

### **bending of energy bands**

The distribution of potential in the space charge region of a semiconductor results in a change in the electron energy levels with distance from the interface. This is usually described as 'bending of the energy bands'. Thus the bands are bent, upwards if  $\sigma > 0$  and downwards if  $\sigma < 0$ , where  $\sigma$  is the free charge density. When  $\sigma = 0$  the condition of *flat bands* is met, provided no *surface states* are present.

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