Nanostructures – density of states



"THIS FORMULA IS LIKE THE CONSTITUTION. YOU CAN'T INTERPOET IT UNLESS YOU KNOW MY INTERT."

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Local density of states

Gęstość stanów (ogólnie) można zdefiniować jako:

$$N(E) = \sum_{n} \delta(E - \varepsilon_n)$$

Jak widać po scałkowaniu:

$$\int_{E_1}^{E_2} N(E) \, dE = \int_{E_1}^{E_2} \sum_n \delta(E - \varepsilon_n) \, dE = \sum_n \int_{E_1}^{E_2} \delta(E - \varepsilon_n) \, dE$$

Przykładowo:

$$N^{1D}(E) = \sum_{k} \delta(E - \varepsilon(k)) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \frac{1}{E'(k)} \,\delta(k - k') \,2\,dk = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2m}{E}}$$
$$N^{2D}(E) = \sum_{k} \delta(E - \varepsilon(k)) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int \frac{1}{E'(k)} \,\delta(k - k') \,2\pi k \,dk = \frac{m}{\pi\hbar^2}$$
$$N^{3D}(E) = \sum_{k} \delta(E - \varepsilon(k)) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{1}{E'(k)} \,\delta(k - k') \,4\pi k^2 \,dk = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{2m}{\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} \sqrt{E}$$

Electrons statistics in crystals

The case of a semiconductor, in which both the electron gas and hole gas are far from the degeneracy:

the probability of filling of the electronic states:

$$f_e \approx e^{-\frac{E_G}{2k_BT} - \frac{E_e}{k_BT} + \frac{\xi}{k_BT}}$$

and of holes $f_h = 1 - f_e$ $f_h \approx e^{-\frac{E_G}{2k_BT} - \frac{E_h}{k_BT} - \frac{\xi}{k_BT}}$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \sqrt{x} e^{-x} \, dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

Thus:

$$n(\xi) = 2\left(\frac{m_e^* k_B T}{2\pi\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{E_G}{2k_B T}} \cdot e^{\frac{\xi}{k_B T}} = N_c(T) e^{\frac{-(E_c - \xi)}{k_B T}}$$
$$p(\xi) = 2\left(\frac{m_h^* k_B T}{2\pi\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{E_G}{2k_B T}} \cdot e^{-\frac{\xi}{k_B T}} = N_v(T) e^{\frac{-(\xi - E_v)}{k_B T}}$$



Electrons statistics in crystals

What is the concentration of carriers for T>0?

In the thermodynamic equilibrium for an intrinsic semiconductors (*półprzewodniki samoistne*), the concentration of electrons in the conduction band is equal to the concnetration of holes in the valence band (because they appear only as a result of excitation from the valence band).

$$n = p = n_{i} \text{ (an intrinsic case)}$$

$$n \cdot p = n_{i}^{2} = 4 \left(\frac{k_{B}T}{2\pi\hbar^{2}}\right)^{3} (m_{e}^{*}m_{h}^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{E_{g}}{k_{B}T}} = N_{c}N_{v}e^{-\frac{E_{g}}{k_{B}T}}$$

$$n = p = n_{i} = 2 \left(\frac{k_{B}T}{2\pi\hbar^{2}}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} (m_{e}^{*}m_{h}^{*})^{\frac{3}{4}} e^{-\frac{E_{g}}{2k_{B}T}} = \sqrt{N_{c}N_{v}}e^{-\frac{E_{g}}{2k_{B}T}}$$

$$e^{-\frac{E_{g}}{2k_{B}T}}$$

Intrinsic carrier concentration

What is the concentration of carriers for T>0?

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$$n \cdot p = n_i^2 = 4 \left(\frac{k_B T}{2\pi\hbar^2}\right)^3 (m_e^* m_h^*)^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{E_g}{k_B T}} = N_c N_v e^{-\frac{E_g}{k_B T}}$$
(general formula)
$$n = p = n_i \text{ (an intrinsic case)}$$

$$n = p = n_i = 2 \left(\frac{k_B T}{2\pi\hbar^2}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} (m_e^* m_h^*)^{\frac{3}{4}} e^{-\frac{E_g}{2k_B T}} = \sqrt{N_c N_v} e^{-\frac{E_g}{2k_B T}}$$

$$\frac{N_c}{N_v} = e^{\frac{2\xi - E_g}{k_B T}} \Rightarrow \xi = \frac{1}{2} (E_c + E_v) + \frac{3}{4} k_B T \ln\left(\frac{m_h^*}{m_e^*}\right)$$
in our notation the middle of the band is 0

Dopants, impurities and defects

Hydrogen-like model – ionization of the dopant



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Dopants, impurities and defects

Doping

conduction band E_D $E_g/2$ donor level E_F 0 acceptor level $-E_{g}/2$ vallence band

The carrier concentration in extrinsic semiconductor (*niesamoistny*) Consider a semiconductor, in which: N_A – concentration of acceptors N_D – concentration of donors p_A – concentration of neutral acceptors n_D – concentration of neutral donors n_c – concentration of electrons in conduction band

 p_{v} – concentration of holes in valence band

From the charge neutrality of the crystal:

$$n_c + (N_A - p_A) = p_v + (N_D - n_D)$$

 $n_c + n_D = (N_D - N_A) + p_v + p_A$

Electron energy

Occupation of impurity / defect levels in the thermodynamic equilibrium

"Occupation" of localized or band states means the exchange of particles (electrons) between the reservoir and considered subsystem (microstate).

The grand canonical ensemble (subsystem exchange particles and energy with the environment)

Thermodynamic probability (unnormalized) of finding subsystem in a state j, in which there are n_i particles (electrons) and which subsystem energy is E_i (the total energy of all n_i particles):

$$P_j = e^{-\beta(E_j - n_j\xi)}, \qquad \beta = \frac{1}{k_B T}$$

 ξ - chemical potential.

Statistical sum:

$$Z = \sum_{j} P_{j} = \sum_{j} e^{-\beta(E_{j} - n_{j}\xi)}$$

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Statistical means:

$$\langle A \rangle = \frac{\sum_{j} A_{j} \cdot e^{-\beta(E_{j} - n_{j}\xi)}}{\sum_{j} e^{-\beta(E_{j} - n_{j}\xi)}}$$

Examples:

free electron occupying (or not) the quantum state of the \vec{k} -vector and spin: 2 possible states of the subsystem (microstate):

 $n_0 = 0; E_0 = 0$ $n_1 = 1; E_1 = E$ (the occupation only for one spin state) the average number of particles of the subsystem:

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{0 \cdot e^0 + 1 \cdot e^{-\beta(E-\xi)}}{1 + e^{-\beta(E-\xi)}} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E-\xi)} + 1} = f(E,T)$$

(Fermi-Dirac distribution)

Examples :

free electron occupying (or not) the quantum state of the \vec{k} -vector and ANY spin: 4 possible states of the subsystem (microstate):

 $n_0 = 0; E_0 = 0$ $n_1 = 1; E_1 = E \text{ (spin })$ $n_2 = 1; E_2 = E \text{ (spin })$ $n_3 = 2; E_3 = 2E \text{ (spin })$

the average number of particles of the subsystem:

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{0 \cdot e^0 + 1 \cdot e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} + 1 \cdot e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} + 2 \cdot e^{-\beta(2E-2\xi)}}{1 + e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} + e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} + e^{-\beta(2E-2\xi)}} = 2 \frac{e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} (1 + e^{-\beta(E-\xi)})}{(e^{-\beta(E-\xi)} + 1)^2} = 2f(E,T)$$

(Fermi-Dirac distribution x2)

The ratio of the probability of finding dopant / defect of n + 1 electrons and of n electrons:

$$\frac{p_{n+1}}{p_n} = \frac{N_{n+1}/N_{total}}{N_n/N_{total}} = \frac{\sum_{j:n_j=n+1} e^{-\beta [E_j - (n+1)\xi]}}{\sum_{k;n_k=n} e^{-\beta [E_k - n\xi]}} = \frac{g_{n+1}}{g_n} \cdot e^{-\beta [(E_{n+1} - E_n) - \xi]}$$



 $\sum_{n} N_n = N$ – impurity (dopants) concentration

 E_{n+1} i E_n – the lowest of all subsystem energies E_j with n + 1 and n electrons respectively

Successive impurity energy levels are filled with the increase of the Fermi level.

 $E^{n+1/n}$ – so-called *energy level* of the impurity/ defect "numbered" by charge states n + 1 and n

 g_{n+1} , g_n – so-called degeneration of states of subsystem of n + 1 and n electrons

Fig. 15. Energy levels of interstitial 3d metals in silicon (full lines), see Table 3, compared with the results of X_{α} calculations of DeLeo et al. [15] (broken lines)

 g_{n+1} , g_n – so-called degeneration of states of subsystem of n + 1 and n electrons.

The degeneracy g_{n+1} and g_n takes into account the possibility of the existence of different subsystem states corresponding to a same number of particles (including the excited states):



$$g_n = \alpha_{n,0} + \sum_{i=1,2,\dots} \alpha_{n,i} e^{-\beta \varepsilon_{n,i}}$$

 $\alpha_{n,0}$ *i* $\alpha_{n,i}$ they are respectively: the degeneracies of the *n*-electronic ground state and its excited states of energies higher than the ground state by $\varepsilon_{n,i}$ (excitation energies)

Such defined degeneration g_n generally depends on temperature

Fig. 15. Energy levels of interstitial 3d metals in silicon (full lines), see Table 3, compared with the results of X_{α} calculations of DeLeo et al. [15] (broken lines)

Example – donor (we omit the excited states)

charge state (+) implemented in 1 way : $g_+ = 1$ charge state(0) implemented in 2 ways (spin \uparrow or \downarrow): $g_0 = 2$ the energy of the donor state $E^{0/+} = E_D$ Doping concentration of donors N_D

$$\frac{p_{n+1}}{p_n} = \frac{p_0}{p_+} = \frac{g_0}{g_+} \cdot e^{-\beta[E_D - \xi]}, \qquad p_+ + p_0 = 1$$

The occupation probability of the donor state:

TΙ

$$p_0 = \langle n \rangle = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{g_+}{g_0} \cdot e^{\beta [E_D - \xi]}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot e^{\beta [E_D - \xi]}}$$

The concentration of occupied donor states (neutral donors are N_D^0)

$$N_D^0 = \frac{N_D}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot e^{\beta[E_D - \xi]}}$$
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Dopants, impurities and defects

Doping

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The carrier concentration in extrinsic semiconductor (niesamoistny)

Consider a semiconductor, in which:

- N_A concentration of acceptors
- N_D concentration of donors
- $p_{A}\,\text{-}\,\text{concentration}$ of neutral acceptors
- n_D concentration of neutral donors

 $n_c - {\rm concentration}$ of electrons in conduction band

 p_{v} – concentration of holes in valence band

From the charge neutrality of the crystal:

$$n_c + (N_A - p_A) = p_v + (N_D - n_D)$$

 $n_c + n_D = (N_D - N_A) + p_v + p_A$

Electron energy

If both the donors and acceptors are shallow, and the electron and hole gas are not degenerated, then : $E_D - \xi \gg k_B T$, $\xi - E_A \gg k_B T$, $N_D^0 \ll N_D$, $N_A^0 \ll N_A$ (that is, virtually all impurities are ionized).

$$\begin{cases} \Delta n = n - p \approx N_D - N_A \\ n \cdot p = n_i^2 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{n = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{(\Delta n)^2 + 4n_i^2} + \Delta n \right]} \\ p = \frac{1}{2} \left[\sqrt{(\Delta n)^2 + 4n_i^2} - \Delta n \right] \end{cases}$$

If $\Delta n > 0$ (*n*-type semiconductor – for *p*-type is the same) and $\Delta n \gg n_i$, (at *T*=300K: n_i (Ge) < 10¹³ cm⁻³, n_i (Si) < 10¹¹ cm⁻³, n_i (GaAs) < 10¹⁰ cm⁻³):

$$n \approx N_D - N_A$$

$$p \approx \frac{n_i^2}{N_D - N_A} = \frac{N_C(T) \cdot N_V(T)}{N_D - N_A} \cdot e^{-\frac{E_g}{k_B T}}$$

majority carrier concentration is determined by the effective concentration of impurities, the concentration of minority carriers may be very small (e.g. Si).

Compensation

compensated semiconductors - containing both donors and acceptors

At appropriately high temperatures majority carrier concentration given by the effective concentration of dopants $|N_D - N_A|$

the concentration of scattering centers (charges): $N_D + N_A$

compensation ratio - the ratio of impurity concentration: minority to majority. It is a measure of the total number of ionized impurities :

$$k = rac{N_A}{N_D}$$
 - for *n*-type
 $k = rac{N_D}{N_A}$ - for *p*-type

in highly compensated semiconductors ($k \approx 1$) strong electrostatic potential fluctuations are present – originating from the impurities, the disorder localization, the percolation effects etc.

Equation of Charge Neutrality



low temperature, thermal ionization of impurities

Consider a semiconductor, in which: $N_A \approx 0 - \text{concentration of acceptors}$ N_D - concentration of donors p_A - concentration of neutral acceptors n_D - concentration of neutral donors n_c - concentration of electrons in conduction band

 $p_v \approx 0$ – concentration of holes in valence band

From the charge neutrality of the crystal:

$$n = N_D - N_D^0$$

Electron energy

Now, a large part of donors will be neutral (the energies calculated from the bottom of the conduction band)

$$N_D - N_D^0 = N_D - \frac{N_D}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot e^{\beta[E_D - \xi]}} = \dots = \frac{N_D}{2} \cdot e^{\beta[E_D - \xi]}$$

to calculate the occupation of the conduction band we use the Boltzmann distribution :

$$n = 2\left(\frac{m_e^*k_BT}{2\pi\hbar^2}\right)^{3/2}e^{\frac{\xi-E_c}{k_BT}} = N_c(T) \cdot e^{\frac{\xi}{k_BT}}$$

Having $n = N_D - N_D^0$ we got:





Dopants, impurities and defects

Equation of Charge Neutrality



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Electron energy

Dopants, impurities and defects

Equation of Charge Neutrality



Electron energy

For compensated semiconductors the thermal activation energy at low temperature is E_D , not $\frac{E_D}{2}$

If there is a lot of impurities, also the wave functions of electrons bound to them overlap - ionization energies decrease, formed the **impurity band**.

When impurity concentration is of the order of:

$$a_B^* \cdot (N_D)^{\frac{1}{3}} \approx 0.26$$

there is a nonmetal - metal phase transition (Mott transition)





Dopants, impurities and defects

Equation of Charge Neutrality



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Electron energy

Quasi-Fermi level (imref)

What happens if there is no equilibrium?

The problem is much more complicated, requires statistical analysis, but one can introduce a very useful concept of "quasi Fermi level" close to the equilibrium.

$$np > n_i^2$$

$$n = N_c \exp\left(-\frac{E_c - E_F}{k_B T}\right) \qquad p = N_v \exp\left(-\frac{E_F - E_v}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$E_F^n = E_c + k_B T \ln \frac{n}{N_c}$$

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

$$F_F = E_c + k_B T \ln \frac{n}{N_c}$$

Semiconductor heterostructures



Investigation of high antimony-content gallium arsenic nitride-gallium arsenic antimonide heterostructures for long wavelength application

Bandgap enginee







Fig. 1. Band offsets and the Fermi level stabilization energy $(E_{\rm FS})$ in III–V compounds. The energy is measured relative to the vacuum level. The filled circles represent stabilized Fermi energies in heavily damaged materials, exposed to high energy radiation. The open circles correspond to the location of the Fermi energy on pinned semiconductor surfaces and at metal/ semiconductor interfaces. The dashed lines show the location of the Fermi energy for a maximum equilibrium n- and p-type doping in GaAs and InP.

Złącze metal-metal



Suppose, that $\phi_2 - \phi_1 \approx 1 \ eV$ Estimate the number of electrons that pass from one metal to another to create equilibrium potential difference. Assume that the distance between the metals is $5 \times 10^{-10} m$.

Electric field: $E = \frac{\Delta \phi}{d} = 2 \times 10^9 \frac{V}{m}$ The surface charge: $\sigma = \varepsilon_0 E$ The concentration: $n^{2D} = \frac{\sigma}{e} = 1.12 \times 10^{13} cm^{-2}$ The concnetration in metal $n^{3D} = 5 \times 10^{22} cm^{-3}$ $n^{2D} = 1.5 \times 10^{15} cm^{-2}$ Within the width of 1 lattice parameter ~1% of charge

> Electrical properties of materials Solymar, Walsh (6.11) Pg. 143

Złącze metal-metal



From the Maxwell equations:

$$\nabla \vec{D} =
ho_s$$
 - net charge density

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi = -\nabla U$$

$$\nabla \vec{D} = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon \, \nabla \vec{E} = -\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon \, \nabla^2 \phi \stackrel{\text{\tiny def}}{=} -\epsilon \Delta U = \rho_s$$



 $eN_A x_p = eN_D x_n = Q$ $\frac{d^2 U}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} \rho_s = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_A$

Thus the electric field in the range $(x_p, 0)$: $\vec{E} = -\frac{dU}{dx} = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_A(x+C) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_A(x-x_p)$

Similarly for
$$(0, x_n)$$
:
 $\vec{E} = -\frac{dU}{dx} = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_D(x+C) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_D(x-x_n)$

Net charge densities x_p + - x_n N_A N_D

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Charge conservation

 $eN_A x_p = eN_D x_n = Q$ Poisson equation: $\frac{d^2 U}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon}\rho_s = \frac{1}{\epsilon}eN_A$

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Net charge densities

p

 x_p

N_A

 x_p

n

+

Thus the electric field in the range $(x_p, 0)$: $\vec{E}_A = -\frac{dU}{dx} = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_A(x+C) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_A(x-x_p)$ Similarly for $(0, x_n)$: $\vec{E}_D = -\frac{dU}{dx} = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_D(x+C) = \frac{1}{\epsilon} eN_D(x-x_n)$ $U = -\int_{x_n}^0 E_A dx \qquad x < 0$ $U = -\int_{0}^{x_n} E_D dx \quad x > 0$



$$U_{0} = U(x_{n}) - U(x_{p}) = \frac{e}{2\varepsilon} (N_{A} x_{P}^{2} + N_{D} x_{n}^{2})$$





Charge conservation $eN_A x_p = eN_D x_n = Q$

The total width of the depletion region w

$$w = x_n - x_p = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon U_0}{e(N_A + N_D)}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{N_A}{N_D}} + \sqrt{\frac{N_D}{N_A}} \right)$$

If, say, $N_A \gg N_D$ (*p*-type doping) then:

$$w = \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon U_0}{eN_D}} \quad \text{i} \quad |x_n| > |x_p|$$

if the *p*-region is more highly doped, practically all of the potential drop is in the *n*-region. The less donors are the wider this region is. $U_0 = \frac{e}{2e} (e^{-2e})^{-2e}$

(for $N_A \ll N_D$ is vice-versa!)

E.g. $N_D = 10^{15}$ cm⁻³ for typical $U_0 = 0.3$ V We have $w \approx 180$ nm. If the change from acceptor impurities to donor impurities is gradual, then $w \approx 1 \,\mu$ m



Charge conservation $eN_A x_p = eN_D x_n = Q$

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The metal-semiconductor junction ($\phi_M > \phi_S$)

Shottky barrier



Fig. 1.2. Band diagram of a Schottky diode under (a) equilibrium conditions, (b) forward bias, and (c) strong forward bias. Under strong forward bias, minority carrier injection occurs making possible near-bandgap light emission.

Light-Emitting Diodes (Cambridge Univ. Press) www.LightEmittingDiodes.org

The metal-semiconductor junction ($\phi_M > \phi_S$)



The metal-semiconductor junction ($\phi_M > \phi_S$)



Electrical properties of materials Solymar, Walsh

The surface of the semiconductor is usually charged



Electrical properties of materials Solymar, Walsh

The metal-semiconductor junction ($\phi_{--} > \phi_{-}$)

n-type

Schottky–Mott rule: As the materials are brought together, the bands in the silicon bend such that the silicon's work function Φ matches the silver's. The bands retain their bending upon contact. This model predicts silver to have a very low Schottky barrier to *n*-doped silicon, making an excellent ohmic contact.

Picture showing **Fermi level pinning** effect from metal-induced gap states: The bands in the silicon already start out bent due to surface states. They are bent again just before contact (to match work functions). Upon contact however, the band bending changes completely, in a way that depends on the chemistry of the Ag-Si bonding.^[4]



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metal%E2%80%93semiconductor_junction

WKB approximation

 $V(x) = V_b \left[1 - \left(\frac{x}{d}\right)^2 \right]$



FIGURE 7.7. Schottky barrier in the conduction band $E_c(x)$ between a metal and n-GaAs. The potential is parabolic with height V_b and thickness d.



Heterojunction



Heterojunction



Figure 9.3: The energy diagram for the transition region of a p-n junction.



(b)



forward bias napięcie przewodzenia





