \hat{H}_n | \Phi_{n,\mu} \rangle \approx \varepsilon_{n,\mu}^{(0)} S_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$ . In determining the corresponding Löwdin-orbital matrix element using Eq. (1) and assumption (i) above, observe that under restriction (ii) the only surviving Hamiltonian matrix elements in the sums are those for orbitals centered on the same atom. Consistent with our retention of only the two-center integrals we take  $\langle \Phi_{i,\alpha} | \hat{H} | \Phi_{i,\beta} \rangle \approx \varepsilon_{i,\alpha}^{(0)} \delta_{\alpha,\beta}$  and obtain

$$v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)} \approx \frac{1}{2} \langle \Phi_{n',\mu'} | \hat{V}_n + \hat{V}_{n'} | \Phi_{n,\mu} \rangle. \quad (4)$$

To proceed any further we must make some approximation concerning the overlap  $S_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$ , or equivalently the relationship between  $v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$  and  $v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}^{(0)}$ . Harrison<sup>7</sup> observes that in the extended Hückel theory<sup>10</sup>  $S_{i,j} = 2cV_{i,j}/(\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_j)$ , where  $c$  is a universal constant; the results of Wills and Harrison<sup>11</sup> show that this is not an unreasonable approximation. We therefore adopt a modified version of this approximation, taking

$$S_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)} = K_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)} \frac{v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}^{(0)}}{\varepsilon_{n',\mu'}^{(0)} + \varepsilon_{n,\mu}^{(0)}}, \quad n \neq n' \quad (5)$$

or, equivalently, substituting Eq. (4) into Eq. (3),

$$v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}^{(0)} \approx \frac{2 + K_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}}{2} v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}, \quad (6)$$

where the constants  $K_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$  depend upon the orbitals involved in the matrix element, in order to provide greater flexibility in fitting the properties of strained materials. The constants  $K$  are of course symmetric,  $K_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)} = K_{(n,\mu),(n',\mu')}$ , and the subscripts  $n$  and  $n'$  on  $K_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$  imply only a dependence on atomic species, *not* on position. The orbital types  $\mu$ ,  $\mu'$  in Eqs. (5) and (6) are the customary atomic-like orbitals ( $sa$ ,  $sc$ ,  $p_xa$ ,  $d_{xy}c$ , etc.), with the matrix elements  $v_{(n',\mu'),(n,\mu)}$  calculated from the Slater-Koster tables.<sup>1</sup> In an attempt to limit the number of additional parameters we restrict the  $K$  to depend only upon species and total angular momentum ( $K_{sa,pc}$ ,  $K_{d,d}$ , etc.), ignoring any dependence on bond type ( $dd\pi$ ,  $pp\sigma$ , etc.). The atomic energies  $\varepsilon_{j,v}^{(0)}$  are vacuum-referenced and hence the overlaps will have the proper sign for  $K > 0$ .

Using Eqs. (5) and (6) with Eq. (1) we find that the diagonal Hamiltonian matrix elements are related to their free-atom counterparts via

$$\varepsilon_{i,\alpha} \approx \varepsilon_{i,\alpha}^{(0)} - \sum_{j \in NN-i} \sum_{\beta} \left[ C_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} \frac{v_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}^2}{\varepsilon_{j,\beta}^{(0)} + \varepsilon_{i,\alpha}^{(0)}} \right], \quad (7)$$

$$C_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} = \frac{1}{2} [2K_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} + K_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}^2]. \quad (8)$$

Equation (7) leads directly to our real objective, a relationship between the diagonal tight-binding matrix elements in the ideal (unprimed) and altered (primed) nominally-zinc-blende systems,

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon'_{i,\alpha} &= \varepsilon_{i,\alpha} \\ &+ \sum_{j \in NN-i} \sum_{\beta} \left[ C_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)} \frac{v_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}^2 - (v'_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)})^2}{\varepsilon_{j,\beta} + \varepsilon_{i,\alpha}} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where in Eq. (9) we have replaced the atomic energies  $\varepsilon_{n,\mu}^{(0)}$  by their ideal, vacuum-referenced Löwdin orbital counterparts (i.e., we apply an identical downward shift to all diagonal bulk tight-binding parameters so that they are negative). Note that the resulting difference in  $\varepsilon'_{i,\alpha}$  will be roughly of magnitude,  $[v_{i,j}/(\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_j)]^2$ .

In spite of the simplifications made in order to obtain a computationally efficient formula, we see that Eq. (9) has the highly desirable property that it automatically incorporates changes in geometry due to displacements of the atoms since the  $v_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}$  and  $v'_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}$  involve direction cosines for the ideal and altered crystals, respectively. Hence arbitrary displacements of neighboring atoms are implicitly included in the diagonal parameter shift and there is no need to separately model cases of hydrostatic or uniaxial strain, for example. Note as well that the diagonal parameter shifts are no longer linear in the strain, since the  $v_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}$  and  $v'_{(j,\beta),(i,\alpha)}$  are not necessarily linear and they furthermore appear squared.

TABLE I. Lattice constants, diagonal, and spin-orbit parameters, and two-center integrals for our parameterizations of GaAs and InAs in the  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model.  $E_{\text{shift}}$  is the downward atomic shift applied to the diagonal parameters prior to determining alterations due to displacements of nearest-neighbors. The same upward shift is then applied to the altered diagonal parameters. Lattice constants are in Å; all other values are in eV.

Parameter	GaAs	InAs
$a$	5.6532	6.0583
$E_{sa}$	-5.500 420	-5.500 420
$E_{pa}$	4.151 070	4.151 070
$E_{sc}$	-0.241 190	-0.581 930
$E_{pc}$	6.707 760	6.971 630
$E_{s^*sa}$	19.710 590	19.710 590
$E_{s^*sc}$	22.663 520	19.941 380
$E_{da}$	13.031 690	13.031 690
$E_{dc}$	12.748 460	13.307 090
$E_{\text{shift}}$	27.000 000	27.000 000
$ss\sigma$	-1.645 080	-1.694 350
$s^*s^*\sigma$	-3.704 550	-4.210 450
$s_a^*s_c\sigma$	-2.207 770	-2.426 740
$s_a^*s_c^*\sigma$	-1.314 910	-1.159 870
$s_a p_c\sigma$	2.664 930	2.598 230
$s_c p_a\sigma$	2.960 320	2.809 360
$s_a^* p_c\sigma$	1.976 500	2.067 660
$s_c^* p_a\sigma$	1.027 550	0.937 340
$s_a d_c\sigma$	-2.609 400	-2.268 370
$s_c d_a\sigma$	-2.320 590	-2.293 090
$s_a^* d_c\sigma$	-0.628 200	-0.899 370
$s_c^* d_a\sigma$	-0.133 240	-0.488 990
$pp\sigma$	4.150 800	4.310 640
$pp\pi$	-1.427 440	-1.288 950
$p_a d_c\sigma$	-1.874 280	-1.731 410
$p_c d_a\sigma$	-1.889 640	-1.978 420
$p_a d_c\pi$	2.529 260	2.188 860
$p_c d_a\pi$	2.549 130	2.456 020
$dd\sigma$	-1.269 960	-1.584 610
$dd\pi$	2.505 360	2.717 930
$dd\delta$	-0.851 740	-0.505 090
$\lambda_a$	0.172 340	0.172 340
$\lambda_c$	0.021 790	0.131 200

### III. RESULTS

In Table I we list the two-center integrals in our parameterization for GaAs and InAs in the Slater-Koster<sup>1</sup> notation for the  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model.<sup>3</sup> As a convenience we choose the same diagonal parameter for all  $d$ -orbitals of a given species in bulk, although in principle we could have chosen different energies for  $(d_{xy}, d_{yz}, d_{zx})$  and  $(d_{3z^2-r^2}, d_{x^2-y^2})$  due to the crystal-field splitting. The lowest twenty (20) bulk bands of GaAs and InAs are shown in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively. In Table II we list the energies and effective masses reproduced by the parameters of Table I. These parameters are determined using our genetic algorithm<sup>12</sup> and it is evident that they provide a good fit to technologically important energies

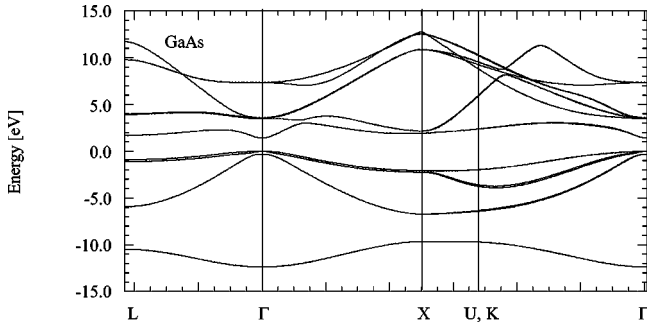


FIG. 2. The lowest 20 bands of GaAs as reproduced by the parameters of Table I.

and masses of both bulk materials. Note that our parameterizations are chosen to reproduce the room-temperature gaps and that the valence-band maximum of GaAs is chosen as the reference energy. The InAs valence-band maximum is offset relative to that of GaAs since the parameters are ultimately employed in modeling InAs/GaAs heterostructures such as quantum dots.<sup>13</sup>

In Table III we list the parameters for strained systems, which were fit to reproduce the conduction-band, and light-, heavy-, and split-off-hole valence-band edges at  $\Gamma$  under hydrostatic pressure and uniaxial strain. Because the split-off hole is not of great interest to us in quantum dot modeling, we assigned it only small weights in the fitting procedure. As mentioned above the two-center integrals are scaled with the generalized version of Harrison's<sup>7</sup>  $d^{-2}$  scaling law,  $U = U_0(d_0/d)^\eta$ , where  $U_0$  is a bulk two-center integral,  $U$  its counterpart in the strained material,  $\eta$  is the exponent, and  $d_0$  and  $d$  are the ideal (bulk) and actual (strained) bond length, respectively. The constants,  $C$ , are listed as well; the overlap constants  $K$  are given by the positive root of Eq. (8). Since the cases of hydrostatic pressure and uniaxial strain have been treated theoretically,<sup>14</sup> and for GaAs under hydrostatic pressure, experimentally,<sup>15</sup> we next discuss the behavior of our model under these conditions.

We first consider the positions of the valence and conduction-band edges at  $\Gamma$  under hydrostatic deformation,  $\varepsilon_{xx} = \varepsilon_{yy} = \varepsilon_{zz} = \varepsilon$ . Negative  $\varepsilon$  corresponds to a conventional hydrostatic pressure experiment, positive  $\varepsilon$  to a uniform dilation, which is of interest for quantum dots in which such atomic displacements can occur. We plot these for GaAs as

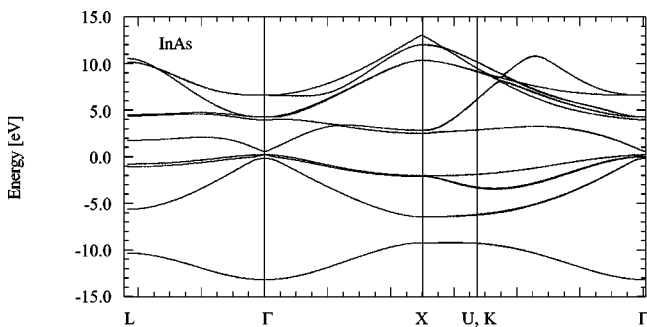


FIG. 3. The lowest 20 bands of InAs as reproduced by the parameters of Table I.

TABLE II. Selected energies (in eV),  $k$ -minima (in units of  $\pi/a$ ) and effective masses (in units of the free-electron mass) for GaAs and InAs as reproduced by the parameters of Table I, along with target values given our fitting algorithm (Ref. 12); see Ref. 16. In both materials the  $L$ -valley minimum occurs at the symmetry point. All masses are computed at the respective extrema.

Quantity	GaAs	GaAs-target	InAs	InAs-target
$E_c^\Gamma$	1.41 280	1.42 400	0.59 421	0.59 570
$E_v^\Gamma$	-0.00 306	0.00 000	0.22 430	0.22 570
$\Delta_0$	0.32 647	0.34 000	0.39 316	0.38 000
$E_{c, \min}^L$	1.69 811	1.70 800	1.75 315	1.75 570
$E_{c, \min}^X$	1.89 846	1.90 000	2.50 732	2.50 570
$k_{\min}^{[001]}$	1.81 358	1.80 000	2.00 000	1.80 000
<b>Electrons</b>				
$m_\Gamma$	0.06 574	0.06 700	0.02 353	0.02 390
$m_{X,t}$	1.88 076	1.30 000	1.12 583	1.30 000
$m_{X,l}$	0.17 525	0.23 000	0.17 514	0.23 000
$m_{L,t}$	1.72 750	1.90 000	1.53 946	1.90 000
$m_{L,l}$	0.09 671	0.07 540	0.09 414	0.07 540
<b>Holes</b>				
$m_{hh}^{[100]}$	0.08 249	0.08 710	0.02 811	0.02 730
$m_{hh}^{[110]}$	0.07 546	0.08 040	0.02 729	0.02 640
$m_{hh}^{[111]}$	0.07 362	0.07 860	0.02 703	0.02 610
$m_{hh}^{[100]}$	0.37 686	0.40 300	0.35 158	0.34 480
$m_{hh}^{[110]}$	0.65 660	0.66 000	0.56 349	0.63 910
$m_{hh}^{[111]}$	0.83 905	0.81 300	0.69 813	0.87 640
$m_{so}$	0.16 243	0.15 000	0.09 959	0.15 000

calculated with our model and **kp** theory<sup>14</sup> in Fig. 4; the results for InAs are similar. The parameters appearing in the **kp** formulas are taken from Van de Walle.<sup>14</sup> For both GaAs and InAs (not shown) the trends are similar in both approaches. In Fig. 5 we plot the direct and indirect gaps of GaAs under hydrostatic pressure as calculated with our model versus the measurements of Goñi *et al.*<sup>15</sup> In our model both gaps are somewhat less pressure-sensitive than the measured values, and in our parameterization the direct-indirect crossover occurs at  $|\varepsilon| \approx 0.02$ , whereas the experimental value is about 0.016. The agreement with the indirect gap result is especially encouraging with regards to the physical content of the model, since the model was *not* explicitly parameterized to fit indirect-gap data. In view of the significant experimental uncertainties and the generality of our approach, which is not limited to only hydrostatic pressure or uniaxial strain, the agreement is good. Finally we mention that although at zero pressure all  $d$ -orbitals of the same species have the same energy, under hydrostatic pressure the crystal-field splitting appears in our model. It is largest for GaAs, about 0.165 eV at  $|\varepsilon| = 0.05$ , but even so is still  $< 2\%$  of the zero-pressure  $d$ -energy.

We next study the case of uniaxial [001] strain. Here to facilitate comparison with the **kp** results we calculate  $\varepsilon_{zz}$  as a function of  $\varepsilon_{xx} = \varepsilon_{yy} = \varepsilon_{\parallel}$  using Van de Walle's<sup>14</sup> values for  $D^{001}$ . In Fig. 6, we plot the shifts for GaAs of  $E_z$  and  $E_{xy}$

TABLE III. Dimensionless scaling exponents,  $\eta$ , and diagonal parameter shift constants,  $C$ , defined in Eq. (8) for GaAs and InAs.

Parameter	GaAs	InAs
$\eta_{s,s\sigma}$	2.060 010	1.924 940
$\eta_{s,s^*\sigma}$	0.000 000	0.060 800
$\eta_{s^*,s^*\sigma}$	0.212 660	0.000 810
$\eta_{s,p\sigma}$	1.384 980	1.570 030
$\eta_{s^*,p\sigma}$	1.399 300	1.949 370
$\eta_{s,d\sigma}$	1.898 890	1.765 660
$\eta_{s^*,d\sigma}$	1.785 400	2.023 870
$\eta_{p,p\sigma}$	2.684 970	2.061 510
$\eta_{p,p\pi}$	1.314 050	1.602 470
$\eta_{p,d\sigma}$	1.812 350	2.383 820
$\eta_{p,d\pi}$	2.379 640	2.455 600
$\eta_{d,d\sigma}$	1.724 430	2.322 910
$\eta_{d,d\pi}$	1.972 530	1.615 890
$\eta_{d,d\delta}$	1.896 720	2.329 600
$C_{s,s}$	0.586 960	1.258 286
$C_{s^*,s^*}$	0.486 090	2.481 447
$C_{sa,s^*c}$	0.770 950	4.557 774
$C_{s^*a,sc}$	0.889 210	1.086 223
$C_{sa,pc}$	0.759 790	4.367 575
$C_{sc,pa}$	1.458 910	7.029 660
$C_{s^*a,pc}$	0.810 790	3.298 598
$C_{s^*c,pa}$	1.212 020	7.029 496
$C_{sa,dc}$	1.070 150	0.000 000
$C_{sc,da}$	0.580 530	0.187 036
$C_{s^*a,dc}$	1.032 560	1.195 042
$C_{s^*c,da}$	1.323 850	1.769 483
$C_{p,p}$	2.000 000	4.624 438
$C_{pa,dc}$	1.613 500	0.000 000
$C_{pc,da}$	1.500 000	0.000 000
$C_{d,d}$	1.262 620	0.246 999

relative to their zero-strain values as functions of  $\varepsilon_{||}$ . Note that the vast majority of the change is reflected in the  $p$ -orbitals ( $E_z$ )—the  $d$ -orbitals ( $E_{xy}$ ) are relatively unaffected. In Fig. 7 we plot the band edges of GaAs versus  $\varepsilon_{||}$  for both our model and the **kp** model, with parameters from Van de Walle.<sup>14</sup> Both models display the same trends, with the exception of the split-off hole band. (Note, however, that GaAs, has a relatively small lattice constant and will generally be stretched, not compressed, in InGaAs/GaAs quantum dot simulations<sup>13</sup>.) Finally we mention that the nonlinear strain behavior of the tight-binding conduction-band edge (Fig. 7) appears to be at least partly related to the total  $s^*$ -contribution to the zero-strain state. In a tight-binding model with  $s$ - $s^*$  coupling, each of the two degenerate zero-strain conduction-band states at  $\Gamma$  belongs to a four-dimensional subspace  $\{|sa\rangle, |sc\rangle, |s^*a\rangle, |s^*c\rangle\}$ , and those states with larger total  $s^*$ -contribution tend to be more nonlinear in the strain.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Because the  $sp^3d^5s^*$  model requires diagonal parameter shifts to correctly model uniaxial [001] strain, we have de-

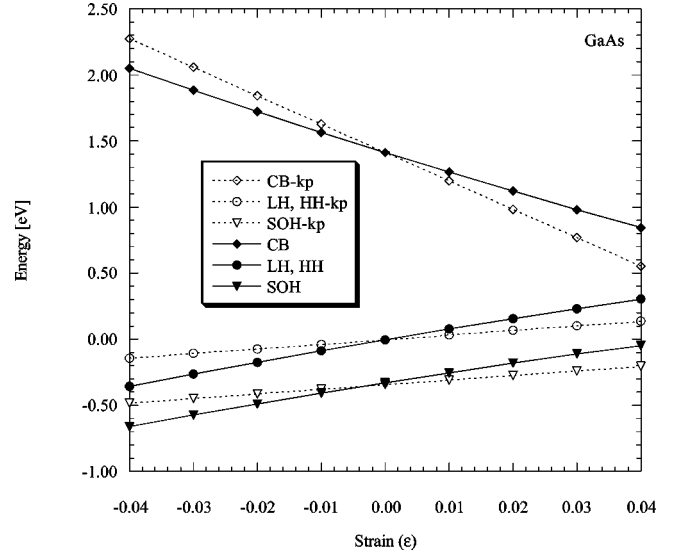


FIG. 4. GaAs band edges under hydrostatic deformation as calculated with our model and the **kp** model of Van de Walle (Ref. 14, adjusted to reflect room-temperature gaps). Negative  $\varepsilon$  corresponds to conventional hydrostatic pressure experiments, positive  $\varepsilon$  to a uniform dialation.

veloped a general treatment which adjusts diagonal tight-binding parameters for zinc blende crystals due to arbitrary nearest-neighbor displacements. Our method is in no way restricted to regular distortions. We have shown that this method correctly reproduces the altered geometry of the rearranged atoms. In order to test the method we have compared its results for hydrostatic pressure and uniaxial [001] strain to those of **kp** and other tight-binding approaches. We find that this method provides good agreement with other calculations and, unlike special diagonal shift formulas for uniaxial strain only, treats arbitrary cases naturally and automatically. Our method is efficient to implement for nearest-neighbor models, making it well-suited to use for modeling quantum heterostructures where a minimum of effort can be expended on Hamiltonian construction in multimillion atom quantum dot simulations.<sup>13</sup>

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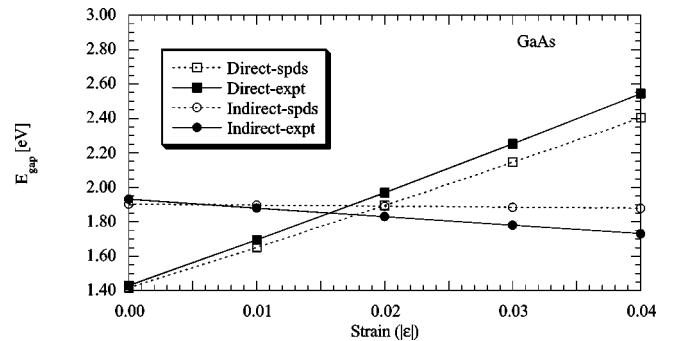


FIG. 5. Direct and indirect band gaps of GaAs band edges under hydrostatic pressure as calculated with our model and as measured (Ref. 15).

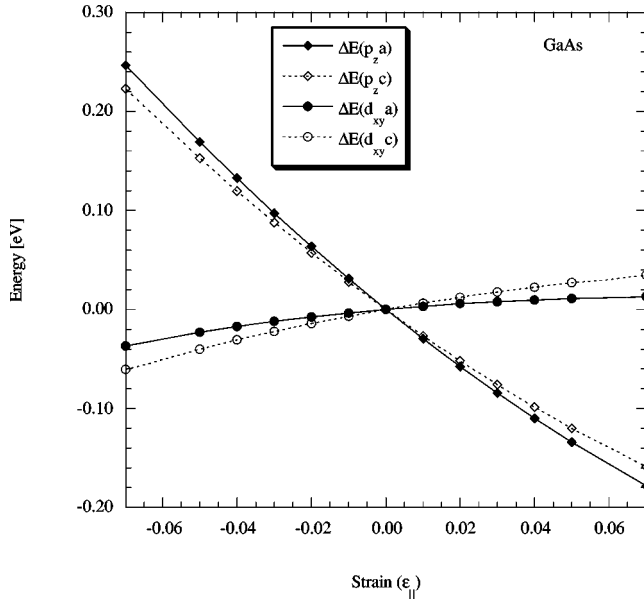


FIG. 6. Diagonal  $p$ - [ $\Delta E(p_{z\mu})$ ] and  $d$ - [ $\Delta E(d_{xy\mu})$ ] parameter shifts relative to their respective zero-strain values ( $E_{p\mu}, E_{d\mu}$ ) for GaAs under uniaxial strain as calculated with our model.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The supercomputer used in this investigation was provided by funding from the NASA Offices of Earth Science, Aeronautics, and

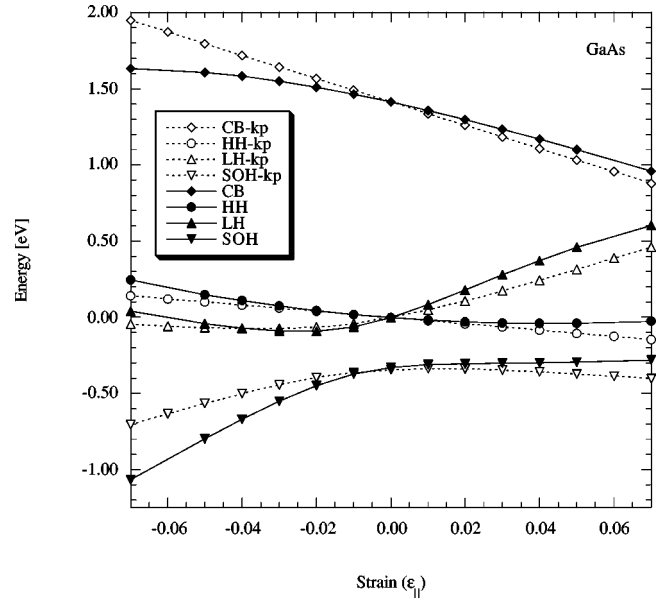


FIG. 7. GaAs band edges under uniaxial strain as calculated with our model and the  $\mathbf{kp}$  model of Ref. 14, adjusted to reflect room-temperature gaps.

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<sup>8</sup>Typical values for the exponent  $\eta$  are in the range 1–4. In the literature there seems to be some ambiguity regarding the use of the terms “biaxial” and “uniaxial.” Here we employ the terminology of Refs. 3 and 14, as defined in detail in Sec III of the present text.

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<sup>14</sup>Chris G. Van de Walle, Phys. Rev. B **39**, 1871 (1989); F. H. Pollack and M. Cardona, Phys. Rev. **172**, 816 (1968). Because Van de Walle gives low-temperature parameters, we have reduced the  $\mathbf{kp}$  conduction-band energy (to equalize zero pressure gaps) and then uniformly shifted all  $\mathbf{kp}$  band edges to align them with our edges at zero pressure.

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<sup>16</sup>Available experimental data are taken from *Semiconductors: Group IV Elements and III-V Compounds*, edited by O. Madelung (Springer, New York, 1991). Note in particular that room-temperature values of the indirect gaps are generally not well known. We therefore assume that the room-temperature  $\Gamma$ - $L$  and  $\Gamma$ - $X$  separations are the same as the low-temperature values. In addition, many effective masses, especially those of the  $X$ - and  $L$ -valleys, are not definitively known for InAs. Here we have chosen target values typical of other III–V materials. Finally, the InAs–GaAs valence-band offset built into our parameters has not been precisely determined. Our target value has given good results in multiband transport simulations of resonant tunneling diodes and other one-dimensional quantum-confinement structures.