

3. Electrical Conduction in Solids

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3C. Semiconductors

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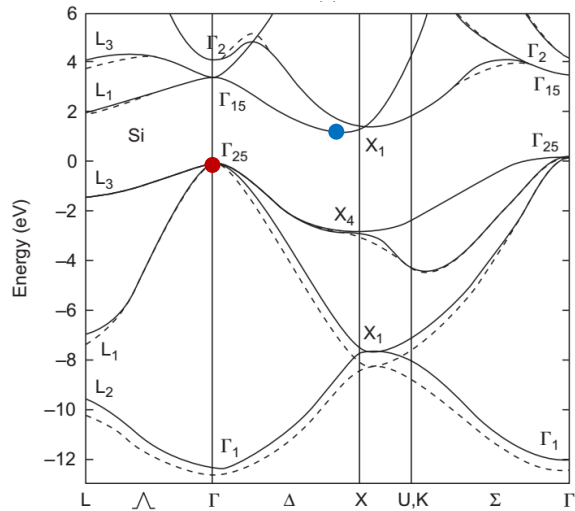
The semiconductors are the main component in **optoelectronic devices**. There are several semiconducting materials ranging from the single-element materials such as **Si and Ge** to compound semiconductors such as **GaAs, InP, GaN, ZnO,**

In the **intrinsic semiconductors**, the materials are highly pure, and the conductivity is very low because of the bandgap between filled and unfilled states. In **extrinsic semiconductors**, the charge carriers are increased by doping.

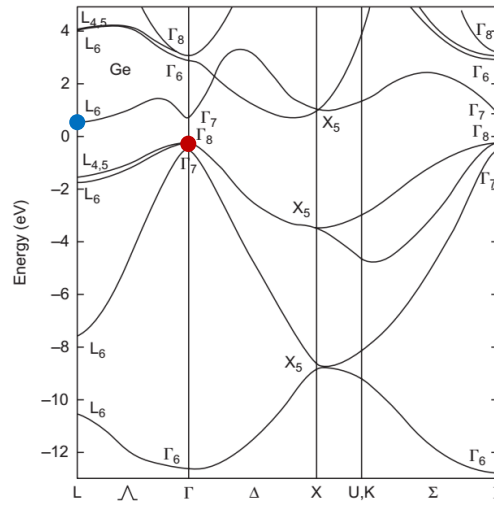
Water splitting, photo detector, light-emitting diode, solar cell, solid-state electrolyte, transistor, MOSFET, DRAM, etc.

3C.1. Band Structure and Fermi Level

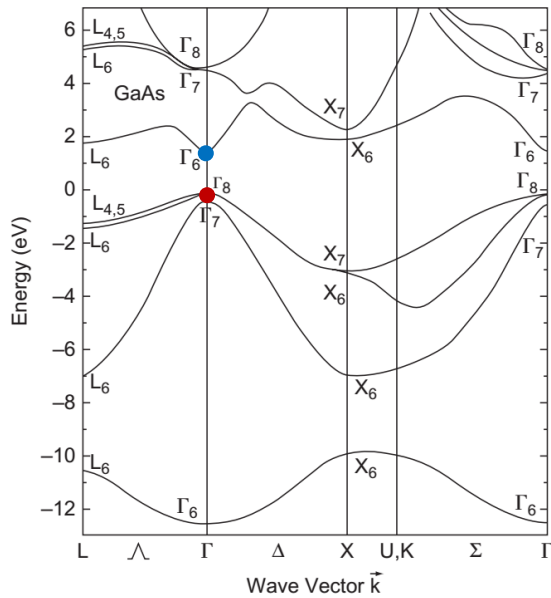
Si



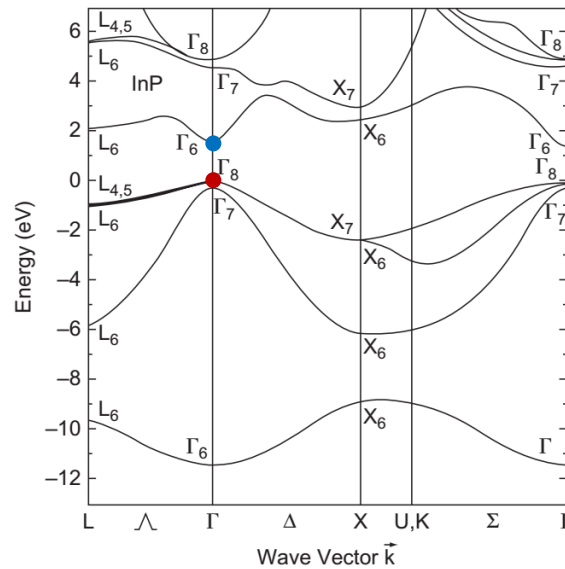
Ge



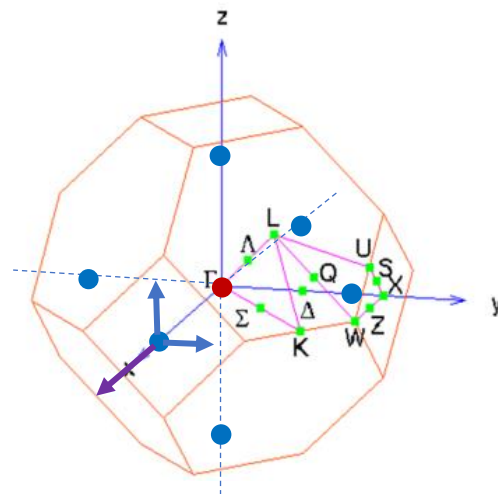
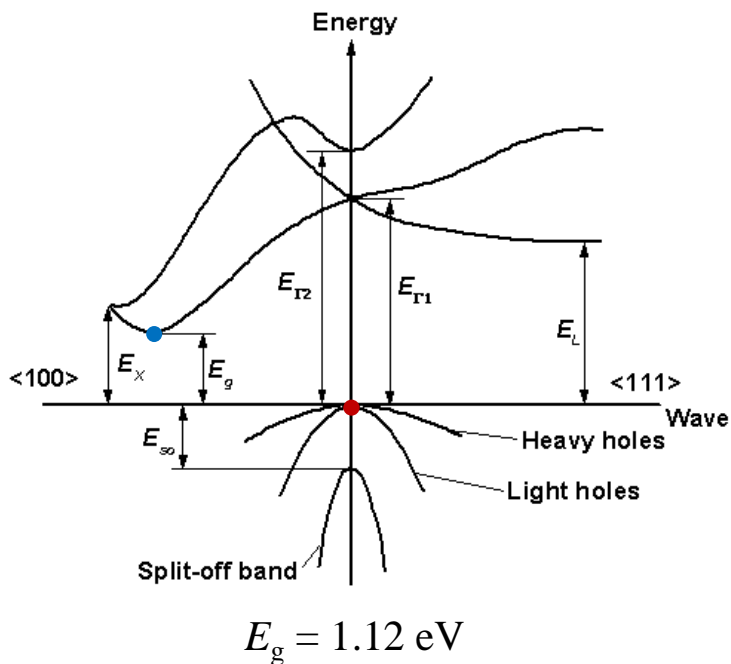
GaAs



InP

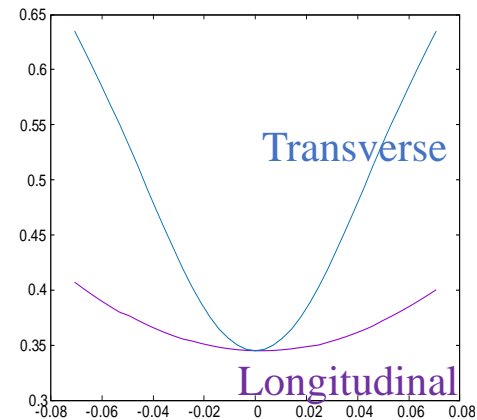


Band Structure of Si



6 "valleys"

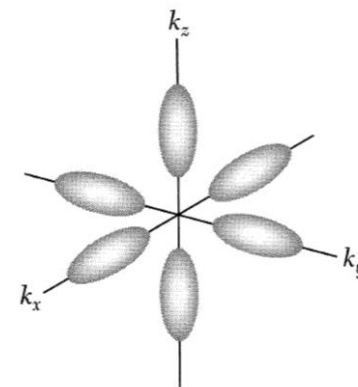
Band structure near the conduction bottom



$m^*(\text{electron}) = 0.98$ (longitudinal), 0.19 (transverse)

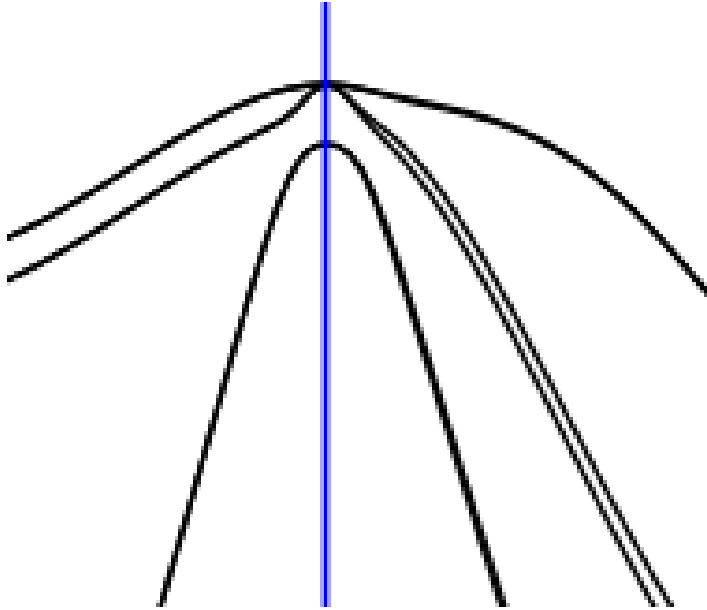
$m^*(\text{hole}) = 0.49$ (heavy), 0.16 (light), 0.29 (split-off)

The split-off band is formed because of spin-orbit interactions.



Constant energy surface for electrons

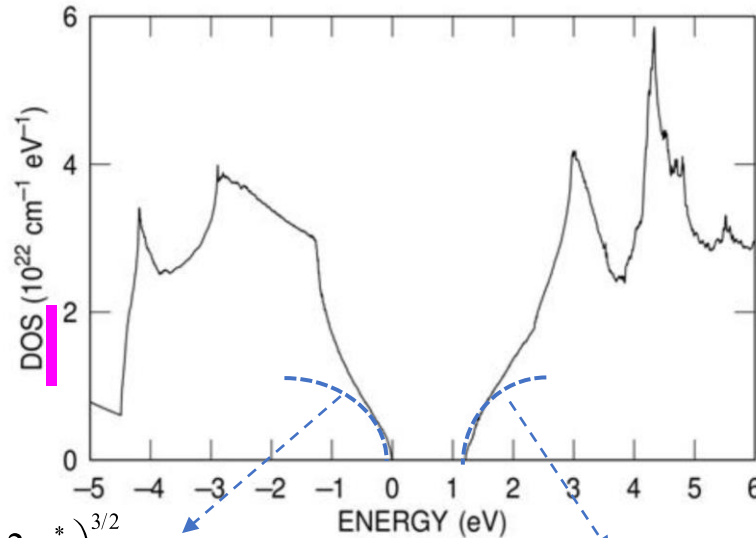
$m^*(\text{hole}) = 0.49$ (heavy), 0.16 (light), 0.29 (split-off)



Free Electron Model

$$D(E) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{E}$$

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(spin-up or spin-down)



$$D_v(E) \approx \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_h^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{E_v - E}$$

$$D_c(E) \approx \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{E - E_c}$$

The density of states near the bandedges are well approximated by the (DOS) effective mass.

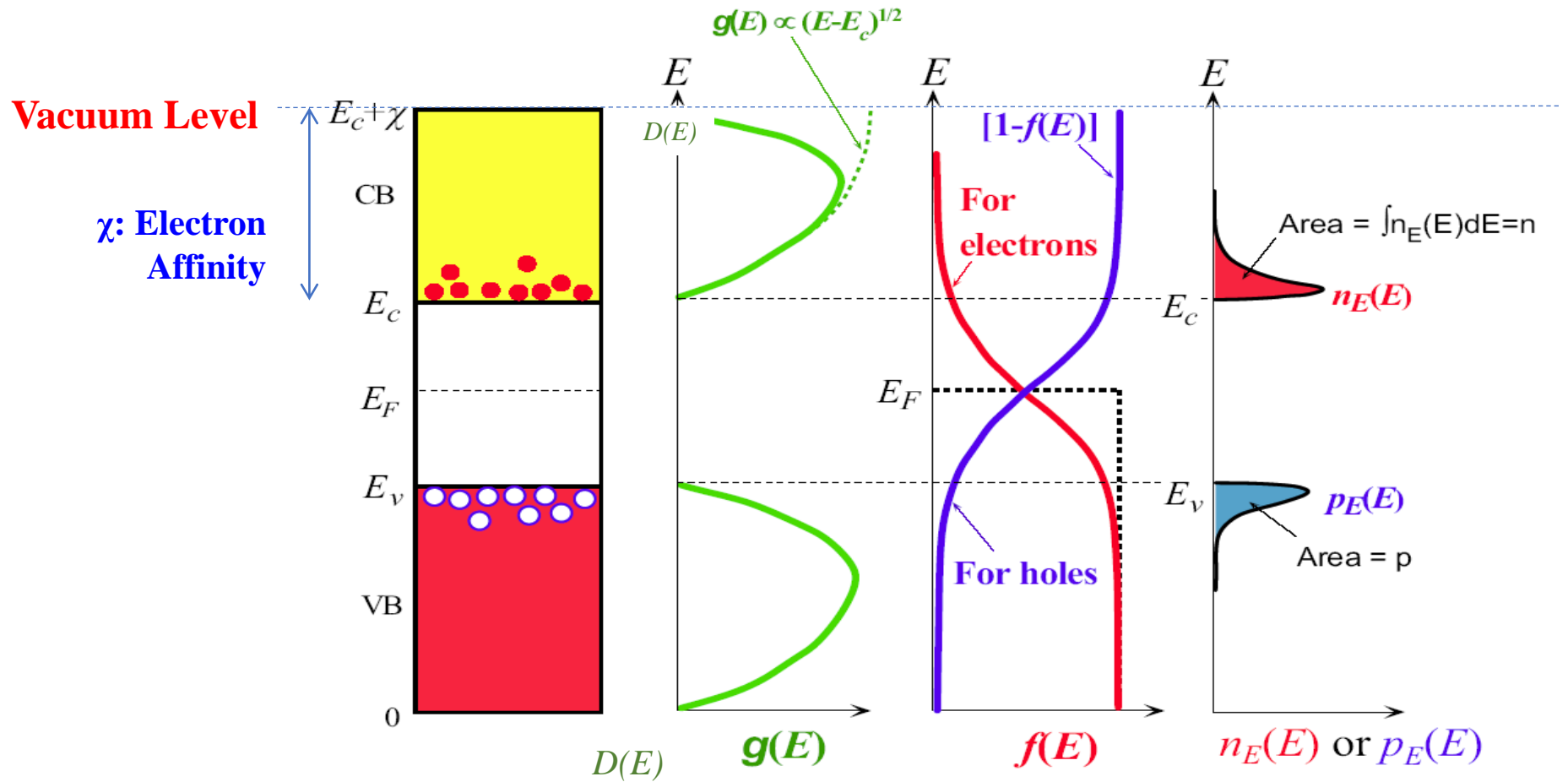
In Si and Ge, effective masses are in fact anisotropic;

$$m_{\text{density}}^* = g^{\frac{2}{3}} \sqrt[3]{m_x m_y m_z}$$

g : degeneracy factor or number of valleys (6 for Si and Ge)

-Tue/10/20/2020

Electron and Hole Concentrations



**Three Independent Parameters
for the Band Alignment:**

- Bandgap energy
- Work function
- Electron affinity (or Valence-band maximum)

Carrier Concentration at the given Fermi Level

$$D_c(E) \approx \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} \sqrt{E - E_C}$$

(spin-up + spin-down)

Total density of free electrons in conduction band

$$n = \int_{E_C}^{\infty} D_c(E) f(E) dE$$

$$= \int_{E_C}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} (E - E_C)^{1/2} \frac{1}{e^{(E-E_F)/kT} + 1} dE$$

$$\approx \int_{E_C}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} (E - E_C)^{1/2} e^{-(E-E_F)/kT} dE$$

$$(E_C - E_F) \gg kT$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} \int_{E_C}^{\infty} (E - E_C)^{1/2} e^{-(E - E_C)/kT} dE$$

$$= 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_e^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} = \underline{N_c} e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT}$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} E^{1/2} e^{-E/kT} dE = \frac{\sqrt{\rho}}{2} (kT)^{3/2}$$

$$N_c = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_e^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \text{ effective density of states in conduction}$$

Similarly,

$$p = N_v \exp \left[- \frac{(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right]$$

$$N_v = 2 \left(\frac{2\rho m_h^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

Table 5.1 Selected typical properties of Ge, Si, InP, and GaAs at 300 K

	E_g (eV)	χ (eV)	N_c (cm^{-3})	N_v (cm^{-3})	n_i (cm^{-3})	μ_e ($\text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)	μ_h ($\text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$)	m_e^*/m_e	m_h^*/m_e	ϵ_r
Ge	0.66	4.13	1.04×10^{19}	6.0×10^{18}	2.3×10^{13}	3900	1900	0.12a 0.56b	0.23a 0.40b	16
Si	1.10	4.01	2.8×10^{19}	1.2×10^{19}	1.0×10^{10}	1400	450	0.26a 1.08b	0.38a 0.60b	11.9
InP	1.34	4.50	5.2×10^{17}	1.1×10^{19}	1.3×10^7	4600	190	0.079a,b	0.46a 0.58b	12.6
GaAs	1.42	4.07	4.4×10^{17}	7.7×10^{18}	2.1×10^6	8800	400	0.067a,b	0.40a 0.50b	13.0

NOTE: Ge and Si are indirect whereas InP and GaAs are direct bandgap semiconductors. Effective mass related to conductivity (labeled *a*) is different than that for density of states (labeled *b*). In numerous textbooks, n_i is taken as $1.45 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and is therefore the most widely used value of n_i for Si, though the correct value is actually $1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$. (Green, M.A., *Journal of Applied Physics*, 67, 2944, 1990.) (Data combined from various sources.)

$$m_{\text{density}}^* = g \frac{2}{3} \sqrt[3]{m_x m_y m_z}$$

$$m_{\text{conductivity}}^* = 3 \left[\frac{1}{m_x^*} + \frac{1}{m_y^*} + \frac{1}{m_z^*} \right]^{-1}$$

Mass Action Law

$$np = N_c N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{kT}\right)$$

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Therefore, the $n \cdot p$ product is a constant, that depends on the material properties N_c , N_v , E_g , and temperature. If somehow n is increased (e.g., by doping), p must decrease to keep $n \cdot p$ constant. The mass action law applies in thermal equilibrium (intrinsic or extrinsic) and in the dark (no illumination).

3C.2. Intrinsic Semiconductors

$$p = N_v \exp\left[-\frac{(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right]$$

Fermi Level

In intrinsic semiconductors, $n = p = n_i$. From the mass action law,

$$np = N_c N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{kT}\right) = n_i^2 \rightarrow n_i = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT}\right)$$

$$p = n_i \rightarrow N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_F - E_v}{kT}\right) = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT}\right)$$

Take log of both sides

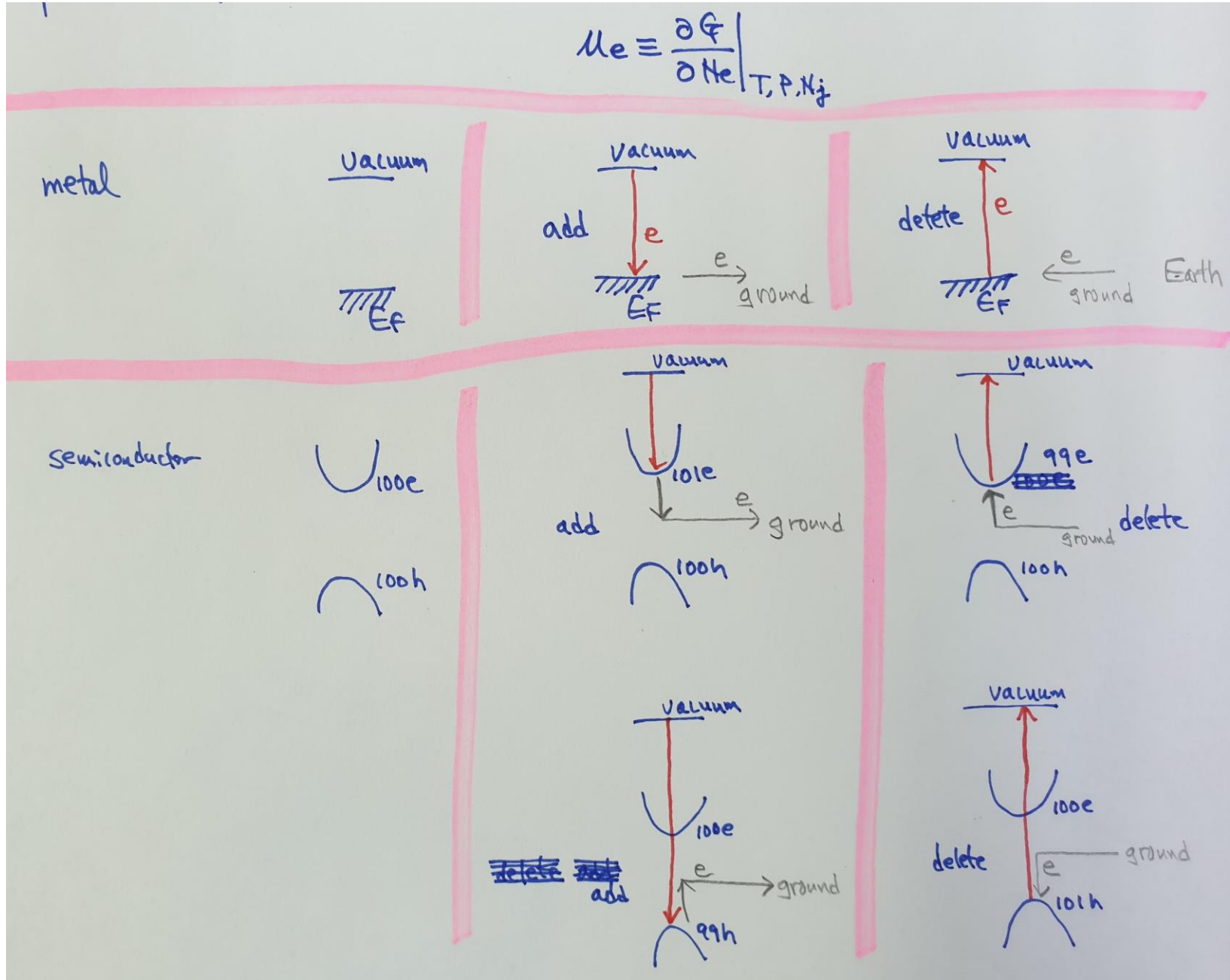
$$E_F = E_v + \frac{1}{2} E_g - \frac{1}{2} kT \ln\left(\frac{N_c}{N_v}\right) = E_v + \frac{1}{2} E_g - \frac{3}{4} kT \ln\left(\frac{m_e^*}{m_h^*}\right)$$

If $N_c = N_v$ ($m_e^* = m_h^*$) or near 0 K, $E_F = E_v + \frac{1}{2} E_g$ That is to say, exactly the midgap.

E_F : in the middle

In general, **effective masses are not equal, and the Fermi level slightly shifts.**

Fermi Level: Metal vs. Semiconductor (Schematics)



Carrier Density in Intrinsic Semiconductors

$$N_v = 2 \left(\frac{2\rho m_h^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

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$$n_i = p = N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_F - E_v}{kT}\right)$$

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Using $E_F = E_v + \frac{1}{2}E_g - \frac{3}{4}kT \ln\left(\frac{m_e^*}{m_h^*}\right)$

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$$n_i = N_v \left(\frac{m_e^*}{m_h^*}\right)^{\frac{3}{4}} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT}\right)$$

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Since $N_v \propto T^{\frac{3}{2}}$, plot of $\ln(n_i T^{\frac{3}{2}})$ vs. $1/T$ is a straight line with slope $-E_g/2k$

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The conductivity of the intrinsic semiconductor becomes

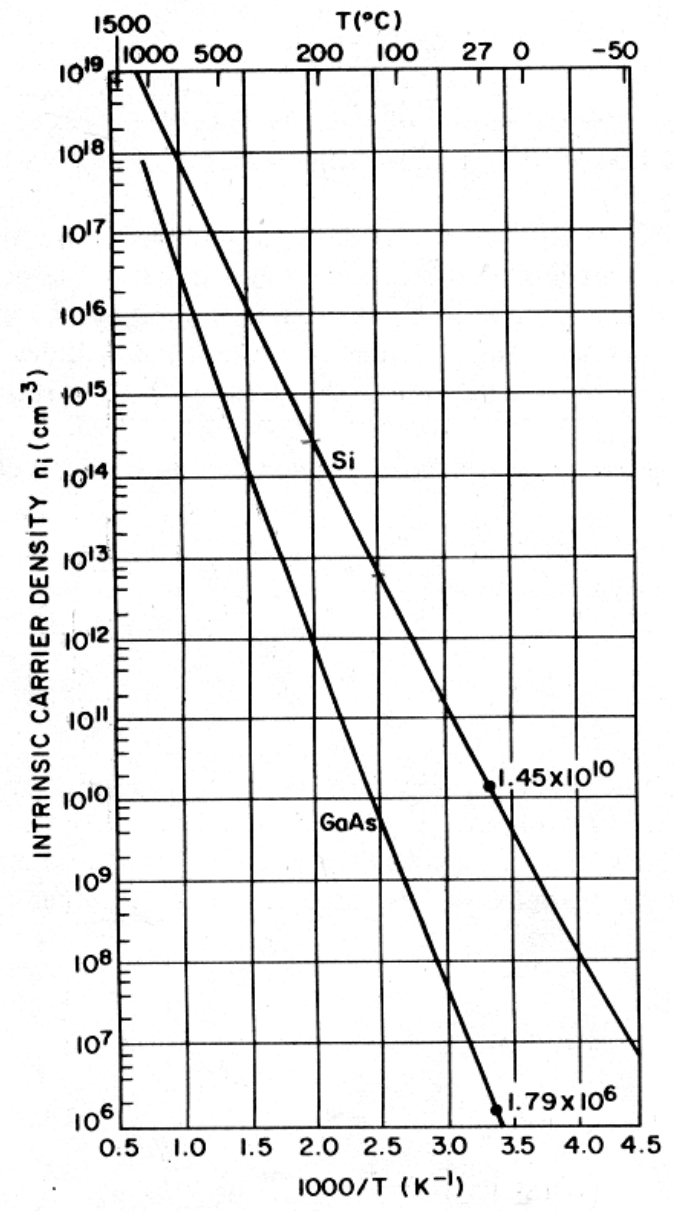
$$S = eN_v \left(\frac{m_e^*}{m_h^*}\right)^{\frac{3}{4}} (m_e + m_h) e^{-E_g/2kT}$$

$n = p = n_i$

$$\sigma = ne\mu_n + pe\mu_p$$

Bube (9.5)
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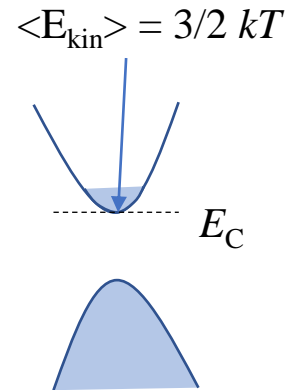
$$\sigma = ne\mu = ne^2\tau/m^*$$



Average energy of an electron in the conduction band

$$\begin{aligned}
 E &= \int_{E_C}^{\infty} ED_C(E)f(E)dE = \int_{E_C}^{\infty} (E - E_C)D_C(E)f(E)dE + nE_C \\
 &\approx \int_{E_C}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} (E - E_C)^{3/2} e^{-(E-E_F)/kT} dE + nE_C \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m_e^*}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-(E_C-E_F)/kT} \int_{E_C}^{\infty} (E - E_C)^{3/2} e^{-(E-E_C)/kT} dE + nE_C \\
 &= \frac{3}{2} kT 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_e^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-(E_C-E_F)/kT} + nE_C = \frac{3}{2} nkT + nE_C
 \end{aligned}$$

(homework)



$$\underline{\bar{E} = E_C + \frac{3}{2} kT} \quad \text{per one carrier electron}$$

This is identical to the **average kinetic energy of gas molecules following classical Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution**. This is because $N_c \gg n$.

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(Note that in the case of metal where electrons fully occupy states **up to the Fermi level**, $E_{avg} = 3/5 E_F$.)
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INTRINSIC CONCENTRATION AND CONDUCTIVITY OF Si Given that the density of states related effective masses of electrons and holes in Si are approximately $1.08m_e$ and $0.60m_e$, respectively, and the electron and hole drift mobilities at room temperature are 1400 and $450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively, calculate the intrinsic concentration and intrinsic resistivity of Si.

SOLUTION

We simply calculate the effective density of states N_c and N_v by

$$N_c = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_e^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \quad \text{and} \quad N_v = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_h^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

Thus

$$N_c = 2 \left[\frac{2\pi(1.08 \times 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})(1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1})(300 \text{ K})}{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s})^2} \right]^{3/2}$$

$$= 2.81 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3} \quad \text{or} \quad 2.81 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

and

$$N_v = 2 \left[\frac{2\pi(0.60 \times 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})(1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J K}^{-1})(300 \text{ K})}{(6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s})^2} \right]^{3/2}$$

$$= 1.16 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3} \quad \text{or} \quad 1.16 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

The intrinsic concentration is

$$n_i = (N_c N_v)^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT}\right)$$

so that

$$n_i = [(2.81 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3})(1.16 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3})]^{1/2} \exp\left[-\frac{(1.10 \text{ eV})}{2(300 \text{ K})(8.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV K}^{-1})}\right]$$

$$= 1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

The conductivity is

$$\sigma = en\mu_e + ep\mu_h = en_i(\mu_e + \mu_h)$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})(1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})(1400 + 450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}) \\ &= 3.0 \times 10^{-6} \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}\end{aligned}$$

The resistivity is

$$\rho = \frac{1}{\sigma} = 3.3 \times 10^5 \Omega \text{ cm}$$

Au **$\sim 10^6 \text{ S/cm}$**
graphite **$\sim 10^4 \text{ S/cm}$**
graphene **$\sim 10^5 \text{ S/cm}$**

TCO **$\sim 10^4 \text{ S/cm}$**

MEAN SPEED OF ELECTRONS IN THE CB Estimate the mean speed of electrons in the conduction band of Si at 300 K. If a is the magnitude of lattice vibrations, then the kinetic theory predicts $a^2 \propto T$; or stated differently, the mean energy associated with lattice vibrations (proportional to a^2) increases with kT . Given the temperature dependence of the mean speed of electrons in the CB, what should be the temperature dependence of the drift mobility? The effective mass of an electron in the conduction band is $0.26m_e$.

SOLUTION

Suppose that v_{th} is the root mean square velocity of the electron in the CB, then the average KE , $\frac{1}{2}m_e^*v_{th}^2$, of this electron from Equation 5.14 is $\frac{3}{2}kT$. Thus,

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$$v_{th} = \left(\frac{3kT}{m_e^*} \right)^{1/2} = \left[\frac{(3 \times 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \times 300)}{(0.26 \times 9.1 \times 10^{-31})} \right]^{1/2} = 2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

The above velocity v_{th} is called the **thermal velocity**, and it is roughly the same as the mean speed of the electron in the CB. (See Example 1.11.)

The mean free time τ of the electron between scattering events due to thermal vibrations of the atoms is inversely proportional to both the mean speed v_{th} of the electron and the scattering cross section of the thermal vibrations, that is,

$$\tau \propto \frac{1}{v_{th}(\pi a^2)} \quad \textit{instead of Fermi velocity}$$

where a is the amplitude of the atomic thermal vibrations. But, $v_{th} \propto T^{1/2}$ and $(\pi a^2) \propto kT$, so that $\tau \propto T^{-3/2}$ and consequently $\mu_e \propto T^{-3/2}$.

in metal ppt 3A-10

Free-Electron Model or Classical Theory

$$\rightarrow t \propto \frac{1}{a^2} \propto \frac{1}{T} = \frac{C}{T}$$

MEAN FREE PATH OF ELECTRONS IN THE CB Consider the motion of electrons in the CB of an undoped GaAs crystal. What is the mean free path of an average electron in the conduction band? How does this compare with the mean free path of a conduction electron in copper which has a drift mobility of $32 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and a mean free path of 40 nm. What is your conclusion?

SOLUTION

The drift mobility of electrons in a semiconductor is controlled by various scattering mechanisms that limit the mean scattering time or the free time of an electron in the CB. If τ is the mean scattering time for electrons in the CB, then, from Chapter 2, drift mobility $\mu_e = e\tau/m_e^*$, where m_e^* is the effective mass of the electron in the crystal. Thus,

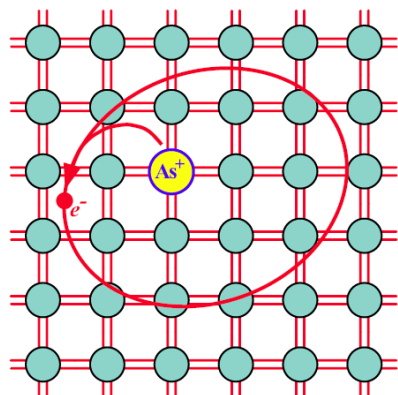
$$\tau = \frac{\mu_e m_e^*}{e} = \frac{(1400 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})(0.26 \times 9.11 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg})}{(1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})} = 2.1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ s}$$

We know from Example 5.1 that the mean velocity or the thermal velocity v_{th} of electrons in the CB is approximately $2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. The mean free path $\ell = v_{\text{th}}\tau = (2.3 \times 10^5 \text{ m s}^{-1})(2.1 \times 10^{-13} \text{ s}) = 48 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}$ or 48 nm. The conduction electrons in copper have significantly lower drift mobility but their mean free path is almost the same as a conduction electron in Si. Recall from Chapter 4 that conduction electrons in a metal follow Fermi–Dirac statistics and their mean speed is very much larger than the thermal velocity of electrons in Si.

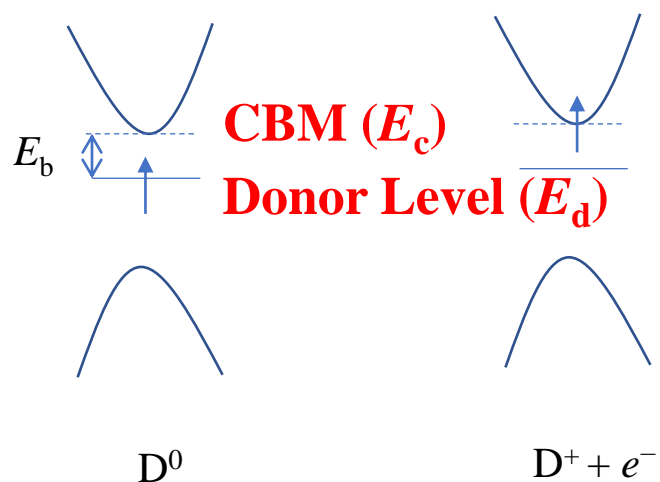
$$\sigma = ne\mu = ne^2 \tau / m^*$$

3C.3. Extrinsic Semiconductors

n-type doping



5 B	6 C	7 N
13 Al	14 Si	15 P
31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As
49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb
81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi



Group V elements such as arsenic (As) is chemically similar to Si, and it substitutes for a Si atom when doped into Si (by experimental techniques such as ion implantation).

The As atom has **five valence electrons** but the diamond structure needs only **four valence electrons**. The redundant fifth electron may occupy the lowest state in the conduction band (**conduction band minimum: CBM**), but the attractive interaction with the positively charged As^+ leads to a formation of more stable states below the CBM that are called donor (impurity or dopant) states.

The energy difference between the donor level (E_d) and CBM is called the **ionization energy** or **binding energy (E_b)**. When the extra electron is **bound** at As^0 , it is **spatially localized**, and so does not contribute to the current.

When E_b is small, the donor atom can be ionized by **thermal excitation** with the electrons freed into the conduction band. The electrons in the conduction band can mediate current under external bias. When E_b is small, it is called the **shallow donor** in the sense that the donor level is close to CBM. This way of increasing electron carriers is called the ***n*-type doping**.

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{\text{conduction}} - E_{\text{donor}} &= E_{\text{binding energy}} \\
 &= E_{\text{ionization energy}}
 \end{aligned}$$

The binding energy E_b and Bohr radius can be calculated by employing hydrogen model with **dielectric constant + effective mass**.

Binding energy in H atom: $E_b = -E_1 = \frac{me^4}{8e^2\hbar^2} = 13.6 \text{ eV}$

For As^+ in silicon, the two parameters in the formula should change. First, since the unbound electron follows the band dispersion near CBM, the mass is replaced by the **effective mass** in the conduction band minimum (considering the anisotropy, the relevant m^* is $\sim 1/3 m$). Second, the Coulomb potential between the electron and As^+ is screened by polarization of electrons and ions, which is reflected by the relative **dielectric constant** ($\epsilon_r = 11.9$ for Si).

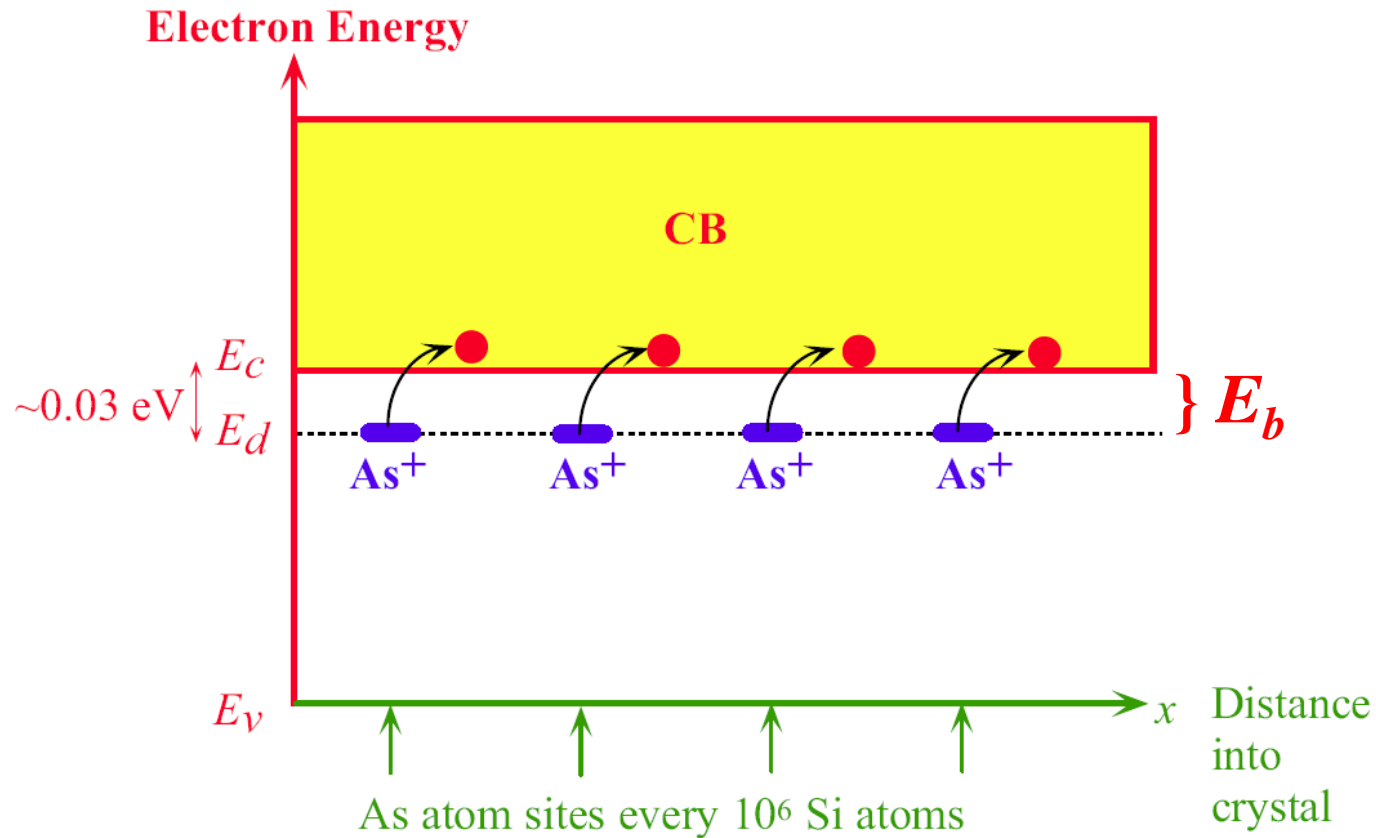
$$E_b^{\text{Si}} = \frac{m^* e^4}{8e^2 \epsilon_r^2 \hbar^2} = (13.6 \text{ eV}) \left(\frac{m^*}{m} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_r^2} \right) \sim 0.032 \text{ eV}$$

Table 5.2 Examples of donor and acceptor ionization energies (eV) in Si

Donors			Acceptors		
P	As	Sb	B	Al	Ga
0.045	0.054	0.039	0.045	0.057	0.072

The size of donor states is the Bohr radius with adjusted parameters

Hydrogen atom: $a_0 = \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{me^2} \rightarrow \frac{4\pi\epsilon_r\epsilon_0\hbar^2}{m^*e^2} = a_0\epsilon_r \left(\frac{m}{m^*} \right) = 1.9 \text{ nm}$



Energy band diagram for an *n*-type Si doped with 1 ppm As. There are donor energy levels just below E_c around As^+ sites.

Thermal energy is $\sim 1.5 kT = 0.04$ eV (room T). Therefore, **electrons can be freed at room temperature**, and can contribute to the conductivity. In this case, the dopants are called "shallow impurity". The effective mass can be varied from ~ 0.1 to 10. The deep or shallow nature can depend on it.

Occupation Probability at a Donor

The probability is proportional to the Boltzmann factor. When the donor is empty (D^+), its **electron lies at the E_F (chemical potential of electrons)**. Therefore, the energy of D^+ is E_F , while the energy of D^0 is E_d .

$$\text{Probability} \propto \begin{cases} e^{-\frac{E_F}{kT}} & \text{empty} & D^+ \\ e^{-\frac{E_d}{kT}} & \text{occupied (doubly degenerate; spin up or down)} & D^0 \end{cases}$$

The occupation probability is given by

$$D^0 \quad f_d(E_d) = \frac{2e^{-\frac{E_d}{kT}}}{e^{-\frac{E_F}{kT}} + 2e^{-\frac{E_d}{kT}}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{2}e^{-(E_F - E_d)/kT}}$$

Density of ionized dopant

$$N_d^+ = N_d \times (\text{probability of not finding an electron at } E_d)$$

$$= N_d [1 - f_d(E_d)]$$

$$D^+ \quad = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT}}$$

The Fermi level is determined by the charge neutrality condition:

Density of negative charge = density of positive charge

$$\underline{n = N_c^+ + p}$$

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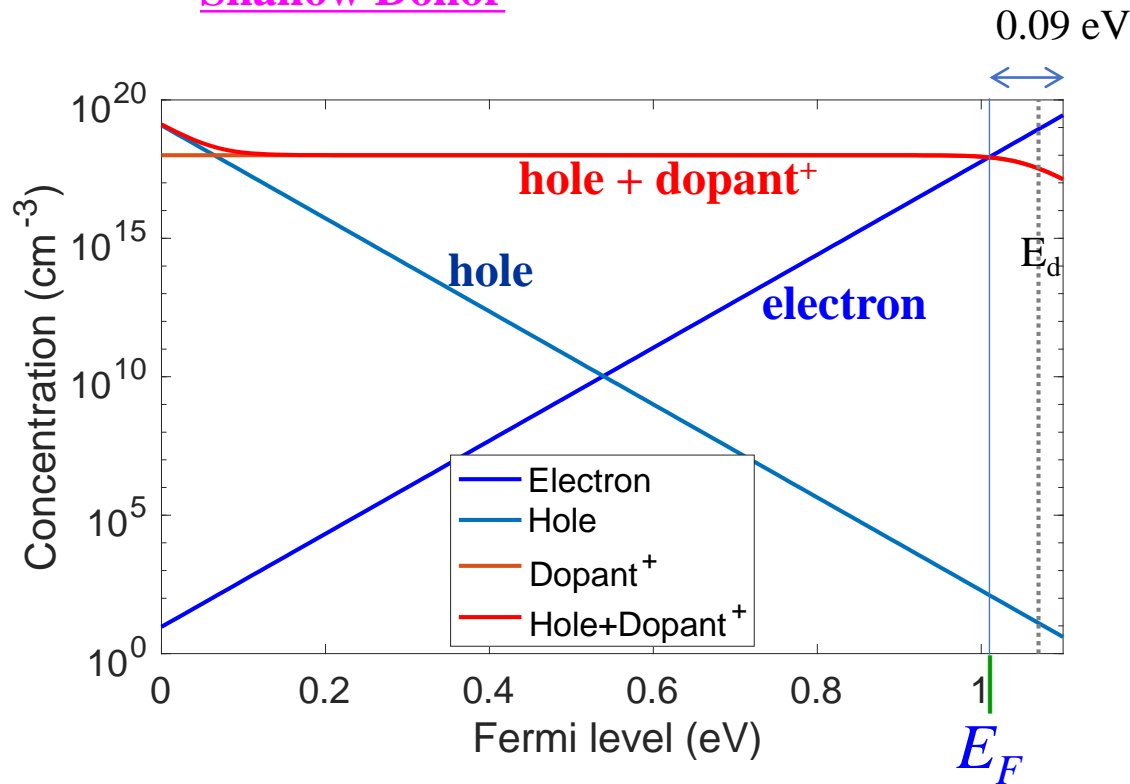
$$N_c e^{-(E_c - E_F)/kT} = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT}} + N_v e^{-(E_F - E_v)/kT}$$

E_F is determined.

$$N_v = 2 \left(\frac{2\rho m_h^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

ex) Si, 300 K, $E_b = 0.03$ eV, $N_d = 10^{18}$ cm⁻³, $E_g = 1.1$ eV

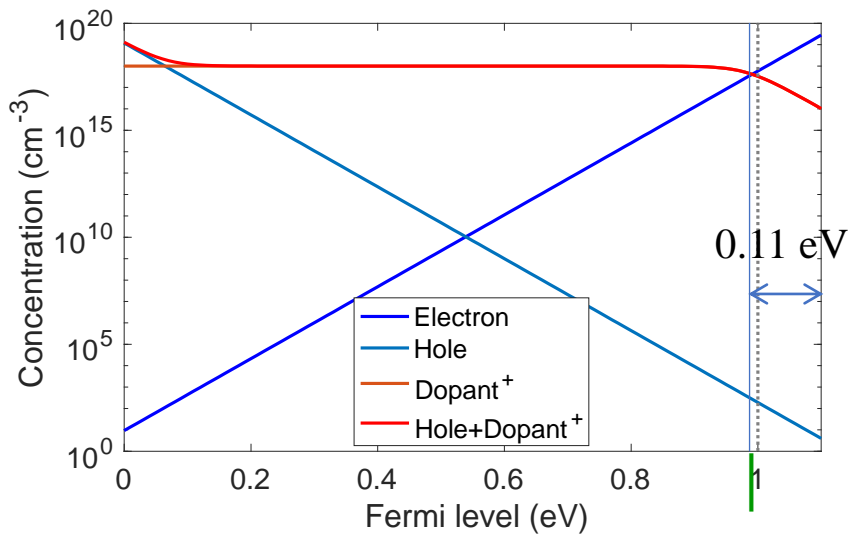
Shallow Donor



At the Fermi level, most of dopants are ionized, and the electron density is almost identical to the dopant density (10¹⁸ cm⁻³). This is because E_b (0.03 eV) is comparable to the thermal energy ($kT = 0.026$ eV).

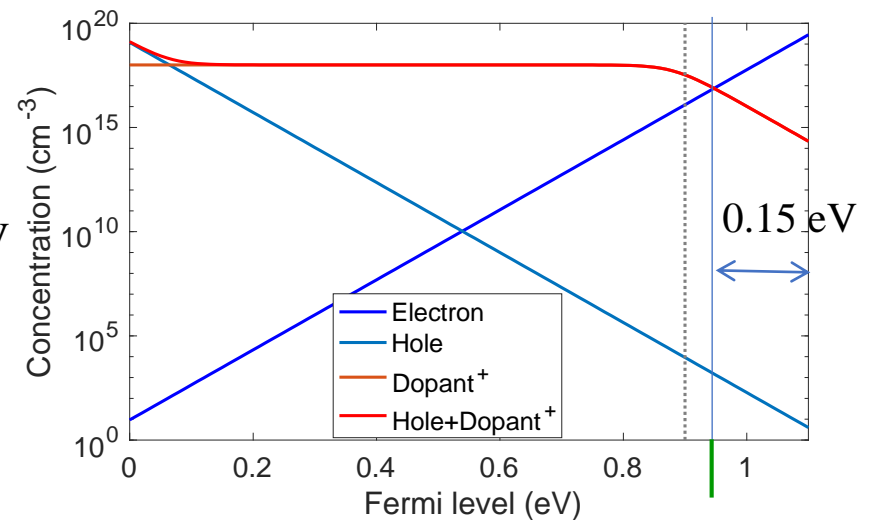
Shallow vs. Deep Donor

Ex) Si, 300 K, $E_b = 0.1 \text{ eV}$, $N_d = 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



$$n = 4.2 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

Ex) Si, 300 K, $E_b = 0.2 \text{ eV}$, $N_d = 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



$$n = 6.7 \times 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

When E_b becomes bigger than $\sim 0.2 \text{ eV}$, the dopants are hardly ionized and the electron carrier is significantly reduced.

For **shallow donors**, most dopants are ionized.

If $N_d \gg n_i$ (intrinsic carrier density), the **electron density is practically equal to the dopant density**.

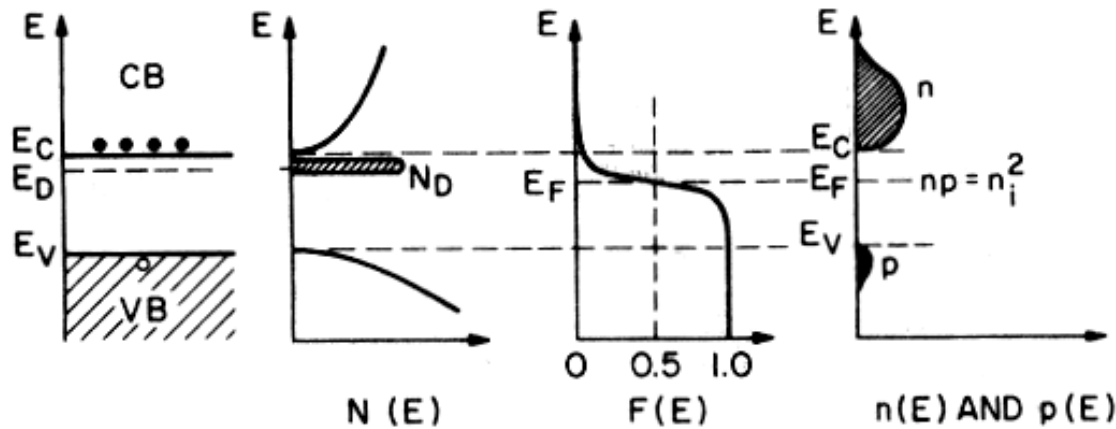
$$n = N_d^+ + p$$

$$N_c e^{-(E_c - E_F)/kT} = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT}} + N_v e^{-(E_F - E_V)/kT}$$

ppt 3C-22

$n = N_d$ $E_C - E_F = kT \ln\left(\frac{N_C}{N_d}\right)$ at 300 K

the higher donor concentration, the smaller energy difference,
i.e. Fermi level moves toward the bottom of C.B.



$$np = N_c N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{kT}\right)$$

ppt 3C-9

The conductivity is **dominated by electron carriers**.

$$S = eN_d m_e + e\left(\frac{n_i^2}{N_d}\right) m_h \approx eN_d m_e$$

THE FERMI LEVEL IN n - AND p -TYPE Si An n -type Si wafer has been doped uniformly with 10^{16} antimony (Sb) atoms cm^{-3} . Calculate the position of the Fermi energy with respect to the Fermi energy E_{Fi} in intrinsic Si. ~~The above n -type Si sample is further doped with 2×10^{17} boron atoms cm^{-3} . Calculate the position of the Fermi energy with respect to the Fermi energy E_{Fi} in intrinsic Si.~~ (Assume that $T = 300$ K, and $kT = 0.0259$ eV.)

SOLUTION

Sb gives n -type doping with $N_d = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and since $N_d \gg n_i (=1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})$, we have

$$n = N_d = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

For intrinsic Si,

$$n_i = N_c \exp\left[-\frac{(E_c - E_{Fi})}{kT}\right]$$

whereas for doped Si,

$$n = N_c \exp\left[-\frac{(E_c - E_{Fn})}{kT}\right] = N_d$$

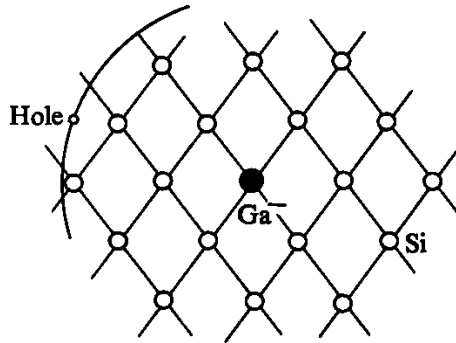
where E_{Fi} and E_{Fn} are the Fermi energies in the intrinsic and n -type Si. Dividing the two expressions,

$$\frac{N_d}{n_i} = \exp\left[\frac{(E_{Fn} - E_{Fi})}{kT}\right]$$

so that

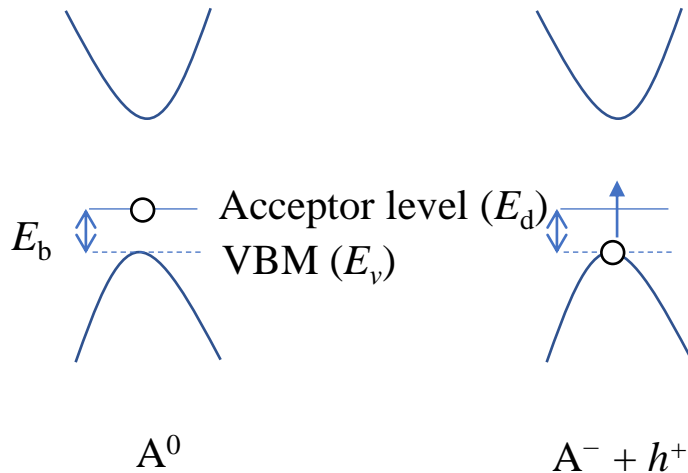
$$E_{Fn} - E_{Fi} = kT \ln\left(\frac{N_d}{n_i}\right) = (0.0259 \text{ eV}) \ln\left(\frac{10^{16}}{1.0 \times 10^{10}}\right) = 0.36 \text{ eV}$$

p -Type Doping



Group III elements such as Ga has only **three valence electrons**. When it substitutes for a Si atom, one of its bonds has an electron missing, which creates a hole in the valence band top. Like the redundant electron in the n -type doping, this hole is bound at Ga⁻ by orbiting around it, which forms a bound empty states just above the valence band. This state is called the **acceptor state**. The energy of the acceptor level from the valence band corresponds to the ionization energy or binding energy (E_b). When E_b is small, the electrons in the valence top can be thermally promoted into the donor level, leaving hole carriers behind. This is called the **p -type doping**.

5	6	7
B	C	N
13	14	15
Al	Si	P
31	32	33
Ga	Ge	As
49	50	51
In	Sn	Sb
81	82	83
Tl	Pb	Bi



The rest of the discussions are parallel to those for the n -type doping.

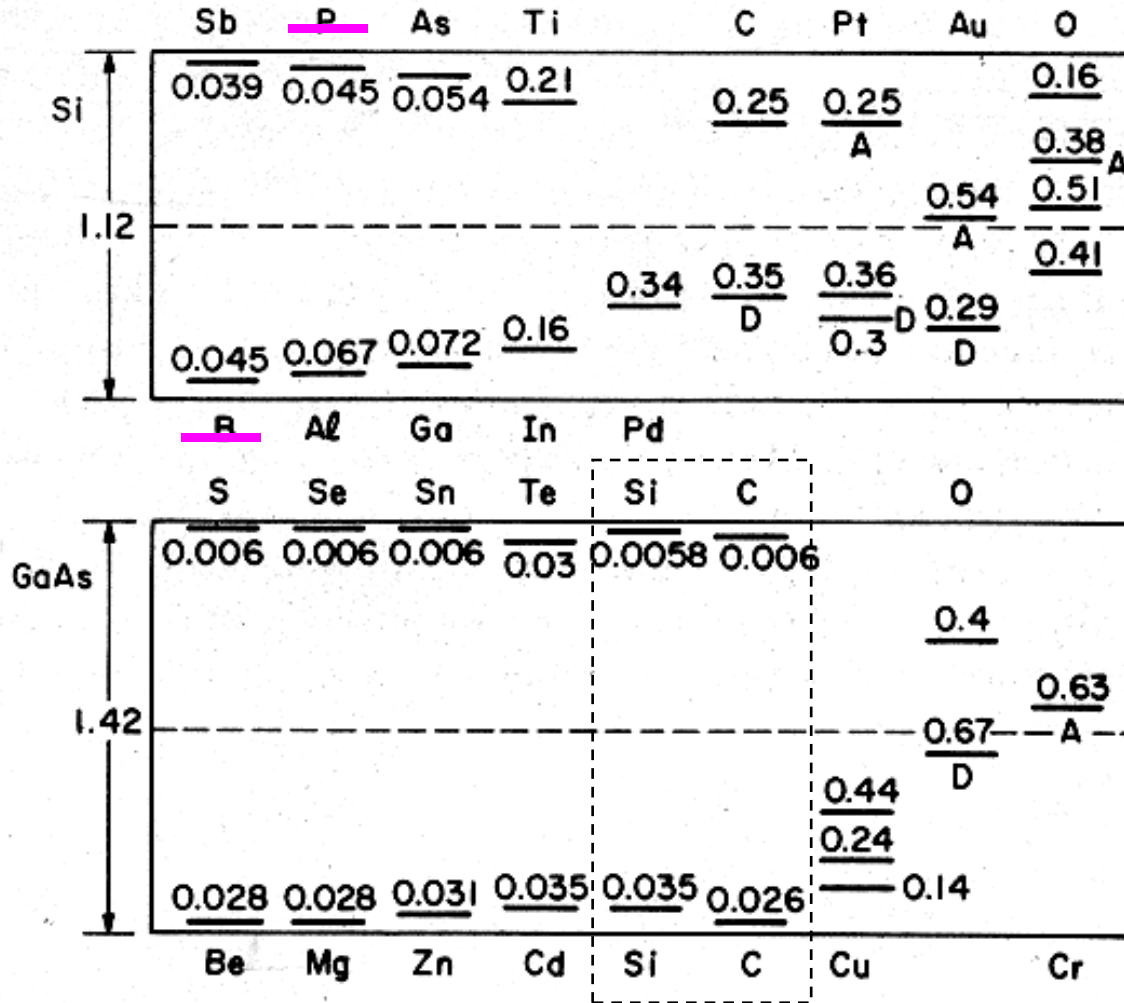
Ionization Energy ~50 meV

Bohr Radius ~5 nm

Dielectric Constant ~10

Effective Mass ~0.2 m

Various Donors and Acceptors in Si and GaAs



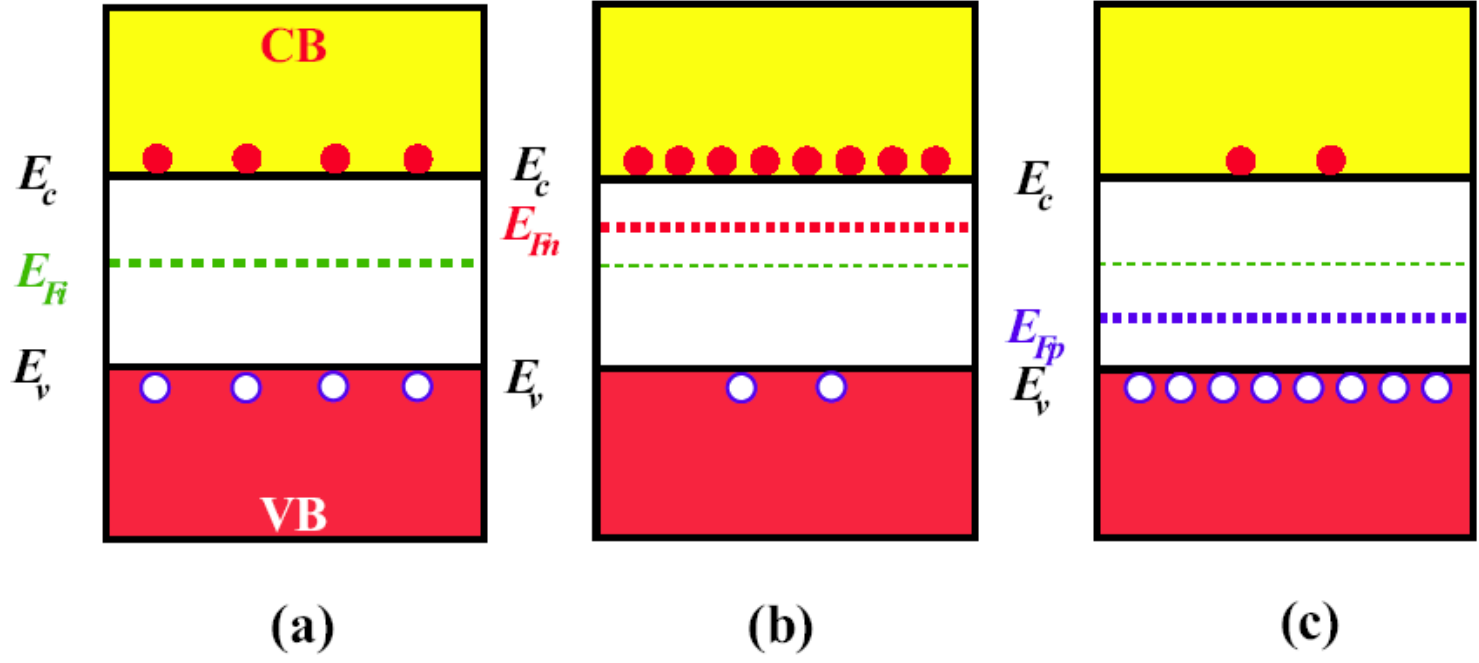
5	6	7	8	
B	C	N	O	
13	14	15	16	
Al	Si	P	S	
30	31	32	33	34
Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se
48	49	50	51	52
Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te

Amphoteric dopant

Intrinsic Semiconductor

***n*-Type Semiconductor**

***p*-Type Semiconductor**



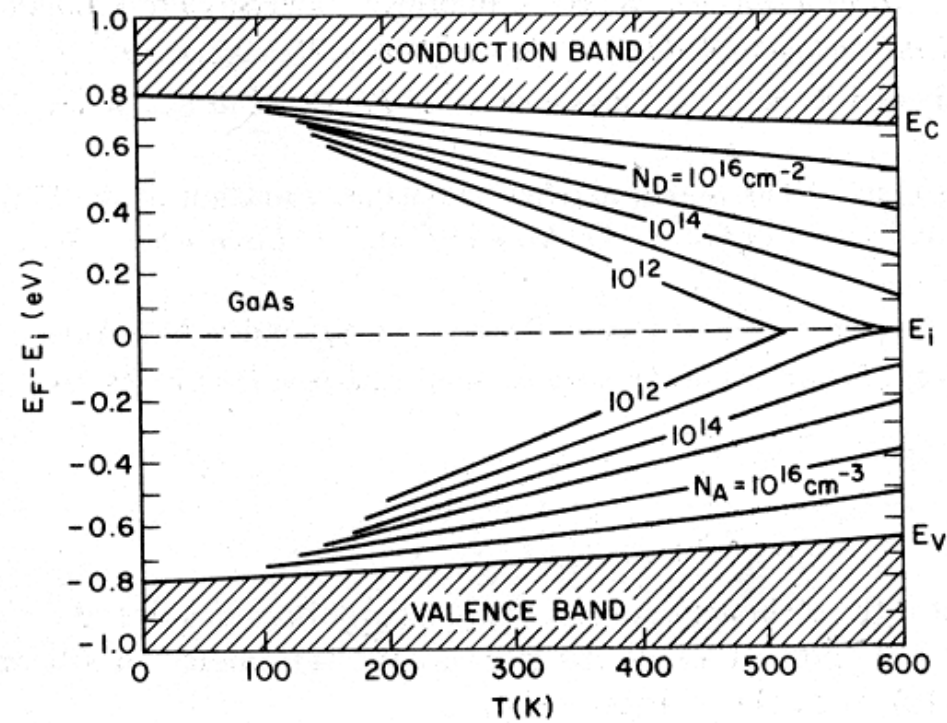
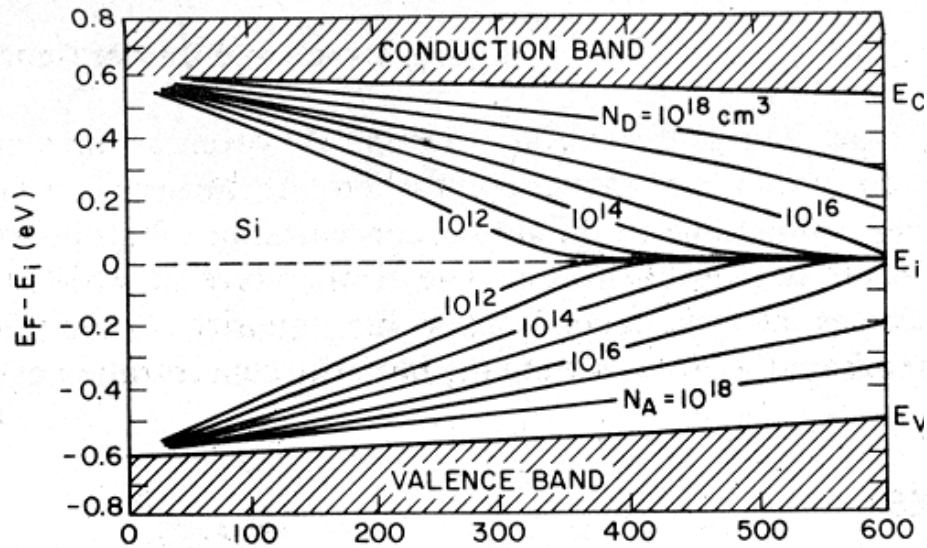
Schematic energy band diagrams

In all cases, $np = N_c N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{kT}\right)$ **PPT 3C-9**

$$p = N_v \exp\left[-\frac{(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right]$$

PPT 3C-7

Fermi levels for different doping concentrations as a function of temperature in Si and GaAs



Conductivity of a Semiconductor

$$J = env_{de} + epv_{dh}$$

$$v_{de} = \mu_e E_x \quad \text{and} \quad v_{dh} = \mu_h E_x$$

$$m_{e(h)} = \frac{et_{e(h)}}{m_{e(h)}^*}$$

v_{de} = drift velocity of the electrons

μ_e = electron drift mobility

E_x = applied electric field

v_{dh} = drift velocity of the holes

μ_h = hole drift mobility

The conductivity is given by:

$$\sigma = en\mu_e + ep\mu_h$$

$$v_d \equiv \mu E$$

$$J = nev_d$$

$$\sigma = ne\mu_n + pe\mu_p$$

$$\sigma = ne\mu = ne^2\tau/m^*$$

RESISTIVITY OF INTRINSIC AND DOPED Si Find the resistance of a 1 cm^3 pure silicon crystal. What is the resistance when the crystal is doped with arsenic if the doping is 1 in 10^9 , that is, 1 part per billion (ppb) (note that this doping corresponds to one foreigner living in China)? Note that the atomic concentration in silicon is $5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $n_i = 1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\mu_e = 1400 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, and $\mu_h = 450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Assuming shallow donors.

SOLUTION

For the intrinsic case, we apply

$$\sigma = en\mu_e + ep\mu_h = en(\mu_e + \mu_h)$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})(1.0 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})(1400 + 450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}) \\ &= 2.96 \times 10^{-6} \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Since $L = 1 \text{ cm}$ and $A = 1 \text{ cm}^2$, the resistance is

$$R = \frac{L}{\sigma A} = \frac{1}{\sigma} = 3.47 \times 10^5 \Omega \quad \text{or} \quad 347 \text{ k}\Omega$$

When the crystal is doped with 1 in 10^9 , then

$$N_d = \frac{N_{\text{Si}}}{10^9} = \frac{5 \times 10^{22}}{10^9} = 5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

At room temperature all the donors are ionized, so

$$n = N_d = 5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

The hole concentration is

$$p = \frac{n_i^2}{N_d} = \frac{(1.0 \times 10^{10})^2}{(5 \times 10^{13})} = 2.0 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3} \ll n_i$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= en\mu_e = (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})(5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3})(1400 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}) \\ &= 1.12 \times 10^{-2} \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$R = \frac{L}{\sigma A} = \frac{1}{\sigma} = 89.3 \Omega$$

Notice the drastic fall in the resistance when the crystal is doped with only 1 in 10^9 atoms.

Doping the silicon crystal with boron instead of arsenic, but still in amounts of 1 in 10^9 , means that $N_a = 5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, which results in a conductivity of

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= ep\mu_h = (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})(5 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3})(450 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}) \\ &= 3.6 \times 10^{-3} \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$R = \frac{L}{\sigma A} = \frac{1}{\sigma} = 278 \Omega$$

The reason for a higher resistance with p -type doping compared with the same amount of n -type doping is that $\mu_h < \mu_e$.

3C.4. Mobility and Conductivity

Temperature Dependence of Carrier Concentration

$$n = N_d^+ + p$$

$$N_C e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT}} + N_V e^{-(E_F - E_V)/kT}$$

ppt 3C-22

Let's consider donor only. If $N_d \gg n_i$, most electrons are donated by ionized donors.

$$n = N_C e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} = \frac{N_d}{2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT} + 1}$$

At low temperature, parts of N_d is ionized, which means that the denominator in the left-hand side should be much bigger than 1. Therefore, $2\exp[(E_F - E_d)/kT] \gg 1$ and so

$$n = N_C e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} \approx \frac{N_d}{2e^{(E_F - E_d)/kT}} = \frac{N_d}{2} e^{(E_d - E_F)/kT}$$

$$n^2 = N_C e^{-(E_C - E_F)/kT} \frac{N_d}{2} e^{(E_d - E_F)/kT} = \frac{N_C N_d}{2} e^{-(E_C - E_d)/kT} = \frac{N_C N_d}{2} e^{-E_b/kT}$$

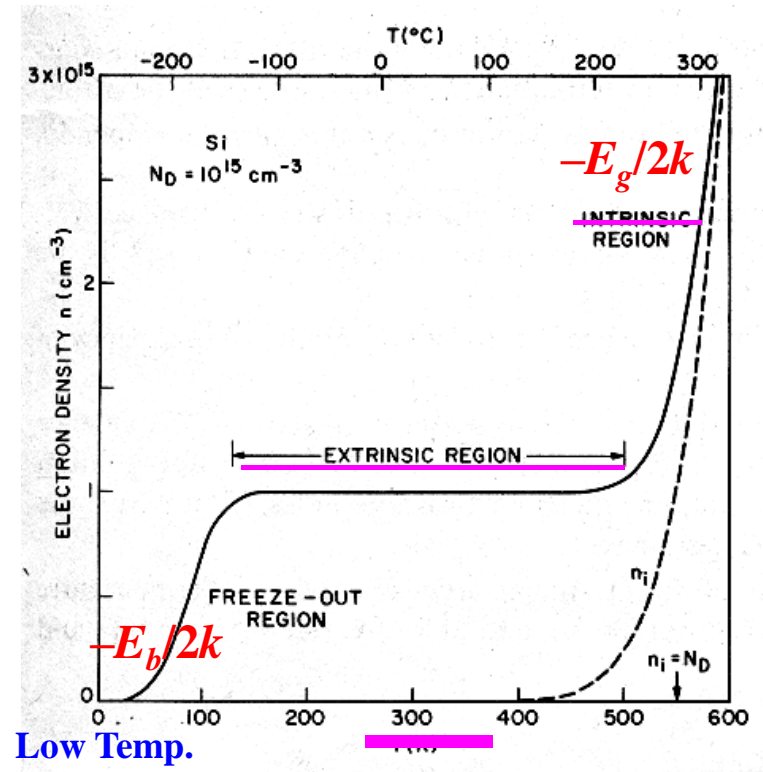
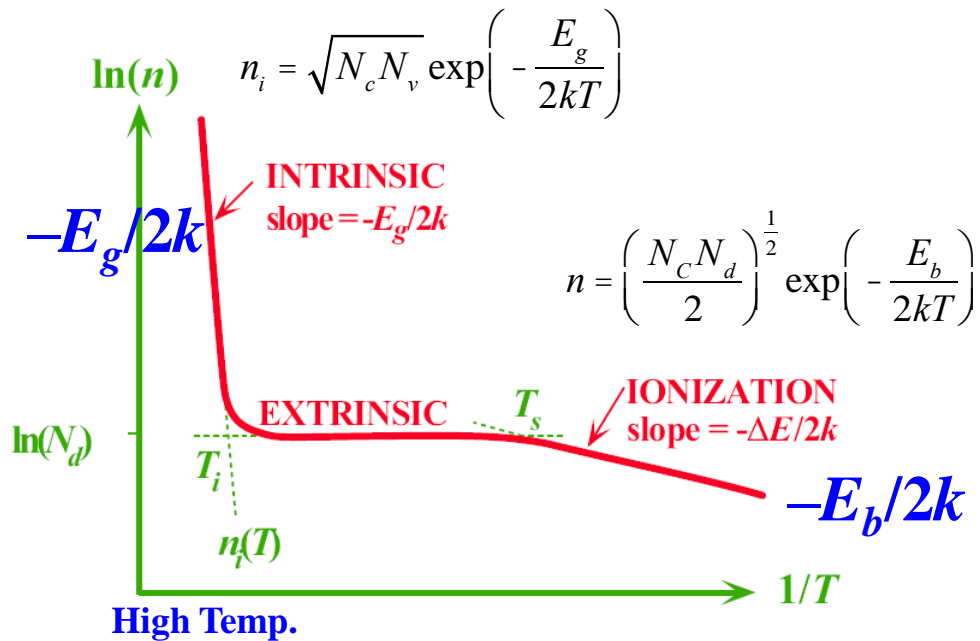
$$\rightarrow n = \left(\frac{N_C N_d}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{E_b}{2kT} \right)$$

This results in a linear line in $\ln(n)$ vs $1/T$ graph with the slope of $-E_b/2k$.

Note that the formula resembles the **intrinsic carrier density**.

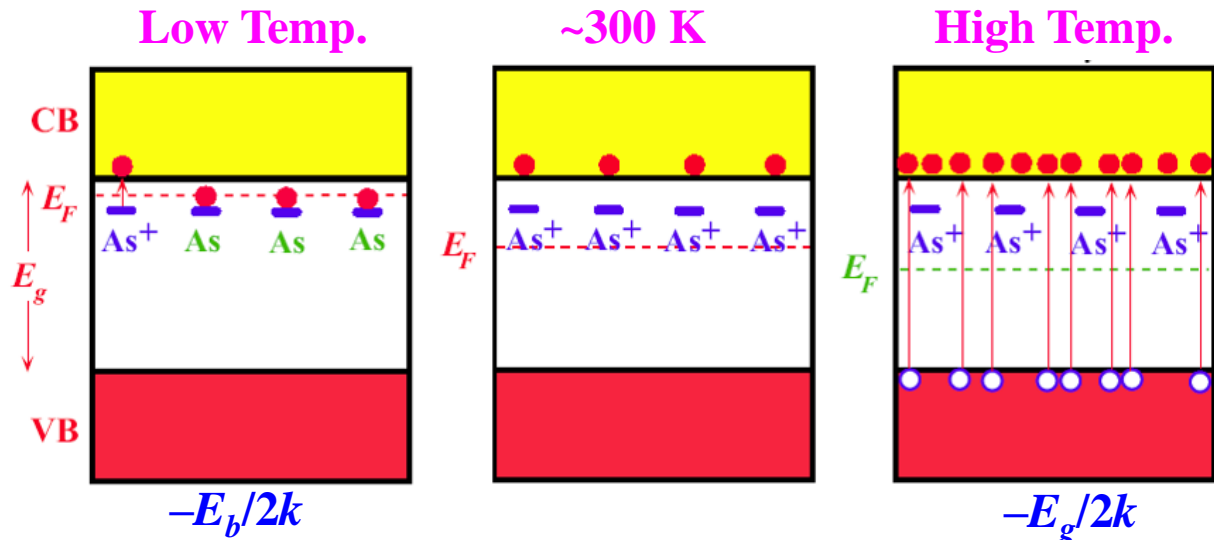
$$n_i = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT} \right)$$

ppt 3C-10
Intrinsic Semiconductor



- At low temperatures, the carrier density increases by ionizing the dopant.
- The dopants are fully activated as $n = N_d$ (~300 K).
- The electron excitation is directly from the valence to conduction (at high temperatures).

Temperature Dependence of Carrier Density can be schematically understood as follows:



- (a) At low temperatures, the electron concentration is controlled by the ionization of the donors.
- (b) Between T_s and T_i (intrinsic temperature), the electron concentration is equal to the concentration of donors since they are fully ionized ($n = N_d$).
- (c) At high temperatures, thermally generated electrons from the valence band exceed the number of electrons from ionized donors and the semiconductor behaves as if intrinsic.

SATURATION AND INTRINSIC TEMPERATURES An n -type Si sample has been doped with 10^{15} phosphorus atoms cm^{-3} . The donor energy level for P in Si is 0.045 eV below the conduction band edge energy.

- a. Estimate the temperature above which the sample behaves as if intrinsic.
- b. Estimate the lowest temperature above which most of the donors are ionized.

SOLUTION

Remember that $n_i(T)$ is highly temperature dependent, as shown in Figure 5.16 so that as T increases, eventually at $T \approx T_i$, n_i becomes comparable to N_d . Beyond T_i , $n_i(T > T_i) \gg N_d$. Thus we need to solve

$$n_i(T_i) = N_d = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

From the $\log(n_i)$ versus $10^3/T$ graph for Si in Figure 5.16, when $n_i = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $(10^3/T_i) \approx 1.85$, giving $T_i \approx 541 \text{ K}$ or $268 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

We will assume that most of the donors are ionized, say at $T \approx T_s$, where the extrinsic and the extrapolated ionization lines intersect in Figure 5.15:

$$n = \left(\frac{1}{2} N_c N_d \right)^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta E}{2kT_s}\right) \approx N_d$$

This is the temperature at which the ionization behavior intersects the extrinsic region. In the above equation, $N_d = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\Delta E = 0.045 \text{ eV}$, and $N_c \propto T^{3/2}$, that is,

$$N_c(T_s) = N_c(300 \text{ K}) \left(\frac{T_s}{300} \right)^{3/2}$$

Clearly, then, the equation can only be solved numerically. Similar equations occur in a wide range of physical problems where one term has the strongest temperature dependence. Here, $\exp(-\Delta E/kT_s)$ has the strongest temperature dependence. First assume N_c is that at 300 K, $N_c = 2.8 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, and evaluate T_s ,

$$T_s = \frac{\Delta E}{k \ln\left(\frac{N_c}{2N_d}\right)} = \frac{0.045 \text{ eV}}{(8.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV K}^{-1}) \ln\left[\frac{2.8 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}}{2(1.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3})}\right]} = 54.7 \text{ K}$$

At $T = 54.7 \text{ K}$,

$$N_c(54.7 \text{ K}) = N_c(300 \text{ K}) \left(\frac{54.7}{300} \right)^{3/2} = 2.18 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

With this new N_c at a lower temperature, the improved T_s is 74.6 K. Since we only need an estimate of T_s , the extrinsic range of this semiconductor is therefore from about 75 K to 541 K or $-198 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to about $268 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Drift Mobility: Temperature and Impurity Dependence

- Lattice-Scattering-Limited Mobility

$$\mu_L = \frac{e\tau_L}{m^*}, \quad \tau_L = \frac{1}{Sv_{\text{th}}N_s}$$

The same as
ppt 3C-16

$$\frac{1}{2}m^*v_{\text{th}}^2 = \frac{3}{2}kT \rightarrow v_{\text{th}} \propto T^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad S = \pi a^2, \quad a^2 \propto T$$

$$\mu \propto m_L^{-1} T^{-3/2}$$

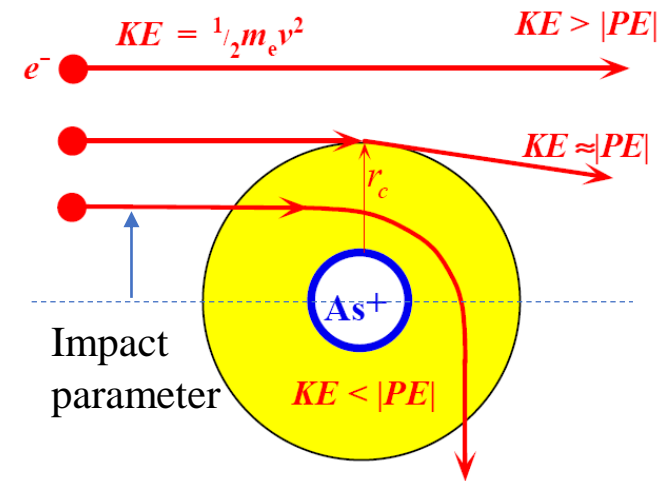
in metal ppt 3A-10

Free-Electron Model or Classical Theory

$$\rightarrow \tau \propto \frac{1}{a^2} \propto \frac{1}{T} = \frac{C}{T}$$

Charged Impurity Scattering

In doped semiconductors, the ionized impurities play as scattering centers due to the long-range Coulomb interaction between electron and charged dopants (D^+ or A^-). **At low temperatures, this impurity scattering dominates the carrier mobility.** As shown below, electrons incident close to the impurity (**kinetic energy $<$ |potential energy|**) are scattered more severely than those approaching away from the impurity (**kinetic energy $>$ |potential energy|**). The approximate cross section can be obtained by assuming that kinetic energy \sim |potential energy| at the radius of cross section (r_c).



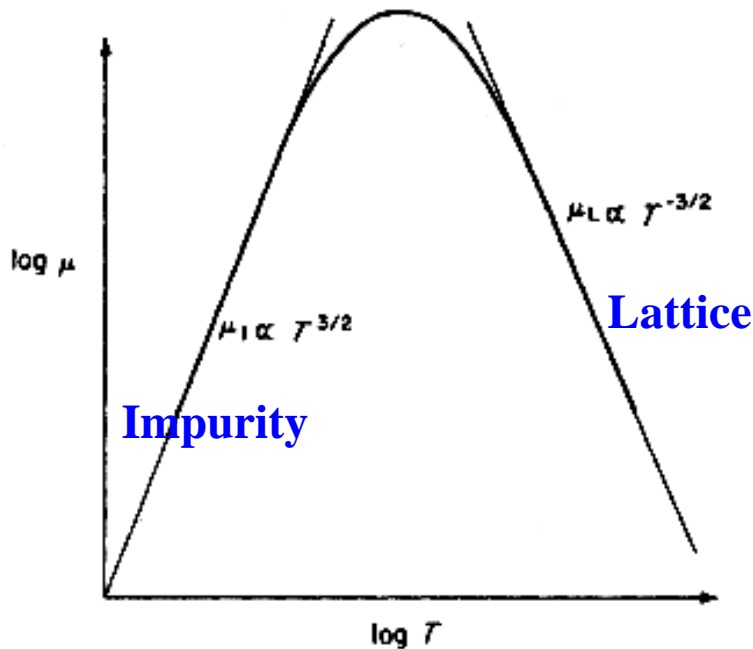
$$\frac{3}{2}kT = |PE(r_c)| = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r r_c} \longrightarrow r_c = e^2 / (6\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r kT)$$

$$S = \pi r_c^2 = \frac{\pi e^4}{(6\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r kT)^2} \propto T^{-2}$$

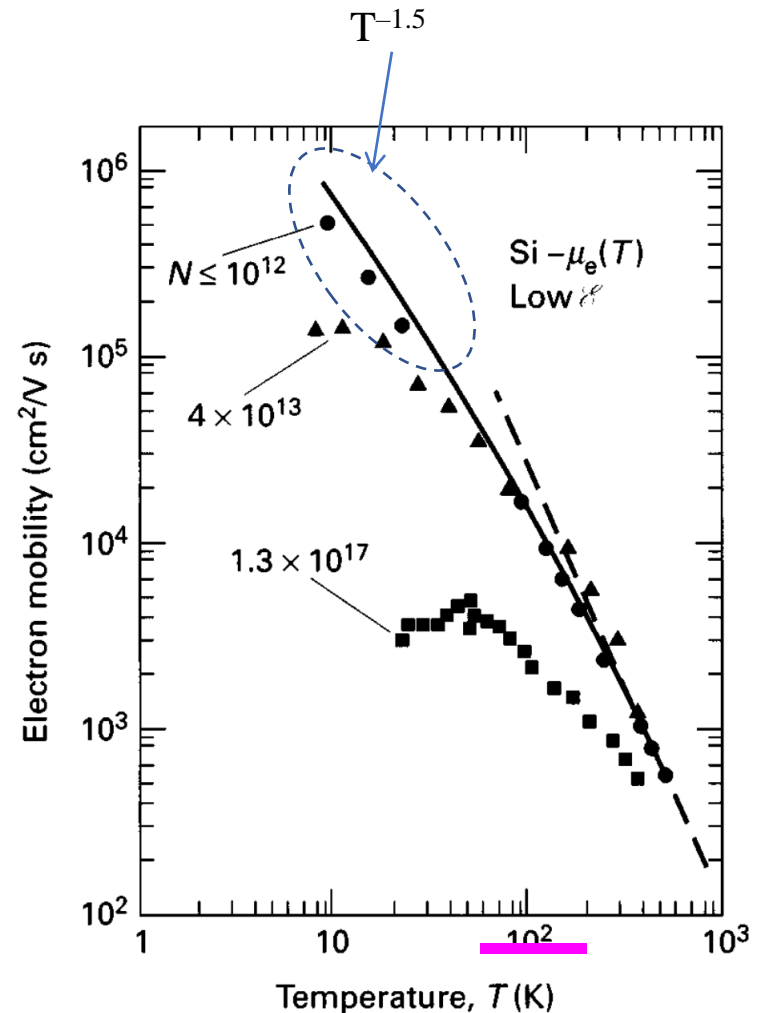
$$\tau_I = \frac{1}{S v_{th} N_I} \propto \frac{1}{(T^{-2})(T^{1/2})N_I} \propto \frac{T^{3/2}}{N_I} \quad \searrow m_I \mu T^{3/2}$$

N_I = concentration of the ionized impurities (all ionized impurities including donors and acceptors) Below the saturation temperature, N_I itself is temperature dependent.

$$\frac{1}{m} = \frac{1}{m_I} + \frac{1}{m_L}$$

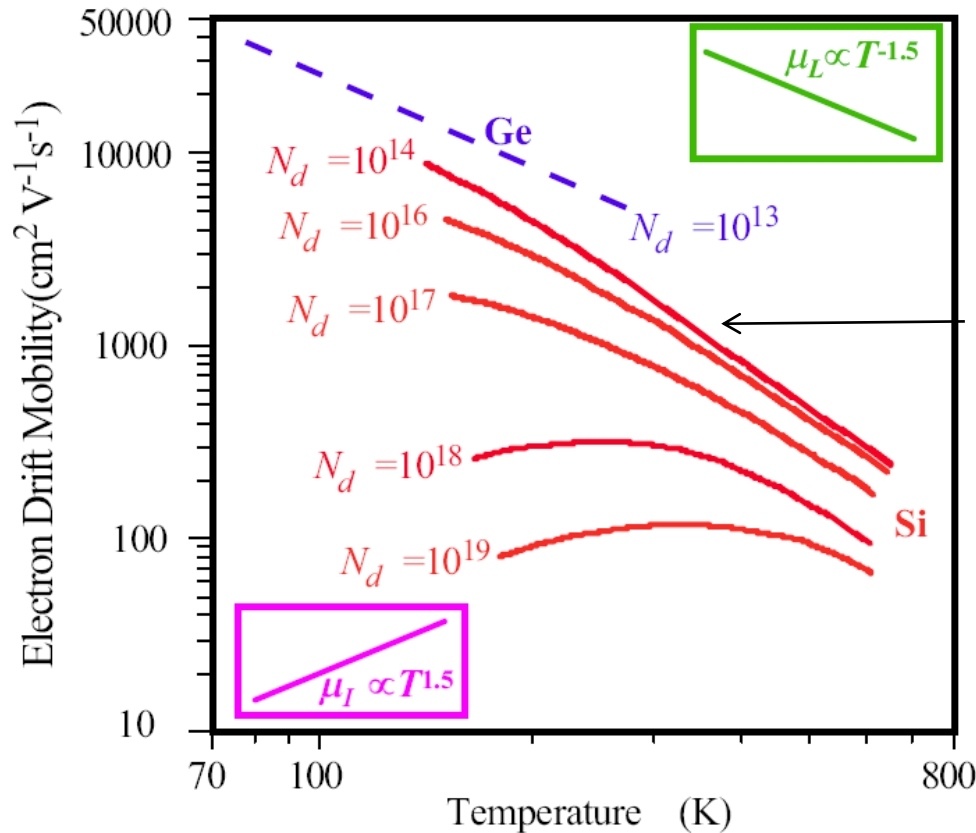


Temperature dependence of mobility in a semiconductor with scattering by both acoustic lattice waves and by charged imperfections, resulting in a maximum mobility at a particular temperature. As N_I decreases, μ_I increases so that maximum mobility moves to lower temperature with increasing purity of the material.



At high temperatures, μ drops more rapidly because of intervalley scattering.

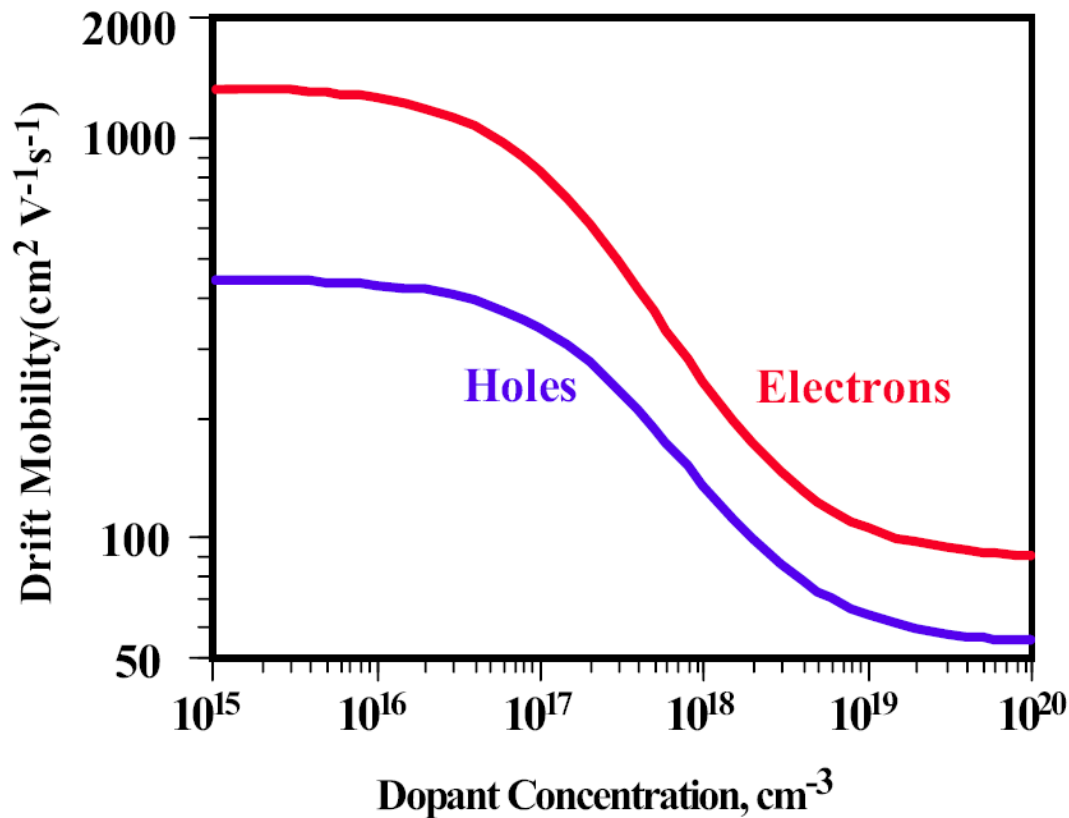
- Effective or overall mobility



$$\frac{1}{m_e} = \frac{1}{m_I} + \frac{1}{m_L}$$

$$\mu_L \propto T^{-2.5}$$

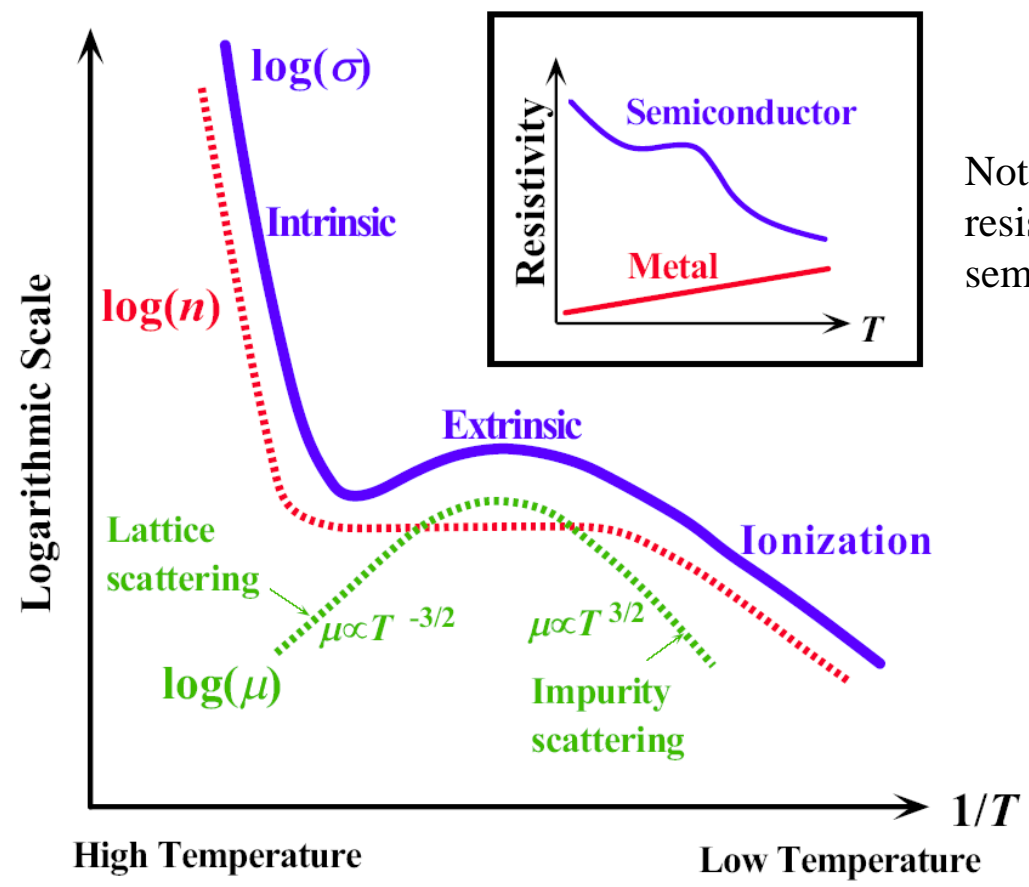
Log-log plot of drift mobility versus temperature for *n*-type Ge and *n*-type Si samples. Various donor concentrations for Si are shown. N_d are in cm^{-3} . The upper right inset is the simple theory for lattice limited mobility, whereas the lower left inset is the simple theory for impurity scattering limited mobility.



The variation of the drift mobility with dopant concentration in Si for electrons and holes at 300 K. For typical doping concentrations, the drift mobility is largely controlled by the impurity scattering.

$$\mu_e \approx 88 + \frac{1252}{1 + 6.984 \times 10^{-18} N_{\text{dopant}}} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \mu_h \approx 54.3 + \frac{407}{1 + 3.745 \times 10^{-18} N_{\text{dopant}}} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

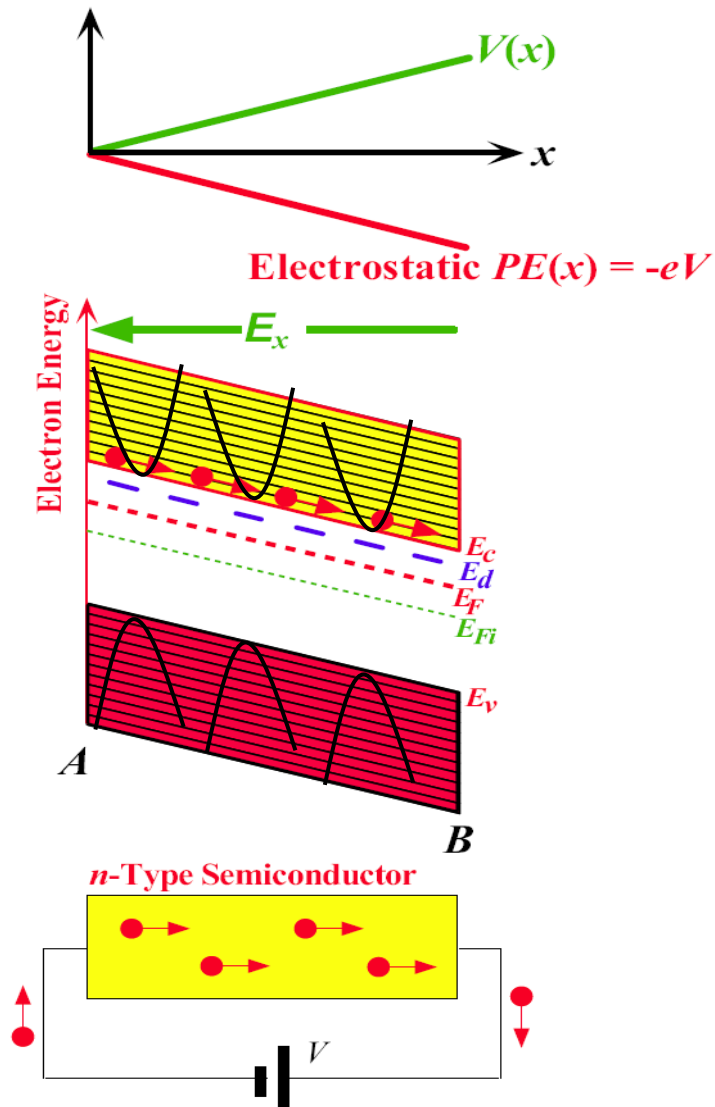
Temperature dependence of conductivity



Note the opposite T-dependence of resistivity or conductivity between semiconductors and metals.

Schematic illustration of the temperature dependence of electrical conductivity for a doped (n-type) semiconductor.

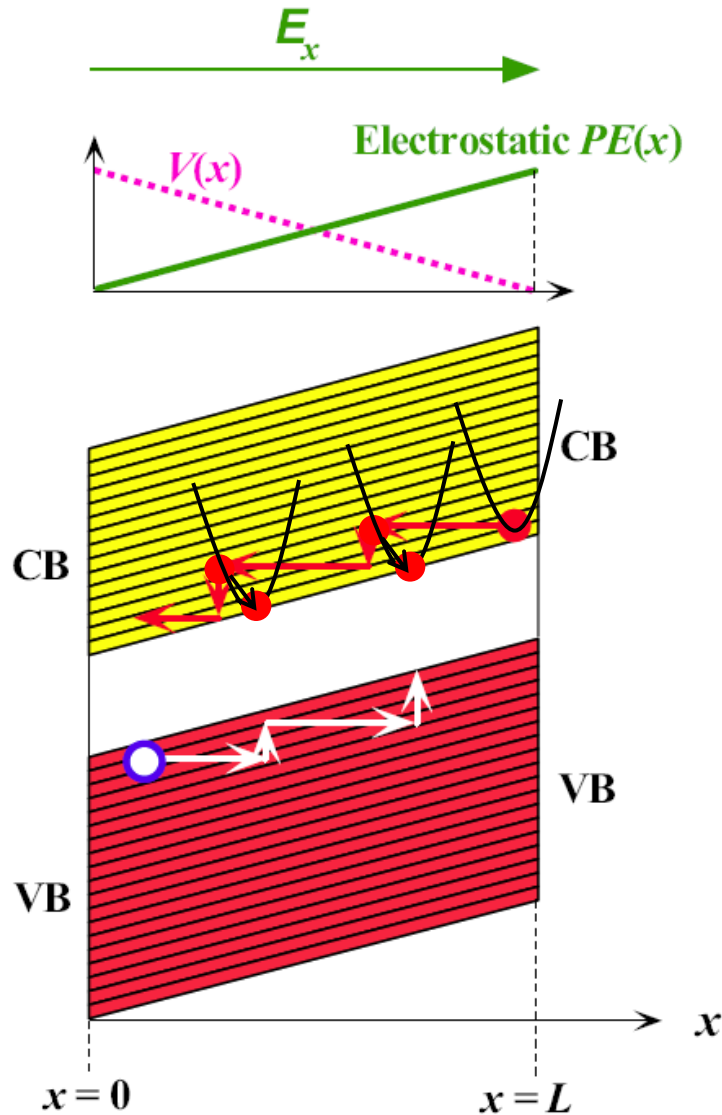
Energy band diagram in devices



Energy band diagram of an n -type semiconductor connected to a voltage supply of V volts.

The whole energy diagram tilts because the electron now also has an electrostatic potential energy.

The band structure can be defined locally with its relative energy position varies with the external electrostatic potential.



In more detail, the electrons accelerate starting from the conduction bottom (in fact slightly above by $3/2 kT$) at a certain spatial point. The acceleration continues during the scattering time, which moves the electron to the higher Bloch states in the left region separated by (drift velocity) x (scattering time). As the electron is scattered, the corresponding Bloch state drops to the conduction bottom. Overall, the process can be depicted as electrons sliding through the bottom line of the conduction band as in the previous slide.

Degenerate semiconductors

For heavily doped SC, typically 10^{19} - 10^{20} cm^{-3} , $n > N_c$ or $p > N_v$ and they are called **degenerate semiconductors**. In this case, the Fermi-Dirac distribution should be applied like free-electron model for metals. The degenerate semiconductors behave more like metals and $\rho \propto T$. In another viewpoint, the defect states with a typical radius of a few nm, begin to overlap each other and form their own bands (defect bands)

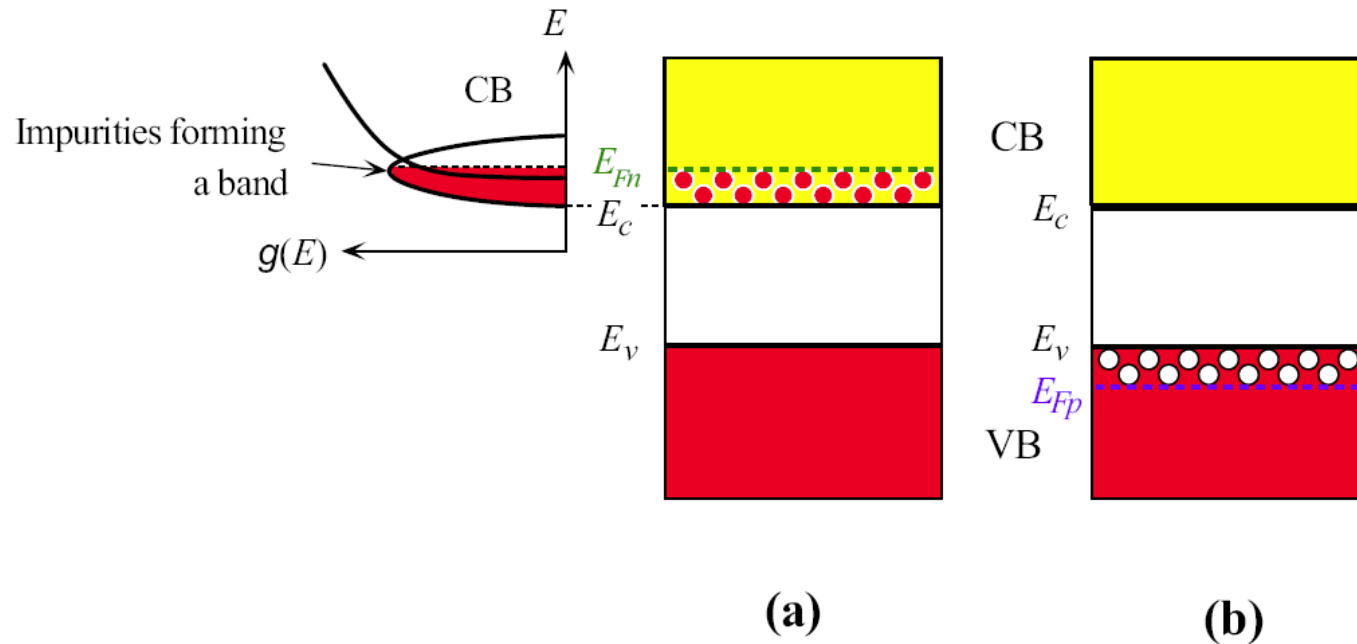


Figure 5.21 (a) Degenerate n -type semiconductor. Large number of donors form a band that overlaps the CB. (b) Degenerate p -type semiconductor.

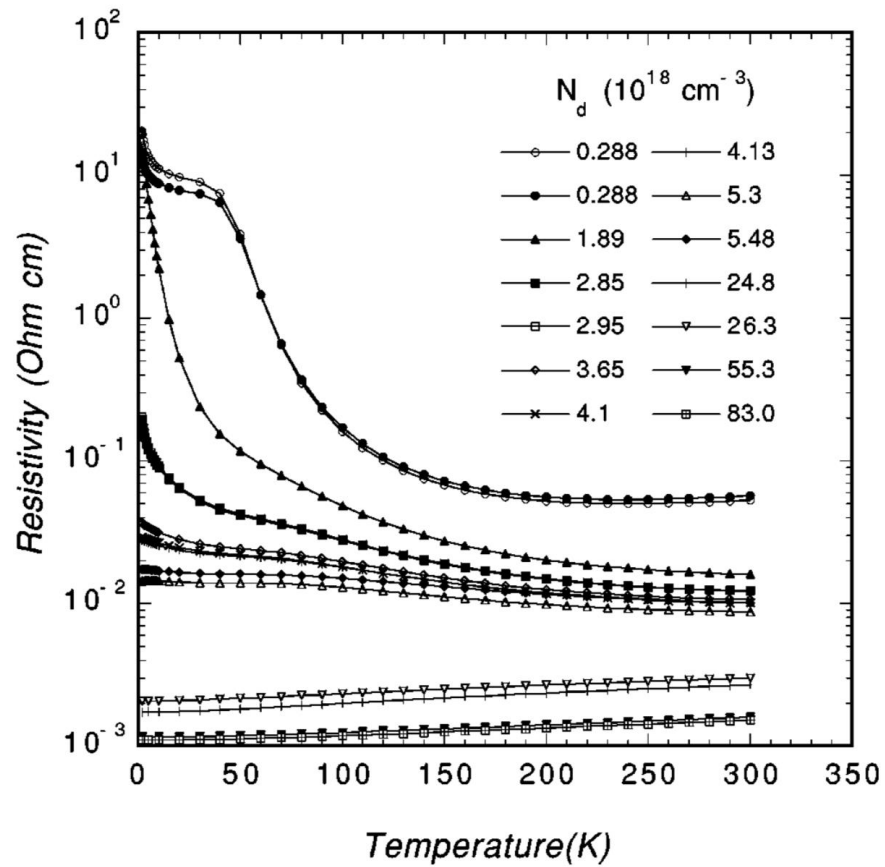


FIG. 3. Temperature dependence of the resistivity of the double-doped system Si:P,Bi with different donor impurity concentrations N_d .

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Band conduction

Ballistic conduction

Drift conduction

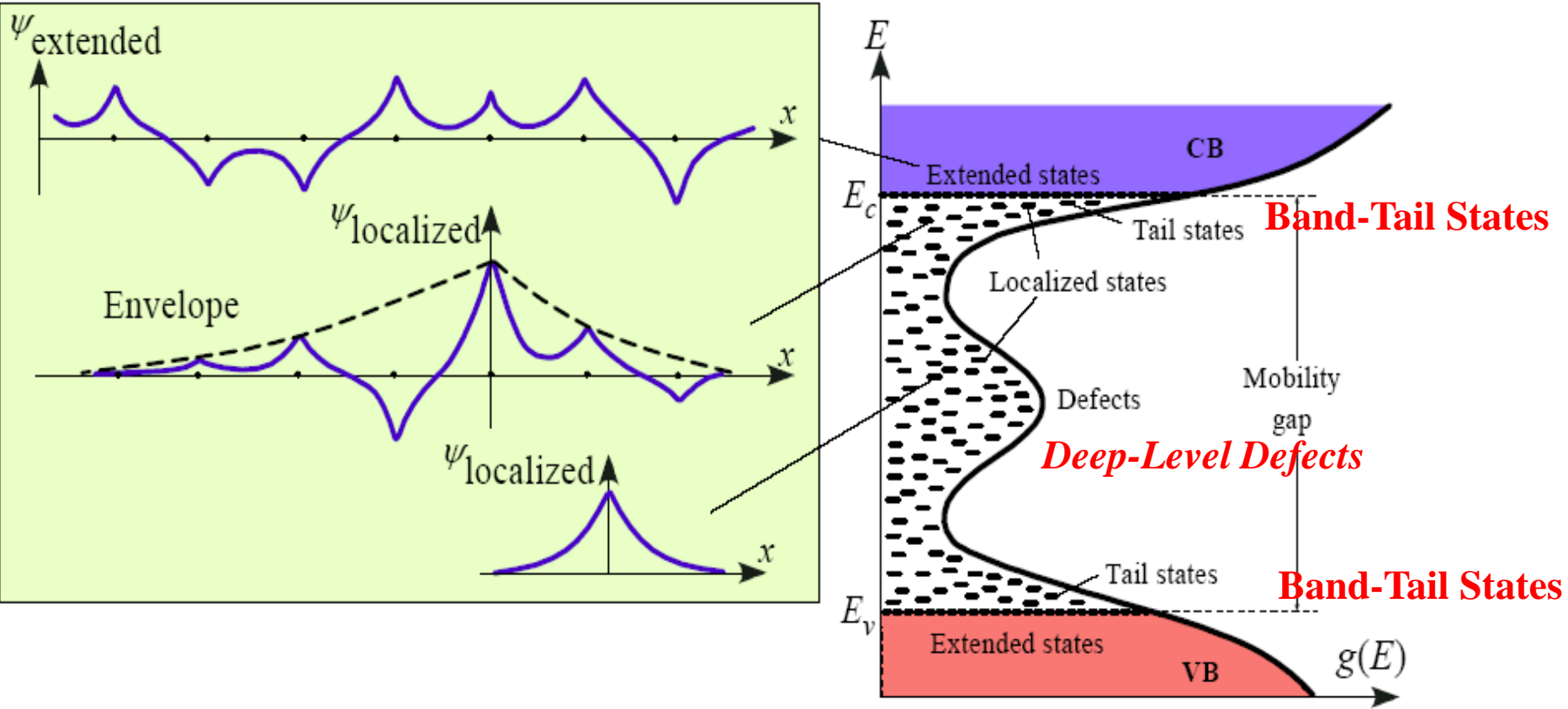
Hopping conduction

Variable range hopping

Markus theory

Superconductivity

Amorphous Semiconductors



Schematic representation of the **density of states** $g(E)$ vs. energy E for an **amorphous semiconductor**, and the associated electron wavefunctions for an electron in the extended and localized states.

3C.5. Junctions

Properties of an Equilibrium p - n Junction

For the same bandgap energy between p -type and n -type.

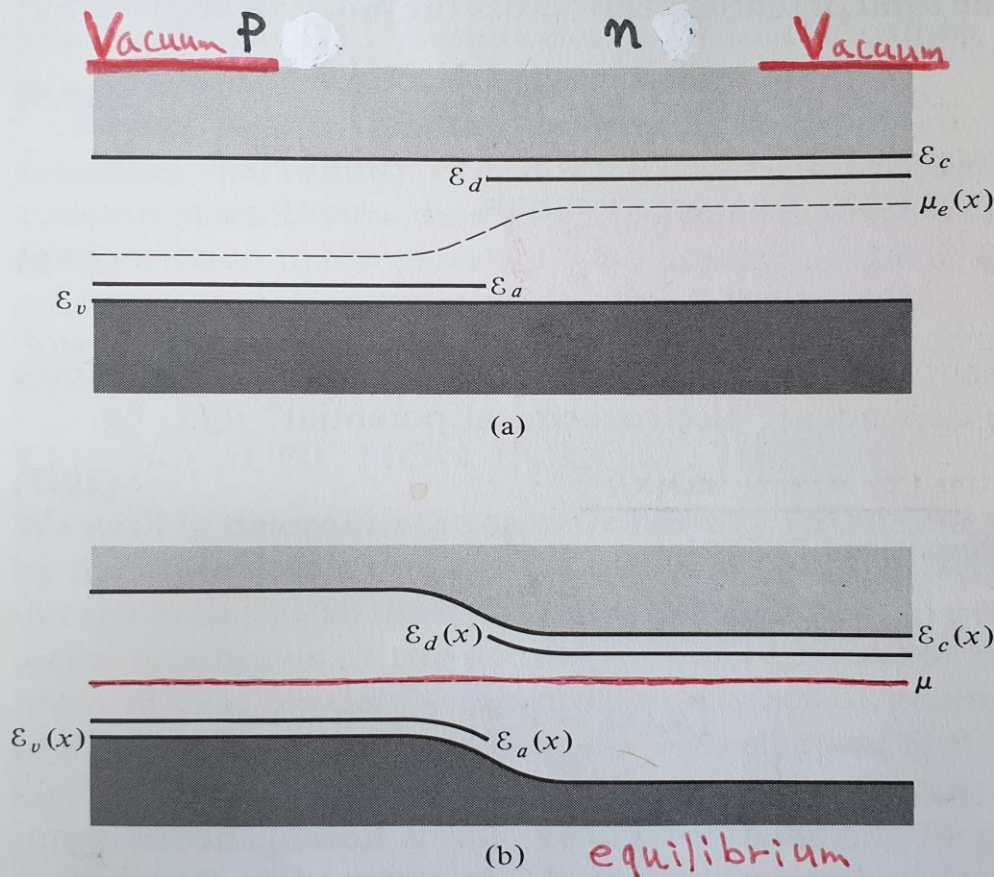


Figure 29.2

Two equivalent ways of representing the effect of the internal potential $\phi(x)$ on the electron and hole densities of a p - n junction.

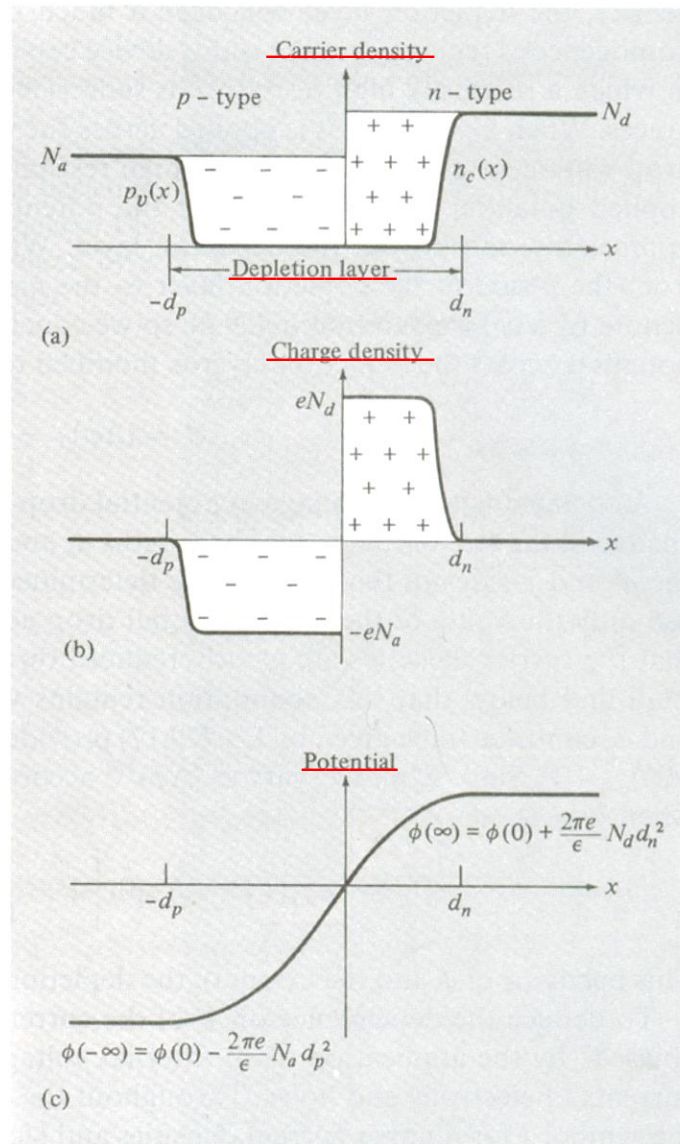
(a) The electrochemical potential $\mu_e(x) = \mu + e\phi(x)$ is plotted along the p - n junction. The carrier densities at any point x are those that would be found in a uniform semiconductor characterized by the fixed band and impurity energies ϵ_c , ϵ_v , ϵ_d , and ϵ_a , at a chemical potential equal to $\mu_e(x)$.

(b) Here $\epsilon_c(x) = \epsilon_c - e\phi(x)$ is the energy of an electron wave packet localized about x formed from levels very near the conduction band minimum, and similarly for $\epsilon_v(x)$. The energies of the local impurity levels are $\epsilon_d(x) = \epsilon_d - e\phi(x)$ and $\epsilon_a(x) = \epsilon_a - e\phi(x)$. The (constant) chemical potential is also shown. The carrier densities at any point x are those that would be found in a uniform semiconductor characterized by band and impurity energies equal to $\epsilon_c(x)$, $\epsilon_d(x)$, $\epsilon_a(x)$, and $\epsilon_v(x)$ at the fixed chemical potential μ .

Depletion Layer

Figure 29.3

(a) Carrier densities, (b) charge density, and (c) potential $\phi(x)$ plotted vs. position across an abrupt p - n junction. In the analysis in the text the approximation was made that the carrier densities and charge density are constants except for discontinuous changes at $x = -d_p$ and $x = d_n$. More precisely (see Problem 1), these quantities undergo rapid change over regions just within the depletion layer whose extent is a fraction of order $(k_B T / E_g)^{1/2}$ of the total extent of the depletion layer. The extent of the depletion layer is typically from 10^2 to 10^4 Å.



$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi \rho$$

$$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi$$

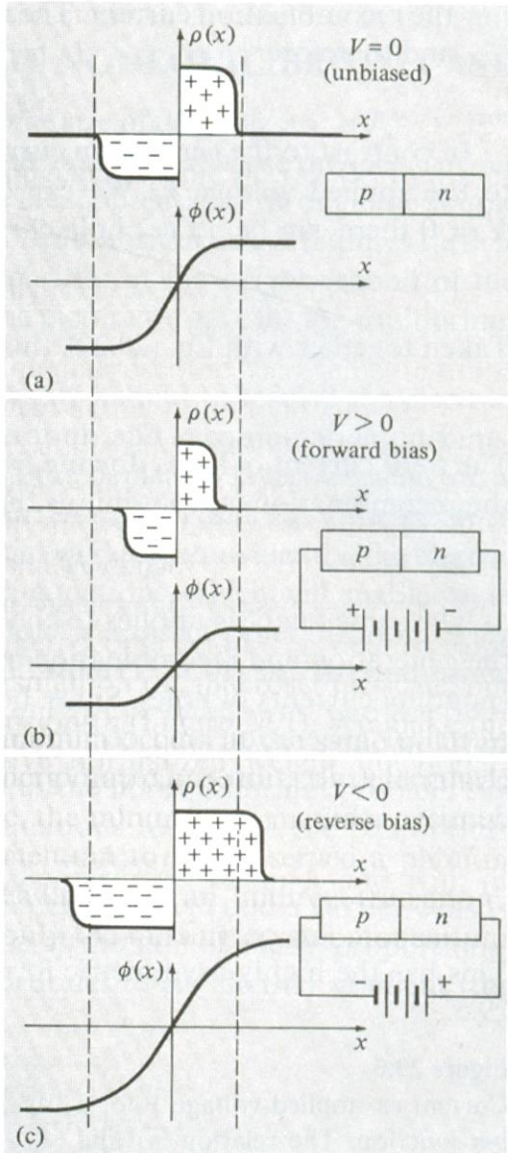
$$\rho(x)$$

$$\Phi(x)$$

Carrier Density at a p-n Junction

Figure 29.4

The charge density ρ and potential ϕ in the depletion layer (a) for the unbiased junction, (b) for the junction with $V > 0$ (forward bias), and (c) for the junction with $V < 0$ (reverse bias). The positions $x = d_n$ and $x = -d_p$ that mark the boundaries of the depletion layer when $V = 0$ are given by the dashed lines. The depletion layer and change in ϕ are reduced by a forward bias and increased by a reverse bias.



Equilibrium

Forward bias

Reverse bias

Ashcroft, Solid State Physics

A Typical p-n Junction

Typical Si diode: ideal I - V characteristics.

Applied forward voltage: ~ 1 V.

Breakdown voltage: ~ 1 V – 1 kV.

impurity concentration and/or various parameters.

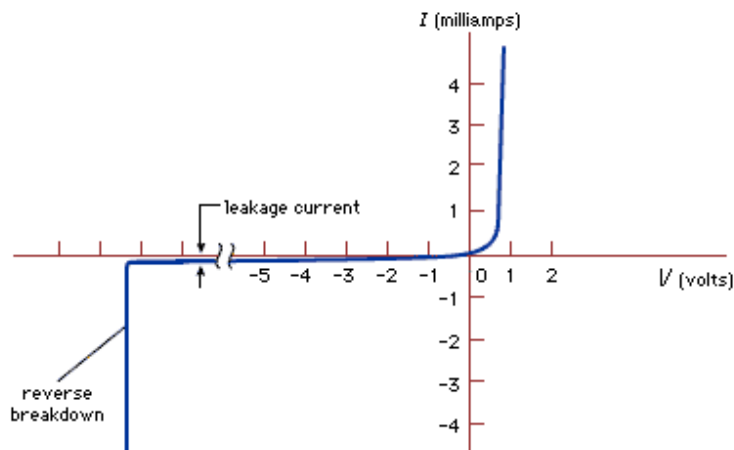
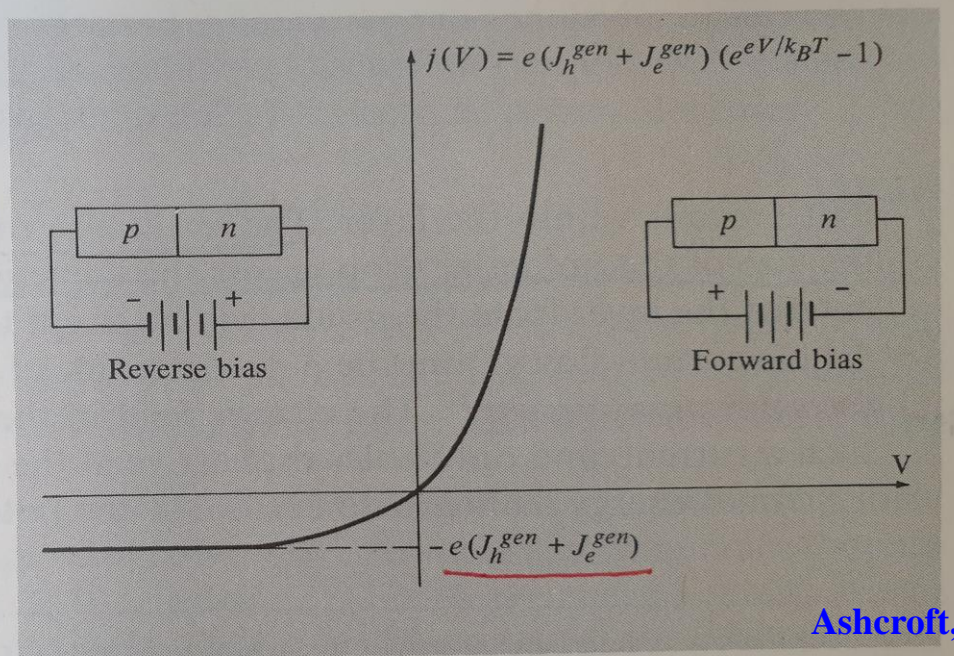


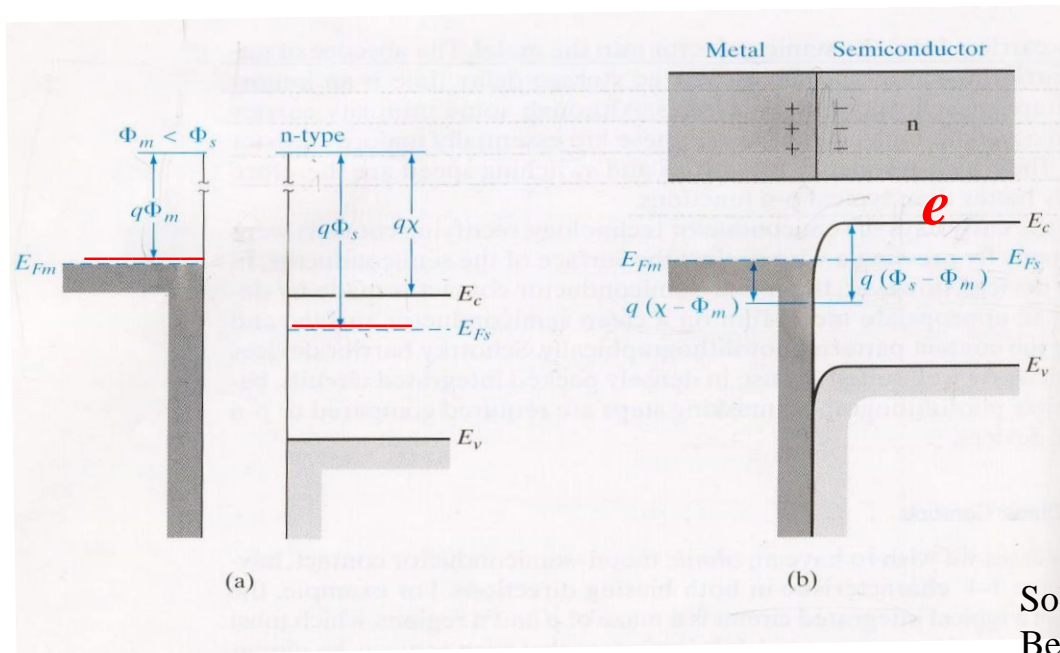
Figure 29.5

Current vs. applied voltage V for a p - n junction. The relation is valid for eV small compared with the energy gap, E_g . The saturation current ($eJ_h^{gen} + eJ_e^{gen}$) varies with temperature as $e^{-E_g/k_B T}$, as established below.

$\sim 10^{-11}$ A/cm²



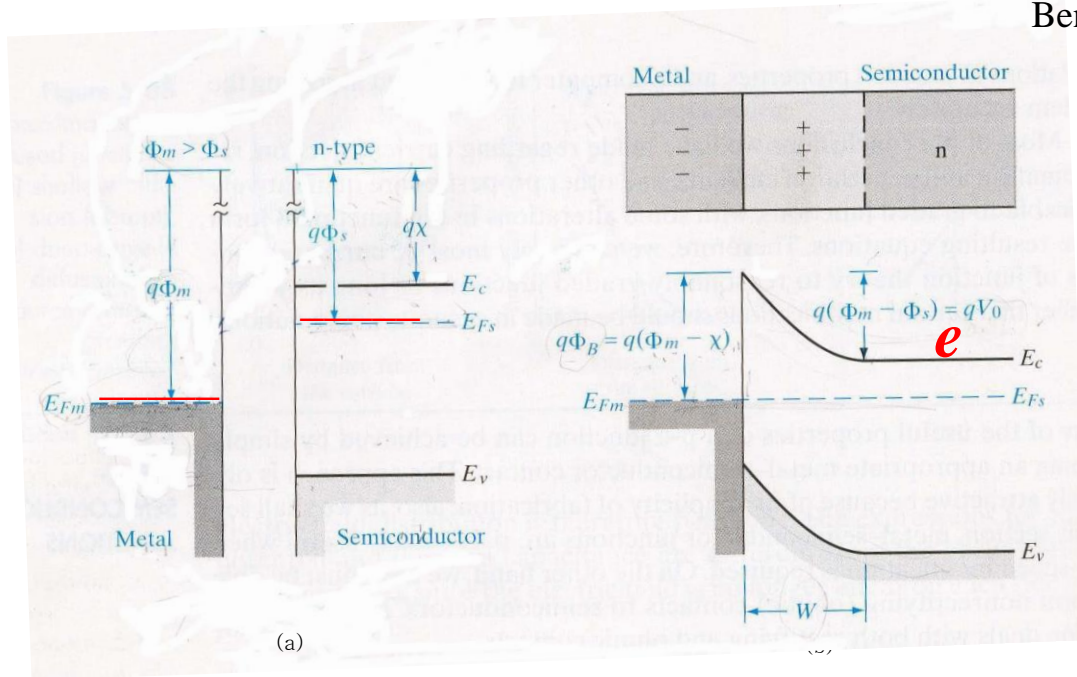
Ohmic Contact



Solid State Electronic Devices (6th edition, Chapter 5)
 Ben G. Streetman, Sanjay Kumar Banerjee

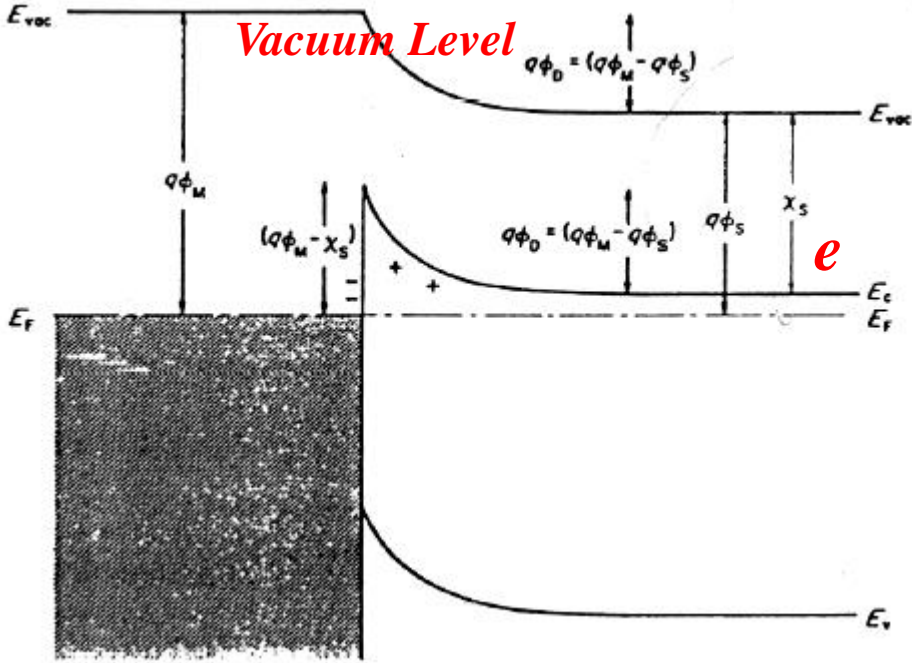
Schottky Barriers

Solid State Electronic Devices (6th edition, Chapter 5)
Ben G. Streetman, Sanjay Kumar Banerjee

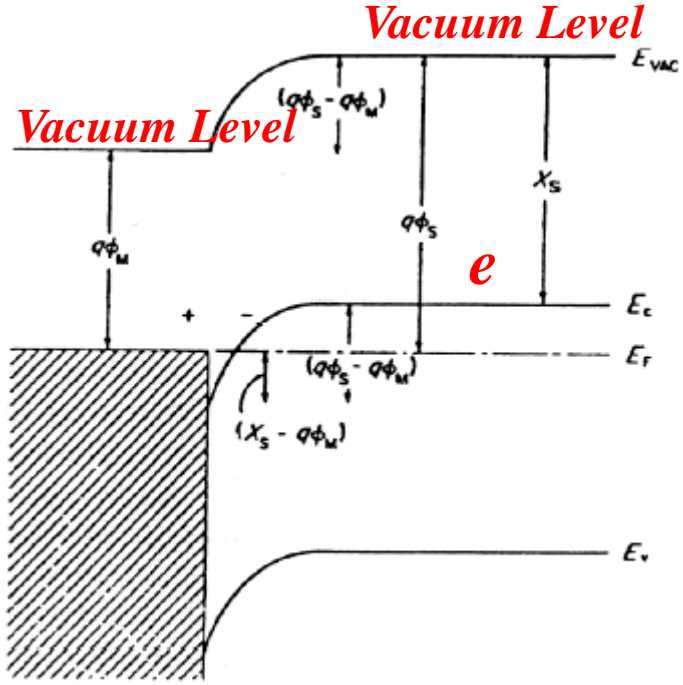


Injection of majority carriers from the semiconductor into the metal

Barrier Height

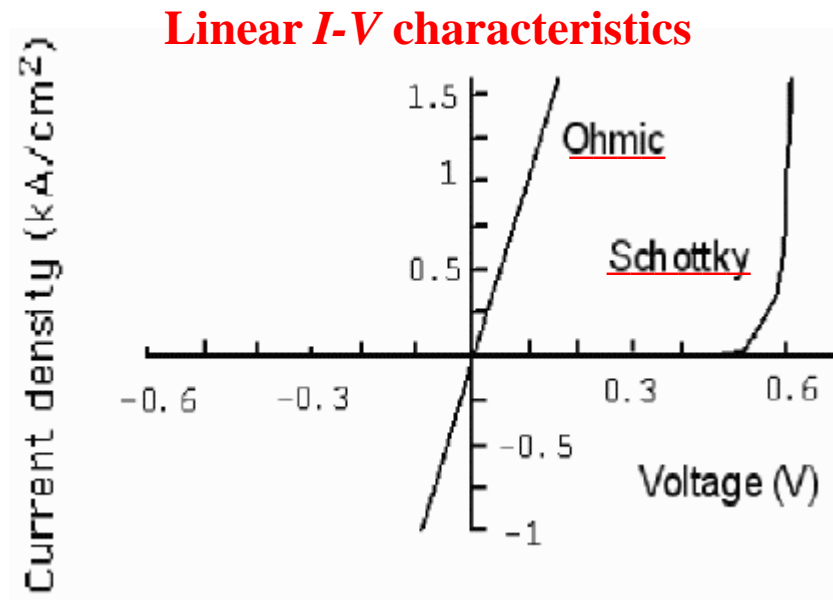


Schottky junction (*n*-type semiconductor)



Ohmic junction (*n*-type semiconductor)

I-V Characteristics of Ohmic and Schottky Barriers



http://www.mtmi.vu.lt/legacy/pfk/funkc_dariniai/diod/schottky.htm

Transparent Conducting Oxide (TCO)

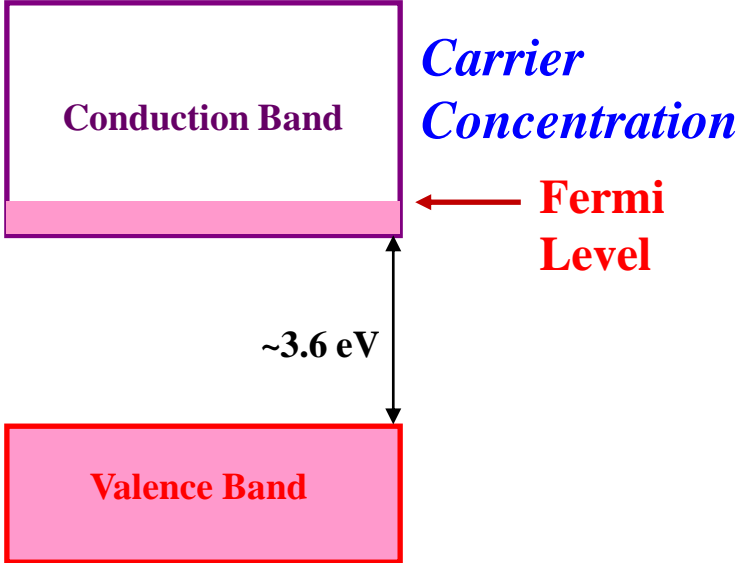
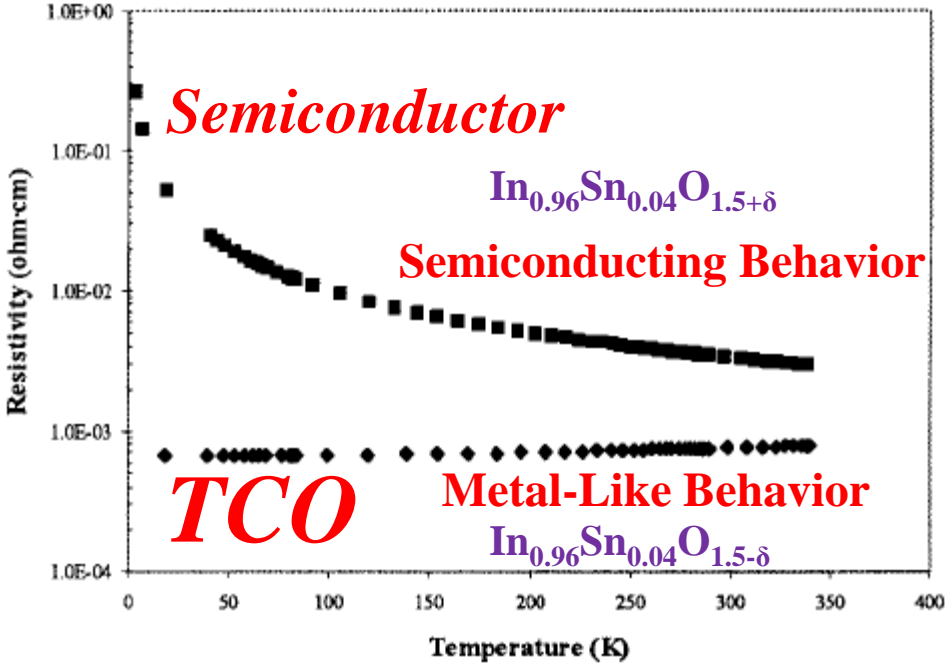


Figure 3. Low-temperature resistivity of as-fired (■) and reduced (◆) ITO.

Work Function

Table 2 Electron work functions^a

7th Ed.

(Values obtained by photoemission, except tungsten obtained by field emission.)

Element	Surface plane	Work function, in eV
Ag	(100)	4.64
	(110)	4.52
	(111)	4.74
Cs	polycrystal	2.14
Cu	(100)	4.59
	(110)	4.48
	(111)	4.98
Ge	(111)	4.80
Ni	(100)	5.22
	(110)	5.04
	(111)	5.35
W	(100)	4.63
	(110)	5.25
	(111)	4.47

^aAfter H. D. Hagstrum

Kittel, Solid State Physics (Chap. 17)

-Tue/10/27/2020