

Local correlation effects on the s_{\pm} - and s_{++} -wave superconductivities mediated by magnetic and orbital fluctuations in the 5-orbital Hubbard model for iron pnictides

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We investigate the electronic state and the superconductivity in the 5-orbital Hubbard model for iron pnictides by using the dynamical mean-field theory in conjunction with the Eliashberg equation. The renormalization factor exhibits significant orbital dependence resulting in the large change in the band dispersion as observed in recent ARPES experiments. The critical interactions towards the magnetic, orbital and superconducting instabilities are suppressed as compared with those from the random phase approximation (RPA) due to local correlation effects. Remarkably, the s_{++} -pairing phase due to the orbital fluctuation is largely expanded relative to the RPA result, while the s_{\pm} -pairing phase due to the magnetic fluctuation is reduced.

KEYWORDS: dynamical mean-field theory, iron-based superconductor, spin fluctuation, orbital fluctuation, 5-orbital Hubbard model

The discovery of the iron-based superconductors¹⁾ has triggered an intense research effort to investigate their electronic state and superconducting mechanism. Most of the phase diagrams exhibit the tetragonal-orthorhombic structural transition and the stripe-type antiferromagnetic (AFM) transition.^{1,2)} The AFM fluctuation is enhanced towards the AFM transition,³⁾ while the ferro-orbital (FO) fluctuation responsible for the softening of the elastic constant C_{66} ^{4,5)} is enhanced towards the structural transition. Correspondingly, two distinct s -wave pairings: the s_{\pm} -wave with sign change of the order parameter between the hole and the electron Fermi surfaces (FSs) mediated by the AFM fluctuation^{6,7)} and the s_{++} -wave without the sign change mediated by the FO fluctuation⁸⁻¹⁰⁾ and by the antiferro-orbital (AFO) fluctuation¹¹⁾ which is also responsible for the softening of C_{66} through the two-orbital process¹²⁾ were proposed. Despite the numerous efforts, the pairing state together with the mechanism of the superconductivity is still controversial.

As the details of the electronic band structure are crucial for the pairing state and mechanism, the theoretical studies have employed the realistic multi-orbital models⁷⁻¹²⁾ where the tight-binding parameters are determined so as to reproduce the first-principles band structures which had been found to agree with the angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) by reducing the band width by a factor of $2 \sim 3$.¹³⁾ However, recent high-resolution ARPES measurements for $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{K}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$ ¹⁴⁾ revealed significant band (or orbital) dependence of the mass enhancement from 1.3 to 9.0. More recently, some evidences for an orbital-selective Mott transition (OSMT) in $\text{K}_x\text{Fe}_{2-y}\text{Se}_2$,¹⁵⁾ where the renormalization factor Z for d_{xy} orbital becomes zero while Z for the other orbitals are finite, and for the heavy fermion behavior in KFe_2As_2 ,¹⁶⁾ where the system is near the OSMT, were observed. In these cases, we need to investigate the superconductivity on the basis of the strongly correlated electronic states in the presence of the large orbital dependence of Z .

In this letter, we investigate the 5-orbital Hubbard model⁷⁾ for iron pnictides by using the dynamical mean-field theory (DMFT)¹⁷⁾ which is exact in infinite dimensions ($d = \infty$)

where the self-energy becomes local and enables us to sufficiently take into account the local correlation effects including the strong correlation regime where Z largely depends on the orbital¹⁸⁾ and the OSMT is realized.¹⁹⁾ To examine the superconductivity, we solve the Eliashberg equation in which the effective pairing interaction and the renormalized single-particle Green's function are calculated on the basis of the DMFT. In particular, we focus our attention on the local correlation effects on the possible pairing states, the magnetic fluctuation mediated s_{\pm} -wave and the orbital fluctuation mediated s_{++} -wave, beyond the random phase approximation (RPA) which was extensively developed for iron pnictides in the previous works.⁷⁻¹¹⁾

The 5-orbital Hubbard model consists of the Fe 3d-orbitals and is given by the Hamiltonian,⁷⁾ $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{H}_{\text{int}}$, where the kinetic part \hat{H}_0 is determined so as to reproduce the first-principles band structure for LaFeAsO and the Coulomb interaction part \hat{H}_{int} includes the multi-orbital interaction on a Fe site: the intra- and inter-orbital direct terms U and U' , Hund's rule coupling J and the pair transfer J' . In this paper, we set the x - y axes parallel to the nearest Fe-Fe bonds.

To solve the model, we use the DMFT¹⁷⁾ in which the lattice model is mapped onto an impurity Anderson model embedded in an effective medium which is determined so as to satisfy the self-consistency condition: $\hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m) = (1/N) \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{G}(\mathbf{k}, i\varepsilon_m)$ with the wave vector \mathbf{k} and the Matsubara frequency $\varepsilon_m = (2m+1)\pi T$, where $\hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m)$ and $\hat{G}(\mathbf{k}, i\varepsilon_m)$ are the 5×5 matrix representations of the local (impurity) Green's function and the lattice Green's function, respectively, which are explicitly given by

$$\hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m) = \left[\hat{G}^{-1}(i\varepsilon_m) - \hat{\Sigma}(i\varepsilon_m) \right]^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

$$\hat{G}(\mathbf{k}, i\varepsilon_m) = \left[(i\varepsilon_m + \mu) - \hat{H}_0(\mathbf{k}) - \hat{\Sigma}(i\varepsilon_m) \right]^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

where $\hat{\Sigma}(i\varepsilon_m)$ is the 5×5 matrix representation of the impurity (local) self-energy and $\hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m)$ is that of the bare impurity Green's function describing the effective medium. Within the DMFT, the spin (charge-orbital) susceptibility is given in the

25×25 matrix representation as

$$\hat{\chi}_{s(c)}(q) = \left[1 - (+)\hat{\chi}_0(q)\hat{\Gamma}_{s(c)}(i\omega_n) \right]^{-1} \hat{\chi}_0(q) \quad (3)$$

with $\hat{\chi}_0(q) = -(T/N) \sum_k \hat{G}(k+q)\hat{G}(k)$, where $k = (\mathbf{k}, i\varepsilon_m)$, $q = (\mathbf{q}, i\omega_n)$ and $\omega_n = 2n\pi T$. In eq. (3), $\hat{\Gamma}_{s(c)}(i\omega_n)$ is the local irreducible spin (charge-orbital) vertex in which only the external frequency (ω_n) dependence is considered as a simplified approximation²⁰ and is explicitly given by

$$\hat{\Gamma}_{s(c)}(i\omega_n) = -(+) \left[\hat{\chi}_{s(c)}^{-1}(i\omega_n) - \hat{\chi}_0^{-1}(i\omega_n) \right] \quad (4)$$

with $\hat{\chi}_0(i\omega_n) = -T \sum_{\varepsilon_m} \hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m + i\omega_n)\hat{G}(i\varepsilon_m)$, where $\hat{\chi}_{s(c)}(i\omega_n)$ is the local spin (charge-orbital) susceptibility. When the largest eigenvalue α_s (α_c) of $(-)\hat{\chi}_0(q)\hat{\Gamma}_{s(c)}(i\omega_n)$ in eq. (3) for a wave vector \mathbf{q} with $i\omega_n = 0$ reaches unity, the instability towards the magnetic (charge-orbital) order with the corresponding \mathbf{q} takes place.

To examine the superconductivity mediated by the magnetic and charge-orbital fluctuations which are extremely enhanced towards the corresponding orders mentioned above, we write the effective pairing interaction for the spin-singlet state using the spin (charge-orbital) susceptibility and vertex given in eqs. (3) and (4) obtained within the DMFT in the 25×25 matrix representation as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{V}(q) = & \frac{3}{2} \hat{\Gamma}_s(i\omega_n) \hat{\chi}_s(q) \hat{\Gamma}_s(i\omega_n) - \frac{1}{2} \hat{\Gamma}_c(i\omega_n) \hat{\chi}_c(q) \hat{\Gamma}_c(i\omega_n) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\hat{\Gamma}_s^{(0)} + \hat{\Gamma}_c^{(0)}) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

with the bare spin (charge-orbital) vertex: $[\Gamma_{s(c)}^{(0)}]_{\ell\ell\ell\ell} = U(U)$, $[\Gamma_{s(c)}^{(0)}]_{\ell\ell'\ell\ell'} = U'(-U' + 2J)$, $[\Gamma_{s(c)}^{(0)}]_{\ell\ell\ell'\ell'} = J(2U' - J)$ and $[\Gamma_{s(c)}^{(0)}]_{\ell\ell'\ell'\ell} = J'(J')$, where $\ell' \neq \ell$ and the other matrix elements are 0. Substituting the effective pairing interaction eq. (5) and the lattice Green's function eq. (2) into the linearized Eliashberg equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \Delta_{ll'}(k) = & -\frac{T}{N} \sum_{k'} \sum_{l_1 l_2 l_3 l_4} V_{ll_1, l_2 l' l_4}(k - k') \\ & \times G_{l_3 l_1}(-k') \Delta_{l_3 l_4}(k') G_{l_4 l_2}(k'), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

we obtain the gap function $\Delta_{ll'}(k)$ with the eigenvalue λ which becomes unity at the superconducting transition temperature $T = T_c$. In eq. (6), $\Delta_{ll'}(k)$ includes the $1/d$ corrections yielding the \mathbf{k} dependence of the gap function responsible for the anisotropic superconductivity which is not obtained within the zeroth order of $1/d$.¹⁷ If we replace $\hat{\Gamma}_{s(c)}$ with $\hat{\Gamma}_s^{(0)}$ and neglect $\hat{\Sigma}$, eq. (5) yields the RPA result of $\hat{V}(q)$.⁷⁻¹¹ Therefore, eq. (6) with eqs. (2) and (5) is a straightforward extension of the RPA to include the vertex and the self-energy corrections within the DMFT without any double counting.

In the actual calculations with the DMFT, we solve the effective 5-orbital impurity Anderson model, where the Coulomb interaction at the impurity site is given by the same form as \hat{H}_{int} with a site i and the kinetic energy responsible for \hat{G} in eq. (1) is determined so as to satisfy the self-consistency condition as possible, by using the exact diagonalization (ED) method for a finite-size cluster to obtain the

local quantities such as $\hat{\Sigma}$ and $\hat{\chi}_{s(c)}$. Since the multi-orbital system requires rather CPU-time and memory consuming calculations, we employ the clusters with the site number $N_s = 4$ within a restricted Hilbert space.²¹ We have also performed preliminary calculations with $N_s = 2$ ²² and have confirmed that the results with $N_s = 4$ are qualitatively consistent with those with $N_s = 2$ and quantitatively improved especially for the intermediate interaction regime as previously observed in the DMFT+ED approaches for the multi-band and multi-orbital models.²³⁻²⁶ In fact, the DMFT results from the ED with $N_s = 4$ are quantitatively in good agreement with the precise results from the numerical renormalization group²⁷ for the 2-orbital Hubbard model and those from the continuous-time quantum Monte Carlo²⁸ for the 3-orbital Hubbard model.²⁶ As for the 5-orbital Hubbard model, the ED results with $N_s = 3$ are found to agree with those with $N_s = 2$.²⁶ Therefore, we expect that the ED calculations with $N_s = 4$ yield quantitatively reliable results also for the present 5-orbital Hubbard model. All calculations are performed at $T = 0.02\text{eV}$ for the electron number $n = 6.0$ corresponding to the non-doped case. We use 32×32 \mathbf{k} -point meshes and 1024 Matsubara frequencies in the numerical calculations with the fast Fourier transformation. Here and hereafter, we measure the energy in units of eV.

In the previous RPA study,⁸ it was found that the s_{\pm} -pairing is mediated by the magnetic fluctuation near the AFM order for $U > U'$, while the s_{++} -pairing is mediated by the orbital fluctuation near the FO order for $U < U'$, where the superconductivity is investigated in the wide parameter space by treating U , U' , J and J' as independent parameters apart from the condition satisfied in the isolated atom: $U = U' + 2J$ and $J = J'$. Correspondingly, we consider the two specific cases with $U > U'$ and $U < U'$ to elucidate the correlation effects beyond the RPA on the magnetic and orbital orders and the those fluctuations mediated superconductivity.

First, we consider the case with $U > U'$, where the magnetic fluctuation dominates over the orbital fluctuation. In Fig. 1, several physical quantities are plotted as functions of U with $U = U' + 2J$, $J/U = 0.1$ and $J = J'$. Fig. 1 (a) shows the renormalization factor defined by: $Z_\ell = \left[1 - \frac{d\Sigma_\ell(\varepsilon)}{d\varepsilon} \Big|_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \right]^{-1}$ with orbital $\ell = d_{x^2-y^2}, d_{3z^2-r^2}, d_{zx}, d_{yz}$ and d_{xy} . When U increases, all of Z_ℓ monotonically decrease with increasing the variance of Z_ℓ . We find that Z_ℓ for $\ell = d_{xy}$ is the smallest for all U and finally becomes zero at $U_c \sim 5$ while Z_ℓ for $\ell \neq d_{xy}$ are finite revealing the OSMT,²¹ as recently discussed in $\text{K}_x\text{Fe}_{2-y}\text{Se}_2$ ¹⁵ and KFe_2As_2 ¹⁶ where the ARPES experiments are well accounted for by the slave-spin mean-field^{15,29} and the slave-boson mean-field (Gutzwiller)¹⁶ approximations yielding the OSMT with $Z_{d_{xy}} \rightarrow 0$. We note that, even in the intermediate correlation regime away from the OSMT, the large orbital dependence of Z_ℓ results in the significant change in the band dispersion²¹ which is consistent with the recent high-resolution ARPES measurements for $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{K}_{0.4}\text{Fe}_2\text{As}_2$.¹⁴

Figs. 1 (b) and (c) show the U dependence of the largest eigenvalues α_s and α_c for several wave vectors \mathbf{q} , where $\alpha_{s(c)}$ shows a maximum at $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}_{\text{max}}$. When U increases, both α_s and α_c increase with $\alpha_s > \alpha_c$ and α_s becomes unity at $U_c^{\text{AFM}} \sim 2.40$ where the magnetic susceptibility with $\mathbf{q} \sim (\pi, 0)$ corresponding to the stripe-type AFM diverges.

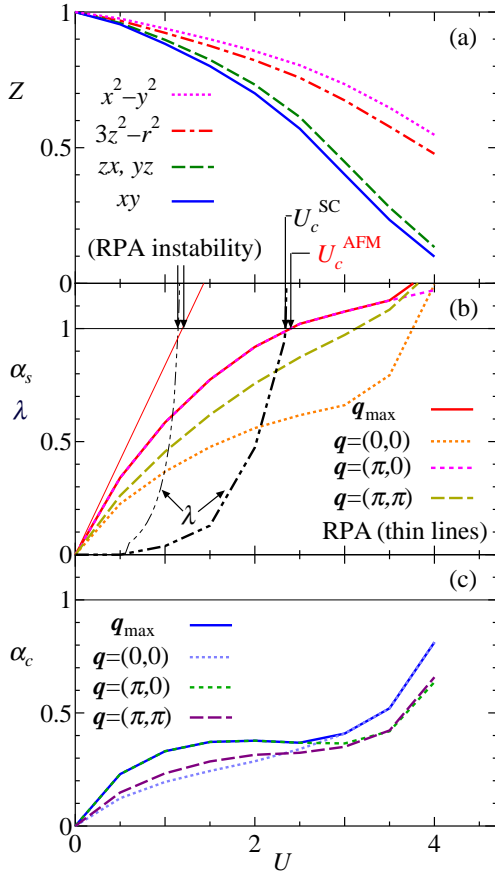


Fig. 1. (Color online) (a) The renormalization factor Z_ℓ with $\ell = d_{x^2-y^2}, d_{3z^2-r^2}, d_{zx}, d_{yz}$ and d_{xy} , (b) and (c) the largest eigenvalues α_s and α_c for several q and λ which reach unity towards the magnetic, charge-orbital and superconducting instabilities, respectively, as functions of U with $U = U' + 2J$, $J/U = 0.1$ and $J = J'$ for $n = 6.0$ and $T = 0.02$. The RPA results of α_s for q_{max} and λ are also plotted by thin lines in (b).

The largest eigenvalue λ of the Eliashberg equation (6) is also plotted in Fig. 1 (b) and is found to increase with increasing α_s and finally reaches unity at $U_c^{SC} \sim 2.34$ where the superconducting instability occurs. For comparison, we also plot the RPA results of α_s for q_{max} and λ in Fig. 1 (b) and find that the critical interactions U_c^{AFM} and U_c^{SC} from the DMFT are about twice larger than those from the RPA⁷⁾ due to the correlation effects beyond the RPA and are consistent with the values of the effective Coulomb interactions derived from the downfolding scheme based on first-principles calculations.³⁰⁾

In Figs. 2 (a)-(f), we show the d_{xy} intra-orbital components of the spin (charge-orbital) susceptibility χ^s (χ^c) and the pairing interaction V , together with the band-diagonal components of the gap functions Δ with the lowest Matsubara frequency $i\varepsilon_m = i\pi T$ for $U = 2.28$, $U' = 1.824$ and $J = J' = 0.228$. In this case, the enhanced spin susceptibility for $q \sim (\pi, 0)$, i. e., the stripe-type AFM fluctuation yields the large positive value of the effective pairing interaction V for $q \sim (\pi, 0)$ resulting in the gap function with sign change between the electron and hole FSs, i. e., the s_\pm -wave state. Figs. 2 (g)-(l), we also show the corresponding RPA results for $U = 1.15$, $U' = 0.92$ and $J = J' = 0.115$. As the q dependence of χ^s and V from the DMFT becomes weak as compared to the RPA results due to the local correlation

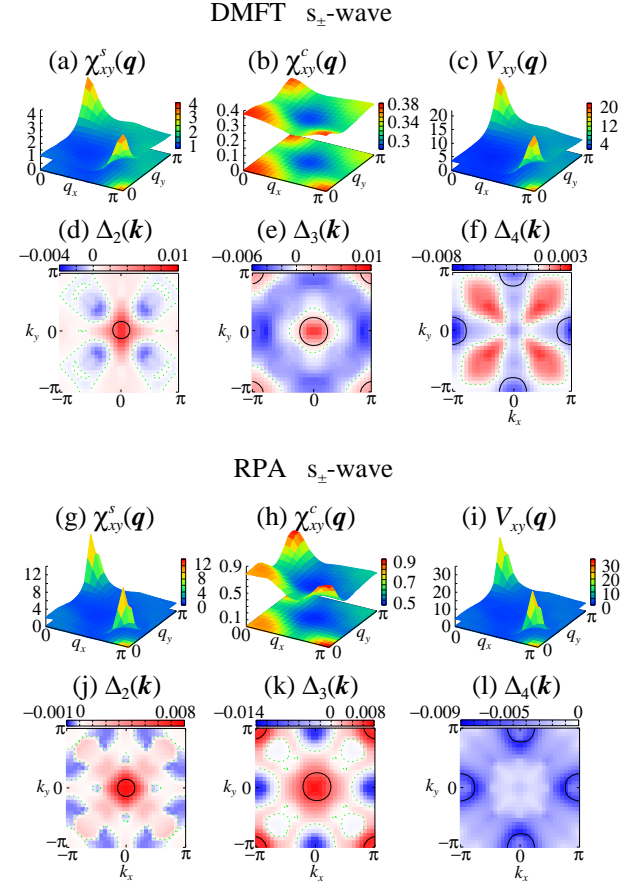


Fig. 2. (Color online) DMFT results for the d_{xy} intra-orbital components of the spin susceptibility χ^s (a), the charge-orbital susceptibility χ^c (b) and the pairing interaction V (c), and those for the band-diagonal components of the gap function Δ with the lowest Matsubara frequency $i\varepsilon_m = i\pi T$ for band 2 (d) and band 3 (e) (band 4 (f)) with the hole (electron) FSs (solid lines) for $U = 2.28$, $U' = 1.824$ and $J = J' = 0.228$, where $\alpha_s = 0.964$ for q_{max} . (g)-(l) The corresponding RPA results for $U = 1.15$, $U' = 0.92$ and $J = J' = 0.115$, where $\alpha_s = 0.964$ for q_{max} .

effects, the s_\pm -pairing phase is reduced relative to the RPA result as shown in Fig. 1 (b).

Next, we consider the case with $U < U'$, where the orbital fluctuation dominates over the magnetic fluctuation. Figs. 3 (a)-(c) show the renormalization factor Z_ℓ and the largest eigenvalues α_s , α_c and λ as functions of U' with $U = 0.25U' + 2J$, $J/U = 0.1$ and $J = J'$. When U' increases, Z_ℓ for all ℓ monotonically decrease with keeping the smallest value for $\ell = d_{xy}$, similar to the case of Fig. 1 (a). When U' increases, both α_s and α_c increase with $\alpha_s < \alpha_c$ and α_c becomes unity at $U_c^{FO} \sim 2.28$ where the orbital susceptibility with $q \sim (0, 0)$ corresponding to the FO diverges. We note that $q_{max} = (0, \pi/4)$ just below U_c^{FO} with $\alpha_c = 0.98$ and $q_{max} = (0, 0)$ just above U_c^{FO} with $\alpha_c = 1.03$, while it is difficult to determine q_{max} precisely at U_c^{FO} with $\alpha_c = 1$ within the present numerical resolution as χ_c diverges almost simultaneously for $q \sim (0, 0)$ and then we call the FO in a broad sense. With increasing α_c , λ increases and finally reaches unity at $U_c^{SC} \sim 1.54$ where the superconducting instability occurs. For comparison, we also plot the RPA results of α_c for q_{max} and λ in Fig. 3 (c), and find that U_c^{FO} and U_c^{SC} from the DMFT are larger than those from the RPA due to the correlation effects beyond the RPA. Remarkably, the DMFT

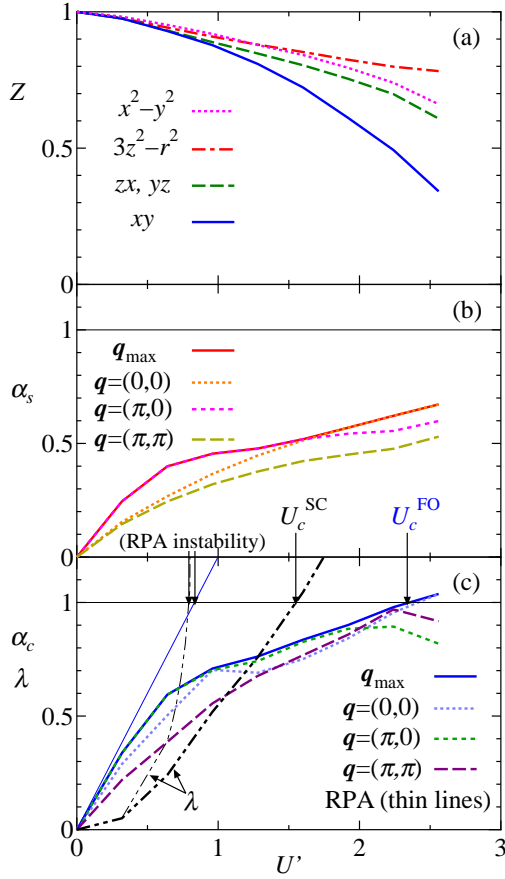


Fig. 3. (Color online) (a) The renormalization factor Z_ℓ with $\ell = d_{x^2-y^2}, d_{3z^2-r^2}, d_{zx}, d_{yz}$ and d_{xy} , (b) and (c) the largest eigenvalues α_s and α_c for several q and λ which reach unity towards the magnetic, charge-orbital and superconducting instabilities, respectively, as functions of U' with $U = 0.25U' + 2J$, $J/U = 0.1$ and $J = J'$ for $n = 6.0$ and $T = 0.02$. The RPA results of α_c for q_{\max} and λ are also plotted by thin lines in (c).

result of the s_{++} -pairing phase with $U_c^{\text{SC}} < U < U_c^{\text{FO}}$ is largely expanded as compared to the RPA result, in contrast to the case with the s_{\pm} -pairing phase which is reduced (see Fig. 1 (b)).

In Figs. 4 (a)-(f), we show the same physical quantities as in Figs. 2 (a)-(f) for $U = 0.4$, $U' = 1.28$ and $J = J' = 0.04$. In this case, the enhanced orbital susceptibility in the whole q space yields the negative value of the effective pairing interaction V for all q resulting in the gap function without sign change, i. e., the s_{++} -wave state. In Figs. 4 (g)-(l), we also show the corresponding RPA results for $U = 0.25$, $U' = 0.8$ and $J = J' = 0.025$. As the q dependence of χ^c from the DMFT becomes weak as compared to the RPA result due to the local correlation effects, the local (q -averaged) component of the pairing attraction $|V|$ becomes considerably larger than the RPA result for the same value of α_c for q_{\max} resulting in the remarkable enhancement of the s_{++} -pairing phase which is expanded far away from the FO critical interaction U_c^{FO} ($\alpha_c = 0.82$ for U_c^{SC}) in contrast to the RPA result ($\alpha_c = 0.95$ for U_c^{SC}) as shown in Fig. 3 (c).

In summary, we have investigated the electronic state and the superconductivity in the 5-orbital Hubbard model for iron pnictides by using the DMFT+ED method in conjunction with the linearized Eliashberg equation. All of the critical interac-

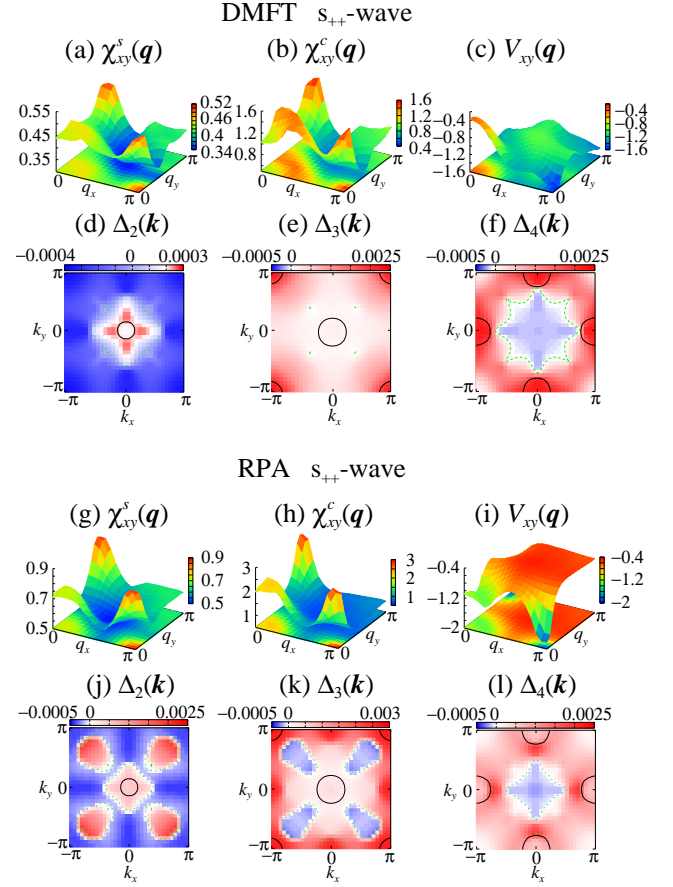


Fig. 4. (Color online) DMFT results for the d_{xy} intra-orbital components of the spin susceptibility χ^s (a), the charge-orbital susceptibility χ^c (b) and the pairing interaction V (c), and those for the band-diagonal components of the gap function Δ with $i\varepsilon_m = i\pi T$ for band 2 (d) and band 3 (e) (band 4 (f)) with the hole (electron) FSs (solid lines) for $U = 0.4$, $U' = 1.28$ and $J = J' = 0.04$, where $\alpha_c = 0.76$ for q_{\max} . (g)-(l) The corresponding RPA results for $U = 0.25$, $U' = 0.8$ and $J = J' = 0.025$, where $\alpha_c = 0.76$ for q_{\max} .

tions towards the magnetic, orbital and superconducting instabilities have been found to be suppressed as compared to the RPA results. Remarkably, the s_{++} -pairing phase due to the orbital fluctuation is largely expanded as compared to the RPA result, while the s_{\pm} -pairing phase due to the magnetic fluctuation is reduced. This is caused by the local correlation effects which enhance the local, i. e., the q -independent magnetic (orbital) fluctuation resulting in the local component of the repulsive (attractive) pairing interaction responsible for the suppression (enhancement) of the s_{\pm} (s_{++})-pairing. Although the case with $U < U'$ is not realistic and the FO fluctuation enhanced there (d_{xy} intra-orbital component) is not corresponding to the softening of C_{66} , the same effects due to the local correlation are expected to occur in the s_{++} -pairing in the realistic cases with the electron-phonon interaction⁹⁻¹¹⁾ and/or the mode-coupling effects of the Coulomb interaction³¹⁾ and will be discussed in subsequent papers.

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