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## Near-equilibrium Transport: Fundamentals and Applications

Lecture 8: Measurements

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- 1) Commonly-used to characterize electronic materials.
- 2) Results can be clouded by several effects e.g. contacts, thermoelectric effects, etc.
- 3) Measurements in the absence of a magnetic field are often combined with those in the presence of a B-field.

This lecture is a <u>brief</u> introduction to the measurement and characterization of near-equilibrium transport.

## outline

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.2 Resistivity / conductivity measurements
- 8.3 Hall effect measurements
- 8.4 The van der Pauw method
- 8.5 Temperature-dependent measurements
- 8.6 Discussion
- 8.7 Summary

## resistivity / conductivity measurements

$$J_{nx} = \sigma_n \frac{d\left(F_n/q\right)}{dx}$$

diffusive transport assumed

For uniform carrier concentrations:

$$J_{nx} = \sigma_n \mathcal{E}_x \quad \mathcal{E}_x = \rho_n J_{nx}$$

We generally measure **resisitivity** (or **conductivity**) because for diffusive samples, these parameters depend on material properties and not on the length of the resistor or its width or cross-sectional area.

### Landauer conductance and conductivity



### conductivity and mobility



So we need techniques to measure two quantities:

1) conductivity 2) carrier density

- 1) Conductivity depends on  $E_{P}$
- 2)  $E_F$  depends on carrier density.
- So it is common to characterize the conductivity at a given carrier density.
- 4) Mobility is often the quantity that is quoted.

$$\sigma_n = nq\mu_n$$

### 2D: conductivity and sheet conductance



### 2D electrons vs. 3D electrons



3D electrons:

$$G = \sigma \frac{A}{L} = \sigma \frac{Wt}{L} \to \sigma_{S} = \frac{G}{W/L} = \frac{2q^{2}}{h} \int t M_{3D}(E) \lambda(E) \left(-\frac{\partial f_{0}}{\partial E}\right) dE$$

2D electrons:

$$G = \sigma_s \frac{W}{L} \to \sigma_s = \frac{G}{W/L} = \frac{2q^2}{h} \int M_{2D}(E) \lambda(E) \left(-\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial E}\right) dE$$

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## mobility

1) Measure the conductivity:  $\sigma_s$ 

2) Measure the sheet carrier density:  $n_s$ 

3) Deduce the mobility from:  $\sigma_s \equiv n_s q \mu_n$ 

4) Relate the mobility to material parameters:

$$\sigma_{S} = \frac{2q^{2}}{h} \int M_{2D}(E) \lambda(E) \left(-\frac{\partial f_{0}}{\partial E}\right) \equiv n_{S} q \mu_{n}$$

There are three near-equilibrium transport coefficients: conductivity, Seebeck (and Peltier) coefficient, and the electronic thermal conductivity. We can measure all three, but in this brief lecture, we will just discuss the conductivity.

Conductivity depends on the location of the Fermi level, which can be set by controlling the carrier density.

So we need to discuss how to measure the conductivity (or resistivity) and the carrier density. Let's discuss the resistivity first.

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### 2-probe measurements



### transmission line measurements



H.H. Berger, "Models for Contacts to Planar Devices," *Solid-State Electron.*, **15**, 145-158, 1972. Lundstrom 2011

### transmission line measurements (TLM)



### contact resistance (vertical flow)



### Top view

#### Side view

### contact resistance (vertical flow)

$$R_{C} = \frac{\rho_{i} t}{A_{C}} = \frac{\rho_{C}}{A_{C}} \Omega$$

$$10^{-8} \, \Omega_{f} \, m < 10^{-6}$$

"interfacial contact resistivity"

$$A_{c} = 0.10 \,\mu m \times 1.0 \,\mu m$$
$$\rho_{c} = 10 \vec{\Omega} \text{-cm}^{2}$$
$$R_{c} = 100 \Omega \text{-} \,\mu m$$



### contact resistance (vertical + lateral flow)



### contact resistance



### transfer length measurments (TLM)



Slope gives sheet resistance, intercept gives contact resistance
 Determine specific contact resistivity and transfer length:

$$R_{C} = \frac{\sqrt{\rho_{C} \rho_{SD}}}{W} \operatorname{coth} \left( L_{C} / L_{T} \right) \qquad L_{T} = \sqrt{\rho_{C} / \rho_{SD}} \operatorname{cm}$$

### four probe measurements



- 1) force a current through probes 1 and 4
- 2) with a high impedance voltmeter, measure the voltage between probes2 and 3

$$R = \frac{V}{I} = f(\rho_s)$$
 (no series resistance)

## Hall bar geometry



Contacts 1 and 2 (3 and 4): "voltage probes"

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## Hall effect



The Hall effect was discovered by Edwin Hall in 1879 and is widely used to characterize electronic materials. It also finds use magnetic field sensors.

## Hall effect: physics





## Hall effect: analysis

Top view of a 2D film ŷ  $+V_{H}$  $\vec{B} = B\hat{z}$  $\rightarrow \hat{x}$  $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\text{n-type}} \langle v_x \rangle < 0$  $\mathcal{E}_{y}$  $\vec{J}_n = \sigma_n \vec{\mathcal{E}} - (\sigma_n \mu_n r_H) \vec{\mathcal{E}} \times \vec{B}$ 

$$J_{x} = \sigma_{n} \mathcal{E}_{x} - (\sigma_{n} \mu_{n} r_{H}) \mathcal{E}_{y} B_{z} \approx \sigma_{n} \mathcal{E}_{x}$$
$$J_{y} = 0 = n_{S} q \mu_{n} \mathcal{E}_{y} - (\sigma_{n} \mu_{n} r_{H}) \mathcal{E}_{x} B_{z}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{y} = -\mu_{n}r_{H}B_{z}\mathcal{E}_{x} = -\frac{r_{H}B_{z}J_{x}}{n_{S}q}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}_{y}}{J_{x}B_{z}} \equiv R_{H} = \frac{r_{H}}{\left(-q\right)n_{S}}$$

 $R_H$  is the "Hall coefficient"  $R_H < 0$  for n-type  $R_H > 0$  for p-type

## Hall effect: analysis

Top view of a 2D film ŷ  $+V_{H}$  $\vec{B} = B\hat{z}$  $\rightarrow \hat{x}$ +  $\mathcal{F}_{\overline{y}}$ n-type  $\langle v_x \rangle < 0$ 

$$\vec{J}_n = nq\mu_n \vec{\mathcal{E}} - (\sigma_n \mu_n r_H) \vec{E} \times \vec{B}$$

$$R_{H} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{E}_{y}}{J_{x}B_{z}} = \frac{-V_{H}}{I_{x}B_{z}}$$
$$R_{H} = \frac{r_{H}}{(-q)n_{s}} \qquad r_{H} \equiv \frac{\langle \langle \tau_{m}^{2} \rangle \rangle}{\langle \langle \tau_{m} \rangle \rangle^{2}}$$
"Hall factor"

$$_{H}\equiv \frac{n_{S}}{r_{H}}$$

 $n_{i}$ 

## example



$$I = I_x = 1 \,\mu A$$

 $B_z = 2,000 \text{ Gauss}$ 

 $(1 \text{ Tesla} = 10^4 \text{ Gauss})$ 

 $L = 100 \ \mu m$ 

 $W = 50 \ \mu m$ 

B = 0:  $V_{21} = 0.4 \text{ mV}$   $B \neq 0$ :  $V_{24} = 13 \ \mu \text{V}$ 

### example: resistivity

Top view  $1 \xrightarrow{-V_{21}} 2$   $0 \xrightarrow{W} \xleftarrow{-L} 5$   $\hat{y} \xrightarrow{\hat{x}} 3$  4  $I = I_x = 1 \mu A$ 

### resistivity:

$$R_{xx} = \frac{V_{21}}{I} = 400 \,\Omega$$
$$R_{xx} = \rho_s \frac{L}{W} \rightarrow \rho_s = 200 \,\Omega/\Box$$

$$B_z = 2,000 \text{ Gauss}$$
  
(1 Tesla = 10<sup>4</sup> Gauss)  
 $L = 100 \ \mu \text{m}$   
 $W = 50 \ \mu \text{m}$   
 $B = 0:$   
 $V_{21} = 0.4 \text{ mV}$   
 $B = 0.2\text{T}:$   
 $V_{24} = 13 \ \mu$ 

### example: sheet carrier density



# sheet carrier density: $n_{H} \equiv \frac{n_{S}}{r_{H}} = \frac{I_{x}B_{z}}{qV_{H}} = \frac{I_{x}B_{z}}{qV_{24}}$ $n_{H} = 9.6 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$

 $B_{z} = 2,000$  Gauss  $(1 \text{ Tesla} = 10^4 \text{ Gauss})$  $L = 100 \ \mu m$  $W = 50 \ \mu m$ B = 0:  $V_{21} = 0.4 \text{ mV}$ B = 0.2T:  $V_{24} = 13 \,\mu \text{V}$ 

### example: mobility

Top view 1  $-V_{21} \rightarrow 2$   $\hat{V} \leftarrow L \rightarrow 5$   $\hat{Y} \rightarrow \hat{x}$  $f = I_x = 1 \ \mu A$ 

mobility:

$$\sigma_{s} = \frac{1}{\rho_{s}} = n_{s}q\mu_{n} = \left(\frac{n_{s}}{r_{H}}\right)q(r_{H}\mu_{n})$$
$$\mu_{H} \equiv r_{H}\mu_{n} = 3125 \text{ cm}^{2}/\text{V-s}$$

$$B_z = 2,000 \text{ Gauss}$$
  
(1 Tesla = 10<sup>4</sup> Gauss)  
 $L = 100 \ \mu \text{m}$   
 $W = 50 \ \mu \text{m}$   
 $B = 0:$   
 $V_{21} = 0.4 \text{ mV}$   
 $B = 0.2\text{T}:$   
 $V_{24} = 13 \ \mu \text{V}$ 

### re-cap



1) Hall coefficient:

$$R_{H} \equiv \frac{-V_{H}}{I_{x}B_{z}} = \frac{r_{H}}{\left(-q\right)n_{s}}$$

2) Hall factor:  $r_{H} \equiv \left\langle \left\langle \tau_{m}^{2} \right\rangle \right\rangle / \left\langle \left\langle \tau_{m} \right\rangle \right\rangle$ 

3) Hall concentration:

 $n_{H} \equiv n_{S} / r_{H}$ 

4) Hall mobility:

 $\mu_H \equiv r_H \mu_n$ 

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## van der Pauw sample



## van der Pauw approach



1) force a current in *M* and out *N* 2) measure  $V_{PO}$ 3)  $R_{MN, OP} = V_{PO} / I$  related to  $\rho_{S}$  1) force a current in *M* and out *O* 2) measure  $V_{PN}$ 3)  $R_{MO, NP} = V_{PN} / I$  related to  $V_H$ 

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## van der Pauw approach: Hall effect



$$J_{x} = \sigma_{n} \mathcal{E}_{x} - (\sigma_{n} \mu_{n} r_{H}) E_{y} B_{z}$$

$$J_{y} = \sigma_{n} \mathcal{E}_{y} + (\sigma_{n} \mu_{n} r_{H}) E_{x} B_{z}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{x} = \rho_{nn} J_{x} + (\rho_{nn} \mu_{H} B_{z}) J_{y}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{y} = -(\rho_{nn} \mu_{H} B_{z}) J_{x} + \rho_{nn} J_{y}$$

$$V_{PN} (B_{z}) = -\int_{N}^{P} \mathcal{E}^{\vec{r}} \bullet d\vec{l} = -\int_{N}^{P} \mathcal{E}_{x} dx + \mathcal{E}_{y} dy$$

$$V_{H} = \frac{1}{2} \Big[ V_{PN} (+B_{z}) - V_{PN} (-B_{z}) \Big]$$

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## van der Pauw approach: Hall effect



$$V_{H} = \rho_{n} \mu_{H} B_{z} \left[ \int_{y_{N}}^{y_{P}} J_{x} dy - \int_{x_{N}}^{x_{P}} J_{y} dx \right]$$
$$I = \int_{N}^{P} \vec{J} \cdot \hat{n} dl$$
$$V_{H} = \rho_{n} \mu_{H} B_{z} I$$

## So we can do Hall effect measurements on such samples.



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$$V_{PO}' = +\frac{I\rho_S}{\pi} \ln\left(\frac{b+c}{b}\right) \quad 40$$

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$$R_{MN,OP} = \frac{V_{PO} + V_{PO}'}{I} = \frac{\rho_s}{\pi} \ln\left(\frac{(a+b)(b+c)}{b(a+b+c)}\right)$$
$$R_{NO,PM} = \frac{\rho_s}{\pi} \ln\left(\frac{(a+b)(b+c)}{ac}\right)$$

it can be shown that:

$$e^{-\frac{\pi}{\rho_S}R_{MN,OP}} + e^{-\frac{\pi}{\rho_S}R_{NO,PM}} = 1$$

Given two measurements of resistance, this equation can be solved for the sheet resistance.



The same equation applies for an arbitrarily shaped sample!

### van der Pauw technique: regular sample



Force / through two contacts, measure V between the other two contacts.

### van der Pauw technique: summary



### van der Pauw technique: summary



$$e^{-\frac{\pi}{\rho_{S}}R_{MN,OP}} + e^{-\frac{\pi}{\rho_{S}}R_{NO,PM}} = 1 \qquad \sigma_{S} = n_{S}q\mu_{n} = \frac{n_{S}}{r_{H}}qr_{H}\mu_{n} = n_{H}q\mu_{H}$$

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## temperature-dependent measurements

It is common practice to measure the temperature-dependent conductivity.

Assuming that the carrier density is known (or can be measured), a mobility is then extracted from:  $\sigma = n q \mu_n$ 



## interpretation



## charged impurity scattering



Random charges introduce random fluctuations in  $E_C$ , which act a scattering centers.

High energy electrons don't "see" these fluctuations and are not scattered as strongly.

Average carrier energy ~  $k_B T_L$ .

## lattice (phonon) scattering

$$\frac{1}{\tau(E)} \propto n_{ph}$$
$$n_{ph} = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar \omega/k_B T_L} - 1}$$
$$n_{ph} \uparrow \text{ as } T_L \uparrow$$

Carrier scattering rate is proportional to the number of phonons.

Phonon occupation number given by the Bose-Einstein distribution.

Number of phonons increases as temperature increase. Scattering time decreases, and mobility decreases.

## mobility vs. temperature



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### 8.6 Discussion

- i) errors in Hall effect measurements
- ii) low B-field criterion
- iii) high B-fields

8.7 Summary

## i) Hall effect measurements (errors)



We have assumed isothermal conditions to compute the Hall voltage, but we expect Peltier cooling at contact 0 and Peltier heating at contact 1. If the sample is not isothermal, how does the Hall voltage change?

## magnetoconductivity tensor

$$\begin{pmatrix} J_{nx} \\ J_{ny} \end{pmatrix}^{=} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{S} & -\sigma_{S}\mu_{H}B_{z} \\ +\sigma_{S}\mu_{H}B_{z} & \sigma_{S} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{E}_{x} \\ \mathcal{E}_{y} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$J_{ni} = \sum_{j} \sigma_{ij} \begin{pmatrix} B_{z} \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{E}_{j} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12z} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} \end{pmatrix}^{=} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{S} & -\sigma_{S}\mu_{H}B_{z} \\ +\sigma_{S}\mu_{H}B_{z} & \sigma_{S} \end{pmatrix}$$

 $J_{ni} = \sigma_{ij} (B_z) \mathcal{E}_j$  (summation convention)

$$J_i = \sigma_S \mathcal{E}_i - \sigma_S \mu_H \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k \mathcal{E}_j$$

 $\varepsilon_{ijk} = +1(i, j, k \text{ cyclic})$ = -1(i, j, k anti-cyclic)= 0(otherwise)

## from Lecture 7

$$\mathcal{E}_{i} = \rho_{ij} \left(\vec{B}\right) J_{j} + S_{ij} \left(\vec{B}\right) \partial_{j} T_{L}$$
$$J_{i}^{Q} = \pi_{ij} \left(\vec{B}\right) J_{j} - \kappa_{ij}^{e} \left(\vec{B}\right) \partial_{j} T_{L}$$

$$\rho_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right) = \rho_0 + \rho_0 \mu_H \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$
$$S_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right) = S_0 + S_1 \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$
$$\pi_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right) = \pi_0 + \pi_1 \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$
$$\kappa_{ij}^e\left(\vec{B}\right) = \kappa_0^e + \kappa_1 \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$

#### For parabolic energy bands

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Assume that there is a temperature gradient in the *x*-direction. How is the electric field (Hall voltage) affected?)

$$\mathcal{E}_{i} = \rho_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right)J_{j} + S_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right)\partial_{j}T_{L}$$

$$\rho_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right) = \rho_0 + \rho_0 \mu_H \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$
$$S_{ij}\left(\vec{B}\right) = S_0 + S_1 \varepsilon_{ijk} B_k + \dots$$

 $\mathcal{E}_{y} = \rho_{0}J_{y} + \rho_{0}\mu_{H}\varepsilon_{yjz}B_{z}J_{j} + S_{0}\partial_{y}T_{L} + S_{1}\varepsilon_{yjz}B_{z}\partial_{j}T_{L}$ 

$$\mathcal{E}_{y} = +\rho_{0}\mu_{H}\varepsilon_{yxz}B_{z}J_{x} + S_{1}\varepsilon_{yxz}B_{z}\partial_{x}T_{L}$$
$$\mathcal{E}_{y} = -\rho_{0}\mu_{H}B_{z}J_{x} - S_{1}B_{z}\partial_{x}T_{L}$$

Nernst voltage Reverse direction of  $B_z$  and  $J_x$ and average results to eliminate.

## other effects

Other "thermomagnetic effects" such as the Ettingshaussen and Righi-Leduc effects also occur and affect the measured Hall voltage. See Lundstrom, Chapter 4, Sec. 4.6.2 for a discussion.

## ii) small B-field criterion

$$\omega_c \tau_m <<1 \qquad \qquad \mu_n B_z <<1$$

$$\omega_c = \frac{qB}{m^*} \qquad \qquad \omega_c \tau_m = \frac{q\tau_m B}{m^*} = \mu_n B$$

What does this mean physically?

## small B-field: physical meaning



## some numbers

### silicon

$$\mu_n = 1000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$$

 $r_{H} = 1$ 

 $B_z = 2,000$  Gauss

 $B_z = 0.2$  Tesla

 $\mu_H B_z \approx 0.02 \ll 1$ 

Hall effect measurements with typical laboratory-sized magnets are in the low B-field regime. Except – for very high mobility sample such as modulation doped films.)

Birck Nanotechnology Center: 1-8 T

National High Magnetic Field Lab (Florida State Univ.): 45 T

## some numbers (III-V modulation-doped)

InAlAs/InGaAs  $T_{1} = 300 \text{K}$  $\mu_n \approx 10,000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$  $r_{H} = 1$  $B_{z} = 2,000$  Gauss  $B_{z} = 0.2$  Tesla  $\mu_H B_z \approx 0.2 \ll 1$ 

InAlAs/InGaAs  $T_{1} = 77 K$  $\mu_n \approx 100,000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$  $r_{H} = 1$  $B_{z} = 2,000$  Gauss  $B_{z} = 0.2$  Tesla  $\mu_H B_z \approx 2 > 1$ 

## iii) high B-fields



$$\cos\theta(t) = \cos\theta(0)e^{i\omega_c t}$$

harmonic oscillator:

Quantum mechanically:

$$E_n = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\hbar\omega_c \qquad ``$$

"Landau levels"

## effect on DOS



$$D_{2D}(E,B_z) = D_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta \left[ E - \varepsilon_1 - \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \hbar \omega_c \right]$$

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## degeneracy of Landau levels



## broadening of Landau levels



 $\Delta E \Delta t = \hbar$  $\Delta E = \frac{\hbar}{\tau}$ 

to observe Landau levels:  $\hbar \omega_c >> \Delta E \rightarrow \omega_c \tau >> 1$ 

If B = 1T, how many states are there in each LL?

$$D_0 = \frac{2qB_z}{h} = 4.8 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$

If  $n_{\rm S} = 5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , then 10.4 LL's are occupied.

How high would the mobility need to be to observe these LL's?

 $\mu B > 1 \rightarrow \mu > 10,000 \text{ cm}^2/\text{V-s}$  (B = 1 T)

"modulation-doped semiconductors"

## SdH oscillations



M.E. Cage, R.F. Dziuba, and B.F. Field, "A Test of the Quantum Hall Effect as a Resistance Standard," IEEE Trans. Instrumentation and Measurement," Vol. IM-34, pp. 301-303, 1985 67

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### summary

- 1) Hall bar or van der Pauw geometries allow measurement of both resistivity and Hall effect from which the Hall concentration and Hall mobility can be deduced.
- 2) Temperature-dependent measurements provide information about the dominant scattering mechanisms.
- 3) Care must be taken to exclude thermoelectric effects.
- 4) High B-field measurements provide additional information, but also require high B-fields or high mobilities.
- 5) Measurements of the Seebeck coefficient and electronic heat conductivity require special considerations.

## for more about low-field measurments

D.K. Schroder, *Semiconductor Material and Device Characterization, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.*, IEEE Press, Wiley Interscience, New York, 2006.

D.C. Look, *Electrical Characterization of GaAs Materials and Devices*, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1989.

M.E. Cage, R.F. Dziuba, and B.F. Field, "A Test of the Quantum Hall Effect as a Resistance Standard," *IEEE Trans. Instrumentation and Measurement*," Vol. IM-34, pp. 301-303, 1985

L.J. van der Pauw, "A method of measuring specific resistivity and Hall effect of discs of arbitrary shape," *Phillips Research Reports*, vol. 13, pp. 1-9, 1958.

Lundstrom, *Fundamentals of Carrier Transport*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2000. Chapter 4, Sec. 7

## questions

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