

## Quantum Monte Carlo Compton profiles of solid and liquid lithium

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We computed the Compton profile of solid and liquid lithium using quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) and compared it with recent experimental measurements, obtaining good agreement. Importantly, we find it crucial to account for proper core-valence orthogonalization and to address density differences when comparing with experiment. To account for disorder effects, we sampled finite-temperature configurations using molecular dynamics, then performed diffusion Monte Carlo (DMC) simulations on each configuration. We used Slater-Jastrow wave functions and grand-canonical twist-averaged boundary conditions. A QMC pseudopotential correction, derived from an all-electron DMC simulation of the perfect crystal, was also used. Our calculations provide an all-electron QMC benchmark for the Compton profile of lithium crystal and pseudopotential-corrected QMC Compton profiles for both the liquid and solid.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The Compton profile is a bulk-sensitive probe of the electronic structure of a material accessible to both theory and experiment. Using the “impulse approximation” [1], the double-differential cross section of inelastic light scattering is directly proportional to the Compton profile, the Radon transform of the electronic momentum distribution along the scattering vector:

$$J(p_z) = \iint dk_x dk_y n(k_x, k_y, k_z = p_z), \quad (1)$$

where  $n(\mathbf{k})$  is the electronic momentum distribution. Since the pioneering work of Eisenberger *et al.* [1,2], Compton scattering experiments have been performed on simple metals such as Li [3–7], Be [8,9], and Na [10], as well as more complicated materials. Accompanying the scattering experiments are numerous theoretical calculations using different electronic structure theories, including density functional theory (DFT) [3,4,7,11–16], quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) [10,17], and GW [18–21]. The Compton profiles in Refs. [3,4] were compared to DFT results using the local-density approximation (LDA) with the Lam-Platzman correlation correction [22]. While the Lam-Platzman correction has been shown to be accurate by QMC [13,17,23], the theoretical Compton profile is still larger at low momenta and smaller at high momenta compared with experiment. In other words, the predicted Compton profile is typically narrower than observed.

Both theoretical approximations and experimental procedures may be responsible for a significant fraction of the aforementioned discrepancy. In the experiment, finite momentum resolution and final-state effects [24,25] broaden the measured Compton profile. In the theoretical calculations, the lack of electronic correlation and the use of

pseudopotentials both narrow the computed Compton profile. Furthermore, many subtle complications may also be responsible for part of the discrepancy. Examples include multiple-scattering corrections, background subtraction, thermal expansion, electron-phonon coupling, and relativistic effects.

In this paper, we present much improved QMC calculations on the solid and liquid states of lithium. First, we use grand-canonical twist averaging [26,27] to access the momentum distribution at arbitrary momentum while preserving a sharp Fermi surface. We obtain a momentum resolution of 0.040 a.u., which is higher than the 0.068 a.u. achieved previously [17] (it is straightforward to further increase momentum resolution given more computational resources). Second, we perform diffusion Monte Carlo (DMC) to remove effects of the trial wave function. Third, we use all-electron QMC to explore the pseudopotential bias in the Compton profile. We find that the pseudopotential bias is responsible for the majority of the discrepancy between pseudopotential QMC and experimental Compton profiles away from the Fermi surface. Fourth and finally, we apply finite-size corrections [28,29] to obtain the momentum distribution in the thermodynamic limit. Using these improved procedures, we calculate the disorder-averaged Compton profiles for polycrystal and liquid lithium and obtain good agreement with a recent high-resolution synchrotron experiment [30].

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we describe the simulation methods used to obtain the QMC momentum distributions. In Sec. III, we show the QMC momentum distributions and the resulting Compton profiles in comparison with experiment. In Sec. IV, we discuss the influence of various physical effects on the momentum distribution in an attempt to explain the remaining discrepancy between QMC and experiment.

## II. METHOD

Full-core and pseudopotential QMC calculations have been performed on both the perfect crystal and disordered lithium configurations. We use the Slater-Jastrow trial wave function

$$\Psi_T = D^\dagger D^\downarrow \exp \left[ - \sum_{i<j}^N u(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) - \sum_{i=1}^N \chi(\mathbf{r}_i) \right], \quad (2)$$

where  $u(\mathbf{r})$  is the electron-electron Jastrow pair function,  $\chi(\mathbf{r})$  is the electron-ion Jastrow pair function, and  $\mathbf{r}_i$  is the position of the  $i$ th electron. The Slater determinant  $D^{\uparrow/\downarrow}$  is composed of single-particle orbitals obtained using Kohn-Sham DFT with the LDA functional. In the full-core calculation, we remove the approximate electron-ion cusp from the orbitals and reintroduce the exact cusp condition in the Jastrow function [31]. The electron-ion Jastrow pair function is split into a sum of core and valence pieces. A flexible  $B$ -spline with 16 adjustable knots is used for the core piece ( $r < 2$  bohrs). An electron-electron-ion three-body Jastrow consisting of cubic terms in separations with a cutoff of 4 bohrs further improves the all-electron wave function [32]. In the pseudopotential calculation, we treat the lithium atoms as pseudoions of charge +1. The core, screened by  $1s$  electrons, is replaced by the Burkatzki-Filippi-Dolg pseudopotential [33]. The electron-electron Jastrow pair function is expressed as a sum of real-space and reciprocal-space parts to accurately describe long-range plasmon fluctuations.

In variational Monte Carlo, we sample  $|\psi_T|^2$  using Metropolis Monte Carlo and directly calculate properties from the many-body wave function. The momentum distribution is calculated using the direct estimator in reciprocal space [34]. In DMC, an ensemble of electron configurations evolves according to the Green's function of the nonrelativistic Schrödinger equation in imaginary time. Using the trial wave function  $\psi_T$  as the guiding function and phase reference, the long-time solution samples the mixed distribution  $\psi_T^* \psi_{FP}$ , in the small time step limit.  $\psi_{FP}$  is the fixed-phase ground-state wave function. If the phase of  $\psi_T$  were exact, then  $\psi_{FP}$  would be the exact ground-state wave function [35]. The difference between the expectation value of an observable in the fixed phase and the mixed distributions is the mixed-estimator bias. We gauge simulation quality by monitoring kinetic, potential, and total energies as well as pair correlation functions and the momentum distribution. We observe fast equilibration, small variance, and small mixed-estimator bias in all monitored quantities. The DMC momentum distribution is linearly extrapolated to remove the mixed-estimator bias. For more details on the computational methods and data processing, see the Supplemental Material [36].

We use grand-canonical twist average boundary condition to improve the momentum distribution [28,37]. A previous QMC calculation [17] used real wave functions and the canonical twist average boundary condition (CTABC); each boundary condition (twist) had the same number of electrons. Use of real trial functions restricted the accessible momenta to those commensurate with the simulation cell. CTABC can occupy states outside of the Fermi surface at certain twists, which artificially smears the Fermi surface. In contrast, the grand-canonical twist average technique enforces a constant

chemical potential at all twists. We adjust the number of electrons at each twist such that no state outside the Fermi surface is occupied. This allows us to sample the momentum distribution at momenta arbitrarily close to the Fermi surface while maintaining a sharp Fermi surface. In practice, we impose the occupation of the orbitals in the Slater determinant according to the LDA Fermi energy. In principle, one might modify the Fermi surface by estimating the chemical potential directly within QMC [38]. However, this is much more computationally demanding and is beyond the scope of the current study and not thought to be necessary for lithium based on comparison with de Haas-van Alphen estimations of the anisotropy of the Fermi surface. As discussed in Sec. IV, we have determined that the DFT Fermi surface is quite accurate.

In the perfect crystal, the full-core simulation contains 54 lithium atoms, while the pseudopotential simulations contain 54 or 432 atoms. We use molecular dynamics (MD) with the modified embedded-atom potential [39] to generate the disordered configurations. The MD temperatures were elevated to model quantum fluctuations of the nuclei [40]. We sample the canonical distribution with 432 lithium atoms at 330 and 500 K for experiments at 298 and 493 K, respectively.

All calculations have been performed at the same density  $r_s = 3.25$ , consistent with the previous QMC study [17]. After obtaining QMC results at  $r_s = 3.25$ , we rescale the density of QMC Compton profiles to match the experimental densities:  $r_s = 3.31$  for the liquid and  $r_s = 3.265$  for the solid.

In both QMC and experiment, we assume that the momentum distribution of the core electrons remains unmodified from that in the isolated atom. The atomic core orbital is calculated using Hartree-Fock (HF) and removed from all-electron results to produce valence electron contributions.

We convolved our QMC Compton profile with a broadening function to model instrument resolution and final-state interaction. For this we used the *extended Lorentzian*

$$b(x) = \frac{1}{\tilde{\Omega}} \frac{1}{a_0 + a_1 \left(\frac{2x}{\Gamma}\right)^2 + a_2 \left(\frac{2x}{\Gamma}\right)^4}, \quad (3)$$

with  $\Gamma = 0.024$  a.u.,  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $a_1 = 0.85$ , and  $a_2 = 0.15$  chosen to fit the convolution of the elastic line in the x-ray experiment and the spectral density function of the electrons and  $\tilde{\Omega}$  such that  $\int dx b(x) = 1$ .

We used LAMMPS [41] for the MD simulations, QUANTUM ESPRESSO [42,43] for DFT, PYSCF [44] for HF, and QMCPACK [45] for QMC. The disordered calculations have been automated using the NEXUS suite of tools [46].

## III. RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the valence Compton profiles of solid and liquid lithium from experiment and processed QMC data. The raw QMC data have been processed to account for finite-size effects, thermal disorder, pseudopotential bias, density change, final-state effects, and instrument resolution. The QMC Compton profiles agree with experiment immediately inside the Fermi surface ( $0.2$  a.u.  $< p < 0.4$  a.u.) and at large momenta ( $p > 0.9$  a.u.). However, the QMC Compton profiles show a smaller high-momentum component immediately outside the Fermi surface and a too big low-momentum component. Both the theoretical and experimental valence

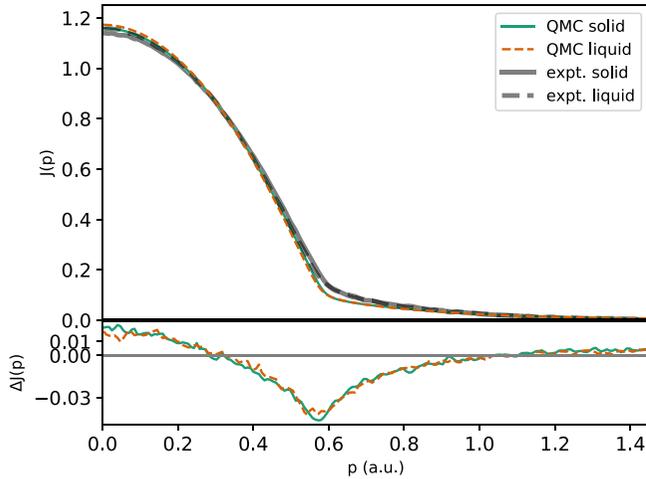


FIG. 1. Valence electronic Compton profiles of solid (solid line) and liquid (dashed line) lithium from QMC (thin lines) and experiment (thick lines). The top panel shows the Compton profiles on an absolute scale. The bottom panel shows  $\Delta J(p) = J_{\text{QMC}} - J_{\text{expt}}$ .

Compton profiles satisfy the normalization sum rule ( $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} J(p) dp = 1$ ) to better than 0.3%. The difference between QMC and experiment Compton profiles can be interpreted as a shift of momentum density from zero to slightly above the Fermi momentum.

Figure 2 shows the change in the Compton profile when the liquid freezes into a solid. The systematic difference between QMC calculations and experiment is almost identical in the solid and liquid. Thus, cancellation of error allows us to capture the difference between the solid and liquid Compton profiles almost perfectly. The main change is a density-induced outward shift of the Fermi surface. This shift manifests in Fig. 2 as a peak at the solid Fermi momentum  $p_F \approx 0.578$  a.u. and a parabolic dip centered around  $p = 0$ . Another important difference is the emergence of secondary Fermi surfaces due to umklapp scattering in the solid. We expect secondary Fermi surfaces to center around the reciprocal

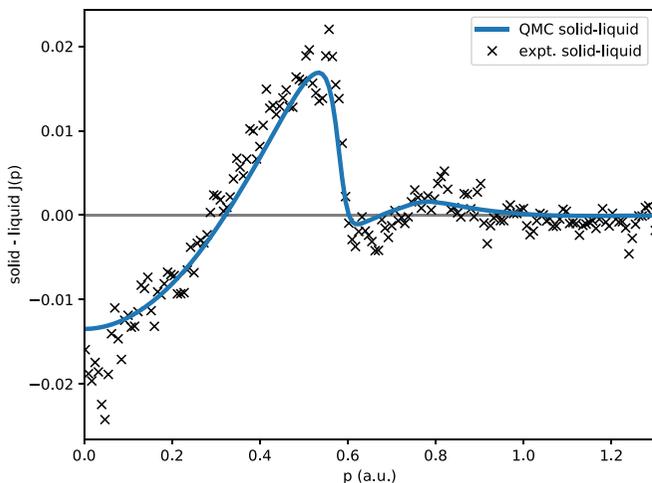
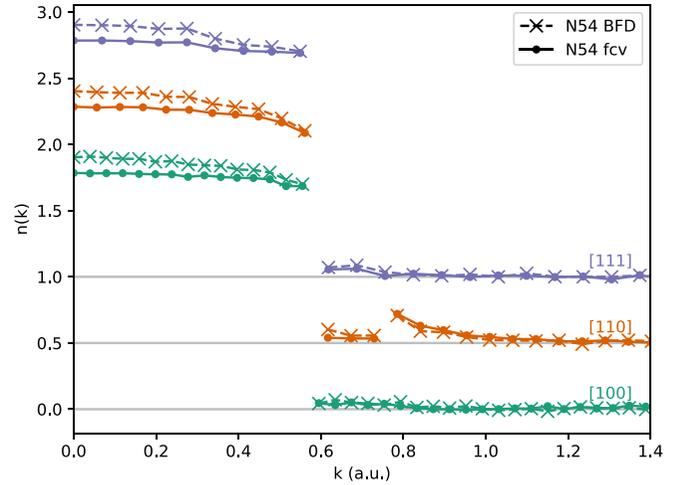
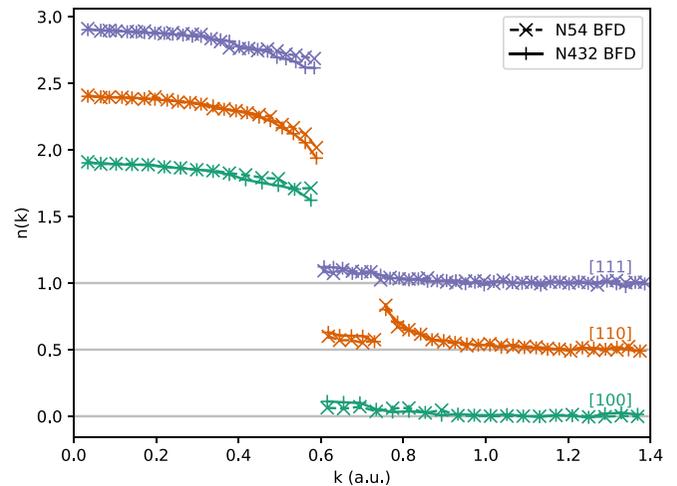


FIG. 2. Difference between solid and liquid valence electronic Compton profiles.



(a) full-core valence *vs* pseudopotential



(b) 432 atoms *vs* 54 atoms

FIG. 3. Momentum distribution of valence electrons in lithium bcc crystal. (a) compares pseudopotential (crosses) to full-core (dots) results. (b) compares 54-atom (crosses) to 432-atom (pluses) pseudopotential results.

lattice of the lithium crystal. Crystalline lithium is bcc with a lattice constant of  $\sim 6.63$  bohrs, so its reciprocal lattice is fcc with a lattice constant of  $\sim 1.895$  a.u. The nearest neighbor to  $\Gamma$  is  $p_1 = 1.34$  a.u. along [110]. Therefore, the closest secondary Fermi surface is located at  $p_1 - p_F = 0.762$  a.u., which is exactly where we observe a small peak in Fig. 2.

As mentioned at the beginning of this section, we process the raw QMC data in several steps to make them comparable to experiment. In the following, we present perfect lithium crystal QMC calculations, which we use to validate the processing steps.

In Fig. 3, one-dimensional slices of the QMC valence momentum distributions are shown. The momentum distribution is free-electron-like along the [100] and [111] directions. Along the [110] direction, however, there is a pronounced secondary Fermi surface. The valence profile from the full-core

calculation is flatter inside the Fermi surface and has enhanced secondary features when compared to the pseudopotential calculation.

To obtain the valence momentum distribution from the full-core QMC calculation, we remove the momentum distribution of the  $1s$  core electrons. The  $1s$  orbital of the neutral lithium atom is calculated using HF with a correlation-consistent polarized valence five zeta (cc-pV5Z) basis. The most pronounced effect of the pseudopotential is to increase the electronic momentum density inside the Fermi surface, raising  $n(0)$  by more than 5%. In contrast, the effect of increasing system size peaks at the Fermi momentum. The main effect of finite system size is to increase the magnitude of the discontinuity at the Fermi momentum. The effects of pseudopotential and finite system size can be better shown in the momentum distribution differences.

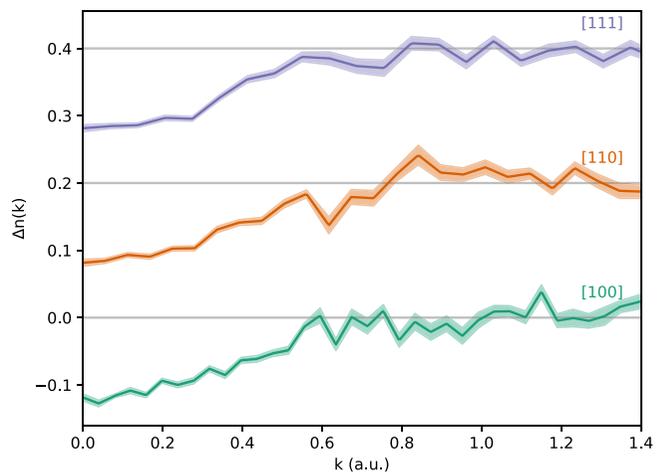
In Fig. 4, we show two sets of momentum distribution differences in direct correspondence with Fig. 3. The first is the difference between full-core and pseudopotential momentum distributions. This difference can be considered a pseudopotential correction (PPC). The PPC is largest inside the Fermi surface. It has a parabolic shape and is mostly negative along the [100] and [111] directions. However, it shows positive peaks near the secondary Fermi surface along the [110] direction. The PPC is spherically averaged and applied to the momentum distributions of the disordered structures.

Now consider how the finite size of our supercell affects the results: the finite-size correction (FSC). Figure 4(b) shows the difference between the 432-atom and 54-atom pseudopotential calculations. The difference peaks at the Fermi surface and goes to zero at high momenta. The FSC results shown here are used to validate the approach outlined in Refs. [28,29].

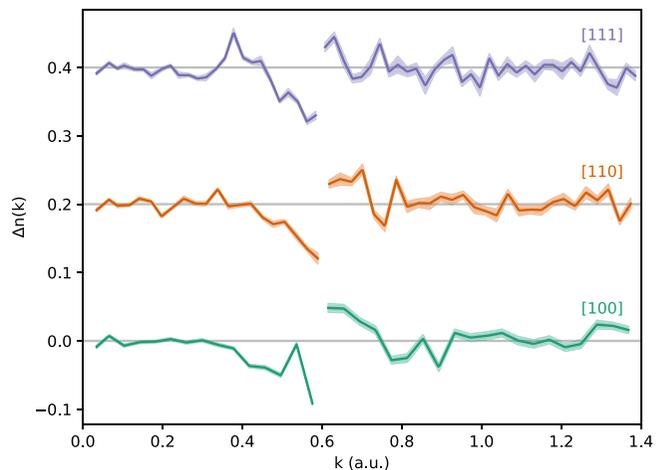
In Fig. 5, we show our best QMC Compton profile in the crystal as the red line. It is the spherically averaged Compton profile from the 432-atom pseudopotential calculation with PPC and FSC applied. Further, we rescaled the QMC data to change density from  $r_s = 3.25$  to  $r_s = 3.265$  and convolved the QMC Compton profile with Eq. (3) to approximately account for experimental resolution and final-state effects. The full-core QMC profiles agree well with the most recent experiment away from the Fermi surface.

The Compton profile reported by Filippi and Ceperley [17] is closer to our full-core result than to our pseudopotential result. This is because they accounted for proper core-valence orthogonalization using full-core LDA. Pseudopotential QMC was used to estimate the correlation correction, rather than directly provide the Compton profile.

Taking our best QMC Compton profiles (thin lines in Fig. 1) as a reference, we show the remaining difference between the QMC and the experiment Compton profiles as the black curves in Fig. 6. We also show the effect of each processing step in the calculation of  $J(p)$ . Finite-size and convolution corrections both peak at the Fermi momentum and are small at the scale of the remaining discrepancy. The density correction is small in the solid but substantial in the liquid because QMC calculations have been performed close to the solid density. In both cases, the density correction contracts the Fermi sphere and has little effect above the Fermi momentum. In contrast, the pseudopotential correction nearly vanishes at the Fermi momentum, smoothly transfers



(a) full-core valence - pseudopotential



(b) 432 atoms - 54 atoms

FIG. 4. Momentum distribution differences. (a) is the difference between full-core and pseudopotential results. (b) is the difference between the 432-atom and 54-atom pseudopotential results. The shaded region shows one standard deviation of statistical uncertainty. These results are used to inform pseudopotential and finite-size corrections.

low-momentum components to high momenta, and remains nonzero well above the Fermi momentum. The  $n(k)$  tail correction is needed to recover the normalization sum rule because the QMC  $n(k)$  is truncated at a finite momentum  $k_c$ . The exact shape of the  $n(k)$  tail may not be accurate above  $k_c$  because the assumed functional form is simple (see the Supplemental Material [36]). Fortunately, the effect of the  $n(k)$  tail within  $k_c$  is simply to shift the entire Compton profile up by a constant, as dictated by the normalization sum rule. The tail and pseudopotential corrections are the only ones that can change the high-momentum tail of the Compton profile.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

In the following, we discuss possible explanations for the remaining discrepancy in Fig. 1, which is shown separately for the solid and liquid in Fig. 6.

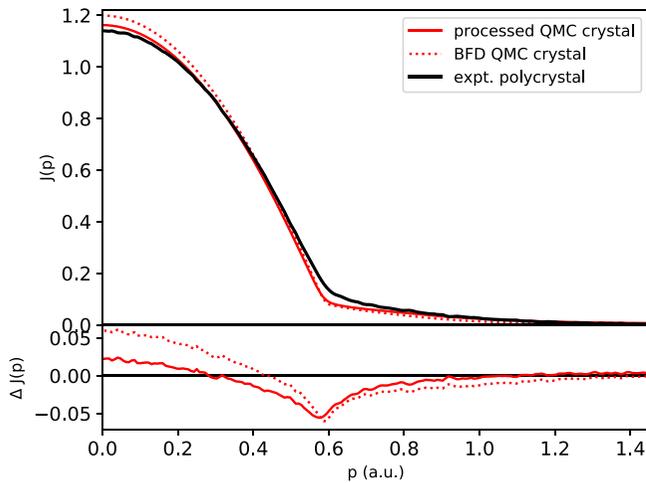


FIG. 5. Spherical average of the valence Compton profile of the lithium bcc crystal at  $r_s = 3.25$ . The red solid line is the best QMC result with all processing steps applied. The red dotted curve is our pseudopotential QMC result. The black curve is experiment on polycrystal lithium.

*Electron-ion interaction.* The crystal lattice introduces inhomogeneity to an otherwise homogeneous valence electron density. Umklapp processes send electronic momentum density to secondary Fermi surfaces, thereby enhancing the high-momentum components of the momentum distribution and reducing the momentum distribution inside the Fermi surface. Further, its discontinuity at the Fermi surface is reduced [2]. In the absence of other interactions, the ground-state electronic density will be exact if the electron-ion interaction is perfectly captured. DFT is designed to obtain the correct ground-state electronic density, so we expect it to treat electron-ion interaction well. However, pseudopotential is not designed to faithfully reproduce the charge inhomogeneity of the valence orbital in the core region. Therefore, pseudopotential introduces a bias in the valence momentum distribution.

The qualitative effect of the pseudopotential is clear from its construction. When designing a pseudopotential, one smooths the valence orbital inside the core region. This will decrease the electronic momentum density at high momenta and increase it at low momenta. Indeed, one can reproduce the pseudopotential correction semiquantitatively by considering the smoothing of the pseudized valence orbital in the lithium atom (Fig. 7). We see that augmented plane wave calculations [12,13,47,48] tend to reproduce the experimental Compton profiles better at low momenta than pseudopotential calculations.

Our pseudopotential correction is not perfect. It was derived in the perfect crystal, then applied to the disordered configurations. Ideally, one would directly perform all-electron QMC on the disordered configurations. However, this is computationally expensive. We do not consider all-electron calculation to be necessary in the solid phase because the effect of disorder is small. The current PPC does overcorrect the liquid Compton profile at high momenta because the corrections meant for the secondary Fermi surfaces are extraneous. Nevertheless, we think the pseudopotential bias is mostly captured, i.e., at the scale of Fig. 7. The corrected Compton

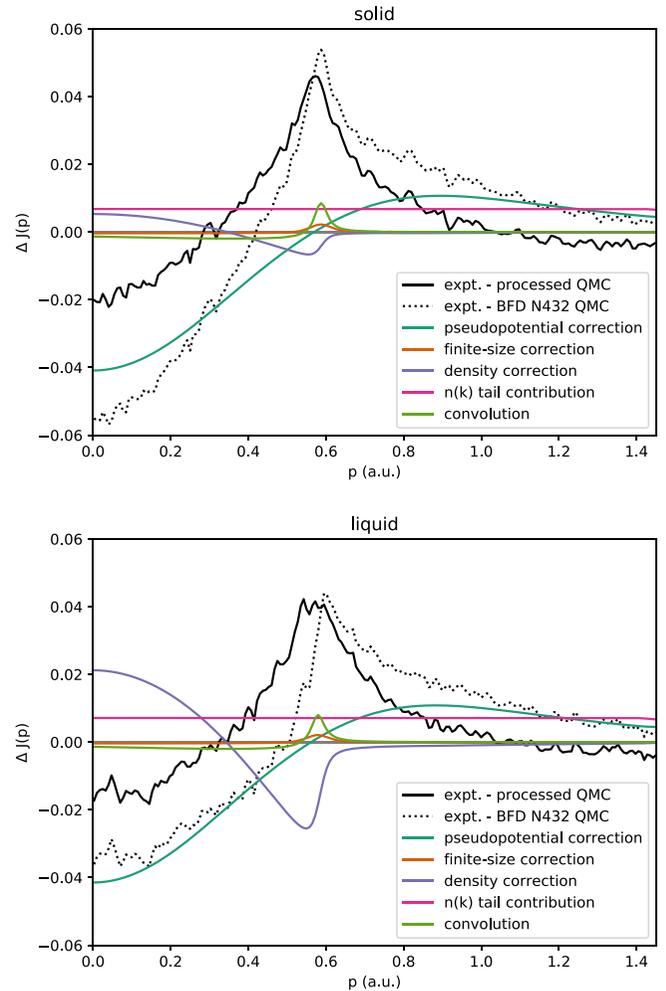


FIG. 6. Valence Compton profile corrections. The solid black curve is experiment relative to “best” theory. The dotted black curve is experiment relative to the pseudopotential QMC result with no correction. Each colored curve shows the effect of neglecting a processing step from the theoretical Compton profile. When added to the processed result (solid black curve), the sum of all colored curves approximately recovers the unprocessed result (dotted black curve).

profile in Fig. 5 is in better agreement with experiment than its pseudopotential counterpart, especially at  $p = 0$ . We do not think the pseudopotential bias is responsible for the remaining discrepancy because the PPC is concentrated around  $p = 0$ . If it were underestimated, then the remaining correction would lower  $J(0)$  much more than it would raise  $J(p_F)$ , worsening the agreement with experiment.

*Disorder.* Disorder mostly reduces the effect of the crystal lattice because deviations from the perfect lattice weaken umklapp processes. Confirmation was obtained when Sterne-mann *et al.* reproduced the temperature effect on the Compton profile of lithium by smearing out the pseudopotential with a Debye-Waller factor [6].

Thermal disorder is also unlikely to be responsible for the remaining discrepancy because disorder correction is small at the scale of the remaining correction. This can be seen by comparing the discrepancy in the perfect crystal (Fig. 5) to the

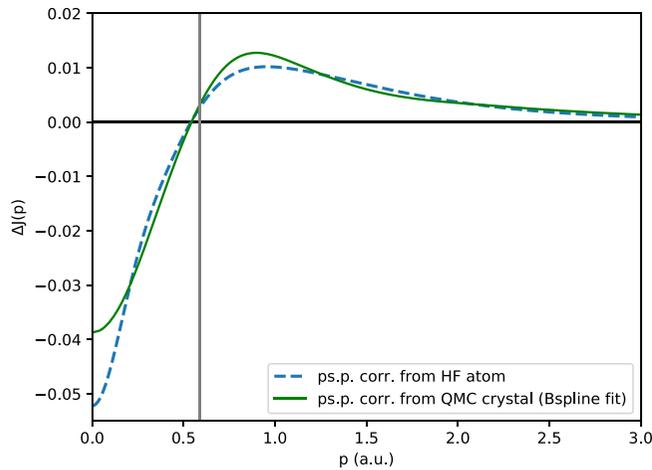


FIG. 7. Pseudopotential correction derived from QMC and HF. The green curve is the same QMC pseudopotential correction as shown in Fig. 6. The dashed blue curve is the pseudopotential correction derived from the all-electron vs pseudized lithium atom using HF. The gray vertical line marks the Fermi momentum.

discrepancy in the disordered solid (Fig. 1). The two remaining discrepancies are similar in both shape and magnitude.

*Electron-electron correlation.* The effect of electron-electron correlation on the momentum distribution is similar to electron-ion interaction in that it increases high-momentum components, decreases low-momentum components, and reduces the discontinuity at the Fermi surface. The Slater-Jastrow wave function is a first-order modification of the free-electron Slater determinant by the Coulomb interaction [49], but it does not capture all correlation effects. However, we expect the Slater-Jastrow wave function to be accurate for simple metals. Further, it can be systematically improved, for example, by using backflow transformations [50]. Calculations on the homogeneous electron gas indicate a small decrease of the discontinuity at the Fermi surface [29], reducing the discrepancy with experiment. Quantitative studies of backflow effects on the lithium Compton profiles should be addressed in the future.

*Fermi surface.* The Fermi surface of bcc lithium is anisotropic with pronounced secondary features. The DFT Fermi surface is used in the QMC simulation to determine which momentum states to occupy. For solid lithium, the Fermi surface is nearly spherical. Our DFT Fermi surface of the bcc crystal has a maximum anisotropy of  $\delta = 5.0\%$ , where

$$\delta \equiv \frac{k_F^{[110]} - k_F^{[100]}}{k_F^{HEG}}. \quad (4)$$

This is in good agreement with the de Haas–van Alphen experiment performed by Hunt *et al.* [51], which reported a maximum anisotropy of  $\delta = 4.8\% \pm 0.3\%$ . Our DFT result differs from previous calculations by MacDonald,  $\delta = 3.3\%$  [52], and Bross,  $\delta = 5.9\%$  [13], likely due to differences in the density functional and pseudopotential. While the DFT Fermi surface may not be accurate in the crystal, a liquid is isotropic and will have a spherical Fermi surface. Given that our solid-liquid Compton profile difference agrees well with

experiment (Fig. 2), we do not consider Fermi surface shape to be responsible for the remaining discrepancy.

*Electron-phonon interaction.* We capture disorder effects due to phonons by averaging over thermal atomic configurations. However, other phonon effects are absent from our QMC simulations because the lithium ions are clamped. Phonons scatter quasiparticles and decrease their lifetimes. Thus, we expect the inclusion of electron-phonon interaction to decrease the magnitude of the discontinuity in the momentum distribution. Calculations of the coupled electron-phonon system within the Einstein or Debye model [53] show that the resulting broadening at zero temperature is essentially given by the Debye frequency. The Debye temperature of lithium ( $<400$  K) is much lower than the Fermi temperature of the electrons, so we expect the remaining electron-phonon coupling (not included in our QMC calculations) to be limited very close to the Fermi surface in momentum space, rendering the effect invisible at the scale of Fig. 2.

*Finite-size effects.* Finite-size effects (FSEs) are more challenging to deal with in a many-body simulation than in an effective one-particle theory such as DFT which is formulated for an infinite lattice. In DFT, a calculation performed in a larger simulation cell simply makes the momentum-space grid denser. In contrast, finite system size increases the magnitude of the discontinuity at the Fermi surface in QMC. This effect was found to decrease slowly with system size in the homogeneous electron gas [28]. This FSE was analyzed and understood in the homogeneous electron gas [28,29]. We adopted the same approach here and found good results. In particular, we corrected the FSE using the leading-order expression

$$\delta n_k^{(1)} = \int_{-\pi/L}^{\pi/L} \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} [u_q(1 - S_q) - nu_q^2 S_q] (n_{k+q} - n_k), \quad (5)$$

where  $u_q$  and  $S_q$  are the Jastrow pair function and the structure factor in reciprocal space, which are assumed to take random-phase approximation forms at small  $q$ , and  $n$  is the valence electron density. The corrected  $n(k)$  from the 54-atom and 432-atom simulations agree well with each other, as shown in Fig. 8. Therefore, we think finite-size error has been satisfactorily accounted for and is not responsible for the remaining discrepancy.

*Density change.* The electronic density is a crucial parameter since it determines the Fermi surface. It can change due to thermal expansion and phase transition from solid to liquid. We accounted for density change between our calculations and experiment by rescaling our computed momentum distributions to the experimental densities by scaling the value of  $k$  to match the Fermi momentum [ $k_F = (9\pi/4)^{1/3}/r_s$ ] and then correcting the overall normalization. This brought the Compton profile into excellent agreement with experiment, as shown in Fig. 2. Of course, it would be possible to perform additional QMC simulations at the experimental density.

*Final-state effects.* Finally, the “impulse approximation” is known to be inaccurate for core electrons and to cause asymmetry in the measured Compton profile [1,24,54]. To go beyond the impulse approximation, one must consider the interaction of the scattered electron with the rest of the system in the final state. Final-state effects are often attributed to

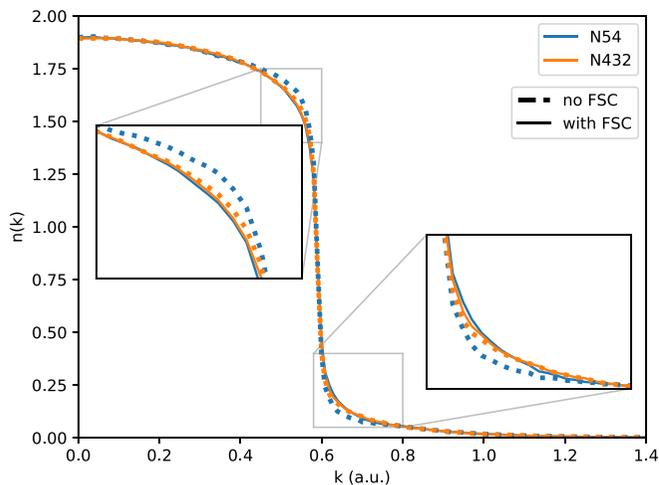


FIG. 8. Finite-size correction in the liquid phase. Dotted lines are pseudopotential QMC  $n(k)$  with no correction. Colored lines encode the number of lithium atoms in the simulation cell. The solid lines correspond to the dotted lines in color and have been corrected using the leading-order expression (5).

three physical interactions. The first is the interaction between the excited quasiparticle with its surrounding medium (self-energy). The second is the interaction between the excited quasiparticle and the hole it leaves behind (vertex correction). The third is the interaction between the hole and a plasmon (plasmaron). Sternemann *et al.* showed that the self-energy combined with the vertex correction can satisfactorily explain the asymmetry of the Compton profile [24]. The effect of final-state interaction on the Compton profile can be approximated by convolving the spectral density function (SDF) of the excited electron with the ground-state Compton profile [25]. This convolution smears out the derivative discontinuity of the Compton profile at the Fermi momentum. Thus, the convolution correction also peaks at the Fermi momentum.

We account for final-state effects by convolving the QMC Compton profiles with the broadening function (3), which is an accurate representation of the convolution of the experimental resolution function and the SDF obtained by Soininen *et al.* [25]. However, the SDF in Ref. [25] did not include plasmaron or electron-hole effects. Further, we find near-perfect agreement with experiment if the QMC profiles are broadened using a Lorentzian having FWHM  $\Gamma = 0.026$ . In other words, if the neglected final-state effects were to introduce long tails into the SDF, then the QMC profiles would agree much better

with experiment. Therefore, the final-state effect is a plausible explanation for much of the remaining discrepancy.

## V. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Leveraging new algorithms and hardware, we improved the QMC Compton profile of lithium and provided the first QMC results in the disordered solid and liquid states. Our QMC Compton profiles agree very well with the most recent synchrotron experiment [30]. We resolved the discrepancy between pseudopotential QMC and experiment at zero and high momenta using an all-electron QMC calculation. We discussed potential explanations for the remaining discrepancy, which is concentrated at the Fermi surface. Future studies should consider final-state effects.

Current state-of-the-art QMC algorithms are ready to aid synchrotron experiments in understanding the measured Compton profiles. It would be interesting to revisit the challenging problem that is the three-dimensional reconstruction of the momentum distribution from directional Compton profiles [4,7]. Momentum resolution has been increased by new techniques in both theory and experiment. Further, all-electron QMC for lithium is feasible for perfect crystals in supercells containing thousands of electrons. The comparison between lithium and sodium will be particularly interesting because they have the same crystal structure but very different electron-ion interactions [2]. A detailed study of these systems could shed more light on the nature of electron-ion and perhaps the electron-phonon interactions in simple metals.

Finally, when sufficient accuracy has been achieved in both theory and experiment, one will be able to study the difference between ground-state (QMC) and final-state (experimental) Compton profiles to extract information on the dynamic structure factor of the system.

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