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# n/p-Doping in a buckled honeycomb InAs monolayer using IVA-group impurities†

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In this work, the effects of n/p-doping on the electronic and magnetic properties of a low-buckled honeycomb InAs monolayer are investigated using first-principles calculations. Herein, IVA-group atoms (C, Si, Ge, Sn, and Pb) are selected as impurities for n-doping in the In sublattice and p-doping in the As sublattice. The pristine monolayer is a semiconductor with a band gap of 0.77(1.41) as determined using the PBE(HSE06) functional. A single In vacancy induces magnetic semiconductor behavior with a large total magnetic moment of 2.98  $\mu_B$ , while a single As vacancy preserves the non-magnetic nature. The monolayer is not magnetized by n-doping with C and Si atoms due to the strong ionic interactions, while the magnetic semiconducting nature is induced with Ge, Sn, and Pb impurities. In these cases, magnetic properties are produced by IVA-group impurities and their neighboring As atoms. Furthermore, either a magnetic semiconducting or half-metallic nature is obtained via p-doping, whereas magnetism originates mainly from C, Si, Ge, and Sn dopants, and the As atoms closest to a Pb dopant. Further investigation indicates that the magnetization becomes stronger upon increasing the doping level, with a total magnetic moment of up to 3.92  $\mu_B$  with 25% Sn impurity. In addition, the thermal stability of the doped systems at room temperature is also confirmed by *ab initio* molecular-dynamics (AIMD) simulations. The results introduce IVA-group-assisted functionalization as an efficient way to make prospective 2D InAs-based spintronic materials.

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## 1. Introduction

The worldwide exploration of two-dimensional (2D) materials was initiated by the successful exfoliation of graphene in 2004.<sup>1</sup> Graphene, with intriguing physical, chemical, and mechanical properties derived from its unique planar honeycomb structure and  $sp^2$  electronic hybridization, has been widely applied in diverse fields, including: electronics and optoelectronics,<sup>2,3</sup> photonics,<sup>4,5</sup> energy storage,<sup>6,7</sup> toxic-gas sensing,<sup>8,9</sup> catalysis,<sup>10,11</sup> and spintronics.<sup>12,13</sup> So far, graphene and its derivatives have been pioneering in the area of 2D materials, in which enormous effort has been made to discover new members, in both academic research and technological applications.<sup>14,15</sup> In this regard, it is necessary to mention boron nitride (BN), which crystallizes in various bulk phases, including cubic, wurtzite, rhombohedral, and hexagonal. Among them, the graphite-like hexagonal structure, formed by stacking BN layers, is the most stable at room temperature. Therefore, it can be easily

exfoliated to obtain BN monolayers.<sup>16,17</sup> In contrast to the semimetallic graphene, the BN monolayer exhibits insulating character with a large electronic band gap,<sup>18</sup> which endows this 2D material with prospective optoelectronic applications in the ultraviolet region.<sup>19,20</sup> Therefore, great interest in 2D III-nitrides<sup>21,22</sup> as well as other III-V materials<sup>23,24</sup> has been aroused, which have an advantage of possessing intrinsic band gaps.

On the other hand, spintronics (spin-based electronics) have emerged and may rapidly replace conventional electronics, due to their fast processing of large volumes of information, low dissipation, and low energy consumption,<sup>25,26</sup> among other advantages. In this field, electron spin is considered as an additional degree of freedom. Therefore, the generation of spin current plays a key role in the performance of spintronic devices. In this regard, researchers have paid special attention to developing new magnetic materials for spintronic applications.<sup>27,28</sup> So far, most of the discovered 2D materials have been intrinsically non-magnetic; therefore functionalization has been widely explored to obtain prospective 2D spintronic materials.<sup>29,30</sup> Regarding 2D group III-V materials, doping has been widely explored due to its simplicity and effectiveness in inducing novel electronic and magnetic properties. Therein, IVA-group atoms are usually employed, considering the difference in their valence electronic configuration compared to that of the host atoms ( $s^2p^2$  compared to  $s^2p^1-s^2p^3$ ), which may lead

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to the partial occupancy of the outermost orbitals. For example, Gupta *et al.*<sup>31</sup> have investigated silicon (Si) doping on a BN monolayer. Results indicate that a magnetic semiconducting nature with a total magnetic moment of  $1 \mu_B$  is induced by doping at either the B or N sublattices. Furthermore, Choudhuri *et al.*<sup>32</sup> have demonstrated that either a metallic, half-metallic or semiconducting nature can be obtained for a carbon (C)-doped BN monolayer, depending on the doping level, where the half-metallicity (suitable for spintronic applications) is induced at 9.375%. Substitutional doping in AlN and GaN monolayers has explored by Kadioglu *et al.*,<sup>33</sup> where C, Si, and Ge (germanium) atoms were selected as impurities. Results indicate that the C atom prefers the N sublattice and induces a total magnetic moment of  $1 \mu_B$ . In contrast, Si and Ge dopants prefer to replace the host B atom, but preserve the non-magnetic nature of the BN monolayer. It can be noted that the ground-state properties of the doped systems depend on the type of impurity, which regulates the electronic interactions around the doping site.

In addition, Suzuki *et al.*<sup>23</sup> have investigated different structures for indium arsenide (InAs) monolayers along with other III–V 2D compounds, including the planar hexagonal structure, buckled hexagonal structure, tetragonal structure, hexagonal zigzag structure, and hexagonal armchair structure (ARM). Calculations indicate that the ARM structure has the lowest energy. However, the hexagonal buckled structure has been considered by other research groups due to its versatility for a wide range of 2D materials,<sup>34,35</sup> and is frequently fabricated in experiments, including in the form of non-layered bulk counterparts such as blue phosphorene,<sup>36</sup> BeO,<sup>37</sup> and SiC.<sup>38</sup> Earlier, the InAs monolayer in the low-buckled honeycomb form was predicted by Şahin *et al.*<sup>39</sup> Results show good stability as well as a semiconducting nature. Recently, Yu *et al.*<sup>40</sup> have shown that a band gap of 1.59 eV – suitable for logic devices – can be obtained in InAs monolayers through hydrogenation. In addition, doping with seven different metals (Ag, Au, Cu, Al, Ni, Pb, and Pt) and two 2D metals (Ti<sub>2</sub>C and graphene) has also been examined. To the best of our knowledge, semiconductor 2D InAs has not been investigated well, such that more investigations should be carried out to make up for this lack of understanding in order to design new materials for practical applications. In particular, functionalization of InAs monolayers with IVA-group-atom assistance has not been explored, and may lead to the formation of prospective 2D spintronic materials. Therefore, the main aim of this work is to systematically investigate the effects of doping with IVA-group atoms on the electronic and magnetic properties of low-buckled honeycomb InAs monolayers. It is anticipated that the monolayer can be significantly magnetized, with novel feature-rich properties including half-metallic and magnetic semiconducting natures. Therefore, doping can be suggested as an effective method to make new 2D spintronic materials from InAs monolayers. The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 briefly describes the employed theory and computational parameters; the obtained results are given and discussed in Section 3, where the pristine monolayer and the effects of vacancies, effects of n-doping, effects of p-doping, and effects of doping level are analyzed in Subsection 3.1, Subsection 3.2,

Subsection 3.3, and Subsection 3.4, respectively; finally, the main findings of this work are summarized in Section 4.

## 2. Computational details

Spin-polarized first-principles calculations are performed to investigate the electronic and magnetic properties of the InAs monolayer under doping with IVA-group atoms. Based on density functional theory (DFT),<sup>41</sup> the projector augmented wave (PAW) method as embedded in the Vienna *Ab initio* Simulation Package (VASP, version 5.4.4)<sup>42,43</sup> is employed to perform the theoretical calculations. The electron exchange-correlation on the basis of the generalized gradient approximation is considered in Kohn–Sham self-consistent equations, using the form of Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (GGA-PBE).<sup>44</sup> In addition, the HSE06 hybrid functional, with a 25% fraction of the exact exchange potential (AEEX = 0.25) and the range-separation parameter HFSCREEN =  $0.2 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ , is also employed in order to get a more accurate band-gap prediction.<sup>45</sup> The atomic valence configurations are as follows: In-5s<sup>2</sup>5p<sup>1</sup>; As-4s<sup>2</sup>4p<sup>3</sup>; C-2s<sup>2</sup>2p<sup>2</sup>; Si-3s<sup>2</sup>3p<sup>2</sup>; Ge-4s<sup>2</sup>4p<sup>2</sup>; Sn-5s<sup>2</sup>5p<sup>2</sup>; and Pb-6s<sup>2</sup>6p<sup>2</sup>. The cutoff energy for the wave functions is set to 500 eV. The convergence criteria for the energy and Hellmann–Feynman force (acting on each constituent atom during the structural relaxation) are set to  $10^{-6}$  eV and  $0.01 \text{ eV \AA}^{-1}$ , respectively.  $\Gamma$ -centered  $k$ -point sampling of  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  is carried out, whose mesh is built *via* the Monkhorst–Pack method.<sup>46</sup> The monolayer structure is periodically repeated in the  $xy$  plane, and a vacuum gap larger than  $14 \text{ \AA}$  guarantees the minimization of spurious inter-slab interactions along the  $z$ -axis. The possible emergence of magnetic properties is investigated through the illustration of the spin density and total magnetic moment; the latter is calculated from the difference in charge density between spin channels. A  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  supercell of the InAs monolayer has been generated to investigate the effects of doping with IVA-group atoms (at an In site for n-doping and at an As site for p-doping), and is large enough to avoid interactions between impurities. Herein, the supercell contains 32 atoms (16 In atoms and 16 As atoms). By substituting one In or As atom with one IVA-group atom, a doping level of 6.25% is reached. Then, the doping (substitution) energy  $E_d$  is calculated using following formula:<sup>47</sup>

$$E_d = E_t^{\text{dm}} - E_t^{\text{pm}} + \mu_{\text{ra}} - \mu_{\text{ia}} \quad (1)$$

where  $E_t^{\text{dm}}$  and  $E_t^{\text{pm}}$  are the total energy of the doped and pristine monolayer, respectively;  $\mu_{\text{ra}}$  and  $\mu_{\text{ia}}$  denote the chemical potential of the replaced (In or As) atom and inserted (IVA-group) atom, respectively.

The phonon dispersion relations are calculated using the small displacement method as embedded in the PHONOPY code,<sup>48</sup> where a  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  supercell is generated. *Ab initio* molecular-dynamics (AIMD) simulations are performed within the framework of the NVT ensemble. Herein, the thermal stability at room temperature (300 K) is verified for a total time scale of 3000 fs with a molecular dynamics step of 5 fs. This method has been widely employed by theoretical researchers to examine the thermal stability of 2D materials.<sup>49,50</sup> Bader charge



analysis is adopted to analyze the interatomic interactions,<sup>51,52</sup> which provides important information about the charge transfer between atoms.<sup>53</sup>

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Pristine monolayer and effect of single vacancies

Fig. 1a shows a  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  supercell of the InAs monolayer. It can be noted that there are two inequivalent atoms (one In and one As atom) in a unit cell, located at different atomic planes and thus generating a buckled structure. Consequently, the structure belongs to the  $P3m1$  space group (no. 156). After a full relaxation, the following structural parameters are obtained for the optimized unit cell: (1) lattice constant  $a = 4.38 \text{ \AA}$ ; (2) buckling height  $\Delta_{\text{In-As}} = 0.67 \text{ \AA}$ ; (3) chemical bond length  $d_{\text{In-As}} = 2.61 \text{ \AA}$ ; and (4) interatomic angles  $\angle \text{InAsIn} = \angle \text{AsInAs} = 113.68^\circ$ . Once the structure is optimized, phonon dispersion curves are calculated. The spectra given in Fig. 1b provide evidence of dynamical stability considering the absence of imaginary phonon modes. Therefore, it can be concluded that the buckled honeycomb InAs monolayer is dynamically stable, and its ground-state properties will be further investigated.

The electronic properties of the considered monolayer are investigated through its band structure, projected density of states (PDOS), and charge distribution. From Fig. 2a, one can see that the InAs monolayer is an indirect gap semiconductor, since the valence band and conduction band are clearly separated by a forbidden energy region, where the valence band maximum and conduction band minimum are found at the  $K$  and  $\Gamma$  point, respectively. An energy gap of  $0.77 \text{ eV}$  is obtained via the standard PBE functional, while a larger value of  $1.41 \text{ eV}$  is obtained from the HSE06-based calculations. These values are in good agreement with previous calculations by Liu *et al.*,<sup>24</sup> however, a direct band gap was obtained in that work. It is worth mentioning that the difference between the valence band maximum at the  $\Gamma$  and  $K$  points is quite small (only  $0.015 \text{ eV}$ ); therefore, the indirect or direct band gap character of the InAs monolayer is normally questionable. Moreover, this feature may suggest that the indirect-direct band gap transition can be easily induced by applying external factors. The PDOS spectra displayed in Fig. 2b indicate that the valence band is formed

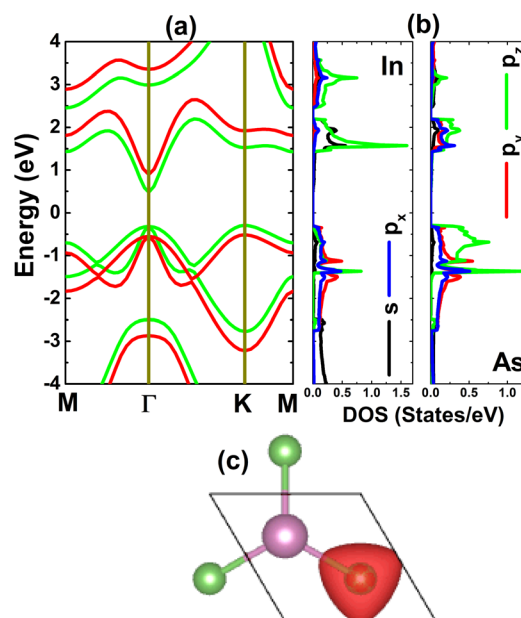


Fig. 2 (a) Electronic band structure (calculated with PBE – green curve and HSE06 – red curve), (b) projected density of states, and (c) charge distribution (iso-surface value:  $0.05 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$ ) of the InAs monolayer.

mainly from As-p orbitals, where the  $p_z$  state dominates the upper part. Meanwhile, the In- $p_z$  state originates mainly in the lower part of the conduction band along with the In-s state. The PDOS profile may suggest significant electronic hybridization between the In-p and As-p orbitals, since they appear in the same energy range. However, it must be mentioned that there are ionic interactions between these atoms due to the difference in their electronegativity. The illustration of the charge distribution in Fig. 2c indicates charge transfer from the In to the As atom, considering significant charge accumulation at the As site, which is a result of the smaller electronegativity of In (1.78) in comparison with that of As (2.18).<sup>54</sup> Additionally, this process is also confirmed by the Bader charge analysis, which asserts the transfer of a charge amount of  $0.59e$ .

Before considering the doping, single In and As vacancies are investigated. Firstly, AIMD simulations are performed over the course of 3000 fs to examine the thermal stability of the defect-containing systems at room temperature. The results given in Fig. 3 indicate that the creation of vacancies leads to the formation of thermally stable systems, since no chemical bonds in the defect-containing InAs monolayer are broken upon increasing temperature to 300 K.

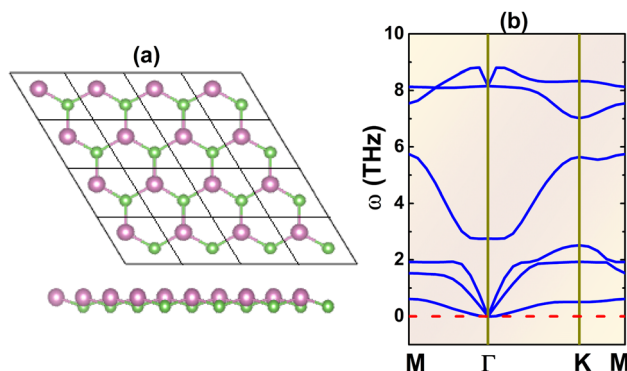


Fig. 1 (a) A  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  atomic model (In: purple balls; As: green balls) and (b) phonon dispersion curves of the InAs monolayer.

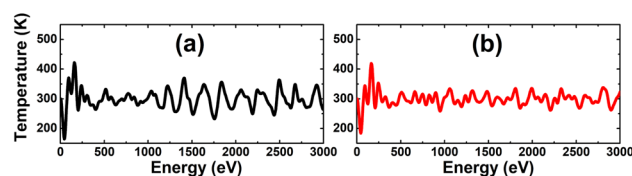


Fig. 3 AIMD simulations at 300 K for the InAs monolayer with (a) a single In vacancy and (b) a single As vacancy.



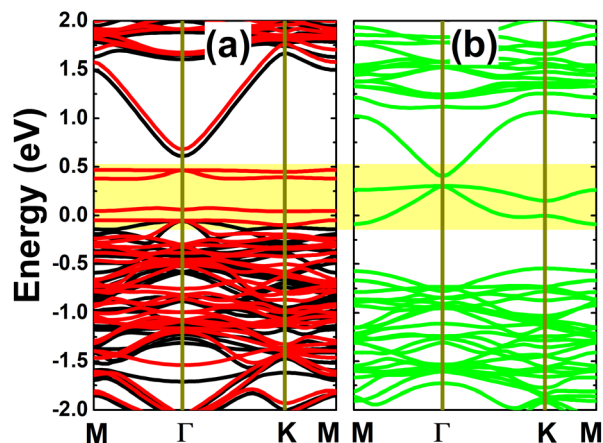


Fig. 4 Spin-resolved band structure (non spin-polarization: green curves; spin-up: black curves; spin-down: red curves; the Fermi level is set to 0 eV; new middle-gap states are indicated in the yellow-colored regions) of the InAs monolayer with (a) a single In vacancy and (b) a single As vacancy.

The spin-polarized calculation of band structures indicates a clear spin polarization in the case of the In vacancy, as displayed in Fig. 4a, mostly around the Fermi level with the appearance of new spin-down middle-gap flat energy branches. The band structure profile indicates a magnetic semi-conducting nature induced by creating a single In vacancy in the InAs monolayer. Specifically, energy gaps of 0.66 and 0.09 eV are obtained in the spin-up and spin-down channels, respectively. The band structure profile suggests the defect-containing InAs monolayer with a single In vacancy is a prospective candidate for spintronic applications to generate a spin current by spin-filtering. In contrast, the band structure is totally spin-symmetric in the InAs monolayer with an As vacancy. In this case, the monolayer is metallized due to new middle-gap energy curves. Undoubtedly, the new middle-gap energy states in both cases originate from unsaturated chemical bonds, that is, the atoms closest to the defect site.

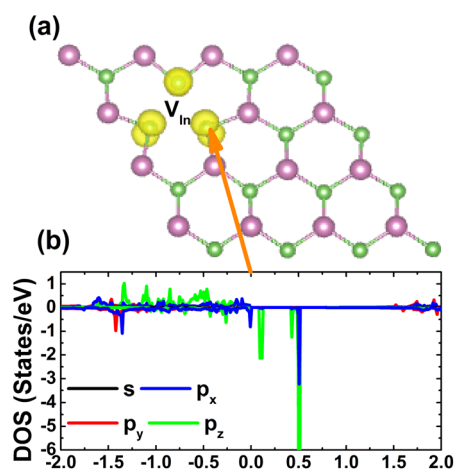


Fig. 5 (a) Spin density (iso-surface value:  $0.008 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ ) in the InAs monolayer with a single In vacancy and (b) projected density of states of the As atom closest to the vacancy site.

The spin asymmetry in the band structure may suggest significant magnetism in the InAs monolayer when creating a single In vacancy. Our calculations indicate a strong magnetization with a total magnetic moment of  $2.98 \mu_B$ . Fig. 5 shows the spin density and PDOS spectra for investigating the origin of the magnetism. From panel (a), one can see that the As atoms around the vacancy site are mainly responsible for the magnetization, while a smaller contribution comes from the other second As neighbor. The PDOS spectra of the main magnetizing atom given in panel (b) provide more insights into the role of each orbital. Note that the As-p orbital (with all  $p_x$ ,  $p_y$ , and  $p_z$  states) produces mainly magnetic properties, where the spin-down energy gap is formed by the separation between the occupied  $p_{xy}$  state and the unoccupied  $p_z$  state.

### 3.2. Effects of n-doping

The calculated doping energies are listed in Table 1 and illustrated in Fig. 6. Note that C doping is energetically less favorable, with an  $E_d$  value of 3.54 eV, and Sn doping requires supplying the smallest energy of only 0.29 eV. These results are derived from the difference in atomic size of the In atom and IVA-group impurities. The atomic radii of In, C, Si, Ge, Sn, and Pb atoms are 155, 70, 110, 125, 145, and 180 pm,<sup>55</sup> respectively, such that the differences in the atomic radii for In–C, In–Si, In–Ge, In–Sn, and In–Pb pairs are 85, 45, 30, 10, and 25 pm,

Table 1 Doping energy  $E_d$  (eV), spin-dependent band gap  $E_g$  (eV; M = metallic), charge transfer from dopant  $\Delta Q$  (e; "–": receiving charge; "+": giving charge), and total magnetic moment  $M_t$  ( $\mu_B$ ) of the InAs monolayer doped with IVA-group atoms at In (n-doping) and As (p-doping) sites

		$E_d$	$E_g^{\text{up}}$	$E_g^{\text{dn}}$	$\Delta Q$	$M_t$
n-doping	C	3.54	M	M	−0.88	0.00
	Si	0.94	M	M	+0.80	0.00
	Ge	0.60	0.29	0.60	+0.38	0.98
	Sn	0.29	0.43	0.60	+0.55	1.00
	Pb	0.45	0.64	0.37	+0.50	1.00
p-doping	C	3.68	0.57	0.14	−0.92	1.00
	Si	1.41	0.86	0.37	−0.28	1.00
	Ge	0.91	0.87	0.24	−0.28	1.00
	Sn	0.72	0.90	0.14	−0.09	1.00
	Pb	0.80	0.86	M	+0.05	1.00

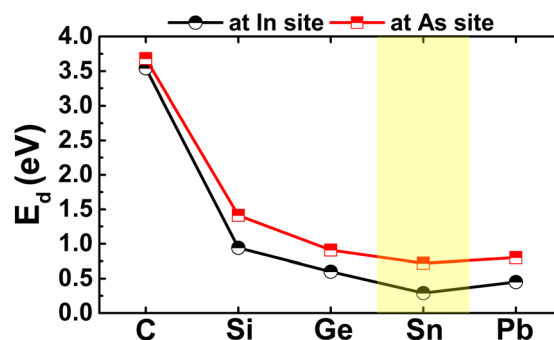


Fig. 6 Doping energy of IVA-group atoms in the InAs monolayer.



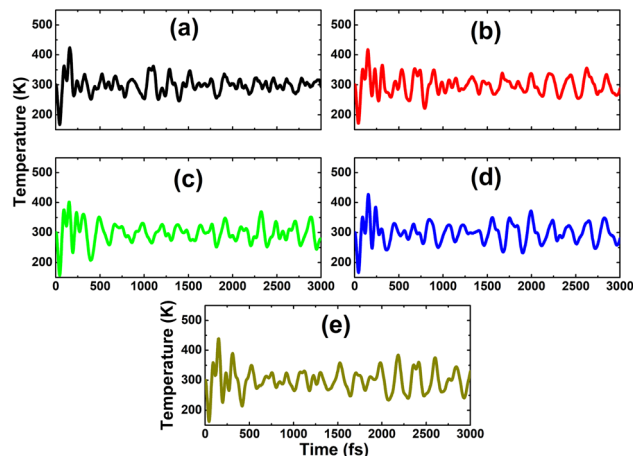


Fig. 7 AIMD simulations at 300 K for the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{In}$ , (b)  $Si_{In}$ , (c)  $Ge_{In}$ , (d)  $Sn_{In}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{In}$  doping (atomic structures after AIMD simulations are given in Fig. S1 of the ESI†).

respectively. In other words, the similar atomic size between the In and Sn atoms leads to the energetic favorability of the Sn doping process. Despite the differences in doping energy, all the n-doped systems are thermally stable at room temperature since the chemical bonds are well preserved after doping, without any structural destruction, as confirmed by the AIMD simulations in Fig. 7.

Further spin-polarized calculations of the band structures indicate spin-symmetry in the C- and Si-doped systems, as observed in Fig. 8a and b. Note that the InAs monolayer is metallized by doping with C and Si. In contrast, spin

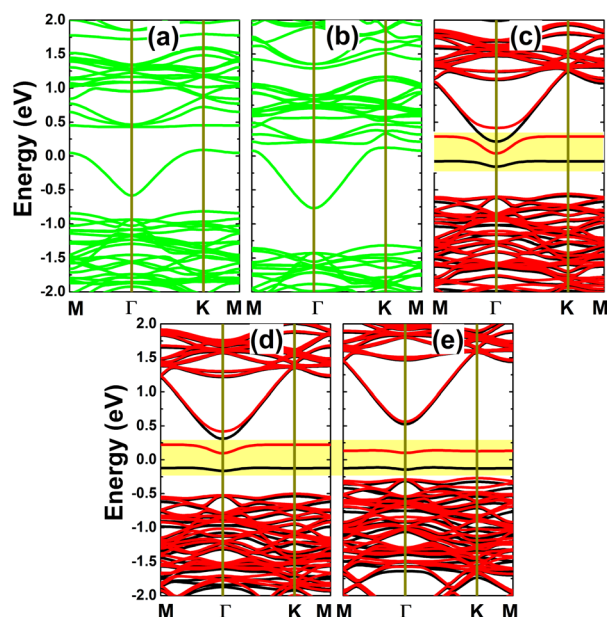


Fig. 8 Spin-resolved band structure (non spin-polarization: green curves; spin-up: black curves; spin-down: red curves; the Fermi level is set to 0 eV; new middle-gap states are indicated in the yellow-colored regions) of the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{In}$ , (b)  $Si_{In}$ , (c)  $Ge_{In}$ , (d)  $Sn_{In}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{In}$  doping.

polarization occurs in the Ge-, Sn-, and Pb-doped monolayers, as shown in Fig. 8c–e. In these cases, one flat energy branch emerges in the upper part of the spin-up valence band and the other appears in the lower part of the spin-down conduction band, giving rise to the formation of magnetic semiconductor 2D materials for spintronic applications. The spin-dependent energy gaps are given in Table 1. Note that the obtained values are considerably smaller than that of the pristine monolayer, which is a consequence of the new middle-gap energy states that are derived from the modified electronic interactions around the doping site. Bader charge analysis is performed to get insights into the interactions between the IVA-group impurities and host monolayer. Our calculations confirm that the C impurity acts as a charge acceptor, gaining a charge quantity of  $0.88e$ , which is a result of its larger electronegativity than that of the As atom. Meanwhile, Si, Ge, Sn, and Pb atoms are less electronegative than the As atom; therefore, they lose charge when replacing the In atom in the InAs monolayer. Specifically, charge amounts of  $0.80$ ,  $0.38$ ,  $0.55$ , and  $0.50e$ , respectively, are transferred from these impurities to the host monolayer.

Now, the magnetic properties of the Ge-, Sn-, and Pb-doped systems are investigated, and are evidenced by the spin-asymmetric band structures. Firstly, the spin density is calculated to determine the magnetizing atoms. The illustrations in Fig. 9a–c imply that the difference in charge distribution between spin channels takes place mainly at the Ge, Sn, and Pb impurities and their first As neighbor atoms, indicating their key role in producing magnetism. Further investigation of the origin of the magnetism is based on the PDOS spectra, as displayed in Fig. 10, in which the C and Si dopants as well as their neighbors are analysed to explain the origin of the new middle-gap states. Note that in all cases, new middle-gap energy branches are derived from the  $p_z$  state of the impurities and their neighbor As atoms. Consequently, this state regulates mainly the ground-state electronic and magnetic properties of the doped systems. The PDOS is spin-symmetric in the cases of C and Si doping, suggesting a spin-balanced charge distribution such that no magnetism is induced. Meanwhile, the  $p_z$  state is only partially occupied to achieve magnetization of the monolayer by doping with Ge, Sn, and Pb. Moreover, the PDOS profiles and values may suggest that the electronic hybridization becomes stronger according to the increase in the atomic number of the IVA-group impurities. This feature attributes the absence of magnetism in the C- and Si-doped systems to the strong ionic interactions.

### 3.3. Effects of p-doping

From Table 1 and Fig. 6, one can see that n-doping may require a smaller additional energy than p-doping, where the variation in the doping energy is quite similar, decreasing from C though to Sn impurities, and then this parameter increases for the Pb dopant. Therefore, Sn doping is also energetically the most favorable in the cases of p-doping. It is worth mentioning that the As atom acts as a charge acceptor, therefore the doping energy is not only determined by the difference in atomic size,



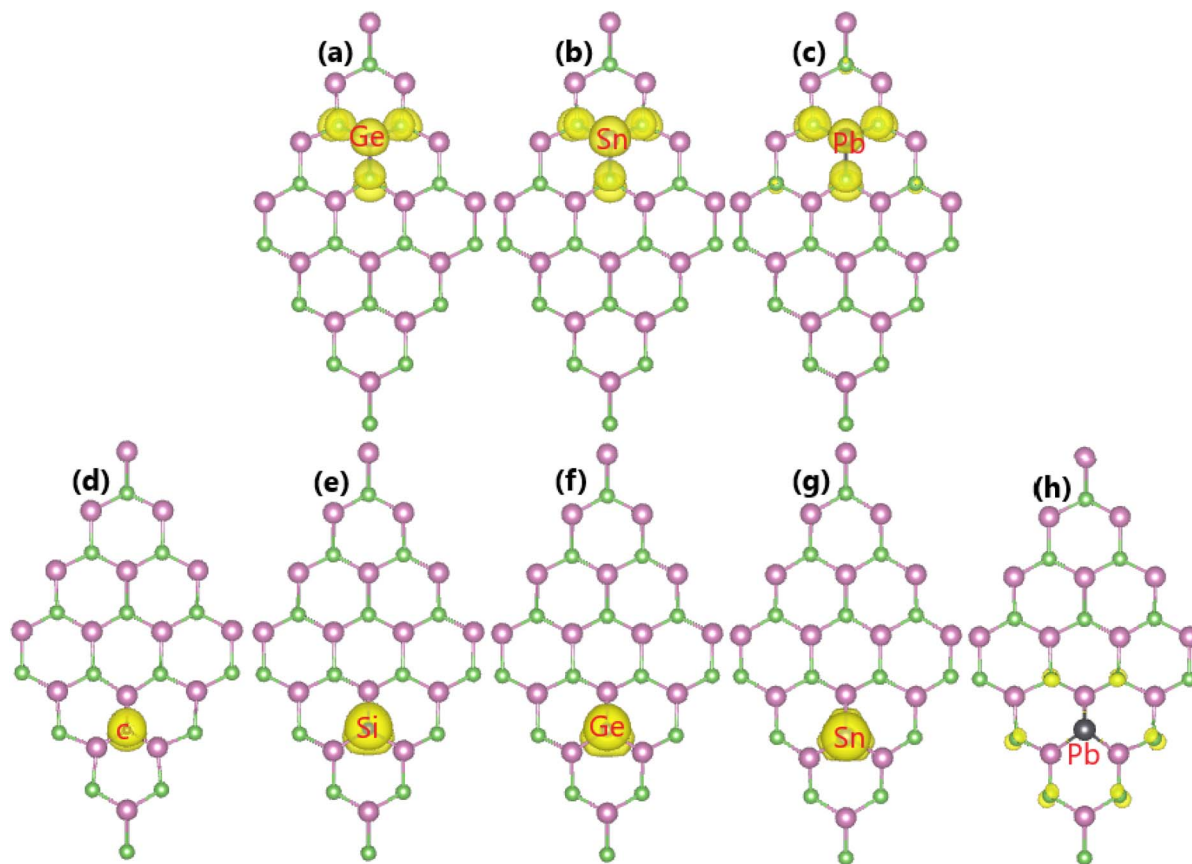


Fig. 9 Spin density (iso-surface value:  $0.0015 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ ) in the InAs monolayer with (a)  $\text{Ge}_{\text{In}}$ , (b)  $\text{Sn}_{\text{In}}$ , (c)  $\text{Pb}_{\text{In}}$ , (d)  $\text{C}_{\text{As}}$ , (e)  $\text{Si}_{\text{As}}$ , (f)  $\text{Ge}_{\text{As}}$ , (g)  $\text{Sn}_{\text{As}}$ , and (h)  $\text{Pb}_{\text{As}}$  doping.

but also by the interactions between the IVA-impurities and their environment. Herein, the Sn atom may have higher affinity for the In atom due to their similar atomic sizes and valence electronic configurations. Further AIMD simulations for the p-doped systems indicate their good thermal stability at room temperature, since the constituent atoms vibrate around their equilibrium sites upon increasing the temperature to 300 K, without breaking the chemical bonds, as displayed in Fig. 11.

Fig. 12 shows the spin-polarized band structures of the p-doped InAs monolayers. It can be noted that there is a clear spin polarization in all cases, suggesting doping-induced magnetization, which will be analyzed below. The semi-conducting character is maintained in both spin configurations of the C-, Si-, Ge-, and Sn-doped systems, generating a magnetic semiconductor, where the flat middle-gap energy branch may significantly reduce the spin-down energy gap. Meanwhile, this middle-gap energy curve is submerged into the upper part of the valence band, giving the metallic spin-down state of the Pb-doped monolayer, such that half-metallicity, with 100% spin polarization around the Fermi level, emerges to functionalize the InAs monolayer for spintronic applications. All the band gaps of the semiconductor spin channels are listed in Table 1. The Bader charge analysis indicates that C, Si, Ge, and Sn impurities act as charge acceptors in the InAs monolayer, gaining charge quantities of 0.92, 0.28, 0.28, and 0.09e,

respectively. Note that this parameter decreases according to an increase in the atomic number of the IVA-group impurity. These results suggest a reduction of the ionic character in the chemical bonds between the impurities and their neighbor In atoms. In contrast, the Pb dopant loses charge, transferring an amount of  $0.05e$  to the host monolayer.

Our calculations demonstrate that the InAs monolayer is magnetized by p-doping using IVA-group impurities, which is reflected in the spin-polarized band structures, as analyzed above. Moreover, a total magnetic moment of  $1.00 \mu_{\text{B}}$  is obtained by doping with C, Si, Ge, and Sn at the As site. In these cases, the dopant atoms are the main contributors to the magnetism, as confirmed by the spin density illustrated in Fig. 9d–g. Meanwhile, a weaker magnetization is induced by Pb doping, with a smaller total magnetic moment of  $0.69 \mu_{\text{B}}$ , where the magnetic properties are produced mainly by the As atoms closest to the doping site (See Fig. 9h). Further analysis of the PDOS spectra of the magnetic atoms in Fig. 13 indicates the key role of the  $p_z$  state of the IVA-group impurities in magnetizing the InAs monolayer. From the figure, it can be noted that there is a new flat spin-up state entirely submerged into the valence band, such that it is not clearly identified in the band structures. Similarly, the As- $p_z$  state is the main origin of the magnetism of the Pb-doped monolayer, suggesting that As atoms mainly receive the charge transferred from the Pb dopant.



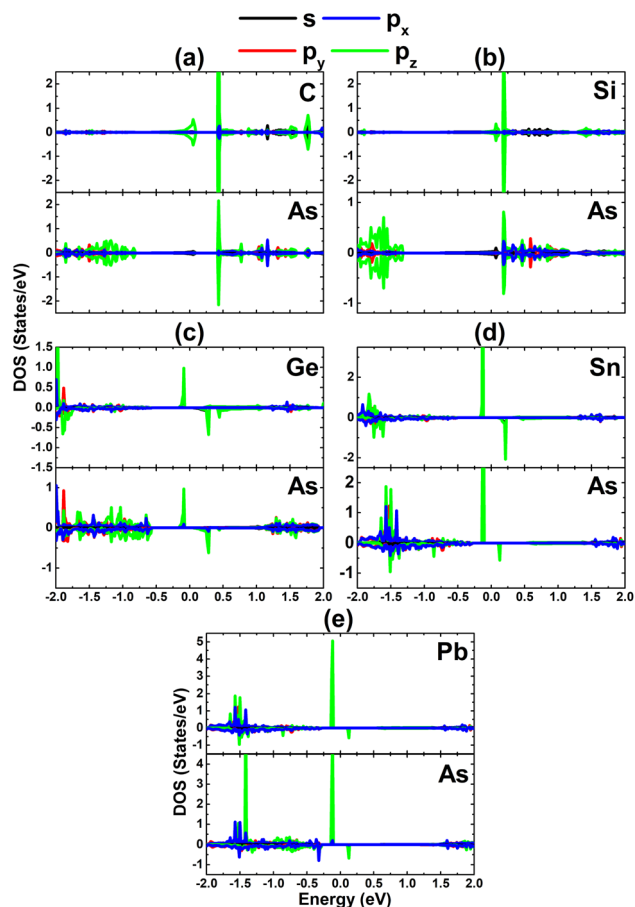


Fig. 10 Projected density of states of the dopant and its neighbor As atom for the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{In}$ , (b)  $Si_{In}$ , (c)  $Ge_{In}$ , (d)  $Sn_{In}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{In}$  doping.

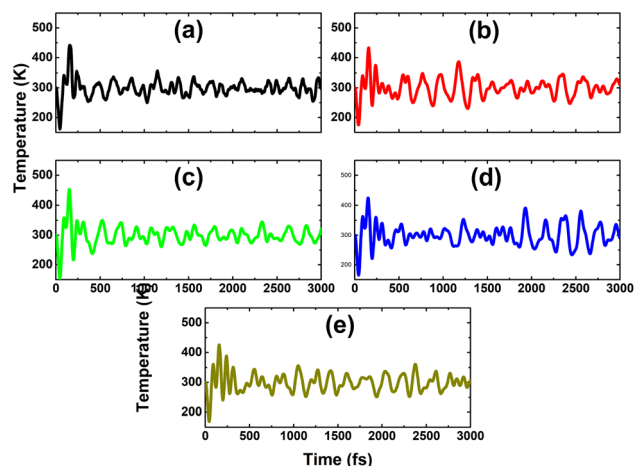


Fig. 11 AIMD simulations at 300 K for the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{As}$ , (b)  $Si_{As}$ , (c)  $Ge_{As}$ , (d)  $Sn_{As}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{As}$  doping (atomic structures after AIMD simulations are given in Fig. S2 of the ESI†).

### 3.4. Highly doped systems

It has been asserted that n-doping by replacing an In atom with an Sn atom is energetically most favorable. Therefore, a further

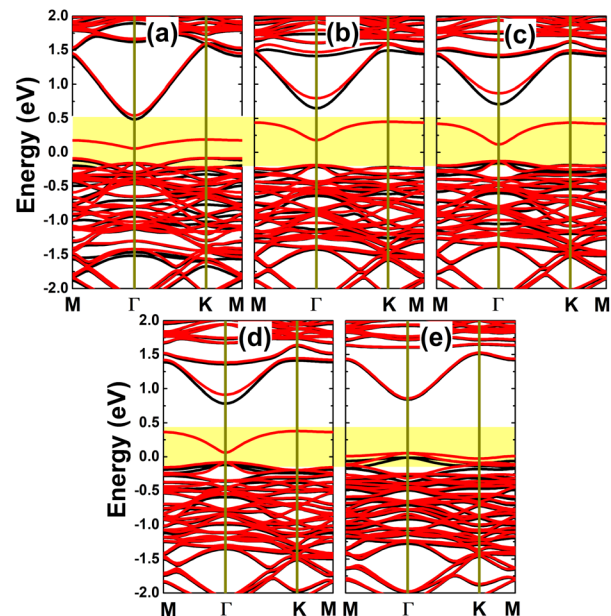


Fig. 12 Spin-resolved band structure (spin-up: black curves; spin-down: red curves; the Fermi level is set to 0 eV; new middle-gap states are indicated in the yellow-colored regions) of the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{As}$ , (b)  $Si_{As}$ , (c)  $Ge_{As}$ , (d)  $Sn_{As}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{As}$  doping.

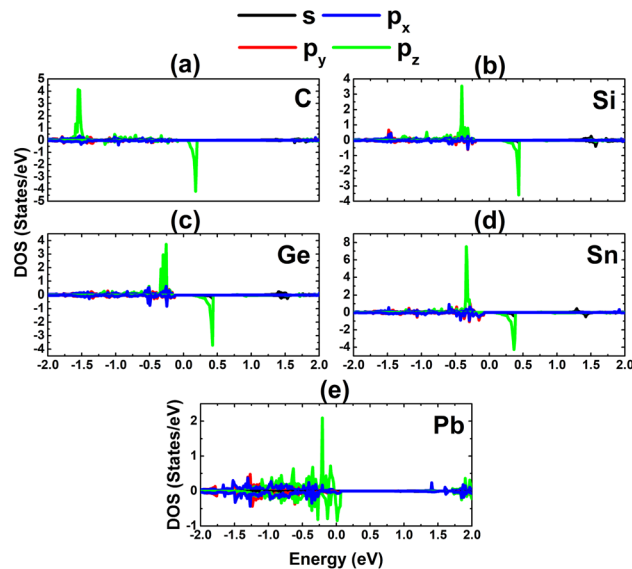


Fig. 13 Projected density of states of the magnetic atoms in the InAs monolayer with (a)  $C_{As}$ , (b)  $Si_{As}$ , (c)  $Ge_{As}$ , (d)  $Sn_{As}$ , and (e)  $Pb_{As}$  doping.

investigation on the doping level is realized for this case, by substituting two, three, or four In atoms in a  $4 \times 4 \times 1$  supercell to get doping levels of 12.5%, 18.75%, and 25%, respectively. Fig. 14 shows the spin-polarized band structures of the highly doped systems. It can be noted that there are new middle-gap energy curves, but spreading in a wider energy range in comparison with the case of 6.25% doping. The spin polarization is observed mainly in the vicinity of the Fermi level. A magnetic semiconducting nature is achieved with the 12.5%





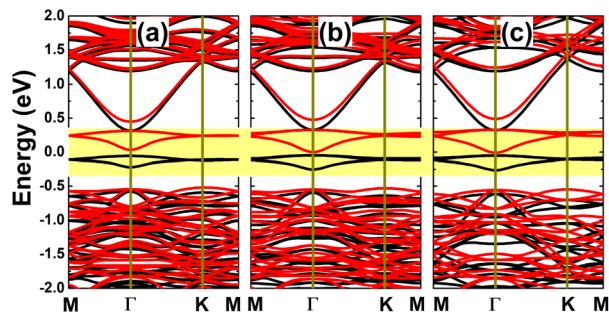


Fig. 14 Spin-resolved band structure (spin-up: black curves; spin-down: red curves; the Fermi level is set to 0 eV; new middle-gap states are indicated in the yellow-colored regions) of the InAs monolayer doped with (a) 12.5%, (b) 18.75%, and (c) 25% Sn.

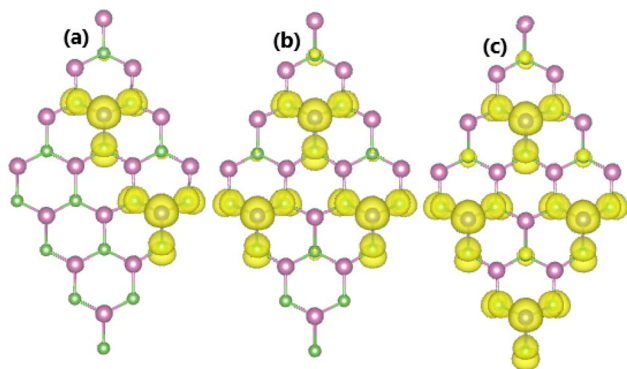


Fig. 15 Spin density (iso-surface value:  $0.0015 \text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$ ) in the InAs monolayer doped with (a) 12.5%, (b) 18.75%, and (c) 25% Sn.

dopant composition, with spin-up and spin-down energy gaps of 0.37 and 0.55 eV, respectively. Meanwhile, half-metallicity is induced by higher doping levels of 18.75% and 25%, with spin-down band gaps of 0.38 and 0.37 eV, respectively.

As expected, a higher doping level leads to a stronger magnetization of the monolayer, such that total magnetic moments of 1.98, 2.93, and  $3.92 \mu_B$  are obtained with 12.5%, 18.75%, and 25% Sn impurities in the InAs monolayer, respectively. The illustration of the spin density displayed in Fig. 15 indicates that the Sn impurities and their neighbor As

atoms play a key role as magnetic atoms. It is undoubted that the magnetism originates mainly from their  $p_z$  states, similar to the case of low doping. Finally, the thermal stability of the highly doped systems at room temperature is also examined *via* AIMD simulations. Simulations performed at room temperature suggest stable chemical bonds under the effects of temperature when it is increased up to 300 K, as confirmed by the AIMD results in Fig. 16, indicating that the doped systems are thermally stable.

## 4. Conclusions

In conclusion, the effects of doping with IVA-group atoms on the electronic and magnetic properties of a low-buckled honeycomb InAs monolayer have been systematically investigated using DFT-based first-principles calculations. The pristine monolayer exhibits good dynamical stability and a semiconducting nature with a mix of covalent and ionic characters. A single In vacancy significantly magnetizes the monolayer, giving rise to the appearance of a magnetic semiconductor behavior, where the magnetic properties are produced mainly by the  $p$  orbitals of the As atoms around the defect site. Meanwhile, it is metallized by a single As vacancy.  $n$ -Doping in the In sublattice may be energetically more favorable than  $p$ -doping at the As site, where Sn doping requires the smallest supply of energy. The metallization and magnetic semiconducting nature are induced by C-Si and Ge-Sn-Pb  $n$ -doping at the In site. Herein, magnetism originates mainly from the unbalanced charge distribution between the spin channels of the  $p_z$  state of the dopants and their neighbor As atoms. Similarly, new middle-gap states regulate the ground state of the  $p$ -doped systems, where magnetic semiconducting and half-metallic behaviors are obtained by doping with C-Si-Ge-Sn and Pb, respectively. In all cases, the  $p_z$  state of the impurities and As atoms, respectively, produces mainly magnetic properties. It has been also found that the monolayer is more strongly magnetized upon increasing the doping level, where the transition from magnetic semiconducting to half-metallic behavior may occur in the highly doped systems. AIMD simulations confirm that the structural configurations are well-preserved upon increasing temperature, indicating good thermal stability of all the considered systems at room temperature. This work may pave a solid path to making prospective 2D InAs-based spintronic materials, and suggests doping with IVA-group atoms as an efficient method to functionalize III-V group monolayers.

## Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

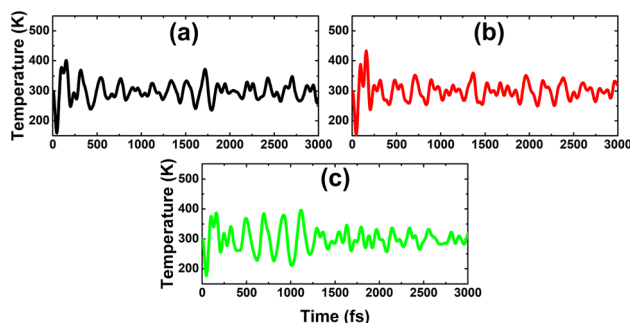


Fig. 16 AIMD simulations at 300 K for the InAs monolayer doped with (a) 12.5%, (b) 18.75%, and (c) 25% Sn.





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