

# GW in practice: Implementation, Approximations, and Numerical Workflows

Daniele Varsano

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# Outline:

Why GW approximations

The quasi particle equation and GW approximations

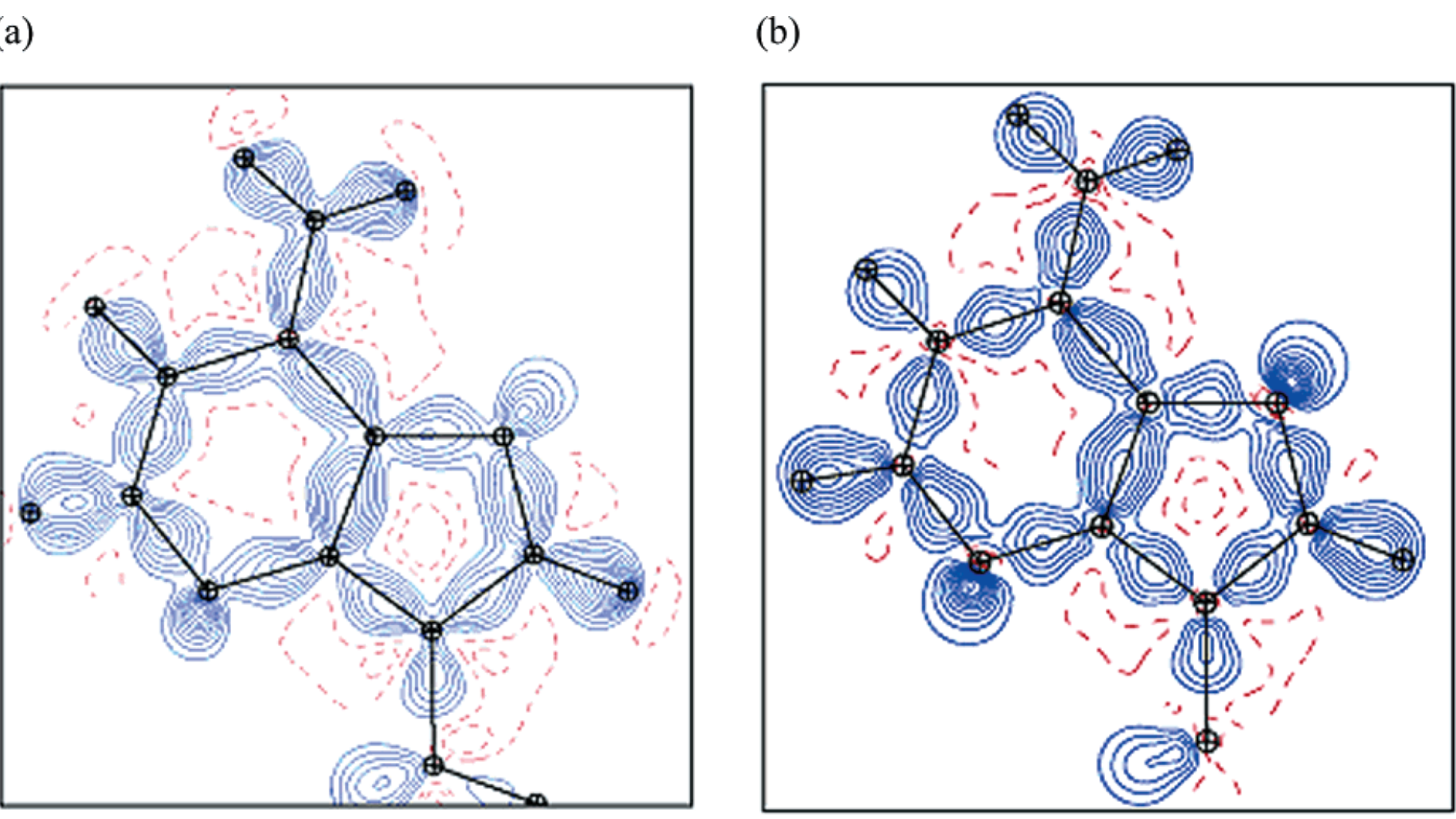
GW in practical calculations: common approximations and best practices

The Yambo code

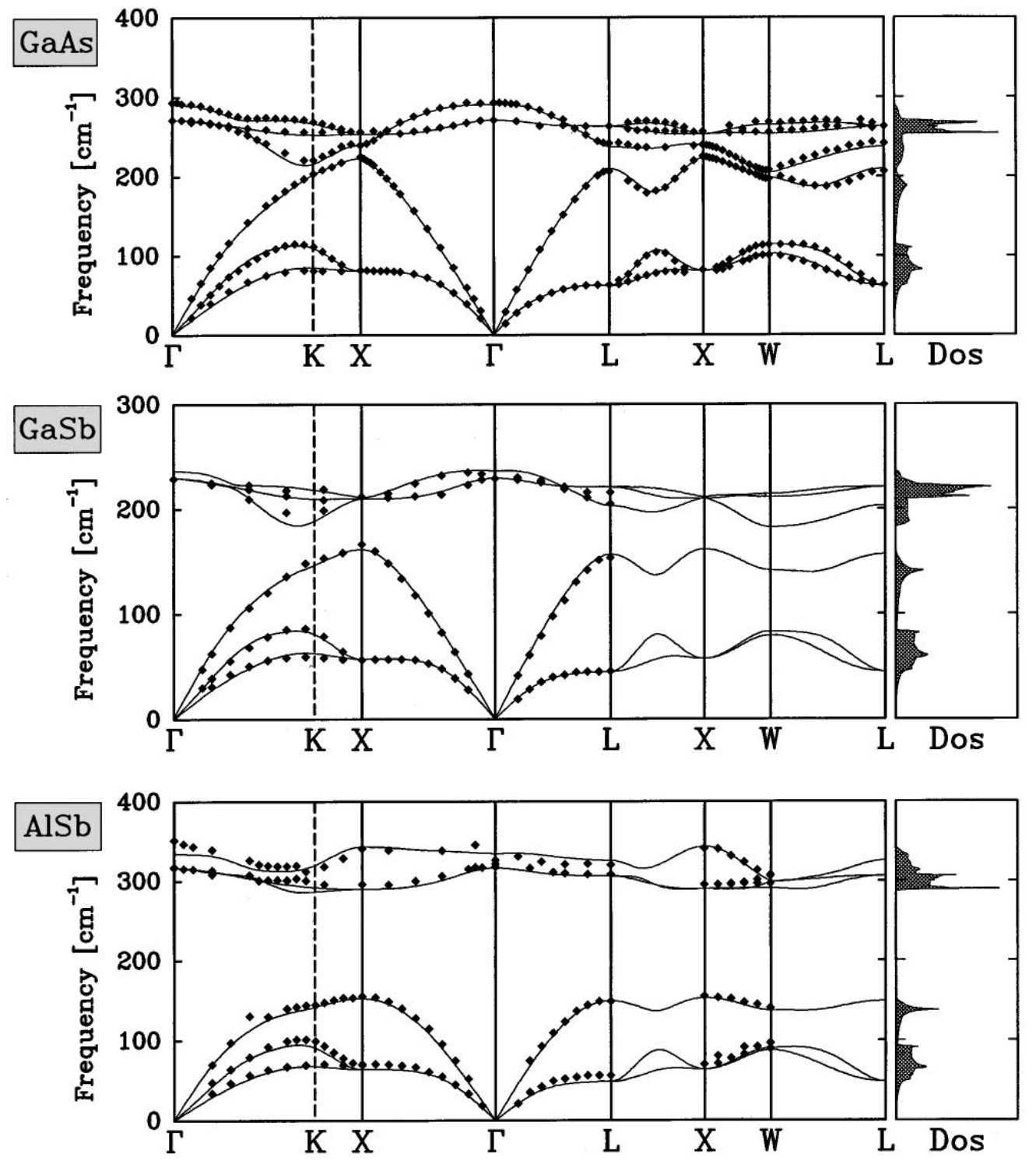
Conclusions and take home messages

# Success of Density Functional Theory

from X ray experiment      DFT calculation (PBE)

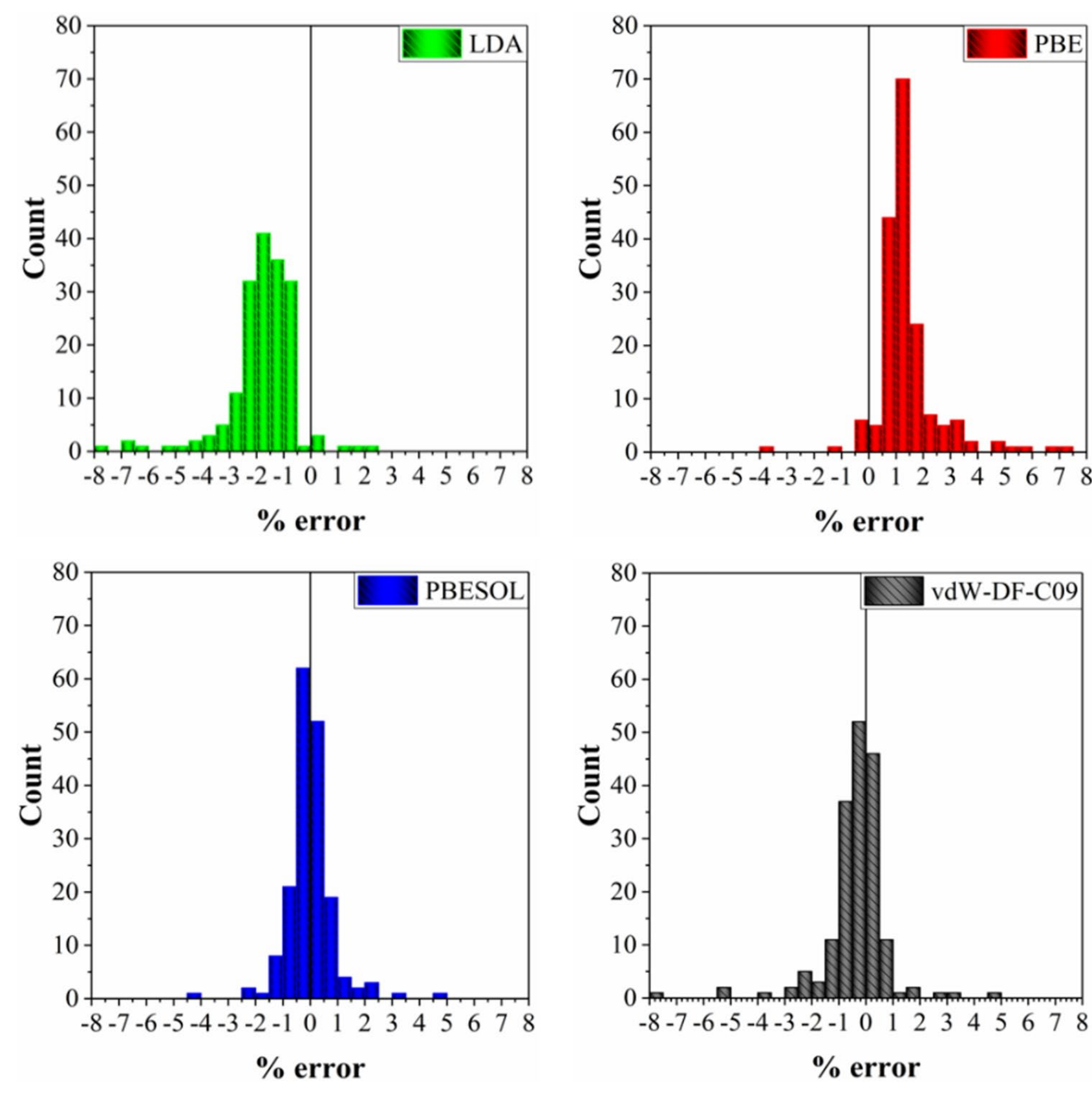


B. Guillot et al. J. Phys. Chem. B 107, 9109 ( 2003)



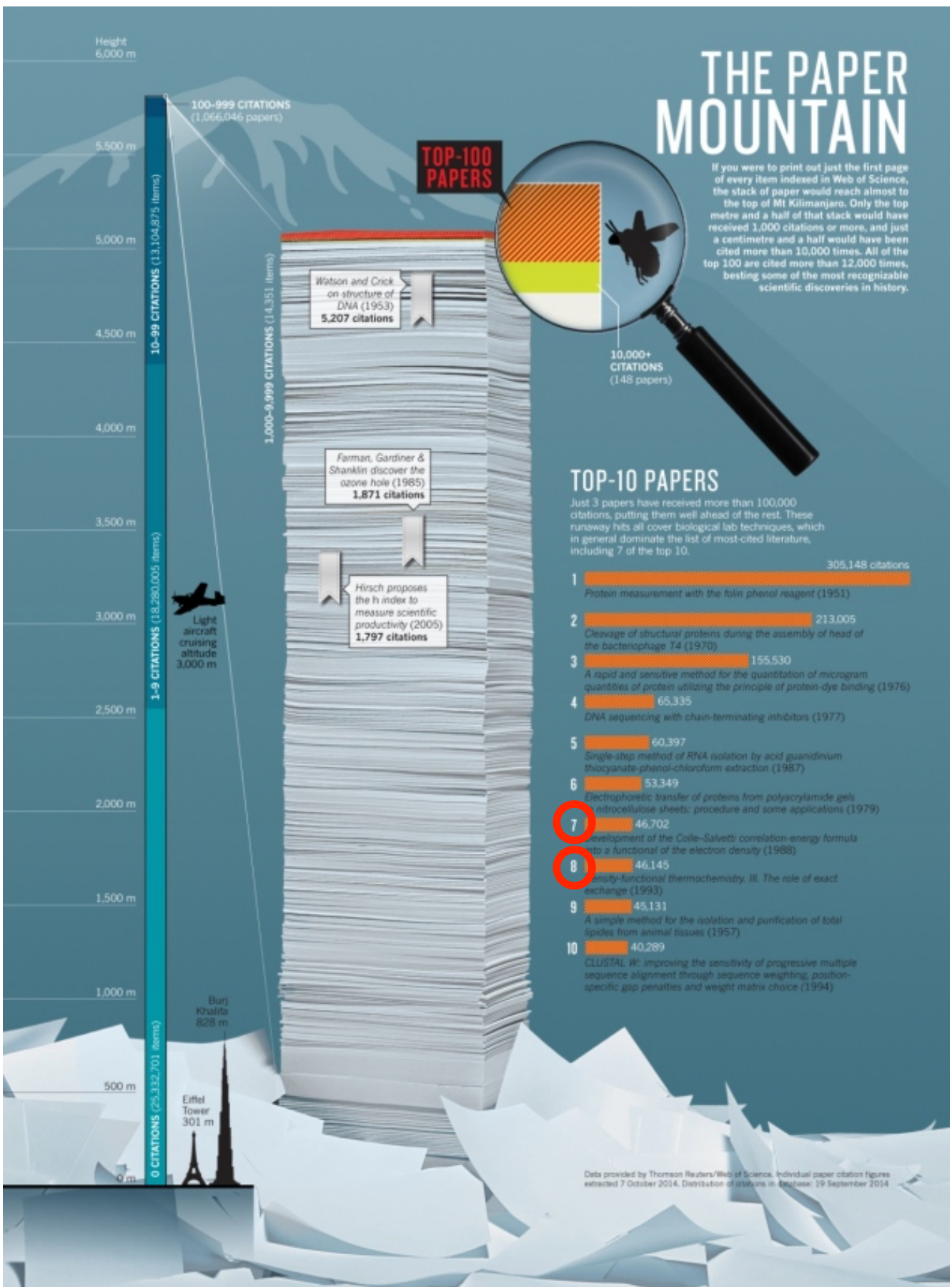
Giannozzi, P., S. de Gironcoli, P. Pavone, and S. Baroni, Phys. Rev. B 43, 7231 (1991)

## 141 binary and ternary oxides Optimised Lattice Constants



Yuk, Simuck F., et al. Scientific Reports 14. 20219 (2024)  
see also: P. Haas et al. Phys. Rev, B. **79**, 085104 (2009)

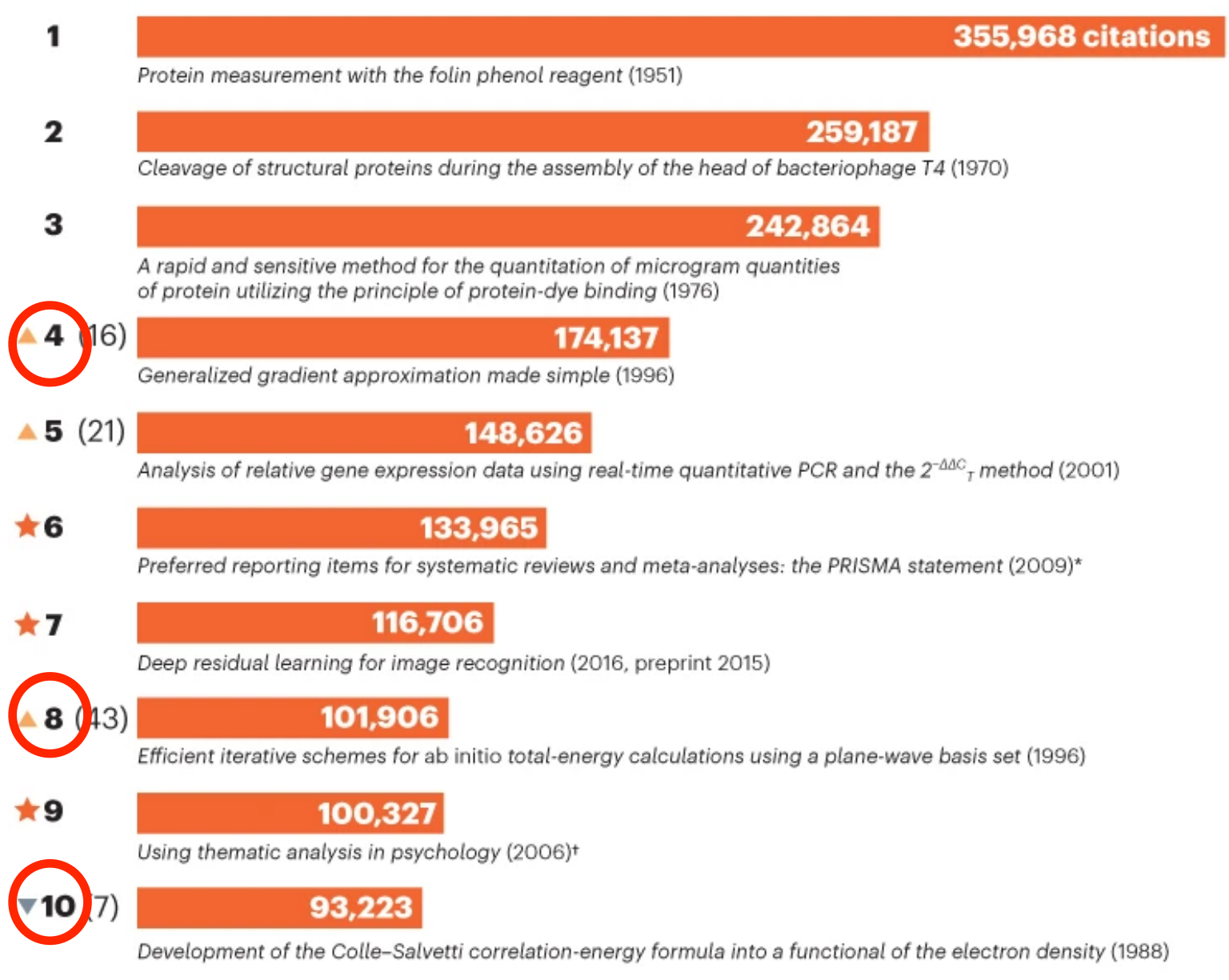
# Impact of Density Functional Theory



Nature News 514, 550 (2014)

**TOP TEN CITED PAPERS**

Just 3 papers have more than 200,000 citations each, according to the Web of Science database. All three cover biological laboratory techniques. This update to a 2014 list of most-cited articles shows that the top three papers remain unchanged. But there have been shifts in the positions of others (triangles), and some additions that were not on the previous list (orange stars). For alternative rankings from two other databases, and a median ranking across all three, see Supplementary information ([go.nature.com/425g9dn](http://go.nature.com/425g9dn)).

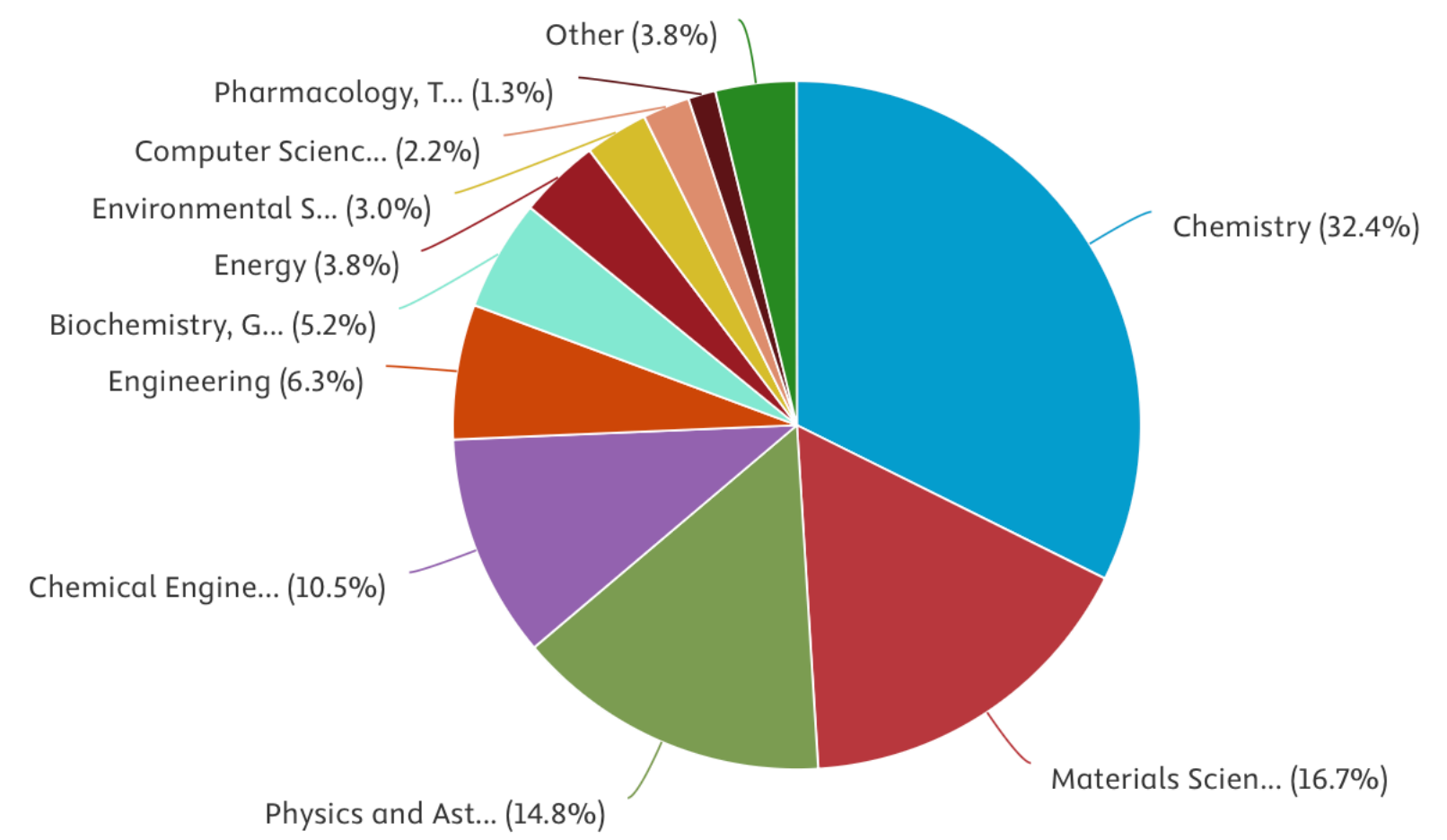
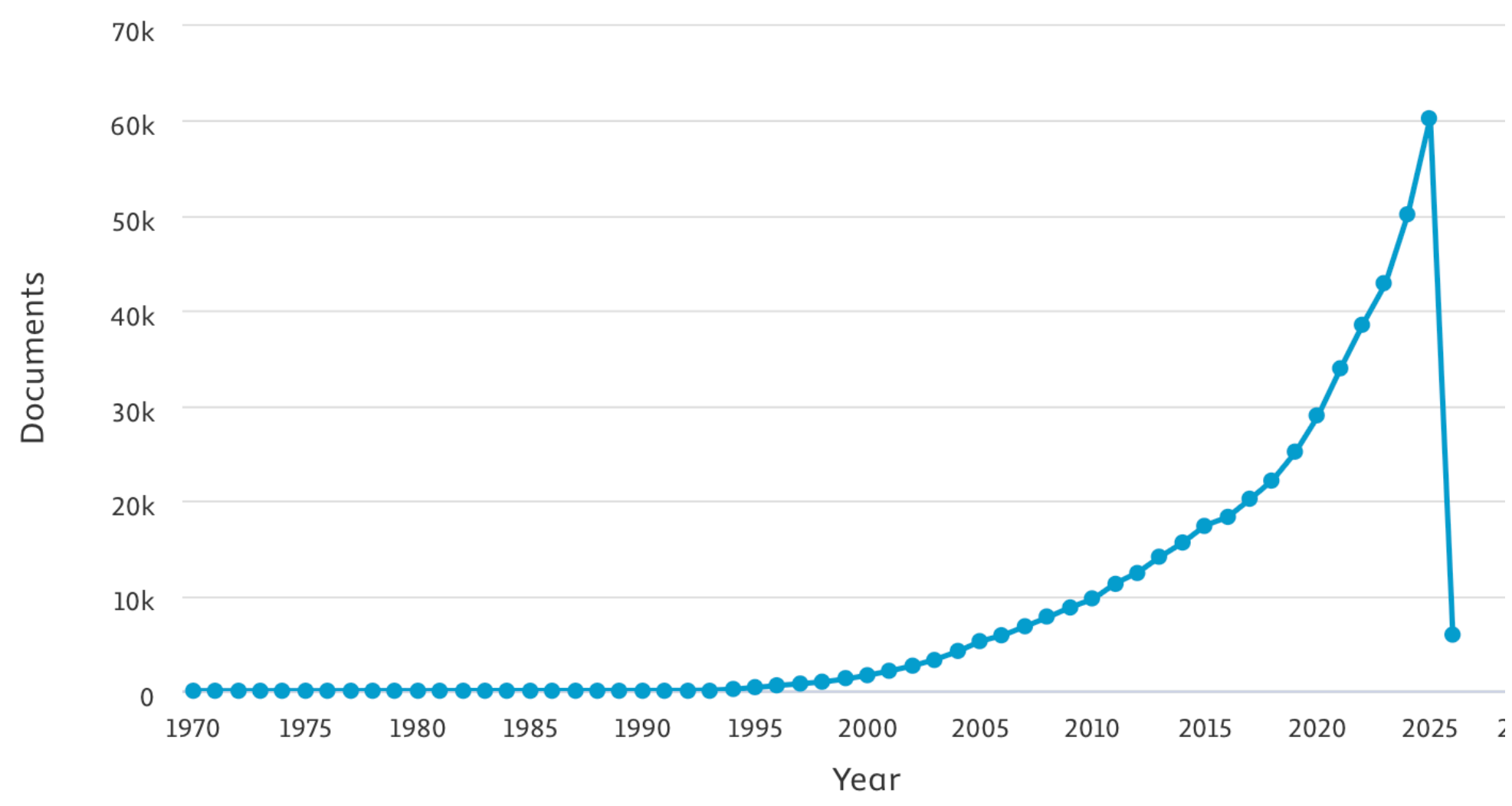


Nature 640, 591 (2025)

Data show citations from Web of Science 'Core Collection' journals as of March 2025, to permit comparison with 2014 list (*Nature* 514, 550-553; 2014). Orders would change if citation metrics from other databases were included (see Supplementary information).  
 \*Paper was published in multiple journals simultaneously. This total aggregates citations to all journal versions.  
 †Corrected for data error in Web of Science, which lists a different paper by the same authors.

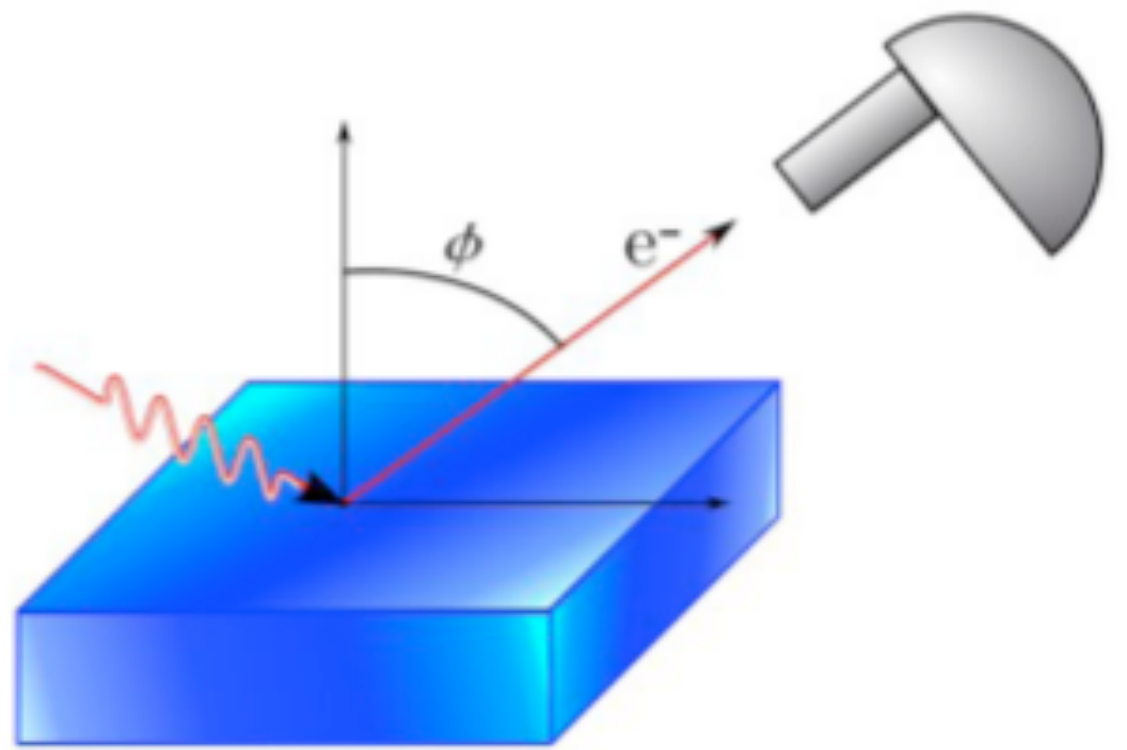


## Documents by year



• Scopus: "DFT" AND "Calculation" Jan. 2026

# Excited states of Materials: Direct Photoemission

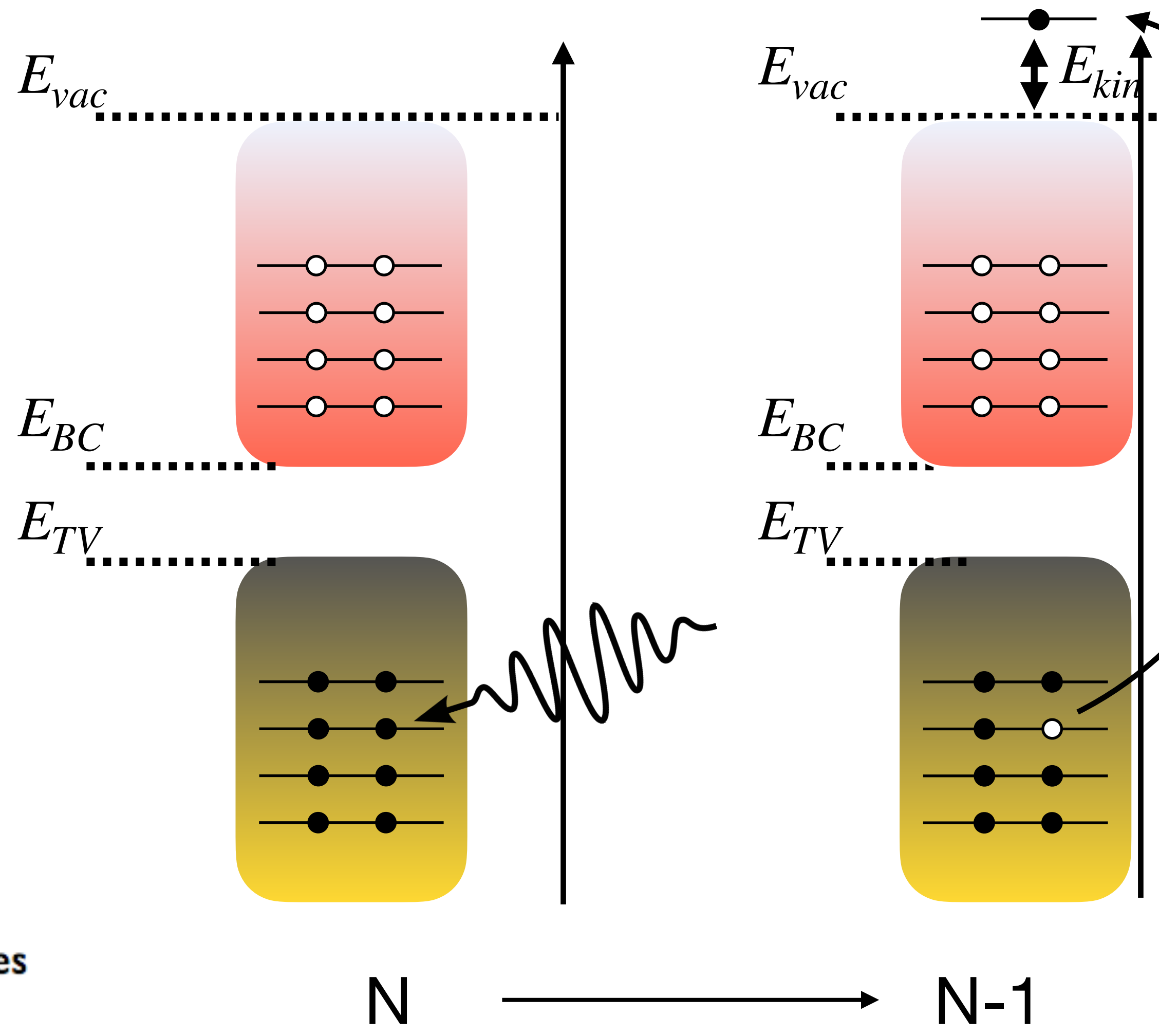


$$E(N) + h\nu = E(N-1) + [\Phi_W + E_{kin}]$$

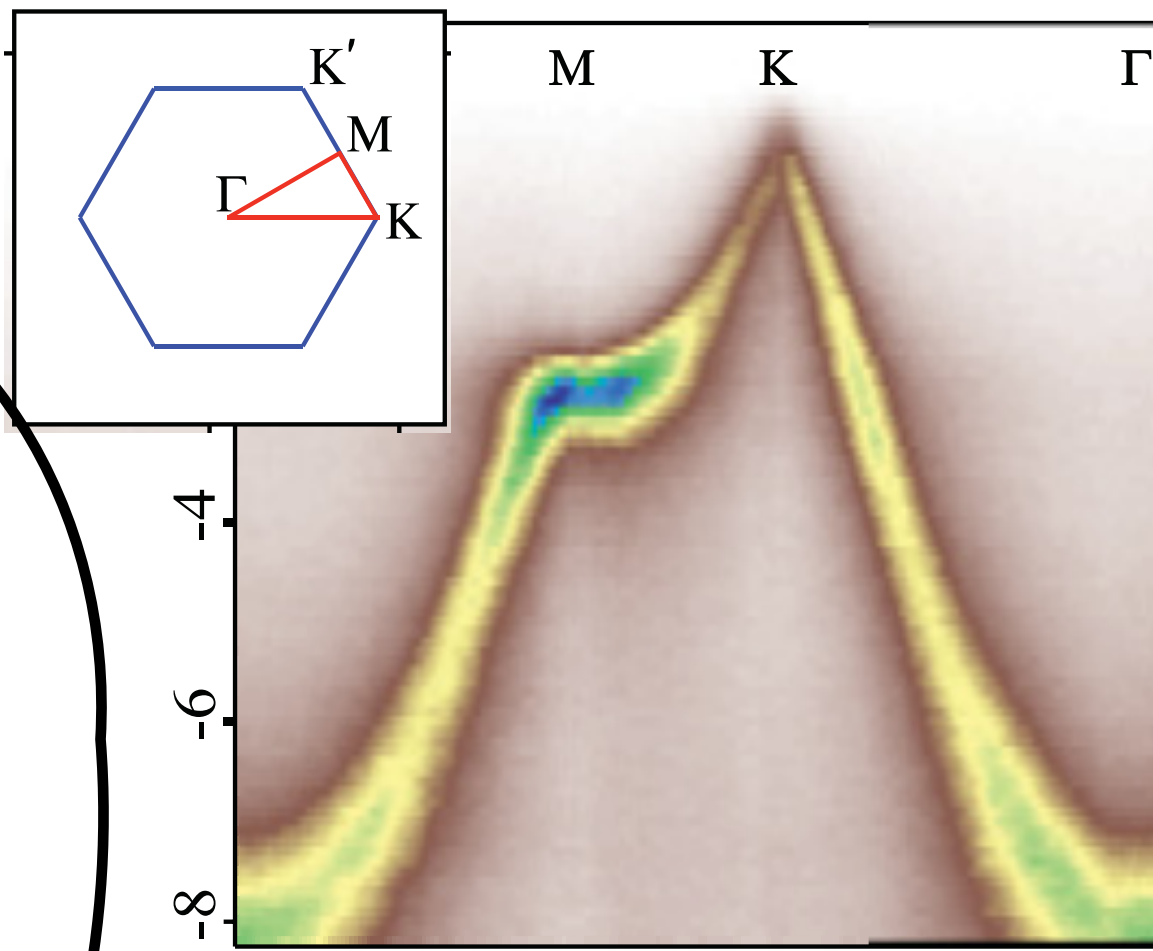
$$E(N) - E(N-1) = [\Phi_W + E_{kin}] - h\nu$$

...plus momentum conservation  $\Rightarrow$  ARPES

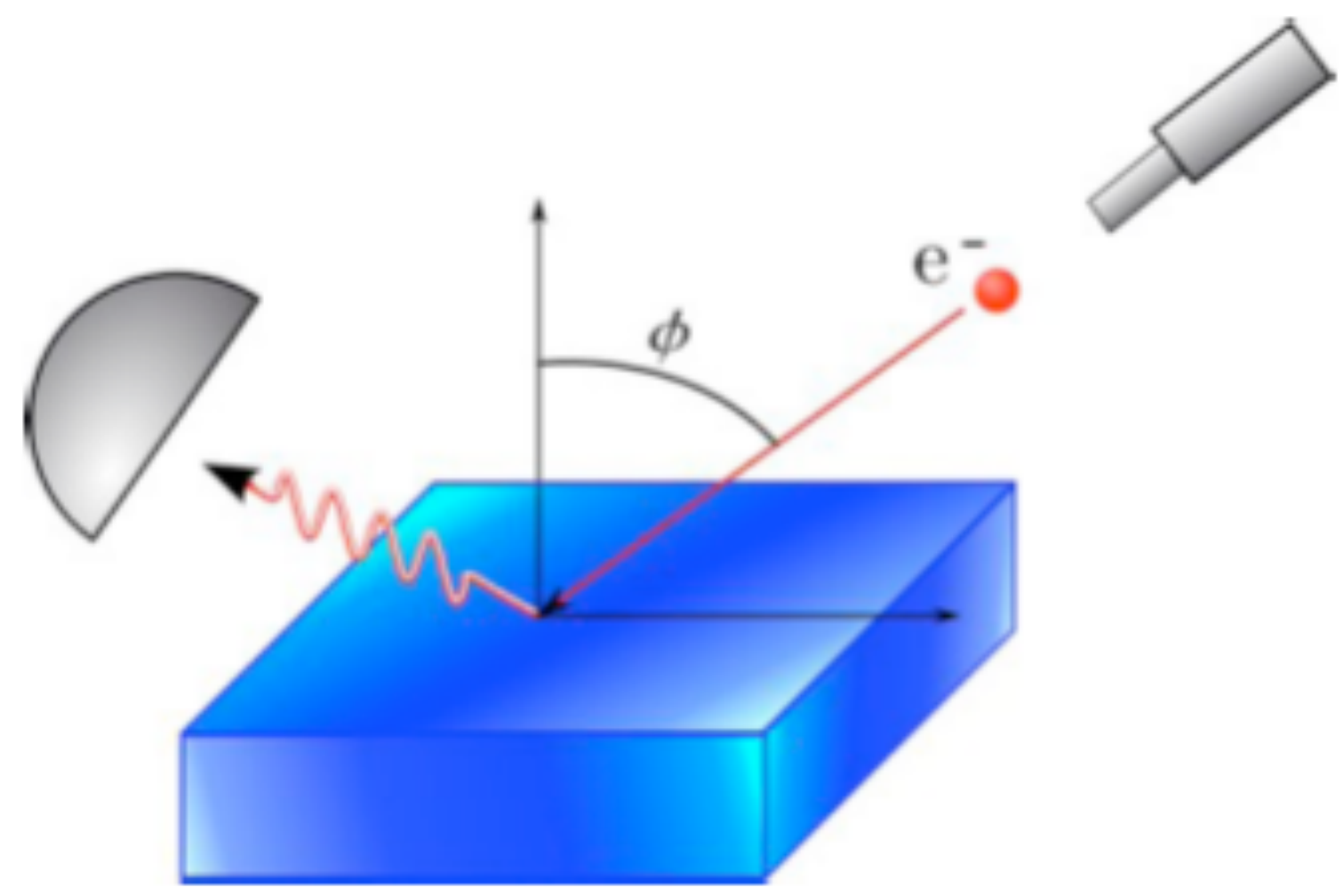
Measure the density of occupied states



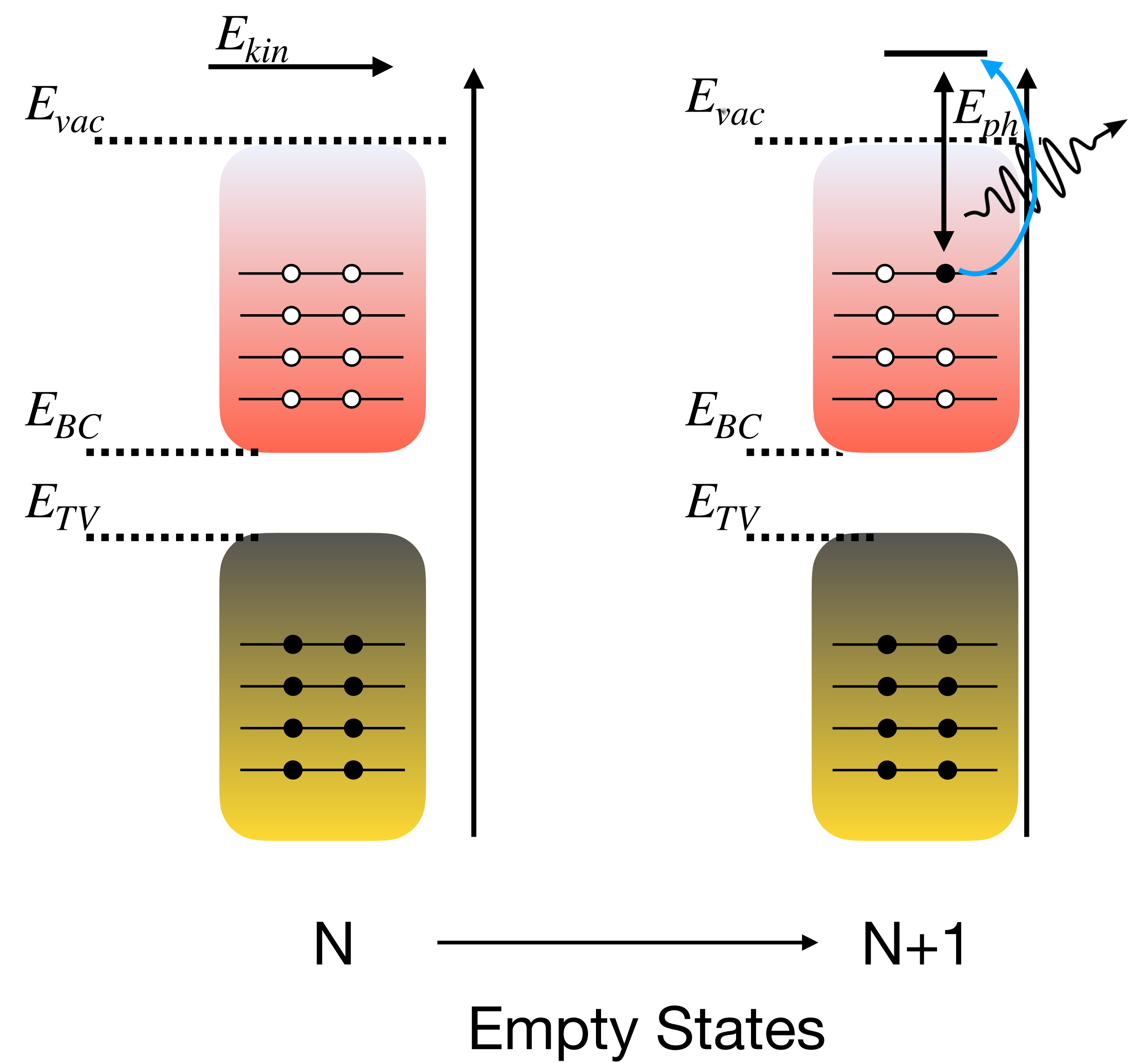
Occupied States



# Excited states of Materials: Inverse Photoemission



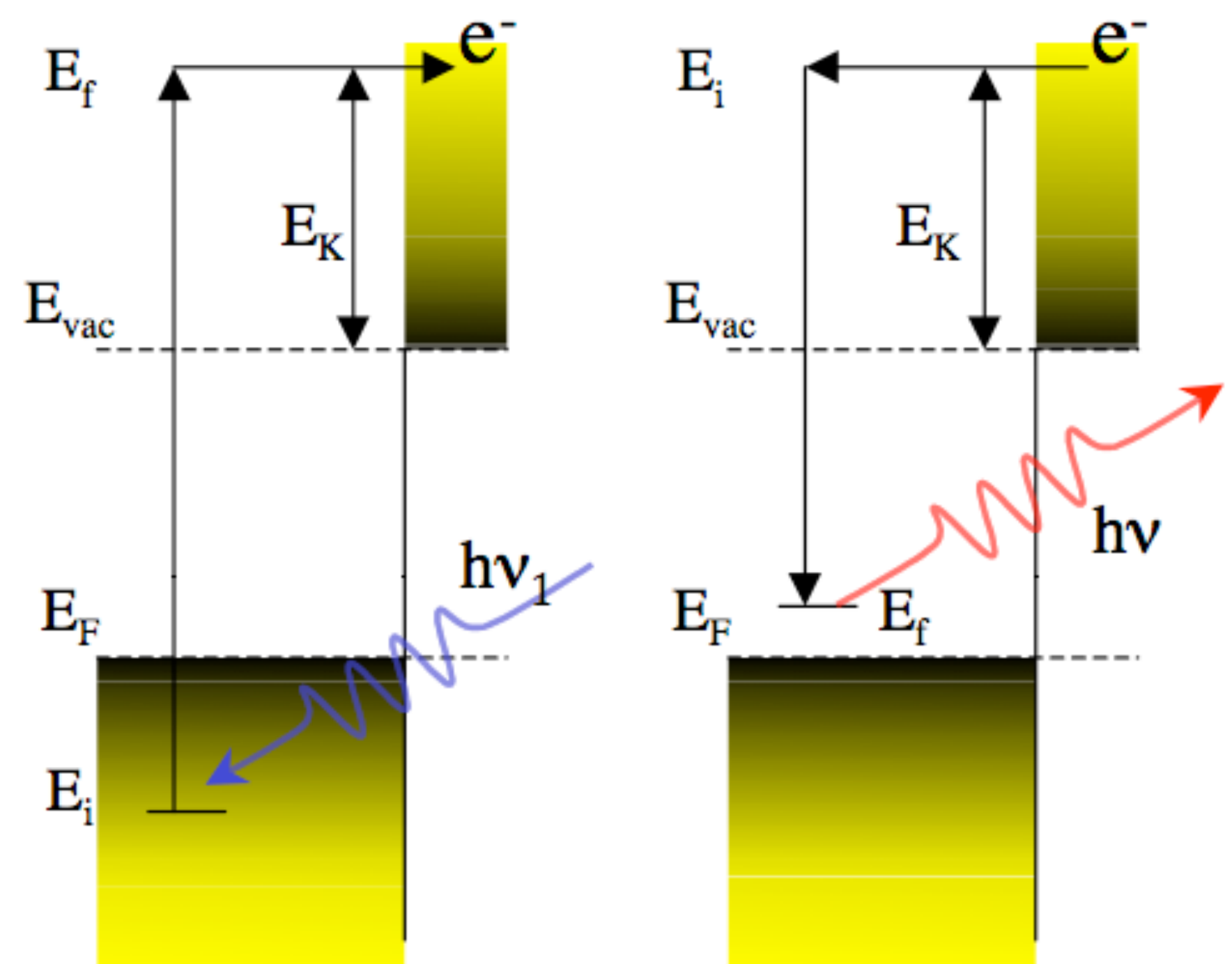
electron in - photon out



$$E(N + 1) - E(N) = E_k + h\nu$$

Measure the density of unoccupied states

# Excited states of Materials: The Band Gap



Picture from J. Osma Peso PhD Thesis

## Direct photoemission

$$\epsilon_i = E_{kin} - \hbar\omega$$

$$\epsilon_i = E_0^N - E_i^{N-1}$$

Total energy difference between the N-particle ground state and the (N-1) particle state that remains after the emission

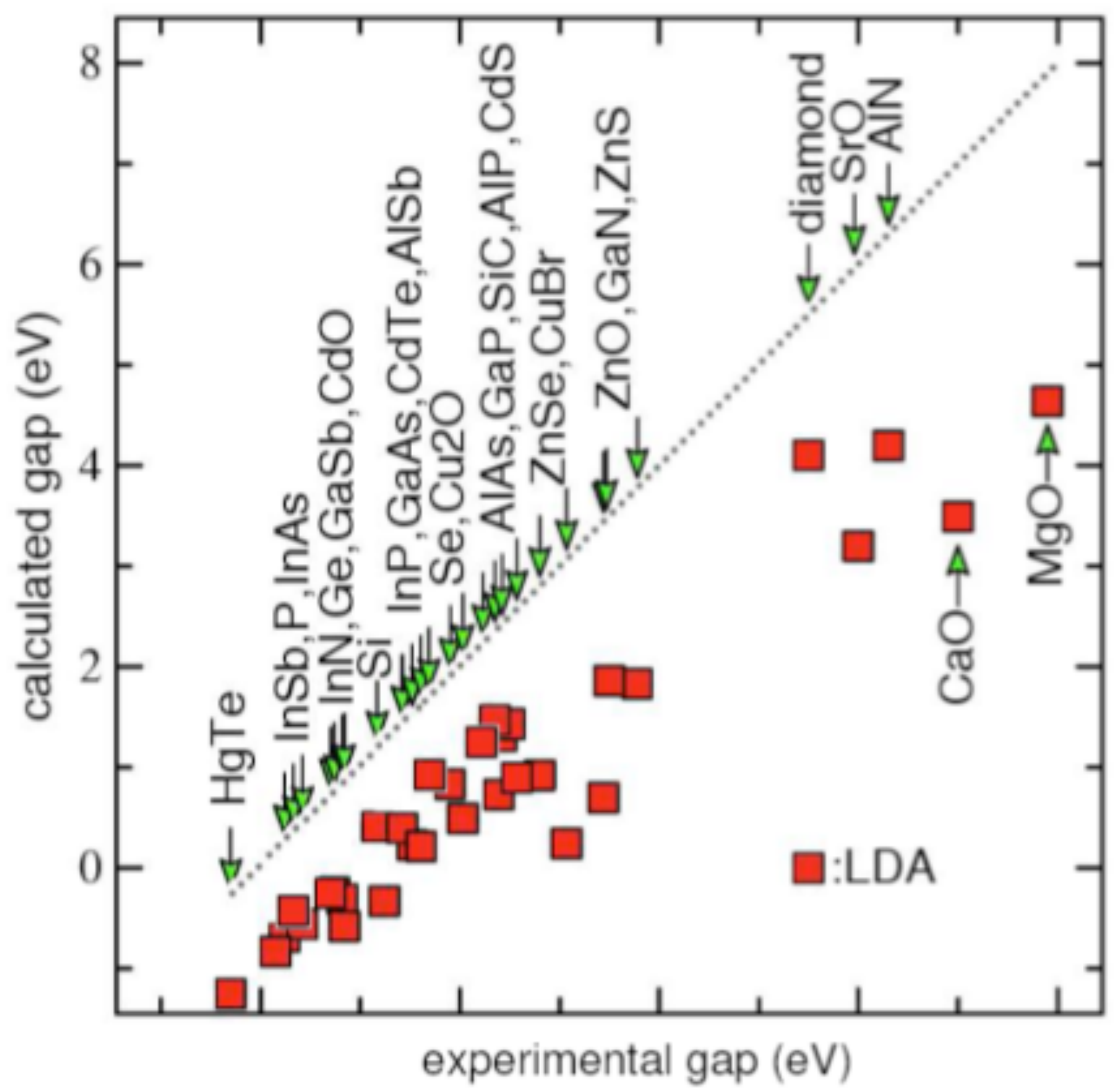
## Inverse photoemission

$$\epsilon_i = E_i^{N+1} - E_0^N$$

The ejection (removal) of an electron is a many-body process

$$E_{gap} = \underbrace{(E_{N+1} - E_N)}_{\text{electron affinity}} - \underbrace{(E_N - E_{N-1})}_{\text{ionization potential}}$$

# Excited states of Materials: The Band Gap Problem



**Si: 0.47 eV (LDA) vs 1.1 eV (expt)**

**GaAs: 0.30 eV (LDA) vs 1.4 eV (expt)**

Huge discrepancy not due to the LDA

Adapted from M. van Schilfgaarde et al. PRL **96** (2006)

# Excited states of Materials: The Band Gap Problem

Can we calculate the QP gap directly using **total energies** from DFT-LDA?

$$E_{gap} = \underbrace{(E_{N+1} - E_N)}_{\text{electron affinity}} - \underbrace{(E_N - E_{N-1})}_{\text{ionization potential}}$$

$$E_{Gap} = \underbrace{\epsilon_{N+1}^N - \epsilon_N^N}_{\text{Kohn-Sham gap}} + \sum_i^{N+1} \Delta\epsilon^L + \sum_i^{N-1} \Delta\epsilon^H - E_{Har}[\Delta\rho^L] - E_{Har}[\Delta\rho^H] + \int V_{Har}^N(\mathbf{r})(\Delta\rho^H(\mathbf{r}) - \Delta\rho^L(\mathbf{r}))d\mathbf{r}$$

**Kohn-Sham gap**

$$+ E_{xc}[\rho^{N+1}] + E_{xc}[\rho^{N-1}] - 2E_{xc}[\rho^N] - \int V_{XC}^{N+1}(\mathbf{r})\rho^{N+1}(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r} - \int V_{XC}^{N-1}(\mathbf{r})\rho^{N-1}(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r} + 2 \int V_{XC}^N(\mathbf{r})\rho^N(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r}$$

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electron affinity      ionization potential

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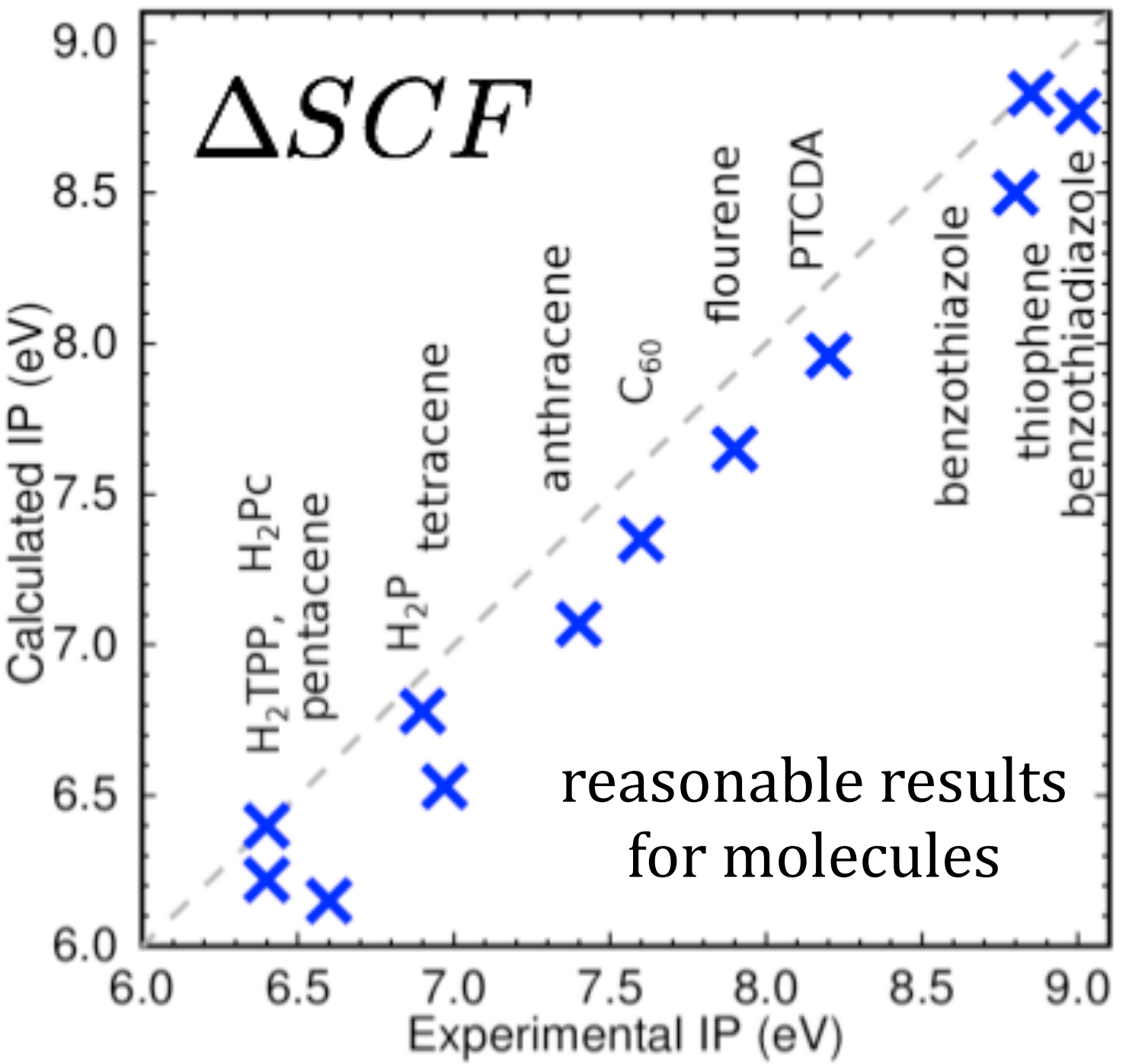
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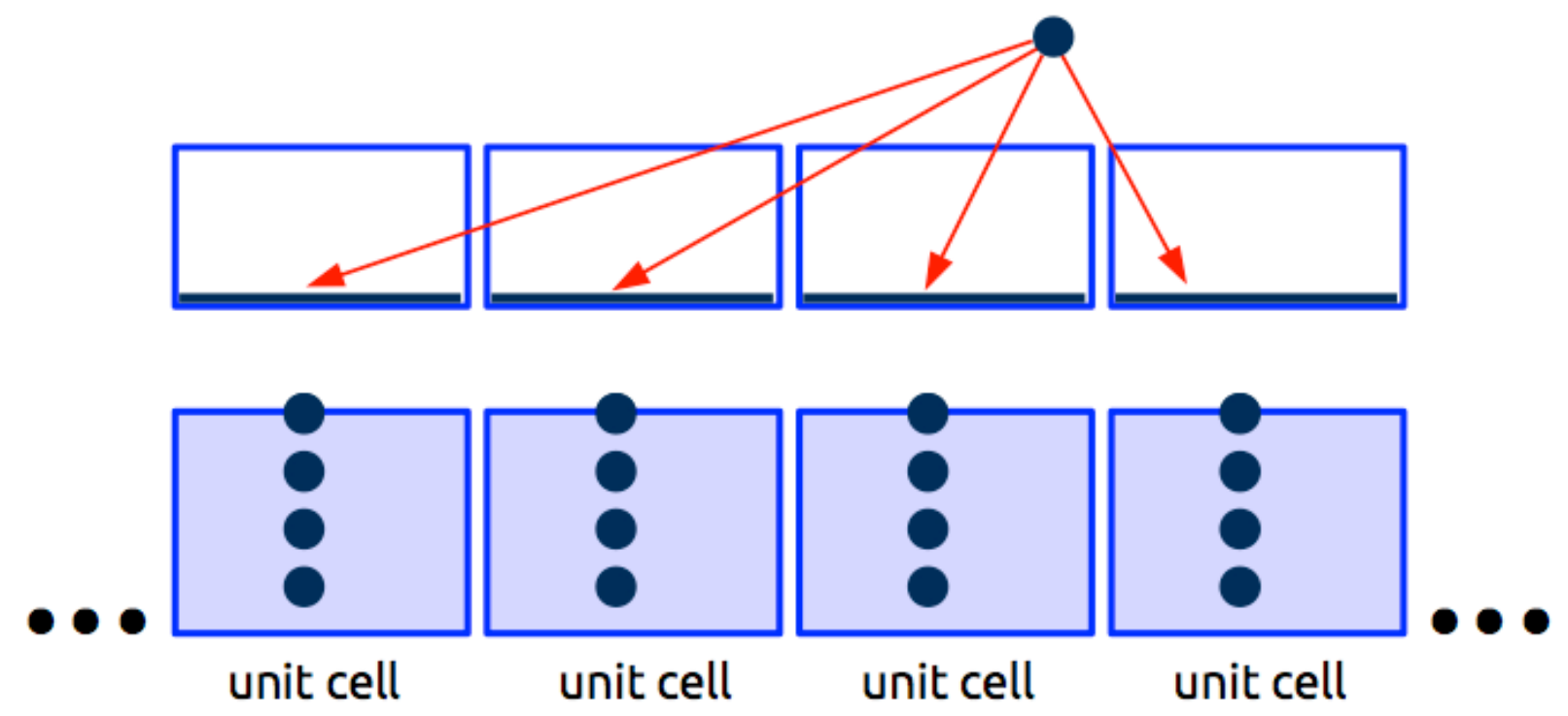
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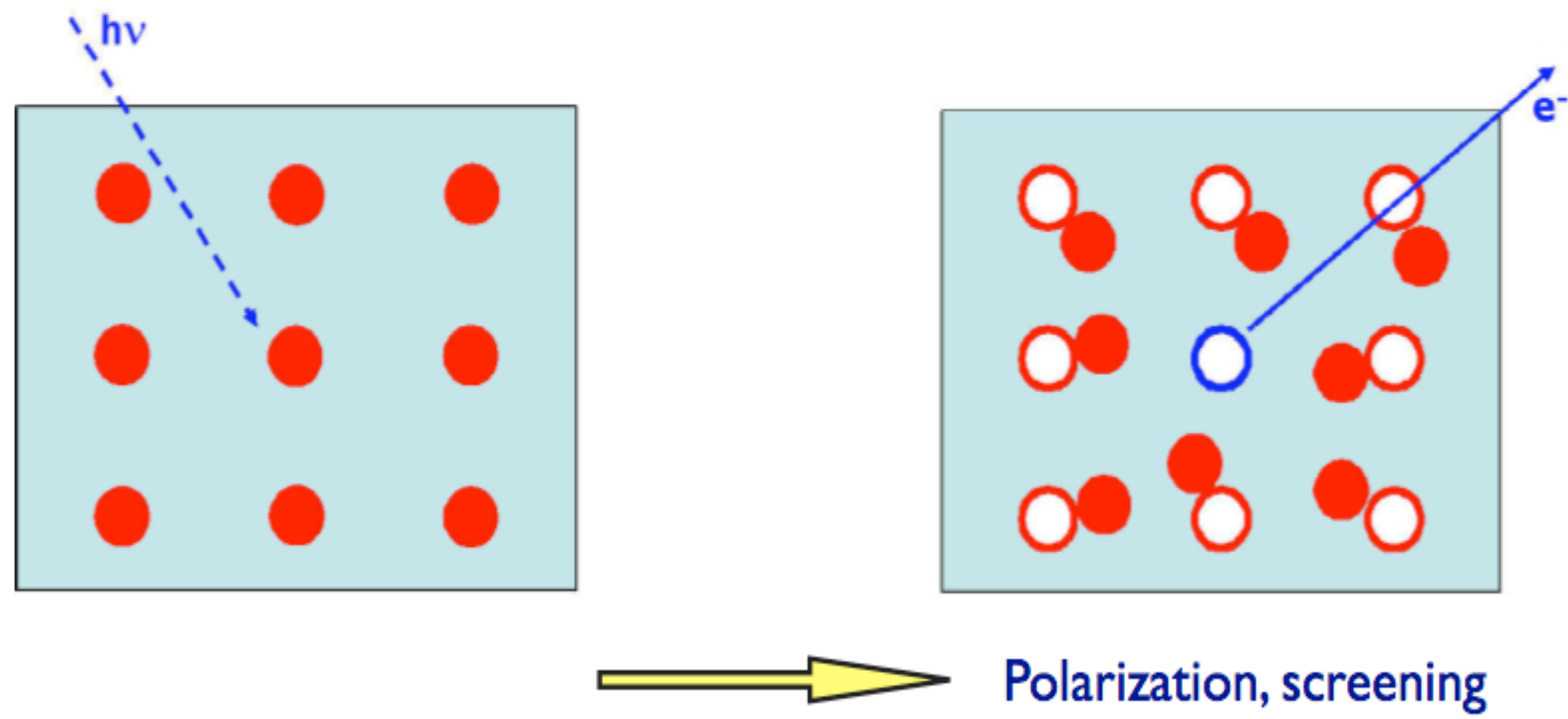


What about **periodic solids** ?



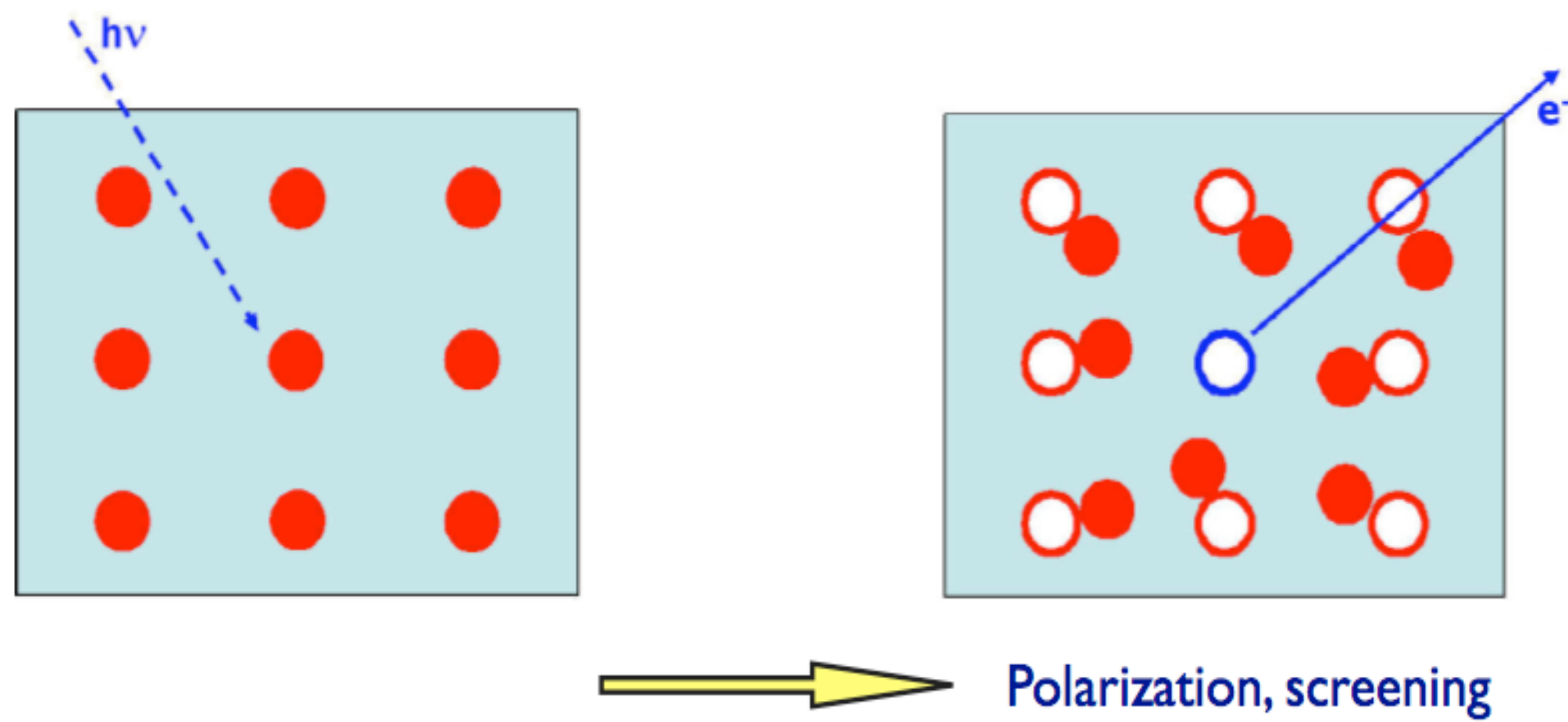
Infinitesimal extra charge per cell

# The Green Function



Theoretical description for describing the ejection or injection of electrons requires a framework that links the  $N$ -particle with the  $(N \pm 1)$ particle system

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Theoretical description for describing the ejection or injection of electrons requires a framework that links the  $N$ -particle with the  $(N \pm 1)$ particle system

$$G(\mathbf{r}_1 t_1, \mathbf{r}_2 t_2) = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \langle \Psi_0^N | \hat{T}[\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}_1 t_1) \hat{\psi}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}_2 t_2)] | \Psi_0^N \rangle$$

**Green Function has poles at the true many-particle excitation energies**

$$G(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \omega) = \sum_j \frac{f_j(\mathbf{r}_1) f_j^*(\mathbf{r}_2)}{\omega - \epsilon_j + i\eta \operatorname{sgn}(\epsilon_j - \mu)}$$

In principle provides access to:  
excitation lifetime

total energy

expectation value of one-particle operator

$$\epsilon_j = \begin{cases} E(N+1, j) - E(N) & \epsilon_j > \mu \\ E(N) - E(N-1, j) & \epsilon_j < \mu \end{cases} \quad f_j(\mathbf{r}_1) = \begin{cases} \langle \Psi_0^N | \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}_1) | \Psi_j^{N+1} \rangle & \epsilon_j > \mu \\ \langle \Psi_j^{N-1} | \hat{\psi}(\mathbf{r}_1) | \Psi_0^N \rangle & \epsilon_j < \mu \end{cases}$$

# The Green Function

## How to obtain $G$ ?

Perturbation theory starts from what is known to evaluate what is not known ...hoping that the difference is small

We start from a known  $G_0(\omega)$  that correspond of the Hamiltonian  $H_0$  (e.g. non interacting electrons) and consider the Hamiltonian  $H = H_0 + H_1$ , where the interaction is in  $H_1$

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Everything that is unknown is put in

$$\Sigma(\omega) = G_0^{-1}(\omega) - G^{-1}(\omega)$$

This is the definition of the Self Energy

# The Quasiparticle Equation

$$[\omega - \hat{H}_0]G(\omega) + i \int \Sigma(\omega)G(\omega) = 1$$

Let's suppose we know the Self Energy

and consider  $G_0$  the Green function of a single particle Hamiltonian

$$H_0 = -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} + V_{ext} + \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \int \frac{n(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d^3\mathbf{r}'$$

Introducing the Lehmann representation for  $G$ :

## QP Equation

$$\hat{H}_0(\mathbf{r})f_s(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \epsilon_s)f_s(\mathbf{r}')d^3\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_s f_s(\mathbf{r})$$

## KS Equation

$$\hat{H}_0(r)\psi_{ks}(r) + V_{xc}(r)\psi_{ks}(r) = \epsilon_{ks}\psi_{ks}(r)$$

$\Sigma$  contains the many body effects as  $V_{xc}$

$\Sigma$  is not Hermitian, non-local and frequency dependent

$V_{xc}$  is local and not frequency dependent

$\Sigma$  is the potential self by and added (removed) electron to (from) the system

$V_{xc}$  is part of the potential of a fictitious system

$f_s$  are not orthonormal

$\epsilon_s$  are in general complex

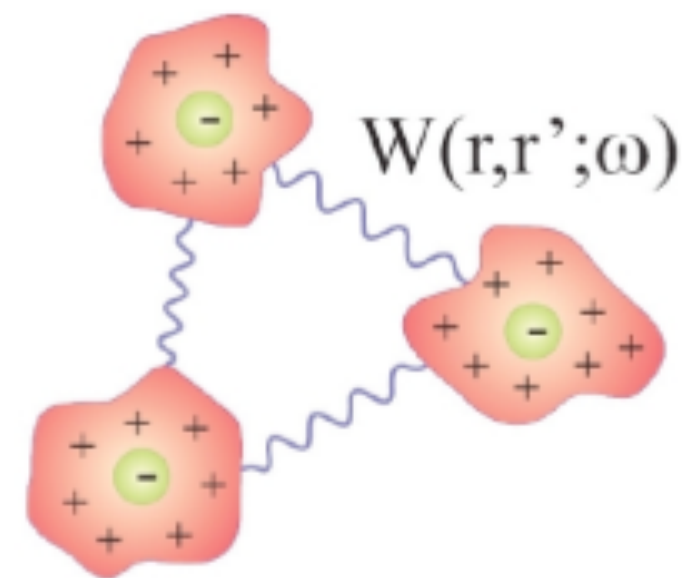
# The Quasiparticle Equation

QP equation describes the excitations of the Many-Body system

$$\hat{H}_0(\mathbf{r})f_s(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \epsilon_s)f_s(\mathbf{r}')d^3\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_s f_s(\mathbf{r})$$

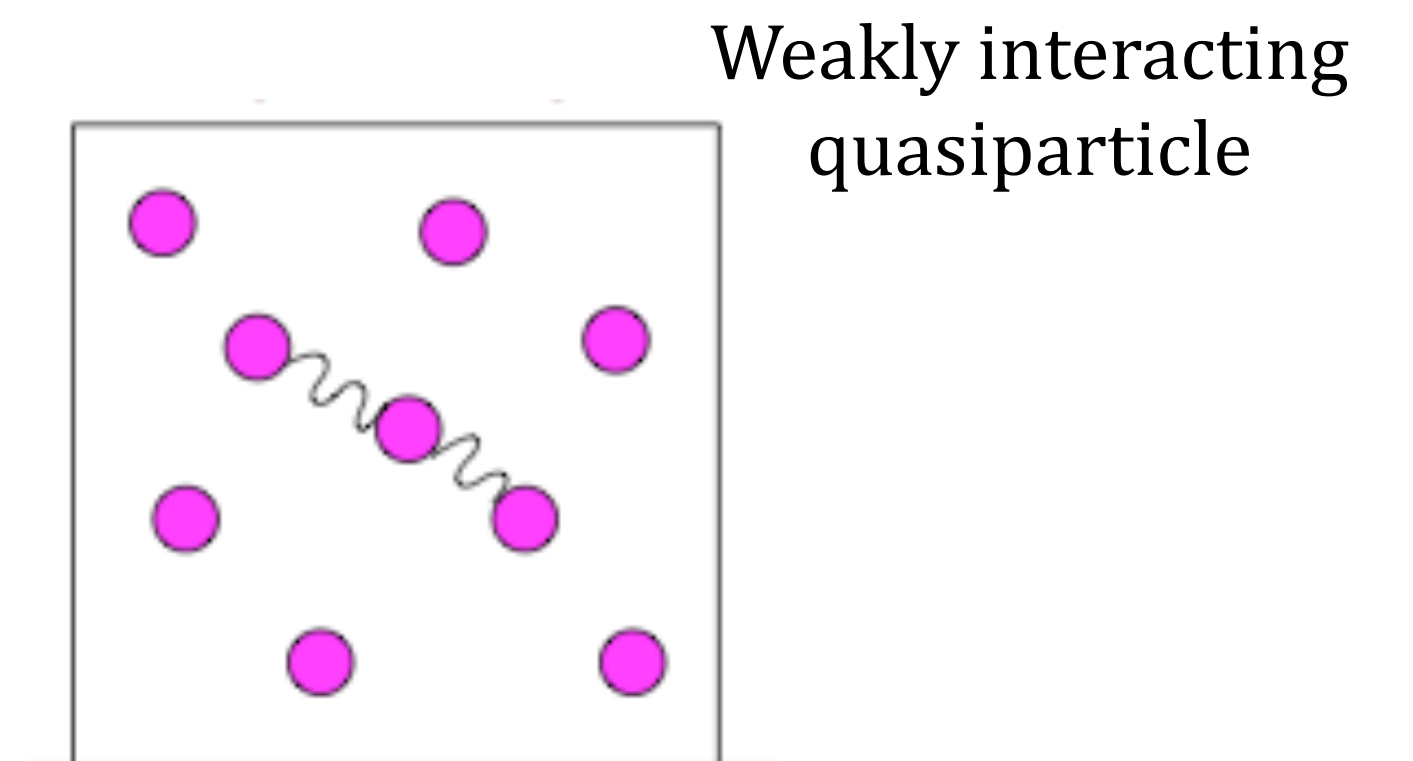
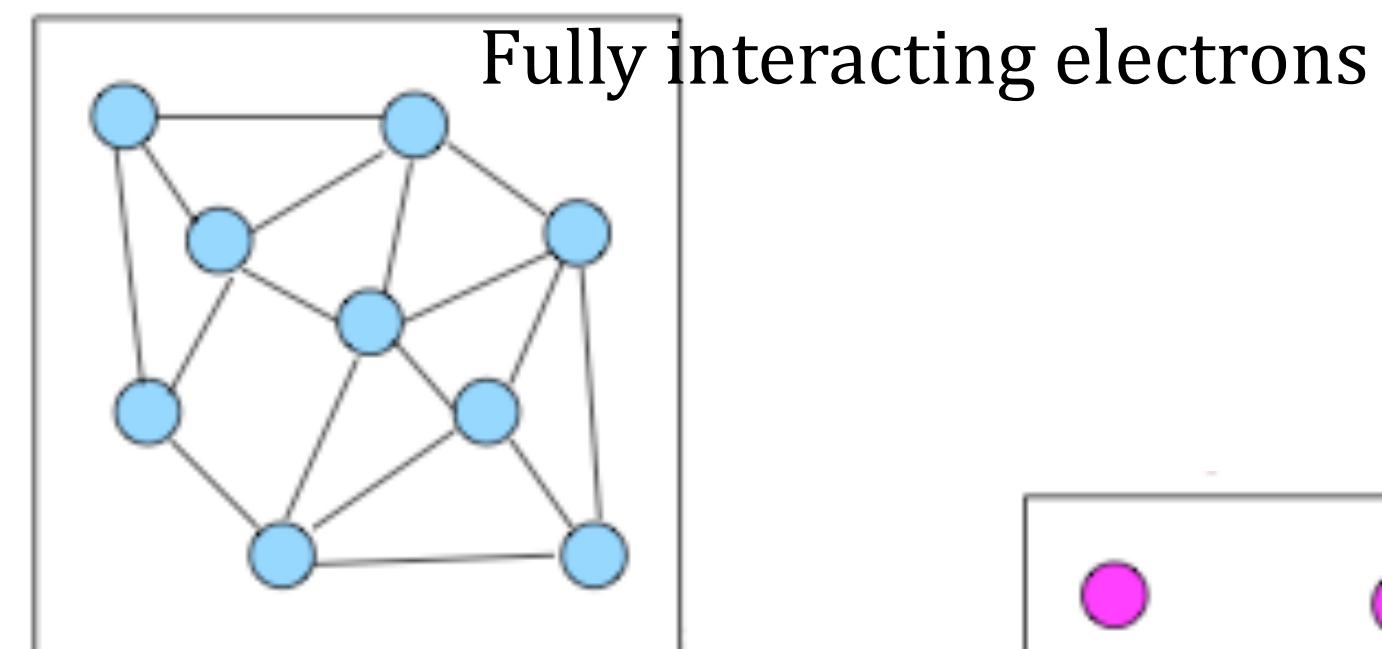
We have to know how is made the operator  $\Sigma$

As a perturbation we do not consider the interaction  $V$ , but the screened Coulomb  $W$  that has reduced strength



$W$  = screened potential:  
weaker than bare Coulomb interaction

$$W(r, r', \omega) = \int dr'' \frac{\epsilon^{-1}(r, r'', \omega)}{|r'' - r'|}$$



## Hedin's equation:

Set of integro-differential equations, whose self-consistent solution solves the many-electron problem

$$P(12) = -i \int d(34) G(13) G(41^+) \Gamma(34, 2)$$

$$W(12) = V(12) + \int d(34) W(13) P(34) V(4, 2)$$

$$\Sigma(12) = i \int d(34) G(14) W(1^+3) \Gamma(42, 3)$$

$$G(12) = G^0(12) + \int d(34) G^0(13) \Sigma(34) G(42)$$

$$\Gamma(12, 3) = \delta(12)\delta(13) + \int d(4567) \frac{\partial \Sigma(12)}{\partial G(45)} G(46) G(75) \Gamma(67, 3)$$

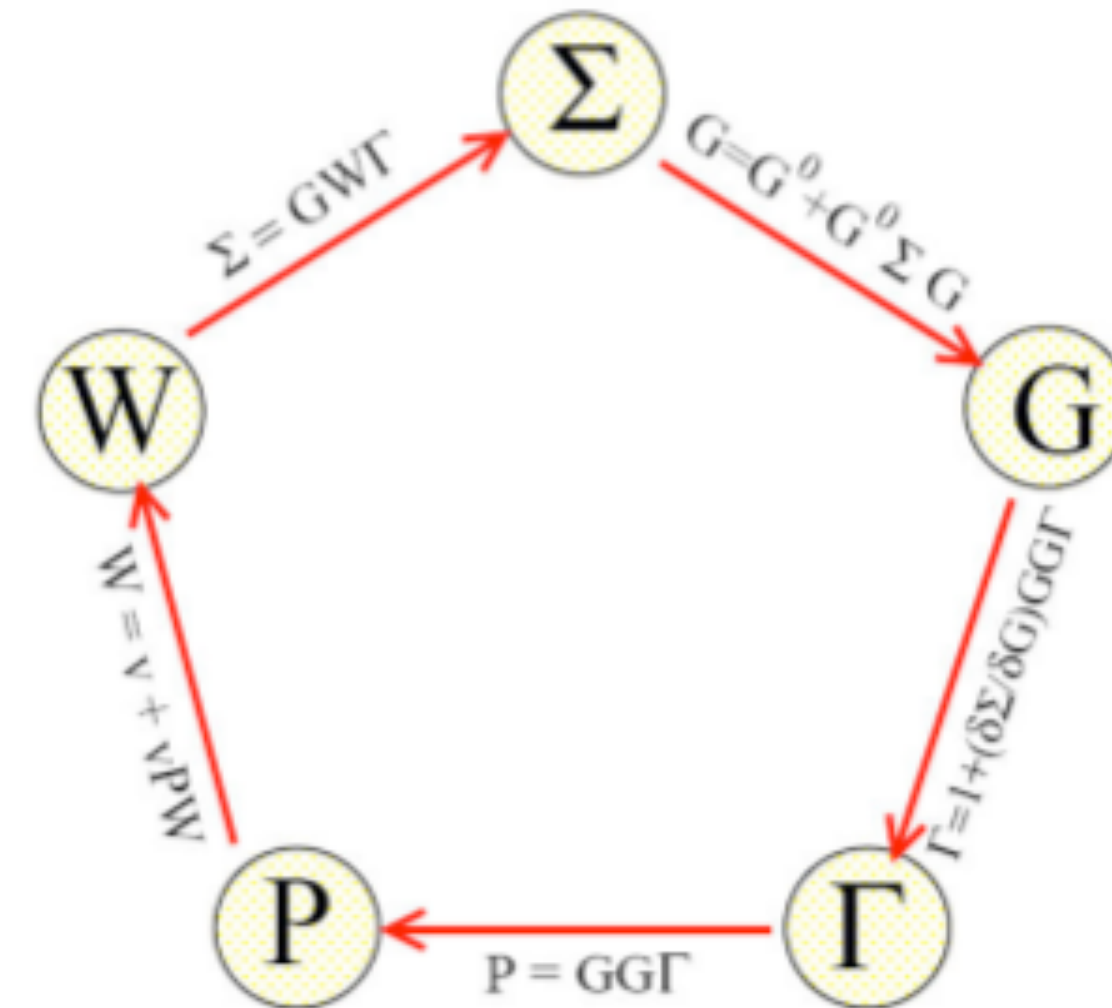
L. Hedin, Phys Rev. 139, A 769 (1965)

# Hedin's equation: the GW approximation

How to obtain the Self energy: Iteration of Hedin's Equations and GW

They cannot be solved numerically as they contain functional derivatives, but they can be iterated to derive useful approximations

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma &= iGW\Gamma \\ G &= G_0 + G_0\Sigma G \\ \Gamma &= 1 + \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial G}GG\Gamma \\ P &= -iGG\Gamma \\ W &= v + vPW\end{aligned}$$

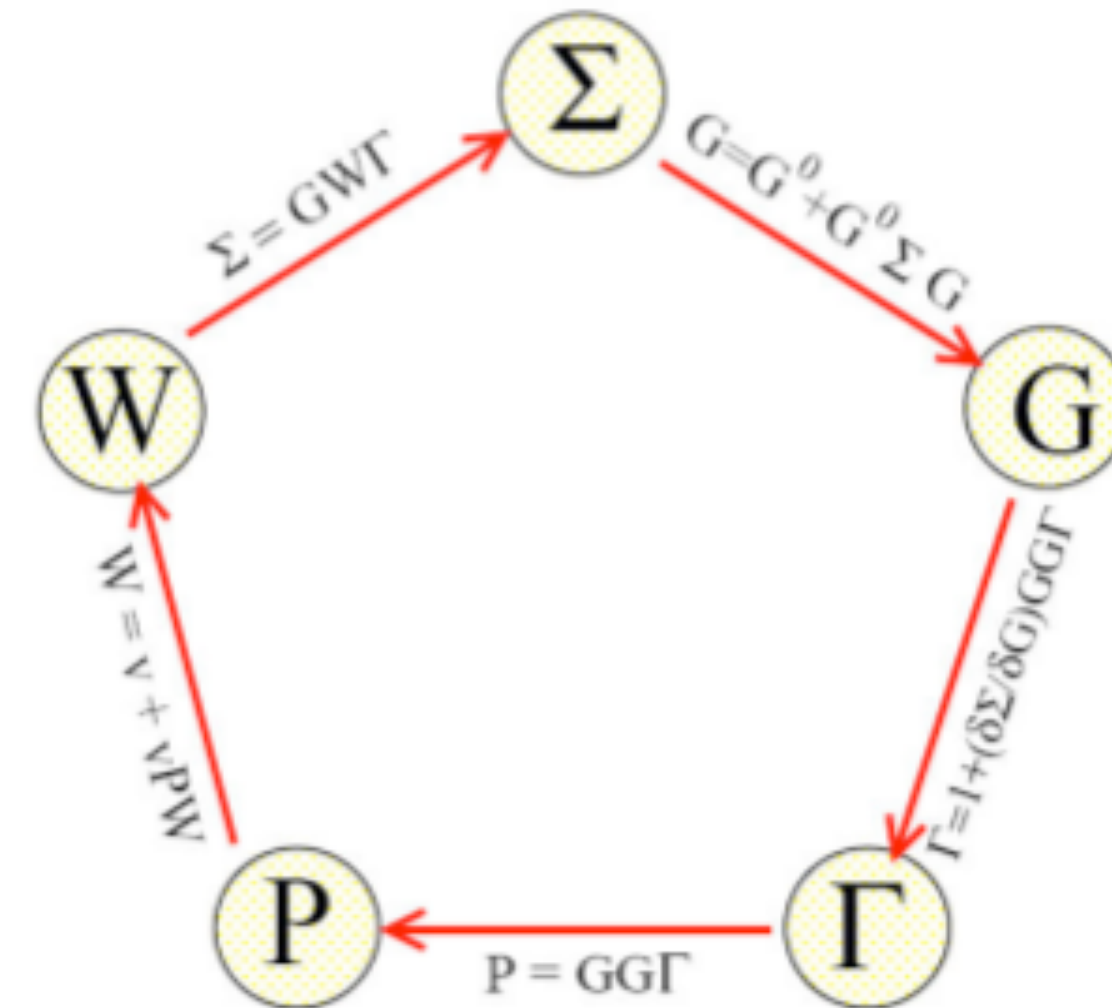


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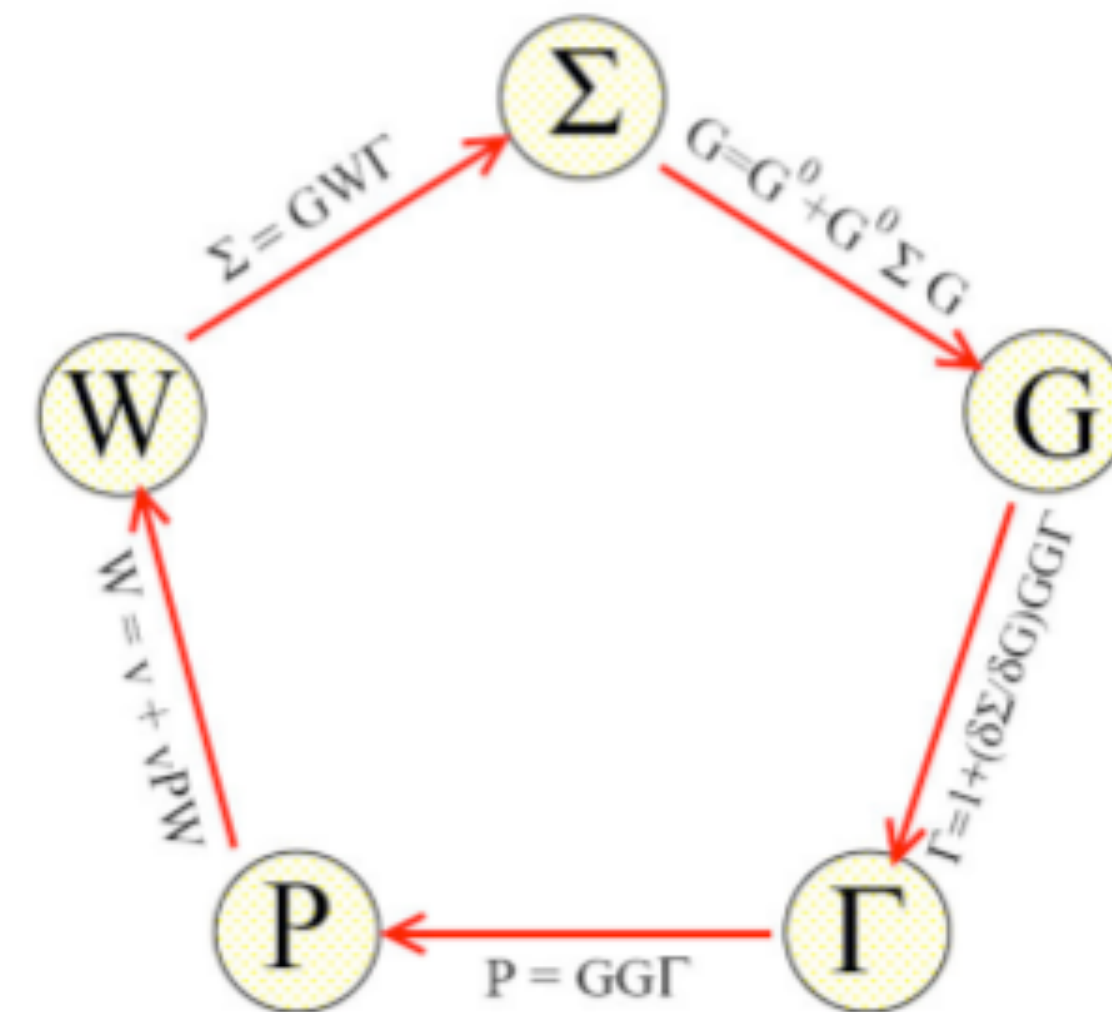
We start with  $G = G_0$ ,  $\Sigma = 0$

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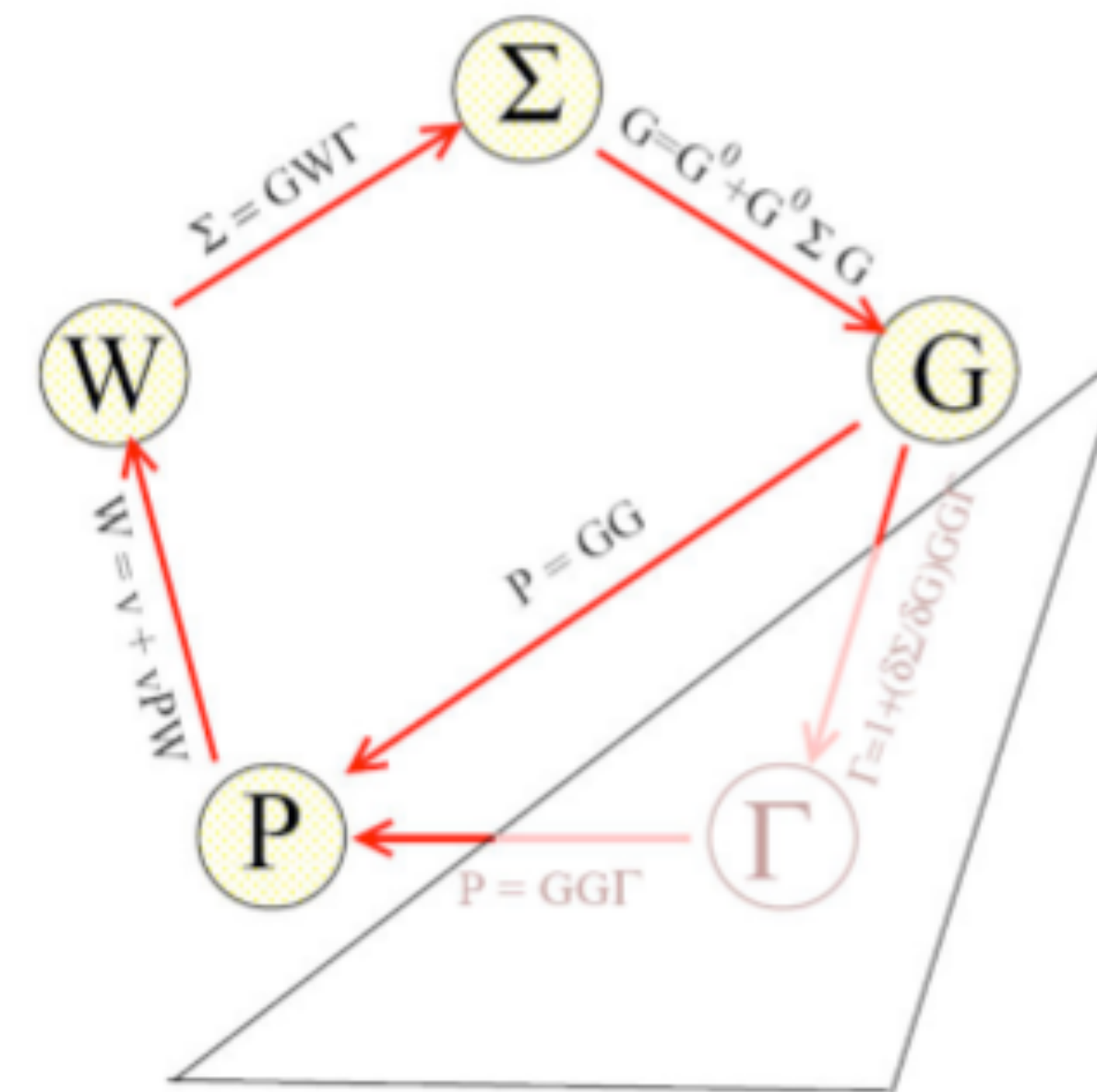
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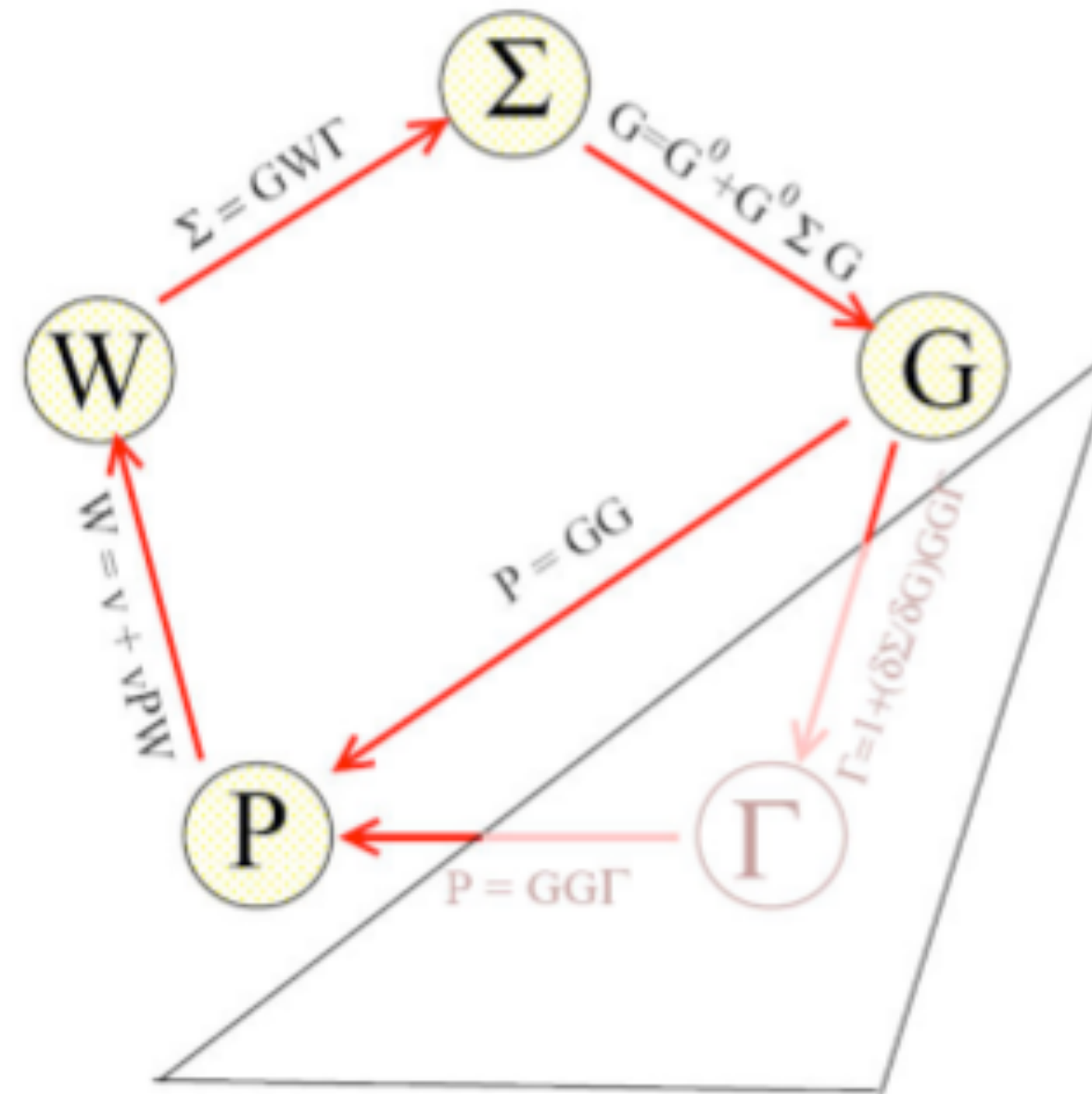
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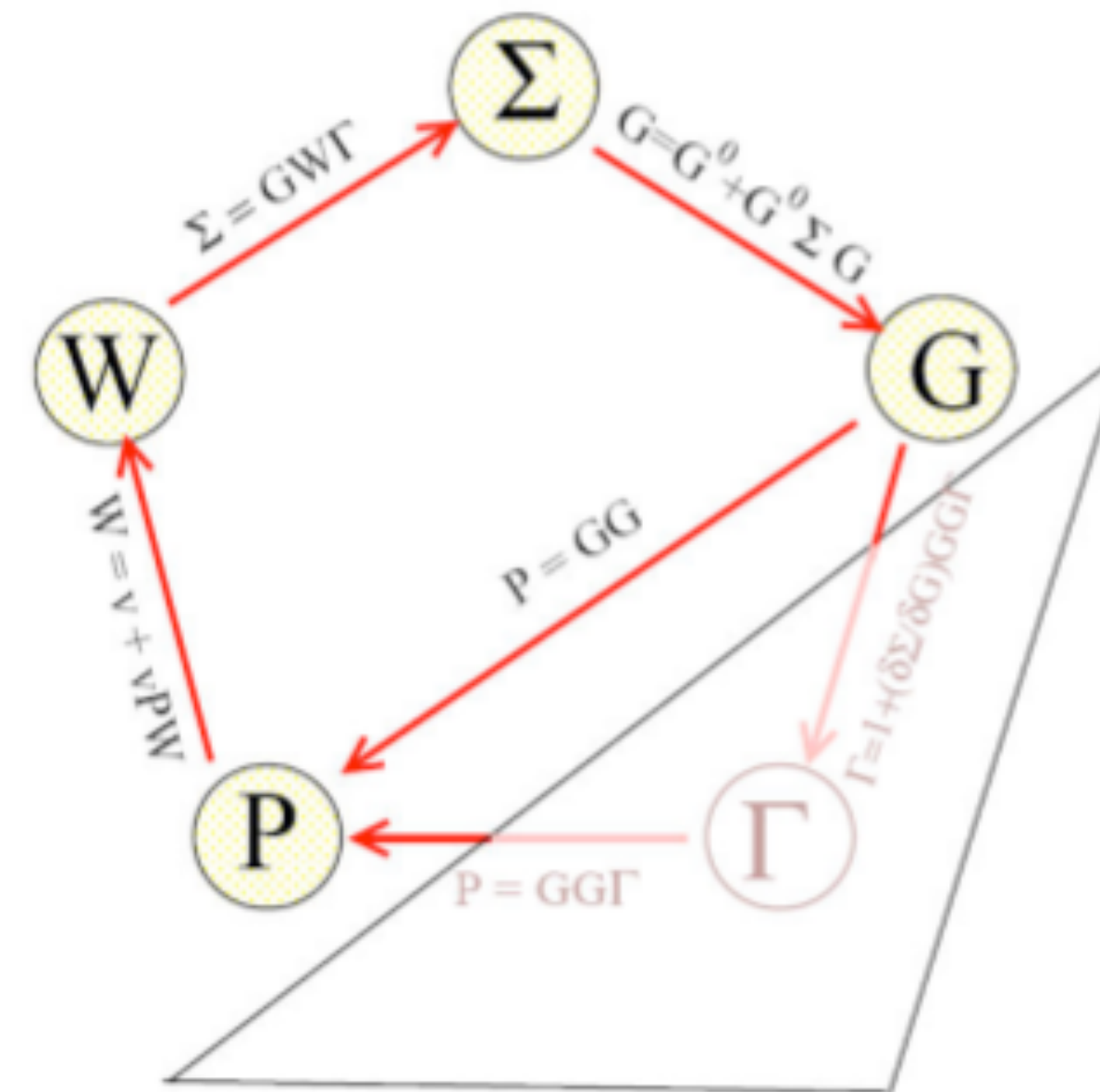
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**Remark:**



**This is an approximation!!**

The vertex  $\Gamma$  has been neglected

# Iteration of Hedin's Equations and GW

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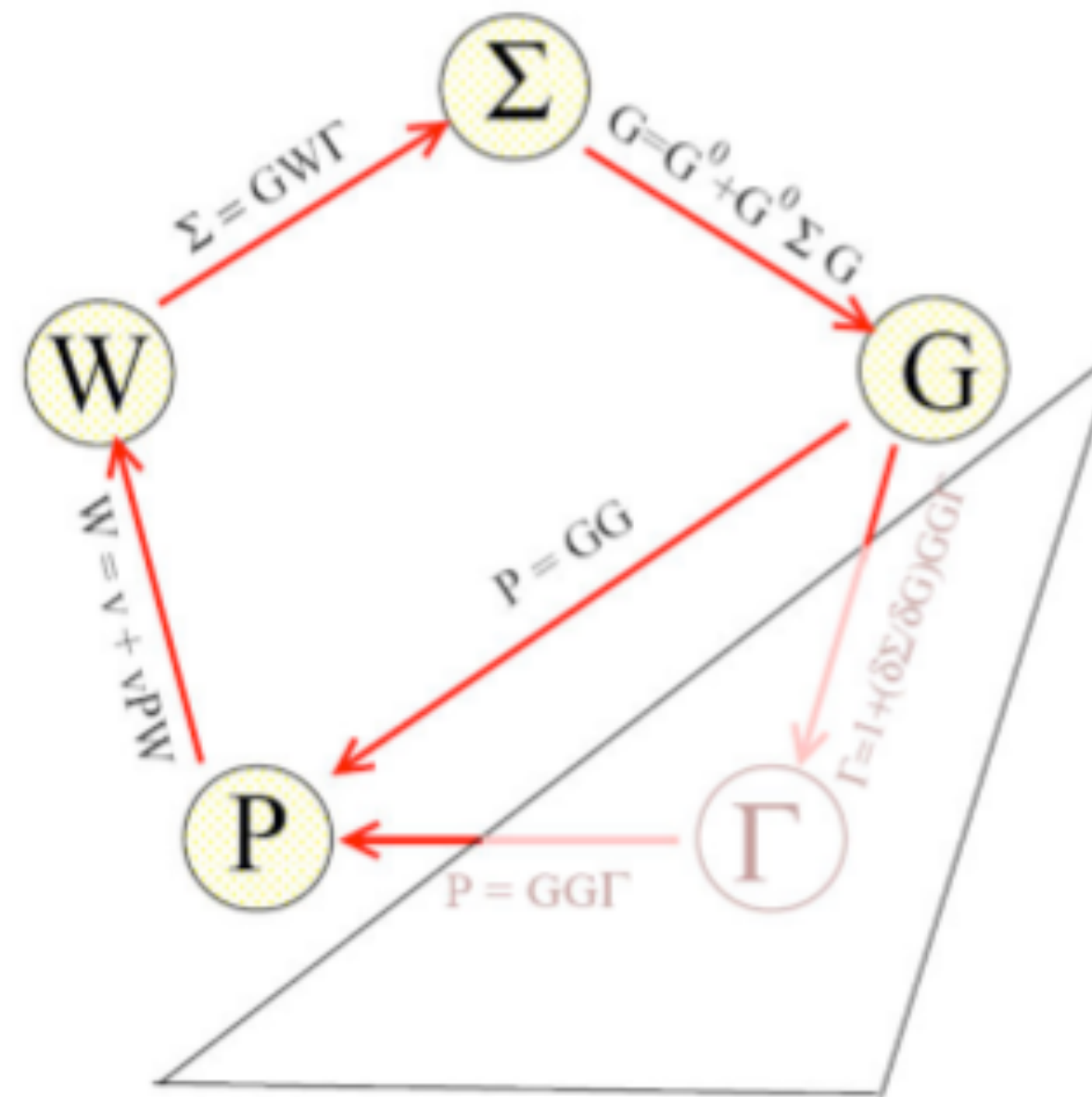
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## Remark:

The vertex  $\Gamma$  has been neglected



**This is an approximation!!**

The set of equation can be solved self-consistently but in most of the applications  $G = G_0$  the so called  $G_0W_0$  approximation



**This is an approximation!!**

## GW approximation in practice: GoWo

Goal:

$$\hat{H}_0(\mathbf{r})f_s(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \epsilon_s) f_s(\mathbf{r}') d^3\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_s f_s(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\Sigma = iGW$$

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Green function of the non-interacting system

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$G = G_0$  Green function of the non-interacting system

$$\Sigma^{GW}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \tau) = i\hbar G_0(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \tau) W(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \tau + \eta)$$

In Fourier space

$$\Sigma^{GW}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \frac{i\hbar}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_0(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega + \omega') W(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega') e^{i\omega'\eta} d\omega'$$

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Polarization and Screening

$$W = v + vPW$$

$$P(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \tau) = -i\hbar G_0(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \tau) G_0(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_1; -\tau)$$



Polarisation made by non interacting electrons and holes

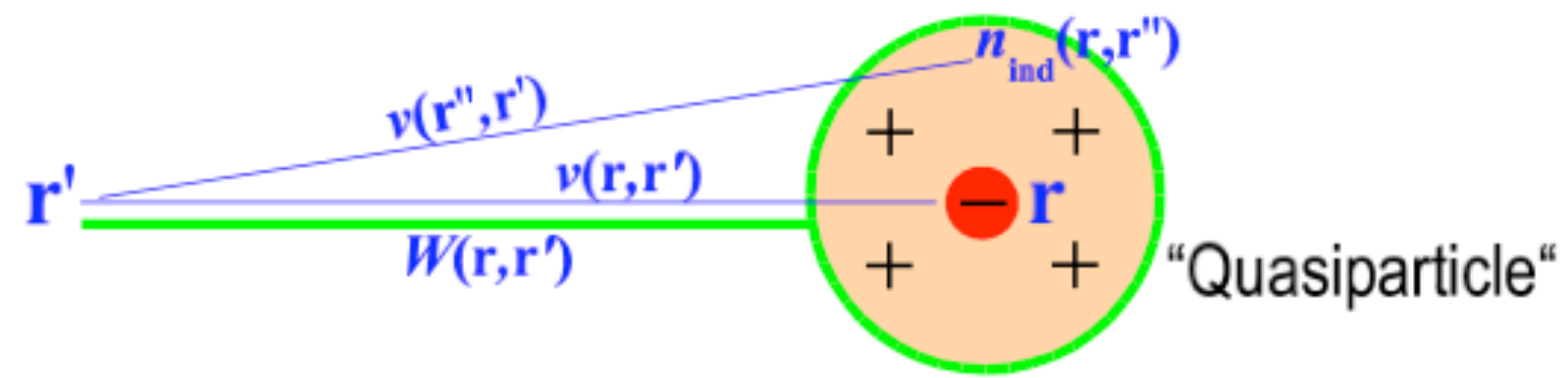
# GW approximation in practice: GoWo

$\Sigma = iGW$        $G = G_0$       Green function of the non-interacting system

## Screened Potential:

$$W(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \int \epsilon^{-1}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}'; \omega) v(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}' = v(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) + \int n_{ind}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}'; \omega) v(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}'$$

Classical (Hartree) interaction between additional charge and polarization charge



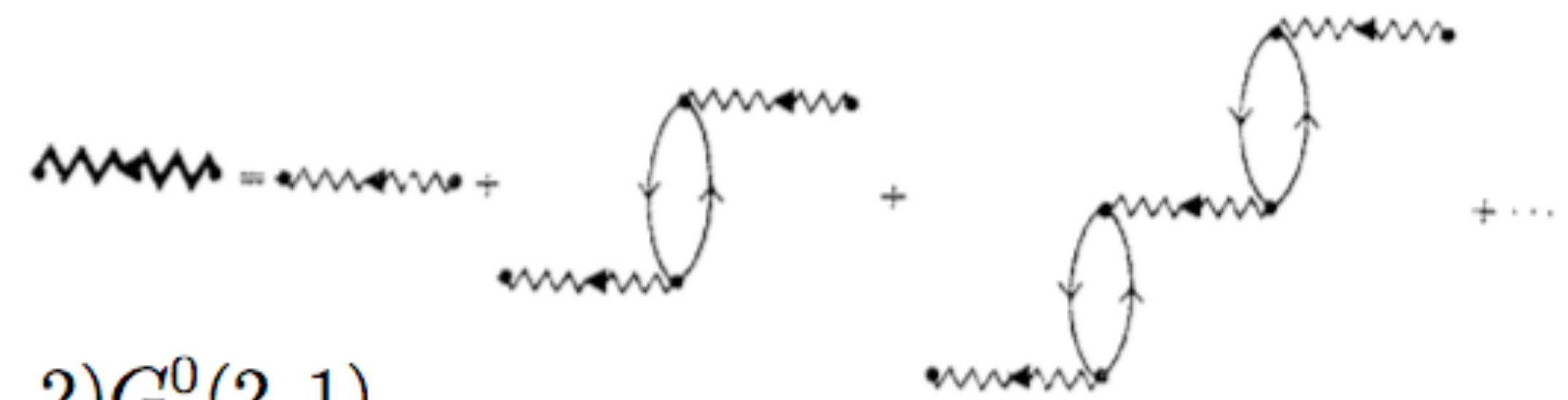
$$n_{ind}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \int P^0(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}'; \omega) V^{tot}(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}_2) d\mathbf{r}'$$

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \delta(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2) - \int v(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}') P^0(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) d\mathbf{r}'$$



**This is an approximation!!**  
**RPA**

$$W = v + vPW$$



Using  $P(1, 2) = P^0(1, 2) = G^0(1, 2)G^0(2, 1)$

## GW approximation in practice:

### Evaluation of the Self-Energy

$$\Sigma^{GW} = G_0^{KS} W = G_0^{KS} V + G^{KS} (W - V) = \Sigma_x^{GW} + \Sigma_c^{GW}$$

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$$\Sigma_x^{GW}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \frac{i\hbar}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_0^{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega + \omega') v(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) e^{i\omega'\eta} d\omega'$$

can be integrated analytically

$$\langle \phi_i^{KS} | \Sigma_x^{GW} | \phi_i^{KS} \rangle = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \sum_j^{occ.} \int \frac{\phi_i^{KS*}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_j^{KS}(\mathbf{r}) \phi_j^{KS*}(\mathbf{r}') \phi_i^{KS}(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}'$$

Hartree-Fock exchange term

## GW approximation in practice:

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$$\Sigma_c^{GW}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) = \frac{i\hbar}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G_0^{KS}(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega + \omega') [W(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega') - v(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2)] e^{i\omega'\eta} d\omega'$$

have to be computed numerically; most time consuming part

# Different implementations

Code	Basis set	References	Code	Basis set	References
BerkeleyGW	Plane waves	Deslippe et al., 2012	GPAW	Plane waves (PAW)	Hüser et al., 2013b
Yambo	Plane waves	Marini et al., 2009	Fiesta	Gaussian	Blase et al., 2011
WEST	Plane waves	Govoni and Galli, 2015	Turbomole	Gaussian	van Setten et al., 2013
SaX	Plane waves	Martin-Samos and Bussi, 2009	CP2K	Gaussian	Wilhelm et al., 2016, 2018
SternheimerGW	Plane waves	Giustino et al., 2010a; Schlipf et al., 2019	MOLGW	Gaussian	Bruneval et al., 2016
ABINIT	Plane waves (PAW)	Gonze et al., 2009	FHI-aims	NAO	Ren et al., 2012a; Golze et al., 2018
VASP	Plane waves (PAW)	Shishkin and Kresse, 2006a; Liu et al., 2016	exciting	FLAPW	Gulans et al., 2014
			SPEX	FLAPW	Friedrich et al., 2010
			FHI-gap	FLAPW	Jiang et al., 2013
			Tombo	Augmented	Ono et al., 2015
			Questaal	LMTO	Methfessel et al., 2000; Questaal, 2018

Real Space and Real Time: H.N. Rojas, R. W. Godby and R. J. Needs PRL 74, 1827 (1995)

Use of Wannier Function: P. Umari, G. Stenuit and S. Baroni PRB 79, 201104(R) (2009)

## GW approximation in practice:

Plane wave representation:

$$\langle n\mathbf{k} | \Sigma_x(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) | n'\mathbf{k}' \rangle = - \sum_{n_1} \int_{\text{Bz}} \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{\mathbf{G}} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n,n_1}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n'_1}^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) f_{n_1\mathbf{k}_1}$$
$$\rho_{nn_1}(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) = \langle n\mathbf{k} | e^{i(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} | n_1\mathbf{k}_1 \rangle$$

$$\langle n\mathbf{k} | \Sigma_c(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega) | n'\mathbf{k}' \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n_1} \int_{\text{Bz}} \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \sum_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n,n_1}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n'_1}^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}') \times \right.$$
$$\left. \times \int \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}, \omega') \left[ \frac{f_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}^{LDA} - i\delta} + \frac{1 - f_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}^{LDA} + i\delta} \right] \right\}$$

What makes GW calculations even at G0W0 level rather “laborious”:

Careful is needed:

Integration over the Brillouin zone

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Careful is needed:

Integration over the Brillouin zone

Plane wave cutoff for exchange and dielectric matrix

Sum over unoccupied states

Integration in energy domain

## GW approximation in practice:

GW approximation in practice: Plasmon-Pole approximation

$$\langle n\mathbf{k}|\Sigma_c(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega)|n'\mathbf{k}'\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n_1} \int_{\text{Bz}} \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \sum_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n, n_1}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n', n_1}^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}') \times \right. \\ \left. \times \int \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}, \omega') \left[ \frac{f_{n_1}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1}^{LDA}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}) - i\delta} + \frac{1 - f_{n_1}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1}^{LDA}(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}) + i\delta} \right] \right\}$$

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GW approximation in practice: Plasmon-Pole approximation

$$\langle n\mathbf{k}|\Sigma_c(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2; \omega)|n'\mathbf{k}'\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n_1} \int_{\text{Bz}} \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \sum_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n,n_1}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) \rho_{n',n_1}^*(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}') \times \right. \\ \left. \times \int \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}, \omega') \left[ \frac{f_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}^{LDA} - i\delta} + \frac{1 - f_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}}{\omega - \omega' - \epsilon_{n_1(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})}^{LDA} + i\delta} \right] \right\}$$

$-\Im\{\epsilon^{-1}\}$  Electron Energy Loss spectrum

All components exhibit a peak, otherwise the amplitude is small

Model Dielectric function: Plasmon-Pole approximation

## GW approximation in practice:

### GW approximation in practice: Plasmon-Pole approximation

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All components exhibit a peak, otherwise the amplitude is small

### Model Dielectric function: Plasmon-Pole approximation

$$\Im\epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(q, \omega) = A_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(q) \{ \delta[\omega - \tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(q)] - \delta[\omega + \tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(q)] \}$$

$$\Re\epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(q, \omega) = \delta_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'} + \frac{\Omega_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(q)}{\omega - \tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}(q)}$$



**This is an approximation!!**

The energy integral is now analytic

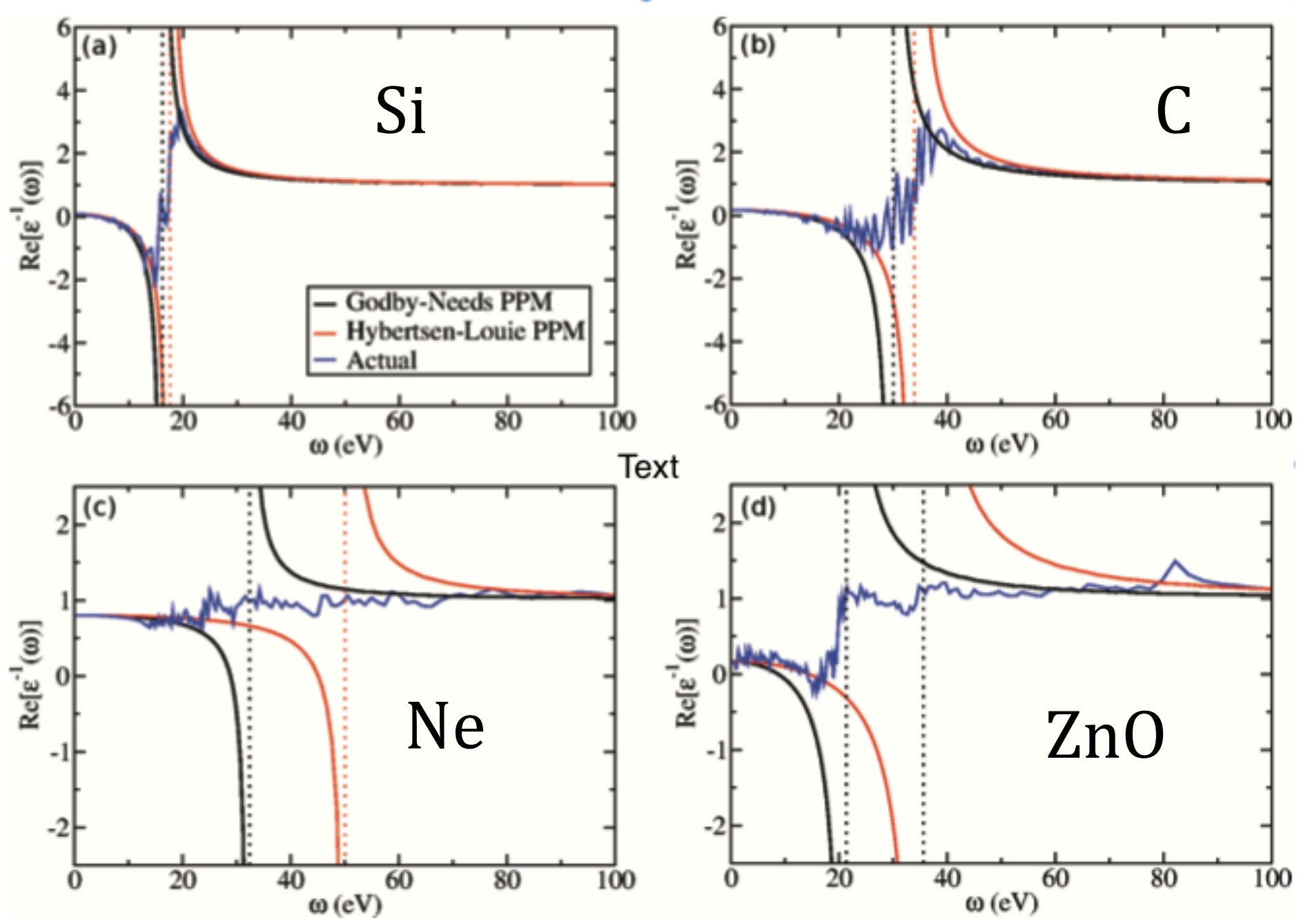
Different recipes to evaluate poles and residues

M. Hybertsen and S. Louie PRB **34**, 5390 1986

R. W. Godby and R. J. Needs, PRL. **62**, 1169 (1989).

G. E. Engel and B. Farid, PRB **47**, 15931 (1993).

# GW approximation in practice: the Plasmon Pole Approximation



	GN	HL	vdLH	EF	Numerical	Expt.
Si	1.20	1.25	1.23	1.26	1.21	1.24
C	6.10	6.25	6.25	6.29	6.15	6.11
Ge	0.68	0.72	0.70	0.71	0.69	0.85
Ne	19.65	20.99	20.51	19.99	19.41	21.50
AlN	5.55	5.73	5.71	5.74	5.59	6.29
GaN	3.51	3.61	3.62	3.66	3.54	3.44
GaAs	1.13	1.15	1.14	1.16	1.13	1.59
MgO	7.13	7.61	7.46	7.39	7.13	7.85
ZnO	2.27	2.80	2.30	2.37	2.17	3.53

Real part along real axis

P. Larson, M. Dvorak, and Z. Wu Phys Rev. B **88**, 125205 (2013)

ZnO case M. Stankovki et al. Phys Rev. B **84**, 241201 (2011)

PPA become questionable when  $\epsilon_{GG'}^{-1}$  differs from single-pole

Ex: interfaces, d electrons in copper: A. Marini, G. Onida, R. Del Sole PRL 88, 01643 (2002)

full integration is needed: alternative methods

# GW approximation in practice: QP solution

Goal:

$$\hat{H}_0(\mathbf{r})f_s(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \epsilon_s) f_s(\mathbf{r}') d^3\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_s f_s(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\Sigma = iGW$$

Once we know  $\Sigma^{GW} = G^0 W^0$

$$f_i^{QP}(\mathbf{r}) \approx \phi_i^{KS}(\mathbf{r})$$



**This is an approximation!! very frequently used but not always valid**

$$E_{nk}^{QP} = \epsilon_{nk} + \langle \psi_{nk} | \Sigma(E_{nk}^{QP}) - V_{xc} | \psi_{nk} \rangle \quad \text{first order expansion around KS eigenvalue } \epsilon_{nk}$$

$$E_{nk}^{QP} = \epsilon_{nk} + Z_{nk} \langle \psi_{nk} | \Sigma(\epsilon_{nk}) - V_{xc} | \psi_{nk} \rangle$$

$$Z_{nk} = \left[ 1 - \left. \frac{d\Sigma_{nk}(\omega)}{d\omega} \right|_{\omega=\epsilon_{nk}} \right]^{-1}$$



**This is an approximation!!**

# The GW flow in one slide:

DFT:  $\{\epsilon_{nk}\}, \{\psi_{nk}\}$

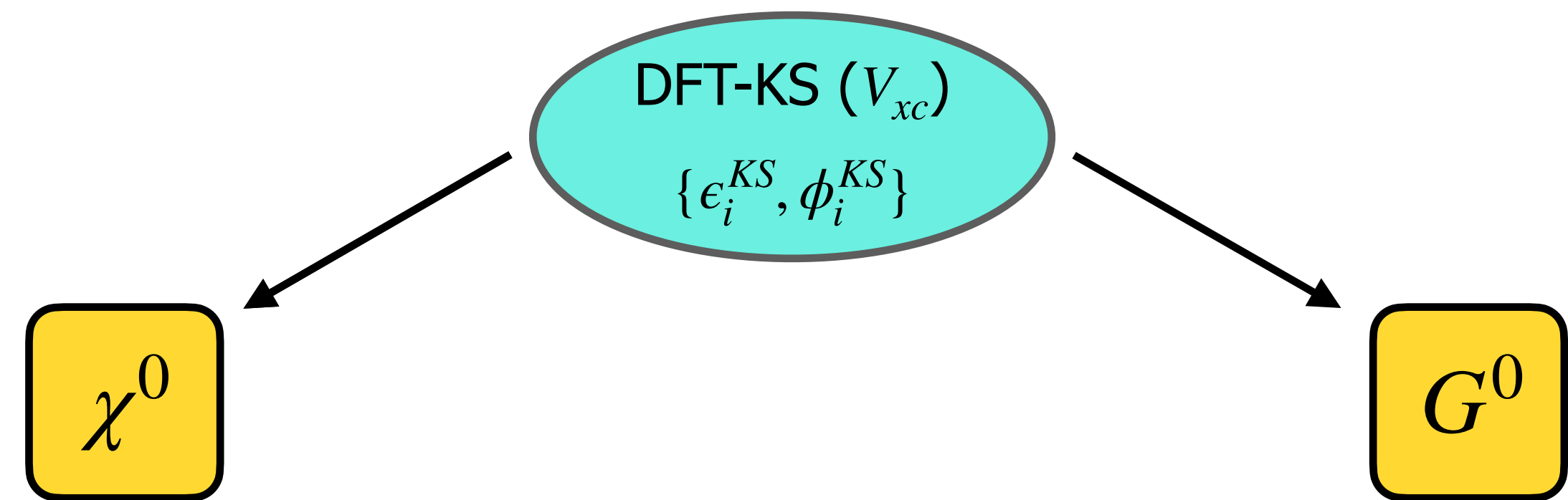
DFT-KS ( $V_{xc}$ )  
 $\{\epsilon_i^{KS}, \phi_i^{KS}\}$

# The GW flow in one slide:

DFT:  $\{\epsilon_{nk}\}, \{\psi_{nk}\}$

$$G_{0,nk} = \frac{f_{nk}}{\omega - \epsilon_{nk} - i\eta} + \frac{1 - f_{nk}}{\omega - \epsilon_{nk} + i\eta}$$

$$\chi_{GG'}^0(q, \omega) = 2 \sum_{vc} \int_{BZ} \frac{dk}{(2\pi)^3} \rho_{cvk}(q, G) \rho_{cvk}^*(q, G') \left[ \frac{1}{\omega + \epsilon_{vk-q} - \epsilon_{ck} + i\eta} - \frac{1}{\omega + \epsilon_{ck} - \epsilon_{vk+q} - i\eta} \right]$$



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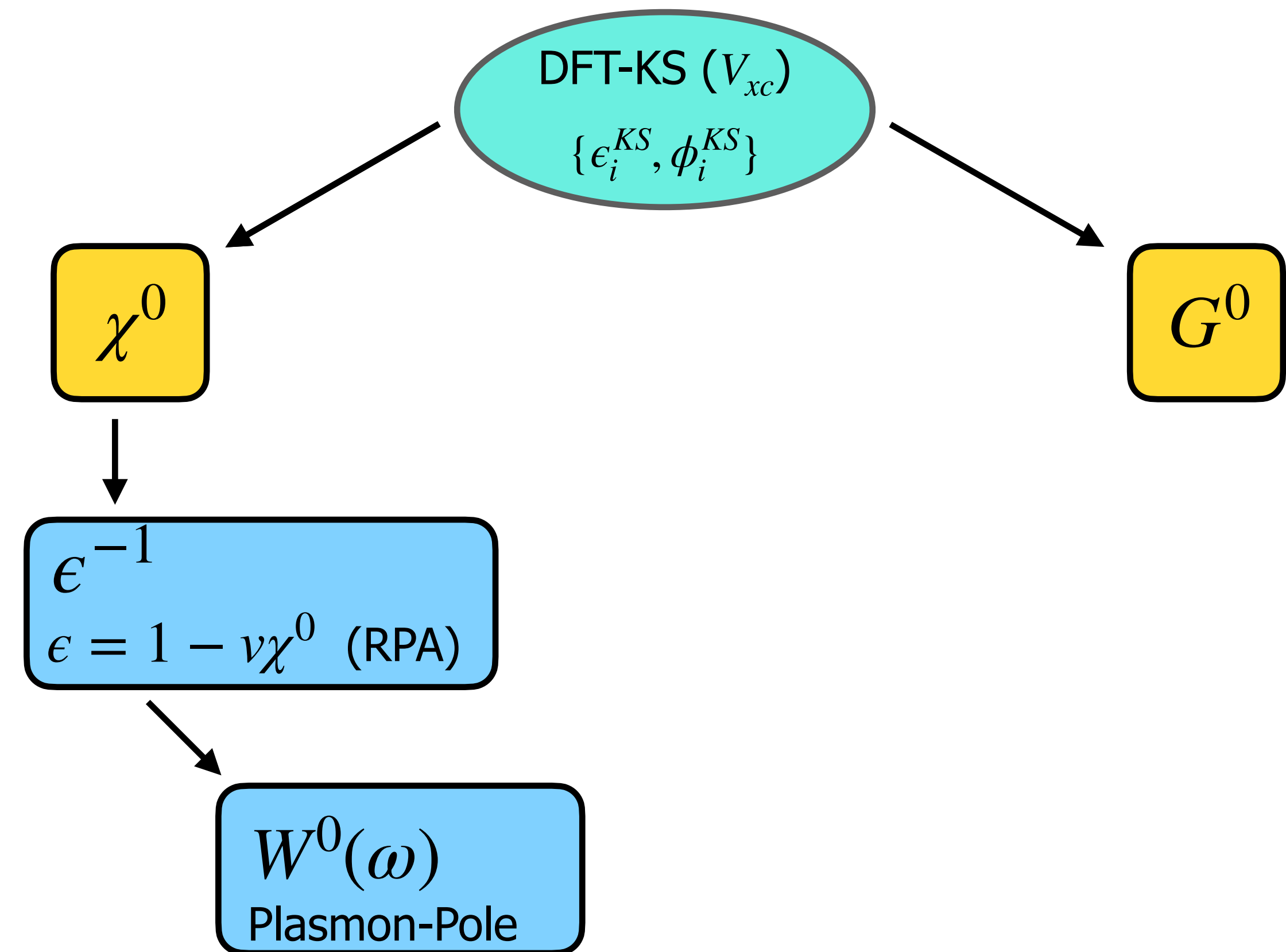
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$$\chi_{GG'}(q, \omega) = \sum_{G''} [\delta_{GG''} + V(q + G)\chi_{GG''}^0(q, \omega)]^{-1} \chi_{GG''}^0(q, \omega)$$

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

$$W_{GG'}(q, \omega) = \epsilon_{GG'}^{-1}(q, \omega)V(q + G)$$



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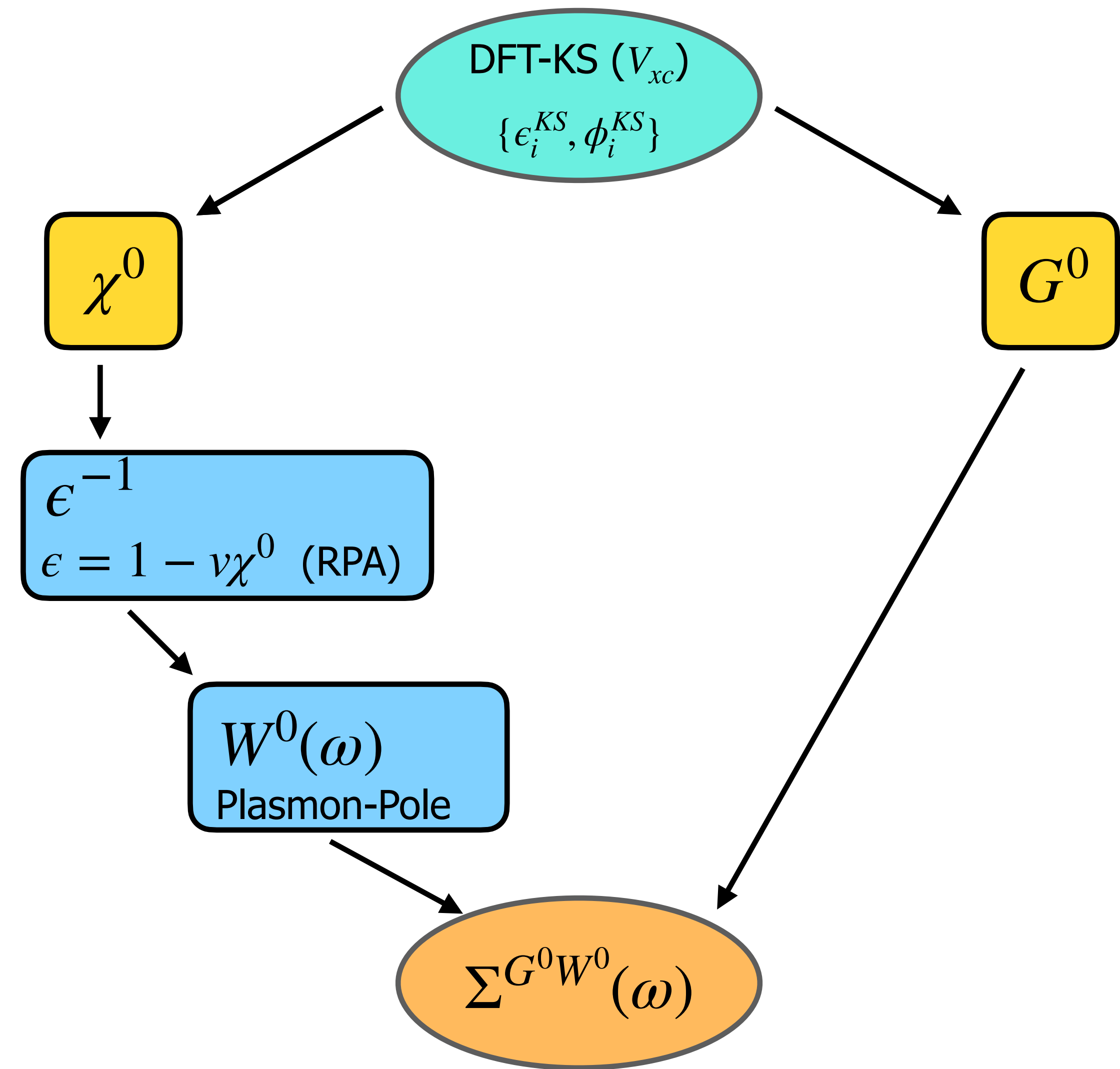
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$$\Sigma_{nk}^x = - \sum_m \int_{BZ} \frac{dq}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_G V(q + G) |\rho_{nmk}(q, G)|^2$$

$$\Sigma_{nk}^c(\omega) = \sum_m \int_{BZ} \frac{dq}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{GG'} \frac{\rho_{nmk}(q + G) R_{GG'}(q) \rho_{nmk}^*(q + G')}{\omega - \epsilon_{mk-q} + [\Omega_{GG'}(q) + i\eta] \text{sgn}(\mu - \epsilon_{mk-q})}$$



# The GW flow in one slide:

DFT:  $\{\epsilon_{nk}\}, \{\psi_{nk}\}$

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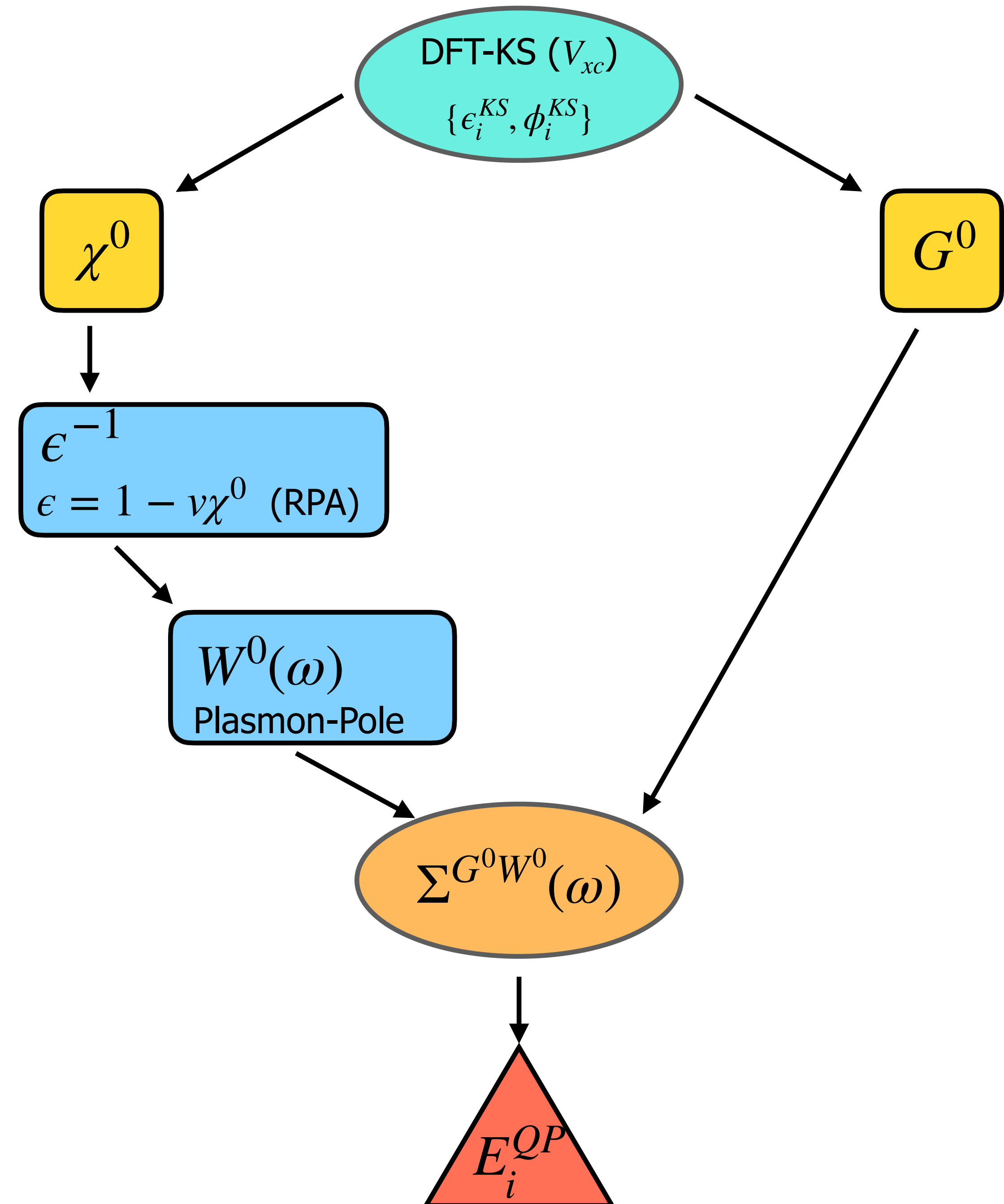
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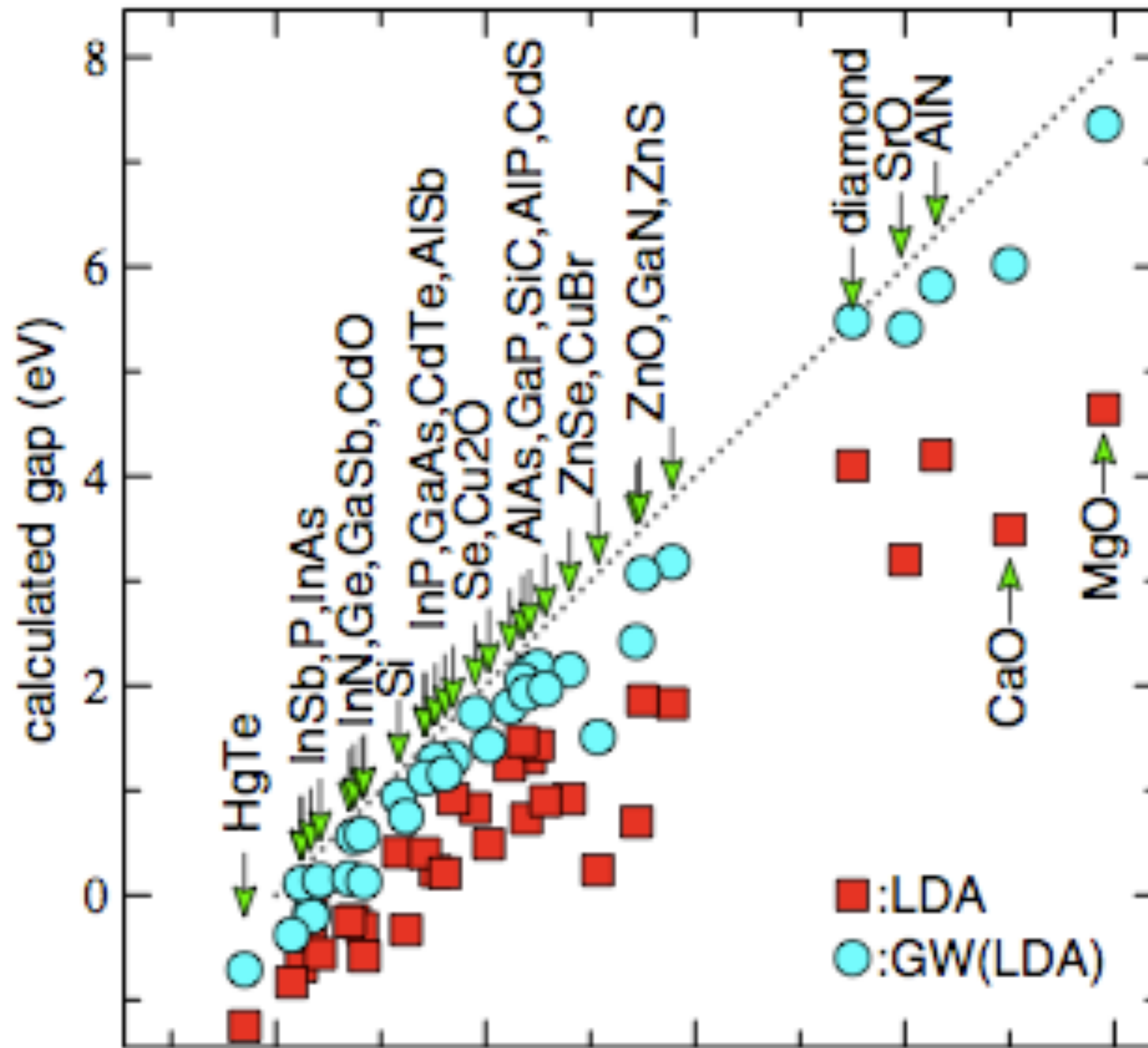
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$$\epsilon_{nk}^{QP} = \epsilon_{nk} + Z_{nk} [\Sigma_{nk}(\epsilon_{nk}) - V_{xc,nk}]$$



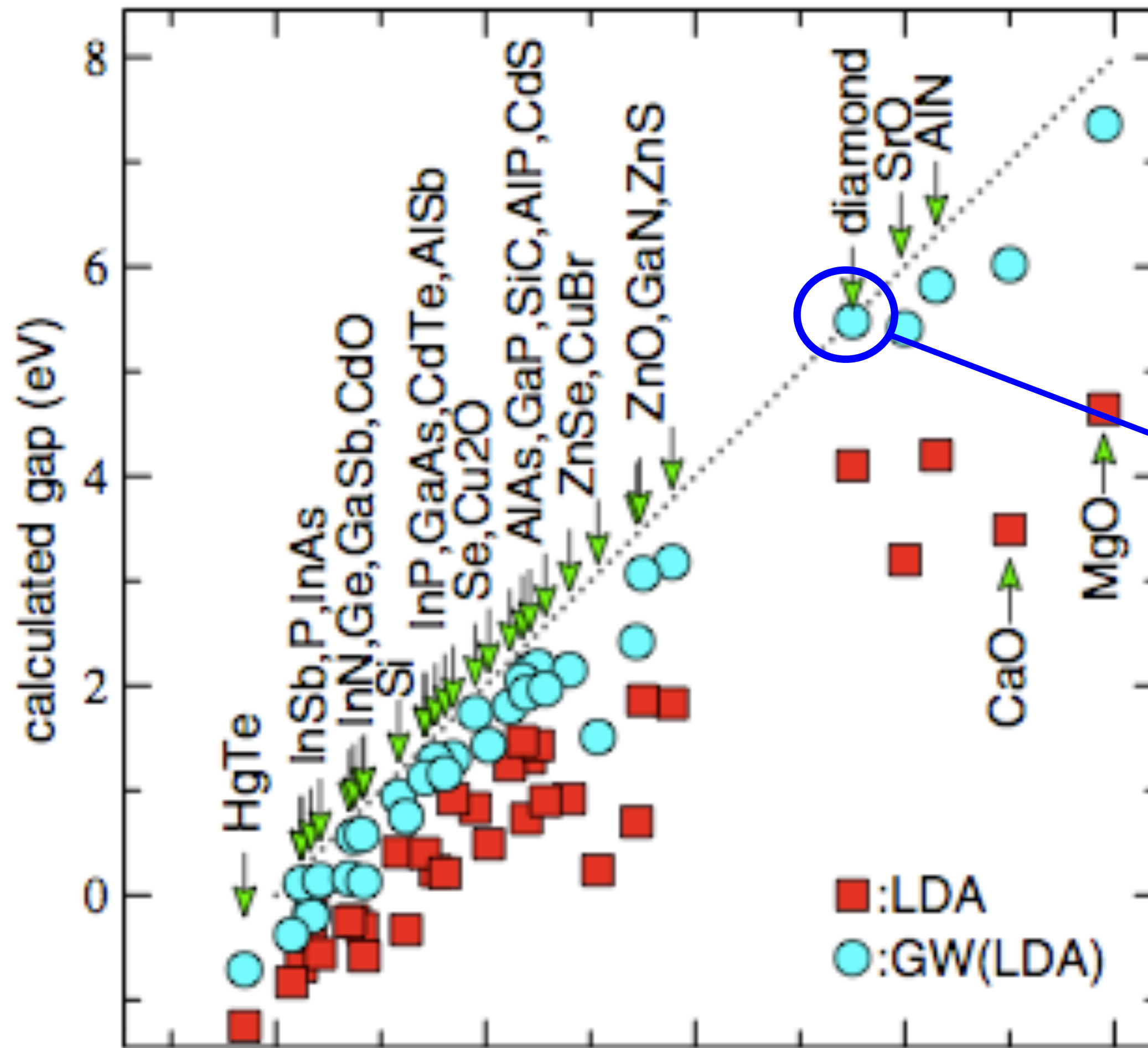
# Some GW results: semiconductor band gaps



GW band gaps: huge improvement wrt the LDA

M. van Schilfgaarde, Takao Kotani, and S. Faleev PRL **96**, 226402 (2006)

# Some GW results: semiconductor band gaps

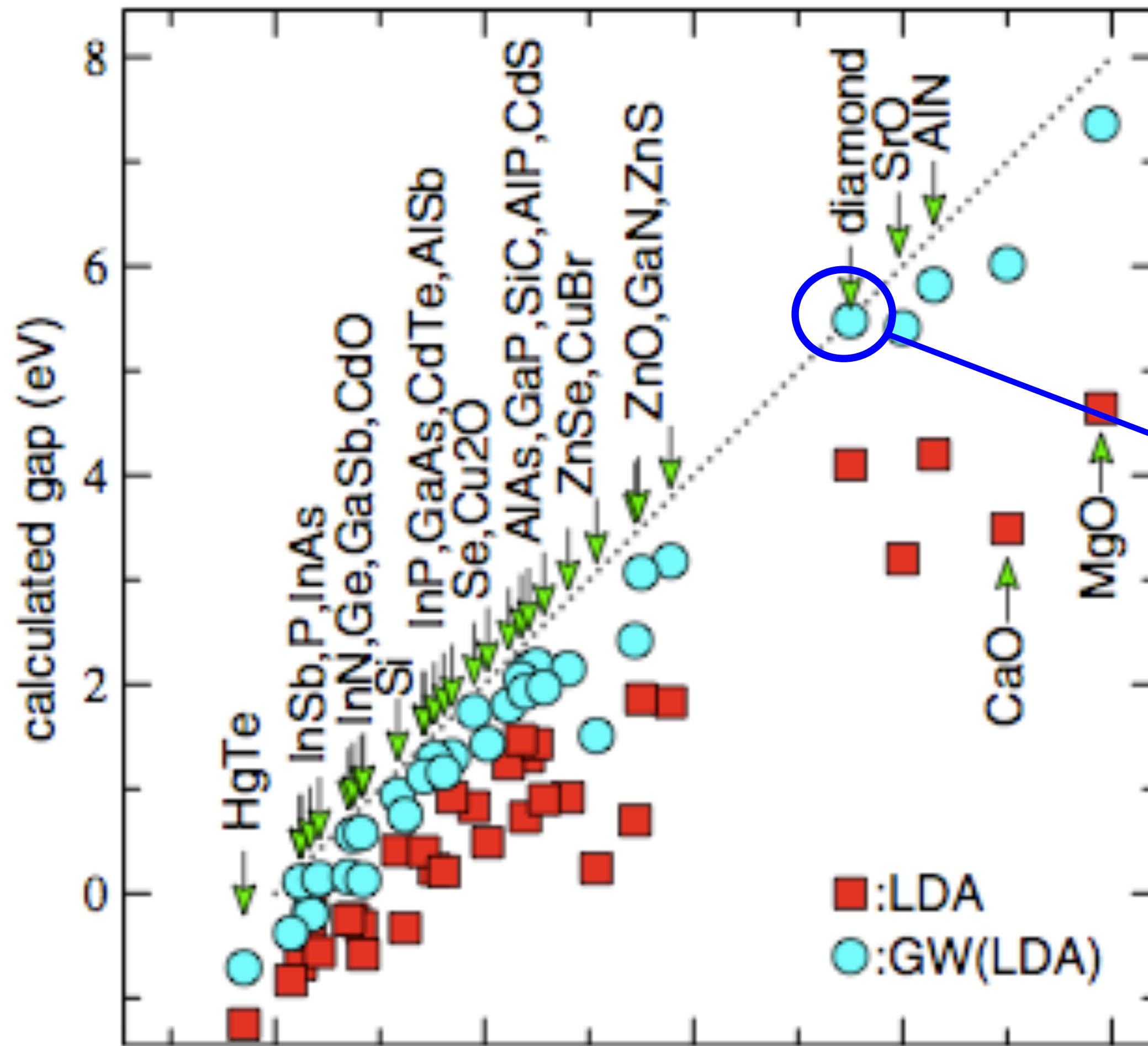


GW band gaps: huge improvement wrt the LDA

Very good agreement with the experiment!!

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# Some GW results: semiconductor band gaps



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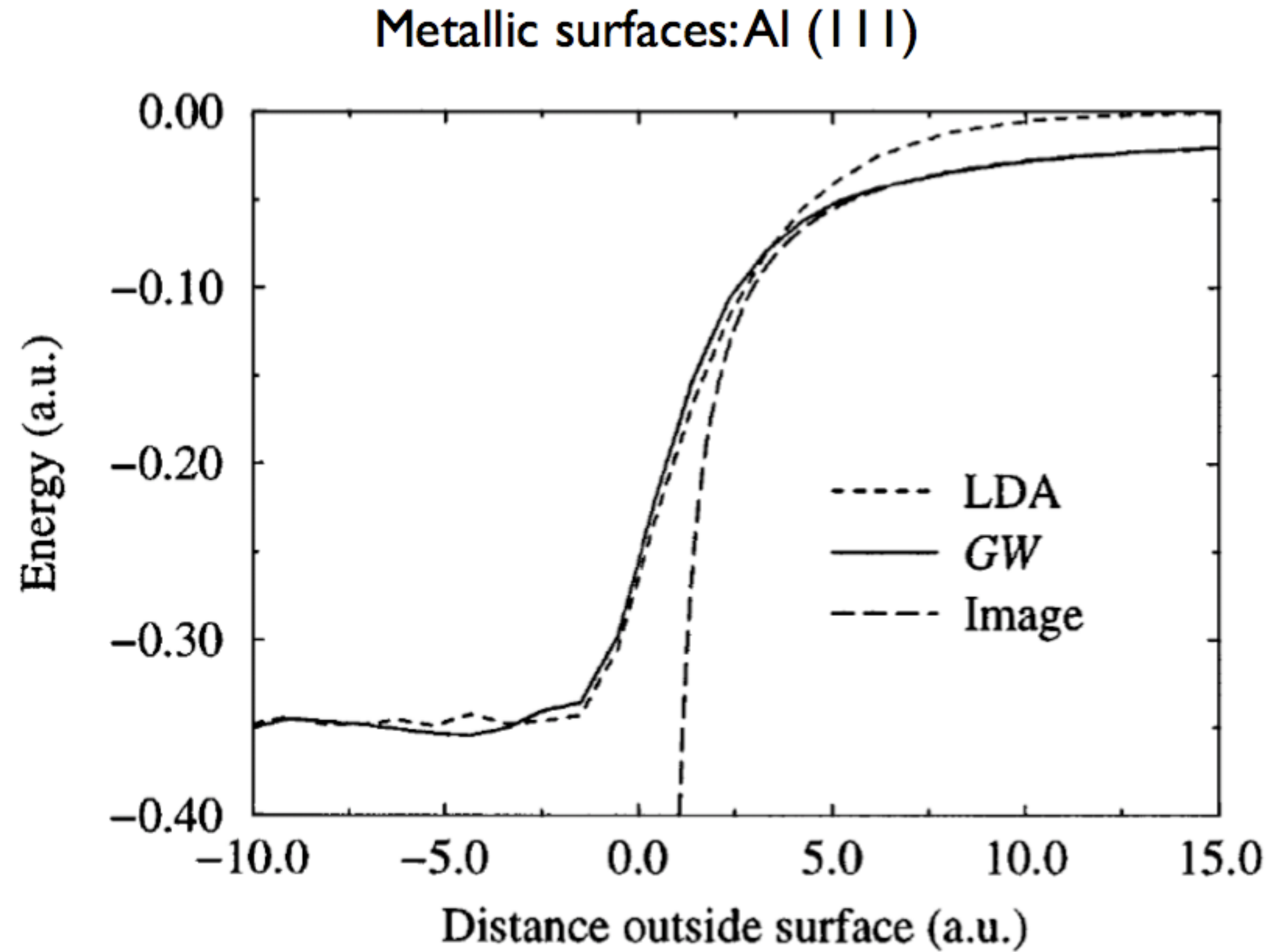
Very good agreement with the experiment!!

**But for a wrong reason!!!!**

M. van Schilfgaarde, Takao Kotani, and S. Faleev PRL **96**, 226402 (2006)

## GW potential

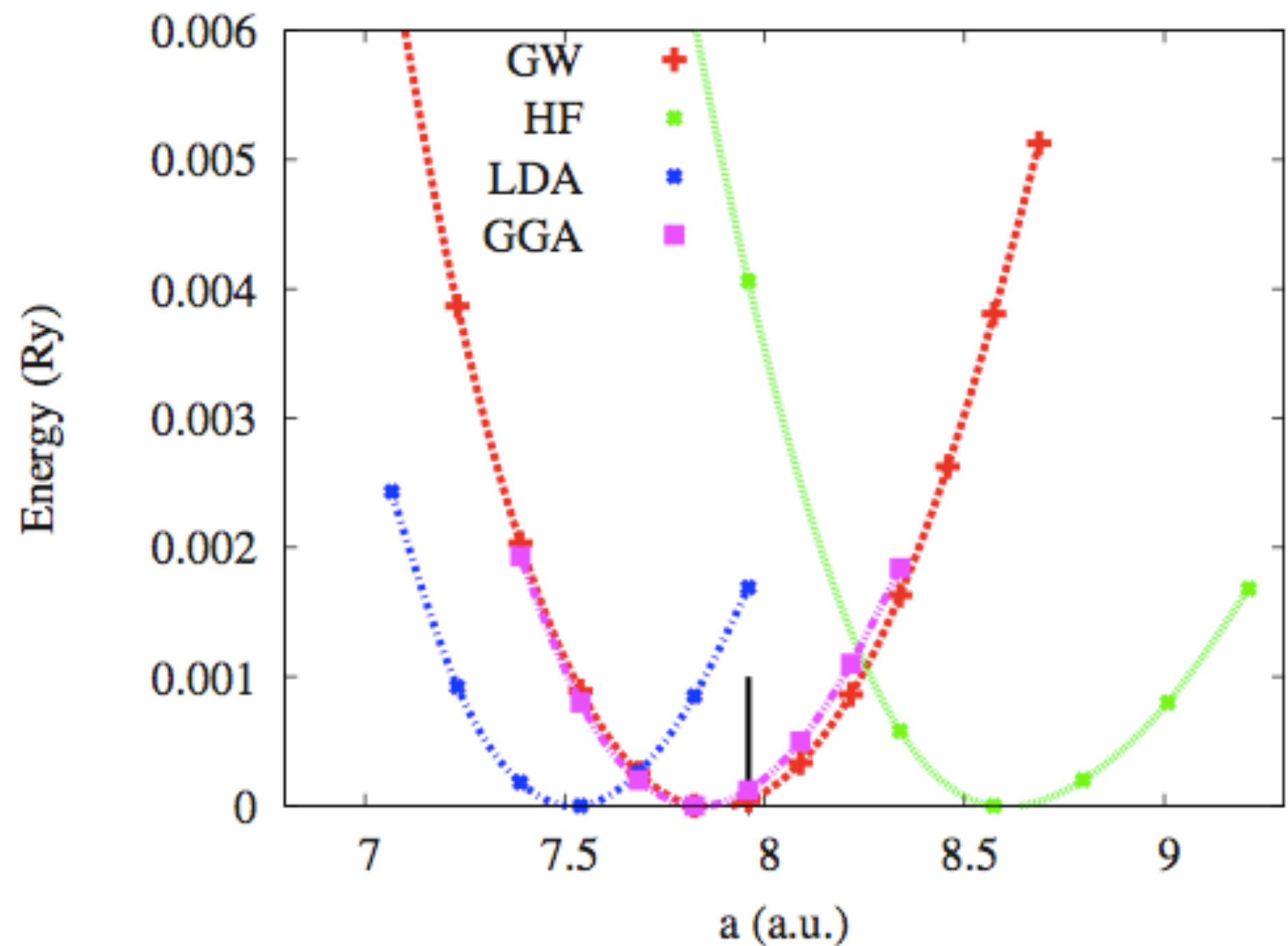
$$V_{loc}(\mathbf{r})\psi_{QP}(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', E_{QP})\psi_{QP}(\mathbf{r}')$$



I. D. White et. al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 80 (1988)

# Energies by GW

Total Energy of Na vs lattice parameter



Kutepov et al. PRB 80, 041103 (2009)

Good energy ...comparable with GGA

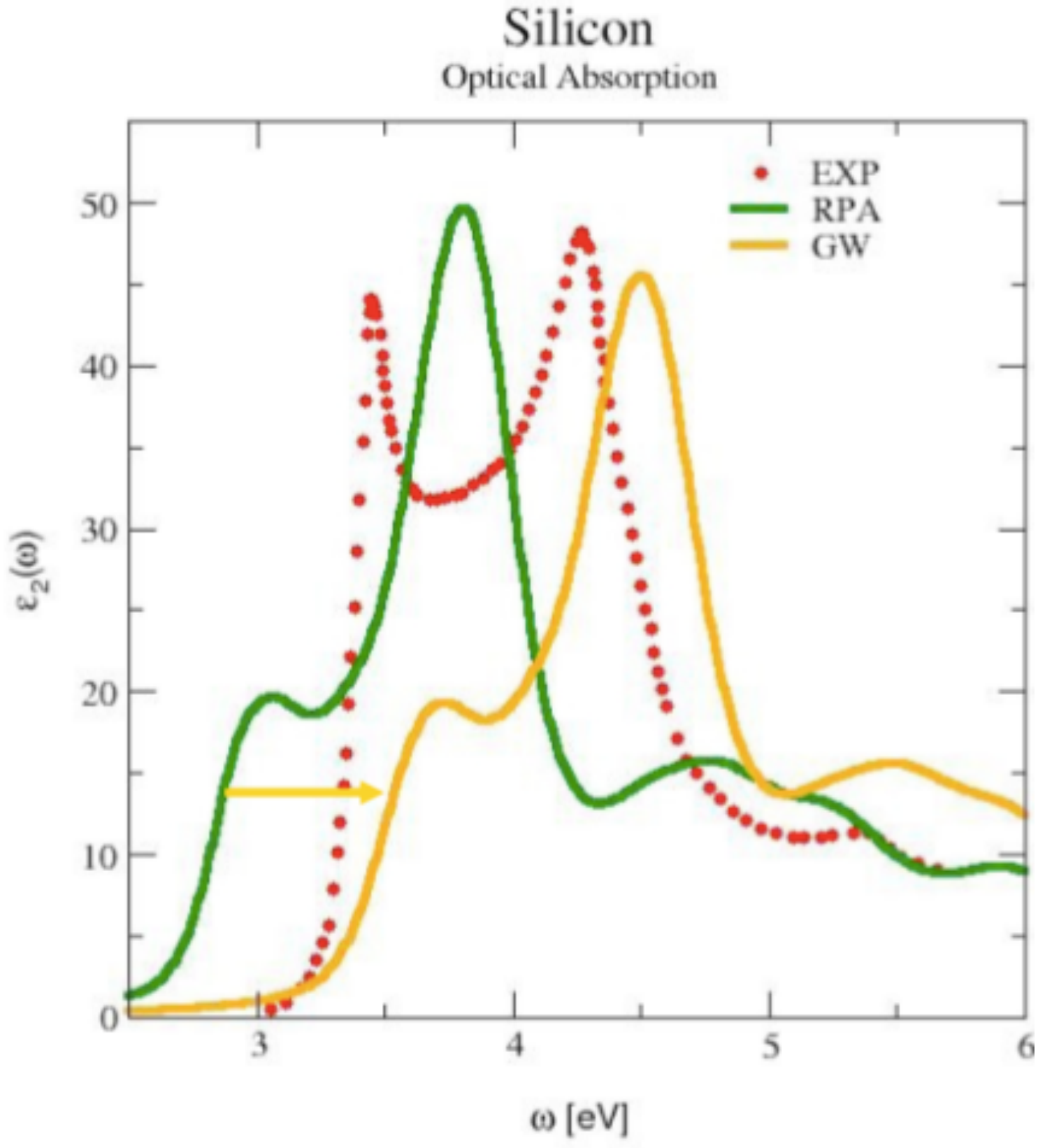
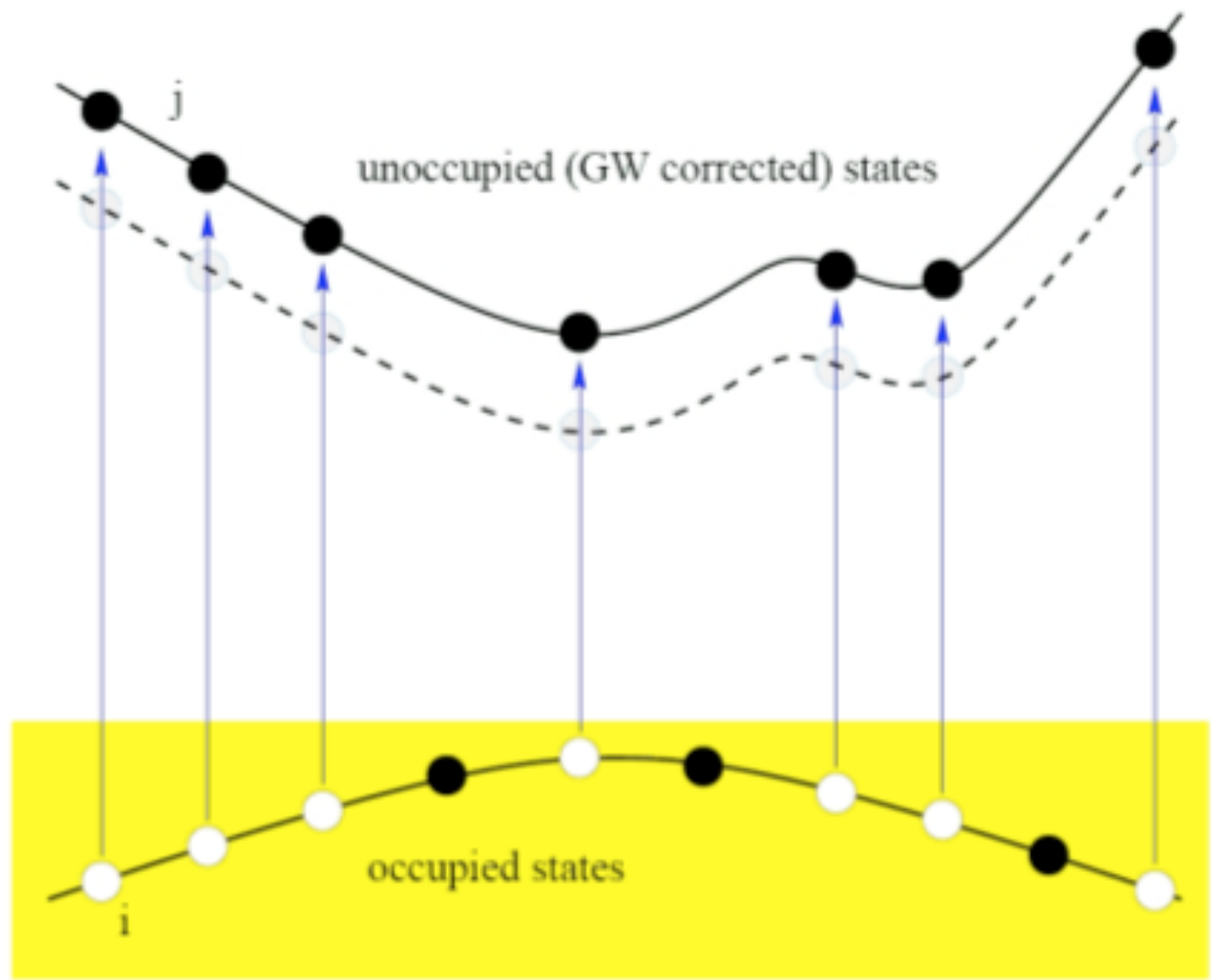
...but one-electron spectra are worse

Bulk Silicon band Gap	
Bulk Silicon Band Gap (eV)	
Experiment	1.17
LDA	0.46
HF	6.27
$G^0W^0$	1.14
scGW	1.55

# What about absorption spectra?

Independent transitions:

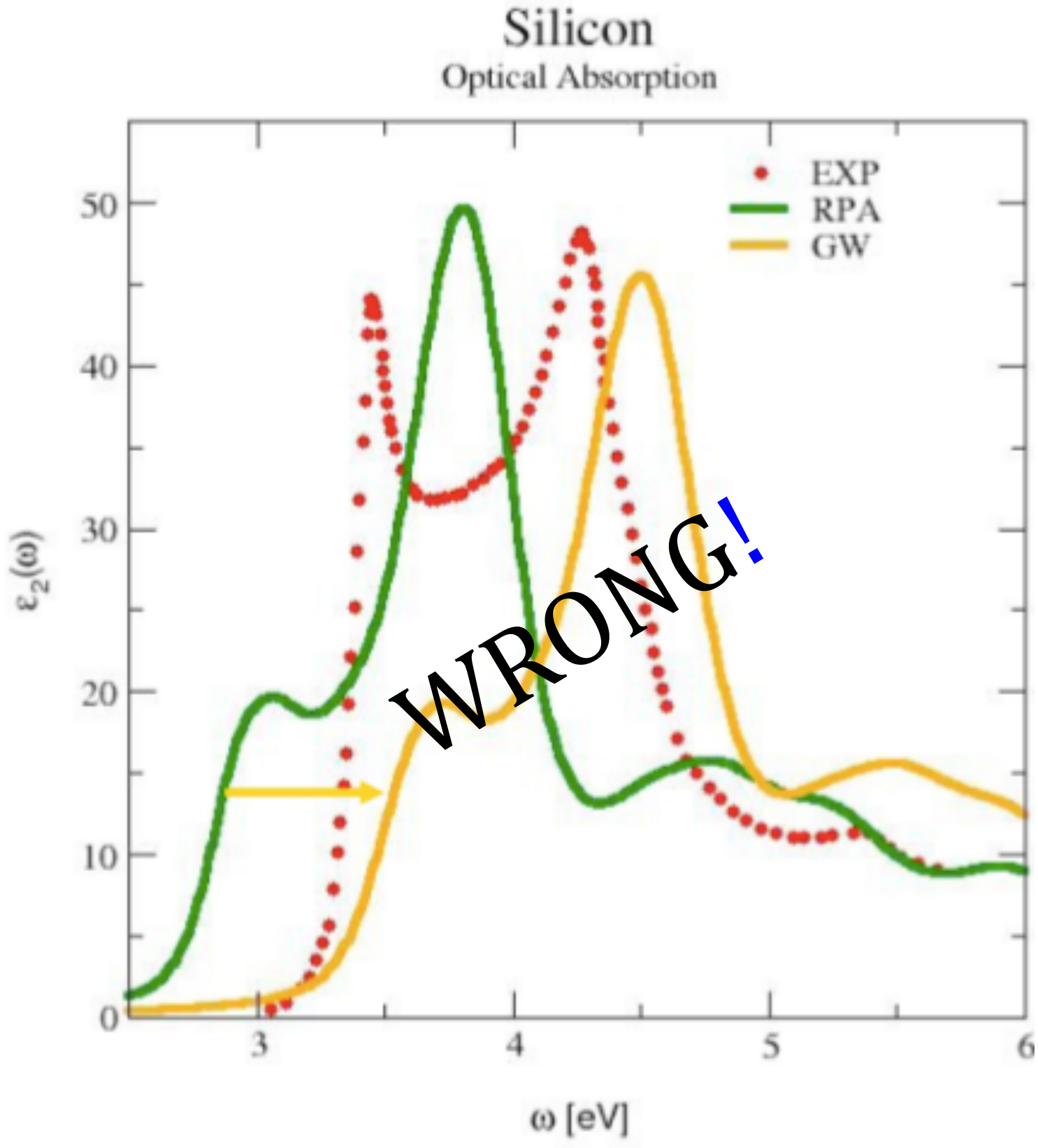
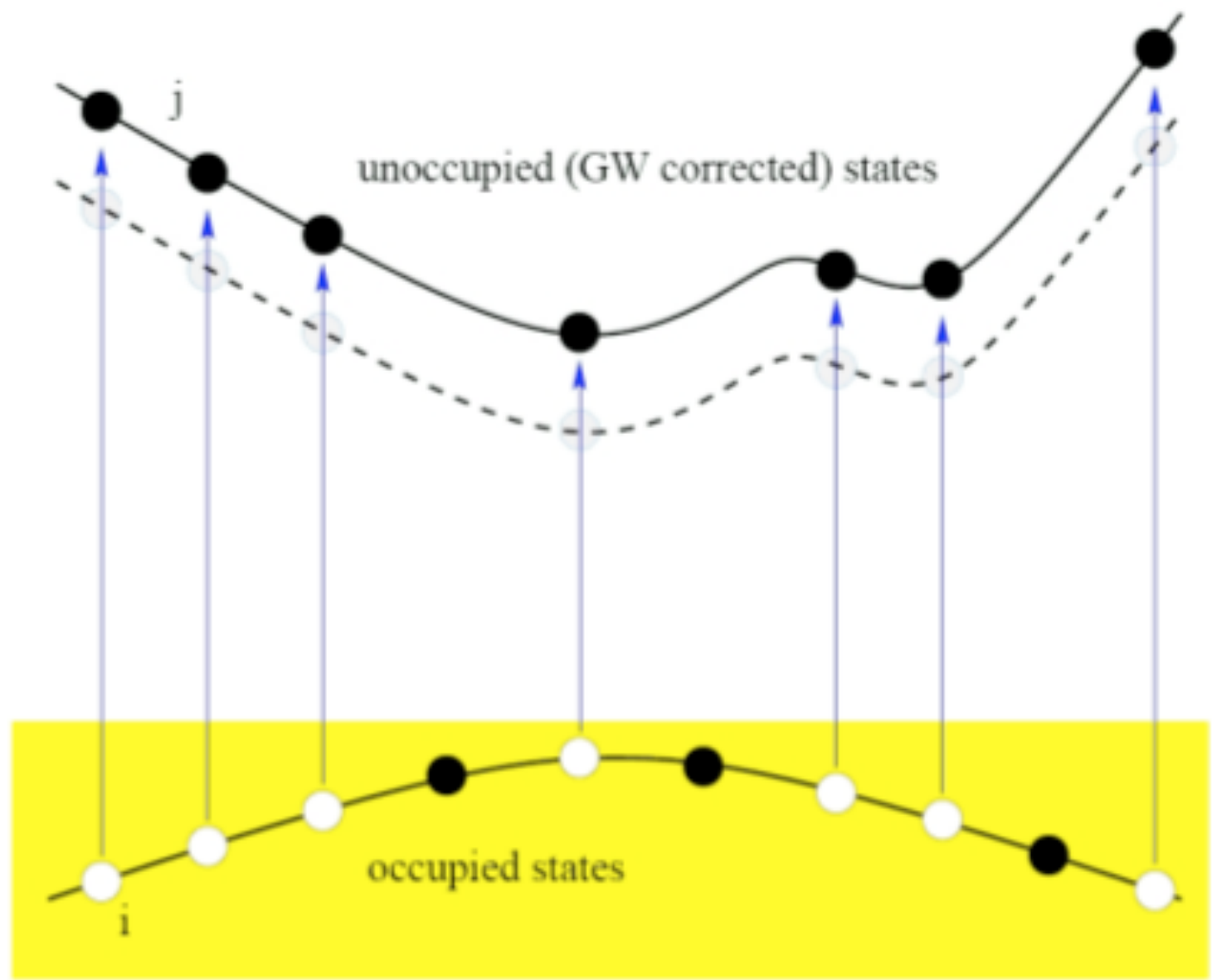
$$\epsilon_2(\omega) = \frac{8\pi^2}{\Omega\omega^2} \sum_{ij} |\langle \varphi_j | \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{v} | \varphi_i \rangle|^2 \delta(E_j - E_i - \omega)$$



# What about absorption spectra?

Independent transitions:

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Something important is missing!!!

# GW: an exascale-Class Problem

GW represents the intersection of worst-case scaling, memory intensity, and communication, making it an **ideal stress test for exascale computing.**

## Why GW Is Computationally Extreme

- **Unfavourable scaling**
  - Typical cost in system size.  $\mathcal{O}(N^4 - N^5)$
- **Dense linear algebra + global FFTs**
  - Heavy all-to-all communication
- **Memory pressure**
  - Tens to hundreds of TB for realistic systems
- **Limited algorithmic shortcuts**
  - Accuracy depends on explicitly resolving BZ integration



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Advancing Quantum Many-Body GW Calculations on Exascale Supercomputing Platforms (BerkeleyGW)

**ACM Gordon Bell Prize Finalist** (2025) B.Zhang et al. [arXiv:2509.23018](https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.23018) (2025)

- GW calculation of a 17000 atom system
- many-body GW calculations achieving **O(1) exaFLOP/s** with strong scaling to full machines. (Frontiers, Aurora)
- Strong scaling to  $\sim 10^5$  GPUs (Frontier)
- Makes predictive excited-state simulations feasible at material sizes previously unreachable by GW.

Ab-initio Quantum Transport with the GW Approximation, 42,240 Atoms, and Sustained Exascale Performance

**ACM Honorable Mention** (2025) N. Vetsch et al. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3712285.377178> (2025)

# Ab initio many-body perturbation theory (MBPT)



$$\left[ -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 + v^{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{x}) \right] \psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) = \epsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} \psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})$$

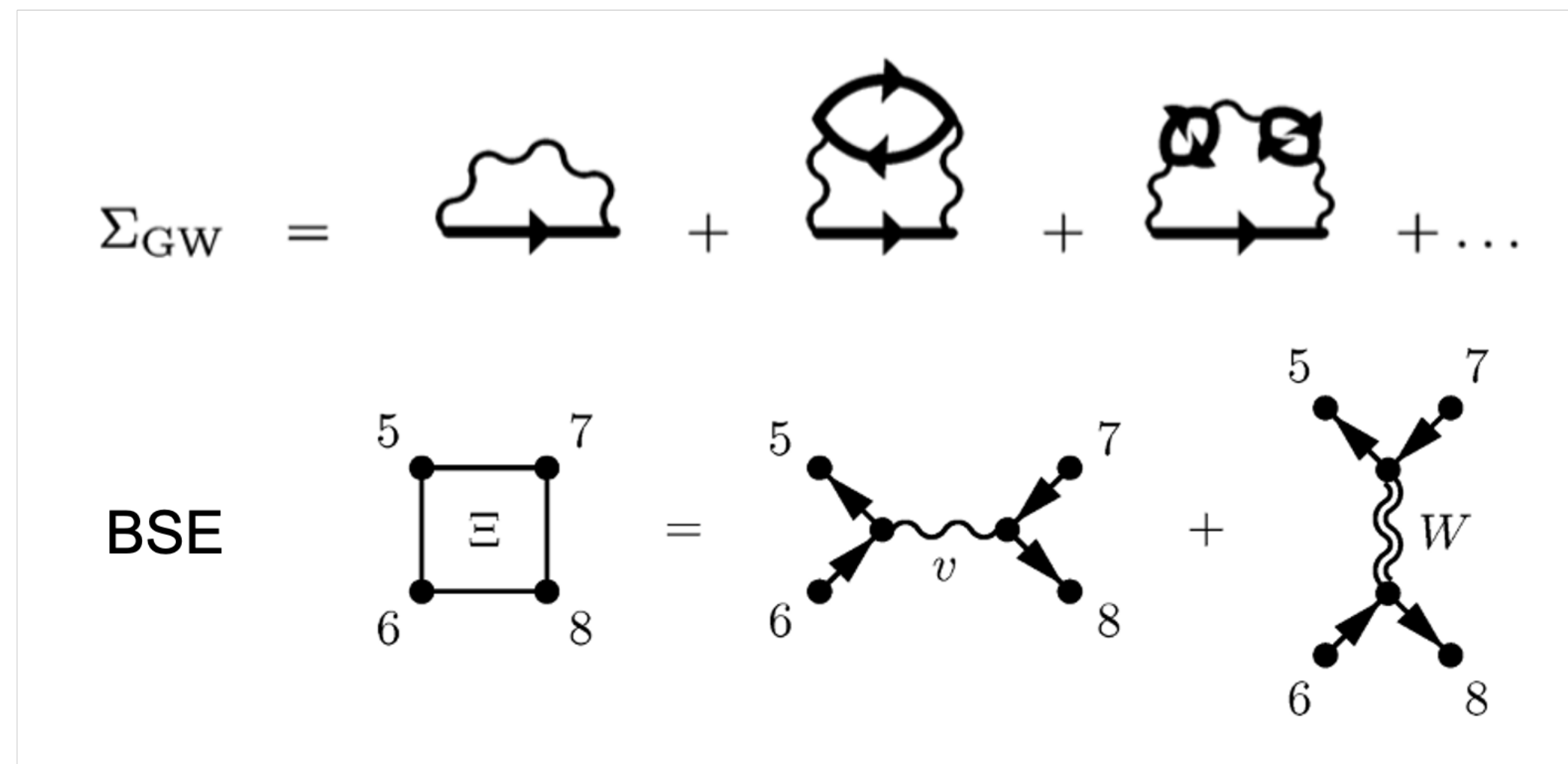
- **DFT simulation as input**
- interfaced to QE (MaX), Abinit

$$G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', \omega) = \sum_{n\mathbf{k}} \frac{\psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) \psi_{n\mathbf{k}}^*(\mathbf{x}')}{\omega - \epsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} \pm i0^+}$$

- the **DFT Green's function** used to compute **MBPT** quantities

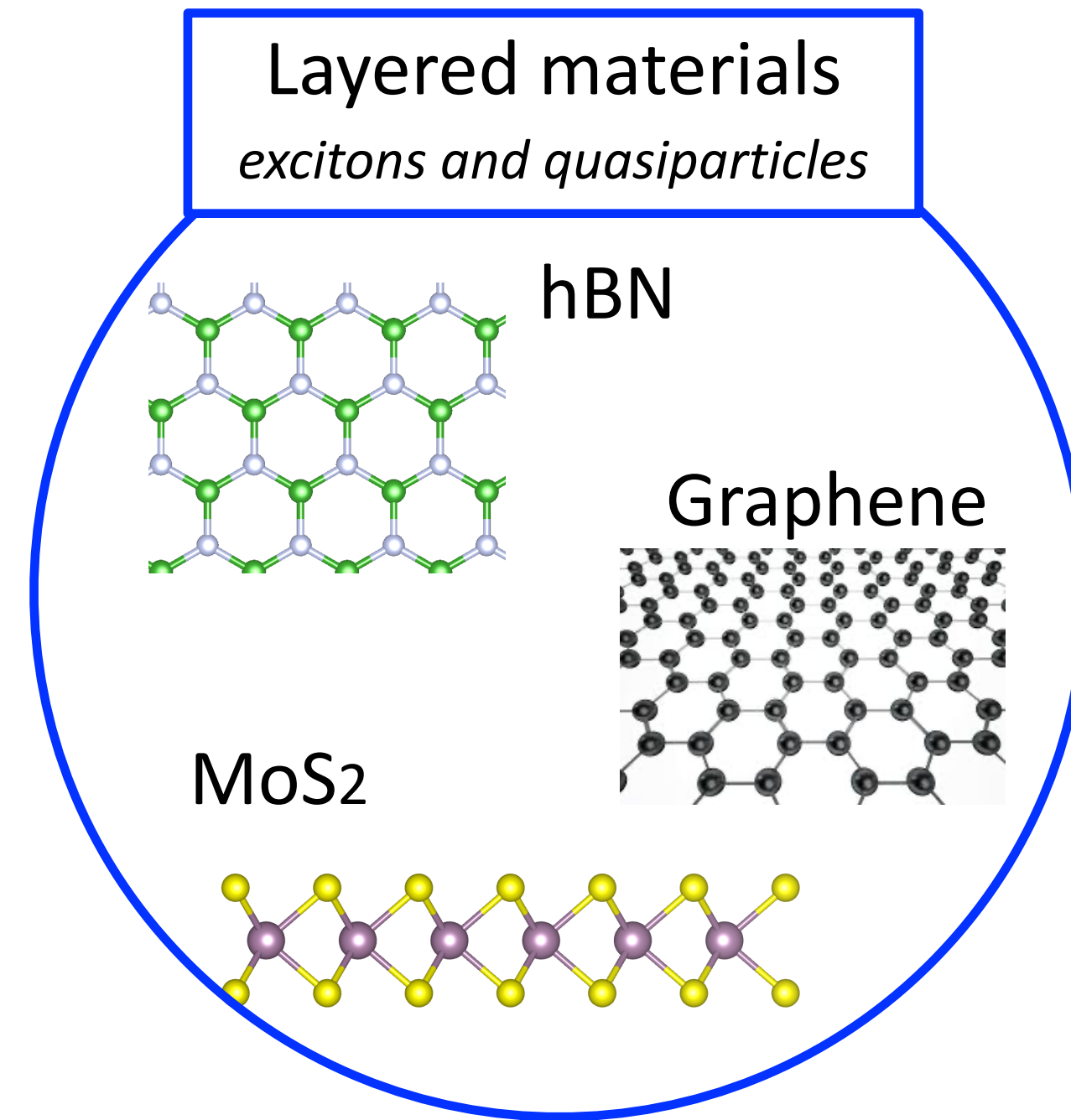
- microscopic screening

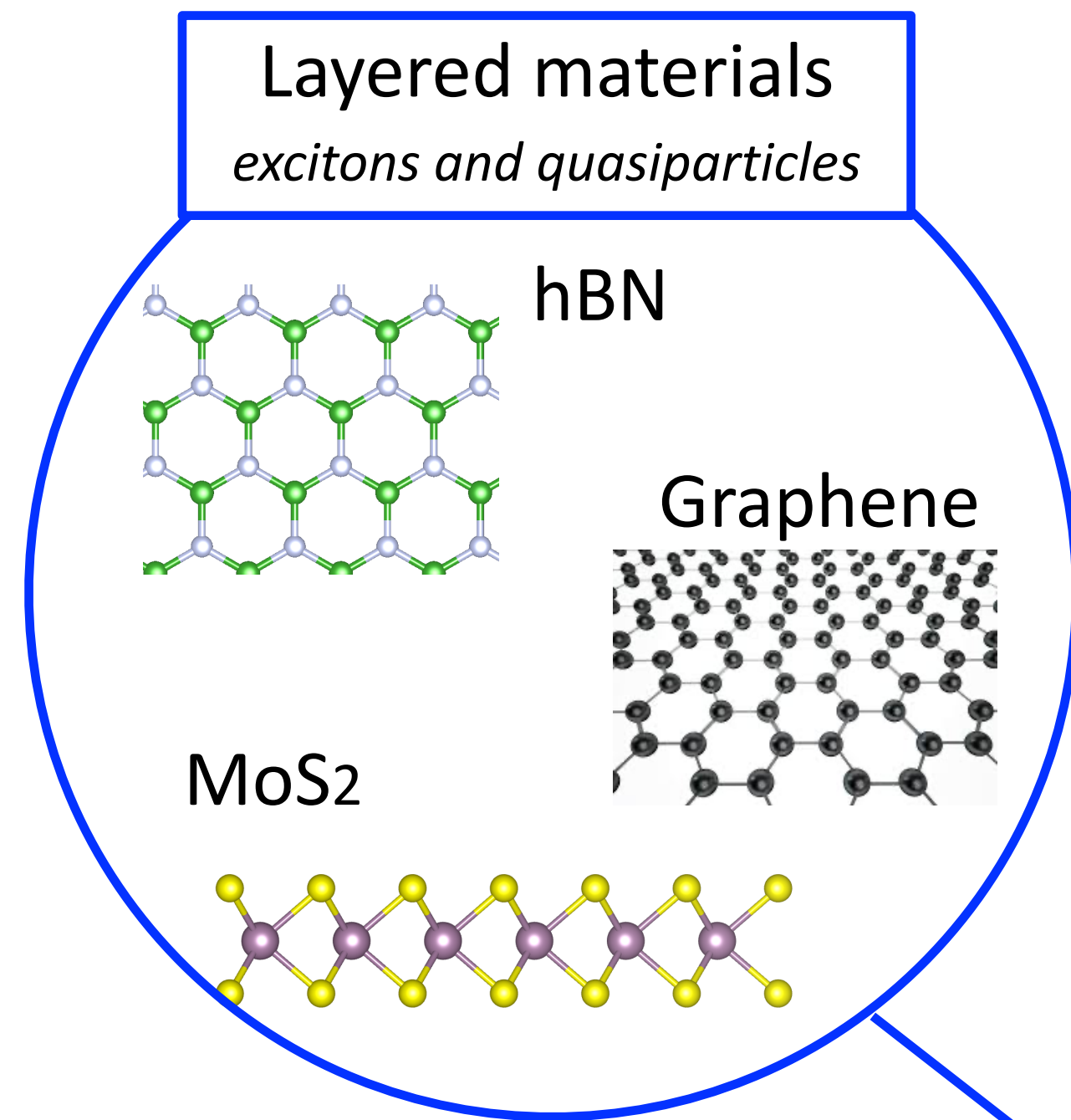
$$\chi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}', \omega)$$



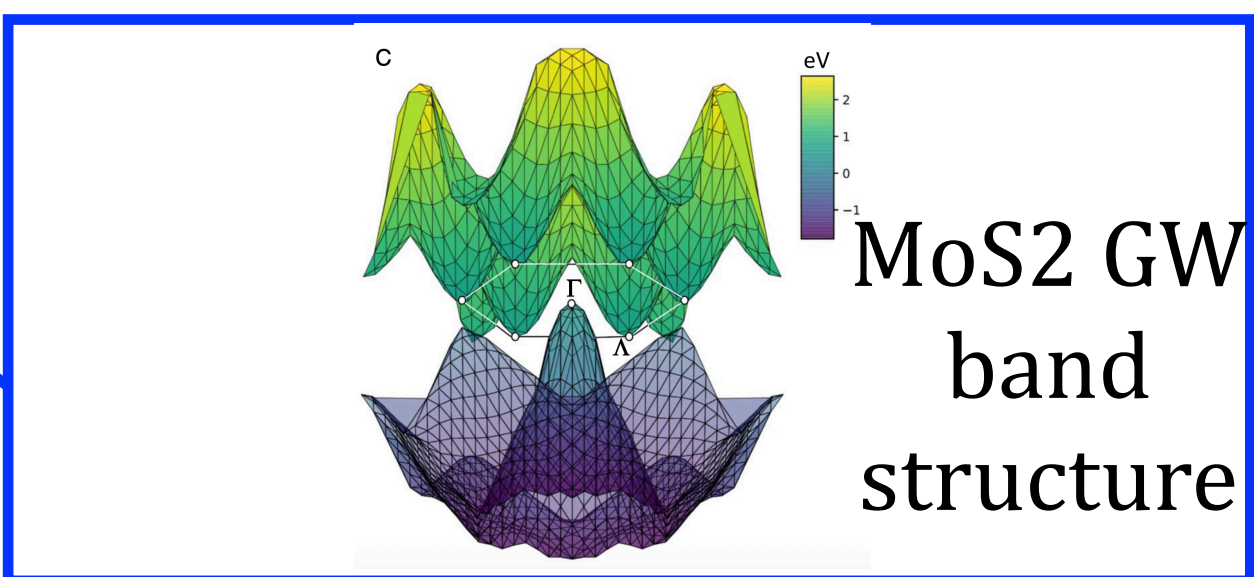
A. Marini, C. Hogan, M. Gruning, D. Varsano, *Comp.Phys.Comm.* **180**, 1392 (2009)

D. Sangalli, et al, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter.* **31**, 325902 (2019)

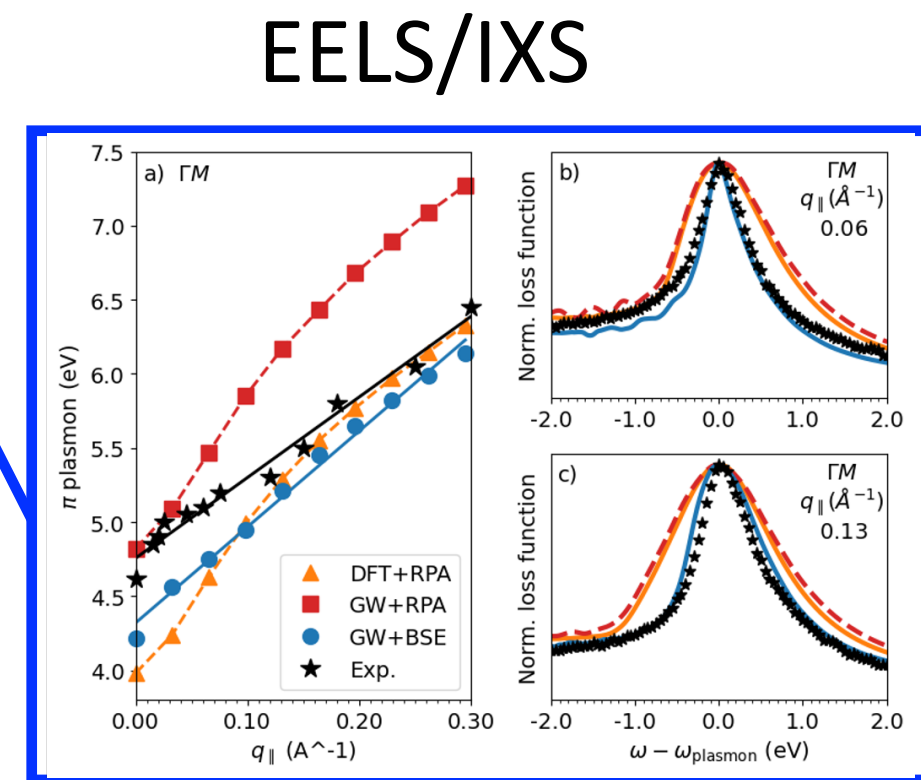
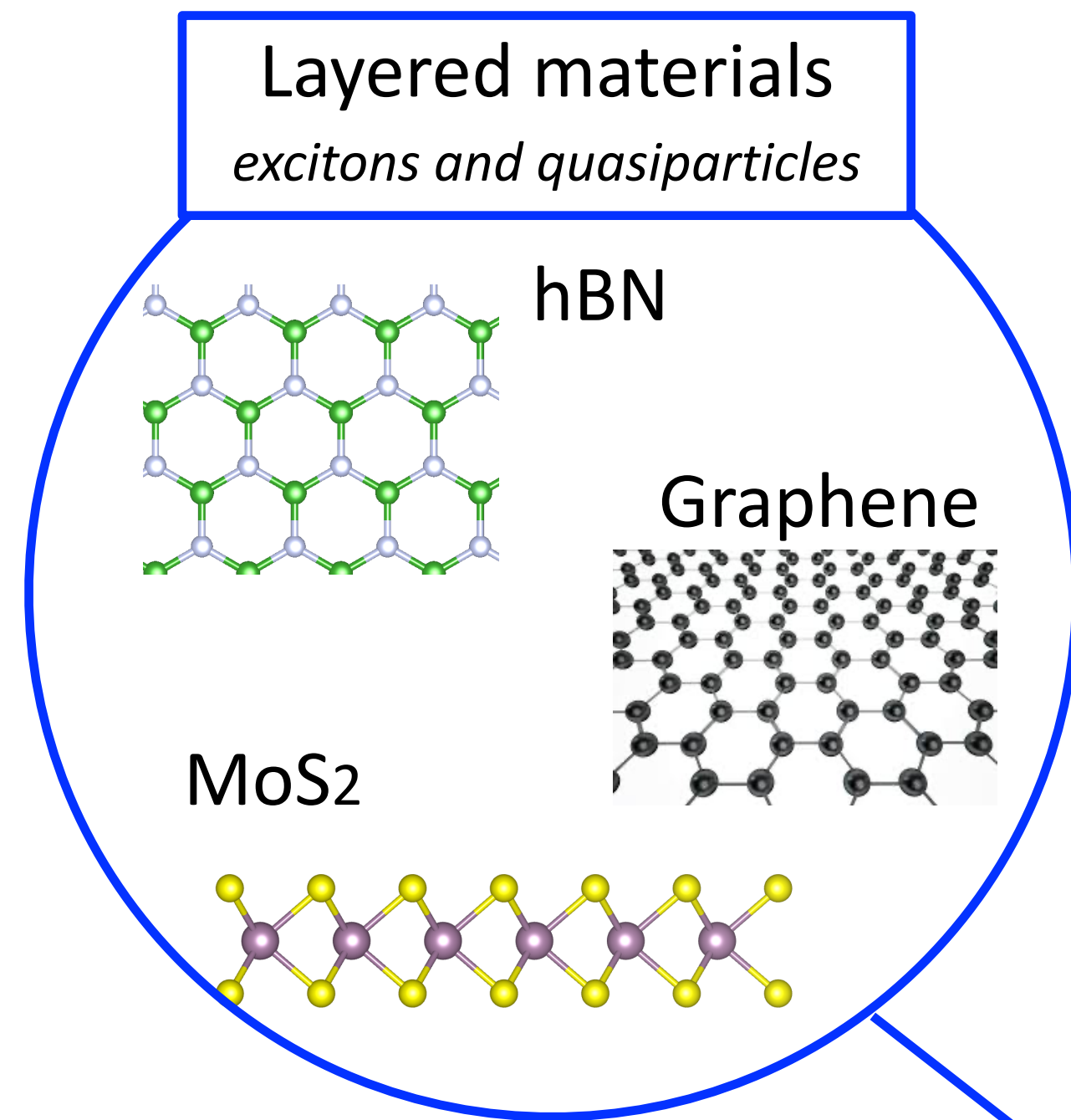




## Photoemission/quasiparticles

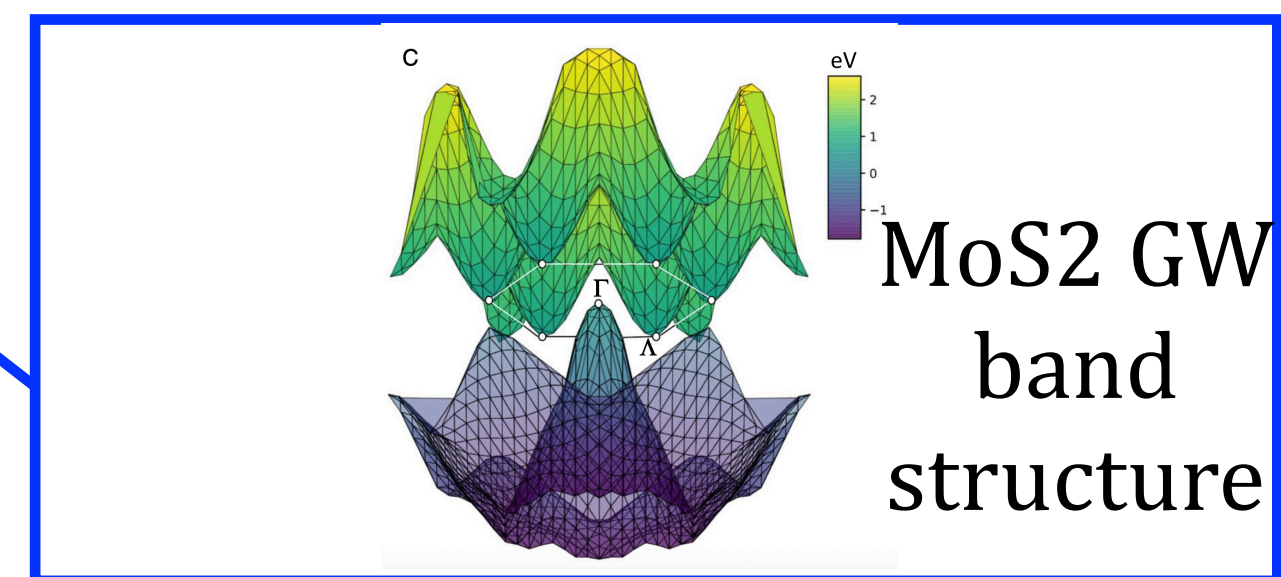


Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)



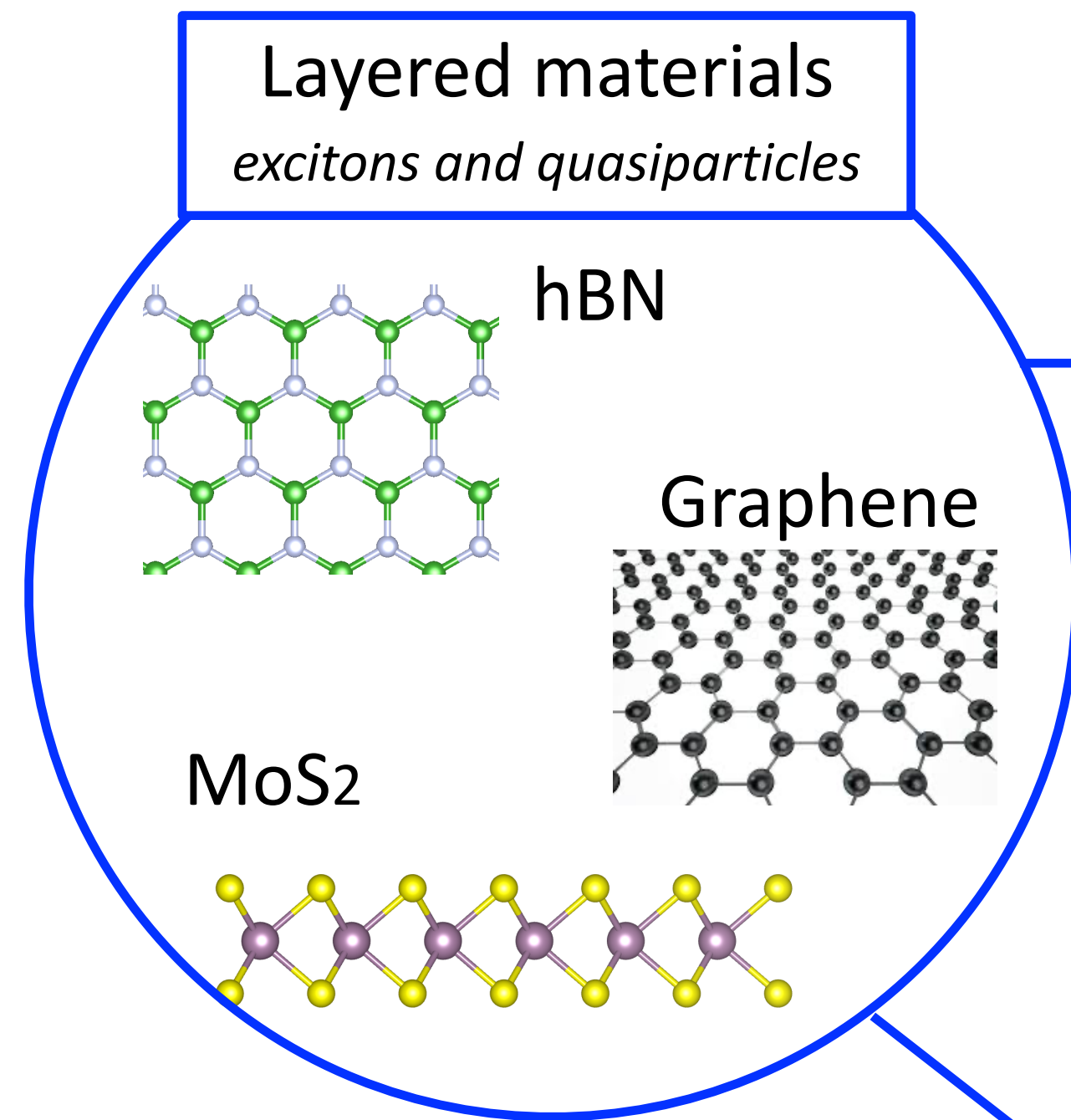
EELS free-standing graphene  
*Guandalini, Varsano, Ferretti...Nano Lett. (2023)*

### Photoemission/quasiparticles

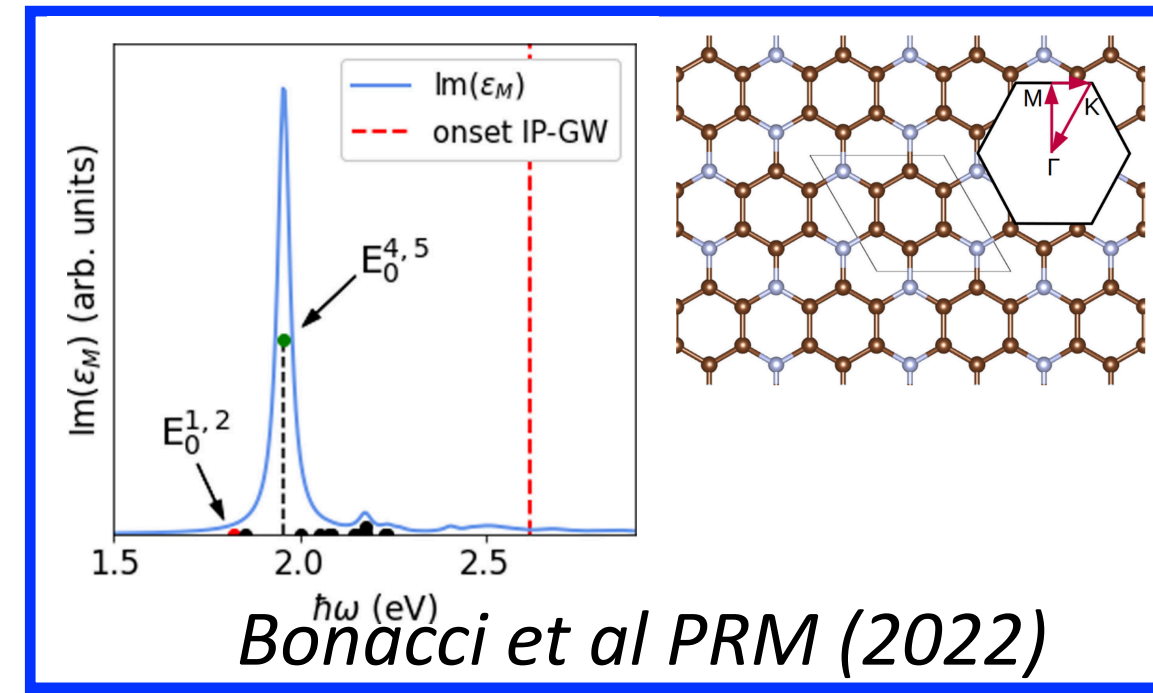


*Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)*

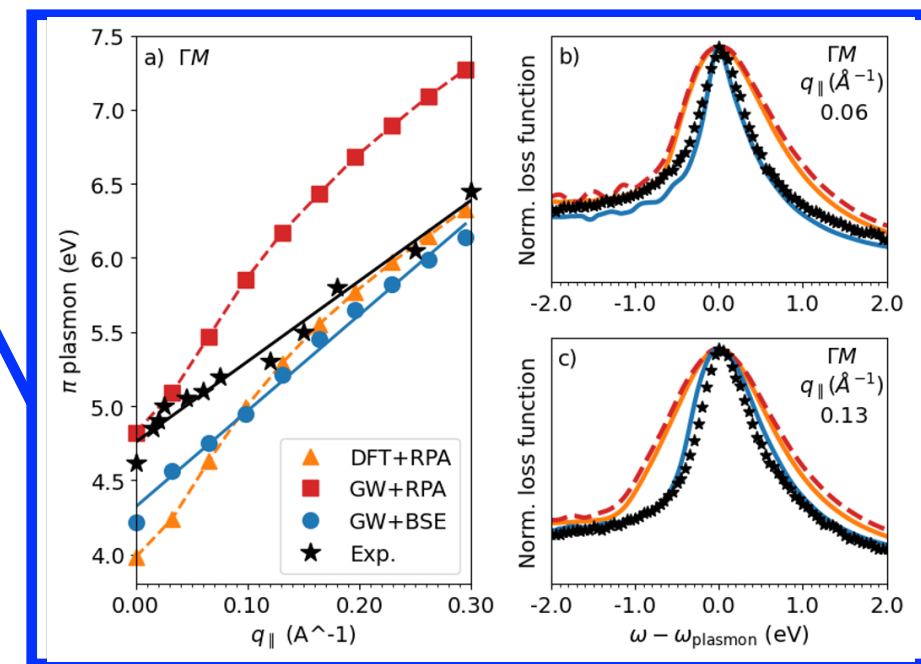
# Many Body technique for spectroscopy:



## Optical absorption: Excitons



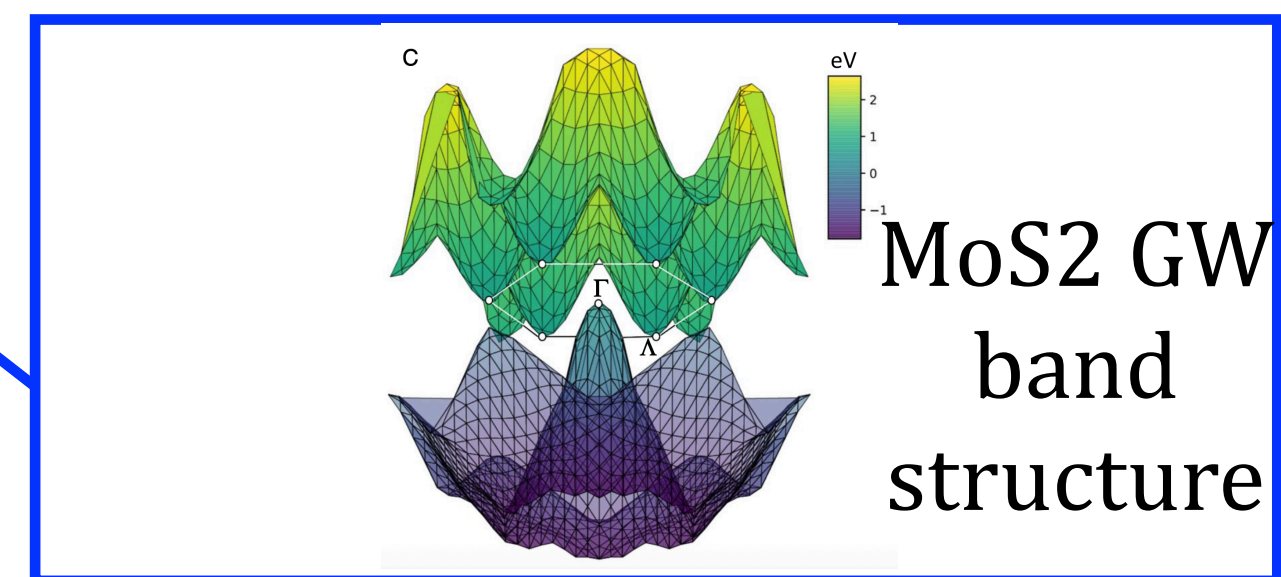
## EELS/IXS



## EELS free-standing graphene

Guandalini, Varsano, Ferretti...Nano Lett. (2023)

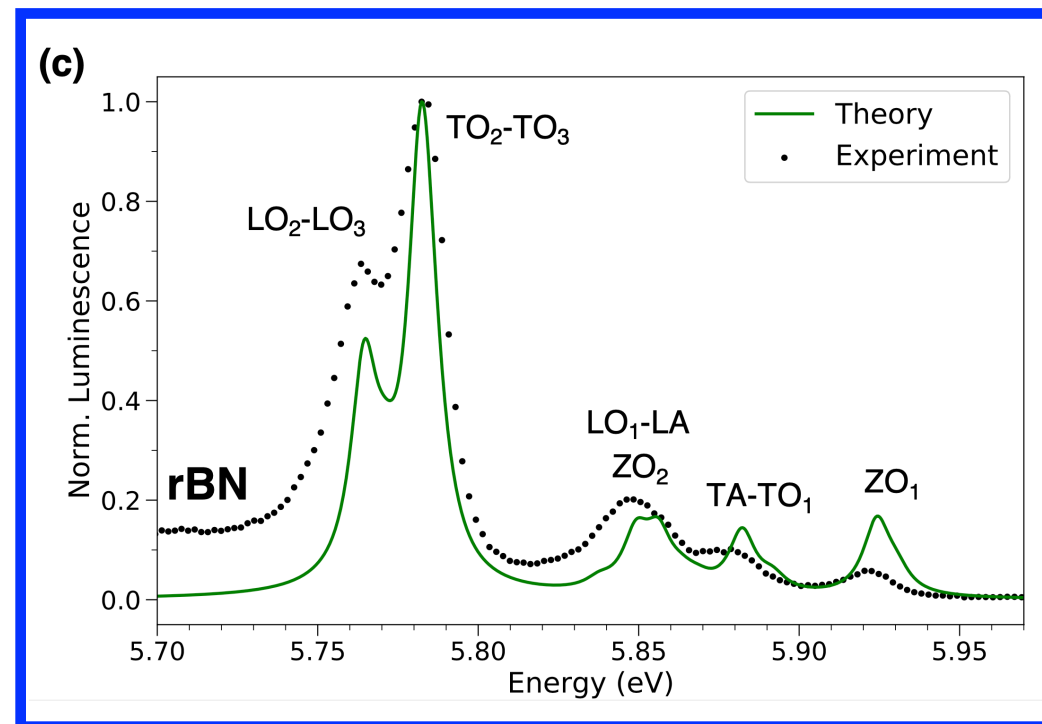
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Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)

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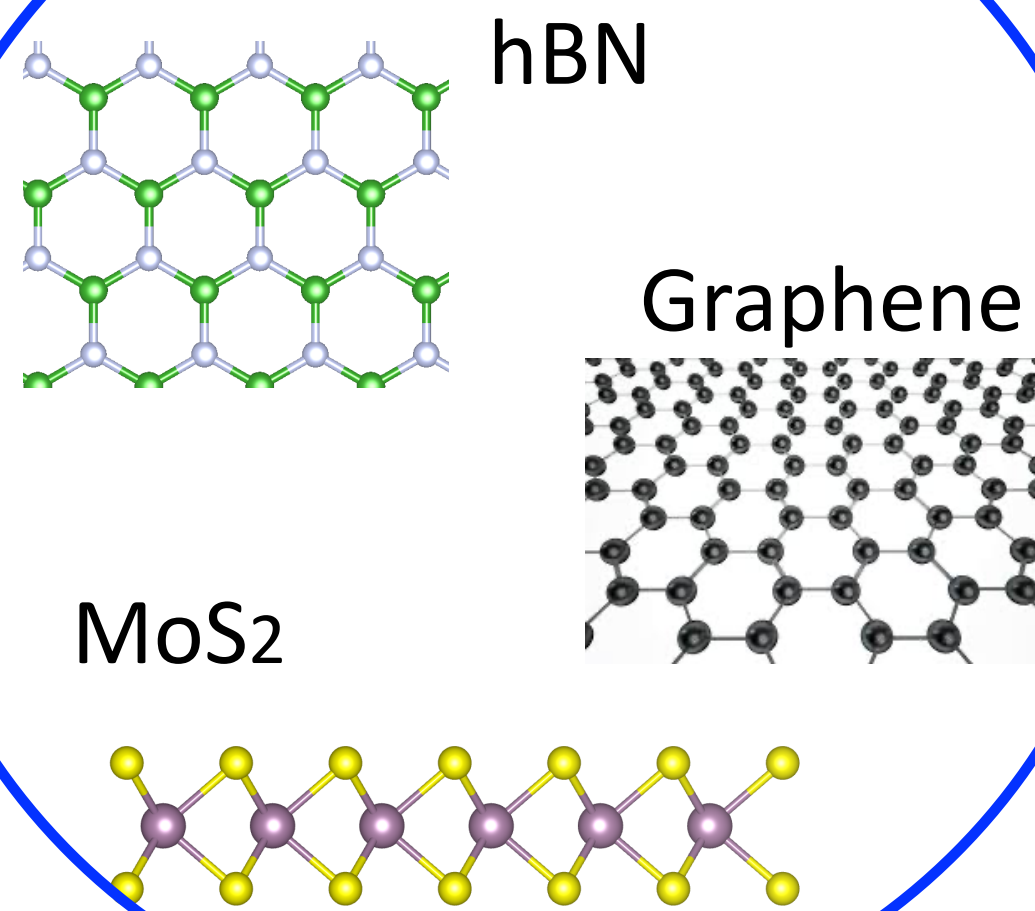
## Phonon-assisted luminescence



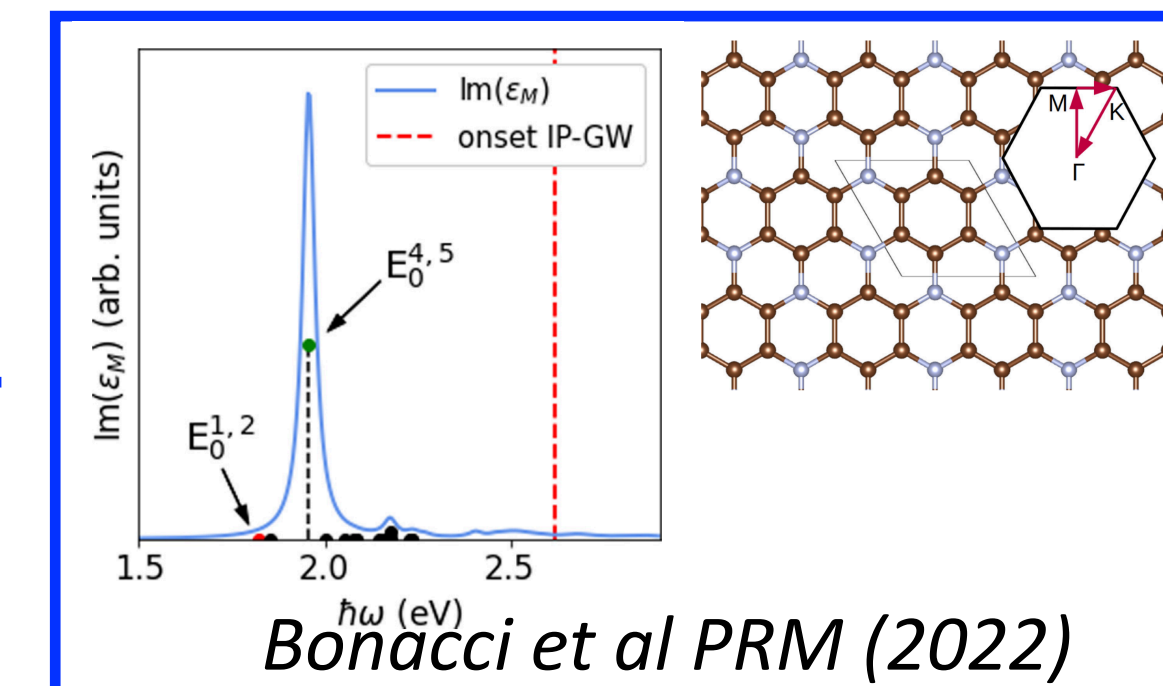
Zanfognini, Paleari, Molinari, Varsano ...PRL (2023)

## Layered materials

excitons and quasiparticles

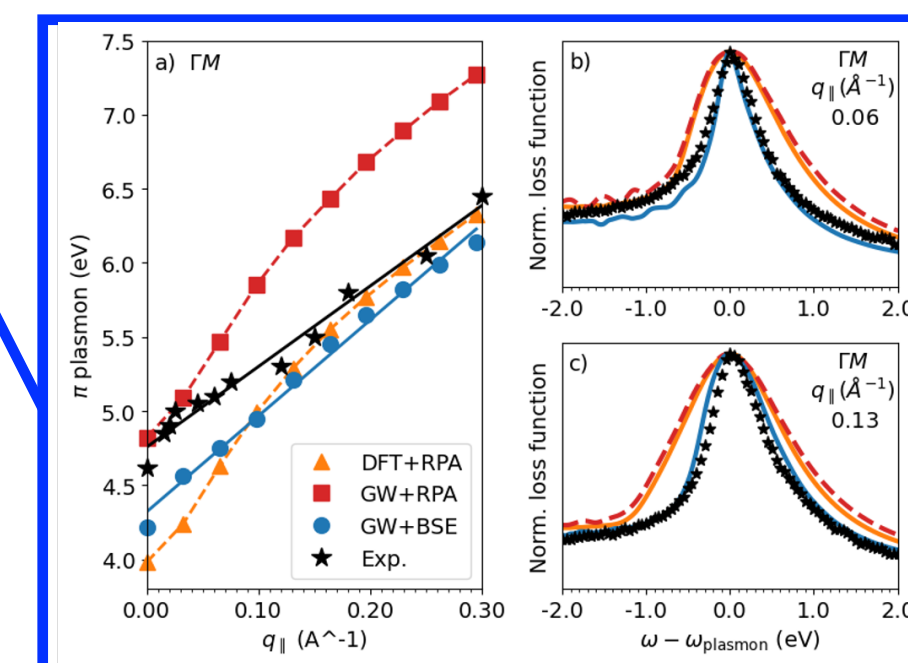


## Optical absorption: Excitons



Bonacchi et al PRM (2022)

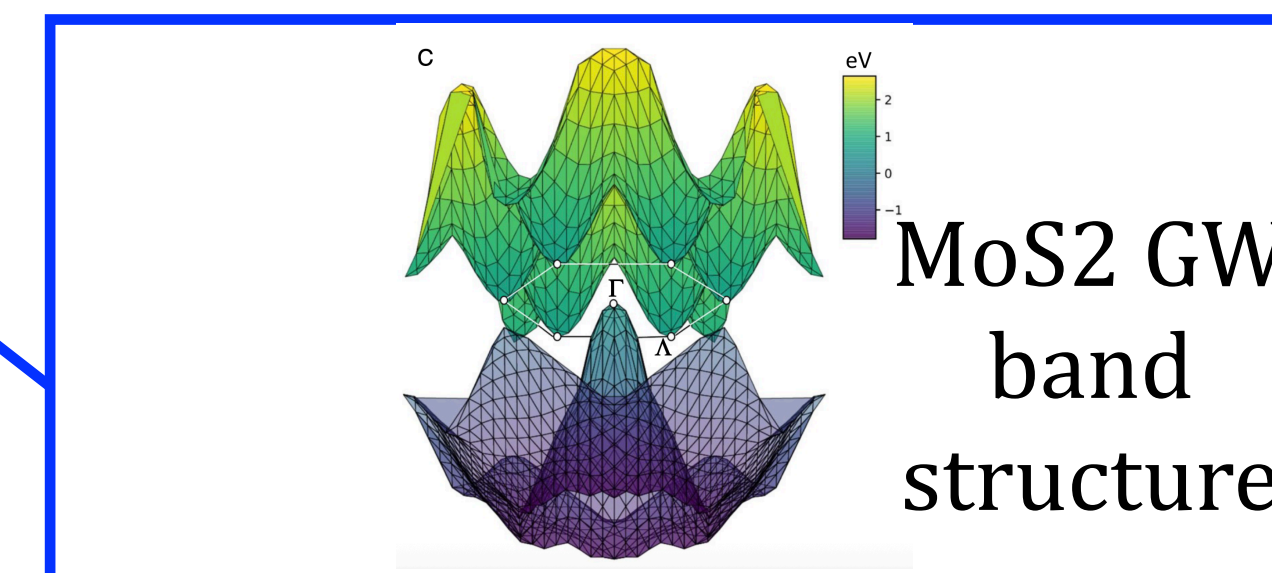
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Guandalini, Varsano, Ferretti...Nano Lett. (2023)

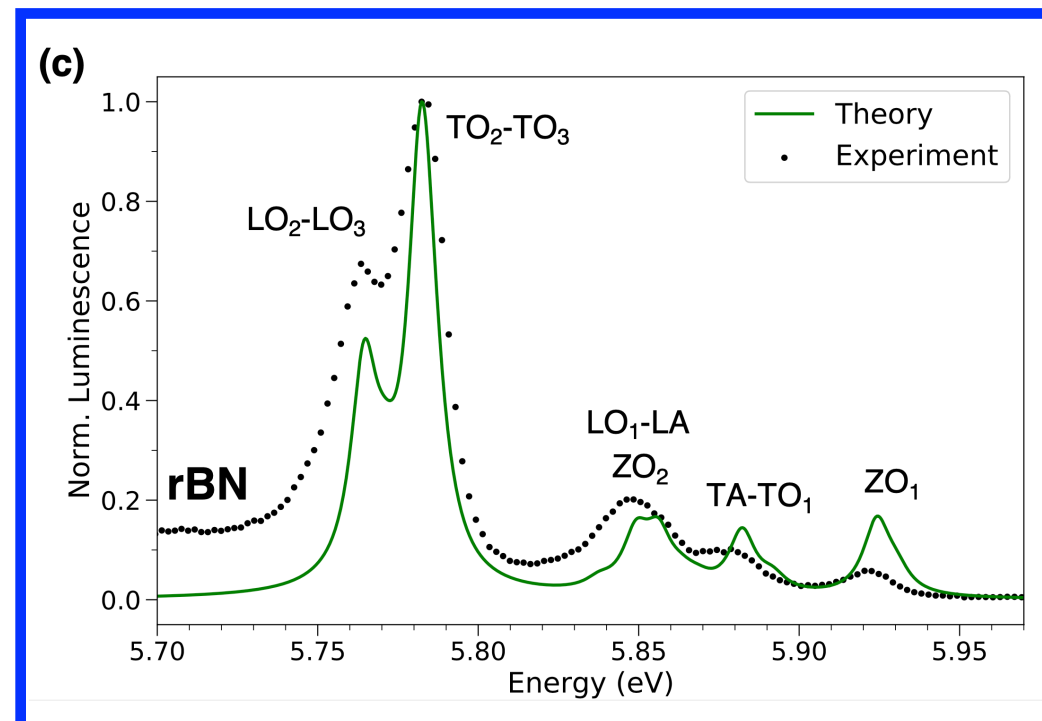
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Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)

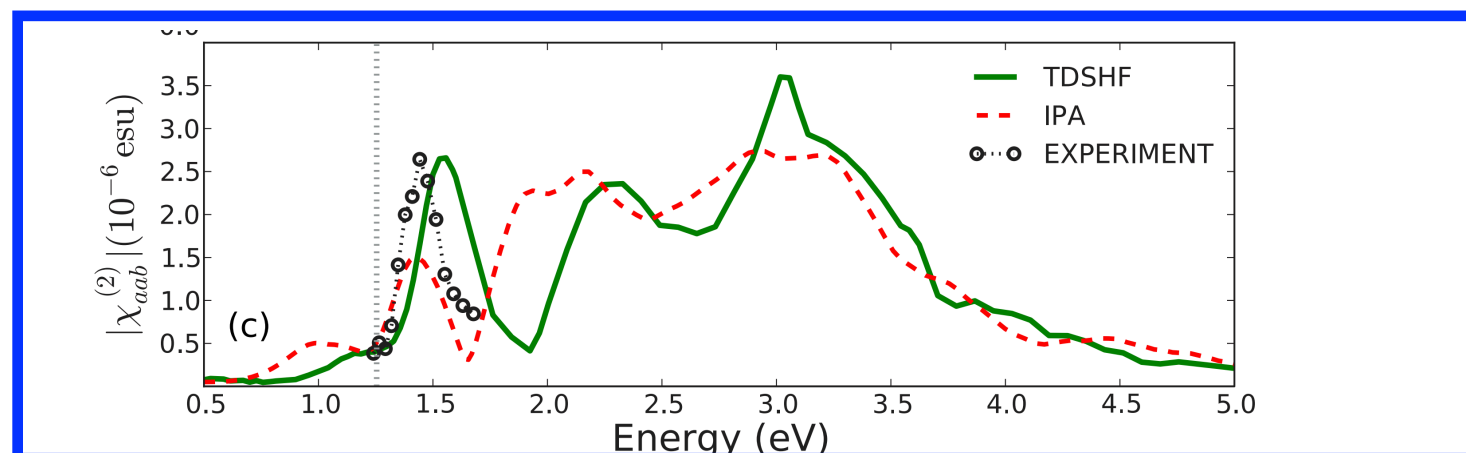
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Zanfagnini, Paleari, Molinari, Varsano ...PRL (2023) See P2.36: Fulvio Paleari

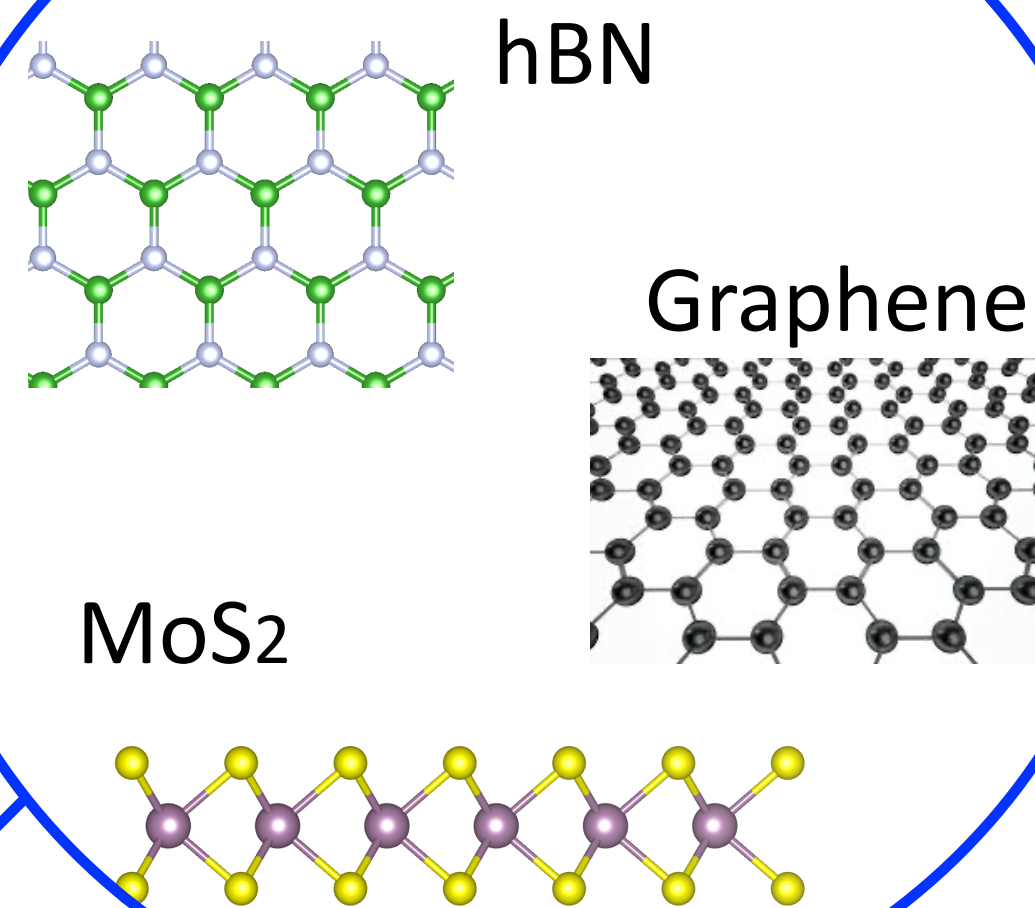
## High-harmonic generation



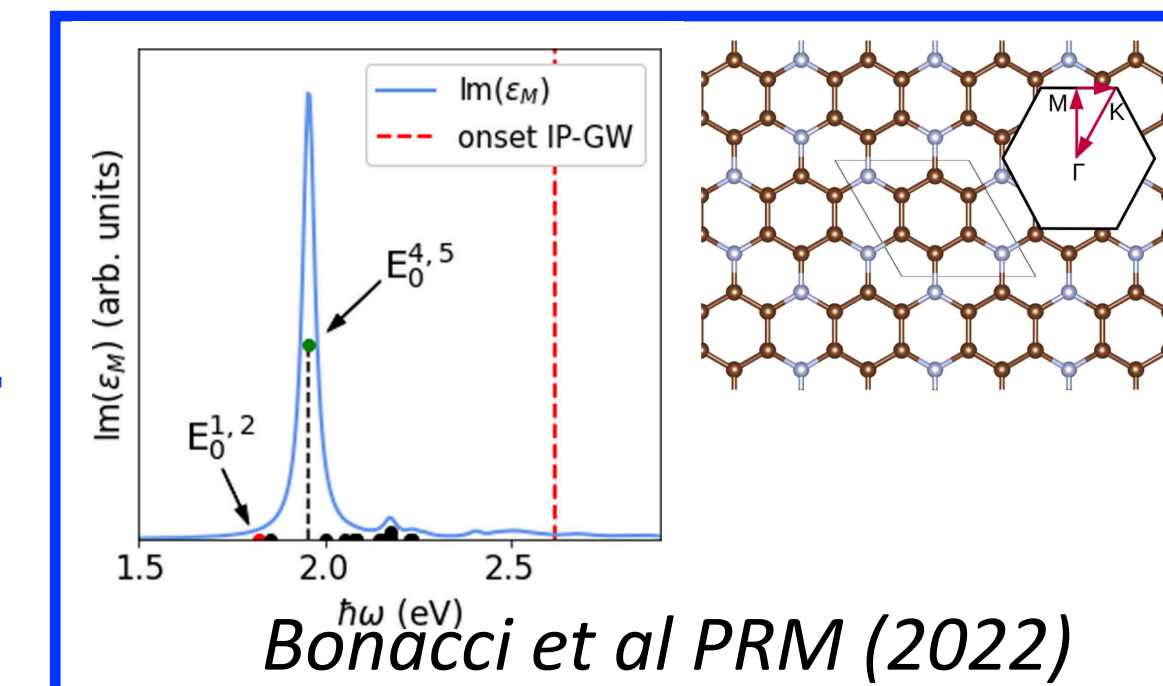
PRB 89, 081102(R) (2014)

## Layered materials

excitons and quasiparticles

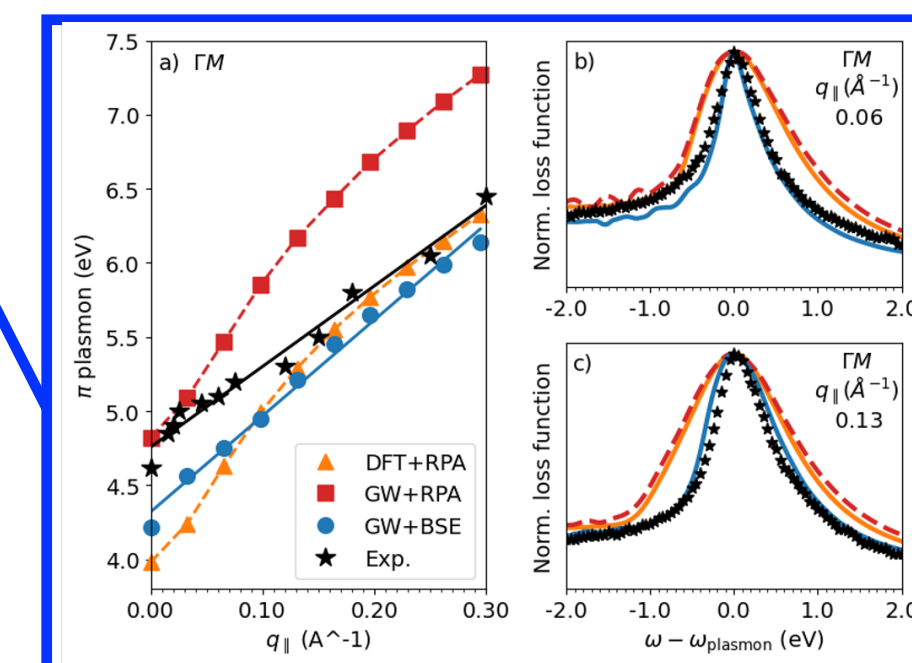


## Optical absorption: Excitons



Bonacchi et al PRM (2022)

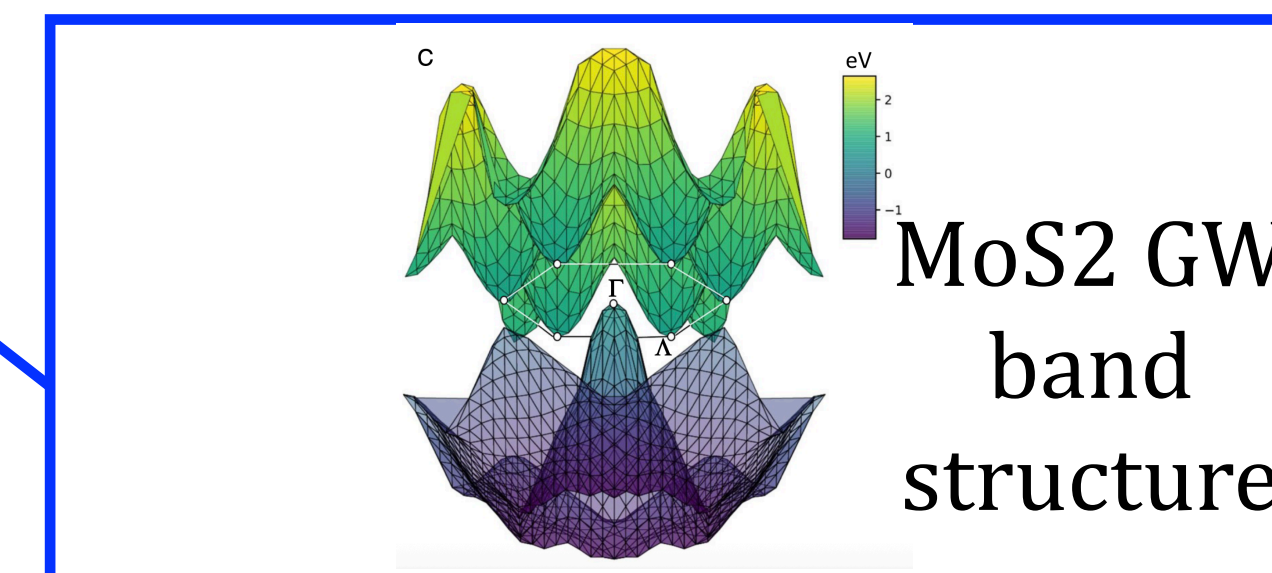
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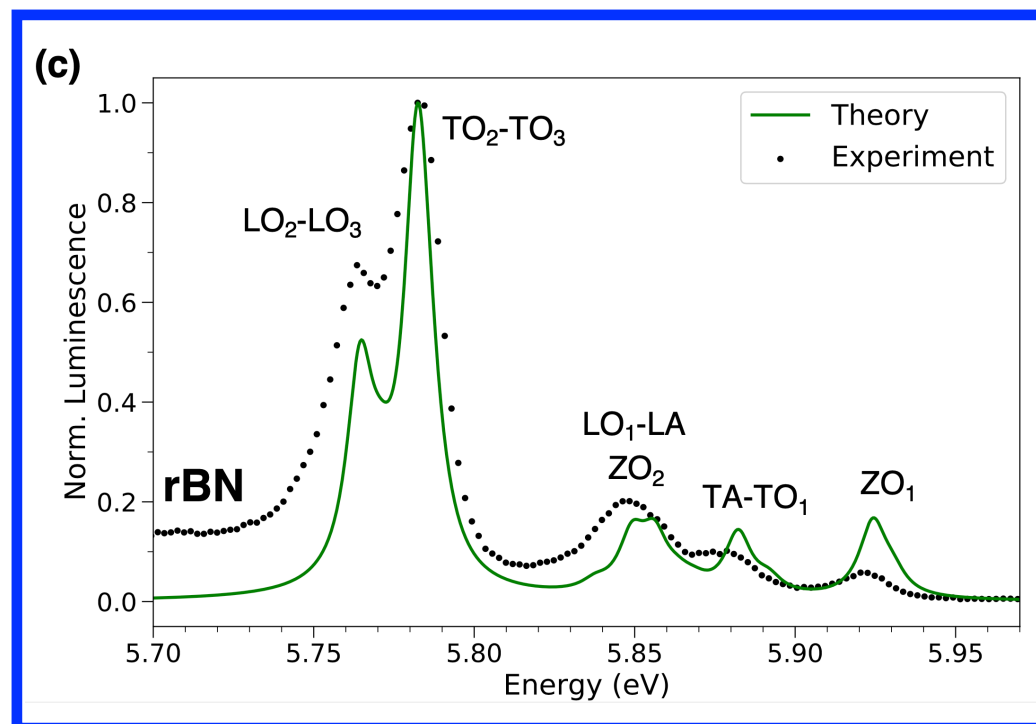


MoS2 GW band structure

Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)

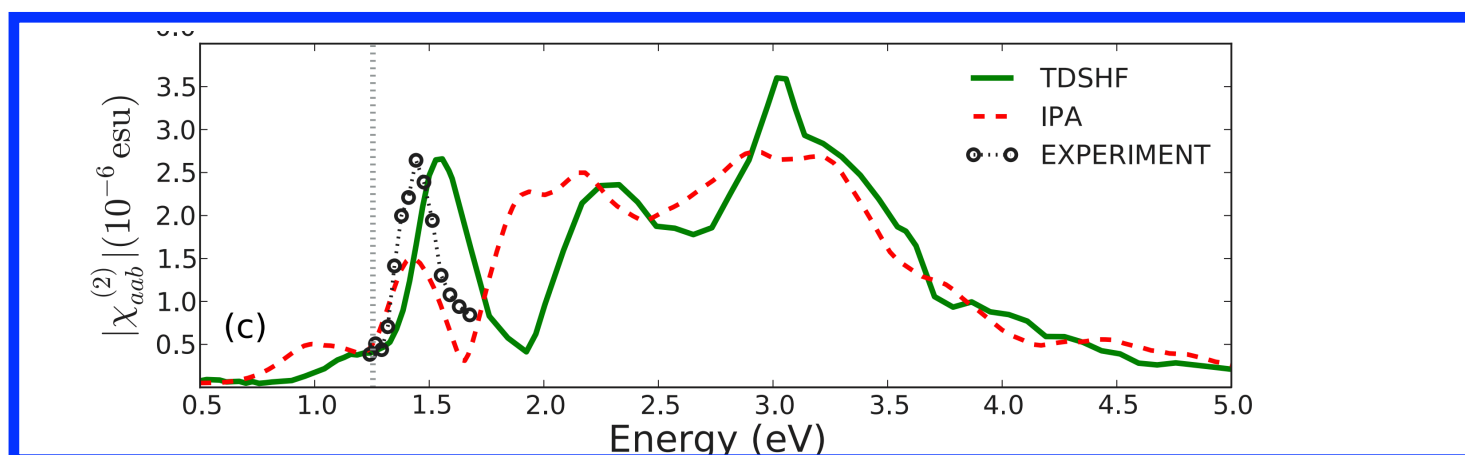
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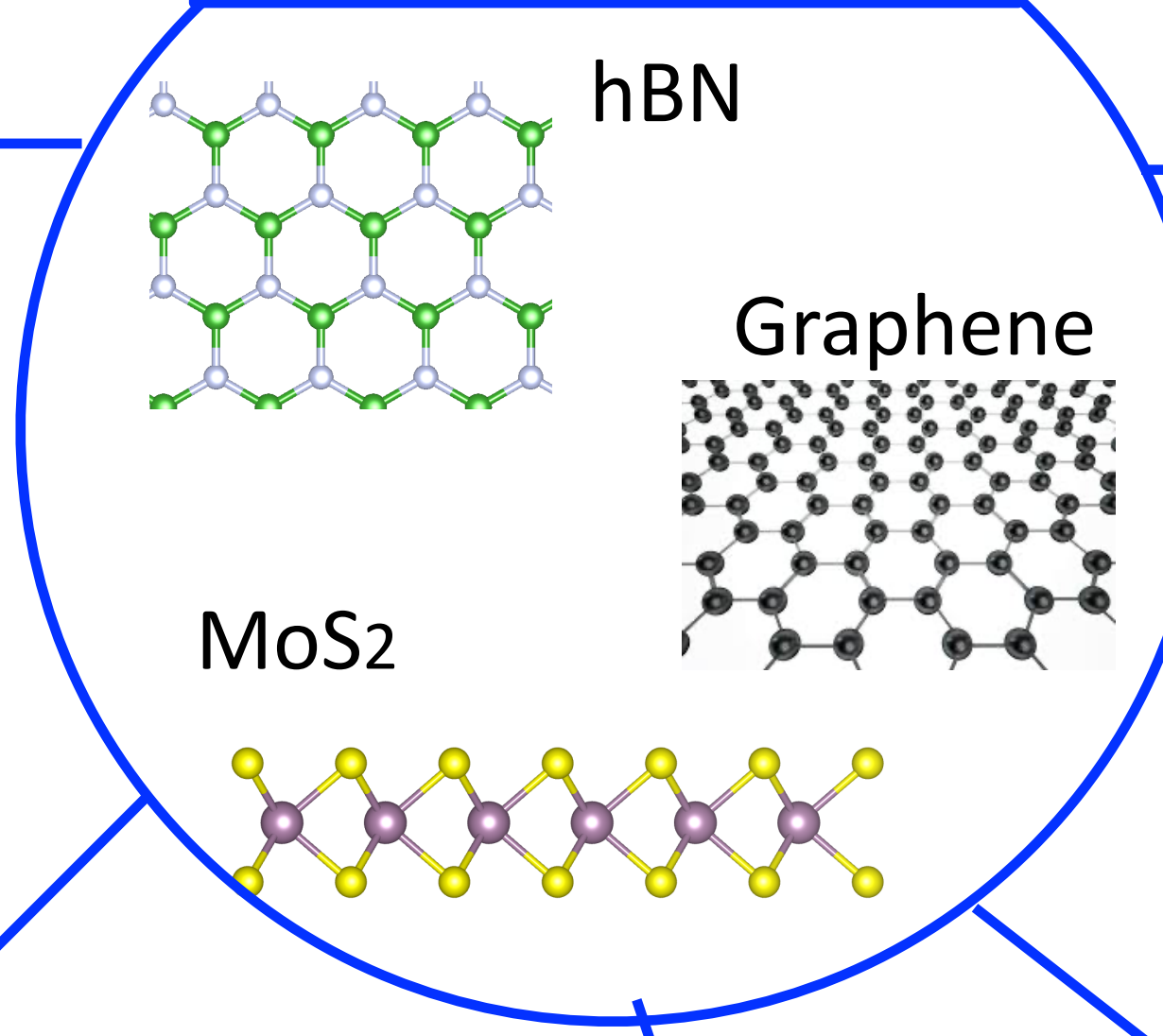
Zanfrognini, Paleari, Molinari, Varsano ...PRL (2023) See P2.36: Fulvio Paleari

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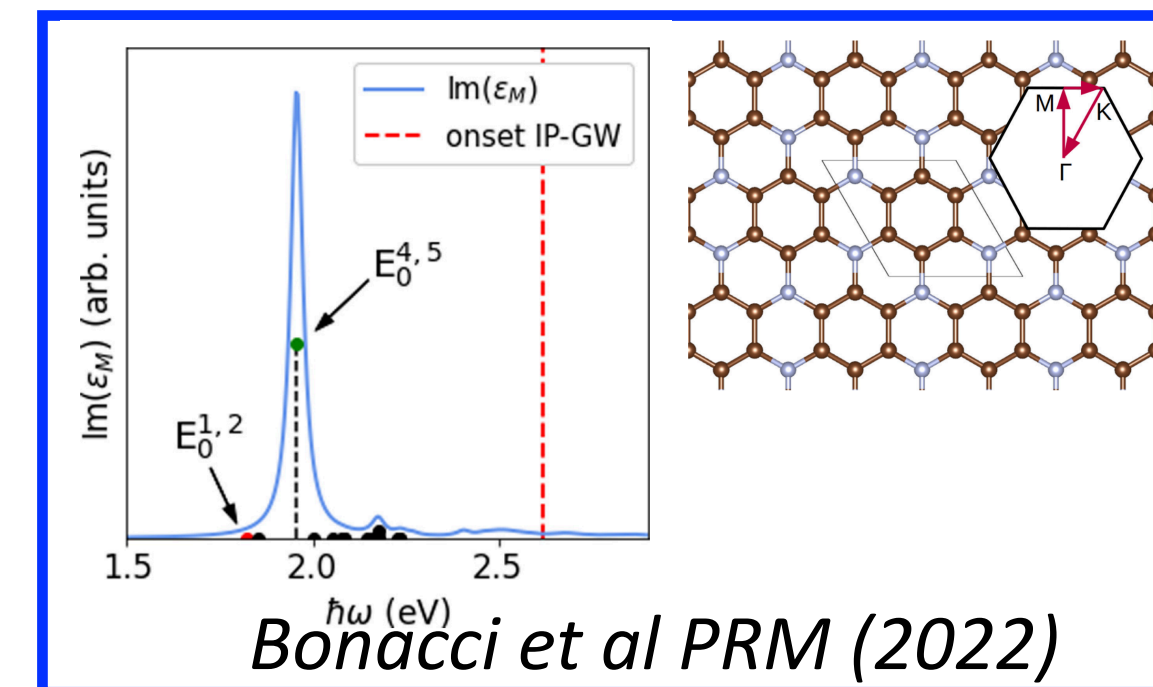


PRB 89, 081102(R) (2014)

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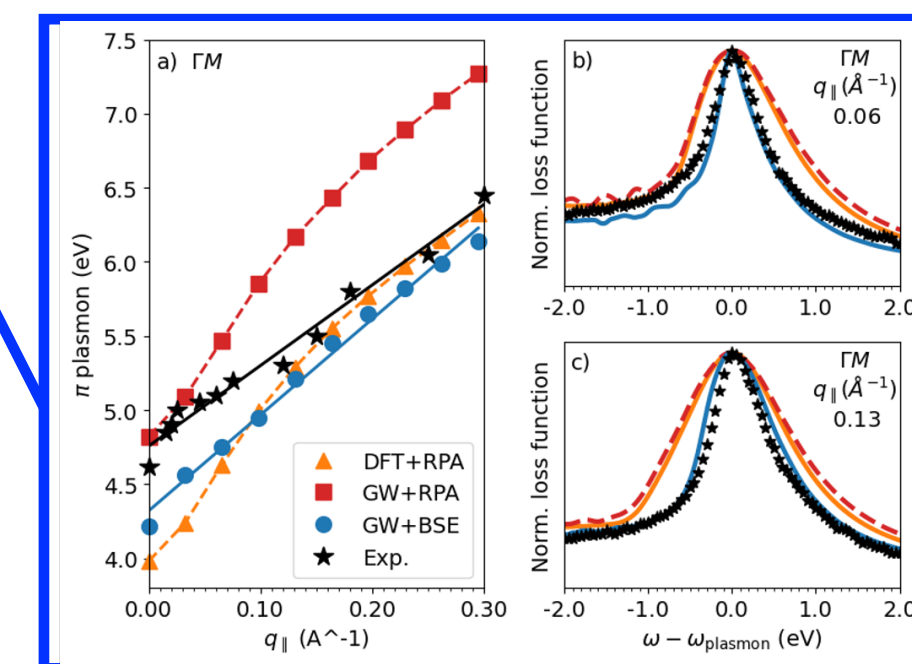


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Bonacci et al PRM (2022)

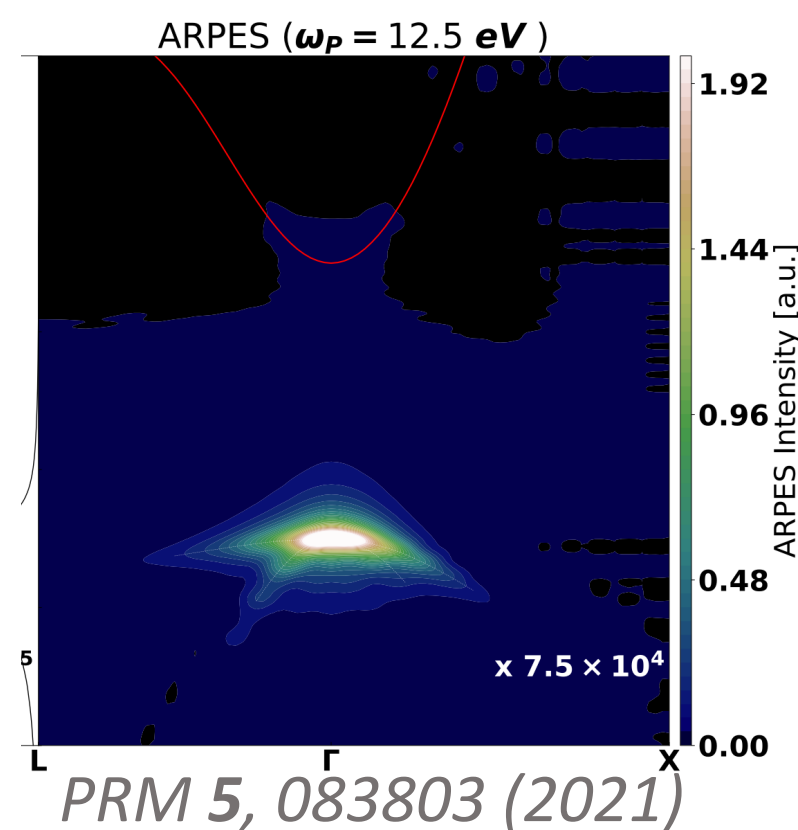
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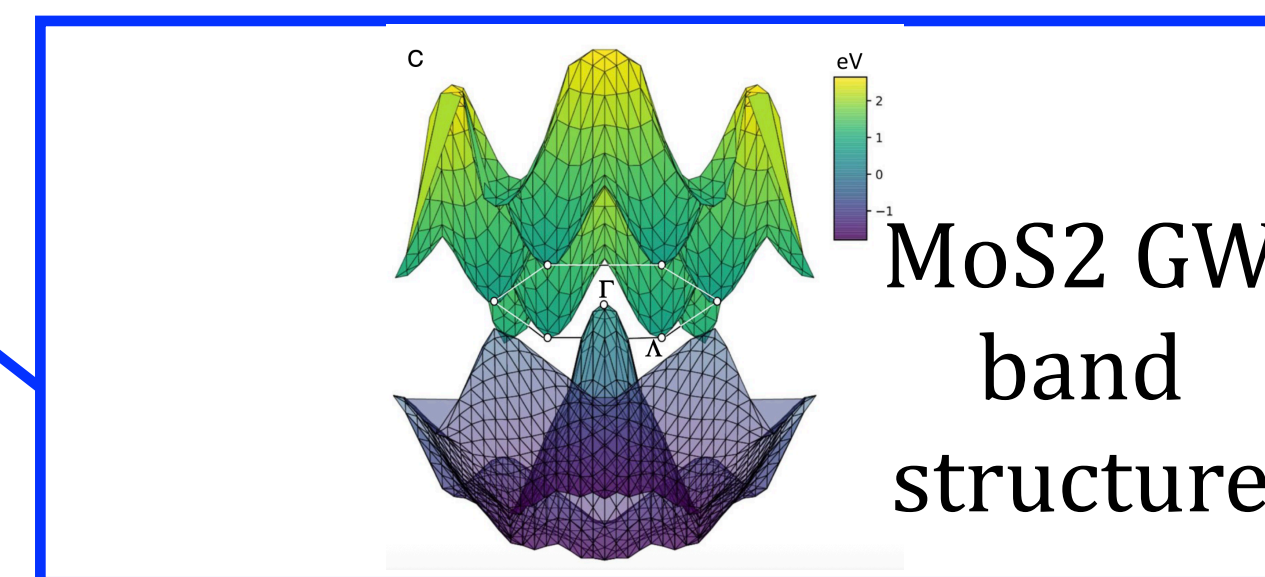
Guandalini, Varsano, Ferretti...Nano Lett. (2023)

## Time-resolved spectra



PRM 5, 083803 (2021)

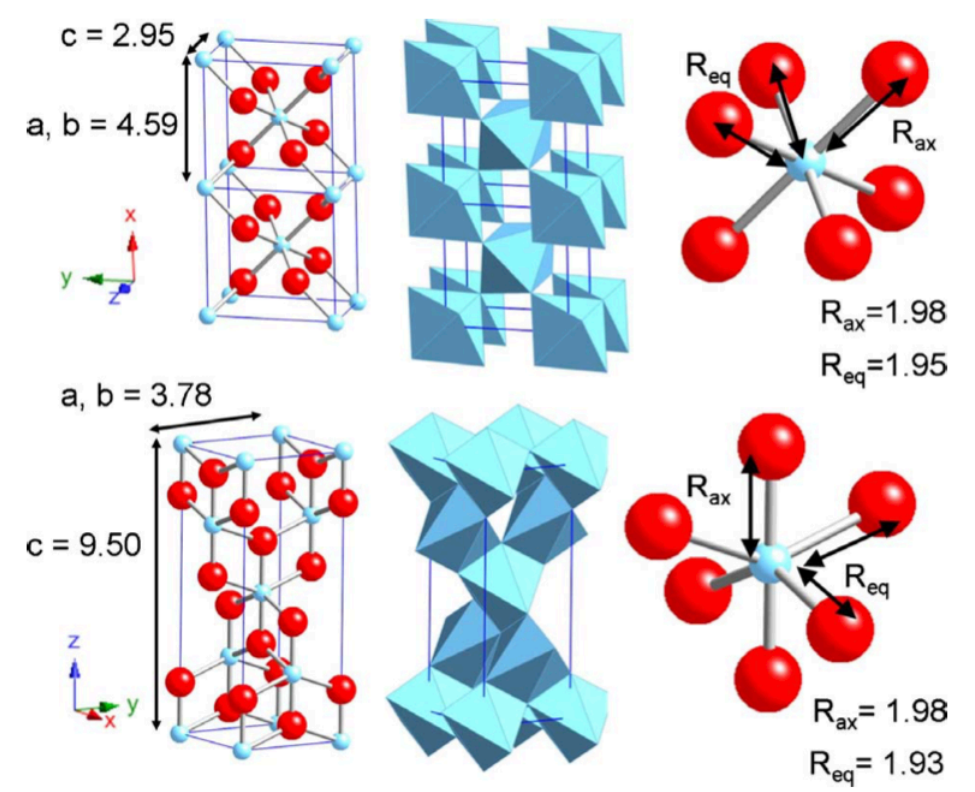
## Photoemission/quasiparticles



MoS2 GW band structure

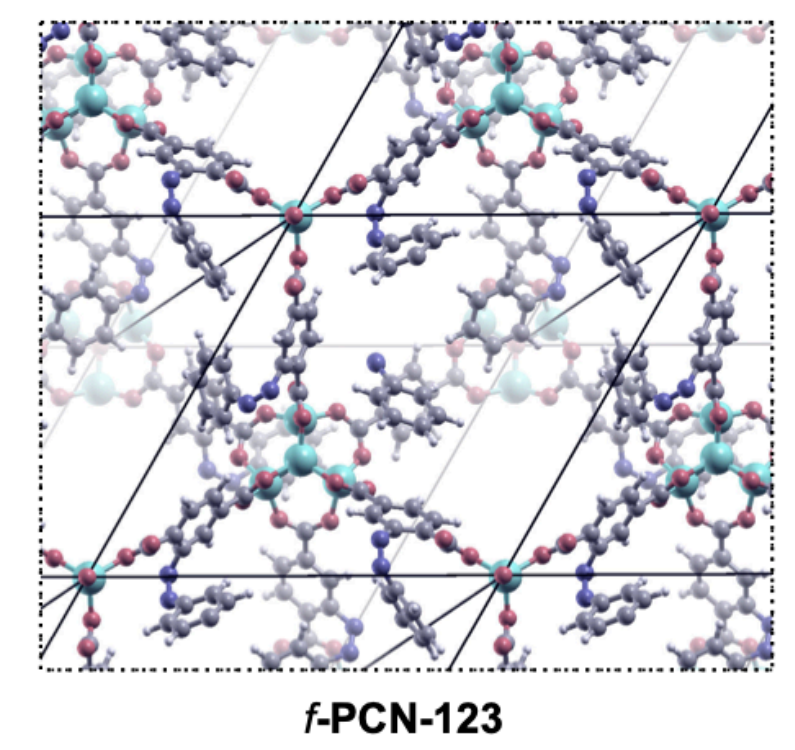
Ataei, Varsano, Molinari, Rontani PNAS (2021)

# Which systems you can deal with:

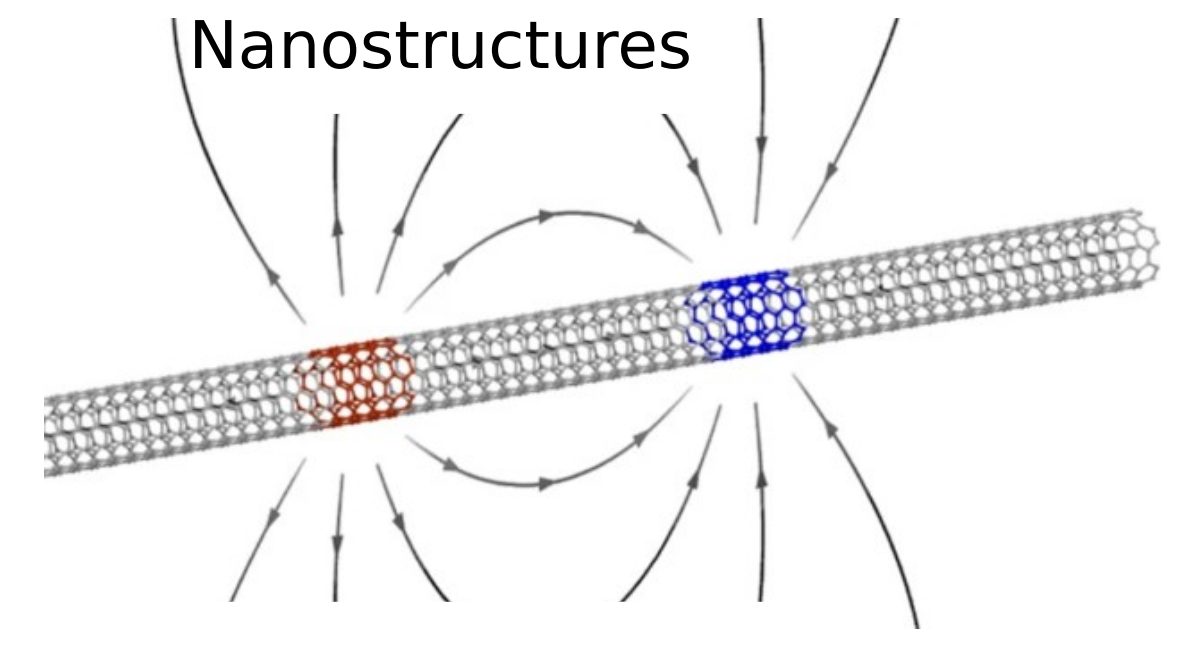


L. Chiodo et al. Phys. Rev. B (2010)

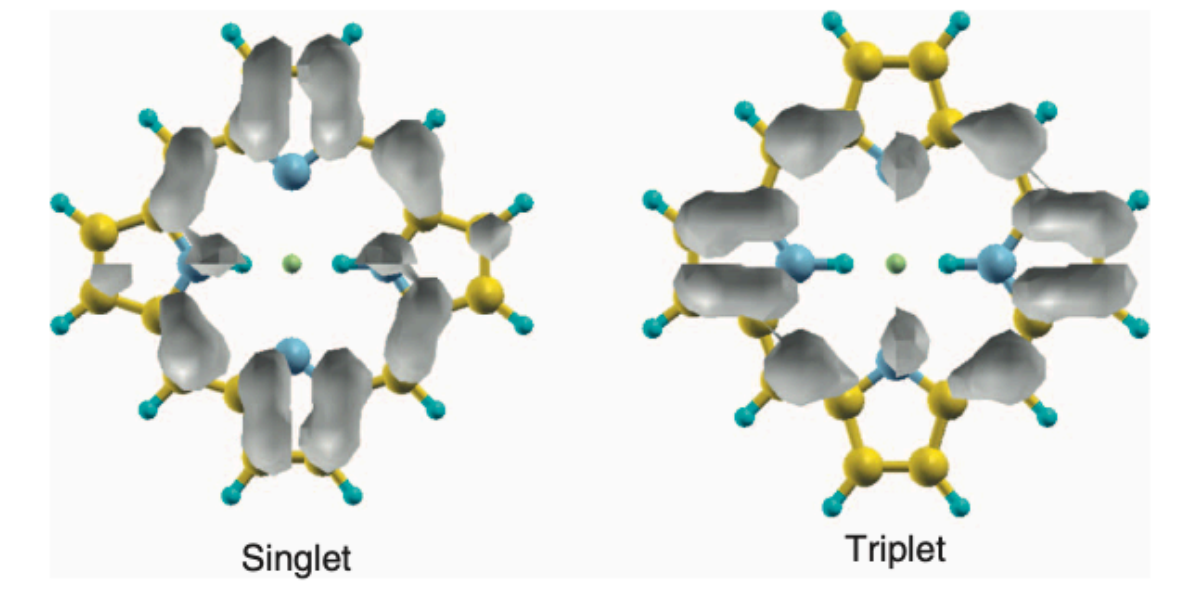
## MOFs



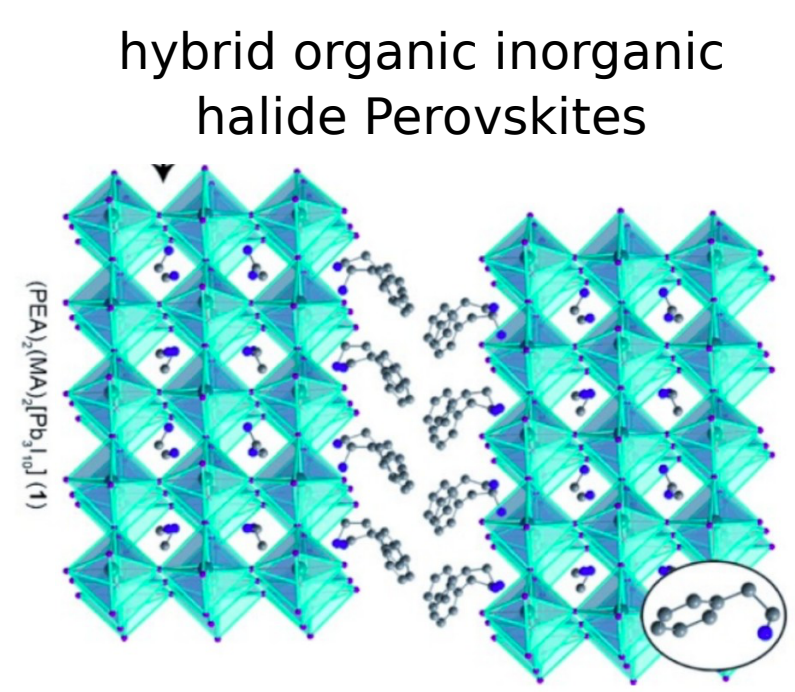
A. Rajan et al J. Phys. Chem. Lett. (2021)



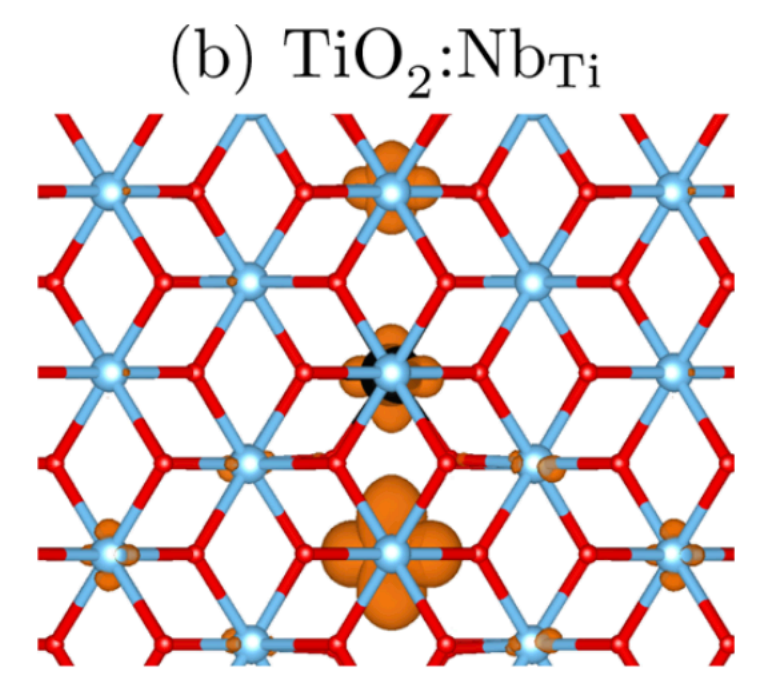
C. Attaccalite et al, Phys. Rev. B 95, 125403 (2017)  
 D. Varsano, D. Sangalli et al. Nature Comm. 8, 1461 (2017)



M. Palumbo et al *J. Chem. Phys.* (2009)

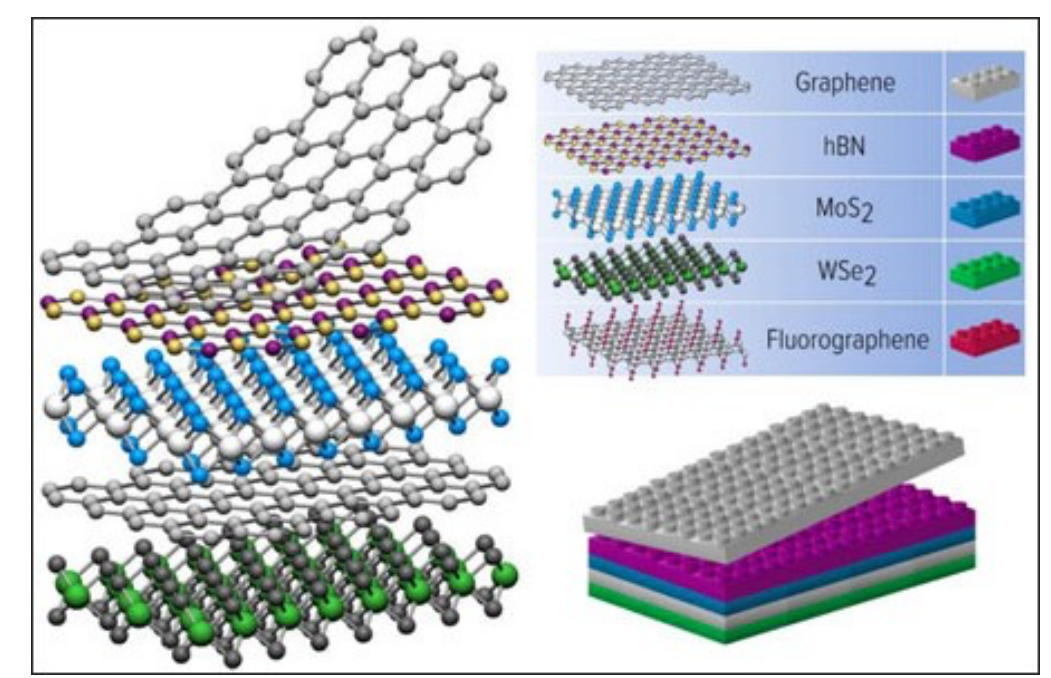


M. Palumbo et al. ACS Energy Letter (2020)

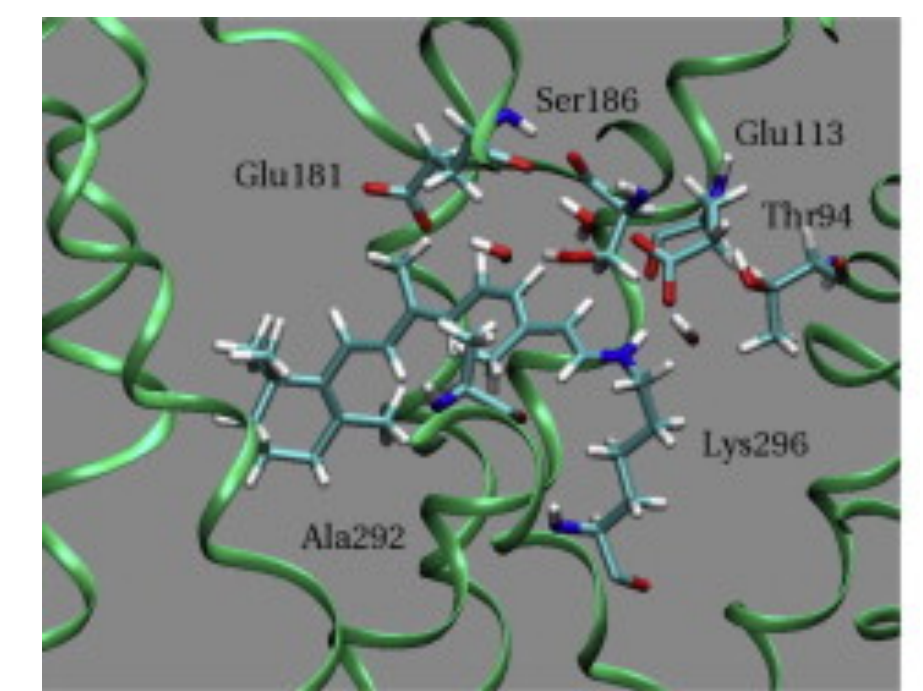


M. Atambo et al. Phys. Rev. Mat (2019)

## 2D materials and heterostructures



A Molina-Sánchez et al. Nano Lett. (2017)



D. Varsano et al. J. Phys. Condens. Matter (2017)

## Take Home Messages:

Even at  $G^0W^0$  level, several convergence parameter and approximations have to be carefully checked: (integration BZ, number of unoccupied states, convergence of the screening ....)

$$\left[ \frac{-\nabla^2}{2} + v^s(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_{nk} \psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\hat{H}_0(\mathbf{r}) f_s(\mathbf{r}) + \int \Sigma(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; \epsilon_s) f_s(\mathbf{r}') d^3\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_s f_s(\mathbf{r})$$

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DFT:

pseudopotential

k-point mesh / energy cutoff

smearing

Functional choice



DFT babysitting  
problem

courtesy M. Van Setten

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GW:

- **$N^4$  scaling**
- Converge more parameters: **number of empty bands** and **dielectric cutoff**.
- Test **k-point sampling** and **frequency treatment**
- Mind **starting point dependence**.



GW babysitting  
problem

# High Throughput MBPT:

Starting point: A DFT calculation:

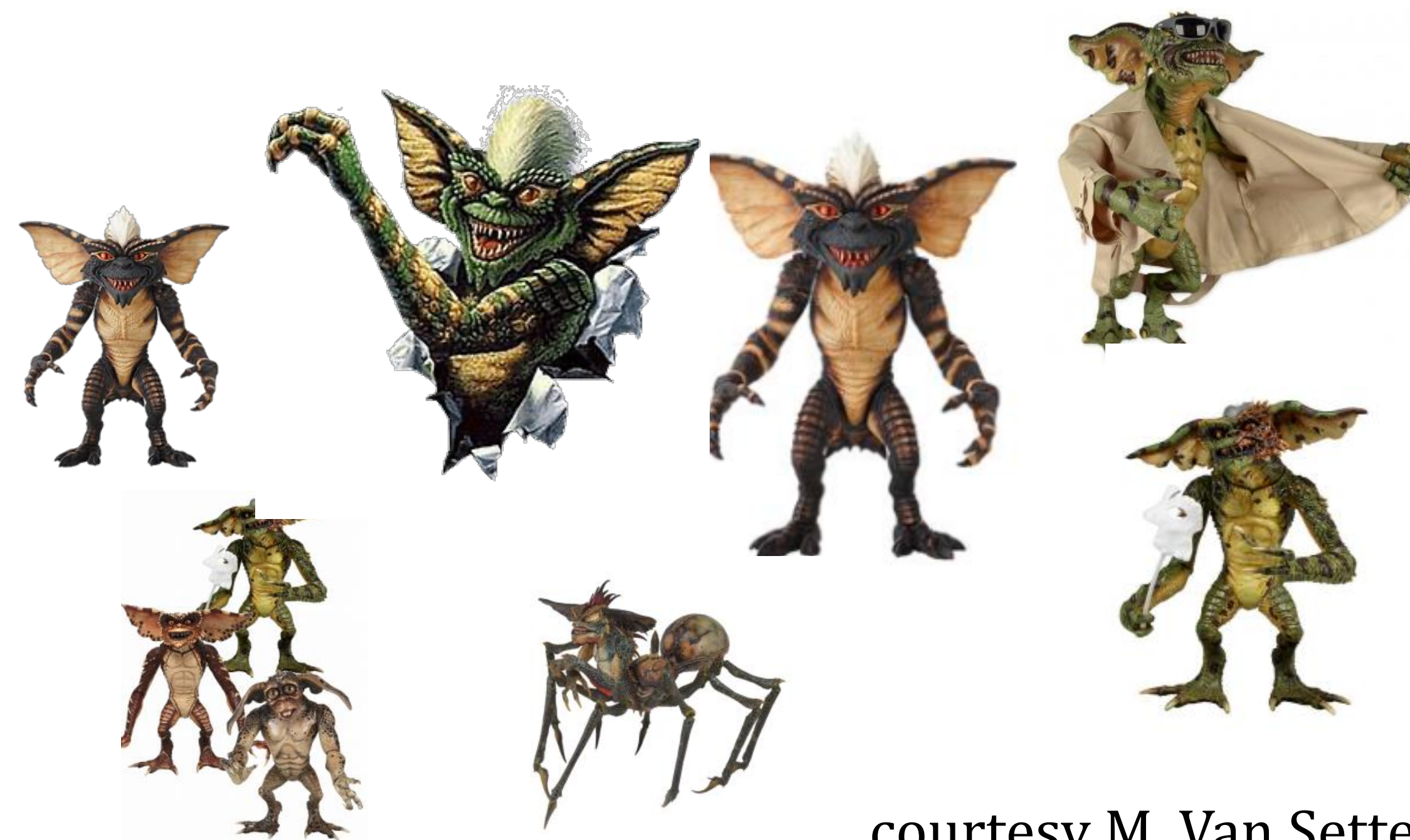
$$\left[ \frac{-\nabla^2}{2} + v^s(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_{nk} \psi_{nk}(\mathbf{r})$$



$$\Sigma_{\text{GW}} = \text{[diagram 1]} + \text{[diagram 2]} + \text{[diagram 3]} + \dots$$
$$\text{BSE} \quad \text{[diagram 4]} = \text{[diagram 5]} + \text{[diagram 6]}$$

The diagrams represent many-body perturbation theory (MBPT) terms. The first row shows the GW self-energy  $\Sigma_{\text{GW}}$  as a sum of diagrams: a self-energy loop, a vertex correction, and a higher-order diagram. The second row shows the Bethe-Salpeter equation (BSE) kernel, represented as a square with vertices 5, 6, 7, 8 and a central  $\Xi$ , which is equal to the sum of two diagrams: one with a vertex  $v$  and another with a vertex  $W$ .

- **N<sup>4</sup> scaling**
- **Converge more parameters**
- **No “safe” convergence parameters for all calculations.**
- **No “safe” computational settings (#cpu’s, memory, time)**



courtesy M. Van Setten

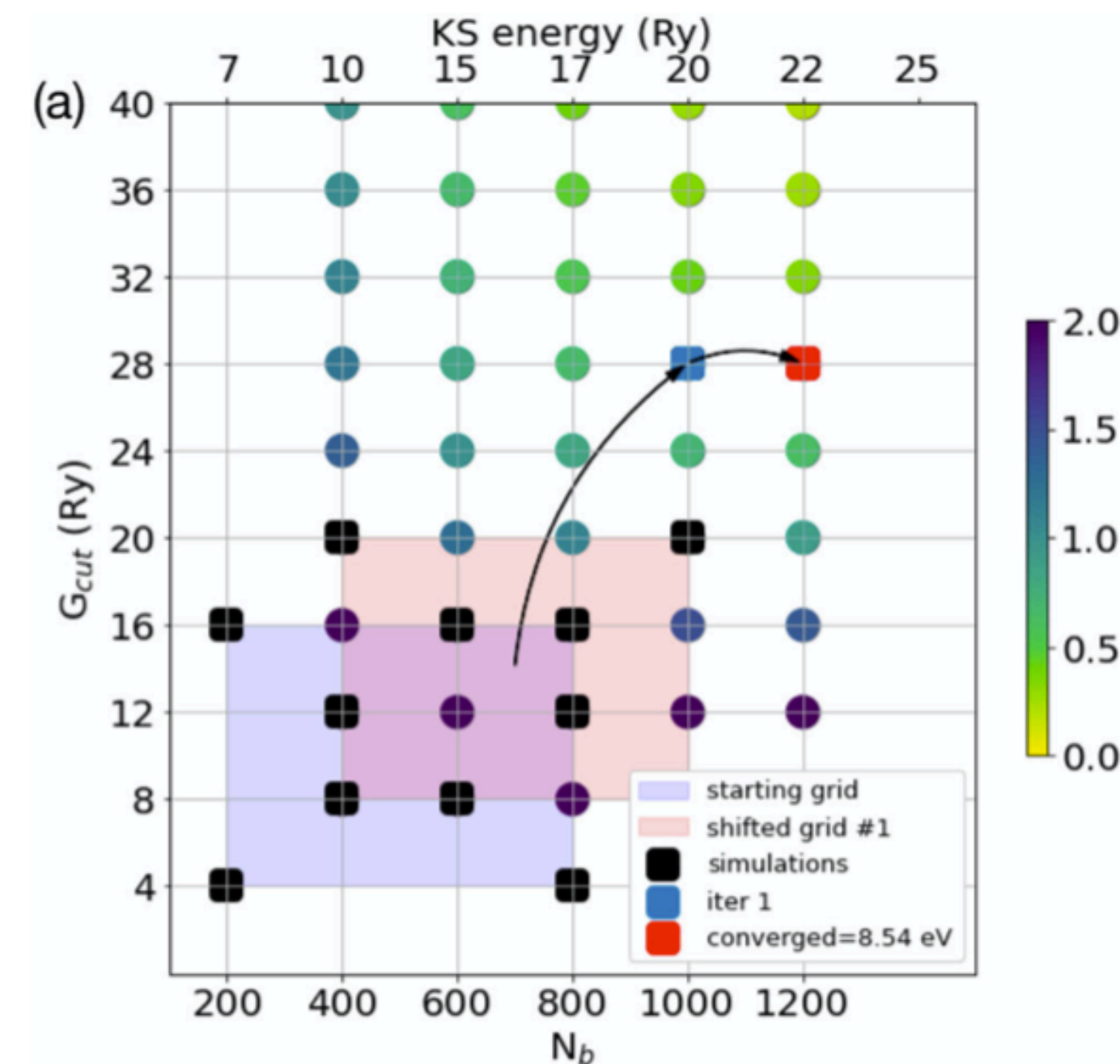
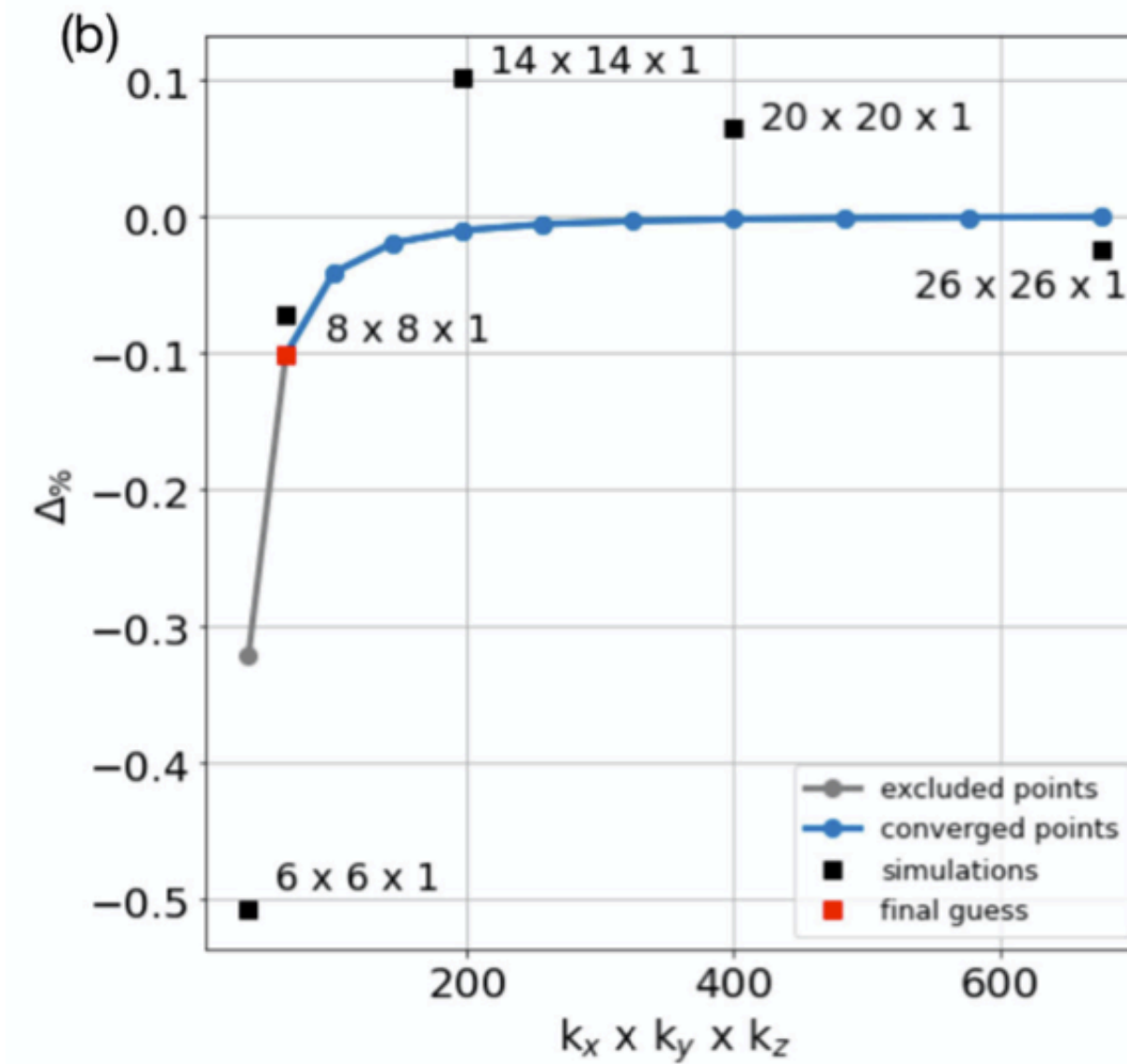
# High Throughput MBPT:

npj Comput Materials **9**, 74 (2023)

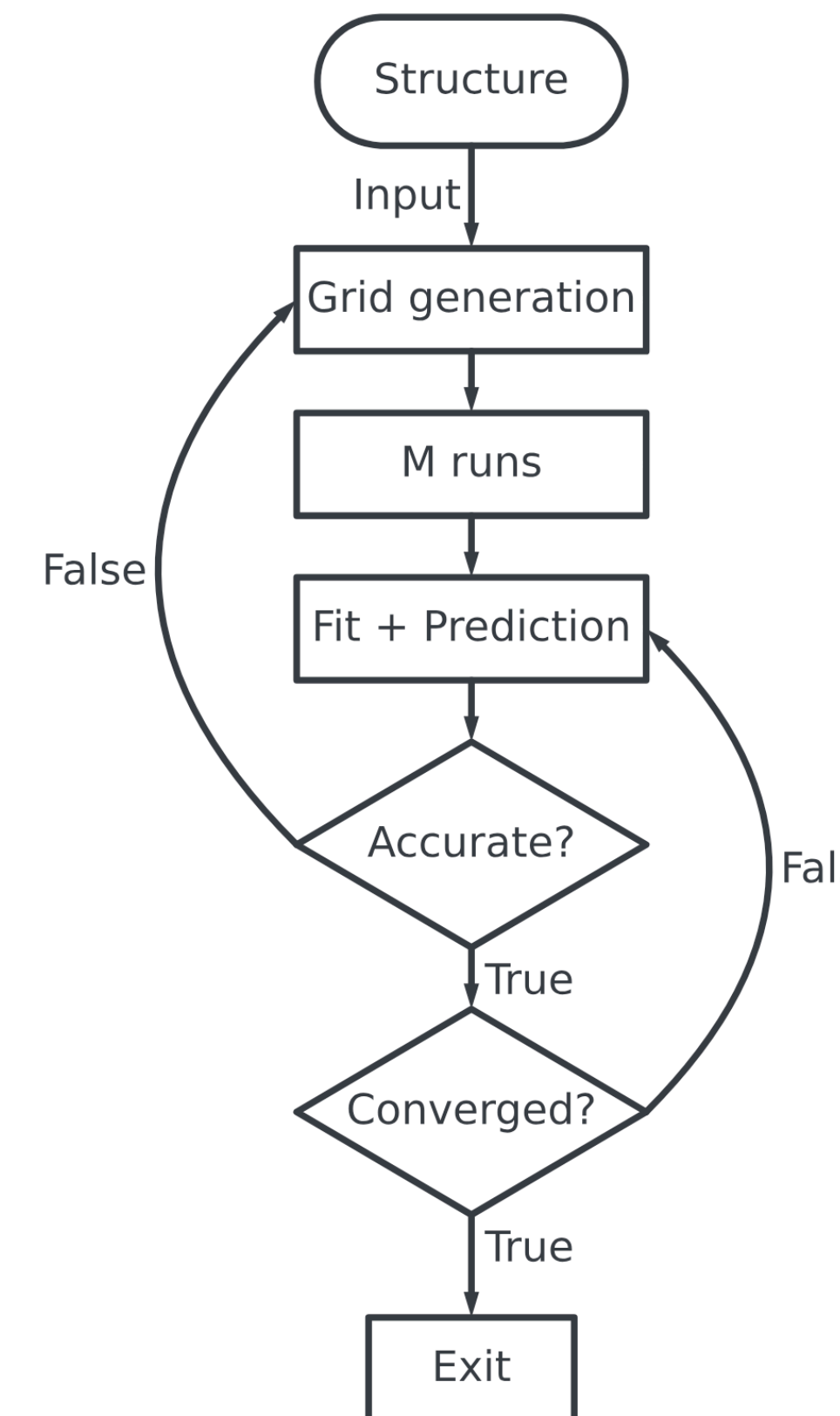
## Towards high-throughput many-body perturbation theory: efficient algorithms and automated workflows

Miki Bonacci <sup>1,2</sup>, Junfeng Qiao <sup>3</sup>, Nicola Spallanzani<sup>2</sup>, Antimo Marrazzo <sup>4</sup>, Giovanni Pizzi <sup>3,5</sup>, Elisa Molinari <sup>1,2</sup>, Daniele Varsano <sup>2</sup>, Andrea Ferretti <sup>2</sup> and Deborah Prezzi <sup>2</sup>

- Algorithms for **automatic convergence** of many-body perturbation theory methods
- efficient sampling** in multi-dimensional parameter space
- combines yambo workflows with the AiiDA automation engine



**Miki Bonacci**  
(CNR-Nano, Modena)



# High Throughput MBPT and validation:

## GW100 Dataset



**Miki Bonacci**  
(CNR-Nano, Modena)



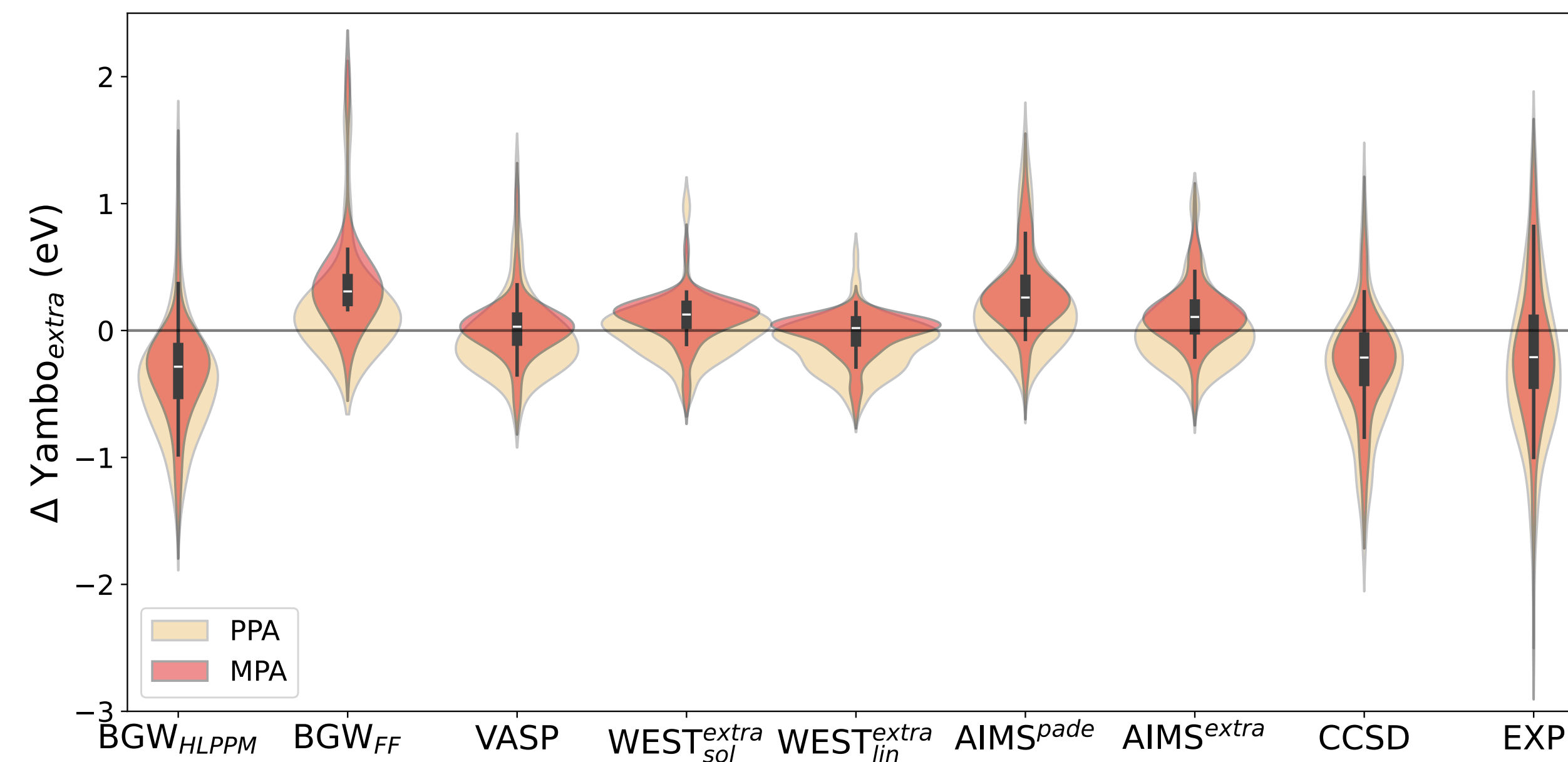
Computer Physics Communications

Volume 255, October 2020, 107242



Reproducibility in  $G_0W_0$  calculations for solids ☆

Yambo, Abinit and BerkeleyGW calculations on Si, TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, Au the converged QP energies calculated with the different codes agree within 0.1 eV. Coulomb divergences, dynamical treatment of the screening, PPs, as a major source of discrepancy among different implementations.



M. Bonacci, D. A. Leon et al JCTC (2026)

T. Rangel, M. Del Ben, D. Varsano et al. Comp. Phys Comm. (2020)

ICTP MARVEL College: Materials simulations in the age of AI, Trieste June 3rd, 2026

# Take Home Messages:

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GW: parameter-free method which provides in most of the case accurate results (QP energies, but also total energies, lifetimes)

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GW: Starting point for absorption spectroscopy - excitonic effects:  
Bethe-Salpeter (see next lectures)

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GW: Starting point for absorption spectroscopy - excitonic effects:  
Bethe-Salpeter (see next lectures)

$G^0W^0$  today is feasible for medium size systems: algorithms suitable for HPC computation (also hybrids architectures, GPU cards).

# Take Home Messages:

**Do not forget:**

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GW: it is an approximation for the self energy: Vertex effects missing

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GW: Many approximations enters in a practical calculations:

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GW: Many approximations enters in a practical calculations:

- in it's widespread  $G^0W^0$  flavour it is not self-consistent: strong **dependence on the DFT starting point** (specially true for molecules. Start from hybrid DFT?)
- Even in partial self consistent flavour usually **QP wave function assumed to be the same as the initial KS wave function**
- Screening treated at **RPA** level
- Frequency dependence of the screening usually approximated with a **PP model**

## Take Home Messages:

**Do not forget:**

**GW:** it is an approximation for the self energy: Vertex effects missing

**GW:** Many approximations enters in a practical calculations:

- in it's widespread  $G^0W^0$  flavour it is not self-consistent: strong **dependence on the DFT starting point** (specially true for molecules. Start from hybrid DFT?)
- Even in partial self consistent flavour usually **QP wave function assumed to be the same as the initial KS wave function**
- Screening treated at **RPA** level
- Frequency dependence of the screening usually approximated with a **PP model**

**GW successful in the interpretation of spectroscopical properties of many systems but calculations need careful checks and relies on different approximations that can fail.**

# Useful Links:



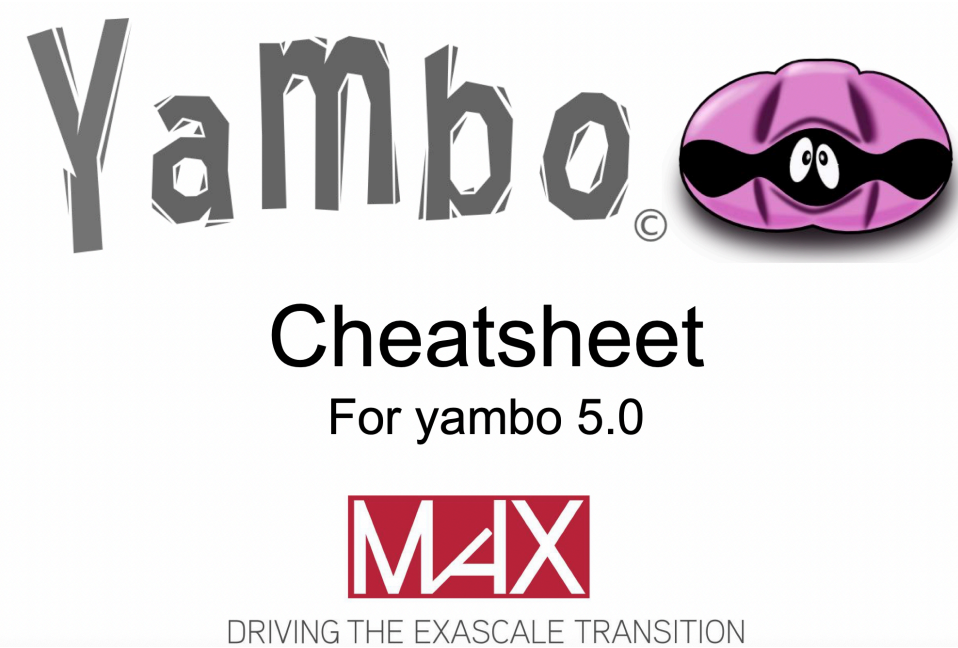
<https://wiki.yambo-code.eu>

<https://yambo-code.github.io/yambo-wiki/>



## Instruction for the tutorials

- Documentation
- Theory
- Lectures
- Cheatsheets
- Input file variables
- Selected Readings
- Thesis



(8) Correlation part of self energy: `yambo -gw0 ppa`

$$\Sigma_{nk}^c(\omega) = \langle nk | \Sigma^c | nk \rangle = i \sum_m \int_{BZ} \frac{d\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}'} \frac{4\pi}{|\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{G}|^2} \rho_{nm}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}) \rho_{nm}^*(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{G}') \times \int d\omega' G_{m\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}^0(\omega - \omega') \epsilon_{\mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}'}^{-1}(\mathbf{q}, \omega')$$

```
%QPkrange
1 | 5 | 20 | 59 |
4 | 8 | 60 | 80 |
%
```

```
% GbndRnge
1 | 50 |
%
```

```
NGsBlkXp= 100 RL
Response block size
See (9)
```

**Bands used in the GW summation**  
QP energies usually shows slow convergence  
Tip: If you are interested in gaps, energy differences converge faster

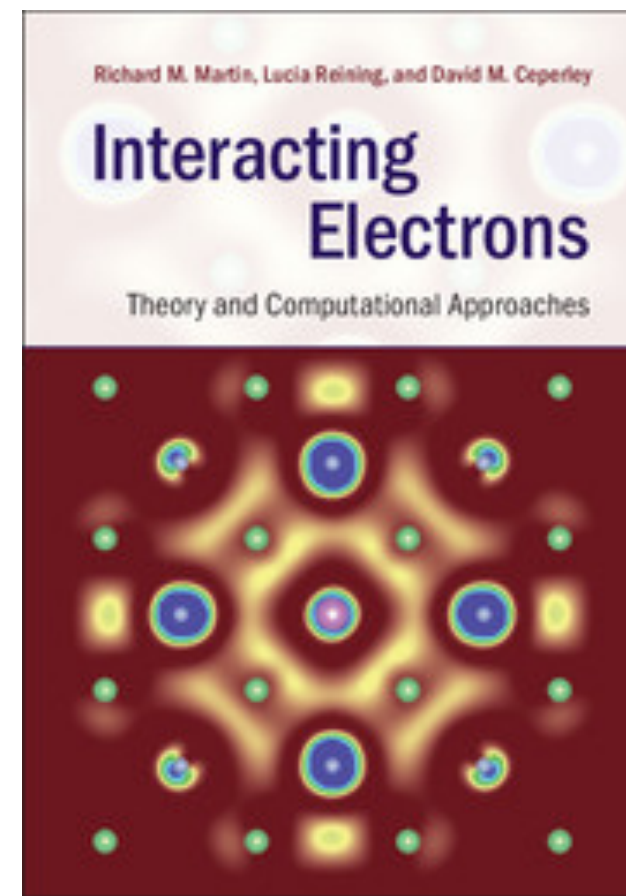
**nk, n'k' ranges where GW/ $\Sigma_c$  elements are calculated**  
first k-point | last k-point | lower band | upper band  
This can be split over several lines for multiple groups  
Tip: careful use of fewer k-points and bands reduces the calculation time; yambo will interpolate the rest

<https://yambo-code.eu/forum>

SUBFORUMS		STATISTICS
<p><b>Announcements and Job offers</b> A subforum where you can post Announcements and Job offers related with the Yambo code. Moderators: <a href="#">Davide Sangalli</a>, <a href="#">andrea.ferretti</a>, <a href="#">myrta gruning</a>, <a href="#">andrea marini</a>, <a href="#">Daniele Varsano</a>, <a href="#">Conor Hogan</a></p>		Topics: 13 Posts: 24
<p><b>Compilation</b> Having trouble compiling the Yambo source? Using an unusual architecture? Problems with the "configure" script? Problems in GPU architectures? This is the place to look. Moderators: <a href="#">Davide Sangalli</a>, <a href="#">andrea.ferretti</a>, <a href="#">myrta gruning</a>, <a href="#">andrea marini</a>, <a href="#">Daniele Varsano</a>, <a href="#">Conor Hogan</a>, <a href="#">Nicola Spallanzani</a></p>		Topics: 219 Posts: 1499
<p><b>Importing core databases (a2y, p2y and e2y)</b> Forums dealing with all aspects related to conversion of data from Abinit, PWscf or ETSF-io into the native Yambo core databases. Moderators: <a href="#">andrea.ferretti</a>, <a href="#">Conor Hogan</a> Subforums: <a href="#">PW</a>, <a href="#">Abinit</a></p>		Topics: 96 Posts: 513
<p><b>Running Yambo</b> Yambo can be operated on several different runlevels: here you will find several forums that deal with the specific physical task that you are trying to carry out. Subforums: <a href="#">Initialization</a>, <a href="#">Linear Response and Screening in reciprocal space</a>, <a href="#">GW calculations</a>, <a href="#">Bethe Salpeter</a>, <a href="#">Electron-Phonon effects (yambo_ph)</a>, <a href="#">Non linear optics (yambo_nl)</a>, <a href="#">Real time propagation (yambo_rt)</a>, <a href="#">Other issues</a></p>		Topics: 1100 Posts: 6576
<p><b>Post Processing (ypp)</b> Anything regarding the post-processing utility (e.g. excitonic wavefunction analysis) is dealt with in this forum. Moderators: <a href="#">Davide Sangalli</a>, <a href="#">andrea marini</a>, <a href="#">Daniele Varsano</a></p>		Topics: 225 Posts: 1265
<p><b>Yambo-py</b> Post here any question you encounter when running the scripts of the yambo-py suite. Post here problem strictly to the python interface as problem coming from the yambo runs should go in the appropriate subforum. Moderators: <a href="#">amolina</a>, <a href="#">palfu</a>, <a href="#">mbonacci</a></p>		Topics: 69 Posts: 219
<p><b>Technical Issues</b> Various technical topics such as parallelism and efficiency, netCDF problems, the Yambo code structure itself, are posted here. Moderators: <a href="#">Davide Sangalli</a>, <a href="#">andrea.ferretti</a>, <a href="#">myrta gruning</a>, <a href="#">andrea marini</a>, <a href="#">Daniele Varsano</a>, <a href="#">Conor Hogan</a>, <a href="#">Nicola Spallanzani</a></p>		Topics: 110 Posts: 618
<p><b>Yambo old versions</b> You can find here problems arising when using old releases of Yambo (&lt; 5.0). Issues as parallelization strategy, performance issues and other technical aspects. Moderators: <a href="#">Davide Sangalli</a>, <a href="#">andrea.ferretti</a>, <a href="#">myrta gruning</a>, <a href="#">andrea marini</a>, <a href="#">Daniele Varsano</a>, <a href="#">Conor Hogan</a></p>		Topics: 251 Posts: 1425

## Suggested reading:

R. Martin, L. Reining, D. Ceperley  
Cambridge University Press



### Seminal papers:

L. Hedin Phys. Rev. A 139, A796 (1965)

L. Hedin, S. Lundqvist . in Solid State Physics, 23, 1–181 (1970)

### Reviews:

D. Golze, M. Dvorak, and P. Rinke Front Chem. 2019; 7: 377. (2019)

Reining, L, WIREs Comput Mol Sci, 8: e1344. (2018)

Aulbur W. G., Jönsson L., Wilkins J. W. in Solid State Physics, Vol. 54, 1–218 (2000)

Aryasetiawan F., Gunnarsson O. The *GW* method. Rep. Prog. Phys. 61:237 (1998)

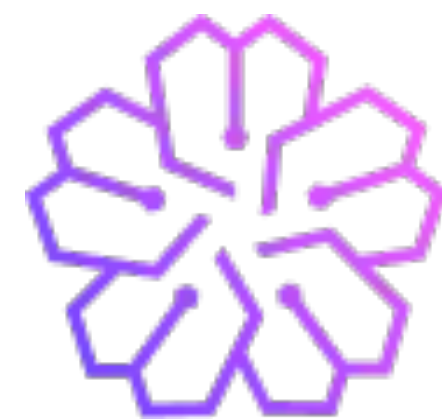
### Yambo code implementation:

A. Marini, C. Hogan, M. Gruning and D. Varsano Comp. Phys. Comm. 180, 1293 (2009)

D. Sangalli et al. J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 31 325902 (2019)



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**The Yambo developers team**

Thank you for your attention

**Don't hesitate to ask questions:**

**after the lectures, coffee breaks, hands-on sessions, anytime**