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The role of dynamical screening in correlated materials

A physically motivated approach for studying the electronic structure of strongly correlated materials is to focus on a subspace of the full Hilbert space containing most of the relevant correlation effects. The reduction to a limited subspace results in an energy-dependent effective electron-electron interaction U . It was not until recently an impurity problem with dynamic U could be solved within dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT) using continuous-time quantum Monte Carlo technique. The energy dependence of U can have unexpected consequences. As an illustration, we consider La_2CuO_4 , the prototype of high-temperature superconductor parent compounds. DMFT calculations on undoped La_2CuO_4 show the important role of dynamic U : starting from the local density band structure, the insulating state is not obtained when a static U calculated from first-principles is used. Analysis of U and the DMFT spectral functions leads to a new insight into the nature of the electronic structure of charge-transfer insulators to which La_2CuO_4 belongs.

