STEFANO CURTA ROW

- BLOCK THEORY
- SCHRODINGER IN HOM. SMICE
- BANDS
- GROUP VELOCITIES
- EFFECTIVE MASSES
- DENSITIES OF LEVELS
- BRILLOUIN ZONES

QMPS 1 - QMPS 2 BG1- BG20

BLOCK THEOREH

then it is possible to find a basis of sequectors with are eigenvectors of both aperotor of the same time.

=> basis => eleverts } Ym }

H Yn = En Yn & In eigenectors (functions)
Te Yn = C(R) Yn oh H, Te

QHPS 1

$$T_{R} \cdot T_{R} + (a) = T_{R} \cdot C(R) + (a) = C(R) \cdot C(R) + (a)$$

$$C(R) + (a)$$

$$R \rightarrow R + R + R + R \Rightarrow T_{R} \cdot T_{R} \cdot T_{R} = T_{R} + R \Rightarrow T_{R} \cdot T_{R} \cdot T_{R} + R \Rightarrow T_{R} \cdot T_{R} \cdot T_{R} + R \Rightarrow T_{R} \cdot T_{R} \cdot$$

BERIODIC.

() MPS 7

SCHRÖDINGER IN MOMENTUM SPACE

TRUE HAMILTONIAN

$$\hat{H}\phi = \left[\frac{1}{2} \hat{T}_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{T}_{i} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}{\sqrt{|r_{i} - r_{i}|}}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{|r_{i}$$

=) given ions position, election follow mue diotely

Wrong but occeptable $\left[\sum_{i} \hat{T}_{i} + \sum_{i,j} V_{eI}(r_{i} - P_{i}) \right] + (r_{1} R_{2}, R_{3} ... t) \qquad P(r_{i}, R_{i}, ...) = P(r_{$ AFTER SPIN APPROX, The electrons over decoupled) $\Rightarrow t = t(r, t) t(r, t) \dots$

ell woltreel [T: + = Ver (2: - Ri)] + = +ihqy

SINGLE ELECTRON SCHROEDINGER EQUATION

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{t^2}{2m} & = 2 \\ \frac{1}{2m} & = 2 \\$$



s & solution every K= n 2+ ... ect ...

BORN-VON KARMAN PERIODIC SOLID (CUBE) L -> 00

$$V_G = \frac{1}{V_{all}} \int_{V_{all}} d^3r \, V(z) e^{-iG\bar{r}}$$

Gef(
$$u, b_1, m_2 b_2, m_3 b_3$$
)

Labic

 $\left\{\left(m, \frac{2H}{\alpha}, m_2 \frac{2m}{\alpha}, m_3 \frac{2m}{\alpha}\right)\right\}$

KINETIC

POTENTIAL

V(2)
$$\psi(2) = \left(\sum_{G \in RL} V_{G} e^{iGR}\right) \left(\sum_{K \in KS} V_{G} C_{K} e^{i(K+G)}R\right) =$$

$$= \sum_{G \in RL} V_{G} C_{K} e^{i(K+G)}R$$

$$= \sum_{K \in KS} \sum_{K = K'-G} K' = \sum_{K' \in K} K' = \sum$$

SCHROEDINGER: +4+ Vy = Ey

MORE COMPACT FORM.

$$\sum_{K \in KS} e^{iKn} \left[\frac{k^2 k^2}{2m} - E \right] c_K + \sum_{G \in RL} \sqrt{G c_{K-G}} = 0$$

PLANE WAVES our Free portules > solution at free particles operator = orthogonal set

$$\left(\frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m} - E\right) C_K + \sum_{G \in RL} V_G C_{K-G} = 0 \quad \forall K \in KS$$

charge with vario ble know KEKS Brickour some

$$\left(\frac{h}{2m}\left(\kappa-Q\right)^{2}-E\right)C_{\kappa-Q}+\sum_{G\in\mathbb{R},L}V_{G-Q}C_{\kappa-G}=0$$

$$\forall\kappa\in\text{BRILLOUN ZONE}(BZ)$$

YOERL AS MISS SCHROBOLUGER YOER L

N = number ch onit cells in HOW MANY! MACROSCOPIC SOLID # K BRILLOUIN: () = x - q + \(\gamma \) \(\sigma \) = q \(\cap \) \(\sigma \) \(V-Q CK + CK-G' VG'-Q + CK-G" VG"-Q" LINEAR COUPLING ()+Vo Vo-Q Vo-Q (CK-6'-Q) Vo-Q ()+Vo Vo-Q (CK #RL = () Vi-Q Vo-Q ()+Vo (CK-6'+Q () 1 Hours K un one reuproval lottin proble =) If luxor equations between Ck, Ck-19, Ck-29. all the c with unless that deffer of points VKm Biz. => get N luor equotions in ReL betuen Cx, Gx+Q Yqui R.L

BG. 5

EQUATION

$$\left(\frac{h^{2}(\kappa-Q)^{2}-E}{2m}\right)C_{\kappa-Q}+\frac{\sum_{k=Q}V_{k-Q}C_{k-Q}C_{k-Q}}{6eR.L}$$
SOLUTIONS ARE

CONTINOUS U

spon > VKEBR (K-Q)2 s expected!

at the barole

System of equotions in 2 Cm, Cm+0, Cm+20. } where whitery slifter the R.L.

9)
$$+(2) = \sum_{k \in ks} c_k e^{ik \cdot n} = \sum_{k \in RL} c_{k-\sigma} e^{i(\kappa-\sigma)n} = \sum_{k \in RL} c_{k}$$

$$\Rightarrow \forall \kappa(r) = \sum_{G \in RL} C_{\kappa-G} e^{i(\kappa-G)r}$$

$$\downarrow e^{i\kappa r} \sum_{G \in RL} C_{\kappa-G} e^{-iGr}$$

Z (x) -> Z (x-G) KEMS KEMS SBZ GERL

Reverber The Block

inder ch solution

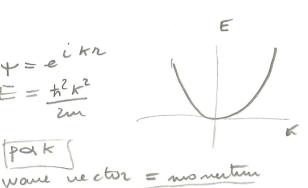
PERIODIC

$$u_{m\kappa}(x+R) = \sum_{G \in RL} C_{m,\kappa-G} e^{-iG\cdot R} = iGR$$

$$1 \quad R \in BL$$

$$G \in RL$$

FREE ELECTRONS



YNEBZ YOER.L

FREE ECECTRON IN SOMETHING PERIODIC

$$4th \left(\frac{h^2}{2m}(k-Q)^2-E\right)Ck-Q=0$$

$$E = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\kappa - Q)^2$$

Solutions

YMK

perusolic eign votus En (K+G) = En (h)

n R.L. Lesquectors YMK+6(R)= YMK(2)

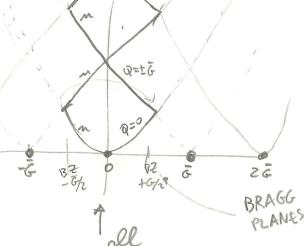
$$\hat{p} = -i \pi \nabla \Rightarrow$$

= the eine - ite che Tunk.

-2G

in the of Scheika (hk-it V) wax

=> SCH EQ for u is sumber to y but with



information is a B.Z.

P= monetun

k= crystol nonatur which is not a

"two te trous monter"

but with

to (K-iV) ustwood ch-itv

BG7
$$= \frac{1^2}{2m} \left(\frac{1}{k-i} \nabla \right)^2 + \sqrt{2} \quad \text{in } \left(\frac{1}{k} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1}{k} \right)^2 + \sqrt{2} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1}{k} \right) + \sqrt{2} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left($$

=) rewrite in How spoke and VKEBZ VPERL

=> SOLUTION ARE continuous and Durioble YKEB.Z.

Non vousding mean elocity

Nn (4) = 1 7 En (4)

 $\left(\frac{k}{m}\right)_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 E_{mk}}{\partial k_i \partial k_j}$

Effecture wars =>

=) frost

MEAN

forever in & direction in thout alegoods hom!

NON FREE ELECTRONS SONETHING PERIODIC (NEARLY FREE) (th (h-p) 2-E) CH-Q+ 2 VG-QCH-QES
KEBZ, QER.L (the k2-E) CH + E VG CK-G=0 HKEKS 1 D ~ moor border B. Z. + G* -16# -6# 6 G/ 26# Z parobulo highing, the are storting from o (E(4)) end the other storting from 6th) E (6th - K))
which is the one
translated from 6th) NEARLY FREE = weath political Va respectly decoupy. => VG+K << VG (Vn) V6n1 E(t) against E(-tx) ormal B.2 -K12-G1/2 Vo not necessary $\left(\frac{h^2}{2m}\left(\frac{G^*}{2}\right)^2 - \epsilon\right) < \frac{h^2}{2m} \left(\frac{G^*}{2}\right)^2 - \epsilon$

$$\left(\frac{h^{2}}{2m}\left(\frac{-G^{2}}{2}\right)^{2}-E\right) * C_{-G^{2}/2} + V_{-G^{+}} C_{-G^{+}+G^{+}} = 0$$

 $E(\pm G^*) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(\pm \frac{G^*}{2}\right)^2 V_{-G^*} = V_{G^*}$ because V_{reol} V_{G} outs simetric

nest boul Frank HZ MAR GAP

BG 10

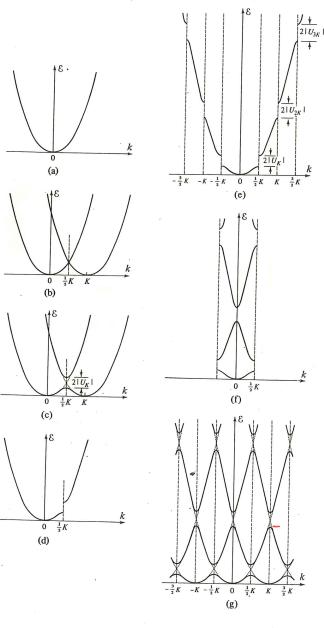


Figure 9.4

(a) The free electron & vs. kparabola in one dimension. (b) Step 1 in the construction to determine the distortion in the free electron parabola in the neighborhood of a Bragg "plane," due to a weak periodic potential. If the Bragg "plane" is that determined by K, a second free electron parabola is drawn, centered on K. (c) Step 2 in the construction to determine the distortion in the free electron parabola in the neighborhood of a Bragg "plane." The degeneracy of the two parabolas at K/2is split. (d) Those portions of part (c) corresponding to the original free electron parabola given in (a). (e) Effect of all additional Bragg "planes" on the free electron parabola. This particular way of displaying the electronic levels in a periodic potential is known as the extended-zone scheme. (f) The levels of (e), displayed in a reduced-zone scheme. (g) Free electron levels of (e) or (f) in a repeated-zone scheme.

One can also emphasize the periodicity of the labeling in k-space by periodically extending Figure 9.4f throughout all of k-space to arrive at Figure 9.4g, which emphasizes that a particular level at k can be described by any wave vector differing from k by a reciprocal lattice vector. This representation is the *repeated-zone scheme* (see page 142). The reduced-zone scheme indexes each level with a k lying in the first zone, while the extended-zone scheme uses a labeling emphasizing continuity with the free electron levels. The repeated-zone scheme is the most general representation,

DENSITY OF LEVELS

BORN-VON KARMAN

if I need a quantity

Q=> < Q>= average over all states

$$Q = 2 \sum_{K \in K. \text{Spece}} Q(\kappa) \longrightarrow Q = 2 \int_{Q(\kappa)} \frac{d^3\kappa}{2} Q(\kappa) \longrightarrow \int_{Q(\kappa)} Q(\kappa) d\epsilon$$
Spin

For until volume

chelections

> IN PERIODIC POTENTIAL

$$\int \frac{d^3k}{(2u)^3} \sum_{n} Q_n(u)$$

 $Q = \langle Q \rangle = 2 \sum_{m, k \in B2} Q(k) \rightarrow 2 \int_{(2n)^2}^{B2} Q_m(k)$

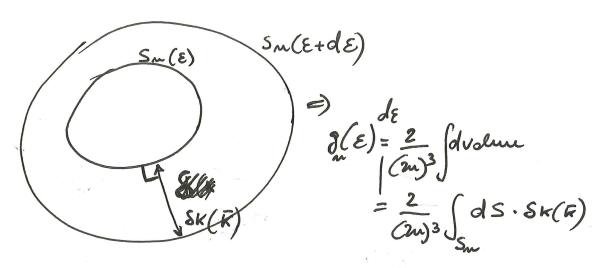
Ju (E) gette de En (4) to that are is idutical to E

$$g_m(\varepsilon) \equiv \int_{\varepsilon} \frac{d^3k}{(2u)^3} \delta(\varepsilon \varepsilon_m \varepsilon_m)$$

BETTER WAY (PHYSICS)

$$g_{n}(\varepsilon)d\varepsilon = \frac{2}{V} \cdot \begin{cases} \# \text{ of ollowed wone vector} \\ \text{in the noth bound in energy} \end{cases}$$
 p_{n} unit s_{n} course $s_{n} \rightarrow s_{n}$ between s_{n} s_{n} that s_{n} that s_{n} $s_$

dE-> > value becomes surpose times dE



&KLds => S= S(E=contout)

=) $\nabla_{K} \mathcal{E} = \text{vector } \mathbf{L}$ to S with magnitum sopial to scote of change $d\mathcal{E}$ along d direction with mignitude dK = 0 $\mathcal{E} + d\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E} + |\nabla_{K} \mathcal{E}_{M}(K)| SK(K) \Rightarrow SK = \frac{d\mathcal{E}}{|\nabla_{K} \mathcal{E}_{M}(K)|} \Rightarrow$

$$g_{m}(\varepsilon) = \int \frac{ds}{(4u)^{2}} \frac{d\varepsilon}{|\nabla_{K}\varepsilon_{m}|}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int g_{m}(\varepsilon) = 2 \int \frac{ds}{(4u)^{3}} \frac{1}{|\nabla_{K}\varepsilon_{m}(w)|}$$
two about start integrable.

$$|\nabla_{K}\varepsilon| = 0 \quad \text{ with right ℓ "objection"}$$
and right "mognitude"
$$g(\varepsilon) = \frac{m}{\hbar^{2}h^{2}} \sqrt{\frac{2m\varepsilon}{\hbar^{2}}} \quad \varepsilon > 0$$

$$|\nabla_{K}\varepsilon| = 0 \quad \text{ var Home singularities}$$

tructed by noting

tors (8.58)nge

y range is just the ed by the volume

(8.59)

integral. Let $S_n(\mathcal{E})$ cell, and let $\delta k(\mathbf{k})$ $+ d\varepsilon$) at the point

(8.60)

instruction expressed two constant-energy tween them (shaded), particular k.

surface of constant urface whose magction; i.e.,

(8.61)

(8.62)

(8.63)

the band structure.

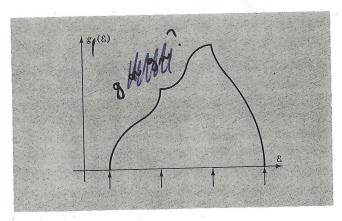
Equation (8.63) and the analysis leading to it will be applied in subsequent chapters.²⁷ Here we only note the following quite general property of the density of levels:

Because $\mathcal{E}_n(\mathbf{k})$ is periodic in the reciprocal lattice, bounded above and below for each n, and, in general, everywhere differentiable, there must be values of k in each primitive cell at which $|\nabla \mathcal{E}| = 0$. For example, the gradient of a differentiable function vanishes at local maxima and minima, but the boundedness and periodicity of each $\mathcal{E}_n(\mathbf{k})$ insure that for each n there will be at least one maximum and minimum in each primitive cell.28

When the gradient of ε_n vanishes, the integrand in the density of levels (8.63) diverges. It can be shown that in three dimensions²⁹ such singularities are integrable, yielding finite values for g_n . However, they do result in divergences of the slope, $dg_n/d\varepsilon$. These are known as van Hove singularities.³⁰ They occur at values of ε for which the constant energy surface $S_n(\mathcal{E})$ contains points at which $\nabla \mathcal{E}_n(\mathbf{k})$ vanishes. Since derivatives of the density of levels at the Fermi energy enter into all terms but the first in the Sommerfeld expansion,³¹ one must be on guard for anomalies in lowtemperature behavior if there are points of vanishing $\nabla \mathcal{E}_n(\mathbf{k})$ on the Fermi surface.

Typical van Hove singularities are shown in Figure 8.3 and are examined in Problem 2, Chapter 9.

Figure 8.3 Characteristic van Hove singularities in the density of levels, indicated by arrows at right angles to the &-axis.



This concludes our discussion of the general features of one-electron levels in a periodic potential.³² In the following two chapters we consider two very important, but quite different, limiting cases, which provide concrete illustrations of the rather abstract discussions in this chapter.

In one dimension $g_n(\mathcal{E})$ itself will be infinite at a van Hove singularity.

See, for example, Problem 2f, Chapter 2.

136-14

A very general analysis of how many points of vanishing gradient must occur is fairly complex. See, for example, G. Weinreich, Solids, Wiley, New York, 1965, pp. 73-79.

Essentially the same singularities occur in the theory of lattice vibrations. See Chapter 23.

Problem 1 pursues the general analysis somewhat further in the tractable but somewhat misleading case of a one-dimensional periodic potential.

Figure 9.4

(a) The free electron \mathcal{E} vs. kparabola in one dimension. (b) Step 1 in the construction to determine the distortion in the free electron parabola in the neighborhood of a Bragg "plane," due to a weak periodic potential. If the Bragg "plane" is that determined by K, a second free electron parabola is drawn, centered on K. (c) Step 2 in the construction to determine the distortion in the free electron parabola in the neighborhood of a Bragg "plane." The degeneracy of the two parabolas at K/2is split. (d) Those portions of part (c) corresponding to the original free electron parabola given in (a). (e) Effect of all additional Bragg "planes" on the free electron parabola. This particular way of displaying the electronic levels in a periodic potential is known as the extended-zone scheme. (f) The levels of (e), displayed in a reduced-zone scheme. (g) Free electron levels of (e) or (f) in a repeated-zone scheme.

ng in k-space by periodically re at Figure 9.4g, which empty any wave vector differing 1 is the repeated-zone scheme evel with a k lying in the first emphasizing continuity with most general representation,

but is highly redundant, since the same level is shown many times, for all equivalent wave vectors $k, k \pm K, k \pm 2K, \ldots$

ENERGY-WAVE-VECTOR CURVES IN THREE DIMENSIONS

In three dimensions the structure of the energy bands is sometimes displayed by plotting \mathcal{E} vs. \mathbf{k} along particular straight lines in k-space. Such curves are generally shown in a reduced-zone scheme, since for general directions in k-space they are not periodic. Even in the completely free electron approximation these curves are surprisingly complex. An example is shown in Figure 9.5, which was constructed by plotting, as \mathbf{k} varied along the particular lines shown, the values of $\mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{K}}^0 = \hbar^2(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{K})^2/2m$ for all reciprocal lattice vectors \mathbf{K} close enough to the origin to lead to energies lower than the top of the vertical scale.

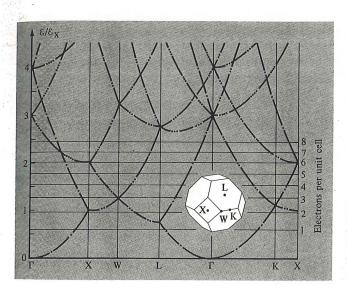


Figure 9.5

Free electron energy levels for an fcc Bravais lattice. The energies are plotted along lines in the first Brillouin zone joining the points $\Gamma(\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0})$, K, L, W, and X. \mathcal{E}_{x} is the energy at point X $(\lceil \hbar^2/2m \rceil \lceil 2\pi/a \rceil^2)$. The horizontal lines give Fermi energies for the indicated numbers of electrons per primitive cell. The number of dots on a curve specifies the number of degenerate free electron levels represented by the curve. (From F. Herman, in An Atomistic Approach to the Nature and Properties of Materials, J. A. Pask, ed., Wiley, New York, 1967.)

Note that most of the curves are highly degenerate. This is because the directions along which the energy has been plotted are all lines of fairly high symmetry, so points along them are likely to be as far from several other reciprocal lattice vectors as they are from any given one. The addition of a weak periodic potential will in general remove some, but not necessarily all, of this degeneracy. The mathematical theory of groups is often used to determine how such degeneracies will be split.

THE ENERGY GAP

Quite generally, a weak periodic potential introduces an "energy gap" at Bragg planes. By this we mean the following:

BG 15

BANDS & EXCITATIONS

1) SHOW FREE ELECTRON FOR FCC.

EFFECT of weak potutuel

- NO supotestual => bree election une (ii buction ch 4)

Jesoutimity. in k and in E =>

Or every time an election comes B2 (BRAGO)

Plane)

gets a dissoutimity.

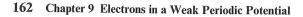
=) DEFINE Fultu B?

- (n+1) BZ is the set of pouts not in the (n-1) BZ

that con be reached from the nBZ norming & Bzogg Plane

- nBZ = set of pouts reaches the Growing n-1 Brogg plane

Show Pics.



When $U_{\rm K}=0$, as **k** crosses a Bragg plane the energy changes continuously from the lower root of (9.26) to the upper, as illustrated in Figure 9.4b. When $U_{\rm K}\neq 0$, this is no longer so. The energy only changes continuously with **k**, as the Bragg plane is crossed, if one stays with the lower (or upper) root, as illustrated in Figure 9.4c. To change branches as **k** varies continuously it is now necessary for the energy to change discontinuously by at least $2|U_{\rm K}|$.

We shall see in Chapter 12 that this mathematical separation of the two bands is reflected in a physical separation: When the action of an external field changes an electron's wave vector, the presence of the energy gap requires that upon crossing the Bragg plane, the electron must emerge in a level whose energy remains in the original branch of $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{k})$. It is this property that makes the energy gap of fundamental importance in electronic transport properties.

BRILLOUIN ZONES

Using the theory of electrons in a weak periodic potential to determine the complete band structure of a three-dimensional crystal leads to geometrical constructions of great complexity. It is often most important to determine the Fermi surface (page 141) and the behavior of the $\varepsilon_n(\mathbf{k})$ in its immediate vicinity.

In doing this for weak potentials, the procedure is first to draw the free electron Fermi sphere centered at $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{0}$. Next, one notes that the sphere will be deformed in a manner of which Figure 9.6 is characteristic¹¹ when it crosses a Bragg plane and in a correspondingly more complex way when it passes near several Bragg planes. When the effects of all Bragg planes are inserted, this leads to a representation of the Fermi surface as a fractured sphere in the extended-zone scheme. To construct the portions of the Fermi surface lying in the various bands in the repeated-zone scheme one can make a similar construction, starting with free electron spheres centered about all reciprocal lattice points. To construct the Fermi surface in the reduced-zone scheme, one can translate all the pieces of the single fractured sphere back into the first zone through reciprocal lattice vectors. This procedure is made systematic through the geometrical notion of the higher Brillouin zones.

Recall that the first Brillouin zone is the Wigner-Seitz primitive cell of the reciprocal lattice (pages 73 and 89), i.e. the set of points lying closer to K = 0 than to any other

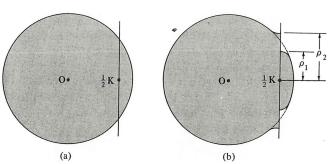


Figure 9.6

(a) Free electron sphere cutting Bragg plane located at $\frac{1}{2}$ **K** from the origin ($U_{\rm K}=0$). (b) Deformation of the free electron sphere near the Bragg plane when $U_{\rm K} \neq 0$. The constant-energy surface intersects the plane in two circles, whose radii are calculated in Problem 1.

BG 17

This follows from the demonstration on page 159 that a constant-energy surface is perpendicular to a Bragg plane when they intersect, in the nearly free electron approximation.

nanges continuously from gure 9.4b. When $U_{K} \neq 0$, with k, as the Bragg plane illustrated in Figure 9.4c. cessary for the energy to

aration of the two bands an external field changes quires that upon crossing se energy remains in the nergy gap of fundamental

o determine the complete metrical constructions of Fermi surface (page 141)

to draw the free electron sphere will be deformed rosses a Bragg plane and ear several Bragg planes. to a representation of the scheme. To construct the he repeated-zone scheme lectron spheres centered rface in the reduced-zone red sphere back into the lure is made systematic

nitive cell of the reciprocal $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{0}$ than to any other

Figure 9.6

a) Free electron sphere cuting Bragg plane located at K from the origin $(U_K = 0)$. b) Deformation of the free electron sphere near the 3ragg plane when $U_K \neq 0$. The constant-energy surface ntersects the plane in two ircles, whose radii are calulated in Problem 1.

energy surface is perpendicular mation.

reciprocal lattice point. Since Bragg planes bisect the lines joining the origin to points of the reciprocal lattice, one can equally well define the first zone as the set of points that can be reached from the origin without crossing any Bragg planes.¹²

Higher Brillouin zones are simply other regions bounded by the Bragg planes, defined as follows:

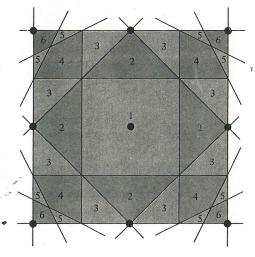
The first Brillouin zone is the set of points in k-space that can be reached from the origin without crossing any Bragg plane. The second Brillouin zone is the set of points that can be reached from the first zone by crossing only one Bragg plane. The (n+1)th Brillouin zone is the set of points not in the (n-1)th zone that can be reached from the nth zone by crossing only one Bragg plane.

Alternatively, the nth Brillouin zone can be defined as the set of points that can be reached from the origin by crossing n-1 Bragg planes, but no fewer.

These definitions are illustrated in two dimensions in Figure 9.7. The surface of the first three zones for the fcc and bcc lattices are shown in Figure 9.8. Both definitions emphasize the physically important fact that the zones are bounded by Bragg planes. Thus they are regions at whose surfaces the effects of a weak periodic potential are important (i.e., first order), but in whose interior the free electron energy levels are only perturbed in second order.

Figure 9.7

Illustration of the definition of the Brillouin zones for a two-dimensional square Bravais lattice. The reciprocal lattice is also a square lattice of side b. The figure shows all Bragg planes (lines, in two dimensions) that lie within the square of side 2b centered on the origin. These Bragg planes divide that square into regions belonging to zones 1 to 6. (Only zones 1, 2, and 3 are entirely contained within the square, however.)



It is very important to note that each Brillouin zone is a primitive cell of the reciprocal lattice. This is because the nth Brillouin zone is simply the set of points that have the origin as the nth nearest reciprocal lattice point (a reciprocal lattice point K is nearer to a point k than k is to the origin if and only if k is separated from the origin by the Bragg plane determined by K). Given this, the proof that the nth Brillouin zone is a primitive cell is identical to the proof on page 73 that the Wigner-Seitz cell (i.e., the first Brillouin zone) is primitive, provided that the phrase "nth nearest neighbor" is substituted for "nearest neighbor" throughout the argument.

We exclude from consideration points lying on Bragg planes, which turn out to be points common to the surface of two or more zones. We define the zones in terms of their interior points.

Chapter 9 Electrons in a Weak Periodic Potential Figure 9.8 Surfaces of the first, second. and third Brillouin zones for (a) body-centered cubic and (b) face-centered cubic crystals. (Only the exterior surfaces are shown. It follows from the definition on page 163 that the interior surface of the nth zone is identical to the exterior surface of the (n-1)th zone.) Evidently the surfaces bounding the Ħ zones become increasingly complex as the zone number increases. In practice it is often simplest to construct free electron Fermi surfaces by procedures (such as those FCC BCC described in Problem 4) that avoid making use of the explicit form of the Brillouin zones. (After R. Lück, doctoral dissertation, Techni-III sche Hochschule, Stuttgart, 1965.) Because each zone is a primitive cell, there is a simple algorithm for constructing the branches of the Fermi surface in the repeated-zone scheme¹³: 1. Draw the free electron Fermi sphere. 2. Deform it slightly (as illustrated in Figure 9.6) in the immediate vicinity of every Bragg plane. (In the limit of exceedingly weak potentials this step is sometimes ignored to a first approximation.) Take that portion of the surface of the free electron sphere lying within the nth Brillouin zone, and translate it through all reciprocal lattice vectors. The resulting surface is the branch of the Fermi surface (conventionally assigned to the nth band) in the repeated-zone scheme.¹⁴ ¹³ The representation of the Fermi surface in the repeated-zone scheme is the most general. After surveying each branch in its full periodic splendor, one can pick that primitive cell which most lucidly represents the topological structure of the whole (which is often, but by no means always, the first Brillouin zone). 14 An alternative procedure is to translate the pieces of the Fermi surface in the nth zone through those reciprocal lattice vectors that take the pieces of the nth zone in which they are contained, into the first zone. (Such translations exist because the nth zone is a primitive cell.) This is illustrated in Figure 9.9. The Fermi surface in the repeated-zone scheme is then constructed by translating the resulting first zone structures through all reciprocal lattice vectors. BGLO

Figure 9.8

Surfaces of the first, second, and third Brillouin zones for (a) body-centered cubic and (b) face-centered cubic crystals. (Only the exterior surfaces are shown. It follows from the definition on page 163 that the interior surface of the nth zone is identical to the exterior surface of the (n-1)th zone.) Evidently the surfaces bounding the zones become increasingly complex as the zone number increases. In practice it is often simplest to construct free electron Fermi surfaces by procedures (such as those described in Problem 4) that avoid making use of the explicit form of the Brillouin zones. (After R. Lück, doctoral dissertation, Technische Hochschule, Stuttgart, 1965.)

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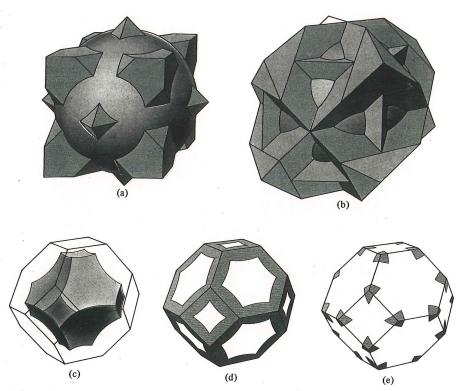


Figure 9.9

The free electron Fermi sphere for a face-centered cubic metal of valence 4. The first zone lies entirely within the interior of the sphere, and the sphere does not extend beyond the fourth zone. Thus the only zone surfaces intersected by the surface of the sphere are the (exterior) surfaces of the second and third zones (cf. Figure 9.8b). The second-zone Fermi surface consists of those parts of the surface of the sphere lying entirely within the polyhedron bounding the second zone (i.e., all of the sphere except the parts extending beyond the polyhedron in (a)). When translated through reciprocal lattice vectors into the first zone, the pieces of the second-zone surface give the simply connected figure shown in (c). (It is known as a "hole surface"; the levels it encloses have higher energies than those outside). The third-zone Fermi surface consists of those parts of the surface of the sphere lying outside of the second zone (i.e., the parts extending beyond the polyhedron in (a)) that do not lie outside the third zone (i.e., that are contained within the polyhedron shown in (b)). When translated through reciprocal lattice vectors into the first zone, these pieces of sphere give the multiply connected structure shown in (d). The fourth-zone Fermi surface consists of the remaining parts of the surface of the sphere that lie outside the third zone (as shown in (b)). When translated through reciprocal lattice vectors into the first zone they form the "pockets of electrons" shown in (e). For clarity (d) and (e) show only the intersection of the third and fourth zone Fermi surfaces with the surface of the first zone. (From R. Lück, op. cit.)

