Phonons

Explained By
Dr. Vishnu Awasthi

Phonons

- 1) Solid crystal, consists of atoms bound into a specific repeating three-dimensional spatial pattern called a lattice.
- 2) The material shows elastic behaviors in atomic level. The bonds between atoms and intermolecular bonds are elastic.
- 3) The atoms act as if they are coupled by a springs. Thermal energy or outside forces causes the atoms and molecules to oscillate.
- 4) This generates mechanical waves that carry heat and sound through the material.
- 5) A packet of these waves can travel throughout the crystal with a definite energy and momentum.

- 6) These waves are treated as a particle called Phonons.
- 7) A phonon can be defined as a discrete unit of vibrational mechanical energy. Phonons exist with discrete amount of energy, given by $E = \hbar \omega = hf$.
- 8) A phonon quanta of lattice vibration., just as a photon is a quantum of electromagnetic or light energy.
- 9) Phonons play a major role in many of the physical properties of condensed matter, such as thermal conductivity and electrical conductivity.
- 10) The study of phonons is an important part of condensed matter physics.

