

Nitride band structure

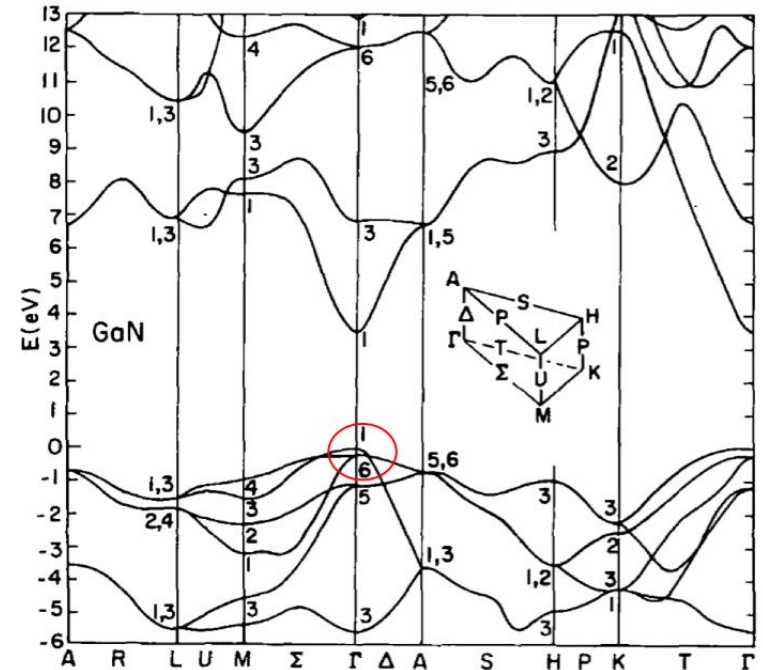
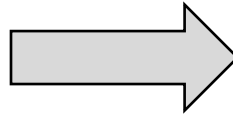
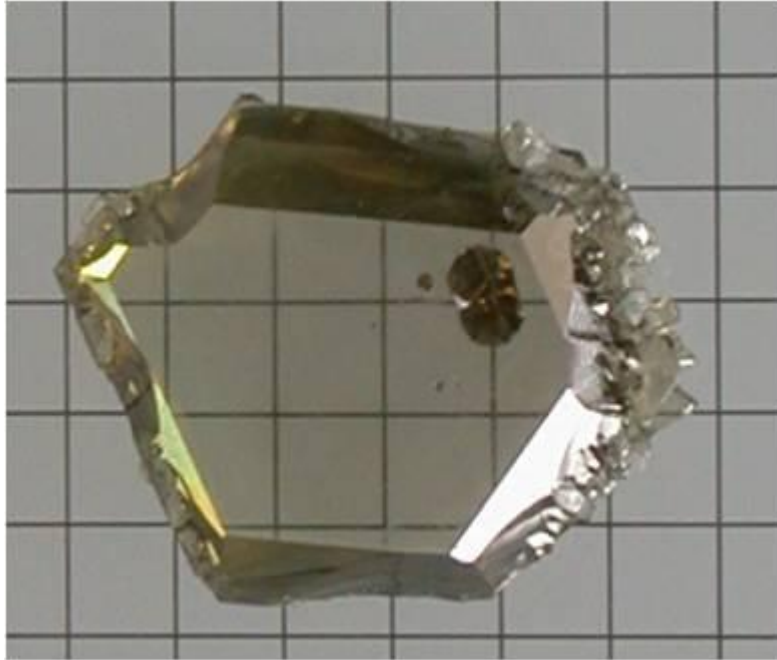
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OUTLINE

From the crystal to its electronic band structure

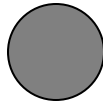


- LCAO-2 atoms
- LCAO-linear chain
- Bloch functions
- Crystal
- Cubic GaN
- Wurzite GaN and AlN

LCAO-2 atoms

Linear Combination of Atomic Orbitals

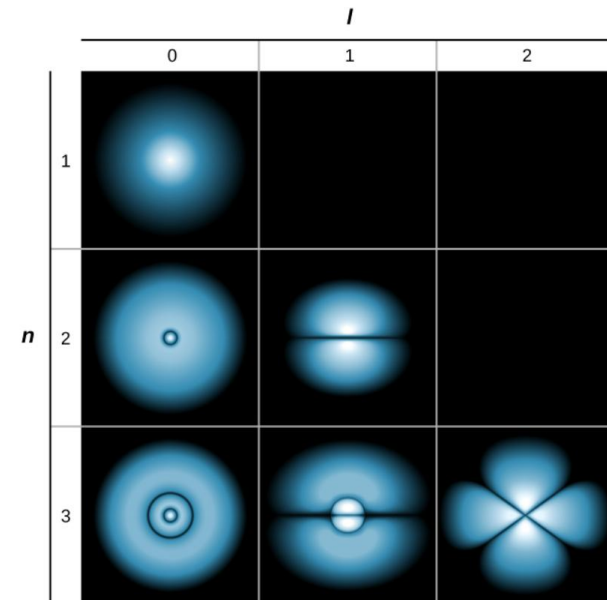
Atom i

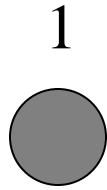


One electron in the potential of an isolated atom:

$$H_i \varphi_i = \frac{p^2}{2m} \varphi_i + V_i \varphi_i = E_i \varphi_i$$

One finds levels with principal quantum number **n**, and with sub levels **s,p,d...** defined by the angular momentum number **l**,...





$$H_1 \varphi_1 = E_{01} \varphi_1$$

$$H_2 \varphi_2 = E_{02} \varphi_2$$

When atoms come close to each other, the electron wavefunction is delocalized on atoms 1 and 2 :

$$\psi = (c_1 \varphi_1 + c_2 \varphi_2) \quad \text{Linear combination of atomic orbitals}$$

$$\frac{p^2}{2m} \psi + (V_1 + V_2) \psi = E \psi$$

Develop and project on φ_1 and φ_2

$$c_1 E_{01} + c_2 E_{02} \langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle + c_2 \langle \varphi_1 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle + c_1 \langle \varphi_1 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle = E c_1 + c_2 E \langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle$$
$$c_1 E_{01} \langle \varphi_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle + c_2 E_{02} + c_2 \langle \varphi_2 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle + c_1 \langle \varphi_2 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle = E c_2 + c_1 E \langle \varphi_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} (E_{01} - E) + \langle \varphi_1 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle & (E_{02} - E) \langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle + \langle \varphi_1 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \\ (E_{01} - E) \langle \varphi_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle + \langle \varphi_2 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle & (E_{02} - E) + \langle \varphi_2 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

- Can be solved as it is 😊
- But it can be simplified by introducing assumptions which are done in the real semiconductor band structure calculations based on this approach (Tight Binding) 😊 😊

Tight binding works well for directional bonds typical for semiconductors

$$\begin{vmatrix} (E_{01} - E) + \langle \varphi_1 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle & (E_{02} - E) \langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle + \langle \phi_1 | V_1 | \phi_2 \rangle \\ (E_{01} - E) \langle \varphi_2 | \varphi_2 \rangle + \langle \phi_2 | V_2 | \phi_1 \rangle & (E_{02} - E) + \langle \varphi_2 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$\langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle = 0$ Not strictly true. In addition $E_{02} - E$ is expected to be small

$\langle \varphi_1 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle = \langle \varphi_2 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle$ by symmetry

Describes the effect of the potential of atom 2 on the energy in atom 1, and vice versa. It is a shift of the energy, with no important effect.

(when atoms are different or with less trivial symmetries, it has an effect).

Let us renormalize the energies :

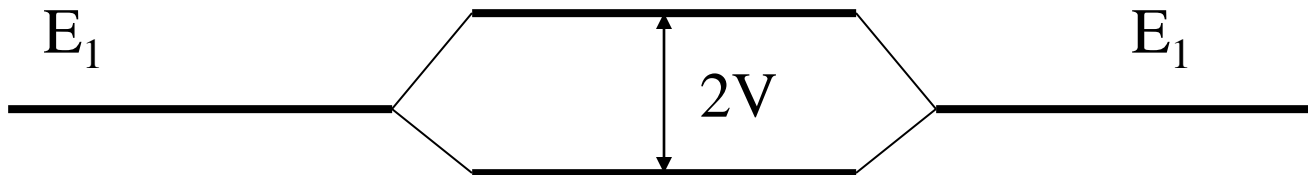
$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= E_{01} + \langle \varphi_1 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle \\ E_2 &= E_{02} + \langle \varphi_2 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} (E_1 - E) & \langle \varphi_1 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \\ \langle \varphi_2 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle & (E_2 - E) \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

We introduce : $\langle \varphi_1 | V_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle \times \langle \varphi_2 | V_2 | \varphi_1 \rangle = V^2$

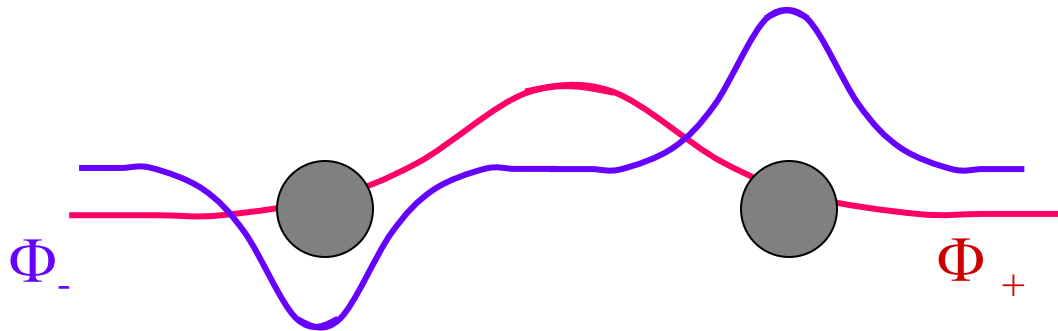
$$E = \frac{(E_1 + E_2)}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 - E_2}{2}\right)^2 + V^2}$$

If atoms are identical: $E_1 = E_2$ $E = E_1 \pm |V|$



2 new energy eigenvalues

2 new eigen states



$$\Phi_+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2)$$

Lowest energy: bonding state

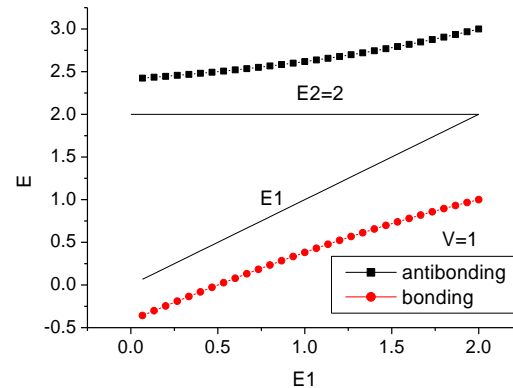
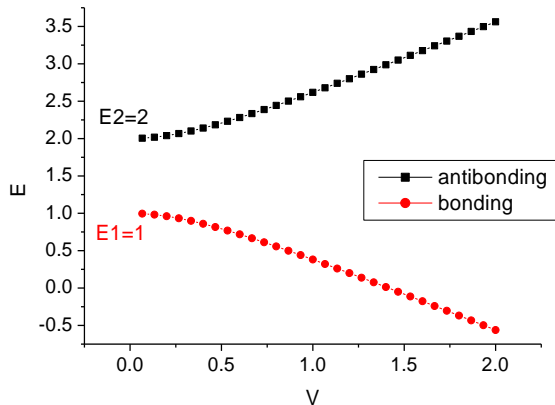
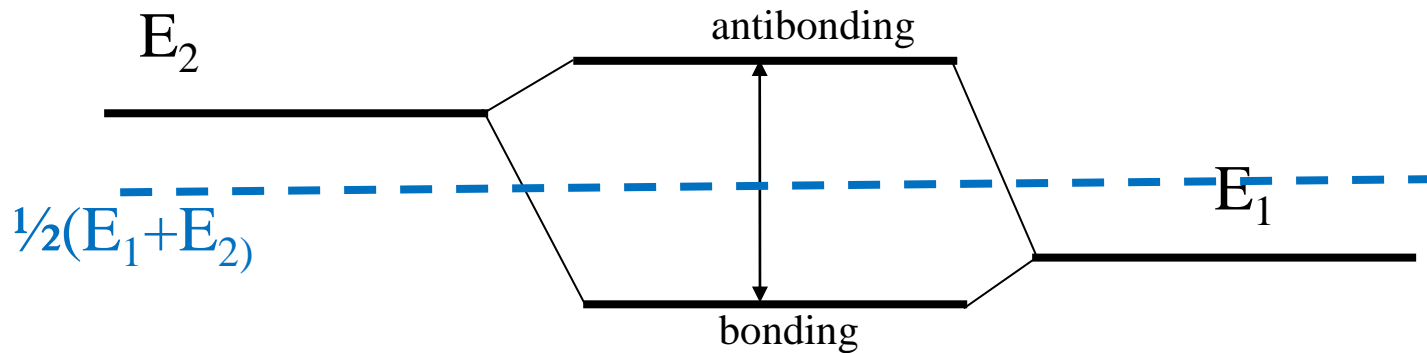
$$\Phi_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)$$

Highest energy: anti-bonding state

Not identical atoms

We still have

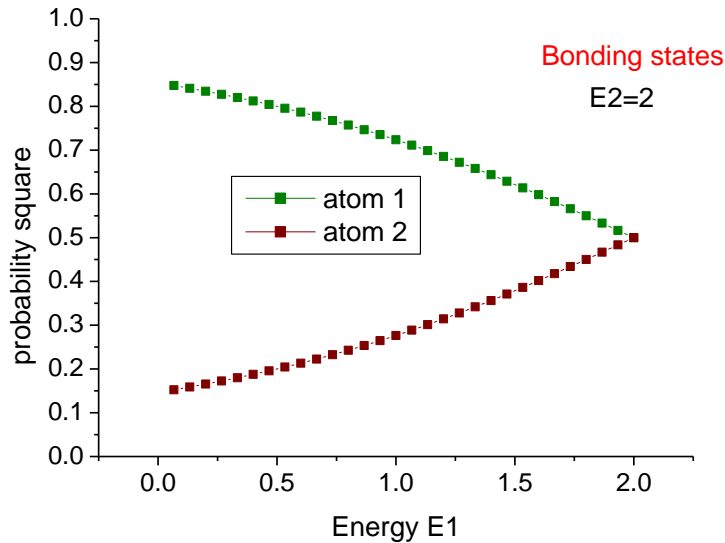
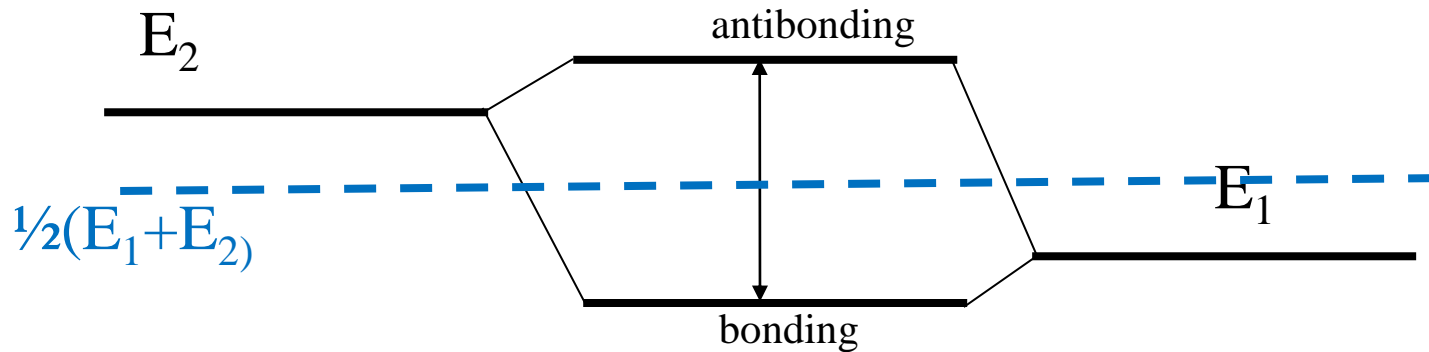
$$E = \frac{(E_1 + E_2)}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{E_1 - E_2}{2}\right)^2 + V^2}$$



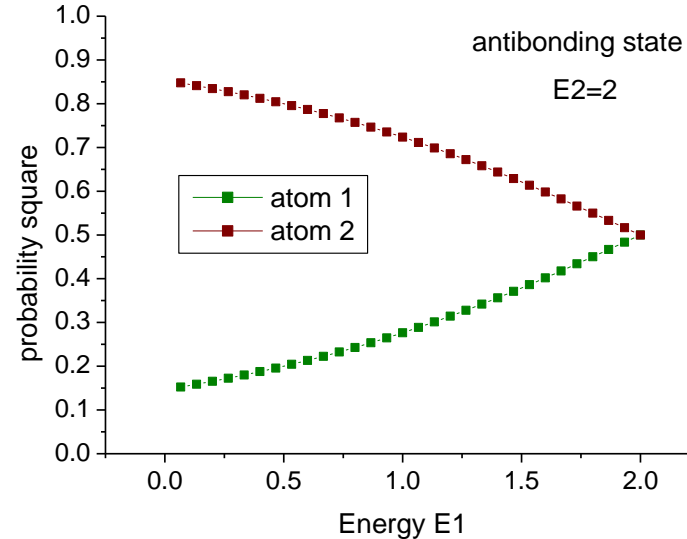
Levels split from the mean energy as V increases

When $E_1 - E_2$ increase, the bonding state gets closer to the lower energy level (E_1) and the antibonding state closer to the higher level (E_2)

Not identical atoms



The bonding states
concentrates on atom 1
which has the lower energy



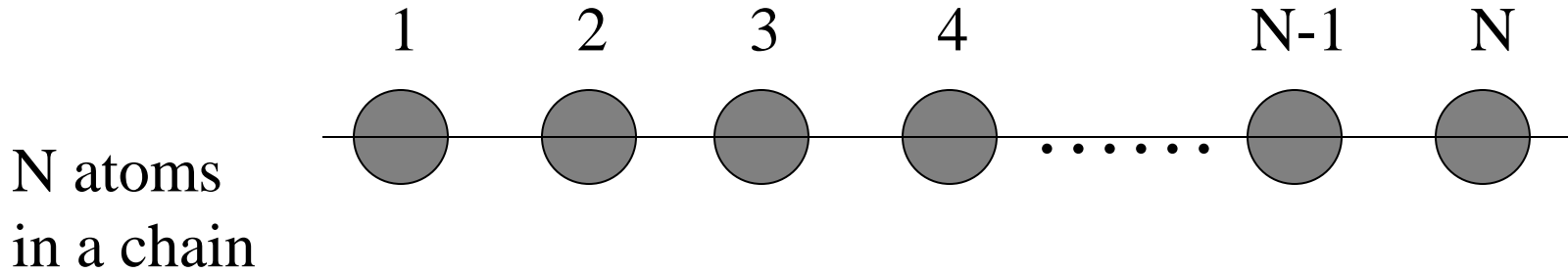
The antibonding states
concentrates on atom 2
which has the higher energy

Remember that !

3 things to remember:

- 2 initial orbitals \Rightarrow 2 levels
- shift of the energies+ splitting
- bonding and antibonding states

LCAO-linear chain



$$\psi = c_1\varphi_1 + c_2\varphi_2 + c_3\varphi_3 + c_4\varphi_4 + \dots + c_N\varphi_N$$

One keeps nearest neighbours interactions only:

$$\langle \varphi_n | V_n | \varphi_m \rangle = \langle \varphi_m | V_m | \varphi_n \rangle = \delta_{n,m\pm 1} \times V$$

$V < 0$

Again, we use:

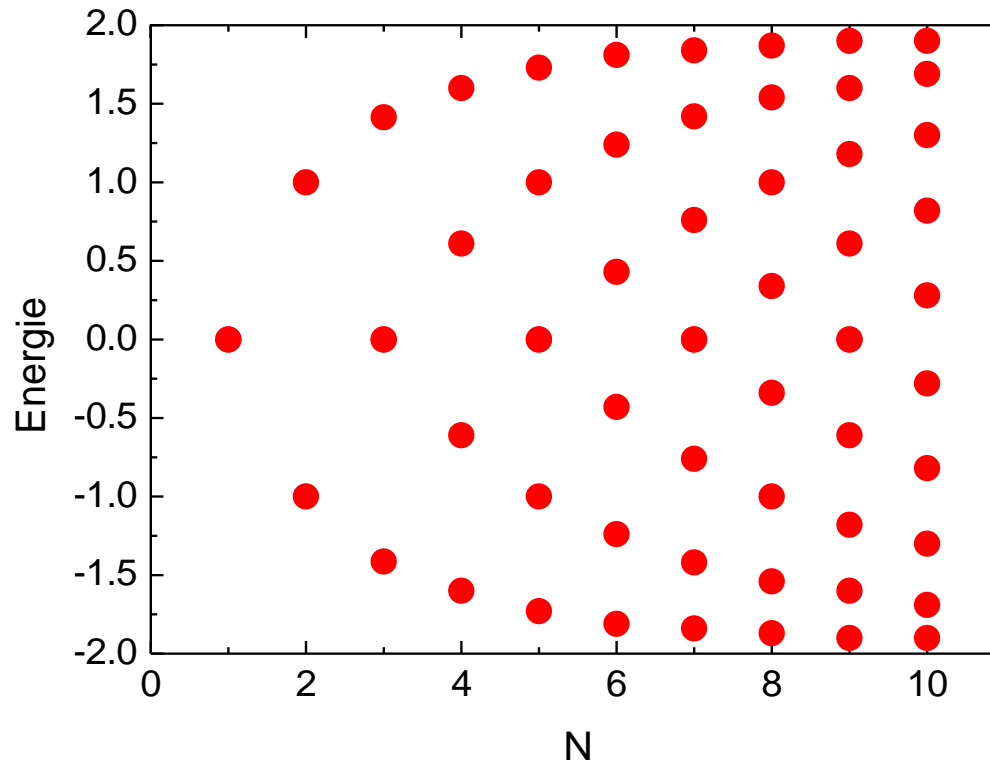
orthogonality $\langle \varphi_n | \varphi_m \rangle = \delta_{nm}$

renormalization $E_n = E_{n0} + \sum_m \langle \varphi_n | V_m | \varphi_n \rangle$

Identical atoms, $E_n = E_0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} E_0 - E & V & 0 & 0 \\ V & E_0 - E & V & 0 \\ 0 & V & E_0 - E & V \\ 0 & 0 & V & E_0 - E \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Energy levels as a function of the number of atoms



Levels are distributed over an energy band of width $\pm 2V$

This behavior appears as soon as $N > 5$

Bloch functions

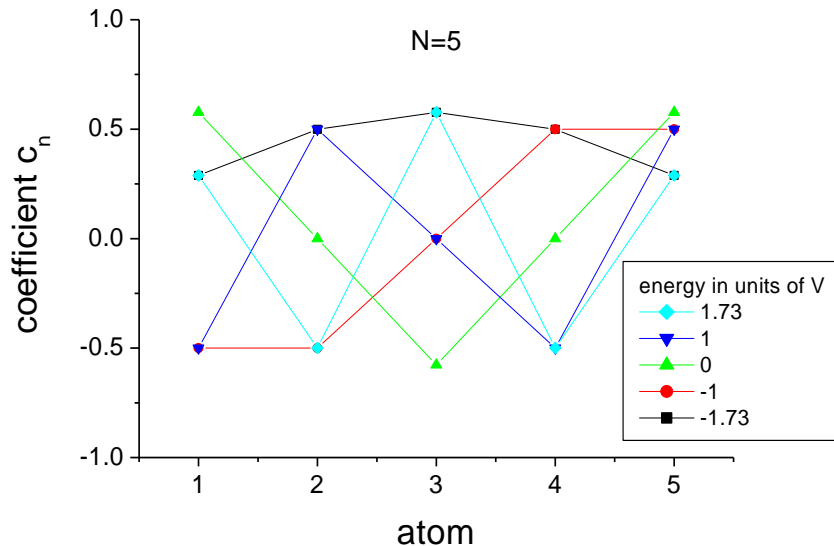
Open chain

what are the new eigen states associated with the energy eigenvalues ?

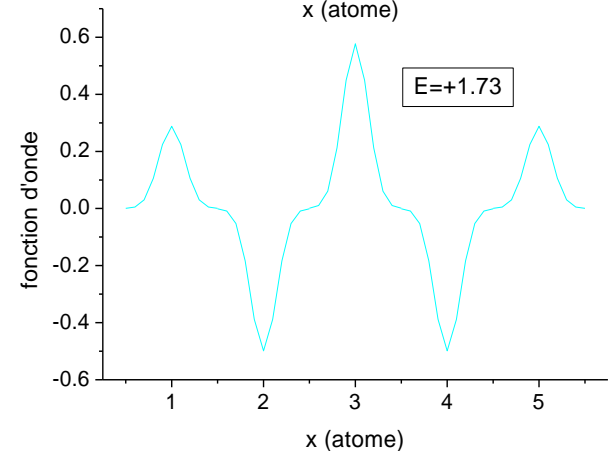
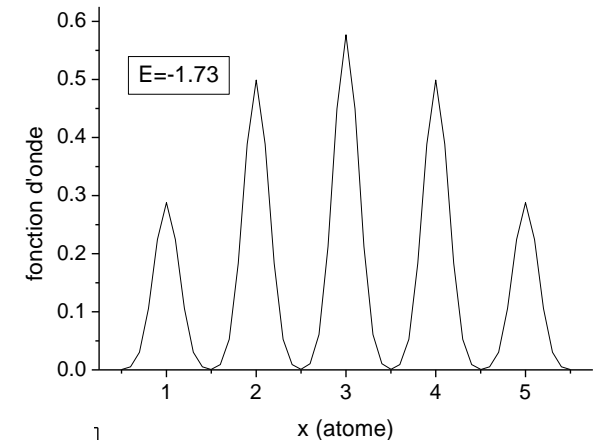
$$\Phi = \sum c_n \varphi_n$$

For each energy, one calculates the c_n coefficient and the wavefunction :

we take φ_n =gaussian centered on each atom n

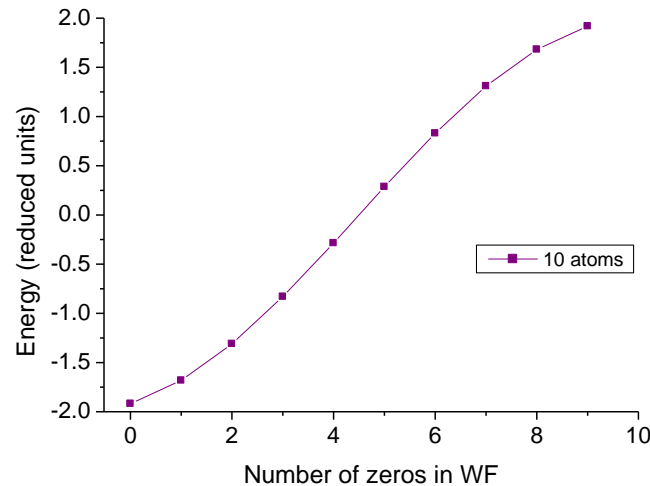
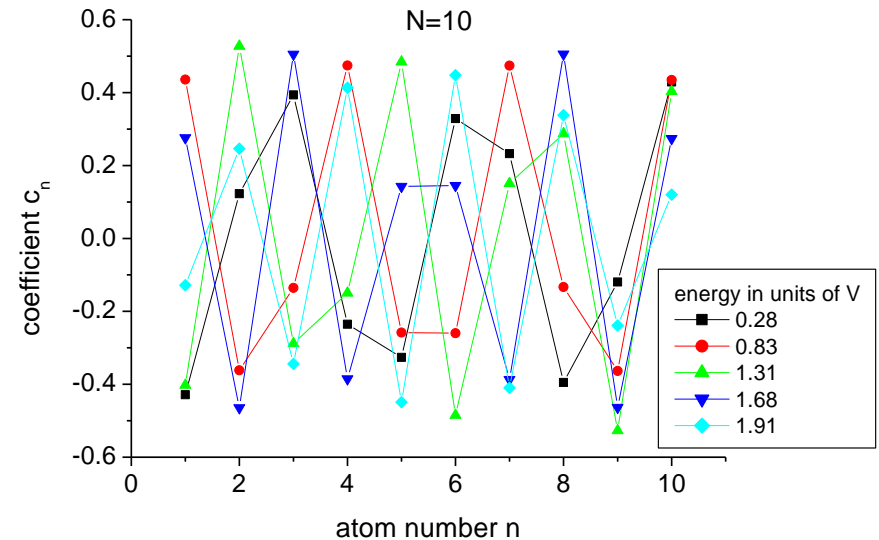
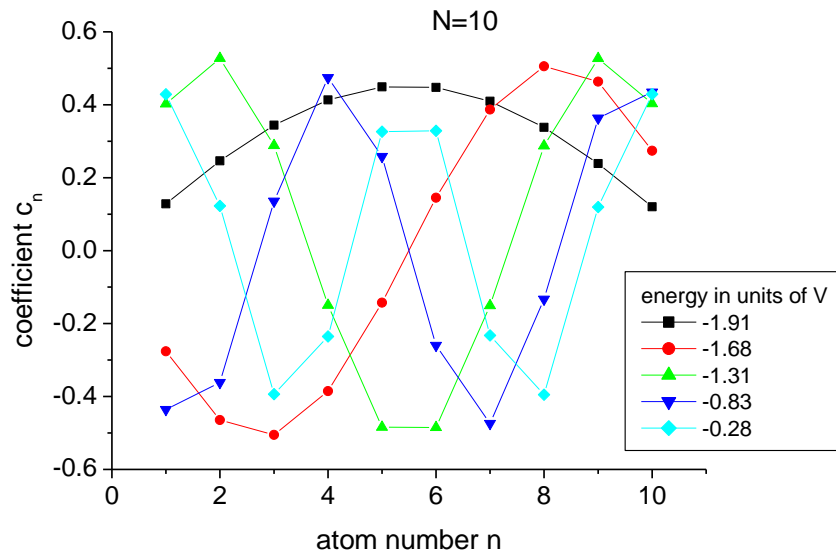


The wavefunction spatially oscillates more when energy increases



eigen states :

$$\Phi = \sum c_n \varphi_n$$



WF amplitude becomes more and more uniform (singular extremities are less visible)

Wavefunction oscillates more in space when energy increases

eigen states :

$$\Phi = \sum c_n \varphi_n$$

For large N, the system is periodic (all atoms identical), **period = a**

$$c_{n-2}V + c_{n-1}(E_0 - E) + c_n V = 0$$

$$c_{n-1}V + c_n(E_0 - E) + c_{n+1}V = 0$$

General solution :

$$c_n = A e^{in\theta} = A e^{inka}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{-ika}V + (E_0 - E) + e^{ika}V = 0 \quad \Rightarrow E = E_0 + 2V \cos(ka)$$

$V < 0$

NB: one initial level per atom \Rightarrow one band

M levels \Rightarrow M bands

$$E = E_0 + 2V \cos(ka)$$

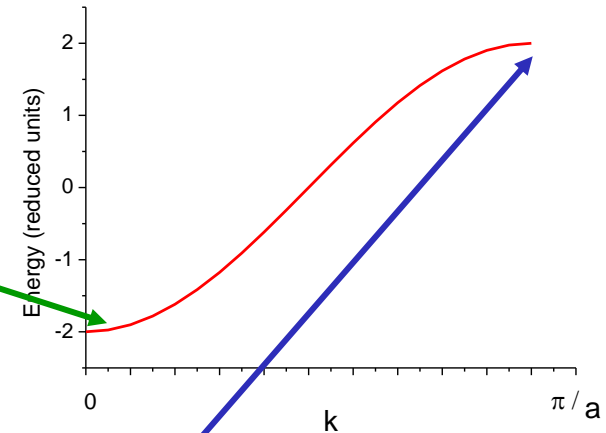
$$V < 0$$

What is the variation range for k ?

Lowest energy: $E - E_0 = -2|V| \Rightarrow k=0$

$$c_n = Ae^{inka} = A$$

Constant wavefunction



Highest energy $E - E_0 = +2|V| \Rightarrow k=\pi/a$

$$c_n = Ae^{inka} = Ae^{in\pi}$$

WF oscillates at each atom (N zeros)

Each eigen state can be indexed by k and $E(k)$:

$$\Phi_k = \sum_n c_n \varphi_n = \sum_n e^{ikna} \varphi_n = \sum_n e^{ikx_n} \varphi(x - x_n) \quad \text{Bloch function in a chain}$$

1D chain with a single
atomic level



3D crystal with \mathbf{m} levels
and \mathbf{j} atoms per unit cell

$$\varphi(x - x_n) \longrightarrow \varphi_{jm}(r - r_{jn})$$

$$e^{ikx_n} \longrightarrow e^{ikr_{jn}}$$

$$\Phi_k \longrightarrow \Phi_{kjm}$$

$$\Phi_{kjm} = \sum_n e^{ikr_{jn}} \varphi_{jm}(r - r_{jn}) \quad \text{Bloch function in a crystal}$$

Sum over the crystal cells, period \mathbf{r}_{jn}

We build the wavefunction on this complete set of Bloch functions :

$$\Psi_k = \sum_{m,j} a_{jm} \Phi_{kjm}$$

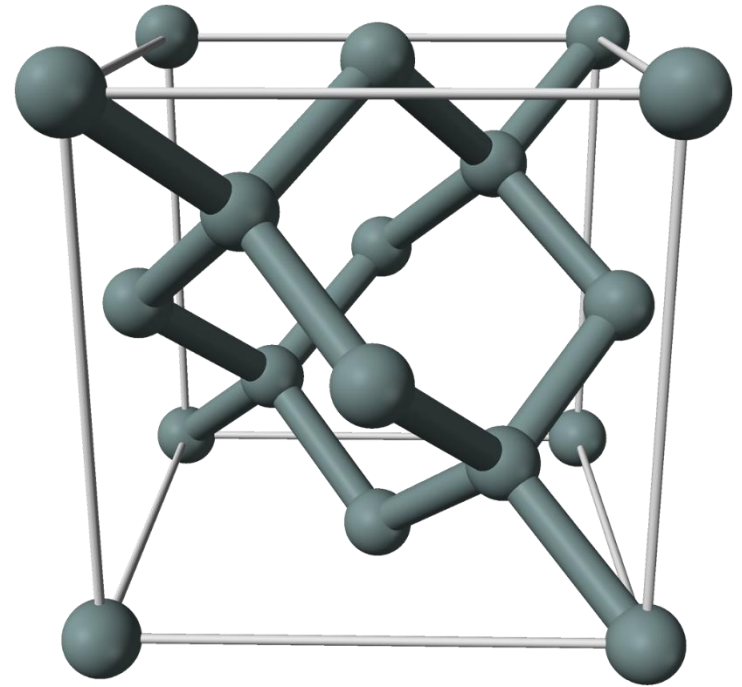
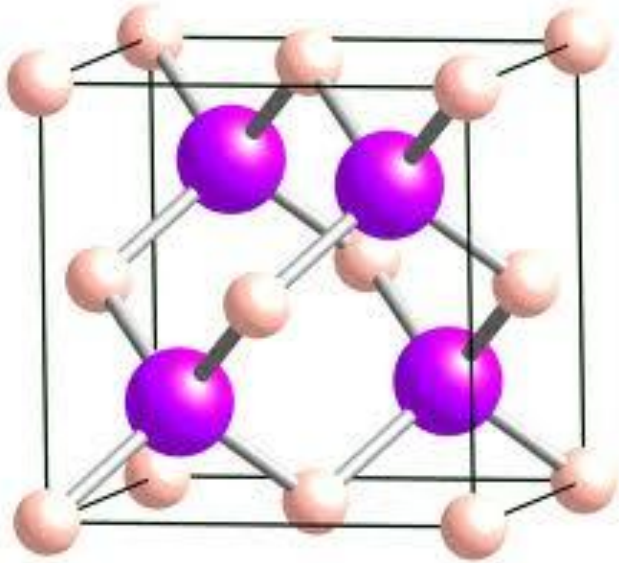
The total system is described by :

$$H\Psi_k = E_k \Psi_k$$

Crystal with cubic symmetry

Crystal structure

Easy case: Zinc blende or diamond (same atom) structure



2 FCC shifted by $\frac{1}{4}$ of diagonal

1 FCC with 2 atoms per lattice point: no inversion symmetry !

4+4 atoms per FCC cell but FCC cell = 4 primitive cells* \Rightarrow **2 atoms per cell ($j=2$)**

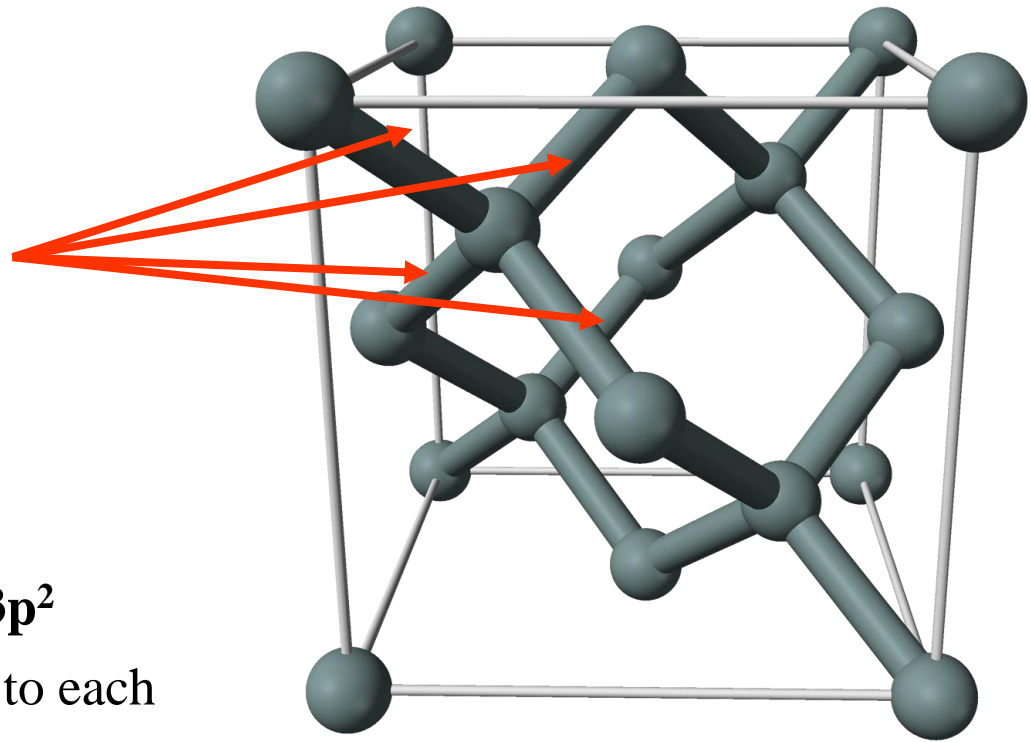
*with unit vectors between a corner and center of adjacent faces of the cube

sp^3

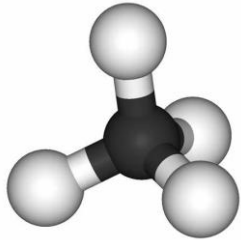
4 bonds for each atom with 109°
angle: sp^3 hybridization

C: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$ and Si: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^2$

The electronic orbitals which couple to each other are the most external: s and p.



Methane



C: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2 \Rightarrow$ C: $1s^2 4 \times sp^3$

With 109° bonds to
maximize the
distance between H

4 levels per atom are needed in the calculation (**m=4**)

Crystal structure

Hybrid functions sp^3

atom 1

$$\varphi_1 = s + p_x + p_y + p_z$$

$$\varphi_2 = s + p_x - p_y - p_z$$

$$\varphi_3 = s - p_x + p_y - p_z$$

$$\varphi_4 = s - p_x - p_y + p_z$$

atom 2

$$\varphi_1' = s' - p'_x - p'_y - p'_z$$

$$\varphi_2' = s' - p'_x + p'_y + p'_z$$

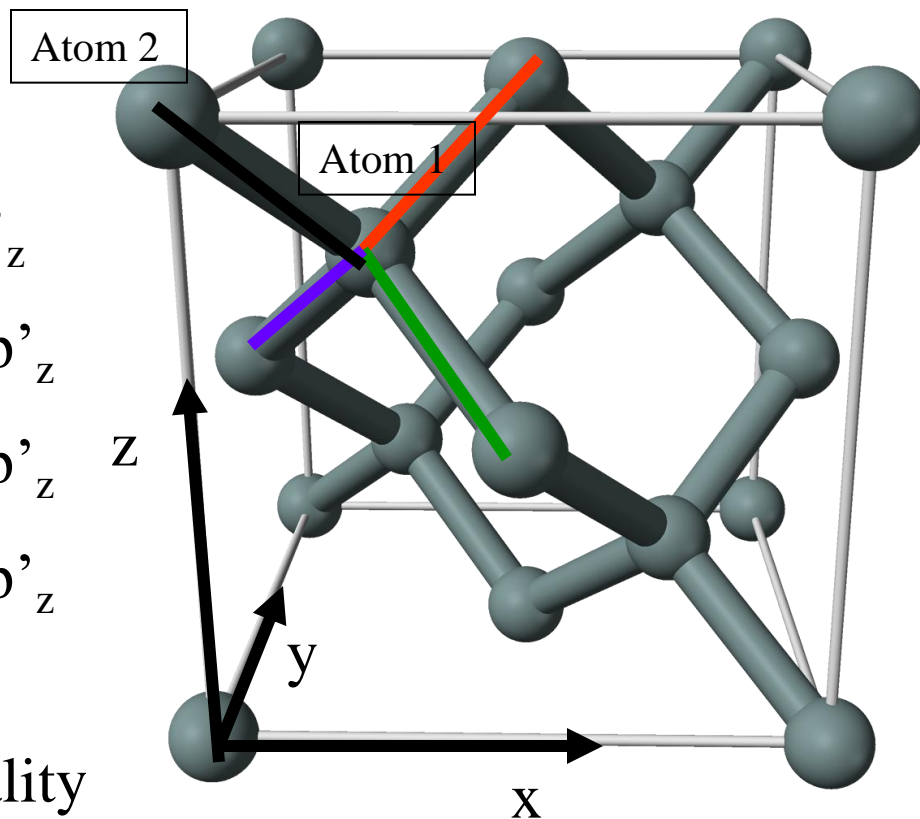
$$\varphi_3' = s' + p'_x - p'_y + p'_z$$

$$\varphi_4' = s' + p'_x + p'_y - p'_z$$

$$\langle \varphi_i | \varphi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \quad \text{orthogonality}$$

$$\langle \varphi_i | V_i | \varphi_j' \rangle = -A \delta_{ij}$$

For i and j orbital pointing towards each other and interaction restricted to nearest neighbor



Band structure calculation

$$(H - E)\Psi_k = (H - E) \sum_{m,j} a_{jm} \sum_n e^{ikr_{jn}} \varphi_{jm}(r - r_{jn}) = 0$$

level: 1,2,3,4 \rightarrow m, j
 \swarrow \searrow
 1,2 : atom All atomic cells of the crystal

The sum over all cells (Σ_n) leads to the contribution of the 4 nearest neighbours

Projection on the 8 $\varphi_{j,m}$ functions,

\Rightarrow 8 linear relations \Rightarrow Determinant $D_8=0 \Rightarrow$ 8 solutions = 8 bands

Band structure calculation

Case of diamond

The basis is the hybrid orbitals $\varphi_{1,2,3,4}$ and $\varphi'_{1,2,3,4}$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 \varphi_1 & \varphi_2 & \varphi_3 & \varphi_4 & \varphi'_1 & \varphi'_2 & \varphi'_3 & \varphi'_4 \\
 \left[\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 E - E_m & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & A\alpha_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & E - E_m & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & 0 & A\alpha_1 & 0 & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & \delta/2 & E - E_m & \delta/2 & 0 & 0 & A\alpha_2 & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & E - E_m & 0 & 0 & 0 & A\alpha_3 \\
 A\alpha_0^* & 0 & 0 & 0 & E - E_m & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 \\
 0 & A\alpha_1^* & 0 & 0 & \delta/2 & E - E_m & \delta/2 & \delta/2 \\
 0 & 0 & A\alpha_2^* & 0 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & E - E_m & \delta/2 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & A\alpha_3^* & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & E - E_m
 \end{array} \right] = 0
 \end{array}$$

with

Mean energy

$$E_m = (E_s + 3E_p)/4$$

$$\delta = (E_p - E_s)/2$$

$$\alpha_0 = e^{ikr_0}$$

$$r_0 = (0,0,0)$$

$$\alpha_1 = e^{ikr_1}$$

$$r_1 = (1/2, 1/2, 0)$$

$$\alpha_2 = e^{ikr_2}$$

$$r_2 = (1/2, 0, 1/2)$$

$$\alpha_3 = e^{ikr_3}$$

$$r_3 = (0, 1/2, 1/2)$$

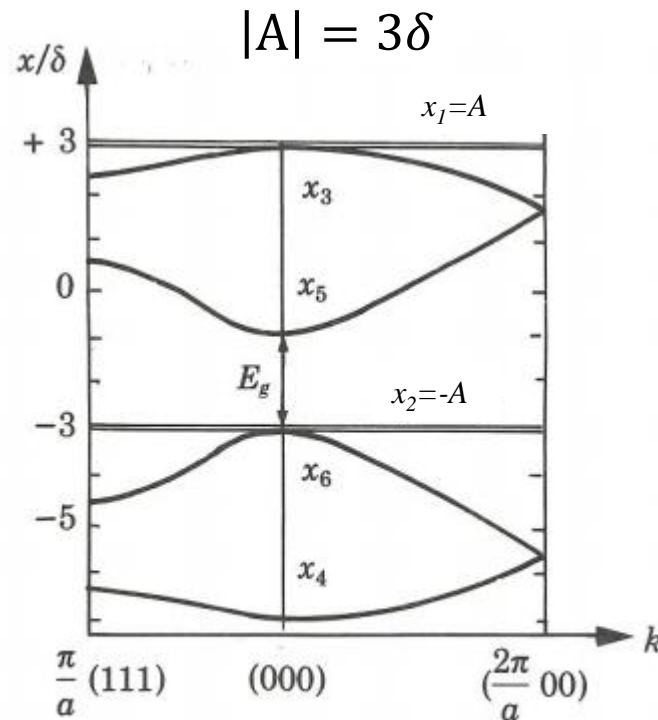
Crystal structure,
symmetry is involved here
only, between atom 1 and
atom 2

$$x = E - E_p; \quad \phi = 1/4 \sum \alpha_n \quad \delta = \frac{(E_p - E_s)}{2}$$

$$(x^2 - A^2)^2 (x^2 + 2\delta x - A^2 + 2\delta A\phi)(x^2 + 2\delta x - A^2 - 2\delta A\phi) = 0$$

8 bands:

- $x = E - E_p = \pm A$, flat bands, doubly degenerate
- 4 non degenerate bands



Complicated ! Let us focus at $k=0$ (Γ)

Cubic case at k=0

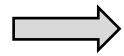
$$\alpha_0 = e^{ikr_0}$$

$$\alpha_1 = e^{ikr_1}$$

$$\alpha_2 = e^{ikr_2}$$

$$\alpha_3 = e^{ikr_3}$$

} = 1



$$\phi = 1/4 \sum \alpha_n = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^2 - A^2)^2 (x^2 + 2\delta x - A^2 + 2\delta A) (x^2 + 2\delta x - A^2 - 2\delta A) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^2 - A^2)^2 (x + A)(x + 2\delta - A) (x - A)(x + 2\delta + A) = 0$$

$$x = E - E_p \quad \delta = \frac{(E_p - E_s)}{2}$$

$$x = A \text{ (}\times 3\text{)} \Rightarrow E = E_p + A$$

$$\Rightarrow x = A - 2\delta \text{ (}\times 1\text{)} \Rightarrow E = E_s + A$$

$$x = -A \text{ (}\times 3\text{)} \Rightarrow E = E_p - A$$

$$x = -A - 2\delta \text{ (}\times 1\text{)} \Rightarrow E = E_s - A$$

Cubic case at $k=0$

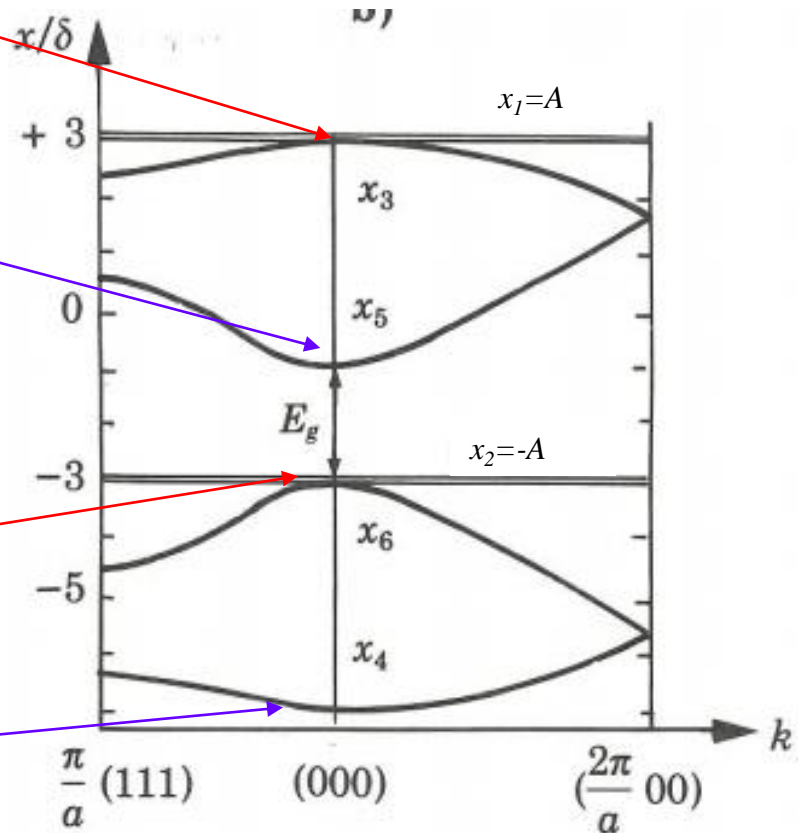
$$E = E_p + A \quad (\times 3)$$

$$E = E_s + A \quad (\times 1)$$

$$E_g = 2(A - \delta) = 2A - (E_p - E_s)$$

$$E = E_p - A \quad (\times 3)$$

$$E = E_s - A \quad (\times 1)$$



We focus on the eigen value $E = E_p - A$, we have 3 degenerate bands (valence bands) and we try to find the 3 eigen vectors

Cubic case $k=0$ and $E=E_p - A$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 \varphi_1 & \varphi_2 & \varphi_3 & \varphi_4 & \varphi'_1 & \varphi'_2 & \varphi'_3 & \varphi'_4 \\
 -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & A & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & A & 0 & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & 0 & A & 0 \\
 \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & 0 & 0 & A \\
 A & 0 & 0 & 0 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 \\
 0 & A & 0 & 0 & \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 \\
 0 & 0 & A & 0 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2 & \delta/2 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & A & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & \delta/2 & -A+\delta/2
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 c_1 \\
 c_2 \\
 c_3 \\
 c_4 \\
 c'_1 \\
 c'_2 \\
 c'_3 \\
 c'_4
 \end{pmatrix}
 =
 \begin{pmatrix}
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0
 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solve the system to find the c_i coefficients...

Cubic case at $k=0$ and $E=E_p - A$

One finds :

$$WF_1 = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - \varphi_3 - \varphi_4 + \varphi'_1 + \varphi'_2 - \varphi'_3 - \varphi'_4 \sim p_x - p'_x$$

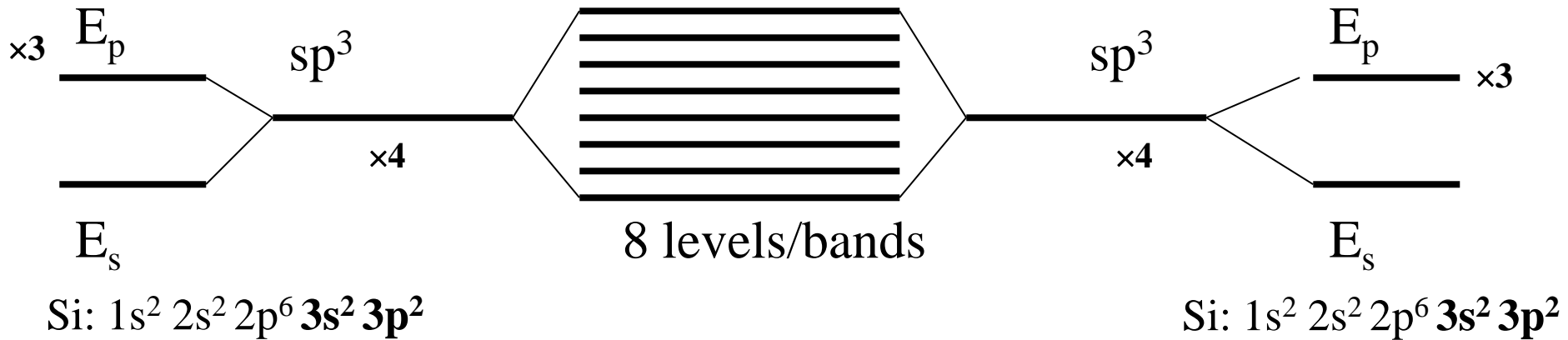
$$WF_2 \sim p_y - p'_y$$

$$WF_3 \sim p_z - p'_z$$

The 3 eigen vectors corresponding to the 3 fold degenerate bands at Γ in a cubic crystal are p_x, p_y, p_z orbitals ! Not a real surprise !

In this basis, the Hamiltonian of a cubic crystal for the valence band at Γ is

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E \end{pmatrix}$$



- Some levels might be degenerated for some values of k
- In particular, at $k=0$, $\times 3$ degeneracy with p_x, p_y, p_z wavefunctions
- Could it be expected ?

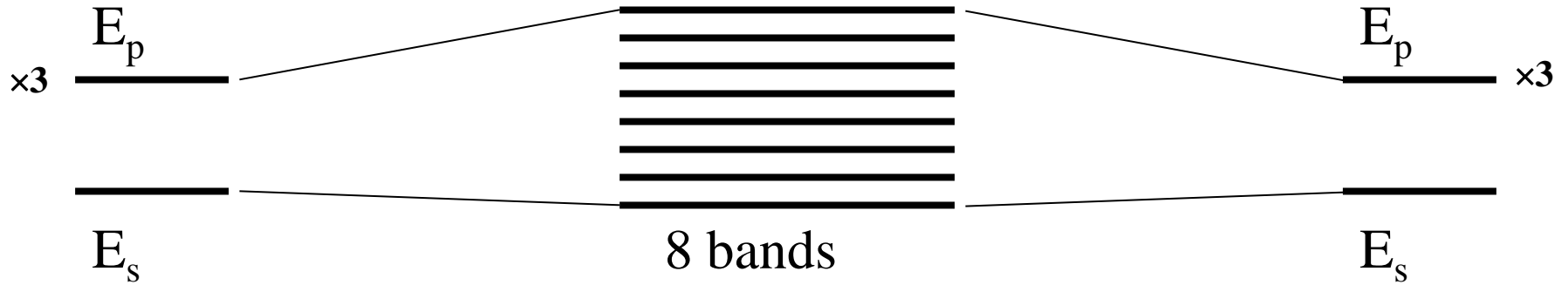
Alternatively, one can keep the s and p orbitals for the basis and obtain a similar determinant (through a change of basis) and the same energies (Chadi and Cohen)

$$\begin{vmatrix}
 & S1 & X1 & Y1 & Z1 & S2 & X2 & Y2 & Z2 \\
 S1 & E_s - E_k & 0 & 0 & 0 & V_{ss}g_1 & V_{sp}g_2 & V_{sp}g_3 & V_{sp}g_4 \\
 X1 & 0 & E_p - E_k & 0 & 0 & -V_{sp}g_2 & V_{xx}g_1 & V_{xy}g_4 & V_{xy}g_3 \\
 Y1 & 0 & 0 & E_p - E_k & 0 & -V_{sp}g_3 & V_{xy}g_4 & V_{xx}g_1 & V_{xy}g_2 \\
 Z1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & E_p - E_k & -V_{sp}g_4 & V_{xy}g_3 & V_{xy}g_2 & V_{xx}g_1 \\
 S2 & V_{ss}g_1^* & -V_{sp}g_2^* & -V_{sp}g_3^* & -V_{sp}g_4^* & E_s - E_k & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 X2 & V_{sp}g_2^* & V_{xx}g_1^* & V_{xy}g_4^* & V_{xy}g_3^* & 0 & E_p - E_k & 0 & 0 \\
 Y2 & V_{sp}g_3^* & V_{xy}g_4^* & V_{xx}g_1^* & V_{xy}g_2^* & 0 & 0 & E_p - E_k & 0 \\
 Z2 & V_{sp}g_4^* & V_{xy}g_3^* & V_{xy}g_2^* & V_{xx}g_1^* & 0 & 0 & 0 & E_p - E_k
 \end{vmatrix}$$

$=0$

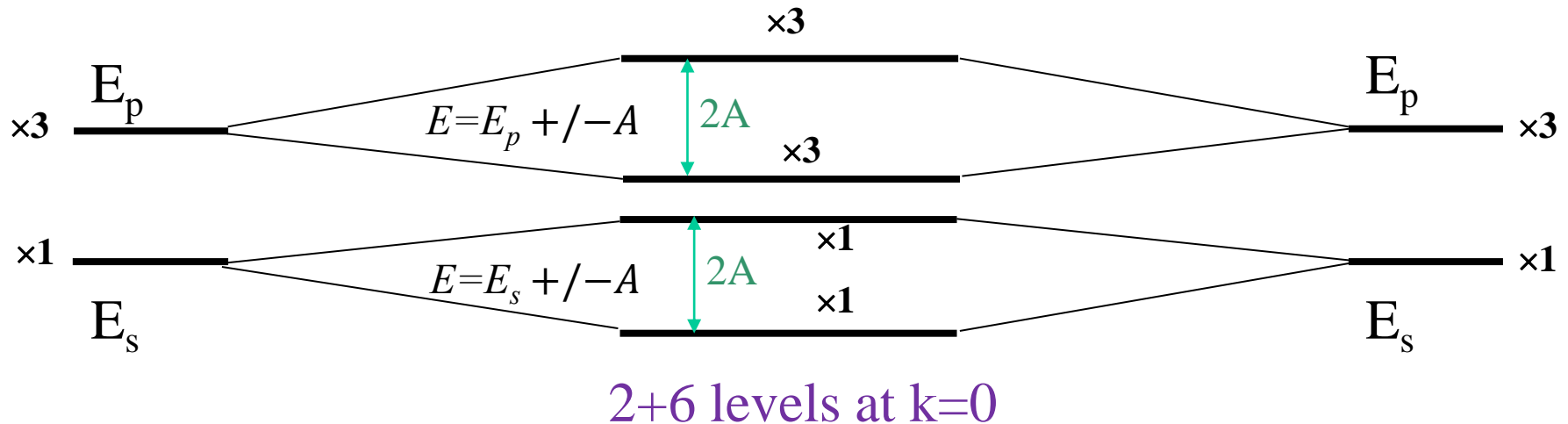
with

$$\begin{cases}
 g_1(\mathbf{k}) = [e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_4}] \\
 g_2(\mathbf{k}) = [e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_4}] \\
 g_3(\mathbf{k}) = [e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_4}] \\
 g_4(\mathbf{k}) = [e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_1} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_2} - e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_3} + e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{d}_4}]
 \end{cases}$$



At $\mathbf{k}=\mathbf{0}$, the picture is simple: the symmetry of the system (crystal+electron wavefunction) becomes the symmetry of the crystal ($e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}=1=\text{constant}$ in the crystal)

\Rightarrow We can expect that the electronic levels at $\mathbf{k}=\mathbf{0}$ keep the cubic symmetry (*the symmetry group of the $k=0$ vector is the crystal symmetry group*)

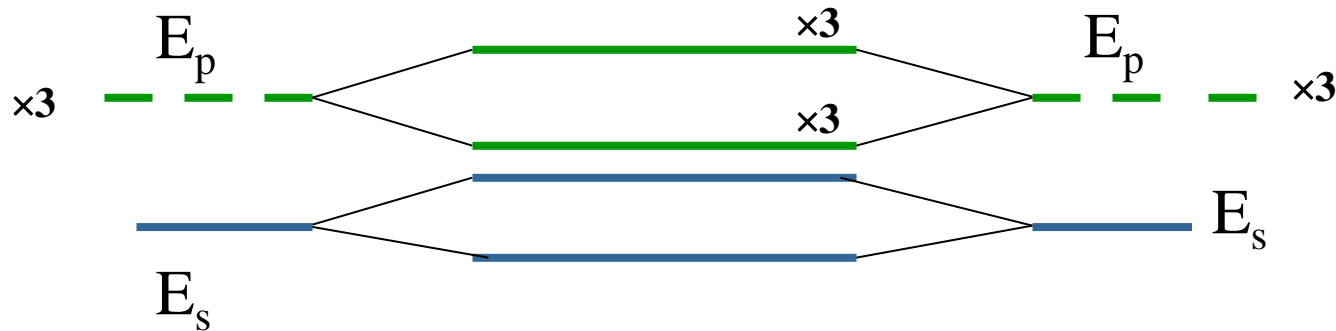


Question: ordering of the singulets and triplets ? What is the important parameter for the ordering ?

Metal versus semiconductor

$$\mathbf{k=0}$$

$$2|A| < 2\delta = E_p - E_s$$



We have to fill the bands (the level here at $\mathbf{k=0}$) with all electrons

C: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$

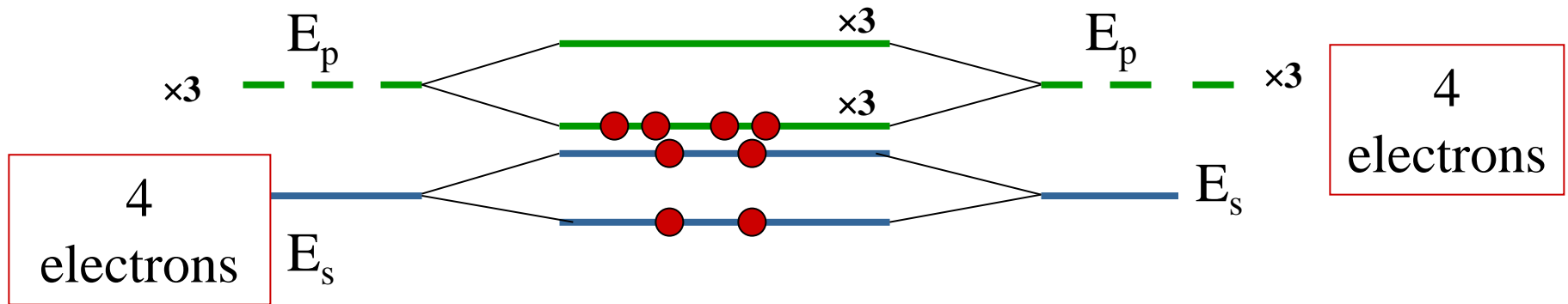
Si: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^2$

How many ?

Metal versus semiconductor

$$\mathbf{k}=0$$

$$2|A| < 2\delta = E_p - E_s$$



C: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$

Si: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^2$

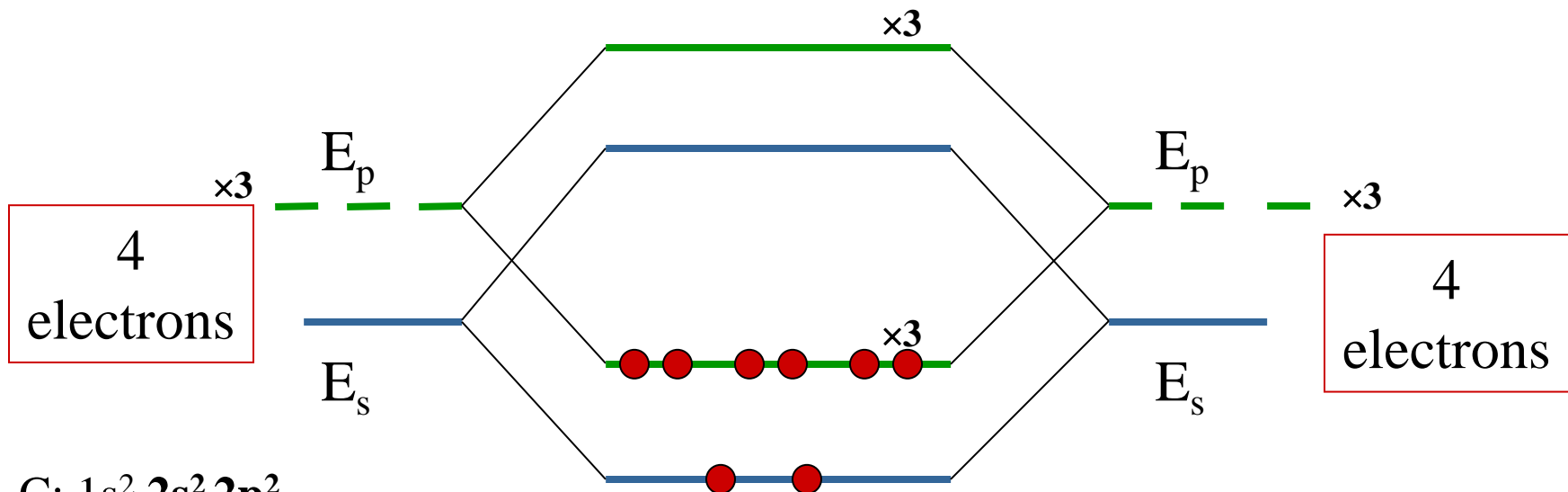
2 electrons per level (spin)

The Fermi level is in a band: metal

Metal versus semiconductor

$$\mathbf{k}=0$$

$$2|A| > 2\delta = E_p - E_s$$



C: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$

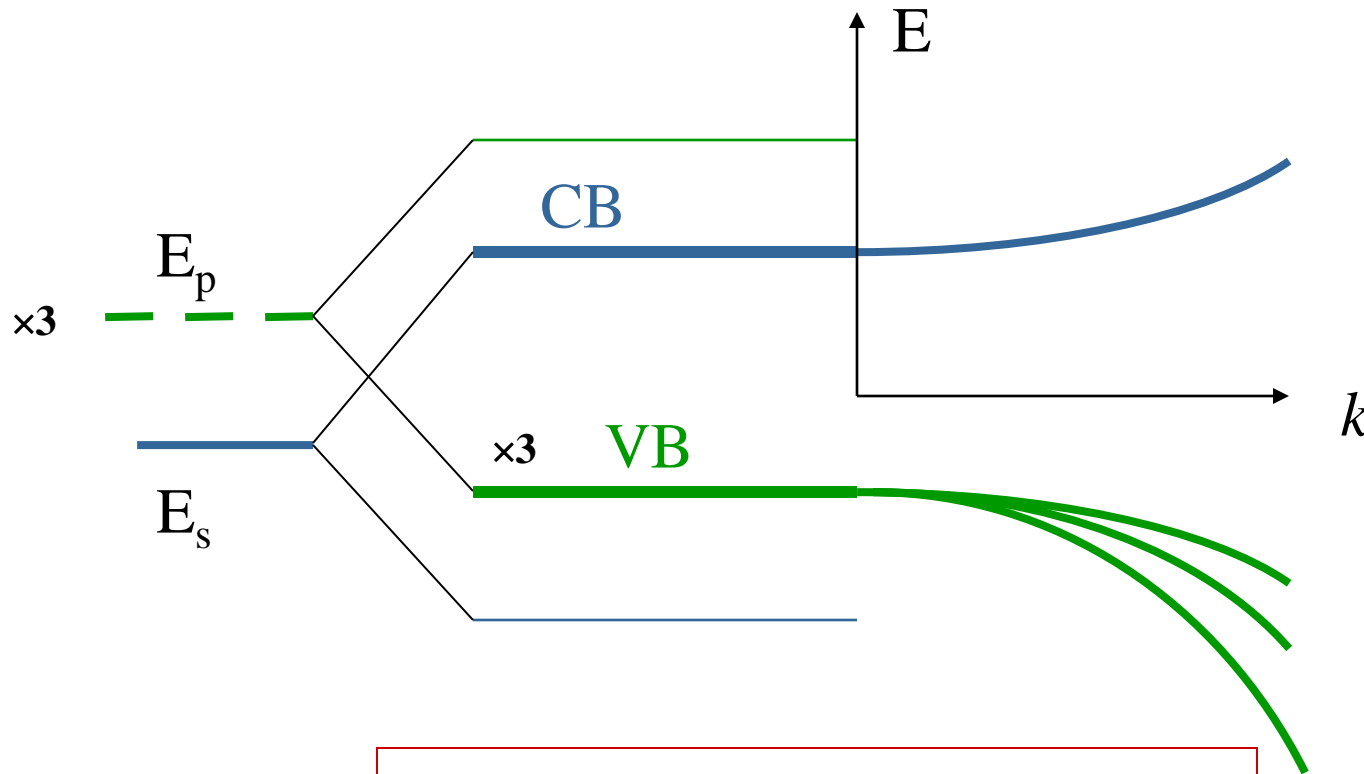
Si: $1s^2 2s^2 2p^6 3s^2 3p^2$

2 electrons per level (spin)

The Fermi level is between two bands: insulator or semiconductor with a gap between valence and conduction bands, equal to

$$E_g = E_s + A - (E_p - A) = E_s - E_p + 2A$$

Band structure calculation

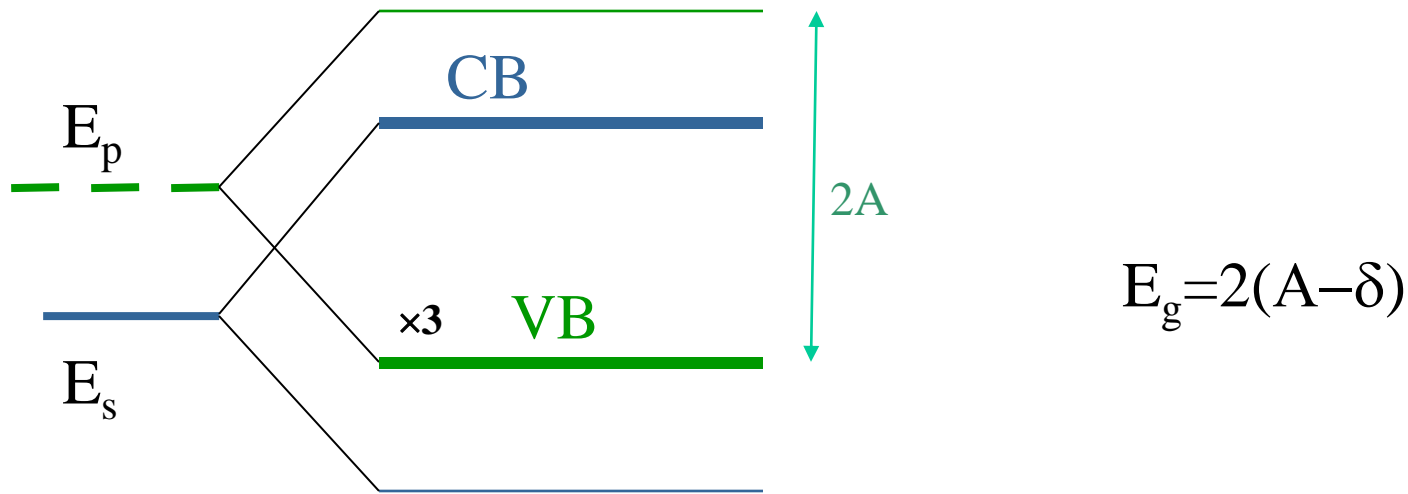


$k=0$: VB = pure p ; CB= pure s *

$k \neq 0$: CB and VB mixt s and p

* within this model

Band structure calculation



CB-VB \equiv Gap

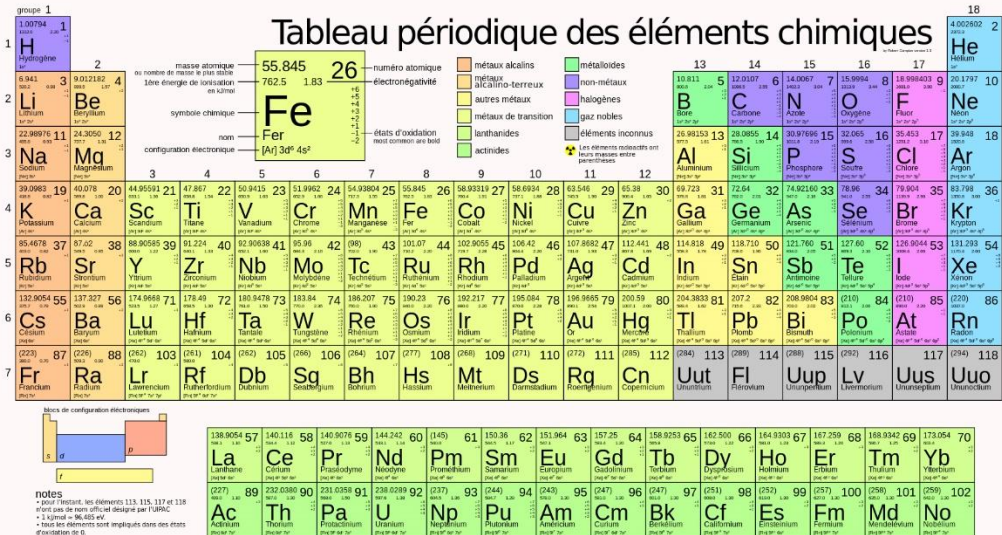
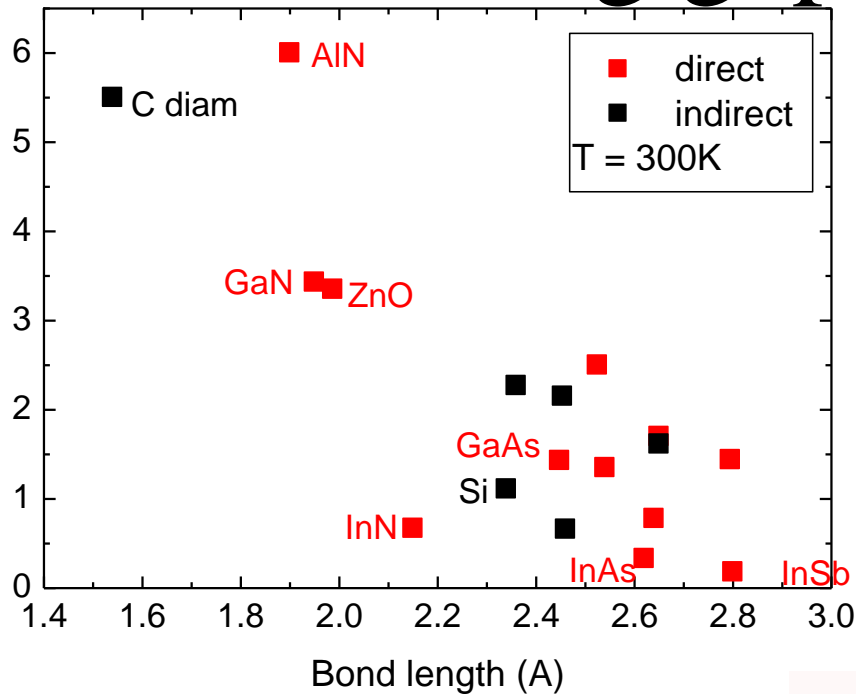
E_{gap} increases with A : $\langle \varphi_i | V_i | \varphi_j \rangle = -A$ increases for short bonds

$E_p - E_s \approx \text{cte}$ for usual atoms :

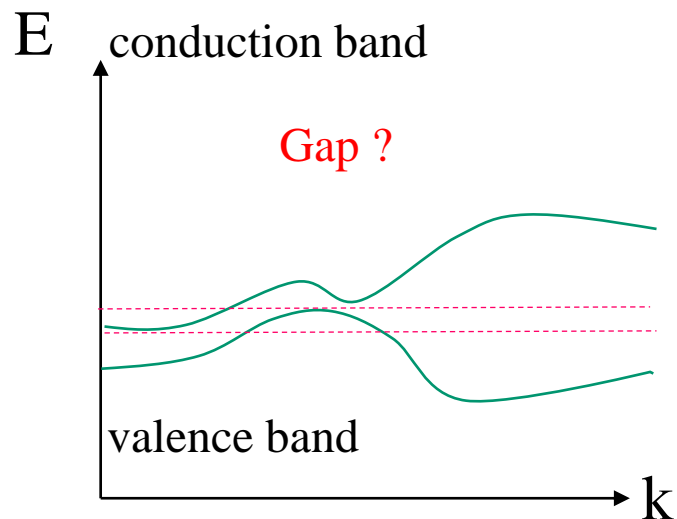
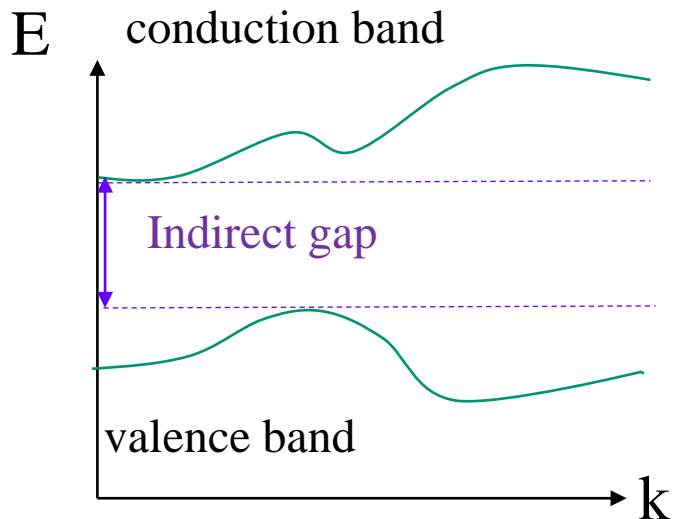
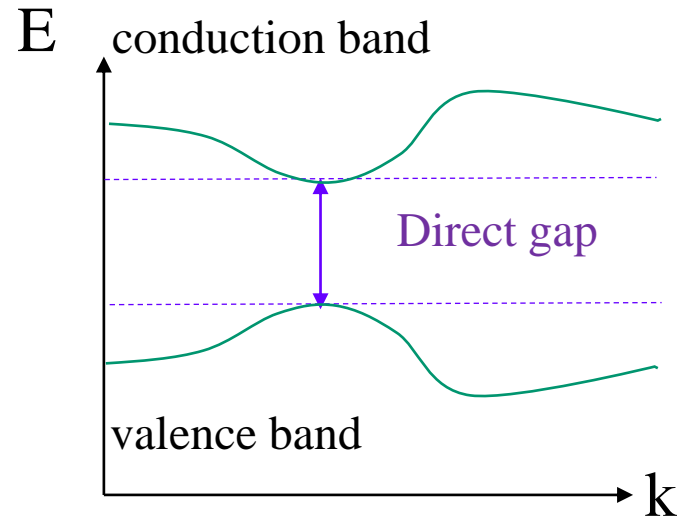
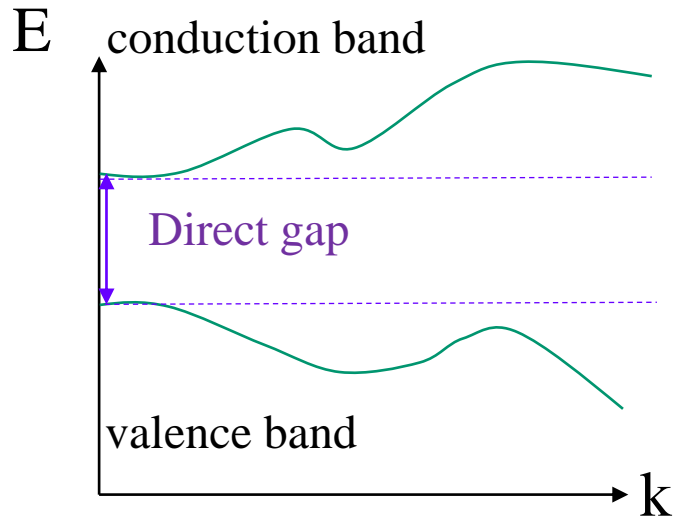
	C	Si	Ge
$E_p - E_s$ (eV)	7.4	7.2	8.41

Prediction: Gap larger with shorter bonds

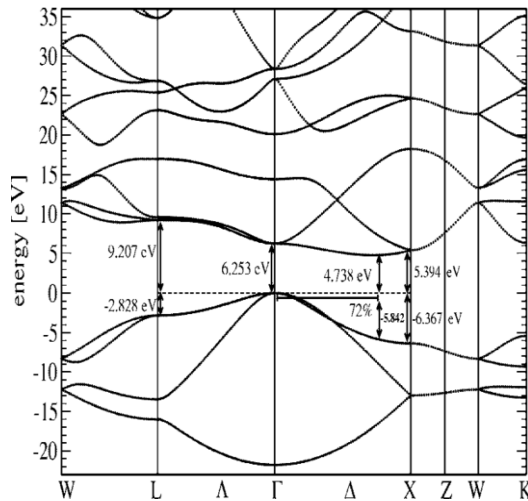
Bang gap versus bond



direct or indirect bandgap

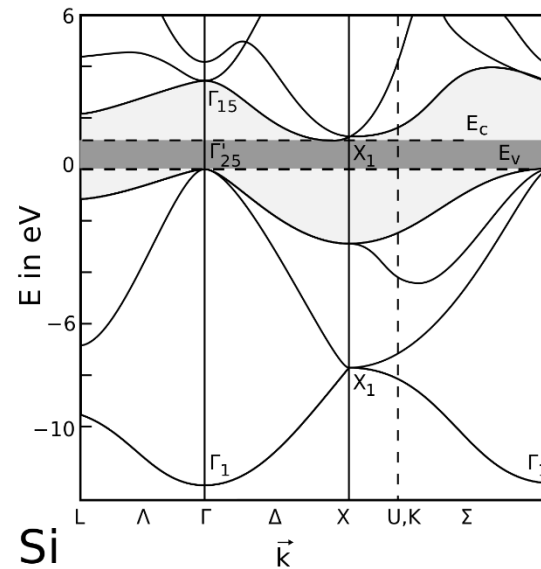


Group IV semiconductors



Diamant (C)

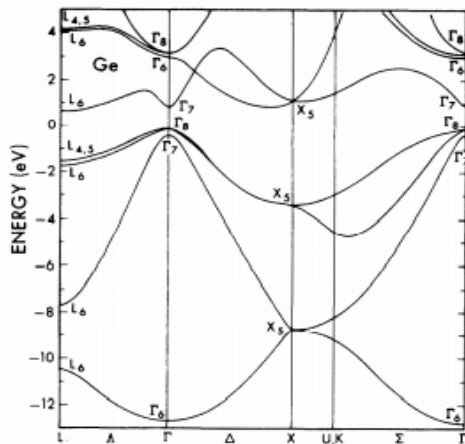
$$E_g = 5.5 \text{ eV}$$



$$E_g = 1.12 \text{ eV}$$

(SO négligé. En fait $E_{so} = 44 \text{ meV}$)

6 minima de BC
en X = (100)



8 minima de BC
en L = (111)

$$E_g = 0.67 \text{ eV}$$

All indirect gap SC: but can
become direct under pressure.
This cannot be simply predicted

When Z increases:

- Gap decreases 😊
- VB splitting (2+1) at $k=0$ ☹️?

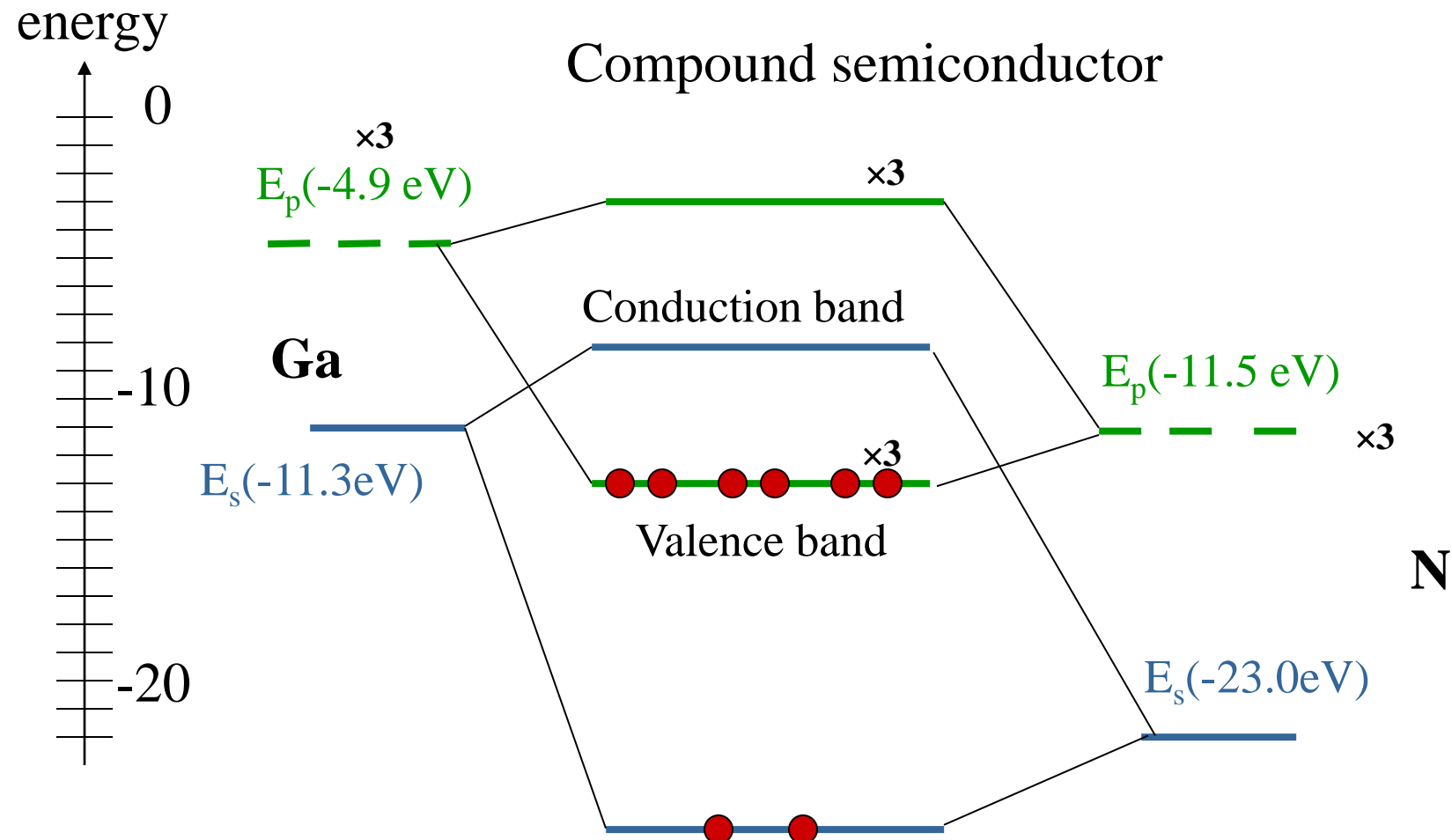
From Si to III-V

We obtained the band structure of a column IV diamond crystal with no spin

- To get cubic GaN with no spin: introduce atom 1 \neq atome 2

Cubic GaN

Band structure calculation



Remember remark in slide 16 on the wavefunction probability in the molecule with 2 different atoms

Valence band is more element V (N)

Conduction band is more element III (Ga)

Cubic materials

φ_1	φ_2	φ_3	φ_4	φ'_1	φ'_2	φ'_3	φ'_4	
$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$A\alpha_0$	0	0	0	= 0
$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	0	$A\alpha_1$	0	0	
$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	0	0	$A\alpha_2$	0	
$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	0	0	0	$A\alpha_3$	
$A\alpha_0^*$	0	0	0	$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	
0	$A\alpha_1^*$	0	0	$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	
0	0	$A\alpha_2^*$	0	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	$\delta/2$	
0	0	0	$A\alpha_3^*$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$\delta/2$	$E - E_m$	
Ga				N				

$$E_m^{Ga} = (E_s^{Ga} + 3E_p^{Ga})/4$$

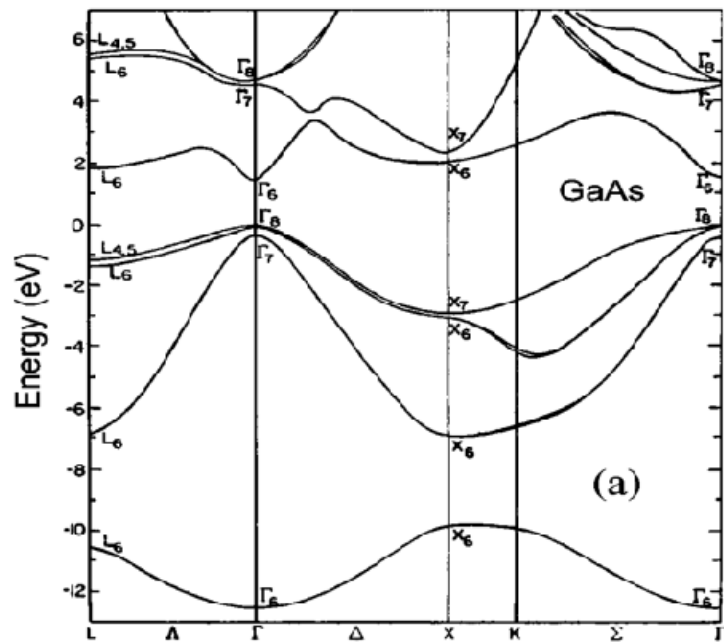
$$\delta^{Ga} = (E_p^{Ga} - E_s^{Ga})/2$$

$$E_m^N = (E_s^N + 3E_p^N)/4$$

$$\delta^N = (E_p^N - E_s^N)/2$$

$$-A = \langle \varphi_{Ga,m} | V_{Ga} | \varphi'_{N,m} \rangle = \langle \varphi_{Ga,m} | V'_N | \varphi'_{N,m} \rangle$$

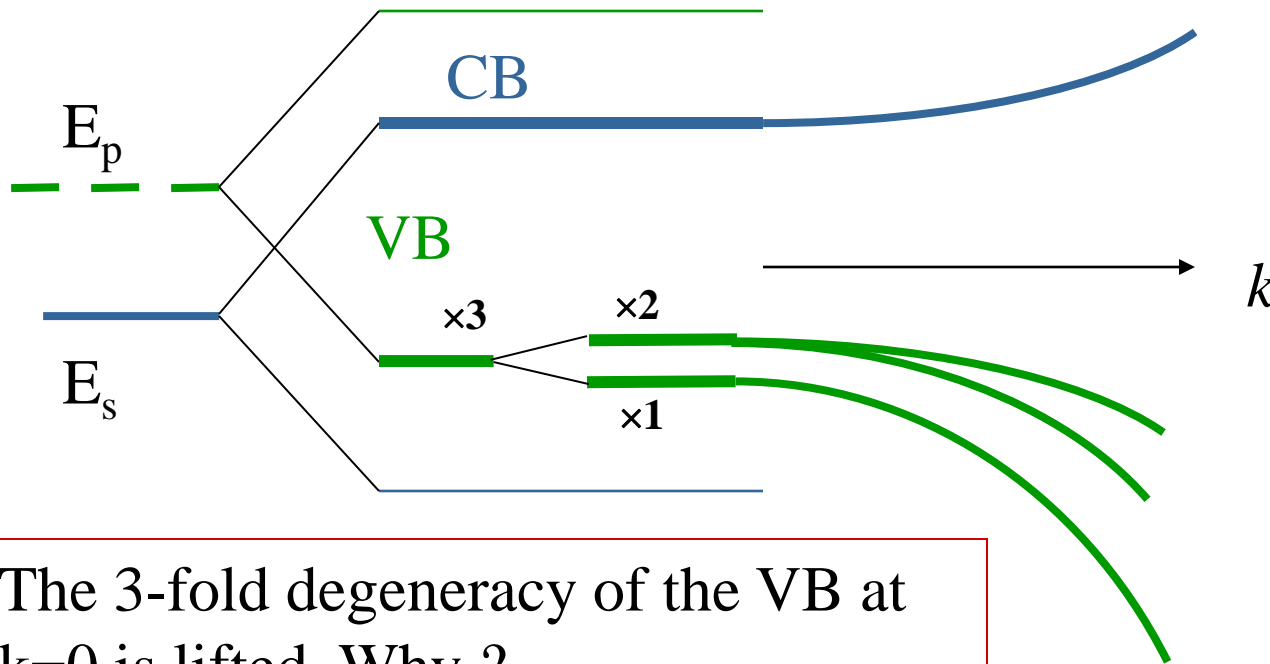
Remember slide 14, remark on hermitian Hamiltonian



NB: GaP has an indirect gap: cannot be easily predicted

GaAs with spin

Band structure calculation

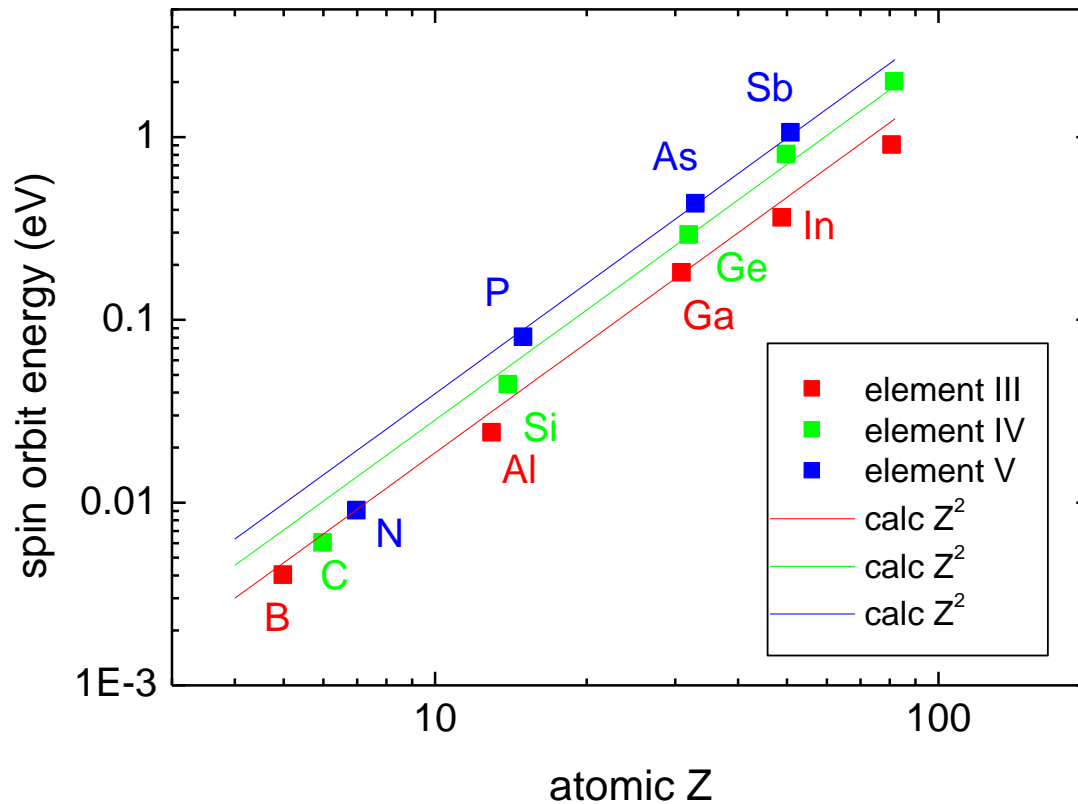


The 3-fold degeneracy of the VB at $k=0$ is lifted. Why ?

Spin orbit interaction splits the levels with different $J \Rightarrow 2+1$

Band structure

Spin orbit coupling in **atoms**: $H = \mu B_{rel} = \frac{e}{2m^2 c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S}$



Relativistic effect

Depends on electron orbit (weak for external layer) and cinetic moment

Depends on atom size (dV/dr) as Z^2

Weak for light atoms in particular for N

Spin orbit splitting in **semiconductors** :
$$H = \frac{e}{2m^2c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S}$$

\Rightarrow separates levels with different orbital moments.

In direct semiconductors, and in particular close to the Γ point, the conduction band is made of s states ($l=0, j=1/2$) and the valence band is made of p states ($l=1, j=1/2$ or $3/2$)

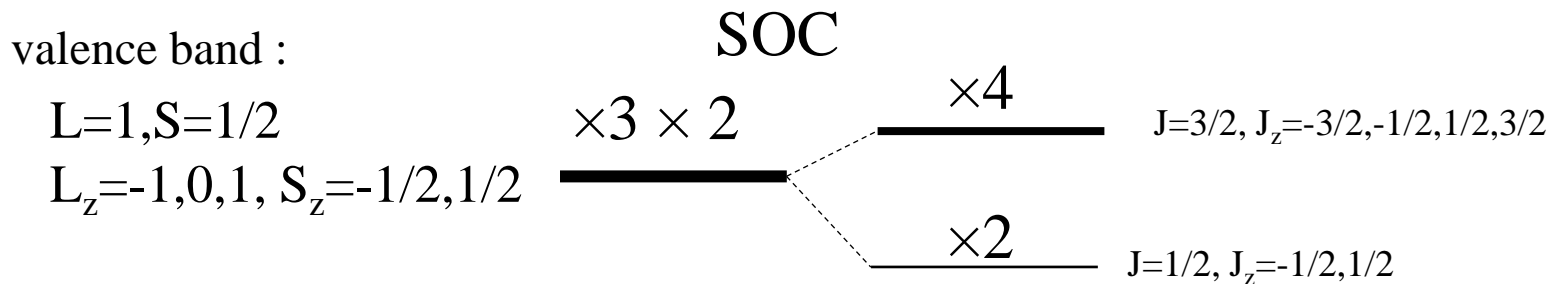
\Rightarrow No effect on conduction band

\Rightarrow Splitting of the valence band Δ_{so}

$$2\vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} = (\vec{L} + \vec{S})^2 - \vec{L}^2 - \vec{S}^2 = \vec{J}^2 - \vec{L}^2 - \vec{S}^2 = J(J+1) - L(L+1) - S(S+1)$$

$$J=3/2 \Rightarrow \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} = 1/2 [3/2(3/2+1) - 1(1+1) - 1/2(1/2+1)] = 1/2$$

$$J=1/2 \Rightarrow \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S} = 1/2 [1/2(1/2+1) - 1(1+1) - 1/2(1/2+1)] = -1$$



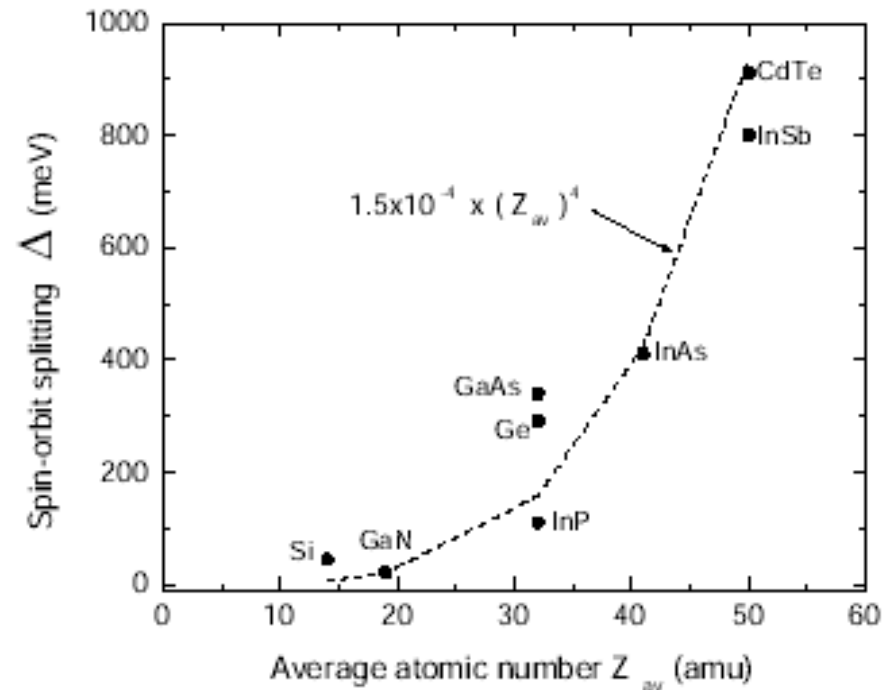
NB: we do not have $E(k, \uparrow) = E(k, \downarrow)$ any more but we still have $E(k, \uparrow) = E(-k, \downarrow)$ (Kramers degeneracy, time symmetry)

Band structure

Spin orbit splitting in **semiconductors** :
$$H = \frac{e}{2m^2c^2} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial V}{\partial r} \vec{L} \cdot \vec{S}$$

As for atoms, SO in light semiconductors is small

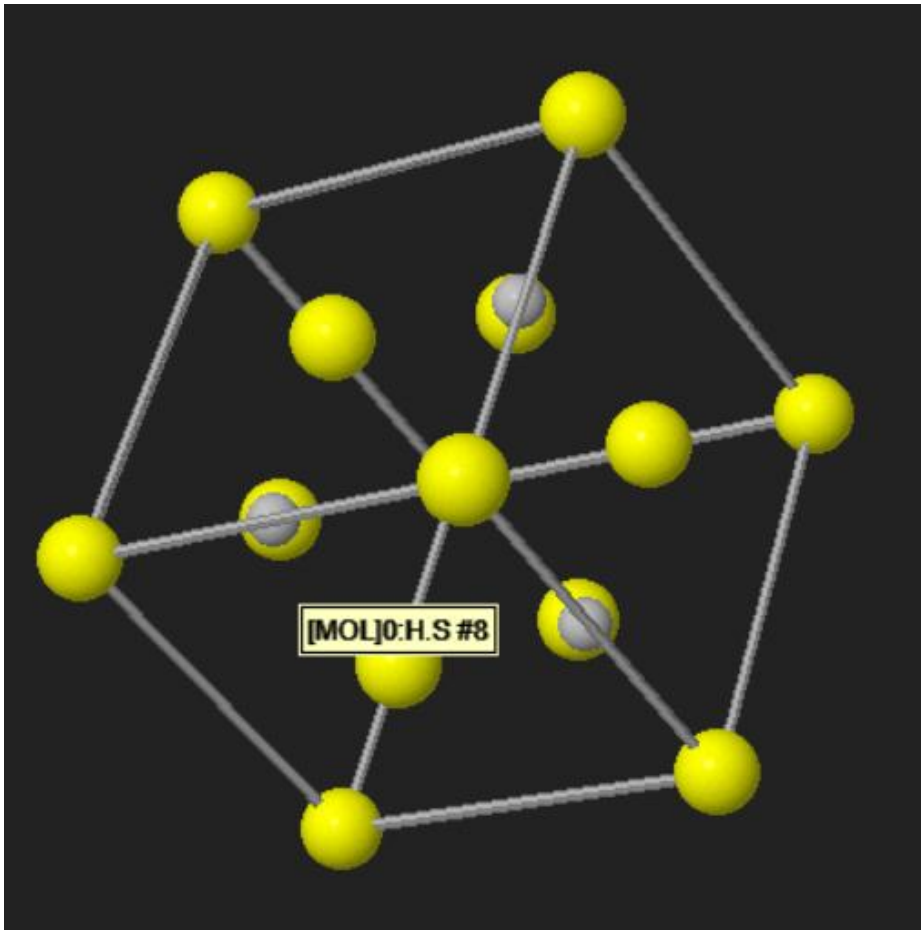
More precisely: Valence band is dominated by p states coming from N: SO larger in GaAs than in GaN, but comparable in AlN and GaN



Wurtzite GaN

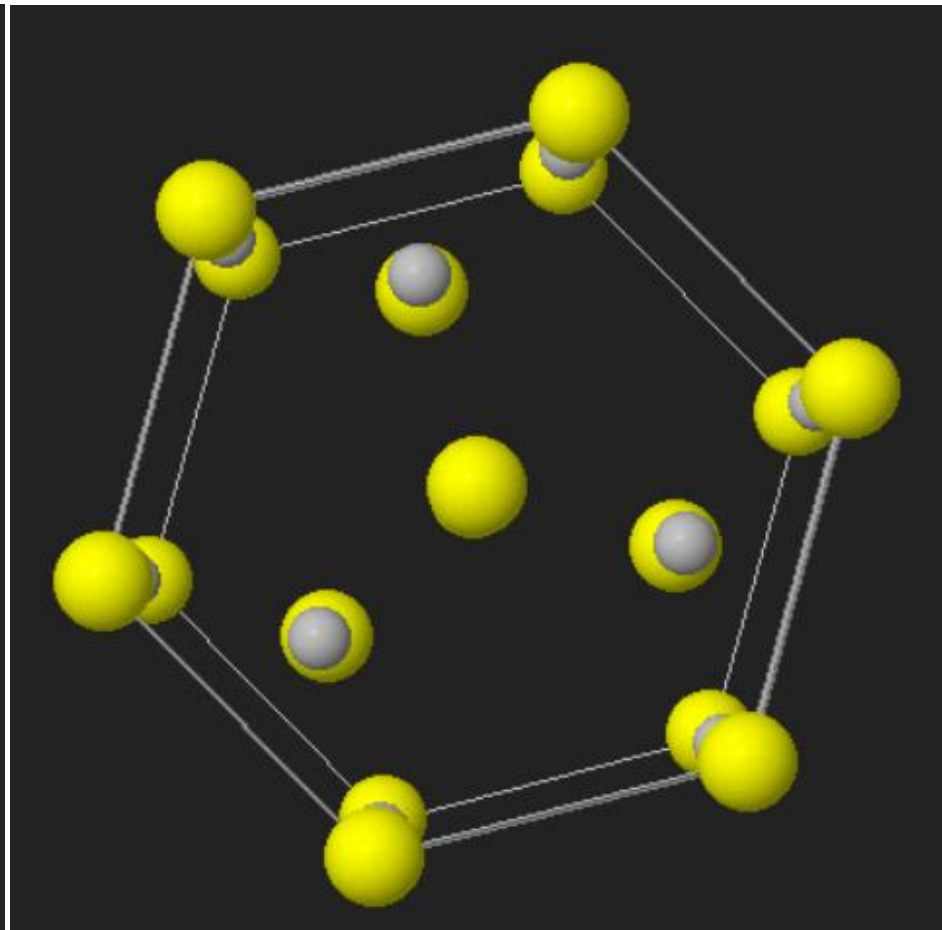
we focus on the $k=0$ (Γ) point

Zinc blend



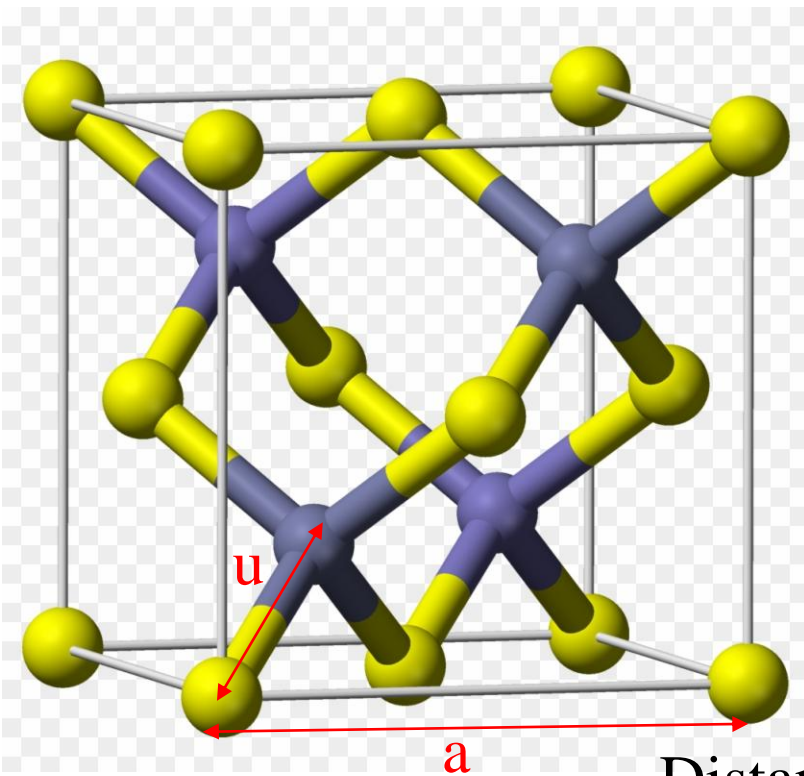
A,B,C, A,B,C...

Wurtzite

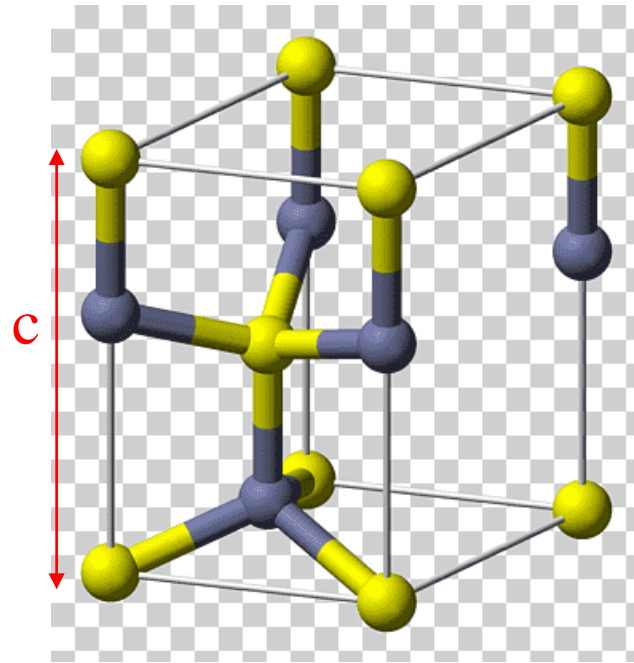


A,B, A,B,...

From cubic to wurzite

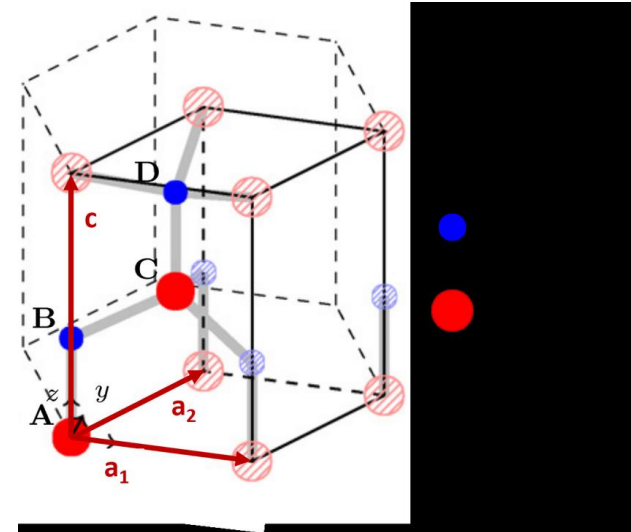
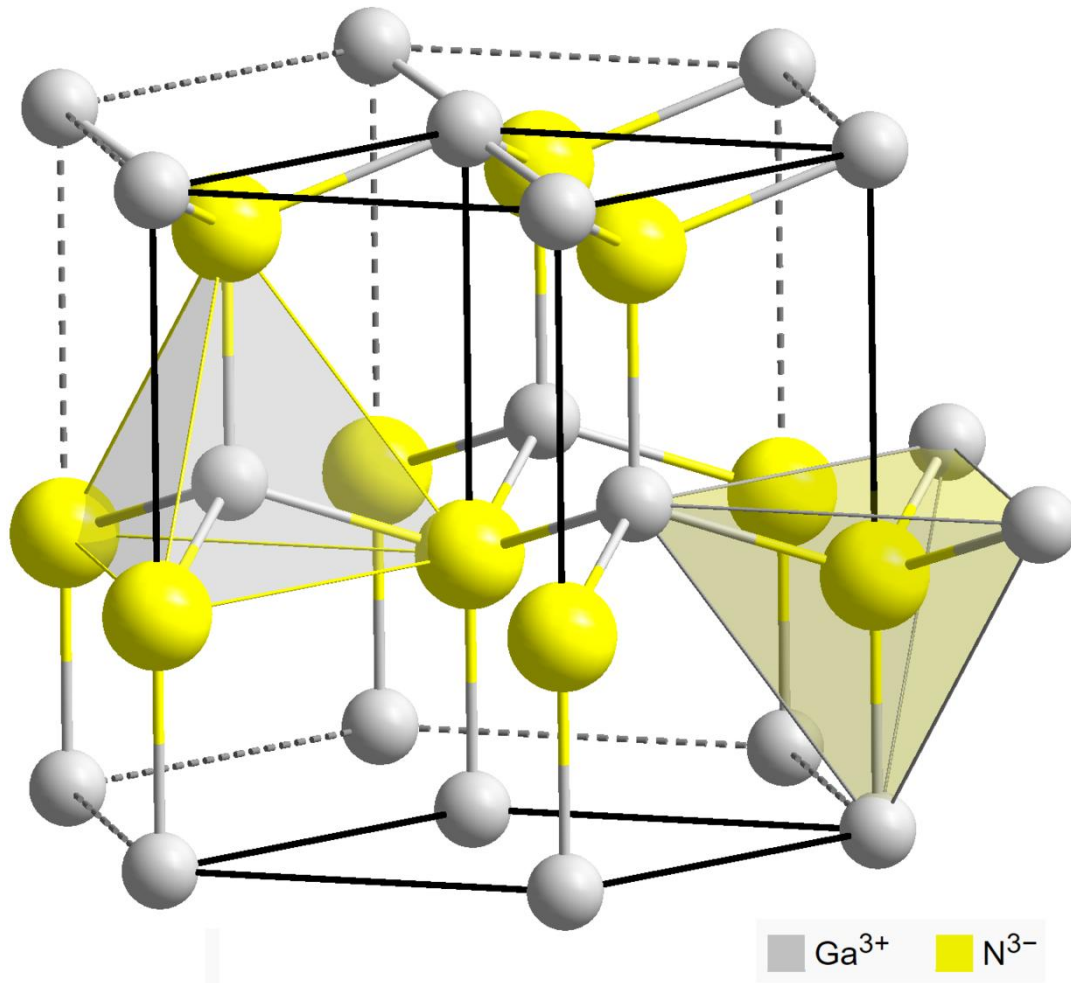


Distance Ga to Ga



#	n	cubic	n	wurzite
1st	12	$a = u\sqrt{8/3} = 1.63u$	12	$a = u\sqrt{8/3} = 1.63u$
2nd	3	$a\sqrt{2} = 4u\sqrt{1/3} = 2.30u$	3	$a\sqrt{2} = 4u\sqrt{1/3} = 2.30u$
3rd	6	$a\sqrt{3} = u\sqrt{8} = 2.82u$	2	$c = 8/3u = 2.66u$

Wurtzite, Space groupe : n° 186; $P6_3mc$; C_{6v}

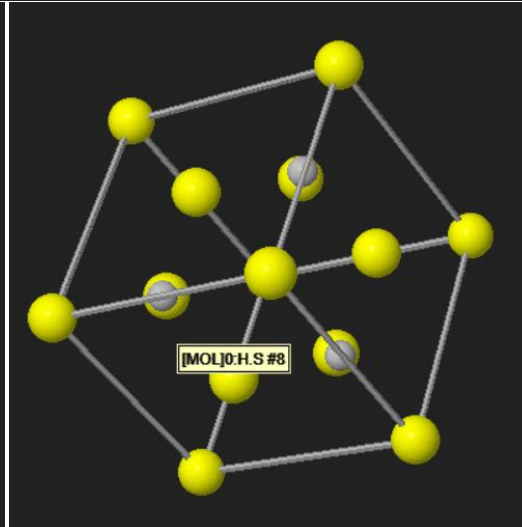
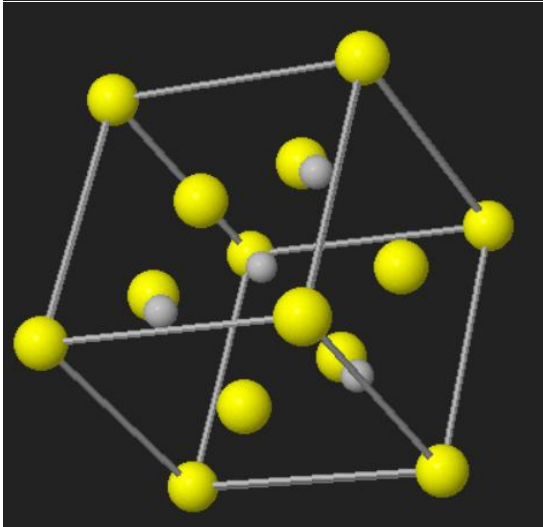
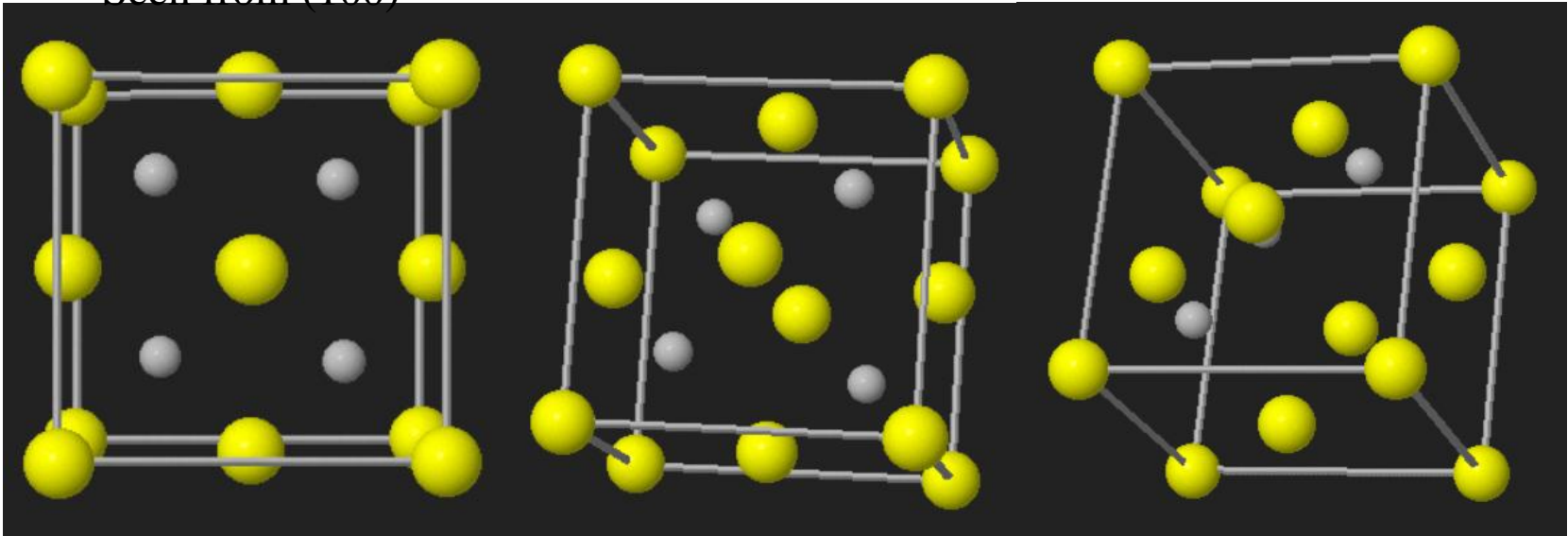


Unitary cell:

- 2 Ga et 2 N in wurtzite = 4 atoms
- 1 Ga et 1 N in zinc blend = 2 atoms

From zinc blend to wurtzite

Seen from (100)



60° rotation around
the (111) axis

Seen from (111) of cubic

From zinc blend to wurtzite

We have calculated the H in the cubic referencial with the x,y,z axes. At $k=0$, for the valence band, we have:

$$H_{x,y,z} = \begin{pmatrix} E_{px} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_{py} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E_{pz} \end{pmatrix}$$

Neglecting spin, at $k=0$, we have $E_{px}=E_{py}=E_{pz}$ ($3\times$ degeneracy)

We want to express the H in the wurtzite referencial (X,Y,Z) where the c axis is the (111) direction of the cube.

Rotation (100) to (111)

When the base is rotated by R, the Hamiltonian becomes

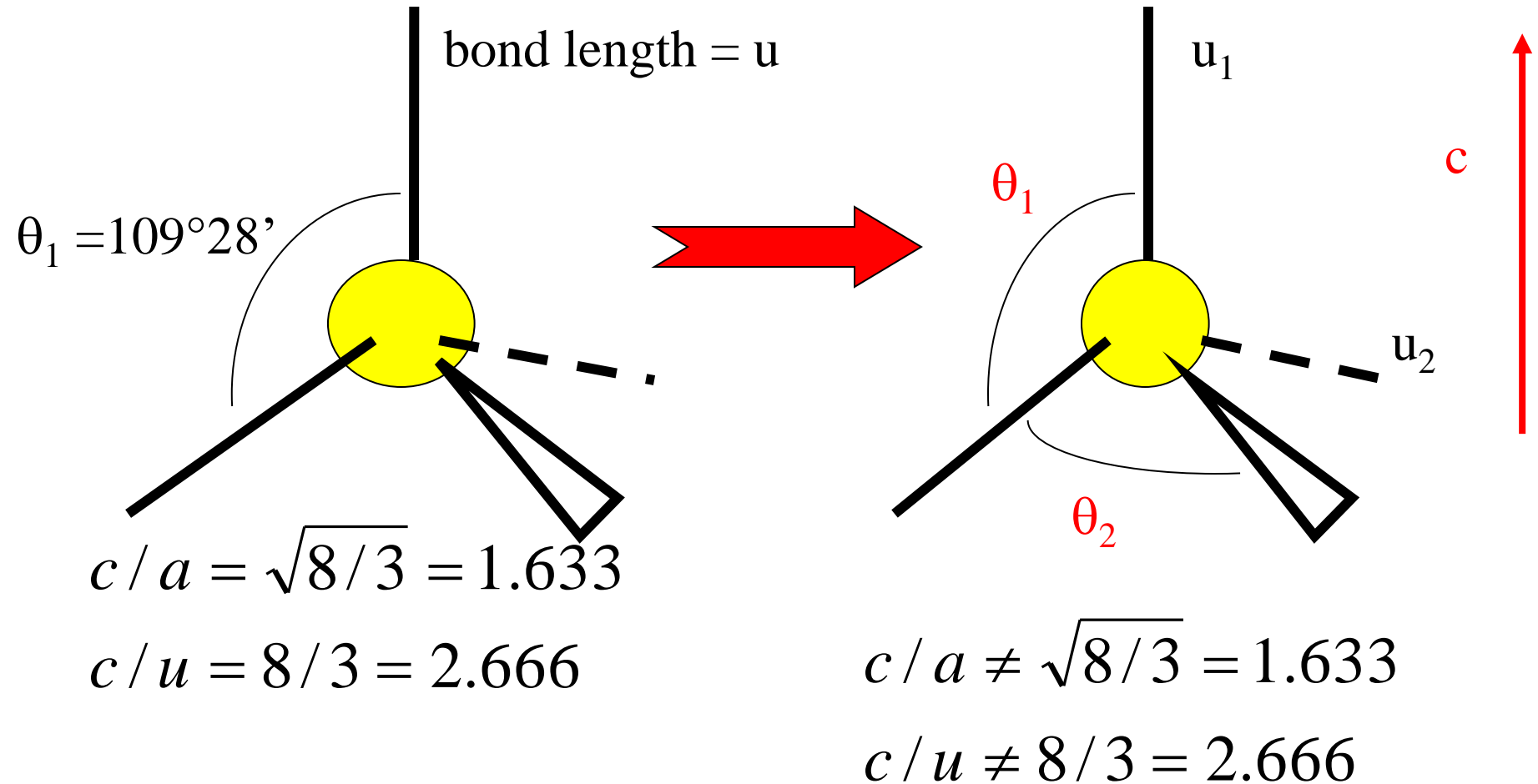
$$H' = R H R^{-1}$$

$$H_{x,y,z} = \begin{pmatrix} E_{px} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_{py} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E_{pz} \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = E \hat{1}$$

$$H_{X,Y,Z} = R H_{x,y,z} R^{-1} = R E \hat{1} R^{-1} = E \hat{1} R R^{-1} = E \hat{1} = H_{x,y,z}$$

Real structure of wurtzite GaN

The GaN_4 tetrahedron is distorted in the w-GaN crystal due to the electronic environment !



Real structure of wurtzite GaN

	a(nm)	c(nm)	c/a	c/u
GaN	0.3189	0.5185	1.626	2.652
AlN	0.3113	0.4982	1.600	2.618
InN	0.3538	0.5703	1.612	2.652

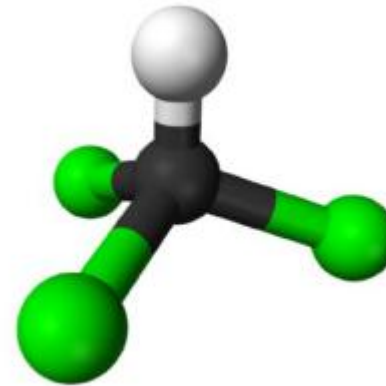
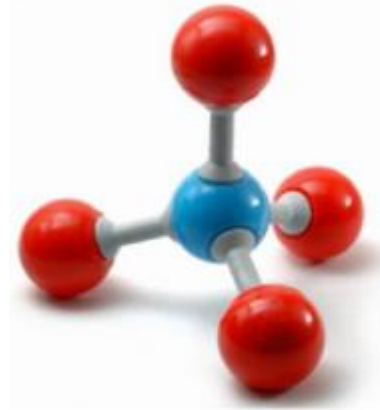
Ideal wurtzite

c/a	c/u
1.633	2.666

The cell is distorted

c shorter = tetrahedron compressed along c

From cubic to wurtzite

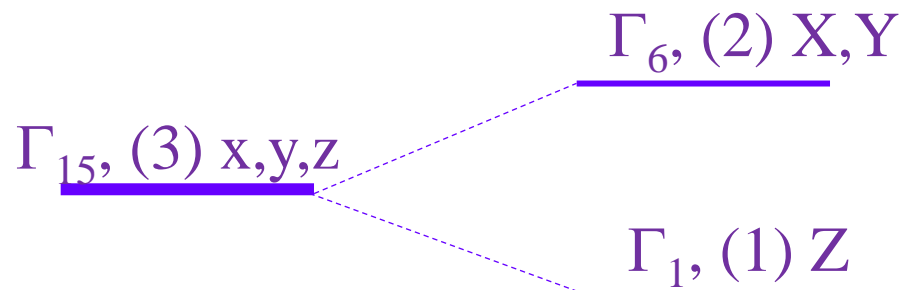


$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E + \Delta \end{pmatrix}$$

	GaN	AlN	InN
Δ_{cr} (meV)	10	-200	25 ?

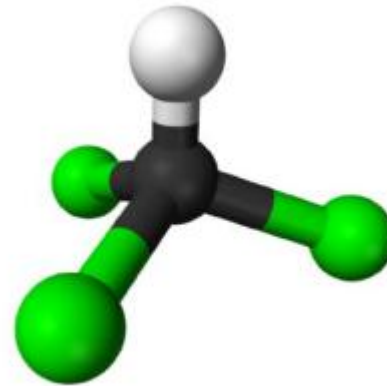
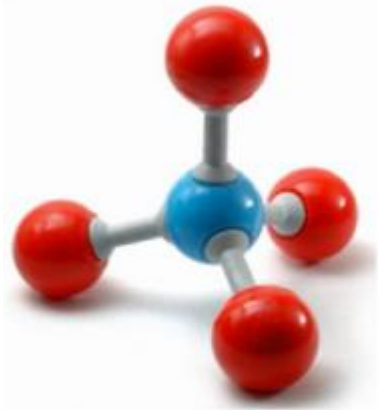
NB: Δ_{cr} strongly varies with strain (see B.Gil's plot)



cubic

Wurtzite without SO

A remark



$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & E + \Delta \end{pmatrix}$$

Δ = the energy difference for the z function would appear even **without** tetrahedron deformation, as the electronic clouds are deformed in the reduced symmetry system (same as for spontaneous polarization) but it would be smaller

Spin orbit coupling in wurzite

$$H_{SO} = \Delta_2 L_z S_z + \Delta_3 (L_x S_x + L_y S_y)$$

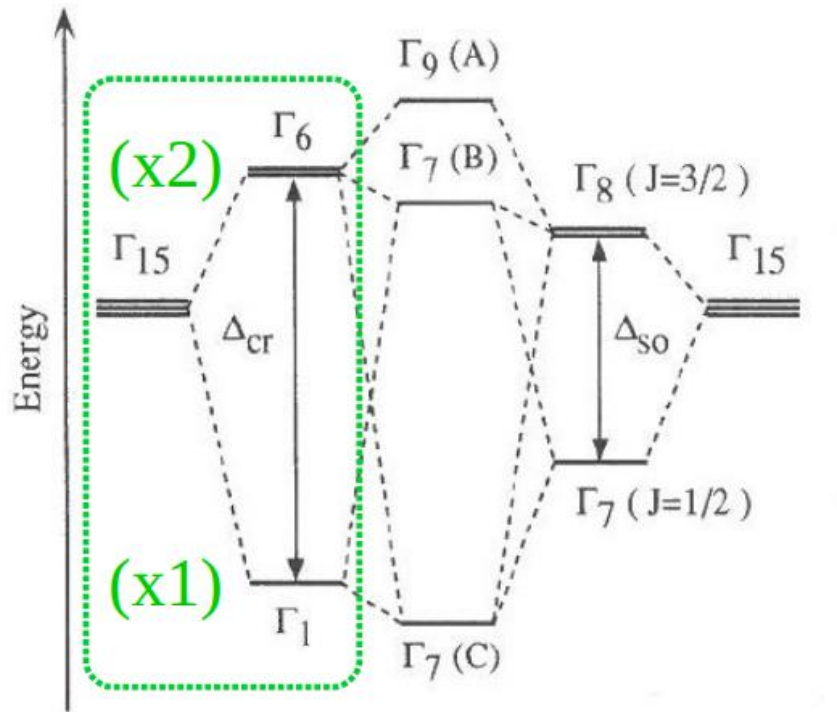
- H_{SO} is not diagonal in the X,Y,Z basis and terms are difficult to express
- H_{SO} is not diagonal in the J basis in the wurzite case (contrary to cubic) as $\Delta_2 \neq \Delta_3$. H_{cr} is not diagonal in the J basis as crystal fields does not depend on spin
- H_{SO} is not diagonal in the L,S basis but can be expressed easily

⇒ Rewrite the crystal field term in the L, S basis

⇒ Diagonalise $H_{SO} + H_{cr}$ to find the new eigen states for the valence band

GaN valence band

GaN



crystal field

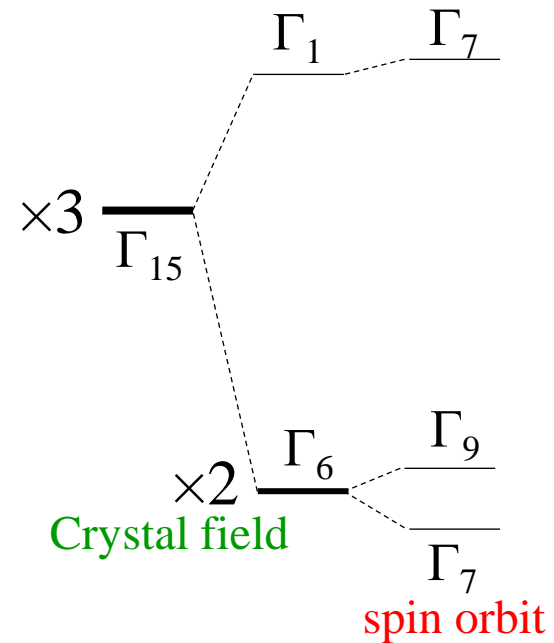
both

spin-orbit

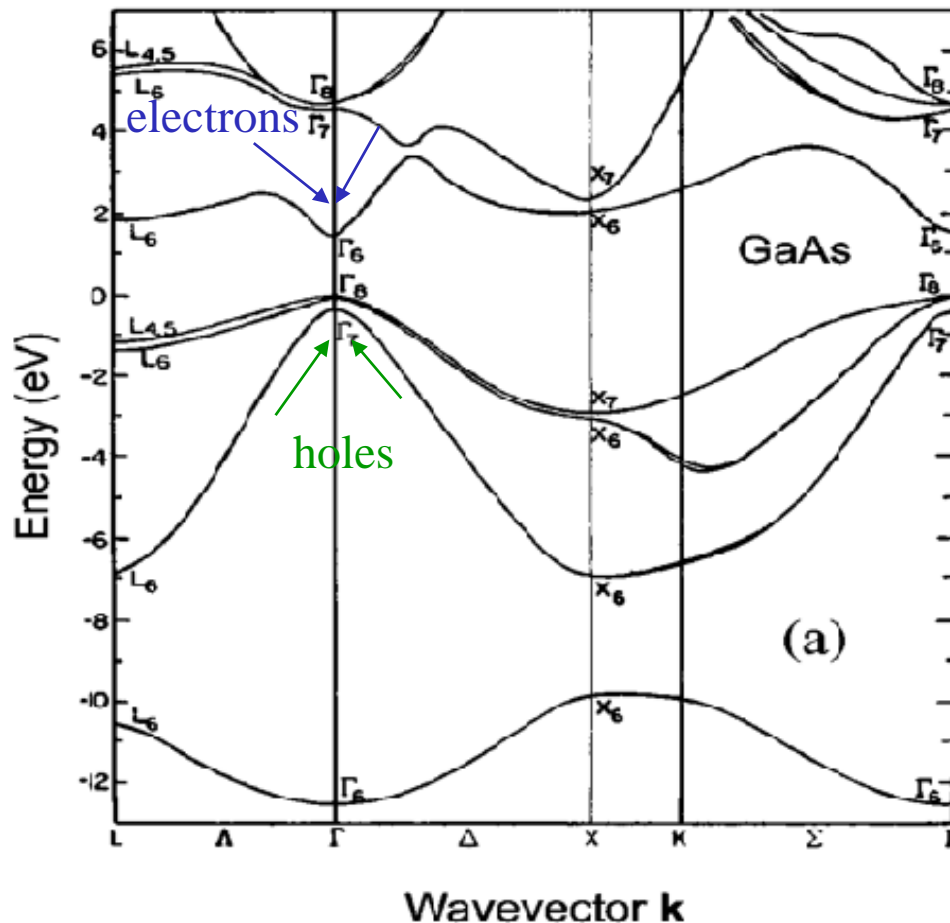
$$\begin{cases} \Delta_{cr} = \Delta_1 \\ \Delta_{so} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_{so} = 3\Delta_2 = 3\Delta_3 \\ \Delta_{cr} = 0 \end{cases}$$

AlN



Why was it important
and relevant to focus
on the Γ point ?



The Γ point is where all recombinations and emission will happen.

It is also the onset of optical absorption and where gain appears in lasers

It is also where the effective masses are defined for electronics, at least at low field

Any experiment/device implying other states than Γ ?

Auger, high electric field (avalanche, velocity saturation...)

CONCLUSION

- Bands appear in solids because of the overlap of a large number of atomic orbitals. Periodicity is not necessary for bands. However, periodicity give rise to specific features (bands and gaps)
- A quite small number (<10) of periods is needed to generate the band structure
- LCAO gives a good description of covalent semiconductors and also III-V semiconductors
- The crystal symmetry has an impact on the band degeneracy at high symmetry point (Γ , X....): The higher the symmetry, the larger the degeneracy (up to 3)