

Supplemental Material for “Influence of Polytypism on Electronic Structure of CdSe/CdS and CdSe/CdSe Core/Shell Nanocrystals”

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Material parameters

Below we summarize the material parameters used in the calculations. m_0 is the free electron mass and ϵ_0 the vacuum permittivity. A relative dielectric constant of 3 and confining potential of 5 eV is taken outside the NC to account for the dielectric environment. For alloyed regions, $\text{CdSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$, we assume exponential evolution of the composition (from $x = 0$ at the CdSe core interface, to $x = 1$ at the CdS shell interface) and interpolate the material parameter.

Hexagonal material parameters

See Supplementary Information of Ref.¹ for a complete list.

Cubic material parameters

Description	Symbol	CdSe ZB	CdS ZB	Units	CdSe Ref.	CdS Ref.
Elastic modulus tensor	C_{11}	$66.7 \cdot 10^9$	$77.0 \cdot 10^9$	Pa	² p. 314	² p. 258
Elastic modulus tensor	C_{12}	$46.3 \cdot 10^9$	$53.9 \cdot 10^9$	Pa	² p. 314	² p. 258
Elastic modulus tensor	C_{44}	$22.3 \cdot 10^9$	$23.6 \cdot 10^9$	Pa	² p. 314	² p. 258
Piezoelectric constant	e_{14}	0.16	0.29	$\text{C} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$	³	³
Dielectric constant	ϵ	9.6	8.43	ϵ_0	⁴	⁴
Lattice constant	a	6.077	5.825	Å	⁵	⁶
Spin-orbit matrix element	Δ_{SO}	0.41	0.079	eV	⁷	⁸
Electron mass	m^*	0.12	0.209	m_0	⁹	¹⁰
Luttinger parameter	γ_1	5.51	4.11	$1/m_0$	² p. 323	² p. 266
Luttinger parameter	γ_2	1.24	0.77	$1/m_0$	² p. 323	² p. 266
Luttinger parameter	γ_3	2.14	1.53	$1/m_0$	² p. 323	² p. 266
CB Deformation pot.	a_c	-3.77	-3.59	eV	¹¹	¹¹
VB Deformation pot.	a_v	-1.81	-1.51	eV	^{11 12}	^{11 12}
VB Deformation pot.	b	-0.8	-4.7	eV	^{15 12}	^{16 12}

VB Deformation pot.	d	-4.4	-4.4	eV	¹²	¹²
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Table S1: Zinc-Blende CdSe and CdS parameters used in the calculations.

Band offsets

All values are derived from Ref. ¹⁸

Material	CdSe WZ	CdSe ZB	CdS WZ	CdS ZB
CdSe WZ	0.0	-0.094/-0.035	0.341/-0.409	0.226/-0.455
CdSe ZB		0.0	0.435/-0.374	0.32/-0.42
CdS WZ			0.0	-0.115/-0.046
CdS ZB				0.0

Table S2: Conduction band/valence band offsets listed for different materials and crystal structures. Units are eV.

Strain in polytypes

To estimate the initial strain of a ZB[111] (core) material buried inside a WZ (shell) one, we need to transform the ZB[100] lattice constant a_{ZB} (Table S1) into WZ-like lattice parameters. To this end, we will start from a_{ZB} and calculate the lattice constants a_{WZ}^{id} , c_{WZ}^{id} of an *ideal* WZ structure where the buried ZB[111] material is not stressed, i.e., no strain is present. Comparison of ZB[111] and WZ[0001] lattices, see e.g., ¹⁹ show that under the assumption of an *ideal* tetrahedral coordinations of anions and cations, three times the ideal WZ[0001] unit cell has the same volume than twice the ZB[111] one. Besides, geometrical considerations for ideal WZ crystal implies $c/a = \sqrt{8/3}$ (see e.g. Bimberg et al. ²⁰). We then reach the following equivalences: $a_{WZ}^{id} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} a_{ZB}$ and $c_{WZ}^{id} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} a_{ZB}$. For CdSe, we infer $a_{WZ}^{id} = 4.297 \text{ \AA}$ and $c_{WZ}^{id} = 7.017 \text{ \AA}$.

Next, by assuming for the ideal WZ phase the same elastic constant as its ZB partner, we may consider that the strain of either phase buried in a given matrix is the same. Then, if the matrix

is a hexagonal WZ material we can calculate the initial strain as that of the ideal buried WZ. For CdSe(ZB[111]) inside CdS(WZ) we obtain an initial strain of 3.92% (3.97%) in the direction orthogonal (parallel) to the c axis. These values are almost identical to those of WZ/WZ CdSe/CdS.

Even after minimizing elastic energy, relaxed strain remains very similar for pure WZ and polytype CdSe/CdS structures, as shown in Figure S1, where we compare the hydrostatic strain for the three model NCs investigated in the main paper.

Figure S1: Strain profile along c axis, for CdSe/CdS NCs with WZ/WZ core/shell, ZB/WZ core/shell and ZB/WZ core/shell including and alloyed CdSeS interlayer.

References

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