

Contents

1	Introduction: a-Si:H solar cells	10
2	Electron paramagnetic resonance	18
2.1	Introduction	18
2.2	EPR-parameters	22
2.2.1	Overview	22
2.2.2	The electron Zeeman interaction	23
2.2.3	The hyperfine interaction	25
2.3	Summary	30
3	Theoretical modelling of EPR-parameters	31
3.1	Density-functional theory	31
3.1.1	Fundamental concepts	31
3.1.2	Practical aspects of DFT-calculations	34
3.2	The g-tensor	42
3.3	Hyperfine parameters	46
3.4	Summary	49
4	Dangling bonds in molecular and crystalline silicon systems	50
4.1	Modelling	50
4.2	Quantification of the accuracy	52
4.2.1	Convergence tests	52
4.2.2	Comparison to an all-electron method	56
4.2.3	Comparison to experiment	56
4.3	General characteristics of the db-defect	62
4.3.1	Molecular dangling bonds	62
4.3.2	Crystalline dangling bonds	64
4.3.3	Hydrogen	66
4.4	Bond-parameter trends of EPR-parameters	67
4.4.1	Bond-parameter dependence of the tetrasilyl radical	67
4.4.2	Bond-angle dependence of c-Si models	70
4.4.3	Strain dependence of c-Si models	74
4.5	Summary	76
5	Dangling bonds in hydrogenated amorphous silicon	77
5.1	Modelling	77
5.2	Statistical analysis of EPR-parameters	81

- 5.3 Structural aspects of dangling bonds in a-Si:H 86
 - 5.3.1 Categorization 86
 - 5.3.2 Localized db-defects 88
 - 5.3.3 Hydrogen 92
- 5.4 The discrepancy between theory and experiment 93
 - 5.4.1 Methodological aspects 93
 - 5.4.2 Charging 95
 - 5.4.3 Strain 97
- 5.5 Summary and Outlook 100