

# Boltzmann Equation

1.

No scattering:

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(\mathbf{k}(t), \mathbf{r}(t)) = \dot{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} f + \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} f = 0$$

With scattering:

$$\dot{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} f + \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} f = \left( \frac{-\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{collision}}$$

Allow for separate time dependence if  $f$ :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\vec{F}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{\mathbf{k}} f + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}} f = \left( \frac{-\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll.}}$$

where  $\vec{F}$  is the force, e.g.  $\vec{F} = -e(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$ .

Relaxation time approximation:

$$\left( \frac{-\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll.}} = - \frac{f(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) - f_{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{k})}{\tau(\mathbf{k})},$$

$$\text{where } f_{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\beta(\mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{k}} - \mu)}}.$$

Holds for each band in the relaxation time approx.

1. Multiply by  $(-e)$  and integrate over  $k$ :

$$-e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}$$

$$-e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \frac{\vec{F}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f = 0 \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{(periodic in } k\text{-space)} \\ \text{(With a magnetic field,} \end{array}$$

$$-e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_r f = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} \quad \begin{array}{l} \vec{F} = -e \frac{1}{\hbar} \vec{\nabla}_k \epsilon_k \times \vec{B}, \text{ after integrating} \\ \text{by part, one will have} \\ \vec{\nabla}_k \times \vec{B} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f \text{ which is zero.} \end{array}$$

$$-e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \left( -\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll.}} = 0$$

$$\leftrightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{j} = 0}$$

2. Uniform electric field:  $\left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = 0, \vec{\nabla}_r f = 0, \vec{F} = -e\vec{E} \right)$

$$-\frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f = -\frac{f - f_{eq}}{\tau} = -\frac{f}{\tau} + \frac{f_{eq}}{\tau}$$

$$f = \tau \frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f + f_{eq}$$

In linear response

$$f = f_{eq} + \tau \frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f_{eq}(\epsilon_k)$$

$$= f_{eq} + \tau \frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k \epsilon_k \frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon_k}$$

$$= f_{eq} - \tau e\vec{E} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k \left( -\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon_k} \right)$$

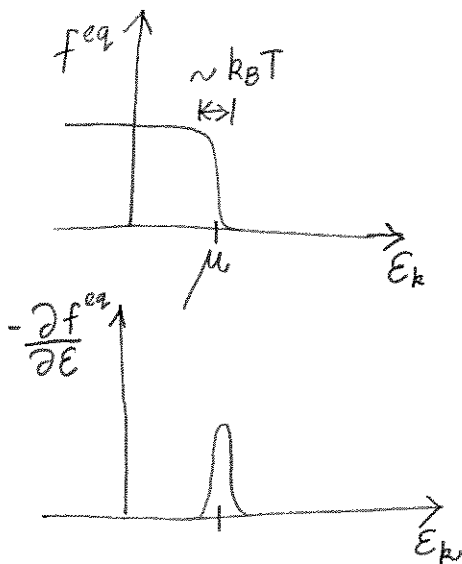
$$j_{\mu} = -e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} v_{\mu} f(k)$$

No contribution from equilibrium  $f: f_{eq}$   
because  $\vec{v}_k = -\vec{v}_{-k}$  but  $\epsilon_k = \epsilon_{-k}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow j_{\mu} &= -e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} v_{\mu} (-\tau e \vec{E} \cdot \vec{v}) \left( -\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon_k} \right) \\ &= \sigma_{\mu\nu} E_{\nu}, \text{ where} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\mu\nu} = e^2 \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \tau v_{\mu} v_{\nu} \left( -\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon_k} \right)$$

Like Eq. (13.25) in AFM.



$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\epsilon \left( -\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon} \right) = -f_{eq} \Big|_{-\infty}^{+\infty} = 0 - (-1) = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \left( -\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \epsilon} \right) \approx \delta(\epsilon - \mu) \text{ or } \delta(\epsilon - E_F)$$

Recovering the free electron result:

Suppose  $\epsilon_k = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} + \text{constant}$  in a band.

$$\rightarrow v_k = \frac{\hbar k}{m^*}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \sigma_{\mu\nu} &= e^2 \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \tau \frac{\hbar k_\mu}{m^*} \frac{\hbar k_\nu}{m^*} \delta(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_F) \\ &= e^2 \int d\epsilon g(\epsilon) \int \frac{d\Omega_k}{4\pi} \tau \left(\frac{\hbar k}{m^*}\right)^2 \hat{k}_\mu \hat{k}_\nu \delta(\epsilon - \epsilon_F) \\ &= e^2 \int d\epsilon g(\epsilon) \tau \left(\frac{\hbar k}{m^*}\right)^2 \frac{1}{3} \delta_{\mu\nu} \delta(\epsilon - \epsilon_F) \\ &= e^2 g(\epsilon_F) \tau \left(\frac{\hbar k_F}{m^*}\right)^2 \frac{1}{3} \delta_{\mu\nu} \end{aligned}$$

For  $\epsilon_k = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*}$ ,  $g(\epsilon_F) = \frac{3}{2} \frac{n}{\epsilon_F}$ .  $\frac{\hbar^2 k_F^2}{m^{*2}} = \frac{2\epsilon_F}{m^*}$

$$\rightarrow \sigma_{\mu\nu} = e^2 \frac{3}{2} \frac{n}{\epsilon_F} \tau \frac{2\epsilon_F}{m^*} \frac{1}{3} \delta_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\boxed{\sigma_{\mu\nu} = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m^*} \delta_{\mu\nu}}$$

For  $\epsilon_k \approx -\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} + \text{constant}$  in a band,  $v_k = -\frac{\hbar k}{m^*}$ .

Again  $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = e^2 g(\epsilon_F) \tau \left(\frac{\hbar k_F}{m^*}\right)^2 \frac{1}{3} \delta_{\mu\nu}$ .

Using  $g(\epsilon_F) = \frac{3}{2} \frac{n}{\epsilon_F}$  with  $n$  being the density of holes,

we again get  $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m^*} \delta_{\mu\nu}$ .

3. Time dependent electric field ( $\vec{\nabla}_r f = 0, \vec{F} = -e\vec{E}$ )

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{-e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f = -\frac{(f - f_{eq})}{\tau}$$

Linear response:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} - \frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k f_{eq} = -\frac{(f - f_{eq})}{\tau}$$

Fourier transform:

$$-i\omega f - \frac{e\vec{E}}{\hbar} \cdot \vec{\nabla}_k \varepsilon \frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \varepsilon} = -\frac{f}{\tau}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{\tau} - i\omega\right)f = e\vec{E} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \left(\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \varepsilon}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow j_{\mu} &= -e \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} v_{\mu} \frac{-e\vec{E} \cdot \vec{\nabla}}{\frac{1}{\tau} - i\omega} \left(-\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \varepsilon_k}\right) \\ &= \sigma_{\mu\nu} E_{\nu} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\mu\nu} = e^2 \int \frac{d^3k}{4\pi^3} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\tau} - i\omega} v_{\mu} v_{\nu} \left(-\frac{\partial f_{eq}}{\partial \varepsilon_k}\right)$$