

Solid State Theory

Solid State Theory solid state theory is a fundamental branch of physics that explores the physical properties and behaviors of solid materials. It provides the foundational understanding of how atoms, ions, and electrons interact within solids, leading to the wide array of mechanical, electrical, thermal, and optical properties observed in various materials. The study of solid state theory is essential for developing new materials, improving existing ones, and advancing technologies in electronics, energy storage, and nanotechnology. This comprehensive field combines principles from quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, and classical physics to explain phenomena at the atomic and macroscopic levels, making it a cornerstone of condensed matter physics.

Introduction to Solid State Theory

Understanding solid state theory begins with recognizing the unique nature of solids as a state of matter. Unlike gases and liquids, solids have fixed shapes and volumes, which are primarily due to the strong interactions between their constituent particles. These interactions give rise to a range of physical properties that are central to material science and engineering.

Historical Development of Solid State Theory

The evolution of solid state theory has been marked by several key milestones:

- Early Observations:** The recognition of crystalline structures and their properties¹. In the 19th century laid the groundwork for understanding solids.
- Quantum Mechanics and Band Theory:** In the early 20th century, the². development of quantum mechanics revolutionized the understanding of electronic behavior in solids.
- Advances in Experimental Techniques:** The advent of X-ray diffraction, electron³. microscopy, and spectroscopy provided detailed insights into atomic arrangements and electronic states.
- Modern Computational Methods:** Today, simulation tools such as density⁴. functional theory (DFT) allow for predictive modeling of complex solid materials.

Fundamental Concepts in Solid State Theory

Solid state theory revolves around several core principles that describe the behavior of materials at the atomic level.

2 Atomic Structure and Crystalline Lattices

Most solids are crystalline, characterized by a periodic arrangement of atoms forming a lattice. These lattices can be described by:

- Unit Cells:** The smallest repeating unit that defines the entire crystal structure.
- Bravais Lattices:** The 14 distinct lattice types that classify crystal structures based on symmetry.
- Defects and Dislocations:** Imperfections such as vacancies, interstitials, and dislocations influence mechanical and electrical properties.

Electronic Band Theory

The behavior of electrons within a solid determines its electrical conductivity and optical properties. Band theory explains:

- Valence and Conduction Bands:** Energy bands where

electrons reside in insulators, semiconductors, and conductors. Band Gaps: The energy difference between valence and conduction bands, critical in classifying materials. Density of States: The number of available electronic states at each energy level. Understanding band structures helps in designing materials for specific electronic applications. Phonons and Lattice Dynamics Vibrations of atoms in a lattice are quantized as phonons, which influence thermal conductivity and electron-phonon interactions: Vibrational Modes: Normal modes of lattice vibrations. Thermal Conductivity: How phonons carry heat through a solid. Electron-Phonon Coupling: Interactions that affect electrical resistance and superconductivity. Models in Solid State Theory Several models have been developed to simplify and analyze the complex behaviors of solids. Free Electron Model A simplified model where electrons are considered free and not influenced by ion cores, useful for understanding metals' conduction: 3 Assumes electrons move freely within a potential well. Explains properties like electrical conductivity and the Drude model's limitations. Nearly Free Electron Model Refines the free electron model by incorporating weak interactions with the periodic potential of the lattice: Accounts for band formation and energy gaps. Useful for understanding metals and metallic behavior in alloys. Hubbard Model Addresses electron-electron interactions, especially in strongly correlated materials: Captures phenomena such as magnetism and Mott insulators. Important in the study of high-temperature superconductors. Applications of Solid State Theory The principles and models of solid state theory underpin numerous technological advancements: Semiconductor Devices Understanding band gaps and carrier dynamics leads to the design of transistors, diodes, and integrated circuits. Superconductivity Theories like BCS explain how certain materials conduct electricity without resistance at low temperatures, leading to applications in MRI machines, maglev trains, and power transmission. Nanotechnology Manipulating matter at the atomic scale enables the creation of nanomaterials with tailored optical, electrical, and mechanical properties. Energy Storage and Conversion Solid state theories guide the development of batteries, fuel cells, and photovoltaic devices. 4 Modern Developments and Future Perspectives Advancements in computational power and experimental techniques continue to push the boundaries of solid state physics: Emergence of topological insulators and quantum materials with exotic properties. Development of two-dimensional materials like graphene and transition metal dichalcogenides. Integration of machine learning with solid state modeling for materials discovery. The future of solid state theory promises breakthroughs in energy, electronics, and quantum information science. Conclusion Solid state theory remains a vibrant and essential field within physics and materials science. By elucidating the fundamental interactions governing the behavior of atoms and electrons in solids, it enables scientists and engineers to innovate and optimize materials for a broad spectrum of applications. From understanding the basic properties of everyday materials to designing next-generation

quantum devices, solid state theory provides the theoretical backbone necessary for technological progress. Continued research and development in this area are poised to unlock new materials and phenomena that will shape the technological landscape of the future.

Question What is solid state theory in condensed matter physics? Solid state theory is the branch of physics that studies the properties and behaviors of solids, particularly focusing on the arrangement of atoms, electronic structure, and interactions that determine a material's electrical, thermal, and mechanical properties. How does band theory explain the conductivity of metals and insulators? Band theory describes how the energy levels of electrons form continuous bands in solids. Metals have overlapping conduction and valence bands allowing free electron movement, resulting in high conductivity. Insulators have a large band gap preventing electron flow, leading to poor conductivity. What role do crystal lattices play in solid state theory? Crystal lattices define the periodic arrangement of atoms in a solid, which influences electronic band structure, phonon behavior, and overall material properties such as strength, conductivity, and optical characteristics.

5 How is the concept of phonons used in solid state theory? Phonons are quantized vibrations of the crystal lattice that play a key role in understanding thermal conductivity, electron-phonon interactions, and phenomena like heat capacity and superconductivity in solids. What is the significance of the Fermi surface in solid state physics? The Fermi surface represents the collection of points in momentum space that correspond to the highest occupied electron energy levels at zero temperature. It is crucial for understanding electronic properties such as conductivity, magnetism, and electron scattering. How does solid state theory explain superconductivity? Superconductivity is explained by the formation of Cooper pairs—pairs of electrons bound together via lattice vibrations (phonons)—which move through the lattice without resistance, leading to zero electrical resistance below a critical temperature. What are the main models used in solid state theory to describe electron behavior? Key models include the nearly free electron model, tight-binding model, and Hubbard model, each providing different approximations to understand electron movement, interactions, and correlations in solids. How do defects and impurities influence the properties of solids according to solid state theory? Defects and impurities alter the local electronic and lattice structure, affecting electrical conductivity, optical properties, and mechanical strength—often introducing states within the band gap and scattering centers. What advances in solid state theory are driving current research in materials science? Recent advances include the application of quantum many-body theories, first-principles calculations (like density functional theory), and topological materials research, which are expanding our understanding of novel electronic phases and materials. Why is understanding electron-phonon interactions important in solid state physics? Electron-phonon interactions are critical for explaining electrical resistance, heat conduction, and the mechanism behind conventional

superconductivity, as they govern how electrons scatter off lattice vibrations. Solid state theory stands as a foundational pillar in condensed matter physics, providing vital insights into the structure, properties, and behaviors of solids. From the bonding mechanisms that hold atoms together to the electronic properties that underpin modern electronic devices, solid state theory intertwines quantum mechanics, statistical physics, and materials science. Over the past century, this field has evolved from simple models to highly sophisticated theories capable of predicting complex phenomena, enabling technological revolutions ranging from semiconductors to superconductors. This comprehensive review aims to elucidate the core principles, historical development, key models, and contemporary advancements in solid state theory. By dissecting its various branches—crystal structure, electronic band theory, lattice vibrations, and electron Solid State Theory 6 correlations—readers will gain a detailed understanding of how this discipline shapes both fundamental science and practical applications.

--- Historical Development of Solid State Theory The journey of solid state theory traces back to the early 20th century, paralleling advancements in quantum mechanics and materials science. The initial focus was on understanding crystalline structures and the nature of chemical bonds within solids.

- Early Models and Crystallography: The pioneering work of Auguste Bravais laid the groundwork for classifying crystal lattices through the Bravais lattices, establishing the geometric foundation for crystal structures. X-ray diffraction experiments by the Braggs (William and Lawrence Bragg) in the 1910s marked a turning point, enabling the determination of atomic arrangements within crystals with unprecedented precision.
- Quantum Mechanics and Bonding: The advent of quantum mechanics in the 1920s revolutionized the understanding of atomic interactions. Linus Pauling's work on chemical bonding introduced the concept of covalent bonds, which was essential in explaining the stability of crystals.
- Development of Band Theory: The 1930s and 1940s saw the emergence of band theory, pioneered by Felix Bloch, Walter Heitler, and others, which explained electrical conductivity in metals and insulators based on quantum states of electrons in periodic potentials.
- Modern Theories and Complex Phenomena: Post-1950s developments include the Hubbard model for strongly correlated electrons, BCS theory of superconductivity, and modern density functional theory (DFT). These models have vastly expanded the scope of solid state physics, allowing for the study of complex materials and emergent phenomena.

--- Fundamental Concepts in Solid State Theory Understanding solid state theory necessitates grasping several foundational concepts that describe the atomic and electronic structure of solids.

- Atomic Arrangement and Crystal Structures Crystals are defined by their highly ordered atomic arrangements, characterized by periodicity and symmetry. These arrangements are classified into different crystal systems (cubic, tetragonal, orthorhombic, etc.) and space groups, each describing the symmetry operations compatible with the lattice.
- Unit Cell: The smallest repeating unit that,

when translated through space, generates the entire crystal lattice. - Bravais Lattices: The 14 unique lattice types that describe the geometric possibilities for crystal arrangements. - Basis and Lattice: The basis (atoms or groups of atoms) attached to each lattice point, which, combined with the lattice, constructs the entire crystal. Solid State Theory 7 Bonding and Interatomic Forces The stability and properties of solids derive from the nature of atomic bonds: - Covalent Bonds: Sharing of electrons, as in diamond or silicon. - Ionic Bonds: Electrostatic attraction between oppositely charged ions, as in NaCl. - Metallic Bonds: Delocalized electrons that allow conductivity, as in copper or aluminum. - Van der Waals Forces: Weak, non-covalent interactions, relevant in layered materials like graphite or molecular solids. --- Electronic Band Theory One of the cornerstones of solid state theory, band theory explains the electrical, optical, and thermal properties of solids by considering electrons confined within periodic potentials. From Free Electrons to Bloch Waves - Free Electron Model: Assumes electrons move freely within a potential box, explaining metallic conduction but failing to account for insulating behavior. - Periodic Potential and Bloch's Theorem: When electrons encounter a periodic potential due to the lattice, their wavefunctions adopt the form of Bloch functions:
$$\psi_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$
 where $u_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$ has the same periodicity as the lattice. - Energy Bands and Band Gaps: Solving the Schrödinger equation yields allowed energy levels forming continuous bands separated by forbidden gaps. The position of the Fermi level within these bands determines whether the material is a metal, insulator, or semiconductor. Types of Band Structures and Their Implications - Conductors: Partially filled bands; electrons can easily move under applied electric fields. - Semiconductors: Filled valence bands and empty conduction bands separated by a small band gap (~1 eV). Their conductivity can be modulated by doping. - Insulators: Wide band gaps (~3 eV or more), preventing free charge carrier movement at room temperature. Effective Mass and Mobility Electrons in a crystal behave as if they have an effective mass m^* , which influences their response to external fields and scattering processes. The effective mass is derived from the curvature of the energy bands:
$$\frac{1}{m^*} = \frac{1}{\hbar^2} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial k^2}$$
 High mobility in semiconductors arises from small effective masses and minimal scattering. --- Solid State Theory 8 Lattice Dynamics and Phonons Lattice vibrations play a crucial role in thermal properties, electrical resistivity, and superconductivity. Normal Modes and Phonons - Classical View: Atoms oscillate about their equilibrium positions, giving rise to normal modes of vibration. - Quantum View: These quantized vibrations are called phonons, bosonic quasiparticles that carry energy and momentum. - Phonon Dispersion Relations: The relationship between phonon frequency ω and wavevector k , which depends on interatomic forces and mass. Role in

Material Properties - Thermal Conductivity: Phonons are primary heat carriers in insulators and semiconductors. - Electron-Phonon Interaction: Interactions between electrons and phonons influence electrical resistivity and are fundamental in the BCS theory of superconductivity. - Anharmonic Effects: Nonlinear interactions lead to thermal expansion and phonon scattering processes. --- Electron Correlations and Advanced Models While the band theory provides a good starting point, many materials exhibit strong electron-electron interactions that necessitate more sophisticated models. Hubbard Model A simplified model capturing the competition between electron hopping (kinetic energy) and Coulomb repulsion:
$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} (c_{i\sigma}^\dagger c_{j\sigma} + \text{h.c.}) + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow}$$
 where: - t is the hopping parameter. - U is the on-site Coulomb repulsion. - $c_{i\sigma}^\dagger$ and $c_{i\sigma}$ are creation and annihilation operators. This model explains phenomena like Mott insulators and magnetic ordering. Density Functional Theory (DFT) DFT revolutionized computational solid state physics by reducing many-electron problems to effective single-particle equations based on electron density. The Kohn-Sham equations provide a practical framework:
$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r}) \right] \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r})$$
 where V_{eff} includes exchange-correlation effects approximated by functionals like LDA or GGA. DFT enables the prediction of structural, electronic, and magnetic properties of a wide range of materials with reasonable accuracy. --- Recent Advances and Emerging Topics Solid state theory continues to evolve, driven by novel materials and experimental techniques. Topological Insulators and Quantum Materials - Topological Phases: Materials characterized by non-trivial band topology, hosting conducting surface states protected by symmetry. - Implications: Potential for robust electronic devices, quantum computing, and spintronics. Superconductivity and Unconventional Pairing - High-Temperature Superconductors: Complex copper-oxide and iron-based materials challenge traditional BCS theory, prompting new models that incorporate strong correlations. - Topological Superconductors: Hosting Majorana fermions, promising for fault-tolerant quantum computation. Two-Dimensional Materials and van der Waals crystal lattice, band theory, electronic structure, quantum mechanics, semiconductors, insulators, conductors, density of states, phonons, electron mobility

Solid State Theory
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 Solid State Theory, Volume 1
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Theory of Solids Solid State Theory, Volume 2 Solid State Physics Walter A. Harrison Mendel Sachs Otfried Madelung Ulrich Rössler James Deane Patterson Gerd Czycholl Lev Kantorovich Walter Ashley Harrison D. W. Snoke Walter Ashley Harrison T Pruschke Gregory Hugh Wannier Ladislaus Alexander B nyai Thomas Pruschke Harald Ibach Ulrich R Ssler Joseph Callaway Charles Kittel Gerd Czycholl J. S. Blakemore

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divthorough modern study of solid state physics solid types and symmetry electron states electronic properties and cooperative phenomena div

an introduction to the solid state the symmetry properties of crystal lattice the ionic crystal crystal field theory the magnetic properties of crystals free electron theory of metals quasi free electron theory electrons in a periodic lattice quasi free electron theory electrons in a three dimensional periodic lattice quasi free electron theory applications the cohesive energy of conducting solids appendix a kramers theorem appendix b statistical mechanics and the density matrix appendix c general properties of the s matrix

introduction to solid state theory is a textbook for graduate students of physics and materials science it also provides the theoretical background needed by physicists doing research in pure solid state physics and its applications to electrical engineering the fundamentals of solid state theory are based on a description by delocalized and localized states and within the concept of delocalized states by elementary excitations the development of solid state theory within the last ten years has shown that by a systematic introduction of these concepts large parts of the theory can be described in a unified way this form of description gives a pictorial formulation of many elementary processes in solids which facilitates their understanding

solid state theory an introduction is a textbook for graduate students of physics and material sciences whilst covering the traditional topics of older textbooks it also takes up new

developments in theoretical concepts and materials that are connected with such breakthroughs as the quantum hall effects the high t_c superconductors and the low dimensional systems realized in solids thus besides providing the fundamental concepts to describe the physics of the electrons and ions comprising the solid including their interactions the book casts a bridge to the experimental facts and gives the reader an excellent insight into current research fields a compilation of problems makes the book especially valuable to both students and teachers

learning solid state physics involves a certain degree of maturity since it involves tying together diverse concepts from many areas of physics the objective is to understand in a basic way how solid materials behave to do this one needs both a good physical and mathematical background one definition of solid state physics is that it is the study of the physical e.g. the electrical dielectric magnetic elastic and thermal properties of solids in terms of basic physical laws in one sense solid state physics is more like chemistry than some other branches of physics because it focuses on common properties of large classes of materials it is typical that solid state physics emphasizes how physics properties link to electronic structure we have retained the term solid state physics even though condensed matter physics is more commonly used condensed matter physics includes liquids and non crystalline solids such as glass which we shall not discuss in detail modern solid state physics came of age in the late thirties and forties and had its most extensive expansion with the development of the transistor integrated circuits and microelectronics most of microelectronics however is limited to the properties of inhomogeneously doped semiconductors solid state physics includes many other areas of course among the largest of these are ferromagnetic materials and superconductors just a little less than half of all working physicists are in condensed matter a course in solid state physics typically begins with three broad areas 1 how and why atoms bind together to form solids 2 lattice vibrations and phonons and 3 electrons in solids one would then typically apply the above to 4 interactions especially of electrons with phonons 5 metals the fermi surface and alloys 6 semiconductors 7 magnetism 8 superconductivity 9 dielectrics and ferroelectrics 10 optical properties 11 defects and 12 certain other modern topics such as layered materials quantum hall effect mesoscopics nanophysics and soft condensed matter in this book we will consider all of these

the textbooks solid state theory give an introduction to the methods contents and results of modern solid state physics in two volumes this first volume has the basic courses in theoretical physics as prerequisites i.e. knowledge of classical mechanics electrodynamics and in particular quantum mechanics and statistical physics is assumed the formalism of second

quantization occupation number representation which is needed for the treatment of many body effects is introduced and used in the book the content of the first volume deals with the classical areas of solid state physics phonons and electrons in the periodic potential bloch theorem hartree fock approximation density functional theory electron phonon interaction the first volume is already suitable for bachelor students who want to go beyond the basic courses in theoretical physics and get already familiar with an application area of theoretical physics e g for an elective subject theoretical solid state physics or as a basis for a bachelor thesis every solid state physicist working experimentally should also be familiar with the theoretical methods covered in the first volume the content of the first volume can therefore also be the basis for a module solid state physics in the master program in physics or together with the content of the 2nd volume for a module theoretical solid state physics or advanced theoretical physics the following second volume covers application areas such as superconductivity and magnetism to areas that are current research topics e g quantum hall effect high temperature superconductivity low dimensional structures

quantum physics of the solid state an introduction draft foreword 26 09 03 if only this book had been available when i was starting out in science it would have saved me countless hours of struggle in trying to apply the general ideas of the standard solid state text books to solve real problems the fact is that most of the texts stop at the point where the real difficulties begin the great merit of this book is that it describes in an honest and detailed way what one really has to do in order to understand the multifarious properties of solids in terms of the fundamental physical theory of quantum mechanics university students of the physical sciences are taught about the fundamental theories and know that quantum mechanics together with relativity is our basis for understanding the physical world but the practical difficulties of using quantum mechanics to do anything useful are usually not very well explained the truth is that the application of quantum theory to achieve our present detailed understanding of solids has required the development of a large array of mathematical techniques this is closely analogous to the challenge faced long ago by theoretical astronomers in trying to apply newton's equations of motion to the heavens they too had to develop a battery of theoretical and computational techniques to do calculations that could be compared with observation

focuses on the essential concepts needed for an intuitive understanding of modern solid state theory and its experimental applications

designed to sit alongside more conventional established condensed matter physics textbooks this compact volume offers a concise presentation of the principles of solid state theory ideal for advanced students and researchers requiring an overview or a quick refresher on a specific

topic the book starts from the one electron theory of solid state physics moving through electron electron interaction and many body approximation schemes to lattice oscillations and their interactions with electrons subsequent chapters discuss transport theory and optical properties phase transitions and some properties of low dimensional semiconductors this extensively expanded second edition includes new material on adiabatic perturbation theory kinetic coefficients the nyquist theorem bose condensation and the field theoretical approach to non relativistic quantum electrodynamics throughout the text mathematical proofs are often only sketched and the final chapter of the book reviews some of the key concepts and formulae used in theoretical physics aimed primarily at graduate and advanced undergraduate students taking courses on condensed matter theory the book serves as a study guide to reinforce concepts learned through conventional solid state texts researchers and lecturers will also find it a useful resource as a concise set of notes on fundamental topics

this book will introduce advanced concepts and topics of solid state theory to this end we need a tool box that enables us to treat electron electron interactions and possibly also electron phonon or phonon phonon interactions in some well defined appro

in recent decades solid state physics has seen many dramatic new developments and has become one of the largest independent branches of physics it has simultaneously expanded into many new areas playing a vital role in fields that were once the domain of the engineering and chemical sciences a consequence of this explosive development is that no single university lecturer can today be expected to have a detailed knowledge of all aspects of this vast subject likewise it is impossible to conceive of a course that could offer students a comprehensive understanding of the entire discipline and its many applications in view of this situation it is particularly valuable to have a textbook that gives a concise account of the essential elements of the physics of solids in this book the fundamental aspects of solid state physics are presented according to the scheme chemical bonding structure lattice dynamics and electronic properties we believe that this sequence is the optimum choice for tutorial purposes it enables the more difficult concepts to be introduced at a point where a basic understanding of fundamental ideas has already been achieved through the study of simple models and examples in addition to this carefully structured exposition of classical solid state theory based on the periodic solid and the one electron approximation the book also includes comprehensive descriptions of the most active areas in modern research magnetism superconductivity and semiconductor physics

this new edition presents a comprehensive up to date survey of the concepts and methods in contemporary condensed matter physics emphasizing topics that can be treated by quantum

mechanical methods the book features tutorial discussions of a number of current research topics also included are updated treatments of topics that have developed significantly within the past several years such as superconductivity magnetic impurities in metals methods for electronic structure calculations magnetic ordering in insulators and metals and linear response theory advanced level graduate students and practicing condensed matter physicists will use the second edition of quantum theory of the solid state as an important source of information on renormalization group theory integer and fractional quantum hall effect transport in mesoscopic systems and numerical methods in many body theory

a modern presentation of theoretical solid state physics that builds directly upon Kittel's Introduction to Solid State Physics treats phonon electron and magnon fields culminating in the BCS theory of superconductivity considers Fermi surfaces and electron wave functions and develops the group theoretical description of Brillouin zones applies correlation functions to time dependent effects in solids with an introduction to Green's functions with 110 problems the text is well suited for the classroom or for self instruction

The present volume 2 covers advanced topics in theoretical solid state physics and thus ties in directly with the fundamentals Solids in External Fields or more generally in Non-Equilibrium and Deviations from the Ideal 3-Dimensional Crystal Structure Surfaces Impurities Low Dimensional Structures Quantum Dots etc are treated the consideration of collective phenomena such as superconductivity and magnetism complete the presentation the reader is assumed to have the contents of volume 1 electrons and phonons in ideal crystals Bloch theorem population number representation or 2nd quantization electron-electron and electron-phonon interaction as well as the basic knowledge of general theoretical physics mechanics electrodynamics quantum mechanics and statistical physics usually available after a Bachelor's degree in physics volume 2 is thus ideally suited for students in the Master's program in physics who wish to specialize in experimental or theoretical solid state physics addressing current topics e.g. Kondo effect fractional quantum hall effect 2-dimensional crystals such as graphene giant magnetoresistance effect and others provides an optimal transition to modern research the new edition has been completely revised expanded with numerous exercises and existing redesigned with the associated solutions now included in the book

updated to reflect recent work in the field this book emphasizes crystalline solids going from the crystal lattice to the ideas of reciprocal space and Brillouin zones and develops these ideas for lattice vibrations for the theory of metals and for semiconductors the theme of lattice periodicity and its varied consequences runs through eighty percent of the book other sections deal with major aspects of solid state physics controlled by other phenomena superconductivity

dielectric and magnetic properties and magnetic resonance

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FAQs

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