

NUMERICAL STUDY OF HOLSTEIN POLARONS

PART I. SELF-TRAPPING CROSSOVER

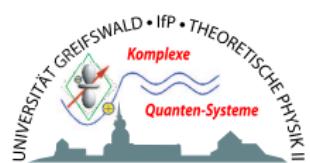
PART II. DISORDER, CORRELATION, AND FINITE-DENSITY EFFECTS

PART III. COLLECTIVE PHENOMENA – QUANTUM PHASE TRANSITIONS



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OUTLINE

Lecture I: Polaron Formation – Self-Trapping Crossover

- Introduction
 - Motivation
 - Modelling
- Numerical approaches to the polaron problem
 - Exact diagonalisation & basis optimisation
 - Kernel polynomial method
 - Cluster perturbation theory
- Ground-state and spectral properties of Holstein polarons
 - Polaron formation
 - Dimensionality effects
 - Band dispersion
 - Electron-phonon correlations
 - Single particle spectral function
 - Phonon spectral function
 - Optical response

related publications ↵ <http://theorie2.physik.uni-greifswald.de>



MOTIVATION

Polaronic effects in a great variety of (novel) materials:

- quasi-1D metals, MX chains, quantum spin-systems,...
- quasi-2D high- T_c cuprates
- 3D charge-ordered nickelates
- colossal magneto-resistive manganites
- bulk novel semiconductors, excitonic insulators
- ...

Problem: Relevant energy scales are not well separated!

strongly correlated systems $\neq \sum$ weakly interacting parts
“the whole is greater than its parts”

- collective behaviour of electrons may be highly correlated on a macroscopic scale
- order phenomena and (spectacular) transport properties are intimately related

Challenge: Quantum dynamics of complex many-particle systems!

QUESTION

How to proceed?

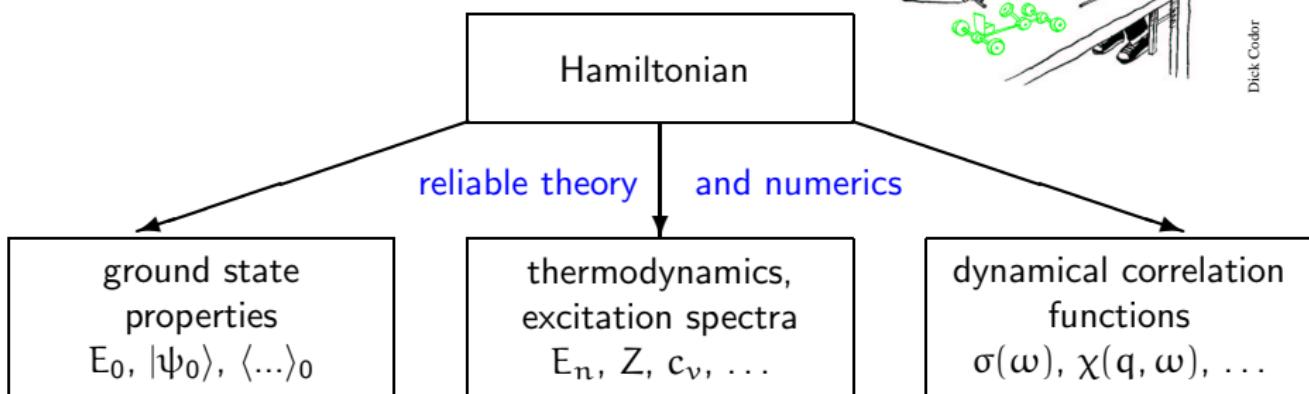


MICROSCOPIC APPROACH

physical system
↓
construction of minimal models



Dick Codor

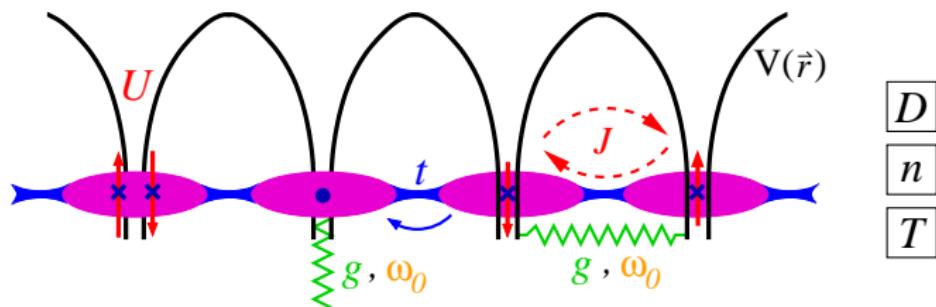


↔ comparison with experiment



MODELLING

- Ingredients ?



→ Interplay of charge, spin, orbital, and lattice degrees of freedom !

- Generic models? ... Holstein-Hubbard Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i\sigma} \epsilon_i n_{i\sigma} - t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle \sigma} c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} - g \omega_0 \sum_{i\sigma} (b_i^\dagger + b_i) n_{i\sigma} + \omega_0 \sum_i b_i^\dagger b_i + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow}$$

- Problem: Not solvable even in 1D (also not for just one e^- or at $n = 1$)!
- Approximations? Bad luck! “Standard” many-body techniques fail in most interesting cases... 😞

QUESTION

Way out?

Field Theory

low D

(Statistical) DMFT

high D

"Unbiased" Numerics

finite systems

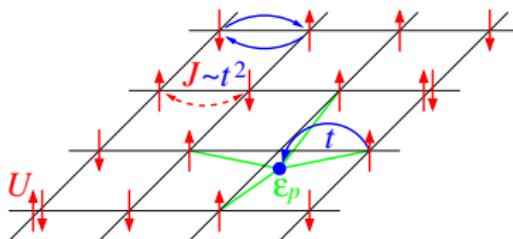
Here: Focus on numerical approaches...

- Exact Diagonalisation
small systems, high energy resolution *but* thermodynamic limit?
- Density Matrix Renormalisation Group
larger systems (1D) *but* dynamics, $T > 0$, 2D ... expensive!
- Quantum Monte Carlo
large systems (1D-3D) *but* ..., very limited energy resolution (MaxEnt)!



HILBERT SPACE

↪ Exact treatment of finite **electron-phonon** quantum systems:



Fermions:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fermions:} & & \\ \text{---} & 4^N & (\text{Hubbard}) \\ \times \times \rightarrow & 3^N & (\text{t-J-model}) \\ n=1 \rightarrow & 2^N & (\text{Heisenberg}) \end{array}$$

Phonons:

$$D_p = \infty \text{ even for } 1e^-!$$

- boundary conditions: [anti] periodic ([A]PBC), open (OBC)
- symmetrized basis ($G(\vec{K}) = G_T \times G_L(\vec{K}) \times G_S$) in the tensorial product Hilbert space of electrons and phonons:

$$|\mathbf{b}\rangle = \mathcal{P}_{\vec{K}, rs} \{ |\mathbf{e}\rangle \otimes |\mathbf{p}\rangle \} \quad \text{with} \quad |\mathbf{e}\rangle = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{\sigma=\uparrow, \downarrow} (c_{i\sigma}^\dagger)^{n_{i\sigma,e}} |0\rangle_e$$

$$|\mathbf{p}\rangle = \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_{i,p}!}} (b_i^\dagger)^{m_{i,p}} |0\rangle_p$$

$$\begin{aligned} n_{i\sigma,e} &\in [0, 1], & e = 1, \dots, D_e = \binom{N}{N_\sigma} \binom{N}{N_{-\sigma}}, \\ m_{i,p} &\in [0, \dots, \infty], & p = 1, \dots, D_p = \infty \end{aligned}$$



TREATMENT OF PHONONS I

- unitary transformations (IMVLF)

$\sim \Delta_i, \gamma, \tau^2$ (static displacement, polaron, squeezing effects)

→ average over transformed phonon vacuum $\sim H_e^{\text{eff}}$

HF, Röder, Wellein, Mistriotis: PRB 51, 16582 ('95), ...

- “naive” Hilbert space truncation

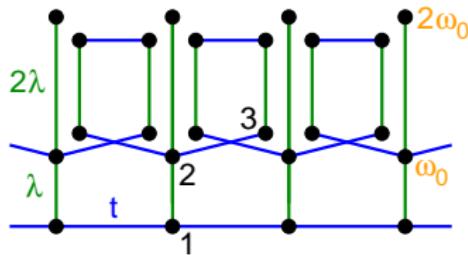
$|p\rangle$ with $m_p = \sum_{i=1}^N m_{i,p} \leq \widetilde{M} \sim D_n^{\widetilde{M}} = (\widetilde{M} + N)!/\widetilde{M}!N!$

Bäuml, Wellein, HF: PRB 58, 3663 ('98), ...

- variational Hilbert space construction (VL)

Ku, Trugman, Bonča: PRB 65, 174306 ('02), ...

basis:



$|1\rangle$ e⁻ at site 0 with no phonon excitation

$|2\rangle$ e⁻ and phonon at site 0

$|3\rangle$ e⁻ at site 1 and one phonon at site 0

i.e., vertical bonds create or destroy phonons

generation m : act m times with off-diagonal

terms + all translations on an infinite lattice



TREATMENT OF PHONONS II

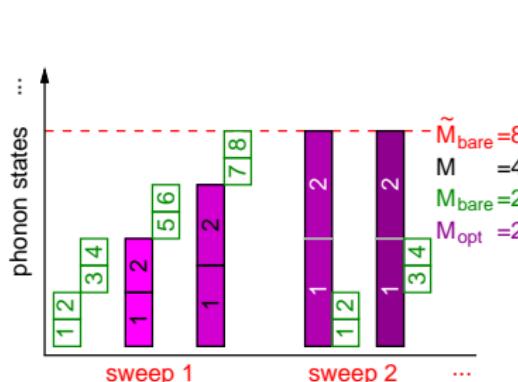
- phonon basis optimisation (density matrix based)

general state: $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{e=0}^{D_e-1} \sum_{p=0}^{D_p-1} C_{ep}^\Psi |e\rangle \otimes |p\rangle$

idea: construct optimised basis $|\tilde{p}\rangle = \sum_{p=0}^{D_p-1} \alpha_{p\tilde{p}} |p\rangle$ with $D_{\tilde{p}} < D_p$

by minimizing $\| |\psi\rangle - |\tilde{\psi}\rangle \|^2 = 1 - \text{Tr}\{\alpha \rho \alpha^\dagger\}$ w. r. t. α !

Weiße, HF, Wellein, Bishop: Phys. Rev. B 62, R747 (2000), ...



mixed phonon basis $\{|\mu\rangle\}$:

$\{|\tilde{p}\rangle\}$, $1 \leq \mu \leq M_{\text{opt}}$; $\{|p\rangle\}$, $M_{\text{opt}} \leq \mu \leq M$

sweep algorithm:

- (1) calculate $|\psi_n\rangle$ of H in terms of $\{|\mu\rangle\}$
- (2) replace $\{|\tilde{p}\rangle\}$ with most important eigenstates of ρ^ψ
- (3) change additional states $\{|p\rangle\}$ in the set $\{|\mu\rangle\}$
- (4) orthonormalize $\{|\mu\rangle\}$ and return to (1)



EIGENVALUE PROBLEM

What remains? Diagonalisation of large sparse Hermitian matrices!

- iterative subspace methods:

- (1) matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow$ projection on subspace $\bar{A}^k \in \mathbb{V}^k$ ($k \ll n$)
 - (2) solution of eigenvalue problem in \mathbb{V}^k using standard routines
 - (3) extension of subspace $\mathbb{V}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{V}^{k+1}$ by $\vec{t} \perp \mathbb{V}^k \rightarrow (2)$
- ~ sequence of approximative inverses of problem matrix A
- Lanczos (ED) technique: $H^D \rightarrow T^L$ Krylov subspaces $\sim E_0, |\psi_0\rangle$
fast convergence for extremal eigenvalues ($D \lesssim 10^{11}$, $L = 100 \sim \Delta E_0 \lesssim 10^{-9}$)!
 - Jacobi Davidson algorithm $\sim E_n, |\psi_n\rangle$, up to $n \lesssim 30$ for $D \lesssim 10^7$

⇒ basic computational requirement:

highly efficient (parallel) matrix-vector multiplication

make use of supercomputers!

→ ground state, static correlation functions, . . . ☺, but what about dynamics?



KERNEL POLYNOMIAL METHOD I

Spectral properties at T=0?

$$A^0(\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \psi_0 \left| \mathcal{O}^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega - H + E_0 + i\eta} \mathcal{O} \right| \psi_0 \right\rangle = \sum_n |\langle \psi_n | \mathcal{O} | \psi_0 \rangle|^2 \delta[\omega - (E_n - E_0)]$$

complete spectrum !?

Way out: Kernel Polynomial & Maximum Entropy Methods

(1) expansion of $\delta[\dots]$ – series in Chebyshev polynomials $T_m(x)$:

$$A^0(x) = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{1-x^2}} \left(\mu_0^0 + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{M=\infty} \mu_m^0 T_m(x) \right)$$

(2) determination of moments: $\mu_m^0 = \int_{-1}^1 dx T_m(x) A^0(x) = \langle \psi_0 | \mathcal{O}^\dagger T_m(X) \mathcal{O} | \psi_0 \rangle$

by iterative MVM, where $X = (H - b)/a$, i.e. $E_n \in [-1, 1]$ and $M < \infty$

(3) (FFT) reconstruction of $A^0(x)$ from M moments via linear approximation (KPM) or nonlinear optimisation procedure (MEM)



KERNEL POLYNOMIAL METHOD II

- problem: Gibbs oscillations,
 M finite \leadsto truncation errors!
solution: damping factors,
e.g., Jackson or Lorentz kernels

- advantages of KPM:

uniform reconstruction
of spectra – gap features

high-resolution
applications

CPU-time ($\propto M D$)
“trace” – average over $|r|$

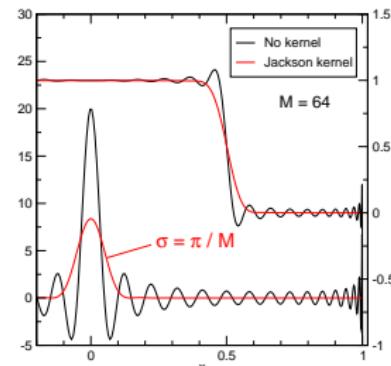
- recent improvements:

generalisation to multivariate case \leadsto calculation of
finite-temperature (dynamical) correlation functions

combination with other techniques

(Cluster Perturbation Theory, Monte Carlo, ...)

Weiß, Wellein, Alvermann, HF: cond-mat/0504627 (review, many applications)





KPM vs LANCZOS RECURSION

recursion

reconstruction

Chebyshev

$$|\phi_0\rangle = \mathcal{O}|0\rangle, |\phi_1\rangle = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}|\phi_0\rangle, \mu_0 = \langle\phi_0|\phi_0\rangle$$

$$|\phi_{n+1}\rangle = 2\tilde{\mathcal{H}}|\phi_n\rangle - |\phi_{n-1}\rangle$$

$$\mu_{2n+2} = 2\langle\phi_{n+1}|\phi_{n+1}\rangle - \mu_0$$

$$\mu_{2n+1} = 2\langle\phi_{n+1}|\phi_n\rangle - \mu_1$$

- very stable $O(MD)$
M moments

Lanczos

$$|\phi_0\rangle = \mathcal{O}|0\rangle/\beta_0, \beta_0 = [\langle 0|\mathcal{O}^\dagger \mathcal{O}|0\rangle]^{(1/2)}$$

$$|\tilde{\phi}\rangle = \mathcal{H}|\phi_n\rangle - \beta_n|\phi_{n-1}\rangle, \alpha_n = \langle\phi_n|\tilde{\phi}\rangle$$

$$|\tilde{\phi}\rangle = |\tilde{\phi}\rangle - \alpha_n|\phi_n\rangle, \beta_{n+1} = [\langle\tilde{\phi}|\tilde{\phi}\rangle]^{(1/2)}$$

$$|\phi_{n+1}\rangle = |\tilde{\phi}\rangle/\beta_{n+1}$$

- tends to lose orthogonality
 $O(MD) - M MVM$

Apply kernel : $\tilde{\mu}_n = g_n \mu_n$

FFT : $\tilde{\mu}_n \rightarrow \tilde{f}(\tilde{\omega}_i)$

Rescale : $f(\omega_i) = \frac{\tilde{f}[(\omega_i - b)/a]}{\pi\sqrt{a^2 - (\omega_i - b)^2}}$

- procedure is linear in μ_n
- $O(P \log(P))$ for P points ω_i
- well defined resolution $\propto 1/M$

$$f(z) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \operatorname{Im} \frac{\beta_0^2}{z - \alpha_0 - \frac{\beta_1^2}{z - \alpha_1 - \frac{\beta_2^2}{z - \alpha_2 - \dots}}}$$

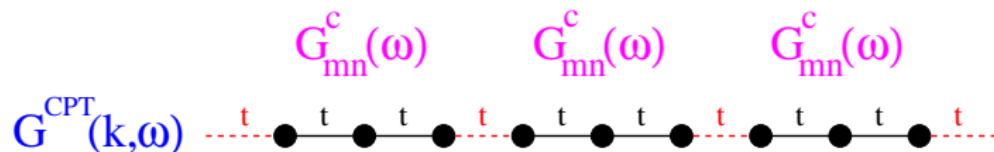
where $z = \omega_i + i\epsilon$

- procedure is not linear in α_n, β_n
- $O(PM)$ for P points ω_i
- ϵ somewhat arbitrary



CLUSTER PERTURBATION THEORY

- Green function $G(k, \omega)$ on infinite lattice ($N = \infty$)?



- We have: Green function $G_{mn}^c(\omega)$ on finite cluster(s) of N_c sites (OBC) !
- 1st order perturbation in $V = \sum -\frac{t}{-}$

$$G_{ij}^{(1)}(\omega) = G_{ij}^c(\omega) + \sum_{rs} G_{ir}^c(\omega) V_{rs} G_{sj}^{(1)}(\omega)$$

$$G_{mn}^{(1)}(K, \omega) = \left(\frac{G^c(\omega)}{1 - V(K)G^c(\omega)} \right)_{mn} \quad (K = N_c k)$$

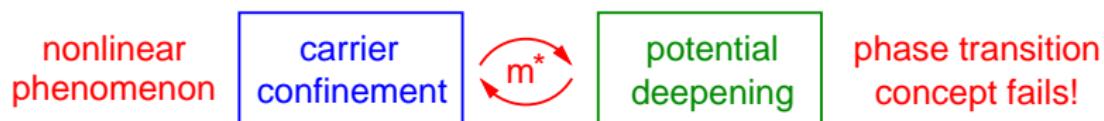
- Fourier transform: $G^{CPT}(k, \omega) = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{m,n=1}^{N_c} G_{mn}^{(1)}(K, \omega) e^{-ik \cdot (m-n)}$



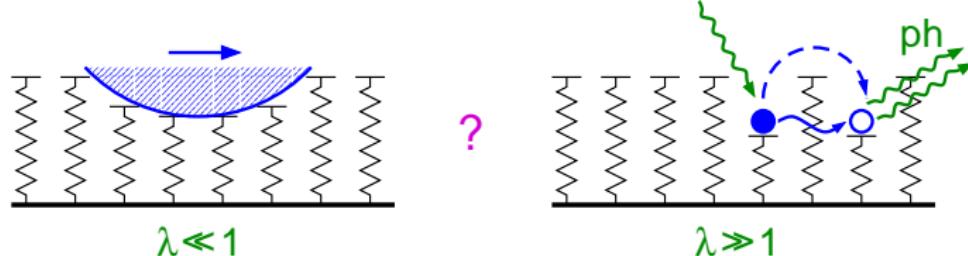
POLARON PROBLEM I

Questions:

- Polaron formation: Nature of “self-trapping” transition?



- Crossover regime: Polaron transport?



- Influence of dimensionality? ...



POLARON PROBLEM II

Simplest case: Single electron Holstein model

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} c_i^\dagger c_j - g \omega_0 \sum_i (b_i^\dagger + b_i) n_i + \omega_0 \sum_i b_i^\dagger b_i$$

Physics is governed by two parameter ratios:

- phonon frequency vs electron transfer amplitude $\alpha = \omega_0/t$
 - ~ retardation effects
 - ~ adiabatic regime ($\alpha \ll 1$) \Leftrightarrow anti-adiabatic regime ($\alpha \gg 1$)
- EP interaction: $\lambda = \varepsilon_p/2Dt$ or $g^2 = \varepsilon_p/\omega_0$ ε_p – polaron binding energy
 - ~ weak- ($\lambda \ll 1$) \Leftrightarrow strong-coupling ($\lambda \gg 1$) regime
 - ~ few- ($g^2 < 1$) \Leftrightarrow multi-phonon ($g^2 \gg 1$) regime

Focus on:

- A. Ground-state properties
- B. Spectral properties

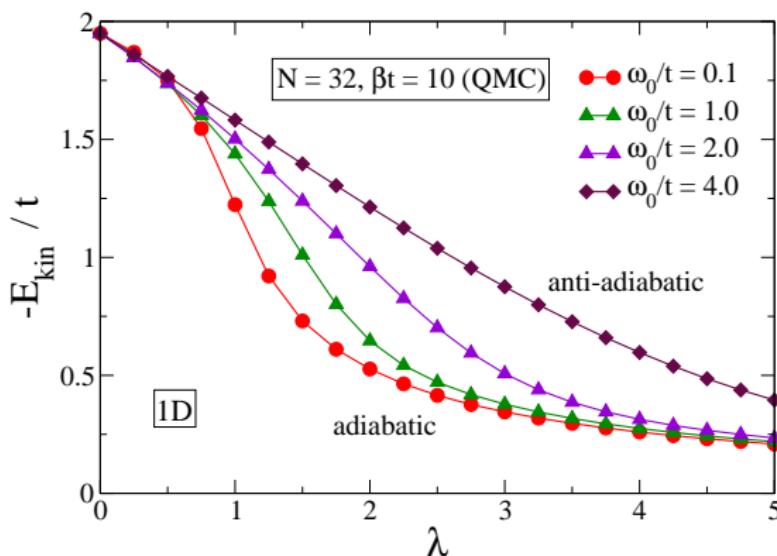
Most interesting: Intermediate frequency and coupling regime!



KINETIC ENERGY

- Mobility of an electron?

$$E_{\text{kin}} = -t \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \langle (c_i^\dagger c_j + H.c.) \rangle$$



- E_{kin} is suppressed by EP coupling
- rather smooth decay in the anti-adiabatic regime
- $\omega_0 / t < 1 \rightsquigarrow \exists \lambda_c \sim 1$
↪ polaron formation

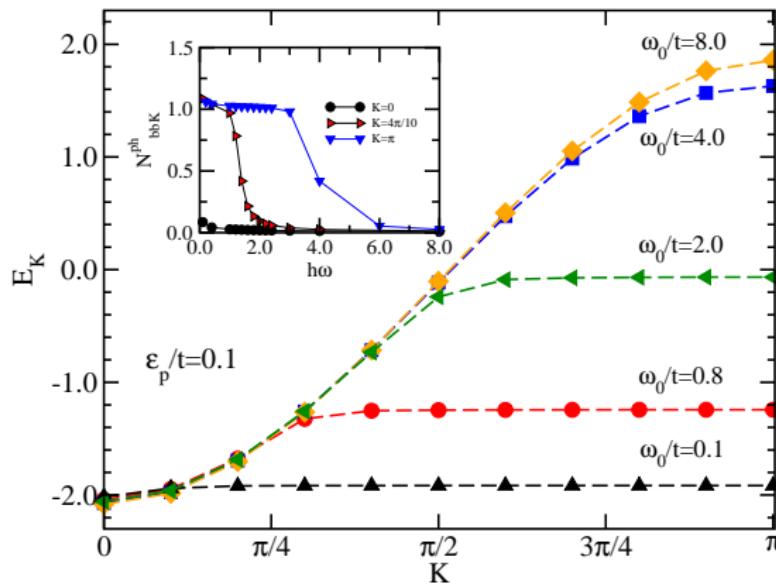
..., Hohenadler, Evertz, von der Linden: Phys. Rev. B 69, 024301 (2004), ...



POLARON BAND DISPERSION I

- Band description?

- (i) weak coupling case:



1D, $N=20$, ED:

- main panel:
 - band dispersion E_K
 - nearly unaffected cosine near $K = 0$
 - phonon intersects at ω_0
~ "flattening" near $K = \pi$
- inset:

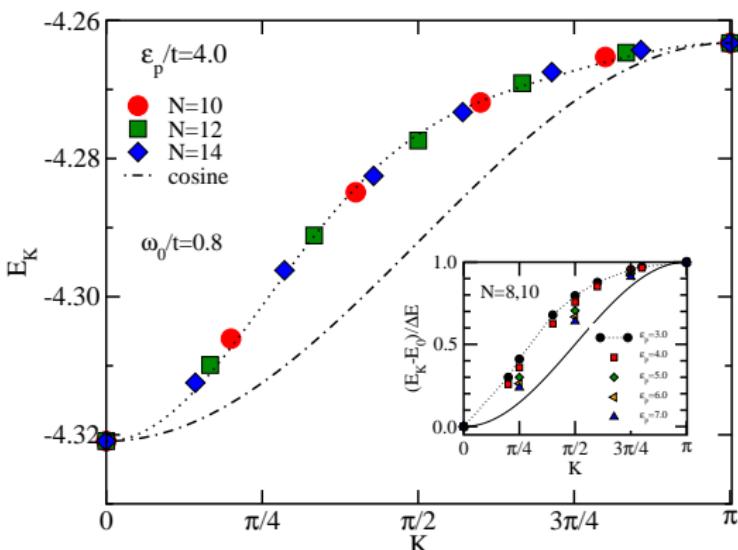
$$N_K^{ph} = \sum_i \langle \psi_{0,K} | b_i^\dagger b_i | \psi_{0,K} \rangle$$

Wellein, HF: Phys. Rev. B 56, 4513 (1997)



POLARON BAND DISPERSION II

(ii) strong coupling case:



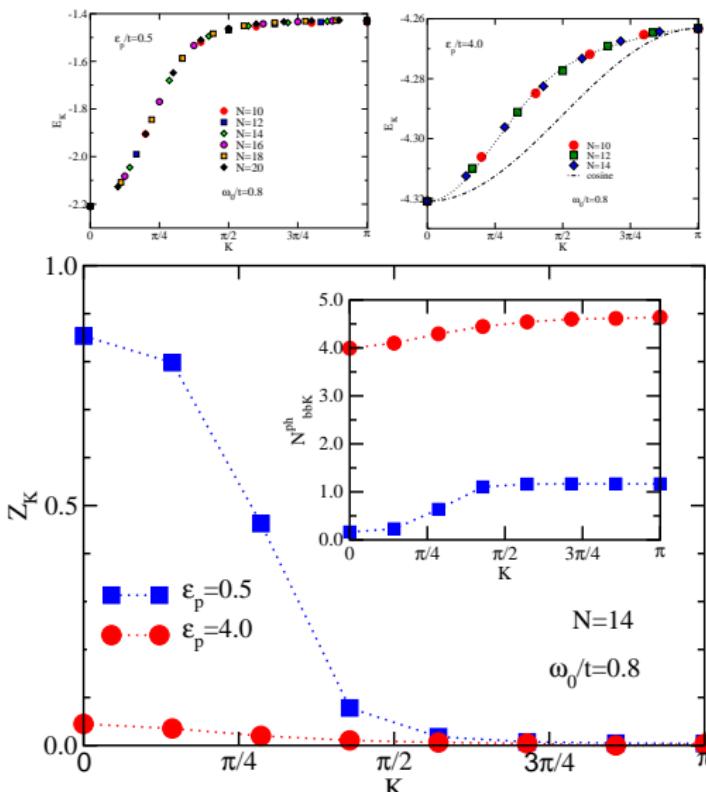
- well separated quasi-particle band: “coherent” bandwidth
 $4t \gg \Delta E_K \gtrsim 10 \Delta E_K^{(LF)}$
 $\Delta E_K^{(LF)} = 4Dt \exp[-g^2]$
- deviation from rescaled cosine:
EP coupling induces longer ranged hopping processes
- inset: $\lambda \gg 1 \rightarrow$ LF result

↪ small polaron \rightleftharpoons (still) itinerant quasi-particle at $T=0!$

2D case: HF, Loos, Wellein: Z. Phys. B 104 (1997)



BAND RENORMALISATION FACTOR



single-particle spectral function:

$$A_K(E) = \sum_n |\langle \psi_{n,K}^{(1)} | c_K^\dagger | 0 \rangle|^2 \delta(E - E_n^{(1)})$$

↪ **K-resolved spectral weight**

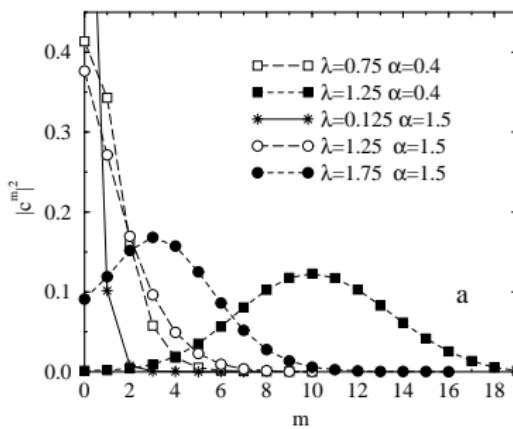
$$Z_K^{(c)} = |\langle \psi_{0,K}^{(1)} | c_K^\dagger | 0 \rangle|^2$$

- weak coupling:
 $Z_K^{(c)} \lesssim 1$ near band centre
 \Leftrightarrow "electronic" QP
 $Z_K^{(c)} \ll 1$ near band edge
 \Leftrightarrow "phononic" QP
- strong coupling:
 $Z_K^{(c)} \ll 1 \forall K$
 \Leftrightarrow "polaronic" QP



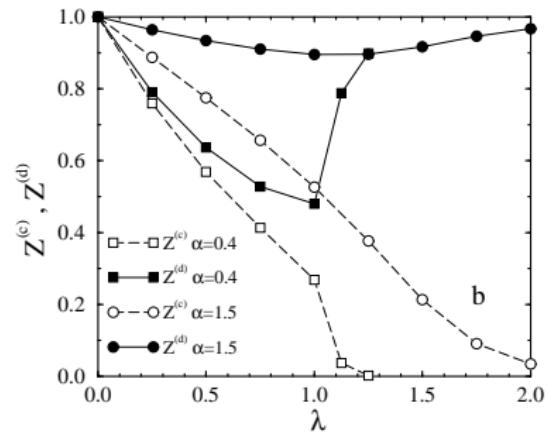
PHONON DISTRIBUTION - QP WEIGHT

- Weight of the m-phonon state in the ground state $|c^m|^2(\tilde{M})$:



- Construction of QP operators?

$$d_{\vec{K}}^\dagger = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N e^{i \vec{K} \cdot \vec{R}_i} c_i^\dagger} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{\frac{|c^m(\tilde{M})|^2}{m!}} (b_i^\dagger)^m$$



- $\lambda \gg 1, g^2 \gg 1 \sim$ importance of multi-phonon states
- "correct" polaron operators (d) \sim quasi-particle weight $Z_{\vec{K}=0}^{(d)} \rightarrow 1$

HF, Loos, Wellein: Z. Phys. B 104 (1997)

2D HM ($N=10, K=0$)

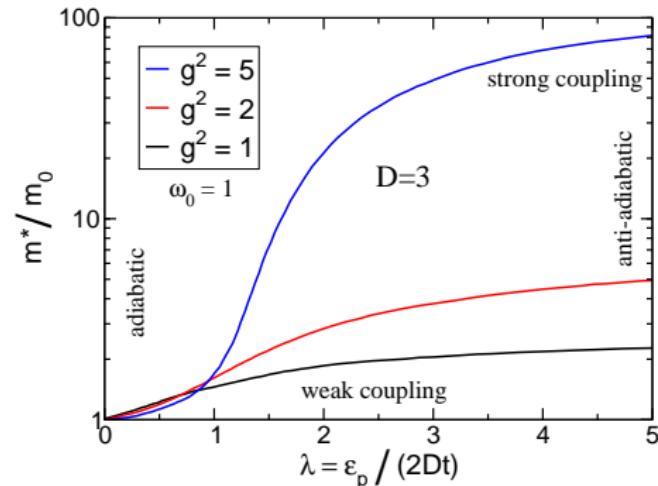
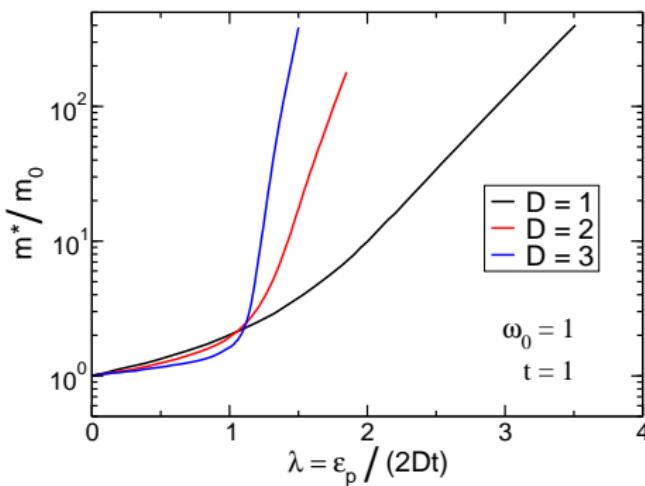


EFFECTIVE MASS

- Mass renormalisation?

$$1/m^* = \partial^2 E_{\vec{K}} / \partial \vec{K}^2 |_{|\vec{K}| \rightarrow 0}$$

(note that $[m^*]^{-1}$ differs from $Z_{\vec{K}=0}$ by the \vec{K} dependence of the self-energy)



- polaron crossover at about $\lambda \sim 1$ ($g^2 \sim 1$) is much sharper in higher D !
- crossover region: $(m_0/m^* - Z_0)/Z_0 \lesssim 20\%$ (2 %) in 1D (3D) !

(SCPT: $Z_{\vec{K}=0}^{(c)} = m_0/m^* = \exp[-g^2]$)

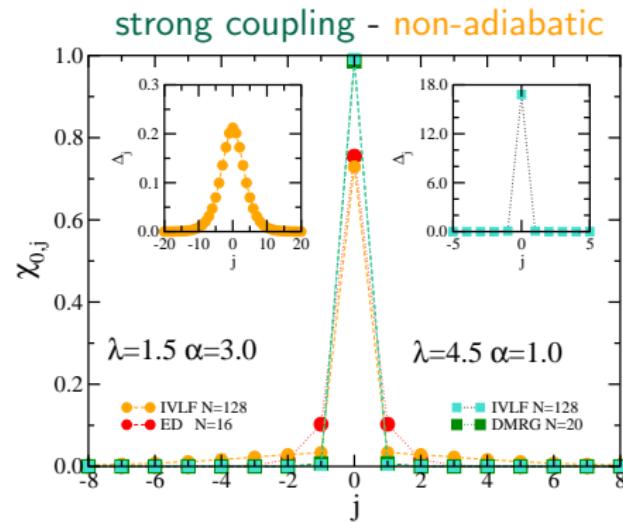
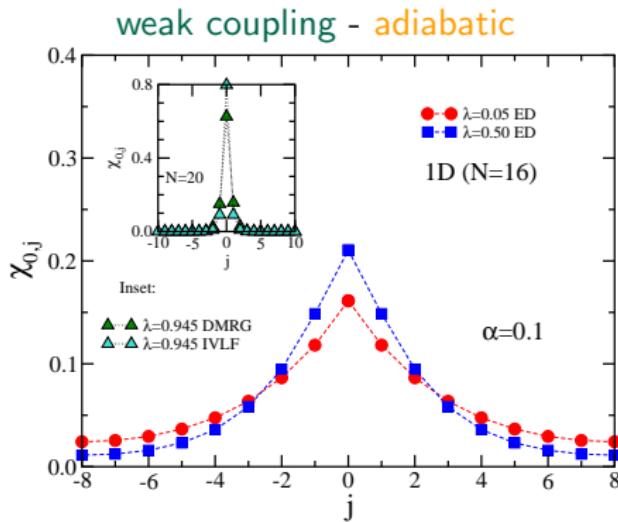
Ku, Trugman, Bonča: PRB 65, 174306 ('02) (agreement with DMFT? sc case ✓)



ELECTRON-LATTICE CORRELATIONS I

- Spatial extension of polarons?

$$\chi_{0,j} = \frac{\langle n_0(b_{0+j}^\dagger + b_{0+j}) \rangle}{2g\langle n_0 \rangle}$$



- crossover from large to small size polarons (1D)
- static displacement fields: $\Delta_i = \Delta_0 \operatorname{sech}^2[\lambda_{\text{eff}} i]$

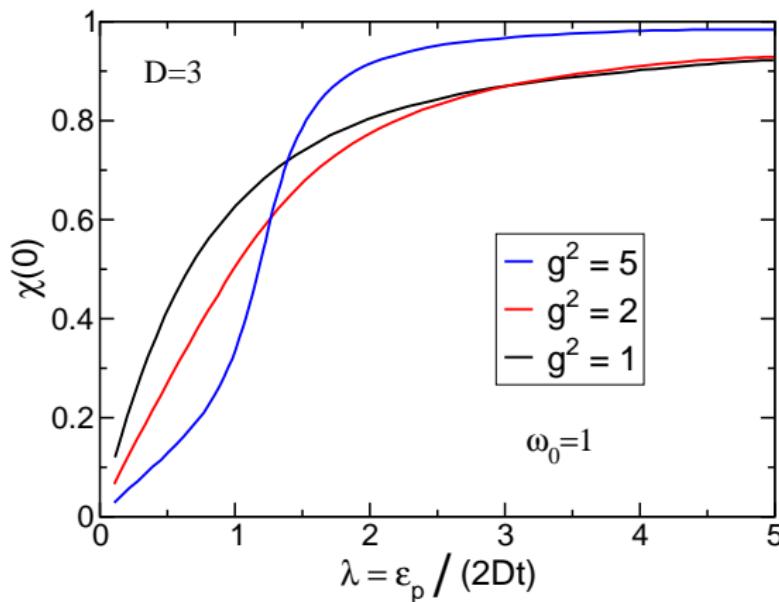
Wellein, HF: PRB 58, 6208 (1998)



ELECTRON-LATTICE CORRELATIONS II

- On-site electron-phonon correlation?

$$\chi(0) = \langle \psi_0 | n_0 (b_0^\dagger + b_0) | \psi_0 \rangle$$



→ strong enhancement of $\chi(0)$ at the polaron “transition”!



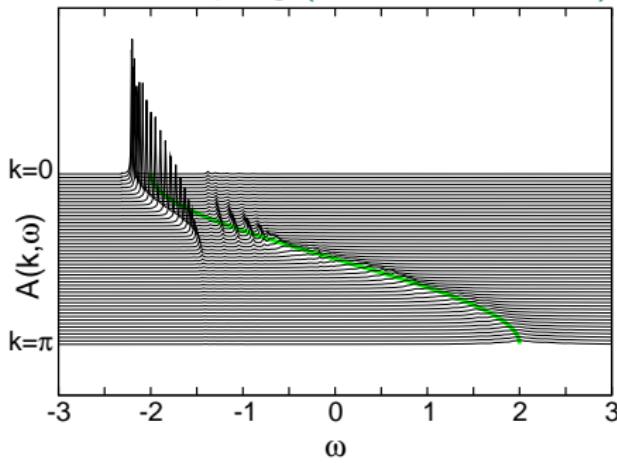
ELECTRON SPECTRAL FUNCTION

- Inverse photoemission spectra?

$$A(k, \omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \langle 0 | c_k R c_k^\dagger | 0 \rangle$$

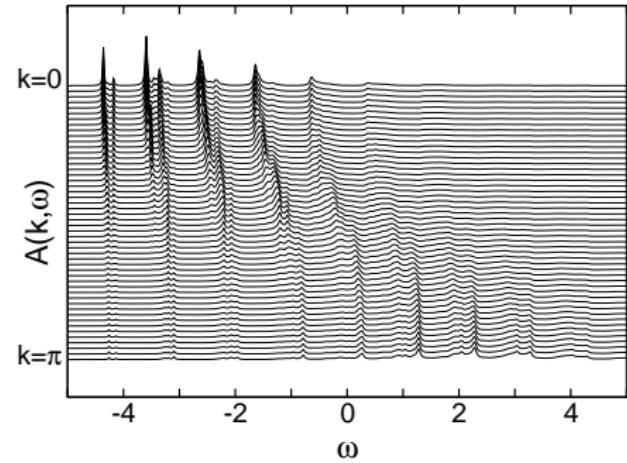
$R = [\omega - (H - E_0)]^{-1}$ (resolvent); transitions between different particle sectors
very recent CPT+KPM results ($N_c^{\max} = 16$, $\tilde{M}^{\max} = 25$, $M = 2048$):

weak-coupling ($\lambda = 0.25$, $\alpha = 0.8$)



pronounced QP peak \rightarrow intersection of phonon \rightarrow broad incoherent feature

strong-coupling ($\lambda = 2$, $\alpha = 1.0$)



small polaron QP \rightarrow sequence of absorption bands separated by ω_0

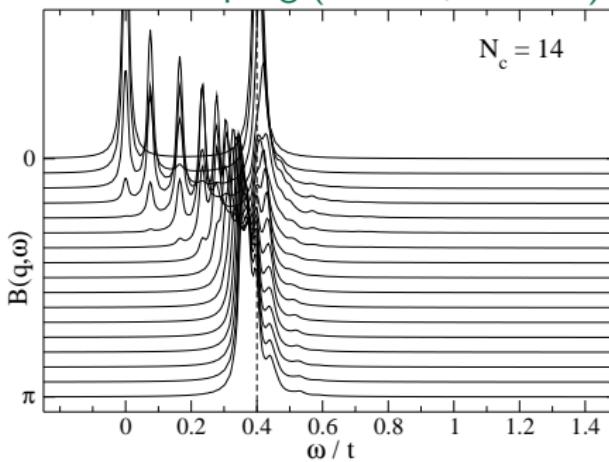


PHONON SPECTRAL FUNCTION

- Phonon spectra?

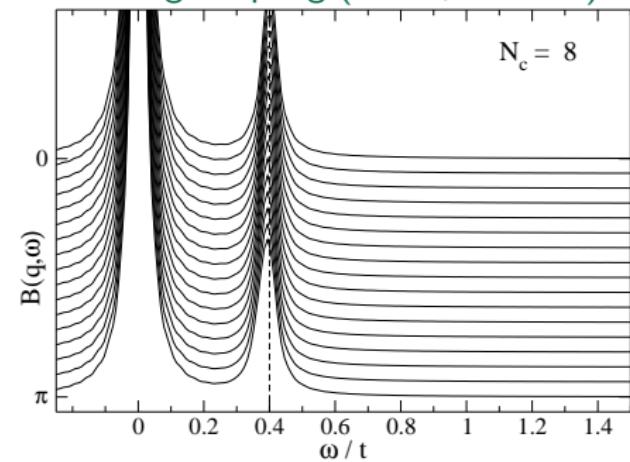
$$B(q, \omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \langle \psi_0^{(1)} | (b_q + b_q^\dagger) R (b_{-q} + b_{-q}^\dagger) | \psi_0^{(1)} \rangle$$

weak-coupling ($\lambda = 0.5, \alpha = 0.4$)



signature of weakly dressed electron
& flattening effect

strong-coupling ($\lambda = 2, \alpha = 0.4$)



signature of dispersionless small
polaron & bare phonon excitation



OPTICAL RESPONSE AT T=0

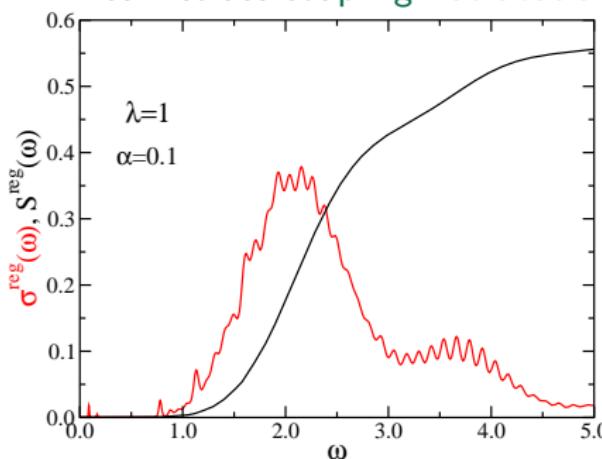
- Optical conductivity?

$$\sigma^{\text{reg}}(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{N} \sum_{m \neq 0} \frac{|\langle \Psi_0 | \hat{j} | \Psi_m \rangle|^2}{E_m - E_0} \delta[\omega - (E_m - E_0)]$$

current operator $\hat{j} = i \text{et} \sum_i (c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} - c_{i+1}^\dagger c_i)$ connects different parity sectors

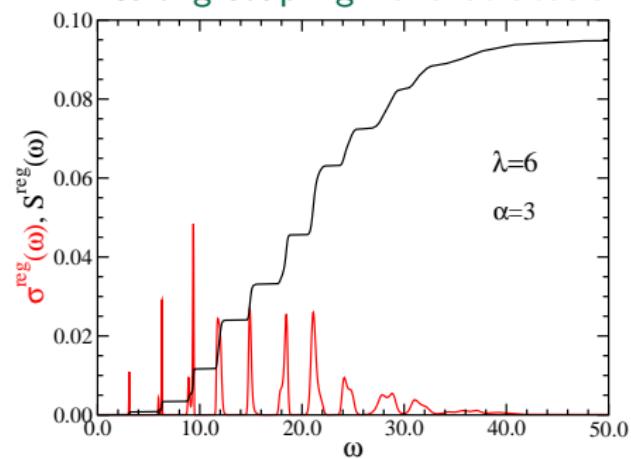
integrated spectral weight: $S^{\text{reg}}(\omega) = \int_0^\infty d\omega' \sigma^{\text{reg}}(\omega')$

intermediate coupling - adiabatic



asymmetric line-shape

strong coupling - anti-adiabatic



\sim symmetric absorption maximum $\lesssim 2\varepsilon_p/t$

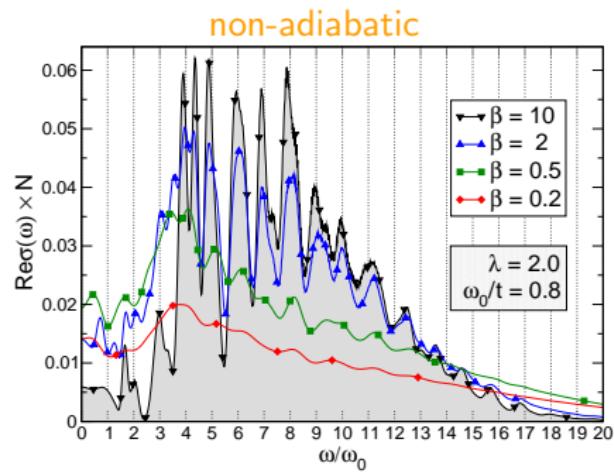
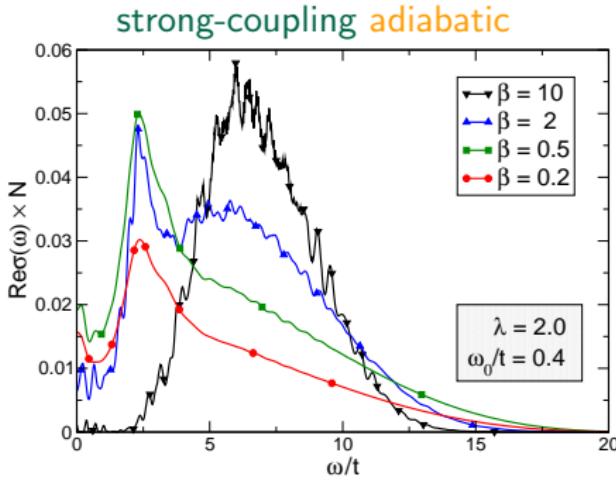


OPTICAL RESPONSE AT FINITE TEMPERATURES

- Thermally activated transport in polaronic systems?

$$\text{Re}\sigma(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{N\mathcal{Z}} \sum_{m,n}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\beta E_n} - e^{-\beta E_m}}{E_m - E_n} |\langle n | j | m \rangle|^2 \delta(\omega - (E_m - E_n))$$

→ application of 2D KPM - Schubert, Wellein, Weiße, HF: cond-mat/0505447



coherent transport strongly suppressed $T \nearrow$
2t-feature – “adiabatic” barrier $\sim \varepsilon_p/2 - t$

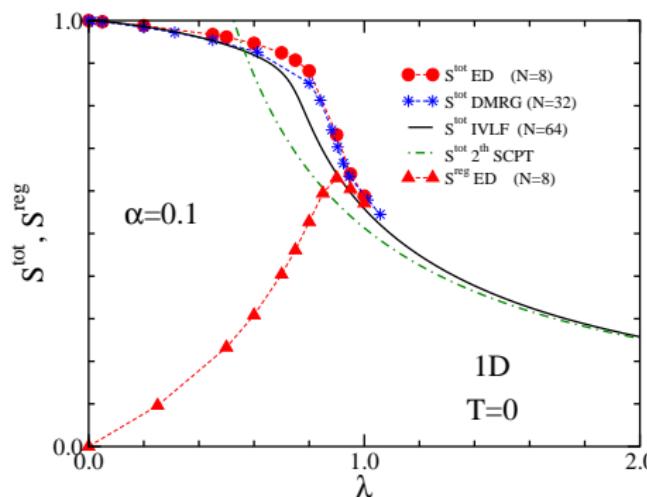
pronounced sub-band transitions
 \Leftrightarrow multi-phonon absorption/emission



F-SUM RULE

- Sum rules? Decomposition of $\text{Re}\sigma(\omega) = D\delta(\omega) + \sigma^{\text{reg}}(\omega)$ (D - Drude weight)!

- $\int_0^\infty \omega \text{Re}\sigma(\omega) d\omega = \frac{\pi e^2}{N} \langle 0 | \hat{j}^2 | 0 \rangle \quad \checkmark$
- $-\frac{E_{\text{kin}}}{2} = S^{\text{tot}} = \frac{D}{2\pi e^2} + S^{\text{reg}}(\infty)$

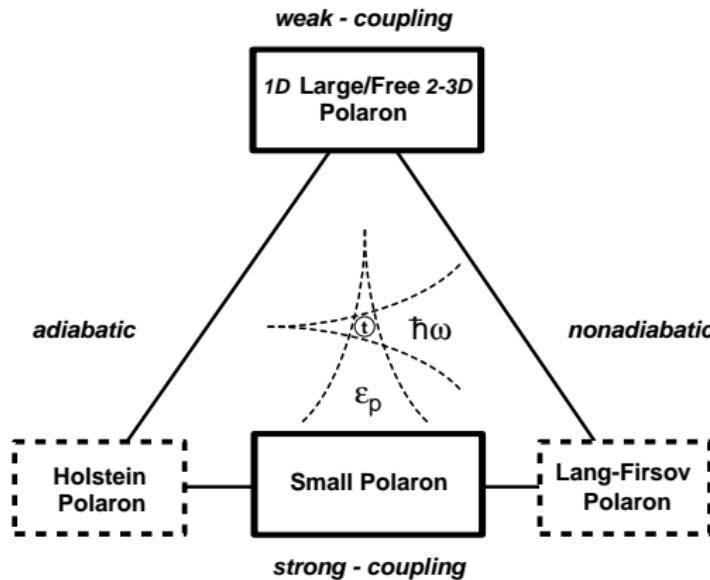


crossover regime \Leftarrow regular part of $\text{Re}\sigma(\omega)$ strongly enhanced!



SUMMARY

- Schematic “phase” diagram of the single-electron Holstein model:



open questions: disorder, finite density, correlations...? \leadsto next talk!