

Introduction to TDDFT in extended systems

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ASESMA 2025 - University of Ghana

Outline

- 1 TDDFT: Basic theorems
- 2 Linear response in TDDFT
- 3 Approximations

References



[M. A. L. Marques *et al.*](#)

Fundamentals of Time-Dependent Density Functional Theory



[C. A. Ullrich](#)

Time-Dependent Density-Functional Theory Concepts and Applications



[S. Botti, A. Schindlmayr, R. Del Sole, and L. Reining](#)

Rep. Progr. Phys. **70**, 357 (2007).

Outline

- 1 TDDFT: Basic theorems
- 2 Linear response in TDDFT
- 3 Approximations

What is TDDFT?

What is TDDFT?

- TDDFT is an extension of DFT: it is a DFT with time-dependent external potential
- The fundamental degree of freedom is the time-dependent electronic density $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$

Basic theorems



E. Runge and E. K. U. Gross, Phys. Rev. Lett. **52**, 997 (1984).



R. van Leeuwen, Phys. Rev. Lett. **82**, 3863 (1999).



G. Vignale, Phys. Rev. A **77**, 062511 (2008).

DFT

- There exists a one-to-one correspondence (up to an additive constant) between the ground-state density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and the static external potential $V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r})$.

TDDFT

- For a given initial state $\Phi(t=0) = \Phi_0$, time-dependent potentials $V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and time-dependent densities $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ are in a one-to-one correspondence (up to a purely time-dependent function).

DFT

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- The expectation value of any physical observable of a many-electron system is a unique functional of the ground-state electron density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$.

TDDFT

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- The expectation value of any physical time-dependent observable is a unique functional of the electron density $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and of the initial state $\Phi(t=0) = \Phi_0$ (in our case: always the ground state).

DFT

- There exists a one-to-one correspondence (up to an additive constant) between the ground-state density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ and the static external potential $V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r})$.
- The expectation value of any physical observable of a many-electron system is a unique functional of the ground-state electron density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$.
- The minimum of the total energy functional gives the ground-state density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$.

TDDFT

- For a given initial state $\Phi(t=0) = \Phi_0$, time-dependent potentials $V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and time-dependent densities $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ are in a one-to-one correspondence (up to a purely time-dependent function).
- The expectation value of any physical time-dependent observable is a unique functional of the electron density $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ and of the initial state $\Phi(t=0) = \Phi_0$ (in our case: always the ground state).
- The stationary point of the action (plus a boundary condition) gives the density $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$.

Action functional

Quantum mechanics

$$A[\Psi] = \int_0^T \langle \Psi(t) | i\partial_t - H | \Psi(t) \rangle$$

$\delta A[\Psi]/\delta \Psi = 0$ with $|\delta \Psi(0)\rangle = |\delta \Psi(T)\rangle = 0$ is equivalent to the time-dependent Schrödinger equation:

$$(i\partial_t - H)|\Psi(t)\rangle = 0$$

Action functional

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TDDFT

Runge Gross theorem $\Rightarrow \Psi(t) = \Psi(t)[\rho]$.

$$A[\rho] = \int_0^T \langle \Psi(t)[\rho] | i\partial_t - H | \Psi(t)[\rho] \rangle$$

But $\delta A[\rho]/\delta \rho = 0$ is wrong!

Action functional

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TDDFT

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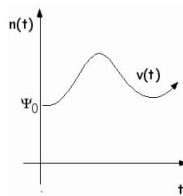
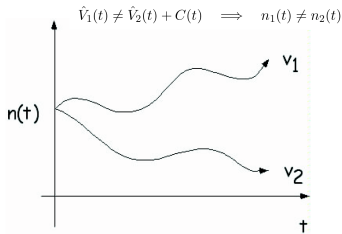
$$A[\rho] = \int_0^T \langle \Psi(t)[\rho] | i\partial_t - H | \Psi(t)[\rho] \rangle$$

But $\delta A[\rho]/\delta \rho = 0$ is wrong!

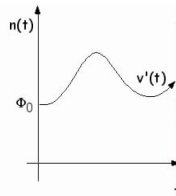
The variation of the density at any time $t < T$ causes a variation of the wavefunction: we cannot set $|\delta \Psi(T)\rangle = 0$. So the correct variational principle in TDDFT is:

$$\delta A[\rho]/\delta \rho = i \langle \Psi(T)[\rho] | \delta \Psi(T)[\rho] / \delta \rho \rangle$$

TDDFT summary



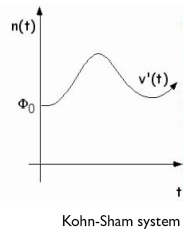
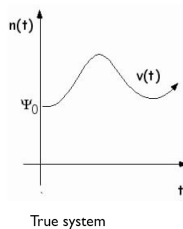
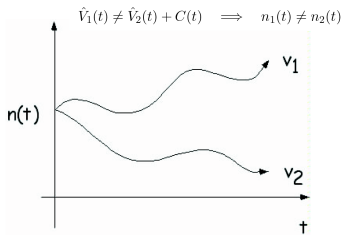
True system



Kohn-Sham system

- (Runge-Gross) Given an initial state, if two time-dependent external potentials v_1 and v_2 differ more than a time-dependent constant, then the corresponding time-dependent densities ρ_1 and ρ_2 are different

TDDFT summary



- (Runge-Gross) Given an initial state, if two time-dependent external potentials v_1 and v_2 differ more than a time-dependent constant, then the corresponding time-dependent densities ρ_1 and ρ_2 are different
- (van Leeuwen) If the density ρ_1 is produced by a time-dependent external potential v_1 in system 1 (starting from a given initial state), then one can uniquely construct the potential v_2 that produces the same density in system 2 (the choice of initial state in system 2 is also unique) - "v-representability in TDDFT"

Kohn-Sham equations

DFT

$$\left[-\frac{\nabla^2}{2} + V_{KS}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \varphi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_i \varphi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

$$V_{KS}(\mathbf{r}) = V_H(\mathbf{r}) + V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) + V_{xc}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^N |\varphi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2$$

Unknown exchange-correlation potential $V_{xc}(\mathbf{r})$: functional of the density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$.

$$V_{xc}^{LDA}(\mathbf{r}) = V_{xc}^{HEG}(\rho(\mathbf{r}))$$

TDDFT

$$\left[-\frac{\nabla^2}{2} + V_{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t) \right] \varphi_i(\mathbf{r}, t) = i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_i(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$V_{KS}(\mathbf{r}, t) = V_H(\mathbf{r}, t) + V_{ext}(\mathbf{r}, t) + V_{xc}(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^N |\varphi_i(\mathbf{r}, t)|^2$$

Unknown exchange-correlation time-dependent potential $V_{xc}(\mathbf{r}, t)$: functional of the density at all past times $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t')$ with $t' < t$ (and of the initial states).

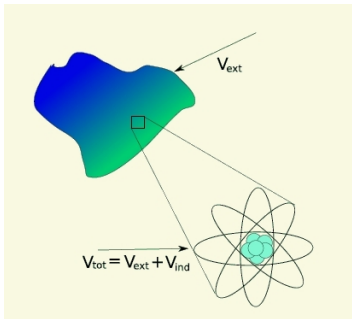
$$V_{xc}^{ALDA}(\mathbf{r}, t) = V_{xc}^{HEG}(\rho(\mathbf{r}, t))$$

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Response functions

External perturbation V_{ext} applied on the sample
→ V_{tot} acting on the electronic system



Potentials

$$\delta V_{tot} = \delta V_{ext} + \delta V_{ind}$$

$$\delta V_{ind} = v \delta \rho$$

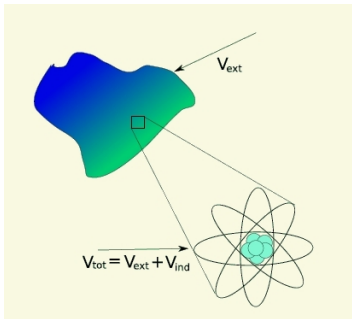
Dielectric function

$$\epsilon = \frac{\delta V_{ext}}{\delta V_{tot}} = 1 - v \frac{\delta \rho}{\delta V_{tot}}$$

$$\epsilon^{-1} = \frac{\delta V_{tot}}{\delta V_{ext}} = 1 + v \frac{\delta \rho}{\delta V_{ext}}$$

Response functions

External perturbation V_{ext} applied on the sample
→ V_{tot} acting on the electronic system



Dielectric function

$$\epsilon = \frac{\delta V_{ext}}{\delta V_{tot}} = 1 - vP$$

$$\epsilon^{-1} = \frac{\delta V_{tot}}{\delta V_{ext}} = 1 + v\chi$$

$$P = \frac{\delta \rho}{\delta V_{tot}} \qquad \chi = \frac{\delta \rho}{\delta V_{ext}}$$

$$\chi = P + Pv\chi$$

Spectra

Spectra

$$\text{Abs}(\omega) = \lim_{\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0} \text{Im} \varepsilon_M(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

$$\text{Eels}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = -\text{Im} \left\{ \frac{1}{\varepsilon_M(\mathbf{q}, \omega)} \right\}$$

$$\text{Eels}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{\text{Im} \varepsilon_M(\mathbf{q}, \omega)}{[\text{Re} \varepsilon_M(\mathbf{q}, \omega)]^2 + [\text{Im} \varepsilon_M(\mathbf{q}, \omega)]^2}$$

Linear response TDDFT

Linear response TDDFT

$$\delta\rho(1) = \int d2\chi(1,2)\delta V_{ext}(2) \quad \text{and} \quad \delta\rho(1) = \int d2\chi^0(1,2)\delta V_{KS}(2)$$

Linear response TDDFT

Linear response TDDFT

$$\delta\rho(1) = \int d2 \chi(1,2) \delta V_{\text{ext}}(2) \quad \text{and} \quad \delta\rho(1) = \int d2 \chi^0(1,2) \delta V_{\text{KS}}(2)$$

Using:

$$\frac{\delta V_{\text{KS}}(1)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(2)} = \delta(1,2) + \frac{\delta V_{\text{H}}(1)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(2)} + \frac{\delta V_{\text{xc}}(1)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(2)}$$

one obtains the Dyson equation of linear response TDDFT :

$$\chi(1,2) = \chi^0(1,2) + \int d3 d4 \chi^0(1,3) [v(3,4) + f_{\text{xc}}(3,4)] \chi(4,2)$$

where the exchange-correlation kernel f_{xc} has been defined as:

$$f_{\text{xc}}(1,2) = \frac{\delta V_{\text{xc}}(1)}{\delta \rho(2)}$$

$$f_{\text{xc}}^{\text{ALDA}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', t, t') = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta(t - t') \frac{\partial V_{\text{xc}}^{\text{LDA}}(\rho(\mathbf{r}))}{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r})}$$

Linear response TDDFT

Exercise: derivation of TDDFT Dyson equation

$$\delta\rho(1) = \int d2 \chi(1,2) \delta V_{\text{ext}}(2) = \int d2 \chi^0(1,2) \delta V_{\text{KS}}(2)$$

$$\int d2 \chi(1,2) \frac{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(2)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)} = \int d2 \chi^0(1,2) \frac{\delta V_{\text{KS}}(2)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)}$$

$$\chi(1,3) = \int d2 \chi^0(1,2) \frac{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(2) + \delta V_H(2) + \delta V_{\text{xc}}(2)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)}$$

$$\chi(1,3) = \chi^0(1,3) + \int d2 \chi^0(1,2) \left[\frac{\delta V_H(2)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)} + \frac{\delta V_{\text{xc}}(2)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)} \right]$$

$$\chi(1,3) = \chi^0(1,3) + \int d2 d4 \chi^0(1,2) \left[\frac{\delta V_H(2)}{\delta \rho(4)} \frac{\delta \rho(4)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)} + \frac{\delta V_{\text{xc}}(2)}{\delta \rho(4)} \frac{\delta \rho(4)}{\delta V_{\text{ext}}(3)} \right]$$

$$\delta V_H(2) = \int d5 v(2,5) \delta \rho(5)$$

$$\chi(1,3) = \chi^0(1,3) + \int d2 d4 \chi^0(1,2) [v(2,4) + f_{\text{xc}}(2,4)] \chi(4,3)$$

Linear response TDDFT

One equation...

$$\chi(1,2) = \chi^0(1,2) + \int d34 \chi^0(1,3)[v(3,4) + f_{xc}(3,4)]\chi(4,2)$$

...many algorithms

- Dyson equation in transition space (aka “Casida equation”): finite systems
- Dyson equation in Fourier space: extended systems
- Lanczos algorithm - see B. Walker *et al.*, PRL **96** (2006); D. Rocca *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **128** (2008).
- Sternheimer equation - see X. Andrade *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **126** (2007).

Linear response TDDFT

Dyson equation

$$\chi(1,2) = \chi^0(1,2) + \int d34 \chi^0(1,3)[v(3,4) + f_{xc}(3,4)]\chi(4,2)$$

Kohn-Sham response function

$$\chi^0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \sum_{ij} (f_i - f_j) \frac{\varphi_i^*(\mathbf{r}) \varphi_j(\mathbf{r}) \varphi_j^*(\mathbf{r}') \varphi_i(\mathbf{r}')}{\omega - (\varepsilon_j - \varepsilon_i) + i\eta}$$

$$\chi_{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}'}^0(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{2}{\Omega} \sum_{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{k}} (f_{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{k}} - f_{\mathbf{c} \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}}) \frac{\langle u_{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{k}} | e^{-i(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G})\mathbf{r}} | u_{\mathbf{c} \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}} \rangle \langle u_{\mathbf{c} \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}} | e^{i(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}')\mathbf{r}'} | u_{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\omega - (\varepsilon_{\mathbf{c} \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{v} \mathbf{k}}) + i\eta}$$

where we use $\varphi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}} u_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$

TDDFT flow chart

Ground state calculation : $\varepsilon_i, \varphi_i \Rightarrow$ construction of χ^0

$$\chi_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{q},\omega) = \chi_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}^0(\mathbf{q},\omega) + \sum_{\mathbf{G}_1,\mathbf{G}_2} \chi_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}_1}^0(\mathbf{q},\omega) [v_{\mathbf{G}_1}(\mathbf{q})\delta_{\mathbf{G}_1,\mathbf{G}_2} + f_{\mathbf{G}_1,\mathbf{G}_2}^{xc}] \chi_{\mathbf{G}_2,\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{q},\omega)$$

$$\epsilon_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(\mathbf{q},\omega) = \delta_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'} + v_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{q})\chi_{\mathbf{G},\mathbf{G}'}(\mathbf{q},\omega)$$

$$\epsilon_M(\omega) = \lim_{\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\mathbf{G}=0,\mathbf{G}'=0}^{-1}(\mathbf{q},\omega)}$$

$$\text{Abs}(\omega) = \text{Im}\{\varepsilon_M(\omega)\} \quad \text{Eels}(\omega) = -\text{Im}\left\{\frac{1}{\varepsilon_M(\omega)}\right\}$$

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Approximations

Dyson equation

$$\chi = \chi^0 + \chi^0(v + f_{xc})\chi$$

Approximations

- Independent-particle approximation (IPA): $v = f_{xc} = 0$
- Random-phase approximation (RPA): $f_{xc} = 0$
- TDLDA: $f_{xc} = f_{xc}^{ALDA}$

Independent particles

$$\text{Im}\epsilon_M(\omega) = - \lim_{\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0} v_{\mathbf{G}=0}(\mathbf{q}) \text{Im}\chi_{\mathbf{G}=0, \mathbf{G}'=0}^0(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

$$\chi_{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}'}^0(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{2}{\Omega} \sum_{v\mathbf{k}} (f_{v\mathbf{k}} - f_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}) \frac{\langle u_{v\mathbf{k}} | e^{-i(\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{G})\mathbf{r}} | u_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \rangle \langle u_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} | e^{i(\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{G}')\mathbf{r}'} | u_{v\mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\omega - (\epsilon_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{v\mathbf{k}}) + i\eta}$$

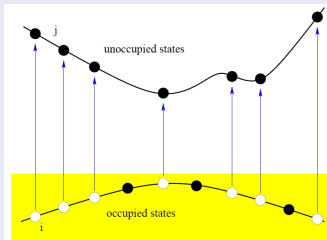
Independent particles

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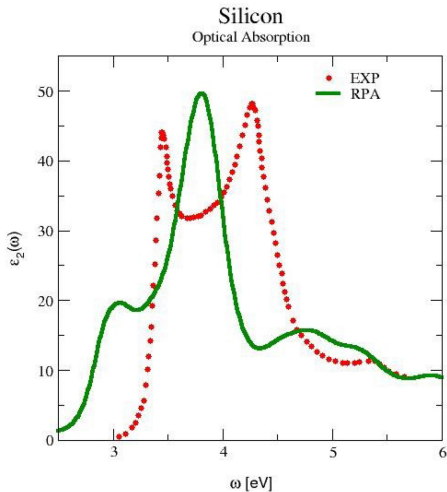
$$\chi_{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}'}^0(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{2}{\Omega} \sum_{v\mathbf{k}} (f_{v\mathbf{k}} - f_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}) \frac{\langle u_{v\mathbf{k}} | e^{-i(\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{G})\mathbf{r}} | u_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \rangle \langle u_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} | e^{i(\mathbf{q}+\mathbf{G}')\mathbf{r}'} | u_{v\mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\omega - (\epsilon_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{v\mathbf{k}}) + i\eta}$$

Fermi's golden rule

$$\text{Im}\epsilon_M(\omega) = \lim_{\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0} \frac{8\pi^2}{\Omega q^2} \sum_{v\mathbf{k}} |\langle u_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} | e^{i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{r}} | u_{v\mathbf{k}} \rangle|^2 \delta(\omega - (\epsilon_{c\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{v\mathbf{k}}))$$



Independent particles



Approximations

Dyson equation

$$\chi = \chi^0 + \chi^0(v + f_{xc})\chi$$

can be equivalently be written as:

$$\chi = \chi^0 + \chi^0(v_0 + \bar{v} + f_{xc})\chi$$

Coulomb interaction

$$v \equiv v_0 + \bar{v}$$

$$v_0 = v_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{q}) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{G} = 0$$

$$\bar{v}_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{q}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } \mathbf{G} = 0 \\ v_{\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{q}) & \text{for } \mathbf{G} \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

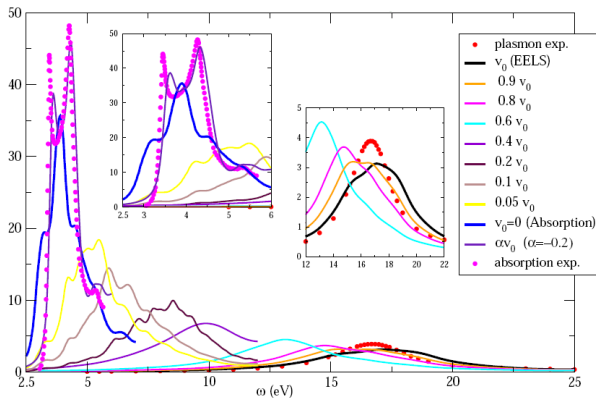
The Coulomb term v

The Coulomb term

$$v = v_0 + \bar{v}$$

long-range $v_0 \Rightarrow$ difference between Abs and Eels

Coulomb term v_0 : Abs vs. EELS



F. Sottile, PhD thesis (2003) - Bulk silicon: absorption vs. EELS.

The Coulomb term v

The Coulomb term

$$v = v_0 + \bar{v}$$

long-range $v_0 \Rightarrow$ difference between Abs and Eels

what about $\bar{v}$?

The Coulomb term v

The Coulomb term

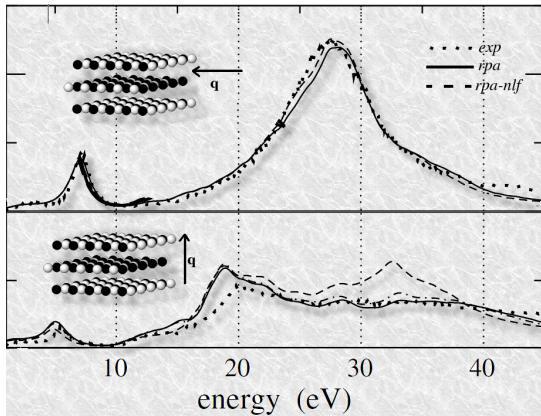
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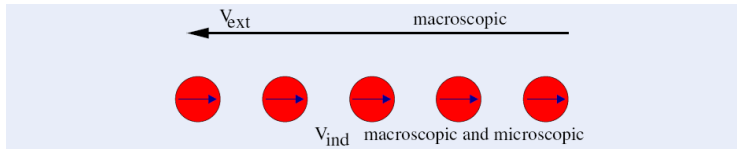
$\bar{v}$ is responsible for crystal local-field effects

Coulomb term $\bar{v}$: local fields



A. G. Marinopoulos *et al.*, PRL **89** (2002) - Graphite EELS

What are local fields?



Effective medium theory

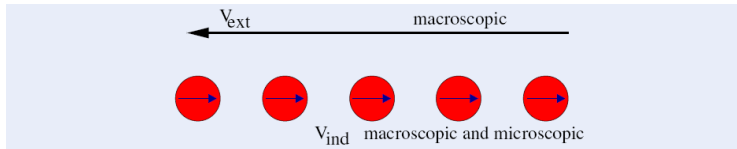
Uniform field E_0 applied to a dielectric sphere with dielectric constant ϵ in vacuum. From continuity conditions at the interface:

$$P = \frac{3}{4\pi} \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon + 2} E_0$$



Jackson, Classical electrodynamics, Sec. 4.4.

What are local fields?



Effective medium theory

Regular lattice of objects dimensionality d of material ϵ_1 in vacuum
Maxwell-Garnett formulas

- dot (O D system)

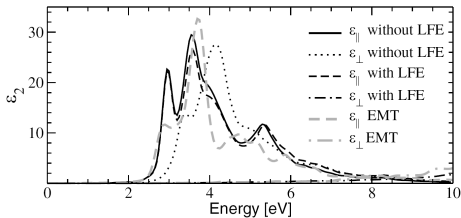
$$\text{Im}\epsilon_M(\omega) \propto 9 \frac{\text{Im}\epsilon_1(\omega)}{[\text{Re}\epsilon_1(\omega) + 2]^2 + [\text{Im}\epsilon_1(\omega)]^2}$$

- wire (1D system)

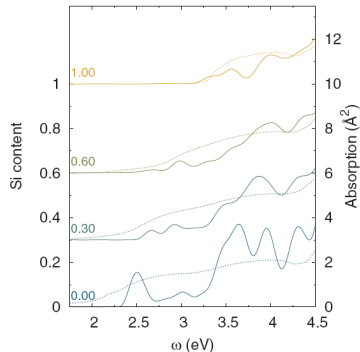
$$\text{Im}\epsilon_M^{\parallel}(\omega) \propto \text{Im}\epsilon_1(\omega)$$

$$\text{Im}\epsilon_M^{\perp}(\omega) \propto 4 \frac{\text{Im}\epsilon_1(\omega)}{[\text{Re}\epsilon_1(\omega) + 1]^2 + [\text{Im}\epsilon_1(\omega)]^2}$$

What are local fields?



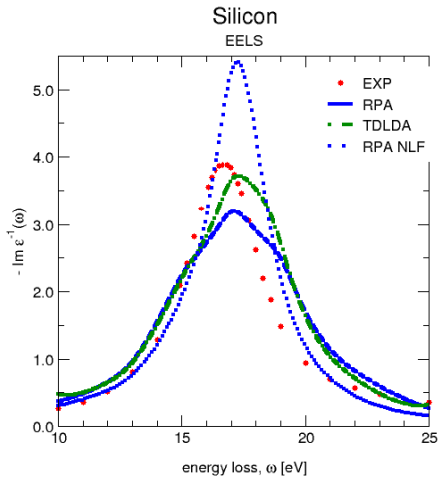
F. Bruneval *et al.*, PRL **94** (2005) -
Si nanowires

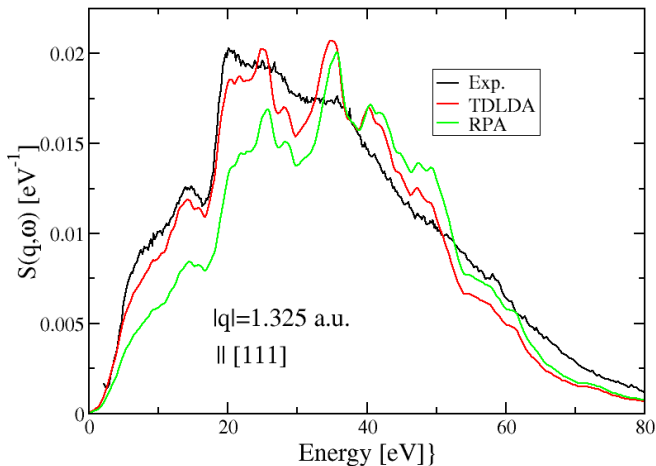


S. Botti *et al.*, PRB **79** (2009) -
SiGe nanodots

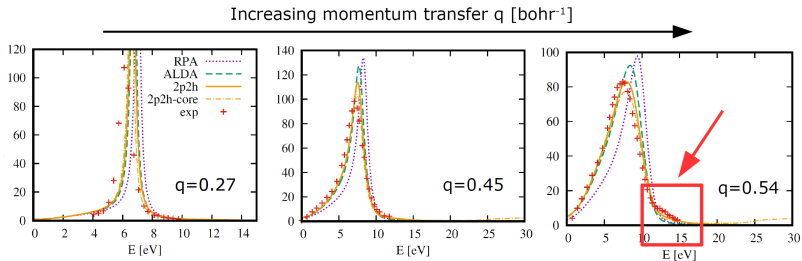
f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

Up to now $f_{xc} = 0$ (RPA).
What about the kernel f_{xc} ?

f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

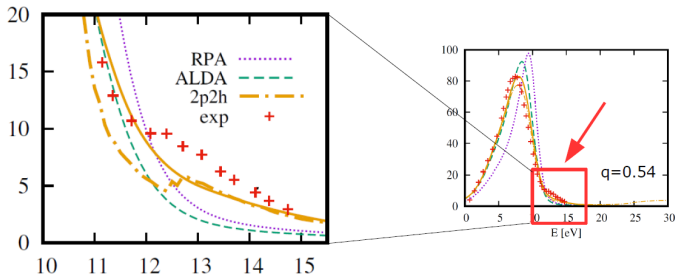
f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

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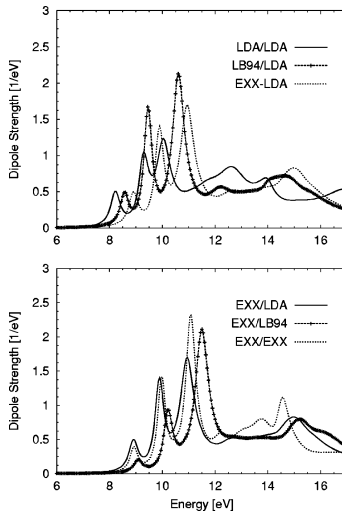
Sodium - IXS

Exp. M. Cazzaniga, et al, PRB 84 (2011);
 Theo: M. Panholzer et al, PRL 120 (2018).

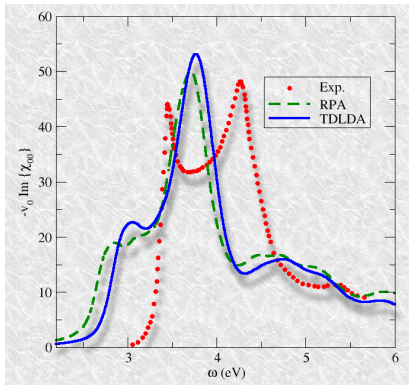
f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

Sodium - IXS

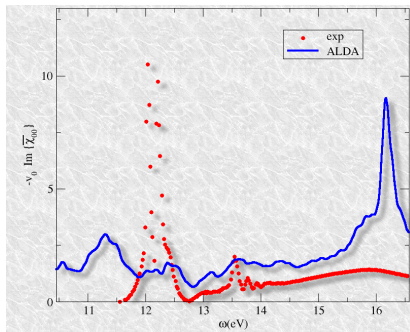
Exp. M. Cazzaniga, et al, PRB 84 (2011);
Theo: M. Panholzer et al, PRL 120 (2018).

f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

M. Marques *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **115** (2001) - SiH₄: V_{xc} vs. f_{xc}

f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

Bulk silicon: absorption

f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

Solid argon: absorption

f_{xc} kernel: TDLDA

Summary

TDLDA:

- YES for EELS of solids and absorption of finite systems
- NO for absorption of solids

What is missing?