

# A Machine-Learning Surrogate Model for *ab initio* Electronic Correlations

Tobias Dornheim, Zhandos A. Moldabekov, and  
Attila Cangi

Center for Advanced Systems Understanding  
(CASUS), Görlitz, Germany

Email: dornhe95@hzdr.de

ICLR 2021 Workshop  
Deep Learning for Simulation (simDL)

## Abstract

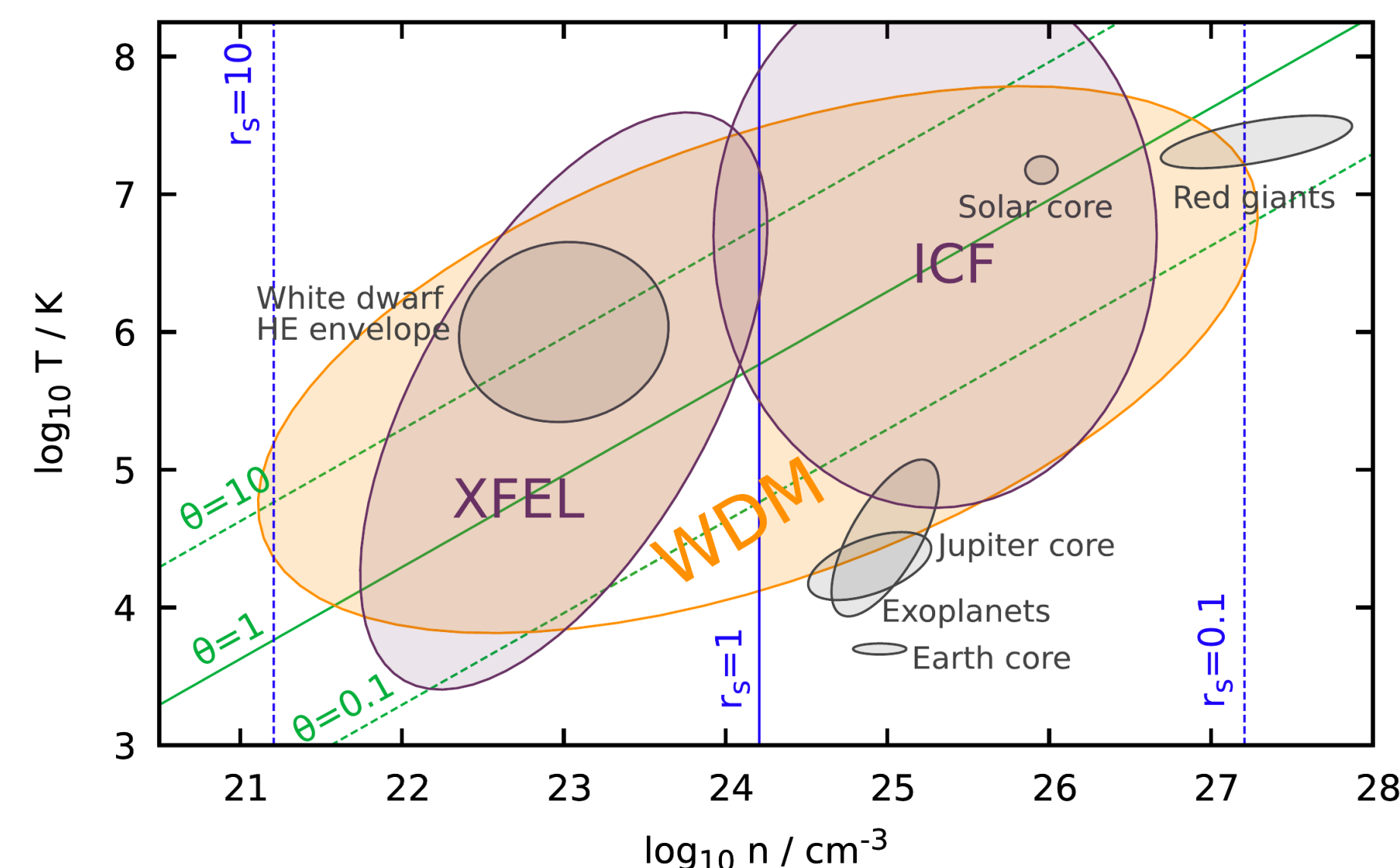
The electronic structure in matter under extreme conditions is a challenging complex system prevalent in astrophysical objects and highly relevant for technological applications [1]. We show how machine-learning surrogates [2] in terms of neural networks have a profound impact on the efficient modeling of matter under extreme conditions. Our surrogate model that is trained on *ab initio* quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) data can directly be used for various applications in the emerging field of warm dense matter research and beyond:

- **Diagnostics:** Interpretation of X-ray Thomson scattering experiments
- Nonlinear electronic density response
- Computation of material properties like thermal/electrical conductivity
- Electronic friction properties like the stopping power
- Advanced exchange-correlation functionals for **density functional theory (DFT)**
- Inclusion of electronic correlations in quantum fluid theories

## Warm Dense Matter (WDM)

An extreme state with high temperature  $T$  and density  $n$ .

- Astrophysical objects (giant planet / brown dwarf interiors, neutron star crusts, white dwarf envelopes, meteor impacts, ...)
- ICF: Inertial confinement fusion
- XFEL: Free electron lasers



Density-temperature plain with relevant physical examples. Taken from Ref. [1].

## Electronic Density Response

- Perturb a system at density parameter  $r_s$  and temperature  $\theta$  with wave-number  $q$
- Linear response theory (LRT): Response of the system fully described by **electronic local field correction**  $G(q)$

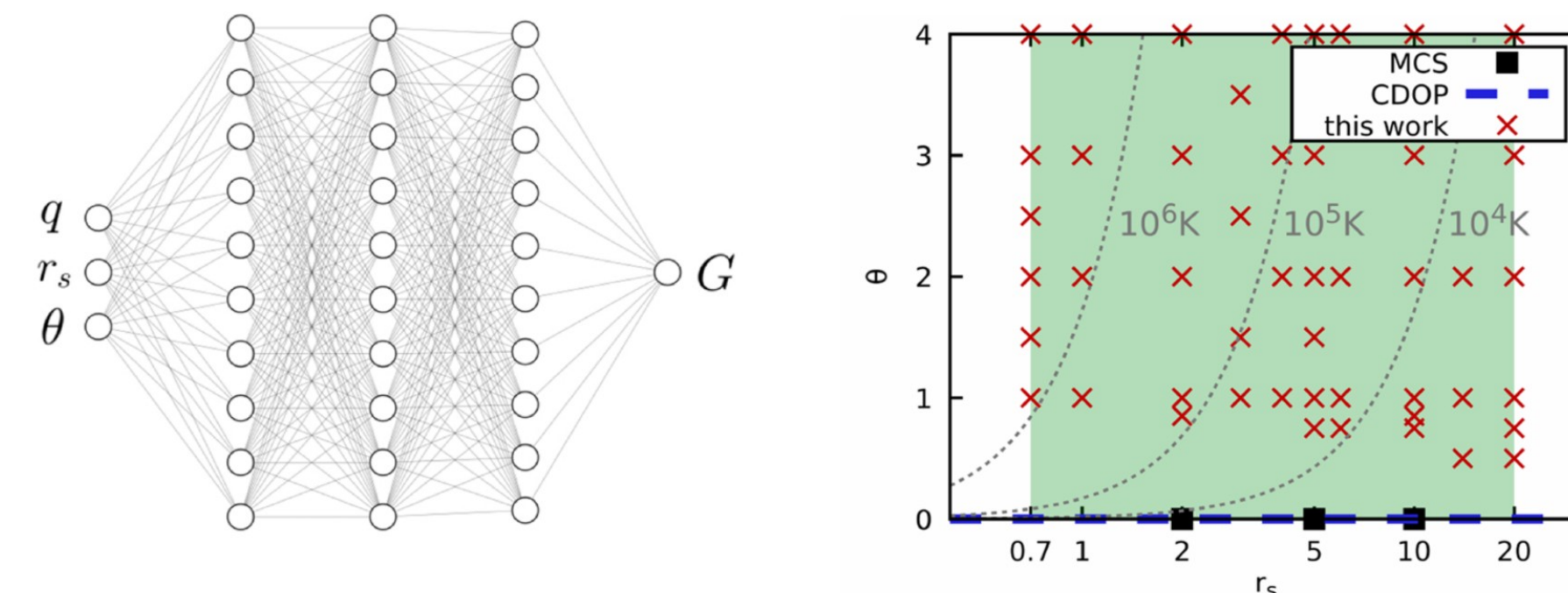
$$G(q) = 1 - \frac{q^2}{4\pi} \left( \frac{1}{\chi_0(q)} - \frac{1}{\chi(q)} \right)$$

$\chi_0(q)$ : density response of ideal (noninteracting) system

$\chi(q)$ : density response of actual electronic system, obtained from exact and computationally expensive QMC simulations, which are too costly for practical applications

→ **LFC is a measure for exchange correlation effects**

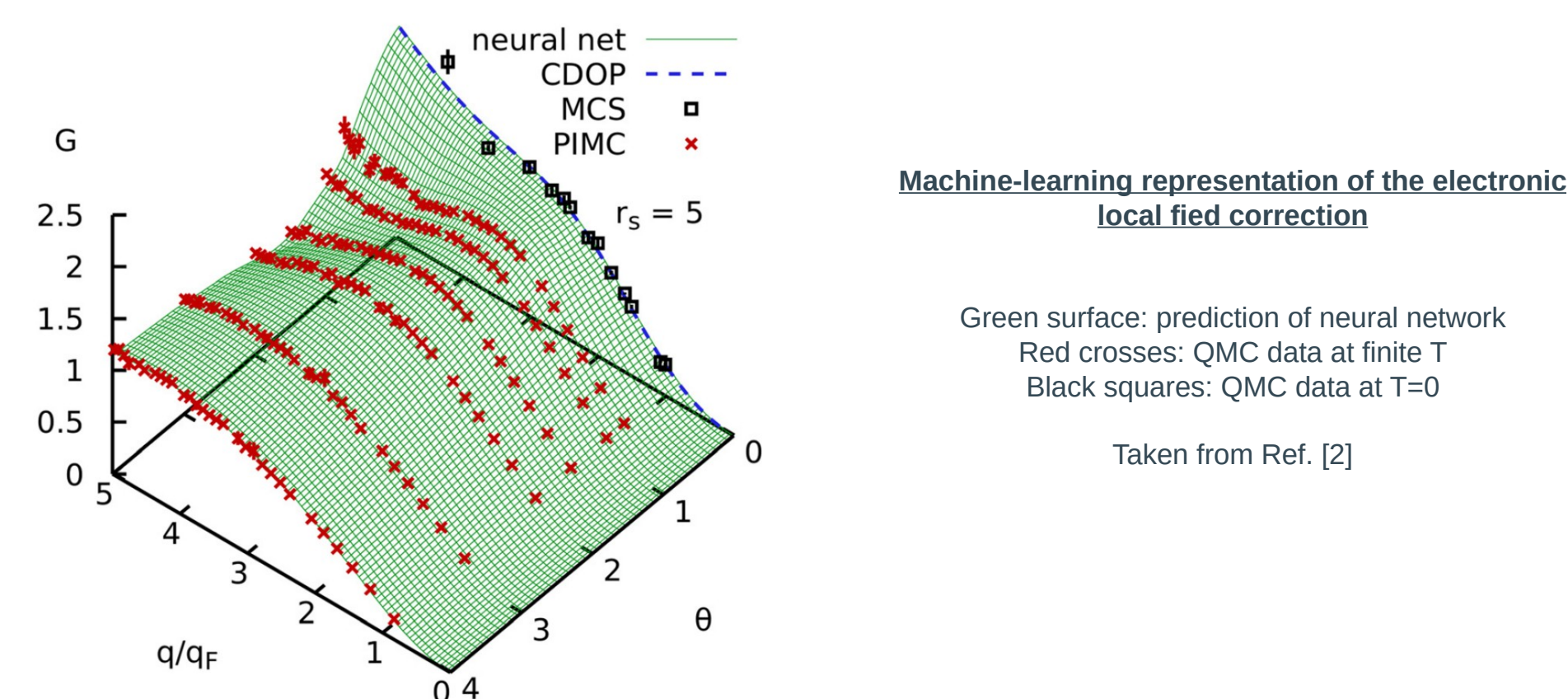
## Neural Network Representation of the LFC



**Goal:** Machine-learning representation of  $G(q; r_s, \theta)$  covering the entire relevant parameter range [2]

**Solution:** Fully connected deep neural network as universal function approximator combining input from different methods at different parameters

→ **fast and accurate LFCs** for practical applications

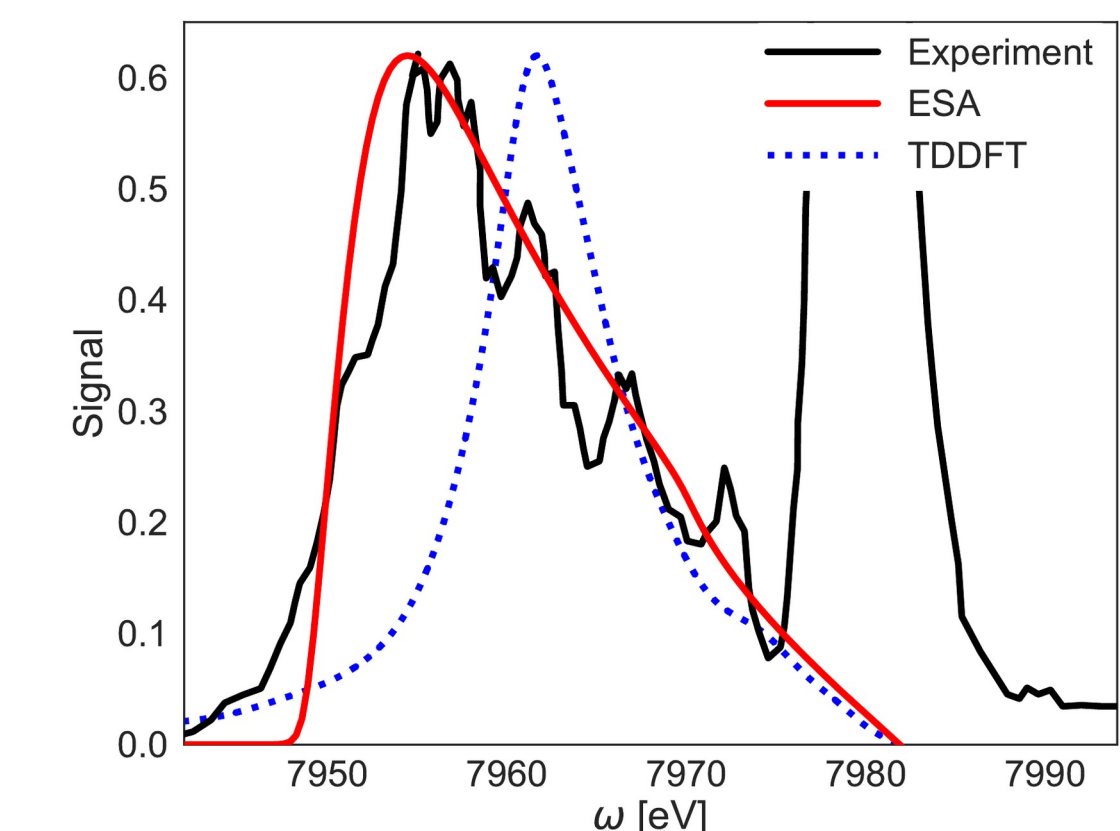


Machine-learning representation of the electronic local field correction

Green surface: prediction of neural network  
Red crosses: QMC data at finite T  
Black squares: QMC data at T=0  
Taken from Ref. [2]

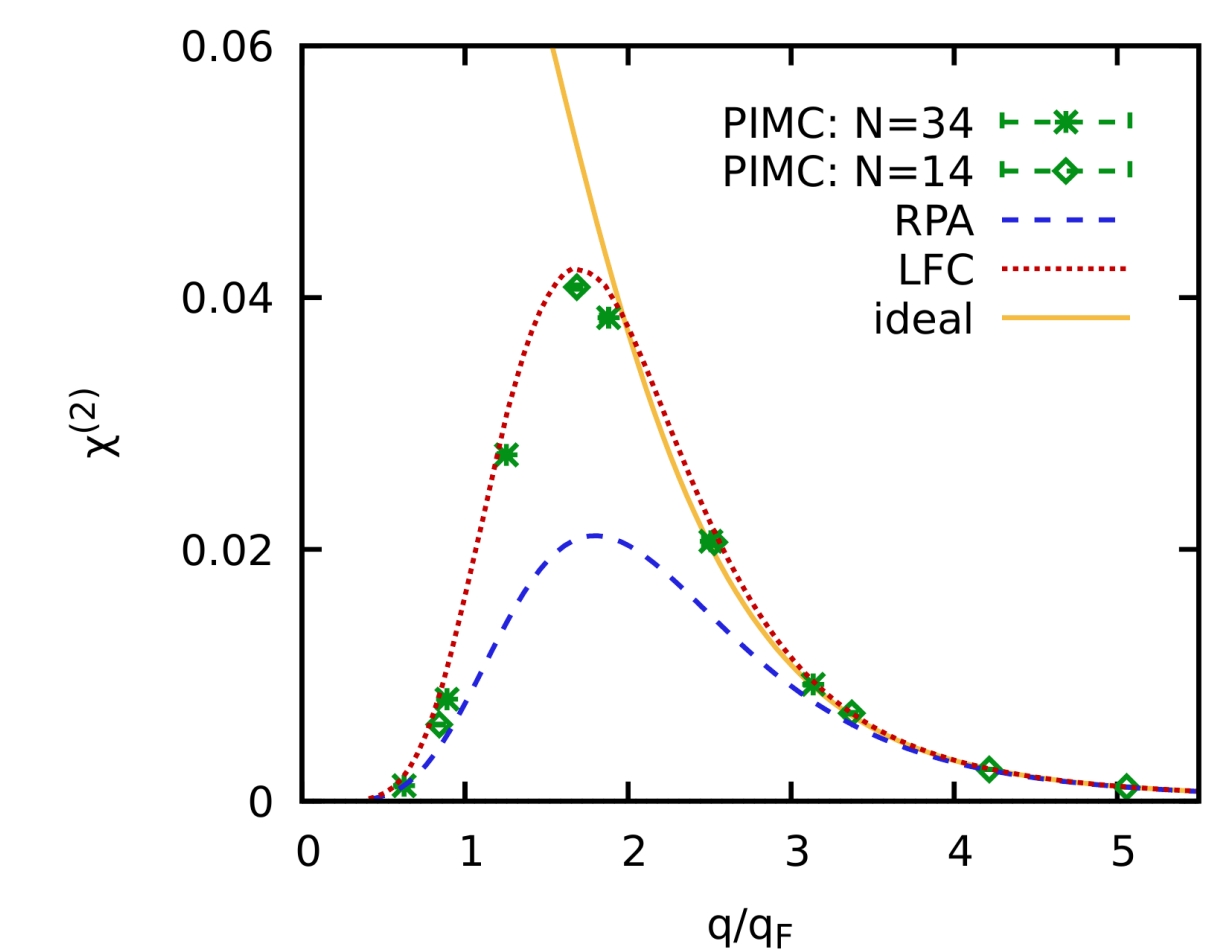
## Applications

Example: Interpretation of X-ray Thomson scattering experiments [3]



Our surrogate model (red, “ESA”, taken from Ref. [3]) yields an accurate prediction of the scattering signal measured in aluminum (solid black, Ref. [4]). The computationally expensive TDDFT curve performs substantially worse.

→ **This facilitates on-the-fly interpretation of experiments!**



The surrogate model (dotted red) is even capable of predicting the nonlinear electronic density response (green points) of WDM, Ref. [5]

## References

- [1] M. Bonitz et al. (2020). “Ab initio simulation of warm dense matter” In: *Phys. Plasmas* **27**, pp. 042710
- [2] T. Dornheim et al. (2019). “The static local field correction of the warm dense electron gas”. In: *J. Chem. Phys.* **151**, pp. 194104
- [3] T. Dornheim et al. (2020). “Effective Static Approximation: A fast and reliable tool for WDM theory”. In: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, pp. 235001
- [4] P. Sperling et al. (2015). “Free-Electron X-Ray Measurements of Collisional-damped Plasmons in Isochorically heated WDM.” In: *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **115**, pp. 115001
- [5] T. Dornheim et al. (2021). “Density Response of the Warm Dense Electron Gas beyond LRT: Excitation of Harmonics”. In: *arxiv:2104.02405*

