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ELEMENTARY SOLID STATE PHYSICS: Principles and Applications

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

To my son, Riyad

PREFACE

This volume is intended to serve as a general text in solid state physics for undergraduates in physics, applied physics, engineering, and other related scientific disciplines. I also hope that it will serve as a useful reference tool for the many workers engaged in one type of solid state research activity or another, who may be without formal training in the subject.

Since there are now many books on solid state physics available, some justification is needed for the introduction of yet another at this time. This I can perhaps do best by stating the goals I strove to achieve in the writing of it, and let the reader judge for himself how successful the effort may have been.

First, I have attempted to cover a wide range of topics, which is consistent with my purpose in writing a general and complete text which may also serve as an effective general reference work. The wide coverage also reflects the immensely wide scope of current research in solid state physics. But despite this, I have made a determined effort to underline the close interrelationships between the disparate parts, and bring the unity and coherence of the whole subject into perspective.

Second, I have tried to present as many practical applications as possible within the limits of this single volume. In this not only have I taken into consideration those readers whose primary interest lies in the applications rather than in physics *per se*, but I have also encouraged prospective physics majors to think in terms of the practical implications of the physical results; this is particularly vital at the present time, when great emphasis is placed on the contribution of science and technology to the solution of social and economic problems.

Third, this book adheres to an interdisciplinary philosophy; thus, in addition to the areas covered in traditional solid state texts in the first ten chapters, the last three chapters introduce additional material to which solid state physicists have made many significant contributions. The subjects include metallurgy, defects in solids, new materials, and biophysics and are of great contemporary importance and practical interest.

Fourth, I have made every effort to produce a modern, up-to-date text. Solid state physics has progressed very rapidly in the past two or three decades, and yet many advances have thus far failed to make their way into elementary texts, and remain scattered haphazardly throughout many different sources in the literature. Yet

it is clear that early and thorough assimilation of the concepts underlying these advances, particularly by the young student, is essential to the growth and development in this field which await us in the future.

Fifth, and of greatest importance, this book is elementary in nature, and I have made every effort to ensure that it is thoroughly understandable to the well-prepared undergraduate student. I have attempted to introduce new concepts gradually, and to supply the necessary mathematical details for the various steps along the way. I have then discussed the final results in terms of their physical meaning, and their relation to other more familiar situations whenever this seems helpful. The book is liberally illustrated with figures, and a fairly complete list of references is supplied for those readers interested in further pursuit of the subjects discussed here.

Chapter 1 covers the crystal structures of solids, and the interatomic forces responsible for these structures. Chapter 2 includes the various experimental techniques, such as x-ray diffraction, employed in structure analysis. Except at very low temperatures, however, the atoms in a solid are not at rest, but rather oscillate around their equilibrium positions; therefore, Chapter 3 covers the subject of lattice vibrations, together with their effects on thermal, acoustic, and optical properties. This is followed in Chapter 4 by a discussion of the free-electron model in metals, whereby the valence electrons are assumed to be free particles. A more realistic treatment of these electrons is given in Chapter 5, on energy bands in solids. Before beginning Chapter 5, the student should refresh his understanding of quantum mechanics by reference to the appendix. The brief treatment of this complex subject there is not intended to be a short course for the uninitiated, but rather a summary of its salient points to be employed in Chapter 5, on the energy bands in solids. This is, in fact, the central chapter of the book, and it is hoped that, despite its somewhat demanding nature, the reader will find it rewarding in terms of a deeper understanding of the electronic properties of crystalline solids.

Semiconductors are discussed in Chapter 6. The detailed coverage accorded these substances is warranted not only by their highly interesting and wide-ranging properties but also by the crucial role played by semiconductor devices in today's technology. These devices are discussed at length in Chapter 7. When an electric field, static or alternating, penetrates a solid, the field polarizes the positive and negative charges in the medium; the effects of polarization on the dielectric and optical properties of solids are the subject of Chapter 8. The magnetic properties of matter, including recent developments in magnetic resonances, are taken up in Chapter 9, and the fascinating phenomenon of superconductivity in Chapter 10.

Chapter 11 is devoted to some important topics in metallurgy and defects in solids, and Chapter 12 features some interesting and new substances such as amorphous semiconductors and liquid crystals, which are of great current interest; this chapter includes also applications of solid state techniques to chemical problems. Chapter 13 is an introduction to the field of molecular biology, presented in terms of the concepts and techniques familiar in solid state physics. This is a rapidly expanding and challenging field today, and one in which solid state physicists are making most useful contributions.

Each chapter concludes with a number of exercises. These consist of two types: *Questions*, which are rather short, and intended primarily to test conceptual understanding, and *Problems*, which are of medium difficulty and cover the entire chapter. Virtually all the problems are solvable on the basis of material presented in the chapter, and require no appeal to more advanced references. The exercises are an integral part of the text and the reader, particularly the student taking a solid state course for the first time, is urged to attempt most of them.

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Several persons helped me directly or indirectly in this work. Professor Herbert Kroemer of the University of Colorado has given me the benefit of his insight and incisive opinion during the early stages of writing. Professor Masataka Mizushima, also of the University of Colorado, gave me unfailing encouragement and support over a number of years. Chapter 5 on band theory profited from lectures by Professor Henry Ehrenreich of Harvard University, and Chapter 9 on magnetism reflects helpful discussions with Professor Marcel W. Muller of Washington University. Professor J. H. Tripp of the University of Connecticut made several useful comments and pointed out some editorial errors in the manuscript.

Professor David Lazarus of the University of Illinois-Urbana read the entire manuscript with considerable care. His comments and suggestions, based on his wide experience in teaching and research, resulted in substantial improvement in the work and its usefulness as a textbook in solid state physics.

To these distinguished scholars my sincerest thanks. The responsibility for any remaining errors or shortcomings is, of course, mine.

Joyce Rey not only typed and edited the manuscript with admirable competence, but always went through the innumerable revisions with patience, care, and understanding. For her determined efforts to anglicize the style of the author (at times, perhaps, a little over-enthusiastically), and for keeping constant track of the activities of the main characters, those "beady-eyed" electrons, despite her frequent mystification with the "plot," I am most grateful to "Joycie."

In closing, the following quotation from Reif (*Fundamentals of Statistical and Thermal Physics*) seems most appropriate: "It has been said that 'an author never finishes a book, he merely abandons it.' I have come to appreciate vividly the truth of this statement and dread to see the day when, looking at the manuscript in print, I am sure to realize that many things could have been done better and explained more clearly. If I abandon the book nevertheless, it is in the modest hope that it may be useful to others despite its shortcomings."

Lowell, Massachusetts
July 1974

M. A. O.

psychology building

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