VE320 – Summer 2022

Introduction to Semiconductor Devices

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Chapter 4 The Semiconductor in Equilibrium

Outline

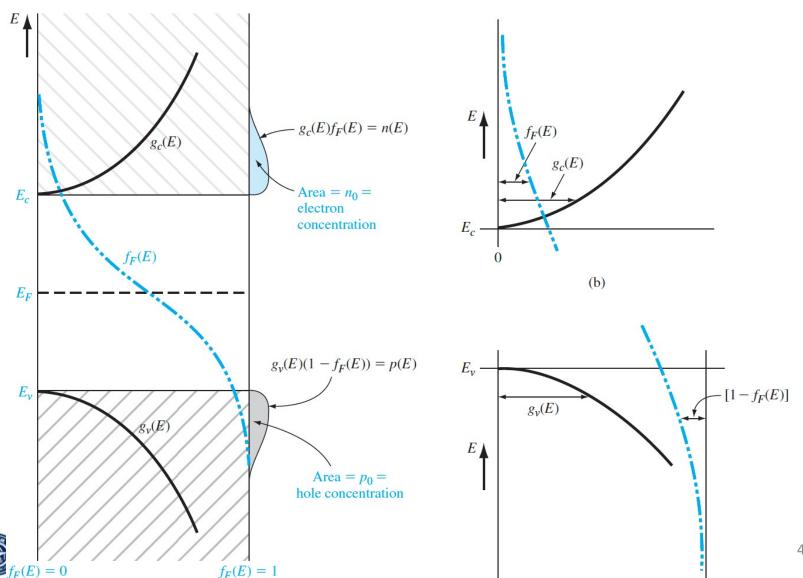
- 4.1 Charge carriers in semiconductors
- 4.2 Dopant atoms and energy levels
- 4.3 The extrinsic semiconductor
- 4.4 Statistics of donors and acceptors
- 4.5 Charge neutrality
- 4.6 Position of Fermi energy level

Outline

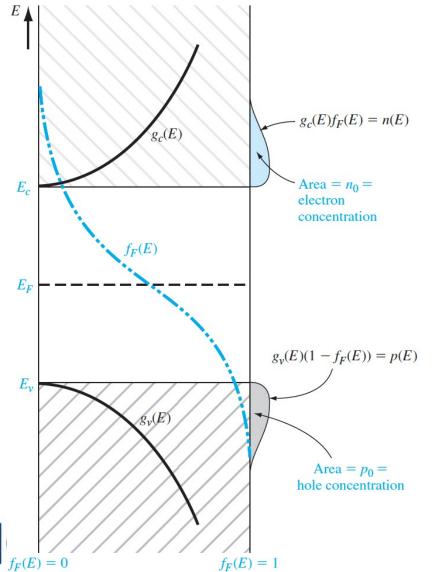
4.1 Charge carriers in semiconductors

- 4.2 Dopant atoms and energy levels
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Equilibrium distribution of electrons and holes



The n_0 and p_0 equations



$$n_{g_c(E)f_F(E) = n(E)}$$
 $n_0 = \int_{E_C}^{\infty} g_c(E)f_F(E)dE$

$$p_0 = \int_{-\infty}^{E_v} g_v(E) [1 - f_F(E)] dE$$



The n_0 and p_0 equations

$$n_{0} = \int_{E_{c}}^{\infty} g_{c}(E) f_{F}(E) dE$$

$$= \int_{E_{c}}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_{F}}{kT}\right)} 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} (E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}} dE$$

The n_0 and p_0 equations

$$n_{0} = \int_{E_{c}}^{\infty} g_{c}(E) f_{F}(E) dE$$

$$= \int_{E_{c}}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_{F}}{kT}\right)} 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} (E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}} dE$$

$$\eta = \frac{E - E_{c}}{kT} = 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{E_{c}}^{+\infty} \frac{(E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}}}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{E - E_{F}}{kT}\right)} dE$$

$$\eta_{F} = \frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT} = 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{0}^{+\infty} \frac{\eta^{\frac{1}{2}}}{1 + \exp(\eta - \eta_{F})} d\eta$$

Not analytically integrate-able

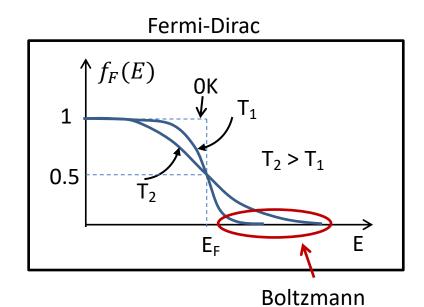
$$if \exp(\eta - \eta_F) > 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{E - E_F}{kT} > 3 \Leftrightarrow E - E_F > 3kT$$

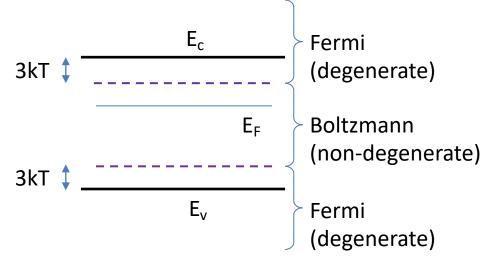
(2nd time approximation)

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

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$

Fermi-Dirac Distribution





if
$$\exp(\eta - \eta_F) > 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{E - E_F}{kT} > 3 \Leftrightarrow E - E_F > 3kT$$

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

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$
Reltzmann Distribution

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$

Fermi-Dirac Distribution

$$n_{0} = \int_{E_{c}}^{\infty} g_{c}(E) f_{F}(E) dE = 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{E_{c}}^{+\infty} (E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E}{kT}\right) dE$$
$$= 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{0}^{+\infty} \sqrt{\eta} \exp(\eta_{F} - \eta) d\eta$$

if
$$\exp(\eta - \eta_F) > 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{E - E_F}{kT} > 3 \Leftrightarrow E - E_F > 3kT$$

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

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$
Reltzmann Distribution

Fermi-Dirac Distribution

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$

$$n_{0} = \int_{E_{c}}^{\infty} g_{c}(E) f_{F}(E) dE = 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{E_{c_{3}}}^{+\infty} (E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E}{kT}\right) dE$$

$$= 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{0}^{+\infty} \sqrt{\eta} \exp(\eta_{F} - \eta) d\eta$$

$$\eta = \frac{E - E_{c}}{kT}$$

$$= 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \exp(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}) \int_{0}^{+\infty} \sqrt{\eta} \exp(-\eta) d\eta$$

$$\eta_{F} = \frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}$$





if
$$\exp(\eta - \eta_F) > 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{E - E_F}{kT} > 3 \Leftrightarrow E - E_F > 3kT$$

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

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$
Reltzmann Distribution

Fermi-Dirac Distribution

$$f_F(E) = \exp(\frac{E_F - E}{kT})$$

$$n_{0} = \int_{E_{c}}^{\infty} g_{c}(E) f_{F}(E) dE = 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*})^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{E_{c3}}^{+\infty} (E - E_{c})^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E}{kT}\right) dE$$

$$= 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \int_{0}^{+\infty} \sqrt{\eta} \exp(\eta_{F} - \eta) d\eta \qquad = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

$$\eta = \frac{E - E_{c}}{kT}$$

$$= 4\pi \frac{(2m^{*}kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}\right) \int_{0}^{+\infty} \sqrt{\eta} \exp(-\eta) d\eta$$

$$\eta_{F} = \frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}$$

$$n_{0} = 2\frac{(2\pi m_{n}^{*}kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^{3}} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}\right) = N_{c} \exp\left(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}\right)$$





$$if \exp(\eta - \eta_F) > 10 \Leftrightarrow \frac{E - E_F}{kT} > 3 \Leftrightarrow E - E_F > 3kT$$

$$n_0 = \frac{2(2\pi m_n^* kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^3} \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right) = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right)$$

$$p_0 = \frac{2(2\pi m_p^* kT)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{h^3} \exp\left(\frac{E_v - E_F}{kT}\right) = N_v \exp\left(\frac{E_v - E_F}{kT}\right)$$

The intrinsic carrier concentration

$$n_0 \times p_0 = n_i^2 = N_c N_v \exp\left(\frac{E_v - E_c}{kT}\right) \Rightarrow n_i = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2kT}\right)$$

$$n_0 = N_c \exp(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT})$$
 $p_0 = N_v \exp(\frac{E_v - E_F}{kT})$ $N_c \sim 10^{19} cm^{-3}$ $N_v \sim 10^{19} cm^{-3}$

The equations are universal for doped and undoped semiconductors

Check your understanding

Problem Example #1

Determine the thermal-equilibrium concentrations of electrons and holes in silicon at T = 300K if the Fermi energy level E_F is 0.215eV above the valence band energy E_V . $N_C = 2.8 \times 10^{19}$ cm⁻³ and $N_V = 1.04 \times 10^{19}$ cm⁻³. $E_g = 1.12$ eV for Si.

The intrinsic carrier concentration

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

	N_c (cm ⁻³)	N_v (cm ⁻³)	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

Table 4.2 | Commonly accepted values of n_i at T = 300 K

Silicon
$$n_i = 1.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

Gallium arsenide $n_i = 1.8 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$
Germanium $n_i = 2.4 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

The intrinsic carrier concentration

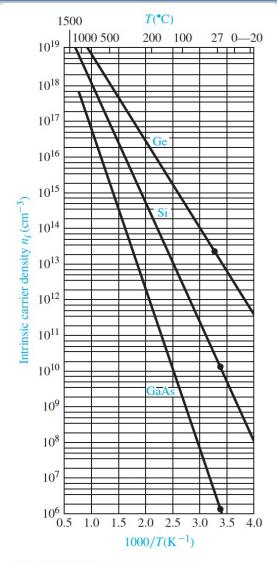


Figure 4.2 | The intrinsic carrier concentration of Ge, Si, and GaAs as a function of temperature. (*From Sze [14]*.)

Check your understanding

Problem Example #2

Calculate the intrinsic carrier concentration in silicon at T=250K and at 400K.

The intrinsic Fermi-level position

$$n_0 = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_{Fi} - E_c}{kT}\right) = p_0 = N_v \exp\left(\frac{E_v - E_{Fi}}{kT}\right)$$

$$E_{Fi} = \frac{1}{2}(E_c + E_v) + \frac{1}{2}kTln\left(\frac{N_v}{N_c}\right)$$

$$E_{midgap} = \frac{1}{2}(E_c + E_v)$$

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

Outline

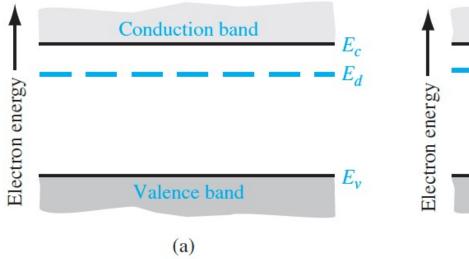
4.1 Charge carriers in semiconductors

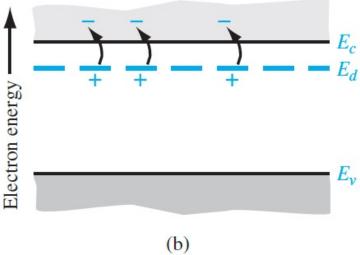
4.2 Dopant atoms and energy levels

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Figure 4.3 | Two-dimensional representation of the intrinsic silicon lattice.

Figure 4.4 | Two-dimensional representation of the silicon lattice doped with a phosphorus atom.





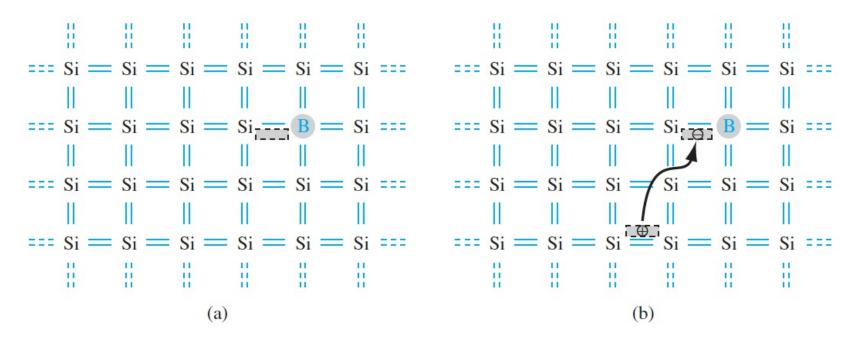


Figure 4.6 | Two-dimensional representation of a silicon lattice (a) doped with a boron atom and (b) showing the ionization of the boron atom resulting in a hole.

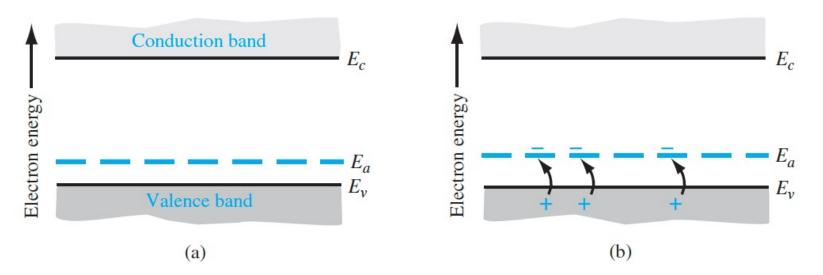
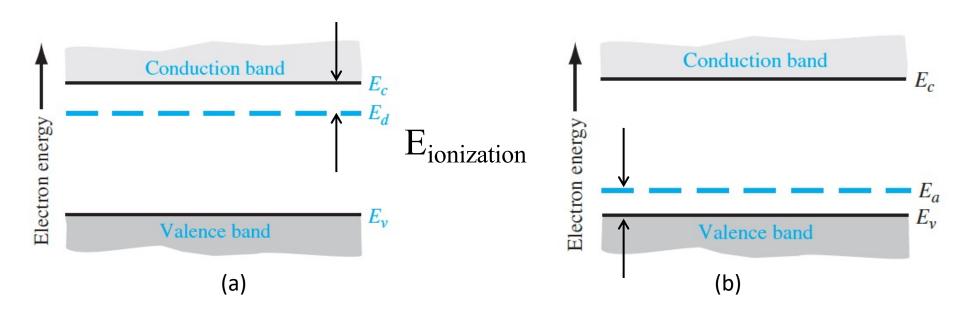


Figure 4.7 | The energy-band diagram showing (a) the discrete acceptor energy state and (b) the effect of an acceptor state being ionized.

Ionization energy



$$E_{\text{ionization}} = E_c - E_d$$

$$E_{ionization} = E_a - E_v$$





Ionization energy

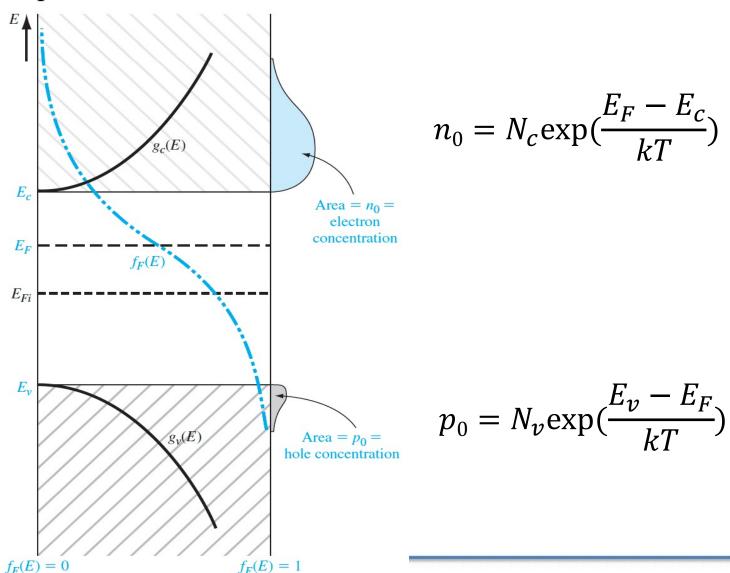
Table 4.3 | Impurity ionization energies in silicon and germanium

	Ionization energy (eV)		
Impurity	Si	Ge	
Donors Phosphorus Arsenic	0.045 0.05	0.012 0.0127	
Acceptors Boron			
Aluminum	0.045 0.06	0.0104 0.0102	

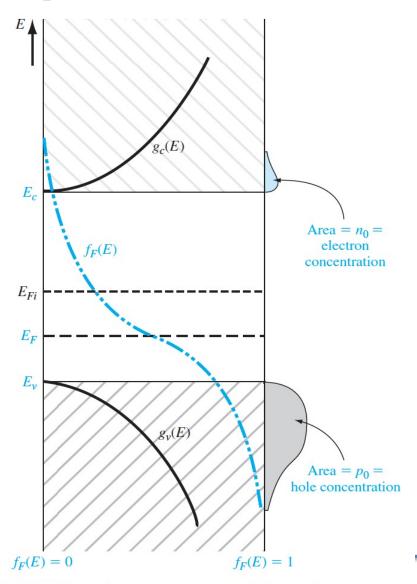
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Equilibrium distribution of electrons and holes



Equilibrium distribution of electrons and holes



$$n_0 = N_c \exp(\frac{E_F - E_C}{kT})$$

$$p_0 = N_v \exp(\frac{E_v - E_F}{kT})$$

The n_0p_0 product

$$n_{0} = N_{c} \exp(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT})$$

$$p_{0} = N_{v} \exp(\frac{E_{v} - E_{F}}{kT})$$

$$n_{0}p_{0} = N_{c}N_{v} \exp(\frac{E_{F} - E_{c}}{kT}) \exp(\frac{E_{v} - E_{F}}{kT})$$

$$= N_{c}N_{v} \exp\left(\frac{E_{v} - E_{c}}{kT}\right) = N_{c}N_{v} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{g}}{kT}\right)$$

$$= constant$$

If $n_0 = p_0 = n_i$, this constant is equal to $n_i^2 = n_0 p_0$

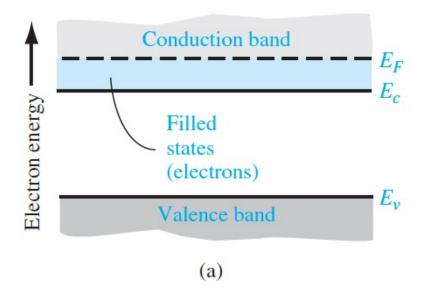
The n_0p_0 product

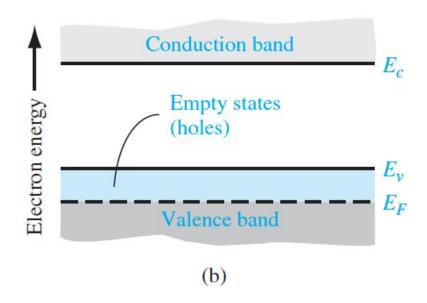
$$n_0 = N_c \exp(\frac{E_F - E_C}{kT}) \qquad p_0 = N_v \exp(\frac{E_v - E_F}{kT})$$

$$n_0 = n_i \exp(\frac{E_F - E_i}{kT}) \qquad p_0 = n_i \exp(\frac{E_i - E_F}{kT})$$

$$n_i^2 = n_0 p_0$$

Degenerate and nondegenerate semiconductors





Degenerate semiconductors:

- Extremely high doping concentration
- Fermi level in the band
- Electron cloud in dopants overlap,
- dopant energy level splitting

Check your understanding

Problem Example #3

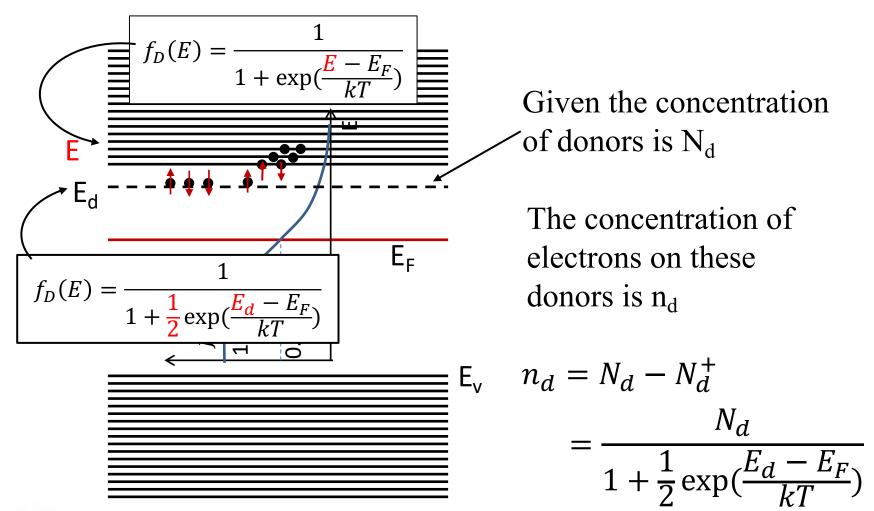
Determine the thermal-equilibrium concentrations of electrons and holes in silicon at T = 300 K if the Fermi energy level E_F is 0.215 eV above the valence band energy E_V . $N_V = 1.04 \times 10^{19}$ cm⁻³, $n_i = 1.5 \times 10^{10}$ cm⁻³.

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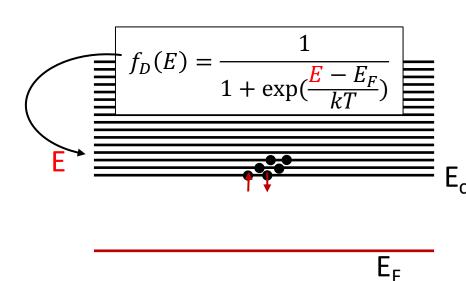
4.4 Statistics of donors and acceptors

Probability function



4.4 Statistics of donors and acceptors

Probability function

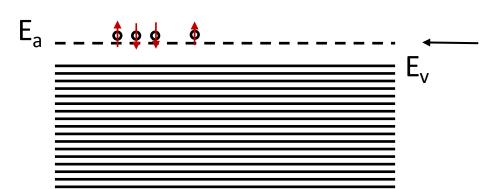


The concentration of holes on these acceptors is n_d

$$p_a = N_a - N_a^-$$

$$= \frac{N_d}{1 + \frac{1}{g} \exp(\frac{E_d - E_F}{kT})}$$

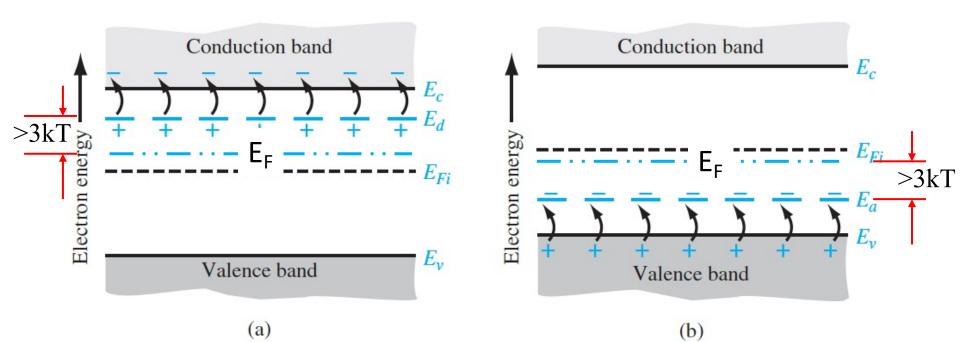
$$(g=4 \text{ for Si, GaAs } ...)$$



Given the concentration of acceptors is N_a

4.4 Statistics of donors and acceptors

Complete ionization

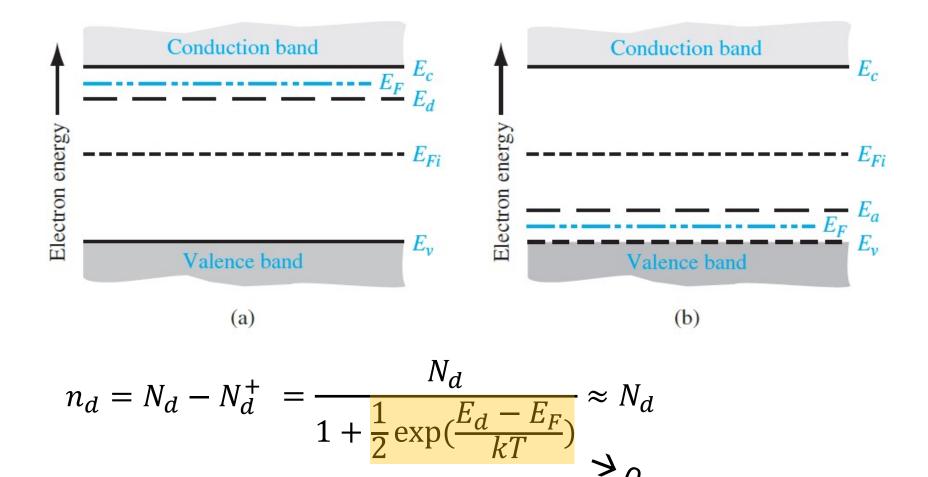


$$n_d = N_d - N_d^+ = \frac{N_d}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \exp(\frac{E_d - E_F}{kT})} = 2N_d \exp(-\frac{E_d - E_F}{kT})$$



4.4 Statistics of donors and acceptors

Complete freeze-out

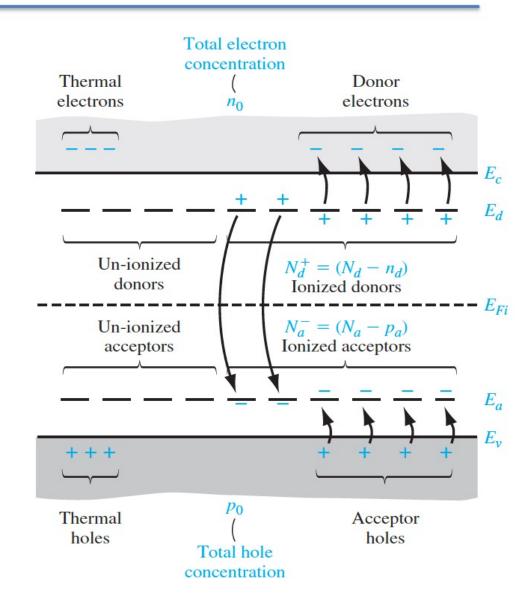


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Compensated semiconductor

- $N_d > N_a$: n-type compensated (N_d-N_a)
- $N_a > N_d$: p-type compensated (N_a-N_d)
- N_d = N_a: completely compensated, like intrinsic semiconductors



Equilibrium electron and hole concentration

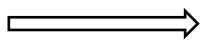
Charge neutrality:

$$n_0 + N_a^- = N_d^+ + p_0$$

Or

Complete ionization

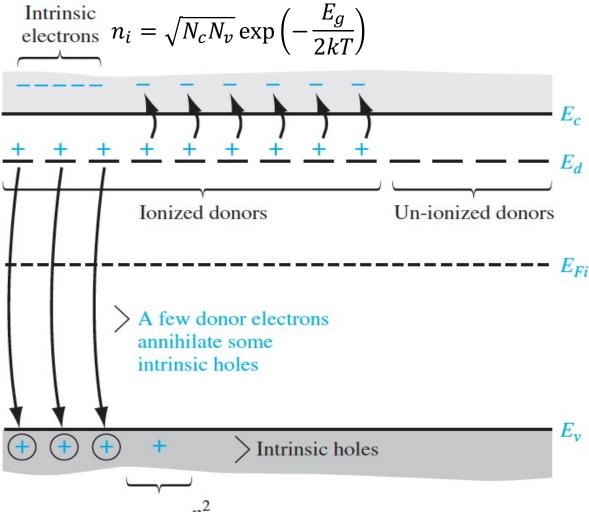
$$n_0 = N_d^+ - N_a^- + p_0$$



$$n_0 = N_d - N_a + p_0$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} n_{0}p_{0} = n_{i}^{2}$$

$$n_{0} = \frac{N_{d} - N_{a} + \sqrt{(N_{d} - N_{a})^{2} + 4n_{i}^{2}}}{n_{0}}$$





Net
$$p_0 = \frac{n_0^2}{n_0^2}$$

$$n_0 = \frac{N_d^+ + \sqrt{(N_d^+)^2 + 4n_i^2}}{2}$$
 (but N_d^+ unknown)

①
$$n_i >> N_d^+ \Rightarrow T \text{ very high}$$

$$n_0 = p_0 = n_i = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp(-\frac{E_g}{2kT})$$

Check your understanding

Problem Example #4

Determine the thermal-equilibrium electron and hole concentrations in silicon at T = 300K for given doping concentrations. (a) Let N_d = 10^{16} cm⁻³ and N_a =0. (b) Let N_d = 5×10^{15} cm⁻³ and N_a = 2×10^{15} cm⁻³.

Equilibrium electron and hole concentration

$$n_0 = \frac{N_d^+ + \sqrt{(N_d^+)^2 + 4n_i^2}}{2}$$
 (but N_d^+ unknown)

(1) $n_i >> N_d^+ \Rightarrow T \text{ very high}$

$$n_0 = p_0 = n_i = \sqrt{N_c N_v} \exp(-\frac{E_g}{2kT})$$

 $n_i << N_d^+ \Rightarrow T \ not \ very \ high$ (meaning charge carriers mostly come from dopants, which is often true for a doped semiconductor) $n_0 = N_d^+$

$$n_0 = N_d^+$$

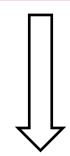
$$n_0 = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right) = N_D^+ = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2\exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_d}{kT}\right)}$$

$$\frac{\int_{C} E_F - E_C}{kT} = \frac{n_0}{N_C}$$

$$n_0 = N_d^+$$

$$n_0 = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right) = N_D^+ = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2\exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_D}{kT}\right)}$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_C}{kT}\right) = \frac{n_0}{N_C}$$

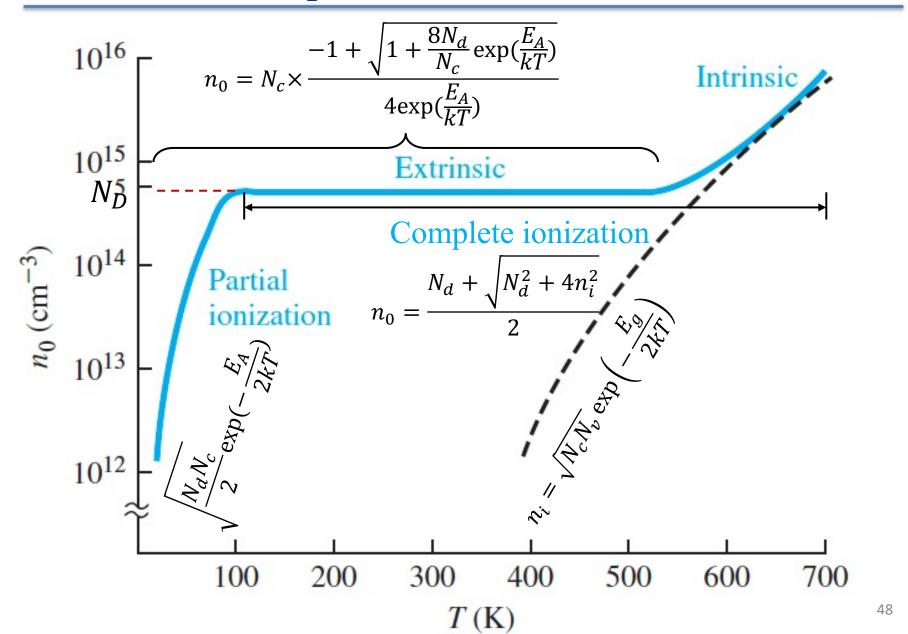


$$n_0 = \frac{N_d}{1 + 2 \exp\left(\frac{E_c - E_d}{kT}\right) \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right)}$$

$$2\exp\left(\frac{E_A}{kT}\right)n_0^2 + N_c n_0 - N_d N_c = 0$$

$$n_0 = N_c \times \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}}{4\exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}$$

Ionization of dopants



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Mathematical Derivation

$$n_0 = N_c \times \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}}{4\exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}$$

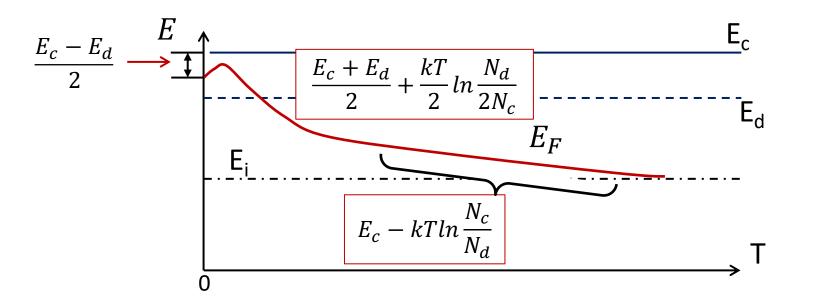
$$n_0 = N_c \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right) \Rightarrow \exp\left(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT}\right) = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c}} \exp\left(\frac{E_A}{kT}\right)}{4\exp\left(\frac{E_A}{kT}\right)}$$

$$E_F = E_c + kT ln(\frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})} - 1}{4\exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})})$$

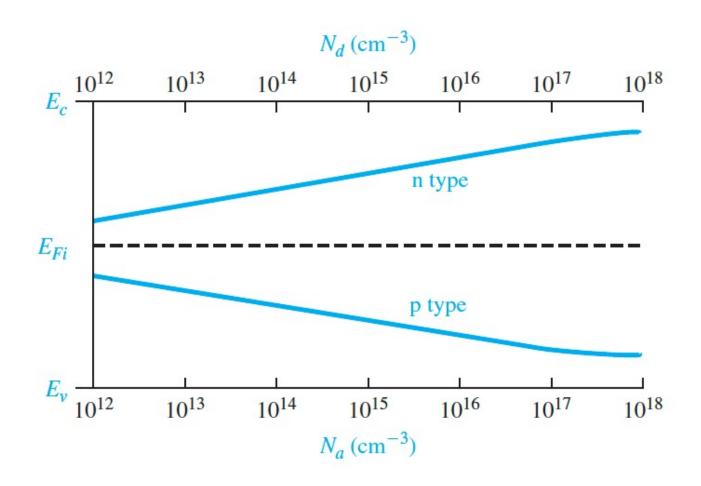


Mathematical Derivation

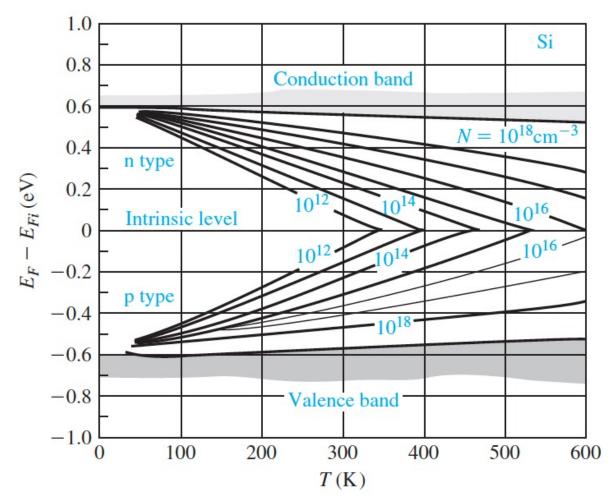
$$E_F = E_c + kT ln(\frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c}} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}{4\exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}) = \begin{cases} \frac{E_c + E_D}{2} + \frac{kT}{2} ln \frac{N_d}{2N_c} & T \text{ small} \\ E_c - kT ln \frac{N_c}{N_d} & T \text{ big} \end{cases}$$



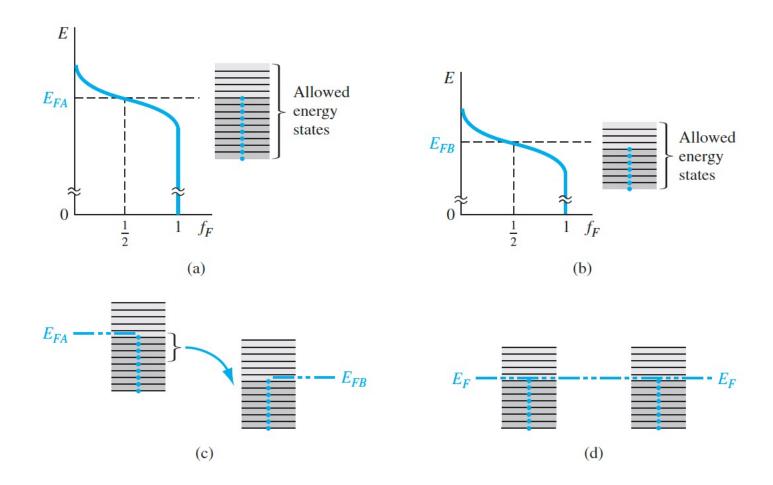
Variation of E_F with doping concentration and temperature



Variation of E_F with doping concentration and temperature



Relevance of Fermi energy



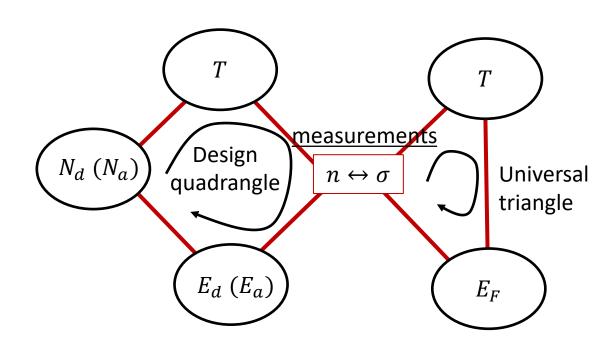
Summary

$$n_0 = N_c \times \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}}{4 \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{N_d N_c}{2}} \exp(-\frac{E_A}{2kT}) & partial ionization, T low \\ N_d & complete ionization, T high \end{cases}$$

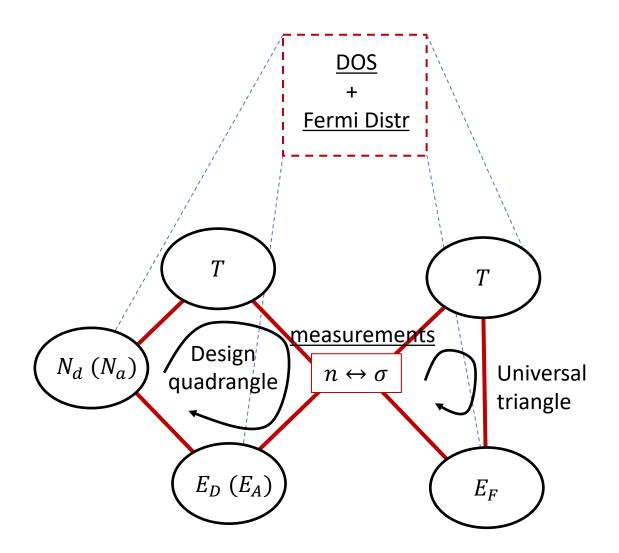
$$n_0 = \frac{N_d + \sqrt{N_d^2 + 4n_i^2}}{2}$$
 Complete ionization at high T to intrinsic ionization at very high T

$$\mathbf{n_0} \rightarrow \mathbf{p_0} \text{ and } \mathbf{E_F} \rightarrow \text{ionization rate} \quad \begin{cases} n_0 = N_c \times \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{8N_d}{N_c} \exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})}}{4\exp(\frac{E_A}{kT})} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{N_dN_c}{2}} \exp(-\frac{E_A}{2kT}) & \text{partial ionization, T low complete ionization, T high} \end{cases}$$

Summary



Summary



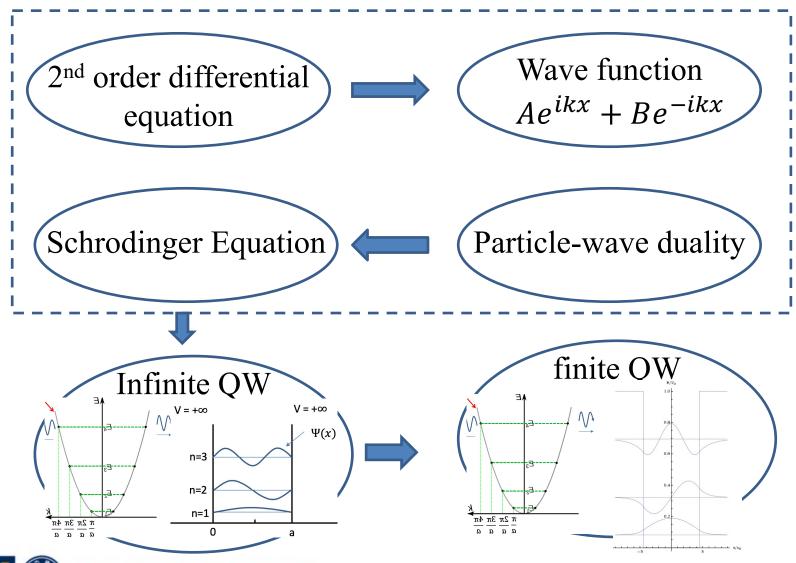
Check your understanding

Problem #5

1. Given a piece of silicon that is uniformly doped with impurities. The concentration of the impurities is 10^{17} cm⁻³ and the energy level of the impurities is 0.1eV below the conduction band. Calculate the electron concentration and Fermi energy level in silicon at 100K. $N_c = 5.4 \times 10^{18}$ cm⁻³ at 100K.

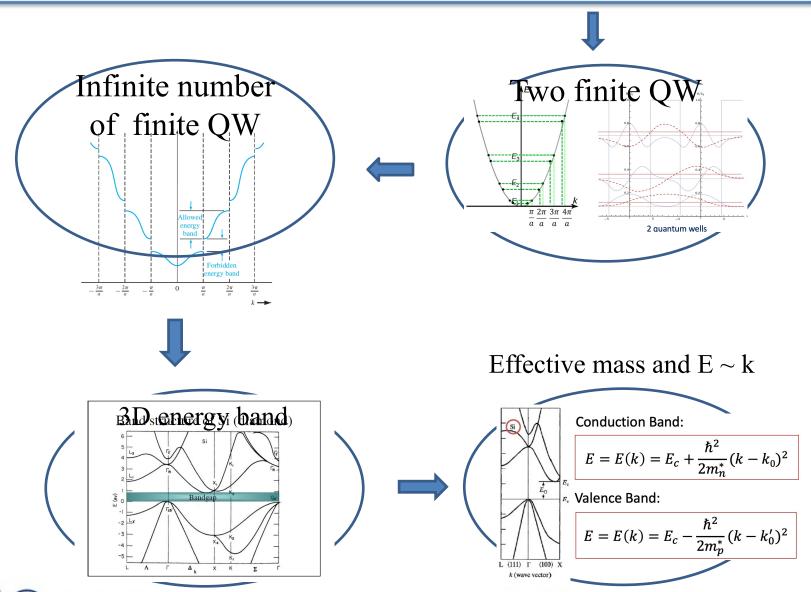
$$n_0 = \sqrt{\frac{N_d N_c}{2}} \exp(-\frac{E_A}{2kT})$$

$$n_0 = N_c \exp(\frac{E_F - E_c}{kT})$$





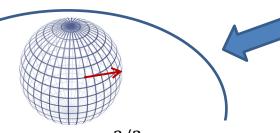
VE320 Yaping Dan



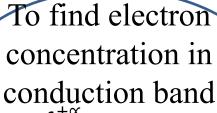




Density of states



$$g(E) = 2 \frac{2\pi (2m^*)^{3/2}}{h^3} \sqrt{E - E_c}$$



$$n_0 = \int_{E_C}^{+\infty} g(E) \cdot f_F(E) dE$$



Fermi-Dirac Distribution

T=1000

