

# Exciton-Phonon coupling in the finite temperature optical absorption of semiconductor

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# Do we need exciton-phonon coupling ?

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

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## Temperature dependence of the dielectric function and interband critical points in silicon

P. Lautenschlager, M. Garriga, L. Viña,\* and M. Cardona

Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung, Heisenbergstrasse 1, D-7000 Stuttgart 80, Federal Republic of Germany

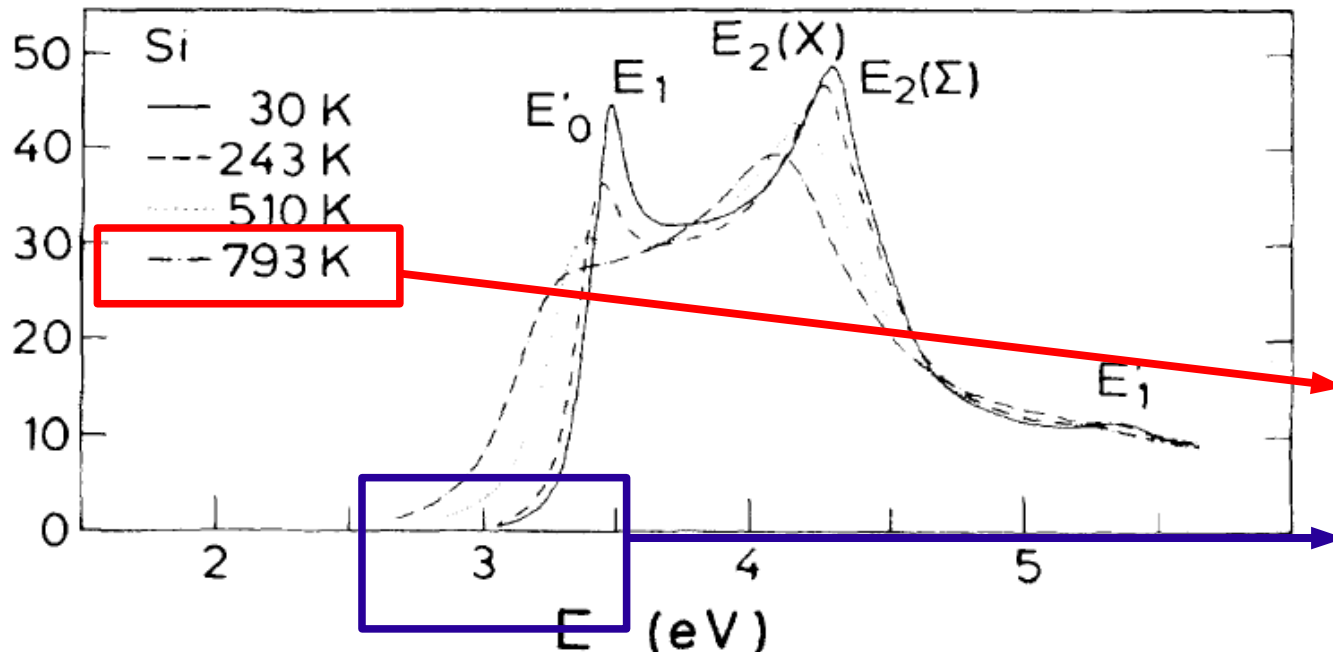
(Received 30 April 1987)

The complex dielectric function  $\epsilon(\omega)$  of Si was measured ellipsometrically in the 1.7–5.7-eV photon-energy range at temperatures between 30 and 820 K. The observed structures are analyzed by fitting the second-derivative spectrum  $d^2\epsilon/d\omega^2$  with analytic critical-point line shapes. Results for the temperature dependence of the parameters of these critical points, labeled  $E'_0$ ,  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$ , and  $E'_1$ , are presented. The data show good agreement with microscopic calculations for the energy shift and the broadening of interband transitions with temperature based on the electron-phonon interaction. The character of the  $E_1$  transitions in semiconductors is analyzed. We find that for Si and light III-V or II-VI compounds an excitonic line shape represents best the experimental data, whereas for Ge,  $\alpha$ -Sn, and heavy III-V or II-VI compounds a two-dimensional critical point yields the best representation.

### Debye Temperatures

Aluminium	426 K	Silicon	640 K
Cadmium	186 K	Silver	225 K
Chromium	610 K	Tantalum	240 K
Copper	344.5 K	Tin (white)	195 K
Gold	165 K	Titanium	420 K
$\alpha$ -Iron	464 K	Tungsten	405 K
Lead	96 K	Zinc	300 K
$\alpha$ -Manganese	476 K	Diamond	2200 K
Nickel	440 K	Ice	192 K
Platinum	240 K		

wikipedia



793 K = 68 meV  
QP gap is 1200 meV



At the absorption threshold the QP lifetime is EXACTLY infinite

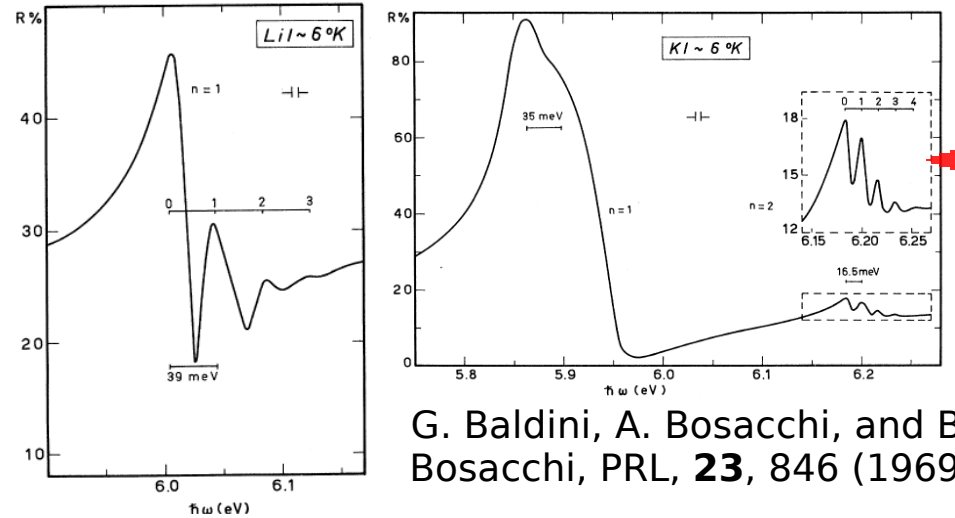


YES ! At least we do need **phonons**.

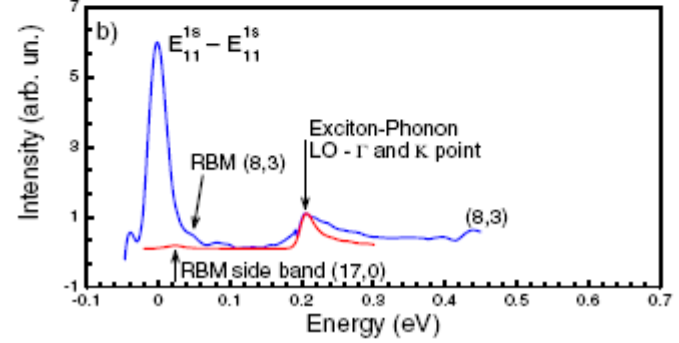
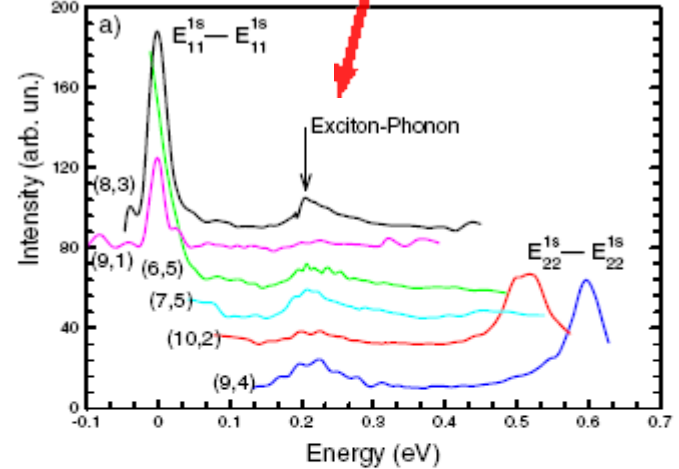
# Are you sure we need exciton-phonon coupling ?



YES ! Because it is possible to observe **phonon sidebands**



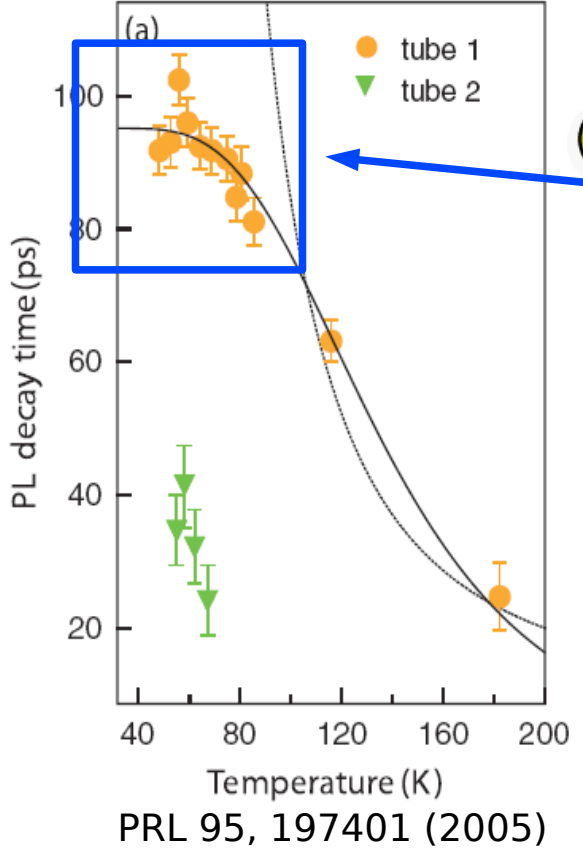
G. Baldini, A. Bosacchi, and B. Bosacchi, PRL, **23**, 846 (1969)



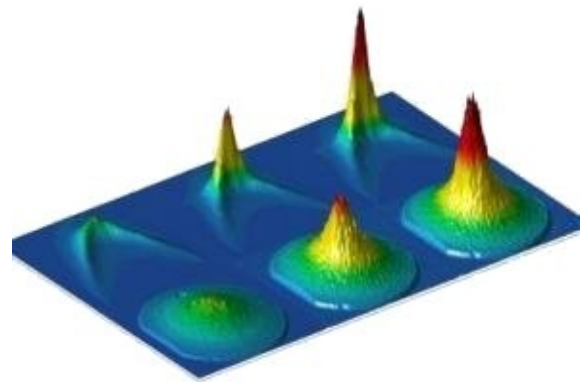
PRL 95, 247401 (2005)



YES ! Because phonons are responsible for the **low-temperature saturation** of the excitonic lifetime

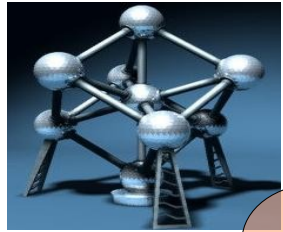
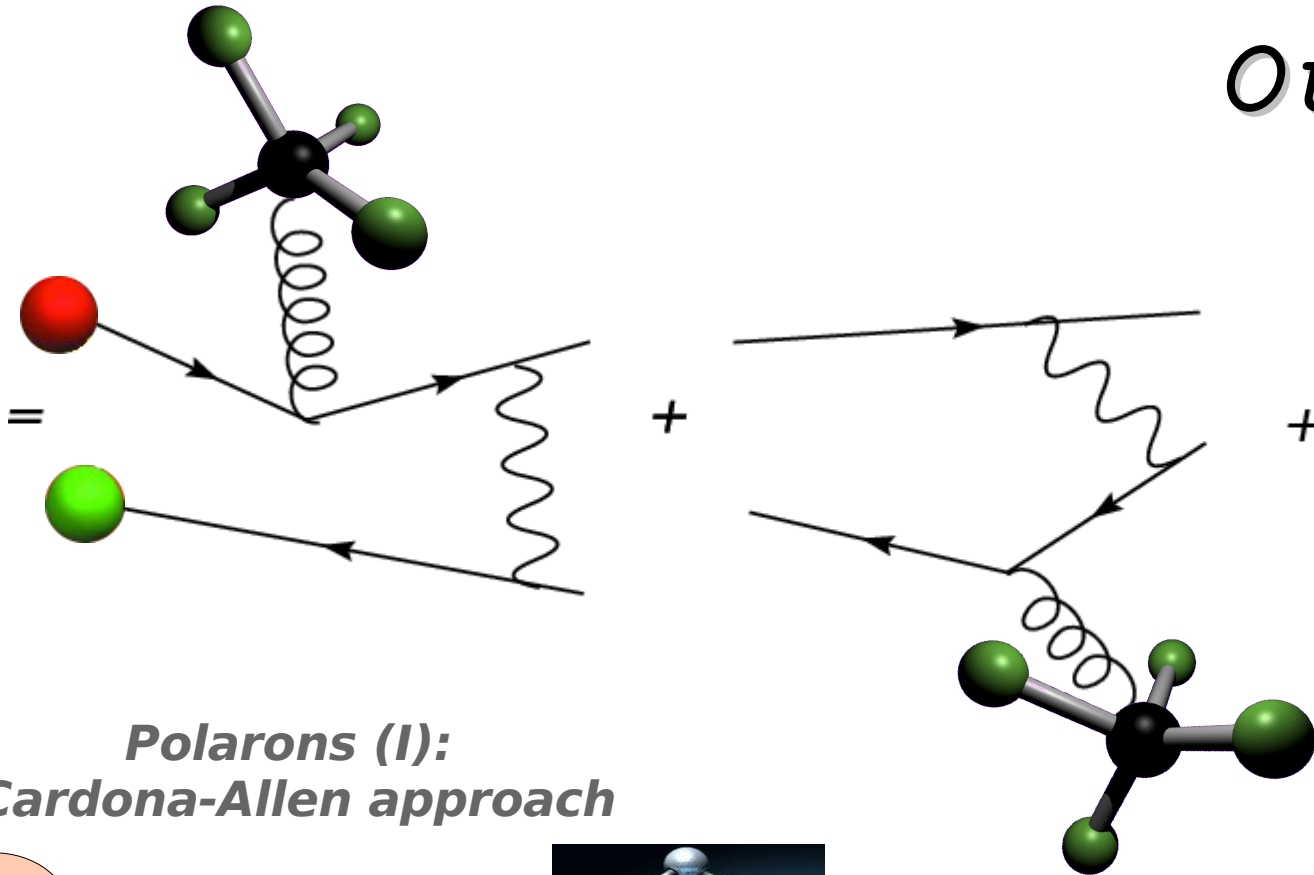
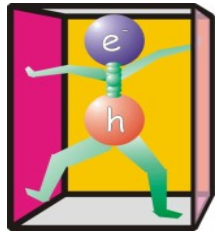


PRL 95, 197401 (2005)



YES ! Because there are many different "flavours" of excitons: **polaritons, polaronic excitons,...**

# Outline



***Polarons (I):  
Cardona-Allen approach***

1

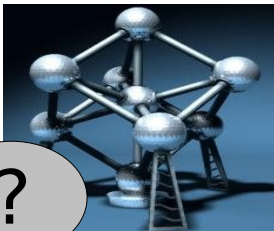


***Polarons (II): Silicon and Diamond***

2

***Finite temperature optics in the polaronic approximation***

3



***Dynamical BSE: the exciton phononic self-energy***

?

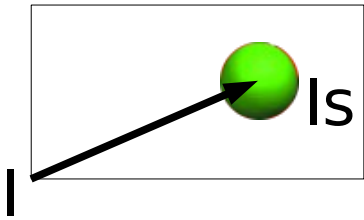
# Polarons the Cardona-Allen approach

PRB **23**, 1495 (1981)



$$H = T + V_{SCF}(\{\mathbf{R}_{Is}\})$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{Is} = \mathbf{R}_{Is} + \mathbf{u}_{Is}$$



$$\delta H = \delta H^{(1)} + \delta H^{(2)}$$

$$\delta H^{(1)} = \sum_{Is} \frac{\partial V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is}} \mathbf{u}_{Is}$$

$$\delta H^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{IsJt} \frac{\partial^2 V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is} \partial \mathbf{R}_{Jt}} \mathbf{u}_{Is} \mathbf{u}_{Jt}$$

Using standard **1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup>** order perturbation theory and the fact that

$$E_{nk} = \langle n\mathbf{k} | H | n\mathbf{k} \rangle$$

$$\delta E_{nk} = \sum_{IsJt} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \frac{\partial^2 V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is} \partial \mathbf{R}_{Jt}} \right\rangle + \sum_{m\mathbf{p}} (E_{nk} - E_{m\mathbf{p}})^{-1} \left\langle \frac{\partial V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is}} \middle| m\mathbf{p} \right\rangle \left\langle m\mathbf{p} \middle| \frac{\partial V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Jt}} \right\rangle \right] \mathbf{u}_{Is} \mathbf{u}_{Jt}$$

Debye-Waller
Fan

Cardona-Allen further impose an **"acoustic sum rule"**

$$\delta E_{nk}[\{\mathbf{u}_{Is} + \mathbf{v}\}] = \delta E_{nk}[\{\mathbf{u}_{Is}\}]$$

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial^2 V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is} \partial \mathbf{R}_{Jt}} \right\rangle = \sum_m (E_{nk} - E_{m\mathbf{k}})^{-1} F \left[ \left\langle n\mathbf{k} \middle| \frac{\partial V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is}} \middle| m\mathbf{p} \right\rangle \right]$$

$$\text{Finally } \sum_{Is} \mathbf{u}_{Is} \langle n'\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q} | \frac{\partial V_{SCF}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{Is}} | n\mathbf{k} \rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{q}\lambda} g_{n'n\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{q}\lambda} (b_{\mathbf{q}\lambda}^\dagger + b_{\mathbf{q}\lambda})$$

$$\delta E_{nk} = \sum_{\mathbf{q}\lambda m} \left[ \frac{|g_{n'n\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{q}\lambda}|^2}{E_{nk} - E_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}} - \frac{\Lambda_{n'n\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{q}\lambda}}{E_{nk} - E_{m\mathbf{k}}} \right] (2\langle N_{\mathbf{q}\lambda} \rangle + 1)$$



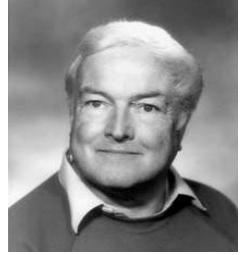
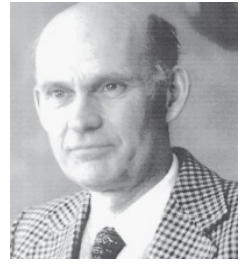
Clear dependence on the temperature



Polaron damping neglected

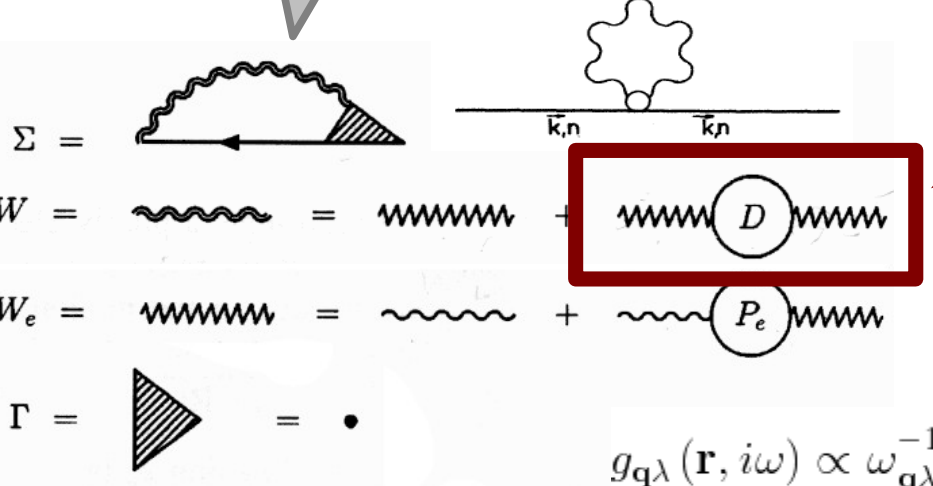
# Polarons, Hedin's equations, and Density Functional Perturbation Theory

LH and SL, Solid. State Phys. **23**, 1 (1969); RvL, PRB **69**, 115110 (2004)



$$\delta E_{nk} = \sum_{q\lambda m} \left[ \frac{|g_{n'nk}^{q\lambda}|^2}{E_{nk} - E_{mk+q}} - \frac{\Lambda_{n'nk}^{q\lambda}}{E_{nk} - E_{mk}} \right] (2\langle N_{q\lambda} \rangle + 1)$$

$$H_{MB} + \int d\mathbf{r} \rho(\mathbf{r}) \phi(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad \downarrow \quad H_{MB} + \int d\mathbf{r} \rho(\mathbf{r}) \phi(\mathbf{r}) - \int d\mathbf{R} N(\mathbf{R}) J(\mathbf{R}, t)$$



Phononic contribution to the screened interaction

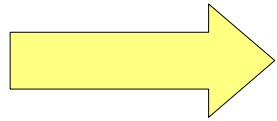


$$W_{ph}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, i\omega) = \sum_{q\lambda} \frac{2\omega_{q\lambda}}{\omega^2 + \omega_{q\lambda}^2} g_{q\lambda}(\mathbf{r}_1, i\omega) g_{q\lambda}^*(\mathbf{r}_2, i\omega)$$

$$g_{q\lambda}(\mathbf{r}, i\omega) \propto \omega_{q\lambda}^{-1/2} \sum_{Is} \int d\mathbf{r} \epsilon_e^{-1}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_1; i\omega) \epsilon(\mathbf{q}\lambda|s) \cdot \nabla V_{ion}(\mathbf{r}_1) e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot(\mathbf{R}_I + \tau_s)}$$

SC field

- The SC field is frequency dependent
- There is no coupled equation for the phonon propagator
- There is no need of an explicit el-ph term in the Hamiltonian (Frohlich-like)



We can use DFPT to describe phonons as it is "almost" consistent with MB (DFPT uses a static test-electron dielectric function to screen the ionic potential)

# Polarons in silicon & diamond

Using finite temperature diagrammatic techniques the phononic GW self-energy is

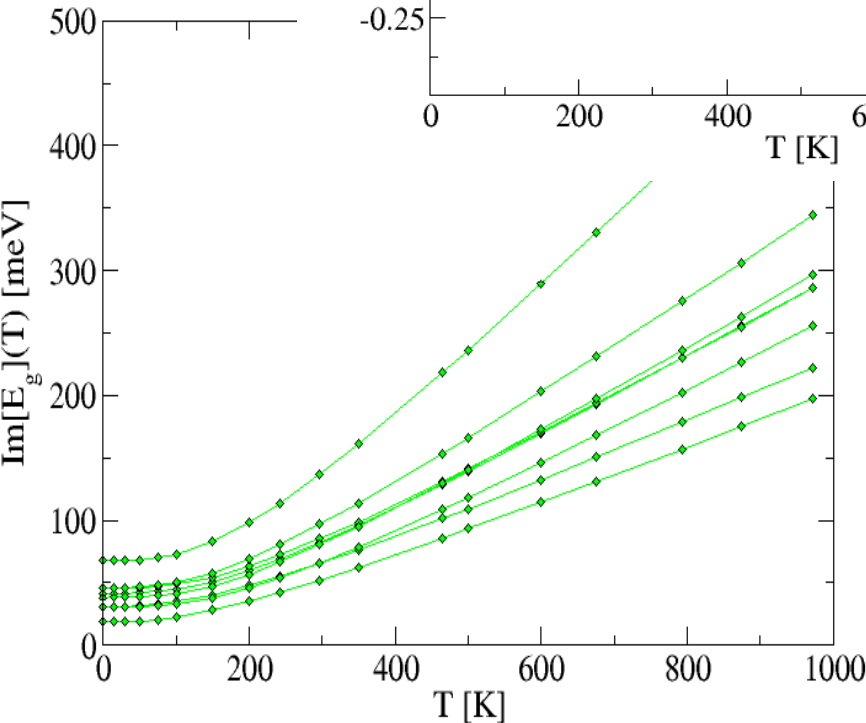
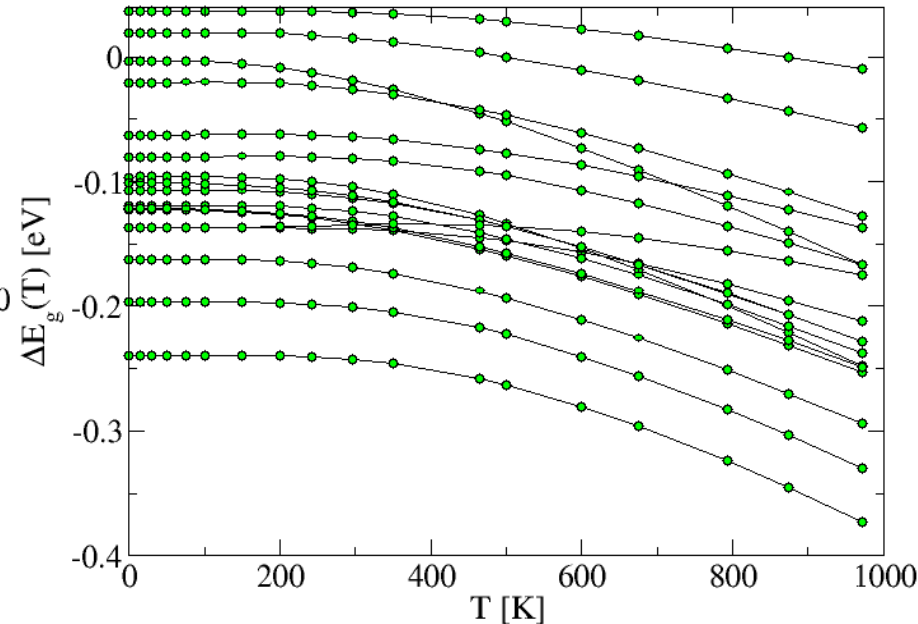
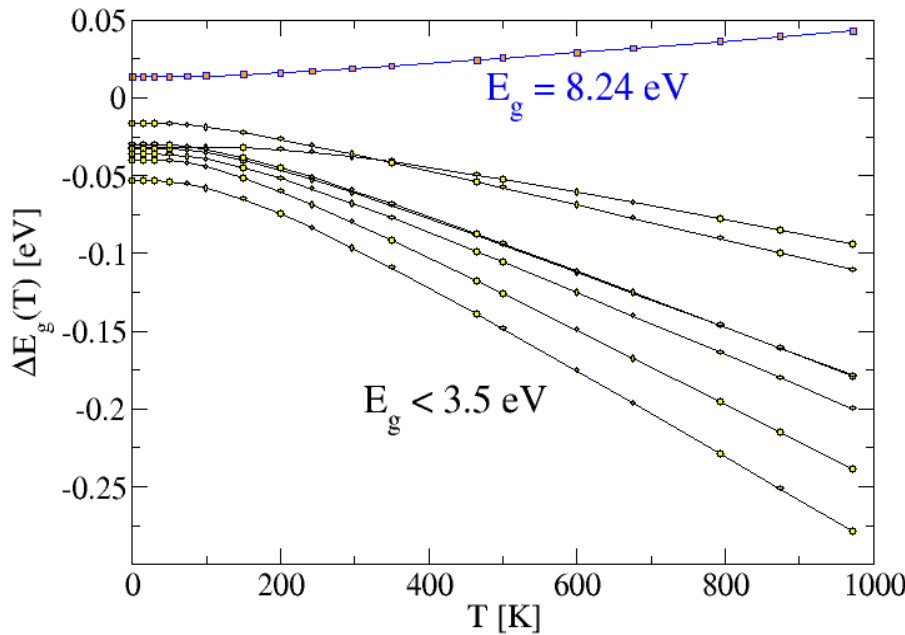
$$\Sigma_{nk}^{FAN}(i\omega) = \sum_{\alpha\lambda m} |g_{n'nk}^{\alpha\lambda}|^2 \left[ \frac{\langle N_{\mathbf{q}\lambda} \rangle + 1 - f_{m\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}}{i\omega - E_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} - \omega_{\mathbf{q}\lambda}} + \frac{\langle N_{\mathbf{q}\lambda} \rangle + f_{m\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}}{i\omega - E_{m\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} + \omega_{\mathbf{q}\lambda}} \right]$$



The FAN SE includes polaron dampings



It reduces to the Cardona-Allen formulation in the "on mass-shell" approximation



(...) the zero-point renormalization vibration amplitude is responsible for energy renormalizations up to 200 meV, of the order of accuracy claimed for state-of-the-art ab initio calculations (...)



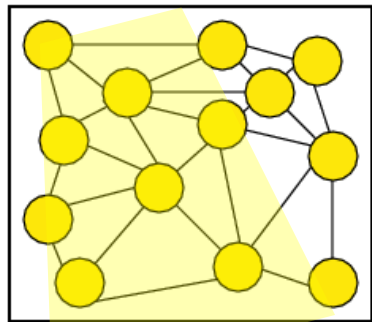
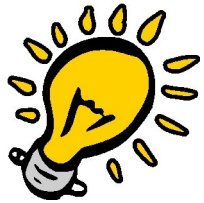
# Excitons

## EXCITONS

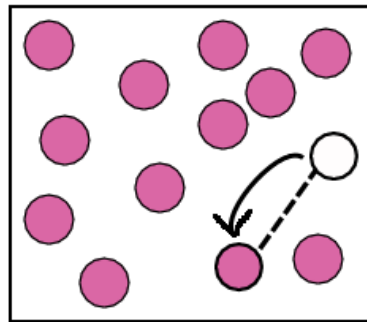
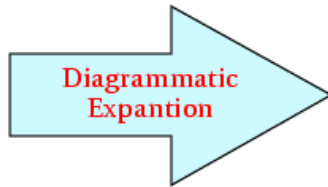
**Memory Effects:** AM, R. Del Sole, PRL, **91**, 176402 (2003).

**Complex Materials:** PRL **94**, 087404 (2005), PRL **96**, 126104 (2006), PRL **98**, 036807 (2007).

**In TDDFT:** AM, R. Del Sole, A. Rubio PRL **91**, 256402



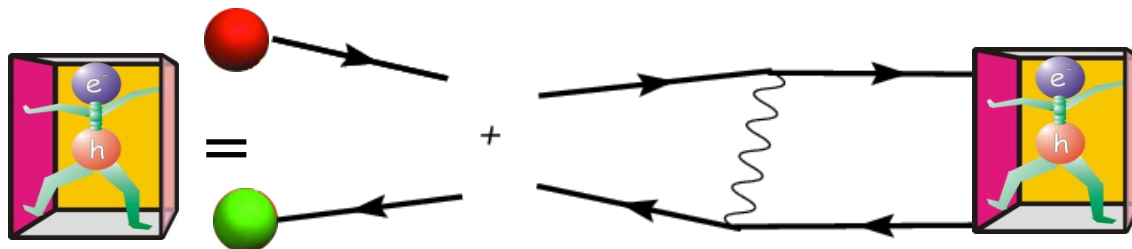
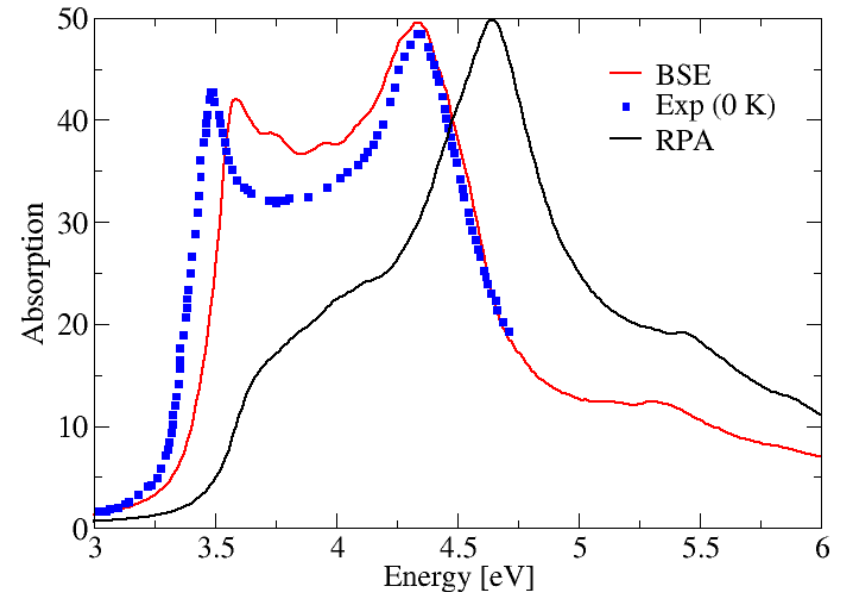
● = particle



● = Quasiparticle

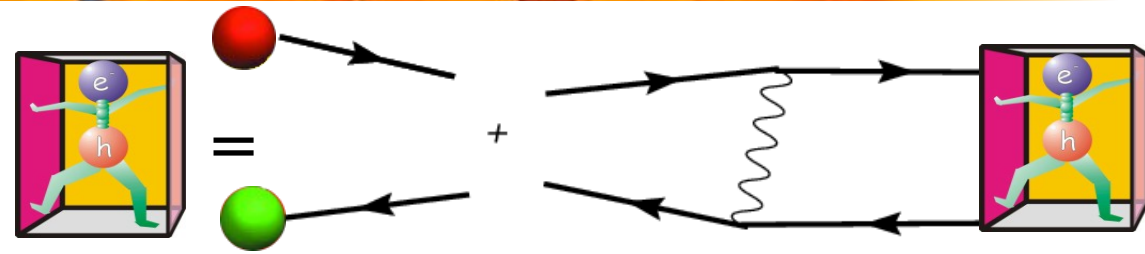
○ = Quasihole

--- = Screened interaction

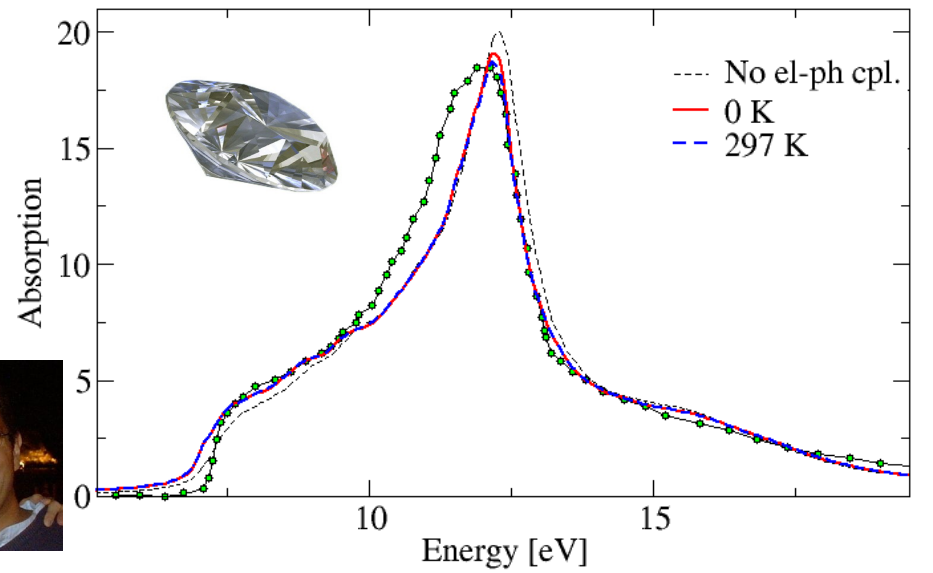
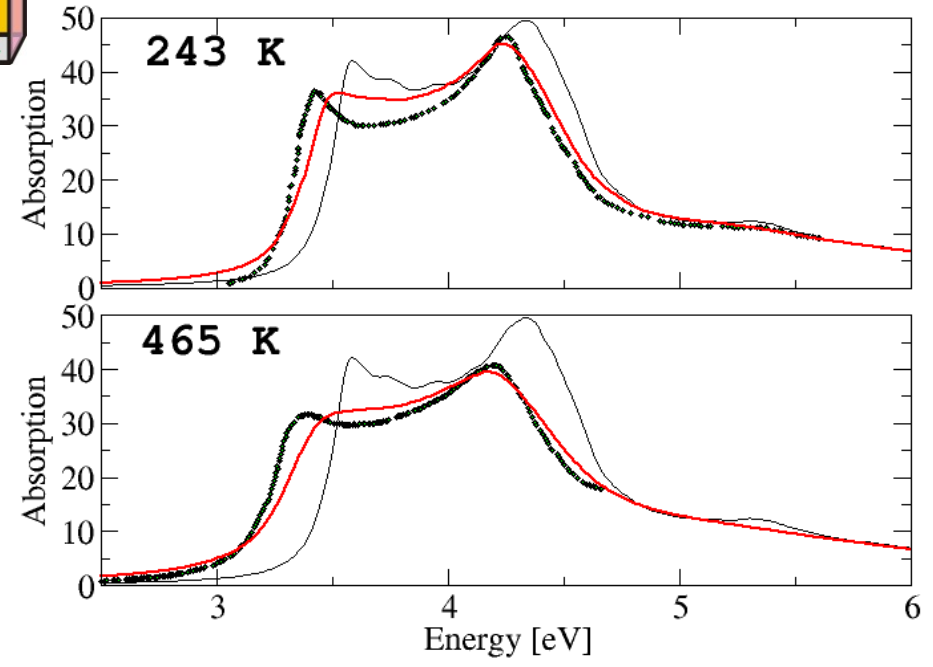
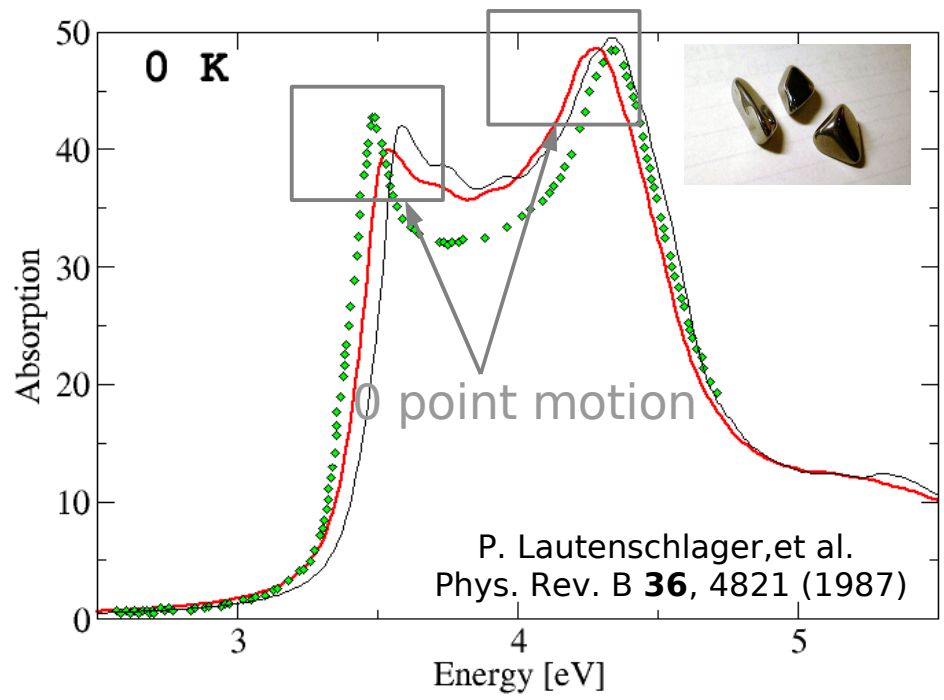


● Quasihole and  
● quasidelectron

# Finite $T$ optics in the polaronic approach



● Quasihole and quasielectron  
● **polarons**



!!! In any *ab initio* calculation of the optical spectra (RPA or BSE) the electron-hole damping is used as a parameter, fitted to get the best agreement with the experiment. In all the present calculations the numerical damping is 0.1 meV. The real, physical, damping is due to the polaronic widths.



# Exciton-phonon coupling state-of-the-art

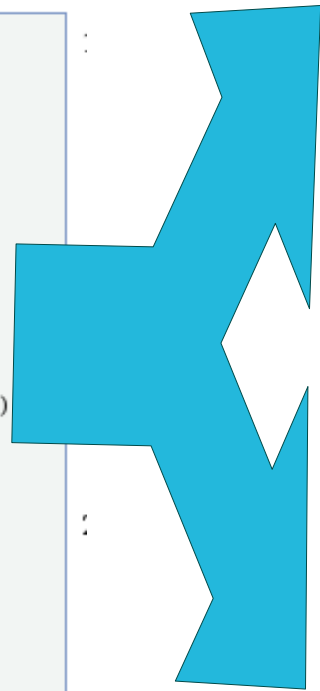
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## Bosonic Hamiltonians

B. Segall, G.F. Mahan PR **171**, 935 (1968)

A. Suna, PR **135**, A111 (1964)

Y. Toyozawa, J. Phys. Chem. Solids **25**, 59 (1964)

$$H = \sum_{\lambda\mathbf{K}} \epsilon_{\lambda\mathbf{K}} n_{\lambda\mathbf{K}}^{exc} + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \omega_{\mathbf{q}} n_{\mathbf{q}}^{ph} + \sum_{\lambda\lambda'\mathbf{K}\mathbf{q}} V(\mathbf{q})_{\lambda\lambda'} c_{\lambda\mathbf{K}+\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} c_{\lambda'\mathbf{K}} (a_{\mathbf{q}} + a_{\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger})$$



Easy interpretation



Impossible to do *Ab-Initio*:  
no idea how to evaluate the  
exc-ph coupling potential



"Interacting excitons should  
not be bosonized"  
**M. Combescot**

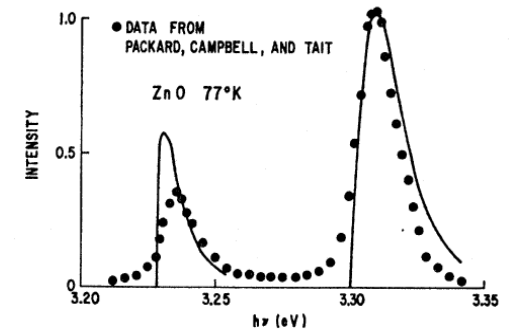


Fig. 9. Calculated one-LO- and two-LO-phonon-assisted fluorescence peaks for ZnO at 77°K compared with the spectrum observed by Packard *et al.*

$$H_{el} = \sum_{\alpha\mathbf{k}} \left( e_{\alpha\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} n_{\alpha\mathbf{q}} V_{\mathbf{q}} \right) a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}}$$

$$H_{el-el} = \sum_{\alpha\beta\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'\mathbf{q}} \frac{1}{2} V_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} a_{\beta\mathbf{k}'}^{\dagger} a_{\beta\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q}} a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}$$

$$H_{el-ph} = \sum_{\alpha\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}} \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}} g_{\alpha\mathbf{q}} a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} a_{\alpha\mathbf{k}} (b_{-\mathbf{q}} + b_{\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger}),$$

$$H_{ph} = \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \hbar\omega_{\mathbf{q}} \left( b_{\mathbf{q}}^{\dagger} b_{\mathbf{q}} + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

## Frohlich Hamiltonians

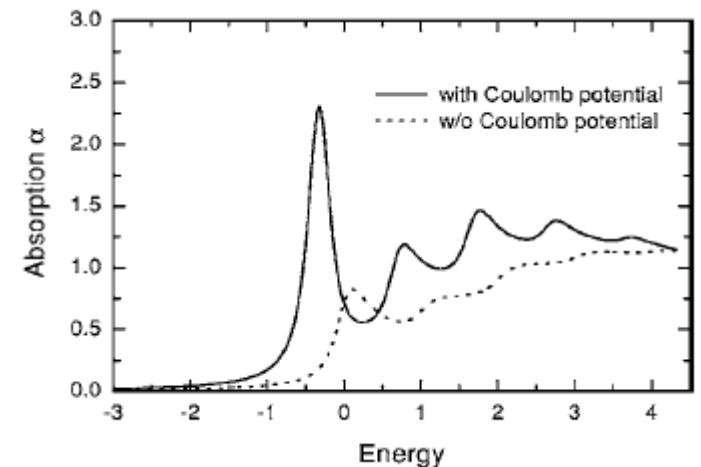
K. Hannewald and P. A. Bobbert, PRB **72**, 113202 (2005)



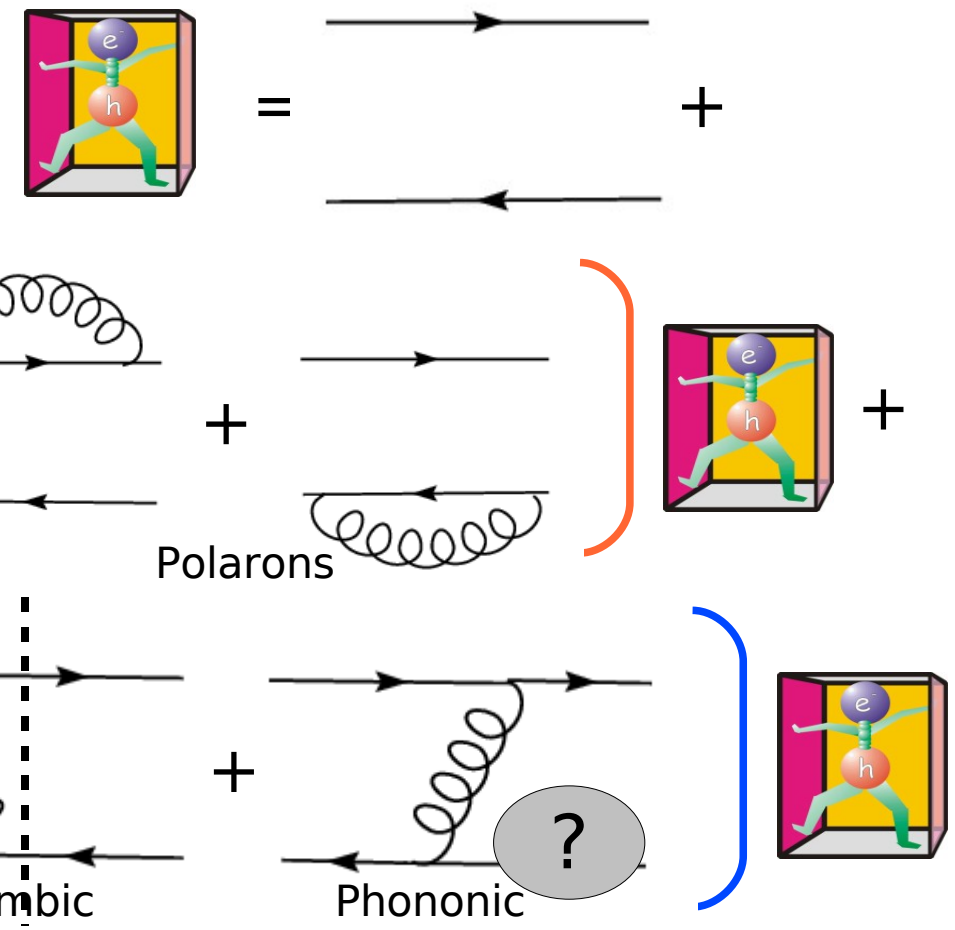
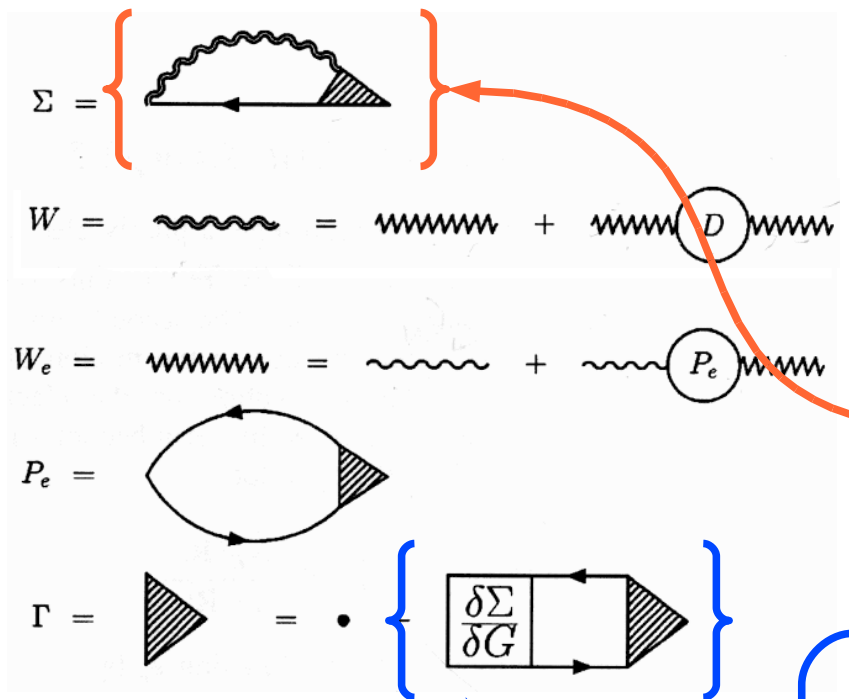
Widely used



Phonon overscreening  
[RvL, PRB **69**, 115110 (2004)]

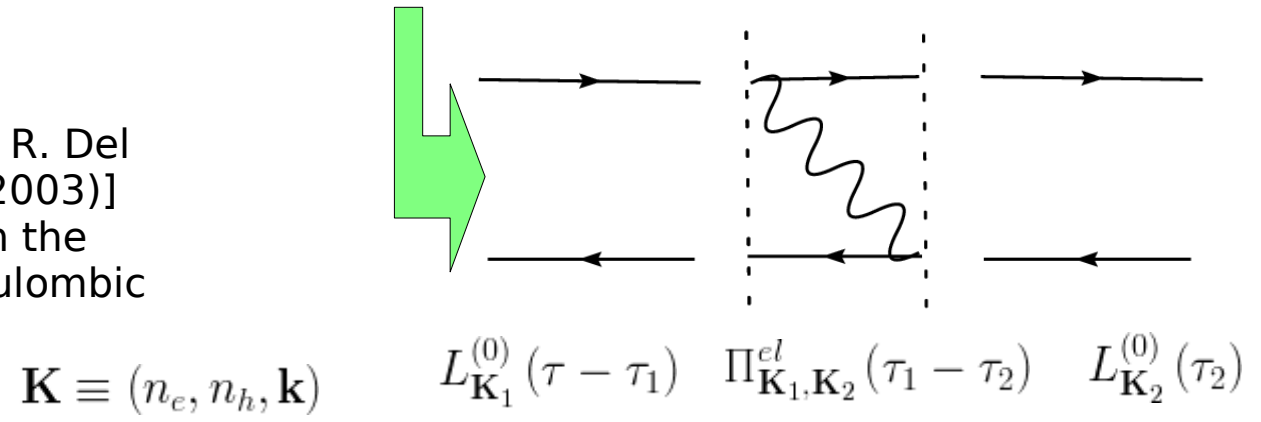


# The dynamical BSE (DBSE)



A correct derivation of the BSE from the generalized Hedin's equations yields an indirect (polaronic mediated) and a **direct exciton-phonon coupling**

The **dynamical BSE** [AM, R. Del Sole, PRL **91**, 176402 (2003)] was introduced to sum the frequency dependent Coulombic interaction

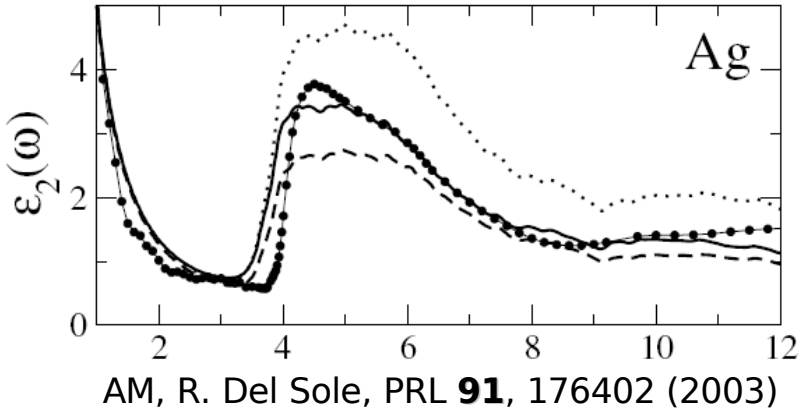


# A phononic kernel in the DBSE

electronic  
DBSE

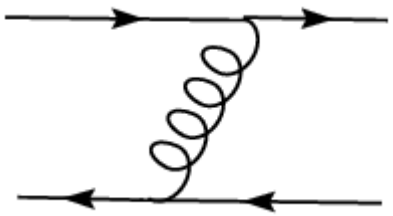
$$\tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ \delta_{12} + \sum_{\mathbf{K}_3} W_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_3} \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_3, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) \right]$$

$$\tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ \delta_{12} + \sum_{\mathbf{K}_3} \Pi_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_3}^{el}(i\omega) \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_3, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) \right]$$



phononic  
DBSE

$$\tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_1}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ \delta_{12} + \sum_{\mathbf{K}_3} \left( \Pi_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_3}^{el}(i\omega) + \Pi_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_3}^{ph}(i\omega) \right) \tilde{L}_{\mathbf{K}_3, \mathbf{K}_2}(i\omega) \right]$$



$$\Pi_{\mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_2}^{ph}(i\omega) = - \sum_{\lambda} g_{c_2 c_1 \mathbf{k}_1}^{q\lambda} \left( g_{v_2 v_1 \mathbf{k}_1}^{q\lambda} \right)^* \sum_I \left[ \frac{1 + \langle N_{q\lambda} \rangle}{i\omega + \Delta_I - \omega_{q\lambda}} + \frac{\langle N_{q\lambda} \rangle}{i\omega + \Delta_I + \omega_{q\lambda}} \right]$$

$$\Delta_1 = \epsilon_{v_2 \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{c_1 \mathbf{k}_1} \quad \Delta_2 = \epsilon_{v_1 \mathbf{k}_1} - \epsilon_{c_2 \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{q}}$$

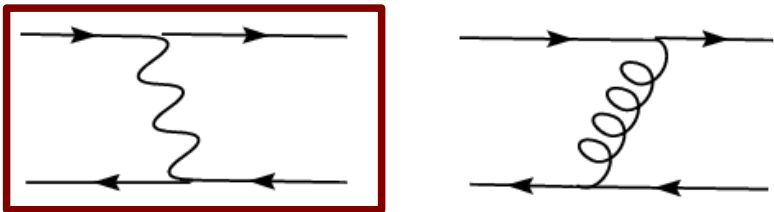


The phononic kernel enhances the screening (like in the polaronic SE) reducing the electron-hole interaction



The phonon frequencies in the DBSE kernel are responsible for the phonon sidebands (an additional contribution stem from the polaronic self-energy diagrams)

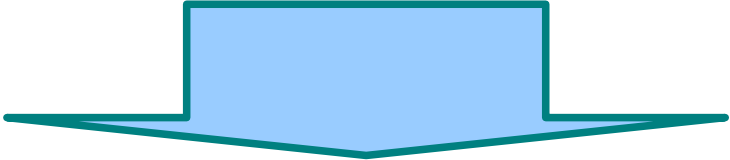
# A phononic self-energy for the exciton



$$\tilde{L}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) (W + \Pi^{ph}(i\omega)) \right]^{-1}$$

$$\tilde{L}^e(i\omega) = \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) W \right]^{-1}$$

Similarly to the quasiparticle case the phononic and electronic parts can be summed separately



$$\tilde{L}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) W \right]^{-1} \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^{(0)}(i\omega) W \right]^{-1} \Pi^{ph}(i\omega) \right]^{-1}$$

$$\tilde{L}(i\omega) = \tilde{L}^e(i\omega) \left[ 1 - \tilde{L}^e(i\omega) \Pi^{ph}(i\omega) \right]^{-1}$$

If we rotate in the excitonic basis

$$|I\rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{K}} \langle \mathbf{K} | I \rangle \quad \longrightarrow \quad \langle I | \tilde{L}^e(i\omega) | J \rangle = -\delta_{IJ} (i\omega - E_I)^{-1}$$

$$\tilde{L}(i\omega) = - \left[ \delta_{IJ} (i\omega - E_I) - \langle I | \Pi^{ph}(i\omega) | J \rangle \right]^{-1}$$

**Excitonic Self-Energy**

The excitonic self-energy implies all the physical consequences of the self-energy potential in any quasiparticle theory: **damping, phonon replicas, fictitious exciton-phonon coupling potential. No bosonic Hamiltonians are needed.**

# Conclusions...



***The finite temperature optical properties in presence of weak electron-phonon coupling can be described with the standard BSE in the polaronic picture***



***The excitonic damping and zero-point motion effect are in excellent agreement with the experiment, being small in systems (like diamond) with large Debye energy.***



***In presence of STRONG electron-phonon coupling the dynamical extension of the BSE includes a phononic kernel that act to reduce the electron-hole interaction.***



***The DBSE can be reduced in the static excitons basis to yield a phononic self-energy WITHOUT ANY drastic assumption on the Hamiltonian.***

***...and...***



## About SELF

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SELF is a FORTRAN/C code for Many-Body calculations in solid state physics. SELF relies on the Kohn-Sham wavefunctions generated by several DFT public codes. The code has been originally developed in the [Condensed Matter Theoretical Group](#) of the Physics Department at the university of Rome by [Andrea Marini](#). See [features](#) for an extensive overview or enjoy the view of the [developers' faces](#).

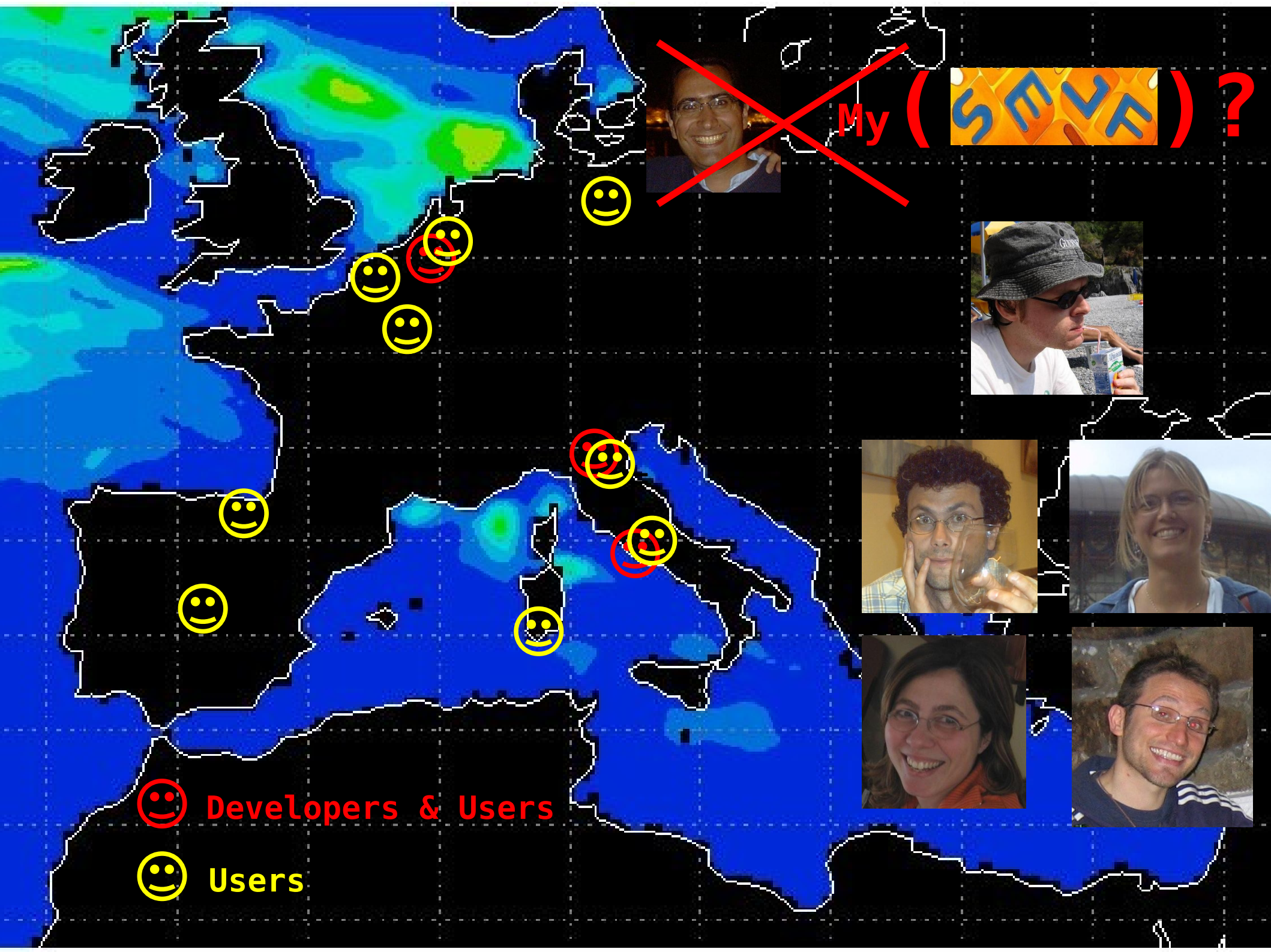
**Please do not contact us to get SELF as the code is (still) not freely available.**

## Bethe-Salpeter.org

To have more informations about the Many-Body theory, and the Bethe-Salpeter equation visit the [Bethe-Salpeter.org](#) community.

## News

The [documentation](#) is now online and SELF has its first [tutorial](#).



My (SEVA) ?

☹ Developers & Users

😊 Users



*“SELF, a shiny pot of fun and happiness”*

[C. Hogan]

<http://www.fisica.uniroma2.it/~marini>

<http://www.fisica.uniroma2.it/~self>

