



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY "A. RIGHI"

SECOND CYCLE DEGREE

PHYSICS

TITLE OF DISSERTATION

Supervisor

Prof. Name Surname

Co-supervisor optional

Prof. Name Surname

Defended by

Name Surname

Graduation Session / Month/ Year

Academic Year 20xx/20xx

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when one contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries to comprehend only a little of this mystery every day.

Albert Einstein

Abstract

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetur id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

Contents

Abstract	i
List of Figures	iii
List of Tables	iv
1 Froehlich Polaron	1
1.1 Electrons in crystals	1
1.2 The polaron problem: the Froehlich model	4
1.3 Weak coupling limit: perturbation theory	10
1.4 Strong coupling limit: variational treatment	11
1.5 Froehlich Hamiltonian: degenerate bands and multiple phonon modes	13
2 Froehlich polaron: Feynman diagrams	17
2.1 Green's function formalism	17
2.2 Perturbation theory for Green's functions	19
2.3 Matsubara formalism for imaginary time Green's functions	21
2.4 Equation of motion and Wick's theorem	24
2.5 Green's functions for the Froehlich Hamiltonian	26
3 Diagrammatic Monte Carlo	32
3.1 The Monte Carlo sampling method	32
3.2 Direct Monte Carlo	33
3.3 Monte Carlo integration	34
3.4 Markov Chain Monte Carlo	34
3.5	34
Acknowledgement	35
4 Acknowledgement	35
Appendix	36
References	37

List of Figures

1.1	DFT calculated low-temperature GaAs Wurtzite structure with relative DOS [1].	4
1.2	Computed polaron energy using perturbation theory, strong coupling theory and all coupling Feynman technique [2].	13
1.3	GaAs crystal structure, the cubic structure of the zincblende unit cell is here clearly displayed.	14
1.4	DFT calculated AlAs band structure [3], the conduction band minimum is on the high symmetry line Δ between Γ and X	15
2.1	Feynman diagram of the free electron propagator together with its Green's function.	27
2.2	Feynman diagram of the free phonon propagator together with its Green's function.	27
2.3	Feynman diagrams of the electron-phonon interaction.	28
2.4	Order 4 diagram.	28
2.5	Disconnected order 4 diagram.	29
2.6	Order 2 diagram.	29
2.7	Order 4 diagram.	29
2.8	Order 4 diagram.	30
2.9	Order 2 diagram with one external phonon.	31

List of Tables

1 Froehlich Polaron

1.1 Electrons in crystals

The study of electrons inside a solid crystal is an important field due to their role in the determination of transport and optical properties of such materials.

Multiple experiments involving X-ray or electron scattering from suitable solid samples have demonstrated that a crystalline solid, whether a metal, an insulator or a semiconductor, is described a periodic arrangement of atoms consisting of a unit cell (usually the primitive one, defined as the smallest unit cell possible in a determined material) with a suitable atomic basis: some examples are Iron (Fe), described by a BCC (Body-Centered Cubic) unit cell with a single Fe atom basis, rock salt (NaCl), described by by a FCC (Face-Centered Cubic) unit cell with a basis composed of one Na atom and one Cl atom, and crystalline silicon (Si), which is characterized by the diamond structure, an FCC structure with a basis composed of 2 silicon atoms (geometrically different from that seen in rock salt).

Given the periodic nature of crystal structures, it is natural to consider the electrostatic potential generated by the crystal to be periodic too. Such is the basic assumption which underlies the treatment of electrons in crystals, that was first described by Felix Bloch in his famous 1928 paper *Über die Quantenmechanik der Elektronen in Kristallgittern* [4].

The model proposed by Bloch assumed independent electrons (no electron-electron interactions terms): each electron behaves as if only an average contribution to the potential from the other electrons (with the same periodicity of the lattice) exists, thus retrieving an **effective one-electron potential**.

The resulting Hamiltonian for the single independent electron is:

$$H\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(\mathbf{r}) \right) \psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r}), \quad (1.1)$$

where $V(r)$ is a periodic potential with the lattice periodicity, given a lattice translation vector

$$\mathbf{T} = n_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{a}_3, \quad n_1, n_2, n_3 \text{ integers}, \quad (1.2)$$

with \mathbf{a}_1 , \mathbf{a}_2 and \mathbf{a}_3 primitive translation vectors. Therefore, we have

$$V(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{T}) = V(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1.3)$$

This means that the potential can be expanded in Fourier series

$$V(\mathbf{K}) = \sum_{\mathbf{K}} V_{\mathbf{K}} e^{i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad (1.4)$$

and is consequently useful to expand the wavefunction in the same way. For this reason the Born-von Karman boundary conditions are applied [5]

$$\psi(\mathbf{r} + N_i \mathbf{a}_i) = \psi(\mathbf{r}), \quad i = 1, 2, 3. \quad (1.5)$$

where $N_i \mathbf{a}_i$ is a chosen vector such that $V(\mathbf{r} + N_i \mathbf{a}_i) = V(\mathbf{r})$ (it is a translation vector for the lattice). This is a normalizing condition for the wavefunction which corresponds to taking N_i unit cell in each direction and periodically repeating them. In this way it is possible to write the wavefunction in the following way:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{q}} c_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}}. \quad (1.6)$$

Going back to the periodic potential $U(\mathbf{r})$ we observe that the Fourier terms $U_{\mathbf{K}}$ are related to $U(\mathbf{r})$ by

$$U_{\mathbf{K}} = \frac{1}{V} \int_{cell} d\mathbf{r} e^{-i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}} U(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1.7)$$

with V unit cell volume and \mathbf{K} reciprocal lattice vector (vector in k-space such that $e^{i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i} = 1$). If it is assumed that the potential $V(\mathbf{r})$ is real and $V(-\mathbf{r}) = V(\mathbf{r})$ (valid for every Bravais lattice) it follows that the coefficients $U_{\mathbf{K}}$ are real.

Substituting in 1.1 we obtain:

$$(\mathbf{H} - E)\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} q^2 - E \right) c_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}} + \sum_{\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{q}'} U_{\mathbf{K}} c_{\mathbf{q}' - \mathbf{K}} e^{i\mathbf{q}' \cdot \mathbf{r}} = 0, \quad (1.8)$$

which yields the following result:

$$\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K})^2 - E \right) c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}} + \sum_{\mathbf{K}'} c_{\mathbf{K}' - \mathbf{K}} c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}'} = 0. \quad (1.9)$$

From this equation it becomes clear that for a fixed k only the coefficients $c_{\mathbf{k}}, c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}}, \dots$ whose wavevector differs from \mathbf{k} by a reciprocal lattice vector are coupled. In this way the original problem has been divided in N independent equations for each allowed value of \mathbf{k} (in the first Brillouin zone, the primitive unit cell in the reciprocal space).

Going back to the expansion 1.6 the wavefunction now becomes:

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{K}} c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}} e^{i(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}) \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad (1.10)$$

which can be recast as

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \sum_{\mathbf{K}} c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}} e^{-i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}}; \quad (1.11)$$

in this form it is easy to recognize that

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{K}} c_{\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K}} e^{-i\mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \quad (1.12)$$

has the periodicity of the (reciprocal) Bravais lattice.

The shape of the Bloch wavefunction as stated in the Bloch theorem is thus retrieved

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1.13)$$

and its square modulus (from which important properties such as charge distribution follow) $|\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})|^2$ has the periodicity of the lattice.

The new Hamiltonian eigenvalues equation using Bloch wavefunction reads

$$H_{\mathbf{k}} u_{n\mathbf{k}} = \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{1}{i} \nabla + \mathbf{k} \right)^2 + U(\mathbf{r}) \right) u_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = E_{n\mathbf{k}} u_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}), \quad (1.14)$$

which yields a different energy eigenvalue for each \mathbf{k} in the first Brillouin zone. The index n arises from the fact that for each \mathbf{k} value infinite discrete solutions to the eigenvalue equation exist, in the same as in the particle in a box problem. Going to the thermodynamic limit ($N_i \rightarrow \infty$ for each component i) the entire first Brillouin zone is sampled and the typical band structure of the solids is recovered.

All the methods employed in solid state calculations rely on this "simple" equation to determine band structures, granted analytical form of the periodic potential $U(\mathbf{r})$ can be retrieved. The most used and effective computation method is **Density Functional Theory** [6] or **DFT** for short, which does not directly compute the eigenvalue equation for each single k and n value, which would be impossible since the potential $U(\mathbf{r})$ is a many-body object that includes electron-electron interactions, but rather computes all the physical quantities of interest starting from the ground state charge density $\rho_0(\mathbf{r})$. This is made possible by the two Hohenberg-Kohn theorems [7], which respectively state that the external potential (the periodic $U(\mathbf{r})$ from the electron point of view) is uniquely determined up to a constant by the ground state charge density $\rho_0(\mathbf{r})$ and that this density can be computed variationally by minimizing a suitable functional $F[\rho]$.

Nevertheless, the functional $F[\rho]$ exact form is unknown: for this reason the **Kohn-Sham scheme** [8] is used. The idea at the basis of this practical setup is to substitute the real interacting system (many-body) with an auxiliary non-interacting one (single particle) which has the same ground state as the original. In this system the total potential $V(\mathbf{r}) = V_{ion}(\mathbf{r}) + V_{ee}(\mathbf{r})$ is replaced with an effective potential $V_{eff}(\mathbf{r})$ defined as

$$U_{eff}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{ion}(\mathbf{r}) + U_H(\mathbf{r}) + U_{xc}(\mathbf{r}), \quad (1.15)$$

where U_{ion} is the ionic potential, often modelled using pseudopotentials [9], $U_H(\mathbf{r})$ is the Hartree term, the electrostatic potential due to the mean field distribution of all the other electrons, and $U_{xc}(\mathbf{r})$ the exchange-correlation term, an approximate potential which includes Pauli exclusion principle (exchange), higher order electron-electron interactions (correlation) and many body corrections to kinetic energy. The exchange-correlation term is usually computed using **LDA** (Local Density Approximation) or **GGA** (Generalized Gradient Approximation),

both based on the the Uniform Electron Gas (UEG) [10]. Despite the inevitable approximations, DFT calculations are able to provide extremely accurate band structure calculations with few drawbacks, such as inaccurate gap estimations in insulators and semiconductors.

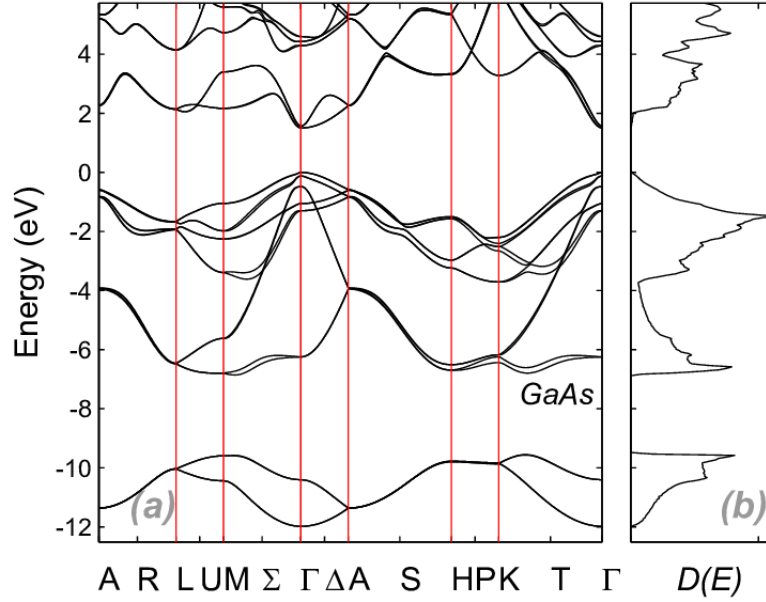


Figure 1.1: DFT calculated low-temperature GaAs Wurtzite structure with relative DOS [1].

As it can be seen in Figure 1.1 for GaAs, at the band extrema (at the edge between the allowed band states and the forbidden gap) the bands have a quadratic dispersion akin to that of a free electron: an electron in these regions only feel a very weak external potential $U(\mathbf{r})$ and can be considered as free provided that the free electron mass m is substituted with an effective mass m^* which takes into account the potential acting on it.

In a general case the effective mass is a tensorial quantity (bands are anisotropic in general with respect to the wavevector) and their value can be computed with

$$m_{ij}^{*-1} = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial k_i \partial k_j}, \quad (1.16)$$

provided that the quadratic approximation is valid. This approximation is really useful when calculating quantities near band extrema, providing an effective description of an otherwise complex interaction.

1.2 The polaron problem: the Froehlich model

The treatment described up until now for electrons in solids relies on a basic assumption: electro dynamics is much faster than ion dynamics. This is the so-called **Born-Oppenheimer**

approximation, which assumes that the motion of the much heavier ions is slow compared to the fast dynamics of the electrons (the characteristic time are of the order of ps for ions and fs for electrons). As a result, electrons are considered to respond instantaneously to changes in the positions of the ions, allowing the separation of electronic and ionic degrees of freedom in the analysis. Given M ions and n electrons the wavefunction $\Psi(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_M, \mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n)$ with \mathbf{R}_α ionic positions and \mathbf{r}_i electron positions can be decomposed in the following way:

$$\Psi(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_M, \mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n) = \chi(\mathbf{R}_1, \dots, \mathbf{R}_M) \psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n), \quad (1.17)$$

and only the electronic wavefunction $\psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_n)$ is taken into consideration, decoupling ionic degrees of freedom and treating ionic potential as a constant energy surface $U_{ion}(\mathbf{r})$.

This approximation, although extremely effective in computing electronic bands, fails by design to describe systems where there is a strong coupling between electrons and ions (for example electron-phonon interaction).

Such is the case of polar crystals: in these materials single electrons at the bottom of the conduction band (or holes at the top of the valence band) couple to the strongly polarized ions and distort the unit cell: an electron-phonon interaction is thus present in the lattice and the electron properties (such as energy and effective mass) are renormalized due to this coupling [11].

The basic assumption of the Froehlich model is that the polaron is "large", namely the characteristic size of the polaron (electron together with its phonon cloud) is much larger than the lattice constant a . In this way it is possible to ignore the atomic details of the actual material and treat it as a uniform dielectric medium.

It is assumed that the electron which takes part in the formation of the polaron lies at the bottom of the valence band, in this way it is expected to have a quadratic energy dispersion characterized (as already seen in 1.16) by an effective mass

$$\epsilon(k) = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*}, \quad (1.18)$$

where the effective mass m^* encapsulates all the interactions due to crystal structure (for a hole polaron the dispersion is similar considering a negative effective mass).

Given the fact that we are dealing with the large polaron model, it is possible to treat the material as an homogeneous continuum which is polarized by the excess charge (the conduction electron). We also assume that the material is isotropic. Let $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$ be the electric polarization at the point \mathbf{r} , the total electric field is then:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) &= \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) + 4\pi \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}), \\ \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) &= \epsilon \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}). \end{aligned} \quad (1.19)$$

The only free charge present in the material is the conduction electron in excess, this means that $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r})$ is completely determined by it:

$$\begin{aligned} D(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_{el}) &= -\nabla \frac{e}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{el}|}, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_{el}) &= 4\pi \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{el}), \end{aligned} \quad (1.20)$$

with \mathbf{r}_{el} the coordinate of the conduction electron. Developing the equations the following relation is obtained:

$$4\pi\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}). \quad (1.21)$$

$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$ is the total polarization, which has the contribution both from electrons and from ionic displacements, since only the second contribution is relevant in our treatment, a method to tell apart this two contributions is needed.

To obtain this we imagine a system where a field is slowly applied and then rapidly switched off [12]: only electrons are able to keep up with the variation of the field. A formula connecting polarization and \mathbf{D} (dropping the \mathbf{r} dependence for simplicity since an isotropic and homogeneous medium is assumed) is then retrieved as

$$4\pi\delta\mathbf{P} = -\left(1 - \frac{1}{\epsilon_\infty}\right) \mathbf{D}, \quad (1.22)$$

it is then obtained the lattice contribution to the polarization:

$$4\pi\mathbf{P}_{lat} = 4\pi(\mathbf{P} - \delta\mathbf{P}) = \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_\infty} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0}\right) \mathbf{D}. \quad (1.23)$$

We now consider a model for the polar crystal lattice: we assume it to be constituted of individual oscillating discrete dipoles located at fixed sites of the crystal with characteristic frequency ω . The energy of each one of these oscillators is

$$\frac{M}{2}(\dot{q}^2 + \omega^2 q^2). \quad (1.24)$$

The next step is to move from a discrete set of fixed oscillators to a continuum of dipoles: it is assumed that the dipoles are not coupled. Defining the effective charge as e^* , the following substitution is made:

$$e^*\mathbf{q}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}), \quad (1.25)$$

which relates the dipole moment to the polarization field. We also write the following relation:

$$\frac{M}{e^{*2}} = \gamma d^3 r, \quad (1.26)$$

where $M = nd^3 r$ is the mass density of the medium.

It is now possible to define the kinetic and potential energy of the freely oscillating polarization field:

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \int \frac{\gamma}{2} \dot{\mathbf{P}}_{lat}^2(\mathbf{r}) d^3 r, \\ V &= \int \frac{\gamma\omega^2}{2} \mathbf{P}_{lat}^2(\mathbf{r}) d^3 r. \end{aligned} \quad (1.27)$$

We identify ω with the optical phonon frequency ω_{LO} , but the constant γ has not yet been given a physical definition. For this reason we consider the interaction between electrons and dipole moment, which is given by

$$e \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \mathbf{P}_{lat}, \quad (1.28)$$

which, using a continuous charge distribution and the polarization field, becomes

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) d^3r \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \mathbf{P}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}') d^3r'. \quad (1.29)$$

The interaction energy E_I is thus

$$E_I = \iint \rho(\mathbf{r}) \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \mathbf{P}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}') d^3r d^3r'. \quad (1.30)$$

The Lagrangian is then built as follows:

$$L = T - U - E_I \quad (1.31)$$

and the equation of motion are found solving the Lagrange equations

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\delta L}{\delta \dot{P}_{lat_i}} - \frac{\delta L}{\delta P_{lat_i}} = 0 \quad (1.32)$$

for $i = 1, 2, 3$. The explicit formula of the equation of motion is:

$$\gamma(\ddot{\mathbf{P}}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}') + \omega^2 \mathbf{P}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}')) = - \int \frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} \rho(\mathbf{r}) d^3r \quad (1.33)$$

keeping fixed $\rho(\mathbf{r})$. The term on the right side is simply the dielectric displacement $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}')$ and, in the static limit, the equation simplifies to

$$\gamma\omega^2 \mathbf{P}_{lat}(\mathbf{r}') = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}'). \quad (1.34)$$

Comparing this equation with 1.23, the value of γ is obtained:

$$\gamma = \frac{4\pi}{\omega^2} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_\infty} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \right)^{-1}. \quad (1.35)$$

It is now time to define the full complete polaron Hamiltonian. We start by defining the free electron term (the interaction lies inside the effective mass m^*), considering that the electron charge density operator is defined as:

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = -e\psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1.36)$$

using the second quantization formalism with field operators, then the electron kinetic term is

$$H_{el} = \int \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m^*} \nabla^2 \right) \psi(\mathbf{r}) d^3r. \quad (1.37)$$

If we use a suitable basis for the field operator

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \quad (1.38)$$

with V (unit cell) volume, then 1.37 becomes

$$H_{el} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{k^2}{2m^*} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (1.39)$$

with $c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$ and $c_{\mathbf{k}}$ creation and annihilation operators for the free electron.

We now turn our attention to the polarization field, taking into account that it can be modelled as an harmonic oscillator a form similar to 1.37 can be recovered (P_{lat} is substituted by P in the following equations):

$$H_{ph} = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\gamma} \Pi^2(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \omega^2 \mathbf{P}^2(\mathbf{r}) \right) d^3r, \quad (1.40)$$

where $\Pi(\mathbf{r})$ is the conjugate momentum to $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$.

Using the canonical substitution for the operator $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\gamma\omega}} \frac{\mathbf{q}}{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}} (a_{\mathbf{q}} - a_{-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger) \quad (1.41)$$

and the corresponding one for $\Pi(\mathbf{r})$ we obtain the equation for a quantum harmonic oscillator:

$$H_{ph} = \hbar\omega \sum_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}}, \quad (1.42)$$

with $a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger$ and $a_{\mathbf{q}}$ bosonic phononic creation and annihilation operators.

Using the same formalism, the interaction term is instead written in the following way:

$$H_{EPC} = \iint \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \psi(\mathbf{r}) \frac{e}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} (-\nabla_{\mathbf{r}'} \cdot \mathbf{P})(\mathbf{r}') d^3r d^3r', \quad (1.43)$$

using the same substitution in 1.41 for $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$ the following form is obtained:

$$H_{EPC} = \int \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}) \psi(\mathbf{r}) \left[4\pi i \left(\frac{e^2 \hbar}{2\gamma\omega V} \right)^{1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \frac{1}{q} (a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}} - a_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}}) d^3r \right]. \quad (1.44)$$

The term is simplified even more if we substitute the electron field operator using 1.41, then the final form of the coupling term is reached

$$H_{EPC} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}} (V_{\mathbf{w}} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{w}} + V_{\mathbf{w}}^* c_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger), \quad (1.45)$$

where the coupling parameter is given as

$$V_{\mathbf{q}} = -4\pi i \left(\frac{e^2}{2\hbar\gamma\omega V} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{q}. \quad (1.46)$$

It is possible to rewrite the coupling parameter in terms of the dimensionless coupling strength α :

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\mathbf{q}} &= i \left(\frac{4\pi\alpha}{V} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{q}, \\ \alpha &= \frac{2\pi e^2}{\hbar\gamma\omega} \sqrt{\frac{2m^*\omega}{\hbar}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_\infty} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_0} \right) \frac{e^2}{\hbar\omega} \sqrt{\frac{2m^*\omega}{\hbar}}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.47)$$

If we now identify ω with ω_{LO} angular frequency of the longitudinal optical phonon modes (the modes that effectively couple with the electron), we obtain the final form of the Froehlich Hamiltonian:

$$H^{Fr} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{k^2}{2m^*} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} + \hbar\omega_{LO} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}} (V_{\mathbf{q}} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{q}} + V_{\mathbf{q}}^* c_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger) \quad (1.48)$$

where we have dropped the coupling parameter dependence on \mathbf{q} direction since it only depends on its modulus.

The main assumptions of this model are:

- Free electron with quadratic dispersion (up to a *scalar* effective mass m^*).
- Dispersionless optical mode with frequency ω_{LO} .
- "Large" polaron, with characteristic dimension d much greater than lattice parameter a (continuum approximation).

In this form the model correctly describes only a handful of real materials and it mainly serves as a toy model (we will briefly mention how it can be solved at weak coupling with perturbation theory and at strong coupling variationally), however we will focus on the **Diagrammatic Monte Carlo Method**, a computational method that is capable of solving the polaron problem using some tricks. We will also see how some of the main limitations of the model (namely the scalar effective mass m^* and the single phonon mode ω_{LO}) can be lifted without lifting the main assumption (the large polaron approximation). It will be illustrated in particular the case of an anisotropic band with effective mass $m^*(\hat{\mathbf{k}})$ and multiple dispersionless optical modes ω_{LO_j} , already capable of modelling valence band minima in a wide range of materials.

1.3 Weak coupling limit: perturbation theory

In the weak coupling regime it is possible to apply perturbation theory to the Froehlich Hamiltonian, for this treatment a slightly modified Hamiltonian with respect to the one seen in 1.48 will be used [13]:

$$H^{Fr} = -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m^*} + \omega_{LO} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}}) + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (V_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + V_{\mathbf{q}}^* a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}}). \quad (1.49)$$

We will respectively define the non-interacting Hamiltonian H_0^{Fr} and the interaction term H_I^{Fr} as

$$\begin{aligned} H_0^{Fr} &= -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m^*} + \omega_{LO} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}}), \\ H_I^{Fr} &= \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (V_{\mathbf{q}} a_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} + V_{\mathbf{q}}^* a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}}). \end{aligned} \quad (1.50)$$

The quantum state of the non-interacting electron is described by $|\mathbf{k}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$, while for the non interacting phonons it is possible to define the average number of excitations $\langle a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle = \langle n_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle$, which is equal to 0 at the ground state. The total wavefunction of the non-interacting system then becomes:

$$|\mathbf{k}, 0\rangle = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} |0\rangle. \quad (1.51)$$

The first excited state to which the ground non-interacting state can jump to is the one with electron wavevector $\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}$ and one phonon $n_{\mathbf{q}} = 1$, total energy is:

$$\frac{(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q})^2}{2m^*} + \omega_{LO} = \frac{k^2}{2m^*}, \quad (1.52)$$

the corresponding wavefunction is

$$|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, 1\rangle = e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})\cdot\mathbf{r}} |1\rangle. \quad (1.53)$$

At first order perturbation theory there is no correction to the energy, we then need to go to second order. We consider the matrix element

$$\langle \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, 1 | H_I^{Fr} | \mathbf{k}, 0 \rangle = V_{\mathbf{q}}^*, \quad (1.54)$$

second order perturbation theory energy then becomes:

$$E_{\mathbf{k}P} = \frac{k^2}{2m^*} - \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \frac{|V_{\mathbf{q}}|^2}{(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})^2/2m^* + \omega_{LO} - k^2/2m^*}, \quad (1.55)$$

evaluating the sum over the q wavevectors we arrive at

$$E_{\mathbf{k}P} = \frac{k^2}{2m^*} - \frac{\alpha\omega_{LO}\sqrt{2m^*\omega_{LO}}}{k} \arcsin \frac{k}{\sqrt{2m^*\omega_{LO}}}, \quad (1.56)$$

which for $k \ll \sqrt{2m^*\omega_{LO}}$ yields

$$E_{\mathbf{k}P} = \frac{k^2}{2m^*} - \alpha\omega_{LO}. \quad (1.57)$$

The polaron effective mass m_P^* is given by:

$$m_P^* = \frac{m^*}{\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{6}\right)}. \quad (1.58)$$

From the equation it clearly results that the polaron effective mass diverges for $\alpha \rightarrow 6^-$ and is negative for $\alpha > 6$. This clearly signals that perturbation theory does not correctly describe the physical system at strong couplings.

1.4 Strong coupling limit: variational treatment

For the strong coupling case a different approach is taken: the main assumption of this model is a localized polaron wavefunction with a gaussian form [14], the Froehlich Hamiltonian is recast in order to write the phonon operators as displacement and conjugate moment operators:

$$Q_{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (a_{\mathbf{q}} + a_{-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger), \quad P_{\mathbf{q}} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} (a_{\mathbf{q}} - a_{-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger), \quad (1.59)$$

so that the Hamiltonian in 1.48 can be rewritten as

$$H^{Fr} = \frac{p^2}{2m^*} + \frac{\omega_{LO}}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (P_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + Q_{\mathbf{q}}^2) + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} V_{\mathbf{q}} Q_{\mathbf{q}} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}}. \quad (1.60)$$

A wavefunction with dependence both on the electron position \mathbf{r} and the lattice displacement $Q_{\mathbf{q}}$ is needed, for this reason the following gaussian ansatz is used:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(\mathbf{r}, Q_{\mathbf{q}}) &= \phi(\mathbf{r}) \Psi_n(Q_{\mathbf{q}} + \delta Q_{\mathbf{q}}), \\ \phi(r) &= \left(\frac{\beta}{\sqrt{\pi}}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{\beta^2}{2} r^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (1.61)$$

with β variational parameter, Ψ_n the harmonic oscillator wavefunction and $\delta Q_{\mathbf{q}}$ displacement to be calculated.

We now need to take the expectation value of the Hamiltonian operator:

$$H(Q_{\mathbf{q}}) = \langle \phi(r) | H | \phi^*(r) \rangle = \int \phi(r) H \phi(r) d^3r, \quad (1.62)$$

the terms with \mathbf{r} dependence are respectively evaluated as:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) \frac{p^2}{2m^*} \phi(\mathbf{r}) d^3r &= \frac{3\beta^2}{4m^*}, \\ \int \phi^*(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \phi(\mathbf{r}) d^3r &= e^{-q^2/4\beta^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.63)$$

The following result is thus obtained:

$$H(Q_{\mathbf{q}}) = \frac{3\beta^2}{4m^*} + \frac{\omega_{LO}}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} (P_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + Q_{\mathbf{q}}^2) + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} L_{\mathbf{q}} Q_{\mathbf{q}}, \quad L_{\mathbf{q}} = V_{\mathbf{q}} e^{-q^2/4\beta^2}. \quad (1.64)$$

To cancel out the linear term in $Q_{\mathbf{q}}$ it is important to choose the right equilibrium displacement $\delta Q_{\mathbf{q}}$ as

$$\delta Q_{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{L_{\mathbf{q}}}{\omega_{LO}}, \quad (1.65)$$

which yields the Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} H(Q_{\mathbf{q}}) &= \frac{\omega_{LO}}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} [P_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + (Q_{\mathbf{q}} + \delta Q_{\mathbf{q}})^2] + \frac{3\beta^2}{4m^*} - \frac{1}{2\omega_{LO}} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 \\ &= \frac{\omega_{LO}}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} [P_{\mathbf{q}}^2 + (Q_{\mathbf{q}} + \delta Q_{\mathbf{q}})^2] + E(\beta). \end{aligned} \quad (1.66)$$

The three different terms have precise physical meanings: the first term describes the harmonic oscillation of phonons around their new equilibrium position ($Q_{\mathbf{q}} + \delta Q_{\mathbf{q}}$), the second term represents the kinetic energy of the electron in the gaussian formalism, the third one the interaction energy between the electron and the phonons. To variationally retrieve the lowest energy the β parameter is minimized, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2\omega_{LO}} \sum_{\mathbf{q}} L_{\mathbf{q}}^2 &= \alpha \left(\frac{\beta^2 \omega_{LO}}{m^* \pi} \right)^{1/2}, \\ E(\beta) &= \frac{3\beta^2}{4m^*} - \alpha \left(\frac{\beta^2 \omega_{LO}}{m^* \pi} \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.67)$$

If we calculate the derivative with respect to β and we minimize it the following result is obtained:

$$\frac{dE}{d\beta} = \frac{3\beta}{2m^*} - \alpha \left(\frac{\omega_{LO}}{m^* \pi} \right)^{1/2} = 0, \quad (1.68)$$

which yields a value for β_0 :

$$\beta_0 = \frac{\alpha}{3} 2m^* \left(\frac{\omega_{LO}}{m^* \pi} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (1.69)$$

Using this result the minimum energy $E(\beta_0)$ is:

$$E(\beta_0) = -\frac{\alpha^2 \omega_{LO}}{3\pi} = -0.106\alpha^2 \omega_{LO}, \quad (1.70)$$

with a quadratic dependence on the coupling strength α different from that found using perturbation theory (linear).

A more refined treatment of the strong coupling limit [15] yields the following result:

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} E_0(\alpha) = -\omega_{LO} \left[-0.1085\alpha^2 + 2.836 + O(1/\alpha^2) \right], \quad (1.71)$$

not so different from our obtained result.

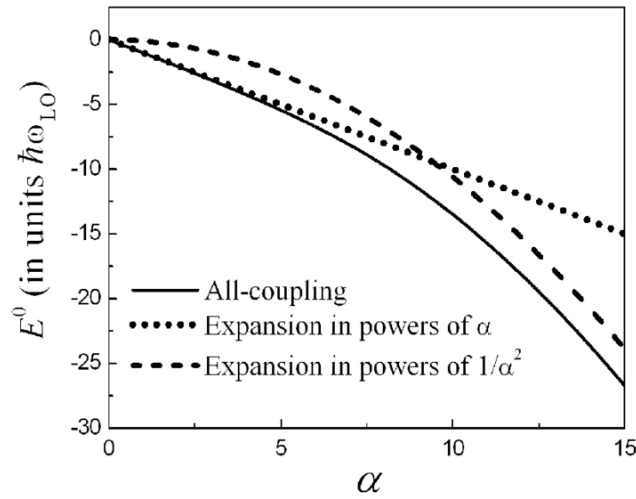


Figure 1.2: Computed polaron energy using perturbation theory, strong coupling theory and all coupling Feynman technique [2].

1.5 Froehlich Hamiltonian: degenerate bands and multiple phonon modes

The Hamiltonian in 1.48 only describes an extremely limited number of real cases, namely a non-degenerate isotropic electron band with effective mass m^* coupled to a single LO phonon mode. Although this relatively simple model is already quite challenging, some of its assumptions can be relaxed to obtain a more general framework.

Here we will be describing the **generalized Froehlich cubic model**: while maintaining some core simplification already seen in the original Froehlich model such as an isotropic dielectric tensor ϵ_0 and ϵ_∞ together with a phonon dispersion ω_{jLO} which does not depend on the wavevector direction (an even more general model not restrained to the cubic case is described in [16]) \hat{k} , it is still a quite relevant and useful model since it can be used to describe

multiple materials such as various oxides (BaO, CaO, MgO), II-VI compounds (CdS, CdSe, ZnS, ZnTe) and III-V compounds (AlAs, GaAs, GaN, GaP) [17].

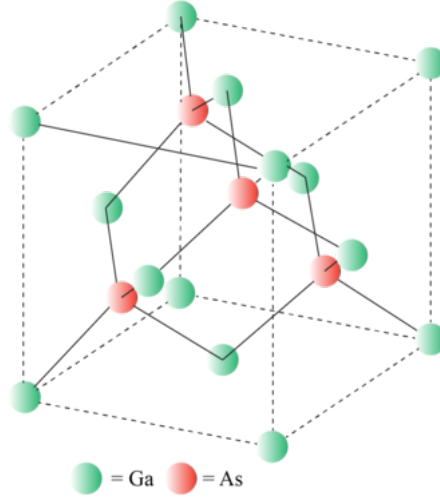


Figure 1.3: GaAs crystal structure, the cubic structure of the zincblende unit cell is here clearly displayed.

We start by defining the new electron term:

$$H_{el}^{cFr} \sum_{\mathbf{k}n} \frac{\sigma k^2}{2m_n^*(\hat{k})} c_{\mathbf{k}n}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}n}, \quad (1.72)$$

where the sum has been extended to n bands degenerate at the extremum, $\sigma = \pm 1$ depending on the fact that an electron or a hole polaron is taken into consideration, $m_n^*(\hat{k})$ is the new effective mass depending on band index n and wavevector direction \hat{k} (a tensorial quantity in general).

We also want to extend our Hamiltonian to tackle the case of multiple LO phonon modes present in the material, to this aim we define the following phonon term:

$$H_{ph}^{cFr} = \sum_{\mathbf{q}j} \hbar \omega_{jLO} a_{\mathbf{q}j}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}j}, \quad (1.73)$$

where the index j represents the different LO modes.

The electron-phonon coupling term gets redefined as:

$$H_{EPC}^{cFr} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}nn', \mathbf{q}j} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}n'}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}n} \left[V^{cFr}(\mathbf{k}nn', \mathbf{q}j) a_{\mathbf{q}j} + V^{*cFr}(\mathbf{k}nn', \mathbf{q}j) a_{-\mathbf{q}j}^\dagger \right]. \quad (1.74)$$

It should be noted that the new electron-phonon coupling term includes interband transitions (from n to n'). The new coupling strength $V^{cFr}(\mathbf{k}nn', \mathbf{q}j)$ is found to be

$$V^{cFr}(\mathbf{k}nn', \mathbf{q}j) = \frac{i}{q} \frac{4\pi}{\Omega_0} \left(\frac{1}{2\omega_{jLO} V_{BvK}} \right)^{1/2} \frac{p_{jLO}}{\epsilon_\infty} \times \sum_m s_{n'm}(\hat{k}') s_{nm}^*(\hat{k}), \quad (1.75)$$

with Ω_0 volume of the primitive unit cell, V_{BvK} volume of the Born-von Karman unit cell, p_{jLO} phonon mode polarities, linked to Born effective charges and ionic dielectric tensor ϵ_0 [18] and computed as $p_{jLO}(\hat{q}) = \sum_\nu Z_\nu^* e_\nu(\hat{q})$ isotropic in cubic system, and the s tensors, symmetry dependent unitary matrices which represent specific bands (and have the same symmetry group).

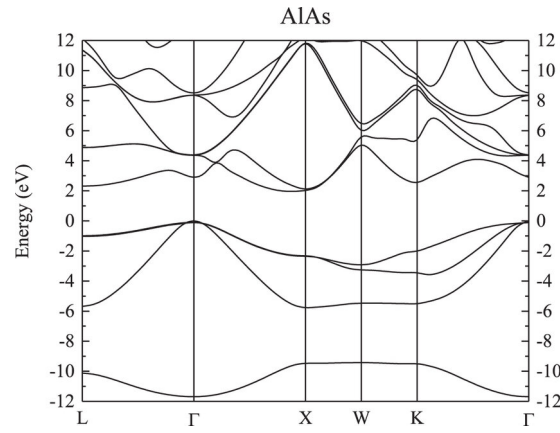


Figure 1.4: DFT calculated AlAs band structure [3], the conduction band minimum is on the high symmetry line Δ between Γ and X .

In our case of interest we restrict to just one anisotropic non-degenerate electron band, which is an accurate model for the conduction band minimum of the materials cited before (usually located somewhere between Γ and X along the Δ line), in this case the interaction strength simplifies to:

$$V^{cFr}(qj) = \frac{i}{q} \frac{4\pi}{\Omega_0} \left(\frac{1}{2\omega_{jLO} V_{BvK}} \right)^{1/2} \frac{p_{jLO}}{\epsilon_\infty}, \quad (1.76)$$

and the full Hamiltonian reads:

$$H^{cFr} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\sigma k^2}{2m^*(\hat{k})} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{q}j} \hbar \omega_{jLO} a_{\mathbf{q}j}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{q}j} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}j} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} \left[V^{cFr}(qj) a_{\mathbf{q}} + V^{*cFr}(qj) a_{-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger \right]. \quad (1.77)$$

The effective mass $m^*(\hat{k})$ dependence on the wavevector \mathbf{q} direction is expressed in the following way:

$$\frac{1}{m^*(\hat{k})} = \frac{\hat{k}_x^2}{m_x^*} + \frac{\hat{k}_y^2}{m_y^*} + \frac{\hat{k}_z^2}{m_z^*}, \quad (1.78)$$

with m_x^* , m_y^* and m_z^* effective mass values on the three cartesian axes.

Alternatively, the following formula for the electron energy as a function of k can be employed:

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\sigma}{2} \left(\frac{k_x^2}{m_x^*} + \frac{k_y^2}{m_y^*} + \frac{k_z^2}{m_z^*} \right). \quad (1.79)$$

2 Froehlich polaron: Feynman diagrams

In order to deeply understand a many-body system such as the Froehlich polaron it is necessary to use a more powerful formalism derived from quantum field theory, we will first briefly describe Green's functions as an effective mean to describe meaningful quantities of our system and we will then shift to the **Matsubara imaginary time** formalism, much more useful in the context of Diagrammatic Monte Carlo. At the end of this journey the connection between the Froehlich polaron and Feynman diagrams will be explicated. In this section of the thesis we will use the convention $\hbar = 1$.

2.1 Green's function formalism

Green functions are useful objects to perturbatively solve systems that are really hard to correctly treat in any other way [19].

If we take for example a time-dependent Schroedinger equation in the following way:

$$[i\partial_t - H_0(\mathbf{r}) - V(\mathbf{r})] \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

with the non-interacting diagonalizable term H_0 and the perturbation V . It is possible to define the corresponding Green's functions as:

$$\begin{aligned} [i\partial_t - H_0(\mathbf{r})] G_0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t, t') &= \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')\delta(t - t'), \\ [i\partial_t - H_0(\mathbf{r}) - V(\mathbf{r})] G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t, t') &= \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')\delta(t - t'). \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

We can define $G_0^{-1}(\mathbf{r}; t')$ and $G^{-1}(\mathbf{r}; t)$ as:

$$\begin{aligned} G_0^{-1}(\mathbf{r}; t) &= i\partial_t - H_0(\mathbf{r}), \\ G^{-1}(\mathbf{r}; t) &= i\partial_t - H_0(\mathbf{r}) - V(\mathbf{r}), \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

The Schroedinger equation can then be recast as

$$[G_0^{-1}(\mathbf{r}, t) - V(\mathbf{r})] \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0 \quad (2.4)$$

and it is possible to rewrite the system as an integral equation

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \psi^0(\mathbf{r}, t) + \int d^3r' \int dt' G_0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t, t') V(\mathbf{r}') \psi(\mathbf{r}', t') \quad (2.5)$$

which can be solved iteratively. In fact:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &= \psi^0 + G_0 V \psi^0 + G_0 V G_0 V \psi^0 + G_0 V G_0 V G_0 V \psi^0 + \dots \\ &= \psi^0 + (G_0 + G_0 V G_0 + G_0 V G_0 V G_0 + \dots) V \psi^0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Noting that 2.5 can be also written as:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \psi^0(\mathbf{r}, t) + \int d^3r' \int dt' G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'; t, t') V(\mathbf{r}') \psi^0(\mathbf{r}', t'), \quad (2.7)$$

it is possible to identify G with

$$\begin{aligned} G &= G_0 + G_0 V G_0 + G_0 V G_0 V G_0 + \dots \\ &= G_0 + G_0 V (G_0 + G_0 V G_0 + \dots), \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

and the well-known **Dyson equation** is retrieved:

$$G = G_0 + G_0 V G. \quad (2.9)$$

The one described above is the **single particle Green's function**, also called propagator since it "propagates" the wavefunction: in fact, if the wavefunction is known at time t' the wavefunction at a later time can be obtained in the following way:

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \int d^3r' \int dt' G(\mathbf{r}t, \mathbf{r}'t') \psi(\mathbf{r}'t'), \quad (2.10)$$

which is a solution to 2.3. The Green's function can also be written as

$$G(\mathbf{r}t, \mathbf{r}'t') = -\theta(t - t') \langle \mathbf{r} | e^{-iH(t-t')} | \mathbf{r}' \rangle, \quad (2.11)$$

and is more precisely known as the **retarded Green's function**.

Focusing now on a many-body system the Green's function is defined as

$$G^R(\mathbf{r}\sigma t, \mathbf{r}'\sigma't') = -i\theta(t - t') \langle [\psi_\sigma(\mathbf{r}, t), \psi_{\sigma'}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', t')]_{B,F} \rangle, \quad (2.12)$$

where $[\cdot]_{B,F}$ is the commutator $[\cdot]$ for bosons and the anticommutator $\{\cdot\}$ for fermions.

In the case of translation-invariant system (such as lattices) Green's functions can only depend on $\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'$ and it is natural to adopt the usual \mathbf{k} formalism:

$$\begin{aligned} G^R(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}', \sigma t, \sigma' t') &= \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')} G^R(\mathbf{k}, \sigma t, \sigma' t'), \\ G^R(\mathbf{k}, \sigma t, \sigma' t') &= -i\theta(t - t') \langle [a_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}, a_{\mathbf{k}'\sigma'}^\dagger]_{B,F} \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

The goal is now to find explicit expressions for the various Green's function of relevance, in the special case of a free electron the Hamiltonian assumes the simple form

$$H = \sum_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} \epsilon(k) c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}, \quad (2.14)$$

and the time dependence of the creation/annihilation operators is simply defined as

$$c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}(t) = e^{iHt} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} e^{-iHt} = c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} e^{-i\epsilon_k t}. \quad (2.15)$$

The retarded Green's function then becomes:

$$G^R(\mathbf{k}\sigma, t - t') = -i\theta(t - t') e^{-i\epsilon_k(t-t')}. \quad (2.16)$$

2.2 Perturbation theory for Green's functions

Given an Hamiltonian which can be written as a sum of two terms

$$H = H_0 + V, \quad (2.17)$$

where H_0 is diagonalizable and V is an interaction term which can be treated perturbatively, we want to obtain a perturbative expansion of the Green's function. The issue with this approach is that in the expression for a generic Green's function it is required to take the expectation value over a ground state $(\langle \cdot \rangle)$ which is not known, namely the ground state of the interacting system.

It is thus important to link the ground state of the interacting system to the ground state of the non-interacting one, to this mean we introduce **adiabatic switching on of the interaction** [20].

The core feature of this method is turning a time-independent problem into a time-dependent one by slowly switching on the perturbation, the Hamiltonian is transformed in the following way:

$$H_\alpha(t) = H_0 + V e^{-\alpha|t|}, \quad \alpha > 0, \quad (2.18)$$

such that the system is non-interacting for $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ and goes back to 2.17 for $t \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} H_\alpha(t) = H_0, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} H_\alpha(t) = H. \quad (2.19)$$

In this setup, it is natural to suppose that the ground state of the interacting system $|\Phi_0\rangle$ evolves continuously starting from the ground state of the non-interacting one $|\Psi_0\rangle$.

We introduce the Dirac representation the operators, for the interaction term of the Hamiltonian we have

$$V_I e^{-\alpha|t|} = e^{iH_0 t} V e^{-iH_0 t} e^{-\alpha|t|}, \quad (2.20)$$

the time-evolution operator in the Dirac representation is written as

$$U_{I\alpha}(t, t_0) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-i)^n \int_{t_0}^t dt_1 \cdots \int_{t_0}^t dt_n e^{-\alpha(|t_1| + \dots + |t_n|)} T_t [V_I(t_1) \cdots V_I(t_n)], \quad (2.21)$$

and defines the evolution of the system in the following way:

$$|\psi_{I\alpha}(t)\rangle = U_{I\alpha}(t, t_0) |\psi_{I\alpha}(t_0)\rangle. \quad (2.22)$$

The equation of motion is obtained as

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi_{I\alpha}(t)\rangle = e^{-\alpha|t|} V_I(t) |\psi_{I\alpha}(t)\rangle, \quad (2.23)$$

from this it follows that

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi_{I\alpha}(t \pm \infty)\rangle = 0, \quad (2.24)$$

which means that the state is time-independent. We can thus take the ground state of the non-interacting system as the ground state for the interacting system when $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$, the expression at the two times can differ up to a phase factor:

$$|\psi_{I\alpha}(t \rightarrow -\infty)\rangle = |\Psi_0\rangle, \quad |\psi_{I\alpha}(t \rightarrow \infty)\rangle = e^{i\phi}|\Psi_0\rangle. \quad (2.25)$$

It is now possible to link the non-interacting ground state at $t \rightarrow -\infty$ with the interacting one at t using the time-evolution operator

$$|\psi_{I\alpha}(t)\rangle = U_I(t, -\infty)|\Psi_0\rangle, \quad (2.26)$$

at $t = 0$ the interaction is completely switched on. Moreover, if the switching on is performed really slowly (adiabatically) it can be excluded that the wavefunction $|\psi_{I\alpha}(t)\rangle$ depends on the parameter α and the exact ground state should be computed starting from the non-interacting ground state.

However, since it is required that $\alpha > 0$, there is no certainty that the limit

$$|\Phi_0\rangle = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} |\psi_{I\alpha}(0)\rangle \quad (2.27)$$

exists, and in fact it does not exist.

For this reason the **Gell-Mann-Low theorem** [21] is used, which is a theorem that fixes the eigenstate which evolves from the non-interacting ground state during the adiabatic switching on of the interaction.

The statement of the theorem is the following: given a state

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{U_{I\alpha}(0, -\infty)|\Psi_0\rangle}{\langle\Psi_0|U_{I\alpha,-\infty}|\Psi_0\rangle} = \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\psi_{I\alpha}(0)\rangle}{\langle\Psi_0|\psi_{I\alpha}(0)\rangle} \quad (2.28)$$

which exists for every order of the perturbation theory, then this state is an eigenstate $|\Phi_0\rangle$ of the full Hamiltonian H_0 .

The importance of this system consists on the fact that it fixes the eigenstate during its evolution starting from the non-interacting ground state, a further important assumption is thus the requirement that no crossings of the states occur during their evolution from the free states. This is not a problem in our case since in the Froehlich Hamiltonian no transitions of this type occur, differently from what happens, for example, in superconductivity.

Since Green's functions are defined as expectation values of Heisenberg operators, these expectation values should be evaluated over the ground state (at $T = 0$), Using Gell-Mann-Low theorem it was demonstrated that the ground state of the interacting system $|\Phi_0\rangle$ can be retrieved from the non interacting one $|\Psi_0\rangle$, the normalized ground state is

$$|\Phi_0\rangle_{norm} = \frac{|\Phi_0\rangle}{(\langle\Phi_0|\Phi_0\rangle)^{1/2}}. \quad (2.29)$$

Given a generic Green's function (in terms of the parameter α)

$$G_\alpha(\mathbf{k}t, \mathbf{k}'t') = -i\langle T_t c_\mathbf{k}(t) c_\mathbf{k}'^\dagger(t') \rangle, \quad (2.30)$$

the creation and annihilation operators in the Heisenberg representation can be cast in the interaction one:

$$c_{\alpha\mathbf{k}}(t) = U_{I\alpha}(0, t) c_{I\alpha\mathbf{k}}(t) U_{I\alpha}(t, 0). \quad (2.31)$$

The expectation value of the Heisenberg operator can now be computed:

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{norm}\langle \Psi_0 | c_\mathbf{k}(t) c_\mathbf{k}'^\dagger(t') | \Psi_0 \rangle_{norm} &= \frac{\langle \Psi_0 | c_{\alpha \rightarrow 0\mathbf{k}} c_{\alpha \rightarrow 0\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger | \Psi_0 \rangle}{\langle \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle} \\ &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle \Psi_0 | U_{I\alpha}(+\infty, t) c_{I\mathbf{k}}(t) U_{I\alpha}(t, t') c_{I\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger(t') U_{I\alpha}(t', -\infty) | \Psi_0 \rangle}{\langle \Psi_0 | U_{I\alpha}(+\infty, -\infty) | \Psi_0 \rangle}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.32)$$

Using this formula it is possible to perturbatively treat any Green's function by expanding it in a power series.

Given a generic Heisenberg operator $A(t)$ and the power expansion for the time-evolution operator in 2.21 we may write:

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{norm}\langle \Psi_0 | A(t) | \Psi_0 \rangle_{norm} &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\langle \Psi_0 | U_{I\alpha}(+\infty, -\infty) | \Psi_0 \rangle} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-i)^n \cdot \\ &\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_1 \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_n e^{-\alpha(|t_1| + \dots + |t_n|)} \langle \Psi_0 | T(V_I(t_1) \cdots V_I(t_n)) | \Psi_0 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (2.33)$$

It is then possible to compare 2.33 with 2.21 to obtain the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-i)^n \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_1 \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_n e^{-\alpha(|t_1| + \dots + |t_n|)} T_t(V_I(t_1) \cdots V_I(t_n) A(t)) &= \\ = U_{I\alpha}(+\infty, t) A(t) U_{I\alpha}(t, -\infty). \end{aligned} \quad (2.34)$$

The same argument can be made for a single particle Green's function, obtaining a similar expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} iG(\mathbf{k}, t, t') &= \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-i)^n \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_1 \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt_n \cdot \\ &e^{-\alpha(|t_1| + \dots + |t_n|)} \langle \Psi_0 | T_t(V_I(t_1) \cdots V_I(t_n) c_\mathbf{k}(t) c_\mathbf{k}'^\dagger(t')) | \Psi_0 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (2.35)$$

2.3 Matsubara formalism for imaginary time Green's functions

The usual Green's functions are complex objects that are not fit to be used in the Diagrammatic Monte Carlo method since they provides negative values that cannot be easily sampled from

a distribution without losing precision.

For this reason we now describe the imaginary time formalism for Green's functions, which is also useful to evaluate system that are at non-zero temperature. The relevant substitution is:

$$it \rightarrow \tau, \quad (2.36)$$

the retarded Green's function previously defined in 2.13 thus becomes the following Matsubara Green's function:

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \sigma\tau, \sigma'\tau') = -\theta(\tau - \tau') \langle [a_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}, a_{\mathbf{k}'\sigma'}^\dagger]_{B,F} \rangle \quad (2.37)$$

where the thermal average $\langle A(\tau)B(\tau') \rangle$ is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Psi_0 | A(\tau)B(\tau') | \Psi_0 \rangle & \quad T = 0, \\ \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [e^{-\beta H} A(\tau)B(\tau')] & \quad T > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.38)$$

where Ψ_0 is the ground state and Z the partition function.

Given a system with a Hamiltonian characterized by a diagonalizable term H_0 and a perturbation $V(\tau)$, we can define the imaginary time Heisenberg picture for an operator A as

$$A(\tau) = e^{-\tau H} A e^{\tau H}, \quad (2.39)$$

and similarly the imaginary time interaction picture as

$$A_I(\tau) = e^{\tau H_0} A e^{-\tau H_0}. \quad (2.40)$$

We can define the imaginary time time-evolution operator in the interaction picture as

$$U_I(\tau, \tau') = e^{\tau H_0} e^{-(\tau - \tau')H} e^{-\tau' H_0}, \quad (2.41)$$

an explicit expression for the interaction picture time-evolution operator in the imaginary time formalism is found in analogy with the real time counterpart

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} U_I(\tau, \tau') = e^{\tau H_0} (H_0 - H) e^{-(\tau - \tau')H} e^{-\tau' H_0} = -V_I(\tau) U_I(\tau, \tau'), \quad (2.42)$$

which can be solved iteratively:

$$\begin{aligned} U_I(\tau, \tau') &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} (-1)^n \int_{\tau'}^{\tau} d\tau_1 \dots \int_{\tau'}^{\tau} d\tau_n T_{\tau} [V_I(\tau_1) \dots V_I(\tau_n)] \\ &= T_{\tau} \exp \left(- \int_{\tau'}^{\tau} d\tau_1 V_I(\tau_1) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.43)$$

where T_τ is the τ ordering operator.

It is also important to stress that the partition function Z is naturally treated in the imaginary time formalism, in fact:

$$e^{-\beta H} = e^{-\beta H_0} U_I(\beta, 0) = e^{-\beta H_0} T_\tau \exp\left(-\int_0^\beta d\tau_1 V_I(\tau_1)\right), \quad (2.44)$$

and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_\tau A(\tau) B(\tau') \rangle &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [e^{-\beta H} T_\tau (A(\tau) B(\tau'))] \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [e^{-\beta H_0} U_I(\beta, 0) T_\tau (U_I(0, \tau) A_I(\tau) U_I(\tau, \tau') B_I(\tau') U_I(\tau', 0))] \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [e^{-\beta H_0} T_\tau (U_I(\beta, 0) A_I(\tau) B_I(\tau'))] \\ &= \frac{\langle T_\tau U_I(\beta, 0) A_I(\tau) B_I(\tau') \rangle_0}{\langle U_I(\beta, 0) \rangle_0}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.45)$$

where the expectation value is taken on the non-interacting system, in agreement with the previously found result for $T = 0$.

We now go back to the definition of single particle Green's functions in imaginary time formalism, we can define them both in real space and in \mathbf{k} space:

$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathbf{r}t, \mathbf{r}'t') &= -\langle T_\tau (\psi(\mathbf{r}, \tau), \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', \tau')) \rangle, \\ G(\mathbf{k}\tau, \mathbf{k}'\tau') &= -\langle T_\tau (c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger(\tau')) \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (2.46)$$

neglecting the spin σ degree of freedom (not relevant for our treatment).

In the non-interacting case the Matsubara single particle Green's functions can be valued in the same way as the retarded Green's functions, in fact:

$$H_0 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \xi_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}}, \quad (2.47)$$

and the creation/annihilation operators in the Heisenberg picture read

$$c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = e^{\tau H_0} c_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-\tau H_0} = c_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-\xi_{\mathbf{k}} \tau}, \quad c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau) = e^{\tau H_0} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{-\tau H_0} = c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{\xi_{\mathbf{k}} \tau}. \quad (2.48)$$

The non-interacting Matsubara Green's function is then defined as

$$\begin{aligned} G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau, \tau') &= -\langle T_\tau (c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau')) \rangle \\ &= -\theta(\tau - \tau') \langle c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau') \rangle - (\pm)_{B,F} \theta(\tau' - \tau) \langle c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau') c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) \rangle \\ &= -\left[\theta(\tau - \tau') \langle c_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \rangle - (\pm)_{B,F} \theta(\tau' - \tau) \langle c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \right] e^{-\xi_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau - \tau')}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.49)$$

2.4 Equation of motion and Wick's theorem

For a general Green's function the process to find its expression goes through the equation of motion technique, for a general operator in the imaginary time formalism the time derivative is

$$\partial_\tau A(\tau) = \partial(\tau) (e^{\tau H} A e^{-\tau H}) = e^{\tau H} [H, A] e^{-\tau H} = [H, A](\tau), \quad (2.50)$$

if we derivate with respect to imaginary time a Matsubara Green's function the following result is obtained:

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (T_\tau \langle A(\tau) B(\tau') \rangle) = \delta(\tau - \tau') \langle (AB - (\pm)_{B,F} BA) \rangle + \langle T_\tau ([H, A](\tau) B(\tau')) \rangle, \quad (2.51)$$

which for the single particle Green's function in momentum space becomes

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} G(\mathbf{k}\tau, \mathbf{k}'\tau') = \delta(\tau - \tau') \delta_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} + \langle T_\tau ([H, c_{\mathbf{k}}](\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger(\tau')) \rangle. \quad (2.52)$$

In the case of a Green's function for a non-interacting system G_0 with an Hamiltonian $H_0 = \sum_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} t_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}'}$ this equation simplifies to

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} G_0(\mathbf{k}\tau, \mathbf{k}'\tau') = \delta(\tau - \tau') \delta_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}''} t_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}''} G_0(\mathbf{k}''\tau, \mathbf{k}'\tau'), \quad (2.53)$$

and the solution is found as previously defined.

We now introduce **Wick's theorem**, an important result which states that higher order (greater than 1) Green's functions for non-interacting systems $G_0^{(n)}$ can be factorized into products of single particle Green's functions G_0 .

The n -particle Green's function is defined as:

$$G_0^{(n)}(\nu_1\tau_1, \dots, \nu_n\tau_n; \nu'_1\tau'_1, \dots, \nu'_n\tau'_n) = (-1)^n \langle T_\tau [c_{I\nu_1}(\tau_1) \cdots c_{I\nu_n}(\tau_n) c_{I\nu'_n}^\dagger(\tau'_n) \cdots c_{I\nu'_1}^\dagger(\tau'_1)] \rangle. \quad (2.54)$$

This expression is quite complicated and difficult to handle, we first define an easier notation to handle all the operators:

$$l_j(\gamma_j) = \begin{cases} c_{I\nu_j}(\tau_j) & \in [0, n], \\ c_{I\nu'_{2n+1-j}}^\dagger(\tau'_{2n+1-j}) & \in [n+1, 2n], \end{cases} \quad (2.55)$$

and we define the permutation of the $2n$ operators as:

$$P(l_1(\gamma_1) \cdots l_{2n}(\gamma_{2n})) = l_{P_1}(\gamma_{P_1}) \cdots l_{P_{2n}}(\gamma_{P_{2n}}), \quad (2.56)$$

with P_j j -th variable in the permutation P .

The correct order of permutation depends on the the time arguments ordering, for this reason

it is possible to rewrite 2.54 taking into account these considerations:

$$G_0^{(n)}(j_1 \cdots j_{2n}) = (-1)^n \sum_{P \in S_{2n}} (\pm)_{B,F}^P \theta(\gamma_{P_1} - \gamma_{P_2}) \cdots \theta(\gamma_{P_{n-1}} - \gamma_{P_n}) \times \langle l_{P_1}(\gamma_{P_1}) \cdots l_{P_{2n}}(\gamma_{P_{2n}}) \rangle. \quad (2.57)$$

We can now take the derivative with respect to one of the time variables of $G_0^{(n)}$ and use the equation of motion:

$$\left[-\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau_1} G_0^{(n)0} \right]_{2nd-term} = -(-1)^n \left\langle T_\tau \left[H_0, c_{I\nu_1}(\tau_1) \cdots c_{I\nu_n}(\tau_n) c_{I\nu_n}^\dagger(\tau'_n) \cdots c_{I\nu_1}^\dagger(\tau'_1) \right] \right\rangle \quad (2.58)$$

We now focus on the case where τ_i is next to τ'_j , two terms like this are present in 2.57, one where $\tau_i < \tau'_j$ and one where $\tau_i > \tau'_j$ (the permutation order is obviously different).

The Green's function is written as

$$G_0^{(n)} = [\cdots \theta(\tau_i - \tau'_j) \cdots] \langle \cdots c_{I\nu_i}(\tau_i) c_{I\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j) \cdots \rangle (\pm)_{B,F} [\cdots \theta(\tau'_j - \tau_i) \cdots] \langle \cdots c_{I\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j) c_{I\nu_i}(\tau_i) \cdots \rangle. \quad (2.59)$$

Differentiating these two terms with respect to τ_i gives two contributions from the heavyside function $\theta(\cdot)$:

$$-\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau_i} G_0^{(n)} \right]_{1st-term} = ([\cdots] \langle \cdots c_{I\nu_i}(\tau_i) c_{I\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j) \cdots \rangle (\mp)_{B,F} [\cdots] \langle \cdots c_{I\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j) c_{I\nu_i}(\tau_i) \cdots \rangle) \delta(\tau_i - \tau'_j). \quad (2.60)$$

We now observe that

$$[c_{\nu_i}(\tau_i), c_{\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j)]_{B,F} = \delta_{\nu_i, \nu'_j}, \quad (2.61)$$

in the same way, for a couple of terms $c_{\nu_i}(\tau_i)$ and $c_{\nu_j}(\tau_i)$:

$$[c_{\nu_i}(\tau_i), c_{\nu_j}(\tau_i)]_{B,F} = 0, \quad (2.62)$$

and the same is true for two creation operators.

In this way the number of creation and annihilation operators has been reduced by one each and we have demonstrated that a n order Green's function can be written in terms of a $n - 1$ Green's functions (which is a sum of different terms). For fermionic Green's functions, the sign of G_0^{n-1} depends on the specific τ'_j . Apart from that, the equation of motion is now:

$$G_{0i}^{-1} G_0^{(n)} = \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{\nu_i, \nu'_j} \delta(\tau_i - \tau'_j) (\pm 1)_{B,F}^x G_0^{(n-1)}(\underbrace{\nu_1 \tau_1, \cdots, \nu_n \tau_n}_{\text{without } i}, \underbrace{\nu'_1 \tau'_1, \cdots, \nu'_n \tau'_n}_{\text{without } j}). \quad (2.63)$$

The sign $(-1)^x$ for fermions is determined as $(-1)^{n-i+n-j} = (-1)^{-(i+j)} = (-1)^{i+j}$ due to the fact that it is required that the annihilation operator $c_{I\nu_i}(\tau_i)$ is moved i positions to the right while the creation operator $c_{\nu'_j}^\dagger(\tau'_j)$ is moved j positions to the left.

It is now possible to write the explicit decomposition of the n -order Green's function into a sum of $n(n-1)$ -order ones:

$$G_0^{(n)} = \sum_{i=0}^n (\pm)_{B,F}^{i+j} G_0(\nu_1\tau_1, \nu'_j\tau'_j) G_0^{(n-1)}(\underbrace{\nu_1\tau_1, \dots, \nu_n\tau_n}_{\text{without } i}; \underbrace{\nu'_1\tau'_1, \dots, \nu'_n\tau'_n}_{\text{without } j}). \quad (2.64)$$

It is clear from the obtained result that this method can be naturally generalized to iteratively obtain any non-interacting n -order Green's function as sum of terms only containing products of single particle non-interacting Green's functions, the final result of Wick's theorem is thus obtained:

$$G_0^{(n)}(1, \dots, n; n', \dots, 1') = \begin{vmatrix} G_0(1, 1') & \dots & G_0(1, n') \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G_0(n, 1') & \dots & G_0(n, n') \end{vmatrix}_{B,F}, \quad i \equiv (\nu_i, \tau_i) \quad (2.65)$$

where the result is given as a determinant for fermions and as a permanent for bosons.

2.5 Green's functions for the Froehlich Hamiltonian

We may now consider the Froehlich Hamiltonian previously defined in 1.77 using the new imaginary time formalism, defining the non-interacting Hamiltonian H_0^{cFr} as

$$H_0^{cFr} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\sigma k^2}{2m(\hat{k})} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{qj}} \omega_{LO} a_{\mathbf{qj}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{qj}}. \quad (2.66)$$

Since our model consists of a single electron (hole) in the minimum (maximum) of the conduction (valence) band interacting with a cloud of phonon, we may consider our system to be at zero temperature and the ground state wavefunction $|\Psi_0\rangle$ to be the vacuum:

$$|\Psi_0\rangle = |0\rangle, \quad \langle \cdot \rangle = \langle 0 | \cdot | 0 \rangle \quad (2.67)$$

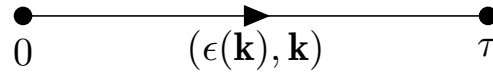
It is then possible to explicitly compute the electron free propagator using 2.49:

$$\begin{aligned} G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau, \tau') &= - \left[\theta(\tau - \tau') \langle 0 | c_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger | 0 \rangle + \theta(\tau' - \tau) \langle 0 | c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} | 0 \rangle \right] e^{k^2/2m(\hat{k})(\tau - \tau')} \\ &= -\theta(\tau - \tau') e^{(k^2/2m(\hat{k}))(\tau - \tau')}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.68)$$

which for $\tau' = 0$ becomes

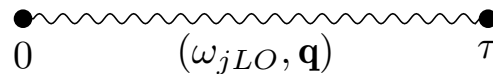
$$G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = -\langle 0 | c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger | 0 \rangle = -e^{-(k^2/2m(\hat{k}))\tau}, \quad \tau \geq 0. \quad (2.69)$$

The Matsubara Green's function for a free electron propagator assumes the simple form of an exponential function, which can be easily sampled.



$$-G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = e^{-(\epsilon(\mathbf{k}) - \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m})\tau}$$

Figure 2.1: Feynman diagram of the free electron propagator together with its Green's function.



$$-D_0(\mathbf{q}, \tau) = e^{-\omega_{jLO}\tau}$$

Figure 2.2: Feynman diagram of the free phonon propagator together with its Green's function.

In the same way, it is possible to find an explicit form for the phonon free propagator:

$$D_0(\mathbf{q}, \tau) = -\langle 0 | a_{\mathbf{q}}(\tau) a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger | 0 \rangle = -e^{-\omega_{jLO}\tau}, \quad \tau \geq 0, \quad (2.70)$$

which is again a simple exponential function.

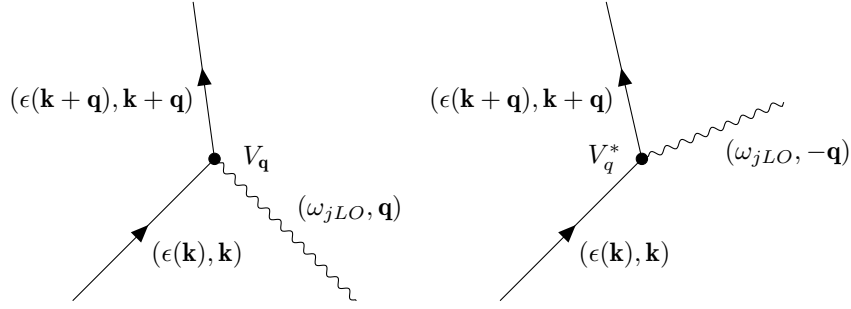


Figure 2.3: Feynman diagrams of the electron-phonon interaction.

We now take into consideration the interaction part of the Froehlich Hamiltonian:

$$V = \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, j} c_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}} \left[V_{\mathbf{q}}^{cFr} a_{\mathbf{q}} + V_{\mathbf{q}}^{*cFr} a_{-\mathbf{q}}^\dagger \right], \quad (2.71)$$

The basic Feynman diagram that describes this interaction is an interaction between two free electron propagators (one with momentum \mathbf{k} gets annihilated and one with momentum $\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}$ gets created) and a free phonon propagator which can either be annihilated (momentum \mathbf{q}) or created (momentum $-\mathbf{q}$), the strength of the interaction at the vertex is given by $|V_{\mathbf{q}}|$ (2.3). We have now obtained the fundamental building blocks which can be used to obtain the total Green's function for the Froehlich polaron $G(\mathbf{k}, \tau)$, a generic one-electron Matsubara Green's function for the polaron is written as [22]

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \tau - \tau') = -\langle c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau') \rangle = -\langle 0 | c_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau') | 0 \rangle. \quad (2.72)$$

The creation and annihilation operators here defined do not have the simple form described above for the free propagators, it is thus necessary to use the interaction picture and thus transform the operators:

$$c_{I\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = e^{\tau H_0^{cFr}} c_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-\tau H_0^{cFr}}, \quad c_{I\mathbf{k}}^\dagger(\tau) = e^{\tau H_0^{cFr}} c_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{-\tau H_0^{cFr}}. \quad (2.73)$$

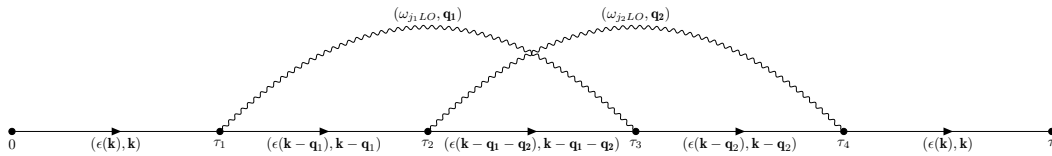


Figure 2.4: Order 4 diagram.

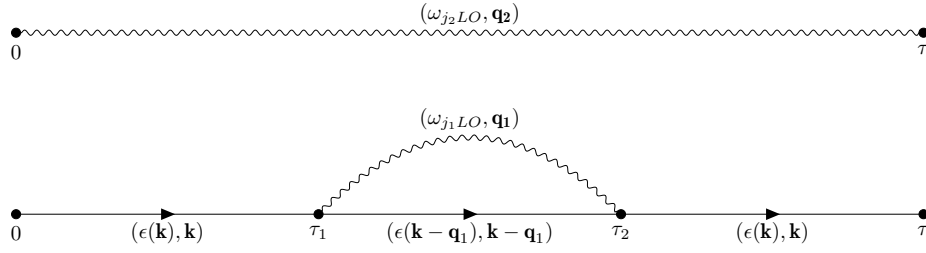


Figure 2.5: Disconnected order 4 diagram.

In the interaction picture the Green's function for the Froehlich polaron assumes the form [23]:

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = - \left\langle 0 \left| T_{\tau} \left[c_{I\mathbf{k}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \exp \left(- \int_0^{+\infty} V_I(\tau') d\tau' \right) \right] \right| 0 \right\rangle_{\text{conn}}, \quad (2.74)$$

where the expectation value is restricted to connected diagrams, which means that no integral over the internal variables $d\tau'_i$ can be represented by an external factor (the difference between a connected and disconnected diagram is easily recognizable in 2.4 and 2.5).

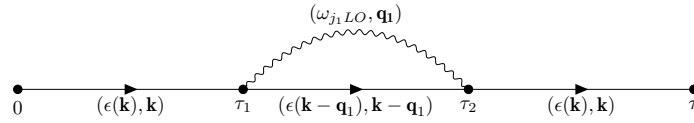


Figure 2.6: Order 2 diagram.

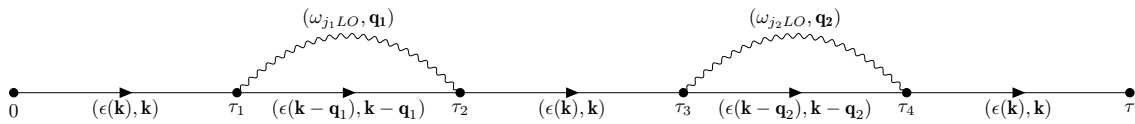


Figure 2.7: Order 4 diagram.

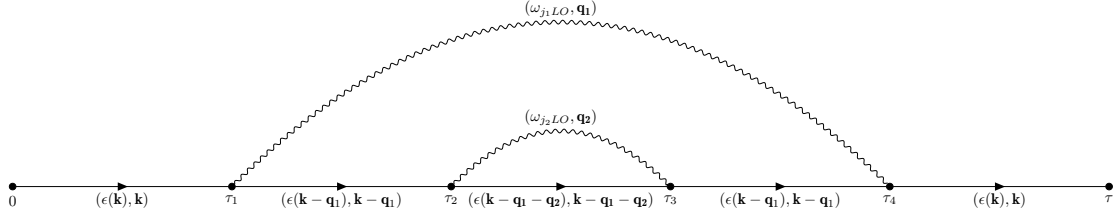


Figure 2.8: Order 4 diagram.

Using Wick's theorem, the product of n chronologically ordered operators $\{\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n\}$ can be evaluated as the sum of products of pairs of operators, such that it is possible to expand the Green's function as an infinite series of terms of the following form:

$$G(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = - \sum_{n=0,2,4,\dots}^{+\infty} \sum_{\xi_n} \int d\tau_1 \cdots \int d\tau_n D_n^{\xi_n}(\mathbf{k}, \tau; x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad (2.75)$$

where n indexes the rank of the term (only terms with an even number of internal variables are allowed), ξ_n indexes the topology of the term (which depends on how the phonon lines are arranged, see the difference between 2.7, 2.4 and 2.8), x_i are the internal variables which index the imaginary times at which a vertex $V^{cFr}(qj)$ is present (and a phonon is created or annihilated), the index j of the phonon mode which interacts with the electron propagators and the momentum q of the created/annihilated phonon line.

As an example, the 0-order term is just the free electron propagator $G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = -e^{-\epsilon(\mathbf{k})\tau}$, the 2-order term (with internal variables (τ_1, j_1) and (τ_2, j_2)) represents a diagram with 3 free electron propagators, 1 free phonon propagator and 2 vertices.

$D_2(\mathbf{k}, \tau; x_1, x_2,)$ can thus be represented using Green's function as

$$D_2(\mathbf{k}, \tau; x_1, x_2,) = |V^{cFr}(qj)|^2 D_0(\mathbf{q}j, \tau_2 - \tau_1) G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau - \tau_2) \times G_0(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, \tau_2 - \tau_1) G_0(\mathbf{k}, \tau_1), \quad (2.76)$$

which translates to

$$D_2(\mathbf{k}, \tau; x_1, x_2,) = |V^{cFr}(qj)|^2 e^{-\omega_{jLO}(\tau_2 - \tau_1)} e^{-\epsilon(\mathbf{k})(\tau - \tau_2)} e^{-\epsilon(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})(\tau_2 - \tau_1)} e^{-\epsilon(\mathbf{k})\tau_1}. \quad (2.77)$$

It should be noted that in our computation instead of 2.75 the result without the minus sign will be taken: this is just a convention used in order to obtain a definite positive distribution for the Monte Carlo sampling and it does not affect the physical significance of the calculated Green's functions.

Having seen the one-electron Green's function we now introduce another related Green's function: the one-electron N -phonons Green's function $G^N(\mathbf{k}, \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau)$. Differently from

the one-electron Green's function, the one-electron N -phonons Green's function is a more complex object consisting of N phonons and one electron, and better describes the polaron physics, especially if the strength of the interaction is intense.

Its expression, using Wick's theorem, can be written as [24]:

$$G^N(\mathbf{k}, \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau) = \langle 0 | a_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_1}(\tau) \dots a_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_N}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{p}}(\tau) c_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_1} \dots a_{\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_N} | 0 \rangle, \quad (2.78)$$

where $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{k} - \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j$.

It is worth noting that $G^N(\mathbf{k}, \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau)$ will only take into account connected one-electron N -phonons Green's functions since in the other cases the external phonons can just be neglected. The related expansion can be given as:

$$G^N(\mathbf{k}, \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau) = \sum_{n=0,2,4,\dots}^{+\infty} \sum_{\xi_n} \int d\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_1 \dots \int d\tilde{\mathbf{q}}_N \cdot \int d\tau_1 \dots \int d\tau_n D_n^{\xi_n}(\mathbf{k}, \sum_j \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau; x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad (2.79)$$

where the minus sign has been dropped.

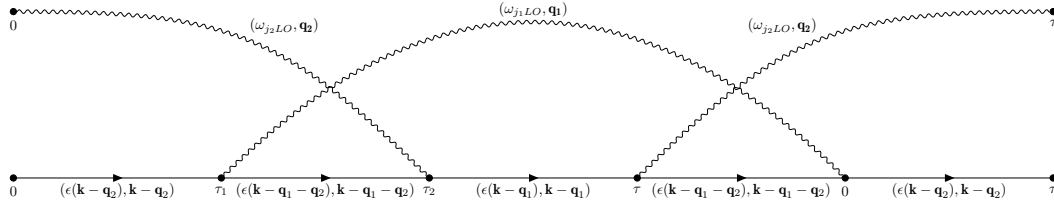


Figure 2.9: Order 2 diagram with one external phonon.

It is thus useful to consider the full function $P(\mathbf{k}, \tau)$ defined as follows:

$$P(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = G(\mathbf{k}, \tau) + \sum_{N=1}^{+\infty} G^N(\mathbf{k}, \sum_{j=1}^N \tilde{\mathbf{q}}_j, \tau), \quad (2.80)$$

which more accurately describes our polaron model, including both the "free" polaron and its interaction with the phonon cloud.

3 Diagrammatic Monte Carlo

3.1 The Monte Carlo sampling method

The Monte Carlo method is not a specific technique, but rather a wide set of similar methods which employs probability to solve problems that are otherwise too complex for an analytic solution and too resource demanding to solve with a numerical method.

The basic idea behind Monte Carlo is to use a statistical approach in the resolution of difficult integral and differential equations [25] by the means of a precisely defined set of rules and a random number generator.

This method is an *iterative stochastic procedure*, or in layman terms, a procedure that is iterative: it needs to be applied many times in order to produce an extremely large number of measurements from which it is possible to build an estimate for a determined quantity using the **central limit theorem** and the law of large numbers, and stochastic: it uses random numbers to obtain all sorts of distributions, usually through a precisely defined set of rules using a **Markov chain**.

It is in fact possible, using a Monte Carlo method, to estimate the ground state of the time-independent Schroedinger equation [26]

$$-\nabla^2\psi(x, y, z) = [E - U(x, y, z)]\psi(x, y, z) \quad (3.1)$$

using the following ansatz for the wavefunction:

$$u(x, y, z, \tau) = \psi(x, y, z)e^{-E\tau}, \quad (3.2)$$

thus introducing a fictitious imaginary time-dependence. In this way $u(x, y, z, t)$ follows the diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \tau} = \nabla^2 u - Uu, \quad (3.3)$$

which can be framed in a Monte Carlo representation as a set of weighted particles which independently perform a random walk with an exponential decay in imaginary time with a rate governed by the energy eigenvalue E , together with a particle distribution which can be used to determine an estimate for the wavefunction $\psi(x, y, z)$.

Note that the transformation performed on the wavefunction (first done by Fermi) is exactly the already seen transformation used for the Matsubara Green's functions 2.36, which turns the standard time-dependent Schroedinger equation

$$i\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\nabla^2\psi + U\psi \quad (3.4)$$

into

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \tau} = \nabla^2\psi - U\psi. \quad (3.5)$$

This observation already stresses the importance of imaginary time in our computation. We list three main types of Monte Carlo simulations [6]:

- **Direct Monte Carlo**, where the generation of random numbers directly models a physical system (usually with a random walk) without directly defining the complexities which characterizes it. An example is the aforementioned model to solve the ground state of the Schroedinger equation.
- **Monte Carlo integration**, a method that is specifically used to compute hard integrals using random numbers.
- **Markov chain Monte Carlo**, which generates the distribution of a system using a Markov chain. This method is used to study the properties of classical and quantum systems.

3.2 Direct Monte Carlo

In direct Monte Carlo the expectation value $\langle I \rangle$ of a variable is estimated, which means that we compute its mean. In order to do so the deterministic problem must be recast in a probabilistic form. $\langle I \rangle$ is a number, in particular it can be seen as the result of an integral.

Given X a random variable defined on a set Ω , we can define $\langle I \rangle$ as the expectation value $E(X)$ of the random variable. In statistics, the expectation value $E(X)$ and the variance $\sigma^2(X)$ have the following definitions:

$$\langle I \rangle = E(X) = \int_{\Omega} dp X, \quad \sigma_I^2 = \sigma^2(X) = \int_{\Omega} dp (X - E(X))^2, \quad (3.6)$$

where p is the probability measure [27].

An approximate estimate for the value I is obtained by producing an independent sequence of random event ω_i according to the probability law p with value

$$I_N = E(X_N) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X(\omega_i), \quad (3.7)$$

with I_N the arithmetic mean of N random events.

Given the fact that I_N is just an estimate of the expectation value $\langle I \rangle$, it is important to estimate its deviation from the exact value, to this reason we introduce the **Chebyshev's inequality** [28], which states that no more than $1/k^2$ of the distribution values can be more than k standard deviations from the mean value:

$$P(|x - \langle x \rangle| > k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}. \quad (3.8)$$

Chebyshev's inequality makes no assumptions on the distribution and is thus very general, yet it provides an upper bound for the probability to find random values far from the mean.

In the case of N independent random variable for which

$$P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N) = P(x_1)P(x_2)\dots P(x_N) \quad (3.9)$$

holds true,

3.3 Monte Carlo integration

Nam dui ligula, fringilla a, euismod sodales, sollicitudin vel, wisi. Morbi auctor lorem non justo. Nam lacus libero, pretium at, lobortis vitae, ultricies et, tellus. Donec aliquet, tortor sed accumsan bibendum, erat ligula aliquet magna, vitae ornare odio metus a mi. Morbi ac orci et nisl hendrerit mollis. Suspendisse ut massa. Cras nec ante. Pellentesque a nulla. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Aliquam tincidunt urna. Nulla ullamcorper vestibulum turpis. Pellentesque cursus luctus mauris.

3.4 Markov Chain Monte Carlo

Nulla malesuada porttitor diam. Donec felis erat, congue non, volutpat at, tincidunt tristique, libero. Vivamus viverra fermentum felis. Donec nonummy pellentesque ante. Phasellus adipiscing semper elit. Proin fermentum massa ac quam. Sed diam turpis, molestie vitae, placerat a, molestie nec, leo. Maecenas lacinia. Nam ipsum ligula, eleifend at, accumsan nec, suscipit a, ipsum. Morbi blandit ligula feugiat magna. Nunc eleifend consequat lorem. Sed lacinia nulla vitae enim. Pellentesque tincidunt purus vel magna. Integer non enim. Praesent euismod nunc eu purus. Donec bibendum quam in tellus. Nullam cursus pulvinar lectus. Donec et mi. Nam vulputate metus eu enim. Vestibulum pellentesque felis eu massa.

3.5

4 Acknowledgement

Appendix

References

- [1] Craig Pryor. Predicted band structures of iii-v semiconductors in the wurtzite phase. *Phys. Rev. B*, 81, 08 2009.
- [2] Jozef Devreese and Alexandre Alexandrov. Froehlich polaron and bipolaron: Recent developments. *Reports on Progress in Physics*, 72:066501, 05 2009.
- [3] Jun Da Ng and Aaron Danner. Pseudopotential form factors and electronic band structures for alas, alp, bas, bp, 3c-sic, and cubic-gan. *Physica Scripta*, 96(5):055801, 2021.
- [4] Felix Bloch. Quantum mechanics of electrons in crystal lattices. *Z. Phys*, 52:555–600, 1928.
- [5] N. W. Ashcroft and N. D. Mermin. *Solid State Physics*. Holt-Saunders, 1976.
- [6] Jos Thijsen. *Computational physics*. Cambridge university press, 2007.
- [7] Pierre Hohenberg and Walter Kohn. Inhomogeneous electron gas. *Physical review*, 136(3B):B864, 1964.
- [8] W. Kohn and L. J. Sham. Self-consistent equations including exchange and correlation effects. *Phys. Rev.*, 140:A1133–A1138, 11 1965.
- [9] GP Kerker. Non-singular atomic pseudopotentials for solid state applications. *Journal of Physics C: Solid State Physics*, 13(9):L189, 1980.
- [10] Paul Ziesche, Stefan Kurth, and John P Perdew. Density functionals from lda to gga. *Computational materials science*, 11(2):122–127, 1998.
- [11] Herbert Fröhlich. Electrons in lattice fields. *Advances in Physics*, 3(11):325–361, 1954.
- [12] Hermann Haken. *Quantum Field Theory of Solids. An Introduction*. 1976.
- [13] Alexandre S Alexandrov and Jozef T Devreese. *Advances in polaron physics*, volume 159. Springer, 2010.
- [14] Gerald D Mahan. *Many-particle physics*. Springer Science & Business Media, 2013.
- [15] Satoru J Miyake. The ground state of the optical polaron in the strong-coupling case. *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, 41(3):747–752, 1976.
- [16] Anna Miglio, Véronique Brousseau-Couture, Emile Godbout, Gabriel Antonius, Yang-Hao Chan, Steven G Louie, Michel Côté, Matteo Giantomassi, and Xavier Gonze. Predominance of non-adiabatic effects in zero-point renormalization of the electronic band gap. *npj Computational Materials*, 6(1):167, 2020.

- [17] Bogdan Guster, Pedro Melo, Bradley AA Martin, Véronique Brousseau-Couture, Joao C de Abreu, Anna Miglio, Matteo Giantomassi, Michel Côté, Jarvist M Frost, Matthieu J Verstraete, et al. Fröhlich polaron effective mass and localization length in cubic materials: Degenerate and anisotropic electronic bands. *Physical Review B*, 104(23):235123, 2021.
- [18] Xavier Gonze and Changyol Lee. Dynamical matrices, born effective charges, dielectric permittivity tensors, and interatomic force constants from density-functional perturbation theory. *Physical Review B*, 55(16):10355, 1997.
- [19] Henrik Bruus and Karsten Flensberg. *Many-body quantum theory in condensed matter physics: an introduction*. Oxford university press, 2004.
- [20] Wolfgang Nolting and William D Brewer. *Fundamentals of many-body physics*, volume 3. Springer, 2009.
- [21] Murray Gell-Mann and Francis Low. Bound states in quantum field theory. *Phys. Rev.*, 84:350–354, 10 1951.
- [22] AS Mishchenko, NV Prokof'Ev, A Sakamoto, and BV Svistunov. Diagrammatic quantum monte carlo study of the fröhlich polaron. *Physical Review B*, 62(10):6317, 2000.
- [23] Andrei S Mishchenko. Diagrammatic monte carlo method as applied to the polaron problems. *Physics-Uspekhi*, 48(9):887, 2005.
- [24] Thomas Hahn, Sergei Klimin, Jacques Tempere, Jozef T Devreese, and Cesare Franchini. Diagrammatic monte carlo study of fröhlich polaron dispersion in two and three dimensions. *Physical Review B*, 97(13):134305, 2018.
- [25] Nicholas Metropolis and Stanislaw Ulam. The monte carlo method. *Journal of the American statistical association*, 44(247):335–341, 1949.
- [26] Keith A Benedict. *Quantum monte carlo methods: algorithms for lattice models*, 2019.
- [27] Holger Fehske, Ralf Schneider, and Alexander Weisse. *Computational many-particle physics*, volume 739. Springer, 2007.
- [28] Federico Becca and Sandro Sorella. *Quantum Monte Carlo approaches for correlated systems*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.