Cluster molecular-orbital calculations on germanium adsorbed on Si(111) surfaces

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Cluster model calculations on germanium adsorption onto the Si(111)-7 \times 7 surface are performed with the self-consistent charge $X\alpha$ (SCC- $X\alpha$) method. Calculations on small silicon clusters and on the bare substrate prove the model's reliability for the subsequent investigations comprising adsorption of a single germanium atom on two different sites in the dimer-adatom-stacking-fault model, as well as that of two germanium atoms simultaneously. Adsorption energies, distances, and strengths of the respective Si—Ge bonds are compared. Eventually, an explanation for the first steps of an interface formation between Si and Ge is offered.

I. INTRODUCTION

The structure of the Si(111) surface including adsorption processes is a subject of central interest. Nevertheless, sufficient theoretical information is still missing from the literature to interpret experimental data unambiguously and to investigate physical properties not amenable to experimental observation. In this paper, we present the first calculation of Ge adsorption on a Si(111)-7×7 surface to provide some insight into the initial steps of Ge layer growth on silicon reconstructed in the dimer-adatom-stacking-fault (DAS) model of Takayanagi *et al.*^{1,2}

The interaction between a silicon substrate and germanium adsorbates is treated in the framework of the cluster model constituting an efficient procedure to handle such computations. The analysis is performed with the self-consistent charge $X\alpha$ (SCC- $X\alpha$) method³ which is a semiempirical procedure for calculating the electronic structure of large quantum-mechanical systems. This method has already been successfully applied to problems such as the adsorption of water dimers on nickel,^{4,5} the adsorption of various molecules in zeolites,⁶⁻⁸ and the reaction of CO with an imperfect TiO₂ surface.^{9,10} In Sec. II, calculations on small silicon clusters are reported for the comparison of the SCC-X α method with ab initio investigations. In Sec. III, we discuss the results of our cluster calculations on the bare Si(111)-7 \times 7 surface, followed by the treatment of the Ge adsorption on this substrate in Sec. IV, and a comparison of the results with the experiment in Sec. V. We conclude with a brief summary and an outlook on future perspectives and projects.

II. CALCULATIONS ON SMALL SILICON CLUSTERS

In this section we discuss briefly our calculations on the clusters Si_4 and Si_5 , in some geometries resembling the silicon bulk coordination. This permits a comparison of the SCC-X α method³ with other procedures as well as an estimate of the reliability of our results when applied to modeling the Si(111)-7×7 surface. It should be pointed out that no experimental information on the silicon clusters dealt with in this work has yet been published. Our numerical results are summarized in Table I.

The cluster Si₄ is computed for the two geometries corresponding to symmetries D_{4h} (square) and T_d (tetrahedron), respectively. For Si₄ (D_{4h}) we obtain the same valence-electron configuration ${}^{3}A_{2g}$, $(1a_{1g})^{2}(1e_{u})^{4}$ $(1b_{1g})^{2}(1b_{2g})^{2}(1a_{2u})^{2}(2a_{1g})^{2}(2e_{u})^{2}$, as Raghavachari¹¹ from *ab initio* Hartree-Fock calculations and as Pacchioni and Koutecky¹² (PK) from an *ab initio* procedure including some configuration interaction (the latter authors obtained a result with the second- and third-highest levels interchanged). For T_d symmetry our configuration 1A_1 , $(1a_1)^2(1t_2)^6(2a_1)^2(2t_2)^6$, is again identical with that of Raghavachari¹¹ while PK (Ref. 12) compute, as the ground state, a triplet configuration, which is however, lower in energy by only 0.003 eV than the ${}^{1}A_{1}$ configuration. Our bond lengths for Si₄ in D_{4h} and T_d symmetry of 2.198 and 2.342 Å, respectively, are slightly shorter than those of Raghavachari¹¹ (2.316 and 2.458 Å). The bond lengths computed by PK (Ref. 12) seem to be unreasonably large at 2.47 and 2.71 Å, respectively. Comparing the two symmetries with each other we obtain the result that the D_{4h} is distinctly more stable, in qualitative agreement with Raghavachari¹¹ and PK (Ref. 12) but in contrast to an older Hückel calculation of Martin and Schaber.¹³ Our result is supported by the fact that the overlap population of 0.886e between two adjacent Si atoms in the D_{4h} geometry indicates a considerably stronger covalent bond than in T_d geometry with (0.453e). This is easily understood because the bonds in the tetrahedron are bent and are energetically less favorable than the unstrained $(pp\sigma)$ bonds in the D_{4h} geometry.

Si₅ (cf. Fig. 1) is computed for three geometries corresponding to the symmetries D_{3h} (trigonal bipyramid), C_{4v} (square pyramid), and T_d (tetrahedron). According to our results, the trigonal bipyramid has the closed-shell valence-electron configuration ${}^{1}A'_{1}$, $(1a'_{2})^{2}(1a''_{2})^{2}(1e')^{4}$ $(2a'_{1})^{2}(1e'')^{4}(3a'_{1})^{2}(2e')^{4}$, with a lateral Si-Si distance of 2.991 Å and a bond length between lateral and axial

Pacchioni and Koutecky (Ref. 12)			Ragi	navachari (Ref. 11)	Present work			
Cluster	State	Bond length (Å)	State	Bond length (Å)	State	Bond length (Å)		
$Si_4 (D_{4h})$	${}^{3}A_{2g}$	d = 2.47	${}^{3}A_{2q}$	d = 2.316	${}^{3}A_{2g}$	d = 2.198		
$Si_4(T_d)$	${}^{3}T_{2}^{-3}$	d = 2.71	${}^{1}A_{1}^{-2}$	d = 2.458	${}^{1}A_{1}^{2}$	d = 2.342		
$Si_5 (D_{3h})$	${}^{3}A'_{2}$	d = 2.63	${}^{1}A_{1}^{\prime}$	$d_{\mathrm{lat-lat}}=3.256$	${}^{1}A'_{1}$	$d_{\text{lat-lat}}=2.991$		
				$d_{\rm lat-ax} = 2.338$		$d_{\rm lat-ax} = 2.342$		
$Si_5 (C_{4v})$	${}^{1}A_{1}$	d = 2.62	${}^{1}A_{1}$	$d_{\mathrm{lat-lat}}=2.295$	${}^{1}A_{1}$	$d_{\rm lat-lat} = 2.306$		
				$d_{\rm lat-ax} = 2.502$		$d_{\rm lat-ax} = 2.491$		
$Si_5(T_d)$	⁵ E	d = 2.50	no	values published	$^{1}A_{1g}$	d = 2.171		

TABLE I. Ground state and bond length of small silicon clusters.

atoms of 2.342 Å. The respective bond lengths of Raghavachari¹¹ are 3.256 and 2.338 Å. The bonding results from only the lateral-axial bonds, whereas the small negative overlap populations between two lateral atoms (-0.02e) and between the two axial atoms (-0.06e) exhibit a weak repulsion. The calculation of PK (Ref. 12) may be unreliable insofar as they assume equal nextneighbor distance of 2.63 Å for the lateral-lateral and the lateral-axial bonds. This is most likely the reason why their calculated ground state is a triplet configuration.

In C_{4v} symmetry we get a lateral bond length of 2.306 Å, a lateral-axial bond length of 2.491 Å and the configuration ${}^{1}A_{1}$, $(1a_{1})^{2}(1e)^{4}(2a_{1})^{2}(1b_{2})^{2}(1b_{1})^{2}(3a_{1})^{2}$ $(2e)^{4}(4a_{1})^{2}$, in almost perfect agreement with Raghavachari¹¹ whose atomic distances are 2.295 and 2.502 Å, respectively. Once more, the results of PK (Ref. 12) have to be discarded because of their assumption of equal bond lengths. The overlap population of 0.695*e* between two lateral atoms versus 0.329*e* between the axial atom and one lateral atom indicates much stronger covalent bonding within the square. The axial atom is negatively charged by -0.08e leading to positive charges of 0.02*e* at



FIG. 1. Si₅ cluster in (a) D_{3h} symmetry (trigonal bipyramid) with the lateral atoms 1,2,3 and the axial atoms 4,5; (b) C_{4v} symmetry with the axial atom 1 and the lateral atoms 2,3,4,5; (c) T_d symmetry with the central atom 1 and the peripheral atoms 2,3,4,5.

the lateral sites.

In tetrahedral geometry we compute $^{1}A_{1},$ $(1a_1)^2(1t_2)^6(2a_1)^2(2t_2)^6(1e)^4$, the as ground-state valence-electron configuration with a bond length of 2.171 Å. The calculation of PK (Ref. 12) yields 2.50 Å in a ⁵E ground-state configuration, both results appearing rather unlikely. In agreement with PK (Ref. 12) we deduce from the overlap population of 0.82e between the central atom and a peripheral atom that these interactions constitute the stability of tetrahedral Si₅, the overlap charge between two peripheral atoms being only 0.01e. The effective charges of 0.128e for the central atom and -0.032e for each peripheral atom due to internal charge fluctuations should slightly stabilize this cluster and shorten the bond length. The smooth potential curve of $Si_5(T_d)$ shows an extremely weak bonding and Raghavachari and Logovinsky¹⁴ suppose this cluster even to be unstable. This conclusion, however, could be due to the neglect of the Coulomb correlations in the Hartree-Fock calculations becoming especially important when strong repulsive nonbonding interactions between lonepair orbitals occur, as is also the case in F_2 .

We obtain the result that Si_5 is most stable in D_{3h} symmetry which agrees with Raghavachari¹¹ but not with PK (Ref. 12) who favor a planar C_{2v} geometry, maybe due to unreasonable geometry restrictions in the case of D_{3h} and C_{4v} . Therefore, D_{3h} is proposed to be the ground-state geometry for Si₅.

Altogether, the SCC- $X\alpha$ bond lengths agree with the Hartree-Fock results of Raghavachari¹¹ within 5% or better which proves that Si—Si bonds are well described in the framework of the SCC- $X\alpha$ method and that reliable results can be expected also for calculations on the silicon surface.

III. THE CLEAN SI(111) SURFACE

The solid-state model and the cluster model are two approaches to treat adsorption phenomena on solid surfaces, which mainly differ in modeling the substrate. The solid-state model assumes it as a two-dimensional ideal surface only weakly disturbed by the adsorbate. For several reasons, viz., problems with self-consistency, nonideal substrate surfaces and determination of adsorption geometries via total-energy calculations, the solidstate model is not a suitable approach in our case. Within the cluster model the adsorption site and its environment are represented by a finite cluster; this approach is applicable if the adsorption can be assumed to be in good approximation a local phenomenon.¹⁵ Although the cluster model is less realistic, it offers several practical advantages compared to the solid-state model concerning the treatment of nonideal surfaces and the determination of adsorption geometries, in particular. The well-known drawbacks of the cluster model, viz., the size problem, internal charge fluctuations, and the embedding problem can be treated by standard techniques described, e.g., in Hütsch.⁹

The only theoretical work on a Si(111)-7 \times 7 surface reconstructed in the DAS-model is a recent calculation of Qian and Chadi¹⁶ which is, however, non-self-consistent and restricted to next-neighbor interactions. Even though the simplicity of this approach allows the handling of a cluster of 200 Si atoms and 49 H atoms, and determination of its equilibrium geometry, it precludes, e.g., the distinction between a fcc and a hcp lattice since for tetrahedral coordinated atoms the next-neighbor environments are equal in both cases. Thus, the stacking fault in the DAS model cannot be accounted for but has to be introduced as an assumption.

In the SCC- $X\alpha$ method³ the interatomic-potential matrix elements are not parametrized but explicitly calculated through

$$V_{ij}^{\mu\nu} = \int d^3 r \, \varphi_i^{(\mu)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\mu}) \left[\sum_{\mu \neq \nu} V_{at}^{(\kappa)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\kappa}) \right] \varphi_j^{(\nu)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\nu}) , \qquad (1)$$

where $\varphi_i^{(\mu)}(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}_{\mu})$ denotes the $(n_i l_i m_i)$ real atomic valence orbital of the atom μ located at \mathbf{R}_{μ} . The atomic potential $V_{\rm at}^{(\kappa)}$ is described in the $X\alpha$ approximation, and the sum includes all cluster atoms κ , which removes the restriction to next-neighbor interactions. Moreover, the resulting secular equation is solved self-consistently with respect to atomic-orbital (AO) occupation numbers

$$x_{i}^{\mu} = 2a_{i}^{\mu} \sum_{\nu,j} S_{ij}^{\mu\nu} P_{ij}^{\mu\nu} / (a_{i}^{\mu} + a_{j}^{\nu}) , \qquad (2)$$

which are constructed from the overlap matrix $S_{ij}^{\mu\nu}$ and the bond-order matrix elements

$$P_{ij}^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{k} n_k c_{ik}^{\mu} c_{jk}^{\nu} , \qquad (3)$$

where n_k are the occupation numbers of the molecular orbitals (MO's) and the weight factors¹⁷ are introduced in order to overcome the drawbacks of the Mulliken population analysis in a simple way. Whereas the SCC-X α calculation should yield more reliable results, it imposes limitations upon the cluster size for handling the system within reasonable computation time. In our case, the minimal cluster size is determined by the requirement of including at least the next nearest neighbors of each adsorption site because it has turned out that these are still affected by Ge adsorption. Consequently, we selected a Si₂₈H₂₆ cluster (cf. Fig. 2) to model the Si(111)-7×7 surface as the substrate for Ge adsorption. As usual, the H atoms serve to saturate the Si bonds on the artificial surface arising from cutting the cluster out of the bulk. The average effective charge of all Si bulk atoms including



FIG. 2. (a) Top view of the Si atoms of the free $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster with the adatom 1 and the surface site 6. The second-layer atom 14 under the adatom is hidden from view. (b) Side view of the adatom layer and the first four layers of the unrelaxed Si(111) surface within a plane determined by atoms 1, 5, 6, and 14. The diffraction plane d_{111} is the middle of the Si bilayer and d_{bi} is the bilayer separation. The computed distance d_{a2} between the second layer and the adatom layer is 0.67 Å shorter than d_{111} . There is no direct bonding between the adatom 1 and the surface-site atom 6. The atoms 3 and 7 directly bonded to the adatom are above and below the plane (indicated by dotted circles).

those of the artificial surface amounts to $(0.031\pm0.031)e$ so that the internal charge fluctuations are sufficiently suppressed. The computation time for this 138-valenceorbital cluster amounts to 95 sec per iteration on a Siemens 7.882 computer, which is approximately 8–10 times slower than a Cray 1.

Starting from the equilibrium geometry as calculated by Qian and Chadi¹⁶ we have checked the equilibrium positions of those Si atoms where Ge adsorption takes place, namely the surface site [atom 6, cf. Fig. 2(a)] and the adatom (atom 1). Defining the surface as the average z coordinate of those surface atoms [atoms 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, cf. Fig. 2(a)] saturated by an adatom in the DAS model, the height of the adatom is 1.266 Å corresponding to an average bond distance of 2.461 Å to the neighboring atoms 3, 5, and 7. This is in almost perfect agreement with the results of Qian and Chadi,¹⁶ our bond lengths being only 0.028 Å shorter. On the other hand, the height of the surface site over the surface is 0.068 Å, giving an average bond length to its next-neighbor atoms 13, 15, and 17 of 2.310 Å, which is shorter by 0.100 Å than the respective value of Qian and Chadi.¹⁶ This does not seem to be a large deviation but the corresponding heights of atom 6 over the surface differ significantly, Chadi and Qian's¹⁶ surface site protruding by 0.261 Å over the surface. However, it should be noticed that our calculated distance is slightly closer to the Si bulk bond length of 2.35 Å.

The reason for the differences for these two sites could originate from higher-order neighbor interactions. For the surface atom is in a real "hollow site" with an atom underneath only in the sixth layer, whereas the adatom resides essentially in a "top site" because the atom 14 [hidden from view in Fig. 2(a) by the adatom] is located directly below at a distance of 2.441 Å. For decreasing distances the adatom will be prevented from sinking into the bulk by atom 14 while such an argument does not apply to the surface site. This effect, however, can only be taken into account if there is no restriction to interaction between sp³-bonded partners. Northrup¹⁸ and Qian and Chadi¹⁶ calculate the distance between the adatom and atom 14 to be 2.49 Å (which is 2% above our value of 2.44 Å) while Daum, Ibach, and Müller¹⁹ obtain 2.32 Å (which is 5% below). From the short separation one cannot, however, conclude that the adatom is fivefold coordinated, as do Daum, Ibach, and Müller.¹⁹ We obtain a bond with predominant $(p_z p_z \sigma)$ character and an overlap population of 0.124e, significantly lower than the usual Si-Si overlap population in the bulk of approximately 0.6e. Such a bonding is also consistent with the results of Northrup¹⁸ who computed the total energy per adatom in a top site as being 0.64 eV lower than in a hollow site.

Our results can be eventually made compatible with a recent x-ray standing-wave (XSW) measurement by Durbin *et al.*²⁰ They interpreted the experiment in another

way, namely as a contraction in the [111] direction of the topmost two atom layers by 0.57 ± 0.16 Å. This did not include the adatom layer as the topmost one, since they assume the adatoms to be of no influence within their error bars. If the experiment is granted as being correct it can be reinterpreted along the following line of argument. We think that Durbin et al.²⁰ could have erroneously believed that they had measured the distance between the surface and the third layer instead of the distance between the adatom layer and the second layer. They attri- $D_{i^{/\lambda}}$ to bute an Auger-electron yield proportional to e the *i*th atom layer of the depth D_i where the mean free path λ of an Auger electron is assumed to be layer independent. Since the adatom layer consists of only 12 adatoms per 7×7 surface unit cell, a mean free path for that layer about four times larger should be a better approximation, resulting in an accordingly larger Augerelectron yield, not too different from that of a bulk layer. Our computed adatom height over the second layer is 0.67 Å shorter than the d_{111} lattice constant of 3.14 Å appearing, thus, as the contraction of two planes by 0.57 ± 0.16 Å as measured by Durbin *et al.*²⁰ [cf. Fig. 2(b)].

Table II shows the highest MO's of the electronic structure of our $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster. The surface atoms 2, 4, 8, and 9 (cf. Fig. 2) give rise to four delocalized artificial surface states because they are not bonded to an adatom as in the real-surface DAS model. These delocalized

TABLE II. Electronic structure of $Si_{28}H_{26}$ (cf. Fig. 2).										
AO contributions to MO (in % of MO)										
MO	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72		
V_I (eV)	7.405	7.333	6.507	6.465	6.349	6.324	6.285	5.465		
1 Si 3s ^a	0	0						8		
1 Si 3 <i>p</i> ^a	7	10						31		
2+9 Si 3s ^b			8	7	5	6	0			
2+9 Si 3p ^b			42	42	25	29	3			
$4+8$ Si $3s^{b}$			4	5	9	9	0			
4+8 Si 3p ^b			21	27	46	47	3			
3+7 Si 3s ^c	2	0						3		
$3+7$ Si $3p^{\circ}$	51	17	4					26		
5 Si 3s ^d	0	2						2		
5 Si 3 <i>p</i> ^d	. 1	35						12		
6 Si 3s ^e			2				8			
6 Si 3 <i>p</i> ^e			. 8				63			
14 Si 3s ^f	0	0						1		
14 Si 3p ^f	28	28				-		1		

^aAdatom.

^bSurface atom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^cSurface atom saturated by adatom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^dSurface atom saturated by adatom.

^eSurface site.

^fSecond-layer atom under adatom.

artificial surface states (MO's 67–70) are easily identified by their atom-orbital (AO) composition in Table II, which displays all contributions $\geq 1\%$ to the MO's. MO 72 is the adatom surface state, first observed by Binnig et al.²¹ with scanning tunneling microscopy (STM). MO 71 has a 71% AO contribution from the surface site (atom 6) and corresponds to one of the six (real) surface states of the 7×7 unit cell first identified by Hamers et al.²² by using the same technique. According to our calculation, the adatom surface state consists of 39% adatom contributions and 45% AO contributions from the four next neighbors (atoms 3, 5, 7, and 14; cf. Fig. 2) of the adatom and is, hence, delocalized over a Si₅ cluster with a geometry close to that of a trigonal bipyramid calculated in Sec. II.

A further means for testing the suitability of the $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster for modeling the Si(111)-7×7 surface is supplied by the comparison of our calculated ionization potentials V_I with other experimental²² and theoretical¹⁶ values. The ionization potentials are given relative to the Fermi energy E_F , defined as the energy of the highest occupied state. The surface states at the adatom (MO 72) and at the surface site (MO 71) as well as the backbond (MO's 65 and 66) are most suitable for this comparison. Since the backbond MO's are nearly degenerate we define their V_I as

$$V_{I}(\text{backbond}) \equiv \frac{V_{I}(\text{MO 66}) + V_{I}(\text{MO 65})}{2} \pm \frac{V_{I}(\text{MO 66}) - V_{I}(\text{MO 65})}{2}$$

The values for the MO's obtained in this way are given in Table III. The V_I calculated with the SCC-X α method match the experimental data slightly better than those of Qian and Chadi.¹⁶ However, with respect to the size of the investigated systems, the maximum deviation of 0.2 eV has to be regarded as a good mutual agreement between both modes of calculation.

Considering the density of states (DOS) permits the qualitative comparison with photoelectron spectra (PES) when the discrete levels ε_k are folded by a Gaussian according to²³

$$N(\varepsilon) = \sum_{k} \frac{n_{k}}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-(1/2)[(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{k})/\sigma]^{2}} .$$
(4)

The DOS for the cluster $Si_{28}H_{26}$ is shown in Fig. 3(a). The peak at E_F is attributed to the adatom surface state and the peak at about -6.3 eV arises from the surface site. The next peak at -7.5 eV comes from dangling bonds of the surface atoms 2, 4, 8, and 9 and is, therefore, a cluster artifact. The real surface states agree with the ultraviolet PES results from Demuth *et al.*²⁴ More than qualitative agreement in the bulk region cannot be expected because, first, a cluster of only 28 Si atoms is not sufficient and second, Eq. (4) does not incorporate cross sections.

To assess the influence of the artificial dangling bonds of the surface atoms 2, 4, 8, and 9 on the results so far obtained, the position of the surface site atom was varied again in a $Si_{28}H_{30}$ cluster where these bonds were each saturated by one H atom. In this case, the surface site atom moves closer to the surface by 0.002 Å (a negligible



FIG. 3. (a) Density-of-states curve for the free $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster. Here and in the subsequent DOS plots, E_F is defined as the energy of the highest occupied state. (b) DOS curve for the $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster with one Ge atom adsorbed on the surface site (atom 6 in Fig. 2). (c) DOS curve for the $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster with one Ge atom adsorbed on the adatom site (atom 1 in Fig. 2). (d) DOS curve of the $Ge_2Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster for coadsorption on the adatom and on the surface-site atom.

Source	Hamers et al. (Ref. 23)	Qian and Chadi (Ref. 17)	Present work
State	(expt.)	(theor.)	(theor.)
Adatom	$E_F = -0.2 \text{ eV}$	E_F	E_F
Surface site	$E_{F} = -0.8 \text{ eV}$	$E_{F} = -0.9 \text{eV}$	$E_{F} = -0.82 \text{ eV}$
Backbond	$E_{F} - 1.7 \text{eV}$	$E_F - 1.5 \text{ eV}$	$E_F - (1.90 \pm 0.04) \text{ eV}$

TABLE III. Comparison of selected surface states from various sources.

effect), and the V_I of the adatom and the backbond are $E_F - 0.79$ eV and $E_F - (1.89 \pm 0.04)$ eV, respectively. In spite of these minor improvements with regard to the experimental data from Hamers *et al.*,²² the subsequent calculations on Ge adsorption on this substrate are performed with the unsaturated Si₂₈H₂₆ cluster because the changes seem to be too small to justify the additional computational effort for the larger cluster.

IV. Ge ADSORPTION ON A Si(111)-7×7 SURFACE

The last set of calculations comprises the adsorption of a single Ge atom on the surface-atop site [atom 6 in Fig. 2(a)], on the adatom-atop site [atom 1 in Fig. 2(a)], and the coadsorption of two Ge atoms on both sites in the DAS model. These investigations are intended to contribute to the understanding of the initial growth steps of thin Ge layers on silicon. Dev *et al.*^{25,26} have grown Ge on a Si(111)-7×7 sub-

Dev et al.^{25,26} have grown Ge on a Si(111)-7×7 substrate. According to their XSW measurements the Ge atoms are exclusively adsorbed on surface-atop sites for low coverages [up to $\Theta = 0.2$ monolayers (ML); 1 ML \cong 49 Ge atoms per 7×7 unit cell] whereas for $\Theta \approx 0.4$ ML, Ge is adsorbed on the Si adatoms as well. The possibility of Ge adsorption on Si adatoms has been questionable so far.

Starting with the adsorption of a single Ge atom on the surface-atop site of the $Si_{28}H_{26}$ cluster, we are comparing the electronic structure, Table IV, with that of the free cluster. The artificial surface states (MO's 69–72 in Table IV) are destabilized by only about 0.1 eV compared to the free cluster (cf. Table II) due to AO contributions of up to 2% from Ge p orbitals. The nearly degenerate highest occupied MO's 74 and 75 are lone pairs of the adsorbed Ge (atom 55). The dangling bond of the surface-site Si atom is pushed into the bulk states due to Ge adsorption, as can be verified by comparing the DOS curve [Fig. 3(b)] with that of the free cluster [Fig. 3(a)]. The minima in the DOS of the free cluster at -15.3 and -16.6 eV are less pronounced when Ge is adsorbed.

The SCC-X α valence-electron total energy as a function of the Si-Ge distance has been determined next. The calculated bond length of 2.638 Å exceeds the Ge bulk bond length of 2.45 Å considerably, most likely for the following reason. There is a spurious 16% AO contribution of the Ge atom to MO 73 (cf. Table IV) consisting otherwise of AO's from the trigonal bipyramid structure at the adatom (atoms 1, 3, 5, 7, and 14). We suspect this to be caused by numerical instabilities during matrix diagonalization which may occasionally occur when many eigenvalues are closely spaced. It is quite improbable that there exists a physical reason for this Ge AO contri-

bution because of the separation of 4.60 Å between the adatom and the Ge adsorbate, which is also confirmed by the negligible overlap population of 0.008e. The effect of this 16% spurious contribution is an increased amount of electron density attributed to the Ge atom, yielding an effective negative charge of -0.02e, whereas a slightly positive charge on Ge should be expected in a Si-Ge bond. This argument gets support from another set of calculations where the Ge adsorption on the surface-atop site is repeated with the "saturated" $Si_{28}H_{30}$ cluster. This allows us to check the influence of the artificial surface states, too. In fact, this spurious AO contribution vanishes when the Si substrate is modified in this way. However, these calculations could not be made convergent for all geometries since three almost-degenerate MO's interchange during the iteration for some Si-Ge distances.

The next series of calculations investigates whether a Ge atom (atom 55) can be adsorbed on the adatom-atop site (atom 1). A minimum in the SCC- $X\alpha$ total valence energy as a function of the Si-Ge distance indicates clearly a stable bond. The electronic structure of the substrate-adsorbate system is given in Table V, and Fig. 3(c) shows the density-of-states curve. As expected, the free-cluster surface state at the adatom (MO 72 in Table II) is pushed into the bulk states upon Ge adsorption on the adatom. The calculated equilibrium distance between the adatom and the adsorbed Ge is 2.339 Å and thus 0.299 Å shorter than the corresponding bond length for surface-atop site adsorption. The overlap population of 0.842e between the adsorbed Ge and the Si adatom is distinctly larger than for surface-atop adsorption with an overlap population of 0.641e. However, this difference can be attributed mainly to the different bond lengths and does not tell anything about the preferred adsorption site. To find the energetically favorable adsorption site, one has to compare the total energies. For a single adsorbed Ge atom we obtain a value for the total energy 2.502 eV per atom or 57.69 kcal/mol lower for surface-atop adsorption than for adatom-atop adsorption. This value seems reasonable with respect to the bulk cohesive energies for Si (176 kcal/mol) and Ge (159 kcal/mol) even though we assume the true energy difference to be smaller by a factor of roughly 1.5 because $X\alpha$ procedures tend to overestimate binding energies in open-shell systems²⁷ like the substrate-adsorbate system dealt with here. The difference in total energy can easily be understood by comparing the two DOS curves for single adsorption. In the case of surface-atop adsorption [cf. Fig. 3(b)], a smaller average density of states is recognized in the region from E_F down to roughly $E_F - 13$ eV than for adatomatop adsorption [cf. Fig. 3(c)], whereas the opposite is found in the interval between $E_F - 13$ eV and $E_F - 19$ eV.

		AO contrib	outions to M	O (in % of	MO)		
MO	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
V_I (eV)	6.431	6.429	6.294	6.264	5.601	5.545	5.534
1 Si 3s ^a					6		2
1 Si 3 <i>p</i> ^a					26		7
2+9 Si 3s ^b	9	8	4	4		0	
2+9 Si 3p ^b	49	49	21	23		2	
$4 + 8$ Si $3s^{b}$	3	3	9	10		0	0
$4 + 8$ Si $3p^{b}$	18	20	50	53		1	1
3+7 Si 3s ^c					3		0
$3+7$ Si $3p^{c}$					24		4
5 Si 3s ^d					1		1
5 Si 3p ^d					9		4
14 Si 3s ^e					1		
14 Si 3p ^e					1		
55 Ge 4s ^f	0	0	0		0	0	0
55 Ge 4p ^f	1	2	1		16	95	74

TABLE IV. Electronic structure of $Si_{28}H_{26}$ for adsorption of a single Ge atom (atom 55) on the surface site (atom 6).

^aAdatom.

^bSurface atom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^cSurface atom saturated by adatom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^dSurface atom saturated by adatom.

^eSecond-layer atom under adatom.

^fGermanium adsorbate.

		AO contrib	outions to M	O (in % of	MO)		
MO	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
V_I (eV)	6.478	6.435	6.320	6.296	6.250	5.635	5.633
2+9 Si 3s ^a	8	7	5	6	0		
$2+9$ Si $3p^{a}$	43	44	25	29	4		
$4 + 8 Si 3s^{a}$	4	5	9	9	0		
$4 + 8$ Si $3p^{a}$	21	27	47	47	2		
$3 + 7$ Si $3s^{b}$						2	0
$3+7$ Si $3p^{b}$						8	3
5 Si 3s ^c							1
5 Si 3p°							5
6 Si 3s ^d	1				8		
6 Si 3p ^d	8				63		
55 Ge 4s ^e						0	0
55 Ge 4p ^e						89	88

TABLE V.	Electronic	structure	of S	$Si_{28}H_{26}$	for	adsorption	of a	l single	Ge	atom	(atom	55)	on	the	ada-
tom (atom 1).															

^aSurface atom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^bSurface atom saturated by adatom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^cSurface atom saturated by adatom.

^dSurface site.

^eGermanium adsorbate.

Thus, surface-atop adsorption of a Ge atom diminishes the density of surfacelike states in favor of a higher density of bulklike states to a larger extent than adatom-atop adsorption, leading eventually to a lower valence total energy in the former case.

Next, we turn to the coadsorption of Ge on the surface site and the adatom site. The electronic structure is given in Table VI, and Fig. 3(d) shows the DOS curve. The V_I of the artificial dangling bonds (MO's 71-74 in Table VI) are nearly unchanged if compared with both cases of single adsorption as well as to the bare cluster so that noticeable effects on the computed equilibrium geometry are not expected. The next four MO's 75-78 are Ge lone pairs with the lower two mainly located at the surfaceatop-site-adsorbed Ge (atom 55) whereas the upper ones belong to the adatom-atop Ge (atom 56). With 85% AO contribution from atom 55, MO 76 is identified as the surface-atop adsorbate level and, analogously, MO 77 with 82% Ge p-orbital contributions is a lone pair from the Ge atom adsorbed on the adatom. The situation is less clear with MO's 75 and 78 because MO 75 contains a 34% contribution from atom 56, although the corresponding Ge lone pair MO 77 has a 0.264 eV higher V_I . Likewise, MO 78 exhibits a 40% p-orbital contribution of atom 55 adsorbed on the surface site with its "true" lone pair MO 76 lower by 0.290 eV. This is striking because for adsorption of a single Ge atom the lone pairs are nearly degenerate, i.e., for surface-atop adsorption the separation between the Ge lone pairs is 0.011 eV (MO's 74 and 75 in Table IV) and for adatom-atop adsorption the splitting is only 0.002 eV (MO's 74 and 75 in Table **V**).

The various bonds between the substrate and the adsorbate can be analyzed by comparing the dominant contributions that constitute the bond (cf. Table VII) with each other. Two points should be emphasized. First, the Ge—Si—adatom bond has a significantly larger π character and, second, the bond populations for single adsorption and coadsorption, respectively, are almost identical in both cases.

The effective charge of the surface-atop Ge atom is more positive by 0.029e than that of the adatom-atop one which explains the ordering of the Ge lone-pair MO's. This charge difference can be understood in terms of the larger distance of the Ge atom on the Si adatom site to the average surface (defined by the atoms 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9; cf. Sec. III) since a larger distance leads to a decreased charge separation between the surface and the adsorbed atom that reflects the experimental situation, too. The computed effective Ge charges and Si—Ge bond lengths are as follows.

	Coadse	Single ads.		
Adsorption on	$Q_{\rm eff}({ m Ge})$	d(Si,Ge)	d(Si,Ge)	
Adatom-atop	0.015e	2.312 Å	2.339 Å	
Surface-atop	0.044 <i>e</i>	2.515 Å	2.638 Å	

Whereas the Si—adatom—Ge bond length remains almost unchanged for coadsorption, a considerable shortening by 0.123 Å of the Si—Ge bond length is obtained in the case of surface-atop adsorption. This confirms our earlier assumption that the unreasonably large distance of 2.638 Å may be due to a numerical instability.

By investigating, finally, the additional adsorption of a

		AO con	ntributions	to MO (in	% of MO)		
$\begin{array}{c} \text{MO} \\ V_I \ (\text{eV}) \end{array}$	71 6.463	72 6.459	73 6.335	74 6.305	75 5.889	76 5.713	77 5.625	78 5.423
2+9 Si 3s ^a 2+9 Si 3p ^a	6 39	6 37	7 33	5 31		0 1		
$4+8$ Si $3s^{a}$ $4+8$ Si $3p^{a}$	5 29	5 29	7 39	8 45	0 2	0 1		
3+7 Si 3s ^b 3+7 Si 3p ^b					0 3	0 1	2 7	0 1
5 Si 3s ^c 5 Si 3p ^c					1 3			0 3
55 Ge 4s ^d 55 Ge 4p ^d	0 4	0	0 1		0 53	0 85	0 7	0 40
56 Ge 4s ^e 56 Ge 4p ^e					0 34	0 6	0 82	0 53

TABLE VI. Electronic structure of $Si_{28}H_{26}$ for coadsorption of two Ge atoms. Atom 55 Ge is adsorbed on the surface site (atom 6) and atom 56 Ge is adsorbed on the adatom (atom 1).

^aSurface atom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^bSurface atom saturated by adatom. Due to symmetry both atoms yield the same AO contributions. Therefore, no information is lost by their addition.

^cSurface atom saturated by adatom.

^dGermanium adsorbate on the surface site.

^eGermanium adsorbate on the adatom.

	Adate	om adsorption	Surface	e-site adsorption
Bond	Single	Coadsorption	Single	Coadsorption
(Si 3p, Ge $4p,\sigma$)	0.37	0.37	0.47	0.47
(Si 3s, Ge $4p,\sigma$)	0.25	0.25	0.16	0.18
(Si 3p, Ge $4s, \sigma$)	0.12	0.12	0.03	0.06
(Si $3p$, Ge $4p, \pi$)	0.13	0.14	0.01	0.02

TABLE VII. Dominant contributions to the overlap population of the various Si—Ge adsorption bonds.

third Ge atom, we could show that breaking up the adatom structure yields a stable structure according to the experimentally observed transformation of the Si(111)- 7×7 superstructure into a perfect 1×1 surface upon Ge adsorption.^{28,29} Thereby, two Ge atoms are adsorbed on the Si atoms 3 and 5 (cf. Fig. 2) in the same way as the remaining Ge atom is in the surface-atop site. The former Si adatom binds in an analogous manner to atom 7, albeit at a shorter distance. The calculated bond lengths are 2.386 Å for the Si-Ge bond and 1.912 Å for the Si—Si bond, respectively; the latter appears too short as a consequence of charge fluctuations leading to an unduly polar bond. According to this result, we expect the adatom structure to begin to break up at a Ge coverage of approximately 0.4 ML, nearly equivalent to the saturation of all Si dangling bonds in the DAS model. This is consistent with the XSW results for higher coverages.³⁰

In order to understand the formation of this stable adsorption conformation, we have calculated, as a first step, the adsorption of the third Ge on top of that Ge atom adsorbed on the Si adatom. Such an arrangement, however, turned out to be impossible, i.e., it did not lead to a stable geometry. To examine this process in more detail, possible reaction paths for the approach of an additional Ge atom have to be figured out when all Si adsorption sites are already occupied. To this end, further calculations are currently in progress to obtain the electrostatic potential in the vicinity of the Ge-deposited surface in order to determine such reaction paths.

V. COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENT

Since no theoretical investigations of the Ge adsorption on Si(111)-7×7 surfaces have been published so far, we correlate our results only to the available experimental data. Gossmann *et al.*^{28,29} report that the Si(111)-7×7 superstructure transforms into a perfect 1×1 surface upon Ge deposition of $\Theta \approx 1.3$ ML at T = 570 K but that it does not take place at room temperature. This reconstruction is in accordance with our calculations insofar as the adsorption of a third Ge atom leads to a stable structure only if the adatom structure is broken up. However, our calculations correspond to Ge coverages of about 0.5 ML, and we did not follow the growth process in detail. Consequently, a Ge coverage of $\Theta = 1.3$ ML is too high for an instructive comparison with our calculations.

Patel *et al.*³¹ deposited approximately 0.8 ML Ge on a Si(111)-7×7 substrate at a rate of about 1 ML/sec which exceeds that of Gossmann *et al.*²⁸ by a factor of 600. Accordingly, the possibility cannot be excluded that they

have measured growth processes perturbed by Ge-Ge collisions during the adsorption. This effect could be significant because Patel *et al.*³¹ have kept the substrate at room temperature during epitaxy, thereby impeding the Ge atoms from finding their ideal adsorption site through surface diffusion. Furthermore, their interpretation is not based on an adatom model and assumes the upper two silicon surface layers are unrelaxed. Moreover, they did not work under ultrahigh vacuum (UHV) conditions and added an amorphous silicon cap of 100 Å to protect the Ge layer. According to Gibson *et al.*³² such a cap preserves the 7×7 superstructure but presumably removes the adatom layer. Yet, in the [111] direction Patel *et al.*³¹ observed a phase value of 1.02d₁₁₁ $(d_{111}=3.14 \text{ Å})$ of the Fourier component of the Ge distribution function, close to the value of 1.06d₁₁₁ for $\Theta_{Ge}=0.4 \text{ ML}$ measured by Dev *et al.*^{25,26} In a second paper, Patel *et al.*³³ base the interpretation

In a second paper, Patel *et al.*³³ base the interpretation of their XSW measurements under UHV conditions on the DAS model but the Ge coverage of $\Theta \approx 1$ ML still does not allow any conclusion about the preferred adsorption site because an occupation of all six surface sites in a 7×7 unit cell corresponds to about 0.12 ML only. In the [111] direction they measured a phase value of 1.04d₁₁₁ with a coherent fraction of 0.44 but they did not give any details about the Ge positions and coverage sites. Therefore, this paper does not contain any valuable information with regard to our calculations.

Dev et al.²⁶ performed XSW measurements on the Ge/Si(111)-7 \times 7 interface under UHV conditions for Ge coverages of 0.2, 0.4, and 0.5 ML at a substrate temperature of 530 °C. They interpret the coverage of 0.2 ML in the frame of the DAS model as the Ge occupation of all six surface-atop sites, whereas the coverages of 0.4 and 0.5 ML are interpreted as the occupation of all atop sites; the last value allows a small incoherent fraction from random positions. Thereby, Dev et al.^{25,26} introduce three assumptions in their interpretation. First, they assume the height of the adatom over the first Si layer to be 0.78 Å based on the STM experiments of Binnig et al.²¹ Second, the Si-Ge bond length is given the same value of 2.40 Å for both adsorption sites, which is the arithmetic average of the Si and Ge bulk bond lengths. Finally, they choose the Si bilayer separation also to be 0.78 Å corresponding to an unrelaxed geometrical configuration. These assumptions have to be revised according to our results: On the one hand, the calculated Si-Ge bond lengths are substantially different for both adsorption sites. On the other hand, the adatom position deviates considerably from the assumed 1.56 Å over the second

layer. Remarkably, both errors almost cancel each other since, according to our calculations, the average Si-Ge bond length with six Ge atoms adsorbed on surface-atop sites and 12 on adatom-atop ones, corresponding to a coverage of about 0.4 ML Ge, is 2.38 Å and thus close to 2.40 Å. For a Ge coverage of 0.2 ML which equals an occupation of only the surface-atop sites, Dev et al.²⁵ measure in the [111] direction the Ge distance from the (111) diffraction plane which is the middle of the Si bilayer in the absence of relaxation. The resulting Si-Ge distance is 2.34 ± 0.06 Å, a value being most likely too short. For Becker *et al.*³⁴ observed a contraction by 0.2 Å with STM in the faulted subcell of the DAS model that would lead to a Si-Ge bond length of 2.44 Å, significantly closer to our results. Independently of this reasoning, a mechanism producing the short Si-Ge bond length in the XSW experiments of Dev et al.²⁵ could be a possible contraction of the surface-atop site upon adsorption. Additionally, according to the recent calculation by Qian and Chadi³⁵ more than just the upper two Si layers exhibit a relaxation, which seems more plausible than a relaxation of only the topmost two layers as reported by Takayanagi et al.² In summing up, we can conclude from our results that the actual Si-Ge bond length for direct surface-atop adsorption should range between 2.40 and 2.52 Å. Finally, taking the observations from Dev et al.^{25,26} for granted, the interpretation of the XSW measurements by Durbin et al.²⁰ on the bare Si(111)7 \times 7 surface would require the unrealistic Si-Ge distance of 2.90 Å, supporting our reasoning in Sec. III.

For $\Theta_{Ge} = 0.4$ ML Dev *et al.*²⁵ interpret their experiment as a complete Ge occupation of surface-atop and adatom-atop sites, the latter being possible only after all surface sites are occupied. This agrees exactly with our calculations that adatom adsorption of Ge is possible but distinctly less favorable. Such an interpretation gets further support from their measurements for Ge coverages of 0.2 and 0.5 ML in the [220] direction where the higher

coverage corresponds to an occupation of all 18 adsorption sites in a 7×7 unit cell (or 19 including the corner hole). In this case, the observed Ge position was $0.75d_{220}$ ($d_{220} = 1.92$ Å) instead of $0.72d_{220}$ as expected by them. This deviation is slightly above the given error bar of $0.01d_{220}$, the reason being simply the erroneous assumption of the too short adatom height, which gains importance with higher coverages when more Ge atoms are adsorbed on adatoms than on surface-site atoms.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented the first theoretical results about Ge adsorption on a reconstructed Si(111)- 7×7 surface by cluster model calculations. Ge adsorption on adatoms is found to be possible but energetically less favorable than direct surface-atop adsorption, in agreement with experimental data. Thus, adatom adsorption takes place only after all surface sites are occupied. Our calculated distances are consistent with the available experimental data leading, at the same time, to revised interpretations in some cases. For Ge coverages higher than about 0.4 ML no additional Ge adsorption is possible without substantial structural changes. Stable structures are obtained by the rearrangement of the adatom structure, equivalent to the experimentally observed transformation from a 7×7 superstructure into a 1×1 lattice. A theoretical explanation of the initial steps of Ge/Si(111)-7 \times 7 interface formation has been tried. In order to understand this process in more detail, the electrostatic potential of the substrate-adsorbate system is currently being computed from the charge density at the cluster surface and between the adsorbates.

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