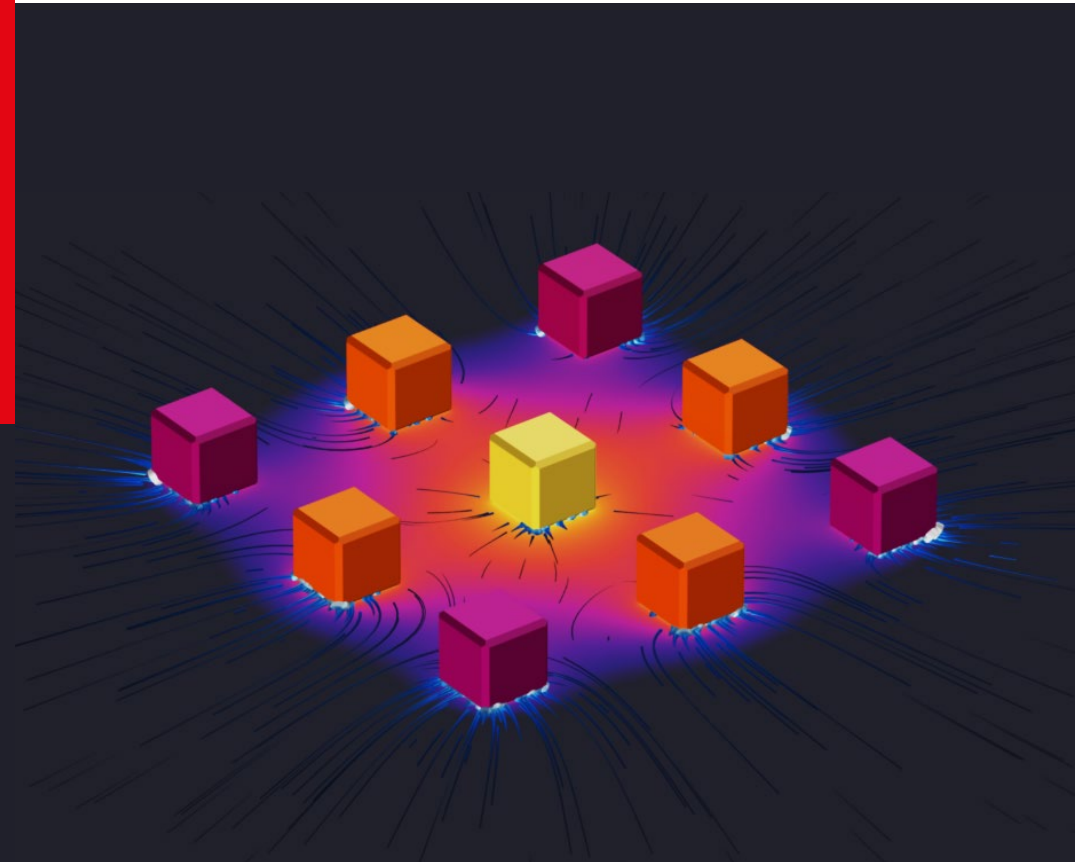


# Nanoscale Heat Transfer (and Energy Conversion) ME469

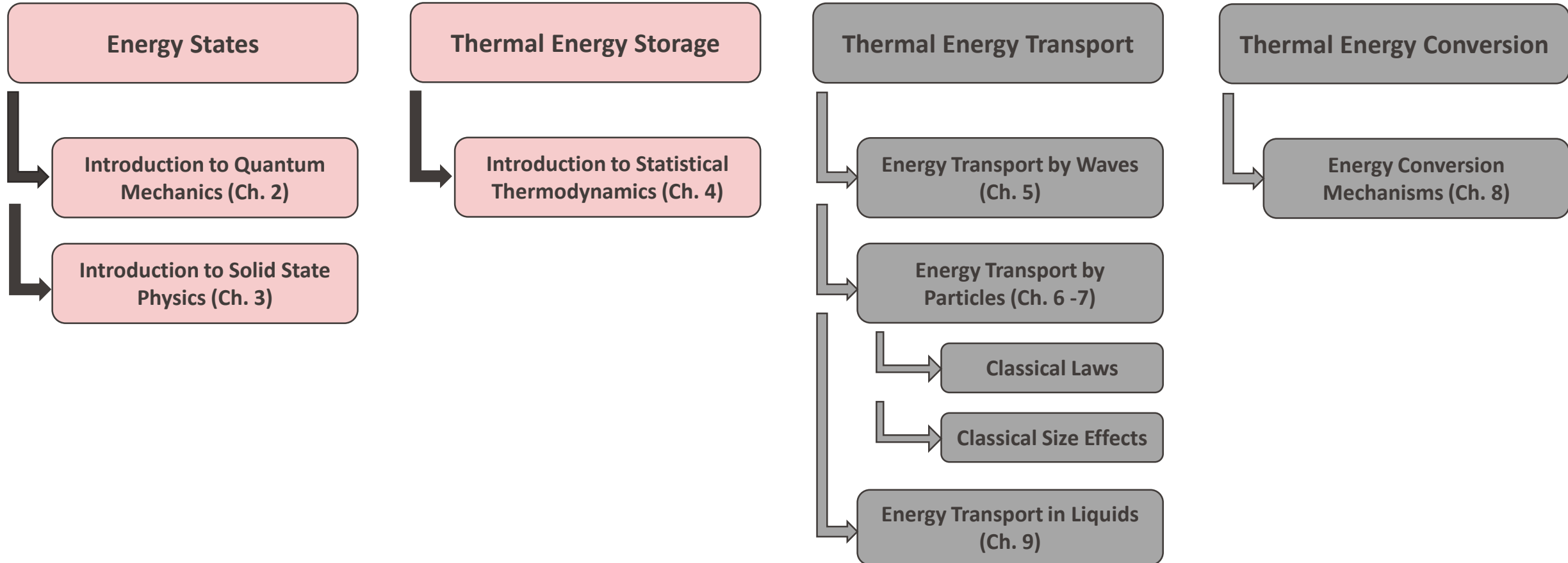
*Instructor:* Giulia Tagliabue



Spring Semester 2020

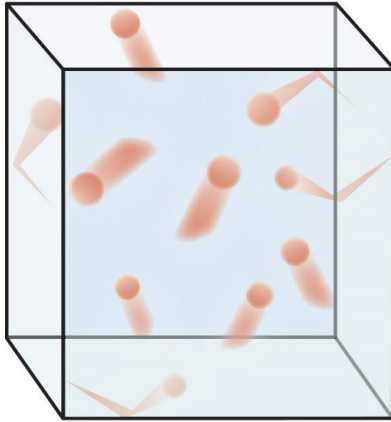
# What we covered so far...

## Nanoscale Heat Transfer (and Energy Conversion)

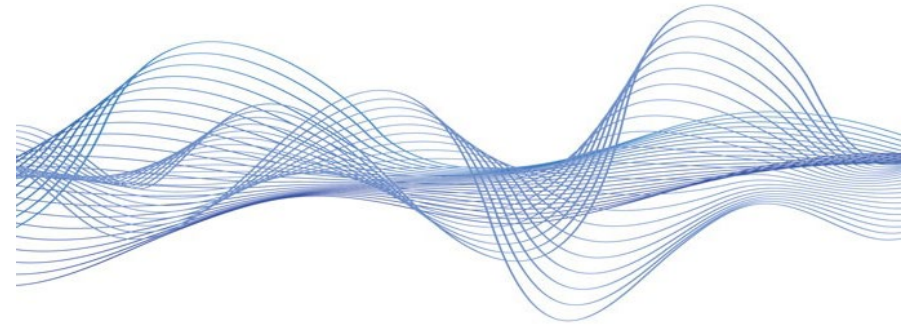


# Wave-particle Duality

The wave nature of material particles gives rise to quantum mechanical effects!



Particle View



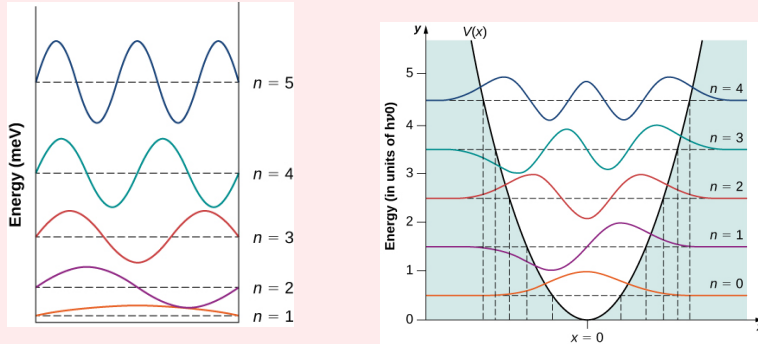
Wave View

|          |   |                                   |   |                      |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Energy   | ← | $E = h\nu = \hbar\omega$          | → | Frequency, Amplitude |
| Momentum | ← | $p = \hbar k = \frac{h}{\lambda}$ | → | Wavevector           |

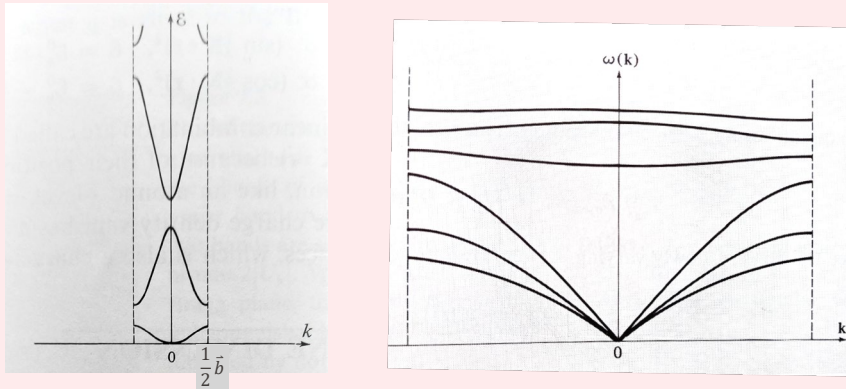
$$h = 6.6 \cdot 10^{-34} \text{Js}$$
$$\hbar = h/2\pi$$

# From Quantum States to Macroscopic Properties

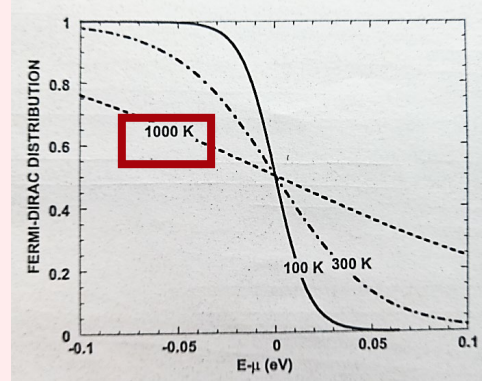
Localized potential



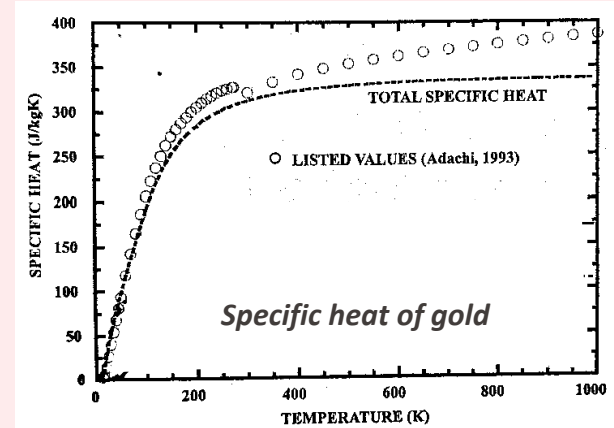
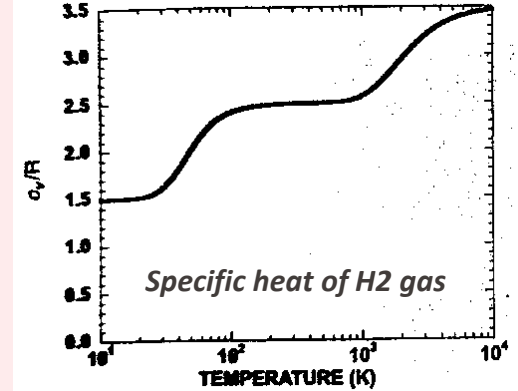
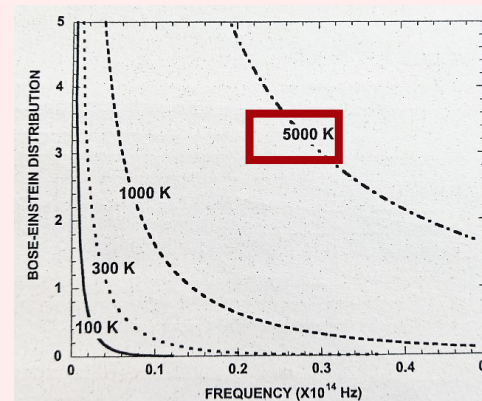
Periodic potential



Fermi Dirac Distribution



Bose Einstein Distribution



Allowed quantum states  
(steady-state Schrodinger eqn)

Connect quantum  
states and energy  
levels with the  
temperature

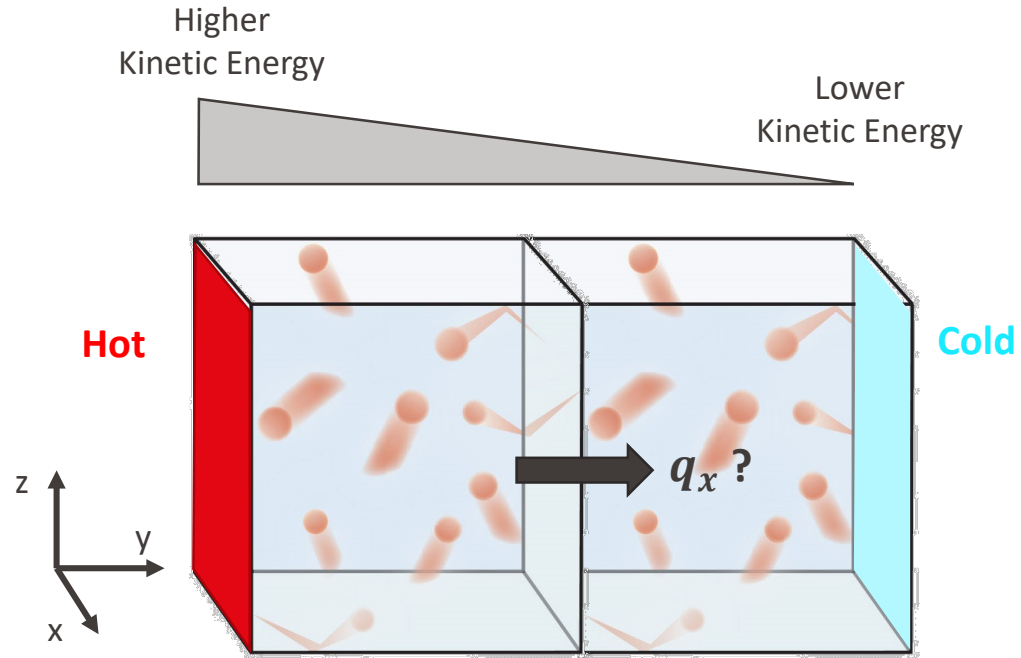
Probability that matter will be  
in a given quantum state when  
it is at equilibrium.  
(Statistical Thermodynamics)

Investigate the  
properties of  
matter at finite  
temperatures

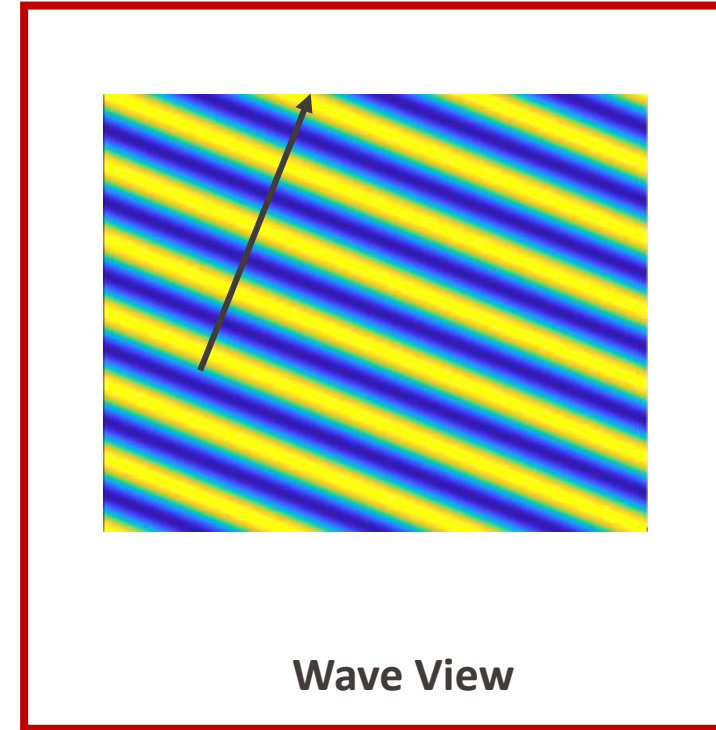
Macroscopic properties and  
their dependence on  
temperature



# Energy Transport



Particle View



Wave View

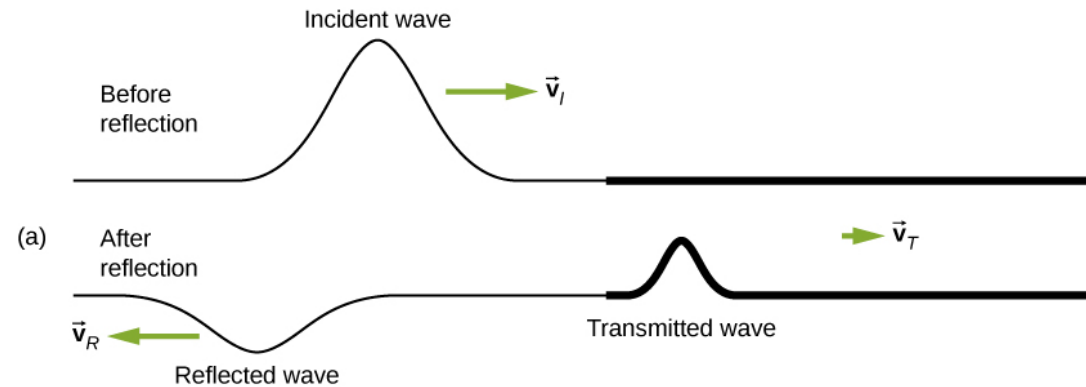
What are the peculiarities of energy transport by waves?

# Energy Transport by Waves

It can be always demonstrated that the energy  $U$  transported by a wave is proportional to the square of its amplitude:

$$U \propto |\vec{\Phi}|^2$$

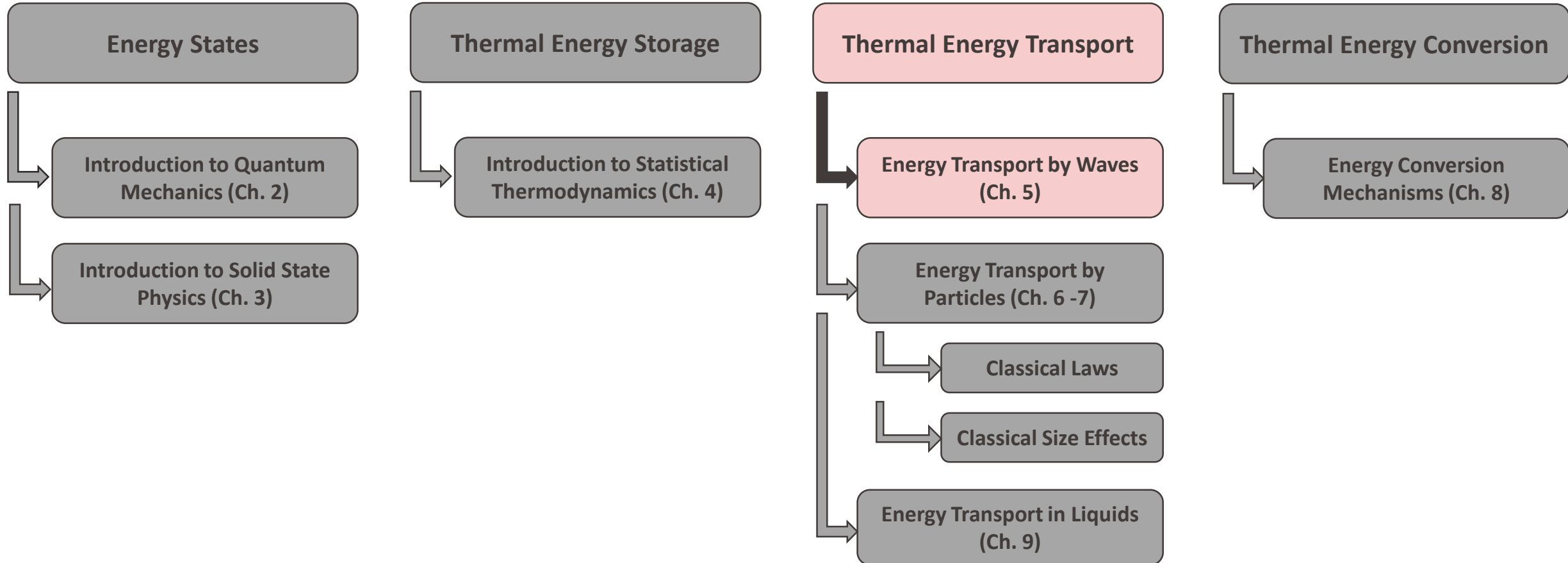
Contrary to classical particles, waves can be transmitted or reflected across an interface. Therefore, the energy transported on either side will depend on the amplitude of the transmitted and reflected component.



Furthermore precise phase relationship between different waves can lead to constructive or destructive interference phenomena that results in a maximization or minimization of the transported energy.

The wave nature of material particles give also rise to unique effects such as tunneling.

## Nanoscale Heat Transfer (and Energy Conversion)

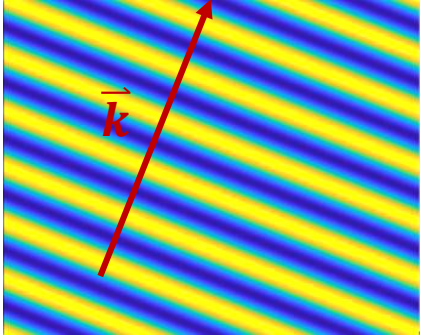


# In This Lecture ...

- **Plane Waves and Energy Transport\***
  - **EM waves and Poynting vector**
  - **Electron Flux**
- Plane waves at an interface
  - Fresnel coefficients
  - Electron transport at an interface
- Plane waves propagating in a multilayer structure (multiple interfaces and periodicity)
- Evanescent waves and tunneling

\*We will focus on photons and electrons. The detailed analysis for phonons can be found in the book (Ch. 5) and in a short version, in the supplementary slides. Indeed, as we will see, due to the very short wavelength of phonons it is very difficult to observe their wave nature.

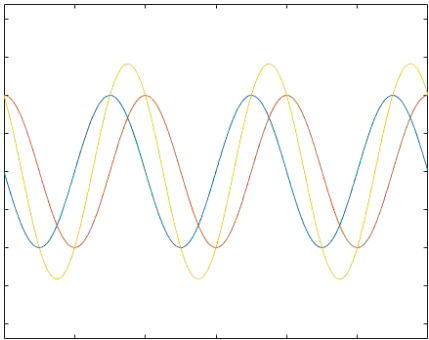
# Plane Waves and Energy Transport



$$\vec{\Phi} = \vec{A} \cos(\omega t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) \quad \vec{k} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\Phi}_c = \vec{A} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} e^{-i(\omega t)} = \vec{A}_c e^{-i(\omega t)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\Phi} = \text{Re} \left\{ \vec{A} e^{-i(\omega t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r})} \right\}$$



$$\vec{\Phi} = \vec{A} \cos(\omega t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) + \vec{B} \sin(\omega t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r})$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\Phi}_c = \vec{C}(\vec{r}) e^{-i(\omega t)} \quad \vec{C}(\vec{r}) = \vec{A}_c + i\vec{B}_c$$

How do we calculate the wave equation associated with different types of (material) waves?

What is the energy flux associated with different types of (material) waves?

# Wave Energy Transport - Photons

The transport of photons is governed by Maxwell's equations, i.e. the propagation equations of the electromagnetic waves. There are four *fields* to consider:

$\vec{E}$  = *electric field vector* [V/m]

$\vec{H}$  = *magnetic field vector* [A/m]

$\vec{D}$  = *electric displacement* [C/m<sup>2</sup>]

$\vec{B}$  = *magnetic induction* [N/Am]



*Fields generated by the motion of ions and electrons  
under the force of the electric and magnetic fields.*



# Wave Energy Transport - Photons

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Fields generated by the motion of ions and electrons  
under the force of the electric and magnetic fields.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} + \vec{J}_e \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_e \quad \rho_e = \text{net charge density [C/m}^3\text{]} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

To connect the  $\vec{E}$ ,  $\vec{H}$  to  $\vec{D}$  and  $\vec{B}$  we need to introduce the physical properties of the material through the constitutive equations. We have:

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P} \quad \vec{P} = \epsilon_0 \chi \vec{E}$$

where

$\epsilon_0$  = vacuum permittivity =  $8.85 \cdot 10^{-12}$  [F/m]

$\vec{P}$  = polarizability [C/m<sup>2</sup>]

$\chi$  = susceptibility

$$\vec{B} = \mu \vec{H}$$

where

$\mu$  = magnetic permeability

Non-magnetic materials:  $\mu = \mu_0 = 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}$  [H/m]

Diamagnetic materials:  $\mu < \mu_0$

Paramagnetic materials:  $\mu > \mu_0$

$$\vec{J}_e = \sigma_e \vec{E}$$

where

$\sigma_e$  = electrical conductivity [1/ $\Omega$ m]

# Wave Energy Transport - Photons

To identify the form of the solution to Maxwell's equation we calculate:  $\nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial(\nabla \times \vec{B})}{\partial t}$

For  $\rho_e = 0$  (no net charge) and  $\varepsilon$  independent of space  $\nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{E} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{E}) - \nabla^2 \vec{E} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{D}) - \nabla^2 \vec{E} = -\nabla^2 \vec{E}$

$$-\frac{\partial(\nabla \times \vec{B})}{\partial t} = -\mu \frac{\partial(\nabla \times \vec{H})}{\partial t} = -\mu \frac{\partial^2 \vec{D}}{\partial t^2} - \mu \frac{\partial \vec{J}_e}{\partial t} = -\mu \varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \mu \sigma_e \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla^2 \vec{E} = \mu \varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} + \mu \sigma_e \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

Wave-equation

Damping term determined by the absorption by free-electrons.

If  $\sigma_e = 0$  no damping

We guess:  $\vec{E}_c(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}_0 e^{-i(\omega t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{r})} \Rightarrow \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = \mu \omega^2 \left[ \varepsilon_0 (1 + \chi) + i \frac{\sigma_e}{\omega} \right] \Rightarrow |\vec{k}| = \sqrt{\mu \varepsilon_c} \omega = \frac{N}{c_0} \omega$

where  $\varepsilon_c = \varepsilon_0 (1 + \chi) + i \frac{\sigma_e}{\omega} = \varepsilon_0 \left[ (1 + \chi) + i \frac{\sigma_e}{\varepsilon_0 \omega} \right] = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r$   $\varepsilon_r = (1 + \chi) + i \frac{\sigma_e}{\varepsilon_0 \omega}$   $\varepsilon_c = \text{complex permittivity [F/m]}$   
 $\varepsilon_r = \text{complex relative permittivity}$

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0}} \quad c = c_0 / N$$

$$N = \sqrt{\frac{\mu \varepsilon_c}{\mu_0 \varepsilon_0}} = n + i\kappa \quad N = \text{complex refractive index}$$

$n = (\text{real part}) \text{refractive index}$   
 $\kappa = (\text{imaginary part}) \text{refractive index}$   
 $= \text{extinction coefficient}$

It can be shown that **an electromagnetic wave in vacuum must be a transverse wave**, i.e.  $\vec{E} \perp \vec{H} \perp \vec{k}$

# Wave Energy Transport - Photons


We now consider an electromagnetic wave traveling along  $x$  ( $\vec{k} = \pm k_x$ ) with electric field polarized along  $y$  and magnetic field along  $z$ , we have:


$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{E}_c(y, t) &= E_{y0} e^{-i\omega(t \mp \frac{N}{c_0}x)} \hat{y} \\ \vec{H}_c(y, t) &= H_{z0} e^{-i\omega(t \mp \frac{N}{c_0}x)} \hat{z} \end{aligned} \right\} H_{z0} = \pm \frac{N}{\mu c_0} E_{y0}$$


We now want to find an expression for the energy flow associated with an electromagnetic wave. Again we need to manipulate the Maxwell equations:


$$\left. \begin{aligned} \vec{H} \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{E}) &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\vec{H} \cdot \vec{B}) \\ \vec{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \vec{H}) &= \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} \cdot \vec{E} + \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}_e \end{aligned} \right\} -\nabla \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{H}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \mu \vec{H} \cdot \vec{H} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \right] + \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}_e \Rightarrow -\iiint \nabla \cdot (\vec{E} \times \vec{H}) dV = \iiint \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \mu \vec{H} \cdot \vec{H} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \right] + \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}_e \right\} dV$$

$$\Rightarrow -\oiint (\vec{E} \times \vec{H}) \cdot \hat{n} dA = \iiint \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \mu \vec{H} \cdot \vec{H} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E} \right] + \vec{E} \cdot \vec{J}_e \right\} dV$$

  
 Instantaneous  
energy flux INTO  
the control volume  
[W/m<sup>2</sup>]

  
 Magnetic energy  
density [J/m<sup>3</sup>]

  
 Electric energy  
density [J/m<sup>3</sup>]

  
 Dissipation (joule  
heating) [W/m<sup>3</sup>]

$$\Rightarrow \vec{S} = \vec{E} \times \vec{H} \quad \text{Poynting vector} \quad \Rightarrow \langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{T} \int_t^{t+T} \vec{S} dt' = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \{ \vec{E}_c \times \vec{H}_c^* \} \quad \text{Time averaged Poynting vector}$$

# Wave Energy Transport - Photons

We now want to calculate the time average Poynting vector for a plane electromagnetic wave travelling in a material with complex refractive index  $N$ .

$$\vec{E}_c(y, t) = E_{y0} e^{-i\omega\left(t - \frac{N}{c_0}x\right)} \hat{y} \quad \vec{H}_c(y, t) = H_{z0} e^{-i\omega\left(t - \frac{N}{c_0}x\right)} \hat{z} = \frac{N}{\mu c_0} E_{y0} e^{-i\omega\left(t - \frac{N}{c_0}x\right)} \hat{z} \quad N = \sqrt{\epsilon_r} = n + i\kappa$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{H}_c^*(y, t) = H_{z0} e^{i\omega\left(t - \frac{N^*}{c_0}x\right)} \hat{z} = \frac{N^*}{\mu c_0} E_{y0}^* e^{i\omega\left(t - \frac{N^*}{c_0}x\right)} \hat{z} \quad N^* = n - i\kappa$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \left\{ \vec{E}_c \times \vec{H}_c^* \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \left\{ E_{y0} \frac{N^*}{\mu c_0} E_{y0}^* e^{-i\omega\left(t - \frac{N}{c_0}x\right)} e^{i\omega\left(t - \frac{N^*}{c_0}x\right)} \right\} (\hat{y} \times \hat{z}) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{n - i\kappa}{\mu c_0} e^{\left(-\frac{2\omega\kappa}{c_0}x\right)} \right\} E_{y0}^2 \hat{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{\mu c_0} e^{\left(-\frac{2\omega\kappa}{c_0}x\right)} E_{y0}^2 \hat{x} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{\mu c_0} e^{\left(-\frac{4\pi\kappa}{\lambda_0}x\right)} E_{y0}^2 \hat{x} \quad \text{where } \omega = kc = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} c$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \frac{n}{\mu c_0} e^{(-\alpha x)} E_{y0}^2 \hat{x} \quad \text{where } \alpha = \frac{4\pi\kappa}{\lambda_0} = \text{absorption coefficient}$$

The energy decreases exponentially

The energy is proportional to the square of the amplitude

# Wave Energy Transport - Electrons

For a free electron ( $U = \text{const}$ ) we can show that the wavefunction is a plane wave\*:

$$\Psi_t = Y(t)\Psi(x) = Ae^{-i(\omega t + kx)} + Be^{-i(\omega t - kx)} \quad k = \sqrt{\frac{2m(E - U)}{\hbar^2}}$$

Furthermore we have seen that from the Schrodinger equation we can derive a continuity equation from which the particle current (or flux) can be calculated as\*\*:

$$\vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{i\hbar}{2m} [\Psi_t \nabla \Psi_t^* - \Psi_t^* \nabla \Psi_t] = \text{Re} \left[ \frac{i\hbar}{m} \Psi_t \nabla \Psi_t^* \right]$$

\*see Lecture L3, slide 12 for the case  $U=0$

\*\*see Lecture L3, slide 10

# Plane Waves and Energy Transport - Summary

| Wave type | Wave Equation   | Energy Flux   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Photons   | $\vec{E}_c(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}_0 e^{-i\omega\left(t - \frac{N}{c_0}\hat{k}\cdot\vec{r}\right)}$ $c_0 = 1/\sqrt{\mu_0\epsilon_0}$ $N = n + i\kappa$  | $\langle \vec{S} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \left\{ \vec{E}_c \times \vec{H}_c^* \right\}$ |
| Electrons | $\Psi_t = A e^{-i(\omega t + kx)} + B e^{-i(\omega t - kx)}$ $k = \sqrt{(2m(E - U))/\hbar^2}$   | $\vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) = \text{Re} \left[ \frac{i\hbar}{m} \Psi_t \nabla \Psi_t^* \right]$        |
| Phonons   | $\vec{v}_{T1} = \hat{a} A_{T1} e^{-i(\omega t - k_T \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})}$ $\vec{v}_{T2} = \hat{a} \times \hat{k} A_{T2} e^{-i(\omega t - k_T \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})}$ $\vec{v}_L = \hat{k} A_L e^{-i(\omega t - k_L \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})}$ | $\vec{J}_{ac} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Re} [\vec{v}^* \cdot \vec{\sigma}]$                          |

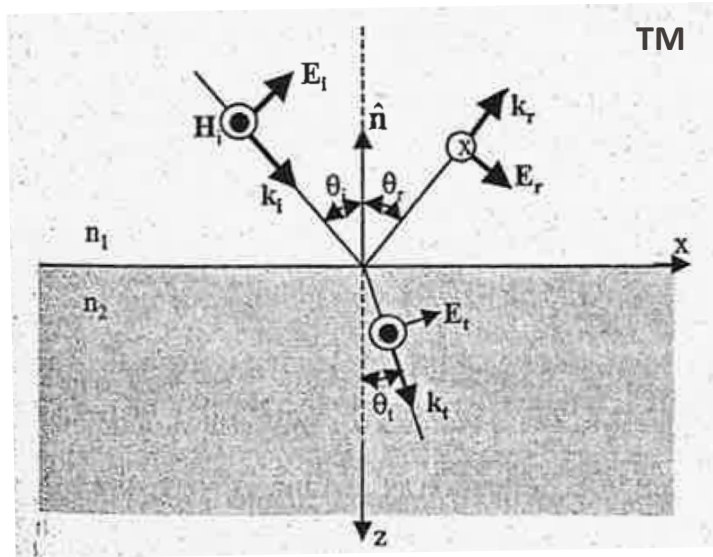
How do waves transfer energy across an interface?



# In This Lecture ...

- Plane Waves and Energy Transport\*
  - EM waves and Poynting vector
  - Electron Flux
- **Plane waves at an interface**
  - **Fresnel coefficients**
  - **Electron transport at an interface**
- Plane waves propagating in a multilayer structure (multiple interfaces and periodicity)
- Evanescent waves and tunneling

\*We will focus on photons and electrons. The detailed analysis for phonons can be found in the book (Ch. 5) and in a short version, in the supplementary slides. Indeed, as we will see, due to the very short wavelength of phonons it is very difficult to observe their wave nature.



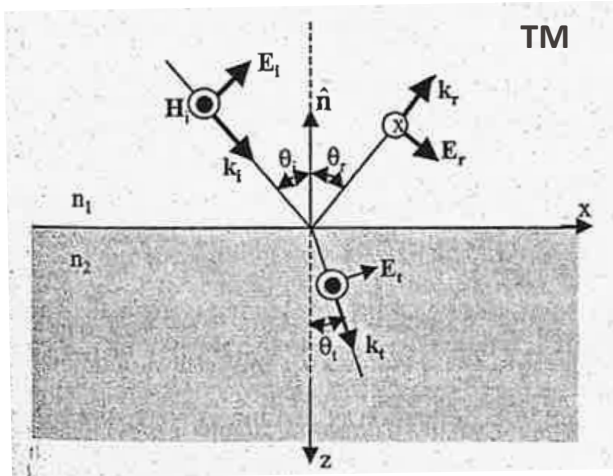
Symbol Convention:

- Field Going Out of Paper
- ⊗ Field Going Into Paper

When an electromagnetic wave reaches an interface it can be reflected or refracted. We need to take into account the **polarization** of the wave with respect to the interface.

- **Transverse Magnetic (TM) wave** (also called p-wave or // wave)
  - The electric field lies in the plane of incidence
  - The component of the electric field perpendicular to the interface changes with the angle of incidence
- **Transverse Electric (TE) wave** (also called s-wave or  $\perp$  wave)
  - The electric field is perpendicular to the plane of incidence
  - The electric field is only parallel to the interface and its magnitude does not change with the angle of incidence

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons



To solve the problem we need to define appropriate boundary conditions at the interface.

It can be shown from Maxwell equations that the following conditions must be satisfied at the interface\*:

$$\hat{n} \cdot (\mathbf{D}_2 - \mathbf{D}_1) = \rho_s$$

The difference of the normal components of the displacement fields is related to the net surface charge density  $\rho_s$

$$\hat{n} \times (\mathbf{E}_2 - \mathbf{E}_1) = 0$$

The tangential components of the electric field must be continuous

$$\hat{n} \cdot (\mathbf{B}_2 - \mathbf{B}_1) = 0$$

The normal components of the magnetic induction field must be continuous

$$\hat{n} \times (\mathbf{H}_2 - \mathbf{H}_1) = \mathbf{J}_s$$

The difference of the tangential components of the magnetic field is related to the net surface current density  $\mathbf{J}_s$

We consider a plane **TM wave** (shown in the picture) propagating from the lossless medium 1 to lossless medium 2 with an incidence angle  $\theta_i$ .

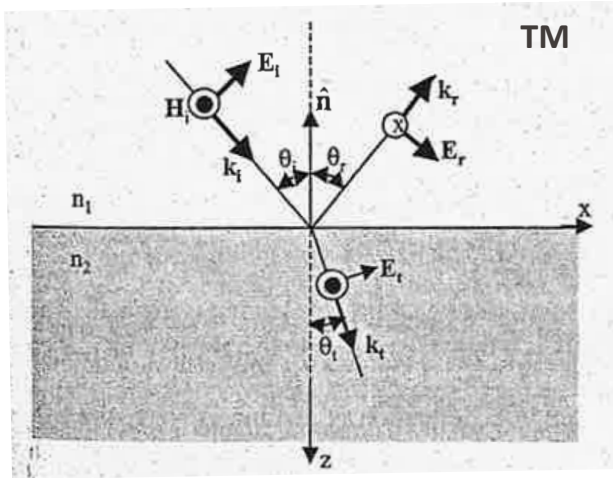
The incident, reflected and transmitted electric fields can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{//i} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_i + n_1 z \cos \theta_i}{c_0} \right) \right] \\ E_{//r} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_r - n_1 z \cos \theta_r}{c_0} \right) \right] \\ E_{//t} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t - n_2 z \cos \theta_t}{c_0} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$H_y = \frac{n}{\mu c_0} E_{//}(\text{forward}), \quad H_y = -\frac{n}{\mu c_0} E_{//}(\text{backward})$$

\*see Griffith, Ch. 7

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons



For an interface free of charge we get:

$$E_{//i} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_i + n_1 z \cos \theta_i}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$E_{//r} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_r - n_1 z \cos \theta_r}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$E_{//t} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t - n_2 z \cos \theta_t}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$H_y = \frac{n}{\mu c_0} E_{//} (\text{forward}), \quad H_y = -\frac{n}{\mu c_0} E_{//} (\text{backward})$$

$$\cos \theta_i E_{//i} \exp \left[ i\omega \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_i}{c_0} \right] + \cos \theta_r E_{//r} \exp \left[ i\omega \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_r}{c_0} \right] = \cos \theta_t E_{//t} \exp \left[ i\omega \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t}{c_0} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow n_1 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \sin \theta_r = n_2 \sin \theta_t$$

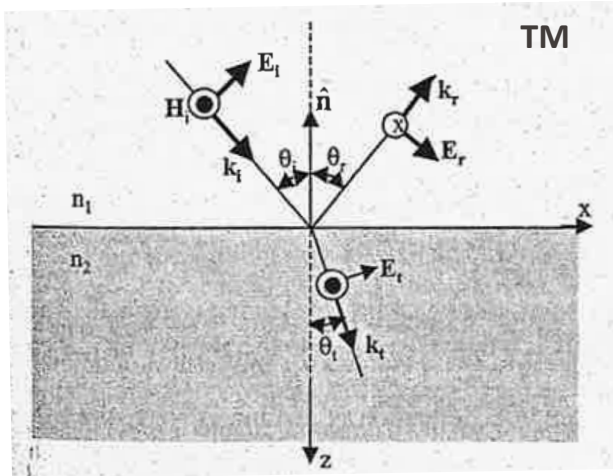
$$\Rightarrow n_1 \sin \theta_i = n_2 \sin \theta_t \quad \theta_i = \theta_r \quad \text{Snell's law}$$

Additionally we obtain the following expressions for the fields:

$$\cos \theta_i E_{//i} + \cos \theta_r E_{//r} = \cos \theta_t E_{//t}$$

$$n_1 E_{//i} - n_1 E_{//r} = n_2 E_{//t}$$

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons



$$E_{//i} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_i + n_1 z \cos \theta_i}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$E_{//r} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_1 x \sin \theta_r - n_1 z \cos \theta_r}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$E_{//t} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t - n_2 z \cos \theta_t}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$\cos \theta_i E_{//i} + \cos \theta_i E_{//r} = \cos \theta_t E_{//t}$$

$$n_1 E_{//i} - n_1 E_{//r} = n_2 E_{//t}$$

We define a reflection and a transmission coefficient as the ratio of the amplitudes of the electric fields. These are also called **Fresnel coefficients**.

TM wave:

$$r_{//} = \frac{E_{//r}}{E_{//i}} = \frac{-n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 \cos \theta_t}{n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$t_{//} = \frac{E_{//t}}{E_{//i}} = \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i}{n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 \cos \theta_t}$$

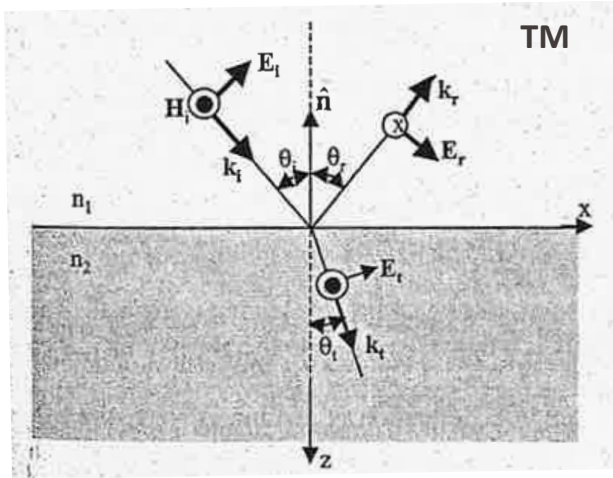
TE wave:

$$r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 \cos \theta_i - n_2 \cos \theta_t}{n_1 \cos \theta_i + n_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$t_{\perp} = \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i}{n_1 \cos \theta_i + n_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

*Note:* For an absorbing medium, we need to use the complex  $N$  instead of the real  $n$ . If  $N_2$  is complex we obtain a complex refraction angle  $\theta_t$  which corresponds to an inhomogeneous wave, i.e. where constant amplitude and constant phase surfaces do not coincide.

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons



Once the fields are known we can calculate the energy fluxes. For a TM wave we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^*) = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(E_z H_y^*) \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(E_x H_y^*) \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ &= \frac{n}{2\mu c_0} E_{//}^2 \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{n}{2\mu c_0} E_{//}^2 \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ &= \boxed{\langle S_x \rangle \hat{\mathbf{x}}} + \boxed{\langle S_z \rangle \hat{\mathbf{z}}}\end{aligned}$$

Parallel to the interface      Across the interface

We thus define the reflectivity and the transmissivity by calculating the ratio of the power normal to the interface  $S_{i,z}$ :

$$R_{//} = \frac{S_{//r,z}}{S_{//i,z}} = \frac{S_{//r}}{S_{//i}} = |r_{//}|^2$$

TM wave:

$$\tau_{//} = \frac{S_{//t,z}}{S_{//i,z}} = \frac{S_{//t}}{S_{//i}} = \frac{\text{Re}(N_2^* \cos \theta_t)}{\text{Re}(N_1^* \cos \theta_i)} |t_{//}|^2$$

TE wave:

$$R_{\perp} = |r_{\perp}|^2$$

$$\tau_{\perp} = \frac{\text{Re}(N_2 \cos \theta_t)}{\text{Re}(N_1 \cos \theta_i)} |t_{\perp}|^2$$

For a non-absorbing medium:  $R + \tau = 1$

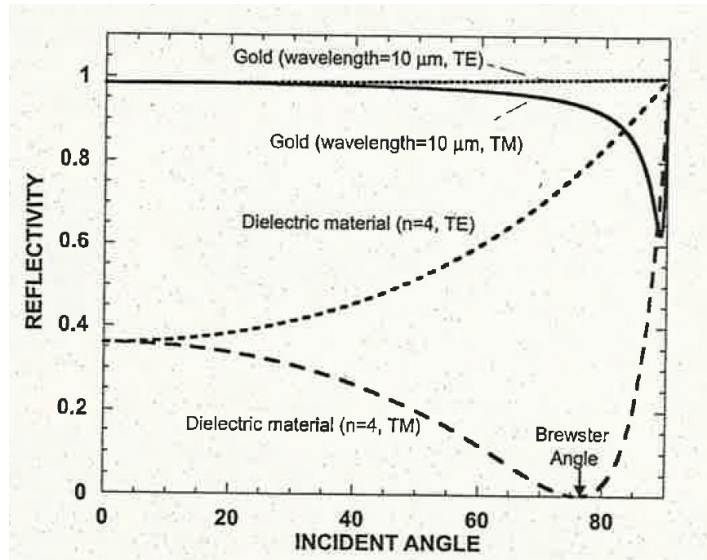
At normal incidence:

$$R = R_{//} = R_{\perp} = \left| \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right|^2 = \left| \frac{N_2 - N_1}{N_2 + N_1} \right|^2 = \frac{(n_2 - n_1)^2 + (\kappa_2 - \kappa_1)^2}{(n_2 + n_1)^2 + (\kappa_2 + \kappa_1)^2}$$

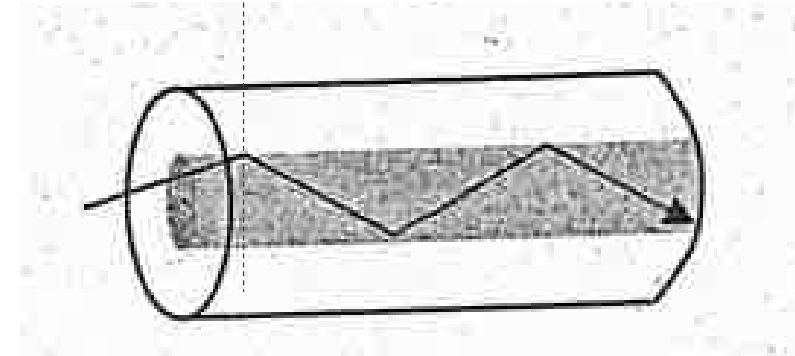


# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons

We observe two interesting conditions:



When  $\tan\theta_B = n_2/n_1$  then the reflectivity of a TM wave,  $r_{\parallel} = 0$  and therefore only the TE component is reflected. This angle is called **Brewster angle**.



When  $n_1 > n_2$  there exist a critical angle  $\theta_c$  above which no real solution for  $\theta_t$  exists:

$$n_1 \sin\theta_c = n_2 \sin(\pi/2) \Rightarrow \theta_c = \arcsin(n_2/n_1)$$

This is the condition of **total internal reflection**. We will see later what it means

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Photons

Let's now briefly consider the dissipation. For example, let's consider a laser beam incident on a metallic film (normal incidence). Knowing the complex refractive index of the metal at the laser wavelength, we want to determine the energy dissipation profile.

From the Poynting vector expression we know that the energy flux decreases exponentially inside the metal, thus the intensity will be equal to:

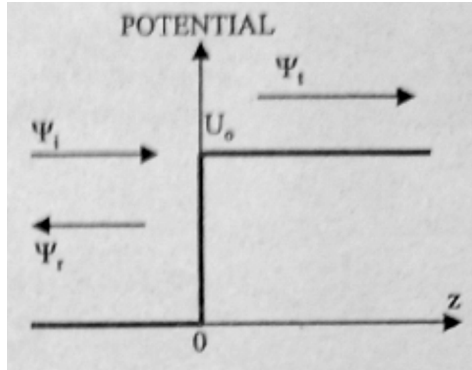
$$I = (1 - R)I_i e^{-\alpha x} [\text{W m}^{-2}] \quad \text{where} \quad R = \left| \frac{1 - N}{1 + N} \right|^2 \quad \alpha = \frac{4\pi\kappa}{\lambda}$$

Thus the heat dissipation will be :

$$\dot{q} = -\frac{dI}{dx} = (1 - R)\alpha I_i e^{-\alpha x} [\text{W m}^{-3}]$$

We observe that, if the medium is infinite the energy transmitted into the medium will be eventually absorbed, hence the transmittivity equals the absorptivity. We remind that based on Kirchhoff's laws, the emissivity is equal to the absorptivity at the same incident direction and wavelength.

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Electrons



When an electron reaches the interface between two materials we expect it will be subject to a different potential. We can thus understand what will happen by calculating the transmission and reflection of an electron wave at a potential step.

Incident wave:  $\Psi_i = A_i e^{-i(\omega t - k_1 x)}$

Reflected wave:  $\Psi_r = A_r e^{-i(\omega t + k_1 x)}$

Transmitted wave:  $\Psi_t = A_t e^{-i(\omega t - k_2 x)}$

$$\omega = \frac{E}{\hbar}, \quad k_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2mE}{\hbar^2}}, \quad k_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2m(E - U_0)}{\hbar^2}}$$

To find the amplitudes of these three waves we need to apply continuity of the function and its first-derivative at the interface. We obtain the reflection and transmission coefficients:

$$r = \frac{A_r}{A_i} = \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \quad \text{and} \quad t = \frac{A_t}{A_i} = \frac{2k_1}{k_1 + k_2}$$

We then know that to each wave we have an associated flux of particles  $\vec{j}$ . We can thus calculate the reflectivity and transmissivity of the electron flux:

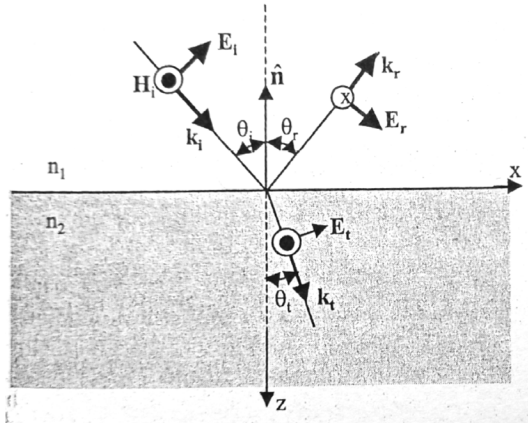
$$R = \frac{J_r}{J_i} = \left| \frac{k_1 - k_2}{k_1 + k_2} \right|^2$$

$$\tau = \frac{J_t}{J_i} = \frac{\text{Re}[k_2^* A_t A_i^*]}{\text{Re}[k_1^* A_i A_i^*]} = \frac{4 \text{Re}(k_1 k_2^*)}{|k_1 + k_2|^2} = 1 - R$$

- For  $E > U_0$ , the wave will be partially transmitted and partially reflected. This is contrary to the common experience of classical mechanics and it is a quantum effect dictated by the wave nature of the particle.
- For  $E < U_0$ ,  $k_2$  is imaginary. Therefore  $\Psi_t$  is an **evanescent wave** (exponential decay). It can be shown that  $R = 1$  and  $\tau = 0$ .

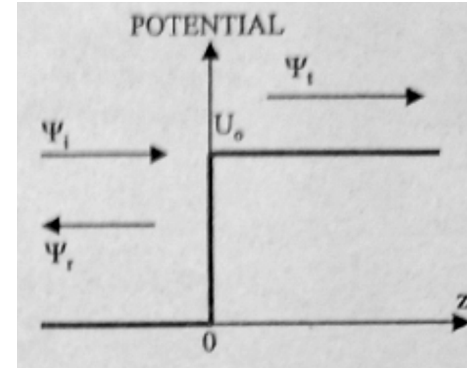
# Plane Waves at an Interface

Photons



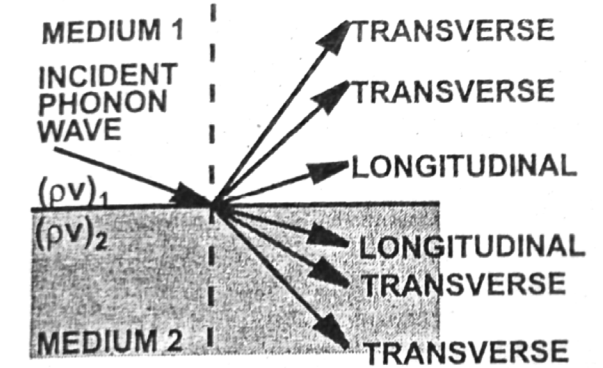
Reflection and Refraction  
TM and TE waves  
Brewster Angle & Total Internal reflection

Electrons



Reflection and Transmission  
Evanescent Wave for  $E < U$   
Reflection even for  $E > U$

Phonons



Reflection and Refraction  
Coupling between different polarizations

How do we describe wave propagation across multiple interfaces?

What happens in periodic structures?

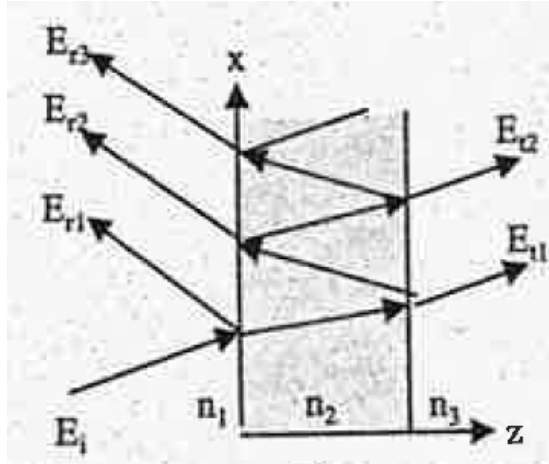
How does the thickness of a layer impact the propagation?

# In This Lecture ...

- Plane Waves and Energy Transport\*
  - EM waves and Poynting vector
  - Electron Flux
- Plane waves at an interface
  - Fresnel coefficients
  - Electron transport at an interface
- **Plane waves propagating in a multilayer structure (multiple interfaces and periodicity)**
- Evanescent waves and tunneling

\*We will focus on photons and electrons. The detailed analysis for phonons can be found in the book (Ch. 5) and in a short version, in the supplementary slides. Indeed, as we will see, due to the very short wavelength of phonons it is very difficult to observe their wave nature.

# Wave Propagation in Thin Films



When multiple interfaces are present, there will be a superposition between reflected and transmitted waves at every interface:

- Depending on the thickness of the layer, the reflected and transmitted waves can interfere constructively or destructively.
- The observed reflection and transmission will depend on the thickness of the layer.

For a thin film of thickness  $d$  it is possible to demonstrate that :

$$r = \frac{r_{12} + r_{23}e^{2i\varphi_2}}{1 + r_{12}r_{23}e^{2i\varphi_2}}$$

$$t = \frac{t_{12}t_{23}e^{i\varphi_2}}{1 + r_{12}r_{23}e^{2i\varphi_2}}$$

where  $r_{ij}, t_{ij}$  are the Fresnel coefficient of the interface between material  $i$  and  $j$  and  $\varphi_2 = \frac{\omega n_2 d \cos \theta_2}{c_0} = \text{spatial phase}$

For a non-absorbing thin film it is then straightforward to obtain:

$$R = |r|^2 = \frac{r_{12}^2 + r_{23}^2 + 2r_{12}r_{23}\cos 2\varphi_2}{1 + 2r_{12}r_{23}\cos 2\varphi_2 + r_{12}^2r_{23}^2}$$

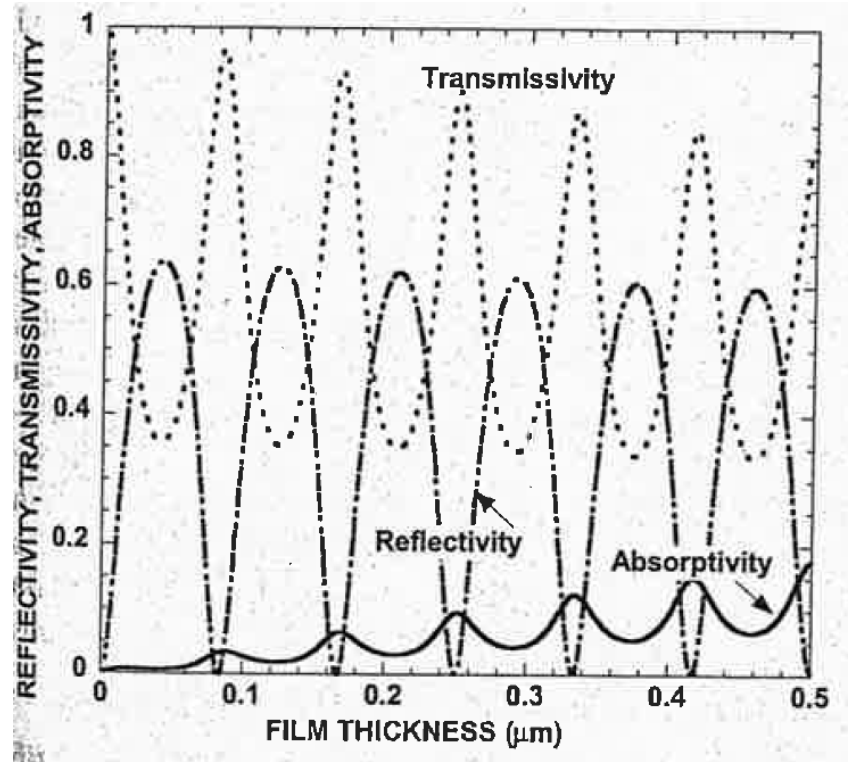
Oscillates with the thickness

$$\tau = \frac{n_3 \cos \theta_t}{n_1 \cos \theta_i} |t|^2 = \frac{(1 - r_{12}^2)(1 - r_{23}^2)}{1 + 2r_{12}r_{23}\cos 2\varphi_2 + r_{12}^2r_{23}^2}$$

For an absorbing thin film, instead, we should use the complex refractive indices:  $R = rr^*$   $\tau_{\parallel} = \frac{\text{Re}(N_3^* \cos \theta_t)}{\text{Re}(N_1^* \cos \theta_t)} t_{\parallel} t_{\parallel}^*$   $\tau_{\perp} = \frac{\text{Re}(N_3 \cos \theta_t)}{\text{Re}(N_1 \cos \theta_t)} t_{\perp} t_{\perp}^*$



# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons



Oscillatory behavior of transmission and reflection as a function of the thickness of the thin film

➤ **Interference phenomenon characteristic of wave behavior**

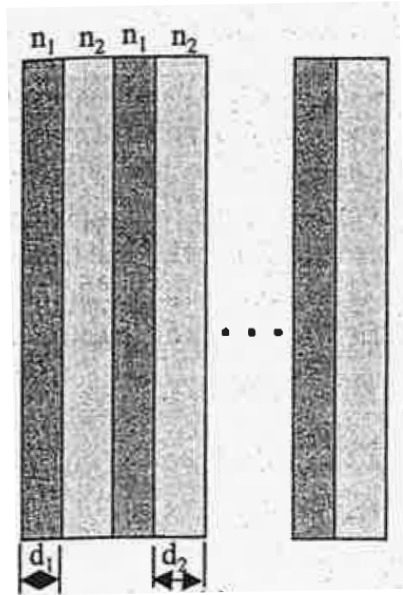
The peaks appear for thicknesses  $d$  such as:  $\sin 2\varphi_2 = 0 \Rightarrow d = \frac{m\lambda_0}{4n_2\cos\theta_2}$

And the reflectivity is:

$$R = \left( \frac{r_{12} - r_{23}}{1 - r_{12}r_{23}} \right)^2 = \left( \frac{n_1n_3 - n_2^2}{n_1n_3 + n_2^2} \right)^2 \quad (\text{for odd } m = 2l + 1)$$
$$R = \left( \frac{r_{12} + r_{23}}{1 + r_{12}r_{23}} \right)^2 = \left( \frac{n_1 - n_3}{n_1 + n_3} \right)^2 \quad (\text{for even } m = 2l)$$

We observe that it is possible to minimize  $R$  by appropriate choice of  $n_2, n_3$  and this constitute the basis of anti-reflection coatings. Further manipulations of the reflectivity and transmissivity are possible using multiple layers.

# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons



A special case of multilayer films consist in a periodic arrangement of two thin layers with different refractive indices. Each layer has a thickness equal to a quarter of the light wavelength inside the film. This structure is called a *Bragg reflector*. Indeed the coherent superposition of all the reflected fields can generate a reflectivity of 100%. The spectral range for which this occurs is called *stop band*.

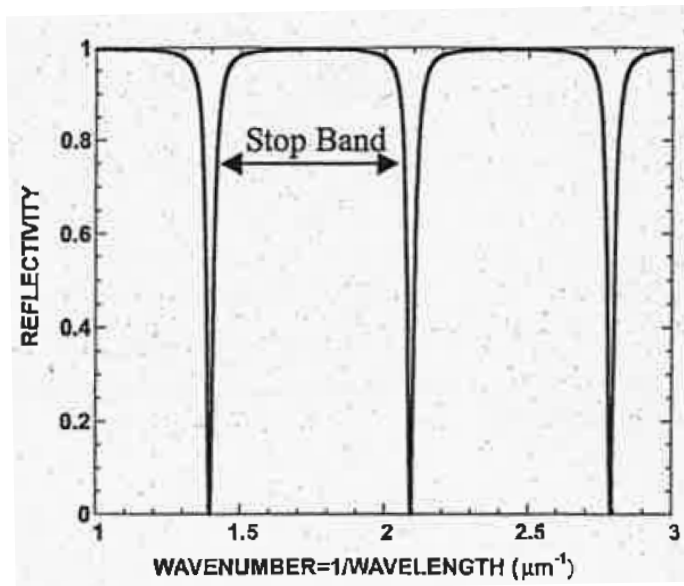
The condition for 100% reflectivity is that in one period of the structure the total phase accumulation is a multiple of  $2\pi$

$$\frac{4\pi n_1 d_1 \cos \theta_1}{\lambda_0} + \frac{4\pi n_2 d_2 \cos \theta_2}{\lambda_0} = 2\ell\pi$$

This can be re-written as

$$ka = l\pi \quad \text{where} \quad a = n_1 d_1 \cos \theta_1 + n_2 d_2 \cos \theta_2$$

We observe that this is identical to the condition for the formation of an electronic bandgap in a crystal!! We thus see that it is the wave nature of the electrons combined with the periodicity of the crystal to give rise to destructive interference effects that result in the absence of propagation of the wave in the material. Similarly to natural crystals, we can create photonic crystal and phononic crystals by engineering the periodicity.



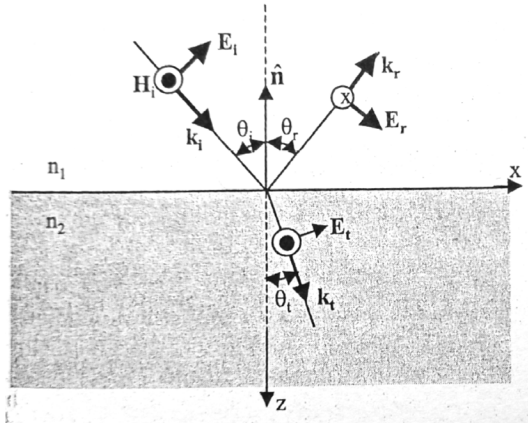
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- **Evanescent waves and tunneling**

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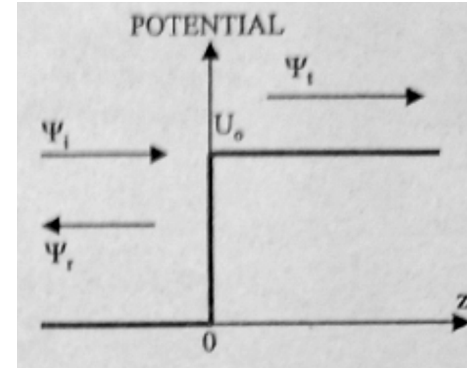
# Plane Waves at an Interface

Photons



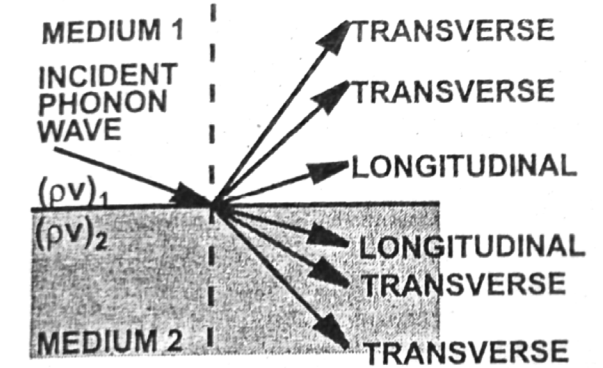
Reflection and Refraction  
TM and TE waves  
Brewster Angle & **Total Internal reflection**

Electrons



Reflection and Transmission  
**Evanescent Wave** for  $E < U$   
Reflection even for  $E > U$

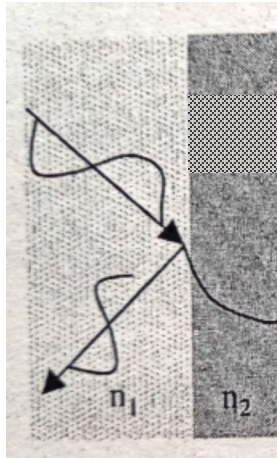
Phonons



Reflection and Refraction  
Coupling between different polarizations

Let's focus briefly on the evanescent waves and their physical implications for transport across multiple interfaces

# Evanescent Waves and Tunneling - Photons



Snell's law tells us that:

$$\sin \theta_t = \frac{n_1 \sin \theta_i}{n_2}$$

Thus if  $n_1 > n_2$  we can have:

$$\sin \theta_t = \frac{n_1 \sin \theta_i}{n_2} > 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \theta_t = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta_t} = i \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1 \sin \theta_i}{n_2}\right)^2 - 1} = i |\cos \theta_t|$$

We now consider a TM wave such that:

$$\mathbf{E}_{//t} \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t - n_2 z \cos \theta_t}{c_0} \right) \right]$$

$$t_{//} = \frac{E_{//t}}{E_{//i}} = \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i}{n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i (\hat{x} \cos \theta_t - \hat{z} \sin \theta_t)}{n_2 \cos \theta_i + n_1 |\cos \theta_t| i} |\mathbf{E}_{i//}| \exp \left[ -i\omega \left( t - \frac{n_2 x \sin \theta_t}{c_0} \right) \right] \exp \left( -z \frac{n_2 \omega}{c_0} |\cos \theta_t| \right) \quad \text{Exponentially decaying wave}$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta = \frac{\lambda_0}{2\pi n_2 |\cos \theta_t|}$$

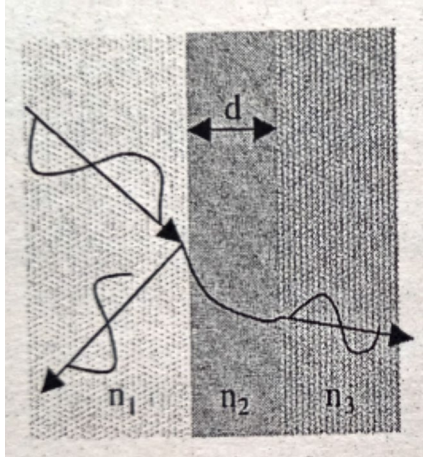
$$\Rightarrow \langle S_z \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{H}^*)_z = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(E_x H_y) \hat{z} = 0$$

Instantaneously there is an energy flux across the interface but the time average is zero when we have an evanescent wave.

This condition corresponds to **total internal reflection**.



# Evanescent Waves and Tunneling - Photons



If the material with  $n_2$  is sufficiently thin and is followed by a material where the wave can become again propagating, we will have tunneling of photons across the layer. For a thin layer of thickness  $d$  (see transfer matrix method in SI):

$$t = \frac{t_{12}t_{23} \exp\left[-\frac{2\pi n_2 d |\cos \theta_2|}{\lambda_0}\right]}{1 + r_{12}r_{23} \exp\left[-\frac{4\pi n_2 d |\cos \theta_2|}{\lambda_0}\right]}$$

$$\tau = \frac{\text{Re}(n_3 \cos \theta_t)}{n_1 \cos \theta_1} |t|^2$$

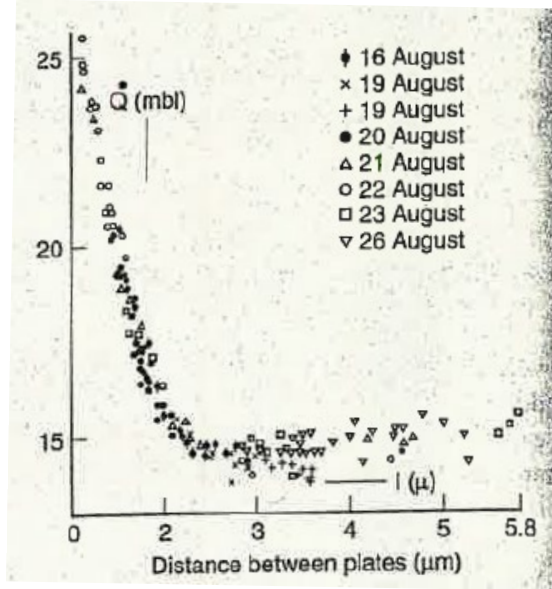
For  $n_2 > n_3$  we can find the angles  $\theta_i$  for which a real  $\theta_t$  can be obtained:

$$\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right) \leq \theta_i \leq \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{n_3}{n_1}\right)$$

If the tunneling medium is non-absorbing, we will have:  $R = 1 - \tau < 1$

An analogous behavior can be obtained also for phonons.

# Near-field Radiative Heat Transfer



In Lecture 10, slide 24 we demonstrated how the Planck's blackbody radiation law can be obtained once the statistical distribution of the photons is known.

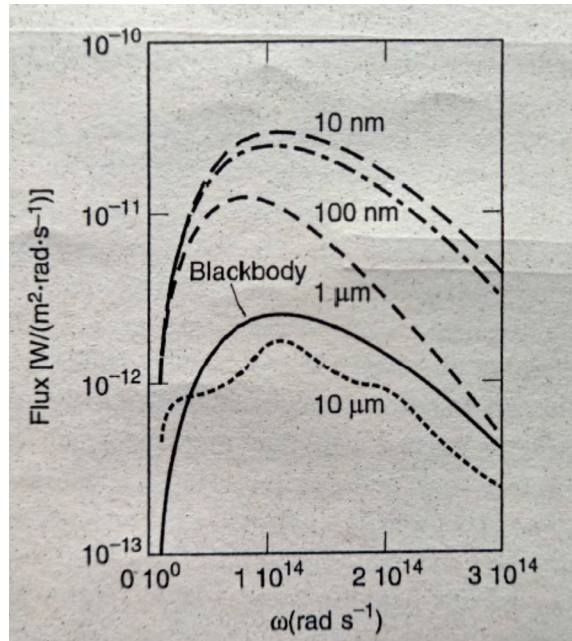
However, in obtaining such expression we have implicitly assumed that all photons are associated with a propagating wave.

When two plates are brought in close proximity and the radiative heat transfer is dominant (vacuum), tunneling through the small gap modifies the heat transfer compared to the Planck's law. In particular, **the radiation flux increases as the vacuum gap decreases**. This can become important for applications such as **thermophotovoltaics**.

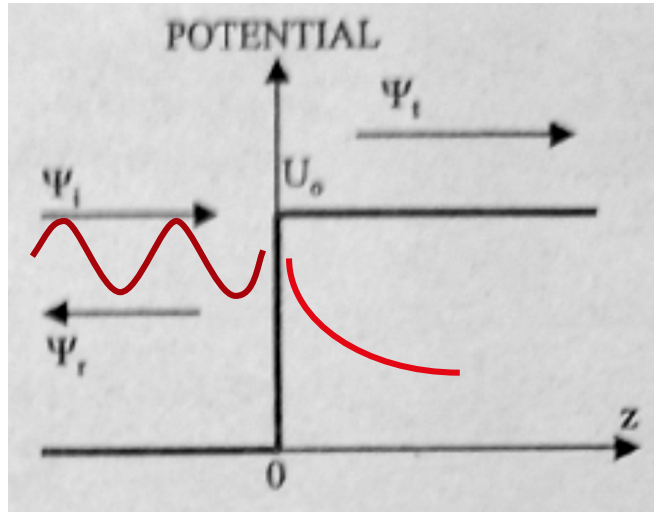
When two identical objects are separated by a small gap with refractive index  $n$ , it can be shown that the maximum radiative heat transfer can be increased by  $n^2$  times the blackbody radiation heat transfer thanks to the tunneling of an internally reflected wave.

Surface waves, such as surface plasmon or surface phonon polariton, can also tunnel across the gap, further enhancing the near-field radiative heat transfer.

Finally, we note that interference and tunneling effects will also alter the radiative properties of thin films grown on substrates. In particular the emissivity will change with the film thickness.



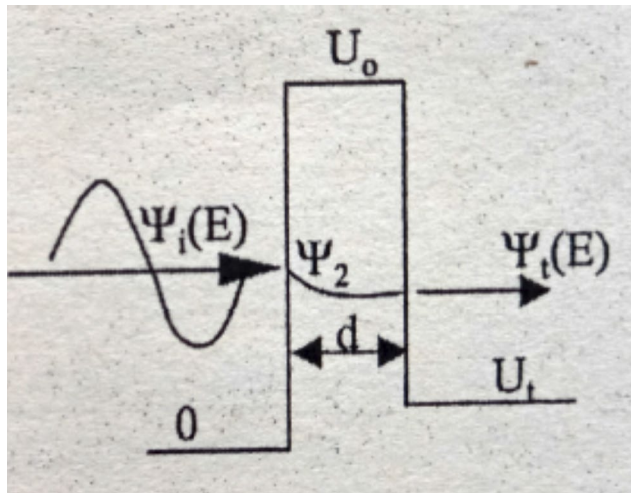
# Evanescent Waves and Tunneling - Electrons



For  $E < U_0$ ,  $k_2$  is imaginary. Therefore  $\Psi_t$  is an **evanescent wave**

$$\Psi_t = \frac{2i|k_2|e^{-|k_2|z}}{k_1 + i|k_2|} \Psi_i \quad |k_2| = \sqrt{\frac{2m(U_0 - E)}{\hbar^2}}$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{|k_2|} \quad U_0 - E = 1 \text{ eV}, \quad \delta \approx 2 \text{ \AA},$$



If the barrier is sufficiently thin, the wave can become again oscillatory beyond the barrier  $k_t \in Re$  and therefore overall we have a net transmission of the electron across the barrier even if initially  $E < U_0$ .

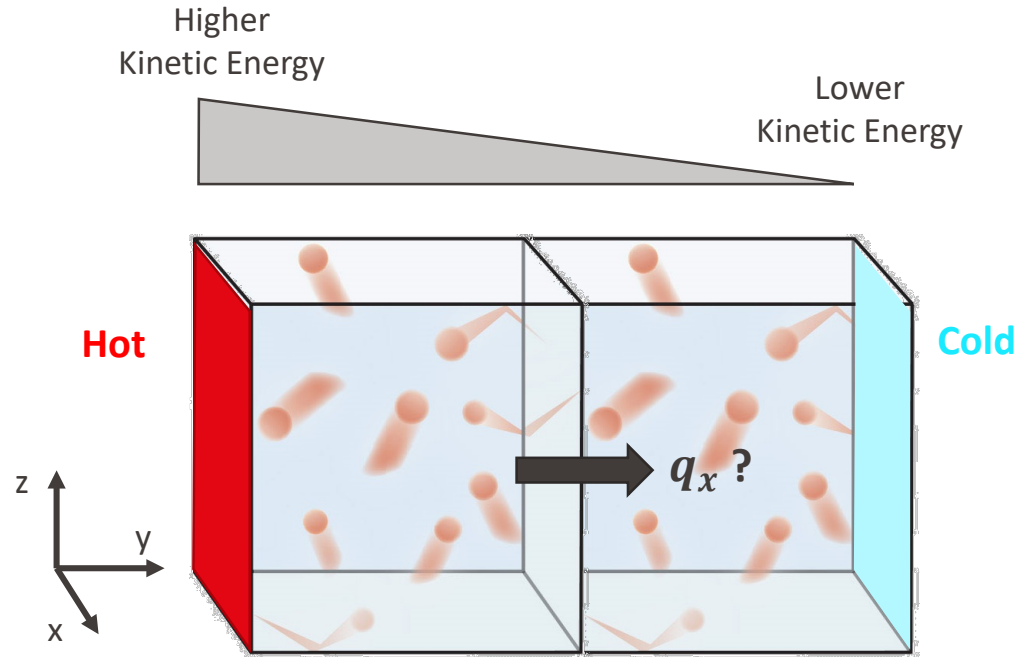
This process is called **tunneling** and it is a clear manifestation of the wave nature of electrons. The tunneling transmissivity through a potential barrier of height  $U_0$  and width  $d$  is:

$$\tau = \frac{4E(U_0 - E)}{4E(U_0 - E) + U_0^2 \sinh^2[\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}d/\hbar]}$$

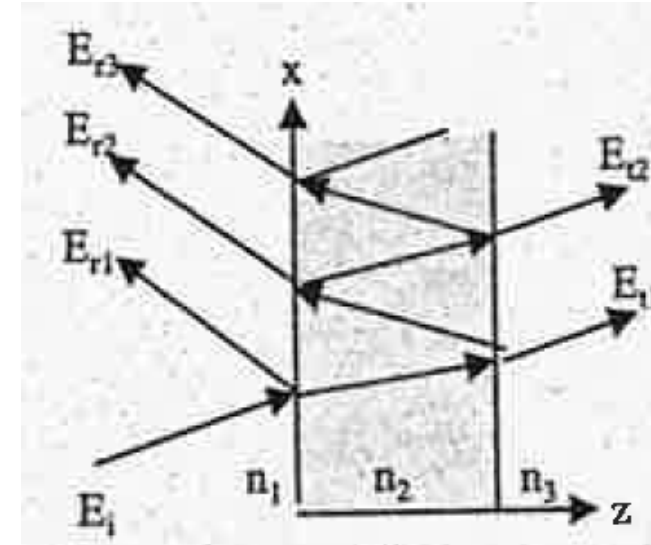
$$\tau \approx \frac{16E(U_0 - E)}{U_0^2} \exp[-2\sqrt{2m(U_0 - E)}d/\hbar] = \frac{16E(U_0 - E)}{U_0^2} e^{-2|k_2|d}$$

Important instruments such as the scanning tunneling microscope are based on this phenomenon!!





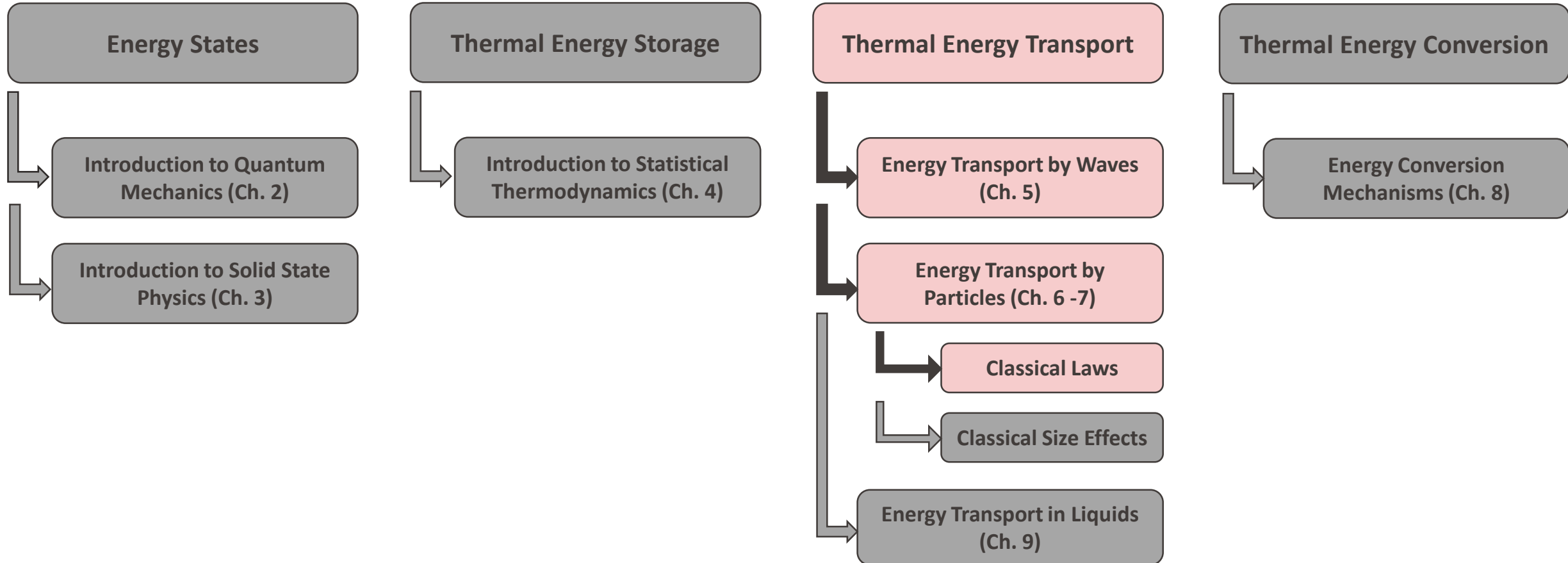
Particle View



Wave View

How can we describe transport in a particle view accounting for the wave nature?  
When and how does the wave-behavior affects energy transport?

## Nanoscale Heat Transfer (and Energy Conversion)





# Wave Energy Transport – Phonons

In order to analyze energy transport by phonons we consider the long wavelength limit ( $\lambda \gg a, k \ll a$ ) in which the atomic structure can be neglected (continuum). Under this assumption, we can use the **acoustic wave equation**.

An acoustic wave propagation is defined as a function of the local medium displacement  $\vec{u}$  from the equilibrium position. The velocity of the displacement is:  $\vec{v} = \frac{d\vec{u}}{dt}$

Two third-rank tensor can be defined :  $\bar{\bar{S}} = S_{ij}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) = \text{strain tensor}$

$$\bar{\bar{\sigma}} = \text{stress tensor} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{F} = \bar{\bar{\sigma}} \cdot \hat{n} \quad \begin{pmatrix} F_x \\ F_y \\ F_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} & \sigma_{yz} \\ \sigma_{zx} & \sigma_{zy} & \sigma_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_x \\ n_y \\ n_z \end{pmatrix}$$

For an isotropic medium with no damping (no viscosity), it is possible to obtain a stiffness tensor as a function of only two constants (Lame constants,  $\lambda_L, \mu_L$ ). Considering a plane elastic wave of the form  $\vec{v} \exp(-i(\omega t - k\hat{k} \cdot \vec{r}))$  it is possible to obtain an eigenvalue equation :

$$k^2 \begin{bmatrix} c_{11}\hat{k}_x^2 + \mu_L(1 - \hat{k}_x^2) & (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_x\hat{k}_y & (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_x\hat{k}_z \\ (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_y\hat{k}_x & c_{11}\hat{k}_y^2 + \mu_L(1 - \hat{k}_y^2) & (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_y\hat{k}_z \\ (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_z\hat{k}_x & (\lambda_L + \mu_L)\hat{k}_z\hat{k}_y & c_{11}\hat{k}_z^2 + \mu_L(1 - \hat{k}_z^2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix} = \rho\omega^2 \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ v_z \end{bmatrix} \quad c_{11} = \lambda_L + 2\mu_L$$

From this one can obtain the dispersion relation for different acoustic waves:

- plane **transverse** acoustic wave:  $\vec{v}_T = A_T e^{-i(\omega t - k_T z)} \hat{x} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu_L k_T^2 = \rho\omega^2 \text{ or } \omega = v_T k_T \quad v_T = (\mu_L/\rho)^{1/2}$
- plane **longitudinal** acoustic wave:  $\vec{v}_L = A_L e^{-i(\omega t - k_L z)} \hat{z} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_L^2 c_{11} = \rho\omega^2 \text{ or } \omega = v_L k_L \quad v_L = (c_{11}/\rho)^{1/2} = [(\lambda_L + 2\mu_L)/\rho]^{1/2}$

# Plane Waves and Energy Transport - Phonons

Therefore, acoustic wave can be both transversal and longitudinal and for an arbitrary propagation direction  $\hat{k}$  we can write:

$$\overrightarrow{v_{T1}} = \hat{a} A_{T1} e^{-i(\omega t - k_T \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})} \quad \hat{a} \cdot \hat{k} = 0$$

$$\overrightarrow{v_{T2}} = \hat{a} \times \hat{k} A_{T2} e^{-i(\omega t - k_T \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})}$$

$$\overrightarrow{v_L} = \hat{k} A_L e^{-i(\omega t - k_L \hat{k} \cdot \vec{r})}$$

Once the displacement velocity is known, it is possible to obtain the stress tensor:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{yz} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{xy} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & c_{12} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{12} & c_{11} & c_{12} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ c_{12} & c_{12} & c_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & c_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \partial v_x / \partial x \\ \partial v_y / \partial y \\ \partial v_z / \partial z \\ \partial v_y / \partial z + \partial v_z / \partial y \\ \partial v_x / \partial z + \partial v_z / \partial x \\ \partial v_x / \partial y + \partial v_y / \partial x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$c_{12} = \lambda_L$$

$$c_{44} = \mu_L$$

Finally the time-averaged power carried by the acoustic wave can be calculated from the acoustic Poynting vector as:

$$\vec{J}_{ac} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[\overrightarrow{v}^* \cdot \overrightarrow{\sigma}]$$

# Plane Waves at an Interface - Phonons

For an acoustic wave we also have to apply boundary conditions. In particular, we need force to be continuous at the interface. Furthermore, in the long wavelength limit we require also continuity for the displacement velocity (atomic motion can be discontinuous):

$$\sum \mathbf{v}_1 = \sum \mathbf{v}_2 \text{ and } \sum \bar{\bar{\sigma}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \sum \bar{\bar{\sigma}}_2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}$$

The derivations of the reflection/transmission coefficients is much more complicated than for an electromagnetic wave. For the simple case of an isotropic medium and considering a transverse wave polarized with the displacement perpendicular to the plane of incidence (horizontally polarized shear wave), we have:

$$r_s = \frac{v_r}{v_i} = \frac{Z_1 \cos \theta_i - Z_2 \cos \theta_t}{Z_1 \cos \theta_i + Z_2 \cos \theta_t}$$
$$t_s = \frac{v_t}{v_i} = \frac{2Z_1 \cos \theta_i}{Z_1 \cos \theta_i + Z_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

where  $Z = \sqrt{\rho c_{44}} = \rho v_T$

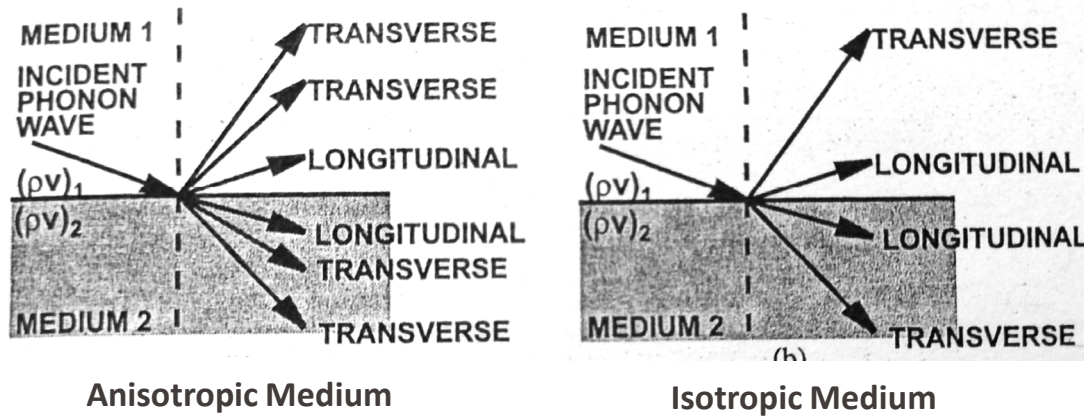
We can also obtain an equivalent of Snell's law:

$$\frac{\sin \theta_i}{v_{T1}} = \frac{\sin \theta_t}{v_{T2}}$$

And from the Poynting vector the reflectivity:

$$R_s = \left| \frac{Z_1 - Z_2}{Z_1 + Z_2} \right|^2$$

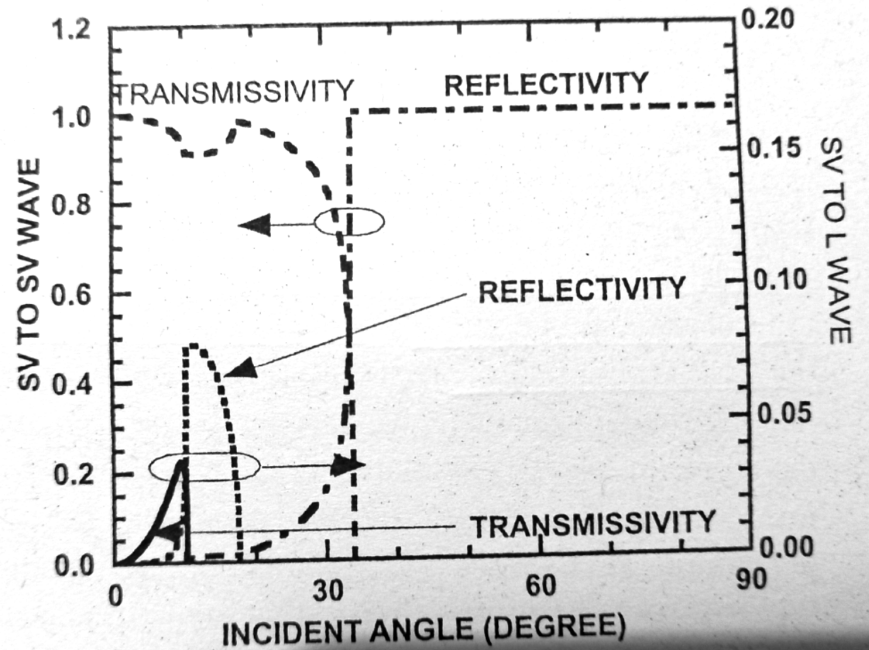
# Plane Waves at an Interface - Phonons



For a transverse acoustic wave polarized in the plane of incidence (vertically polarized shear wave, SV) and for a longitudinally polarized acoustic wave, coupling between different polarizations can occur. In particular, one wave can excite three reflected and three transmitted waves and Snell's law becomes:

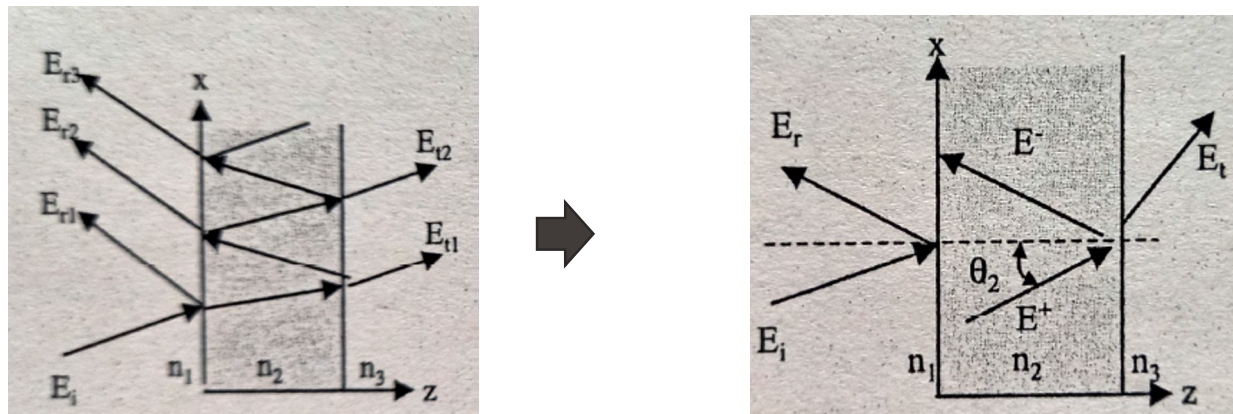
$$\frac{\sin \theta_i}{v_i} = \frac{\sin \theta_{rL}}{v_{L1}} = \frac{\sin \theta_{rT}}{v_{T1}} = \frac{\sin \theta_{tL}}{v_{L2}} = \frac{\sin \theta_{tT}}{v_{T2}}$$

In an isotropic medium the two transverse reflected and the two transverse transmitted waves are degenerate.





# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons



We consider a **TM wave propagating in the z-direction** with  $E_x, H_y$  components. We simplify the picture by considering for each layer just the forward and backward propagating waves, each resulting from the superposition of the multiple transmitted and reflected waves). For convenience we drop the time and space phases:

$$E_x(z) = \cos \theta_2 E^+ e^{i\varphi(z)} + \cos \theta_2 E^- e^{-i\varphi(z)}$$

$$H_y(z) = \frac{n_2}{\mu c_0} [E^+ e^{i\varphi(z)} - E^- e^{-i\varphi(z)}]$$

where  $E^+, E^- = \text{amplitudes}$   $\varphi(z) = \frac{\omega n_2 z \cos \theta_2}{c_0} = \text{spatial phase}$

We observe that at  $z = 0$  we have:

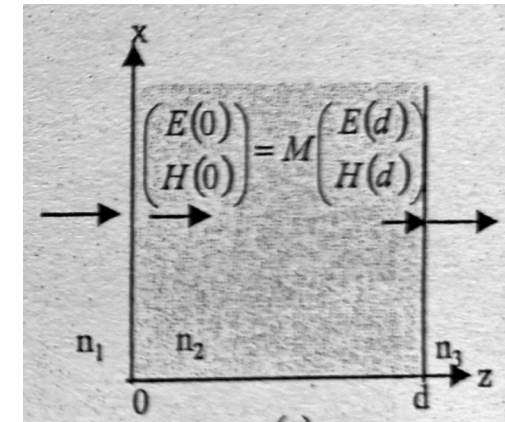
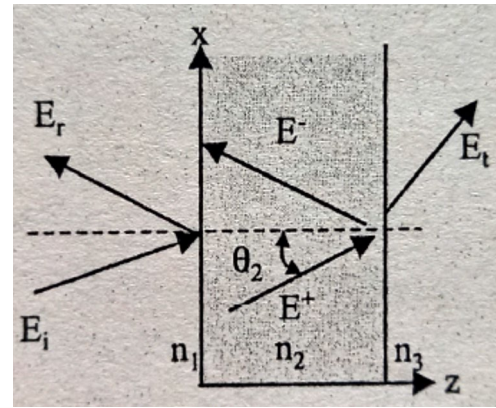
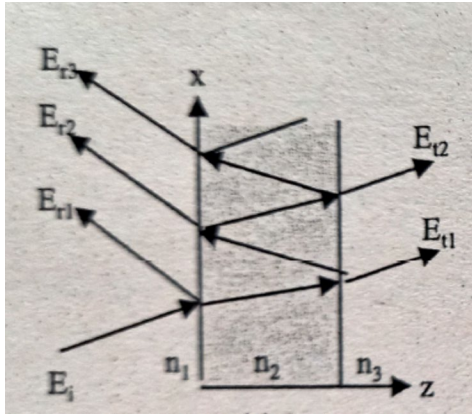
$$\begin{cases} E_x(0) = \cos \theta_2 E^+ + \cos \theta_2 E^- \\ H_y(0) = \frac{n_2}{\mu c_0} [E^+ - E^-] \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} E_x(z) = E_x(0) \cos \varphi(z) + i p_2 H_y(0) \sin \varphi(z) \\ H_y(z) = \frac{i}{p_2} E_x(0) \sin \varphi(z) + H_y(0) \cos \varphi(z) \end{cases}$$

$p_2 = \frac{\cos \theta_2}{n_2 / \mu c_0} = \text{surface impedance}$

➡ We can express the field in the thin layer as a function of the field at the front interface.



# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons ⚡



We can re-write in matrix form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x(z) \\ H_y(z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi(z) & i p_2 \sin \varphi(z) \\ \frac{i}{p_2} \sin \varphi(z) & \cos \varphi(z) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x(0) \\ H_y(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

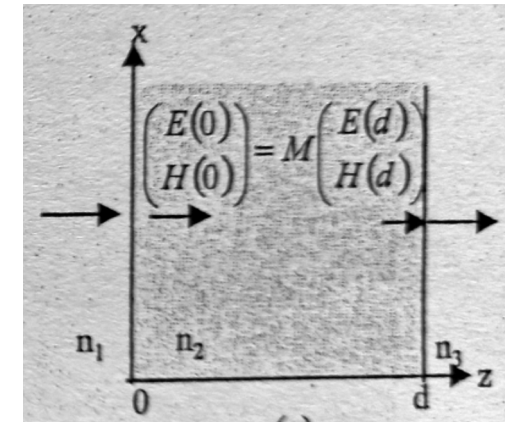
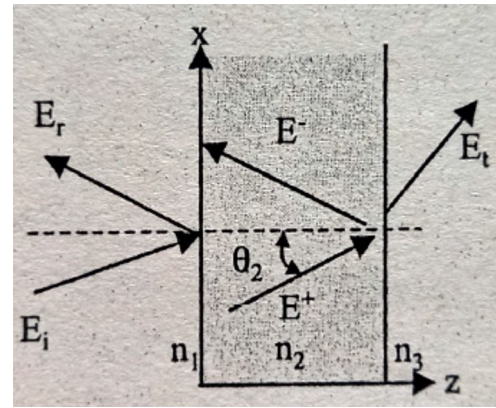
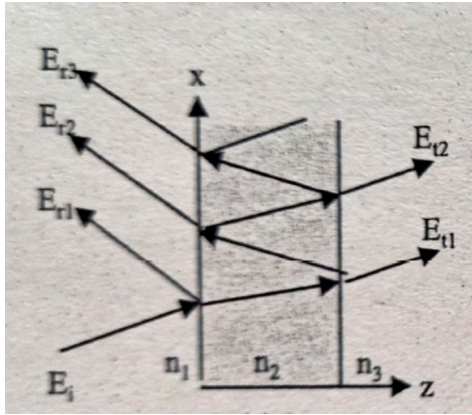
Further, we can now invert this expression to calculate the field at  $z = 0$  as a function of the field at  $z = d$  :

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x(0) \\ H_x(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi_2 & -i p_2 \sin \varphi_2 \\ -\frac{i}{p_2} \sin \varphi_2 & \cos \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where } \varphi_2 = \varphi(d)$$

We call  $M$  the **interference matrix** and it can be shown that  $|M| = 1$

We can now easily describe the field in the thin film with a matrix. The next step is to describe the change of the field across an interface.

# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons



Considering an interface without surface charges nor currents, we have to apply the boundary conditions. In particular, the continuity of the fields gives:

At  $z = 0$  :

$$\begin{aligned} E_x(0) &= E_i \cos \theta_i + E_r \cos \theta_r = E_{ix} + E_{rx} \\ H_y(0) &= \frac{n_1}{\mu c_0} (E_i - E_r) = \frac{1}{p_1} (E_{ix} - E_{rx}) \end{aligned}$$

$$p_1 = \frac{\cos \theta_1}{n_1 / \mu c_0}$$

At  $z = d$  :

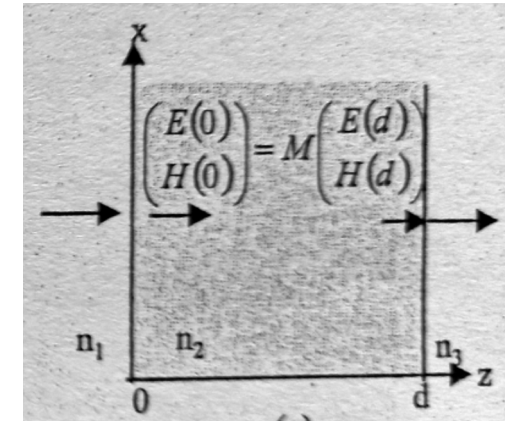
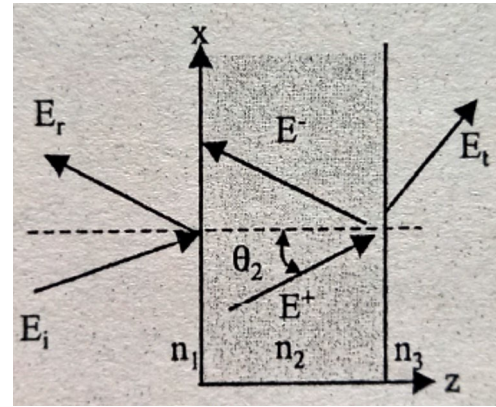
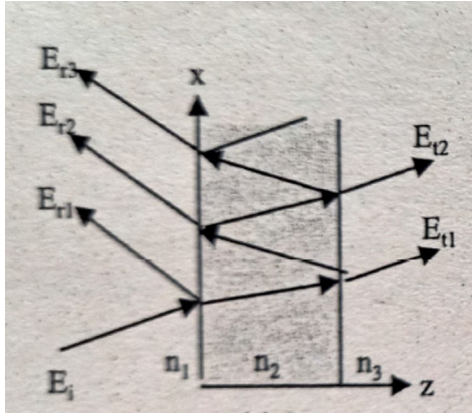
$$\begin{aligned} E_x(d) &= E_t \cos \theta_t = E_{tx} \\ H_y(d) &= \frac{n_3}{\mu c_0} E_t = \frac{1}{p_3} E_{tx} \end{aligned}$$

$$p_3 = \frac{\cos \theta_3}{n_3 / \mu c_0}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x(0) \\ H_y(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_1} & -\frac{1}{p_1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_{ix} \\ E_{rx} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_3} \end{pmatrix} E_{tx}$$

# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons ⚡



We can now combine the results of the previous two slides:

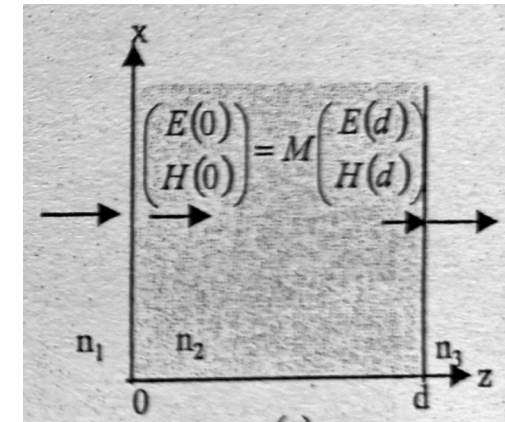
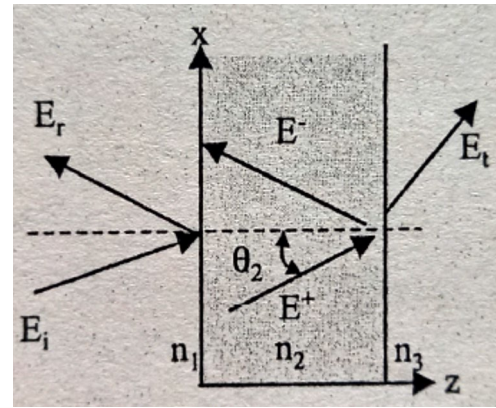
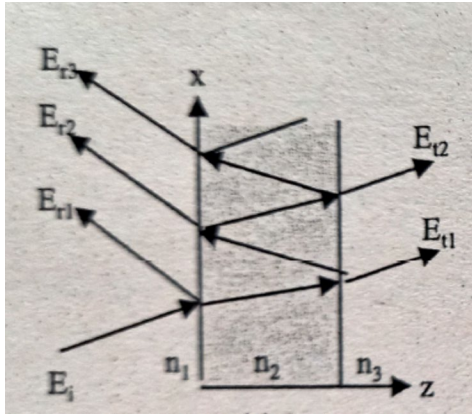
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} E_x(0) \\ H_x(0) \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi_2 & -ip_2 \sin \varphi_2 \\ -\frac{i}{p_2} \sin \varphi_2 & \cos \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} = M \begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} E_x(0) \\ H_y(0) \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_1} & -\frac{1}{p_1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_{ix} \\ E_{rx} \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} E_x(d) \\ H_y(d) \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_3} \end{pmatrix} E_{tx} \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_1} & -\frac{1}{p_1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_{ix} \\ E_{rx} \end{pmatrix} = \overset{M}{\boxed{\begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix}}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{p_3} \end{pmatrix} E_{tx}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} E_{ix} \\ E_{rx} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} (m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{12}) + (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{22}) p_1 \\ (m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{12}) - (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{22}) p_1 \end{pmatrix} E_{tx}$$

This approach is called **transfer matrix method** or TMM.



# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons ⚡



From these we can then easily compute the reflection and transmission coefficients as the ratios of the intensities of the electric fields:

$$r = \frac{E_r}{E_i} = \frac{E_{rx}}{E_{ix}} = \frac{(m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{12}) - (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{22})p_1}{(m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{12}) + (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{22})p_1}$$

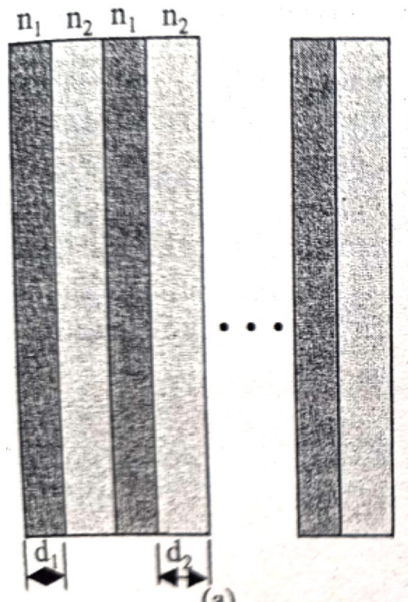
$$t = \frac{E_t}{E_i} = \frac{E_{tx}/\cos\theta_t}{E_{ix}/\cos\theta_i} = \frac{2c_{tm}}{(m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{12}) + (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3}m_{22})p_1}$$

$$c_{tm} = \cos\theta_i/\cos\theta_t$$

For a **TE wave** we would get analogous expressions only with

$$p = -\frac{n \cos \theta}{\mu c_0} \text{ and } c_{te} = 1$$

# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Photons



The TMM method is particularly convenient to deal with multi-layer structures. In fact, we can calculate the total interference matrix as:

$$M = M_1 M_2 M_3 \dots M_n \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{pmatrix} E_{ix} \\ E_{rx} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} (m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{12}) + (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{22}) p_1 \\ (m_{11} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{12}) - (m_{21} + \frac{1}{p_3} m_{22}) p_1 \end{pmatrix} E_{tx}$$

A special case of multilayer films consist in a periodic arrangement of two thin layers with different refractive indices. Each layer has a thickness equal to a quarter of the light wavelength inside the film. This structure is called a *Bragg reflector*. Indeed the coherent superposition of all the reflected fields can generate a reflectivity of 100%. The spectral range for which this occurs is called *stop band*.

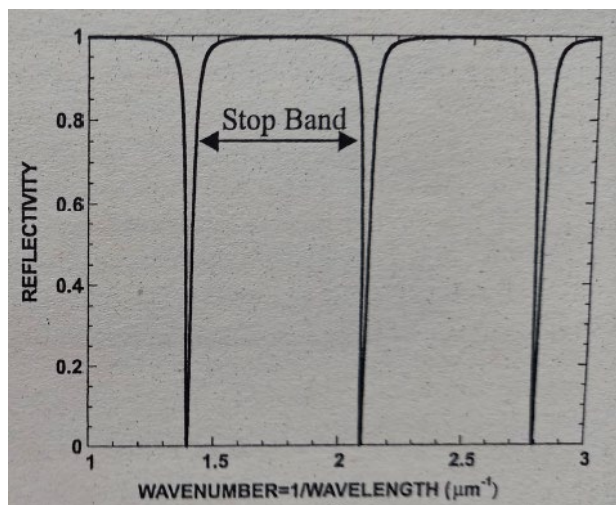
The condition for 100% reflectivity is that in one period of the structure the total phase accumulation is a multiple of  $2\pi$

$$\frac{4\pi n_1 d_1 \cos \theta_1}{\lambda_0} + \frac{4\pi n_2 d_2 \cos \theta_2}{\lambda_0} = 2\ell\pi$$

This can be re-written as

$$ka = l\pi \quad \text{where} \quad a = n_1 d_1 \cos \theta_1 + n_2 d_2 \cos \theta_2$$

We observe that this is identical to the condition for the formation of an electronic bandgap in a crystal!! We thus see that it is the wave nature of the electrons combined with the periodicity of the crystal to give rise to destructive interference effects that result in the absence of propagation of the wave in the material. Similarly to natural crystals, we can create photonic crystal and phononic crystals by engineering the periodicity.



# Wave Propagation in Thin Films – Phonons



For an SH wave propagating through a film with thickness  $d$ , the reflectivity and transmissivity are:

$$r = v_r(0)/v_i(0) \quad t = v_t(d)/v_i(0)$$

The transfer matrix method concept can be applied also for an elastic waves:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ r \end{pmatrix} = A_i^{-1} M A_t \begin{pmatrix} t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \varphi_{T2} & i \sin \varphi_{T2} / Y_2 \\ i Y_2 \sin \varphi_{T2} & \cos \varphi_{T2} \end{pmatrix} \quad A_i = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -Z_{Ti} \cos \theta_{Ti} & Z_{Ti} \cos \theta_{Ti} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\varphi_{T2} = \omega d \cos \theta_2 / v_{T2}, \quad Y_2 = -Z_{T2} \cos \theta_2$$

where the subscript T indicates the transverse wave.

For a longitudinal (L) and vertically polarized transverse wave (SV), i.e. displacement polarized in the plane of incidence, the velocities of the incident, reflected and transmitted waves are:

$$\begin{pmatrix} v_{Ti}(0) \\ v_{Li}(0) \\ v_{Tr}(0) \\ v_{Lr}(0) \end{pmatrix} = B_i^{-1} M B_t \begin{pmatrix} v_{Ti}(d) \\ v_{Lt}(d) \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$B_i = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta_{Ti} & \cos \theta_{Li} & \sin \theta_{Ti} & -\cos \theta_{Li} \\ \cos \theta_{Ti} & \sin \theta_{Li} & \cos \theta_{Ti} & \sin \theta_{Li} \\ -\mu_1 k_{Ti} \sin 2\theta_{Ti} & (\lambda_1 + 2\mu_1 \cos^2 \theta_{Li}) k_{Li} & -\mu_1 k_{Ti} \sin 2\theta_{Ti} & (\lambda_1 + 2\mu_1 \cos^2 \theta_{Li}) k_{Li} \\ \mu_1 k_{Ti} \cos 2\theta_{Ti} & \mu_1 k_{Li} \sin 2\theta_{Li} & -\mu_1 k_{Ti} \cos 2\theta_{Ti} & -\mu_1 k_{Li} \sin 2\theta_{Li} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $k_i (= \omega / v_i)$

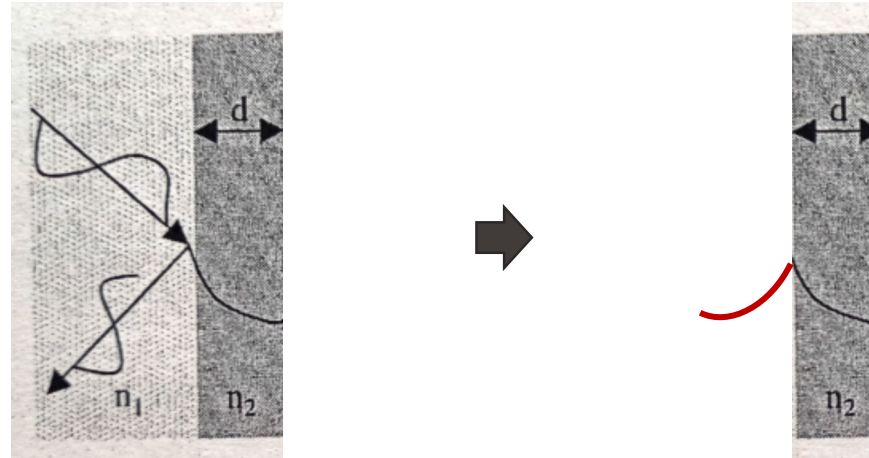
$$M = B_2^{-1} N_2 B_2$$

$$N_2 = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\varphi_{T2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\varphi_{L2}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-i\varphi_{T2}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{-i\varphi_{L2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

For a multilayer system it is then sufficient to calculate the compounded interference matrix:  $M = M_1 M_2 \dots M_{2n-1}$



# Evanescent Waves – Surface Plasmon/Phonon Polaritons



A surface plasmon/phonon polariton is a wave that propagates along an interface but is exponentially decaying on BOTH sides of the interface

Energy is bound to the interface and cannot be transported away from it

A **plasmon polariton** can exist at the interface of a metallic-like material and a dielectric and it is mixture of an electron wave and a photon.

A **phonon polariton** can exist at the interface between a polar material (e.g. SiC) and a dielectric and it is a mixture of an optical phonon and a photon.