Solid State Theory: Band Structure Methods

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Wed., 12:00-13:30

HS P3 (PH02112)



- DFT1+2: Hohenberg-Kohn Theorem and Kohn and Sham equations.
- DFT3+4: Solving K-S in practice; basis functions, augmented methods and psp theory.
- DFT5: Practical problems in DFT (k space integration, convergence etc)
- P1: EOS and band structure of silicon.
- ADV1+2: Linear Response theory (mostly for phonons).
- P2: Phonons of silicon
- ADV3: Wannier Functions and TB approximation.
- P3: Wannier Functions and BOM for silicon.



Important Dates (exercises):

13/5 (Tuesday, next week): 14-15:30 (Electronic structure, pw.x)

23/5 (Friday): 14-> 17 (Phonons, *ph.x*)

30/5 (Friday): 14-> 17 (Wannier Functions, wannier90.x).

We will employ quantum espresso: http://www.quantum-espresso.org/

Before the break:

- Density Functional Theory: Hohenberg and Kohn Theorem, Kohn-Sham equations (Density is the basic variable).
- Density Functional Theory: practical problems (convergence, basis functions).
- Pseudopotential Theory.

"A primer in Density Functional Theory" (Springer), chapter 1 and 6.

Pseudopotential Theory.

Pseudopotential Method, G.B. Bachelet and A. Filippetti (notes).

Solids: Quantum Mechanical Problem

$$\hat{H} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{i}^{2} + \sum_{i} \sum_{I} \frac{Z_{I}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{I}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{I} \sum_{J \neq I} \frac{Z_{I}Z_{J}}{|\mathbf{R}_{I} - \mathbf{R}_{J}|}$$

Density functional theory:

- "Smart" method to approximate the electron-electron interaction: the interacting many-body wavefunction for electrons is replaced by the electron density (function of one variable).

Pseudopotential Method:

- Approximate the electron-nuclei term: DFT equations in plane waves can be practically implemented.

Main Concepts of Density Functional Theory:

The quantum-mechanical many-electron problem can be greatly simplified if we are only interested in its ground-state properties.

$$\Psi_0({\bf r}_1\sigma_1,...,{\bf r}_N\sigma_N)$$



$$\Psi_0(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1,...,\mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N)$$
 $n_0^\sigma(\mathbf{r})=\sum_{\sigma_2...\sigma_N}\int d^3r_2...d^3r_N\left|\Psi_0(\mathbf{r}\sigma,...,\mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N)
ight|^2$

► Hohenberg-Kohn Theorem: The ground-state energy of a system of interacting electrons is a function of its ground-state density only. The complications induced by the electron-electron interaction are "dumped" into an effective exchange and correlation energy, whose exact form is unknown (but good approximation exists).

Kohn-Sham Equations: It is possible to find the ground-state density of the interacting system solving self-consistently a system of single-particle equations for the auxiliary (effective) Kohn-Sham quasi-particles.

Kohn-Sham Equations:

The Schroedinger's equation for the Kohn-Sham quasi-particles depends on the **ground-state density**; on the other hand, the ground-state density is obtained summing over the occupied **K-S orbitals**.

$$\left(-\frac{1}{2}\nabla^{2} + v(\mathbf{r}) + u([n]; \mathbf{r}) + v_{xc}^{\sigma}([n_{\uparrow}, n_{\downarrow}]; \mathbf{r})\right)\psi_{\alpha\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_{\alpha\sigma}\psi_{\alpha\sigma}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$n_{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\alpha} \theta(\mu - \epsilon_{\alpha\sigma})|\psi_{\alpha\sigma}(\mathbf{r})|^{2}$$

- Start from a set of "guess functions".
- 2. Calculate the corresponding charge density.
- 3. Compute the Hartree and xc potentials
- 4. Insert into the Schoedinger equations.

Iterate until the charge densities at step t and (t+1) differ by less than a given threshold

Kohn-Sham Equations (plane waves):

The most convenient way to solve K-S equations is to expand the K-S Bloch orbitals on given basis functions. **Plane waves** are a very common choice:

$$\psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} c_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}) e^{i(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G})\cdot\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{G}'} \left[\frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}'} + \tilde{v}(\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{G}') \right] c_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}') = \varepsilon_{n\mathbf{k}} c_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G})$$

The computational time scales exponentially with the number of plane-waves. The length-scale (number of G components) of the scf potential is given by the external (lattice potential).

$$t_{comp} \propto (N_{pw})^{3}$$

$$|\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}|^{2} < E_{cut}$$

$$\lambda_{min} = \frac{2\pi}{G_{cut}}$$

In order to reduce the number of plane waves, we have to "cut out" the core electrons, which have small-scale oscillations (pseudopotential).

Model Pseudopotentials:

The solid can be approximated as isolated (rigid) pseudo-atoms + valence electrons which re-arrange self-consistently due to different environment (chemical bonds). The tail of the potential of the pseudo-atoms must behave as $-Z_v/r$.

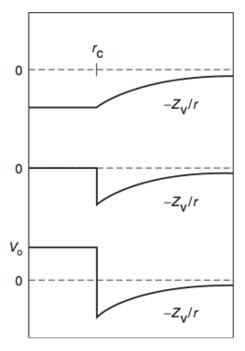
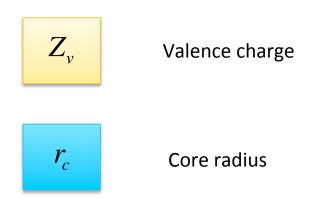


Figure 3 Model bare pseudopotentials. Lower panel: two-parameter pseudopotential. Upper and middle panels: one-parameter pseudopotentials, where the only parameter is the core radius $r_{\rm c}$, roughly corresponding to the spatial extent of the outermost core orbitals, or to the outermost radial node of the true valence orbitals (see **Figure 2** and text).

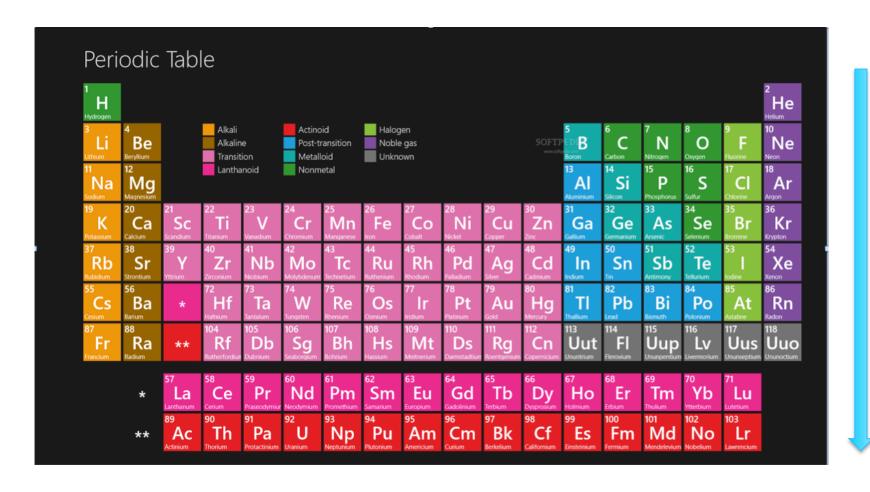
A model pseudopotential has two important physical parameters:



Good agreeement for charge density distributions (defects, impurities), bad results for total energy.

Core Radius

Valence charge



Ab-initio Pseudopotentials:

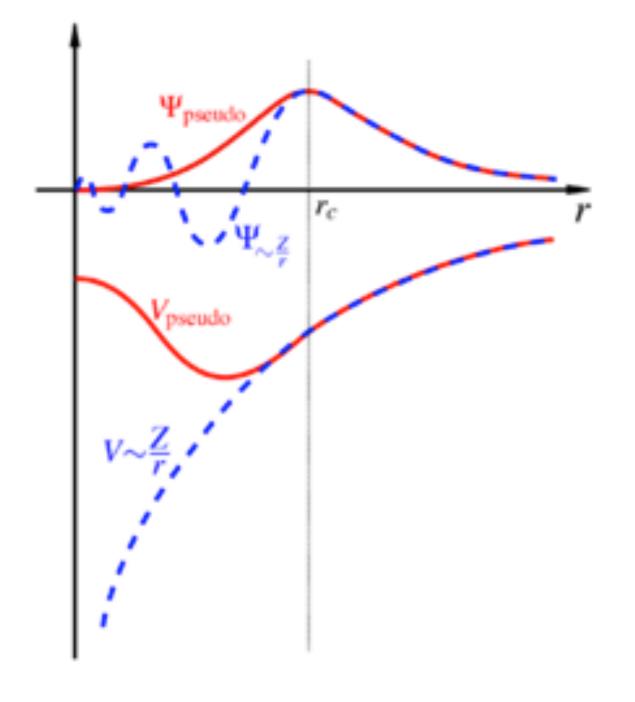
Hamann-Schlueter-Chiang (1979): A fully *ab-initio* pseudopotential can be constructed, requiring that the solution of the radial Schroedinger equation for the full and the pseudo atoms are the same, above a cut-off radius r_c :

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{l(l+1)}{2r^2} - \frac{Z}{r} + v_{screen}(r) \right] \chi_{nl} = \varepsilon_{nl} \chi_{nl}$$

$$\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \frac{l(l+1)}{2r^2} + v_l^{ps,screened}(r) \right] \chi_l^{ps} = \varepsilon_l \chi_l^{ps}$$

The pseudo wave function is a **smooth** function **without nodes**. **Norm conservation** ensures optimal **transferability**.

$$\int_{0}^{r_{c}} |\chi_{l}^{ps}(r)|^{2} dr = \int_{0}^{r_{c}} |\chi_{nl}(r)|^{2} dr$$



Second Part (Advanced Topics)

PHONONS AND DENSITY FUNCTIONAL PERTURBATION THEORY

Outline:

- Phonons: Physical Properties, experiments and theory (history).
- *Ab-initio* Methods for Phonons: from the quantum many-body problem to linear response.
- Ab-initio Methods for Phonons: direct approaches (frozen-phonon with supercells).
- Phonon Eigenvectors and Supercells.
- Limitations of the supercell method (Kohn Anomalies in metals).

S. Baroni, S. de Gironcoli, A. del Corso, P. Giannozzi, Review of Modern Physics 73, 515 (2001).

Phonons:

- Physical Properties:
- Specific heat, lattice expansion, heat conduction, melting.
- Electron-Phonon interaction (metals): transport (resistivity), superconductivity, optical spectra.
- **☐** Experimental Methods:
- Γ point (Raman/IR spectroscopy)
- Inelastic scattering (full dispersion): neutrons, X-ray, Helium.

Phonons:

☐ Theory (early approaches):

- Quantum theory of lattice vibrations (Born et al, 30's): dynamical properties, relation to crystal symmetries
- Empirical Force Constant Models.
- Shell Model: semi-empirical model to account for the effect of electrons on lattice properties.

☐ Modern Approaches (*Ab-initio*):

• Based on the total energy of the quantum-mechanical problem of the crystal (electrons+ions): include self-consistently the effect of electrons on phonon properties. (De Cicco et al, Pick et al; with DFT: Cohen et al,... + many others).

Lattice Dynamics from electronic-structure Theory:

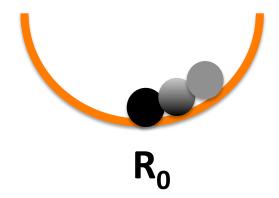
The Schroedinger equation for the nuclei reads:

$$\left[-\sum_{I} \frac{\hbar^{2}}{2M_{I}} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{I}^{2}} + E(\mathbf{R}) \right] \Phi(\mathbf{R}) = \varepsilon \Phi(\mathbf{R})$$

E(**R**) is the Born-Oppenheimer energy surface (solution of the electronic Schroedinger's equation for *clamped ions*).

$$H_{BO}(\mathbf{R}) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{i} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i^2} + \frac{e^2}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{\left| \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j \right|} - \sum_{i,I} \frac{Z_I e^2}{\left| \mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{R}_I \right|} + E_N(\mathbf{R})$$

$$E_N(\mathbf{R}) = \frac{e^2}{2} \sum_{I \neq J} \frac{Z_I Z_J}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{R}_J|}$$



The equilibrium geometry is given by the condition that the forces on individual nuclei vanish:

$$\mathbf{F}_{I} = -\frac{\partial E(\mathbf{R})}{\partial \mathbf{R}_{I}} = 0$$

While Phonon Frequencies can be calculated from the determinant of the Hessian matrix:

$$\det \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{M_I M_J}} \frac{\partial^2 E(\mathbf{R})}{\partial \mathbf{R}_I \partial \mathbf{R}_J} - \omega^2 \right| = 0$$

Ab-initio Lattice Dynamics:

To calculate the **phonon** frequencies of a given system we have to compute the **second-order** variations of the energy. There are two methods for this:

1) Frozen-phonon: Direct method (brute-force). Calculate the total energy for (small) finite displacements using supercells.



2) Linear Response: "Elegant" Method: perturbations are "monochromatic", all q points can be calculated with the same computational effort.



Lattice dynamics (linear chain)

$$\omega(k) = \sqrt{\frac{2k(1 - \cos(ka))}{M}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{k}{M}} \left| \sin\frac{ka}{2} \right|$$

$$u(na) = e^{i(kna - \omega t)}$$

Linear chain with 2 force constants:

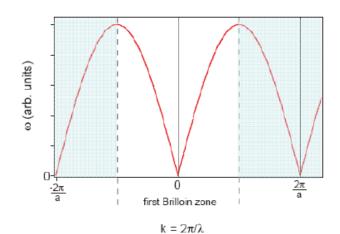
$$\omega_{\pm}^{2}(k) = \frac{K+G}{M} \pm \frac{1}{M} \sqrt{K^{2}+G^{2}+2KG\cos(ka)}$$

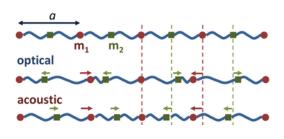
+ = optical

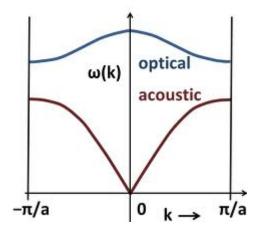
- = acoustical

Eigenvector:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_2}{\varepsilon_1} = \mp \frac{K + Ge^{ika}}{|K + Ge^{ika}|} \qquad u_i(na) = \varepsilon_i e^{i(kna - \omega t)}$$

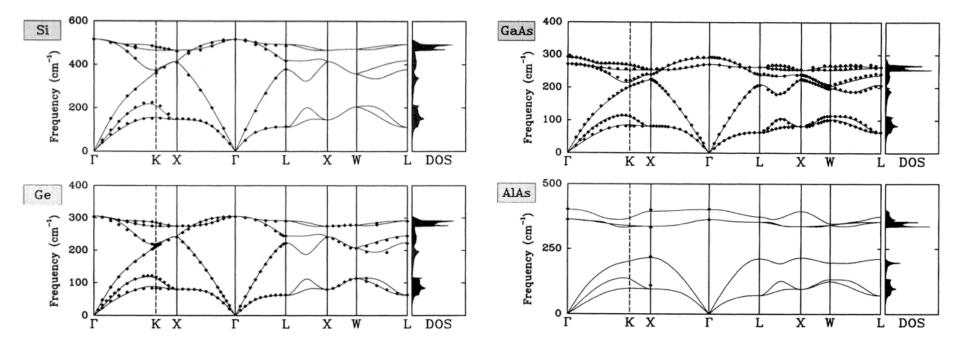


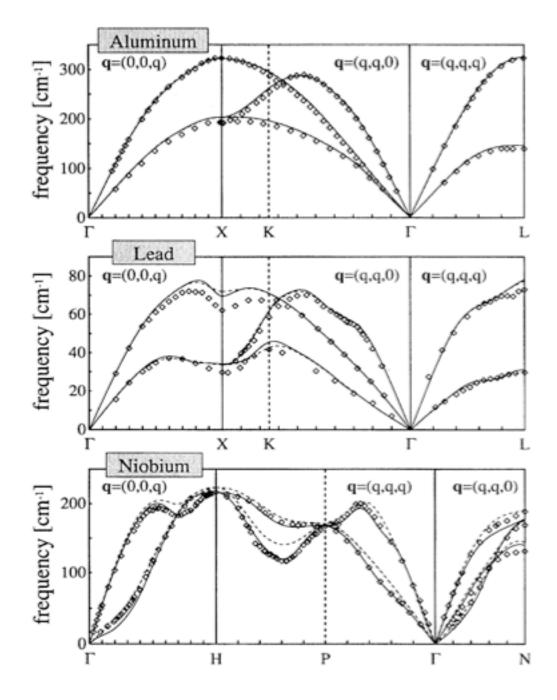




How to construct supercells?

EXERCISE





Metals have many smallscale structures due to electron-phonon coupling (Kohn anomalies).

Energy Gaps and Kohn Anomalies in Elemental Superconductors

P. Aynajian, T. Keller, L. Boeri, S. M. Shapiro, K. Habicht, B. Keimer *

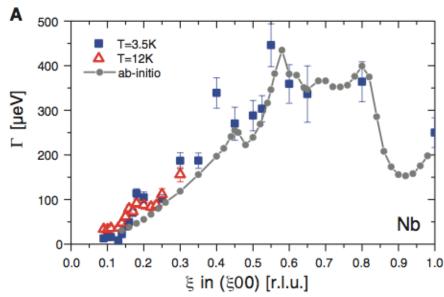
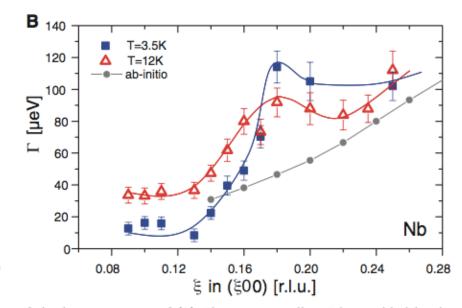


Fig. 4. (**A**) Linewidths of transverse acoustic phonons along $q = (\xi, 0, 0)$ in Nb at two different temperatures. The gray symbols are the results of lattice-dynamical calculations, as described in the text. (**B**) Blowup



of the low-q segment of (A). The corresponding E is provided by the scale at the top. The lines are guides to the eye. Error bars indicate the statistical errors.