

Electronic Supplementary Information for:

Atomic-scale origin of piezoelectricity in wurtzite ZnO

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(A) Atomic Positions

Table SI. Comparison of the calculated ground-state atomic positions of the polar $P6_3mc$ structure with the nonpolar $P6_3/mmc$ structure of hexagonal ZnO. The unit-cell parameters obtained from the experiment are $a = 3.2418 \text{ \AA}$ and $c = 5.1877 \text{ \AA}$.^{S1}

Space Group	Ion Type	Wyckoff Position	x	y	z
$P6_3mc$	Zn	$2b$	0.3333	0.6667	0.0016
	O	$2b$	0.3333	0.6667	0.3804
$P6_3/mmc$	Zn	$2b$	0.3333	0.6667	0.8804
	O	$2b$	0.3333	0.6667	0.3804

(B) Hybrid functional calculations

(1) Total density of states (DOS)

We have carefully examined the total DOS using the hybrid functionals of HSE.^{S2} In order to reproduce the experimental band gap of wurtzite ZnO, the fraction of Hartree-Fock (α) is set to 0.35. At this value, the wurtzite ZnO has a direct band gap of 3.38 eV which is in good agreement with the experimental value.^{S3} As shown in **Fig. S1**, the hybrid functionals significantly improve the band-gap prediction: 1.96 eV for the GGA+U method and 3.38 eV for the hybrid functionals.

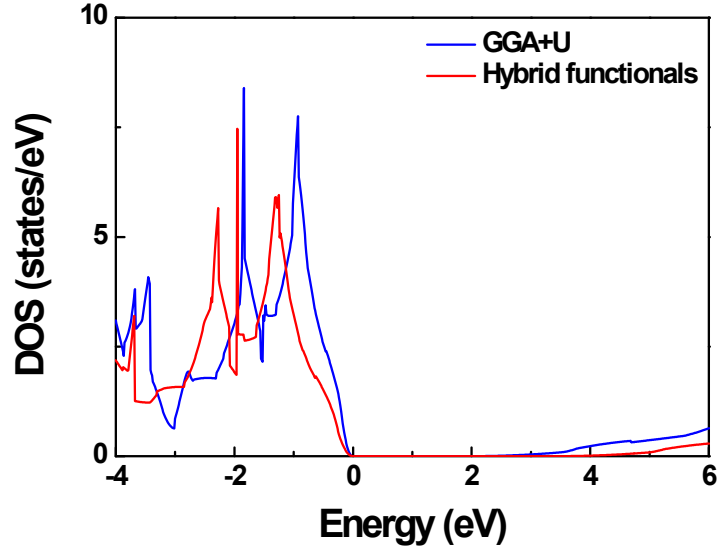


Fig. S1 A comparison of the total DOS by the GGA+U method with the PDOS obtained by the hybrid functionals.

(2) Orbital-resolved partial density of states (PDOS)

We have further examined the PDOS for various atomic orbitals using the hybrid functionals. In **Fig. S2**, we compare the orbital-resolved PDOS for $O_A 2p_z$, $Zn 4p_z$, and $Zn 3d_{z^2}$ of the $P6_3/mmc$ structure with those of the polar $P6_3mc$ structure. According to the PDOS results shown in **Fig. S2**, the hybrid functionals also indicate a strong overlapping of the $Zn 4p_z$ orbital PDOS with the $Zn 3d_{z^2}$ orbital PDOS (for the energy range between -2 and 0 eV below the valence-band top) in the polar $P6_3mc$ phase.

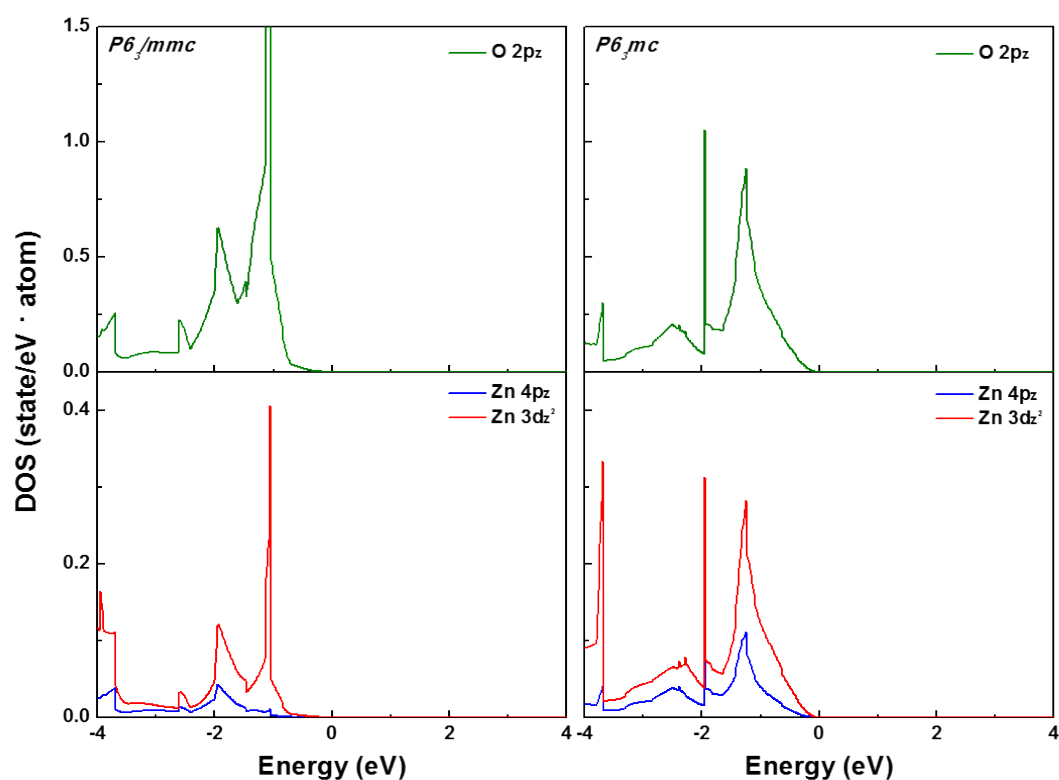


Fig. S2 Orbital-resolved PDOS for Zn $4p_z$, $3d_z^2$, and $O_A 2p_z$ orbitals of the nonpolar $P6_3/mmc$ structure with those of the polar $P6_3mc$ structure.

* References

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- S3 Ü. Özgür, Ya. I. Alivov, C. Liu, A. Teke, M. A. Reshchikov, S. Doğan, V. Avrutin, S.-J. Cho and H. A. Morkoç, *J. Appl. Phys.*, 2005, **98**, 041301-1-041301-103.