

STM investigation of 2D alloys and compounds on Si(111) and Ge(111) surfaces

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The Rashba spin splitting in the two-dimensional electron gas systems on semiconductors is considered to be the key concept for many promising spintronics applications. Unfortunately, the most of the metal/silicon systems with spin-split surface state bands are semiconducting. The only known exceptions are the Tl/Si(111)1×1 modified by adsorption of additional Tl [1] and Au/Si(111)√3×√3 modified by adsorption of In, Tl, Cs or Na [2]. In the present study, we propose a novel universal strategy for tailoring the spin-split metallic surface states [3]. The main concept resides in taking the surfaces with spin-split non-metallic surface-state bands and by alloying them with suitable metals to obtain dense reconstructions with spin-split metallic bands. Validity of the approach is demonstrated with Bi/Si(111)√3×√3 alloyed with Na and Tl/Si(111)1×1 alloyed with Pb. The later Si(111)√3×√3-(Tl, Pb) reconstruction consists of one monolayer of Tl with one-third monolayer of Pb displays 2D superconductivity [4]. Other Tl-based 2D compounds on Si(111) surface will be considered including one-atomic-layer-thick Tl_xBi_{1-x} which represents a quasi-periodic tiling structures that are built by a set of tiling elements as building blocks [5] and double layer sandwichlike structure of one monolayer of Tl and one monolayer of Sn [6] will be discussed.

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