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Electronic, magnetic, and structural properties of CoVMnSb: ab initio study

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Electronic, magnetic, and structural properties of CoVMnSb: ab initio study

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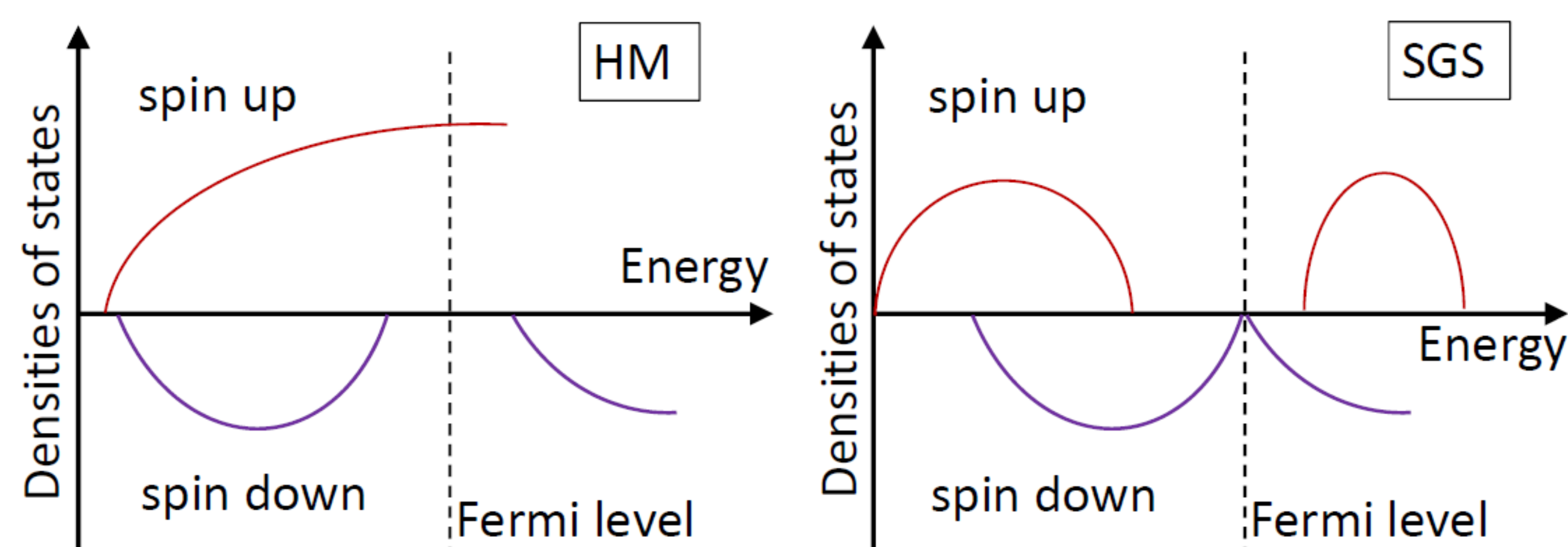
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Background

- Spin degree of freedom in electronic devices.
- Ideal candidate – room temperature half-metal.
- Heusler compounds attractive because of high Curie temperature
- Various mechanisms altering spin polarization – mechanical strain, structural disorder, temperature, termination surface/interface, etc.
- CoVMnSb: *nearly* spin gapless semiconductor.



Computational methods and resources

Software:

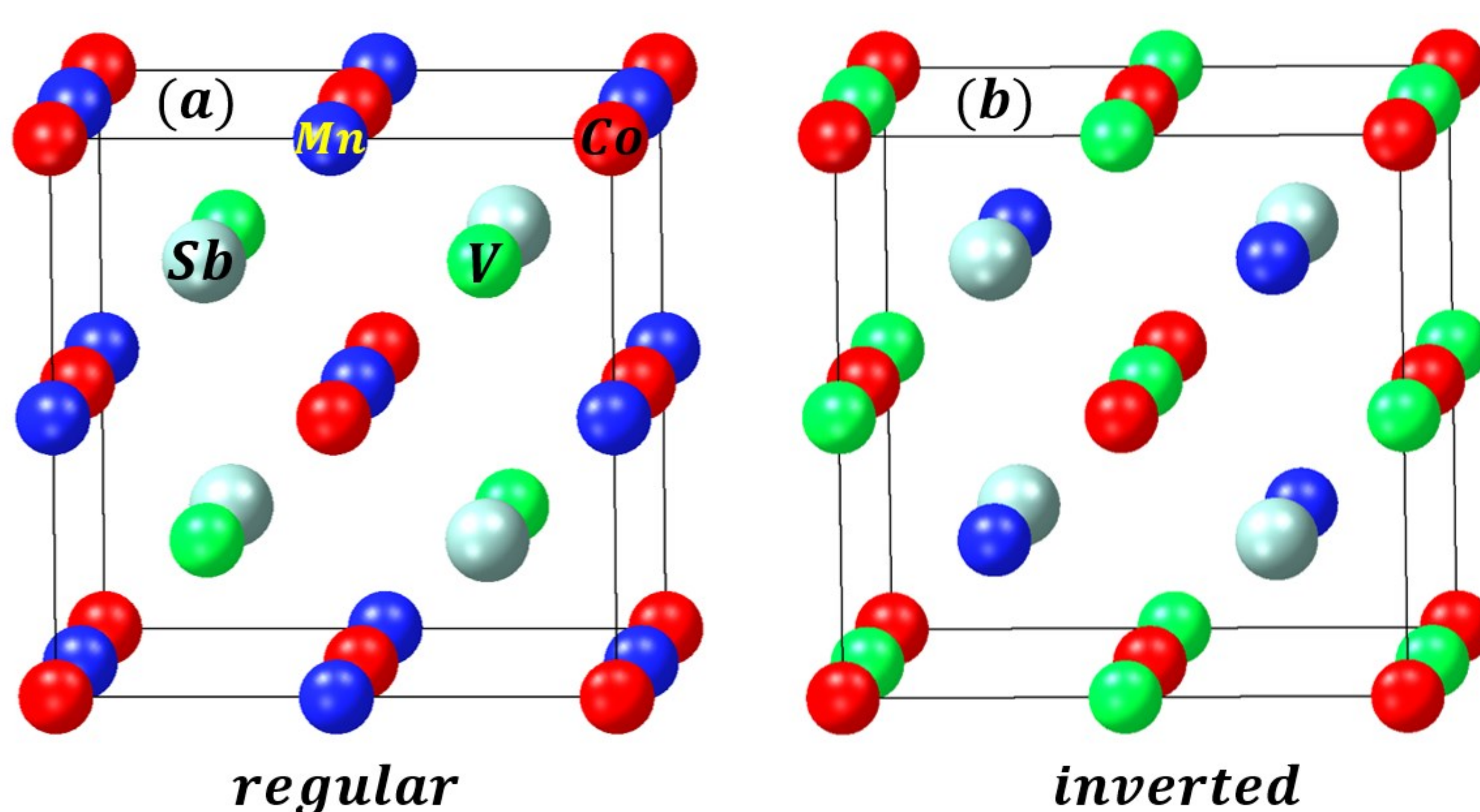
Density Functional calculations
Vienna *Ab-Initio* Simulation package (VASP)

Hardware:

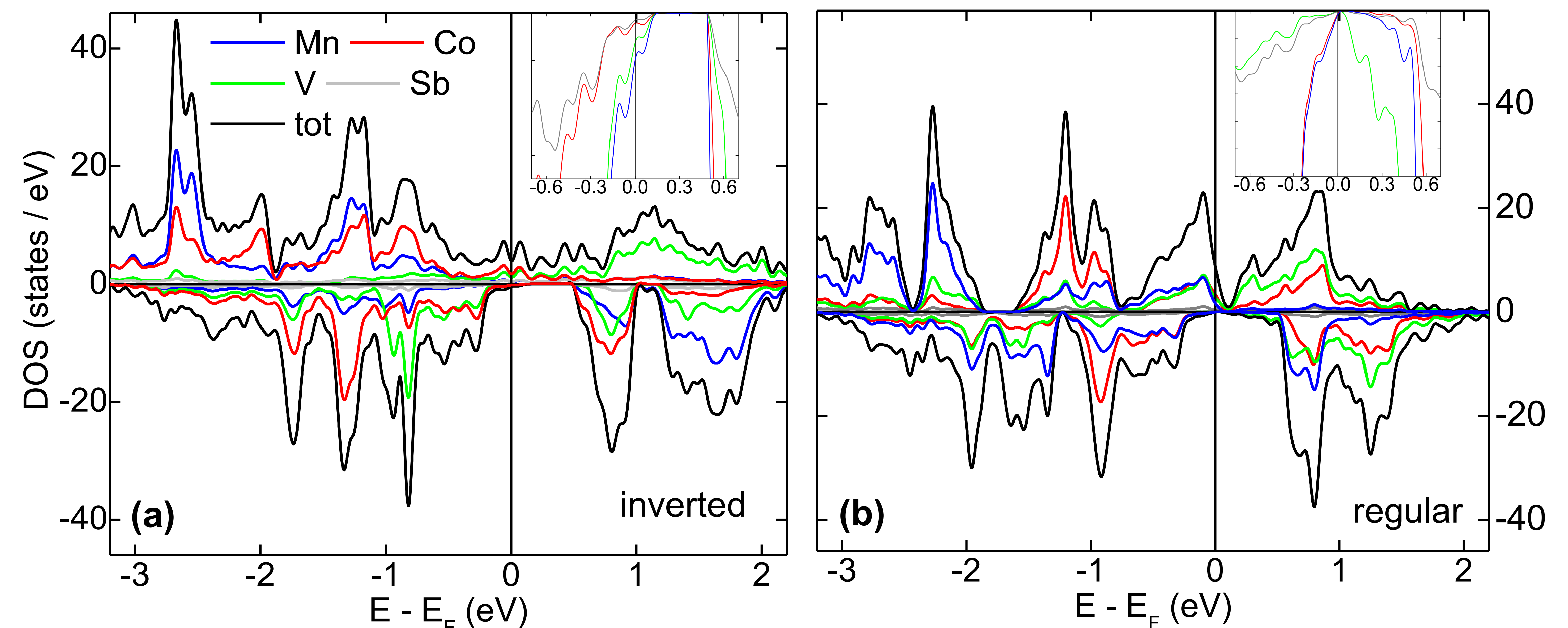
Local: UNI computer cluster
External: Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center–Bridges 2



Crystal structure



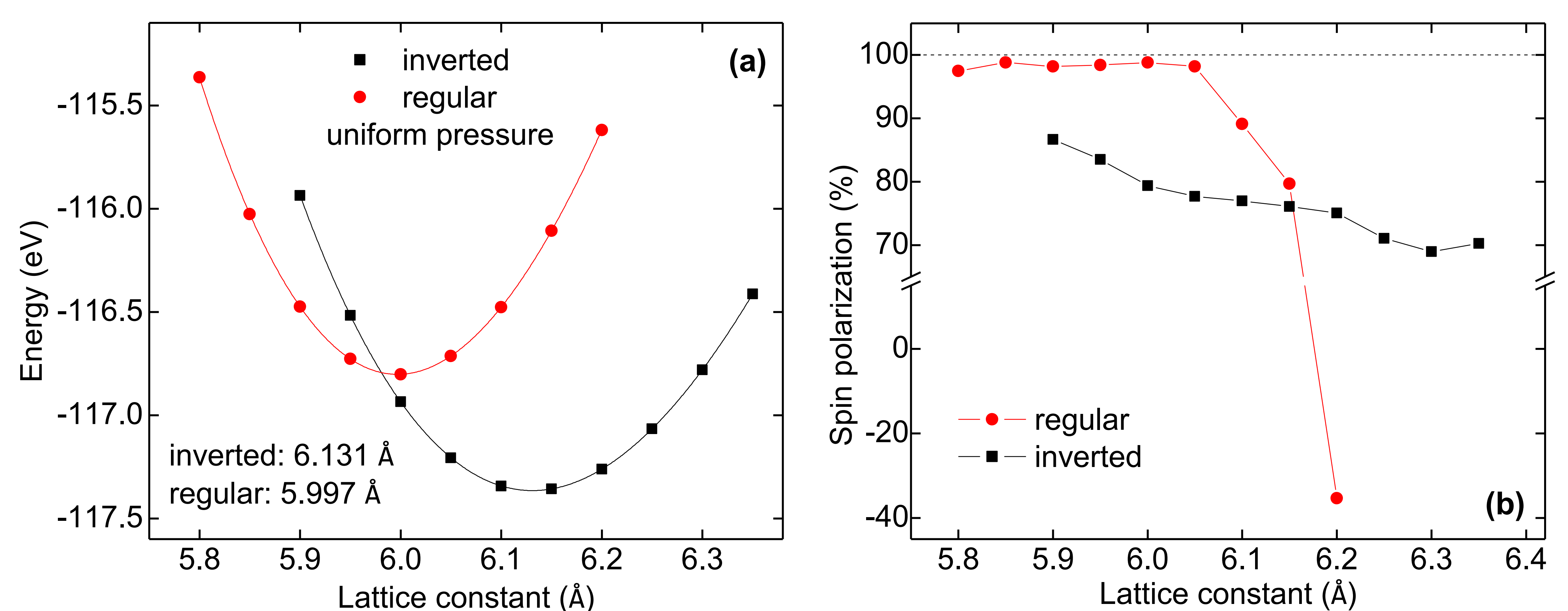
Electronic structure: density of states



Magnetic alignment

	Total (μ_B / f.u.)	Co (μ_B / atom)	Mn (μ_B / atom)	V (μ_B / atom)	Sb (μ_B / atom)
regular	2.000	1.195	0.292	0.531	-0.018
inverted	2.018	0.786	3.162	-1.735	-0.034

Mechanical pressure



Conclusions and Acknowledgments

- CoVMnSb may crystallize in two energetically close crystal structures, regular and inverted.
- Regular structure is half-metallic.
- Inverted structure has lower energy, and it exhibits reduced spin-polarization of around 80%.
- Despite having energy gap in the minority-spin channel close to the Fermi level, the inverted phase does not exhibit a half-metallic transition, e.g. under external mechanical strain.
- Instead, the half-metallic transition in CoVMnSb may be induced by a hydrostatic pressure.
- In practice, this reduction may be achieved by atomic substitutions.
- Our calculations indicated that $\text{CoVMnSb}_{0.75}\text{Si}_{0.25}$ exhibits ground state half-metallicity in a considerable range of lattice parameters.
- This research is supported by the *National Science Foundation* (NSF) under Grant Numbers 2003828 and 2003856 via DMR and EPSCoR.