

Contents

1	A primer on electron transport	<i>page</i> 1
1.1	Nanoscale systems	1
1.2	Generating currents	3
1.2.1	Finite versus infinite systems	8
1.2.2	Electron sources	9
1.2.3	Intrinsic nature of the transport problem	10
1.3	Measuring currents	11
1.3.1	Microscopic states	12
1.3.2	The current operator	13
1.3.3	The measurement process	16
1.3.4	Complete measurement and pure states	17
1.4	The statistical operator and macro-states	19
1.4.1	Pure and mixed states	21
1.4.2	Quantum correlations	22
1.4.3	Time evolution of the statistical operator	23
1.4.4	Random or partially specified Hamiltonians	24
1.4.5	Open quantum systems	25
1.4.6	Equilibrium statistical operators	29
1.5	Current measurement and statistical operator truncation	32
1.6	One current, different viewpoints	34
	Summary and open questions	36
	Exercises	36
2	Drude model, Kubo formalism and Boltzmann equation	39
2.1	Drude model	39
2.2	Resistance, coherent and incoherent transport	42
2.2.1	Relaxation vs. dephasing	44

2.2.2	Mean-free path	48
2.2.3	The meaning of momentum relaxation time	49
2.3	Kubo formalism	50
2.3.1	The current-current response function	55
2.3.2	The use of Density-Functional Theory in the Kubo approach	57
2.3.3	The fluctuation-dissipation theorem	60
2.3.4	Ohmic vs. ballistic regimes	66
2.4	Chemical, electrochemical and electrostatic potentials	68
2.5	Drift-diffusion equations	72
2.5.1	Diffusion coefficient of an ideal electron gas in the non-degenerate limit	73
2.5.2	Generalization to spin-dependent transport	75
2.6	Distribution functions	77
2.7	Boltzmann equation	79
2.7.1	Approach to local equilibrium	82
2.8	Entropy, loss of information, and macroscopic irreversibility	83
2.8.1	The classical statistical entropy	85
2.8.2	Quantum statistical entropy	86
2.8.3	Information content of the N - and one-particle statistical operators	89
2.8.4	Entropy of open quantum systems	90
2.8.5	Loss of information in the Kubo formalism	91
2.8.6	Loss of information with stochastic Hamiltonians	92
2.8.7	Entropy associated with the measurement of currents	93
	Summary and open questions	94
	Exercises	95
3	Landauer approach	101
3.1	Formulation of the problem	102
3.2	Local resistivity dipoles and the “field response”	113
3.3	Conduction from transmission	115
3.3.1	Scattering boundary conditions	115
3.3.2	Transmission and reflection probabilities	119
3.3.3	Total current	123
3.3.4	Two-probe conductance	128
3.4	The Lippmann–Schwinger equation	132
3.4.1	Time-dependent Lippmann–Schwinger equation	132
3.4.2	Time-independent Lippmann–Schwinger equation	140
3.5	Green’s functions and self-energy	145

	Contents	ix
3.5.1 Relation to scattering theory	154	
3.6 The \mathcal{S} matrix	159	
3.6.1 Relation between the total Green's function and the \mathcal{S} matrix	162	
3.7 The transfer matrix	167	
3.7.1 Coherent scattering of two resistors in series	169	
3.7.2 Incoherent scattering of two resistors in series	171	
3.7.3 Relation between the conductance and the transfer matrix	173	
3.7.4 Localization, ohmic and ballistic regimes	174	
3.8 Four-probe conductance in the non-invasive limit	178	
3.8.1 Single-channel case	179	
3.8.2 Geometrical "dilution"	181	
3.8.3 Multi-channel case	182	
3.9 Multi-probe conductance in the invasive limit	185	
3.9.1 Floating probes and dephasing	187	
3.10 Generalization to spin-dependent transport	190	
3.10.1 Spin-dependent transmission functions	194	
3.10.2 Multi-probe conductance in the presence of a magnetic field	195	
3.10.3 Local resistivity spin dipoles and dynamical effects	196	
3.11 The use of Density-Functional Theory in the Landauer approach	198	
Summary and open questions	202	
Exercises	203	
4 Non-equilibrium Green's function formalism	209	
4.1 Formulation of the problem	211	
4.1.1 Contour ordering	215	
4.2 Equilibrium Green's functions	217	
4.2.1 Time-ordered Green's functions	218	
4.2.2 Dyson's equation for interacting particles	221	
4.2.3 More Green's functions	223	
4.2.4 The spectral function	225	
4.3 Contour-ordered Green's functions	231	
4.3.1 Equations of motion for non-equilibrium Green's functions	233	
4.4 Application to steady-state transport	236	
4.5 Coulomb blockade	244	
4.6 Quantum kinetic equations	250	

Summary and open questions	255
Exercises	257
5 Noise	258
5.1 The moments of the current	261
5.2 Shot noise	263
5.2.1 The classical (Poisson) limit	264
5.2.2 Quantum theory of shot noise	266
5.3 Counting statistics	274
5.4 Thermal noise	275
Summary and open questions	277
Exercises	277
6 Electron-ion interaction	280
6.1 The many-body electron-ion Hamiltonian	281
6.1.1 The adiabatic approximation for a current-carrying system	282
6.1.2 The phonon subsystem	284
6.1.3 Electron-phonon coupling in the presence of current	288
6.2 Inelastic current	290
6.2.1 Inelastic current from standard perturbation theory	291
6.2.2 Inelastic current from the NEGF	296
6.3 Local ionic heating	312
6.3.1 Lattice heat conduction	319
6.4 Thermopower	323
6.5 Current-induced forces	328
6.5.1 Elastic vs. inelastic contribution to electro-migration	328
6.5.2 One force, different definitions	330
6.5.3 Local resistivity dipoles and the force sign	333
6.5.4 Forces at equilibrium	333
6.5.5 Forces out of equilibrium	335
6.5.6 Are current-induced forces conservative?	340
6.6 Local ionic heating vs. current-induced forces	343
Summary and open questions	344
Exercises	344
7 The micro-canonical picture of transport	346
7.1 Formulation of the problem	347
7.1.1 Transport from a finite-system point of view	347
7.1.2 Initial conditions and dynamics	349
7.2 Electrical current theorems within dynamical DFTs	351
7.2.1 Closed and finite quantum systems in a pure state	351

Contents

xi

7.2.2	Closed quantum systems in a pure state with arbitrary boundary conditions	353
7.2.3	Current in open quantum systems	354
7.2.4	Closure of the BBGKY hierarchy	356
7.2.5	Functional approximations and loss of information	357
7.3	Transient dynamics	358
7.4	Properties of quasi-steady states	360
7.4.1	Variational definition of quasi-steady states	360
7.4.2	Dependence of quasi-steady states on initial conditions	364
7.5	A non-equilibrium entropy principle	365
7.6	Approach to steady state in nanoscale systems	369
7.7	Definition of conductance in the micro-canonical picture	374
	Summary and open questions	375
8	Hydrodynamics of the electron liquid	376
8.1	The Madelung equations for a single particle	378
8.2	Hydrodynamic form of the Schrödinger equation	380
8.2.1	Quantum Navier–Stokes equations	382
8.3	Conductance quantization from hydrodynamics	388
8.4	Viscosity from Time-Dependent Current Density-Functional Theory	391
8.4.1	Functional approximation, loss of information, and dissipative dynamics	394
8.4.2	Effect of viscosity on resistance	395
8.5	Turbulent transport	397
8.6	Local electron heating	403
8.6.1	Electron heat conduction	405
8.6.2	Hydrodynamics of heat transfer	406
8.6.3	Effect of local electron heating on ionic heating	410
	Summary and open questions	412
	Exercises	413
Appendices		
Appendix A A primer on second quantization		415
Appendix B The quantum BBGKY hierarchy		420
Appendix C The Lindblad equation		423
C.1	The Lindblad theorem	424
C.2	Derivation of the Lindblad equation	426
C.3	Steady-state solutions	430

Appendix D	Ground-state Density-Functional Theory	431
D.1	The Hohenberg–Kohn theorem	431
D.2	The Kohn–Sham equations	432
D.3	Generalization to grand-canonical equilibrium	434
D.4	The local density approximation and beyond	434
Appendix E	Time-Dependent DFT	436
E.1	The Runge–Gross theorem	436
E.2	The time-dependent Kohn–Sham equations	437
E.3	The adiabatic local density approximation	437
Appendix F	Time-Dependent Current DFT	439
F.1	The current density as the main variable	439
F.2	The exchange-correlation electric field	440
F.3	Approximate formulas for the viscosity	442
Appendix G	Stochastic Time-Dependent Current DFT	444
G.1	The stochastic Schrödinger equation	444
G.2	Derivation of the quantum master equation	446
G.3	The theorem of Stochastic TD-CDFT	449
Appendix H	Inelastic corrections to current and shot noise	451
Appendix I	Hydrodynamic form of the Schrödinger equation	454
Appendix J	Equation of motion for the stress tensor	458
Appendix K	Cut-off of the viscosity divergence	461
Appendix L	Bernoulli’s equation	463
<i>References</i>		464
<i>Index</i>		470