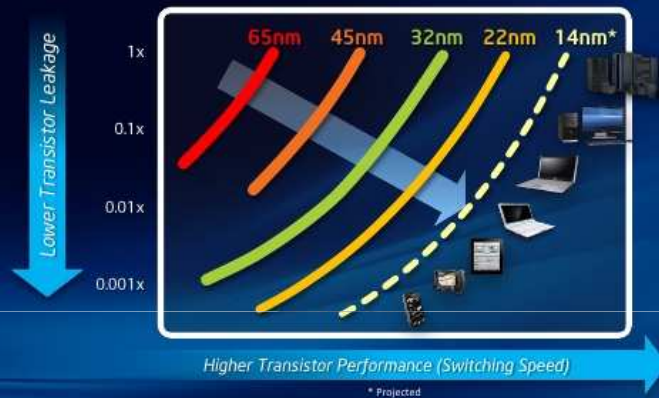


1 The accelerating pace of change ...



Energy-Efficient Performance Built on Moore's Law



22 nm Benefits Smallest Handhelds to Powerful Cloud-based Servers

Source: Intel

per \$1,000



Analytical engine
Never fully built, Charles Babbage's invention was designed to solve computational and logical problems

computer, with 1,500 vacuum tubes, helped the British crack German codes during WW II

943 cu. ft.

IBM PC

Compaq Deskpro 386

Pentium II PC

Pentium PC

Mac Pro

Nvidia Tesla GPU & PC

Dell Dimension 8400

Intel Celeron 430

Intel Core 2 Duo E6700

Intel Core i7-960

Intel Core i9-990X



Power Mac G4
The first personal computer to deliver more than 1 billion floating-point operations per second

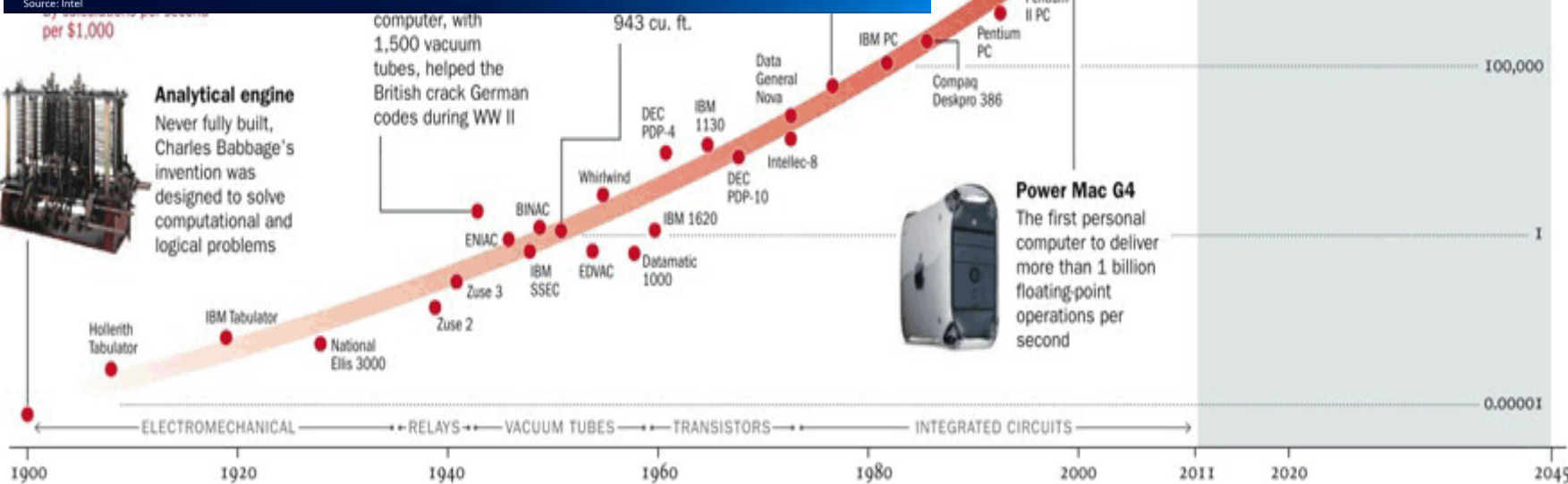
3 ... will lead to the Singularity

2045
Surpasses brainpower equivalent to that of all human brains combined

Surpasses brainpower of human in 2023



Surpasses brainpower of mouse in 2015



Recap

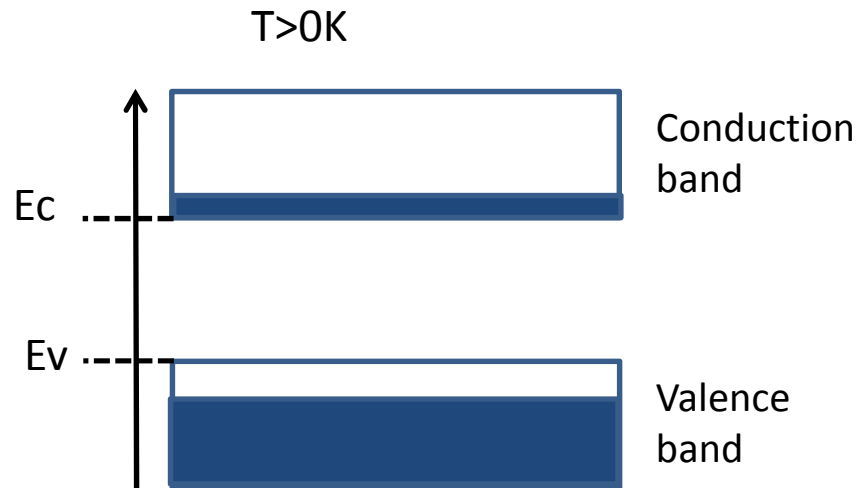
Effective Mass of an electron

$$m^* = \frac{[\hbar/(2\pi)]^2}{d^2E/dk^2}$$

Table 4.1 | Effective density of states function and density of states effective mass values

	$N_c \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)}$	$N_v \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)}$	m_n^*/m_0	m_p^*/m_0
Silicon	2.8×10^{19}	1.04×10^{19}	1.08	0.56
Gallium arsenide	4.7×10^{17}	7.0×10^{18}	0.067	0.48
Germanium	1.04×10^{19}	6.0×10^{18}	0.55	0.37

Recap



➤ Particles that can freely move and contribute to the current flow (conduction)
carrier

1. Electron in conduction band
2. Hole in valence band

Recap

➤ How to count number of carriers, n ?

Assumption; Pauli exclusion principle

If we know

1. No. of energy states



Density of states (DOS)

2. Occupied energy states



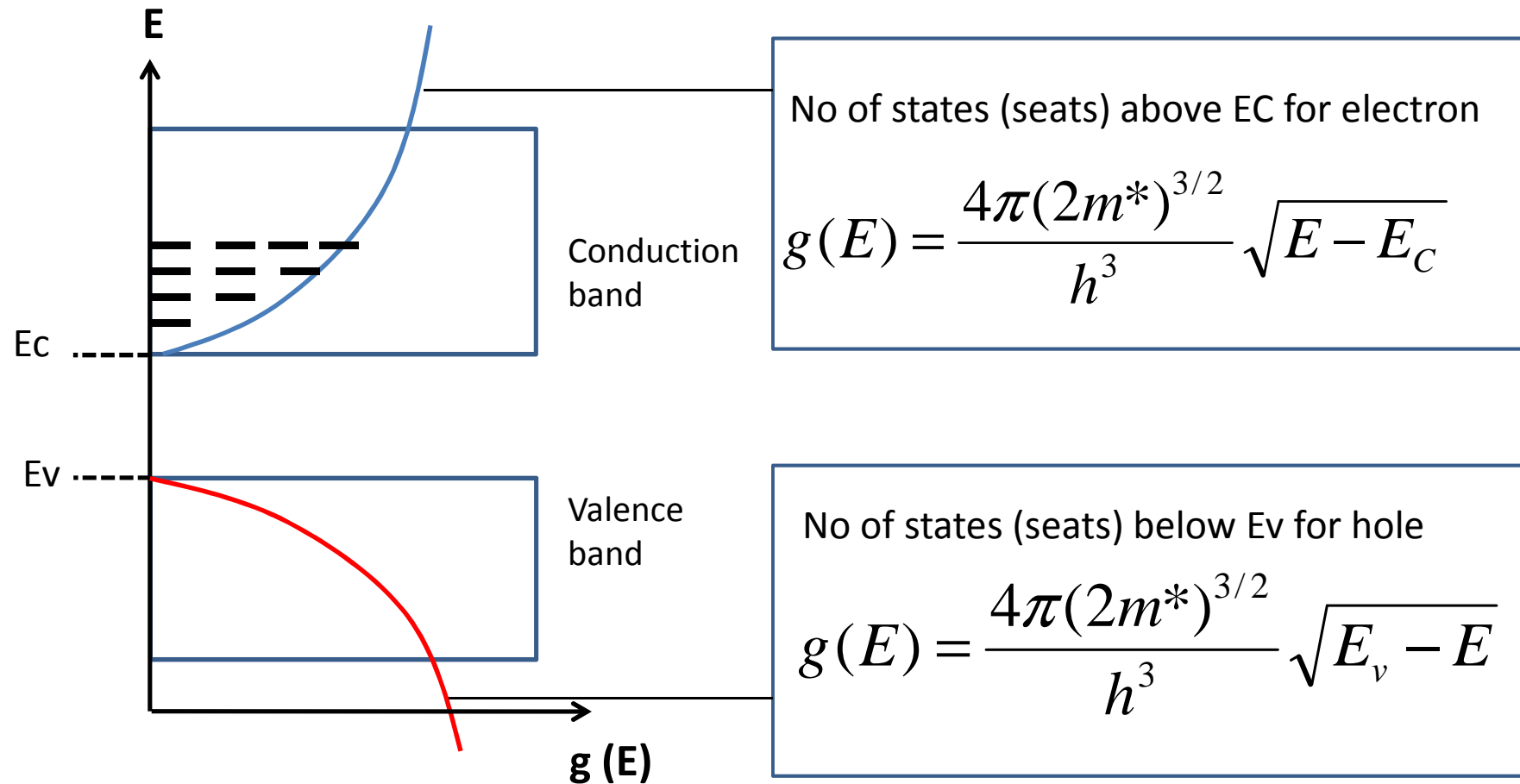
The probability that energy states is occupied
“Fermi-Dirac distribution function”



$$n = \text{DOS} \times \text{“Fermi-Dirac distribution function”}$$

Recap

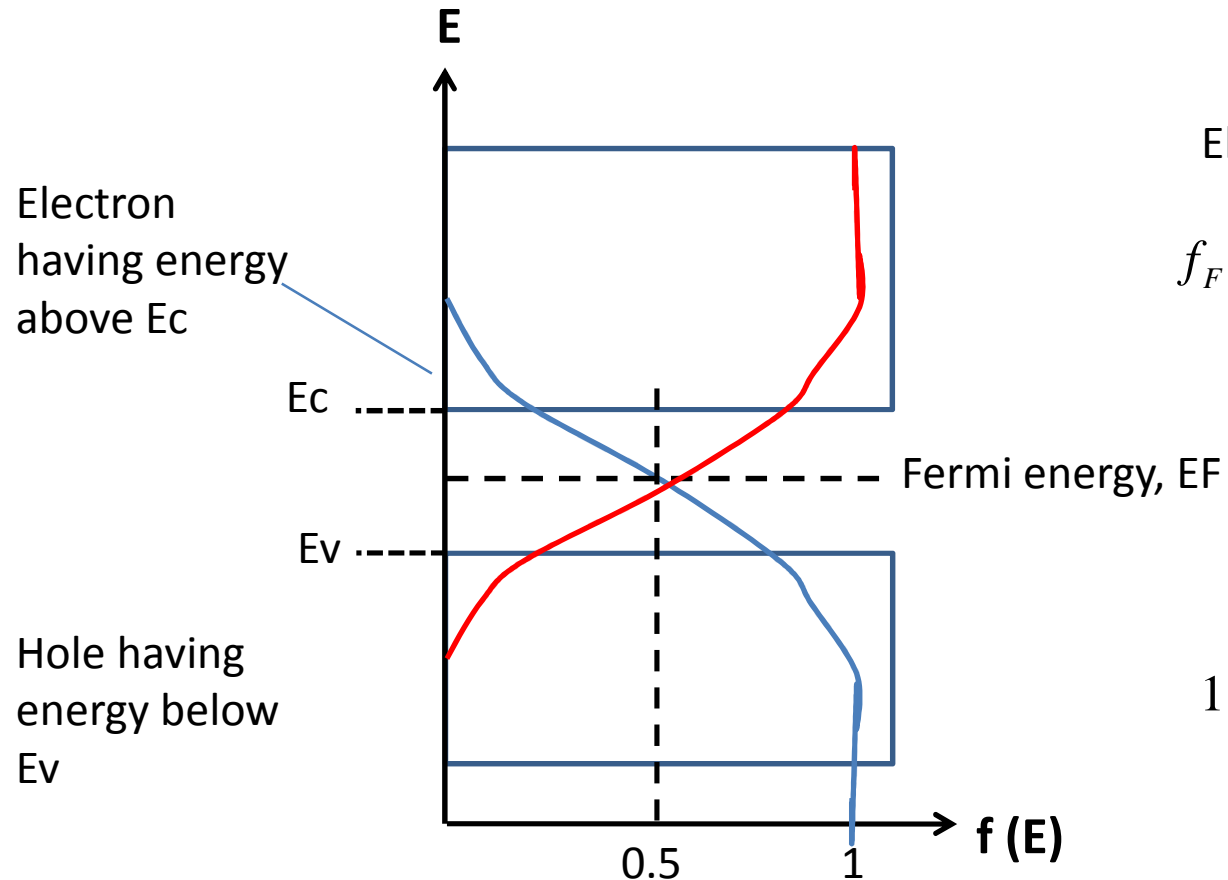
Density of state



Recap

Fermi-Dirac distribution

Probability of electron having certain energy



Electron (blue line)

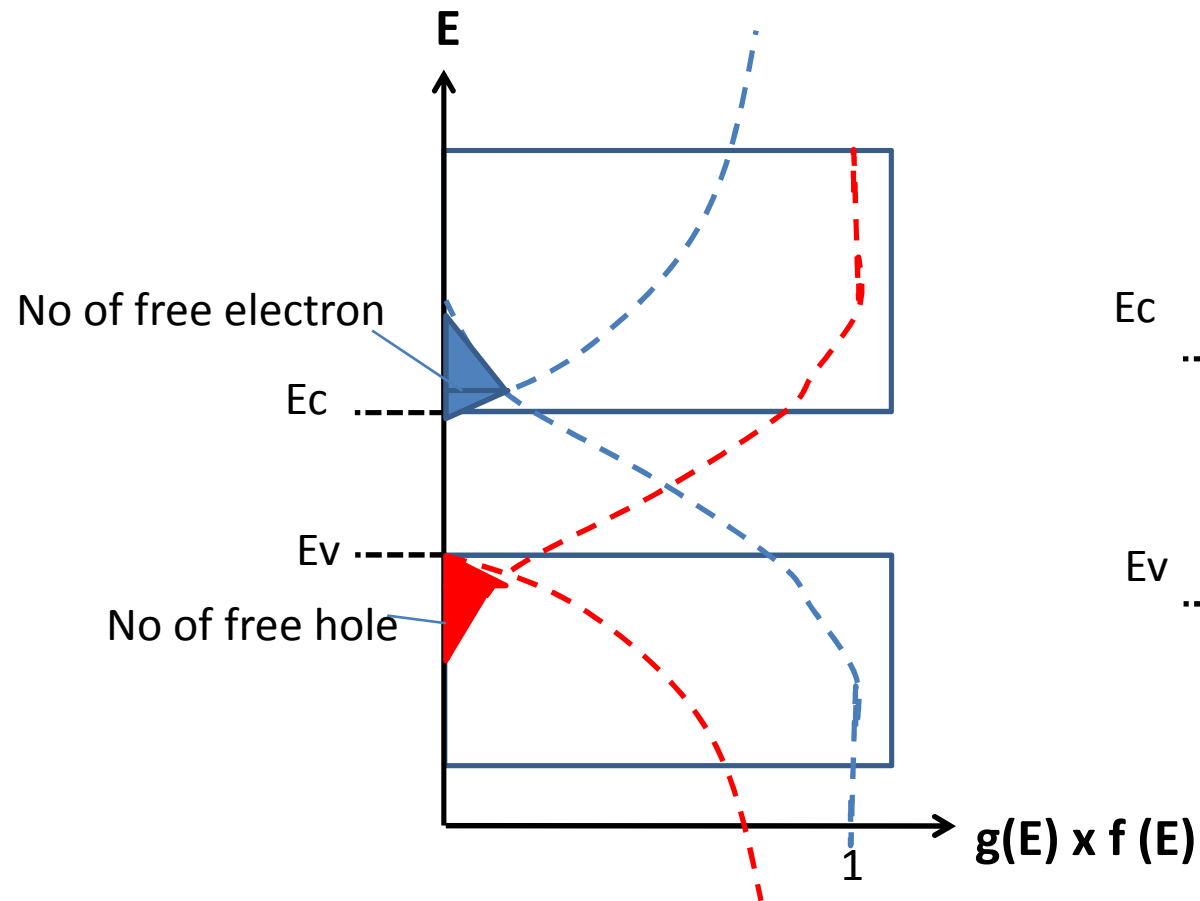
$$f_F(E) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_F}{kT}\right)}$$

hole (red line)

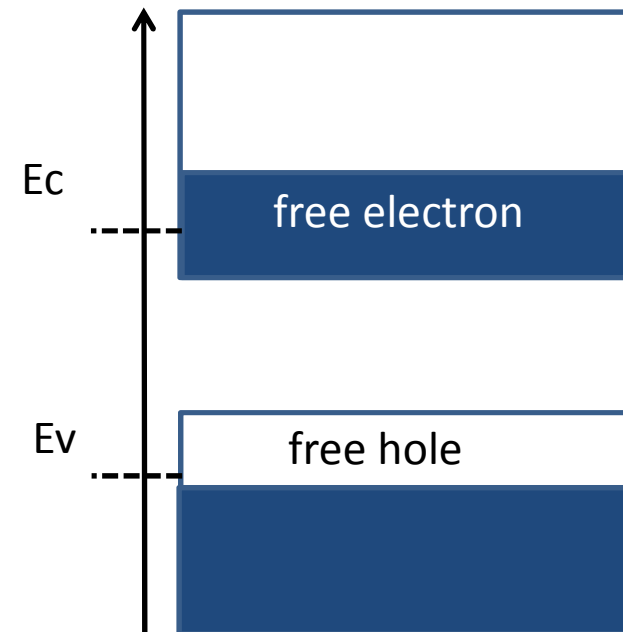
$$1 - \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_F}{kT}\right)}$$

E_F ; the energy below which all states are filled with electron and above which all states are empty at 0K

No of carrier



Recap



Semiconductor in Equilibrium

Equilibrium; no external forces such as voltages, electrical fields, magnetic fields, or temperature gradients are acting on the semiconductor

CHARGE CARRIERS IN SEMICONDUCTORS

4.1.1 Equilibrium Distribution of Electrons and Holes

The distribution (with respect to energy) of electrons in the conduction band is given by the density of allowed quantum states times the probability that a state is occupied by an electron. This statement is written in equation form as

$$n(E) = g_c(E)f_F(E) \quad (4.1)$$

where $f_F(E)$ is the Fermi–Dirac probability function and $g_c(E)$ is the density of quantum states in the conduction band. The total electron concentration per unit volume

ability that a state is not occupied by an electron. We may express this as

$$p(E) = g_v(E)[1 - f_F(E)] \quad (4.2)$$

Thermal equilibrium concentration of electron, n_o

$$n_o = \int_{E_C}^{\infty} g_c(E) f(E) dE$$

$$g_c(E) = \frac{4\pi(2m^*)^{3/2}}{h^3} \sqrt{E - E_C}$$

$$f_F(E) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_F}{kT}\right)} \approx \exp\left(\frac{-(E - E_F)}{kT}\right) \quad \text{Boltzmann approximation}$$



$$n_o = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_n^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT} \right]$$

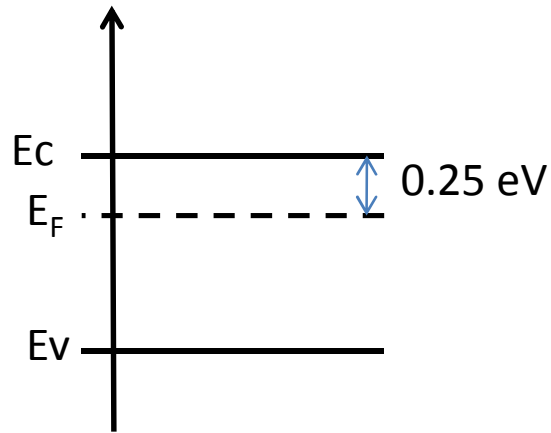
$$= N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT} \right]$$

N_C ; effective density of states function in conduction band

Ex. 1

Calculate the thermal equilibrium electron concentration in Si at $T = 300\text{K}$.

Assume that Fermi energy is 0.25 eV below the conduction band. The value of N_C for Si at $T = 300\text{ K}$ is $2.8 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.



$$\begin{aligned} n_o &= N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT}\right] \\ &= 2.8 \times 10^{19} \cdot \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_C + 0.25)}{0.0259}\right] \\ &= 1.8 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

Thermal equilibrium concentration of hole, p_o

$$p_o = \int_{\infty}^{E_v} g_v(E)[1 - f(E)]dE$$

$$g_v(E) = \frac{4\pi(2m^*)^{3/2}}{h^3} \sqrt{E_v - E}$$

$$1 - f_F(E) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E}{kT}\right)} \approx \exp\left(\frac{-(E_F - E)}{kT}\right) \quad \text{Boltzmann approximation}$$



$$p_o = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_p^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right]$$

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

N_v ; effective density of states function in valence band

Boltzmann's Constant

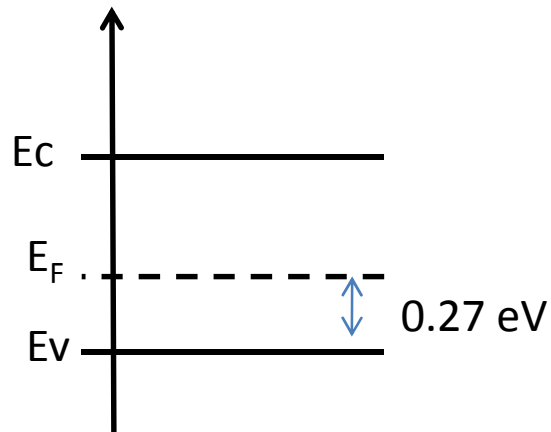
Values of k ^[1]	Units
$1.380\,648\,8(13) \times 10^{-23}$	J K^{-1}
$8.617\,3324(78) \times 10^{-5}$	eV K^{-1}
$1.380\,648\,8(13) \times 10^{-16}$	erg K^{-1}
For details, see Value in different units below.	

In [physics](#), the **electron volt** (symbol **eV**; also written **electronvolt**) is a unit of [energy](#) equal to approximately 1.6×10^{-19} [joule](#) (symbol J). By definition, it is the amount of energy gained (or lost) by the charge of a single [electron](#) moved across an [electric potential difference](#) of one [volt](#).

Ex.2

Calculate the thermal equilibrium hole concentration in Si at $T = 300\text{K}$.

Assume that Fermi energy is 0.27 eV above the valence band. The value of N_v for Si at $T = 300\text{K}$ is $1.04 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.



$$\begin{aligned} p_o &= N_v \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right] \\ &= 1.04 \times 10^{19} \cdot \exp\left[\frac{-(E_v + 0.27 - E_v)}{0.0259}\right] \\ &= 3.09 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

$$n_o = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_n^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \exp \left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT} \right] = N_C \exp \left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT} \right]$$

$$p_o = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_p^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \exp \left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right] = N_v \exp \left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right]$$

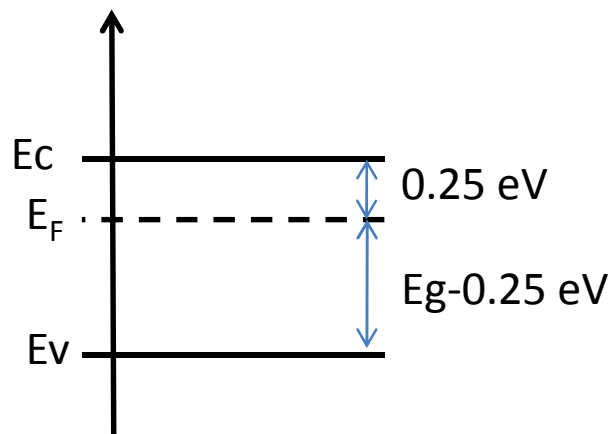
- N_C and N_v are constant for a given material (effective mass) and temperature
- Position of Fermi energy is important

If E_F is closer to E_C than to E_v , $n > p$

If E_F is closer to E_v than to E_C , $n < p$

Example

Consider ex. 1



$$\begin{aligned}
 n_o &= N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT}\right] \\
 &= 2.8 \times 10^{19} \cdot \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_C + 0.25)}{0.0259}\right] \\
 &= 1.8 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hole concentration

$$E_g = 1.12 \text{ eV}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_o &= N_v \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_V)}{kT}\right] \\
 &= 1.04 \times 10^{19} \cdot \exp\left[\frac{-(1.12 - 0.25)}{0.0259}\right] \\
 &= 2.68 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

problem 1

Calculate the thermal-equilibrium hole concentration in silicon at $T=400\text{K}$. Assume that the Fermi energy is 0.27eV above the valence-band energy. The value of N_v for Silicon at $T=300\text{K}$ is $N_v=1.04 \times 10^{19} \text{cm}^{-3}$.

Hints:

$$N_c = 2 \left(\frac{2\pi m_n^* kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

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

$$n_0 = N_c \exp \left[-\frac{(E_c - E_F)}{kT} \right]$$

$$p_0 = N_v \exp \left[-\frac{(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right]$$

problem 2

Calculate the thermal-equilibrium hole concentration in silicon at $T=400\text{K}$. Assume that the Fermi energy is 0.27eV above the valence-band energy. The value of N_v for Silicon at $T=300\text{K}$ is $N_v=1.04 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

The parameter values at $T=400\text{K}$ are found to as.

$$N_v = (1.04 \times 10^{19}) \left(\frac{400}{300} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} = 1.60 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$\text{and } kT = 0.0259 \left(\frac{400}{300} \right) = 0.03453 \text{ eV}$$

The hole concentration is then .

$$\begin{aligned} p_0 &= N_v \exp \left[-\frac{(E_F - E_v)}{kT} \right] = (1.60 \times 10^{19}) \exp \left[-\frac{0.27}{0.03453} \right] \\ &= 6.43 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

Intrinsic semiconductor; A pure semiconductor with no impurity atoms and no lattice defects in crystal

1. Carrier concentration(n_i, p_i)
2. Position of E_{Fi}

1. Intrinsic carrier concentration

Concentration of electron in in conduction band, n_i



Concentration of hole in in valence band, p_i

$$n_i = p_i = N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_{Fi})}{kT}\right] = N_V \exp\left[\frac{-(E_{Fi} - E_V)}{kT}\right]$$

$$n_i^2 = N_C N_V \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_V)}{kT}\right] = N_C N_V \exp\left[\frac{-E_g}{kT}\right]$$

Independent of Fermi energy

Example

Calculate the intrinsic carrier concentration in gallium arsenide (GaAs) at room temperature ($T=300\text{K}$). Energy gap, E_g , of GaAs is 1.42 eV.

The value of N_c and N_v at $T=300\text{ K}$ are $4.7 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $7.0 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, respectively.

$$n_i^2 = (4.7 \times 10^{17})(7.0 \times 10^{18}) \exp\left[\frac{-1.42}{0.0259}\right] = 5.09 \times 10^{12}$$

$$n_i = 2.26 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

problem 3

Calculate the intrinsic carrier concentration in GaAs at $T=400\text{K}$ and at $T=250\text{K}$. Assume that $E_g=1.42\text{ eV}$ is constant over this temperature range. Then, get the ratio of n_i at $T=400\text{K}$ to that at $T=250\text{K}$

$$T = 400$$

$$n_i^2 = (4.7 \times 10^{17})(7 \times 10^{18}) \left(\frac{400}{300} \right)^3 \times \exp \left[\frac{-1.42}{(0.0259)(400/300)} \right] = 1.081 \times 10^{19}$$

$$n_i = 3.29 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$T = 250$$

$$n_i^2 = (4.7 \times 10^{17})(7 \times 10^{18}) \left(\frac{250}{300} \right)^3 \times \exp \left[\frac{-1.42}{(0.0259)(250/300)} \right] = 5.09 \times 10^7$$

$$n_i = 7.13 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$\text{Ratio, } \frac{n_i(400)}{n_i(250)} = \frac{3.288 \times 10^9}{7.135 \times 10^3} = 4.61 \times 10^5$$

2. Intrinsic Fermi level position, E_{Fi}

If E_F closer to E_c , $n > p$

If E_F closer to E_v , $n < p$

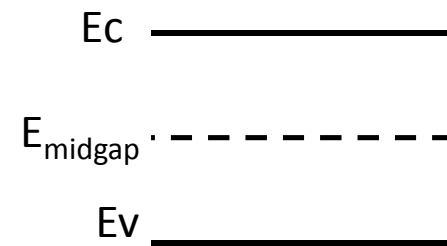
Intrinsic; $n = p$




E_F is located near the center of the forbidden bandgap

$$N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_{Fi})}{kT}\right] = N_V \exp\left[\frac{-(E_{Fi} - E_V)}{kT}\right]$$

$$E_{Fi} = E_{midgap} + \frac{3}{4} kT \ln\left(\frac{m_p^*}{m_n^*}\right)$$



$m_p = m_n$  $E_{Fi} = E_{midgap} = (E_c + E_v)/2$

$m_p \neq m_n$  E_{Fi} shifts slightly from E_{midgap}

Position of intrinsic Fermi Level

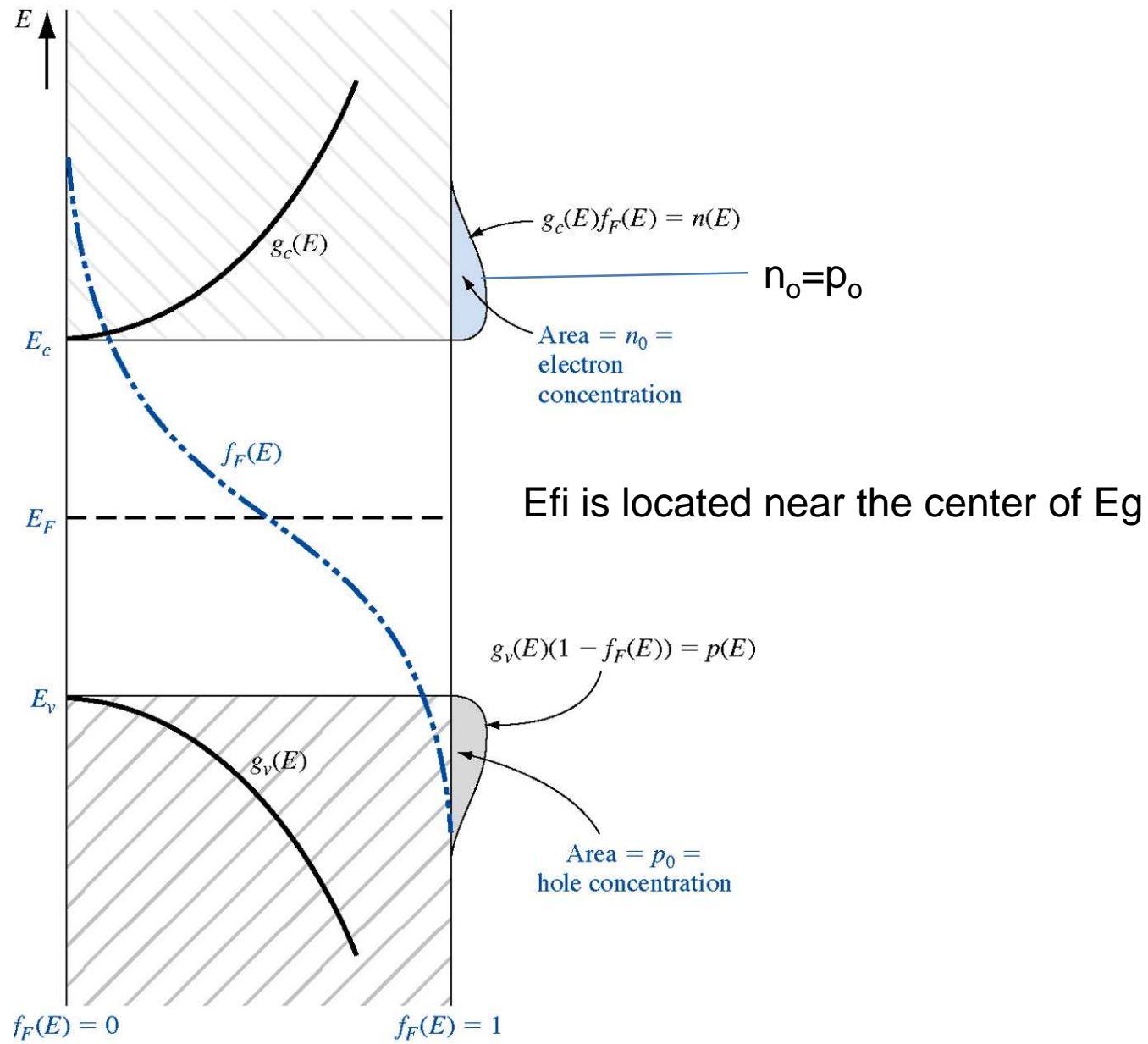
Calculate the position of the intrinsic Fermi level with respect to the center of the bandgap in silicon $T=300\text{K}$. The density of states effective masses in silicon are $m_n^* = 1.08 m_0$ and $m_p^* = 0.56 m_0$

The intrinsic Fermi level with respect to the center of the bandgap is

$$E_{Fi} - E_{midgap} = \frac{3}{4} kT \ln \left(\frac{m_p^*}{m_n^*} \right) = \frac{3}{4} (0.0259) \ln \left(\frac{0.56}{1.08} \right) =$$

$$E_{Fi} - E_{midgap} = -0.0128 \text{ eV} = -12.8 \text{ meV}$$

The intrinsic Fermi level in silicon is 12.8 meV below the midgap energy



E_{fi} is located near the center of E_g

(a)

Extrinsic Semiconductor

Dopant atoms and energy levels

adding small, controlled amounts of specific dopant, or impurity, atoms



Increase no. of carrier (either electron or hole)

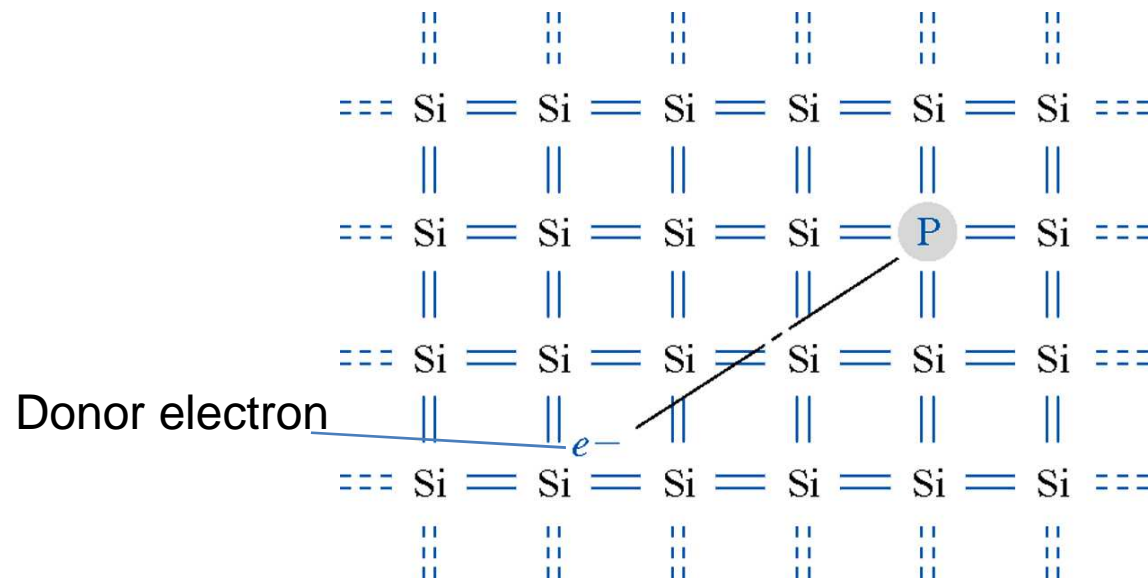


Alter the conductivity of semiconductor

3 valence electrons	5 valence electrons
III	IV V
B	C
Al	Si
Ga	Ge
In	
	P
	As
	Sb

Consider Phosphorus (P) and boron (B) as impurity atoms in Silicon (Si)

1. P as substitutional impurity (group V element; 5 valence electron)

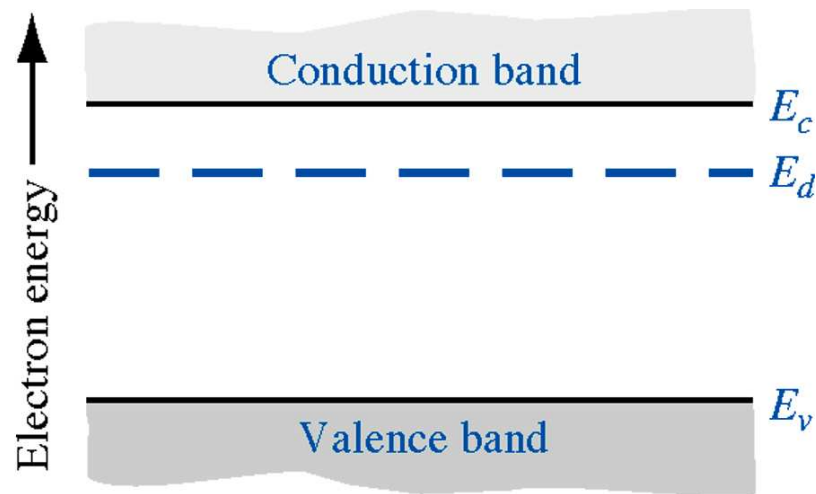


- In intrinsic Si, all 4 valence electrons contribute to covalent bonding.
- In Si doped with P, 4 valence electron of P contribute to covalent bonding and 1 electron loosely bound to P atom (Donor electron).

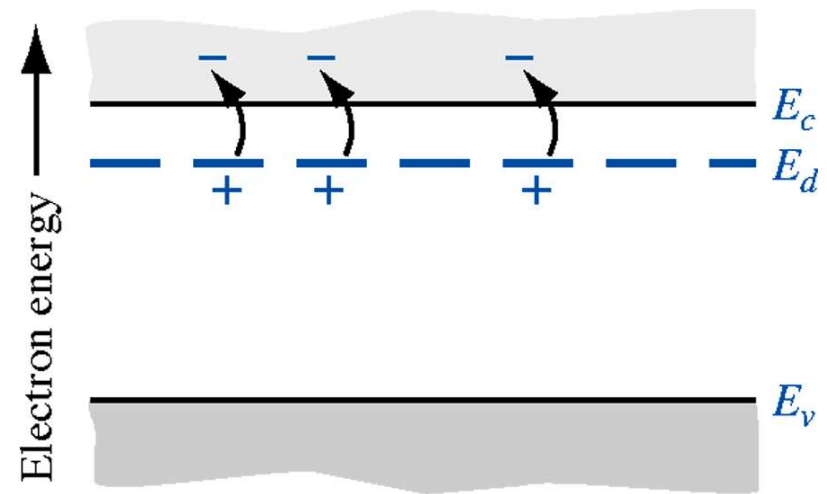


can easily break the bond and freely moves

- Energy to elevate the donor electron into conduction band is less than that for the electron involved in covalent bonding



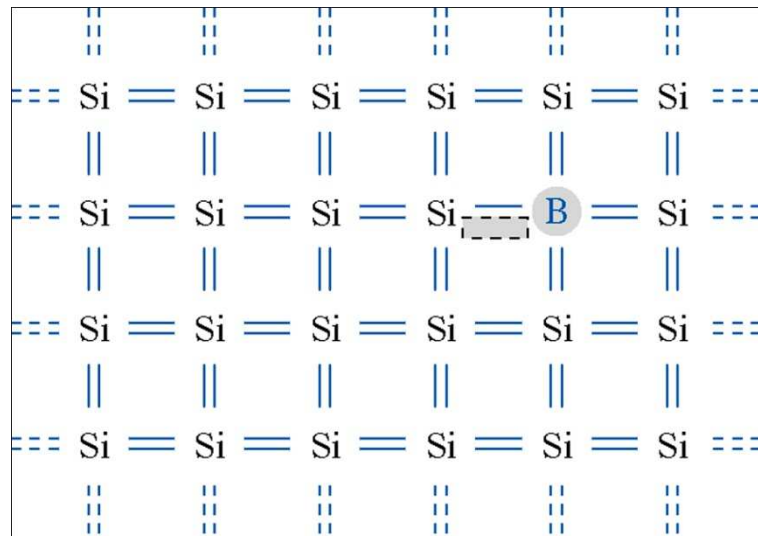
(a)



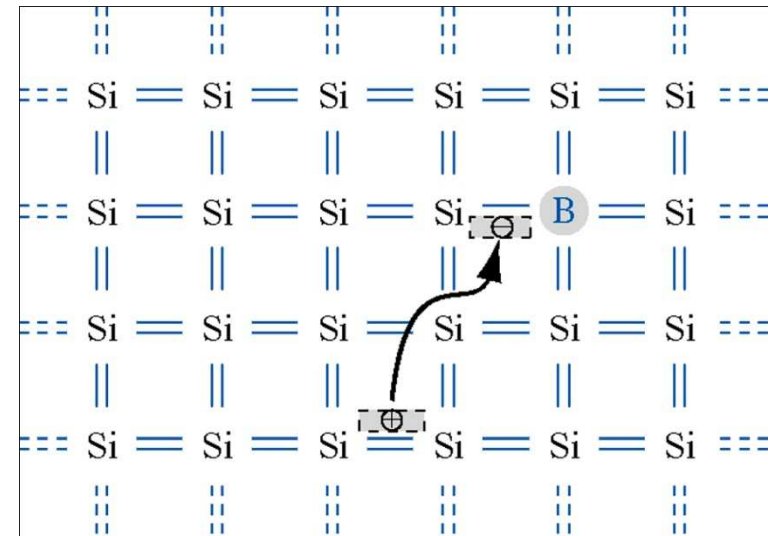
(b)

- E_d (energy state of the donor electron) is located near E_c
- When small energy is added, donor electron is elevated to conduction band, leaving behind positively charged P ion
- P atoms donate electron to conduction band → P; **donor impurity atom**
- No. of electron > no. of hole → **n-type semiconductor** (majority carrier is electron)

2. B as substitutional impurity (group III element; 3 valence electron)



(a)



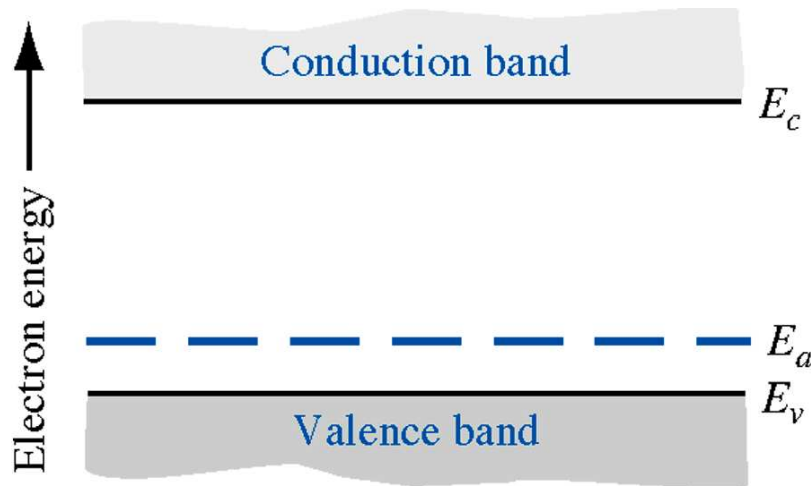
(b)

- In Si doped with B, all 3 valence electron of B contribute to covalent bonding and one covalent bonding is empty
- When small energy is added, electron that involved in covalent bond will occupy the empty position leaving behind empty position that associated with Si atom

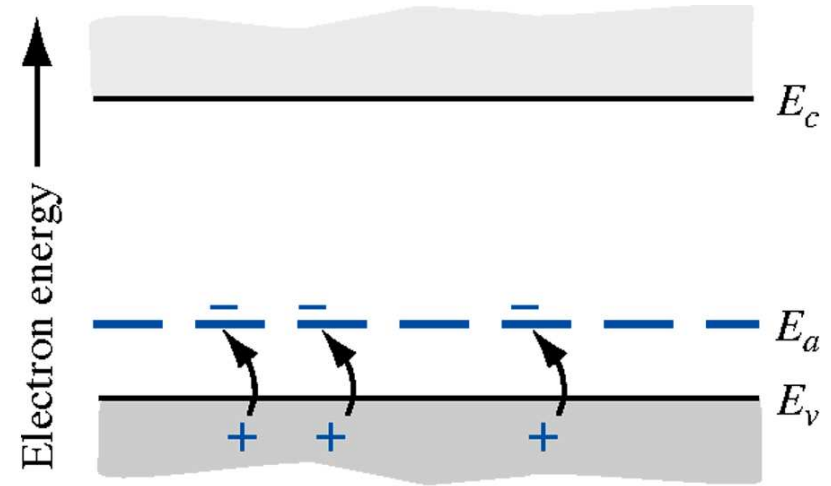


Hole is created

➤ Electron occupying the empty state associated with B atom does not have sufficient energy to be in the conduction band → no free electron is created



(a)

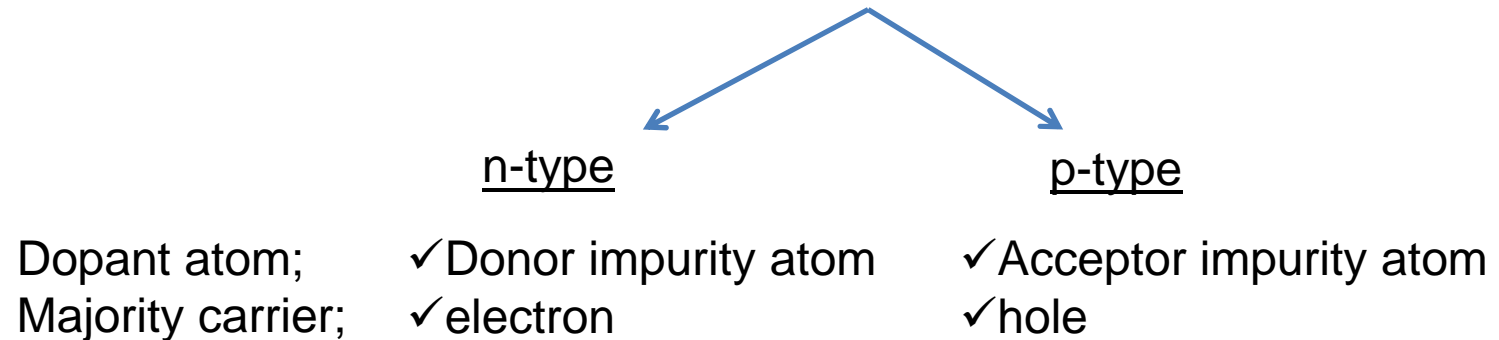


(b)

- E_a (acceptor energy state) is located near E_v
- When electron from valence band elevate to E_a , hole and negatively charged B are created
 - B accepts electron from valence band → B; **acceptor impurity atom**
- No. of hole > no. of electron → **p-type material** (majority carrier is hole)

➤ Pure single-crystal semiconductor; **intrinsic semiconductor**

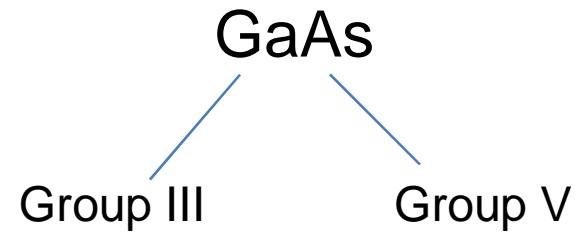
➤ Semiconductor with dopant atoms; **extrinsic semiconductor**



Ionization Energy

The energy that required to elevate donor electron into the conduction (in case of donor impurity atom) or to elevate valence electron into acceptor state (in case of acceptor impurity atom).

III-V semiconductors

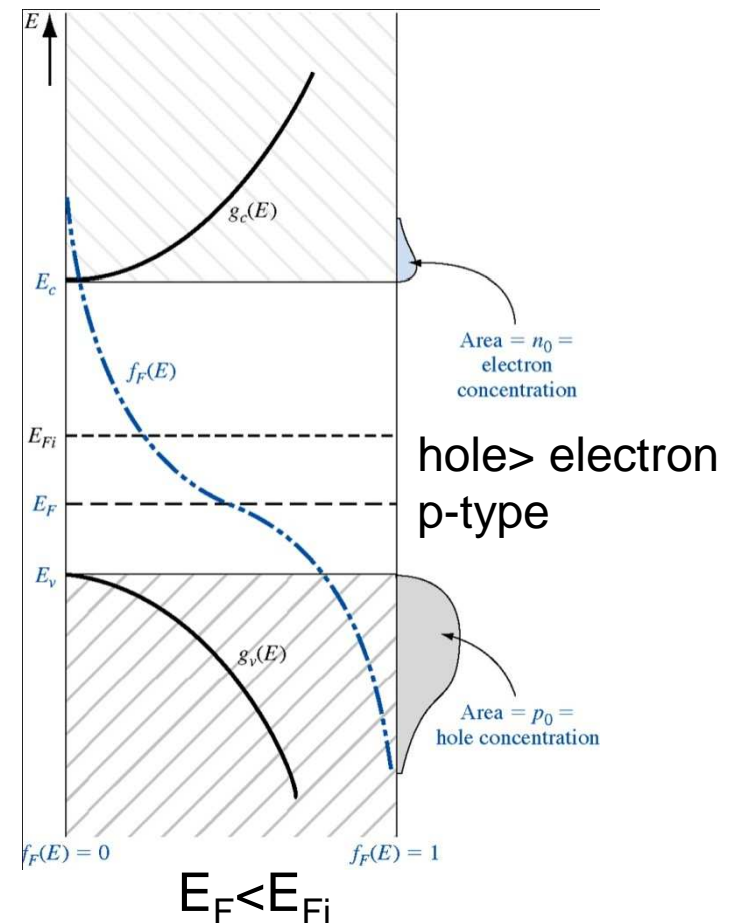
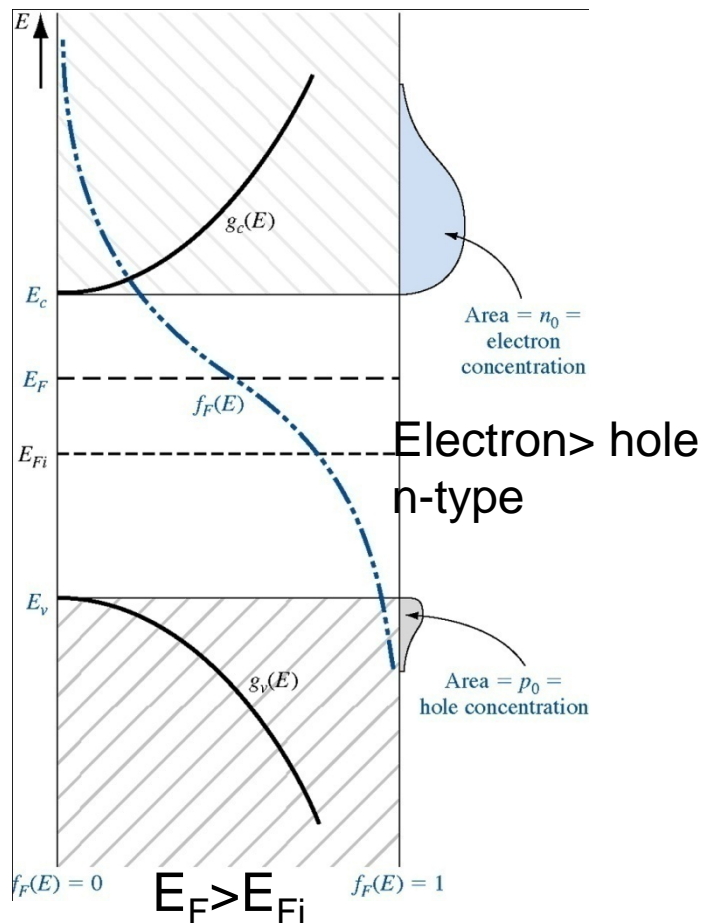


Dopant atoms;

- Group II (beryllium, zinc and cadmium) replacing Ga; acceptor
- Group VI (selenium, tellurium) replacing As; donor
- Group IV (Si and germanium) replacing Ga; donor
As; acceptor

Carrier concentration of extrinsic semiconductor

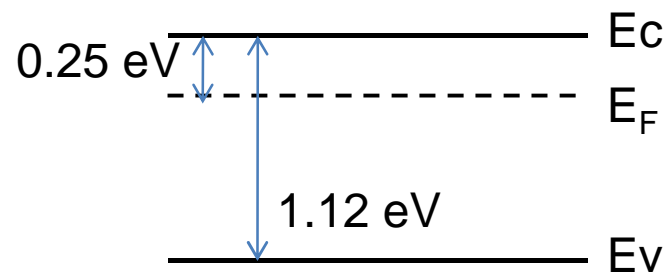
When dopant atoms are added, Fermi energy and distribution of electron and hole will change.



$$n_o = N_c \exp\left[\frac{-(E_c - E_F)}{kT}\right] \quad \text{Thermal equilibrium concentration of electron}$$

$$p_o = N_v \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right] \quad \text{Thermal equilibrium concentration of hole}$$

Ex. 4



Band diagram of Si. At $T = 300 \text{ K}$,
 $N_c = 2.8 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $N_v = 1.04 \times 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.
 Calculate n_o and p_o .

$$n_o = (2.8 \times 10^{19}) \exp\left(\frac{-0.25}{0.0259}\right) = 1.8 \times 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

$$p_o = (1.04 \times 10^{19}) \exp\left(\frac{-(1.12 - 0.25)}{0.0259}\right) = 2.7 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

N-type Si

➤ **Change of Fermi energy causes change of carrier concentration.**

n_o and p_o equation as function of the change of Fermi energy

$$n_o = N_C \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT}\right] = n_i \exp\left[\frac{E_F - E_{Fi}}{kT}\right]$$

$$p_o = N_v \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right] = n_i \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_{Fi})}{kT}\right]$$

n_i ; intrinsic carrier concentration

E_{fi} ; intrinsic Fermi energy

The $n_o p_o$ product

$$\begin{aligned}n_o p_o &= N_C N_v \exp\left[\frac{-(E_C - E_F)}{kT}\right] \exp\left[\frac{-(E_F - E_v)}{kT}\right] \\&= N_C N_v \exp\left[\frac{-E_g}{kT}\right] \\&= n_i^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{n_o p_o = n_i^2}$$

Product of n_o and p_o is always a constant for a given material at a given temperature.

4.3.4 Degenerate and Nondegenerate Semiconductors

- As the donor concentration further increases, the band of donor states widens and may overlap the bottom of the conduction band.
- This overlap occurs when the donor concentration becomes comparable with the effective density of states.
- **When the concentration of electrons in the conduction band exceeds the density of states N_c** , the Fermi energy lies within the conduction band. This type of semiconductor is called a **degenerate** n-type semiconductor.
- In the degenerate n-type semiconductor, **the states between E_F and E_c are mostly filled with electrons**; thus, the electron concentration in the conduction band is very large.

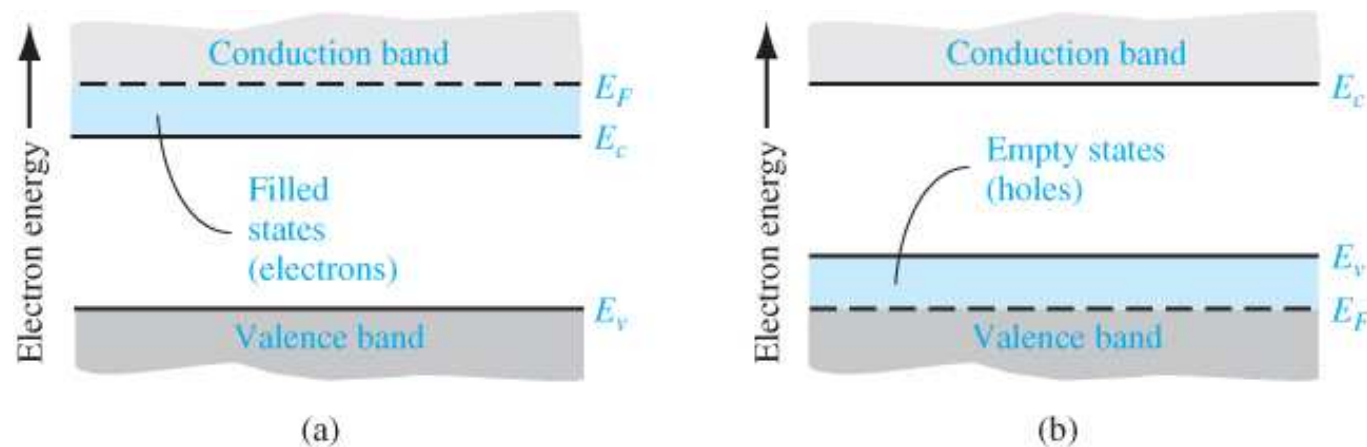


Figure 4.11 | Simplified energy-band diagrams for degenerately doped (a) n-type and (b) p-type semiconductors.

4.4 | STATISTICS OF DONORS AND ACCEPTORS

4.4.1 Probability Function

The probability function of electrons occupying the donor state is

$$n_d = \frac{N_d}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(\frac{E_d - E_F}{kT}\right)} \quad (4.50)$$

where n_d is the density of electrons occupying the donor level and E_d is the energy of the donor level. The factor $1/2$ in this equation is a direct result of the spin factor just mentioned.

$$n_d = N_d - N_d^+ \quad (4.51)$$

where N_d^+ is the concentration of ionized donors. In many applications, we will be interested more in the concentration of ionized donors than in the concentration of electrons remaining in the donor states.

4.4.2 Complete Ionization and Freeze-Out

If we assume that $(E_d - E_F) \gg kT$, then

$$n_d \approx \frac{N_d}{\frac{1}{2} \exp\left(\frac{E_d - E_F}{kT}\right)} = 2N_d \exp\left[\frac{-(E_d - E_F)}{kT}\right] \quad (4.53)$$

$$\frac{n_d}{n_d + n_0} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{N_c}{2N_d} \exp\left[\frac{-(E_c - E_d)}{kT}\right]} \quad (4.55)$$

The factor $(E_c - E_d)$ is just the ionization energy of the donor electrons.

Note:

there are very few electrons in the donor state compared with the conduction band. Essentially all of the electrons from the donor states are in the conduction band and, since only about 0.4 percent of the donor states contain electrons, **the donor states are said to be completely ionized.**

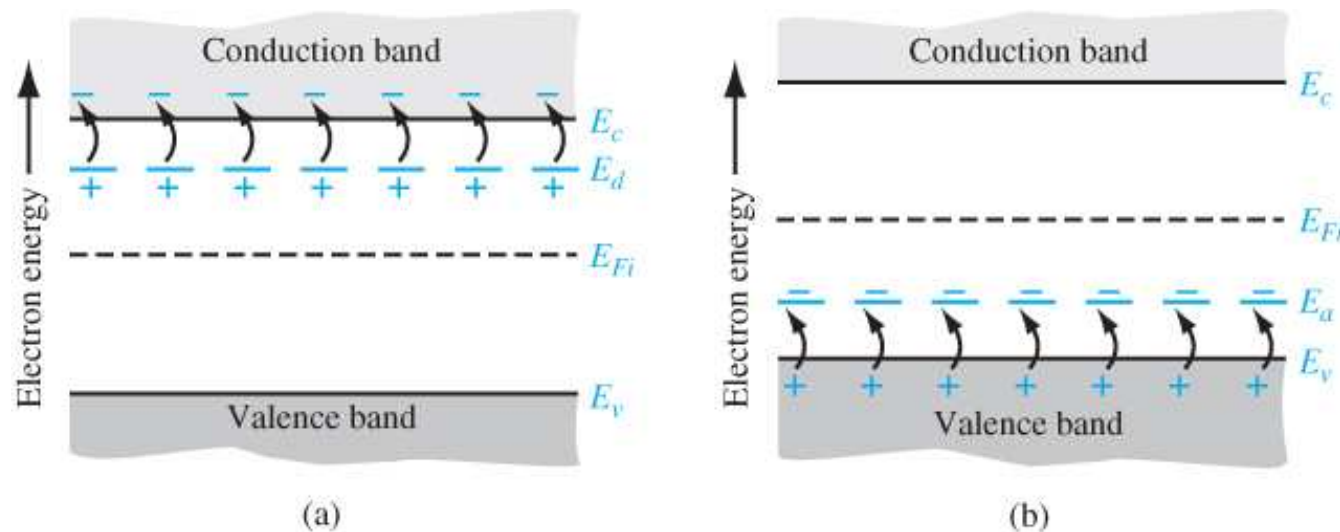


Figure 4.12 | Energy-band diagrams showing complete ionization of (a) donor states and (b) acceptor states.

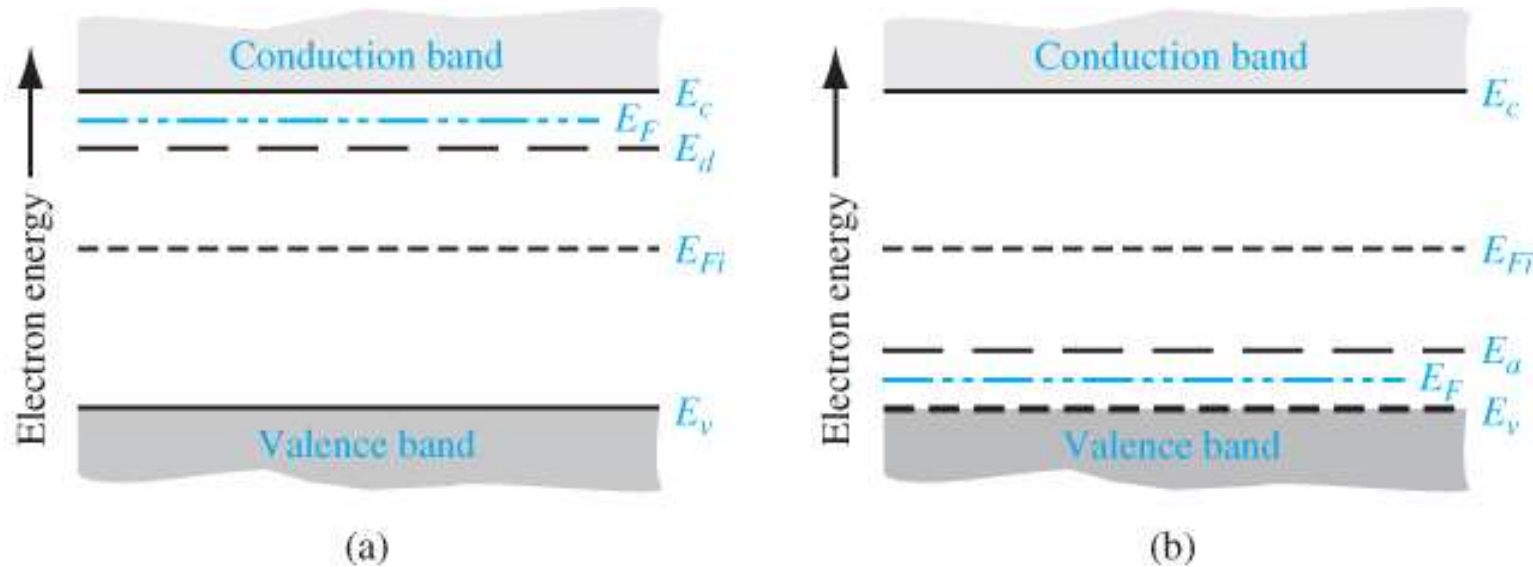


Figure 4.13 | Energy-band diagram at $T = 0$ K for (a) n-type and (b) p-type semiconductors.

at $T = 0$ K, No electrons from the donor state are thermally elevated into the conduction band; this effect is called freeze-out. Similarly, when no electrons from the valance band are elevated into the acceptor states, the effect is also called **freeze-out**.

4.5 | CHARGE NEUTRALITY

4.5.1 Compensated Semiconductors

A **compensated** semiconductor is one that contains both donor and acceptor impurity atoms in the same region.

4.5.2 Equilibrium Electron and Hole Concentrations

The **charge neutrality** condition is expressed by equating the density of negative charges to the density of positive charges.

$$n_0 + N_a^- = p_0 + N_d^+ \quad (4.56)$$

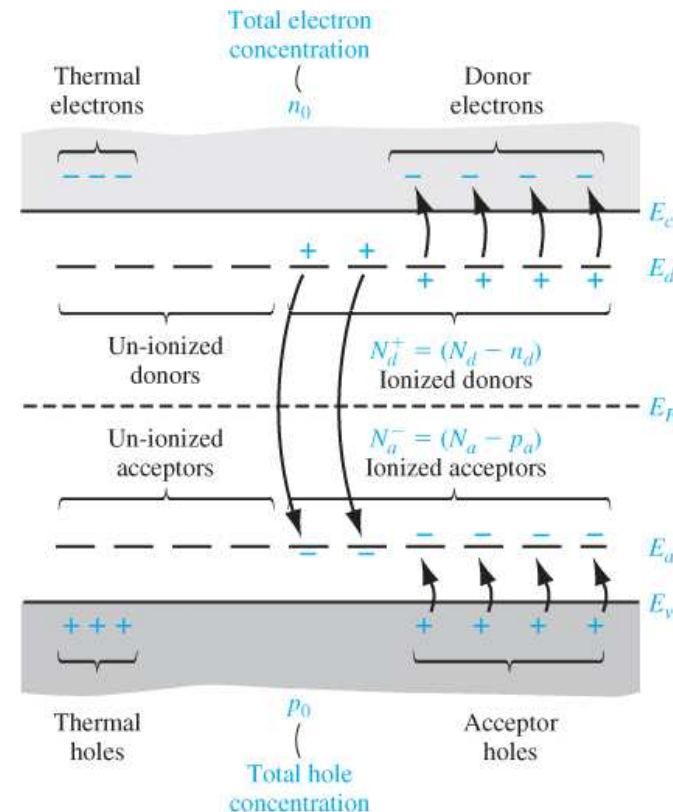


Figure 4.14 | Energy-band diagram of a compensated semiconductor showing ionized and un-ionized donors and acceptors.

Thermal-Equilibrium Electron Concentration If we assume complete ionization, n_d and p_a are both zero, and Equation (4.57) becomes

$$n_0 + N_a = p_0 + n_d \quad (4.58)$$

If we express p_0 as n_i^2/n_0 , then Equation (4.58) can be written as

$$n_0 + N_a = \frac{n_i^2}{n_0} + N_d \quad (4.59a)$$

which in turn can be written as

$$n_0^2 - (N_d - N_a)n_0 - n_i^2 = 0 \quad (4.59b)$$

The electron concentration n_0 can be determined using the quadratic formula, or

$$n_0 = \frac{(N_d - N_a)}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{N_d - N_a}{2}\right)^2 + n_i^2} \quad (4.60)$$

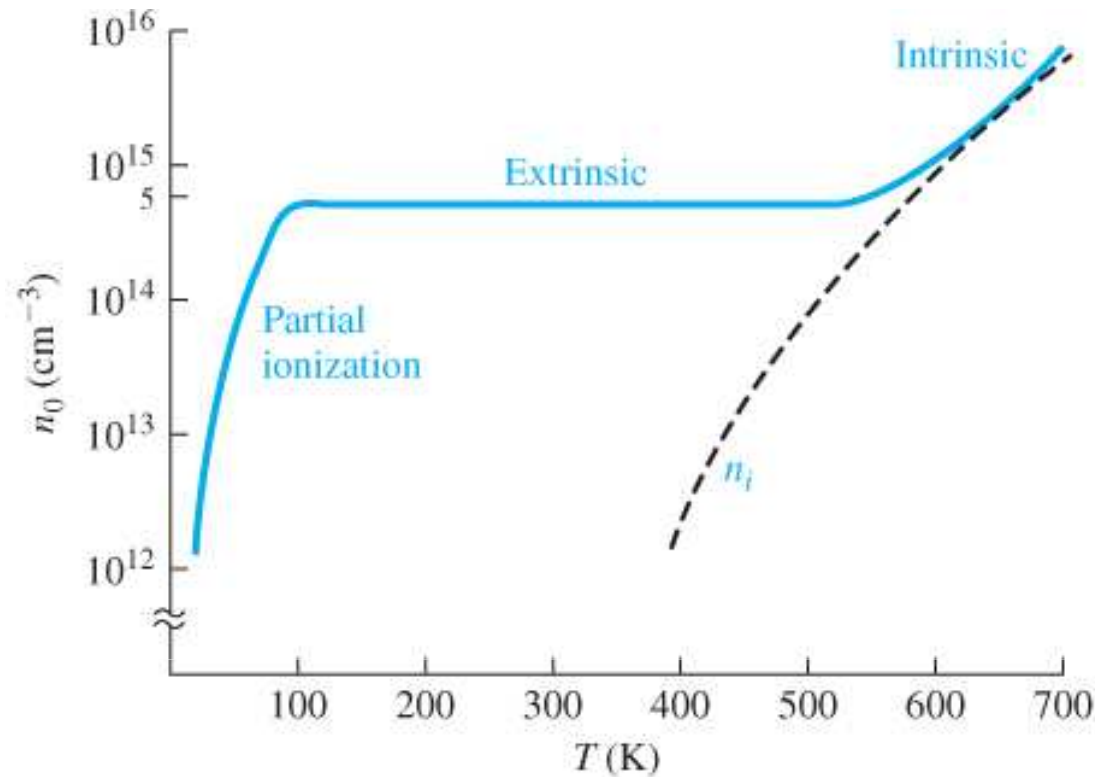


Figure 4.16 | Electron concentration versus temperature showing the three regions: partial ionization, extrinsic, and intrinsic.

Silicon doped with 5×10^{14} donors

As the temperature increases, we can see where the intrinsic concentration begins to dominate. Also shown is the partial ionization, or the onset of freeze-out, at the low temperature.

Thermal-Equilibrium Hole Concentration If we reconsider Equation (4.58) and express n_0 as n_i^2/p_0 , then we have

$$\frac{n_i^2}{p_0} + N_a = p_0 + N_d \quad (4.61a)$$

$$p_0 = \frac{N_a - N_d}{2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{N_a - N_d}{2}\right)^2 + n_i^2} \quad (4.62)$$

4.6 | POSITION OF FERMI ENERGY LEVEL

4.6.1 Mathematical Derivation

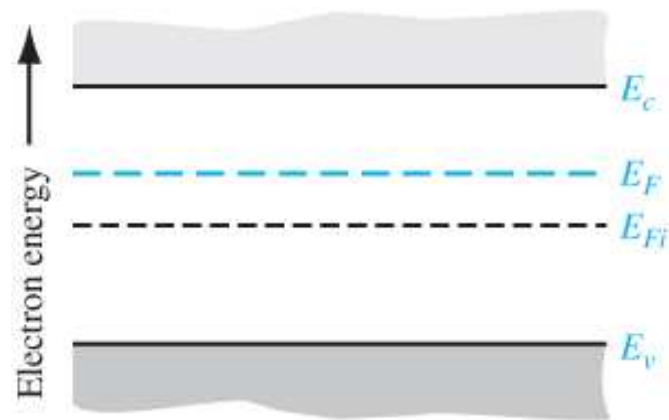
$$E_c - E_F = kT \ln \left(\frac{N_c}{n_0} \right) \quad (4.63)$$

$$E_c - E_F = kT \ln \left(\frac{N_c}{N_d} \right) \quad (4.64)$$

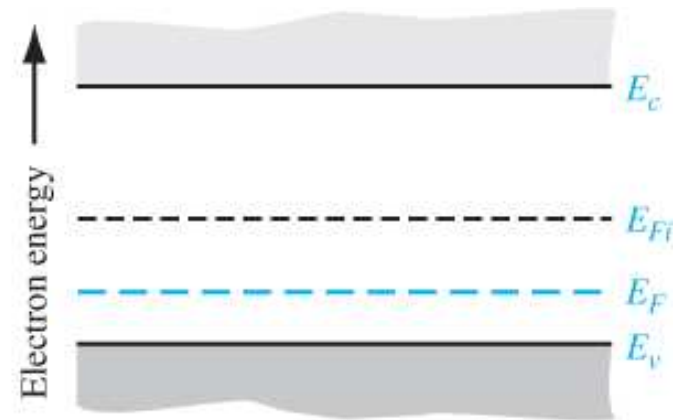
$$E_F - E_{Fi} = kT \ln \left(\frac{n_0}{n_i} \right) \quad (4.65)$$

$$E_F - E_v = kT \ln \left(\frac{N_v}{p_0} \right) \quad (4.66)$$

$$E_{Fi} - E_F = kT \ln \left(\frac{p_0}{n_i} \right) \quad (4.68)$$



(a)



(b)

Figure 4.17 | Position of Fermi level for an (a) n-type ($N_d > N_a$) and (b) p-type ($N_d > N_a$) semiconductor.

4.6.2 Variation of E_F with Doping Concentration and Temperature

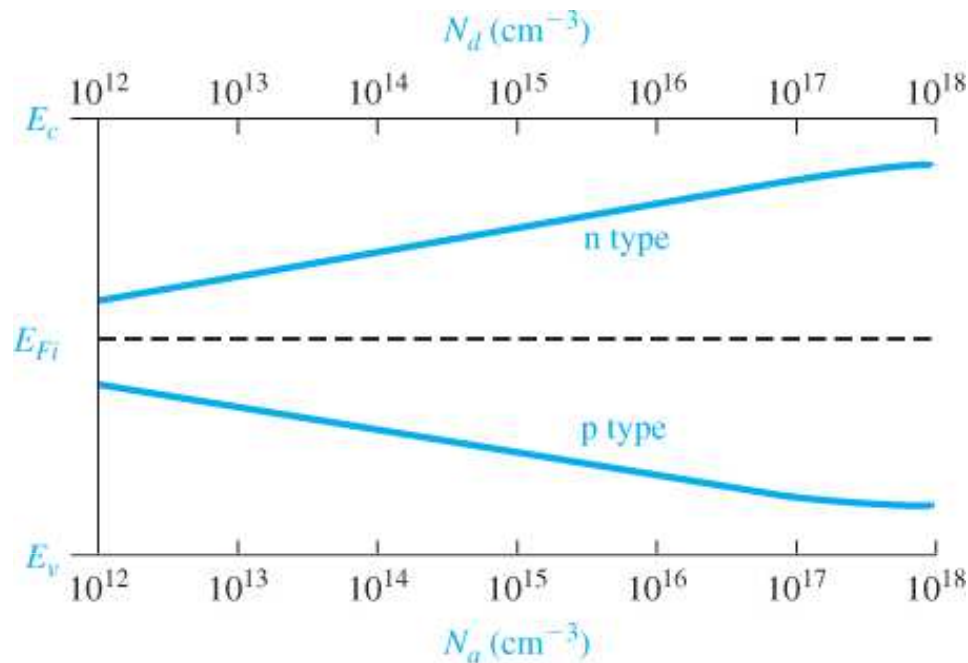


Figure 4.18 | Position of Fermi level as a function of donor concentration (n type) and acceptor concentration (p type).

Comment Ex 4.13

If the acceptor (or donor) concentration in silicon is **greater than approximately $3 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$** , then the Boltzmann approximation of the distribution function **becomes less valid** and the equations for the Fermi-level position are no longer quite as accurate.

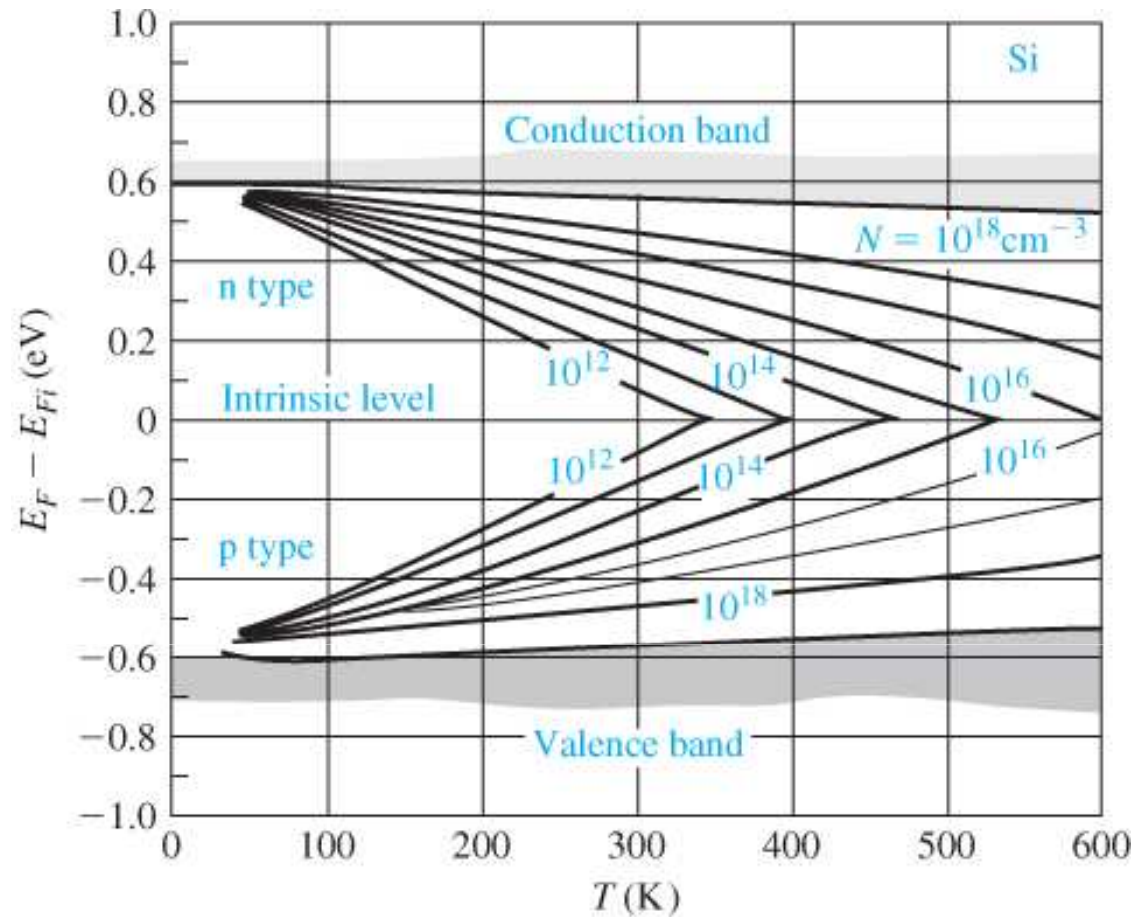


Figure 4.19 | Position of Fermi level as a function of temperature for various doping concentrations.
(From Sze [14].)

At the low temperature where freeze-out occurs, the Fermi level goes above E_d for the n-type material and below E_a for the p-type material.

in thermal equilibrium, the Fermi energy level is a constant throughout a system.

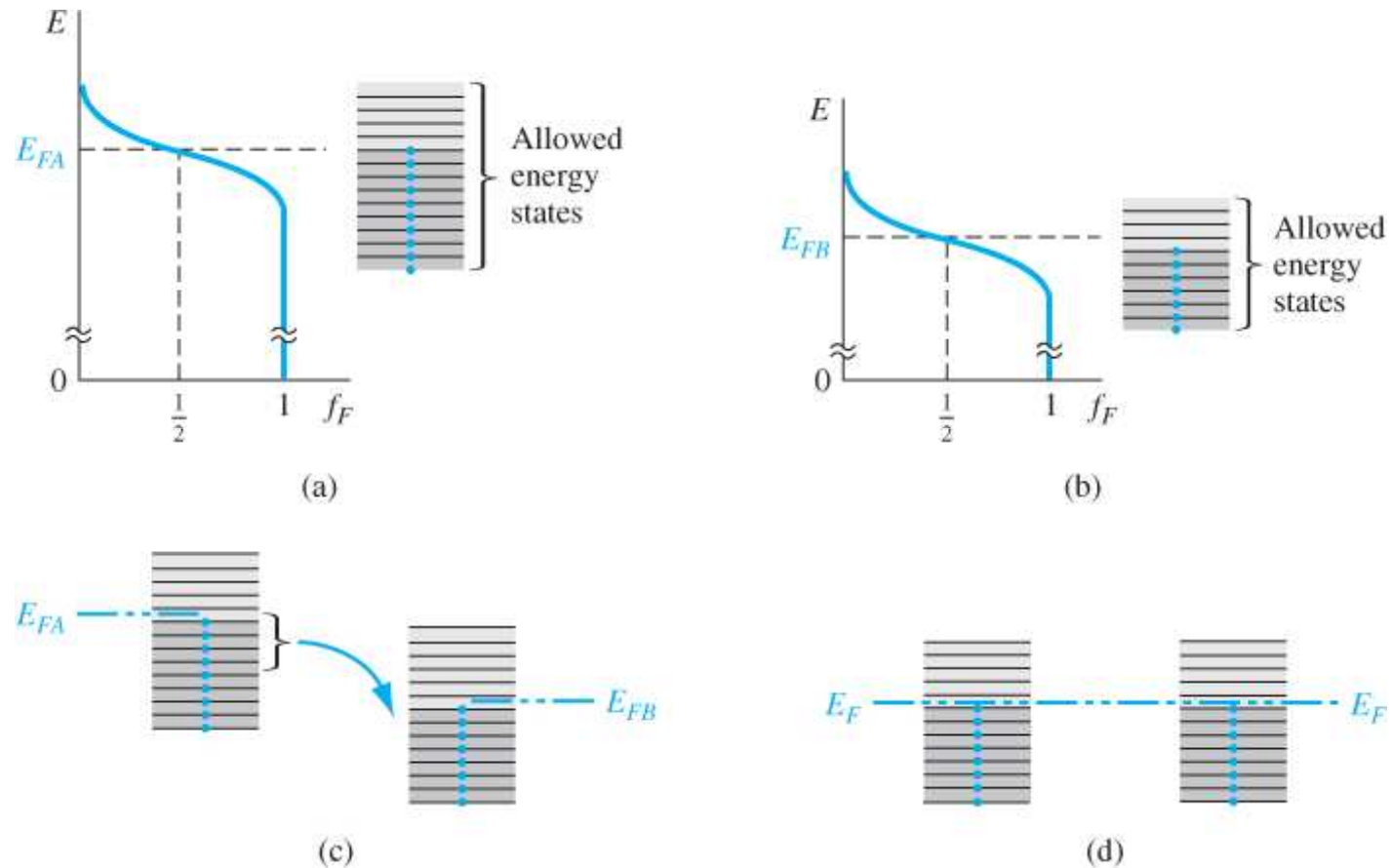


Figure 4.20 | The Fermi energy of (a) material A in thermal equilibrium, (b) material B in thermal equilibrium, (c) materials A and B at the instant they are placed in contact, and (d) materials A and B in contact at thermal equilibrium.

Important terms

Intrinsic semiconductor; A pure semiconductor material with no impurity atoms and no lattice defects in the crystal

Extrinsic semiconductor; A semiconductor in which controlled amounts of donors and/or acceptors have been added so that the electron and hole concentrations change from the intrinsic carrier concentration and a preponderance of either electron (n-type) or hole (p-type) is created.

Acceptor atoms; Impurity atoms added to a semiconductor to create a p-type material

Donor atoms; Impurity atoms added to a semiconductor to create n-type material

Complete ionization; The condition when all donor atoms are positively charged by giving up their donor electrons and all acceptor atoms are negatively charged by accepting electrons

Freeze-out; The condition that occurs in a semiconductor when the temperature is lowered and the donors and acceptors become neutrally charged. The electron and hole concentrations become very small

Fundamental relationship

$$n_o p_o = n_i^2$$

Reference

