On the First-Principles Determination of the Superconducting Transition Temperature

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One of the ultimate goals in condensed matter theory is to make a reliable prediction of the superconducting transition temperature T_c only through the information on constituent elements of a superconductor in consideration. A less ambitious yet very important goal is to make an accurate evaluation of T_c directly from a microscopic (yet model) Hamiltonian pertinent to the superconductor. If we could find the dependence of T_c on the parameters specifying the model Hamiltonian, we could obtain an insight into the mechanism of superconductivity or the competition between attractive and repulsive interactions between electrons. Accumulation of such basic information would pave the way to the synthesis of a room-temperature superconductor, a big dream in materials science.

From this perspective, a critical review of the theories for quantitative calculations of T_c from first principles is given in my talk. In view of the importance to avoid employing the phenomenological parameters such as the Coulomb pseudopotential μ^* in describing the effect of the Coulomb repulsion on the Cooper-pair formation, I focus on the density functional theory for superconductors (SCDFT) as well as the G₀W₀ approximation to the exact theory in the Green's-function approach. I give some concrete results of T_c for actual superconductors including the pseudoferroelectric *n*-type semiconducting SrTiO₃ [1] and the alkali- and alkaline-earth-intercalated graphite compounds [2-4] with paying special attention to the surprising similarity in the gap equation obtained in each theory, implying a deep implicit interconnection between the two theories, in spite of the large difference in their basic theoretical frameworks [5,6].

References

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Comments
(1) What is the actual meaning of Migdal's theorem? In the calculation of T_c , if all the vertex corrections are neglected, we should neglect all the self-energy correction as well, in order to satisfy the Ward identity.
(2) Polaron effect The Ward identity determines the vertex function for $\omega_{p'} \neq \omega_{p}$ as
$\Gamma(i\omega'_p, i\omega_p) = rac{\omega_{p'}Z(i\omega_{p'}) - \omega_pZ(i\omega_p)}{\omega_{p'} - \omega_p} au_3$
but it is useless for $\omega_{p'} = \omega_{p}$; instead, it is known as $\Gamma = [1 - \delta \Sigma / \delta \mu] \tau_3$. If the polaron effect is large, it is much different from Γ in the limit of $\omega_{p'} \rightarrow \omega_{p}$. <i>cf.</i> YT & T. Higuchi, PRB 52 , 12720 (1995).
(3) Effect of Anderson-Bogoliubov-Nambu-Goldstone mode on T_c
$(i\omega_{p'}-i\omega_p)\Gamma(i\omega_{p'},i\omega_p)=[i\omega_{p'}Z(i\omega_{p'})-i\omega_pZ(i\omega_p)] au_3+[\phi(i\omega_{p'})+\phi(i\omega_p)]i au_2$
© Amplitude mode (Higgs mode) does not change T_c ; cf. T. Gherghetta & Y. Nambu, PRB 49 , 740 (1994).
© Phase mode, the energy scale of which is that of the plasmon, decreases T_c ; <i>cf.</i> YT, J. Phys. Chem. Solids 54 , 1779 (1993).
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$$\begin{split} & \textcircled{\textbf{Gap Equation in } G_0 W_0 \text{ Approximation}} \\ & \textcircled{\textbf{Derive a gap equation in } G_0 W_0 \text{ in which } Z_p(i\omega_p)=1, \ \chi_p(i\omega_p)=0. \\ cf. \text{ YT, JPSJ45, 786 (1978); JPSJ49, 1267 (1980).} \\ & \text{At } T=T_c, \ \hline \phi_{\textbf{p}}(i\omega_p)=T\sum_{\omega_{p'}}\sum_{\textbf{p'}\neq \textbf{p}}\frac{\phi_{p'}(i\omega_{p'})}{(i\omega_{p'})^2-\xi_{p'}^2} \ \tilde{V}_{ee}(\textbf{p}-\textbf{p'},i\omega_p-i\omega_{p'}) \\ & \textbf{Analytic continuation: } i\omega_p \rightarrow \omega + i0^+, \ \phi_{\textbf{p}}(i\omega_p) \rightarrow \phi_{\textbf{p}}^R(\omega) \\ & \boxed{\phi_{\textbf{p}}^R(\omega)=\int_0^{\underline{\alpha}}\underline{d\omega'}_{p'}\sum_{i}\text{Im}\left[\frac{\phi_{p'}^R(\omega')}{(\omega'^2-\xi_{p'}^2+i0^+)}\right] \left\{ [1-2f(\omega')]V_c(|\textbf{p}-\textbf{p'}|) \\ & +\int_0^{\underline{\alpha}}\underline{d\Omega} \text{ Im} \tilde{V}_{ee}^R(\textbf{p}-\textbf{p}',\Omega) \Big[[f(-\omega')+n(\Omega)] \Big(\frac{1}{\omega+\Omega+\omega'+i0^+}-\frac{1}{\omega-\Omega-\omega'+i0^+}\Big) \\ & + [f(\omega')+n(\Omega)] \Big(\frac{1}{\omega-\Omega+\omega'+i0^+}-\frac{1}{\omega+\Omega-\omega'+i0^+}\Big) \Big] \right\} \\ & \boxed{G_{\textbf{p}}(i\omega_p)=-\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\frac{d\omega'}{\pi} \frac{\text{Im} G_{\textbf{p}}^R(\omega')}{i\omega_p-\omega'}}_{ \\ & \boxed{\tilde{V}_{ee}(\textbf{q},i\omega_q)=V_c(q)-\int_0^{\infty}\frac{d\Omega}{\pi} \frac{2\Omega}{(i\omega_q)^2-\Omega^2} \text{ Im} \tilde{V}_{ee}^R(\textbf{q},\Omega)}_{ \\ & \underline{On \ Te \ fm \ first \ principles \ (Takad)}}$$













































Evaluation of the Pairing Interaction

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(Q_{sc} = -\frac{\prod_{sc}^{(0)}}{1 + \tilde{g} \prod_{sc}^{(0)}}\right) & \text{N-site system} \\
(1) Calculate $Q_{sc}^{(N)}$ by exact diagonalization
(2) Obtain \tilde{g}_N by $\tilde{g}_N = -Q_{sc}^{(N)^{-1}} - \prod_{sc}^{(0,N)^{-1}} \\
- -Q_{sc}^{(N)} = -\frac{\prod_{sc}^{(0,N)}}{1 + \tilde{g}_N \prod_{sc}^{(0,N)}}
\end{aligned}$
(3) Evaluate \tilde{g} by $\lim_{N \to \infty} \tilde{g}_N$ Take $\tilde{g} = \tilde{g}_N$.
Basic observation: The essential physics of electron pairing can be captured in an *N*-site system, if the system size is large enough in comparison with ξ_0 .
 \Rightarrow If ξ_0 is short, *N* may be taken to be very small.

$$\underbrace{Rotem first principles (Takad)} = \underbrace{Rotem first principles (Takad)} =$$$$













Summary

- 1⁰ In the weak-coupling region, the scheme in G_0W_0 provides more accurate results than the conventional Eliashberg scheme. In particular, the former determines the Coulomb pseudopotential μ^* from first principles.
- 2⁰ A scheme based on SCDFT also provides T_c with similar accuracy for the phonon mechanism without the empirical parameter μ^* , but its current functional form for the pairing interaction is not good enough to treat the phonon mechanism and the electronic mechanisms on the same footing, contrary to the G_0W_0 scheme.
- 3⁰ In the strong coupling and/or correlation region, much more work is needed in constructing the scheme for T_c from first principles.

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