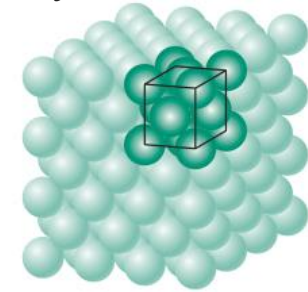


# Chapter 3

## Free electrons in solids

## Profile

### Crystal Structure

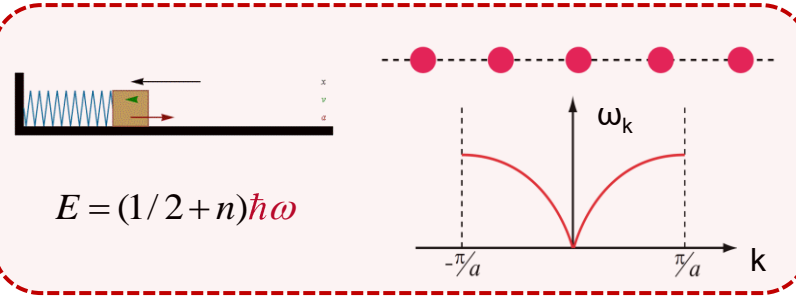


Binding

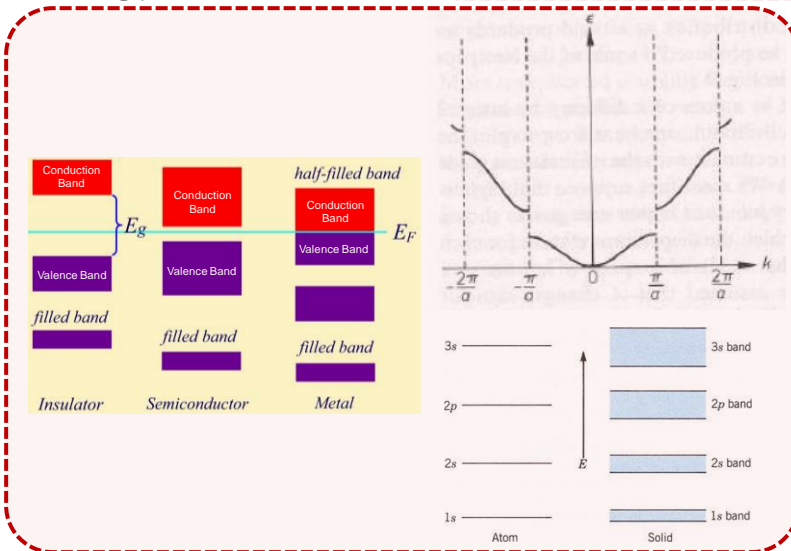
Atom

Electron

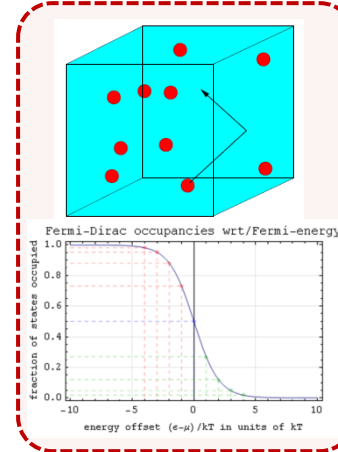
### Crystal Dynamics



### Energy Bands

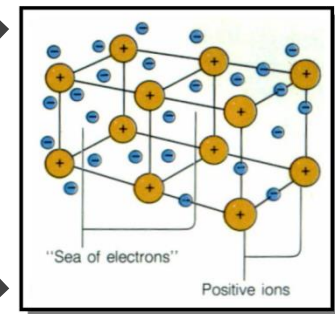


### Free Electron Model



Atoms' movement

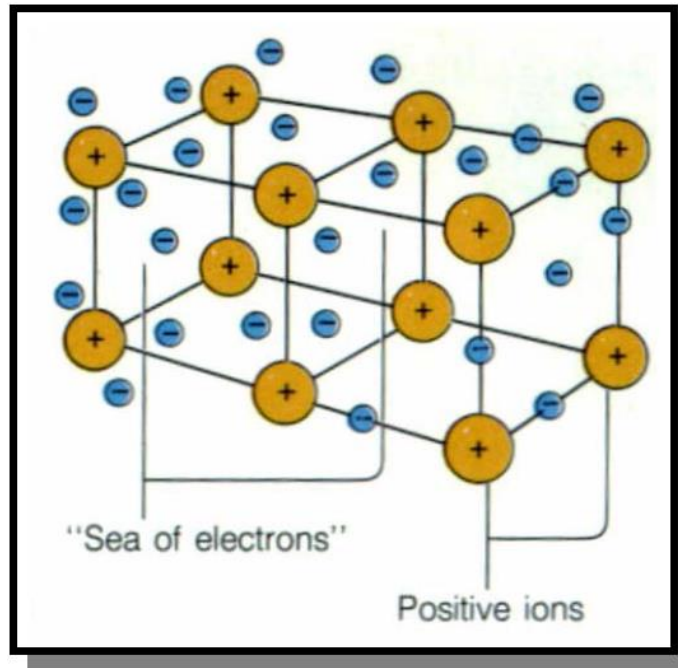
Born-Oppenheimer Approximation



Electrons' movement

Quantum Mechanics  
Classical Theory

• Introduction



Crystal dynamics

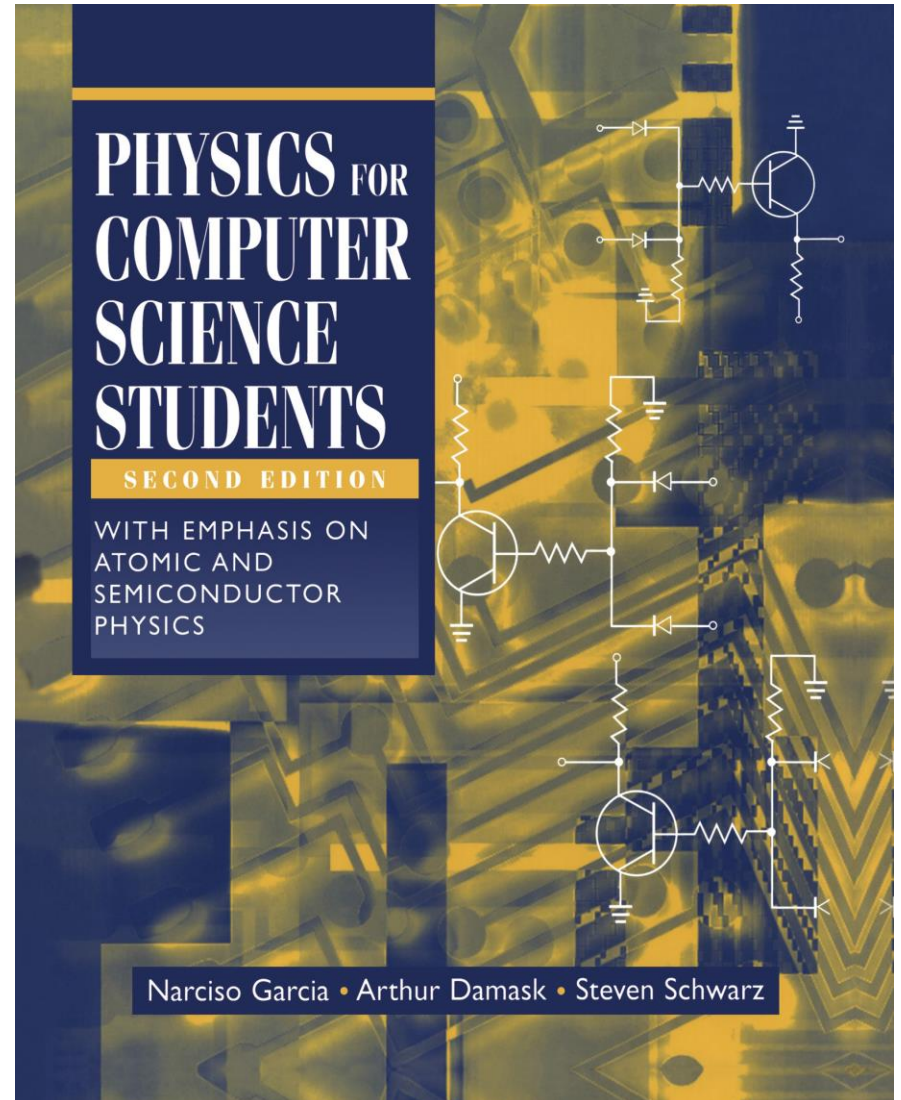
Electron theory

Free electron  
theory

Energy band  
theory

## Acknowledgement:

《Physics for computer science students: with emphasis on atomic and semiconductor physics》



# Chapter 3 Free electrons in solids

## 3.1 Free electron model

### 3.1.1 Drude Model

- Classical Free Electron Model

### 3.1.2 Sommerfeld Model

- Quantum Mechanical Free Electron Model

## 3.2 Heat capacity of free electron gas

## 3.3 Transport properties of conductive electrons

**- Introduction**

Drude  
Classical **Free Electron**  
Model

Independent electron approximation  
**Free electron approximation**  
Collision assumption  
Relaxation time approximation

Sommerfeld  
Quantum Mechanical **Free**  
**Electron** Model

Independent electron approximation  
**Free electron approximation**  
No collision  
Quantum statistics: Fermi-Dirac Distribution

Energy band theory

Free Electron Model  
+  
Periodical potential field

# Chapter 3 Free electrons in solids

## 3.1 Free electron model

### 3.1.1 Drude Model

- Classical Free Electron Model

### 3.1.2 Sommerfeld Model

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## 3.2 Heat capacity of free electron gas

## 3.3 Transport properties of conductive electrons

## 3.4 Electron emission and contacting voltage

• **Drude Model** • Failure of Drude Model

## Ohm's Law

$$U = IR \quad J = \sigma \mathcal{E}$$

**J:** Current density

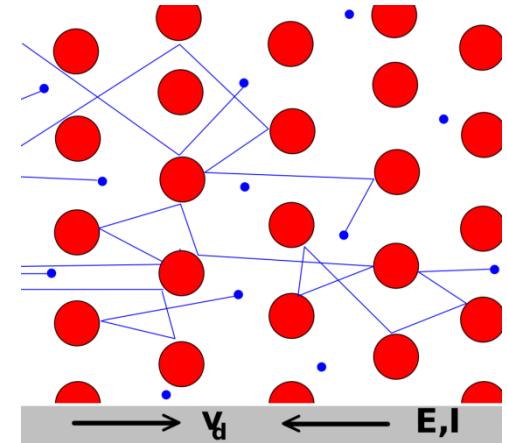
**$\mathcal{E}$ :** Electric field intensity

**$\sigma$ :** Conductivity

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\rho} \quad \rho: \text{Resistivity}$$



Paul Karl Ludwig Drude



Drude Model electrons

The Drude model of electrical conduction was proposed in 1900 by Paul Drude to explain the transport properties of electrons in materials (especially metals). The model, which is an application of kinetic theory, assumes that the microscopic behavior of electrons in a solid may be treated classically and looks much like a pinball machine, with a sea of constantly jittering electrons bouncing and re-bouncing off heavier, relatively immobile positive ions.



· **Drude Model** · Failure of Drude Model**Assumption of the electron gas:**

(1) Independent electron approximation

No electrostatic interaction and collision among free electrons

(2) Free electron approximation

No electrostatic interaction between free electrons and ions

(3) Collision assumption

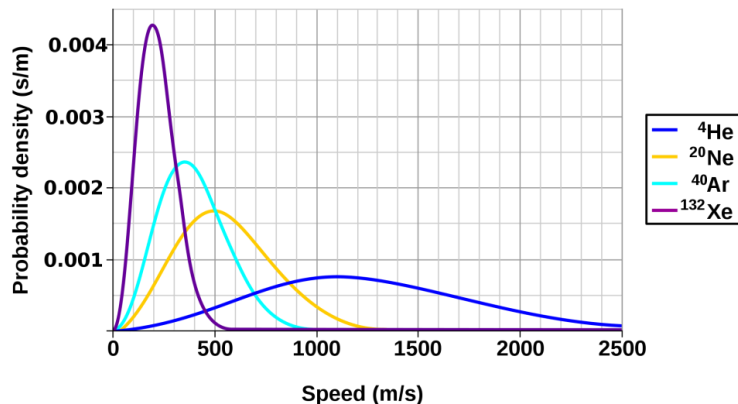
Velocity of electrons after collision with ions only concerns with temperature, but not the velocity before collision

(4) Relaxation time approximation

Relaxation time  $\tau$  is independent with the position and velocity of electrons

} **Free electron gas**

Maxwell-Boltzmann Molecular Speed Distribution for Noble Gases



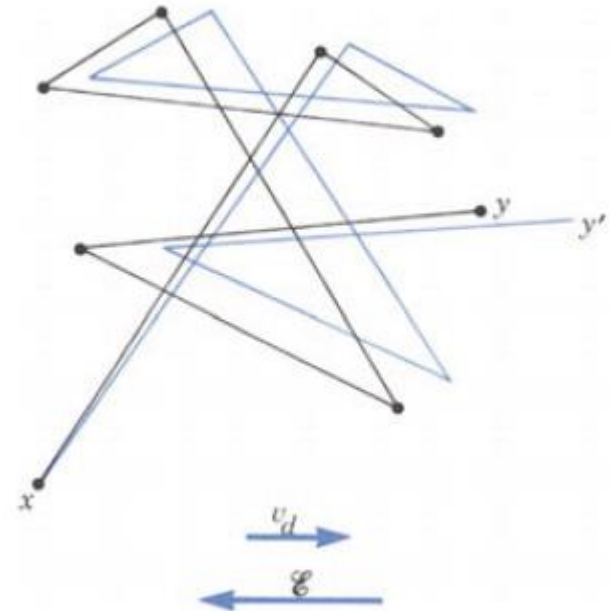
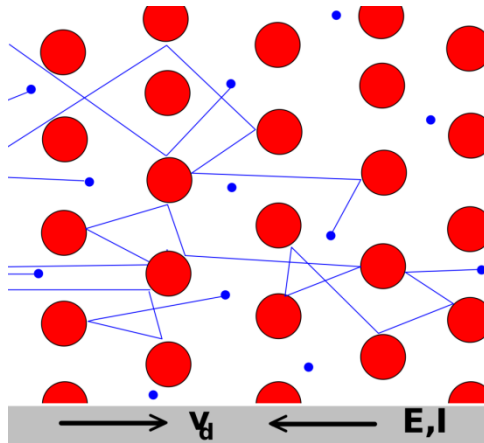
• **Drude Model** • Failure of Drude Model

**Without electric field, free e- moves randomly**

**At room temperature,  $v_{RMS} = (3k_B T / m)^{1/2} = 1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ m} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} (\sim 120 \text{ km} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1})$**

**No net current**

**With electric field, things are different**

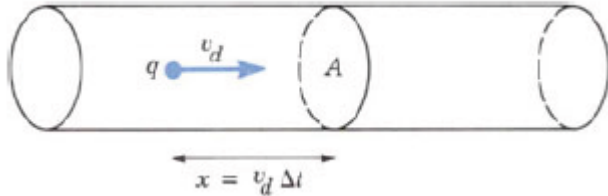


**$v_d$  : drift velocity ( 漂移速度 ),  $v_d \ll v_{RMS}$  ( a net movement )**

$$J = \sigma \mathcal{E} ?$$

• **Drude Model** • Failure of Drude Model

Current density: the electric quantity per unit area of cross section per second



$$J = \frac{n(-e)(\mathbf{v}_d \Delta t) \cdot A}{\Delta t \cdot A} = -ne\mathbf{v}_d \quad \text{vs} \quad J = \sigma \mathcal{E}$$

$\mathbf{v}_d$  must be proportional to electric field intensity

**$\tau$ : average time between collision**

$$\mathbf{v}_d = \mathbf{v}_0 + \mathbf{a}t = \frac{F}{m}t = -\frac{e\mathcal{E}}{m}\tau \quad (F = ma = e\mathcal{E}) \quad (\text{suppose } v_0=0)$$

$$J = -ne\mathbf{v}_d = -ne \cdot -\frac{e\mathcal{E}}{m}\tau = \sigma \mathcal{E} \quad \sigma = \frac{ne^2}{m}\tau$$

**Prove:  $\tau$  independent of  $\mathcal{E}$**

$$\tau = \text{mean free path} / v$$

mean free path :  
average distance traveled between collisions

$$v = v_{RMS} + v_d \approx v_{RMS} \quad (v_d \ll v_{RMS})$$

$$\tau = \text{mean free path} / v_{RMS} \quad \tau \text{ independent of } \mathcal{E}$$

• Drude Model • **Failure of Drude Model**

## (1) Specific Heat

**Equipartition theorem of energy:** in thermal equilibrium, energy is shared equally among all of its various forms. For example, the average kinetic energy per degree of freedom in the translational motion of a molecule should equal that of its rotational motions.

$$\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2}(t + r + 2s)k_B T \quad t, r, s: \text{free degree of translation, rotation and vibration}$$

**For solids,**

**t=0, r=0, s=3**

$$\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2}(t + r + 2s)k_B T = 3k_B T$$

**Total energy of 1mol solid state matter**

$$E = N\bar{\varepsilon} = 3Nk_B T$$

$$C_v^{mol} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} = 3Nk_B = 3R$$

Dulong-Petit Law

**For monoatomic gas (electron gas)**

**t=3, r=s=0**

$$\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2}(t + r + 2s)k_B T = \frac{3}{2}k_B T$$

**Total energy of 1mol monoatomic gas (electron gas)**

$$E = N\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{3}{2}Nk_B T$$

$$C_v^{mol} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} = \frac{3}{2}Nk_B = \frac{3}{2}R$$

• Drude Model • **Failure of Drude Model**

## (1) Specific Heat

From Drude Model:  $C_v^{mol}(\text{from } e^-) = 3/2 R$

Experimentally:  $C_v^{mol}(\text{from } e^-) = 10^{-4} RT = 0.03R$  (If  $T=300K$ )

Classical FEM: all free electrons contribute to heat capacity.

**Disaster!** Heat capacity is much less than predicted. Free  $e^-$  gives such a small contribution to  $C_v$  (free  $e^-$  have poor ability to absorb heat)

## (2) Temperature dependence of $\sigma$

From Drude Model:  $\sigma = \frac{ne^2}{m} \tau$        $\tau$  is temperature dependent



Experimentally:  $\sigma \propto T^{-1}$

Still important!

## Summary of Drude Theory

- Based on kinetic theory of gases.
- Successes
  - Ohm's Law.
  - Wiedemann-Franz ratio comes out close to right for most materials
  - Many other transport properties predicted correctly
- Failures
  - Specific Heat of electrons
  - Temperature dependence of  $\sigma$
  - Wiedemann-Franz ratio
  - The Seebeck/Peltier coefficient come out wrong by a factor of 100.
- Despite the shortcomings of Drude theory, it nonetheless was the only theory of metallic conductivity for a quarter of a century (until the Sommerfeld theory improved it), and it remains quite useful today.

# Chapter 3 Free electrons in solids

## 3.1 Free electron model

### 3.1.1 Drude Model

- Classical Free Electron Model

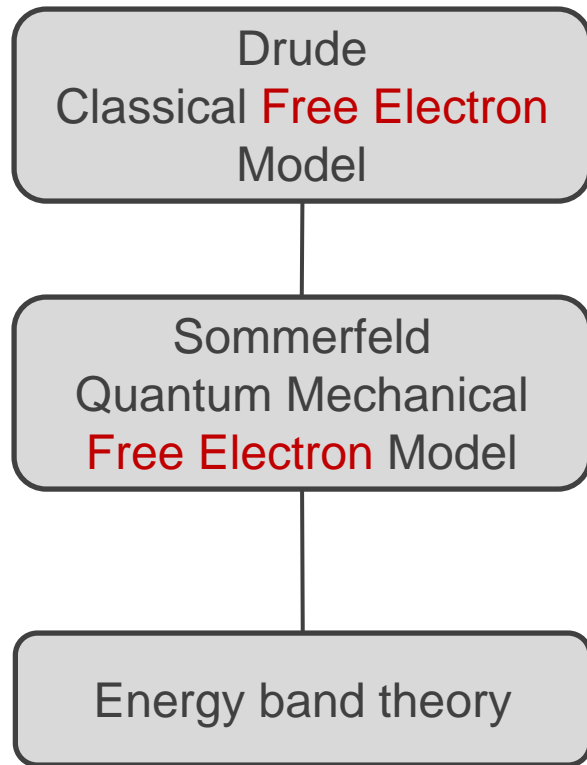
### 3.1.2 Sommerfeld Model

- Quantum Mechanical Free Electron Model

## 3.2 Heat capacity of free electron gas

## 3.3 Transport properties of conductive electrons

## 3.4 Electron emission and contacting voltage



Independent electron approximation  
Free electron approximation  
Collision assumption  
Relaxation time approximation

Independent electron approximation  
Free electron approximation  
No collision  
Quantum statistics: Fermi-Dirac Distribution

Free Electron Model  
+  
Periodical potential field



• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

$$E=MC^2$$



Find the characteristics of motion of the free electrons by quantum mechanics

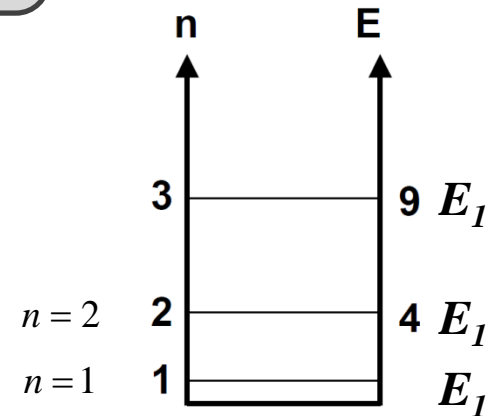
Quantized Energy

How the energy levels are occupied by free electrons

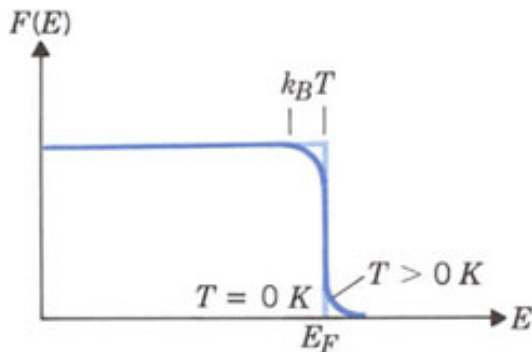
Fermi-Dirac distribution

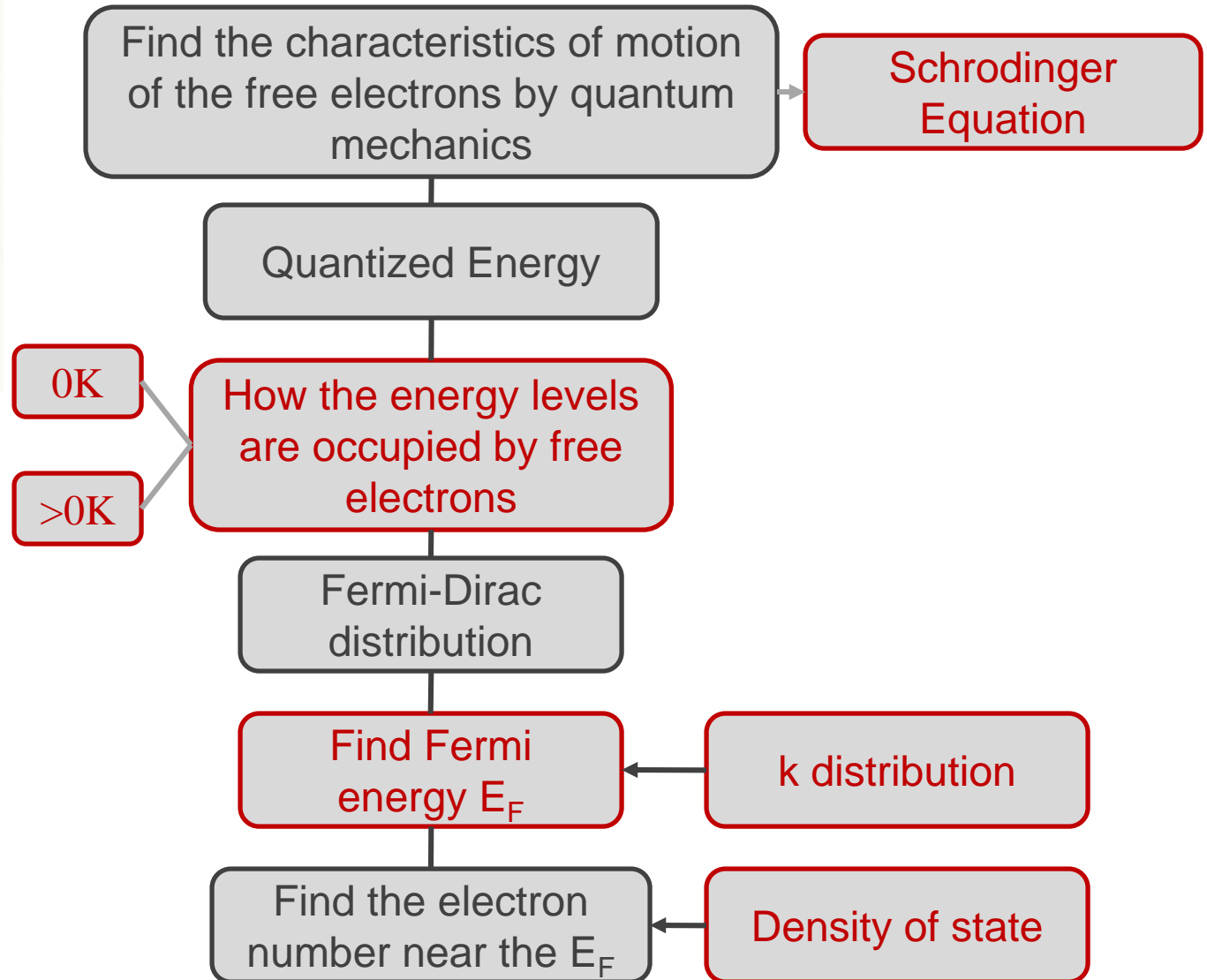
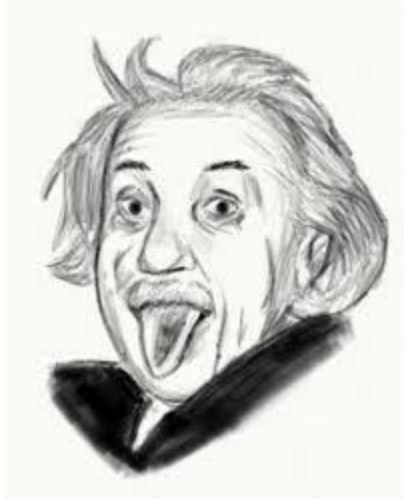
Find Fermi energy  $E_F$

Find the electron number near the  $E_F$



$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{CFE model predicts} \rightarrow C_v = 3/2 R \\ \text{experiments show} \rightarrow C_v = 10^{-4} RT \end{array} \right.$

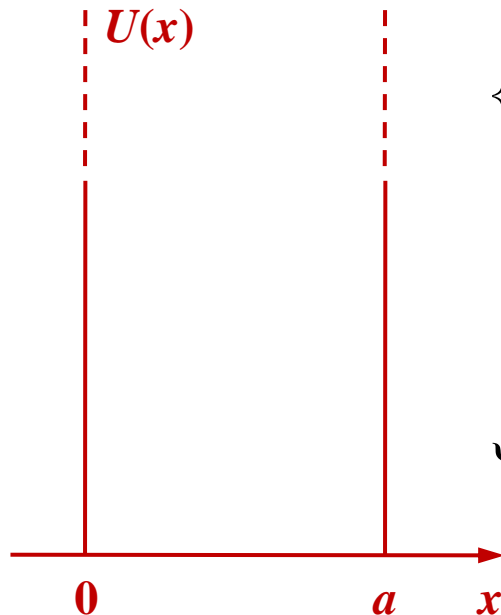




• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

## Infinite Potential Well

$$\left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) \right) \psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$



$$\begin{cases} U(x) = 0, & 0 < x < a \\ U(x) = \infty, & x < 0, x > a \end{cases}$$

$$U(x,t) \longrightarrow U(x)$$

$$\Psi(x,t) = \psi(x)e^{-iEt/\hbar}$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = E\psi$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \psi = 0$$

$$k = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + k^2\psi = 0$$

$$\psi = A \sin kx + B \cos kx$$

$$E = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m}$$

$$\psi(x) = 0, \quad x < 0, x > a$$

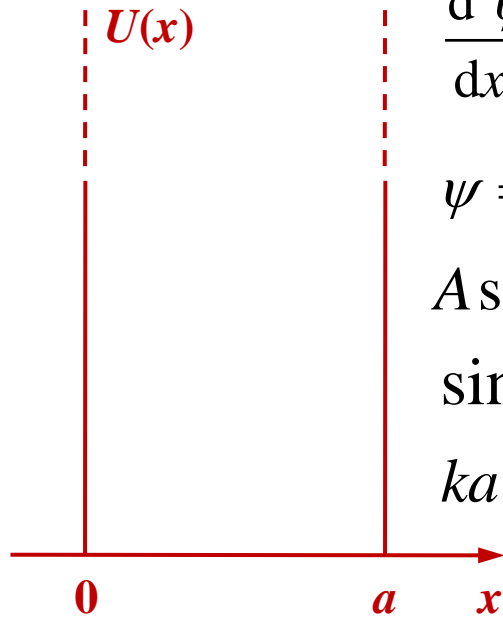
$$\psi(0) = B \cos 0 = B = 0$$

$$\psi(a) = A \sin ka + B \cos ka = 0$$

$$B = 0$$

$$A \sin ka = 0$$

• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}\psi = 0 \quad k = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

$$\psi = A \sin kx + B \cos kx$$

$$A \sin ka = 0$$

$$\sin ka = 0$$

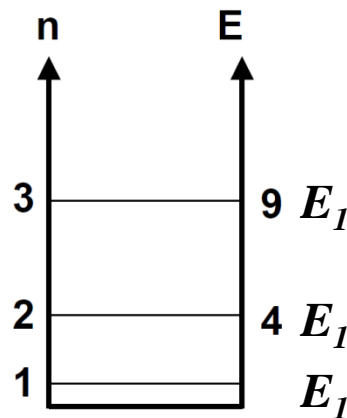
$$ka = n\pi \quad k = n \frac{\pi}{a} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\psi(x) = A \sin \frac{n\pi}{a} x \quad 0 \leq x \leq a$$

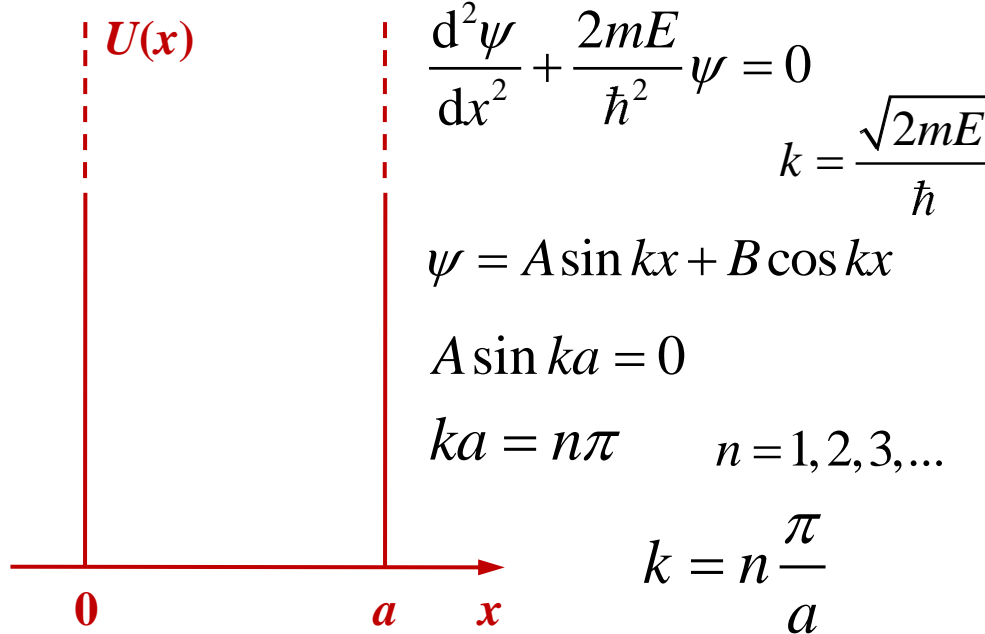
$$\int_0^a |\psi|^2 dx = 1 \quad A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}}$$

$$\psi(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin \frac{n\pi}{a} x$$

$$|\psi_n|^2 = \frac{2}{a} \sin^2 \frac{n\pi}{a} x \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$



• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



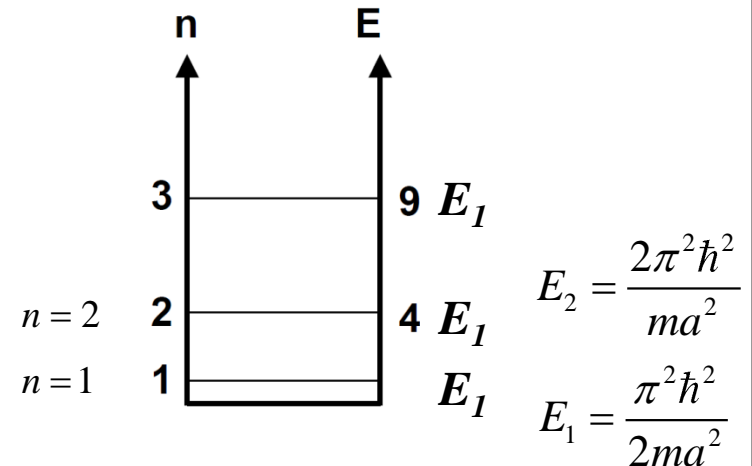
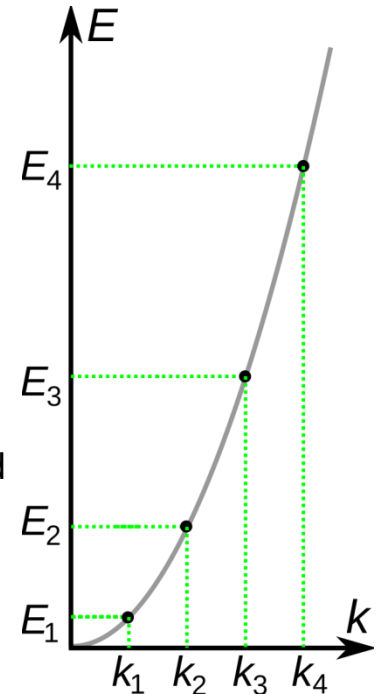
$$E = \frac{(\hbar k)^2}{2m}$$

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

$$n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

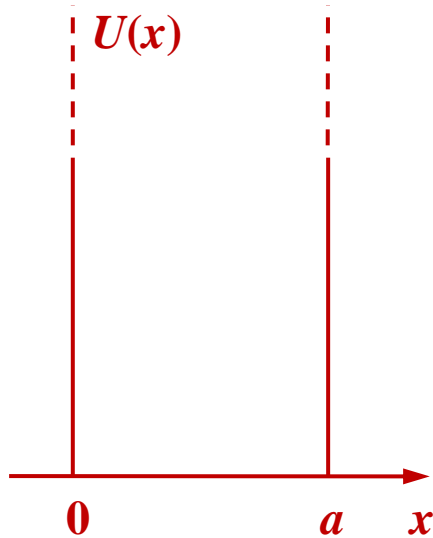
$m \downarrow, a \downarrow, \Delta E \uparrow$ ,  
quantum effect  
strengthen  $\rightarrow$   
nano-material

The energy of a particle in a box (black circles) and a free particle (grey line) both depend upon wavenumber.



• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

## 1D Infinite Potential Well



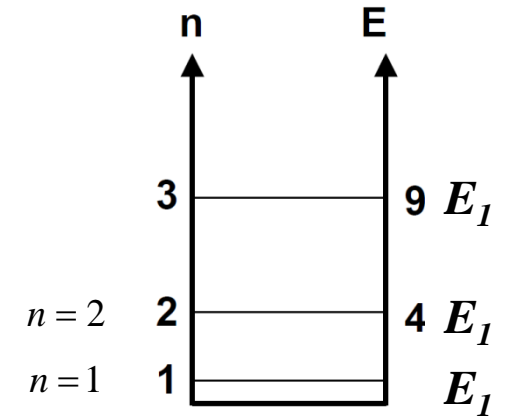
$$\begin{cases} U(x) = 0, & 0 < x < a \\ U(x) = \infty, & x > a, x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}\psi = 0$$

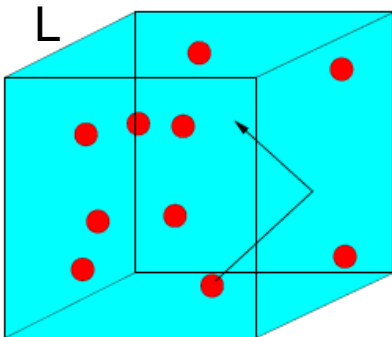
$$\psi(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{a}} \sin kx$$

$$k = n \frac{\pi}{a}$$

$$E = E_n = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2ma^2} n^2 \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$



## 3D Infinite Potential Well

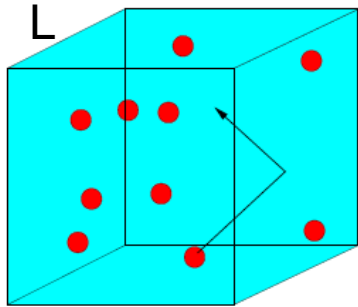


$$\begin{cases} U = 0 & 0 \leq x, y, z \leq L \\ U = \infty & x, y, z > L, x, y, z < 0 \end{cases} \quad \left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + U(x) \right) \psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \psi(x, y, z) = E\psi(x, y, z)$$

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \psi(x)\psi(y)\psi(z)$$

• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



$$\begin{cases} U = 0 & 0 \leq x, y, z \leq L \\ U = \infty & x, y, z > L, x, y, z < 0 \end{cases} \quad -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \psi(x, y, z) = E \psi(x, y, z)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \psi(x) \psi(y) \psi(z) = E \psi(x) \psi(y) \psi(z)$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\psi(x)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{\psi(y)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(y)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{1}{\psi(z)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(z)}{\partial z^2} \right) + \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} E = 0$$



$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

$$\vec{k} = k_x \vec{i} + k_y \vec{j} + k_z \vec{l}$$

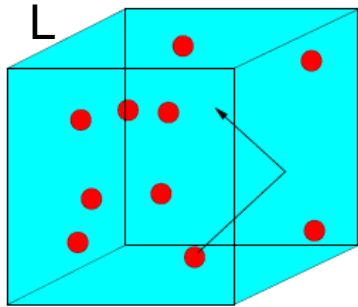
$$E = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2)$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\psi(x)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{1}{\psi(y)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(y)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{1}{\psi(z)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(z)}{\partial z^2} \right) + (k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2) = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{\psi(x)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x)}{\partial x^2} = -k_x^2 \\ \frac{1}{\psi(y)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(y)}{\partial y^2} = -k_y^2 \\ \frac{1}{\psi(z)} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(z)}{\partial z^2} = -k_z^2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \psi(x)}{\partial x^2} + k_x^2 \psi(x) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial^2 \psi(y)}{\partial y^2} + k_y^2 \psi(y) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial^2 \psi(z)}{\partial z^2} + k_z^2 \psi(z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

• **Potential Well** • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



$$x = 0, \psi(x) = 0; x = L, \psi(x) = 0$$

$$y = 0, \psi(y) = 0; y = L, \psi(y) = 0$$

$$z = 0, \psi(z) = 0; z = L, \psi(z) = 0$$

$$\psi(x, y, z) = \psi(x)\psi(y)\psi(z)$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \psi(x, y, z) = E\psi(x, y, z)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi(x)}{\partial x^2} + k_x^2 \psi(x) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi(y)}{\partial y^2} + k_y^2 \psi(y) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi(z)}{\partial z^2} + k_z^2 \psi(z) = 0$$

Boundary  
condition

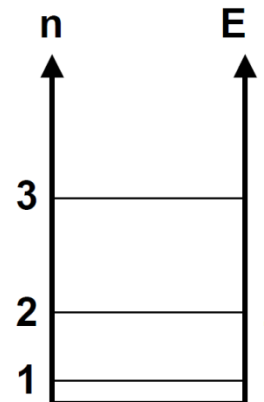
$$\psi(x) = A_x \sin k_x x \quad k_x = \frac{n_x \pi}{L} \quad n_x = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\psi(y) = A_y \sin k_y y \quad k_y = \frac{n_y \pi}{L} \quad n_y = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\psi(z) = A_z \sin k_z z \quad k_z = \frac{n_z \pi}{L} \quad n_z = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2) = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2)$$

$$n_x, n_y, n_z = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$





• Potential Well • **F-D Distribution** • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

$$E=MC^2$$



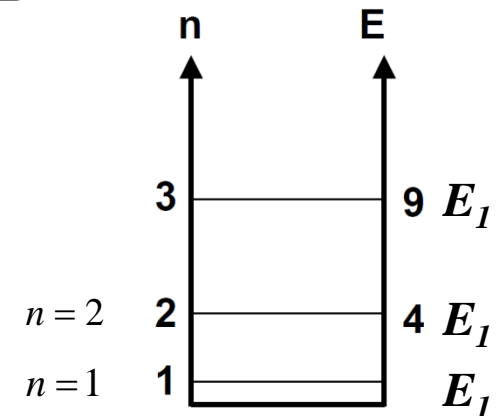
Find the characteristics of motion of the free electrons

Quantized Energy

0K

>0K

How the energy levels are occupied by free electrons

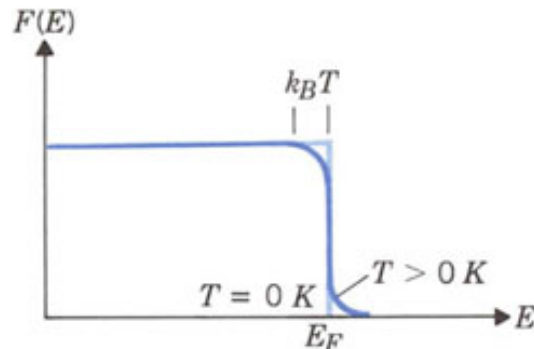


{ CFE model predicts  $\rightarrow C_v = 3/2 R$   
 experiments show  $\rightarrow C_v = 10^{-4} RT$

Fermi-Dirac distribution

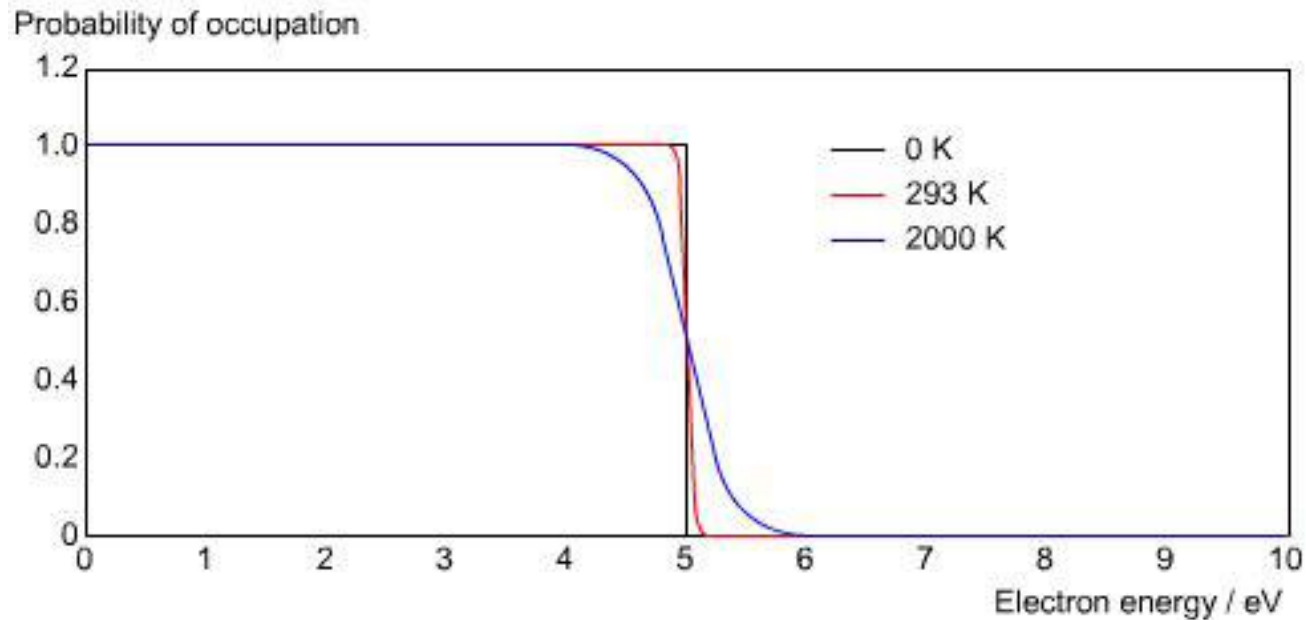
Find Fermi energy  $E_F$

Find the electron number near the  $E_F$



• Potential Well • **F-D Distribution** • Fermi Energy • Density of State • e<sup>-</sup> number near E<sub>F</sub> • e<sup>-</sup> gas Energy

## Fermi-Dirac Distribution



Fermi-Dirac distribution for several temperatures

$$F_l = \frac{\alpha_l}{\omega_l} = \frac{1}{e^{(\alpha + \beta E_l)} + 1} = \frac{1}{e^{(E_l - \mu)/k_B T} + 1} = \frac{1}{e^{(E - E_F)/k_B T} + 1}$$

· Potential Well · **F-D Distribution** · Fermi Energy · Density of State ·  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  ·  $e^-$  gas Energy

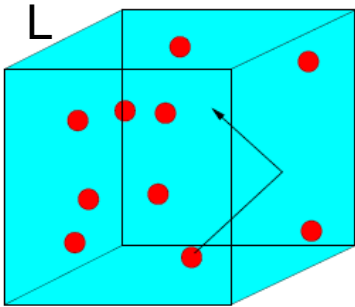
Occupancy Condition at  $T=0K$

- Classical theory

## Occupancy Condition at T=0K

Pauli's Exclusion Principle

- Quantum mechanically



$$E = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2)$$

$$= E_0 (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2)$$

$$E_0 = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2}$$

$$n_x, n_y, n_z = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

· Potential Well · F-D Distribution · **Fermi Energy** · Density of State ·  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  ·  $e^-$  gas Energy

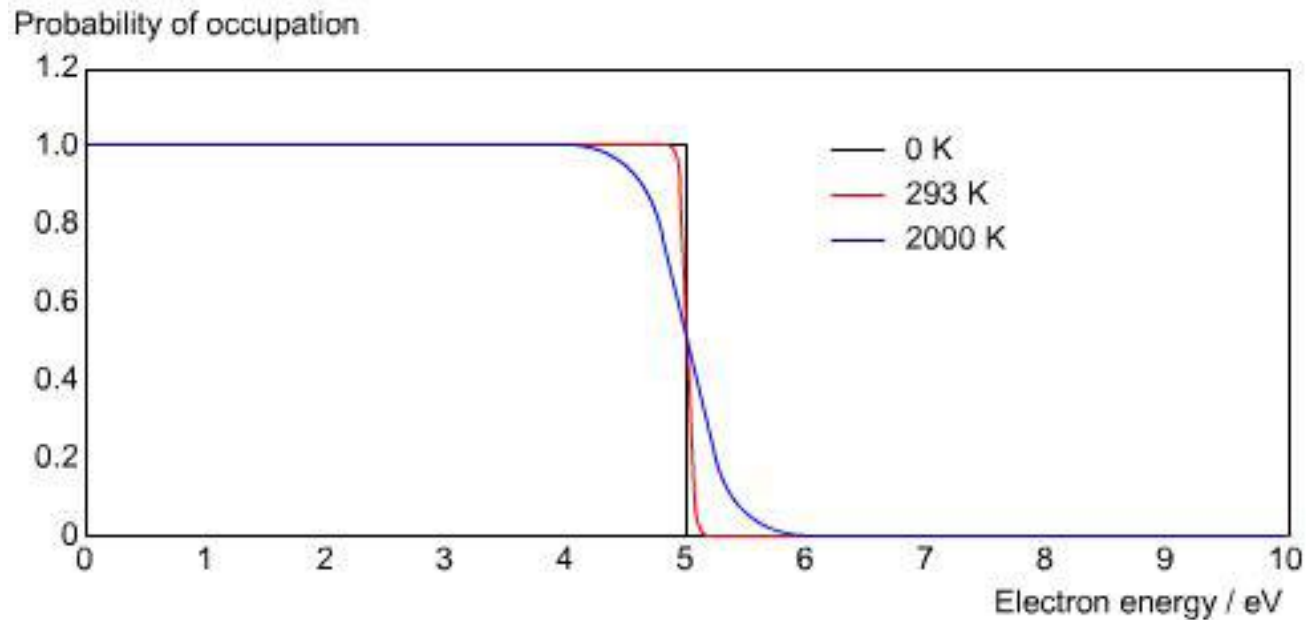
Occupancy Condition at  $T=0K$

- Quantum mechanically

★★★ The Fermi energy : the highest energy a fermion can take at absolute zero temperature.

• Potential Well • **F-D Distribution** • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

## Fermi-Dirac Distribution



Fermi-Dirac distribution for several temperatures

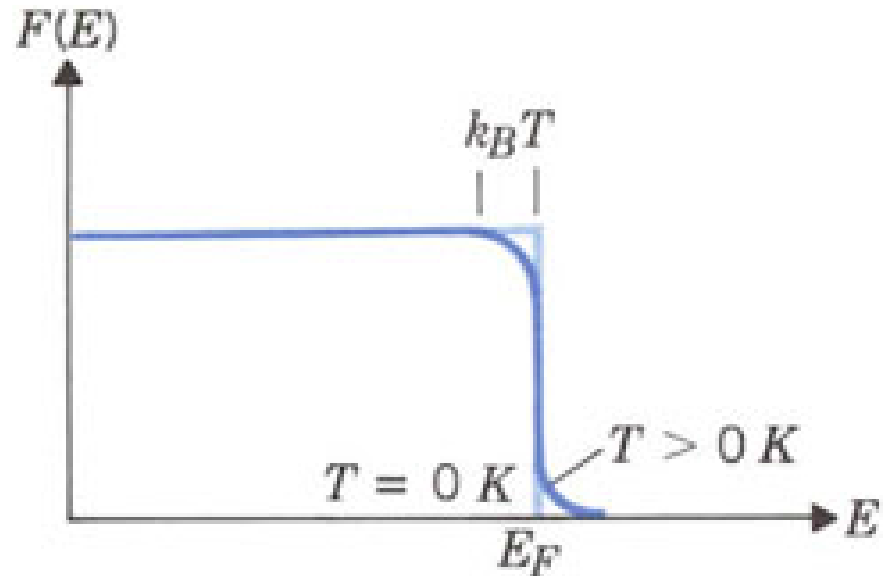
$$F_l = \frac{\alpha_l}{\omega_l} = \frac{1}{e^{(\alpha + \beta E_l)} + 1} = \frac{1}{e^{(E_l - \mu)/k_B T} + 1} = \frac{1}{e^{(E - E_F)/k_B T} + 1}$$

• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • **Fermi Energy** • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

Occupancy Condition at  $T > 0 K$

- Quantum mechanically

$$F(E) = \frac{1}{e^{(E-E_F)/k_B T} + 1}$$



Occupancy Condition at  $T=0K$  and  $T>0K$

- Quantum mechanically

Explain  $\rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{CFE model predicts} & \rightarrow C_v = 3/2 R \\ \text{experiments show} & \rightarrow C_v = 10^{-4} RT \end{array} \right.$

1. Fermi Energy value?
2.  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  ?



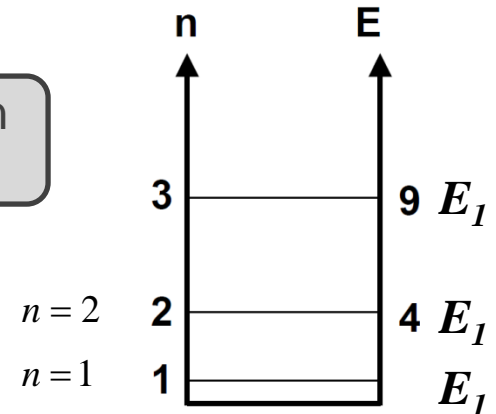
• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • **Fermi Energy** • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

$$E=MC^2$$



Find the characteristics of motion of the free electrons

Quantized Energy



0K

>0K

How the energy levels are occupied by free electrons

Fermi-Dirac distribution

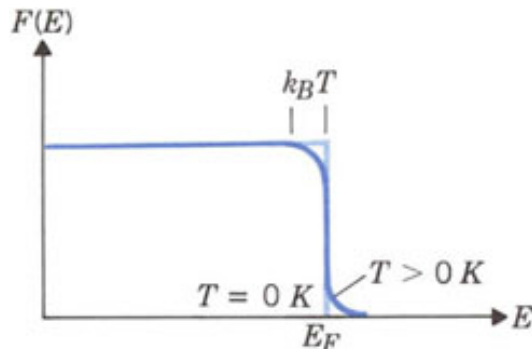
Find Fermi energy  $E_F$

k distribution

Find the electron number near the  $E_F$

Density of state

{ CFE model predicts  $\rightarrow C_v = 3/2 R$   
experiments show  $\rightarrow C_v = 10^{-4} RT$



**Calculation of Fermi Energy ( $E_F$ ) at  $T=0K$** 

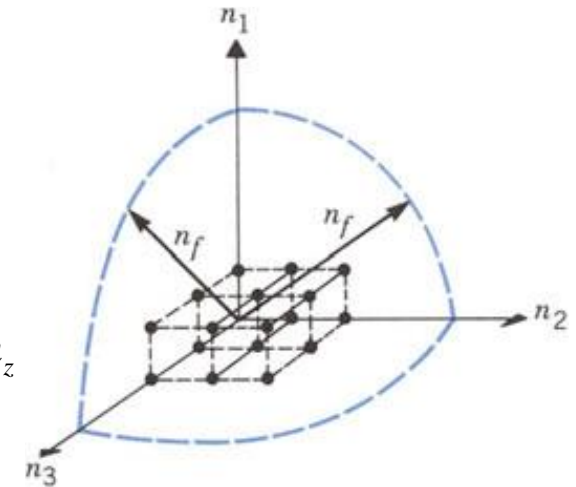
$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2)$$

$$\vec{k} = k_x \vec{i} + k_y \vec{j} + k_z \vec{l}$$

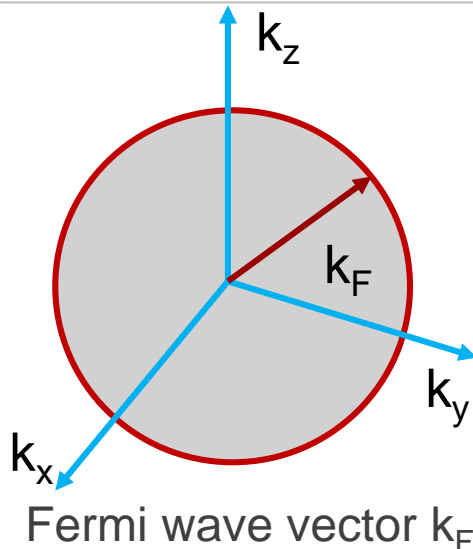
$$k_x = \frac{\pi}{L} n_x, \quad k_y = \frac{\pi}{L} n_y, \quad k_z = \frac{\pi}{L} n_z$$

$$E = (n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2) E_0 = n^2 E_0$$

$$E_0 = \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2mL^2} \quad n_x, n_y, n_z = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

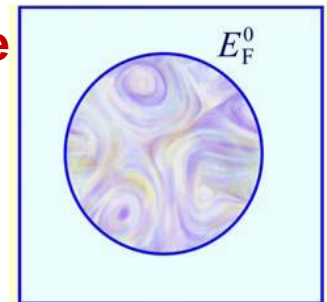


States on the same sphere are degenerate states



$$E_F = \frac{(\hbar k_F)^2}{2m}$$

**Fermi sphere**



The radius of the Fermi sphere is called the **Fermi wave vector  $k_F$**

At  $T=0K$ ,  
Inside Fermi sphere, all orbits are occupied;  
Outside Fermi sphere, all orbits are empty.

• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • **Fermi Energy** • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

Calculation of Fermi Energy ( $E_F$ ) at  $T=0K$

$$E_F = \frac{(\hbar k_F)^2}{2m}$$

Distribution density of  $k$  :  $\rho(k)$

2D

$$s_k = \frac{2\pi}{L} \cdot \frac{2\pi}{L} = \frac{(2\pi)^2}{S}$$

$$\rho(k) = \frac{1}{s_k} = \frac{S}{4\pi^2}$$

3D

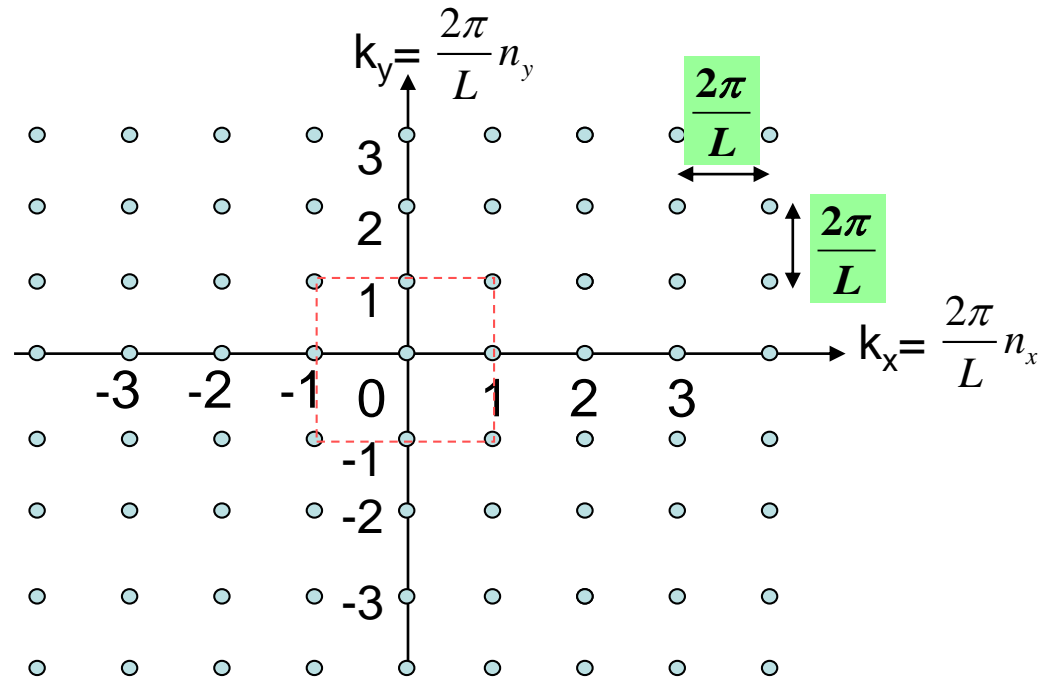
$$v_k = \frac{2\pi}{L} \cdot \frac{2\pi}{L} \cdot \frac{2\pi}{L} = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{V}$$

$$\rho(k) = \frac{1}{v_k} = \frac{V}{8\pi^3}$$

$$\rho(k) \cdot V_{\text{Fermi sphere}} = N(k) \quad (\text{number of } k)$$

$V_F$   $\Updownarrow$  Each  $k \leftrightarrow 2$  electrons  
*number of electrons*

$$k_x = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_x, \quad k_y = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_y, \quad k_z = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_z$$



• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • **Fermi Energy** • Density of State • e<sup>-</sup> number near E<sub>F</sub> • e<sup>-</sup> gas Energy

## Calculation of Fermi Energy (E<sub>F</sub>) at T=0K

$$\rho(k) = \frac{V}{8\pi^3} \longrightarrow E_F = \frac{(\hbar k_F)^2}{2m}$$

Number of k

$$V_F \cdot \rho(k) = \left( \frac{4\pi k_F^3}{3} \right) \left( \frac{V}{8\pi^3} \right) = \frac{k_F^3}{6\pi^2} V$$

Number of e<sup>-</sup>  $N = 2 \cdot \frac{k_F^3}{6\pi^2} V$

Density of e<sup>-</sup>  $n = \frac{N}{V} = \frac{k_F^3}{3\pi^2}$

$$k_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$$

$$E_F^0 = \frac{(\hbar k_F)^2}{2m} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (3\pi^2 n)^{2/3}$$

$$E_F^0 = 5.84 \cdot 10^{-38} n^{2/3} \text{ J}$$

E.g.

The valance electron density  $n=N/V$  is  
 $1.402 \times 10^{28} \text{ m}^{-3}$

**Fermi-energy E<sub>F</sub>:**  $E_F = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (3\pi^2 n)^{2/3} = 2.12 \text{ eV}$

**Comparison:**

**For a conductor of  $a=4\text{cm}$**

$$E_1 = 2.3 \times 10^{-41} \text{ eV}$$

**Fermi wave vector k<sub>F</sub>:**  $k_F = \left( \frac{3\pi^2 N}{V} \right)^{1/3} = 0.746 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$

**Fermi temperature T<sub>F</sub>:**  $T_F = \frac{E_F}{k_B} = 2.46 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$

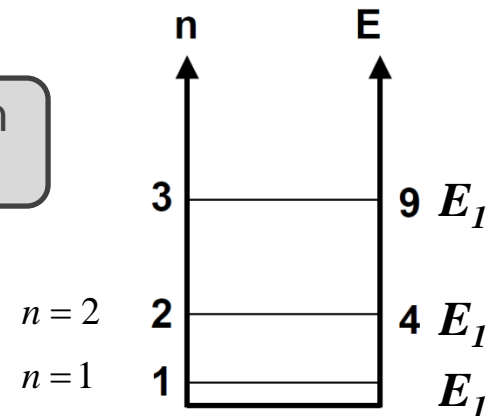
• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • **Density of State** •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

$$E=MC^2$$



Find the characteristics of motion of the free electrons

Quantized Energy



0K

>0K

How the energy levels are occupied by free electrons

Fermi-Dirac distribution

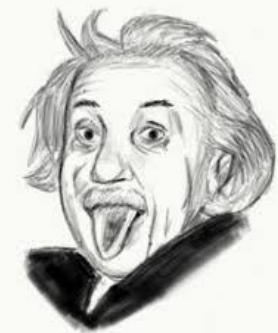
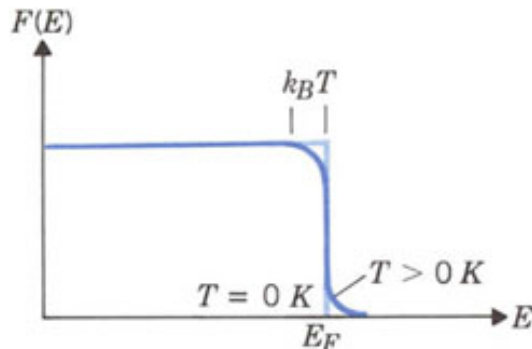
Find Fermi energy  $E_F$

$k$  distribution

Find the electron number near the  $E_F$

Density of state

{ CFE model predicts  $\rightarrow C_v = 3/2 R$   
experiments show  $\rightarrow C_v = 10^{-4} RT$



$$E=MC^2$$



Find the characteristics of motion of the free electrons by quantum mechanics

Schrodinger Equation

Quantized Energy

How the energy levels are occupied by free electrons

Fermi-Dirac distribution

Find Fermi energy  $E_F$

k distribution

Find the electron number near the  $E_F$

Density of state

电子气能量

$$C_V^e = \frac{\partial E}{\partial T}$$



## Density of state (DOS)

DOS: the number of electronic energy states (orbits) per unit energy. ---  $g(E)$

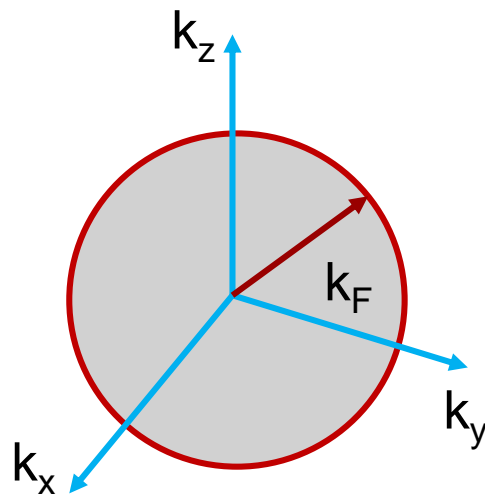
$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE}$$

Remember: In crystal dynamics, the density of states  $g(\omega)$  is defined as the number of oscillators (or  $k$ ) per unit frequency interval.

Each  $k$  state represents two possible electron states: one for spin up, the other for spin down, thus the total number of electronic states in a sphere of diameter  $k$  is :

$$Z(E) = 2 \cdot \rho(k) \cdot \frac{4}{3} \pi k^3 = 2 \cdot \frac{V}{8\pi^3} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \pi k^3 = \frac{V k^3}{3\pi^2}$$

Density of state (DOS)



$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE} = \frac{dZ}{dk} \cdot \frac{dk}{dE}$$

$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dk} \cdot \frac{dk}{dE} = \frac{V}{2\pi^2} \cdot \left( \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} \cdot E^{1/2}$$

$$g(E) = C \cdot E^{1/2}$$

$$C = \frac{V}{2\pi^2} \left( \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

$$\frac{dZ}{dk} = \frac{V k^2}{\pi^2}$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$$

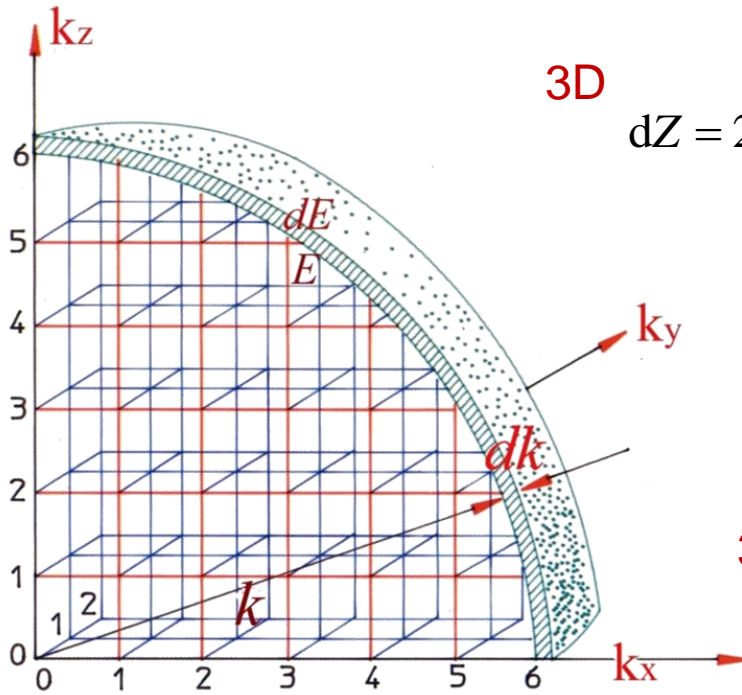
$$\frac{dE}{dk} = \frac{\hbar^2 k}{m}$$

$$k = \frac{\sqrt{2mE}}{\hbar}$$

$$\frac{dk}{dE} = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{E^{-1/2}}{\hbar}$$

## Another Way to Calculate DOS

For a free electron gas in **3D**, the density of states for free electrons increases with the increase of energy  $E$ .



**3D**

$$dZ = 2 \cdot \rho(k) \cdot 4\pi k^2 \cdot dk = 2 \cdot \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \cdot 4\pi \cdot \frac{2mE}{\hbar^2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} \frac{E^{-1/2}}{\hbar} \cdot dE$$

$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE} = \frac{V}{2\pi^2} \left( \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} E^{1/2}$$

$$g(E) = C \cdot E^{1/2} \quad C = \frac{V}{2\pi^2} \left( \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

**3D**  $dZ = 2 \cdot \rho(k) \cdot 4\pi k^2 \cdot dk = 2 \cdot \frac{V}{8\pi^3} \cdot 4\pi k^2 \cdot dk = \frac{V k^2}{\pi^2} dk$

$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE} = \frac{V k^2}{\pi^2} \frac{dk}{dE} = \frac{V k^2}{\pi^2} \frac{m}{\hbar^2 k} = \frac{m V k}{\pi^2 \hbar^2} = \frac{m V}{\pi^2 \hbar^2} \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}$$

**1D**  $dZ = 2 \cdot \rho(k) \cdot 2 \cdot dk = 4 \frac{L}{2\pi} dk$

$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE} = \frac{2L}{\pi} \frac{dk}{dE} = \frac{2L}{\pi} \frac{m}{\hbar^2 k} = \frac{2L}{\pi} \frac{m}{\hbar^2 \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}}$$

$$g(E) = C \cdot E^{-1/2}$$

**2D**  $dZ = 2 \cdot \rho(k) \cdot 2\pi k \cdot dk = 4\pi k \frac{S}{4\pi^2} dk$

$$g(E) = \frac{dZ}{dE} = \frac{kS}{\pi} \frac{dk}{dE} = \frac{kS}{\pi} \frac{m}{\hbar^2 k} = \frac{mS}{\pi \hbar^2}$$

**$g(E)$  has no relationship with  $E$  or  $k$**



· Potential Well · F-D Distribution · Fermi Energy · Density of State · **e<sup>-</sup> number near  $E_F$**  · e<sup>-</sup> gas Energy

## Situation of Orbits Occupied by Electrons

DOS  $g(E)$ : the number of electronic energy states (orbits) per unit energy.

$f(E)$ : probability that an electronic energy state be occupied.

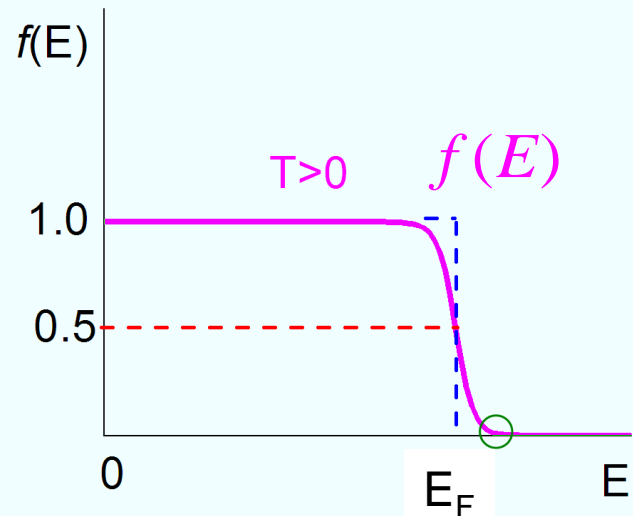
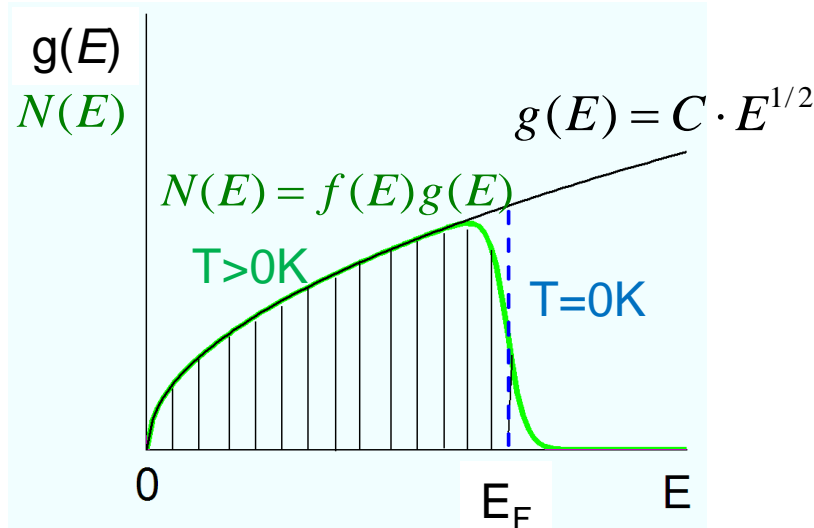
Define  **$N(E)$**  as **Electron energy distribution function**

$N(E)dE$  = number of e<sup>-</sup> with energies between  $E$  and  $E+dE$

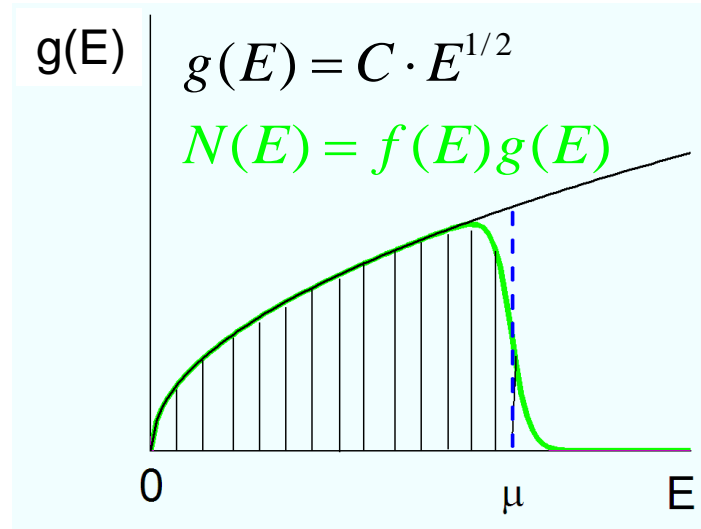
$g(E)f(E)dE$  = number of e<sup>-</sup> with energies between  $E$  and  $E+dE$

$$N(E) = g(E)f(E)$$

$$\text{Total number of e}^- \quad N = \int_0^{\infty} g(E)f(E)dE$$



Another method of getting Fermi energy



Total number of e<sup>-</sup>  $N = \int_0^{\infty} g(E) f(E) dE$

$$g(E) = \frac{V}{2\pi^2} \left( \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \right)^{3/2} E^{1/2}$$

T=0K

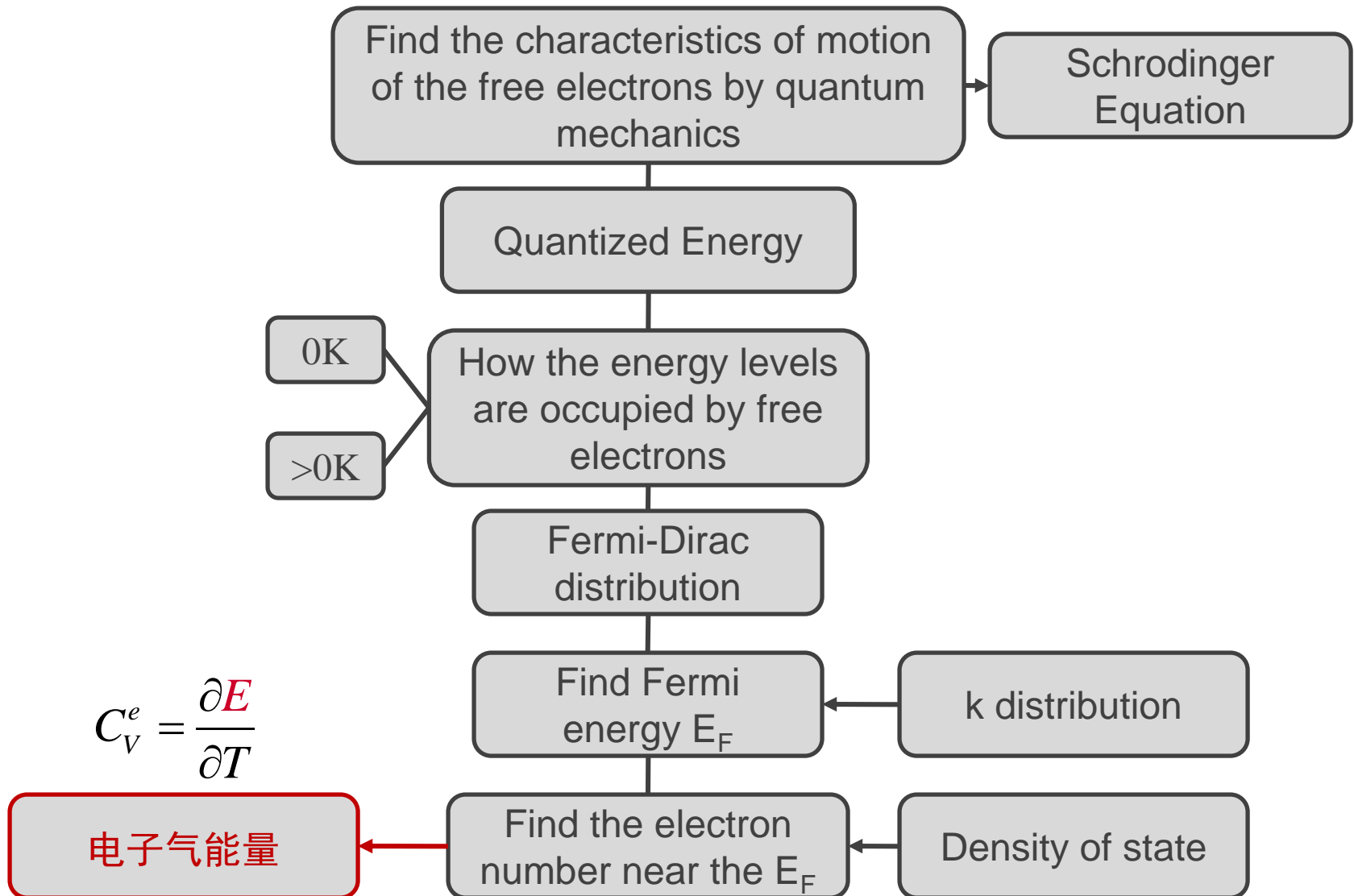
$$N = \int_0^{E_F^0} f(E) g(E) dE = \int_0^{E_F^0} \frac{V}{2\pi^2 \hbar^3} (2m)^{3/2} E^{1/2} dE = \frac{V}{3\pi^2 \hbar^3} (2m E_F^0)^{3/2}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$E_F^0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( 3\pi^2 \frac{N}{V} \right)^{2/3} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (3\pi^2 n)^{2/3} \longrightarrow k_F = \left( \frac{3\pi^2 N}{V} \right)^{1/3} = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$$

$$E_F = \frac{\hbar^2 k_F^2}{2m_e}$$

• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



## Total energy for electron gas

T=0K

$$E_t = \int E dN = \int E \cdot g(E) \cdot f(E) \cdot dE$$

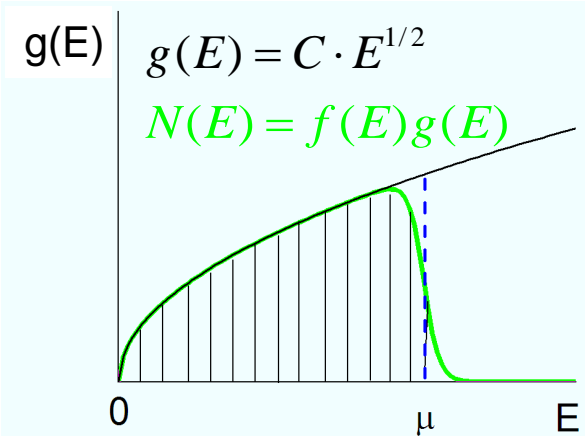
$$= \int_0^{E_F^0} C \cdot E^{1/2} E dE = \int_0^{E_F^0} C E^{3/2} dE = \frac{2C}{5} (E_F^0)^{5/2}$$

Average energy for free electrons

$$\bar{E} = \frac{\frac{2C}{5} (E_F^0)^{5/2}}{N} = \dots = \frac{3}{5} E_F^0 \quad E_t = \frac{3}{5} N E_F^0$$

At T=0K, the average energy of a free electron is 60% of the Fermi energy.

Q: Is the result similar to that of classical theory?



$$N = \int_0^{\infty} g(E) f(E) dE$$

$$= \int_0^{E_F^0} g(E) dE$$

$$= \frac{V}{3\pi^2 \hbar^3} (2m E_F^0)^{3/2}$$

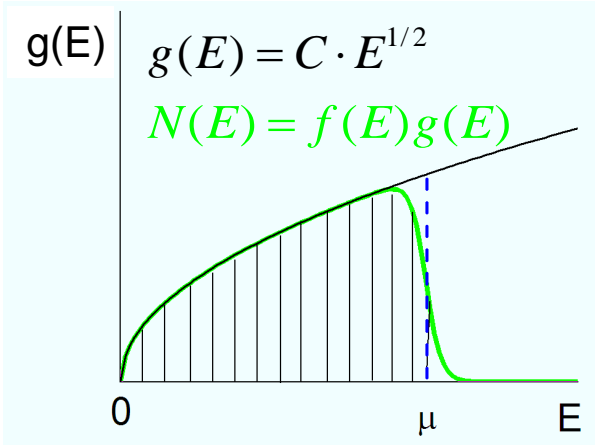
$$E_F^0 = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left( 3\pi^2 \frac{N}{V} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$C = \frac{V (2m)^{3/2}}{2\pi^2 \hbar^3}$$

## Total energy for electron gas

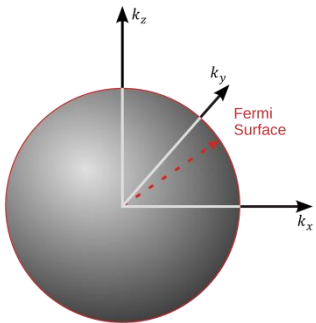
 $T > 0K$ 

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_t &= \int E \cdot g(E) \cdot f(E) dE \\
 &= C \int_0^\infty E^{3/2} \frac{1}{e^{(E-E_F)/k_B T} + 1} dE \\
 &= \dots = \frac{3}{5} N E_F^0 \left[ 1 + \frac{5}{12} \pi^2 \left( \frac{k_B T}{E_F^0} \right)^2 \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

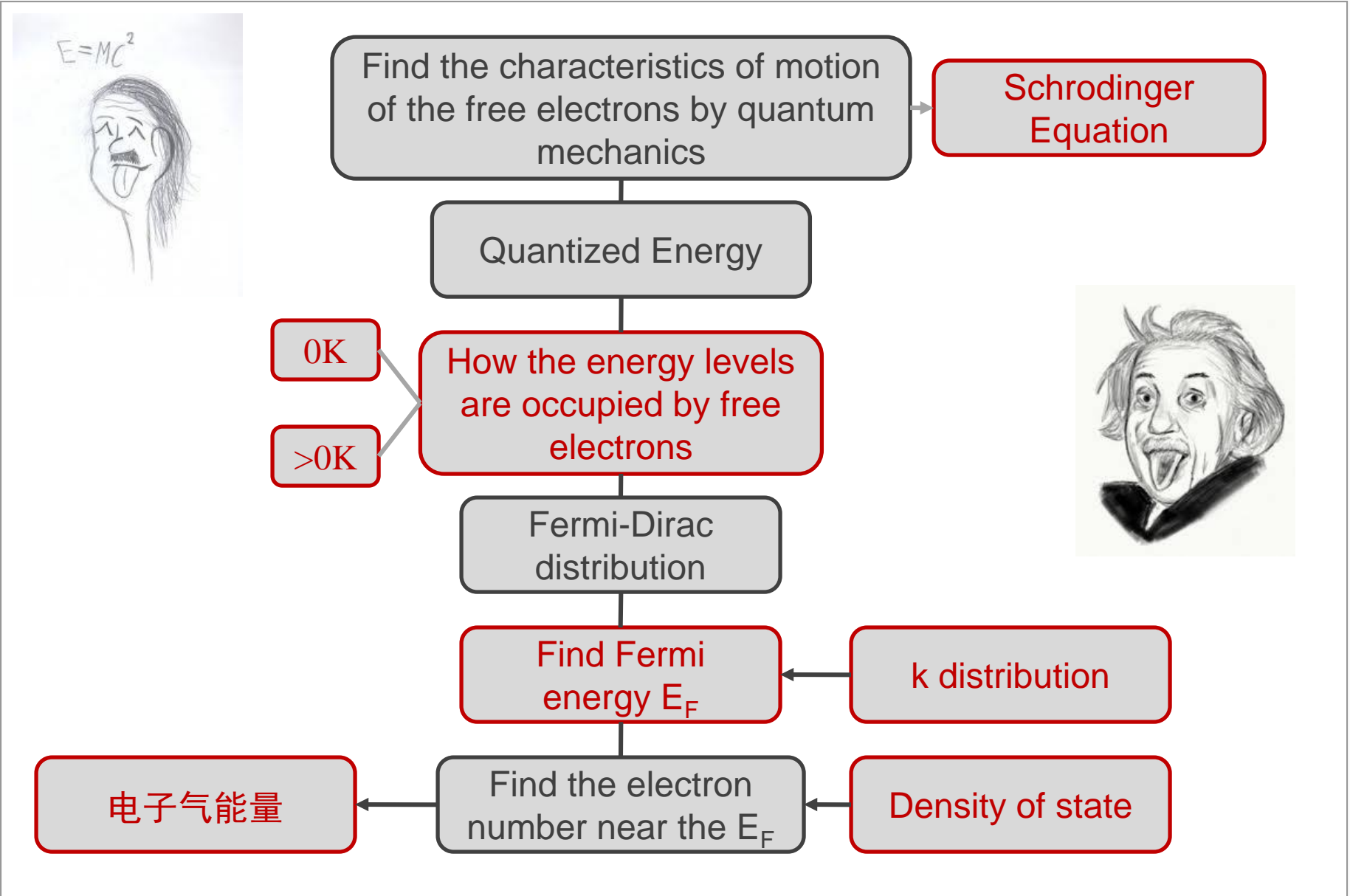


$$\begin{aligned}
 N &= \int_0^\infty g(E) f(E) dE \\
 &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{e^{(E-E_F)/k_B T} + 1} g(E) dE
 \end{aligned}$$

## Fermi energy



$$E_F = E_F^0 \left[ 1 - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \left( \frac{k_B T}{E_F^0} \right)^2 \right] = E_F^0 \left[ 1 - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \left( \frac{T}{T_F} \right)^2 \right] \approx E_F^0$$



• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



A. Piccard, E. Henriot, P. Ehrenfest, E. Herzen, Th. De Donder, E. Schrödinger, J.E. Verschaffelt, W. Pauli, W. Heisenberg, R.H. Fowler, L. Brillouin;  
B. P. Debye, M. Knudsen, W.L. Bragg, H.A. Kramers, P.A.M. Dirac, A.H. Compton, L. de Broglie, M. Born, N. Bohr;  
I. Langmuir, M. Planck, M. Skłodowska-Curie, H.A. Lorentz, A. Einstein, P. Langevin, Ch. E. Guye, C.T.R. Wilson, O.W. Richardson



• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy



Photograph of the first conference in 1911 at the Hotel Metropole. Seated (L-R): W. Nernst, M. Brillouin, E. Solvay, H. Lorentz, E. Warburg, J. Perrin, W. Wien, M. Skłodowska-Curie, and H. Poincaré. Standing (L-R): R. Goldschmidt, M. Planck, H. Rubens, **A. Sommerfeld**, F. Lindemann, M. de Broglie, M. Knudsen, F. Hasenöhl, G. Hostelet, E. Herzen, J.H. Jeans, E. Rutherford, H. Kamerlingh Onnes, A. Einstein and P. Langevin.

• Potential Well • F-D Distribution • Fermi Energy • Density of State •  $e^-$  number near  $E_F$  •  $e^-$  gas Energy

Arnold Johannes Wilhelm Sommerfeld



Arnold Sommerfeld (1868 - 1951), a German physicist who is one of the founders of the quantum mechanics

### Doctoral students

Werner Heisenberg  
Wolfgang Pauli  
Peter Debye  
Paul Sophus Epstein  
Hans Bethe  
Ernst Guillemin  
Karl Bechert  
Paul Peter Ewald  
Herbert Fröhlich  
Erwin Fues  
Helmut Hönl  
Ludwig Hopf  
Walther Kossel  
Adolf Kratzer  
Alfred Landé  
Otto Laporte  
Wilhelm Lenz  
Rudolf Peierls  
Walter Rogowski  
Rudolf Seeliger  
Heinrich Welker  
Gregor Wentzel



1935

# Chapter 3 Free electrons in solids

## 3.1 Free electron model

### 3.1.1 Drude Model

- Classical Free Electron Model

### 3.1.2 Sommerfeld Model

- Quantum Mechanical Free Electron Model

## 3.2 Heat capacity of free electron gas

## 3.3 Transport properties of conductive electrons

## 3.4 Hall effect and thermal-electric effect