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Article

Theoretical Variants of Bct-Si Allotropes, Composed of Rings and Cubes, Fused

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Abstract: New silicon allotropes, variants of bct-Si₄, formed by Si₄ rings, and Si₈ cubes, have been derived, observing several allotropes of graphene, such as: C₄ - 10I, C₄ - 12, and C₄ - 8R¹. The first two forms are composed of two and three flat, fused C₄ rings: C₆ and C₈; joined to four other groups C₆, in the first, and C₈, in the second, allotrope variant. The C₄ - 8 - R phase would be dormant by diatomic carbon chains, linked to C₆ groups, formed by two fused carbon rings, C₄. These sp³ three-dimensional allotropes, show variants of the bct - C₄, formed by flat rings, C₄ and cubes, C₈, independent and fused, are possible, to form new variants or allotropes Bct, of silicon, semiconductors, which could then have some application in component electronics. Its basic properties will also be studied in nonlinear optics; trying to provide a complete study on these new allotropes, variants of Bct - C₄.

Keywords: allotropes; phases; variants; Bct; cubes; rings; fusion

Introduction

Sp hybridizations, in carbon atoms and, to a lesser extent, silicon, are very versatile; hosting a large number of allotropic forms, with sp, sp² and sp³ hybridized bonds, which acquire physical properties, such as hardness and electronics, different from each other. Among the most common are graphite and diamond. Subsequently, nanotubes, fullerenes, and nanosheets, such as graphene and its allotropes, have been synthesized or manufactured. It has also been possible, applying modern computational methods, to theorize new forms of carbon, such as the already mentioned, bct-C₄ [1], the forms: C, F, M, O, P, T12, W and Z².

In this work, new variants of the bct - C₄ phase are proposed, composed of several fused Si₄ rings; as well as others that combine Si₄ rings with other Si₈ cubes⁵, also fused. Forming new bct, silicon variants.

1. Structures

To define the possible bct - C₄ variants, we have based ourselves on the results of some works^{1,3,4}, which predict graphene allotropes, of sp² hybridization, based on the Density Function Theory (DFT). Specifically, the structures C₄ - 10 - I, C₄ - 8 - R and C₄ - 12 - These results have been translated into a three-dimensional sp³ hybridization, corresponding to a bct-type structure, composed of flat square rings, C₄ or Si₄.

The first of these new structures, derived from the simpler bct - Si_4 phase, is formed by two fused Si_4 rings, with single and double bonds; in the two atoms of the two rings, (Figure 1)

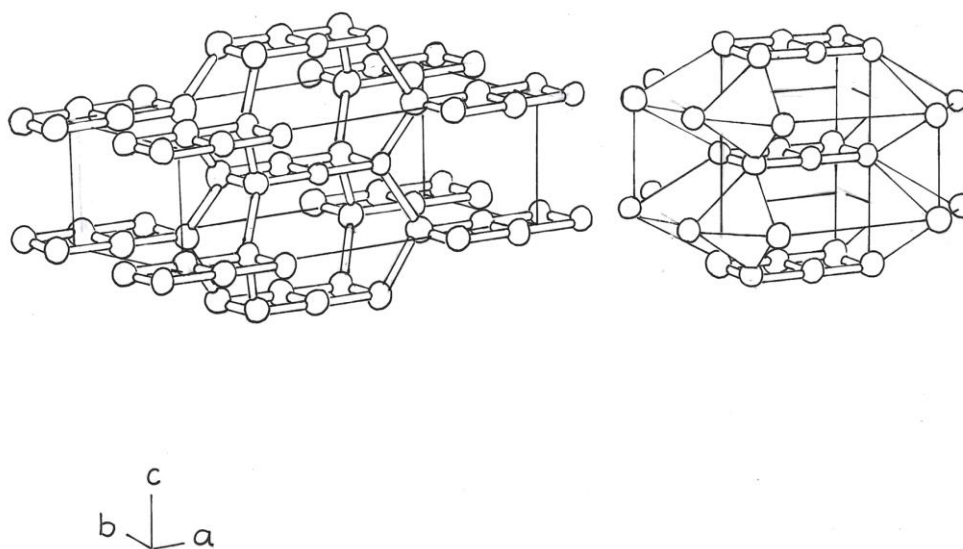


Figure 1. Allotrope bct - Si_{12} (a).

Another variant phase would be composed of three flat square rings, Si_4 . The ends of the central ring would be formed by two simple links, at the top and bottom of it; and two double bonds, on the sides of the central ring. (Figure 2)

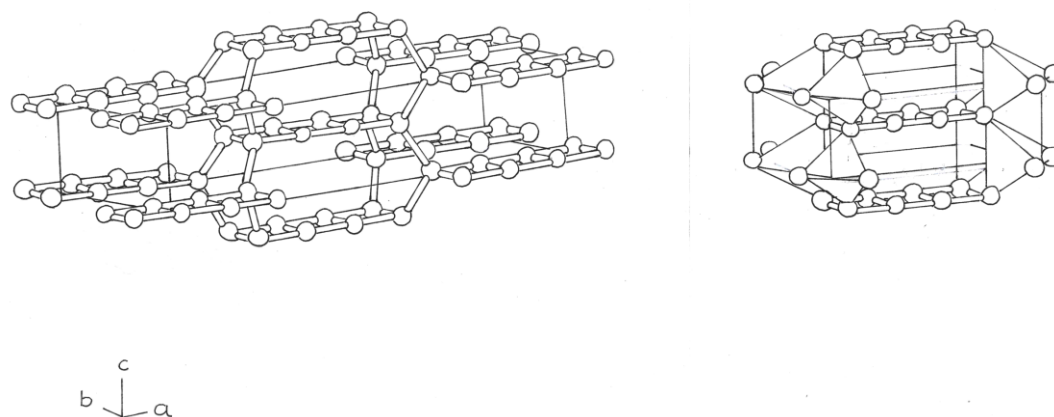


Figure 2. Allotrope, bct - Si_{16} .

Both phases form 8 tetrahedra, 5 silicon atoms, adjacent, at the ends (Figures 1 and 2, right).

The next phase would be composed of a Si_8 cube, centered, and eight Si_4 rings on the edges of a tetrahedron (Figure 3).

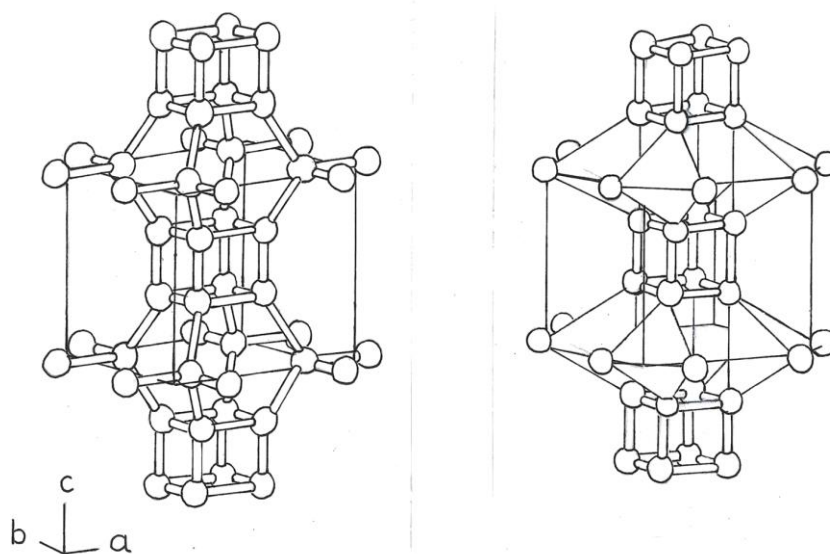


Figure 3. Allotrope bct - Si_{12} (b).

The tetrahedra, at the top, are separated from those at the bottom, by dense bonds of the Si atoms, of the central cbo, Si_8 (Figure 3b).

The following variants would be formed by two cubes of Si_8 , and two rings, Si_4 , fused together. The 2 central atoms, Si, form double and single bonds. (Figure 4)

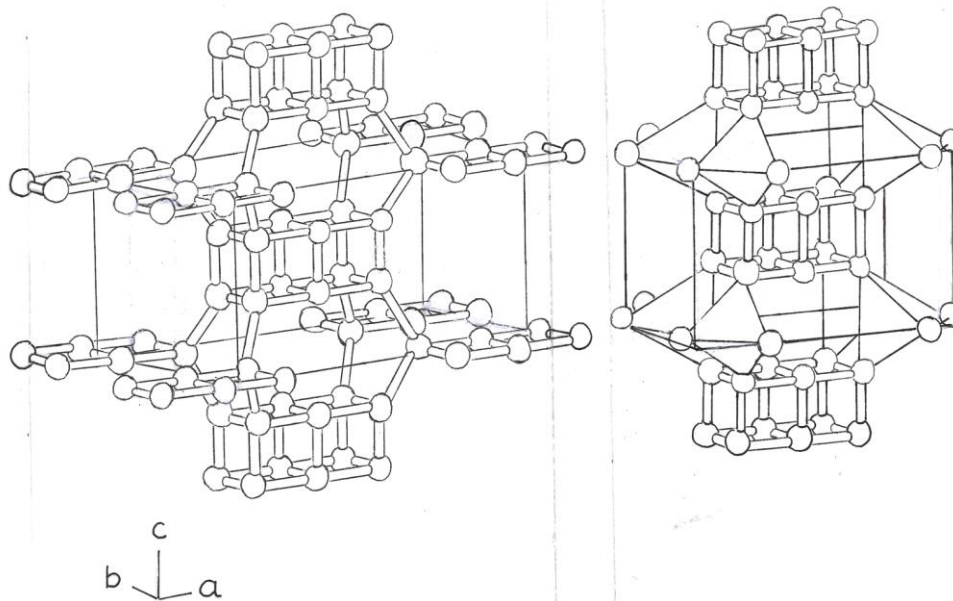


Figure 4. bct- Si_{18} allotrope (a).

Another variant, of the previous one, would be formed by three flat rings, Si_4 , fused; and three cubes, also composed of silicon atoms, Si_8 , fused, in this case, in the form of a double prism. (Figure 5).

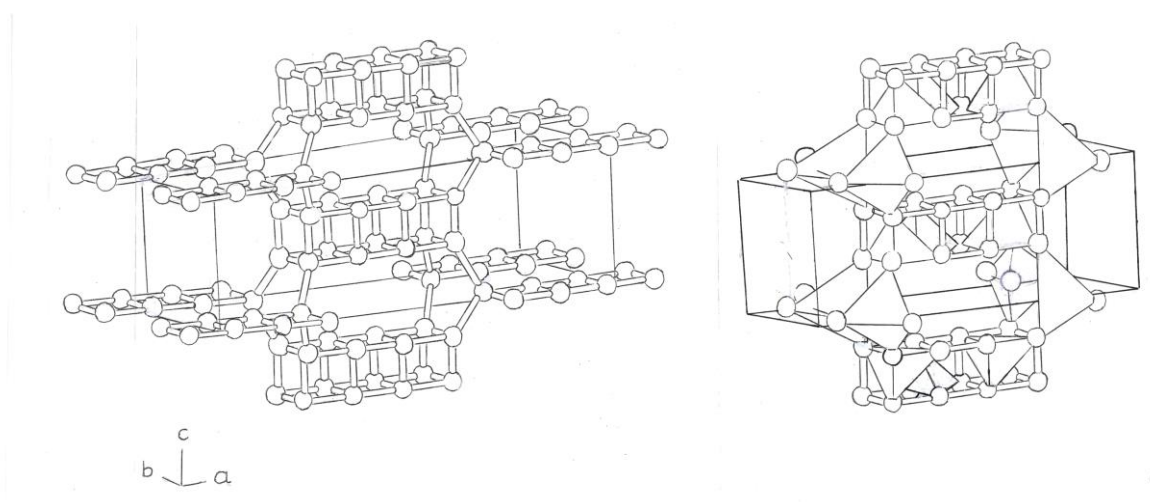


Figure 5. Allotrope Bct - Si_{24} .

It is also possible to form a Bct phase, composed of two fused Si_8 cubes, at the edges of a tetrahedron; and two flat rings, centered on the body (Figure 6). The central atoms, of the double rings, fused, form single and double bonds.

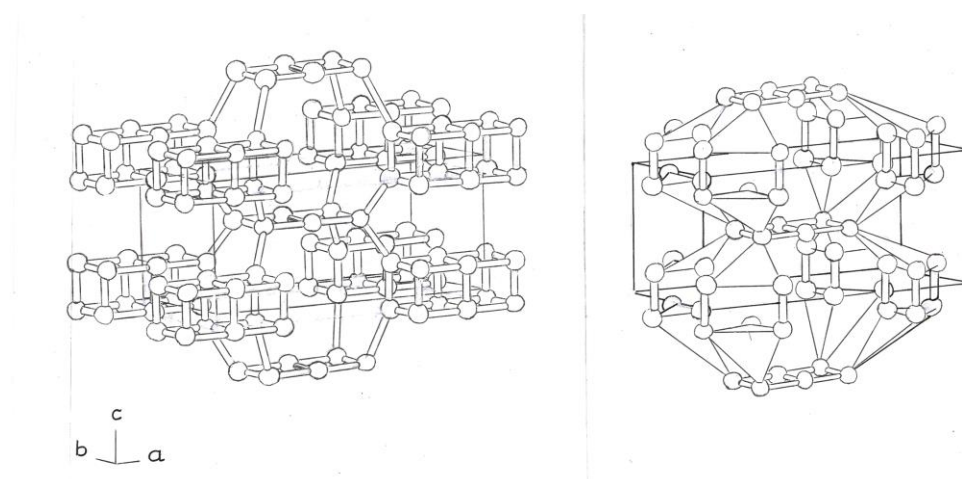


Figure 6. Allotrope bct - $\text{Si}_{18}(\text{b})$.

The tetrahedrons that form between the planes and cubes of Si_4 and Si_8 , fused, will be separated by single bonds, which form the silicon cubes, Si_8 .

A new Bct phase, a variant of the previous one, would be composed of fused prisms, with three cubes, Si_8 ; located at the edges and in the center of the tetrahedron (Figure 7). All the atoms of Si , form simple bonds in it.

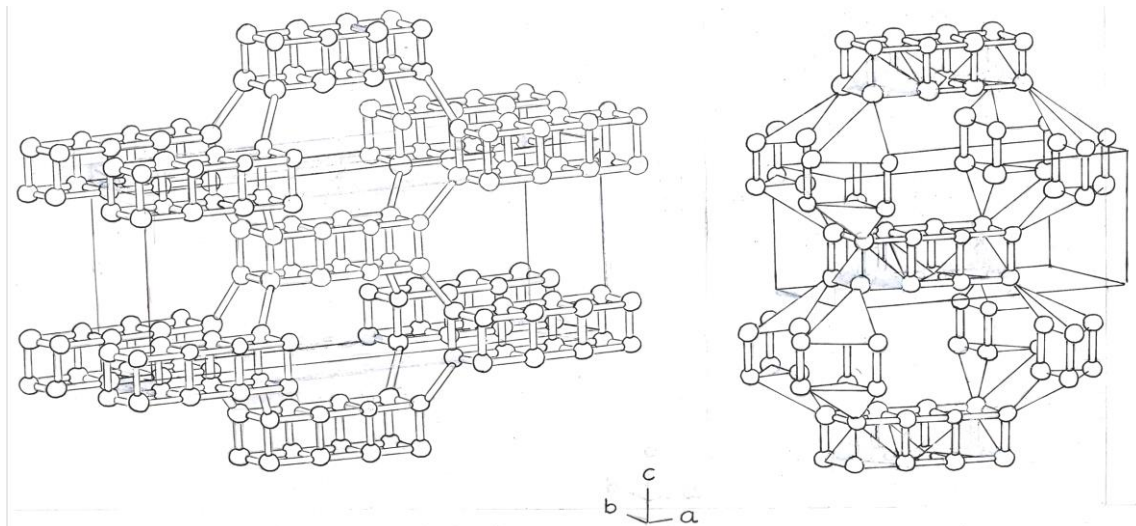


Figure 7. Allotrope bct - Si₃₂.

All these new Bct phases form 8 octahedrons, with other Si atoms adjacent; located on the edges of the tetrahedron. The difference between them would lie in the direct contact between them, in the case of being composed of fused flat rings (Figures 1 and 2). Or because they are separated by a simple link, as in Figures 3–7.

2. Calculation Model

2.1. Electronic Properties

The electrons that move freely through the solid, from the electrons of density, were established by the free electron gas model of Drude and Sommerfeld [4], [5].

$$n_e = N_A \frac{Z}{A} \rho_m \quad (1)$$

N_A , is Avogadro's number or constant, Z indicates the electronic valence number, A is the atomic mass of the chemical element (in g/mol), ρ_m is the mass density (mass, divided by volume) and n_e , They are the conduction electrons, or number of free electrons. This is the basic equation to calculate its concentration.

For a unit cell, we can simplify the equation to the form:

$$\frac{n_e}{N_A} = \left(\frac{Z}{A} \right) n^0_A \quad (2)$$

In this equation, we replace the mass density, ρ_m , with n^0_A , which is the number of atoms that make up the unit cell [6].

The effective or dynamic mass of the electron is defined by the formula:

$$m^* = \frac{\sigma}{e^2 \tau} = \sqrt{n_e} \quad (3)$$

where, m^* , is the effective mass of the electrons, σ , is the electronic conductivity, e , is the charge of an electron, and τ , is the Relaxation Time; which is the average time between consecutive collisions of an electron. It is an average value, since not all collisions occur at regular intervals.

There is a relationship between this effective or dynamic mass of free electrons in motion, and the forbidden energy gap or band gap [7].

$$m^* \sim E_g \quad (4)$$

And between these and electronic mobility [7], which measures the efficiency of semiconductors.

$$\mu \sim \frac{1}{m^{\star}} \sim \frac{1}{E_g}$$

(5)

Allotrope	n_A^o (x cell)	Z	A (uma)	$\frac{n_e}{N_A}$ ($\frac{uma}{mol^{-1}}$)	m^* (x 10^{-31} kg)	E_g (eV)	μ ($10^{-4} \frac{m^2}{Vs}$)
Si (Ref.)	1	4	28.0855	0.1424	0.3773	0.3773	2.6504
Si ₈ (Dif.)	8			1.1392	3.0184	3.0184	0.3313
Si ₁₂	12			1.7088	4.5276	4.5276	0.2208
Si ₁₈	18			2.5632	6.7914	6.7914	0.1472
Si ₂₄	24			3.4176	9.0552	9.0552	0.1104
Si ₃₂	32			4.5568	12.0736	12.0736	0.0828

Table 1: Electronic properties of the polymorphs derived bct-Si, composed of rings and cubes.

2.2. Optical Properties

To begin to study the optical properties of these allotropes, variants of the bct - Si₄, we must begin to calculate the atomic or electron polarity^[10]. of the silicon atoms, which compose them.

$$\alpha_A = 4\pi\epsilon_0 a_R^3$$

(6)

where, a_R , the Bohr radius of the components^[11] and $4\pi\epsilon_0$, the inverse of Coulomb's constant, $1/k$.

$$a_R (Si) = 2.05 \text{ \AA}.$$

(7)

From this, we can define the linear refractive index, n_0 ^[12], as:

$$n_0^2 = 1 + N\alpha_A.$$

(8)

In this equation, N is the number of atoms per unit volume in the material or unit cell.

Under these circumstances, we can already calculate the linear, or first-order, susceptibility $\chi^{(1)}$ of the solid medium^[13].

$$\chi^{(1)} = \frac{n_0^2 - 1}{4\pi}$$

(9)

And, from this, we can derive third-order susceptibility^[13].

$$\chi^{(3)} = [\chi^{(1)}]^4 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{esu}$$

(10)

The strength of the electric field, atomic (E_{at}), is determined by the charge of the electron^[14], and the Bohr radius of silicon^[11], in the form:

$$E_{at} = \frac{e}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_n^2}$$

(11)

The charge of the electron ($e = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{C}$), comes in coulombs.

The impedance, the vacuum, has a value of $\eta_0 = 377 \text{ ohms } (\Omega)$. That will allow us to calculate the refractive index, of second order, n_2 . This nonlinear refractive index, n_2 , relates the vacuum impedance, η_0 , with the third-order susceptibility $\chi^{(3)}$, with a directly proportional relationship, between them; and with the linear refractive index, n_0 , in this case inversely proportional, with respect to the first two.

$$n_2 = \frac{3\eta_0\chi^{(3)}}{n_0^2\epsilon_0}$$

(12)

Light intensity, at the atomic level, is related to the amplitude of the electric field, atomic; with equation ^[15].

$$I_{at} = \frac{1}{2} c_0 \epsilon_0 E_0^2 = 26,544 \times 10^{-4} E_{at}^2$$

(13)

Also called Kerr's optical coefficient. Finally, we can calculate the optical Kerr effect, using the equation^[16]:

$$n(I_{at}) = n_0 + n_2 I_{at}$$

(14)

Allotropes	n_A^0 (x cell)	$N\alpha$ (Å)	n_0	$\chi^{(1)}$ ($\times 10^{25}$ m^{-3})	$\chi^{(3)}$ ($\times 10^{-24}$ m^2/V^2)	E_{at} ($\times 10^{11}$ V/m)	I_{at} ($\times 10^{20}$ W/m^2)
Si (Ref.)	1	0.9993	1.4139	0.0795	0.00003	0.3812	3.8568
Si ₈ (dia, bct - C ₄)	8	7.9991	2.9991	0.6362	0.1638	0.0473	0.0583
Si ₁₂	12	11.9922	3.6044	0.9543	0.8293	0.0317	0.0265
Si ₁₈	18	17.9883	4.3575	1.4315	4.1991	0.0211	0.0106
Si ₂₄	24	23.9845	4.9984	1.9086	13.2696	0.0158	0.0053
Si ₃₂	32	31.9793	5.7427	0.3774	0.02002	0.0119	0.0026

Table 2. Optical properties of Bct-Si allotropes, composed of fused rings and cubes.

Table 2. Continue:

Allotropes	n_A^0 (x cell)	$3\eta_0\chi^{(3)}$ ($\times 10^{-24}$ $m^{-3} \times \Omega$)	$n_0^2\epsilon_0$	n_2 (m^2/W)	n_{2lat}	n
Si (Ref.)	1	0. 03393	110. 4777	0. 000408	0. 00118	1. 41508
Si ₈ (dia, bct - C ₄)	8	185. 2578	497. 0722	0. 3726	0. 02172	3. 02082
Si ₁₂	12	937. 9383	717. 9654	1. 3063	0. 03461	3. 63901
Si ₁₈	18	4749. 1821	1049. 3307	4. 5259	9. 09549	4. 45299
Si ₂₄	24	15007. 9176	1380. 7009	10. 8697	0. 05760	5. 056
Si ₃₂	32	22. 8462	1822. 5097	0. 0125	0. 00003	5. 74273

Table 2. Optical properties of Bct-Si allotropes, composed of fused rings and cubes.

Conclusions

New theoretical variants of bct, (tetraphonal allotropes, centered on the body), derived from flat square rings and cbos, of Si4 and Si8, fused or not, have been obtained; as in Figure 3.

As we have seen, in electronic properties, the energy gap, or band gap, increases proportionally with the number of atoms that make up a unit cell. The value closest to a diamante-type structure, and to a bct - C₄ , will be the allotrope bct - Si₁₂, with an E_g of 4, 5276 eV, From there, this energy gap increases from 6, 7914 eV, of the bct - Si₁₈; up to 12, 0736 eV, of the bct - Si₃₂ (Figure 7).

Electronic mobilities, on the other hand, are inversely proportional to the number of atoms present in a unit cell; since a greater presence of atoms would hinder or slow down the flock of electrons through a crystal lattice; and a smaller number would facilitate the flow of these electrons. Thus, the lowest values will be for allotropes. Thus, the lowest values will be for the allotropes bct - Si₃₂ and bct - Si₂₄. And those closest to bct - C₄, the variants bct - Si₁₂ and bct - Si₁₈; As expected.

As for the optical properties, the values are increasing, proportionally to the number of nanotomes that make up a unit cell. Those with the lowest value in the Kerr index, n, correspond to the theoretical allotropes, bct - Si₁₂ and bct - Si₁₈, whit, 3, 63901 and 4, 45299, respectively; Greater than 3, 02082 of the diamante and bct - C₄ forms, with 8 atoms per unit cell. This figure reaches higher values in allotropes formed by a greater number of silicon atoms, such as bct - Si₂₄, with 5, 056, and bct - Si₃₂, with 5, 74273; which could be interesting or attractive, in this regard, for possible applications in nonlinear optics.

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