



# Charged Impurities in Graphene

A little more about the Coulomb problem in graphene<sup>(\*)</sup>

Vitor M. Pereira

In collaboration with: Johan Nilsson, Valeri Kotov and A. H. Castro Neto



Workshop on Correlations and Coherence in Quantum Matter  
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<sup>(\*)</sup>*PRL 99, 166802 (2007) — PRB 78, 075433 (2008) — PRB 78, 085101 (2008)*

## Long range scatterers

- Unscreened Coulomb impurities;
- Linear conductivity vs  $n_e$ :  $\sigma = e\mu|n|$ ;
- Most parameters ( $n$ ,  $n_i$ ,  $\epsilon$ ) can be controlled.
- Is this Boltzmann-like behavior the final story?

## Coulomb Center in undoped graphene

- Low energy Dirac effective Hamiltonian
- 2D Dirac Equation in a Coulomb Field:

## Graphene Conductivity

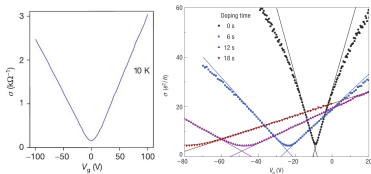


Fig. 1: Novoselov *et al.*, Nature 438; Chen *et al.* Nature Phys. 4.



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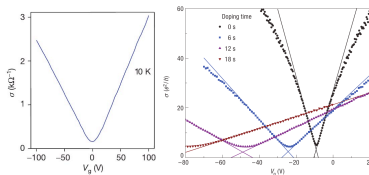


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## Coulomb Center in undoped graphene

- Low energy Dirac effective Hamiltonian

$$H = -t \sum_{i \in A, \delta} a_i^\dagger b_{i+\delta} - t \sum_{i \in B, \delta} b_i^\dagger a_{i+\delta} \quad (1)$$

↓

$$\mathcal{H} = \hbar v_F \tau_z \otimes \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} \quad (2)$$

- 2D Dirac Equation in a Coulomb Field:

$$\left( \hbar v_F \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p} - \frac{Ze^2}{r} - E \right) \begin{pmatrix} \psi^A \\ \psi^B \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (3)$$

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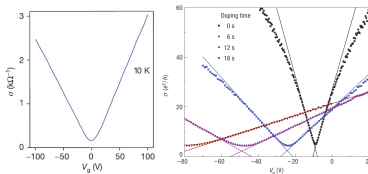
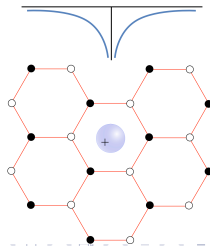


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## Impurity Potential

$$V(r) = -Ze/r$$



# Exact Solution of the Coulomb Problem in Graphene

$$\left( \sigma \cdot \mathbf{p} - \frac{Ze^2}{r} - \frac{E}{\hbar v_F} \right) = 0$$

$$g = \frac{Ze^2}{\hbar v_F}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \psi^A \\ \psi^B \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i(j-\frac{1}{2})\varphi} \varphi_j^A(r) \\ ie^{i(j+\frac{1}{2})\varphi} \varphi_j^B(r) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$j = \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \dots$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f_{\pm}(r)}{\partial r^2} + \left[ \epsilon^2 + \frac{2g\epsilon}{r} - \frac{\lambda(\lambda \mp 1)}{r^2} \right] f_{\pm}(r) = 0$$

$$\lambda = \sqrt{j^2 - g^2}$$

The final solution is ( $\bar{g} = g s_{\epsilon}$ ,  $\rho = |\epsilon|r$ )

$$\varphi_j(r) = u_+ F_{\lambda-1}(-\bar{g}, \rho) + s_{g\epsilon} u_- F_{\lambda}(-\bar{g}, \rho), \quad F_{\lambda}(\eta, \rho) = C_{\lambda}(\eta) \rho^{\lambda+1} e^{-i\rho} {}_1F_1(\lambda+1-i\eta; 2\lambda+2; 2i\rho) \quad (5)$$

Index  $\lambda$  entails the existence of two strikingly different regimes ( $\lambda = \sqrt{j^2 - g^2}$ ,  $j = \pm \frac{1}{2}, \dots$ )

There is a critical coupling beyond which the particle "falls" onto the nucleus!!

$$g_c = (Z\alpha)_c = \frac{1}{2}$$

Typically in graphene:

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{\epsilon \hbar v_F} \sim 1-2 \Rightarrow Z_c \sim 1$$



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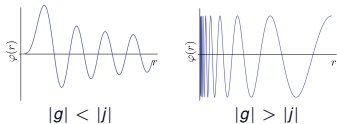
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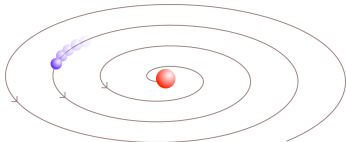
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Undercritical LDOS ( $g < 1/2$ )

$$N(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) = \Psi^\dagger(\epsilon, \mathbf{r})\Psi(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} n_j(\epsilon, \mathbf{r})$$

$$n_j(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{j^2}{2\pi^2\lambda^2r} \left[ F_{\lambda-1}^2 + F_\lambda^2 + 2\tilde{g}F_\lambda F_{\lambda-1}/|j| \right]$$

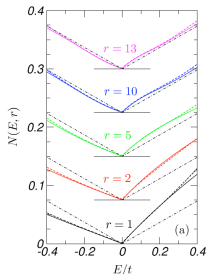


Fig. 3: VM Pereira PRL 07; Chen *et al.* Nature 08, Novikov PRB 07.

Supercritical LDOS ( $g > 1/2$ )

*Profound spectrum rearrangement.*

*Weak particle-hole asymmetry.*



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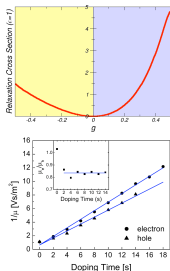
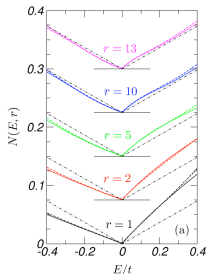


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# Undercritical and Supercritical Regimes – LDOS

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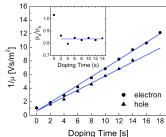
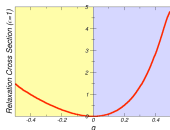
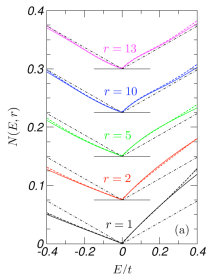


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Supercritical LDOS ( $g > 1/2$ )

$$N(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{|j| < |g|} \tilde{\eta}_j(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) + \sum_{|j| > |g|} \eta_j(\epsilon, \mathbf{r})$$

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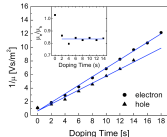
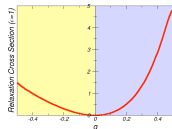
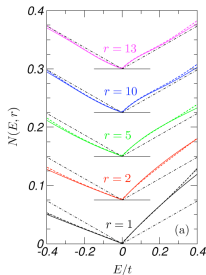


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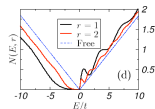


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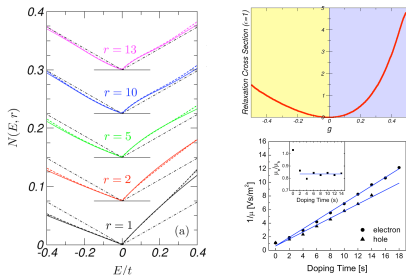


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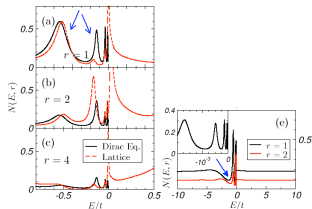


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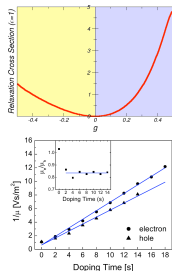
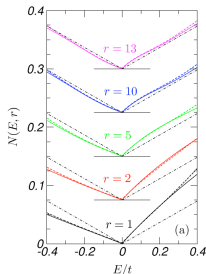


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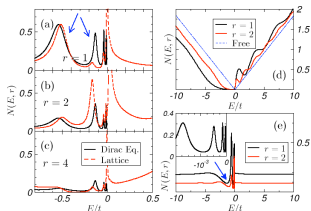
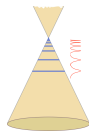
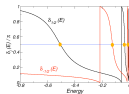
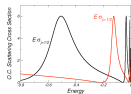


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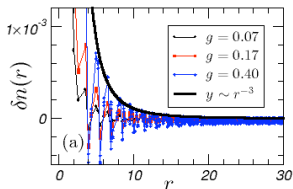
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$$\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \int_{-\Lambda}^{E_F} [N(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) - N^0(\epsilon, \mathbf{r})] d\epsilon = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\Lambda}^{E_F} [n_j(\epsilon, \mathbf{r}) - n_j^0(\epsilon, \mathbf{r})] d\epsilon = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} [n_j(\mathbf{r}) - n_j^0(\mathbf{r})] d\epsilon \quad (7)$$

Undercritical ( $g < g_c$ )

$$\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{h_{\text{osc}}(\Lambda r)}{r^3} \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow 0} \boxed{\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) = Q\delta(\mathbf{r})}$$

Coulomb's law *prevails*:  $Z_{\text{eff}} = Z - Q$ .



$$\begin{aligned} \delta\rho(q) &= \\ &= \frac{q}{4} \frac{2\pi Z\alpha}{q} = \frac{\pi}{2} Z\alpha \equiv Q \end{aligned}$$

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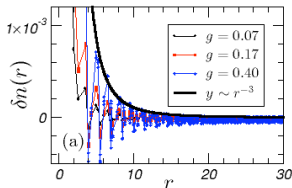
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$$\begin{aligned} \delta\rho(\mathbf{q}) &= \text{Diagram: A circle with a red dot at the top labeled 'k'. A dashed red line points to a red 'x' labeled 'ZV(q)'. A curved arrow at the bottom is labeled 'k+q' with a red dot at its end.} \\ &= \frac{q}{4} \frac{2\pi Z\alpha}{q} = \frac{\pi}{2} Z\alpha \equiv Q \end{aligned}$$

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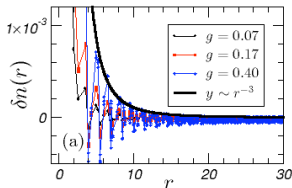
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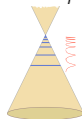
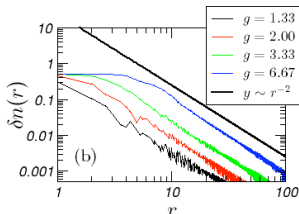


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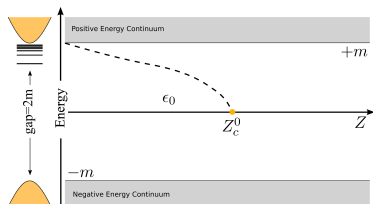
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<sup>†</sup> See also Shytov *et al.*, PRL 99, 236801 (2007), Kolezhuk *et al.*, PRB 74, 165114 (2006).

## I. Diving states (Hydrogen atom in QED)



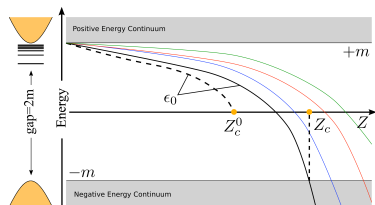
$$E_{nj} = mc^2 \left\{ 1 + \left[ \frac{Z\alpha}{n + \sqrt{\kappa^2 - (Z\alpha)^2}} \right]^2 \right\}^{-1/2}$$

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1971 г. Ноябрь

Том 105, вып. 3

УСПЕХИ ФИЗИЧЕСКИХ НАУК

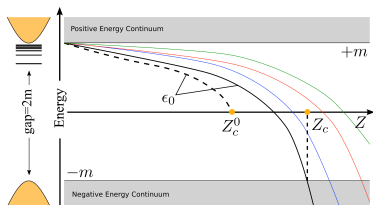
ЭЛЕКТРОННАЯ СТРУКТУРА СВЕРХТЯЖЕЛЫХ АТОМОВ

Я. Б. Зельдович, В. С. Попов

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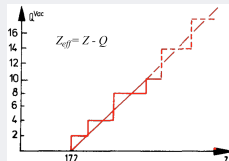
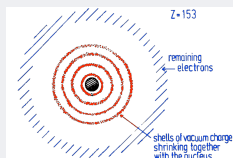
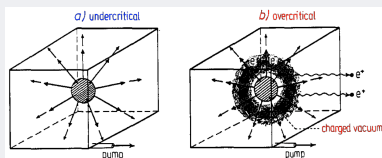
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## II. Charged Vacuum — An yet untested prediction of QED under strong fields



# Gapped Graphene and Critical Coupling Renormalization

## Massive Dirac fermions in 2D

$$\hbar v_F \left( -i\sigma \cdot \nabla - \frac{g}{r} + \frac{mv_F}{\hbar} \sigma_z \right) \Psi(r) = E \Psi(r)$$

$$E_0 = m\sqrt{1 - (2g)^2}, \quad \lambda_C = \hbar/mv_F$$

## Diving State in Regularized Potential ( $E \approx -m$ )

$$|\psi_0^\dagger \psi_C| \propto r^{-1/2} \exp(-2\sqrt{8\tilde{g}_C} r/\lambda_C) \quad (8)$$

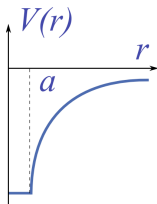
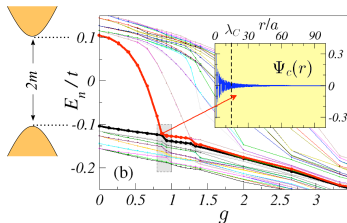
!! Localized State in the Continuum !!

## Critical Coupling Renormalization

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$$\tilde{g}_C(ma) = g_C + \delta g_C(ma)$$

## Diving Levels in the Lattice vs Dirac Eq.



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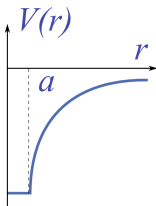
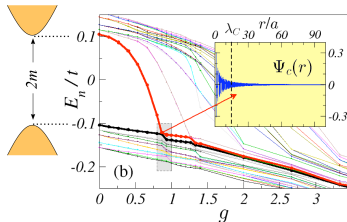
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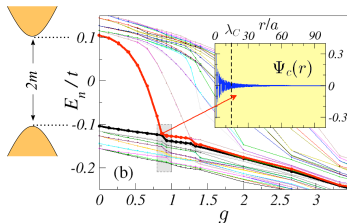
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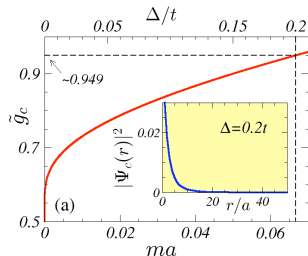


Fig. 5: VM Pereira et al. PRB 78, 085101 (2008).



# Semiclassical Interpretation of the Diving State

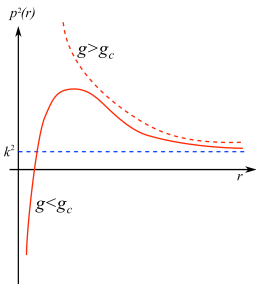
Semiclassical action and momentum ("WKB")

$$E^2 = p^2 + m^2 \rightarrow (E - V)^2 = p^2 + m^2 \quad (9)$$

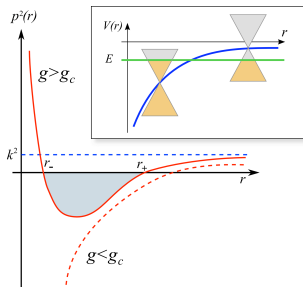
$$p^2 = p_r^2 + \frac{l^2}{r^2} = (E - V)^2 - m^2 \quad (10)$$

$$p_r^2 = k^2 + \frac{2gE}{r} + \frac{g^2 - l^2}{r^2} \quad (11)$$

Particle States ( $E > 0$ )



Hole States ( $E < 0$ )





# Induced Charge and Vacuum Polarization

As before, we compute the induced charge:

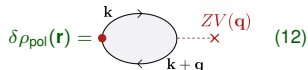
$$\delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{E \leq E_F} |\Psi_E(\mathbf{r})|^2 - \sum_{E \leq -m} |\Psi_E^0(\mathbf{r})|^2 \simeq \boxed{|\Psi^c(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \delta\rho_{\text{pol}}(\mathbf{r})}, \quad \delta\rho_{\text{pol}}(\mathbf{r}) = \text{Diagram} \quad (12)$$

where  $\delta\rho_{\text{pol}}(\mathbf{r})$  represents the polarization charge caused by the deformation of the continuum wavefunctions.



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Polarization charge inside  $R$ :

$$Q(R) = N \int_{|\mathbf{r}| < R} \delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}.$$

Gapped System ( $\Delta = 0.2t$ )

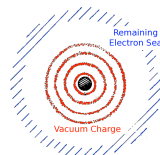
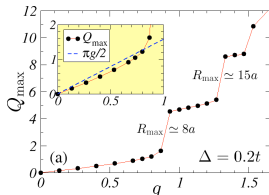
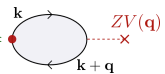


Fig. 6: VM Pereira *et al.* PRB 78, 085101 (2008).



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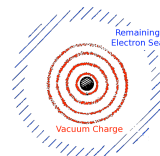
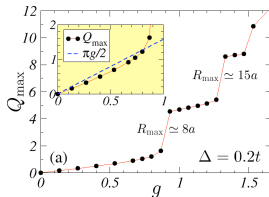
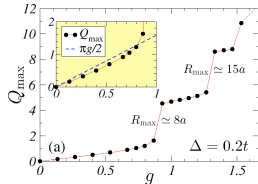
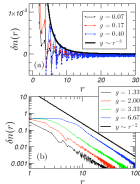
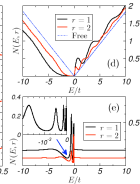
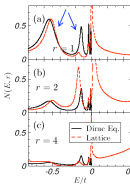
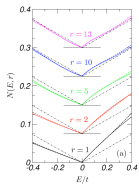
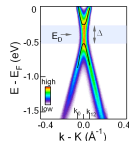
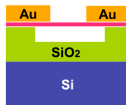
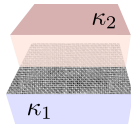
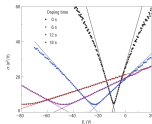


Fig. 6: VM Pereira et al. PRB 78, 085101 (2008).

Massless graphene constitutes a nontrivial limit: an *ultra* critical situation where  $\infty$  bound levels have penetrate the continuum at once beyond  $g_c$ .

One needs to address/control several physical parameters, namely

- **Coulomb impurities in a controlled way:**
  - ✓ Chen *et al.* Nature Phys. 4 (08).
- **Tune impurity valence ( $Z\alpha > g_c$ ):**
  - ✓ Jang *et al.* arXiv:0805.3780.
  - ✓ Mohiuddin *et al.* arXiv:0809.1162.
  - ✓ X. Du *et al.* arXiv:0802.2933.
  - ✓ Bolotin *et al.* PRL 101, 096802 (2008)
- **Generate a gap:**
  - ✓ Zhou *et al.* Nature Mat. 6, 770 (07).
  - ✓ Gruneis *et al.* PRB 77, 193401 (08).
  - ✓ Li *et al.* arXiv:0803.4016.

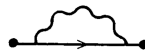


PRL 99, 166802 (2007); PRB 78, 075433 (2008); PRB 78, 085101 (2008)

# The Role of Interactions

## Radiative corrections in QED

- 1 Vacuum polarization  
Negative Lamb shift:  $\Delta Z_c \sim -\alpha Z_c$
- 2 Self-energy  
Positive Lamb shift:  $\Delta Z_c \sim +\alpha Z_c$



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## Key issues

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There is a strong tendency for over-screening

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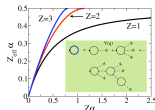
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- 1 Non-linear screening [A. Shytov *et al.*, PRL 99 236801 (2007)].

$$g(r) \rightarrow g_c, \quad [r > r^* \sim a(1 + \sqrt{g - g_c})] \quad \text{“supercritical protection”}.$$

- 2 Self consistent effective valence – Hartree correction, [Terekhov *et al.*, PRL 100,76803 (2008)].

$$Z_{\text{eff}} = Z - Q(Z\alpha) \rightarrow Z\alpha - \alpha Q(Z_{\text{eff}}\alpha)$$



- 3 Other non-linear, non-perturbative effects

M. Katsnelson, PRB 74 201401 (2006), M. Fogler *et al.*, PRB 76 233402 (2007).

