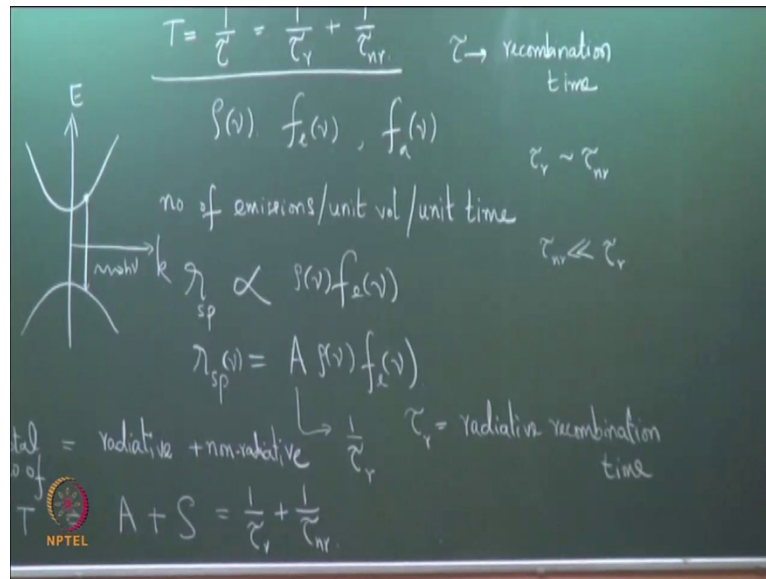


Semiconductor Optoelectronics
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Lecture - 19
Rates of Emission and Absorption

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In the last class, we discussed about optical joint density of states ρ of μ and the probability of emission f_e of μ or p_e of μ , and probability of absorption of f_a of μ . We want it to find out the number of emission. Finally, our objective is today in this class, we will discuss about rates of emission and absorption. Our objective rates of emission and absorption refers to number of emissions or absorptions per unit volume of the material per unit time because once we know this number, then multiplied by $h\mu$ will give us the power energy per unit time is of the power output from this device or material.

So, the number of unit emissions per unit volume, this is the density of optical joint density of states that is number of states available for photons of frequency μ to interact with. So, ρ of μ is the number of states, this is the emission probability and therefore number of states multiplied by the emission probability will give you number of emissions. So, ρ of μ into f_e of μ will give you number of emissions per unit volume, because this is per unit volume and therefore the rate of spontaneous emission, ρ rate of emission or spontaneous emission r_{sp} is proportional to ρ of μ into f_e of

ν or r_s , s_p standing for spontaneous emission. Why it is spontaneous emission? I will come in a minute.

So, this I can write as equal to a rate constant A into ρ of μ into f_e of μ . A is the rate constant and you can show that this is nothing but one over τ_r where τ_r is the radiative recombination like that. So, this is the radiative recombination time. Radiative transition recombination time means recombination time for radiative transitions. Why I mean radiative transitions is the following.

If you see the E_k diagram, as you can see I keep drawing this many times. So, E_k diagram, a photon, an electron which is in the conduction band can make a downward transition in energy to the valence band giving out spontaneously on its own a photon of energy $h\nu$. It is also possible that this recombination may not result in the emission of a photon at all. This recombination is also possible through phonon emissions. Vertical transitions are also possible with phonon emissions and therefore, in general or this may be sitting here, it makes an oblique transition, but the point is a transition from conduction band to valence band may take place with emission of a photon or without emission of a photon. Therefore, total number of spontaneous downward transitions comprise of radiative plus non-radiative transition.

So, radiative plus non-radiative transition. So, total number of spontaneous transitions because it is on its own. It is coming down. Spontaneous transitions would comprise of radioactive and non-radioactive components and therefore, correspondingly the total rate constant if I denote it as t , then this will comprise of a radioactive constant A plus non-radioactive constant which I denoted as S , total rate constant equal to radioactive constant plus non-radioactive constant here the rate constant. Therefore, this is inverse of time is rate constant. Therefore, it inverse of time. So, this is written as 1 over τ_r plus 1 over τ_{nr} . In other words, t is equal to 1 divided by τ is equal to 1 divided by τ_r plus 1 divided by τ_{nr} , where τ is the lifetime of the transition or spontaneous recombination time.

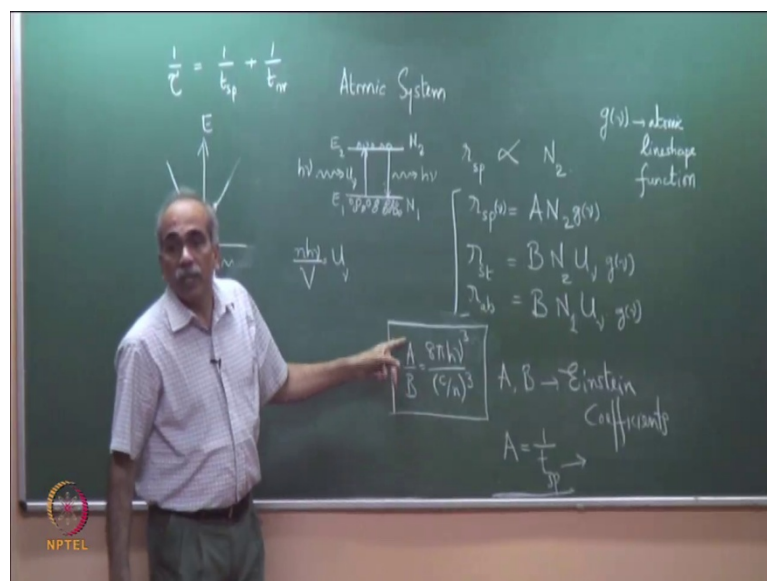
So, this is recombination time, this is radioactive recombination time, this is non-radioactive recombination time. The relation is 1 over τ equal to 1 over τ_r plus 1 over τ_{nr} . We will discuss about this a little bit more little later, but at this point I will just make a statement that in direct band gap semiconductor, τ_r is of the same order

which means the rate constant A is of the same order as the rate constant S, which means the spontaneous emission. This is spontaneous emission rate of photons r_{sp} of μ of frequency μ . If this is equal to this, it means out of the total recombination, 50 percent of them result in emission of photon and 50 percent of them result in emission of no photon that is no emission of photons.

If A equal to S, if τ_r equal to τ_{nr} , it means that A equal to S total rate constant is this which comprises of these two radioactive non-radioactive. Therefore, in a direct band gap semiconductor, the probability of radioactive transitions is equal to, nearly equal to the probability of non-radioactive transition. Almost every electron combining with a hole of a 50 percent probability of a emission of a photon and 50 percent probability of no emission of photon, but in the case of indirect band semiconductors, τ_{nr} is much smaller than τ_r . Therefore, S is much greater compared to A. We will put some numbers a little later when we go to materials.

Therefore, non-radioactive transitions dominate much more over radioactive transition. That is the important of τ_r and τ_{nr} . So, I want to bring at this stage an analogy with atomic systems because most of you know that the elementary theory of lasers, most of you are familiar to the elementary theory of lasers. You will see that is the complete one to one analogy and then I would like to proceed further.

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See atomic system. If you consider the two level atomic systems with N_1 number of ground state and N_2 number of atoms in the excited state with energy E_1 and energy E_2 and energy E_1 , then there are number of atoms, large number of atoms in the ground state which is given by the Boltzmann distribution. There are fewer numbers of atoms here. The three basic atomic processors are the same interaction processors, an atom sitting here and can make spontaneously downward direction giving out the emission of photon $h\nu$. The number of transitions N_2 is the number of transitions per unit volume of the material, the number of transitions, downward transitions spontaneous transition is proportional to the number of atoms which are sitting here and therefore, the rate of transitions spontaneous transition is proportional to if I am looking at spontaneous emission, then it is proportional to N_2 or rate of spontaneous emission is equal to A times N_2 .

There can be stimulated emission in the presence of photons of energy $h\nu$ if there is energy density u_ν of photons of energy, $h\nu$ u_ν is the energy density number of photons per unit volume of frequency ν that is if you have N number of photon incident when $n h\nu$ divided by volume of the material v is unit. So, this is equal to u_ν energy density. So, is $E_\nu u_\nu$ is the energy density, then rate of stimulated emission is equal to A constant B into N_2 into u_ν and rate of absorption is proportional to the number of atoms in the ground state. Therefore, rate of absorption is equal to B into N_1 into u_ν .

Please see when there is an energy density, when there are photons of energy $h\nu$ here, they can stimulate downward transition, but they can also cause absorption of upward transition. So, the absorption depends on the energy density u_ν and the number of atoms in the ground state emissions depends on the number of state atoms N_2 here and also, on the energy density u_ν . That is why we have this kind of expressions to make it to incorporate more features into this. Actually atom interacts with the radiation over a certain range of frequencies. So, there is a line shape condition, g_ν atomic line shape function. Both you have studied in basic laser physics lined shape function. If you have not studied, that does not matter g_ν and therefore, everywhere this r_{sp} will be a function of ν and N_2 into g_ν . G_ν gives the strength as interaction at the frequency ν that is any atomic system interacts with radiation over a range of frequencies because

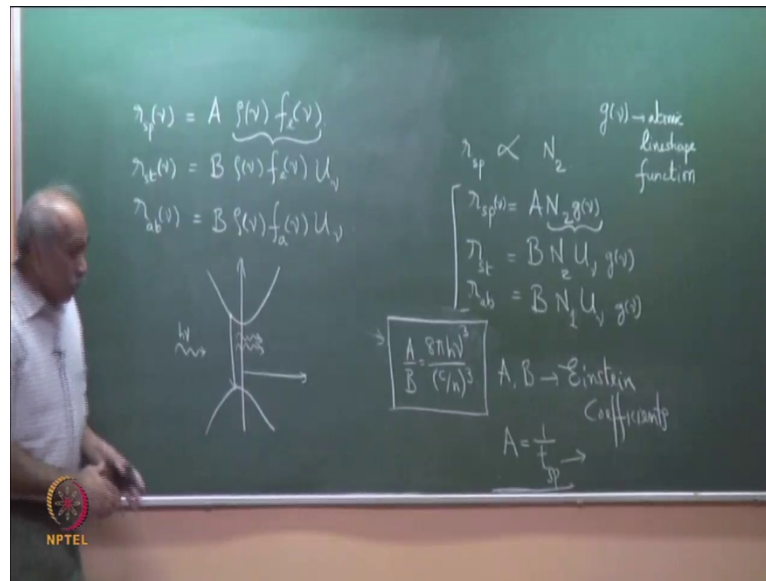
of various mechanisms which are called line broadening mechanisms. This $g(\nu)$ is the line shape function which determines the strength of interaction at a particular frequency.

So, I have carried traditional term genuine that is N_2 into $g(\nu)$, N_1 into $g(\nu)$. So, spontaneous emission at a frequency ν is proportional to N_2 into $g(\nu)$ and A is the proportional. So, these are the three expressions that we have for a long degeneration function. This for the absorption and emission B is the same. Otherwise, you have to write here B_{21} and B_{12} for a non-regenerated system become the same. These coefficients A and B are called, what they are known as? These are known as the Einstein coefficient.

So, A , B are Einstein coefficients. A is equal to $1/t_{sp}$ where t_{sp} is the spontaneous emission life time. You can write this as $dN_2/dt = -A N_2$ into $g(\nu)$ and simplify, and you can show that A is equal to $1/t_{sp}$, where t_{sp} is the spontaneous emission life time in atomic physics. Also, there is a relation that is life time τ is equal to $1/t_{sp} + 1/t_{nr}$ non-radioactive transition. So, t_{sp} here is first to spontaneous emission, but also their atom may come down without even giving a photon and they are called non-radioactive transitions. It is the same relation that we have in a semi-conductor. $1/\tau$ life time is equal to $1/\text{radioactive life time} + 1/\text{non-radioactive life time}$. So, A is given by $1/t_{sp}$ spontaneous emission life time and the relation between A and B , relation between the Einstein coefficients is given by A/B is equal to $8\pi h \nu^3 / c^3$ or a medium of refractive index n . It is c/n . This is the relation between Einstein coefficients A and B and A is equal to $1/t_{sp}$.

Why I am writing this is because the coefficients that we have in semi-conductor A and B also have the same relation. Therefore, this have been written for the atomic system and now, I write for the semi-conductors and then you can see what is the comparison from here in an atomic system and in semiconductor here we are writing N_1 and N_2 are number of atoms. Here, we are dealing electrons and holes, but you see the similarity and the relations.

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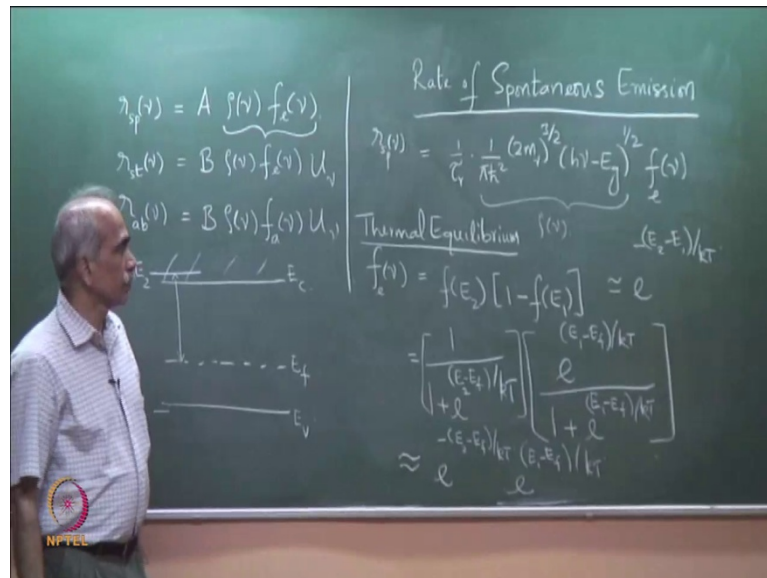


So, for the semi-conductors τ_{sp} of μ is equal to the constant A into ρ of μ into f_e of μ . This spontaneous stimulated emission τ_{st} of μ is equal to constant B . Actually, this is A dash and B dash value is not the same. The relation is the same. So, B into ρ of μ into f_e of μ into energy density u of μ and τ_{ab} of μ is equal to B into ρ of μ and now, f_a of μ into u μ , and A and B have the same relations here and this case A is the spontaneous emission life time. Here with A is equal to 1 over τ_{sp} radioactive recombination life time.

There are techniques, these are measurable parameters. You will see ultimately that everything will be in terms of life time because lifetime is a measurable parameter. If time permits, later on I will discuss that. The measurement techniques are one can measure the lifetime. So, A is equal to this is completely one to one corresponded and what do you see that if you replace n^2 into g μ . This tells you effective number of atoms available for the transition and this tells you the same thing. So, ρ μ into f_e of μ is replaced by this, otherwise it is the same. So, these are the rate of spontaneous emission stimulated emission and absorption would be the difference between stimulated and spontaneous is the energy density. Spontaneous emission does not require any radiation to be present. It spontaneously makes the transition in stimulated emission. You need radiation to be present and therefore, u μ here refers to the density of states. So, u μ here refers to the energy density in the medium.

So, in stimulated emission if I want to illustrate stimulated emission, then I have photons coming here of energy density u_ν and electron which is here making a downward direction and leads to, so there are more number of photons here can induce more number of downward transition. That is why stimulated emission rate is proportional to u_ν . Larger the number of photons which are incident here, larger will be the possibility of stimulated emission and the coefficient here B. So, these are the Einstein coefficients. They are the same as this is not in magnitude, but in nature and the relation is the same in semi-conductors. So, let us find out first the rate of spontaneous emission. First, we will discuss spontaneous emission because I have already mentioned spontaneous emission is the basis of operations.

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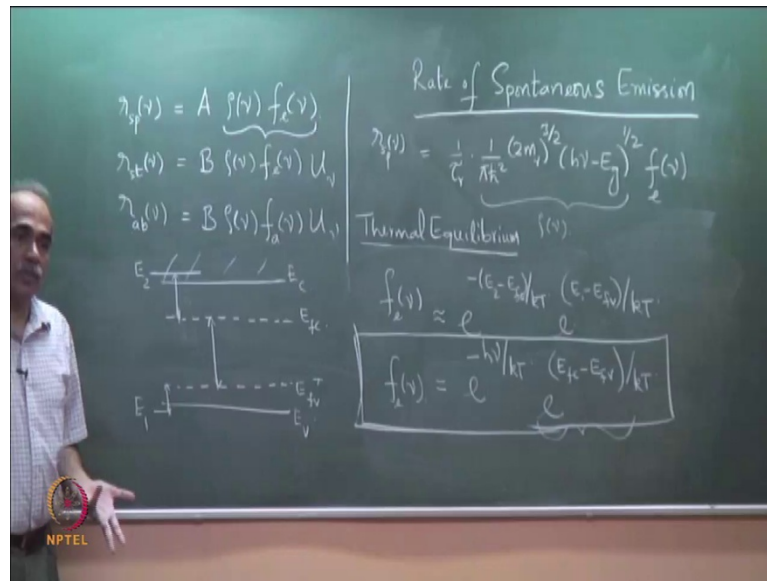
Now LED's. So, we will discuss the rate of spontaneous emission. We will find out what is this rate. We have determined the expression here, what is that rate. So, rate of spontaneous emission r_{sp} at the frequency ν because the density optical joint density can form the frequency ν . R_{sp} of ν is equal to 1 divided by τ_r into τ_v or ν density optical joint density of space, 1 divided by πh cross square into twice m_r to the power 3 by 2 . Please check the expression into $h \nu$ minus E_g to the power half. So, this is ρ of ν . So, this is ρ of ν multiplied by f_e of ν probability of emission. Let us see the probability of emission f_e of ν is equal to recall first thermal equilibrium.

Let us see the thermal equilibrium. A thermal equilibrium I want to find out f_e of μ . So, we have a semi-conductor. The primary level is somewhere I do not know, B type or N type and just taking a semi-conductor not taking a p n junction and this is E C. The semi-conductor in thermal equilibrium f_e of μ is equal to f of E 2 and probability of having an electron at state E 2 into probability of having the whole at state E 1 minus f of E 1. So, substitute at E 2 is 1 divided by $1 + e$ to the power $E - E_x$ to $E_2 - E_1$ by $k T$ into this one will give me e to the power $E_1 - E_f$ by $k T$ in the numerator divided by $1 + e$ to the power $E_1 - E_x$ by $k T$. Let us approximate a little bit here. Even remember that E 2 is an energy level here, the conduction in the valence band in the conduction band.

So, E 2 is an energy level in the conduction band, E 1 is an energy level in the valence band here. So, you can see that this gap is $E_2 - E_f$ is much greater than $k T$ at room temperature. This is the Boltzmann approximation $E_2 - E_f$ is much greater than $k T$ because $k T$ is about 0.05 eV. Therefore, just like to we did Boltzmann approximation for carrier concentration under, then Boltzmann approximation $E_2 - E_f$ is much greater than $k T$. Therefore, the exponent will be large number. I can neglect to one with respect to e to the power large exponent which means this second term here is a first term, here the first term this one is simply approximately, let me write approximately I want to see what kind of numbers are there. Approximately equal to e to the power. So, only this term minus goes to the numerator $E_2 - E_f$ by $k T$, the second term here is approximately equal to e to the power $E_2 - E_f$ by $k T$.

What about this term? This is a large number $E_1 - E_f$ by $k T$. The large number you can neglect, but it is a large number, but even is less than E_f . Please E_1 is here, E_f is here, $E_1 - E_f$ is a negative number. So, it is a large, but a negative number. Therefore, this is closed to 0 and therefore, I can write this term is closed to 0 by neglect this. So, what we have left is this is only e to the power $E_1 - E_f$ by $k T$. Then what is that? See plus E_f and minus E_f by $k T$ that goes off. So, left to it e to the power of minus $E_2 - E_1$. So, this is, therefore this is approximately equal to e to the power minus $E_2 - E_1$ by $k T$, $E_2 - E_1$ is what $h \mu$. So, this is equal to let me erase this.

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So, what we have got this f_e of μ . f_e of μ is equal to e to the power; I should not erase this e to the power minus. Let me write again. $E_2 - E_f$ by kT into e to the power $E_1 - E_f$ by kT which is equal to f_e . This term is approximately equal to e because you have made a broad man approximation here. This is equal to here we have e to the power of minus $h\nu$ by kT . So, f_e of μ is e to the power of minus $h\nu$ by kT . You can put some number if you are talking of visible photons. Corresponding to visible light, $h\nu$ is about 1.25 eV, and kT is extremely small compared to that which is also large number e to the power minus this. So, f_e of μ is an extremely small number and probability of emission at thermal equilibrium is extremely small.

Suppose, I was in queasy equilibrium, we were in the state of queasy equilibrium. So, we will substitute in a minute, but just I have to proceed, suppose we were in queasy equilibrium which means let us say we have a pump. So, because of original is here may be exist this medium by may be by eliminations, may be by current injection whatever reason, so that the E_f separate out 2 E_f . So, now, we have one E_f for the conduction band and $E_f c$ and one E_f for the valence band, $E_f v$. So, I erase this thermal equilibrium case. So, this was equilibrium and now, this is a queasy equilibrium.

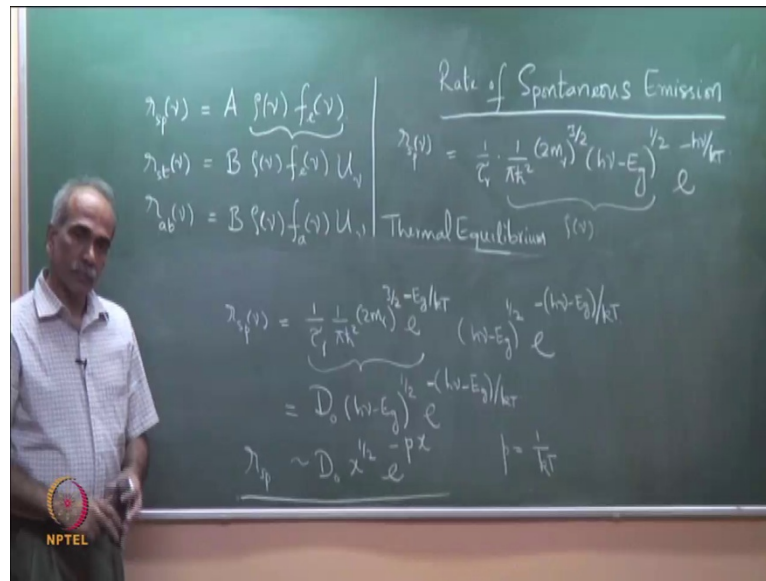
So, what difference would we see? We will see I have this is not enough of quality here. So, this gap is sufficiently large between E_1 and here, so that I can still apply Boltzmann approximation. Assume that I am still able to apply Boltzmann approximation. So, what

difference is in? This expression will come in this. We will have $E_f c$ and here $E_f v$. There is the only difference that $E_f c E^2$ minus $E_f c$ by $k T$ and E^1 minus $E_f v$ by $k T$. Please write this expression again.

What do we then have earlier? E_f positive gets cancel with each other. Now, we have this multiplied by e to the power minus $E_f c$ minus $E_f v$ by $k T$ s p. The probability of emission in quasi equilibrium has changed to this expression, where this was in thermal equilibrium. That is now multiplied a term $E_f c$ minus $E_f v$ by $k T$. See in this diagram that I have drawn $E_f c$ minus $E_f v$ is this gap. It is much larger compared to $k T$ 0.025 E_v and therefore, this exponent here is very larger number. Now, this is very large no doubt, but this is also large. The point is by pushing the semi-conductor into quasi equilibrium, you have additional multiplication factor which will increase f_e of μ by orders of magnitude. A semi-conductor in thermal equilibrium had f_e of μ approximately equal to e . To the different means, you have an additional factor which is also a very large factor power minus $h \mu$ by $k T$ which means the probability was very small by pushing the semi-conductor into quasi equilibrium may be by injection of carriers, may be by elimination. In other words, you can change the probability of emission by orders of magnitude.

We will see this simplification later that is how in an LED before bias that is nothing 0 or you just forward bias, it light starts coming out. What are you doing by forward biasing? You are simply raising the probability of emission. Alright, we will discuss more about the LED's little later. So, let me continue with thermal equilibrium in case, so I erase this.

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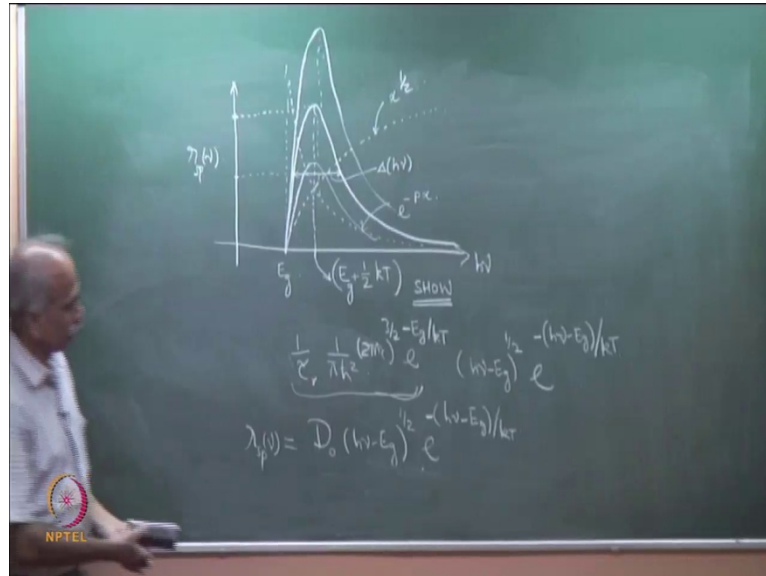
So, in thermal equilibrium, the rate of spontaneous emission is given by, so we have the expression here $e^{-h\nu/kT}$. Please write. You could write this again, $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus $h\nu$ by kT , $f(\nu)$ of μ is replaced by $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power for minus $h\nu$ by kT . We want to simplify this dual form. If you multiply this expression by $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power E_g by kT and $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus E_g by kT , $\rho(\nu)$ is equal to $1/\tau \cdot 1/\pi h^2 \cdot (2m)^{3/2} \cdot e^{-E_g/kT} \cdot (h\nu - E_g)^{1/2} \cdot e^{-(h\nu - E_g)/kT}$ twice $h\nu$ to the power $3/2$ by 2 $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power E_g by kT into $h\nu - E_g$ to the power half. I have simply multiplied by $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power E_g by kT and $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power of minus E_g by kT $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power $h\nu - E_g$ by kT , $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus E_g by kT is here and $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power E_g by kT .

Just to write it in the form of x to the power of, so this therefore, this constant here if we call it as some constant D or D_0 , then this into $h\nu - E_g$ to the power half into $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power $h\nu - E_g$. This is minus $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus $h\nu$ by kT in which case this minus minus plus. So, should have minus here. Please correct it. So, $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus $h\nu - E_g$ because of $h\nu$ is greater than E_g , therefore minus $h\nu - E_g$. So, please correct this.

So, this is of the form some constant should be D_0 and into x to the power half into $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus Ax , where A is some constant or p , let me write p because A has used for lattice constant. So, $e^{-h\nu/kT}$ to the power minus $p\nu$ where p is equal to $1/kT$. This is of the form x to the power half that is $h\nu - E_g$ calling as x x to the power half into $e^{-p\nu}$

the power minus $p x$, where p is 1 by $k T$. So, this is the rate of spontaneous emission. I want to see that what kind of variation that I will get that is I have written it that form.

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So, how does it vary? I want to find out rate of spontaneous emission. So, this is $h \nu$ photon energy $h \nu$ and here, I plot in $r s p$ of μ . So, where will it start? $H \mu$ equal to $E g$ curves all density of everything is valid for $h \mu$ greater than $E g$. So, this is $E g$ $h \mu$ equal to $E g$ is x is equal to 0 . So, some here has $h \mu$ increases, this goes as x to the power half. X to the power half goes the variation like this. X to the power half variation e to the power minus $p x$ variation is exponential drop. So, e power minus $p x$ at x is equal to 0 . It has the value 1 at x is equal to 0 and then it draws some down rapidly is an exponential drop depending on the value of p . P is very large. As you have seen here is a large quantity 1 by $k T$, $k T$ is 0.025 . That means 1 by 0.025 40 . So, p is about 40 . So, is dropping like this. So, this is e power minus $p x$ variation and this is x power half variation and $D 0$ is a constant.

So, $D 0$ does not involve μ . So, it is a constant. So, how is the net result look like? So, the net result looks like initially this function is very, so if the functions product of two functions. So, the product is 0 here, but suddenly this is a large value. So, the product jumps goes up to some maximum because latter on exponential takes over. Please remember that x power half $h \nu$. Why did I write x power minus half e power half? {lease correct this x power half. X power half is a much slower variation, then exponential

dependence is much faster. So, exponential takes over and then the net drops down. So, I plotted is rate of spontaneous emission as a function of $h\nu$. It means, it is maximum some value here. So, this is $r_{sp} \max$ corresponding to some value here. So, this is $r_{sp} \max$ and it also has a certain line width. A certain line width in the sense where f_{whm} from here if you come down to half, its value is approximately half its value. So, this is $\Delta\lambda$, it is $\Delta h\nu$ here in this case, but you can find out what is the corresponding in this case. It is $\Delta h\nu$.

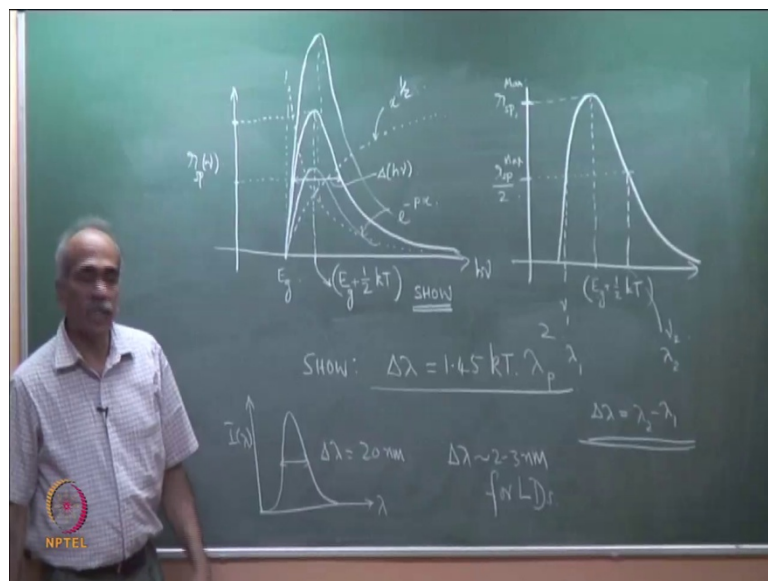
The full width at half maximum is the line width of this source full width at half maximum. How do you find out the maximum? Where does a maximum occur? We have an expression here for $r_{sp} \mu$ is equal to D_0 . It does not have $\mu h\nu$ minus E_g here to the power half into this. We want to find out the maximum. How to find out the maxima? So, how do you find the maxima? It differentiates with the function with respect to $h\nu$ and find out where is the maximum. So, please do this as an exercise and see what we get. This maxima corresponds to E_g plus half kT . You show this that the maxima appear at E_g plus half. Do this as an exercise and once you know that the maxima is set, E_g plus half kT , simply substitute E_g plus half kT here and you get what is the maximum value r_{sp} of μ . If you know that occurs the maxima occurs that E_g plus half kT substitute these value for $h\nu$. So, E_g goes away your left with half kT to the power half here again half kT . So, $kT kT$ cancels. See what you get. So, you know what the maximum value will do here and we know every parameter in this for a given material, we know radioactive recombination life time constant, the reduced mass, all the parameters are known.

So, I take given temperature you know what we see and therefore, you can find out what is the maximum rate of spontaneous emission. Remember that rate of spontaneous emission is number of emission per unit time per unit volume. If you multiply this as a energy of the photon $h\nu$, it will give you power output from that material power per unit volume. One other thing to note that the D_0 , alright, let me write twice $m r l$ divided by πh cross square. What else we write? 1 over τ_r , the D_0 value of D_0 tells you how far it goes. It is amplitude multiplied by time constant here. So, whether this variation goes like this, whether this equation thus like this it determined by D_0 and what is determined by, what determines D_0 ? D_0 is determined by temperature. All are constant for a given material. So, two things, one is τ_r radioactive recombination time

and here T. So, if the temperature is larger than this exponential negative, then quantity become smaller and therefore, D_0 will be higher.

So, it is instructive to see that you will put different temperatures. For example, you put 250 k here, 300 k, 350 k. You see that it changes. Similarly, when you put T different values, the peak shift because this is E_g plus half k T. Larger k T is the peak shift. So, deliberately I have shown the peak sitting likely this. So, this peak is because of higher temperature will have larger spontaneous emission coming out and also, the peak shifts by a small value. So, this tells us the rate of spontaneous emission from which we can calculate the spontaneously emitted power at any frequency greater than E_g . So, please do this as an exercise to find out the $h\nu$ corresponding to the peak value and this one corresponding to the full width cut off maximum.

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So, you can show in terms of $\lambda \Delta \lambda$, I think is nearly equal to $1.45 kT$. $\Delta \lambda$ comes out to be I think it is $1.45 kT$ multiplied by λ_p^2 . So, two exercises. Please work this out $\Delta \lambda$ is equal to, so $\Delta \lambda$ here refers to let me just explain this. How you would go about it and then I will stop. So, first for a given temperature, find out this. You know E_g plus half k T. Half k T substituting this value, we know what is the maximum value $r_{sp} \max$. So, this is max where $r_{sp} \max$ becomes half. So, this is a value where this is $r_{sp} \max$ by 2. There are two values of $h\nu$ and hence, ν you will get two different values for which you will have the

value r_{sp} max by 2 at two different $h\nu$ values. So, correspondingly we will get two frequencies. One, here for μ_1 and one, here μ_2 $h\nu_1$ and $h\nu_2$. So, you know μ_1 and μ_2 . If you know μ_1 and μ_2 , you can find out λ_1 and λ_2 . Simply see by μ_1 and see by λ_2 by μ_2 .

Therefore, $\Delta\lambda$ is equal to λ_2 minus λ_1 . Why we want in $\Delta\lambda$ is normally the light, the line width of the force is expressed in terms of nanometers wavelength. $\Delta\lambda$ may have are studied that an LED has a line width, $\Delta\lambda$ equal to 20 nanometers. What I have plotted? I have plotted intensity output, λ as a function of λ optical measurements are done in a wavelength. So, you change the wavelength and measure the spectrum of the banned LED output and you have intensity variation as a function of λ . The full width of maximum is $\Delta\lambda$ which is typically 20 to 30 nanometer light emitting diode. If you measure the same thing for a laser diode normal laser diode, this $\Delta\lambda$ will be of the order of 2 to 3 nanometer for laser diodes for normal laser diodes febrile pare laser diodes.

We will study about special laser diodes which have extremely small $\Delta\lambda$ single frequency laser diodes. So, that is why please calculate $\Delta\lambda$ in terms of nanometers. λ_p here corresponds to the peak wavelength, the peak wavelength that is λ_p , alright. So, I will see stop here and in the next class, we will discuss about rates of stimulated emission and absorption and see the condition for gain, and what condition we can gain from the semi-conductor spontaneous emission. There is no gain having an emission spectrum, but stimulated emission can lead to gain under certain circumference conditions, and we will see that the worth condition, we will get a gain.