

Recent Progress in simulations of dense quantum plasmas and warm dense matter

Michael Bonitz, Paul Hamann, Tobias Dornheim[†], Zhandos Moldabekov[†], Alexey Filinov, and Jan Vorberger*

in collaboration with Pavel Levashov⁺⁺, Frank Graziani^{**}, and Christopher Makait

Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics, Kiel University

[†] Center for Advanced Systems Understanding, * Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden

⁺⁺ IVTAN, Moscow

^{**} Lawrence Livermore National Lab

5th AAPS-DPP Meeting, 28 September 2021



Warm Dense Matter: Occurrences and Applications

[Andrew NG (2000): "missing link between CM, plasmas"]

► **Astrophysics:**

- ▶ Giant planet interiors (e.g. Jupiter)
- ▶ Brown dwarfs
- ▶ Earth interior, Meteor Impacts
- ▶ Recently discovered planets



[Source: Sci-News.com \[Img4\]](#)

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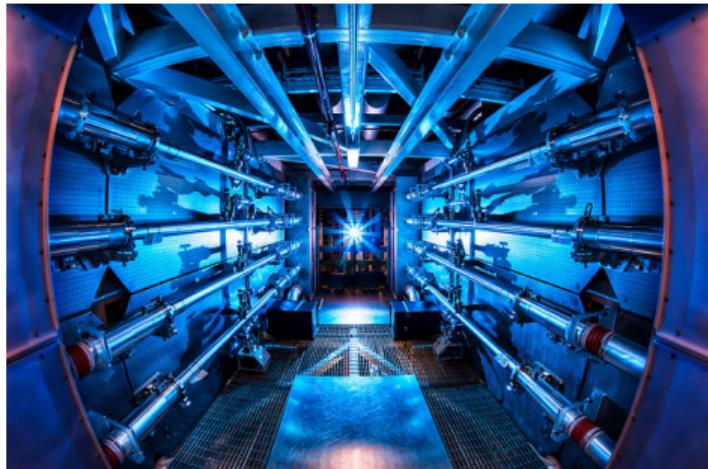
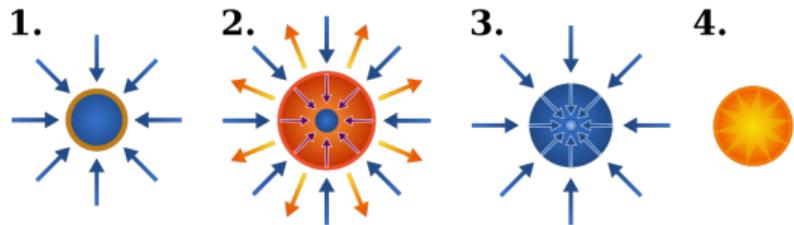
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► **Laboratory Experiments, shock compression:**

- ▶ Lasers, FELs, Z-pinch, ion beams
- ▶ Properties of matter under extreme conditions
- ▶ major driver: Inertial confinement fusion

Potential abundance of clean energy!



Source: en.wikipedia.org [Img5] and arstechnica.com [Img6]

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US: NIF, Omega (Rochester), LCLS
(Stanford): Fundamental research
into WDM properties: → Equation of
state, $S(q, \omega)$, conductivity etc.

National Ignition Facility (Livermore, California)



area: $70000 m^2$

cost: ~1 billion Dollar

Source: C. Stoltz, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A* **370**, 4115 (2012) [Img7]

Facilities for WDM experiments in Europe and Asia:

Free electron lasers:

- ▶ **FLASH** (DESY, Hamburg)
- ▶ **European X-ray Free-Electron Laser**,
Hamburg – Schenefeld
- ▶ **HIBEF Beamlime and consortium**
(2021)
- ▶ **Fermi** (Triest, Italy)
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source: photon-science.desy.de

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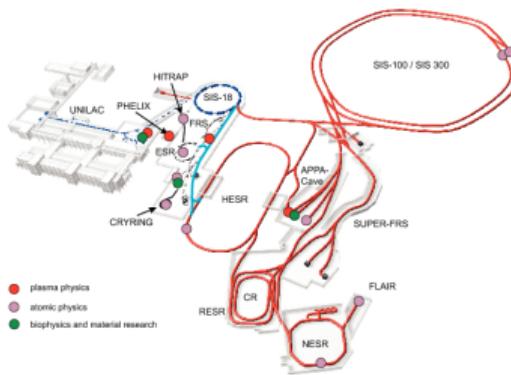
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- ▶ Construction started in 2017
- ▶ Heavy ion beams:
Isochoric heating up to $\sim 10^6 K$



source: inspirehep.net



source: dw.com

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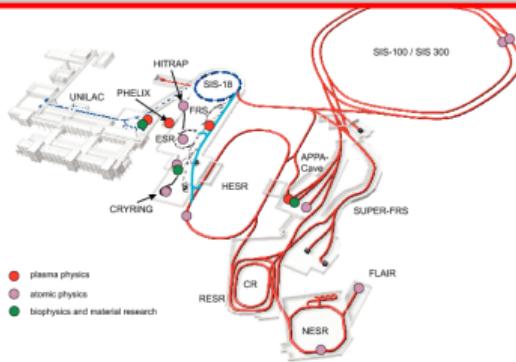
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Warm dense matter: indeed a HOT topic

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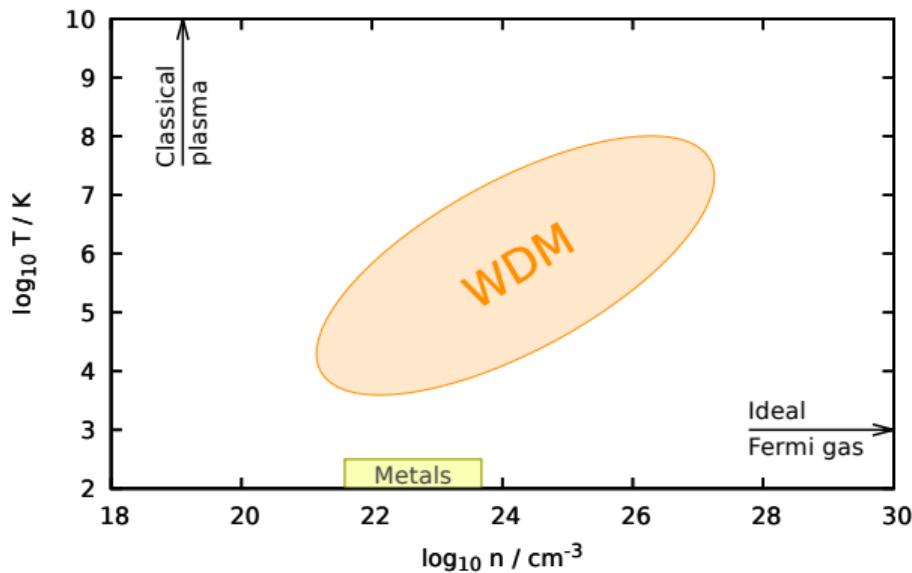
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Warm Dense Matter and quantum plasmas: relevant parameters

► Extreme and exotic state of matter:

- High temperature: $T \sim 10^3 - 10^8 \text{ K}$
- Extreme density: $n \sim 10^{21} - 10^{27} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Source: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, and M. Bonitz,
Phys. Reports 744, 1-86 (2018)



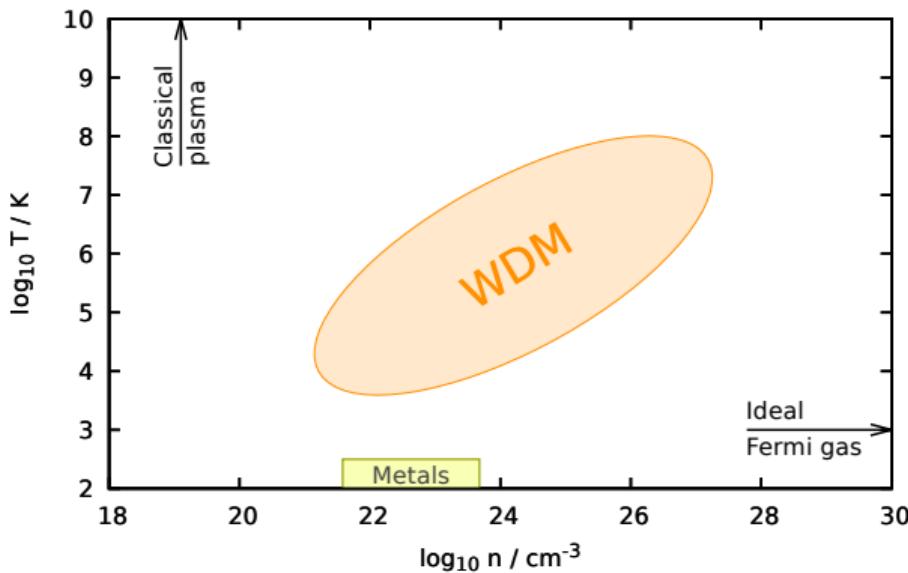
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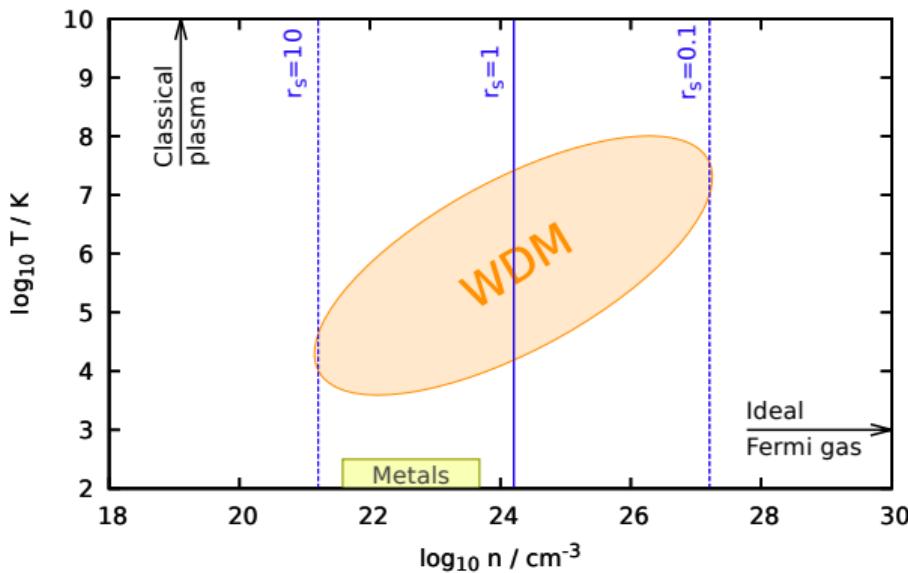
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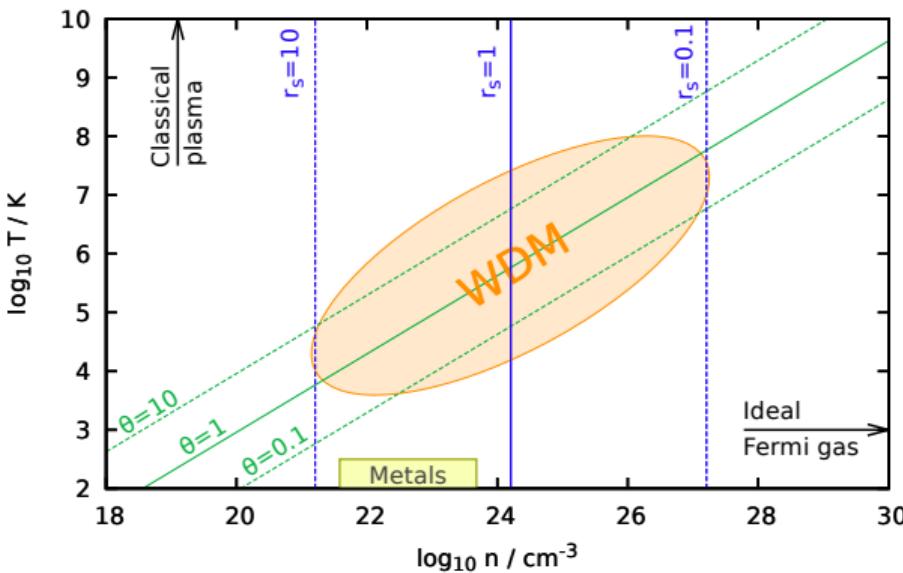
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 $\Theta > 1$: quantum plasma,
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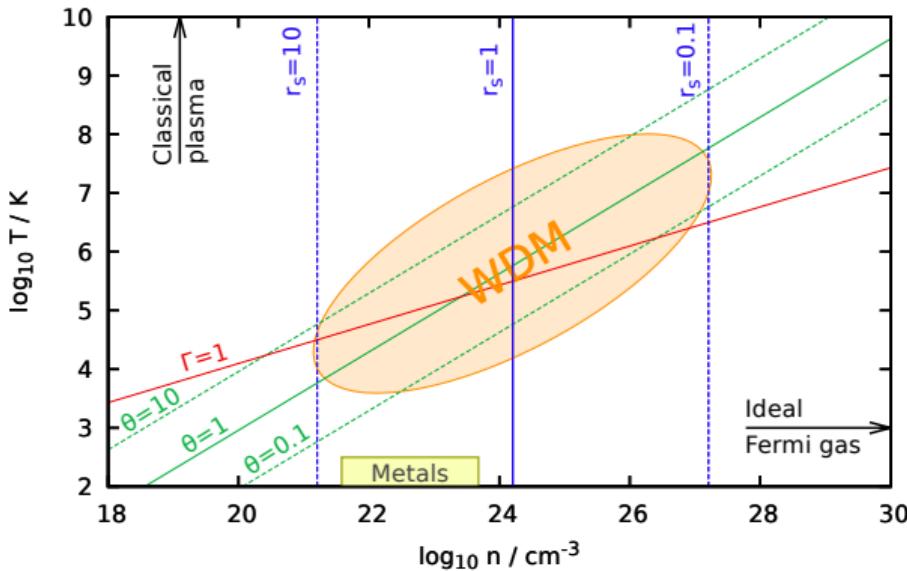
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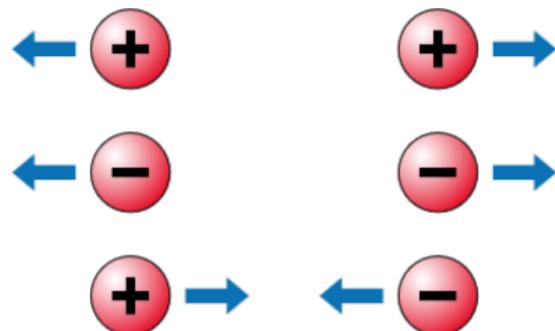
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► Nontrivial interplay of many effects:

- Coulomb coupling (non-ideality)



[Source: bin-br.at \[Img1\]](#)

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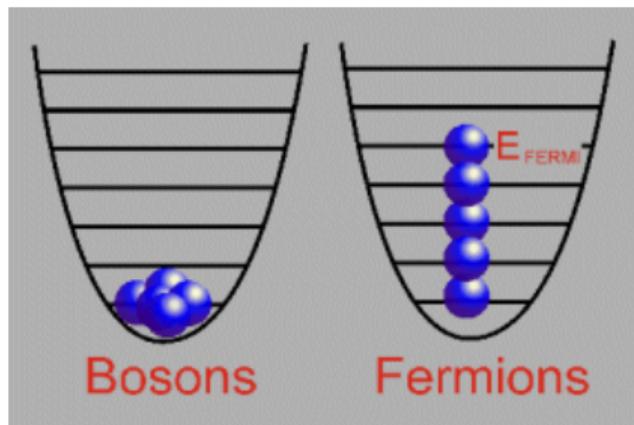
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Source: cidehom.com [Img2]

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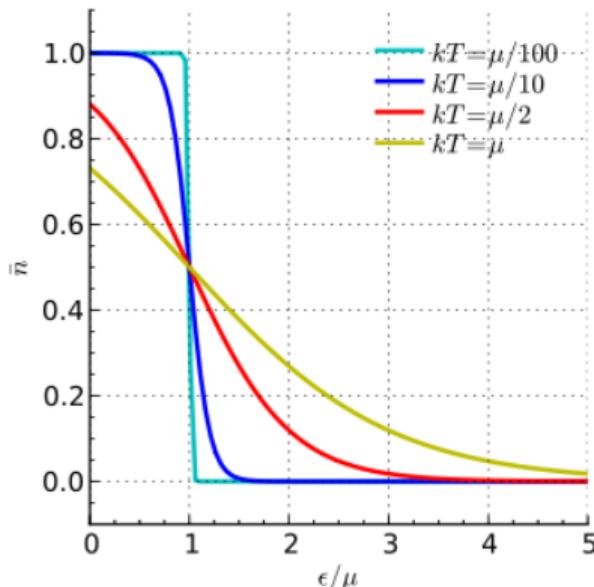
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► Nontrivial interplay of many effects:

- Coulomb coupling (non-ideality)
- Fermionic exchange (anti-symmetry)
- Thermal excitations (statistical description)



Source: en.wikipedia.org [Img3]

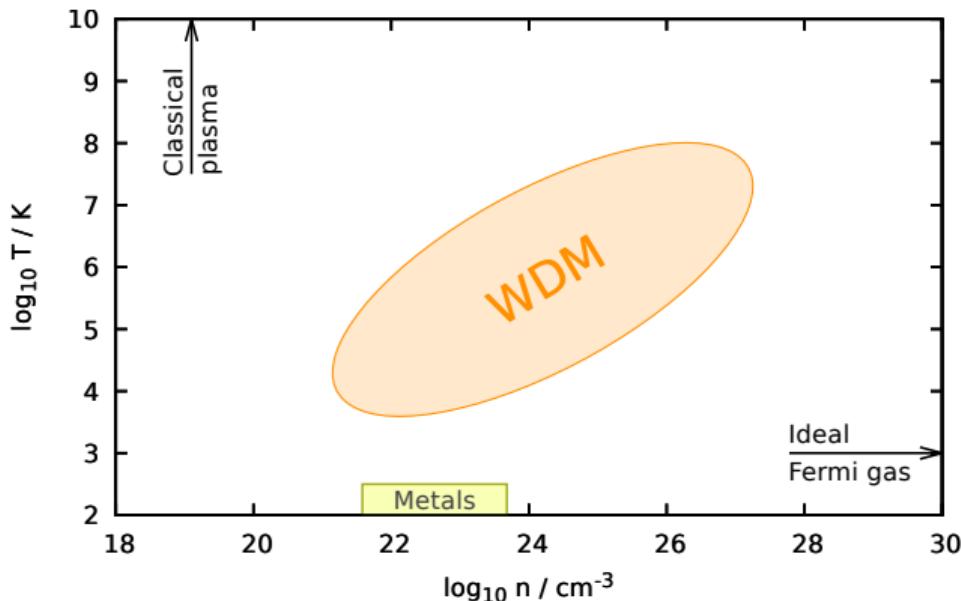
How to experimentally diagnose warm dense matter?

**Warm dense matter (WDM) =
highly complex mix of ...**

- ▶ ... gas phase (atoms, molecules) and plasma: partial ionization, differently charged ions etc.
- ▶ ... condensed (crystalline or liquid) phase and gas (plasma) phase

WDM often subject to strong excitation ...

- ▶ ... mix of ground state and highly excited phases
- ▶ Nonequilibrium: complex time evolution



Experimental strategies:

1. X-ray diffraction: morphology of solid and liquid state,
2. Transport (conductivity) and optics (e.g. X-ray absorption)
3. Recent breakthroughs: light scattering (X-ray Thomson scattering)
temperature, density, charge state, plasmon dispersion/damping...

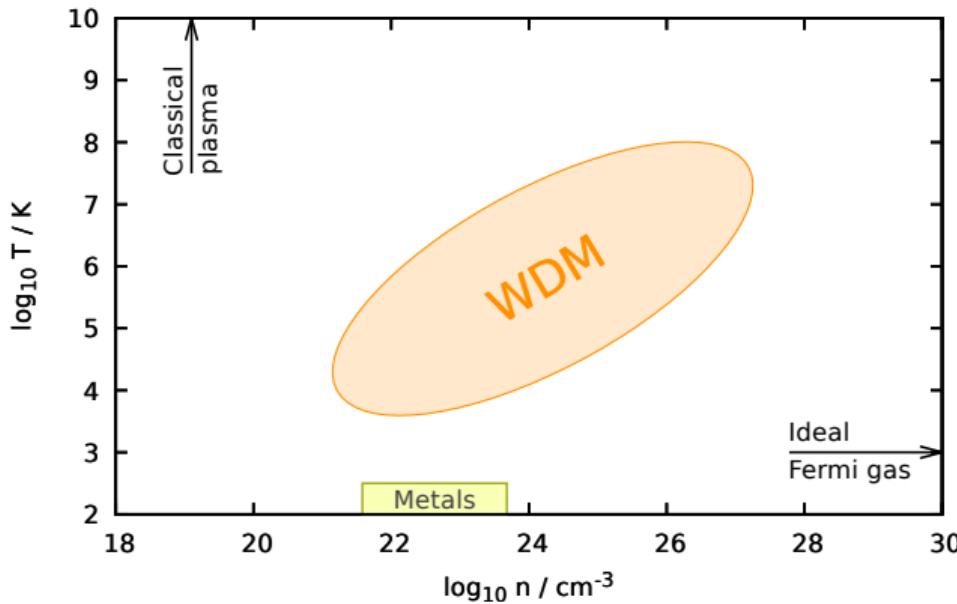
How to theoretically approach warm dense matter?

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Theoretical strategies:

1. Make a complex (but poor) model of the entire “mess”,
e.g. phenomenology, hydrodynamics, DFT, or
2. Perform an excellent description of one piece of it (our approach)
⇒ Series of recent breakthroughs: exact quantum Monte Carlo approach:
from thermodynamic to dielectric and transport properties

Importance of the uniform electron gas (UEG)

Model system of Coulomb interacting quantum electrons in a uniform positive background

Ground state ($T = 0$):

- ▶ Simple model for conduction electrons in metals
- ▶ Exchange-correlation (XC) energy:

$$e_{\text{xc}}(r_s) = e_{\text{tot}}(r_s) - e_0(r_s)$$

- Input for density functional theory (DFT) simulations (in LDA and GGA)
- Parametrization¹ of $e_{\text{xc}}(r_s)$ from ground state quantum Monte Carlo data²
- this made DFT-MD the basis of modern atomic, molecular physics, chemistry, material science

¹ J.P. Perdew and A. Zunger, PRB **23**, 5048 (1981) ² D.M. Ceperley and B. Alder, PRL **45**, 566 (1980) ³ N.D. Mermin, Phys. Rev **137**, A1441 (1965)

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Warm dense matter ($T \sim T_F$):

- ▶ Thermal DFT³: minimize free energy $F = E - TS$
 - Requires parametrization of XC free energy of UEG:

$$f_{\text{xc}}(r_s, \theta) = f_{\text{tot}}(r_s, \theta) - f_0(r_s, \theta)$$

- ▶ $f_{\text{xc}}(r_s, \theta)$ direct input for **Equation of state (EOS) models** of astrophysical objects⁴
- ▶ $f_{\text{xc}}(r_s, \theta)$ contains **complete thermodynamic information** of UEG

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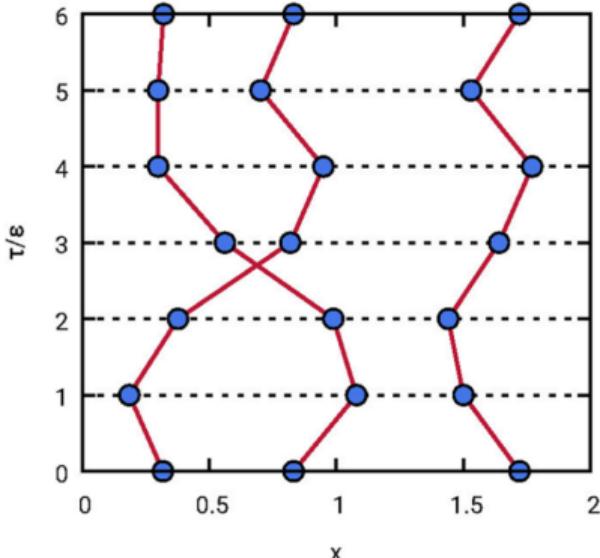
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Path Integral Monte Carlo (PIMC): Fermions

- **Fermionic antisymmetry:**

$$Z = \frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_N} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \int d\mathbf{R} \langle \mathbf{R} | e^{-\beta \hat{H}} | \hat{\pi}_\sigma \mathbf{R} \rangle$$

⇒ We must include **permutation-cycles!**



PIMC configuration of $N = 3$ particles, $W(\mathbf{X}) < 0$

Taken from: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, A. Filinov, and M. Bonitz,
J. Chem. Phys. **151**, 014108 (2019)

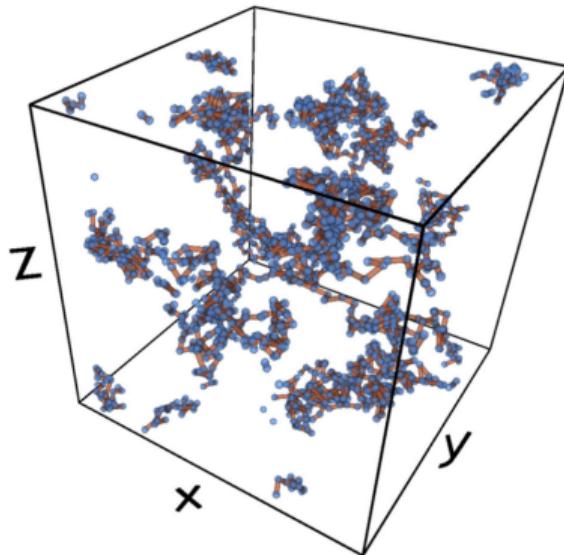
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- ▶ Randomly generate all possible paths **X** using the **Metropolis algorithm**



Snapshot of PIMC simulation of UEG with $N = 19$, $r_s = 2$, $\theta = 0.5$ (fluctuating probability density)

Taken from: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, A. Filinov, and M. Bonitz,
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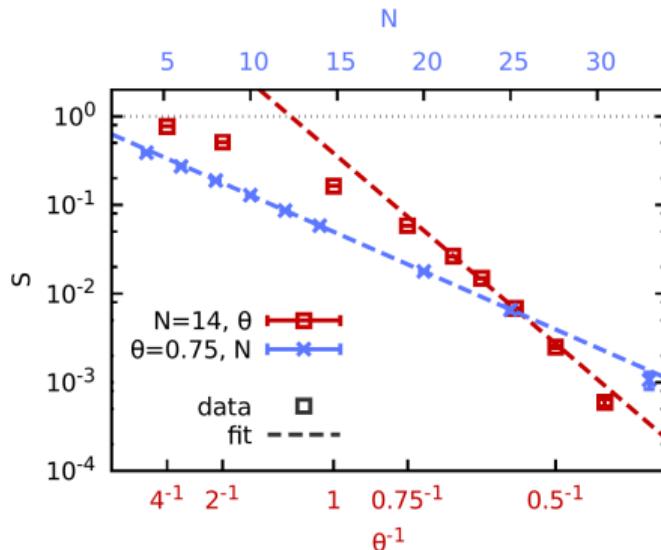
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⇒ We must include **permutation-cycles!**

- ▶ Randomly generate all possible paths \mathbf{X} using the **Metropolis algorithm**
- ▶ Sign changes due to particle exchange lead to vanishing signal-to-noise ratio
⇒ **Fermion Sign Problem (unsolved!)**

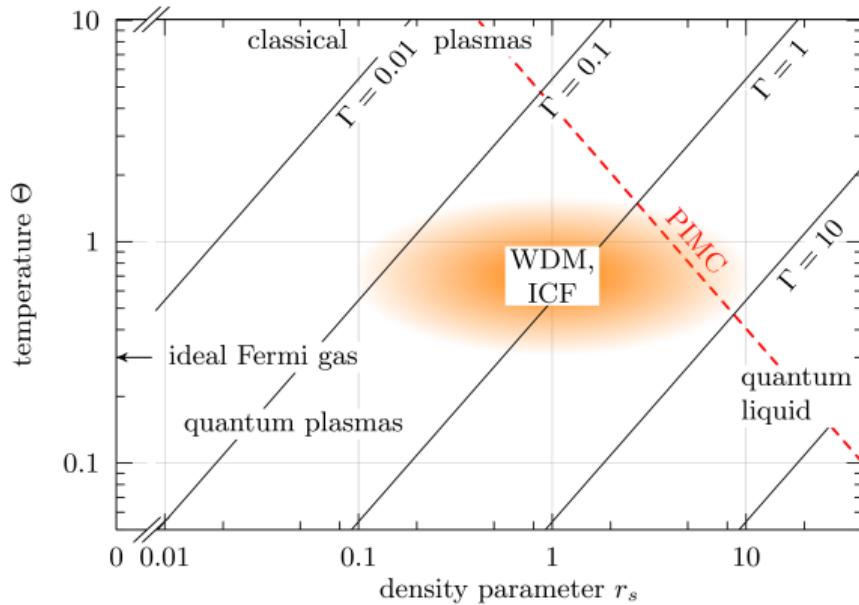


Exponential decrease of the average sign S with system size N and quantum degeneracy θ^{-1}

Taken from: T. Dornheim, *Phys. Rev. E* **100**, 023307 (2019)

Path integral Monte Carlo (PIMC) simulation of the warm dense UEG

- Standard PIMC in warm dense regime severely hampered by ***fermion sign problem***:



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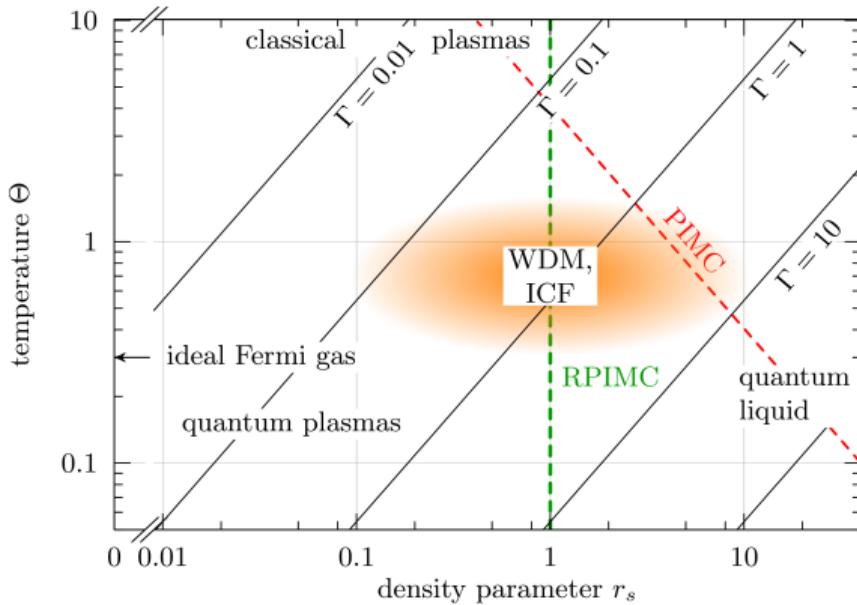
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- Induces **systematic errors** of unknown magnitude
- **RPIMC** limited to $r_s \gtrsim 1$
- Fermionic **PIMC**: Filinov *et al.*² limited to $r_s \gtrsim 1$



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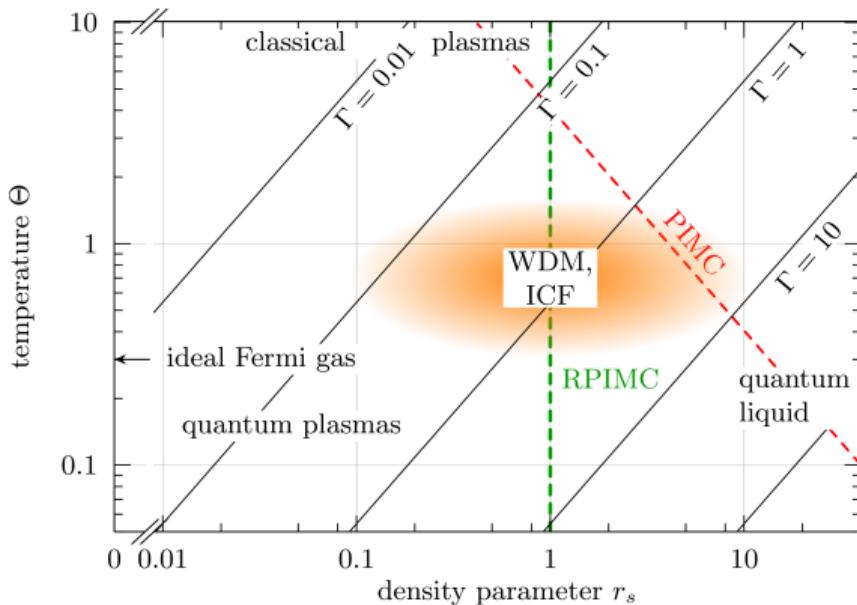
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Avoid fermion sign problem by combining two exact and complementary QMC methods:



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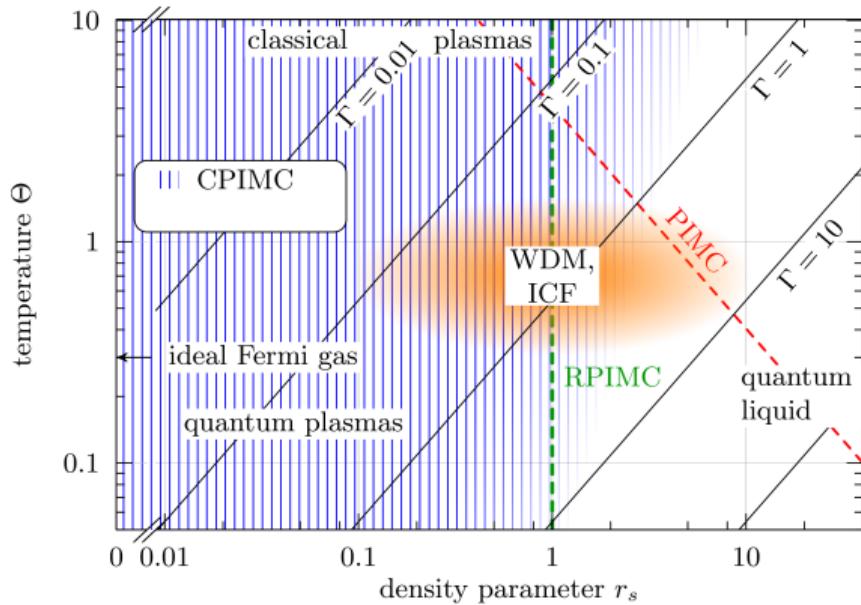
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→ Excels at high density $r_s \lesssim 1$ and strong degeneracy



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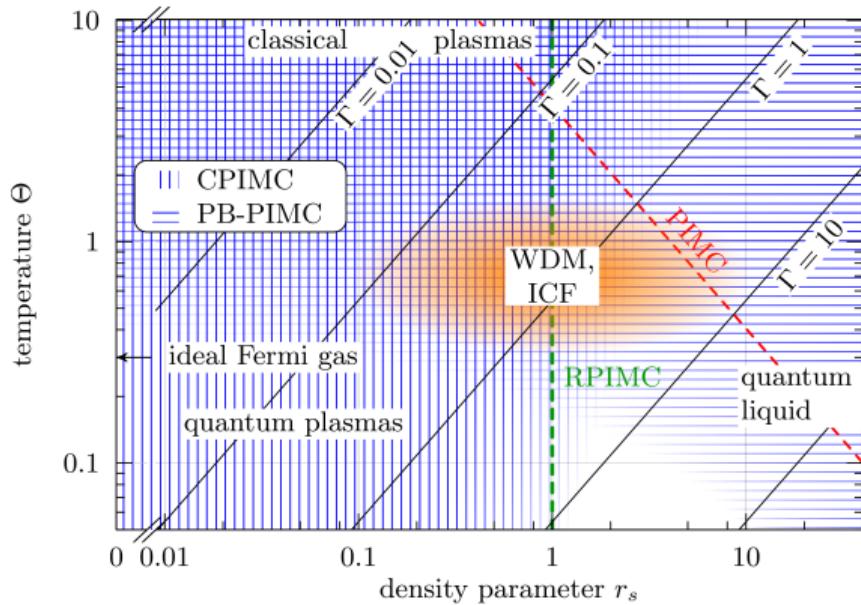
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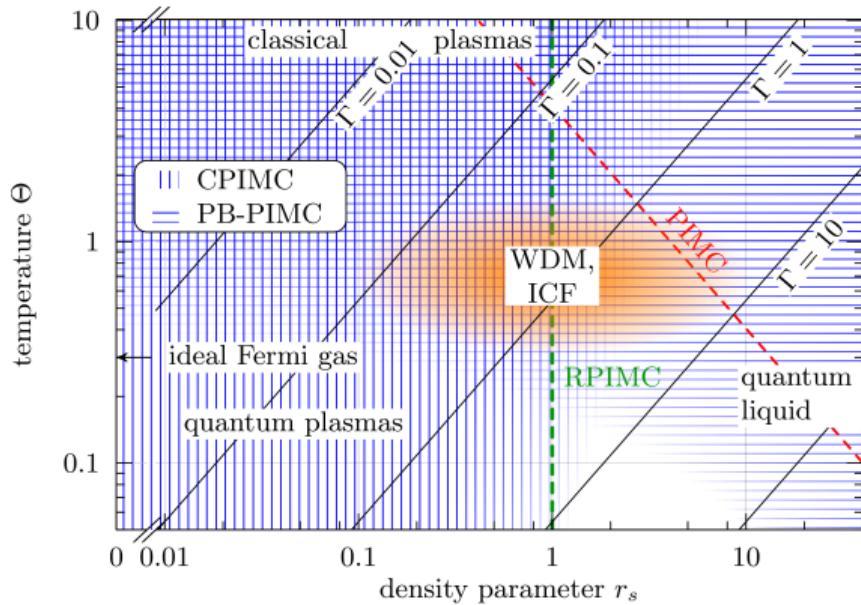
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***Ab initio* simulations over broad range of parameters possible**

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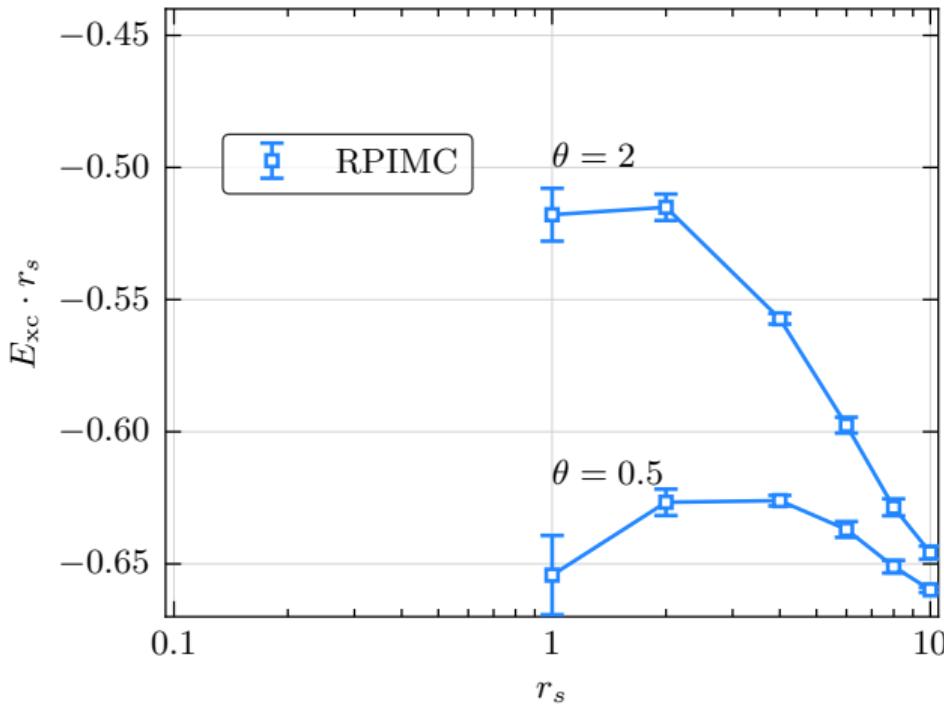
² V. Filinov *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **91**, 033108 (2015)

⁵ T. Dornheim *et al.*, New J. Phys. **17**, 073017 (2015)

⁶ T. Dornheim *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **143**, 204101 (2015)

1. Exact exchange-correlation energy $E_{xc} = E - E_0$ (E_0 : ideal energy)
($N = 33$ spin-polarized electrons, $\theta \geq 0.5$, $\forall r_s$)

- RPIMC limited to $r_s \geq 1$



¹S. Groth *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 085102 (2016)

²T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 205134 (2016)

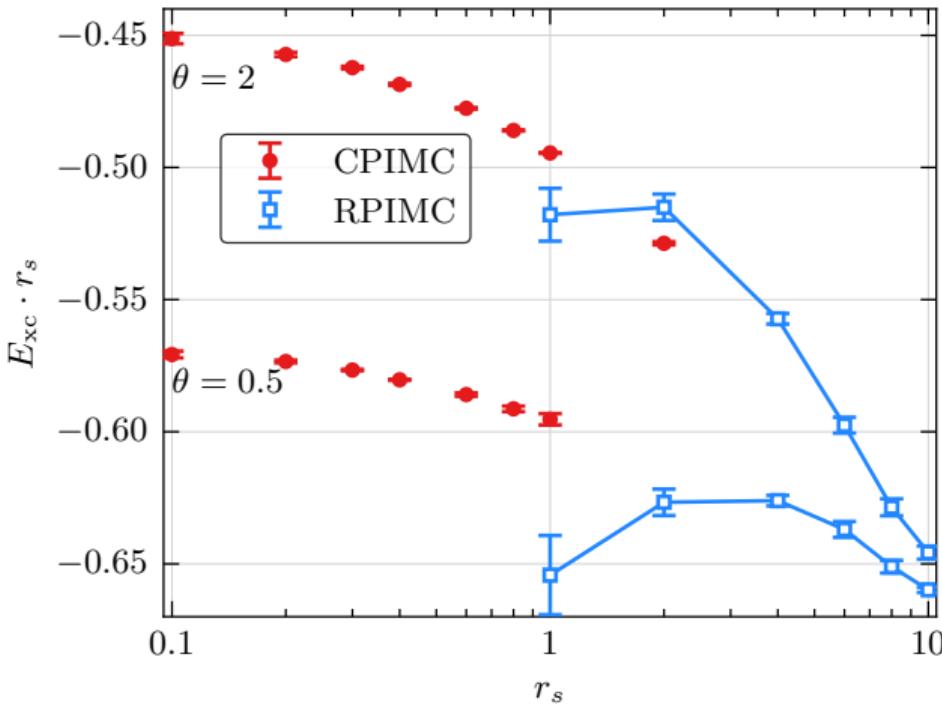
³F.D. Malone *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 115701 (2016)

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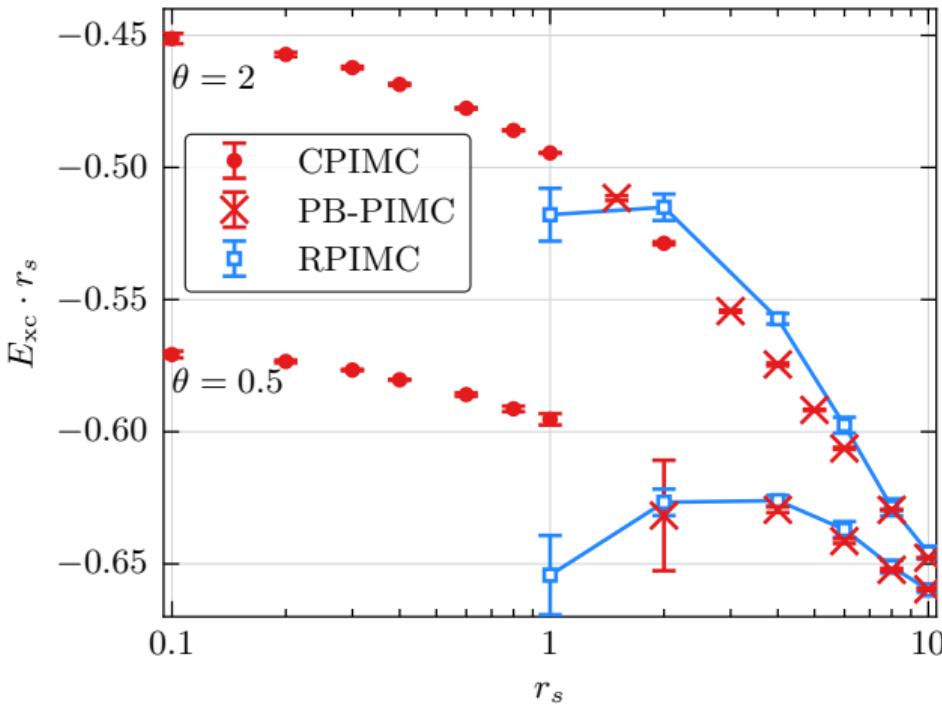
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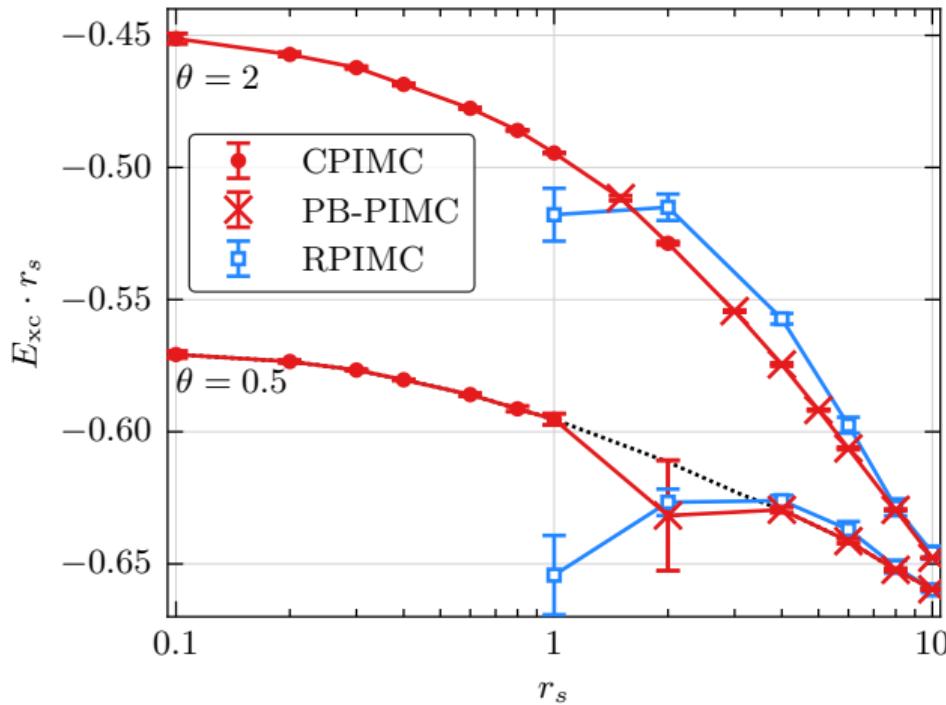
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Combination¹ yields exact results over entire density range down to $\theta \sim 0.5$

- Also applies to the **unpolarized UEG**²
- confirmed by independent **DMQMC** simulations³
- Extended to TD Limit⁴ and to the ground state⁵
- Analytical parametrization of $f_{xc}(r_s, \theta, \xi)$, "GDSMFB", with error below 0.3%, Integrated in standard DFT libraries⁵



¹S. Groth *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 085102 (2016)

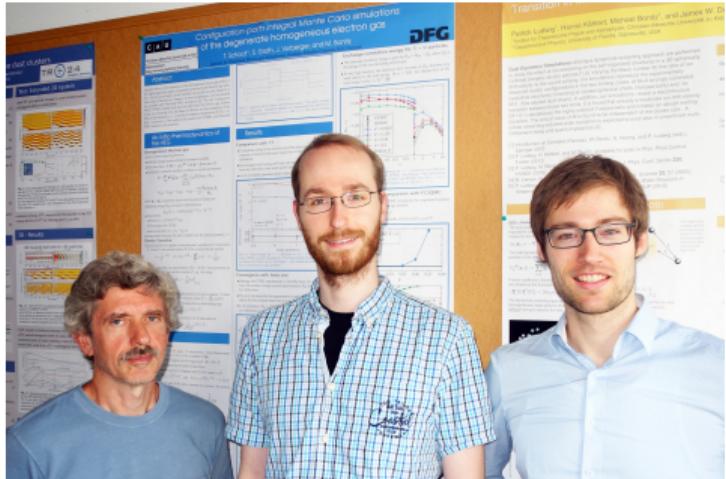
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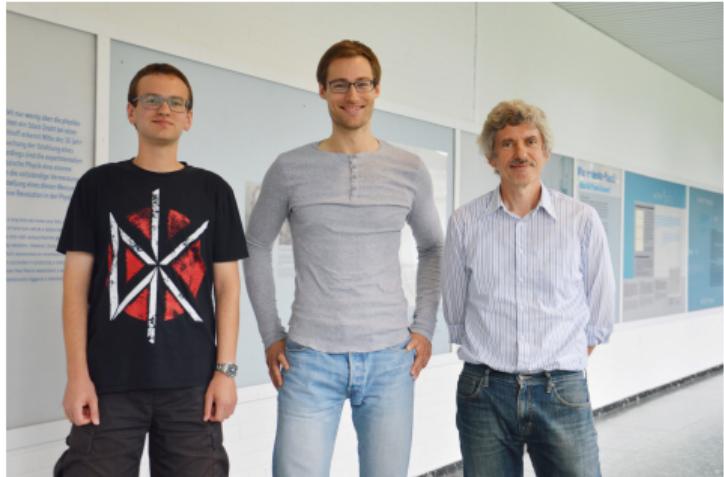
⁴T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2016)

⁵S. Groth *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2017)

Acknowledgements to those who did most of the work...



Tim Schoof (PhD 2016), **Simon Groth** (PhD 2018):
CPIMC, finite size corrections etc.



Tobias Dornheim (PhD 2018): PB-PIMC
now at CASUS Görlitz, **Extension to static and dynamic response, transport, DFT, machine learning, nonlinear density response etc.**

Recent review: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, and M. Bonitz, Physics Reports **744**, 1-86 (2018),
APS John Dawson Award 2021, together with F. Malone, M. Foulkes and T. Sjostrom
Photos: J. Siekmann

Ab Initio PIMC approach to equilibrium response and transport properties

Quantities accessible in PIMC:

all thermodynamic functions from $F(r_s, \theta)$; structural properties: $g(r)$, $S(q)$

fluctuations in response to excitation: $\delta\hat{H}(\mathbf{q}) \longrightarrow \delta\rho(\mathbf{q})$

correlation functions: e.g. $\langle \delta\rho(\mathbf{q}_1, \tau_1) \rho(\mathbf{q}_2, \tau_2) \rangle$ yield transport properties

Susceptibilities from linear response theory (LRT):

$\delta\rho(\mathbf{q}) = \chi(\mathbf{q})\delta H(\mathbf{q})$, χ : static density response \longrightarrow comparison for PIMC to LRT/experiment

Correlation and exchange effects: encoded in “local field correction” $G(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$

straightforward connection to transport, optics etc.: $\chi(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $\epsilon(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $\sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, **plasmon dispersion**

PIMC: susceptibilities beyond validity limits of LRT

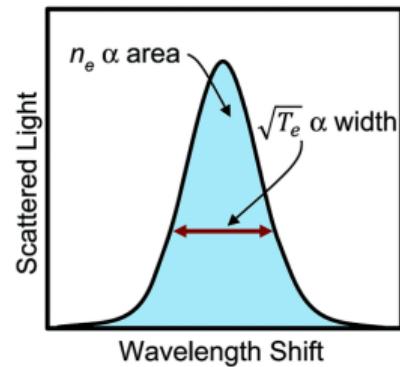
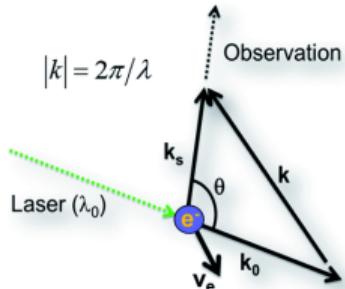
***Ab initio* spectral properties, momentum distribution $n(p)$**

Ab initio dynamic (ω -dependent) results for the warm dense UEG

- ▶ Key quantity: dynamic structure factor

$$S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \underbrace{\langle \hat{n}_{\mathbf{q}}(t) \hat{n}_{-\mathbf{q}}(0) \rangle}_{:= F(\mathbf{q}, t)} e^{i\omega t}$$

→ directly measured in **scattering experiments**



X-ray Thomson scattering experiments at free electron laser facilities (e.g. FLASH, X-FEL, LCLS)

yields the most accurate information on plasma density, ionic charge state, and temperature

data analysis requires model input

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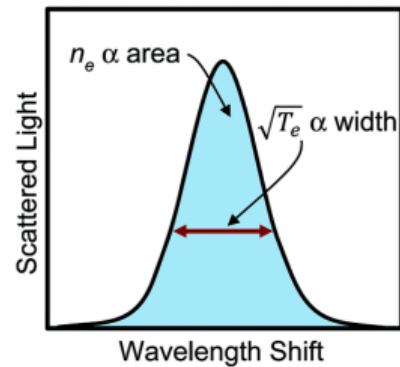
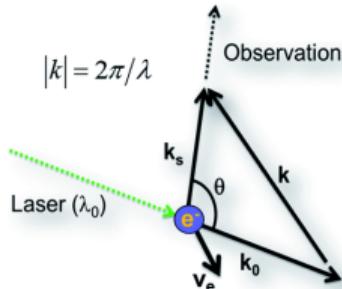
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- ▶ Chihara decomposition applies for non-collective scattering:

$$S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = S_{\text{b-b}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) + S_{\text{b-f}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) + S_{\text{f-f}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

$$\rightarrow S_{\text{f-f}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) \sim S^{\text{UEG}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$



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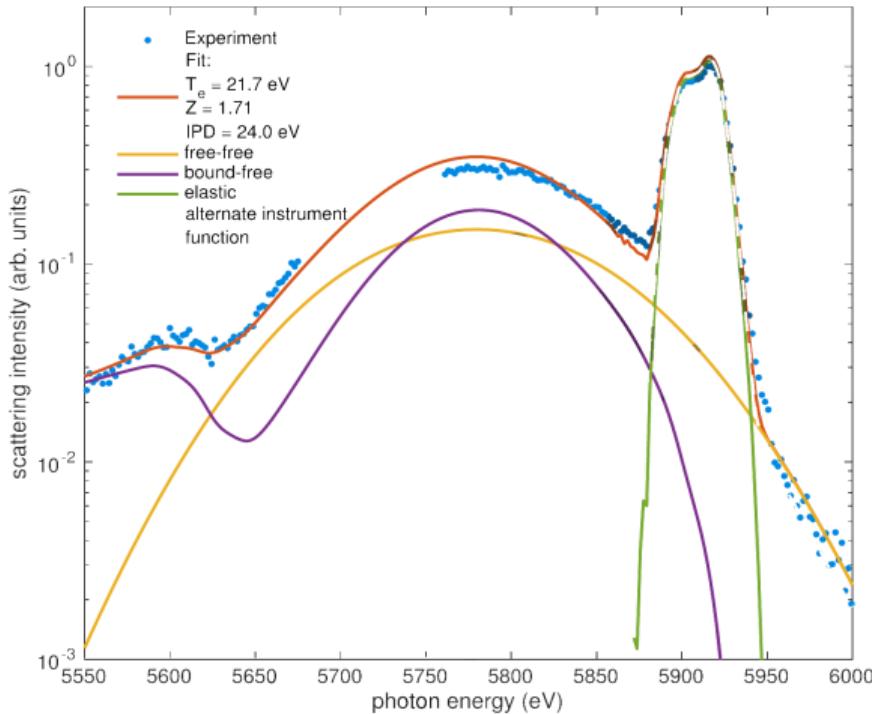
$$S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = S_{b-b}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) + S_{b-f}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) + S_{f-f}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

$$\rightarrow S_{f-f}(\mathbf{q}, \omega) \sim S^{\text{UEG}}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$$

- ▶ **Practical example:** Fit model for $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega; T_e)$ to spectrum to determine electron temperature T_e

- ▶ **Problem:**

$F(\mathbf{q}, t)$ requires **real time-dependent simulations**
→ with PIMC have to use analytic continuation,
reconstruct $F(\mathbf{q}, it)$ and 4 frequency moments,
but: insufficient information



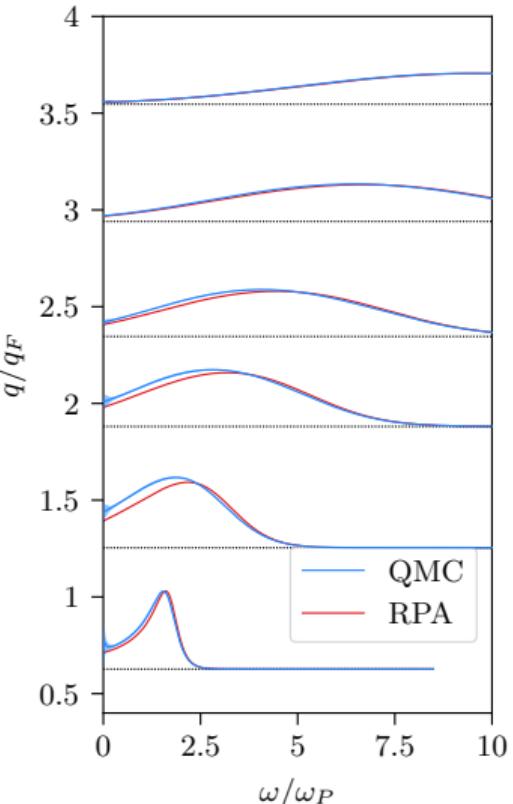
Scattering spectrum of isochorically heated graphite at LCLS.
From D. Kraus *et al.*, *Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion* (2019)

Correlation effects, Landau and collisional damping in $S(q, \omega)$: $\theta = 1$, $r_s = 2$

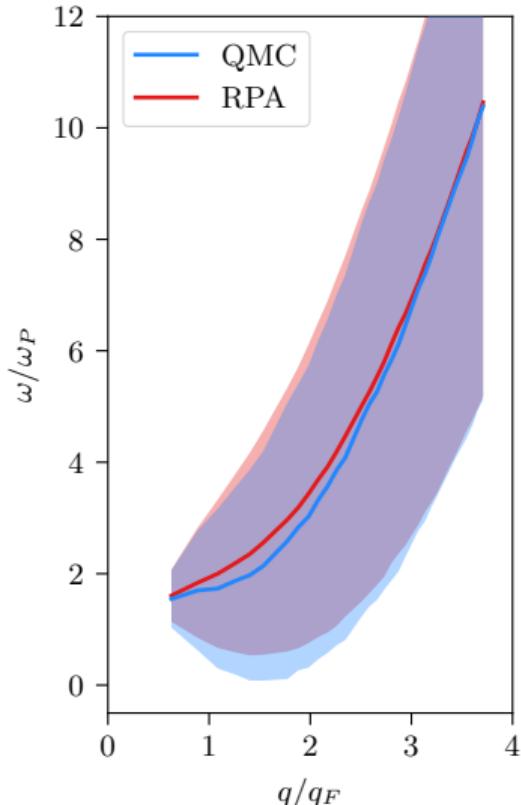
T. Dornheim, S. Groth, J. Vorberger, and M. Bonitz, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **121**, 255001 (2018)

- ▶ Slight **correlation induced redshift** of peak for intermediate q (at small r_s)

Dynamic structure factor of the UEG:



Peak position and FWHM:



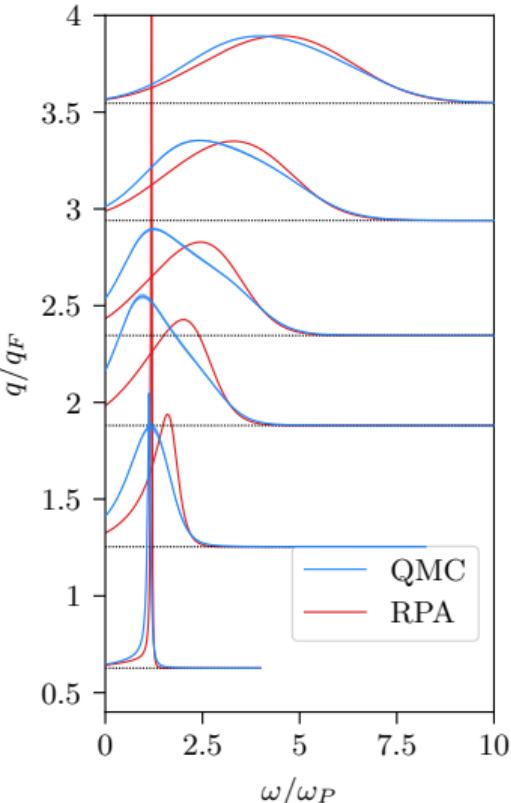
Correlation effects, Landau and collisional damping in $S(q, \omega)$: $\theta = 1$, $r_s = 10$

T. Dornheim, S. Groth, J. Vorberger, and M. Bonitz, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 121, 255001 (2018)

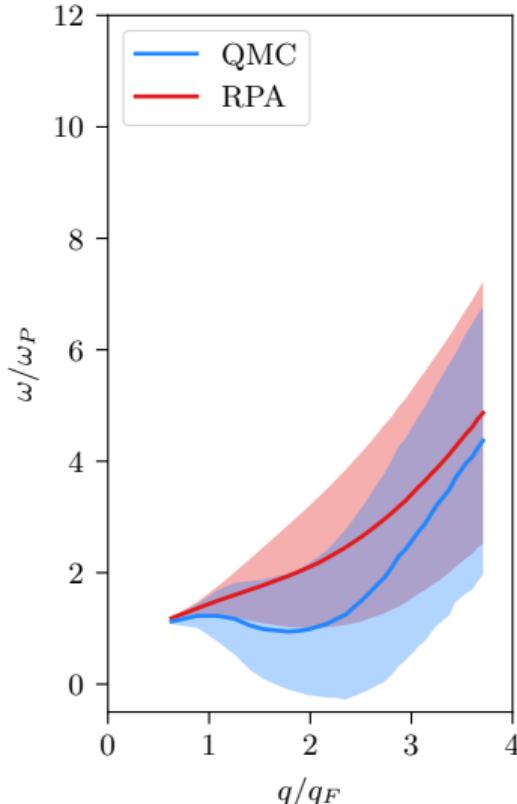
- ▶ Slight **correlation induced redshift** of peak for intermediate q (at small r_s)
- ▶ **Pronounced redshift and broadening** with increasing r_s
- ▶ **Negative dispersion of peak** for large r_s around $q = 2q_F$
predicted for dense hydrogen
- ▶ **Closely related to plasmons**
Requires dielectric function $\epsilon(q, \omega)$

$$S(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = -\frac{\text{Im} \epsilon^{-1}(\mathbf{q}, \omega)}{\pi n \tilde{v}(q)(1 - e^{-\beta\omega})}$$

Dynamic structure factor of the UEG:



Peak position and FWHM:



Dielectric function. Plasmons

- Solution of Maxwell's equations: EM field modes, $E(\vec{q}, t)$, in plasma (isotropic), from

$$\hat{\epsilon}[\vec{q}, \omega(q)] = 0$$

- contains collective excitations (plasmon)
- weak damping approximation (WDA):

$$\text{Re } \hat{\epsilon}[\vec{q}, \omega(q)] = 0$$

- roots on real axis vanish for $q \geq q_{\text{cr}}$, and damping, $|\text{Im } \omega|$, becomes large
- drop WDA and find exact roots

$$\hat{\epsilon}(\vec{q}, z) = 0$$

at complex frequencies $z = \omega - i\gamma$:

$$E(q; t) \sim e^{i\omega(q)t} e^{-\gamma(q)t}, \quad \gamma > 0$$

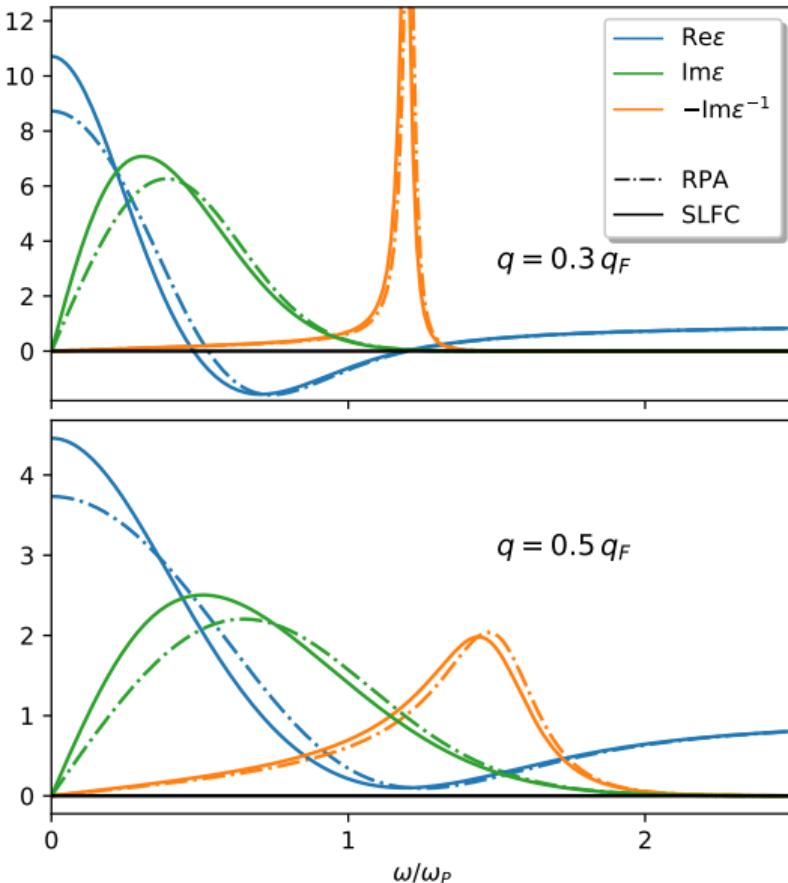
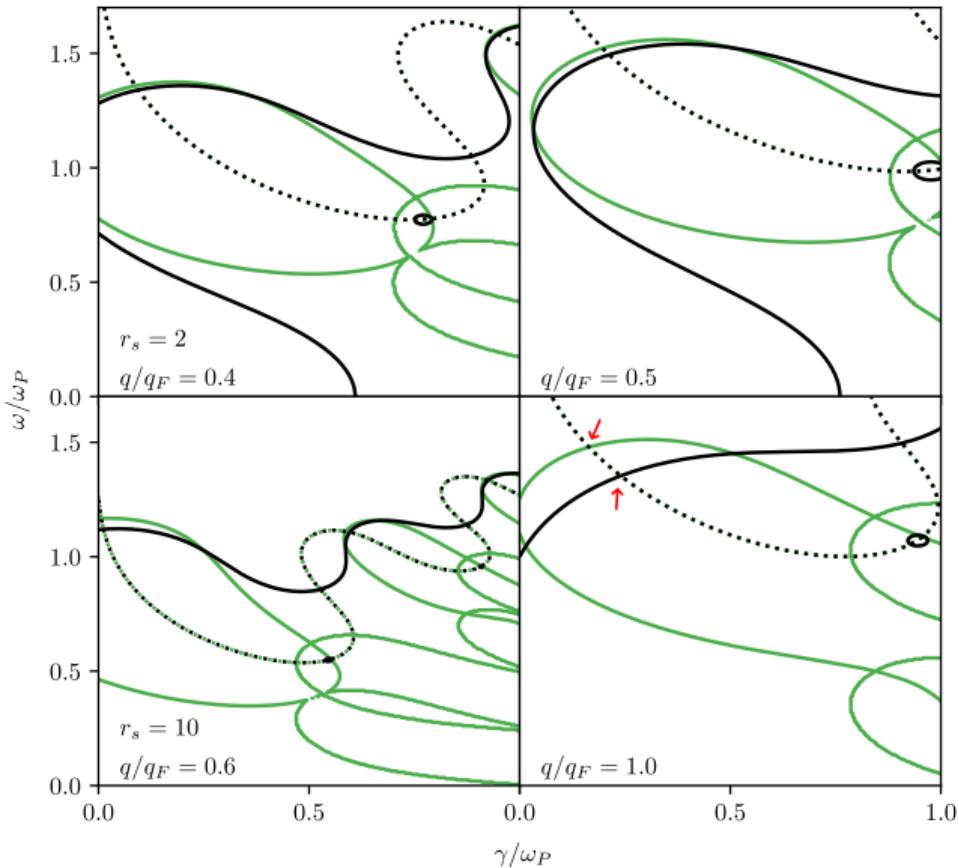


Figure: Moderately correlated electron gas, $\Theta = 1$, $r_s = 2$

Analytic continuation (AC) of the dielectric function¹

- ▶ AC of the retarded DF into the lower frequency half plane, $\gamma > 0$.
- ▶ full lines: $\text{Re } \epsilon = 0$,
dotted lines: $\text{Im } \epsilon = 0$,
plasmon = intersection (arrows)
- ▶ green: mean field (RPA)
black: correlated (static LFC)
- ▶ complex zeroes may exist, even if
 $\text{Re } \epsilon \neq 0$ on real axis (top right).
- ▶ Finite temperature, $\Theta = 1$,
 $r_s = 2$ (top) and $r_s = 10$ (bottom)



¹M. Bonitz, Quantum Kinetic Theory, 2nd ed. Springer 2016; P. Hamann et al., Contrib. Plasma Phys. **60**, e202000147 (2020)

Plasmon dispersion (top) and damping (bottom), $\Theta = 1$

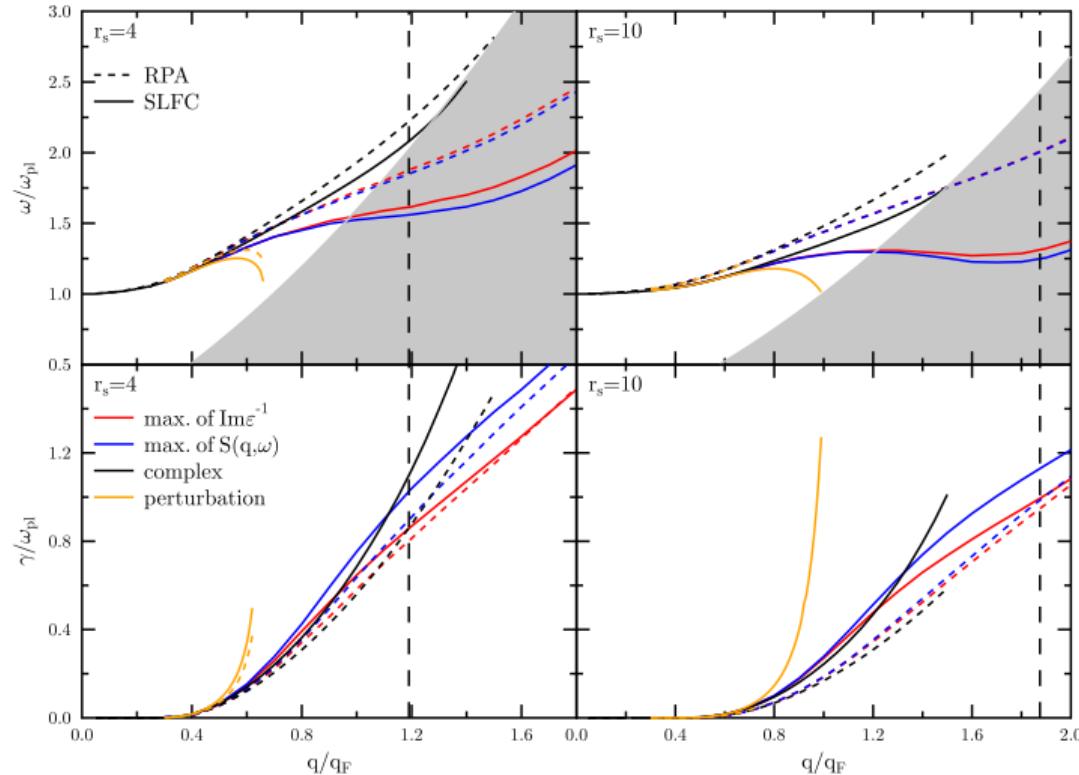


Figure: Black: complex dispersion relation, yellow: weak damping approximation, blue: peak of $S(q, \omega)$, grey area: pair continuum. Work in progress: Plasmon dispersion in two-component plasma (Mermin approach)

The momentum distribution function (thermodynamic equilibrium)

► Classical plasma

- ideal plasma: Maxwell distribution
 - interacting plasma: Maxwell distribution
- ⇒ **exponential decay** for large momenta

► Quantum plasma

- ideal plasma: Fermi/Bose function
- ⇒ **exponential decay** for large momenta

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► What about **nonideal Quantum plasmas?**

- slower non-exponential decay, $\sim p^{-8}$, predicted²
 - relevant for threshold processes: dramatic increase of reaction rates, fusion rates could be possible
 - important for **electrons under warm dense matter (WDM) conditions** or ions in dense stars
-
- First *ab initio* Quantum Monte Carlo results for WDM available:
K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021), arXiv:2101.00842
T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **103**, 205142 (2021)

²Daniel, Vosko (1960); Galitskii, Migdal (1967)

Ab initio CPIMC-results for the momentum distribution³

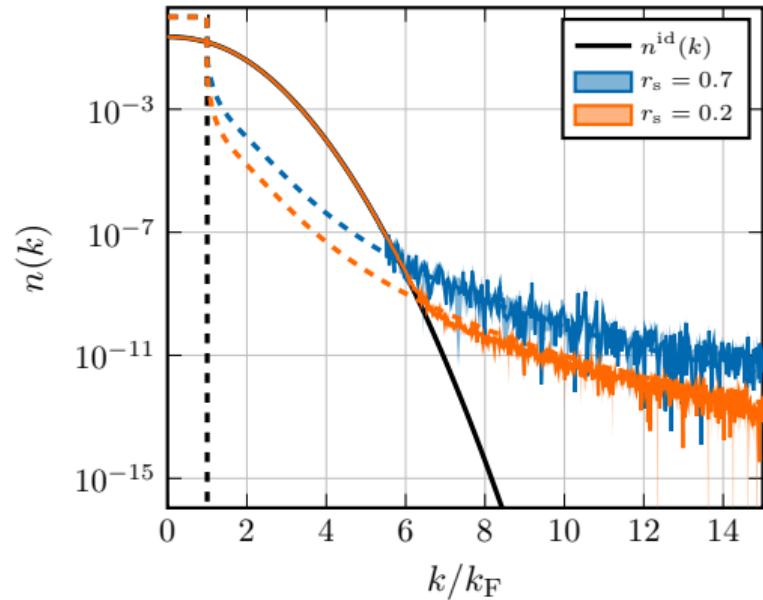
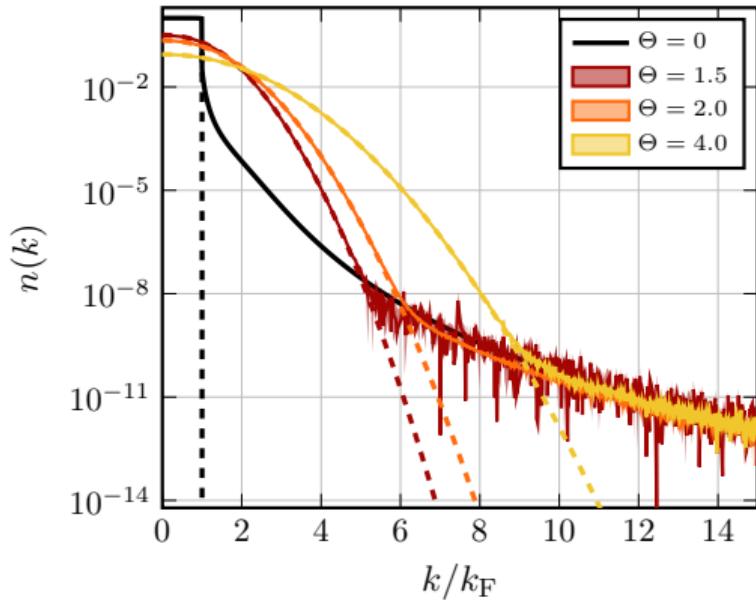


Figure: Left: Temperature dependence at $r_s = 0.5$. Full lines: CPIMC, dashed: Fermi function n^{id} . Right: Density dependence at $\Theta = 2$. Full lines: CPIMC, dashed: ground state, black: n^{id} .

Unprecedented accuracy (11 digits, large k -range), confirm p^{-8} asymptotic, accurate n - and T -dependence
Crucial for reaction rates of threshold processes

³K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021); T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **103**, 205142 (2021)
ground state results: Gori-Giorgi *et al.* (2001)

Summary: *Ab Initio* QMC results for static and dynamic equilibrium properties

Thermodynamic and structural properties of the WD UEG:

- all thermodynamic functions from $f_{xc}(r_s, \theta)$; structural properties: $g(r)$, $S(q)$
- benchmarks and improvements of other models⁴
- Input for two-component approaches including DFT (xc-functionals) or quantum hydrodynamics

Transport, dielectric and optical properties:

- Correlation and exchange effects encoded in “local field correction” $G(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$
- *ab initio* correlated results for: $\chi(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$ ⁵, $\epsilon(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $\sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, plasmon dispersion⁶
- extension to two-component quantum plasma via the Mermin dielectric function⁷
- correlated electron momentum distribution function⁸ $n(p)$

Outlook: extension to nonequilibrium electron-ion dynamics

- DFT-MD, time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT)
- Quantum kinetic equations, Nonequilibrium Green functions (NEGF)
- Quantum hydrodynamics (QHD)

⁴Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas (2017); Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rep. (2018)

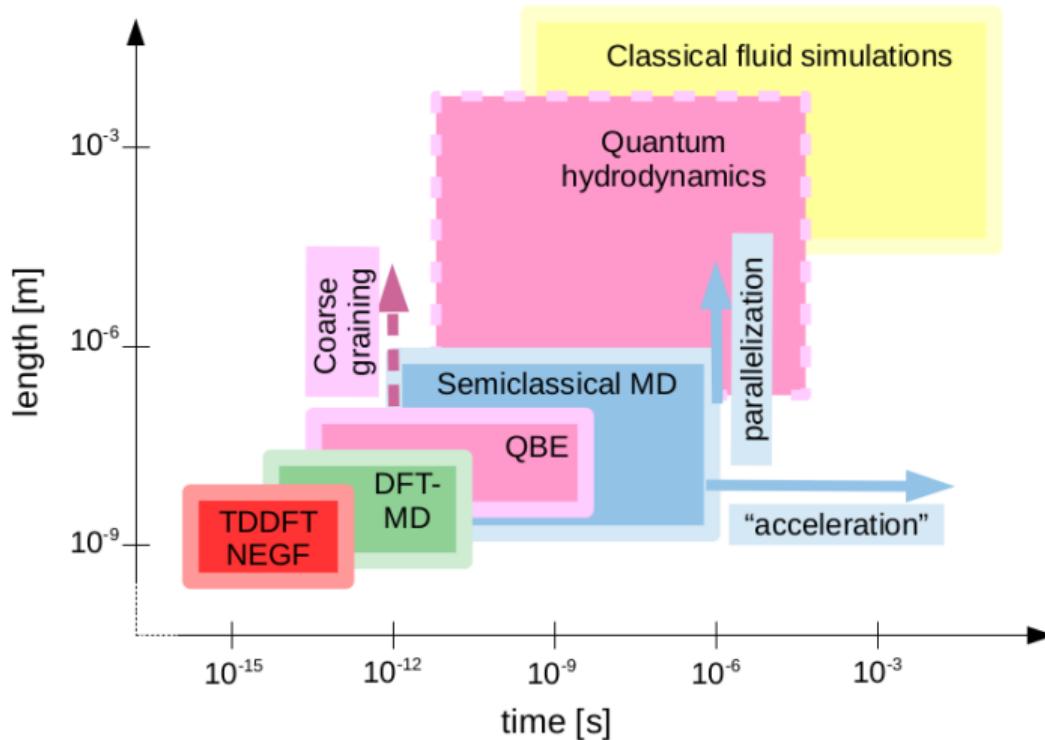
⁵Dornheim *et al.*, PRL 2018

⁶Hamann *et al.*, PRB (2020) and Contrib. Plasma Phys. (2020)

⁷Hamann *et al.*, to be published

⁸Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E (2021)

Nonequilibrium simulations of warm dense matter



- QBE: Quantum Boltzmann equation
- NEGF: Nonequilibrium Green Functions
- TDDFT: time-dependent DFT

Figure: Approximate range of applicability of different methods; from Bonitz *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas **27** (4), 042710 (2020)

Quantum kinetic theory simulations⁹

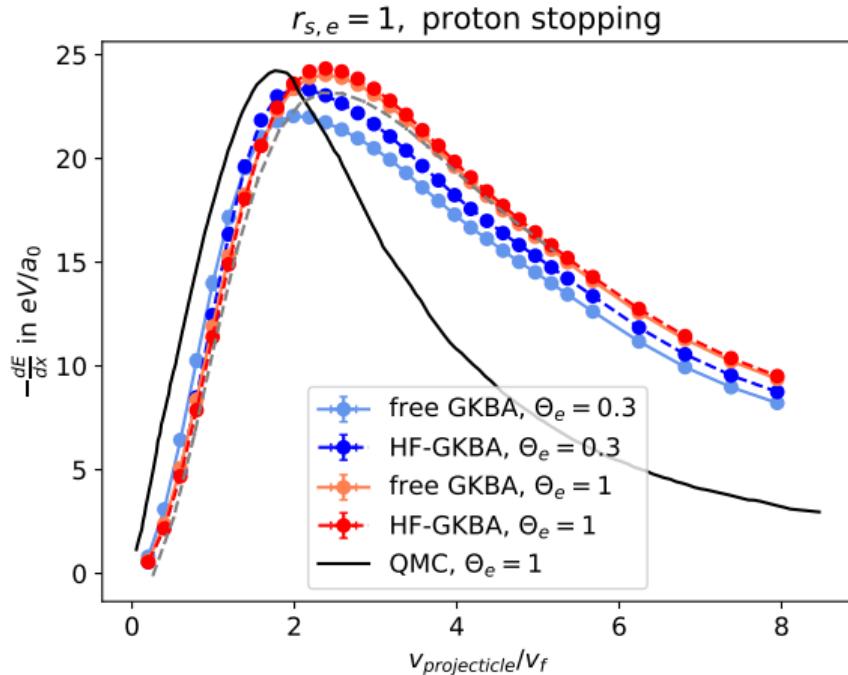


Figure: Stopping power of protons in a dense electron plasma. Time-dependent solution of quantum kinetic equation with the generalized Kadanoff-Baym ansatz, compared to linear response calculations involving *ab initio* QMC-input
(C. Makait, Z. Moldabekov, and M. Bonitz, to be published)

- NEGF are the most accurate approach to nonequilibrium quantum plasmas, but very CPU time costly
- recently we achieved a dramatic acceleration [Schlünzen et al., PRL 2020]
 - ⇒ NEGF results will provide benchmarks for real-time TDDFT and deliver improved xc-functionals
 - ⇒ TDDFT results will provide benchmarks for QHD and improved Bohm potential V_B
 - ⇒ Basis for accurate time-dependent quantum simulations over large time and length scales

Quantum hydrodynamics for shock propagation

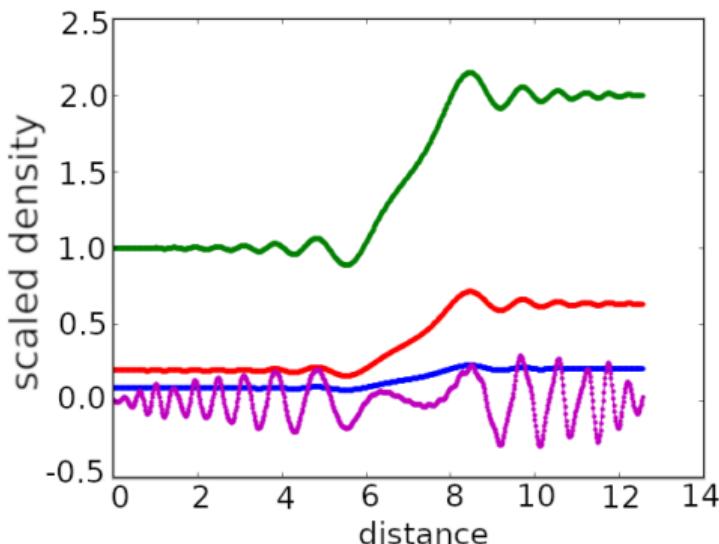
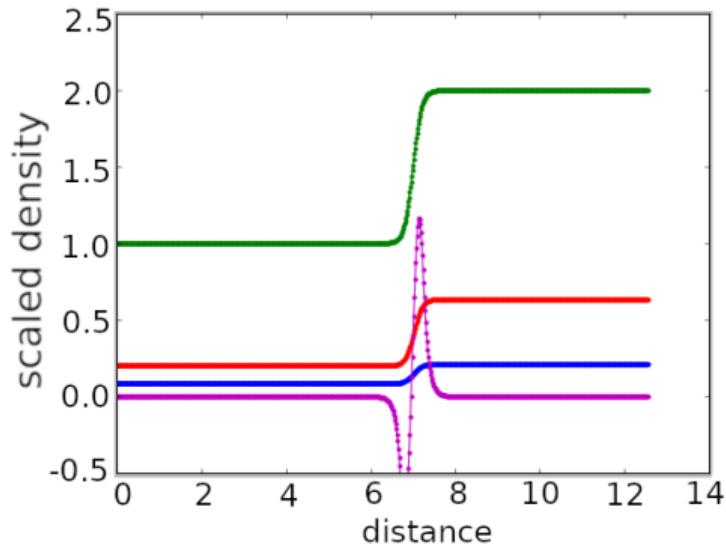


Figure: Influence of the Bohm potential (pink) on the density profile (green) of a running shock. Dense plasma of $r_s = 2$ and $\Theta \approx 0$. Left: initial state, right: $t = 0.62a_B/c_s$. Red: Thomas-Fermi pressure, blue: exchange pressure.

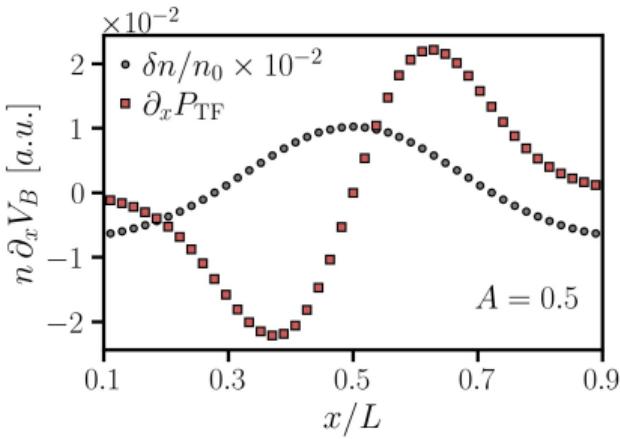
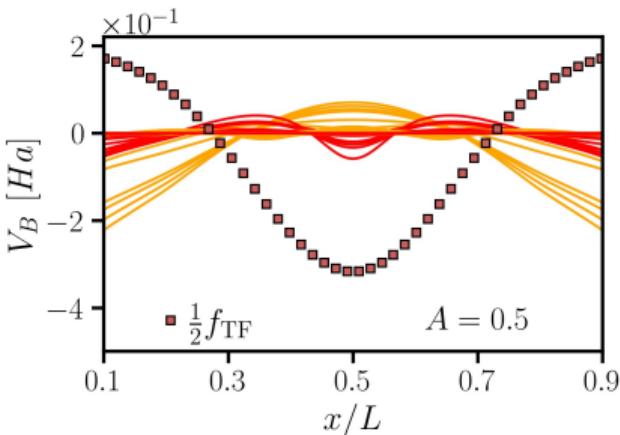
From: Graziani *et al.*, Contrib. Plasma Phys. (2021), arXiv:2109.09081

The Bohm potential V_B causes a shear force (stretching) of the shock front. Accurate form of V_B is crucial.¹⁰

¹⁰ Moldabekov *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas **25**, 031903 (2018); Bonitz *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas **26**, 090601 (2019)

Rigorous test of QHD equations using DFT¹¹

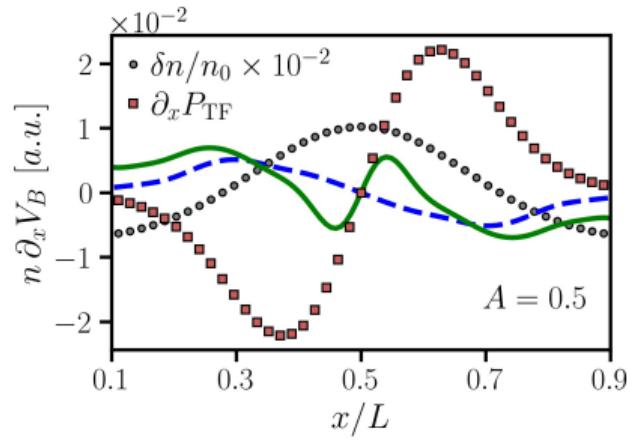
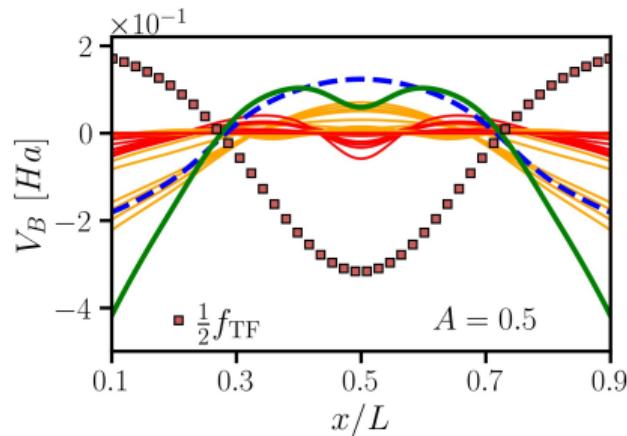
- ▶ Critically assess the validity of the QHD equations for plasmas [Manfredi and Haas, PRB (2001)], $V_B[\bar{n}]$
- ▶ $V_B \equiv 0$ in homogeneous system.
⇒ consider non-uniform electron gas, $r_s = 2$, $\theta = 1$; 1D test case: static perturbation $v(r) = 2A \cos qr$
- ▶ Solve finite-temperature Kohn-Sham equations,
⇒ obtain individual orbitals ϕ_i and densities n_i
⇒ obtain Bohm potential for each orbital (red and yellow curves in top figure)
- ▶ grey circles: mean density, red squares: ideal free energy density (top) and force due to ideal pressure p_{TF} (bottom)



¹¹Moldabekov *et al.*, submitted to scipost, arXiv:2103.08523

Rigorous test of QHD equations using DFT¹²

- ▶ Bohm potential for each orbital (red and yellow curves)
- ▶ blue: Bohm potential with mean density, $V_B(\bar{n})$
(Manfredi, Haas)
green: many-fermion (microscopic) Bohm potential
(average over orbital Bohm potentials)
[Bonitz *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas **26**, 090601 (2019)]
- ▶ \Rightarrow force exhibits more than 100% deviations almost everywhere, despite very weak density modulation
 \Rightarrow previous nonlinear QHD results questionable



¹²Moldabekov *et al.*, submitted to scipost, arXiv:2103.08523

► Crucial for astrophysics and laboratory experiments:

- complex state of matter, between condensed matter and plasmas
- New facilities: accurate experimental results (e.g. X-ray Thomson scattering)

► Accurate simulation results now available:

- *Ab initio* QMC results for the electron component, avoid sign problem^a.
- Benchmarks, input for analytical models and for DFT and QHD
- *Ab initio* results for transport and dielectric properties, momentum distrib.^b

► Outlook: accurate multiscale nonequilibrium simulations^c:

- combination of Green functions, TDDFT, and QHD^d
- further improvement of CPIMC, extension to two-component plasmas

^aDornheim *et al.*, Phys. Reports (2018)

^bDornheim *et al.*, PRL (2018); Hamann *et al.*, PRB (2020); Hunger *et al.*, PRE (2021)

^cBonitz *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas (2020)

^dBonitz *et al.*, Phys. Plasmas (2019); Moldabekov *et al.*, arXiv:2103.08523

