



Quantum electronics

中央研究院物理研究所 陳啟東

e-mail: chiidong@phys.sinica.edu.tw

網址: <http://www.phys.sinica.edu.tw/~quela>



Outline:

Device fabrication

e-beam lithography, examples

Measurement electronics

Electron transport in

Ballistic systems

Highly disordered systems

Hopping conduction in diluted trap systems

Tunneling through quantum dots

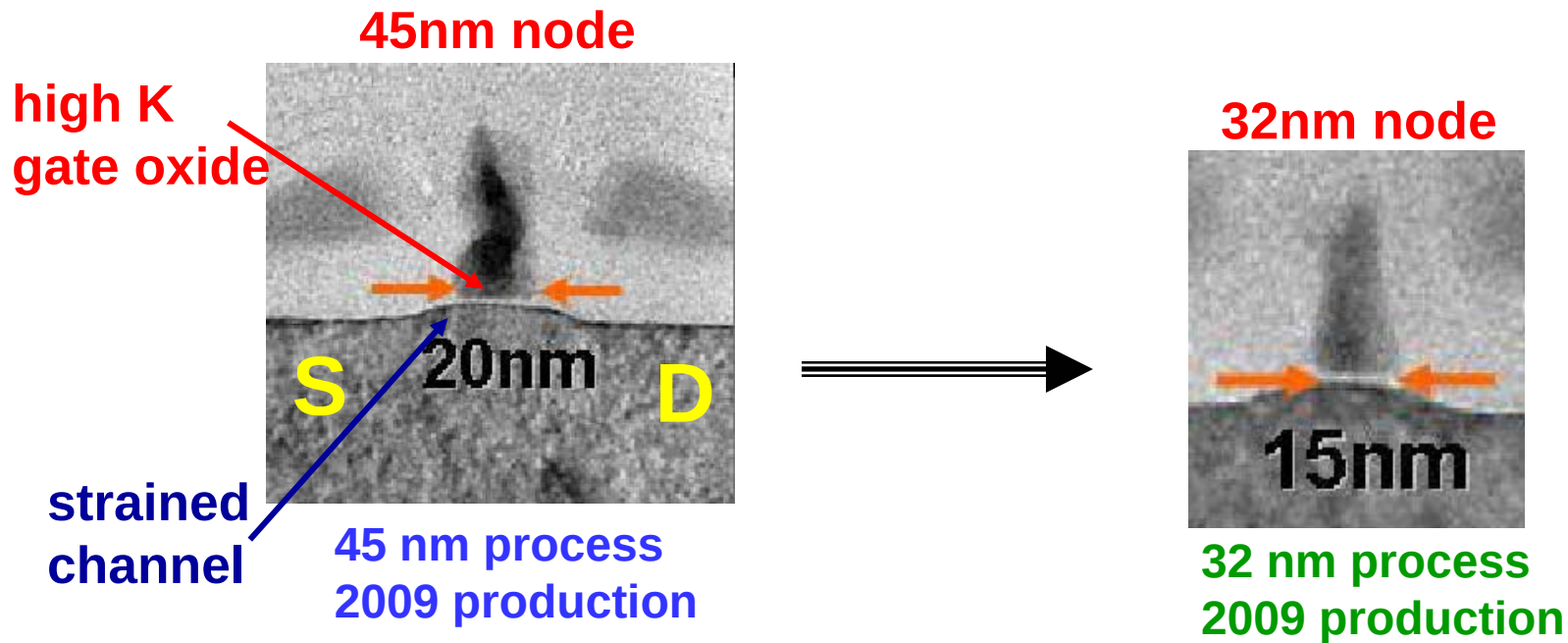
**metal to
insulator
transition**

Quantum bits:

**Resonant tunneling between coupled quantum-dots
from small Josephson junctions to charge qubits**



State-of-the-art mass-production technology



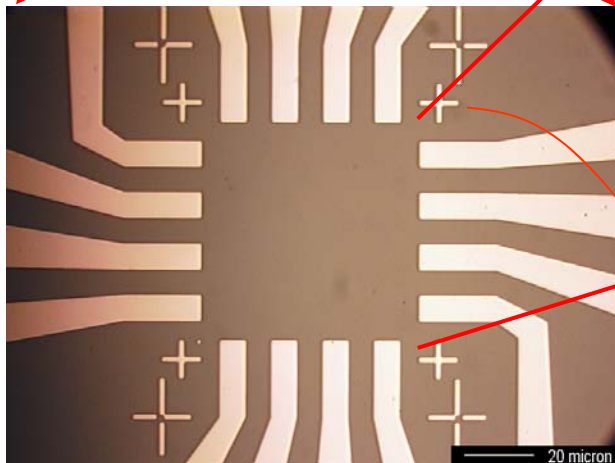
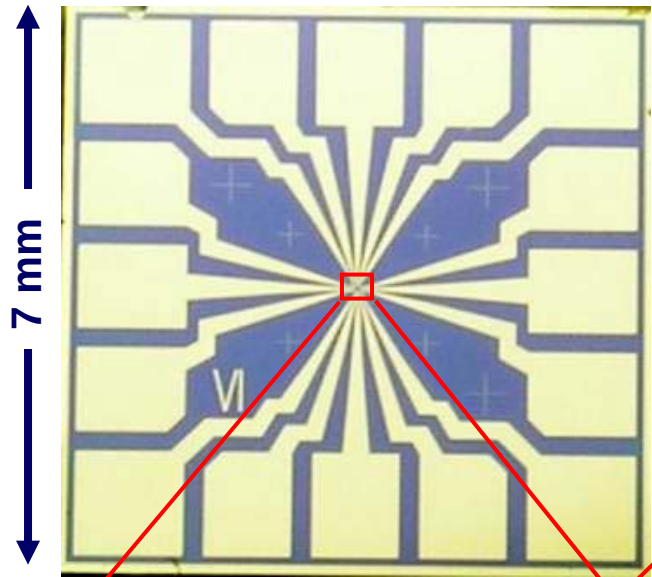
Light source = 193 nm **Argon Fluoride excimer laser**

But for research purpose, we use focused electron beam sources

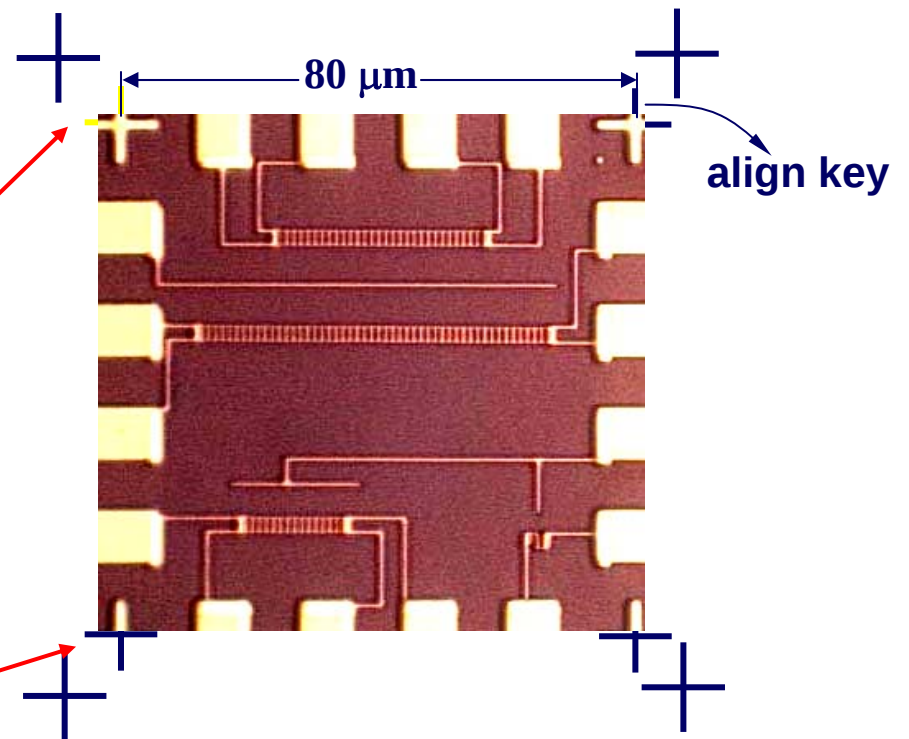


Mix and Match technology

Photolithography



E-beam lithography

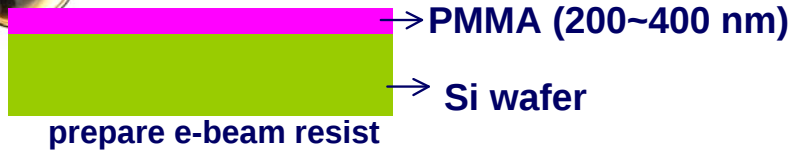


align key



Electron beam lithography and lift-off technique

a)



Electron Beam exposure

b)

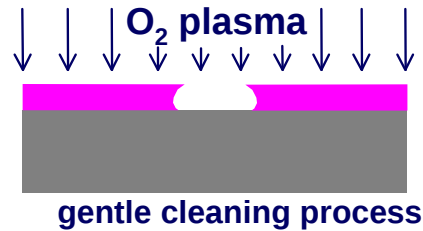


Development

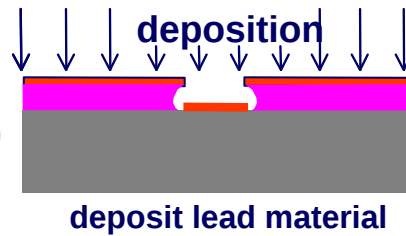
c)



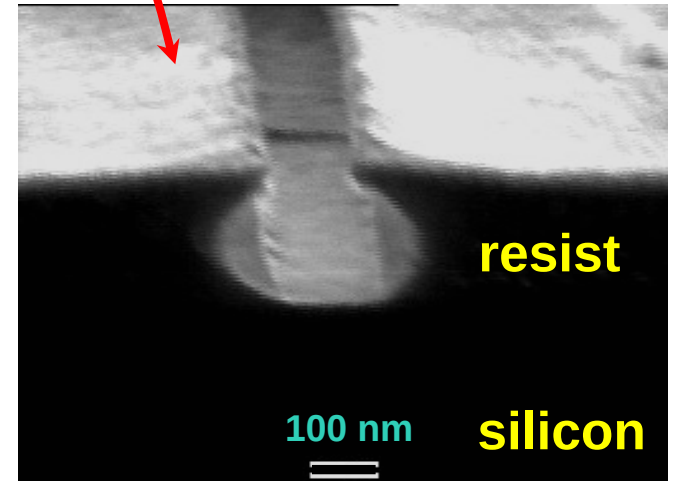
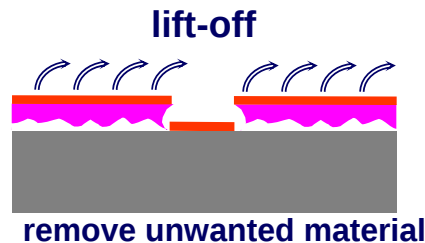
d)



e)



f)

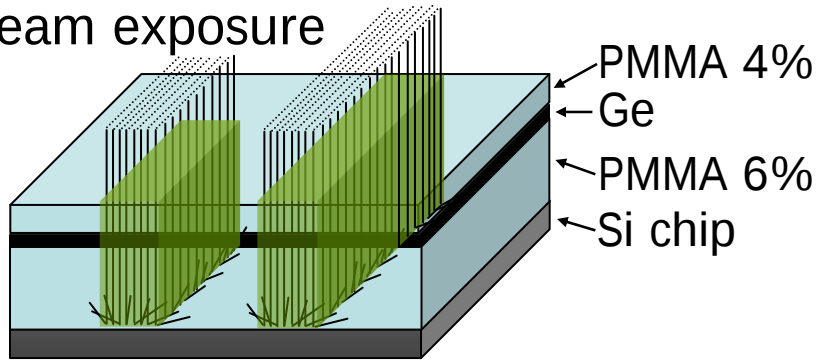




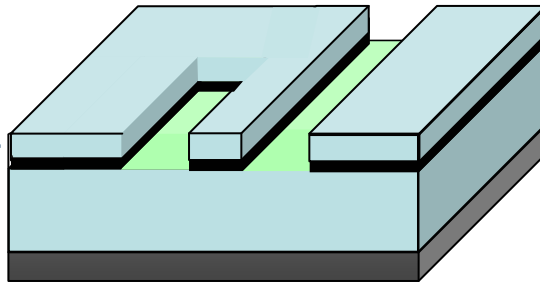
Resist profile engineering:

Fabrication of Aluminum tunnel junctions

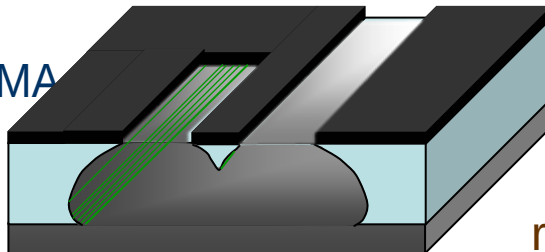
1. e-beam exposure



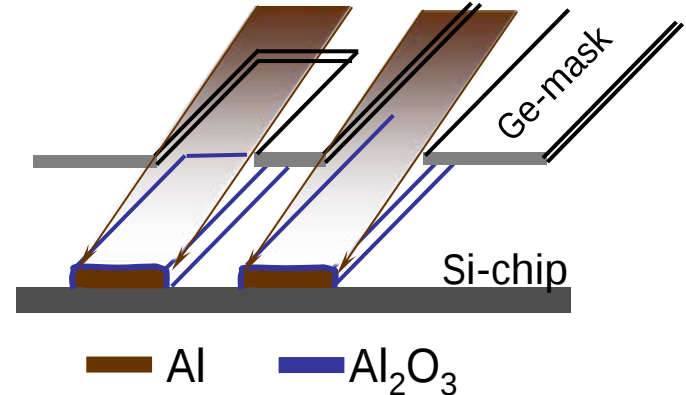
2. development and Ge-etching



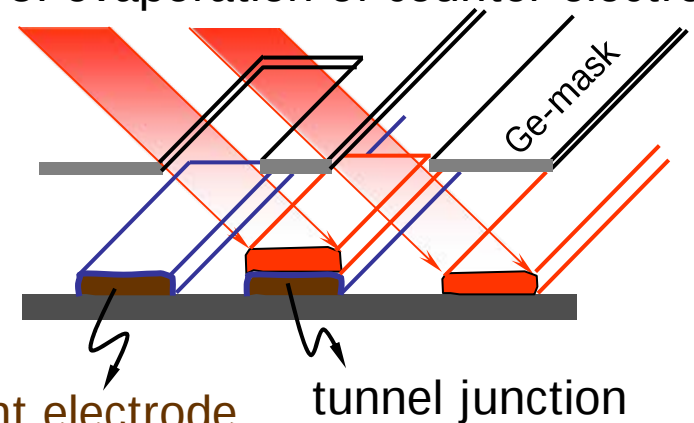
3. O₂ dry etching of the bottom PMMA



4. Al- evaporation + oxidation

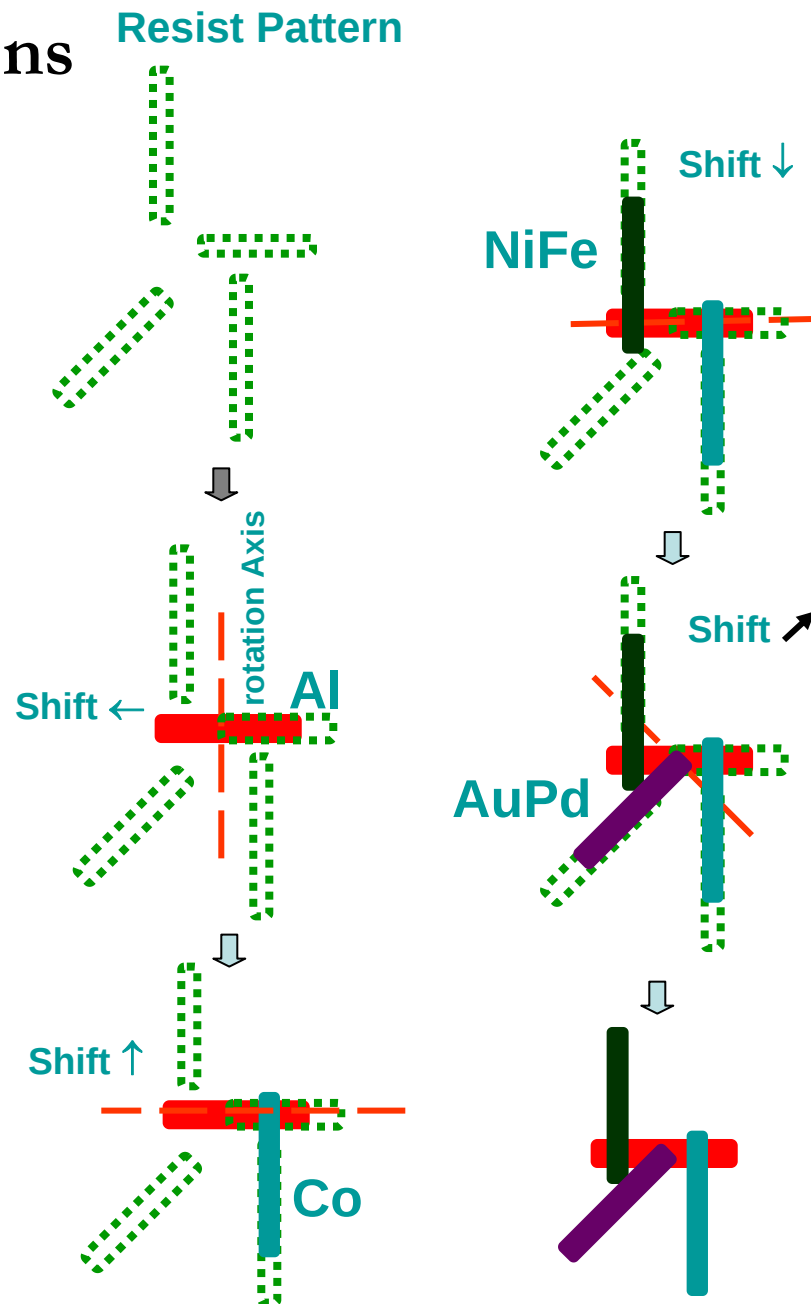
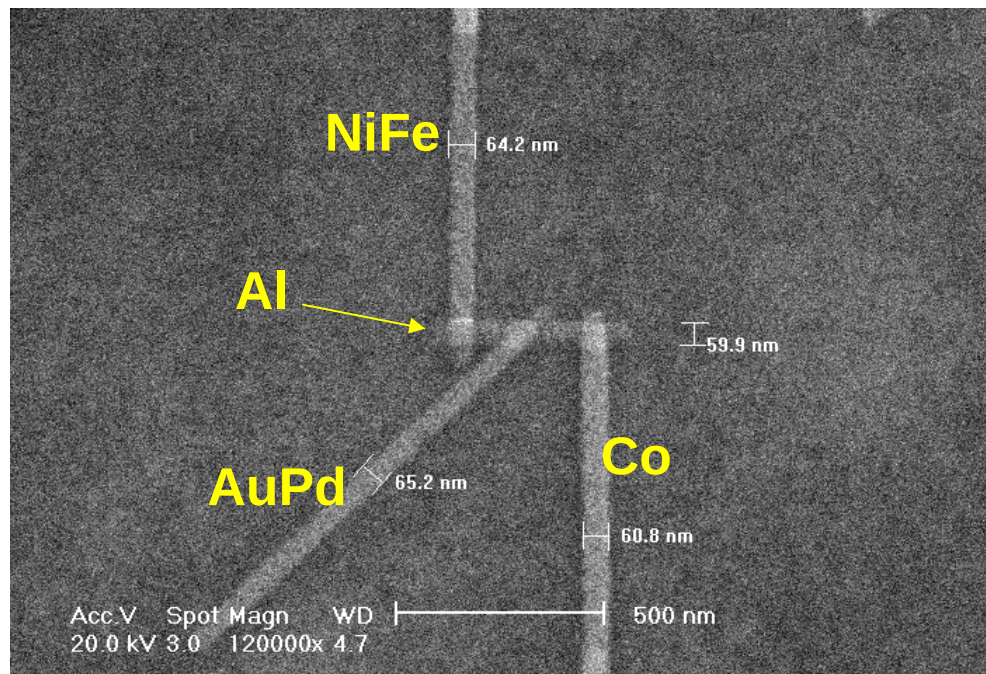
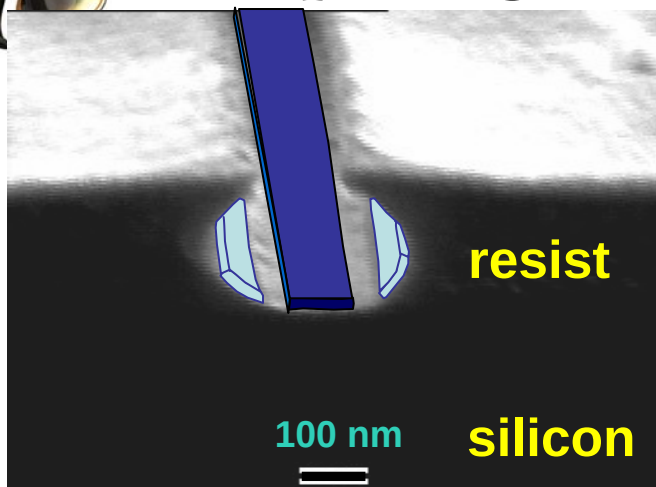


5. evaporation of counter electrode





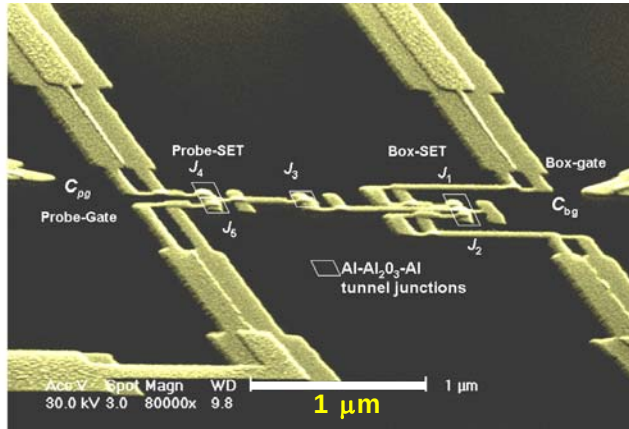
Multiple angle evaporations



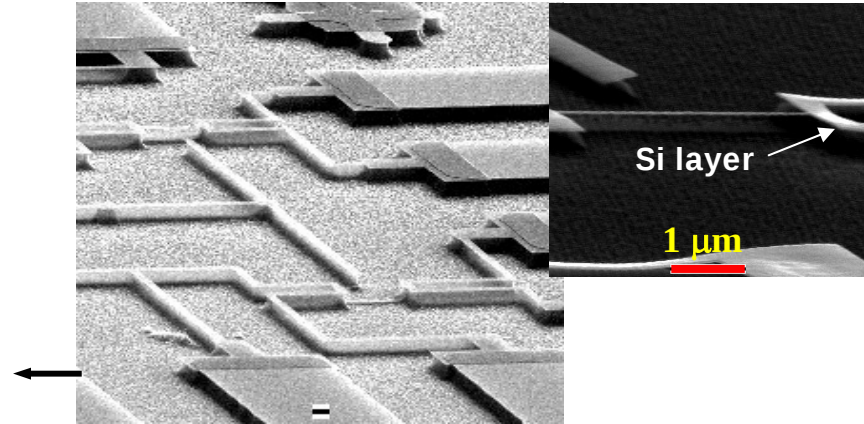


Metallic electronics

Single electron devices

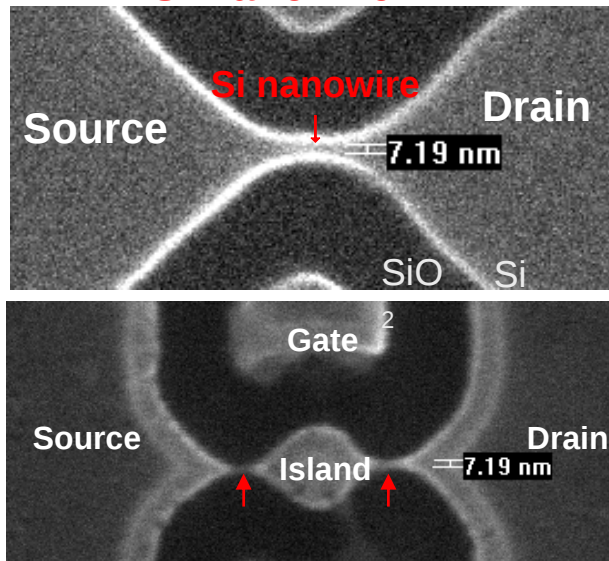


Suspending wire devices

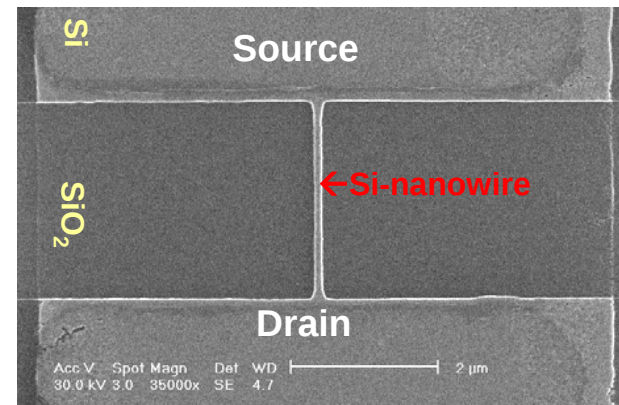


silicon nanoelectronics

7 nm Si-nanowire



100nm Si-nanowire charge sensor

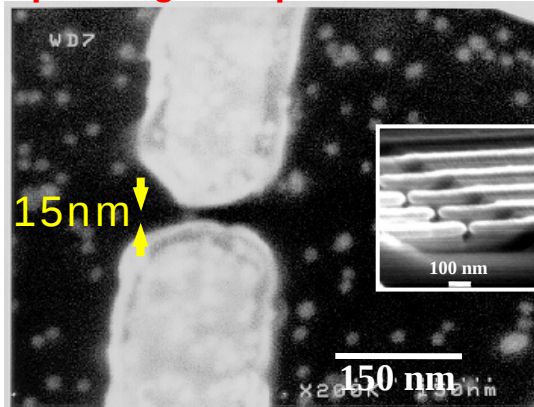


(Silicon On Insulator)

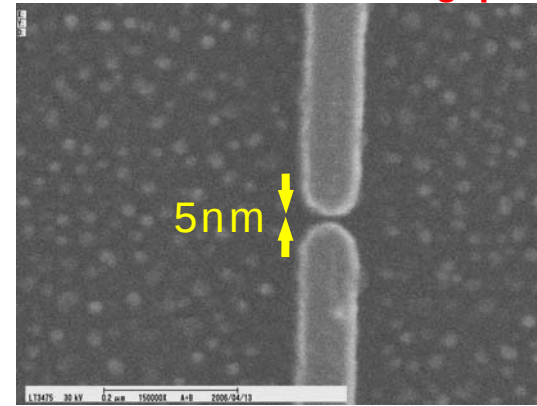


Molecular electronics

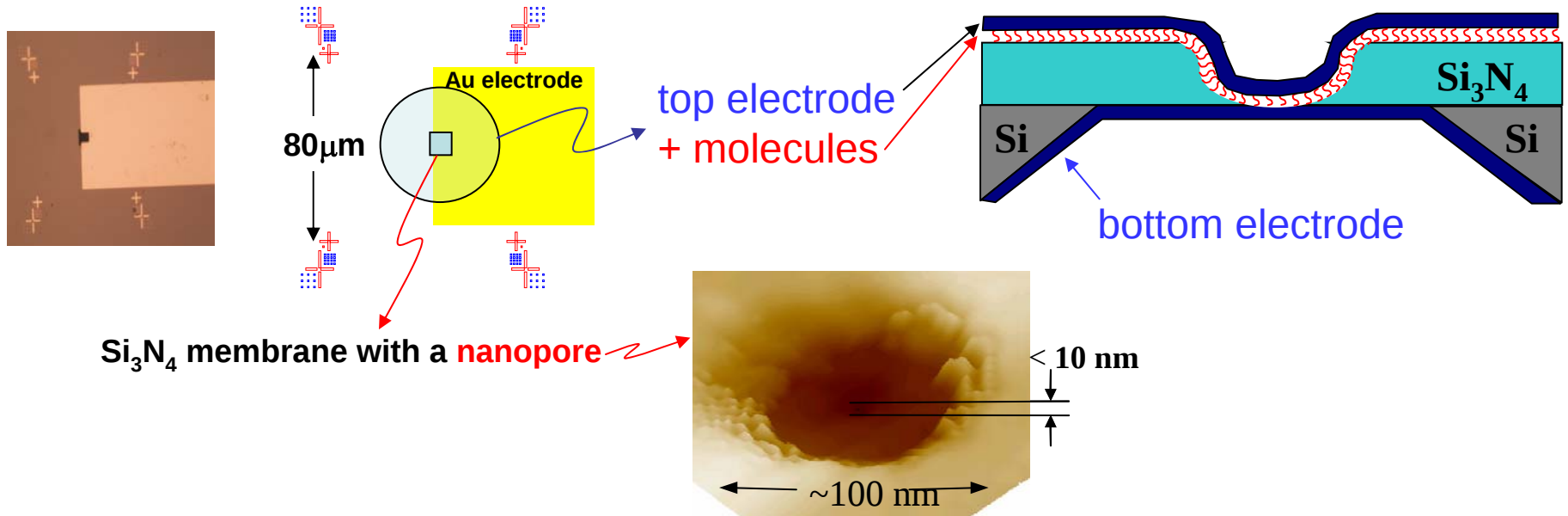
suspending nanoparticle devices



electrodes with a 5nm gap



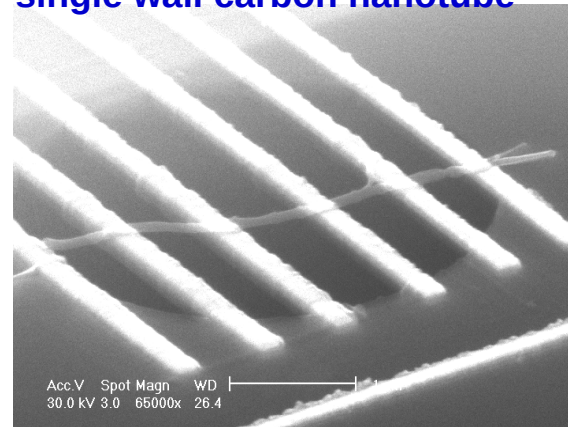
Nanopore-based molecular electronics



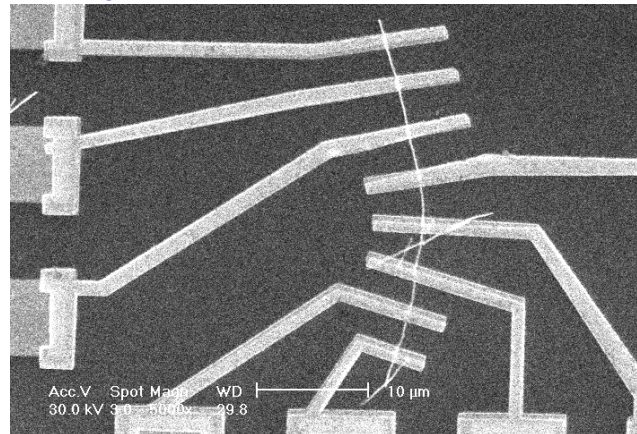


Nanowire electronic devices

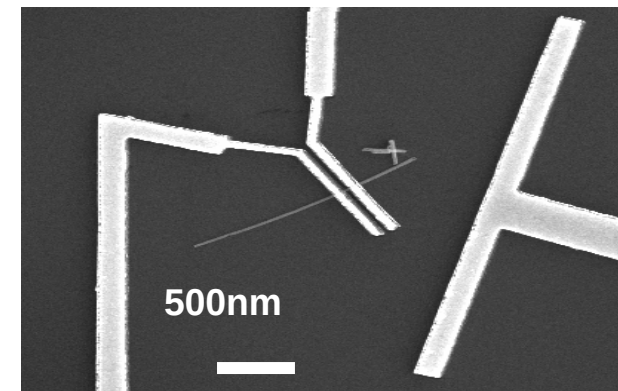
Suspended
single wall carbon nanotube



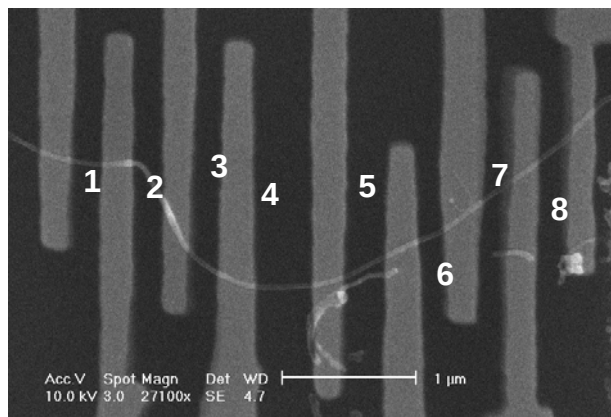
Bi₂Te₃ wire, 中研院物理所 陳洋元教授



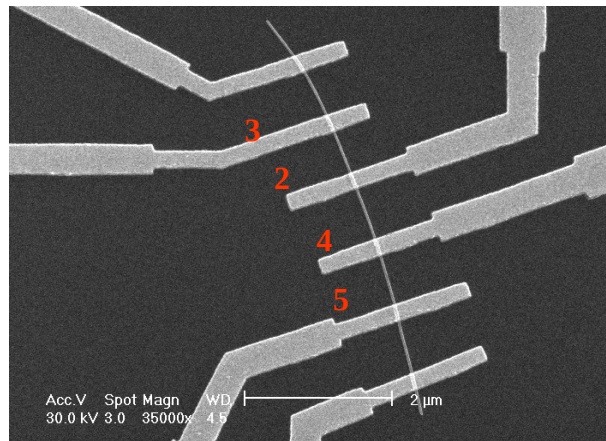
InN wire 台大凝態中心林麗瓊教授



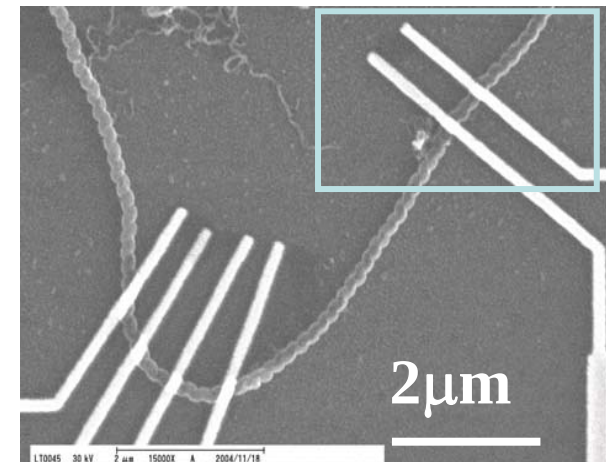
Multiwall carbon nanotube



Ni₃Si₂ wire, 清大材料 陳力俊教授



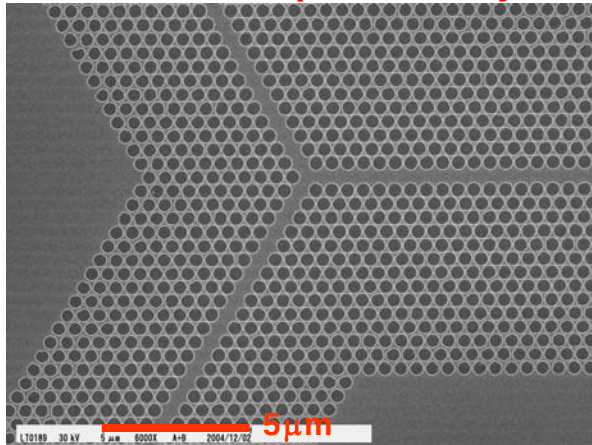
Carbon Helix 原分所陳益聰教授



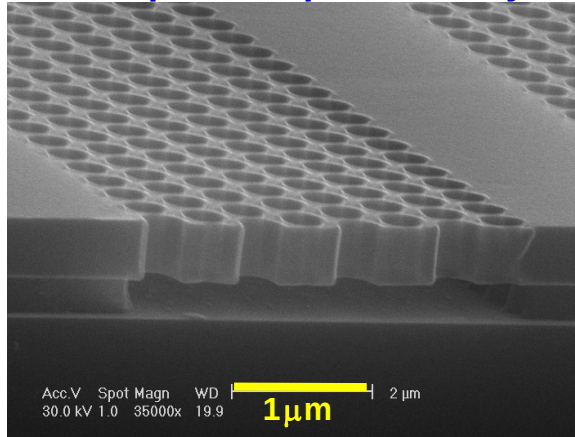


Photonic Crystals

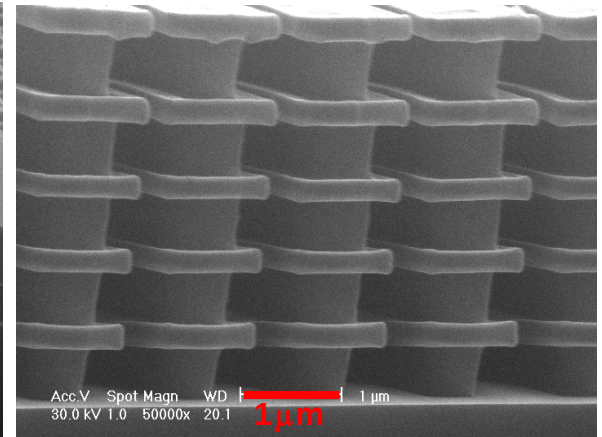
Si-based 2D photonic crystal



PMMA quasi-2D photonic crystal

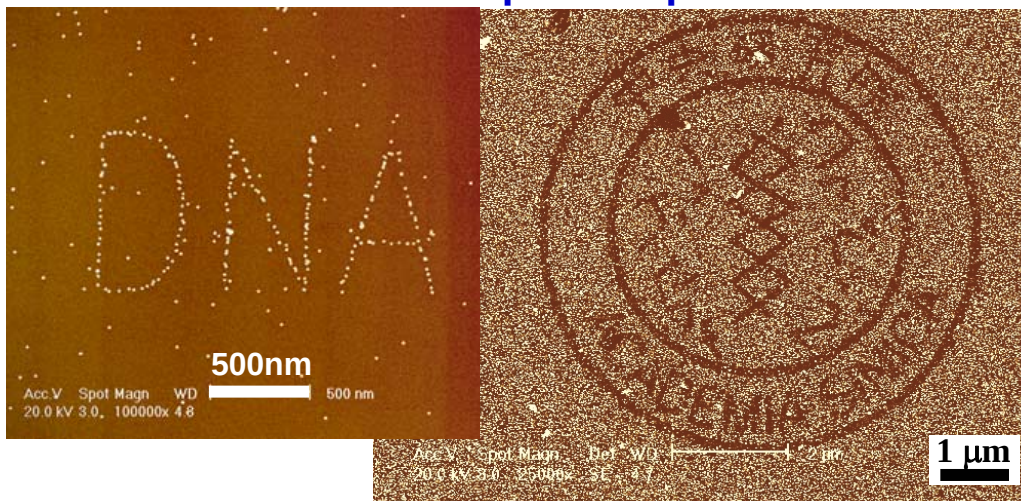


PMMA-LOR lattice structure

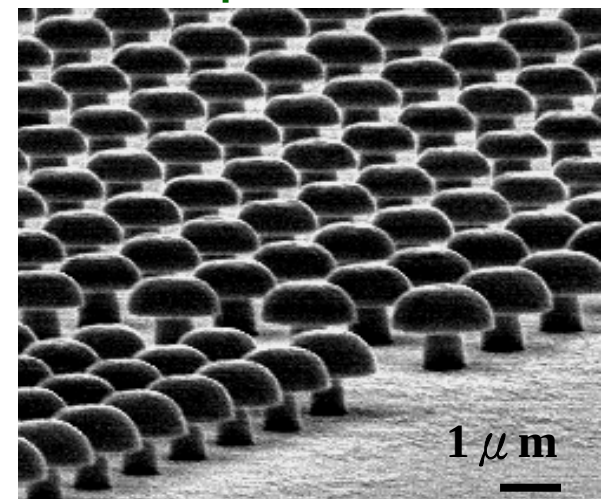


Hybrid nano-patterning technology

Au-nanoparticle pattern



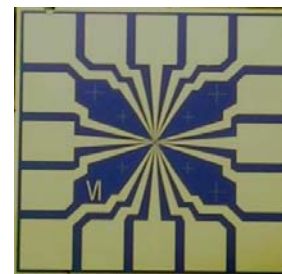
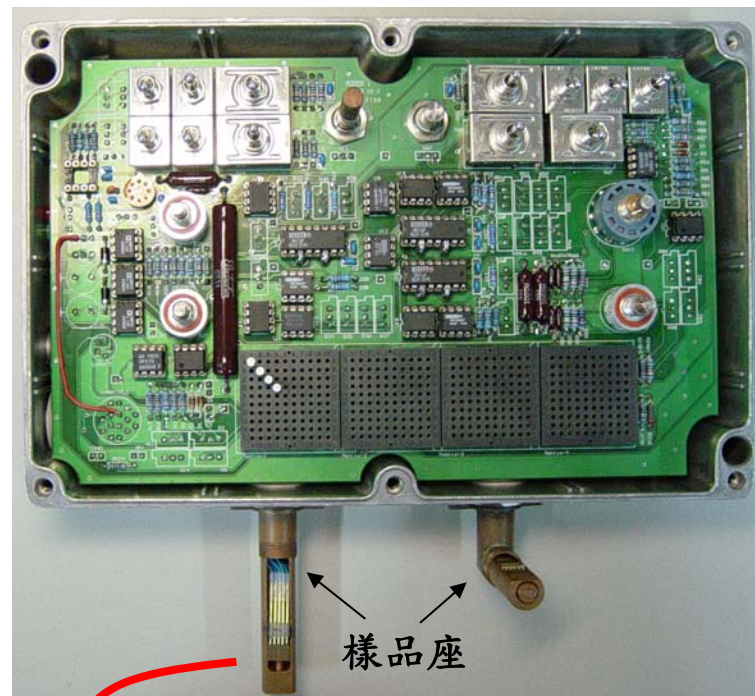
CdSe 2D-pillars





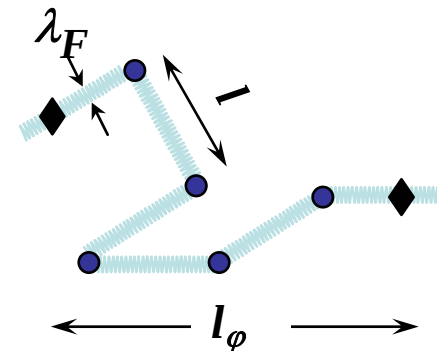
measurement setup

Available: 40mK, 5T





Characteristic length scales



Ballistic

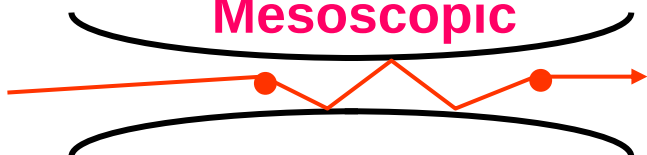


$$(w, L) < l$$

l : elastic mean free path

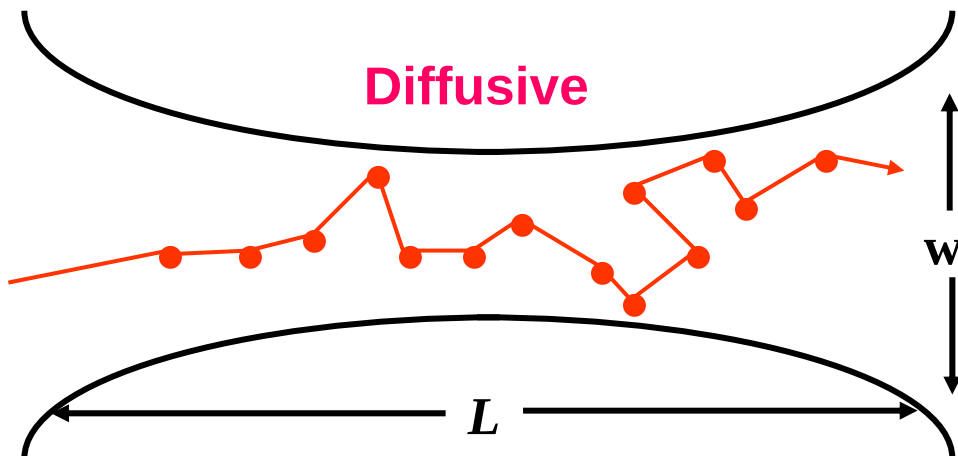
L_ϕ : phase-breaking length

Mesoscopic



$$l < (w, L) < L_\phi$$

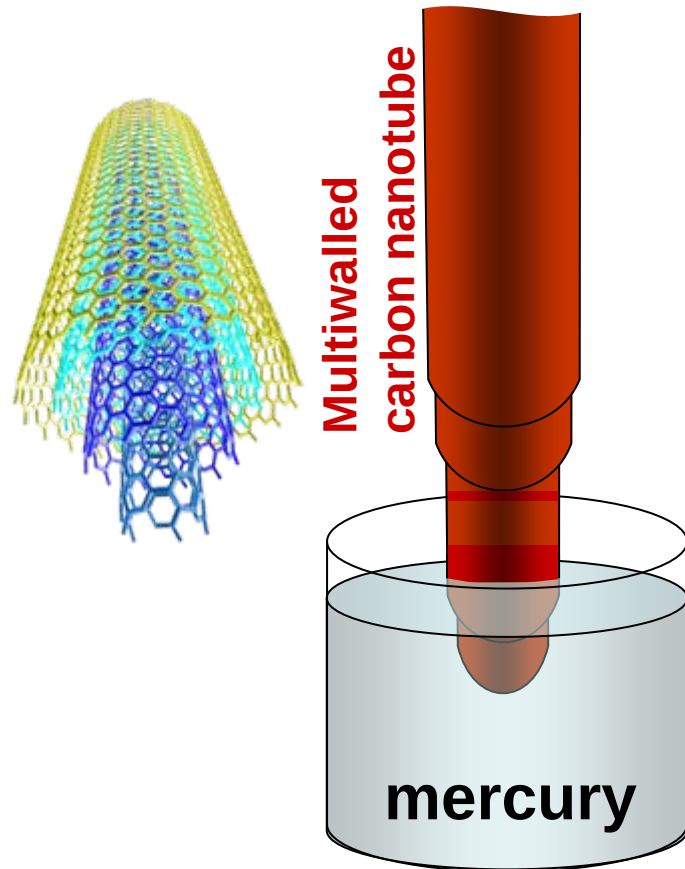
Diffusive



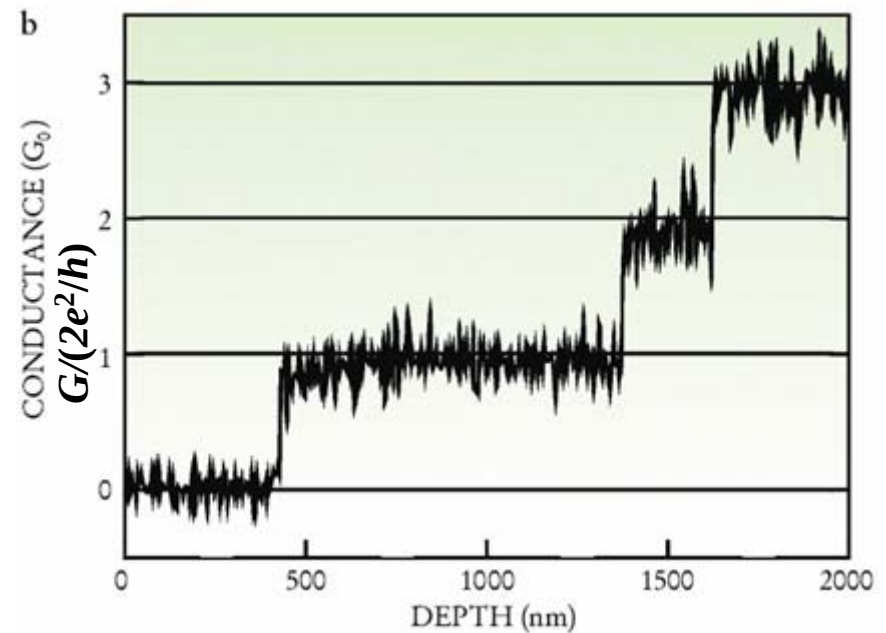
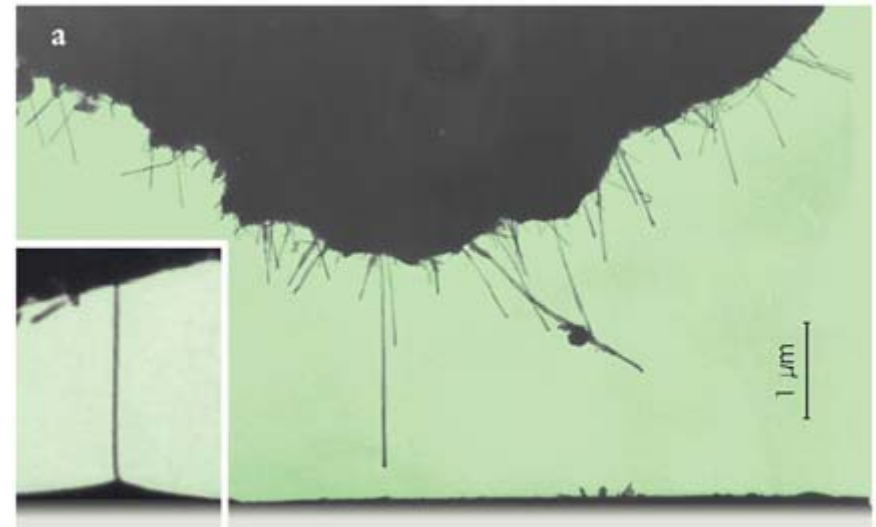
$$L_\phi \ll (w, L)$$



Ballistic transport: Length independent conductance

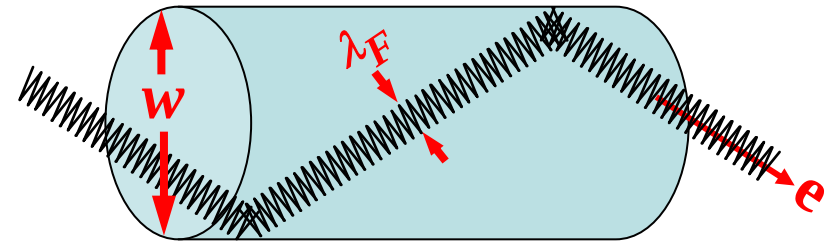


Walt de Heer,
Georgia Institute of Technology





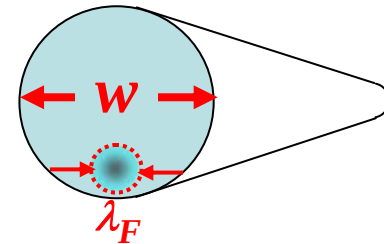
Ballistic system:



Devices with

1. Small diameter → only a few conduction channels

$$N \approx \pi w^2 / \pi \lambda_F^2$$



2. Small electron density → no e - e scattering
3. No impurity, no defect → no impurity scattering

$$G_0 = N 2e^2/h$$

$$R_0 = \frac{1}{N} \frac{h}{2e^2} = \frac{R_Q}{N} \approx \frac{6.5 k\Omega}{N}$$

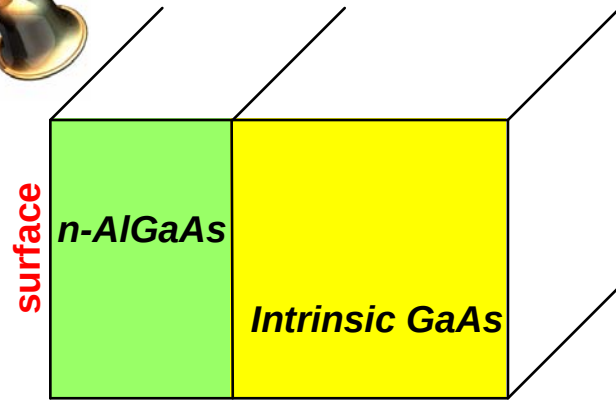
R_Q : quantum resistance

Resistance independent of the length,
only determined by number of channels N

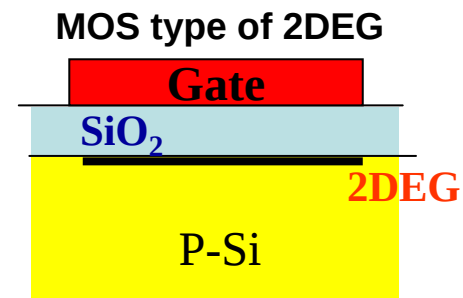
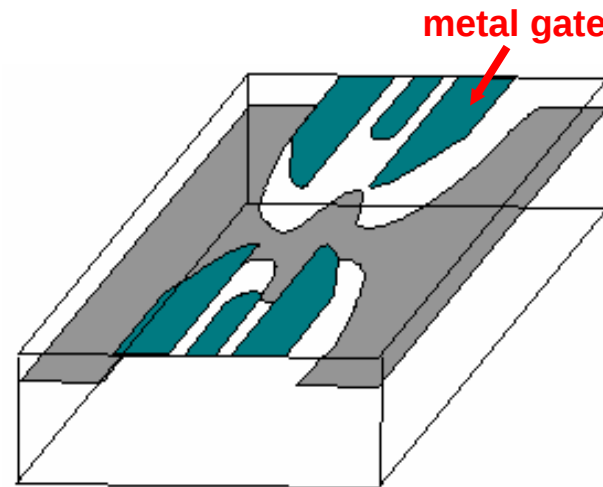
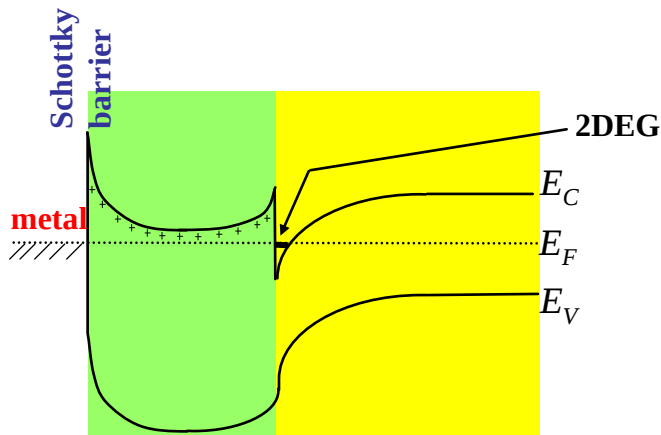
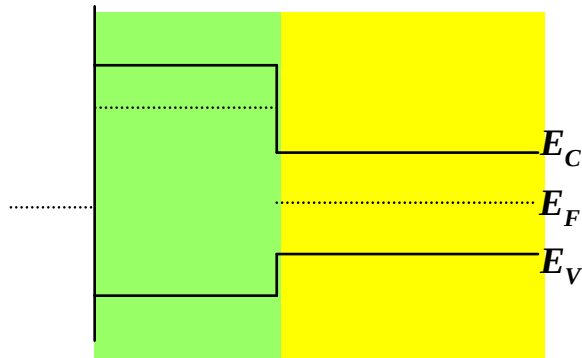
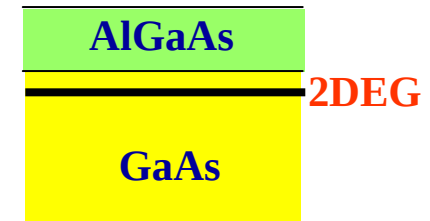
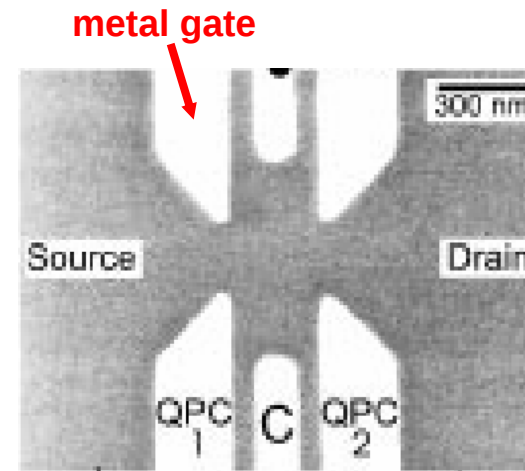
Resistance takes place at the macroscopic contacts



Two Dimensional Electron Gas (2DEG)



Formation:

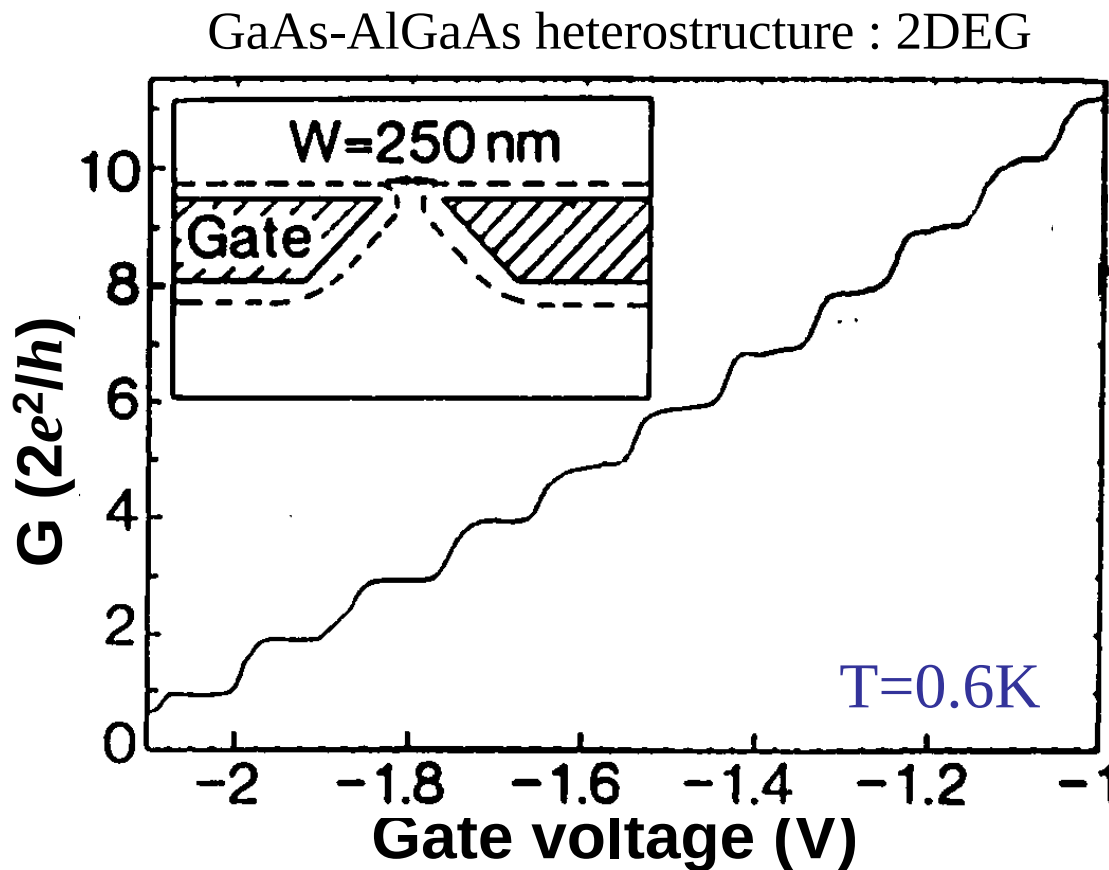




Conductance Quantization

Experiments on Quantum Point Contacts

B.J.van Wees et al. PRL 60, 848 (1988)



$$G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \sum_n^N T_n(E_F)$$

$$T_n(E_F) = \sum_{n=1}^N |t_{m \rightarrow n}|^2$$

For adiabatic constriction

$$t_{m \rightarrow n} = \delta_{nm}$$

For abrupt constriction

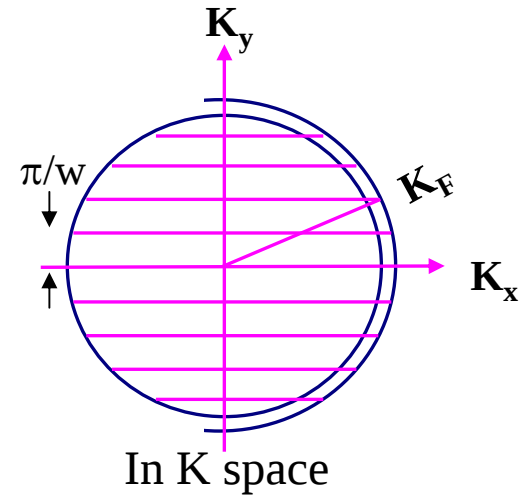
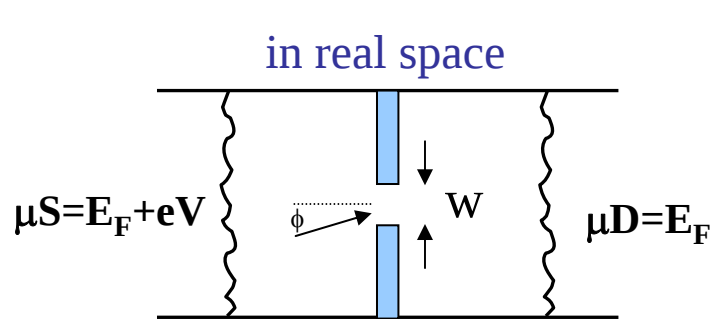
$$t_{m \rightarrow n} \neq 1$$

Optimized gate length

$$L_{opt} \approx 0.4 \sqrt{\omega \lambda_F}$$



The origin of the conductance quantization



Diffusion current

transmission probability

$$I = e \sum_n \int_{E_F}^{E_F + eV} dE \rho_n(E) v_n(E) T_n(E)$$

$$= \frac{2e}{h} eV \sum_n T_n(E_F)$$

1D Density of state

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{dE_n}{dk} \right)^{-1} \frac{1}{\cos \phi}$$

Group velocity

$$= \frac{1}{\hbar} \left(\frac{dE_n}{dk} \right) \cos \phi$$

$$N = \frac{w}{\lambda_F / 2}$$

Landauer Formula for contact conductance

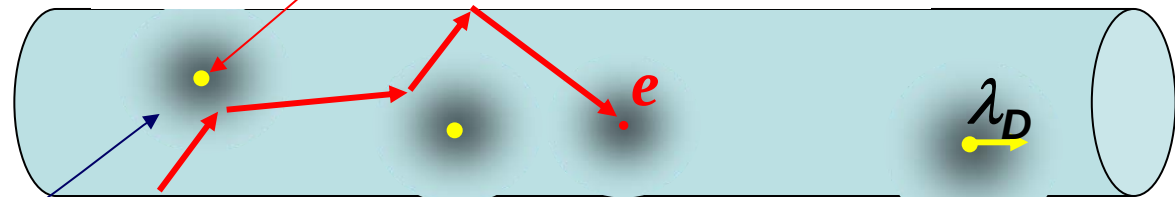
$$G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \sum_n T_n(E_F) = \frac{2e^2}{h} \frac{W}{\lambda_F / 2}$$



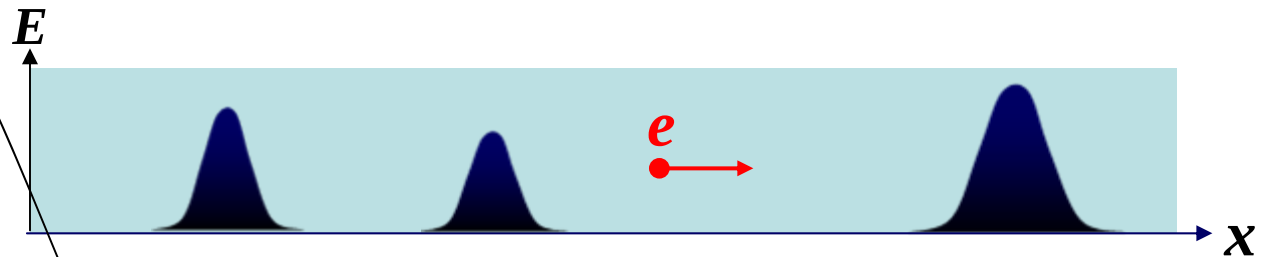
Origin of resistance

electron transport in disorder systems

impurities / defects / dislocation / other carriers



impurity potential



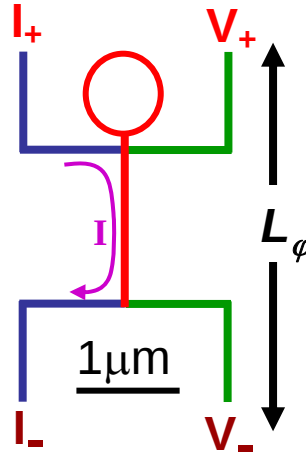
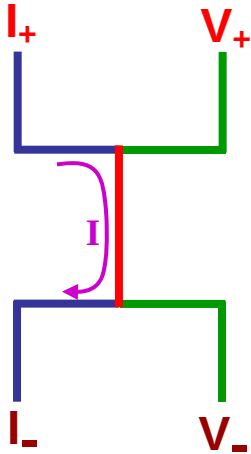
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V \right) \Psi$$

Debye length $\lambda_D = \sqrt{\epsilon k_B T / e^2 N_i}$

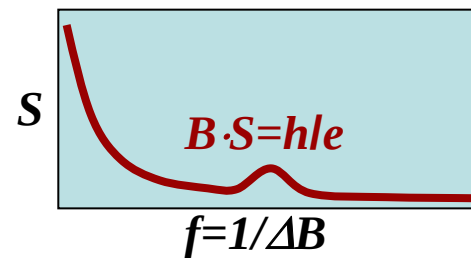
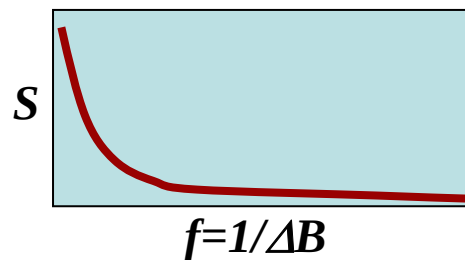
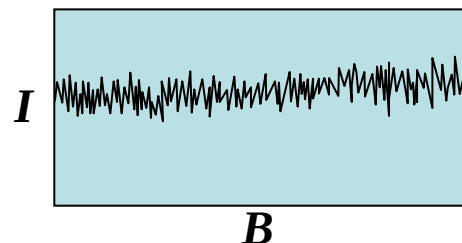
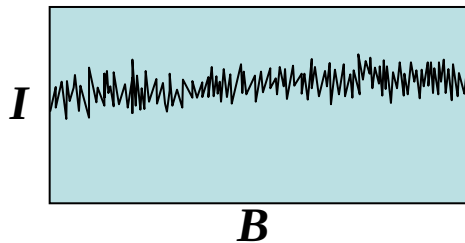
ϵ = dielectric permittivity,
 k_B = Boltzmann constant,
 T = absolute temperature,
 e = electron charge



Quantum correction to the conduction



The quantum correction to the conductance can be strongly influenced by phase coherent regions extending beyond the probes and outside the classical current paths





Observation of h/e Aharonov-Bohm Oscillations in Normal-Metal Rings

R. A. Webb, S. Washburn, C. P. Umbach, and R. B. Laibowitz
IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598
 (Received 27 March 1985)

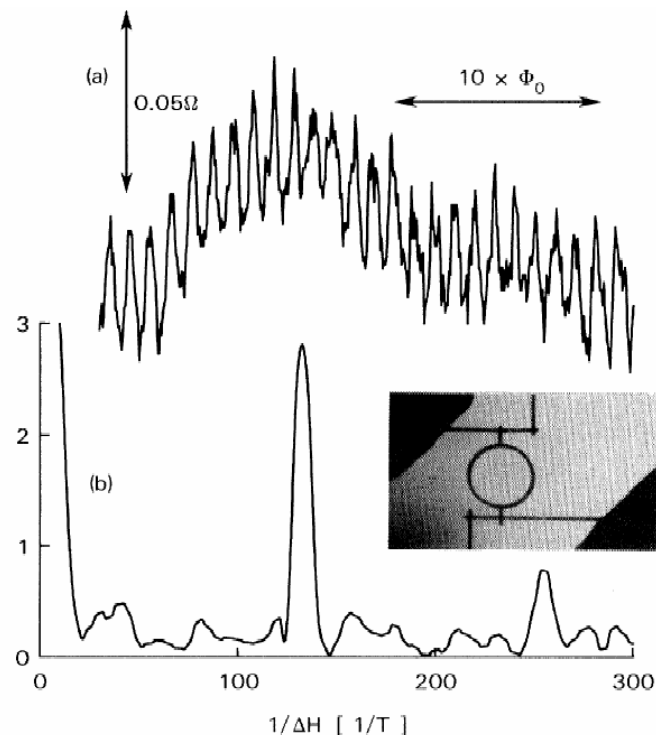


FIG. 1. (a) Magnetoresistance of the ring measured at $T=0.01$ K. (b) Fourier power spectrum in arbitrary units containing peaks at h/e and $h/2e$. The inset is a photograph of the larger ring. The inside diameter of the loop is 784 nm, and the width of the wires is 41 nm.

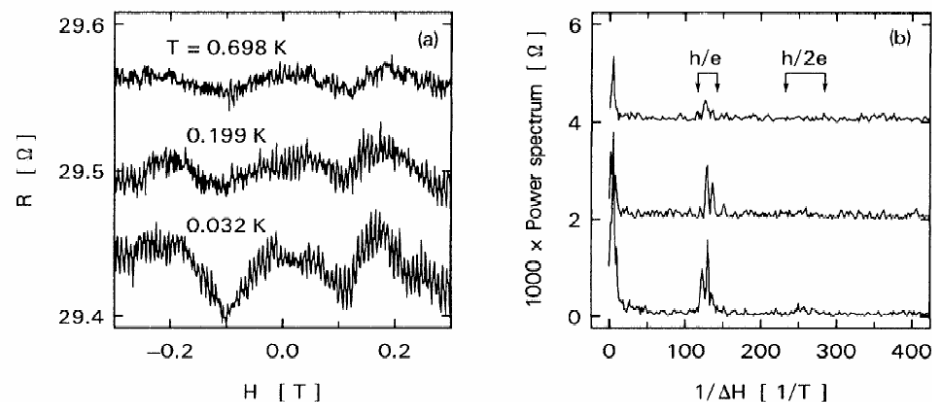
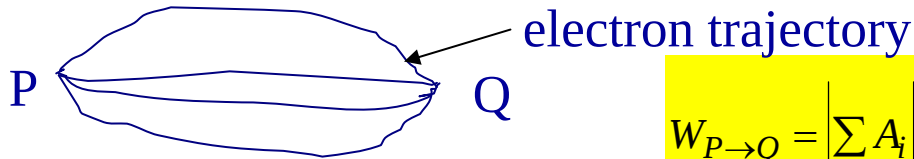


FIG. 2. (a) Magnetoresistance data from the ring in Fig. 1 at several temperatures. (b) The Fourier transform of the data in (a). The data at 0.199 and 0.698 K have been offset for clarity of display. The markers at the top of the figure indicate the bounds for the flux periods h/e and $h/2e$ based on the measured inside and outside diameters of the loop.



Aharonov-Bohm effect



Probability for $P \rightarrow Q$

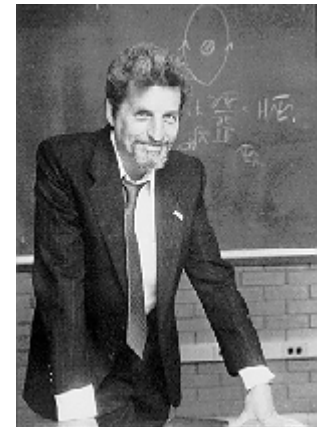
$$W_{P \rightarrow Q} = \left| \sum_i A_i \right|^2 = \underbrace{\sum_i |A_i|^2}_{\text{Classical diffusion}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i \neq j} A_i A_j^*}_{\text{Quantum interference}}$$

electrons pick a phase ϕ when traveling along a path P

$$\phi = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int_P A \cdot dx$$

phase difference between two paths with the same ends

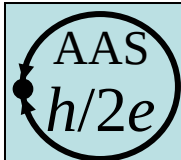
$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_P^Q A \cdot dl_1 - \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_P^Q A \cdot dl_2 = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_P^Q A \cdot dl_1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \int_Q^P A \cdot dl_2 = \frac{1}{\hbar} \oint A \cdot dl \\ &= \frac{2e}{\hbar} \int (\nabla \times A) \cdot dS = \frac{2e}{\hbar} \int B dS = 2\pi \frac{B \cdot S}{h/2e} \end{aligned}$$



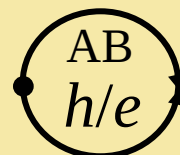
Yakir Aharonov

Probability for back-scattering

$$W_{P \leftrightarrow P} = 2|A|^2 + 2|A|^2 \cos \left(2\pi \frac{B \cdot A}{h/2e} \right) \rightarrow \text{period} = h/2e$$



Aharonov-Casher effect

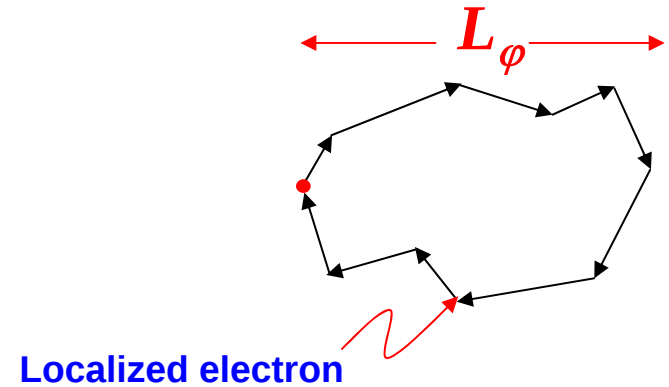
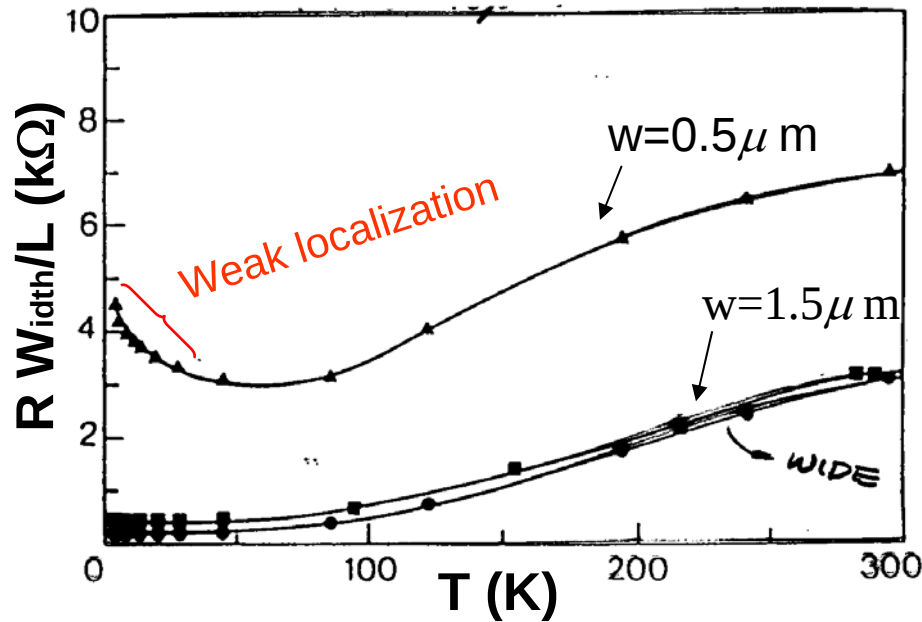


Aharonov-Bohm effect



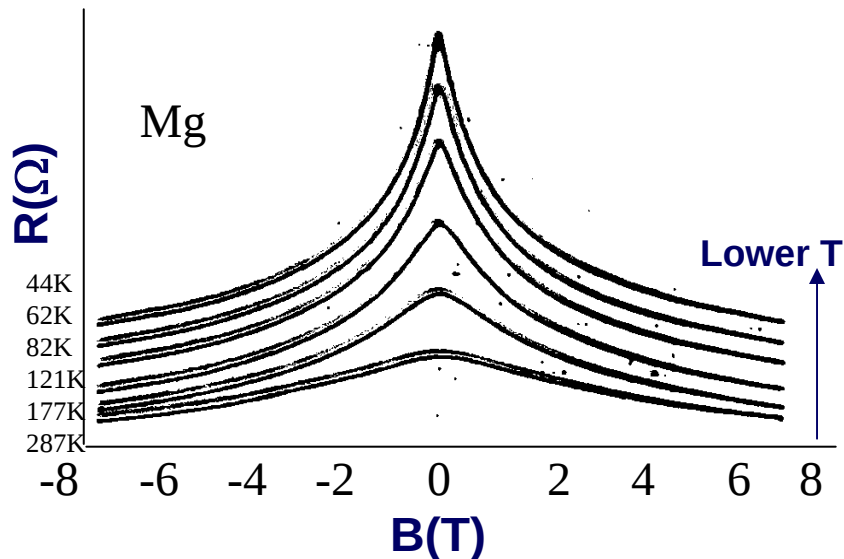
Weak localization

takes place for length scale $< L_\phi$

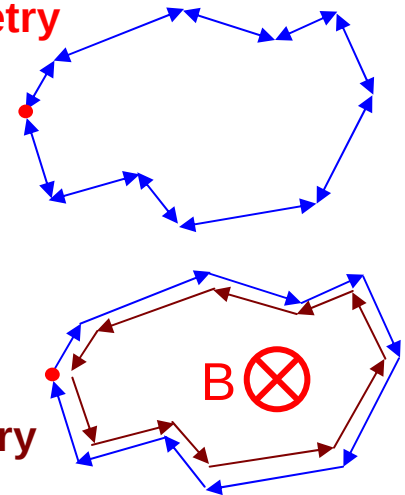


Localized electron

Other possible explanations:
electron-electron interaction
Kondo-effect



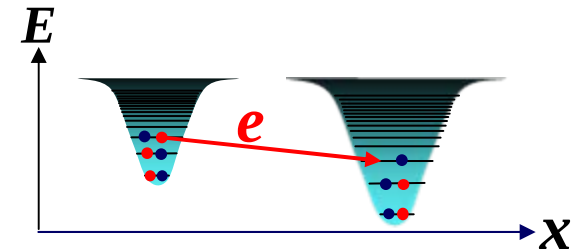
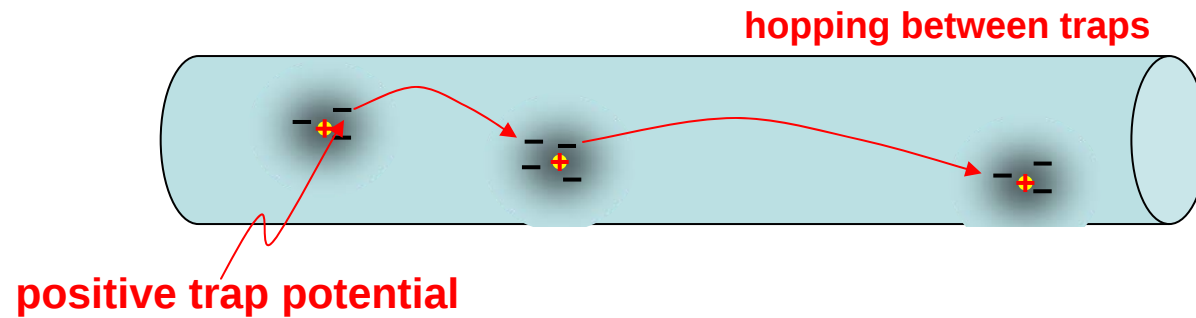
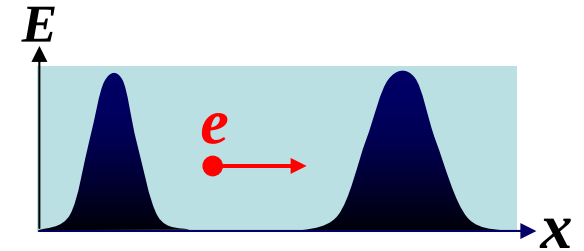
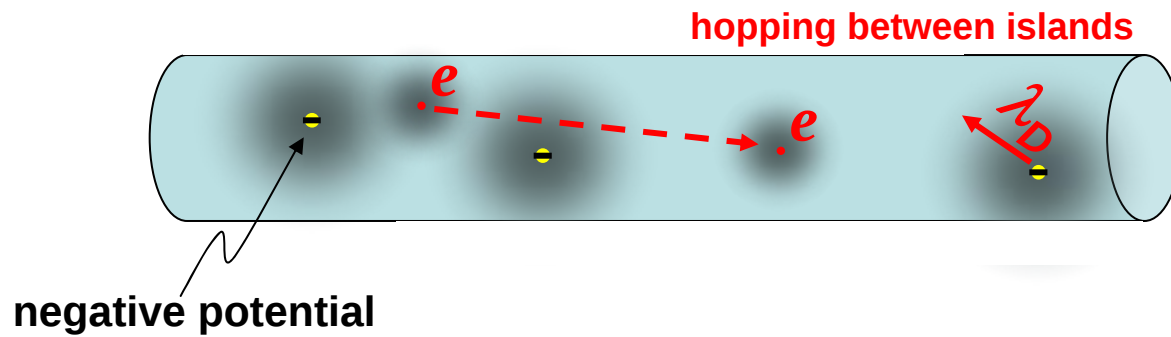
time reversal symmetry



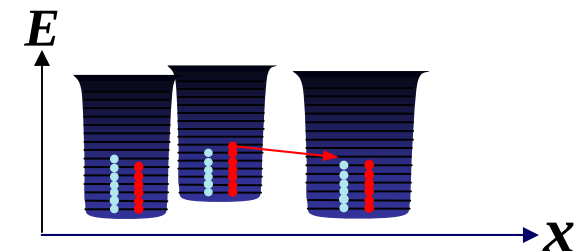
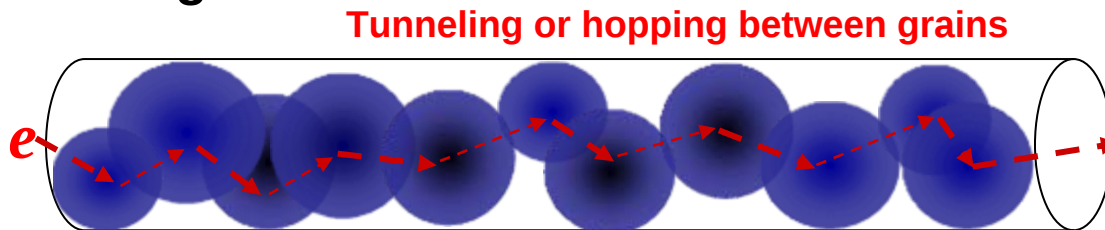
Magnetic field:
break the
time reversal symmetry



Hopping conduction in disordered systems



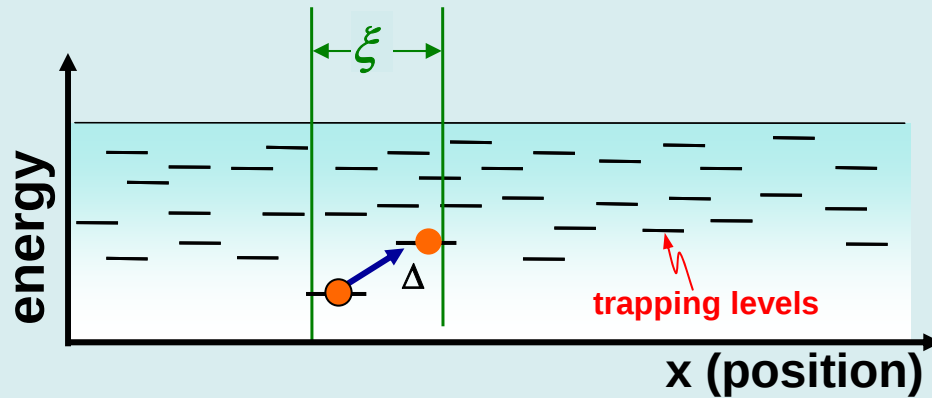
Metallic grains



Hopping transport

R_0 increases with decreasing temperature

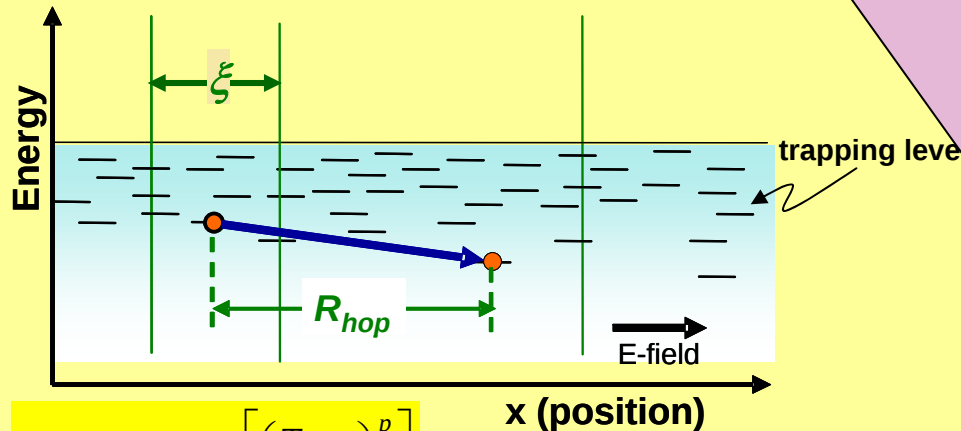
Nearest neighbor hopping (Arrhenius form)



$$R_0 = R_A \exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{k_B T}\right)$$

Presence of a **hopping barrier**;
thermally activated hopping
(such as Coulomb blockade)

Mott Variable range hopping



$$R_0 = R_A T^S \exp\left[\left(\frac{T_{Mott}}{T}\right)^p\right]$$

T_{Mott} = Mott characteristic temperature

$$p = \frac{1}{1+d} \quad d = \text{system dimensionality}$$

Efros-Shklovskii Variable range hopping

when Coulomb interaction is considered

$$R_0 = R_A T^S \exp\left[\left(\frac{T_{ES}}{T}\right)^{1/2}\right]$$

power-law dependence in DOS near E_F

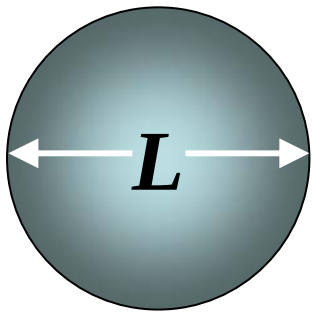
$$N(E) = N_0 |E - E_F|^\gamma$$

For 3D, $\gamma=2$

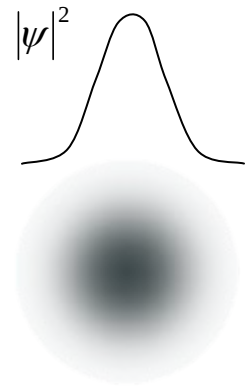
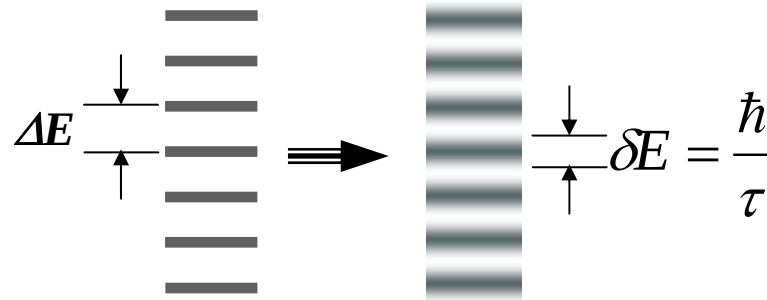
Nonlinear IV_b characteristics



Quantum origin of energy level broadening



broadening of quantized levels



τ = time for electron to travel through the grain
in ballistic regime: $\tau = L/v_F$

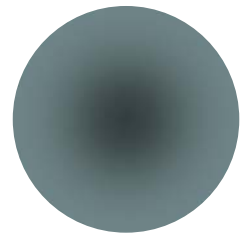
in diffusive regime: $\tau = L^2/D$

Einstein relation: $\sigma = e^2 D N_0(E_F) \Rightarrow \delta E \approx (\sigma h / e^2) [L^2 N_0(E_F)]^{-1}$
Level spacing : $\Delta E = [L^d N_0(E_F)]^{-1}$

Thouless ratio $g \equiv \frac{\delta E}{\Delta E} \approx \frac{h}{e^2} \sigma L^{d-2} = \frac{G}{e^2/h}$

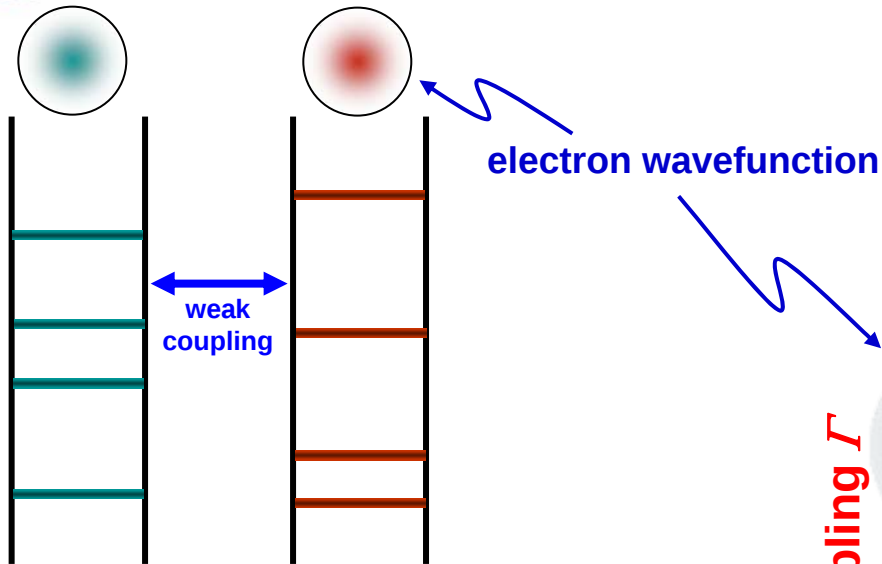
$g < 1$ ($R > 26k\Omega$) $\Rightarrow$ localized state

$g > 1$ ($R < 26k\Omega$) $\Rightarrow$ extended state

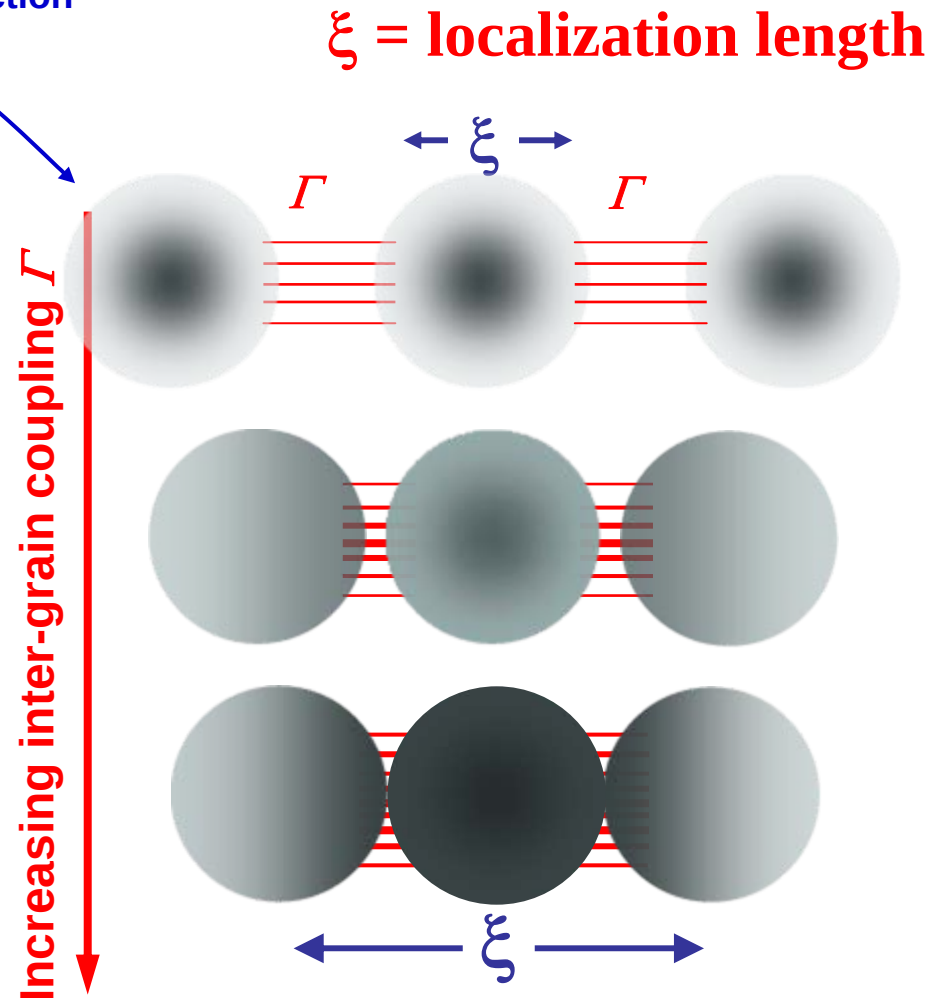
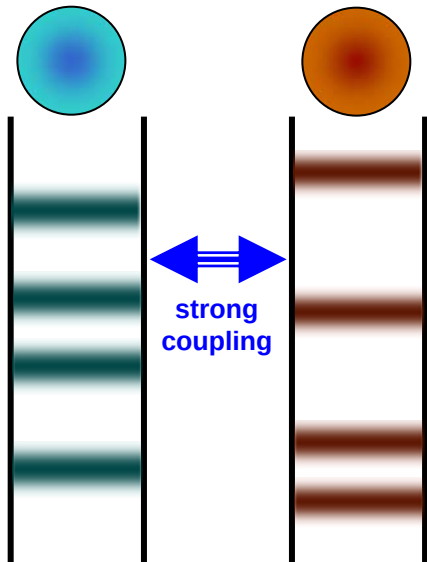




Inter-grain coupling induced level broadening



Level broadening $\delta E = \Gamma$

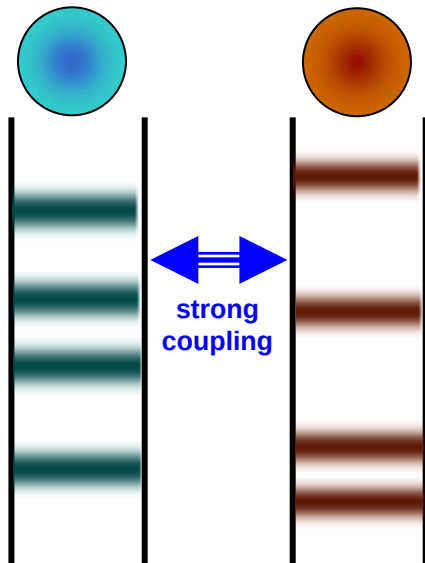




Resonate tunneling between coupled quantum dots

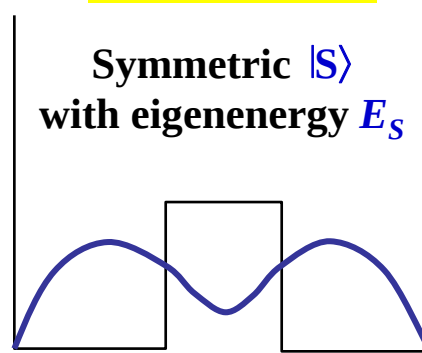
For very weak inter-coupling, two possible states exist : $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$
 With finite coupling Γ , $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ mix and form two eigenstates $|A\rangle$ and $|S\rangle$

Coupling strength = Γ
tunneling rate $\gamma = \Gamma/\hbar$
level broadening $\delta E = \Gamma$



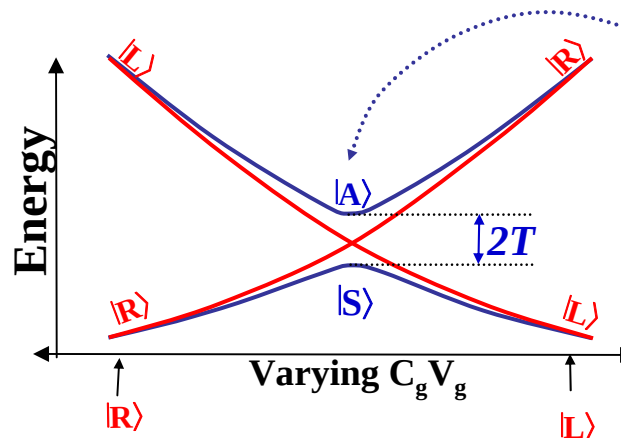
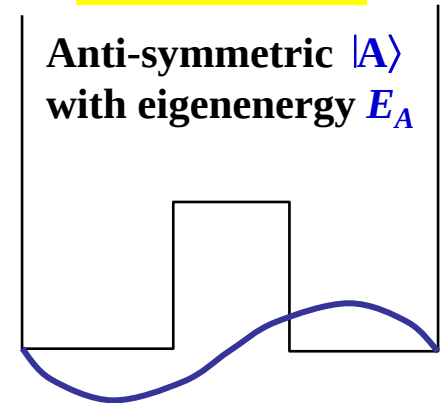
$$|S\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|R\rangle + |L\rangle)$$

Symmetric $|S\rangle$
 with eigenenergy E_S



$$|A\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|R\rangle - |L\rangle)$$

Anti-symmetric $|A\rangle$
 with eigenenergy E_A



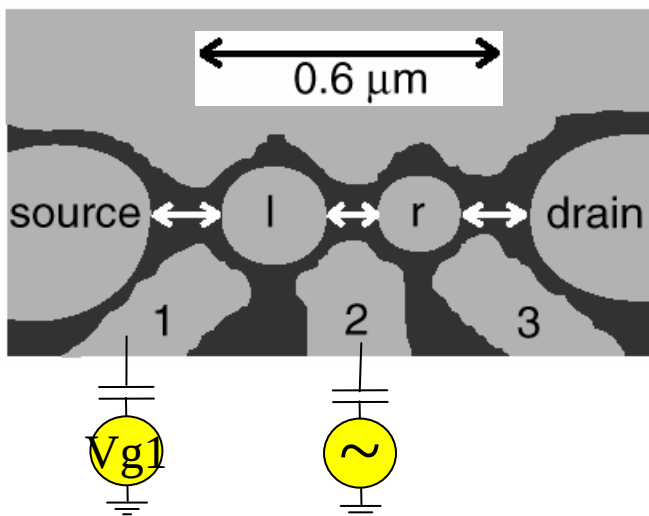
Oscillation between $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$
 with angular frequency

$$\omega = \frac{E_A - E_S}{\hbar} = \frac{2T}{\hbar}$$

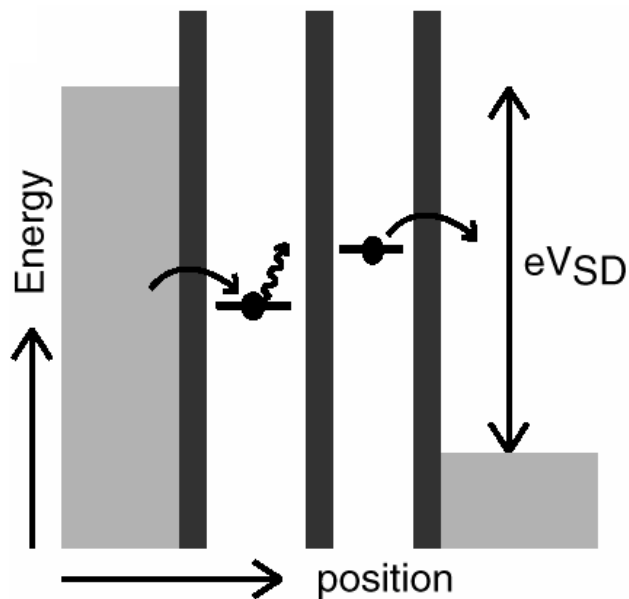
T = coupling constant



Weakly coupled dots

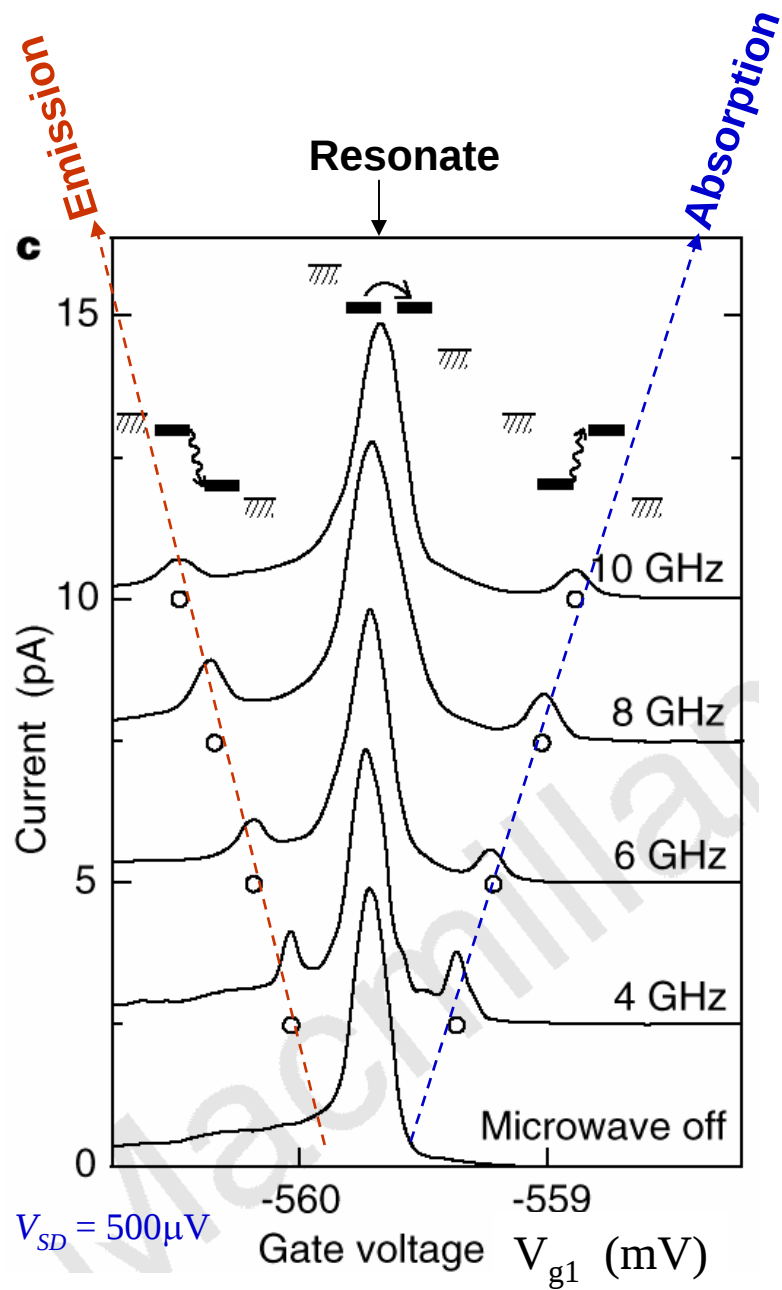


Photon assisted tunneling



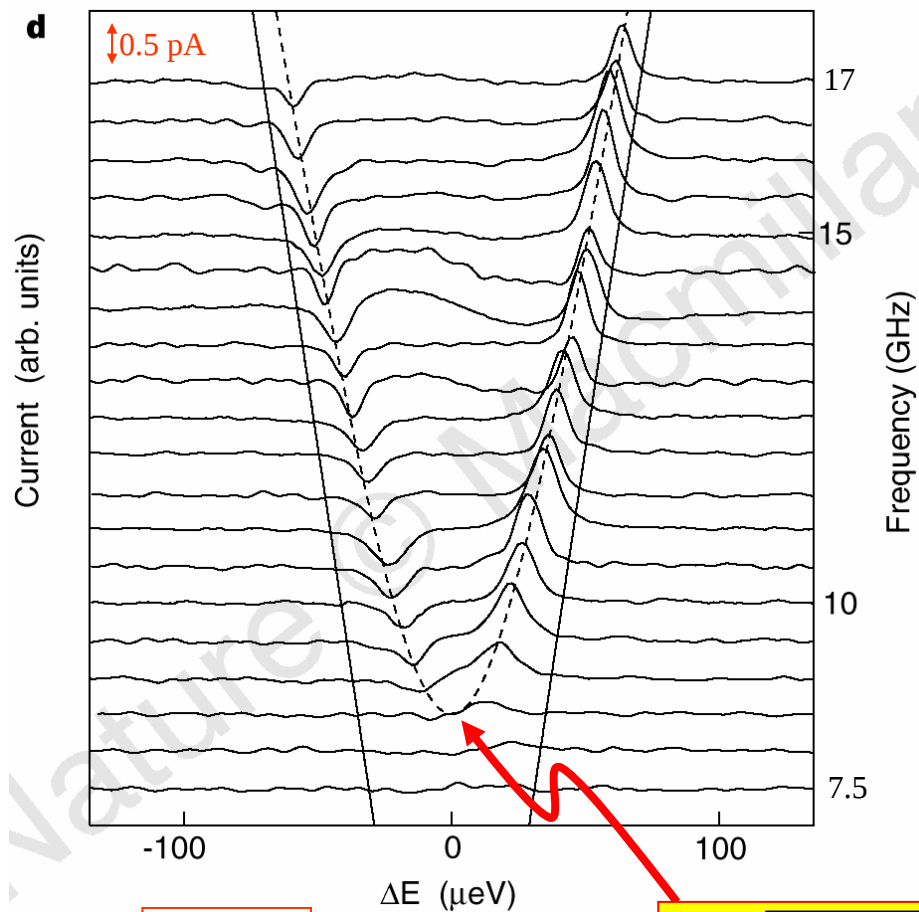
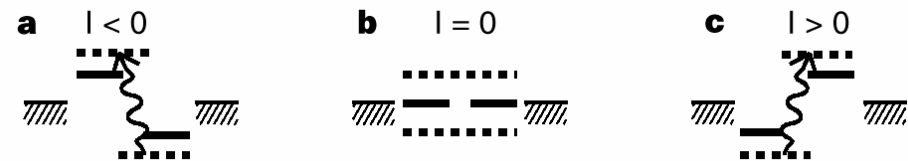
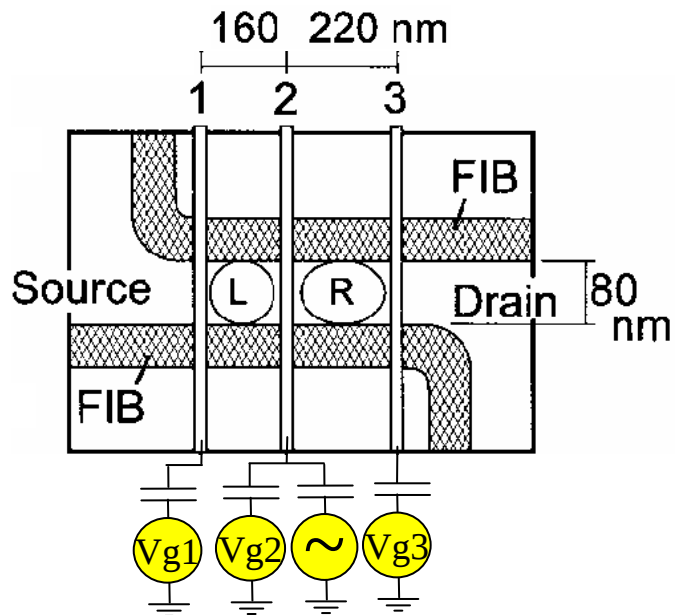
Microwave spectroscopy of a quantum-dot molecule

T. H. Oosterkamp, T. Fujisawa, W. G. van der Wiel, K. Ishibashi, R. V. Hijman, S. Tarucha & L. P. Kouwenhoven (Nature, v. 395, p. 873, Oct. 1998)





Strongly coupled dots



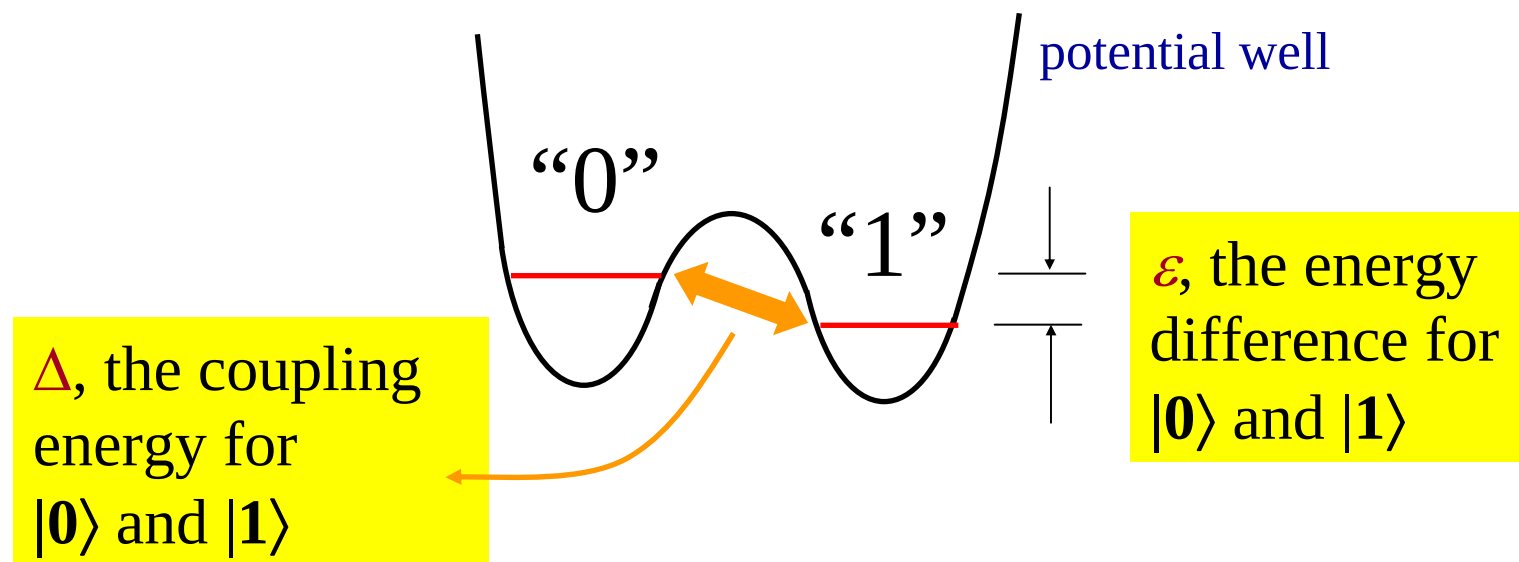
$$V_{SD}=0$$

$$hf = \sqrt{\Delta E^2 + (2\Gamma)^2}$$



The Quantum Bit

A two-level system (pseudo-spin) $\longrightarrow$ a quantum bit (qubit)



Provided by quantum tunneling $\longrightarrow$ Level repulsion



Classical Boolean bits vs. Quantum bits (Qubits)

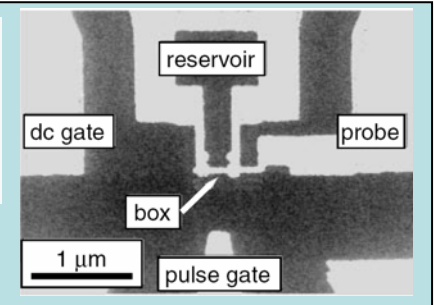
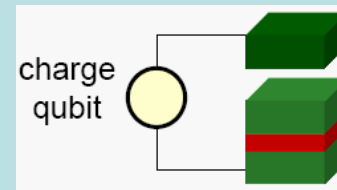
0 1	$0\rangle$ $1\rangle$
No classical analogue	$(0\rangle \pm 1\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ Superposition $\Psi = \sum_{x=00\dots 0}^{11\dots 1} c_x x\rangle$ Entanglement e.g. $(01\rangle \pm 10\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$
	can perform calculations on all 2^n bits at once (quantum parallelism)
NOT operator 0 1 1 0	$0\rangle$ $hf = \delta E$ Absorbs photon $\Rightarrow$ $1\rangle$ $1\rangle$ $\Rightarrow$ $0\rangle$ emits photon
	Can also flip bits only halfway



Superconducting Quantum Bits

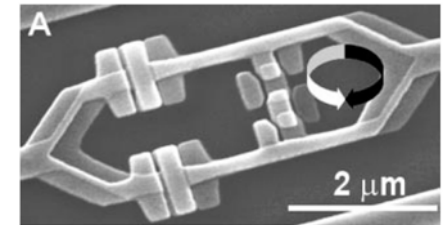
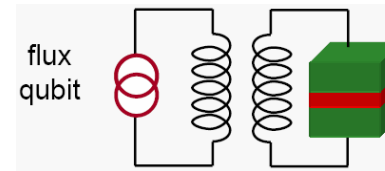
Charge qubit: NEC, Saclay,
Chalmers, Yale...

charge number



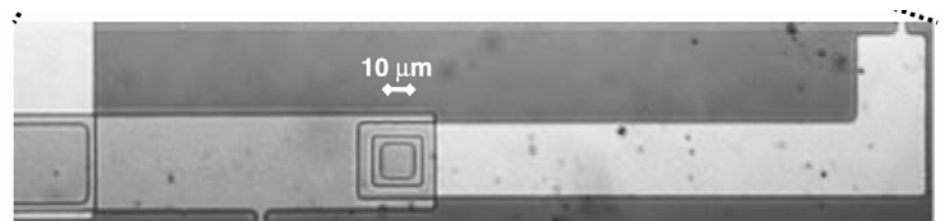
flux qubit: Delft, Stony Brook,
Berkeley...

flux number



phase qubit: NIST, Kansas
phase difference across a junction

**And other proposals, such
as Andreev qubit**

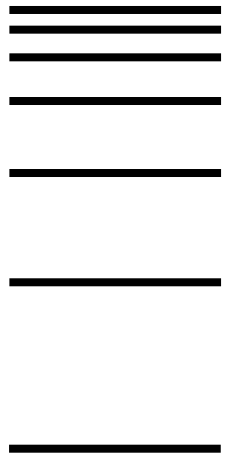
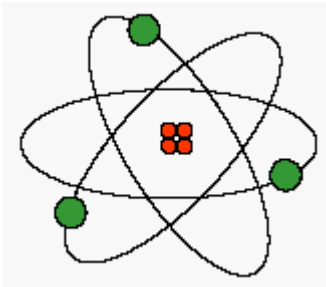




What is a superconductor?

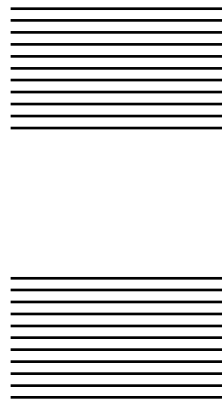
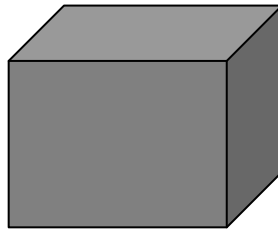
Energy gap

atom



$\sim 1\text{eV}$

semiconductor

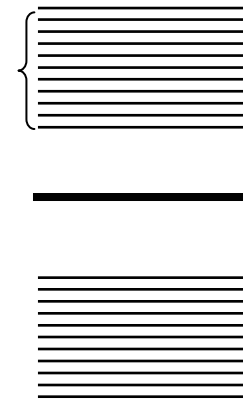
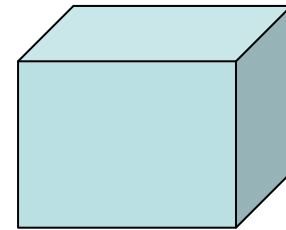


$\sim 1\text{eV}$

forest of states

tied to the spatial lattice

superconductor

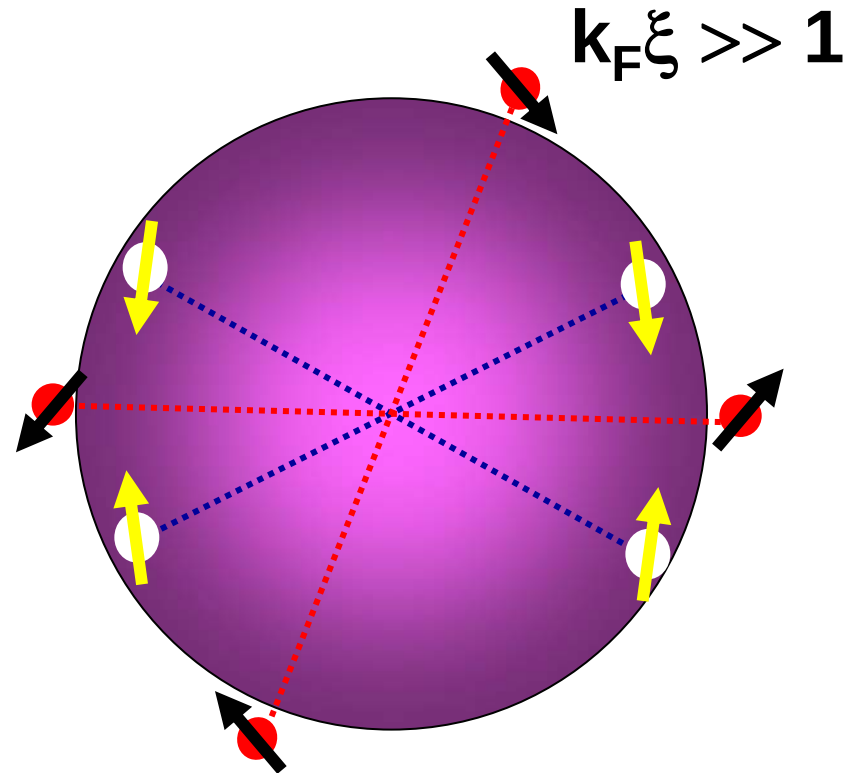
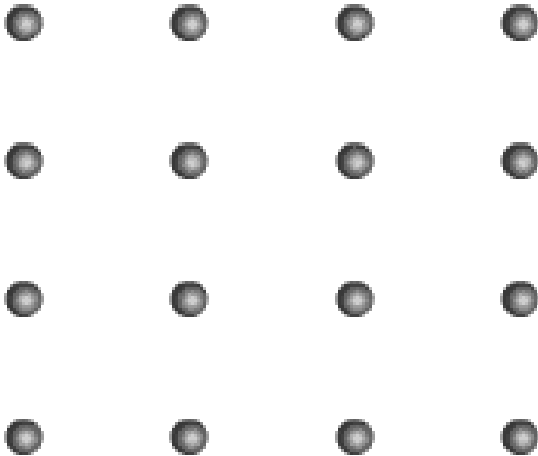


$2D \sim 1\text{meV}$

tied to the Fermi level



Cooper pairs are like bosons in a BEC,
except size of Cooper pair (electron separation) $\sim \xi$



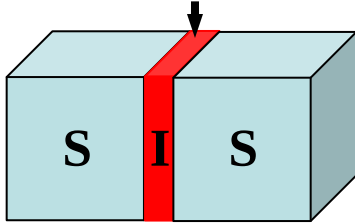
Fermi sphere for a superconductor

$$\psi(\vec{r}) \sim \langle c_{\vec{k}\uparrow} c_{-\vec{k}\uparrow} \rangle \sim |\psi| e^{i\varphi(\vec{r})}$$



Josephson junction

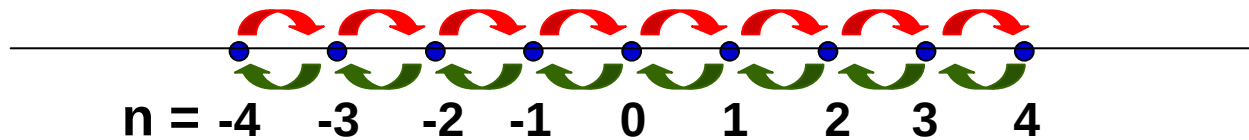
tunnel barrier



$$E_J = \frac{\Delta}{2} \frac{R_Q}{R_N}$$

$$\text{Quantum resistance } R_Q \equiv \frac{h}{4e^2}$$

Tight binding model: particles hopping in a 1D chain in Hilbert space



n = number of Cooper pairs on the electrodes

“position” : n , “wave vector” : φ

$$\text{Cooper pair tunneling } T = -\frac{E_J}{2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} \left[|n+1\rangle\langle n| + |n\rangle\langle n+1| \right]$$

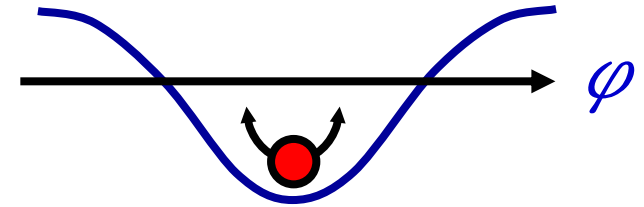
$$\text{Plane wave eigenstate: } |\varphi\rangle = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} |n\rangle$$

$$T|\varphi\rangle = -\frac{E_J}{2} \sum_{n'=-\infty}^{n'=+\infty} \left[|n'+1\rangle\langle n'| + |n'\rangle\langle n'+1| \right] \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} e^{i\varphi n} |n\rangle$$



Josephson junction

$$\begin{aligned}
 T|\varphi\rangle &= -\frac{E_J}{2} \sum_{n'=-\infty}^{n'=+\infty} \left[|n'+1\rangle\langle n'| + |n'\rangle\langle n'+1| \right] \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} e^{i\varphi n} |n\rangle \\
 &= -\frac{E_J}{2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} e^{i\varphi n} \left[|n+1\rangle + |n-1\rangle \right] \\
 &= -E_J \cos(\varphi) |\varphi\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$



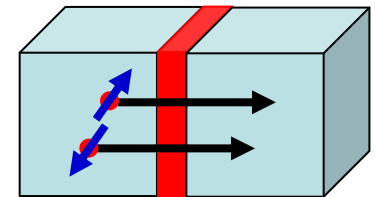
“position” : n , “momentum” : $\hbar \varphi$

Wave packet group velocity

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{dT}{d\varphi} = \frac{E_J}{\hbar} \sin \varphi$$

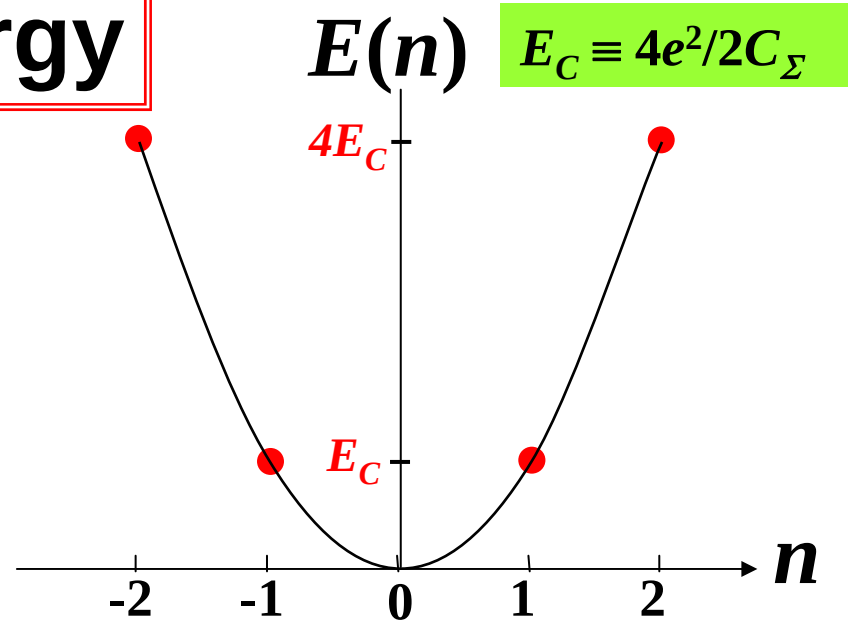
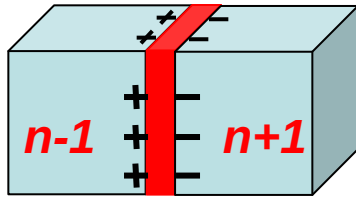
Current $I = 2e \frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{2e}{\hbar} E_J \sin \varphi = I_C \sin \varphi$

Cooper pair tunneling





Charging energy



$$|\varphi\rangle = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} |n\rangle$$

Quantum mechanical conjugate variables: $[n, \varphi] = i$

number operator: $\hat{n} \equiv -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}$

φ as coordinate :

$$H = 4E_C \hat{n}^2 - E_J \cos(\varphi)$$

$$= -4E_C \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} - E_J \cos(\varphi)$$



For small phase φ fluctuations:

strong fluctuations in $n \rightarrow$ small E_C

$$H = -4E_C \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} - E_J \cos(\varphi)$$
$$\approx -4E_C \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \varphi^2} - E_J \left[1 - \frac{\varphi^2}{2} \right]$$

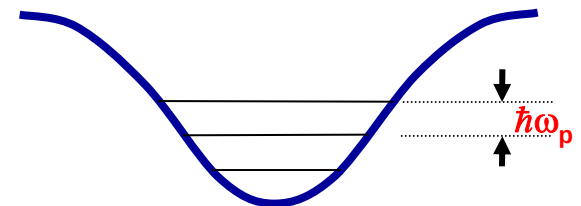
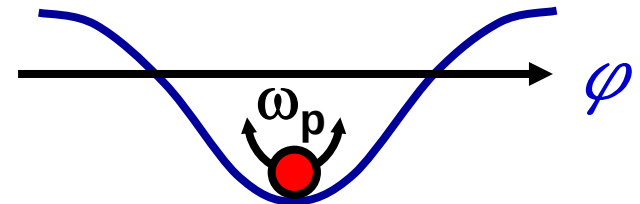
note: $p \rightarrow -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}$
in φ coordinate

Equivalent to a simple harmonic oscillator with

mass $m = \frac{1}{\hbar^2 8E_C}$

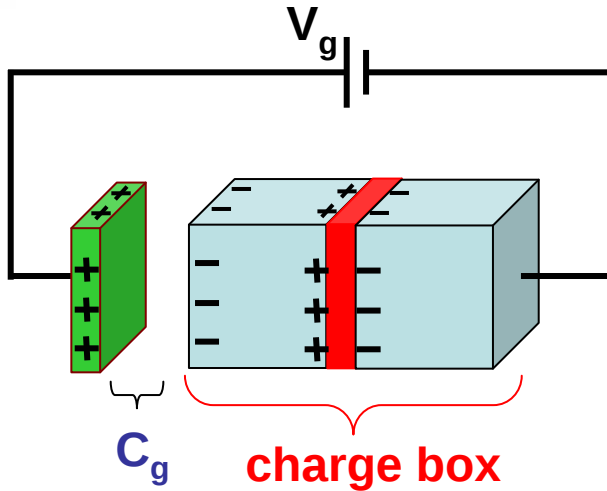
spring constant $K = E_J$

Plasma frequency $\hbar\omega_P = \sqrt{8E_C E_J}$





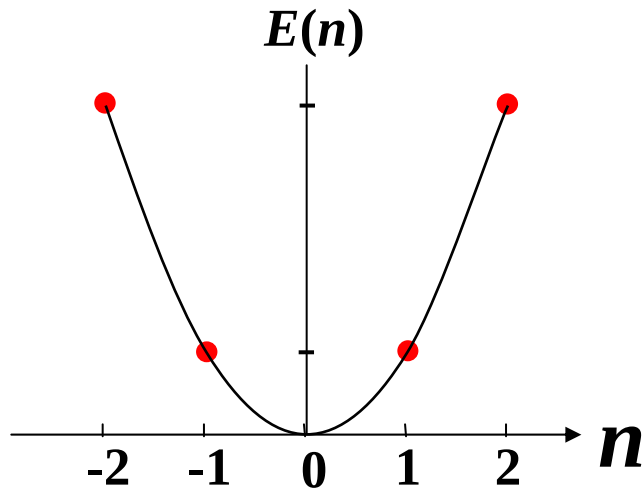
Superconducting charge box



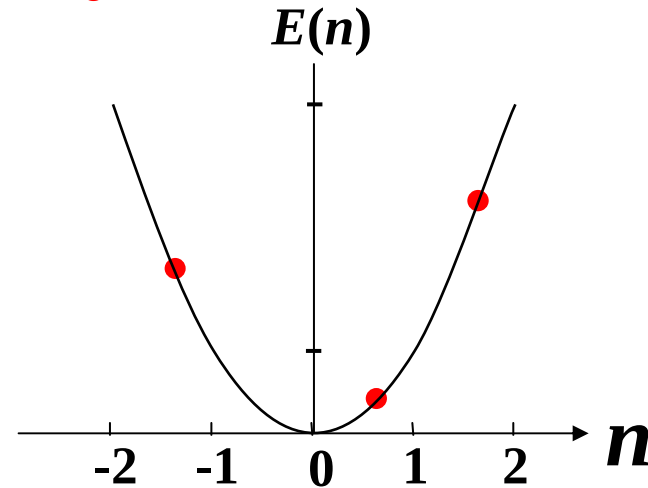
$$H = 4E_C (\hat{n} - n_g)^2 - E_J \cos(\varphi)$$

$n_g = C_g V_g$ is controlled by the gate

$V_g = 0$, charge degenerate



$V_g > 0$, degenerate is lifted





Mapping to two level system

$$H = 4E_C (\hat{n} - n_g)^2 - E_J \cos(\varphi)$$

In ket presentation

$$H = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=+\infty} 4E_C (\hat{n} - n_g)^2 |n\rangle\langle n| - \frac{E_J}{2} [|n+1\rangle\langle n| + |n\rangle\langle n+1|]$$

Assume 1. $E_J \ll E_C$, 2. **small** n_g , so that only **two states** $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$ matters

$$\begin{aligned} H &= 4E_C \left(\frac{1}{2} - C_g V_g \right)^2 \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{E_J}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} E_{ch} (V_g) \sigma_z - \frac{1}{2} E_J (B) \sigma_x \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} +E_{ch} & -E_J \\ -E_J & +E_{ch} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Analogy to a single spin in a magnetic field
Shnirman, Makhlin, Schön, PRL, RMP, Nature

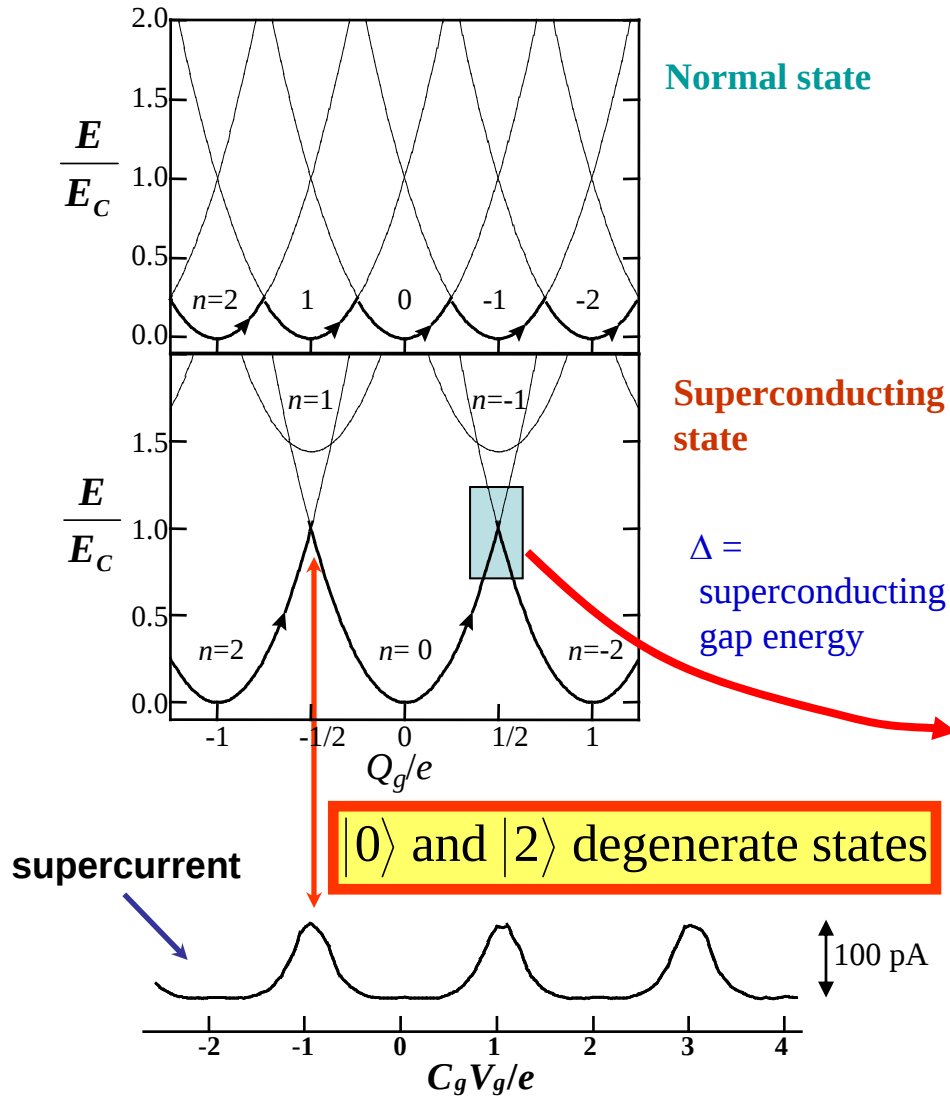
$$|\Psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

α and β are complex numbers

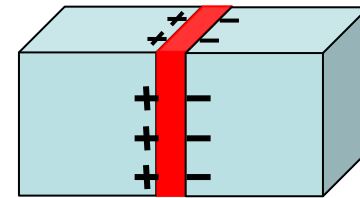
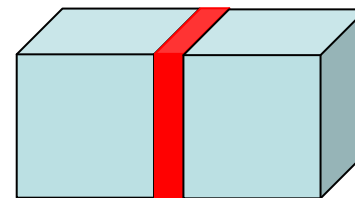
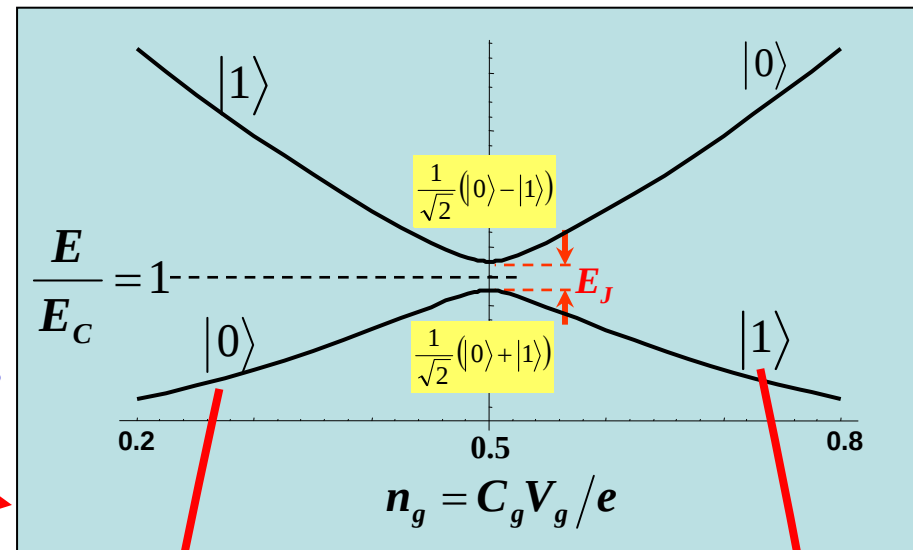
$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Superposition of the two classical levels

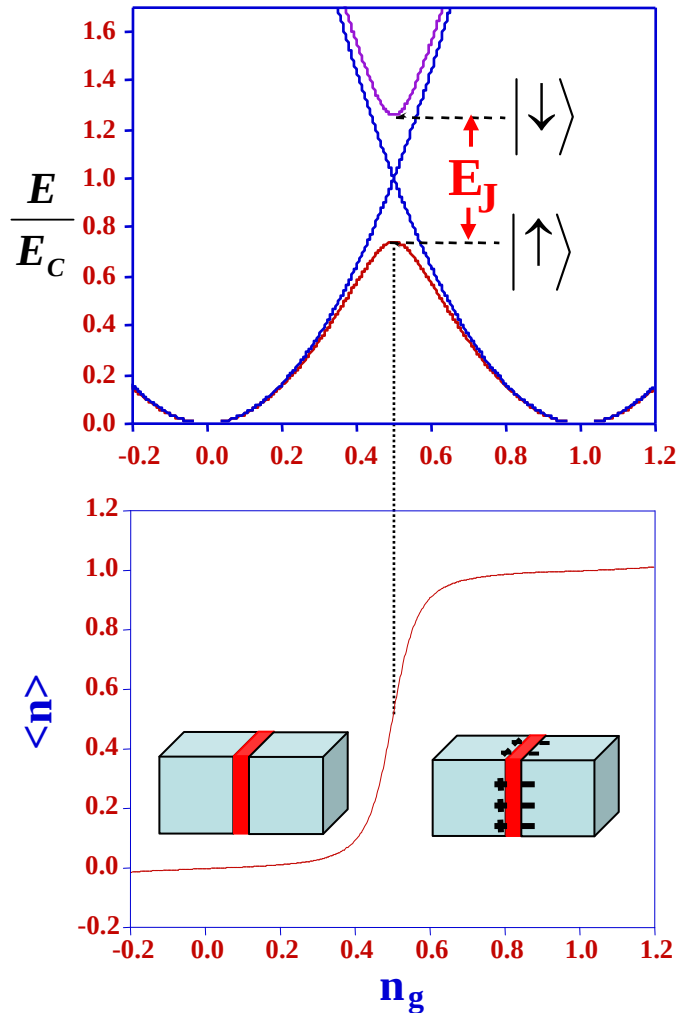


$$H = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} +E_{ch} & -E_J \\ -E_J & +E_{ch} \end{pmatrix}$$





Josephson junction as a diatomic molecule



Bonding state

$$|\uparrow\rangle \equiv |\Psi_+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$$

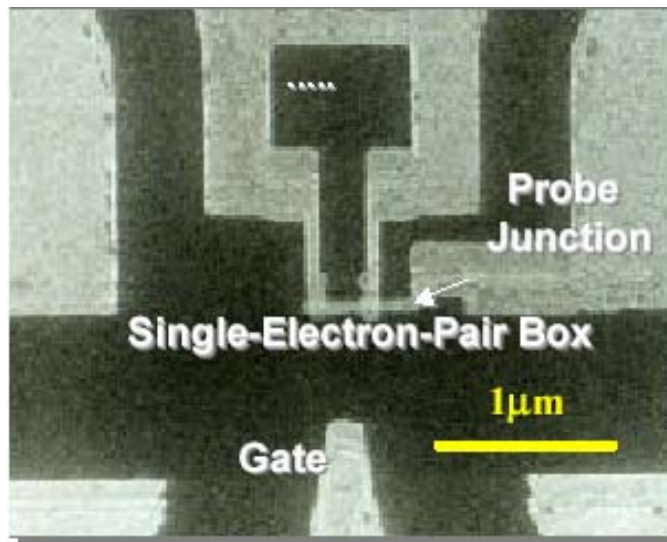
Anti-Bonding state

$$|\downarrow\rangle \equiv |\Psi_-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle)$$

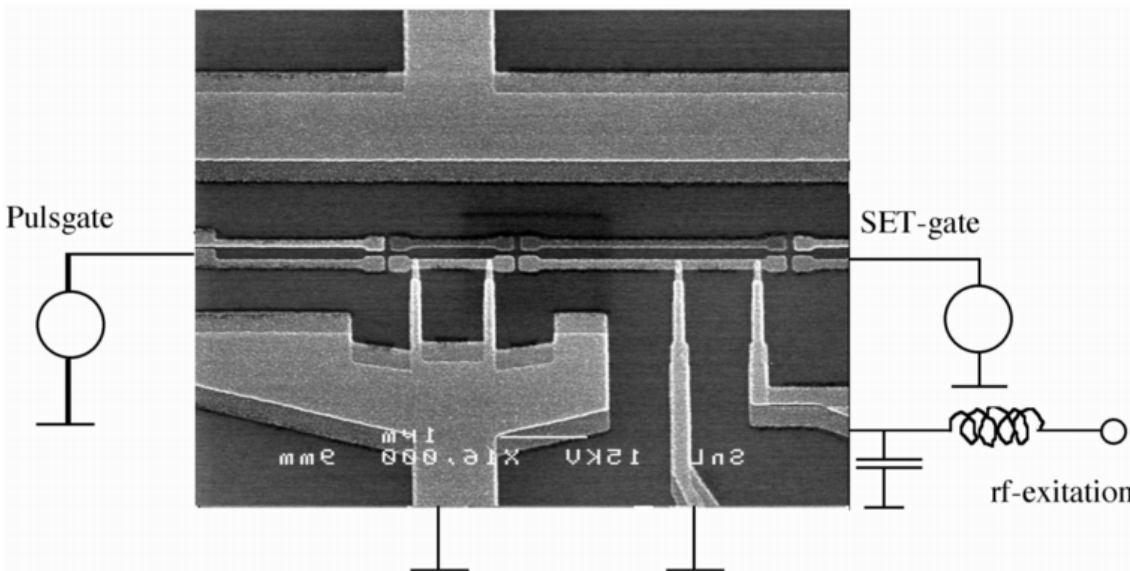
$$E_{\text{Anti-Bonding}} - E_{\text{Bonding}} = E_J$$



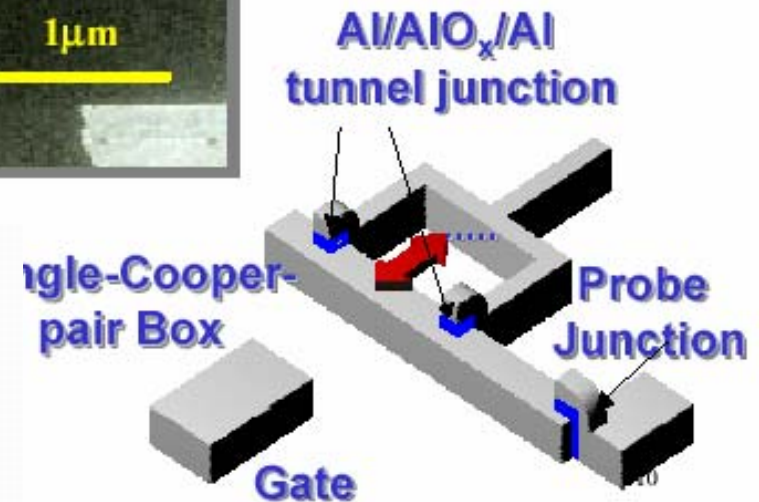
Tunable Josephson coupling energy



NEC group



Chalmers group



$$E_J^* = E_J \cos(\Phi)$$

$$\Phi = B \cdot A$$

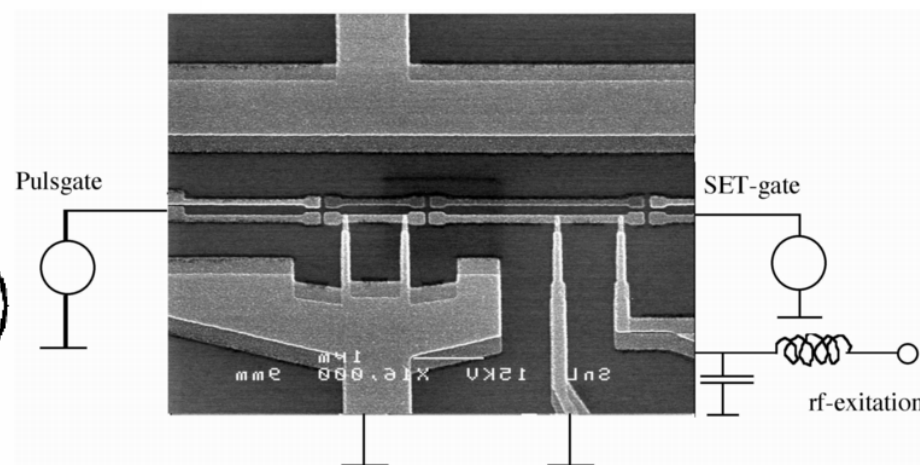
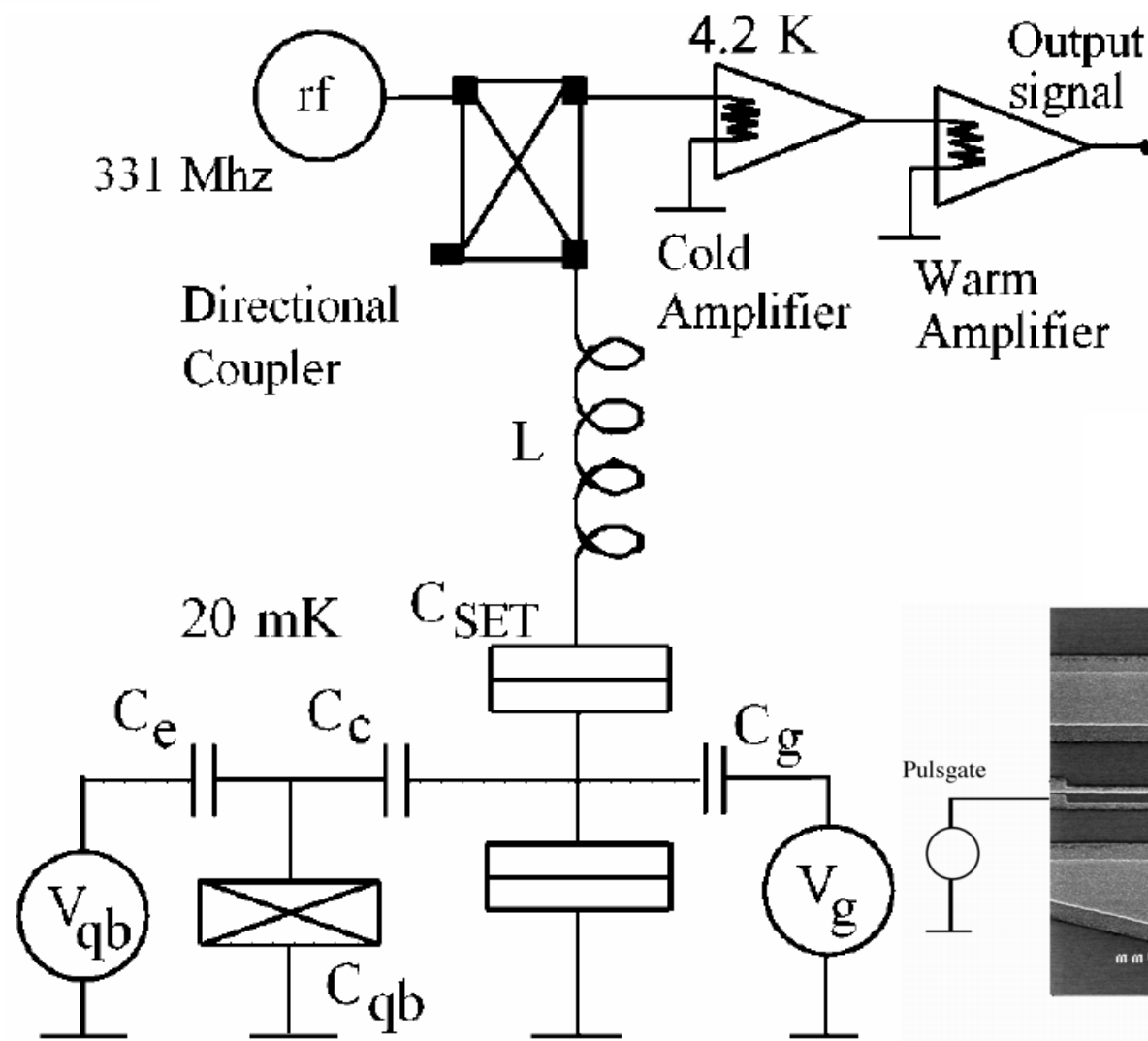
A = SQUID loop area



Readout scheme 1 : RF-SET, tank circuit

Chalmers Group

PRL, 86, 3376 (01)

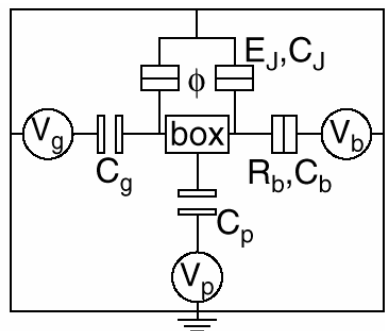
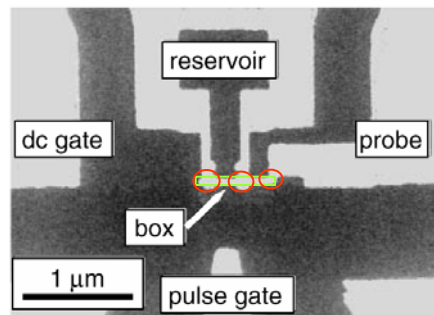




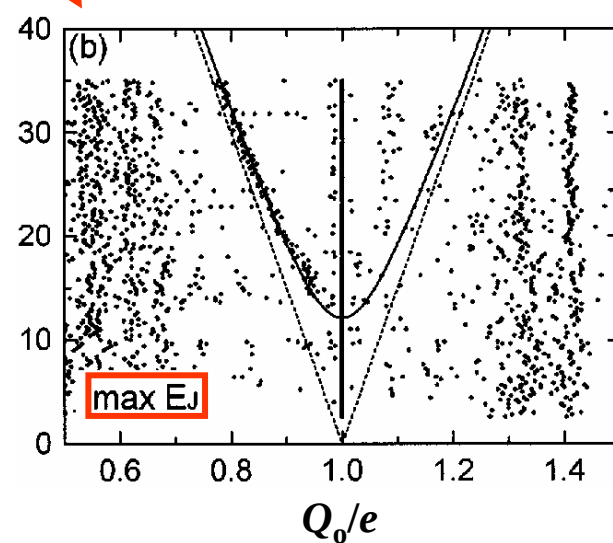
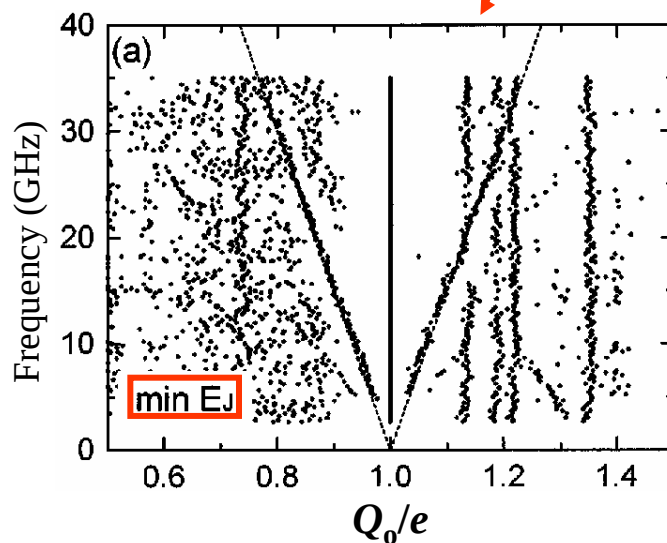
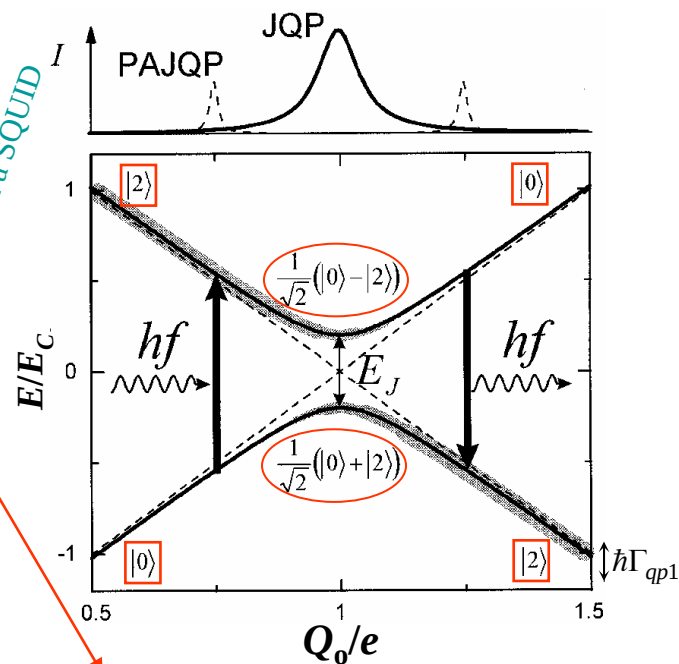
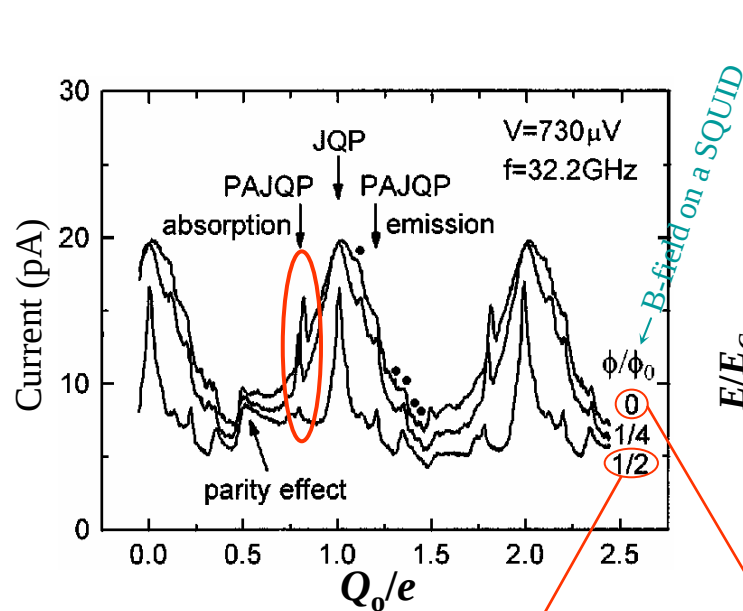
Spectroscopy of Energy-Level Splitting between Two Macroscopic Quantum States of Charge Coherently Superposed by Josephson Coupling

Y. Nakamura, C. D. Chen, and J. S. Tsai

PRL, 79, 2328 (1997)



□ : tunnel junction
 ▭ : capacitor



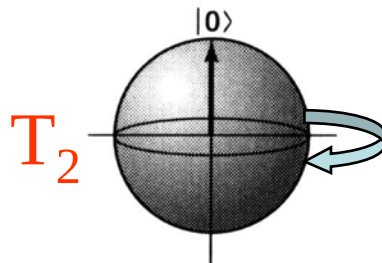
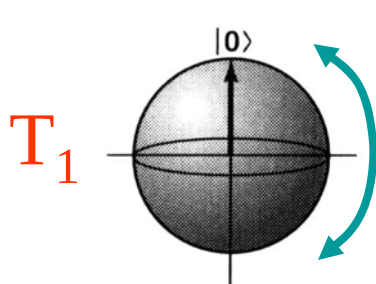
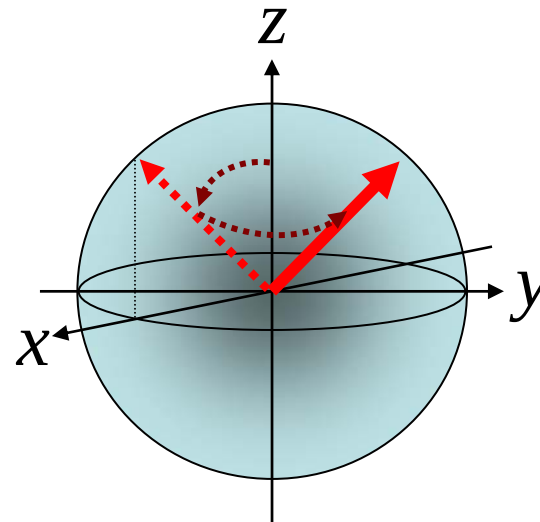
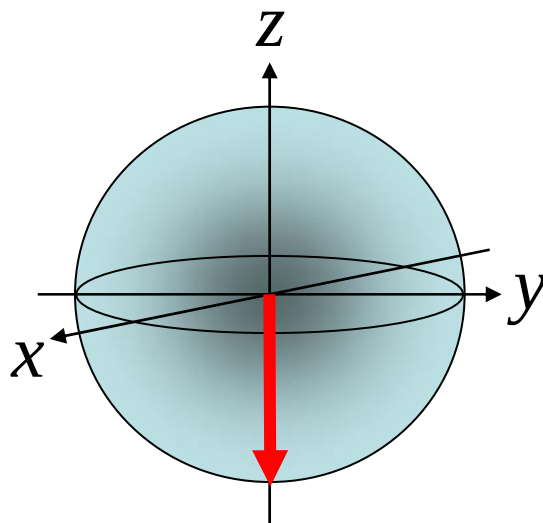
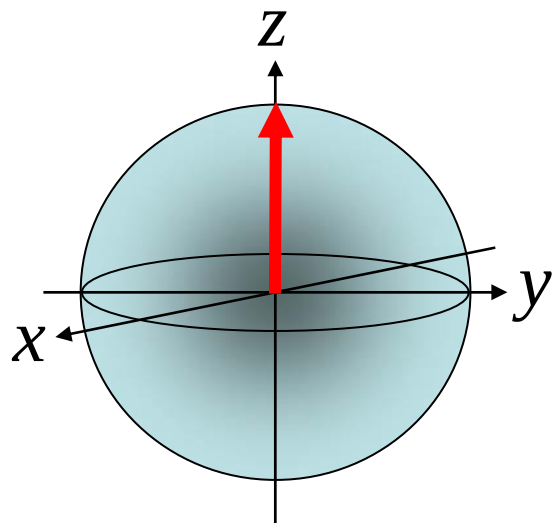


Spin representation:

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} E_{ch}(V_g) \sigma_z - \frac{1}{2} E_J(B) \sigma_x = \vec{s} \cdot \vec{h}$$

Pauli matrices:

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

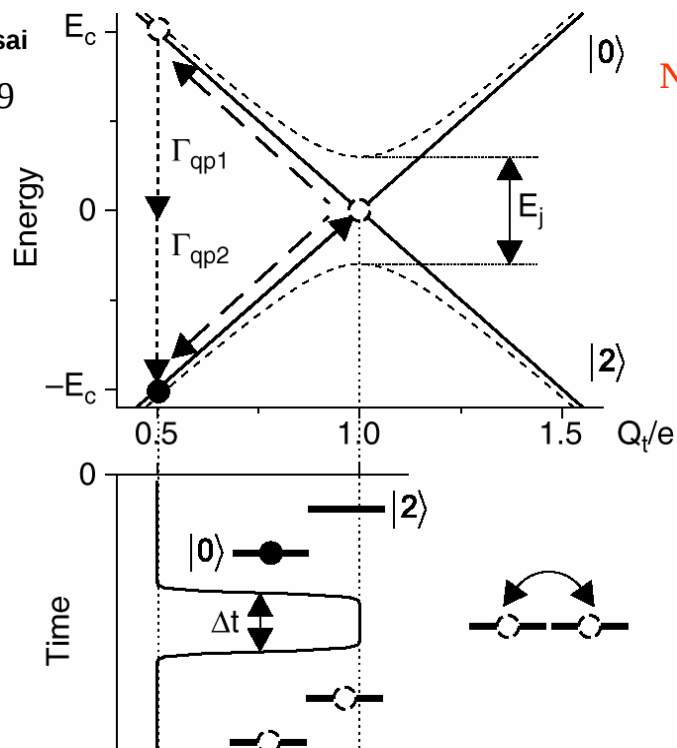




Coherent control of macroscopic quantum states in a single-Cooper-pair box coherent evolution

Y. Nakamura, Yu. A. Pashkin & J. S. Tsai

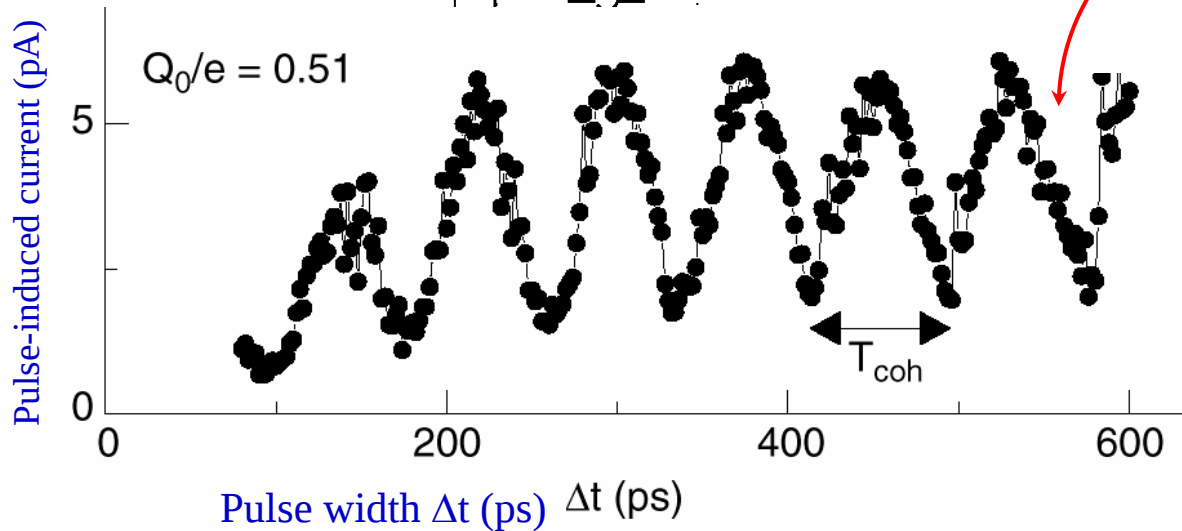
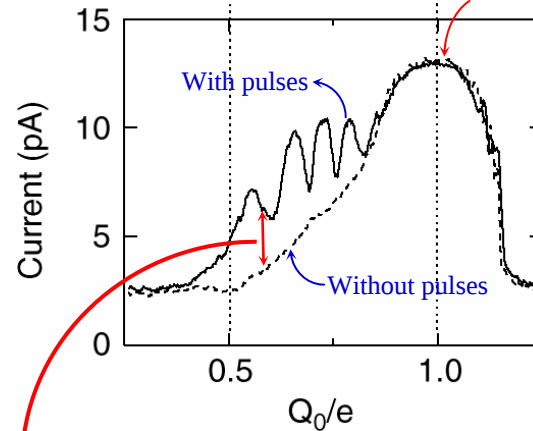
Nature, v. 398, p. 386, Apr, 1999



Non-adiabatic trigger

$t_{\text{coherence}} = \hbar/E_j$

JQP current





Decoherence:

$\hbar \approx 0.658 \times 10^{-15} \text{ eV-s} \approx 1 \text{ nV acting on an electron for } 1 \mu\text{s}$

Possible sources of decoherence:

- **Back ground charges** are known as an important source of decoherence. At the degeneracy point, that decoherence should be drastically reduced. However, if the dc-pulse is not perfectly square, the system is not exactly at the degeneracy point during the evolution. Then background charge noise couples stronger to the system.
- **The SET: The continuous measurement** can of course decohere the system, pulsed measurements should improve the situation.
- **Non-equilibrium quasi particles** may be present in the system. Transition between excited state and qp state
- **DC-pulses** may shake up background charges or other resonant modes (environment, cavity etc.).



cy/byerken
Merry Christmas

Thank you and wish you
a Merry Christmas
and
a prosperous 2009