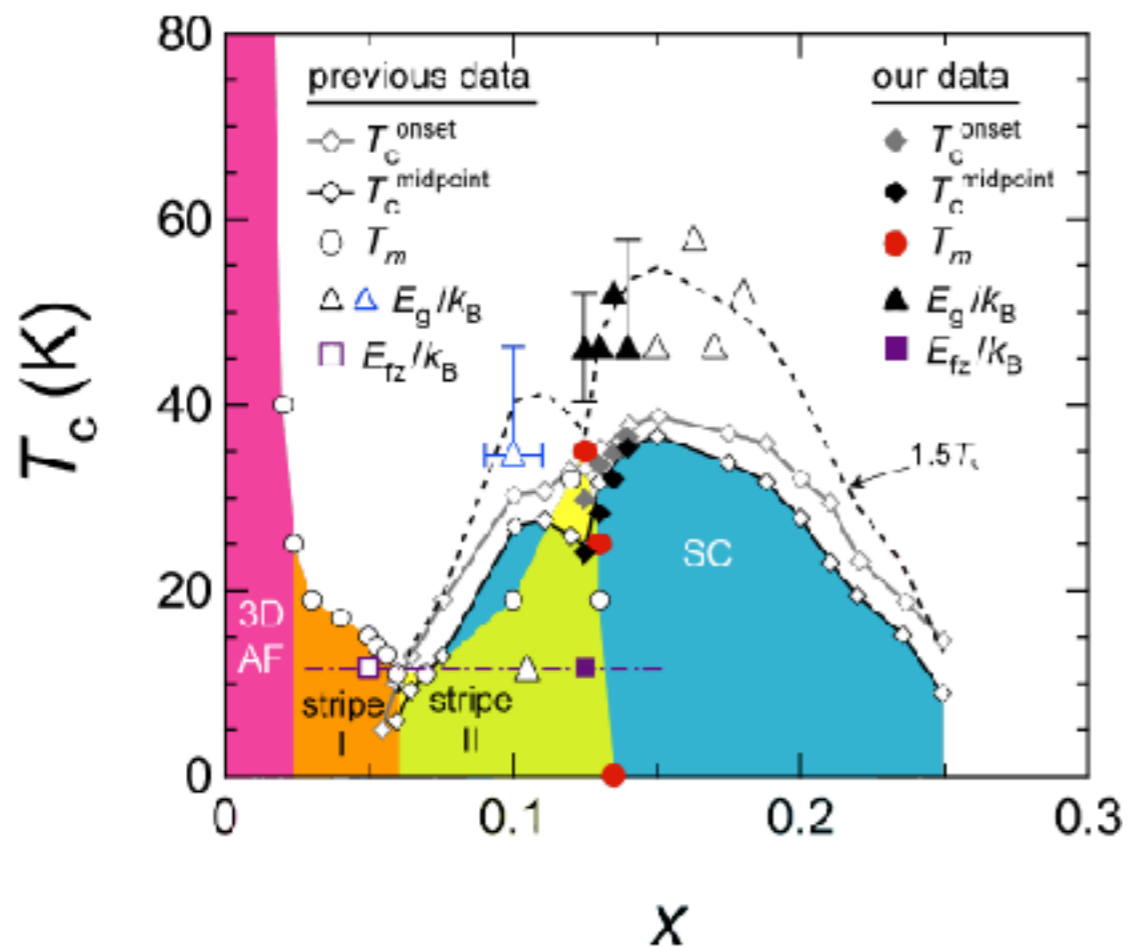


ELECTRON CORRELATION & ITS SIGNATURES

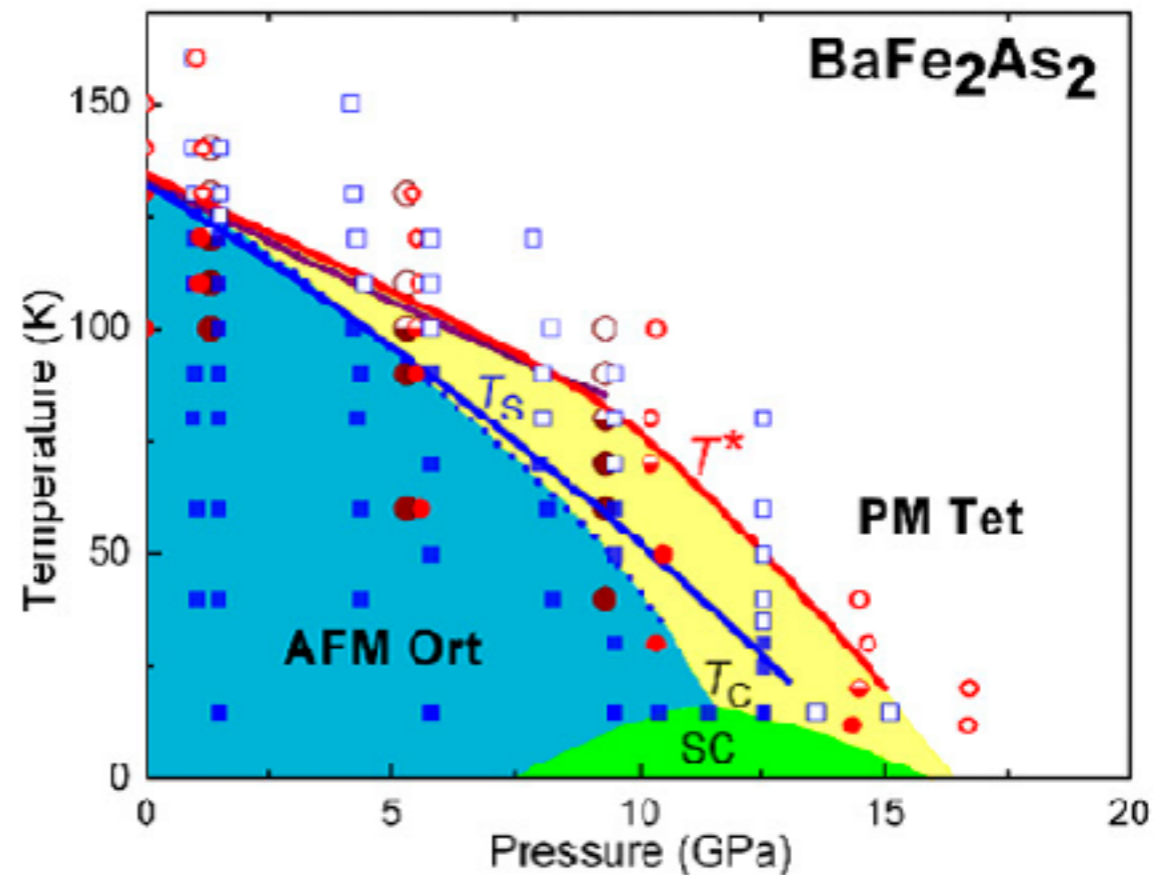
Reza Nourafkan
Institut Quantique & Université de Sherbrooke

Computational Quantum Materials
Jouvence, Quebec (2018)

WITH EACH NEW GENERATION OF MATERIALS SYNTHESIZED COMES A NEW SET OF CHALLENGES TO UNDERSTAND AND EXPLOIT



Cuprate high- T_c superconductors



Iron-based high- T_c superconductors

OUTLINE

- Correlation
- Why is the problem of electronic structure hard?
- Mean field approaches (independent-particle picture):
 1. Hartree-Fock method
 2. Kohn-Sham approach
- What is meant by electron correlation?
- Weak vs strong correlation

CORRELATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

.....
IN A MANY BODY SYSTEM, THE BEHAVIOUR OF A
GIVEN ENTITY IS NOT INDEPENDENT OF THE
OTHERS!



CORRELATION IN MATHEMATICS & NATURAL SCIENCES

$$\langle AB \rangle \neq \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle$$

$$C_{AB} = \langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle$$

► Spatial

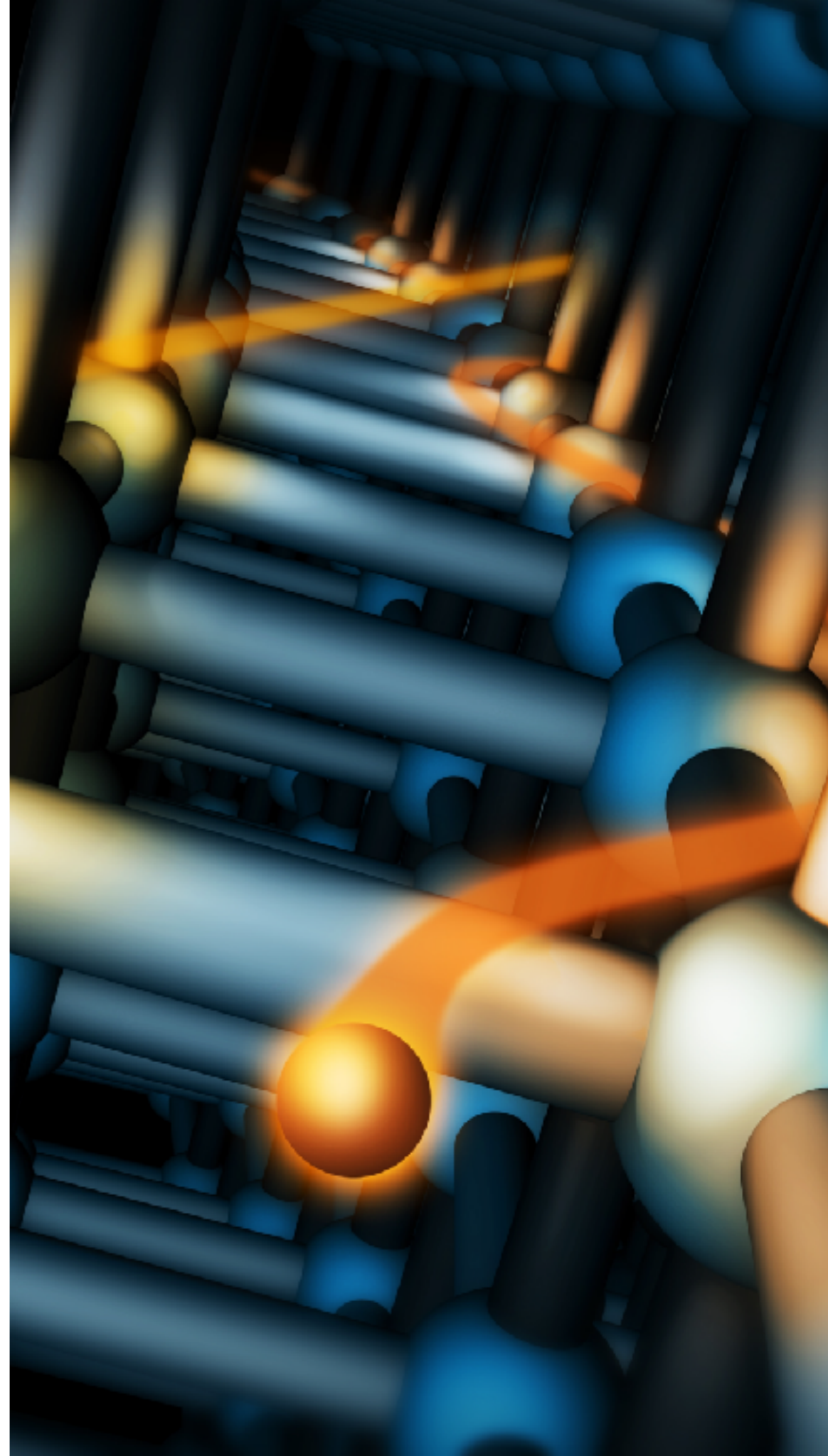
$$\langle n(\mathbf{r}, t)n(\mathbf{r}', t) \rangle \neq \langle n(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle \langle n(\mathbf{r}', t) \rangle$$

► Temporal

$$\langle n(\mathbf{r}, t)n(\mathbf{r}, t') \rangle \neq \langle n(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle \langle n(\mathbf{r}, t') \rangle$$

ELECTRON CORRELATION PECULIARITY

QUANTUM MECHANICS,
INDISTINGUISHABLE PARTICLES



MANY-BODY PROBLEM IN SOLIDS

- Many-body Hamiltonian of an electronic system

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \sum_i \hat{\nabla}_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq i'} \frac{e^2}{|\hat{\mathbf{r}}_i - \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{i'}|} - \sum_{i\hat{\alpha}} \frac{Z_\alpha e^2}{|\hat{\mathbf{r}}_i - \hat{\mathbf{R}}_\alpha|} \\ - \sum_\alpha \frac{\hbar^2}{2M_\alpha} \hat{\nabla}_\alpha^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \alpha'} \frac{Z_\alpha Z_{\alpha'} e^2}{|\hat{\mathbf{R}}_\alpha - \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{\alpha'}|}$$

- Many-body wave-function for N electrons

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1 \sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N \sigma_N)$$

MANY-BODY PROBLEM IN SOLIDS

- ▶ Trial many-body wave function for an N electrons system

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N) = \sum_i c_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N)$$

$$\langle \Psi | \hat{H} | \Psi \rangle = \sum_{ij} c_i^* c_j \langle \psi_i | \hat{H} | \psi_j \rangle$$

- ▶ Many-body basis set?

- ▶ Product of one-particle wave-functions

- ▶ Choose M (M>N) single particle basis function (spin-orbital)

$$\{\phi_{1\sigma_1}(\mathbf{r}), \phi_{2\sigma_2}(\mathbf{r}), \dots, \phi_{M\sigma_M}(\mathbf{r})\}$$

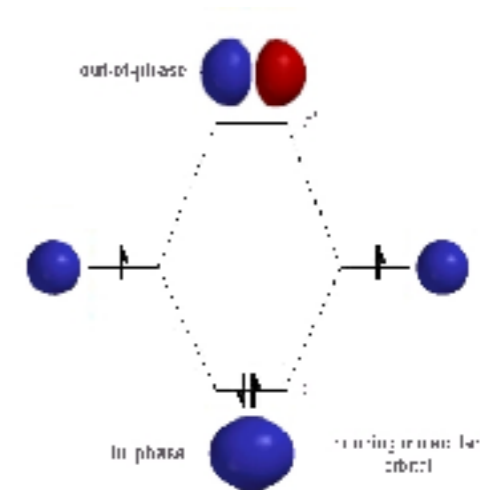
- ▶ Electrons are indistinguishable fermions

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2) = -\Psi(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2, \mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1)$$

HYDROGEN MOLECULE

- A two electrons example

$$\hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \hat{\nabla}^2 - \sum_{\alpha=1}^2 \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^2}{|\hat{\mathbf{r}} - \mathbf{R}_{\alpha}|}$$



- Basis set for singlet configuration

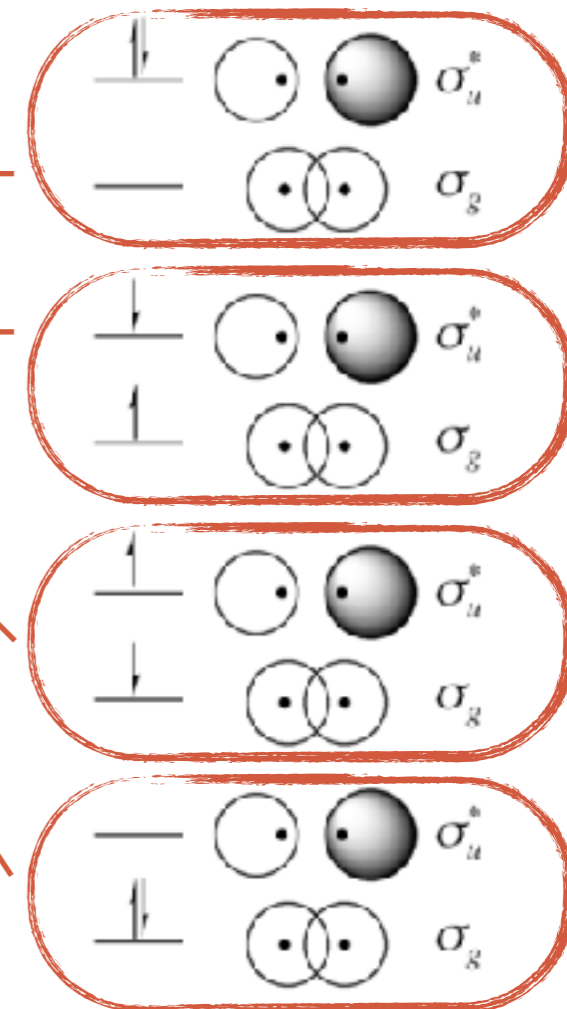
$$\psi_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_u(1)\chi_{\uparrow}(1)\phi_u(2)\chi_{\downarrow}(2) - \phi_u(1)\chi_{\downarrow}(1)\phi_u(2)\chi_{\uparrow}(2)]$$

$$\psi_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_g(1)\chi_{\uparrow}(1)\phi_u(2)\chi_{\downarrow}(2) - \phi_u(1)\chi_{\downarrow}(1)\phi_g(2)\chi_{\uparrow}(2)]$$

$$\psi_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_u(1)\chi_{\uparrow}(1)\phi_g(2)\chi_{\downarrow}(2) - \phi_g(1)\chi_{\downarrow}(1)\phi_u(2)\chi_{\uparrow}(2)]$$

$$\psi_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\phi_g(1)\chi_{\uparrow}(1)\phi_g(2)\chi_{\downarrow}(2) - \phi_g(1)\chi_{\downarrow}(1)\phi_g(2)\chi_{\uparrow}(2)]$$

$$\Psi \simeq c_1\psi_1 + c_2\psi_2 + c_3\psi_3 + c_4\psi_4$$



WHY IS THE PROBLEM OF ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE HARD?

- ▶ N electrons system and M ($M > N$) single particle basis function

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N) = \sum_i c_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N)$$

- ▶ Number of Slater determinants

$$\binom{M}{N} = \frac{M!}{N!(M-N)!}$$

- ▶ Two carbon atoms ($N=12$). Suppose $M=36$
more than 10^9 determinants

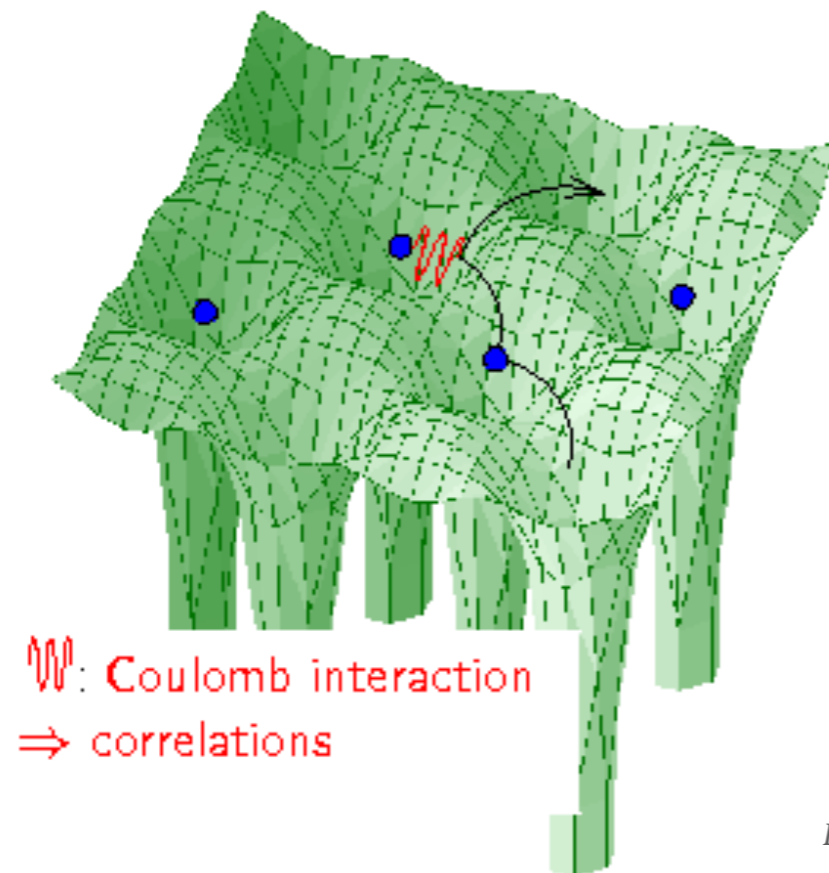
Dimensionality

**IT IS HOPELESS TO LOOK FOR AN EXACT
SOLUTION OF A MANY-BODY SYSTEM**

How we are going to proceed?

MEAN FIELD APPROACHES

spatial and temporal correlation



*structureless cloud : particles are uncorrelated
 except that they obey the exclusion principle*

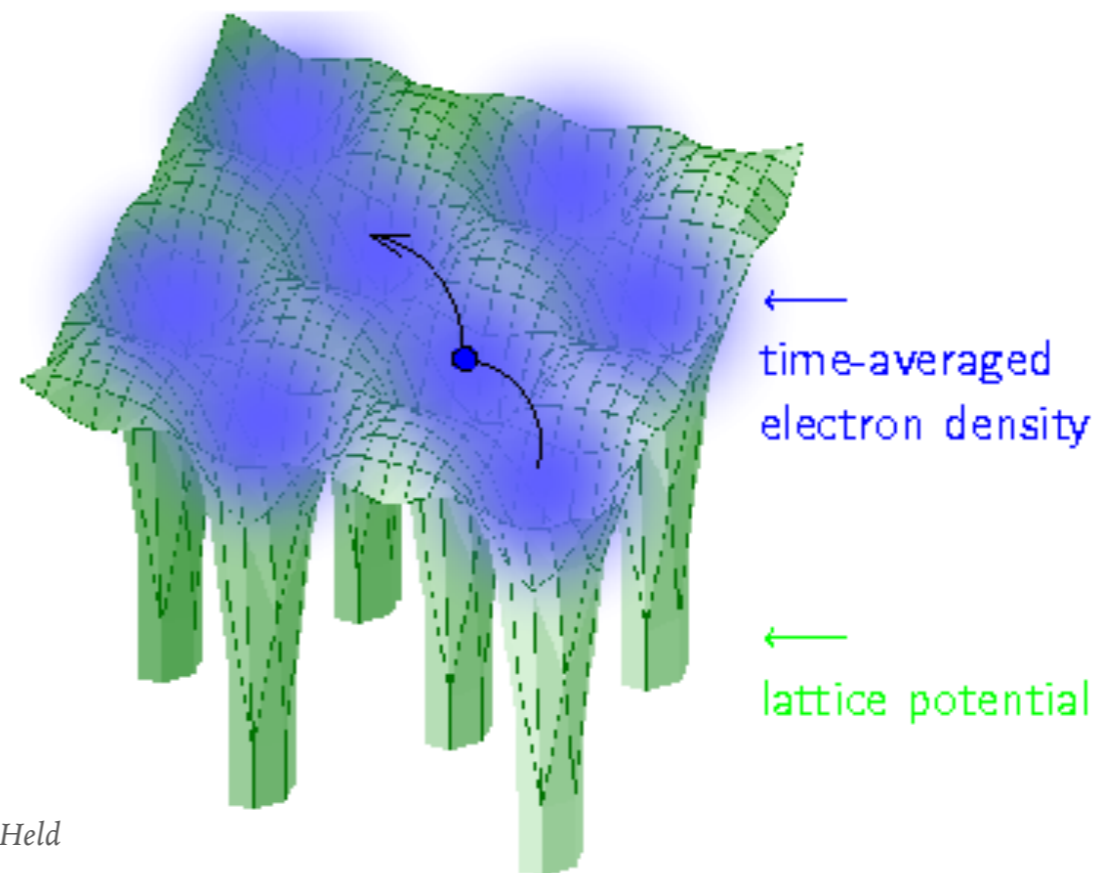


Fig. from K. Held

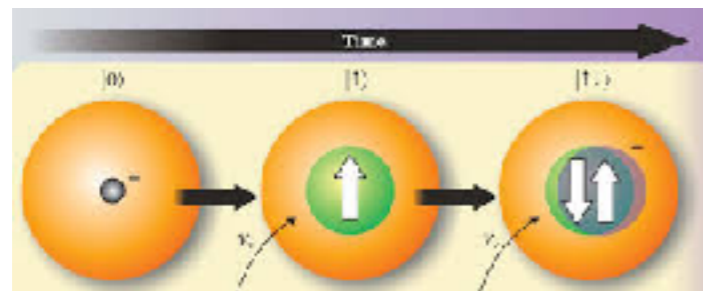


Fig. from G. Kotilar et al

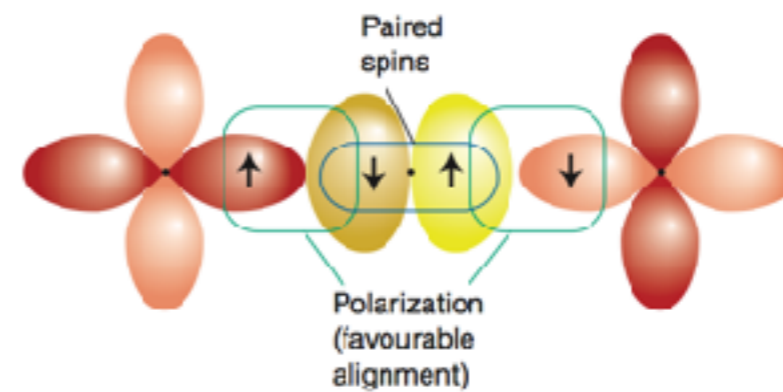


Fig. from ChemTube3D

HARTREE-FOCK METHOD

- ▶ A wave function composed of a *single* Slater determinant

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1) & \phi_2(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1) & \dots & \phi_N(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1) \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2) & \phi_2(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2) & \dots & \phi_N(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N) & \phi_2(\mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N) & \dots & \phi_N(\mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N) \end{vmatrix}$$

- ▶ The single-electron functions are chosen *cleverly* to produce the best approximation possible $\delta\langle\psi|H|\psi\rangle/\delta\phi_i^* = 0$

$$-\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e}\nabla^2 + \sum_{\alpha} \frac{Z_{\alpha}e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_{\alpha}|}\right)\phi_i(\mathbf{r}) + \underbrace{\left(\sum_j^{occ} \int d\mathbf{r}' \phi_j^*(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \phi_j(\mathbf{r}')\right)}_{\text{Hartree-potential}} \phi_i(\mathbf{r}) - \underbrace{\left(\sum_j^{occ} \int d\mathbf{r}' \phi_j^*(\mathbf{r}') \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \phi_i(\mathbf{r}')\right)}_{\text{Exchange-potential}} \phi_j(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_i \phi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

SLATER DETERMINANTS ARE UNCORRELATED

- The repulsion energy between two electrons is calculated between an electron and the average electron density for the other electrons

It doesn't take into account the fact that the electron will push away the other electrons as it moves around

- Probability density of finding two electrons

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2) &= \sum_{\sigma_3 \dots \sigma_N} \int d\mathbf{r}_3 \dots d\mathbf{r}_N |\psi(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N\sigma_N)|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{kl} [|\phi_k(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1)|^2 |\phi_l(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2)|^2 - \phi_k^*(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1)\phi_k(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2)\phi_l^*(\mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2)\phi_l(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1)]\end{aligned}$$

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2) = \sum_{\sigma_1\sigma_2} \rho(\mathbf{r}_1\sigma_1, \mathbf{r}_2\sigma_2)$$

Opposite spin orbitals are uncorrelated!

KOHN-SHAM APPROACH

- It is not essential to tabulate the complete many-body wave function
- The Kohn-Sham approach to DFT defines *an auxiliary system of independent fermions* that is chosen to reproduce the ground state *electron density* but not all properties
- DFT guarantees us that such an auxiliary system exist and even more provides us a generator for its external potential

$$\left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e}\nabla^2 + v_{eff}(\mathbf{r})\right)\phi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_i\phi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

$$n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i f_i |\phi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2$$

$$v_{eff}(\mathbf{r}) = v_{ext}(\mathbf{r}) + v_H([n], \mathbf{r}) + v_{xc}([n], \mathbf{r})$$

Universal exchange-correlation functional

WHAT IS MEANT BY ELECTRON CORRELATION?

- Chemist: what is not captured in Hartree-Fock method
 - Correlation energy

$$E_{\text{corr}} = \langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle - E_{\text{HF}}$$
$$|\Sigma(\omega) - \Sigma_{\text{HF}}|$$

- Physicist: what is not captured in Khon-Sham approach in LDA/GGA approximation
 - Correlation energy

$$E_{\text{corr}} = \langle \Psi | H | \Psi \rangle - E_{\text{LDA/GGA}}$$
$$|\Sigma(\omega) - v_{xc}^{\text{LDA/GGA}}|$$

WEAK VS STRONG CORRELATIONS

- A weakly-correlated system is one for which a mean-field approximation or a low-order perturbation expansion around it suffices

Periodic Table of the Elements

1 IA																		18 VIIIA																	
1	2											13	14	15	16	17	18																		
H	He											B	C	N	O	F	Ne																		
3	4											11	12					19	20																
Li	Be											Na	Mg					K	Ca																
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22																		
B	C	N	O	F	Ne	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	K	Ca	Sc	Ti																		
																	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36					
																	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr					
																	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	
																	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe	
																	55	56	57-71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	
																	Cs	Ba	Lanthanide Series		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
																	87	88	89-103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	
																	Fr	Ra	Actinide Series		Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo

Alkali Metal

Alkaline Earth

Transition Metal

Base Metal

Semimetal

Nonmetal

Halogen

Noble Gas

Lanthanide

Actinide

ELECTRON CORRELATION SIGNATURES

Thermodynamic and transport properties which are fundamentally different from mean-field theory or Landau Fermi-liquid theory predictions

OUTLINE

- Adiabaticity
- Landau Fermi liquid
- Quasi-particles vs original electrons
- When is the independent-particle picture not sufficient?
- Electron correlation signatures
- Beyond mean field approaches
 1. Dynamical mean field theory
 2. Quantum Monte Carlo
- Correlation induced metal-insulator transition

ADIABATIC CONTINUITY

- Labels associated with eigenstates are more robust against perturbations than the eigenstates themselves

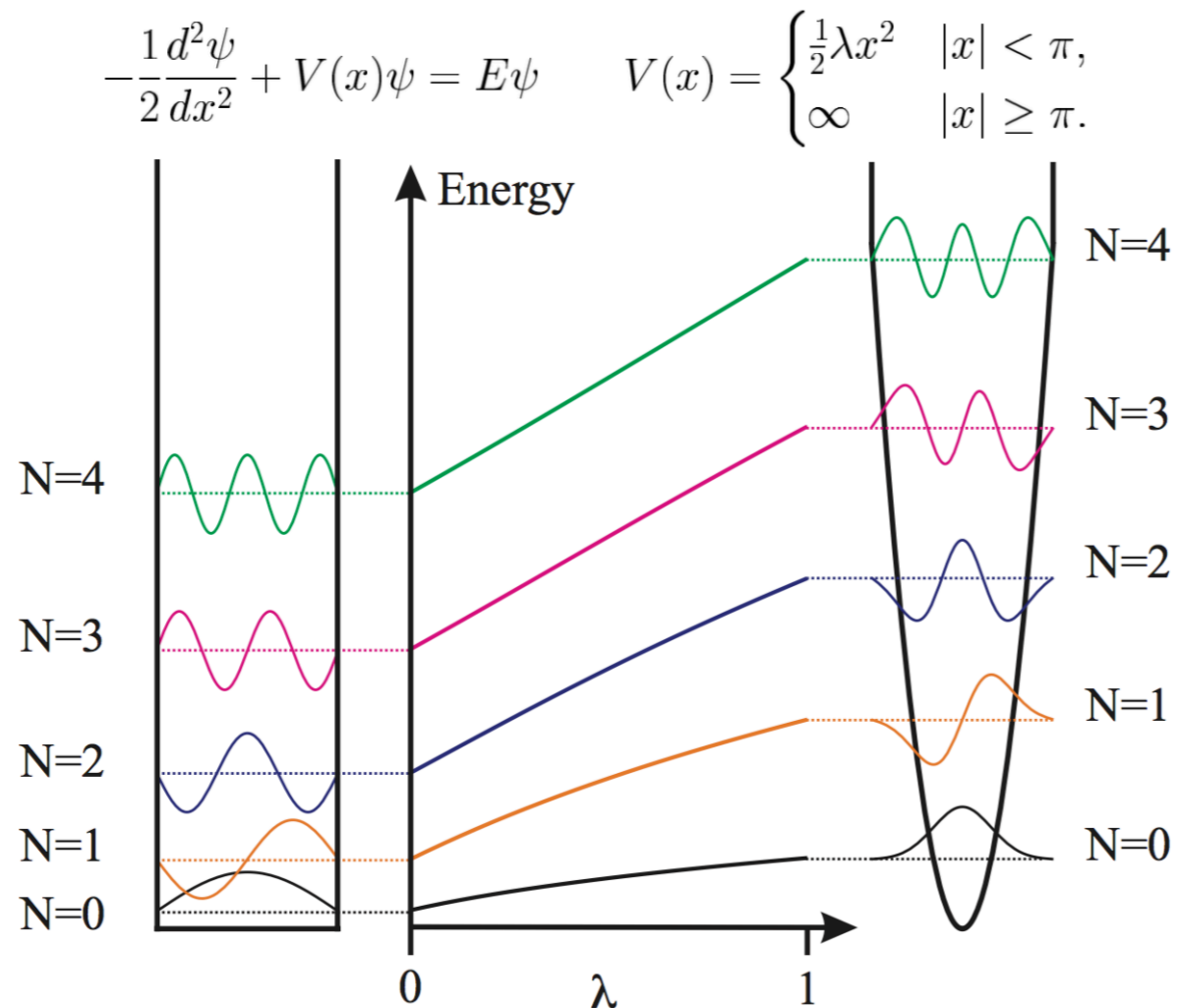
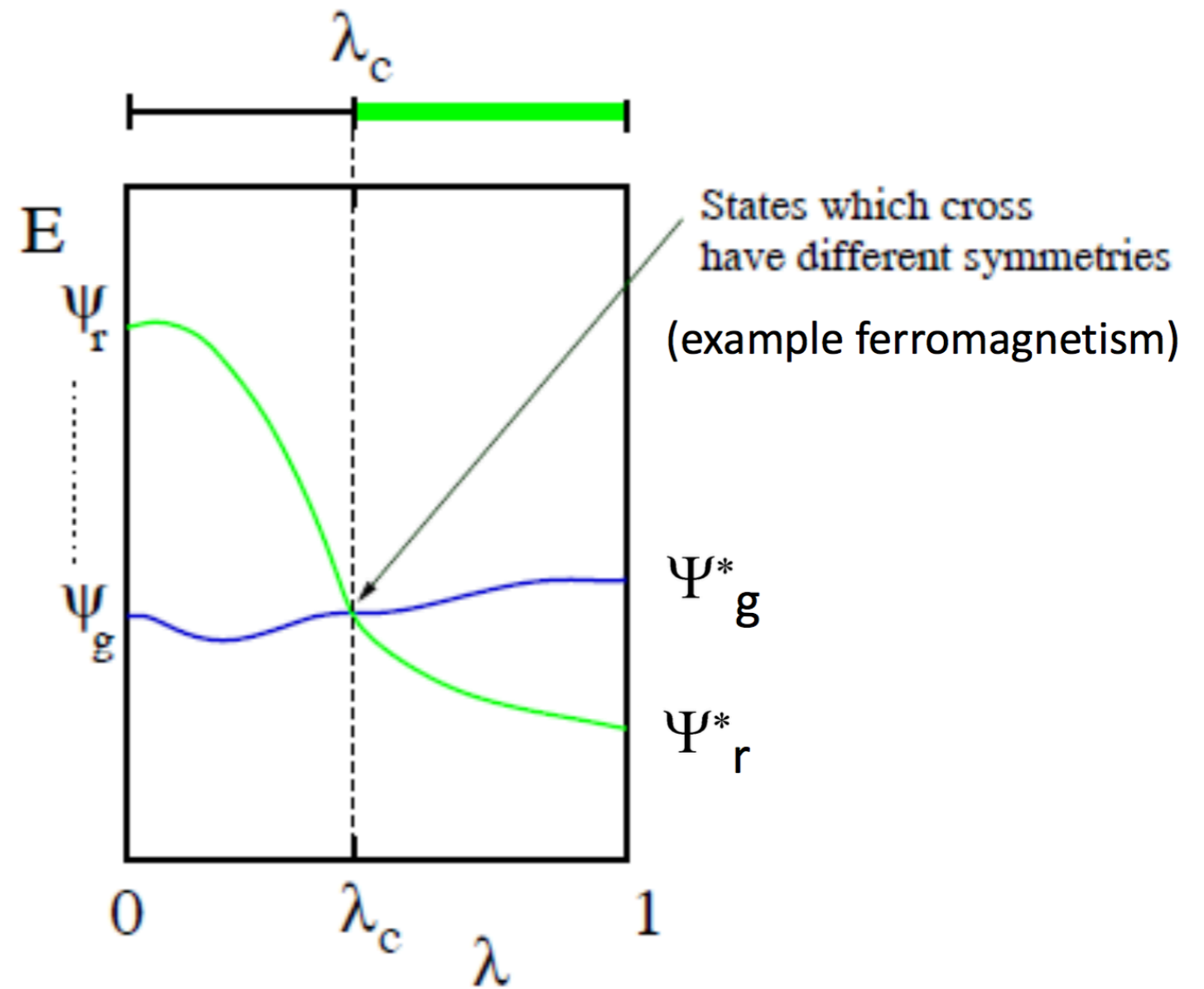
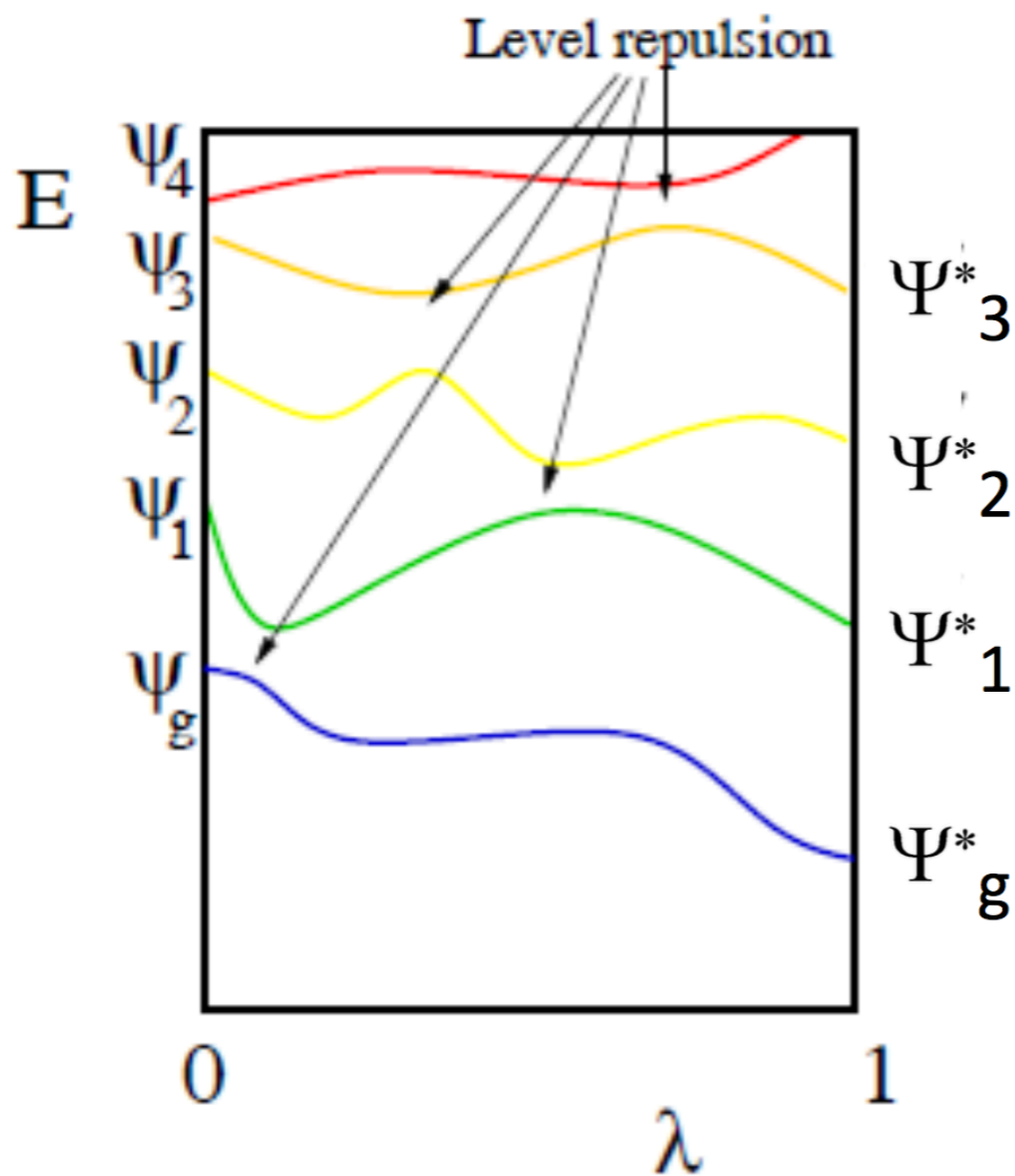


Fig. from A. J. Schofield

ADIABATIC EVOLUTION



$$H(t) = H_0 + \lambda(t)(H - H_0)$$

$$\lambda(t) = e^{-|t|\delta}$$

Fig. from P. Coleman

LANDAU FERMIL LIQUID

- Landau argued that the ground state of a non-interacting system (Fermi sea) adiabatically evolves into the ground state of the interacting system
- Conserved quantum numbers: spin, charge and momentum

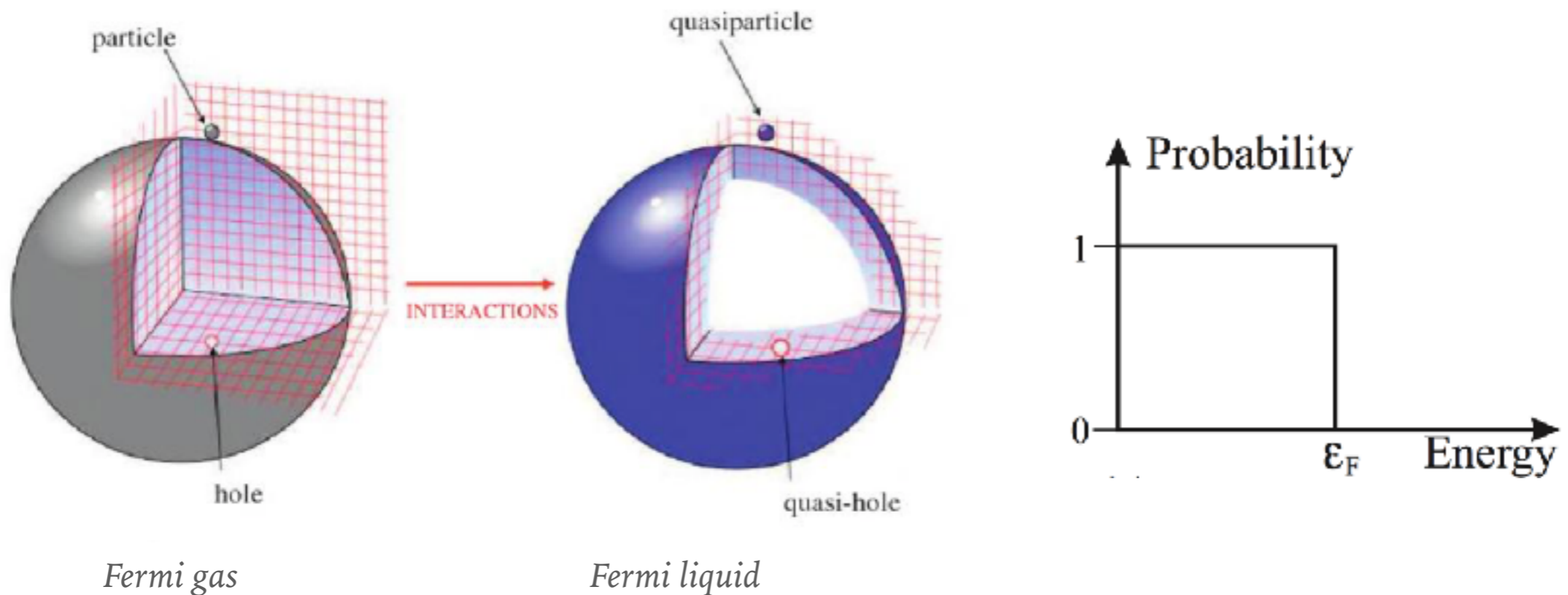


Fig. from P. Coleman

QUASI-PARTICLES

- Each quasiparticle contributes additively to the total *entropy* of the system but not to the *energy*
- A quasiparticle's energy also depends on the distribution of other quasiparticles
- The inertial mass of the quasiparticle is modified by the backflow $m \rightarrow m^*$

$$m^* = m(1 + F_1^s)$$
$$\mathbf{v}_F = \frac{\mathbf{P}_F}{m^*} = \frac{\mathbf{P}_F}{m} - \frac{\mathbf{P}_F}{m} \left(\frac{F_1^s}{1 + F_1^s} \right)$$

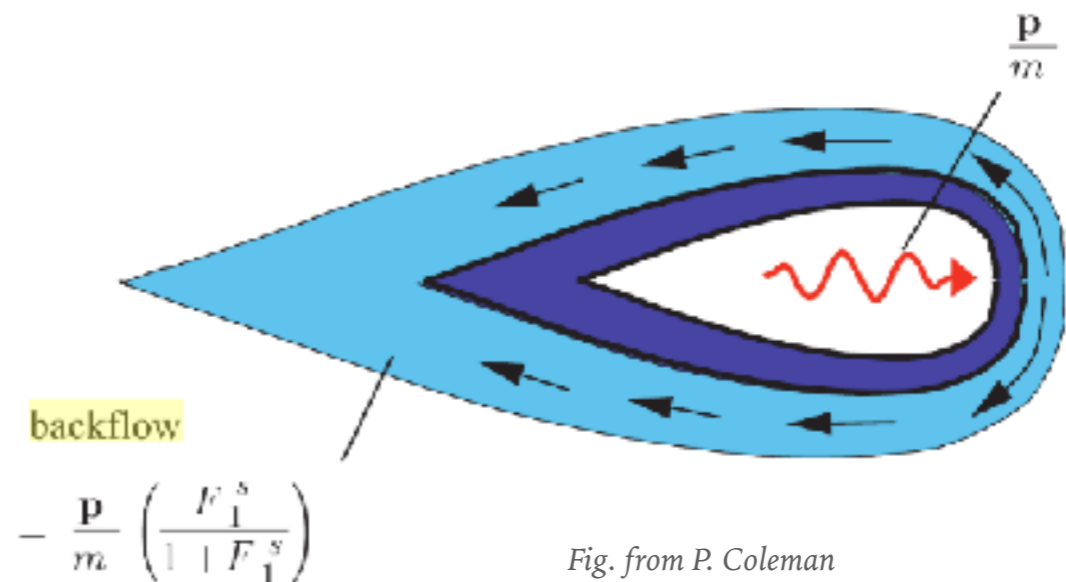
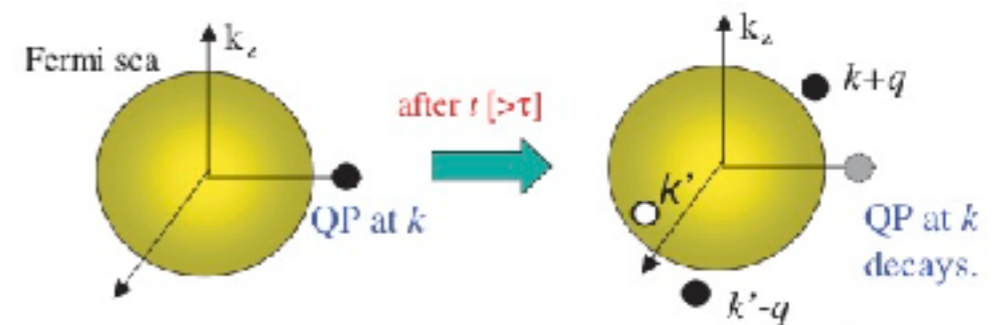


Fig. from P. Coleman

QUASI-PARTICLE LIFE TIME

- Quasiparticles and holes are only approximate eigenstates of the system
- Decay rate of a quasiparticle with energy ϵ above the Fermi surface at $T=0$
$$\frac{1}{\tau_\epsilon} \propto \epsilon^2$$
- Quasiparticle is well defined close to the Fermi level
- At $T>0$, the scattering rate goes like T^2



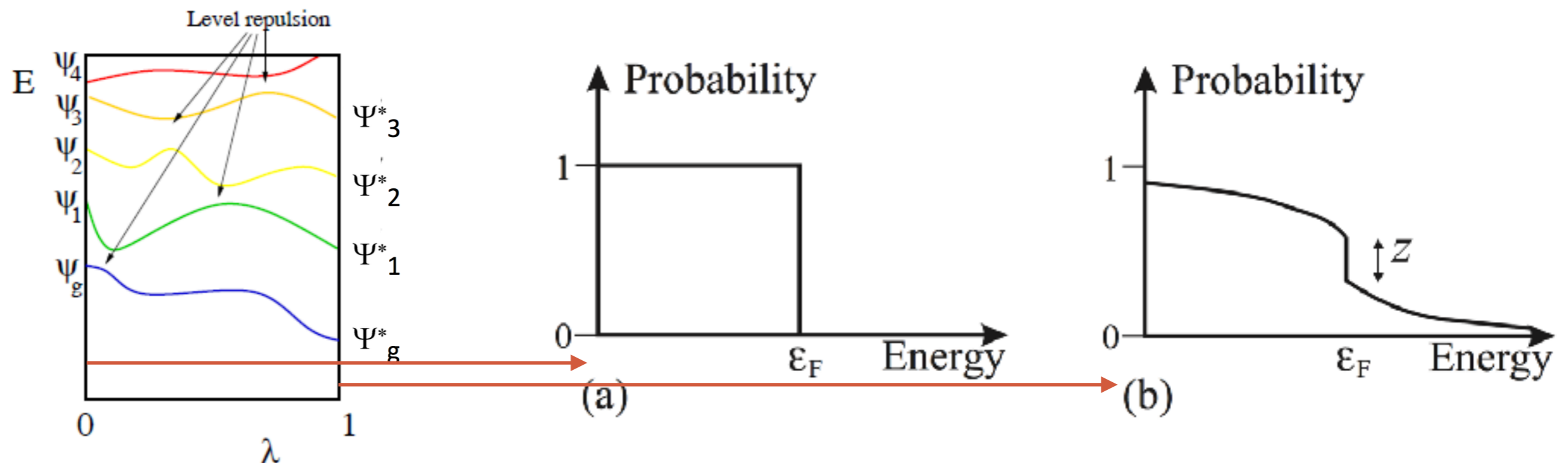
QP scattering process

WHAT ABOUT ELECTRON THEMSELVES?

- There must remain a fraction of the original non-interacting excited state wave function in the quasiparticle wave function

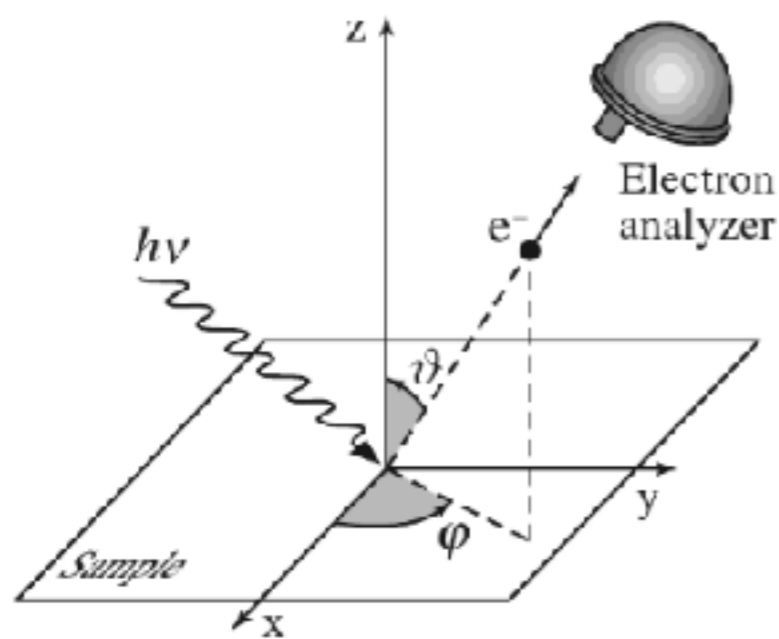
$$\tilde{\phi}_{QP}(\mathbf{k}\sigma) = \sqrt{z}\phi_{el}(\mathbf{k}\sigma) + \text{particle - hole excitations etc.}$$

- The fraction, $z < 1$, plays the role of the order parameter of the zero temperature Fermi liquid state

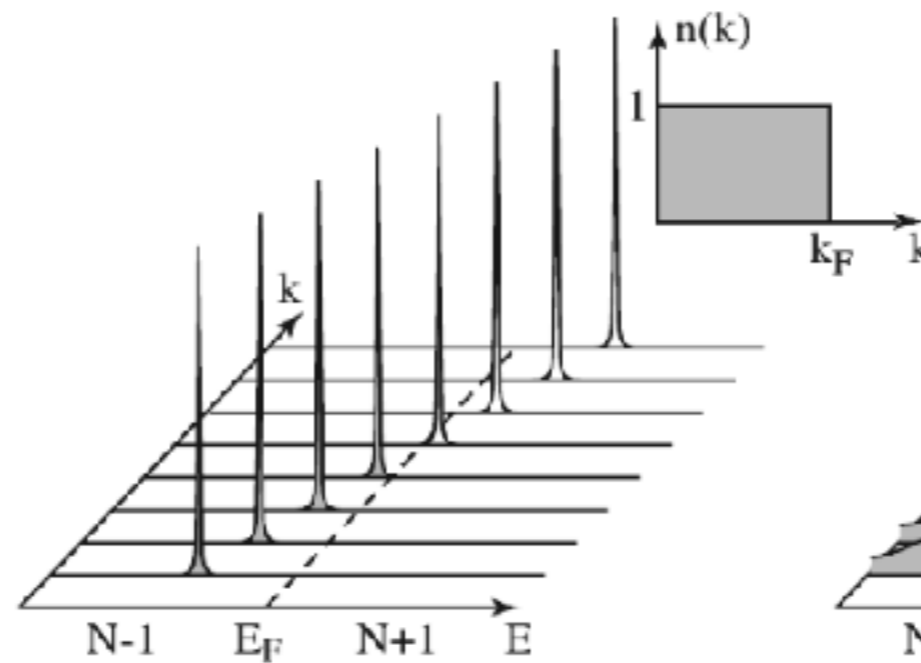


PHOTOEMISSION SPECTROSCOPY

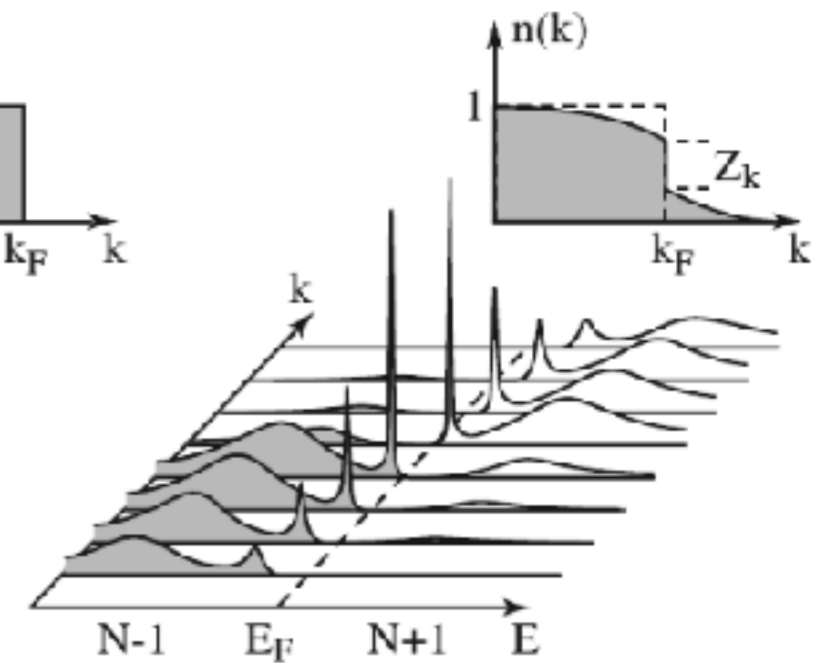
- Spectral function: A tool for following the fate of the original electrons



Photoemission geometry



Non-interacting electron system



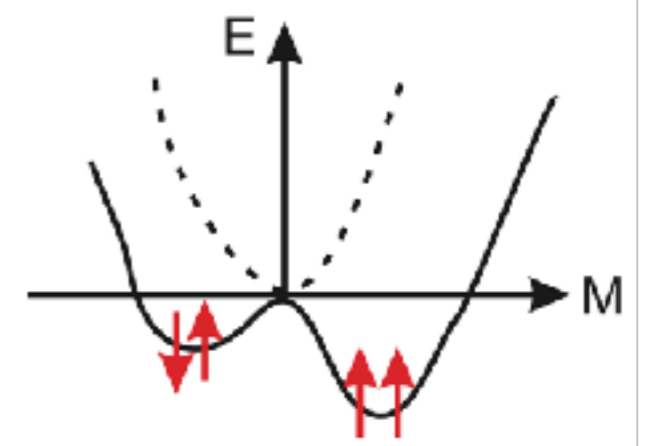
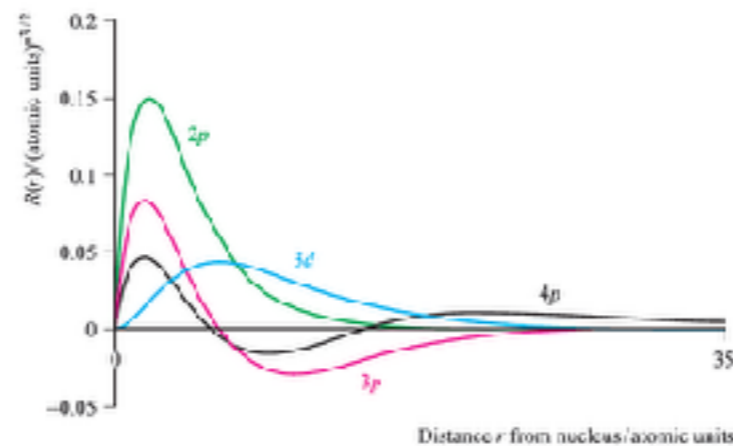
Fermi liquid system

FERMI LIQUID PREDICTIONS

	Low T, ($T \ll T_D$) Debye temperature : T_D	High T, ($T \ll T_D$)
Resistivity	$A_{\text{imp}} + B_{\text{e-e}}T^2 + C_{\text{e-ph}}T^{d+2}$	$C'_{\text{e-ph}}T$
Seebeck coefficient	$DT + E_{\text{phd}}T^d$	$D'_{\text{e-ph}}T + E'_{\text{phd}}T^{-1}$
Thermal conductivity	$H_{\text{e-e}}T^{-1} + L_{\text{imp}}T + G_{\text{e-ph}}T^{d-1}$	$G'_{\text{e-ph}}$
Specific heat	γT	

WHEN IS THE INDEPENDENT-PARTICLE PICTURE NOT SUFFICIENT?

- Electrons hesitate between being localized on short time scales and itinerant on long time scales
- Some phase transitions and ordered states: ordered magnetic states
- Screening
- Strange metals (Non-Fermi liquid behaviour)
- Strong fluctuations between different low-energy fermionic configurations



SIGNATURES OF ELECTRON CORRELATION

- Correlation-induced phase transition
- Differences between LDA band masses and measured masses
- Satellites in photoemission
- Non-linear T dependance of the electronic contribution in specific heat
- Small Drude weights
-

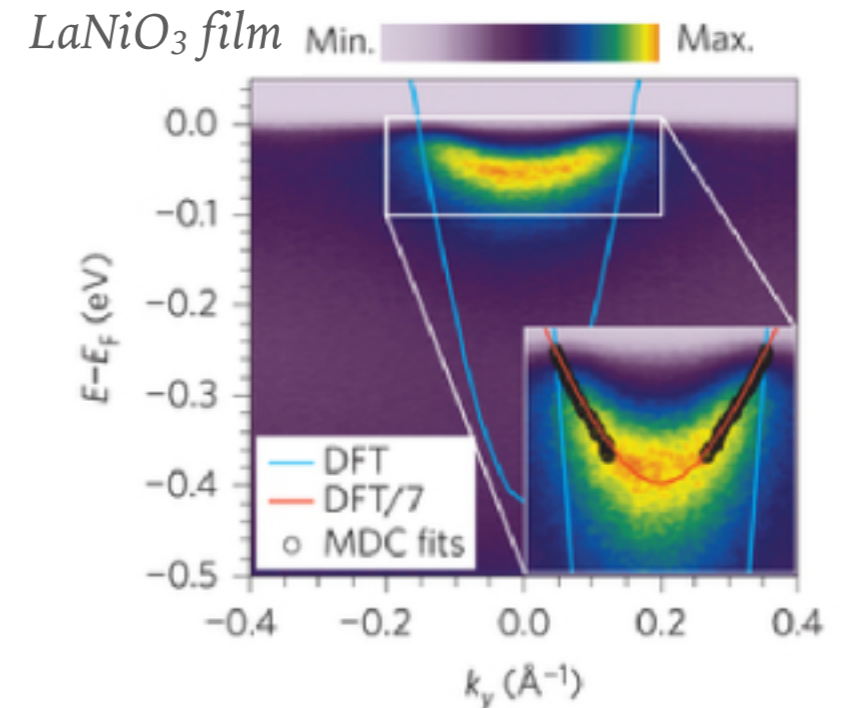
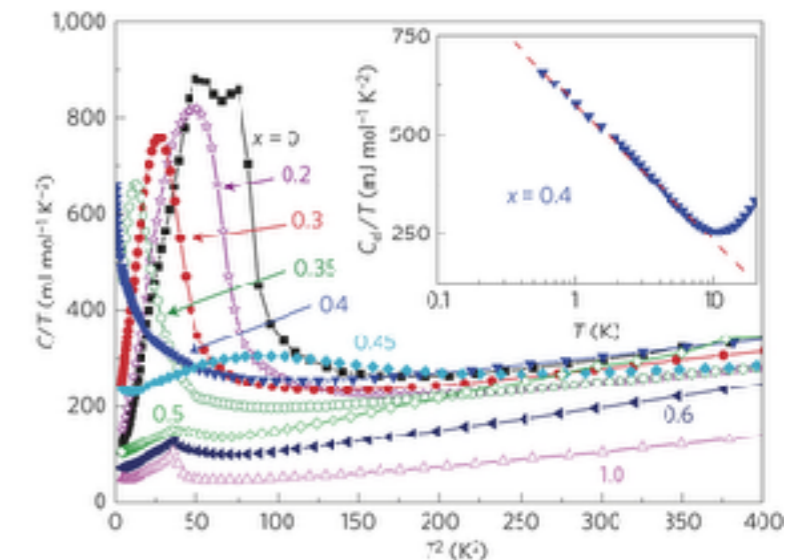
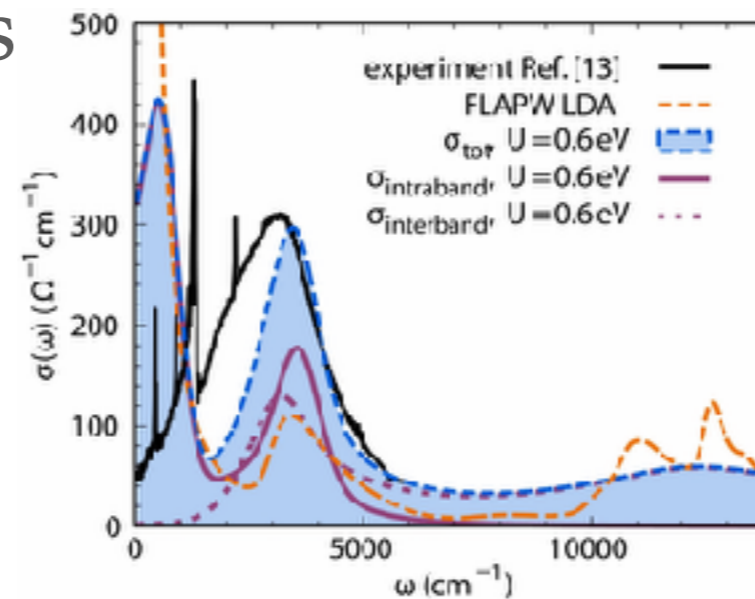


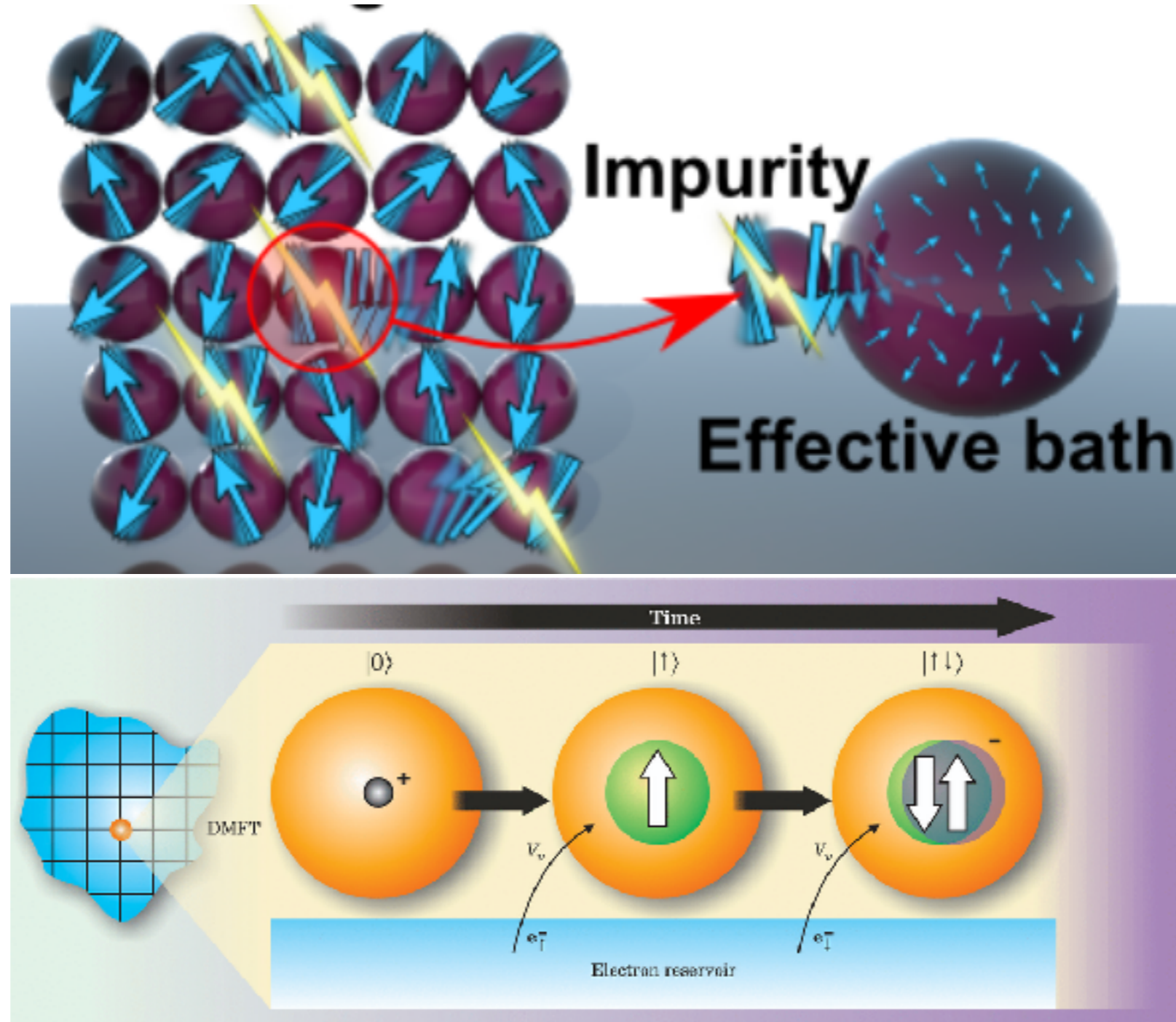
Fig. from P. D. C. King et al



CeNiAs_{1-x}P_xO (Fig. from Y. Luo et al)

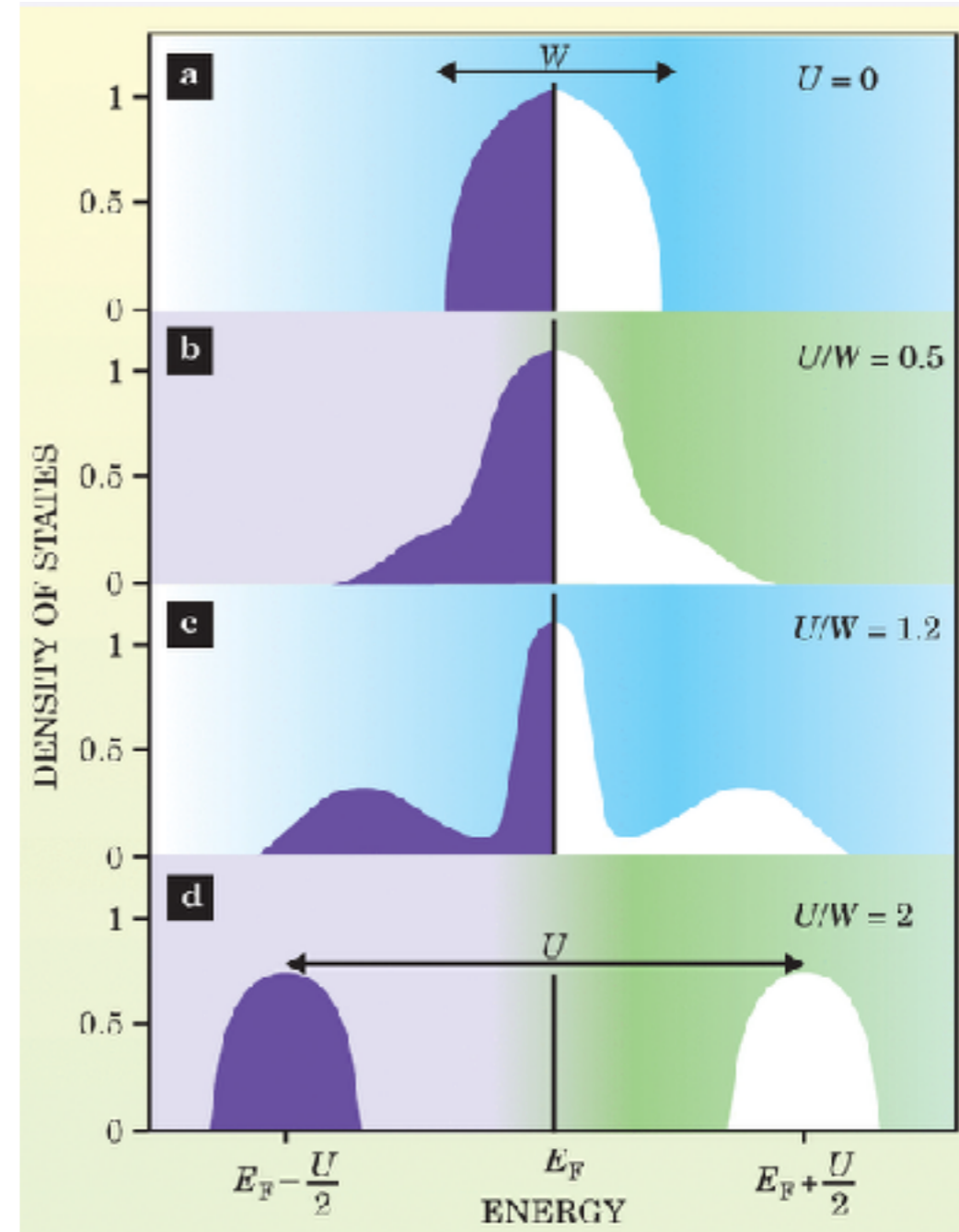
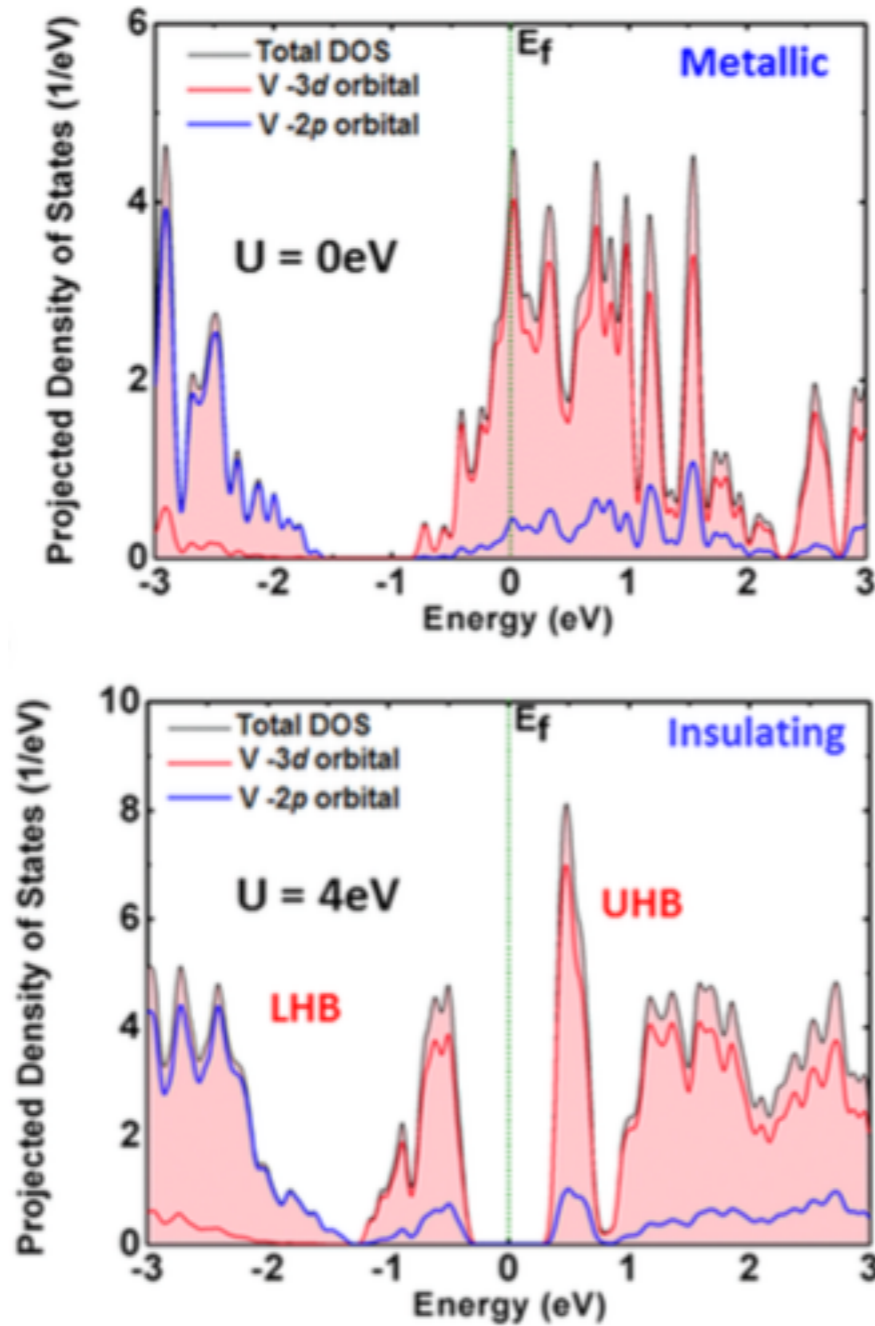
BEYOND MEAN-FIELD APPROACHES

- Dynamical mean-field theory



CORRELATION DRIVEN METAL-INSULATOR TRANSITION

➤ VO₂



SUMMARY

- Most materials with interesting properties such as heavy fermion, high T_c superconductor, giant magnetoresistance, multiferroic etc. are strongly correlated
- Ordered states are usually weakly correlated
- Methods such as QMC (model Hamiltonian) or LDA+DMFT take into account some correlation effects