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# Interplay between structural and electronic degrees of freedom in quarter-filled low dimensional organic conductors

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# Outline of the lecture

From bond and charge instabilities in charge transfer salts of the TTF-TCNQ family to those of D<sub>2</sub>X salts

Influence of some specific features of D<sub>2</sub>X salts :

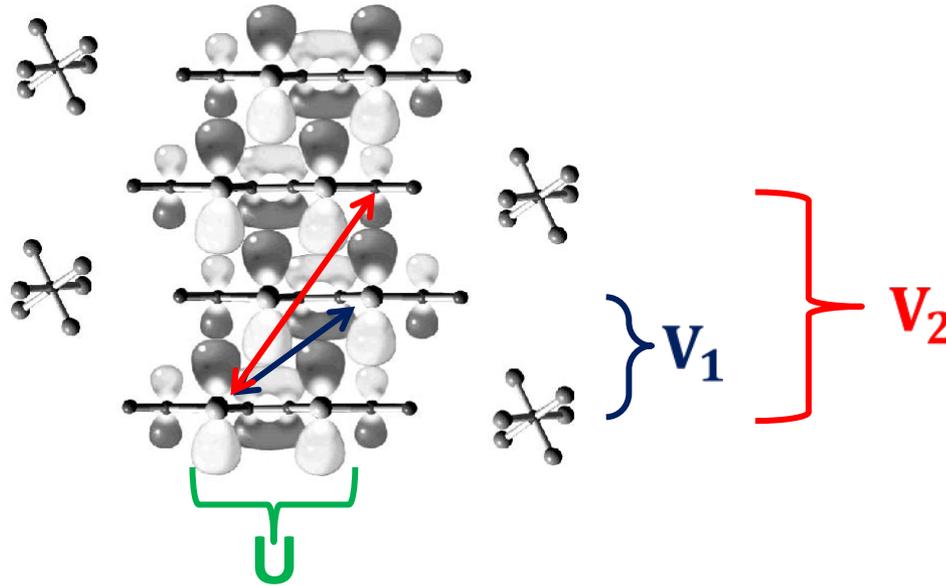
- Fermi surface warping
- stack dimerization

What is the role of the anions X?

mostly in (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>X's and (TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>X's  
+ some comments concerning the (BEDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub>X's

This lecture follows an earlier lecture given at ECYS 2011 and published in Physica B **407** (2012) 1762–1770

# Organic conductors

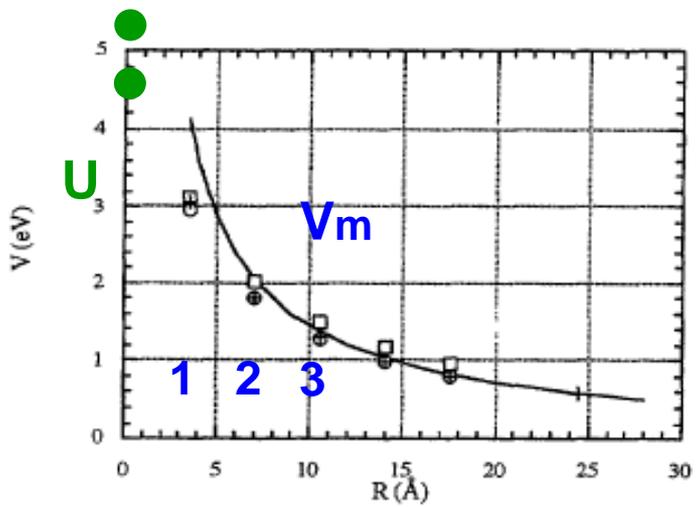


## Extended Hubbard Model

$$H = H_0 + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} + \sum_{i,m>0} V_m n_i n_{i+m}$$

Large molecules:  $V_1$  is not too small compared to  $U$   
 $V_2$  is a sizeable fraction of  $V_1$

- Bare Coulomb repulsions



Quantum chemistry calculations on clusters of TTF molecules  
 F. Castet et al J. Phys. I **6**, 583 (1996)

Similar  $V_m$  are found for TMTTF

$V_m \propto 1/m$

- Screened Coulomb repulsion by molecular polarizability:  $V_m \propto 1/\epsilon m$

$U, V_i$  reduced by a factor 2.5-4 (TTF-TCNQ L. Cano-Cortés et al EPJB 56, 173 (2007))

$U \sim 2 - 1.7$  eV

$U \sim 2V_1$

$V_1 \sim 1 - 0.9$  eV

$V_1 \sim 2V_2$

$V_2 \sim 0.55 - 0.4$  eV

$V_1 - V_2 \geq V_2 - V_3$  (or  $V_1 + V_3 \geq 2V_2$ ) convex Coulomb potential

$V_3 \sim 0.4 - 0.3$  eV

$t \sim 0.15 - 0.2$  eV

$U \sim 2$  bandwidths (4t)

Interstack (screened) Coulomb repulsions (TTF-TCNQ)

$V_{\perp} \sim 0.4$  eV comparable to screened  $V_2, V_3$

**1D stack: regular (no dimerization)**

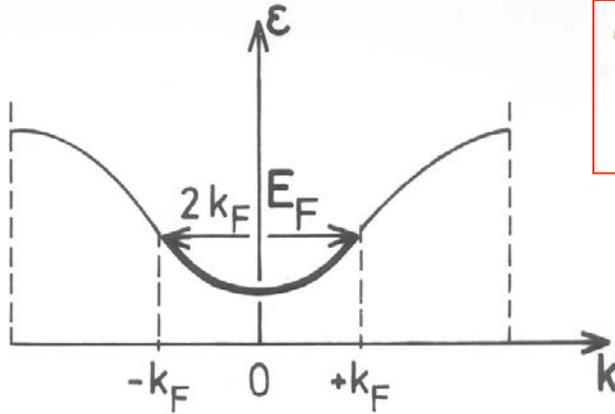
**no relevant interchain coupling  $t_{\perp}$**

**no anion potential**

## **Case of charge transfer salts of the TTF-TCNQ family**

1D electron gas with repulsive interactions exhibits a  $2k_F$  CDW/SDW instability and for strong enough repulsion a  $4k_F$  CDW instability due to a (low temperature) divergence of the electron-hole response function

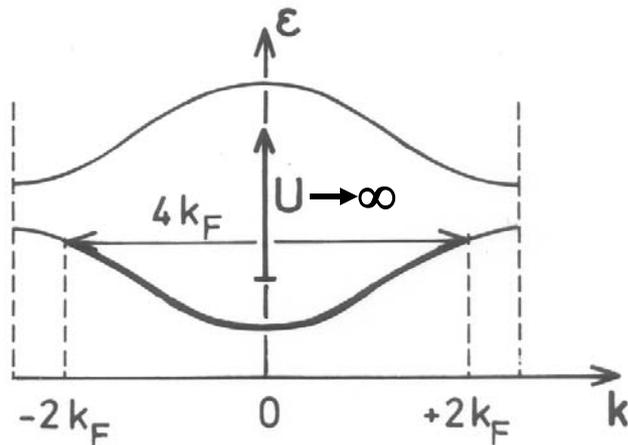
$T = 0^\circ\text{K}$  ground state in electron-phonon coupled systems



$2k_F$  Peierls transition for non (weakly) interacting fermions

Spin degree of freedom

$\rho = (2) \times 2k_F$  : charge per molecule with  $2k_F$  expressed in reciprocal unit



if  $U \gg t$  no double site occupancy

$4k_F$  Peierls transition for spinless fermions or strongly interacting fermions

No spin degree of freedom

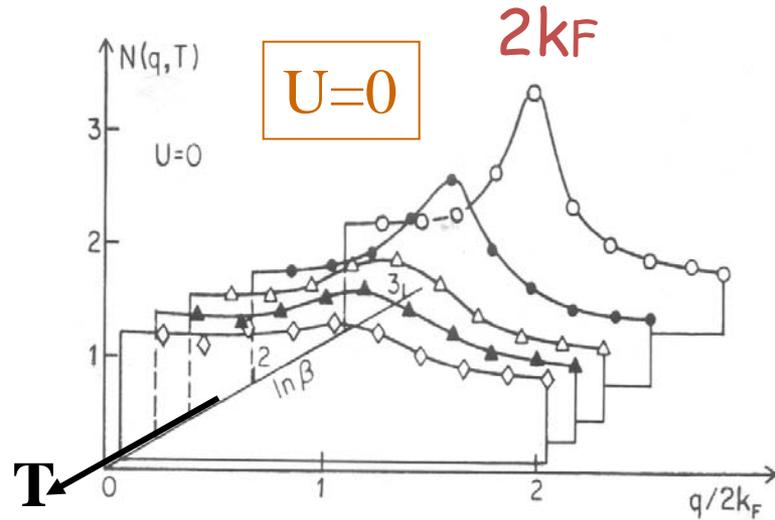
$\rho = 4k_F \longrightarrow$  Average distance between charges:  $1/\rho = (4k_F)^{-1}$

**The  $4k_F$  CDW corresponds at the first Fourier component of a 1D Wigner lattice of localized charges**

J. Hubbard, J. Kondo & K. Yamaji

# CDW electron-hole response function ( $U, V_1 \geq 0$ case)

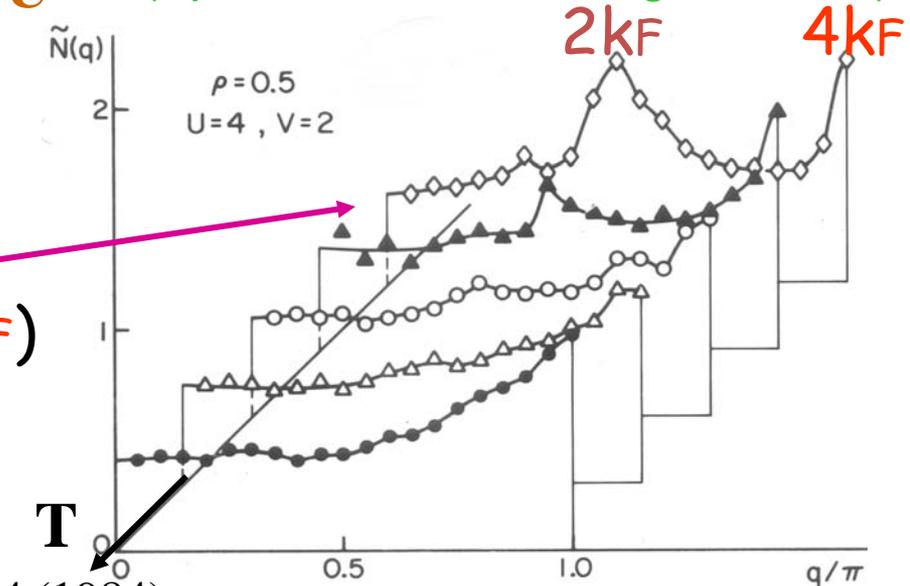
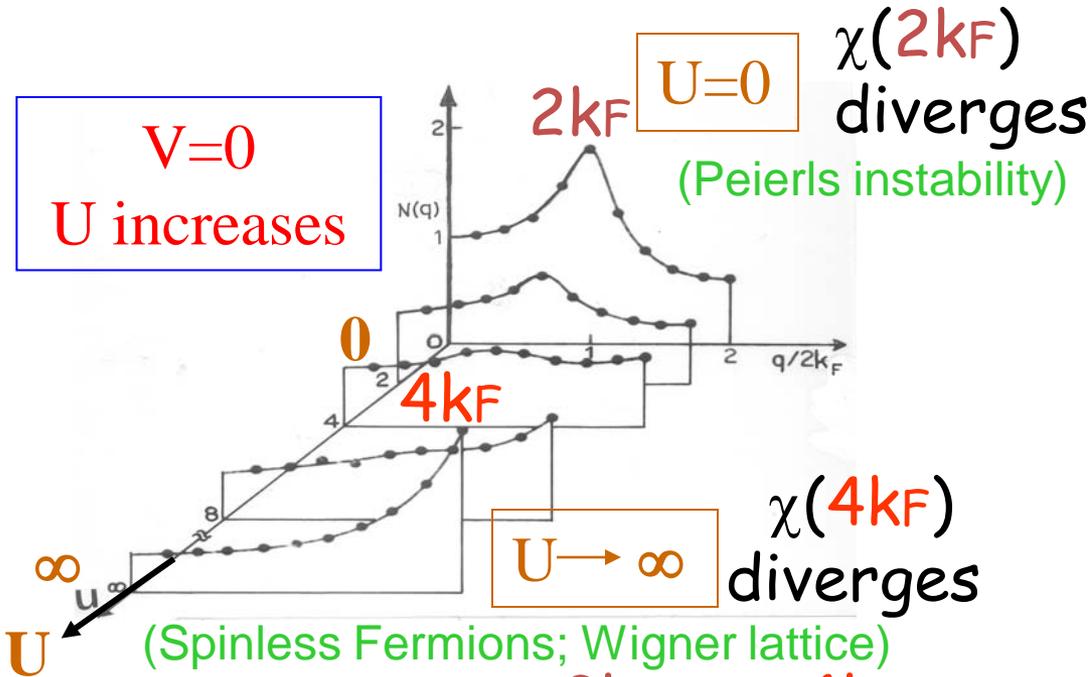
Non interacting electron gas



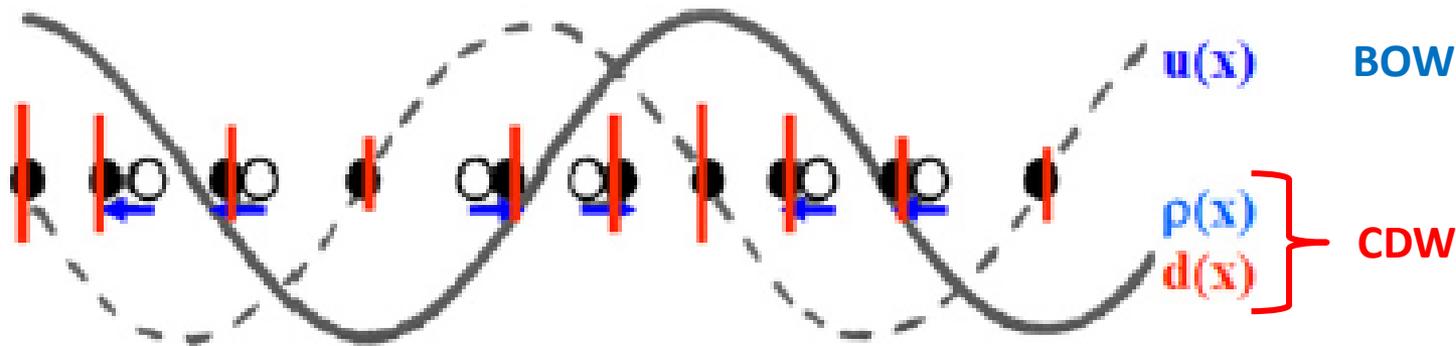
$T \rightarrow 0$ :  $\chi(2k_F)$  diverges  
(Peierls instability)

$V \sim U/2$

$T \rightarrow 0$ : both  $\chi(2k_F)$  and  $\chi(4k_F)$  diverge



The **electronic instability** coupled to the lattice (via the electron-phonon coupling) leads to a concomitant\* **structural instability on the bond (BOW)** and **on the molecular site (CDW)**



**General situation:**

$2k_F$  **inter-molecular bond modulation (BOW):**  $u(x)$

together with a **modulation of the charge on the bonds** shifted by  $\pi/2$  :

$$\rho(x) = \rho_0 + \delta\rho(x) \quad \text{with } \delta\rho(x) \approx -\partial u(x)/\partial x$$

as well as the charge on molecular sites  $i$  (**intra-molecular bond deformation**)  $d(x_i) \propto \delta\rho(x_i)$ \*

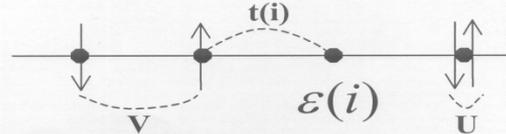
**\*A modulation of the charge on the site does not necessarily mean the presence of a  $(4k_F)$  charge ordering!**

*\*when  $2k_F$  or  $4k_F$  are different of  $a^*/2$*

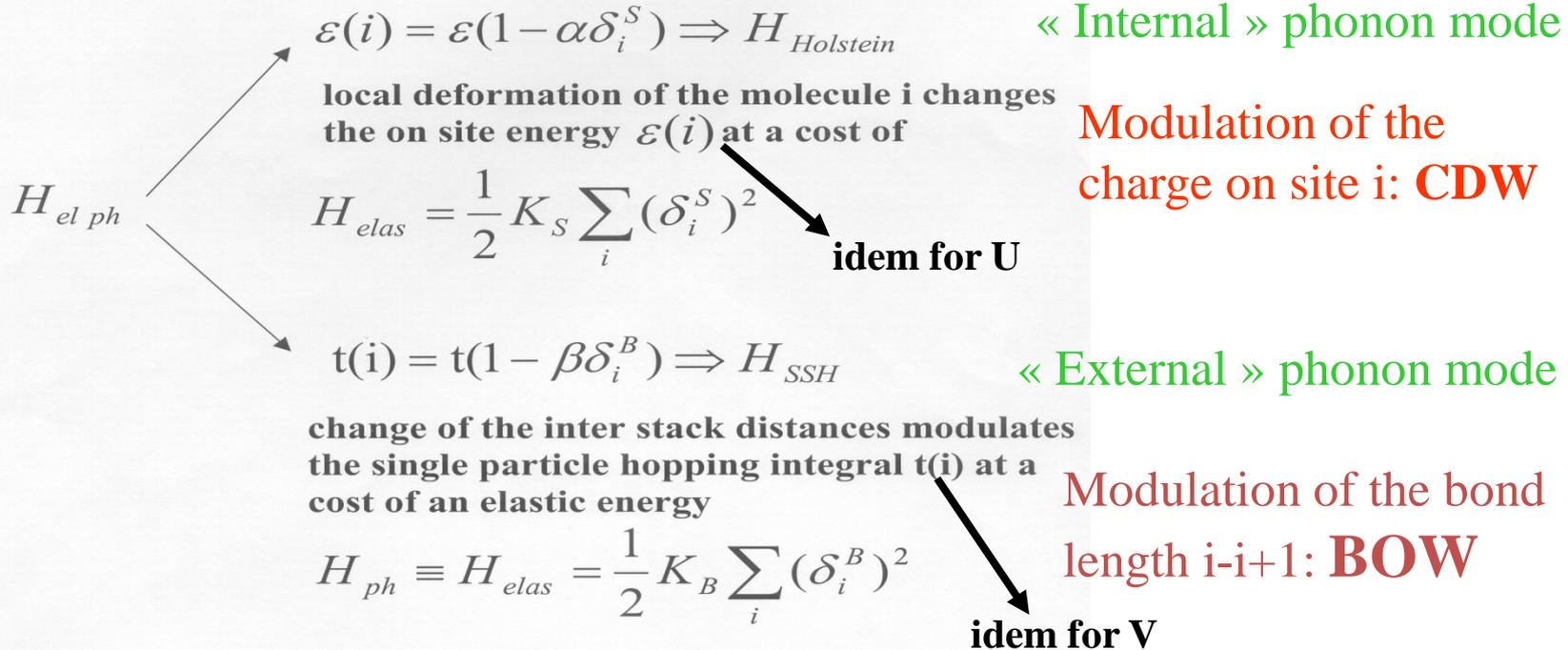
*If  $2k_F$  or  $4k_F$  are equal to  $a^*/2$  the BOW and the CDW are of different symmetry (i.e. decoupled)*

**1D Hubbard model :  
coupled with classical phonon field**

$$H_{1D} = \sum_i \varepsilon(i) n_i + \sum_{i,\sigma} t(i) (c_{i;\sigma}^\dagger c_{i+1;\sigma} + h.c.) + U \sum_i n_{i;\uparrow} n_{i;\downarrow} + V \sum_i n_i n_{i+1} + H_{ph}$$



**Electron – phonon coupling**



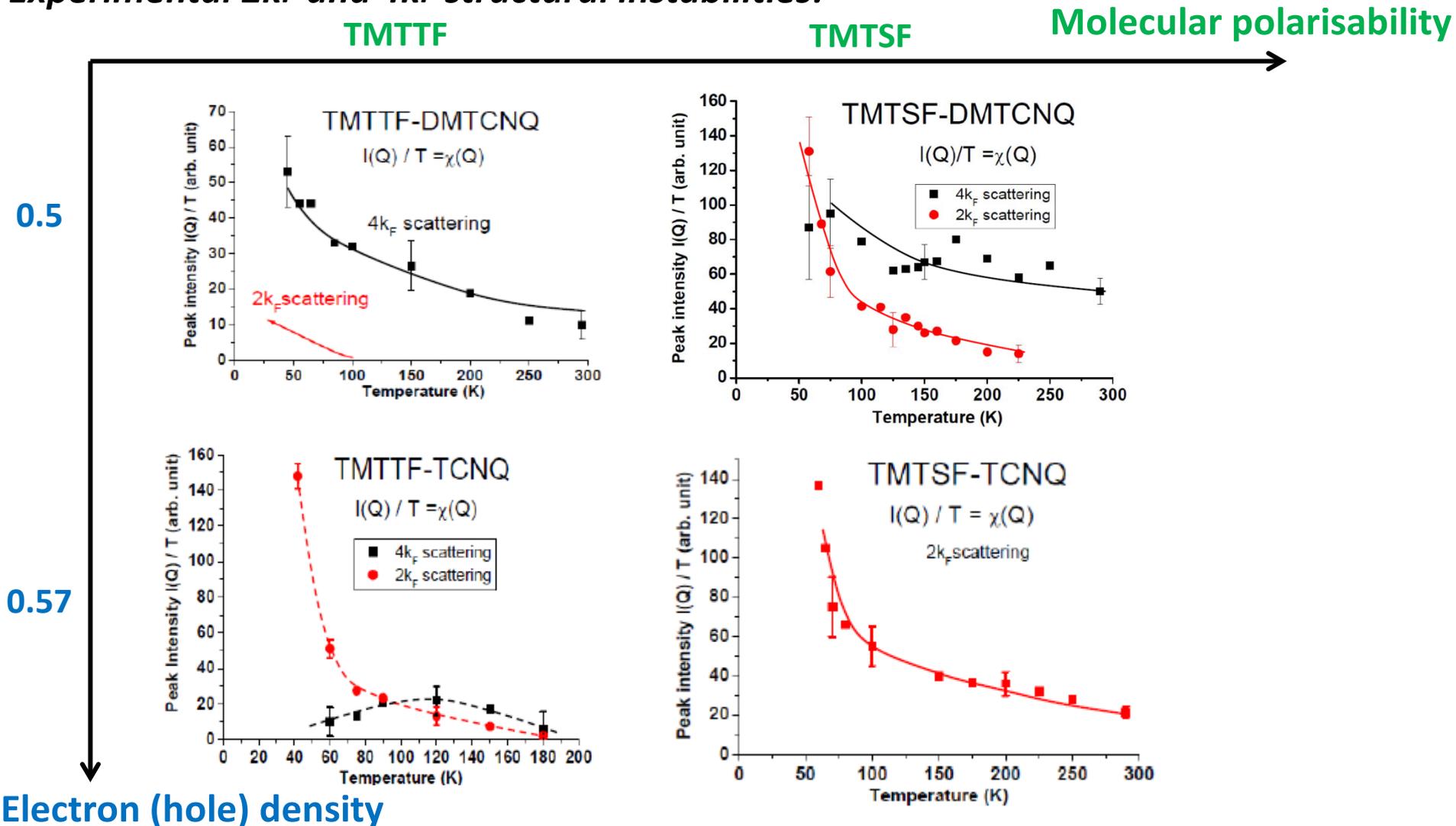
$$n_{i,\sigma} = C_{i\sigma}^\dagger C_{i\sigma}$$

$$n_i = n_{i\uparrow} + n_{i\downarrow}$$

# U and Vi which condition the divergence of the 2kF and 4kF instabilities are controlled by:

- the **molecular polarizability**
- the **electron density** (screening by the mobile electrons)

**Experimental 2kF and 4kF structural instabilities:**



# Summary of quarter-filled band 1D systems

dominant  $4k_F$  instability

dominant  $2k_F$  instability

**Charge transfer salts**

TMTTF-Bromanil    BTDMTTF-TCNQ

**TMTTF-DMTCNQ**

**TMTSF-DMTCNQ**

**D<sub>2</sub>X salts**

regular stack

(o-DMTTF)<sub>2</sub>Cl, Br

(TSeT)<sub>2</sub>Cl\*

dimerized stack

**(TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>X**

**(TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>X\***

(Fluorethene)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>

**A<sub>2</sub>Y salts**

regular stack

Qn(TCNQ)<sub>2</sub>    (DMDCNQI)<sub>2</sub>Ag  
 (DIDCNQI)<sub>2</sub>Ag

Peierls ground state

\* warped Fermi surface at low T

## **Specific features of the D<sub>2</sub>X salts:**

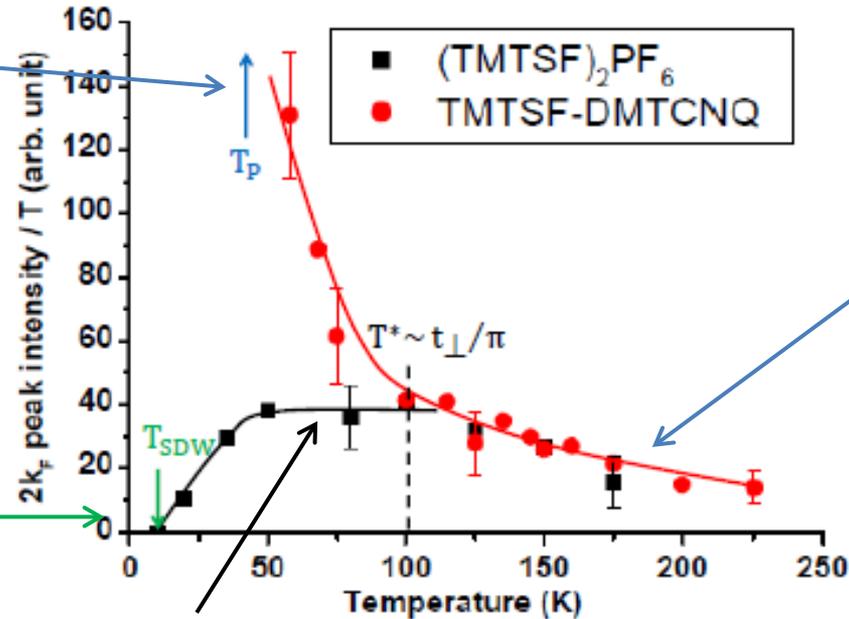
**Role of the warping of the Fermi surface on the  $2k_F$  density wave instability**

**Role of the stack dimerization (presence of an incipient static  $4k_F$  BOW distortion)**

**Coulomb interactions of the BOW/CDW with the charged anion sublattice**

## 2k<sub>F</sub> BOW fluctuations on the TMTSF stack\*

divergence at the 42K Peierls transition

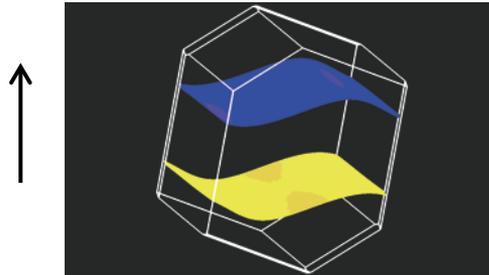


Vanishing at low T when the 2k<sub>F</sub> SDW is set

Same behavior above 100K as the quarter-filled TMTSF-DMTCNQ

Saturation of the 2k<sub>F</sub> response function below  $T^* \approx 100\text{K}$  ( $\approx t_{\perp} / \pi$ )  
1D divergence stopped by the warping  $t_{\perp}$  of the Fermi surface

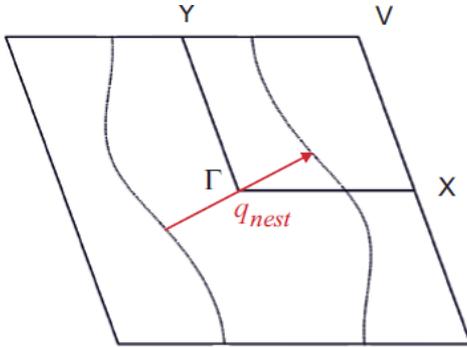
No divergent 2k<sub>F</sub> longitudinal nesting



**2k<sub>F</sub> SDW fluctuations are also present on all the temperature range in (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>**

Note that 1D 2k<sub>F</sub> SDW fluctuations exist also for an incommensurate band filling on the TTF stack of TTF-TCNQ (around 100-150K) and of TTF-[Ni(dmit)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>

$T < 100\text{K}$ : warped Fermi surface



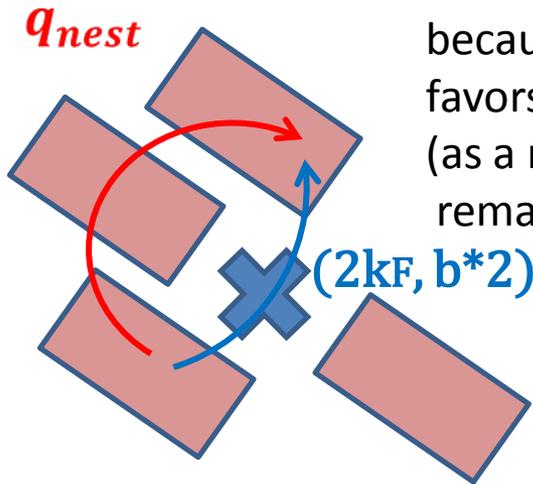
**$2k_F$  Fermi surface nesting** implies an (incommensurate  $q_b \approx b^*/4$ ) transverse coupling of density waves along  $b$ .

This mechanism stabilizes the  $2k_F$  SDW ground state

**1- Why nesting does not promote the  $2k_F$  BOW instability?**

because there is an additional coupling via the anion sublattice which favors a different  $b^*/2$  transverse coupling

(as a result there is a frustrated transverse coupling. The BOW fluctuations remain short ranged)



**2- Also the  $2k_F$  instability differs from that of a quarter-filled standard Peierls system.**

**The interaction with the anions leads to a decoupling between the  $2k_F$  BOW and the  $2k_F$  CDW.**

In that case the Fermi surface nesting alone can promote a  $q_{nest}$  CDW independently of the BOW.

(This could explain the coexistence of  $2k_F$  SDW and CDW below  $T_{SDW}$ )

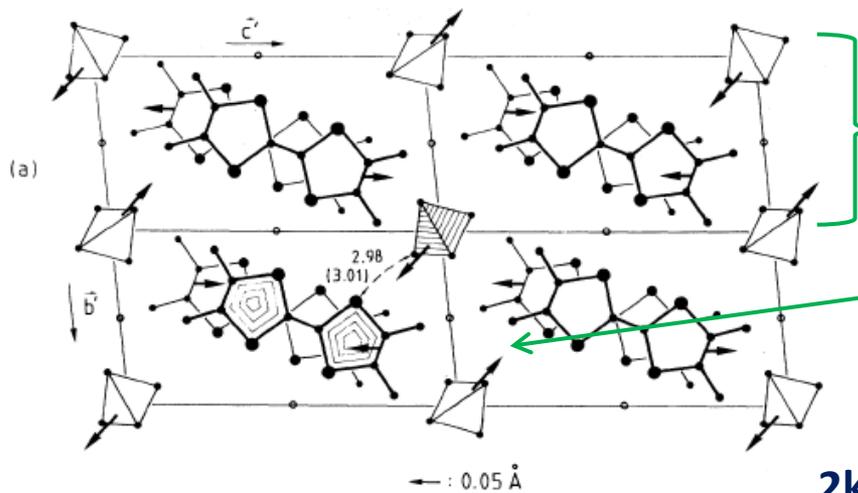
**These features are well illustrated by the anion ordering transition of  $(\text{TMTSF})_2\text{ReO}_4$**

# The $2k_F$ BOW ground state alone is stabilized via the ordering of non-centrosymmetric anions: $(\text{TMTSF})_2\text{ReO}_4$

$\text{ReO}_4$  is disordered in its methyl group cavity at 300K

For entropy reasons  $\text{ReO}_4$  orders in a  $2a \times 2b \times 2c$  superstructure at 180K (in the 1D electronic regime). For a dimerized stack:  $2a$  corresponds to the  $2k_F$  wave length

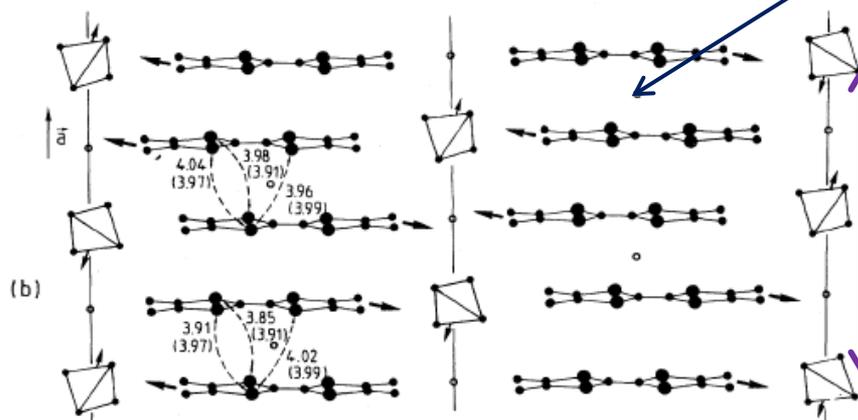
Thus the anion ordering transition is accompanied by a  $2k_F$  Peierls like metal-insulator transition



Staggered order of the  $\text{ReO}_4$  in all the directions

Shift of the anion towards the Se:  
short contact  $\text{ReO}_4 \cdots \text{Se}$  distance.

The shift induces  $2k_F$  modulation of the Hartree anion potential on the TMTSF stacks



$2k_F$  BOW modulation of inter-molecular distances  $u(x)$

but

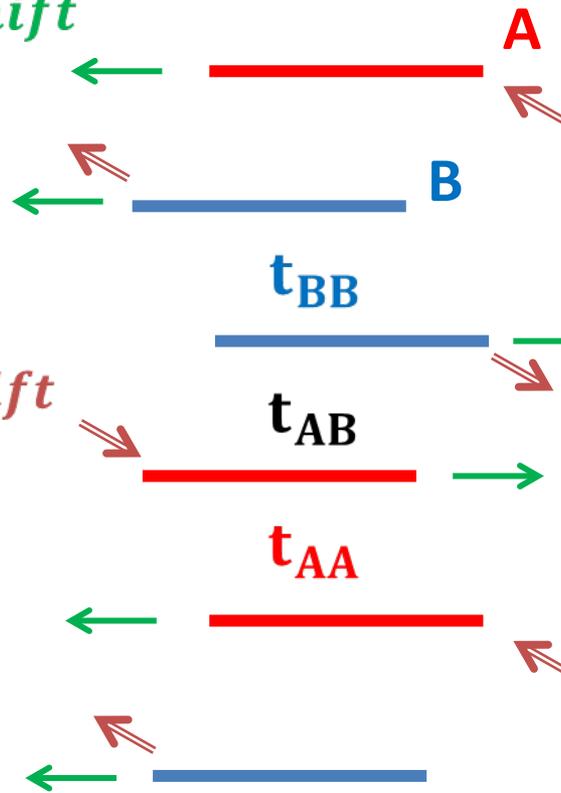
no modulation of intra-molecular distance  $d(x)=0$

$(2k_F)^{-1}$  no CDW modulation ( $\delta\rho \leq \pm 0.01$ )!

Different from a standard Peierls transition!

# Why is there a decoupling between the $2k_F$ BOW and CDW modulations?

*TMTSF shift*



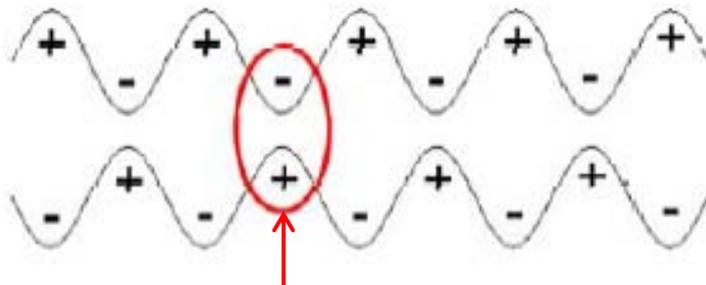
**BOW modulation + staggered anion shift**

**decrease of  $t_{BB}$** : increase of hole density  
 Shift of the  $\text{ReO}_4$  away from TMTSF B  
 (decrease of  $\epsilon_B$ ):  
 decrease of hole density

**increase of  $t_{AA}$** : decrease of hole density  
 Shift of the  $\text{ReO}_4$  towards TMTSF A  
 (increase of  $\epsilon_A$ ):  
 increase of hole density

*anion shift*

**Compensation: equal charges on TMTSF A and B**  
 (no Coulomb forces induced at the AO transition)



*CDW accompanying the  $2k_F$ BOW modulation of the inter-molecular TMTSF distances*

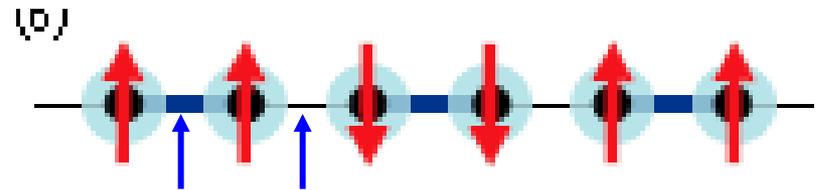
*out of phase site CDW induced by the staggered anion shift*

*Compensation of the two types of CDW*

**For a quarter filled band ( $\rho=1/2$ )  $4k_F$  BOW and CDW have different inversion symmetries**

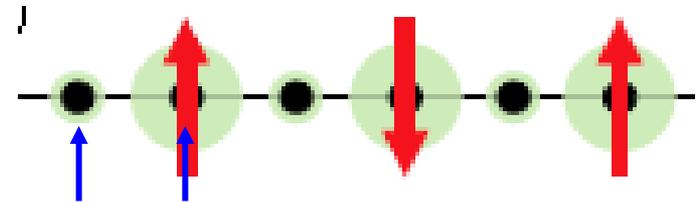
- The corresponding order parameters are of different symmetry with respect to the inversion
- In the corresponding  $4k_F$  ground states the electrons are localized:

- on one bond out of two  
( $4k_F$  BOW: Mott Dimer)

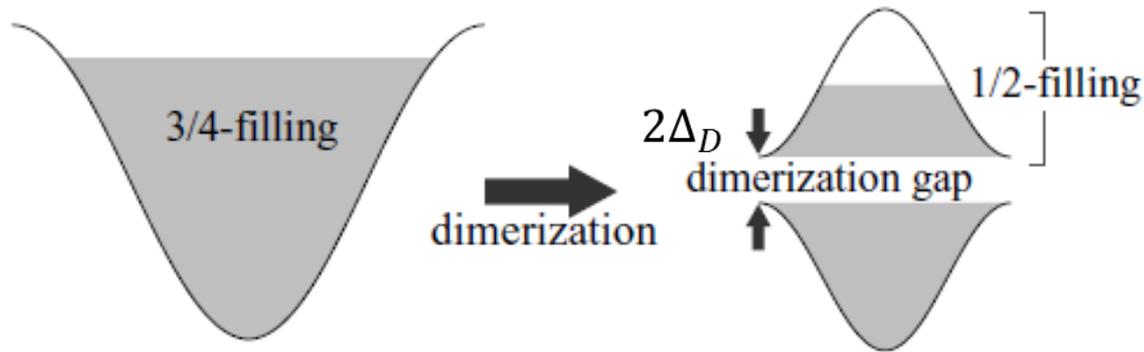


Inversion centres are at mid-bond positions

- on one site out of two  
( $4k_F$  CDW: Charge Ordering)



Inversions centres are on the sites



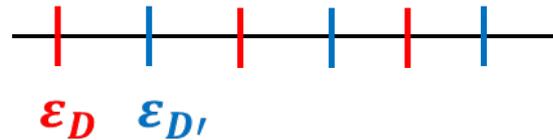
In presence of an important  $4k_F$  BOW response function of the regular stack ( $\chi_{BOW}$ ) the bond dimerization potential  $\Delta_D^B$  induces a gap of charge  $\Delta_\rho^B$ .\*  
 $\Delta_\rho$  is a function of  $U$ ,  $V_i$  and of  $\Delta_D$  (K. Penc and F. Mila, PRB **50**, 11429 (1994))

***The induced  $4k_F$  BOW corresponds to the preferential localization of one hole per dimer***

Alternatively the stack dimerization promotes a  $4k_F = a^*$  Umklapp electron-electron scattering term ( $g_3$ ) in the 1D electron gas which helps the charge localization on the dimers (Brazovskii, Barisic, Emery)

\*for a linear response: 
$$(\Delta_\rho^B - \Delta_D^B) \approx \chi_{BOW}(4k_F, \Delta_\rho^B) \Delta_\rho^B$$

## *Similar features are expected for mixed DD'-X compounds*



In presence of an important  $4k_F$  CDW response function of the regular stack ( $\chi_{CDW}$ ) the site staggered potential  $2\Delta_D^S = \epsilon_D - \epsilon_{D'}$  induces a gap of charge  $\Delta_\rho^S$ .

***The induced CO corresponds to the preferential localization of the hole per site*** (the one with the largest  $\epsilon$ ).

Case of [(TMTTF) $x$ (TMTSF) $1-x$ ] $_2X$  with  $x \sim 0.5$

For  $X = \text{ReO}_4$  with  $x \sim 0.55$ :  $\Delta_\rho^S \sim 750K$  and  $T_\rho > 300K$  (larger values than for  $x=1$ )

(V. Ilakovac et al PRB **50**, 7136 (1994))

(This result means that the mixed TMTCF stack exhibits a significant  $4k_F$  CDW response function)

# Interplay between the $4k_F$ BOW (Dimer Mott) localization and the $4K_F$ CDW (Charge ordering)

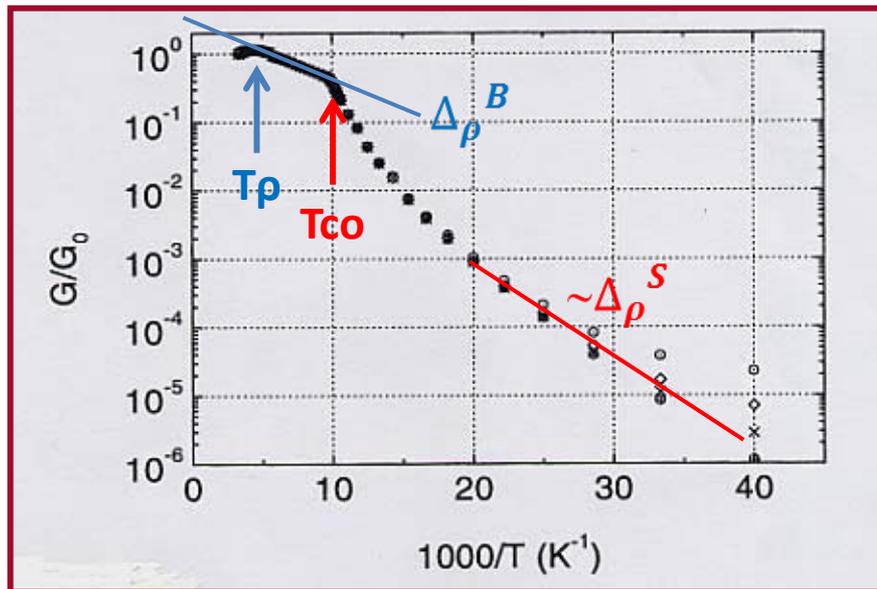
Is it possible to have successively a charge localization on the dimers (opening  $\Delta_\rho^B$ ) then a charge ordering on one site out of two (opening  $\Delta_\rho^S$ )?

If the intrinsic CO gap  $\Delta_\rho^S$  is larger than the pre-existing bond gap  $\Delta_\rho^B$  there is an energy gain to stabilize a CO ground state (Brazovskii)

Case of (TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>X where:

$\Delta_\rho^B \sim 200\text{-}500\text{K} < \Delta_\rho^S \sim 750\text{K}$  (gap of SbF<sub>6</sub> salt having no appreciable charge localization above  $T_{co}$ )

X=AsF<sub>6</sub>



(Nad and Monceau)

If  $\Delta_{\rho}^B > \Delta_{\rho}^S$  the CO gap opening does not occur

The intra-dimer charge degrees of freedom are not relevant.

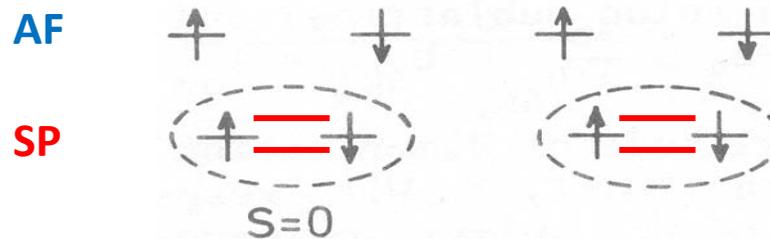
One has an effective half filled electronic system with one hole per « site » (i.e. per dimer)

The instabilities of this system are those of the  $S=1/2$  AF Heisenberg chain :

- antiferromagnetism

or

- spin-Peierls ground state (in case of important magneto-elastic coupling)



Case of  $(\text{BCPTTF})_2\text{X}$  where  $\Delta_{\rho}^B \sim 1000\text{K}$  and  $T_{\rho} \gg 300\text{K}$

Spin-Peierls ground state at  $T_{\text{SP}}=35\text{K}$

# CO and PEC/SP ground states

one electron localized per dimer



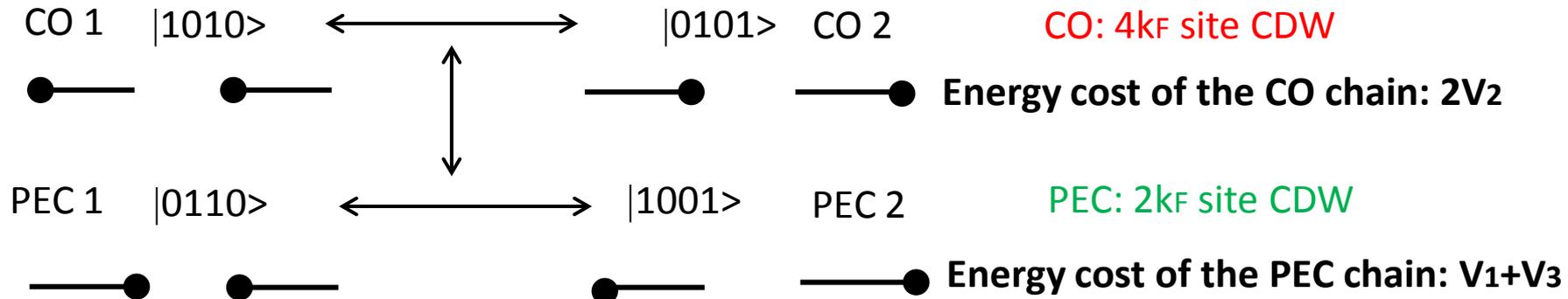
$$|10\rangle + |01\rangle$$

U large no double site occupancy

2 dimers wave function:

$$(|10\rangle + |01\rangle)_i \otimes (|10\rangle + |01\rangle)_{i+1}$$

Chain of dimers is a resonant mixture of CO and PEC configurations of different symmetries



**For a convex potential  $V_1 - V_2 > V_2 - V_3$  the CO ground state is favored**

(with a  $S=1/2$  par site the magnetic excitations are those of a gapless Heisenberg chain)

**In presence of a  $2k_F$  BOW achieving an attractive interaction between neighboring electrons  $V_1$  can be reduced so that the PEC ground state can be stabilized**

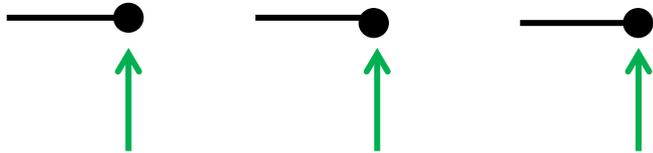


Gapped  $S=0$  Spin-Peierls non magnetic ground state

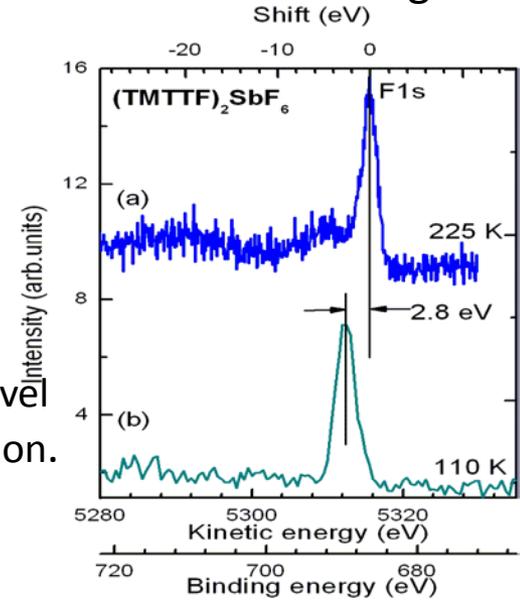
CO 1  $\longleftrightarrow$  CO 2

The CO transition stabilizes a single CO configuration by a **staggered modulation of the site energy**, via a deformation of the anion sublattice creating short contacts towards the charge rich TMTTF :

- uniform anion shift (X=MF<sub>6</sub>; M=P, As, Sb )
- anion orientational ordering process (X=SCN)

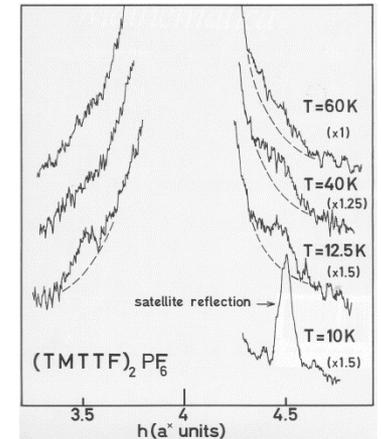


Shift of the F1s HAXPES core level spectra through the CO transition. (K. Medjanik et al)



PEC 1  $\longleftrightarrow$  PEC 2

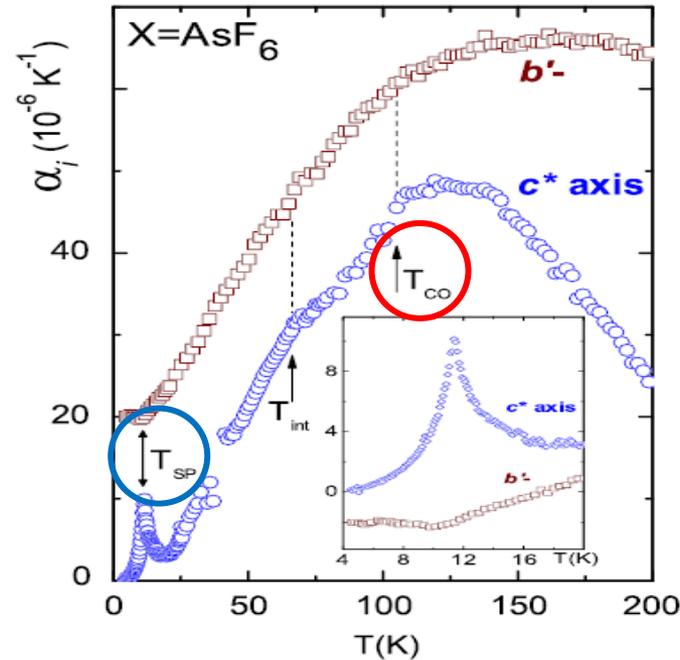
The SP transition stabilizes a single PEC configuration by setting of a **2k<sub>F</sub> BOW lattice modulation\*** (together with a 2k<sub>F</sub> CDW energy site modulation through a **deformation of the anion sublattice**)



\*TMTTF-DMTCNQ is already subject to a 2k<sub>F</sub> BOW instability below 100K  
 SP- 2k<sub>F</sub> BOW lattice fluctuations are observed below 60K in (TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>

# Lattice and anion effects at the CO and SP transitions

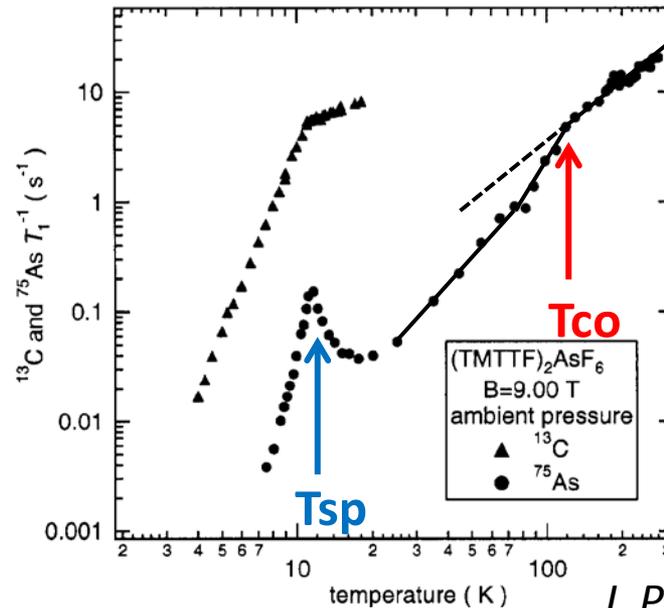
Thermal expansion



(TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>AsF<sub>6</sub>

M. De Souza et al  
PRL 101, 216403 (2008)

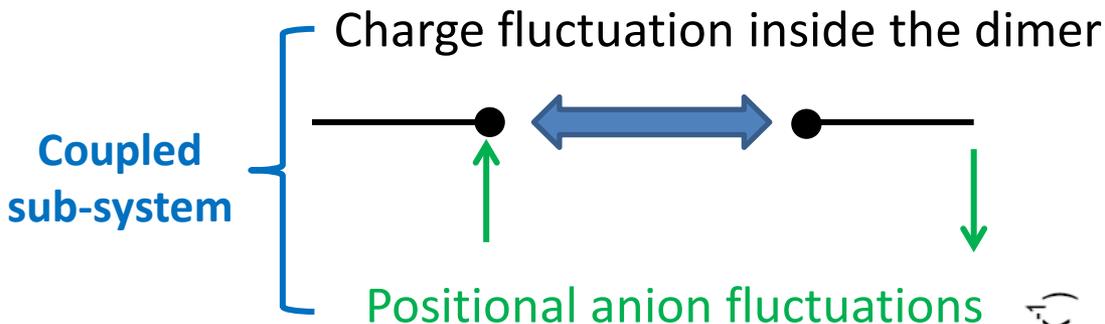
<sup>75</sup>As T<sub>1</sub><sup>-1</sup>  
probe of EFG fluctuations



Anomaly at the CO  
+ critical divergence at  
the SP transition

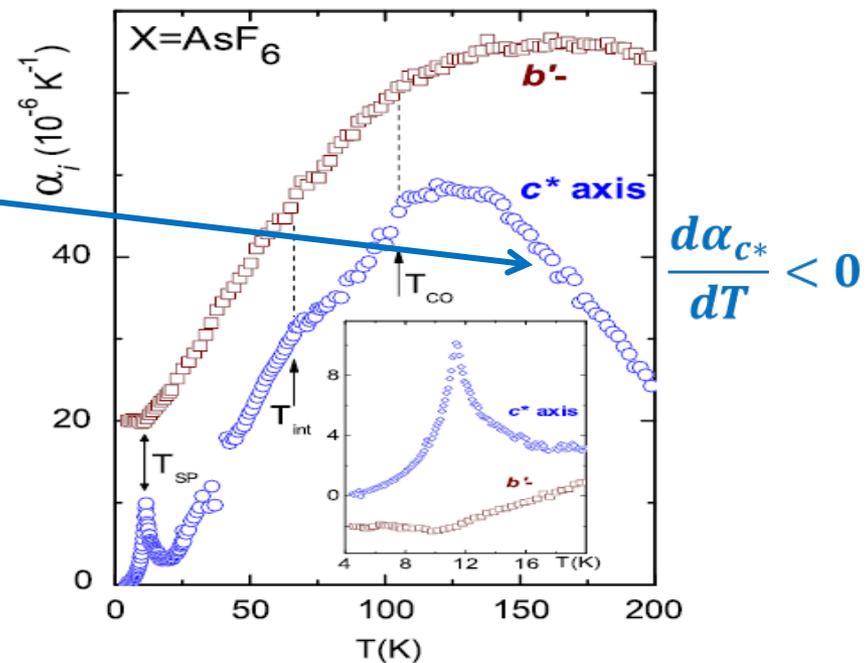
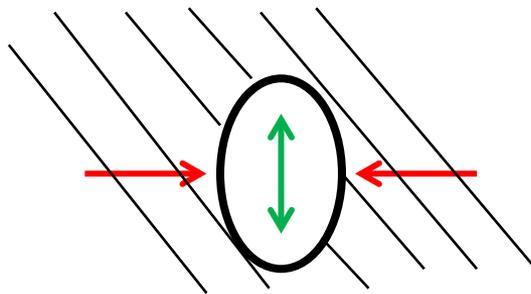
F. Zamborszky et al  
*J. Phys. IV France* **12** (2002) Pr9-139

# Coupling of charges with the anion sublattice



Negative thermal expansion\*

Signature of an unconventional lattice dynamics  
(coming the **shrinking of the  $CH_3$  cavity** due to  
high T **positional fluctuations of the anion**)

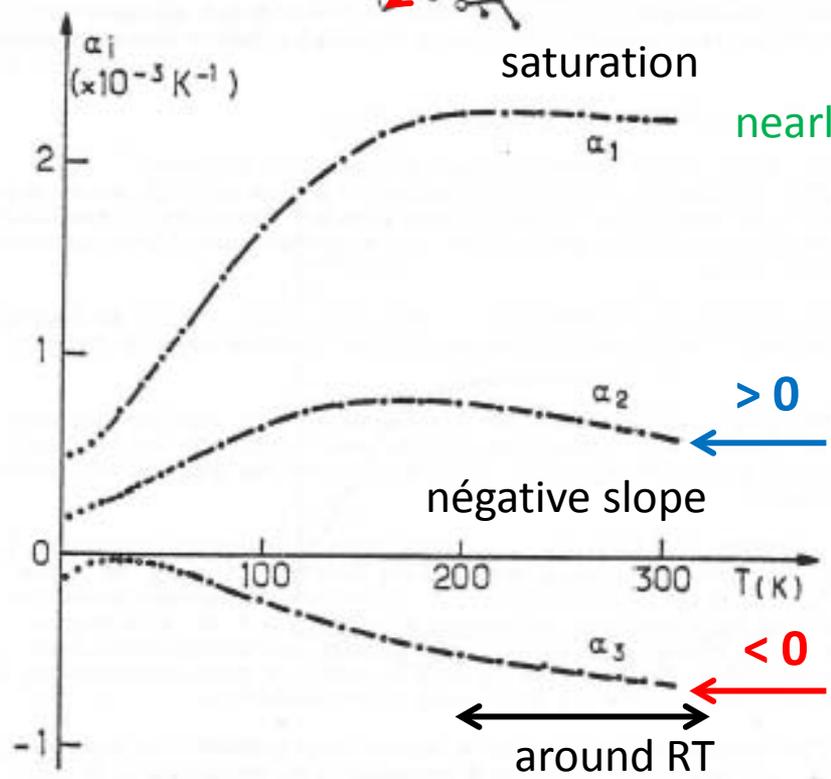
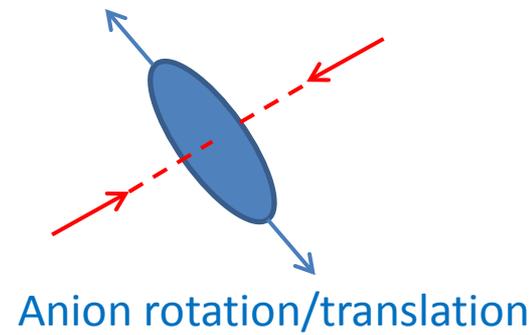
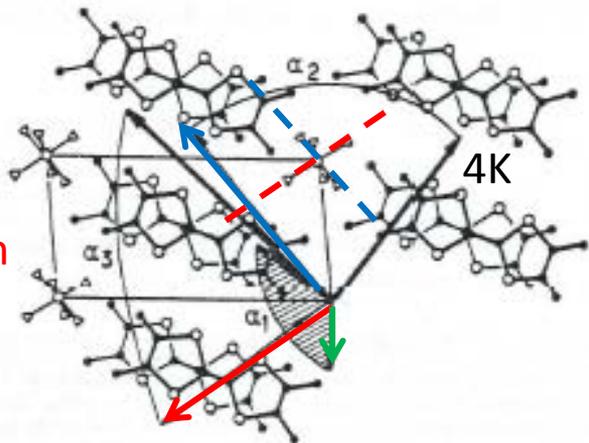


\* along  $c^*$ : interlayer direction  
not an eigen direction of the dilatation tensor

# Eigen-values and eigen-direction of the dilatation tensor of (TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>

Direction of lattice dilatation upon heating around RT (close to CH<sub>3</sub>-anion direction)

Direction of lattice contraction upon heating around RT (close to S-anion direction)



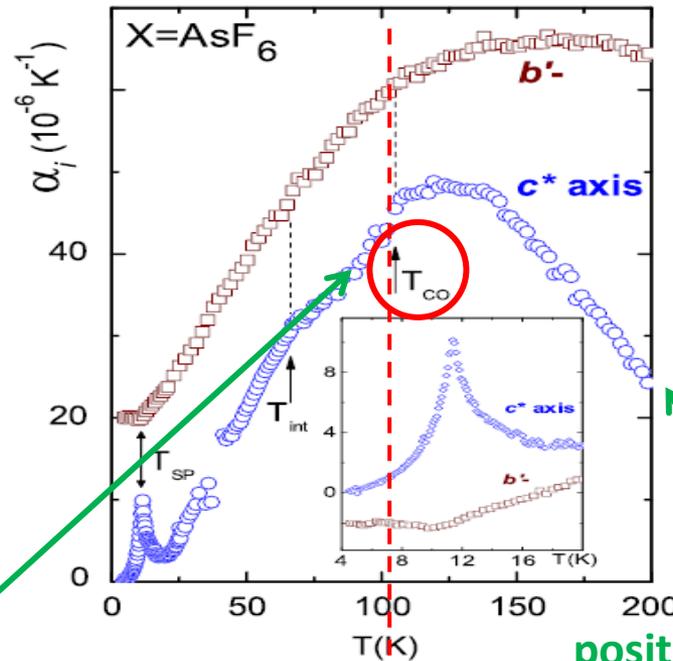
nearly along a

nearly in the (b,c) plane

(B. Gallois PhD thesis Bordeaux 1987)

# Back to anion fluctuations: $(\text{TMTTF})_2\text{AsF}_6$

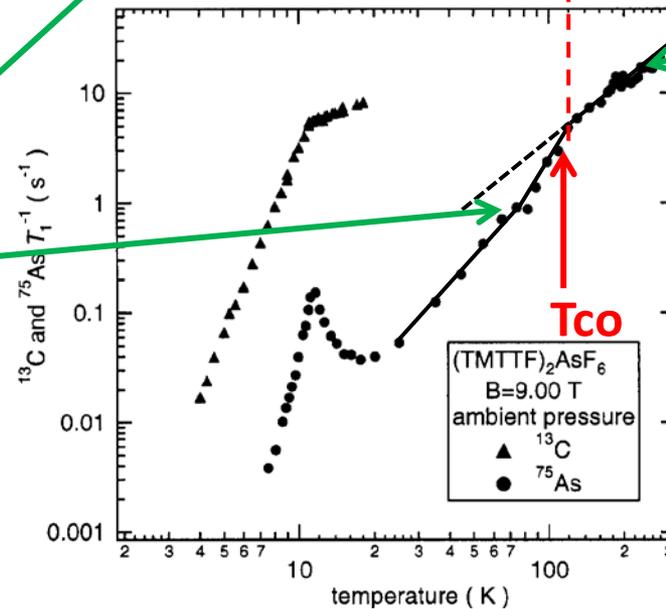
Thermal expansion



Above  $T_{\text{CO}}$   
 $\frac{d\alpha_{c^*}}{dT} < 0$

${}^{75}\text{As } T_1^{-1}$   
 probe of EFG fluctuations

Below  $T_{\text{CO}}$  reduction of anion fluctuations:  
 « linkage » of the anions to the charge rich TMTTF?

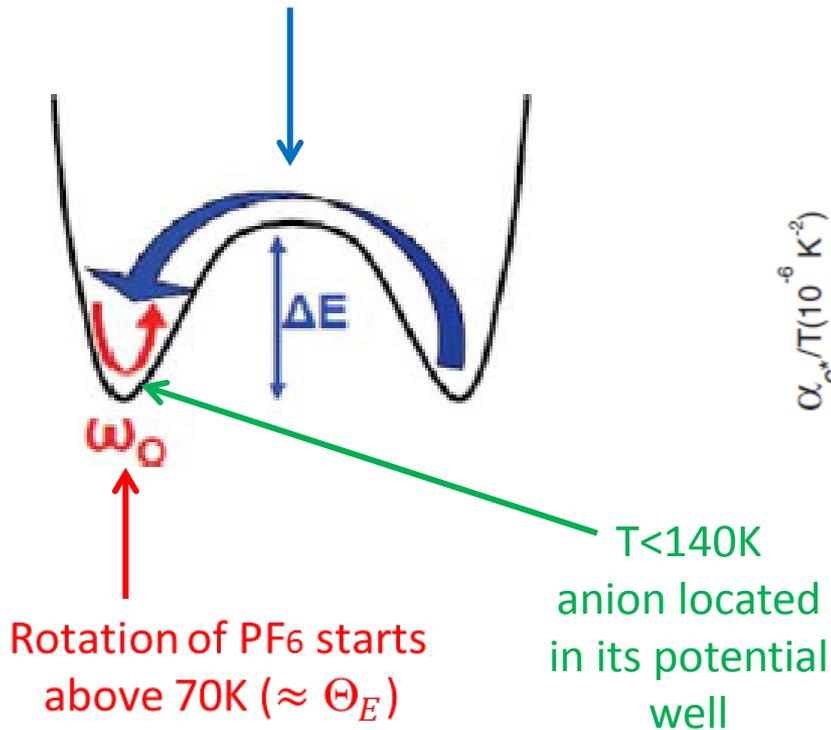


positional fluctuations of the anions giving rise to EFG fluctuations on the As site

# Back to anion dynamics : (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>

<sup>19</sup>F NMR studies

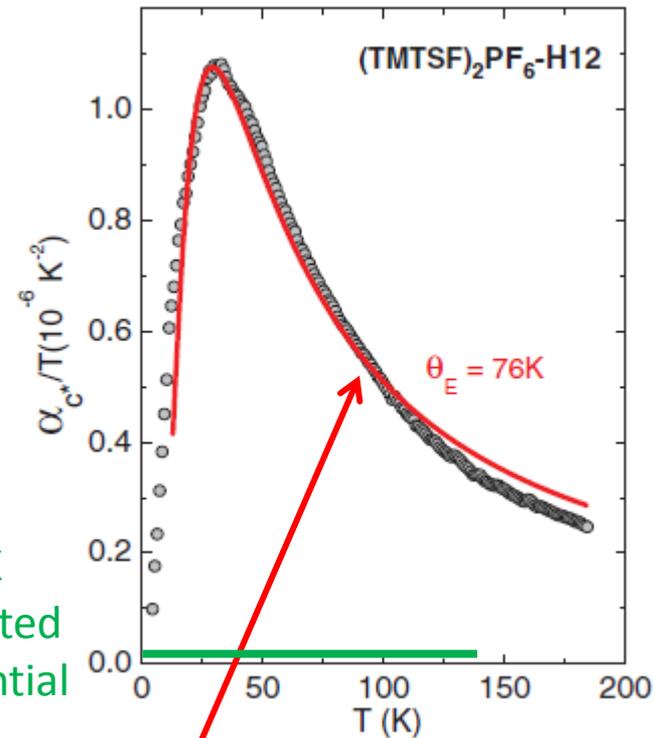
T > 140K  
activated thermal jump of PF<sub>6</sub>



Rotation of PF<sub>6</sub> starts above 70K ( $\approx \Theta_E$ )

T < 140K  
anion located in its potential well

$$\alpha_{c^*}(T) \propto C_V(T)$$



Low T thermal expansion accounted by a thermally populated Einstein oscillator with  $\omega_0 = 76 \text{ K}$  (frequency of rotation of PF<sub>6</sub> in its cavity)

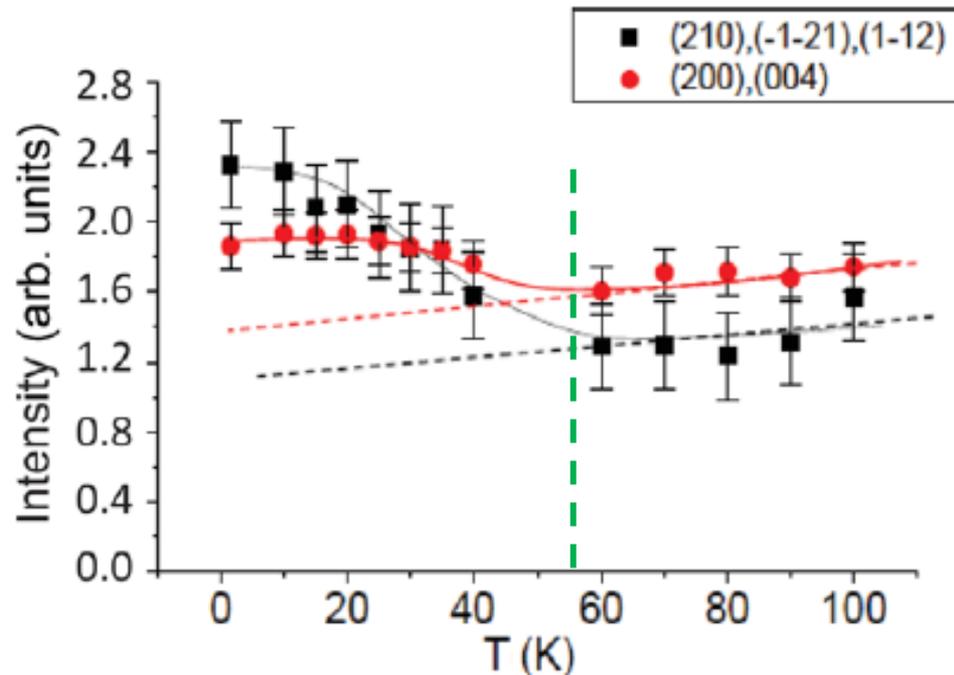
P. Foury-Leylekian et al  
PRB **88**, 024105 (2013)

**Anion rotation controls the low temperature thermal expansion!**

## Anion + methyl groups dynamics

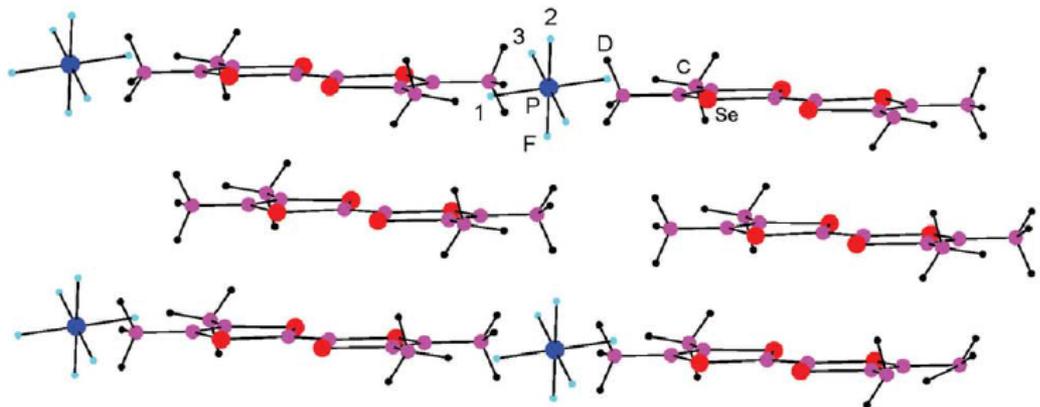
Thermally activated motion of methyl groups is frozen below 55K and 74K ( $^1\text{H NMR}$ )

At  $\sim 55\text{K}$ : H bond linkage of  $\text{PF}_6$  to methyl groups

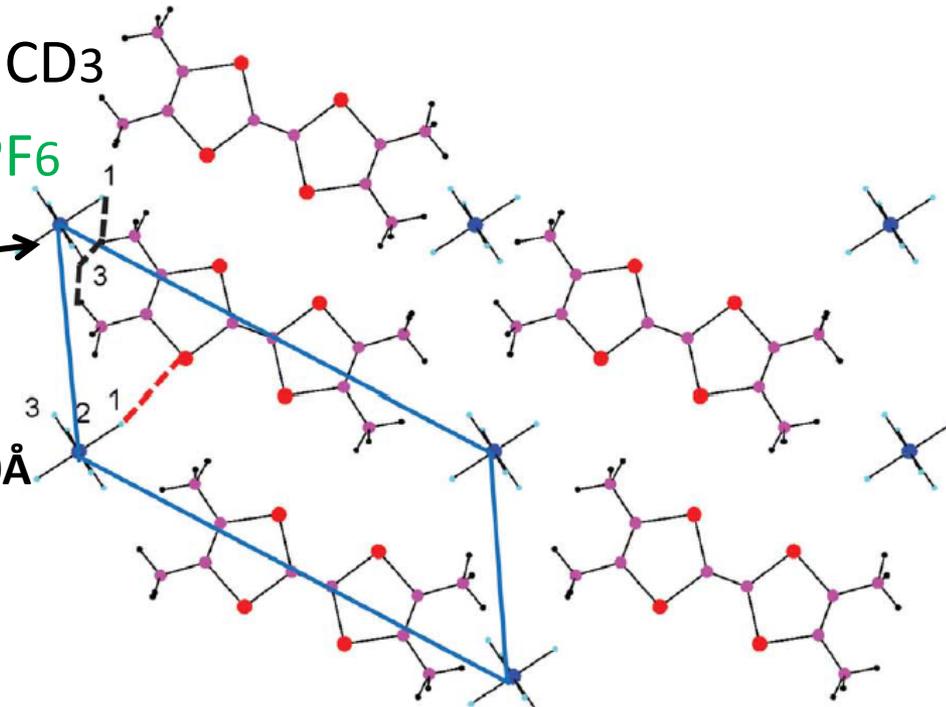
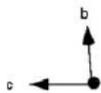


Saturation of the response function below 100K ( $\approx t_{\perp}/\pi$ )  
1D divergence stopped by the warping  $t_{\perp}$  of the Fermi surface  
Then vanishing of the response function near  $T_{\text{low}}$

# 4K neutron scattering structure of $D_{12} - (TMTSF)_2 PF_6$

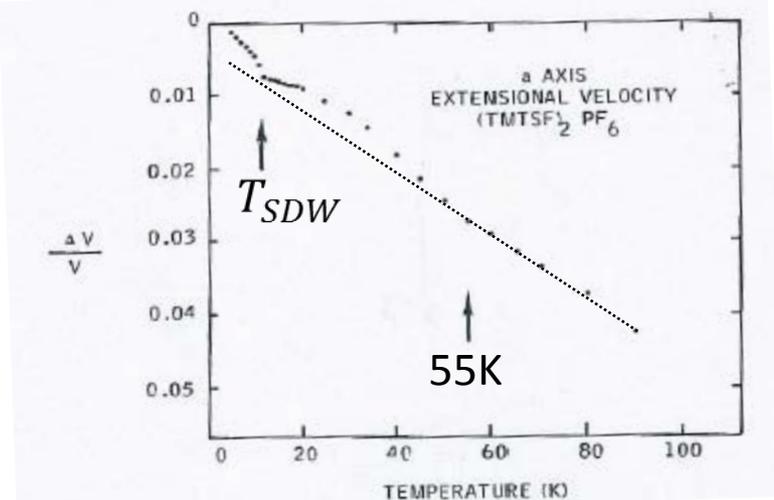


H bonds  
with F(1) and F(3)



F(1)----D : 2.49Å  
 F(3)----D : 2.475Å/2.50Å  
 F(1)----S(12): 3.076Å

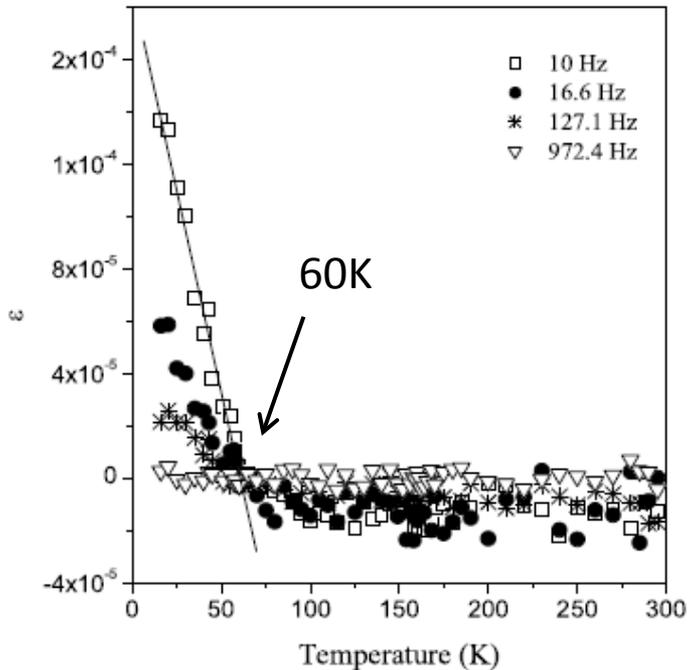
## H bonding leads to an hardening of the (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> structure below 55K



Thermal enhancement of the sound velocity of the LA mode polarized in stack direction

P. M. Chaikin et al SSC 41, 739 (1982)

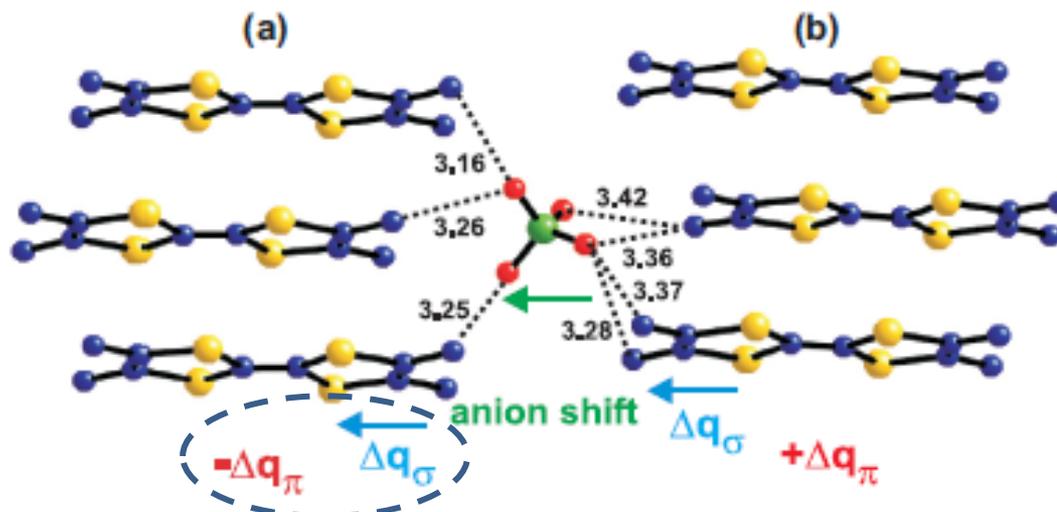
## Anion linked to methyl groups forms a polarizable medium below 60K



Dielectric constant in the interlayer (less conducting) c\* direction

K. W. Lee et al Current Applied Physics 9, 524 (2009)

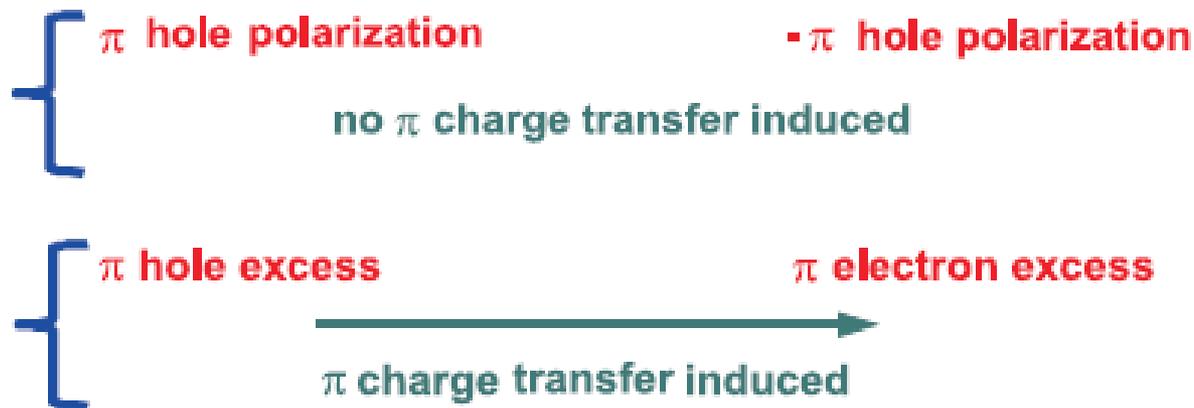
# Shift of the anion induces charge displacement/polarization



Increase of H bonding between anion and terminal groups of the donor makes their H more positively charged. This induces a **negative  $\sigma$  charge shift** towards the inner part of the donor. Consequently a **more positive charge is stabilized in the inner  $\pi$  system**.

is presented as an example of the charge displacement in the region  $0 < x < 1$ . The distance between the anion and the donor is  $3.25$  Å. The distance between the anion and the donor is  $3.25$  Å. The distance between the anion and the donor is  $3.25$  Å.

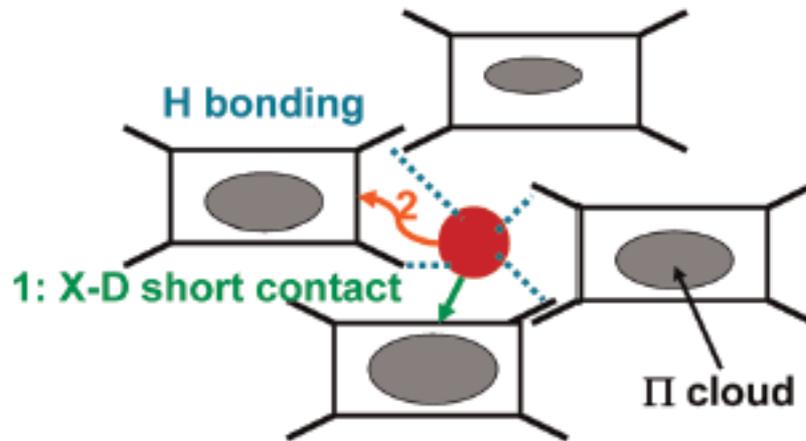
Abstracted from the book "Electron transport in molecular wires" by P. Alemany et al. (Eds.), Springer, 2014, 155124 (2014).



# Anion shift in (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>X and (TMTTF)<sub>2</sub>X

*Polarization of the  $\pi$  electron density of the donors*

- 1. By direct Anion-Donor interaction via the Coulomb potential*
- 2. By hydrogen bond mediated interaction*



Polarized TMTSF/TMTTF molecule depends of the direction of shift of the anion:

1- towards the Se/S

2- towards the metyl groups

J.-P. Pouget et al

Phys. Status Solidi B **249**, 937 (2012)

# Polarized or charge rich TMTSF/TMTTF depends of the direction of shift of the anion:

## 1- towards the Se/S for:

- (1/2, 1/2, 1/2) anion ordering transition of the ReO4 salts
- (0, 1/2, 1/2) coupled anion/charge ordering transition of (TMTTF)2SCN

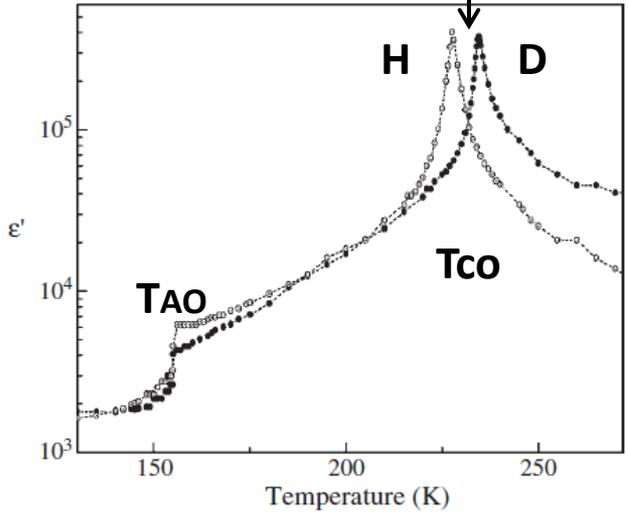
## 2- towards the metyl groups for:

- (1/2, 0,0) anion ordering transition of (TMTSF)2NO3
- (0, 1/2, 0) anion ordering transition of (TMTSF)2ClO4
- Charge ordering/ferroelectric transition?\*

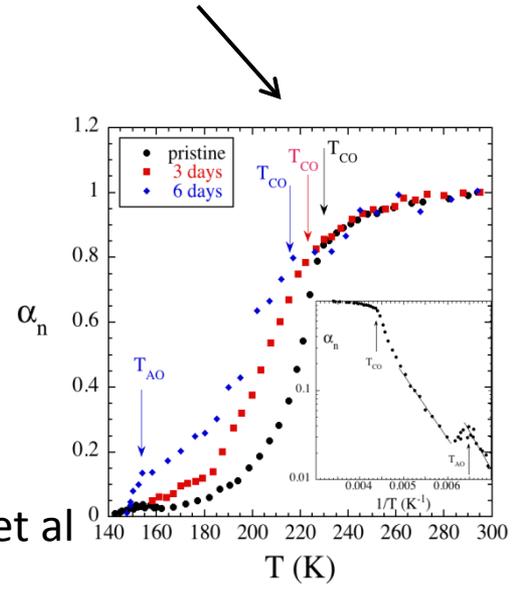
\*shift towards some methyl groups explain:

- the strong sentivity of the CO to irradiation (which disorders the methyl groups)
- the strong increase of Tco upon deuteration

(TMTTF)2ReO4



F. Nad et al  
2005

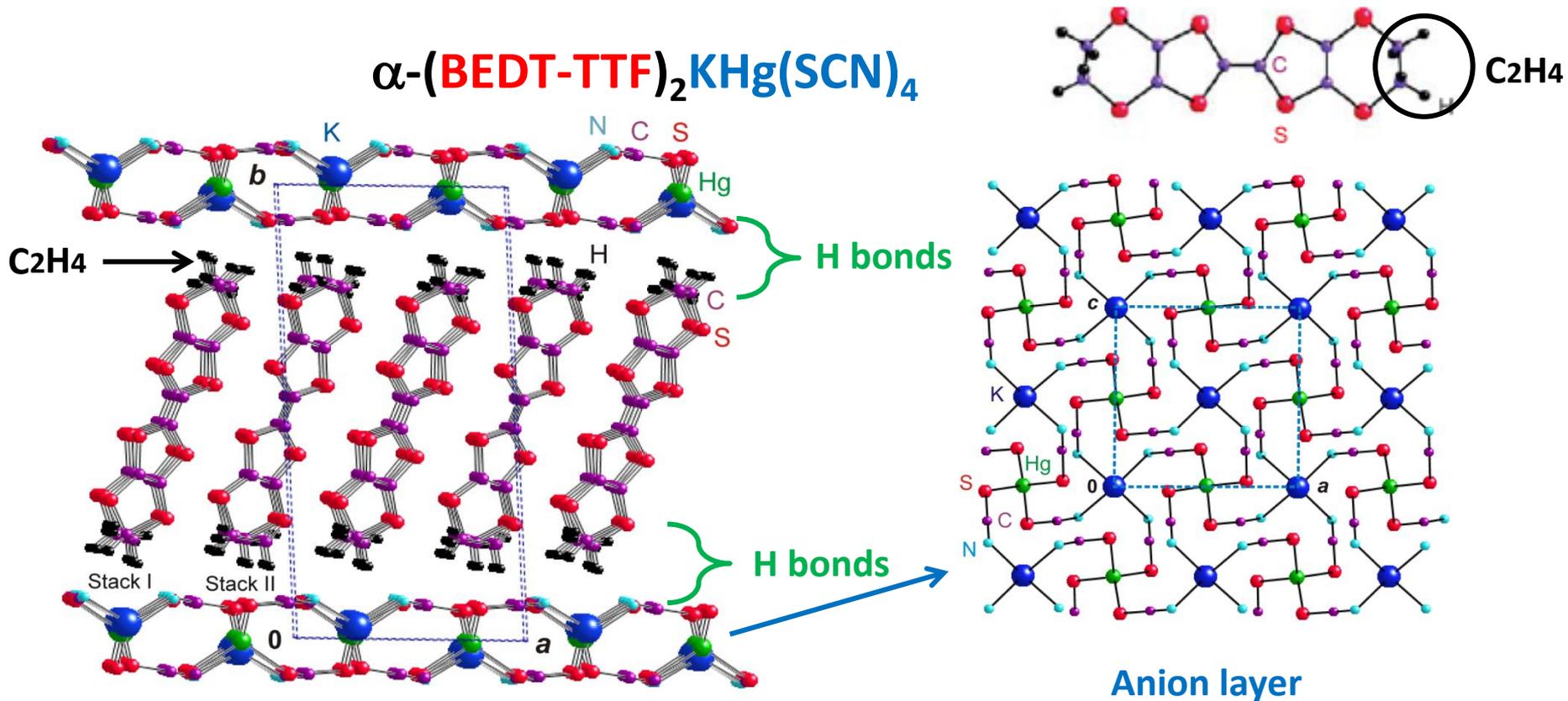


C. Coulon et al  
2014

# (BEDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub>X series

layered organic conductors

polymorphism: several types of BEDT-TTF packing

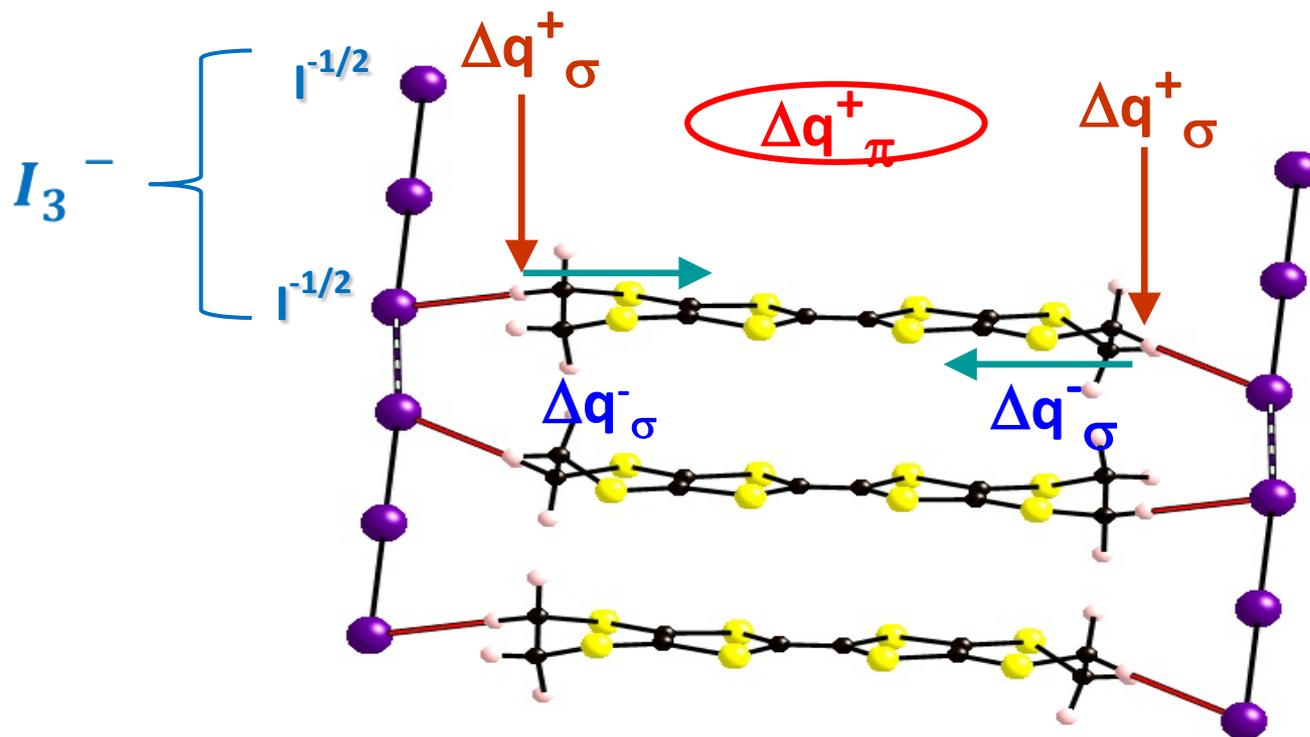


H bonds between SCN and terminal ethylene groups of the BEDT-TTF

**CO transition accompanied by a strengthening of H-bonding between the anions and the ethylene groups of the charge rich BEDT-TTF: this stabilizes the hole excess**

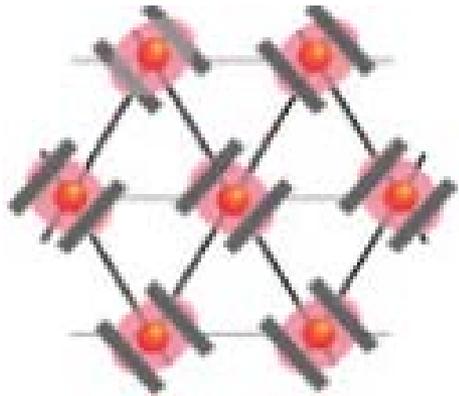
$\alpha$ -(BEDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub>I<sub>3</sub>

$I_3^-$  induces effect on the  $\pi$  charge distribution via the polarization of the  $\sigma$  electrons



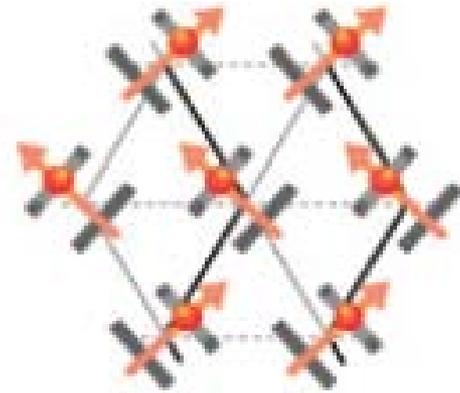
The increase of H bonding of molecule A makes the terminal hydrogens more positive  $\Delta q^+_{\sigma}$ . This induces a negative  $\sigma$  charge shift  $\Delta q^-_{\sigma}$  which stabilizes a positive  $\pi$  charge  $\Delta q^+_{\pi}$  in the core of the ET

# Layer of dimers in $\kappa$ -(BEDT-TTF)<sub>2</sub>X



1 hole per dimer at high T

Charge fluctuations  
inside each dimer



Polar dimer  
Charge disproportionation?  
Ferroelectricity?

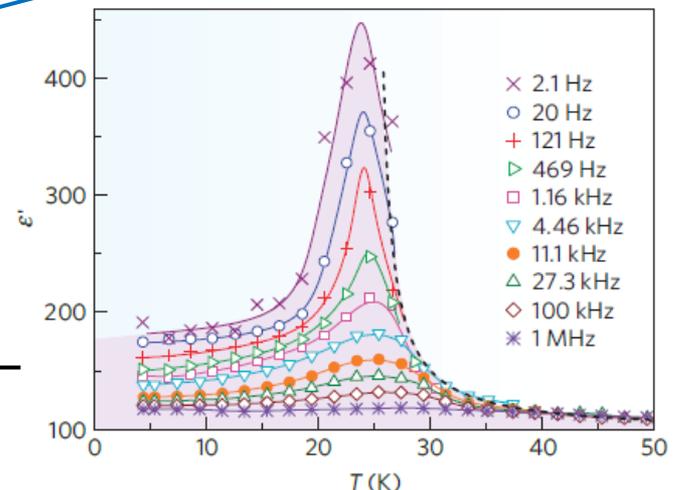
1 dimer = 1 occupied site  
Effective half filled system

Freezing of mobile carriers  
Mott localization X=Cu[N(CN)<sub>2</sub>]Cl

Spin degree of freedom only interesting  
Magnetism, Quantum spin liquid [X=Cu<sub>2</sub>(CN)<sub>3</sub>]

Relevance of the charge degrees of freedom?  
Coupling to anions?

See the lecture of S. Tomic

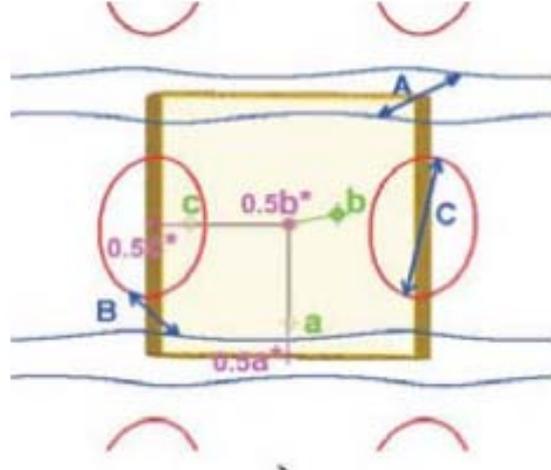


P. Lunkenheimer et al  
Nature Materials, **11**, 755 (2012)

# CDW triggered by the anion layer in $\alpha$ -(BEDTTTF) $_2$ KHg(SCN) $_4$

## Structural instability of the anion layer coupled to the electron gas via the H bonds

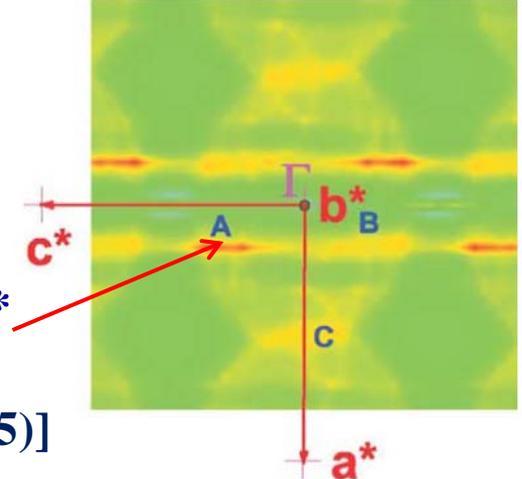
Fermi surface of the BEDT-TTF layer



$q_{\text{nest}} = 0.17 a^* + (0.38 - 0.24) c^*$   
selects

$q_{\text{CDW}} = [0.13(5), 0.15(5), 0.42(5)]$   
such that

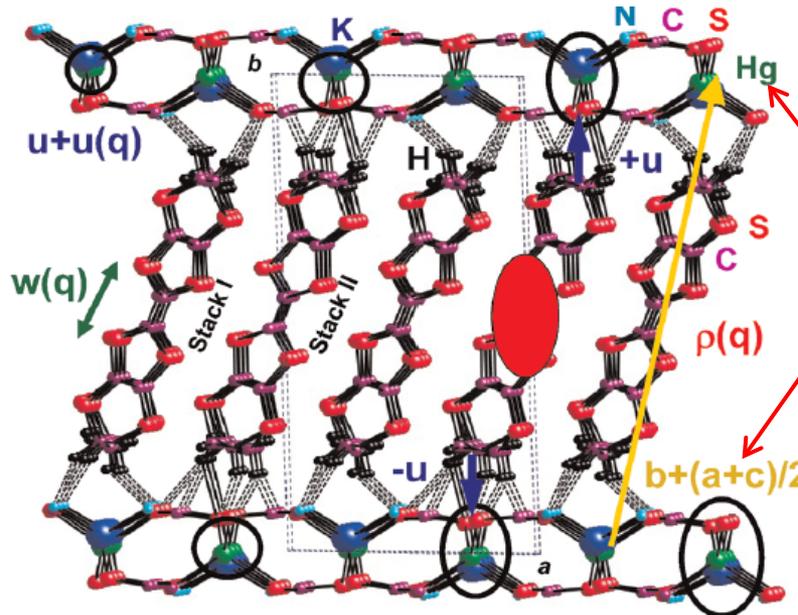
Lindhard response function



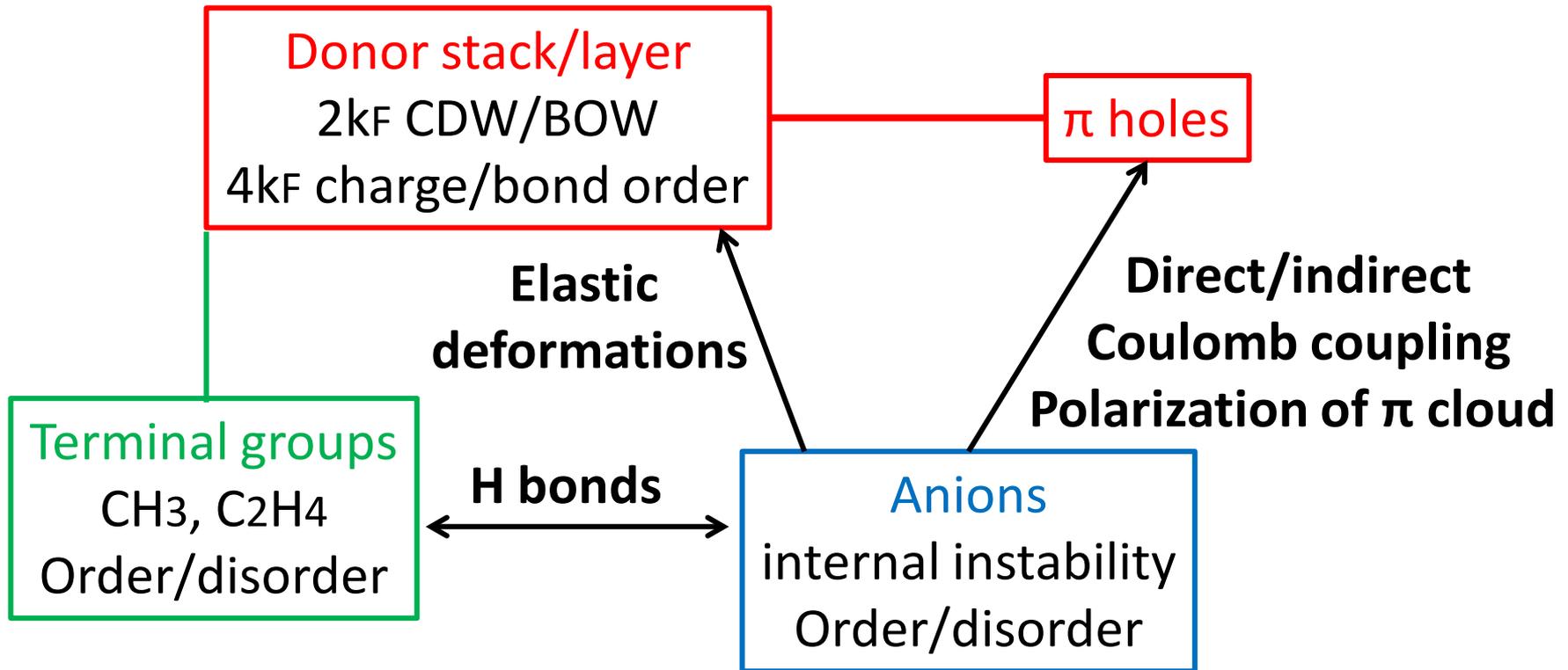
$$q_{\text{CDW}}[(b+(a+c)/2)] = \pi$$

*staggered deformation ( $\pm u$ ) of adjacent anions layers*

*Via the H bonds this cooperatively modulates the  $\pi$  charge density on the BEDT-TTF layer. This forms the  $2k_F$  CDW.*



# Summary of anion couplings



**Anions provide interactions not yet considered until now!**

# Collaborations for recent work

P. Foury-Leylekian, A. Moradpour† (LPS Orsay)

P. Alemany and E. Canadell (Barcelona)

M. de Souza and M. Lang (Frankfurt)

C. Coulon (Bordeaux)

+ use of neutron scattering facilities (ILL, LLB)

# Supplementary material

# Anions control the donor packing and the thermal expansion

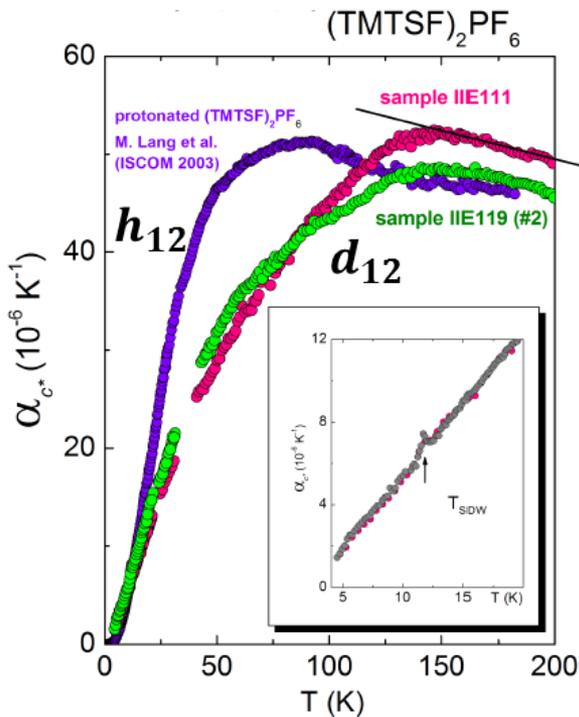
Via H bond linkage between anions and the terminal groups of donors (BEDT-TTF family)

Thermal excitations of the anion internal degrees of freedom control the lattice deformation

Thermal expansion of (TMTSF)<sub>2</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> controlled by the anion cavity

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{l_i} \frac{dl_i}{dT}$$

$\alpha_{c^*}$  in the interlayer direction  $c^*$



$$\frac{d\alpha_{c^*}}{dT} < 0!$$

General situation:

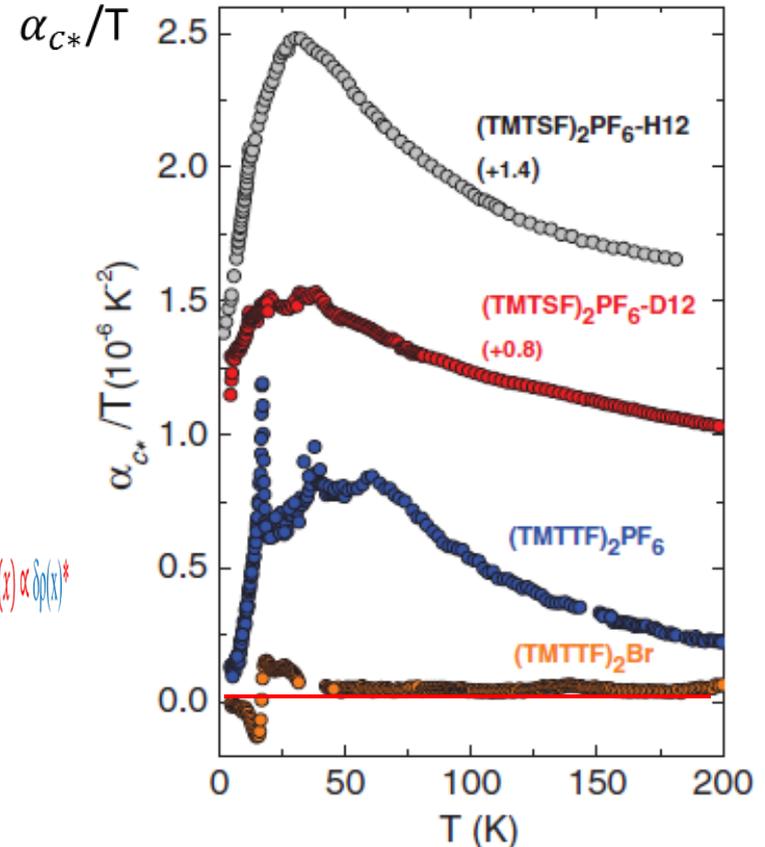
$2k_F$  inter-molecular bond modulation (BOW):  $u(x)$

together with a modulation of the charge on the bonds shifted by  $\pi/2$ :

$$\rho(x) = \rho_0 + \delta\rho(x) \quad \text{with } \delta\rho(x) \approx -2u(x)/\alpha$$

and of the charge on molecular sites (intra-molecular bond deformation)  $d(x) \propto \delta\rho(x)^*$

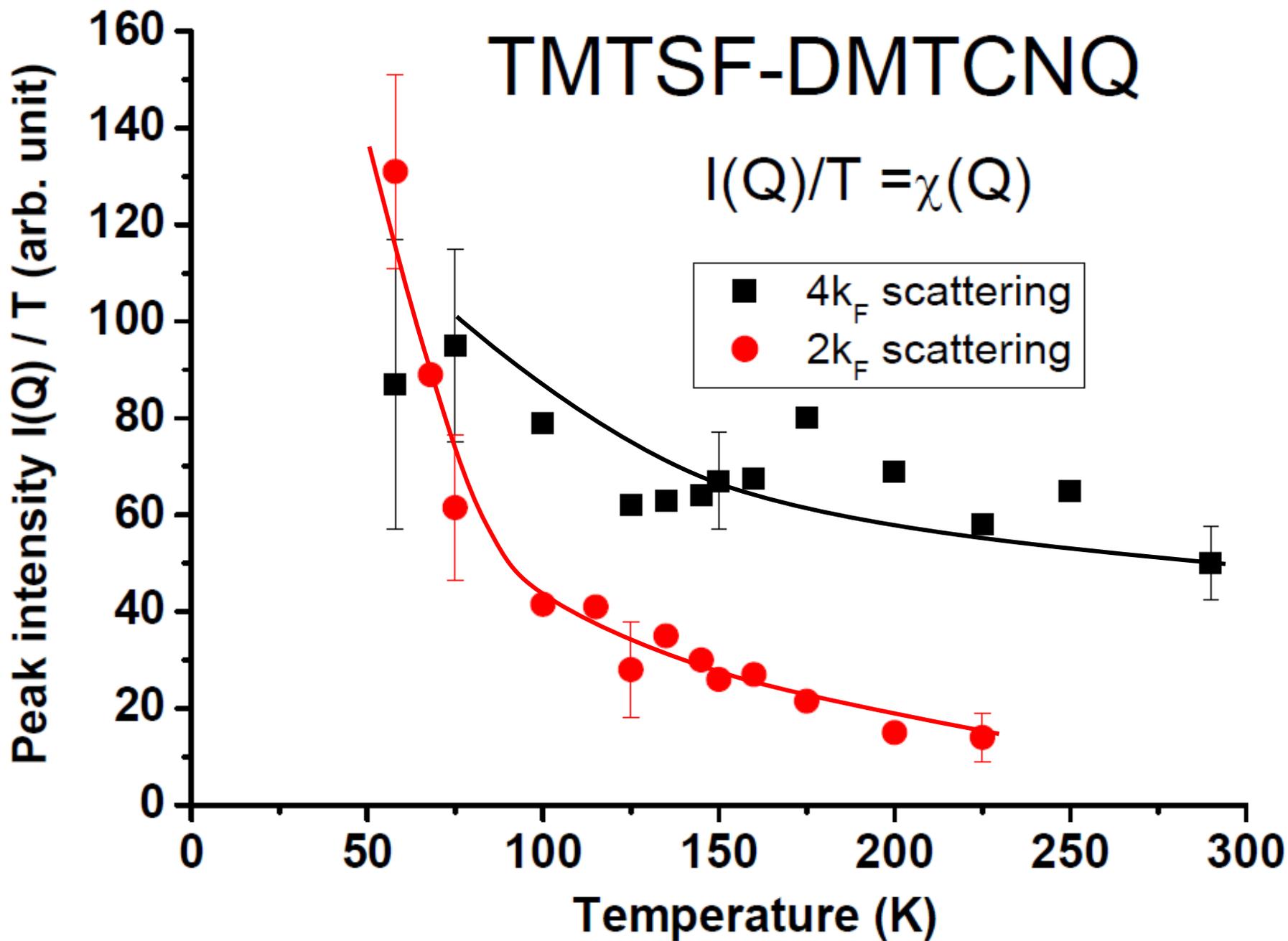
$\alpha_{c^*}(T)$  depends upon the "effective volume" of the methyl group cavities ( $CH_3 \rightarrow CD_3$ )



$\alpha_{c^*}$  very small for X=Br which has no rotation degree of freedom!

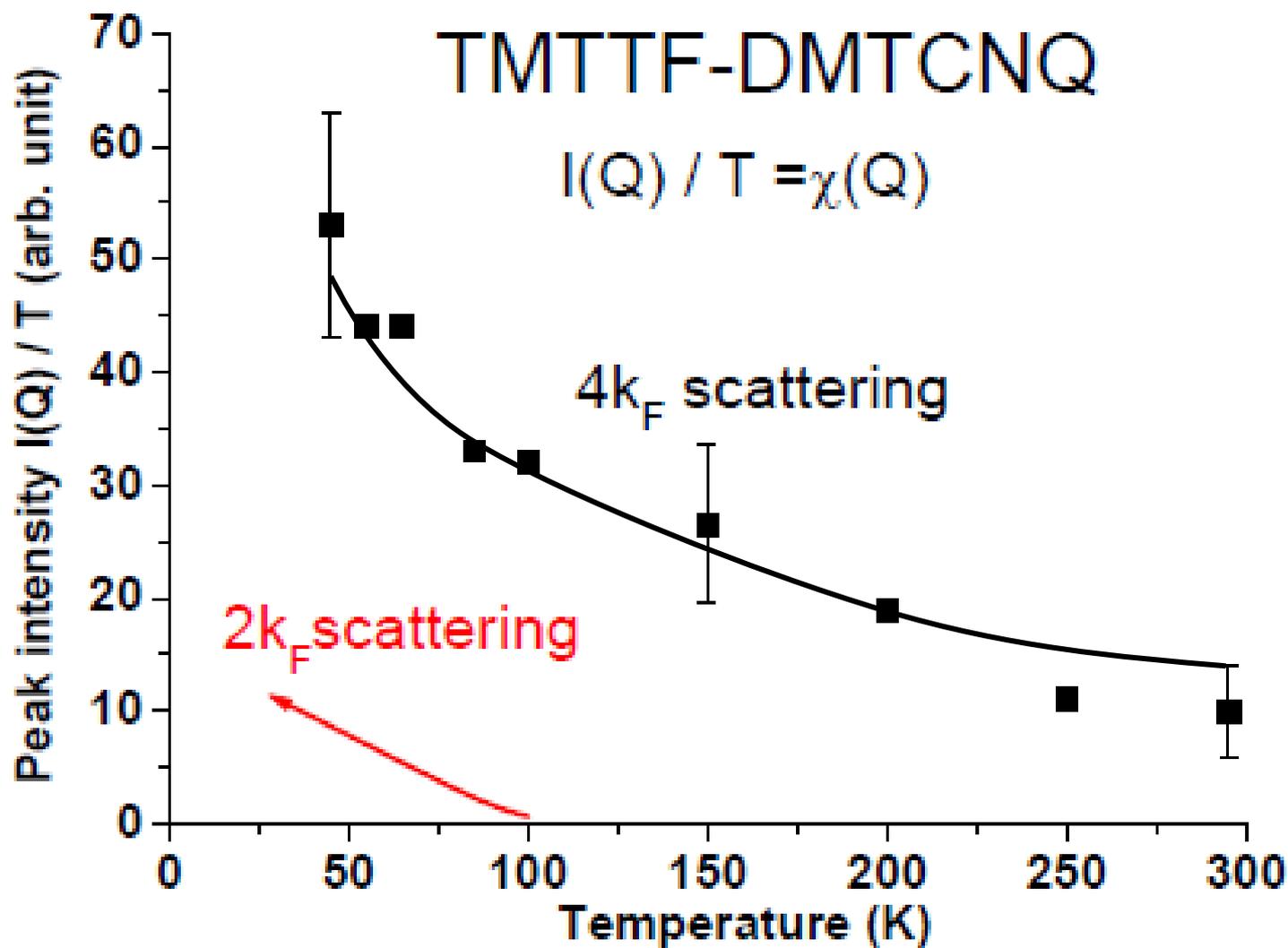
# TMTSF-DMTCNQ

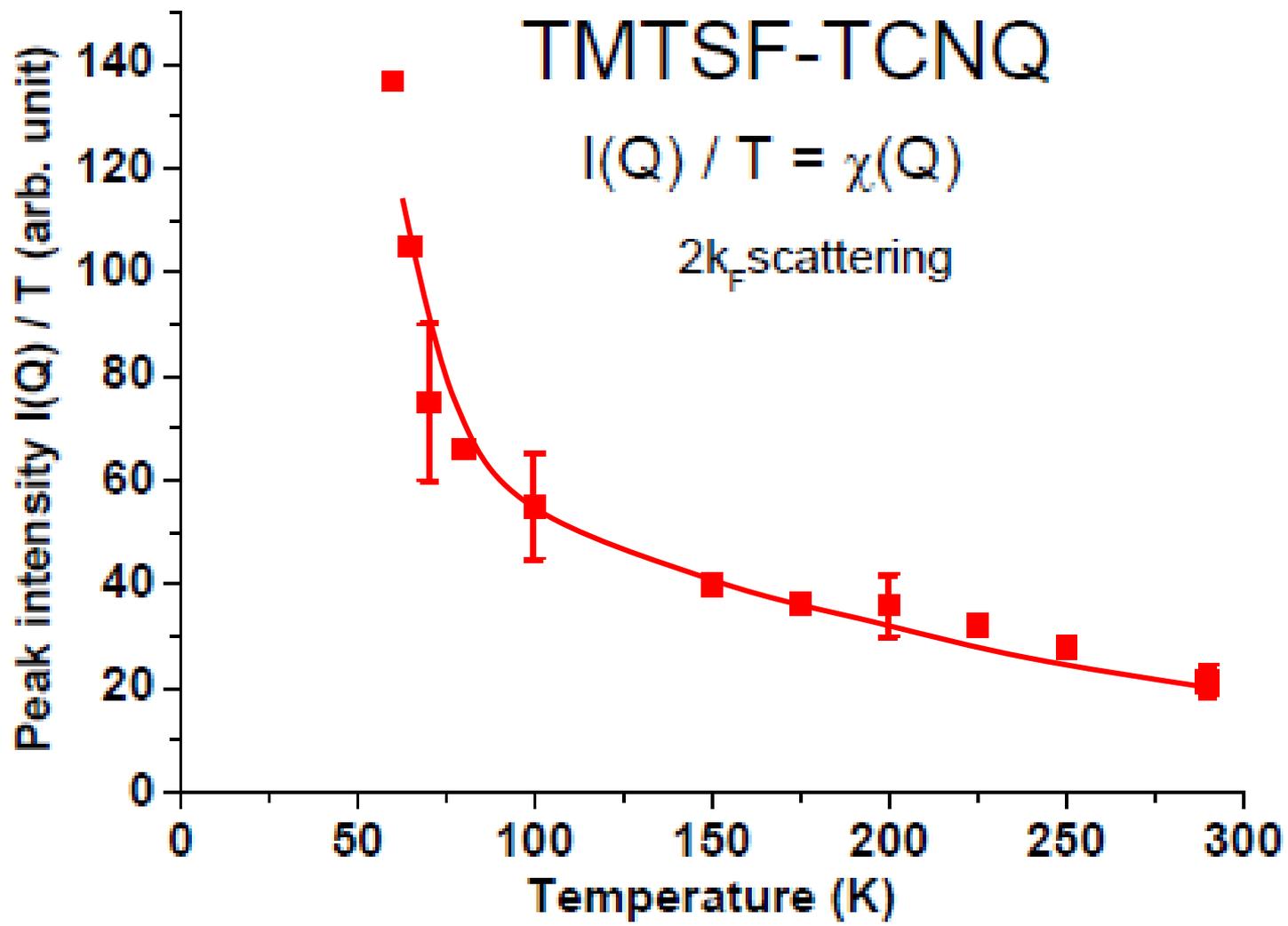
$$I(Q)/T = \chi(Q)$$



# TMTTF-DMTCNQ

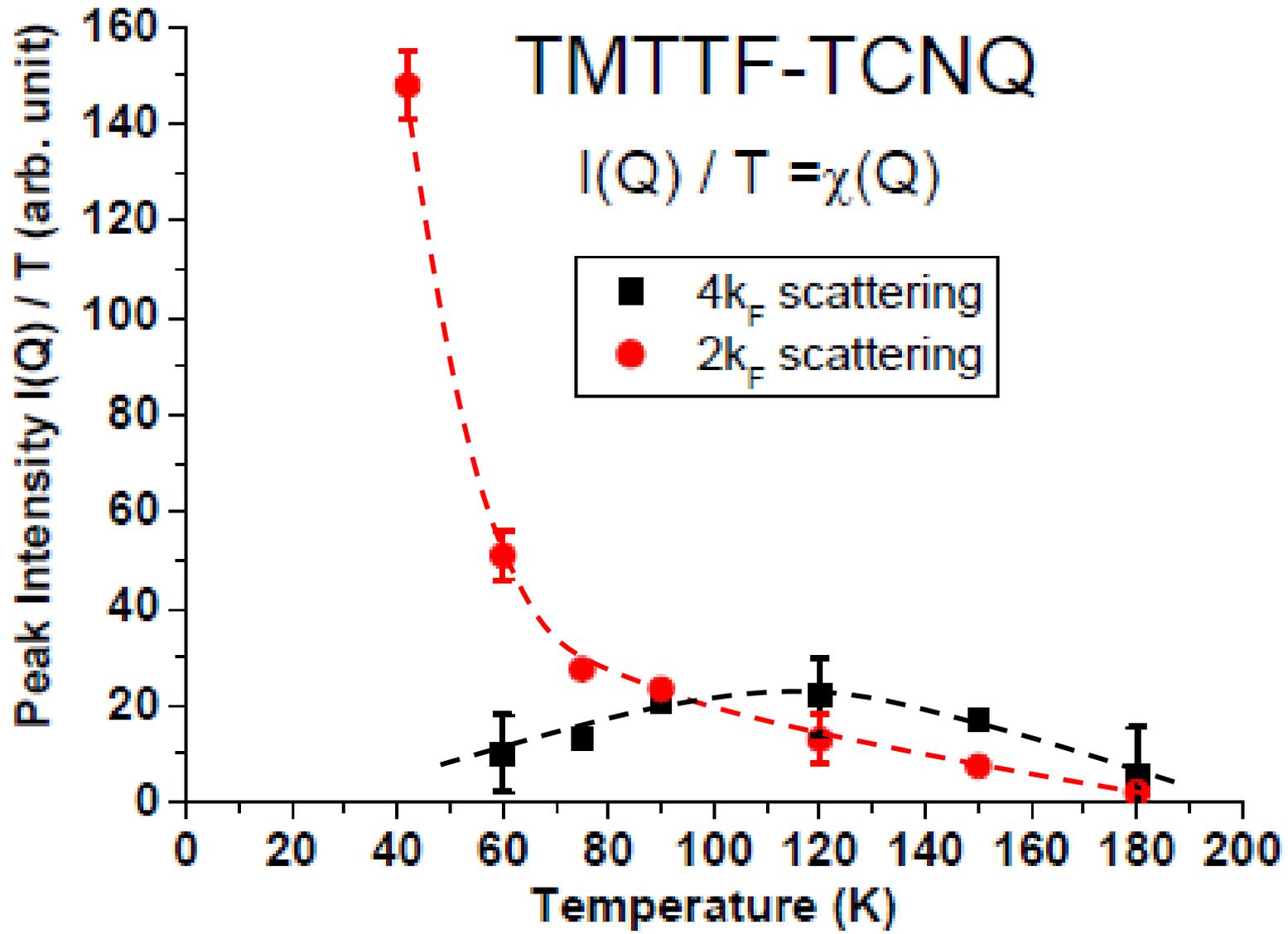
$$I(Q) / T = \chi(Q)$$

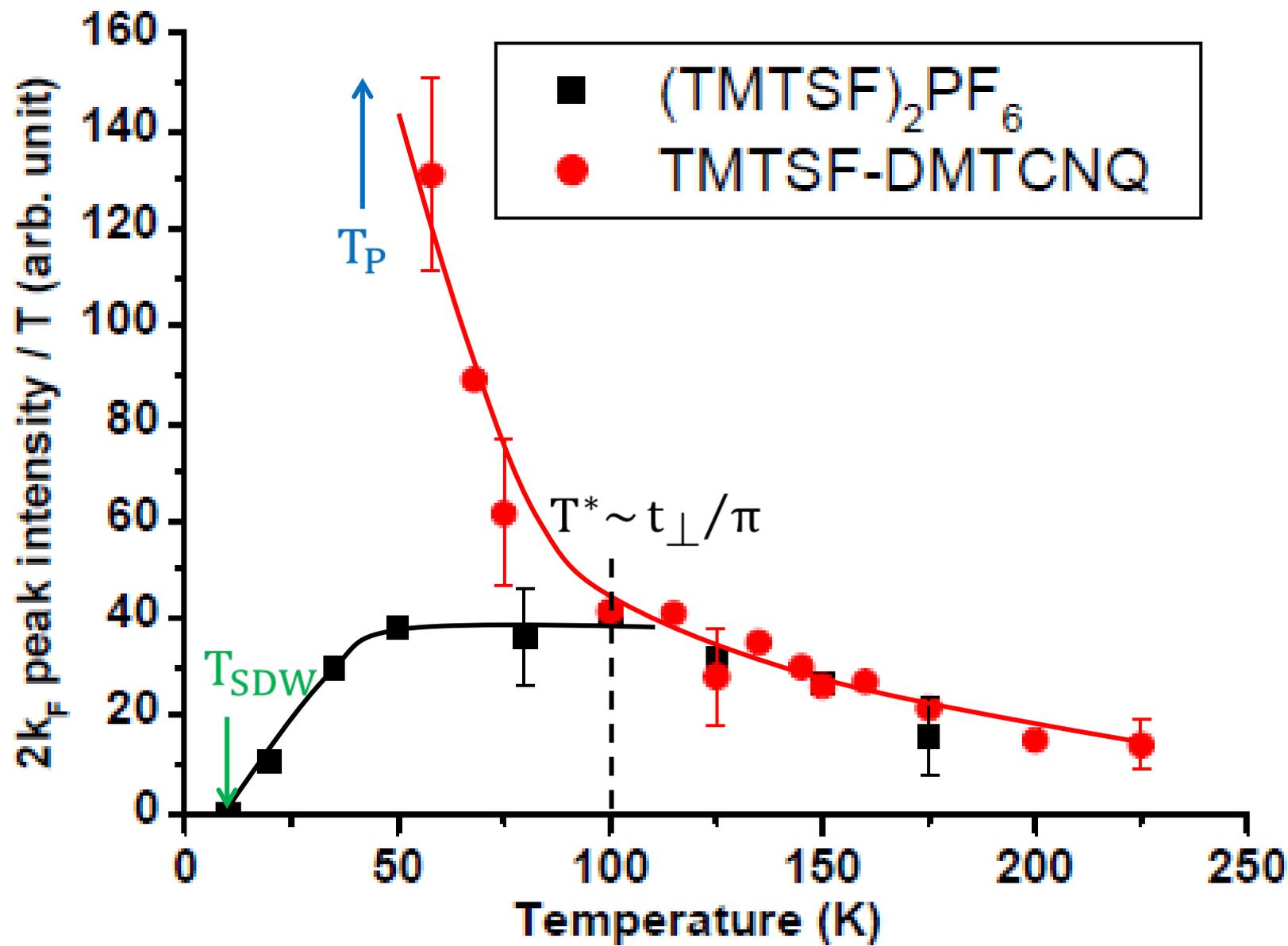




# TMTTF-TCNQ

$$I(Q) / T = \chi(Q)$$





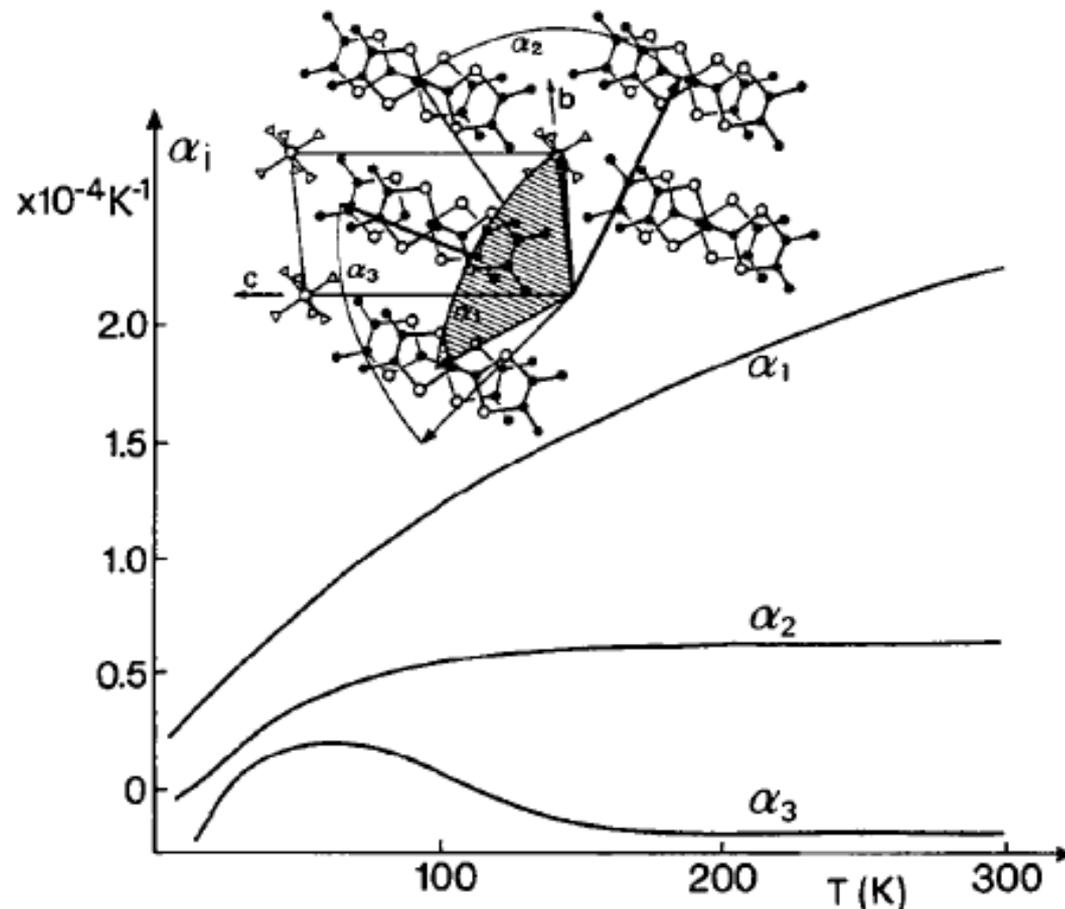


Fig. 5. Magnitudes [ $\alpha_i = (1/l_i)(\partial l_i/\partial T)_P$ ] and directions of the principal thermal expansions in  $(\text{TMTSF})_2\text{PF}_6$ . The directions are indicated in the inset by vectors of equal arbitrary modulus (thin vectors: 100 K, thick vectors: 15 K).