

# Introduction to



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M. Giantomassi

Thanks to the > 50 ABINIT contributors, and especially to GM Rignanese for contributions to the slides

# ABINIT software project

Ideas (1997) :

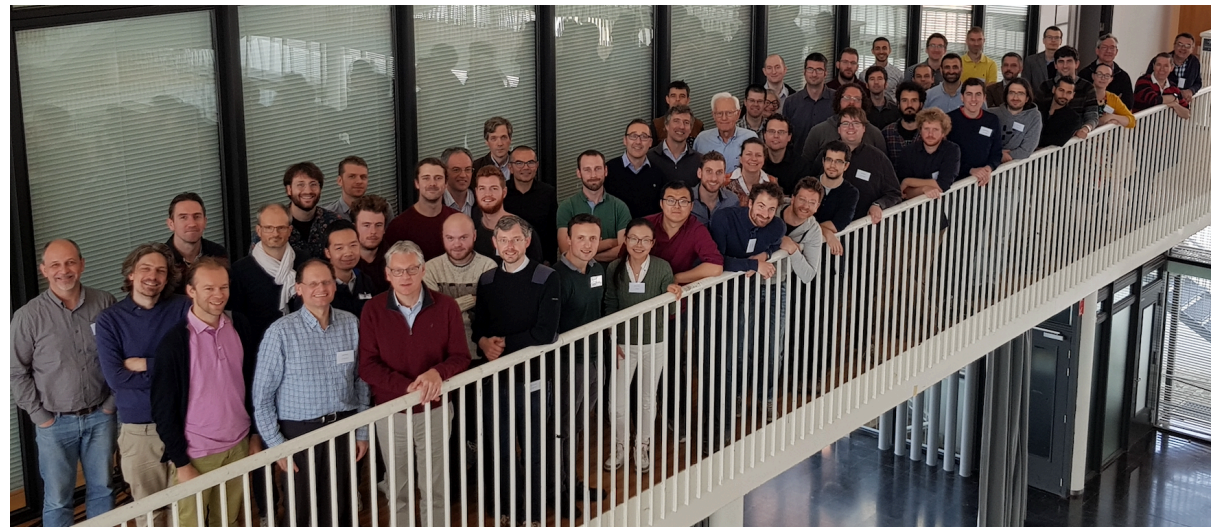
- 1) Software for first-principles simulations are more and more complex :  
needs a worldwide collaboration, of specialized, complementary, groups
- 2) Linux software development : 'free software' model

Now (2019) :

- >2000 registered people on the forum
- >800 kLines of Fortran90 + many python scripts (abipy)
- about 50 contributors to ABINITv8

Last release v8.10.3,  
used in this hands-on  
<http://www.abinit.org>

Available freely  
(GPL, like Linux).



# The “Free” software concept

Free for freedom (also price ...)

- freedom 1 : unlimited use for any purpose
- freedom 2 : study and modify for your needs (need source access !)
- freedom 3 : copy
- freedom 4 : distribute modifications

From copyright to freedom (“copyleft”)

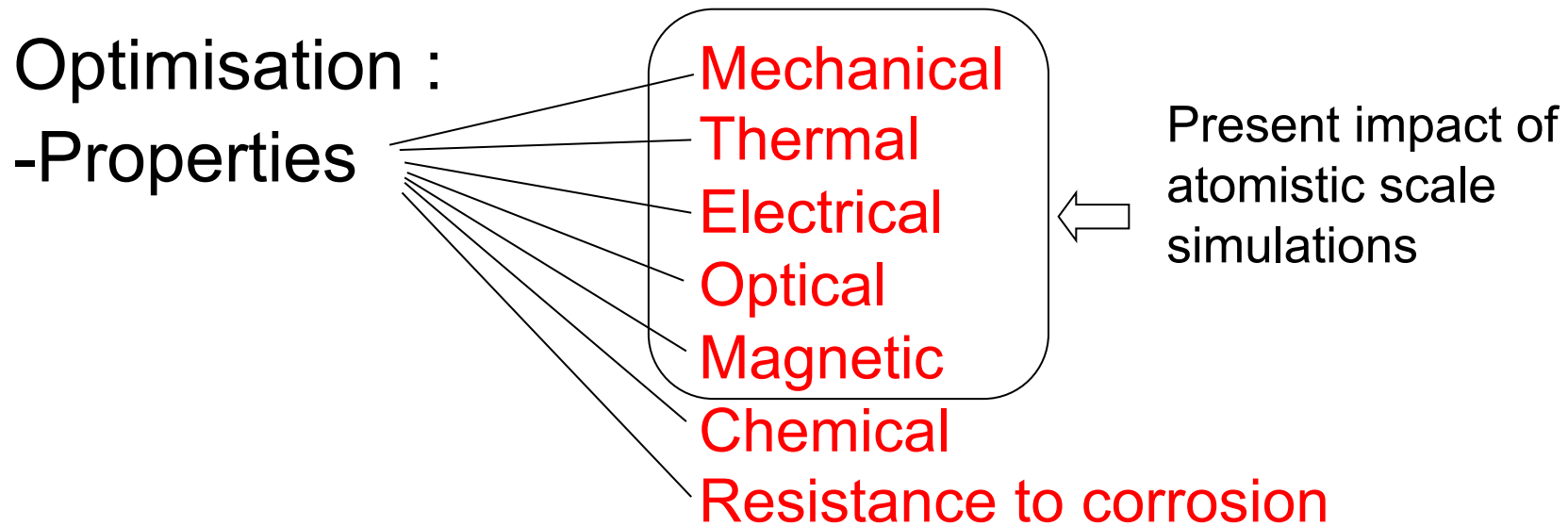
- copyright allows licensing
- licenses grants freedom

Terminology : Free software=Open source=Libre software

ABINIT pioneered the use of the GPL « Free software license » in the computational condensed matter community (2000)

<http://www.abinit.org> : download, documentation ...

# Goals of materials research

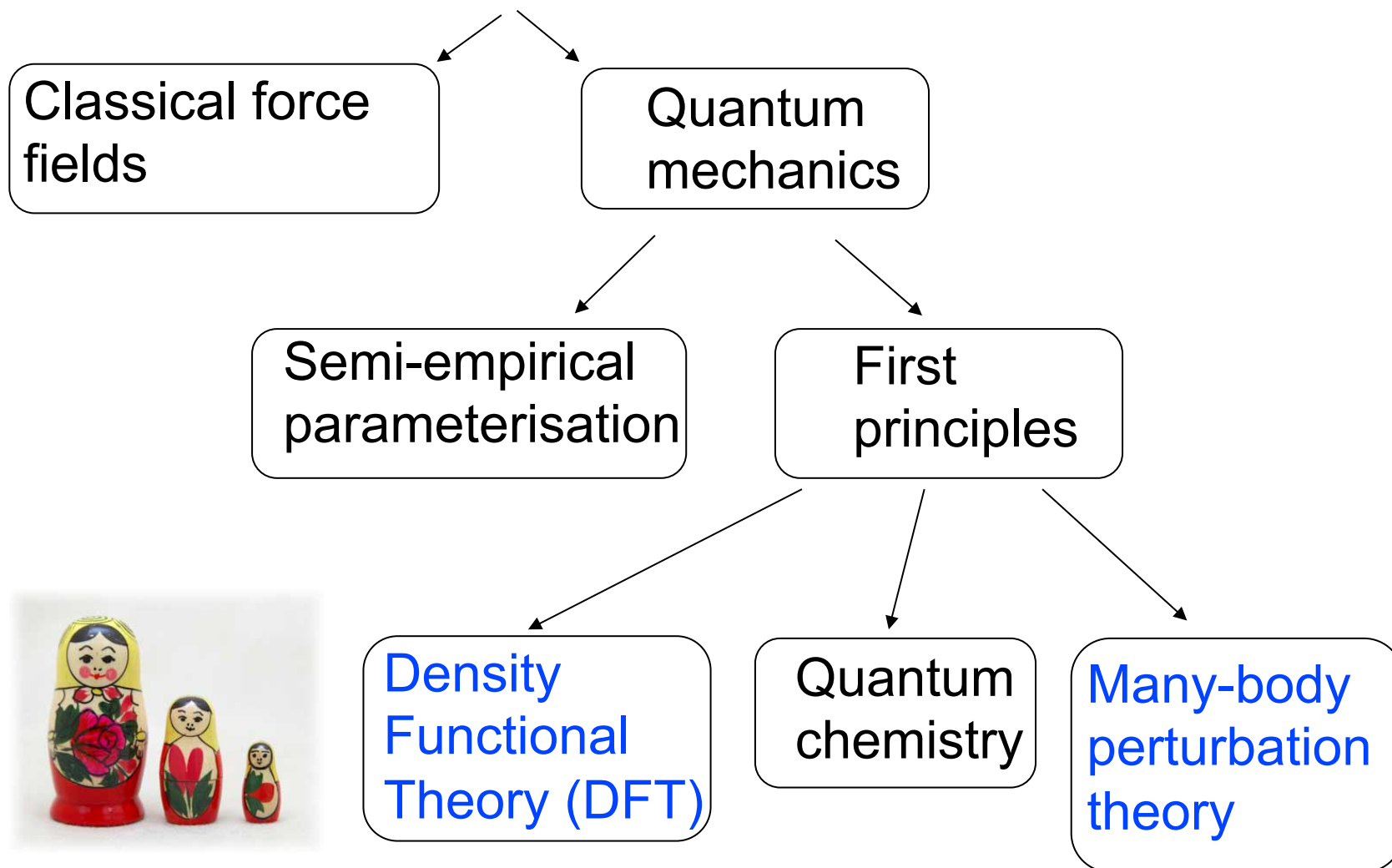


- Lifetime
- Synthesis
- Cost
- Ecologic/toxicologic characteristics

Empirical approach ?  
(trial/error)

Semi-empirical approach ?  
(guided trials)

# Theory levels



... incomplete overview !

# Electronic many-body problem

After the Born-Oppenheimer approximation :

- decoupling of the nuclei and electron dynamics
- nuclei positions can be considered as fixed
- effective Born-Oppenheimer potential energy hypersurface

Born-Oppenheimer energy

$$E_n^{BO}(\{\mathbf{R}_I\}) = E_{II}(\{\mathbf{R}_I\}) + E_n^{el}(\{\mathbf{R}_I\})$$

Potential created by nuclei,  
felt by the N electrons

$$V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\sum_I \frac{Z_I}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}_I|}$$

$$\left[ \sum_i \left( -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_i^2 + V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}_i) \right) + \sum_{i < j} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \right] \Psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) = E_n^{el} \Psi_n(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N)$$

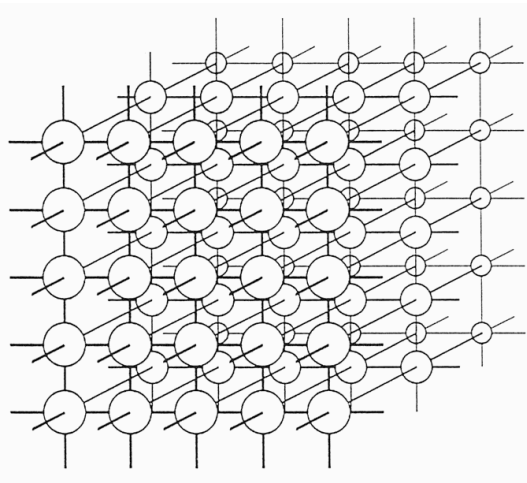
Many-body Schrödinger equation,

very difficult to address for more than 2 electrons

# Basic difference between classical and quantum many-body systems

Classical objects : fields  $p(\mathbf{r},t), V(\mathbf{r},t), T(\mathbf{r},t), \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t), \dots$   
or trajectories  $\mathbf{R}_1(t), \mathbf{R}_2(t), \mathbf{R}_3(t), \dots, \mathbf{R}_N(t)$

Quantum objects : wavefunctions  
for interacting particles  $\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N, t)$



Classical positions and velocities of 8 planets :  $2 \times 3 \times 8 = 48$  real numbers.

Suppose an oxygen atom : 8 electrons.  
Quantum description at a particular time,  
on a discretized  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  real  
space mesh contained in a cube...  
24-dimensional object  $10^{24}$  real numbers

# Density-functional theory (DFT)

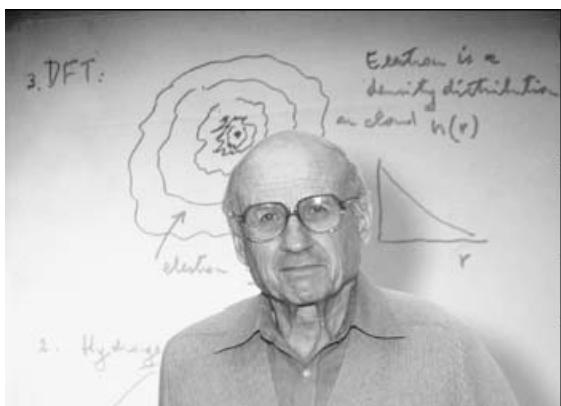
Quantum objects : wavefunctions  
for interacting particles

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N, t)$$

Hohenberg & Kohn (1964), Kohn & Sham (1965) :  
Legendre transform between the density and potential  
gives an effective potential for non-interacting particles

DFT : set of wavefunctions  
for non-interacting particles

$$\psi_1(\mathbf{r}, t), \psi_2(\mathbf{r}, t), \dots, \psi_N(\mathbf{r}, t)$$



For the oxygen atom, back to  
 $8 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$  real numbers,  
but with an approximate  
treatment ...

*W. Kohn, chemistry Nobel prize 1998*



# The Kohn-Sham orbitals and eigenvalues

Non-interacting electrons in the Kohn-Sham potential :

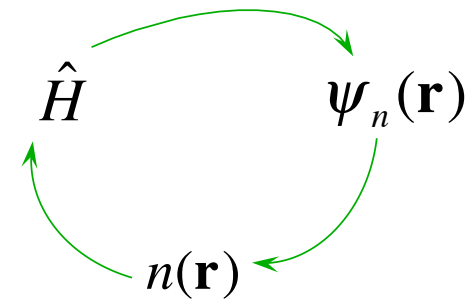
$$\left( -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{r}) \right) \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

Density  $n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \psi_i^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_i(\mathbf{r})$

$$V_{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{r}) = V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}) + \int \frac{n(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}|} d\mathbf{r}' + \frac{\delta E_{\text{xc}}[n]}{\delta n(\mathbf{r})}$$

Hartree potential

Exchange-correlation potential



To be solved self-consistently !

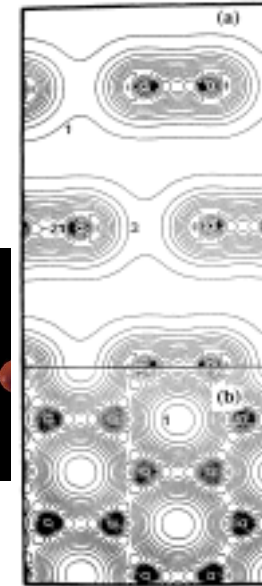
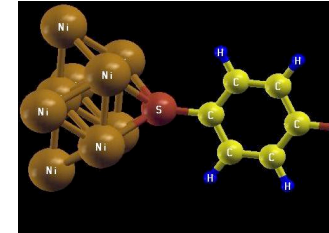
Note. At self-consistency, supposing XC functional to be exact :

- the KS **density** = the exact density,
- the KS **electronic energy** = the exact electronic energy
- but KS **wavefunctions** and **eigenenergies** correspond to a **fictitious** set of independent electrons, so they **do not** correspond to any exact quantity.

# Properties from DFT+MBPT+ ...

Computation of ...

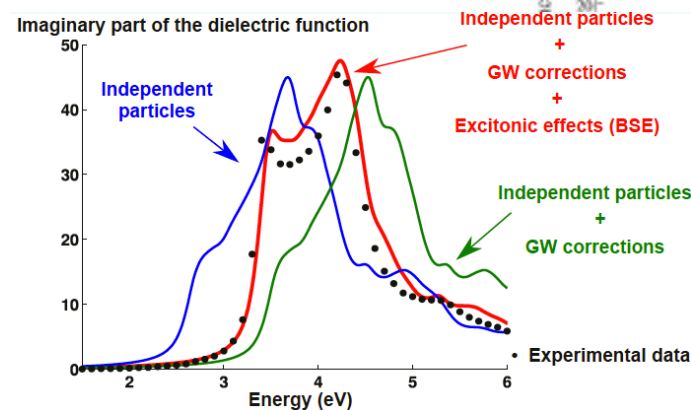
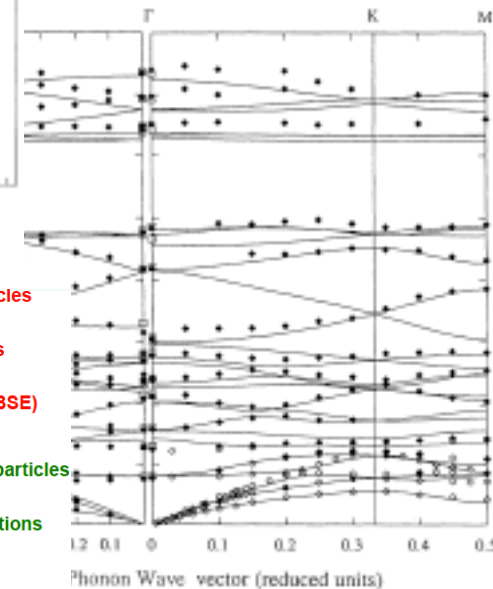
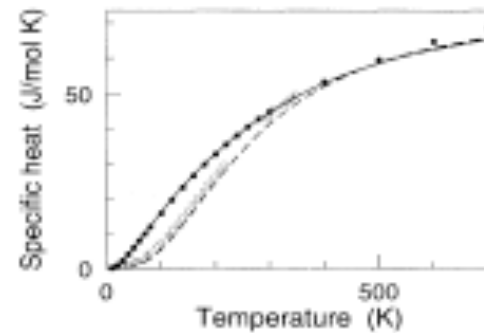
interatomic distances, angles, total energies  
 electronic charge densities, electronic energies



A basis for the computation of ...

chemical reactions  
 electronic transport  
 vibrational properties  
 thermal capacity  
 dielectric behaviour  
 optical response  
 superconductivity  
 surface properties  
 spectroscopic responses

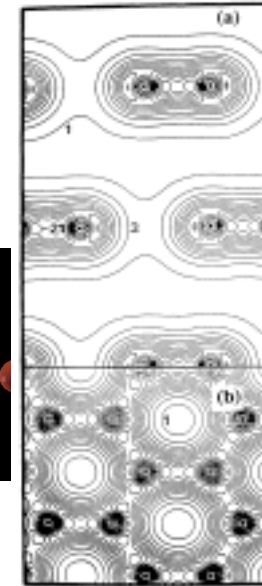
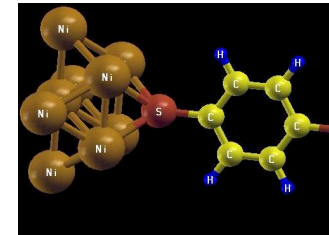
...



# Properties from DFT+MBPT+ ...

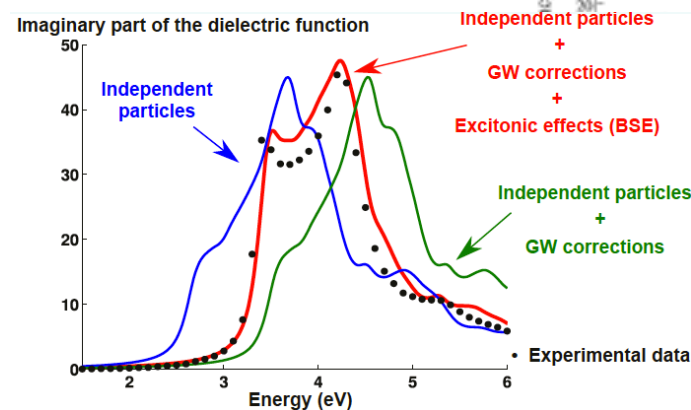
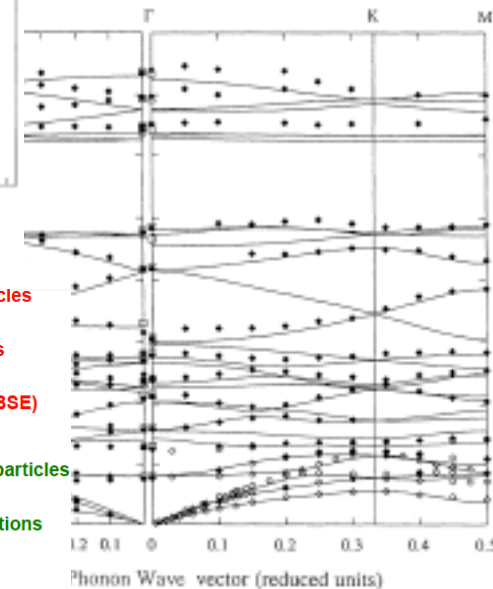
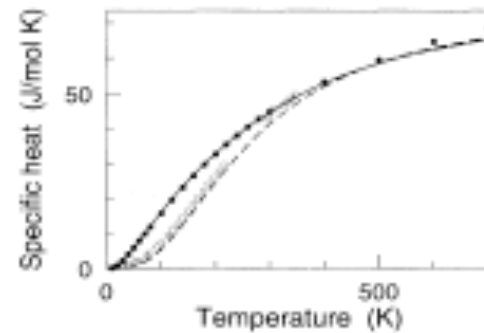
Computation of ...

interatomic distances, angles, total energies  
 electronic charge densities, electronic energies

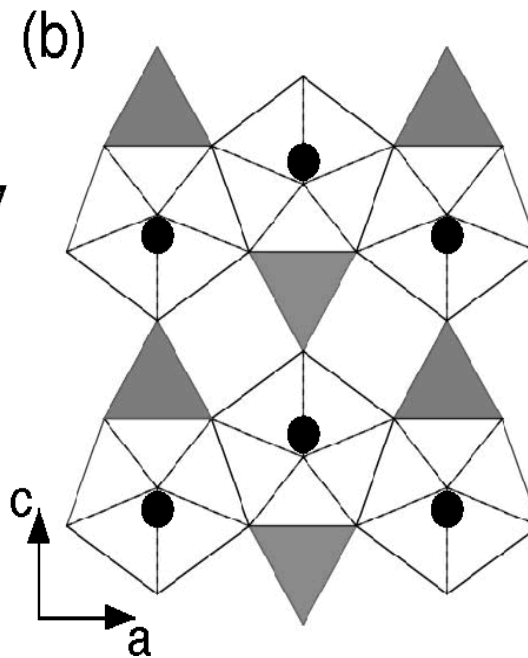
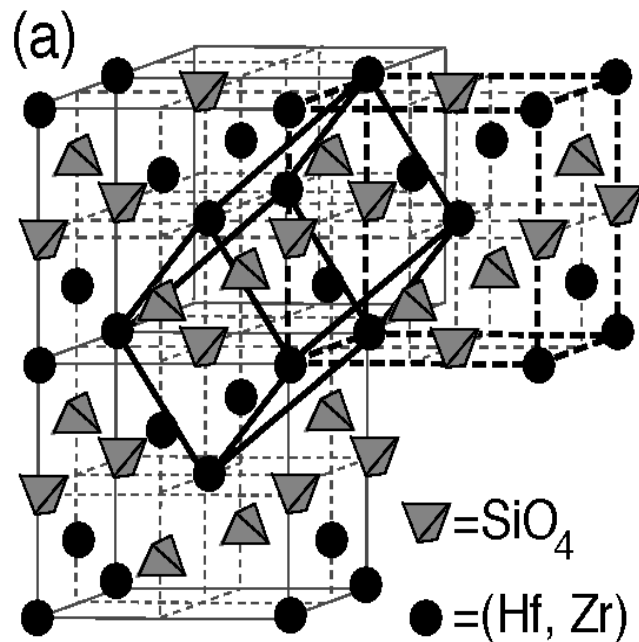


A basis for the computation of ...

chemical reactions  
 electronic transport  
 vibrational properties  
 thermal capacity  
 dielectric behaviour  
 optical response  
 superconductivity  
 surface properties  
 spectroscopic responses  
 ...



# An example : Zircon / Hafnon



- body-centered tetragonal ( $I4_1/amd$ )
- primitive cell with 2 formula units of  $\text{MSiO}_4$
- M atoms  $(0, 3/4, 1/8)$   
Si atoms  $(0, 1/4, 3/8)$   
O atoms  $(0, u, v)$

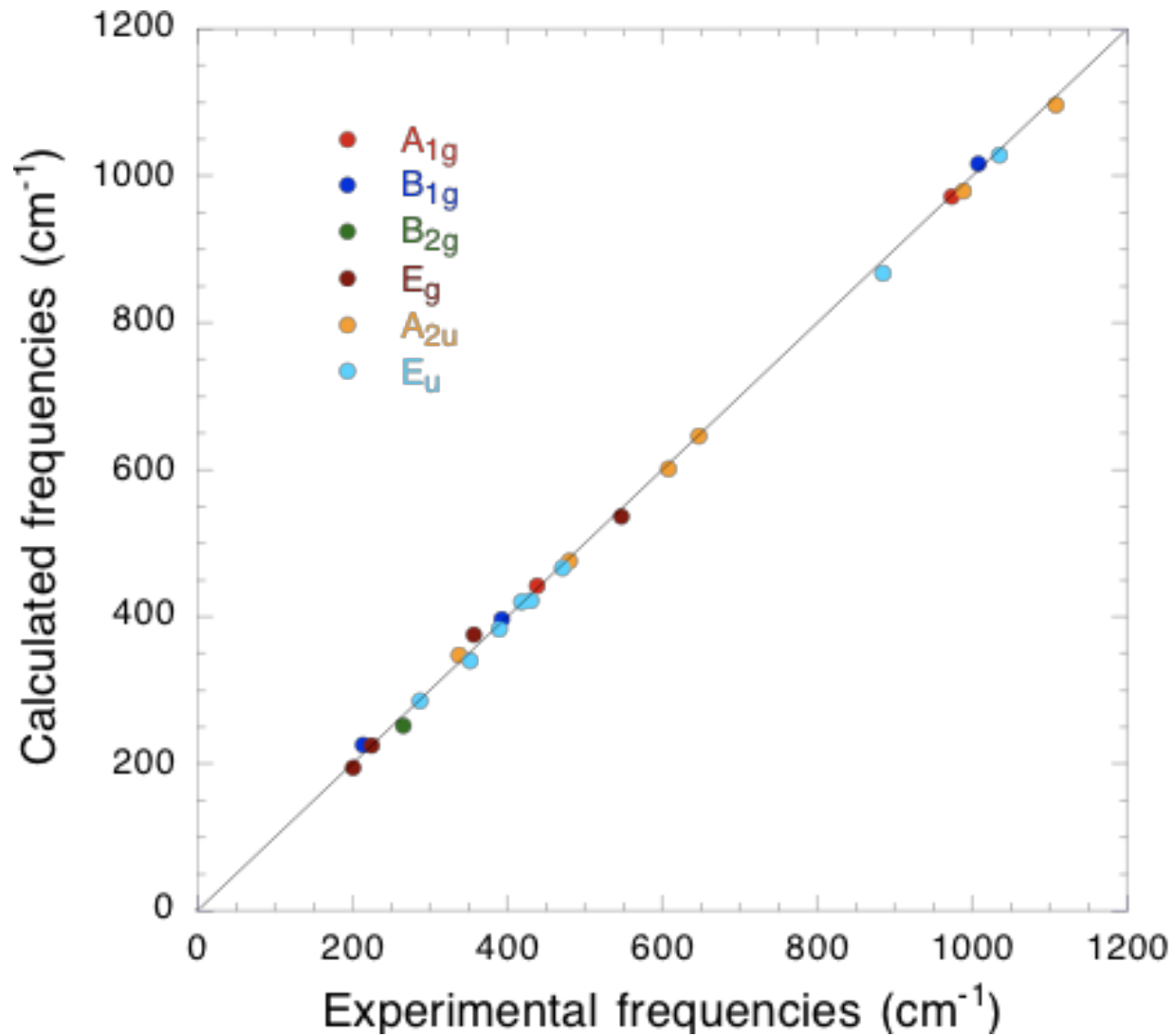
- $(\text{SiO}_4)^{4-}$  anions and  $\text{M}^{4+}$  cations
- alternating  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedra and  $\text{MO}_8$  units, sharing edges to form chains parallel to  $[0\ 0\ 1]$
- $\text{MO}_8$  units : 4 O atoms are closer to the Zr atoms than the 4 other ones
- O atoms are 3-fold coordinated

# Structural parameters

	HfSiO <sub>4</sub>		ZrSiO <sub>4</sub>	
	Th.	Expt.	Th.	Expt.
<i>a</i>	6.61	6.57	6.54	6.61
<i>c</i>	5.97	5.96	5.92	6.00
<i>u</i>	0.0672	0.0655	0.0645	0.0646
<i>v</i>	0.1964	0.1948	0.1945	0.1967
Volume	130.42	128.63	126.60	131.08
<i>d</i> (Si-O)	1.62	1.61	1.61	1.62
<i>d</i> (M-O)	2.14	2.10	2.10	2.13
	2.27	2.24	2.24	2.27
∠(O-Si-O)	97°	97°	97°	97°
	116°	117°	116°	116°

Interatomic distances and angles are within 1 or 2% of experimental values.

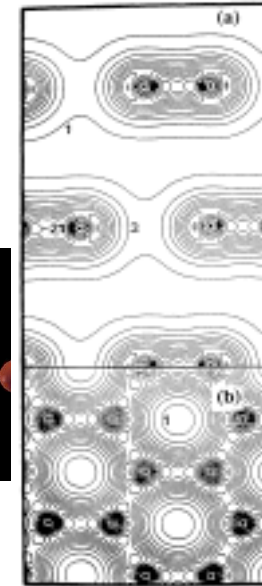
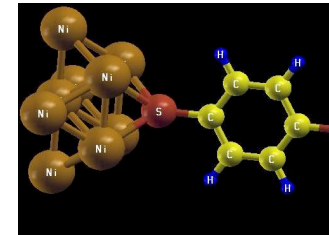
# Phonon frequencies at the zone center



# Properties from DFT+MBPT+ ...

Computation of ...

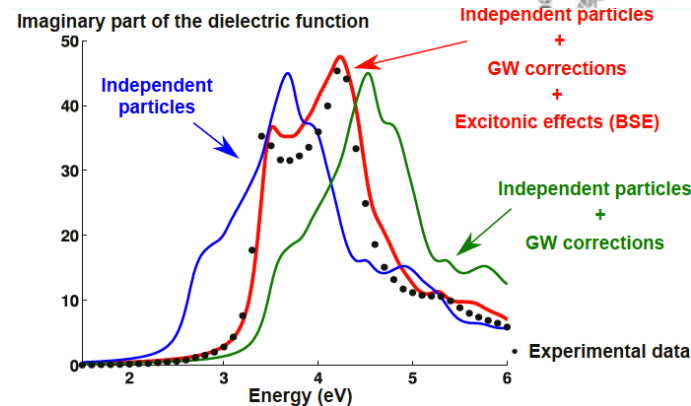
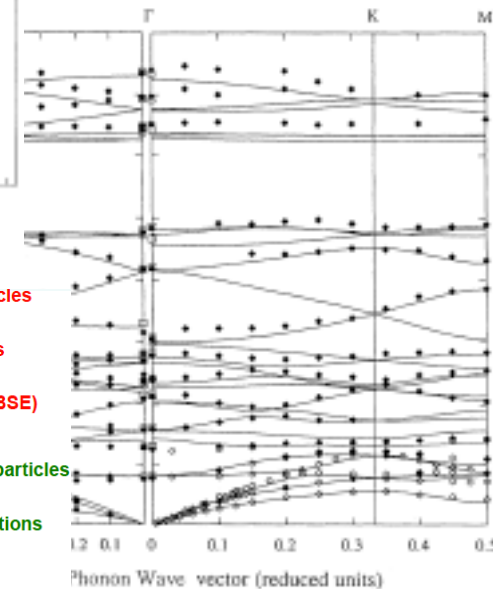
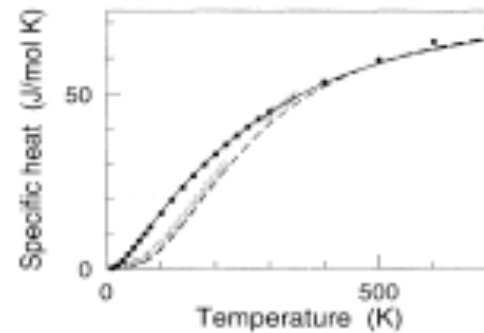
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 electronic charge densities, electronic energies



A basis for the computation of ...

chemical reactions  
 electronic transport  
 vibrational properties  
 thermal capacity  
 dielectric behaviour  
 optical response  
 superconductivity  
 surface properties  
 spectroscopic responses

...



# What can we do today ?



# What can we do today ?

Don't give me a fish ...

... teach me how to fish ...

# Basic Documentation

Web site <http://www.abinit.org> ; <http://docs.abinit.org>

- User's guides
- Installations notes
- List of input variables + description
- List of topics = a hub to input variables, files, tutorial, bibrefs
- over 800 example input files
- >30 tutorial lessons (each 1-2 hours)  
<https://docs.abinit.org/tutorial>

+ Forum Web site <http://forum.abinit.org>

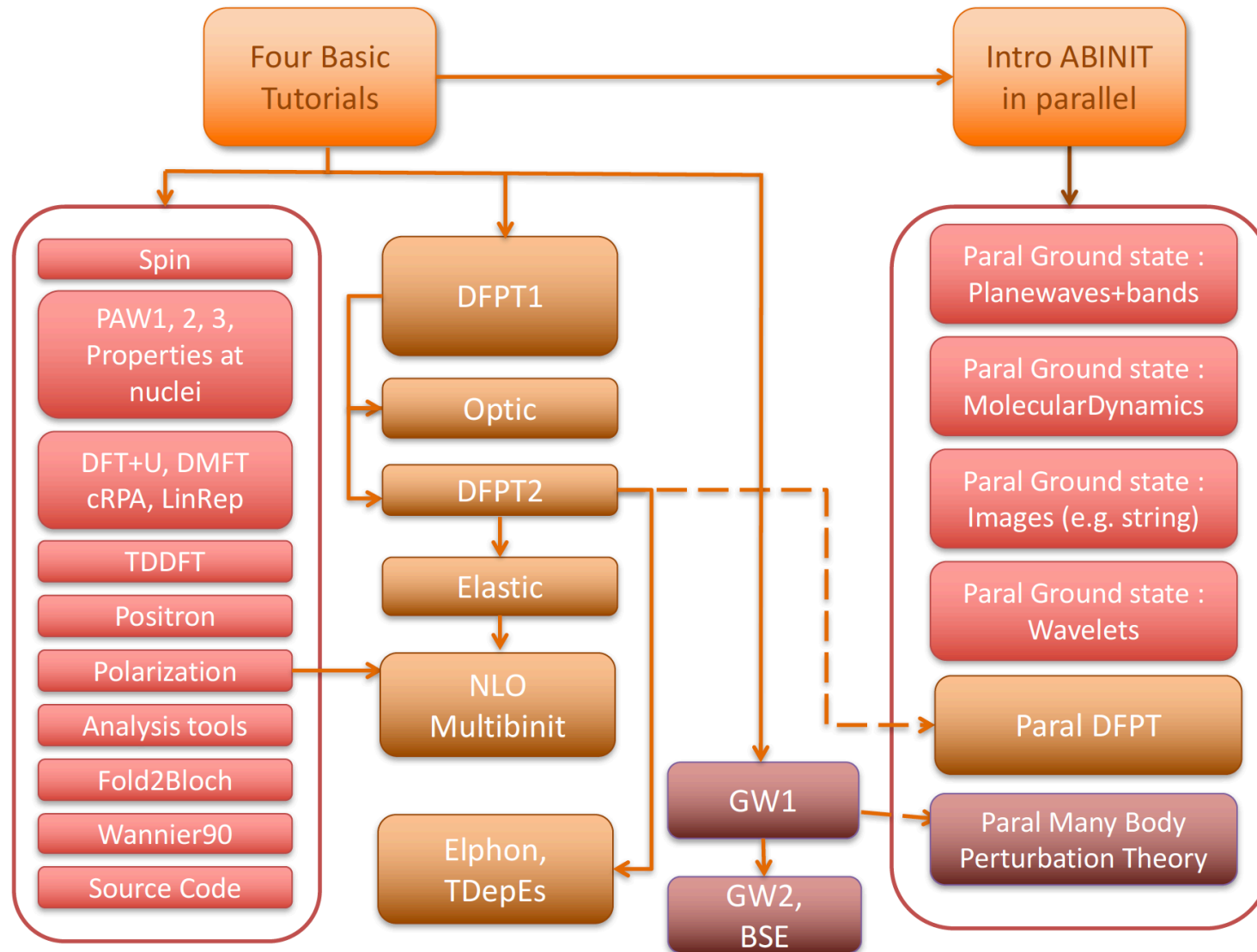
+ Past ABINIT events (schools/workshops)

<https://www.abinit.org/events>

highly recommended:

<https://school2019.abinit.org/>

# ABINIT tutorial : layout + dependencies



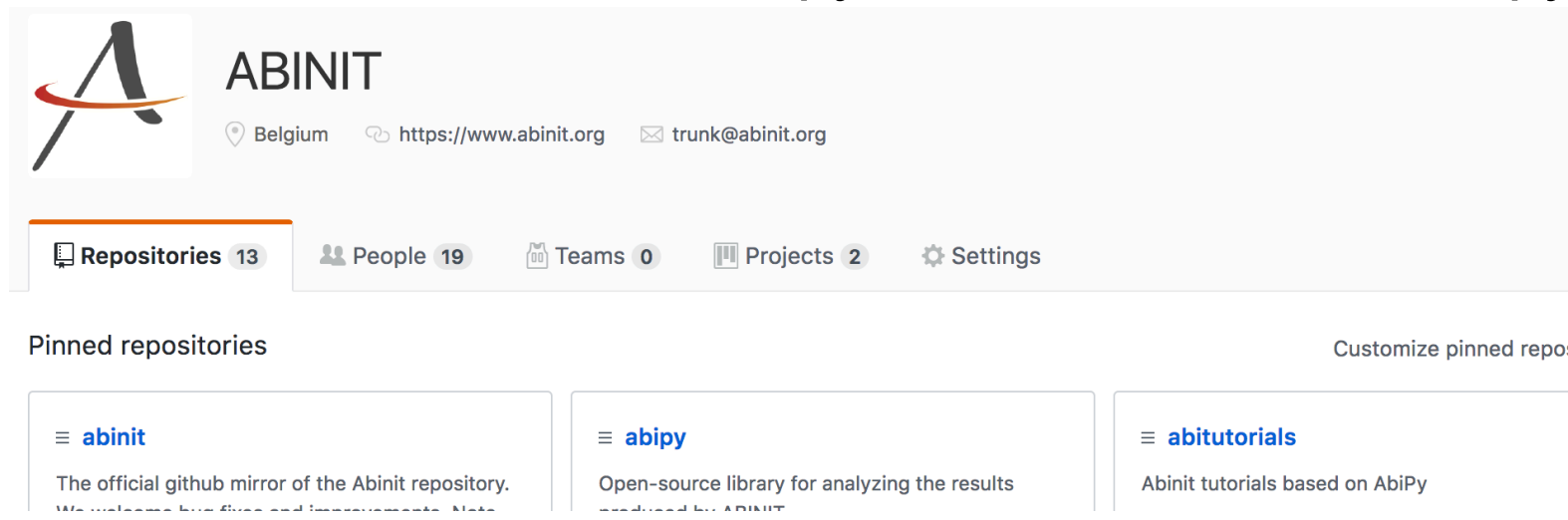
# ABINIT + python : Abipy, Abitutorials ...

ABINIT organization on GitHub <https://github.com/abinit>

**Abipy** : python library for launching ABINIT jobs,  
and analysing/plotting the results <http://github.com/abinit/abipy>

=> e.g. connecting ABINIT with tools for high-throughput  
calculations developed in the Materials Project context  
(e.g. Pymatgen, Fireworks) <https://materialsproject.org/>

**Abitutorials** : tutorial based on Jupyter notebooks ABINIT+python



ABINIT

Belgium <https://www.abinit.org> [trunk@abinit.org](mailto:trunk@abinit.org)

Repositories 13 People 19 Teams 0 Projects 2 Settings

Pinned repositories [Customize pinned repos](#)

- abinit**  
The official github mirror of the Abinit repository.  
We welcome bug fixes and improvements. Note
- abipy**  
Open-source library for analyzing the results  
produced by ABINIT
- abitutorials**  
Abinit tutorials based on AbiPy

# ABINIT + python : Abipy, Abitutorials ...

## Abipy

Gallery of plotting scripts <https://abinit.github.io/abipy/gallery/index.html>

AbiPy workflows [https://abinit.github.io/abipy/flow\\_gallery/index.html](https://abinit.github.io/abipy/flow_gallery/index.html)

Jupyter notebooks with interactive tutorials and examples results  
<https://nbviewer.jupyter.org/github/abinit/abitutorials/blob/master/abitutorials/index.ipynb>

Introduction to AbiPy for newcomers

[https://github.com/gmatteo/abipy\\_slides\\_aps\\_boston\\_2019](https://github.com/gmatteo/abipy_slides_aps_boston_2019)

How to use the AbiPy command line interface

[https://gmatteo.github.io/abipy\\_intro\\_aps\\_boston\\_abidev2019](https://gmatteo.github.io/abipy_intro_aps_boston_abidev2019)

# Running ABINIT : basics

# Density Functional Theory calculations

Representation of mathematical entities:

- wavefunctions
- density, potential ... ?

=> choice of a basis set ; entities are linear combination of the basis set functions

Treatment of periodic solid, molecules, surfaces, nanostructures, interfaces ... ?

=> treatment using adequate boundary conditions

Many different implementations ...

Here a few words about :

**PseudoPotentials** (or Projector Augmented Waves – PAW)

**Periodic boundary** conditions

**Plane Wave** basis set vs all-electron calculations with localized orbitals

**Iterative** algorithms

# Core and valence electrons (I)

Core electrons occupy orbitals that are « the same » in the atomic environment or in the bonding environment

It depends on the accuracy of the calculation !

Separation between core and valence orbitals : the density...

$$\begin{aligned}n(\mathbf{r}) &= \sum_i^N \psi_i^*(\mathbf{r})\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) \\ &= \sum_{i \in \text{core}}^{N_{\text{core}}} \psi_i^*(\mathbf{r})\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) + \sum_{i \in \text{val}}^{N_{\text{val}}} \psi_i^*(\mathbf{r})\psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = n_{\text{core}}(\mathbf{r}) + n_{\text{val}}(\mathbf{r})\end{aligned}$$

« Frozen core » for  $i \in \text{core}$  :  $\psi_i = \psi_i^{\text{atom}}$

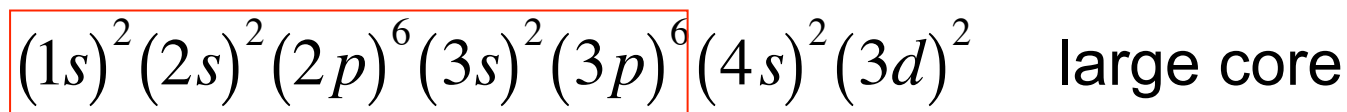
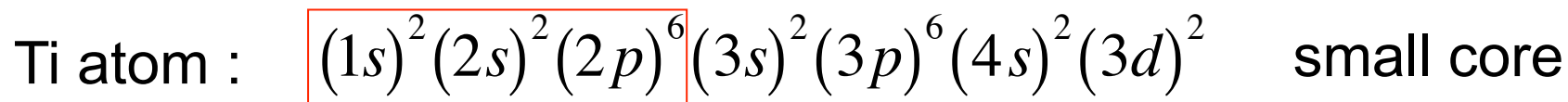
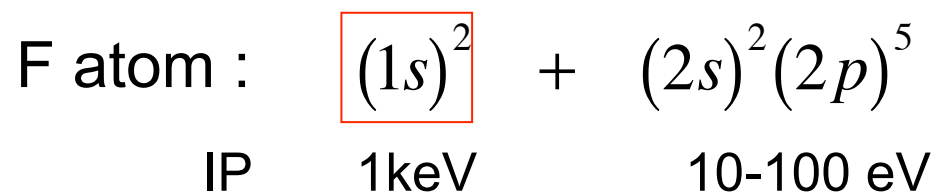


# Small core / Large core

It depends on the target accuracy of the calculation !

(remark also valid for pseudopotentials, with similar cores)

For some elements, the core/valence partitioning is obvious, for some others, it is not.



IP      99.2 eV    43.3eV

Gd atom :    small core with n=1,2,3 shells , might include 4s, 4p, and 4d in the core. 4f partially filled

# Removing core electrons (I)

From the previous construction : valence orbitals must still be orthogonal to core orbitals  
( => oscillations, slope at the nucleus ...)

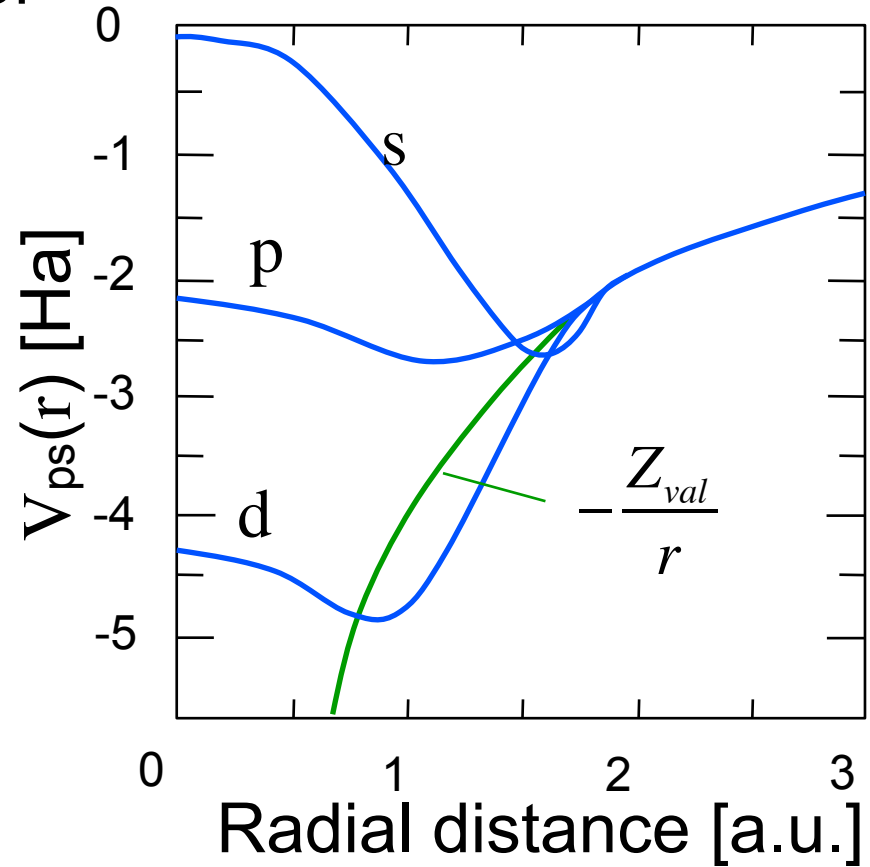
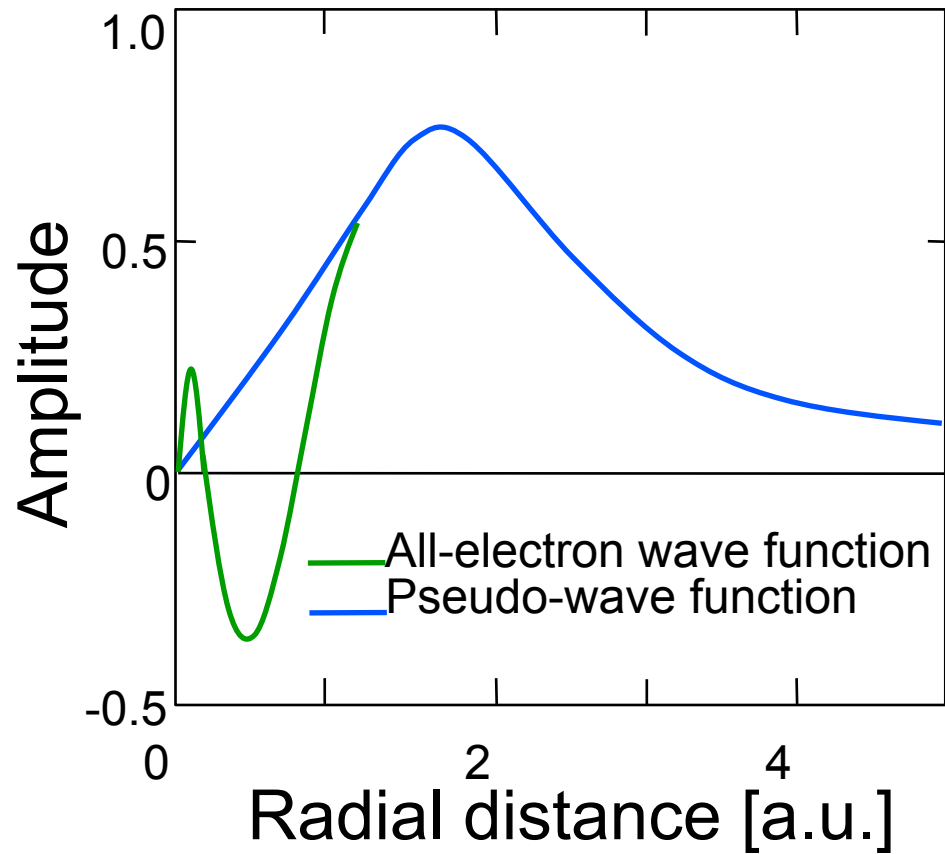
Pseudopotentials try to remove completely the core orbitals from the simulation

Problem with the number of nodes  
This is a strong modification of the system ...

Pseudopotentials confine the strong changes within a « cut-off radius »

# Example of pseudopotential

3s Radial wave function of Si



# Pseudopotentials/PAW data in ABINIT

- Preferred PAW atomic dataset table : JTH

*Jollet, Torrent, Holzwarth, Computer Physics Comm. 185, 1246 (2014)*

<https://www.abinit.org/psp-tables>

H																			He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne		
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar		
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr		
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe		
Cs	Ba		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn		
Fr	Ra		Rf	Ha	Sg	Ns	Hs	Mt											
			La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu		
			Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr		

■ Atomic data available  
■ Atomic data non available

Also, possibility to use : GPAW table, GBRV v1.0 table, or norm-conserving pseudopotentials (e.g. ONCVSP pseudo generator), or many others

# Pseudopotentials/PAW data in ABINIT

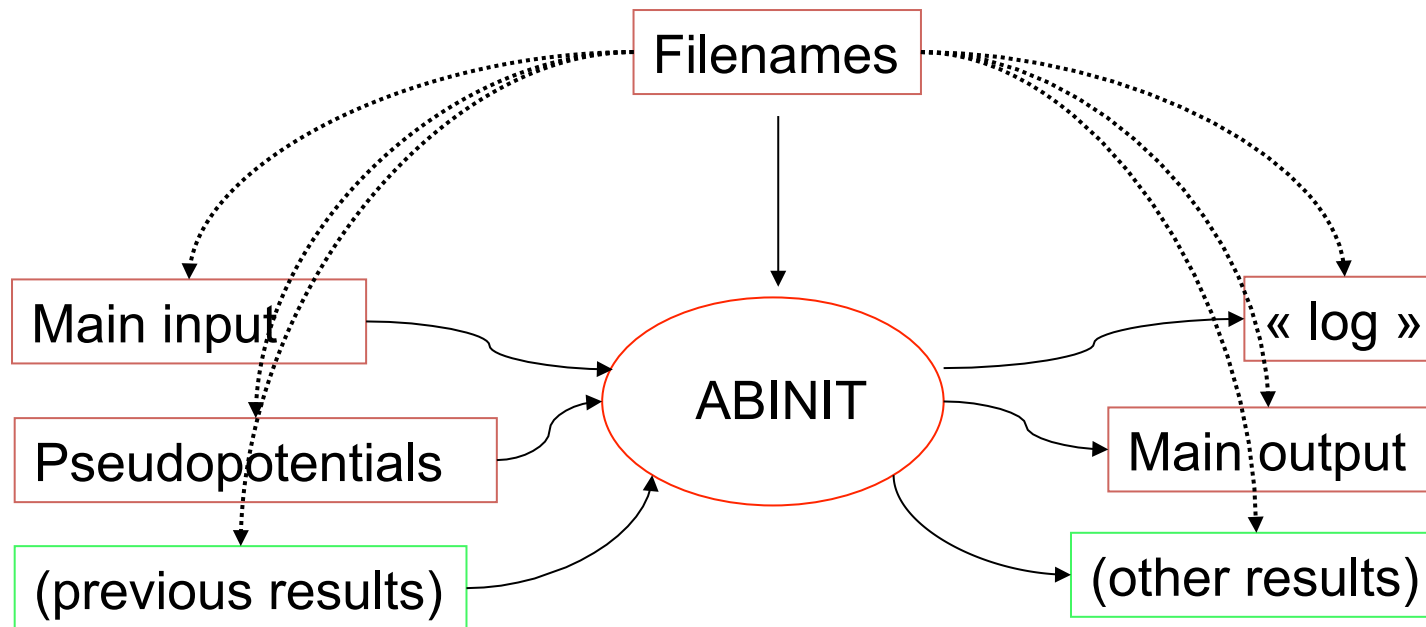
- Norm-conserving pseudos : pseudo-dojo approach

Van Setten et al , *Computer Physics Comm.* 226, 39 (2018)

<https://www.pseudo-dojo.org>

The screenshot shows the Pseudo-Dojo website interface. At the top center is the logo "PSEUDŌ DŌJŌ" with a stylized atomic symbol. To the left is a "Help me" button. To the right are navigation links: "Home", "F.A.Q.", "Contribute", and "About". Below the logo is a "Download" button. A statistics box shows "Mean 3.13" with "hints" (32.74, 37.25, 43.36) and "tests" (0.95, 2.20, -0.09). Below this is a filter bar with "Type" (NC (ONCVSP v0.4)), "XC" (PBE), and "Accuracy" (standard). A "Format" dropdown menu is open, showing options: psp8, upf, psml, html, and djrepo. The main area is a periodic table of elements, each with a small table of pseudopotential data (e.g., atomic number, element symbol, and values for different angular momentum states).

# External files in a ABINIT run



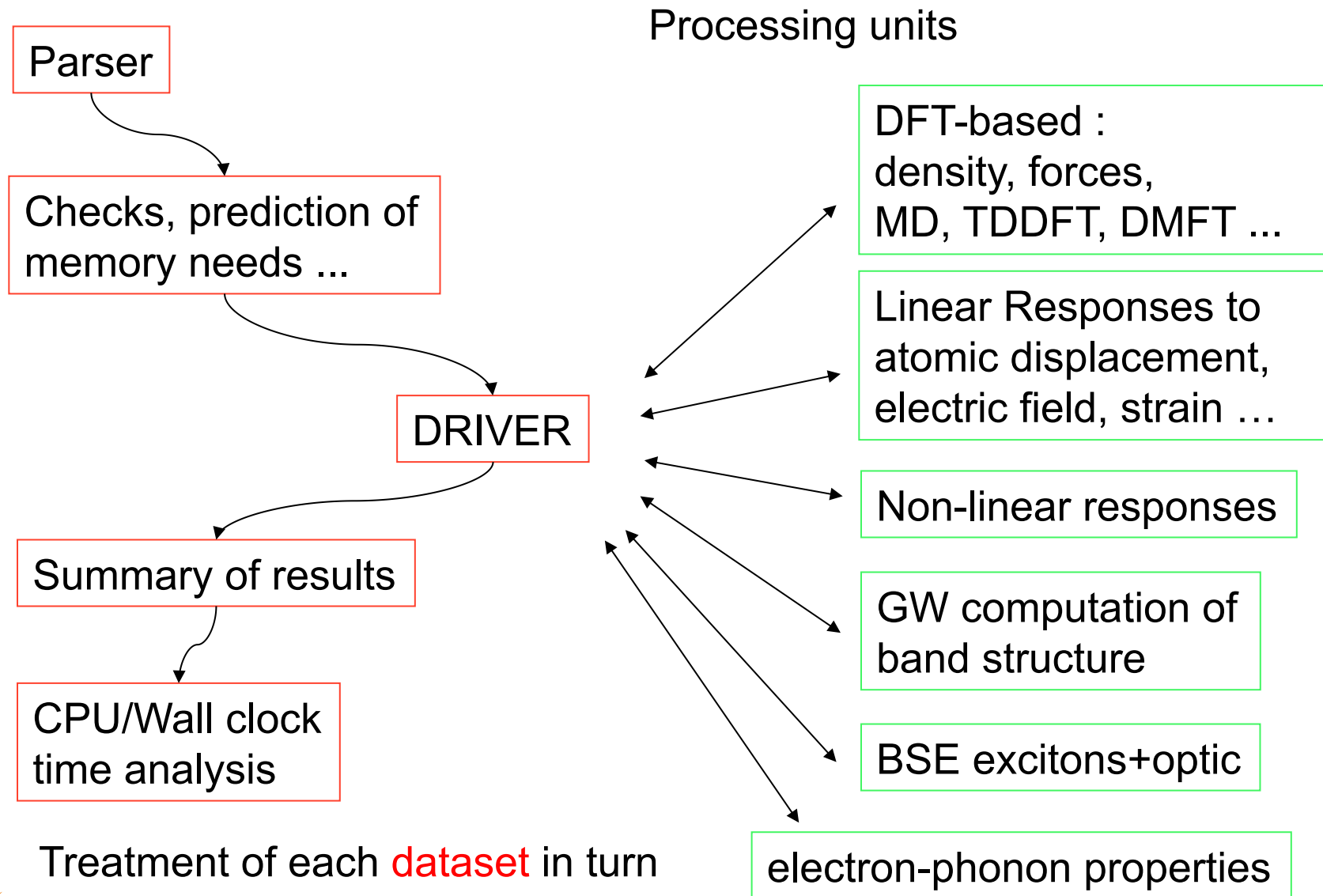
Results :

log, main output, energy derivatives ( `_DDB`), ... – **text files**

density ( `_DEN`), potential ( `_POT`), wavefunctions ( `_WFK`), ... – **binary F90 files**  
or similar files in **netCDF** ( `_DEN.nc`, `_POT.nc`, `_WFK.nc`)

Advantage of netCDF : portable, addressed by content, extensible, **Python-friendly**

# ABINIT : the pipeline and the driver



# Basic 'files' file : delivers filenames

h2.in	Name of input file
h2.out	Name of main output file
h2i	'Root' name for possibly other input files
h2o	'Root' name for possibly other output files
h2	'Root' name for temporary files
hydrogen.hgh	Name for the pseudopotential file for atoms of type 1
[oxygen.pspnc	Name for the pseudopotential file for atoms of type 2]
[92u.psp	Name for the pseudopotential file for atoms of type 3]

Made of at least 6 lines (more if > 1 type of atoms) with one name/address specified on each of these lines.



# A basic 'input' file : dihydrogen (I)

# H2 molecule in big cubic box  
# Characters after '#' or after '!' are comments, will be ignored.  
# Keywords followed by values. Order of keywords in file is not important.

# Definition of the **unit cell**

**acell** 10 10 10 # Keyword "acell" refers to  
# lengths of primitive vectors (default in Bohr)

# Definition of the **atom types**

**ntypat** 1 # Only one type of atom  
**znucl** 1 # Keyword "znucl" refers to atomic number of  
# possible type(s) of atom. Pseudopotential(s)  
# mentioned in "filenames" file must correspond  
# to type(s) of atom. Here, the only type is Hydrogen.

# Definition of the **atoms**

**natom** 2 # Two atoms  
**typat** 1 1 # Both are of type 1, that is, Hydrogen  
**xcart** # This keyword indicate that location of the atoms  
# will follow, one triplet of number for each atom  
-0.7 0.0 0.0 # Triplet giving cartesian coordinates of atom 1, in Bohr  
0.7 0.0 0.0 # Triplet giving cartesian coordinates of atom 2, in Bohr

# A basic input file : dihydrogen (II)

# Definition of **planewave basis set**

ecut 10.0 # Maximal plane-wave kinetic energy cut-off, in Hartree

# Definition of **k-point grid**

kptopt 0 # Enter k points manually

nkpt 1 # Only one k point is needed for isolated system,  
# taken by default to be 0.0 0.0 0.0

#Definition of **SCF (self-consistent field) procedure**

nstep 10 # Maximal number of SCF cycles

toldfe 1.0d-6 # Will stop when, twice in a row, the difference  
# between two consecutive evaluations of total energy  
# differs by less than toldfe (default in Hartree)

diemac 2.0 # Although this is not mandatory, it is worth to precondition the  
# SCF cycle. A model dielectric function, used as standard  
# preconditioner, is described in "dielng" input variable section.  
# Here, we follow prescriptions for molecules in a big box

## After modifying the following section, one might need to ...

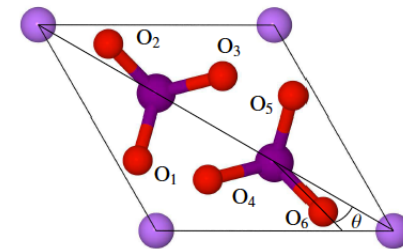
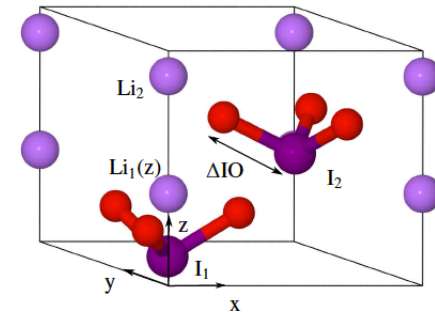
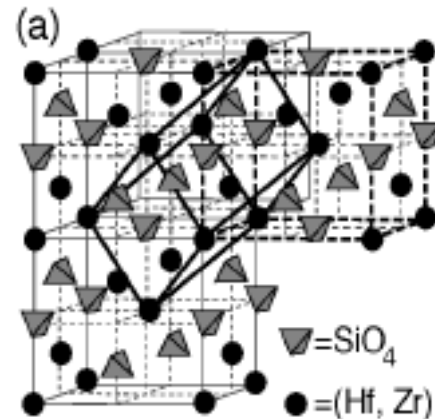
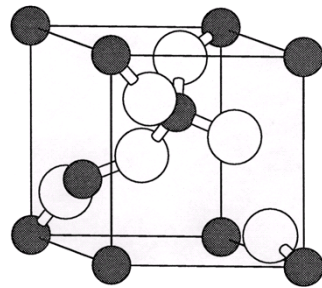
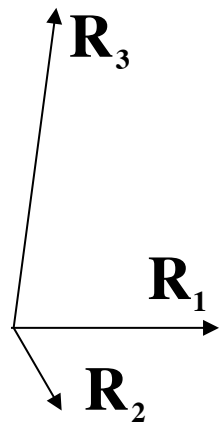
###<BEGIN TEST\_INFO> **Metadata ... to be ignored in the tutorial !**

# ABINIT : periodic codes + PWs

Plane waves  $e^{i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}$  : particularly simple and efficient (when used with pseudopotentials), but infinite spatial extent.

Cannot use a finite set of planewaves for finite systems !  
Need periodic boundary conditions.

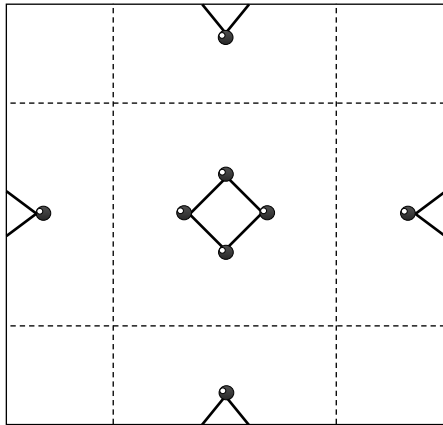
Primitive vectors  $\mathbf{R}_j$ , primitive cell volume  $\Omega_0$



OK for crystalline solids

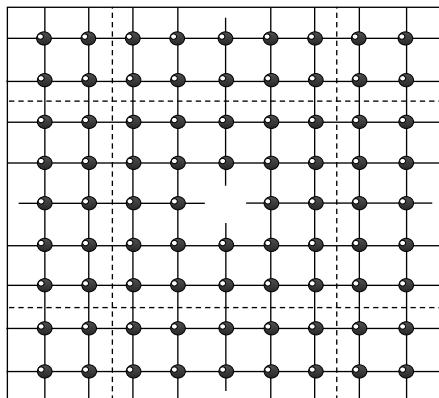
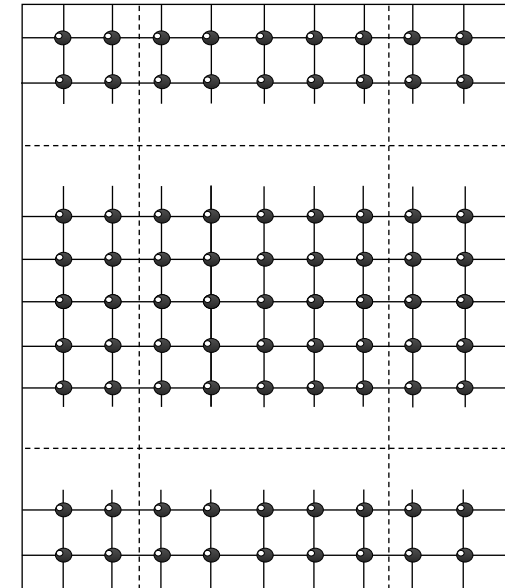
But : finite systems, surfaces, defects, polymers, nanosystems ... ?

# Solution : the supercell technique



Molecule,  
cluster

Surface : treatment  
of a slab  
Interface

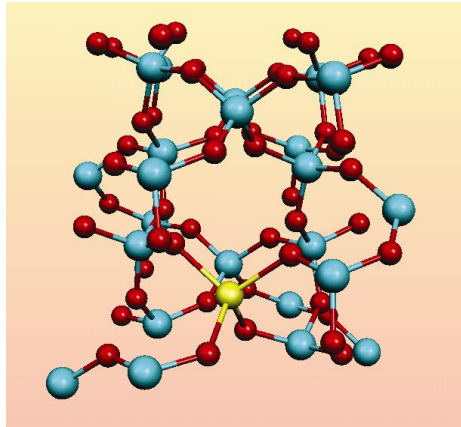


Point defect in a bulk solid

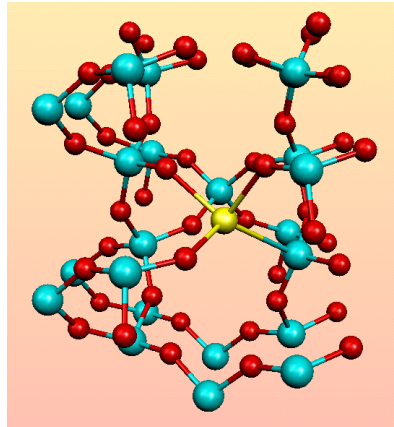
The supercell must be sufficiently big : convergence study

# Examples of defects SiO<sub>2</sub>-quartz : Pb

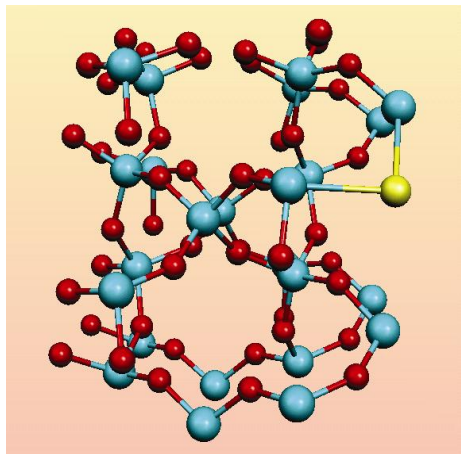
72-atom supercell of quartz



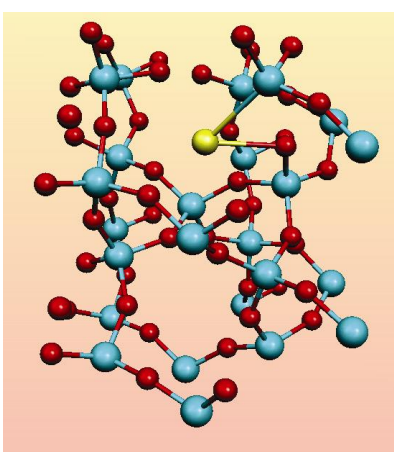
Pb<sup>Si</sup>



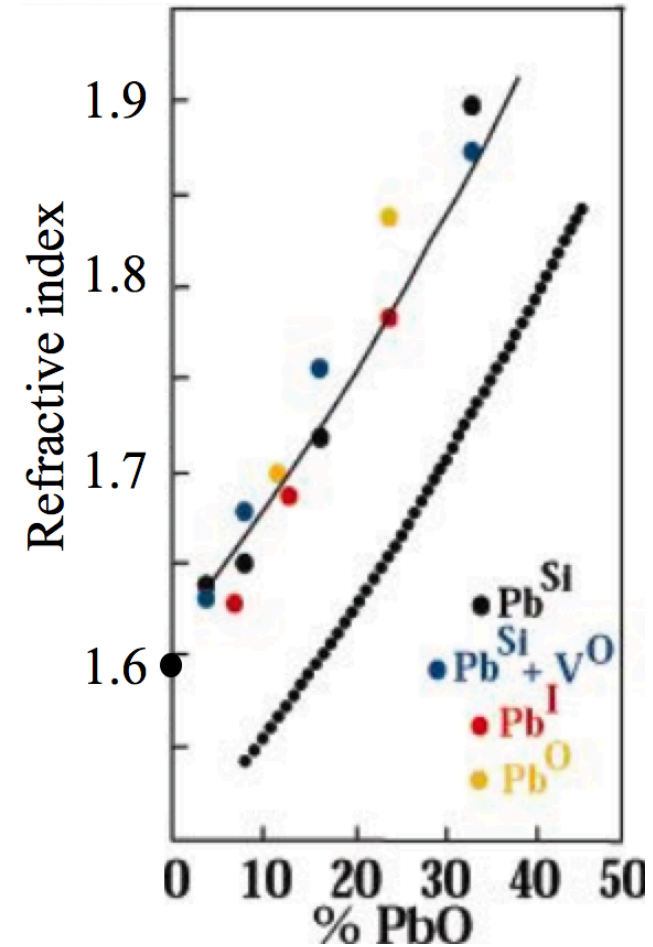
Pb<sup>Si</sup> + V<sup>O</sup>



Pb<sup>O</sup>



Pb<sup>I</sup>



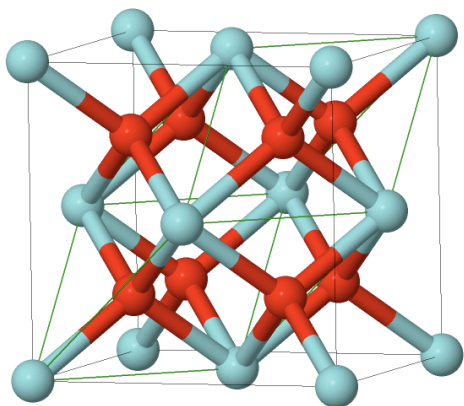
Comparison with amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub>

# Main input file : input variable flexibility

- cell primitive vectors → **rprim**
  - ... or angle (degrees) between primitive vectors → **angdeg**
  - + scale cell vector lengths → **acell**
  - + scale cartesian coordinates → **scalecart**
- number of atoms → **natom**
- reduced coordinates → **xred** (initial guess ...)
  - ... or cartesian coordinates → **xcart** (in Bohr) / **xangst** (in Å)
- types of atoms → **ntypat** , **typat**
- space group → **spgroup** + **natrd**
  - ... or number of symmetries → **nsym**
  - + symmetry operations → **symrel** + **tnons**

# Example : cubic zirconium dioxide

Face-centered cubic, with three atoms per primitive cell



```
natom 3
acell 3*5.01 Angst    NOTE "*" is a repeater
rprim 0.0 0.5 0.5
        0.5 0.0 0.5
        0.5 0.5 0.0
typat 1 2 2
xred 3*0.0 3*0.25 3*0.75
=> symmetries are found automatically
```

OR

```
natom 3
acell 3*5.01 Angst
rprim 0.0 0.5 0.5
        0.5 0.0 0.5
        0.5 0.5 0.0
typat 1 2 2
spgroup 225    natrd 2
xred 3*0.0 3*0.25    => the set of atoms is completed automatically
```

# Periodic system : wavevectors

For a **periodic** Hamiltonian : wavefunctions characterized by a wavevector  $\mathbf{k}$  (crystal momentum) in Brillouin Zone

Bloch theorem 
$$\psi_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{R}_j) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_j}\psi_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\psi_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = (N\Omega_0)^{-1/2} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} u_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) \quad u_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}+\mathbf{R}_j) = u_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

Normalization ?

**Born-von Karman supercell** supercell vectors  $N_j\mathbf{R}_j$  with  $N=N_1N_2N_3$

$$\psi_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}+N_j\mathbf{R}_j) = \psi_{m,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$



# Planewave basis set

Reciprocal lattice : set of  $\mathbf{G}$  vectors such that  $e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}_j} = 1$   
 $e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}}$  has the periodicity of the real lattice

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}) e^{i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = (N\Omega_0)^{-1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{G}} u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}) e^{i(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G})\mathbf{r}}$$

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}) = \frac{1}{\Omega_0} \int_{\Omega_0} e^{-i\mathbf{G}\mathbf{r}} u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r} \quad (\text{Fourier transform})$$

Kinetic energy of a plane wave  $-\frac{\nabla^2}{2} \rightarrow \frac{(\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G})^2}{2}$

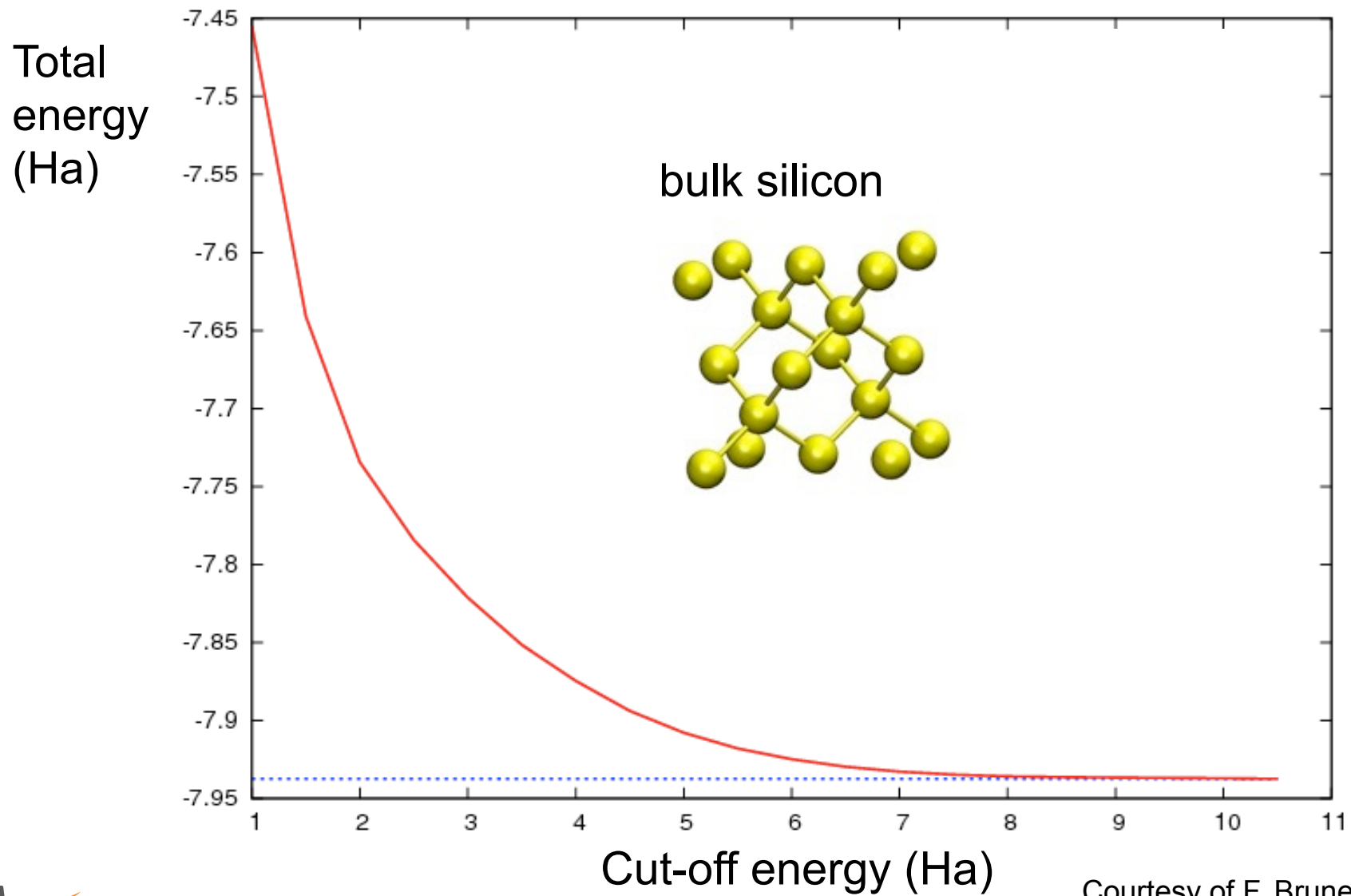
The coefficients  $u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G})$  for the lowest eigenvectors decrease exponentially with the kinetic energy  $\frac{(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G})^2}{2}$

Selection of plane waves determined by a cut-off energy  $E_{\text{cut}}$

$$\frac{(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G})^2}{2} < E_{\text{cut}} \quad \text{Plane wave sphere}$$

$e_{\text{cut}}$

# Convergence wrt to kinetic energy cutoff



# From discrete states to Brillouin zone

Discrete summations over states :

$$\text{Total kinetic energy} \quad \sum_n \langle \psi_n | -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 | \psi_n \rangle$$

$$\text{Density} \quad n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n \psi_n^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_n(\mathbf{r})$$

In the periodic case : summation over energy bands +  
integration over the Brillouin zone

$$\text{Total kinetic energy} \quad \sum_n \frac{1}{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} \int_{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} f(\varepsilon_F - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}}) \langle \psi_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}} | -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 | \psi_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}} \rangle d\mathbf{k}$$

$$\text{Density} \quad n(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n \frac{1}{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} \int_{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} f(\varepsilon_F - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}}) \psi_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}}^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{k}$$

How to treat  $\frac{1}{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} \int_{\Omega_{0\mathbf{k}}} X_{\mathbf{k}} d\mathbf{k}$  ?

# Brillouin zone integration

$$\frac{1}{\Omega_{ok}} \int_{\Omega_{ok}} X_{\mathbf{k}} d\mathbf{k} \Rightarrow \sum_{\{\mathbf{k}\}} w_{\mathbf{k}} X_{\mathbf{k}} \quad [ \text{with } \sum_{\{\mathbf{k}\}} w_{\mathbf{k}} = 1 ]$$

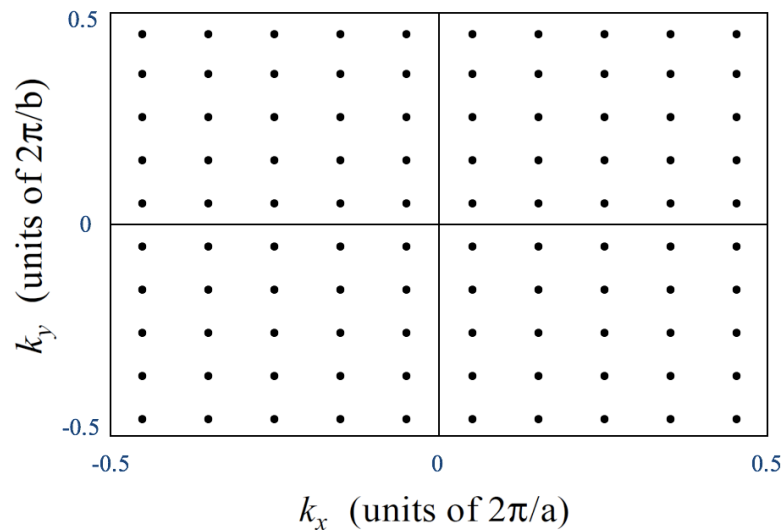
How to chose  $\{\mathbf{k}\}$  and  $\{w_{\mathbf{k}}\}$  ?

Special points

Weights

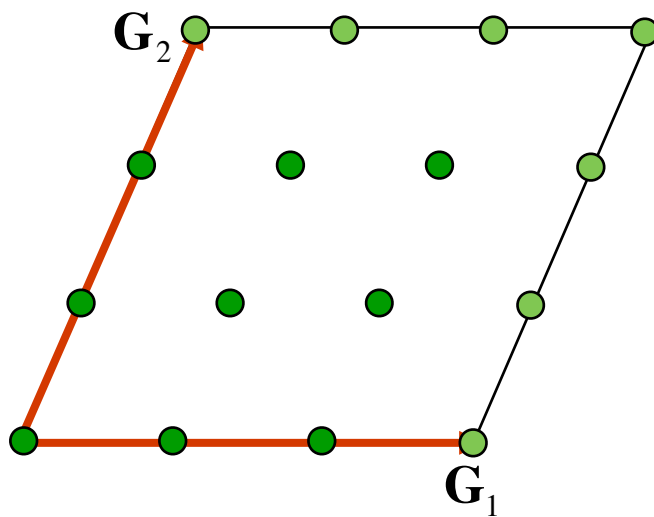
Simple answer : Homogeneous grid (1D - 2D - 3D) and equal weights

*Homogeneous sampling of the Brillouin zone*

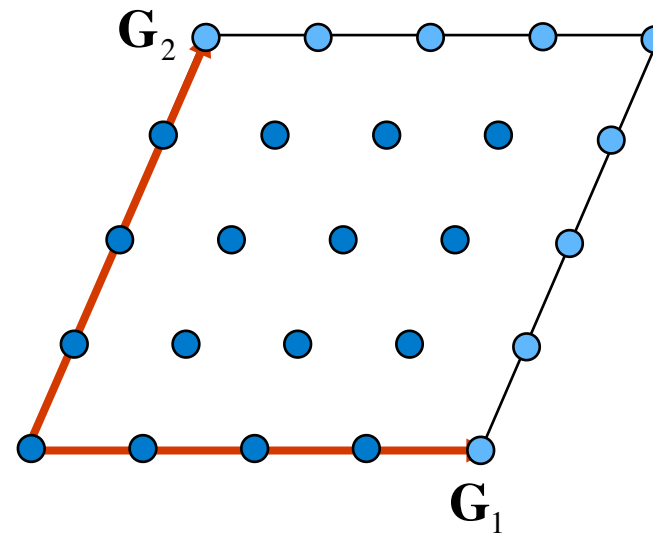


# BZ integration : Monkhorst-Pack grid

- Uniformly spaced grid of  $n_{k1} \times n_{k2} \times n_{k3}$  points in the first Brillouin Zone [Monkhorst & Pack, Phys. Rev. B 13, 5188 (1976)]



$$n_{k1} = n_{k2} = 3$$

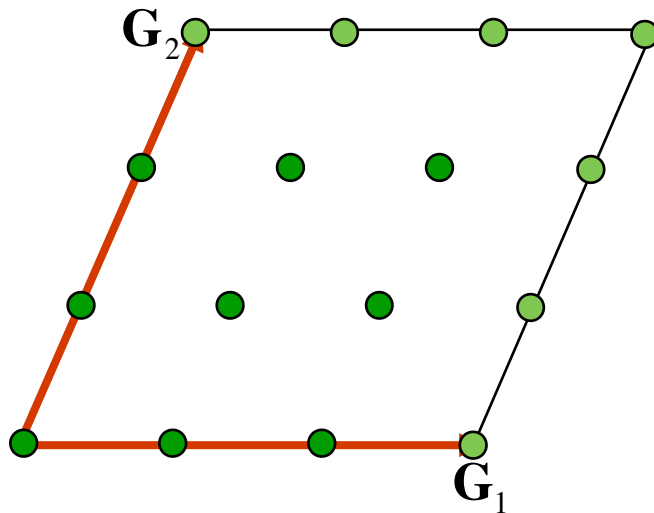


$$n_{k1} = n_{k2} = 4$$

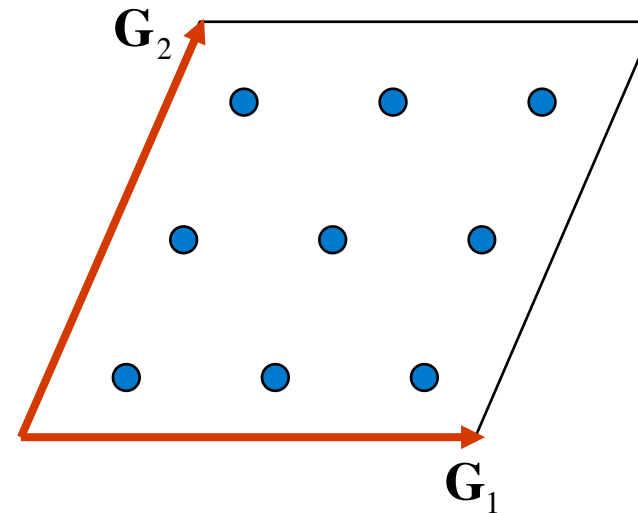
ngkpt nk1 nk2 nk3

# Unshifted and shifted grids

- k-points grid can be chosen to be shifted : not centered at  $\Gamma$ .
- Advantage : comparable accuracy can be obtained with fewer k-points in IBZ (especially for highly symmetric cases)



$n_{k1} = n_{k2} = 3$   
unshifted



$n_{k1} = n_{k2} = 3$   
shifted by  $(1/2, 1/2)$

ngkpt nk1 nk2 nk3  
shftk sk1 sk2 sk3 (default: 0.5 0.5 0.5)

# Algorithmics : problems to be solved

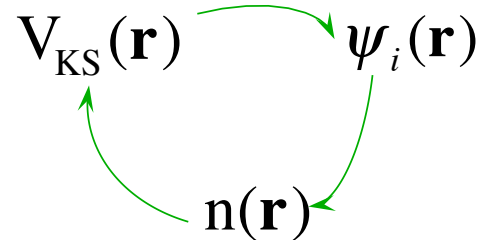
## (1) Kohn - Sham equation

$$\underline{\underline{A}} \underline{\underline{x}}_i = \lambda_i \underline{\underline{x}}_i$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{KS}}(\mathbf{r}) \\ \{ \mathbf{G}_j \} \quad \{ \mathbf{r}_j \} \end{array} \right] \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r})$$

Size of the system	[2 atoms... 600 atoms...]	+ vacuum ?
Dimension of the vectors $\underline{\underline{x}}_i$	300...	100 000... (if planewaves)
# of (occupied) eigenvectors	4...	1200...

## (2) Self-consistency

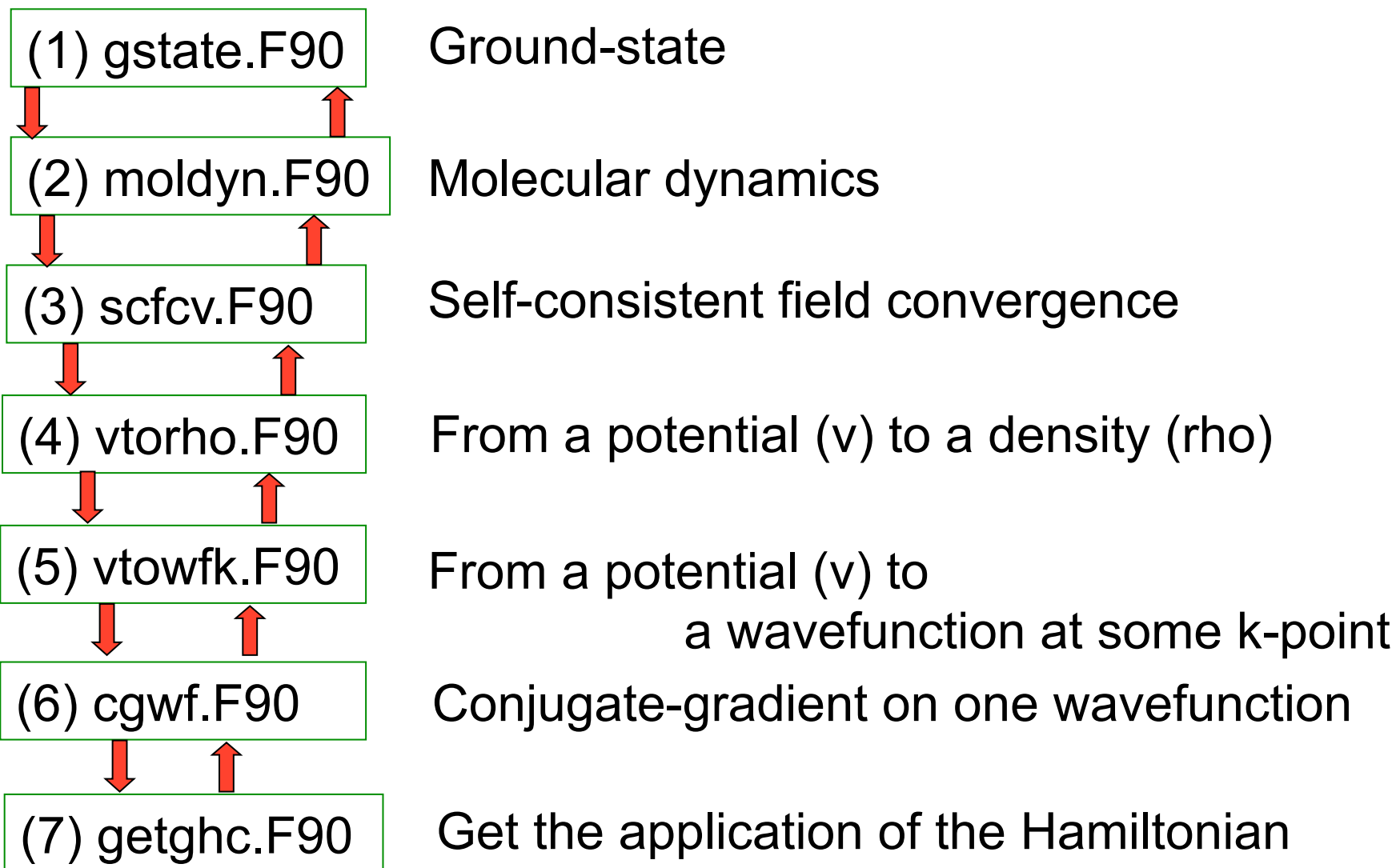


## (3) Geometry optimization

Find the positions  $\{ \mathbf{R}_\kappa \}$  of ions such that the forces  $\{ \mathbf{F}_\kappa \}$  vanish  
 [= Minimization of energy ]

Current practice : iterative approaches

# Stages in the main processing unit





# A basic 'input' file : dihydrogen (I)

# H2 molecule in big cubic box  
# Characters after '#' or after '!' are comments, will be ignored.  
# Keywords followed by values. Order of keywords in file is not important.

# Definition of the **unit cell**

**acell** 10 10 10 # Keyword "acell" refers to  
# lengths of primitive vectors (default in Bohr)

# Definition of the **atom types**

**ntypat** 1 # Only one type of atom  
**znucl** 1 # Keyword "znucl" refers to atomic number of  
# possible type(s) of atom. Pseudopotential(s)  
# mentioned in "filenames" file must correspond  
# to type(s) of atom. Here, the only type is Hydrogen.

# Definition of the **atoms**

**natom** 2 # Two atoms  
**typat** 1 1 # Both are of type 1, that is, Hydrogen  
**xcart** # This keyword indicate that location of the atoms  
# will follow, one triplet of number for each atom  
-0.7 0.0 0.0 # Triplet giving cartesian coordinates of atom 1, in Bohr  
0.7 0.0 0.0 # Triplet giving cartesian coordinates of atom 2, in Bohr

# A basic input file : dihydrogen (II)

# Definition of **planewave basis set**

ecut 10.0 # Maximal plane-wave kinetic energy cut-off, in Hartree

# Definition of **k-point grid**

kptopt 0 # Enter k points manually

nkpt 1 # Only one k point is needed for isolated system,  
# taken by default to be 0.0 0.0 0.0

#Definition of **SCF (self-consistent field) procedure**

nstep 10 # Maximal number of SCF cycles

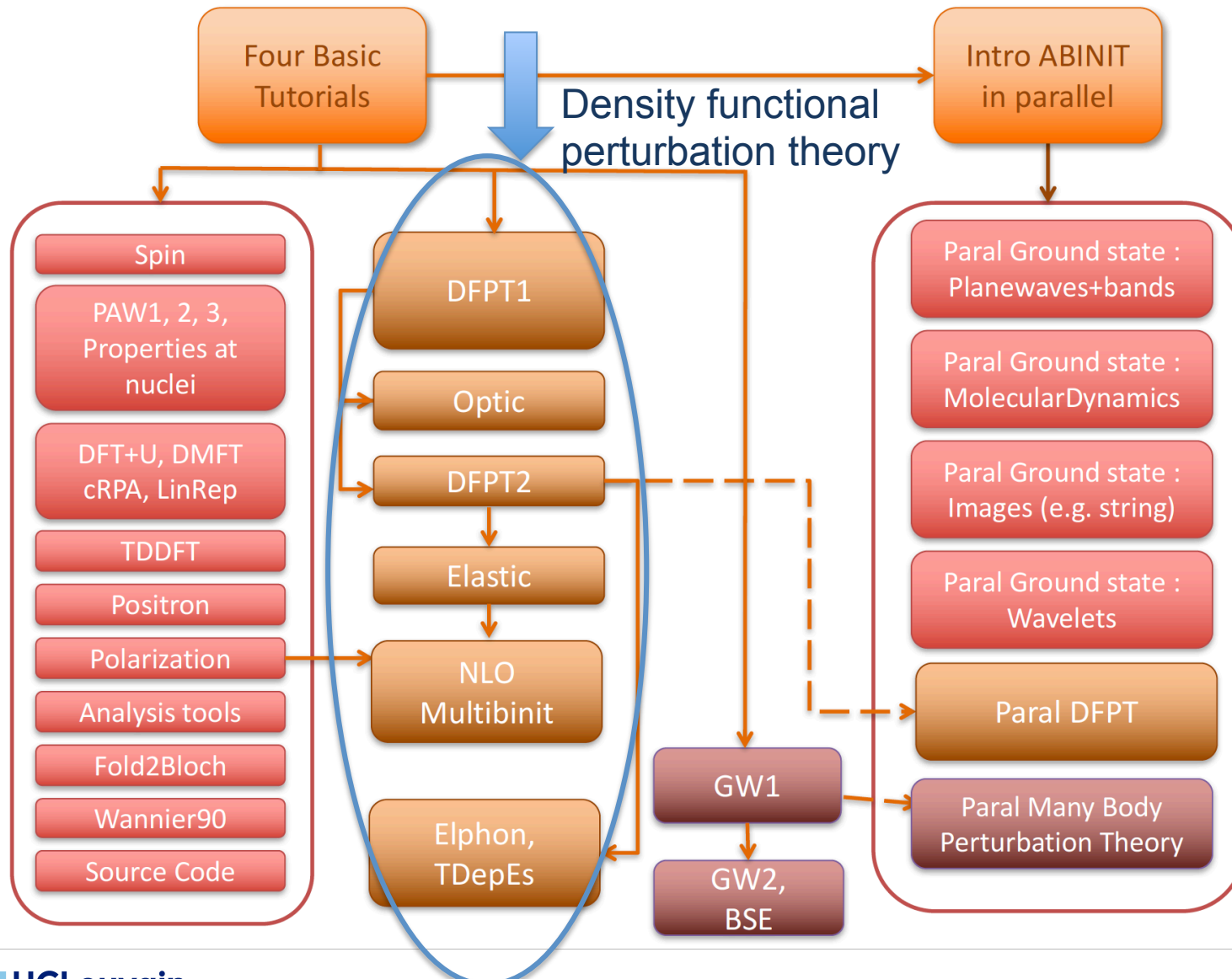
toldfe 1.0d-6 # Will stop when, twice in a row, the difference  
# between two consecutive evaluations of total energy  
# differs by less than toldfe (default in Hartree)

diemac 2.0 # Although this is not mandatory, it is worth to precondition the  
# SCF cycle. A model dielectric function, used as standard  
# preconditioner, is described in "dielng" input variable section.  
# Here, we follow prescriptions for molecules in a big box

## After modifying the following section, one might need to ...

###<BEGIN TEST\_INFO> **Metadata ... to be ignored in the tutorial !**

# ABINIT tutorial : layout + dependencies



# Density Functional Perturbation Theory

Many physical properties = derivatives of total energy  
(or suitable thermodynamic potential) with respect to perturbations.

Consider :

- atomic displacements (phonons)
- dilatation/contraction of primitive cell
- homogeneous external field (electric field, magnetic field ...)

Derivatives of total energy (electronic part + nuclei-nuclei interaction) :

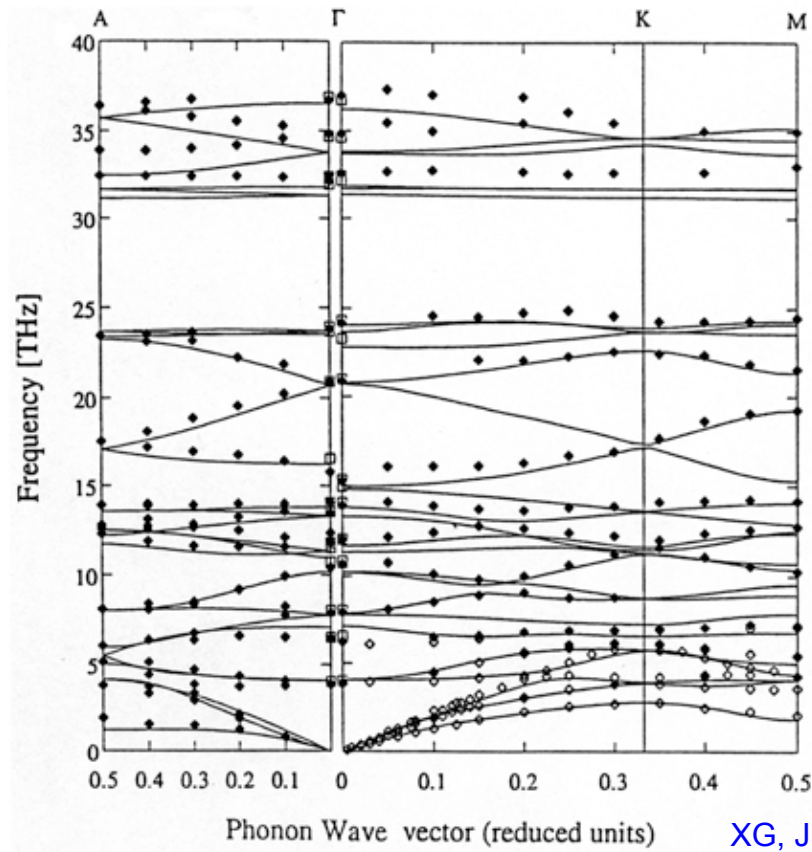
1<sup>st</sup> order derivatives : forces, stresses, dipole moment ...

2<sup>nd</sup> order derivatives : dynamical matrix, elastic constants, dielectric susceptibility  
atomic polar tensors or Born effective charge tensors  
piezoelectricity, internal strains ...

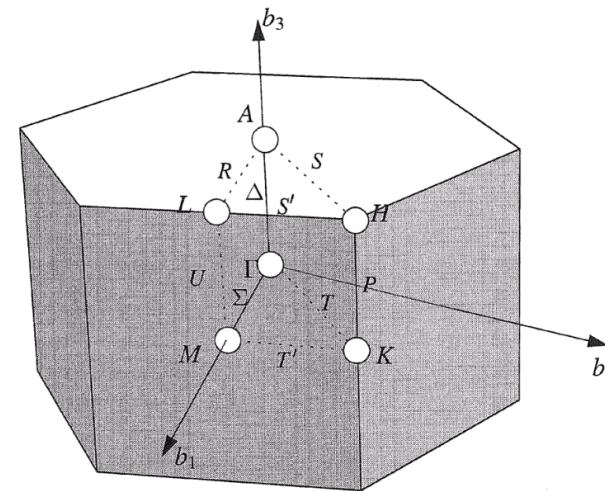
3<sup>rd</sup> order derivatives : non-linear dielectric susceptibility, Raman susceptibilities  
electro-optic effect, phonon - phonon interaction, Grüneisen parameters, ...

Further properties obtained by integration over phononic degrees of freedom :  
entropy, thermal expansion, phonon-limited thermal conductivity ...

# Phonon band structure



SiO<sub>2</sub> alpha-quartz



XG, J.-C.Charlier, D.C.Allan, M.P.Teter, *Phys. Rev. B* 50, 13055 (1994)

# Analysis of instabilities



CUBIC

(5at/cell)

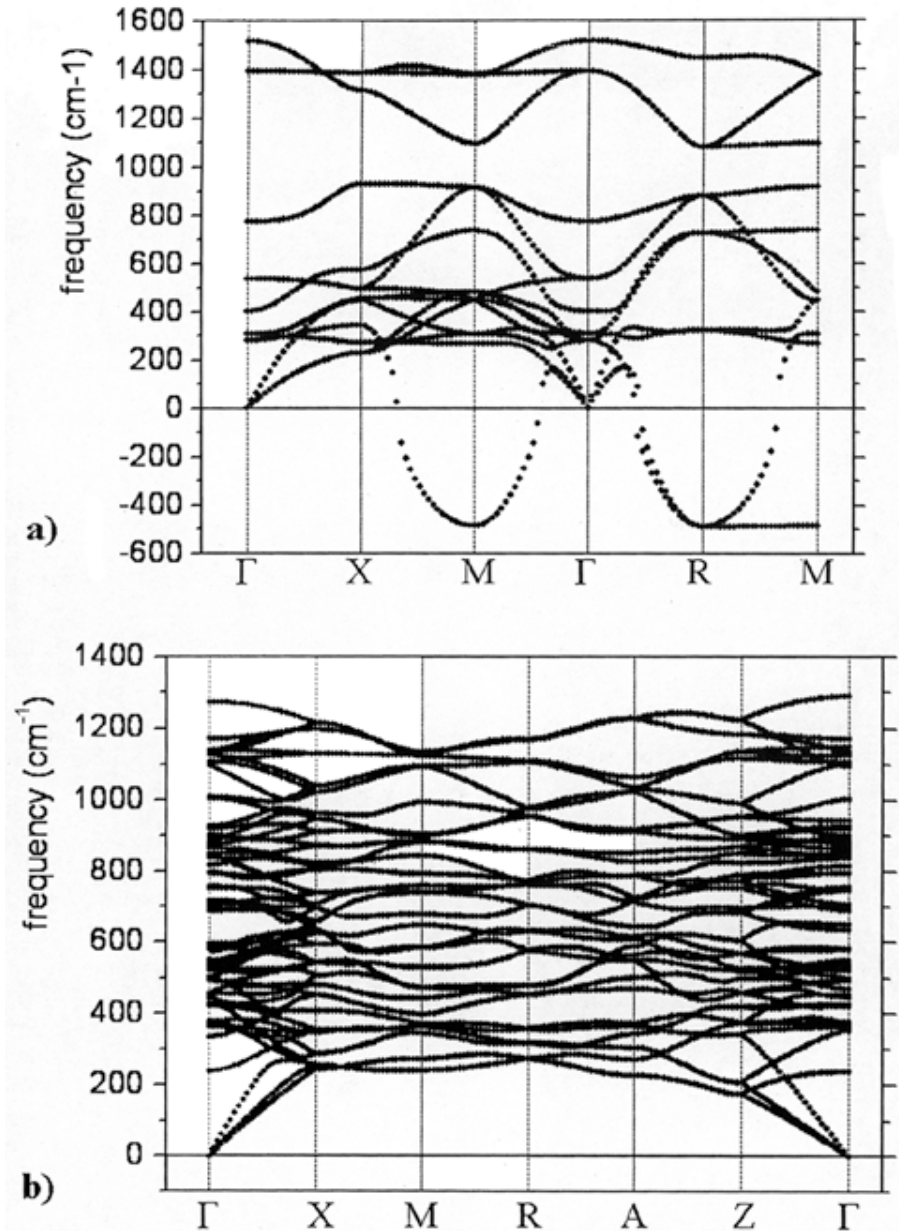
Phonon dispersion relations.

(a) Ideal cubic phase : unstable.

(b) Condensations of the unstable phonon modes generate a (meta) stable orthorhombic phase

ORTHORHOMBIC

(20at/cell)



# Helmoltz free energy and specific heat

$$F = U - TS$$

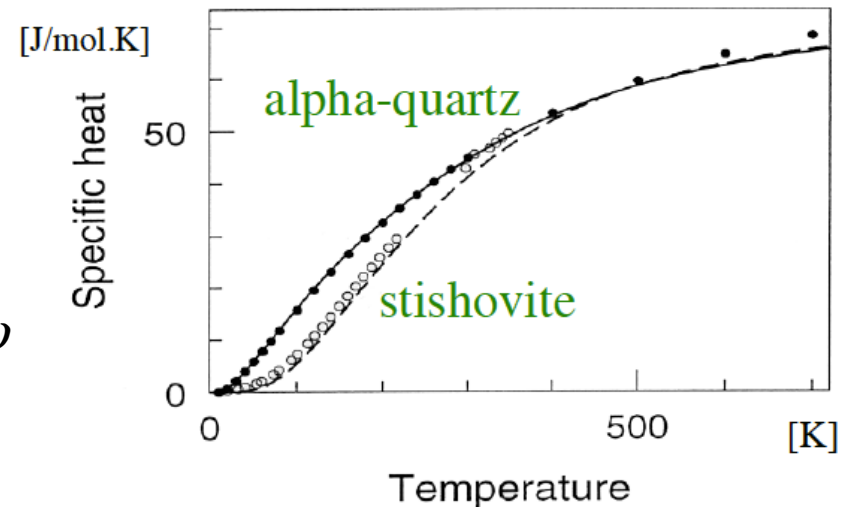
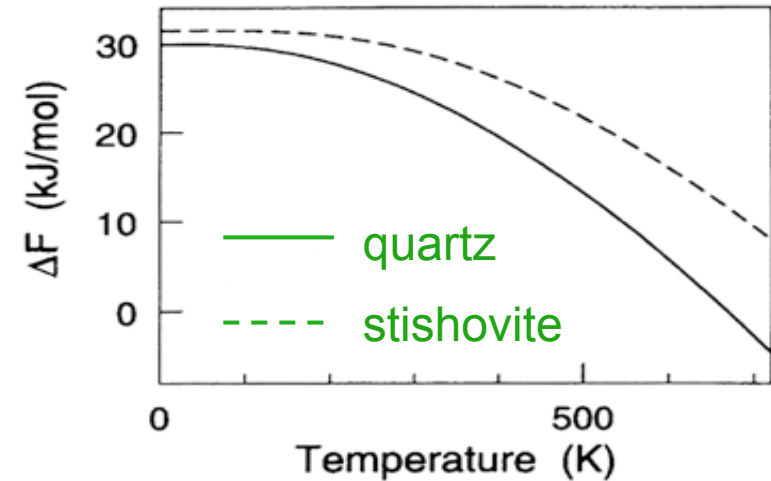
$$C_V = \left( \frac{\partial U}{\partial T} \right)_V = T \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial T} \right)_V = -T \left( \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial T^2} \right)_V$$

Vibrational contribution to F :

$$\Delta F = 3n_{at} N k_B T \int_0^{\omega_{max}} \ln \left\{ 2 \sinh \left( \frac{\omega}{2k_B T} \right) \right\} g(\omega) d\omega$$

Vibrational contribution to Cv :

$$C_V = 3n_{at} N k_B \int_0^{\omega_{max}} \left( \frac{\omega}{2k_B T} \right)^2 \operatorname{csch}^2 \left( \frac{\omega}{2k_B T} \right) g(\omega) d\omega$$

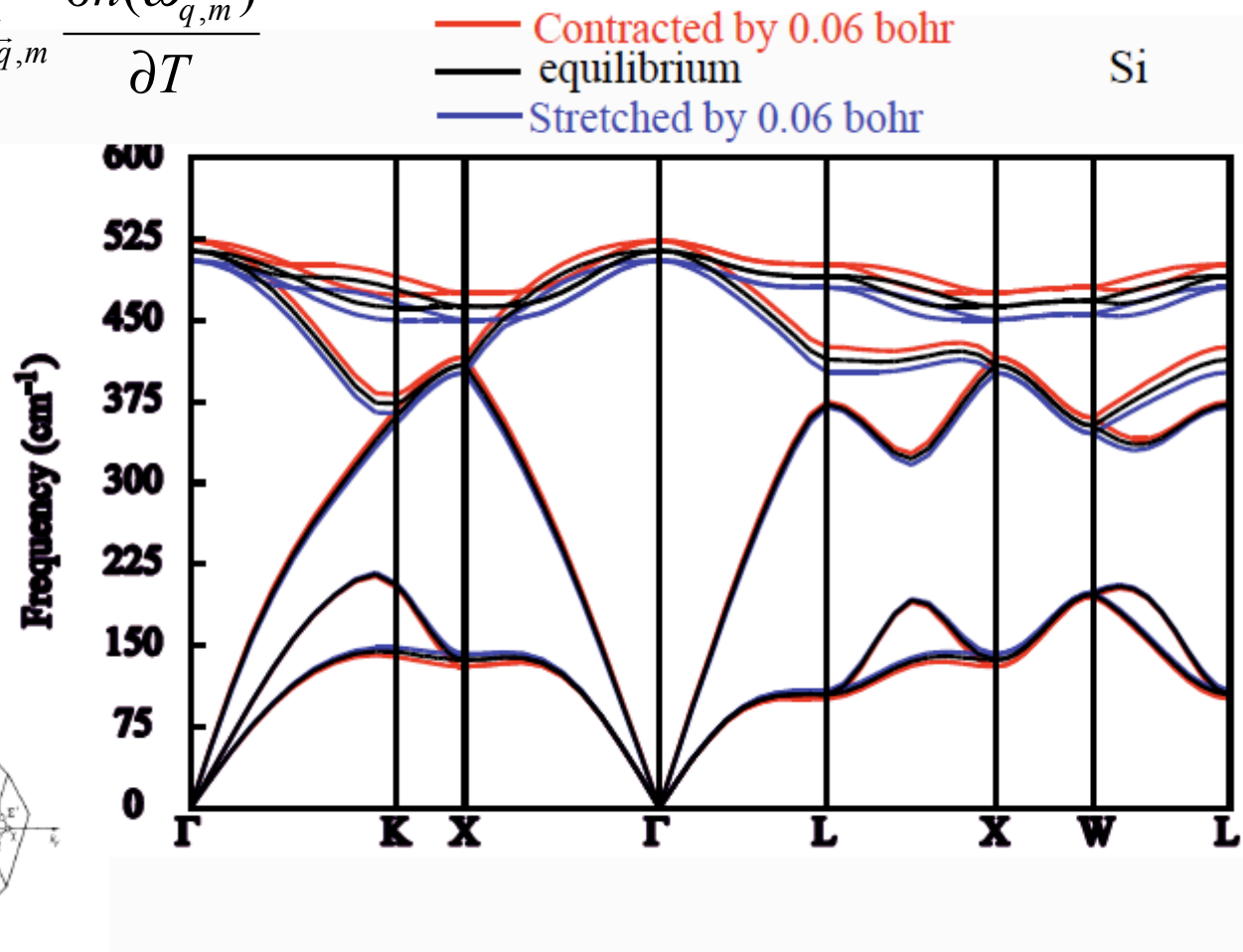
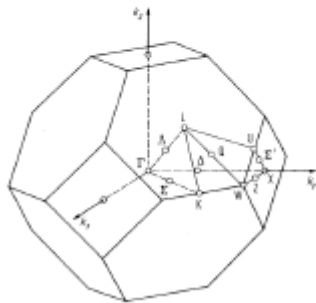


# Ab initio thermal expansion

$$\alpha(T) = \frac{V}{3B} \sum_{\vec{q}, m} \frac{1}{\hbar \omega_{\vec{q}, m}} \gamma_{\vec{q}, m} \frac{\partial n(\omega_{\vec{q}, m})}{\partial T}$$

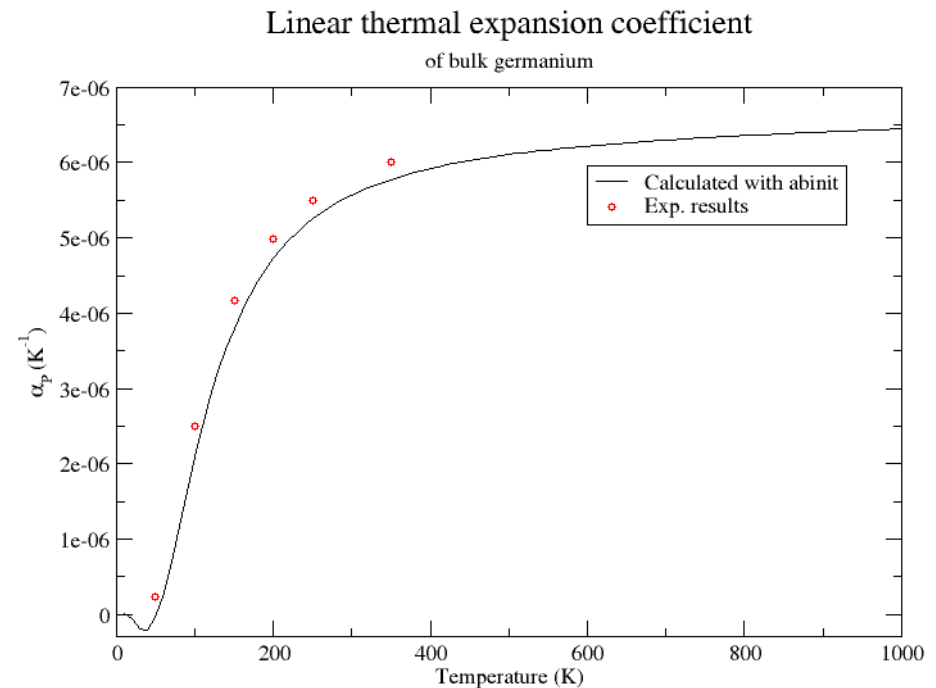
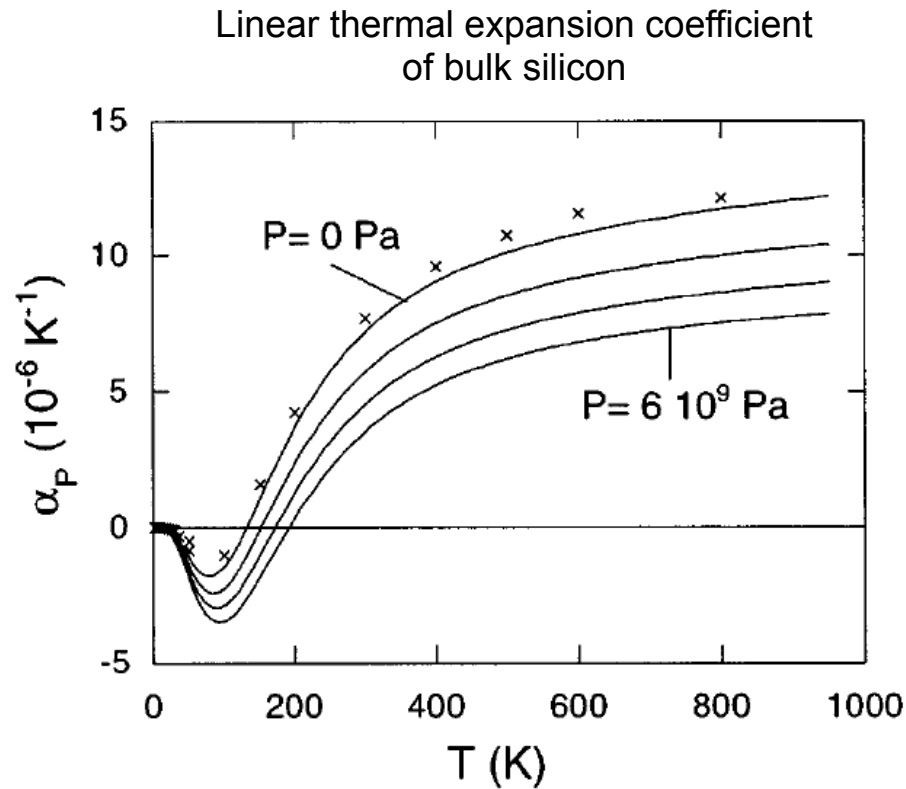
$$\gamma_{m, \vec{q}} = - \frac{\partial(\ln \omega_{m, \vec{q}})}{\partial(\ln V)}$$

Alternative path :  
minimisation of  
free energy





# Ab initio thermal expansion



G.-M. Rignanese, J.-P. Michenaud and XG  
*Phys. Rev. B* **53**, 4488 (1996)

# Wrap-up

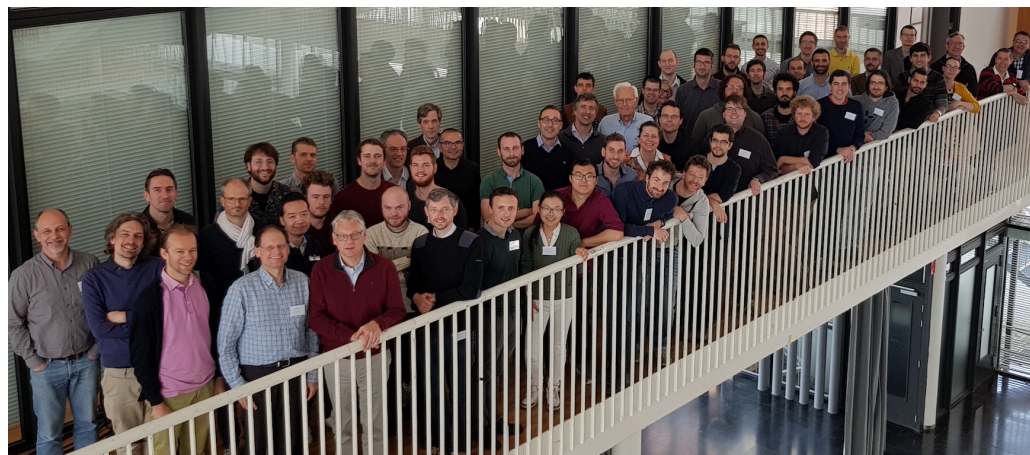
Free software (open source)

Excellent documentation

Implementation of density-functional theory (DFT), many body-perturbation theory (MBPT - GW or BSE), density-functional perturbation theory (DFPT), dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT), ...

Versatile (many properties of materials)

Especially good at vibrational, dielectric, thermodynamic, spectroscopic, optical properties



# Interested to contribute ?

There is a postdoc position open at Skoltech !

Contact [X.Gonze@skoltech.ru](mailto:X.Gonze@skoltech.ru)

<https://join.skoltech.ru/postdoc-positions/>

[Postdoctoral research position in Computational Materials Science](#)

(still open ... )

Developer's corner on ABINIT Wiki

<https://wiki.abinit.org>

Developer's corner on ABINIT Web site

<https://docs.abinit.org/developers>