# PHY 555 Solid State Physics or Condensed Matter Physics

# Marvin L. Cohen and Steven G. Louie Fundamentals of CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS

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# **Course Grading**

in line with homeworks. Each exam will be only 25% of the course. Homework will be another 50% of the course. At the end of the semester there will also be a journal club style available. This will be graded as a homework.

Assignments : 50% Every second week (7 assignments, Brightspace) Midterm I : 25% Date TBD

- There will be one midterm and a final exam. Midterm will be a short (1.5 h long) exam. The final exam will cover everything. Exams will be very much
- presentation on a paper chosen by you, from a list of papers I will make
- Final: 25% (can replace grade of MT1 or MT2 whichever is lower).

Result of interactions between  $\sim 10^{23}$  atoms yield a geometric structure that maintains its shape.

> How can we understand the properties of a solid in terms of its atomic composition and geometric structure?

Structure + Composition

## What is a solid?

•Structural properties (mechanical properties, crystal

structure, surfaces...)

•Electrical properties (resistivity, conductivity, I/V characteristics, Hall effect)

•Thermal properties (specific heat, thermal conductivity)

•Optical properties (color, response to EM fields)

### Bonding properties of solids: How much of the individual atom is kept?



Metallic



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.1

# Molecular

Solid	
Insulator	(
Semiconductor	
Metal	
Superconductor	

Well, we can use a theory of everything, we know the equation for it!

Just considering electrical properties there is a huge variation



$$H = \sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^2}{2M_{\alpha}} + \sum_{i} \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha} Z_{\beta} e^2}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^2}{|r_i - r_j|} - \sum_{i\alpha} \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^2}{|R_{\alpha} - r_i|}$$

Ground-state energy (without  $E_{ionic}$ 

- $\psi_0 = \psi_0[r_1\sigma_1, ..., r_N\sigma_N]$  antisymmetric

• 
$$n(r) = \rho(r) = \langle \psi_0 | \sum_i \delta(r - r)$$

• 
$$\rho_2(r,r') = \langle \psi_0 | \sum_{i \neq j} \delta(r-r_i)$$

**Problem:** We don't know  $\psi_0$ ! We could use variational principle. However with  $\psi = \psi[r_1\sigma_1, ..., r_N\sigma_N]$ , calculating  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle$  would require  $(ngrid)^{3N} \sim 10^{30}$  operations (for small molecule). With  $10^{12}$  flops machine  $\implies$ centuries. **↑** 

Note 2018: tera, peta, exa... 10<sup>18</sup>... still years for realistic systems.

c): 
$$E_0 = \langle \psi_0 | H | \psi_0 \rangle$$
 with:

•  $|\psi_0[r_1\sigma_1, ..., r_N\sigma_N)|^2 dr_1 ... dr_N$  probability of finding electron i in  $[\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_i + d\mathbf{r}_i]$ .

 $\psi_i = \psi_0$  charge density

 $\delta(r' - r_i)|\psi_0 > \text{density of pairs, etc.}$ 



"The general theory of quantum mechanics is now almost complete. The underlying physical laws necessary for the mathematical theory of a large part of physics and the whole of chemistry are thus completely known, and the difficulty is only that the exact application of these laws leads to equations much too complicated to be soluble."

Dirac, 1929

# Elementary excitation model

Description of solids in the elementary excitation model: Excitations can emerge when the system is not in the ground state. We need to know the energy spectrum and the density of states (i.e statistics of the system, fermions or bosons)

Interaction among different excitations: How they appear, disappear and interact with external probes

Quasiparticles (usually fermions) not too different from the excited states of the particles they arise from

Collective excitations (usually bosons): very different from the underlying particles excitations.

Generalized harmonic oscillators (2nd Quantization)



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.2

# Quasiparticles

- Quasielectrons: or electrons. Particles that behave like non-interacting electrons in low lying excited states. Fermions. Ex. Electrons in solids (mass renormalization of free electron). Typical excitation energies are of the order of coulomb energy of 2 e on a lattice of lattice parameter a ( $e^2/a \sim 5 eV$ ). typical v  $\sim (e^2/am)^{1/2} \sim 10^8 cm/s$
- Hole: opposite charge of a quasilectron
- **Phonon**: Collective excitation of the lattice (boson). wave vector q, polarization mode and energy h $\omega$ . Energies of order of K<sub>b</sub>T<sub>D</sub> (Td room T, 300K, so energies of order of meV)
- **Plasmon**: Collective excitation (boson) of the electrons (charge density fluctuation) Wave vector q and energy of order of classical plasma energy:  $h\omega_p \sim 10 \text{ eV}$  for metals but can be much smaller if electron density n is small ( $h\omega_p = h(4\pi ne^2 / m)^{(1/2)}$
- Magnon: Collective excitation of spins (spin waves). Energies of ~0.0001 eV, but can be as high as 0.1 eV)
- **Polaron**: Type of quasilectron Electron+lattice deformation. Very heavy electron. Can be though as a phonon dressed electron. Binding energies ~ 10-100 meV
- Exciton: Bound state of a quasilectron and a hole. Binding energies of 0.025 eV. Typical in semiconductors and insulators.
- Superconducting quasiparticle: Fermions, electronic excited states of a superconductor (cooper particles or Bogoliubons). Linear combination of electrons and holes. Energies ~ Tc ~ 10<sup>-5-</sup>10<sup>-2</sup> eV



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.5

# Dispersion curves



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.3





MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.4

# Interactions among quasiparticles: quasiparticle-boson



Electron-photon

Electron-phonon

Electron-plasmon

MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.7

# Interactions among quasiparticles: quasiparticle-boson



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.6

Electron (k) emits a photon (-q) scattering into k+q

Electron (k) absorbs a photon (q) scattering into k+q

Hole (-k-q) emits a photon (-q) scattering into -k

Hole (-k-q) absorbs a photon (q) scattering into -k

photon (q) creates an electron k+q and hole -k

```
electron (k+q) and hole (-k) recombine or annihilate into photon (q)
```

# Interactions among quasiparticles: quasiparticlequasiparticle interactions



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.8

Electron self energy (k) emits and absorbs a phonon (q)

Electron self energy (k) emits and absorbs a plasmon (q)

Electron-electron Coulomb interaction or photon exchange

Electron-electron interaction via phonon exchange

**Electron-hole Coulomb interaction** 

# Interactions among quasiparticles: collective excitation interactions





MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.9

phonon-phonon scattering

phonon self energy caused by electron-hole creation and destruction.

# Interactions among quasiparticles: collective excitation interactions



Couple modes from bare collective excitations



MarvinCohen\_Fig.1.10

eq. for the solid:

Separate the ionic problem for the electronic problem

$$\begin{split} H &= \sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^2}{2M_{\alpha}} + \sum_{i} \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + 1/2 \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha} Z_{\beta} e^2}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} + 1/2 \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^2}{|r_i - r_j|} - \sum_{i\alpha} \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^2}{|R_{\alpha} - r_i|} \\ H &= H_e + H_{ion} \\ H_{ion} &= \sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^2}{2M_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha} Z_{\beta} e^2}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} \\ H_e &= \sum_{i} \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq i} \frac{e^2}{|r_i - r_j|} - \sum_{\alpha i} \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^2}{|r_i - R_{\alpha}|} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \sum_{i} \frac{p_{i}^{2}}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha} Z_{\beta} e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|r_{i} - r_{j}|} - \sum_{i\alpha} \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - r_{i}|} \\ H &= H_{e} + H_{ion} \\ H_{ion} &= \sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^{2}}{2M_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha \neq \beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha} Z_{\beta} e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} \\ \frac{p_{i}^{2}}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq i} \frac{e^{2}}{|r_{i} - r_{j}|} - \sum_{\alpha \neq i} \frac{Z_{\alpha} e^{2}}{|r_{i} - R_{\alpha}|} \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^{2}}{2M_{\alpha}} + \sum_{i} \frac{p_{i}^{2}}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha\neq\beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha}Z_{\beta}e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i\neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|r_{i} - r_{j}|} - \sum_{i\alpha} \frac{Z_{\alpha}e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - r_{i}|} \\ H = H_{e} + H_{ion} \\ H_{ion} = \sum_{\alpha} \frac{p_{\alpha}^{2}}{2M_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha\neq\beta} \frac{Z_{\alpha}Z_{\beta}e^{2}}{|R_{\alpha} - R_{\beta}|} \\ H_{e} = \sum_{i} \frac{p_{i}^{2}}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i\neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|r_{i} - r_{j}|} - \sum_{\alpha i} \frac{Z_{\alpha}e^{2}}{|r_{i} - R_{\alpha}|} \end{split}$$

1/M is our small parameter; Kin energy of nuclei is a perturbation in our hamiltonian, the wave function of the coupled system are linear combinations of electronic states that depend parametrically on R. These are the so called adiabatic states.

$$H_{ion}\Psi = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\frac{\partial}{\partial R^2}(\phi(R$$

### There are many approximations that we can use to simplify the Sc.

### •Adiabatic approximation (Born-Oppenheimer) M>>m (Ziman, P. 200)

$$\Psi = \phi_e(R, r)\chi(R)$$
$$H_e \Psi = \chi(R)E_e(R)\phi(R, r)$$

 $(R, r)\chi(R) + V_{ion}(R)(\phi(R, r)\chi(R))$ 

 $H\Psi = \phi(r,R) \{-\sum_{\alpha} \frac{\hbar^2 \partial^2}{2M \partial R_{\alpha}^2} + E_e(R) + V_i on(R) \} \chi(R) - \sum_{\alpha} \frac{\hbar^2}{2M} (2\frac{\partial \chi}{\partial R_{\alpha}} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial R_{\alpha}} + \chi(R)\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial R^2})$  $H\Psi = \epsilon \Psi$  $H_{ion}^{new} \chi(R) = \epsilon \chi(R)$ Where H<sub>ion</sub><sup>new</sup> is an eq. for a wave function of the ions alone. This is the basic equation for the calculation of

M~10<sup>4</sup> m, so the approximation is very good. But we are ignoring electronic transitions induced by the ionic motion (ephonon interactions, which give rise to non diagonal terms in the Total Hamiltonian!)

The reduction of the Full wave function to an expression of the type:

is not completely correct, because, even if the system was initially prepared in a pure state like the above one, the off diagonal terms will mix (excite) the different electronic eigenstates along the temporal evolution.

phonons in the adiabatic approximation.

 $\Psi(R,r) = \chi(R)\phi(R;r)$ 

# Wave function decoupled, Classical nuclei

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i} -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_e} \nabla_i^2 + \sum_{\alpha} -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M_\alpha} \nabla_{\alpha}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2M_\alpha} \nabla_{\alpha}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2$$

## Electrons





Nuclei

$$\vec{F}_{\alpha} + E_{n}^{el}\left(\{\vec{R}_{\alpha}\}\right)$$
amics
$$\vec{F}_{\alpha} = -\frac{\partial E_{0}^{el}\left(\{\vec{R}_{\mu}\}\right)}{\partial \vec{R}_{\alpha}}$$