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Multiple Weyl and double-Weyl points in the phonon dispersion of $P4_332$ BaSi₂

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Weyl semimetals, classified as solid-state crystals and whose Fermi energy is accurately situated at Weyl points (WPs), have received much attention in condensed matter physics over the past 10 years. Weyl quasiparticles have been observed in the electronic and bosonic regimes, in addition to the extensive amount of theoretical and numerical predictions for the Weyl semimetals. This study demonstrates that 12 single Weyl phonons with linear dispersion and six double Weyl phonons with quadratic dispersion coexist between two specific phonon branches in real material $P4_332$ BaSi₂. The 12 single Weyl phonons and the six double Weyl phonons can form a Weyl complex phonon, which hosts a zero net chirality.

KEYWORDS

DFPT calculation, phonon, Weyl point, DFT, topological feature

Introduction

Condensed-matter systems with inherent topological orders have received a great deal of attention lately. On the one hand, since quasiparticle excitations in realistic materials provide analogs of relativistic fermions or bosons in quantum field theory, these topological systems offer exotic platforms to study elementary particles and their related phenomena in high-energy physics. However, non-trivial topology, which is characterized by topological invariants, gives rise to topological quasiparticles in crystalline solids [1], providing an intriguing way to study symmetry-protected topological orders. Additionally, the crystal symmetry rather than the Poincare symmetry constraints quasiparticles in crystalline solids. There is therefore a possibility of discovering unusual topological quasiparticles [2–10] without high-energy physics counterparts in condensed-matter physics in addition to the traditional Dirac, Weyl, and Majorana particles in the standard model.

Numerous conventional and non-conventional topological quasiparticles have been proposed up to this point. For instance, intense research focuses on topological bosons in crystalline solids and various non-trivial fermions in topological semimetals [11–29]. Weyl-type excitations stand out among these non-trivial quasiparticles as being particularly significant. A quantized chiral charge, also known as the Chern number C , is what defines the topology of a Weyl point (WP). WPs are present in a system by shattering either the time-reversal or inversion symmetry because of the twofold-degenerate feature.

However, the crystal symmetries of crystalline solids are more intricate and may contain unusual Weyl-type quasiparticles. For example, the screw rotational symmetry can protect double WPs or WPs with the higher Chern number C . The 4-fold or 6-fold rotational symmetry can protect quadratic-double or cubic-triple WPs [28, 30–39].

This work identifies a Weyl complex composed of 12 C-1 WPs and 6 C-2 WPs in the phonon dispersion for $P4_332$ BaSi₂. Note that $P4_332$ BaSi₂ is a prepared experimental material [40]. BaSi₂ crystallizes in the cubic $P4_3232$ space group. Ba²⁺ is bonded in an 8-coordinate

geometry to eight equivalent Si^{1-} atoms. Si^{1-} is bonded in a 7-coordinate geometry to four equivalent Ba^{2+} and three equivalent Si^{1-} atoms. The optimized lattice constants for $\text{P4}_3\text{32 BaSi}_2$ are $a = b = c = 6.771 \text{ \AA}$, which are in good agreement with the experimental data, i.e., $a = b = c = 6.715 \text{ \AA}$ [40]. The crystal structure of the relaxed BaSi_2 is shown in Figure 1A.

Methods

Using the Vienna *ab initio* Simulation Package [41] and the DFT framework, computations for the realistic material BaSi_2 were carried out. The calculation's energy and force convergence conditions were set to 10^{-6} eV and -0.01 eV/\AA , respectively. A $5 \times 5 \times 5$ Monkhorst-Pack grid was used to sample the whole BZ after the plane-wave expansion was truncated at 500 eV. We used the density functional perturbation theory to obtain the force constants for phonon spectrum calculations, and then we used the PHONOPY package [42] to calculate the phonon dispersion spectrum. We obtained the phonon Hamiltonian of the tight-binding model and the surface local DOSs with the open-source software WANNIER TOOLS [50] and surface Green's functions.

Results and discussion

We determine the phonon spectra using first-principles calculations and verify that the two obvious phonon crossing

points are present in the optical phonon branches of $\text{P4}_3\text{32 BaSi}_2$. The absence of an imaginary frequency in the phonon spectrum, as seen in Figure 1C, demonstrates the $\text{P4}_3\text{32 BaSi}_2$'s dynamical stability. We mainly focus on the frequencies around 8 THz and find two obvious phonon crossing points, P1 and P2, on Γ -X and Γ -M, respectively (see Figure 1B).

Figures 2A, B display the three-dimensional plot of the twofold degenerate phonon bands around the P1 and P2 points, respectively. From Figure 2A, one finds that the WP at P1 is a Charge-two WP. The charge-2 Weyl point (C-2 WP) is a topologically charged 0D two-fold band degeneracy with a charge of 2. It has a quadratic energy splitting in the plane perpendicular to the Γ -X direction and a linear dispersion in one direction (Γ -X). On a high-symmetry line or at a high-symmetry point in the BZ, the C-2 WP can happen. Figure 2B shows that the WP at P2 is a Charge-one WP. The charge-1 Weyl point (C-1 WP) is a degeneracy of the 0D two-fold band. It can occur at a generic k point in BZ and features a linear energy splitting in any direction in momentum space.

Note that C-2 WP and C-1 WP are also named as double WP and single WP, respectively. In the scientific literature, double-Weyl points with greater topological ordering and emerging in particular crystals with particular symmetries have been discovered. Because double-Weyl points result from the coalescence of two single-Weyl points, their topological charge values are equal to 2 and -2.

In order to determine the chirality of Weyl phonons, we employ the Wilson-loop method within the evolution of the average position of Wannier centers. Figures 2C, D show the evolution of the average position of the Wannier centers for the P1 WP with positive chirality

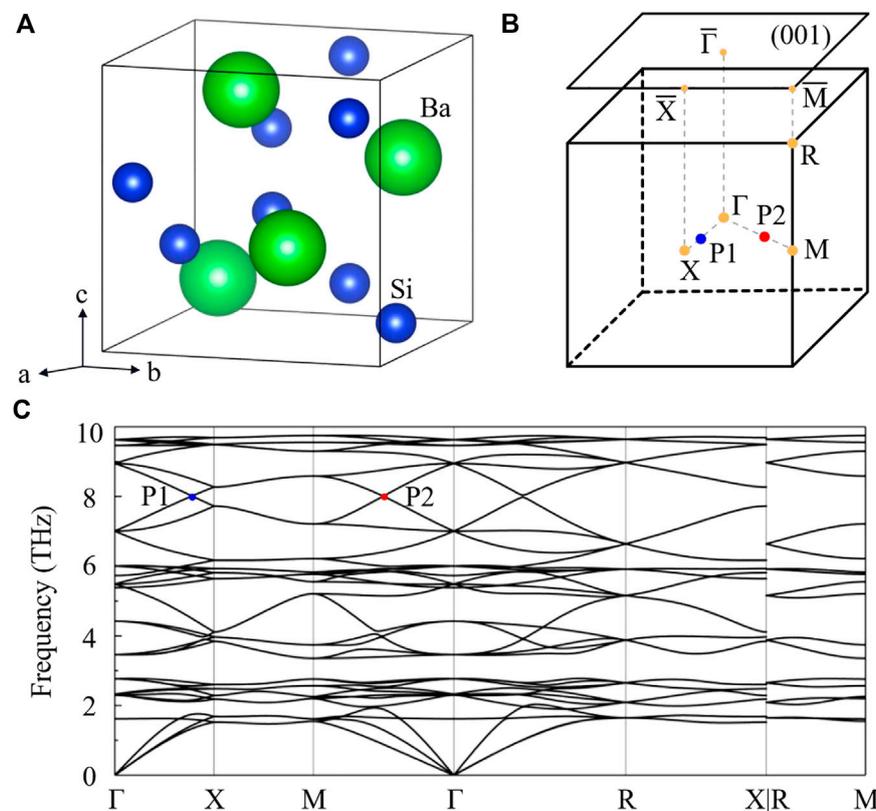


FIGURE 1

(A) The crystal structure for BaSi_2 . (B) 3D bulk and 2D surface BZs. (C) Phonon dispersion for BaSi_2 . P1 and P2 are two obvious crossing points.

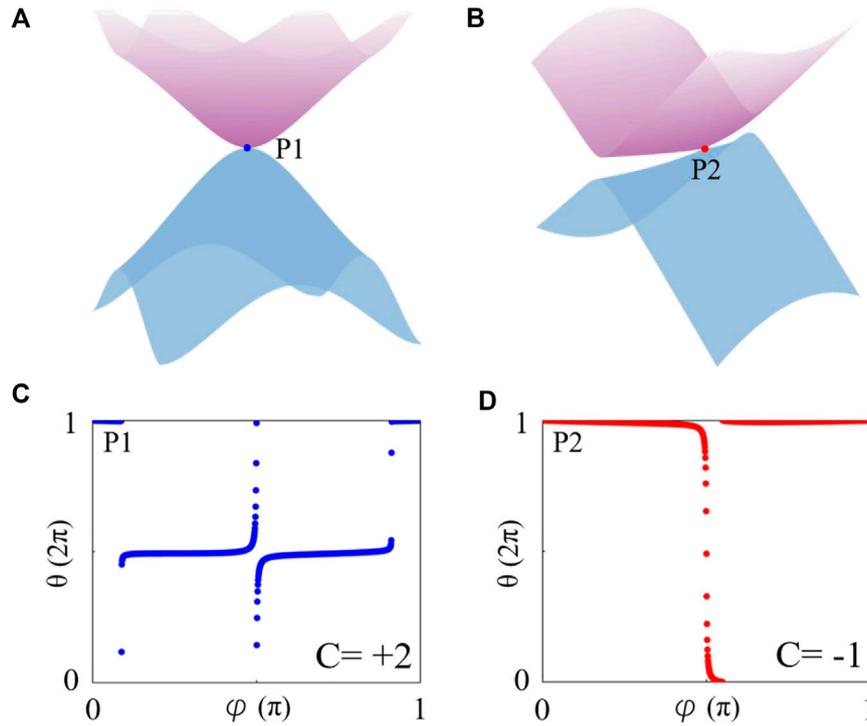
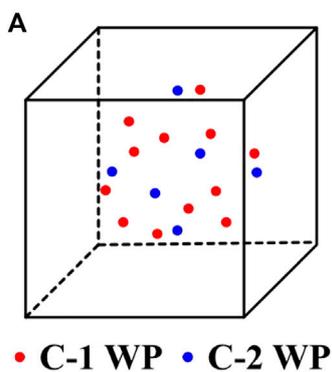


FIGURE 2 (A) and (B) 3D plots of the phonon bands around P1 and P2 points. (C) and (D) Evolutions of the average position of the Wannier center for the WP with $C = +2$ at P1 and the WP with $C = -1$ at P2.



B

| No. | Momentum position | Chern number | No. | Momentum position | Chern number |
|-----|----------------------|--------------|-----|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | (0.3861, 0, 0) | +2 | 4 | (-0.2503, -0.2503, 0) | -1 |
| 2 | (-0.3861, 0, 0) | +2 | 5 | (0.2503, 0, 0.2503) | -1 |
| 3 | (0, 0.3861, 0) | +2 | 6 | (-0.2503, 0, -0.2503) | -1 |
| 4 | (0, -0.3861, 0) | +2 | 7 | (-0.2503, 0, 0.2503) | -1 |
| 5 | (0, 0, 0.3861) | +2 | 8 | (0.2503, 0, -0.2503) | -1 |
| 6 | (0, 0, -0.3861) | +2 | 9 | (0, 0.2503, 0.2503) | -1 |
| 1 | (0.2503, 0.2503, 0) | -1 | 10 | (0, -0.2503, 0.2503) | -1 |
| 2 | (-0.2503, 0.2503, 0) | -1 | 11 | (0, 0.2503, -0.2503) | -1 |
| 3 | (0.2503, -0.2503, 0) | -1 | 12 | (0, -0.2503, -0.2503) | -1 |

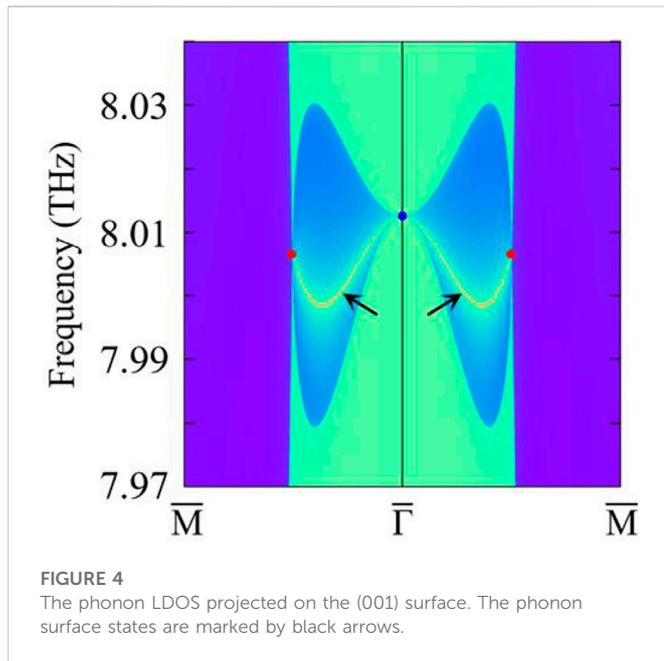
FIGURE 3 (A) and (B) positions for the 12 C-1 WPs and 6 C-2 WPs in the 3D BZ.

and the evolution of the average position of the Wannier centers for the P2 WP with negative chirality, respectively. These findings suggest that the WP at P1 (or P2) forms a double phonon WP with chiral charge 2 (or a single WP with chiral charge -1).

As shown in Figure 3A, one finds a total of 12 single WPs with $C = -1$ and 6 double WPs with $C = +2$ in the 3D BZ. The positions for all these multiple C-1 and C-2 WPs are shown in Figure 3B. These 12 C-1 WPs and 6 C-2 WPs will form a Weyl complex, which has a zero net chiral charge and obeys the Nielsen-Ninomiya no-go theorem [51, 52]. Note that the Weyl complex has also been predicted by series research groups [53–56].

Therefore, our findings present ideal candidates for C-1 and C-2 WP phonons to form phononic Weyl complexes. Moreover, our findings are applicable to fermionic systems.

Unique non-trivial surface states are associated with the exotic C-2 and C-1 WP phonons. We build a phonon tight-binding Hamiltonian in the Wannier representation using second-order interatomic force constants to demonstrate this. The iterative Green’s function method is used to calculate phonon surface states in this model. Figure 4 depicts the local phonon density of states (LDOS) projected on a semi-infinite (001) surface of $P4_332$ BaSi₂. As anticipated, there are two visible phonon surface states, each of which begins at the projection of the double WP and



ends at the projections of two single WPs. The lack of trivial bulk states on the (001) surface of $P_{4,32}$ BaSi₂ substantially simplifies experimental detection and subsequent applications [43–49].

Summary

We demonstrated that in real material $P_{4,32}$ BaSi₂, there are 12 single WPs with $C = -1$ and 6 double WPs with $C = +2$ in the 3D BZ. These Weyl phonons create a Weyl complex with zero net charge number, and their non-trivial surface states connect the projections of phonon WPs are visible.

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Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusion of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Author contributions

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Conflict of interest

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