

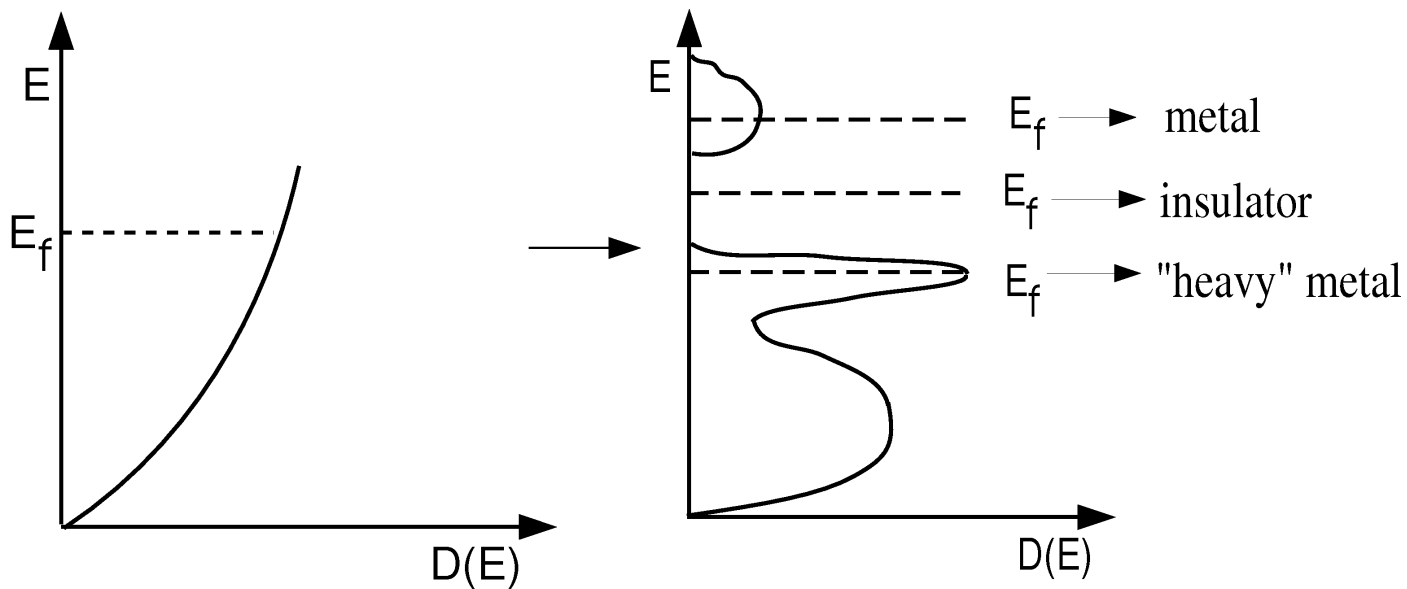
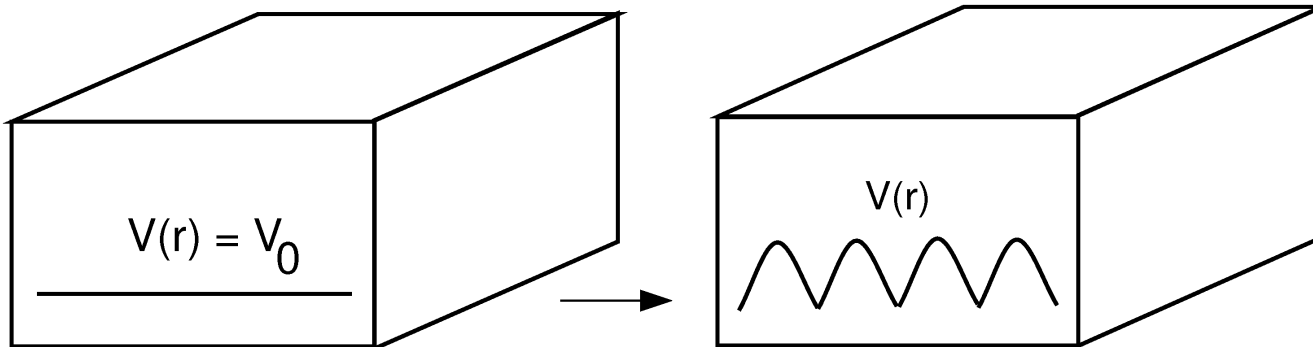
# The Electronic Band Structure of Solids

Felix Bloch & John C. Slater  
(1905 – 1983) (1900 - 1976)



Free electrons -FLT

Band Structure



$$H\Psi_n = \Psi E_n = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi_n$$

$$H\Psi_n = \Psi E_n = \left( -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 - V(r) \right) \Psi_n$$

# Symmetry of $\Psi(\mathbf{r})$

Due to the translational symmetry of the lattice  $V(\mathbf{r})$  is periodic

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = V(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_n), \quad \mathbf{r}_n = n_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{a}_2 + n_3 \mathbf{a}_3$$

and may then be expanded in a Fourier expansion

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} e^{i\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad \mathbf{G} = h\mathbf{g}_1 + k\mathbf{g}_2 + l\mathbf{g}_3$$

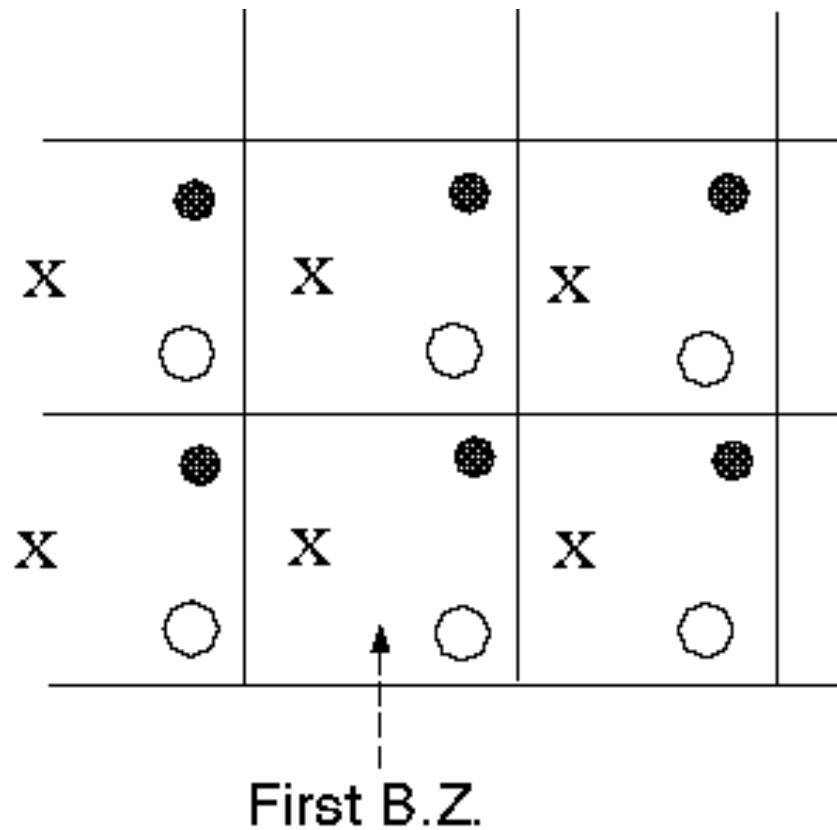
Since  $\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n = 2\pi m$  ( $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) guarantees  $V(\mathbf{r}) = V(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_n)$  and letting  $\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} C_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$  the Schroedinger equation becomes

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} C_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}'/\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}'} V_{\mathbf{G}} e^{i(\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} = E \sum_{\mathbf{k}} C_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad \mathbf{k}' \rightarrow \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{G}$$

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} \left\{ \left( \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E \right) C_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} \right\} = 0 \forall \mathbf{r}$$

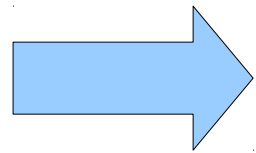
Since this is true for any  $\mathbf{r}$ , it must be that

$$\left( \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E \right) C_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{k}$$



$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} = \left( \sum_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} e^{-i\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \right) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}$$

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad \text{where } U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_n)$$



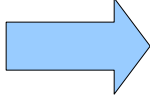
## Bloch's Theorem

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}}, \quad \text{where } U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = U_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_n)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}}(\mathbf{r}) &= \sum_{\mathbf{G}'} C_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}-\mathbf{G}'} e^{-i(\mathbf{G}'-\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} = \left( \sum_{\mathbf{G}''} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}''} e^{-i\mathbf{G}'' \cdot \mathbf{r}} \right) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \\ &= \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}), \quad \text{where } \mathbf{G}'' \equiv \mathbf{G}' - \mathbf{G} \end{aligned}$$

And as a result

$$\begin{aligned} H\psi_{\mathbf{k}} = E(\mathbf{k})\psi_{\mathbf{k}} &\Rightarrow H\psi_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}} = E(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G})\psi_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}} \\ &= H\psi_{\mathbf{k}} = E(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G})\psi_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}} \end{aligned}$$

  $E(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}) = E(\mathbf{k})$  :  $E(\mathbf{k})$  is periodic then since both  $\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$  and  $E(\mathbf{k})$  are periodic in reciprocal space, one only needs knowledge of them in the first BZ to know them everywhere.

# The nearly free Electron Approximation

If the potential is weak,  $V_G \approx 0 \quad \forall G$ , then we may solve the  $V_G = 0$  problem, subject to our constraints of periodicity, and treat  $V_G$  as a perturbation.

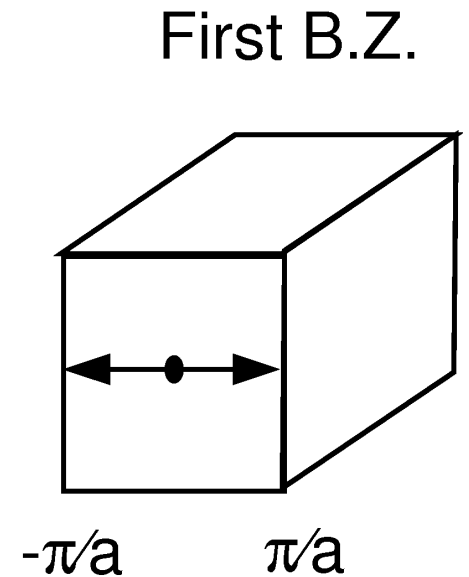
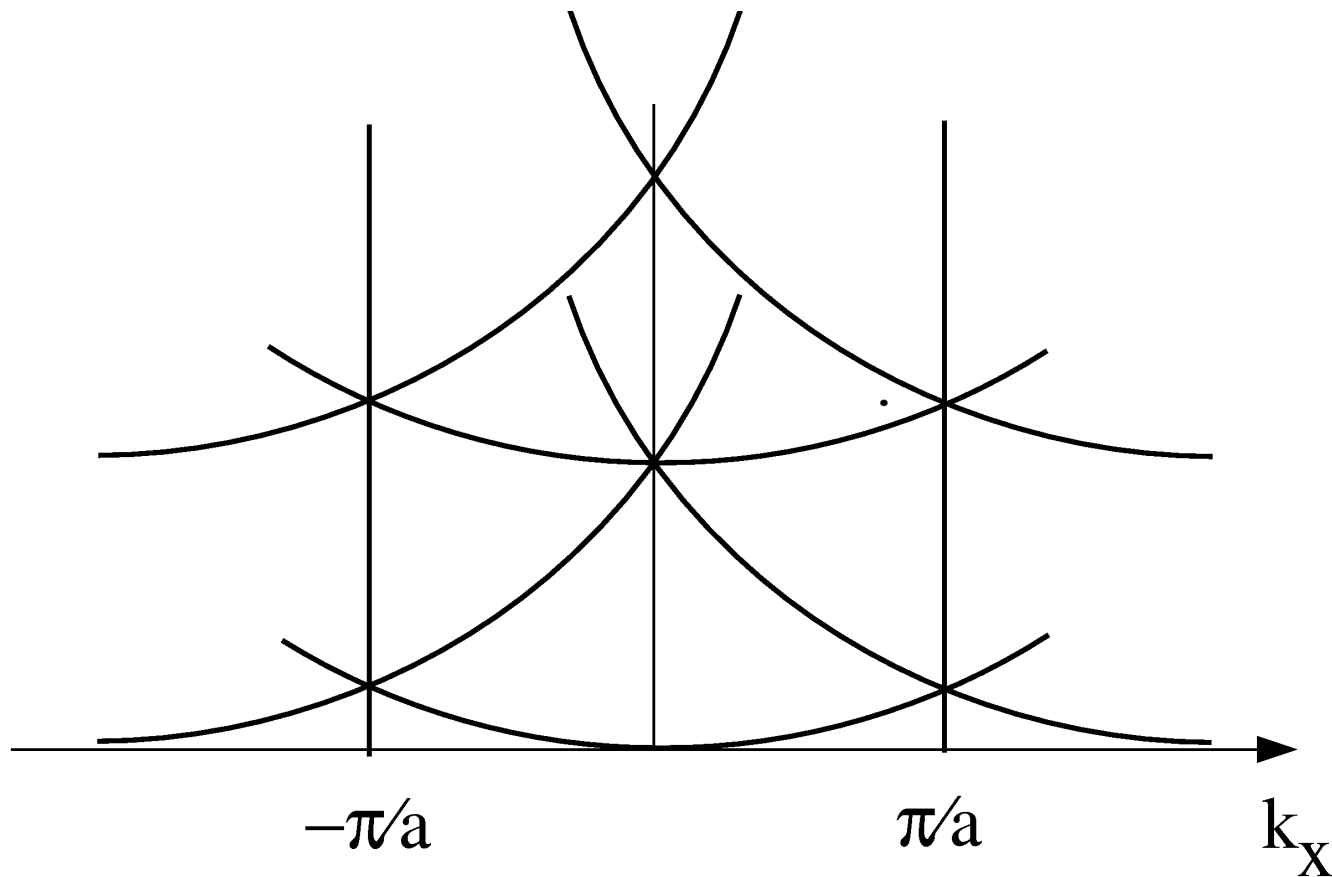
$$V_G=0$$

$$E(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} \quad \text{free electron}$$

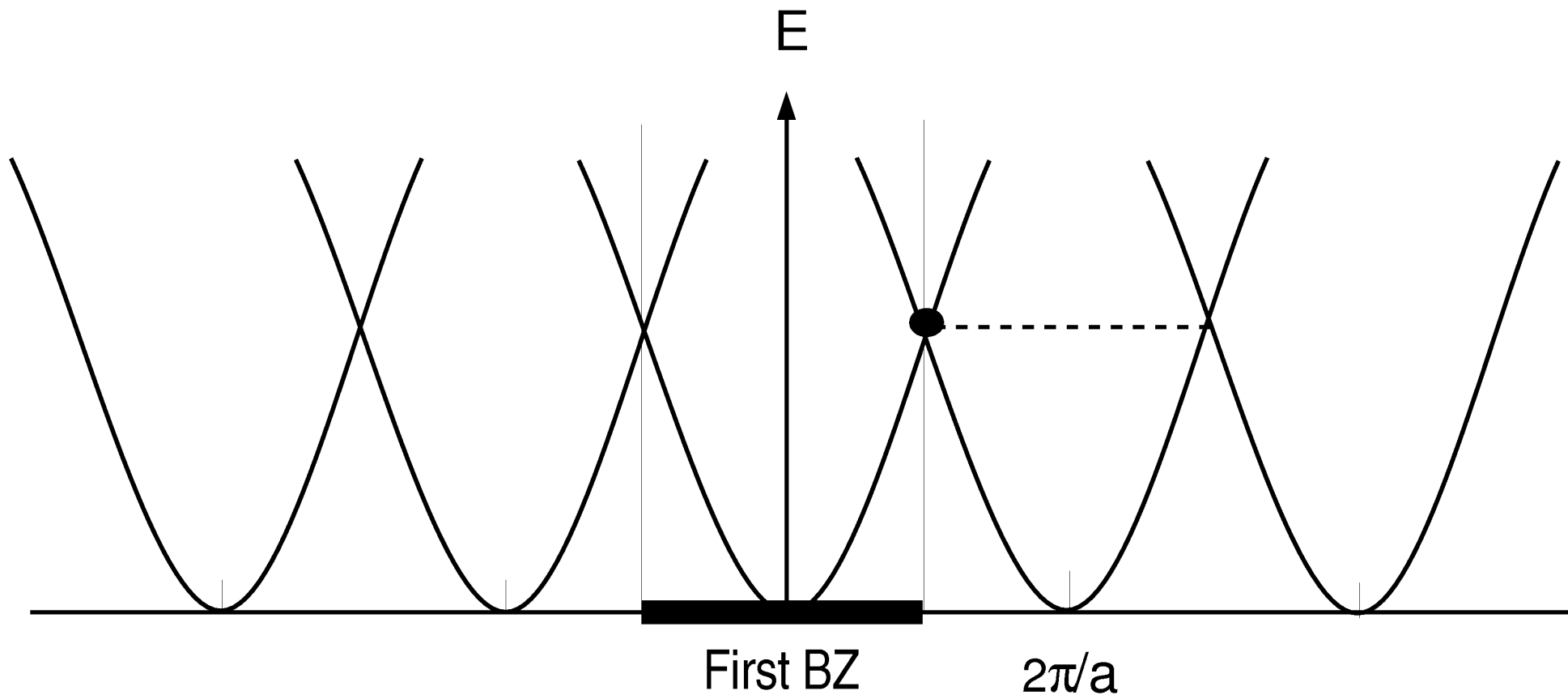
$$V_G \neq 0$$

$$E(\mathbf{k}) = E(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}) \approx \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}|^2$$

# 3-D cubic lattice the energy band structure along $k_x$ ( $k_y = k_z = 0$ )







An electron state with  $k=\pi/a$  will involve at least the two  $\mathbf{G}$  values  $G=0, 2\pi$ . Of course, the exact solution must involve all  $\mathbf{G}$  since

$$\left( \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E_{\mathbf{k}} \right) C_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} = 0$$

We can generally take  $V_0=0$  since this just sets a zero for the potential. Then, those  $\mathbf{G}$  for which  $E_{\mathbf{k}} = E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} \approx \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m}$  are going to give the largest contribution since

$$C_{\mathbf{k}} = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} \frac{C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}}}{\frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}}}$$

$$C_{\mathbf{k}} \sim V_{\mathbf{G}_1} \frac{C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}}{\frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}}$$

$$C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1} = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} V_{\mathbf{G}} \frac{C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1-\mathbf{G}}}{\frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1-\mathbf{G}}}$$

$$C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1} \sim V_{-\mathbf{G}_1} \frac{C_{\mathbf{k}}}{\frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m} - E_{\mathbf{k}}}$$

Thus to a first approximation, we may neglect the other  $C_{k-G}$ , and since  $V_G = V_{-G}$  (so that  $V(r)$  is real)

$$|C_k| \approx |C_{k-G}| \gg \text{other } C_{k-G}$$

$$\psi_k(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}} e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r}} \sim \begin{cases} (e^{iGx/2} + e^{-iGx/2}) \sim \cos \frac{\pi x}{a} \\ (e^{iGx/2} - e^{-iGx/2}) \sim \sin \frac{\pi x}{a} \end{cases}$$

