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XAS, XES and DFT simulations to bridge local and macroscopic properties in GaAsN

L. Amidani\textsuperscript{1}, G. Ciatto\textsuperscript{2}, F. Boscherini\textsuperscript{1,5}, F. Filippone\textsuperscript{3}, G. Mattioli\textsuperscript{3}, P. Alippi\textsuperscript{3}, F. Bondino\textsuperscript{5}, A. Polimeni\textsuperscript{4}, M. Capizzi\textsuperscript{4}, A. Amore Bonapasta\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}University of Bologna, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Bologna, Italy, \textsuperscript{2}Synchrotron SOLEIL, Saint-Aubin, France, \textsuperscript{3}Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di Struttura della Materia (ISM), Monterotondo Stazione, Italy, \textsuperscript{4}Sapienza Universitá di Roma, Department of Physics, Roma, Italy, \textsuperscript{5}Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto Officina dei Materiali (IOM), Trieste, Italy

Although it is well known that dilute species often significantly modify the properties of solids in which they are hosted, a basic question remains open: how critical are their local properties in determining the macroscopic ones of the host material? Here, we address this issue by taking N in dilute III-V-N alloys as a paradigmatic case and propose an original approach based on synergic use of x-ray spectroscopies (XANES and valence – to – core XES at the N K-edge), density functional theory simulations and hydrogen exposure as a tool to modify N local bonding. Our results disclose the key role of the local N – Ga interactions in determining both N-related band states and the macroscopic effects of dilute N on the GaAs energy gap. The success of our approach indicates a new way to connect local and macroscopic properties.

Keywords: XANES, XES, DFT