# Beyond piezoelectrics: First-principles theory and calculations of flexoelectricity

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Grant acknowledgement: ONR N-00014-12-1-1035

# Outline

- Introduction
- First-principles theory of flexoelectricity
- First-principles calculation of flexoelectricity
- Summary

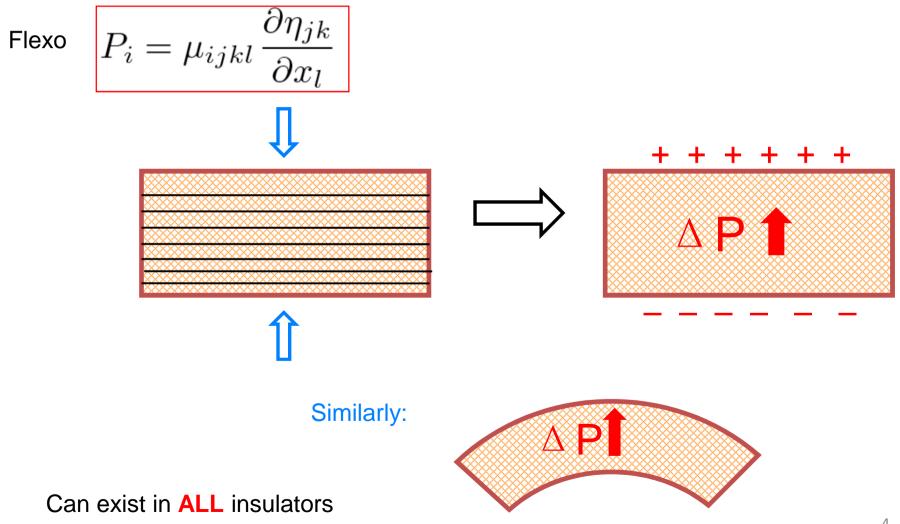
## Piezoelectricity

Coupling between strain and polarization

Only exists in **non-centrosymmetric** materials

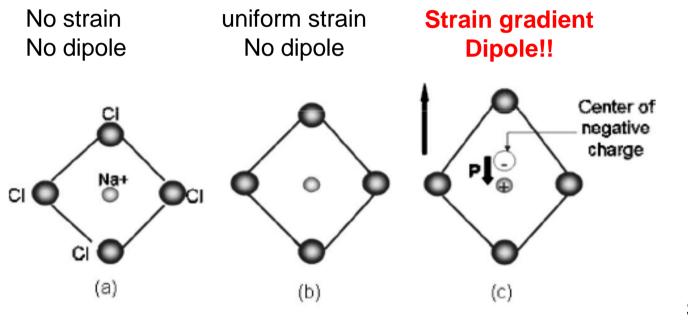
## Flexoelectricity

Linear coupling between strain gradient and polarization.



## Flexoelectricity

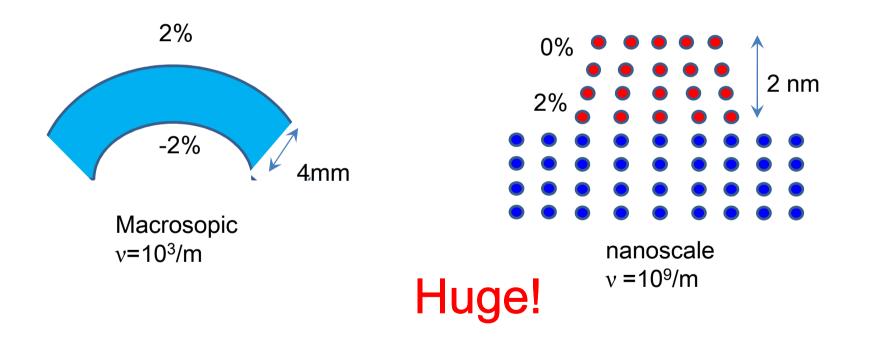
#### <u>Centrosymmetric crystal</u>:



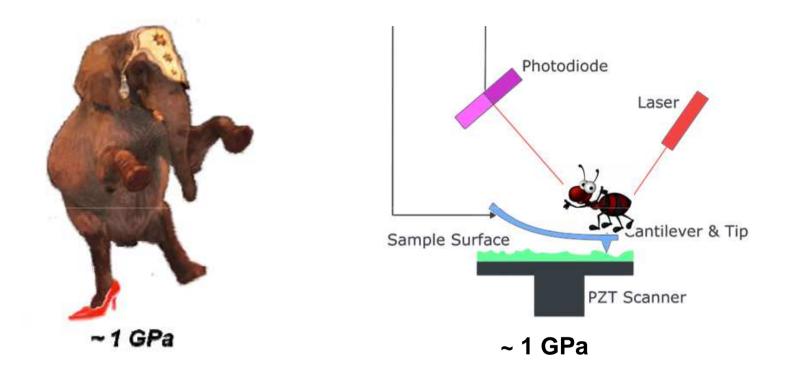
Sodium chloride

## Flexoelectricity

Large effect on properties at nanoscale: strain gradients may be huge



#### Stress under AFM tip



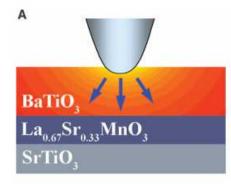
Figures courtesy of G. Catalan and J.Kreisel

Large stress and stress gradient around AFM tip

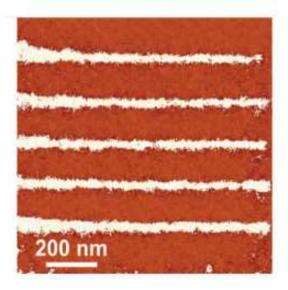
## Flexoelectrically written domains



C.H. Ahn et al, Science, 303, 488 (2004)



Epitaxial BaTiO<sub>3</sub> film on STO



Flexo written domain dots (30nm in size), high-density data storage application.

H. Lu et al, Science, 336, 59 (2012)

## Measurement of FEC

$$P_{i} = \mu_{ijkl} \frac{\partial \eta_{jk}}{\partial x_{l}}$$
Ma and Cross,  
(2001, 2002, 2003,  
2005,2006)
P. Zubko et al

(2007)

P. Zubko et al (2007)

liquid N<sub>2</sub>

Can't measure the full FEC tensor

heater

SrTiO<sub>3</sub>

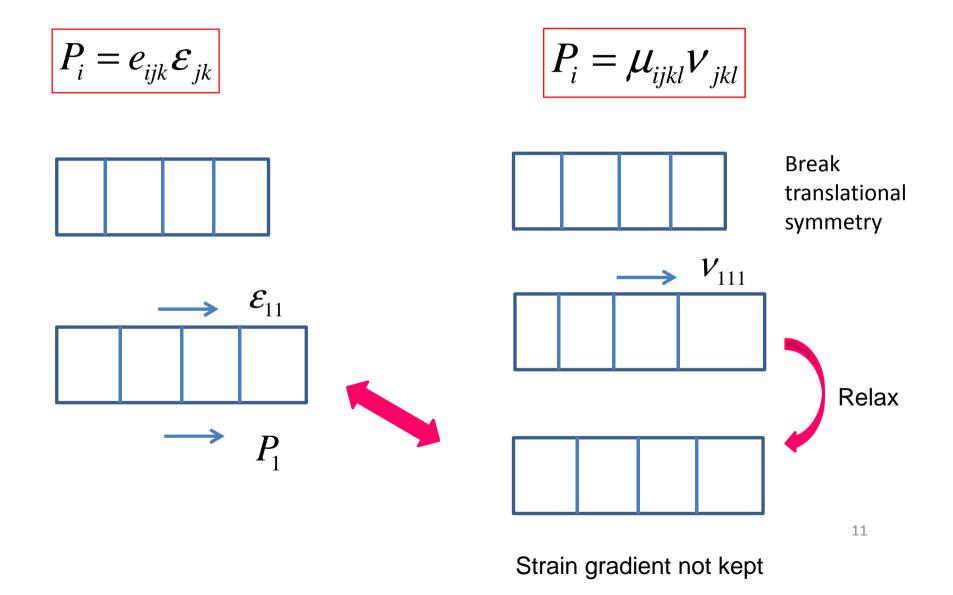
## Theoretical flexo study

- Martin, 1972
  - Long-wave analysis of piezoelectricity
- Tagantsev, 1986, 1991
  - Rigid-ion model of flexoelectricity
- Maranganti and Sharma, 2009
  - Lattice-dynamical approach
- Resta, 2010
  - First-principles; electronic only; elements only
- Hong and Vanderbilt, 2011
  - Generalized theory of electronic part
- Ponomareva, Tagantsev and Bellaiche, 2012
  - Lattice part generalized to finite T simulations
- Massimiliano Stengel (unpublished)
  - density-functional perturbation theory



Electronic contribution

## Difficulties in FEC calculation



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## Strategy of the derivation

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

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Piezoelectricity

Richard M. Martin Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, Palo Alto, California 94304

Piezoelectricity theory based on the density of local **dipoles** and **quadrupoles** induced by a long-wave deformation

$$Q^{(1)}, Q^{(2)}$$
  $\mathbf{u}_{lI} = (\mathbf{u}^{(0)} + \mathbf{u}_{I}^{(1)}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{lI}}$ 

Using Linear-response and Berry-phase methods to calculate piezo response.

Derived from Bloch's theorem which needs periodic boundary condition.

Strain gradient breaks periodic BC.

$$Q^{(1)}, Q^{(2)}, Q^{(3)}$$
  $\mathbf{u}_{lI} = (\mathbf{u}^{(0)} + \mathbf{u}_{I}^{(1)} + \mathbf{u}_{I}^{(2)}) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{R}_{lI}}$ 

Let

 $P_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r})$  be a local dipole density  $Q_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{r})$  be a local quadrupole density  $\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{r})$  be a local octupole density

Then the resulting effective charge density is

$$\rho^{\text{(eff)}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\partial_{\alpha}P_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\alpha}\partial_{\beta}Q_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{6}\partial_{\alpha}\partial_{\beta}\partial_{\gamma}\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{r}) + \dots$$

But Poisson's equation is

$$\rho^{\text{(eff)}}(\mathbf{r}) = -\partial_{\alpha} P_{\alpha}^{\text{(eff)}}(\mathbf{r})$$

so alternatively we can write

$$P_{\alpha}^{(\text{eff})}(\mathbf{r}) = P_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\beta}Q_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{6}\partial_{\beta}\partial_{\gamma}\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{r}) + \dots$$

Define

 $u_{{f R}I au} = {
m displacement}$  of atom I in direction au in cell  ${f R}$  and let

 $u_{\mathbf{R}I\tau} = g(\mathbf{R}) u_{I\tau}$ ,  $g(\mathbf{R})$  slowly varying.

Then the induced dipole, quadrupole, and octupole densities are

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} u_{I\tau}$$
$$Q_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} u_{I\tau}$$
$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} u_{I\tau}$$

$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r}) \quad \text{(Dynam. Z*)}$$
$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta}$$
$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta} \, r_{\gamma}$$

where

$$f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}_I) = \frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial u_{\mathbf{R}I\tau}}$$

$$P_{\alpha}^{(\text{eff})}(\mathbf{r}) = P_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\beta}Q_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{6}\partial_{\beta}\partial_{\gamma}\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{r}) + \dots$$

$$P_{\alpha}^{(\text{eff})}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{V_{\text{c}}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} g(\mathbf{r}) - \frac{1}{2} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} \partial_{\beta} g(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{1}{6} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} \partial_{\beta} \partial_{\gamma} g(\mathbf{r}) \right] u_{I\tau}$$

So, for a long-wavelength mode of the form

$$g(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$$

the local polarization is

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} - \frac{i}{2} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} k_{\beta} - \frac{1}{6} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} k_{\beta} k_{\gamma} \right] u_{I\tau}$$

Define the *unsymmetrized* strain and strain gradient tensors

$$\eta_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\partial u_{\alpha}}{\partial r_{\beta}}$$
$$\nu_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{\partial \eta_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial r_{\gamma}} = \frac{\partial u_{\alpha}}{\partial r_{\beta}r_{\gamma}}$$

Let

$$\begin{split} &\Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} = \frac{du_{I\tau}}{d\eta_{\beta\gamma}} & \text{``internal strain response tensor''} \\ &N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{du_{I\tau}}{d\nu_{\beta\gamma\delta}} & \text{``internal strain-gradient response tensor''} \end{split}$$

Then

$$u_{I\tau} = u_{\tau} + \Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} \eta_{\beta\gamma} + N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} \nu_{\beta\gamma\delta}$$

Then, for the long-wavelength acoustic mode, we have a

Displacement  $u_{\beta}(\mathbf{r}) = u_{0\beta} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$ Strain  $\eta_{\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{r}) = iu_{0\beta} k_{\gamma} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$ Strain gradient  $\nu_{\beta\gamma\delta}(\mathbf{r}) = -u_{0\beta} k_{\gamma} k_{\delta} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$ 

or

$$u_{I\tau} = \left[\delta_{\tau\beta} + i\Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} k_{\gamma} - N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} k_{\gamma} k_{\delta}\right] u_{0\beta}$$

Thus

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} - \frac{i}{2} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} k_{\beta} - \frac{1}{6} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} k_{\beta} k_{\gamma} \right] \\ \times \left[ \delta_{\tau\beta} + i \Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} k_{\gamma} - N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} k_{\gamma} k_{\delta} \right] u_{0\beta}$$

Finally, we define the *unsymmetrized* 

Piezo tensor: 
$$e_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{\partial P_{\alpha}}{\partial \eta_{\beta\gamma}}$$
  
Flexo tensor:  $\mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{\partial P_{\alpha}}{\partial \nu_{\beta\gamma\delta}}$ 

so that

$$P_{\alpha} = e_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \eta_{\beta\gamma} + \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \nu_{\beta\gamma\delta} + \dots$$

or, for the acoustic wave in question,

$$P_{\alpha} = i \, e_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \, k_{\gamma} \, u_{0\beta} - \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \, k_{\gamma} k_{\delta} \, u_{0\beta} + \dots$$

$$P_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} - \frac{i}{2} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} k_{\beta} - \frac{1}{6} Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} k_{\beta} k_{\gamma} \right] \\ \times \left[ \delta_{\tau\beta} + i \Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} k_{\gamma} - N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} k_{\gamma} k_{\delta} \right] u_{0\beta}$$

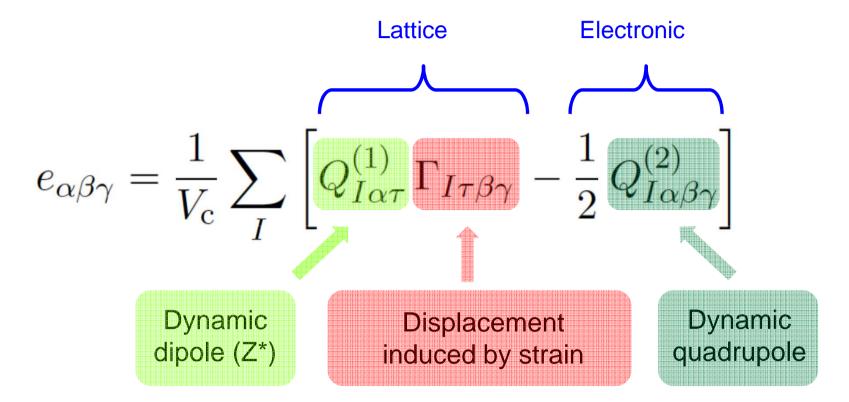
$$P_{\alpha} = i \, e_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \, k_{\gamma} \, u_{0\beta} - \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \, k_{\gamma} k_{\delta} \, u_{0\beta} + \dots$$

Comparing powers of k, we find

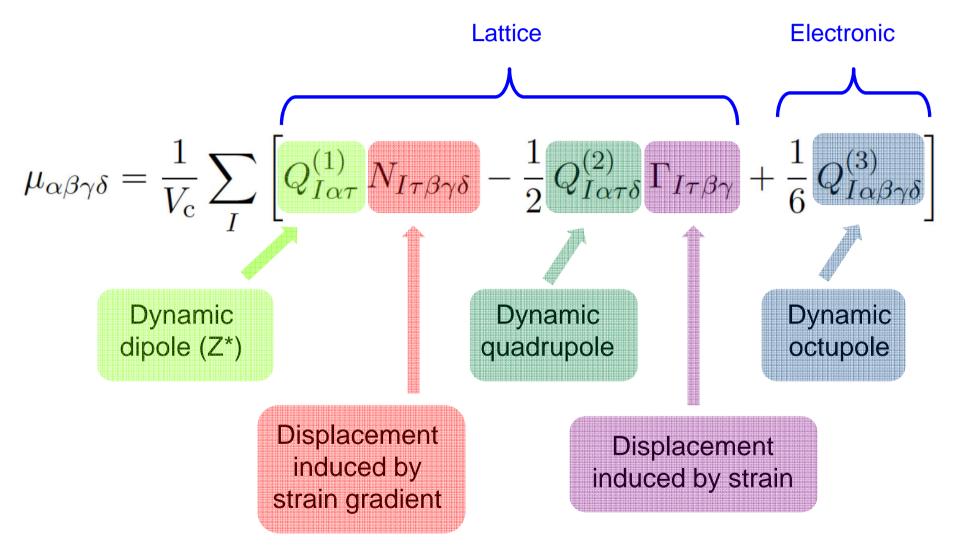
$$\text{Piezo} \quad e_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I\alpha\tau}^{(1)} \Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} - \frac{1}{2} Q_{I\alpha\beta\gamma}^{(2)} \right]$$

$$\mathsf{Flexo} \qquad \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{V_{\mathbf{c}}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I\alpha\tau}^{(1)} N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{2} Q_{I\alpha\tau\delta}^{(2)} \Gamma_{I\tau\beta\gamma} + \frac{1}{6} Q_{I\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{(3)} \right]$$

#### Piezoelectric tensor

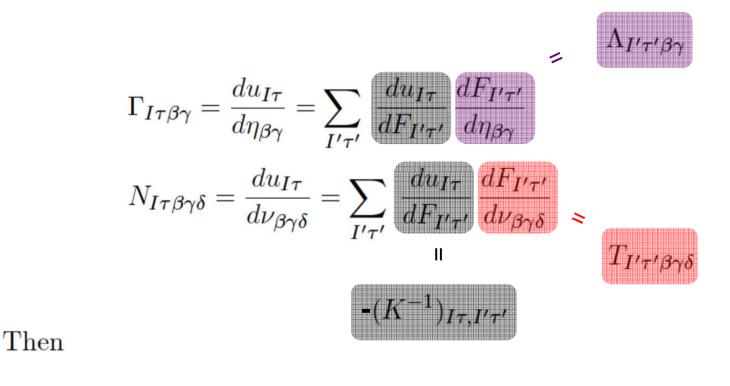


## Flexoelectric tensor



#### **Displacement-response tensors**

Internal strain and strain-gradient response tensors:



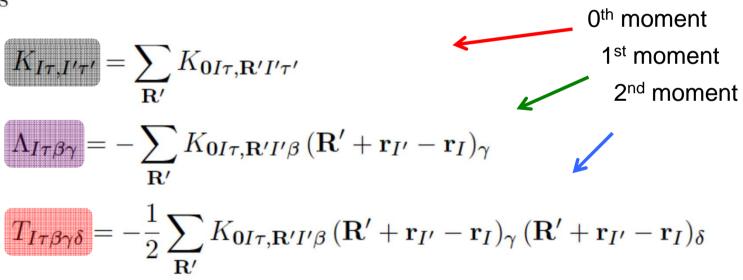
$$\Gamma = (K^{-1}) \cdot \Lambda$$
 and  $N = (K^{-1}) \cdot T$ 

#### **Displacement-response tensors**

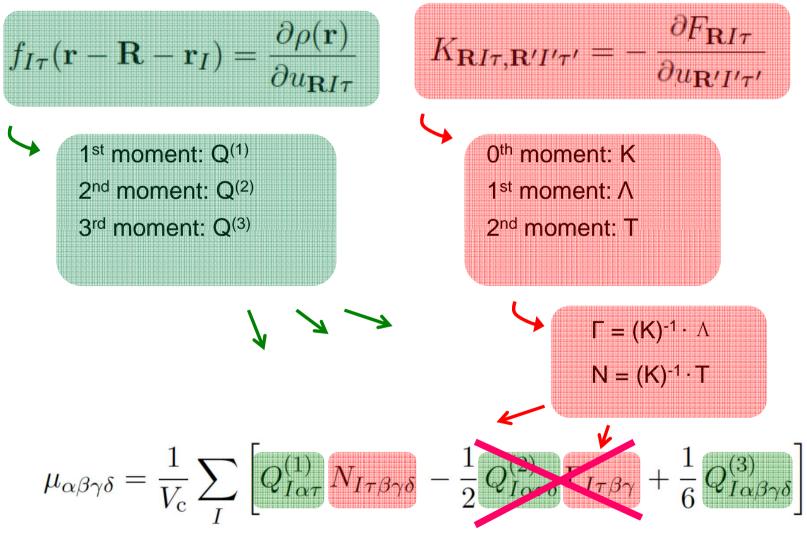
These can be obtained as moments of the full force-constant matrix

$$K_{\mathbf{R}I\tau,\mathbf{R}'I'\tau'} = -\frac{dF_{\mathbf{R}I\tau}}{du_{\mathbf{R}'I'\tau'}}$$

as



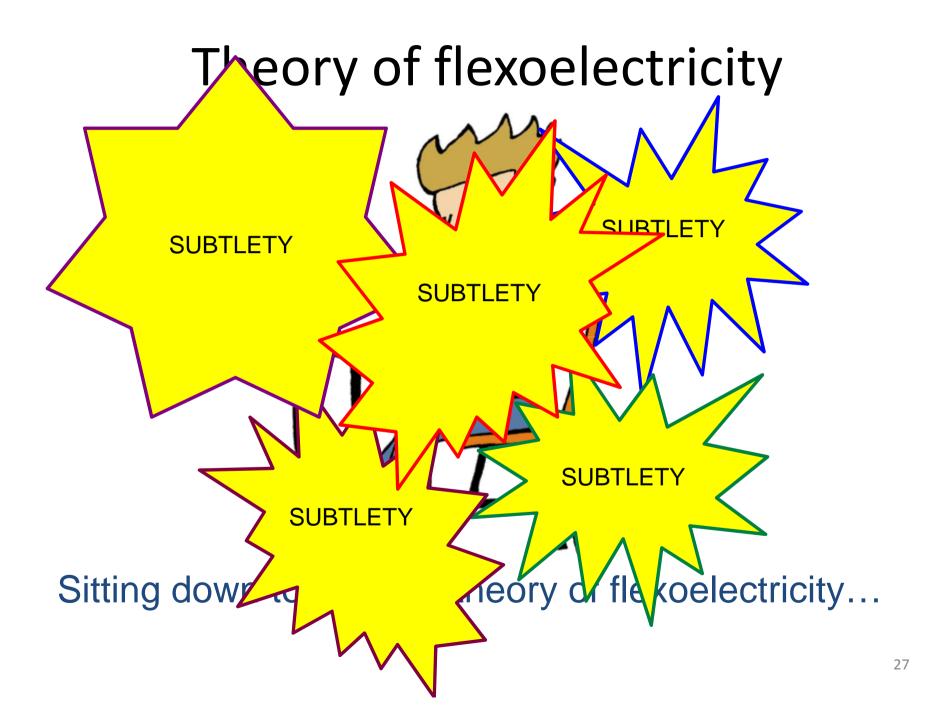
## First-principles ingredients



Vanishes in high-symmetry crystals (e.g., cubic) 25

## Are we done?





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## Longitudinal vs. transverse flexo

$$\mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{V_{c}} \sum_{I} \left[ Q_{I\alpha\tau}^{(1)} N_{I\tau\beta\gamma\delta} + \frac{1}{6} Q_{I\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}^{(3)} \right]$$
(3 x 3 x 6 = 54  
components )
(3 x 10 = 30  
components )
(3 x 10 = 30)  
Not enough!

Example: Cubic material

 $\mu_{1111}, \mu_{1221}, \mu_{1122}$  vs.  $Q_{1111}^{(3)}, Q_{1122}^{(3)}$ 

#### Longitudinal vs. transverse: Cubic material

Define

$$\mu_{L1} = \mu_{1111}$$
$$\mu_{L2} = \mu_{1111} + 2\mu_{1221}$$
$$\mu_{T} = \mu_{1122} - \mu_{1221}$$

Then

$$\begin{split} \mu_{\rm L1}^{\rm el} &= \frac{1}{6V_{\rm c}} \sum_{I} Q_{I,1111}^{(3)} \\ \mu_{\rm L2}^{\rm el} &= \frac{1}{6V_{\rm c}} \sum_{I} (Q_{I,1111}^{(3)} + 2Q_{I,1122}^{(3)}) \\ \mu_{\rm T}^{\rm el} &= ? \end{split}$$

## Longitudinal vs. transverse flexo

- Our theory was based on charge density
- But charge density is only induced by longitudinal part of flexo response

Charge density is

$$-\rho = \partial_{\alpha} P_{\alpha} = \partial_{\alpha} \ \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \ \nu_{\beta\gamma\delta} = \mu_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \ \sigma_{\beta\alpha\gamma\delta}$$

where

$$\eta_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\partial u_{\alpha}}{\partial r_{\beta}} , \qquad \nu_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \frac{\partial^2 u_{\alpha}}{\partial r_{\beta} \partial r_{\gamma}} , \qquad \sigma_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{\partial^3 u_{\alpha}}{\partial r_{\beta} \partial r_{\gamma} \partial r_{\delta}}$$

## Longitudinal vs. transverse flexo

- Our theory was based on charge density
- But charge density is only induced by longitudinal part of flexo response

Cubic material:

$$-\rho = \mu_{L1}(\sigma_{1111} + \sigma_{2222} + \sigma_{3333}) + \mu_{L2}(\sigma_{1122} + \sigma_{2211} + \sigma_{1133} + \sigma_{3311} + \sigma_{2233} + \sigma_{3322})$$

#### independent of $\mu_T$ !

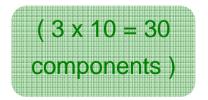
#### Need *current* response tensors

Induced *charge* response tensors:

$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(1)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(2)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta}$$
$$Q_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(3)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, r_{\alpha} \, f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta} \, r_{\gamma}$$

where

$$f_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}_I) = \frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial u_{\mathbf{R}I\tau}}$$



Induced *current* response tensors:

$$J_{I,\alpha\tau}^{(0)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, j_{I\tau,\alpha}(\mathbf{r})$$
$$J_{I,\alpha\tau\beta}^{(1)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, j_{I\tau,\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta}$$
$$J_{I,\alpha\tau\beta\gamma}^{(2)} = \int d\mathbf{r} \, j_{I\tau,\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) \, r_{\beta} \, r_{\gamma}$$

where

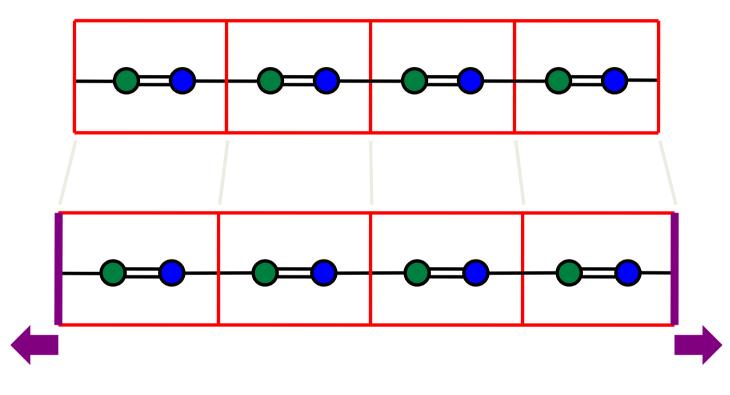
$$\mathbf{j}_{I\tau}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}_I) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r})}{\partial \dot{u}_{\mathbf{R}I\tau}}$$

 $\dot{u}_{{f R}I au}$  motion of atom at some small velocity

# Outline

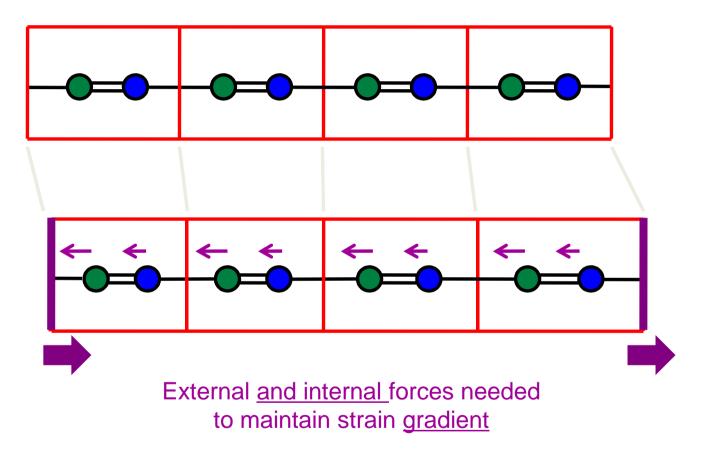
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#### Uniform strain: Piezo



External forces needed to maintain strain

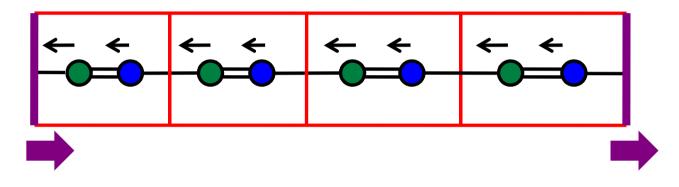
#### Uniform strain gradient: Flexo



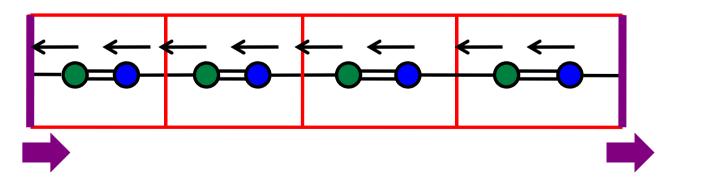
#### Uniform strain gradient: Flexo

Which force pattern to use?

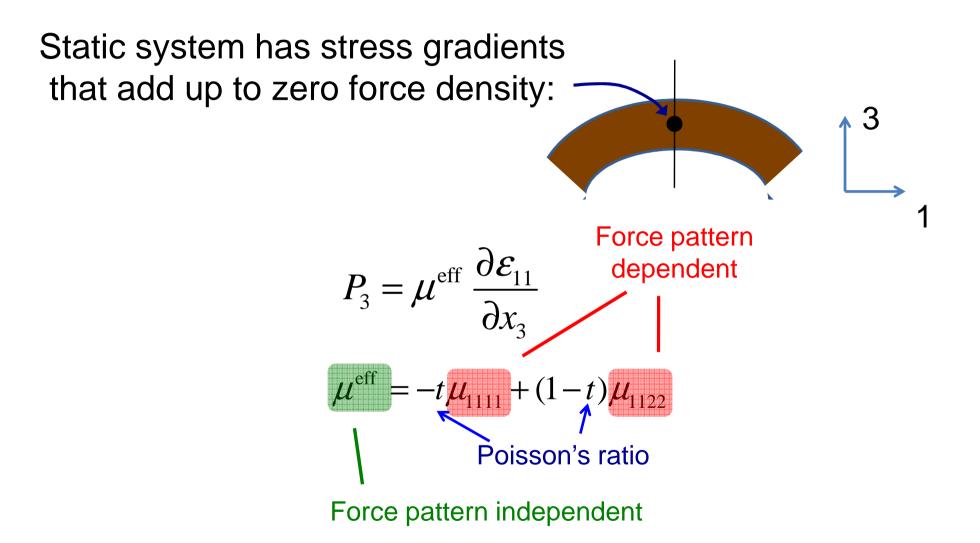
• Mass-weighted forces



• Evenly weighted forces



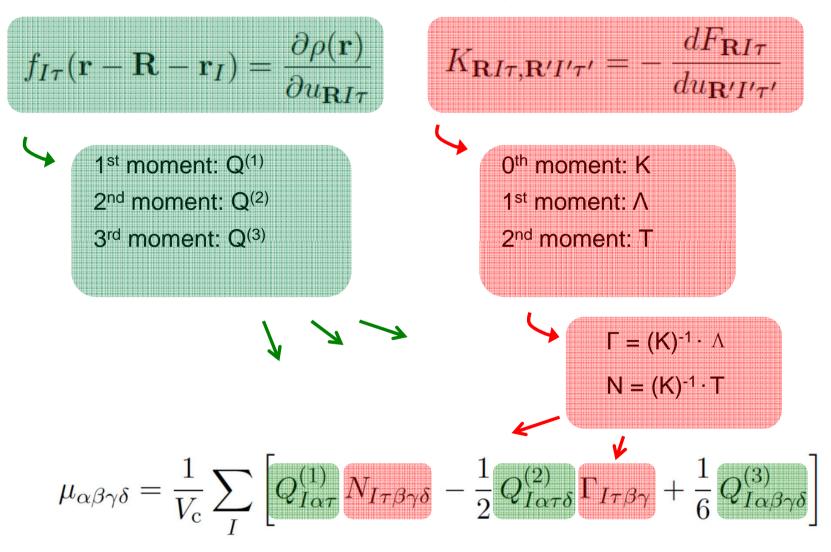
Static elasticity: Dependence cancels



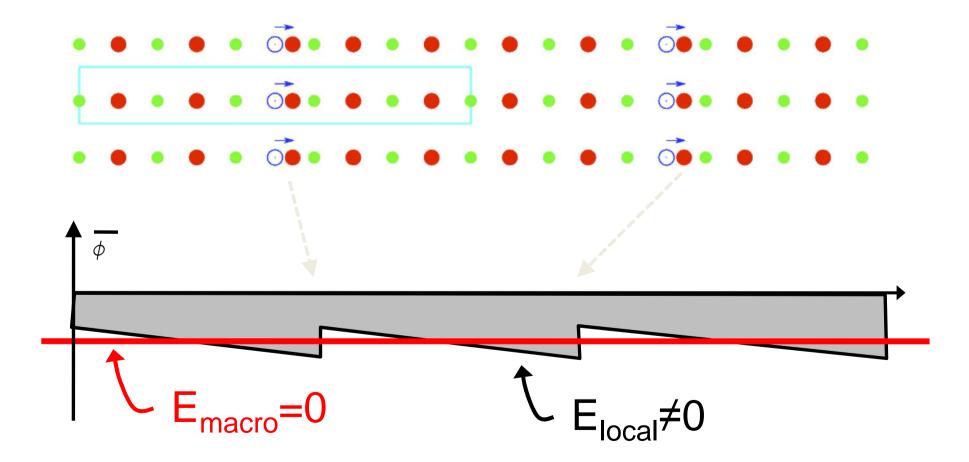
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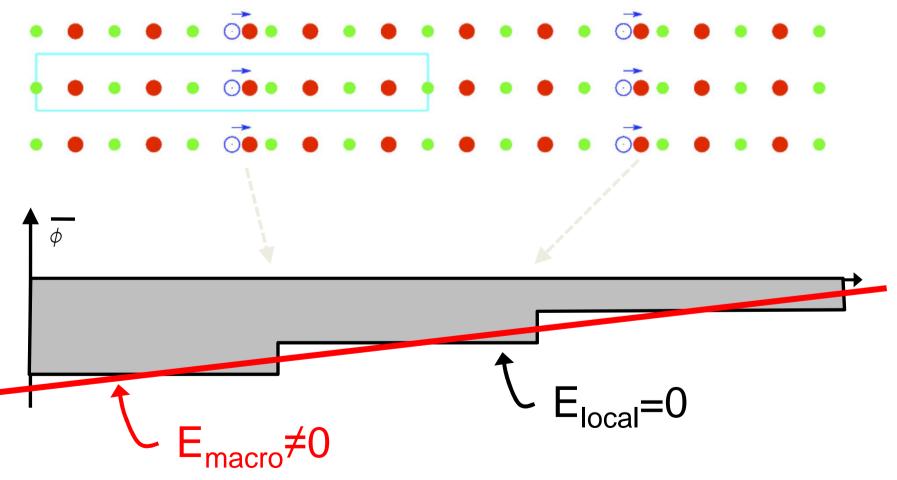
#### **First-principles ingredients**



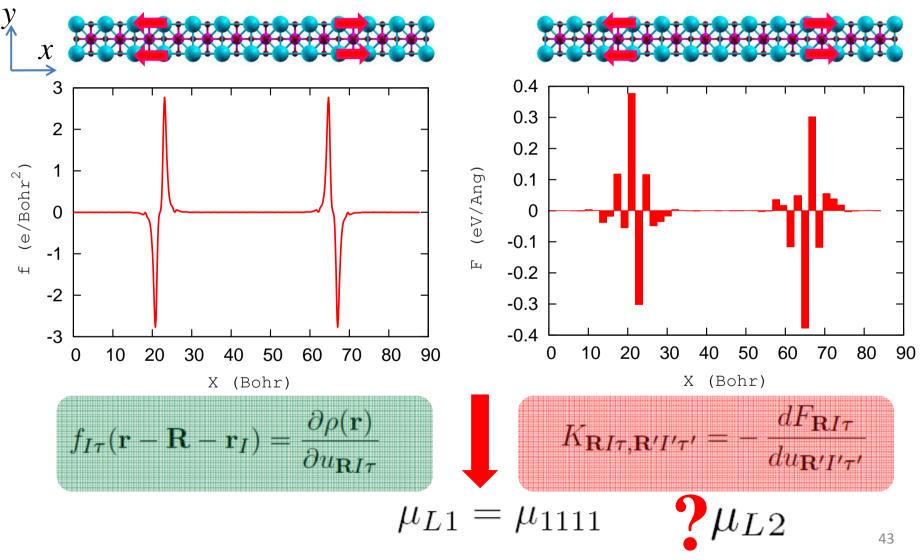
## Fixed E<sub>macro</sub>=0 boundary conditions



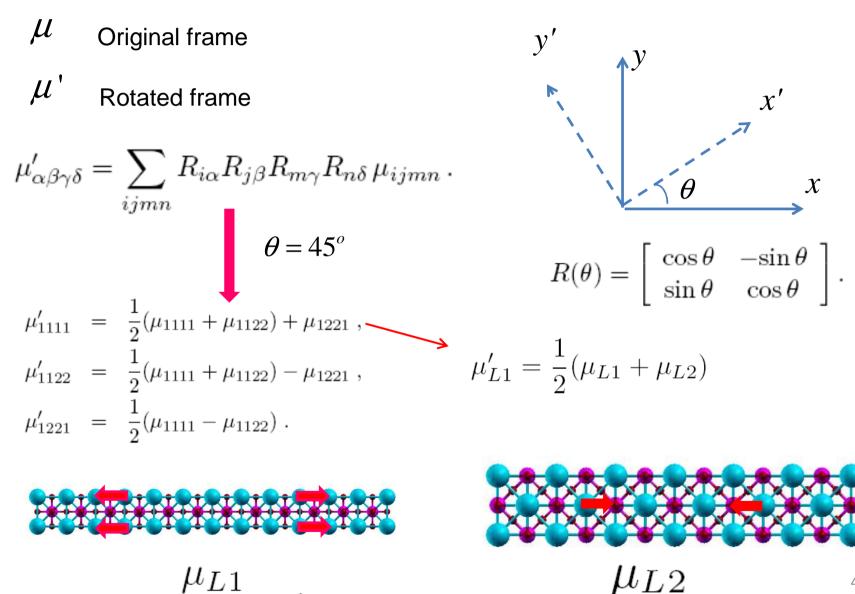
#### Fixed D=0 boundary conditions



# Get *f* and *K* from supercell calculations at fixed D



#### How to obtain $\mu_{L2}$ ?



44

#### Fixed E vs. Fixed D

- Calculations converge best under fixed D
- Fixed E is a more standard usage
- We need conversions:

 $Z^{(\mathcal{E})} = \epsilon^{\infty} \cdot Z^{(D)}$  $\bar{\mu}^{(\mathcal{E})} = \epsilon^{\infty} \cdot \bar{\mu}^{(D)}$  $K^{(\mathcal{E})}_{IJ} = K^{(D)}_{IJ} - \frac{4\pi}{V_{c}} Z^{(D)}_{I} \cdot \epsilon^{\infty} \cdot Z^{(D)}_{J}$  $T^{(\mathcal{E})}_{I} = T^{(D)}_{I} - 4\pi Z^{(D)}_{I} \cdot \epsilon^{\infty} \cdot \bar{\mu}^{(D)}$  $\mu^{(\mathcal{E})} = \epsilon^{0} \cdot \mu^{(D)}$ 

## Fixed E vs. Fixed D

- Calculations converge best under fixed D
- Fixed E is a more standard usage
- We need conversions:

- Electronic only:

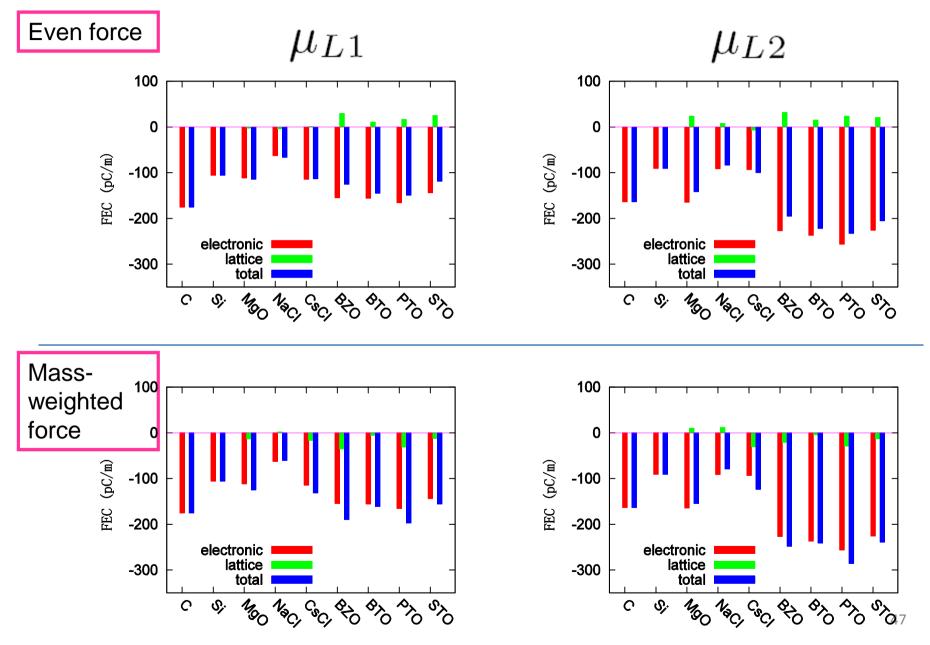
$$\epsilon^{\infty}_{\alpha\lambda}\,\mu^{\mathrm{el},D}_{\lambda\beta\gamma\delta} = \mu^{\mathrm{el},\mathcal{E}}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$$

(Resta, 2010)

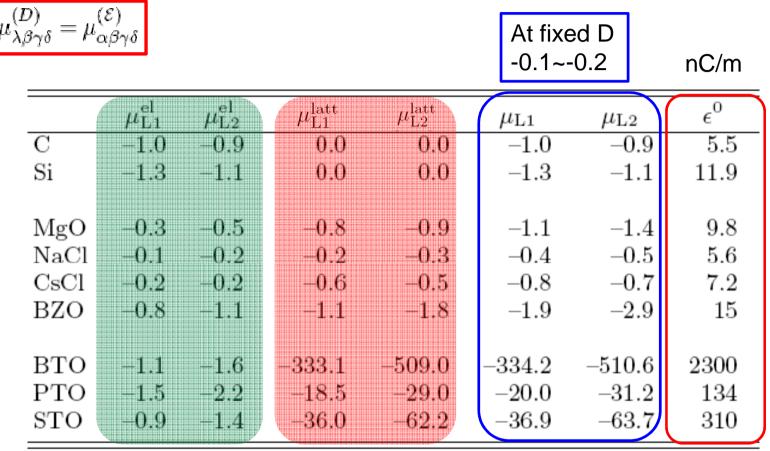
– Total (electronic + lattice)

$$\epsilon^0_{\alpha\lambda}\mu^{(D)}_{\lambda\beta\gamma\delta}=\mu^{(\mathcal{E})}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$$

### FEC at fixed D



#### FEC at fixed E



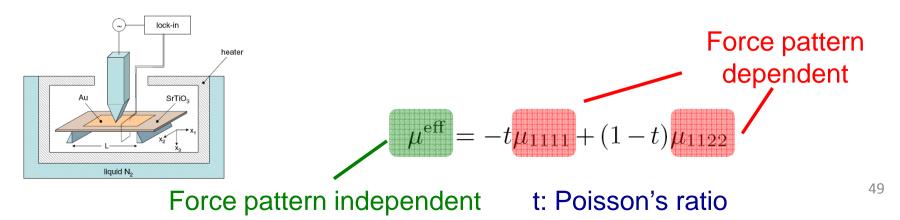
 $\epsilon^0_{\alpha\lambda}\mu^{(D)}_{\lambda\beta\gamma\delta}=\mu^{(\mathcal{E})}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$ 

## Full FEC at fixed E

Assuming 
$$\mu_{T}^{el} = 0$$
  $\mu_{1122}^{el} = \mu_{1221}^{el}$ 

nC/m	
------	--

		Even force			Mass-weighted force			
	$\mu_{1111}$	$\mu_{1122}$	$\mu_{1221}$	$\mu^{\text{eff}}$	$\mu_{1111}$	$\mu_{1122}$	$\mu_{1221}$	$\mu^{\rm eff}$
С	-1.0	-0.9	-0.3	()3	-1.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2
Si	-1.3	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	-1.3	-0.4	-0.4	0.0
MgO	-1.1	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-1.2	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3
NaCl	-0.4	0.0	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	-0.5
CsCl	-0.8	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.9	-0.2	-0.3	0.0
BZO	-1.9	0.0	-1.4	-1.7	-2.9	-0.2	-1.7	-1.8
BTO	-334.3	18.4	-264.5	-309.3	-370.8	2.1	-278.4	-307.9
PTO	-20.0	0.3	-15.7	-15.5	-26.4	-1.9	-18.2	15.4
STO	-36.9	-1.3	-31.2	-37.5	-48.4	-4.9	-34.6	-37.2



### Compared with previous results

 $\mu_{L1}$  at fixed D (pC/m)

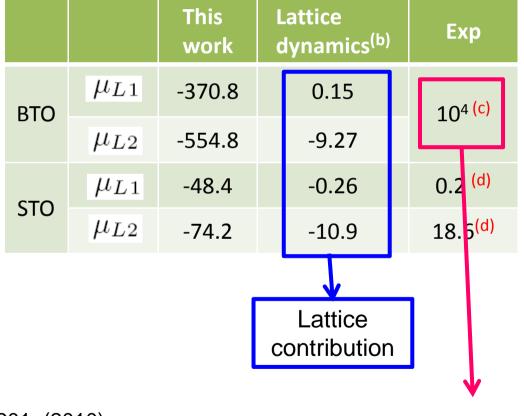
	This work	ab initio <sup>(a)</sup>
BTO	-161	-370 土30
STO	-156	-1380 土650

Different force pattern

Surface effect

➤Effective FEC

 $\mu_{L1}$   $\mu_{L2}$  at fixed E (nC/m)



 $\mu^{\text{eff}} = -t\mu_{1111} + (1-t)\mu_{1122}$ 

(a) Hong *et al*, J. Phys. Conds. Matt. 22,112201, (2010)
 (b) Maranganti *et al*.PRB, 80, 054109 (2009)
 (c) Ma *et al*, APL, 88, 232902 (2006)
 (d) Zubko *et al*, PRL, 99, 167601 (2007), PRL, 100, 199906 (2008)

## Summary

- Complete first-principles theory of longitudinal part of flexoelectric response
  - Electric boundary conditions
  - Longitudinal vs. transverse
  - Force pattern
- A practical method is proposed for calculating the longitudinal flexoelectric tensors for cubic materials from first principles method.
- The electronic and lattice contribution to FEC are obtained.

#### Thank you for your attention !