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Giant Flexoelectric Effect In Two-Dimensional Boron-Nitride Layers IVAN NAUMOV, ALEXANDER BRATKOVSKY, Hewlett-Packard Labs, Palo Alto, VIVEK RANJAN, North Carolina State U, Raleigh — The direct conversion of ambient motion into electrical energy is a challenging fundamental and technological problem that is currently a focus of research. Boron-Nitride noncentrosymmetric monolayers are piezoelectrics that can sustain much larger structural and produce very large (a few Volts) voltage drop across flexed nanostrips. We show, by way of first-principles calculations, the existence of giant nonlinear flexoelectric effect in BN 2D strips. The induced polarization is quadratic in amplitude of atomic displacements A, yet the dipole moment per unit cell is about four times larger compared to PbZrTiO3 [1]. The new effect may find a variety of practical applications and, in particular, as nanogenerators and tactile sensors powered by an ambient motion or agitation. BN material is inert and can be used in biological environment.

[1] I.Naumov, A.Bratkovsky, V.Ranjan, arXiv:0810.1775 (2008).

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