

# Calculation of the Linear-Absorption Spectrum of an Ideal Two-Dimensional System of MoS<sub>2</sub>

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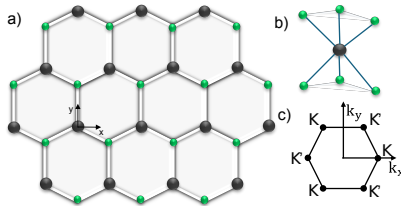
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# Outline

- 1 Overview
- 2 Method
  - Three-band Tight-binding Model
  - Semiconductor Bloch Equations
  - Inter-band Polarization
- 3 Numerical Results
- 4 Summary and Outlook

Group VI-B Transition Metal Dichalcogenides (TMD) are compound semiconductors of the type  $\text{MX}_2$ .  $M$  is Transition Metal atom (black dots),  $X$  is Dichalcogenide atom (green dots):



**Figure:** Structure of TMD and its first Brillouin Zone

# Transition Metal Dichalcogenide Monolayer

- They are stable in both mono- and few-layer in the air at room temperature.
- They are semiconductors with a direct band gap in visible light range.
- Their crystal structure has no center of inversion.
- Strong spin-orbit Coupling (SOC) in TMD monolayers leads to spin splitting of hundreds meV.

⇒ Promising materials in electronic and optoelectronic applications (for example: solar cells with energy conversion efficiency surpassing the Shockley-Queisser limit).

# Exciton Binding Energy In TMD

What is the purpose of calculating the linear absorption spectrum?

→ Exciton binding energy

- TMD is a low-dimensional material → huge exciton binding energy in compared with bulk semiconductors → electron-hole Coulomb interaction need to be calculated and taken into account.
- Early theories predict large binding energy (0.5 – 1 eV) in compare with experiment (0.2 – 0.5 eV) ⇒ more precise calculations to match with the experiments.
- Theories only fit bandstructure around highly symmetry points such as  $K/K'$ , not on entire BZ ⇒ a models for fitting in the entire BZ.

Tight-binding (TB) wave function have the form:

$$|\psi_{\lambda\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} c_{\lambda\alpha}(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{\mathbf{R}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{R}} |\phi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R})\rangle. \quad (1)$$

The Time-independence Schrödinger equation:

$$H_{1e} \sum_{\alpha} c_{\lambda\alpha}(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{\mathbf{R}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{R}} |\phi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R})\rangle = \varepsilon_{\lambda}(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{\alpha} c_{\lambda\alpha}(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{\mathbf{R}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{R}} |\phi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R})\rangle.$$

Multiply with  $\langle\phi_{\beta}|$  on the left and take integral over  $\mathbf{r}$

$$\sum_{\alpha} [H_{\beta\alpha}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) - \varepsilon_{\lambda}(\mathbf{k})\delta_{\beta\alpha}] c_{\lambda\alpha}(\mathbf{k}) = 0. \quad (2)$$

In which the Tight-binding Hamiltonian matrix elements:

$$H_{\beta\alpha}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{\mathbf{R}} \langle\phi_{\beta}(\mathbf{r})| H_{1e} |\phi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R})\rangle. \quad (3)$$

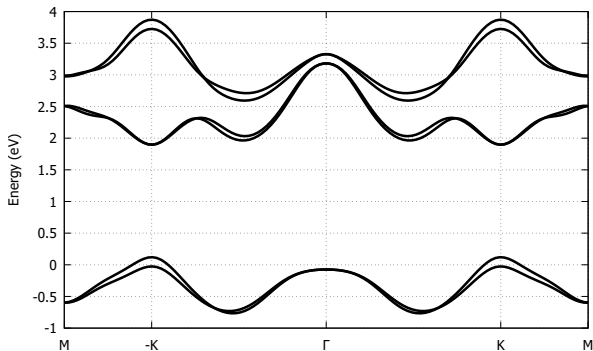
Use basic functions of d-type orbitals:

$$|\phi_1\rangle = d_{z^2}, |\phi_2\rangle = d_{xy}, |\phi_3\rangle = d_{x^2-y^2}.$$

Three-band TB Hamiltonian with SOC has the form:

$$H_{6\times 6}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) = \begin{bmatrix} H_{3\times 3}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) + \gamma L_z & 0 \\ 0 & H_{3\times 3}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) - \gamma L_z \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_z = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \\ 0 & -i & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Figure: Band structure of  $\text{MoS}_2$  monolayer<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Liu et al., "Three-band tight-binding model for monolayers of group-VIB transition metal dichalcogenides".



Multiband semiconductor Bloch equations (SBE) with Coulomb interaction in Hatree Fock approximation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \rho_{\lambda\lambda'}(\mathbf{k}, t) = & -\frac{i}{\hbar} (\varepsilon_{\lambda}(\mathbf{k}) - \varepsilon_{\lambda'}(\mathbf{k})) \rho_{\lambda\lambda'}(\mathbf{k}) \\ & - i \sum_{\mu} (\Omega_{\lambda\mu}(\mathbf{k}) \rho_{\mu\lambda'}(\mathbf{k}, t) - \rho_{\lambda\mu}(\mathbf{k}, t) \Omega_{\mu\lambda'}(\mathbf{k})) \\ & + \frac{\rho_{\lambda\lambda'}(\mathbf{k}, t)}{T_2} (1 - \delta_{\lambda\lambda'}), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where

$$\Omega_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{\hbar} \left( \frac{e}{m} \mathbf{A}(t) \mathbf{p}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) - \sum_{\alpha\beta\mathbf{q}} W_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q},\mathbf{q}}^{\alpha\mu\beta\nu} \rho_{\beta\alpha}(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}) \right), \quad (5)$$

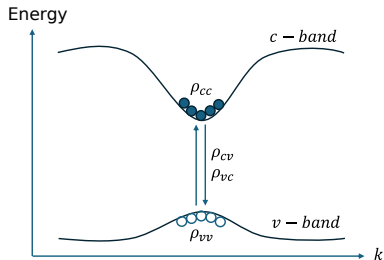
$$\mathbf{p}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{m}{\hbar} \sum_{\alpha,\beta} c_{\mu\alpha}^* \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} H_{\alpha\beta}^{TB}(\mathbf{k}) c_{\nu\beta}(\mathbf{k}). \quad (6)$$

For  $\mu \neq \nu$ :

$$\vec{\xi}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{-i\hbar}{m} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})}{\varepsilon_{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) - \varepsilon_{\nu}(\mathbf{k})}. \quad (7)$$

Time-dependent interband polarization density:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(t) &= \frac{e}{L^2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \text{Tr} \left[ \vec{\xi}(\mathbf{k}) \rho(\mathbf{k}, t) \right] \\ &= \frac{e}{L^2} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \lambda \lambda'} \vec{\xi}_{\lambda \lambda'}(\mathbf{k}) \rho_{\lambda' \lambda}(\mathbf{k}, t). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$



# Numerical Sum Over k-Space

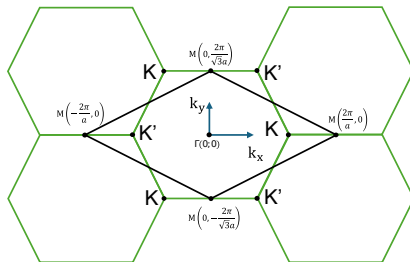
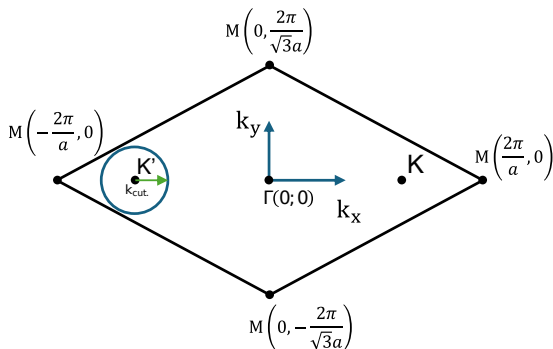


Figure: Rhombus primitive cell

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \dots \rightarrow \frac{L^2}{4\pi^2} \int \int_{BZ} dk_x dk_y \dots \quad (9)$$

## k-Cutoff



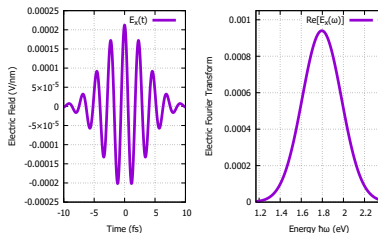
$$W_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \mathbf{q}}^{\alpha\mu\beta\nu} \approx W_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}', \mathbf{q}}^{\alpha\mu\beta\nu} \theta(k_{cut.} - |\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{K'}|) \theta(k_{cut.} - |\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}_{K'}|). \quad (10)$$

# Electromagnetic Field

The electric field has a Gaussian envelope form:

$$\mathbf{E}(t) = \mathbf{E}_0 \cos(\omega_0 t) e^{-\frac{t^2}{\tau_L^2}} \quad (11)$$

- small  $E_0$  :  $\rho_{cc}(\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow 0$
- $\hbar\omega = E_{gap}$ .
- small  $\tau_L \rightarrow$  rounder Fourier transform's peak around  $\omega_0$

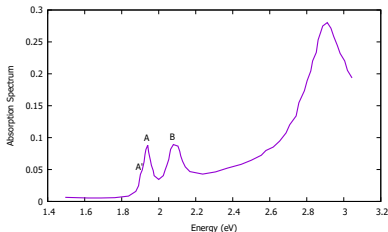


Absorption is obtain by<sup>2</sup>:

$$\alpha(\omega) \propto \frac{P(\omega)}{E(\omega)}. \quad (12)$$

<sup>2</sup>Haug and Koch, *Quantum Theory Of The Optical And Electronic Properties Of Semiconductors* (5th Edition).

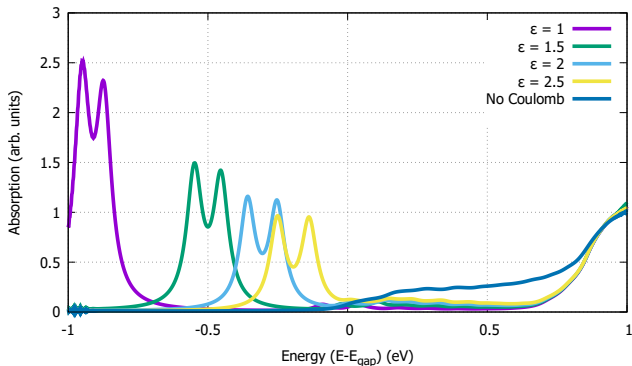
Experiment measure:



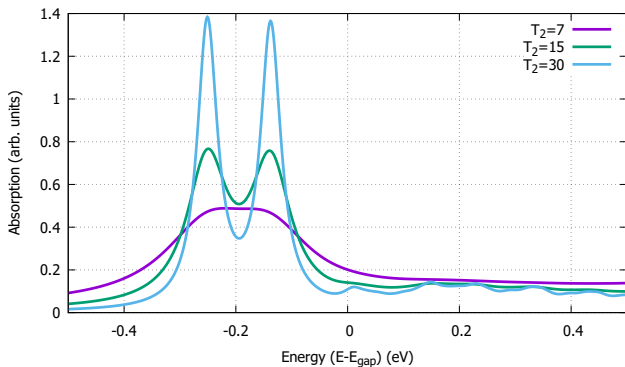
- Two resonance labeled by A and B are Exciton peaks (band split due to SOC).
- Weak trion peak near A labeled by A'

Figure: Measured Absorption Spectrum of MoS<sub>2</sub> at  $T = 5K$  extracted from Ref.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Zhang et al., "Absorption of light by excitons and trions in monolayers of metal dichalcogenide MoS<sub>2</sub>".



- Choosing the  $\epsilon$  for fitting with the experiment.
- For 3-band TB model:  $\epsilon \in (1.5, 2.5)$  is in good agreement with exciton binding energy of  $E_{\text{bind.}} = 0.2 - 0.5\text{eV}$



- Choosing the  $T_2$  for clearer Exciton peak.
- The bigger  $T_2$ , the clearer main Exciton peaks  $\rightarrow$  confirm two peak.
- At  $T_2 = 30$  fs show other smaller peaks  $\rightarrow$  predict other peaks.



## Summary:

- From three-band TB + SBE  $\rightarrow$  Linear Absorption Spectrum
- Confirm the Exciton binding energy in monolayer  $\text{MoS}_2$  in agreement with experimental data, and predict smaller exciton peaks.

## Further research:

- High Harmonic Generation
- High-order Side-band Generation
- Photovoltaic effect