

Numerical Modeling of Carrier Transport Rate due to Electrostatic Interaction in Semiconductor $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$

¹S.Najafi Bavani, ¹M.S.Akhoudni Khezr Abad and ^{1,2}A.Saffar Zadeh

¹Department of Physics, Payame Noor University, P.O. Box 19395-3697 Tehran, Iran

²Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1

Corresponding Author: Somayeh Najafi Bavani,

ABSTRACT: In this investigation, the carrier mobility for $HgTe$, $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$, $CdTe$ structures have been calculated by using numerical analysis in range of 77K-300K. We have been taking into account the spherical and parabolic band, elastic scattering of by piezoelectric scattering. The Boltzmann transport equation and the Fermi golden rule have been used. The electrons piezoelectric scattering rate, electrons and holes (heavy and light) piezoelectric mobility have been calculated as a function of different variables such as temperature and doping concentration. Calculations have been found that piezoelectric mobility is higher for $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$ than $HgTe$ and $CdTe$, also the light hole piezoelectric mobility has been found that is higher than the heavy hole piezoelectric mobility.

Keywords: Polar acoustic phonon, Piezoelectric, Carriers (electron and hole), Scattering, Mobility.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the task of creation of fast and sensitive detectors of THz spectral range based on $HgCdTe$ is very important for various areas such as medicine, security, aerospace [1]. Transport mechanisms have been intensively investigated for the last two decades due to the advancement of technology for detectors and microelectronic device in the infrared range [2]. The electron mobility is one of the most important parameters and important transport parameter used to determine the performance of devices [3].

In recent years Mercury cadmium telluride (MCT) structures are promising materials for creation type of detectors. $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$ components form a small direct band-gap zinc-blende system whose energy gap depends on alloy composition [1]. Keeping in mind its huge technological prospect, we need a better understanding of these materials [4]. The purpose of the present paper is to calculate electron piezoelectric mobility for various temperatures and concentrations. Piezoelectric mobility is computed in the $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$ semiconductor and compared with $HgTe$ and $CdTe$. Most of the calculations have been carried out using a non-parabolic ellipsoidal valley model to describe transport in the conduction band. However, the simpler and less computationally intensive spherical parabolic band scheme has also been applied, to test the validity of this approximation.

II. DETAILS MODEL

2.1. Materials and Procedures

In this paper, the mobility of interactions with acoustic-polar (piezoelectric) phonons has been calculated. Also, we investigate electrons piezoelectric scattering and the carrier piezoelectric mobility in $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$ semiconductor, it compared with $HgTe$ and $CdTe$.

To calculate piezoelectric mobility, we have to solve The Boltzmann equation to get the modified probability distribution function under the action of a steady electric field. Here, we have calculated the piezoelectric mobility in $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$ structures using code written in MATLAB. The approximation of relaxation time, the Boltzmann transmission equation and the Fermi golden rule have been used.

2.2. The electron scattering rates by phonons (electrostatics interaction)

In polar compound semiconductors, optical phonons are associated with vibrating dipoles (where atoms have some ionic charge). In addition, when a crystal does not have inversion symmetry, the strain associated with acoustic phonons may produce a polarization field, with an electric field of piezoelectric nature, then the charge carrier scattering occurs due to the polar field of the longitudinal acoustic phonons of finite wavelengths. It happens a long-range electrostatic interaction between electrons with phonons, is called polar interactions

and piezoelectric interactions respectively for optical phonons and acoustic phonons[5,6].

The first time the electron Scattering by piezoelectric phonons was investigated by Ridley [7,8], He considered electron scattering due to piezoelectric elastic because of the low energy of the electrons. we have to determine the interaction energy of an electron with a potential field $\phi(r)$ given by:

$$H_{ep} = \int \rho(r')\phi(r') dr'$$

where $\rho(r')$ is the electron charge density. Then, this integral is converted to using the Maxwell equation and Integration by parts yield:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{ep} &= \int \epsilon_0 \nabla \cdot E_e(r') \phi(r') dr' = \\ &= -\epsilon_0 \int E_e(r') \cdot \nabla \phi(r') dr' = \\ &= \epsilon_0 \int E_e(r') \cdot E_p(r') dr' \end{aligned}$$

Where $E_e(r')$ and $E_p(r')$ respectively are the electric field associated with the electron charge and the electric field produced by the phonon. a screened Coulomb field produced by an electron in r' :

$$E_e(r') = -\frac{(-e)}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \nabla_{r'} \left[\frac{1}{|r-r'|} e^{-q_0|r-r'|} \right]$$

where the inverse screening length this q_0 . In the Debye equation, for nondegenerate statistics

$$q_0 = \left[\frac{e^2 n}{\epsilon KBT} \right]^{1/2}$$

where n is the electron density. Remember that $E_p(r')$, the field obtained by the phonon, must distinguish between the phonon modes.

2.3. The electron scattering rates by acoustic phonons (piezoelectric Interaction)

Scattering by polar acoustic phonons is known as piezoelectric interaction. The polarization field in terms of the strain, $P_i(r)$ is:

$$P_i(r) = \sum_{jk} e_{ijk} \frac{\partial y_j(r)}{\partial r_k}$$

Where $y_j(r)$ is the displacement field of the atoms associated with the phonons

$$y_i(r) = \sum_{q,l} e_{ql} \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{1/2} \{ a_{ql} + a_{-ql}^\dagger \} e^{iqr}$$

where each mode is characterized by wavevector q , polarization e_{ql} , and angular frequency $w_l(q)$; ρ is the density of the crystal; a_{ql} and a_{-ql}^\dagger are annihilation

and creation phonon operators and e_{ijk} is the piezoelectric constant so the strain tensor is

$$\frac{\partial y_i(r)}{\partial r_k} = \sum_{q,l} [(e_{ql})_j i q_k] \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{1/2} \{ a_{ql} + a_{-ql}^\dagger \} e^{iqr}$$

there is one independent constant in a zincblende structure (such as $Hg_{1-x}Cd_xTe$). e_{ijk} is a third-rank tensor and several elements of e_{ijk} are nonzero:

$$e_{123} = e_{132} = e_{213} = e_{231} = e_{312} = e_{321}.$$

The first component of the polarization field is:

$$\begin{aligned} P_1(r) &= e_{123} \left[\frac{\partial y_2(r)}{\partial r_3} + \frac{\partial y_3(r)}{\partial r_2} \right] \\ &= e_{123} i \sum_{q,l} [(e_{ql})_2 q_3 \\ &\quad + (e_{ql})_3 q_2] \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{1/2} \{ a_{ql} \\ &\quad + a_{-ql}^\dagger \} e^{iqr} \end{aligned}$$

Following Maxwell equations, we have

$$D = \epsilon_0 E + P$$

Where D is the electric induction field associated with the phonon, that is zero, so the electric field associated with the acoustic phonon in the piezoelectric effect given by:

$$E_p(r) = -\frac{1}{\epsilon_0} P_i(r)$$

now, inserting $P_1(r)$ into $E_p(r)$ then inserting $E_p(r)$ and $E_e(r')$ into the Hamiltonian. This yield

$$\begin{aligned} H_{ep} &= e_{123} i \int \left\{ \frac{(-e)}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial r'_1} \left[\frac{1}{|r-r'|} e^{-q_0|r-r'|} \right] \right\} \\ &\times \left\{ \sum_{q,l} [(e_{ql})_2 q_3 + (e_{ql})_3 q_2] \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{1/2} \{ a_{ql} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + a_{-ql}^\dagger \} e^{iqr'} \right\} dr' + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$P_i(r)$ has three components, the dots indicate the products of the other components. Now we define a vector $\mathbf{a}(q, l)$, whose first component is $[(e_{ql})_2 q_3 + (e_{ql})_3 q_2]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} H_{ep} &= \frac{(-e)}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} e_{123} i \sum_{q,l} \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{1/2} \{ \mathbf{a}_{ql} + \mathbf{a}_{-ql}^\dagger \} \\ &\times \mathbf{a}(q, l) \cdot \int \nabla_{r'} \left[\frac{1}{|r-r'|} e^{-q_0|r-r'|} \right] e^{iqr'} dr' \end{aligned}$$

Then, using $r' - r = s$ and then integrate by parts

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int \nabla_{r'} \left[\frac{1}{|r-r'|} e^{-q_0|r-r'|} \right] e^{iqr'} dr' \\ &= e^{iqr} i q \int \frac{1}{|s|} e^{-q_0|s|} e^{iqs} ds \end{aligned}$$

To evaluate the integral above, we can consider the polar coordinates, the result is

$$I = e^{iqr} i q 4\pi \frac{1}{q} \frac{q}{q_0^2 + q^2}$$

So equation H_{ep} becomes

$$H_{ep} = -\frac{(-e)}{\epsilon_0} e_{123} \sum_{q,l} a(q,l) \cdot q \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V w_l(q)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1}{q_s^2 + q^2} \{a_{ql} + a_{-ql}^\dagger\} e^{iqr}$$

For solve the above equation, an angular average over angles and phonon polarizations is convenient[8]:

$$H_{ep} = -\frac{(-e)}{\epsilon_0} p \sum_{q,l} \left(\frac{\hbar}{2\rho V q v_s} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{q^2}{q_s^2 + q^2} \{a_{ql} + a_{-ql}^\dagger\} e^{iqr}$$

where p and v_s are respectively averaged piezoelectric constant and sound velocity.

The transition probability per unit time from a state $|k, c\rangle$ to a state $|k', c'\rangle$ reported by the Fermi golden rule

$$P(k, c; k', c') = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} | \langle k', c' | H | k, c \rangle |^2 \delta(\epsilon(k', c') - \epsilon(k, c))$$

where $\epsilon(k, c)$ is the unperturbed energy of the state $|k, c\rangle$. Then, the transition rate for the piezoelectric interaction becomes:

$$P_a^{(p)}(k, k') = \frac{\pi p^2 e^2}{\rho V q v_s \epsilon^2} \left(\frac{q^2}{q_s^2 + q^2} \right)^2 \left[\frac{N_q}{N_q + 1} \right] \mathcal{G} \delta[\epsilon(k') - \epsilon(k) \mp \hbar \omega_q]$$

Where \mathcal{G} is the overlap integral and N_q is the number of phonons q in the state $|c\rangle$.

If elastic and equipartition approximations are made, the scattering rate for the piezoelectric interaction where both absorption and emission are included

$$P_{ae}^{(p)}(k, k') = \frac{2\pi p^2 e^2 K_B T}{\hbar \rho V v_s^2 \epsilon^2} \left(\frac{q}{q_s^2 + q^2} \right)^2 \delta[\epsilon(k') - \epsilon(k)]$$

Also, the overlap integral is taken to be unity and integrate over the possible final states

$$P_{ae}^{(p)}(k) = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{2\pi p^2 e^2 K_B T}{\hbar \rho V v_s^2 \epsilon^2} \left(\frac{q}{q_s^2 + q^2} \right)^2 \delta[\epsilon(k') - \epsilon(k)] dk'$$

In a spherical and parabolic band, integration over the phonon wavevector yields:

$$P_{ae}^{(p)}(k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{p^2 e^2 K_B T}{\hbar \rho v_s^2 \epsilon^2} \int \left(\frac{q}{q_s^2 + q^2} \right)^2 \delta \left[\frac{\hbar^2(k \pm q)^2}{2m} - \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right] dq$$

we obtain the transition rate as a function of electron energy [6,7], after calculations in polar coordinates with k as the polar axis

$$P_{ae}^{(p)}(\epsilon) = \frac{p^2 e^2 K_B T \sqrt{m}}{\sqrt{8\pi} \hbar^2 \rho v_s^2 k \epsilon^2 \sqrt{\epsilon}} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{8m\epsilon}{\hbar^2 q_s^2} \right) - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\hbar^2 q_s^2}{8m\epsilon} \right)} \right]$$

Figure 1-3 show the scattering rate by piezoelectric phonons as a function of energy, in $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$, $CdTe$ and $HgTe$.

2.4. The electron mobility due to piezoelectric scattering

Assuming the elastic approximation with a relaxation time given by

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{ae}^{(p)}(\epsilon)} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{2\pi p^2 e^2 K_B T}{\hbar \rho V v_s^2 \epsilon^2} \left(\frac{q}{q_s^2 + q^2} \right)^2 \delta[\epsilon(k') - \epsilon(k)] (1 - \cos \theta) dk'$$

after integration, the result is

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{ae}^{(p)}(\epsilon)} = \frac{p^2 e^2 \sqrt{m} K_B T}{2\sqrt{2}\pi \hbar^2 \rho v_s^2 \epsilon^2} \epsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_0}{2\epsilon} \log \left(1 + 4 \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0} \right) + \frac{1}{1 + 4\epsilon/\epsilon_0} \right]$$

the factor in square bracket is due to screening and can be approximated by

$$F_{PE} = \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_0}{4K_B T} \log \left(1 + \frac{8K_B T}{\epsilon_0} \right) + \frac{1}{1 + 8K_B T/\epsilon_0} \right]$$

by the F_{PE} constant, the mobility given by

$$\mu_{ae}^{(p)} = -\frac{16\sqrt{2}\pi}{3} \frac{\hbar^2 \rho v_s^2 \epsilon^2}{p^2 e m^{3/2} \sqrt{K_B T F_{PE}}}$$

Figures 4-6 the mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature and figure 7-9 the mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of Electron concentration, in $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$, $CdTe$ and $HgTe$.

2.5. The heavy hole mobility due to piezoelectric scattering

According to the Yadava, the longitudinal acoustic vibrations induce a dipole moment per unit volume (polarization) Due to the partly ionic nature of bonds in zinc-blende crystals. The heavy hole mobility in this case becomes

$$\mu_{hh}^{pz} = 25.43 \epsilon_s \left(\frac{m_{hh}}{m_0} \right)^{-3/2} K^{-2} T^{-1/2}$$

Where K is electro-mechanical coupling constant [10].

2.6. The light hole mobility due to piezoelectric scattering

According to the Kane band model, for large K values, the light hole band is non-parabolic. However, for smaller k near the band extremum, it can be approximated parabolic with the density of states effective mass:

$$\frac{m_{hh}}{m_{lh}} = -\frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{4m_0 P^2}{3\hbar^2 E_g} \right)}$$

P is an element of the Kane matrix and E_g the band gap, so we can calculate the light hole mobility of the by using the same formulas heavy hole after the exchange of m_{hh} with m_{lh} [10].

Figure 11-13 the heavy and light hole mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature in $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$, $CdTe$ and $HgTe$.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have performed electron piezoelectric mobility calculations for calculating piezoelectric mobility, we have to solve the Boltzmann equation and considering the effect of dispersion electrons due to piezoelectricity.

Figures 1,2,3 show the piezoelectric scattering rate depends on energy, in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$, CdTe and HgTe structures also increasing temperature causes increasing scattering in materials.

Figures 4,5,6 show the electron piezoelectric mobility depends on the temperature at the different electron concentration in materials, also electrons piezoelectric mobility decrease by temperature increasing for all the different electron concentrations because temperature increasing causes increase of phonons energy too, so it causes a strong interaction between electrons and the phonons that its result is an increase of electron piezoelectric scattering rate and finally decrease of electron piezoelectric mobility.

Figures 7,8,9 show the electron piezoelectric mobility depends on the electron concentration at the different temperatures 77, 150, 300 K in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$, CdTe and HgTe materials that semiconductors piezoelectric mobility decrease by electrons concentrations increasing because electrons increasing causes an increase of ionized impurity centers in crystals that it causes times more electrons under the influence of the Coulomb potential of impurity centers located that its result is an increase of electrons scattering rate and finally, the decrease of electrons mobility.

Figure 10 shows, changes the electron piezoelectric mobility in terms of temperature in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$, CdTe and HgTe at the electron concentration 10^{16} cm^{-3} . Our calculation results show that the electron piezoelectric mobility in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$ is more than CdTe and HgTe.

Figures 11,12,13 show the heavy and light hole piezoelectric mobility in terms of temperature in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$, CdTe and HgTe materials also the light hole piezoelectric mobility has been found that is higher than the heavy hole mobility.

Fig. 1: The Scattering rate by piezoelectric phonons as a function of energy in $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$.

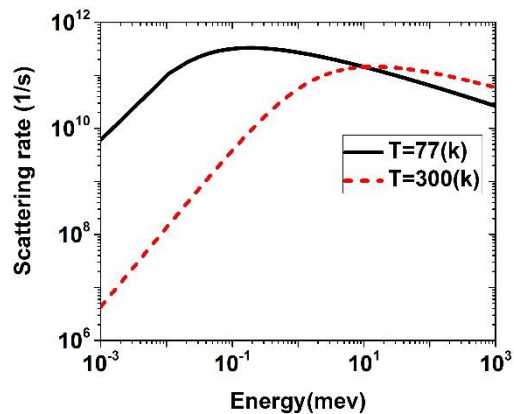


Fig. 2: The Scattering rate by piezoelectric phonons as a function of energy in CdTe.

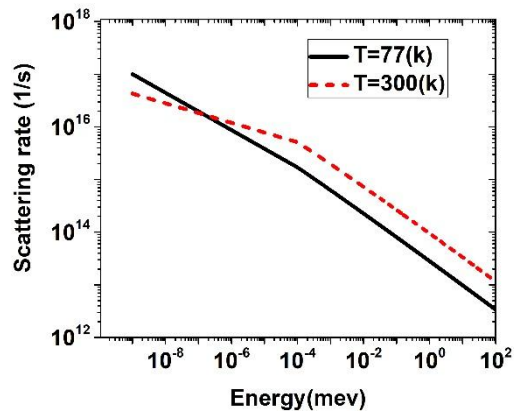


Fig. 3: The Scattering rate by piezoelectric phonons as a function of energy in HgTe.

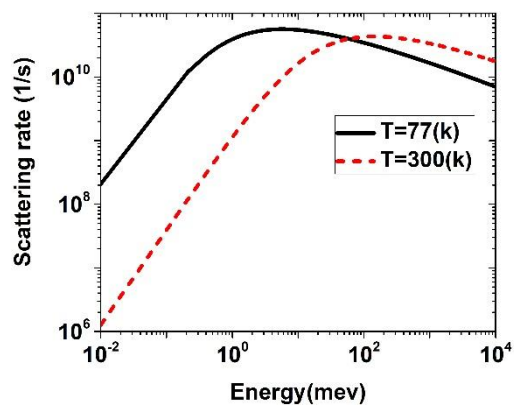


Fig. 4: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$.

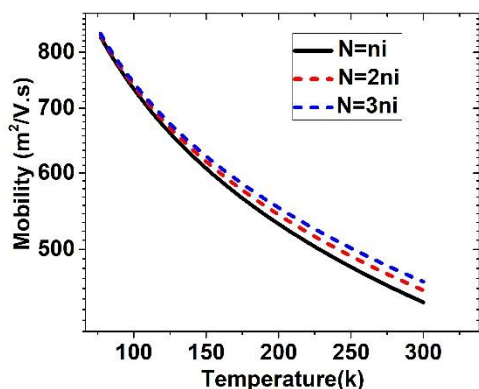


Fig. 7: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of electron concentration for $\text{Hg}_{0.8}\text{Cd}_{0.2}\text{Te}$.

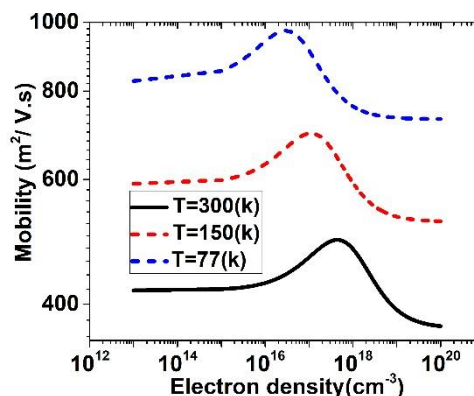


Fig. 5: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for CdTe.

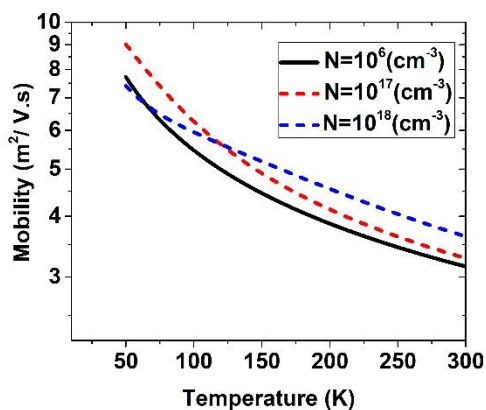


Fig. 8: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of electron concentration for CdTe.

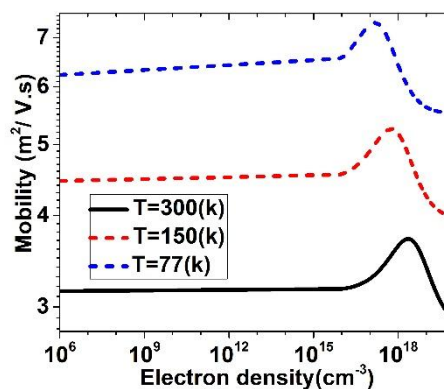


Fig. 6: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for HgTe.

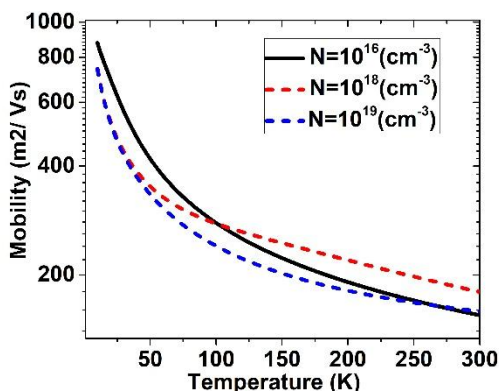


Fig. 9: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of electron concentration for HgTe.

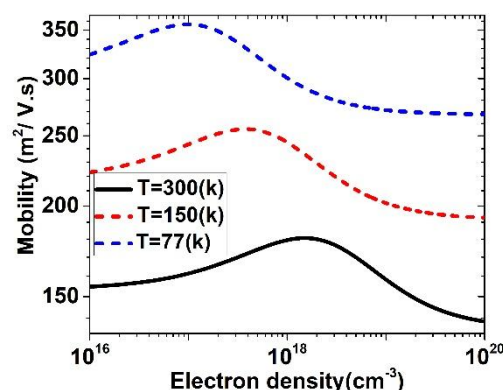


Fig. 10: The Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$ (dot), CdTe(line) and (dash)HgTe with electron concentration 10^{16} .

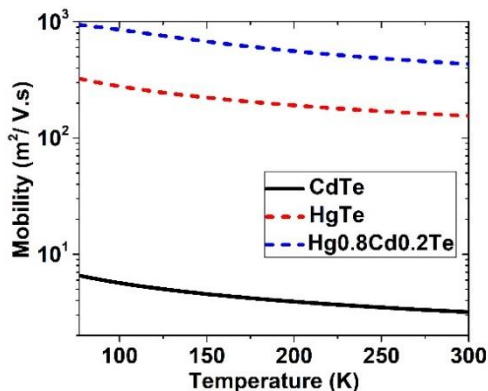


Fig. 11: The Heavy and Light Hole Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$.

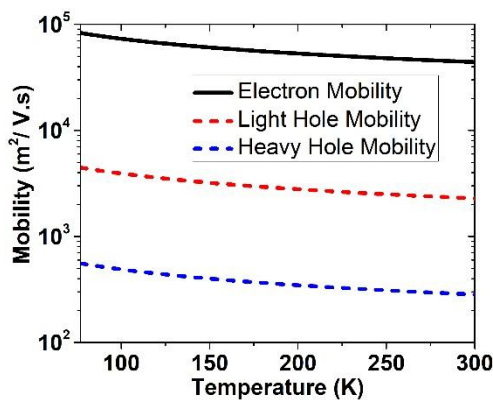


Fig. 12: The Heavy and Light Hole Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for CdTe-Electron(line), Light Hole(dash), Heavy Hole(dot)

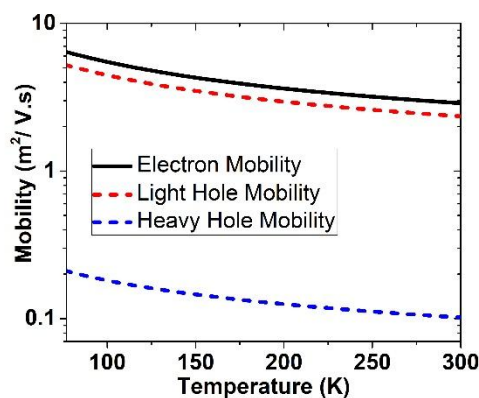
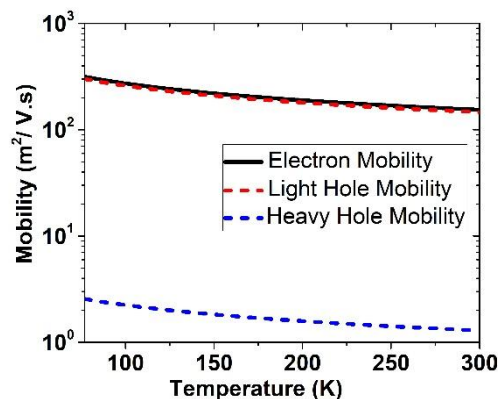


Fig. 13: The Heavy and Light Hole Mobility due to piezoelectric scattering in terms of temperature for HgTe. Electron(line), Light Hole(dash), Heavy Hole(dot)



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we have quantitatively obtained temperature dependent and electron concentration-dependent electron mobility in both $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$, CdTe and HgTe. The theoretical values show good agreement with recently obtained experimental data. It has been found that mobility is higher for $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$ than HgTe due to the higher electron effective mass in $Hg_{0.8}Cd_{0.2}Te$. The light hole mobility has been found that is higher than the heavy hole mobility.

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