



## Prediction study of Optical, structural and electronic properties of $WCl_x$ ( $x = 3$ to 6)

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

Molecular structure  
CASTEP  
Tungsten chloride  
Band structure  
GGA-PBESOL

### ABSTRACT

The molecular structures of  $WCl_6$ ,  $WCl_5$ ,  $WCl_4$ ,  $WCl_3$  have been optimized by density functional theory calculations. We report the stability of the phases in the ground state, the total energies and the optoelectronic properties of the W-Cl system. We find that the material having a low tungsten concentration shows a low DOS at the Fermi level, which implies a high resistivity. Both polymorphs of  $WCl_6$  are crystalline solids at room temperature and show the ( $\alpha$ - $WCl_6$ ) and ( $\beta$ - $WCl_6$ ) phases of space group R-3 and P-3 m1 observed at 228 °C. The change in temperature influences the structural, electronic and optical properties. The object of this paper does not concern only the study of all phases, but also one controls the physical states of the molecular materials when they are subjected to polymorphic changes. Calculations on the molecular structure under symmetry indicated an orbitally degenerate ground state with bond distances in good agreement with experiment.

### 1. Introduction

Tungsten hexachloride is a chemical compound containing tungsten and chlorine with the stoichiometric formula  $WCl_6$ . It is used as the cathode in chloride-ion batteries, which are a new and emerging battery technology that provide high theoretical volumetric capacity at low cost [1]. The study of the phase diagram of the W-Cl system carried out by H. Okamoto [2] is illustrated in Fig. 1. The phase diagram is presented to show the effect of temperature and concentration on the present phases structure of the alloy at constant pressure, where an equilibrium state corresponds to the minimum value of free energy. The study of the phase diagram helps to clarify the phase transformations produced during processing under heating conditions. We note that the optimized tetrahedral structures  $WCl_6$ ,  $WCl_5$  and  $WCl_4$ , the planar trigonal structure  $WCl_3$  and the molecular structure  $W_2Cl_6$  were studied by Bernd

Schimmel Pfennig et al. using the quasi-relativistic potential for the electrons core [3]. Fluorescence called photoluminescence is defined as the excitation caused by the absorption of a photon, where the electronic transition responsible for fluorescence does not change the spin of the electrons, resulting in short-lived electrons in the state excited in the W-Cl system. The interest in the study of W-Cl alloys is very important because of their interesting mechanical parameters and their technological importance, notably engineering, electronics and mechanics. Indeed, it is reported that V. Sliznev and N. Belova studied the Jahn-Teller effect and the spin-orbit coupling of the compound  $MX_3$  and  $MX_4$  ( $M=Mo, W$  and  $X=F, Cl$ ) [4]. We present the atomic and weight percent chlorine in the range 80 to 86 and 44 to 53 under temperature effect between 140 °C and 300 °C. The phases which appear in Fig. 1 are  $WCl_3$ ,  $\alpha WCl_5$ ,  $\beta WCl_5$ ,  $\alpha WCl_6$ ,  $\beta WCl_6$ , and  $\gamma WCl_6$ .

Other research carried out by Andrew Sevy et al. provide the first

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comptc.2024.114792>

Received 3 May 2024; Received in revised form 14 July 2024; Accepted 26 July 2024

Available online 29 July 2024

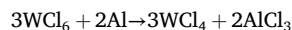
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measurement of the bond energies of the  $\text{WCl}_x$  molecule [5]. Uncertainty is reported to remain in  $\text{WCl}_x$  alloys rich in W due to their stable crystal phases. Tungsten has a melting point of 3680 °C, hence its use in high temperature applications such as aerospace and arc welding processes. Tungsten also is a transition metal that exists in equilibrium in two polymorphic forms such as the more stable  $\beta$ -W cubic structure ( $Im\bar{3}m$ , No 229) and the metastable  $\alpha$ -W cubic structure ( $Pm\bar{3}n$ , No 223). Chlorine is a bimolecular gas  $\text{Cl}_2$ , which is used in the manufacture of consumer products, such as polyvinyl chloride and the production of plastics. The first crystal structure of solid chlorine synthesized at room temperature and a pressure of 1.45 GPa [6] and extracted from a powder and X-ray diffraction shows the tetragonal symmetry [7]. A detailed study of the single crystal  $\text{Cl}_2$  by X-ray diffraction reveals an orthorhombic structure of iodine and the bromine  $\text{Cmca}$  [8]. limited amounts of alkyl halides produced from the combination of  $\text{WCl}_6$  with some other  $N$ -aryl  $\alpha$ -demines [9] were detected. We optimized by the density functional theory with a quasi-relativistic potential the molecular structures  $\text{WCl}_6$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_3$  and the dimer  $\text{W}_2\text{Cl}_6$ . The tri- and dichlorides reveal the presence of  $\text{W}_2\text{Cl}_6$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ , and  $\text{WCl}_4$  species in the gas phase, but no measurable levels of monomeric  $\text{WCl}_3$  or  $\text{WCl}_2$  [10].  $\text{WCl}_6$  is used in the preparation of catalysts to obtain a coating of tungsten on a substrate to improve electrical conductivity in windows and windshields [11,12]. Tungsten chloride with a melting point of 282 °C is absorbed through the respiratory and digestive tract [13]. Cl/O interchange took place when  $\text{WCl}_6$  was allowed to interact with a series of  $\alpha$ -amino-acids [14]. B. Marco et al. [15] studied the reaction of  $\text{WCl}_6$  with a selection of carboxylic acids using dichloromethane as reaction medium. The production of  $\text{WCl}_6$  is obtained by chlorination of metallic tungsten at temperature 600 °C, as indicated by the following relation:



The  $\text{WCl}_6$  reaction product has a blue-black crystalline solid at room temperature and takes ( $\alpha$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ ) and ( $\beta$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ ) phases with approximately 56 % ( $\alpha$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ ) and 44 %( $\beta$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ ). J.C. Taylor et al. studied the ( $\beta$ -W) hexachloride structure by neutron powder and X-ray diffraction [16]. Deane K. Smith et al. [17] synthesize and suggest that the crystal structure of  $\text{WCl}_6$  is isostructural and exhibits a polymorph  $\beta$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ . The second polymorph is  $\alpha$ - $\text{WCl}_6$  of hexagonal structure with lattice parameters  $a = 6.088 \text{ \AA}$  and  $c = 16.68 \text{ \AA}$  and space group  $R\bar{3}$ . Inorganic pentachloride tungsten  $\text{WCl}_5$  is prepared by reduction of tungsten hexachloride and exists as a dimer. Cotton et al. [18] have been studied the  $\text{WCl}_5$  compound in the monoclinic crystal structure.  $\text{WCl}_4$  is synthesized

from  $\text{WCl}_6$  by reducing  $\text{WCl}_6$  with Al [19,20] according to the equation:



$\text{WCl}_4$  has a monoclinic crystal structure with space group  $C2/m$ ,  $Z=4$  and lattice parameters  $a = 11.782 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 6.475 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 8.062 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 131.14^\circ$ . Inorganic tungsten  $\text{WCl}_3$  is a brown solid obtained by chlorination of tungsten chloride [21]. The aim of this work is the study of the structure and lattice parameters, the stability, the electronic and optical parameters of the trigonal ( $R\bar{3}$ , 148)  $\text{WCl}_3$ , monoclinic ( $C2/m$ , 12)  $\text{WCl}_4$ , monoclinic ( $C2/m$ , 12)  $\text{WCl}_5$ , hexagonal ( $P\bar{3}m1$ , 164)  $\beta$ - $\text{WCl}_6$  and hexagonal ( $R\bar{3}$ , 148)  $\alpha$ - $\text{WCl}_6$ . The scope of this study explains the extent to which the research area will be explored and specifies the parameters within this study will be operating.

## 2. Calculation models

We use the CASTEP code in the calculation of crystal structure and optoelectronic properties for  $\text{WCl}_x$  ( $x = 3$  to 6) [22]. Schrödinger's equations were solved according to the formalism of density functional theory. During the calculations, we use the norm-conserving pseudo potential of GGA-PBESOL [23] to characterize the valence electrons. We choose a  $\text{cut}_{\text{off}}$  energy of 300 eV and  $4 \times 4 \times 4$  Monkhorst-Pack grid to perform reciprocal space [24]. The optimization of W,  $\text{WCl}_x$  ( $x = 3$  to 6) and  $\text{Cl}_2$  was done by GGA-PBESOL and LDA [25–27]. The Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb technique was used to calculate the equilibrium lattice parameters. The fastest technique to identify the lowest energy structure is typically provided by this strategy. The tolerance of the self-consistency calculation is  $2.10^{-5}$  eV/atom. We adopt the following convergence thresholds, such as total energy change smaller than  $2.10^{-5}$  eV/atom, maximum force per atom below 0.05 eV/atom, pressure smaller than 0.1 GPa, and maximum atomic displacement below  $2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ \AA}$ . The electrons of an atom are divided into valence and core electrons. Valence electrons occupy the outermost shell (highest energy level) of an atom, while core electrons are those occupying the innermost shell (lowest energy levels). Valence electrons participate in the formation of chemical bonding, while core electrons influence the chemical reactivity of an atom. The electronic configuration of W and Cl are noticed as W:  $[\text{Xe}] 4f^{14} 5d^4 6s^2$  and Cl:  $[\text{Ne}] 3s^2 3p^5$ .

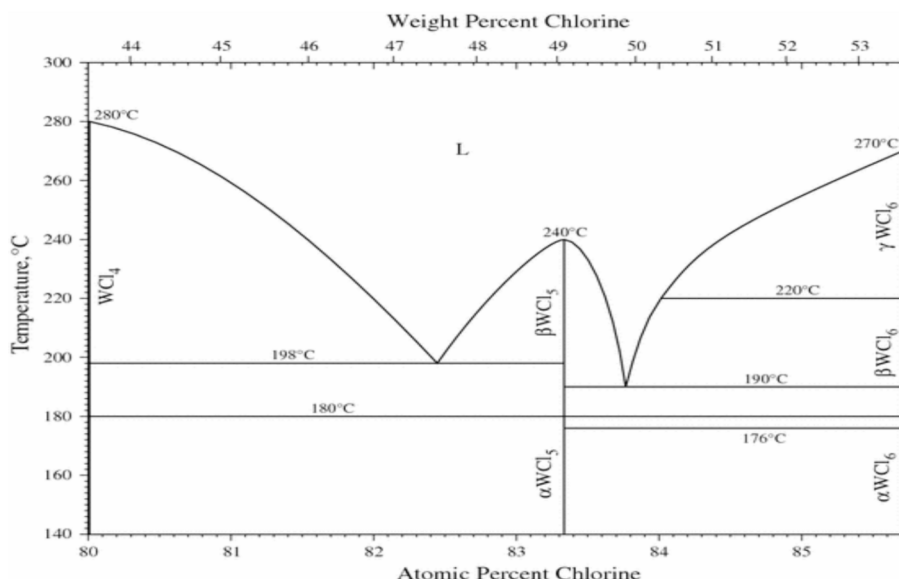


Fig. 1. The region 80 to 86 atomic Cl % of the phase diagram for the W-Cl system [2].

### 3. Results and discussions

#### 3.1. Structural parameters

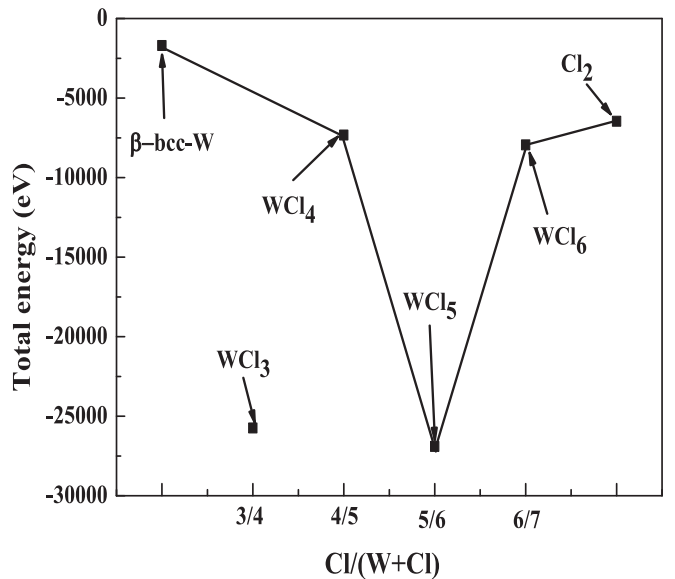
We collect in Table 1, all information about crystal structure, space group, lattice parameters,  $\beta$  angles, volume and number of cells, which agree well with experimental values [6,8,16,17,20,28,29]. We studied the  $\text{Cl}_2$  orthorhombic structure (Cmca, 64) at 0 GPa and 1.45 GPa. It is noted that the pressure reduces the lattice parameters and volume, where the results agree reasonably with experimental ones [6,8]. We show in Table 2 the total energy, density and bond lengths between atoms for all compounds. We noticed that there are several bonds Cl-W and W-W with lengths within 2.3941 to 2.4656 (Å) range. Fig. 2; shows the effect of Cl content on optimization energy for W-Cl system and explains the structural stability of these materials. The degree of stability in these molecules follows the following sequence  $\text{WCl}_5 \rightarrow \text{WCl}_3 \rightarrow \alpha\text{-WCl}_6 \rightarrow \beta\text{-WCl}_6$ . The monoclinic  $\text{WCl}_5$  (C2/m, 12) and the trigonal  $\text{WCl}_3$  (R-3, 148) are the more stable phases. The bonds lengths of W,  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$  and  $2\text{Cl}_2$  are in well agreement with experimental values reported in the literature [8,10]. Fig. 3 represents a view of the (001) plane and perspective view of  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ .

Our study confirms that  $\text{WCl}_5$  and  $\text{WCl}_3$  are the compounds the more stable. The total minimum energy of W,  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\text{WCl}_6$  and  $2\text{Cl}_2$ , in their ground state phases lay on a common straight line. This straight line implies that the concentration range of the different compounds is quite narrow and that the phase diagram consists mainly of two-phase regions. The ground state of  $\text{WCl}_4$  is a tetrahedral triplet (Td), while that of  $\text{WCl}_3$  is a trigonal planar quartet (D3h).  $\text{WCl}_6$  phase may be present in two crystal forms, such as  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  hexagonal (P-3 m1, 164) and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  hexagonal (R-3, 148). The W atoms in  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  lie in octahedral holes in the hexagonal close-packed chlorine, and the octahedra around (W) are nearly regular. Six Cl atoms surround each W atom. Fig. 3 shows a view of the projection of the atomic positions in the plane (001) and a perspective view for  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ . The mean W-Cl bond distance found in the crystalline phase 226 (2) pm [16], although less accurate, is in good agreement with the gas phase value. The bond distance in  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  ( $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ) obtained in this study is 2.321 Å (2.30646 Å to 2.34198 Å) appears to be significantly longer than the mean bond distances in  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  (2.234 Å) and (2.265–2.568 Å) respectively. The mean bond distances in  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  calculated by other researchers are 2.248 Å and 2.26 Å [30,31] respectively. As a result, shorter bonds are stronger, because strength is inversely proportional to length. A more stable and shorter bond will be more difficult to break.  $\text{WCl}_5$  phase follows the stacking sequence ABAC with W atoms

**Table 2**

Total energy, density and bond lengths between atoms for W,  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{Cl}_2$ .

Compounds	Energy (eV)	Density	Bond length (Å)
W	−1699.4328	19.1483	W-W: 2.517
$\text{WCl}_3$	−25742.4449	4.7524	W-Cl: 2.3941–2.4656 2.246 [8]
$\text{WCl}_4$	−7323.6618	2.79290	W-Cl: 2.234 2.265 [8]
$\text{WCl}_5$	−26903.3298	3.40460	W-Cl: 2.265–2.568 2.273 [10]
$\beta\text{-WCl}_6$	−7943.9795	2.54024	W-Cl: 2.316–2.342 2.321 [10]
$\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$	−7951.9897	3.35984	W-Cl: 2.321



**Fig. 2.** The effect of Cl content on total energies of W-Cl system.

and W vacancies in the holes. For each of these considered compounds, except for  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  case, the lowest energy structure is found to have the highest  $N(E_F)$  value, where no experimental value is available for comparison. The total density of states at the Fermi level at  $T=0^\circ\text{K}$  for  $\text{WCl}_4$  is 3.272 states per eV and per atom. The corresponding band structures of these materials are a semi-conductor with a band gap of 1.746 eV and

**Table 1**

Space groups, lattice parameters, angle, conventional volume, number of cell formula of compounds and reference in the W-Cl system. (a) This study at 0 GPa, (b) This study at 1.45 GPa.

Structure	$a_0$ (Å)	$b_0$ (Å)	$c_0$ (Å)	$\beta$ (°)	$V_0$ (Å <sup>3</sup> )	Z	References
$\beta\text{-W}_8$ (cubic, $Pm\bar{3}n$ , 223)	5.0331	—	—	—	127.548	1	This study
	5.0460	—	—	—	128.481	—	[31]
$\text{WCl}_3$ trigonal (R-3, 148)	15.6815	15.6815	8.5703	—	1825.21	18	This study
	14.9352	14.9352	8.4553	—	—	—	[32]
$\text{WCl}_4$ monoclinic (C2/m, 12)	15.1306	6.3668	9.2245	119.38	774.498	4	This study
	11.782	6.475	8.062	131.14	463.20	—	[20]
$\text{WCl}_5$ monoclinic (C2/m, 12)	18.0385	18.4810	6.3661	95.20	2113.54	12	This study
	17.438	17.706	6.063	95.51	1863.36	12	[18]
$\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ hexagonal (P-3 m1, 164)	11.8459	—	6.3994	—	777.702	3	This study
	10.493	—	5.725	—	—	—	[1617]
	10.511	—	5.757	—	—	—	—
$\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ hexagonal (R-3, 148)	6.3649	—	16.7591	—	587.989	3	This study
	6.088	—	16.68	—	—	3	[16]
$\text{Cl}_2$ orthorhombic (Cmca, 64)	8.5790	5.0377	8.8041	—	380.503	4	This study (a)This study
	6.9445	4.2778	8.2451	—	244.944	4	(b)
	5.9988	4.3231	7.9919	—	207.220	4	[68]
	6.29	4.50	8.21	—	—	4	—

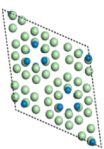
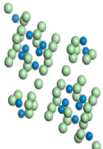
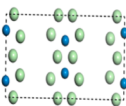

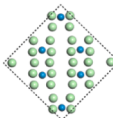
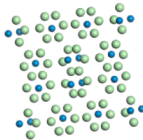
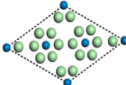
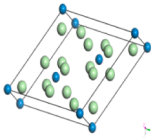
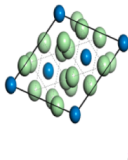
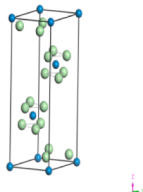
Compounds	View of the (001) plane	Perspective view
$\text{WCl}_3$		
$\text{WCl}_4$		
$\text{WCl}_5$		
$\beta\text{-WCl}_6$		
$\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$		

Fig. 3. The view of the (001) plane and perspective view of  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ .

1.806 eV, which is conform to available experimental value 1.917 eV [32]. Fig. 4 shows the energy as a function on volume for  $\text{WCl}_3$  (a),  $\text{WCl}_4$  (b),  $\text{WCl}_5$  (c),  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  (d) and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  (e). All energies are negative, then all these alloys are stable.

### 3.2. Electronic band structure

We will discuss the electronic band structure and the projected density of state (PDOS) of materials. We show in Fig. 5 the band structures and total densities of states of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  performed with GGA- PBESOL. The lowest energy of conduction band is at  $\Gamma$  point, while the highest energy of valence band is at  $\Gamma$  point, which indicate a

direct  $\Gamma\text{-}\Gamma$  band gap for  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  (1.78 eV, 0.08 eV, 1.746 eV and 1.803 eV), while  $\text{WCl}_4$  has the metallic character. The over lapping of the bands and the existence of a density of state in the DOS at the Fermi level are the signs that  $\text{WCl}_4$  shows a metallic character. We note that DOS curves of  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and band structure are consistent. The atomic geometry of monoclinic  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  contain an ordered arrangement of W vacancies.

The common features in the PDOS profile for the studied compounds consist in the fact that W and Cl have a similar profile throughout the whole energy region, indicating the presence of hybridization between W and Cl sites. The contribution at the upper valence band is mainly the W-3d and Cl-3p states. The sharp peaks correspond to maximum

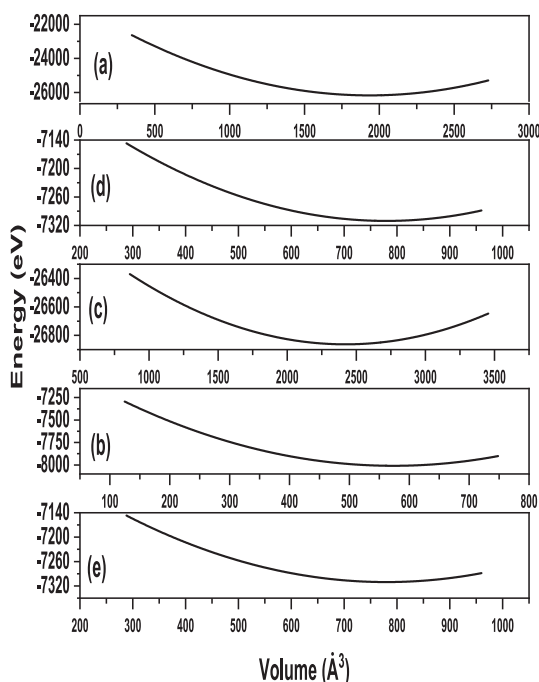


Fig. 4. Energy as a function on volume of  $\text{WCl}_3$  (a),  $\text{WCl}_4$  (b),  $\text{WCl}_5$  (c),  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  (d) and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  (e).

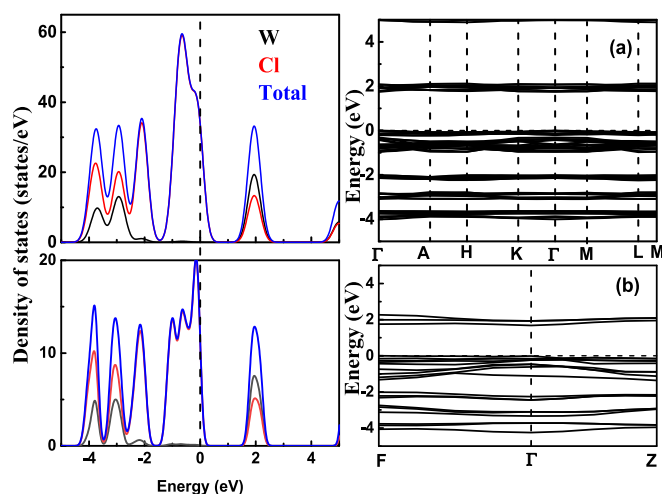


Fig. 5. Band structures and total densities of states of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  (a) and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  (b).

electronic contributions for distinct energies, while in a plateau the electronic contribution is almost identical in an energy range. Hirshfeld charges are due to the strain density, which is the difference between the molecular and unrelaxed atomic charge densities. The quantitative description of charge distributions in a molecule requires dividing a system into atomic fragments. A general and natural choice is to share the charge density at each point between the atoms, in proportion to their free-atom densities at the corresponding distances from the nuclei. This prescription yields well-localized bonded-atom distributions each of which closely resembles the molecular density in its vicinity. Integration of the atomic deformation densities bonded minus free atoms defines the net atomic charges and multipole moments which concisely summarize the molecular charge reorganization. This permits calculation of the external electrostatic potential and the interaction energy between molecules or between parts of the same molecule. Mulliken populations analysis of  $\text{WCl}_x$  ( $x = 3$  to 6) compounds allows the

evolution description of charge transfers and binding interactions in molecular systems. We report in Table 3 the lengths and overlap populations of the shortest atomic bonds W-W, Cl-Cl and Cl-W in  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  compounds and some experimental values [6,10,20,32]. The mean interatomic distances are in total agreement with those given experimentally for either  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  or  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ , which the DFT is a good calculation tool. We display in Table 4 the partial atomic charges (Mulliken populations) in the different atoms for  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ . The atomic charges given by the calculations follow the expected chemical trends and are also similar to the Hirshfeld atomic charges.

### 3.3. Optical properties

The reflectivity, absorption, loss function, conductivity, dielectric function, refractive index and extinction coefficient were calculated for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . These parameters are anisotropic for materials in the hexagonal structure. We report in Figs. 6–8; the effect of photon energy on reflectivity, absorption, conductivity, real and imaginary parts of dielectric function, refractive index and loss function for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . The reflectivity is a measure of the ability of a material to reflect radiation. The static reflectivity of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  is 0.07, 0.04 and 0.16 and reaches several peaks of maxima in the field of extreme ultraviolet light. The maximum reflectivity of about 20 %, 22 % and 100 % is obtained at 20 eV, 5 eV and 20 eV for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . These materials are reported to absorb ultraviolet light in the range 5 eV to 20 eV. This improvement validates the candidature of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  materials for optical and photovoltaic devices. The maximum absorption coefficient of about  $25.10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $17.10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $35.10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is obtained at 16 eV for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ .  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  materials do not undergo strong delocalization (number of double bonds  $\geq 10$ ), then absorption does not occur in the visible region. The absorption capacity is explained by the imaginary part of the dielectric function. The intense peak of the imaginary part of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  is located at a photon energy of 5 eV. The absorption is produced in the extreme ultraviolet range. Small peaks are noticed in the ultraviolet range. The features of the energy-loss spectra are related to the photonic band structure of the crystal. The interaction of electrons with the crystal contributes to the energy loss. The electron energy loss of 7 %, 22.5 % and 8 % for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  alloys are localized in the ultraviolet light region (20 eV). We represent the effect of photon energy on real and imaginary parts of optical conductivity. The static conductivity of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  is  $1.7 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1.5 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $2.3 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The appearance of the three conductivity spectra in the energy range 5 and 20 is identical. The flat in the conductivity spectrum

Table 3

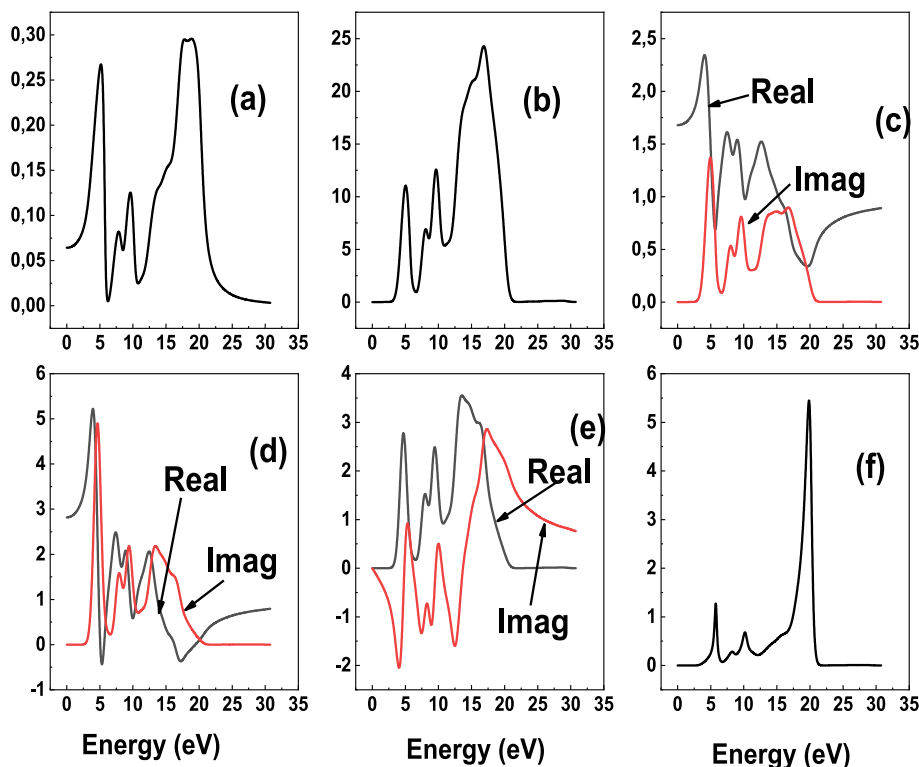
Bonds, populations of all electron configurations and length of  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ .

Compound	Bonds	Population	Length (\AA)
$\text{WCl}_3$	Cl – W	0.35 to 0.54	2.3941 to 2.4656
	W – W	0.07 to 0.11	2.376 to 2.418 [32] 2.92739 to 2.93765 2.869 to 2.879 [32]
$\text{WCl}_4$	Cl – W	0.04 to 0.68	1.83947 to 2.96164
		0.54 [20]	2.280 to 2.5 [20] 2.265 [10]
$\text{WCl}_5$	W – W	0.94	2.49389
	Cl – W	0.31 to 0.60	2.284 to 2.56804
$\beta\text{-WCl}_6$	Cl – W	0.54	2.30646 to 2.34198 2.321 2.24 [6]
			2.0321
$\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$	Cl – W	0.53	2.224 [6] 3.27703
	Cl – Cl		



**Table 4**Specie, partial atomic charges (Mulliken populations), charge and Hirshfeld charge (e) in the different atoms for  $\text{WCl}_3$ ,  $\text{WCl}_4$ ,  $\text{WCl}_5$ ,  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ .

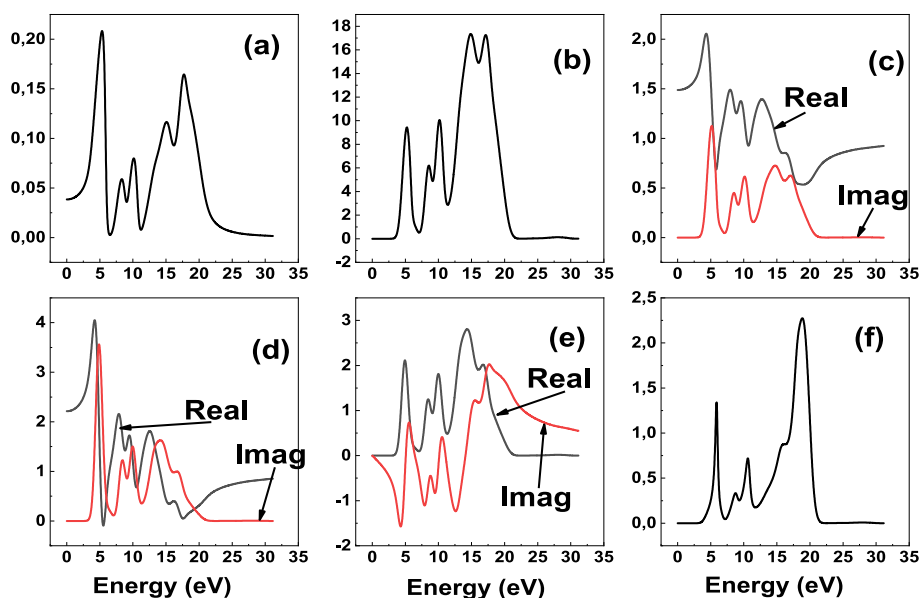
	Specie	s-Orbitals (e)	p-Orbitals (e)	d-orbitals (e)	Total (e)	Charge (e)	Hirshfeld charge (e)
$\text{WCl}_3$	Cl	1.95	5.14 to 5.40	0.00	7.09 to 7.34	−0.09 to −0.34	−0.21 to 0.04
	W	0.55	0.33	4.6	5.48	0.52	0.15
$\text{WCl}_4$	Cl	1.93 to 1.95	5.06 to 5.27	0.00	6.99 to 7.22	−0.22 to 0.01	−0.08 to 0.01
	W	0.85	0.15	4.55	5.56	0.44	0.16
$\text{WCl}_5$	Cl	1.94 to 1.95	5.22 to 5.30	0.00	7.17 to 7.24	−0.17 to −0.24	−0.09 to 0.06
	W	1.95	0.29	4.36 to 4.37	5.07 to 5.08	0.92 to 0.93	0.35
$\beta\text{-WCl}_6$	Cl	1.95	5.22	0	7.17	−0.17	−0.07
	W	0.36 to 0.39	0.27 to 0.39	4.27 to 4.31	4.95 to 4.96	1.04 to 1.05	0.43 to 0.44
$\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$	Cl	1.95	5.22	0	7.17	−0.17	−0.07
	W	0.39	0.31	4.29	4.98	1.02	0.44

**Fig. 6.** The reflectivity (a), absorption ( $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (b), conductivity (c), real and imaginary parts of dielectric function (d), refractive index (e) and loss function (f) for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ .

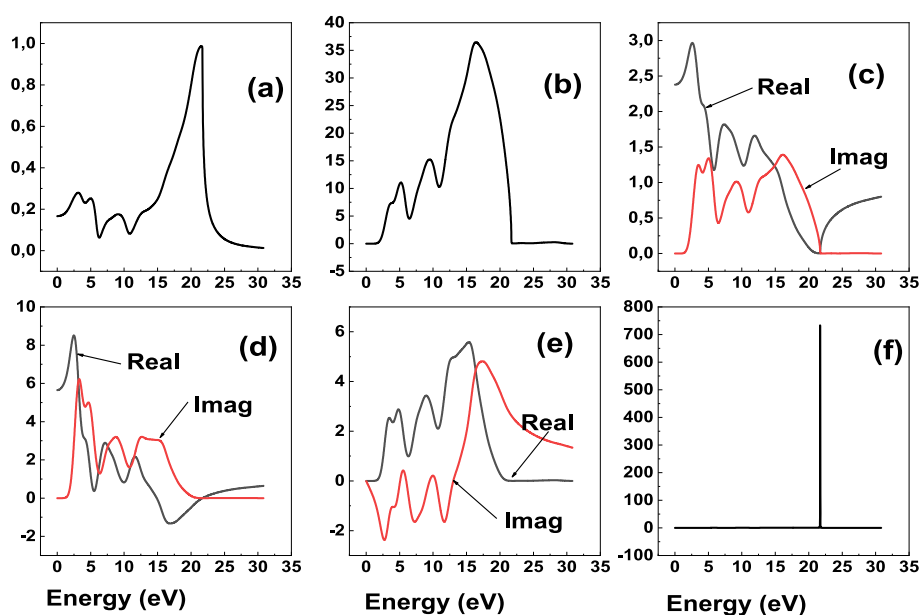
positioned between 5 eV and 10 eV is estimated by  $1.5 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1.4 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $1.7 \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . The real dielectric function helps in predicting the nonlinear optical behavior of the material. The imaginary part of the dielectric function represents the absorptive capacity of such material. We can observe that the imaginary component of the dielectric function attains non-zero magnitude at energy identical of that corresponding to the direct  $\Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma$  band gap value. The intense peak of imaginary dielectric function is located at about 5 eV, which suggest inter band transition, and the photon emission is not possible in this material. The static dielectric function is 2.8, 4 and 8.8 for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . The refractive index of the material measures its transparency to incident spectral radiation. The static refractive index is 2.8, 2.2 and 5.5 for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  and reaches a maximum value of 5, 4 and 8.5 and describes the behavior of light in a medium. It is in agreement with the experimental obtained result of 1.88 [32]. The refractive index is more important when photons move through the material and when bonds between atoms are covalent. The maximum static refractive index is 3.5, 2.8 and 5.5 at 15 eV for  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$ ,  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . The static refractive index starts at energy identical of that corresponding to the direct band gap values.

#### 4. Conclusion

We studied the cubic  $\beta\text{-W}_8$ , the trigonal  $\text{WCl}_3$ , the monoclinic  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ , the hexagonal  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and the orthorhombic  $\text{Cl}_2$  structures. The monoclinic  $\text{WCl}_5$  and the trigonal  $\text{WCl}_3$  are the more stable phases.  $\text{WCl}_6$  phase may be present in two crystal forms, such as the hexagonal ( $P\text{-}3 \text{ m}1, 164$ )  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and the hexagonal ( $R\text{-}3, 148$ )  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ . The obtained bond distance in  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  are significantly longer than the mean bond distances in  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$ . There is a direct  $\Gamma\text{-}\Gamma$  band gap for  $\text{WCl}_3$  (1.78 eV),  $\text{WCl}_5$  (0.08 eV),  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  (1.746 eV) and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  (1.803 eV), while  $\text{WCl}_4$  has the metallic character. The atomic geometry of monoclinic  $\text{WCl}_4$  and  $\text{WCl}_5$  contain an ordered arrangement of W vacancies. The PDOS profile of W and Cl are similar throughout the whole energy region, indicating the presence of hybridization between W and Cl electrons. One shares the charge density at each point between atoms in proportion to the free atomic density, so that the distribution of bound and localized atoms resembles the molecular density. The atomic charges follow the expected chemical trends and are also similar to the Hirshfeld atomic charges. The absorption coefficient of  $\beta\text{-WCl}_6$  and  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$  systems is  $80000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $225000$



**Fig. 7.** The reflectivity (a), absorption ( $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (b), conductivity (c), real and imaginary parts of dielectric function (d), refractive index (e) and loss function (f) for  $\alpha\text{-WCl}_6$ .



**Fig. 8.** The reflectivity (a), absorption ( $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (b), conductivity (c), real and imaginary parts of dielectric function (d), refractive index (e) and loss function (f) for  $\text{WCl}_5$ .

$\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively, the band gap 1.746 eV and 1.803 eV, which are characteristic properties of a good absorber material.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**R. Boudissa:** Formal analysis, Data curation. **Y. Madkour:** Software, Project administration. **T. Chihi:** Funding acquisition, Formal analysis. **M.A. Ghebouli:** Methodology, Investigation. **H. Bouandas:** Methodology, Investigation. **F. Benlakhdar:** Funding acquisition, Formal analysis. **M. Fatmi:** Writing – review & editing, Visualization, Validation. **B. Ghebouli:** Methodology, Investigation. **Munirah D. Albaqami:** . **Saikh Mohammad:** Investigation. **M. Habila:** Investigation. **M. Sillanpää:** Project administration.

#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Data availability

The authors do not have permission to share data.

#### Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the Researchers Supporting Project Number (RSP2024R267) King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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