Diffusion Monte Carlo Formation Energies of Silicon Self-Interstitial Defects KEVIN P. DRIVER, WILLIAM D. PARKER, PHILLIP R. PETERSON, RICHARD G. HENNIG, JOHN W. WILKINS¹, Dept. of Physics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, CYRUS J. UMRRIGAR², Cornell Theory Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 — Silicon self-interstitial defects can hinder the fabrication of semiconductor devices. Several stable single-, di-, and tri-interstitial clusters found with \textit{ab initio} and tight-binding simulations are believed to form in silicon³. Since experimental detection of self-interstitials remains a challenge, accurate theoretical methods are needed to study their properties. The first Diffusion Monte Carlo (DMC) calculations found single-interstitial defect formation energies to be about 1 eV higher than predicted by density functional theory (DFT)⁴. This indicates that DFT may be insufficient for the study of silicon self-intersitials. We confirm the discrepancy between DMC and DFT formation energies for three single-interstitial structures (X, H, and T) and extend the comparison to several di- and tri-interstitial clusters.

¹Support provided by DOE (DE-FG02-99ER45795). Computational resources provided by Ohio Supercomputer Center and National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center.

²Support provided by NSF.


Kevin P. Driver
The Ohio State University

Date submitted: 30 Nov 2004