

Phy 410

Quiz #9, April 9, 2010

The Fermi energy (FE) of an Ideal gas of spin $\frac{1}{2}$ fermions of mass m and density N/V is given by

$$\varepsilon_F = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \left(3\pi^2 \frac{N}{V} \right)^{2/3}$$

The Fermi energy of electrons ($m=m_e$) in metal with density 2.5×10^{28} ($1/m^3$) is 3.1 eV.

(i) What is the FE of electrons in a doped semi-conductor with density 2.5×10^{25} ($1/m^3$)

$$\text{Since } \varepsilon_F \propto \left(\frac{N}{V} \right)^{2/3}; \varepsilon_F = 3.1 \text{ eV} \times \left(\frac{2.5 \times 10^{25}}{2.5 \times 10^{28}} \right)^{2/3} = 3.1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$$

(ii) What is the FE of heavy fermions with mass $m=1000m_e$ with the same metallic density, 2.5×10^{28} ($1/m^3$)?

$$\text{Since } \varepsilon_F \propto \frac{1}{m}; \varepsilon_F = 3.1 \text{ eV} \times \left(\frac{m_e}{1000m_e} \right) = 3.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$$