

2023 Virtual School on Many-Body Calculations  
using EPW and BerkeleyGW

June 5-9 2023



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

**TACC**  
TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

Lecture Wed.2

# The Special Displacement Method

Marios Zacharias

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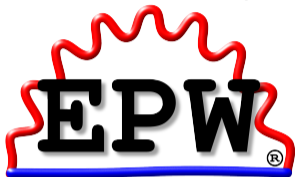
Univ. Rennes

# Lecture Summary

- Nonperturbative approaches to electron-phonon coupling
- From the stochastic framework to deterministic
- The special displacement method ([SDM](#)):
  1. Theory
  2. Physical interpretation
  3. Applications
- Self-consistent anharmonic special displacements ([A-SDM](#)):
  1. Theory
  2. Validation and applications

# Codes for perturbative and nonperturbative calculations

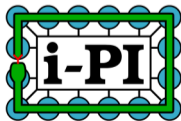
Calculation of temperature-dependent properties using, e.g.:



→  $g_{mn,\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q})$  from DFPT  
in the unit-cell



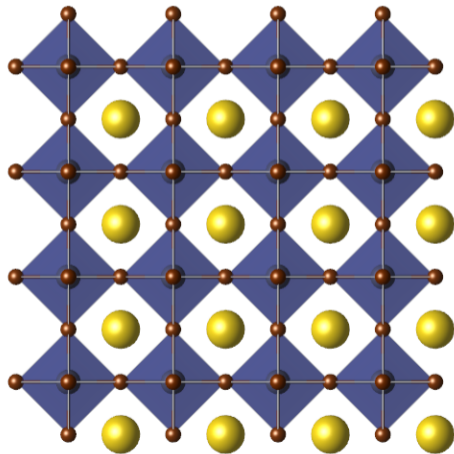
→ Displaced nuclei  
in large supercells;  
 $g_{mn,\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q})$  is  
not explicitly evaluated



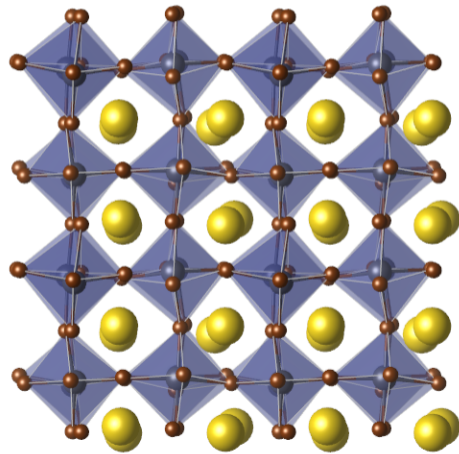


# The special displacement method (SDM) in a snapshot ...

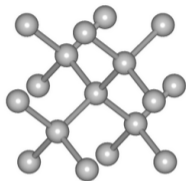
High-symmetry configuration  
(and static-equilibrium)



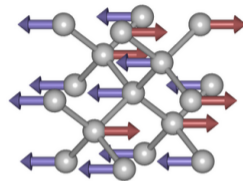
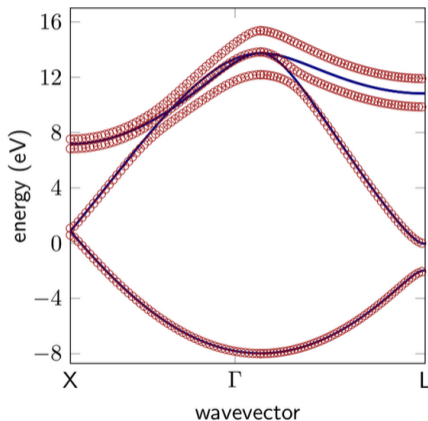
ZG configuration



# Slide 4 from Giustino Mon.1

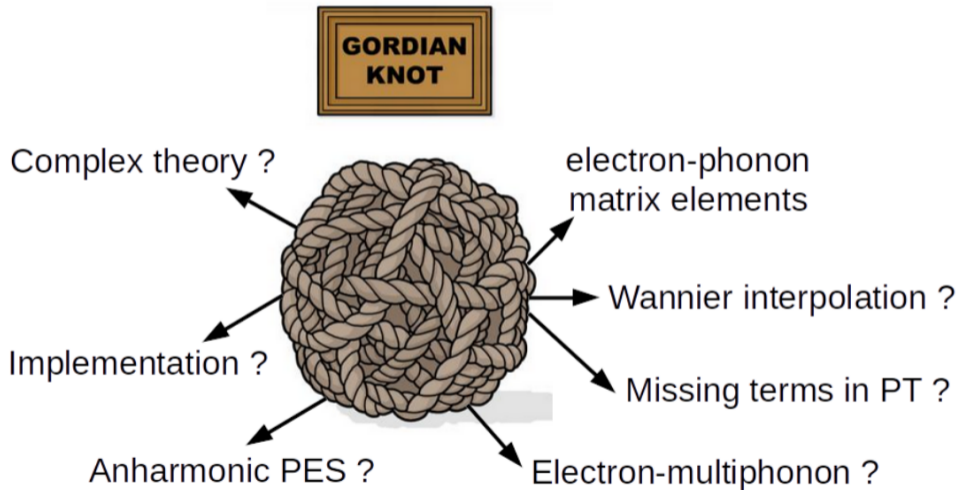


diamond



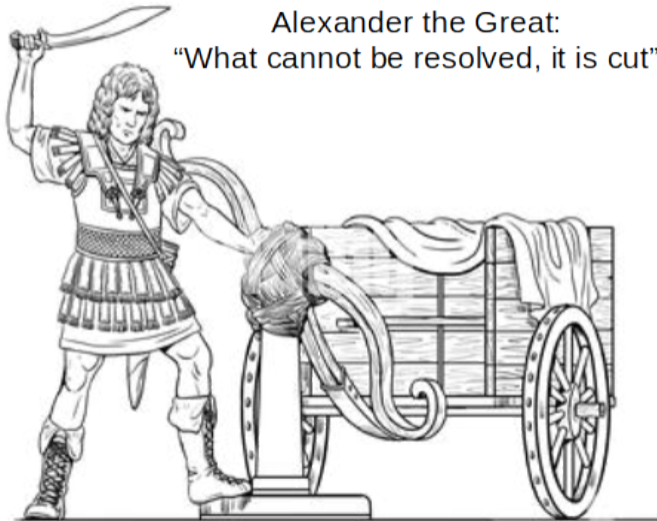
$\Gamma$ -point optical mode  
0.015 Å C-displacement

# Why useful ? (Compared to perturbative approaches)



# Why useful ?

Alexander the Great:  
“What cannot be resolved, it is cut”



# Nonperturbative Approaches - Literature I

Common goal is to evaluate a physical property  $\mathcal{O}$  at temperature  $T$ :

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_T = \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} \left[ \exp(-\beta_T H) \mathcal{O} \right] \Rightarrow \Gamma_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta}(\omega, T) = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_n \exp(-E_{\alpha n} / k_B T) \Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}(\omega)$$

Sum over nuclear states  
Partition function      Boltzmann factor

## Path Integral Molecular Dynamics (PIMD):

- F. Della Sala, R. Rousseau, A. Görling, D. Marx, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 92, 183401 \(2004\)](#)
- R. Ramírez, P. C. Herrero, E. R. Hernández, [Phys. Rev. B 73, 245202 \(2006\)](#)
- M. Rossi, P. Gasparotto, M. Ceriotti [Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 115702 \(2016\)](#)
- A. Kundu, M. Govoni, H. Yang, M. Ceriotti, F. Gygi, G. Galli, [Phys. Rev. Materials 5, L070801 \(2021\)](#)
- A. M. Alvertis, J. B. Haber, E. A. Engel, S. Sharifzadeh, J. B. Neaton, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 086401 \(2023\)](#)

## ab initio Molecular Dynamics (aiMD):

- A. Franceschetti [Phys. Rev. B 76, 161301\(R\) \(2007\)](#)
- R. Ramírez, P. C. Herrero, R. E. Hernández, M. Cardona, [Phys. Rev. B 77, 045210 \(2008\)](#)
- O. Hellman, I. A. Abrikosov, and S. I. Simak, [Phys. Rev. B 84, 180301\(R\) \(2011\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, M. Scheffler, C. Carbogno, [Phys. Rev. B 102, 045126 \(2020\)](#)

# Nonperturbative Approaches - Literature II

## PI for nuclei with Quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) for electrons:

- C. Pierleoni, D. M. Ceperley, M. Holzmann, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 93, 146402 \(2004\)](#)
- V. Gorelov, D. M. Ceperley, M. Holzmann, C. Pierleoni, [J. Chem. Phys. 153, 234117 \(2020\)](#)

## Importance Sampling Monte Carlo (ISMC):

- C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Nat. Commun. 4, 2006 \(2013\)](#)
- B. Monserrat, R. J. Needs, and C. J. Pickard, [J. Chem. Phys. 141, 134113 \(2014\)](#)
- I. Errea, M. Calandra, and F. Mauri, [Phys. Rev. B 89, 064302 \(2014\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)
- A. van Roekeghem, J. Carrete, N. Mingo, [Comp. Phys. Communic. \(2021\)](#)

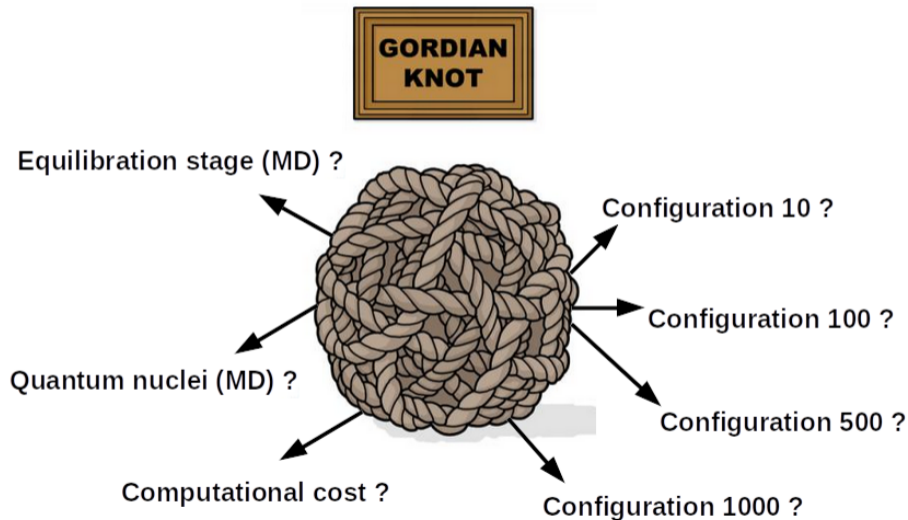
## Special Displacement Method (SDM):

- M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. B 94, 075125 \(2016\)](#)
- F. Karsai, M. Engel, E. Flage-Larsen, G. Kresse, [New J. Phys. 20 123008 \(2018\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2212.10633](#)

## Other supercell approaches: Finite Differences (FD), Thermal Lines (TL):

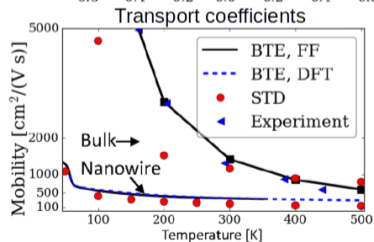
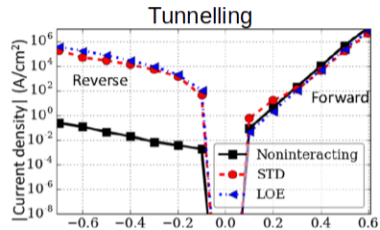
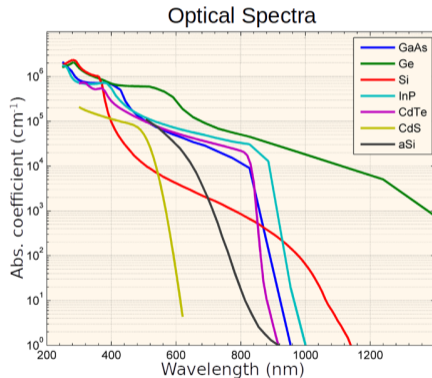
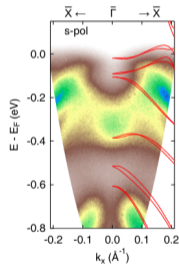
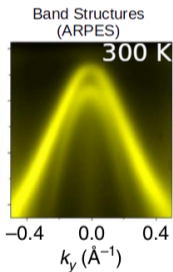
- R. B. Capaz, C. D. Spataru, P. Tangney, M. L. Cohen, S. G. Louie, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 94, 036801 \(2005\)](#)
- G. Antonius, S. Poncé, P. Boulanger, M. Côté, X. Gonze, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 215501 \(2014\)](#)
- B. Monserrat, [J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 30, 083001 \(2018\)](#)

# Why useful ? (compared to MD or MC)



# Nonperturbative Approaches - Literature III

All nonperturbative approaches can be upgraded to evaluate any property written as a **Fermi-Golden Rule**, e.g.:

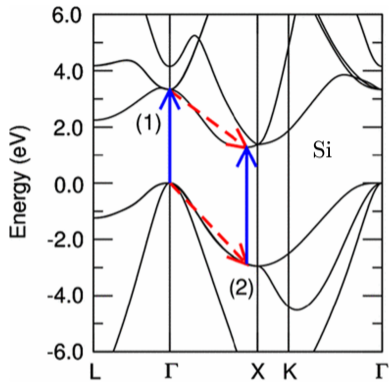


Refs: P. Hein *et al.* *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* 32 345503 (2020)

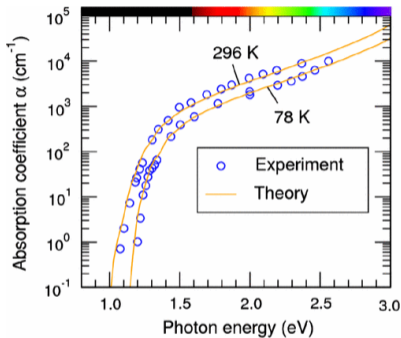
P. Chen *et al.* *Nat. Commun.* 6, 8943 (2015), [pveducation.org](http://pveducation.org), T. Gunst *et al.* *Phys. Rev. B* 96, 161404(R) (2017)



# Phonon-assisted optical spectra



J. Noffsinger, E. Kioupakis, C. G. Van de Walle, S. G. Louie, M. L. Cohen, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **108**, 167402 (2012)



Phonon-assisted transition rate in the [Hall-Bardeen-Blat](#) (HBB) theory:

$$\Gamma_{v \rightarrow c}(\omega) \propto \sum_{\nu} \left| \sum_{n \neq c} \frac{p_{vn} g_{nc, \nu}}{\epsilon_n - \epsilon_v - \hbar\omega} + \sum_{n \neq v} \frac{g_{vn, \nu} p_{nc}}{\epsilon_n - \epsilon_v \pm \hbar\omega_{\nu}} \right|^2 \delta(\epsilon_c - \epsilon_v \pm \hbar\omega_{\nu} - \hbar\omega)$$

# Temperature-dependent band structures

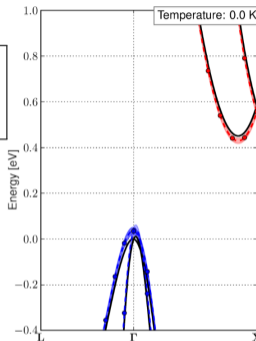
Temperature-dependence of the energy levels in the [Allen-Heine](#) theory:

$$\Delta\varepsilon_c(T) = \sum_{\nu} \left[ \sum_{n \neq c} \frac{|g_{cn\nu}|^2}{\varepsilon_c - \varepsilon_n} + h_{c\nu\nu} \right] (2n_{\nu,T} + 1)$$

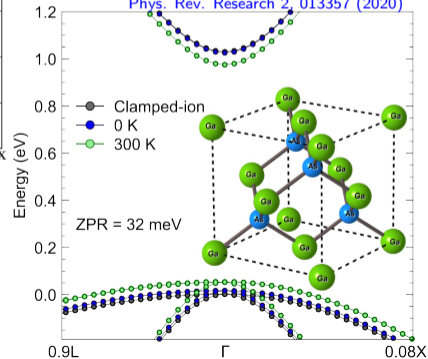
Perturbative first-principles applications:

- A. Marini, [PRL 101, 106405 \(2008\)](#)
- F. Giustino *et al.*, [PRL 105, 265501 \(2010\)](#)
- E. Cannuccia *et al.*, [PRL 107, 255501 \(2011\)](#)
- X. Gonze *et al.*, [Ann. Phys. 523, 168 \(2011\)](#)
- H. Kawai, *et al.*, [PRB 89, 085202 \(2014\)](#)
- G. Antonius, *et al.*, [PRL 112, 215501 \(2014\)](#)
- S. Ponc e *et al.*, [PRB 90, 214304 \(2014\)](#)
- A. Molina-S anchez, *et al.*, [PRB 93, 155435 \(2016\)](#)
- J. P. Nery, *et al.*, [PRB 97, 115145 \(2018\)](#)
- A. Miglio, *et al.*, [npj CM 6, 167 \(2020\)](#)
- M. Engel, *et al.*, [PRB 106, 094316 \(2022\)](#)

S. Ponc e *et al.*, [J. Chem. Phys. 143, 102813 \(2015\)](#)



M. Zacharias, F. Giustino,  
[Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)



# Williams-Lax Theory

1. Herzberg-Teller rate as the starting point:

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}(\omega) = \sum_m \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \chi_{\alpha n} | P_{\alpha\beta}^x | \chi_{\beta m} \rangle|^2 \delta(E_{\beta m} - E_{\alpha n} - \hbar\omega)$$

- M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. B 94, 075125 \(2016\)](#); [DPhil Thesis](#), University of Oxford (2017)

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2. Semiclassical approximation for the dielectric function at finite  $T$ :

$$\epsilon_2^{\text{SC}}(\omega; T) = \prod_{\nu} \int dx_{\nu} \frac{\exp(-x_{\nu}^2/2\sigma_{\nu,T}^2)}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{\nu,T}^2}} \epsilon_2^x(\omega)$$

and in the independent-particle picture:

$$\epsilon_2^x(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{\omega^2} \sum_{cv} |p_{cv}^x|^2 \delta(\epsilon_c^x - \epsilon_v^x - \hbar\omega)$$

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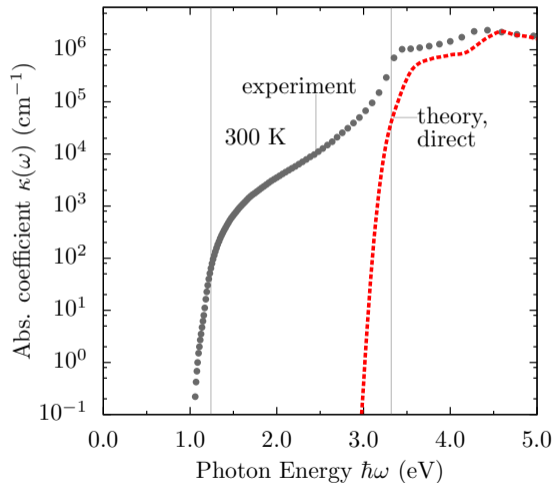
$$\epsilon_2^x(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{\omega^2} \sum_{cv} |p_{cv}^x|^2 \delta(\epsilon_c^x - \epsilon_v^x - \hbar\omega)$$

**Interpretation:** Weighted average of the spectra calculated with the nuclei fixed in a variety of configurations.

- M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. B 94, 075125 \(2016\)](#); [DPhil Thesis](#), University of Oxford (2017)

# Silicon optical absorption in the Williams-Lax theory

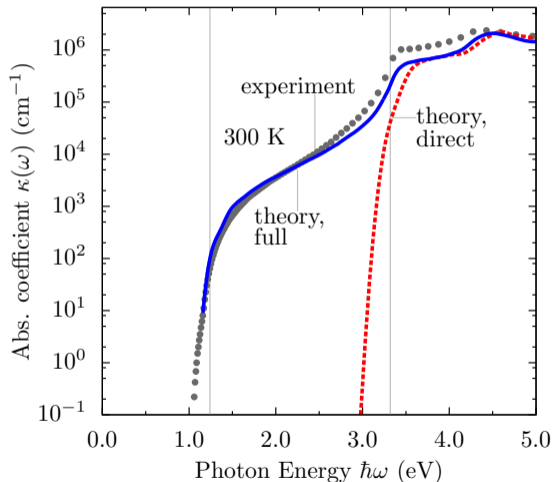
DFT-LDA calculations with nuclei at equilibrium



M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)

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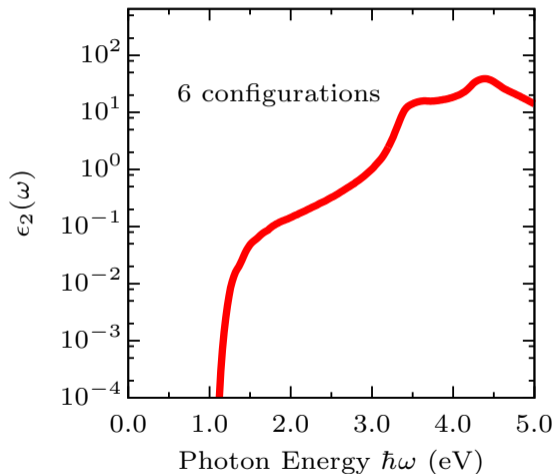
DFT-LDA calculations + quantum nuclear effects, Method: ISMC ( $8 \times 8 \times 8$  supercell)



M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)

# Convergence test with configurational sampling

DFT-LDA calculations + quantum nuclear effects, Method: ISMC ( $8 \times 8 \times 8$  supercell)

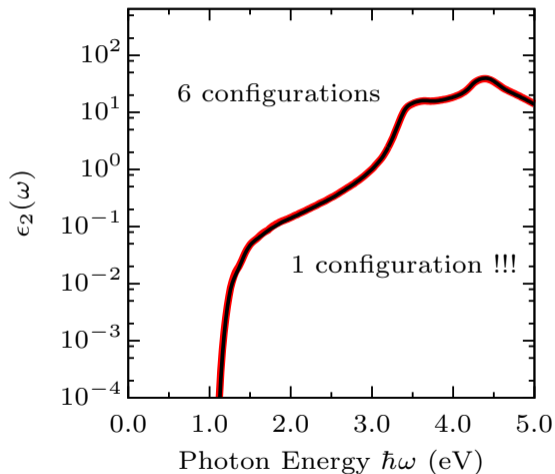


M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)



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M. Zacharias, C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 177401 \(2015\)](#)

# The special displacement method (SDM) and ZG displacements

Original observation for Zacharias-Giustino (ZG) displacements  $\Delta\tau^{\text{ZG}}$ :

1. Exact Williams-Lax (WL) dielectric function:

$$\epsilon_2^{\text{WL}}(\omega; T) = \epsilon_2(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\nu} \frac{\partial^2 \epsilon_2^x(\omega)}{\partial x_{\nu}^2} \sigma_{\nu, T}^2 + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^4)$$

2. One configuration:

$$\epsilon_2^{\text{ZG}}(\omega; T) = \epsilon_2(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\nu\mu} S_{\nu} S_{\mu} \frac{\partial^2 \epsilon_2^x(\omega)}{\partial x_{\nu} \partial x_{\mu}} \sigma_{\nu, T} \sigma_{\mu, T} + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^4)$$

Special set of signs:

$$\{S_{\nu}\} = \{+ - + - + - \dots\}$$

$$S_{\nu} = (-1)^{\nu-1}$$

3. We can prove:

$$\lim_{N_p \rightarrow \infty} \epsilon_2^{\text{ZG}}(\omega; T) = \epsilon_2^{\text{WL}}(\omega; T)$$

$$\text{if } \Delta\tau_{\kappa\alpha}^{\text{ZG}} = (M_p/M_{\kappa})^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{\nu} S_{\nu} e_{\kappa\alpha, \nu} \sigma_{\nu, T}$$

M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. B 94, 075125 \(2016\)](#)

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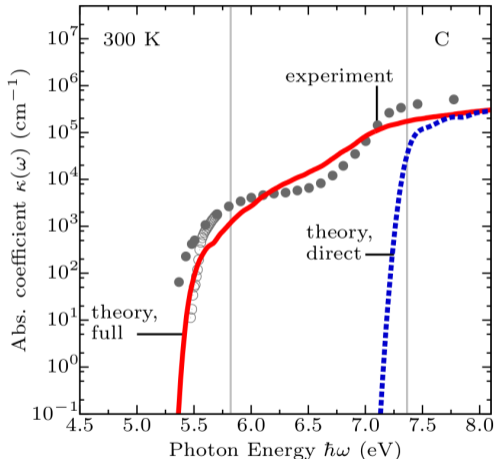
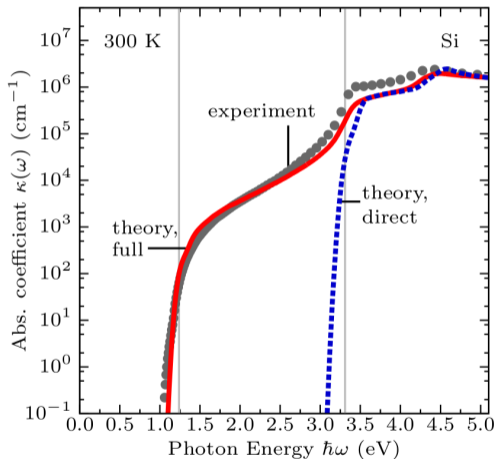
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M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. B 94, 075125 \(2016\)](#)

# Silicon and diamond absorption spectra with the SDM

DFT-LDA calculations + quantum nuclear effects, Method: SDM ( $8 \times 8 \times 8$  supercell)



M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, *Phys. Rev. B* 94, 075125 (2016)

(see tutorial exercise4)

# Relations connecting the SDM and Perturbative methods

- Optical spectra:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \epsilon_2^x}{\partial x_\nu^2} \propto \frac{2}{l_\nu^2} \frac{1}{\omega^2} \sum_{cv} \left| \sum_n' \left[ \frac{p_{cn} g_{nv\nu}}{\epsilon_\nu - \epsilon_n} + \frac{g_{cn\nu} p_{nv}}{\epsilon_c - \epsilon_n} \right] \right|^2 \delta(\epsilon_c - \epsilon_\nu - \hbar\omega)$$

- Temperature-dependent band structures:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \epsilon_c^x}{\partial x_\nu^2} = \frac{2}{l_\nu^2} \left[ \sum_n' \frac{|g_{cn\nu}|^2}{\epsilon_c - \epsilon_n} + h_{c\nu\nu} \right],$$

Nonperturbative methods:

1. miss  $\hbar\omega_\nu$  in the denominator and  $\delta()$  (ok if  $\hbar\omega_\nu \ll \epsilon_g$ )
2. capture all coefficients  $\frac{\partial^{2n} \epsilon_2^x}{\partial x_\nu^{2n}}$ ; thus *electron-multi-phonon* interactions
3. includes off-diagonal Debye-Waller contribution, no rigid-ion approx.

# Reciprocal space formulation of the SDM

SDM: Gives the set of atomic displacements (ZG displacements) that best incorporate the effect of electron-phonon coupling in ab-initio nonperturbative calculations:

$$\Delta \tau_{p\kappa}^{\text{ZG}} = \left[ \frac{M_p}{N_p M_\kappa} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} 2 \sum_{\mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{B}, \nu} S_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \operatorname{Re} \left[ e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_p} \mathbf{e}_{\kappa, \nu}(\mathbf{q}) \right] \sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu, T}$$

where

- $\sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu, T}^2 = (2n_{\mathbf{q}\nu, T} + 1)\hbar / (2M_p \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu})$  with  $n_{\mathbf{q}\nu, T} = [\exp(\hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} / k_B T) - 1]^{-1}$
- $\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \longrightarrow$  phonon frequencies
- $\mathbf{e}_{\kappa, \nu}(\mathbf{q}) \longrightarrow$  phonon polarization vectors
- $S_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \longrightarrow$  signs of normal coordinates

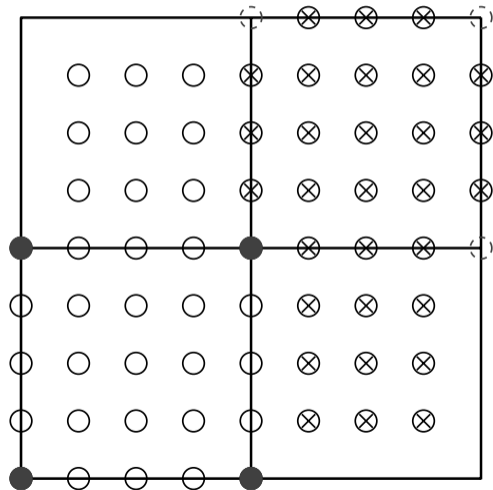
This equation is implemented in the EPW/ZG module of Quantum Espresso.

M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#) and H. Lee, *et al* [arXiv:2302.08085](#)

# Partitioning of $q$ into sets $\mathcal{A}$ , $\mathcal{B}$ , and $\mathcal{C}$

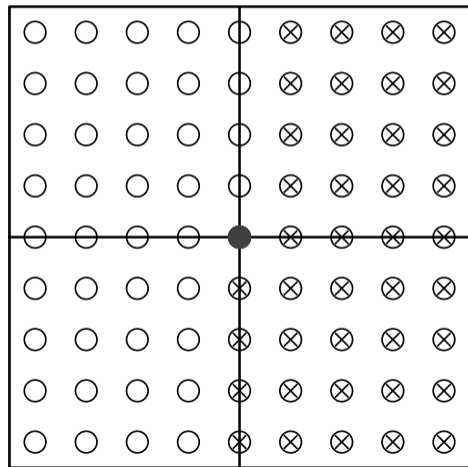
$8 \times 8 \times 1$   $q$ -grid

●  $q \in \mathcal{A}$ , ○  $q \in \mathcal{B}$ , ⊗  $q \in \mathcal{C}$



$9 \times 9 \times 1$   $q$ -grid

●  $q \in \mathcal{A}$ , ○  $q \in \mathcal{B}$ , ⊗  $q \in \mathcal{C}$





# Reciprocal space formulation of the SDM

## Key findings from our theory due to periodicity of solids:

- Linear order derivatives vanish in a supercell calculation:

$$\frac{\partial O\{\tau\}}{\partial z_{\mathbf{q}\nu}} = 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{q} \in \mathcal{B}.$$

- All second order derivatives with  $\mathbf{q} \neq \mathbf{q}'$  vanish in a supercell calculation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 O\{\tau\}}{\partial z_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \partial z_{\mathbf{q}'\nu'}} = 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{q} \neq \mathbf{q}'.$$

This simplifies **A LOT** the procedure for minimizing the error coming from the cross-coupling terms.

# Compute and minimize the function $E(\{S_{\mathbf{q}\nu}\}, T)$

Find the best ZG displacements for a given *supercell size* and *temperature* by setting `compute_error = .true.`, `error_thresh = 0.05` (see tutorial exercise1) so that the function:

$$E(\{S_{\mathbf{q}\nu}\}, T) = \sum_{\substack{\kappa\alpha \\ \kappa'\alpha'}} \frac{\left| \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{q}\in\mathcal{B} \\ \nu<\nu'}} \Re[e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}^*(\mathbf{q})e_{\kappa'\alpha',\nu'}(\mathbf{q})] \sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu,T} \sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu',T} S_{\mathbf{q}\nu} S_{\mathbf{q}\nu'} \right|}{\left| \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{q}\in\mathcal{B} \\ \nu}} \Re[e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}^*(\mathbf{q})e_{\kappa'\alpha',\nu}(\mathbf{q})] \sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu,T}^2 \right|}$$

is lower than `error_thresh` based on the choice of  $\{S_{\mathbf{q}\nu}\}$ .

All quantities in  $E(\{S_{\mathbf{q}\nu}\})$  can be computed from DFPT;

**no extra DFT** calculations are required to find the optimum ZG configuration.

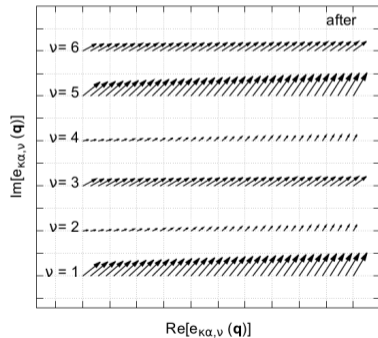
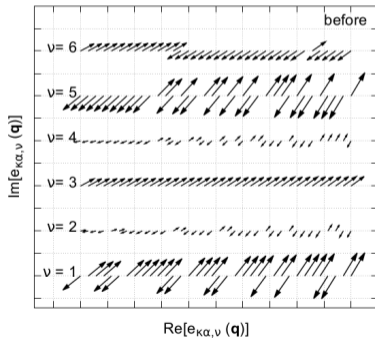
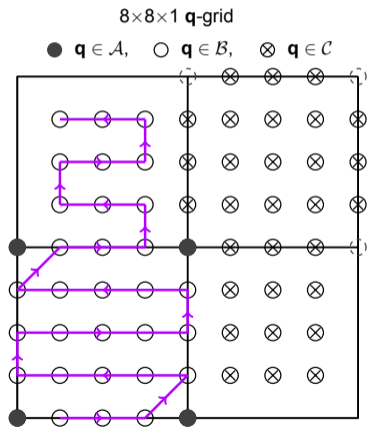
# Smooth gauge of $e_{\kappa,\nu}(\mathbf{q})$ along a path in reciprocal space

Apply a smooth gauge by setting: `synch = .true.`

We apply the transformation:

$$e'_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q} + \Delta\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{\nu'} U_{\nu\nu'} e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu'}(\mathbf{q} + \Delta\mathbf{q}),$$

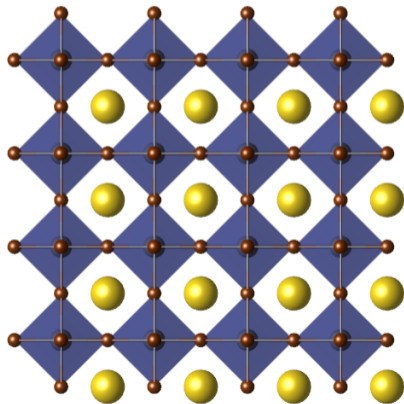
so that  $e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q})$  and  $e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q} + \Delta\mathbf{q})$  are as similar as possible.



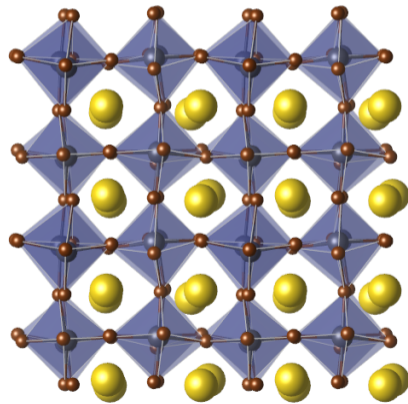
# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

SDM: Gives the set of atomic displacements (ZG displacements) that best incorporate the effect of electron-phonon coupling in ab-initio nonperturbative calculations:

High-symmetry configuration  
(and static-equilibrium)

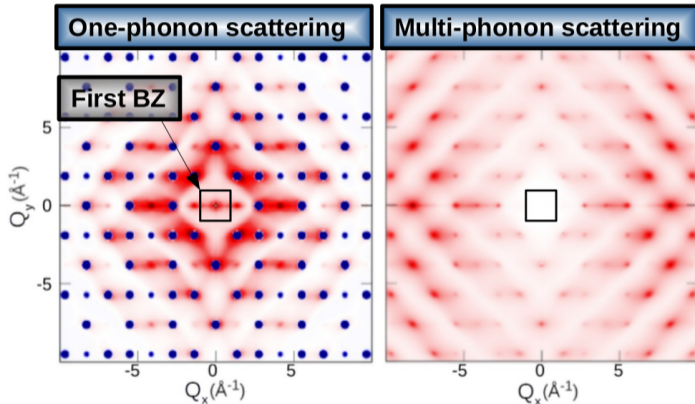
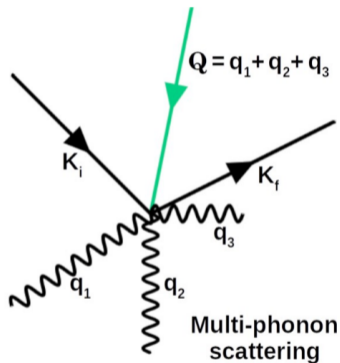


ZG configuration



# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

ZG displacements give the best collection of scatterers that best reproduce *phonon-induced inelastic scattering patterns*: **Black Phosphorus**

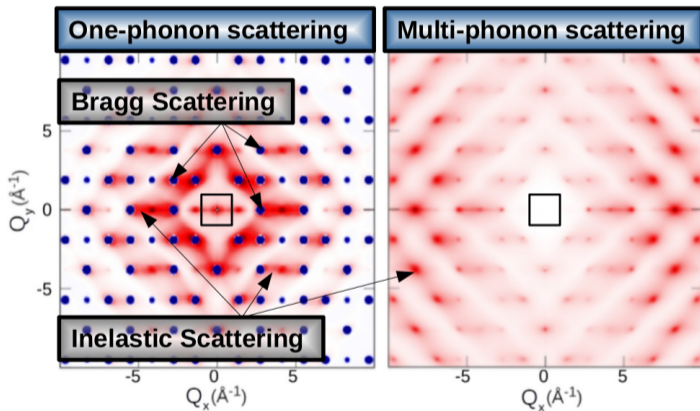
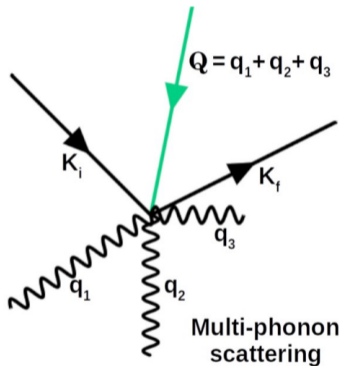


M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 207401 \(2021\)](#)

M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. B 104, 205109 \(2021\)](#)

# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

ZG displacements give the best collection of scatterers that best reproduce *phonon-induced inelastic scattering patterns*: **Black Phosphorus**



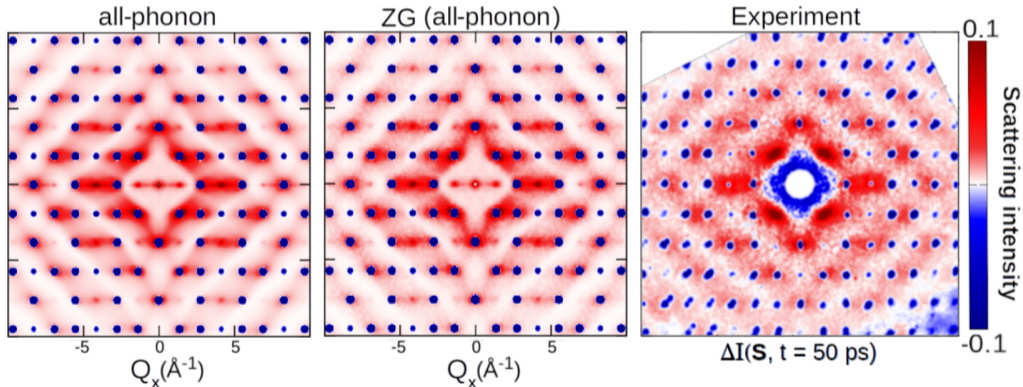
M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 207401 \(2021\)](#)

M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. B 104, 205109 \(2021\)](#)

# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

ZG displacements give the best collection of scatterers that best reproduce

*phonon-induced inelastic scattering patterns*:  $I_{ZG}(\mathbf{Q}, T) = \left| \sum_{p\kappa} f_{\kappa}(\mathbf{Q}) e^{i\mathbf{Q} \cdot [\mathbf{R}_p + \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa} + \Delta\boldsymbol{\tau}_{p\kappa}^{ZG}]} \right|^2$



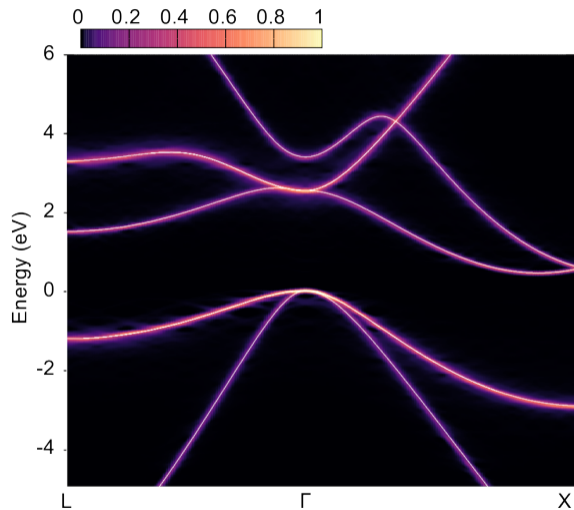
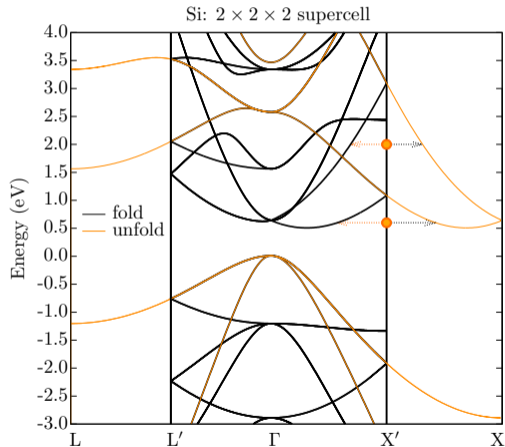
Someone can calculate diffuse scattering maps using ZG.x and disca.x of QE (see tutorial exercise5).

M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 127, 207401 \(2021\)](#)

M. Zacharias, H. Seiler, F. Caruso, D. Zahn, F. Giustino, P. Kelires, R. Ernstorfer, [Phys. Rev. B 104, 205109 \(2021\)](#)

# Applications of the SDM

*Temperature-dependent band structures*  
with the band structure unfolding technique  
as implemented in `bands_unfold.x` of QE.



V. Popescu, A. Zunger, [Phys. Rev. B 85, 085201 \(2012\)](#) M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Res. 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)



# Applications of the SDM

Temperature-dependent band structures with the band structure unfolding technique

Goal is to evaluate the electron spectral function:

$$A_{\mathbf{k}}(\varepsilon; T) = \sum_{m\mathbf{K}} P_{m\mathbf{K},\mathbf{k}}(T) \delta[\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{K}}(T)],$$

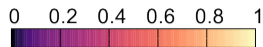
where  $P_{m\mathbf{K},\mathbf{k}}(T)$  are temperature-dependent spectral weights evaluated as:

$$P_{m\mathbf{K},\mathbf{k}}(T) = \sum_{\mathbf{g}} |c_{m\mathbf{K}}^{\text{ZG}}(\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}; T)|^2.$$

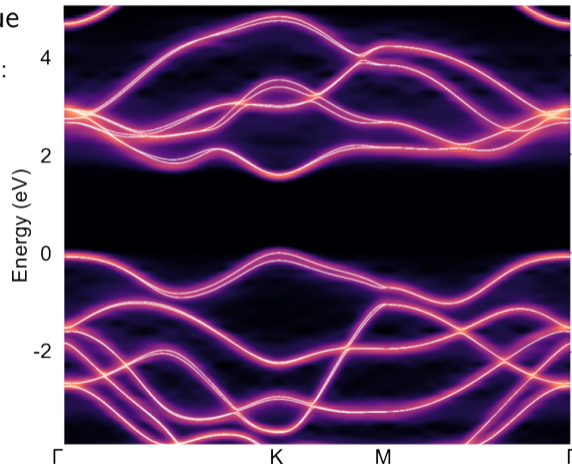
This is implemented in `bands_unfold.x` for NC, US, and PAW pseudopotentials.  
(see tutorial exercise2)

V. Popescu, A. Zunger, *Phys. Rev. B* **85**, 085201 (2012)

P. V. C. Medeiros, S. Stafström, J. Björk,  
*Phys. Rev. B* **89**, 041407(R) (2014)



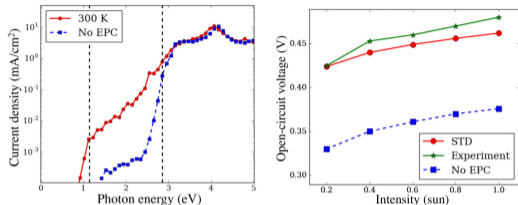
MoS<sub>2</sub>



M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, *Phys. Rev. Res.* **2**, 013357 (2020)

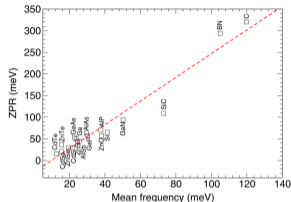
# Applications of the SDM

Phonon-assisted photocurrent in large solar-cell devices

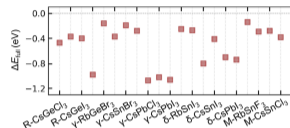


M. Palsgaard, et al, [PRA 10, 014026 \(2018\)](#)

Zero-point renormalization within GW and Hybrid functionals

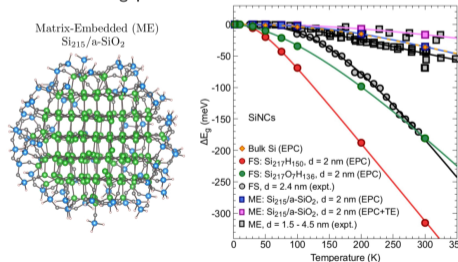


F. Karsai, et al, [NJP 20 123008 \(2018\)](#)



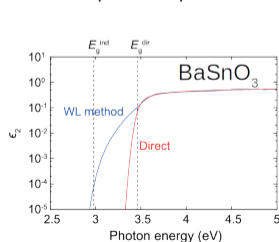
H. Wang, et al, [npj CM 8 237 \(2022\)](#)

Band gap renormalization of nanostructures



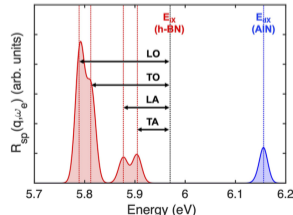
M. Zacharias, et al, [PRB 101, 245122 \(2020\)](#)

Indirect optical absorption in BaSnO<sub>3</sub>



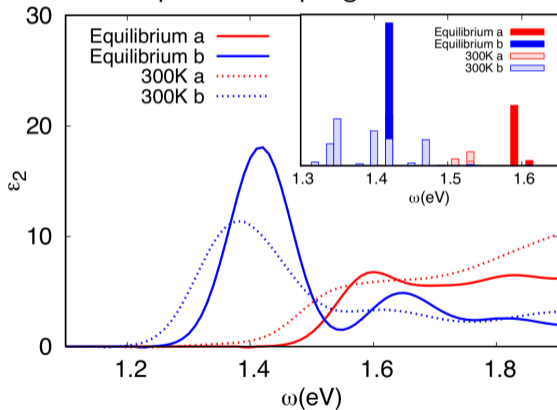
Y. Kang, et al, [APL 112 \(2018\)](#) D. A. Laleyan, W. Lee, et al [APL Mater 11 \(2023\)](#)

Phonon-assisted emission spectrum of h-BN and AlN



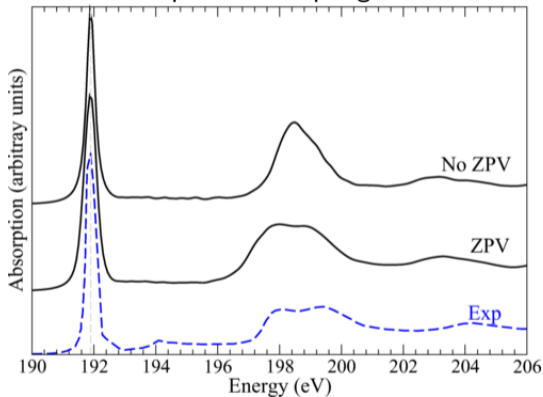
# Applications of the SDM

## Exciton-phonon coupling in 2D GeSe



T. A. Huang, *et al*, *JPLC* 12 (2021)

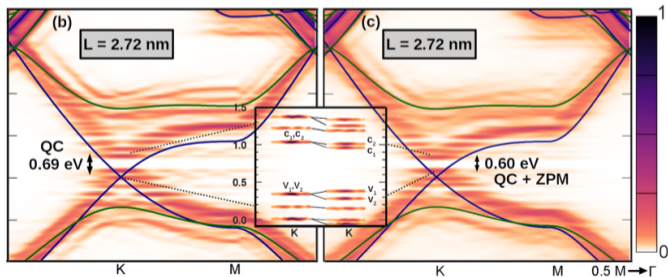
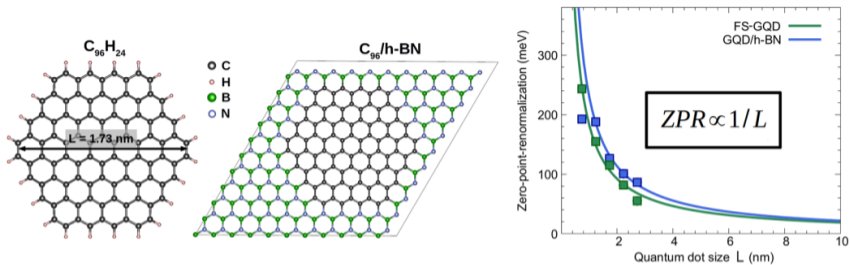
## Exciton-phonon coupling in h-BN



F. Karsai, *et al*, *PRB* 98, 235205 (2018)

<https://www.vasp.at/wiki/> (see PHON\_NSTRUCT flag)

# The SDM for nanostructures

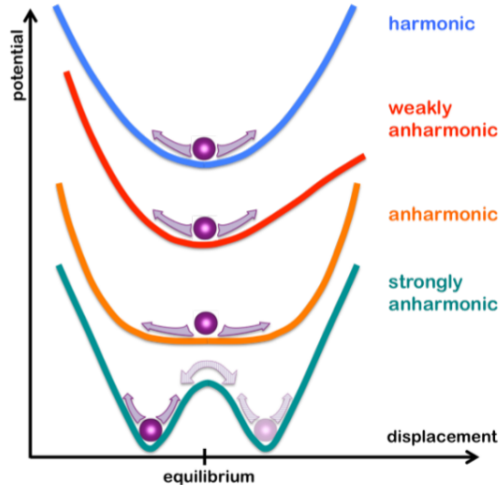


M. Zacharias, P. C. Kelires, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **12**, 9940 (2021)

**Exploring anharmonicity via the A-SDM.**

# Accounting for anharmonicity in first-principles calculations

## harmonic versus anharmonic potentials



C. Katan et al., *Nature Materials*, 17, 377–379 (2018)

*Anharmonic* PES:

Harmonic approaches fail to calculate stable phonons.

Current state-of-the-art methods:

**TDEP**: O. Hellman *et al.*,

*Phys. Rev. B* 84, 180301(R) (2011)

**SSCHA**: I. Errea *et al.*,

*Phys. Rev. B* 89, 064302 (2014)

**PT**: T. Tadano, S. Tsuneyuki,

*Phys. Rev. B* 92, 054301 (2015)

or upgrade the special displacement method (SDM) ...

# Anharmonicity within the Self-Consistent Phonon (SCP) theory

Compute temperature-dependent effective IFCs:

$$C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T) = \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 U\{\tau\}}{\partial\tau_{p\kappa\alpha}\partial\tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \right\rangle_T,$$

iteratively until **self-consistency** is obtained. The proof involves:

1. Minimize the (trial) free energy of the system with respect to  $C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T)$ :

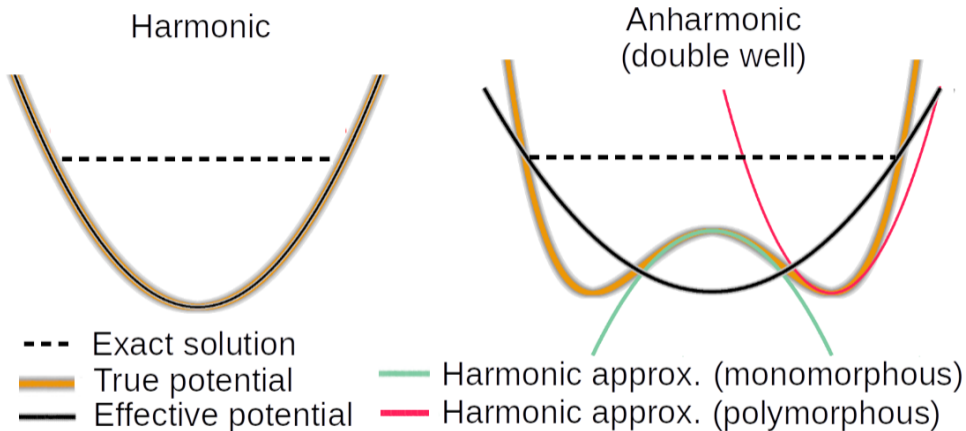
$$F(T) = \langle U \rangle_T - U_h(T) + F_{\text{vib}}(T)$$

$$F(T) = \langle U \rangle_T - \frac{M_0}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}^2 \sigma_{\mathbf{q}\nu,T}^2 + \sum_{\mathbf{q}\nu} \left[ \frac{\hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}}{2} - k_B T \ln[1 + n_{\mathbf{q}\nu,T}] \right], \text{ so that } \boxed{\frac{\partial F(T)}{\partial C_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}} = 0}$$

2. We can prove:

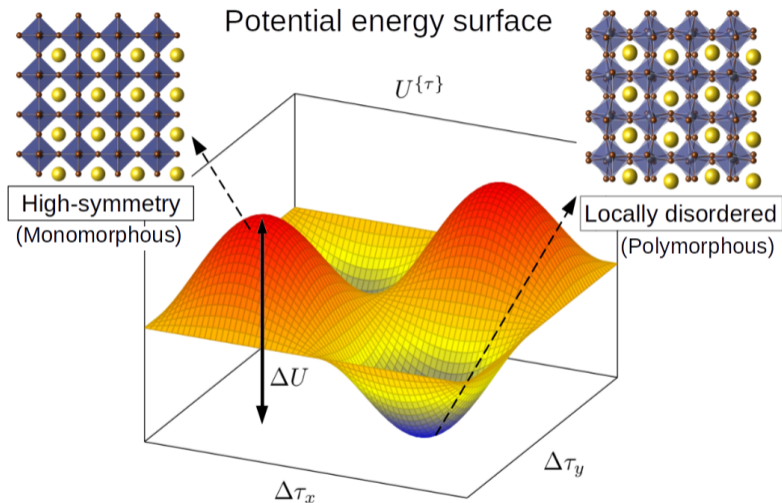
$$\frac{\partial F(T)}{\partial C_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}} = \frac{\partial \langle U \rangle_T}{\partial C_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}} - \frac{\partial U_h(T)}{\partial C_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}} + \frac{\partial F_{\text{vib}}(T)}{\partial C_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}} \propto \sum_{\substack{\kappa''\alpha'' \\ \kappa'''\alpha'''}} [\dots] \left[ \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial\tau_{\kappa''\alpha''}\partial\tau_{\kappa'''\alpha'''}} \right\rangle_T - C_{\kappa''\alpha'',\kappa'''\alpha'''} \right]$$

# Schematic illustration of an effective potential





# Starting point: Ground-state locally disordered structure



**Monomorphous, Polymorphous:** X-G. Zhao, G. M. Dalpian, Z. Wang, A. Zunger [Phys. Rev. B 101, 155137 \(2020\)](#)

# SCPs with the A-SDM

Compute temperature-dependent effective IFCs

$$C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T) = \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 U\{\tau\}}{\partial\tau_{p\kappa\alpha}\partial\tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \right\rangle_T \simeq \frac{\partial^2 U\{\tau^{\text{ZG}}\}}{\partial\tau_{p\kappa\alpha}\partial\tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}},$$

iteratively until self-consistent phonons are obtained. This involves:

1. Compute harmonic  $C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}$  of the **polymorphous structure** using **finite differences**, enforce symmetries, and obtain initial  $\{\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}/e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q})\}_{\text{Poly-SYM}}$

Stable phonons **but no**  
temperature dependence

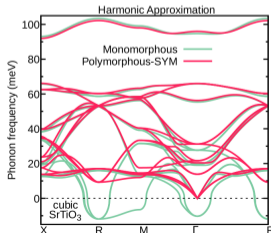
# SCPs with the A-SDM

Compute temperature-dependent effective IFCs

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Stable phonons **but no** temperature dependence

# SCPs with the A-SDM

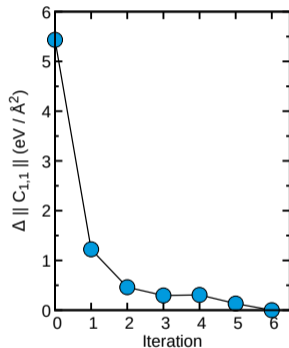
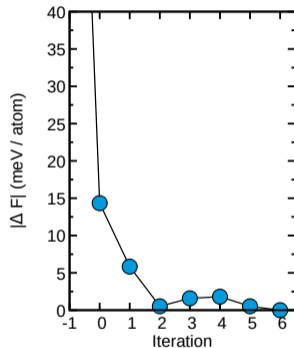
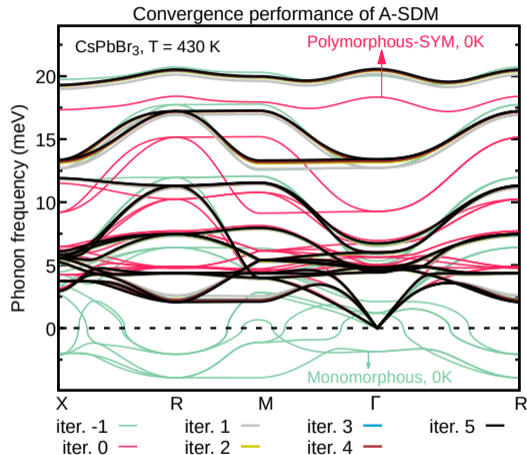
Compute temperature-dependent effective IFCs

$$C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T) = \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 U\{\tau\}}{\partial\tau_{p\kappa\alpha}\partial\tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \right\rangle_T \simeq \frac{\partial^2 U\{\tau^{\text{ZG}}\}}{\partial\tau_{p\kappa\alpha}\partial\tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}}$$

iteratively until self-consistent phonons are obtained. This involves:

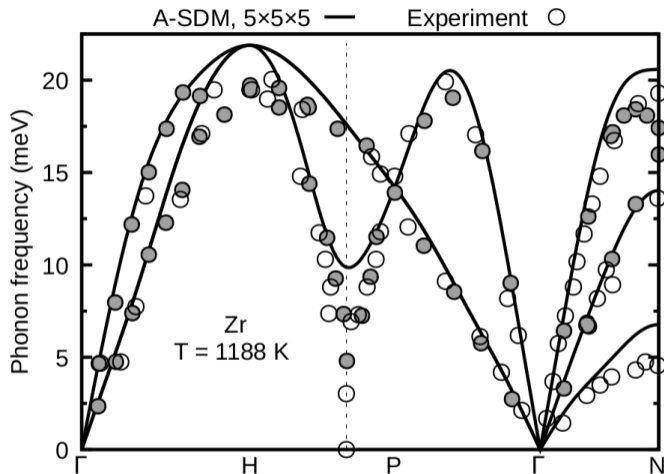
1. Compute harmonic  $C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}$  of the **polymorphous structure** using **finite differences**, enforce symmetries, and obtain initial  $\{\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}/e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q})\}_{\text{Poly-SYM}}$
2. Generate  $\Delta\tau^{\text{ZG}}$
3. Compute  $C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T)$  using **finite differences**
4. Enforce crystal symmetries to  $C_{p\kappa\alpha,p'\kappa'\alpha'}(T)$
5. Calculate T-dependent  $\{\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}/e_{\kappa\alpha,\nu}(\mathbf{q})\}_{\text{A-SDM}}$
6. Repeat steps 3-5 until self-consistency is achieved (**with iterative mixing**)

# A-SDM convergence performance: CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>



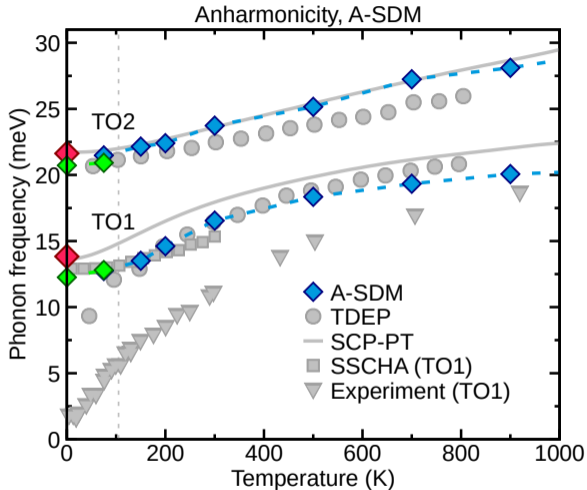
M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2212.10633](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.10633)

# A-SDM validation: Zr (compare with experiment)



see tutorial exercise3

# A-SDM validation: $\text{SrTiO}_3$ (compare with other approaches)

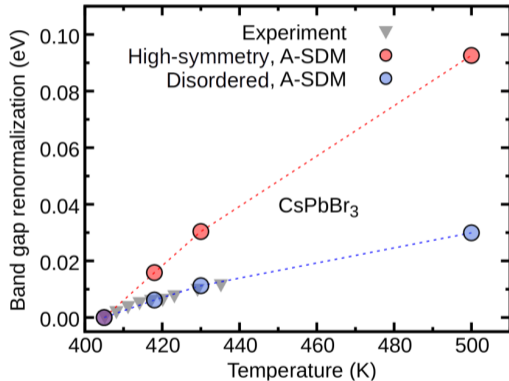
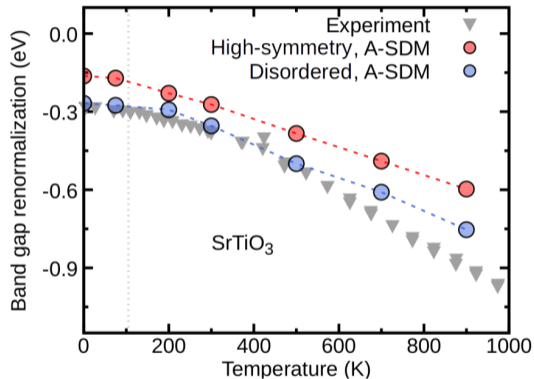


A-SDM data: M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2212.10633](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.10633),

SCP-PT and TDEP data: T. Tadano, S. Tsuneyuki, [PRB 92 \(2015\)](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.92.045115) SSCHA data: C. Verdi, *et al*, [PRM 7 \(2023\)](https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5011111)

# Application of the A-SDM: perovskite polymorphs

$$\text{Allen - Heine theory : } \Delta\varepsilon_c(T) = \sum_{\nu} \left[ \sum_{n \neq c} \frac{|g_{c\nu\nu}|^2}{\varepsilon_c - \varepsilon_n} + h_{c\nu\nu} \right] (2n_{\nu,T} + 1)$$



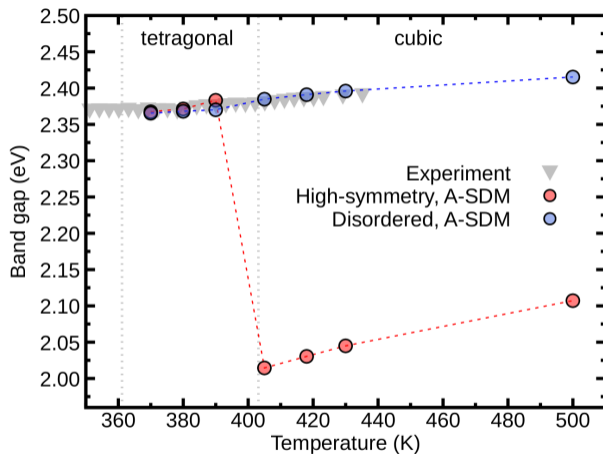
Experiment SrTiO<sub>3</sub>: D. J. Kok, et al. [Phys. Stat. Solidi 212, 1880, \(2015\)](#)

Experiment CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>: G. Mannino, et al. [J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 11, 2490 \(2020\)](#)

Theory: M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2302.09625](#)



# Application of the A-SDM: polymorphous CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>



Experiment CsPbBr<sub>3</sub>: G. Mannino, et al. [J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 11, 2490 \(2020\)](#)

Theory: M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2302.09625](#)

# Take home messages ...

1. The SDM is a very simple and efficient methodology for capturing anharmonicity and electron-phonon coupling effects in *ab initio* calculations. [Tutorials](https://epwdoc.gitlab.io) and [input flags](https://epwdoc.gitlab.io) available in <https://epwdoc.gitlab.io>.
2. The SDM is not simply a numerical trick, but encloses important physics.
3. SDM potential for other temperature-dependent observables, e.g. conductivity, tunnelling spectra, exciton spectra, etc ...
4. The A-SDM compares well with TDEP, SSCHA, or SCP-PT results for the evaluation of second-order effective IFCs (all rely on the SCP theory).
5. Temperature-dependent (anharmonic) IFCs with EPW are within reach.

# Acknowledgements



THANK YOU !!!



Funded by the  
European Union



**B**ienvenue

This research was also funded by the European Union (project ULTRA-2DPK / HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01 / Grant Agreement No. 101106654). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



1. C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* 26, 365503 (2014)
2. M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, *Phys. Rev. B* 94, 075125 (2016)
3. M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, *Phys. Rev. Research* 2, 013357 (2020)
4. M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2212.10633](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.10633)
5. R. Bianco, I. Errea, L. Paulatto, M. Calandra, F. Mauri *Phys. Rev. B* 96 (2017)
6. H. Lee, *et al* [arXiv:2302.08085](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.08085)

# Williams-Lax Theory

1. Herzberg-Teller rate as the starting point:

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}(\omega) = \sum_m \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \chi_{\alpha n} | P_{\alpha\beta}^x | \chi_{\beta m} \rangle|^2 \delta(E_{\beta m} - E_{\alpha n} - \hbar\omega)$$

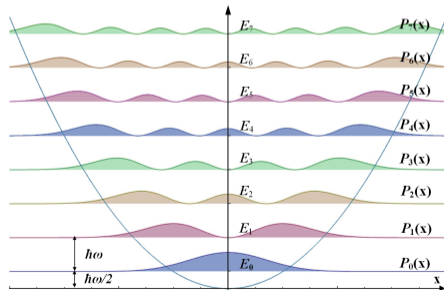
# Williams-Lax Theory

1. Herzberg-Teller rate as the starting point:

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}(\omega) = \sum_m \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \chi_{\alpha n} | P_{\alpha\beta}^x | \chi_{\beta m} \rangle|^2 \delta(E_{\beta m} - E_{\alpha n} - \hbar\omega)$$

2. Semiclassical approximation: replace  $E_{\beta m}$  with the adiabatic potential energy surface  $E_{\beta}^x$ :

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}^{(\text{SC})}(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \langle \chi_{\alpha n} | |P_{\alpha\beta}^x|^2 \delta(E_{\beta}^x - E_{\alpha}^x - \hbar\omega) | \chi_{\alpha n} \rangle$$



# Williams-Lax Theory

1. Herzberg-Teller rate as the starting point:

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}(\omega) = \sum_m \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle \chi_{\alpha n} | P_{\alpha\beta}^x | \chi_{\beta m} \rangle|^2 \delta(E_{\beta m} - E_{\alpha n} - \hbar\omega)$$

2. Semiclassical approximation: replace  $E_{\beta m}$  with the adiabatic potential energy surface  $E_{\beta}^x$ :

$$\Gamma_{\alpha n \rightarrow \beta}^{(\text{SC})}(\omega) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \langle \chi_{\alpha n} | |P_{\alpha\beta}^x|^2 \delta(E_{\beta}^x - E_{\alpha}^x - \hbar\omega) | \chi_{\alpha n} \rangle$$

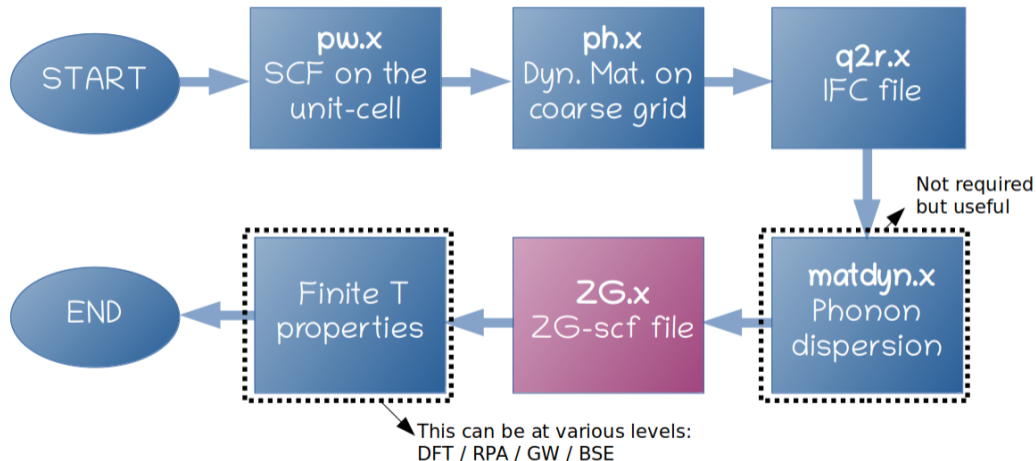
3. Thermal average, Harmonic approximation, and Mehler's formula:

$$\Gamma_{0 \rightarrow \beta}^{(\text{SC})}(\omega; T) = \prod_{\nu} \int dx_{\nu} \frac{\exp(-x_{\nu}^2/2\sigma_{\nu,T}^2)}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\nu,T}} |P_{0\beta}^x|^2 \delta(E_{\beta}^x - E_0^x - \hbar\omega)$$

with  $\sigma_{\nu,T}^2 = (2n_{\nu,T} + 1) l_{\nu}^2$ .

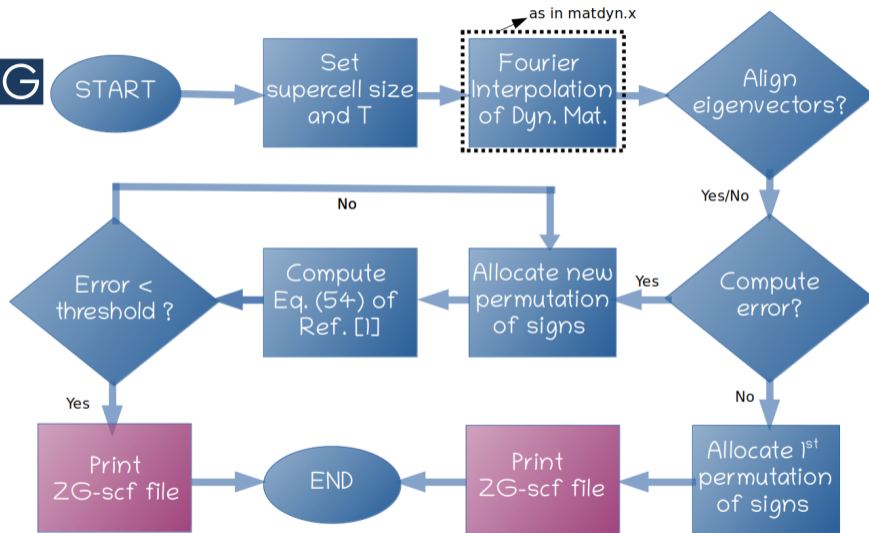
- F. E. Williams, [Phys. Rev. 82, 281 \(1951\)](#)
- M. Lax, [J. Chem. Phys. 20, 1752 \(1952\)](#)
- C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [Nat. Commun. 4, 2006 \(2013\)](#)
- C. E. Patrick, F. Giustino, [J. Phys. Condens. Matter 26, 365503 \(2014\)](#)
- M. Zacharias, [DPhil Thesis](#), University of Oxford (2017)

# Appendix: Flowchart for ab-initio calculations with the SDM



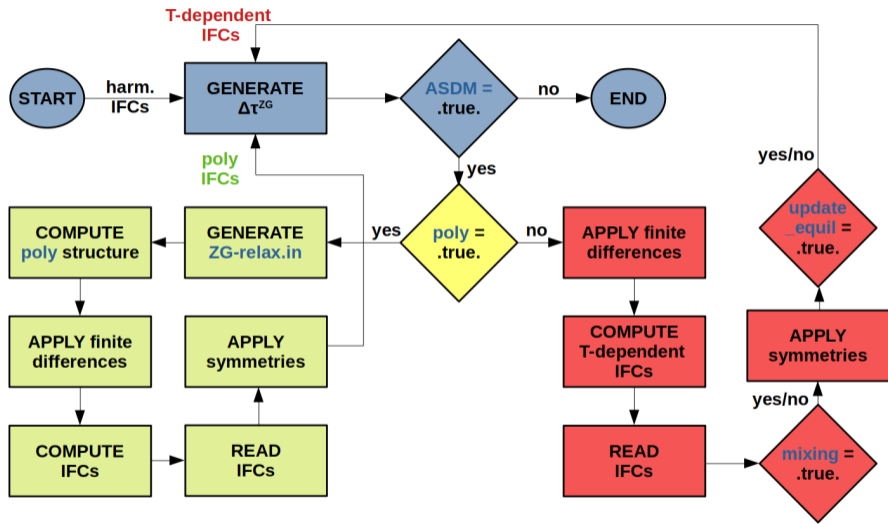


# Appendix: Flowchart for ZG.x



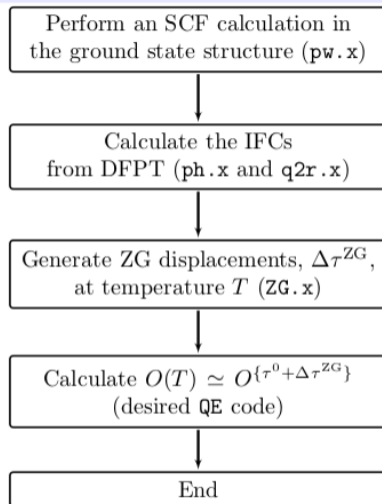
Ref. [1]: M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)

# Appendix: Flowchart for the A-SDM in ZG.x



M. Zacharias, G. Volonakis, F. Giustino, J. Even [arXiv:2212.10633](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.10633)

# Flowchart for ab-initio calculations with the SDM



Tutorials and description of [input flags](https://epwdoc.gitlab.io) available in <https://epwdoc.gitlab.io>.

## Appendix: Input file for ZG.x (similar structure to matdyn.x)

```
--  
&input  
  flfrc='si.444.fc',  
  asr='simple', amass(1)=28.0855, atm_zg(1) = 'Si',  
  flscf = 'si.scf.in'  
  T = 0.00,  
  dim1 = 5, dim2 = 5, dim3 = 5  
  compute_error = .true., synch = .true., error_thresh = 0.05  
  incl_qA = .false.  
/
```

[Tutorials](#) and description of the [input flags](#) are available online in <https://epwdoc.gitlab.io>.

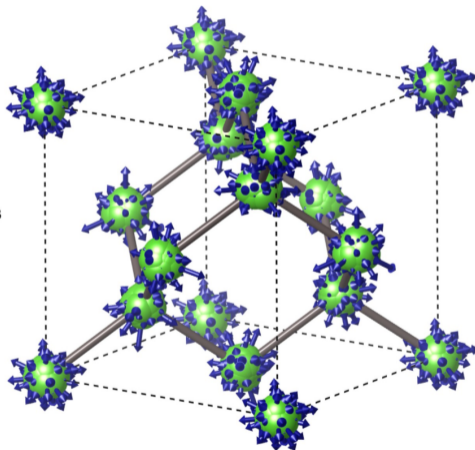
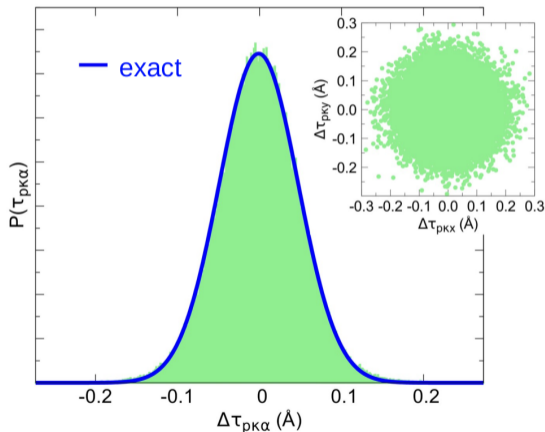
# Appendix: Things to have in mind when applying the SDM via

ZG.x:

- Make sure that the phonon dispersion is correct. For *anharmonicity* one can upgrade the IFC file using the A-SDM or the methods.
- $\mathbf{q}$ -grid for phonons should not be necessarily the same with the supercell size. Use a coarse  $\mathbf{q}$ -grid and generate any size of ZG configurations.
- Achieve convergence of the  $T$ -dependent observable with the supercell size.
- Make sure `error_thresh` is small ( $< 0.1$ ).
- Check the anisotropic displacement tensor data at the end of the output `ZG_XXX.out` (as in exercise1).
- Pointless to minimize the error function for systems with many atoms ( $> 15$ ) in the unit-cell (set `compute_error = .false.`).

# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

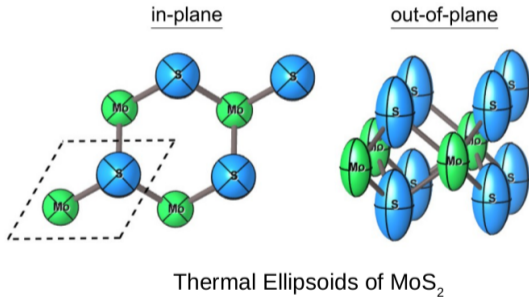
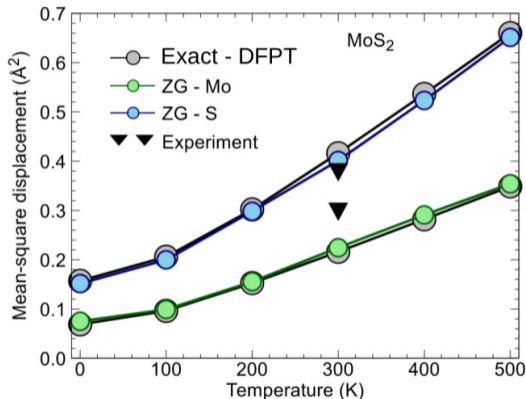
Gives the correct quantum mechanical probability distribution of nuclei displacements and the anisotropic displacement tensor / thermal ellipsoids. **Silicon**



M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)

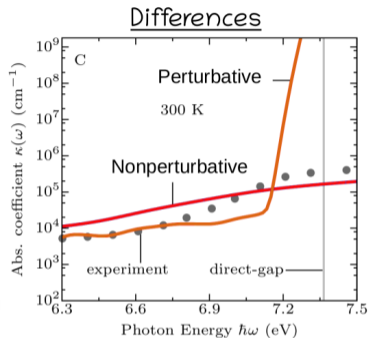
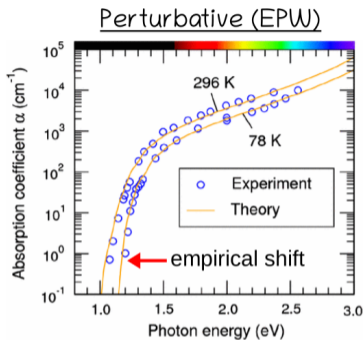
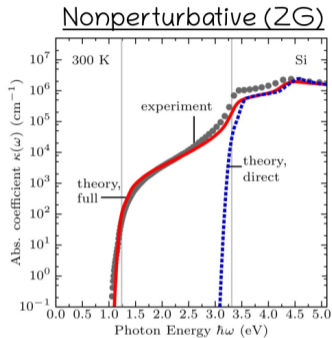
# Physical meaning of minimizing $E(\{S_{q\nu}\}, T)$

Gives the correct quantum mechanical probability distribution of nuclei displacements and the anisotropic displacement tensor / thermal ellipsoids. **MoS<sub>2</sub>**



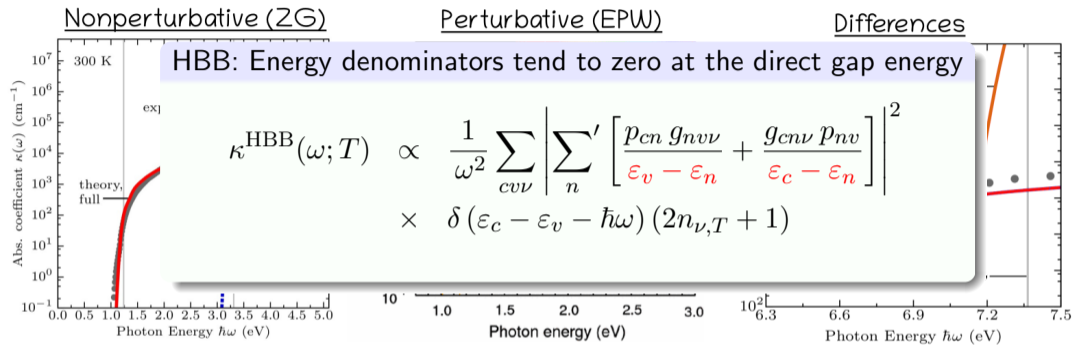
M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)

# Nonperturbative vs Perturbative: Divergence in optical spectra

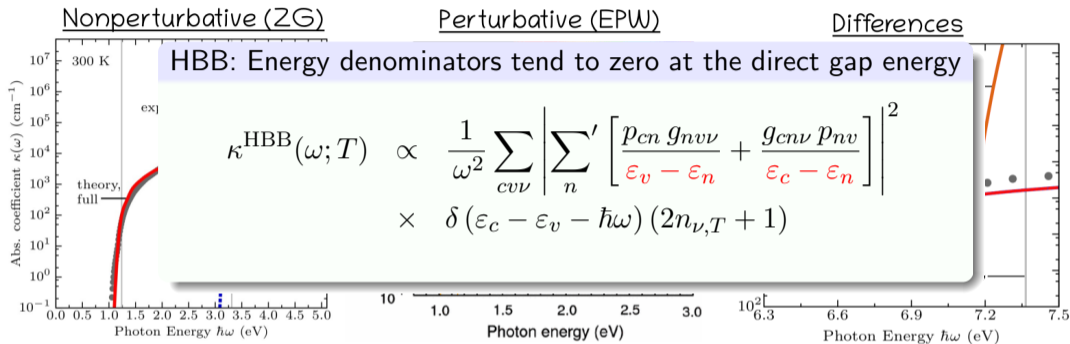




# Nonperturbative vs Perturbative: Divergence in optical spectra



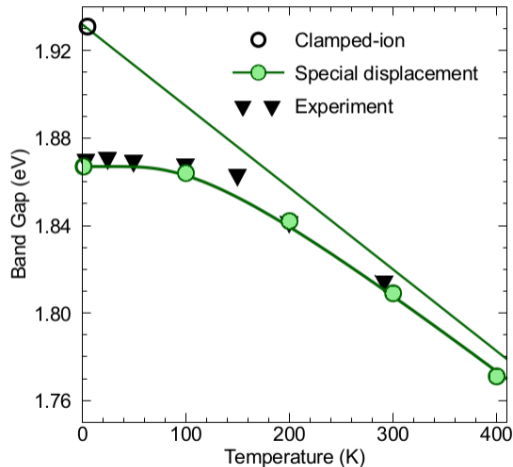
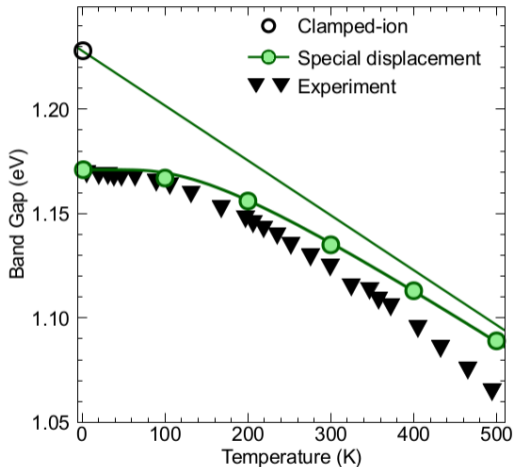
# Nonperturbative vs Perturbative: Divergence in optical spectra



- ZG gives the full spectrum → all terms in perturbation theory: ✓  
 $\kappa^{\text{ZG}}(\omega; T) = \kappa^{\text{HBB}}(\omega; T) + \text{direct absorp.} + \text{higher ph. assisted processes} + \text{mix terms} + \text{band gap renorm.}$
- Straightforward to implement on top of any electronic structure code. ✓
- ZG requires supercells → EPW elegance of unit-cell calculations. ✗
- ZG misses non-adiabatic (e.g. ph. frequencies in the denominators) and dynamical effects. ✗

# Applications of the SDM (Zero-point renormalization - ZPR)

Temperature dependent band gaps of **Si** (ZPR = 57 meV) and **MoS<sub>2</sub>** (ZPR = 65 meV).



M. Zacharias, F. Giustino, [Phys. Rev. Res. 2, 013357 \(2020\)](#)

## Remark: Energy level degeneracies in the SDM calculations.

- For periodic systems degeneracies should be preserved at finite temperatures (consequence of the harmonic approximation).

Treatment: if degeneracy splitting exist due to numerical artefacts, take the average of the energy levels.

- For non-periodic systems (molecules, clusters, etc ..) degeneracies are **not** preserved at finite temperatures.  
(either in the harmonic approximation or beyond).

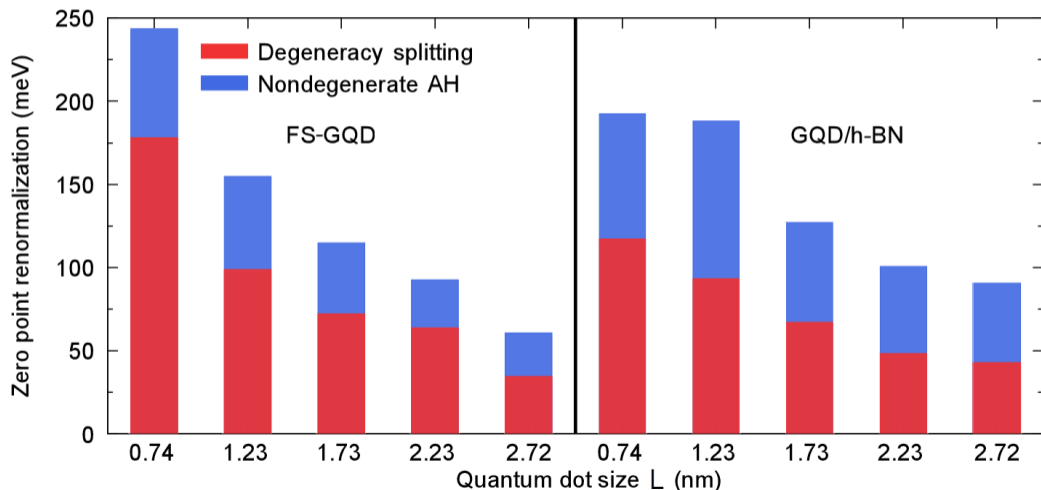
**New linear term added to AH from degenerate perturb. theory:**

$$\Delta\varepsilon_{c_1,T}^{\pm} = \pm \left| \sum_{\nu} (g_{c_1 c_1 \nu} - g_{c_2 c_2 \nu}) \frac{\sigma_{\nu,T}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right| + \sum'_{\nu\beta} \left[ \frac{|g_{c_1 \beta \nu}|^2}{\varepsilon_{c_1} - \varepsilon_{\beta}} + h_{c_1 \nu} \right] \sigma_{\nu,T}^2.$$

M. Zacharias, P. C. Kelires, [J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 12, 9940 \(2021\)](#)

# Remark: Energy level degeneracies of GQDs in the SDM

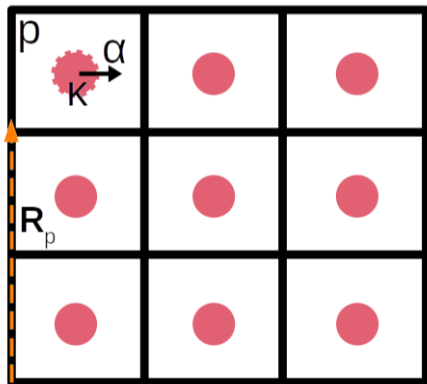
calculations  
M. Zacharias, P. C. Kelires, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 12, 9940 (2021)



# Phonons from first-principles

We rely first on the harmonic approximation and expand the PES

$$U\{\tau\} = U_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{p\kappa\alpha \\ p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \tau_{p\kappa\alpha} \partial \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \Delta \tau_{p\kappa\alpha} \Delta \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}.$$



# Phonons from first-principles

1. Harmonic approximation for the PES

$$U^{\{\tau\}} = U_0 + \sum_{\substack{p\kappa\alpha \\ p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \tau_{p\kappa\alpha} \partial \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} \frac{\Delta \tau_{p\kappa\alpha} \Delta \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}}{2}$$

2. Evaluate the IFCs from finite differences or DFPT:

$$C_{p\kappa\alpha, p'\kappa'\alpha'} = \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \tau_{p\kappa\alpha} \partial \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}} = \frac{\partial F_{p\kappa\alpha}}{\partial \tau_{p'\kappa'\alpha'}}$$

3. Evaluate the dynamical matrix as:

$$D_{\kappa\alpha, \kappa'\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{p'} \frac{C_{0\kappa\alpha, p'\kappa'\alpha'}}{\sqrt{M_\kappa M_{\kappa'}}} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot (\mathbf{R}_{p'} + \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa)}$$

4. Diagonalize the dynamical matrix:

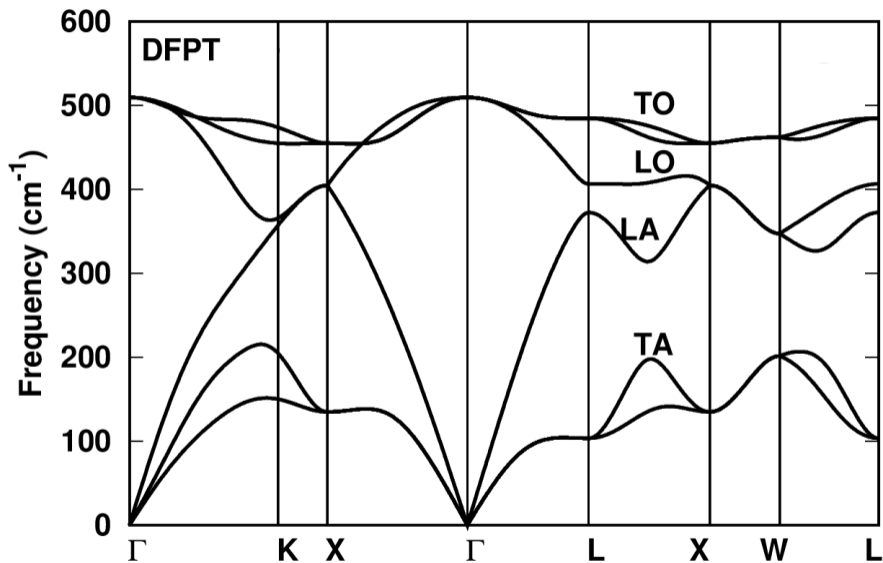
$$\sum_{\kappa'\alpha'} D_{\kappa\alpha, \kappa'\alpha'}(\mathbf{q}) e_{\kappa'\alpha', \nu}(\mathbf{q}) = \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu}^2 e_{\kappa\alpha, \nu}(\mathbf{q})$$

where  $\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} / e_{\kappa\alpha, \nu}(\mathbf{q})$  define the phonons.

5. For polar materials include the dipole-dipole interaction term:

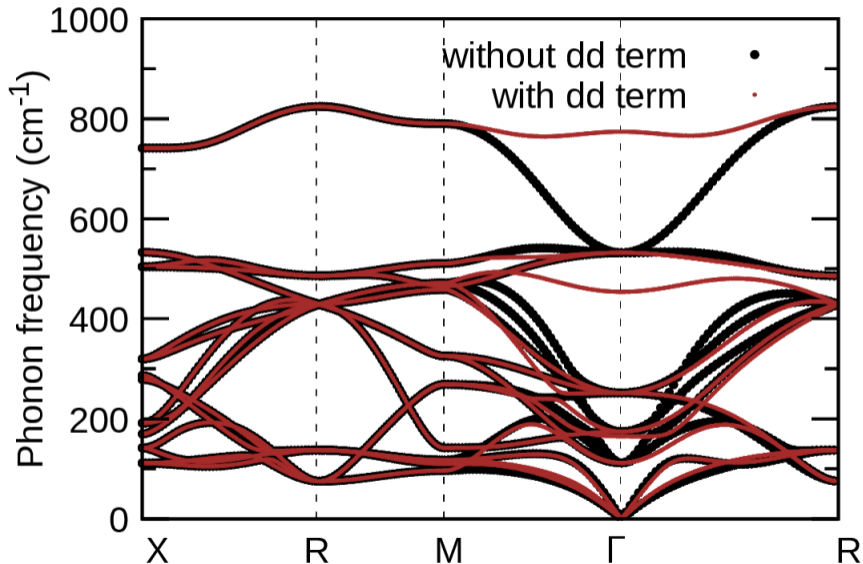
$$D_{\kappa\alpha, \kappa'\alpha'}^{\text{dd}}(\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0) = \frac{4\pi e^2}{\sqrt{M_\kappa M_{\kappa'}} \Omega} \frac{\sum_\beta q_\beta Z_{\kappa, \beta\alpha}^* \sum_{\beta'} q_{\beta'} Z_{\kappa', \beta'\alpha'}^*}{\sum_{\beta\beta'} q_\beta \epsilon_{\beta\beta'}^\infty q_{\beta'}}$$

# Phonon dispersion of silicon





# A-SDM phonon dispersion of SrTiO<sub>3</sub> (`incl_epsilon = .true.`)



# Systems with local disorder (phonon unfolding as in exercise6)

