

Mike Johnston, "Spaceman with Floating Pizza"

# School on Electron-Phonon Physics, Many-Body Perturbation Theory, and Computational Workflows

10-16 June 2024, Austin TX



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



**TACC**  
TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER



Lecture Mon.1

# Introduction to Electron-Phonon Physics and School Topics

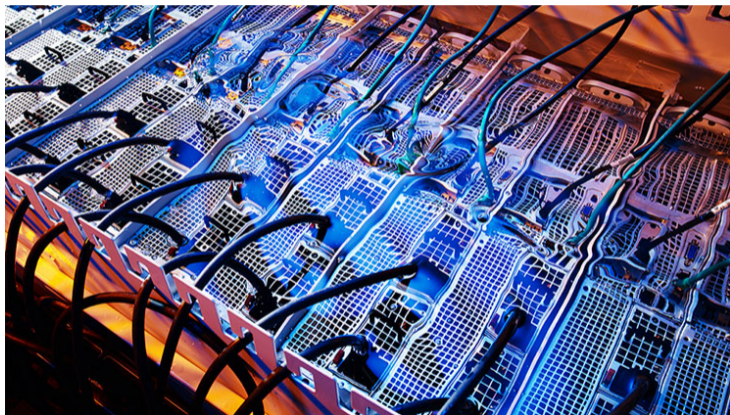
Feliciano Giustino

Oden Institute & Department of Physics  
The University of Texas at Austin

- Manifestations and impact of electron-phonon interactions
- Heuristic approach to the electron-phonon interaction
- Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory
- The electron-phonon matrix element
- Wannier interpolation
- Other topics in this school

# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions

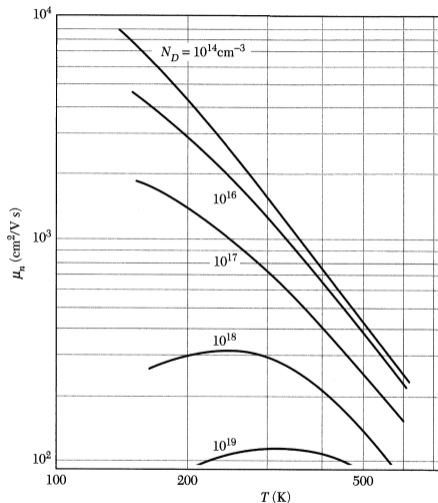
A **microscopic** phenomenon with **macroscopic** consequences



→ TACC visit Thu

Frontera supercomputer with liquid-immersion cooling in GRC ICeraQ, TACC

# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions

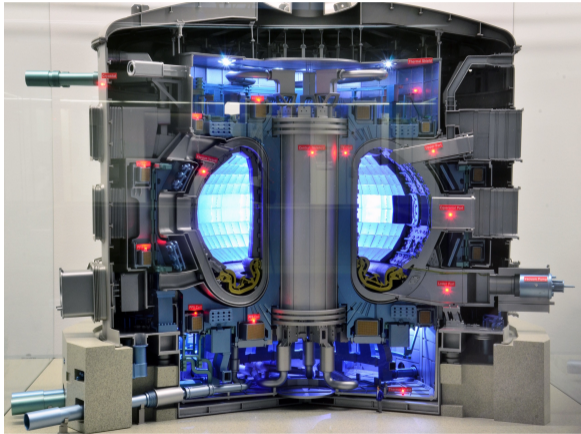


→ Lec Wed.1 Poncé

Electron mobility of silicon (Sze, "Semiconductor Devices")

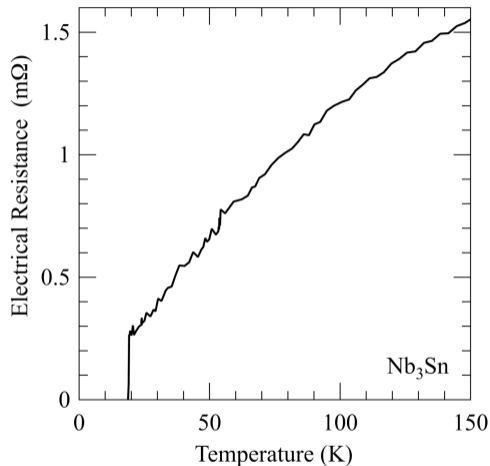
# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions

A **microscopic** phenomenon with **macroscopic** consequences



1:50 scale model of the ITER experiment ([www.iter.org](http://www.iter.org))

# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions



→ Lec Wed.2 Margine



Resistance of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn and superconducting transition  
Akimitsu group, in "Superconductors: New Developments", 2015

# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions

A **microscopic** phenomenon with **macroscopic** consequences

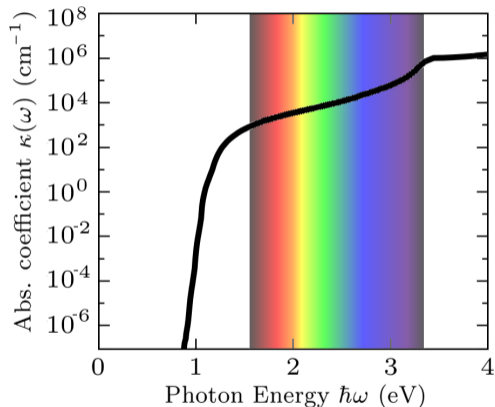


Webberville Solar Farm, Austin TX (35 MW)



# Manifestations of electron-phonon interactions

Optical absorption coefficient of silicon, 300 K



→ Lec Wed.3 Kioupakis

→ Lec Sat.3 Tiwari

Data from Green et al, Prog. Photovolt. Res. Appl. 3, 189 (1995)



## Über die Quantenmechanik der Elektronen in Kristallgittern.

Von Felix Bloch in Leipzig.

Mit 2 Abbildungen. (Eingegangen am 10. August 1928.)

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Einleitung. Die Elektronentheorie der Metalle hat seit einiger Zeit Fortschritte zu verzeichnen, die in der Anwendung quantentheoretischer Prinzipien auf das Elektronengas begründet sind. Zunächst hat Pauli\* unter der Annahme, daß die Metallelektronen sich völlig frei im Gitter bewegen können und der Fermischen\*\* Statistik gehorchen, den temperaturunabhängigen Paramagnetismus der Alkalien zu erklären vermocht. Die elektrischen und thermischen Eigenschaften des Elektronengases sind dann von Sommerfeld, Houston und Eckart\*\*\* näher untersucht worden. Die Tatsache freier Leitungselektronen wird von ihnen als gegeben betrachtet und ihre Wechselwirkung mit dem Gitter nur durch eine zunächst phänomenologisch eingeführte, dann von Houston\*\*\*\* strenger begründete freie Weglänge mitberücksichtigt. Schließlich hat Heisenberg† gezeigt, daß im anderen Grenzfall, wo zunächst die Elektronen an die Ionen im Gitter gebunden gedacht und erst in nächster Näherung die Austauschvorgänge unter ihnen berücksichtigt werden, das für den Ferromagnetismus entscheidende intermolekulare Feld seine Erklärung findet.

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# Electron-phonon physics (nearly) 100 years ago



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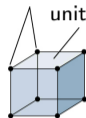
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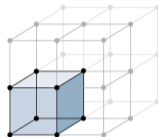
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lattice points  $\mathbf{R}$



unit cell



$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} u(\mathbf{r}) \text{ with } u(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{R}) = u(\mathbf{r})$$

Bloch theorem

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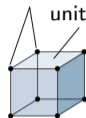
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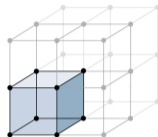
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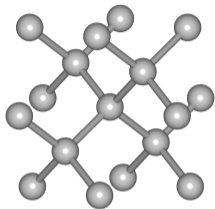
Bloch theorem

$$\rho = \frac{c_1}{T} \left( \frac{k_B T}{\hbar C} \right)^6 \int_0^{\hbar C q_D / k_B T} \frac{x^5 dx}{(e^x - 1)(1 - e^{-x})}$$

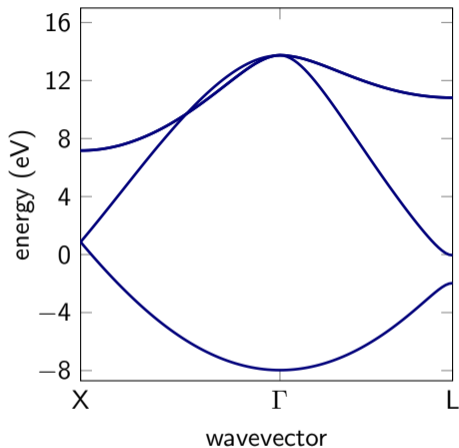
Bloch-Grüneisen formula for electrical resistivity

Where do electron-phonon interactions come from?

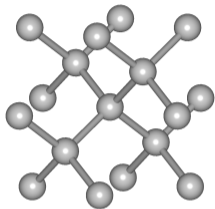
# Heuristic notion of electron-phonon interactions



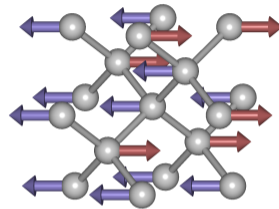
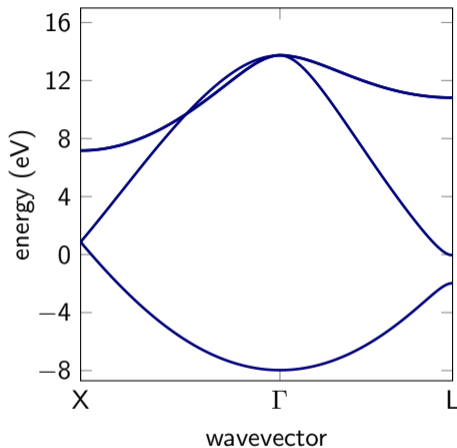
diamond



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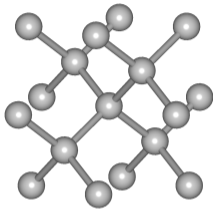


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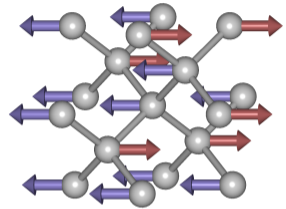
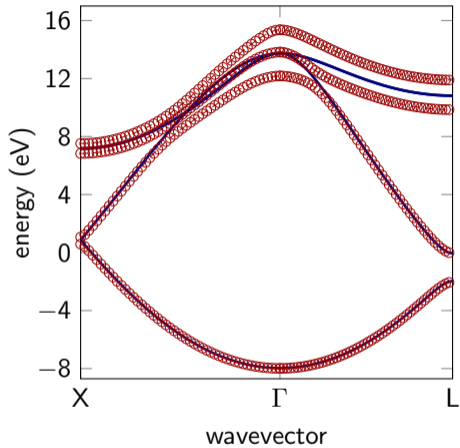


$\Gamma$ -point optical mode  
0.015 Å C-displacement

# Heuristic notion of electron-phonon interactions



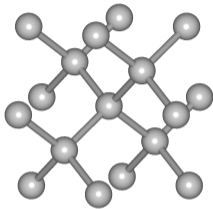
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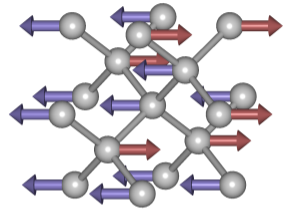
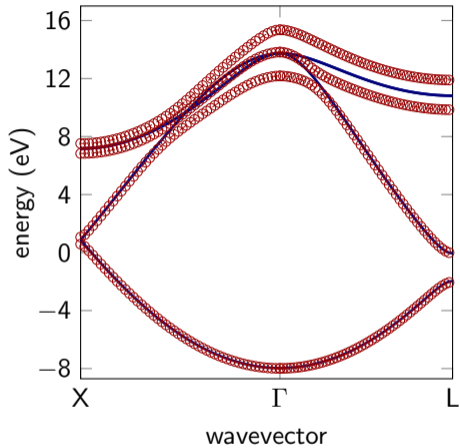
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# Heuristic notion of electron-phonon interactions



diamond



$\Gamma$ -point optical mode  
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How far do atoms move? What is the oscillation frequency?  
Can oscillations promote electronic transitions? What about finite-q modes?

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 \psi_n + V_{\text{SCF}} \psi_n = \varepsilon_n \psi_n$$

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Atom  $\kappa$  at position  $\tau_{\kappa}$

# Heuristic approach to electron-phonon interactions

The SCF potential depends **parametrically** on the atomic coordinates

$$V_{\text{SCF}} = V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \boldsymbol{\tau}_1, \boldsymbol{\tau}_2, \boldsymbol{\tau}_3 \dots)$$

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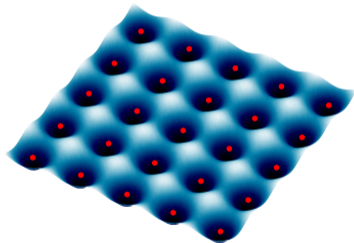
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Perturbation Hamiltonian leading to EPIs

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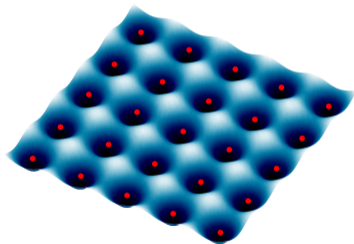
All atoms at equilibrium



$$V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0)$$

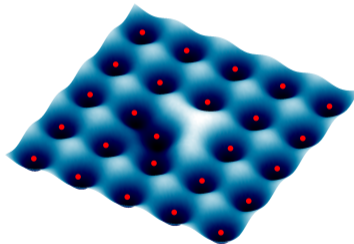
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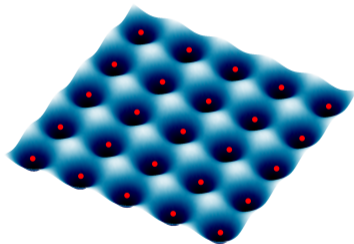
One atom displaced



$$V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0 + u)$$

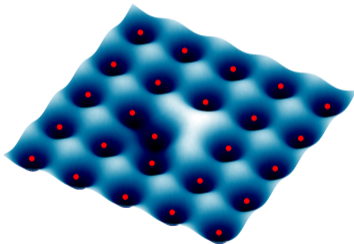
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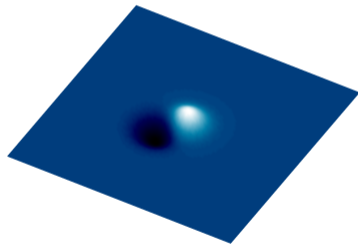
$$V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0)$$

One atom displaced



$$V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0 + u)$$

Perturbation of the SCF potential



$$V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0 + u) - V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_0)$$



Energy  $\Delta E_n = \langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} u | n \rangle$

# Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory

Energy  $\Delta E_n = \langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} u | n \rangle$

Wavefunction  $\Delta \psi_n = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} u | n \rangle}{E_n - E_m} \psi_m$



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Temperature-dependent band structures

Wavefunction  $\Delta \psi_n = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} u | n \rangle}{E_n - E_m} \psi_m$

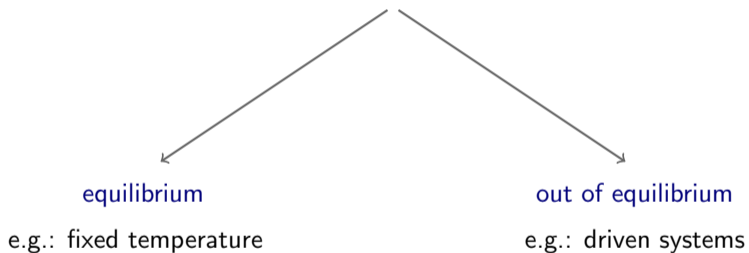
Phonon-assisted optical processes and polarons

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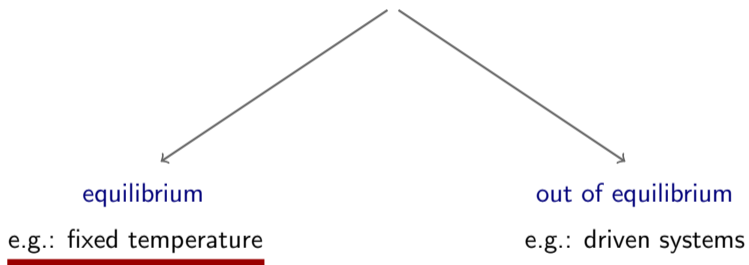
Ultrafast relaxation and phonon-limited transport

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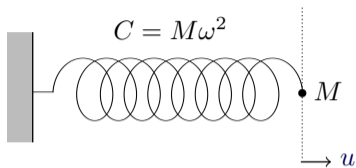


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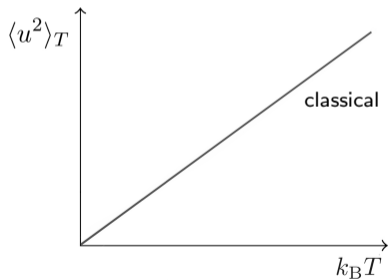
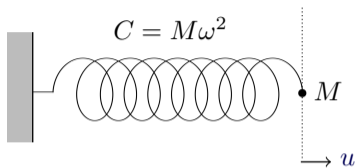


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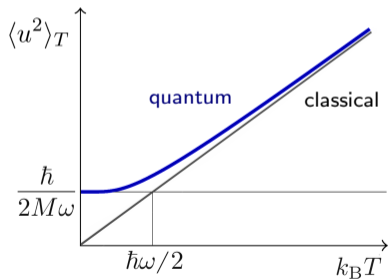
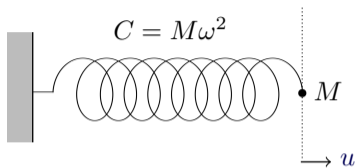
# Mean square displacements at given temperature



$$\langle u^2 \rangle_T = \frac{k_B T}{M\omega^2}$$



# Mean square displacements at given temperature



$$\langle u^2 \rangle_T = \frac{k_B T}{M\omega^2}$$

$$\langle u^2 \rangle_T = \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega} \left[ 2n \left( \frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T} \right) + 1 \right]$$

Bose-Einstein

Allen-Heine theory

$$\Delta E_n = \langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle u$$

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$$\Delta E_n = \cancel{\langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle} u + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle \right|^2}{E_n - E_m} u^2$$

## Allen-Heine theory

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## Allen-Heine theory

$$\Delta E_n = \cancel{\langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle} u + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle \right|^2}{E_n - E_m} u^2 + \frac{1}{2} \langle n | \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau^2} | n \rangle u^2$$

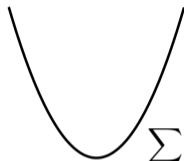
$$\Delta E_n = \left[ \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle \right|^2}{E_n - E_m} + \frac{1}{2} \langle n | \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau^2} | n \rangle \right] u^2$$

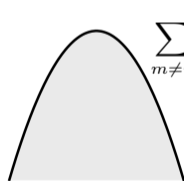
## Allen-Heine theory

$$\Delta E_n = \cancel{\langle n | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle} u + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle \right|^2}{E_n - E_m} u^2 + \frac{1}{2} \langle n | \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau^2} | n \rangle u^2$$

$$\langle \Delta E_n \rangle_T = \left[ \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\left| \langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | n \rangle \right|^2}{E_n - E_m} + \frac{1}{2} \langle n | \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau^2} | n \rangle \right] \frac{\hbar}{2M\omega} (2n_T + 1)$$

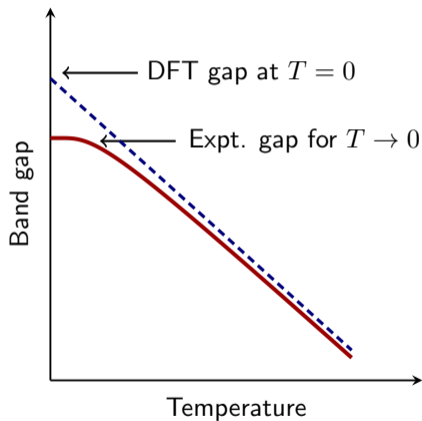
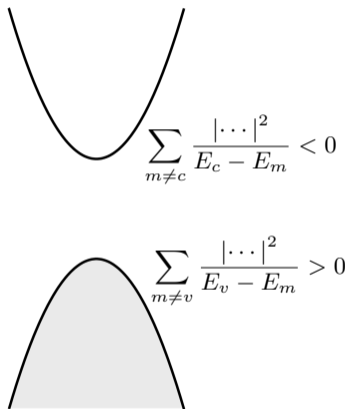
# Temperature-dependent band structures: Basic trends


$$\sum_{m \neq c} \frac{|\dots|^2}{E_c - E_m} < 0$$


$$\sum_{m \neq v} \frac{|\dots|^2}{E_v - E_m} > 0$$

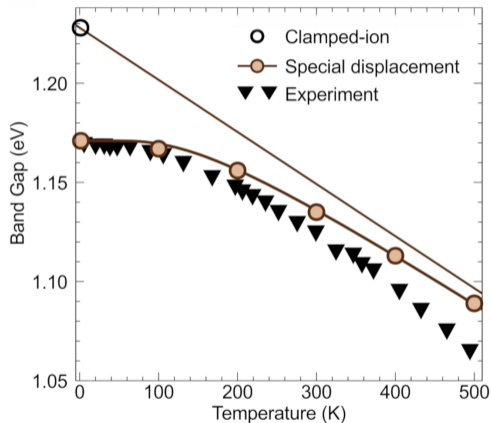


# Temperature-dependent band structures: Basic trends

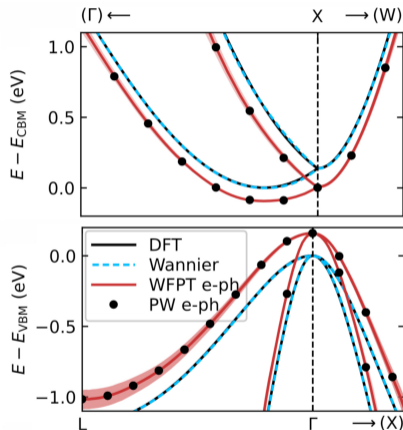


# Example: Temperature-dependent bands of silicon

→ Lec Fri.1 Zacharias



→ Lec Sat.2 Lihm



Left figure: Zacharias et al, PRR 2, 013357 (2020); Right figure: Lihm et al, PRX 11, 041053 (2021)

# Phonon-assisted optical absorption

$$\Delta\psi_n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{\langle m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} u | n \rangle}{E_n - E_m} \psi_m(\mathbf{r})$$

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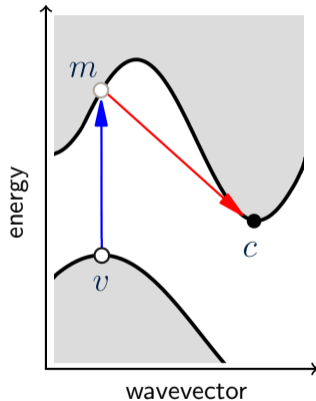
$$\left| \sum_{m \neq c} \frac{\langle c | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | m \rangle \langle m | \hat{p} | v \rangle}{E_c - E_m} + \dots \right|^2 u^2$$

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# Example: Absorption spectrum of silicon

→ Lec Wed.3 Kioupakis & Lec Sat.3 Tiwari

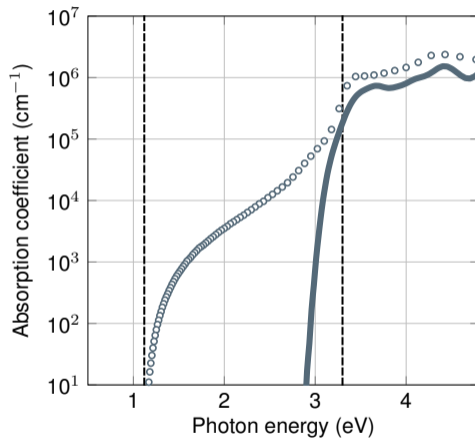


Figure from Tiwari et al, PRB 109, 195127 (2024)



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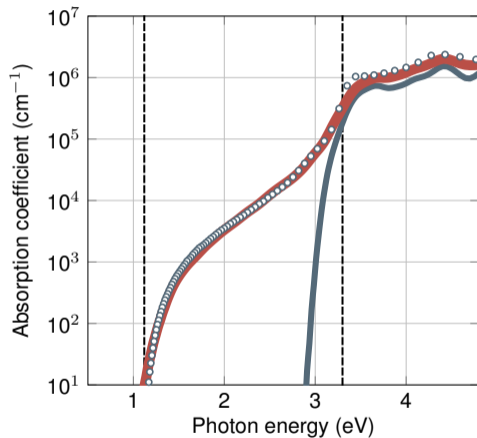


Figure from Tiwari et al, PRB 109, 195127 (2024)

# Example: Luminescence spectrum of germanium

→ Lec Sat.3 Tiwari

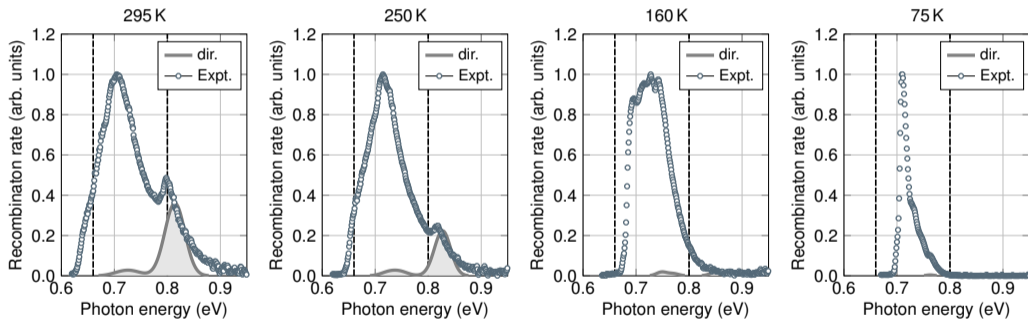


Figure from Tiwari et al, PRB 109, 195127 (2024)

# Example: Luminescence spectrum of germanium

→ Lec Sat.3 Tiwari

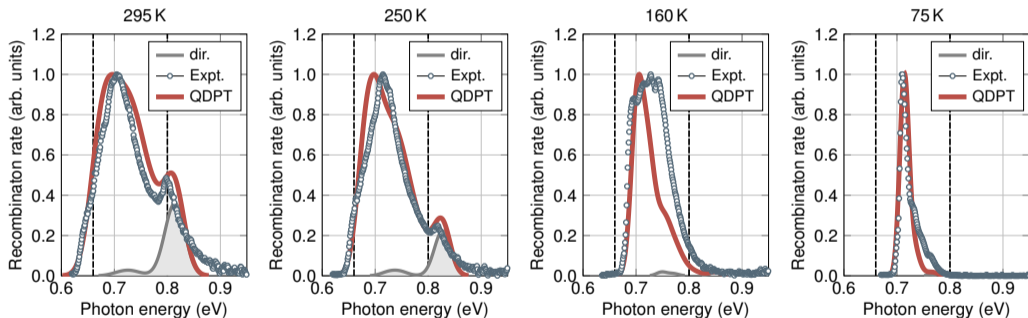


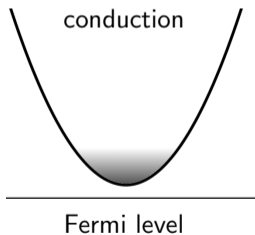
Figure from Tiwari et al, PRB 109, 195127 (2024)

Carrier relaxation time

$$\frac{1}{\tau_n} = \sum_m \Gamma_{n \rightarrow m}$$

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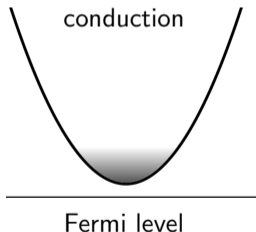


Weighted average of relaxation times near Fermi level

$$\langle \tau \rangle = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{n \in c} \left[ \frac{m |\mathbf{v}_n|^2 / 2}{3k_B T / 2} \exp \left( -\frac{\varepsilon_n - \varepsilon_F}{k_B T} \right) \right] \tau_n$$

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Electron mobility (simplified)

$$\mu = \frac{e \langle \tau \rangle}{m}$$

# Example: Mobility of silicon

→ Tut. Wed.1 Poncé  
→ Tut. Wed.2 Ha

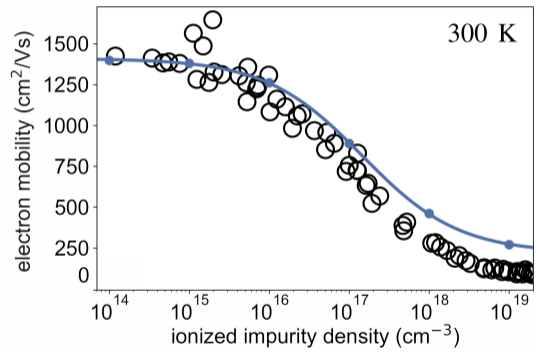
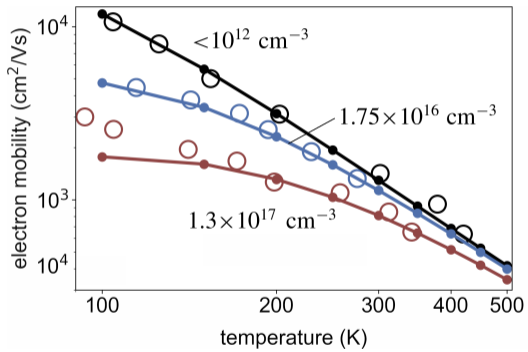


Figure from Leveillee et al, PRB 107, 125207 (2023)

How difficult is to perform these calculations?



# The electron-phonon matrix element

→ Lec. Mon.2 Giannozzi

$$\langle \psi_m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | \psi_n \rangle$$

$$\langle \psi_m | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | \psi_n \rangle \longrightarrow g_{mn\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}) = \langle u_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} | \Delta_{\mathbf{q}\nu} v_{\text{SCF}} | u_{n\mathbf{k}} \rangle_{\text{uc}}$$

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Lattice-periodic part of the wavefunction



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Lattice-periodic part of the wavefunction

Lattice-periodic variation  
of the self-consistent potential

Zero-point  
amplitude

Potential change  
from ionic displacement

$$\Delta_{\mathbf{q}\nu} v_{\text{SCF}} = \sum_{\kappa\alpha p} e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot(\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{R}_p)} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2M_\kappa\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}}} e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r})}{\partial \tau_{\kappa\alpha p}}$$

Incommensurate  
modulation

Phonon  
polarization

# The challenge of Brillouin Zone sampling

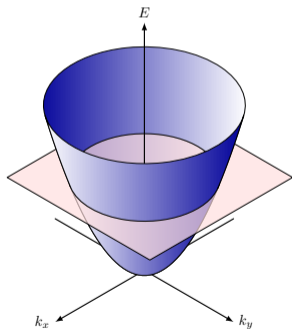
**Example:** Electron lifetimes & relaxation rates

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{n\mathbf{k}}} = \sum_{m\nu} \int_{\text{BZ}} d\mathbf{q} [\dots] |g_{nm\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q})|^2 \delta(\varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \pm \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu})$$

# The challenge of Brillouin Zone sampling

**Example:** Electron lifetimes & relaxation rates

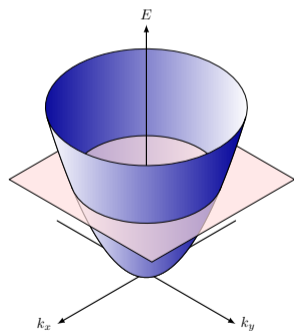
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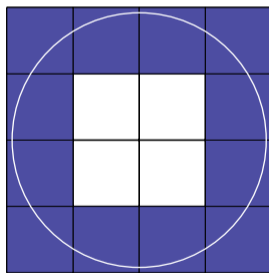
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4 x 4 grid

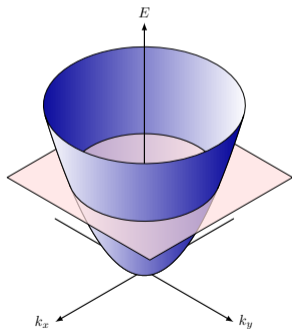


Coarse BZ sampling

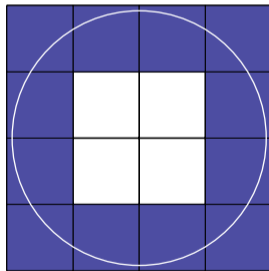
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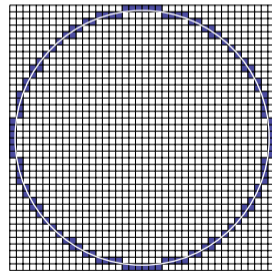


4 x 4 grid



Coarse BZ sampling

40 x 40 grid



Fine BZ sampling

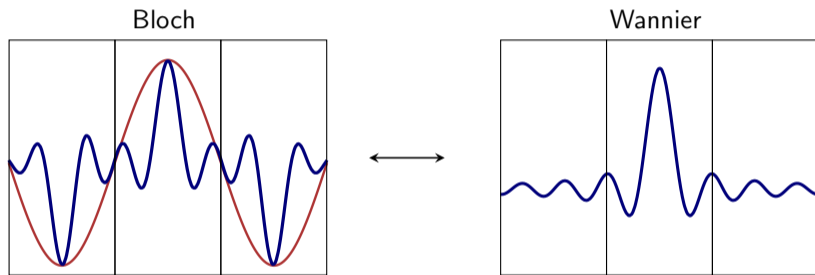


# Wannier functions

→ Lec. Mon.3 Marzari

→ Lec. Tue.1 Marrazzo

→ Lec. Sat.1 Qiao

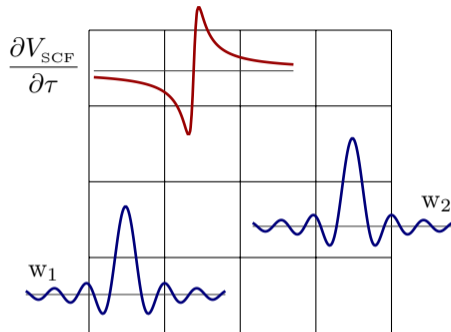


$$w_{m\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{n\mathbf{k}} e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}} U_{n\mathbf{k}} \psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

Review article: Marzari et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1419 (2012)

# Wannier interpolation of electron-phonon matrix elements

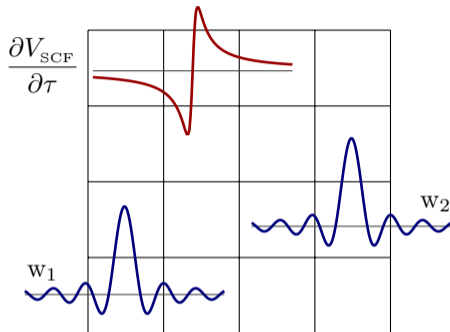
$$\langle w_1 | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | w_2 \rangle$$



Scheme from FG, Cohen, Louie, PRB 76, 165108 (2007)

# Wannier interpolation of electron-phonon matrix elements

$$\langle w_1 | \frac{\partial V_{\text{SCF}}}{\partial \tau} | w_2 \rangle$$



$$\mathbf{g}_\nu(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}) = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2M_\kappa \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}}} \sum_{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{R}'} e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R} + \mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{R}')} U_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R}') \cdot \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}\nu} U_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$$

Scheme from FG, Cohen, Louie, PRB 76, 165108 (2007)

# Example: Electron-phonon matrix elements of diamond

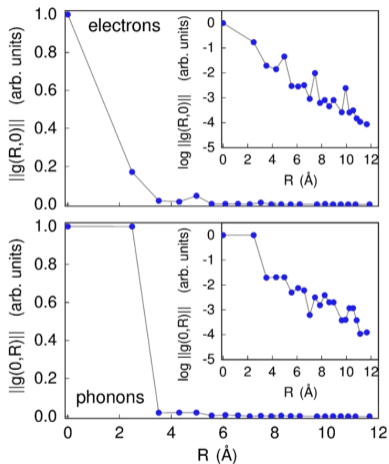


Figure from FG et al, Phys. Rev. B 76, 165108 (2007)

# Example: Electron-phonon matrix elements of diamond

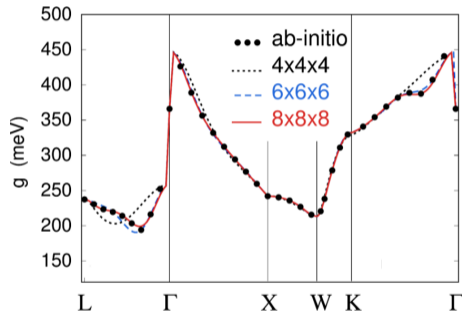
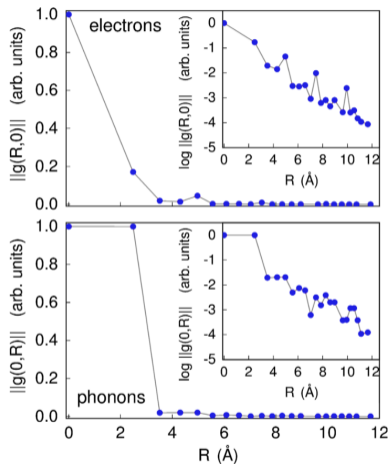


Figure from FG et al, Phys. Rev. B 76, 165108 (2007)

# Example: Electron-phonon matrix elements of some semiconductors

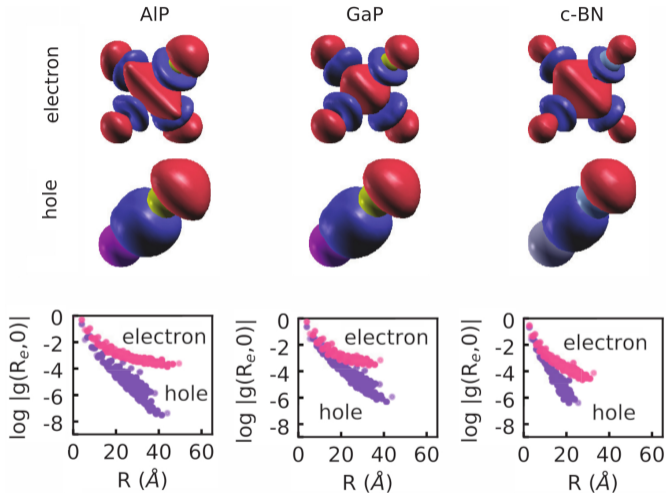


Figure from Poncé et al, Phys. Rev. Res. 3, 043022 (2021)

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$$\frac{1}{\tau_{n\mathbf{k}}} = \sum_{m\nu} \int_{\text{BZ}} d\mathbf{q} [\dots] |g_{nm\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q})|^2 \delta(\varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \pm \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu})$$

## Other school topics not covered in this intro

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↑  
DFT band structures often  
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→ Lec. Thu.1 Louie

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→ Lec. Fri.1 Zacharias

Wannier function perturbation theory

→ Lec. Sat.2 Lihm

# Other school topics not covered in this intro

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Why should we use this formula?

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KS eigenvalues depend on temperature

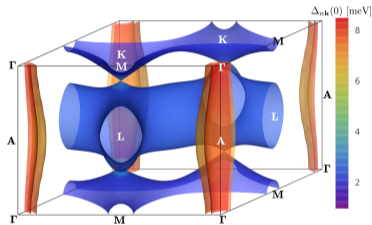
Special displacement method  
→ Lec. Fri.1 Zacharias

Wannier function perturbation theory  
→ Lec. Sat.2 Lihm

Why should we use this formula? → Many-body theory of EP couplings  
→ Lec. Tue.2 Giustino

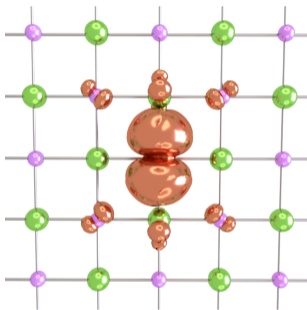
# Other school topics not covered in this intro

## Superconductivity



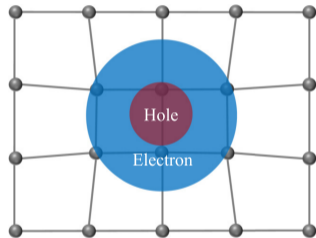
→ Lec. Wed.2 Margine

## Polarons



→ Lec. Thu.2 Giustino

## Excitons



→ Lec. Thu.1 Louie

→ Lec. Thu.4 Dai



- We can understand the basics of electron-phonon physics using elementary perturbation theory
- Calculations for electron-phonon physics usually require a fine sampling of matrix elements across the Brillouin zone
- Wannier functions are very useful to address the Brillouin zone sampling challenge

- Baroni et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 73, 515 (2001) [\[link\]](#)
- Marzari et al, Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1419 (2012) [\[link\]](#)
- Giustino, Rev. Mod. Phys. 89, 015003 (2017) [\[link\]](#)
- Grimvall, The electron-phonon interaction in metals, 1981 (North-Holland)