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- Free electron theory of metals

Theories

Classical free
e⁻ theory

Quantum free
e⁻ theory

Zone / band
theory

Drude &
Lorentz

Sommerfield

Bloch

1900

1928

1928

electrical
conductivity

move with const.
potential

move in periodic
potential in lattice

classical
mechanics

Quantum
Laws

Band theory

• Classical free electron theory

• Postulates

Unit-1 Energy Bands in Solids

Classical Free Electron Theory : -

Postulates : -

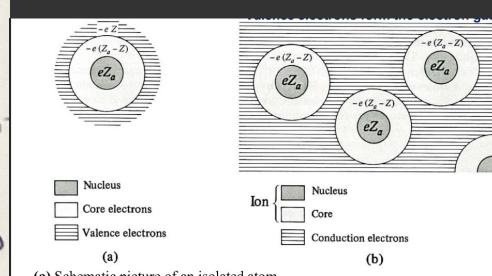
- In an atom electrons revolve around nucleus & metal consists of the ion core.
- Force b/w val. free e^- move in random directions & collide w/ the ions fixed to lattice & other free e^- s. All collisions are elastic (no energy transfer).
- When e^- field is applied, free e^- are accelerated in the direction opp. to direction of applied e^- field.

Success :

- Verifies Ohm's Law
- Explains Electrical & thermal conductivity of metal.
- Finds relation b/w " " " " " " " "

Drawbacks :

- Electrical conductivity / semiconductors / insulators couldn't explained.
- Specific heat of metal is found to be 4.5 but experimental value is 3R.
- photoelectric, compton effect & black body radiation couldn't explained.

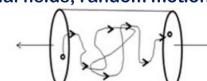


(a) Schematic picture of an isolated atom
 (b) In a metal the nucleus and ion core retain their configuration in the free but the valence electrons leave the atom to form the electron gas.



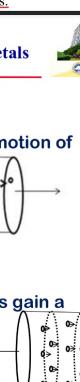
In absence of external field

- ✓ In the absence of external fields, random motion of electrons is observed.
- ✓ Net current is zero.



In presence of external field

- ✓ In the presence of external fields, electrons gain a constant velocity, DRIFT VELOCITY (V_d)
- ✓ Net current will not be zero.



Quantum free electron theory :-

Postulates :

- e^- possess wave nature
- allowed energy levels of e^- are quantized.
- distribution of e^- 's in various energy levels obey Fermi-Dirac quantum statistics.

Merits :

- explains electrical conductivity & thermal.
- photoelectric effect & compton effect is explained.
- e^- 's have wave motion.

Demerits :

- Fails to give diff b/w conductor / semi-conductor insulator.
- fails to explain charge transport properties of metals.

According to Quantum mechanics moving particles has some sort of wave motion

Then wavelength $\lambda = h/p$ (De-Broglie wavelength)

To characterize moving particle having wave motion-(ψ)-wavefunction is introduced

According to quantum theory of free electrons energy of a free electron is given by

$$E_n = n^2 h^2 / 8mL^2$$

- According to quantum theory of free electrons the electrical conductivity is given by

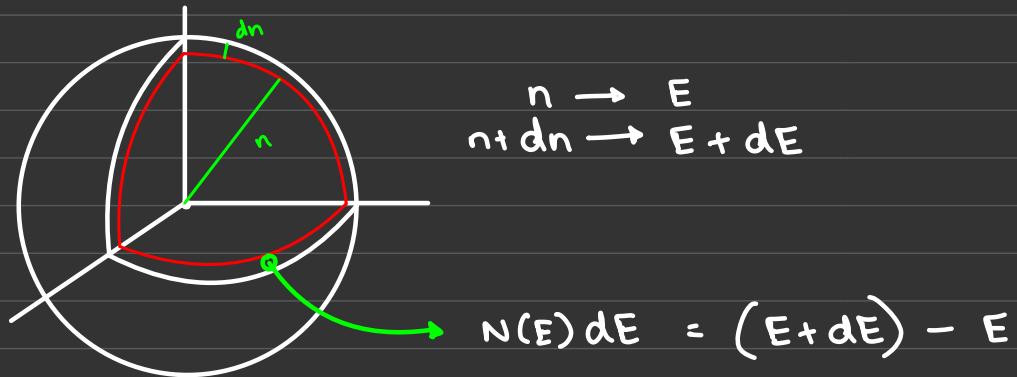
$$\sigma = ne^2 T/m$$

• Density of states

The density of state is given by the number of energy levels per unit volume.

$$Z(E) dE = \frac{N(E)dE}{V}$$

Take a octant of a sphere



$$E = \frac{4}{3}\pi n^3 ; E + dE = \frac{4}{3}\pi(n + dn)^3$$

For Octant :-

$$E = \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{4}{3}\pi n^3 ; E + dE = \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{4}{3}\pi(n + dn)^3$$

$$\therefore N(E)dE = (E + dE) - E$$

$$= \frac{1}{6}\pi(n + dn)^3 - \frac{1}{6}\pi n^3$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{6} (n^3 + dn^3 + 3n^2 \cdot dn + 3n \cdot dn^2 - n^3)$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{6} (3n^2 \cdot dn)$$

$$N(E)dE = \frac{\pi}{2} n (ndn)$$

We know that,

Energy of electron within a cube

$$E = \frac{n^2 h^2}{8 ma^2}$$

$$\therefore n^2 = \frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \cdot E \quad ; \quad n = \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} E \right)^{1/2}$$

diff n w.r.t E

$$2n \cdot dn = \frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \cdot dE$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} N(E) dE &= \frac{\pi}{2} n (ndn) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \cdot E \right)^{1/2} \cdot \left(\frac{8ma^2}{2h^2} \cdot dE \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{4} \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} \cdot E^{1/2} \cdot dE \end{aligned}$$

\because each energy level provides 2 e⁻ states with opp spin
we have ,

$$N(E) dE = 2 \times \frac{\pi}{4} \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} (E)^{1/2} \cdot dE$$

$$N(E) dE = \frac{\pi}{2} \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} (E)^{1/2} \cdot dE$$

$$\therefore N(E) dE = Z(E) dE$$

$$\therefore Z(E) dE = \frac{\pi}{2} \left(\frac{8ma^2}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} (E)^{1/2} dE$$

• Bloch theorem

Statement : The wave function of a e^- moving in a periodic 1-D lattice is of the form

$$\psi(x) = e^{ikx} \cdot u(x)$$

e^{ikx} = wave function

$u(x)$ = periodic function

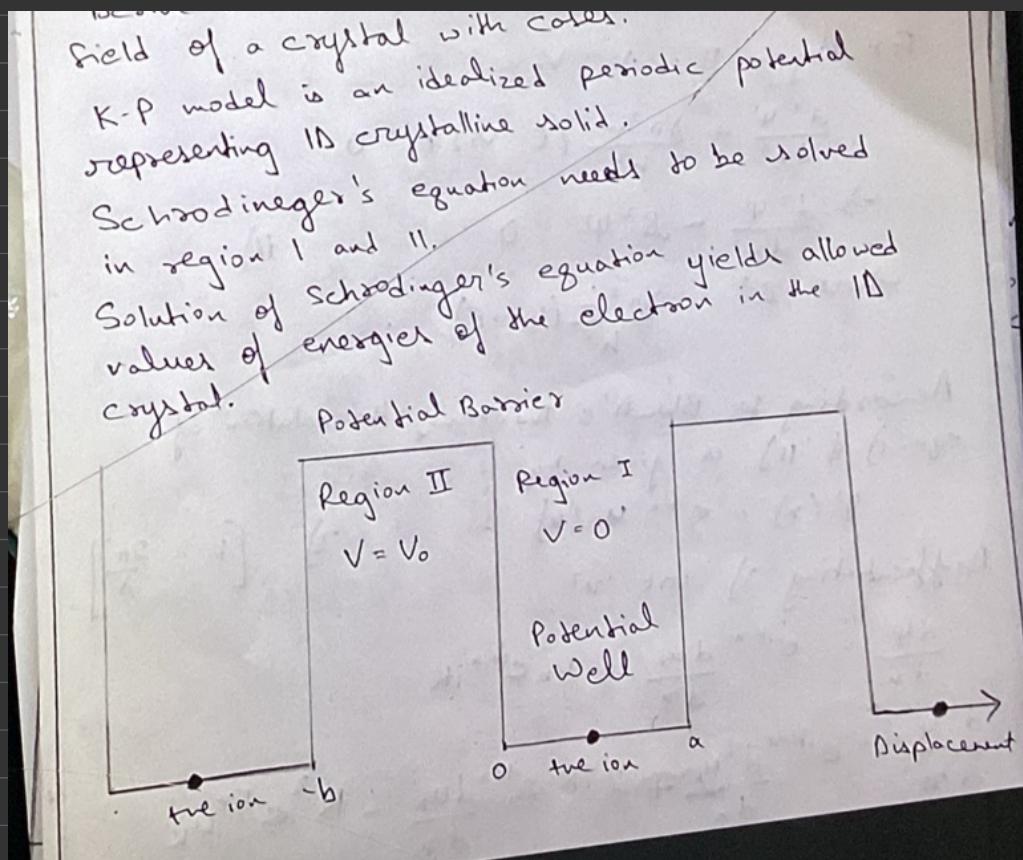
$u(x)$ has same periodicity as of the lattice

$$u(x) = u(x+a)$$

∴ Alternate statement

$$\psi(x+a) = -e^{ika} \psi(x).$$

• Kronig - Penny Model



The Schrodinger's time independant wave eq,
is given by

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (E - V) \psi = 0$$

Region I :-

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (E - V_0) \psi = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} E \psi = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \alpha^2 \psi = 0 \quad \text{--- (i)} \quad \alpha^2 = \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} E$$

Region II :-

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (E - V_0) \psi = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (V_0 - E) \psi = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} - \beta^2 \psi = 0 \quad \text{--- (ii)} \quad \beta^2 = \frac{8\pi^2m}{h^2} (V_0 - E)$$

Acc. to Bloch thm

$$\psi(x) = e^{ikx} u_k(x) \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} \text{ w.r.t } x$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dx} = e^{ikx} \frac{du_k}{dx} + u_k e^{ikx} (ik) \quad i \cdot i = -1$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = e^{ikx} \cdot \frac{d^2u_k}{dx^2} + 2ike^{ikx} \frac{du_k}{dx} - k^2 e^{ikx} \quad \text{--- (iv)}$$

Sub (iii) & (iv) in (i)

$$\frac{d^2 u_k}{dx^2} + 2ik \frac{du_k}{dx} + (\alpha^2 - k^2) u_k = 0 \quad \text{--- (v)}$$

Sub (iii) & (iv) in (ii)

$$\frac{d^2 u_k}{dx^2} + 2ik \frac{du_k}{dx} - (\beta^2 + k^2) u_k = 0 \quad \text{--- (vi)}$$

The gen soln of (v) & (vi) is

$$u_1 = A e^{i(\alpha-k)x} + B e^{-i(\alpha+k)x} \quad \text{--- (vii)}$$

where $u_1 = u_k$ in $0 < x < a$

$$u_2 = C e^{(B-ik)x} + D e^{-(B+ik)x} \quad \text{--- (viii)}$$

where $u_2 = u_k$ in $-b < x < 0$

For Boundary Condⁿ



$$[u_1(x)]_{x=0} = [u_2(x)]_{x=0}$$

$$A + B = C + D$$

$$\left[\frac{du_1}{dx} \right]_{x=0} = \left[\frac{du_2}{dx} \right]_{x=0}$$

$$i(\alpha - k)A - i(\alpha + k)B = (B - ik)C - (B + ik)D \quad \text{--- (ix)}$$

For Boundary Condition

$$[u_1(x)]_{x=a} = [u_2(x)]_{x=-b}$$
$$A e^{i(\alpha-k)a} + B e^{-i(\alpha+k)a} = C e^{-(B-ik)b} + D e^{(B+ik)b} \quad \text{--- (x)}$$

$$\left[\frac{du_1}{dx} \right]_{x=a} = \left[\frac{du_2}{dx} \right]_{x=-b}$$

$$i(\alpha - k) A e^{i(\alpha - k)a} - i(\alpha + k) B e^{-i(\alpha + k)a} = \\ (B - ik) C e^{-(\beta - ik)b} - (\beta + ik) D e^{(\beta + ik)b} \quad (xi)$$

From (ix), (x), (xi), (xii), the coeff of A, B, C, D
are taken in determinant = 0

$$\frac{P \sin \alpha a}{\alpha a} + \cos \alpha a = \cos ka \quad -(xii)$$

When P=0

$$\cos \alpha a = \cos ka$$

$$\alpha a = ka$$

$$\alpha = k$$

$$\alpha^2 = k^2$$

$$\frac{8\pi^2 m}{h^2} E = k^2 \quad h = h/2\pi$$

When P = ∞

$$\frac{P \sin \alpha a}{\alpha a} = \cos ka - \cos \alpha a$$

$$\frac{P \sin \alpha a}{\sin \alpha a} = \frac{(\cos ka - \cos \alpha a)}{\alpha a},$$

$$\sin \alpha a = 0$$

$$\alpha a = n\pi$$

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{a^2}$$

$$\frac{8\pi^2 m}{h^2} E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{a^2}$$

$$E = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{8ma^2}$$

• Brillouin Zone

It is the representation of permissible of 'k' & e⁻s in 1, 2, 3 dimension system. Thus the energy spectrum of e⁻s moving in a periodic potential is divided into allowed and forbidden zones.

from KP model,

$$\frac{P \sin \alpha a}{\alpha a} + \cos \alpha a = \cos ka$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{At } P \rightarrow \infty \quad \alpha &= n\pi/a \\ P \rightarrow 0 \quad k &= n\pi/a \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{But } k = 2\pi/\lambda$$

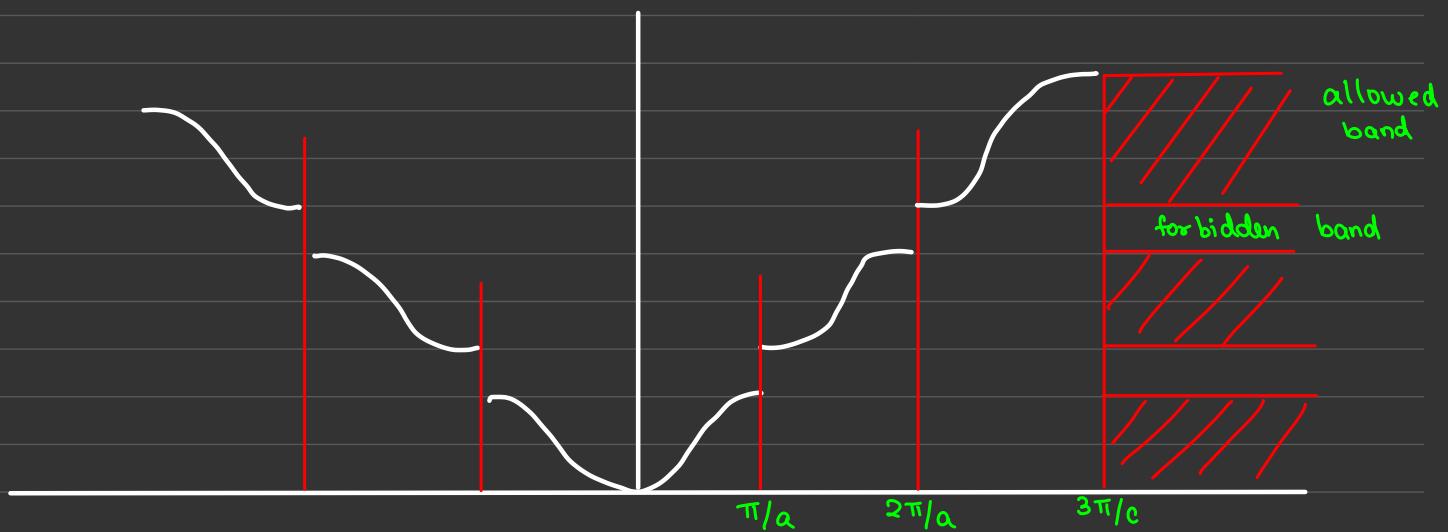
$$\frac{n\pi}{a} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$2a = n\lambda$$

$$\text{Bragg's law} \quad 2a \sin \theta = n\lambda$$

$$\sin \theta = 1 ; \theta = \pi/2$$

e⁻s travelling through periodic array of atom in crystal gets diffracted when they satisfy bragg's law



1st bro zone

$$K = -\pi/a \text{ to } \pi/a$$

2nd Zone

$$K = \pi/a \text{ to } 2\pi/a \quad \& \quad -\pi/a \text{ to } -2\pi/a$$

A discontinuity in energy of e⁻ b/w 1st & 2nd zone is called Forbidden zone.

- E-K diagram

The conventional band diagram shows conventional energy only

E-K gives info about electrical & optical properties

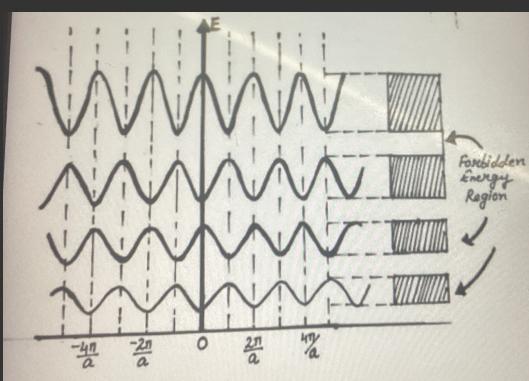
Show energy-momentum relation for available states of electron.

Obtained by Schrödinger eq.

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2m^2}{\hbar^2} (E - V) \psi_k(x) = 0$$

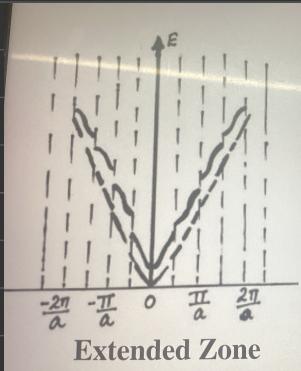
Types :-

① Periodic zone



Periodic repetition of allowed energy values of each allowed band, obtained by periodic repetition of the region of $-\pi/a < K < \pi/a$ thru K-space

② Extended zone

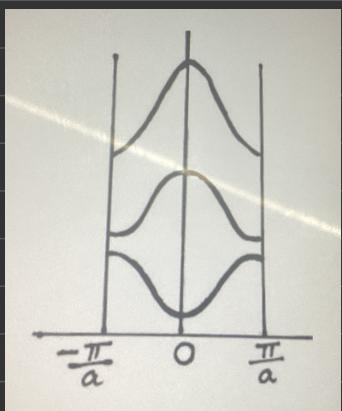


diff bands drawn in diff zones

discontinues at $k = \pm \frac{n\pi}{a}$

due to bragg's law of reflection at the edges of allowed bands

③ Reduced zone



distance is integral multiple of $2\pi/a$
so that they all fit within the
interval $-\pi/a$ to π/a (1st bro)

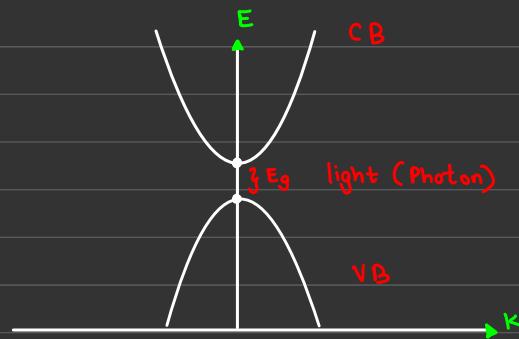
1st zone is shown since EK diag.
is periodic, it is sufficient to
1st zone.

Significance

- i) Shows direct vs indirect band gap
- ii) demonstrates e⁻ hole mobility
- iii) explains e⁻ (hole) effective mass
- iv) Indicates the band gap E_g (diff in energy b/w valence & conduction band)

- Direct & Indirect band gap

Direct
band gap



Maxima of VB & minima of CB have same momentum.

Momentum remains conserved & photon (light) is emitted

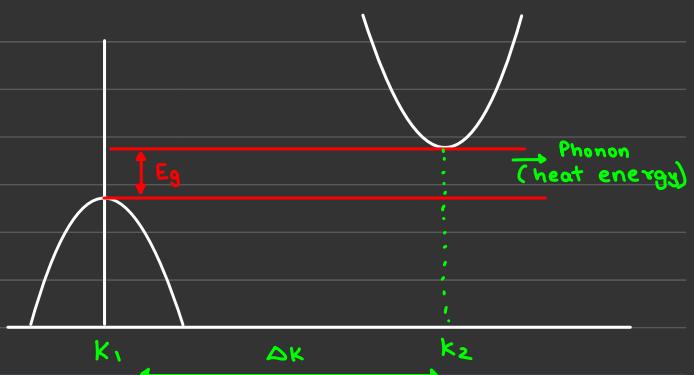
direct band gap semicon

efficiency is high

Probability of a radioactive recombination is high

Used in LED & laser diodes

Indirect
band gap



Maxima of VB & minima of CB occur at diff momentum

Momentum of is not conserved, to conserve it phonon (heat) is emitted.

Indirect band gap semicon

efficiency is low

is low

Used in amplifier, rectifier & transmitter

• Phonons and Photons

In quantum mechanical terms, phonons are a packet of waves that travel throughout the crystal with definite energy & momentum. It is derived from vibrations of atoms in a solid.

Properties

- i) Treated as quasi particle
- ii) Carry heat, energy, momentum via packet of sound
- iii) In crystal, heat energy + when e^- collide, but in semicon at $T \uparrow$, e^- attract due to phonons
- iv) Can travel from one object to another

Phonons

Quantized normal modes
of lattice vibrations

$$E = \frac{h\nu}{\lambda}$$

$$P = \frac{h}{\lambda} (\text{A}^\circ)$$

Photons

Quantized normal modes
of em waves

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

$$P = \frac{h}{\lambda} (\mu\text{m})$$

• Fermi - dirac Statistics

Three types :-

i) Maxwell - boltzman :- spin of any type

$$f(E) = \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/kT}}$$

ii) Base einstein : particles of zero or integral spin

$$f(E) = \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/kT} - 1}$$

iii) Fermi - dirac : half integral spin

$$f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{h\nu/kT}}$$

fermi energy (E_F)

Energy of state where probab (Ψ) = 1/2 at 0K

Max^m KE for free e^- at 0K

The highest occupied energy level

fermi - dirac distribution function $f(E)$

The distribution of e^- s among levels is described by $f(E)$, Ψ of of e^- is E

$$\therefore f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-E_F)/kT}}$$

Case - 1 :- $T = 0K$

For energy level $E < E_f$

$$f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-E_f)/kT}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\Delta E/0}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\infty}} = \frac{1}{1 + 1/e^{\infty}} = 1$$

Case - 2 :-

for energy level $E > E_f$

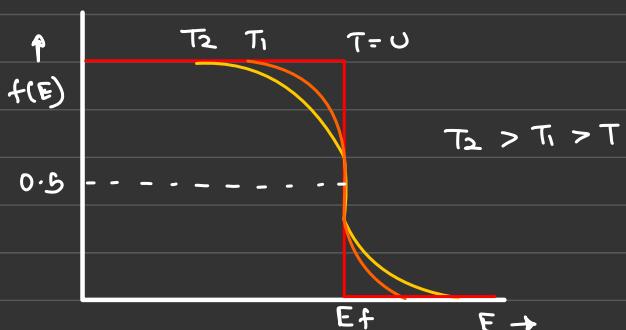
$$f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-E_f)/kT}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\Delta E/0}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^{\infty}} = 0$$

Case - 3 :- $T > 0K$

for $E = E_f$

$$f(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-E_f)/kT}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^0/kT}$$
$$= \frac{1}{1 + e^0} = 1/2$$

Fermi-level



Difference between localized and delocalized wave functions

Localized function

- A localized wave function is one that is confined to a **specific region of space**.
- Herein, an electron bound to an atom is localized within a **certain distance from the nucleus**.
- The probability density of finding the electron is concentrated in a **small region** and the wave function decreases rapidly as we move away from the nucleus.

Delocalized function

- A delocalized wave function, on the other hand, is one that is **spread out over a large region of space**.
- Herein, an **electron in a metal is delocalized over the entire metal**, as the electron can be found anywhere in the metal with some probability.
- The probability density of finding the electron is **not confined to a specific region**, but is distributed over a large region of space.

Show that the $\sin(x)$ is an Eigenfunction

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \sin(x) = -\sin(x)$$

$\sin(Kx)$ is an eigenfunction w double order derivative.

Derivative of sin function

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin(Kx) = -K \cos(Kx)$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \sin(Kx) = K^2 \sin(Kx)$$

Eigen value -

Based on Schrodinger eqn,

$$H\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$H = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \rightarrow \text{Energy operator ; Hamilton}$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 K^2}{2m} \rightarrow \text{Energy eigenvalue ; Energy}$$

$$\Psi = \sin(Kx)$$

$$\therefore H\Psi = E\Psi$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \sin(Kx) = \frac{\hbar^2 K^2}{2m} \sin(Kx)$$

$\hbar \rightarrow$ planck's const
 $m \rightarrow$ mass.

