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Spin-orbit coupling in fluorinated graphene¹ SUSANNE IRMER, TOBIAS FRANK, SEBASTIAN PUTZ, MARTIN GMITRA, DENIS KOCHAN, JAROSLAV FABIAN, University of Regensburg — We theoretically study spinorbit coupling effects of fluorine chemisorbed on graphene. Both dense and dilute limit reveal a giant local enhancement of spin-orbit coupling by a factor of 1000 in the vicinity of the adatom—spin-orbit strength of about 10 meV. We present results of fully converged first-principles calculations and analyze them by a tight-binding Hamiltonian based on symmetry arguments. Our work covers different limits of fluorine concentration from dense to intermediate to dilute coverage. We find that fluorine's native spin-orbit coupling exceeds the effect of the sp³ distortion of the lattice. Moreover, we identify fluorine as a weak resonant scatterer giving rise to resonant signatures in the band structure off the Dirac point by about 0.3 eV. Our findings are important for studies on relaxation and transport. Details can be found in the following manuscript: http://arxiv.org/abs/1411.0016

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