

Quiz Answers: Week 11
ECE 656: Electronic Conduction In Semiconductors
Mark Lundstrom
Purdue University, Fall 2013

Lecture 26 Quiz :

- 1) When we write the collision integral like this:

$$\hat{C}f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = \sum_{\vec{p}'} S(\vec{p}' \rightarrow \vec{p}) f(\vec{p}') - \sum_{\vec{p}'} S(\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p}') f(\vec{p})$$

What assumption are we making?

- a) That the initial state is empty.
 - b) That the final state is empty.**
 - c) The relaxation time approximation.
 - d) That Fermi's Golden Rule is valid.
 - e) Equilibrium.
- 2) What does the condition, $\sum_{\vec{p}} \hat{C}f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = 0$, imply?
- a) The validity of the relaxation time approximation.
 - b) Non-degenerate conditions.
 - c) That electrons are conserved.**
 - d) Steady-state conditions.
 - e) Equilibrium conditions.
- 3) When $S(\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p}') = S(\vec{p}' \rightarrow \vec{p})$, what type of scattering is involved?
- a) Isotropic.
 - b) Inelastic phonon absorption
 - c) Inelastic phonon emission.
 - d) Elastic.**
 - e) Electron-electron.
- 4) Why is electron-electron scattering often neglected?
- a) Because the scattering rate is usually weak.
 - b) Because the overall momentum, energy, and number is conserved, so there is little effect on macroscopic parameters.**
 - c) Because it is mathematically (and computationally) hard to treat..
 - d) All of the above.
 - e) None of the above.

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- 5) Electron-electron scattering is often treated to first order by assuming an **equilibrium** (Maxwellian or Fermi-Dirac) distribution with one change. What is the change?

- a) **The Fermi level is replaced by the quasi-Fermi level.**
- b) The lattice temperature is replaced by the electron temperature.
- c) The magnitude of the distribution is re-normalized.
- d) The Fermi-function is replaced by the Bose-Einstein function.
- e) None of the above.

(the assumption here is that we are still near equilibrium)

Lecture 27 Quiz:

- 1) When we write the collision integral in the Relaxation Time Approximation,

$$\hat{C}f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = -\frac{(f - f_s)}{\tau_f(\vec{r}, \vec{p})},$$

what is the characteristic time, τ_f ?

- a) The scattering time.
- b) **The momentum relaxation time.**
- c) The energy relaxation time.
- d) All of the above.
- e) None of the above.

- 2) When we write the collision integral in the Relaxation Time Approximation,

$$\hat{C}f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = -\frac{(f - f_s)}{\tau_f(\vec{r}, \vec{p})},$$

why do we use f_s rather than the equilibrium, f_0 ?

- a) Because we are not exactly at equilibrium.
- b) **To be sure that the number of carriers is conserved.**
- c) To be sure that the momentum of the carriers is conserved..
- d) To be sure that the energy of the carriers is conserved..
- e) To be sure that the heat of the carriers is conserved..

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3) Under what conditions is the Relaxation Time Approximation,

$$\hat{C}f(\vec{r}, \vec{p}, t) = -(f - f_s)/\tau_f(\vec{r}, \vec{p})$$

valid?

- a) Near equilibrium
 - b) Near equilibrium with Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics with elastic scattering.
 - c) Near equilibrium with Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics with isotropic scattering
 - d) **Near equilibrium with elastic scattering or isotropic scattering with Maxwell Boltzmann statistics.**
 - e) Near equilibrium with isotropic scattering or inelastic scattering with Maxwell Boltzmann statistics.
- 4) Which of the following statements is true under near equilibrium conditions?
- a) In general, the RTA accurately describes the in-scattering process.
 - b) In general, the RTA accurately describes the out-scattering process.
 - c) In general, the RTA accurately describes both the in- and out-scattering processes
 - d) **For specific conditions, the RTA accurately describes both in-scattering and out-scattering.**
 - e) None of the above.

(Not such a clear question. b) is also true for MB statistics.)

5) Consider the following two equations;

$$\sum_{p'} S(\vec{p}', \vec{p}) f(\vec{p}') - \sum_{p'} S(\vec{p}, \vec{p}') f(\vec{p}) = 0 \quad (i)$$

$$S(\vec{p}', \vec{p}) f(\vec{p}') - S(\vec{p}, \vec{p}') f(\vec{p}) = 0 \quad (ii)$$

What are these equations statement of ?

- a) detailed balance
- b) steady-state conditions.
- c) (i) detailed balance and (ii) steady-state conditions.
- d) (i) steady-state conditions and **(ii) detailed balance.**
- e) none of the above

(This is a poor question. (ii) is detailed balance, but (1) is not steady-state.)

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Lecture 28 Quiz:

- 1) Mathematically, what is the solution to the equilibrium BTE?
- a) The Fermi-function.
 - b) The Fermi function or the Bose-Einstein distribution.**
 - c) Any function of kinetic energy.
 - d) Any function of total energy.
 - e) Any function of total momentum.

(The LHS is satisfied by any function of total energy, but the RHS needs a Fermi function to satisfy detailed balance.)

- 2) Which of the following statements is true in equilibrium?
- a) The electrostatic potential is constant with position.
 - b) The chemical potential is constant with position.
 - c) The carrier density potential is constant with position.
 - d) The electrochemical potential is constant with position.
 - e) The electrochemical potential and temperature are constant with position.**
- 3) What are the proper boundary conditions for the 1D BTE?
- a) The carrier densities at the two contacts.
 - b) The incident and emerging fluxes are the two contacts.
 - c) The incident and emerging fluxes at one of the two contacts.
 - d) The incident fluxes at the two contacts.**
 - e) The carrier densities at the two contacts.

(Will discuss more in Week 16).

- 4) In a ballistic device, the states in the devices fall into what two classes?
- a) Spin up and spin down states.
 - b) Those fillable from contact one and those fillable from contact two.
 - c) Those fillable from contact one, those fillable from contact two, and those not fillable.**
 - d) Conduction and valence band states.
 - e) None of the above.

(Will discuss more in Week 16).

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- 5) What is the quantity: $\frac{h}{2L} \sum_{\vec{k}} |v_x| \delta(E - E_k)$?
- a) The transport distribution at energy, E .
 - b) The mean-free-path at energy, E .
 - c) The transmission at energy, E .
 - d) The diffusion coefficient at energy, E .
 - e) The number of channels at energy, E .**