

The Origin of Band Gaps

Now let's reexamine this gap at $k = G_1/2$ by considering the eigenvalue equation shifted by G

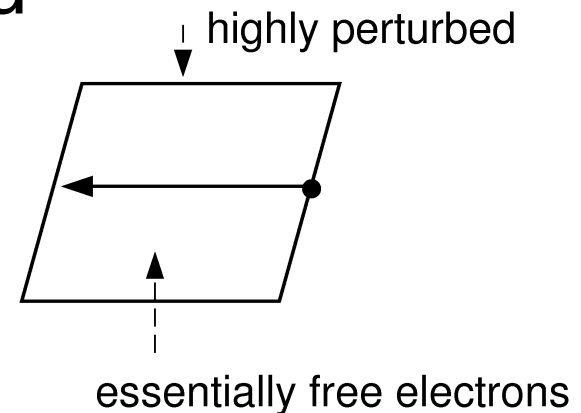
$$C_{k-G} \left(E_k - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |k - G|^2 \right) = \sum_{G'} V_{G'} C_{k-G-G'} = \sum_{G'} V_{G' - G} C_{k-G'}$$

$$\Rightarrow C_{k-G} = \frac{\sum_{G'} V_{G' - G} C_{k-G'}}{\left(E_k - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |k - G|^2 \right)}$$

To a first approximation ($V_G \approx 0$) $E = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$

$$k^2 = |k - G|^2 \quad \text{1-D: } k^2 = \left(k - \frac{2\pi}{a}\right)^2 \quad \text{or } k = -\frac{\pi}{a}$$

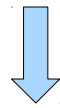
$E_k \approx E_{k-G}$ only for k on the edge of the B.Z.



$V_G \sim 0$, $V_0 \equiv 0$ and for \mathbf{k} near the zone boundary

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{G} = 0 \quad C_{\mathbf{k}} \left\{ E - \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right\} &= V_{\mathbf{G}_1} C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1} \\ G = \mathbf{G}_1 \quad C_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1} \left\{ E - \frac{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1|^2}{2m} \right\} &= V_{-\mathbf{G}_1} C_{\mathbf{k}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \left(\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} - E \right) & V_{\mathbf{G}_1} \\ V_{-\mathbf{G}_1} & \left(\frac{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1|^2}{2m} - E \right) \end{vmatrix} = 0$$



$$\begin{vmatrix} E_{\mathbf{k}}^0 - E & V_{\mathbf{G}_1} \\ V_{-\mathbf{G}_1} & E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0 - E \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

($V_{-\mathbf{G}} = V_{\mathbf{G}}^*$, so that $V(\mathbf{r}) \in \Re$)

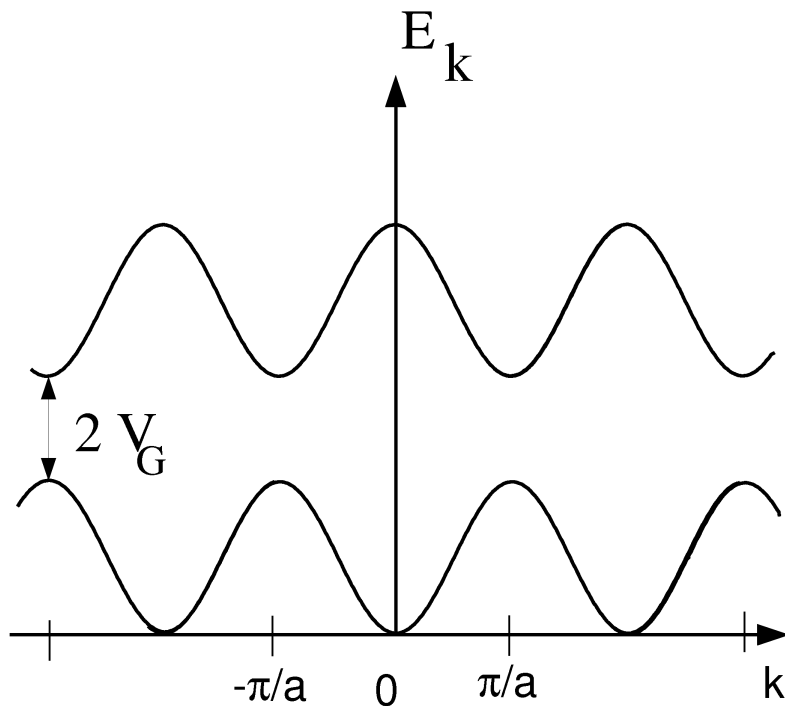
$$\longrightarrow (E_{\mathbf{k}}^0 - E)(E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0 - E) - |V_{\mathbf{G}_1}|^2 = 0$$

$$E_{\mathbf{k}}^0 E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0 - E (E_{\mathbf{k}}^0 + E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0) + E^2 - |V_{\mathbf{G}_1}|^2 = 0$$

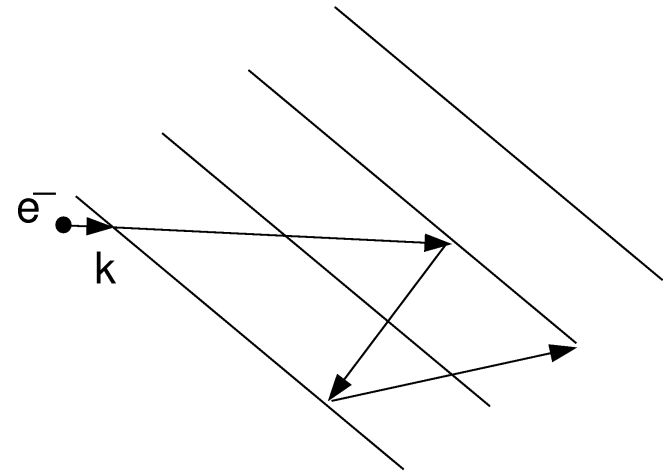
$$\Rightarrow E^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} (E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0 + E_{\mathbf{k}}^0) \pm \left\{ \frac{1}{4} (E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1}^0 - E_{\mathbf{k}}^0)^2 + |V_{\mathbf{G}_1}|^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

At the zone boundary, where $E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{G}_1} = E_{\mathbf{k}}$, the gap is

$$\Delta E = E_+ - E_- = 2|V_{\mathbf{G}_1}|$$

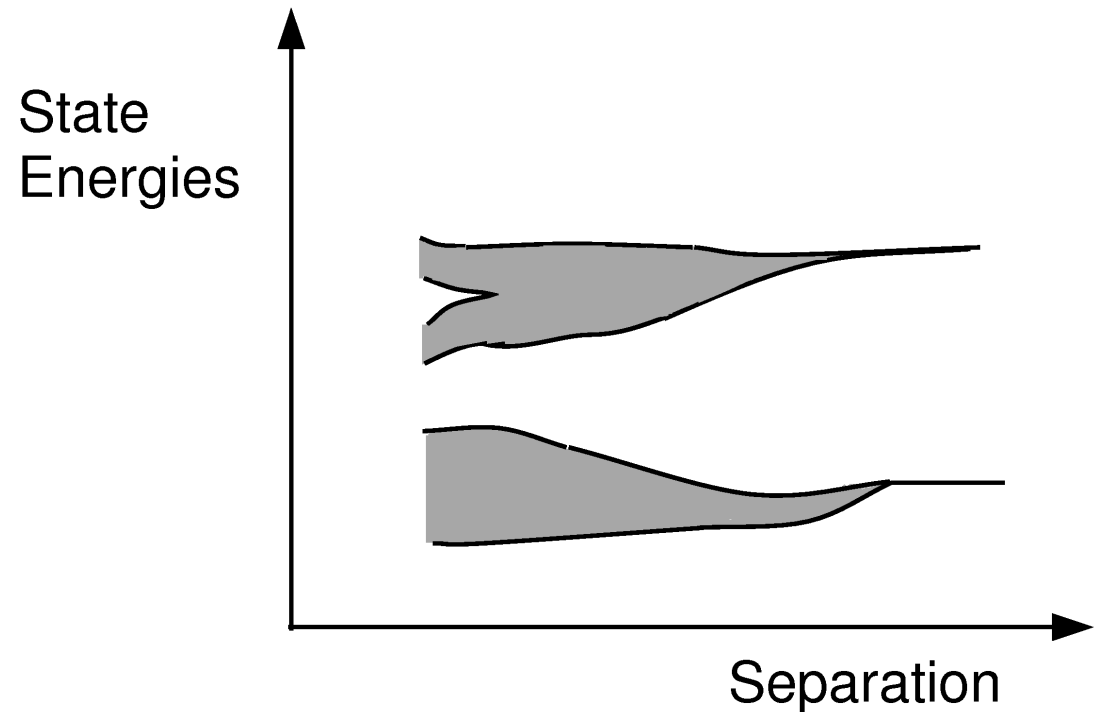
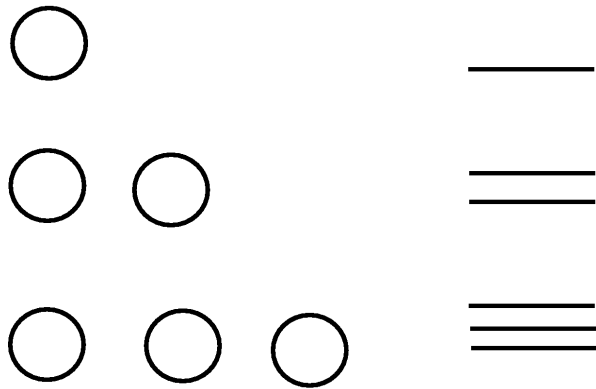


Bragg condition ($k_f - k_0 = G$)
is satisfied

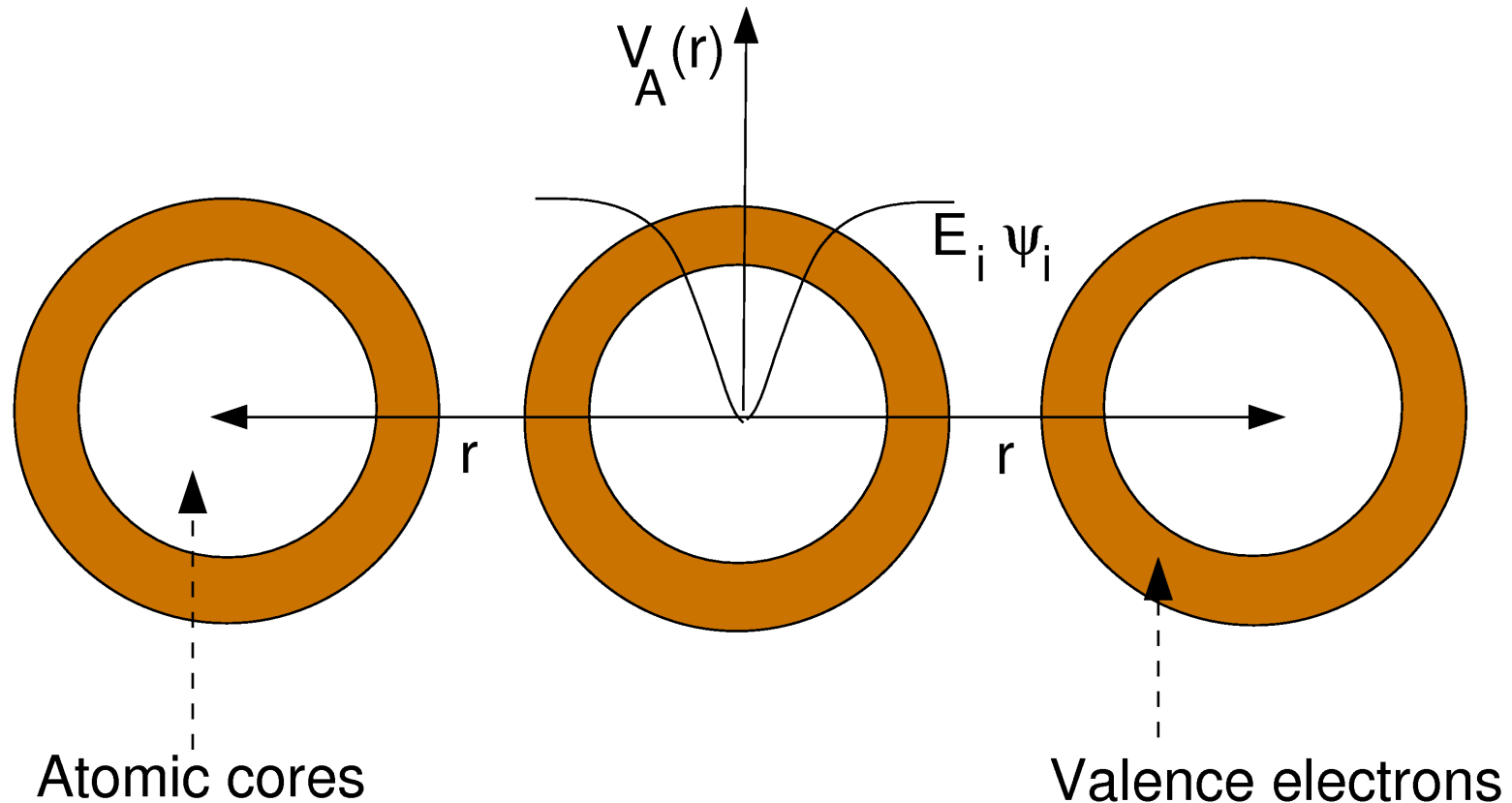


$$|-\mathbf{k}| \approx |\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}|$$

Band gaps in the electronic DOS



Tight Binding Approximation



$$H_A(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) \cdot \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) = E_i \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$$

There is a weak perturbation $v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$ coming from the atomic potentials of the other atoms $\mathbf{r}_m \neq \mathbf{r}_n$

$$H = H_A + v = -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m} + V_A(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) + v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$$

$$v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) = \sum_{m \neq n} V_A(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m)$$

We now seek solutions of the Schroedinger equation $H\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = E(\mathbf{k})\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$ indexed by \mathbf{k} (Bloch's theorem)

$$\Rightarrow \int \psi^* \Rightarrow E(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}} | H | \psi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}} | \psi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle}$$

$$\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}} | \psi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \equiv \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\langle \psi_{\mathbf{k}} | H | \psi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \equiv \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\mathbf{r}) H \psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\frac{\langle \phi_{\mathbf{k}} | H | \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\langle \phi_{\mathbf{k}} | \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle} \geq E(\mathbf{k}) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Raleigh-Ritz variational principle}$$

We will approximate $\psi_{\mathbf{k}}$ with a sum over atomic states.

$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \simeq \phi_{\mathbf{k}} = \sum_n a_n \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) = \sum_n e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n} \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$$

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

$\phi_{\mathbf{k}}$ must be a Bloch state $\phi_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{G}} = \phi_{\mathbf{k}}$ which dictates our choice $a_n = e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_n}$. Using $\phi_{\mathbf{k}}$ as an approximate state the energy denominator $\langle \phi_{\mathbf{k}} | \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle$, becomes

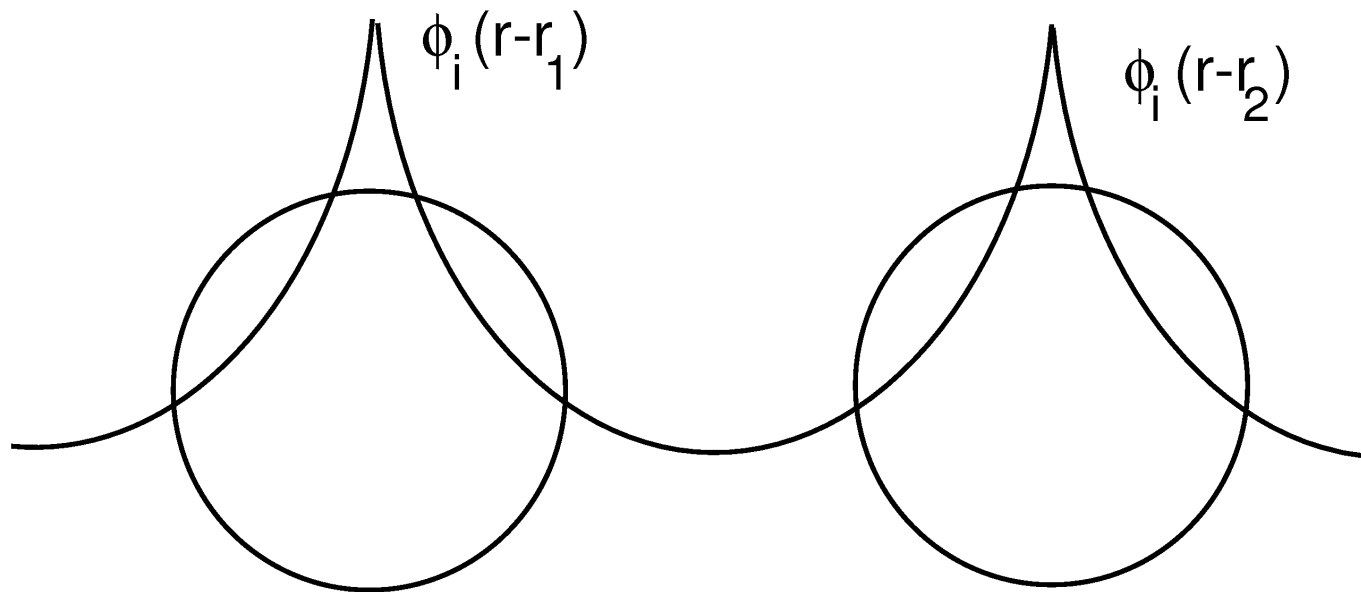
$$\langle \phi_{\mathbf{k}} | \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle = \sum_{n,m} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}_m)} \int d^3\mathbf{r} \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m) \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$$

We take the valence orbital of interest, ϕ_i , has a very small overlap with adjacent atoms so that

$$\langle \phi_{\mathbf{k}} | \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle \simeq \sum_n \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) = N$$

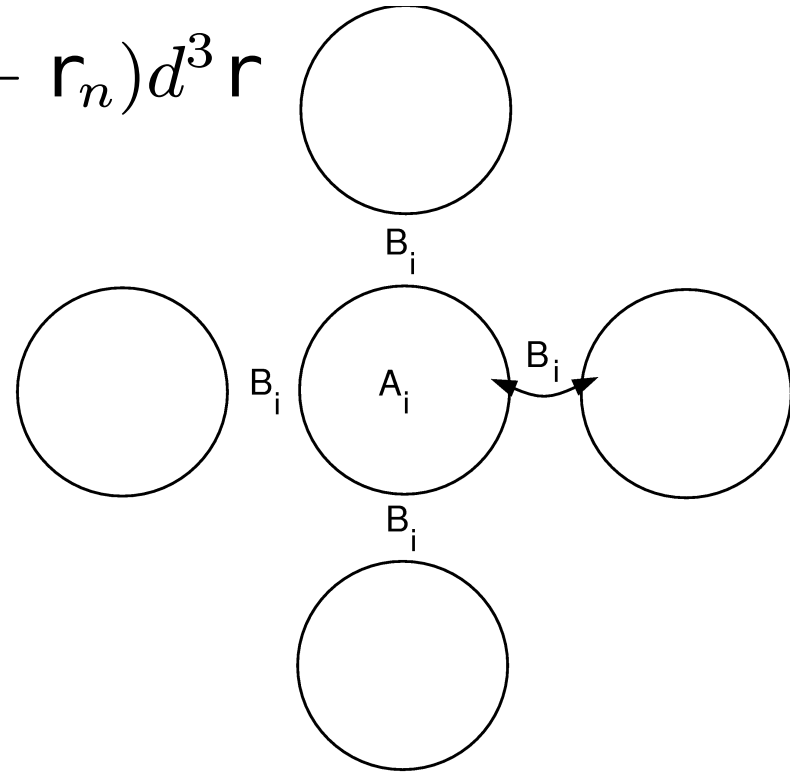
The energy for our approximate wave function is

$$E(\mathbf{k}) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n,m} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}_m)} \int d^3 \mathbf{r} \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m) \{E_i + v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)\} \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n)$$



$$A_i = - \int \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) d^3 \mathbf{r} \quad \text{ren. } E_i$$

$$B_i = - \int \phi_i^*(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_m) v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) \phi_i(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_n) d^3 \mathbf{r}$$



$$A_i, B_i > 0, \text{ since } v(r - r_n) < 0$$

$$E(\mathbf{k}) \simeq E_i - A_i - B_i \sum_m e^{i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}_m)}$$

sum over m n.n. to n

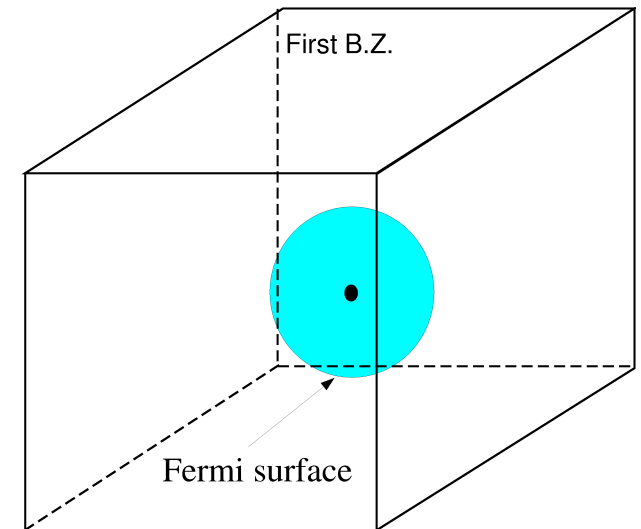
Consider a cubic lattice: $(\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}_m) = (\pm a, 0, 0)(0, \pm a, 0)(0, 0, \pm a)$

➡ $E(\mathbf{k}) = E_i - A_i - 2B_i\{\cos k_x a + \cos k_y a + \cos k_z a\}$

Expand the cosines $\cos ka \simeq 1 - 1/2 (ka)^2 + \dots$ and let $k^2 = k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2$, so that

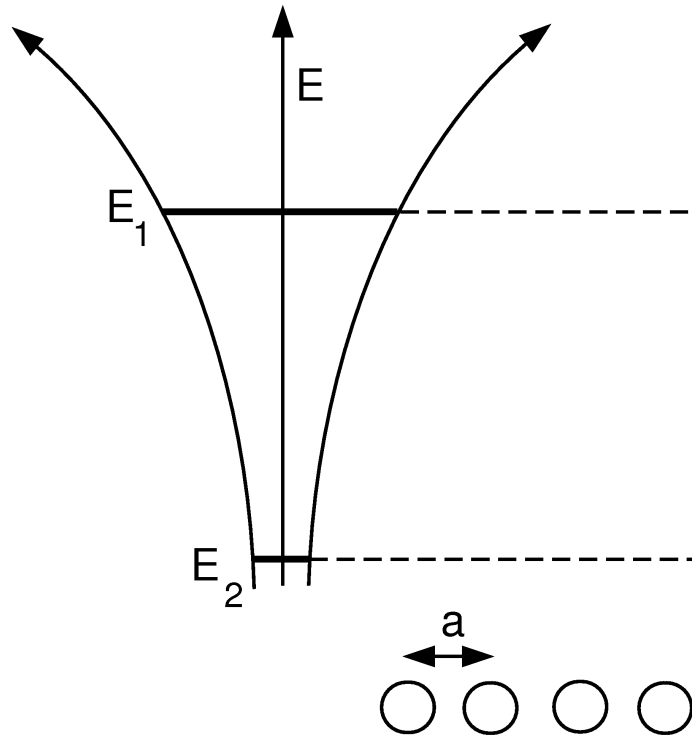
$$E(k) \simeq E_i - A_i + B_i a^2 k^2$$

The electrons near the zone center act as if they were free with a renormalized mass.

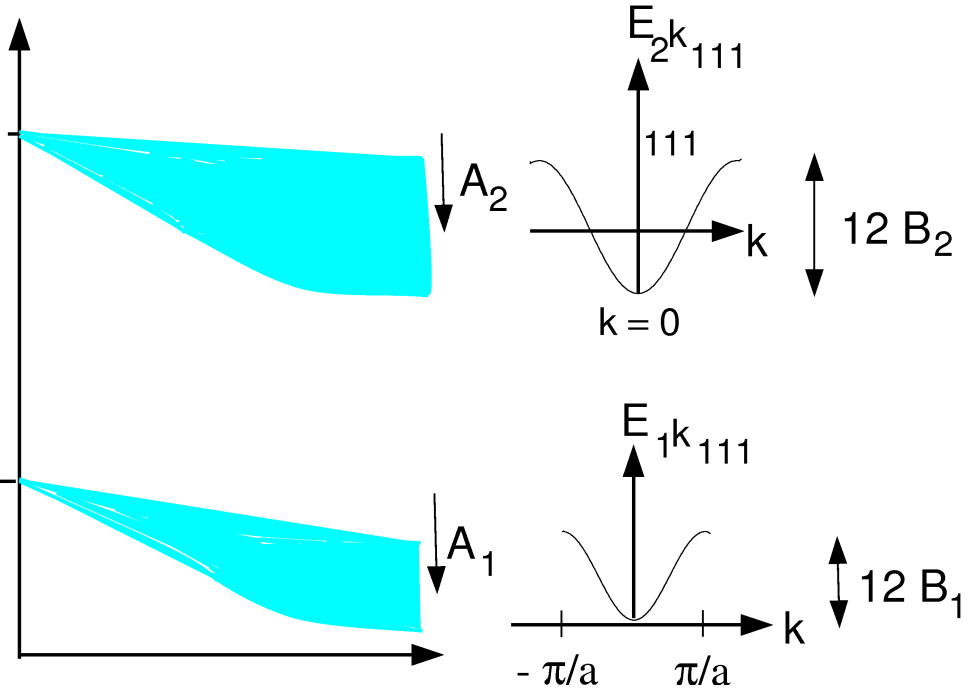


$$\frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m^*} = B_i a^2 k^2, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \frac{1}{m^*} \propto \text{curvature of band}$$

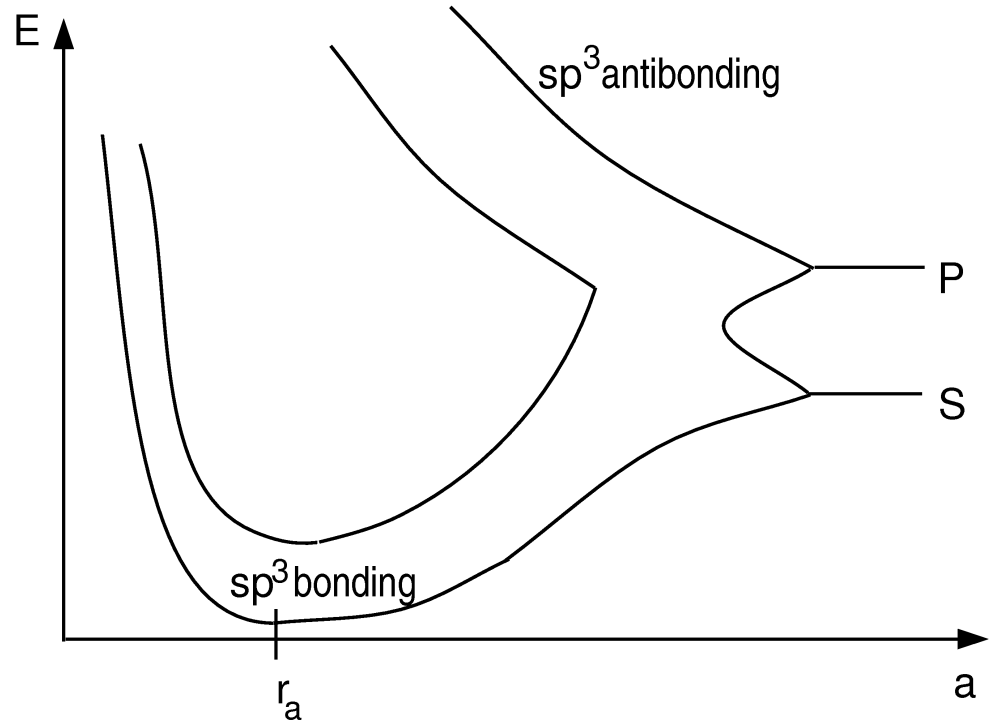
Atomic Potential



Tight Binding Bands



C (diamond) with atomic configuration of $1s^2 2s^2 2p^2$



Example: $Cu\ 3d^{10}4s$ - the d-orbitals are rather small whereas the valence s-orbitals have a large extent. As a result the s-s hybridization B_i^{ss} is strong and the B_i^{dd} is weak:

$$B_i^{dd} \ll B_i^{ss}$$

$$B_i^{sd} = \int \phi_i^s(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_1) v(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_2) \phi_i^d(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_2) d^3 \mathbf{r} \ll B_i^{ss}$$

