Optical Properties of Semiconductors



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Definitions

Cyclotron Resonance

- Direct and Indirect Optical Transitions
- Excitons
- Optoelectronics
- Lasers



Setting centripetal force equal to Lorenz force gives

$$\frac{m^* v^2}{R} = ? \qquad ? \tag{L1}$$

$$\omega_c = \frac{v}{R} = \frac{eB}{m^*c} = 17.6 \frac{m}{m^*} \left[\frac{B}{\mathrm{kG}}\right] \mathrm{GHz}.$$
 (L2)

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$$\dot{\vec{v}} + \frac{\vec{v}}{\tau} = -\frac{e\vec{E}}{m^{\star}} - \frac{e}{m^{\star}c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}.$$
 (L3)

$$\left(-i\omega + \frac{1}{\tau} \right) \vec{v} = -\frac{e\vec{E}}{m^{\star}} - \omega_c (\hat{x}v_y - \hat{y}v_x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(-i\omega + \frac{1}{\tau} \right) \vec{v} = -\frac{e\vec{E}}{m^{\star}} - \omega_c \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0\\ -1 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{v}.$$
(L4)
(L5)

$$\vec{j} = -ne\vec{v} \equiv \sigma \vec{E},\tag{L6}$$

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & 0\\ -\sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{xx} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$
(L7)

$$\sigma_{xx} = \frac{\sigma_0(1 - i\omega\tau)}{(1 - i\omega\tau)^2 + \omega_c^2\tau^2}$$
(L8a)

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$$\sigma_{xy} = -\frac{\sigma_0 \tau \omega_c}{(1 - i\omega\tau)^2 + \omega_c^2 \tau^2}$$
(L8b)

and

$$\sigma_{zz} = \frac{\sigma_0}{1 - i\omega\tau},\tag{L8c}$$

with

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m^*}.$$
 (L8d)

$$\operatorname{Re}[\sigma_{xx}] = \sigma_0 \frac{\omega_c^2 \tau^2 + \omega^2 \tau^2 + 1}{(\omega_c^2 \tau^2 - \omega^2 \tau^2 + 1)^2 + 4\omega^2 \tau^2}.$$
 (L9)



Figure 1: Cyclotron theory



Figure 2: Cyclotron resonance in germanium. The magnetic field is oriented at 10° from the (110) plane and 30° from the [100] direction. [Source: Dexter et al. (1956)]

Electron Energy Surfaces

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2} \left[\frac{k_1^2}{m_1^\star} + \frac{k_2^2}{m_2^\star} + \frac{k_3^2}{m_3^\star} \right] \tag{L10}$$

$$0 = i\omega\vec{v} - \frac{e}{c} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{m_{1}^{\star}} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{1}{m_{2}^{\star}} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{m_{1}^{\star}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B_{3} & -B_{2}\\ -B_{3} & 0 & B_{1}\\ B_{2} & -B_{1} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{v}$$
(L11)
$$\Rightarrow \omega = \frac{e}{c} \sqrt{\sum_{\alpha=1}^{3} \frac{B_{\alpha}^{2} m_{\alpha}^{\star}}{m_{1}^{\star} m_{2}^{\star} m_{3}^{\star}}}.$$
(L12)

Direct Transitions

Theory for absorption across energy gap

$$\operatorname{Im}[\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}] = \frac{4e^2\pi^2}{m^2\omega^2\mathcal{V}} \sum_{ll'} (f_l - f_{l'}) \langle l|\hat{P}_{\alpha}|l'\rangle \langle l'|\hat{P}_{\beta}|l\rangle \delta(\mathcal{E}_{l'} - \mathcal{E}_l - \hbar\omega)$$
(L13)
$$= \left(\frac{2\pi e}{m\omega}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\mathcal{V}} \sum_{\vec{k}n_1n_2} \langle \vec{k}n_1|\hat{P}_{\alpha}|\vec{k}n_2\rangle \langle \vec{k}n_2|\hat{P}_{\beta}|\vec{k}n_1\rangle \delta(\mathcal{E}_{n_2\vec{k}} - \mathcal{E}_{n_1\vec{k}} - \hbar\omega)$$
(L14)

$$= \left(\frac{2\pi e}{m\omega}\right)^2 |P_{\alpha\beta}(\omega)|^2 D_{j}(\hbar\omega), \qquad (L15)$$

where

$$P_{\alpha\beta}(\omega)|^{2} \equiv \frac{\sum_{n_{1}n_{2}\vec{k}}\langle\vec{k}n_{1}|\hat{P}_{\alpha}|\vec{k}n_{2}\rangle\langle\vec{k}n_{2}|\hat{P}_{\beta}|\vec{k}n_{1}\rangle\delta(\mathcal{E}_{n_{2}\vec{k}}-\mathcal{E}_{n_{1}\vec{k}}-\hbar\omega)}{\sum_{n_{1}n_{2}\vec{k}}\delta(\mathcal{E}_{n_{2}\vec{k}}-\mathcal{E}_{n_{1}\vec{k}}-\hbar\omega)}$$
(L16)

and

$$D_{j}(\hbar\omega) \equiv \frac{1}{\mathcal{V}} \sum_{n_{1}n_{2}\vec{k}} \delta(\mathcal{E}_{n_{2}\vec{k}} - \mathcal{E}_{n_{1}\vec{k}} - \hbar\omega).$$
(L17)

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Direct Transitions



Figure 3: Measurement of absorption coefficient α times $\hbar\omega$, showing a van Hove singularity at onset of optical absorption in the direct gap semiconductor InSb. Data of Goebli and Fan and reported by Johnson (1967).

Direct Transitions



Figure 4: Absorption coefficient α in gallium arsenide, showing absorption due to excitons. [Source: Sturge (1962), p. 771.]

Indirect Transitions

$$\hbar\omega = \mathcal{E}_c - \mathcal{E}_v \pm \hbar\omega_{\rm ph}(\vec{\delta k}). \tag{L18}$$

$$\kappa \propto \sum_{\vec{k}_c \vec{k}_v} \delta \left(\mathcal{E}_c(\vec{k}_c) - \mathcal{E}_v(\vec{k}_v) - \hbar \omega \pm \hbar \omega_{\rm ph}(\vec{\delta k}) \right)$$

$$= \int d\mathcal{E}_c \int d\mathcal{E}_v D_c(\mathcal{E}_c) D_v(\mathcal{E}_v) \delta \left(\mathcal{E}_c - \mathcal{E}_v - \hbar \omega \pm \hbar \omega_{\rm ph} \right)$$
(L19)
(L20)

$$\propto \int_{\mathcal{E}_g} d\mathcal{E}_c \int^0 d\mathcal{E}_v \sqrt{\mathcal{E}_c - \mathcal{E}_g} \sqrt{-\mathcal{E}_v} \,\delta\left(\mathcal{E}_c - \mathcal{E}_v - \hbar\omega \pm \hbar\omega_{\rm ph}\right) \tag{L21}$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{E}_g}^{\hbar\omega\mp\hbar\omega_{\rm ph}} d\mathcal{E}_c \sqrt{\mathcal{E}_c - \mathcal{E}_g} \sqrt{\hbar\omega - \mathcal{E}_c\mp\hbar\omega_{\rm ph}}$$
(L22)

$$= (\hbar\omega \mp \hbar\omega_{\rm ph} - \mathcal{E}_g)^2 \int_0^1 dy \sqrt{y} \sqrt{1-y}.$$
 (L23)



Figure 5: Onset of optical absorption in germanium.. [Source: Macfarlane et al. (1957)]

Excitons



Figure 6: Schematic view of energy levels resulting from exciton formation.

Mott–Wannier Excitons

$$\left[\frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_n^{\star}}\nabla_{\vec{r}_n}^2 + \frac{-\hbar^2}{2m_p^{\star}}\nabla_{\vec{r}_p}^2 - \frac{e^2}{\epsilon^0|\vec{r}_n - \vec{r}_n|} - \mathcal{E}\right]\Psi(\vec{r}_n, \vec{r}_p) = 0.$$
(L24)

$$\vec{R} = \frac{m_n^* \vec{r}_n + m_p^* \vec{r}_p}{m_n^* + m_p^*}$$
(L25)
$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_n - \vec{r}_p$$
(L26)

to give

$$0 = \left[\frac{-\hbar^{2}}{2(m_{n}^{\star} + m_{p}^{\star})}\nabla_{\vec{R}}^{2} - \mathcal{E}_{cm}\right]\Psi_{cm}(\vec{R})$$
(L27)
$$0 = \left[\frac{-\hbar^{2}}{2\mu}\nabla_{\vec{r}}^{2} - \frac{e^{2}}{\epsilon^{0}r} - \mathcal{E}_{b}\right]\Psi_{b}(\vec{r}),$$
(L28)

with the reduced mass μ given by

$$\mu = \frac{m_n^{\star} m_p^{\star}}{m_n^{\star} + m_p^{\star}}.$$
 (L29)

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$$\mathcal{E}_{l} = -\frac{\mu e^{4}}{2\hbar^{2}\epsilon^{0^{2}}l^{2}} = -\frac{\mu}{m\epsilon^{0^{2}}l^{2}} \cdot 13.6\text{eV}$$
(L30)

$$a_0^* = \frac{\epsilon^0 \hbar^2}{e^2 \mu} = \frac{m \epsilon^0}{\mu} \cdot 0.529 \,\text{\AA}.$$
 (L31)

Mott–Wannier Excitons



Figure 7: Absorption in Cu₂O. [Experiments of Baumeister (1961), p 361.]

Solar Cells



Figure 8: The current–voltage characteristic for a solar cell

$$R_{\rm sp} = A_{21} f_2 (1 - f_1) \tag{L33}$$

$$R_{12} = B_{12}f_1(1 - f_2)N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}}D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}) \tag{L34}$$

$$R_{21} = B_{21}f_2(1-f_1)N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}}D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}) + A_{21}f_2(1-f_1).$$
(L35)

$$\frac{f_2(1-f_1)}{f_1(1-f_2)} = e^{-\beta \mathcal{E}_{12}},\tag{L36}$$

$$R_{12} = R_{21}$$
(L37)

$$\Rightarrow B_{12}N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}}D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}) = e^{-\beta\mathcal{E}_{12}} \left[B_{21}N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}}D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}) + A_{21} \right]$$
(L38)

$$\Rightarrow D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12})B_{12} - A_{21} = e^{-\beta\mathcal{E}_{12}} \left[D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12})B_{21} - A_{21} \right]$$
(L39)

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$$\Rightarrow B_{12} = B_{21} \text{ and } A_{21} = D_{\text{ph}}(\mathcal{E}_{12})B_{21}.$$
 (L40)

$$R_{21} = B_{21} f_2 (1 - f_1) (N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}} + 1) D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}).$$
 (L41)

$$R_{12} - R_{21} = B_{21}[(f_1 - f_2)N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}} - f_2(1 - f_1)]D_{\rm ph}(\mathcal{E}_{12}).$$
(L42)

$$\operatorname{Re}[\sigma_{\alpha\beta}(\omega)] = \frac{e^2\pi}{\hbar\omega m^2 \mathcal{V}} (f_1 - f_2) F_{12}(\omega) \langle 1|\hat{P}_{\alpha}|2\rangle \langle 2|\hat{P}_{\beta}|1\rangle.$$
(L43)

$$\underline{g(\omega)} = \frac{N}{\mathcal{V}} \frac{4\pi^2 c^2}{\omega \bar{n}} \left(\frac{e^2}{\hbar c}\right) F_{12}(\omega) (f_2 - f_1) \frac{\sum_{\beta} |\langle 1|\hat{P}_{\beta}|2\rangle|^2}{3m^2 c^2}. \tag{L44}$$

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$$D_{\rm ph}(\omega) = \frac{\bar{n}^3 \omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3}.$$
 (L45)

$$R_{21} - R_{12} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}} = -N \frac{\mathcal{E}_{12}}{\hbar} \bar{n} \left(\frac{e^2}{\hbar c}\right) 4(f_1 - f_2) \sum_{\beta} \frac{|\langle 1|\hat{P}_{\beta}|2\rangle|^2}{3m^2 c^2} N_{\mathcal{E}_{12}}.$$
 (L46)

$$\Re \exp[x(g-\alpha)] > 1. \tag{L47}$$



 \mathcal{X}

Figure 9: Light in a laser cavity reflects several times back and forth from mirrored ends of reflection coefficient \mathcal{R} so as to stimulate more light emission before exiting.





Figure 11: (A) Energy levels of Cr^3 + in Al_2O_3 (ruby). (B) Energy levels of Nd in $Y_3Al_5O_{12}$ (Nd:YAG).



Figure 12: Double heterojunction structure

Active Areas

- Porous Silicon
- \sim Negative μ dielectrics
- Materials to manipulate light as semiconductors manipulate electrons.