

Palladium (III) Fluoride Bulk and PdF₃/Ga₂O₃/PdF₃ Magnetic Tunnel Junction: Multiple Spin-Gapless Semiconducting, Perfect Spin Filtering, and High Tunnel Magnetoresistance

Computational Methods

In our study, the structural, electronic, and magnetic properties for rhombohedral-type PdF₃ bulk were calculated based on the density functional theory (DFT), as implemented in the Nanodcal package [1]. The Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange-correlation functional was applied [2] for the parameterization of general gradient approximation (GGA) [3]. The DFT+U function was considered to examine the electronic structures of PdF₃.

The spin-transport calculations were performed by the nanodcal package, which used the DFT combined with the non-equilibrium Green's Function method [4]. In this calculation, the Monkhorst-Pack k-meshes for the electrons and the centers were 9×9×100 and 9×9×1, respectively. The self-consistent calculation is limited to 10⁻⁵ Hartree tolerance. All these parameters were evaluated and found to be sufficient to obtain accurate results. The spin-dependent current is calculated by the Landauer-Buttiker formula:

$$I^{\uparrow(\downarrow)} = \frac{e}{h} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left\{ T^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(E, V_b) [f_L(E - \mu_L) - f_R(E - \mu_R)] \right\} dE,$$

where $f_{L/R}(E - \mu_{L/R})$ is the Fermi-Dirac distribution for the left (right) electrode, and $\mu_{L/R} = E_F \pm eV/2$ is the corresponding electrochemical potential. $T^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(E, V_b)$ is the spin-dependent transmission coefficient:

$$T^{\uparrow(\downarrow)}(E, V_b) = Tr \left[\Gamma_L G^R \Gamma_R G^A \right]^{\uparrow(\downarrow)},$$

where $G^{R(A)}$ is the retarded (advanced) Green's function of the central region, and $\Gamma_{L(R)}$ is the coupling matrix of the left (right) electrode.

Models of bulk Palladium (III) fluoride and PdF₃/Ga₂O₃/PdF₃ MTJ

The crystal structure of the rhombohedral-type PdF₃ (space group: $R\bar{3}c$, No. 167, ICSD ID: 16675), as shown in Figure S1. The crystal structure has been fully relaxed and detailed structure optimization methods can be found in The Materials Project database [5]. The obtained lattice constants are $a = b = c = 5.618 \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 54.956^\circ$, respectively. The lattice parameters obtained by theory are consistent with the experimental values [6]. According to the database [5], one can see that the calculated formation energy is -1.592 eV and negative value of formation energy shows the possible stability of bulk Palladium (III) fluoride. The magnetic ground state of PdF₃ is ferromagnetic with a magnetic moment of 0.779 μ_B .

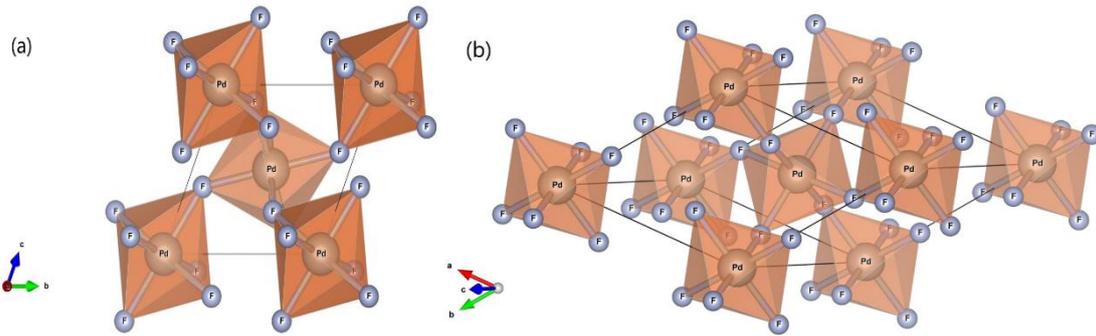


Figure S1. (a) Front and (b) side views of lattice structure of rhombohedral-type PdF₃ bulk.

In our work, the MTJ device model is periodic along the x- and y-axes, while the transport direction is along the z-axis. The crystals of Ga₂O₃ can be found here [7]. Ga₂O₃ with rhombohedral-type is a semiconductor and no virtual frequency in the phonon spectrum of Ga₂O₃ guarantee the stability of this material. The optimized distance between PdF₃ layer with F-terminated interface and O layer was found to be 2.61 \AA . The lattice mismatch between PdF₃ and Ga₂O₃ is 3.72%.

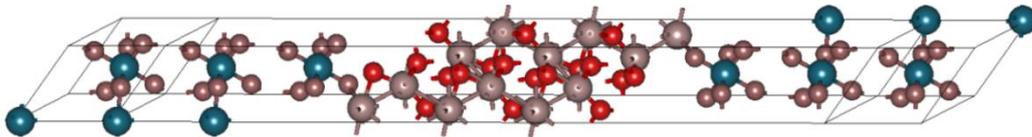


Figure S2. Geometric structure of PdF₃-Ga₂O₃-PdF₃ magnetic tunnel junction (MTJ).

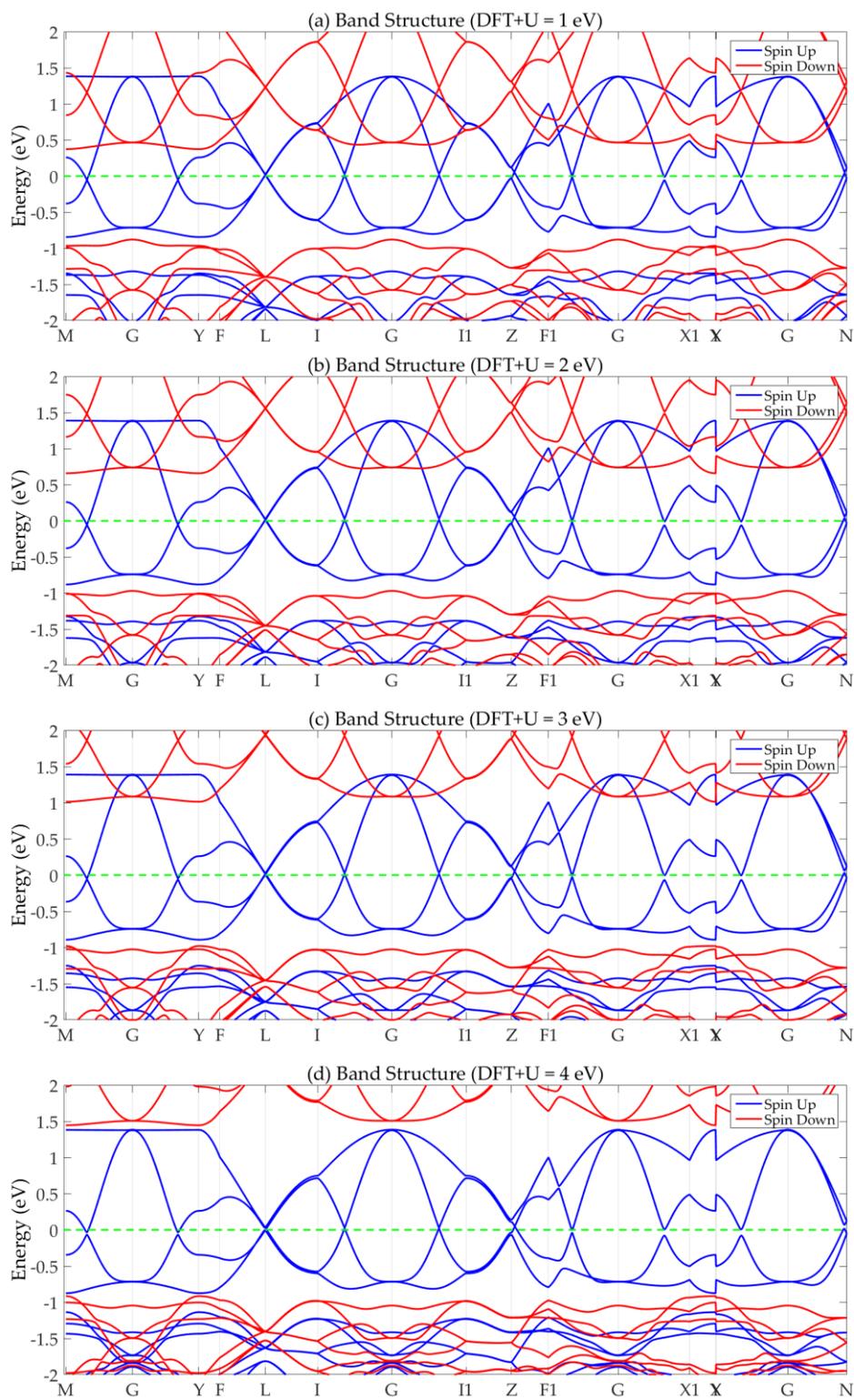


Figure S3. Band structures of PdF₃ bulk calculated based on the PBE+U method. Here, we assessed the influence brought by Hubbard U from 1 eV to 4 eV for Pd-4d orbitals.

Band structure under MBJ potential

Since the GGA potential sometimes underestimates potential band gaps, here we check the band structure of PdF_3 by using a combination of modified Becke-Johnson exchange potential with GGA (MBJGGA) [8]. As shown in Figure S4, we can observe that the novel multiple linear-type spin-gapless semiconducting band structures in PdF_3 retain under the MBJ calculation.

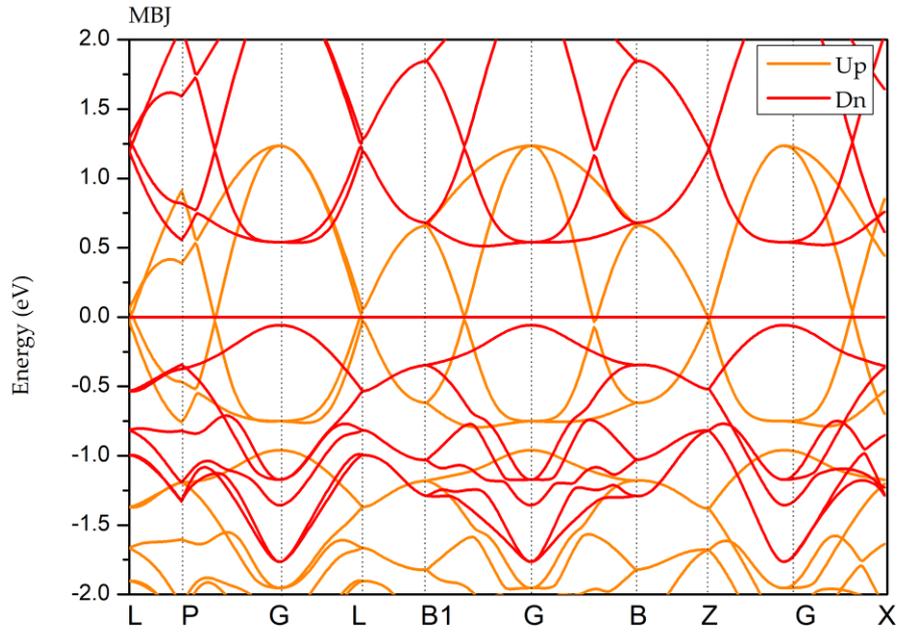


Figure S4. Band structure of PdF_3 bulk under MBJGGA calculation within VASP software.

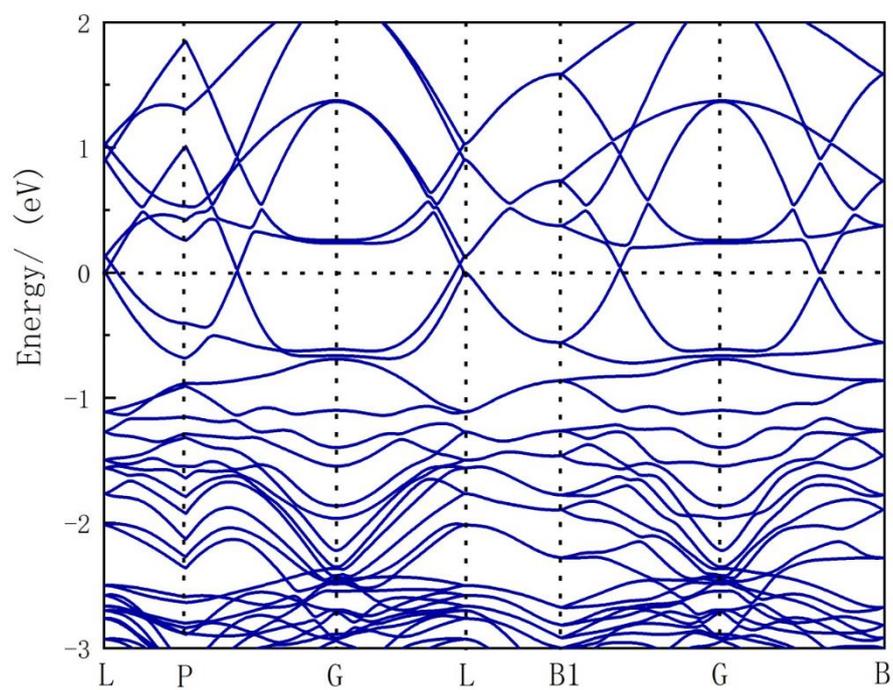


Figure S5. Band structure of PdF₃ bulk calculated based on the PBE functional with consideration of the SOC effect.

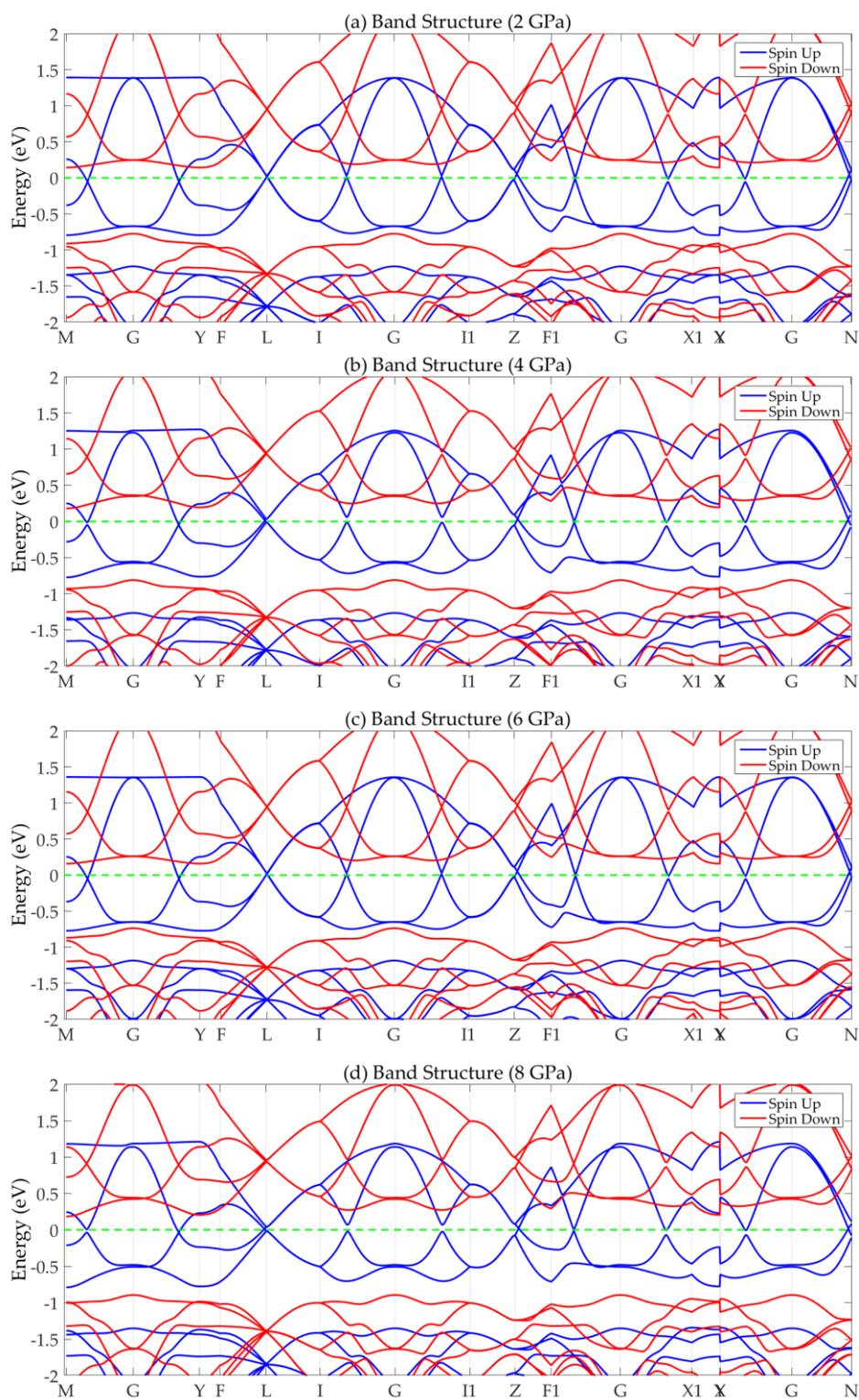


Figure S6. Band structures of PdF₃ bulk under different pressures. These results were calculated based on the PBE functional.

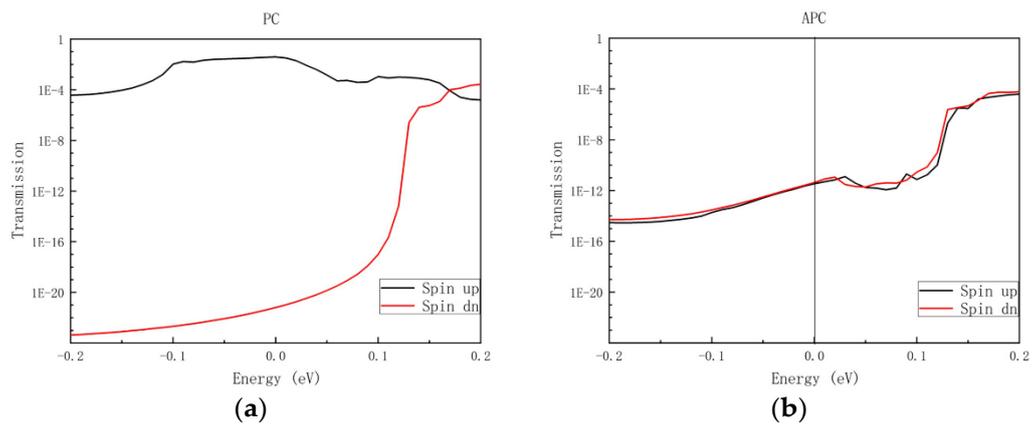


Figure S7. (a) Equilibrium-state transmission spectrum in parallel configuration for PdF₃-based MTJ. (b) Equilibrium-state transmission spectrum in anti-parallel configuration for PdF₃-based MTJ.

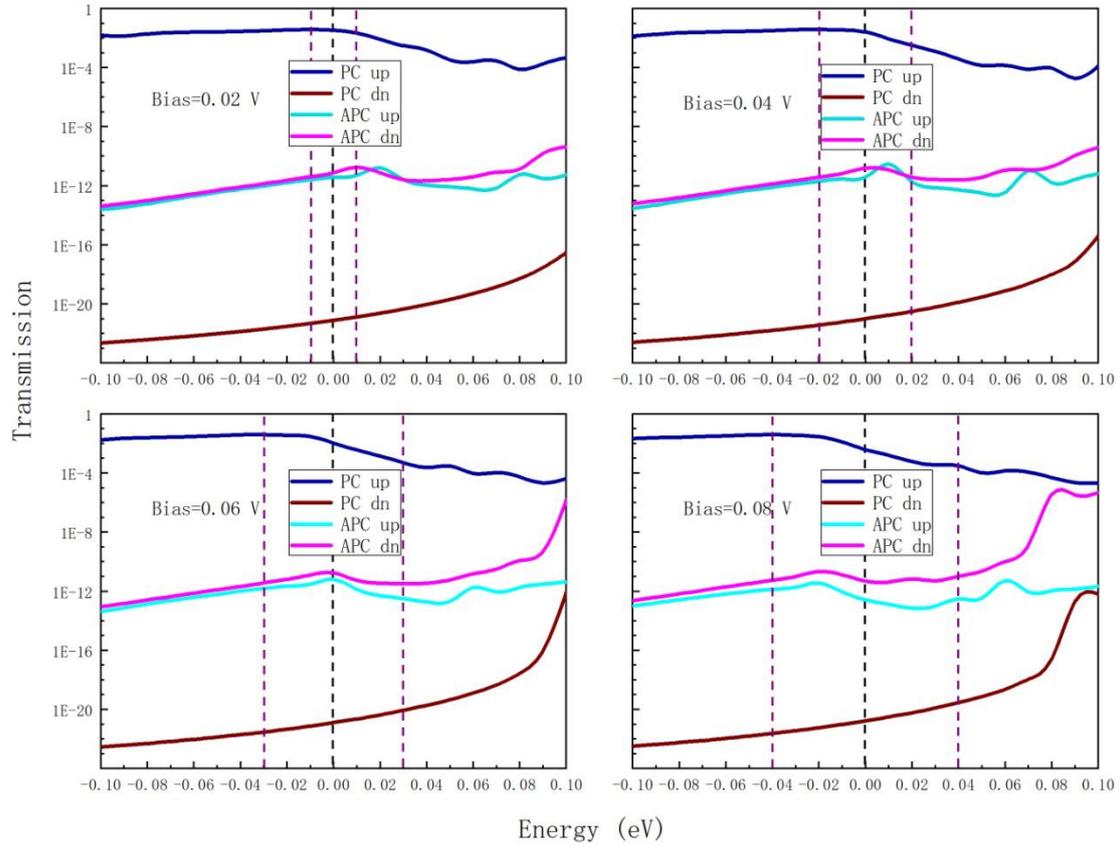


Figure S8. Non-equilibrium transmission spectrum versus electron energy at a fixed bias voltage for PdF₃-based MTJ.

References

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