Physics with neutrons 2

Michael Leitner, michael.leitner@frm2.tum.de
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Exercise sheet 10
To be discussed 2017-07-25, room C.3203

Franz Haslbeck, franz.haslbeck@frm2.tum.de

Exercise 10.1

Read the chapter 'Lattice Dynamics' in 'Neutron Scattering in Condensed Matter Physics' by A. Furrer.

Exercise 10.2

Prove that from the knowledge of the dispersion relation ω_q it is possible to determine the force constants k_n using the relation

$$k_n = -\frac{Ma}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi/a}^{\pi/a} \omega_q^2 \cos(nqa)dq.$$

Exercise 10.3

The acoustic phonon branches of many "simple" compounds are well explained by the sinusoidal dispersion relation derived e.g. in the chapter 'Lattice Dynamics' in 'Neutron Scattering in Condensed Matter Physics' by A. Furrer. The transverse acoustic phonon branches observed for germanium, however, exhibit an unusual flattening of the dispersion relation upon approaching the zone boundary (Fig. 2). Germanium is a semiconductor with covalent bonds which are usually formed from two electrons, one from each atom participating in the bond. These electrons tend to be partially localized midway between the two atoms and constitute the so-called bond charge (Fig. 1). Derive the phonon dispersion for the one-dimensional chain illustrated in Fig. 1 by following the procedure for a diatomic one-dimensional chain.

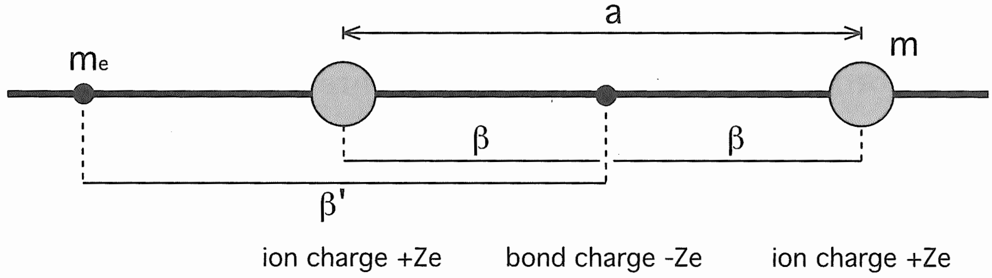

Figure 1: Linear chain formed by alternating ion and bond charges. Bond charges are connected via effective force constants β and β' to neighboring ion and bond charges, respectively.

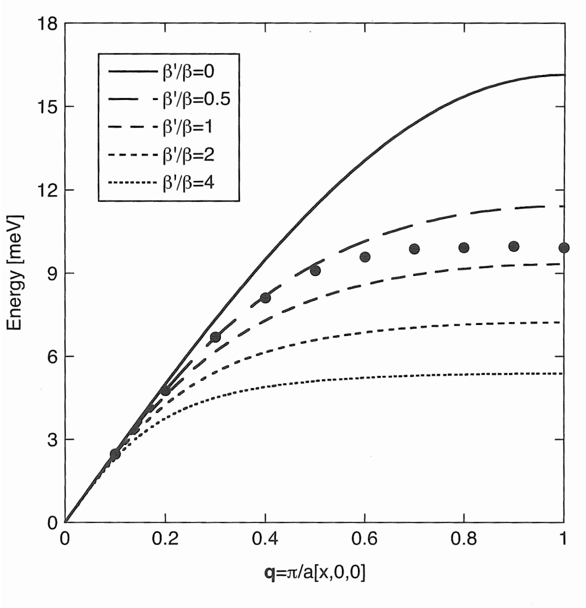

Figure 2: Dispersion relation of the lower transverse acoustic phonon branch measured for Ge at 80 K along the [100] direction (after [Nellin and Nilsson (1972)]).