

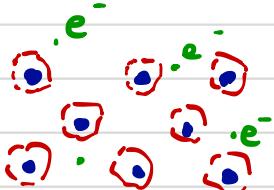
Crystal Structure and Band Theory

P715



Band Theory and crystal structure

solids: atoms arrange themselves in crystalline structure



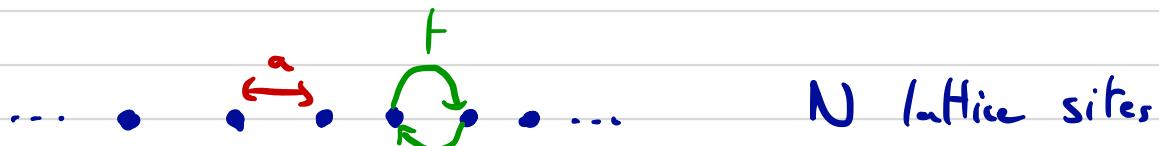
Recall Drude picture: valence e^- scatter off lattice sites (ions)

We'll see that this picture is not correct. Electrons move mostly freely in periodic lattices.

But $E = \frac{p^2}{2m}$ modified by lattice (p not conserved!)

(I) Electrons moving in one dimension

(a) Tight-binding model in 1d



("tight binding approximation": Intu.). Electrons live on lattice sites.

. Consider a single electron: $|g\rangle$: e^- on site g :

$$\langle i | g \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

. local onsite energy: E_0 , local hopping term: "t"
 \uparrow
 \neq time!

$$H = E_0 \sum_j |j\rangle \langle j| - t \sum_j (|j\rangle \langle j+1| + |j+1\rangle \langle j|)$$

Use periodic boundary conditions: $|N+1\rangle \equiv |1\rangle$

Solution: $|q\rangle = \sum_j q_j |j\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} H|q\rangle &= E|q\rangle \Rightarrow E_0 \sum_j q_j |j\rangle - t \left(\sum_j q_{j+1} |j\rangle + q_j |j+1\rangle \right) \\ &= E \sum_j q_j |j\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_0 q_j - t (q_{j+1} + q_{j-1}) = E q_j$$

Lattice second derivative

Solve by lattice Fourier (plane waves) modes:

$$q_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{iKja}$$

$$|q_k\rangle = \sum_j \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{iKja} |j\rangle$$

K = wave number

$\rho = \hbar K \sim$ momentum

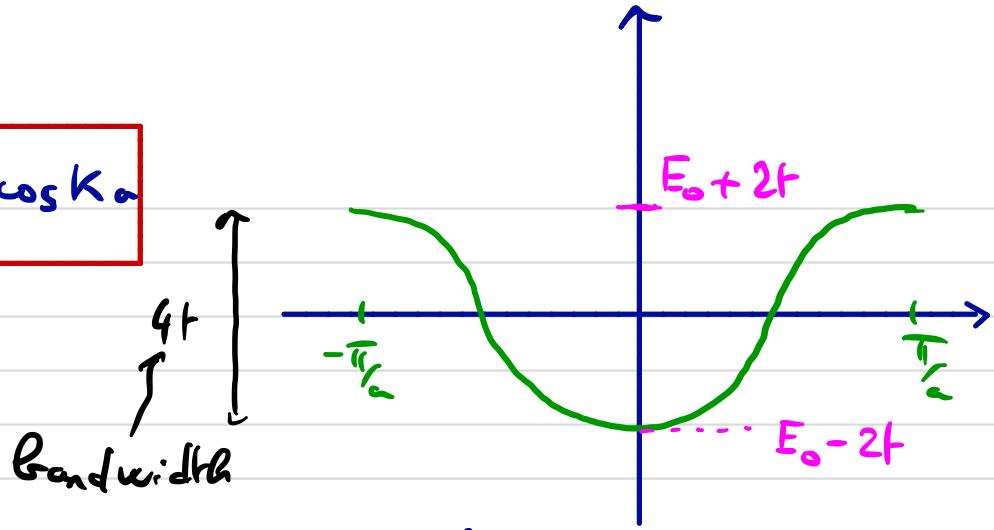
• $K \rightarrow K + 2\pi/a$. We can take $K \in [-\pi/a, \pi/a]$ Brillouin zone

$$\cdot q_{N+1} = q_1: e^{iKNa} = 1 \Rightarrow K = \frac{2\pi}{a} n; n \text{ integer}$$

$$\cdot \langle q_k | q_{k'} \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_j e^{i(k' - k)a} = \delta_{k,k'}$$

$$\cdot \text{Now we have } q_{j+1} = e^{\pm iKa} q_j$$

$$\Rightarrow E_K = E_0 - 2t \cos K a$$



$$V_K = \frac{dE}{dK}$$

$K > 0$: right moves

Note:

- Space discrete \leftrightarrow K periodic
Space periodic \leftrightarrow K discrete
- (property of Fourier transforms)
- Electron wave functions are completely delocalized!
(even if t is very small)
- single e^- : low k : $E_K \approx E_0 - 2t + \underbrace{\frac{t k^2 a^2}{2 m_{\text{eff}}}}$

$$m_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2 t a^2} \quad \text{inherited from lattice}$$

Many electrons: ignore interactions.

Each lattice site contributes $\gtrsim e^-$.

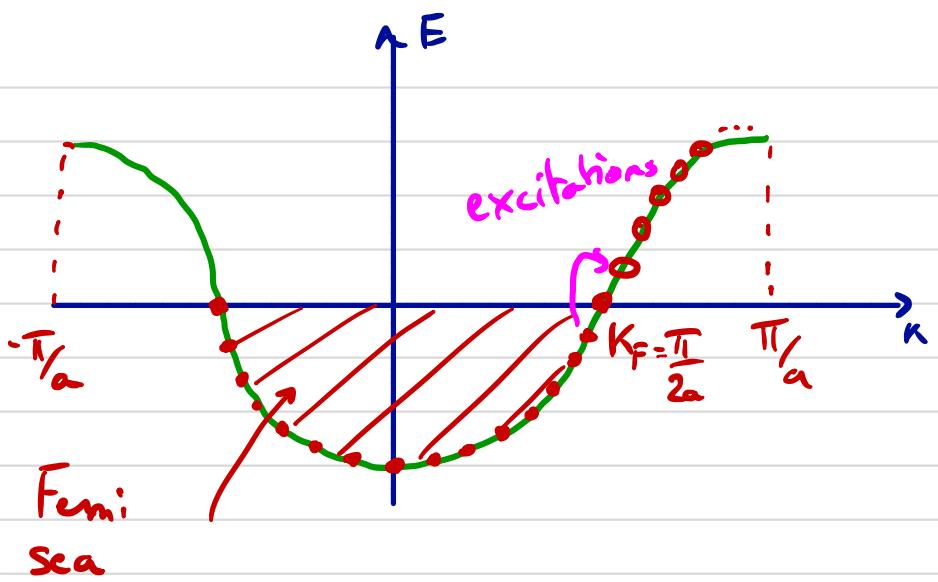
$\gtrsim N$ free e^- total; $2N$ states
 \curvearrowleft spin

(our model only makes sense for $Z \leq 2$, $Z=1$ or 2 here)

$Z=1$: "Half-Billing"

First fill $K=0$ (2 states), then $K=\pm \frac{2\pi}{Na}$ etc

(Pauli exclusion principle)

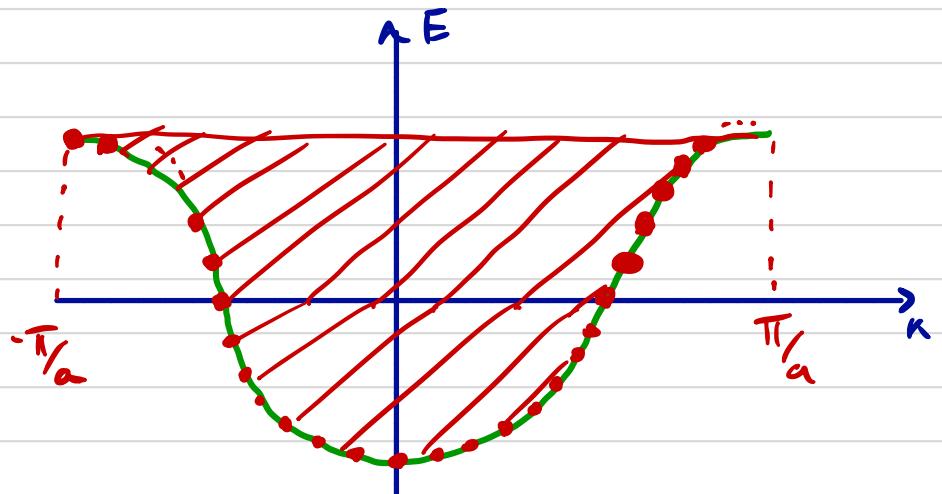


As many e^- with
 $k > 0$ and $k < 0$
in groundstate
(no current)

$$\text{Linearize near } k = k_F : E = E_0 - 2t \cos(\frac{\pi}{2} + \delta k a) \\ \approx E_0 + 2ta \delta k$$

- Linear (relativistic in fact!) dispersion!
 - With E field : Deplete FS on the left, move on the right (latter), more $k > 0$: current!
- Conductor

Z=2: Fully Filled Band



Band insulator

(some insulators
due to interactions
disorder etc...)

(b) Nearly free electrons

Tight Binding: tightly bound e^- with tunneling.

Let's consider the opposite limit: Almost free e^- with weak periodic potential.

$$H_0 = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(x)$$

$$p = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx} \quad (\text{continuum model})$$

$V(x+a) = V(x)$ and periodic system of size L

$L = N a$ with N integer (# atoms)

$$H_0: \psi_k(x) = \langle x|k \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} e^{ikx} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle k|k' \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L dx e^{i(k'-k)x} = \delta_{k,k'}$$

Eigenstates $|k\rangle$ labelled by $p = \hbar k$, k is quantized in units of $2\pi/L$ since $\psi(x+L) = \psi(x)$

$$H_0 = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$$

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

Perturbation theory : $E_k = E_{-k}$ degenerate perturbation theory needed?

Depends on matrix elements: $\langle k'|V|k\rangle$

$$V(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} V_n e^{2\pi i n x/a} \quad V_n = V_{-n}^*$$

with Fourier coefficients: $V_n = \frac{1}{a} \int_0^a dx V(x) e^{-2\pi i n x/a}$

$$\langle k | V | k' \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L dx \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} V_n e^{i(k' - k + 2\pi n/a)x}$$

$$= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} V_n \delta_{k - k', 2\pi n/a}$$

Perturbation can only mix: $k = k' + \frac{2\pi n}{a}$ with $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Mixing between $k' = -k$ and k : $k = \frac{\pi n}{a}$

(edge of Brillouin zone for $n=1$).

Low momentum (non degenerate perturbation theory)

$\frac{\pi n}{a} \ll k \ll \pi \frac{(n+1)}{a}$ (far from special points where mixing occurs)

$$E_k = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} + \underbrace{\langle k | V | k \rangle}_{V_0 = \text{constant}} + \sum_{k' \neq k} \frac{|\langle k | V | k' \rangle|^2}{E_k^0 - E_{k'}^0} + \dots$$

$\uparrow \quad k' = k + \frac{2\pi n}{a}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Small changes... Mostly unaffected by potential in RG regime.

However: if $k = \frac{\pi n}{a}$ and $k' = -k$: denominator = 0 !
 $\langle k | V | -k \rangle \neq 0$
 \Rightarrow need degenerate perturbation theory.

Edge of BZ (Brillouin Zone) $k = n\pi/a$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle k | H | k \rangle & \langle k | H | -k \rangle \\ \langle -k | H | k \rangle & \langle -k | H | -k \rangle \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\hbar^2 n^2 \pi^2}{2m a^2} + V_0 & V_n \\ V_n^* & \frac{\hbar^2 n^2 \pi^2}{2m a^2} + V_0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = E \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Eigenvalues: } \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{a^2} + V_0 - E \right)^2 - |V_n|^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow E_{\pm} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{a^2} + V_0 \pm |V_n|$$

$2|V_n|$ opens up
at $k = \pm \frac{n\pi}{a}$

$$\text{Take: } V(x) = 2V_0 \cos \frac{2\pi x}{a} \quad (n=1 \text{ only}; \quad k = \pm \frac{n\pi}{a})$$

$$\text{Eigenstates: } |k\rangle \pm | -k \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad \psi_{\pm}(x) \sim \begin{cases} \cos \frac{2\pi x}{a} \\ \sin \frac{2\pi x}{a} \end{cases}$$

$|\psi_{\pm}|^2$ mostly near minima of $V \Rightarrow$ lower energy

Let's repeat this exercise for $k = \frac{n\pi}{a} + \delta$ } almost same energy if δ is small
 $k' = -\frac{n\pi}{a} + \delta$

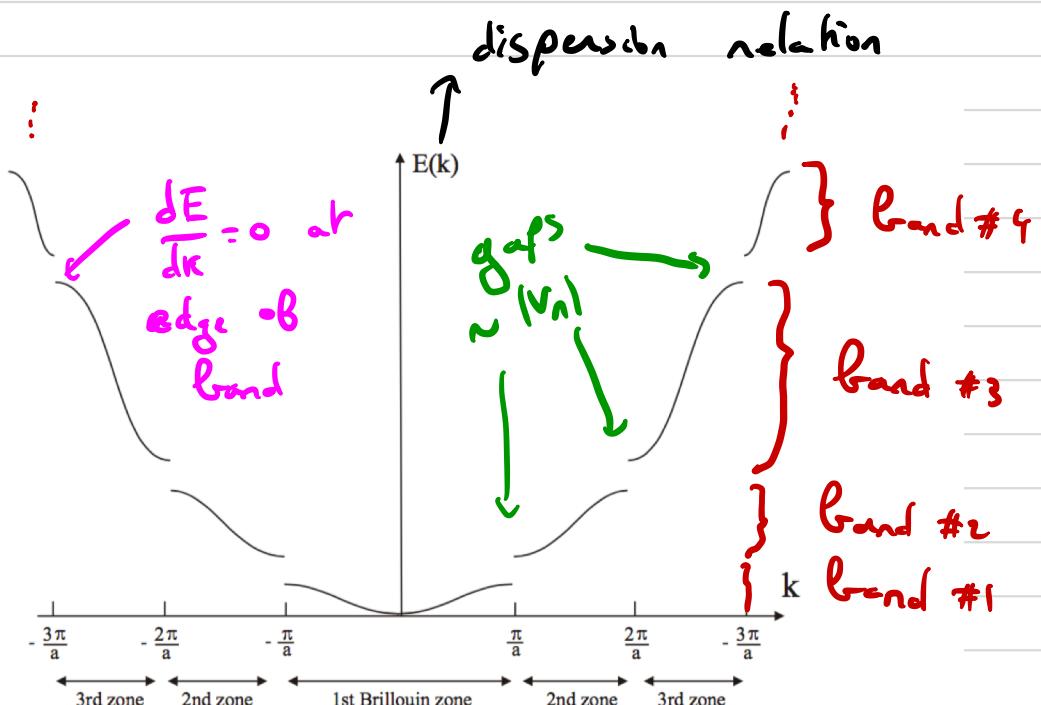
$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{n\pi}{a} + \delta \right)^2 + V_0 - E \right) \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{n\pi}{a} - \delta \right)^2 + V_0 - E \right)}_{\left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\frac{n\pi}{a} + \delta \right)^2 + V_0 - E \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{2n\pi}{a} \delta \right)^2} = |V_n|^2$$

If δ is large, coincides with 2nd order non degenerate perturbation theory.

Small δ :

$$E_{\pm} \approx \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{n^2\pi^2}{a^2} + V_0 \pm |V_n| + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{|V_n|} \frac{n^2\pi^2 \hbar^2}{m a^2} \right) \delta^2 + \dots$$

quadratic correction



② Block's Theorem in 1d.

Free particles with
translation invariance

Noether

$$[\hat{H}, \hat{p}] = 0$$

↑ momentum labels
states

In our case: $x \rightarrow x+a$ discrete translation invariance.

Let's show that this is enough to label states with "k"

Translation operator : $\hat{T}_p |\psi(x)\rangle = |\psi(x+p)\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi | \hat{T}_p \psi \rangle &= \int dx \phi^*(x) \psi(x+p) = \int dx \phi^*(x-p) \psi(x) \\ &= \int dx [\hat{T}_{-p} \phi]^* \psi(x) = \langle \hat{T}_{-p} \phi | \psi \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{T}_p^\dagger = \hat{T}_{-p} = \hat{T}_p^{-1} \Rightarrow \hat{T}_p \text{ unitary}$$

$$\cdot \hat{T}_p \hat{T}_{p_2} = \hat{T}_{p_1+p_2} \quad (\text{Abelian group, } [\hat{T}_{p_1}, \hat{T}_{p_2}] = 0)$$

• \hat{T}_p can be expressed in terms of $\hat{p} = -i\hbar \frac{d}{dx}$

as
$$\boxed{\hat{T}_p = e^{ip\hat{p}/\hbar}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Proof: } \hat{T}_p \psi(x) &= \left(1 + i \frac{\hat{p} \hat{p}}{\hbar} + \frac{1}{2!} \left(\frac{i \hat{p} \hat{p}}{\hbar} \right)^2 + \dots \right) \psi(x) \\
 &= \left(1 + p \frac{d}{dx} + \frac{p^2}{2!} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \dots \right) \psi(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{p^n}{n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \psi(x) \\
 &= \psi(x+p)
 \end{aligned}$$

\hat{p} is the generator of the translation group

- A system is translation invariant if $[\hat{H}, \hat{T}_p] = 0$
- $\Rightarrow [\hat{H}, \hat{p}] = 0$ as expected.
- Now if $[\hat{H}, \hat{T}_a] = 0$, energy eigenstates can be labelled by the eigenvalues of \hat{T}_a : phases $e^{i\theta_a}$

$$\text{Eigenvalues of } \hat{T}_p = e^{ipk} \quad \text{so that } e^{i\theta_p} e^{i\theta_p} = e^{i(\theta_p + p_k)}$$

$$\hat{T}_a \psi_k(x) = \psi_{k+a}(x) = e^{ika} \psi_k(x) \quad \text{on an eigenvector of } H$$

Now ψ_k and $\psi_{k+2\pi/a}$ have the same eigenvalue under \hat{T}_a : take $k \in [-\pi/a, \pi/a]$ 1st Brillouin Zone

\Rightarrow we can still label eigenstates by k , but $k \in [-\frac{\pi}{a}, \frac{\pi}{a}]$

Block's theorem (in 1d): Periodic potential $V(x+a) = V(x)$

Eigenstates can be written as:

$$\psi_k(x) = e^{ikx} u_k(x)$$

$$E[-\frac{\pi}{a}, \frac{\pi}{a}]$$

$$u_k(x+a) = u_k(x)$$

→ "Mild" modification of plane waves!

Proof: $\psi_k(x+a) = e^{iK_a} \psi_k(x)$ since we can take ψ_k to

be an eigenstate of \hat{T}_a . $u_k(x) \equiv e^{-ikx} \psi_k(x)$

$$u_k(x+a) = e^{-ikx} e^{-ika} \psi_k(x+a) = e^{-ikx} \psi_k(x) = u_k(x)$$

Crystal momentum: $\hat{p} = \hbar \hat{k}$ (\neq mass \times velocity)

conserved modul $2\pi/a$ (lattice can "absorb" $\Delta p = \frac{2\pi}{a} n$)

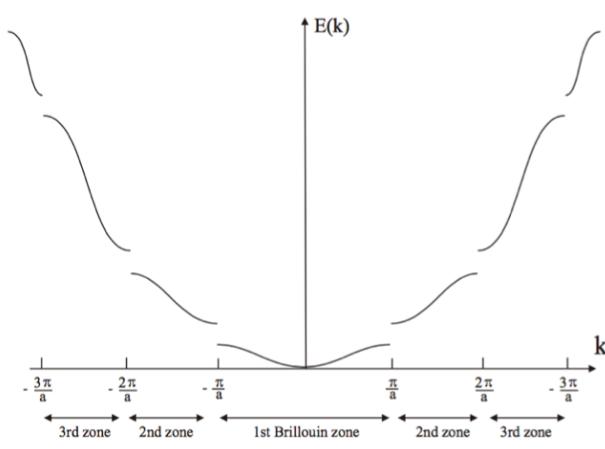


Figure 19: The extended zone scheme.

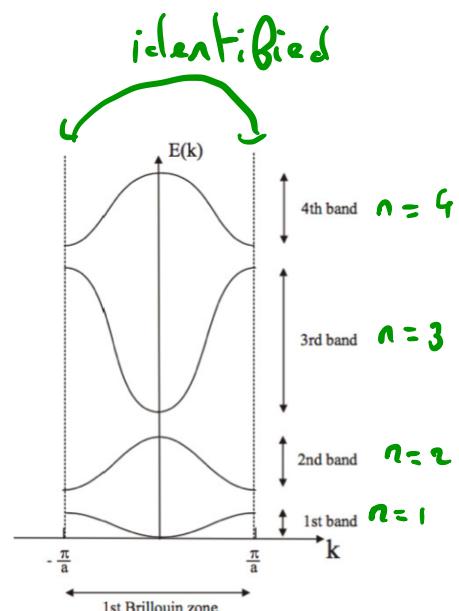


Figure 20: The reduced zone scheme.

II Lattices and Crystal structure

In 2d and 3d, we have to deal with more complicated lattices!

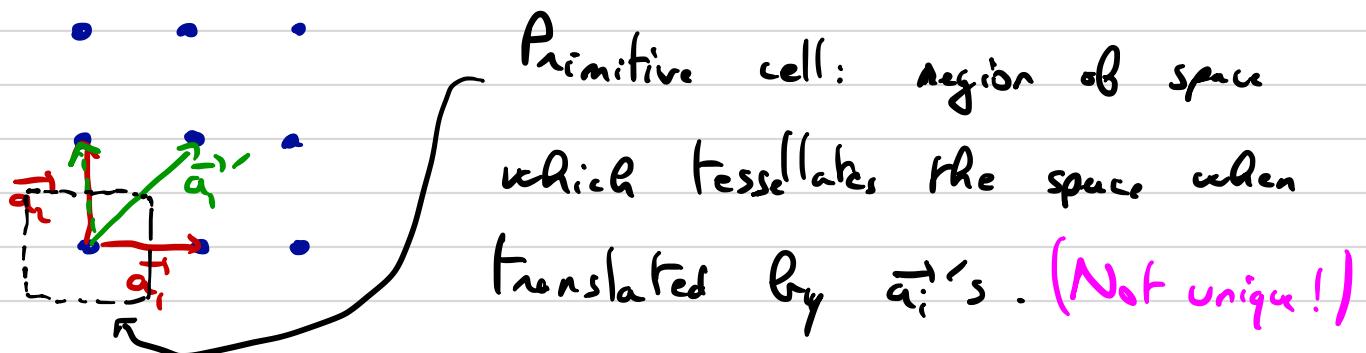
a) Bravais lattice (a.k.a. a lattice in math!)

all points have the same environment

$$2d: \Lambda = \left\{ \vec{n} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2; (n_1, n_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 \right\}$$

$$3d: \Lambda = \left\{ \vec{n} = n_1 \vec{a}_1 + n_2 \vec{a}_2 + n_3 \vec{a}_3; (n_1, n_2, n_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \right\}$$

\vec{a}_i : primitive lattice vectors (not unique!)

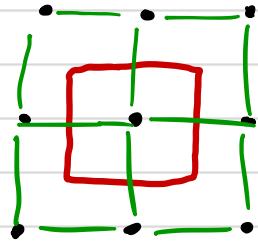
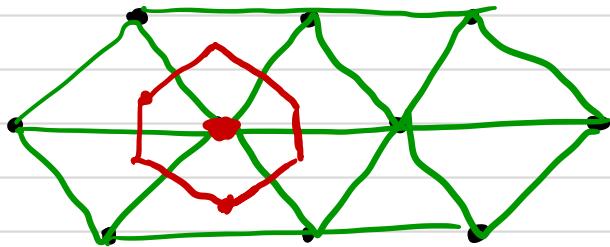


$$V = |\vec{a}_1 \cdot (\vec{a}_2 \times \vec{a}_3)| = 1/n$$

n: density of lattice points

• ∃ unique primitive cell which respects the symmetry of the lattice: Voronoi-Schitz (Voronoi) cell:

Region of space such that origin is the closest lattice point
 ↑
 reference site



Bravais lattices can be classified (Bravais lattices are considered equivalent if they share the same symmetry group)

2:27 PM Thu Jan 14

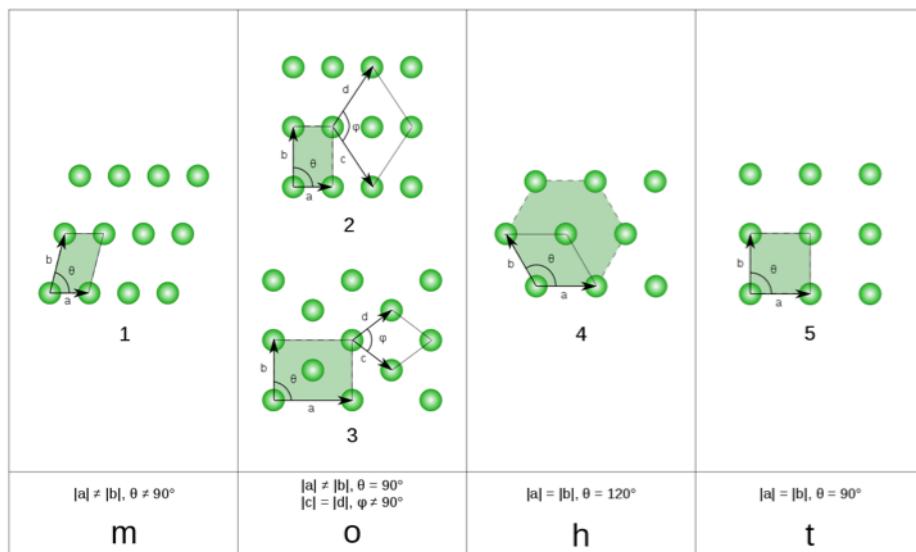
en.m.wikipedia.org

100%

^ In 2 dimensions

Further information: [Lattice \(group\)](#)

Note: In the following diagrams the lattice points are depicted using green circles and the unit cells are depicted using parallelograms (which may be squares or rectangles) outlined in black. Although each of the four corners of each parallelogram connects to a lattice point, only one of the four lattice points technically belongs to a given unit cell and each of the other three lattice points belongs to one of the adjacent unit cells. This can be seen by imagining moving the unit cell parallelogram slightly left and slightly down while leaving all the green circles of the lattice points fixed.



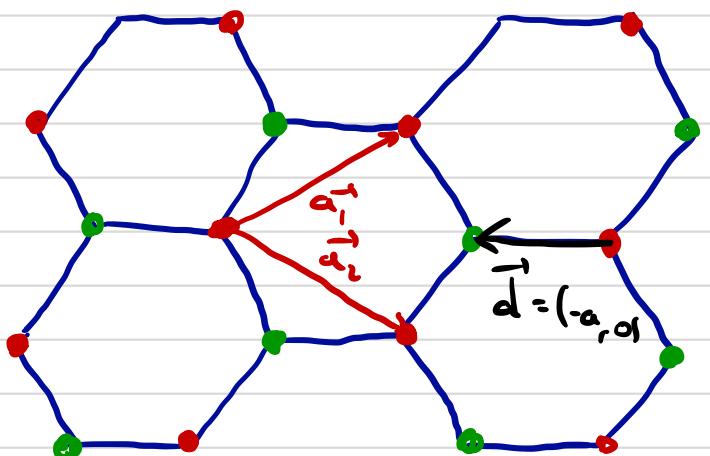
1 – oblique (monoclinic), 2 – rectangular (orthorhombic), 3 – centered rectangular (orthorhombic), 4 – hexagonal, and 5 – square (tetragonal).

In two-dimensional space, there are 5 Bravais lattices, [4] grouped into four crystal families.

Crystal family	Point group (Schönflies notation)	5 Bravais lattices	
		Primitive	Centered
Monoclinic	C ₂	Oblique	
Orthorhombic	D ₂	Rectangular	Centered rectangular
Hexagonal	D ₆	Hexagonal	
Tetragonal	D ₄	Square	

Non - Bravais lattices : Honeycomb lattice

(see graphene later)



Not all points are equivalent!

BUT:

= "Basis"

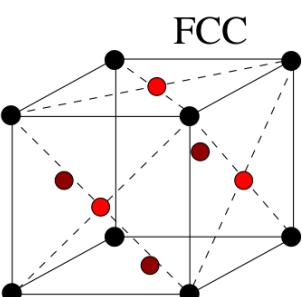
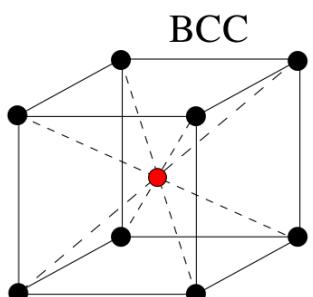
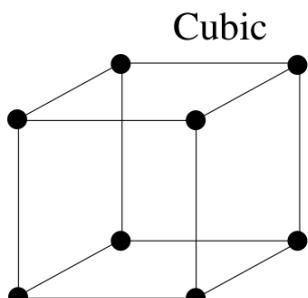
+ underlying triangular Bravais lattice

Red points live on Bravais lattice + translation by \vec{d}_i vectors (basis). Here $\vec{d}_i = \vec{d} = (-a, 0)$ to get green points

Important 3D examples:

Cubic: $\vec{a}_1 = a \vec{e}_x$, $\vec{a}_2 = a \vec{e}_y$, $\vec{a}_3 = a \vec{e}_z$

$V = a^3$, Wigner-Seitz cell = cube



Body-Centred Cubic (BCC):

$$\vec{a}_1 = a \vec{e}_x \quad \vec{a}_2 = a \vec{e}_y \quad \vec{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2} (\vec{e}_x + \vec{e}_y + \vec{e}_z)$$

$$V = a^3/2$$

Face Centred cubic (FCC):

$$\vec{a}_1 = \frac{a}{2} (\vec{e}_y + \vec{e}_z) \quad \vec{a}_2 = \frac{a}{2} (\vec{e}_x + \vec{e}_z) \quad \vec{a}_3 = \frac{a}{2} (\vec{e}_x + \vec{e}_y)$$

$$V = a^3/4$$

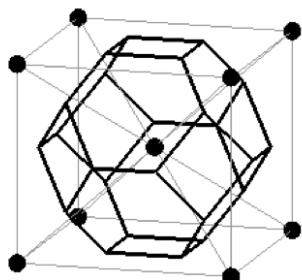


Figure 25: Wigner-Seitz cell for BCC

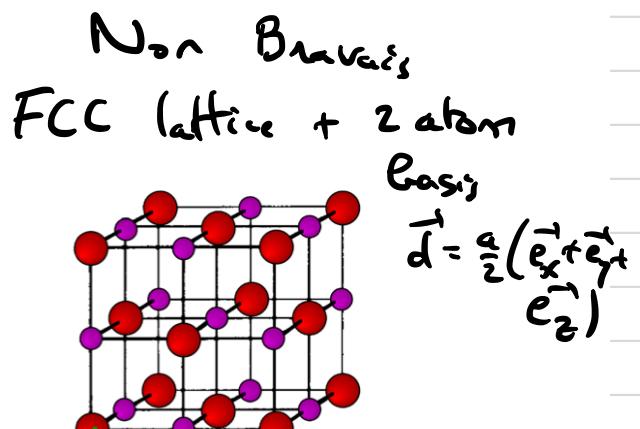


Figure 26: Salt. NaCl

(b) Reciprocal lattice

$$\Lambda^* = \left\{ \vec{k} = \sum_{i=1}^d n_i \vec{e}_i ; \quad n_i \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

with

$$\vec{a}_i \cdot \vec{b}_j = 2\pi \delta_{ij}$$

in 3d:

$$\vec{b}_i = \frac{2\pi}{V} \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \vec{a}_j \times \vec{a}_k$$

(Check this!)

$$(\Lambda^*)^* = \Lambda \text{ with: } \vec{a}_i = \frac{2\pi}{V^*} \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \vec{b}_j \times \vec{b}_k$$

$$V^* = |\vec{b}_1 \cdot (\vec{b}_2 \times \vec{b}_3)| = (2\pi)^3 / V$$

We have:

$$e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{\pi}} = 1$$

$\forall \vec{\pi} \in \Lambda, \vec{k} \in \Lambda^*$

Ex: Cubic lattice $\vec{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $\vec{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ $\vec{a}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$

$$\vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{b}_3 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

BCC: $\vec{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -a/2 \\ a/2 \\ a/2 \end{pmatrix}$ $\vec{a}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a/2 \\ -a/2 \\ a/2 \end{pmatrix}$ $\vec{a}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} a/2 \\ a/2 \\ -a/2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\vec{b}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \vec{a}_1 \times \vec{a}_3 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{b}_2 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{b}_3 = \frac{2\pi}{a} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

\rightarrow reciprocal lattice = FCC.

Fourier space: $[\vec{b}_i] = 1/\text{length}$: "Momentum space"

Take a periodic function $f(\vec{x} + \vec{\pi}) = f(\vec{x})$
 $\forall \vec{\pi} \in \Lambda$

$$\hat{f}(\vec{k}) = \int d^3x e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} f(\vec{x}) = \sum_{\vec{\pi} \in \Lambda} \int_{\Gamma} d^3x e^{-i\vec{k}(\vec{x}+\vec{\pi})} f(\vec{x}+\vec{\pi})$$

$$= \sum_{\vec{\pi} \in \Lambda} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{\pi}} \int_{\Gamma} d^3x e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} f(\vec{x})$$

Wigner-Seitz cell

$\Delta(\vec{k})$ $S(k)$: Fourier coefficients
"Structure factor"

We have $\Delta(\vec{k}) = 0$ unless $\vec{k} \in \Lambda^*$.

Prob: $\Delta(\vec{k}) = \sum_{\vec{\pi} \in \Lambda} e^{-i\vec{k}(\vec{\pi}-\vec{\pi}_0)} = e^{i\vec{k}\vec{\pi}_0}$ $\Delta(\vec{k})$
 arbitrary $\vec{\pi}_0 \in \Lambda$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta(\vec{k}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{\pi}_0} = 1 \Leftrightarrow \vec{k} \in \Lambda^*$$

Take $\vec{k} = \sum_{i=1}^3 k_i \vec{b}_i$ $\vec{\pi} = \sum_{i=1}^3 n_i \vec{b}_i \in \Lambda$

$k_i \in \mathbb{R}$ $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$
 $(k_i \text{ integers} \Leftrightarrow \vec{k} \in \Lambda^*)$

$$\Delta(\vec{k}) = \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3} e^{-i2\pi(k_1 n_1 + k_2 n_2 + k_3 n_3)}$$

$$= \sigma(k_1) \sigma(k_2) \sigma(k_3)$$

Fourier decomposition of Dirac Comb

$$\sigma(k) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-2\pi i k n} \stackrel{!}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta(k - n)$$

Forces $k_i \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\Delta(\vec{k}) = \sum_{\vec{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^3} \delta(k_1 - n_1) \delta(k_2 - n_2) \delta(k_3 - n_3)$$

$$= V^* \sum_{\vec{q} \in \Lambda^*} \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{q})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{in 1d: } \Delta(k) &= \sum_{\vec{n} \in \Lambda} e^{-i \vec{k} \cdot \vec{n}} = \sum_n e^{-2\pi i k n} = \sum_n \delta(k - n) \\ &\quad \vec{k} = k \vec{\ell} \\ &\quad \vec{n} = n \vec{\alpha} \quad \vec{\alpha} \cdot \vec{\ell} = 2\pi \\ &= |\vec{\ell}| \sum \delta(k \vec{\ell} - n \vec{\ell}) \\ &= V^* \sum_{\vec{q} \in \Lambda^*} \delta(\vec{k} - \vec{q}) \end{aligned}$$

. Inverse FT: $\beta(\vec{x}) = \underbrace{\int \frac{d^3 \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \hat{\beta}(\vec{k})}_{\Delta(\vec{k}) S(\vec{k})}$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\beta(\vec{x}) = \frac{V^*}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_{\vec{q} \in \Lambda^*} e^{i \vec{q} \cdot \vec{x}} S(\vec{q})}$$

Generalized Fourier Series