

Technische Universität Graz

Institute of Solid State Physics

Electron bands



Technische Universität Graz

Band Theory, Kittel chapter 7

Calculate the dispersion relation for electrons in a crystal



Linear differential equations with periodic coefficients



Empty lattice approximation



Bloch Theorem $\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}u_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r})$

 $\psi(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} C_{\vec{k}} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}$ Any wave function that satisfies periodic boundary conditions

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{k} \in 1Bz} \sum_{\vec{G}} C_{\vec{k}+\vec{G}} e^{i(\vec{k}+\vec{G})\cdot\vec{r}}$$

These *k*'s label the symmetries

periodic function

$$\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) = \sum_{\vec{G}} C_{\vec{k}+\vec{G}} e^{i(\vec{k}+\vec{G})\cdot\vec{r}} = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} \sum_{\vec{G}} C_{\vec{k}+\vec{G}} e^{i\vec{G}\cdot\vec{r}} = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} u_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r})$$

 $T_{mnl}\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{r}+m\vec{a}_1+n\vec{a}_2+l\vec{a}_3)}u_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}+m\vec{a}_1+n\vec{a}_2+l\vec{a}_3) = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(m\vec{a}_1+n\vec{a}_2+l\vec{a}_3)}\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r})$

Bloch form
$$\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}u_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r})$$

Eigen function solutions of the Schrödinger equation have Bloch form.

Empty lattice approximation



Empty lattice approximation



Band Structure of Aluminum

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empty lattice approximation







Solutions can be found in region I and region II Match boundary conditions



Solutions can be found that are simultaneous eigenfunctions of the Hamiltonian and the translation operator.

Eigenfunctions of the translation operator can be found in terms of any two linearly independent solutions. A convenient choice is:

$$\psi_1(0) = 1, \qquad \frac{d\psi_1}{dx}(0) = 0, \qquad \psi_2(0) = 0, \qquad \frac{d\psi_2}{dx}(0) = 1.$$



for
$$b < x < a$$

 $\psi_1(x) = \cos(k_2(x-b))\cos(k_1b) - \frac{k_1\sin(k_2(x-b))\sin(k_1b)}{k_2}$,
 $\psi_2(x) = \frac{\cos(k_2(x-b))\sin(k_1b)}{k_1} + \frac{\sin(k_2(x-b))\cos(k_1b)}{k_2}$.

Except for the coefficients, these are the same solutions as we found for light in a layered material.



The translation operator translates the function a distance *a*.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_1(x+a) \\ \psi_2(x+a) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} \\ T_{21} & T_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \psi_2(x) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The elements of the translation operator can be evaluated at x = a.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_1(x+a) \\ \psi_2(x+a) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \psi_1(a) & \frac{d\psi_1}{dx}(a) \\ \psi_2(a) & \frac{d\psi_2}{dx}(a) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \psi_2(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

The eigen functions and eigen values are

$$\psi_{\pm}(x) = \frac{2\psi_2(a)}{\frac{d\psi_2(a)}{dx} - \psi_1(a) \pm \delta} \psi_1(x) + \psi_2(x), \qquad \lambda \pm = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha \pm \delta),$$

$$\delta = \sqrt{\alpha^2 - 4}$$

$$\alpha = \psi_1(a) + \frac{d\psi_2(a)}{dx} = 2\cos(k_2(a-b))\cos(k_1b) - \left(\frac{k_2}{k_1} + \frac{k_1}{k_2}\right)\sin(k_2(a-b))\sin(k_1b).$$

If $\alpha > 2$, the potential acts like a mirror for electrons





(a) The energy-wave number dispersion relation. The dashed line is the Fermi energy. (b) The density of states. (c) The internal energy density (solid line) and Helmholtz free energy density (dashed line). (d) The chemical potential (solid line) and the specific heat (dashed line). All of the plots were drawn for a square wave potential with the parameters: V = 12.5 eV, $a = 2 \times 10^{-10}$ m, $b = 5 \times 10^{-11}$ m, and an electron density of n = 3 electrons/primitive cell.

A separable potential



 Ψ is the product of the solutions to the Kronig-Penney model.

$$\Psi(x, y, z) = \psi_{KP}(x)\psi_{KP}(y)\psi_{KP}(z)$$

A separable potential



http://lampx.tugraz.at/~hadley/ss1/separablecrystals/thermo.html

Bloch waves in 1-D



Band structure in 1-D

