

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 Fri.4

# Excitonic Polarons with EPW and BerkeleyGW

Zhenbang Dai

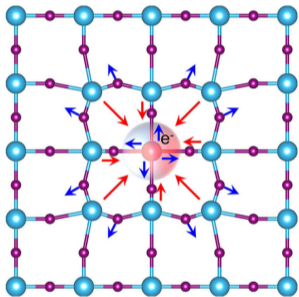
Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences

The University of Texas at Austin

- Theory of excitonic polarons
- Workflow with EPW and BerkeleyGW
- Examples on real materials

# Charged polarons vs excitonic polarons

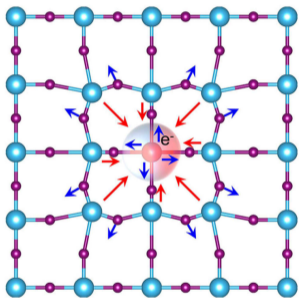
Charged polarons



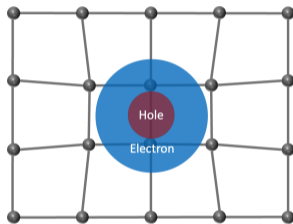
Figures from Natanzon et al, *Isr. J. Chem* 60, 768 (2020) and Luo et al, *Nature* 563, 541 (2018)

# Charged polarons vs excitonic polarons

Charged polarons

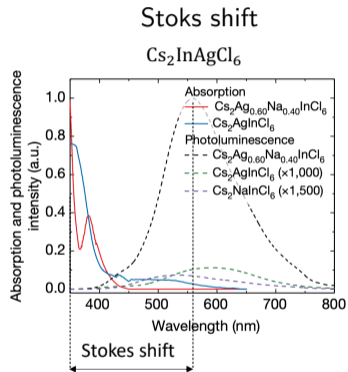
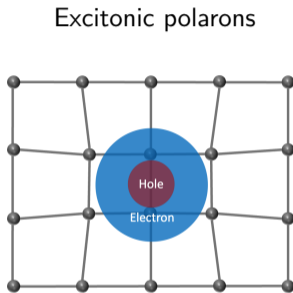
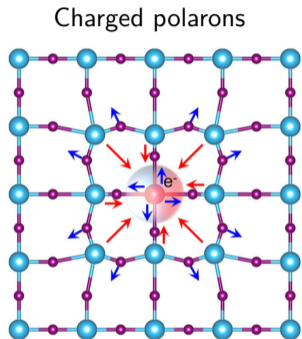


Excitonic polarons



Figures from Natanzon et al, *Isr. J. Chem* 60, 768 (2020) and Luo et al, *Nature* 563, 541 (2018)

# Charged polarons vs excitonic polarons



Figures from Natanzon et al, *Isr. J. Chem* 60, 768 (2020) and Luo et al, *Nature* 563, 541 (2018)

High-level quantum  
chemistry methods

$$\text{CCSD(T): } |\Psi\rangle = e^T |\Phi\rangle$$

$$\text{CASSCF: } |\Psi\rangle = \sum C_i |\Phi_i\rangle$$

Van Ginhoven et al.  
J. Chem. Phys. 118, 6582 (2003)

# Previous works

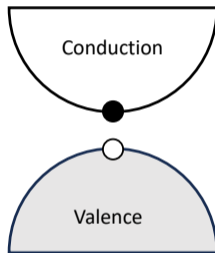
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$\Delta$ scf method: no  
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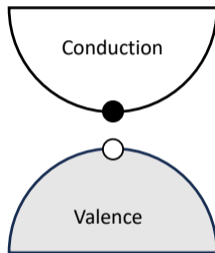
High-level quantum chemistry methods

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Nature 563, 541 (2018)

Excited state force evaluated from the Bethe-Salpeter equation.

$$\partial_\tau E_S = \partial_\tau E_0 + \partial_\tau \Omega_S$$

Ismail-Beigi and Louie  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 95, 156401 (2005)

# Underlying ideas

## Charged polarons

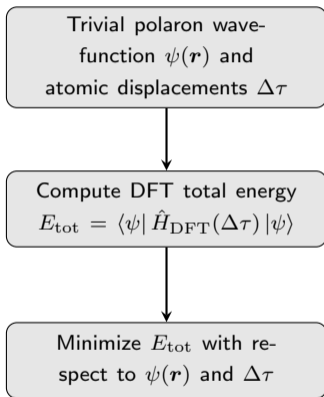
Trivial polaron wave-  
function  $\psi(\mathbf{r})$  and  
atomic displacements  $\Delta\tau$

Compute DFT total energy  
 $E_{\text{tot}} = \langle \psi | \hat{H}_{\text{DFT}}(\Delta\tau) | \psi \rangle$

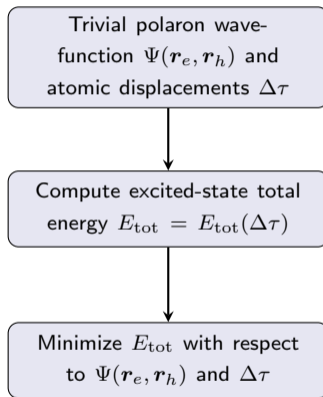
Minimize  $E_{\text{tot}}$  with re-  
spect to  $\psi(\mathbf{r})$  and  $\Delta\tau$

# Underlying ideas

## Charged polarons



## Excitonic polarons



Two parts in the excited-state total energy

$$E_{\text{tot}} = E_{\text{DFT}} + E_{\text{excitation}}$$

# Excited-state total energy

Two parts in the excited-state total energy

$$E_{\text{tot}} = E_{\text{DFT}} + E_{\text{excitation}}$$

$E_{\text{excitation}}$  is accurately captured by the BSE eigenvalues.

$$\hat{H}_{\text{BSE}} |s\mathbf{Q}\rangle = E_{s\mathbf{Q}} |s\mathbf{Q}\rangle$$

$$E_{\text{tot}}[\Psi, \Delta\tau] = E_0 + \langle \Psi | \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}[\Delta\tau] | \Psi \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \Delta\tau \cdot C \cdot \Delta\tau$$

$$E_{\text{tot}}[\Psi, \Delta\tau] = E_0 + \langle \Psi | \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}[\Delta\tau] | \Psi \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \Delta\tau \cdot C \cdot \Delta\tau$$

Expand  $\hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}(\Delta\tau)$  up to linear order

$$\hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}[\Delta\tau] \approx \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}[\Delta\tau = 0] + \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}}{\partial \tau} \Delta\tau$$

$$\left( \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}[\Delta\tau = 0] + \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{\text{BSE}}}{\partial \tau} \Delta\tau \right) |\Psi\rangle = \varepsilon |\Psi\rangle$$



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# Excitonic polaron equations

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Avoid supercells

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_e, \mathbf{r}_h) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_p}} \sum_{s\mathbf{Q}} A_{s\mathbf{Q}} \Omega_{s\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{r}_e, \mathbf{r}_h)$$

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Tamm-Dancoff approximation

$$\Omega_{s\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{r}_e, \mathbf{r}_h) = \sum_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}} a_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}}^{s\mathbf{Q}} \psi_{v\mathbf{k}}^*(\mathbf{r}_h) \psi_{\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{r}_e)$$

## Excitonic polaron equations—reciprocal space

$$E_{\mathbf{Q}}A_{\mathbf{Q}} - \frac{2}{N_p} \sum_{\mathbf{Q}'} B_{\mathbf{Q}-\mathbf{Q}'} \mathcal{G}(\mathbf{Q}', \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q}') A_{\mathbf{Q}'} = \varepsilon A_{\mathbf{Q}}$$

$$B_{\mathbf{Q}} = \frac{1}{N_p \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{Q}}} \sum_{\mathbf{Q}'} A_{\mathbf{Q}'}^* A_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{Q}'} \mathcal{G}^*(\mathbf{Q}', \mathbf{Q})$$

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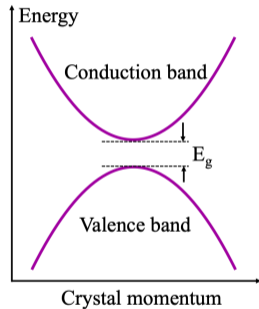
$$B_{\mathbf{Q}} = \frac{1}{N_p \hbar \omega_{\mathbf{Q}}} \sum_{\mathbf{Q}'} A_{\mathbf{Q}'}^* A_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{Q}'} \mathcal{G}^*(\mathbf{Q}', \mathbf{Q})$$

Exciton-phonon coupling matrix element

$$\mathcal{G}_{ss'\nu}(\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}} a_{v\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}}^{s\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{q}*} \left[ \sum_{c'} g_{cc'\nu}(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{q}) a_{vc'\mathbf{k}}^{s'\mathbf{Q}} - \sum_{v'} g_{v'\nu\nu}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}) a_{v'\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^{s'\mathbf{Q}} \right]$$

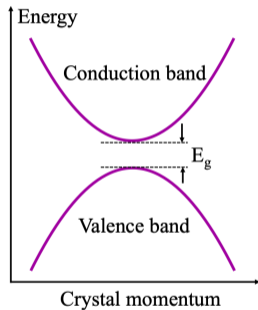
# Excitonic polarons in a model system

Wannier excitons

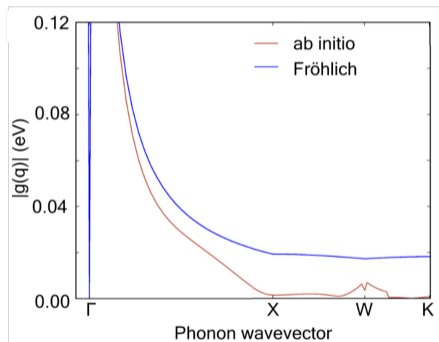


# Excitonic polarons in a model system

## Wannier excitons

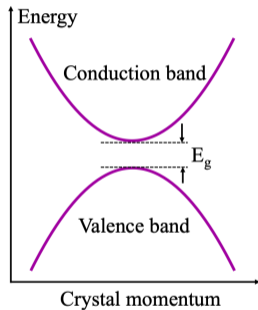


## Fröhlich e-ph coupling

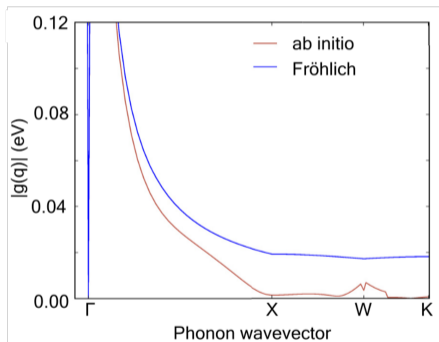


# Excitonic polarons in a model system

Wannier excitons



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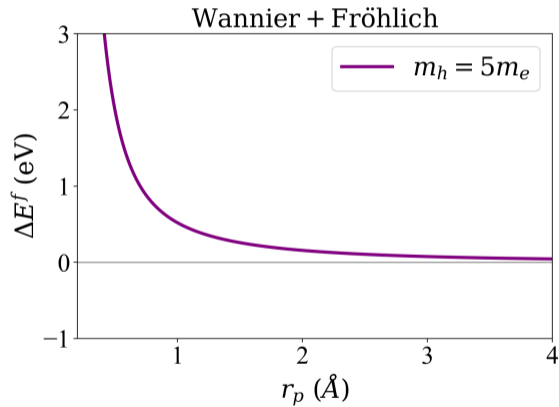


Hydrogenic ansatz

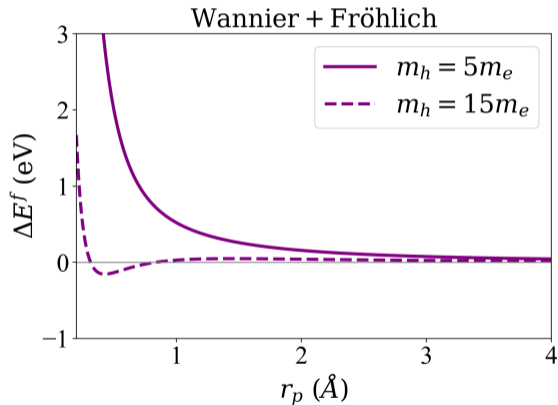
$$A_Q = 8\sqrt{\frac{\pi r_p^3}{\Omega}} \frac{1}{(r_p^2 |Q|^2 + 1)^2}$$

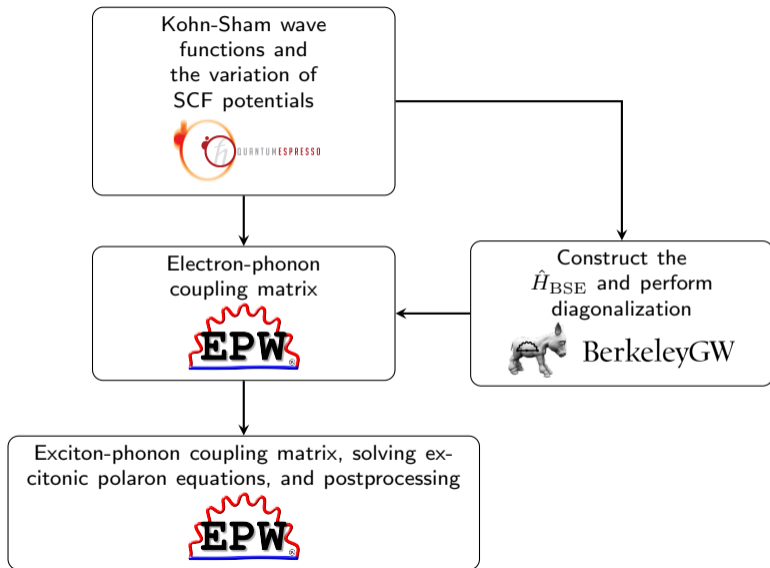


# Excitonic polarons in a model system



# Excitonic polarons in a model system





Step 1: Construct the exciton-phonon coupling matrix.

```
--  
epw1.in  
&inputepw  
epwread      = .false.  
exciton      = .true.  
explrn       = .false.  
negnv        = 4  
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Step 2: Build the excitonic polaron equations and solve them iteratively.

```
--  
epw2.in  
&inputepw  
epwread      = .true.  
exciton      = .true.  
explrn       = .true.  
negnv        = 4  
nbndv        = 3  
nbndc        = 7  
init_plrn    = 5  
niter_plrn   = 500
```

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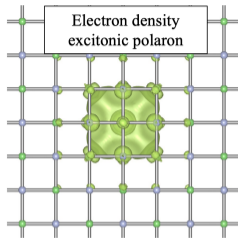
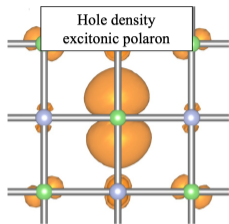
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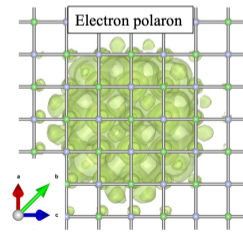
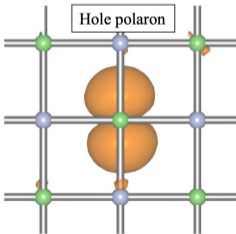
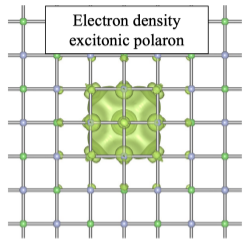
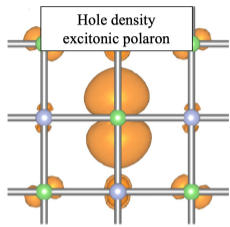
Step 3: Calculate electron and hole charge densities and atomic displacements.

```
--  
epw3.in  
&inputepw  
epwread      = .true.  
exciton      = .true.  
explrn       = .true.  
negnv        = 4  
nbndv        = 3  
nbndc        = 7  
plot_explrn_e = .false.  
plot_explrn_h = .true.
```

# Example: LiF-Wavefunctions

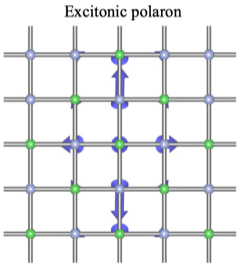


# Example: LiF-Wavefunctions

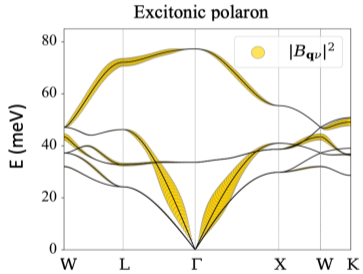
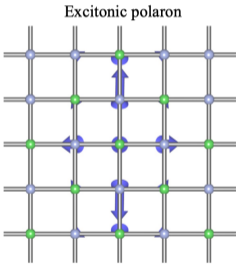




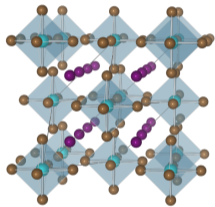
# Example: LiF-Atomic Displacements



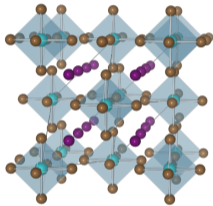
# Example: LiF-Atomic Displacements



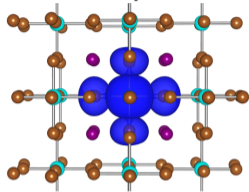
# Example: $\text{Cs}_2\text{ZrBr}_6$



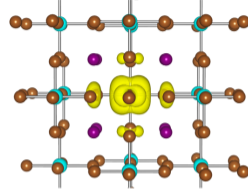
# Example: $\text{Cs}_2\text{ZrBr}_6$



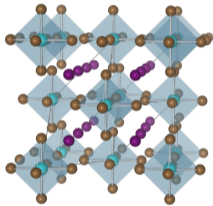
Hole density  
excitonic polaron



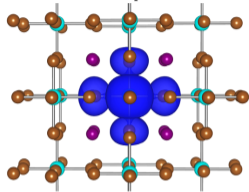
Electron density  
excitonic polaron



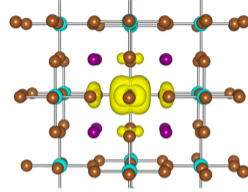
# Example: $\text{Cs}_2\text{ZrBr}_6$



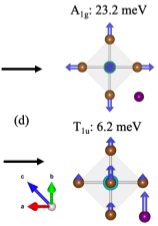
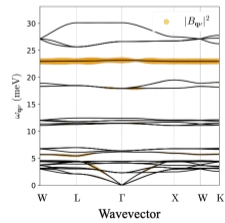
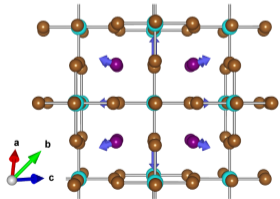
Hole density excitonic polaron



Electron density excitonic polaron



Excitonic polaron



- We developed an *ab initio* theory of excitonic polarons that do not need supercells.
- The theory can be implemented by combining EPW and BerkeleyGW.
- The theory can give the formation energy, charge densities, lattice distortions, and phonon contributions all at once.

# References

- W. H. Sio, C. Verdi, S. Poncé, and F. Giustino, *Physical Review B*, 99, 235139 (2019). [\[link\]](#)
- Z. Dai, C. Lian, J. Lafuente-Bartolome, and F. Giustino, *Physical Review Letters*, 132, 036902 (2024). [\[link\]](#)
- Z. Dai, C. Lian, J. Lafuente-Bartolome, and F. Giustino, *Physical Review B*, 109, 045202 (2024). [\[link\]](#)