

# Lecture 10. The Dispersion Force and van der Waals Interaction

## Last Lecture:

- Intermolecular interactions are contributed by charge (q), dipole (u) and induced dipole ( $\alpha$ )
- Following interactions have power law  $r^{-6}$ :
  - Keesom: u-u
  - Debye: u- $\alpha$
  - London dispersion:  $\alpha$ - $\alpha$

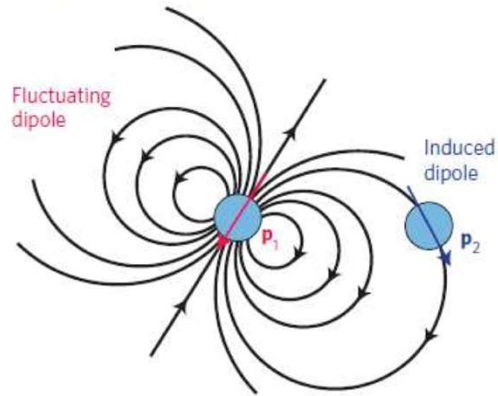
→ This lecture will discuss about the “elusive” dispersion interaction

## Perspectives:

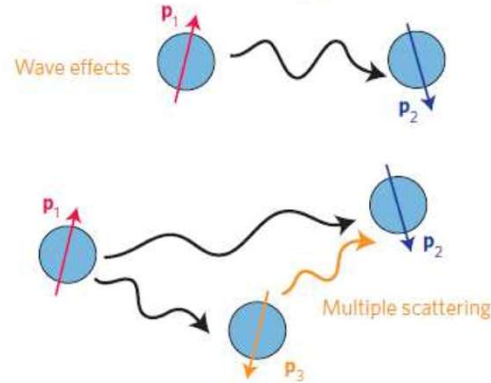
- What is the origin of the interaction between non-polar molecules?
- How is the dispersion interaction compared with the other types of interaction
- Can you engineer such forces / interactions?

# Interaction between Nothing and Dancing Charges: A Brief History of vdW-Casimir Effect

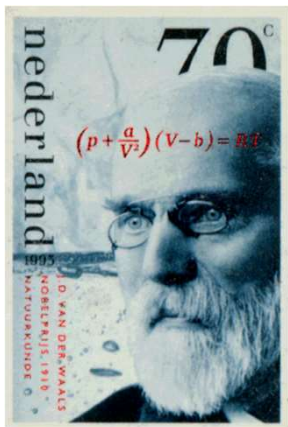
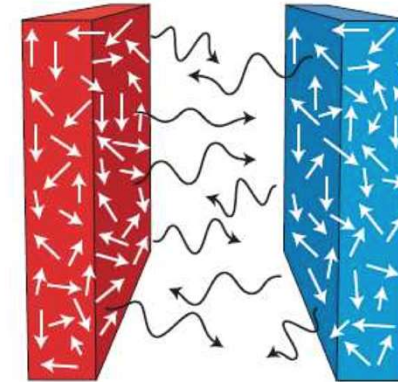
a van der Waals (quasistatic fields)



b Casimir-Polder (waves/retardation)



c Casimir effect (macroscopic bodies)



J.D. van der Waals  
1873



Fritz London  
1930



Hendrik Casimir  
1948



Dirk Polder  
1948

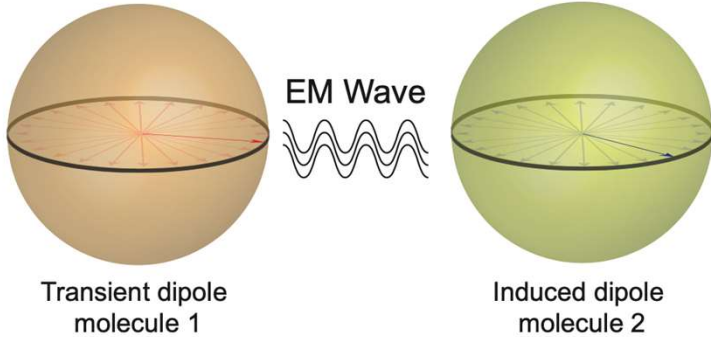


Evgeny Lifshitz  
1954

# Semi-Classical Theory of London Dispersion

Interactions between transient dipole moments of Bohr atoms

$$U_1 = a_0 \cdot e \rightarrow W_{\alpha\alpha} = \frac{-U^2 \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}$$



Interaction **Free** Energy (half of internal):

$$W_{\alpha\alpha}(r) = -\frac{(ea_0)^2 \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}$$

$$\alpha_{01} = 4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0^3$$

↳ val of e<sup>-</sup>-cloud

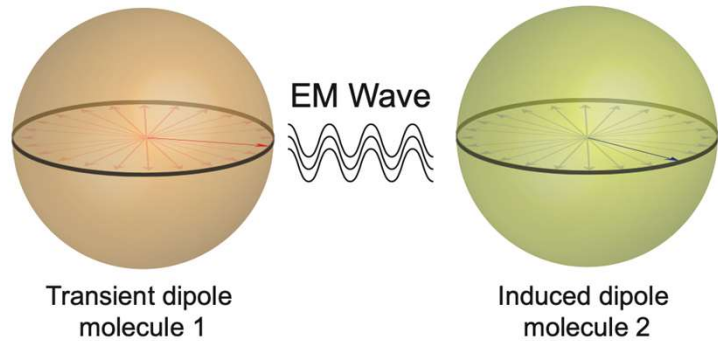
$$= \frac{-e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0} \cdot \frac{\alpha_{01} \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}$$

↳ Ionization energy of Bohr atom

$$h\nu_I = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0 a_0} = 13.6 \text{ eV}$$

# Semi-Classical Theory of London Dispersion

Interactions between transient dipole moments of Bohr atoms



$$W_{\alpha\alpha} = -2h\nu_{\alpha} \frac{\alpha_{01}\alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}$$

London free energy dispersion:

$$W_{\alpha\alpha} = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{\alpha_{01}\alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6} \frac{h\nu_{11}\nu_{12}}{\nu_{11} + \nu_{12}}$$

→ harmonic mean

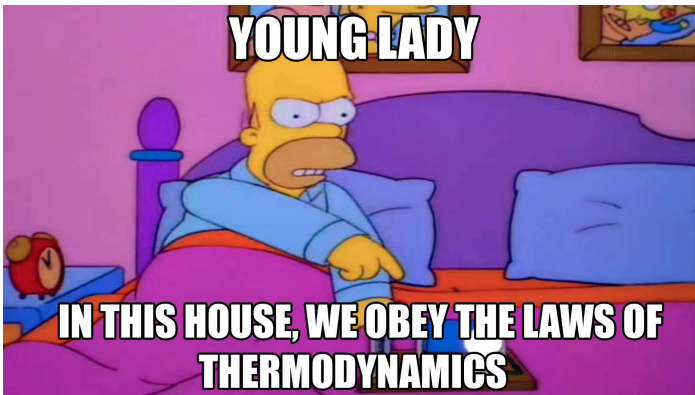
⇒ semi-classical approach is close to real expression

# Unifying All Components of vdW Interactions

Free interaction Energy:  $w_{\text{vdW}} = - \underbrace{\frac{u_1^2 u_2^2}{3k_B T (4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}}_{\text{Keesom}} - \underbrace{\frac{u_1^2 \alpha_{02} + u_2^2 \alpha_{01}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}}_{\text{Debye}} - \underbrace{\frac{3\alpha_{02}\alpha_{01} \frac{h\nu_1\nu_2}{\nu_1+\nu_2}}{2(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}}_{\text{London}}$

$= - \frac{\beta_{\text{Keesom}} + \beta_{\text{Debye}} + \beta_{\text{London}}}{r^6}$

*(Note: A red circle highlights the London term's numerator, and a red arrow points to a handwritten ≠ symbol.)*



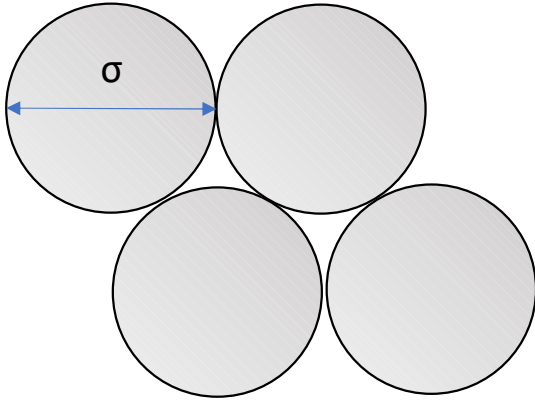
$w_{\alpha\alpha} = \frac{-3k_B T \alpha_{01} \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r)^2 r^6}$

*(Note: A red circle highlights the 3k\_B T term in the numerator.)*

(300K)  $\begin{cases} k_B T \approx 0,026 \text{ eV} \\ h\nu \approx 13,6 \text{ eV} \end{cases}$

# Strength of London Dispersion Interactions

Melting point  $T_m$  of Nobel gases



$$q=0, u=0, \alpha = \alpha_0$$

Critical condition:

$$vdW + thermal = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow w_{vdW} + E_{kin} = 0$$

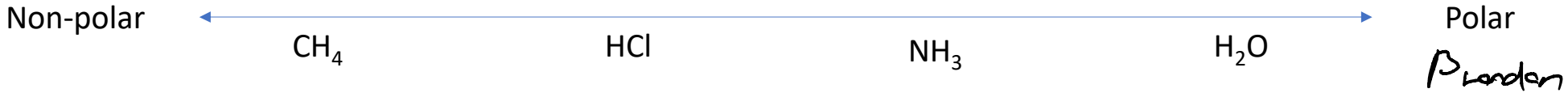
$$\Rightarrow -\frac{3}{4} \frac{\alpha_0^2}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)} \cdot \frac{1}{66} \cdot h\nu_{\text{I}} + \frac{3}{2} k_B T = 0$$

$$\alpha_0 = \underline{4\pi\epsilon_0 \left(\frac{G}{2}\right)^3}$$

$\Rightarrow T_m$  is independent of radius  $\sigma!$

Eg:	Calc. $T_m$	Exp. $T_m$
Ne	22K	27K
Ar	85K	87K

# Comparison Between Dispersion Interactions vs Keesom / Debye Interactions



Proportionality of dispersion interaction:  $\eta_{\text{London}} = \frac{\beta_{\text{London}}}{\beta_{\text{London}} + \beta_{\text{Keesom}} + \beta_{\text{Debye}}}$

	$\beta_{\text{vdW}} (10^{-79} \text{ J} \cdot \text{m}^6)$	$\eta_{\text{London}}$
CH <sub>4</sub> - CH <sub>4</sub>	102	100%
HCl - HCl	123	86%
NH <sub>3</sub> - NH <sub>3</sub>	111	57%
H <sub>2</sub> O - H <sub>2</sub> O	139	24%

Handwritten notes: A bracket groups the first three rows with the label "Similar". A bracket groups the last two rows with the label "More dipoles". Below the last row, it says "=> non neglectable".

## Revisit of Old Equations

Recall Lecture 1:  $A_{AB} = \sqrt{A_{AA}A_{BB}}$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{Hamaker const.}} \quad A_{AB} = \pi^2 \beta_{AB} \cdot S_A \cdot S_B$

If **ONLY** London dispersion:

$$\beta_{AB} \propto \alpha_{OA} \cdot \alpha_{OB} \cdot \frac{h^2 \nu_A \cdot \nu_B}{h\nu_2 + h\nu_2} \approx \alpha_{OA} \cdot \alpha_{OB} \sqrt{h\nu_1 \cdot h\nu_2}$$

$(\nu_1 \approx \nu_2)$

$$\beta_{AA} \propto \alpha_{OA}^2 \cdot h\nu_1, \quad \beta_{BB} \propto \alpha_{OB}^2 \cdot h\nu_2$$

$$\beta_{AB} = \sqrt{\beta_{AA} \cdot \beta_{BB}}$$

$$\hookrightarrow A_{AB} = \sqrt{A_{AA}A_{BB}}$$

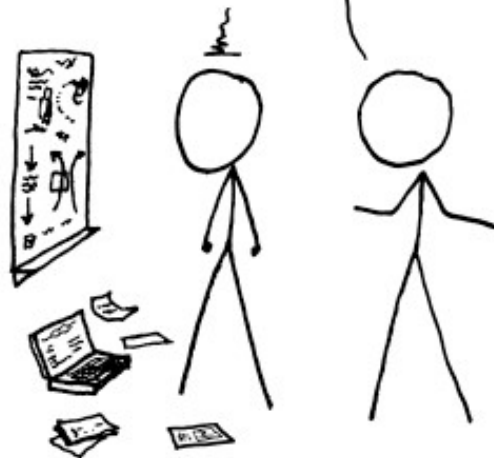
holds for system **ONLY** with  
London dispersion  
 $\Rightarrow$  does not work for highly  
polar systems



YOU'RE TRYING TO PREDICT THE BEHAVIOR  
OF <COMPLICATED SYSTEM>? JUST MODEL  
IT AS A <SIMPLE OBJECT>, AND THEN ADD  
SOME SECONDARY TERMS TO ACCOUNT FOR  
<COMPLICATIONS I JUST THOUGHT OF>.

EASY, RIGHT?

SO, WHY DOES <YOUR FIELD> NEED  
A WHOLE JOURNAL, ANYWAY?



LIBERAL-ARTS MAJORS MAY BE ANNOYING SOMETIMES,  
BUT THERE'S *NOTHING* MORE OBNOXIOUS THAN  
A PHYSICIST FIRST ENCOUNTERING A NEW SUBJECT.

# Modern Theory of Dispersion Interactions – Frequency Dependency

Why is the coefficient of  $w_{\alpha\alpha}$  different?  $\rightarrow$  Time in Electrodynamics instead of Electrostatics!

$h\nu$

$k_B T$

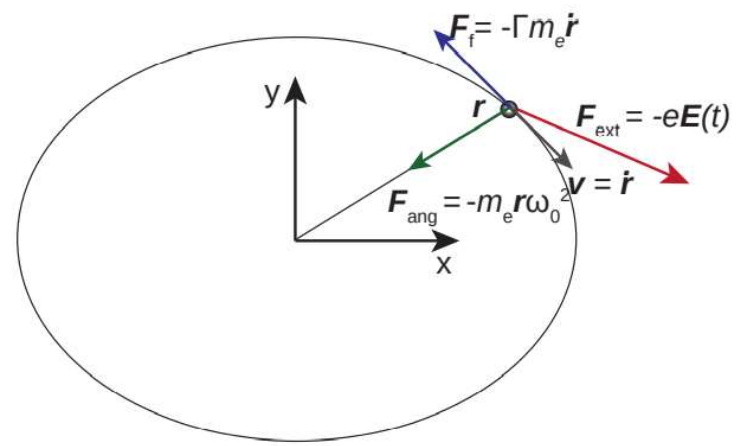
## Lorentz Oscillator Model

Equation of motion:  $m_e \ddot{\mathbf{r}} + \Gamma m_e \dot{\mathbf{r}} + m_e \omega_0^2 \mathbf{r} = -e\mathbf{E}$

Fourier transform  $\Rightarrow m_e \hat{\mathbf{r}}(\omega)(-\omega^2 + i\Gamma\omega + \omega_0^2) = -e\hat{\mathbf{E}}$   
↪ Damping factor

$\alpha_0 = \alpha(\omega=0) = \frac{e^2}{m_e \omega_0^2}$

$\omega_0$ : Oscillating freq  $\approx 2\pi \cdot \nu_I$

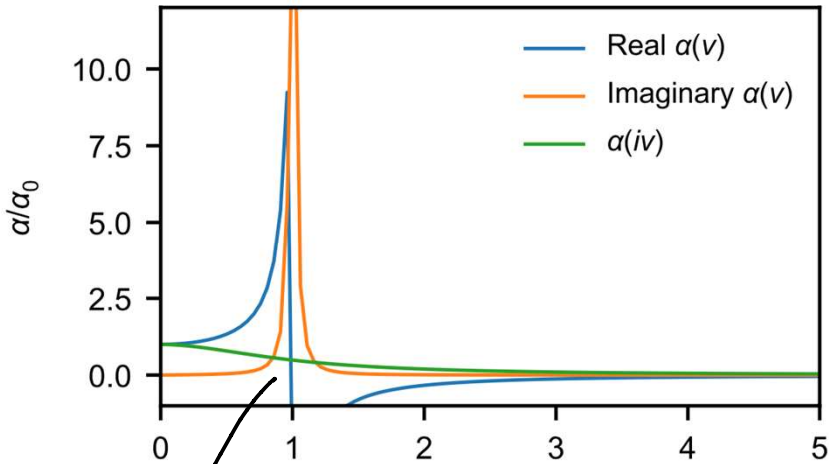


$$\alpha(\omega) = \frac{-e\hat{\mathbf{r}}(\omega)}{\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\omega)} = \frac{\alpha_0}{1 + i\Gamma\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0}\right) - \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0}\right)^2} = \frac{\alpha_0}{1 + \Gamma\left(\frac{i\nu}{\nu_I}\right) + \left(\frac{i\nu}{\nu_I}\right)^2} = \alpha(i\nu)$$

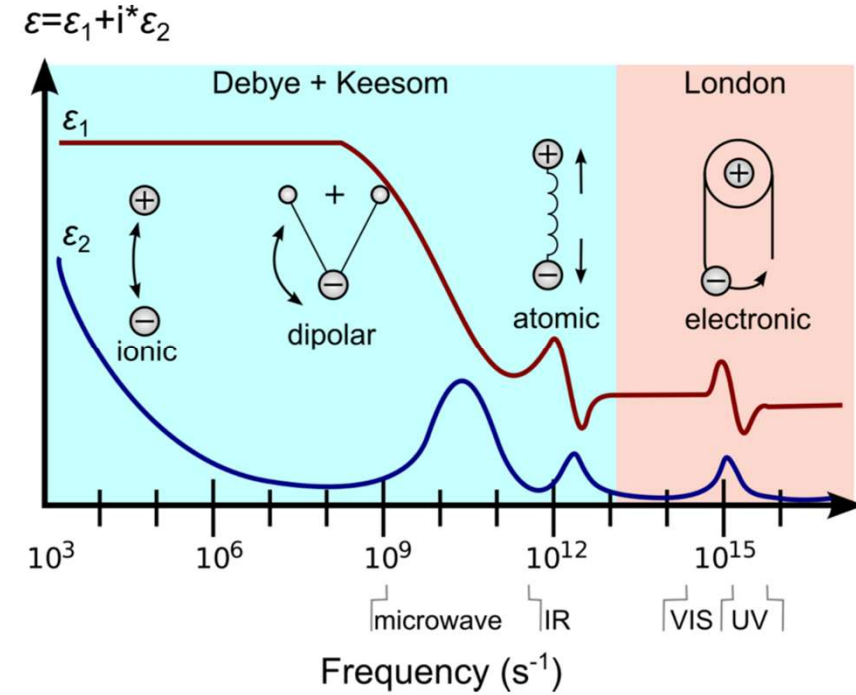
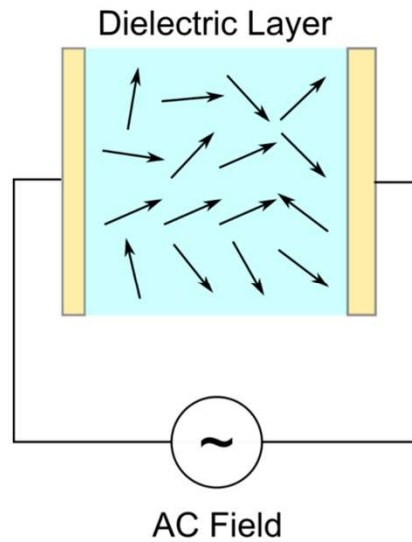
↪ phase

# Modern Theory of Dispersion Interactions – Frequency Dependency

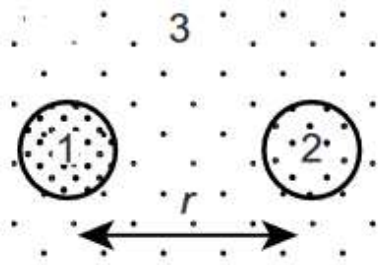
$$\epsilon = \frac{E_{ext}}{E_{int}}$$



*monotonically*



# Modern Theory of Dispersion Interactions – McLachlan Model



McLachlan Model (microscopic)

$$w_{\text{vdW}}(r) = -\frac{6k_B T}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 r^6} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha_1(i\nu_n)\alpha_2(i\nu_n)}{\epsilon_3^2(i\nu_n)}$$

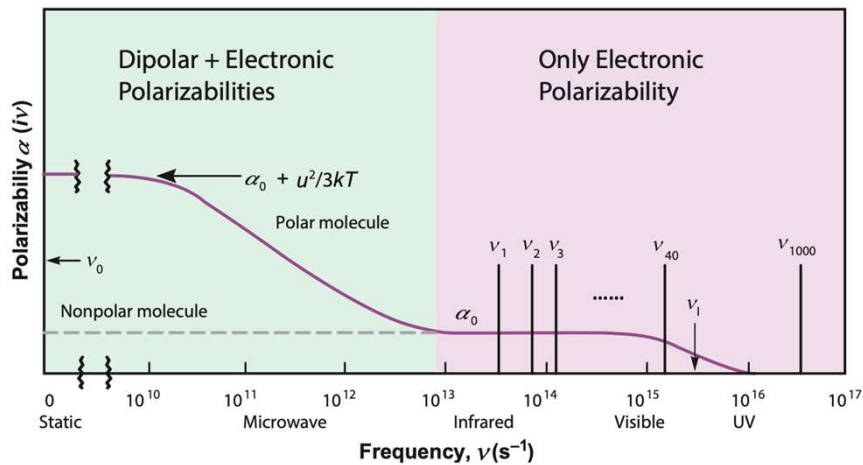
$\frac{1}{2}$  if  $n=0$

$\nu_n$ : Matsubara Frequency

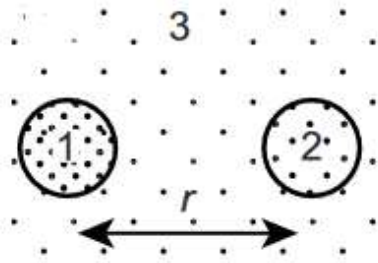
$$h\nu_n = 2\pi k_B T \cdot n$$

$$h\nu_1 = 0.16 \text{ eV (300K)}$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} n=0 \text{ Debye + Keesom + Oth London} \\ n \geq 1 \text{ London} \end{array} \right.$



# Modern Theory of Dispersion Interactions – McLachlan Model

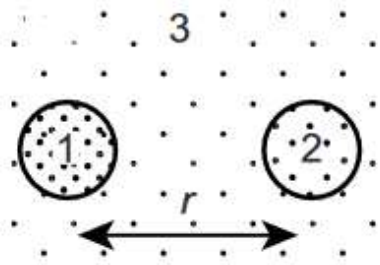


$$w_{\text{vdW}}(r) = -\frac{6k_{\text{B}}T}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 r^6} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha_1(i\nu_n)\alpha_2(i\nu_n)}{\epsilon_3^2(i\nu_n)}$$

$$w_{\text{vdW}}(\nu = 0, r) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{6k_{\text{B}}T(\alpha_{01} + u_1^2/(3k_{\text{B}}T))(\alpha_{02} + u_2^2/(3k_{\text{B}}T))}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_3^2)^2 r^6}$$

$$= -\underbrace{\frac{u_1^2 u_2^2}{3k_{\text{B}}T(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_3)^2 r^6}}_{\text{Keesom}} - \underbrace{\frac{u_1^2 \alpha_{02} + u_2^2 \alpha_{01}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_3)^2 r^6}}_{\text{Debye}} - \underbrace{\frac{3k_{\text{B}}T \alpha_{01} \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_3)^2 r^6}}_{\text{London}(n=0)}$$

# Modern Theory of Dispersion Interactions – McLachlan Model



$$n \geq 1, \quad \sum \rightarrow \int, \quad h\nu_n = 2\pi k_B T n$$

$$\Rightarrow W_{vdw}(n \geq 1) = \frac{h}{2\pi} \frac{6}{(4\pi \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r)^2} \int_{\nu_I}^{\infty} \alpha_1(i\nu) \alpha_2(i\nu) d\nu$$

$$\Rightarrow h d\nu = 2\pi k_B T dn$$

Replace the lower limit  $\nu_I \approx 0$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha(i\nu) = \frac{\alpha}{1 + \left(\frac{i\nu}{\nu_I}\right)^2} \\ \epsilon_0 = 1 \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow W_{vdw}(n \geq 1) = - \frac{3}{2} \frac{\alpha_{01} \alpha_{02}}{(4\pi \epsilon_0 \epsilon_r)^2 r^6} \frac{h\nu_{I1} \cdot \nu_{I2}}{h\nu_{I1} + h\nu_{I2}}$$

London Dispersion

# McLachlan Model: Revisiting Previous Questions

## 1. Coefficients of dispersion interactions

Lecture 9 → electrostatics →  $W_{\alpha\alpha} \propto k_B T$

Today → electrodynamics →  $W_{\alpha\alpha} \propto h\nu_{\alpha}$

⇒ Dispersion dominates at range Vis-UV

## 2. Why Dispersion?



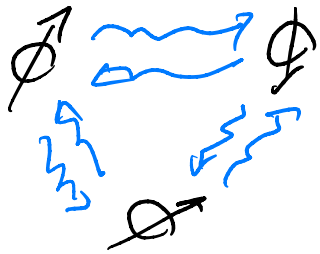
1.  $\alpha$ .  $\epsilon$  dependent on freq.

2. Vis-UV range strongest

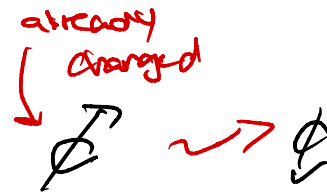
# Macroscopic Many-body vdW – Lifshitz Theory

Some drawbacks of London theory:

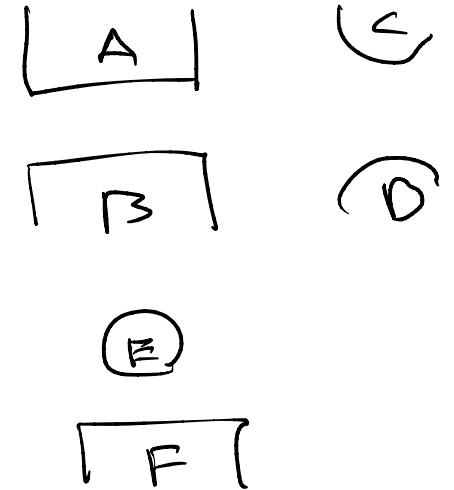
Lack of many-body effect



Retardation Effect



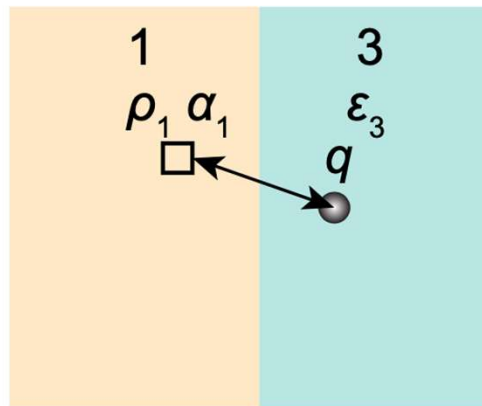
Geometric Uniformity





# Hamaker Constant in Lifshitz Theory

McLachlan Eqs → Bulk system: Naïve approach

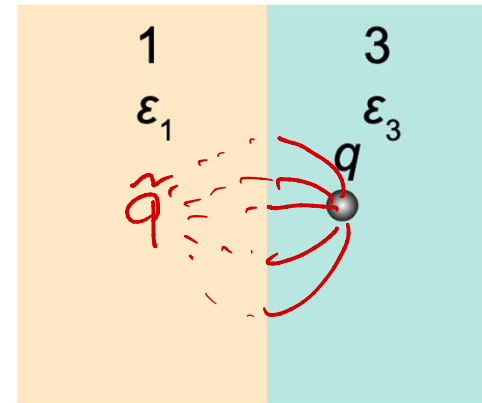


Microscopic approach

$$w_{q1} = f(\rho, \alpha, \epsilon_3)$$

$$w_{q1} = \int_{\delta}^{\infty} dx \int_0^{\infty} w_{q\alpha}(r = \sqrt{(x^2 + y^2)}) \rho_1 (2\pi y) dy$$

$$= -\frac{\pi q^2 \rho_1 \alpha_1}{(4\pi \epsilon_0 \epsilon_3)^2 \delta}$$



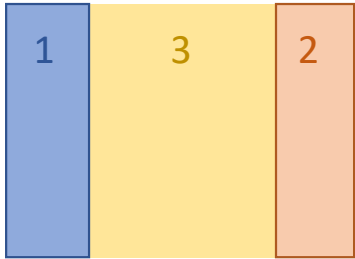
Macroscopic approach

$$w_{q1} = f(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3)$$

$$w_{q1} = -\frac{q^2}{(4\pi \epsilon_0) \epsilon_3 (2\delta)} \frac{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_3}{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_3}$$

$$\rho_1 \alpha_1 = 2 \epsilon_0 \epsilon_3 \cdot \frac{\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_3}{\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_3}$$

# Hamaker Constant in Lifshitz Theory



$$A_{132} = \frac{3kT}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\left[ \frac{\epsilon_1(i\nu_n) - \epsilon_3(i\nu_n)}{\epsilon_1(i\nu_n) + \epsilon_3(i\nu_n)} \right]}_{\Delta_{13}} \underbrace{\left[ \frac{\epsilon_2(i\nu_n) - \epsilon_3(i\nu_n)}{\epsilon_2(i\nu_n) + \epsilon_3(i\nu_n)} \right]}_{\Delta_{23}}$$

case

$$1.) \quad \epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = \epsilon_3 \Rightarrow A_{132} = 0$$

$$2.) \quad \epsilon_3 = 1 \quad \Delta_{13} = \frac{\epsilon_1 - 1}{\epsilon_1 + 1} > 0$$

$$\Delta_{23} = 1 > 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  attraction

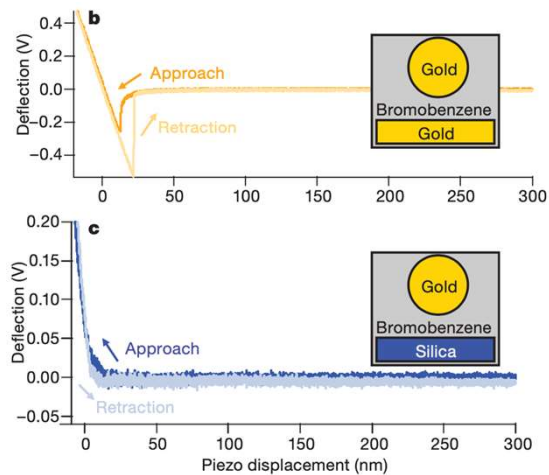
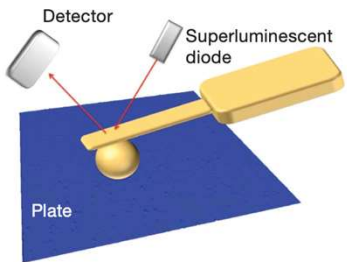
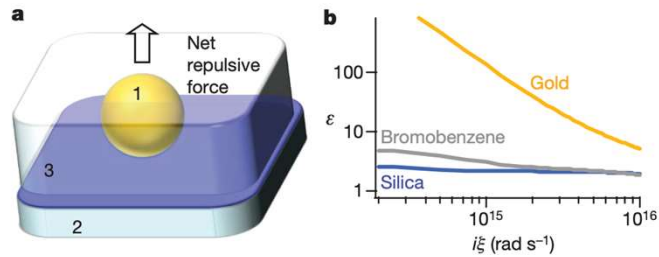
$$3.) \quad \epsilon_1 > \epsilon_3 > \epsilon_2 \Rightarrow \text{repulsive interaction}$$

# Can van der Waals Interaction Be Repulsive?

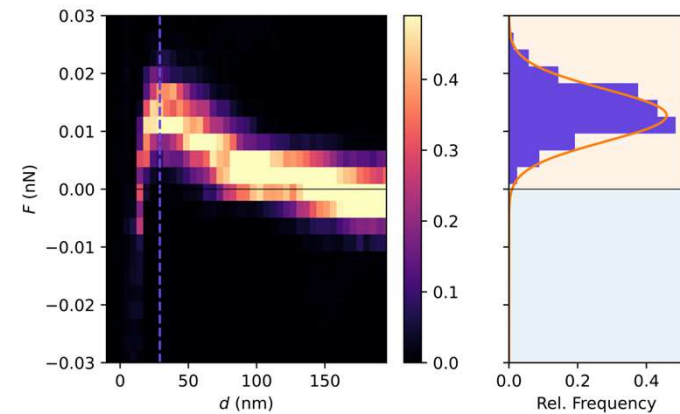
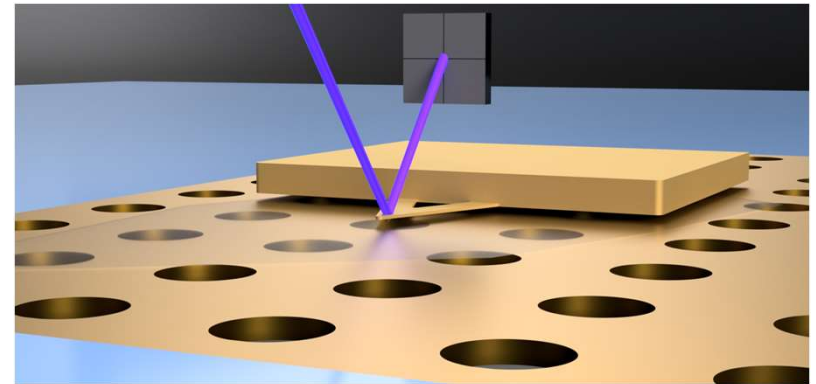
If the dielectric functions  $\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3$  of materials 1, 2 and medium 3 form cascade.

i.e.  $\epsilon_1 < \epsilon_3 < \epsilon_2$

Repulsive long-range Casimir interactions in liquid



vdW interaction mediate by 2D-Materials



Munday, et al. Nature 457, 170–173 (2009).

Preliminary Work