

## Abstract

# Ising Spin-Orbit Coupling and Electronic Band Structures of $t_{2g}$ Electrons at Charged Ferroelectric Domain Walls

by Maryam Nasir

The interplay between electron charge, spin, and ferroelectric polarization is under-explored for conducting ferroelectric domain walls. We investigated the electronic band structures of  $t_{2g}$  electrons, confined to charged  $90^\circ$  domain walls in barium titanate ( $BaTiO_3$ ), a prototypical perovskite ferroelectric. A key novel aspect of our study is the explicit inclusion of both orbital and spin degrees of freedom in the Hamiltonian. This leads to an Ising-type spin-orbit coupling. We constructed a tight-binding model (TBM) for  $t_{2g}$  electrons that is constrained by symmetries of the domain wall, including time-reversal, mirror, and rotational symmetries. First-principles density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed to extract the tight binding parameters. Our findings offer new insights into spin-orbit interactions at ferroelectric domain walls and open avenues for their potential use in next-generation electronic and spintronic devices.

**Keywords:** Ferroelectrics, Charged Domain Walls, 2DEG, Symmetries, Spintronics, Spin-Orbit Coupling, Polarization, Energy Bands, Hamiltonian, Tight-Binding

©Copyright Maryam Nasir 2025  
M.Sc Materials Science Program  
September 2025