

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 Tue.2

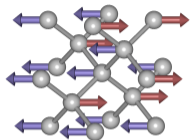
# Many-body methods for electron-phonon interactions

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

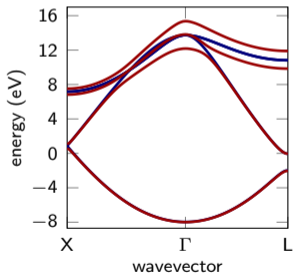
- Limitations of Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory
- Many-body Hamiltonian
- Green's function and the spectral function
- Electron-phonon self-energy
- Electron mass enhancement and lifetimes
- How do phonons arise from the many-body Schrödinger equation

# Limitations of DFT and Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory

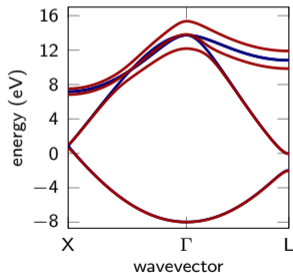
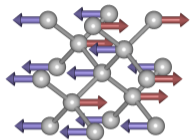


Kohn-Sham equations from Lec. Mon.1

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla^2 \psi_n(\mathbf{r}) + V_{\text{SCF}}(\mathbf{r}; \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots) \psi_n(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_n \psi_n(\mathbf{r})$$



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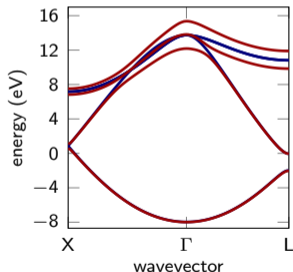
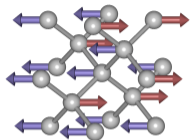


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- Adiabatic Born-Oppenheimer approximation

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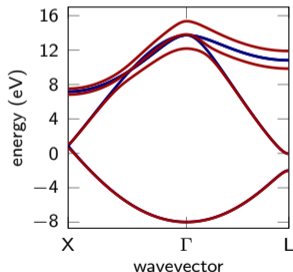
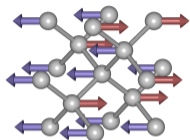


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- Adiabatic Born-Oppenheimer approximation
- Nuclei described as classical particles

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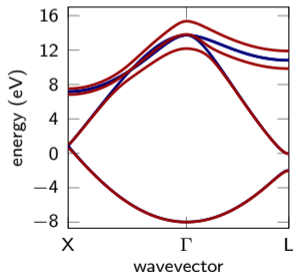
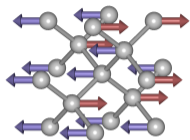


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- Electron-phonon interactions depend on XC functional

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- Adiabatic Born-Oppenheimer approximation
- Nuclei described as classical particles
- Electron-phonon interactions depend on XC functional
- Phonons have infinite lifetimes in metals



## Polaron liquid at the SrTiO<sub>3</sub>(001) surface

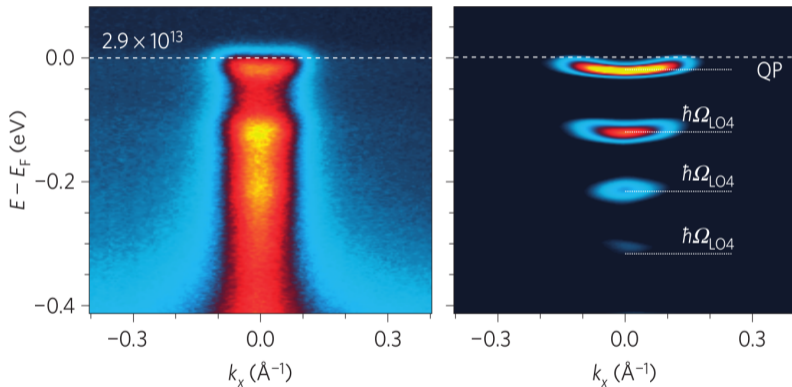


Figure from Wang et al, Nat. Mater. 15, 835 (2016)

## Andreev reflection spectroscopy of superconducting MgB<sub>2</sub>

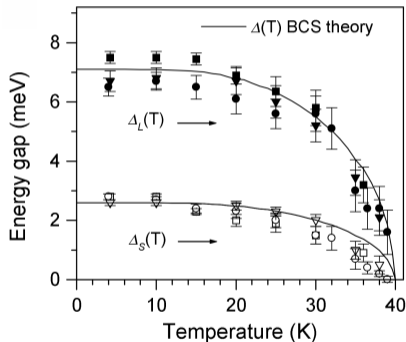
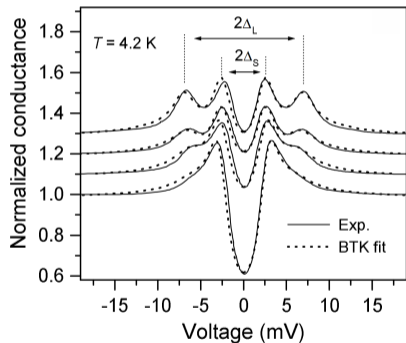


Figure from Szabó et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 87, 137005 (2001)

# Phenomena beyond Rayleigh-Schrödinger perturbation theory

## Phonon softening and lifetimes in B-doped diamond

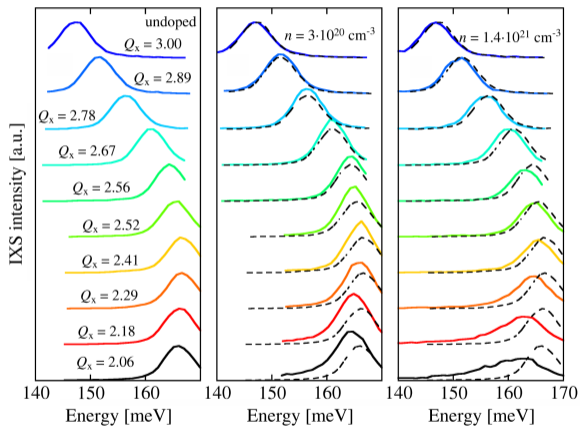


Figure from Caruso et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 017001 (2017)

# Many-body Schrödinger equation for electrons and nuclei

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{electrons} \quad \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \sum_i \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i>j} v(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j) \right. \\ & \text{nuclei} \quad \quad \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M_\kappa} \sum_\kappa \nabla_\kappa^2 + \sum_{\kappa>\kappa'} Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'} v(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}) \\ & \text{interaction} \quad \left. - \sum_{i,\kappa} Z_\kappa v(\mathbf{r}_i, \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa) \right] \Psi = E_{\text{tot}} \Psi \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{r}_i$  electron  
 $\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa$  nucleus

$$v(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

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- Electrons and vibrations must be described **on the same footing**

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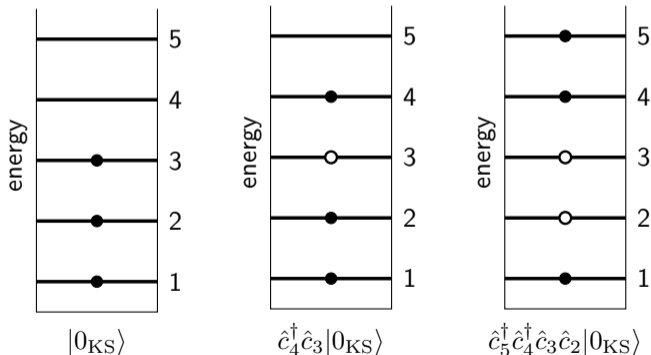
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- Electrons and vibrations must be described **on the same footing**
- The many-body Schrödinger equation is **impractical** for calculations or EPIs in **solids**

# Field operators

Many-electron wavefunction as a linear combination of Slater determinants

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots) = A|0_{\text{KS}}\rangle + \sum_{mn} B_{mn} \hat{c}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_n |0_{\text{KS}}\rangle + \sum_{mnpq} C_{mnpq} \hat{c}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_n^\dagger \hat{c}_p \hat{c}_q |0_{\text{KS}}\rangle + \dots$$



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Operators in second quantization

$$\sum_i V(\mathbf{r}_i) = \sum_{mn} V_{mn} \hat{c}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_n$$



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$$\hat{H} = \hat{T}_e + \hat{T}_n + \hat{U}_{en} + \hat{U}_{ee} + \hat{U}_{nn}$$

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Electron-nucleus interaction

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# Time evolution of field operators and Dyson orbitals

Ground state of  $N$ -electron system

$$\hat{H}|N\rangle = E_N|N\rangle$$

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
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# The Green's function at zero temperature

Time-ordered  
Green's function

Wick's time-ordering operator

$$G(\mathbf{x}t, \mathbf{x}'t') = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle N | \hat{T} \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}t) \hat{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{x}'t') | N \rangle$$




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Consider  $t > t'$  (electron added to ground state)

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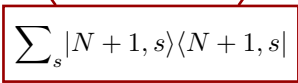
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$$\begin{aligned}G(\mathbf{x}t, \mathbf{x}'t') &= -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle N | \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}t) \hat{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{x}'t') | N \rangle \\&= -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle N | e^{i\hat{H}t/\hbar} \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}) e^{-i\hat{H}t/\hbar} e^{i\hat{H}t'/\hbar} \hat{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{x}') e^{-i\hat{H}t'/\hbar} | N \rangle \\&= -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle N | \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}) \Big| e^{-i(\hat{H}-E_N)(t-t')/\hbar} \Big| \hat{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{x}') | N \rangle\end{aligned}$$


$$\sum_s |N+1, s\rangle \langle N+1, s|$$

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# The spectral function

Carry out the same operation for  $t < t'$  and Fourier transform

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', \omega) = \sum_s \frac{f_s(\mathbf{x}) f_s^*(\mathbf{x}')}{\hbar\omega - \varepsilon_s \mp i0^+} \quad \mp \text{ occ/unocc}$$

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From the Green's function we can obtain the **spectral (density) function**

$$A(\mathbf{x}, \omega) = \frac{1}{\pi} |\text{Im} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}, \omega)| = \sum_s |f_s(\mathbf{x})|^2 \delta(\hbar\omega - \varepsilon_s)$$

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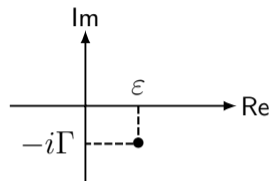
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The spectral function is the many-body (local) density of states

# The spectral function: Broadening

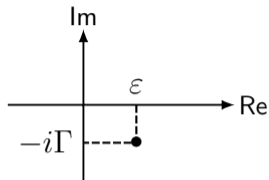
**Example:** a single complex pole  $\varepsilon - i\Gamma$



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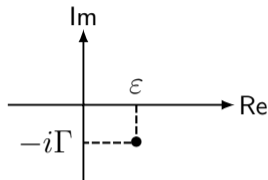


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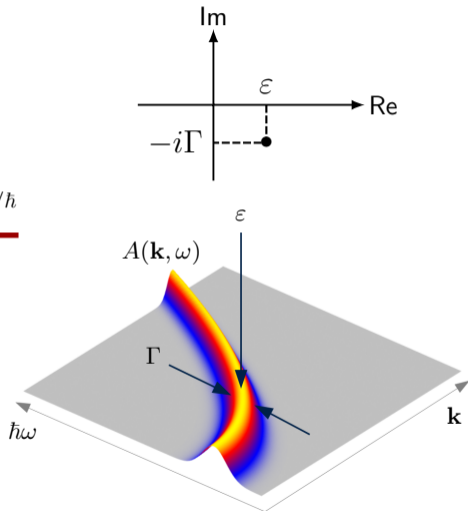


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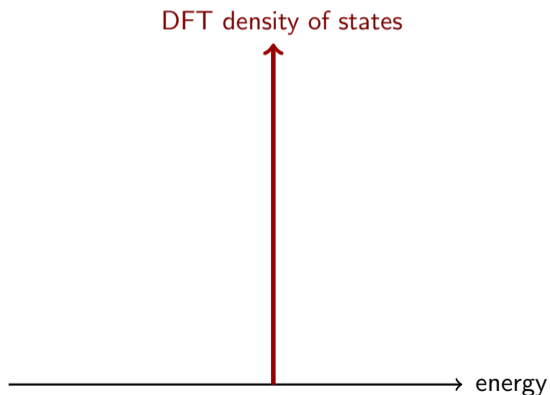


## The spectral function: Coherent and incoherent structures

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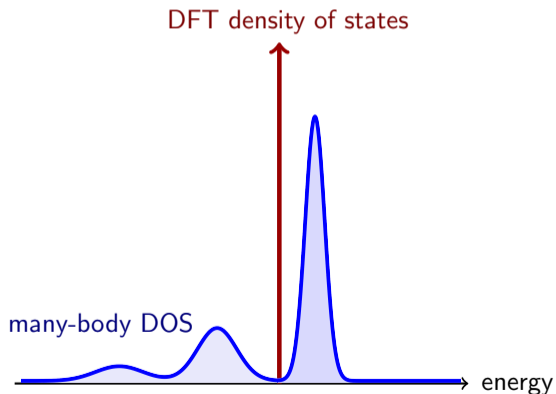
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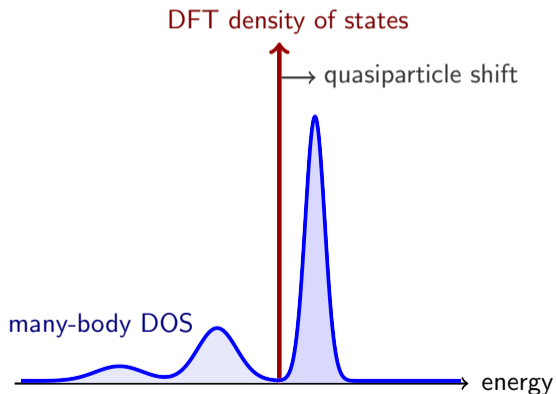
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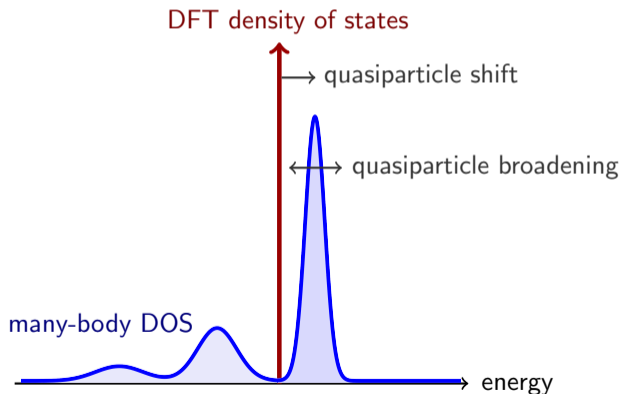
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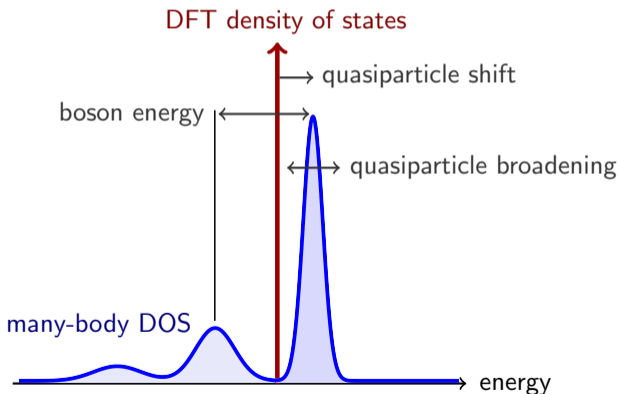
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Heisenberg time evolution

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total charge, electrons & nuclei  $\longleftarrow$  

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4 field operators

Nuclear potential + Hartree + Fock + 2-particle Green's function

# Dyson equation

Nuclear potential + Hartree

$$V_{\text{tot}}(1) = \int d2 v(12) \langle \hat{n}(2) \rangle$$

2-particle Green's function  
rewritten using self-energy  $\Sigma$


$$\left[ i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t_1} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_1^2 - V_{\text{tot}}(1) \right] G(12) - \int d3 \Sigma(13) G(32) = \delta(12)$$

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Express the Green's function in terms of Dyson's orbitals

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Sources of **electron-phonon** interaction

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self-consistent eigenvalue

Sources of **electron-phonon** interaction

# How to calculate the electron-phonon self-energy

Electron self-energy from **Hedin-Baym's** equations

$$\Sigma(12) = i\hbar \int d(34) G(13) \Gamma(324) W(41^+)$$

Green's function

Vertex

Screened Coulomb interaction



# How to calculate the electron-phonon self-energy

Electron self-energy from **Hedin-Baym's** equations

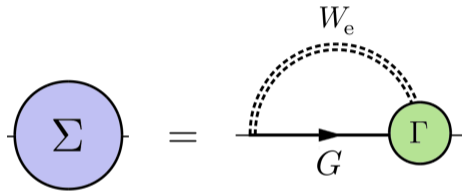
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Green's function                      Vertex                      Screened Coulomb interaction

$$W = W_e + W_{\text{ph}}$$
$$W_e(12) = \int d3 \epsilon_e^{-1}(13) v(32)$$

Reduces to standard GW method + **screening from nuclei**

# Diagrammatic representation of the self-energy

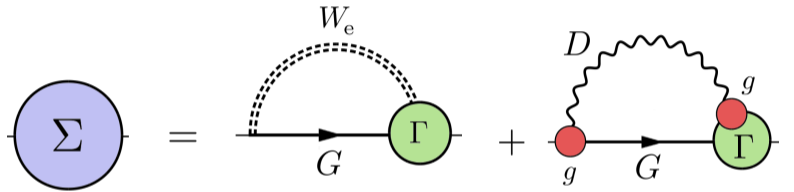


Standard GW self-energy

→ Lec. Thu.1 Louie

Figure from FG, Rev. Mod. Phys. 89, 015003 (2017)

# Diagrammatic representation of the self-energy



Standard GW self-energy

Fan-Migdal self-energy

→ Lec. Thu.1 Louie

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# Diagrammatic representation of the self-energy

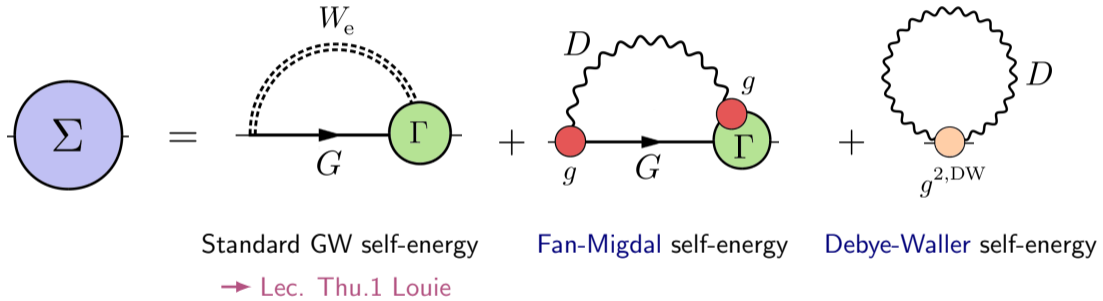


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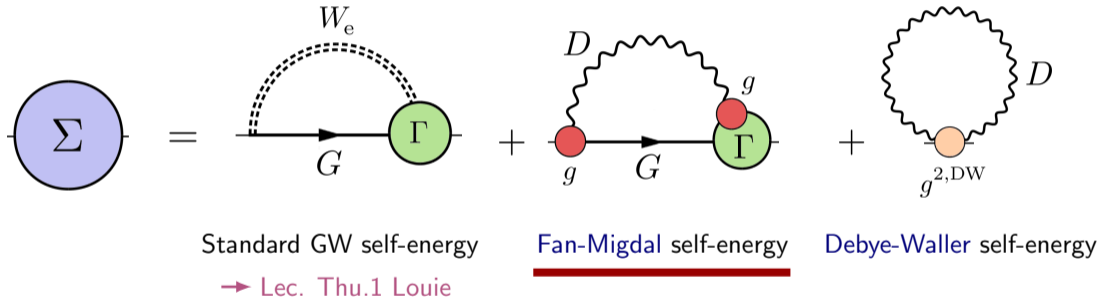
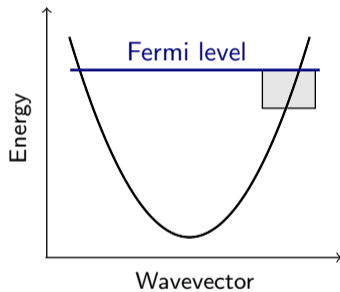


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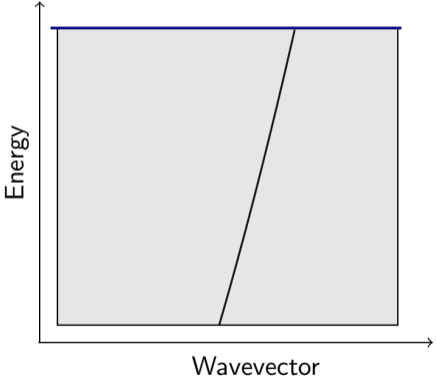
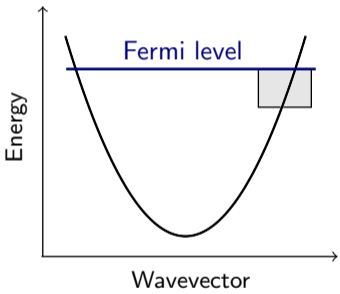
Fan-Migdal self-energy using Kohn-Sham states and DFPT phonons

$$\Sigma_{n\mathbf{k}}^{\text{FM}}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{m\nu} \int \frac{d\mathbf{q}}{\Omega_{\text{BZ}}} |g_{m\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q})|^2 \\ \times \left[ \frac{1 - f_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} + n_{\mathbf{q}\nu}}{\omega - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}/\hbar - \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} + i\eta} + \frac{f_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} + n_{\mathbf{q}\nu}}{\omega - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}/\hbar + \omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} + i\eta} \right]$$

## Example: Interaction with dispersionless phonon

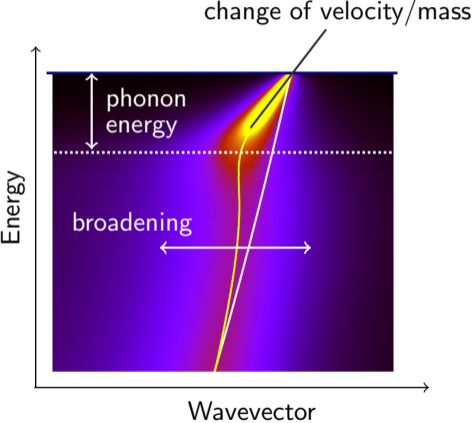
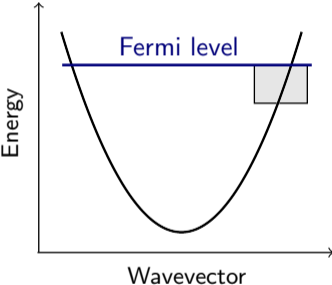


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# Example: Interaction with dispersionless phonon



# Example from experiments: Velocity renormalization in $\text{MgB}_2$

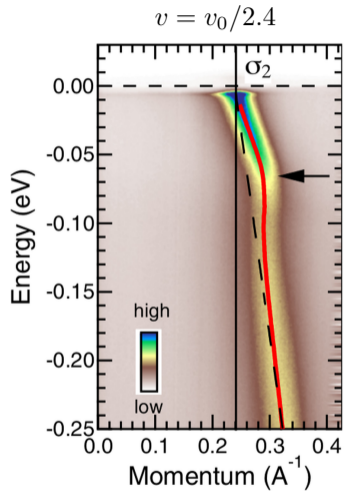
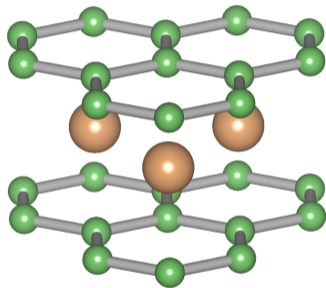


Figure from Mou et al, Phys. Rev. B 91, 140502(R) (2015)

# Quasiparticle shift and broadening

**Quasiparticle approximation:** Approximate the Green's function as sum of complex poles

$$A(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \sum_n Z_{n\mathbf{k}} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\Gamma_{n\mathbf{k}}}{(\hbar\omega - E_{n\mathbf{k}})^2 + \Gamma_{n\mathbf{k}}^2}$$

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quasiparticle energy

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quasiparticle energy

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quasiparticle broadening

$$Z_{n\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{\hbar} \left. \frac{\partial \text{Re} \Sigma_{n\mathbf{k}}(\omega)}{\partial \omega} \right|_{\omega = E_{n\mathbf{k}}/\hbar}}$$

quasiparticle strength

# The mass enhancement parameter

Take  $\mathbf{k}$ -Hessian of the quasiparticle energy  $E_{n\mathbf{k}}$  to find **mass** renormalization\*

$$M_{n\mathbf{k}}^* = (1 + \lambda_{n\mathbf{k}}) m_{n\mathbf{k}}^*$$

\*These expressions are for the electron gas; more complicated expressions are found in other cases

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$\lambda_{n\mathbf{k}}$  is the **mass enhancement parameter**

$$\lambda_{n\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \left. \frac{\partial \operatorname{Re}\Sigma_{n\mathbf{k}}(\omega)}{\partial \omega} \right|_{\omega=E_{n\mathbf{k}}/\hbar}$$

\*These expressions are for the electron gas; more complicated expressions are found in other cases



$$\tau_{n\mathbf{k}} = \frac{\hbar}{2\Gamma_{n\mathbf{k}}} = \frac{\hbar}{2|Z_{n\mathbf{k}}\text{Im}\Sigma_{n\mathbf{k}}(E_{n\mathbf{k}}/\hbar)|}$$

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Common **approximation**: Replace  $E_{n\mathbf{k}}$  by  $\varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}}$  and set  $Z_{n\mathbf{k}} = 1$

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$$\times [(1 - f_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} + n_{\mathbf{q}\nu})\delta(\varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} - \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}) \quad \text{phonon emission}$$

$$+ (f_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} + n_{\mathbf{q}\nu})\delta(\varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} + \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}\nu} - \varepsilon_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}})] \quad \text{phonon absorption}$$

Identical to **Fermi golden rule** formula

# Example: Mass enhancement and lifetimes in MAPbI<sub>3</sub>

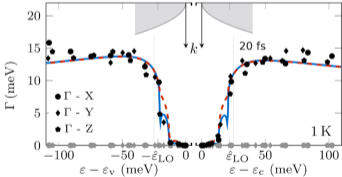
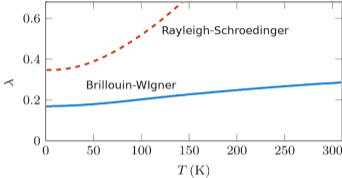
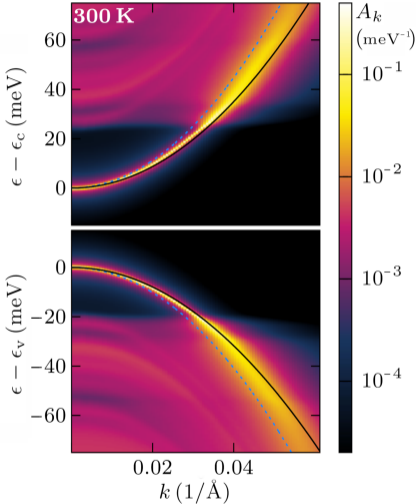
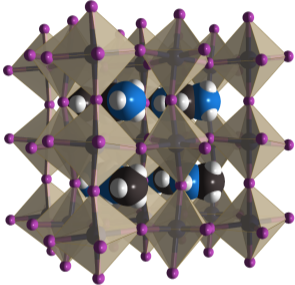
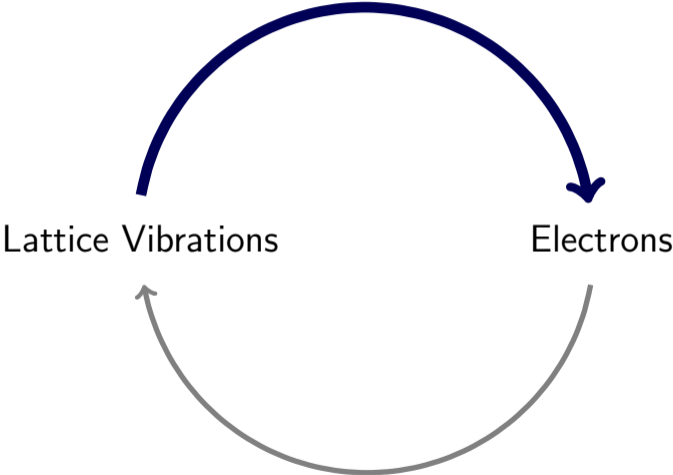
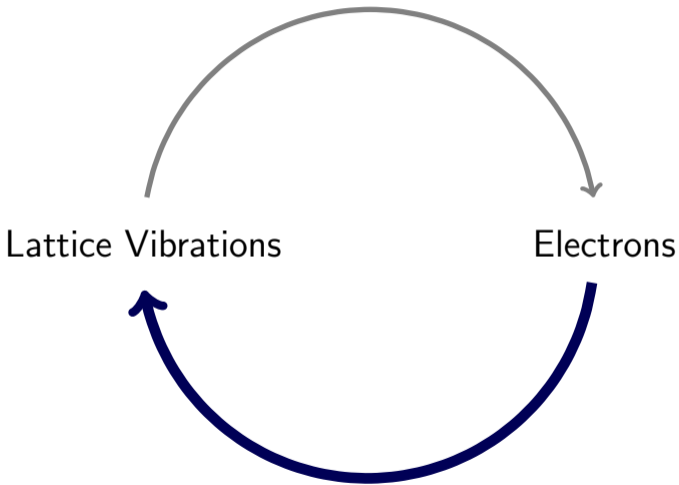


Figure adapted from Schlipf et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 086402 (2018)

# Mutual interaction between electrons and vibrations



# Mutual interaction between electrons and vibrations



# Many-body Schrödinger equation for electrons and nuclei (again)

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{electrons} \\ \text{nuclei} \\ \text{interaction} \end{array} \right. \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \sum_i \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i>j} v(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j) \right. \\ \left. -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M_\kappa} \sum_\kappa \nabla_\kappa^2 + \sum_{\kappa>\kappa'} Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'} v(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}) \right. \\ \left. - \sum_{i,\kappa} Z_\kappa v(\mathbf{r}_i, \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa) \right] \Psi = E_{\text{tot}} \Psi$$

$\mathbf{r}_i$  electron  
 $\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa$  nucleus

$$v(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}$$

**Approximation:** Born-Oppenheimer + classical nuclei

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \langle \Psi | \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \sum_i \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i>j} v(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j) + \sum_{\kappa>\kappa'} Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'} v(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}) - \sum_{i,\kappa} Z_\kappa v(\mathbf{r}_i, \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa) \right] | \Psi \rangle$$



# Interatomic force constants in density functional perturbation theory

**Approximation:** Born-Oppenheimer + classical nuclei

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \langle \Psi | \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \sum_i \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{i>j} v(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j) + \underbrace{\sum_{\kappa>\kappa'} Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'} v(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'})}_{U_{\text{nn}}} - \underbrace{\sum_{i,\kappa} Z_\kappa v(\mathbf{r}_i, \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa)}_{\sum_i V_{\text{en}}(\mathbf{r}_i)} \right] | \Psi \rangle$$

# Interatomic force constants in density functional perturbation theory

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**Forces**  
(Hellman-Feynman)

$$\frac{\partial E_{\text{tot}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa} = \frac{\partial U_{\text{nn}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa} + \langle \Psi | \sum_i \frac{\partial V_{\text{en}}(\mathbf{r}_i)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa} | \Psi \rangle$$

# Interatomic force constants in density functional perturbation theory

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# Interatomic force constants in density functional perturbation theory

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**Force constants**

$$\frac{\partial^2 E_{\text{tot}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa \partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}} = \frac{\partial^2 U_{\text{nn}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa \partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}} + \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\partial n_e}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa} \frac{\partial V_{\text{en}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}} + \int d\mathbf{r} n_e \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{en}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa \partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}}$$

→ Lec. Mon.2 Giannozzi

# Phonons from a field-theoretic perspective

Key quantity to study phonons in a many-body framework:  
displacement-displacement correlation function

$$D_{\kappa\alpha,\kappa'\alpha'}(tt') = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle N | \hat{T} \Delta \hat{\tau}_{\kappa\alpha}(t) \Delta \hat{\tau}_{\kappa'\alpha'}^\dagger(t') | N \rangle$$

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Heisenberg time evolution of atomic displacements

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \Delta \hat{\tau}_{\kappa}(t) = [\Delta \hat{\tau}_{\kappa}(t), \hat{H}]$$

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Heisenberg time evolution of atomic displacements

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \Delta \hat{\tau}_\kappa(t) = [\Delta \hat{\tau}_\kappa(t), \hat{H}]$$

Make it look like Newton's equation by taking 2nd derivative

$$M_\kappa \frac{d^2 \Delta \hat{\tau}_\kappa}{dt^2} = \underbrace{-\frac{M_\kappa}{\hbar^2} [[\Delta \hat{\tau}_\kappa, \hat{H}], \hat{H}]}_{\text{dimensions of force}}$$

# Many-body interatomic force constants

Equation of motion for the displacement correlation function  
(using single atomic mass  $M$  for simplicity)

$$M \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \mathbf{D}(tt') =$$



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↑  
phonon self-energy

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phonon self-energy

$$\Pi_{\kappa\alpha, \kappa'\alpha'}(\omega) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau_{\kappa\alpha} \partial \tau_{\kappa'\alpha'}} \int d\mathbf{r} \epsilon_e^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa}, \mathbf{r}, \omega) \frac{e^2 Z_{\kappa} Z_{\kappa'}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}|} \quad \text{(static force)}$$

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$\mathbf{\Pi}(\omega)$  contains the **interatomic force constants** resulting from the Coulomb interaction between nuclei screened by the **electronic dielectric matrix**  $\epsilon_e(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$

Equation of motion in frequency domain

$$M \omega^2 \mathbf{D}(\omega) = \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{\Pi}(\omega) \mathbf{D}(\omega)$$

# Many-body vibrational eigenfrequencies

Equation of motion in frequency domain

$$M \omega^2 \mathbf{D}(\omega) = \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{\Pi}(\omega) \mathbf{D}(\omega)$$

Solve for  $\mathbf{D}$ : **Phonon Green's function** in Cartesian coordinates

$$\mathbf{D}(\omega) = \frac{1}{M} \left[ \omega^2 \mathbf{I} - \frac{\mathbf{\Pi}(\omega)}{M} \right]^{-1}$$

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The **poles** of the Green's function are the **phonon eigenfrequencies**:

$$\Omega(\omega) = \omega$$

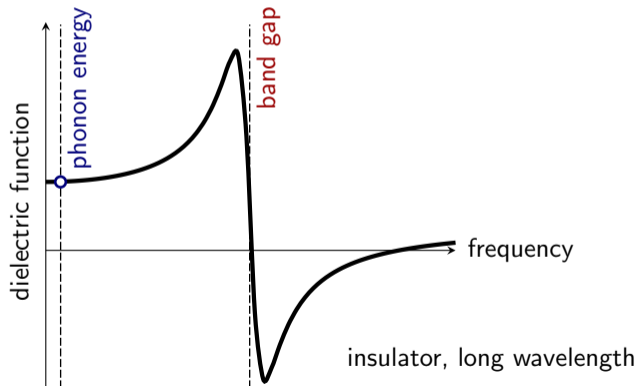
where  $\Omega^2(\omega)$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{\Pi}(\omega)/M$

$$\mathbf{\Pi}(\omega) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa \partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}} \int d\mathbf{r} \epsilon_e^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \mathbf{r}, \omega) \frac{e^2 Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}|} - (\text{static force})$$



# Connection with density-functional perturbation theory

$$\mathbf{\Pi}(\omega) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa \partial \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}} \int d\mathbf{r} \boxed{\epsilon_e^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\tau}_\kappa, \mathbf{r}, \omega)} \frac{e^2 Z_\kappa Z_{\kappa'}}{4\pi\epsilon_0 |\mathbf{r} - \boldsymbol{\tau}_{\kappa'}|} - (\text{static force})$$



## Connection with density-functional perturbation theory

We call **adiabatic** self-energy the  $\Pi$  evaluated using the **static** screening  
(phonon period so long that electrons have time to complete relax after an atomic displacement)

$$\Pi^A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Pi(\omega = 0)$$

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After rearranging:

$$\Pi^A = \frac{\partial^2 U_{\text{nn}}}{\partial \tau_{\kappa} \partial \tau_{\kappa'}} + \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{en}}(\mathbf{r})}{\partial \tau_{\kappa} \partial \tau_{\kappa'}} \langle \hat{n}_{\text{e}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle + \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\partial V_{\text{en}}(\mathbf{r})}{\partial \tau_{\kappa}} \frac{\partial \langle \hat{n}_{\text{e}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle}{\partial \tau_{\kappa'}}$$

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↓  
replace with DFT electron density

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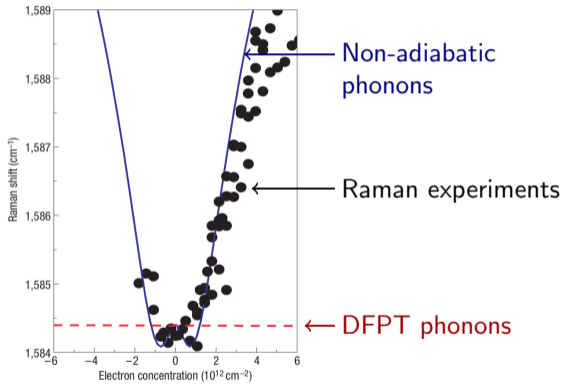
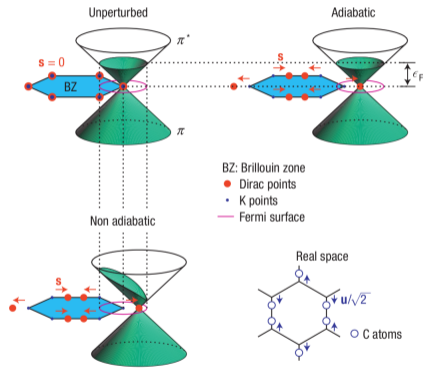
$$\Pi^A = \frac{\partial^2 E_{\text{tot}}}{\partial \tau_{\kappa} \partial \tau_{\kappa'}}$$

Same as DFPT in slide 29

replace with DFT electron density

# Phonons beyond the Born-Oppenheimer approximation

**Example:** Non-adiabatic Kohn-anomaly in graphene



Figures from Pisana et al, Nat. Mater. 6, 198 (2007)

- Quantum field theory provides a rigorous framework to study electron-phonon physics
- The Fan-Migdal self-energy yields electron mass enhancement and electron lifetimes
- Phonon frequencies are deeply connected with the electronic dielectric matrix
- The many-body framework reduces to DFPT under suitable approximations

## Further reading

- FG, Rev. Mod. Phys. 89, 015003 (2017) [\[link\]](#)
- Stefanucci, van Leeuwen, Perfetto, Phys. Rev. X 13, 031026 (2023) [\[Link\]](#)  
generalization of this lecture to out-of-equilibrium case
- Baym, Ann. Phys. 14, 1 (1961) [\[Link\]](#)
- Maksimov, Sov. Phys. JETP 42, 1138 (1976) [\[Link\]](#)
- Vogl, Phys. Rev. B 13, 694 (1976) [\[Link\]](#)
- Hedin and Lundqvist, Solid State Physics, Vol. 23 (Academic, 1969)
- Grimvall, The electron-phonon interaction in metals, 1981 (North-Holland)