

A mathematical study of the GW¹ method

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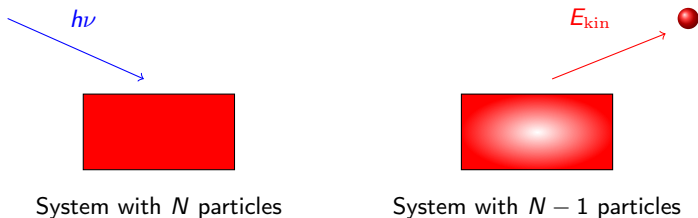
¹Note: The name "GW" does not stand for anything

We consider a very big electronic system ($N \approx \infty$), with Hamiltonian

$$H_N := -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \Delta_i + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^N V(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

acting on $\mathcal{H}_N := \bigwedge_{i=1}^N \mathcal{H}$, with $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$.

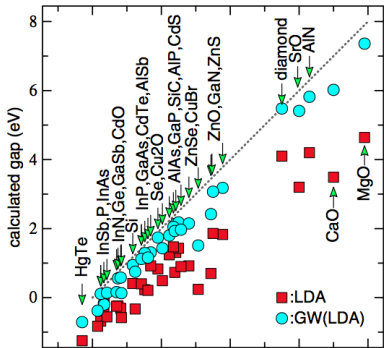
We would like to understand the **optical properties** of such a system.



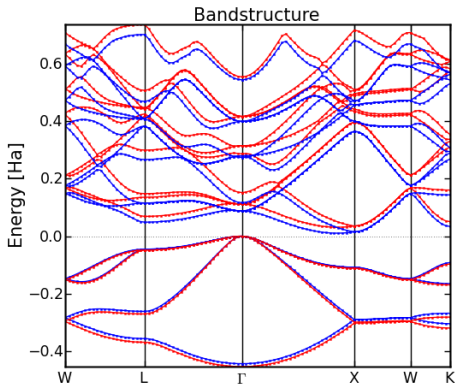
It holds $h\nu + E_N^0 = E_{\text{kin}} + E_{N-1}^k$, from which we deduce the **gap** $E_{N-1}^k - E_N^0$. There is a **dynamical response** due to the loss of a particle.

It is interesting to consider a dynamical system with a variable number of particles

In the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$, we expect to recover the correct **band gap** of crystals.



(a) Band gaps for LDA and GW.



(b) Band structure of Si for LDA, and GW.

A **GW calculation** gives better results with respect to band gaps.²
The GW method is based on **Green's functions**.

²M. van Schilfhaarde, T. Kotani and S. Faleev, Phys. Rev. Let. 96 (2006)

Definition of the Green's functions

We work with fermions, in spin-unpolarized systems.

- The 1-particle Hilbert space is $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$.
- The N -particle fermionic Hilbert space is $\mathcal{H}_N = \bigwedge_{i=1}^N L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$.
- The **fermionic Fock space** is $\mathcal{F} = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathcal{H}_2 \oplus \dots$

The Hamiltonian can be written in second quantization with

$$\mathbb{H} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} h(\mathbf{x}) \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) \Psi(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} + \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} v(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) \Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{y}) \Psi(\mathbf{y}) \Psi(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{y},$$

where we separate the 1-body part of the Hamiltonian $h(\mathbf{x}) \approx -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + V(\mathbf{x})$, and the 2-body part $v(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^{-1}$.

We define the **particle Green's function** (here, Θ is the heavyside function):

$$G_p(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t') = -i\Theta(t - t')\langle\Psi_N^0|\Psi(\mathbf{x})e^{-i(t-t')(H_{N+1}-E_N^0)}\Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}')|\Psi_N^0\rangle.$$

Interpretation:

- start from the ground state
- create a particle at x'
- let the system evolves with its extra particle between t' and t ($t - t' > 0$)
- annihilate a particle at x
- compare the new state with the ground state

"Describes the amplitude that a particle added at (\mathbf{x}, t) will be released at (\mathbf{x}', t') ".

We also define the **hole Green's function**

$$G_h(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t') = i\Theta(t' - t)\langle\Psi_N^0|\Psi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}')e^{i(t-t')(H_{N-1}-E_N^0)}\Psi(\mathbf{x})|\Psi_N^0\rangle.$$

"Describes the amplitude that a hole added at (\mathbf{x}', t') will be released at (\mathbf{x}, t) ".

We finally define the **time-ordered Green's function**

$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t') &= -i \langle \Psi_N^0 | \mathcal{T} \left\{ \Psi_H(\mathbf{x}, t) \Psi_H^\dagger(\mathbf{x}', t') \right\} | \Psi_N^0 \rangle \\ &= G_p(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t') + G_h(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t'), \end{aligned}$$

where \mathcal{T} is the fermionic time-ordering operator.

Note that G contains all the information of G_p and G_h .

Finally, note that G_p , G_h and G only depends on $\tau := t - t'$.

The time-ordered Green's function has some **interesting properties**. We can recover:

- the **1-body density matrix** from G :

$$-iG(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'; 0^-) = \gamma_N^0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') := \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3(N-1)}} \overline{\Psi_N^0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N)} \Psi_N^0(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) d\mathbf{x}_2 \dots d\mathbf{x}_N.$$

- the **electronic density** $\rho_N^0(\mathbf{x}) = \gamma_N^0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) = -iG(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}, 0^-)$.
- the **ground-state energy** (Galitskii-Migdal formula³).
- **some information about the optical properties of the system**, like $E_{N-1}^k - E_N^0$.

³V. M. Galitskii and A. B. Migdal, Sov. Phys.-JETP 7, 96 (1958).

Lemma

- $\tau \mapsto G(\tau)$ is in $L^\infty(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}))$, hence in the Schwartz class $\mathcal{S}'(\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}))$.
- Its time-Fourier transform exists (in the tempered-distributional sense), with

$$\widehat{G}(\omega) = A_+ \left(\frac{1}{\omega - (H_{N+1} - E_N^0)} \right) A_+^* + A_-^\dagger \left(\frac{1}{\omega - (E_N^0 - H_{N-1})} \right) A_-$$

- If $E_{N-2}^0 < E_N^0$, the analytic continuation of G into the **physical Riemann sheet** is

$$\widetilde{G}_p(z) := A_+ \left(\frac{1}{z - (H_{N+1} - E_N^0)} \right) A_+^* + A_-^\dagger \left(\frac{1}{z - (E_N^0 - H_{N-1})} \right) A_-$$

for $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(H_{N+1} - E_N^0)$.

- It holds

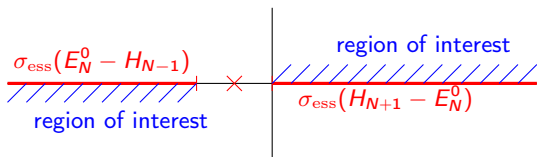
$$\widehat{G}(\omega) = \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0^+} \widetilde{G}(\omega + i\eta) \quad \text{for } \omega > 0,$$

and

$$\widehat{G}(\omega) = \lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0^+} \widetilde{G}(\omega - i\eta) \quad \text{for } \omega < 0.$$

Here, $A_+^\dagger : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{N+1}$ and $A_- : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{N-1}$ are the creation/annihilator operators.

- If $E_N^0 - E_{N-2}^0 < 0$, the physical Riemann sheet for G is **connected**.



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Similarly to $\widetilde{G}_0(z) = (z - H_0)^{-1}$ for a **non-interacting Hamiltonian**, we would like to define the (1-particle) **dynamical Hamiltonian** as

$$\widetilde{H}(z) := z - \left(\widetilde{G}(z)\right)^{-1}.$$

Lemma

For all $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$, $\widetilde{G}(z)$ is an invertible operator from $L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$ to some dense set $D(z) \subset H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$. In particular, $\widetilde{H}(z)$ is a well-defined operator with domain $D(z)$.

Question: Do we have $D(z) = H^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$?

Then, we look for solutions of $\widetilde{H}(z)\widetilde{u}(z) = \widetilde{E}(z)\widetilde{u}(z)$, with $\widetilde{E}(z) \in \mathbb{C}$ the **quasi-energy**.

- The real part of $\widetilde{E}(z)$ is the **energy of the quasi-particle $\widetilde{u}(z)$**
- The imaginary part of $\widetilde{E}(z)$ is the **lifetime of the quasi-particle $\widetilde{u}(z)$**
- There is no non-real solution on the physical Riemann sheet.
- Non real solutions can only be on the **second Riemann sheet**.

Question: How to calculate the time-ordered Green's function?

The GW approximation.

From the Schrödinger equation $H\Psi = i\partial_t\Psi$, and the anti-commutation rules, we get an **exact equation of motion** for G :

$$(i\partial_{t_1} - h(\mathbf{1})) G(\mathbf{12}) - \int d\mathbf{3}v(\mathbf{13})G^{(2)}(\mathbf{13}^{++}\mathbf{23}^+) = \delta(\mathbf{12}),$$

where $\mathbf{1} = (\mathbf{x}_1, t_1)$, $\mathbf{2} = (\mathbf{x}_2, t_2)$..., $v(\mathbf{13}) = |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_3|^{-1}\delta_{t_1 t_3}$, $d\mathbf{3} = d\mathbf{x}_3 dt_3$, ...

Remarks:

- We need to 2-body time-ordered Green's function $G^{(2)}$:

$$G^{(2)}(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t', \mathbf{y}, s, \mathbf{y}', s') := -i\langle \Psi_N^0 | \mathcal{T} \left\{ \Psi_H(\mathbf{x}, t) \Psi_H(\mathbf{x}', t') \Psi_H^\dagger(\mathbf{y}, s) \Psi_H^\dagger(\mathbf{y}', s') \right\} | \Psi_N^0 \rangle.$$

- The equation of motion for $G^{(2)}$ uses $G^{(3)}$, and so on...
- In order to have a closed equation for G , we make an **approximation**.

After some manipulations, the **equation of motion** can be recast in the time-Fourier domain into

$$(\omega - H_0)\widehat{G}(\omega) - \widehat{\Sigma}(\omega)\widehat{G}(\omega) = \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{H}}$$

where

$$H_0 = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2}\Delta_i + V(\mathbf{x}_i) + (\rho_N^0 \star |\cdot|^{-1})(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)$$

is the **1-body Hartree Hamiltonian**.

We introduced the **self-energy operator** Σ which depends on $G^{(2)}$.

Finally, by introducing

$$\widehat{G}_0(\omega) = (\omega - H_0)^{-1}$$

the (time-Fourier transform of the) **non-interacting Green's function**, we get

$$\widehat{G}(\omega)^{-1} = \widehat{G}_0(\omega)^{-1} - \widehat{\Sigma}(\omega).$$

Remarks:

- In this equation, Σ is seen as a correction to the non-interacting GF.
- The **GW approximation** consists into approximating the self-energy Σ .

The Hedin's equations: ⁴

$$G(\mathbf{12}) = G_0(\mathbf{12}) + \int d\mathbf{34} G_0(\mathbf{13}) \Sigma(\mathbf{34}) G(\mathbf{42}) \quad (\text{Dyson equation})$$

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{12}) = i \int d\mathbf{34} G(\mathbf{13}) W(\mathbf{14}) \Gamma(\mathbf{423}) \quad (\text{Self-energy})$$

$$\Gamma(\mathbf{123}) = \delta(\mathbf{12})\delta(\mathbf{13}) + \int d\mathbf{4567} \frac{\partial \Sigma(\mathbf{12})}{\partial G(\mathbf{45})} G(\mathbf{46}) G(\mathbf{57}) \Gamma(\mathbf{673}) \quad (\text{Vertex function})$$

$$W(\mathbf{12}) = \int d\mathbf{3} \epsilon^{-1}(\mathbf{13}) v(\mathbf{32}) \quad (\text{Screening})$$

$$\epsilon(\mathbf{12}) = \delta(\mathbf{12}) - \int d\mathbf{3} v(\mathbf{13}) P(\mathbf{32}) \quad (\text{Dielectric})$$

$$P(\mathbf{12}) = -i \int d\mathbf{34} G(\mathbf{13}) G(\mathbf{41}) \Gamma(\mathbf{342}) \quad (\text{Irreducible polarizability})$$

Remarks:

- Formulae based on Feynman diagram considerations (**perturbation theory**).
- The idea of Hedin is to develop the perturbation with respect to W , rather than V .

⁴L. Hedin, Phys. Rev. 139, 3A (1965).

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The **GW approximation** consists into setting

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma(\mathbf{12})}{\partial G(\mathbf{45})} = 0, \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad \Gamma(\mathbf{123}) = \delta(\mathbf{12})\delta(\mathbf{13}) \quad (\text{GW approximation}),$$

so that $\Sigma(\mathbf{12}) = i \int d\mathbf{34} G(\mathbf{13}) W(\mathbf{14}) \Gamma(\mathbf{423})$ simplifies into $\Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\mathbf{12}) = iG(\mathbf{12})W(\mathbf{12}^+)$.

Remarks:

- We multiply the **kernels** of the operators, and not the operators!
- It is unclear *a priori* whether $\Sigma(\mathbf{12})$ is the kernel of some operators...
- If we replace W by v , we would get

$$\Sigma^{\text{Gv}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = iG(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', 0^-)v(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = -\frac{\gamma_N^0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|},$$

which is the **Fock exchange** term. We recover in this case the **Hartree-Fock model**.

- The self-energy can be seen as a **"dynamically screened exchange operator"**.

Question: Is $\Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t')$ the kernel of a well-defined operator for all $t, t' \in \mathbb{R}^2$?

Lemma

For all $\tau := t - t'$, the operator $\Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\tau)$ is a well defined operator on \mathcal{H} , which is uniformly bounded in τ .

Idea of the proof

It holds, for $f, g \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f | \Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\tau) | g \rangle &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} \overline{f(\mathbf{x})} \Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', \tau) g(\mathbf{x}') d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{x}' \\ &= i \iint_{\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3} \overline{f(\mathbf{x})} G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', \tau) g(\mathbf{x}') W^*(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}, \tau) d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{x}' \\ &= \text{Tr} \left(\overline{f} G(\tau) g W^*(\tau) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Here, f and g are seen as [multiplicative operators](#).

In some sense, $\sqrt{W(\tau)}f \in \mathfrak{S}_2$, with $\|\sqrt{W(\tau)}f\|_{\mathfrak{S}_2} \leq C\|f\|_{L^2}$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f | \Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\tau) | g \rangle &\leq \|\sqrt{W} \overline{f} G(\tau) g \sqrt{W(\tau)}\|_{\mathfrak{S}_1} \leq \|G(\tau)\|_{\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H})} \|\sqrt{W(\tau)}f\|_{\mathfrak{S}_2} \|\sqrt{W(\tau)}g\|_{\mathfrak{S}_2} \\ &\leq C \|G(\tau)\|_{\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H})} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}}. \end{aligned}$$

In practice

$$\Sigma^{\text{GW}}(\mathbf{12}) = iG(\mathbf{12})W(\mathbf{12}^+) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{G^{\text{GW}}}(\omega)^{-1} := \widehat{G_0}(\omega)^{-1} - \widehat{\Sigma^{\text{GW}}}(\omega).$$

Problem: We need to know G to compute Σ^{GW} (and W).

Idea 1: One-shot GW, or G_0W_0 approximation:

Set

$$\Sigma^{\text{GW},00}(\mathbf{12}) = iG_0(\mathbf{12})W_0(\mathbf{12}^+) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{G^{\text{GW},00}}(\omega)^{-1} := \widehat{G_0}(\omega)^{-1} - \widehat{\Sigma^{\text{GW},00}}(\omega).$$

Idea 2: Self-consistent GW:

Repeat on k :

$$\Sigma_{k+1}^{\text{GW}}(\mathbf{12}) = iG_k(\mathbf{12})W_k(\mathbf{12}^+) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{G_{k+1}}(\omega)^{-1} := \widehat{G_0}(\omega)^{-1} - \widehat{\Sigma_{k+1}^{\text{GW}}}(\omega)$$

until convergence.

Questions:

- What does "convergence" mean?
- Does the self-consistent loop converge?

The periodic case.

- It is not obvious in what sense some thermodynamic limit must be made for G .
- However, the thermodynamic limit for the Hartree model (*i.e.* G_0) has a meaning.⁵

IDEA: study the Green's function given by the $G_0 W_0$ approximation:

- From G_0 , calculate W_0 , and $\Sigma^{00}(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}) = iG_0(\mathbf{12})W_0(\mathbf{12})$.
- Define the time-ordered Green's function with

$$\widetilde{G}^{\text{GW},00}(z)^{-1} := \widetilde{G}_0(z)^{-1} - \widetilde{\Sigma}^{00}(z).$$

We will therefore consider the (non-interacting) Hamiltonian defined by (from the Bloch transformation)

$$H_0 := \int_{q \in \Gamma^*}^{\oplus} H_q dq \quad \text{where} \quad H_q := (-i\nabla + q)^2 + V_{\text{per}} + \rho_0 \star |\cdot|^{-1} \quad \text{is acting on } L^2_{\text{per}}(\Gamma).$$

We will write in the sequel

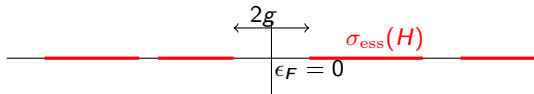
$$H_q = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon_{nq} |u_{nq}\rangle \langle u_{nq}| \quad \text{with} \quad u_{nq} \in L^2_{\text{per}}(\Gamma).$$

⁵I. Catto, C. Le Bris and P.L. Lions, Ann. I. H. Poincaré 19, 2 (2002)

We suppose that the crystal is a **semi-conductor** with gap $2g$.

We set the Fermi level $\epsilon_F = 0$, and suppose that

$$\forall q \in \Gamma^* \quad \epsilon_{N,q} \leq -g \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_{N+1,q} \geq g.$$

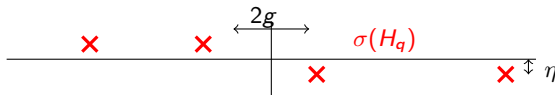


We can work at q fixed, for every operator commutes with translation. For instance,

$$\widetilde{G}_0(q, z) = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{|u_{nq}\rangle\langle u_{nq}|}{z - \epsilon_{nq} - i\eta} + \sum_{m=N+1}^{\infty} \frac{|u_{mq}\rangle\langle u_{mq}|}{z - \epsilon_{mq} + i\eta}.$$

Remark:

- Here, $\eta > 0$ allows to force the **region of interest** (shift poles in the correct direction).
- Indeed, we are only working with $z = \omega \in \mathbb{R}$ in the sequel.



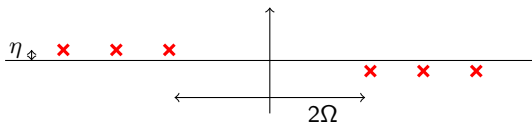
To calculate W_0 , we use the [Hedin's equation](#)

$$\widehat{W}_0(q, \omega) = v + \sqrt{v(q)} \widehat{P}_0(q, \omega) \sqrt{v(q)}.$$

Usually, $\widehat{P}_0(q, \omega)$ is **very expensive** to calculate.

It is approximated via a **Plasmon-Pole interpolation**:

$$\widehat{P}_0^{\text{PPP}}(q, \omega) = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{|u_p(q)\rangle \langle u_p(q)|}{\omega^2 - (\omega_p(q) - i\eta)^2}$$



- In this last expression, $u_p(q)$ is not necessarily an orthonormal basis, and $\omega_p(q) > 0$.
- It holds $\widehat{P}_0(q, -\omega) = \widehat{P}_0(q, \omega)$, and there exists a gap $2\Omega \gg 2g$.
- There exists several Plasmon-Pole approximations.
- We worked with the one by Engel and Farid⁶ (good mathematical properties).

⁶G. Engel and B. Farid, Phys. Rev. B 47, 23 (1993)

Lemma

In the periodic case, with the Engel and Farid plasmon-pole, for all $\omega \in]-\Omega - g, \Omega + g[$, $\widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, \omega)$ is a well-defined symmetric operator. It is in the Schatten class $\mathfrak{S}_p(L^2_{\text{per}}(\Gamma))$, for all $p > 3$.

- This theorem is valid in the limit $\eta \rightarrow 0$.
- The small gap g has been opened by $\Omega \gg g$.

Finally, we want to find the (real) solutions of

$$\widehat{G}^{\text{GW},00}{}^{-1}(q, \omega)u = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \left(H_q + \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, \omega) \right) u = \omega u.$$

Perturbative approach: look for solutions $\omega = E_{nq} \approx \epsilon_{nq}$

- Solve $E_{nq} = \epsilon_{nq} + \langle u_{nq} | \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, E_{nq}) | u_{nq} \rangle$.
- $\widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, E_{nq}) \approx \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, \epsilon_{nq}) + (E_{nq} - \epsilon_{nq}) \frac{\partial \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}}{\partial \omega}(q, \epsilon_{nq})$.
- Hence,

$$E_{nq} = \epsilon_{nq} + \frac{\langle u_{nq} | \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, \epsilon_{nq}) | u_{nq} \rangle}{1 - \left\langle u_{nq} \left| \frac{\partial \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}}{\partial \omega}(q, \epsilon_{nq}) \right| u_{nq} \right\rangle}$$

Lemma

For all $\omega \in] -\Omega - g, \Omega + g[$, $\frac{\partial \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}}{\partial \omega}(q, \omega)$ is a non-positive symmetric operator.

Remark: Because of the opening of the gap, this lemma is valid for a **wide range** of ϵ_{nq} .

Conclusions:

- We gave a mathematical meaning to the operators in GW.
- In particular, we proved that the self-energy is a **well-defined operator** in both finite systems and crystals (within the plasmon-pole approximation).
- We proved the well-posedness of the resulting numerical models.

Perspectives

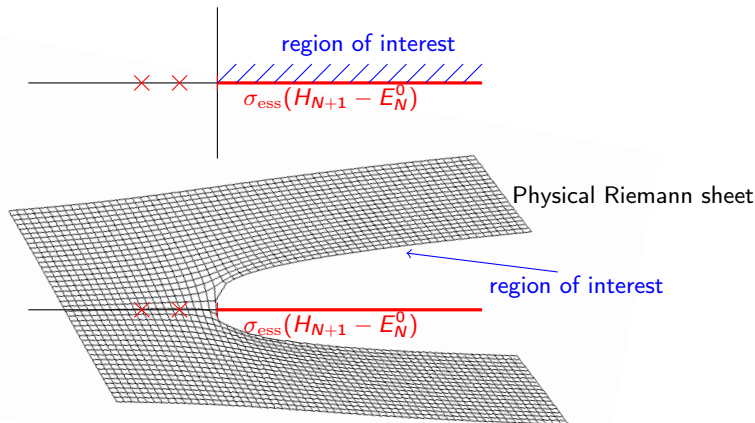
- Understand the **resonances** (= quasi-energies on the second Riemann sheet).
- Is the following non-linear eigenvalue problem well-posed?

$$\det \left(H_q + \widehat{\Sigma}^{00}(q, \omega) - \omega \right) = 0.$$

- Investigate on the **self-consistent GW method** (convergence,...)

$$\widetilde{G}_p(z) := A_+ \left(\frac{1}{z - (H_{N+1} - E_N^0)} \right) A_+^\dagger \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(H_{N+1} - E_N^0)$$

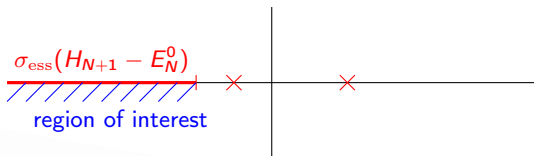
- The eigenvalues of $H_{N+1} - E_N^0$ are **poles** of \widetilde{G}_p .
- The essential spectrum of $H_{N+1} - E_N^0$ is a **branch cut** of \widetilde{G}_p .
- The essential spectrum of $H_{N+1} - E_N^0$ is $[0, +\infty[$ due to the **HVZ theorem**.



We can perform a similar work for the **hole Green's function**:

$$\widetilde{G}_h(z) := A_-^\dagger \left(\frac{1}{z - (E_N^0 - H_{N-1})} \right) A_- \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \sigma(H_{N+1} - E_N^0)$$

- The essential spectrum of $E_N^0 - H_{N-1}$ is $] -\infty, E_N^0 - E_{N-2}^0]$ due to the **HVZ theorem**.



Physical Riemann sheet

