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# A new carbon phase with direct bandgap and high carrier mobility as electron transport material for perovskite solar cells

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Rapid development of perovskite solar cells is challenged by the fact that current semiconductors hardly act as efficient electron transport materials that can feature both high electron mobility and a well-matched energy level to that of the perovskite. Here we show that T-carbon, a newly emerging carbon allotrope, could be an ideal candidate to meet this challenge. By using first-principles calculations and deformation potential theory, it is found that T-carbon is a semiconductor with a direct bandgap of 2.273 eV, and the energy level in the conduction band is lower than that of perovskite by 0.5 eV, showing a larger force of electron injection. Moreover, the calculated electron mobility can reach up to  $2.36 \times 10^3$  cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>, superior to conventional electron transport materials such as TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO and SnO<sub>2</sub>, which will facilitate more efficient electron separation and more rapid diffusion away from their locus of generation within the perovskite absorbers. Furthermore, the bandgap of T-carbon is highly sensitive to strain, thus providing a convenient method to tune the carrier transport capability. Overall, T-carbon satisfies the requirements for a potential efficient electron transport material and could therefore be capable of accelerating the development of perovskite solar cells.

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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, organic and inorganic hybrid perovskite solar cells (PSCs), a highly efficient newcomer to the solar cell family, has emerged with great commercial potential to become a leader of next-generation solar energy photovoltaic technology.<sup>1-3</sup> The power conversion efficiency (PCE) of PSCs has reached a certified value of 22.7% from 3.8% in a short span of nine years.<sup>4,5</sup> PSCs mostly adopt the configuration of transparent electrode/electron transport material (ETM)/perovskite/hole transport material (HTM)/ metal electrode. To increase the PCE, it is essential to precisely manipulate the carriers along the entire pathway from the perovskite absorber to both electrodes. The ETM is one of the most important components affecting the photovoltaic performance of PSCs by controlling the carrier concentration. A favorable alignment between the ETM and perovskite allows for the efficient extraction of photogenerated carriers without inducing excessive interface recombination.

At present, TiO<sub>2</sub> is the most common and efficient material used as the ETM in PSCs to collect and transport electrons from the perovskite absorber layer.<sup>6,7</sup> Nevertheless, although the electron injection rates from the perovskite absorber to TiO<sub>2</sub> ETM are very fast, the electron recombination rates are also very high due to the low electron mobility. Furthermore, the production of conductive crystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> requires relatively high sintering temperatures (400–500 °C). These disadvantages limit its application widely.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, the design of a new and efficient ETM is crucial and imperative for the development of PSCs. An excellent ETM should possess two fundamental properties, where on the one hand, the material should possess high electron mobility to fulfill the requirement for fast electron transport while avoiding interfacial electron recombination, on the other hand, its energy level is supposed to be well-matched to that of the perovskite to facilitate electron injection and hole blocking simultaneously.<sup>9</sup> Even now, many new ETMs have been reported, including inorganic materials ZnO,<sup>10</sup> SnO<sub>2</sub>,<sup>11</sup> WOx,<sup>12</sup> organic materials C<sub>60</sub>,<sup>13</sup> PC61BM, PC71BM,<sup>14,15</sup> and so on. However, the limited improvement on the carrier mobility has not achieved the expectation desired for photovoltaic performance.

Here we propose a new potential ETM candidate, T-carbon, which was initially theoretically predicted to be structurally stable and have excellent electronic properties for wide potential applications by Su et al.<sup>16</sup> in 2011. Recently, Zhang et al.<sup>17</sup> successfully turned the prophecy into reality by means of pseudo-topotactic conversion, where T-carbon can be produced from carbon nanotubes under picosecond laser irradiation in methanol. Moreover, the optical absorption measurements and rough calculation indicate that bulk T-carbon is a semiconductor with a direct bandgap of about 3–5 eV. Up to now, the carrier transport behavior of T-carbon has not been reported in theory and experiment.

Thus, in this work, by combining first-principles calculations and deformation potential (DP) theory,<sup>18</sup> the electronic structures and intrinsic mobility of bulk T-carbon are systematically investigated. The theoretical evidence shown in this study demonstrates that T-carbon is a semiconductor with a desirable moderate direct bandgap of around 3 eV, and the band structure can be modified by the strain effect. Its conduction band energy level matches well with that of the perovskite, giving it a better advantage in extracting the electron injection from the generation location to

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Received: 18 July 2018 Accepted: 13 December 2018 Published online: 15 January 2019 the ETM layer. In addition, T-carbon possesses better carrier transport properties compared with traditional semiconductor materials, especially with respect to its electron transport performance, where its electron mobility can reach up to  $2.36 \times 10^3$  cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>. The excellent properties discovered for T-carbon renders it to be an effective and appropriate candidate as the ETM for high-performance PSCs.

## RESULTS

## Electronic properties

In this work, the geometric structure of T-carbon is optimized with the Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) method combined with vdW interactions. The detailed discussion on the lattice constants and geometry are shown in Note S2 in Supplementary Information (SI). Our results illustrate that the calculated lattice constants are in good agreement with experimental results, indicating that the method adopted is reliable.

The structural stability of T-carbon is also investigated by considering the effect of thermal fluctuation. The root-mean-square deviation (RMSD) and root-mean-square fluctuation (RMSF) are calculated by molecular dynamics and the results indicate that T-carbon can show good stability in the temperature range of 100–340 K, which accords with the temperature of perovskites used in PSCs (further discussions are given in Note S2 and Figure S1).

Based on the optimized configuration, the band structures of Tcarbon are predicted with PBE, PBEsol,<sup>19</sup> and HSE06 functionals<sup>20</sup> as well as with different vdW interaction methods including optB88-vdW,<sup>22</sup> vdW-DF2,<sup>23</sup> optB86b-vdW,<sup>21</sup> DFT-D2.24 The detailed results of the band structures from the above methods are discussed in Note S3. As shown in Fig. S2 and Table S2, it is found that all methods exhibit a direct bandgap character, with PBE and PBEsol results giving similar bandgaps. Compared with PBE and PBEsol, HSE06 show larger bandgaps. Previous reports have pointed out that PBE and PBEsol functionals tend to underestimate the bandgap of semiconductors, while the hybrid HSE06 functional can give more accurate results, which are comparable with experimental data.<sup>25,26</sup> Moreover, the optB86bvdW functional can give further improvement in the description of the binding energy.<sup>27</sup> Hence, HSE06 combined with the optB86bvdW functional is the best selection for the description of electronic properties, where T-carbon possesses a direct bandgap of 2.273 eV. Furthermore, the band structures near the valence band maximum (VBM) or the conduction band minimum (CBM) exhibit remarkable in-plane dispersion behavior in the  $\Gamma$  to M or  $\Gamma$  to R direction in the Brillouin zone, which suggests that bulk T-carbon may have relatively high carrier mobilities.

The computed band structure based on the HSE06-optB86bvdW functional is shown in Fig. 1a, from which the orbital charge density on different conduction and valence bands are analyzed (Fig. 1b). In the conduction bands CB1-CB3, the charge densities are mainly located in the inter-tetrahedron bonds of the structure, while in the valence bands VB1-VB3, the charge densities are mainly distributed in the tetrahedrons of the structure. Once the atoms in T-carbon experience electronic excitation, appreciable electrons will leap from the valence bands to the conduction bands, gathering holes within the valence bands. In the excitation process, the electrons transfer from the original intra-tetrahedron bonds to inter-tetrahedron bonds, making the latter have much higher electron densities with shorter bond characteristics. Therefore, the inter-tetrahedron bonds are relatively stronger than intra-tetrahedron bonds with a better ability to accumulate electrons. The differences in bond lengths play a crucial role in achieving structural stability by balancing the strain from adjacent tetrahedrons.

The corresponding electrostatic potential contour plots of VB3–CB3 (Fig. S5–S10) show that the electrons are densely localized around the intra-tetrahedron bonds and display a strong covalent bonding feature. However, there is almost no electron localization in the inter-tetrahedron bonds, which reflect their ionic nature. The interlaced bonding features manifest that each tetrahedron connects with each other through ionic bonds. This special structural character of T-carbon will make the geometry more stable and is favorable for promoting electron transfer from intra-tetrahedron bonds to inter-tetrahedron bonds.

The three-dimensional contour plots of the VBM and CBM show different distributions and positions of peaks (Fig. 2a). The peaks where electrons accumulate uniformly and locally around the surface in the CBM reflect antibonding states in the structure, while the conjoint peaks in the VBM means that there exist strong bonding states. Both kinds of peak distributions correspond to the

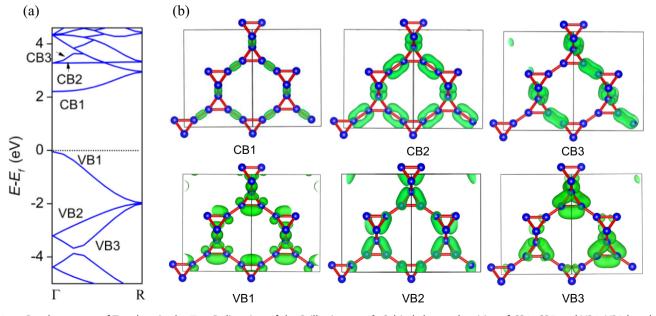


Fig. 1 a Band structure of T-carbon in the  $\Gamma$  to R direction of the Brillouin zone. b Orbital charge densities of CB1–CB3 and VB1–VB3 bands of T-carbon

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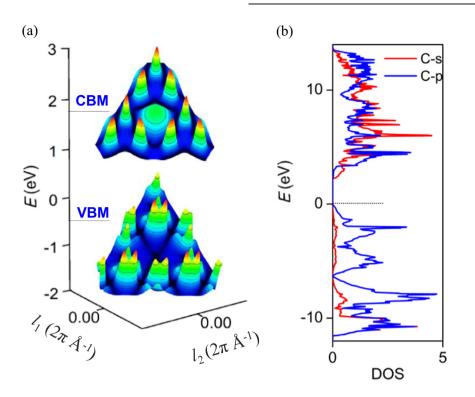


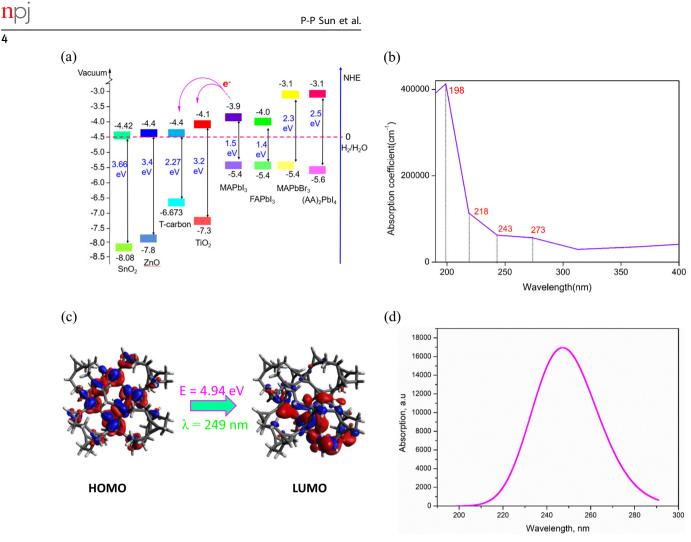
Fig. 2 a Three-dimensional electrostatic potential contour plots of CBM and VBM and b the PDOS structure of T-carbon

charge densities located in the CBM and VBM as shown in Fig. 1b. The different distributions in the contour plots shown in both the CBM and VBM reveal a distinct anisotropic behavior near the  $\Gamma$  point for both electrons and holes.

A further DOS calculation (Figs. S11–S14) reveals that T-carbon possesses a distinct semiconductor character with strong orbital density in the conduction bands and relatively weak density in the valence bands. Closer analyses of the electronic orbitals illustrated by the projected density of states (PDOS; Fig. 2b) show that the conduction bands are dominated by C 2s and 2p orbitals, whereas the valence bands are mainly formed by C 2p orbitals with a rather weak contribution from C 2s orbitals. Besides, the high hybridization and overlap between s and p orbitals from 3 eV to the top of the conduction band show a strong interactive movement of the excited electrons in the conduction bands, where electrons will transfer from the lower to higher energy state via the interactive transmission between the different orbitals. This transmission can lead to anisotropic charge distribution in the energy states where the charge densities are not homogeneously distributed on the intra-tetrahedron and inter-tetrahedron bonds, as shown in Fig. 1b. Similar orbital hybridization can also be seen in the valence bands. Nevertheless, there is no hybridization at both the top of the valence bands and bottom of the conduction bands, where are singly composed of 2p and 2s orbitals, respectively. In the band structure, the bandgap is formed between bonding ( $\sigma$ ) and antibonding ( $\sigma^*$ ) orbitals located in the VBM and CBM, respectively. The direct bandgap at the  $\Gamma$  point means that the  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma^*$ orbitals are derived from the contributions of 2p and 2s orbitals, respectively. Additionally, the band edges are relatively dispersed in the vicinity of the  $\Gamma$  point, indicative of good carrier transport mobilities.

In efficient PSCs, the CBM of the ETM should be lower compared with that of the perovskite to achieve fast electron injection. Previous work has shown that suitable energy level offset can promote the efficient injection of electrons from the perovskite to ETM.<sup>29–32</sup> The energy level arrangements of T-carbon, popular ETMs (TiO<sub>2</sub>, SnO<sub>2</sub>, and ZnO) and frequently used perovskites are provided in Fig. 3a. In the diagram, the CBM energy level of T-carbon is –4.4 eV, close to that of both SnO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO which have been testified to yield quicker charge injection rates as compared to TiO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>9,33–35</sup> The similar energy level offset as with SnO<sub>2</sub> and ZnO indicates that T-carbon may also have faster electron injection rate than TiO<sub>2</sub>, and will thus facilitate more efficient electron acceptance and more rapid diffusion away from their locus of generation, thereby effectively retarding geminate recombination.

As an advantage, the ETM, similar to HTM, is supposed to be colorless, because the ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) light absorption of the ETM would affect the light-harvesting efficiency of the perovskites.<sup>36</sup> The optical absorption of T-carbon given by the HSE06-optB86b-vdW functional is shown in Fig. 3b. It is found that T-carbon shows strong absorption in the ultraviolet range of 180-280 nm. In addition, a cluster model containing 200 atoms (Fig. 3c) based on the TD-B3LYP/6-31G level using Gaussian 16 code is also calculated,<sup>37</sup> for which the maximum absorption is at 249 nm (Fig. 3d), where the excitation energy is 4.94 eV. The dominant transition is from the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) to the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO). The HOMO is mainly localized on the center of T-carbon, while the LUMO is located close to the edge. Both the two calculations manifest that there is no absorption in the visible region. For the classic TiO<sub>2</sub> ETM, it has strong absorption at short wavelengths in the range of 300–400 nm.<sup>38,39</sup> The optical absorption of common perovskites are in the range of 300-800 nm.<sup>40,41</sup> The overlapping absorption in the UV-Vis region between TiO<sub>2</sub> and perovskite will promote competition for the extraction of photogenerated electrons. Compared with TiO<sub>2</sub>, the optical calculation of Tcarbon favorably highlights its preferential role as the ETM as it will not affect the absorption of perovskite materials in the visible spectrum.



**Fig. 3** a Energy levels of T-carbon compared with those of  $SnO_2$ , ZnO, TiO<sub>2</sub>, MAPbI<sub>3</sub>, FAPbI<sub>3</sub>, MAPbBr<sub>3</sub>, and (AA)<sub>2</sub>PbI<sub>4</sub>. The blue data refer to their corresponding bandgaps. **b** The absorption spectra of T-carbon calculated at HSE06-optB86b-vdW level. **c** The HOMO and LUMO of a cluster model of T-carbon containing 200 atoms calculated at TD-B3LYP/6-31G level. *E* denotes the excitation energy and  $\lambda$  is the maximum absorption wavelength. **d** The absorption spectra of T-carbon cluster

## Carrier mobility

For potential ETMs, aside from having a matched energy level, a reasonable high carrier mobility is another indispensable factor. Previous reports have verified that the high electron mobility of ETMs will facilitate fast extraction and transport photogenerated electrons from perovskites to ETMs, contributing towards improved  $J_{SC}$  and high efficiency with negligible J-V hysteresis.<sup>8,30,31,33,42</sup> For example, PSCs based on SnO<sub>2</sub> or ZnO with suitable energy levels and high electron mobility have demonstrated excellent photovoltaic properties.<sup>9,32,33</sup>

As shown in Table S3, the calculated carrier mobilities of black phosphorus,  $MoS_2$ , graphene, etc. based on DP theory are in the same order of magnitude as their experimental data, which indicates that the method we adopt here to calculate the carrier mobilities of T-carbon is reliable.

As shown in Eq. (1), the effective mass has an important effect on the carrier mobility. The calculated effective masses  $m^*$  are listed in Table 1. Due to the intrinsic cubic structure,  $m_x = m_y = m_{zr}$ . T-carbon shows an isotropic transport character. The calculated electron and hole effective masses are  $0.22m_0$  and  $0.66m_0$ , respectively, which are even comparable to those of perovskite MAPbl<sub>3</sub>/MASnl<sub>3</sub> (0.2–1.3 $m_0$ ).<sup>43</sup> Besides, the hole effective mass is three times larger than that of electrons, which means that the electron transport ability of T-carbon is better than its hole transport ability. **Table 1.** Calculated effective mass ( $m^*$ ) for electrons and holes along the  $\Gamma$  to R direction, deformation potential constant ( $E_1$ ), 3D elastic constant ( $C^{3D}$ ), carrier mobility ( $\mu$ ), and relaxation-time ( $\tau$ ) along the transport direction of T-carbon at 300 K

Carrier type	<i>m*/m</i> 0	<i>E</i> <sub>1</sub> (eV)	$C^{3D}$ (10 <sup>9</sup> N m <sup>-2</sup> )	$\mu$ (10 <sup>3</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> V <sup>-1</sup> )	τ (fs)
Electron	0.22	-14.88	186.2	2.36	290.13 102.21
Hole	0.66	-10.89	186.2	0.27	102.21

Besides the effective mass, the carrier mobility is also strongly influenced by the 3D elastic constant  $C^{3D}$  and DP constant  $E_1$ . To compute  $C^{3D}$  and  $E_1$ , the lattice of the cell has been dilated and compressed by 1% along the transport direction. The total energies and positions of the VBM and CBM are calculated with respect to the degree of dilation and compression. All atomic positions are fully relaxed at each dilation and compression step. The electronic energies are obtained at the HSE06-optB86b-vdW level. Figure 4a shows the variation of total energy with applied uniaxial strain along the lattice direction and  $C^{3D}$  can be obtained by fitting the energy vs strain curve. Figure 4b depicts the shifts of both band edges VBM and CBM as a function of uniaxial strain, where  $E_1$  can be calculated from the slope of the fitted lines. Based on the obtained  $m^*$ ,  $C^{3D}$ , and  $E_1$ , the calculated electron mobility is found to be  $2.36 \times 10^3$  cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>, which is about 10 times higher

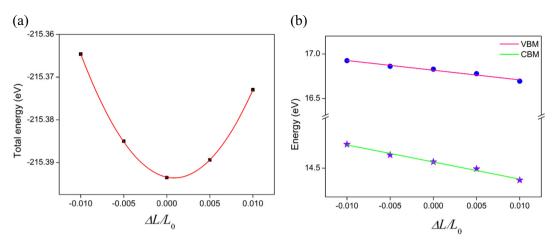


Fig. 4 a The relationship between total energy and lattice dilation along the transport direction. b Band energy shifts of VBM and CBM under uniaxial strain along the lattice dilation direction

than that of holes  $(2.7 \times 10^2 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ V}^{-1})$ . As the strain range is widened from ±1% to ±2%, ±3%, ±4% and ±5%, respectively, the variation of carrier mobility mainly depends on changes in  $C^{3D}$  and  $E_1$  (Fig. S16 and Table S4). At each strain window setting, the ratio of electron to hole mobility retains the same value of about 10. Carrier mobility first decreases for the strain range of ±2% before increasing as the strain range is widened from ±3% to ±5%, yet still remaining low with respect to the initial strain range of ±1%. In view of the changes in carrier mobility subject to tensile strain, we find that the high electron mobility of T-carbon mainly originates from the low electron effective mass  $m_e^*$ .

It is worth to mention that the predicted carrier mobilities of Tcarbon are comparable and even higher than those of many current popular 2D materials, traditional semiconductor materials, and perovskites. For example, the electron mobility of T-carbon is distinctly higher than that of various popular 2D materials and semiconductor materials, such as black phosphorus (10<sup>3</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>  $V^{-1}$ ),<sup>44</sup> TIO<sub>2</sub> (3.3 × 10<sup>3</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>45</sup> Si (1.5 × 10<sup>3</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>),<sup>46</sup> and TiO<sub>2</sub> (5.24 × 10<sup>-2</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>47</sup> For hole transport performance, Tcarbon reveals significant advantage compared with MoS<sub>2</sub>  $(200 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ V}^{-1})$ ,<sup>48</sup> perovskite MAPbl<sub>3</sub>  $(1-5 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ V}^{-1})$ ,<sup>49,50</sup> and  $TiO_2$  (0.16 cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>47</sup> In sum, compared with currently available materials, T-carbon is prospected to have strong transmitting capacity, giving that its high electron mobility can lead to further improved short-circuit current density (J<sub>SC</sub>) and efficiency.<sup>5</sup> Considering the highly effective performance of T-carbon, it is anticipated to be a viable replacement for traditional TiO<sub>2</sub> as the ETM.

In addition, the strain effect on the electronic properties of Tcarbon (Fig. 5 and Fig. S17) is examined. For both tensile and compressive strain, T-carbon preserves its direct bandgap character. The bandgap increases linearly from -5% to -2% and from -1 to 0% strain, beyond which it then increases in a soft growth way up to 5% strain where it has a slightly lower slope than that during the compressed phases. Along with the variation of strain from -1 to 1%, the bandgap fluctuates in the range of -57 to 24 meV relative to that of the equilibrium structure. Interestingly, 1% compressive strain has a larger effect on the bandgap variation than 1% tensile strain, which means that the compressive treatment has a greater effect on the electronic property of Tcarbon than the tensile stretch. But when the applied strain is higher than 2%, the tensile stretch has larger effect than the compressive treatment as the bandgap can increase by up to 305 meV with respect to the pristine bandgap. The bandgap evolution under applied strain, as shown in Fig. 5f and Fig. S17i, reflects that T-carbon will show an increasing bandgap with tensile strain and a declining bandgap with compressive strain.

This may provide a new perspective for the development of new functionalities for T-carbon, which can show a tunable band structure according to the different performance evolving from tensile and compressive strain.

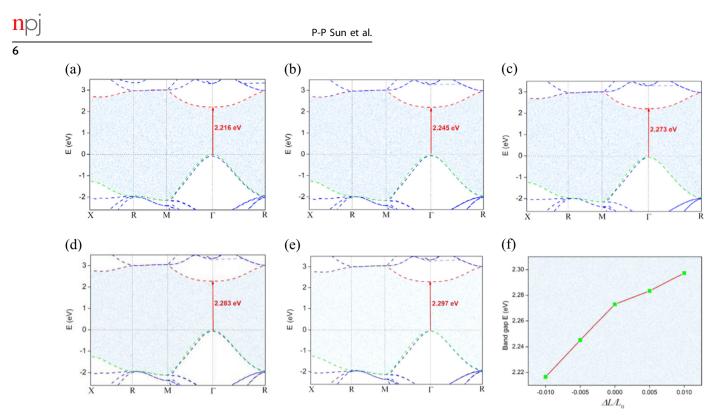
## DISCUSSION

In conclusion, we report a new carbon allotrope as the ETM in PSCs. The electronic properties and carrier mobility of T-carbon are investigated by first-principles methods and DP theory. The results indicate that T-carbon is a natural semiconductor with a direct bandgap of 2.273 eV. The conduction band energy level matches well with that of perovskites, which is in favor of electron injection from the point of generation into the ETM layer. Besides, its optical absorption in the ultraviolet range will not compete against the light harvesting capacity of perovskites in the UV-Vis region. It is more important that T-carbon possesses a high electron mobility of  $2.36 \times 10^3$  cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> V<sup>-1</sup>, which is superior to that of familiar ETMs such as TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, SnO<sub>2</sub>, and even MAPbl<sub>3</sub> perovskite. These features portend that T-carbon will be an excellent ETM candidate for high-performance PSCs. The different band structures that evolve from tensile and compressive strain suggest that imposed strain can be an effective approach to modulate its transport properties. Based on its special structure and high potential applications, it will be intriguing to embark on experimental investigations to realize these predictions for a variety of practical applications.

#### METHODS

#### Density functional theory calculations

For T-carbon, geometry optimization and electronic properties calculations are carried out using density functional theory (DFT) methods within the generalized gradient approximation and PBE exchange correlation functional, as performed in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP).<sup>52</sup> The ion–electron interactions are described by the projected augmented wave method,<sup>53</sup> and the energy cut-off for the plane wave basis is set to 500 eV. Periodic boundary conditions are applied to all systems. For geometry optimization, a  $6 \times 6 \times 6$  Monkhorst Pack grid is adopted, and all the structures are allowed to relax during this process with a conjugate gradient algorithm until the energy on the atoms is less than  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  eV. The maximum force allowed on each atom is 0.01 eV  $Å^{-1}$ . Since the van der Waals (vdW) interactions have a great impact on the geometry and electronic properties, <sup>54,55</sup> different vdW correction methods such as the optB86b exchange functional (optB86b-vdW),<sup>21,22</sup> optB88 exchange functional (optB88-vdW),<sup>22</sup> vdW-DF2 exchange functional<sup>23</sup> as well as the DFT-D2 approach proposed by Grimme<sup>24</sup> are considered here to accommodate the vdW interactions. For electronic structure calculations, a fine  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  grid mesh is used. Since the PBE functional has been



**Fig. 5** Band structures of T-carbon under different strain with lattice dilation  $\Delta L/L_0$  of **a** –0.01, **b** –0.005, **c** 0, **d** 0.005, and **e** 0.01 calculated with HSE06 combined with optB86b–vdW interaction. The Fermi level has been shifted to 0 eV. The corresponding bandgap has been marked with a red arrow and its value is listed alongside. The bandgap evolution trend under different lattice dilation is shown in **f** 

known to underestimate the bandgap of semiconductors, PBEsol<sup>19</sup> and hybrid HSE06 functional<sup>20</sup> methods are also used here to obtain an accurate bandgap based on the structures obtained from the full optimization with the consideration of vdW interactions.

#### Carrier mobility calculation

For inorganic semiconductors, the coherent wavelength of thermally activated electrons or holes at room temperature is close to the acoustic photon wavelength and is much larger than their lattice constant. The scattering of the thermal electron or hole can be dominated by the electron–acoustic phonon coupling at low-energy regime,<sup>48,56–58</sup> which can be calculated by the DP theory proposed by Bardeen and Shockley.<sup>18</sup> On the basis of effective mass approximation, the carrier mobility ( $\mu$ ) for 3D materials can be expressed as

$$\mu^{\rm 3D} = \frac{2\sqrt{2\pi}e\hbar^4 C^{\rm 3D}}{3(\kappa_{\rm B}T)^{3/2}m^{*5/2}E_1^2},\tag{1}$$

where  $\kappa_{\rm B}$  is the Boltzmann's constant,  $\hbar$  is the Planck's constant, T is the temperature, and  $C^{3D}$  is the 3D elastic constant, defined as  $C^{3D} = [\partial^2 E/\partial\delta^2]/V_0$  with  $V_0$  being the cell volume at equilibrium, E is the total energy, and  $\delta$  is the applied uniaxial strain.  $E_1$  is the DP constant proportional to the band edge shift induced by applied strain along the transport direction.  $E_1$  is defined as  $\Delta V_i/(\Delta I/I_0)$ , where  $\Delta V_i$  is the energy change of the *i*th band subject to lattice dilation  $\Delta I/I_0$  along the transport direction (calculated with a step of 0.5%).  $m^*$  is the effective mass in the transport direction and defined as  $m^* = \hbar^2(\partial^2 \varepsilon(k)/\partial k^2)^{-1}$ , where k is the wave-vector magnitude in momentum space. The anisotropic relaxation-time  $\tau$  can be calculated from the elastic constant  $C^{3D}$ , the DP constant  $E_1$  and the effective mass  $m^*$ , as defined by  $\tau = \mu m^*/e$ . The temperature used for the calculations of carrier mobility and relaxation-time is at room temperature (300 K).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its supplementary information files).

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## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

P.-P.S. and K.Z. conceived and designed the project. P.-P.S. performed the DFT calculations and related analysis. P.-P.S., L.B., D.R.K., and K.Z. analyzed the results. P.-P. S. wrote the manuscript, L.B., D.R.K., and K.Z. helped to revise the manuscript. All authors discussed and commented on the manuscript.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Supplementary information** accompanies the paper on the *npj Computational Materials* website (https://doi.org/10.1038/s41524-018-0146-z).

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