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3.23 Electrical, Optical, and Magnetic Properties of Materials

Fall 2007

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3.23 Fall 2007 – Lecture 14

INHOMOGENEOUS SEMICONDUCTORS

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Russell Ohl

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Shockley, Bardeen, and Brattain

William Shockley

Electronic Bands in Sodium Chloride

(advisor John C. Slater, MIT, 1936)

<http://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/10879>

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ELECTRONIC BANDS IN SODIUM CHLORIDE



BY

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B.Sc., California Institute of Technology
1932Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

from the

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
1936

Signature of Author.....

Department of Physics, May 14, 1936.

Signature of Professor
in Charge of Research.....Signature of Chairman of Department
Committee on Graduate Students.....TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. THE FOCK EQUATIONS AND THE HARTREE APPROXIMATION	2
III. GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT THE POTENTIALS	23
IV. CALCULATION OF THE POTENTIAL AND THE RADIAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE FILLED BANDS	29
V. SOME THEOREMS INVOLVING CENTERS OF SYMMETRY	35
VI. FORMULATION OF THE BOUNDARY CONDITIONS	40
VII. Cl-Cl CASE	48
VIII. THE METHOD OF $k \rightarrow 0$	74
IX. METHODS OF CONSTRUCTING CONTOURS FOR THE FACE-CENTERED LATTICE	88
X. Na-Cl CUBE-CUBE JOINING	94
XI. Cl-Cl-Na JOINING	105
XII. SUMMARY OF THE WORK ON THE Cl ⁻ 3p BAND REMARKS ABOUT TOTAL ENERGY	116
XIII. CONCERNING EXCITATION	120
XIV. TEST OF THE SLATER CONDITIONS FOR FACE- CENTERED AND BODY-CENTERED LATTICES	131

Last time

1. Band structure of direct- and indirect-gap semiconductors, in excruciating detail
2. Carriers in thermal equilibrium, density of available states
3. Law of mass action
4. Consequences for intrinsic semiconductors, extrinsic semiconductors
5. Impurity levels, hydrogen model of donors, acceptor states
6. Temperature dependence of majority carriers: intrinsic range, extrinsic/saturation range, freeze out.

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Study

- Early part of Chap 29 (Inhomogeneous semiconductors) ,Ashcroft-Mermin (to be posted, together with Chap 28, really to be posted, s'il vous plaît)

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Density of available states

$$g_c(\varepsilon) = \sqrt{2(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_c)} \frac{m_c^{3/2}}{\pi^2 \hbar^3}$$
$$\int_{\varepsilon_c}^{\infty} d\varepsilon g_c(\varepsilon) e^{-(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_c)/k_B T}$$
$$N_e(T) = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{2m_e k_B T}{\pi \hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} = 2.5 \left(\frac{m_e}{m} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{T}{300K} \right)^{3/2} 10^{19} / cm^3$$

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Law of Mass Action

$$n_c p_v = N_c P_v e^{-E_g/k_B T}$$

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Intrinsic case

$$n_i = \sqrt{n_c p_v} = \sqrt{N_c P_v} e^{-E_g / 2k_B T}$$

$$n_c(T) = N_c(T) e^{-(\epsilon_c - \mu)/k_B T}$$

$$p_v(T) = P_v(T) e^{-(\mu - \epsilon_v)/k_B T}$$

$$\mu_i = \epsilon_v + \frac{1}{2} E_g + \frac{3}{4} k_B T \ln\left(\frac{m_v}{m_c}\right)$$

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Please see: Fig. 11 in Sze, S. M. "Physics of Semiconductor Devices."
Chapter 1 in *Physics and Properties of Semiconductors - A Resume.*
New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, 1981.

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Extrinsic case

$$n_c(T) - p_v(T) = \Delta n$$

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Extrinsic case

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Please see Fig. 13.3 in Kittel, Charles, and Herbert Kroemer. *Thermal Physics*. San Francisco, CA: W. H. Freeman, 1980.

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Temperature dependence of majority carriers

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Please see Fig. 2.22 in Pierret, Robert F. *Semiconductor Device Fundamentals*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1996.

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Impurity types, levels

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Please see: Fig. 13 in Sze, S. M. "Physics of Semiconductor Devices." Chapter 1 in *Physics and Properties of Semiconductors - A Resume*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, 1981.

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Population of impurity levels (donor)

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Population of impurity levels (acceptor)

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Conductivity in semiconductors

$$\sigma = n_e e \frac{e\tau_e}{m_e} + n_h e \frac{e\tau_h}{m_h}$$

$$\mu_e = \frac{e\tau_e}{m_e}$$

$$\mu_h = \frac{e\tau_h}{m_e}$$

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Please see: Table 3 in Kittel, Charles. "Introduction to Solid State Physics." Chapter 8 in *Semiconductor Crystals*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.

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Impurity band conduction

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Equilibrium carrier densities of impure semiconductors

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Equilibrium carrier densities of impure semiconductors

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Semiconductor carrier engineering

- Adding impurities to determine carrier type
 n_i^2 for Si: $\sim 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$
 - Add 10^{16} cm^{-3} ($\sim 1\text{ppm}$) phosphorous (donors) to Si: $n_c \sim N_d$
 - $n_c \sim 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $p_v \sim 10^4 (n_i^2/N_d)$
- Adding impurities to change carrier density
 - 1 part in 10^6 impurity in a crystal ($\sim 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ atom density)
 - $10^{22}/10^6 = 10^{16}$ dopant atoms per cm^{-3}
 - conductivity is proportional to the # of carriers leading to 6 orders of magnitude change in conductivity!

**Impurities at the ppm level drastically
change the conductivity (5-6 orders of
magnitude)**

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Simplified expressions

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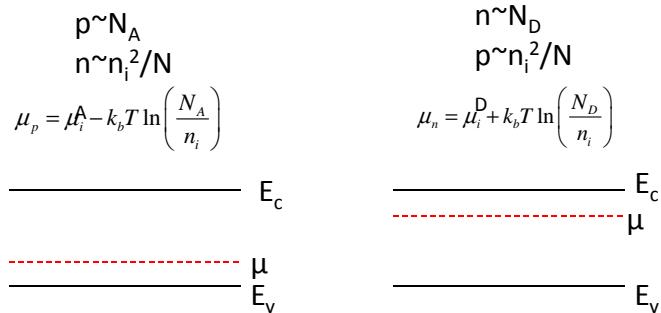
Abrupt junction

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Please see: Fig. 29.1 in Ashcroft, Neil W., and Mermin, N. David.
Solid State Physics. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1976.

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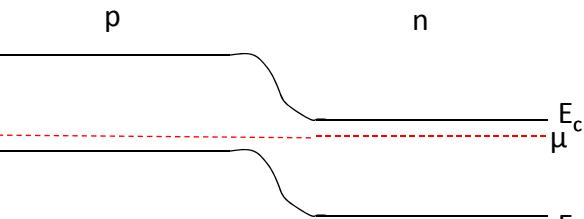
The p-n junction (diode)

p-type material at equilibrium n-type material at equilibrium

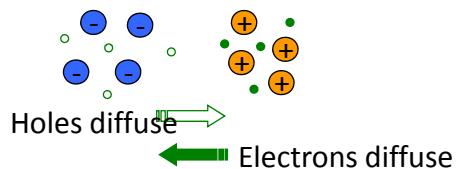


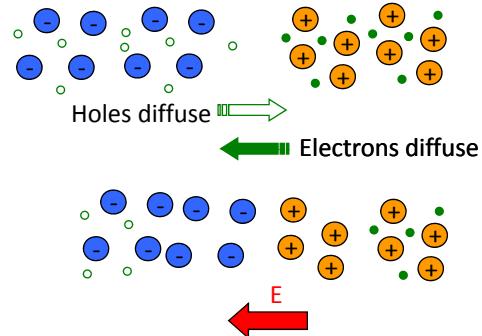
What happens when you join these together?

Joining p and n



Carriers flow under driving force of diffusion until μ is horizontal





An electric field forms due to the deviation from charge neutrality

Therefore, a steady-state balance is achieved where
diffusive flux of the carriers is balanced by the drift flux

Chemical potential

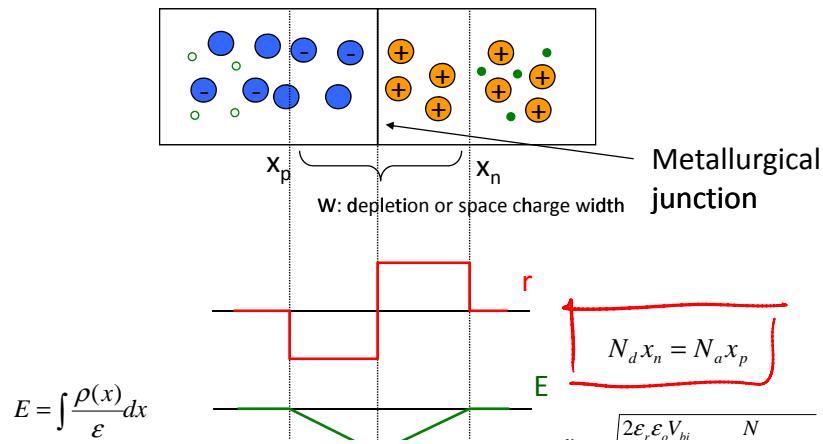
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Solid State Physics. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1976.

Carrier concentration in a p-n junction

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<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Pn-junction-equilibrium.svg>

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Pn-junction-equilibrium-graphs.png>



What is the built-in voltage V_{bi} ?

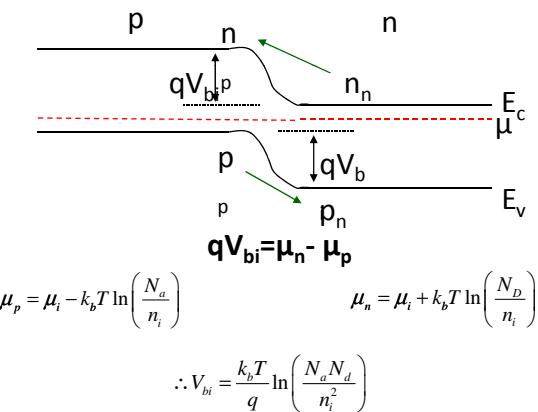


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Please see: Fig. 29.4 in Ashcroft, Neil W., and Mermin, N. David.
Solid State Physics. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1976.

Operation under bias

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Rectification

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Please see: Fig. 29.5 in Ashcroft, Neil W., and Mermin, N. David.
Solid State Physics. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1976.

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