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Cite this: RSC Adv., 2021, 11, 8033

N-type and p-type molecular doping on monolayer MoS₂†

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Monolayer MoS₂ has attracted much attention due to its high on/off current ratio, transparency, and suitability for optoelectronic devices. Surface doping by molecular adsorption has proven to be an effective method to facilitate the usage of MoS₂. However, there are no works available to systematically clarify the effects of the adsorption of F4TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene on the electronic and optical properties of the material. Therefore, this work elucidated the problem by using density functional theory calculations. We found that the adsorption of F4TCNQ and PTCDA turns MoS₂ into a p-type semiconductor, while the tetracene converts MoS₂ into an n-type semiconductor. The occurrence of a new energy level in the conduction band for F4TCNQ and PTCDA and the valence band for tetracene reduces the bandgap of the monolayer MoS₂. Besides, the MoS_2/F_4TCNQ and $MoS_2/PTCDA$ systems exhibit an auxiliary optical peak at the long wavelengths of 950 and 850 nm, respectively. Contrastingly, the MoS₂/tetracene modifies the optical spectrum of the monolaver MoS_2 only in the ultraviolet region. The findings are in good agreement with the experiments.

Received 29th November 2020 Accepted 15th February 2021 DOI: 10.1039/d0ra10075g

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Introduction 1.

The monolayer MoS₂ is a semiconducting transition metal dichalcogenide with an optical bandgap of about 1.8 eV. This material has proven to possess high on/off current ratio and transparency, making it suitable for electronic and optoelectronic applications.^{1,2} The properties of monolayer MoS₂ are adjustable by modifying the crystal structure, doping with different elements, and the adsorption of organic molecules.³⁻⁶ The application of organic molecular adsorption is attractive because of advantages such as mechanical flexibility, easy fabrication, light weight, and low cost.7,8 Organic molecular adsorption has been demonstrated as a viable method to optimize material properties,6 also to protect MoS₂ from oxidation under ambient conditions.9 Therefore, it is essential to understand the behavior of the organic adsorption on the monolayer MoS₂ to optimize its performance for optoelectronic uses.

Here, we studied the adsorption of three organic molecules, 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane i.e.,

(F₄TCNQ), perylene-3,4,9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride (PTCDA), and tetracene. Where, F₄TCNO is one of the most effective p-type dopants due to its strong ability of electron acceptance.¹⁰⁻¹³ The experiment showed that F₄TCNQ could modify the electrical and optical properties of MoS2.11 Hu et al. confirmed that the deposition of F4TCNQ on the monolayer MoS₂ allows convenient control of the radioactive exciton recombination for laser and LED applications.¹² The charge transfer within the F4TCNQ-MoS2 interface can tune electrical and gas sensing properties.13 PTCDA and tetracene are popular organic semiconductors that have attracted many research interests in the past decades.8,14-19 Tetracene was used for fieldeffect transistors.20,21 The study of Habib showed the outstanding luminescent properties of the MoS2/PTCDA system.¹⁷ Also, Wang et al. have demonstrated the novel MoS₂/ PTCDA hybrid heterojunction synapse transistor with both electrical and optical modulation and efficient gate tunability.18 Besides, the MoS₂/tetracene is a good candidate for the antiambipolar field-effect transistor.21

The literature review showed that most of the available research is experiments, and there is no theoretical study available to elucidate the interaction between the MoS_2 monolayer and the mentioned organic molecules. Therefore, this work is going to clarify it by using the density functional theory (DFT) method and analyzing the electronic structure and optical properties of MoS₂ without and with the adsorption of F4TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene. Furthermore, this work also considers the influences of pressure on the properties.

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[†] Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available. See DOI: 10.1039/d0ra10075g

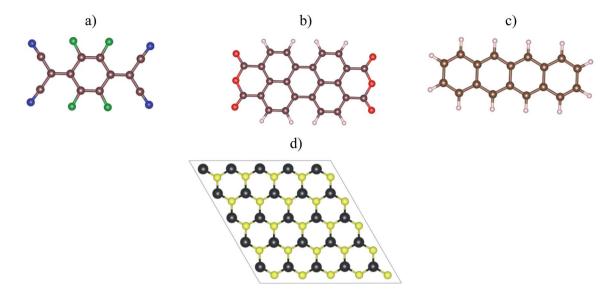


Fig. 1 The top view of organic molecules: (a) F₄TCNQ, (b) PTCDA, (c) tetracene, and (d) the monolayer MoS₂. Blue (N), green (F), brown (C), red (O), white (H), yellow (S), and black (Mo).

Computational method 2.

Fig. 1a-c visualized the molecular structure of F₄TCNQ $(C_{12}F_4N_4)$, PTCDA $(C_{24}H_8O_6)$, and tetracene $(C_{18}H_{12})$, respectively. The monolayer MoS₂, shown in Fig. 1d, was described by a slab model with the 5 \times 5 unit cell and a vacuum space of 27 Å along the normal direction of the MoS₂ surface.

The optimized geometry structure and total energy of the monolayer MoS₂ with organic molecular adsorption were obtained with the aid of the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP).²²⁻²⁴ The projector-augmented-wave method was used to describe the valence electron-core ion interaction.25,26 The

electron exchange-correlation interactions were treated by using the PBE-GGA approximation of the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof,^{27,28} which has shown to be a reasonable approximation for the bandgap of the monolayer MoS2.29 The plane-wave cutoff energy was 600 eV. The k-point mesh was sampled at $3 \times 3 \times 1$ in the first Brillouin zone by Monkhorst-Pack technique.³⁰ All atomic positions of MoS₂ and MoS₂/organic-molecule systems are fully relaxed during the geometry optimization until the interatomic forces meeting the upper criterion of 0.001 eV $Å^{-1}$.

The pressure applying to the system is defined by

$$P = \frac{E - E_0}{V - V_0},$$
 (1)

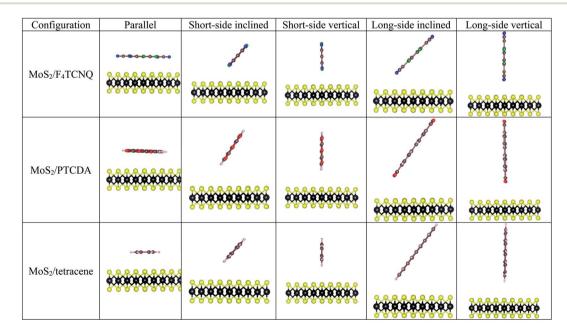


Fig. 2 The side view of the possible adsorption configurations of F_4 TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene on the monolayer MoS₂.

Adsorption configuration	F ₄ TCNQ	PTCDA	Tetracene
Parallel	-0.009	0.019	0.039
Short-side inclined	-0.055	-0.071	-0.046
Short-side vertical	-0.038	-0.036	-0.030
Long-side inclined	-0.027	-0.031	-0.022
Long-side vertical	-0.023	-0.17	0.137

Table 2 Adsorption energy E_a and the shortest distance *d* from the organic molecule to the substrate surface

	MoS ₂ /F ₄ TCNQ		MoS ₂ /PTC	CDA	MoS ₂ /tetracene		
a^{a} (Å)	$E_{\rm a} \left({\rm eV} \right)$	d (Å)	$E_{\rm a} \left({\rm eV} \right)$	d (Å)	$E_{\rm a} \left({\rm eV} \right)$	d (Å)	
2.84	0.034	3.44	0.095	3.48	0.105	3.49	
3.00	0.066	3.41	0.098	3.46	0.092	3.41	
3.18	-0.009	3.47	0.019	3.53	0.039	3.49	
3.32	-0.090	3.58	-0.019	3.60	-0.018	3.58	
3.48	-0.130	3.60	-0.074	3.64	-0.128	3.61	
3.64	-0.145	3.77	-0.080	3.79	-0.230	3.72	

^{*a*} 2.84 and 3.00 Å: for compressive pressure; 3.18 Å: without pressure; 3.32, 3.48, and 3.64 Å: for tensile strain.

where, the energy and volume of the strained (unstrained) system are denoted as *E* and *V* (*E*₀ and *V*₀), respectively. The volume of the unit cell of the monolayer MoS₂ is $V = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}a^2c$ (*a* is the lattice constant and *c* is the thickness of the slab). The pressure is modified by changing the lattice constant a = b.

The adsorption energy of F_4 TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene on the monolayer MoS_2 is calculated by

$$E_{\rm a} = E_{\rm sub+om} - (E_{\rm sub} + E_{\rm om}), \tag{2}$$

where, E_{sub+om} , E_{sub} , and E_{om} are the total energy of the MoS₂/ organic molecule system, the isolated monolayer MoS₂, and the isolated organic molecule, respectively.

The optical property of the systems was determined through the imaginary part $\varepsilon(\omega)$ of dielectric constant, which is calculated by the summation over empty states as follows:^{31,32}

$$\varepsilon(\omega) = \frac{2\pi e^2}{V\varepsilon_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{v},\mathbf{c}} \left| \left\langle \xi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{c}} \right| \hat{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{r} |\xi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{v}} \right\rangle \right|^2 \delta \left[\hbar \omega - \left(E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{v}} - E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{c}} \right) \right], \tag{3}$$

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here, ω is the frequency of emission, ε_0 is the dielectric constant of free space. The valence and conduction band wave functions are ξ_k^v and ξ_k^c , respectively. The unit cell volume is *V*, and the polarization vector of the electric field of the emission is $\hat{\nu}$.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Structural properties

The optimized structural parameters for the monolayer MoS_2 were obtained in the previous publication,³³ where the optimized lattice constant was found to be a = b = 3.18 Å. To explore the adsorption properties of F₄TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene on the monolayer MoS_2 , the geometry of the organic molecules with different configurations was optimized at several adsorption sites on the surface of MoS_2 as shown in Fig. 2. The most favorable adsorption of the F₄TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene molecules on the MoS_2 substrate was obtained for the short-side inclined configuration based on the most negative adsorption energy listed in Table 1.

Although the adsorption energy of the short-side inclined and parallel configurations are different, the electronic density of states (DOS) and the dielectric function are almost the same, as shown in Fig. S1 and S2 in the ESI.† Therefore, to make a comparison with the previous publication on polyethyleneimine,³³ we will perform a detailed analysis of the geometrical structure, the DOS, and the dielectric function for the parallel configuration of F₄TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene. Furthermore, we also found that the extension of the unit cell size to 6×6 and the inclusion of van der Waals correction (using vdW-DF functional) generated more negative adsorption energy (Tables S1 and S2†). However, the electronic structure of the MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, MoS₂/PTCDA, and MoS₂/tetracene systems remain the same as that of the unit cell 5×5 without van der Waals correction, as shown in Fig. S3.† Thus, it is acceptable to



Fig. 4 The index of atoms for the bond lengths and angles.

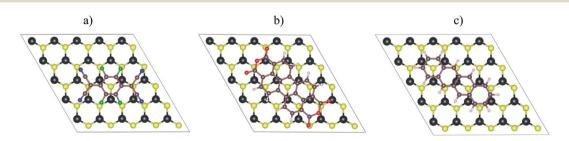


Fig. 3 The top view of the parallel adsorption configuration of the organic molecules on the monolayer MoS_2 : (a) F_4TCNQ , (b) PTCDA, and (c) tetracene.

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Table 3 Structural parameters of the MoS₂ substrate before and after the adsorption of the organic molecules. The index of atoms is described in Fig. 4

Parameters		MoS_2	MoS ₂ /F ₄ TCNQ	MoS ₂ /PTCDA	MoS ₂ /tetracene
Bonds (Å)	$S_1 - S_2$	3.183	3.160	3.162	3.160
	$S_1 - S_3$	3.126	3.144	3.146	3.132
	Mo_1-Mo_2	3.187	3.183	3.180	3.182
	Mo_2-S_1	2.415	2.415	2.415	2.413
Angles (°)	$Mo_1S_1Mo_2$	82.30	82.46	82.34	82.52
0 ()	$S_1Mo_2S_2$	82.30	81.76	81.88	81.84
	$S_1Mo_1S_3$	80.54	80.90	81.02	80.78

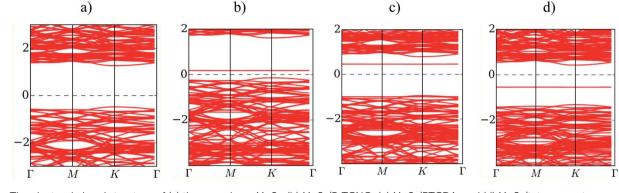


Fig. 5 The electronic band structure of (a) the monolayer MoS₂, (b) MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, (c) MoS₂/PTCDA, and (d) MoS₂/tetracene at zero pressure.

select the unit cell 5 \times 5 and the PBE-GGA approximation in the present study.

Table 2 listed the adsorption energy and the vertical nearest distance to the MoS₂ surface of the F₄TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene molecules in the parallel configuration (Fig. 3). With the application of the tensile strain to the system, the organic molecules become stabilized with more negative adsorption energy relative to that at the lattice constant of 3.18 Å (without strain). The compressive pressure makes the molecules less stable with more positive adsorption energy. Table 2 also shows that the vertical nearest distance to the surface increases with the increase of the lattice constant. This result seems contradicted to the tendency of the more stable configuration of the adsorption upon modifying the tensile strain. Although the vertical nearest distance increases, the electrostatically attractive force between the adsorbates and MoS₂ increases at a faster rate.33 Therefore, the adsorption energy becomes more negative. Besides, the interaction of the molecules with the surface is physisorption.

The geometrical parameters such as the bond length and bond angle of the MoS_2 substrate before and after the adsorption of the organic molecules are exhibited in Table 3. We found that the structural parameters did not change significantly after the adsorption of the molecules, which is consistent with the physical adsorption found in this work.

3.2. Electronic properties

Fig. 5 presents the band structure of MoS_2 before and after the adsorption of F_4TCNQ , PTCDA, and tetracene at zero pressure.

The bandgap is determined by the difference between the conduction band minimum and the valence band maximum. We find that the isolated substrate shows a direct bandgap of 1.68 eV at the *K* point, as listed in Table 4. The calculated bandgap of 1.68 eV comes from the electronic contribution only, while the experimental value of 1.80 eV has included the exciton binding energy.^{2,3,34} Upon the adsorption of the organic molecules, the new energy state occurs in the bandgap region of the MoS₂ substrate. The new energy level occurring above the Fermi level for the adsorption of F₄TCNQ and PTCDA implies that the substrate became the p-type semiconductor. Whilst, it occurring below the Fermi level for the adsorption of tetracene indicates that the monolayer MoS₂ became the n-type semiconductor. The existence of the new energy level shrinks the bandgap of the MoS₂ to 0.36, 1.43, and 0.72 eV for the

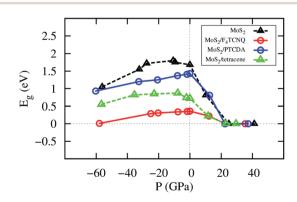


Fig. 6 The bandgap versus pressure of the monolayer MoS_2 with and without the adsorption of the organic molecules.

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Table 4 The bandgap E_g of the monolayer MoS₂ with and without the adsorption of the organic molecules

	MoS ₂ ^a		MoS ₂ /F ₄ TCNQ		MoS ₂ /PTCDA		MoS ₂ /tetracene	
a (Å)	P (GPa)	$E_{\rm g}$ (eV)	P (GPa)	$E_{\rm g}~({\rm eV})$	P (GPa)	$E_{\rm g}~({\rm eV})$	P (GPa)	$E_{\rm g} \left({\rm eV} \right)$
2.84	-56.18	1.05	-57.93	0.01	-60.27	0.93	-56.61	0.55
3.00	-32.44	1.55	-25.03	0.29	-32.70	1.20	-35.46	0.82
3.04	-27.65	1.72	-20.31	0.31	-20.74	1.25	-22.88	0.85
3.12	-10.69	1.80	-7.64	0.34	-7.93	1.37	-7.78	0.87
3.16	-9.46	1.75	-1.79	0.35	-1.91	1.41	-2.24	0.74
3.18	0	1.68	0	0.36	0	1.43	0	0.72
3.32	10.13	0.81	12.21	0.22	12.57	0.81	11.68	0.22
3.48	24.95	0	22.59	0	22.41	0	23.03	0
3.64	41.14	0	35.36	0	37.26	0	29.44	0

adsorption of F_4 TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene, respectively. However, the bandgap of the MoS_2 remains the direct bandgap nature after the adsorption of the organic molecules.

The change of the lattice constant modifies the pressure applied to the system. The details of the bandgap and the pressure are described in Table 4 and visualized in Fig. 6. We found that the bandgap behavior of MOS_2 /tetracene is similar to

Table 5 The point charge (in the unit of e) of the MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, MoS₂/PTCDA, and MoS₂/tetracene systems

P (GPa)	MoS_2	F ₄ TCNQ
-57.93	-0.226	+0.226
-25.03	-0.098	+0.098
0	-0.073	+0.073
12.21	-0.144	+0.144
22.59	-0.231	+0.231

P (GPa)	MoS_2	PTCDA
23.03	-0.015	+0.015
29.44	-0.017	+0.017
-20.74	-0.019	+0.019
0	-0.020	+0.020
12.57	-0.021	+0.021
22.41	-0.025	+0.025
MoS ₂ /tetracene		
P (GPa)	MoS_2	Tetracene

. ,		
-56.61	+0.062	-0.062
-35.46	+0.060	-0.060
-22.88	+0.052	-0.052
-7.78	+0.045	-0.045
0	+0.048	-0.048
11.68	+0.050	-0.050
23.03	+0.103	-0.103
29.44	+0.363	-0.363

that of the monolayer MoS_2 , which exhibits a concavedownward curve with the maximum bandgap of 0.87 and 1.80 eV found at the pressure of -7.78 and -10.69 GPa for the MoS₂/tetracene and monolayer MoS₂, respectively. The concavedownward curve for the bandgap versus the pressure for the MoS₂ system was found to be in good agreement with experiment,35 while that for the MoS₂/tetracene is similar to that of an n-type semiconductor, the MoS₂/PEI interface, in the previous study.33,36 There is a little difference in the behavior of the bandgap versus the pressure for MoS₂/F₄TCNQ and MoS₂/ PTCDA compared to that of the monolayer MoS₂. That is the bandgap somehow linearly increases to a maximum value and then decreases with more positive pressures. The maximum value is 0.36 and 1.43 eV at the zero pressure for MoS₂/F₄TCNQ and MoS₂/PTCDA, respectively. We have to impress that MoS₂/ F_4 TCNQ and MoS₂/PTCDA are the p-type semiconductors, which are different from the n-type of the MoS₂/tetracene. The monolayer MoS_2 , MoS_2/F_4TCNQ , $MoS_2/PTCDA$, and MoS_2/tet racene were found to be completely converted to the metal with the bandgap of 0 eV at the pressure of 24.95, 22.59, 22.41, and 23.03 GPa, respectively.

In a complex structure, the Bader point charge of an atom was determined in two steps: (1) calculating the charge by the Bader partition technique, and (2) subtracting the charge obtained in step (1) to that of the neutral atom. In the pseudopotential method of the DFT, one considers the contribution of valence electrons only. Table 5 presents the minus–plus signs as the loss and gain of charge, respectively. We found that F_4TCNQ and PTCDA accept while MoS_2 donates the charge. Contrastingly, the tetracene donates while MoS_2 gains the charge. These results are in a good correlation with the p-type doping nature of F_4TCNQ and PTCDA and the n-type doping of tetracene on the MoS_2 monolayer.

The electronic density of states (DOS) in Fig. 7a–c shows that the adsorption of F_4TCNQ , PTCDA, and tetracene contributes to the appearance of the new state coming from the p_z orbital of the organic molecules. As shown in Fig. 7d–f, the charge clouds of the atoms of the organic molecules clearly show the shape of p_z orbitals along the vertical direction, the vector **c**. The charge accumulation was found to more dominant on the F_4TCNQ and

MoS_/PTCDA

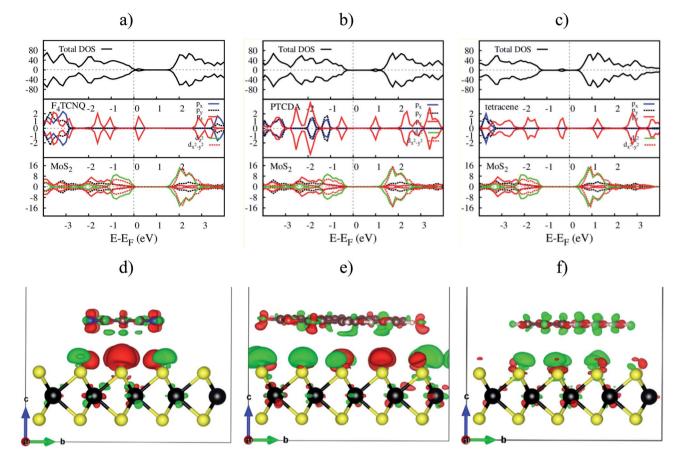


Fig. 7 The upper panel is the total and orbital-projected DOS. The bottom panel is the charge density difference at zero pressure. From left to right is for MoS_2/F_4TCNQ , $MoS_2/PTCDA$, and $MoS_2/tetracene$, respectively. Occupied and unoccupied states are presented in red and green in that order.

PTCDA, while the charge donation distributes more on tetracene. This result is in agreement with the above analysis about the Bader charge.

Fig. 8 shows the response of the total electronic density of states toward the influence of pressure. The p-type doping F_4TCNQ and PTCDA shift the valence band maximum of MoS_2

upward, while the n-type doping tetracene moves the conduction band minimum of MoS_2 downward near to the Fermi level. The variation of the position of the valence band maximum and conduction band minimum leads to modifying the bandgap of the systems.

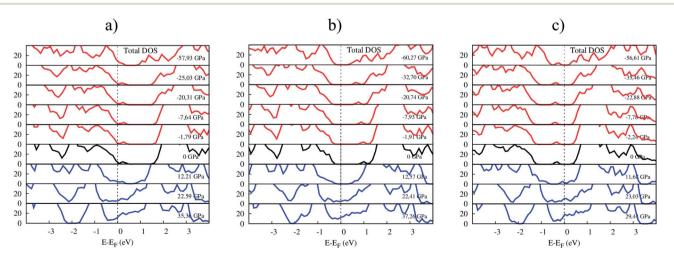


Fig. 8 The total DOS of (a) MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, (b) MoS₂/PTCDA, and (c) MoS₂/tetracene under pressure.

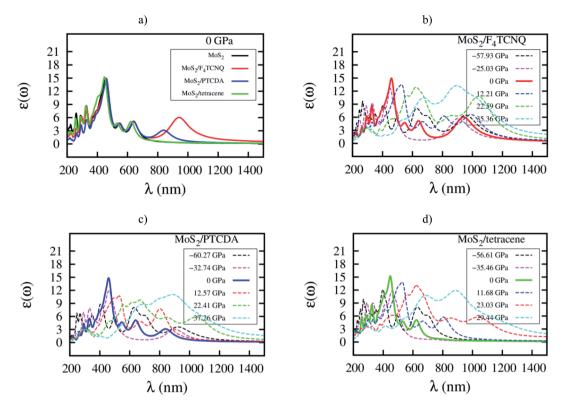


Fig. 9 Imaginary part of dielectric function $\varepsilon(\omega)$ versus wavelength λ for (a) the systems at zero pressure, (b) MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, (c) MoS₂/PTCDA, and (d) MoS₂/tetracene under pressure.

3.3. Optical properties

Here, we elucidate the influences of the organic molecular adsorption on the optical properties of the monolayer MoS_2 . The imaginary part of the frequency-dependent dielectric function of the MoS_2 , MoS_2/F_4TCNQ , $MoS_2/PTCDA$, and $MoS_2/$ tetracene in the independent-particle approximation including local field effects is presented in Fig. 9. After that, optical parameters as listed in Table 6 can be obtained in two steps: (1)

determining the wavelength λ and the intensity $\varepsilon(\omega)$ at the maximum peak of the dielectric function, check Fig. 9, (2) calculating the corresponding photon energy $E_{\rm p} = \hbar c/\lambda$. At zero pressure, we found in Fig. 9a that the optical spectrum of the MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, MoS₂/PTCDA, and MoS₂/tetracene systems has the maximum peak at almost the same position as that of the monolayer MoS₂, which is at about 450 nm. The result indicates that these systems can emit and absorb blue light.^{29,37} The optical spectrum of the MoS₂/tetracene has almost the same

MoS_2 (ref. 33)	P (GPa)	-56.18	-32.44	0	10.13	24.95	41.14
	$E_{\rm p} \left({\rm eV} \right)^a$	4.66	2.60	2.73	2.39	2.00	1.42
	$\lambda (nm)$	266	477	453	521	621	873
	$\varepsilon(\omega)$	11.06	11.58	14.88	13.36	13.18	12.06
MoS ₂ /F ₄ TCNQ	P (GPa)	-57.93	-25.03	0	12.21	22.59	35.36
-	$E_{\rm p} ({\rm eV})^a$	4.62	2.75	2.69	2.36	1.99	1.38
	λ (nm)	268	451	461	526	624	896
	$\varepsilon(\omega)$	9.65	12.66	14.95	13.54	12.92	13.22
MoS ₂ /PTCDA	P (GPa)	-60.27	-32.74	0	12.57	22.41	37.26
	$E_{\rm p} ({\rm eV})^a$	3.06	2.67	2.71	2.34	1.86	1.39
	λ (nm)	405	463	458	529	668	889
	$\varepsilon(\omega)$	8.82	11.95	14.82	10.72	9.76	11.05
MoS ₂ /tetracene	P (GPa)	-56.61	-35.46	0	11.68	23.03	29.44
	$E_{\rm p} ({\rm eV})^a$	3.11	2.69	2.77	2.36	1.99	1.40
	λ (nm)	398	461	447	526	623	886
	$\varepsilon(\omega)$	12.11	11.72	15.21	13.85	13.03	11.90

 $^{a}E_{p} = hc/\lambda$ is the photon energy, λ is the photon wavelength, h is Planck constant, and c is the speed of light in vacuum.

behavior as the monolayer MoS_2 with a little modification at short wavelengths around 300 nm. Contrastingly, the MoS_2/F_4TCNQ and $MoS_2/PTCDA$ exhibits an additional peak at 950 and 850 nm, respectively. It is necessary to remind that the MoS_2/F_4TCNQ and $MoS_2/PTCDA$ are p-type, while the $MoS_2/$ tetracene is an n-type semiconductor. The behavior of the optical spectrum of the $MoS_2/$ tetracene was found to be similar to that of the n-type doping of MoS_2 with PEI.³³ Therefore, the auxiliary peak at a longer wavelength was only found for the monolayer MoS_2 with the p-type doping.⁵ Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 9b–d, the intensity of the main optical peak at non-zero pressures was suppressed compared to that at 0 GPa.

4. Conclusion

This work investigated the effects of the organic molecular adsorption on the physical properties of the monolayer MoS₂ by the DFT calculations. The results have proved that the adsorption of F4TCNQ, PTCDA, and tetracene on MoS2 is physisorption. The organic molecular adsorption reduces the direct bandgap of the monolayer MoS_2 to 0.36, 1.43, and 0.72 eV, respectively. The main cause is due to the emergence of the new energy level at the conduction band minimum for MoS₂/ F₄TCNQ and MoS₂/PTCDA, and at the valence band maximum for MoS_2 /tetracene, by the p_z orbitals of the adsorbates. Under pressure, the bandgap of the MoS₂/F₄TCNQ, MoS₂/PTCDA, and MoS₂/tetracene systems reaches the maximum value of 0.36, 1.43, and 0.87 eV, respectively. Whilst, it becomes 0 eV implying the transition to the metal at the tensile pressure of 22.59, 22.41, and 23.03 GPa in that order. The adsorption of tetracene changes the optical peak structure of the monolayer MoS₂ at the ultraviolet region around 300 nm; however, the F4TCNQ and PTCDA adsorption generate an auxiliary peak at the long wavelengths.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

Acknowledgements

This research is funded by Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), VNU-HCM, under grant number BK-SDH-2021-1680479.

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