

PHY 752 Solid State Physics
11-11:50 AM MWF Olin 103

Plan for Lecture 24:

- Optical and transport properties of metals (Chap. 11 in GGGPP)
 - Drude model for metals
 - Boltzmann treatment of transport in metals

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Drude model for free electrons in the presence of a harmonic uniform electric field:

$$m\ddot{\mathbf{u}}(t) = -\frac{m}{\tau}\dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) + (-e)\mathbf{E}_0 e^{-i\omega t},$$

$\mathbf{u}(t)$ denotes displacement of electron

$\tau \equiv \frac{1}{\gamma}$ denotes relaxation time after collision of electron

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \mathbf{u}_0 \exp(-i\omega t), \quad \mathbf{u}_0 = \frac{e\tau}{m} \frac{1}{\omega(i + \omega\tau)} \mathbf{E}_0.$$

The free-carrier contribution to the current density is

$$\mathbf{J}(t) = n(-e)\dot{\mathbf{u}}(t) = n(-e)(-\omega)\mathbf{u}_0 e^{-i\omega t} = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m} \frac{1}{1-i\omega\tau} \mathbf{E}_0 e^{-i\omega t}$$



$$\rightarrow \sigma(\omega) = \sigma_0 \frac{1}{1 - i\omega\tau}$$

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Drude model for free electrons -- continued

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m} = \frac{\tau}{4\pi}\omega_p^2 \quad \text{where} \quad \omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi ne^2}{m}.$$

Relationship to dielectric function in this model

$$\epsilon(\omega) = 1 + \frac{4\pi i \sigma(\omega)}{\omega} = 1 + \frac{4\pi i \sigma_0}{\omega(1 - i\omega\tau)} = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega - i/\tau)}$$

$$\boxed{\epsilon_1(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2 \tau^2}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\epsilon_2(\omega) = \frac{\omega_p^2 \tau}{\omega(1 + \omega^2 \tau^2)}}.$$

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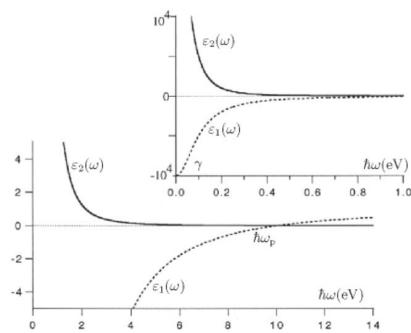


Figure 11.3 Behavior of real and imaginary part of the dielectric function of a free-electron gas with the Drude model; we have taken $\hbar\omega_p = 10$ eV and $\gamma = \hbar/\tau = 0.1$ eV.

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Relationship between wavevector and frequency

$$\frac{d^2 E(z)}{dz^2} = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \left(1 + \frac{4\pi i \sigma(\omega)}{\omega} \right) E(z) = -\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \epsilon(\omega) E(z)$$

For $E(z) = E_0 e^{iqz}$

$$\boxed{q c = \omega \sqrt{\epsilon(\omega)}} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\epsilon_1(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2 \tau^2}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\epsilon_2(\omega) = \frac{\omega_p^2 \tau}{\omega(1 + \omega^2 \tau^2)}}.$$

For $\omega > \omega_p$:

$$\omega = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_1(\omega)}} q, \quad \epsilon_1(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \implies \boxed{\omega = \sqrt{\omega_p^2 + c^2 q^2}}$$

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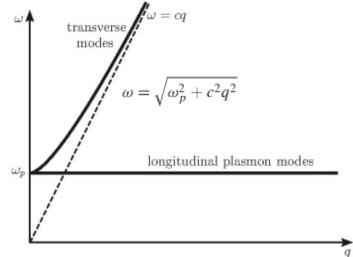


Figure 11.4 Representation of the dispersion curves of transverse electromagnetic modes and longitudinal plasmons in a bulk metallic system.

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More accurate treatment using the Boltzmann Equation

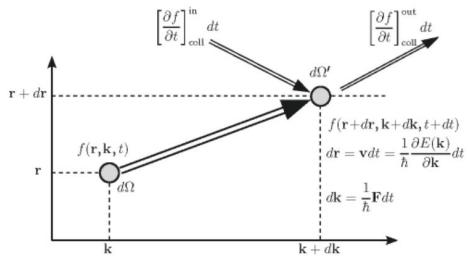


Figure 11.8 Schematic representation of the conservation of the number of electrons moving in the phase space \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k} . The region $d\Omega$ around \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k} at time t evolves into a new region $d\Omega'$, whose volume is the same as $d\Omega$ (Liouville theorem). The distribution function $f(\mathbf{r}+d\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}+d\mathbf{k}, t+dt)$ equals $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t)$ supplemented by the net change $[\partial f / \partial t]_{\text{coll}} dt = [\partial f / \partial t]_{\text{coll}}^{\text{in}} dt - [\partial f / \partial t]_{\text{coll}}^{\text{out}} dt$ of the number of electrons forced in and ejected out because of collision processes.

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Determining physical quantities in terms from the distribution function

Current charge density:

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{4\pi^3} \int (-e) \mathbf{v} f d\mathbf{k},$$

Energy density:

$$\mathbf{U} = \frac{1}{4\pi^3} \int E \mathbf{v} f d\mathbf{k},$$

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$$f\left(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{v} dt, \mathbf{k} + \frac{\mathbf{F}}{\hbar} dt, t + dt\right) = f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t) + \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right]_{\text{coll}} dt.$$

with: $\mathbf{v}_k = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial E(\mathbf{k})}{\partial \mathbf{k}}, \quad \frac{d(\hbar \mathbf{k})}{dt} = \mathbf{F}.$

Equilibrium distribution: $f_0(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{e^{(E(\mathbf{k}) - \mu)/k_B T} + 1},$

Boltzmann equation:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot \frac{\mathbf{F}}{\hbar} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right]_{\text{coll}}$$

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Evaluating the collision term:

$$\left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right]_{\text{coll}} = I_{\text{coll}}[f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t)]$$

$$I_{\text{coll}}[f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t)] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int [P_{\mathbf{k} \leftarrow \mathbf{k}'} f_{\mathbf{k}'}(1 - f_{\mathbf{k}}) - P_{\mathbf{k}' \leftarrow \mathbf{k}} f_{\mathbf{k}}(1 - f_{\mathbf{k}'})] d\mathbf{k}'.$$

Relaxation time approximation:

$$\left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right]_{\text{coll}} = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau}.$$

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Solution of the Boltzmann equation in the relaxation time approximation:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{F} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau}.$$

For $\mathbf{F}=0$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}}=0$: $f(\mathbf{k}, t) = f_0 + [f(\mathbf{k}, t=0) - f_0] e^{-t/\tau}.$

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Static conductivity for uniform material
Boltzmann equation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{F} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau} .$$

assumed 0

$-eE$ assumed 0

$$\frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot (-e) \mathbf{E} = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau}$$

$$\rightarrow f = f_0 + \frac{e\tau}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{E}.$$

$$= f_0 + \frac{e\tau}{m} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E(\mathbf{k})}$$

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Static conductivity for uniform material – continued:

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \tau \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}) d\mathbf{k} \implies J_\alpha = \sum_\beta \sigma_{\alpha\beta} E_\beta$$

For isotropic case (\mathbf{J} parallel to \mathbf{E})

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \tau (\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \mathbf{v})^2 \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) d\mathbf{k} \quad \hat{\mathbf{e}} \text{ denotes direction of } \mathbf{E}.$$

$$-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \approx \delta(E(\mathbf{k}) - E_F)$$

$$\text{For } E(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} : \quad \sigma_0 = \frac{ne^2}{m^*} \tau_F$$

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Mean free path

For the parabolic band:

$$v_F = \frac{\hbar k_F}{m^*} \quad k_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$$

m
Complex mean free path:

$$\Lambda(\omega) = \frac{v_F \tau}{1 - i\omega}$$

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Frequency and wavevector dependent conductivity of a uniform material -- linear approximation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot (-e) \mathbf{E} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = -\frac{f - f_0}{\tau}, \quad f = f_0 + f_1$$

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{E}_0 e^{i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}, \quad \mathbf{E}_0 \perp \mathbf{q}.$$

$$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot (-e) \mathbf{E} + \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial t} = -\frac{f_1}{\tau}.$$

assume: $f_1(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{k}, t) = \Phi(\mathbf{k}) e^{i(\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$

$$i \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v} \Phi(\mathbf{k}) + \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \mathbf{k}} (-e) \cdot \mathbf{E}_0 - i \omega \Phi(\mathbf{k}) = -\frac{\Phi(\mathbf{k})}{\tau}.$$

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Frequency and wavevector dependent conductivity of a uniform material -- linear approximation -- continued

$$\Phi(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{e \tau \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}_0}{1 - i \tau (\omega - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E}.$$

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{4\pi^3} \int (-e) \mathbf{v} f_1 d\mathbf{k} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \tau \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) \mathbf{v} \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{E}}{1 - i \tau (\omega - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})} d\mathbf{k}$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \frac{\tau (\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \mathbf{v})^2}{1 - i \tau (\omega - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})} \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) d\mathbf{k}.$$

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Frequency and wavevector dependent conductivity of a uniform material -- linear approximation -- continued

$$\sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \frac{\tau (\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \mathbf{v})^2}{1 - i \tau (\omega - \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{v})} \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) d\mathbf{k}.$$

Assume: $\hat{\mathbf{e}} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}$ $\mathbf{q} = q \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

$$\sigma(q, \omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\pi^3} \int \frac{\tau v_x^2}{1 - i \tau (\omega - q v_z)} \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E} \right) d\mathbf{k}.$$

After some algebra:

$$\sigma(q, \omega) = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i \omega \tau} \left[\frac{2}{s^2} + \frac{s^2 - 1}{s^3} \ln \frac{1+s}{1-s} \right] \quad \text{with} \quad s = \frac{i q v_F \tau}{1 - i \omega \tau}$$

Note that $s = iq \Lambda(\omega)$

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$$\sigma(q, \omega) = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i\omega\tau} \left[\frac{2}{s^2} + \frac{s^2 - 1}{s^3} \ln \frac{1+s}{1-s} \right] \quad \text{with} \quad s = \frac{i q v_F \tau}{1 - i\omega\tau}$$

$$\text{For } |s| \ll 1 \quad \sigma(q, \omega) = \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i\omega\tau}$$

$$\text{For } |s| \gg 1 \quad \sigma(q, \omega) = \frac{3\pi\sigma_0}{4qv_F\tau}$$

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