

**2.8** According to classical physics, the average energy of an electron in an electron gas at thermal equilibrium is  $3kT/2$ . Determine, for  $T = 300$  K, the average electron energy (in eV), average electron momentum, and the de Broglie wavelength.

$$\text{Given, } K.E. = 3k_p T / 2 = 3(8.617333 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV/K}) 300 \text{ K} / 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \underline{K.E. = 0.038778 \text{ eV}}$$

From classical physics,  $K.E. = p^2 / 2m \Rightarrow$

$$p = \sqrt{2m_0(K.E.)} = \sqrt{2(9.1093837 \times 10^{-31})0.038778(1.6021766 \times 10^{-19})}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{p = 1.06392 \times 10^{-25} \text{ kg-m/s}}$$

Per (2.3), the deBroglie wavelength is

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{6.62607015 \times 10^{-34}}{1.06392 \times 10^{-25}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \underline{\lambda = 6.2280 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} = 6.228 \text{ nm} = 62.28 \text{ \AA}}$$