PAPER • OPEN ACCESS

Quantum photonics in triangular-cross-section nanodevices in silicon carbide

To cite this article: Sridhar Majety et al 2021 J. Phys. Photonics 3 034008

View the article online for updates and enhancements.

You may also like

- <u>Numerical study of silicon vacancy color</u> centers in silicon carbide by helium ion implantation and subsequent annealing Yexin Fan, Ying Song, Zongwei Xu et al.
- <u>Strain induced coupling and quantum</u> information processing with hexagonal boron nitride quantum emitters F T Tabesh, Q Hassanzada, M Hadian et al.
- Effect of radiation-induced color centers absorption in optical fibers on fiber optic gyroscope for space application Jing Jin, , Ya Li et al.

Journal of Physics: Photonics

PAPER

2

OPEN ACCESS

CrossMark

RECEIVED 1 December 2020

REVISED 26 March 2021

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION 19 April 2021

PUBLISHED

1 June 2021

Original Content from this work may be used under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence.

Any further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the title of the work, journal citation and DOI.



Quantum photonics in triangular-cross-section nanodevices in silicon carbide

Sridhar Majety^{1,*} 🕩, Victoria A Norman², Liang Li¹, Miranda Bell³, Pranta Saha¹ and Marina Radulaski¹

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, United States of America

Department of Physics, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, United States of America

³ Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, United States of America

Author to whom any correspondence should be addressed.

E-mail: smajety@ucdavis.edu

Keywords: SiC color centers, nanophotonics, quantum photonics, cavity QED, quantum simulators, FDTD

Abstract

Silicon carbide is evolving as a prominent solid-state platform for the realization of quantum information processing hardware. Angle-etched nanodevices are emerging as a solution to photonic integration in bulk substrates where color centers are best defined. We model triangular cross-section waveguides and photonic crystal cavities using Finite-Difference Time-Domain and Finite-Difference Eigensolver approaches. We analyze optimal color center positioning within the modes of these devices and provide estimates on achievable Purcell enhancement in nanocavities with applications in quantum communications. Using open quantum system modeling, we explore emitter-cavity interactions of multiple non-identical color centers coupled to both a single cavity and a photonic crystal molecule in SiC. We observe polariton and subradiant state formation in the cavity-protected regime of cavity quantum electrodynamics applicable in quantum simulation.

1. Introduction

Color center photonics has been on the rise in explorations of quantum information processing. Initially, the negatively charged nitrogen vacancy in diamond was explored as a solid-state qubit that can be individually initialized, manipulated and measured with high fidelity even at room temperature [1, 2]. Owing to the lack of availability of wafer-scale substrates and color center emission at telecommunications wavelengths, new material hosts have been explored as potential defect hosts. Among them, silicon carbide (SiC) gained attention as a substrate whose color centers have long spin coherence times [3–5], excellent brightness [6] and manipulations of nuclear spin [7, 8], and are suitable for applications in quantum computing [8–10], quantum photonics [11, 12], quantum communications [6, 13–15], quantum sensing [16–20], quantum metrology [21, 22] and quantum simulation [23–27]. In addition, SiC has benefits like large bandgap, high thermal conductivity, strong second-order non-linearity, infra-red emitting color centers, and has a decades-long industrial presence.

It has been well studied in atomic [28] and quantum dot [29, 30] systems that optical resonators enhance emitter properties, from Purcell emission enhancement and coupling to a desired mode to polariton physics and cavity quantum electrodynamics (cQED). These effects have been used in high-speed quantum light generation, all-optical switching, creation of hybridized light-matter states, and more. The advantages of integrated photonics with color centers lie in scalability granted by the combination of the solid-state platform and the nearly identical optical properties of ensembles [31], inaccessible to the previously studied systems.

A key requirement for nanophotonic integration is the ability to grow or place high quality, high refractive index thin films on a contrasting substrate which can facilitate high optical confinement in nanostructures. For example, the ability to bond silicon on insulator in a scalable way launched silicon as a strong material platform for photonics applications [32]. Although commercial scale high quality crystalline SiC wafers grown using homoepitaxy (MBE, CVD) or sublimation have transferred into color center

research, for example by *in situ* doping of vanadium centers in 4H-SiC [33], this approach does not provide an undercutting layer needed to generate freestanding photonic devices. On the other hand, growth of 3C-SiC on silicon has been established in MEMS research [34], but has not lent itself well for color center formation in nanoscale films due to the lattice mismatch damage [35]. These substrate limitations have been circumvented via photo-electrochemical etching [36] and SiC thinning and bonding to an insulator [37]. While these approaches successfully integrated and manipulated color centers in a nanocavity, the fabrication processes have been limited in terms of either type or size of the substrate, requiring a specific doping profile or a limited chip area.

Another bulk substrate nanofabrication approach, initially championed in diamond [38], has been emerging in SiC: the angle-etching method [39]. In contrast to the more traditional (rectangular) profile, the photonic devices created via angle-etch have a triangular cross-section. Such SiC processing methods are currently based on the Faraday-cage assisted etching; still, wafer scale processes could be implemented using ion beam etching [40]. Triangular device geometry resolves the problem of the unavailability of heteroepitaxial thin film color center substrates because it can be implemented in bulk substrates of any polytype or doping level. However, due to the novelty of the approach, not much is known about the optical properties and parameters related to the color center integration into angle-etched SiC devices.

This paper studies triangularly shaped nanophotonic devices in SiC suitable for the development of quantum communication and quantum simulation hardware. Nitrogen vacancy and vanadium impurity in 4H-SiC are of particular interest in this work, since their emission wavelengths are in the telecommunications range which makes them useful candidates for long-distance quantum information distribution. Using Lumerical MODE and FDTD software packages, we examine the TE and TM polarized modes in the near infrared part of the spectrum supported in triangular waveguides with variable etch-angles, characterizing their effective index of refraction and the depth of the mode maximum. We design high *Q/V* ratio photonic crystal cavities and analyze their resonance parameters and potential Purcell enhancement for variable triangular profiles. We extend this design into a photonic crystal molecule with coupled cavity array integration in sight. Finally, using open quantum system modeling, we explore emitter-cavity interactions of multiple non-identical color centers coupled to both a single cavity and a photonic crystal molecule, observing polariton and subradiant states formation.

2. SiC color center emission properties

While all SiC polytypes can host color centers in highly crystalline form, their processing into a photonic platform can induce irreversible lattice damage that prevents formation of well-defined quantum emitters. Advanced 4H-SiC carbide processing techniques have made this polytype a promising candidate for color-center integrated nanophotonics. 4H-SiC has a hexagonal close-packed lattice with two inequivalent lattice sites: the hexagonal site, h, and the quasi-cubic site, k; this inequivalency allows for four defect orientations (hh, hk, kh, and kk) in a two-site defect, with each defect orientation contributing its own zero-phonon line (ZPL) to the spectrum. The most prominently studied centers in 4H-SiC polytype are shown in table 1. As solid-state emitters, color centers interact with the host lattice which modifies their optical properties. The proportion of radiative emission occurring through the zero-phonon transition compared to the transitions to all vibronic levels is given by the Debye–Waller (DW) factor ξ . Integration into high quality factor (Q) and small mode volume (V) cavities can rebalance this ratio via the Purcell effect. The radiative emission enhancement is given by the Purcell factor:

$$F_P = \left[\frac{3}{4\pi^2} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^3 \left(\frac{Q}{V}\right)\right] \left[\left|\frac{E}{E_{\max}}\right| \cos(\phi)\right] \xi.$$

The terms $|E/E_{\text{max}}|\cos(\phi)$ and ξ refer to the cavity-color center spatial overlap and spectral matching respectively. A photonic crystal cavity (PCC) enabling large Purcell enhancement ensures a high emission rate of indistinguishable photons needed for the implementation of quantum entanglement schemes [41].

3. Triangular cross-section SiC waveguide

A waveguide uses total internal reflection to confine propagating light in the high refractive index material. The triangular cross-section waveguide modeled in this study using Finite-Difference Eigensolver (Lumerical MODE) was parametrized by the wavelength to the top-width ratio λ/d and the half-angle α . The fundamental TE and TM modes were studied for $0.5 \le \lambda/d \le 2$ and $30^\circ \le \alpha \le 40^\circ$ with obtained mode profiles shown in figure 1.

Table 1. Emission parameters for various color centers in 4H-SiC. V_{Si}^- , $V_{C}V_{Si}^0$, $V_{Si}N_C$, Cr^{4+} , and V^{4+} stand for silicon vacancy, divacancy, nitrogen vacancy, chromium impurity, and vanadium impurity respectively. V1 and V1' are ZPLs of hexagonal site (*h*) silicon vacancy, V2 is the ZPL of cubic site (*k*) silicon vacancy. A DW factor for $V_{Si}N_C$ has not been reported in literature and the upper and lower values of the ZPL range come from the hk and kh orientations respectively. $V^{4+}(\alpha)$ ($V^{4+}(\beta)$) likely corresponds to the *h* (*k*) site [42]. The temperature associated with each DW factor measurement is 300 K, except for Cr^{4+} which was measured at 30 K. The Purcell enhancement measurements were performed in fabricated devices except for the $V^{4+}(\beta)$ which is the result of this work.

Defect	ZPL wavelength (nm)	DW factor	Emission lifetime	Calculated $g_{max}/2\pi$ (GHz)	Purcell enhancement
$V1' (V_{Si}^{-}) [43]$	858	19%	(5.6 ± 1.2) ns	3.41	120 ± 10 [37]
$V1(V_{Si}^{-})$ [44]	861	8%	$(5.5 \pm 1.4) \text{ ns}$	2.23	25 [36]
$V2(V_{si}^{-})[44, 45]$	918	9%	6 ns	2.27	
Cr^{4+} [46]	1070	75%	$145.8\pm9.7~\mu\mathrm{s}$	0.04	_
$V_{\rm C}V_{\rm Si}^0(kk)$ [20, 47]	1130	$(5.3 \pm 1.1)\%$	(14 ± 3) ns	1.14	53 [48]
$V_{Si}N_C$ [49]	1176-1243		2.2 ns		
$V^{4+}(\alpha)$ [42]	1279	25%	167 ns	0.72	
$V^{4+}(\beta)$ [42]	1335	50%	41 ns	2.04	10^{5}











To find the optimal positioning of the color center in the waveguide, we analyzed the depth *h* at which the electric field intensity maximum ($|E|_{max}^2$) of a mode is positioned relative to the waveguide's top plane. As λ/d increases, $|E|_{max}^2$ for the fundamental TE (TM) polarized mode shifts toward (away from) the top waveguide surface i.e. the depth *h* decreases (increases). This behavior is consistent for all studied half-angle values α , as shown in figure 2(a). For higher values of λ/d , the mode becomes less confined and the evanescent losses into the surrounding medium dominate, as can be observed in mode profiles in figure 1. These observations are consistent with the trend in the effective refractive index (n_{eff}) values shown in figure 2(b). The effective refractive index for a mode is given by the ratio of propagation constant of that mode (β) to the wavenumber in vacuum (k_0). When $n_{eff} \sim 1.5$, significantly below the SiC refractive index n = 2.6, $|E|_{max}^2$ for the TM mode lies outside the waveguide and results in a lossy propagation. These results give an understanding into the range of half-angle and λ/d values suitable for fabricating triangular cross-section waveguides that are able to couple the fundamental TE/TM modes with other photonic elements.

4. Triangular cross-section SiC photonic crystal cavity

Photonic crystal cavities are nanostructures with periodic variation of refractive index which localize photons to sub-wavelength mode volumes. The triangular nanobeam photonic crystal cavities explored in this study have elliptical air holes whose major axis radius is tapered along the device, which have proved successful in diamond color center research in achieving ultra-high Q-factors and ultra-small mode volumes [50, 51] and more importantly, offer better mode confinement and scalability than the well-explored methods. As shown in figure 3, the cavity has a width d = 1.94a and consists of 30 through holes on either side of the center of the cavity with uniform spacing between the holes, lattice constant a = 387.8 nm. The minor radius of the holes is 0.292a and to minimize scattering and maximize Q-factor, the major radius is quadratically varied from $r_1 = 0.486a$ to $r_{30} = 0.292a$ over 30 holes. The beam has a triangular cross-section with a half-angle $\alpha = 35^{\circ}$.

The optical response of the triangular nanobeams was modeled using the Finite-Difference Time-Domain method in the Lumerical FDTD software package. In the simulations, SiC was defined as a dielectric with a constant refractive index n = 2.6. The electric field profile of the fundamental mode is shown in figure 4(a). The fundamental cavity resonance occurs at $\lambda = 1324$ nm with a quality factor of $Q \sim 1.05 \times 10^7$ and mode volume of $V \sim 2(\lambda/n)^3$. Higher order TE-polarized longitudinal modes, useful for



nonlinear optics processes involving multiple modes such as frequency conversion [37, 52–54], are also supported in the cavity, as shown in figures 4(b)-(d), where the top-view profile is representative of the profiles of the electrical field nodes in all modes. Cavities with half-angle $30^\circ \le \alpha \le 40^\circ$ were simulated while maintaining the lattice constant and radii of the holes. It was observed that the resonant wavelength of the fundamental mode decreased with increasing α , whereas the Q-factor and mode volume remained almost the same, as shown in figure 5. The impact of a changing lattice constant was studied across a range of 100 nm, which tuned the resonant wavelength from 1200 to 1500 nm, as shown in figure 5. The Q-factor and mode volume of the fundamental resonance for varying values of *a* remained nearly constant (less than a factor of 2 for Q and within 10% for V). Thus, for different technological implementations of the inclines in angled etching, this tapered-hole design of a photonic cavity can be used to integrate various SiC color centers in the telecommunications wavelength range with strong Purcell enhancement of F_{max} in the range of $2.7 \times 10^5 - 5.3 \times 10^5$ when the spatial and spectral overlap terms are unity. Figure 6 compares the simulated Q and V values in this work to other photonic crystal cavities fabricated in SiC. The cavities without emitters achieved quality factors up to 630 000 [39, 55-61] and those with emitters achieved up to 19 300 with Purcell enhancement up to 120 [35–37, 48, 62], showing that our design bridges the gap between color center platforms and high Purcell enhancement devices.

Triangular photonic crystal geometry lends itself well toward the 1D coupled cavity array fabrication. To study the coupling between the neighboring cavities, a photonic crystal molecule was designed by stacking two photonic crystal cavities side-by-side with a reduced number of holes in the interior (M < 30) as shown in figure 7(a). The major axis radius of the M holes is tapered using the same parabolic variation as the 30 holes with the M largest holes kept and 30-M holes discarded. The coupling between the two cavities causes the resonant mode splitting. We observe in the transmission spectra that as the separation between the two cavities is reduced (M decreases), the coupling strength between the cavities represented in the wavelength separation between the two resonances increases [63]. By integrating emitters into the photonic crystal molecule, the designed structures can be employed for investigation of cQED effects [64].

5. Multi-emitter cavity QED in SiC photonic devices

Strong coupling between light and matter lies at the crux of many applications of optics, including all-optical quantum gates for quantum computing [65, 66] and quantum simulations of strongly correlated condensed matter systems [67]. While cQED physics has been realized in single quantum dot systems [68, 69] and single defects in semiconductors [70], the integration of multiple quantum emitters into cavities has been suggested as a method of accessing the strong coupling regime for emitters with smaller cavity-emitter coupling terms [31]. In a multi-emitter system, the *N* emitters that are coupled individually to the same cavity will effectively behave as a single emitter with emitter-cavity coupling enhanced by a factor of \sqrt{N} . In order to determine whether this strong coupling effect will occur in the triangular cavity devices described above, the quantum









with a single cavity case.

master equation was solved using QuTiP, an open source python package for simulating open quantum systems [71].

The Tavis–Cummings model describes such a multi-emitter system and is given by the Hamiltonian:

$$H_{TC} = \Omega a^{\dagger} a + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[\omega_i \sigma_i^+ \sigma_i^- + g_i \left(a^{\dagger} \sigma_i^- + \sigma_i^+ a \right) \right],$$

where Ω and ω_i are the cavity frequency and the emitter frequencies, respectively, *a* and σ_i^- represent the cavity annihilation operator and the *i*th emitter lowering operators. Parameters g_i refer to the cavity-emitter coupling rates whose maximal value can be calculated by the equation:

$$g_{\rm max} = \sqrt{\frac{3\,\pi c^3\,\xi}{2\,\tau\omega^2 n^3\,V}}$$

and depends on the positioning of the emitter relative to the electric field profile of the cavity by the relationship $g = g_{\text{max}} |E/E_{\text{max}}| \cos \phi$. *E* is the electric field intensity at the color center, and ϕ is the angle between the orientation of color center dipole and the electric field. As detailed above, the mode volume of the simulated triangular PCC is $V \sim 2(\lambda/n)^3$, and the values of the optical lifetime τ and the DW factor ξ are dependent upon the choice of the color center (see table 1). The calculated values of $g/2\pi$ in SiC are given in table 1. The loss in the system is simulated via Lindblad dissipators using loss parameters κ for cavity and γ for each emitter [72].

A suitable range of $g/2\pi$ values was selected for simulations, and the resulting transmission spectra of a single cavity coupled to N = 4 emitters are shown in figure 8. The emission frequencies of the emitters are randomly generated from a Gaussian distribution centered at the cavity resonance with a standard deviation $\delta/2$, where δ represents the inhomogeneous broadening in the color center ensemble. The splitting of the transmission spectrum into two separate polariton peaks separated by $2g\sqrt{N}$ confirms that the system is in the strong cQED coupling regime for both $g/2\pi$ values of 3 and 5 GHz. Figure 8 shows that the expected cavity-emitter polariton peaks splitting persists for values of $\delta \leq g\sqrt{N}$. Furthermore, the linewidth of the split emitter-cavity polariton peaks is ($\kappa + \gamma$)/2, which indicates these systems exist within the cavity-protection



Figure 8. Open quantum system simulations of the Tavis–Cummings model for a single cavity coupled to N = 4 emitters. The cavities are resonant at $\omega/2\pi = 0$. The emitter frequencies are randomly selected from a Gaussian distribution centered at $\omega = 0$ with a full-width half-maximum of δ . In the case $\delta = 0$, all the emitters are resonant at $\omega = 0$. The emitter frequencies in each panel are randomly generated, independently of those in other panels. The cavity and the emitter loss rates are $\kappa/2\pi = 10$ GHz, and $\gamma/2\pi = 0.17$ GHz.

domain wherein the emitter ensemble is protected from inhomogeneous broadening caused by the dephasing [73].

Photonic quantum simulation proposals [74] rely on the use of coupled cavity arrays in the strong coupling regime of cQED. Here, we explore the smallest such system of n = 2 coupled nanocavities, as modeled in figure 9, and in relation to the designed photonic crystal molecule in figure 7. In order to explore the physics of such a system, the Tavis–Cummings model can be expanded upon by adding a cavity coupling term to form the Tavis–Cummings–Hubbard (TCH) model:

$$H_{TCH} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ \Omega_{i} a_{i}^{\dagger} a_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{N_{i}} \left[\omega_{i,j} \sigma_{i,j}^{+} \sigma_{i,j}^{-} + g_{i,j} \left(a_{i}^{\dagger} \sigma_{i,j}^{-} + \sigma_{i,j}^{+} a_{i} \right) \right] \right\} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} J_{i,i+1} \left(a_{i}^{\dagger} a_{i+1} + a_{i+1}^{\dagger} a_{i} \right)$$

where *n* is the number of cavities, $\omega_{c,i}$, N_i and a_i are the resonant frequency of, the number of emitters in, and the annihilation operator of the *i*th cavity. The resonant frequency of the *j*th emitter in the *i*th cavity is $\omega_{i,j}$ and it has the annihilation operator $\sigma_{i,j}^-$. The coupling rate between neighboring cavities is given by $J_{i,i+1}$.

The transmission spectra of n = 2 cavities with $N_i = 2$ emitters coupled to each cavity for $g/2\pi = 5$ GHz were simulated in QuTiP with and without broadening in emitter frequencies and the results are shown in figure 9. We extracted values of the photon hopping rate *J* by fitting a two-peak Lorentzian to the plots in figure 7; the splitting of polariton peaks in strongly coupled systems is directly proportional to the coupling strength. The $J/2\pi = 1$ GHz and $J/2\pi = 200$ GHz photonic crystal molecule cQED plots exhibit the same cavity protection linewidth signature and peak splitting as the single cavity simulations. The structure of the $J/2\pi = 10$ GHz set of simulations merits some closer discussion; the eigenvalues of the lossless TCH model when J < g in a fully resonant case are $\omega = \pm 2g^2/J$ and $\omega = \pm J + 2g^2/2$, as seen in the $\delta/2\pi = 0$ GHz, $J/2\pi = 10$ GHz plot in figure 9. This same set of peaks is maintained for the values of $\delta \leq g\sqrt{N_i}$, which means that light-matter hybridized states continue even with the introduction of modest, but realistic, inhomogeneous broadening into the system. These results demonstrate that the designed triangular cross-section devices are strong candidates for quantum information and simulation platforms. In addition, the inhomogeneously broadened emitter systems exhibit subradiant peaks, which have been studied in single-cavity systems and found to facilitate coherence conducive to high-purity quantum light generation [75].



Figure 9. Open quantum system simulations of the TCH model for n = 2 cavities coupled to $N_i = 2$ emitters each at a rate $g/2\pi = 5$ GHz, with the same values for κ and γ as in figure 8. The emitter frequencies in each panel are randomly generated, independently of those in other panels. The peaks in the all-resonant ($\delta = 0$) cases are found at the approximate eigenvalues of the lossless strong coupling case: $\omega = \pm g\sqrt{2} \pm J$ for the g > J case (orange), and $\omega = \pm 2g^2/J, \pm 2g^2/J \pm J$ for the g < J cases (blue and green). The linewidth of these peaks in the case $\delta < J$ is given by $(\kappa + \gamma_i)/2$ which is indicative of the cavity protection regime wherein the emitter ensemble is protected from the inhomogeneous broadening by the cavity. The intermediate peaks correspond to the subradiant states and are present even in the $J/2\pi = 200$ GHz simulations (green) though, due to scale, they are not easily visible in the plots.

6. Discussion

Our modeling results provide insights into color center integration with triangular SiC photonic devices, as well as quantum optical phenomena in cavity QED systems. This geometry is of great interest because it overcomes the limitations of color center platforms requiring implementation in bulk substrates.

Triangular-cross-section waveguides are found to efficiently guide the light emission from color centers embedded at optimal depths. The waveguides support propagation of both TE and TM polarized modes, thus serving a variety of color center crystalline orientations. Fabrication imperfections in the curvature of the apex affect only the modes present in the lower half of the triangular cross-section. Similar designs fabricated in diamond have successfully combined triangular waveguide geometry with suitable grating couplers for efficient collection of light into a high numerical aperture objective, as well as tapered down for coupling to an optical fiber [76]. They can also be designed for integration with the emerging superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors [77].

The modeled triangular nanobeam photonic crystal cavities have high *Q/V* ratio with promising applications in high-speed and indistinguishable photon generation. For the same triangular geometry, altering of the lattice constant is found to tune the resonant wavelength without reduction in the quality factor, meaning that many different high-performing devices can be simultaneously fabricated on the same chip. Interestingly, in literature on diamond and SiC nanobeam devices, the fabricated quality factors fell 2–3 orders of magnitude short of their theoretical predictions [39, 51]. The reduced performance can be attributed to fabrication errors such as mask alignment imperfections [39]. This indicates that additional efforts in nanofabrication process development need to be invested to realize the full application potential of these designs. Purcell enhancement of the ZPL emission would play a crucial role in realizing quantum systems that require two-photon interference and quantum entanglement, such as quantum repeaters [78] and cluster-entangled states [79, 80]. The photonic crystal cavities modeled in this work potentially provides a tie-in between high *Q/V* designs and platforms that host color centers, a necessary step for color center-based quantum information technologies in SiC.

The open quantum system modeling of a single nanocavity and a photonic crystal molecule integrating non-identical color centers confirmed that cavity-protection effects can support polariton physics even in the presence of realistic inhomogeneous broadening in SiC structures. Extensions to larger 1D coupled-cavity-arrays can provide a simulation testbed for proposals of strongly-correlated systems, such as

the 1D Mott insulator to superfluid transition [81], and could be extended to waveguide QED simulations of the many-body localization phase [82].

Our simulations of triangular cross-section waveguides and cavities in 4H-SiC demonstrate that this geometry can achieve similar figures of merit (e.g. $Q \sim 10^6$) as other state-of-the-art geometries in both 4H-and 3C-SiC polytype. Since, the thickness and width of these devices are related through the etch angle, global scaling is possible without affecting the figures of merit as much. The benefit to our approach is that 4H-SiC can host color centers without damaging the lattice unlike 3C-SiC and the geometry is highly scalable using angle RIE etching unlike some of the more complex 2D photonic crystal cavities. In fact, triangular cross-section nanophotonics have already been successfully fabricated in diamond; the work already performed in diamond has illuminated some shortfalls in nanofabrication that need to be overcome before we can fully realize our simulated results. The prior experiments and our work in this paper pave the way toward high quality, color center integrated, highly scalable nanophotonic devices in 4H-SiC.

Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available upon reasonable request from the authors.

Acknowledgment

This work is supported by the National Science Foundation (CAREER-2047564) and the UC Davis Summer GSR Award for Engineering or Computer-related Applications and Methods. The authors thank Richard Scalettar and Jesse Patton for fruitful discussions on Tavis–Cummings–Hubbard physics.

ORCID iD

Sridhar Majety in https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7517-4353

References

- [1] Neumann P et al 2008 Multipartite entanglement among single spins in diamond Science 320 1326-9
- [2] Norman V A, Majety S, Wang Z, Casey W H, Curro N and Radulaski M 2020 Novel color center platforms enabling fundamental scientific discovery *InfoMat* 1–24
- [3] Widmann M et al 2015 Coherent control of single spins in silicon carbide at room temperature Nat. Mater. 14 164–8
- [4] Christle D J, Falk A L, Andrich P, Klimov P V, Hassan J U, Son N T, Janzén E, Ohshima T and Awschalom D D 2015 Isolated electron spins in silicon carbide with millisecond coherence times Nat. Mater. 14 160–3
- [5] Seo H, Falk A L, Klimov P V, Miao K C, Galli G and Awschalom D D 2016 Quantum decoherence dynamics of divacancy spins in silicon carbide Nat. Commun. 7 1–9
- [6] Castelletto S, Johnson B C, Ivády V, Stavrias N, Umeda T, Gali A and Ohshima T 2014 A silicon carbide room-temperature single-photon source Nat. Mater. 13 151–6
- [7] Falk A L, Klimov P V, Ivády V, Szász Kan, Christle D J, Koehl W F, Gali A and Awschalom D D 2015 Optical polarization of nuclear spins in silicon carbide Phys. Rev. Lett. 114 247603
- [8] Klimov P V, Falk A L, Christle D J, Dobrovitski V V and Awschalom D D 2015 Quantum entanglement at ambient conditions in a macroscopic solid-state spin ensemble Sci. Adv. 1 e1501015
- [9] Kok P, Munro W J, Nemoto K, Ralph T C, Dowling J P and Milburn G J 2007 Linear optical quantum computing with photonic qubits *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 79 135
- [10] Weber J R, Koehl W F, Varley J B, Janotti A, Buckley B B, Van de Walle C G and Awschalom D D 2010 Quantum computing with defects Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. 107 8513–8
- [11] Atatüre M, Englund D, Vamivakas N, Lee S-Y and Wrachtrup J 2018 Material platforms for spin-based photonic quantum technologies Nat. Rev. Mater. 3 38–51
- [12] Koehl W F, Buckley B B, Joseph Heremans F, Calusine G and Awschalom D D 2011 Room temperature coherent control of defect spin qubits in silicon carbide Nature 479 84–7
- [13] Hensen B et al 2015 Loophole-free Bell inequality violation using electron spins separated by 1.3 kilometres Nature 526 682-6
- [14] Wang J, Zhou Y, Wang Z, Rasmita A, Yang J, Li X, von Bardeleben H J and Gao W 2018 Bright room temperature single photon source at telecom range in cubic silicon carbide Nat. Commun. 9 1–6
- [15] Falk A L, Buckley B B, Calusine G, Koehl W F, Dobrovitski V V, Politi A, Zorman C A, Feng P X-L and Awschalom D D 2013 Polytype control of spin qubits in silicon carbide *Nat. Commun.* 4 1–7
- [16] Mamin H J, Kim M, Sherwood M H, Rettner C T, Ohno K, Awschalom D D and Rugar D 2013 Nanoscale nuclear magnetic resonance with a nitrogen-vacancy spin sensor Science 339 557–60
- [17] Kucsko G, Maurer P C, Yao N Y, Kubo M, Noh H J, Lo P K, Park H and Lukin M D 2013 Nanometre-scale thermometry in a living cell Nature 500 54–8
- [18] Degen C L, Reinhard F and Cappellaro P 2017 Quantum sensing Rev. Mod. Phys. 89 035002
- [19] Simin D et al 2016 All-optical dc nanotesla magnetometry using silicon vacancy fine structure in isotopically purified silicon carbide Phys. Rev. X 6 031014
- [20] Falk A L, Klimov P V, Buckley B B, Ivády V, Abrikosov I A, Calusine G, Koehl W F, Gali Adám and Awschalom D D 2014 Electrically and mechanically tunable electron spins in silicon carbide color centers *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 112 187601
- [21] Giovannetti V, Lloyd S and Maccone L 2011 Advances in quantum metrology Nat. Photon. 5 222

- [22] Wolfowicz G, Whiteley S J and Awschalom D D 2018 Electrometry by optical charge conversion of deep defects in 4H-SiC Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. 115 7879–83
- [23] Cai J, Retzker A, Jelezko F and Plenio M B 2013 A large-scale quantum simulator on a diamond surface at room temperature Nat. Phys. 9 168–73
- [24] Wang Y et al 2015 Quantum simulation of helium hydride cation in a solid-state spin register ACS Nano 9 7769–74
- [25] Aspuru-Guzik A and Walther P 2012 Photonic quantum simulators Nat. Phys. 8 285–91
- [26] Georgescu I M, Ashhab S and Nori F 2014 Quantum simulation Rev. Mod. Phys. 86 153
- [27] Harris N C et al 2017 Quantum transport simulations in a programmable nanophotonic processor Nat. Photon. 11 447–52
- [28] Kimble H J 1998 Strong interactions of single atoms and photons in cavity QED Phys. Scr. 1998 127
- [29] Pelal Reithmaier J et al 2004 Strong coupling in a single quantum dot-semiconductor microcavity system Nature 432 197-200
- [30] Buckley S, Rivoire K and Vučković J 2012 Engineered quantum dot single-photon sources *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **75** 126503
- [31] Radulaski M, Fischer K A and Vučković J 2017 Nonclassical light generation from III–V and group-IV solid-state cavity quantum systems Advances in Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics vol 66 (Amsterdam: Elsevier) pp 111–79
- [32] Ye W N and Xiong Y 2013 Review of silicon photonics: history and recent advances J. Mod. Opt. 60 1299–320
- [33] Karhu R, Sveinbjörnsson E O, Magnusson B, Ivanov I G, Danielsson O and Ul Hassan J 2019 CVD growth and properties of on-axis vanadium doped semi-insulating 4H-SiC epilayers J. Appl. Phys. 125 045702
- [34] Ferro G 2015 3C-SiC heteroepitaxial growth on silicon: the quest for holy grail Crit. Rev. Solid State Mater. Sci. 40 56–76
- [35] Calusine G, Politi A and Awschalom D D 2014 Silicon carbide photonic crystal cavities with integrated color centers Appl. Phys. Lett. 105 011123
- [36] Bracher D O, Zhang X and Hu E L 2017 Selective Purcell enhancement of two closely linked zero-phonon transitions of a silicon carbide color center Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. 114 4060–5
- [37] Lukin D M et al 2020 4H-silicon-carbide-on-insulator for integrated quantum and nonlinear photonics Nat. Photon. 14 330-4
- [38] Burek M J et al 2012 Free-standing mechanical and photonic nanostructures in single-crystal diamond Nano Lett. 12 6084–9
- [39] Song B-S, Jeon S, Kim H, Kang D D, Asano T and Noda S 2018 High-Q-factor nanobeam photonic crystal cavities in bulk silicon carbide Appl. Phys. Lett. 113 231106
- [40] Atikian H A, Latawiec P, Burek M J, Sohn Y-I, Meesala S, Gravel N, Kouki A B and Lončar M 2017 Freestanding nanostructures via reactive ion beam angled etching APL Photonics 2 051301
- [41] Soykal O, Dev P and Economou S E 2016 Silicon vacancy center in 4H-SiC: electronic structure and spin-photon interfaces Phys. Rev. B 93 081207
- [42] Wolfowicz G, Anderson C P, Diler B, Poluektov O G, Joseph Heremans F and Awschalom D D 2020 Vanadium spin qubits as telecom quantum emitters in silicon carbide Sci. Adv. 6 eaaz1192
- [43] Nagy R et al 2018 Quantum properties of dichroic silicon vacancies in silicon carbide Phys. Rev. Appl. 9 034022
- [44] Udvarhelyi P et al 2020 Vibronic states and their effect on the temperature and strain dependence of silicon-vacancy qubits in 4H-SiC Phys. Rev. Appl. 13 054017
- [45] Hain T C, Fuchs F, Soltamov V A, Baranov P G, Astakhov G V, Hertel T and Dyakonov V 2014 Excitation and recombination dynamics of vacancy-related spin centers in silicon carbide J. Appl. Phys. 115 133508
- [46] Koehl W F, Diler B, Whiteley S J, Bourassa A, Son N T, Janzén E and Awschalom D D 2017 Resonant optical spectroscopy and coherent control of Cr⁴⁺ spin ensembles in SiC and GaN *Phys. Rev.* B 95 035207
- [47] Christle D J et al 2017 Isolated spin qubits in SiC with a high-fidelity infrared spin-to-photon interface Phys. Rev. X 7 021046
- [48] Crook A L et al 2020 Purcell enhancement of a single silicon carbide color center with coherent spin control Nano Lett. 20 3427-34
- [49] Mu Z et al 2020 Coherent manipulation with resonant excitation and single emitter creation of nitrogen vacancy centers in 4H silicon carbide Nano Lett. 20 6142–7
- [50] Quan Q and Loncar M 2011 Deterministic design of wavelength scale, ultra-high Q photonic crystal nanobeam cavities Opt. Express 19 18529–42
- [51] Burek M J et al 2014 High quality-factor optical nanocavities in bulk single-crystal diamond Nat. Commun. 5 1–7
- [52] Buckley S, Radulaski M, Zhang J L, Petykiewicz J, Biermann K and Vučković J 2014 Nonlinear frequency conversion using high-quality modes in GaAs nanobeam cavities Opt. Lett. 39 5673–6
- [53] Buckley S, Radulaski M, Petykiewicz J, Lagoudakis K G, Kang J-H, Brongersma M, Biermann K and Vuckovic J 2014 Second-harmonic generation in GaAs photonic crystal cavities in (111)B and (001) crystal orientations ACS Photonics 1 516–23
- [54] Yamada S, Song B-S, Jeon S, Upham J, Tanaka Y, Asano T and Noda S 2014 Second-harmonic generation in a silicon-carbide-based photonic crystal nanocavity *Opt. Lett.* **39** 1768–71
- [55] Song B-S, Yamada S, Asano T and Noda S 2011 Demonstration of two-dimensional photonic crystals based on silicon carbide Opt. Express 19 11084–9
- [56] Radulaski M, Babinec T M, Buckley S, Rundquist A, Provine J, Alassaad K, Ferro G and Vučković J 2013 Photonic crystal cavities in cubic (3C) polytype silicon carbide films Opt. Express 21 32623–9
- [57] Song B-S, Asano T, Jeon S, Kim H, Chen C, Kang D D and Noda S 2019 Ultrahigh-Q photonic crystal nanocavities based on 4H silicon carbide Optica 6 991–5
- [58] Bracher D O and Hu E L 2015 Fabrication of high-Q nanobeam photonic crystals in epitaxially grown 4H-SiC Nano Lett. 15 6202-7
- [59] Yamada S, Song B-S, Upham J, Asano T, Tanaka Y and Noda S 2012 Suppression of multiple photon absorption in a SiC photonic crystal nanocavity operating at 1.55 μm Opt. Express 20 14789–96
- [60] Lee J Y, Lu X and Lin Q 2015 High-Q silicon carbide photonic-crystal cavities Appl. Phys. Lett. 106 041106
- [61] Chatzopoulos I, Martini F, Cernansky R and Politi A 2019 High-Q/V photonic crystal cavities and QED analysis in 3C-SiC ACS Photonics 6 1826–31
- [62] Calusine G, Politi A and Awschalom D D 2016 Cavity-enhanced measurements of defect spins in silicon carbide Phys. Rev. Appl. 6 014019
- [63] Atlasov K A, Karlsson K F, Rudra A, Dwir B and Kapon E 2008 Wavelength and loss splitting in directly coupled photonic-crystal defect microcavities Opt. Express 16 16255–64
- [64] Majumdar A, Rundquist A, Bajcsy M and Vučković J 2012 Cavity quantum electrodynamics with a single quantum dot coupled to a photonic molecule Phys. Rev. B 86 045315
- [65] Zheng S-B and Guo G-C 2000 Efficient scheme for two-atom entanglement and quantum information processing in cavity QED Phys. Rev. Lett. 85 2392–5
- [66] Duan L-M and Kimble H J 2004 Scalable photonic quantum computation through cavity-assisted interactions Phys. Rev. Lett. 92 127902

- [67] Greentree A D, Tahan C, Cole J H and Hollenberg L C L 2006 Quantum phase transitions of light Nat. Phys. 2 856–61
- [68] Najer D et al 2019 A gated quantum dot strongly coupled to an optical microcavity Nature 575 622-7
- [69] Lodahl P, Mahmoodian S and Stobbe S 2015 Interfacing single photons and single quantum dots with photonic nanostructures Rev. Mod. Phys. 87 347–400
- [70] Zhang J L et al 2018 Strongly cavity-enhanced spontaneous emission from silicon-vacancy centers in diamond Nano Lett. 18 1360-5
- [71] Johansson J R, Nation P D and Nori F 2013 QuTiP 2: a python framework for the dynamics of open quantum systems Comput. Phys. Commun. 184 1234–40
- [72] Steck D A 2007 Quantum and Atom Optics (avaiable at: http://steck.us/teaching) (revision 0.13.4, 24 September 2020)
- [73] Zhong T, Kindem J M, Rochman J and Faraon A 2017 Interfacing broadband photonic qubits to on-chip cavity-protected rare-earth ensembles *Nat. Commun.* 8 1–7
- [74] Hartmann M J, Brandão F G S L and Plenio M B 2008 Quantum many-body phenomena in coupled cavity arrays Laser Photonics Rev. 2 527–56
- [75] Radulaski M, Fischer K A, Lagoudakis K G, Zhang J L and Vučković J 2017 Photon blockade in two-emitter-cavity systems Phys. Rev. A 96 011801
- [76] Burek M J et al 2017 Fiber-coupled diamond quantum nanophotonic interface Phys. Rev. Appl. 8 024026
- [77] Martini F, Gaggero A, Mattioli F and Leoni R 2019 Single photon detection with superconducting nanowires on crystalline silicon carbide Opt. Express 27 29669–75
- [78] Azuma K, Tamaki K and Lo H-K 2015 All-photonic quantum repeaters Nat. Commun. 6 6787
- [79] Raussendorf R and Briegel H J 2001 A one-way quantum computer Phys. Rev. Lett. 86 5188
- [80] Economou S E and Dev P 2016 Spin-photon entanglement interfaces in silicon carbide defect centers Nanotechnology 27 504001
- [81] Hartmann M J, Brandão F G S L and Plenio M B 2008 Quantum many-body phenomena in coupled cavity arrays Laser Photonics Rev. 2 527–56
- [82] Fayard N, Henriet Ltc, Asenjo-Garcia A and Chang D 2021 Many-body localization in waveguide QED (arXiv:2101.01645)