
Example 2.8 Electrons in undoped gallium arsenide have a mobility of 8,800 $\text{cm}^2/\text{V}\cdot\text{s}$. Calculate the average time between collisions. Calculate the distance traveled between two collisions (also called the mean free path). Use an average velocity of 10^7 cm/s.

Solution The collision time, t_c , is obtained from:

$$t_c = \frac{m_n m_e^*}{q} = \frac{0.88 \times 0.067 \times 9.1 \times 10^{-31}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} = 0.34 \text{ ps}$$

where the mobility was first converted to MKS units.

The mean free path, l , equals:

$$l = v_{\text{average}} t_c = 10^7 \times 0.34 \times 10^{-12} = 34 \text{ nm}$$
