

Electronic and optical properties of the 1T phases of TiS₂, TiSe₂, and TiTe₂

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The electronic properties of the 1T phase of TiX₂ (X=S, Se, and Te) compounds are calculated using the full potential linear augmented plane wave method as embodied in the WIEN97 code. Our calculations show that all the compounds are semimetallic. The density of states at the Fermi energy $N(E_F)$, controlled by the overlap between the Ti *d* and X *p* states, increases from 0.35 to 0.9 to 1.6 states/eV unit cell as we go from S to Se to Te. We report calculations of the anisotropic frequency-dependent optical properties of these compounds and find excellent agreement with the available experimental data. The optical properties show three main structures that can be attributed to transitions between the X *p* states and the Ti *d* states.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The titanium dichalcogenide compounds TiX₂ (X=S, Se, Te) have been studied extensively because of their interesting structural and electronic properties. TiX₂ show a great potential for a variety of technological applications (Wilson and Yoffe¹). These compounds consist primarily of a hexagonal sheet of Ti atoms sandwiched between two similar sheets of chalcogen (X) atoms, forming the basic X-Ti-X sandwich. The sheets are coupled by relatively weak van der Waals forces while the atoms within the sheet are coupled by strong covalent bonds. These compounds have highly anisotropic physical properties so much so that they can be regarded as two-dimensional solids. As a result of this the TiX₂ can be intercalated with foreign atoms and molecules leading to significant changes in their electronic properties and making them technologically useful. For example, the intercalation of lithium in TiS₂ has found use in lithium batteries.²

There exist a number of band structure calculations of the 1T-TiX₂ compounds. Umrigar *et al.*,³ using the self-consistent linear augmented plane-wave (LAPW) scheme, showed that TiS₂ is semimetallic. This was in contrast to the optical measurements of Greenway and Nitsche,⁴ which suggested that TiS₂ is a semiconductor with a gap of 1–2 eV. The optical data of Liang and others^{5,6} could not resolve this discrepancy as it did not extend to low enough energies. Murray and Yoffe⁷ have calculated the band structure of the titanium dichalcogenides using semiempirical tight binding parameters fitted to optical reflectivity and absorption data. From the measurements of the Hall coefficient, thermoelectric power and resistivity as a function of pressure, Klipstein and Friend⁸ concluded that the band overlap between S 3*p* states and Ti 3*d* states increased at a rate 4.5 meV/kbar. This work also suggested that TiS₂ is a semiconductor with a gap of around 0.18 eV. Benesh, Woolley, and Umrigar⁹ calculated the band structure of TiS₂ and TiSe₂ using the LAPW method as a function of pressure and confirmed this increase in band overlap. However, their calculations also gave a semimetallic state with a 0.24 eV (0.55 eV) overlap for TiS₂ (TiSe₂). The calculation of Fang, de Groot, and Haas¹⁰ based on the augmented spherical wave (ASW) method and of Wu *et al.*^{11,12} based on the linear muffin-tin orbital

(LMTO) method show that TiS₂ is semimetallic. A pseudo-potential (PP) calculation shows TiS₂ to be a semiconductor with an indirect gap of about 2 eV.¹³ Leventi-Peetz, Krasovskii, and Schattke¹⁴ have calculated the dielectric function (DF) for TiSe₂, using the extended linearized augmented plane-wave (ELAPW) and the empirical tight-binding methods. Kim *et al.*¹⁵ have studied the electronic structure and chemical bonding in TiX₂ (X=S, Se, and Te) by a first-principles molecular orbital calculation using the discrete-variational cluster method and have also studied the intra- and interlayer chemical bonding properties using the bond overlap population. The valence-band structures are in good agreement with the experimental results obtained by x-ray photoemission spectroscopy. Recently Sharma *et al.*,¹⁶ using the full potential linear augmented plane-wave (FPLAPW) method, showed that 1T-TiS₂ is semimetallic at ambient pressure in agreement with the earlier calculations based on the ASW (Ref. 10) and LMTO (Refs. 11 and 12) methods but in disagreement with the PP calculation.¹³

Measurement of the polarized x-ray absorption near-edge spectra,^{17–19} thermorefectance,²⁰ and infrared spectra²¹ of these compounds in charged density wave (CDW) states have further contributed to interest in these compounds. Claessen *et al.*²² and de Boer *et al.*²³ have studied the electronic structure of 1T-TiTe₂ by high resolution angle-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy (ARPES) and found agreement with the density functional band calculations. The results confirm the semimetallic nature of this material as due to an overlap of Te 5*p* and Ti 3*d* bands. Rosnagel *et al.*²⁴ applied the ARPES to map the shape of Fermi surface for TiTe₂. Perfetti *et al.*²⁵ have presented a combined angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy and resistivity study of TiTe₂. From the analysis of the quasiparticle spectral line shape they evaluated the electron-electron, electron-photon, and impurity scattering contribution to the quasiparticle lifetime. Kidd *et al.*²⁶ have employed the angle-resolved photoemission to measure the band structure of TiSe₂ in order to clarify the nature of (2×2×2) CDW transition. They find a very small indirect gap in the normal phase transforming into a larger indirect gap at a different location in the Brillouin zone.

The optical properties of the TiX₂ compounds have been

measured by several workers. Greenway and Nitsche⁴ have measured the reflectivity of single crystals of TiS₂, TiSe₂, and TiTe₂ with the electric field vector \vec{E} approximately perpendicular to the hexagonal \mathbf{c} axis in the energy range 1–12 eV. Beal, Knights, and Liang⁵ have measured the transmission spectra of TiS₂ and TiSe₂ at liquid-helium temperature with $\vec{E} \perp \mathbf{c}$ in the energy range 0.5–4 eV. Hughes and Liang²⁷ have measured the normal-incidence reflectivity spectra in the photon energy range 4.5–14 eV on single crystals of the TiS₂ and TiSe₂ with $\vec{E} \perp \mathbf{c}$. Bayliss and Liang²⁸ have measured the normal incidence reflectivity in the energy range 0.5 to 5 eV for TiS₂ and TiSe₂ with $\vec{E} \perp \mathbf{c}$ and $\vec{E} \parallel \mathbf{c}$. Bayliss and Liang²⁹ have obtained the optical joint density of states (OJDOS) functions from Kramers-Kronig analysis of reflectivity measurement for TiS₂ and TiSe₂ in the energy range 0.6–14 eV. Borghesi *et al.*^{20,30} have measured the reflectivity spectrum in the 1–9 eV region for TiS₂ and TiSe₂ with $\vec{E} \perp \mathbf{c}$. Baldassarre, Cingdani, and Levy³¹ have measured the saturation photoacoustic spectra in TiS₂, TiSe₂, and TiTe₂ at energies above the fundamental absorption edge. The dips in the photoacoustic spectra may be ascribed to optical reflection effects inherent to the band structure. They show that saturation photoacoustic spectroscopy is a useful alternative tool to reflectivity measurements.

It is clear from the above that there exist a large number of band structure calculations for the TiX₂ compounds. These calculations are in agreement with the various ARPES experiments. There also exist numerous measurements of the optical properties and a recent photoacoustic measurement.³¹ However, comparison with the calculated band structure is not as profuse as for ARPES. We hope that our work will fill this gap. We note that all the calculations of the electronic and optical properties are based on the muffin-tin approximation. It would, therefore, seem a natural extension to do more accurate calculations based on full potential methods. Most optical measurements are for $\vec{E} \perp \mathbf{c}$. Since the optical properties are anisotropic we hope that our work will lead to optical measurements for $\vec{E} \parallel \mathbf{c}$ so as to bring out this anisotropy a meaningful comparison with theory. It would also be interesting to study the effect of replacing S by Se and Te on the optical properties. With this in mind, we report calculations of the electronic and optical properties of TiX₂ compounds using the FPLAPW method³² and compare with available data.

In Sec. II we give details of our calculations. The band structure and density of states are presented and discussed in Sec. III. The frequency-dependent dielectric function and other optical properties are given in Sec. IV, and Sec. V summarizes our conclusions.

II. DETAILS OF CALCULATIONS

In our calculations we use the FPLAPW method in a scalar relativistic version as embodied in the WIEN97 code,³² including local orbitals for the high-lying “semicore states.” This is an implementation of the density-functional theory (DFT) with different possible approximations for the exchange-correlation (XC) potentials. The XC potential was

TABLE I. Lattice parameters of TiX₂.

	TiS ₂ ^a	TiSe ₂ ^b	TiTe ₂ ^c
\mathbf{a} (Å)	3.408	3.536	3.777
\mathbf{c} (Å)	5.699	6.004	6.498
\mathbf{z}	0.25	0.25	0.2628

^aReferences 15 and 41.

^bReferences 14 and 15.

^cReferences 15 and 23.

constructed following Von Barth and Hedin.³³ Exchange and correlation are treated within the local-density approximation (LDA) and scalar relativistic equations are used to obtain self-consistency. The Kohn-Sham equations are solved using a basis of linear APW’s. The potential and charge density in the muffin-tin (MT) spheres are expanded in spherical harmonics with $l_{\max}=8$ and nonspherical components up to $l_{\max}=6$. In the interstitial region the potential and the charge density are represented by Fourier series. We expected spin-orbit coupling to be important in TiTe₂, but have decided not to include this because in our previous work³⁴ on WSe₂ we find that the spin-orbit interaction has a minor influence on the optical properties.

TiX₂ (X=S,Se,Te) crystallizes in the 1T phase (space group $P-3m1$, no. 164). The Ti atom is at 1c (origin) and the two X atoms at $2d \pm (\frac{1}{3}\frac{2}{3}\mathbf{z})$ positions. We have performed calculations at ambient pressure using the experimental lattice constants \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{c} for all compounds. The distortion from the octahedral configuration is expressed by the quantity \mathbf{z} , the distance between Ti and the chalcogen plane in units of the lattice constant \mathbf{c} perpendicular to the layers. For the value of \mathbf{c} in the case of TiS₂/Se₂ and in-layer lattice constant \mathbf{a} , it should be equal to 0.2404 in the ideal octahedral case, but actually is equal to 0.25.¹⁴ For TiTe₂ we use the experimental value of \mathbf{z} . In Table I we collect all the lattice parameters used in our work. Self-consistency was obtained using 100 and 200 k points in the irreducible Brillouin zone (IBZ). Our calculations show that convergence is obtained with 100 k points (with respect to band structure and density of states). The BZ integrations were carried out using the tetrahedron method.³⁵ The frequency-dependent anisotropic optical properties are calculated using 200 and 500 k points in the IBZ. We find very small differences in the two calculations. We present calculations with 500 k points in this paper.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Band structure and density of states

The band structure for 1T-TiS₂ shown in Fig. 1(a) (our previous work¹⁶) is in agreement with the ASW calculation of Fang, de Groot, and Haas¹⁰ and the LAPW calculation of Umrigar *et al.*³ but is in disagreement with the pseudopotential calculation of Allan *et al.*¹³ which predicts TiS₂ to be a semiconductor with an indirect gap of around 2 eV. The total density of states (DOS) along with the Ti 3d, S 3s, and S 3p partial DOS are shown in Fig. 1(a). From the partial DOS we

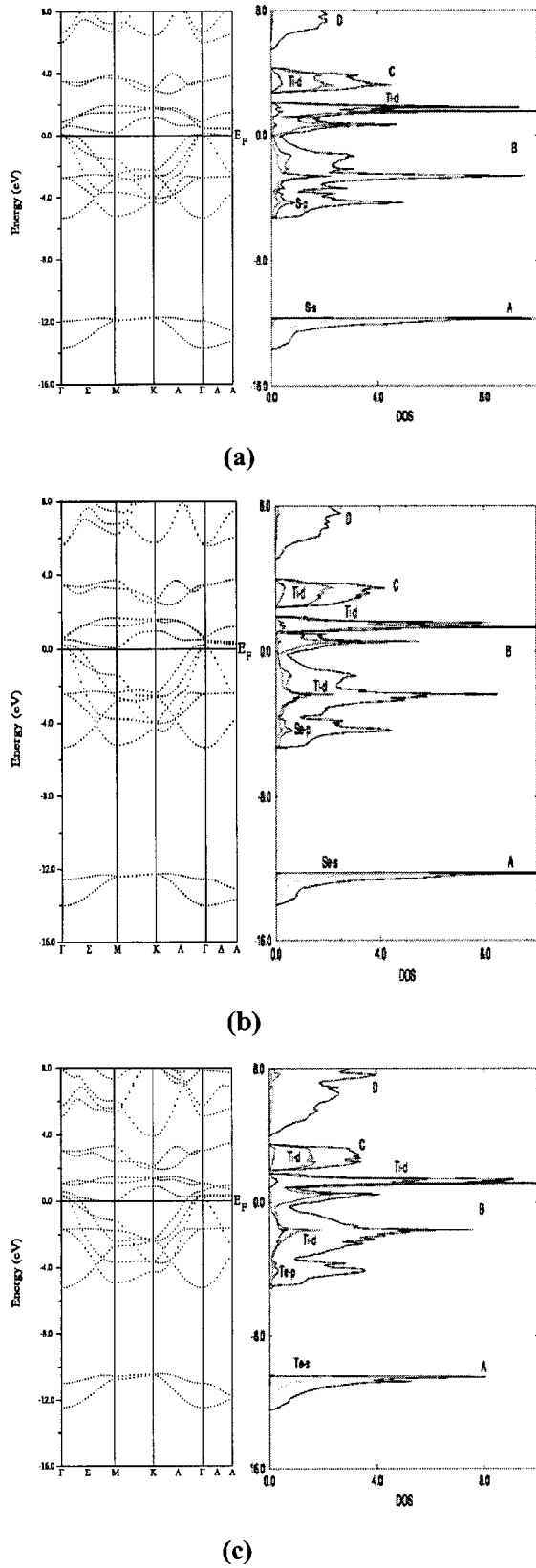


FIG. 1. Band structure and total DOS along with the partial density of states (states/eV unit cell), (----) denotes S/Se/Te s states, (---) denotes Ti d states and (.....) denotes S/Se/Te p states. (a) 1T-TiS₂. (b) 1T-TiSe₂. (c) 1T-TiTe₂.

are able to identify the angular momentum character of the various structures. The DOS at Fermi energy E_F is controlled by the overlap between the S 3 p states (valence) and Ti 3 d states (conduction). This overlap is small indicating a semi-metallic state with a DOS at E_F , $N(E_F)$ of 0.35 states/eV unit cell in agreement with the value of 0.39 states/eV unit cell obtained by Takahira, Suzuki, and Motizuki³⁶ using the self-consistent APW method, and 0.37 states/eV unit cell obtained by Kim *et al.*¹⁵ using the discrete-variational (DV)- $X\alpha$ cluster method. A strong hybridization is found between S p states and Ti d states below E_F .

The band structure of 1T-TiSe₂ is plotted in Fig. 1(b). It is similar to the band structure of a previous ASW calculation by Fang, de Groot, and Haas¹⁰ and ELAPW by Leventi-Peetz, Krasovskii, and Schattke¹⁴ The calculation of Leventi-Peetz, Krasovskii, and Schattke shows more overlap between Se p and Ti d states around E_F . The lowest two bands (Se 4 s states) are shifted towards lower energy by around 0.7 eV with respect to E_F in comparison with 1T-TiS₂. The Se 4 p bands are shifted towards higher energy by around 0.3 eV. The Ti 3 d bands are shifted towards lower energy by around 1 eV. The DOS at Fermi energy, $N(E_F)$, is around 0.9 states/eV unit cell, in agreement with the calculations of Kim *et al.*¹⁵ and smaller than the value of 1.5 states/eV unit cell obtained by Leventi-Peetz, Krasovskii, and Schattke.¹⁴

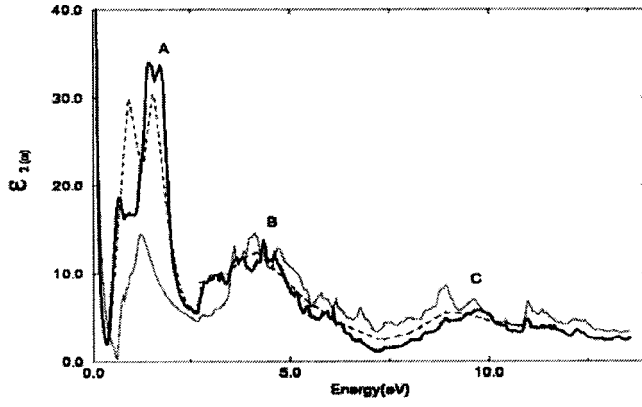
The band structure of 1T-TiTe₂ is plotted in Fig. 1(c). The lowest two bands (Te 5 s states) are shifted towards higher energy by around 1 eV with respect to E_F compared to 1T-TiS₂. The Te 5 p bands are shifted towards higher energy by around 0.5 eV with respect to E_F . The Ti 3 d bands are shifted towards the lower energy by around 0.5 eV in agreement with the results of de Boer *et al.*,²³ Rossnagel *et al.*,²⁴ and Claessen *et al.*²² The DOS at Fermi energy, $N(E_F)$, is around 1.6 states/eV unit cell higher than the value of 1.35 states/eV unit cell obtained by Kim, Mizuno, and Tanaka¹⁵ and the value of 1.1 states/eV unit cell obtained by de Boer *et al.*²³ and lower than the value of 1.8 states/eV unit cell obtained by Claessen *et al.*²²

IV. OPTICAL PROPERTIES

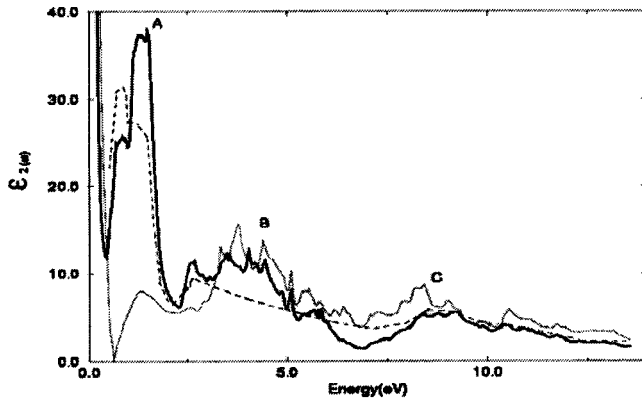
Measurement of the dielectric properties is normally done on single crystals. For compounds having hexagonal or tetragonal symmetry, the experiments are performed with electric field vector \vec{E} parallel or perpendicular to the c axis.³⁷ The corresponding dielectric functions are $\epsilon^{\parallel}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon^{\perp}(\omega)$.

TABLE II. Peak positions of $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$ and plasma frequency for 1T-TiX₂ compounds (all in eV).

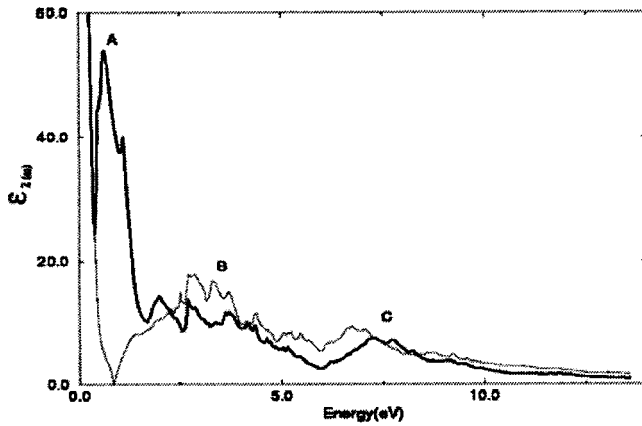
	TiS ₂	TiSe ₂	TiTe ₂
A	2	1.5	1
B	4.5	4	3.5
C	9.5	8.5	7.5
ω_p^{\parallel}	0.87	1.94	2.63
ω_p^{\perp}	1.18	2.60	3.37



(a)



(b)



(c)

FIG. 2. Calculated $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$ (light line) and $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ (dark line) along with the experimental data (Ref. 29) (dashed line) for $\vec{E} \perp c$. (a) 1T-TiS₂, (b) 1T-TiSe₂, and (c) 1T-TiTe₂.

The calculations of these dielectric functions involve the energy eigenvalues and electron wave functions. These are natural outputs of band structure calculations. We have performed calculations of the imaginary part of the interband frequency dependent dielectric function using the expressions:³⁷

$$\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega) = \frac{12}{m\omega^2} \int_{\text{BZ}} \sum \frac{|P_{nn'}^Z(k)|^2 dS_k}{\nabla \omega_{nn'}(k)},$$

$$\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega) = \frac{6}{m\omega^2} \int_{\text{BZ}} \sum \frac{[|P_{nn'}^X(k)|^2 + |P_{nn'}^Y(k)|^2] dS_k}{\nabla \omega_{nn'}(k)},$$

where the summation is over n and n' . The above expressions are written in atomic units with $e^2 = 1/m = 2$ and $\hbar = 1$. ω is the photon energy and $P_{nn'}^X(k)$ is the x component of the dipolar matrix elements between initial $|nk\rangle$ and final $|n'k\rangle$ states with their eigenvalues $E_n(k)$ and $E_{n'}(k)$, respectively. $\omega_{nn'}(k)$ is the energy difference

$$\omega_{nn'}(k) = E_n(k) - E_{n'}(k)$$

and S_k is a constant energy surface defined as

$$S_k = \{k; \omega_{nn'}(k) = \omega\}.$$

As the 1T-TiX₂ compounds are semimetallic we must include the Drude term (intraband transitions³⁸)

$$\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega) = \epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega) + \epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega),$$

where

$$\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega) = \frac{\omega_p^{\perp 2} \tau}{\omega(1 + \omega^2 \tau^2)},$$

where ω_p is the anisotropic plasma frequency³⁹ and τ is the mean free time between collisions.

$$\omega_p^{\perp 2} = \frac{8\pi}{3} \sum_{kn} v_{nk}^{\perp 2} \delta(\epsilon_{kn}),$$

where ϵ_{nk} is $E_n(k) - E_F$ and v_{nk}^{\perp} is the electron velocity (in basal plane) squared. Similarly expressions for the parallel component can be written. The values of ω_p^{\parallel} and ω_p^{\perp} , obtained using the FPLAPW method, are given in Table II. It is clear that a strong anisotropy is present.

The real parts $\epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_1^{\parallel}(\omega)$ are obtained using the Kramers-Kronig relations.³⁸ The reflectivity $R(\omega)$, absorption coefficient $I(\omega)$, refractive index $n(\omega)$, and extinction coefficient $k(\omega)$ in the crystal are related to the reflectivity at normal incidence by³⁸

$$R^{\perp}(\omega) = \frac{n^{\perp} + ik^{\perp} - 1}{n^{\perp} + ik^{\perp} + 1},$$

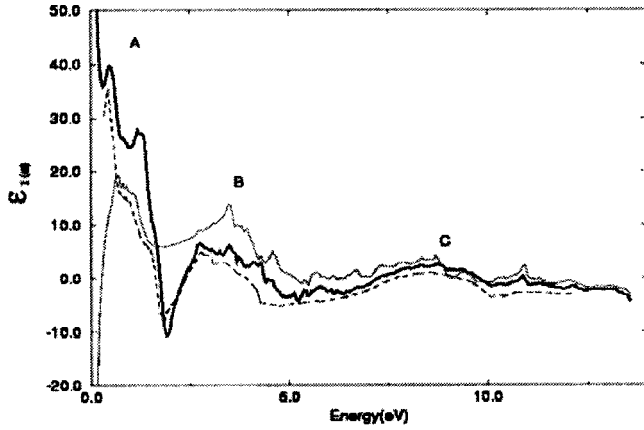
$$I^{\perp}(\omega) = \sqrt{2}\omega [\sqrt{\epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)^2 + \epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)^2} - \epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)]^{1/2},$$

$$k^{\perp}(\omega) = I^{\perp}(\omega)/2\omega,$$

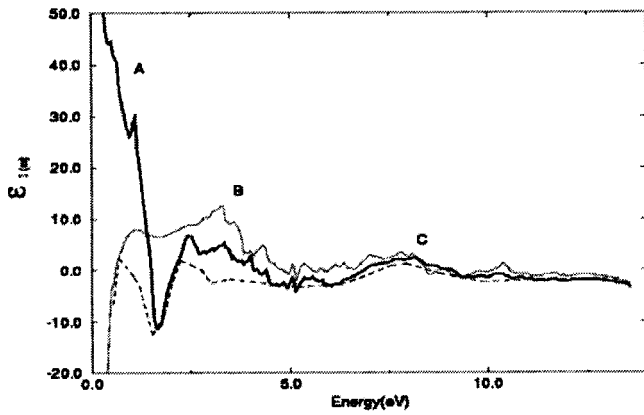
$$n^{\perp}(\omega) = (1/\sqrt{2}) [\sqrt{\epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)^2 + \epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)^2} + \epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)]^{1/2},$$

with similar expressions for the parallel component.

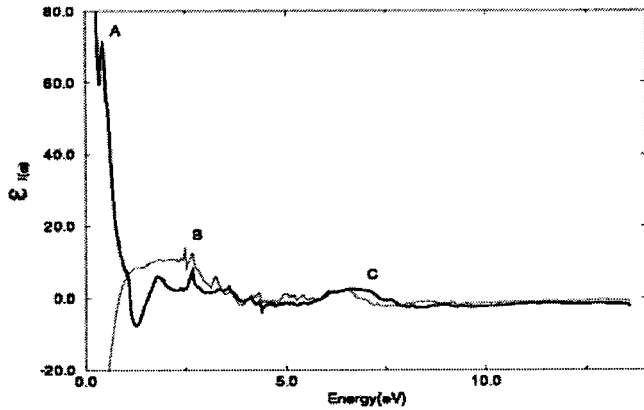
Figures 2(a)–2(c) show the calculated $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$ for 1T-TiX₂ ($X = \text{S, Se, Te}$) along with the experimental data of Bayliss and Liang.²⁹ We find that $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$ are anisotropic. The effect of the Drude term is significant for



(a)



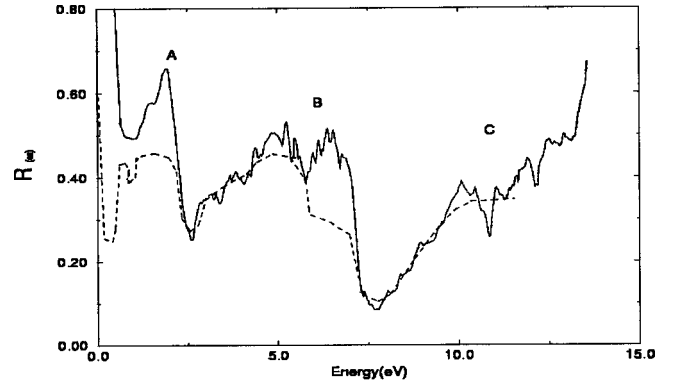
(b)



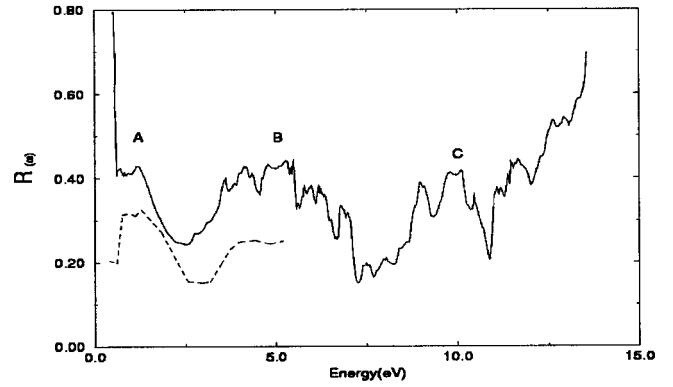
(c)

FIG. 3. Calculated $\epsilon_1^{\parallel}(\omega)$ (light line) and $\epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)$ (dark line) along with the experimental data (Ref. 29) (dashed line) for $\vec{E} \perp \vec{c}$. (a) 1T-TiS, (b) 1T-TiSe₂, and (c) 1T-TiTe₂.

energies less than 1 eV. All the compounds show three main structures labeled A, B, and C. The location of these structures in the 1T-TiX₂ compounds is given in Table II. Structure A is dominated by transitions from a band just below E_F to band just above it in the ΣM direction. Structures B and C are dominated by transitions from top (and bottom) of the chalcogen p states to Ti d states. The calculation of Leventi-



(a)



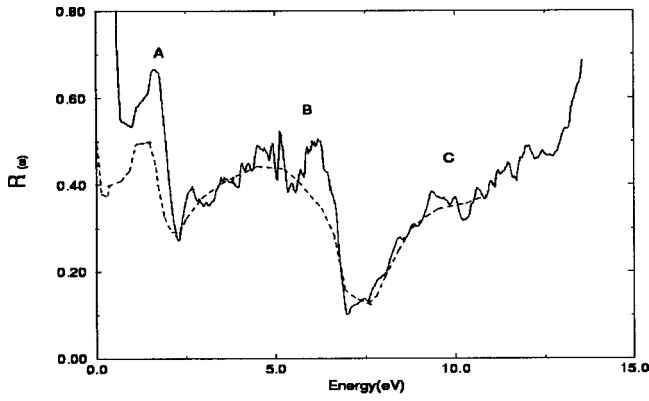
(b)

FIG. 4. Calculated reflectivity spectrum of 1T-TiS₂ along with the experimental data (dashed line). (a) Greenway and Nitsche (Ref. 4) for $\vec{E} \perp \vec{c}$. (b) Bayliss and Liang (Ref. 28) for $\vec{E} \parallel \vec{c}$.

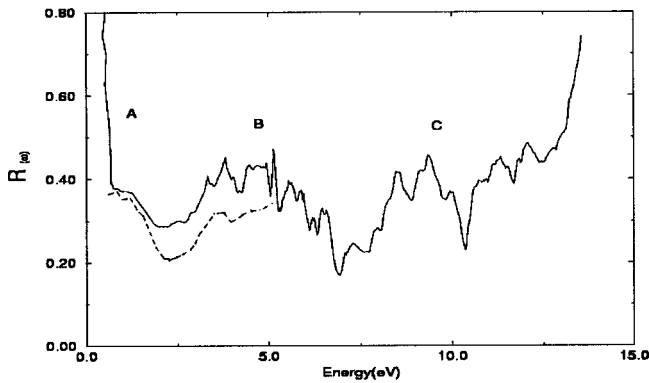
Peetz, Krasovskii, and Schattke¹⁴ gives a larger peak height for structure A and the structure B is not so pronounced in $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ while the structure C is almost missing in $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$. We note that all the structures in optical response are shifted towards lower energies as we move from S to Se and Te, in agreement with the band structures.

$\epsilon_1^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_1^{\parallel}(\omega)$ for 1T-TiX₂ are shown in Figs. 3(a)–3(c). In the low energy range the effect of Drude term is considerable. The calculated $\epsilon_1(\omega)$ is anisotropic. Once again main structures are discernible. The experimental data of Bayliss and Liang²⁹ for TiS₂ and TiSe₂ for $\vec{E} \perp \vec{c}$ shows good agreement with our calculations.

In order to make more detailed comparison with the experimental data, we have calculated the frequency dependent reflectivity and absorption coefficient. The reflectivity spectra for $\vec{E} \perp \vec{c}$ and $\vec{E} \parallel \vec{c}$ for TiS₂ and TiSe₂ along with the experimental data^{4,28} are shown in Figs. 4 and 5. A considerable anisotropy is found. Figure 6 shows that the calculated reflectivity of TiTe₂ for $\vec{E} \perp \vec{c}$ is in agreement with the experimental data.⁴ We have calculated the frequency-dependent absorption coefficient $I(\omega)$ and compare it with the experimental data⁷ in Fig. 7. These also show three structures as in the case of $\epsilon_2^{\perp}(\omega)$ and $\epsilon_2^{\parallel}(\omega)$.



(a)



(b)

FIG. 5. Reflectivity spectrum of $1T$ -TiSe₂ along with the experimental data (dashed line). (a) Greenway and Nitsche (Ref. 4) for $\vec{E} \perp c$. (b) Bayliss and Liang (Ref. 28) for $\vec{E} \parallel c$.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have calculated the electronic and optical properties of $1T$ -TiX₂ ($X=S, Se, Te$) and find these are semimetallic because of the overlap between the Ti $3d$ and the chalcogen p bands.²⁰ The Fermi energy usually lies in the chalcogen p cluster. The DOS at E_F increases in going from S to Te. This can be explained by increase in the overlap between the chal-

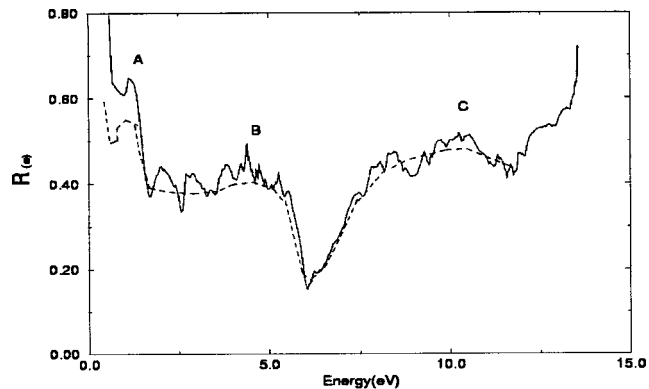
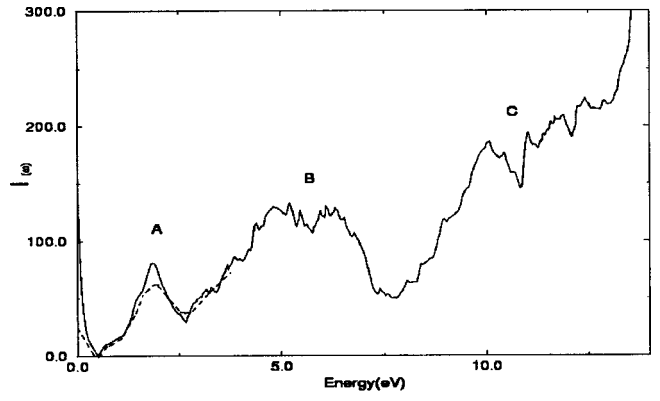
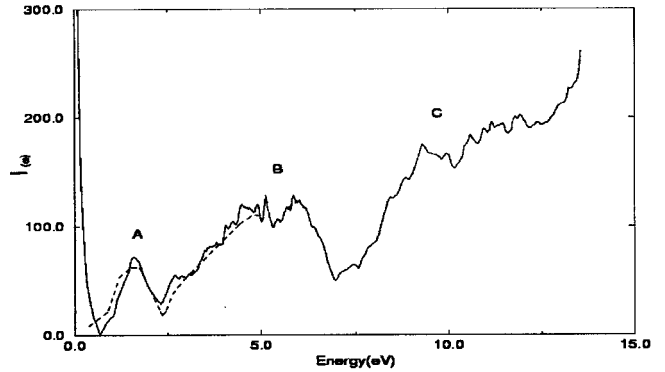


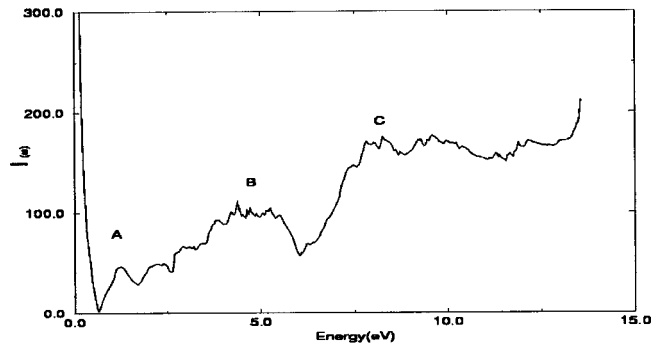
FIG. 6. Calculated reflectivity spectrum of $1T$ -TiTe₂ along with the experimental data (dashed line) for Greenway and Nitsche (Ref. 4) for $\vec{E} \perp c$.



(a)



(b)



(c)

FIG. 7. Calculated absorption coefficient along with the experimental data (dashed line) for Murray and Yoffe (Ref. 7) for $\vec{E} \perp c$. (a) $1T$ -TiS₂, (b) $1T$ -TiSe₂, and (c) $1T$ -TiTe₂.

cogen p and Ti $3d$ bands. The variation of $N(E_F)$ with different methods suggests the inaccuracies inherent in non-full-potential methods. Although we have not compared our DOS with the x-ray photoelectron spectra, such a comparison has been made by many authors^{14,23,40} and they obtain agreement. Since our DOS agrees with the DOS calculated by these workers^{14,23,40} we expect our DOS to agree with the x-ray photoelectron spectra also.

We have calculated the frequency dependent dielectric functions and find considerable anisotropy. The effect of the Drude term is important at energies less than 1 eV. In the energy range (<5 eV) the perpendicular component domi-

nates while in the high-energy range (> 5 eV) both polarizations contribute. The frequency-dependent dielectric functions show three main structures arising primarily from band transitions from the chalcogen p valence states to the Ti $3d$ conduction states. We compare our calculated frequency dependent dielectric functions with the experimental data of Bayliss and Liang²⁹ and find good agreement. We have also calculated the frequency dependent reflectivity and the absorption coefficient. The behavior of these quantities is similar to the dielectric function in terms of anisotropy and structure. The agreement of our calculated and measured frequency dependent optical properties reiterates our belief in the accuracy of using full potential methods for optical

properties and the necessity of using them. The only other calculation based on the ELAPW method does not show such encouraging results because they use muffin-tin approximation. Table II summarizes the effect of X on the location of the peaks in optical spectra A, B, and C in TiX_2 compounds. We hope that our work would lead to more measurements of anisotropy of the optical properties.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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