

# Do the Pnictides point to other possible mechanisms for high $T_c$ ?

George Sawatzky

[arXiv:0808.1390](https://arxiv.org/abs/0808.1390) 2008 EPL 86, 17006 2009 [G.A. Sawatzky](#), [I.S. Elfimov](#), [J. van den Brink](#), [J. Zaanen](#)

ArXiv: 0811.0214v1 2008 Mona Berciu, Ilya Elfimov and George A sawatzky PRB in Press

Meinders et al PRB 52, 2484 (1995)

Van den Brink et al PRL 75, 4658 (1995)

J. van den Brink et al Europhysics Letters 50, 447 (2000)

# collaborators

## Experiment

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## Theory

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**Most papers on the pnictide superconductors Refer to similarities with the Cuprates. Are they really similar?**

•

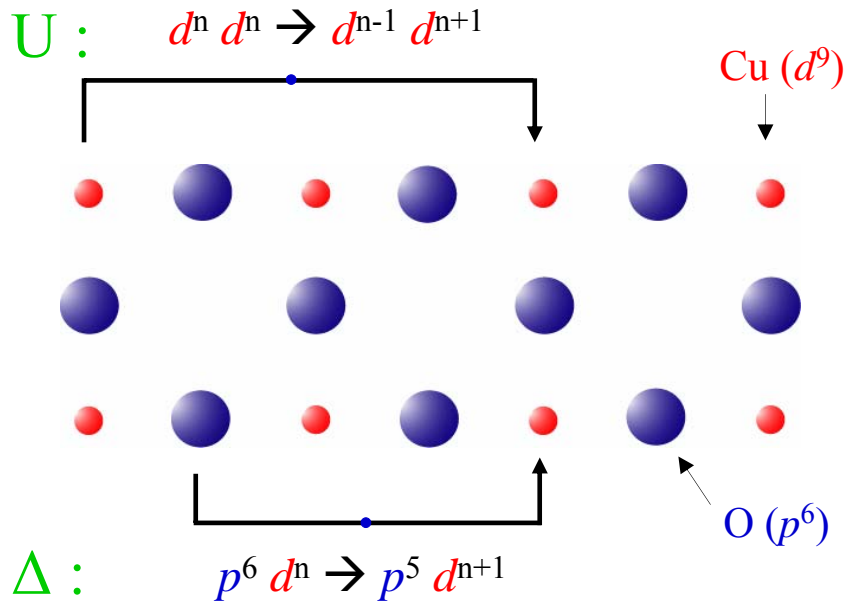
### **Cuprates**

- **Local moments**
- **Large superexchange,**
- **Charge transfer gaps not Mott Hubbard**
- **Charge carriers mostly of anion p character**
- **Strong Cu 3d-O 2p hybridization**
- **2 Dimensional**

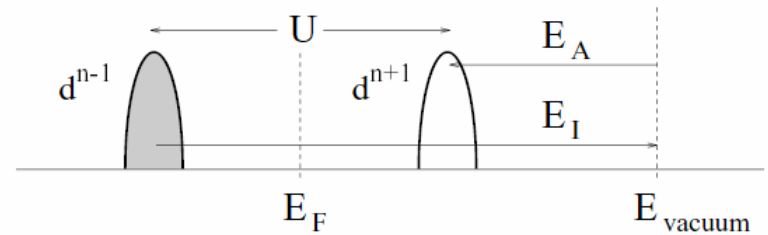
### **Pnictides**

- **Small amplitude SDW**
- **Some evidence of large spin wave dispersion**
- **Reports support small Mott Hubbard gap if any**
- **Charge carriers Fe d electrons and holes**
- **Relatively weak Fe 3d-As 4p hybridization**
- **Weak anisotropy**

# Correlated Electrons in a Solid

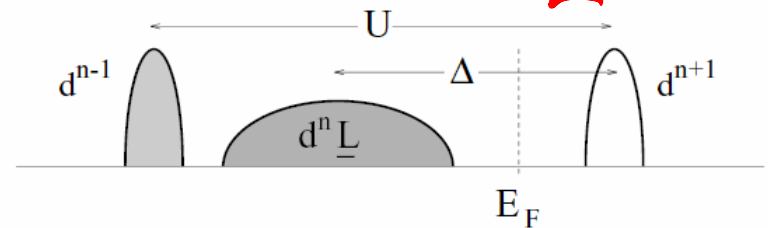


(a) Mott-Hubbard insulator



*Pnictides*

(b) Charge transfer insulator



*cuprates*

$$U = E_I^{\text{TM}} - E_A^{\text{TM}} - E_{\text{pol}}$$

$$\Delta = E_I^{\text{O}} - E_A^{\text{TM}} - E_{\text{pol}} + \delta E_{\text{M}}$$

If  $\Delta < (W+w)/2 \rightarrow$  Self doped metal

$E_I$  ionization energy

$E_A$  electron affinity energy

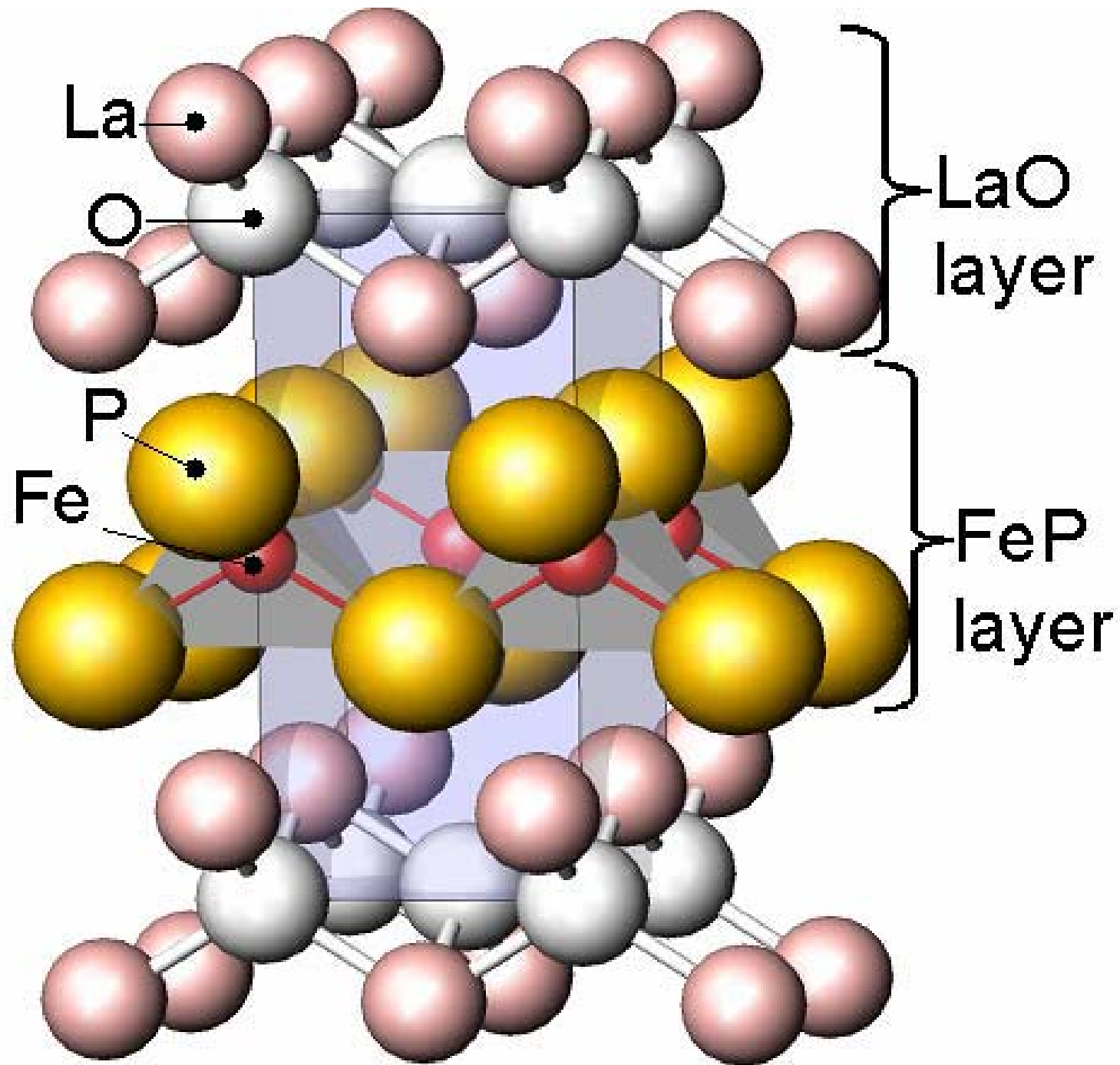
$E_{\text{M}}$  Madelung energy

$E_{\text{pol}}$  depends on surroundings!!!  $E_{\text{p}} = \frac{ze^2\alpha}{R^4}$

• J.Hubbard, Proc. Roy. Soc. London A 276, 238 (1963)

• ZSA, PRL 55, 418 (1985)

Since the pure pnictides like  
LaFeAsO, BaFe<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub>, etc are (bad)  
metals we would have to conclude  
that  $U < \text{the 3d band width}$



# What would the Fe 3d states look like if we started in the same way as in the Cuprates?

Not layered like TiS<sub>2</sub>

As drawn this presents a Surface

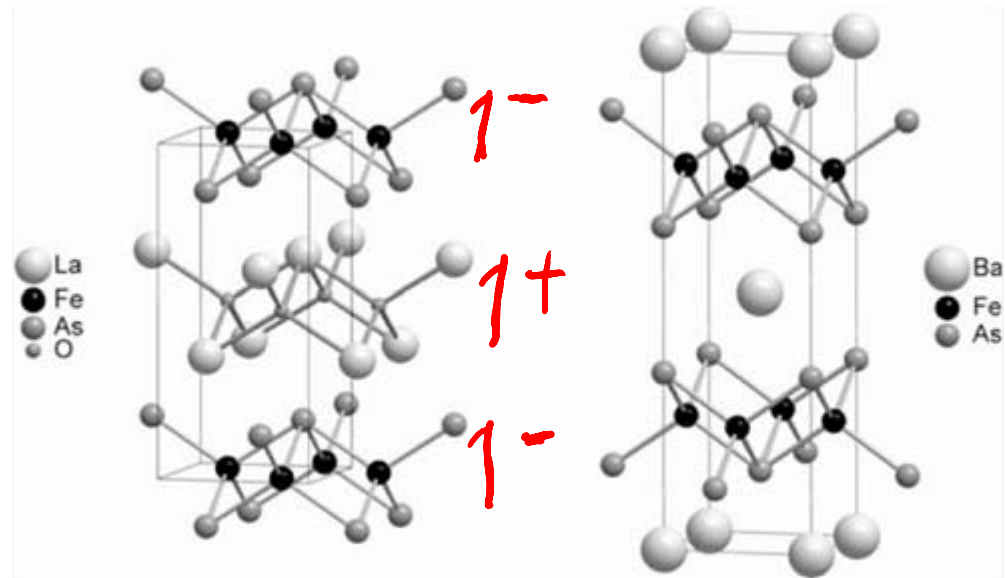
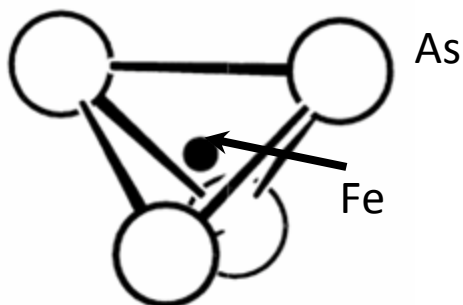
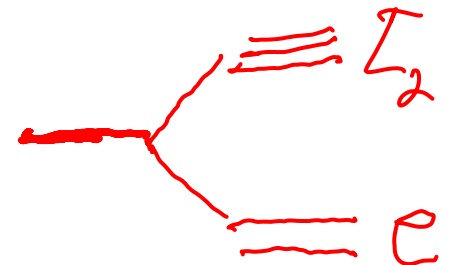


Figure 1 . Crystal structures of LaFeAsO (left) and BaFe<sub>2</sub>As<sub>2</sub> (right)



~ Tetrahedral coordination  
Crystal field splitting  
Is inverted as compared to Octahedral

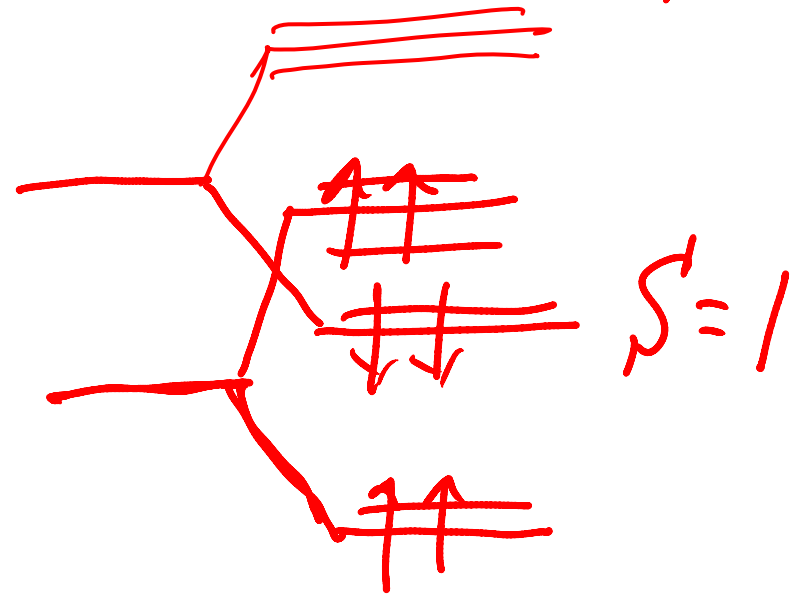
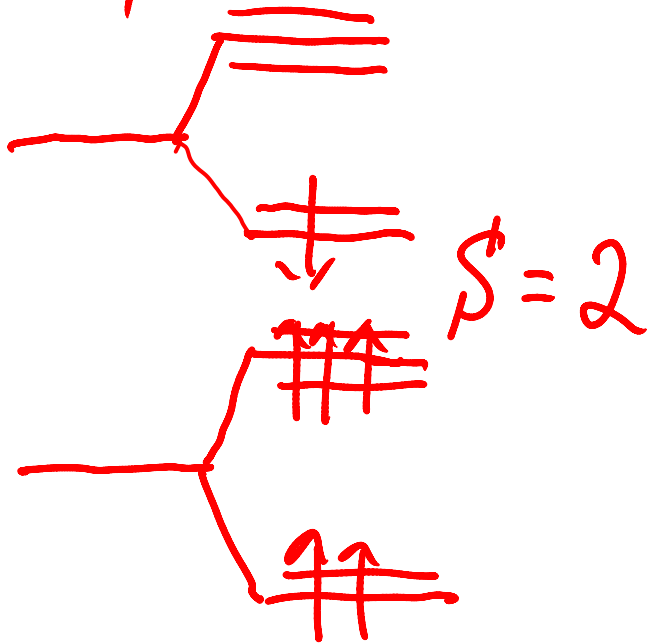


# Local crystal/ ligand field picture

plus Hund's rule

high Spin

Low Spin

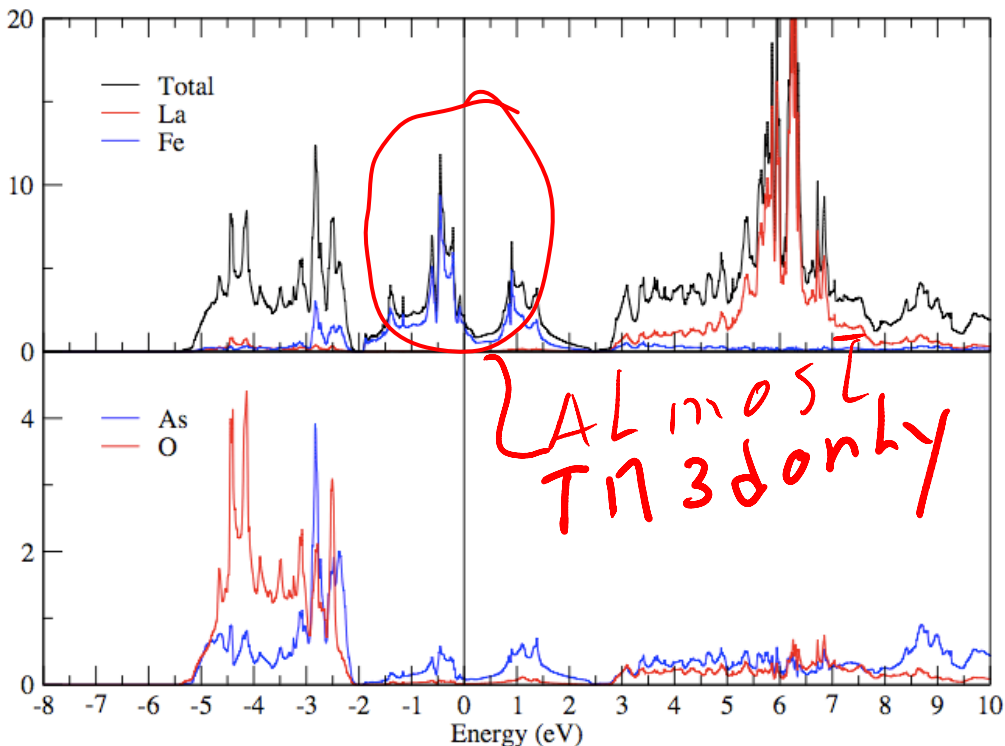


Band theory - Crystal/ligand field splitting is not very large  
And less important than the 3d band structure.

Very different from the cuprates!!



# Electronic Structure of LaOFeAs band theory ( Elfimov)

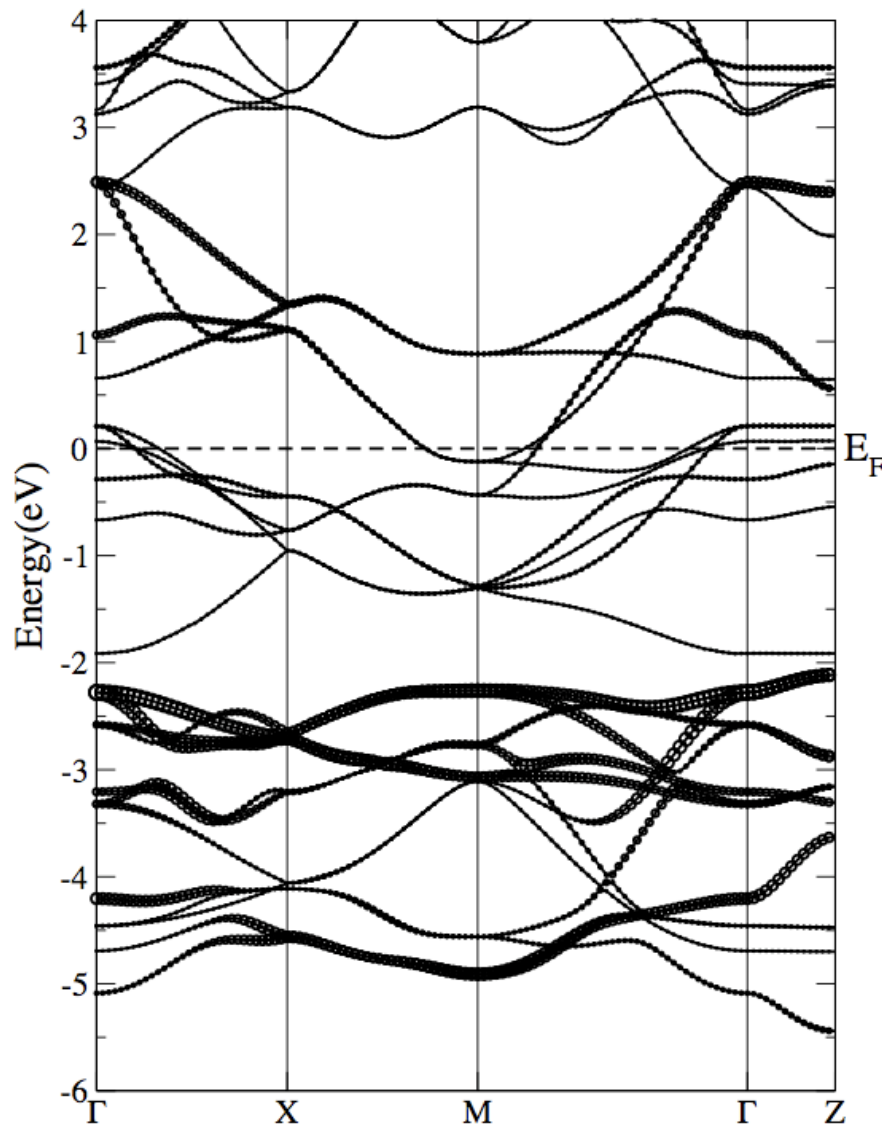


GGA; non magnetic

Fat bands show As 4p character

MT Radii (A) :

La	1.22
Fe	1.01
As	1.38
O	1.11



How can we explain the low VARIABLE magnetic moment? Since the hybridization is small?

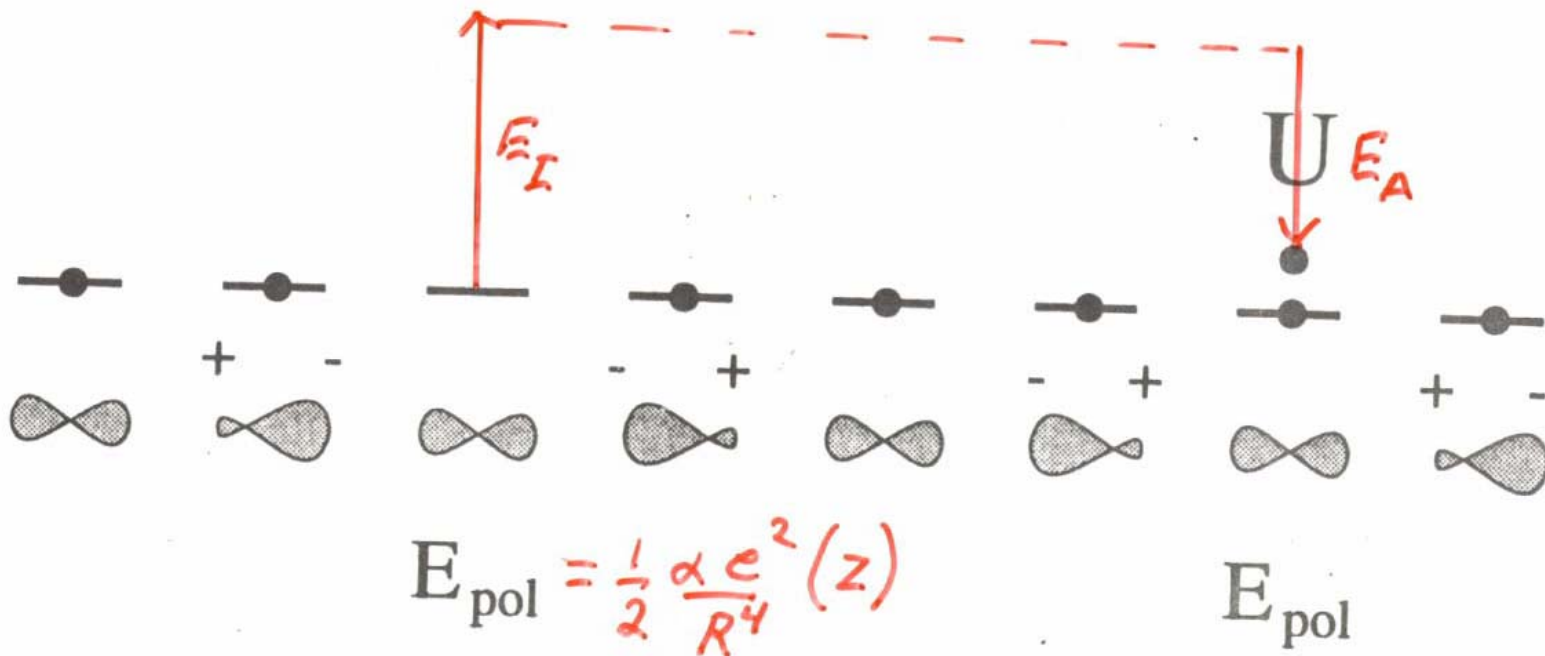
- Low Hubbard  $U$  i.e.  $U < 3d$  band width
- Band width is about 2-3 eV so  $U \sim 2-3\text{eV}$ ?
- How do we reduce an on site interaction from about 20eV in the free ion to less than 2 eV?
- A large contribution is the Polarizability of the anion!!!

# Effective Hamiltonians can be misleading

- Hubbard like models are based on the assumption that longer range coulomb interactions are screened and the short range on site interactions remain
- However  $U$  for the atom is about 20 eV but  $U$  as measured in the solid is only of order 5 eV and for the pnictides even less than this
- IF WE RENORMALIZE WILL NEW TERMS APPEAR?

# Reduction of onsite interactions and changing the nearest neighbor interactions with polarizable ions in a lattice

Van den Brink et al



We assume that the hole and electron move slowly compared to the response time of the polarizability of the atoms.

Note the oppositely polarized atoms next to the hole and extra electron

You can write the interaction Hamiltonian as

$$H_{\text{int}} = (U - 2zP) \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} + 2P \sum_{l,i} n_l n_{l+2a_i}$$

So the reduction of the Hubbard U in a polarizable medium like this introduces a strong Next nn repulsive interaction. This changes our model!!

For a different geometry actually the intersite interaction can also be strongly reduced perhaps even Attractive ( Fe Pnictides)

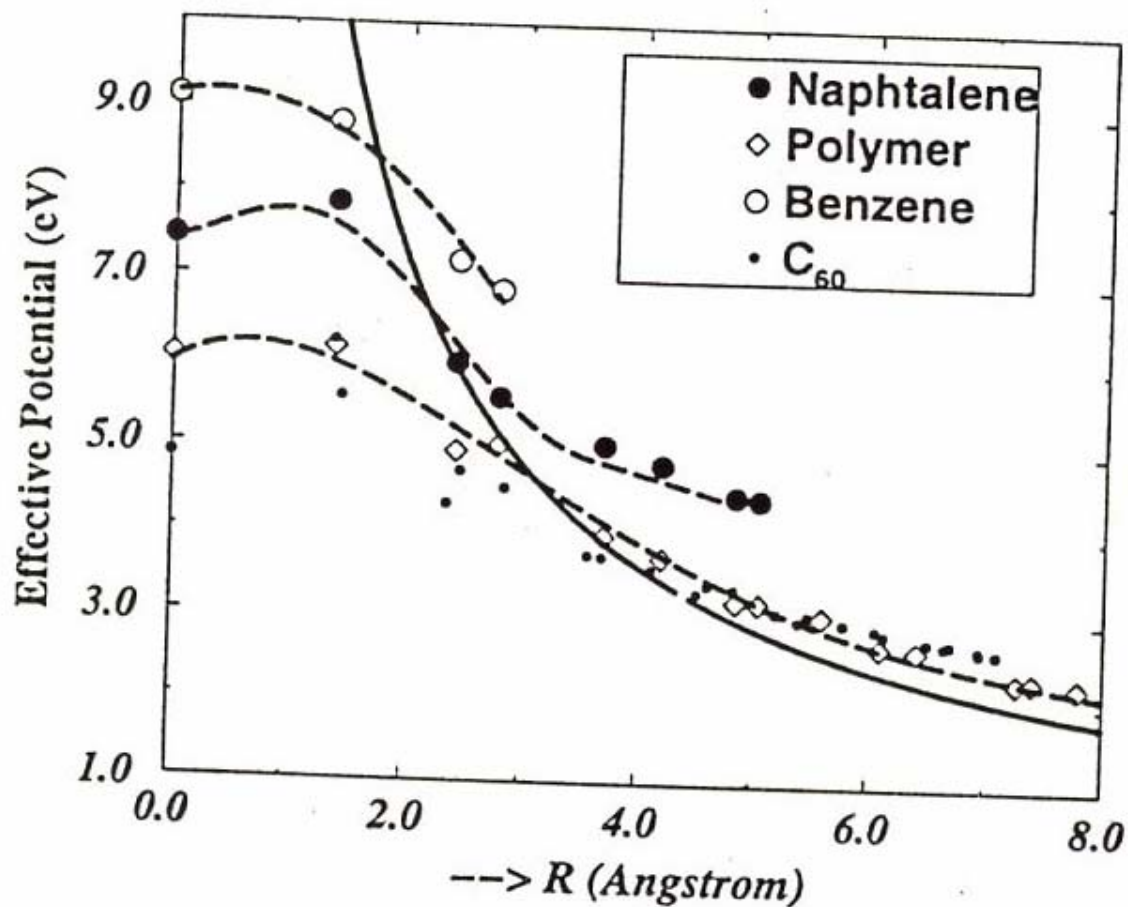


FIG. 5. The effective Coulomb interaction on different organic molecules. The carbon polarizability is  $0.56 \text{ \AA}^3$ . The full line represents the bare Coulomb repulsion. The dashed lines are guides for the eye.

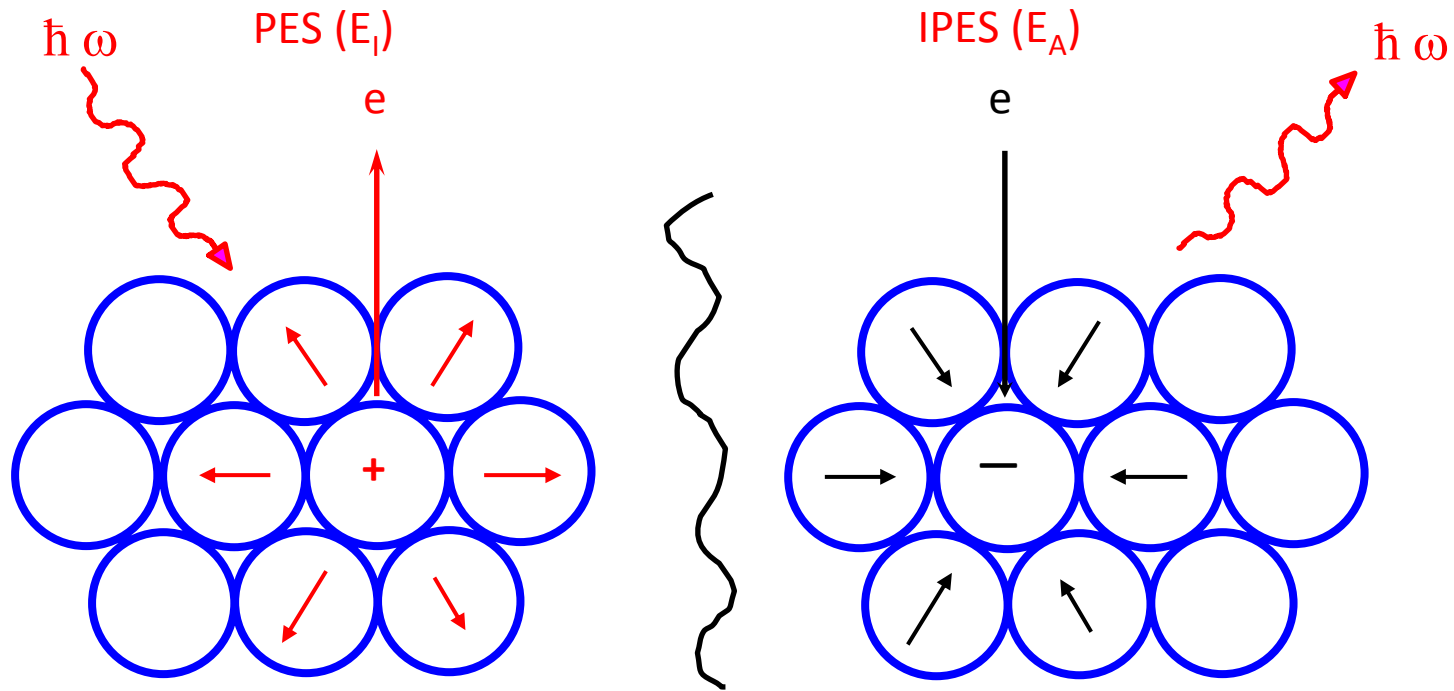
Note short range interactions are reduced “screened” and intermediate range interactions are enhanced or antiscreened-quite opposite to conventional wisdom in solid state physics

# remember that

- The polarizability of anions results in a strong reduction of the Hubbard on site  $U$
- The charged carriers living on transition metal ions are dressed by virtual electron hole excitations on the anions resulting in electronic polarons
- **The nearest neighbor coulomb interactions can be either repulsive or attractive depending on the details of the structure**



# A Picture of Solvation of ions in a polarizable medium



Full polarization can develop provided that Dynamic Response Time of the polarizable medium is faster than hopping time of the charge

$\Delta E$  (polarizability)  $> W$  ;  $\Delta E \approx$  MO energy splitting in molecules, plasma frequency in metals-----

# We are alive because of Solvation

Ions both positive and negative in  
our bodies regulate most everything

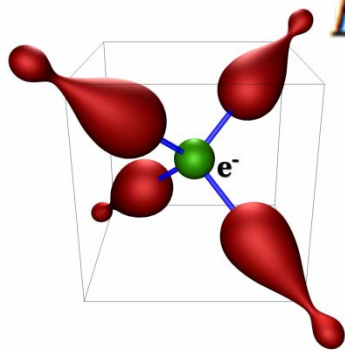
# Reduction of U due to polarizability of O<sup>2-</sup> or As<sup>3-</sup> (SOLVATION)

$$U = E_I^{\text{TM}} - E_A^{\text{TM}} - 2E_{\text{pol}} \quad E_{\text{pol}} = Z P \cdot F$$

$Z = n n n$ ,  $P =$  induced dipole,  $F =$  electric field

$E_I$  ionization energy

$E_A$  electron affinity energy



$$E_I = E_I^0 - \sum_i \frac{1}{2} \alpha_i F_i^2 \quad E_A = E_A^0 + \sum_i \frac{1}{2} \alpha_i F_i^2$$

$$E_{\text{pol}} = 2 \sum_i \frac{1}{2} \alpha_i F_i^2$$

For 6 nn of O<sup>2-</sup> ~ 13eV

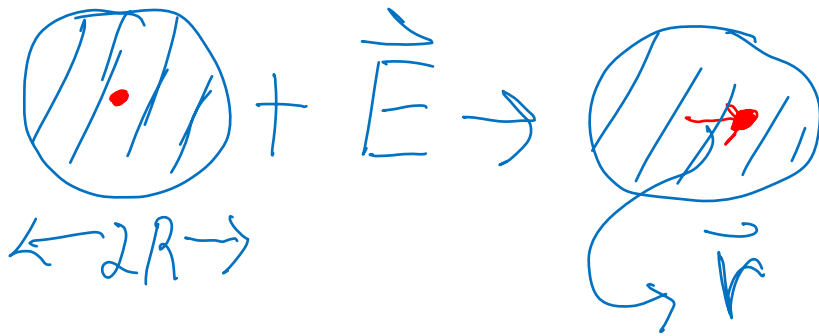
For 4 nn As<sup>3-</sup> ~ 17 eV

ELECTRONIC POLARON

# Rough estimate

Atomic or ionic polarizability  $\sim$  volume

- Consider atom = nucleus at the center of a uniformly charge sphere of electrons
- In a field  $E$  a dipole moment is induced  $P = \alpha E$



$$F = e^2 \left( \frac{r^3}{R^3} \right) \left( \frac{\vec{r}}{r^3} \right)$$

- For  $Z = 1$  and 1 electron restoring force =  $\left( \frac{e^2}{R^3} \right) \vec{r}$

$$\vec{p} = -e\vec{r} = \frac{e^2}{f} E = \alpha \cdot E \quad \alpha = R^3$$

$$\left( \frac{e^2}{R^3} \right) \vec{r}$$

"f"

# Whats the importance of As or P?

- Very large anions
- Electronic polarizabilities roughly equal to volume

$$\alpha(\text{P}^{3-}) \approx 6-8 \text{ \AA}^3 \quad \alpha(\text{As}^{3-}) \approx 10-12 \text{ \AA}^3$$
$$\alpha(\text{O}^{2-}) \approx 1-3 \text{ \AA}^3$$

- 4p orbitals have 2 radial nodes –very diffuse
- Weak hybridization with highly directed local Fe 3d orbitals (from band theory)
- Large polarizability strongly reduces U on Fe and the nearest neighbor interaction V between Fe 3d

# What about intersite interaction $V$ ?

$$V = V_0 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{common}} \alpha [(\mathbf{E}_1 + \mathbf{E}_2)^2 - E_1^2 - E_2^2],$$

which reduces to  $V = V_0 - 2\alpha \mathbf{E}_1 \cdot \mathbf{E}_2$ , where 2 ref

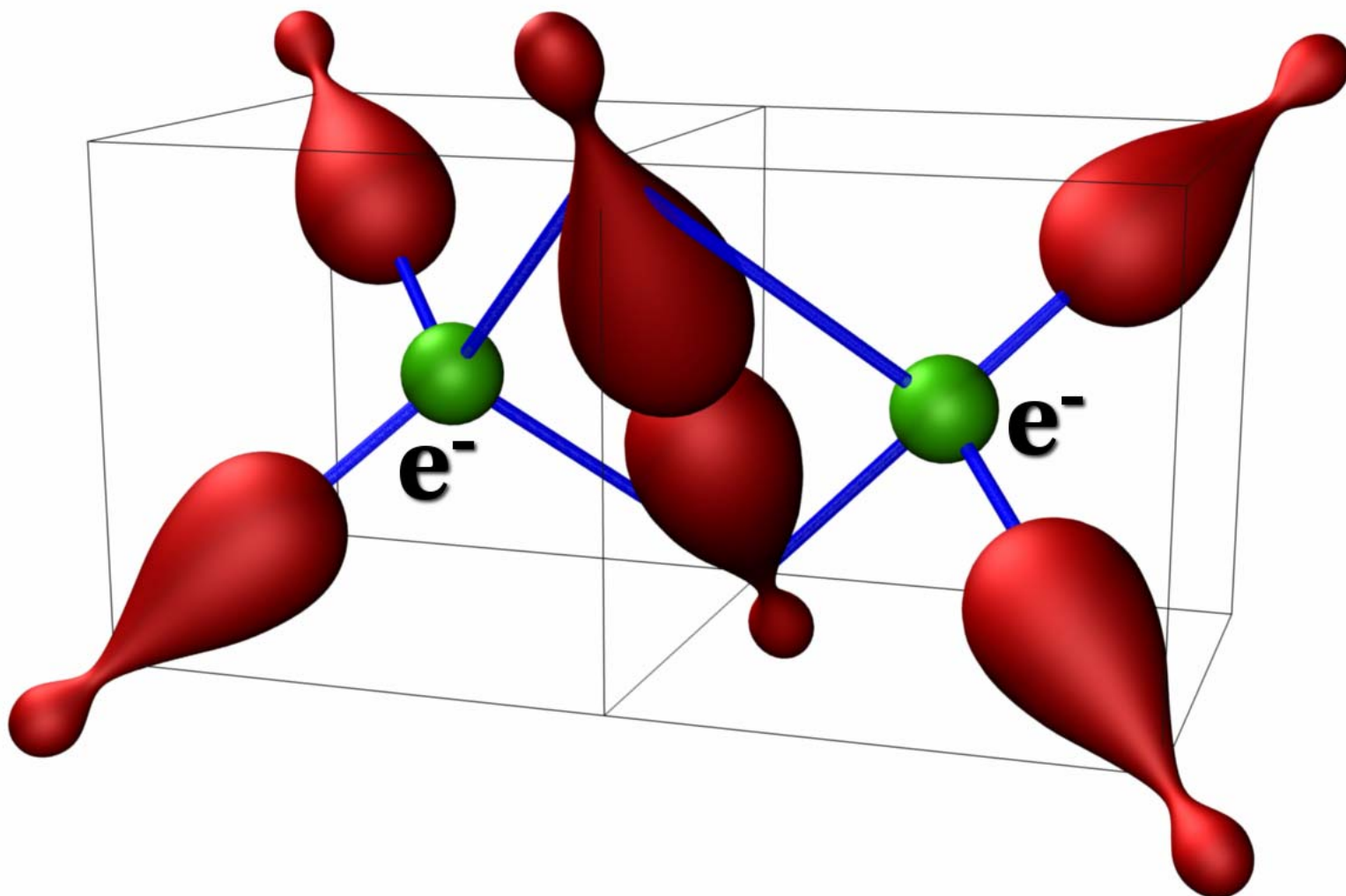
For the cuprates the Cu-O-Cu bond angle is 180 degrees  
therefore the repulsive interaction is enhanced!

i.e. larger than in free space

For pnictides the Fe-As-Fe nn bond angle is  $\sim 70$  degrees

Therefore the contribution to  $V$  is attractive  $\sim 4$  eV

# Polarization cloud For Two charges on Neighboring Fe "ELECTRONIC BIPOLARON"



# 2 level model for the dynamic high frequency polarizability and motion of the polaron/bipolaron

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 8

15 APRIL 1984

## Exciton satellites in photoelectron spectra

D. K. G. de Boer, C. Haas, and G. A. Sawatzky

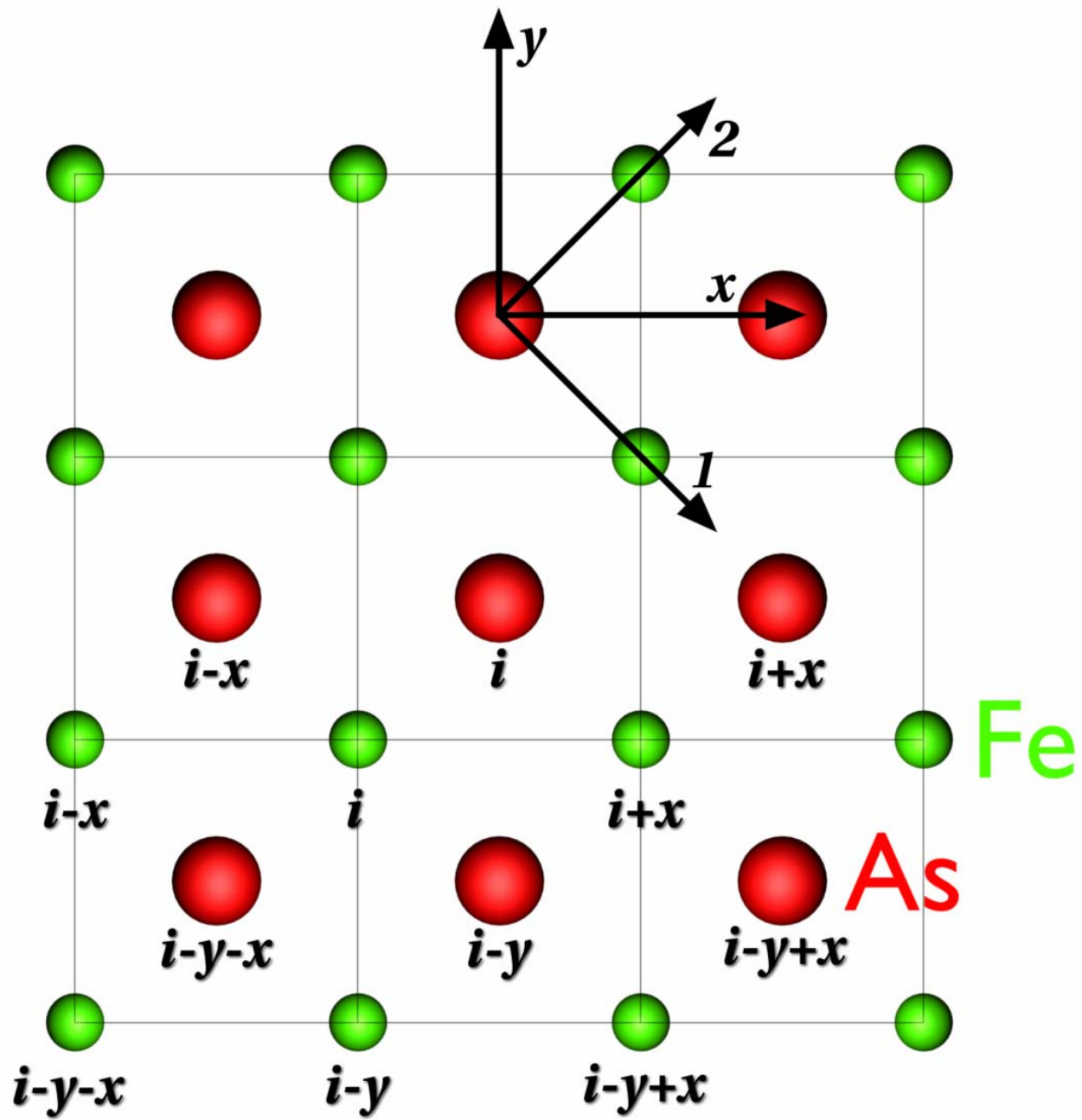
*Laboratories of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, Materials Science Centre of the University,  
Nijenborgh 16, 9747-AG Groningen, The Netherlands*

(Received 6 September 1983)

Use a two level model of As i.e. 4p occupied and 5s empty.  
In an electric field due to the point charge they mix yielding  
The pictures we draw of the polarization cloud.

Mona Berciu et al PRB in press





$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{Fe}} = - \sum_{i,j,\sigma} \left( t_{ij} c_{i,\sigma}^\dagger c_{j,\sigma} + h.c. \right) + U_H \sum_i \hat{n}_{i\uparrow} \hat{n}_{i\downarrow}$$

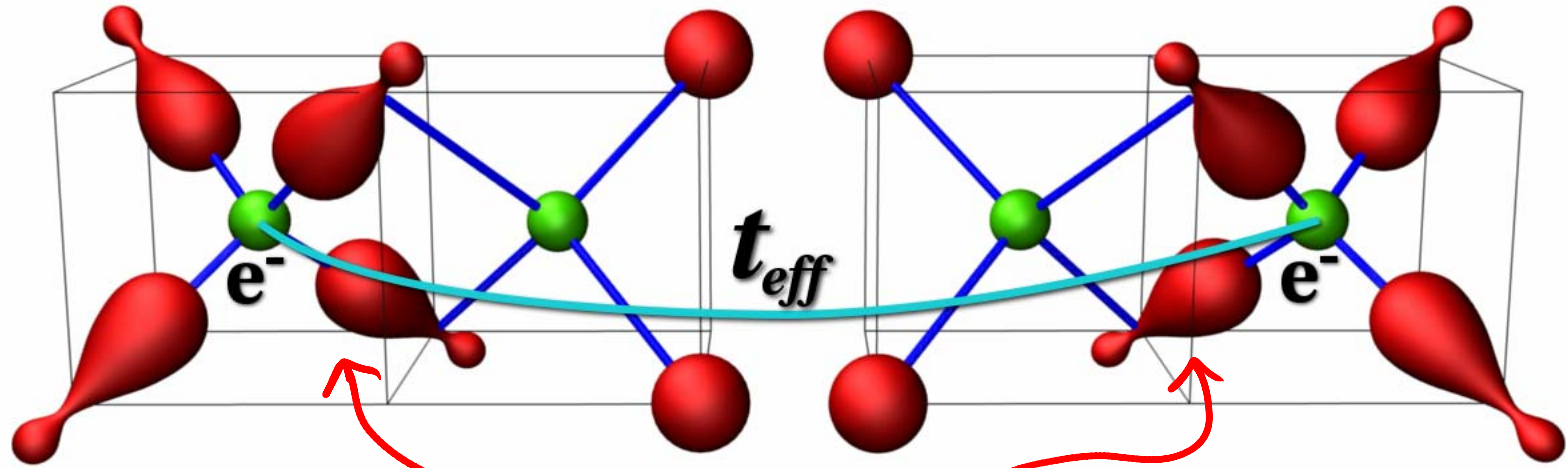
$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{As}} = \Omega \sum_{i,\lambda,\sigma} p_{i,\lambda,\sigma}^\dagger p_{i,\lambda,\sigma}, \quad = 4p-5s \text{ excitation energy}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}} &= g \sum_{i,\sigma} \hat{n}_i \left[ s_{i,\sigma}^\dagger \left( -\sin \theta p_{i,2,\sigma} + \cos \theta p_{i,3,\sigma} \right) \right. \\ &\quad + s_{i-y,\sigma}^\dagger \left( -\sin \theta p_{i-y,1,\sigma} + \cos \theta p_{i-y,3,\sigma} \right) \\ &\quad + s_{i-x-y,\sigma}^\dagger \left( \sin \theta p_{i-x-y,2,\sigma} + \cos \theta p_{i-x-y,3,\sigma} \right) \\ &\quad \left. + s_{i-x,\sigma}^\dagger \left( \sin \theta p_{i-x,1,\sigma} + \cos \theta p_{i-x,3,\sigma} \right) + h.c. \right] (3) \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\Omega$  is a high energy we  
can use perturbation theory  
in  $t$  as the smallest  
We assume only one particle so that  $U$   
is not active

# The Motion of a single quasi particle

## These move like electronic polarons



$$t_{eff} \sim t |\langle \phi_1 | \phi_2 \rangle|^2$$

i.e. the overlap integral of the polarization clouds

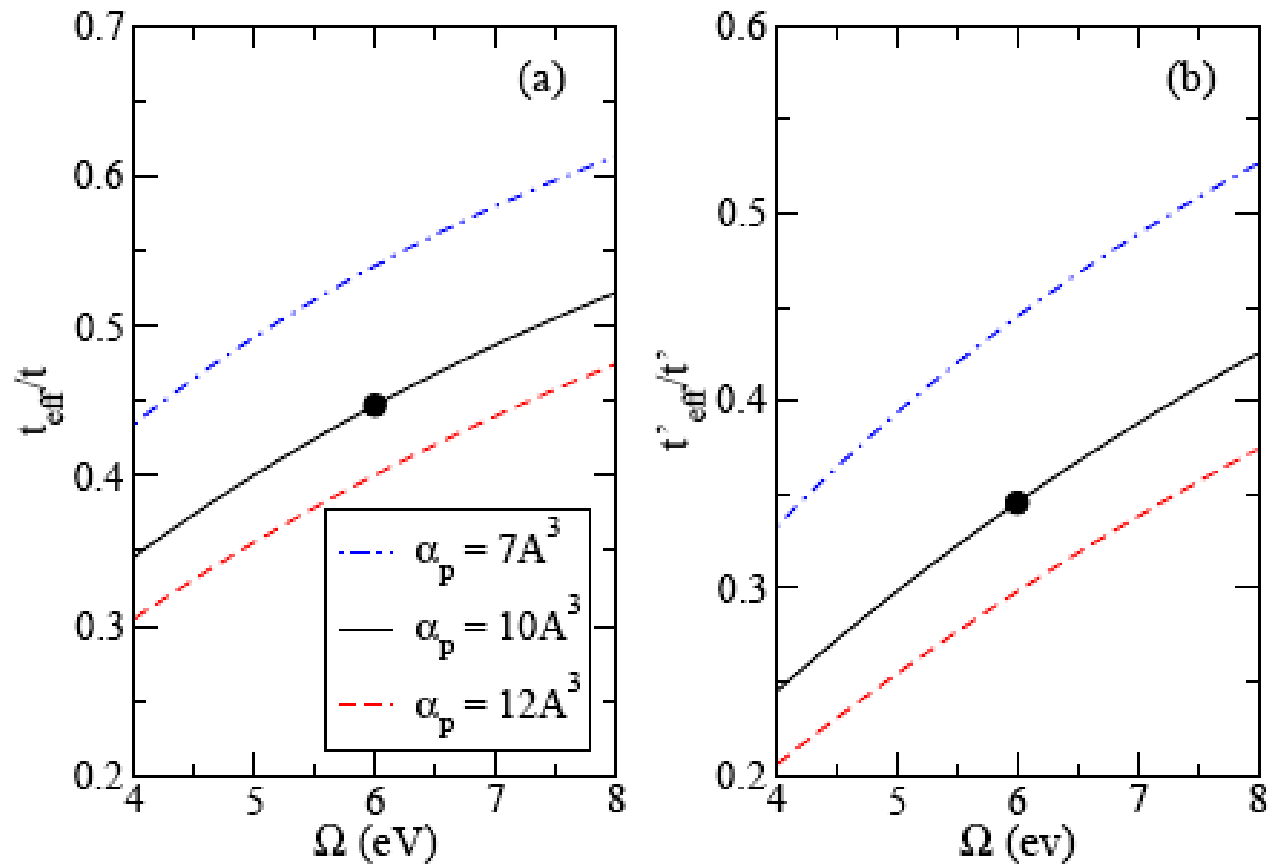


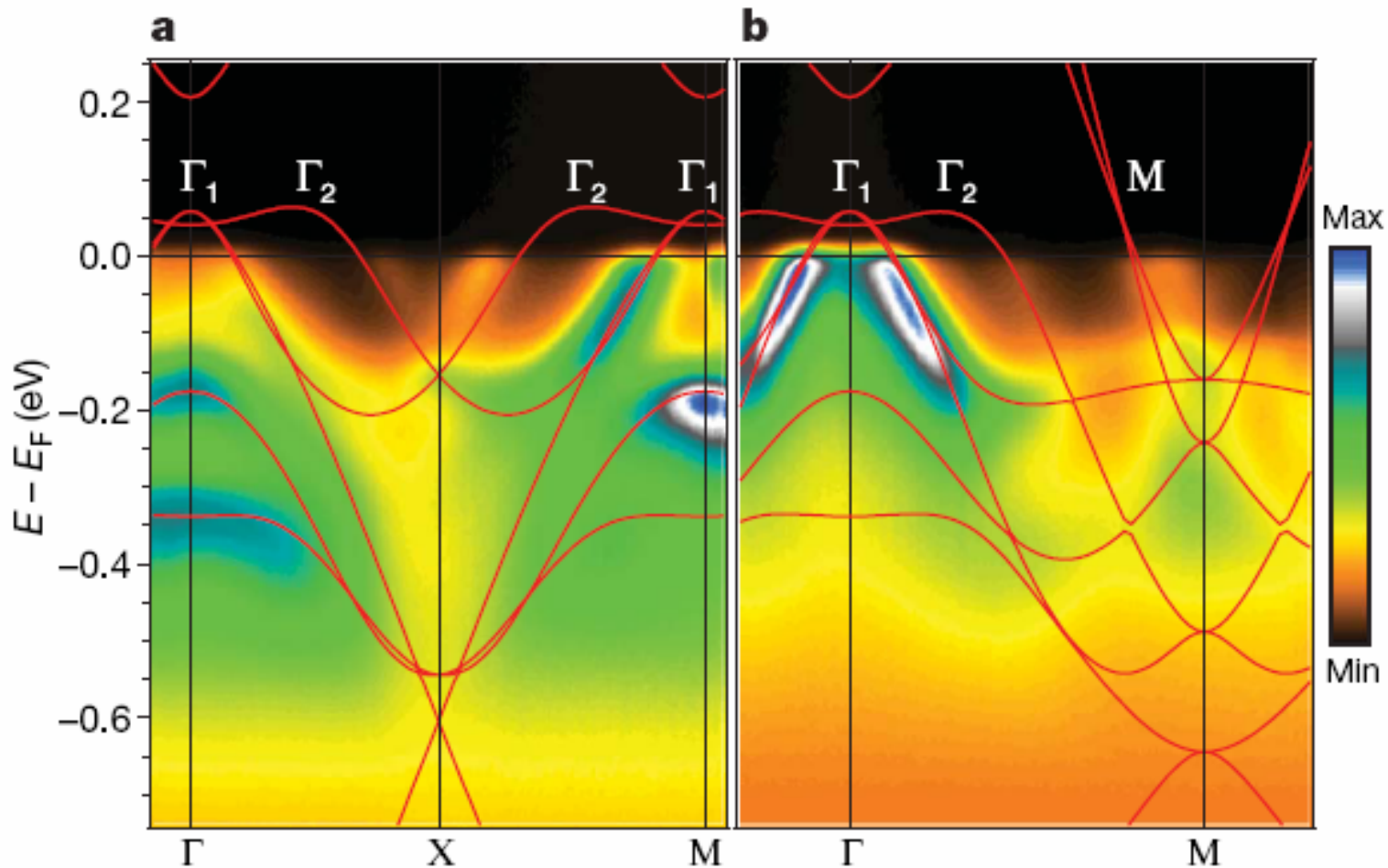
FIG. 3: (a)  $t_{\text{eff}}/t$  and (b)  $t'_{\text{eff}}/t'$  vs.  $\Omega$ , for a polarizability  $\alpha_p = 7, 10$  and  $12 \text{ \AA}^3$ . The dots show the values used here.

The effective polaron mass is simply  $t/t_{\text{eff}} = 2.2$  this is light compared to conventional lattice polaron masses

Angular resolved photoemission comparison with LDA LaFePO  
Lu et. al Nature 455, 81 2008

→ close to our  
 $1/2 \sim 2$

NOTE The band theory result has been shifted up by 0.11 eV and scaled down by a factor of 2.2



What about the nn interaction?  
Can this lead to bipolaronic bound  
states? And if so what is their mass

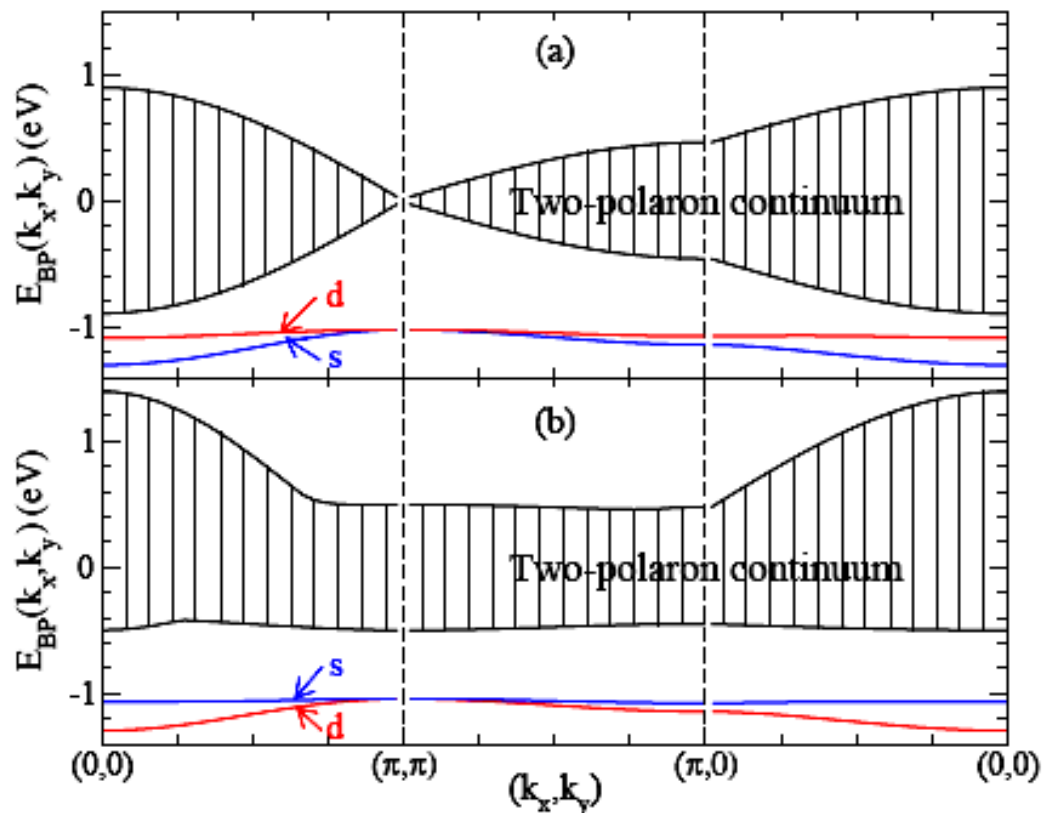


FIG. 7: Dispersion of the two bound bipolaron states along high-symmetry axes in the Brillouin zone, for (a)  $t' = 0$  and (b)  $t' = -t/2$ . The two-polaron continuum is also shown. Parameters are  $U_H = 10$  eV,  $\alpha_p = 10 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $\Omega = 6$  eV (similar results are found for all  $\alpha_p = 7 - 12 \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $\Omega = 4 - 8$  eV). The symmetry of the ground state changes from  $s$  to  $d$  if  $t' \neq 0$ .



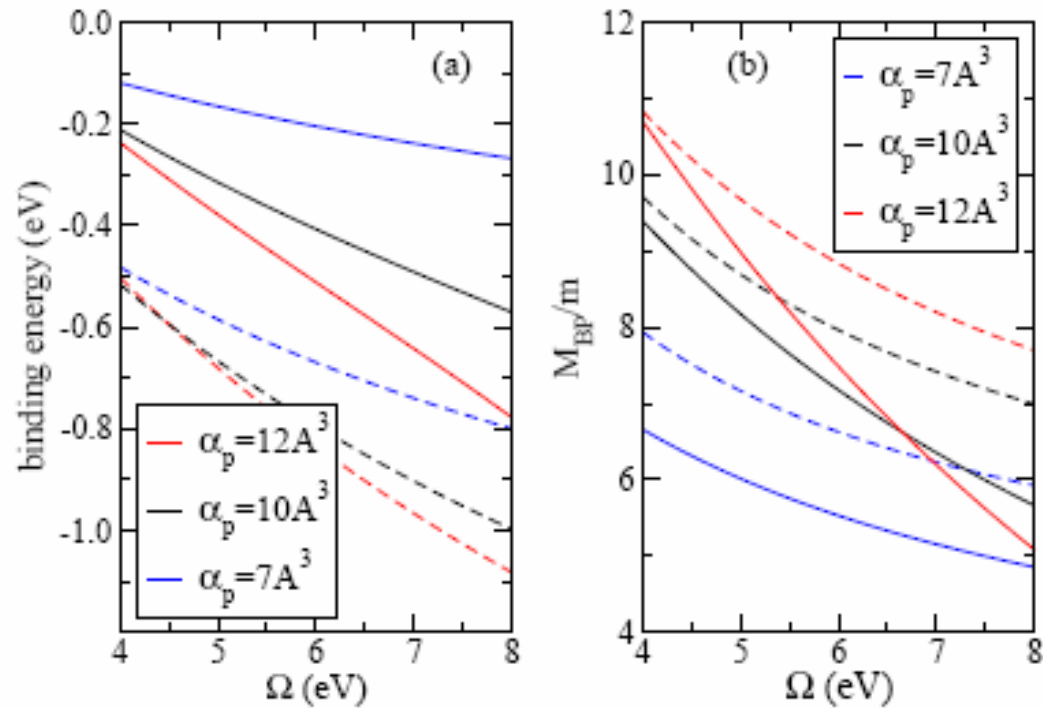


FIG. 8: Ground-state bipolaron (a) binding energy, and (b) effective mass in units of the free carrier mass vs.  $\Omega$ , for various polarizabilities. The full lines correspond to  $t' = 0$ , dashed lines to  $t' = -t/2$ . Here  $U_H = 10\text{eV}$ .

Note that the bipolaron mass is only 8 times the free particle mass this is again much lighter than for lattice bipolarons allowing for an eventual high Bose Einstein condensation T.

# Systematics of $T_c$

- $T_c$  variation with bond angles bond lengths and polarizabilities
- Note that often the As-Fe-As bond angle is used or the orthorhombic distortion in the plane or the Fe-As-Fe diagonal bond angle is used for systematics.
- Our model suggests rather using bond lengths and the Fe-As-Fe nearest neighbor bond angle

## Effective interaction plotted vs log Tc

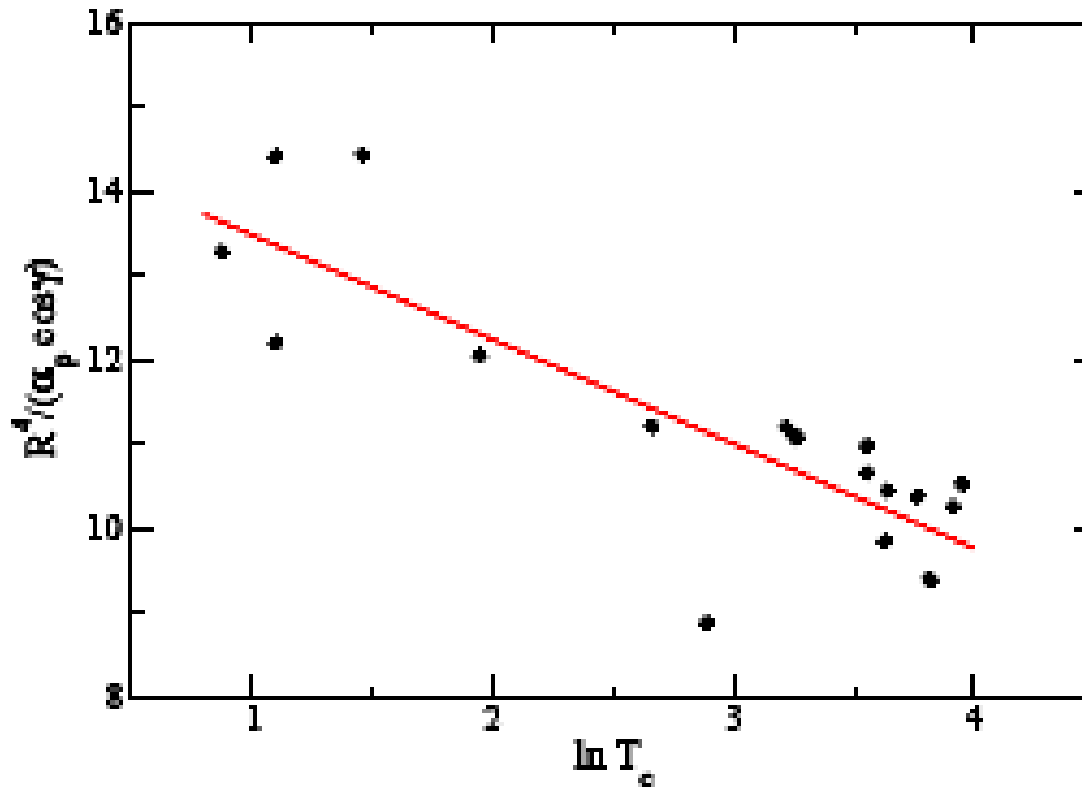
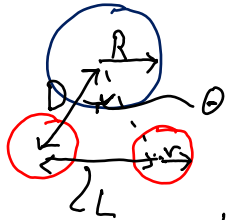


FIG. 13: Linear fit of  $\ln T_c$  vs.  $\frac{R^4}{\alpha_p \cos \gamma}$ . The data points are taken from Refs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

# Conclusions

- The Fe pnictides and heavy anion chalcogenides are very different from the cuprates with regard to low energy scale properties: spin, charge, orbital, and lattice degrees of freedom
- Hybridization covalency involving Fe 3d is weak crystal and ligand fields are small, electronic structure given by band structure with weak correlation
- We suggest that the As 4p – Fe 4s and 4p hybridization and especially the Arsenic ELECTRONIC polarizability set the scene for a band structure approach.
- The quasi particles are electronic polarons with a modest mass of about 2-3 with possibly an attractive nn interaction resulting in bipolarons with s, or d wave superconductivity and also a modest mass
- DESIGN (ARTIFICIAL) STRUCTURES USING HIGHLY POLARIZABLE ATOMS OR SMALL MOLECULES ALTERNATING WITH NARROW BAND METAL FILM FOR HIGHER  $T_c$ 's?

# Material design and limitations



$$D_{\min} = R + r$$

$Z = n$  common polarizable neighbors

$$\text{Interaction} = Z\alpha \left(\frac{1}{R+r}\right)^4 \cos(\theta) > \frac{1}{L} \quad (\text{bare repulsion})$$

$$L = 2(R+r)\sin\theta \quad 2Z\alpha \left(\frac{1}{R+r}\right)^3 \cos\theta \sin\theta > 1$$

$$\alpha = CR^3 \quad \simeq 2ZC \frac{1}{(1+r/R)^3} \cos\theta \sin\theta > 1$$

$$\text{For } r = 0.5 \text{ \AA} \quad R = 2 \text{ \AA} \quad \simeq 2ZC \frac{1}{2} \cos\theta \sin\theta > 1$$

Can be attractive for  $Z \gg 2$

Need to maximize  $Z$  and minimize  $\ominus$

$Z$  is limited by  $R$  i.e. Anion-Anion  $> 2R$

Fe pnictides do a good job of this

# What about the magnetic properties

- Strongly increasing magnetic susceptibility with temperature above the SDW transition and above  $T_c$  indicates an activated nature of the local spins
- The bipolarons we suggest are singlets in the ground state they would exhibit an increasing susceptibility with temperature.
- The bipolarons could condense into a SDW of low amplitude because of Bipolaron- Bipolaron exchange interactions
- Or they could condense into a BEC like superconductor

# Previous Models using electronic polarizabilities

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 134, NUMBER 6A

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## Possibility of Synthesizing an Organic Superconductor\*

W. A. LITTLE

*Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California*

(Received 13 November 1963; revised manuscript received 27 January 1964)

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

1 FEBRUARY 1973

## Model for an Exciton Mechanism of Superconductivity\*

David Allender,<sup>†</sup> James Bray, and John Bardeen

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(Received 7 August 1972)

Both concentrated on on site interactions  
requiring huge retardation effects to  
Compensate for the on site repulsive interaction. !!!

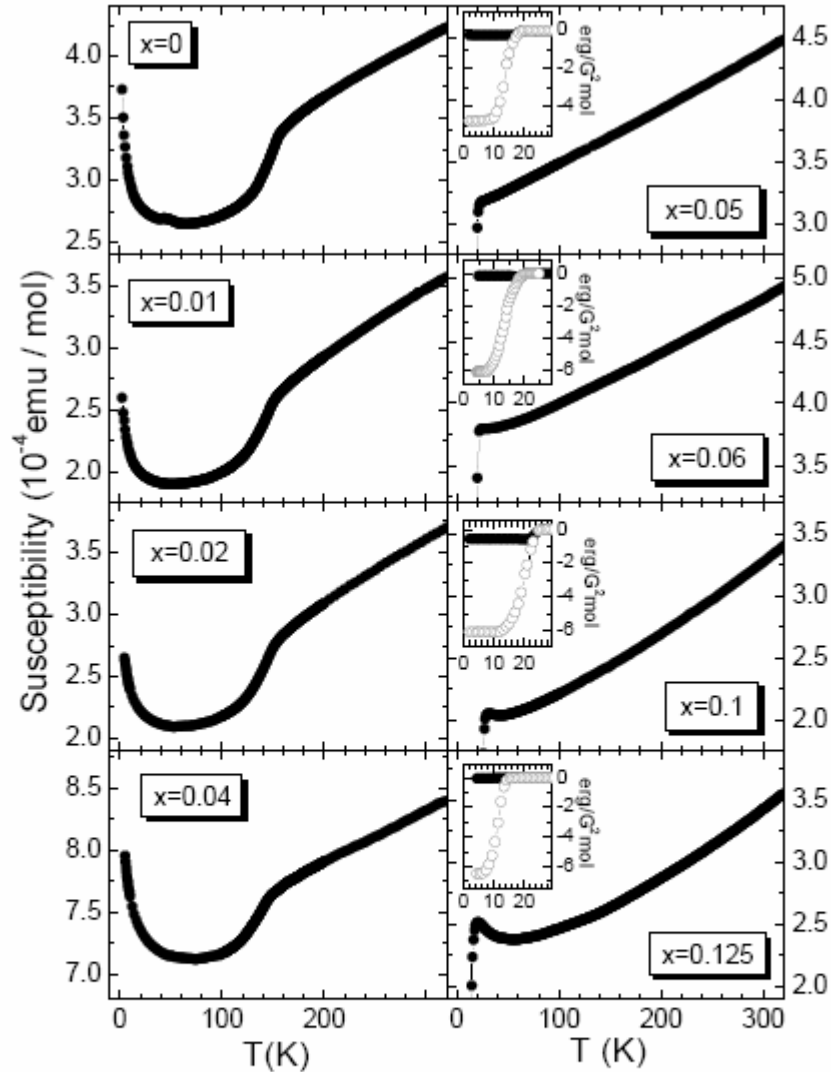


FIG. 3: Static susceptibility  $\chi = M/B$  of  $\text{LaFeAsO}_{1-x}\text{F}_x$ , for different doping level between  $0 \leq x \leq 0.125$  at  $B = 1$  T. Note, that for all graphs the ordinate covers the range  $\Delta\chi = 2$  emu/mol. Insets:  $M$  vs  $T$  for  $B = 2$  mT.



# Some other experimental results

- Neutron scattering yields ordered moments ranging from very small to  $0.9 \mu_B$
- Magnetic ordering is antiferromagnetic SDW like 1D ferromagnetic chains coupled antiferromagnetically
- Neutron inelastic scattering yields a large spin wave velocity i.e. large  $J$  but also a large spin wave gap of 10 meV and the spin waves are heavily damped above about 30 meV. “Stoner Continuum?”