

Thank you very much for your valuable suggestions. After receiving your suggestions following corrections and changes are added to the original manuscript-

1. The abstract has been revised according to your query. The number “ $0.055(2\pi c(a))$ ” is the maximum band gap width  $(\Delta\omega)_{max}$  for Si (which is the largest possible band gap width in photonic crystal structures).
2. Definition of the air hole orientation angle  $\theta$  is added.
3. Figure 2(c), 3(c), 4(a) and 4(b) (previously 1(c) and 2(c)) suggest that  $\Delta\omega$  is the width of the shaded region (Blue region) which is a range of frequencies that don't allow the transmission of EM wave i.e. photonic band gap.
4. The calculated eigen frequencies are plotted in a normalized fashion as,  $frequency = \frac{\omega}{2\pi c}$  in units [ $1/\mu m$ ], which is not the same as usually reported results in a non-dimensional form ( $\frac{\omega a}{2\pi c}$ ). To get the non-dimensional results, one needs to scale the results by a lattice constant in  $\mu m$ . As we have chosen the lattice constant to be  $a=1.0\mu m$ , our results look the same as non-dimensional results. For this reason we use both  $\frac{\omega}{2\pi c}$  and  $\frac{\omega a}{2\pi c}$  in our paper. Figure 2(c), 3(c), 4(a) and 4(b) have been generated with OptiFDTD™ from the software package Optiwave which does not use symmetry points, like  $\Gamma$ , M and X.
5. References are rearranged according to the suggestion.
6. We sketched the figure (3) (former) with square air hole. In that sense the figure is novel with respect to Fig. 5(c) from ref. [3]. However, since the figure (3) is not important for proper understanding, it is removed from the manuscript.
7. In the revised manuscript we have added the band diagram for the case of circular and elliptical air holes which show the amount of band gap width.