Towards predictive many-body calculations of phonon-limited carrier mobilities in semiconductors

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We probe the accuracy limit of ab initio calculations of carrier mobilities in semiconductors, within the framework of the Boltzmann transport equation. By focusing on the paradigmatic case of silicon, we show that fully predictive calculations of electron and hole mobilities require many-body quasiparticle corrections to band structures and electron-phonon matrix elements, the inclusion of spin-orbit coupling, and an extremely fine sampling of inelastic scattering processes in momentum space. By considering all these factors we obtain excellent agreement with experiment, and we identify the band effective masses as the most critical parameters to achieve predictive accuracy. Our findings set a blueprint for future calculations of carrier mobilities, and pave the way to engineering transport properties in semiconductors by design.

During the last decade, materials design guided by first-principles calculations has emerged as a powerful research strategy. Nowadays it is often possible to accurately predict ground-state properties of new materials in silico. This information can be used to screen for promising new materials [1][2]. At variance with ground-state properties, the prediction and screening of materials properties involving electronic excitations is still in its infancy. For example charge and heat transport coefficients are typically evaluated using a combination of ab initio and semi-empirical approaches [3][7]. The reasons for this lag are that the evaluation of transport coefficients is considerably more challenging than total energies, the computational infrastructure is not yet fully developed, and the lack of a clear set of reference data for validation and verification [8].

In this work, we focus on phonon-limited carrier mobilities in semiconductors. The theoretical framework for calculating mobilities is well established, and is rooted in the Boltzmann transport equation (BTE), as described in Refs. [9][11]. The BTE is a semiclassical, quasiparticle theory of electron transport, which can be rigorously derived from a many-body quantum-field theoretic framework by neglecting two-particle correlations [12]. The key ingredients are the electronic band structures, the phonon dispersion relations, and the electron-phonon matrix elements. The calculations of these quantities have reached maturity [13], therefore there should be no fundamental obstacles towards predicting mobilities. However, already for the most studied semiconductor, silicon, one finds that (i) calculations of carrier mobilities are scarce, (ii) there is considerable scatter in the calculated data, and (iii) reproducing measured mobilities remains a challenge. For example, Refs. [14][17] calculate intrinsic electron mobilities at room temperature $\mu_e = 1550, 1750, 1860,$ and 1970 cm$^2$/Vs, respectively, while experiments are in the range 1300-1450 cm$^2$/Vs [18][20].

Motivated by these considerations, here we set to clarify the accuracy limit and the predictive power of ab initio mobility calculations based on the BTE. We show that in order to correctly reproduce experimental data we need to take into account GW quasiparticle corrections to the band structures and the electron-phonon matrix elements, to include the spin-orbit splitting of the valence bands, and to properly converge the integrals over the Brillouin-zone. We also find that accurate band effective masses are absolutely critical to reproduce measured mobilities. By considering all these aspects, we succeed in reproducing measured data with high accuracy, thus establishing unambiguously the predictive power of the ab initio BTE.

In a semiconductor the steady-state electric current $\mathbf{J}$ is related to the driving electric field $\mathbf{E}$ via the mobility tensors as: $\mathbf{J} = e \left( n_e \mu_{e,\alpha\beta} + n_h \mu_{h,\alpha\beta} \right) \mathbf{E}_\beta$, where Greek indices denote Cartesian coordinates. In this expression $\mu_{e,\alpha\beta}, n_e$ and $\mu_{h,\alpha\beta}, n_h$ are the mobility and particle density of electrons and holes, respectively. Within Boltzmann’s transport formalism [9] the current density is expressed as $J_\alpha = -e \Omega^{-1} \sum_\beta \Omega_B Z \int \mathrm{d} \mathbf{k} f_{\mathbf{k} \alpha} v_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}, \alpha}$, where $\Omega$ and $\Omega_B Z$ are the volume of the crystalline unit cell and the first Brillouin zone, respectively. The occupation factor $f_{\mathbf{k} \alpha}$ plays the role of a statistical distribution function, and reduces to the Fermi-Dirac distribution $f_{n_{\mathbf{k} \alpha}}$ in the absence of the electric field. The band velocity is given by $v_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}, \alpha} = \hbar^{-1} \partial \varepsilon_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}, \alpha} / \partial k_\alpha$, where $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}}$ is the single-particle electron eigenvalue for the state $|\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}\rangle$.

Using these definitions, the electron mobility is obtained via the derivative of the current with respect to the electric field: $\mu_{e,\alpha\beta} = -\sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \text{CB}} \int \mathrm{d} \mathbf{k} f_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}, \alpha} \partial E_\beta / \sum_{\mathbf{n} \in \text{CB}} \int \mathrm{d} \mathbf{k} f_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}}$. Here the summations are restricted to the conduction bands, and $\partial E_\beta$ is short for $\partial / \partial E_\beta$. An analogous expression holds for holes. From this expression we see that in order to calculate mobilities we need to evaluate $\partial E_\beta f_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}}$, that is the linear response of the distribution function $f_{\mathbf{n} \mathbf{k}}$ to the electric field $\mathbf{E}$. This quantity
can be computed starting from the BTE \[1\]:
\[
(-e)E \cdot \frac{1}{h} \frac{\partial f_{nk}}{\partial k} = \frac{2\pi}{h} \sum_{n\nu} \int_{BZ} \frac{dq}{\Omega_{BZ}} |g_{mn\nu}(k, q)|^2 \\
\times \left\{ (1 - f_{nk}) f_{mk+q}\delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} + \hbar\omega_{q}) (1 + n_{q}) \\
+ (1 - f_{nk}) f_{mk+q}\delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} - \hbar\omega_{q}) n_{q} \\
- f_{nk} (1 - f_{mk+q}) \delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} + \hbar\omega_{q}) (1 + n_{q}) \\
- f_{nk} (1 - f_{mk+q}) \delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} - \hbar\omega_{q}) n_{q} \right\}.
\]  
(1)

The left-hand side of Eq. \((1)\) represents the collisionless term of Boltzmann’s equation for a uniform and constant electric field, in the absence of temperature gradients and magnetic fields; the right-hand side represents the modification of the distribution function arising from electron-phonon scattering in and out of the state \(|nk\), via emission or absorption of phonons with frequency \(\omega_{q}\), wavevector \(q\), and branch index \(\nu\) \[10\]. \(n_{q}\) is the Bose-Einstein distribution function. The matrix elements \(g_{mn\nu}(k, q)\) in Eq. \((1)\) are the probability amplitude for scattering from an initial electronic state \(|nk\) into a final state \(|mk+q\) via a phonon \(|q\nu\), as obtained from density-functional perturbation theory \[13, 21\]. By taking derivatives of Eq. \((1)\) with respect to \(E\) we obtain an explicit expression for the variation \(\partial_{E_{\beta}} f_{nk}\):
\[
\partial_{E_{\beta}} f_{nk} = \frac{\partial f_{nk}^0}{\partial E_{\beta}} v_{nk,\beta}^0 + \frac{2\pi f_{nk}^0}{h} \sum_{m\nu} \int_{BZ} \frac{dq}{\Omega_{BZ}} |g_{mn\nu}(k, q)|^2 \\
\times \left\{ (1 + n_{q} - f_{nk}) \delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} + \hbar\omega_{q}) \right. \\
\times \left. [(1 - f_{nk}) f_{mk+q}\delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} - \hbar\omega_{q}) \\
+ (f_{nk}^0 - f_{mk+q}) \delta(\varepsilon_{nk} - \varepsilon_{mk+q} + \hbar\omega_{q}) \varepsilon_{nk,\beta} \partial_{E_{\beta}} v_{nk,\alpha} v_{nk,\beta} \tau_{nk}^0 \right\}. 
\]  
(2)

Subsequent calculations in this article are performed using these grids. In Appendix Fig. \((2)\) we compare calculations of the intrinsic mobility of silicon within the SERTA and the IBTE approaches. We find that the iterative solution of Eq. \((2)\) leads to converged values which are 6% higher than the SERTA result for electrons, and 1% lower for holes. Since the IBTE is drastically more expensive because it requires homogeneous and commensurate grids \[13, 16\], in the following discussion we focus on SERTA calculations. We use a finite broadening of 5 meV to evaluate the Dirac delta function in Eq. \((3)\). The sensitivity of the results to the broadening parameter is analyzed in Fig. \((5)\) of the Appendix.

Brillouin-zone sampling

We perform calculations within density-functional theory (DFT), planewaves, and pseudopotentials using the EPW code \[22\] of the Quantum ESPRESSO distribution \[23\], in conjunction with the wannier90 library \[24\]. This approach employs a generalizened Wannier-Fourier interpolation technique \[25\] in order to obtain electron eigenvalues, phonon eigenfrequencies, and electron-phonon matrix elements on dense Brillouin zone grids by means of maximally localized Wannier functions \[26\]. A fine sampling of the Brillouin zone is required because, at finite temperature, the Fermi level lies within the band gap, therefore we need to sample scattering processes taking place in the tails of the Fermi-Dirac distribution. In our calculations the Fermi level is determined in such a way that the net charge density at a given temperature, \(n_e - n_h\), equals the doping level \(n_d\), for an intrinsic material. We now analyze in turn the key ingredients when calculating mobilities. We consider the paradigmatic case of silicon, for which extensive experimental data are available.

Exchange and correlation

In order to investigate the effect of the DFT exchange and correlation we perform calculations within both the local density approximation (LDA) \[27, 28\] and the generalized gradient approximation of Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof (PBE) \[29\], using scalar-relativistic pseudopotentials \[30\]. Figure \((1)\) shows that the intrinsic mobilities at 300 K differ by 16% between LDA and PBE for electrons, and by 3% for holes. Closer inspection shows that these differences arise primarily from the optimized lattice parameters obtained with these functionals.
Spin-orbit coupling

Spin-orbit interactions in silicon are very weak [31], therefore relativistic effects are usually neglected. However, here we find that spin-orbit coupling is important for predictive calculations, yielding hole mobilities 9% higher than non-relativistic calculations (Fig. 1). This effect can be understood by considering the band structures in Fig. 2(b). The spin-orbit interaction splits the six-fold degenerate states at the top of the valence bands, leading to the formation of two doubly-degenerate light-hole and heavy-hole bands, and one doubly-degenerate split-off hole band. As a result the effective mass of the light hole decreases (see Appendix Table I), leading to a higher mobility. On the other hand, Fig. 2(a) shows that the conduction band bottom is relatively unaffected by spin-orbit coupling, and correspondingly the effect on the electron mobility is less pronounced (2.7%).

Many-body quasiparticle corrections

Given the sensitivity of the calculated mobilities to the band extrema, we investigate the effect of many-body correlations within the GW quasiparticle approximation. To obtain quasiparticle energies we use the Yambo code [32]; the values calculated on a 12×12×12 uniform grid are then interpolated using the EPW code. Figure 2 shows the modification to the band extrema resulting from quasiparticle corrections. In the case of the valence bands, quasiparticle corrections increase the mass of the light holes (see Table I in Appendix); as a result...
the hole mobility decreases by 3%, as shown in Fig. 1. The opposite effect is observed for the conduction bands where the electron mobility is increased by 5%.

**Corrections to the DFT screening**

Another source of error in the DFT calculations of carrier mobilities is the over-screening of the electron-phonon matrix elements $g_{mn}$ associated with the DFT band gap problem \(^{13}\). In fact, in the case of silicon DFT yields a static dielectric constant $\varepsilon_{\text{DFT}} = 12.89$, which is higher than the measured value $\varepsilon_{\text{exp}} = 11.94$ \(^{20}\). In order to overcome this issue it is necessary to modify the screening in the calculation of phonon dispersion relations. Since this is computationally prohibitive, here we take a simpler approach and renormalize the matrix elements as follows: $\tilde{g}_{mn}(k,q) = g_{mn}(k,q) \left[ \varepsilon_{\text{DFT}}(k,q) / \varepsilon_{\text{exp}}(k,q) \right]$. Here $\varepsilon_{\text{exp}}$ is meant to be the most accurate description of the screening that we can afford, and we are neglecting local-field effects which should yield an error on the order of a few percent \(^{39}\). For practical purposes we replace the dielectric functions by an analytic expression \(^{10}\), where the only input parameter is the head of the dielectric matrix. The validity of this procedure is demonstrated in Appendix Fig. 9 using explicit calculations in the random-phase approximation. This correction to the matrix elements leads to a decrease of the electron and hole mobilities by 8.8% and 12.4%, respectively, as shown in Fig. 1.

**Thermal expansion and electron-phonon renormalization**

We computed the effect of thermal lattice expansion on the DFT eigenenergies using the thermo-pw code \(^{11}\) within the quasi-harmonic approximation and concluded that this effect is negligible, see Appendix Figs. 6-8. We also determined the electron-phonon renormalization of the effective masses using data from Ref. 42. This effect increases the masses by ∼3%, and results into a decrease of the mobilities by ∼5%.

After considering all the effects discussed so far, and after accounting for the corrections to the SERTA results arising from the solution of the complete IBTE, our most accurate theoretical mobilities at 300 K are $\mu_e = 1366$ cm$^2$/Vs and $\mu_h = 658$ cm$^2$/Vs. These values are to be compared to the measured drift mobilities $\mu_{e,\text{exp}} = 1350$-1450 cm$^2$/Vs \(^{35, 36, 38}\) and $\mu_{h,\text{exp}} = 445$-510 cm$^2$/Vs \(^{35, 36, 43, 44}\) (Fig. 1). From the comparison with experiment we see that by pushing the theory to its limits we can obtain electron mobilities in very good agreement with experiment. On the contrary, the hole mobility are still approximately 30% above the measured range. This discrepancy can be traced back to the underestimation of the [100] heavy hole effective masses within the GW approximation. In fact, by repeating the calculation using the experimental hole effective mass instead of the GW mass, we obtain a hole mobility $\mu_{h,\text{exp}} = 502$ cm$^2$/Vs, this time in very good agreement with experiment as shown in Fig. 1. This result leads us to conclude that the effective mass plays an absolutely critical role in mobility calculations. Our finding can be understood by considering that the mobility varies with the effective mass as $\mu = (m^*)^{-p}$ with $p$ being a coefficient between 1 and 2.5 \(^{45, 47}\), as a result a 20% error in the effective mass leads to an error in the mobility of up to 60%. This finding highlights the critical role of accurate calculations of quasiparticle band structures, and raises the question on whether the standard GW method and pseudopotential calculations (see Table II) are suffi-
cient for delivering predictive mobilities.

Using the best possible computational setup we can now compare our calculations with experiment over a range of temperatures and doping levels. Figure 3(a) shows the intrinsic electron and hole mobilities of silicon between 100 K and 500 K. In the case of the hole mobilities we show both our best ab initio results (solid line), as well as those re-calculated using the experimental effective masses (dashed line). Overall, the agreement between our calculations and experiment is very good throughout the entire temperature range. Figure 3(b) shows a comparison between calculated and measured mobilities at 300 K, as a function of carrier concentration between $10^{15}$ and $10^{19}$ cm$^{-3}$. In this case, in addition to the ab initio electron-phonon scattering, we used the semi-empirical model of Brooks and Herring with the Long-Norton correction [37,38] to account for impurity scattering (see Appendix for details). Also in this case we find very good agreement with experiment, although the contribution of impurity scattering is evaluated semi-empirically.

In conclusion, we pushed the accuracy of transport calculations within the BTE formalism to its limits, and we demonstrated that this approach can deliver predictive accuracy for a prototypical semiconductor. Our findings raise two important questions for future work on transport in semiconductors: (i) the present formalism yields results which fall within the experimental uncertainty. In order to enable further progress in this area it will be important to produce a high-quality experimental data from single-crystal samples. (ii) An unexpected challenge that we faced is to perform accurate ab initio calculations of effective masses. Going forward it will be important to establish whether the GW method and pseudopotential calculations can provide effective masses with the accuracy required for predictive mobility calculations. Meanwhile, the present work opens the way to predictive calculations of mobilities and lays the groundwork for the ab initio design of semiconductor devices.

Note added. After submission of this work, a related calculation for Si was reported, where the authors found a significant increase in Si hole mobility with SOC and no effect from SOC on the electron mobility in line with our results [48].

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APPENDIX

Computational Methods

In this work we use norm-conserving pseudopotentials with planewave kinetic energy cutoffs of 45 Ry and 35 Ry for LDA and PBE calculations, respectively. The phonon dispersion relations are evaluated using density-functional perturbation theory [21], starting from a $6 \times 6 \times 6$ uniform grid of $q$-points. An $18 \times 18 \times 18$ uniform grid of $k$-points was required to correctly obtain vanishing Born effective charges. Representative phonon dispersion relations obtained within this setup can be found in Ref. [22]. The coarse grids for the electron-phonon interpolation required $12 \times 12 \times 12$ $k$-points and $6 \times 6 \times 6$ $q$-points. Such a dense $k$-grid was needed to obtain a good Wannier interpolation of the conduction bands, since the minimum is along the $\Delta$ line (approx. 0.85ΓX) and does not fall on a high-symmetry point.

For the self-consistent, iterative solution of the Boltzmann transport equation (IBTE) we employ uniform Brillouin-zone grids, and the $q$-point sums are restricted to the irreducible wedge of the Brillouin zone using crystal symmetry operations. The IBTE is solved using homogeneous and commensurate $k$- and $q$-point grids since the variations $\partial_{E\beta} f_{nk}^{i+1}$ at the $(i+1)$-th iteration require the knowledge of the variations $\partial_{E\beta} f_{nk+q}^{i}$ at the $i$-th iteration, see Eq. 2.

For the direct solution of the BTE within the self-energy relaxation time approximation (SERTA) the Brillouin zone grids do not need to be commensurate. In this case, in order to improve the sampling accuracy, we employ quasi-random Sobol sequences of $k$- and $q$-points. Following recommended practice, we skip the first 1000 elements of a sequence and we retain one element every 100 of the remainder [19]; furthermore we employ a linear scramble and shift of the resulting sequence, using standard routines from Matlab R2015a [50]. As a further refinement we replace the homogeneous Sobol weights using a Voronoi triangulation with the code Voro++ [51]. In the Voronoi triangulation we take into account the periodicity of the Brillouin zone by building periodic replicas of the random grid in neighboring reciprocal unit cells. For the $k$-point grid we also densify the distribution around the band extrema, in order to capture the fine features of the scattering near the band edges. This is achieved by generating additional random points with the Lorentz distribution $1/(1 + |k - k_0|^2/\gamma^2)$ and by recomputing the Voronoi weights of the resulting grid. Here $k_0$ indicates the location of the band extrema and $\gamma = 0.008 \text{ Å}^{-1}$.

Figure 4(a) shows the convergence of the intrinsic mo-
bility of silicon at 300 K with respect to the number of electron and phonon wavevectors in the Brillouin zone. The calculations are performed within the SERTA approximation, using a densified Lorentzian distribution of \( k \)-points around the conduction band minima, and a Sobol quasi-random sampling of the \( q \)-points. The white dot indicates the setup used in the calculations reported in this article. (b) Comparison between the rate of convergence of the intrinsic electron and hole mobilities of silicon using the SERTA and the IBTE approaches, at 300 K. In this case we use uniform grids, with the \( k \)-point mesh being twice as dense as the \( q \)-point mesh in each direction.

TABLE I. Comparison between calculated and measured effective masses of silicon, in units of the electron mass. The experimental data are from Refs. 20, 31 and 54.

| Band          | Direction | Present calculations | Expt. |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
|               |           |                      |       |
| Split-off hole|           |                      |       |
| [100]         | 0.167     | 0.224                | 0.26  |
| [111]         | 0.094     | 0.227                | 0.23  |
| [110]         | 0.106     | 0.227                | 0.23  |
| [100]         | 0.253     | 0.189                | 0.202 |
| Light hole    |           |                      |       |
| [111]         | 0.682     | 0.131                | 0.132 |
| [110]         | 0.266     | 0.140                | 0.140 |
| [100]         | 0.271     | 0.256                | 0.243 |
| Heavy hole    |           |                      |       |
| [111]         | 0.694     | 0.654                | 0.643 |
| [110]         | 2.868     | 0.521                | 0.512 |
| Electron      |           |                      |       |
| long.         | 0.798     | 0.824                | 1.090 |
| trans.        | 0.188     | 0.190                | 0.186 |

We also show in Table I the effective masses calculated without SOC at the experimental lattice parameter with two different types of pseudization (norm-conserving and ultrasoft), and two exchange and correlation functionals (LDA and PBE).

In order to calculate mobilities using band structures as close as possible to experiments (i.e. the lowermost bars in Fig. 1), we repeated the calculations using the low-energy dispersion relations parametrized in Refs. 31 and 53 starting from the measured effective masses:

\[
\varepsilon_{\text{eh}} = \frac{h^2(k_x - k_{0,x})^2}{2m_{||}} + \frac{h^2(k_y - k_{0,y})^2}{2m_{\perp}} + \frac{h^2(k_z - k_{0,z})^2}{2m_{\perp}} + \varepsilon_c, \quad (5)
\]

\[
\varepsilon_{\text{hh}} = Ak^2 + [B^2k_y^4 + C^2(k_y^2k_y^2 + k_y^2k_z^2 + k_z^2k_z^2)]^{1/2}, \quad (6)
\]

\[
\varepsilon_{\text{lh}} = Ak^2 - [B^2k_y^4 + C^2(k_y^2k_y^2 + k_y^2k_z^2 + k_z^2k_z^2)]^{1/2}, \quad (7)
\]

\[
\varepsilon_{\text{so}} = -\frac{k^2h^2}{2m_{\text{so}}}, \quad (8)
\]

where \( m_{||} = 0.98m_0 \) (\( m_0 \) is the free electron mass), \( m_{\perp} = 0.19m_0 \), \( m_{\text{so}} = 0.23m_0 \), \( k_0 \) denotes the wavevectors of the conduction band minima, and \( \varepsilon_c \) is the conduction band bottom. The coefficients are \( A = -4.1h^2/2m_0 \), \( B = -1.6h^2/2m_0 \) and \( C = 3.3h^2/2m_0 \) [31, 53] and \( \varepsilon_{\text{so}} = 48 \) meV.

**Broadening of Dirac delta functions**

The numerical evaluation of phonon-limited mobilities using Eqs. (2)-(4) requires one to replace the Dirac delta functions in Eqs. (2)-(3) by Lorentzian functions with finite broadening \( \eta \): \( \pi \delta (\varepsilon_{nk} - \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{qv}} - \varepsilon_{nk+q}) \rightarrow \Im (\varepsilon_{nk} - \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{qv}} - \varepsilon_{nk+q} - i\eta)^{-1} \). This procedure makes
the calculated mobility dependent on the broadening parameter, hence it is important to check how sensitive are the results to the choice of $\eta$.

Figure 5(a) shows the intrinsic electron mobility of silicon at 0 K, evaluated as a function of $\eta$. From this figure we see that the mobility tends to diverge towards $+\infty$ as $\eta \to 0$. This trend can be rationalized by noting that the mobility is directly proportional to the relaxation time [cf. Eq. (3)], and the relaxation time due to acoustic phonon scattering in a non-polar semiconductor is inversely proportional to the temperature [45]. As a result, we expect that the phonon-limited mobility will increase indefinitely as $\eta$ becomes smaller and the Lorentzian approaches the Dirac delta function. This observation is in agreement with the explicit calculations in Fig. 5(a).

This behavior poses a problem when one has to decide which broadening parameter to use in the calculations. As a general rule here we set $\eta$ to the smallest possible value where the curve $\mu$ vs. $\eta$ is relatively flat, so that our results are insensitive to this choice. Based on Fig. 5(a), we use $\eta = 5$ meV in all calculations presented in the article. This choice is consistent with the notion that real quasiparticles do not have an infinite lifetime as it is assumed in the BTE formalism, but have a finite lifetime due to electron-electron and electron-phonon interactions. In Fig. 5(b) we show our calculated quasiparticle broadening from electron-phonon interactions at 0 K and 300 K. It can be seen that at 300 K the broadening reaches values up to 4-5 meV for quasiparticle energies located one phonon energy away from the band bottom (the highest phonon energy in silicon is $\sim$63 meV). These values are consistent with our choice of broadening parameter.

TABLE II. Comparison between effective masses calculated using different types of pseudopotentials and exchange-correlation functionals without SOC, in units of the electron mass. The experimental data are from Refs. 20, 31, and 54.

| Band         | Direction | LDA-US LDA PBE Expt. |
|--------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Split-off hole | [100] | 0.170 0.168 0.167 0.23 |
|              | [111] | 0.098 0.098 0.094 0.23 |
|              | [110] | 0.111 0.109 0.106 0.23 |
|              | [100] | 0.248 0.265 0.253 0.17 |
| Light hole   | [111] | 0.551 0.655 0.682 0.16 |
|              | [110] | 0.271 0.278 0.266 0.16 |
|              | [100] | 0.271 0.276 0.271 0.46 |
| Heavy hole   | [111] | 0.635 0.678 0.694 0.56 |
|              | [110] | 2.158 2.170 2.868 0.53 |
| Electron     | long. | 0.755 0.735 0.771 0.98 |
|              | trans. | 0.182 0.185 0.188 0.19 |

FIG. 5. (a) Intrinsic electron mobility of silicon at 0 K, calculated as a function of the broadening parameter $\eta$ (dots). The grey thin line is a guide to the eye and was obtained by fitting the data points using $\mu = \text{const}/\eta$. (b) Electron quasi-particle linewidths in silicon arising from the electron-phonon interaction, calculated at 0 K (blue dots) and 300 K (orange dots). The zero of the horizontal energy axis is set to the conduction band minimum. The vertical grey line indicates the energy of the highest optical phonon in silicon.

Screening of the electron-phonon matrix elements

The strategy that we used to correct for the DFT over-screening of the electron-phonon matrix elements consists of un-screening the matrix elements via the DFT dielectric function, so as to obtain the bare matrix elements, and then screening the bare matrix elements using the best possible dielectric function. The dielectric function can be factored out of the integral in the matrix element if we neglect local field effects. Since local field effects are known to decrease the head of the dielectric function of silicon by 10% and the body of the dielectric function is typically one or two orders of magnitude smaller than the head [39], we expect to make an error on the order of a few percent.

In order to perform this operation for a large number of phonon wavevectors we use the Thomas-Fermi model dielectric function of Ref. 10

$$\epsilon(q) = \frac{k_0^2 + q^2}{k_0^2 \sin(qR)/(qR\epsilon_0) + q^2},$$

where $q = |q|$, $\epsilon_0$ is the macroscopic (electronic) dielectric constant, $k_0$ are $R$ are obtained from the valence electron density $\rho$ as $k_0^2 = 4(3\pi^2 \rho)^{1/3}/\pi$ and $\sinh(k_0R)/k_0R = \epsilon_0$. The only free parameter of the model is $\epsilon_0$. 
We test the validity of this model by computing the dielectric matrix within the random phase approximation (RPA), using a $12 \times 12 \times 12$ unshifted grid (corresponding to 72 inequivalent wavevectors). Figure 6 shows a comparison between the model dielectric function of Eq. (9) and the RPA calculation, after matching $\epsilon_0$ to the head of the RPA dielectric matrix. We see that Eq. (9) reproduces well the RPA screening, therefore it is sensible to use it in the renormalization of the electron-phonon matrix elements. In this work we renormalized the matrix elements by setting $\epsilon_0$ to the experimental dielectric constant of silicon (11.94).

**Brooks-Herring model for impurity scattering**

In order to account for impurity scattering in Fig. [b], we use the semi-empirical model developed by Brooks and Herring [37, 38]. In this model the mobility $\mu$ is evaluated analytically by taking into account quantum-mechanical scattering rates, spherical energy surfaces, negligible electron-electron interactions, and complete ionization of the impurities. The explicit expression of the hole mobility is:

$$\mu_i = \frac{2^{7/2}e^2\epsilon_s^2(k_BT)^{3/2}}{\pi^{3/2}e^3\sqrt{m^*_h}n_iG(b)} \left[ \frac{cm^2}{Vs} \right],$$

(10)

where $G(b) = \ln(b + 1) - b/(b + 1)$, $b = 4\pi m^*_h\epsilon_s^2(k_BT)^2/e^2h^2n'$, and $n' = n_b(2 - n_b/n_i)$. Here $m^*_h = 0.55m_0$ is the density-of-state effective mass for the holes [35], $n_b$ and $n_i$ are the hole densities and the density of ionized impurities [impurity concentration in

In the case of silicon, Eq. (10) cannot be used for the electron mobility because the electron mass is highly anisotropic and leads to incorrect results. To account for the electron mass anisotropy, we instead used the Long-Norton mobility expression [19, 38]:

$$\mu_{LN} = \frac{7.3 \cdot 10^{17}T^{3/2}}{n_iG(b)} \left[ \frac{cm^2}{Vs} \right],$$

(11)

where the electron density-of-state effective mass is $m^*_e = 1.08m_0$ [20].

Finally, the mobility including phonon ($\mu_i$) and impurity ($\mu_i$) scattering can be computed using the mixed-scattering formula [38]:

$$\mu = \mu_i \left[ 1 + X^2\{\text{ci}(X)\cos(X) + \sin(X)(\text{si}(X) - \frac{\pi}{2}) \} \right],$$

(12)

where $X^2 = 6\mu_i/\mu_e$ and $\text{ci}(X)$ and $\text{si}(X)$ are the cosine and sine integrals.

**Effect of thermal lattice expansion**

Within the quasi-harmonic approximation [56], the Helmholtz free energy of a cubic crystal is given by [57]:

$$F(T,V) = U(V) + F^\text{vib}(T,V) + F^\text{el}(T,V),$$

(13)

where $U$ is the static energy at 0 K, $F^\text{vib}$ is the contribution due to lattice vibration and $F^\text{el}$ the energy due to electronic thermal excitations. We rely on the adiabatic approximation to treat each term independently. The vibrational Helmholtz free energy per cell is given in the harmonic approximation by [57]:

$$F^\text{vib}(T,V) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_\mathbf{q},\nu \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q},\nu}(V) + \frac{k_BT}{N} \sum_\mathbf{q},\nu \ln \left[ 1 - \exp \left( \frac{-\hbar \omega_{\mathbf{q},\nu}(V)}{k_BT} \right) \right],$$

(14)

where $N$ is the number of $\mathbf{q}$-points, the first term is the contribution to the zero-point energy and the second term is the phonon contribution at finite temperature. $F^\text{el}$ can be neglected as the band gap is much larger than thermal energies.

The energy minimum of $U(V) + F^\text{vib}(T,V)$ at a given temperature corresponds to zero pressure and gives the variation of volume with temperature due to thermal expansion. To perform those calculations we used the *thermo.pw* code [41, 58]. The phonon frequencies were computed using the same LDA and PBE pseudopotentials as in the manuscript, without spin-orbit coupling,
FIG. 7. Variation of volume with temperature due to thermal expansion using the LDA or PBE exchange correlation functionals.

| $\partial \varepsilon_{nk}/\partial P$ | LDA | PBE |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| $eV$/Mbar | 4 K | 300 K | 4 K | 300 K |
| VBM | 11.257 | 11.262 | 11.841 | 11.874 |
| CBM | 9.535 | 9.541 | 9.854 | 9.884 |
| Ind. Gap | -1.722 | -1.721 | -1.987 | -1.990 |

TABLE III. Variation of the eigenenergies with pressure at two temperatures using the PBE and LDA pseudopotentials.

FIG. 8. Variation of the bulk modulus, the thermal expansion and eigenstates renormalization with temperature of silicon. Experimental values are from Refs. 61 (yellow diamond) and 62 (yellow dots).

Electron-phonon renormalization of the bandstructures and free carrier screening

The electron-phonon renormalization of the bandstructure has been discussed for the case of silicon in considerable detail in Ref. 42. The calculated zero-point renormalization of the fundamental gap is $-56.2$ meV.
within the non-adiabatic Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory. This change corresponds to 5% of the band gap. We extracted the effective masses using data from that paper, and the results are shown in Table IV for specific directions.

The electron-phonon renormalization of the bands leads to an increase of both electron and hole effective masses between 1% and 6%. Therefore, we can reasonably estimate that similar changes in effective masses will occur in our calculations. Given the dependence of the mobility on effective mass, we estimate a 5% reduction in mobility due to this effect.

The effect of free carrier screening can be included via a Lindhard dielectric function using ab initio parameters as described in Ref. [64]. In this case the screening only affects phonons with energy below the plasma energy of the doped carriers. For intrinsic silicon, which is the main focus of our work, the carrier concentration is below $10^{15}$ cm$^{-3}$. Using data from Ref. [64] we estimate that the plasma energy in this case would be well below 0.1 meV, therefore the free carrier screening would be ineffective for nearly all phonons. We also mention that the renormalization of the band structure arising from the free carriers is negligible in this case [64].

### Table IV. Effective masses of silicon computed at the LDA level without SOC, with or without the electron-phonon renormalization of the band structure at 0 K. The effective masses were obtained by using data from Ref. [42].

| Band           | Direction without e-ph interaction | with e-ph interaction | Variation |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Light hole     | [100]                              | 0.334                 | 0.342     | +2%       |
|                | [111]                              | 0.656                 | 0.697     | +6%       |
| Heavy hole     | [100]                              | 0.334                 | 0.343     | +3%       |
|                | [111]                              | 0.656                 | 0.704     | +3%       |
| Split-off hole | [100]                              | 0.218                 | 0.220     | +1%       |
|                | [111]                              | 0.099                 | 0.100     | +1%       |
| Electron       | long.                              | 0.927                 | 0.966     | +4%       |

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