

# 3.225 Electrical, Optical, and Magnetic Properties of Materials

- Professor Eugene Fitzgerald
- Purpose: connect atoms and structure to properties
- Semi-historical context
  - What was understood first from the micro to the macro?
  - What was missing to explain other materials?

# Origin of Conduction

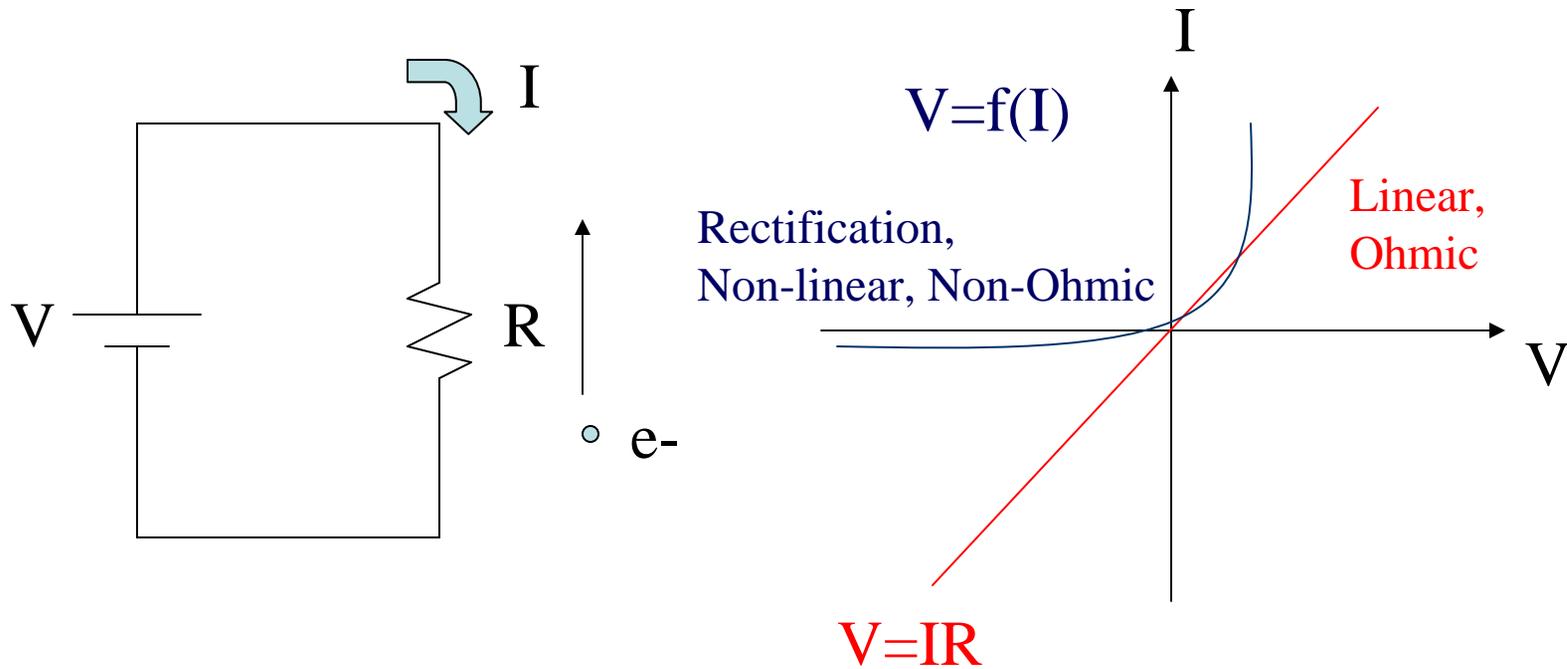
## Range of Resistivity

Why?

Electrical Resistivity (ohm-m)	Log	Electrical Conductivity (S/m)
	-8	8
intercalated graphite	-7	7
	-6	6
graphite (in-plane)	-5	5
graphite (out of plane)	-4	4
polyacetylene (doped)	-3	3
	-2	2
TTF-TCNQ	-1	1
	0	0
	1	-1
	2	-2
	3	-3
	4	-4
	5	-5
polyacetylene (undoped)	6	-6
	7	-7
	8	-8
	9	-9
	10	-10
Bakelite	11	-11
polypyrrole	12	-12
	13	-13
Lucite (PMMA)	14	-14
	15	-15
polyvinyl chloride	16	-16
polyethylene, teflon		

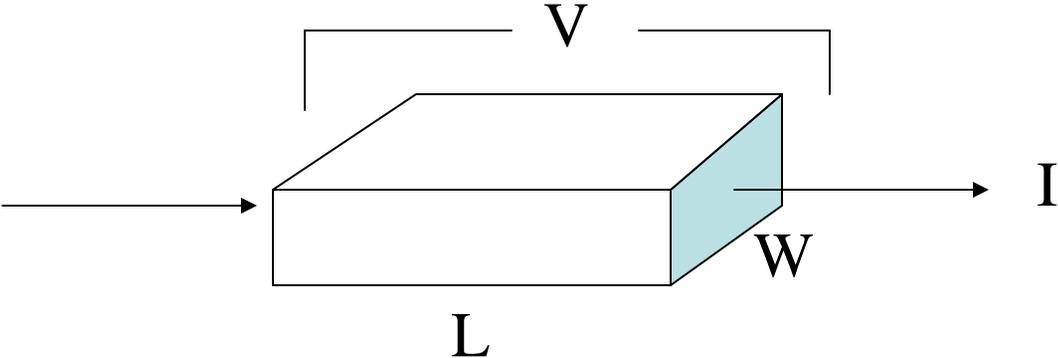
Figure by MIT OpenCourseWare.

# Response of material to applied potential



Metals show Ohmic behavior  
Microscopic origin?

Remove geometry of material



$$V=IR=IR/L \quad R=L/(\sigma A)$$

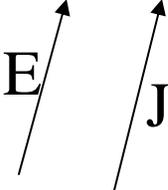
$$\boxed{J=\sigma E}$$

In general,

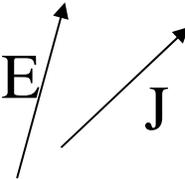
$$\vec{J} = \tilde{\sigma} \vec{E}$$

*All material info*

Isotropic material



Anisotropic material



In cubic material,

$$\begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \\ J_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{yy} & \sigma_{yz} \\ \sigma_{xz} & \sigma_{yz} & \sigma_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \\ E_z \end{pmatrix}$$

## Microscopic Origin: Can we predict Conductivity of Metals?

- Drude model: Sea of electrons
    - all electrons are bound to ion atom cores except *valence* electrons
    - ignore cores
    - electron *gas*
- $J = \sigma E = -nev$ , by definition of flux through a cross-section  
n=number of electrons per volume  
v=velocity of the carriers *due to electric field*--> *drift velocity*

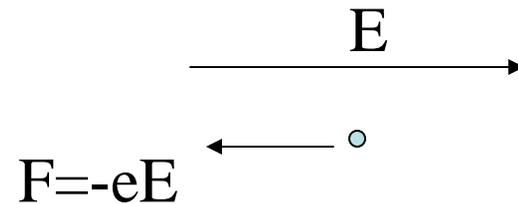
Therefore,

$\sigma = -nev/E$  and we define  $v = -\mu E$

$\mu$  is mobility, since the electric field creates a force on the electron  $F = -eE$

$$\sigma = ne\mu$$

Does this microscopic picture of metals give us Ohm's Law?



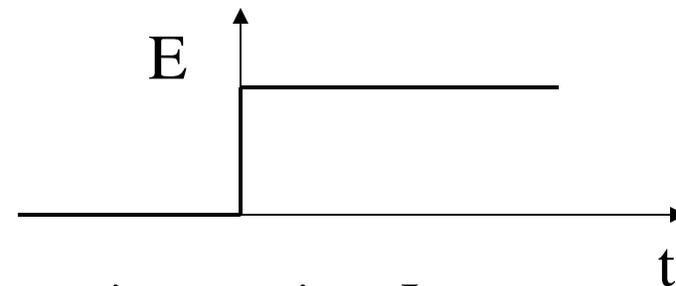
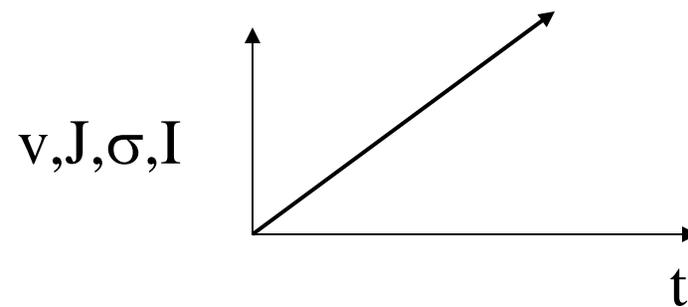
$$F = ma$$

$$m(dv/dt) = -eE$$

$$v = -(eE/m)t$$

$$J = \sigma E = -nev = ne^2Et/m$$

$$\sigma = ne^2t/m$$



*Constant  $E$  gives ever-increasing  $J$*

No, Ohm's law can not be only from electric force on electron!

# Hydrodynamic representation of e- motion

$p = \text{momentum} = mv$

$$\frac{dp(t)}{dt} = -\frac{p(t)}{\tau} + F_1(t) + F_2(t) + \dots$$

Response (ma)

Drag

Driving Force

Restoring Force...

$$\frac{dp(t)}{dt} \approx -\frac{p(t)}{\tau} - eE$$

*Add a drag term, i.e. the electrons have many collisions during drift*

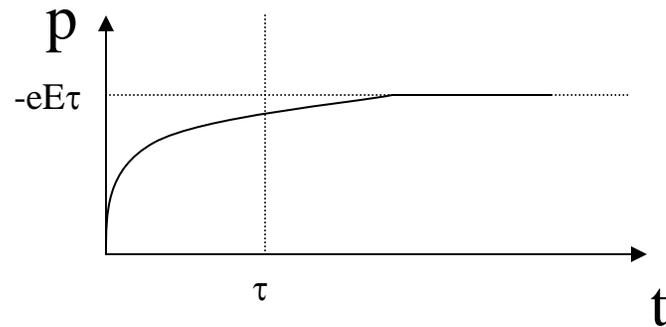
$1/\tau$  represents a 'viscosity' in mechanical terms

In steady state,

$$\frac{dp(t)}{dt} = 0$$

$$p(t) = p_{\infty} (1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}})$$

$$p_{\infty} = -eE\tau$$



If the environment has a lot of collisions,

$$mv_{\text{avg}} = -eE\tau \quad v_{\text{avg}} = -eE\tau/m$$

Now we have Ohm's law

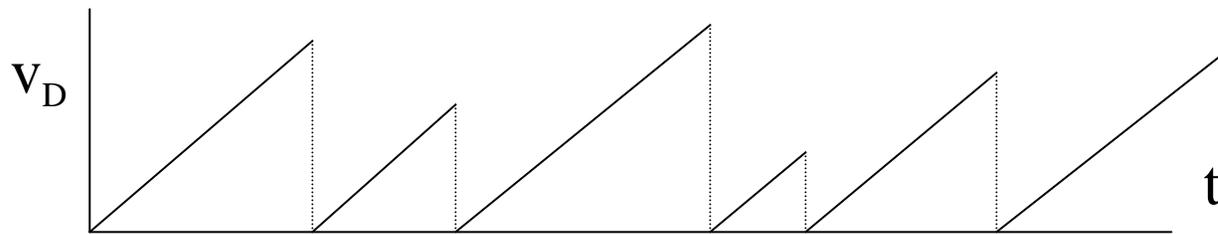
$$\sigma = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m}$$

$$\mu = \frac{e\tau}{m}$$

# Mobility $\mu$ in Free-Electron Theory

Between collisions with the lattice atoms, each electron experiences a force from the electric field given by  $F = -eE$  and therefore an acceleration given by  $a = F/m = -eE/m$

Theory assumes that the energy picked up from the electric field by the electron between collisions is delivered to the lattice in each collision, so acceleration must start again.



If the average time between collisions is  $\tau$ , the average velocity is

$$v_D = -(eE/m)\tau$$

$$\mu = -\frac{v_D}{E} = \frac{e\tau}{m}$$

# Predicting conductivity using Drude

$n_{\text{theory}}$  from the periodic table (# valence e- and the crystal structure)

$$n_{\text{theory}} = A_V Z \rho_m / A,$$

where  $A_V$  is  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$  atoms/mole

$\rho_m$  is the density

$Z$  is the number of electrons per atom

$A$  is the atomic weight

For metals,  $n_{\text{theory}} \sim 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

If we assume that this is correct, we can extract  $\tau$

Element	Z	n ( $10^{22}/\text{cm}^3$ )	$r_s(\text{\AA})$	$r_s/a_0$
Li (78 K)	1	4.70	1.72	3.25
Na (5 K)	1	2.65	2.08	3.93
K (5 K)	1	1.40	2.57	4.86
Rb (5 K)	1	1.15	2.75	5.20
Cs (5 K)	1	0.91	2.98	5.62
Cu	1	8.47	1.41	2.67
Ag	1	5.86	1.60	3.02
Au	1	5.90	1.59	3.01
Be	2	24.7	0.99	1.87
Mg	2	8.61	1.41	2.66
Ca	2	4.61	1.73	3.27
Sr	2	3.55	1.89	3.57
Ba	2	3.15	1.96	3.71
Nb	1	5.56	1.63	3.07
Fe	2	17.0	1.12	2.12
Mn ( $\alpha$ )	2	16.5	1.13	2.14
Zn	2	13.2	1.22	2.30
Cd	2	9.27	1.37	2.59
Hg (78 K)	2	8.65	1.40	2.65
Al	3	18.1	1.10	2.07
Ga	3	15.4	1.16	2.19
In	3	11.5	1.27	2.41
Tl	3	10.5	1.31	2.48
Sn	4	14.8	1.17	2.22
Pb	4	13.2	1.22	2.30
Bi	5	14.1	1.19	2.25
Sb	5	16.5	1.13	2.14

## Extracting Typical $\tau$ for Metals

- $\tau \sim 10^{-14}$  sec for metals in Drude model

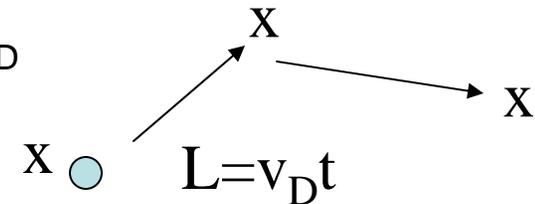
Element	77 K	273 K	373 K
Li	7.3	0.88	0.61
Na	17	3.2	
K	18	4.1	
Rb	14	2.8	
Cs	8.6	2.1	
Cu	21	2.7	1.9
Ag	20	4.0	2.8
Au	12	3.0	2.1
Be		0.51	0.27
Mg	6.7	1.1	0.74
Ca		2.2	1.5
Sr	1.4	0.44	
Ba	0.66	0.19	
Nb	2.1	0.42	0.33
Fe	3.2	0.24	0.14
Zn	2.4	0.49	0.34
Cd	2.4	0.56	
Hg	0.71		
Al	6.5	0.80	0.55
Ga	0.84	0.17	
In	1.7	0.38	0.25
Tl	0.91	0.22	0.15
Sn	1.1	0.23	0.15
Pb	0.57	0.14	0.099
Bi	0.072	0.023	0.016
Sb	0.27	0.055	0.036

*Drude relaxation times in units of  $10^{-14}$  second*

Table by MIT OpenCourseWare.

## Thermal Velocity

- So far we have discussed drift velocity  $v_D$  and scattering time  $\tau$  related to the applied electric field
- Thermal velocity  $v_{th}$  is much greater than  $v_D$



$$\frac{1}{2}mv_{th}^2 = \frac{3}{2}kT$$

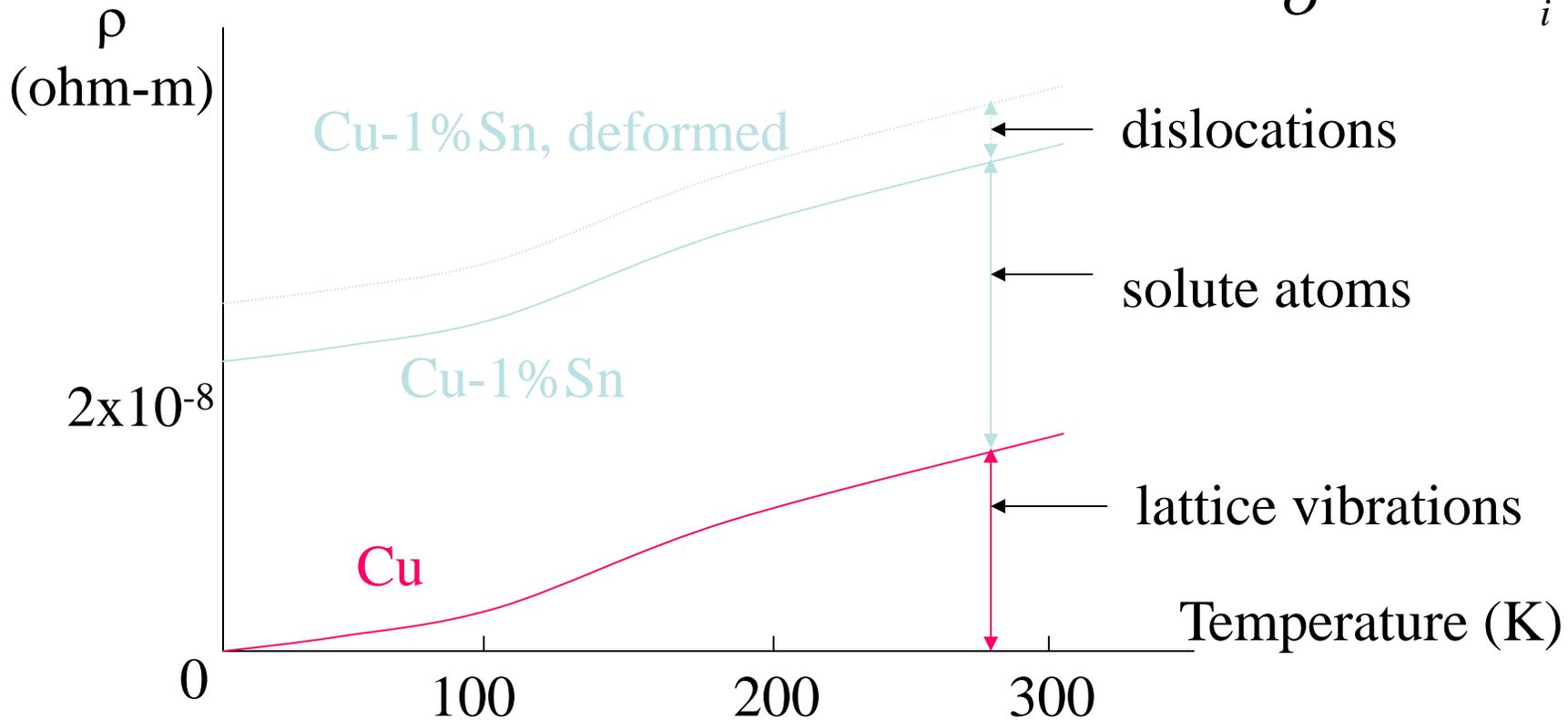
$$v_{th} = \sqrt{\frac{3kT}{m}}$$

Thermal velocity is much greater than drift velocity

# Additivity of Resistivity

In metals & alloys, the various contributions to the scattering of free electrons, and therefore to resistivity, are approximately additive, i.e.,

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} = \rho \approx \sum_i \rho_i$$

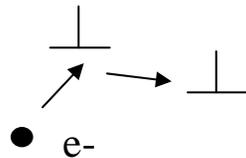
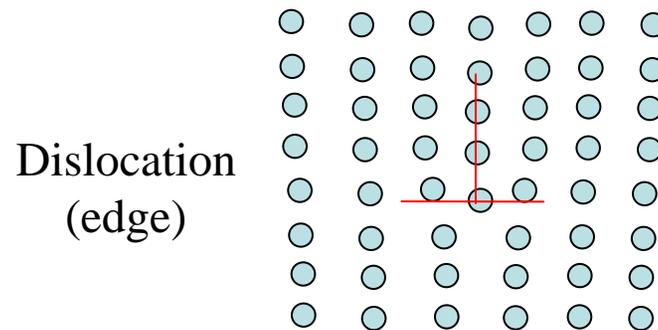


# Example: Conductivity Engineering

- Objective: increase strength of Cu but keep conductivity high

$$\sigma = \frac{ne^2\tau}{m} \quad \mu = \frac{e\tau}{m}$$
$$\ell = v\tau$$

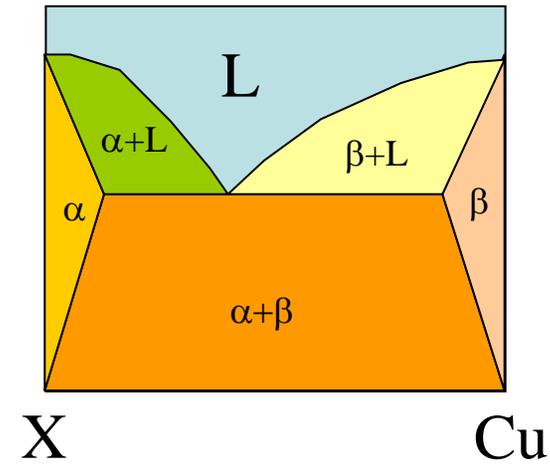
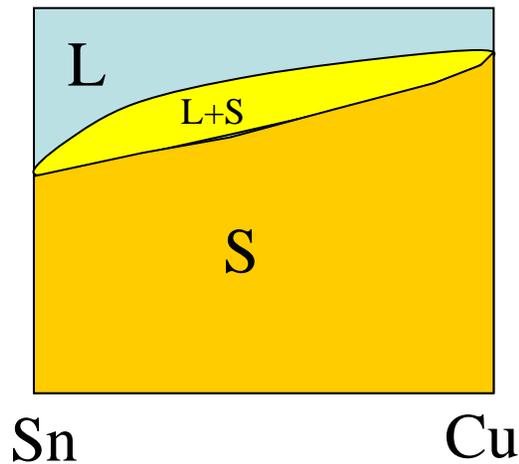
Scattering length  
connects scattering time  
to microstructure



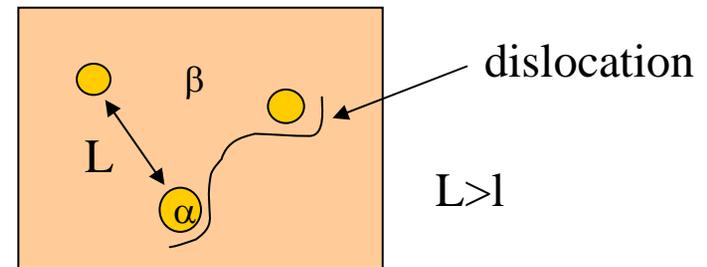
$\ell$  decreases,  $\tau$  decreases,  $\sigma$  decreases

# Example: Conductivity Engineering

- Can increase strength with second phase particles
- As long as distance between second phase  $< l$ , conductivity marginally effected



microstructure



Material not strengthened, conductivity decreases

Dislocation motion inhibited by second phase; material strengthened; conductivity about the same

# Example: Conductivity Engineering

- Scaling of Si CMOS includes conductivity engineering
- One example: as devices shrink...
  - vertical field increases
  - $\tau$  decreases due to increased scattering at SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si interface
  - increased doping in channel need for electrostatic integrity: ionized impurity scattering
  - $\tau_{\text{SiO}_2} < \tau_{\text{impurity}}$  if scaling continues ‘properly’

