First-principle simulations of high pressure hydrogen

Carlo Pierleoni

Department of Physical and Chemical Sciences University of L'Aquila, Italy

First principle simulations results are crucial for the present understanding of the physics of hydrogen under extreme conditions of pressure and temperature. I will present a critical overview of those methods for Dense Hydrogen and describe some recent results [1]. In particular I will focus on recent developments to include nuclear quantum effects and how standard methods need to be modified accordingly. Finally I will illustrate predictions for the Metal-Insulator transition in liquid hydrogen[2,3,4] and for molecular and atomic crystalline hydrogen[5,6,7].

[1] J. M. McMahon, M.A. Morales, C. Pierleoni and D.M. Ceperley, "The properties of hydrogen and helium under extreme conditions", Rev. Mod. Phys. 84, 1607 (2012). [2] M. A. Morales, C. Pierleoni, E Schwegler and D. M. Ceperley, "Evidence of a first order liquid-liquid transition in high pressure hydrogen from ab-initio simulations", PNAS 107, 12799 (2010). [3] E. Liberatore, M. A. Morales, D. M. Ceperley and C. Pierleoni, "Free energy methods in Coupled Electron-Ion Monte Carlo", Mol. Phys. 109, 3029 (2011). [4] M.A. Morales, J.M. McMahon, C. Pierleoni and D.M. Ceperley, "Nuclear Quantum Effects and Nonlocal Exchange-Correlation Functionals Applied to Liquid Hydrogen at High Pressure", Phys. Rev. Letts. 110, 065702 (2013). [5] M.A. Morales, J.M. McMahon, C. Pierleoni and D.M. Ceperley, "Towards a predictive First-Principle Description of Solid Molecular Hydrogen with Density-Functional Theory", Phys Rev B 87, 184107 (2013). [6] J. Chen, X.-Z. Li, Q. Zhang, M. I. J. Probert, C. J. Pickard, R. J. Needs, A. Michaelides, and E. Wang, "Quantum simulation of low-temperature metallic liquid hydrogen", Nature Communications 4, 2064 (2013). [7] J.M. McMahon, M.A. MOrales, C. Pierleoni and D.M. Ceperley, "Atomic hydrogen: a ground-state fluid or a metallic solid?", submitted (2013).