

The origin of van-der-Waals forces

Fundamental concepts and their consequences

Johannes Fiedler

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



Acknowledgements

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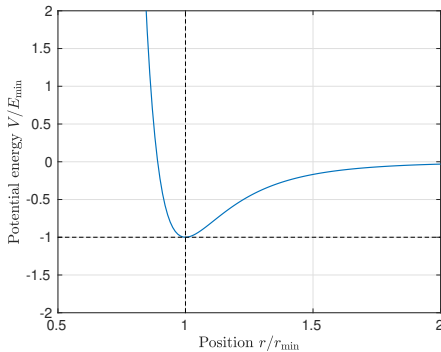
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■ Lennard-Jones Potential

$$V = \frac{C_{12}}{r^{12}} - \frac{C_6}{r^6}$$

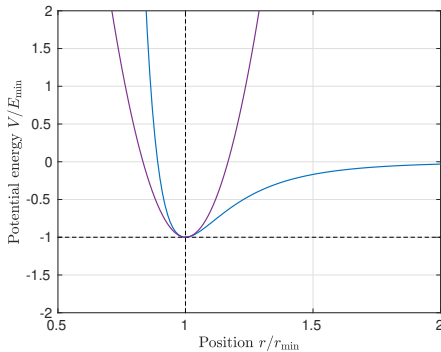


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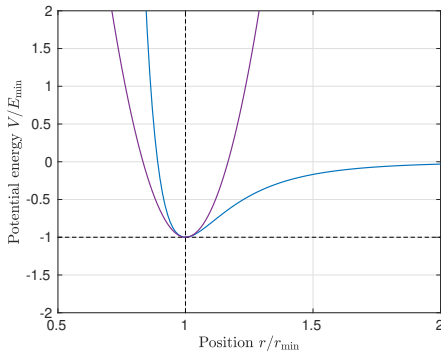
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- Origin:

- Repulsive C_{12} : Pauli blocking

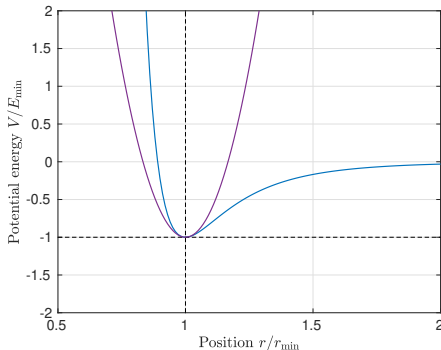


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■ Molecular vibrations via Taylor series expansion



■ Origin:

- Repulsive C_{12} : Pauli blocking
- Attractive C_6 : van-der-Waals Coefficient, tabled somewhere



Unsatisfying situation



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- How does the vdW coefficient depend on the materials?



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- Force discovered in 1873 by Johannes Diderik van der Waals, and still, there are tabled values.



Unsatisfying situation

- How does the vdW coefficient depend on the materials?
- Force discovered in 1873 by Johannes Diderik van der Waals, and still, there are tabled values.
- Nowadays, several DFT simulations still use tabled values, e.g. Grimme, Tkatchenko–Scheffler



Difficult situation

	Gravity	Electromagnetism	Weak interaction	Strong interaction
Acting on	mass	charges	quarks and leptons	quarks
Range	∞	∞	$< 10^{-17} \text{ m}$	$\approx 10^{-15} \text{ m}$
Rel. strength	1	10^{36}	10^{25}	10^{38}
Long-range	$1/r$	$1/r$	e^{-mr}/r	r

Table: Overview of the fundamental interactions: gravity, electromagnetism, weak and strong interactions concerning the corresponding property of the interaction objects (acting on), their range, their relative strength (rel. strength) compared to gravity, and their long-range behaviour.



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Where is the van-der-Waals force?



Relevance of vdW forces for daily life



¹ HBG Casimir, Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. Wet. **51**, 793 (1948).

Relevance of vdW forces for daily life



https://www.nwzonline.de/wirtschaft/weser-ems/nordenham-drei-zimmer-fuer-nur-einen-euro_a_1,0,606668192.html



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Relevance of vdW forces for daily life



<https://www.gutefrage.net/frage/wandinnenfarbe-noch-gut-oder-nicht>



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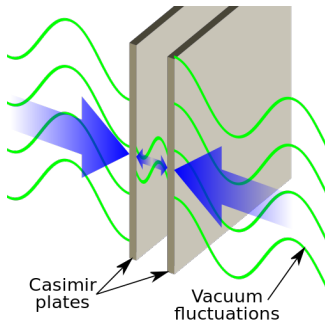
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hendrik_Casimir

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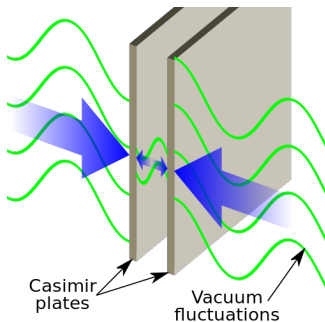


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Relevance of vdW forces for daily life



- Common question: Can I still use it?
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- H.B.G. Casimir: That's something to do with the vacuum fluctuations
- Difference of zero-point energy inside and outside¹

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1 Theoretical framework

- Macroscopic QED
- Treatment of particles
- Interactions between particles and fields

2 Dispersion Forces

- Casimir–Polder interactions
- Born Series expansion
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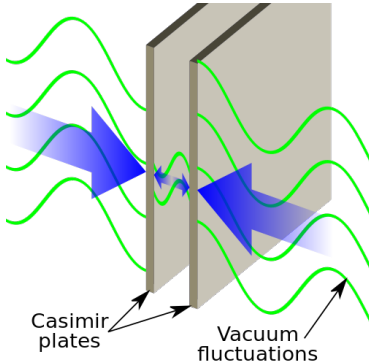


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- Script: <http://www.dr-fiedler.eu/pages/teaching.php>



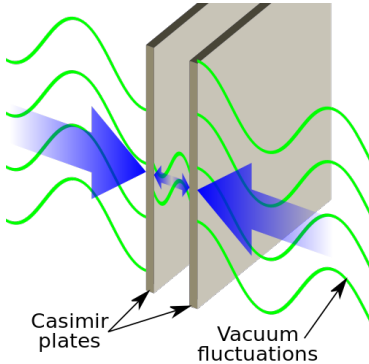
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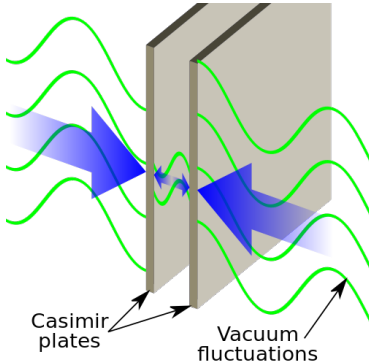


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- Effect of the ground-state fluctuations or zero-point energy of the em field



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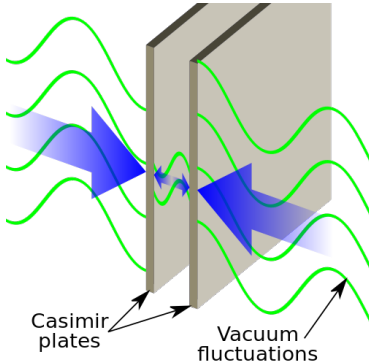


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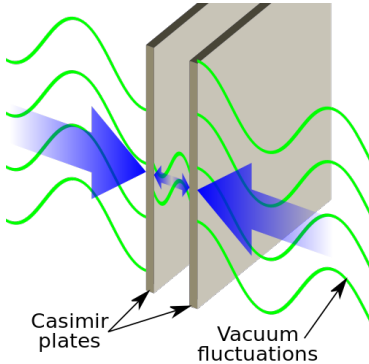


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- Effect involves neutral, dielectric or polarisable objects



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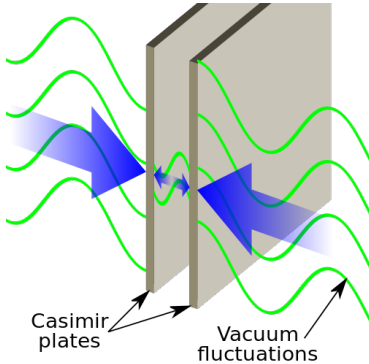


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- Effect of the ground-state fluctuations or zero-point energy of the em field
- Quantum mechanics
- Effect involves neutral, dielectric or polarisable objects
- Macroscopic Maxwell Equations
- Solution via Green functions to be applicable to arbitrary geometries



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em field in presence of mac. dielectrics



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- mac. Maxwell equations: absence of external sources and currents

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= 0, \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\dot{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r}, t), \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= 0, \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \dot{\mathbf{D}}(\mathbf{r}, t).\end{aligned}$$



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- displacement field $\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r})$, magnetic field $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r})$

$$\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_0 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}), \quad \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r}),$$



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- polarisation $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r})$ and magnetisation $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{r})$



Noise currents and density

- medium responds linearly and locally to the externally applied fields
→ linear response function



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$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \epsilon_0 \int_0^{\infty} \chi_e(\mathbf{r}, \tau) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t - \tau) d\tau + \mathbf{P}_N(\mathbf{r}, t),$$

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- noise polarisation and noise magnetisation $\mathbf{P}_N(\mathbf{r}, t)$, $\mathbf{M}_N(\mathbf{r}, t)$
consequence of the fluctuation–dissipation theorem



- $\mathbf{P}_N(\mathbf{r}, t), \mathbf{M}_N(\mathbf{r}, t) \iff$ noise current and noise density

$$\varrho_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \quad \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = -i\omega \mathbf{P}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega) + \nabla \times \mathbf{M}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$



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- sources for Maxwell equations (temporal Fourier space)

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$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, \omega),$$

$$\varepsilon_0 \nabla \cdot [\varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] = \varrho_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega),$$

$$\nabla \times [\kappa(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] + i \frac{\omega}{c^2} \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = \mu_0 \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega),$$



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- Maxwell equations $\rightarrow$ vector HELMHOLTZ equation for the electric field

$$\nabla \times [\kappa(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega \mu_0 \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$



Fundamental solution of the Helmholtz equation

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega\mu_0 \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$

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■ dyadic GREEN function $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'),$$



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■ electric field:

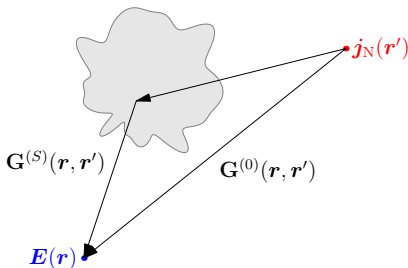
$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega\mu_0 \int \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}', \omega) d^3r'.$$



dyadic Green function

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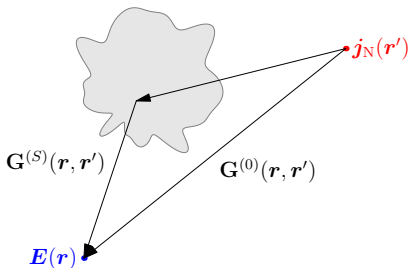
■ Separation of Green tensor



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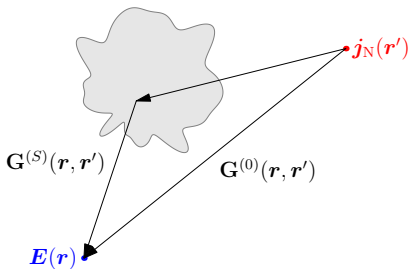
- Separation of Green tensor
- free propagation (vacuum, bulk)
 $\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$



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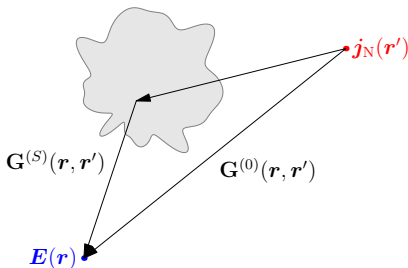
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Quantisation of the em field



Quantisation of the em field

■ Hamiltonian of em field

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r \left[\epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}^2(\mathbf{r}, t) + \frac{1}{\mu_0} \mathbf{B}^2(\mathbf{r}, t) \right]$$



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- with second Maxwell equation

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$

→

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- e field induced by noise currents

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega\mu_0 \int \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}', \omega) d^3r'$$



Quantisation of the em field

- currents induced by external e field

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = \int \mathbf{Q}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}', \omega) d^3 r' + \mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$

with complex conductivity tensor $\mathbf{Q}$



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 $\mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$
- fluctuation–dissipation theorem:

$$\left[\hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', \omega') \right] = \frac{\hbar \omega}{\pi} \delta(\omega - \omega') \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Quantisation of the em field

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 $\mathbf{j}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$
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$$\left[\hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', \omega') \right] = \frac{\hbar \omega}{\pi} \delta(\omega - \omega') \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$

- $\hat{H} = \pi \int d\omega \int d^3 r d^3 r' \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}', \omega)$



field–medium operators

- bosonic creation operator

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega}{\pi}} \int d^3r' \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{j}}_N(\mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



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- Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H} = \int d\omega \int d^3r \hbar\omega \hat{\mathbf{f}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$$



What is $K(r, r', \omega)$?



What is $\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$?

- quantised e-field

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\mu_0\omega\sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega}{\pi}} \int d^3s \int d^3r' \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{s}, \omega)$$



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- $\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \sqrt{\varepsilon_0\omega\text{Im}\chi(\mathbf{r}, \omega)}\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')\mathbf{1}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{\pi\varepsilon_0}} \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3r' \sqrt{\text{Im}\chi(\mathbf{r}', \omega)} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Useful relations



Useful relations

■ Excitations

- Annihilation: $\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) |\{0\}\rangle = \mathbf{0}$
- Creation: $\hat{\mathbf{f}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega) |\{0\}\rangle = |\mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)\rangle$
- Describe excitations of field **and** media. Often called polaritons



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- Describe excitations of field **and** media. Often called polaritons

■ local mode density:

$$\left\langle \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \otimes \hat{\mathbf{E}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', \omega') \right\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{\pi \epsilon_0} \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \text{Im} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \delta(\omega - \omega')$$



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Quantum-mechanics of a free particle

$$\hat{H} = \hat{T}_c + \hat{T}_e + \hat{V}_{ee} + \hat{V}_{cc} + \hat{V}_{ec}, \quad (1)$$

- Kinetic energy of core $\hat{T}_c$
- Kinetic energy of electrons $\hat{T}_e$
- Interaction potential between the electrons $\hat{V}_{ee}$
- Interaction potential between the cores $\hat{V}_{cc}$
- Interaction potential between the cores and the electrons $\hat{V}_{ec}$



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Typically solved via DFT



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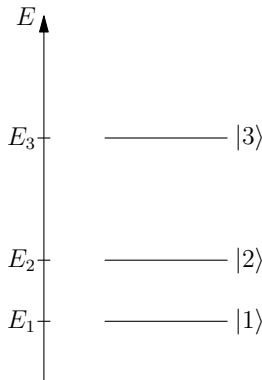
- Kinetic energy of core $\hat{T}_c$
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Typically solved via DFT
Too complicated for QED



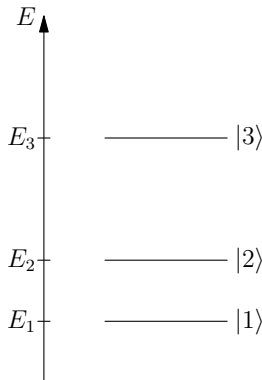
Particles in the QED framework

- Solving the Hamiltonian yields energy spectrum



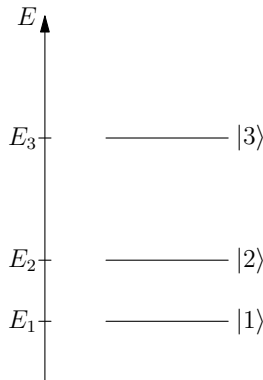
Particles in the QED framework

- Solving the Hamiltonian yields energy spectrum
- Energies $E_1 < E_2 < E_3 < \dots$



Particles in the QED framework

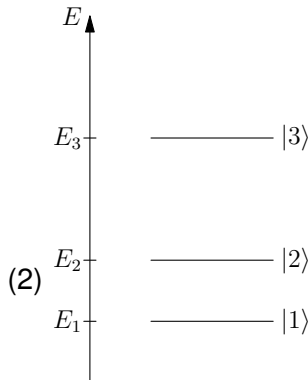
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Particles in the QED framework

- Solving the Hamiltonian yields energy spectrum
- Energies $E_1 < E_2 < E_3 < \dots$
- States $|1\rangle, |2\rangle, |3\rangle, \dots$
- Expand Hamiltonian in energy states

$$\hat{H} = \sum_n E_n |n\rangle \langle n|$$



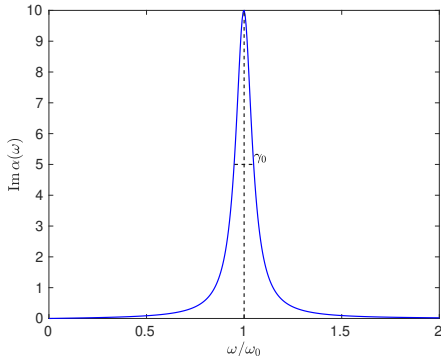
Particle's spectrum



Particle's spectrum

- Characterised by polarisability

$$\alpha_0(\omega) = \sum_j \frac{c_{0j}}{\omega_{0j}^2 - \omega^2 - i\gamma_{j0}\omega}$$

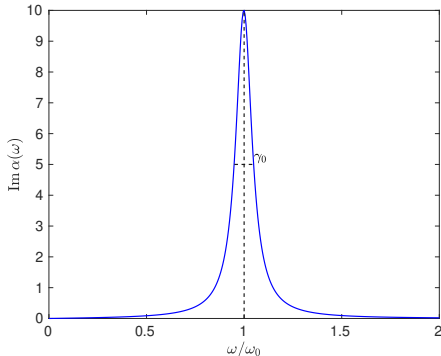


Particle's spectrum

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$$\alpha_0(\omega) = \sum_j \frac{c_{0j}}{\omega_{0j}^2 - \omega^2 - i\gamma_{j0}\omega}$$

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- Linewidth γ_{0j}
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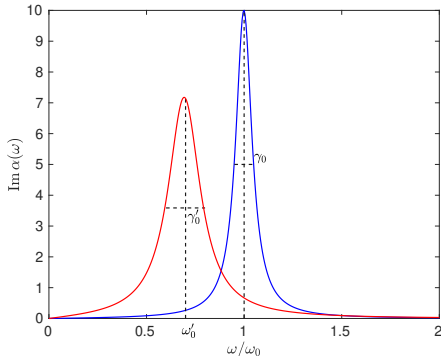


Particle's spectrum

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- Near surface: $\omega'_0 = \omega_0 + \Delta\omega_0(\mathbf{r})$, $\gamma'_0 = \gamma_0 + \Delta\gamma_0(\mathbf{r})$



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Dipole coupling

$$\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = -\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}$$



Dipole coupling

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acting on the particle



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acting on the particle

- Field operator

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{\pi\epsilon_0}} \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3r' \sqrt{\text{Im}\chi(\mathbf{r}', \omega)} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}', \omega)$$

acting on the field (including media)

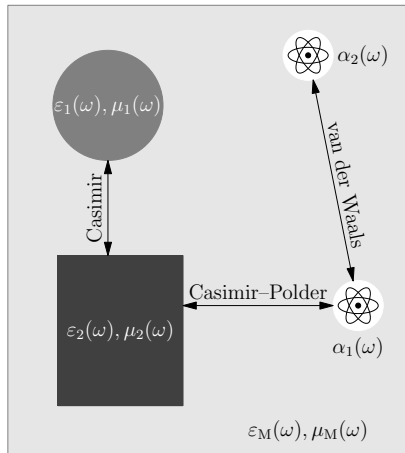


Dispersion Forces



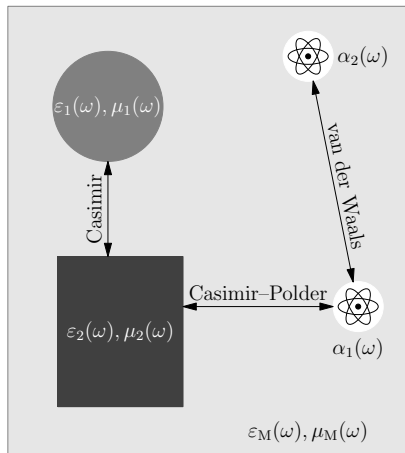
Dispersion Forces

- Casimir force: Interaction between two macroscopic dielectric bodies $\epsilon_{1,2}$



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- Casimir–Polder force: Interaction between a polarisable particle α and a dielectric body ϵ



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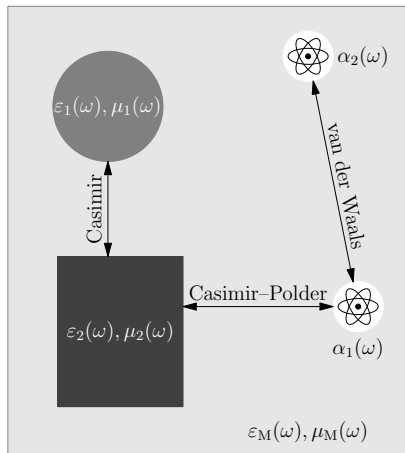


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Origin of Dispersion forces

Dispersion interaction	origin
Casimir force	$\langle \hat{\rho} \hat{\mathbf{E}} + \hat{\mathbf{j}} \times \hat{\mathbf{B}} \rangle$
Casimir–Polder force	$\langle \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}} \rangle_2$
van der Waals force	$\langle \hat{\mathbf{d}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_1) + \hat{\mathbf{d}}_2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_2) \rangle_4$



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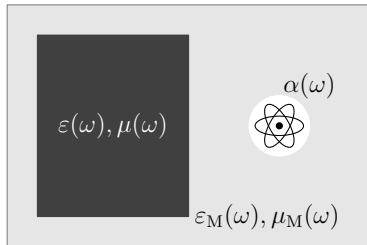
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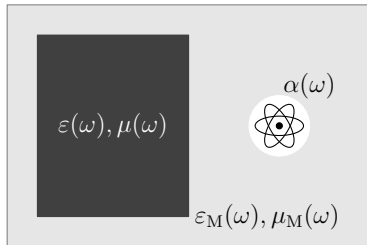
Casimir–Polder potential

- Situation: particle in front of a dielectric body $[\epsilon(\omega), \mu(\omega)]$



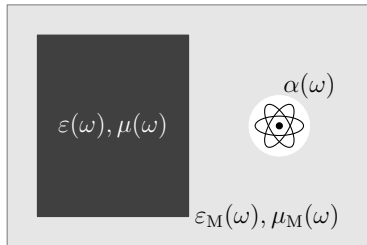
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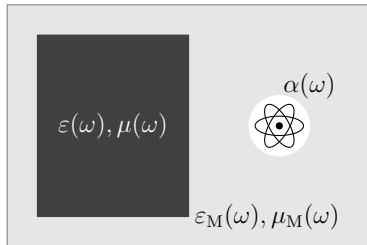
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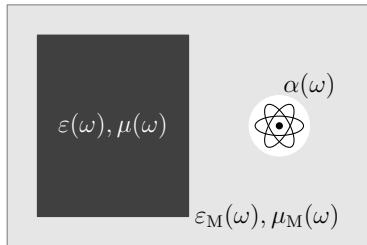
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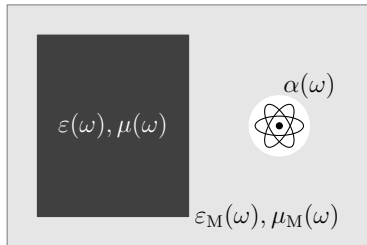
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 - without interaction



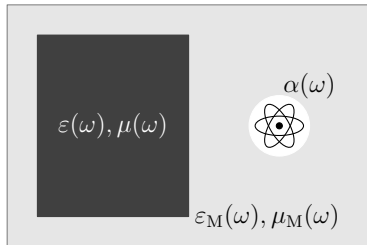
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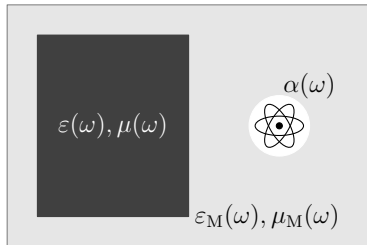
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→ Perturbation theory



Casimir–Polder potential

■ e field: $\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{\pi\epsilon_0}} \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3r' \sqrt{\text{Im}\chi(\mathbf{r}', \omega)} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{r}', \omega)$



Casimir–Polder potential

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Casimir–Polder potential

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- Perturbation:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E = & -\langle 0, \{0\} | \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}} | 0, \{0\} \rangle \\ & - \sum_k \int d^3r d\omega \frac{\langle 0, \{0\} | \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}} | k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \rangle \langle k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) | \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}} | 0, \{0\} \rangle}{\hbar(\omega_k - \omega)} \\ & + \dots \end{aligned}$$



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- Intermediate states $|k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)\rangle$: one field excitation, particle excited to state k



Casimir–Polder potential

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- Intermediate states $|k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)\rangle$: one field excitation, particle excited to state k
- First order vanishes



Casimir–Polder potential

■ Matrix element

$$\langle k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) | \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_A) | 0, \{0\} \rangle = \mathbf{d}_{k0} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{*,T}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}, \omega)$$



Casimir–Polder potential

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■ Energy shift:

$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int d^3r \int \frac{d\omega}{\hbar(\omega_k - \omega)} \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{*,T}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$



Casimir–Polder potential

■ Matrix element

$$\langle k, \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) | \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_A) | 0, \{0\} \rangle = \mathbf{d}_{k0} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{*,T}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}, \omega)$$

■ Energy shift:

$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int d^3r \int \frac{d\omega}{\hbar(\omega_k - \omega)} \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{*,T}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$

■ Integral relation:

$$\int d^3s \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{*,T}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\hbar\mu_0}{\pi} \omega^2 \text{Im} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Casimir–Polder potential

- Energy shift:

$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int \frac{d\omega \mu_0 \omega^2}{\pi(\omega_k - \omega)} \mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \text{Im} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0}$$



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- Recalling: local mode density (slide 20):

$$\left\langle \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \otimes \hat{\mathbf{E}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}', \omega') \right\rangle = \frac{\hbar}{\pi \epsilon_0} \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \text{Im} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \delta(\omega - \omega')$$

interpretation: CP force proportional to the local mode density of the vacuum field



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interpretation: CP force proportional to the local mode density of the vacuum field

- Separation of the Green function (slide 15)

$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int \frac{d\omega \mu_0 \omega^2}{\pi(\omega_k - \omega)} \times \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \text{Im} \left[\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) + \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \right] \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$



Lamb shift

- free-space Green tensor in coincidence limit is dependent on $\mathbf{r}$

$$\text{Im}\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}, \omega) = \frac{\omega}{6\pi c} \mathbf{1}$$



Lamb shift

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$$\Delta E_{Lamb} = - \sum_k \int \frac{d\omega \mu_0 \omega^2}{\pi(\omega_k - \omega)} \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \text{Im} \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$



Lamb shift

- free-space Green tensor in coincidence limit is dependent on $\mathbf{r}$

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- limiting integral range to $\hbar\omega_k \ll m_e c^2$ (non-relativistic)

$$\Delta E_{Lamb} = \frac{\mu_0}{6\pi^2 c} \sum_k \omega_k^3 |\mathbf{d}_{0k}|^2 \ln \left(\frac{m_e c^2}{\hbar\omega_k} \right)$$



Casimir–Polder potential

- Energy shift due to the scattering Green function

$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int \frac{d\omega \mu_0 \omega^2}{\pi(\omega_k - \omega)} \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \text{Im } \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$



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- spatial dependent potential $\rightarrow$ Casimir–Polder potential $U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A)$



Casimir–Polder potential

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$$\Delta E = - \sum_k \int \frac{d\omega \mu_0 \omega^2}{\pi(\omega_k - \omega)} \left(\mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \text{Im} \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0} \right)$$

- spatial dependent potential $\rightarrow$ Casimir–Polder potential $U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A)$
- using $\text{Im} \mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{G} - \mathbf{G}^*)/2i$ and
Schwarz reflection principle $\mathbf{G}^*(\omega) = \mathbf{G}(-\omega^*)$

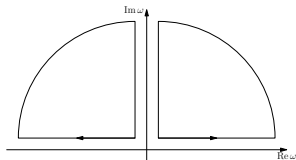
$$U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A) = \frac{\mu_0}{2i\pi} \sum_k \left[\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\omega_k + \omega} - \int_0^{-\infty} \frac{d\omega}{\omega_k - \omega} \right] \\ \times \omega_k \omega \mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0}$$



Casimir–Polder potential

$$U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A) = \frac{\mu_0}{2i\pi} \sum_k \left[\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\omega_k + \omega} - \int_0^{-\infty} \frac{d\omega}{\omega_k - \omega} \right] \\ \times \omega_k \omega \mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0}$$

- Contour-integral techniques
- Green function analytic in the upper half plane
- Contour along infinite quarter-circles vanishes



$$U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A) = \frac{\mu_0}{\pi} \sum_k \int_0^\infty d\xi \frac{\omega_k \xi^2}{\omega_k^2 + \xi^2} \mathbf{d}_{0k} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{d}_{k0}$$



■ $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_i A_{ij} b_j = b_j a_i A_{ij} = \text{tr}[\mathbf{b} \otimes \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{A}]$



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- dispersion formula for ground-state polarisability

$$\alpha(\omega) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0+} \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_k \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}_{k0} \otimes \mathbf{d}_{0k}}{\omega + \omega_k + i\epsilon} - \frac{\mathbf{d}_{0k} \otimes \mathbf{d}_{k0}}{\omega - \omega_k + i\epsilon} \right)$$



- $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_i A_{ij} b_j = b_j a_i A_{ij} = \text{tr}[\mathbf{b} \otimes \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{A}]$
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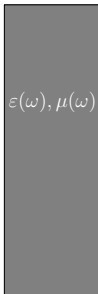
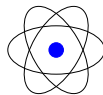
$$\alpha(\omega) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0+} \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_k \left(\frac{\mathbf{d}_{k0} \otimes \mathbf{d}_{0k}}{\omega + \omega_k + i\epsilon} - \frac{\mathbf{d}_{0k} \otimes \mathbf{d}_{k0}}{\omega - \omega_k + i\epsilon} \right)$$

- Casimir–Polder potential

$$U_{CP}(\mathbf{r}_A) = \frac{\hbar \mu_0}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \mathbf{d}\xi \, \xi^2 \text{tr} \left[\alpha(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi) \right]$$

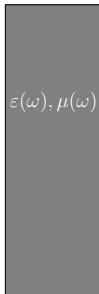
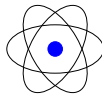


Example: an atom in front of an infinite half-space



Example: an atom in front of an infinite half-space

- Green tensor for a half space [S.Y. Buhmann; Dispersion forces I]

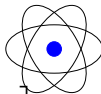


Example: an atom in front of an infinite half-space

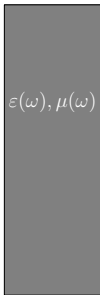
- Green tensor for a half space [S.Y. Buhmann; Dispersion forces I]
- Casimir–Polder potential

$$U_{CP}(z_A) = \frac{\hbar\mu_0}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^2 \alpha(i\xi)$$

$$\times \int_{\xi/c}^\infty dk_z e^{-2k_z z_A} \left[r_s - \left(2 \frac{k_z^2 c^2}{\xi^2} - 1 \right) r_p \right]$$



$\varepsilon(\omega), \mu(\omega)$

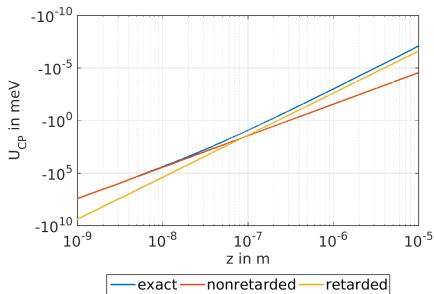


$$r_s = \frac{k_{1z} - k_{2z}}{k_{1z} + k_{2z}}, \quad r_p = \frac{\varepsilon_2(\omega)k_{1z} - \varepsilon_1(\omega)k_{2z}}{\varepsilon_2(\omega)k_{1z} + \varepsilon_1(\omega)k_{2z}}$$



Asymptotic behaviour

$$U_{CP}(z_A) = \frac{\hbar\mu_0}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^2 \alpha(i\xi) \int_{\xi/c}^\infty dk_z e^{-2k_z z_A} \left[r_s - \left(2 \frac{k_z^2 c^2}{\xi^2} - 1 \right) r_p \right]$$

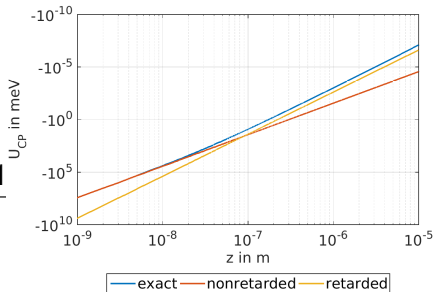


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- long distances: $z_A \gg c/\omega_{min}$:
main part of the integrant
 $\xi \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow$ static fields (yellow)

$$U_{CP}(z_A) = - \frac{23\hbar c \alpha(0)(\epsilon(0) - 1)}{640\pi^2 \epsilon_0 z_A^4}$$



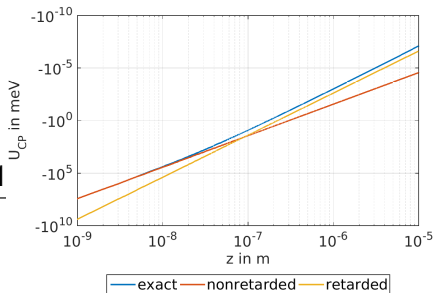
Asymptotic behaviour

$$U_{CP}(z_A) = \frac{\hbar\mu_0}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^2 \alpha(i\xi) \int_{\xi/c}^\infty dk_z e^{-2k_z z_A} \left[r_s - \left(2 \frac{k_z^2 c^2}{\xi^2} - 1 \right) r_p \right]$$

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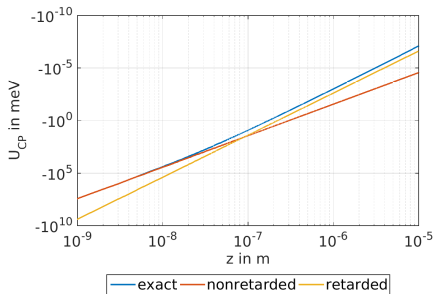
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Asymptotic behaviour

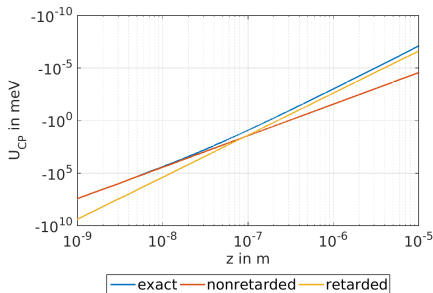
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 $e^{-2k_z z_A} \approx 1 - 2k_z z_A$



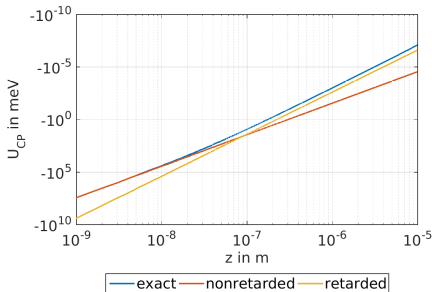
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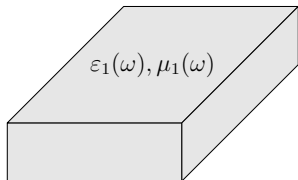
■ $U_{CP}(z_A) = -\frac{C_3}{z_A^3}$ (red)

$$C_3 = \frac{\hbar}{16\pi^2 \epsilon_0} \int_0^\infty \alpha(i\xi) \frac{\epsilon(i\xi) - 1}{\epsilon(i\xi) + 1} d\xi$$

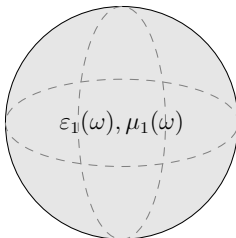


Other known geometries

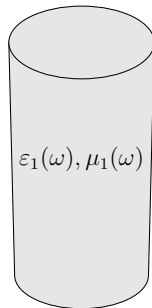
$$\varepsilon_2(\omega), \mu_2(\omega)$$



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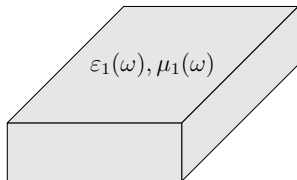


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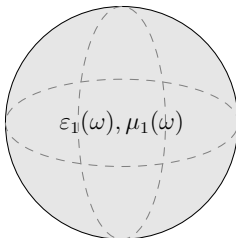


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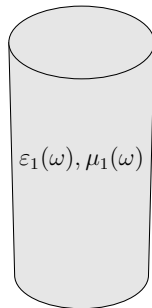
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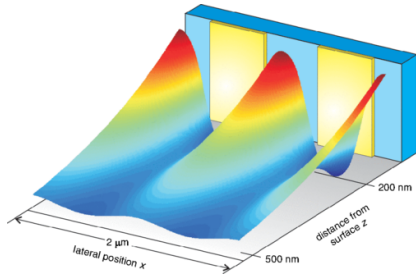
$$\varepsilon_2(\omega), \mu_2(\omega)$$



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Approximation of the scattering Green tensor

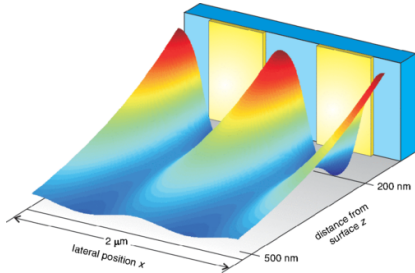


- Sapphire periodically covered with gold stripes

H. Bender, JF *et al.*, PRX **4**, 011029 (2014).



Approximation of the scattering Green tensor

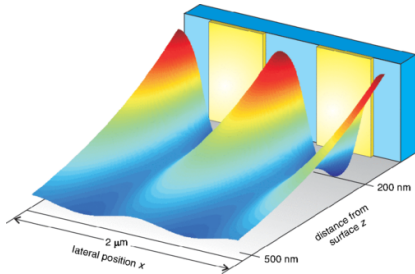


- Sapphire periodically covered with gold stripes
- Green tensor by Rayleigh expansion

H. Bender, JF *et al.*, PRX **4**, 011029 (2014).



Approximation of the scattering Green tensor

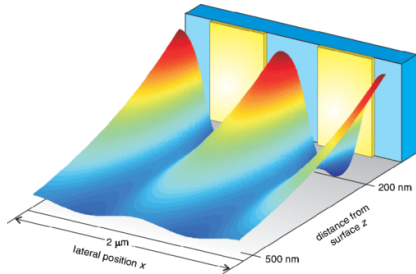


- Sapphire periodically covered with gold stripes
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- Series expansion in wave vector k

H. Bender, JF *et al.*, PRX **4**, 011029 (2014).



Approximation of the scattering Green tensor

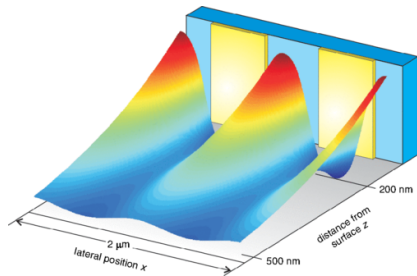


- Sapphire periodically covered with gold stripes
- Green tensor by Rayleigh expansion
- Series expansion in wave vector k
- Large distances: periodic structure not resolvable, $\Longleftrightarrow$ Green tensor for plate

H. Bender, JF *et al.*, PRX **4**, 011029 (2014).



Approximation of the scattering Green tensor



H. Bender, JF *et al.*, PRX **4**, 011029 (2014).

- Sapphire periodically covered with gold stripes
- Green tensor by Rayleigh expansion
- Series expansion in wave vector $\mathbf{k}$
- Large distances: periodic structure not resolvable, $\Longleftrightarrow$ Green tensor for plate
- Disadvantage: Only applicable to periodic structures



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1 Theoretical framework

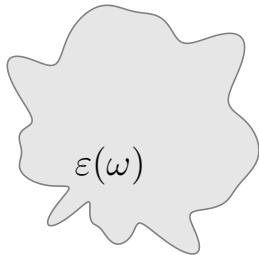
- Macroscopic QED
- Treatment of particles
- Interactions between particles and fields

2 Dispersion Forces

- Casimir–Polder interactions
- Born Series expansion
- Van der Waals potential



Born series expansion

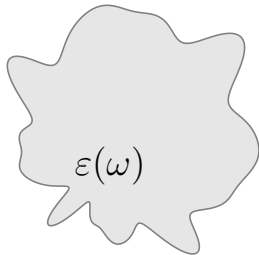


■ Non-periodic scatterer?

$\mathbf{r} \bullet$



Born series expansion

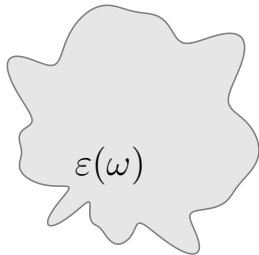


- Non-periodic scatterer?
- Green tensor by Born series expansion

$\mathbf{r} \bullet$



Born series expansion

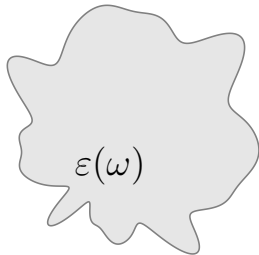


- Non-periodic scatterer?
- Green tensor by Born series expansion
- Series expansion number of interactions inside the scatterer

$\mathbf{r} \bullet$



Born series expansion



- Non-periodic scatterer?
- Green tensor by Born series expansion
- Series expansion number of interactions inside the scatterer
- Disadvantage: Convergence is not guaranteed in general

$\mathbf{r} \bullet$



Born series expansion

Green tensor = Fundamental solution of the Helmholtz equation

$$\left[\nabla \times \nabla \times - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \right] \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$



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Reference Green tensor satisfies another Helmholtz equation (bulk, vacuum, layered media, ...)

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Born series expansion

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Difference of both

$$\left[\nabla \times \nabla \times - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \varepsilon_0(\mathbf{r}) \right] \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \delta\varepsilon \left[\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \right]$$



Born series expansion

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with $\delta\varepsilon = \varepsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) - \varepsilon_0(\mathbf{r}, \omega)$



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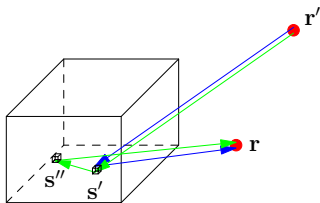
Formal solution

$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \int d^3s \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \delta\epsilon \left[\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) + \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) \right]$$



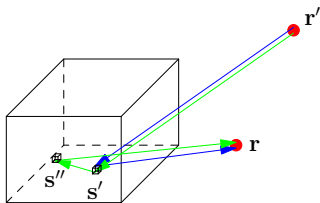
Born series expansion

■ Iterative solution



Born series expansion

- Iterative solution
- First order

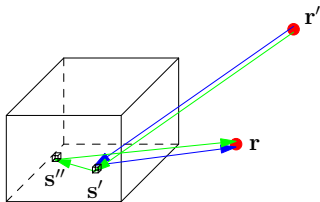


$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \times \int d^3 s' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Born series expansion

- Iterative solution
- First order



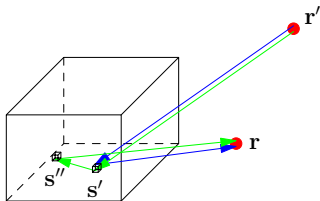
$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \times \int d^3 \mathbf{s}' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \delta \varepsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$

- Hamaker approach, one interaction between particle and volume element (blue path)



Born series expansion

■ Second order

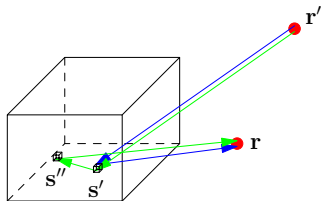


$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') &= \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \right)^2 \\ &\times \int d^3s' d^3s'' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}') \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}') \\ &\cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'') \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}'') \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}') \end{aligned}$$



Born series expansion

■ Second order



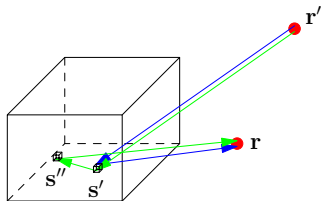
$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \right)^2 \times \int d^3 \mathbf{s}' d^3 \mathbf{s}'' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}') \cdot \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{s}') \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'') \cdot \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{s}'') \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}')$$

■ Leads to Axilrod-Teller potential, two body interactions (green path)



Born series expansion

■ Second order



$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \right)^2 \times \int d^3 \mathbf{s}' d^3 \mathbf{s}'' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}') \cdot \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{s}') \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'') \cdot \delta \epsilon(\mathbf{s}'') \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}')$$

- Leads to Axilrod-Teller potential, two body interactions (green path)
- Analogue for higher orders



Local-field correction of the Born series

■ Recalling Born series expansion

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = & \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3 s' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega) \\ & + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\right)^2 \int d^3 s' d^3 s'' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \\ & \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'', \omega) \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}'', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}', \omega) + \dots\end{aligned}$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

■ Recalling Born series expansion

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = & \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3 s' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega) \\ & + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\right)^2 \int d^3 s' d^3 s'' \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega) \\ & \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'', \omega) \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}'', \omega) \cdot \mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}', \omega) + \dots\end{aligned}$$

■ Singularity extraction (for isotropic media)

$$\mathbf{G}^{(0)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$

with $\lambda = -c^2/(3\omega^2)$ for vacuum



Local-field correction of the Born series

■ Inserting in Born series expansion

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) &= \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3 s' [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega)] \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \\ &\quad \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}' - \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega)] \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\right)^2 \int d^3 s' d^3 s'' [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega)] \\ &\quad \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}' - \mathbf{s}'') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'', \omega)] \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}'', \omega) \\ &\quad \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}'' - \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}', \omega)] + \dots\end{aligned}$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

■ Inserting in Born series expansion

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = & \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \int d^3 s' [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega)] \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \\ & \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}' - \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{r}', \omega)] \\ & + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{c^2}\right)^2 \int d^3 s' d^3 s'' [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}', \omega)] \\ & \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}', \omega) \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}' - \mathbf{s}'') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}', \mathbf{s}'', \omega)] \cdot \delta\epsilon(\mathbf{s}'', \omega) \\ & \cdot [\lambda \boldsymbol{\delta}(\mathbf{s}'' - \mathbf{r}') + \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}'', \mathbf{r}', \omega)] + \dots\end{aligned}$$

■ Performing integration over δ



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Result for first order, (assuming $\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}' \notin V$)

$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \delta\epsilon(\omega) \int d^3s \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right]^i \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Result for first order, (assuming $\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}' \notin V$)

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- geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right]^i = \left(1 - \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right] \right)^{-1}$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Result for first order, (assuming $\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}' \notin V$)

$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \delta\epsilon(\omega) \int d^3s \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right]^i \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$

- geometric series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right]^i = \left(1 - \left[\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \lambda \delta\epsilon \right] \right)^{-1}$$

- In free-space

$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \frac{\chi(\omega)}{1 + \chi(\omega)/3} \int d^3s \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Factor equivalent to Mie reflection coefficient for a sphere

$$\frac{\chi(\omega)}{1 + \chi(\omega)/3} = 3 \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon + 2}$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Factor equivalent to Mie reflection coefficient for a sphere

$$\frac{\chi(\omega)}{1 + \chi(\omega)/3} = 3 \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon + 2}$$

- equivalent to Clausius-Mossotti relation

$$3 \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon + 2} = \frac{\alpha}{\epsilon_0}$$



Local-field correction of the Born series

- Factor equivalent to Mie reflection coefficient for a sphere

$$\frac{\chi(\omega)}{1 + \chi(\omega)/3} = 3 \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon + 2}$$

- equivalent to Clausius-Mossotti relation

$$3 \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon + 2} = \frac{\alpha}{\varepsilon_0}$$

- Green function for scattering at a point particle at $\mathbf{r}_B$ [$\delta(\mathbf{r}_B - \mathbf{s})$]

$$\mathbf{G}^{(S)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{\varepsilon_0 c^2} \alpha_B(\omega) \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_B, \omega) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}', \omega)$$



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- Macroscopic QED
- Treatment of particles
- Interactions between particles and fields

2 Dispersion Forces

- Casimir–Polder interactions
- Born Series expansion
- Van der Waals potential



Van-der-Waals potential

- Inserting in Casimir–Polder potential

$$U_{\text{vdW}}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \mathbf{d}\xi \, \xi^4 \operatorname{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$



Van-der-Waals potential

- Inserting in Casimir–Polder potential

$$U_{vdW}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \operatorname{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

- equivalent to fourth order perturbation theory of the interaction Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{int} = -\hat{\mathbf{d}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_A) - \hat{\mathbf{d}}_B \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_B)$



van-der-Waals potential

$$U_{vdW}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) =$$

$$-\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \operatorname{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$



van-der-Waals potential

$$U_{vdW}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \operatorname{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

scattering Green tensor for bulk material (non-retarded)

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi k^2 |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} (\mathbf{I} - 3\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'})$$



van-der-Waals potential

$$U_{vdW}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \operatorname{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

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$$\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}'\omega) = -\frac{1}{\pi k^2 |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|^3} (\mathbf{I} - 3\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'})$$

■ vacuum: $k = \omega/c \rightarrow U(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{3\hbar}{16\pi^3 \epsilon_0^2 |\mathbf{r}_A - \mathbf{r}_B|^6} \int_0^\infty d\xi \alpha_A(i\xi) \alpha_B(i\xi)$



van-der-Waals potential

$$U_{vdW}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \text{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

scattering Green tensor for bulk material (non-retarded)

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- vacuum: $k = \omega/c \rightarrow U(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{3\hbar}{16\pi^3 \varepsilon_0^2 |\mathbf{r}_A - \mathbf{r}_B|^6} \int_0^\infty d\xi \alpha_A(i\xi) \alpha_B(i\xi)$
- bulk: $k = \omega \sqrt{\varepsilon(\omega)}/c \rightarrow U(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{3\hbar}{16\pi^3 \varepsilon_0^2 |\mathbf{r}_A - \mathbf{r}_B|^6} \int_0^\infty d\xi \frac{\alpha_A(i\xi) \alpha_B(i\xi)}{\varepsilon^2(i\xi)}$



Interpretation

$$U_{\text{vdW}}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \mathbf{d}\xi \xi^4 \text{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

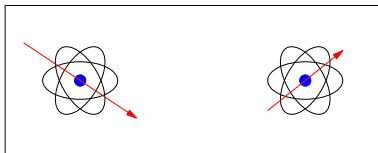
- Two neutral particles



Interpretation

$$U_{\text{vdW}}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \text{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

- Two neutral particles
- Quantum vacuum spontaneously excites the particles



Interpretation

$$U_{\text{vdW}}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B) = -\frac{\hbar\mu_0^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\xi \xi^4 \text{tr} [\boldsymbol{\alpha}_A(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{r}_B, i\xi) \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_B(i\xi) \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_B, \mathbf{r}_A, i\xi)]$$

- Two neutral particles
- Quantum vacuum spontaneously excites the particles
- Leading to attractive dipole force

