



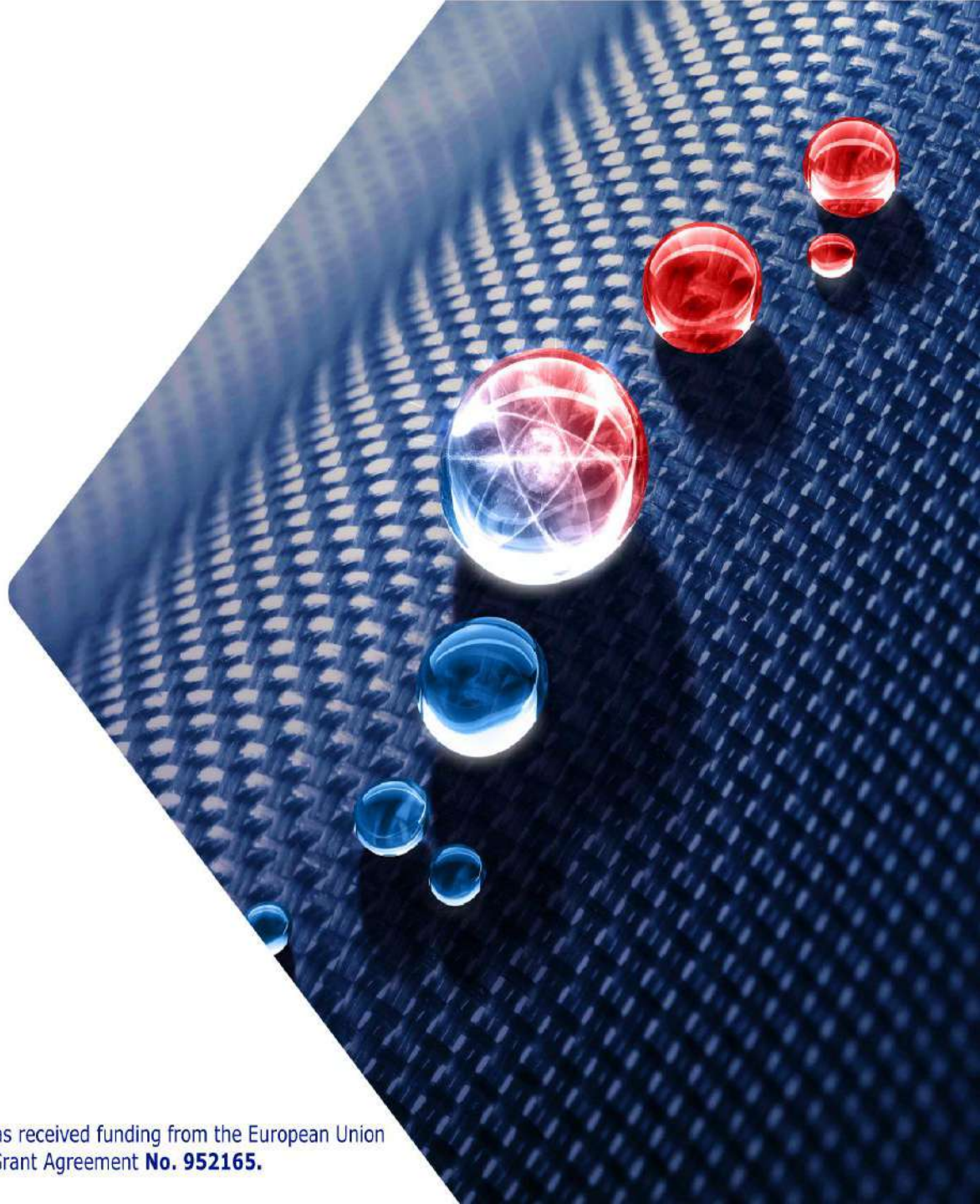
Targeting Real chemical accuracy at the EXascale

Quantum Monte Carlo study of straintronic response of 2D materials: monolayer phosphorene and MoS₂

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Funding:

- **H2020**
- **APVV-21-0272**
- **VEGA 2/0070/21**
- **PRACE**
- **EuroHPC**



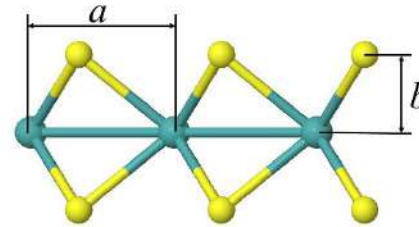
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project no.
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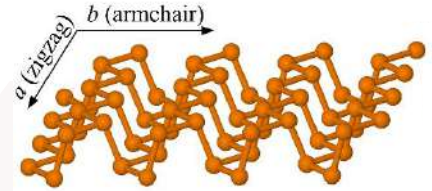
Intro. 2D materials

quintessential
straintronic material

MoS₂

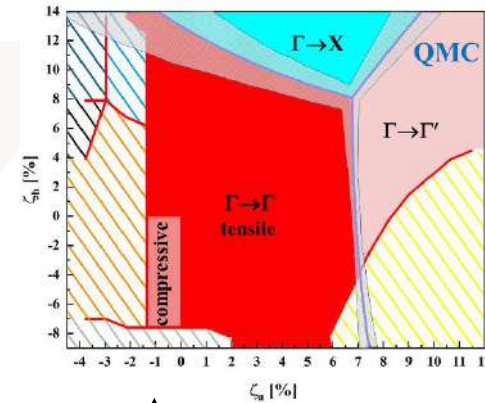
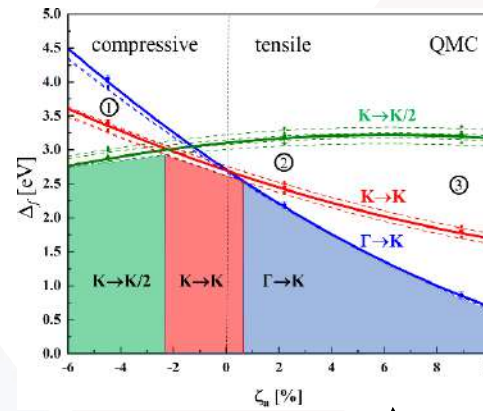


phosphorene



- Calculations: 1) band gap
- 2) strain effects
- 3) deformation energy

„phase diagrams“ of excitations



Summary

□ a number of 2D materials prepared:

- **exfoliation**
- **epitaxial growth**



Nobel prize for physics (2010)
Geim & Novoselov

□ electronic properties:

metals \Leftrightarrow semimetal \Leftrightarrow **semiconductor** \Leftrightarrow **wide gap insulator**

Pd, Rh graphene

TMD
phosphorene

h-BN

□ high carrier mobility

□ often direct gap

2D materials highly sensitive to **strain**

2D materials can **sustain strains** well in excess of **10%**: graphene $\approx 25\%$ and $\text{MoS}_2 \approx 11\%$

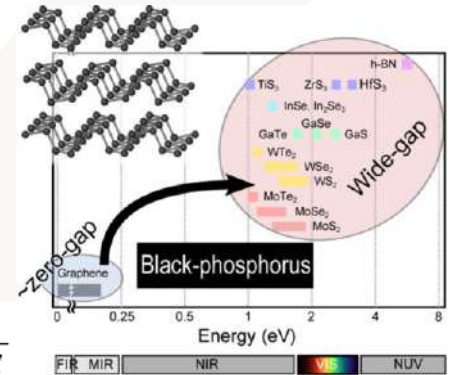
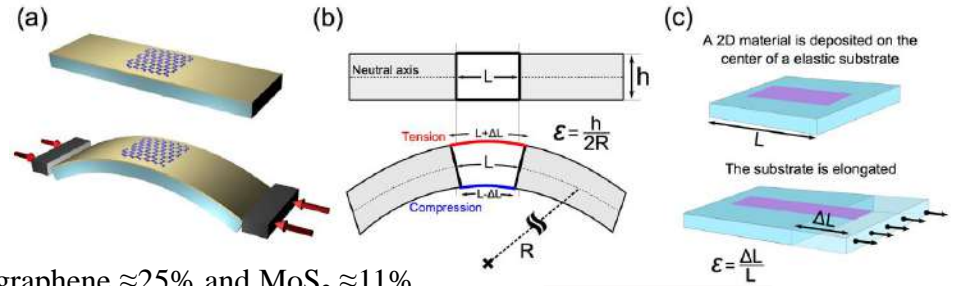
R. Roldán, A. Castellanos-Gomez, E. Capelluti, and F. Guinea, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **27**, 313201 (2015)

tuning properties via **strain - band gap** for given applications

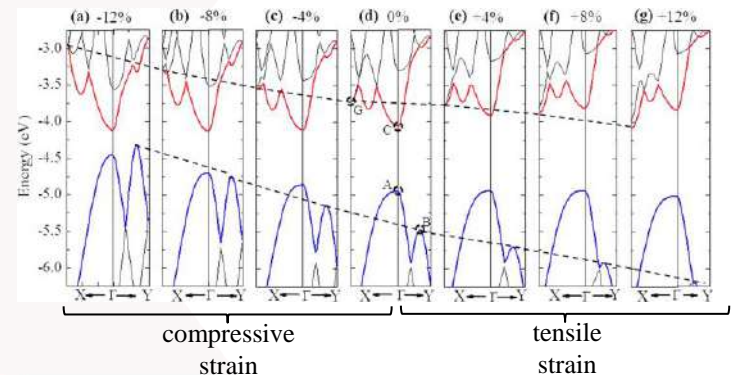
Castellanos-Gomez. A., *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **6**, 4280 (2015)

- **effective mass** \Rightarrow **carrier mobility**

Y. S., Y. Chen, and C. Jiang, *InfoMat.* **3**, 397420 (2021)



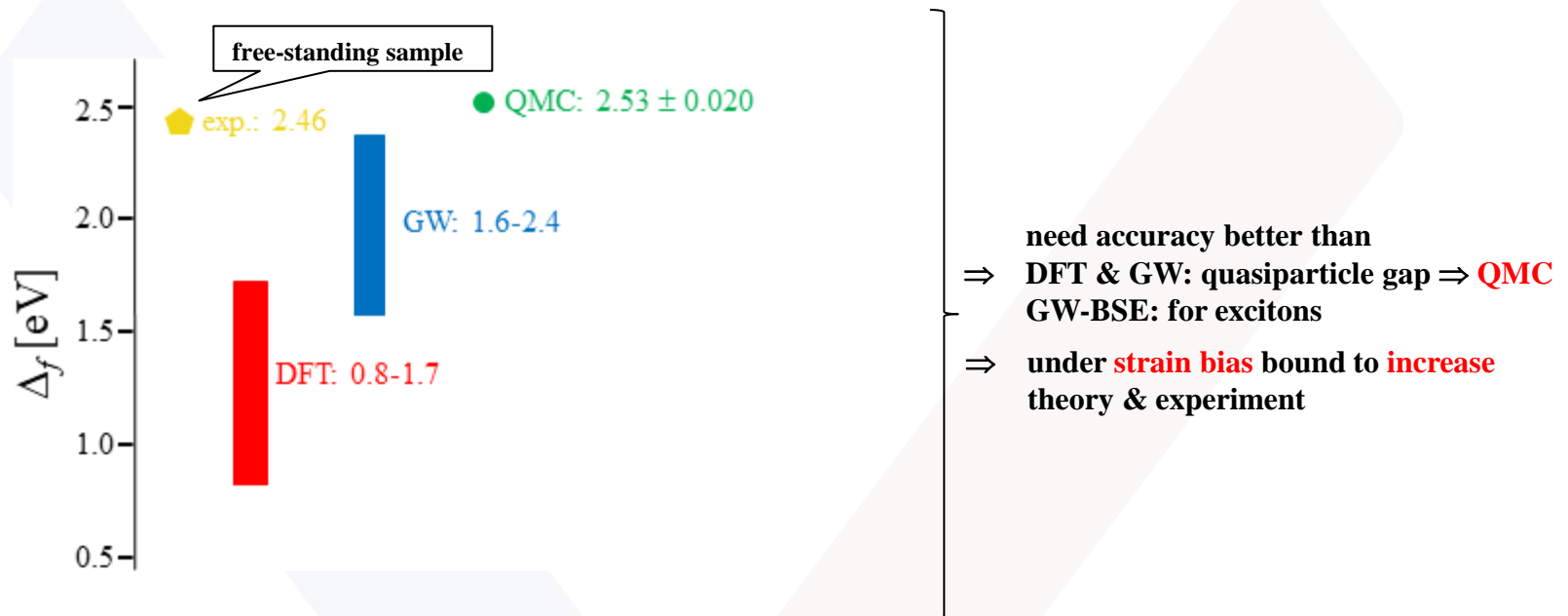
$$m^* = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{d^2 E}{dk^2}}$$



2D materials: phosphorene gap

accuracy: quasiparticle band gap

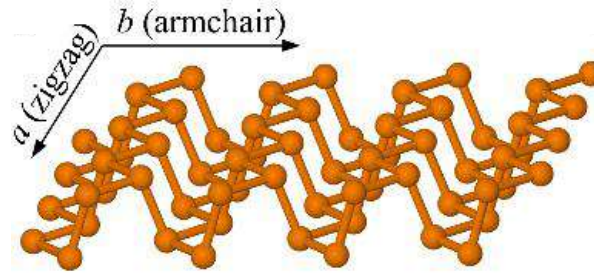
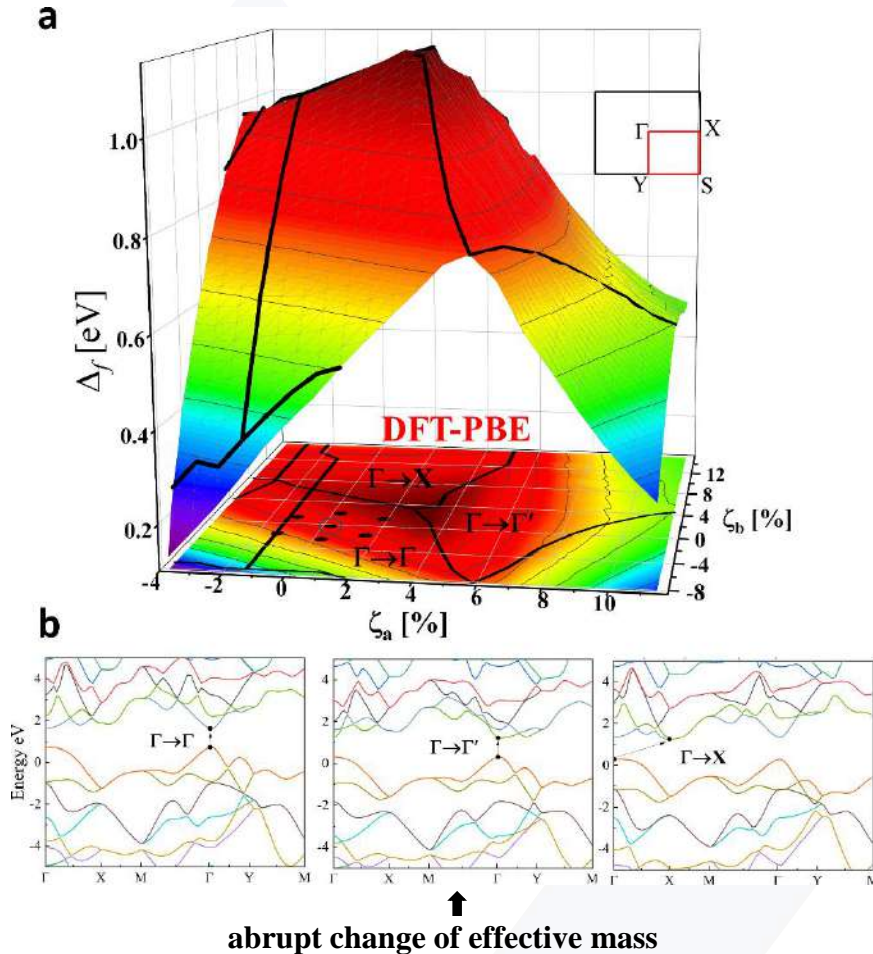
example: monolayer phosphorene



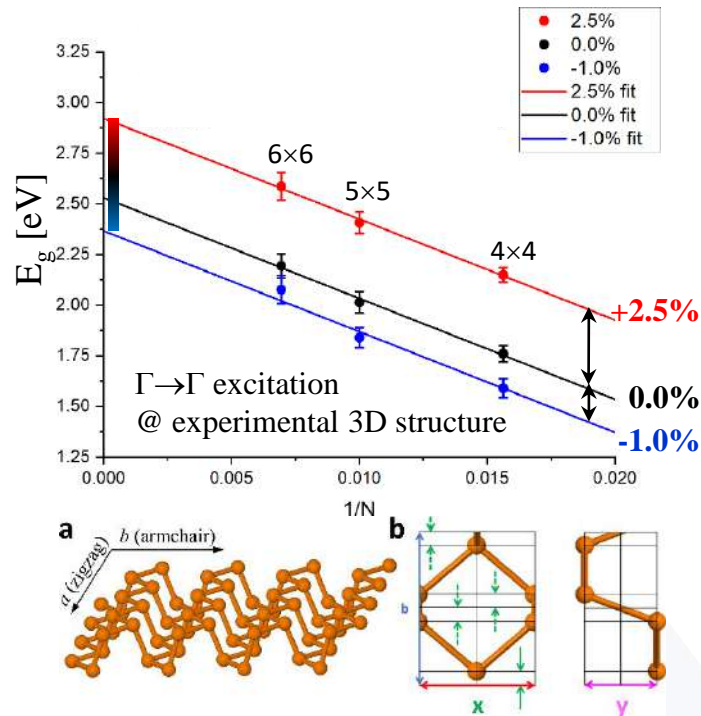
E. Gaufrès, F. Fossard, V. Gosselin, L. Sponza, F. Ducastelle, Z. Li, S. G. Louie, R. Martel, M. Côté, and A. Loiseau, Nano Lett. 19, 8303 (2019).

T. Frank, R. Derian, K. Tokar, L. Mitas, J. Fabian, and I. Stich, Phys. Rev. X 9, 011018 (2019).

qualitative picture: pre-screened by DFT-PBE DFT

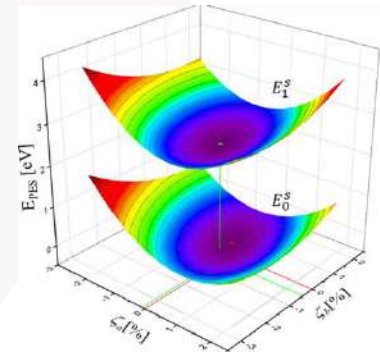


quantitative picture: FNQMC (with DFT-PBE nodes)



- ❑ the strain band gap **tuning** is quite **strong**
- ❑ quasiparticle band gap **scales linearly** with the applied **strain**
- ❑ **highly nontrivial** as the band gaps are differences between ground- and excited-state PESs.

converged ground- and excited-state PESs
parallel; only vertical & lateral offsets

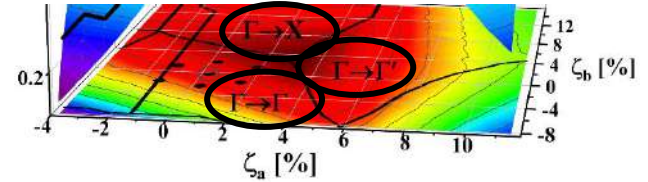


\Rightarrow 4 parameters $a, b, x,$ and y

bracketted by at least 25 QMC points

fixing all 4 parameters $a, b, x,$ and y : **quadrivariate paraboloid function** $E_0(a, b, x, y)$, minimize w.r.t. $x,$ and y for each $(a, b) \Rightarrow E_0(a, b)$
 excited state E_1 only computed at the minimum w.r.t. $x,$ and $y \Rightarrow E_1(a, b)$

structural approximants & finite size scaling:
7 points bracketing the minimum



$\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma / \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma'$:

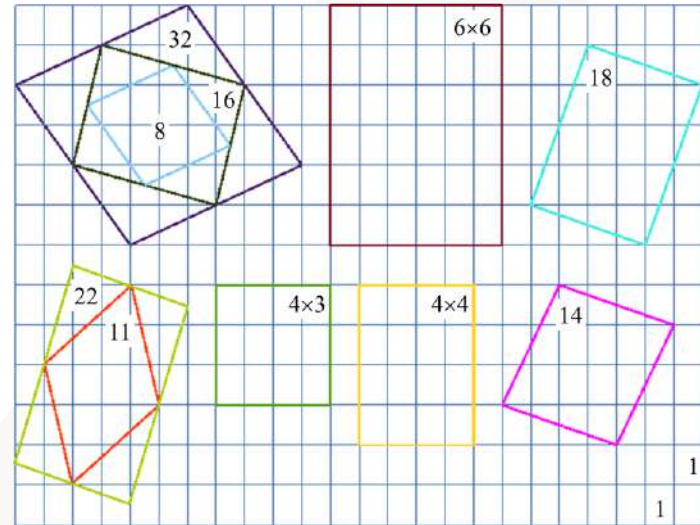
approximants:

- 11 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 16 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 18 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 22 prim. u.c. | 4D**

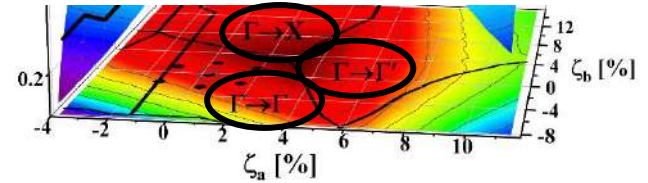
$\Gamma \rightarrow X$:

approximants:

- 14 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 16 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 18 prim. u.c. | 4D**
- 22 prim. u.c. | 4D**



structural approximants & finite size scaling:
7 points bracketing the minimum



$\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma / \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma'$:

approximants:

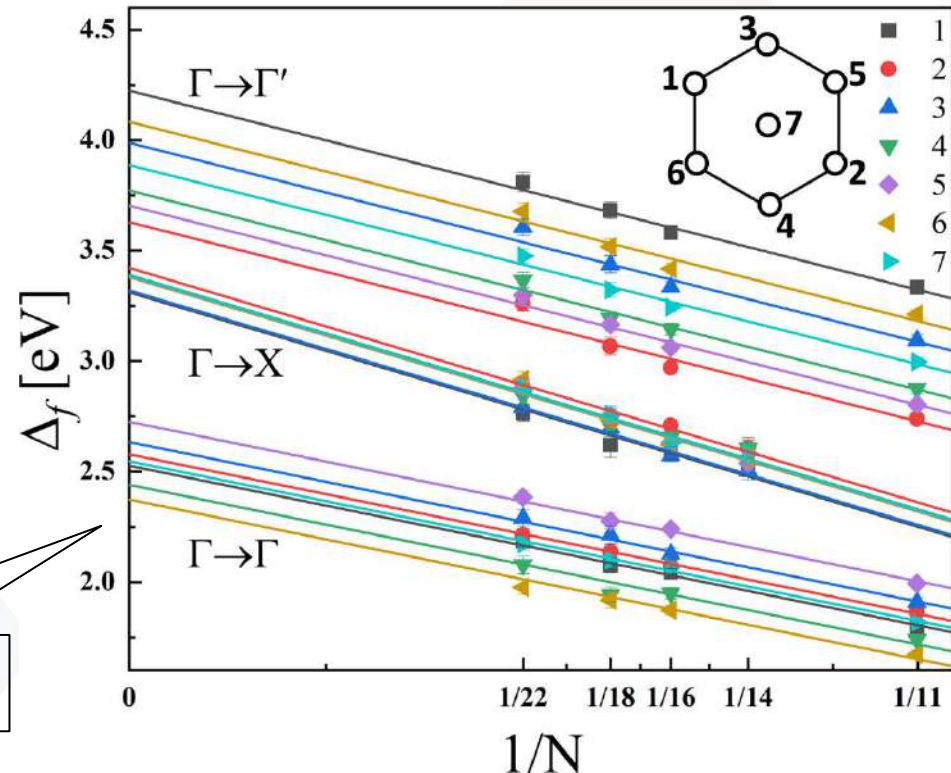
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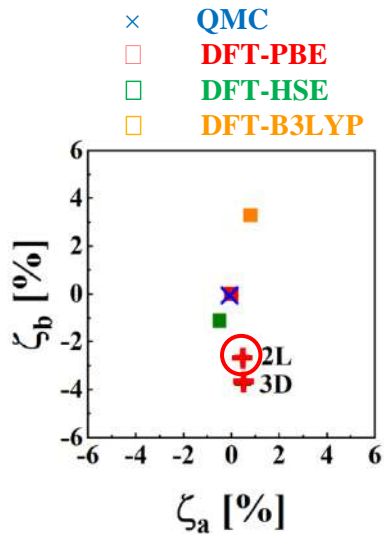
$\Gamma \rightarrow X$:

approximants:

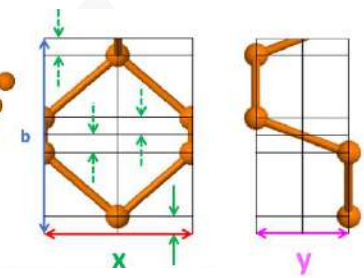
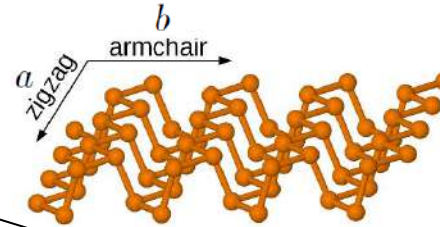
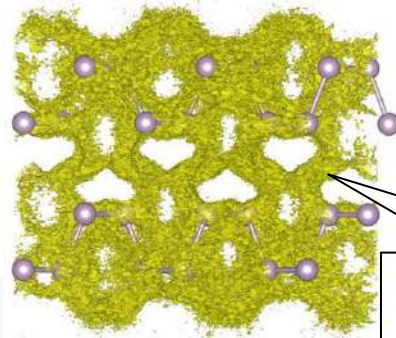
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!no twist averaging possible!





2-layer phosphorene



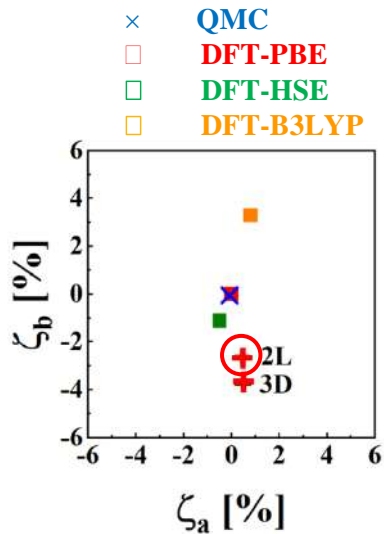
partially chemical interlayer bond
(between lone pairs on P's)

expt.

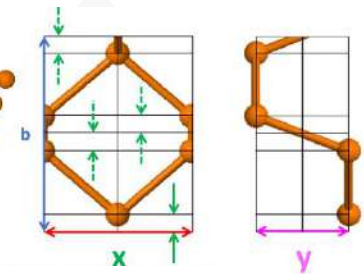
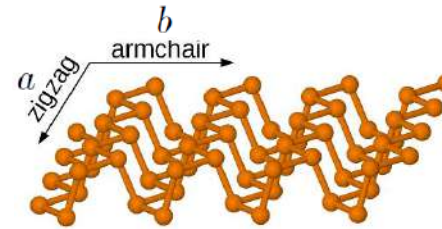
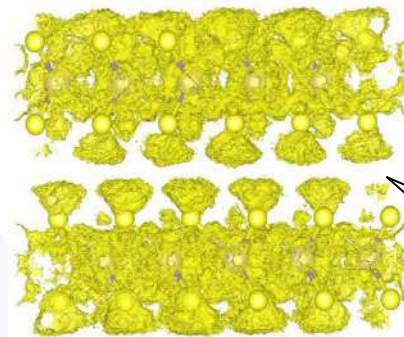
	QMC 11-cell	QMC 16-cell	QMC 22-cell	DFT-PBE	3D-BP
ground state					
a	6.229±0.008	6.238±0.002	6.230±0.002	6.235	6.2618
b	8.651±0.017	8.688±0.008	8.707±0.006	8.711	8.2700
x	0.748±0.005	0.759±0.002	0.765±0.001	0.770	0.6367
y	3.987±0.007	3.978±0.003	3.985±0.002	3.975	4.0280
E_0^*	-716.563±0.002	-716.498±0.0008	-716.469±0.0007	-717.711	NA
excited state					
a	6.227±0.027	6.222±0.003	6.224±0.003	6.222	NA
b	8.515±0.178	8.607±0.012	8.664±0.010	8.543	NA
x	0.728±0.044	0.747±0.003	0.761±0.002	0.739	NA
y	4.053±0.018	4.031±0.002	4.020±0.002	4.051	NA
E_1^*	-716.415±0.005	-716.375±0.0007	-716.375±0.001	-717.643	NA

$$\begin{aligned}
 a &= 3.30 \pm 0.003 \text{ \AA} \\
 b &= 4.61 \pm 0.006 \text{ \AA} \\
 x &= 0.405 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA} \\
 y &= 2.109 \pm 0.001 \text{ \AA}
 \end{aligned}$$

not known experimentally



2-layer MoS₂



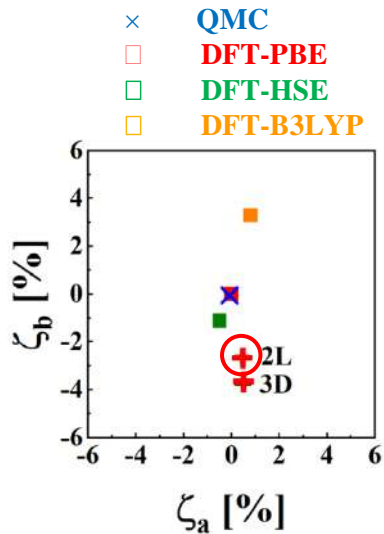
pure vdW interaction

expt.

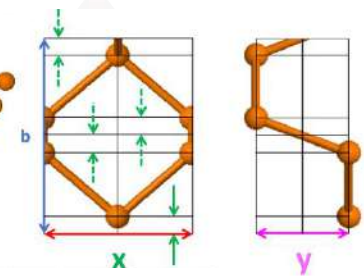
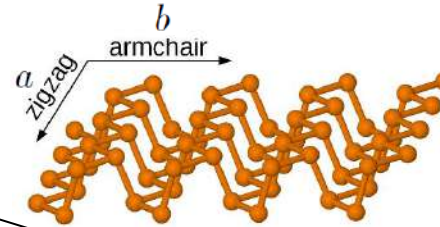
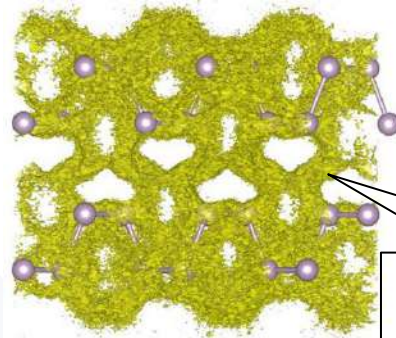
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<i>x</i>	0.728±0.044	0.747±0.003	0.761±0.002	0.739	NA
<i>y</i>	4.053±0.018	4.031±0.002	4.020±0.002	4.051	NA
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not known experimentally



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partially chemical interlayer bond
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 \end{aligned}$$

not known experimentally

$$\Delta_f = 2.53 \pm 0.020 \text{ eV} \Leftrightarrow 2.46 \text{ eV}$$

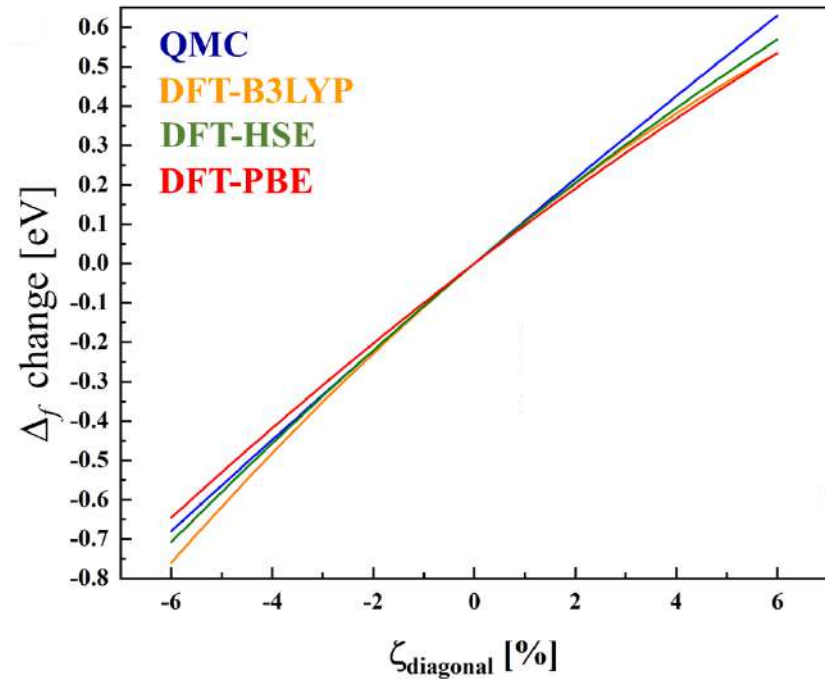
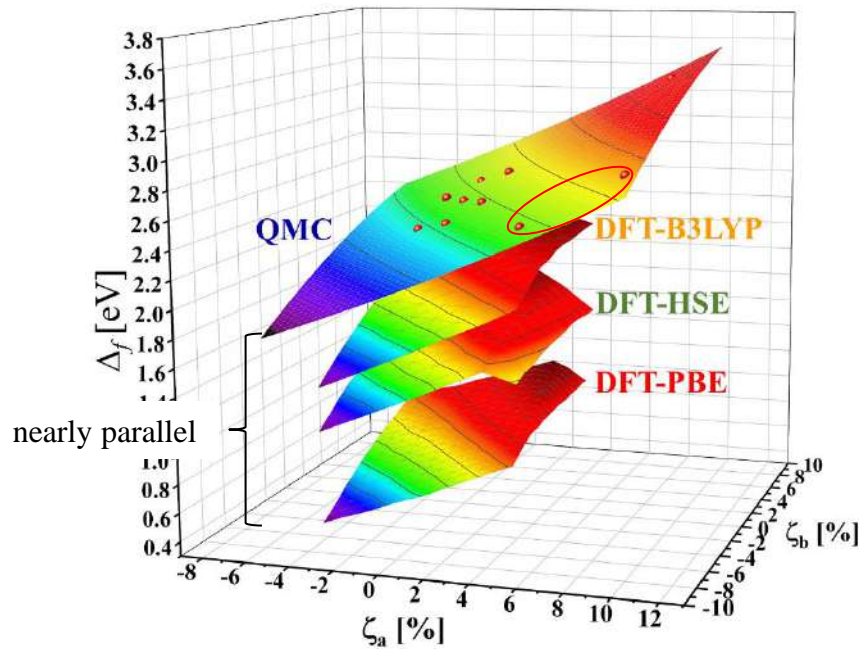
experimental value for freestanding phosphorene

↑
 (almost) **chemical precision**
 (no vibronic and zero-point corrections)

band gap

$\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ excitation

gauge factor



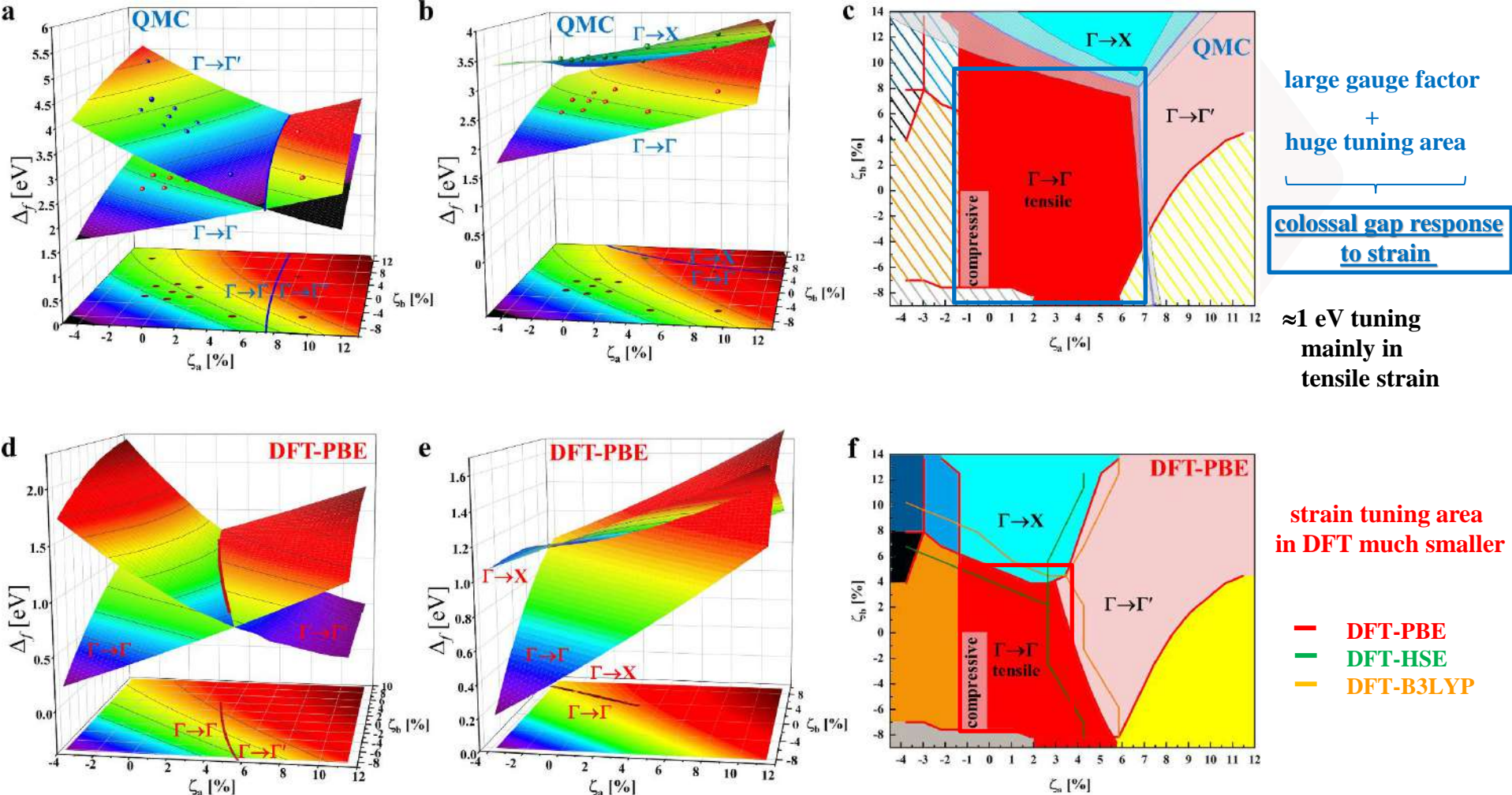
QMC consistently gives **larger gap** than any common DFT functional (**PBE**, **HSE**, **B3LYP**),
! $\zeta = 0$ agrees with experiment!

gauge factor (change of Δ_f) very **similar to DFT**
 (if computed against the respective minimum)

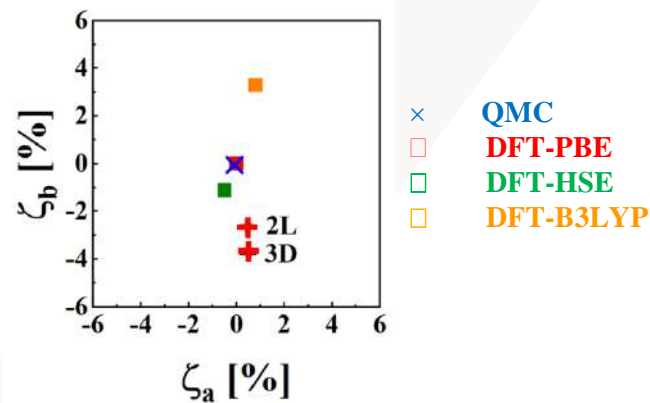
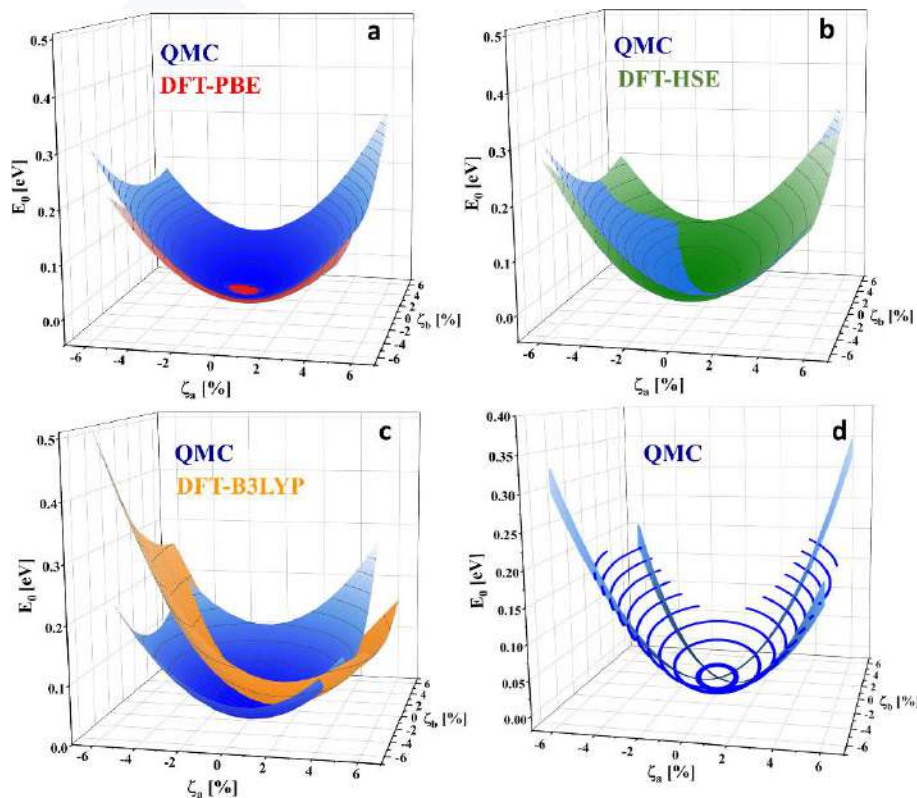
large gauge factor: ≈ 100 meV/%

↓
main straintronic materials MoS_2 : $64 \pm 5 / 68 \pm 5$ meV/%

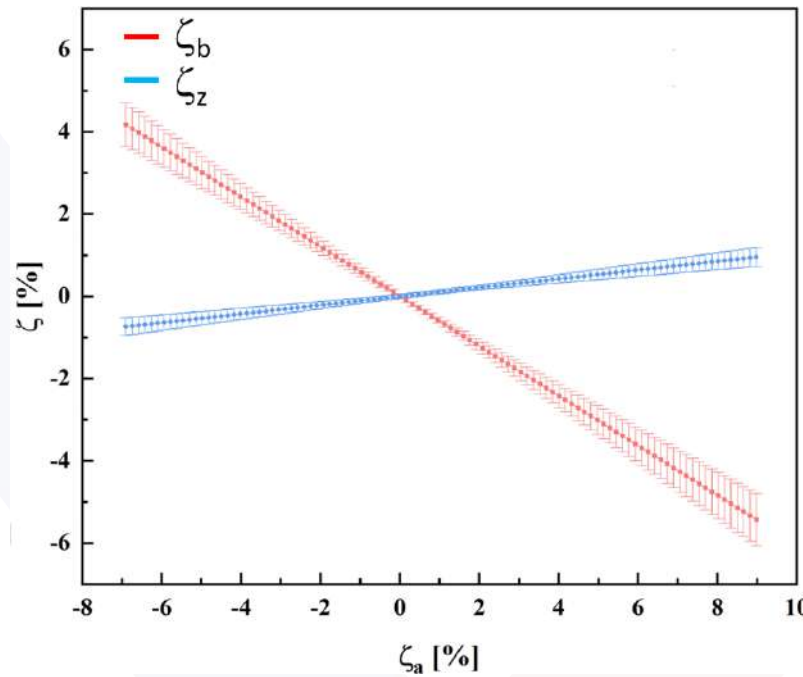
quantitative picture: QMC $\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$ $\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma'$ $\Gamma \rightarrow X$ boundaries \Rightarrow band gap phase diagrams



Y. Huang, A. Faizan, M. Manzoor, J. Brndiar, L. Mitás, J. Fabian, and I. Štich, Phys. Rev. Reserach 5, 033223 (2023).



Poisson's ratio

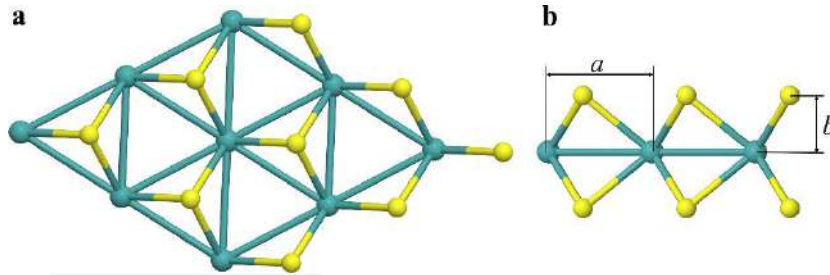


positive in-plane

negative out-of-plane

Poisson's ratio

auxetic material



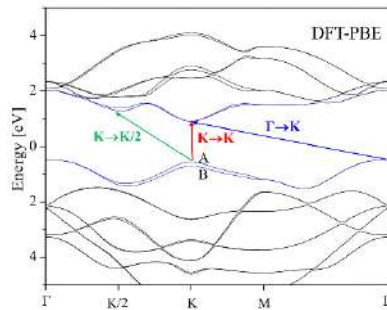
consider only diagonal strain (a)

\Rightarrow 2 parameters a, b

fixing 2 parameters a, b : **bivariate paraboloid function** $E_0(a, b)$, minimize w.r.t. b for each $a \Rightarrow E_0(a)$

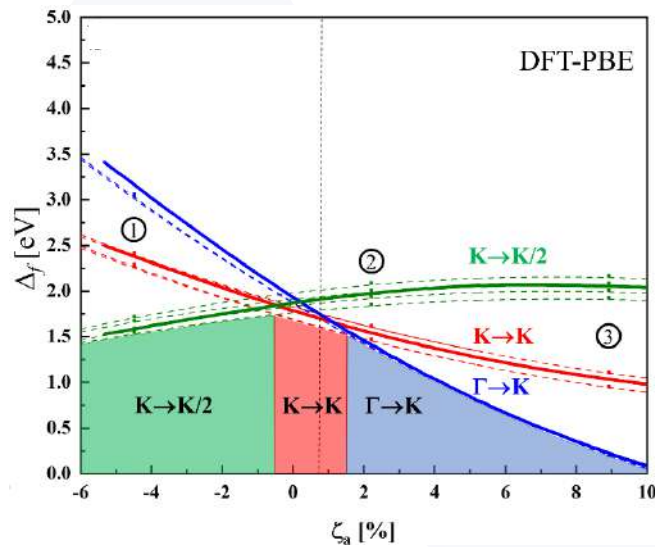
excited state E_I only computed at the minimum w.r.t. $b \Rightarrow E_I(a)$

spin-orbit couplings (SOC) small but non-negligible \Rightarrow **SOC** added a posteriori **perturbatively** based on **DFT-PBE**

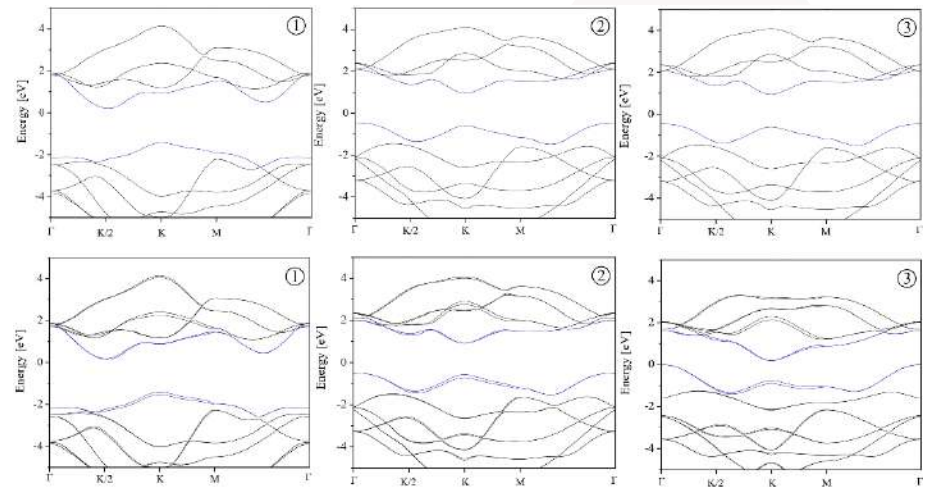


qualitative picture: pre-screened by DFT-PBE DFT

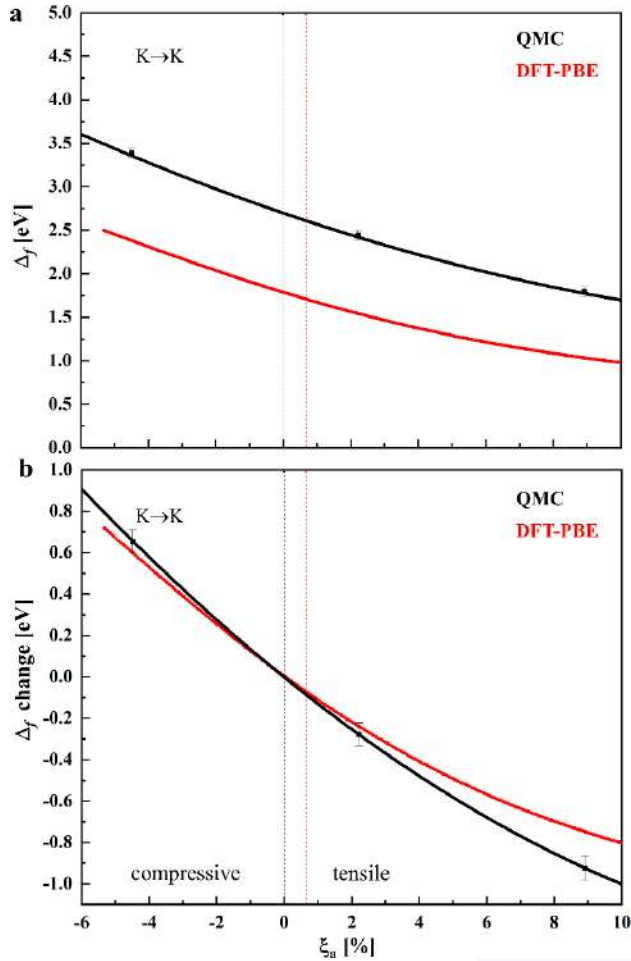
band gap phase diagram



SOC splittings:



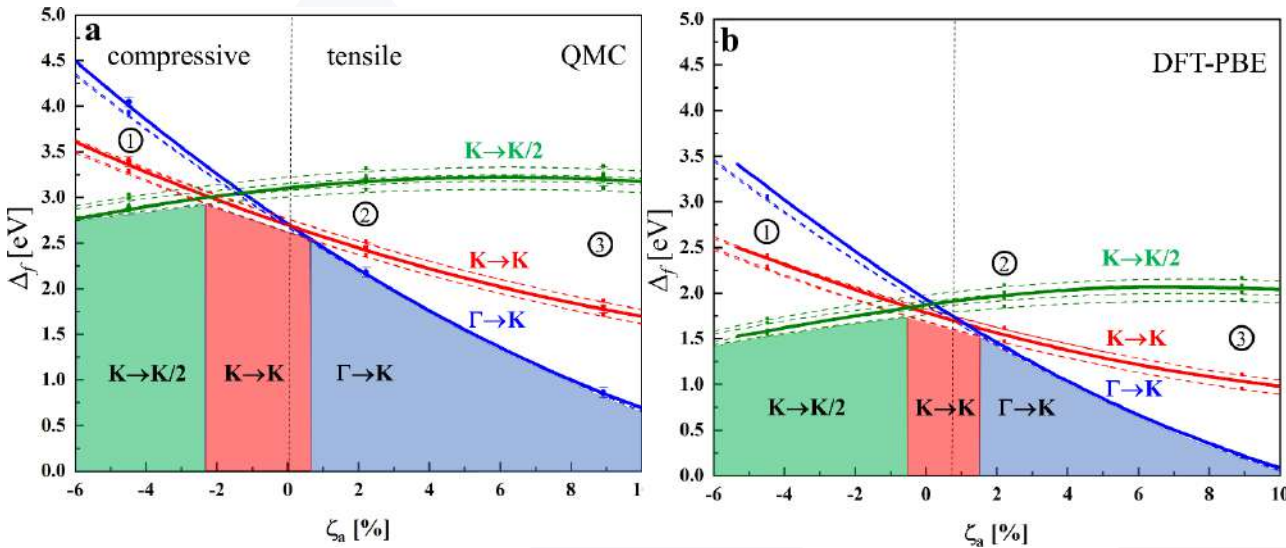
K→K excitation



DFT-PBE rigid band gap offset by ≈ 1 eV

qualitatively similar results

band gap phase diagram



transition	gauge factor					exp
	QMC	GW	PBE	HSE	B3LYP	
K→K	136/60	138/60	104/47	149	145	40-125
Γ→K	227	271	198	198	196	-
K→K/2	42	83	40	41	41	-

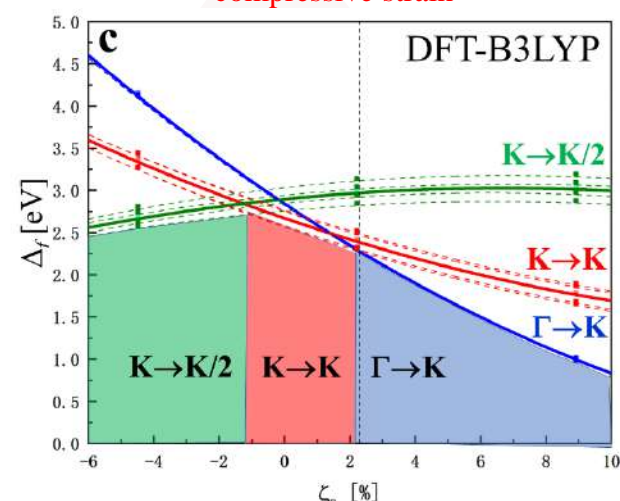
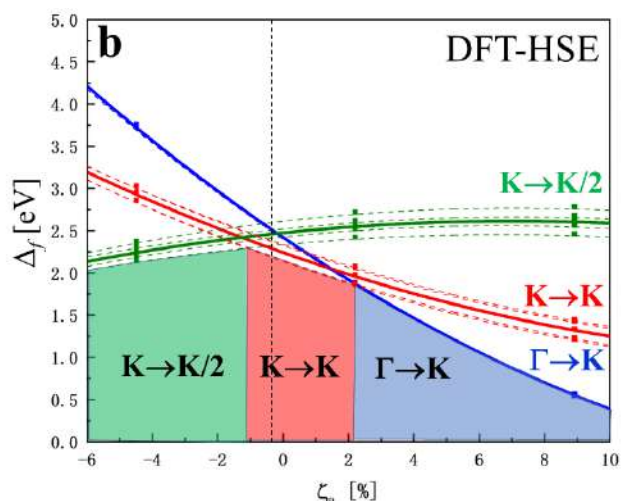
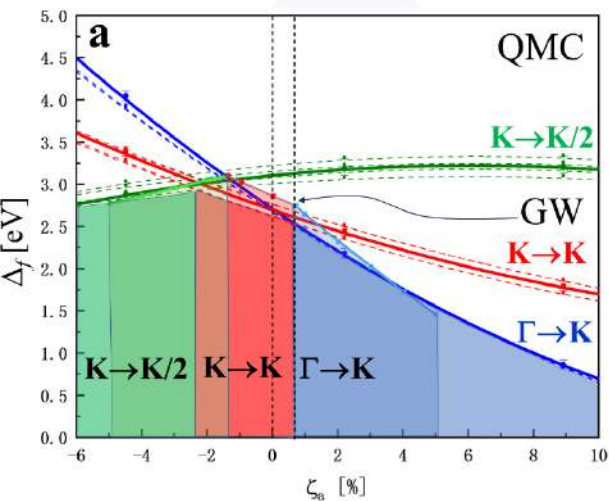
⇒ qualitatively similar results ⇒ ???coincidence or trend for ALL TMDs and TREATMENTS???

comparison of band gap phase diagrams

GW: tuning only in **compressive strain**

DFT-HSE: tuning mostly in **tensile strain**

DFT-B3LYP: tuning only in **compressive strain**



qualitatively similar phase diagrams

transition	gauge factor					exp
	QMC	GW	PBE	HSE	B3LYP	
K→K	136/60	138/60	104/47	149	145	40-125
Γ→K	227	271	198	198	196	-
K→K/2	42	83	40	41	41	-

⇒ similar gauge factors

⇒ excitations similar response to strain

⇒ excitations different values

⇒ relation between different excitations different

extremely sensitive indicator of el. structure quality

- ❑ electronic & atomic structure of 2D materials can be studied ultra-accurately with FNQMC methods
- ❑ direct band-gap tunability in tensile strain
- ❑ quintessential straintronic material MoS_2 tunability 10× smaller than in phosphorene
- ❑ tunability of phosphorene is colossal