

BCS model of
superconductivity

quantum-mechanical effect
where two electrons pair up
and pass unimpeded by the
lattice

black body

an idealised body which
absorbs all radiation that falls
on it according to Planck's law;
it is also a perfect radiator of
energy

black body radiation

emitted by a black body
that obeys Planck's law

bragg diffraction

the diffraction of x-rays from crystals;
British physicist Sir William Henry
Bragg (1862-1942) and his son William
Lawrence Bragg (1890-1971) applied X-
ray diffraction to the study of crystals;
called X-ray crystallography

cathode

the electron-emitting
electrode in an electron
tube

cathode ray
oscilloscope (CRO)

an electronic device
used to view electrical
signals, e.g. waveforms

cathode rays

particles that travel from the negative
electrode (cathode) of an electric
discharge tube; experiments show that
cathode rays are electrons; the nature
of cathode rays - wave or particle - was
long debated

cathode ray tubes

the manipulation of charged
particles by electric and magnetic
fields; a cathode ray tube (CRT) has
an electron gun, a deflecting system
and a florescent screen, which are
used in oscilloscopes and TVs

conduction

the process of charge moving
through a medium; conduction
in metals results from the drift
of a large number of electrons
through the lattice

cooper pair

where two electrons pair up
and travel unimpeded
through the crystal lattice of
a superconductor

crystal lattice

the structure of crystals
e.g. metals

de Broglie, Louis

the French physicist who
proposed that matter
has wave characteristics

diffraction

the spreading of a wave
into the geometrical
shadow of an object

discharge tube

an evacuated glass tube
containing electrodes and used
to investigate the effect of
passing electricity through
gases at low pressures

doping

the process of adding atoms of
group V or group III elements to
semiconductor material such as
silicon or germanium, which results
in a change in the conductivity

drift velocity

the speed of electrons moving through a conductor; depends on the density of electrons, the cross-sectional area and the charge

electric current

the flow of charge, which is carried by electrons in metal conductors and both holes and electrons in semi-conductors

electric field

the area of influence surrounding a charge

electromagnetic waves

waves produced by charges oscillating in conductors e.g. radio antennae

electrons

negatively charged subatomic particle found in all neutral atoms