# PHY 481/581 Intro Nano-MSE:

Applying simple Quantum Mechanics to nanoscience problems, part II



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### **Potential Barrier Penetration: Potential Step**

We divide the system into two regions (I and II). In region I, the particle is free to move around as the potential energy V = 0. The Schrödinger equation can be simplified to



Since the particle can travel in the forward as well as backward directions, we can express the wavefunction as

$$\psi_I(x) = Fe^{ikx} + Ge^{-ikx} \tag{3.36}$$

where the first term represents the incident wave while the second term represents the reflected wave. *F* and *G* are coefficients that can be determined using the boundary conditions.

For region II, the potential has a finite height of  $V_o$  such that  $V_o > E$ , where E is the energy of the particle. The Schrödinger equation can be expressed as

$$-\frac{h^2}{8m\pi^2} \frac{d^2\psi_{II}}{dx^2} = (E - V_o)\psi_{II}$$
(3.37)

 $\frac{d^2\psi_{II}}{dx^2} = \kappa^2\psi_{II}$   $\kappa^2 = 8m\pi^2(Vo - E)/h^2$ We simply change sign to avoid going complex  $\psi_{II}(x) = He^{-\kappa x}$ (3.39)

To determine the coefficients *F*, *G* and *H* in Eqs. (3.36) and (3.39),  $\psi(x)$  and  $d\psi(x)/dx$  must be continuous at the boundary points x = 0. We have

$$\psi_I(0) = \psi_{II}(0) \tag{3.40}$$

$$\frac{d\psi_I}{dx} = \frac{d\psi_{II}}{dx} \tag{3.41}$$

#### and thus

$$F + G = H \quad ik(F - G) = -\kappa H$$

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For region I

$$\psi_I(x) = F\left(e^{ikx} + \frac{ik+\kappa}{ik-\kappa}e^{-ikx}\right)$$
(3.42)

For region II

$$\psi_{II}(x) = F \frac{2ik}{ik - \kappa} e^{-\kappa x} \tag{3.43}$$

Hence we can see that  $\psi(x)$  is non-zero inside the potential step and thus it is possible for a particle to penetrate into the potential barrier! This is not allowed in classical physics.

 $\psi_{II}$  is called the evanescent wave, it is rapidly (exponentially) decaying,

also note that it has a real exponent, so it is not traveling (as the exponent cannot be converted into  $\cos \kappa x - i \sin \kappa x$  as we can for  $\psi_i$ ), it cannot be detected in the barrier as it would not move into any detector, but has a non-zero probability density of being detected there

Also note that  $\psi_l$  is actually the sum of two traveling waves, one traveling to the right, (i.e. coming in) with exp (ikx) and one traveling to the left with exp (-ikx) being reflected, for a stream of particles, all particles are accounted for as ma<sup>Ay</sup> come in, as many get reflected, no particles disappears into the barrier

### **Potential Barrier and Quantum Tunneling**

As mentioned in the previous section, there is a probability that the wavefunction can penetrate into the potential step. This situation becomes very interesting if the potential step is replaced by a potential barrier. If the potential barrier width *W* is narrow, it is possible for a particle to penetrate through the potential barrier and appear on the other side! This phenomenon is known as quantum tunneling. Let us consider the potential barrier shown in Fig. 3.8. We divide the system into three region I, II and III as shown.



For regions I and III with V = 0, the Schrödinger equation is given by Eq. (3.34) hence we can write down the wavefunction as

$$\psi_I(x) = Pe^{ikx} + Qe^{-ikx} \tag{3.44}$$

and

$$\psi_{III}(x) = Se^{ikx} \tag{3.45}$$

We have to account for the presence of the reflected wave in region I while there is no reflected wave in region III.

The intensities of the incident, reflected and transmitted probability current densities, *J*, are given by

$$J = v |P|^2$$
,  $J = v |Q|^2$ ,  $J = v |S|^2$  (3.46)

where  $v = \frac{hk}{m}$  represents the magnitude of the velocity of the particle. The reflection coefficient *R* and the transmission coefficient

T add up to unity, no particle gets stuck in the barrier in other words, it is just that the amplitude of the transmitted wave will be smaller than the amplitude of the incoming wave, because there is also a reflected wave. (remember: amplitude corresponds to number of particles) *T* are respectively given by

$$R = \frac{|Q|^2}{|P|^2}$$
(3.47)  
$$T = \frac{|S|^2}{|S|^2}$$
(2.40)

$$T = \frac{|S|^2}{|P|^2} \tag{3.48}$$

Similarly, for region II, the Schrödinger equation is given by Eq. (3.37). The wavefunction is therefore

$$\psi_{II}(x) = Ue^{\kappa x} + Ve^{-\kappa x} \tag{3.49}$$

To determine the coefficients in the wavefunctions, we make use of boundary conditions again.

$$R = \left[1 + \frac{4E(V_o - E)}{V_o^2 \sinh^2(\kappa W)}\right]^{-1}$$
(3.52)

$$T = \left[1 + \frac{V_o^2 \sinh^2(\kappa W)}{4E(V_o - E)}\right]^{-1}$$
(3.53)

Note that  $\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$  and  $\cosh(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$ .

If  $\kappa W \gg 1$ , then we can use the approximation  $\sinh(\kappa W) \sim \frac{1}{2} \exp(\kappa W)$ , and the transmission coefficient becomes  $\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{8m\pi^2(V_0 - E)}{h^2}}$ 16 $E(V_0 - E) = 2\pi W$ 

$$T \approx \frac{\sqrt{c}}{V_o^2} e^{-2\kappa V} \tag{3.54}$$

The probability that the particle can tunnel through the barrier thus depends on the barrier width and the barrier potential height. This relation is an important result for quantum tunneling and the scanning tunneling microscope (see Chapter 8).

The pre-factor in front of the exponential is frequently set to unity as another approximation

Note the difference ( $V_0$ -E), the mass of the particle, the widths of the barrier, and h-bar are all in the exponent

So if the mass is large, tunneling to some appreciable amount is not going to happen even if  $V_0$  is very close to E and W is comparably small

### Analogy effect for classical waves

- If light passing through a glass prism reflects from an internal surface with an angle greater than the critical angle, total internal reflection occurs. However, the electromagnetic field is not exactly zero just outside the prism. If we bring another prism very close to the first one, experiments show that the electromagnetic wave (light) appears in the second prism. The situation is analogous to the tunneling described here. This effect was observed by Newton and can be demonstrated with two prisms and a laser. The intensity of the second light beam decreases exponentially as the distance between the two prisms increases.
- Light is totally internally reflected due to sudden change in refractive index from glass to air,
- for the critical angle of total internal reflection, this constitutes a barrier that cannot be penetrated, the mathematics of the classical (Helmholtz wave equation, however, requires an evanescent wave)
- Water waves tunnel as well, a situation analogous to total internal reflection has been set up in a water tank, a sudden increase in the water depth corresponds to a barrier where the water waves should speed up, reducing that barrier allows for the energy of the water wave to tunnel through the barrier and move away on the other side



### HYDROGEN-LIKE ATOMS: ORBITALS AND ATOMIC STRUCTURES

$$V = -\frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_o r} \qquad -\frac{h^2}{8m\pi^2} \left(\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2\psi}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2\psi}{dz^2}\right) - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_o r}\psi = E\psi \qquad (3.56)$$

$$x = r \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi)$$

$$y = r \sin(\theta) \sin(\phi)$$

$$z = r \cos(\theta)$$

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$

1/r is the only variable of the potential (Z is just 1, 2 or 3), this is called a central force potential

$$\psi(r,\theta,\phi) = R(r)Y(\theta,\phi)$$

**Figure 3.11.** Relationship between spherical coordinates and cartesian coordinates.

In spherical coordinates, Eq. (3.56) takes the form

$$-\frac{h^2}{8m\pi^2} \left(\frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin(\theta)}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin^2(\theta)}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2}\right)\psi$$
$$-\frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r}\psi = E\psi \tag{3.62}$$

$$E = -\frac{RhcZ^2}{n^2} \tag{3.57}$$

where *R* is known as the Rydberg constant (=  $1.0974 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$ ), and *c* corresponds to the speed of light. *n* is the principal quantum number and its value ranges from 1 to  $\infty$ . A common form of the equation expressed in units of electron volts is given by

$$E = -\frac{13.6Z^2}{n^2} \text{ (eV)} \qquad (3.58) \qquad \text{For } Z = 1,$$
  
hydrogen,  
$$E_n = E_0/n^2$$

In the absence

of a magnetic

field

Z = 1, 2, 3, but there is only one electron going somehow around the respective nucleus, which contains 1, 2, or 3 protons

Same energy level formulae is obtained from Bohr's model, also Bohr radius for the hydrogen atom, (which gives the most probable radial position of finding the electron when the atom is in the ground state, in a so called 1s orbital)

$$a_0 = \frac{h^2 \mathcal{E}_0}{\pi \cdot m \cdot e^2} = \frac{\hbar}{m \cdot c \cdot \alpha}$$

Where  $\alpha \approx 1/137$ , fine structure constant, ratio of the speed of the electron in hydrogen in the first Bohr orbit to the speed of light

So it is numerically OK that special relativity is neglected, but conceptually we are missing the forth dimension of space time, i.e. a forth quantum number



Spectral lines in the absence of a magnetic field (that would lift the degeneracies that are due to the very

height symmetry of the potential energy function)

### Explains the spectral lines

$$E_{\rm photon} = RhcZ^2 \left(\frac{1}{n_f^2} - \frac{1}{n_i^2}\right)$$



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## Degeneracy

- Analysis of the Schrödinger wave equation in three dimensions introduces three quantum numbers that quantize the energy.
- A quantum state is degenerate when there is more than one wave function for a given energy.
- Degeneracy results from particular properties of the potential energy function that describes the system. A breaking of the symmetry of the potential energy function removes the degeneracy or may creates a different type of degeneracy.

Since it is a 3D problem, there needs to be 3 quantum numbers, n is principal quantum number, *l* is orbital (or angular momentum quantum number),  $m_l$  is magnetic (or z-component angular momentum) quantum number, n = 1 to infinity, *l* = 0 to n -1,  $m_l = -l$  to *l* (including zero)

# Quantization arises simply from the boundary conditions that wave functions have to approach zero at infinity!

magnitude of the angular momentum, L

and the component of the angular momentum along the 
$$z$$
-direction  $L_z$  is given by  $h$ . So angular momentum is qu

$$L_z = m_l \frac{h}{2\pi}$$

So angular momentum is quantized in nature in a different manner than predicted by the Bohr's model (as it neglects Heisenberg's uncertainty relations

By virtue of the uncertainty principle, there can only be certain orientations of the angular momentum vector, phenomenon is commonly referred to as space quantization



 $L = \sqrt{l(l+1)} \frac{h}{2}$ 

$$\psi(r,\theta,\phi) = R(r)Y(\theta,\phi)$$

R(r) is known as the Radial Wavefunction

 $\Upsilon(\theta, \phi)$  Spherical Harmonic

|Angular momentum|<sup>2</sup> operator

$$L^{2}Y = \frac{h^{2}}{4\pi^{2}}l(l+1)Y$$
(3.64)

Angular momentum along *z* direction operator

$$L_z Y = m_l \frac{h}{2\pi} Y$$

where the complete form for Eq. (3.64) can be written as

$$-\frac{h^2}{4\pi^2} \left[ \frac{1}{\sin(\theta)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial Y}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{\sin^2(\theta)} \frac{\partial^2 Y}{\partial \phi^2} \right] = -l(l+1) \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2} Y$$
(3.66)

On the other hand, the radial function satisfies the following equation:

$$-\frac{h^2}{8m\pi^2} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2}\right) R(r) - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r}R(r) = ER(r)$$
(3.67)

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**Table 3.3** Mathematical equations for the radial wavefunctions and the radial probability distributions.

$$\frac{n \quad l \quad R_{nl} \ (\rho = 2Zr/na_0)}{1 \quad 0 \quad R_{10} = 2\left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2}}$$
Table 3.2 Mathematical equations for the various spherical harmonic functions.  

$$\frac{1 \quad 0 \quad R_{10} = 2\left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\rho/2}}{2}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{20} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (2-\rho)e^{-\rho/2}}{1 \quad R_{21} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho e^{-\rho/2}}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{21} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho e^{-\rho/2}}{1 \quad R_{30} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{3}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} (6-6\rho+\rho^2)e^{-\rho/2}}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{31} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho(4-\rho)e^{-\rho/2}}{2}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{31} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{6}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho^2 e^{-\rho/2}}{2}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{32} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{30}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho^2 e^{-\rho/2}}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{32} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{30}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2} \rho^2 e^{-\rho/2}$$

$$\frac{1 \quad R_{32} = \frac{1}{9\sqrt{30}} \left(\frac{Z}{a_0}\right)^{3/2}$$

 $R(r) = R_{nl}$  so the products of the corresponding function for all three quantum numbers gives the full wave function



The maximum of finding the electron at a radial distance is the first Bohr radius for the n = 1, l = 0, the 1s state,

similarly for each quantum state with the highest angular momentum for each principle quantum number n, (e.g. 2,1; 3,2) the probability of finding the electron corresponds to Bohr's semi-classical orbit predictions

$$r_n = a_0 n^2$$

Full electron probability-density distributions for different states, the so called orbitals, plotted for a certain constant probability density cut off, therefore orbitals may look different in different books

to some approximation, the orbitals of other atoms look very similar,





**Figure 4.7** 2p wavefunctions in schematic form. Left panel, complex forms carry angular momentum. Right panel, linear combinations have the same energy, now assume aspect of bonds

 Table 4.1
 One-electron wavefunctions in real form [9]

Complex valued wave functions possess angular momentum, i.e.  $\psi_{22\pm1}$ , whereas  $2p_x$ ,  $2p_y$ ,  $2p_z$  are all real, so do not possess angular momentum,

 $2p_x + i2p_y$  and  $2p_x - i2p_y$  become complex valued

Wavefunction designation	Wavefunction name, real form	Equation for real form of wavefunction*, where $\rho = Zr/a_o$ and $C_1 = Z^{3/2}/\sqrt{\pi}$
$\Psi_{100}$	1s	$C_1 e^{-\rho}$
$\Psi_{200}$	2s	$C_2 (2-\rho) e^{-\rho/2}$
$\Psi_{21,\cos\varphi}$	$2p_x$	$C_2 \rho \sin\theta \cos\varphi e^{-\rho/2}$
$\Psi_{21,\sin\varphi}$	$2p_{\gamma}$	$C_2 \rho \sin\theta \sin\varphi e^{- ho/2}$
$\Psi_{210}$	$2p_z$	$C_2 \rho \cos \theta e^{-\rho/2}$
$\Psi_{300}$	3s	$C_3 (27 - 18\rho + 2\rho^2) e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{31,\cos\varphi}$	$3p_x$	$C_3 (6\rho - \rho^2) \sin\theta \cos\varphi e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{31,\sin\varphi}$	$3p_{\gamma}$	$C_3(6\rho - \rho^2) \sin\theta \sin\varphi e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{310}$	$3p_z$	$C_3(6\rho - \rho^2)\cos\theta \mathrm{e}^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{320}$	$3d_z^2$	$C_4 \rho^2 (3\cos^2\theta - 1) e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{32,\cos\varphi}$	$3d_{xz}$	$C_5 \rho^2 \sin\theta \cos\theta \cos\varphi e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{32,\sin\varphi}$	$3d_{yz}$	$C_5 \rho^2 \sin\theta \cos\theta \sin\varphi e^{- ho/3}$
$\Psi_{_{32,\cos 2\varphi}}$	$3d_{x-y}^{2}$	$C_6 \rho^2 \sin^2 \theta \cos 2\varphi e^{-\rho/3}$
$\Psi_{32,\sin 2\varphi}$	$3d_{xy}$	$C_6 \rho^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin 2\varphi e^{-\rho/3}$

\*  $C_2 = C_1/4\sqrt{2}$ ,  $C_3 = 2C_1/81\sqrt{3}$ ,  $C_4 = C_3/2$ ,  $C_5 = \sqrt{6C_4}$ ,  $C_6 = C_5/2$ .

Schrödinger's time independent equation for a central force potential, is 3D, so we get three quantum numbers, it is an operator level statement that total energy is the sum of classical kinetic energy and potential energy and conserved, also it is a statement that the wave function is an eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian Operator and that the total energy is its eigenvalue

$$-\frac{h^2}{8m\pi^2}\left(\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2\psi}{dy^2} + \frac{d^2\psi}{dz^2}\right) - \frac{Ze^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_o r}\psi = E\psi \qquad (3.56)$$

Sketch of Stern-Gerlach experiment with (non-magnetic) Ag atoms, Hydrogen in the ground state, note the beam of atoms is split into two components by an inhomogeneous magnetic field,



an inhomogeneous magnetic field separates atoms if they are carrying a magnetic moment,

*great surprise* was that Ag and H in ground state need to have a magnetic moment although  $1s^1$  for hydrogen (outermost  $5s^1$ for Ag [Kr]  $4d^{10}5s1$ ) does not magnetic quantum 19 number  $m_l = 0$ 

http://www.if.ufrgs.br/%7Ebetz/quantum/SGPeng.htm

### set of quantum numbers $(n, l, m_l, m_s)$

**Table 3.1** First 10 orbitals and the correspondingquantum numbers of a hydrogen atom.

	n	1	m	S	
1s	1	0	0	1/2, -1/2	
2s	2	0	0	1/2, -1/2	
2p	2	1	1, 0, -1	1/2, -1/2	
3s	3	0	0	1/2, -1/2	
Зр	3	1	1, 0, -1	1/2, -1/2	
3d	3	2	2, 1, 0, -1, -2	1/2, -1/2	
4s	4	0	0	1/2, -1/2	
4p	4	1	1, 0, -1	1/2, -1/2	
4d	4	2	2, 1, 0, -1, -2	1/2, -1/2	
4f	4	3	3, 2, 1, 0, -1, -2, -3	1/2, -1/2	

Spin is something entirely quantum mechanical, it has no classical counterpart, it is an internal degree of freedom that has just two values, up or down about any possible axis,

the electron is not spinning around its axis, if it were, it would need to spin significantly faster than the speed of light and also about any possible axis one can imagine

$$S = rac{h}{2\pi} \sqrt{s(s+1)}$$
 From Dirac's  
relativistic  
analysis  
 $S_z = rac{h}{2\pi} m_s = \pm rac{h}{4\pi}$ 

Four dimensional space time requires 4 quantum numbers. We neglected special relativity because electron on first Bohr orbit was not very fast, while the numerical error was small, the conceptual blunder is large!

# one spin up and one spin down electron fit in each orbital, Pauli's exclusion principle

http://phet.colorado.edu/sims/stern-gerlach/stern-gerlach\_en.html

Electronic structure can be explained approximately by the hydrogen orbital plus Pauli's exclusion principle (each orbital has only space for one spin up and one spin down electron), plus Hund's rule (often when orbitals can be occupied by single electrons with the same spin, this results in strong (ferro) magnetisms (at room temperature) in a few of the elements: Fe, Co, Ni, Gd, and Dy , (C<sub>60</sub> in a meta-stable high pressure-temperature hexagonal crystal phase might also be ferromagnetic due to structural defects since all electron spins are paired)

Н	From Unsöld's theorem, about 1/3 of									He							
ü	Be				are	near	ly sp	heric	al			В	С	N	0	F	Ne
Na	Mg		symi	metri	C							Al	Si	Ρ	S	а	Ar
к	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Υ	Zr	Nb	Мо	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	L	Хө
Cs	Ba	La	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt									

L	anthanides	Сө	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
	Actinides	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

There are many many more molecules than atoms, beyond Bi all elements are unstable (radioactive), U is the heaviest element in nature

The "living domain" of nature builds form complex molecules by lock and key mechanisms (rather than moving individual atoms into place with a STM), atomic orbitals of hydrogen can to some extend be used to model the shape of molecules,<sup>21</sup> there sure will be modifications, e.g. hybridization, ...



Unsöld's theorem states that the square of the total electron wave function for a filled or half-filled sub-shell is spherically symmetric. Thus, atoms containing a half-filled or filled s orbital (I = 0), atoms of the second period with 3 or 6 p (l = 1) electrons are spherically shaped. Likewise, are atoms of the forth period in which there are 5 or 10 d (I = 2)electrons. Hence, spherical atoms are those of the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 12th, 15th and 18th columns of the periodic table. (also applicable to the lanthanides and actinides)

both Bohr and Schrödinger model could be refined with the concept of reduced mass of the electron (the much heavier proton is not really stationary, both particles rotate about their common center of mass)

$$\mu_{e} = \frac{m_{electron} \cdot M_{proton}}{m_{electron} + M_{proton}}$$

$$13.6eV = R_{\infty} \cdot hc$$

Since proton about 1836 times heavier  $\mu_e = 0.999456 \ m_{electron}$ 

Rydberg constant (for infinite nuclear mass) needs to be multiplied with ratio reduced mass to rest mass of electron in order to predict position of spectral lines more precisely

With these concepts, **Positronium**, i.e. an electron and a positron going around each other before they annihilate each other and get converted into two gamma rays can be modeled by the Bohr/Schroedinger model, Bohr radius:  $2 a_0$ , ground state/binging energy: 0.5 times 13.6 eV,

these concepts around Positronium are important in certain characterizing techniques of crystalline materials, detecting certain defects by spectroscopic means

Also an (Mott-Wannier, loosely bound) **Exciton**, i.e. an electron loosely bound to a region of positive charge (hole) in a semiconductor can be modeled by the Bohr/Schroedinger model, depending on the effective mass of the electron and hole (which depend on the second derivative of the energy versus wave vector function – band structure) and the relative dielectric constants (since it is inside a semiconductor): Bohr radii are typically some 10 a<sub>0</sub>, ground state/binging energies are typically: 0.1 times 13.6 eV, **if the exciton is confined into a space below it's Bohr radius, it acquires a set of different energy states, e.g. in self-assembled epi- or endotaxial quantum dots (in organic nano-crystals, there are tightly bound Frenkel excitons)** 



Figure 1.32. The first few energy levels in the Rydberg series of a hydrogen atom (a), positronium (b), and a typical exciton (c).



**Fig. 5.7** Fluorescence from CdSe quantum dots of different sizes. Change in wavelength of fluorescence as a function of size from CdSe quantum dots excited with UV light. Note how the wavelength is reduced (bluer emission) as the size of the quantum dot is reduced. Reproduced with permission from Prof. Bawendi, Department of Chemistry, MIT.

There are also epitaxial semiconductor quantum dots for low threshold lasers



Becomes a particle in a 3D box, energy levels if infinitely deep cubic box, so shift in emission wavelength ~ L<sup>-2</sup>



**Fig. 5.8** CdSe/ZnS core-shell quantum dot. Coating a CdSe quantum dot with ZnS prevents the surface reconstruction of the CdSe surface that leads to the creation of additional electronic states in the bandgap. These promote the relaxation of the excited electrons via non-radiative transitions and decrease the quantum yield of the dot.

Shell around the particles has larger band gap, i.e. it reduces leaking into the barrier, also surface reconstruction of the core material is avoided which would produce extra electronic states in the band gap and reduce the radioactive <sup>24</sup> efficiency of the quantum dots Another important result of relativistic quantum mechanics (that revealed the **existence of the particle property spin**) for more than one particle: there are actually three types of identical particles in the universe, two of them possess the feature of being genuinely indistinguishable from each other by virtue of the uncertainty principle, these are the two identical "quantum particles", fermions and bosons

fermions are the constituents of matter, have half integer spin, electrons, protons, neutrons / bosons are the field particles (and some composites of fermions) with integer spin, e.g. photons, alpha particles

Different statistics apply in each case, below are the probability of finding a certain type of particle as a function of its energy, (kT being thermal energy, A a factor that serves similar "normalization purposes" but differs from energy distribution function to energy distribution function)

Maxwell- Boltzmann (classical)	$f(E) = \frac{1}{Ae^{E/kT}}$	Identical but distinguishable particles, e.g. Molecular speed distribution
Bose-Einstein (quantum)	$f(E) = \frac{1}{Ae^{E/kT} - 1}$	Identical indistinguishable particles with integer spin (bosons), e.g. Thermal radiation, specific heat
Fermi-Dirac (quantum) For thermal equilibrium o	$f(E) = \frac{1}{Ae^{E/kT} + 1}$	Identical indistinguishable particles with half-integer spin (fermions), e.g. Electrons in a metal, conduction in semiconductor

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Even without spin being integer or half integer multiple, is the characteristic of indistinguishability that makes quantum statistics different from classical statistics.

The possible configurations for two distinguishable (particles A and B) in either of two energy states:

State 1	State 2
AB	
А	В
В	А
	AB

The probability of each is one-fourth (0.25). *But if the two particles are indistinguishable (X instead of A and B):* 

Since two particles can occupy the same state here, we are talking about Bosons (and not Fermions)

State 1	State 2
XX	
Х	Х
	XX

The probability of each is one-third (~0.33).



At large temperatures or energies, all three energy state probability distributions converge,

but at very high T, Maxwell-Boltzmann breaks down anyway because it is non relativistic!

## Basic facts about Fermi-Dirac distribution function

Fermi energy is only weakly dependent on temperature, so that dependency is often neglected



Fermi Energy: at T = 0, all levels below  $E_F$  are filled, all levels above it are empty

n(E) dE = g(E) f(E) dE will be number of electrons as a function of energy,

at T > 0, only "a few" electrons will be able to acquire some extra energy from the thermal environment to be able to move around freely and transport electricity or heat from one place to another

Metal	Electron Concentration (m <sup>-3</sup> )	Fermi Energy (eV)	Fermi Speed (m/s)	Fermi Temperature (K)
Li	$4.70  imes 10^{28}$	4.72	$1.29 \times 10^{6}$	$5.48 \times 10^4$
Na	$2.65  imes 10^{28}$	3.23	$1.07 imes10^6$	$3.75  imes 10^4$
K	$1.40  imes 10^{28}$	2.12	$0.86  imes 10^6$	$2.46 \times 10^4$
Cu	$8.49 \times 10^{28}$	7.05	$1.57  imes 10^6$	$8.12 \times 10^4$
Ag	$5.85  imes 10^{28}$	5.48	$1.39  imes 10^6$	$6.36  imes 10^4$
Ag Au	$5.90 imes10^{28}$	5.53	$1.39  imes 10^6$	$6.41 \times 10^{4}$

## Table 10.1Calculated Values of Various Parameters for<br/>Metals Based on the Free Electron Theory

 $\frac{2}{3}$ 

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$$E_F = (3\pi^2)^{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} (\frac{N}{V})$$

average energy per electron  $\overline{E} = \frac{3}{5}E_F$ 

$$v_{Fermi} \approx \sqrt{\frac{2E_F}{m_e}}$$

Only those electrons close to the Fermi level are mobile, (without an applied electric field)

 $T_{Fermi} = \frac{E_F}{k_B}$ 

A gas of classical particles would have to be heated to T<sub>Fermi</sub> in order to have an average kinetic energy per particle that is equal to the Fermi Energy



n(E) is number of electrons per unit volume with energy between E and E + dE

this is the product of the density of state function (here for a bulk material, which is large in all three dimensions) and f(E) for the Fermi-Dirac energy state occupation distribution function

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Only those electrons in the narrow shaded rectangle of width k<sub>B</sub>T can be thermally excited, their fraction **f** is approximately the ratio of that small area to the total area under the curve  $f \approx \frac{3T}{2T_F}$ total energy gained per mol is  $U \approx \frac{3RT^2}{2T_F}$ Electronic heat capacity  $C_{electron\_in\_crystal} = \frac{dU}{dT} \approx 3R\frac{T}{T_F}$ 

with typical values for Fermi Temperature and 300 K, electronic heat capacity is only about 1 % of the classically expected heat capacity for a Maxwell-Boltzmann gas !!

### Under what physical conditions can Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics be employed?

Whenever the wave-particle duality can be ignored, e.g. when average distance between particles, d, is large compared to quantum uncertainty in particle position,  $\Delta x$ 

### Δx << d

For such a particle moving in one direction, average kinetic energy  $p_{x-average}^2 / 2m =$ **k<sub>B</sub>T / 2** from equipartition theorem

$$\Delta p_x \Delta x \ge \hbar / 2 \quad \Delta x \ge \frac{\hbar}{2\sqrt{mk_B T}} \quad d = (V/N)^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad \frac{\hbar}{2\sqrt{mk_B T}} << (V/N)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Let's do two estimations, 1. hydrogen gas at standard temperature and pressure (STP)



273 K, 1 atmosphere, I mol H<sub>2</sub> gas 6.02 1<sup>23</sup> molecules

engines, Carnot cycle, ... (modification real gas laws)

Let's do two estimations, 2. electrons in silver at 300 K?

= 3.71 not much smaller than 1 !! so  $n = (N/V) = 5.86 \ 10^{28}$  free electrons m<sup>-3</sup>, anything to do with electrons in the solid (about 2000 times denser than hydrogen gas at STP), electron much lighter than H<sub>2</sub>state is to be treated with quantum 31 statistics !

## Free electron gas (Drude theory) in a metal,

there are positively charged ions (the former atoms of the metal) that have donated their outer electron (or electrons depending on the chemical valance) to the collective "sea of electrons", some of the electrons are free to move in the crystal lattice, if it were not for deviations from the perfect lattice, i.e. point defects or lattice vibrations, they would not be scattered, however they do obey Fermi-Dirac statistics since they are Fermions, neglecting this property and assuming the validity of classical physics (Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics) instead) leads at best to *fortuitous results* "similar" models for thermal and electrical Drude, J.J. Thomson, conductivity for metals, on basis of free electron Lorenz assumed wrongly that the free gas, treated with Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics electron gas would i.e. as if it were an ideal gas

Lorenz numbers, a fortuitous result, don't be fooled, the physics (Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics) behind it is not applicable as we estimated earlier

But Fermi-Dirac statistics gets us the right physics

behave classically

Table 12.5	Thermal Conductivity, $K$ , and Electrical Conductivity, $\sigma$ , of Selected Substances at Room Temperature					
Substance	$K$ in $W \cdot m^{-1} K^{-1}$	$\sigma$ in $(\Omega \cdot \mathbf{m})^{-1}$				
Silver	427	$62 \times 10^{6}$				
Copper	390	$59 imes10^6$				
Gold	314	$41  imes 10^6$				
Aluminum	210	$35 imes10^6$				
Iron	63	$10  imes 10^6$				
Steel	50	$1.4  imes 10^6$				
Nichrome	14	$0.9 imes10^6$				
Quartz	13					
NaCl	7.0	$< 10^{-4}$				

Metals have high conductivities for both electricity and heat. To explain both the high conductivities and the trend in this table we need to have a model for both thermal and electrical conductivity, that model should be able to explain empirical observations, i.e. Ohm's law, thermal conductivity, Wiedemann-Franz law,

Table 12.7ExperimentalLorentz Numbers  $K/\sigma T$  inUnits of  $10^{-8}$  W  $\cdot \Omega/K^{2*}$ 

Metal	273 K	300K	373 K
Ag	2.31	2.3	2.37
Au	2.35	2.55	2.40
Cd	2.42		2.43
Cu	2.23	2.2	2.33
Ir	2.49		2.49
Mo	2.61		2.79
Pb	2.47		2.56
Pt	2.51		2.60
Sn	2.52		2.49
W	3.04		3.20
Zn	2.31		2.33

 $\frac{K}{\sigma T} = \frac{3k_B^2}{2e^2} \approx 1.12 \cdot 10^{-8} W \Omega K^{-2}$ 

Wiedemann and Franz Law, 1853, ratio K/ $\sigma$ T = Lorenz number = constant  $\approx$  2.4 10<sup>-8</sup> W  $\Omega$  K <sup>-2</sup>

independent of the metal considered !! So both phenomena should be based on similar physical idea !!!

Classical from Drude (early 1900s) theory of free electron gas that behaves classically

Too small by factor 2, seems not too bad ???

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To explain the high conductivities and the trend we need to have a model for both thermal and electrical conductivity, that model should be able to explain

Ohm's law, empirical for many metals and insulators, ohmic solids Conductivity, resistivity is its reciprocal value

 $J = \sigma E$  current density is proportional to applied electric field

 $R = U / for a wire R = P / A \rho$ : specific resistivity

J: current density A/m<sup>2</sup>

 $\sigma$  electrical conductivity  $\Omega^{-1}$  m<sup>-1</sup>, reciprocal value of electrical resistivity

E: electric field V/m

 $\sigma = \rho^{-1}$ 

A constant that does depend on the material and temperature but not the applied electric field and represents the connection between <sup>35</sup> current and voltage Gas of classical charged particles, electrons, moves through immobile heavy ions arranged in a lattice, v<sub>rms</sub> from equipartition theorem (which is of course derived from Boltzmann statistics)



Figure 12.11 (a) Random successive displacements of an electron in a metal without an applied electric field.


Figure 12.11 (b) A combination of random displacements and displacements produced by an external electric field. The net effect of the electric field is to add together multiple displacements of length  $v_d \tau$  opposite the field direction. For purposes of illustration, this figure greatly exaggerates the size of  $v_d$  compared with  $v_{ms}$ .



Figure 12.12 The connection between current density, *J*, and drift velocity,  $v_{d}$ . The charge that passes through *A* in time *dt* is the charge contained in the small parallelepiped,  $neAv_{d} dt$ .

n is density of electrons per volume

$$J = \frac{neAv_d dt}{Adt} = nev_d$$

Substituting for v<sub>d</sub>

$$J = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m_e}E$$

So the correct form of Ohm's law is predicted by the Drude model !!

$$J = \sigma E$$



Proof of the pudding: L should be on the order of magnitude of the inter-atomic distances, e.g. for Cu 0.26 nm

$$\sigma = \frac{8.49 \cdot 10^{22} cm^{-3} (6.02 \cdot 10^{-19} C)^2 \cdot 0.26 nm}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} JK^{-1} \cdot 300 K \cdot 9.109 \cdot 10^{-31} kg}}$$

 $\sigma_{Cu, 300 \text{ K}} = 5.3 \ 10^6 \ (\Omega \text{m})^{-1}$  compare with experimental value 59  $10^6 \ \Omega \text{m}$ )  $^{-1}$ , something must we wrong with the classical L and  $v_{rms}$  8

Result of Drude theory one order of magnitude too small, so L must be much larger, this is because the electrons are not classical particles, but wavicals, don't scatter like particles, in addition, the v<sub>rms</sub> from Boltzmann-Maxwell is one order of magnitude smaller than the v<sub>fermi</sub> following from Fermi-Dirac statistics

## Table 12.6Electrical Conductivity ofMetals at 300 K

Substance	Measured $\sigma$ in $(\Omega \cdot m)^{-1}$	
Copper	$59  imes 10^6$	
Aluminum	$35  imes 10^6$	
Sodium	$22  imes 10^6$	
Iron	$10  imes 10^6$	
Mercury	$1.0 imes10^6$	



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Figure 12.13 The resistivity of pure copper as a function of temperature.

Phenomenological similarity conduction of electricity and conduction of heat, so free electron gas should also be the key to understanding thermal conductivity



Ohm's law with Voltage gradient,

thermal energy conducted through area A in time interval  $\Delta$ 't is proportional to temperature gradient



Using Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics, equipartion theorem, formulae of  $C_v$  for ideal gas =  $\frac{3}{2} k_B n$ 

$$K = \frac{k_B n v_{rms} L}{2}$$

Classical expression for K

$$v_{rms} = \sqrt{\bar{v}}^{-2} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_BT}{m_e}} \qquad \text{For 300 K and Cu} \\ v_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{3 \cdot 1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} 300 K}{9.109 \cdot 10^{-31} kg}} \\ \text{Lets} \qquad K = \frac{k_B n v_{rms} L}{2} \qquad \approx 10^5 \text{ m/s} \\ K = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{22} cm^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 nm}{2} \\ K = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^5 ms^{-1} \cdot 0.26 \cdot 10^{-9} m}{2} \\ \text{K} = \frac{1.381 \cdot 10^{-23} J K^{-1} \cdot 8.48 \cdot 10^{-28} m^{-3} \cdot 1.1681 \cdot 10^{-28}$$

 $K = 17.78 \frac{Ws}{Kms}$ 

Experimental value for Cu at  $(300 \text{ K}) = 390 \text{ Wm}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ , again one order of magnitude too small, actually roughly 20 times too small 12

This was also one order of magnitude too small,

$$\frac{K}{\sigma} = \frac{k_B n v_{rms} L m_e v_{mrs}}{2ne^2 L} = \frac{k_B m_e v_{mrs}^2}{2e^2}$$

With  
Maxwell- 
$$v_{rms} = \sqrt{\bar{v}^2} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_BT}{m_e}}$$
  
Boltzmann

ne<sup>2</sup>L

 $m_e v_{rms}$ 

 $\sigma$ 

Lorenz number classical <sup>K</sup>/<sub>o</sub>

$$\frac{K}{\sigma T} = \frac{3k_B^2}{2e^2} \approx 1.12 \cdot 10^{-8} W \Omega K^{-2}$$

Wrong only by a factor of about 2, Such an agreement is called fortuitous

 $K_{\sigma} = \frac{3k_B^2}{2\rho^2}T$ 

## Lorenz rather than Lorentz

## Table 12.7ExperimentalLorentz Numbers $K/\sigma T$ inUnits of $10^{-8}$ W $\cdot \Omega/K^{2*}$

Metal	273 K	373 K
Ag	2.31	2.37
Au	2.35	2.40
Cd	2.42	2.43
Cu	2.23	2.33
Ir	2.49	2.49
Mo	2.61	2.79
Pb	2.47	2.56
Pt	2.51	2.60
Sn	2.52	2.49
W	3.04	3.20
Zn	2.31	2.33

replace 
$$L_{\text{for}\_a\_particle}$$
 with  $L_{\text{for}\_a\_wavial}$  and  $v_{\text{rms}}$  with  $v_{\text{fermi}}$ ,  
 $\sigma_{classical} = \frac{ne^2 L_{for\_a\_particle}}{m_e v_{rms}} \longrightarrow \sigma_{quantum} = \frac{ne^2 L_{for\_a\_wavical}}{m_e v_{fermi}}$ 
 $L_{for\_a\_wavical} = \frac{m_e v_{fermi} \sigma_{quantum}}{ne^2}$ 
 $v_{rms} = \sqrt{\overline{v}^2} = \sqrt{\frac{3k_B T}{m_e}} \longrightarrow v_{fermi} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_F}{m_e}}$ 

For Cu (at 300 K),  $E_F = 7.05 \text{ eV}$ , Fermi energies have only small temperature dependency, frequently neglected

$$v_{fermi} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_F}{m_e}} \qquad v_{fermi,copper,300K} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot 7.05 \cdot 1.602 \cdot 10^{-9} J}{9.109 \cdot 10^{-31} kg}} = 1.57 \cdot 10^6 \, ms^{-1}$$

one order of magnitude larger than classical  $v_{\mbox{rms}}$  for ideal gas

$$L_{for\_a\_wavical} = \frac{m_e v_{fermi} \sigma_{quantum}}{ne^2}$$
 just measured value  
as  $\sigma_{quantum}$  will be  
correct concept  
$$\frac{9.109 \cdot 10^{-31} kg \cdot 1.57 \cdot 10^6 ms^{-1} \cdot 5.9 \cdot 10^7 \Omega^{-1} m^{-1}}{8.49 \cdot 10^{28} m^{-3} (1.602 \cdot 10^{-19} C)^2}$$

$$L_{for\_a\_wavical\_copper} = 39nm \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{two orders of magnitude larger} \\ \text{than classical result for particle}_{16} \\ \text{Actually the wavical would not scatter if it were not for irregularities in the crystal lattice} \end{array}$$



So here something two orders of two magnitude too small (L) gets divided by something one order of magnitude too small (V<sub>rms</sub>),

i.e. the result for electrical conductivity must be one order of magnitude too small, which is observed !!

But L for particle is quite reasonable, so replace V<sub>rms</sub> with V<sub>fermi</sub> and the conductivity gets one order of magnitude larger, which is close to the experimental observation, so that one keeps the Drude theory of electrical conductivity as a classical approximation for room temperature in effect, neither the high  $v_{rms}$  of  $10^5$  m/s of the electrons derived from the equipartion theorem or the 10 times higher Fermi speed do not contribute directly to conducting a current since each electrons goes in any directions with an equal likelihood and this speeds averages out to zero charge transport in the absence of E

an applied voltage just lifts all electron energies! all electrons can thus contribute to the electric conductivity



Figure 12.11 (a) Random successive displacements of an electron in a metal without an applied electric field. (b) A combination of random displacements and displacements produced by an external electric field. The net effect of the electric field is to add together multiple displacements of length  $v_d \tau$  opposite the field direction. For purposes of illustration, this figure greatly exaggerates the size of  $v_d$  compared with  $v_{ms}$ .

 $K_{classical} = \frac{k_B n v_{rms} L_{classical}}{2}$ 

V<sub>rms</sub> was too small by one order of magnitude, L<sub>classical</sub> was too small by two orders of magnitude, the classical calculations should give a result 3 orders of magnitude smaller than the observation (which is of course well described by a quantum statistical treatment)

so there must be something fundamentally wrong with our ideas on how to calculate K, any idea ???

Wait a minute, K has something to do with the heat capacity that we derived from the equipartion theorem

Must be too large by two orders of magnitude

$$K_{classical} = \frac{1}{3} C_{V\_for\_ideal\_gas} v_{rms} L_{for\_particle}$$

We had the result earlier that the contribution of the electron gas is only about one hundredth of what one would expect from an ideal gas,  $C_{v \text{ for ideal gas}}$  is actually two orders or magnitude larger than for a real electron gas, so that are two orders of magnitude in excess, with the product of  $V_{rms}$  and  $L_{for particle}$  three orders of magnitude too small, we should calculate classically thermal conductivities that are one order of magnitude too small, which is observed !!!



fortunately L cancelled, but v<sub>rms</sub> gets squared, we are indeed very very very fortuitous to get the right order of magnitude for the Lorenz number from a classical treatment

(one order of magnitude too small squared is about two orders of magnitude too small, but this is "compensated" by assuming that the heat capacity of the free electron gas can be treated classically which in turn results in a value that is by itself two order of magnitude too large-two "missing" orders of magnitude times two "excessive orders of magnitudes levels about out 21

$$K_{fermi} = \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left( \frac{k_B^2 T}{m_e v_{fermi}} \right) n L_{for\_a\_wavical}$$
$$\sigma_{quantum} = \frac{n e^2 L_{for\_a\_wavical}}{m_e v_{fermi}}$$

That gives for the Lorenz number in a quantum treatment

$$\frac{K}{\sigma T} = \frac{\pi^2 k_B^2}{3e^2} = 2.45 \cdot 10^{-8} W \Omega K^{-2}$$

## Back to the problem of the temperature dependency of resistivity Drude's theory predicted a dependency on square root



This is due to Debye's phonons (lattice vibrations), which are bosons and need to be treated by Bose-Einstein statistics, electrons scatter on phonons, so the more phonons, the more scattering

Number of phonons proportional to Bose-Einstein distribution function

$$n_{phonons} \propto \frac{1}{e^{\hbar \omega / k_B T} - 1}$$

Which becomes for reasonably large T

n<sub>phonons</sub>

At low temperatures, there are hardly any phonons, scattering of electrons is due to impurity atoms and lattice defects, if it were not for them, there would not be any resistance to the flow of electricity at zero temperature

Matthiessen's rule, the resistivity of a metal can be written as

$$\sigma = \sigma_{\text{lattice defects}} + \sigma_{\text{lattice vibrations}}$$