

NOTE ON NOTATION

The electron distribution function technically has units of (VELOCITY)⁻³ or (eV)^{-3/2}. This results from the normalization

$$\int f(\vec{v}) d^3V = 1$$

When this is translated to an energy representation, then we have

$$\int f(\epsilon) \underbrace{\epsilon^{1/2} d\epsilon}_{\substack{\text{Differential} \\ \text{corresponding to } d^3V}} = 1$$

where $f(\epsilon)$ retains the normalization of (eV)^{-3/2}. Now people will very often lump the $\epsilon^{1/2}$ into the distribution function

$$\int \bar{f}(\epsilon) d\epsilon = 1$$

so that $\bar{f}(\epsilon) = f(\epsilon) \epsilon^{1/2}$ which has units of (eV)⁻¹. The units of $f(\epsilon)$ tell you which normalization is used. Also $\bar{f}(\epsilon)$ (eV⁻¹) is always zero at $\epsilon = 0$ whereas $f(\epsilon)$ (eV^{-3/2}) is not (it is finite at zero)

