

Pure Spin Current Injection in Hydrogenated Graphene Structures

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I. INTRODUCTION

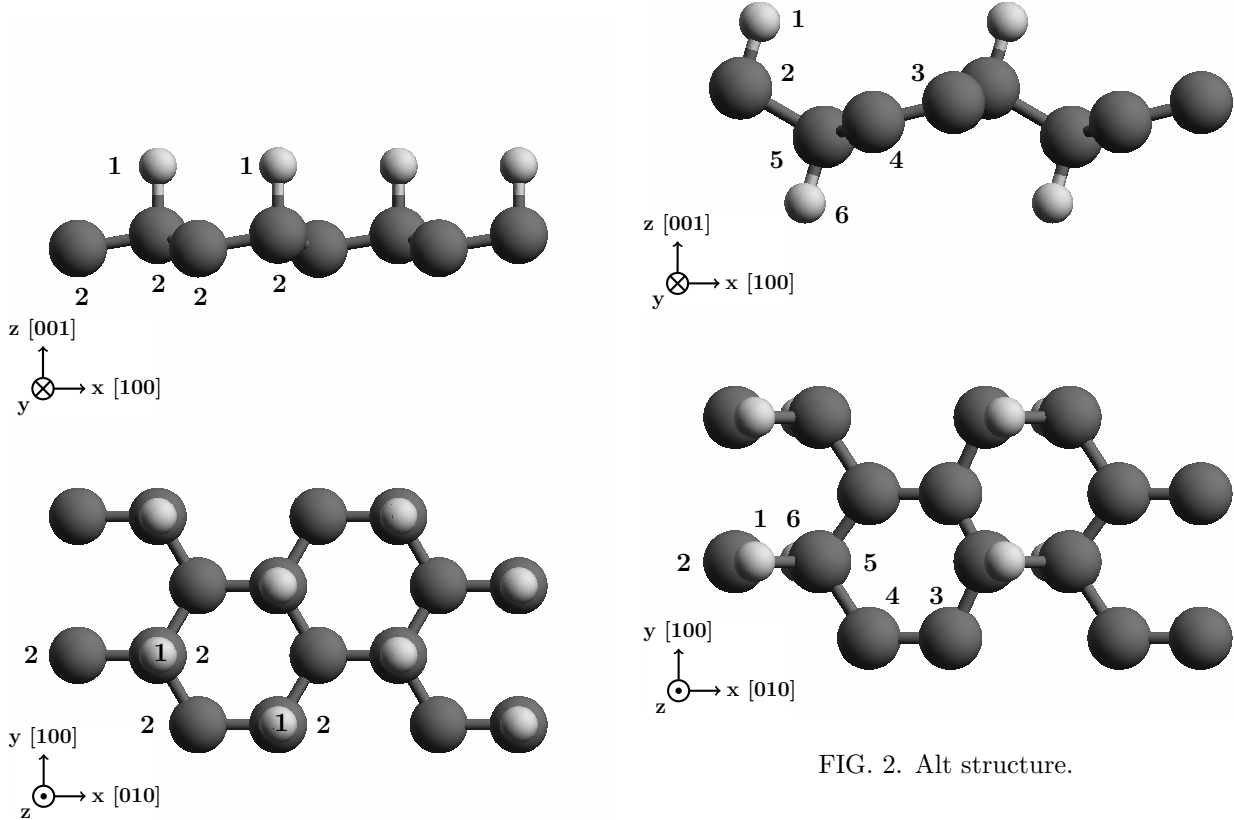


FIG. 1. Up structure

Spintronics is an emerging research field of electronics in which the manipulation and transport of spin of electrons in a solid state media plays the determining role adding a new

FIG. 2. Alt structure.

degree of freedom to the conventional charge manipulation.^{1,2} At present there is an increasing interest in attain the same level of control over the transport of spin at micro or nano scales as has been done for the flow of charge in typical electronic devices.³ Some semiconduc-

tor spintronics devices have been proposed^{4,5} and some of them require spin polarized electrical current⁶ or pure spin currents (PSC). In PSCs there is no net motion of charge; spin-up electrons move in a given direction while spin-down electrons travel in the opposite one. This phenomena can result from spin injection,⁷ Hall Effects,⁸ interference of two optical beams,^{9,10} or one photon absorption of linearly polarized light¹¹ and has been observed in gallium arsenide (GaAs),^{12,13} aluminum-gallium arsenide (AlGaAs),¹³ and Co₂FeSi.¹⁴

Graphene, an allotrope of carbon with hexagonal 2D lattice structure presents properties like fractional quantum Hall effect at room temperature, excellent thermal transport properties, excellent conductivity¹⁵ and strength^{16–19} being then a perfect platform to be used in two-dimensions electronic systems; however most electronic applications are disabled by the absence of a semiconducting gap. Recent studies demonstrate that the band gap of graphene can be opened by applying an electric field,²⁰ reducing the surface area,²¹ or applying uniaxial strain.²² Another possibility to open the gap is by doping; this has been successfully achieved using nitrogen,²³ boron-nitrogen,²⁴ silicon,²⁵ noble-metals,²⁶ and hydrogen.^{27–29} Depending on the percentage of hydrogenation and spatial configurations of hydrogen-carbon bonds, hydrogenated graphene can result in different spatial configurations. In this paper we present two 50% hydrogenated graphene non centrosymmetric structures both presenting a discernible band gap: the *up* structure, shown in Fig. 1, has hydrogen atoms bonded to the carbon layer only in the upper side of the structure while the *alt* structure, shown in Fig. 2, has hydrogen alternating in the upper and bottom sides of the carbon slab.³⁰

Using those structures we address a theoretical study of the spin velocity injection (SVI) by one-photon absorption of linearly polarized light that does not seem to have been reported previously. We calculated the responses for the particular cases when the spin of electrons is directed along the the z Cartesian coordinate, perpendicular to the xy plane of the structure, or for the case when the velocity is directed along

the x and y Cartesian direction on the xy plane of the structures. The SVI ($\mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega, \alpha)$) is optical effect that quantifies the velocity at which a PSC moves along the Cartesian direction b with the spin of electron polarized along the Cartesian direction a . One photon absorption of linearly polarized light can promote a distribution of electrons in \mathbf{k} space regardless the symmetry of the material resulting in a not net electrical current. Then, the electrons excited to the conduction bands at opposite \mathbf{k} points will result in opposite spin polarizations producing no net spin injection.¹¹ If the crystalline structure of the material is not centrosymmetric the spin polarization injected at a given \mathbf{k} point could not vanish^{31,32} and then a PSC will be produced since the velocities of electrons at opposite \mathbf{k} points are opposite.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section II we present the theory and formulas that describe PSC and SVI. In Section III we describe the details of calculations and the corresponding SVI spectra for the *up* and *alt* structures. Finally, in Section

II. THEORY

In this section, we report a summary of the theory that involves the PSC phenomena from which rises the SVI treated in this paper. The full description of it was presented by Bhat and Sipe et. al.¹¹

As mentioned before in Section I, In PSCs there is no net motion of charge and spin-up electrons move in a given direction while spin-down electrons travel in the opposite one. This effect can result from one photon absorption of linearly polarized light by a semiconductor, with filled valence bands and empty conduction bands, illuminated by light with photon energy larger than the energy gap. Using i.e. a single weak continuous linearly polarized laser beam, is possible to promote electrons in \mathbf{k} space regardless the symmetry of the system resulting in a net current equal to zero. Then, if the system presents inversion of symmetry, electrons promoted to the conduction bands at opposite \mathbf{k} points will have opposite spin polarization resulting in a total spin

injection equal to zero. If the phenomena is produced in a noncentrosymmetric semiconducting media the spin polarization injected at a given \mathbf{k} point can be held³¹, resulting in a PSC because the velocity of electrons at opposite \mathbf{k} points are in opposite directions.

A. Spin velocity injection

We define the SVI as the velocity at which the spin, polarized along the direction a, propagates along the direction b as

$$\mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega) \equiv \frac{\dot{K}^{ab}(\omega)}{(\hbar/2)\dot{n}(\omega)}, \quad (1)$$

where the pure spin density injection current, $\dot{K}^{ab}(\omega)$, and the carrier injection rate, $\dot{n}(\omega)$, are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{K}^{ab}(\omega) &= \mu^{abcd}(\omega) E^c(\omega) E^{d*}(\omega), \\ \dot{n}(\omega) &= \xi^{ab}(\omega) E^c(\omega) E^{d*}(\omega), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the roman superscripts denote Cartesian directions, and if repeated, they are to be summed over, the $\xi^{ab}(\omega)$ are the carrier generation rate tensor components and $\mu^{abcd}(\omega)$ are

the pure spin-current pseudotensor components given by¹¹

$$\mu^{abcd}(\omega) = \frac{\pi e^2}{\hbar^2} \int \frac{d^3 K}{8\pi^3} \times \sum_{vcc'} \text{Re} \left[K_{cc'}^{ab} \left(r_{vc'}^c r_{cv}^d + (c \leftrightarrow d) \right) \right] \delta(\omega - \omega_{cv}),$$

where $K_{mn}^{ab}(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\ell} v_{nl}^a(\mathbf{k}) S_{lm}^b(\mathbf{k})$ are the spin current matrix elements that, using time reversal invariance, satisfy the relation $K_{nm}^{ab}(-\mathbf{k}) = K^{ab*}(\mathbf{k})$. The $'$ in the sum means that c and c' are quasi degenerate states and the sum only covers these states and since $\mu^{abcd}(\omega)$ is real we have that $\mu^{abcd}(\omega) = \mu^{abdc}(\omega)$. Since we have 2D structures we use an incoming electric field parallel to the surface, $\mathbf{E}^a(\omega) = E^a e^{i(\alpha + \omega t)}$, where the angle α corresponds to the linear polarization angle measured positively in the counter-clockwise from the x direction on the surface of the structures. Then from Eq. (2) we can rewrite the Eq. (1) and including the polarization angle dependence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega, \alpha) &= \frac{2}{\hbar} \frac{\mu^{abxx}(\omega) E^2(\omega) \cos^2(\alpha) + \mu^{abyy}(\omega) E^2(\omega) \sin^2(\alpha) + 2\mu^{abxy}(\omega) E^2(\omega) \cos(\alpha) \sin(\alpha)}{\xi^{xx}(\omega) E^2(\omega) \cos^2(\alpha) + \xi^{yy}(\omega) E^2(\omega) \sin^2(\alpha)}, \\ &= \frac{2}{\hbar} \frac{\mu^{abxx}(\omega) \cos^2(\alpha) + \mu^{abyy}(\omega) \sin^2(\alpha) + \mu^{abxy}(\omega) \sin(2\alpha)}{\xi^{xx}(\omega) \cos^2(\alpha) + \xi^{yy}(\omega) \sin^2(\alpha)}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

If the polarization angle is fixed to $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$ the previous expression can be reduced to

$$\mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega) = \frac{2}{\hbar} \frac{\mu^{abxx}(\omega) + \mu^{abyy}(\omega) + 2\mu^{abxy}(\omega)}{\xi^{xx}(\omega) + \xi^{yy}(\omega)}.$$

Two interesting possibilities to analyze the SVI are fixing the spin along any of the three Cartesian coordinates and, for our cases, particularly for the spin directed along z directed perpendicularly to the surface of the structure; or fixing the velocity along the x or y Cartesian coordinates on the xy plane of the structures. Also we

can analyze the SVI contribution coming from each layer of the structure. In following subsections we present these three cases.

B. Fixing spin

Analyzing the SVI, Eq. (3), we define the magnitude of the spin velocity with spin polarized along the b Cartesian coordinate as

$$|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)| = \sqrt{[\mathcal{V}^{xb}(\omega, \alpha)]^2 + [\mathcal{V}^{yb}(\omega, \alpha)]^2}, \quad (4)$$

and the angle at which the spin velocity is directed on the xy plane as

$$\gamma_b(\omega, \alpha) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathcal{V}^{yb}(\omega, \alpha)}{\mathcal{V}^{xb}(\omega, \alpha)} \right), \quad (5)$$

where this angle is measured in the counter-clockwise direction from the positive x Cartesian coordinate. We also define two special angles

$$\gamma_{b\parallel}(\omega, \alpha) = \alpha, \quad (6)$$

$$\gamma_{b\perp}(\omega, \alpha) = \alpha \pm 90^\circ. \quad (7)$$

The first corresponds to the case when the spin velocity is directed, on the xy plane in the same direction of the polarization angle α of the incoming beam; the second one corresponds to the case when the spin velocity is directed perpendicularly respect to the polarization angle of the incoming beam.

C. Fixing velocity.

Analyzing now the SVI fixing the velocity along the a Cartesian coordinate on the surface of the structures we define the corresponding magnitude as

$$|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)| = \sqrt{[\mathcal{V}^{ax}(\omega, \alpha)]^2 + [\mathcal{V}^{ay}(\omega, \alpha)]^2 + [\mathcal{V}^{az}(\omega, \alpha)]^2}, \quad (8)$$

Then, the spin direction depends of the x , y , and z components of the previous equation and so we define the spin orientation polar and azimuthal angles as

$$\theta_a(\omega, \alpha) = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathcal{V}^{az}(\omega, \alpha)}{|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)|} \right), \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi, \quad (9)$$

$$\varphi_a(\omega, \alpha) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathcal{V}^{ay}(\omega, \alpha)}{\mathcal{V}^{ax}(\omega, \alpha)} \right), \quad 0 \leq \varphi \leq 2\pi. \quad (10)$$

where $\theta_a(\omega, \alpha)$ is measured from the positive to the negative z Cartesian coordinate and $\varphi_a(\omega, \alpha)$ is measured on the xy plane in the counter-clockwise direction from the positive x Cartesian coordinate.

Layer No.	Atom type	Position [Å]		
		x	y	z
1	H	-0.61516	-1.77416	0.73196
1	H	0.61518	0.35514	0.73175
2	C	-0.61516	-1.77264	-0.49138
2	C	-0.61516	-0.35600	-0.72316
2	C	0.61516	0.35763	-0.49087

TABLE I. Unit cell of up structure. Layer division, atom types and positions for the up structure. The structure unit cell was divided in two layers corresponding to hydrogen and carbon atoms. The corresponding layer atom position is depicted in Fig. 1 with the corresponding number of layer.

D. Layer-by-layer analysis.

For a layered system we have that the total contribution of Eqns. (4) and (8) are given³³ by

$$|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)| = \ell_{\text{eff}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_{\text{eff}}} |\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\ell|\omega, \alpha)| \quad (11)$$

$$|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)| = \ell_{\text{eff}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{N_{\text{eff}}} |\mathcal{V}^a(\ell|\omega, \alpha)| \quad (12)$$

where $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\ell|\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^a(\ell|\omega, \alpha)|$ gives the contribution of the ℓ^{th} layer to the total SVI when the spin is fixed in the b direction or when the velocity is fixed in the a direction, respectively. For the structures presented here this layers correspond to the total number of layers being two for the up structure and six for the alt structure.

III. RESULTS

We preset the results for $|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)|$ for the $C_{16}H_8$ -alt and $C_{16}H_8$ -up structures being both noncentrosymmetric semi-infinite 2D carbon systems with 50% hydrogenation in different arrangements. The up structure has hydrogen atoms only on the upper side of the carbon sheet while the alt structure has alternating hydrogen atoms on the upper and bottom sides. We take the hexagonal carbon lattice to be on the xy plane for both structures, and

Layer No.	Atom type	Position [\AA]		
		x	y	z
1	H	-0.61516	-1.42140	1.47237
2	C	-0.61516	-1.73300	0.39631
3	C	0.61516	1.73300	0.15807
4	C	0.61516	0.42201	-0.15814
5	C	-0.61516	-0.37396	-0.39632
6	H	-0.61516	-0.68566	-1.47237

TABLE II. Unit cell of *alt* structure. Layer division, atom types and positions for the *alt* structure. The structure unit cell was divided in six layers corresponding each one to atoms in different z positions. The corresponding layer atom position is depicted in Fig. 2 with the corresponding number of layer.

the carbon-hydrogen bonds on the perpendicular xz plane, as depicted in Figs. 2 and 1 and the coordinates for the *up* and *alt* unit cells of the structures are presented in Tables I and II. In same tables we present the layer division needed to calculate the layer-by-layer contribution for the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)|$ presented in Eqns. (11) and (12). The *up* structure was divided in two layers, the first comprised of the top hydrogen atoms denoted by the number 1 in Table I and in the Fig. 1 and the second comprised of carbon atoms and denoted by the number 2. The *alt* structure was divided in six layers denoted with numbers from 1 to 6 in Table II and in Fig. 2. The first and sixth layers correspond to hydrogen atoms in the top and bottom positions and from the second to the fifth correspond to carbon atoms placed in different positions.

We calculated the self-consistent ground state and the Kohn-Sham states using density functional theory in the local density approximation (DFT- LDA) with a planewave basis using the ABINIT code³⁴. We used Hartwigsen-Goedecker-Hutter (HGH) relativistic separable dual-space Gaussian pseudopotentials³⁵ including the spin-orbit interaction needed to calculate $\mu^{abcd}(\omega, \alpha)$ presented in Eq. (II A). The convergence parameters for the calculations of our results corresponding to the *alt* and *up* structures are cutoff energies of 65 Ha and 40 Ha, respectively. The energy eigenvalues and matrix elements for the *up* and *alt* structures were calcu-

lated using 14452 \mathbf{k} points and 8452 \mathbf{k} points in the irreducible Brillouin zone (IBZ) resulting in LDA energy band gaps of 0.72 eV and 0.088 eV, respectively. We notice that within DFT, the LDA is only one of other possible methods that can be used to determine the electronic structure of materials. Recent investigations on graphene show some of the differences in calculated values from several of these methods^{36,37}. We note that the LDA is as good as these other approaches. It is also known that the DFT calculations predict a band gap for the material that differs from experiment. This can be corrected using other *ab initio* techniques, such as the GW approximation³⁸, but this calculation has a very high computational cost and is out of the scope in this paper. Even so, DFT still remains as an effective and useful tool for computing diverse properties derived from the electronic band structure.

A. Spin velocity injection

Using the Eq. (3), we calculated the $\mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega, \alpha)$ response for the *up* and *alt* 2D structures and for the CdSe and GaAs bulk systems; the results are presented in Fig. 3. The angle α presented in the response of each structure is that for which the response is maximized in each case. From the figure we have that the onset of the response starts when the energy of the incoming beam is the same of the gap energy. The most intense response corresponds to the *up* structure centered at 0.088 eV corresponding to

Structure	Kind of system	Pol. Ang.	Energy [eV]	$\mathcal{V}^{ab}(\omega, \alpha)$	
				ab	[Km/s]
<i>up</i>	2D	40	0.09	yz	87.16
			1.94	yz	22.22
			1.97	yz	-29.70
<i>alt</i>	2D	145	0.72	yz	-40.21
			0.91	yz	-32.89
CdSe	bulk	90	0.91	zz	-26.87
GaAs	bulk	90	2.31	xx	-21.62

TABLE III. Comparison of the reported maxima values of \mathcal{V}^{ab} for different structures and the corresponding polarization angle α and energy values.

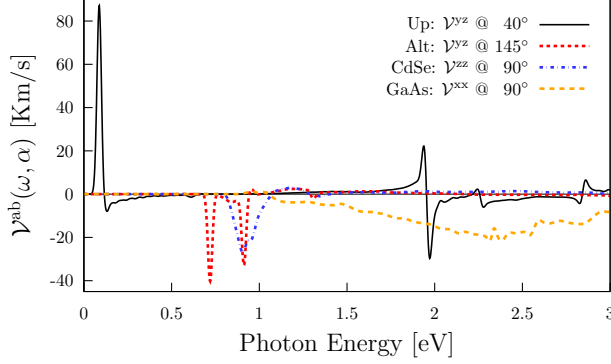


FIG. 3. Comparison of most intense responses of \mathcal{V}^{ab} for 2D *alt* and *up*, and bulk CdSe and GaAs structures and the corresponding polarization angles.

the **Mid Infrared (MIR)** radiation and reaching a spin velocity of 87.2 Km/s. In the other hand, for an energy range from 0.66 eV to 3.0 eV, corresponding to energies of the **Near Infrared (NIR) to visible radiation**, all the four structures have contributions in the same order of magnitude. For this energy range the *up* structure has two peaks centered at 1.94 eV and 1.97 eV reaching spin velocities of 22.2 Km/s and -29.7 Km/s, respectively, and the *alt* structure has two peaks centered at 0.72 eV and 0.91 eV reaching spin velocities of -40.2 Km/s and -32.9 Km/s, respectively. Then, for the bulk structures we have that the CdSe has only one intense response centered at 0.91 eV reaching a spin velocity of -26.9 Km/s, and the GaAs structure has a large and almost planar zone where the response is held reaching the maximum for an incoming beam of energy of 2.31 eV and resulting in a spin velocity of -21.6 Km/s. A negative quantity in the spin velocity means a change in the spin polarization traveling in the opposite direction. In table III we present the comparison of this values for the 2D and bulk structures. We found that the most intense response for the spin velocity corresponds to the *up* structure being 3.25 times more intense than that of the CdSe and 4.03 times more intense than that of the GaAs bulk structures. Also, the *alt* structure has a response more intense than the bulk systems but being less intense than the corresponding to the *up* one.

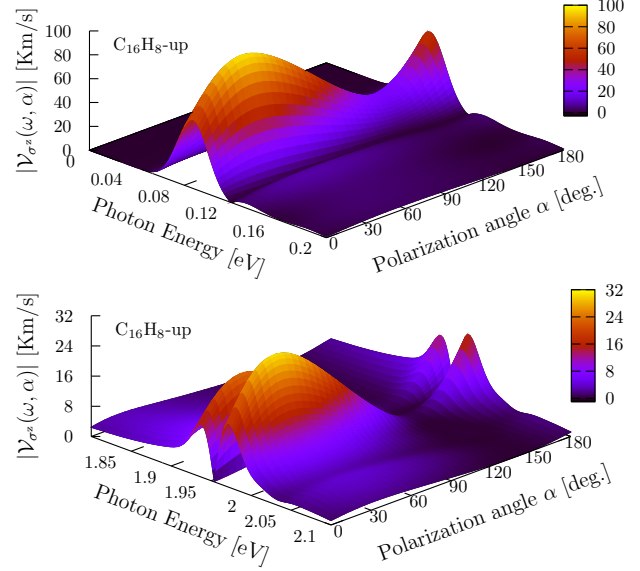


FIG. 4. $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response as a function of the photon energy and polarization angle α for the *up* structure for two energy ranges. The absolute maxima is located for an energy range from 0.08 eV to 0.10 eV, in the Far Infrared radiation range, and two local maxima from 1.90 eV to 1.93 eV and from 1.96 eV to 2.0 eV, in the visible radiation range, all for polarization angles between 25° and 50°.

B. Fixing spin

Using the Eq. (4), we calculated the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response and made the analysis for the case when the spin is fixed in the z coordinate, directed perpendicularly to the surface of the *up* and *alt* structures. Also, using the Eq. (5), we determined the angle $\gamma_b(\omega, \alpha)$ where the spin-velocity is directed on the surface of the each structure.

Up structure

We first analyzed two energy ranges in Fig. 4 for the *up* structure, the first for an incoming energy beam from 0.0 eV to 0.2 eV (top panel) which include the THz and the Mid Infrared (MIR) radiation, where the absolute maximum of the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response is obtained, and the second for an energy range from 1.80 eV to 2.1 eV (bottom panel), corresponding to visible radiation, where two local maxima are found. Making the analysis, we obtained that the zone where the maximum response is held corresponds to a energy range of the incident beam from 0.084 eV

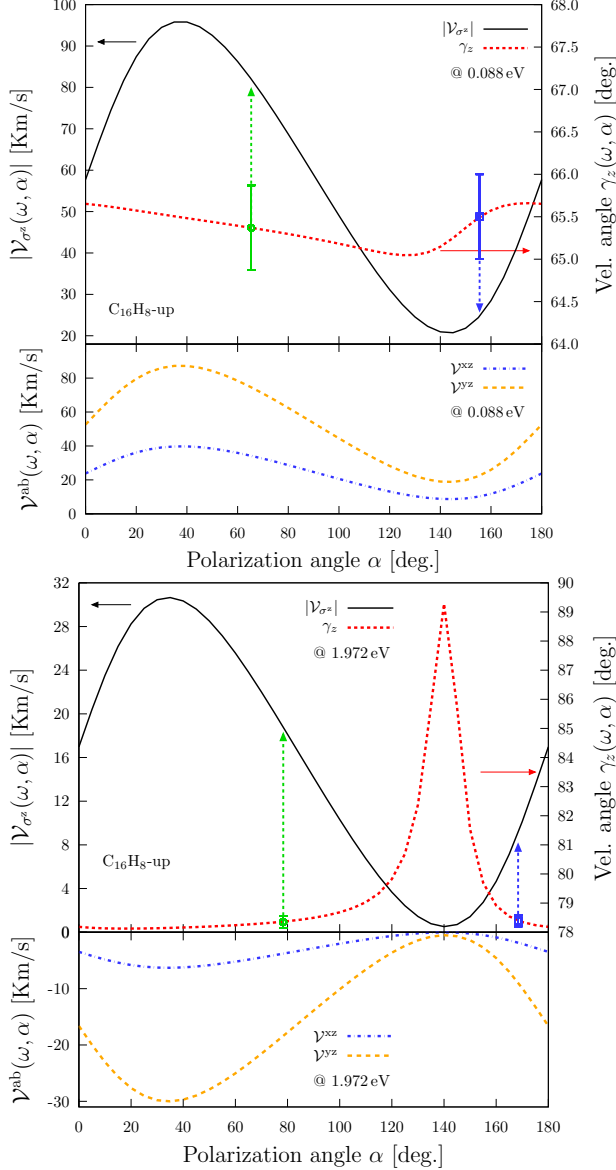


FIG. 5. Most intense response of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top frames, right scale of figs (a) and (b)), the corresponding velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha)$ (top frames, right scale), the collinear (circled box) and perpendicular (square box) angles, and the two components $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ (bottom frames) for the *up* structure fixing the energy to 0.088 eV.

to 0.093 eV and polarization angles α between 30° and 45° . Also the two local maxima are held for same beam polarization angles but for an energy range between 1.90 eV and 2.05 eV. In the top frames of top and bottom panels of Fig. 5 we present in solid lines the result of evaluate $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$, related to the left scale, fixing the energy of the incoming beam to 0.088 eV and

1.972 eV, respectively, values for which the response is maximized for the *up* structure. In the same panels and frames we present in dashed lines, related to the right scale, the corresponding velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha)$, and in the bottom frames of the panels we present the corresponding components $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$. Also we present two circled and square boxes indicating the values where the angles of the spin velocity are parallel (Eq. 6) and perpendicular (Eq. 7) and the arrows are directed to the value of the response corresponding to those angles. From top panels of Figs. 4 and 5 we have that the absolute maximum response for the *up* structure is obtained for an incoming beam with energy of 0.088 eV and polarization angle $\alpha = 40^\circ$ resulting in a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 95.8$ Km/s coming from the contribution of the components $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha) = 39.8$ Km/s and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha) = 87.2$ Km/s for the spin polarized in the *z* direction and having a velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 65^\circ$ on the first Cartesian quadrant of the *xy* plane. From the top panel of Fig. 5 we have that the velocity angle is almost constant for all the polarization angle range having values of $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 65.5^\circ \pm 0.5^\circ$. In this panel the green circled box indicates the value for which the polarization angle and the response direction angle are collinear corresponding to $\gamma_{z\parallel}(\omega, \alpha) = 65.5^\circ$ and resulting in a value of the response of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 82.3$ Km/s indicated by the upward green arrow. Also the blue square box indicates the value for which the polarization angle and the response angle are perpendicular being $\alpha = 155.5^\circ$ and $\gamma_{z\perp}(\omega, \alpha) = 65.5^\circ$; for this angle the response has a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 24.8$ Km/s indicated by the blue downward arrow. Now, from bottom panels of Figs. 4 and 5 we have that the most intense local maximum of the response is obtained for an incoming beam with energy of 1.972 eV and same polarization angle $\alpha = 40^\circ$ resulting in a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 30.3$ Km/s. This comes from a major contribution of the $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ component being directed in a velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 78^\circ$ on the first Cartesian Quadrant on the *xy* plane. Again from the bottom panel of Fig. 5 we found that the velocity angle is almost constant at 78° and has variations of 1° for polarization angles $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 100^\circ$.

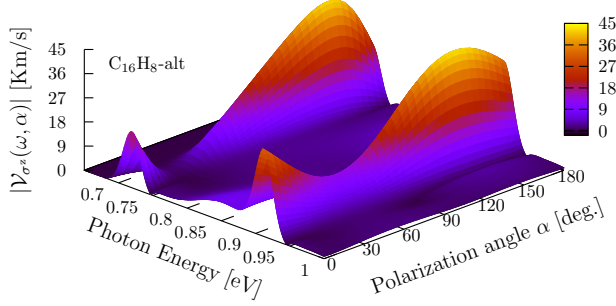


FIG. 6. $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response as a function of the photon energy and polarization angle α for the *alt* structure. The local and the absolute maxima are located in the energy ranges from 0.67 eV to 0.73 eV and from 0.90 eV to 0.93 eV, respectively, and both in the Near Infrared and for polarization angles between 120° and 150° .

In this range the green circled box indicates the value for which the polarization angle and the response direction are collinear corresponding to $\gamma_{z\parallel}(\omega, \alpha) = 78.5^\circ$ and having a response value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 23.5$ Km/s indicated with the green upward arrow. Finally, the blue square box indicates the value for which the polarization angle and the response angle are perpendicular being $\alpha = 168.5^\circ$ $\gamma_{z\perp}(\omega, \alpha) = 78.5^\circ$ and having a response $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 9.0$ Km/s indicated with the blue upward arrow. We also made the analysis for the cases when the spin polarization is directed along the x and y Cartesian coordinates but we do not present here the corresponding plots. For those cases we have that the absolute maxima responses are obtained for an energy of the incoming beam equal to 0.088 eV and polarization angle $\alpha = 40^\circ$ resulting in values of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^x}(\omega, \alpha)| = 37.4$ Km/s and $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^y}(\omega, \alpha)| = 24.8$ Km/s.

Alt structure

In Fig. 6 we analyzed the energy range for the incident beam from 0.6 eV to 1.0 eV, corresponding to the NIR radiation, where the absolute maximum of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response is obtained for the *alt* structure. From Figs. 6 and 7 we have that the absolute maximum response is obtained for an incoming beam with polarization angle $\alpha = 145^\circ$ reaching a velocity of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 43.0$ Km/s for the spin polarized in the z direction and resulting in a velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 50^\circ$ on the first Cartesian Quadrant

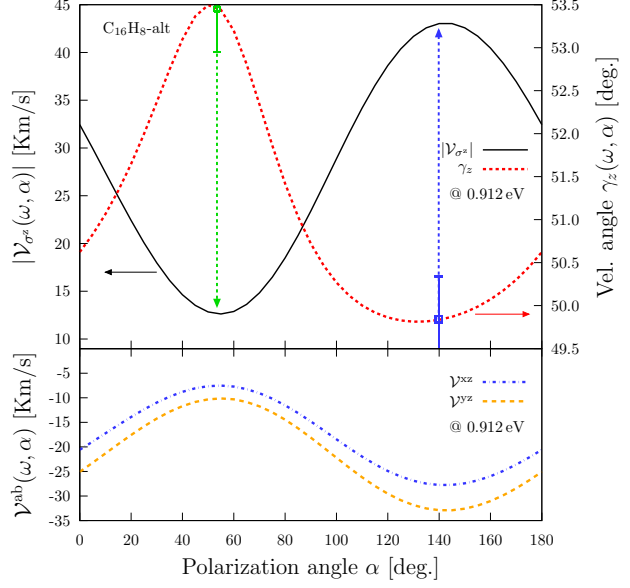


FIG. 7. Most intense response of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top frame, left scale) the corresponding velocity angle $\gamma_z(\omega)$ (top frame, right scale), the collinear (circled box) and perpendicular (square box) angles, and the two components $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega)$ (bottom frame) for the *alt* structure fixing the energy to 0.912 eV.

of the xy plane. Also, from the top frame of Fig. 7 we found that the velocity angle is centered at 51.5° having variations of $\pm 2^\circ$ for the polarization angle range $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 180^\circ$. As made in the previous analysis the circled box indicates the collinear angle (Eq. (6)) $\gamma_{z\parallel}(\omega, \alpha) = 53.5^\circ$ corresponding a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 12.7$ Km/s; the blue square box indicates the perpendicular angles corresponding values $\alpha = 140^\circ$ and $\gamma_{z\perp}(\omega, \alpha) = 50^\circ$ with a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 43.0$ Km/s. Again, for the cases in which the spin polarization is parallel to the surface of the *alt* structure was calculated but the plots are not presented here. The absolute maxima for the cases when the spin polarization are directed in the x and y direction are obtained for an energy of the incoming beam equal to 0.912 eV and polarization angle $\alpha = 145^\circ$ resulting in values of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^x}(\omega, \alpha)| = 27.1$ Km/s and $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^y}(\omega, \alpha)| = 33.2$ Km/s.

C. Fixing velocity

Now, using the Eq. (8), we calculated the

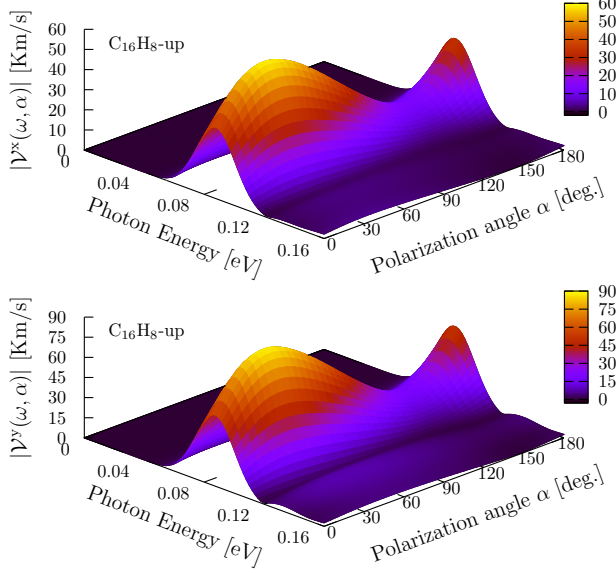


FIG. 8. $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ responses as a function of the photon energy and polarization angle α for the *up* structure. The absolute maxima of both are localized in the energy range from 0.08 eV to 0.10 eV, in the Far Infrared, and for polarization angles from 25° to 50°.

$|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)|$ response and made the analysis for the case when the velocity is fixed in the *x* and *y* direction over the surface of the *alt* and *up* structures. Also, using the Eqns. (9) and (10), we determined the polar $\theta_a(\omega, \alpha)$ and azimuthal $\varphi_a(\omega, \alpha)$ angles where the spin polarization is directed.

Up structure.

In top and bottom panels of Fig. 8 we present the $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ spectra resulting from evaluate the Eq. (8) in the energy range for the incoming beam from 0.00 eV to 0.16 eV for the *up* structure. From this figure we can see that for the zone between the energy range of 0.084 eV-0.093 eV and polarization angles between 30° and 45° is the zone where the maximum response is held for both, $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$.

In the top frames of top and bottom panels of Fig. 9 we present in solid lines the results of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$, related to the left scale, fixing the polarization angle to $\alpha = 40^\circ$ for which the response is maximized. In the same panels and frames we present in dashed lines the corresponding polar $\theta_a(\omega, \alpha)$ and az-

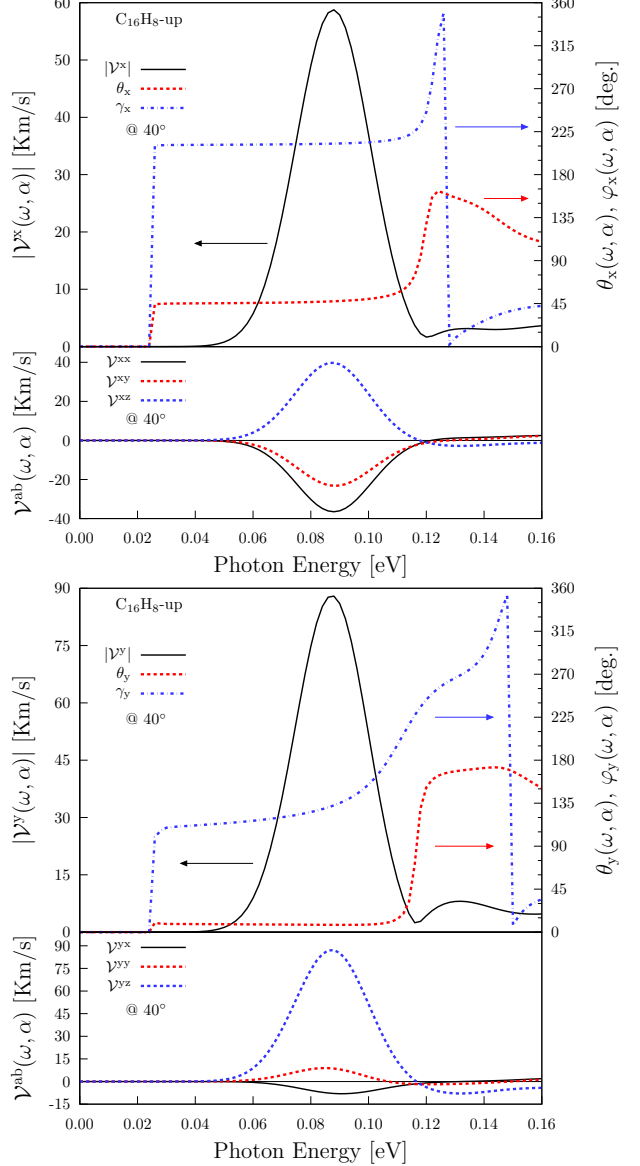


FIG. 9. Most intense response of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top frames left scale of Figs. (a) and (b)), the corresponding polar φ and azimuthal θ angles (top frames right scale), and the corresponding three components (bottom frames) for the *up* structure fixing the polarization angle to $\alpha = 40^\circ$ to maximize the response.

imuthal $\varphi_a(\omega, \alpha)$ spin polarization angles related to the right scale. Also, in the bottom frames of the panels we present the corresponding components $\mathcal{V}^{xx}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{xy}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$, and $\mathcal{V}^{yx}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{yy}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$. From the top panel of Fig. 9 we have that for an incoming beam with energy of 0.088 eV the three components have similar contributions with val-

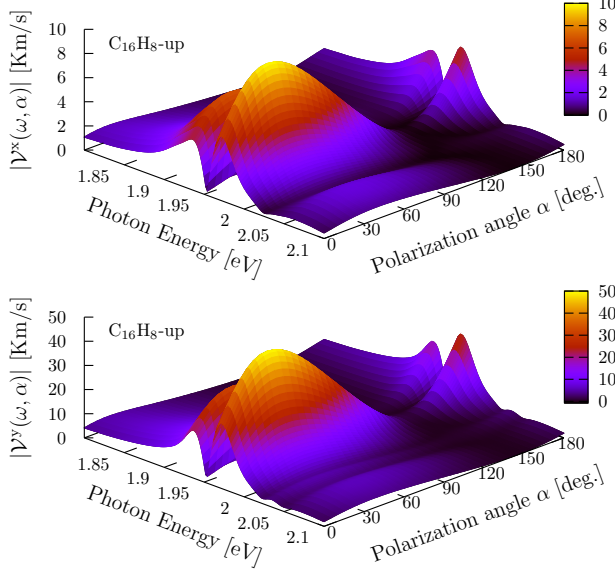


FIG. 10. $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top panel) and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ (bottom panel) as a function of the photon energy and polarization angle α for the *up* structure. Two local maxima of both responses are localized in the energy range from 1.90 eV to 1.93 eV and from 1.96 eV to 2.0 eV, in the visible radiation range, and for polarization angles between 25° and 50°.

ues of $\mathcal{V}^{xx}(\omega, \alpha) = -36.5$ Km/s, $\mathcal{V}^{xy}(\omega, \alpha) = -23.2$ Km/s, and $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha) = 39.8$ Km/s resulting in a response $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 58.7$ Km/s being this value the absolute maximum obtained when the spin-velocity is fixed in the x direction. To this value corresponds polar and azimuthal spin polarization angles of $\theta_x(\omega, \alpha) = 47^\circ$ and $\varphi_x(\omega, \alpha) = 212^\circ$, respectively, being directed upward the third Cartesian quadrant of the xy plane. Also from this figure we have that those angles values are held for almost all the peak of the response having variations of $\pm 2^\circ$ each one. Now, from the bottom panel of Fig. 9 we have that the components have contributions of $\mathcal{V}^{yx}(\omega, \alpha) = -7.9$ Km/s $\mathcal{V}^{yy}(\omega, \alpha) = 8.6$ Km/s, and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha) = 87.2$ Km/s resulting in a response $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 87.9$ Km/s. This value is the absolute maximum obtained when the spin-velocity is fixed in the y direction and is 1.5 times more intense than the maximum of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ for this structure. To this absolute maximum corresponds spin polarization polar and azimuthal angles $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 8^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 133^\circ$ being directed the spin almost perpendicularly over

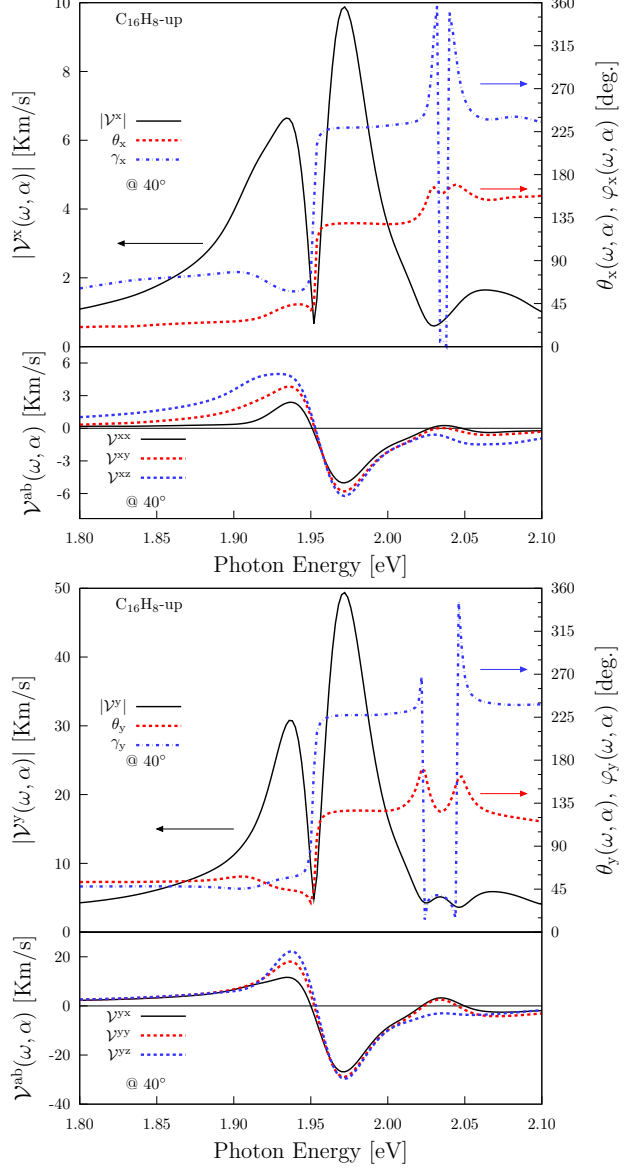


FIG. 11. Intense response of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top frames left scale of Figs. (a) and (b)), the corresponding polar φ and azimuthal θ angles (top frames right scale), and the corresponding three components (bottom frames) for the *up* structure fixing the polarization angle to $\alpha = 40^\circ$ to maximize the response.

the xy plane and localized on the first Cartesian quadrant. In a different way than in the $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ case for the $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ only the polar angle is held at 8° for the peak of the response having variations of $\pm 2^\circ$ but the azimuthal angle changes from 99° to 176° having a value of 133° for the maximum. We also found that since the onset of the response till an energy for the incoming beam of 0.118 eV the components of both re-

sponses, have no change in the spin polarization-velocity direction. Finally, after this last energy value the responses go to zero. Also there is another energy range of interest for an incoming energy beam from 1.80 eV to 2.10 eV, corresponding to visible radiation, presented in Fig. 10 where two local of both responses are obtained for the *up* structure for energies of 1.934 eV and 1.972 eV fixing again the polarization angle to 40°. We found that for both cases the components have similar contributions for each response and for 1.934 eV result in values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 6.6 \text{ Km/s}$ for the spin velocity moving along the *x* direction with polar and azimuthal spin polarization angles $\theta_x(\omega, \alpha) = 42^\circ$ and $\varphi_x(\omega, \alpha) = 59^\circ$ being the spin directed over the first Cartesian quadrant of the *xy* plane; for the spin moving along the *y* direction we have a response $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 28.7 \text{ Km/s}$ with polar and azimuthal spin polarization angles $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 45^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 56^\circ$ being the spin directed over the first Cartesian quadrant of the *xy* plane. Alike, for an incoming energy beam of 1.972 eV we found the second and more intense local maxima for which all the components have similar contributions for both responses. This result in values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 9.9 \text{ Km/s}$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 49.4 \text{ Km/s}$ with spin polarization angles $\theta_x(\omega, \alpha) = 129^\circ$, $\varphi_x(\omega, \alpha) = 229^\circ$, $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 127^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 227^\circ$ being the spin directed downward the third Cartesian quadrant of the *xy* plane when it moves in the *x* direction and downward the third Cartesian quadrant when it moves along the *y* direction. Also all the components of the responses keep the spin polarization positive till an energy of the incoming beam equal to 1.954 eV when the spin polarization and current changes the direction. After an energy of 2.05 eV both responses goes to zero.

Alt structure.

For the *alt* structure we analyzed the energy range from 0.6 eV to 1.0 eV in Fig. 12, corresponding to the NIR radiation, where we found a local maxima and the most intense responses for $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$. From this figure we can see that for the zone between the energy range of 0.90 eV-0.93 eV and polarization angles between 120° and 150° is the zone where

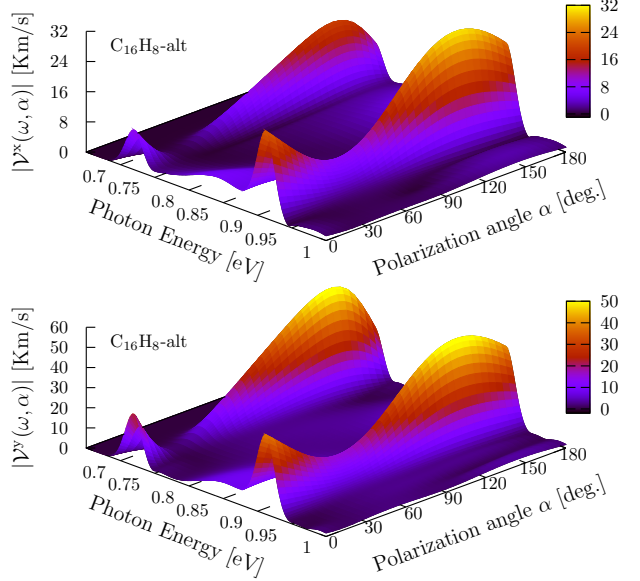


FIG. 12. $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top panel) and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ (bottom panel) as a function of the photon energy and polarization angle α for the *alt* structure. The local and the absolute maxima are located in the energy ranges from 0.67 eV to 0.73 eV and from 0.90 eV to 0.93 eV, respectively, and both in the Near Infrared and for polarization angles between 120° and 150°.

the maximum for both responses is held. In the top frames of top and bottom panels of Fig. 13 we present the spectra of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ fixing the polarization angle to $\alpha = 145^\circ$ for which the response is maximized and its corresponding polar and azimuthal angles; in the bottom frames of same panels we present the corresponding three components $\mathcal{V}^{xx}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{xy}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{yx}(\omega, \alpha)$, $\mathcal{V}^{yy}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$. Making the analysis when the energy of the incoming beam is 0.720 eV we have similar contributions from the components when the spin velocity is along the *x* direction and a major contribution from $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ when the spin velocity is directed along *y* Cartesian axis. This result in values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 19.4 \text{ Km/s}$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 51.9 \text{ Km/s}$ with spin polarization angles $\theta_x(\omega, \alpha) = 46^\circ$, $\varphi_x(\omega, \alpha) = 41^\circ$, $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 141^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 222^\circ$ being the spin polarization directed over the first Cartesian quadrant of the *xy* plane when the spin velocity is directed along *x* and directed downward the third Cartesian quadrant when the spin velocity is directed along *y*. Then, for an en-

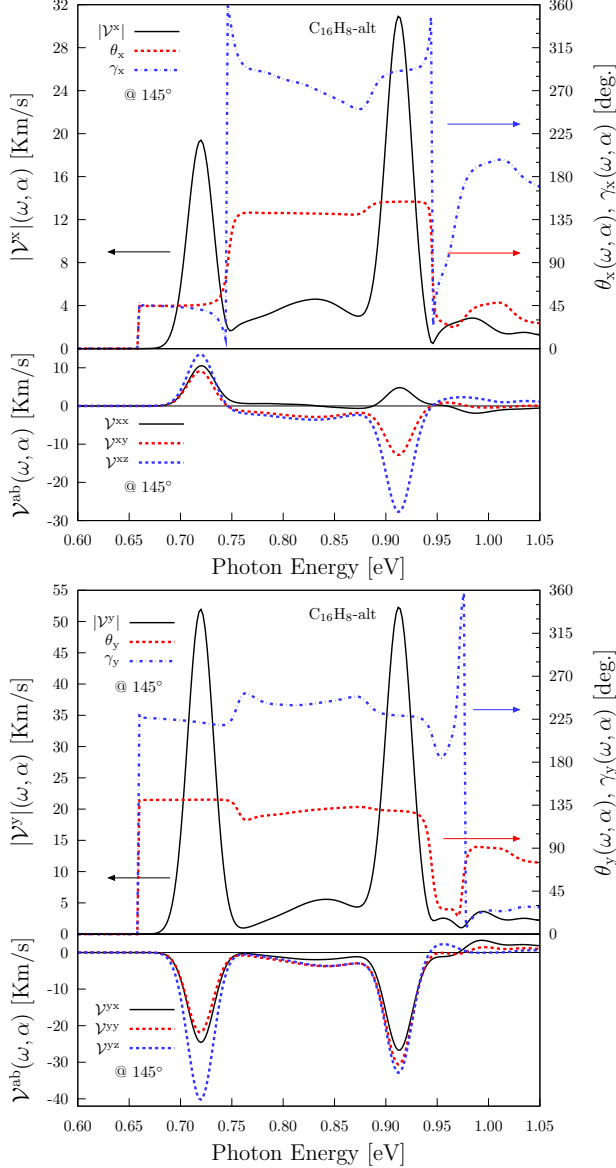


FIG. 13. Most intense response of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)|$ (top frames left scale of Figs. (a) and (b)), the corresponding polar φ and azimuthal θ angles (top frames right scale), and the corresponding three components (bottom frames) for the *alt* structure fixing the polarization angle to $\alpha = 145^\circ$ to maximize the response.

ergy of 0.912 eV we have values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 30.9 \text{ Km/s}$ and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 52.3 \text{ Km/s}$. The first of them have a major contribution from the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ component and the second one having similar contributions from all of three components. They result in polar and azimuthal angles $\theta_x(\omega, \alpha) = 154^\circ$, $\varphi_x(\omega, \alpha) = 290^\circ$, $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 129^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 229^\circ$ being the spin polar-

ization directed downward the fourth Cartesian quadrant of the xy plane when the spin velocity is directed along x and downward the third Cartesian quadrant of the xy plane when the spin velocity is directed along y . Finally we have that the three components of $|\mathcal{V}^y|$ are negative keeping the same spin polarization and velocity direction since the onset of the response to a energy of the incoming beam of 0.886 eV when the response decreases and goes to zero.

IV. LAYER-BY-LAYER ANALYSIS

As mentioned before in the beginning of this section the *up* and *alt* structures presented here was divided into layers to analyze the layer-by-layer contribution for $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^b}(\omega, \alpha)|$ and $|\mathcal{V}^a(\omega, \alpha)|$. Here we present the decomposition only for $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ and for the corresponding components of the *up* structure in Figs. 14 and 15 and for the *alt* structure in Fig. 16.

From the central and bottom frames of Fig. 14 we have that when the energy is fixed to 0.088 eV almost all the response of the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ component comes from the second layer comprised by carbon atoms having a minimal reduction produced by the hydrogen layer. Also, the $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ response, presented in bottom frame of same figure, is produced only by the carbon layer. This result in a total response $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 95.8 \text{ Km/s}$ coming from the carbon layer and being minimally reduced by the hydrogen layer as shown in the top frame of this figure for a fixed polarization angle $\alpha = 40^\circ$. Now, for the same structure but now fixing the energy to 1.972 eV we have from the central frame of Fig. 15 that the carbon layer produces the response of the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ component being decreased by the hydrogen layer. Opposite to that, in the bottom frame of same figure we obtained that the response of the carbon and hydrogen layer are not inverse and then contributing both to the total response of $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$. Then, in the top frame of this figure we have that the major contribution to the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response comes from the carbon layer with but being in this case reinforced by the contribution of the hydrogen layer and resulting in a

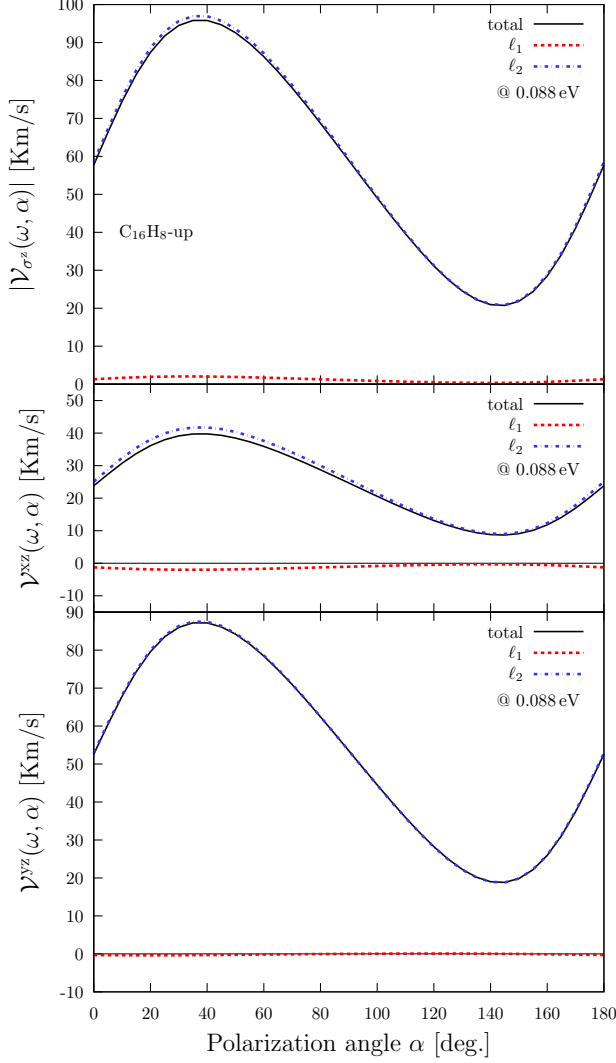


FIG. 14. Layer-by-layer contribution of the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response (top frame) for the *up* structure as a function of the polarization angle α for the energy fixed to 0.088 eV for which the absolute maximum is obtained. The corresponding layered contributions for the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ components are presented in the central and bottom frames.

value of 30.3 Km/s. Finally, for the *alt* structure we have that, for the response $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ when the energy is fixed to 0.720 eV the six layers contribute with similar magnitudes. We found that for the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ components the top hydrogen layer response, denoted by ℓ_1 , cancels partially the bottom hydrogen layer response, denoted by ℓ_6 ; a similar behavior occurs in the component $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ for the third and fourth carbon layers and in the component $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ for the second and fifth

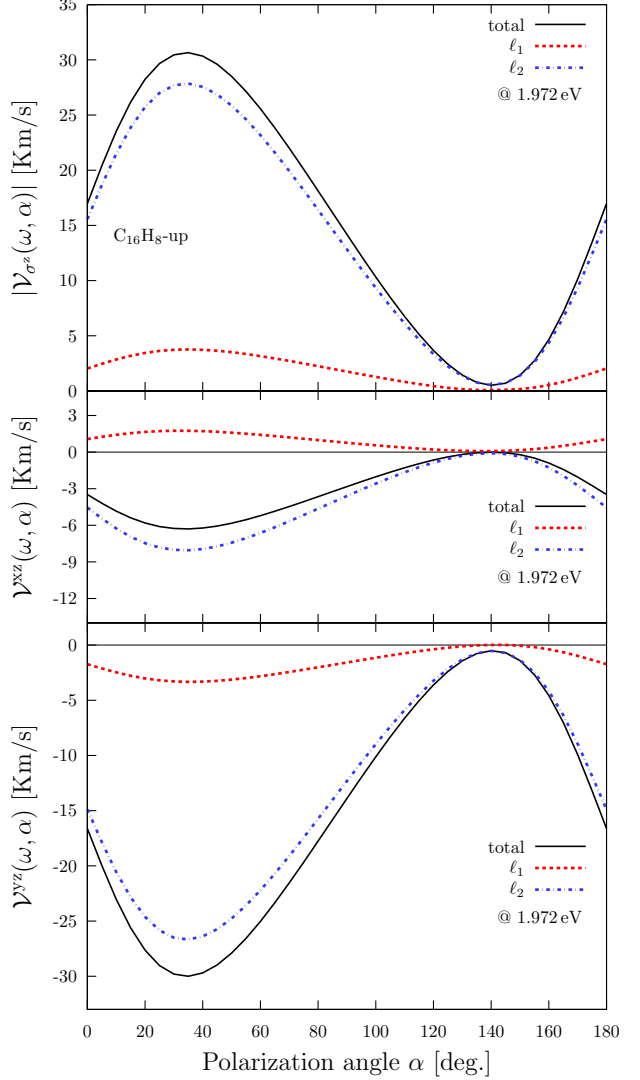


FIG. 15. Layer-by-layer contribution of the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response (top frame) for the *up* structure as a function of the polarization angle α for the energy fixed to 1.972 eV for which a local maximum is obtained. The corresponding layered contributions for the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ components are presented in the central and bottom frames.

carbon layers. This results in a total response $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha) = 42.4$ Km/s for a fixed polarization angle $\alpha = 145^\circ$. Then, for this analysis we found that the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ and in general, $\mu^{abcd}(\omega)$ responses are very susceptible to the symmetry of the system. The *up* structure is *more* non-centrosymmetric than the *alt* structure and then the response is quite larger.

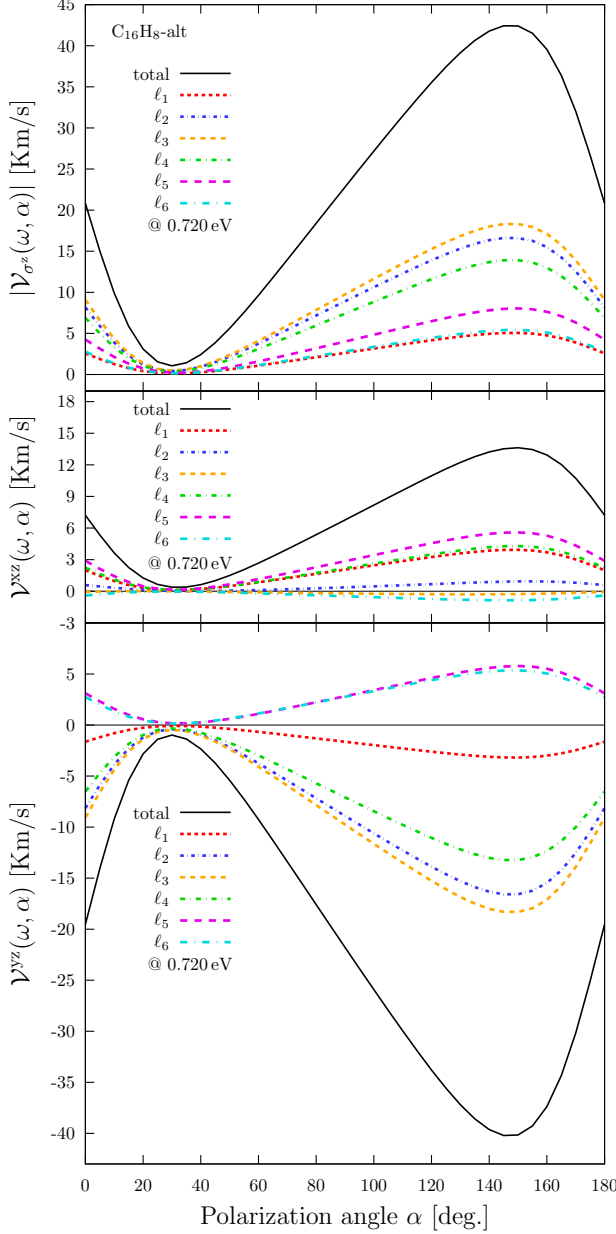


FIG. 16. Layer-by-layer contribution of the $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)|$ response (top frame) for the *alt* structure as a function of the polarization angle α for the energy fixed to 0.720 eV. The corresponding layered contributions for the $\mathcal{V}^{xz}(\omega, \alpha)$ and $\mathcal{V}^{yz}(\omega, \alpha)$ components are presented in the central and bottom frames.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Spintronics devices are based on the control of spin and electrical charge through electrical and optical methods. Semiconductor spintronics gives the development possibility of devices that can perform high-volume information ma-

nipulation, processing, and storage, for computing and communications technologies.³ We have performed an *ab initio* calculation for the SVI by one-photon absorption of linearly polarized light in the *up* and *alt* 2D hydrogenated graphene structures that could result in spintronics devices development. This effect does not seem to have been reported previously. We calculated the responses for two cases: when the spin polarization is fixed along the Cartesian coordinates and when the spin velocity is directed along the x and y Cartesian directions on the xy surface of the structures. We found that the SVI is very susceptible to the characteristics of the structures presenting an anisotropic behavior. We found that for both structures it is possible to generate a SVI comparable being the response of the *alt* structure comparable with GaAs and CdSe and the response of the *up* structure much more intense than all.

We analyzed the SVI as a function of the energy of the incoming beam and the polarization angle for the *up* and *alt* structures for the cases when the spin is polarized along the three Cartesian directions with a propagating angle on the surface of the structures measured in the counter-clockwise direction from the x Cartesian direction. We found that the most intense response was when the spin is directed perpendicularly to the plane of the structures in the z direction. For this condition we found that the *up* structure reaches a maximum $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 95.8 \text{ Km/s}$ directed in an angle $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 160^\circ$ on the xy plane for an energy of the incoming beam of 0.088 eV, for which the response is maximized, and polarization angle $\alpha = 40^\circ$. Similarly for the *alt* structure we found that the maximum reached is $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 43.0 \text{ Km/s}$ at $\gamma_z(\omega, \alpha) = 50^\circ$ for an energy of the incoming beam of 0.912 eV and polarization angle $\alpha = 145^\circ$. Also we found two angles of interest for which the SVI, with spin polarized in the z direction, propagates collinearly or perpendicularly to the polarization angle of the incoming beam. With this condition and fixing again the energy of the incoming beam to 0.088 eV we found that $\gamma_{z\parallel}(\omega, \alpha = 65.5^\circ) = 65.5^\circ$ resulting in a value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 82.3 \text{ Km/s}$ and $\gamma_{z\perp}(\omega, \alpha = 155.5^\circ) = 65.5^\circ$ resulting in a

value of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 24.8 \text{ Km/s}$. Alike, for the *alt* structure fixing the energy of the incoming beam to 0.912 eV we found that the parallel and collinear angles are $\gamma_{z\parallel}(\omega, \alpha = 53.5^\circ) = 53.5^\circ$ and $\gamma_{z\perp}(\omega, \alpha = 140^\circ) = 50^\circ$ resulting in values of $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 12.7 \text{ Km/s}$ and $|\mathcal{V}_{\sigma^z}(\omega, \alpha)| = 43.0 \text{ Km/s}$, respectively.

We also examined the SVI for the cases when the velocity is directed along the x and y Cartesian coordinates on the xy plane of the *up* and *alt* structures. We also defined the polar and azimuthal angles, the first measured from the positive to the negative z Cartesian coordinate perpendicular to the structure and the second from the positive x Cartesian direction in the counter-clockwise sense on the xy plane. For this case we found that the responses for the *up* structure, for an energy of the incoming beam of 0.088 eV , reach the maximum values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 58.7 \text{ Km/s}$ with polar and azimuthal directed upward the third Cartesian quadrant of the xy plane; and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 87.9 \text{ Km/s}$ with polar and azimuthal spin polarization angles $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 8^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 133^\circ$ directed almost perpendicularly over the first Cartesian quadrant over the xy plane. Likewise, for the *alt* structure we found that, for an energy of the incoming beam of 1.972 eV , the responses reach maximum

values of $|\mathcal{V}^x(\omega, \alpha)| = 9.9 \text{ Km/s}$ with spin directed downward the third Cartesian quadrant of the xy plane; and $|\mathcal{V}^y(\omega, \alpha)| = 49.4 \text{ Km/s}$ with spin polarization angles $\theta_y(\omega, \alpha) = 127^\circ$ and $\varphi_y(\omega, \alpha) = 227^\circ$ directed downward the third Cartesian quadrant.

Novel PSC devices for spintronics applications has been proposed.^{39,40} One of the difficulties to achieve the development of spin current and PSC semiconductor devices is the fact that the spin relaxation time in a semiconducting media is short disabling the spin transport and then resulting in a no observable spin current.⁴¹ The spin relaxation time in pure and doped graphene is long enough in the order from nanoseconds to milliseconds.^{42,43} The, according to our results the *alt* structure is a good candidate and the *up* structure an excellent candidate for the development of spintronics devices that require PSC due to the high spin velocity transport. The fact that the *up* structure is better than the *alt* structure comes from the symmetry: the first one is *more* non-centrosymmetric than the second resulting in a more intense response of the system.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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