

# The 3 Distribution Functions

- Classical particles:

- Maxwell-Boltzmann:  $f_{MB}(n, T) = \exp(-E(n)/k_B T)$

- Fermions (half-integer spins, e.g. electrons)

- Fermi-Dirac:  $f_{FD}(n, T) = \frac{1}{\exp([E(n) - E_F]/k_B T) + 1}$

- Bosons (integer spins, e.g. photons, phonons)

- Bose-Einstein:  $f_{BE}(n, T) = \frac{1}{\exp(E(n)/k_B T) - 1}$

## Classical vibrations of atoms in a crystal

Normal modes involve *every* atom in the crystal

One natural frequency is associated with each normal mode

each  $k=2\pi/\lambda$  describes the normal mode

## Quantum wavefunctions of electrons in a crystal

eigenstate wavefunctions spread the probability density over the entire crystal

Each normal mode has a discrete electronic frequency

each  $k$  describes the eigenstate wavefunction