

Electron Phonon interaction Derivation

Laura Rintoul

February 2022

1 electron phonon interaction, $g(k)$

We define $g(k)$ as the deformation of an electron band gap by a phonon of wavevector k in a lattice.

$$g(k) = \int \psi(x) \cdot dv_k(x) dx$$

Where dv is proportional to the change in bond length, which is proportional to deformation of the lattice, and $\psi(x)$ is the wavevector of the electron. In the discrete numerical model, this is taken as a sum over all lattice points' individual contribution, but here this is taken as an integral over all space instead. The electron is assumed to be of a gaussian centred at $x = 0$; the periodic boundary conditions employed mean that this location isn't particularly important, and in the numerical simulation the electron is also placed atop a lattice point.

$$\psi(x) = Ae^{-1/2(\frac{x}{\tau})^2}$$

2 transfer to continuous form for dv_k

Previously, in the discrete model, we defined dv_k for a given point as:

$$dv_k(p) = \sum_{nn(p)} (r(p) - r(nn(p))) \cdot (v_k(p) - v_k(nn(p)))$$

where $v(p)$ is the eigenvector oscillation value at the point p and r is its location. In the 1D example, this is summing over the two nearest neighbours, with the same bond length b on each side (with a sign change).

$$\begin{aligned} dv_k(p) &= b(v_k(p), v_k(p+1)) - b(v_k(p), v_k(p-1)) \\ &= b(v_k(p+1) - v_k(p-1)) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for the continuous case, $dv_k(x)$ is taken to be:

$$dv_k(x) = v_k(x+b) - v_k(x-b)$$

3 1D Chain phonons

The following is presented without proof as the known properties of a 1D periodic chain's phonons and dispersion.

$$\begin{aligned} w(k) &= \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos(ka)}{2m}} \\ v_k(x) &= Ae^{i(kx - \omega t)} \end{aligned}$$

4 substitution of into $g(k)$

$$\begin{aligned}
g(k) &= \int \psi(x)(v_k(x+b) - v_k(x-b))dx \\
&= \int A e^{-1/2(\frac{x}{r})^2} (e^{i(k(x+b)-wt)} - e^{i(k(x-b)-wt)}) dx \\
&= A e^{-iwt} (e^{ikb} - e^{-ikb}) \int e^{-1/2(\frac{x}{r})^2} (e^{ikx}) dx \\
&= A e^{-iwt} (e^{ikb} - e^{-ikb}) \int e^{-1/2(\frac{x}{r})^2} (e^{ikx}) dx \\
&= A e^{-iwt} (e^{ikb} - e^{-ikb}) \int e^{-1/2(\frac{x}{r})^2} (e^{ikx}) dx \\
&= B e^{-iwt} \sin(ikb) \int e^{-1/2(\frac{x}{r})^2 + ikx} dx
\end{aligned}$$

Complete the square for integral exponent.

$$\begin{aligned}
-1/4(\frac{x}{r})^2 + ikx &= -\frac{1}{2r^2}(x^2 - 2ikr^2x) \\
&= -\frac{1}{2r^2}((x - ikr^2)^2 - (ikr^2)^2) \\
&= -\frac{1}{2r^2}((x - 2ikr^2)^2 - (ikr^2)^2) \\
&= -\frac{1}{2r^2}(x - 2ikr^2)^2 - \frac{1}{2}k^2r^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
g(k) &= B e^{-iwt} \sin(ikb) e^{-\frac{1}{2}k^2r^2} * \int e^{-\frac{1}{2r^2}(x-2ikr^2)^2} dx \\
&= C e^{-iwt} \sin(ikb) e^{-\frac{1}{2}k^2r^2} \\
\therefore |g(k)|^2 &\propto \sin(ikb)^2 e^{k^2r^2}
\end{aligned}$$