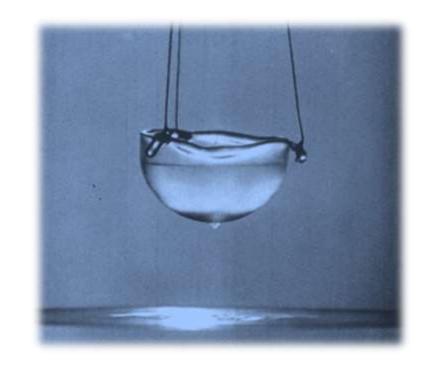




BAYERISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



# Superconductivity and Low Temperature Physics II



Lecture Notes
Summer Semester 2024

R. Gross © Walther-Meißner-Institut

# Chapter 2

# Quantum Transport in Nanostructures



### **Chapter II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

### Literature:

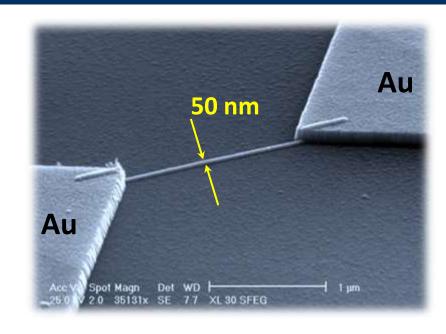
- **Introduction to Mesoscopic Physics Yoseph Imry** Oxford University Press, Oxford (1997)
- 2. Electronic Transport in Mesoscopic Systems **Supriyoto Datta** Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1995)
- Mesoscopic Electronic in Solid State Nanostructures **Thomas Heinzel** Wiley VCH, Weinheim (2003)
- 4. Quantum Transport Yuli V. Nazarov, Yaroslav M. Blanter Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2009)
- Semiconductor Nanostructures **Thomas Ihn** Oxford University Press (2010)







# Superconductivity and Low Temperature Physics II



Lecture No. 8

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### **Contents Part II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

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- II.1.5 **Transport Regimes**

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### II.1 Introduction

### **II.1.1 General Remarks**

- macroscopic solid-state systems
  - usually consideration of thermodynamic limit  $\rightarrow N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\Omega \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $N/\Omega = const$ .
- what happens if system size becomes small?
  - discrete spectrum of electronic levels
  - coherent motion of electrons
    - $\rightarrow$  phase memory due to lack of inelastic scattering within system size: system size L smaller than phase coherence length  $L_{\phi}$
    - → new interference phenomena
  - validity of Boltzmann theory of electronic transport and concept of resistivity?
    - $\rightarrow$  system size L smaller than mean free path  $\ell$ : ballistic transport
  - discreteness of electric charge and magnetic flux becomes important
    - → single electron and single flux effects
  - concept of impurity ensemble breaks down
    - → sample properties show "fingerprint" of detailed arrangement of impurities



## II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems

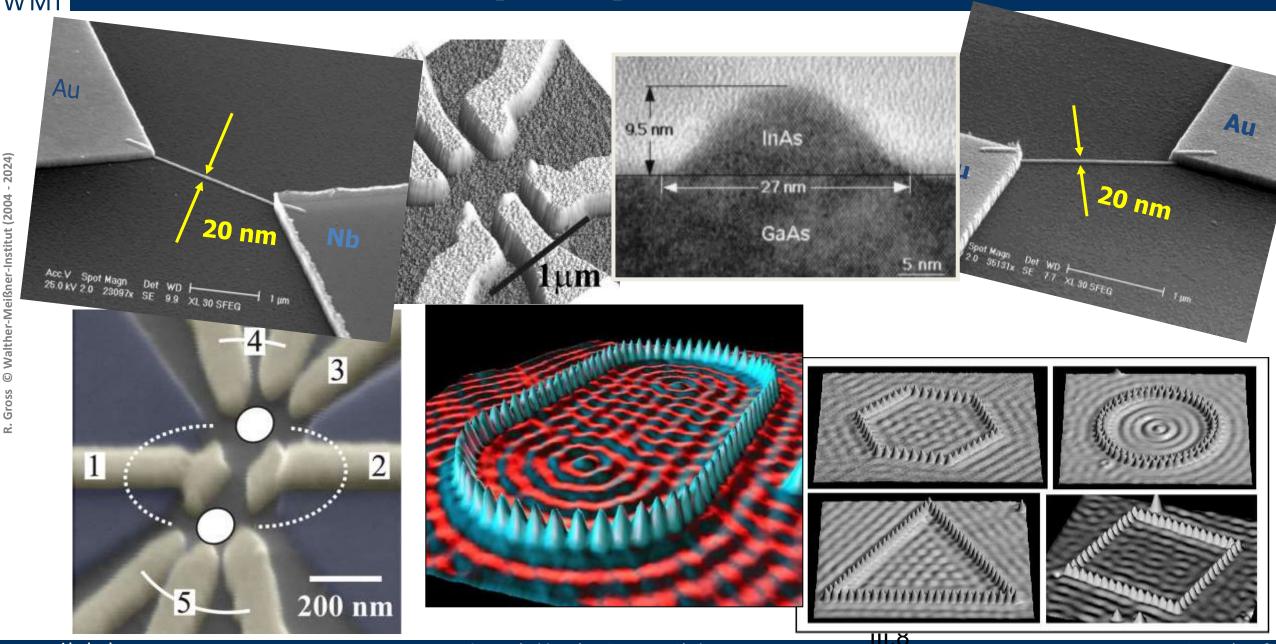
- mesoscopic systems (coined by Van Kampen in 1981): mesos (Greek): between
  - system size is between microscopic (e.g. atom, molecule) and macroscopic system (e.g. bulk solid)
  - system size L is smaller than phase coherence length  $L_{\phi}$  (typically in nm  $\mu$ m regime)
    - → phenomena related to phase coherence become important
    - → statistical concepts no longer applicable due to smallness of system size
    - → still coupling to environment/reservoir present (in contrast to microscopic objects such as atoms)

- properties of mesoscopic systems are usually studied at low temperatures
  - phase coherence length  $L_{oldsymbol{\phi}}$  decreases rapidly with increasing T
    - $ightharpoonup L < L_{\phi}$  can usually be satisfied only at low T
  - observation of level quantization effects require  $k_{\rm B}T < \Delta E \simeq 1/L^2$





# II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems



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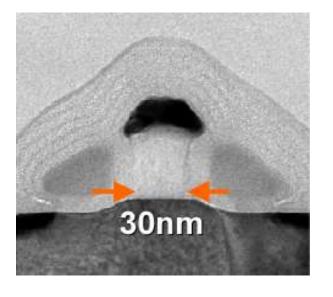
# **Mesoscopic Systems**





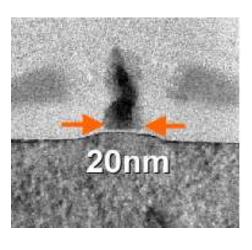
# II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems

### miniaturization of electronic devices

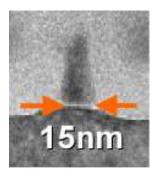


65 nm process 2005

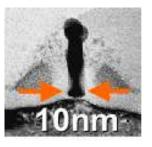
### gate length of transistors



45 nm process 2007



32 nm 2009



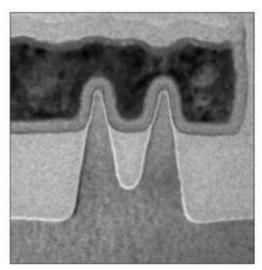
22 nm 2011

(Source: Intel Inc.)

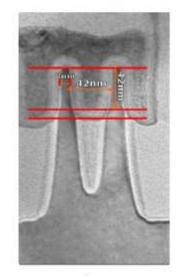


# II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems

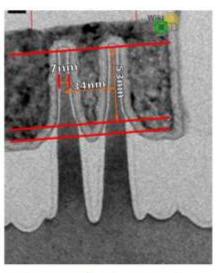
### Transistor Fin Improvement



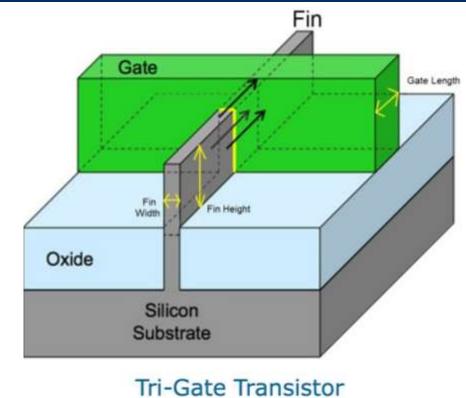
22 nm 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Tri-gate Transistor



14 nm 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Tri-gate Transistor



10 nm 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Tri-gate Transistor



Gate Fin



## II.1.3 Characteristic Length Scales

from microscopic to macroscopic systems

### microscopic ↔ mesoscopic ↔ macroscopic

Fermi wave length:  $\lambda_F < 1 \text{ nm}$  (for metals)

→ "size" of charge carrier

electron mean free path:  $\ell \approx 10 - 100 \text{ nm}$ 

→ distance between (elastic) scattering events

phase coherence length:  $L_{\varphi} \approx 1 \mu \text{m}$ 

→ loss of phase memory

sample size:  $L, W \approx 0.01 - 1 \mu \text{m}$ 

mesoscopic regime:

 $L < L_{\varphi}(T)$ 

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# II.1.3 Characteristic Length Scales

1 mm

mean free path in the Quantum Hall regime

100 μm

mean free path / phase coherence length in high mobility semiconductors at  $T < 4 \, \mathrm{K}$ 

10 μm

phase coherence length in clean metal films

 $1 \mu m$ 

size of commercial semiconductor devices

100 nm

Fermi wave length in semiconductors

10 nm

mean free path in polycrystalline metal films

1 nm

Fermi wave length in metals

0.1 nm

distance between atoms



## II.1.3 Characteristic Length Scales

electron wavelength:

$$\lambda_{ ext{F}} = rac{h}{\sqrt{2m^{\star}arepsilon_{ ext{F}}}} = rac{2\pi}{\left(3\pi^{2}n
ight)^{1/3}}$$

(Fermi wavelength)

mean free path:

$$\ell = v_{\mathrm{F}} \cdot \tau_{m}$$

$$\ell = v_{\rm F} \cdot \tau_m$$
  $\tau_m^{-1} = \tau_c^{-1} \cdot \alpha_m \leftarrow$  effectiveness of collision:  $0 < \alpha_m < 1$  collision time

ballistic

$$L_{oldsymbol{arphi}}=oldsymbol{v}_{ extsf{F}}oldsymbol{ au}_{oldsymbol{arphi}}$$

phase relaxation length: 
$$L_{\varphi} = v_{\rm F} \tau_{\varphi}$$
  $\tau_{\varphi}^{-1} = \tau_{c}^{-1} \cdot \alpha_{\varphi} \leftarrow$  effectiveness of collision in destroying phase coherence:  $0 < \alpha_{\varphi} < 1$ 

diffusive 
$$\longrightarrow$$
  $L_{\varphi} = \sqrt{D\tau_{\varphi}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}v_{\rm F}^2\tau_m\tau_{\varphi}}$ 

ightarrow elastic impurity scattering:  $au_{arphi}
ightarrow\infty$  or  $lpha_{arphi}
ightarrow0$ 

$$\tau_{\varphi} \to \infty$$
 or  $\alpha_{\varphi} \to 0$ 

 $\rightarrow$  electron-phonon scattering:  $\tau_{\omega} \approx \tau_{e-ph}$  ??

$$au_{\varphi} pprox au_{e-ph}$$
 ??

 $\rightarrow$  electron-electron scattering:  $\tau_{\omega} \approx \tau_{e-e}$ ??

$$au_{\varphi} pprox au_{e-e}$$
 ??

→ electron-impuritiy scattering

(with internal degree of freedom, e.g. spin)



# II.1.3 Characteristic Length Scales

- **question**: what is the effectiveness of an **inelastic** scattering process regarding destruction of phase coherence?
  - Altshuler, Aronov, Khmelnitsky (1982):

if  $\hbar\omega$  is the characteristic energy of an *inelastic process* (e.g. phonon energy), then the mean-squared energy spread of electron after collisions is

$$\langle \Delta E \rangle^2 = (\hbar \omega)^2 \frac{\tau_{\varphi}}{\tau_c}$$
 number of scattering events

square of energy change

 $au_{\omega}$  is time required to acquire a phase change of  $pprox 2\pi$ 

$$\Delta \varphi \approx \frac{\Delta E}{\hbar} \tau_{\varphi} \approx 2\pi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tau_{\varphi} \approx \left(\frac{\tau_{c}}{\omega^{2}}\right)^{1/3}$$

*low-frequency excitations* are less effective in destroying phase coherence!!

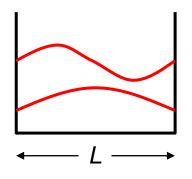
at low T: e-e scattering is dominating



### **II.1.4** Characteristic Energy Scales

### size quantization

electron in a box:



level spacing:

$$\Delta E = \frac{h^2}{2m^*} \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)^2$$

Fermi wavelength:

$$\lambda_{\rm F} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2m^*\varepsilon_{\rm F}}} = \frac{2\pi}{(3\pi^2n)^{1/3}}$$

if 
$$\lambda_{\rm F} > L_x$$
,  $L_y$ ,  $L_z$ 

→ reduction of dimension by *size quantization* 

$$3D \rightarrow 2D \rightarrow 1D \rightarrow 0D$$

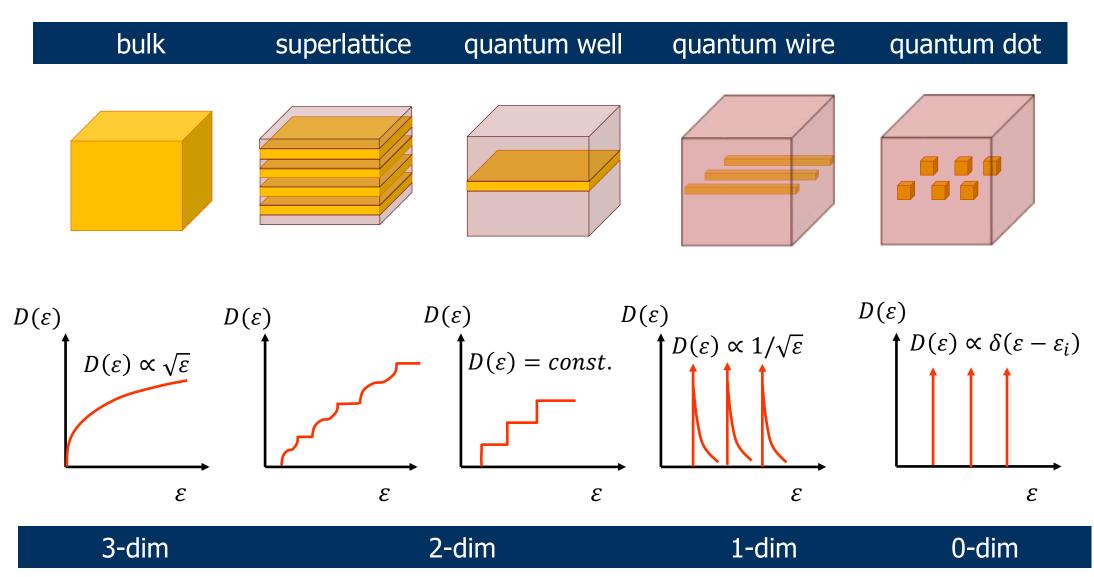
for metals: for semiconductors:  $n \approx 10^{22} - 10^{23} \, \mathrm{cm}^{-3} \rightarrow \lambda_{\mathrm{F}} \approx 1 \, \mathrm{nm}$  $n \approx 10^{16} - 10^{19} \, \text{cm}^{-3} \rightarrow \lambda_{\text{F}} \approx 10 - 100 \, \text{nm}$ 

- single charge/flux effects:  $\frac{e^2}{2C} > k_B T$ ,  $\frac{\Phi_0^2}{2L} > k_B T$ 

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# II.1.4 Characteristic Energy Scales

size quantization: DOS in 3D, 2D, 1D, and 0D



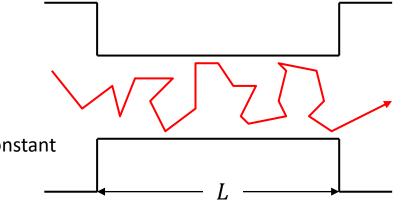


## II.1.4 Characteristic Energy Scales

### Thouless energy

 how long does it take for an electron to diffuse through a sample of length L

$$L = \sqrt{Dt}$$
  $t = \frac{L^2}{D}$   $D = v^2 \tau$ : diffusion constant

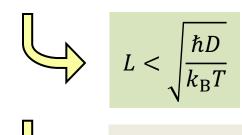


mean diffusion time is related to the characteristic energy (uncertainty relation)

$$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{Th}} = \frac{\hbar}{t} = \frac{\hbar D}{L^2}$$
 (Thouless energy)

ballistic transport regime (see below):

macroscopic samples:  $\varepsilon_{\rm Th} \ll k_{\rm B}T$ mesoscopic samples:  $\varepsilon_{\rm Th} > k_{\rm B}T$ 





- low T
- small L
- clean samples (large D)

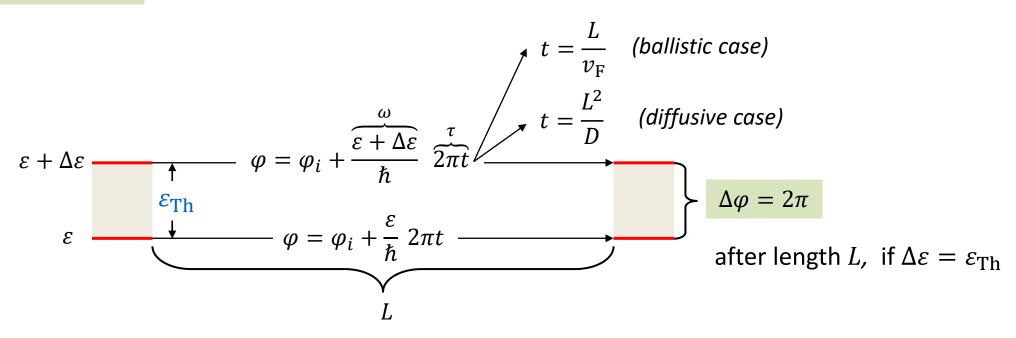


# II.1.4 Characteristic Energy Scales

physical meaning of the Thouless energy

$$\varepsilon_{\rm Th} = \frac{\hbar}{t} = \frac{\hbar D}{L^2}$$

 $\varepsilon_{\rm Th} = \frac{\hbar}{t} = \frac{\hbar D}{L^2}$   $\rightarrow$  electrons in energy interval  $\Delta \varepsilon = \varepsilon_{\rm Th}$  stay phase coherent in sample of length L

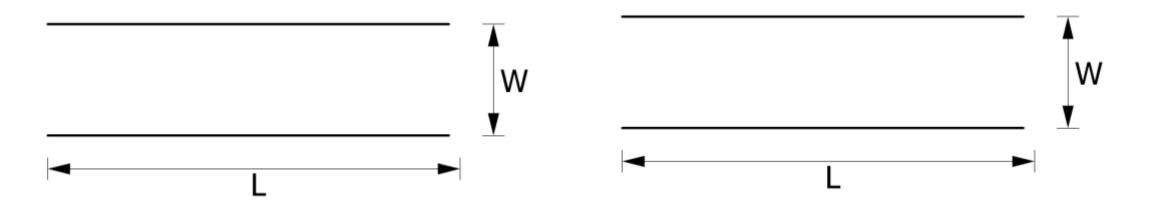


if  $\Delta \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_{\rm Th}$ , the acquired phase shift is less than  $2\pi$ 

example:  $D = 10^3$  cm<sup>2</sup>/s,  $L = 1 \,\mu\text{m}$   $\rightarrow \varepsilon_{\text{Th}} / k_{\text{B}} \approx 1 \,\text{K}$ 



# II.1.5 Transport Regimes



| macroscopic sample           | mesoscopic sample           |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| diffusive: $L, W \gg \ell$   | ballistic: $L, W < \ell$    |  |
|                              | quasi-ballistic: $W<\ell$   |  |
| incoherent: $L\gg L_{arphi}$ | coherent: $L < L_{\varphi}$ |  |

- @ 300 K:  $\ell \sim 10$  nm due to e-ph scattering
- @ at low T:  $\ell$  is limited by impurity and e-e scattering  $\rightarrow$  sample quality matters
- $L_{\varphi}$  is limited by inelastic processes: e-ph and e-e scattering:

strong T dependence:  $L_{\varphi}$  increases with decreasing T

 $L_{\varphi} \approx 1 \,\mu m$  @ 1K



### **Contents Part II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

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### **II.2**

### 2 Description of Electron Transport by Scattering of Waves

### **II.2.1 Electron Waves and Waveguides**

(true only in vacuum)

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \exp\left(\iota \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \frac{\iota}{\hbar} \varepsilon(\mathbf{k})t\right)$$

 $\Psi(\mathbf{r},t)$  wave function

 $|\Psi(\mathbf{r},t)|^2$  probability to find electron at position  $\mathbf{r}$  at time t

V normalization volume

k wave vector

 $\mathbf{p} = \hbar \mathbf{k}$  momentum

 $\varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m}$  energy



electrons as fermions:

- → Pauli principle (state either occupied by single electron or empty)
- $\rightarrow$  density of states in k-space:  $2\frac{V}{(2\pi)^3}$  (factor 2 due to spin)
- $\rightarrow$  fraction of filled states:  $f(\mathbf{k}, T)$ 
  - important quantities:

density energy density = 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \rho \\ \varepsilon \\ \mathbf{J} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{2} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) \\ e\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}) \end{bmatrix} f(\mathbf{k})$$

f determined by statistics:

$$f(\mathbf{k}, T) = \left[ \exp\left(\frac{\varepsilon(\mathbf{k}) - \mu}{k_{\rm B}T}\right) + 1 \right]$$

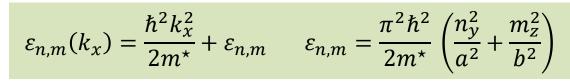
Fermi statistics for electrons

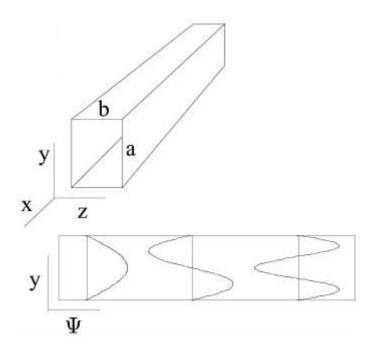


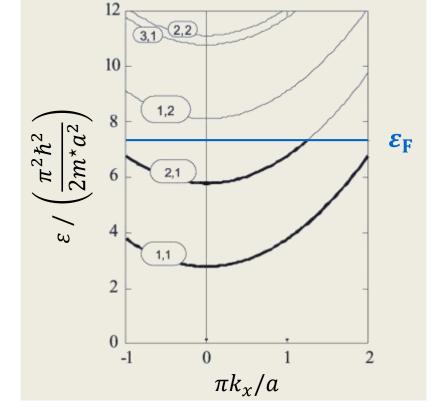
- ballistic conductor as waveguide
  - **example**: 1D free motion of charge carriers, e.g. in x-direction with confinement in y, z-direction

$$\Psi_{k_x,n,m}(r,t) = \phi_{n,m}(y,z) \exp[i(k_x x - \omega t)]$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad plane \ wave \qquad mode \ index \ n,m \qquad standing \ wave \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad$$



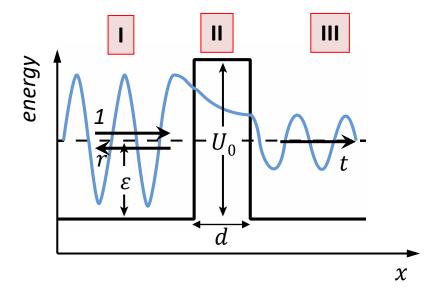




Source: Handouts Nazarov, TU Delft



wave guide with potential barrier



$$\varepsilon_{n,m}(k_x) = \frac{\hbar^2 k_x^2}{2m^*} + \varepsilon_{n,m}(0)$$

$$\varepsilon_{n,m}(k_x) - U_0 = \frac{\hbar^2 \kappa^2}{2m^*}$$

$$\Psi(x) = 1 \cdot \exp(ik_x x) + r \cdot \exp(-ik_x x)$$

$$\Psi(x) = A \cdot \exp(i\kappa x) + B \cdot \exp(-i\kappa x)$$

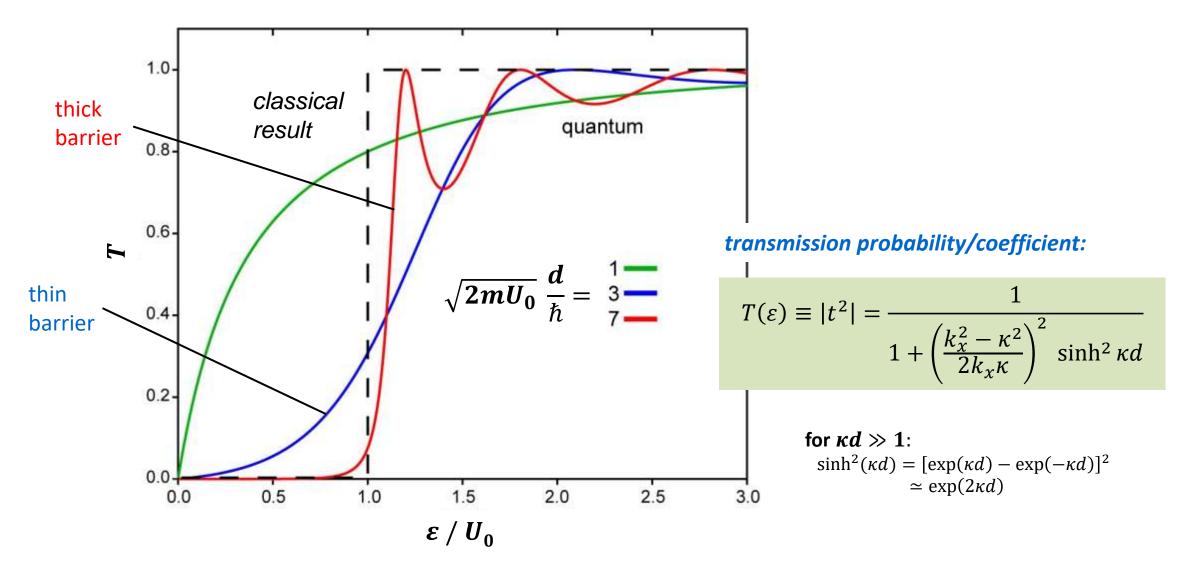
$$\mathbf{III} \quad \Psi(x) = t \cdot \exp(ik_x x)$$

### 4 unknown variables:

A, B, r, t t: transmission amplitude r: reflection amplitude

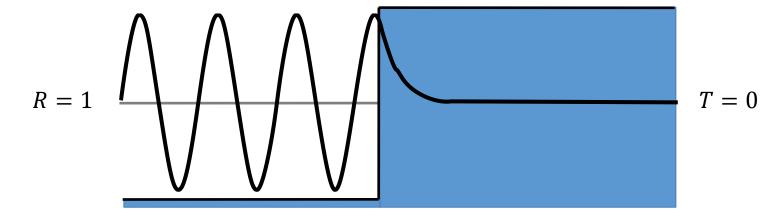
# **4 equations** (wave function matching at interfaces)





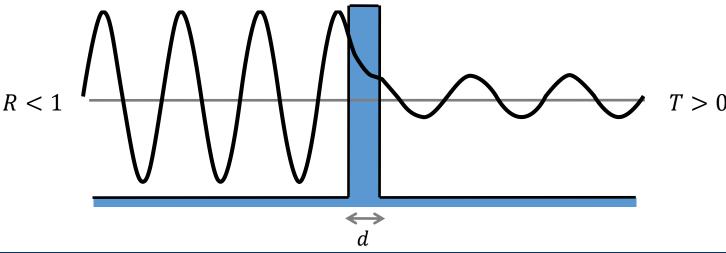


- quantum tunneling through a thin potential barrier
  - total reflection at boundary (barrier with infinite thickness)



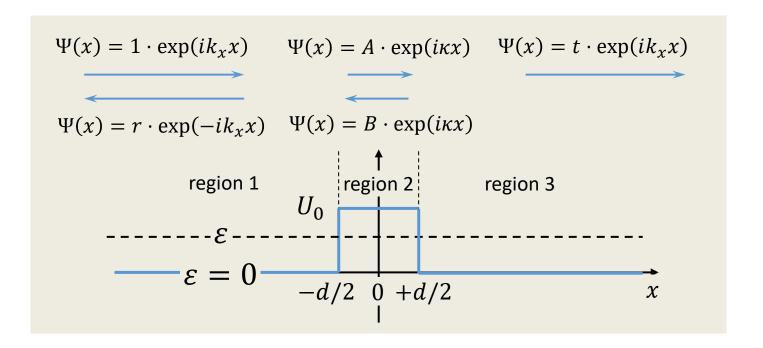
partial reflection/tunneling

at barrier of finite thickness





quantum tunneling through a thin potential barrier: a rectangular barrier



- in regions 1 and 3: 
$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\Psi}{\partial x^2} = \varepsilon \,\Psi(x) \qquad \qquad k_x^2 = \frac{2m\varepsilon}{\hbar^2}$$

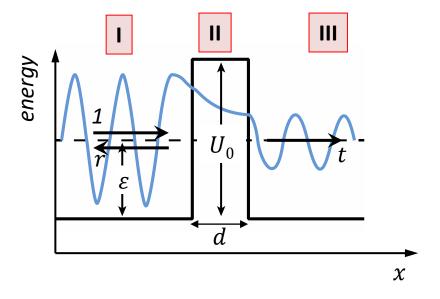
$$k_{x}^{2} = \frac{2m\varepsilon}{\hbar^{2}}$$

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{\partial^2\Psi}{\partial x^2} = (\varepsilon - U_0)\,\Psi(x) \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \kappa^2 = \frac{2m(\varepsilon - U_0)}{\hbar^2}$$

$$\kappa^2 = \frac{2m(\varepsilon - U_0)}{\hbar^2}$$



quantum tunneling through a thin potential barrier: a rectangular barrier



$$T(\varepsilon) \equiv |t^2| = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{k_{\chi}^2 - \kappa^2}{2k_{\chi}\kappa}\right)^2 \sinh^2 \kappa d}$$

$$T(\varepsilon) \equiv |t^2| = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{U_0^2}{4\varepsilon(U_0 - \varepsilon)} \sinh^2 \kappa d}$$

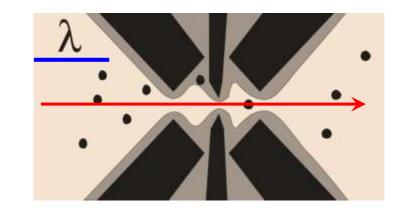
for  $\kappa d \gg 1$ :  $\sinh^2(\kappa d) = [\exp(\kappa d) - \exp(-\kappa d)]^2 \simeq \exp(2\kappa d)$ 

$$T(\varepsilon) \equiv |t^2| = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{U_0^2}{4\varepsilon(U_0 - \varepsilon)} \exp(2\kappa d)}$$



modelling of nanostructures as complex waveguides

→ transport channels + potential barrier

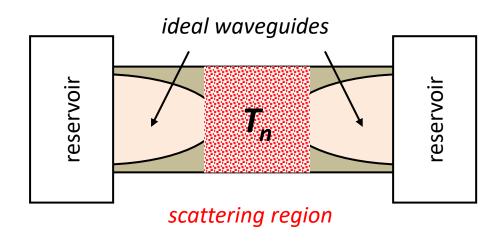


description of transport by a set of transmission coefficients  $T_n$ 

### sufficient to describe transport !!

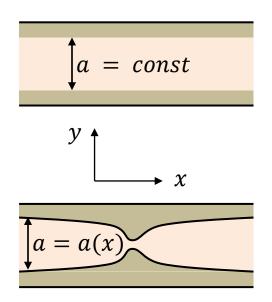
### examples:

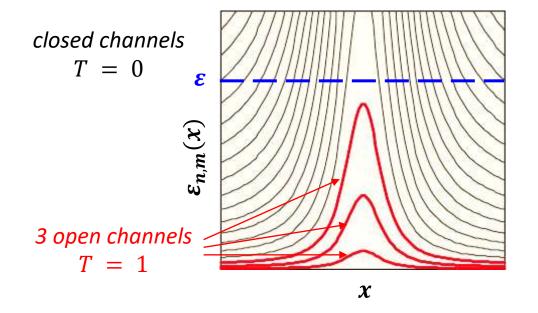
- adiabatic quantum transport
- quantum point contact





- modelling of nanostructures as complex waveguides
  - example: adiabatic quantum transport  $\rightarrow$  constriction as a potential barrier





$$\varepsilon_{n,m}(k_x, x) = \frac{\hbar^2 k_x^2}{2m^*} + \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m^*} \left( \frac{n_y^2}{a^2(x)} + \frac{m_z^2}{b^2(x)} \right)$$

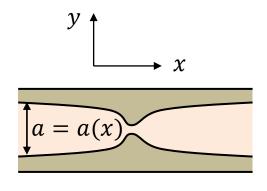
### adiabatic waveguide:

variation of dimensions occurs on length scale large compared to width

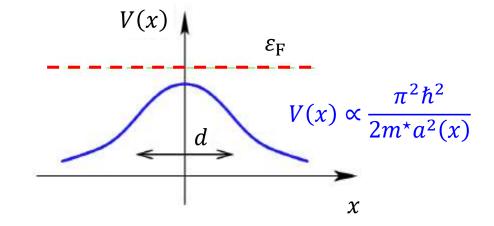
→ waveguide walls can be assumed parallel locally



- modelling of nanostructures as complex waveguides
  - example: adiabatic quantum transport → constriction as a potential barrier



$$\varepsilon_{n,m}(k_x, x) = \frac{\hbar^2 k_x^2}{2m^*} + \underbrace{\frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2m^*} \left( \frac{n_y^2}{a^2(x)} + \frac{m_z^2}{b^2(x)} \right)}_{=V(x)}$$



parabolic approximation of potential step

$$V(x) \simeq V_0 - \frac{1}{2} m\Omega^2 x^2$$

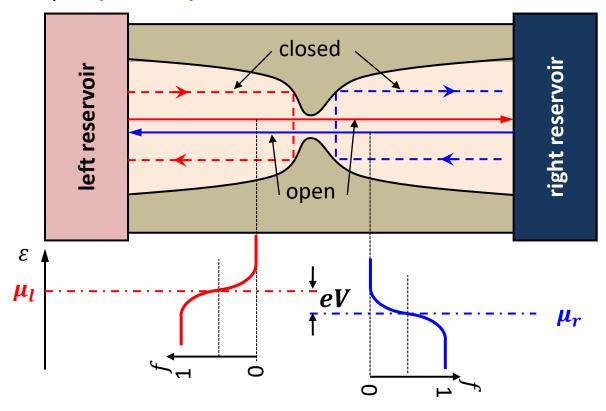
transmission probability:

$$T(\varepsilon_{\rm F}) = \frac{1}{\exp\left(-\frac{2\pi\varepsilon_{\rm F}}{\hbar\Omega}\right) + 1}$$

E.C. Kemble, 1935



- modelling of nanostructures as complex waveguides
  - example: quantum point contact



net current:

$$I = I_l - I_r$$

$$spin$$

$$I_l = T \frac{2}{2\pi} \int dk_x \, ev_x \, f_l(k_x)$$

$$I_r = T \frac{2}{2\pi} \int dk_x \, ev_x \, f_r(k_x)$$

$$v_{x} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial k_{x}}$$

open channel: T=1

closed channel: T = 0

$$I = \frac{2e}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{\text{open ch}} \int d\varepsilon \left[ f_l(\varepsilon) - f_r(\varepsilon) \right] = \frac{2e}{2\pi\hbar} \ N_{\text{open}} \ \underbrace{\left( \mu_l - \mu_r \right)}_{=eV} = 2 \underbrace{\frac{e^2}{\hbar}}_{=G_Q} N_{\text{open}} V$$

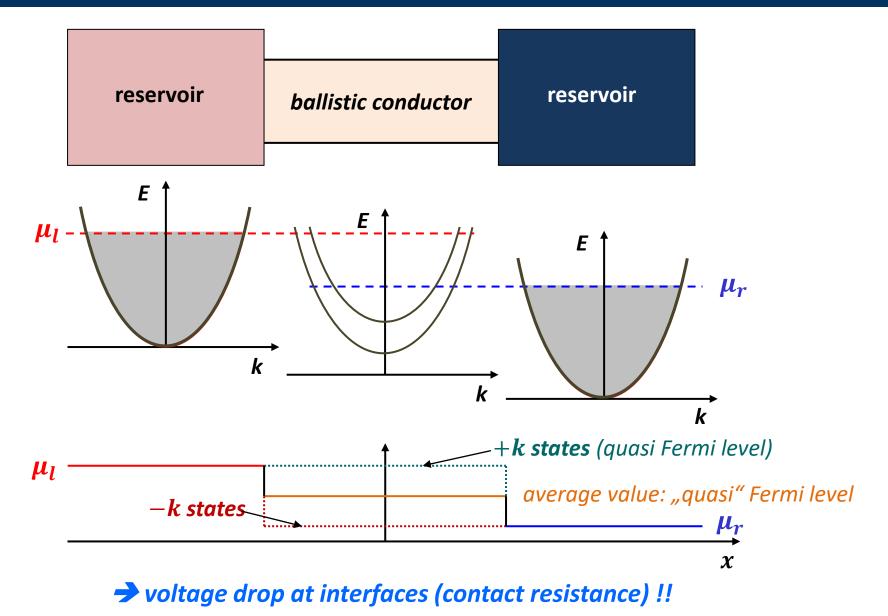
quantized conductance!!



- what is the meaning of the quantity  $G = \frac{I}{V} = 2 \frac{e^2}{h} N_{\text{open}} = 2 G_Q N_{\text{open}}$ 
  - for ballistic transport and reflectionless contacts (T=1) there should not be any resistance!
  - where does the resistance come from?
    - → contact resistance from the interface between the ballistic conductor and the contact pads
    - resistance is denoted as *contact resistance*

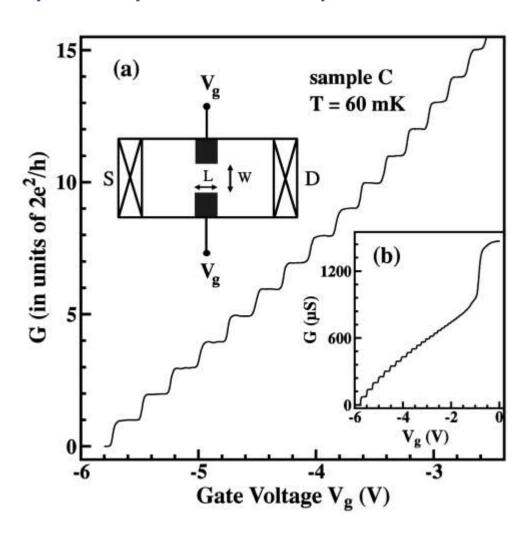
$$G_c^{-1} = \frac{h}{e^2} \frac{1}{2N_{\rm open}} = G_Q^{-1} \frac{1}{2N_{\rm open}}$$
number of available modes
quantum resistance
25 812.807  $\Omega$  = 1 Klitzing

 $G_0$  determined by fundamental constants, does not depend on materials properties, geometry or size of nanostructure





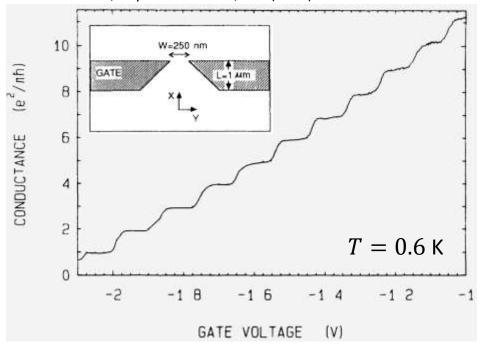
quantum point contact: experimental results

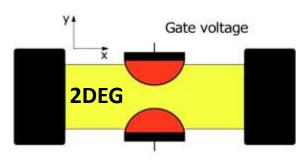


K.J. Thomas et al., Phys. Rev. B **58**, 4846 (1998)

### first experiment by

Van Wees et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 60, 848 (1988)

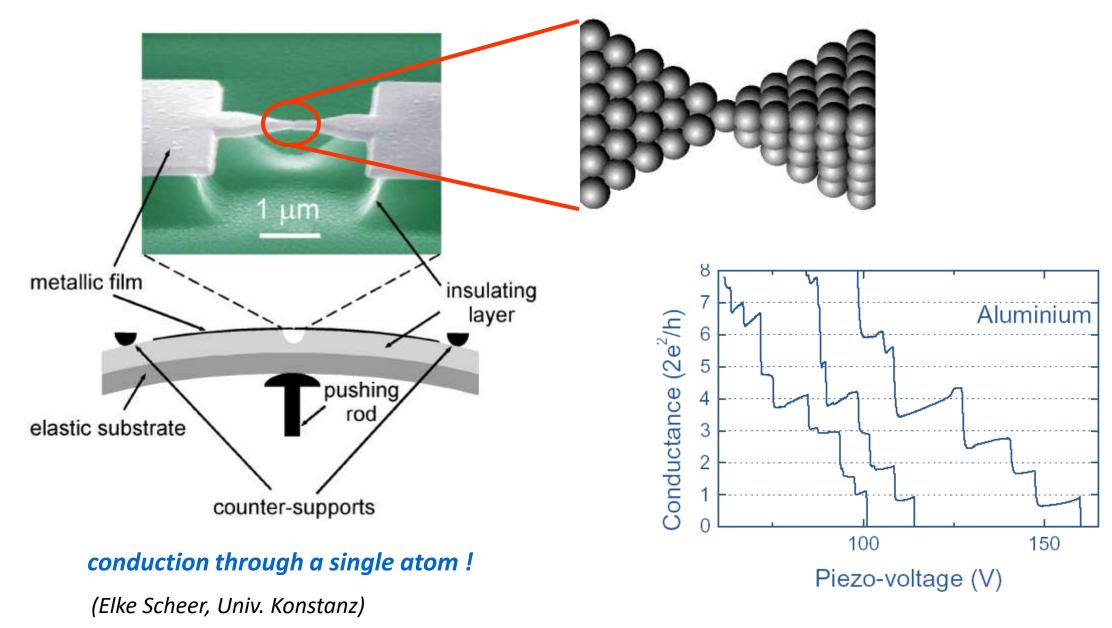




increasing gate voltage narrows channel  $\rightarrow$  reduction of  $N_{\text{open}}$ 

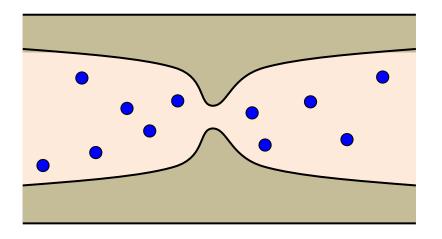


# II.2.1 Electron Waves and Waveguides





- considered examples have been too simple: T only 1 (open) or 0 (closed)
- more complicated situation: ideal sample + scattering sites



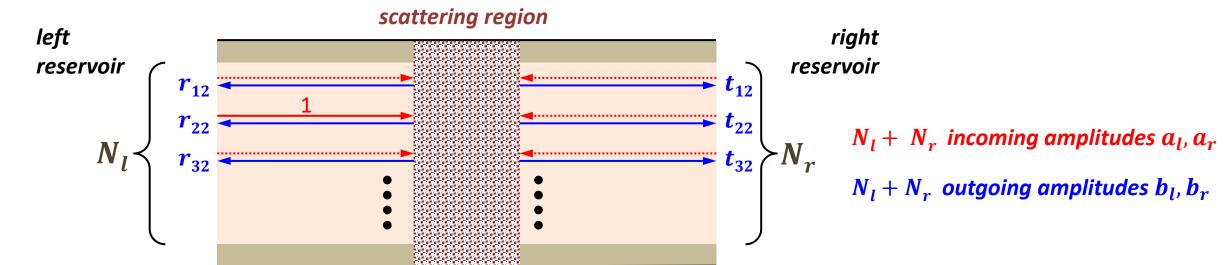
transmission probability of the different modes will no longer be only 0 or 1

"dusty waveguide"

$$0 \leq T \leq 1$$

- T represents the average probability that an electron injected at one end will be transmitted to the other end
- treatment of the situation by a scattering matrix





$$\mathbf{b} = \hat{\mathbf{s}} \; \mathbf{a} \qquad \qquad \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_l \\ \mathbf{b}_r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{ll} & \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{tr} \\ \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{rl} & \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{rr} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_l \\ \mathbf{a}_r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{r} & \hat{t}' \\ \hat{t} & \hat{r}' \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_l \\ \mathbf{a}_r \end{bmatrix}$$
scattering matrix
$$\mathbf{s}_{cattering \ matrix}$$

→ relates amplitudes of outgoing waves with those of incoming waves

#### transfer matrix $\widehat{M}$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_r \\ \mathbf{a}_r \end{bmatrix} = \widehat{M} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_l \\ \mathbf{b}_l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{t} - \widehat{r}' \widehat{t}'^{-1} \widehat{r} & \widehat{r}' \widehat{t}'^{-1} \\ -\widehat{t}'^{-1} \widehat{r}' & \widehat{t}'^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_l \\ \mathbf{b}_l \end{bmatrix}$$

relates amplitudes of waves right of the scatterer with those left of the scatterer

→ "transfers" states across the scatterer



properties of the scattering matrix

$$\hat{s} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{r} & \hat{t}' \\ \hat{t} & \hat{r}' \end{bmatrix}$$

for given time reversal symmetry:  $\hat{t}^T = \hat{t}'$   $\hat{s}^T = \hat{s}$ 

$$\hat{t}^T = \hat{t}'$$

$$\hat{s}^T = \hat{s}$$

symmetric matrix

electrons do not disappear:

$$\sum_{n'} |r_{nn'}|^2 + \sum_{m} |t_{mn}|^2 = (\hat{s}^{\dagger} \hat{s})_{nn} = 1$$

$$T_n = (t^{\dagger} \hat{t})$$
conjugate transpose of  $\hat{s}$ 

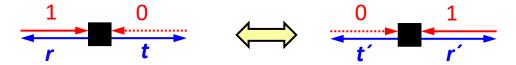


$$\hat{s}^{\dagger}\hat{s} = \hat{1}$$

unitary matrix



- properties of the scattering matrix
  - example: *one channel scatterer*



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_{l} \\ \mathbf{b}_{r} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{r} & t' \\ t & r' \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{l} \\ \mathbf{a}_{r} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$r, t, r', t' \text{ are } \frac{complex numbers}{condition of unitarity}$$

$$r = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{\mathbf{a}_{r}}$$

→ only three independent parameters

$$\hat{s} = \begin{bmatrix} r & t' \\ t & r' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{R} e^{i\theta} & \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} \\ \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} & -\sqrt{R} e^{i(2\eta - \theta)} \end{bmatrix} \qquad R = |r|^2 = 1 - |t|^2 = 1 - T$$

$$R = |r|^2 = 1 - |t|^2 = 1 - 7$$

follows from condition of unitarity

- the phases  $\theta$  and  $\eta$  do not manisfest themselves in transport across a single scatterer
  - → lead to quantum interference effects in multi-scatterer configurations



 $\hat{S}^{\dagger}\hat{S} = \hat{1}$ properties of the scattering matrix: condition of unitarity:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{r}^{\star} & \hat{t}'^{\star} \\ \hat{t}^{\star} & \hat{r}'^{\star} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \hat{r} & \hat{t} \\ \hat{t}' & \hat{r}' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{=1}{|r|^2 + |t'|^2} & \frac{=0}{r^{\star}t + t'^{\star}r'} \\ \frac{t^{\star}r + r'^{\star}t'}{=0} & \frac{|t|^2 + |r'|^2}{=1} \end{bmatrix} = \hat{1}$$

$$\hat{s} = \begin{bmatrix} r & t' \\ t & r' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{R} e^{i\theta} & \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} \\ \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} & -\sqrt{R} e^{i(2\eta - \theta)} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{s} = \begin{bmatrix} r & t' \\ t & r' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{R} e^{i\theta} & \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} \\ \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} & -\sqrt{R} e^{i(2\eta - \theta)} \end{bmatrix}$$

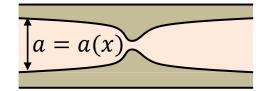
(i) 
$$r^*t + t'^*r' = 0$$
 
$$\sqrt{R}e^{-i\theta}\sqrt{T}e^{i\eta} - \sqrt{T}e^{-i\eta}\sqrt{R}e^{i(2\eta - \theta)} =$$
 
$$\sqrt{T}Re^{-i(\theta - \eta)} - \sqrt{T}Re^{-i(\theta - \eta)} = 0 ext{ !!}$$

(ii) 
$$t^*r + r'^*t' = 0$$
 
$$\sqrt{T} e^{-i\eta} \cdot \sqrt{R} e^{i\theta} - \sqrt{R} e^{-i(2\eta - \theta)} \cdot \sqrt{T} e^{i\eta} =$$
 
$$\sqrt{TR} e^{i(\theta - \eta)} - \sqrt{TR} e^{i(\theta - \eta)} = 0 \quad !!$$



- description of transport properties by scattering matrix
  - expression for the current:

$$I = 2 e \sum_{n} \sum_{k_x} v_x(k_x) f_n(k_x) = 2e \sum_{n} \int_{\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk_x}{2\pi} v_x(k_x) f_n(k_x)$$
 spin ocuppation sum over transport channels probability



- occupation probabilities for right- and left-moving electrons (for current in the left waveguide):
  - i.  $k_x > 0$ :  $f_l(\varepsilon)$ (electrons moving to the right)
  - ii.  $k_r < 0$ :  $R_n f_l(\varepsilon) + (1 R_n) f_r(\varepsilon)$  (electrons moving to the left)

$$I = 2e \sum_{n} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) f_{l}(\varepsilon) + \int_{-\infty}^{0} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) \left[ R_{n} f_{l}(\varepsilon) + (1 - R_{n}) f_{r}(\varepsilon) \right] \right\}$$

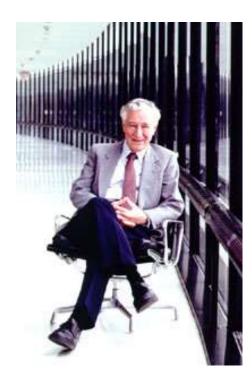
$$\sum_{n} (t^{\dagger} \hat{t})_{nn} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[t^{\dagger} \hat{t}\right]$$

$$1 - R_n = \sum_{m} |t_{mn}|^2 = T_n = (t^{\dagger} \hat{t})_{nn}$$
$$\sum_{n} (t^{\dagger} \hat{t})_{nn} = \operatorname{Tr} [t^{\dagger} \hat{t}]$$

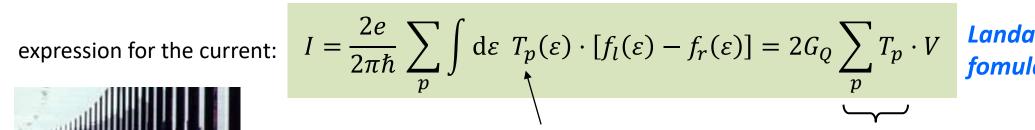
$$I = 2e \sum_{n} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) (1 - R_{n}) [f_{l}(\varepsilon) - f_{r}(\varepsilon)] \underset{\mathrm{d}k_{x} = \mathrm{d}\varepsilon/\hbar v_{x}}{=} \frac{2e}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\varepsilon \operatorname{Tr} \left[ t^{\dagger} \hat{t} \right] [f_{l}(\varepsilon) - f_{r}(\varepsilon)]$$



- description of transport properties by scattering matrix
  - Tr  $[t^{\dagger}\hat{t}]$  can be represented by sum of ,transmission' eigenvalues  $T_p$  of Hermitian matrix  $\hat{t}^{\dagger}\hat{t}$  (for each energy  $\varepsilon$ )

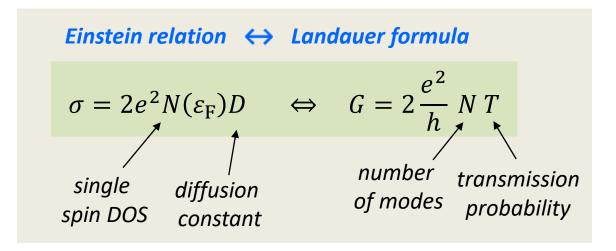


Rolf Wilhelm (William) Landauer born 4. February 1927 in Stuttgart † 27. April 1999 in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.



can usually assumed to be independent of  $\varepsilon$ 

this gives just the number of open channels, if  $T_p$  is either 0 or 1



Landauer formula → 'mesoscopic version' of Einstein relation



- description of transport properties by scattering matrix: plausibility consideration
  - consider a conductor with a single conduction channel
  - reservoir biased at V sends out the following number of electrons:

$$N(t) = \underbrace{Z(k)\Delta k}_{\text{number}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\Delta \varepsilon}{\Delta k}}_{\text{velocity}} \cdot \underbrace{t}_{\text{time}} = \frac{\overset{\text{spin}}{2}}{2\pi} \Delta k \cdot \frac{eV}{\hbar \Delta k} \cdot t = 2 \cdot \frac{eV}{h} \cdot t$$

$$emission frequency$$

- the chance to pass is  $T_0$ , then the passed charge is just  $\,Q(t)=eT_0N(t)\,$
- the average current is charge per time:

$$I = \frac{Q}{t} = 2\frac{e^2}{h} T_0 V$$

$$I = 2G_Q \sum_p T_p \ V$$

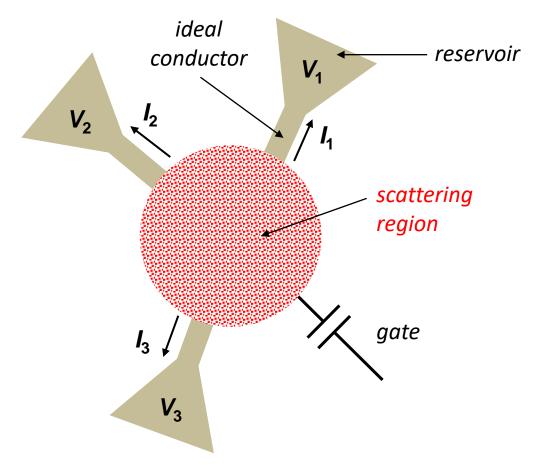


description of transport properties by scattering matrix: limitations and restrictions

- restrictions:
  - → only *elastic* scattering (electrons pass the conductor at constant energy)
  - → no interactions between electrons
- limitations:
  - → low temperatures and low voltages
  - → short conductors (shorter then inelastic scattering length)



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - so far discussion of two-terminal systems, extension to multi-terminal conductors?

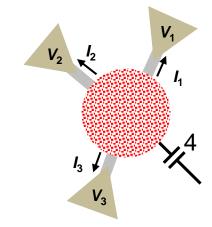


how to express currents in terms of voltages using the Landauer formalism?



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - conduction matrix  $G_{kl}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} I_1 \\ \vdots \\ I_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{11} & \cdots & G_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G_{n1} & \cdots & G_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ \vdots \\ V_n \end{pmatrix}$$



$$I_k = \sum_l G_{kl} V_l$$

- properties of conduction matrix:
  - → current conservation (Kirchhoff's law):

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} I_k = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^{n} G_{kl} = 0$$

sum of conduction coefficients in each column must be zero

→ no current, if potential is shifted by the same amount in all leads

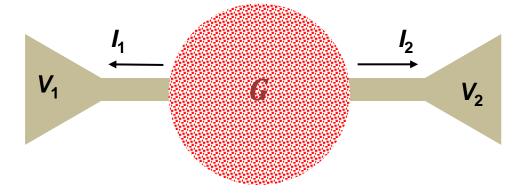
$$\sum_{l=1}^{n} G_{kl} = 0$$

sum of conduction coefficients in each row must be zero

consequence of the sum rules: currents  $I_k$  voltage differences



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - simplest case: two-terminal conductor



– the conduction matrix only has a single independent element:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_1 \\ I_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -G & G \\ G & -G \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$I_1 = G(V_2 - V_1)$$

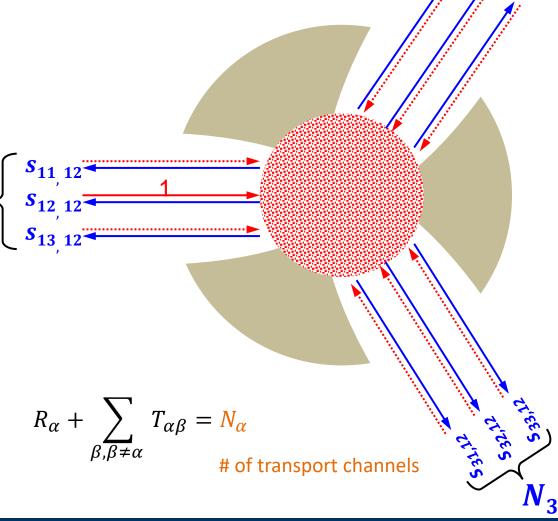
$$V_2 = G(V_1 - V_2)$$



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - scattering matrix for *multi-terminal* conductors
  - number of modes:  $N = N_1 + N_2 + N_3 + \cdots$ → scattering matrix is  $N \times N$  matrix
  - meaning of  $s_{\beta m,\alpha n}$ :  $b_{\beta m} = s_{\beta m,\alpha n} \; a_{\alpha n}$ 
    - $\rightarrow$  propagation amplitude from terminal  $\alpha$ , transport channel n, to the terminal  $\beta$ , transport channel m
  - transmission probability from lead  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ :
  - reflection probability from lead  $\alpha$  into  $\alpha$ :

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{\beta}} \left| s_{\alpha n, \beta m} \right|^2$$

$$R_{\alpha} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \left| s_{\alpha n, \alpha m} \right|^2$$





- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - properties of scattering matrix:

 $\rightarrow$  reflection back into same lead  $\alpha$ :  $S_{\alpha n,\alpha m}$ 

 $\rightarrow$  transmission from lead  $\beta$  to lead  $\alpha$ :  $s_{\alpha n,\beta m}$ 

current conservation requires

$$\hat{s}^{\dagger}\hat{s} = \hat{1}$$

 $\hat{s}^{\dagger}\hat{s} = \hat{1}$  (unitary matrix)

$$\sum_{\alpha n} s_{\alpha n, \gamma l}^* \ s_{\alpha n, \beta m} = \delta_{\gamma \beta} \delta_{lm}$$

- time reversibility relation
  - $\triangleright$  we know: if  $\Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{B})$  solves Schrödinger equation then also  $\Psi^*(\mathbf{r}, -\mathbf{B})$
  - $\triangleright$  application to asymptotic scattering states: taking complex conjugate of scattering state b, then the incoming state a becomes the complex conjugate of  $b^* \rightarrow$  corresponds to reversal of time direction

$$b = s(\mathbf{B})a \Rightarrow b^* = s^*(\mathbf{B}) a^*$$

$$a^* = s(-\mathbf{B})b^* \Rightarrow s^{-1}(-\mathbf{B})a^* = s^{-1}(-\mathbf{B})s(-\mathbf{B})b^* \Rightarrow s^{-1}(-\mathbf{B})a^* = b^*$$

$$\Rightarrow s^{-1}(-\mathbf{B}) = s^*(\mathbf{B}) = s^*(\mathbf{B})$$
due to unitarity

$$s_{\alpha n,\beta m}(\mathbf{B}) = s_{\beta m,\alpha n}(-\mathbf{B})$$



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - sum rules:

$$R_{\alpha} + \sum_{\beta,\beta \neq \alpha} T_{\alpha\beta} = N_{\alpha}$$
 # of transport channels in lead  $\alpha$ 

$$R_{eta} + \sum_{lpha, lpha 
eq eta} T_{etalpha} = N_{eta}$$
 # of transport channels in lead  $eta$ 

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{\beta}} \left| s_{\alpha n, \beta m} \right|^2$$

$$R_{\alpha} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \left| s_{\alpha n, \alpha m} \right|^2$$

example: **two-terminal conductor** 

$$\beta = 1 \quad \beta = 2 \quad \sum =$$

$$\alpha = 1 \quad R_1 \quad T_{12} \quad N_1$$

$$\alpha = 2 \quad T_{21} \quad R_2 \quad N_2$$

$$\sum = \quad N_1 \quad N_2$$

$$R_1 + T_{12} = R_1 + T_{21} \implies T_{12} = T_{21}$$

transmission function is reciprocal! → time reversal symmetry



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - multi-terminal expression of Landauer formula relates currents to voltages via a scattering matrix (cf. page 42)

$$I_{\alpha} = 2e \sum_{n} \left\{ \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) f_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) + \int_{-\infty}^{0} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) \sum_{\beta m} \left| s_{\alpha n,\beta m} \right|^{2} f_{\beta}(\varepsilon) \right\}$$

$$I_{\alpha} = 2e \sum_{n} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}k_{x}}{2\pi} v_{x}(k_{x}) \sum_{\beta m} \left\{ \left| s_{\alpha n,\beta m} \right|^{2} - \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{mn} \right\} f_{\beta}(\varepsilon) \underset{\mathrm{d}k_{x} = \mathrm{d}\varepsilon/\hbar v_{x}}{=} \underbrace{\frac{2e}{2\pi\hbar}}_{0} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\varepsilon \sum_{\beta mn} \left\{ \left| s_{\alpha n,\beta m} \right|^{2} - \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{mn} \right\} f_{\beta}(\varepsilon)$$

probability for transmission from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ :

$$I_{\alpha} = -\frac{G_Q}{e} \int_{0}^{\infty} d\varepsilon \sum_{\beta} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta} \right\} f_{\beta}(\varepsilon)$$

- trace includes all possible transport channels
- if all  $f_{eta}(\epsilon)$  are the same, e.g. in thermal equilibrium and no voltages applied, then  $\Sigma_{eta}=0$  (current conservation, follows from unitarity )
- we apply voltage  $V_{\gamma}$  to terminal  $\gamma$  and keep all other at  $\varepsilon_{\rm F}$   $\longrightarrow$  the only surviving term in  $\Sigma_{\beta}$  $\beta = \gamma$  and the integral yields  $eV_{\gamma}$

$$I_{\alpha} = -\frac{G_{Q}}{e} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \delta_{\alpha \gamma} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha \gamma}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha \gamma} \right\} e V_{\gamma} = G_{\alpha \gamma} V_{\gamma} \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad G_{\alpha \gamma} = -G_{Q} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \delta_{\alpha \gamma} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha \gamma}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha \gamma} \right\}$$

multi-terminal **Landauer formula** 



Summary: Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors

linear transport regime:

$$G_{\alpha\gamma} = -G_Q \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \delta_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha\gamma}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha\gamma} \right\}$$

- relation to two-terminal expression:  $\alpha, \gamma = l, r$ 

$$G_{lr} = G_Q \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \hat{s}_{lr}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{lr} \right\} = G_Q \operatorname{Tr} \left[ t^{\dagger} \hat{t} \right]$$

time reversal symmetry:

$$G_{\alpha\gamma}(\mathbf{B}) = G_{\gamma\alpha}(-\mathbf{B})$$

this is in agreement with Onsager symmetry relations!

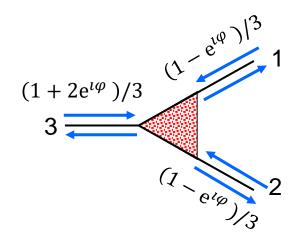


- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - example: three-terminal scattering element

scattering matrix for fully symmetric beam splitter:

$$\hat{s}_{BS} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + 2e^{i\varphi} & 1 - e^{i\varphi} & 1 - e^{i\varphi} \\ 1 - e^{i\varphi} & 1 + 2e^{i\varphi} & 1 - e^{i\varphi} \\ 1 - e^{i\varphi} & 1 - e^{i\varphi} & 1 + 2e^{i\varphi} \end{pmatrix}$$

diagonal elements:  $R = |1 + 2e^{i\varphi}|^2 = [5 + 4\cos\varphi]/9$ R = 1 for  $\varphi = 0$  (total reflection) R = 1/3 for  $\varphi = \pi$  (equal division)



fully symmetric ideal beam splitter



- Landauer formalism: multi-terminal conductors
  - example: three-terminal scattering element

scattering matrix: 
$$\hat{s}_{BS} = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin^2\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & \cos^2\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) \\ \cos^2\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & -\sin^2\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & \sin\left(\frac{\varphi}{2}\right) & -\cos\varphi \end{pmatrix}$$

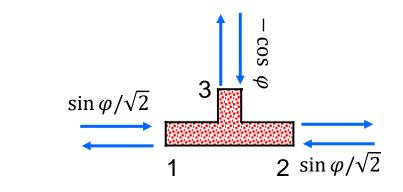
for 
$$\varphi = \pi/2$$
:  $\hat{s}_{BS} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/2 & 1/2 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/2 & -1/2 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 

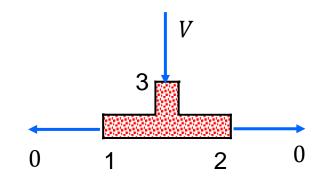
$$G_{\alpha\beta} = -G_Q \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta} \right\}$$

$$G_{\alpha\beta} = -G_Q \text{ Tr } \left\{ \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{mn} - \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta}^{\dagger} \hat{s}_{\alpha\beta} \right\} \quad \text{conductance matrix:} \\ \text{(for } \varphi = \pi/2) \quad G_{\alpha\beta} = G_Q \begin{pmatrix} -3/4 & 1/4 & 1/2 \\ 1/4 & -3/4 & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & 1/2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

example: 
$$I_3 = G_Q V$$
,  $I_1 = I_2 = -G_Q V/2$ 

#### T-type symmetric ideal beam splitter





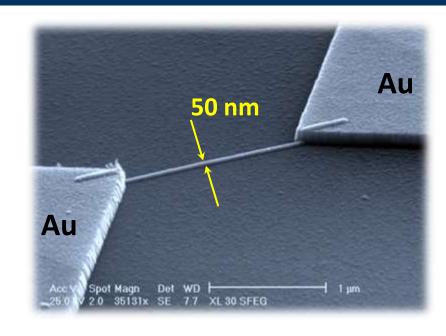




BAYERISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



# Superconductivity and Low Temperature Physics II

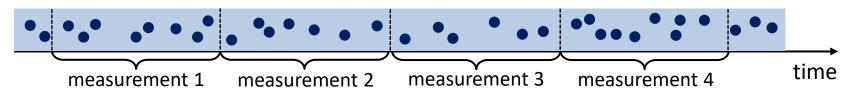


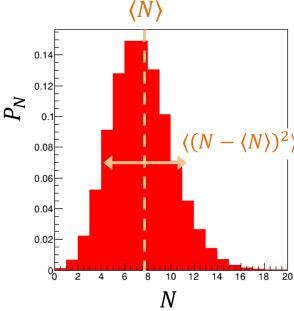
Lecture No. 9

R. Gross © Walther-Meißner-Institut



- Landauer formalism: counting electrons
  - electron transfer is a stochastic process
    - $\rightarrow$  measured number of electrons transferred in time interval  $\Delta t$  is random





- important aspects:
  - averaging allows to get rid of fluctuations of individual measurements
  - study of statistics provides additional information on transport through nanostructure
- probability  $P_N$  to count N electrons:

$$\sum_{N} P_{N} = 1$$
 normalization of distribution

$$\langle N \rangle = \sum_{N} N P_{N}$$
 average number (1st cumulant)

$$\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle = \sum_N N^2 P_N - \left(\sum_N N P_N\right)^2$$
 variance (2nd cumulant)



Moment generating function of a random variable N

$$M_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = 1 + t \langle N \rangle + \frac{t^2}{2!} \langle N^2 \rangle + \frac{t^3}{3!} \langle N^3 \rangle + \cdots$$

The moment-generating function of a real-valued random variable N is an alternative specification of its probability distribution  $P_N$ .

The moment-generating function can be used to compute a moments of a distribution.

$$M_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = 1 + m_1 t + m_2 \frac{t^2}{2!} + m_3 \frac{t^3}{3!} + \dots = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} m_n \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \kappa_n \frac{t^n}{n!}\right) = \exp\left(K_N(t)\right)$$

moments  $m_i$ 

$$m_1 = \langle N \rangle$$
  
 $m_2 = \langle N^2 \rangle$   
 $m_3 = \langle N^3 \rangle$   
:

 $k^{\mathrm{th}}$  moment: differentiate expansion k-times with respect to t and evaluate result at t=0

$$m_n = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} M_N(t) \Big|_{t=0}$$

example: 1st moment

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} M_N(t) \Big|_{t=0} = m_1 + m_2 t + \cdots \Big|_{t=0} \underset{t=0}{\overset{=}{=}} m_1 = \langle N \rangle$$

example: normal distribution  $f(N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(\frac{(N-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ 

$$M_N(t) = \exp\left(\mu t + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2\right)$$
  $\mu = \langle N \rangle$  (mean value),  $\sigma^2 = \langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle$  (variance)

for a discrete probability density function:  $M_N$ 

$$M_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n e^{tN_n}$$



cumulant generateing function of a random variable N

$$K_N(t) = \ln M_N(t) = \ln \langle e^{tN} \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \kappa_n \frac{t^n}{n!} = \kappa_1 t + \kappa_2 \frac{t^2}{2} + \cdots$$

$$K_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = 1 + t\kappa_1 + \frac{t^2}{2!}\kappa_2 + \frac{t^3}{3!}\kappa_3 + \cdots$$

cumulants  $\kappa_i$ 

$$\kappa_1=m_1=\langle N \rangle$$
 average value 
$$\kappa_2=m_2-m_1^2=\langle (N-\langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle \quad \text{variance}$$
 
$$\kappa_3=m_3-3m_2m_1+2m_1^3=\langle (N-\langle N \rangle)^3 \rangle \quad \text{skewness}$$
 :

example: normal distribution  $f(N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(\frac{(N-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$ 

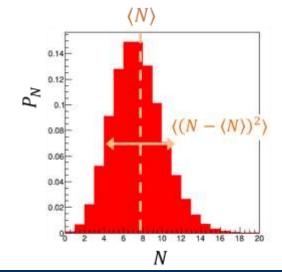
$$K_N(t) = \mu t + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2$$
  $\mu = \langle N \rangle$  (mean value),  $\sigma^2 = \langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle$  (variance)

 $k^{\mathrm{th}}$  cumulant: differentiate expansion k-times with respect to t and evaluate result at t=0

$$\kappa_n = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} K_N(t) \Big|_{t=0}$$

example: 1st cumulant

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} K_N(t) \Big|_{t=0} = \kappa_1 + \kappa_2 t + \cdots \Big|_{t=0} \underset{t=0}{\overset{=}{=}} \kappa_1 = \langle N \rangle$$





characteristic function of a random variable N

$$H_N(t) = \ln \langle e^{itN} \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \kappa_n \frac{(it)^n}{n!} = \kappa_1 it - \kappa_2 \frac{t^2}{2} + \cdots$$

cumulants  $\kappa_i$ 

$$\kappa_1 = \mu = \langle N \rangle$$
 average value

$$\kappa_2 = \sigma^2 = \langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle$$
 variance

$$\kappa_3 = \langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^3 \rangle$$
 skewness

example: normal distribution 
$$f(N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(\frac{(N-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$H_N(t) = \iota \mu t - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2$$

for a discrete probability density function

$$\exp H_N(t) = \langle e^{itN} \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n e^{itN_n}$$

(Fourier transform of the probability density function)

 $k^{\text{th}}$  cumulant: differentiate expansion k-times with respect to  $\imath t$  and evaluate result at t=0

$$\kappa_n = \frac{1}{\iota^n} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} H_N(t) \Big|_{t=0}$$

example: 1st cumulant

$$\frac{1}{\iota} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} H_N(t) \Big|_{t=0} = \kappa_1 + \iota \kappa_2 t + \cdots \Big|_{t=0} \underset{t=0}{\overset{=}{=}} \kappa_1 = \langle N \rangle$$



#### characteristic function (1)

- use of characteristic function  $H_N(t) = \ln \langle e^{itN} \rangle = \ln \sum P_n e^{itN}$  $(\langle e^{itN} \rangle)$  = Fourier transform of the probability density function)
- application to statistics of electron transfer:
  - $\blacktriangleright$  we assume large measurement time  $\Delta t$  so that  $\langle Q \rangle = \langle I \rangle \Delta t \gg e$
  - $\triangleright$  we divide  $\Delta t$  into very small intervals dt so that  $\langle Q \rangle = \langle I \rangle dt \ll e$ 
    - $\rightarrow$  probability to transfer one electron within dt:  $\Gamma dt \ll 1$  ( $\Gamma = \text{transfer rate}$ )
    - $\rightarrow$  probability to transfer no electron within dt:  $1 \Gamma dt$
  - we assume that all electrons move in the same direction
  - $\triangleright$  we neglect probability to transfer two (or more) electrons within  $\mathrm{d}t\ (\mathcal{O}(\Gamma\mathrm{d}t)^2)$ )

$$\langle e^{itN} \rangle_{N,dt} = \sum_{N} P_N e^{itN} = \underbrace{(1 - \Gamma dt)}_{N=0} + \underbrace{(\Gamma dt)e^{it}}_{N=1} + \dots = 1 + \underbrace{\Gamma dt(e^{it} - 1)}_{\ll 1} + \dots \simeq \exp[\Gamma dt(e^{it} - 1)]$$

$$\langle e^{itN} \rangle_{N,\Delta t} = \underbrace{\left[\langle e^{itN} \rangle_{N,dt}\right]^{\Delta t/dt}}_{\text{independent events}} = \{\exp[\Gamma dt(e^{it} - 1)]\}^{\Delta t/dt} = \exp\left[\underbrace{\Gamma \Delta t}_{=\overline{N}} (e^{it} - 1)\right] = \exp[\overline{N}(e^{it} - 1)]$$

$$\stackrel{\text{characteristic function of Poisson distribution}}{\text{of Poisson distribution}}$$

$$M_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n e^{tN_n}$$

$$M_N(t) = \langle e^{tN} \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n e^{tN_n}$$

$$P_N = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{2\pi} \langle e^{itN} \rangle_{N,\Delta t} e^{-iNt} \simeq \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{dt}{2\pi} e^{[\bar{N}(e^{it}-1)]} e^{-iNt} = \frac{\bar{N}^N}{N!} e^{-\bar{N}\Delta t}$$

 $k^{\text{th}}$  cumulant: differentiate expansion k-times with respect to it and evaluate result at t = 0

$$\kappa_n = \frac{1}{\iota^n} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} H_N(t) \Big|_{t=0}$$

example: 1st cumulant

$$\frac{1}{\iota} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} H_N(t) \Big|_{t=0} = \kappa_1 + \iota \kappa_2 t + \cdots \Big|_{t=0} \underset{t=0}{\overset{=}{=}} \kappa_1 = \langle N \rangle$$

#### **Poisson distribution**

individual transfer processes are not correlated since  $\Gamma dt \ll 1$ 



- characteristic function (2)
  - opposite example: ideally transmitting channel
    - > since there is no scattering, the total momentum of all electrons does not change > current does not fluctuate

$$P_N = \delta(N - \overline{N})$$
  $\Rightarrow \langle e^{itN} \rangle = \sum_N P_N e^{itN} = e^{it(N - \overline{N})}$ 

- intermediate case:  $0 < T_p < 1$ :
- > the transmitted electrons are correlated, but not fully
- > characteristic function is given by Levitov formula

L. S. Levitov and G. B. Lesovik. JETP Lett. **58**, 230 (1993)

$$\ln\langle \mathrm{e}^{\imath t N} \rangle = 2 \, \Delta t \int \frac{\mathrm{d}\varepsilon}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \ln\{1 + T_{p}(\mathrm{e}^{\imath t} - 1) \, f_{l}(\varepsilon) [1 - f_{r}(\varepsilon)] + T_{p}(\mathrm{e}^{-\imath t} - 1) f_{r}(\varepsilon) [1 - f_{l}(\varepsilon)] \}$$

note:

- > the transfer processes from left to right and vice versa are correlated
- ightharpoonup for  $f_l(\varepsilon) = f_r(\varepsilon) = 1$ , the total current is zero
  - → if there are no correlations, this would result in current fluctuations
  - electrons moving left are blocked by electrons filling the state and vice versa
- limiting case:  $k_{\rm R}T \ll eV$ : integral over energy gives eV

$$\ln\langle e^{\iota tN}\rangle = \pm \frac{2eV\Delta t}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \ln\{1 + T_{p}(e^{\pm\iota t} - 1)\}$$

± for different sign of voltage



- calculation of cumulants
  - starting point is Levitov formula

$$\ln\langle \mathrm{e}^{\imath tN}\rangle = 2\,\Delta t \int \frac{\mathrm{d}\varepsilon}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \ln\{1 + T_{p}(\mathrm{e}^{\imath t} - 1)\,f_{l}(\varepsilon)[1 - f_{r}(\varepsilon)] + T_{p}(\mathrm{e}^{-\imath t} - 1)f_{r}(\varepsilon)[1 - f_{l}(\varepsilon)]\}$$

- 1st cumulant: 
$$\langle N \rangle = \frac{\partial \ln \langle e^{itN} \rangle}{\partial (it)} \bigg|_{t=0} = \frac{2eV\Delta t}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \int d\varepsilon T_{p}(\varepsilon) [f_{l}(\varepsilon) - f_{r}(\varepsilon)]$$

$$I = e \frac{\langle N \rangle}{\Delta t} = \frac{2eV}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \int d\varepsilon T_{p}(\varepsilon) [f_{l}(\varepsilon) - f_{r}(\varepsilon)] \qquad \qquad Landauer formula$$

- **2nd cumulant:** 
$$\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{\partial^2 \ln \langle e^{itN} \rangle}{\partial (it)^2} \bigg|_{t=0}$$

$$\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{2e\Delta t}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \int d\varepsilon \left\{ T_p(\varepsilon) \left[ f_l(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - f_l(\varepsilon) \right) + f_r(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - f_r(\varepsilon) \right) \right] + T_p(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - T_p(\varepsilon) \right) \left( f_l(\varepsilon) - f_r(\varepsilon) \right)^2 \right\}$$

Case 1: equilibrium: 
$$V=0$$
  $(f_l(\varepsilon)=f_r(\varepsilon))$ :  $I=0$  for  $f_l(\varepsilon)=f_r(\varepsilon)$ 

$$\langle (Q - \langle Q \rangle)^2 \rangle_{\text{eq}} = \frac{2e^2 \Delta t}{\underbrace{2\pi\hbar}_{=2G_Q \Delta t}} k_{\text{B}} T \sum_{p} T_p = 2G_Q k_{\text{B}} T \Delta t$$

**Nyquist-Johnson** noise



## Statistics of Charge Transport

- **Nyquist-Johnson noise** 
  - interpretation of result

$$\langle (Q - \langle Q \rangle)^2 \rangle_{\text{eq}} = 2G_Q k_{\text{B}} T \Delta t$$

- $\triangleright$  if  $\Delta t$  is large enough, variance of the transmitted charge can be interpreted as zero-frequency current noise with  $\Delta I = \Delta Q/\Delta t$  we obtain the current fluctuation  $\Delta I^2 = \langle (Q - \langle Q \rangle)^2 \rangle_{\rm eq}/\Delta t^2 = 2G_Q k_{\rm B} T/\Delta t$
- $\blacktriangleright$  with the current noise power spectral density  $S_I(0) = \Delta I^2 2\Delta t = \frac{\Delta I^2}{RW}$ , we obtain

$$S_I(0) = 4G_Q k_B T$$

**Nyquist-Johnson noise** 

**Wiener–Khinchin theorem**: relates the autocorrelation function  $AC_I(\tau)$  to the power spectral density  $S_I(\omega)$ 

$$AC_I(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_I(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau} df$$

$$AC_{I}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{I}(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau} df \qquad S_{I}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} AC_{I}(\tau) e^{-i\omega\tau} d\tau = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau e^{-i\omega\tau} \langle I(t)I(t+\tau) \rangle$$

$$AC_{I}(\tau) = \langle I(t)\hat{I}^{*}(t+\tau)\rangle$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta t \to \infty} \int_{-\Delta t}^{+\Delta t} dt \ I(t)\hat{I}^{*}(t+\tau)$$



shot noise

$$\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{2e\Delta t}{2\pi\hbar} \sum_{p} \int d\varepsilon \left\{ T_p(\varepsilon) \left[ f_l(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - f_l(\varepsilon) \right) + f_r(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - f_r(\varepsilon) \right) \right] + T_p(\varepsilon) \left( 1 - T_p(\varepsilon) \right) \left( f_l(\varepsilon) - f_r(\varepsilon) \right)^2 \right\}$$

Case 2:  $eV \gg k_{\rm B}T \twoheadrightarrow$  only 2nd term on rhs survises (we assume  $T_p(\varepsilon) = const.$ )

$$\langle (Q - \langle Q \rangle)^2 \rangle_{eV \gg k_B T} = 4eG_Q V \Delta t \sum_p T_p (1 - T_p)$$

with 
$$S_I = \langle (Q - \langle Q \rangle)^2 \rangle_{eq} / \Delta t^2$$

$$S_I(\omega) = 4eG_QV \sum_p T_p (1 - T_p)$$

with 
$$\langle I \rangle = 2G_O V \sum_p T_p$$

$$S_I(\omega) = 2e\langle I \rangle \left[ \frac{\sum_p T_p (1 - T_p)}{\sum_p T_p} \right]$$

#### ideal quantum point contact:

only open  $(T_n = 1)$  or closed  $(T_n = 0)$  channels

→ no shot noise!

Schottky expression Fano factor

$$F = 1$$
  $0 \le F \le 1$ 

no correlations in transmission: Poisson process

takes into account correlations in the transmission processes



## **Contents Part II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

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## **II.3 Quantum Interference Effects**

#### charge carriers are phase coherent if $L_{\varphi} > L$

- low temperatures ( $\rightarrow L_{\varphi}$  gets large), nanoscale samples (L gets small)
  - interference of multiply scattered charge carriers
  - corrections to the classical conductance

macroscopic and mesoscopic samples:

weak localization (WL)

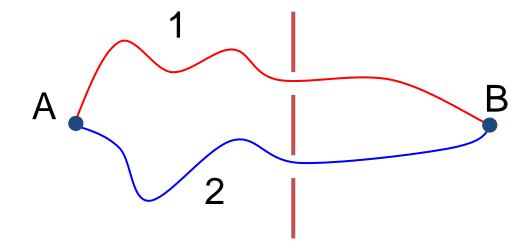
mesoscopic samples:

Aharonov-Bohm (AB) oscillations

**Universal Conductance Fluctuations (UCFs)** 



effect of quantum coherence: transmission through double slit

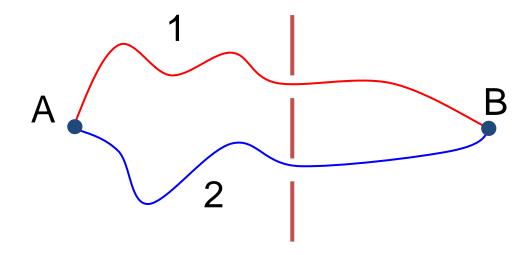


- basic quantum mechanics: double slit experiment
- probability of propagation from point A to point B:

$$P_{\rm AB} = |A_1 + A_2|^2 = \underbrace{|A_1|^2}_{=P_1} + \underbrace{|A_2|^2}_{=P_2} + \underbrace{A_1 A_2^* + A_1^* A_2}_{2{\rm Re}\,[A_1 A_2^*]}$$
 classical interference term: result quantum mechanical



effect of quantum coherence: transmission through double slit



$$P_{\rm AB} = P_{\rm classical} + 2\sqrt{P_1 P_2} \cos \varphi$$

interference terms may be destructive or constructive

 $\rightarrow$  depends on phase shift  $\varphi$ 

$$P_1 = P_2$$
:  $P_{AB} = 2P + 2P \cos \varphi = 2P(1 + \cos \varphi)$ 

#### problem:

calculate phase shift  $\phi$  as a function of geometry, electric potential, magnetic field, ...



#### phase shifts

– geometric phase:

definition: geometric phase = phase difference acquired when a system is subjected to cyclic adiabatic

processes, which results from the geometrical properties of the parameter space of the Hamiltonian

→ geometric phase occurs when system parameters are changed very slowly (adiabatically),

and eventually brought back to the initial configuration

example: in quantum mechanics, this could involve rotations but also translations of particles,

which are apparently undone at the end

important:

one might expect that the waves in the system return to the initial state (characterized by amplitude and phase). However, if the parameter excursions correspond to a loop instead of a self-retracing back-and-forth variation, then it is possible that the initial and final states differ in their phases. This phase difference is the geometric phase, and its occurrence typically indicates that the system's parameter dependence is singular (its state is undefined) for some combination of parameters.

- we consider eigenstate  $\psi(t_0)=|m[{f R}(t_0)]
angle$  with energy  $\varepsilon_m(t_0)$  and change system parameter  ${f R}$  adiabatically along path  $\Gamma$ 

$$\gamma_m(t) = \iota \int_{t_0, \Gamma}^t \underbrace{\langle m[\mathbf{R}(t)] | \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} | m[\mathbf{R}(t)] \rangle}_{\substack{\mathbf{A}_m(\mathbf{R}) \\ \text{Mead-Berry Vector Potential}}} \cdot d\mathbf{R}$$

geometric phase or Berry phase



#### phase shifts

– dynamical phase (phase shift due to energy or potential):

we consider wave function of electron in semi-classical approximation

local wave vector at position x

$$\psi(x) = \exp[i\varphi(x)] = \exp[ik(x)x] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}x} = k(x) = \sqrt{2m[\varepsilon - V(x)]} / \hbar$$

(i) V(x) = const.

$$\Delta \varphi = \int_{A}^{B} \frac{d\varphi}{dx} dx = \int_{A}^{B} k(x) dx = \varphi(B) - \varphi(A) \underset{V(x) = const}{=} kL$$

usually, absolute value of phase is not interesting, but the relative phase shift between different paths

(ii) 
$$V(x) \neq const.$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}k} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}k} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}x} \, \mathrm{d}x = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}k} \int k \, \mathrm{d}x = \int \mathrm{d}x$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\varepsilon} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}k} \quad \frac{\mathrm{d}k}{\mathrm{d}\varepsilon} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}k} \frac{1}{\hbar v(x)} = \int_{A}^{B} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\hbar v(x)} = \int_{A}^{t_B} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\hbar} = \frac{\tau}{\hbar} \quad \text{time of flight between points}$$

$$A \text{ and } B \text{ at energy } \varepsilon$$

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\varepsilon} \Delta \varepsilon = \int_{A}^{B} \varepsilon(x) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\hbar v(x)} = \int_{t_{A}}^{t_{B}} \varepsilon(x(t)) \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\hbar} \underset{V(x) = const}{=} \frac{\varepsilon}{\hbar} \tau$$

depends on the state's energy and the time it takes the system to propagate from A to B



# **II.3.1** Double Slit Experiment

- phase shifts
  - Aharonov-Bohm phase (charged particle in magnetic field)
    - $\triangleright$  canonical momentum:  $\mathbf{p} = m\mathbf{v} + q\mathbf{A}$

$$\mathbf{k}(x) \to \mathbf{k}(x) - \underbrace{\frac{q}{\hbar} \mathbf{A}(x)}$$

results in phase shift  $\phi_{
m mag}$  due to vector potential  ${f A}(x)$ 

$$\varphi_{\text{mag}} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int_{A}^{B} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int_{t_{A}}^{t_{B}} \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v}(t) dt \qquad (q = -e) \qquad \text{opposite phase shift for time-reversed path}$$

**note**:  $\varphi_{\text{mag}}$  depends on gauge  $\mathbf{A} \to \mathbf{A} + \nabla \chi(x)$  and is therefore unphysical and not observable

gauge invariant quantity is the phase accumulated along a closed path (electron returns to the same point):

Aharonov-Bohm phase 
$$\varphi_{AB} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{F} = 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$$
  $\Phi_0 = \frac{h}{e}$  ("normal" flux quantum) (in superconductors we have  $q_s = -2e$ 

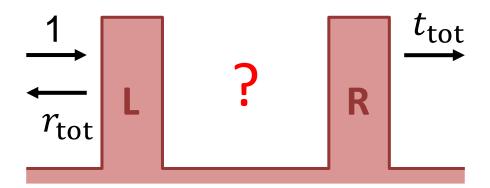
$$\Phi_0 = \frac{h}{e}$$
 ("normal" flux quantum

and therefore  $\Phi_0 = h/2e$ )

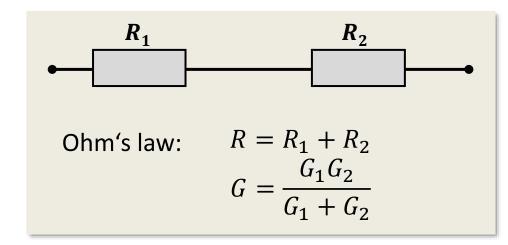
phase difference  $\Delta \varphi = \varphi_1 - \varphi_2$  between 1 and 2 corresponds to  $\varphi_{AB}$  due to opposite sign of phase shift on time-reversed path



- quantum interference effect in a double tunnel junction
  - we consider only a single conductance channel
  - no magnetic field



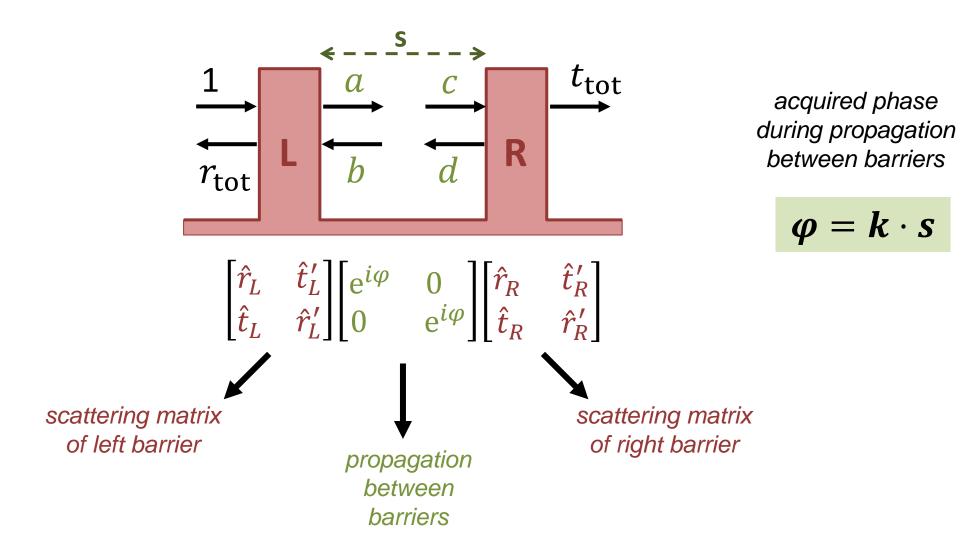
- \_ "classical" expectation:
  - (tunneling) resistances are added
  - multiplication of transmission probabilities  $T_{\mathrm{L}} \cdot T_{\mathrm{R}}$



- what is the role of quantum interference?
- how do individual scattering matrices have to be combined?

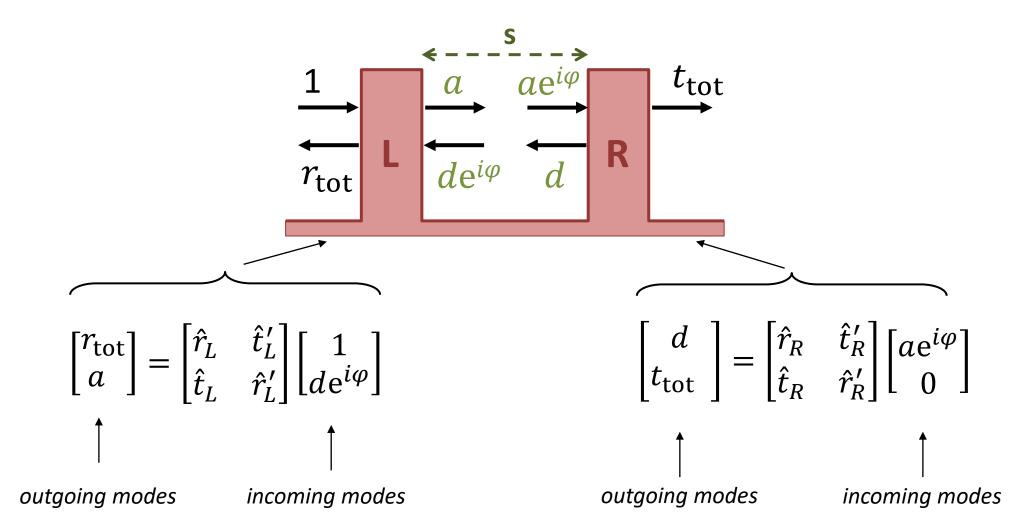


quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction



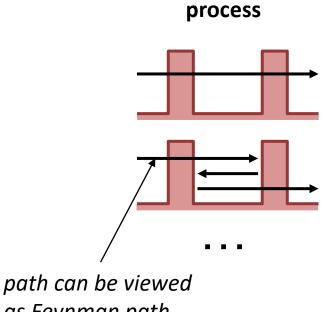


quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction





quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction



as Feynman path

#### amplitude

$$t_L t_R \mathrm{e}^{\imath \varphi}$$

$$t_L t_R r_L' r_R \mathrm{e}^{\imath 3 \varphi}$$

sum of all amplitudes:

coherent 
$$t_{\text{tot}} = \frac{t_L t_R}{1 - r_L' r_R e^{i2\varphi}}$$

$$T_{\text{tot}} = |t_{\text{tot}}|^2$$

#### probability

$$T_L T_R$$

$$T_L T_R R_L R_R$$

sum of all probabilities:

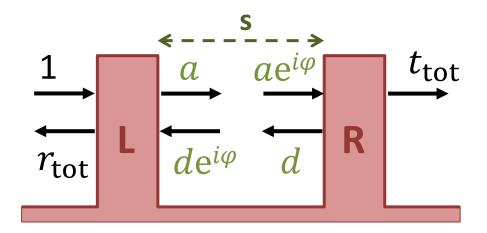
$$T_{
m classical} = rac{T_L T_R}{1 - R_L R_R}$$
 incoherent

for 
$$T_{L,R} \ll 1$$
:
$$G_{\text{class}} = G_Q T_{\text{class}} = \frac{G_L G_R}{G_Q [1 - (1 - T_L)(1 - T_R)]}$$

$$G_{\text{class}} \simeq \frac{G_L G_R}{G_Q [T_L + T_R]} = \frac{G_L G_R}{G_L + G_R}$$



quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction



$$T_{\text{tot}}(\varepsilon) = |t_{\text{tot}}|^2 = \frac{T_L T_R}{1 + R_L R_R - 2\sqrt{R_L R_R} \cos \chi(\varepsilon)}$$

$$t_{\text{tot}} = \frac{t_L t_R}{1 - r_L' r_R e^{i2\varphi}}$$

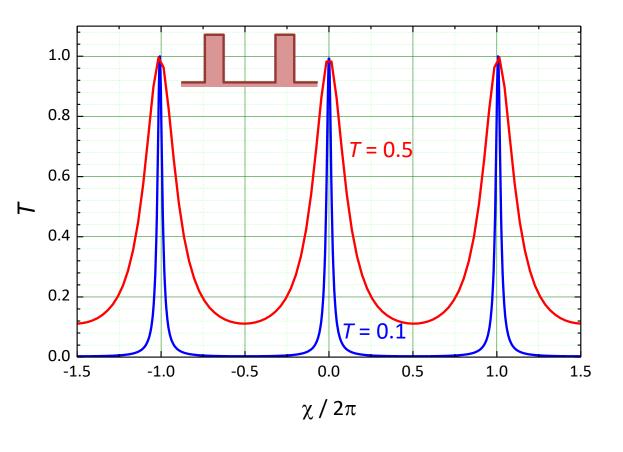
phase accumulated during the round trip

$$\chi(\varepsilon) = 2\varphi(\varepsilon) = 2k(\varepsilon)s$$

$$k(\varepsilon) = \sqrt{\frac{2m\varepsilon}{\hbar^2}}$$



- quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction
  - transmission coefficient depends on energy



$$T_{\text{tot}}(\varepsilon) = |t_{\text{tot}}|^2 = \frac{T_L T_R}{1 + R_L R_R - 2\sqrt{R_L R_R} \cos[2k(\varepsilon)s]}$$

assume  $T_L = T_R = T \ll 1,$   $R_L = R_R = R \simeq 1$ 

between peaks:  $T(\varepsilon) \approx T^2$ 

maximum value:  $T_{\text{max}} = \frac{T_L T_R}{\left(1 - \sqrt{R_L R_R}\right)^2} \simeq 1 @ \chi = n \cdot 2\pi$ 

maximum value:  $T_{\min} = \frac{T_L T_R}{\left(1 + \sqrt{R_L R_R}\right)^2} \ll 1 @ \chi = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot 2\pi$ 

resonant tunneling

(or Fabry-Perot resonances)

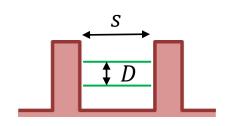
- → double barrier structure behaves as an optical interferometer
- → resonant tunneling is quantum interference effect



#### quantum interference effect in double tunnel junction

how does the transmission  $T(\varepsilon)$  look like close to the transmission resonances?

$$\cos \chi = \cos(2ks) \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{2}(2ks)^2$$
 for  $\chi \ll 1$  
$$\cos \chi \simeq 1 - \frac{\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\rm res}}{2D}$$
  $(2ks)^2 = \frac{8ms^2(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\rm res})}{\hbar^2} = \frac{\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\rm res}}{D}$   $D = \text{level spacing in potential well of width s}$ 



after some math:

$$T(\varepsilon) = \frac{T_L T_R}{\left(\frac{T_L + T_R}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\rm res}}{D}\right)^2}$$
 transmission assumes Lorentzian shape

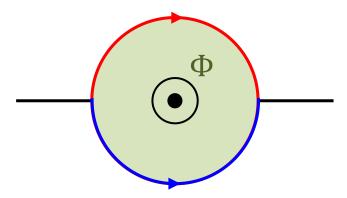
$$T(\varepsilon) = \frac{D^2 T_L T_R}{\left(\frac{D(T_L + T_R)}{2}\right)^2 + (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_{\rm res})^2}$$
 energy width of transmission resonance:  $d = D (T_L + T_R)$ 

- interpretation in terms of a particle that moves back and forth between the two potential wells and escapes at a certain tunneling rates  $\Gamma_L$  and  $\Gamma_R$
- $\triangleright$  with  $d = \hbar(\Gamma_L + \Gamma_R)$  according to uncertainty relation we obtain well-known Breit-Wigner formula



- quantum interference effects in multiply connected conductors, e.g. rings
  - phase shift due to magnetic field

two trajectories enclosing magnetic flux



all quantities are periodic in  $\Phi/\Phi_0$ , even if there is NO magnetic field at the trajectories!

accumulated phase with vector potential:

$$\mathbf{k}(x) \to \mathbf{k}(x) - \frac{q}{\hbar} \mathbf{A}(x)$$

$$\varphi_{1,2} = kL_{1,2} + \frac{e}{\hbar} \int_{1,2} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x} \qquad (q = -e)$$

$$\varphi_2 - \varphi_1 = k(L_2 - L_1) + \frac{e}{\hbar} \oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$

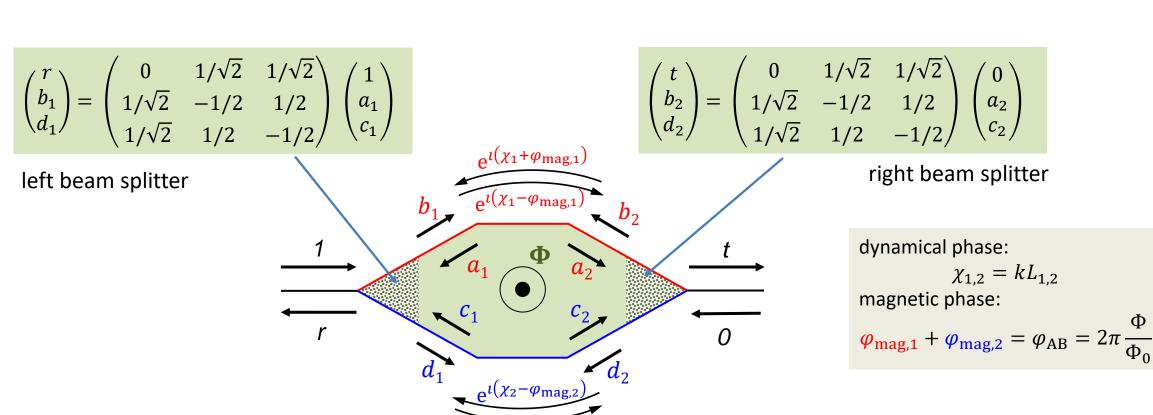
$$\varphi_{AB} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{F} = 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$$
Stokes theorem

$$\Phi_0 = \frac{h}{e}$$
 ("normal" flux quantum)

(in superconductors we have  $q_s = -2e$ and therefore  $\Phi_0 = h/2e$ 



description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and loop



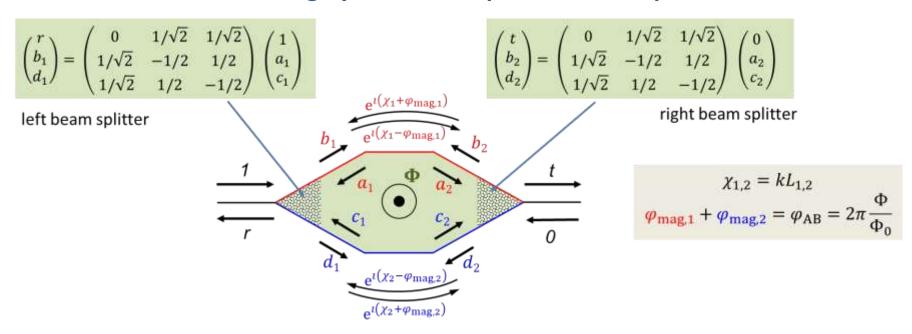
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{i(\chi_1 + \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \\ e^{i(\chi_1 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{i(\chi_2 - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \\ e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{i(\chi_2 - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \\ e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

upper arm (1)

lower arm (2)

description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and loop



example 1: electron enters from left, takes lower path and goes out to the right:

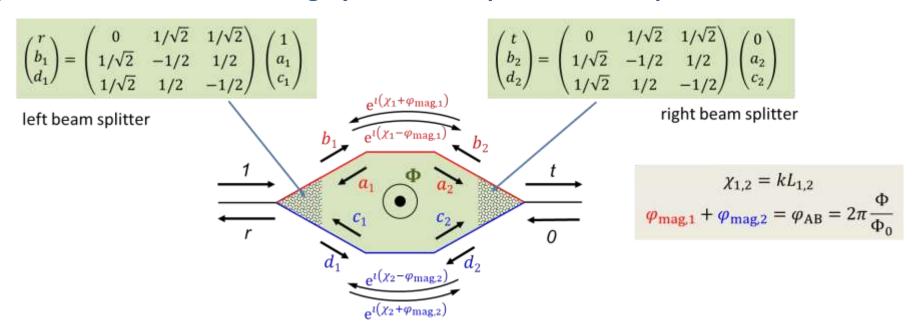
$$t_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})}$$

example 2: electron enters from left, takes upper path and goes out to the right:

$$t_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_1 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_1 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})}$$

 $\rightarrow$  phase difference in two paths:  $\chi_2 - \chi_1 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}} + \varphi_{\text{mag,1}} = \chi_2 - \chi_1 + \varphi_{AB}$  (depends on dynamical phases  $\chi_2, \chi_1$ )

description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and loop





© Walther-Meißne

**example 3**: electron takes upper path + full clockwise turn:

$$t_{3} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_{1} - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_{2} - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_{1} - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{8} e^{i(2\chi_{1} + \chi_{2} - 2\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})}$$



example 4: electron takes upper path + full counter-clockwise turn (time-reversed path):

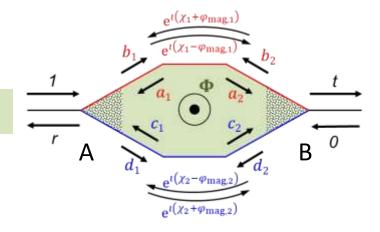
$$t_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_1 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) e^{i(\chi_1 + \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = -\frac{1}{8} e^{i(2\chi_1 + \chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})}$$

 $\rightarrow$  phase difference in two paths:  $2\varphi_{\text{mag,2}} + 2\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} = 2\varphi_{\text{AB}}$  (independent of dynamical phases  $\chi_2, \chi_1$ )



description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and loop

$$P_{\rm AB} = P_{\rm classical} + 2\sqrt{P_1 P_2} \cos \Delta \varphi$$



$$\chi_{1,2} = kL_{1,2}$$

$$\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}} = \varphi_{\text{AB}} = 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$$





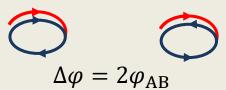
$$\Delta \varphi = \chi_2 - \chi_1 + \varphi_{AB}$$

$$P_{\rm AB} \propto \cos(\chi_2 - \chi_1 + \varphi_{\rm AB})$$

#### universal conductance fluctuations

 $P_{AB}$  depends on dynamical phases

- → configuration of scattering sites matters
- > removed by ensemble averaging
- $\rightarrow \cos(2\pi \Phi/\Phi_0)$ : flux period  $\Phi_0 = h/e$



 $P_{\rm AB} \propto \cos(2\varphi_{\rm AB})$ 

#### **Altshuler-Aronov-Spivak oscillations**

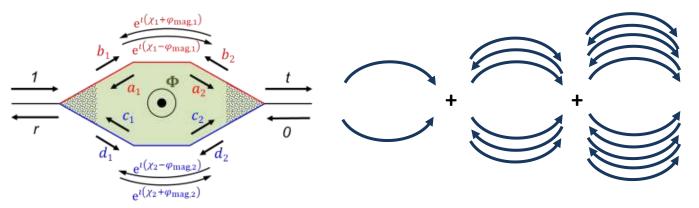
 $P_{AB}$  independent of dynamical phases

- → configuration of scattering sites does not matter
- → survives ensemble averaging
- $\rightarrow \cos(4\pi \Phi/\Phi_0)$ : flux period  $\Phi_0/2 = h/2e$

+ many other trajectories



- description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and a loop
  - summing up (without closed loops):



$$\chi_1 = \chi_2 = \chi = kL_{1,2} = kL$$

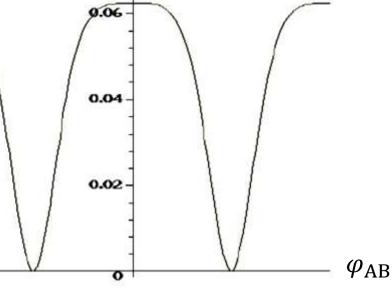
$$\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} = \varphi_{\text{mag,2}} = \varphi_{\text{mag}}$$

$$\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}} = \varphi_{\text{AB}} = 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$$

$$T = \frac{(1 - \cos 2\chi)(1 + \cos^2 \varphi_{AB})}{\sin^2 2\chi + \left[\cos 2\chi - \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos \varphi_{AB})\right]^2}$$

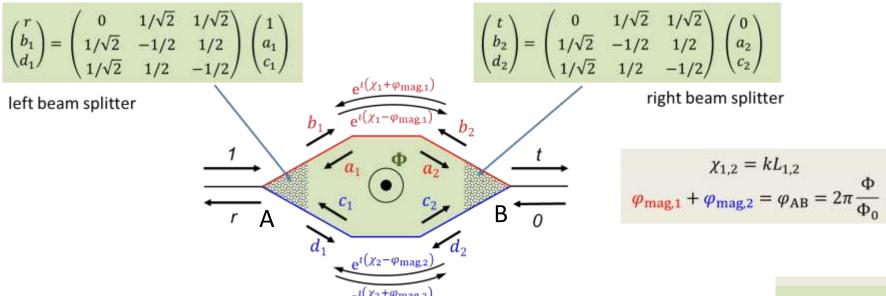
$$2\chi = \frac{\pi}{4} \Rightarrow T = \frac{(1 + \cos^2 \varphi_{AB})}{1 + \frac{1}{4}[1 - \cos \varphi_{AB}]^2}$$

Aharonov-Bohm effect: flux dependent transmission





description of Aharonov-Bohm ring by two beam splitters and a loop





**example 5**: electron takes full clockwise turn:

$$r_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_1 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_2 - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{4} e^{i(\chi_1 + \chi_2 - \varphi_{\text{mag,1}} - \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})}$$



**example 6**: electron takes full counter-clockwise turn (time-reversed path):

$$r_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})} \frac{1}{2} e^{i(\chi_1 + \varphi_{\text{mag,1}})} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{4} e^{i(\chi_1 + \chi_2 + \varphi_{\text{mag,1}} + \varphi_{\text{mag,2}})}$$

 $\rightarrow$  phase difference in two paths:  $2\varphi_{\text{mag,2}} + 2\varphi_{\text{mag,1}} = 2\varphi_{\text{AB}}$  (indepent of dynamical phases  $\chi_2, \chi_1$ )

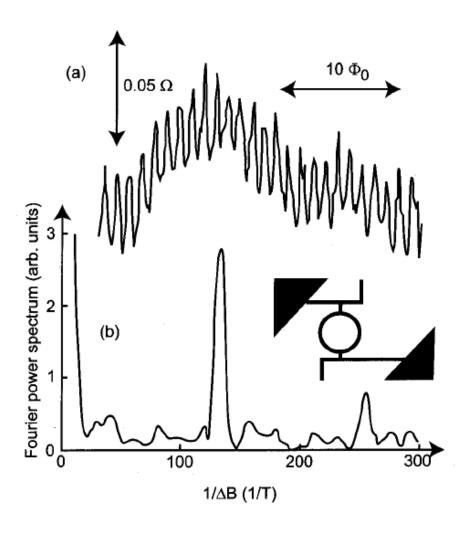
$$P_{\rm AA} \propto \cos \Delta \varphi \propto \cos \left(4\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}\right)$$

 $\emptyset$  B = 0: enhanced backscattering due to timereversed paths

→ weak localization



Aharonov-Bohm effect: experiments



R. Webb et al, PRL 54, 2696 (1985)

#### Aharonov-Bohm (AB) oscillations:

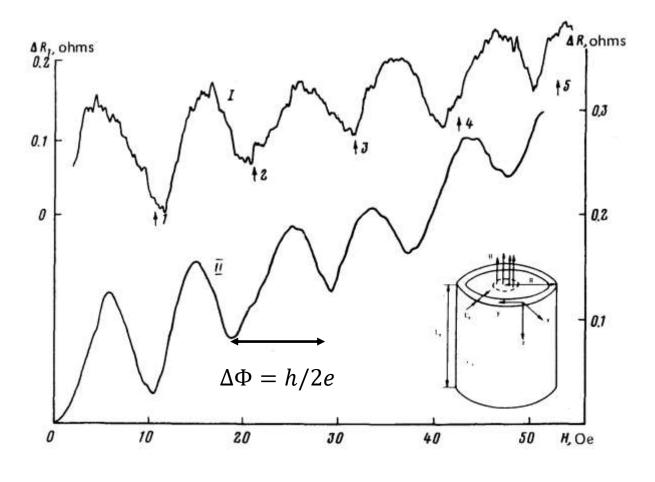
- period:  $\Phi = \Phi_0 = h/e$
- amplitude:  $G_Q = 2e^2/h$
- one channel in Landauer model

Fourier analysis shows that there are also weak oscillations with half period

- → higher order interferences:
  Altshuler-Aronov-Spivak (AAS) oscillations
- period:  $\Phi = \Phi_0/2 = h/2e$
- Interference of time-reversed traces
- constructive interference for B = 0
- coherent backscattering



**Aharonov-Bohm effect: experiments** 

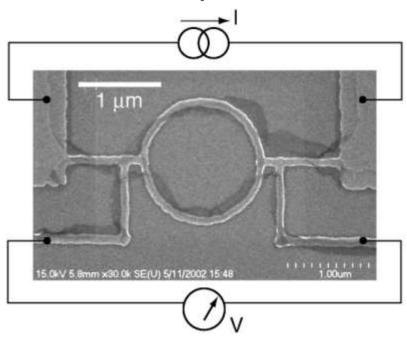


Aharonov–Bohm like magneto-conductance oscillations (Altshuler-Aronov-Spivak (AAS) oscillations) observed in normally conducting Mg cylinders of diameter 1.5 µm. Left and right resistance scales correspond to samples 1 and 2, respectively. The periodicity of the oscillations corresponds to  $\Delta \Phi = h/2e$ .

D.Y. Sharvin, Y.V. Sharvin, Sov. Phys. JETP Lett. 34, 272 (1981).

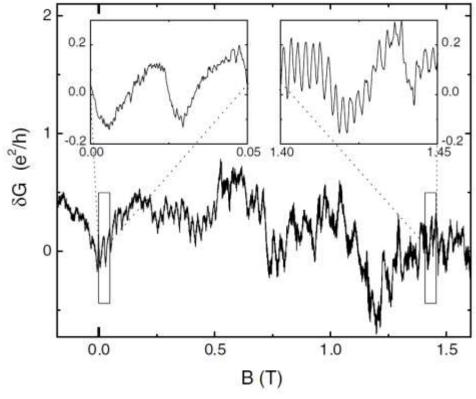


**Aharonov-Bohm effect: experiments** 

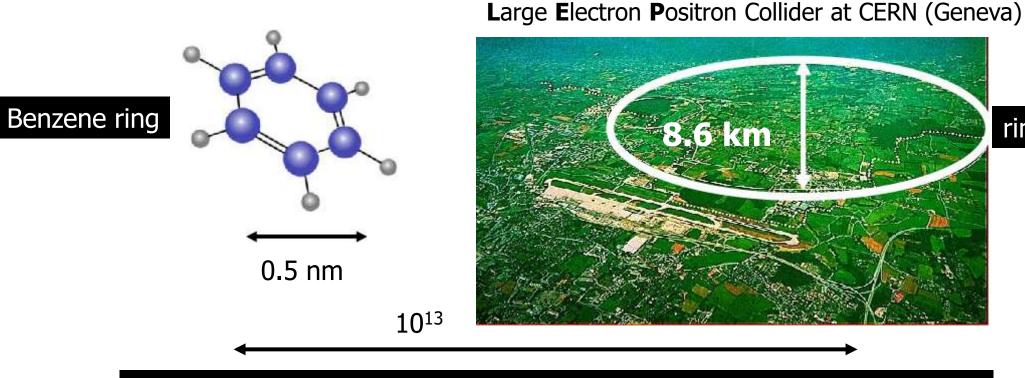


- conductance of a Cu ring in units of  $G_{\rm O}=e^2/h$ , as a function of magnetic field at T = 100 mK.
- narrow AB oscillations  $\Delta B \approx 2.5 \text{ mT}$ are superimposed on larger and broader universal conductance fluctuations.

Cu ring on Si, width 80 nm



**Aharonov-Bohm effect: experiments** 



AB effect: one flux quantum (h/e) through ring area:

$$\frac{h/e}{\pi r^2} = 5000 T$$

$$\frac{h/e}{\pi r^2} = 7 \times 10^{-23} T$$

ring accelerator

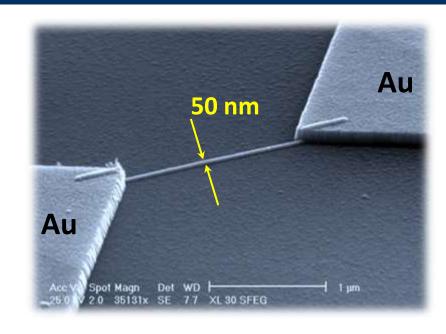




BAYERISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



# Superconductivity and Low Temperature Physics II



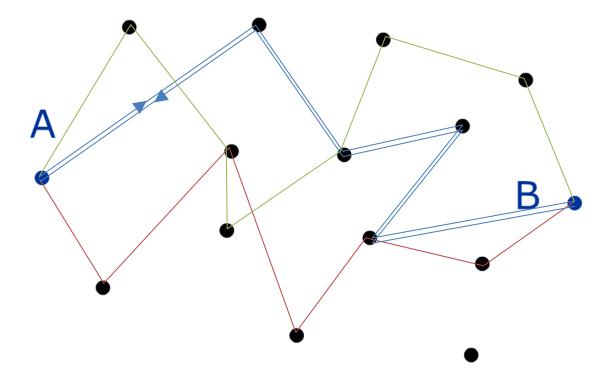
Lecture No. 10

R. Gross © Walther-Meißner-Institut



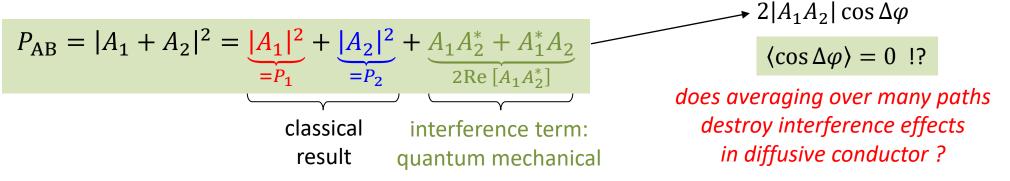
#### Weak localization:

interference of time reversed electron paths





quantum interference of time-reversed trajectories

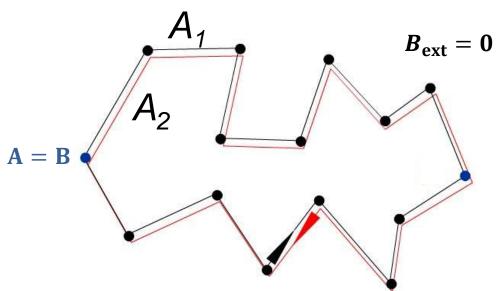


#### time-reversed trajectories:

we consider a closed loop with A = B

 $\rightarrow$  the amplitude  $A_2$  is just a time reversal of  $A_1$ 

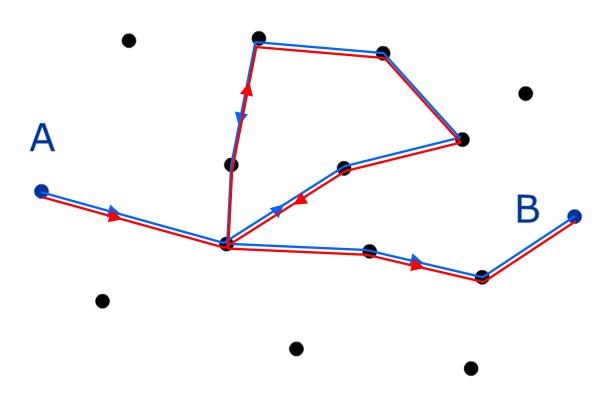
$$|A_1 + A_2|^2 = |A_1 + A_1^*|^2 = 4 |A_1|^2$$



- the backscattering probability is enhanced by factor 2 for all time-reversed paths!!!
- this is a predecessor of localization



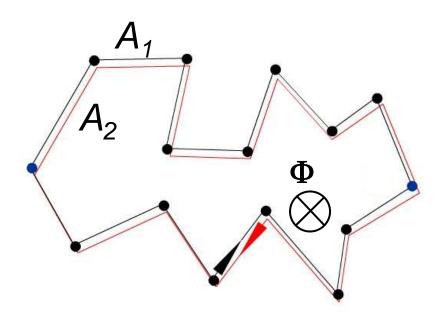
- quantum interference of time-reversed trajectories
  - increased backscattering probability to original position makes self-intersecting scattering paths important
  - interference effects make it more likely that a charge carrier is doing closed paths than without any interference
    - → increased net resistivity
  - applied magnetic field reduces backscattering probability
    - → decrease of resistivity with increasing field





- magnetic field dependence of weak localization
  - calculate phase difference of time reversed paths:

$$\varphi_{\text{mag},A_2} - \varphi_{\text{mag},A_1} = \frac{2e}{h} \oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 2\varphi_{\text{AB}}$$



loss of constructive interference due to additional  $\phi_{AB}$ 

$$\varphi_{\mathrm{mag},A_2} - \varphi_{\mathrm{mag},A_1} = \frac{2e}{h} \oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 2\varphi_{\mathrm{AB}} = 4\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0}$$

$$\Phi = B_{\mathrm{ext}} \cdot F = \text{flux enclosed in the loop}$$
 $F = \text{area of the enclosed loop}$ 

F = area of the enclosed loop

characteristic field defined by  $\varphi_{\mathrm{mag,}A_2} - \varphi_{\mathrm{mag,}A_1} = 2\pi$  (complete dephasing):

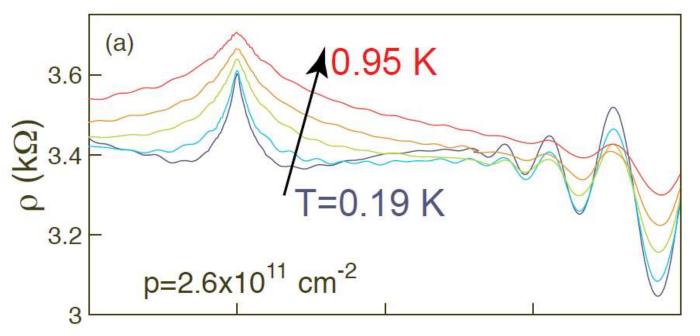
$$B^* = \frac{\Phi_0}{2F} = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi L_{\varphi}^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2eL_{\varphi}^2}$$



- weak localization: important facts
  - coherent backscattering: called the weak localization (the relative number of contributing closed loops is small)
  - effect is important, since it is sensitive to weak magnetic fields:
    - > small fields: contributions of large rings oscillate rapidly, phase difference in small rings almost unchanged
    - ➤ the larger the field, the fewer loops/rings contribute to constructive backscattering
    - $\blacktriangleright$  resistance drops to classical value for large fields, if phase shift in smallest rings is about  $2\pi$
  - weak localization has to be distinguished from strong localization (due to strong disorder)



#### weak localization: experiments



weak localization in SiGe 2-dimensional quantum well with hole gas

V. Senz, Ph.D. Thesis, ETH Zürich (2002)

#### requirement:

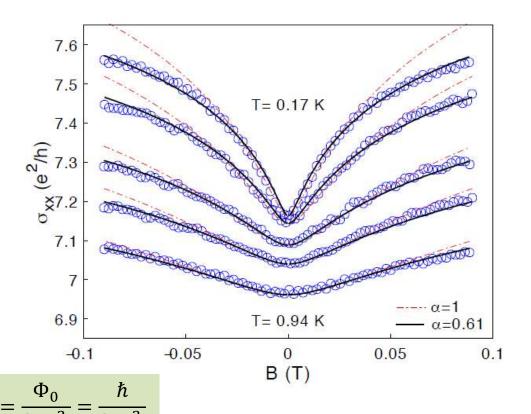
sample larger than elastic scattering length:  $L > \ell$  (diffusive transport)

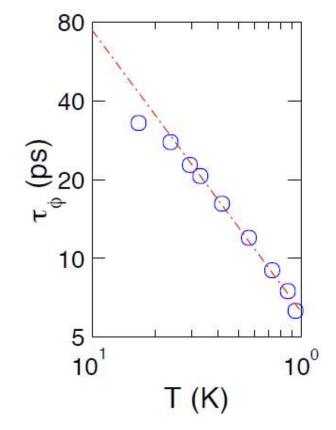
#### observations:

- $\triangleright$  conductivity is reduced by  $\approx 2e^2/h$  for  $B_{\rm ext}=0$
- $\triangleright$  large  $B_{\text{ext}}$ : Shubnikov de-Haas oscillations



- weak localization: measurement of phase coherence time
  - as dependence of magnitude of WL on the coherence time is known to be  $au_{\varphi} \simeq L_{\varphi}^2/D$ 
    - lacktriangle weak localization experiments can be used to determine  $au_{arphi}$

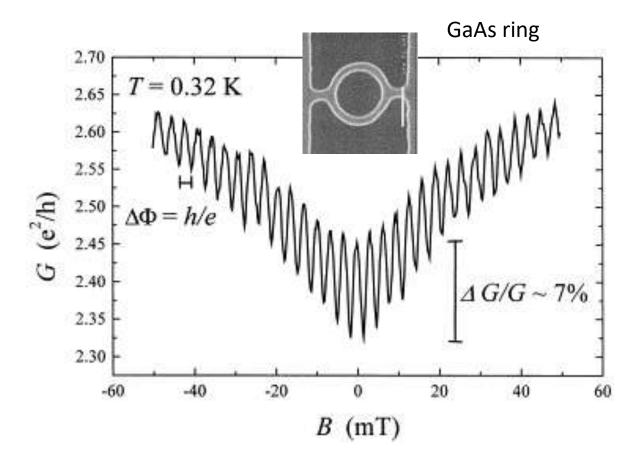




Senz et al., PRB **61**, 5082 (2000)



weak localization: in combination with Aharonov-Bohm effect

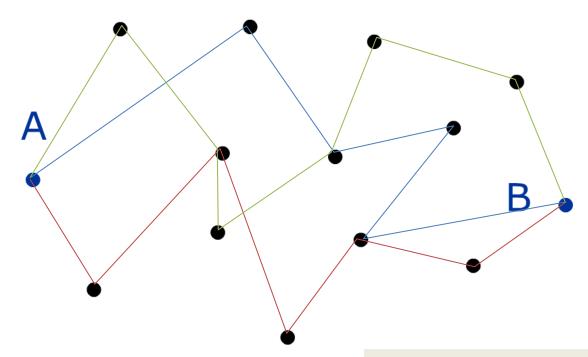


S. Pedersen, A.E. Hansen, A. Kristensen, C.B. Sørensen, P.E. Lindelof, Aharonov-Bohm effect in GaAs/GaAlAs ring interferometers, Materials Science and Engineering: B 74, 234-238 (2000)



#### **Universal Conductance Fluctuations:**

fluctuation of conductance due to different configuration of scatters



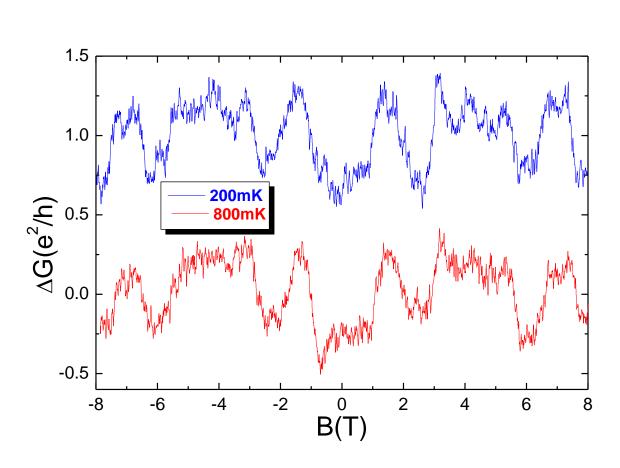
$$P_{AB} = \left| \sum_{p} A_{p} e^{i\chi_{p}} \right|^{2} = \sum_{p} A_{p}^{2} + \left| \sum_{p \neq p'} A_{p} A_{p'} e^{i(\chi_{p} - \chi_{p'})} \right|$$

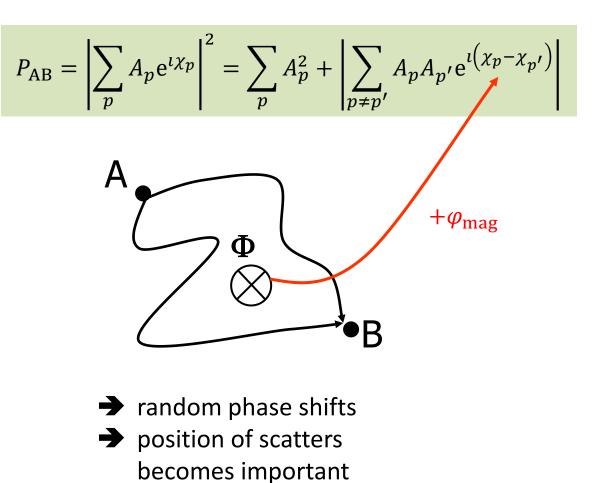
phases  $\chi_p$  depend on specific configuration of scatters in each sample

 $\rightarrow$   $P_{AB}$  and hence conductance is fingerprint of this configuration



- experimental study of universal conductance fluctuations
  - would require fabrication of many samples with different (random) configuration of scatters
  - ergodicity theorem: same result is obtained for a single sample measured at different applied magnetic fields







- experimental observations and facts
  - irregular conductance variations as a function of field (B), carrier density (n), and voltage (V)
  - conductance variations are symmetric with respect to B (2 probe setup)
  - different in each individual sample ("magnetic fingerprint"), fluctuations characterize impurity
     configuration
  - caused by quantum interference
  - amplitude of conductance variations is of the order  $e^2/h$ , not noise
  - theory based on ergodicity theorem

#### variance of ensemble conductance:

consider an ensemble of macroscopically identical but microscopically different samples (different configurations of scattering centers)

$$\langle (G - \langle G \rangle)^2 \rangle = \frac{e^4}{h^2} \left| \left( \sum_{mn} T_{mn} - \sum_{mn} \langle T_{mn} \rangle \right)^2 \right| \qquad T_{mn} = |t_{mn}|^2$$

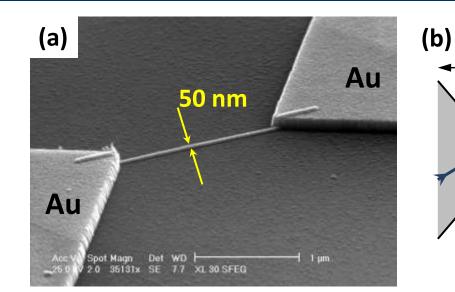
→ complicated calculation

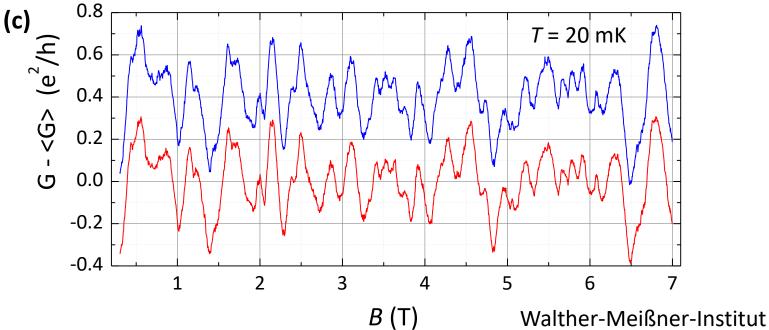


**UCFs in Au wires** 

red and blue curve taken at different days without warming up the sample

→ no noise effect !!

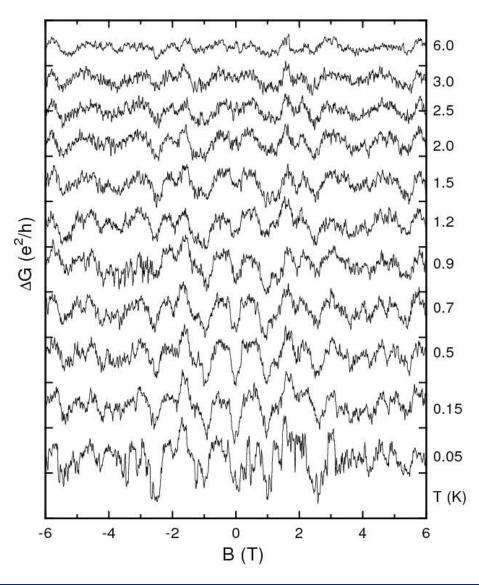




 $\ell \gg \lambda_F$ 



#### **UCFs in Au wires**



UCF in gold nanowire

 $L = 600 \, \text{nm}$ 

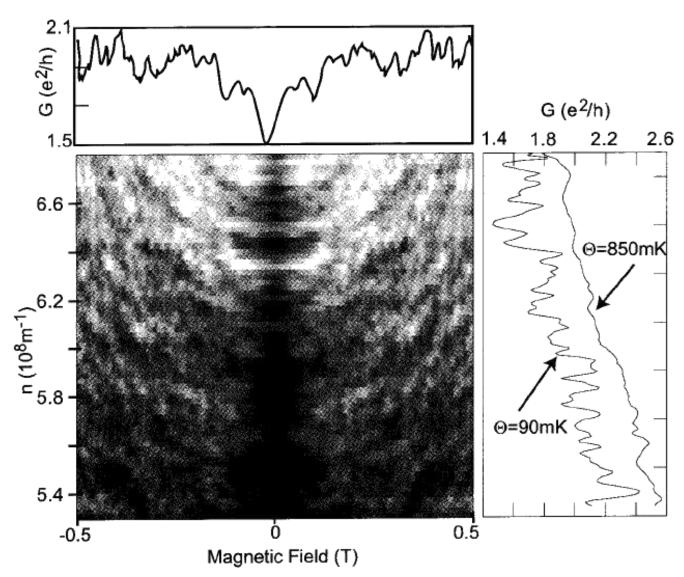
 $= 60 \, \text{nm}$ 

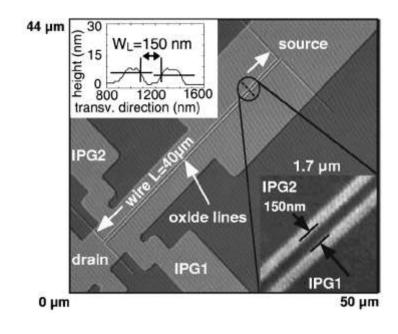
UCF amplitude decreases with increasing *T* as phase coherence length becomes smaller than sample length

H. Hegger, Ph.D. Thesis, Universität zu Köln (1997)



**UCFs in GaAs quantum wire** 





data from Heinzel (2003)



#### **Contents Part II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

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#### Introduction **II.1**

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- II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems
- **Characteristic Length Scales** II.1.3
- **Characteristic Energy Scales** II.1.4
- II.1.5 **Transport Regimes**

#### 11.2 **Description of Electron Transport by Scattering of Waves**

- II.2.1 **Electron Waves and Waveguides**
- 11.2.2 Landauer Formalism
- 11.2.3 Multi-terminal Conductors
- 11.2.4 Statistics of Charge Transport

#### **II.3 Quantum Interference Effects**

- II.3.1 Double Slit Experiment
- 11.3.2 Two Barriers – Resonant Tunneling
- 11.3.3 Aharonov-Bohm Effect
- 11.3.4 Weak Localization
- 11.3.5 Universal Conductance Fluctuations

- 11.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law
- **II.5 Coulomb Blockade**



## II.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

- two different points of view:
  - → quantum transport (electron waves, scattering/transfer matrix)
  - → classical transport (electric currents, charged particles, friction due to scattering, Ohm's law)

What is the bridge between these limiting cases ??



# II.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

• consider two conductors with transmission probabilities  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  connected in series



- what is the transmission probability  $T_{12}$ ?
- if  $T_{12} = T_1 T_2$ , then for a chain of scatterers we would expect the transmission probability to drop exponentially with the length of the chain:

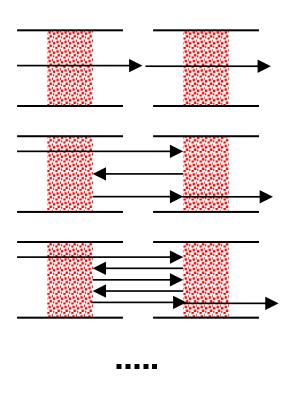
$$T(L) = \exp(-L/L_0)$$
 as  $e^{x_1} \cdot e^{x_2} = e^{x_1 + x_2}$ 

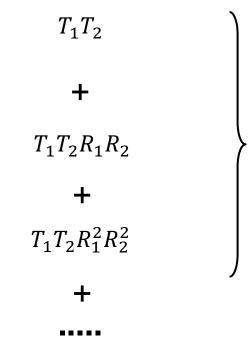
- → no Ohm's law
- **problem**: if we assume  $T_{12} = T_1 T_2$ , then we do not take into account multiple reflections
  - → to obtain the correct result we have to add the probabilities of multiply reflected paths



# From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

two scatterers in series





transmission probabilities

$$T_{12} = \frac{T_1 T_2}{1 - R_1 R_2}$$

$$\frac{1 - T_{12}}{T_{12}} = \frac{1 - T_1}{T_1} + \frac{1 - T_2}{T_2}$$

*incoherent processes* 

additive property



# II.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

*N* scatterers in series

$$\frac{1 - T(N)}{T(N)} = N \frac{1 - T}{T}$$



$$\frac{1-T(N)}{T(N)} = N\frac{1-T}{T}$$

$$T(N) = \frac{T}{N(1-T)+T}$$

- number of scatterers in conductor of length L can be written as N = n L, where n is the linear density

$$T(L) = \frac{L_0}{L + L_0} \quad \text{with} \quad L_0 = \frac{T}{n(1 - T)}$$

with 
$$L_0 = \frac{1}{n}$$

 $-L_0$  is of the order of the mean free path  $\ell$ 

$$\ell = \frac{1}{n(1-T)}$$
 linear density scattering of scatterers probability

$$\ell = \frac{1}{n(1-T)} \simeq \frac{T}{n(1-T)} = L_0 \qquad \text{(for } T \text{ close to 1)}$$



# From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

## quantum conductance for *N* channels

- wide conductor with  $M \approx k_F W/\pi$  modes:  $G \approx 2G_Q M T = 2\frac{e^2}{h} M T \approx \frac{e^2 W}{\pi} T \frac{2k_F}{h}$
- 2D density of tranverse modes:

- using  $T(L) = \frac{L_0}{L + L_0}$  yields:

$$n_{2D} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \implies n_{2D} v_{\rm F} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{2m}{\hbar^2} \frac{\hbar k_{\rm F}}{m} = \frac{2k_{\rm F}}{\hbar}$$

$$G \approx \frac{e^2 W}{\pi} T \frac{2k_{\rm F}}{h} = \frac{e^2 W}{\pi} T n_{\rm 2D} v_{\rm F}$$

$$G \approx \frac{W}{L + L_0} e^2 n_{\rm 2D} v_{\rm F} L_0 \pi$$

$$\approx \sigma \text{ (Einstein relation)}$$

$$G \approx \frac{W}{L + L_0} \ \sigma$$

$$G \approx \frac{W}{L + L_0} \quad \text{or} \quad R = \frac{1}{G} \approx \frac{L + L_0}{W} \frac{1}{\sigma} = \frac{L}{\sigma W} + \frac{L_0}{\sigma W}$$

obeying Ohm's law

resistance / length independent interface resistance



# II.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

#### conclusions

- Ohm's law is obtained from the expression for the quantum conductance
  - → by summing up *probabilities of multiply reflected paths*
  - → note that by summing up probabilities coherence effects are neglected (of course these are not contained in Ohm's law, incoherent transport)
- sample size  $L\gg$  phase coherence length  $L_{\varphi}$ : large phase shifts (also affected by disorder)

formally identical samples:

- very different phase shifts,
- but same ohmic resistance, since interference effects average out for  $L\gg L_{\varpi}$
- $L < L_{\omega}$ : interference effects play important role
  - → deviation from Ohm's law
  - → different resistance for formally identical samples due to different impurity configurations



# From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

- Where is the resistance ??
  - expression for quantum conductance:  $G = 2 \frac{e^2}{h} M T$ 
    - $\rightarrow$  scatterers give rise to resistance by reducing T
  - example: waveguide with *M* modes and a single scatterer

$$\frac{1}{G} = \frac{h}{2e^2} \frac{1}{M} + \frac{h}{2e^2} \frac{1}{M} \frac{1 - T}{T}$$

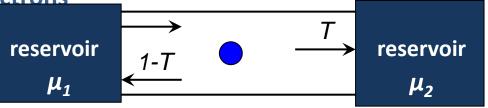
"interface" resistance "scatterer" resistance

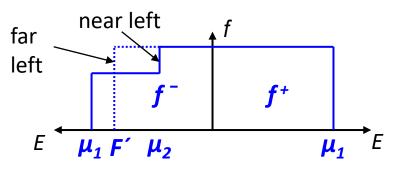
- > scatterer resistance determined by properties of scatterer via its transmissivity
- remaining questions:
  - → can we associate a resistance with the scatterer?
  - → what about the potential drop? Does it occur across the scatterer?
  - → what about Joule heating? Dissipation at the scatterer?

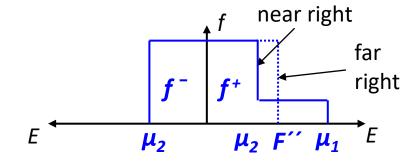


# From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

energy distribution of the electrons







reservoirs:

$$f^+ = \vartheta(\mu_1 - E)$$

$$f^- = \vartheta(\mu_2 - E)$$

near left and right: (non-equilibrium)

$$f^{+} = \vartheta(\mu_1 - E) + T\{\vartheta(\mu_1 - E) - \vartheta(\mu_2 - E)\}$$

$$f^{-} = \vartheta(\mu_2 - E) + (1 - T)\{\vartheta(\mu_1 - E) - \vartheta(\mu_2 - E)\}$$

step functions partial filling of states for  $\mu_2 < E < \mu_1$ 

• far left and right: (equilibrium)

$$f^+ = \vartheta(F' - E)$$

$$f^- = \vartheta(F^{\prime\prime} - E)$$

$$F' = \mu_2 + (1 - T)\{\mu_1 - \mu_2\}$$
  $F'' = \mu_2 + T\{\mu_1 - \mu_2\}$ 

$$F'' = \mu_2 + T\{\mu_1 - \mu_2\}$$

(follows from the conservation of the number of electrons)

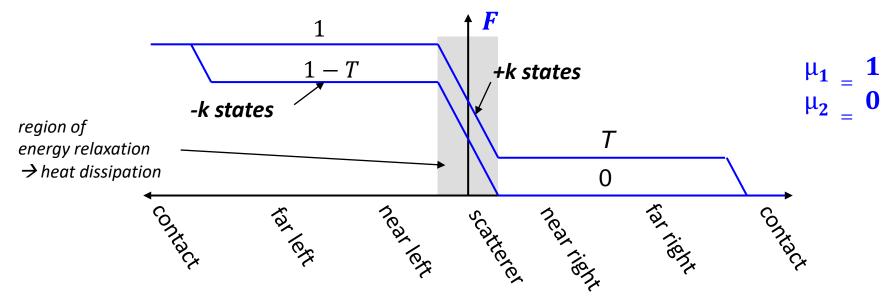


# II.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

- spatial variation of the electrochemical potential
  - left and right to the scatterer (after energy relaxation):

$$F^{+} = \mu_{1}$$
 (left)  $F^{-} = \mu_{2} + (1 - T)\{\mu_{1} - \mu_{2}\}$  (left)  $F^{+} = \mu_{2} + T\{\mu_{1} - \mu_{2}\}$  (right)  $F^{-} = \mu_{2}$ 

• close to scatterer (nonequilibrium distribution, F can be defined via the number of electrons)



- drop of electrochemical potential across scatterer → localized "scatterer" resistance
- drop close to contact → contact resistance



## **Contents Part II: Quantum Transport in Nanostructures**

**II.5** 

#### **Contents:**

#### **II.1** Introduction

- 11.1.1 General Remarks
- II.1.2 Mesoscopic Systems
- **Characteristic Length Scales** II.1.3
- **Characteristic Energy Scales** II.1.4
- II.1.5 **Transport Regimes**

#### 11.4 From Quantum Mechanics to Ohm's Law

**Coulomb Blockade** 

#### 11.2 **Description of Electron Transport by Scattering of Waves**

- II.2.1 **Electron Waves and Waveguides**
- 11.2.2 Landauer Formalism
- 11.2.3 Multi-terminal Conductors
- 11.2.4 Statistics of Charge Transport

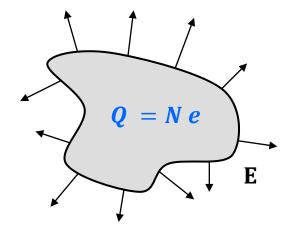
#### **II.3 Quantum Interference Effects**

- II.3.1 Double Slit Experiment
- 11.3.2 Two Barriers – Resonant Tunneling
- 11.3.3 Aharonov-Bohm Effect
- 11.3.4 Weak Localization
- 11.3.5 **Universal Conductance Fluctuations**



- charge quantization and charging energy
  - electric charge is quantized for an isolated island
  - charging energy:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{Q^2}{2C} = \frac{N^2 e^2}{2C} = n^2 \varepsilon_c$$
 with  $\varepsilon_c = \frac{e^2}{2C}$ 



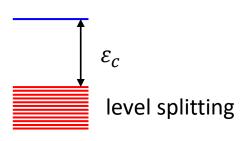
how large is  $\varepsilon_c$  for island of size L (bring charge e from  $\infty$  to island)

$$\varepsilon_c \simeq \frac{e^2}{\epsilon_0 L} \approx \frac{10 \text{ eV}}{L \text{ [nm]}}$$

typically in *meV regime* for 100 nm-sized samples

level splitting in nm-sized island:

$$\delta \varepsilon \simeq \frac{\varepsilon_{\rm F}}{N_{\rm atom}} \approx \frac{1 \text{ eV}}{L^3 \text{ [nm}^3]}$$

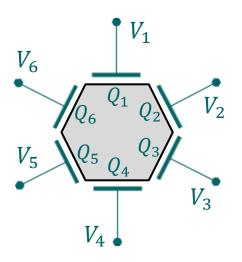


typically *in µeV regime* for 100 nm-sized samples



## **Coulomb Blockade**

capacitance model for metallic island



- charge on the island  $Q_0=\sum_{i=1}^n C_i V_i + \bar{Q}_0$  charge for all  $V_i=0$  "background charge"
  - $-\,\,\,$  potential  $V_0$  of the island is not known, but its charge  $Q_0$  is known to be Ne→ electrostatic potential of the island:

$$V_0(Q_0) = \frac{Q_0 - \overline{Q}_0}{C_{\Sigma}} - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i \quad \text{with} \quad C_{\Sigma} = \sum_{i=1}^k C_i$$

electrostatic energy needed to put additional charge  $\Delta Q = Ne$  on island

$$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{el}}(N) = \int_{\bar{Q}_0}^{\bar{Q}_0 + Ne} V_0(Q_0) dQ_0 = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$

energy needed to charge the island with one additional charge  $\Delta Q = e$ 

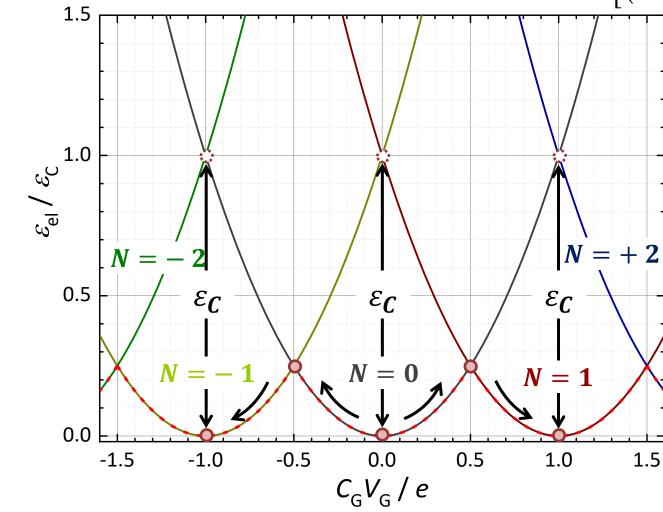
$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(N+1) - \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N) = \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) - e \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$



$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q = Ne) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$

- capacitance model for metallic island only a single capacitance ( $C_{\Sigma} = C$ )
- electrostatic energy  $\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q = Ne) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C} eNV = \frac{e^2}{2C} \left[ \left( N \frac{CV}{e} \right)^2 \left( \frac{CV}{2} \right)^2 \right]$

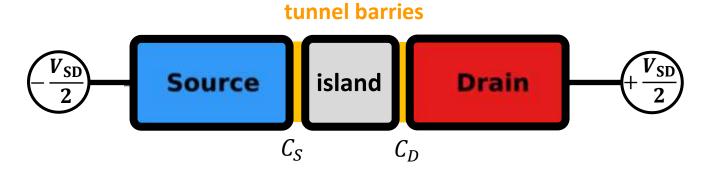
omitted as independent of N



$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{e^2}{2C} \left( N - \frac{CV}{e} \right)^2 = \varepsilon_C \left( N - \frac{CV}{e} \right)^2$$



capacitance model for 2-terminal device



$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$

$$C_{\Sigma} = C_S + C_D$$

electrostatic energy barrier for removing one electron to drain:  $\Delta Q = +e$  on island

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} + e\frac{C_{\rm S}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{(-V_{\rm SD})}{2} - e\frac{C_{\rm D}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{V_{\rm SD}}{2} \underset{C_S = C_D = c}{=} \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - \frac{eV_{\rm SD}}{2}$$

$$eV_{\rm SD}^{\rm thres}/2 \left\{ \frac{\mu_{\rm SD}}{\mu_{\rm SD}} \right\}$$

electrostatic energy barrier for adding an electron from source:  $\Delta Q = -e$ 

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} + e\frac{C_{\rm S}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{(-V_{\rm SD})}{2} - e\frac{C_{\rm D}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{V_{\rm SD}}{2} \underset{C_{\rm S} = C_{\rm D} = C}{=} \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - \frac{eV_{\rm SD}}{2}$$

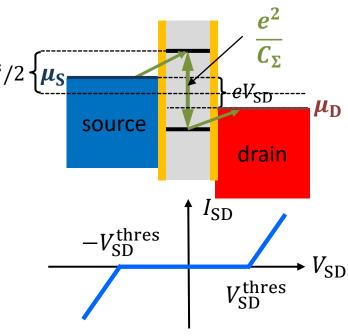
- at T=0, current transport sets in if energy barrier is reduced to zero

threshold SD-voltage:

$$|V_{\rm SD}^{\rm thres}| = \frac{e}{C_{\Sigma}}$$

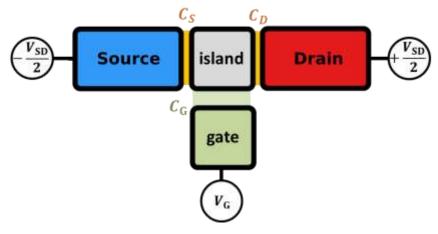
**Coulomb blockade effect** 

for 
$$|V_{SD}| \leq |V_{SD}^{thres}|$$





capacitance model for SET: electrostatic energy



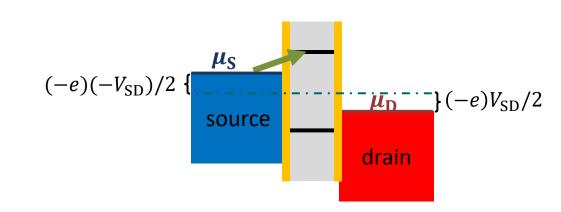
$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$

- charging the neutral island by  $\Delta Q = -Ne$  from source at constant  $\,V_{G}$ 

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta N) = \frac{(-Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} + Ne\frac{C_{\rm S}}{C_{\Sigma}}\frac{(-V_{\rm SD})}{2} - Ne\frac{C_{\rm D}}{C_{\Sigma}}\frac{V_{\rm SD}}{2} - Ne\frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm G} \underset{C_S = C_D = C}{=} \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - Ne\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm SD} + \frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm G}\right)$$

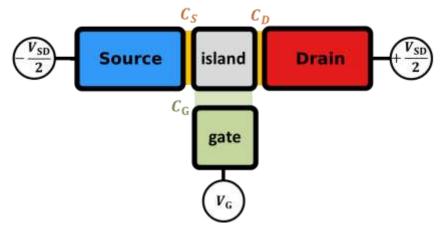
- electrostatic energy difference between adding  $\Delta N = N + 1$  and  $\Delta N = N$  electrons

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(N+1) - \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N) = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} - e\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm SD} + \frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm G}\right)$$





capacitance model for SET: electrostatic energy



$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$

- charging the island by removing  $\Delta Q=-Ne$  to drain at constant  $V_G$  (corresponds to adding  $\Delta Q=+Ne$  to island )

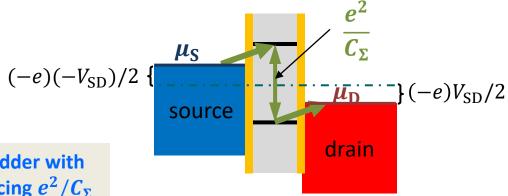
$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta N) = \frac{(\Delta Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - Ne\frac{C_{\rm S}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{-V_{\rm SD}}{2} + Ne\frac{C_{\rm D}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{V_{\rm SD}}{2} + Ne\frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{G} \underset{C_{S} = C_{D} = C}{=} \frac{(\Delta Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} + Ne\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{\rm SD} + \frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{\rm G}\right)$$

- electrostatic energy difference between removing  $\Delta N=N-1$  and  $\Delta N=N$  electrons

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(N) - \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N-1) = \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} + e\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm SD} + \frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm G}\right)$$

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(N+1) - \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N) - [\varepsilon_{\rm el}(N) - \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N-1)] = \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}}$$

energy ladder with fixed spacing  $e^2/\mathcal{C}_\Sigma$ 

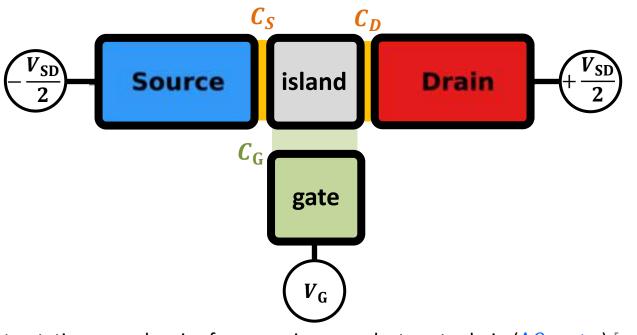


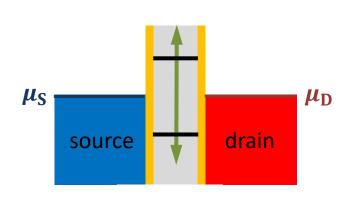


## Coulomb Blockade

capacitance model for 3-terminal device: single electron transistor (SET)

$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{(Ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eN \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{C_i}{C_{\Sigma}} V_i$$





additional  $V_G$  shifts potential energy of island

electrostatic energy barrier for removing one electron to drain ( $\Delta Q = +e$ ) [or adding one electron from source ( $\Delta Q = -e$ )] at finite  $V_{\rm G}$ 

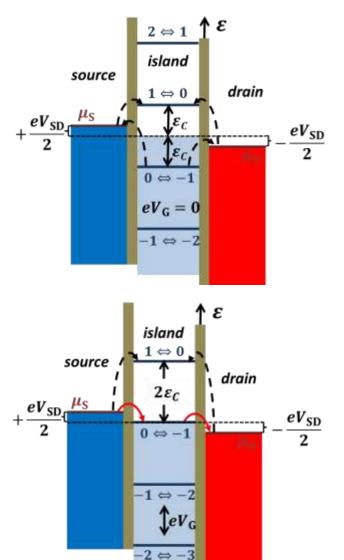
$$\varepsilon_{\rm el}(\Delta Q) = \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} + e\frac{C_{\rm S}}{C_{\Sigma}} - V_{\rm SD} - e\frac{C_{\rm D}}{C_{\Sigma}} \frac{V_{\rm SD}}{2} - e\frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}} V_G \underset{C_S = C_D = C}{=} \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - eV_{\rm SD} - e\frac{C_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}} V_G \quad \text{with} \quad C_{\Sigma} = C_S + C_D + C_G$$

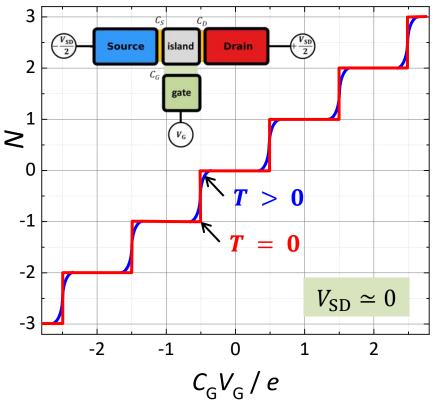
at 
$$V_{\text{SD}} \simeq \mathbf{0}$$
:  $\varepsilon_{\text{el}}(\Delta Q) = \frac{e^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - \underbrace{eV_{\text{SD}}}_{\simeq 0} - e\frac{C_{\text{G}}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\text{G}}$   $\rightarrow$  transport allowed for  $V_{\text{G}}^{\text{trans}} = \frac{e}{2C_{\text{G}}}$ 

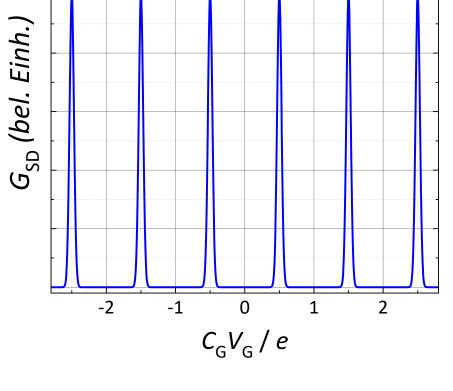
analog result for adding one electron from source ( $\Delta Q = -e$ ) at finite  $V_G$   $\rightarrow$  periodic peaks in  $I_{SD}$  at  $V_G = N \cdot \frac{e}{2C_G}$ 



capacitance model for SET: current flow at  $V_{\rm SD} \simeq 0$  as a function of  $V_{\rm G}$ 







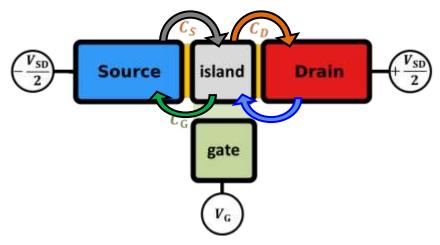
## for $V_{\rm SD} \simeq 0$ :

periodic peaks in SD-current  $I_{\rm SD}$  at  $V_{\rm G}=N\cdot \frac{e}{2C_{\rm G}}$ 



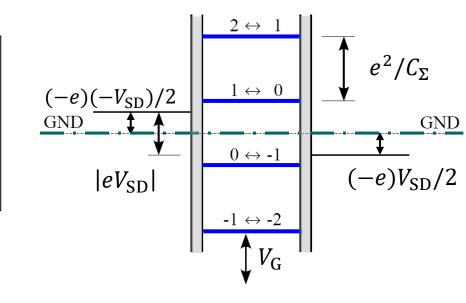
## **Coulomb Blockade**

capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\mathrm{SD}}$ ,  $V_{\mathrm{G}}$ 



at a given N on island, four different electron transfer processes are possible

- $N \to N+1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm FL}(N) = \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N+1) \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N)$ from the left:
- $N \to N-1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm TL}(N) = \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N-1) \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N)$ 2. to the left:
- **3.** from the right:  $N \to N+1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm FR}(N) = \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N+1) \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N)$
- **4.** to the right:  $N \to N-1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm TR}(N) = \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N-1) \varepsilon_{\rm el}(N)$

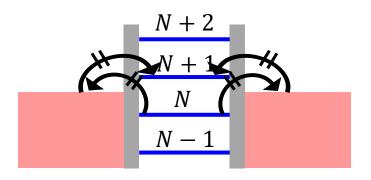




capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\rm SD}$ ,  $V_{\rm G}$ 

#### allowed and forbidden electron transfer processes:

- $\succ T > 0$ : all transfer processes are allowed (by thermal activation)
- $\succ T = 0$ : only transfer processes with  $\Delta \varepsilon < 0$  are allowed



# N-2

#### Coulomb blockade

$$\Delta \varepsilon_{\text{FL,TL,FR,TR}}(N) > 0$$

#### single electron tunneling

$$\Delta arepsilon_{FL}(N) < 0$$
  $\Delta arepsilon_{TR}(N) < 0$   $\Delta arepsilon_{FL}(N+1) > 0$   $\Delta arepsilon_{TR}(N-1) > 0$ 

no second additional or missing electron on island !!

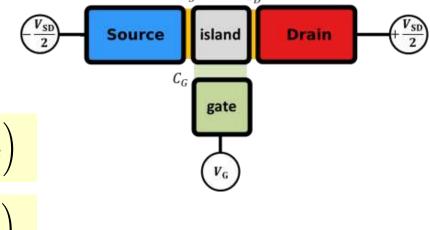


## **Coulomb Blockade**

- capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\rm SD}$ ,  $V_{\rm G}$ 
  - in which range of  $V_{\rm SD}$  and  $V_{\rm G}$  is the electron transport blocked?
  - assumptions:  $C_S = C_D = C$ , symmetric SD voltage bias

$$\mathbf{A} \qquad \varepsilon_{\text{el}}(N+1) - \varepsilon_{\text{el}}(N) = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} - e\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{\text{SD}} + \frac{C_{\text{G}}}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{G}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{el}(N) - \varepsilon_{el}(N-1) = \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} + e\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{SD} + \frac{C_G}{C_{\Sigma}}V_G\right)$$



1. from the left: 
$$N \to N+1$$
  $\Delta \varepsilon_{\mathrm{FL}}(0) = \varepsilon(+1) - \varepsilon(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{c_{\Sigma}} - e\left(\frac{c}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{SD}} + \frac{c_{\mathrm{G}}}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{G}}\right)$   $(N=-1,N+1=0)$  A

2. to the left: 
$$N \to N-1$$
  $\Delta \varepsilon_{\mathrm{TL}}(0) = \varepsilon(-1) - \varepsilon(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{c_{\Sigma}} + e\left(\frac{c}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{SD}} + \frac{c_{\mathrm{G}}}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{G}}\right)$   $(N = +1, N-1 = 0)$  B

3. from the right: 
$$N-1 \to N$$
  $\Delta \varepsilon_{\text{FR}}(0) = \varepsilon(0) - \varepsilon(-1) = +\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{c_{\Sigma}} - e\left(\frac{c}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\text{SD}} + \frac{c_{\text{G}}}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\text{G}}\right)$   $(N-1=-1,N=0)$  A

4. to the right: 
$$N+1 \rightarrow N$$
  $\Delta \varepsilon_{\text{TR}}(0) = \varepsilon(0) - \varepsilon(+1) = +\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{c_{\Sigma}} + e\left(\frac{c}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\text{SD}} + \frac{c_{\text{G}}}{c_{\Sigma}}V_{\text{G}}\right)$   $(N+1=1, N=0)$  B

$$(N = -1, N + 1 = 0)$$
 A

$$(N = +1, N - 1 = 0)$$
 B

$$(N-1=-1, N=0)$$
 A

$$(N+1=1, N=0)$$
 B

We consider processes where the final state is always the state with N=0



## Coulomb Blockade

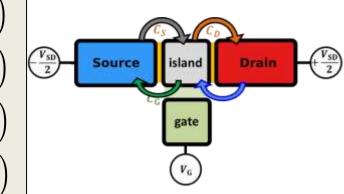
capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\rm SD}$ ,  $V_{\rm G}$ 

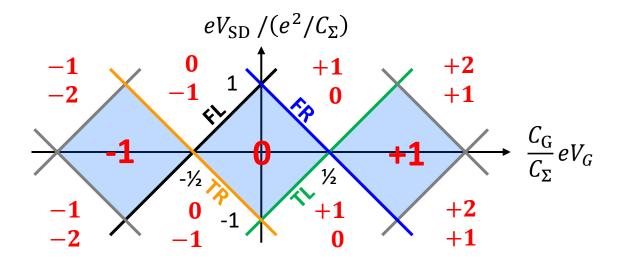
from the left:  $N \to N+1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\mathrm{FL}}(0) = \varepsilon(+1) - \varepsilon(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} - e\left(\frac{C}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{SD}} + \frac{C_{\mathrm{G}}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\mathrm{G}}\right)$ 

to the left:  $N \to N-1$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm TL}(0) = \varepsilon(-1) - \varepsilon(0) = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} + e\left(\frac{c}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm SD} + \frac{c_{\rm G}}{C_{\Sigma}}V_{\rm G}\right)$ 

from the right:  $N-1 \rightarrow N$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{FR}(0) = \varepsilon(0) - \varepsilon(-1) = +\frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{C_{\Sigma}} - e \left( \frac{c}{C_{\Sigma}} V_{SD} + \frac{c_G}{C_{\Sigma}} V_G \right)$ 

to the right:  $N+1 \rightarrow N$   $\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm TR}(0) = \varepsilon(0) - \varepsilon(+1) = +\frac{1}{2}\frac{e^2}{C_{\rm E}} + e\left(\frac{c}{C_{\rm E}}V_{\rm SD} + \frac{c_{\rm G}}{C_{\rm E}}V_{\rm G}\right)$ 



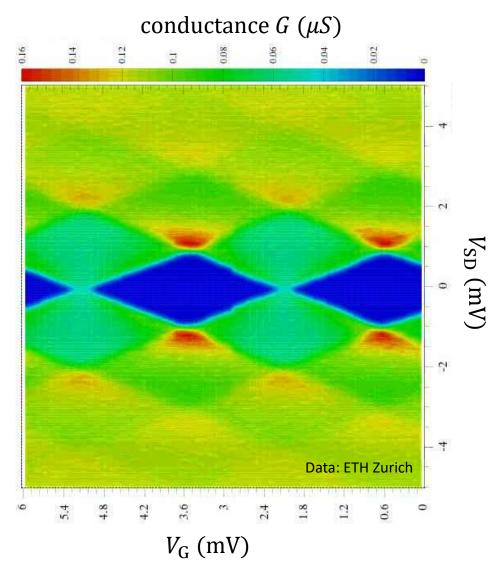


blue areas mark blockade regimes:

"Coulomb diamonds"



capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\mathrm{SD}}$ ,  $V_{\mathrm{G}}$ 

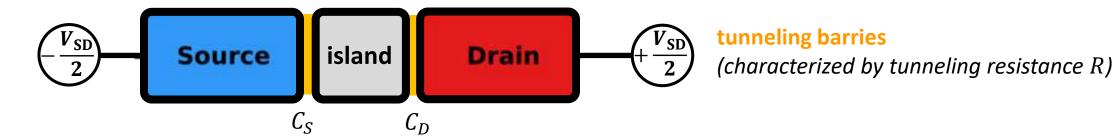


### Single Electron Transistor – Coulomb Diamonds:

blue regions of vanishing conductance correspond to the Coulomb blockade regime (no current flow)



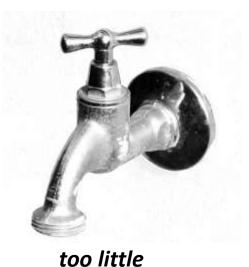
capacitance model for SET: current flow at finite  $V_{\mathrm{SD}}$ ,  $V_{\mathrm{G}}$ 



weak coupling of island to metallic leads (reservoirs)

→ too weak: no electron transfer

→ too strong: no conservation of charge number, no single electron effects





tle just right

too much



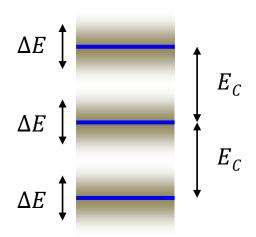
- requirements for the experimental observation of the Coulomb blockade:
  - thermal fluctuations must be small enough:

$$E_c = \frac{e^2}{2C} > k_{\rm B}T \quad \Rightarrow \quad C < \frac{e^2}{2k_{\rm B}T} \approx 1 \text{ fF } @ 1 \text{ K}$$

quantum fluctuations must be small enough:

$$E_c = \underbrace{\frac{\hbar}{\tau} \simeq \frac{\hbar}{RC}}_{\text{level broadening } \Delta E} \Rightarrow R > \frac{h}{e^2} = R_Q \simeq 25 \ k\Omega$$

$$R_Q = quantum\ resistance$$



– requirement for voltage:

$$E_c > eV \quad \Rightarrow \quad V < \frac{e}{2C} \approx 80 \,\mu\text{V} @ 1 \,\text{fF}$$



- SET: current-voltage characteristics
  - facts: (i) charging state is determined by N
    - (ii) no quantum coherence between different states
  - probability  $p_N(t)$  to find system in state N at time t:
    - → given by *Master equation*

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \; p_N(t) = -\underbrace{\left[\Gamma_F(N) + \Gamma_T(N)\right] p_N(t)}_{\text{tunneling from}} + \underbrace{\Gamma_T(N-1) p_{N-1}(t)}_{\text{tunneling to island}} + \underbrace{\Gamma_F(N+1) p_{N+1}(t)}_{\text{tunneling from is$$

with tunneling rates  $\Gamma_F = \Gamma_{FL} + \Gamma_{FR}$  and  $\Gamma_T = \Gamma_{TL} + \Gamma_{TR}$ 

- if we know  $p_N$  for stationary state, we get currents as

$$I_{L} = e \sum_{N} \left[ \Gamma_{FL}(N) - \Gamma_{TL}(N) \right] p_{N}$$

$$I_{L} = e \sum_{N} \left[ \Gamma_{TR}(N) - \Gamma_{FR}(N) \right] p_{N}$$

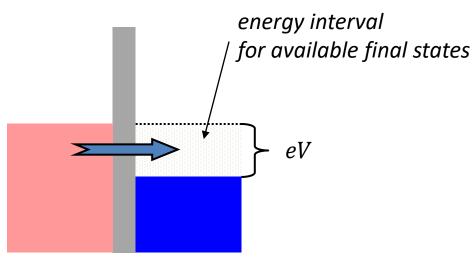
$$I = I_{L} + I_{R}$$



**SET: current-voltage characteristics** 

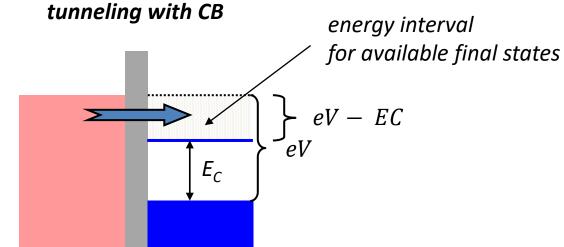
#### tunneling rates for single tunnel junction:

#### tunneling without CB



$$I = G_{tun}V$$

tunneling rate:  $\Gamma_{\text{tun}} = \frac{I}{\rho} = \frac{G_{\text{tun}}}{\rho^2} eV$ 



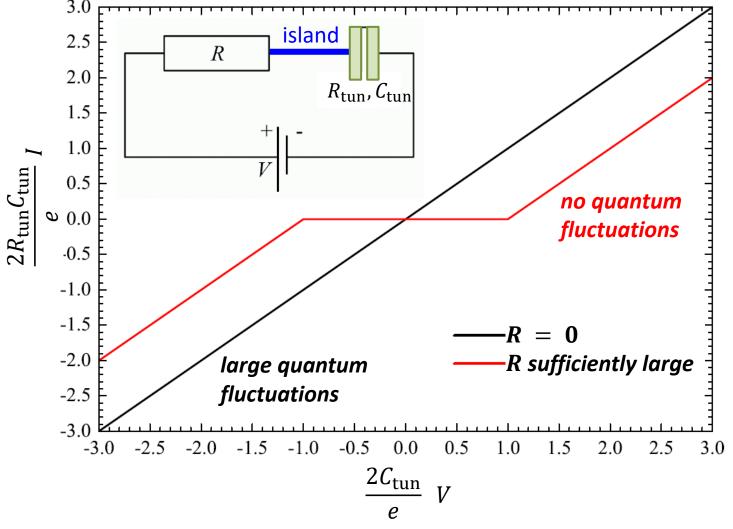
tunneling rate:

$$\Gamma_{\mathrm{tun}} = 0$$
 for  $eV < E_c$  blockade regime

$$\Gamma_{\text{tun}} = \frac{G_{\text{tun}}}{e^2} (eV - E_c) \quad \text{for } eV < E_c$$



**SET: current-voltage characteristics** 



**IVC** for tunneling with **Coulomb blockade** 

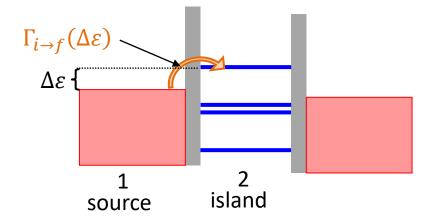


- SET: tunneling rates and IVC
  - electrostatic energy changes as electron tunnels
    - $\rightarrow$  determine tunneling rate at electron energy change of  $\Delta \varepsilon$ :

$$\Gamma_{i\to f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |\langle i|H_{\text{tun}}|f\rangle|^2 \,\delta\big(\varepsilon_f - \varepsilon_i - \Delta\varepsilon\big)$$

Fermi's Golden Rule

- total transition rate from conductor 1 (source) to 2 (island):
  - $\triangleright$  tunneling rate proportional to density of states  $D(\varepsilon)$
  - $\succ$  occupation probability given by Fermi functions  $f(\varepsilon)$
  - integration over all energies



$$\Gamma_{i \to f}(\Delta \varepsilon) = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\varepsilon \, |\langle i | H_{\text{tun}} | f \rangle|^2 \underbrace{D_i(\varepsilon) f(\varepsilon)}_{\text{occupied}} \underbrace{D_f(\varepsilon + \Delta \varepsilon) [1 - f(\varepsilon + \Delta \varepsilon)]}_{\text{empty}}$$



- **SET: tunneling rates and IVC** 
  - simplifying assumptions:

    - $\rightarrow D(\varepsilon)$  is energy independent

$$\Rightarrow H_{\text{tun}} \text{ is energy independent} \Rightarrow D(\varepsilon) \text{ is energy independent}$$

$$\Rightarrow D(\varepsilon) \text{ is energy independent}$$

at low T: Fermi functions  $\approx$  step functions

$$\Gamma_{i\to f}(\Delta\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{e^2 R_{\rm tun}} \frac{\Delta\varepsilon}{\exp(\Delta\varepsilon/k_{\rm B}T) - 1}$$

with

$$R_{\rm tun} = \frac{\hbar}{2\pi e^2} D^2 |\langle i|H_{\rm tun}|f\rangle|^2$$

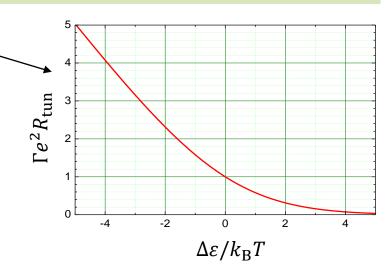
net current

$$I = e \left[ \Gamma_{1 \to 2} \left( \Delta \varepsilon_{1 \to 2} \right) - \Gamma_{2 \to 1} \left( \Delta \varepsilon_{2 \to 1} \right) \right]$$

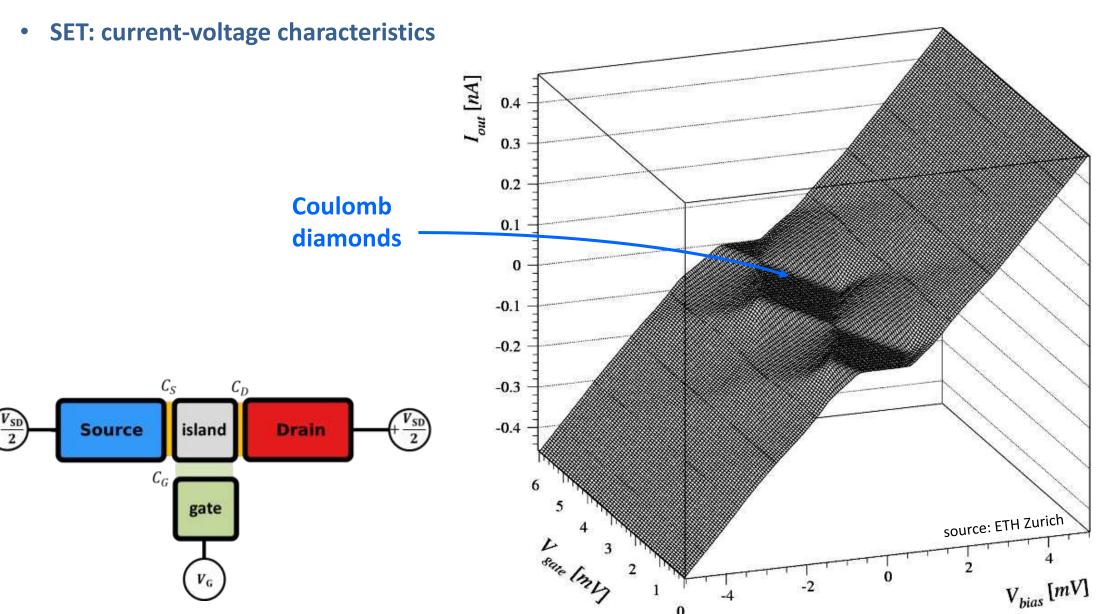
current from current source (1) to island (2) in steady state

$$I = e \sum_{N} p(N) \left\{ \Gamma_{1 \to 2} \left[ \Delta \varepsilon_{1 \to 2}(N) \right] - \Gamma_{2 \to 1} \left[ \Delta \varepsilon_{2 \to 1}(N) \right] \right\}$$

(equivalent expression for current from island to drain)

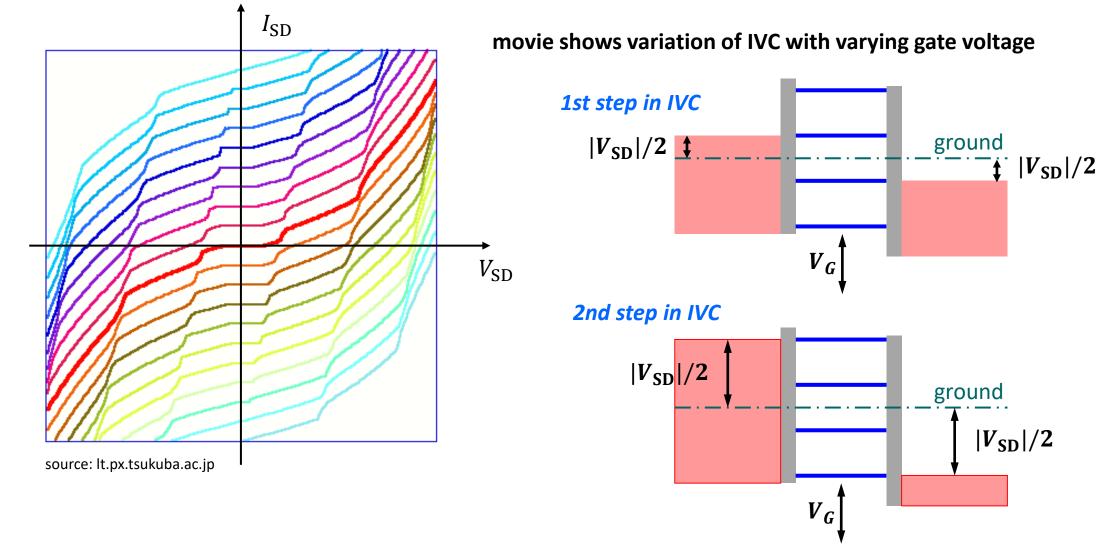






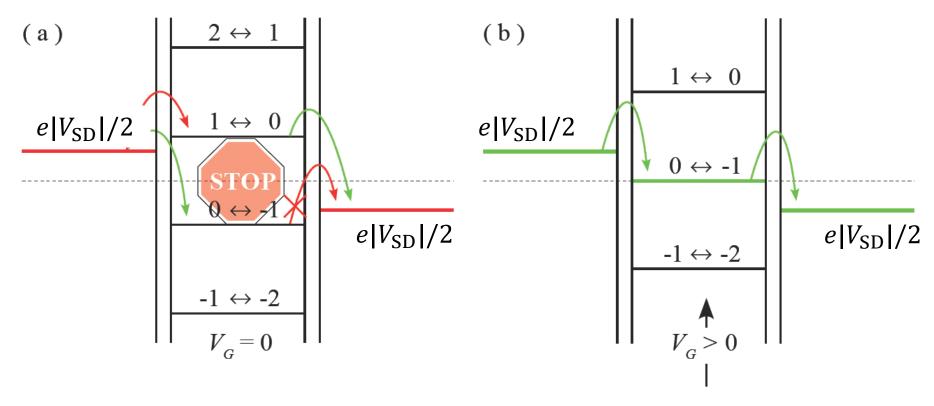


SET: current-voltage characteristics - Coulomb staircase





SET: variation of the gate voltage – Coulomb oscillations:

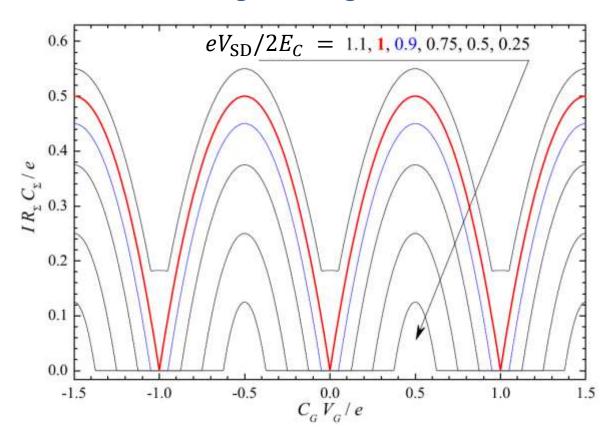


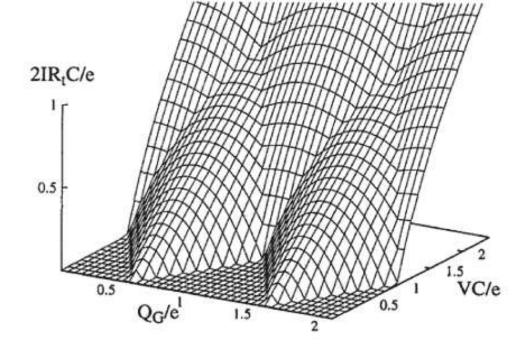
- gate voltage shifts up and down the energy levels of the island
- at small SD-voltages: conductance can be varied considerably by gate voltage

→ Coulomb Oscillations



SET: variation of the gate voltage – Coulomb oscillations:



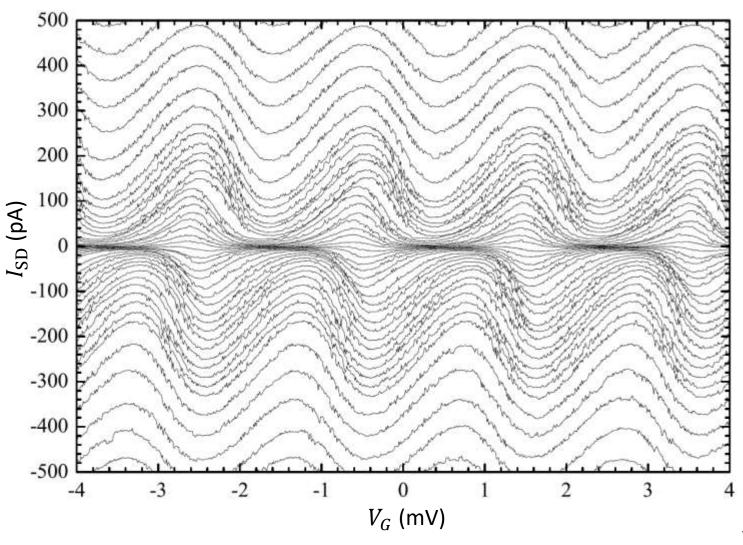


#### note:

- large  $dI_{\rm SD}$  /  $dV_{G}$ 
  - → use as ultra-sensitive electrometer



**SET: variation of the gate voltage – Coulomb oscillations:** 



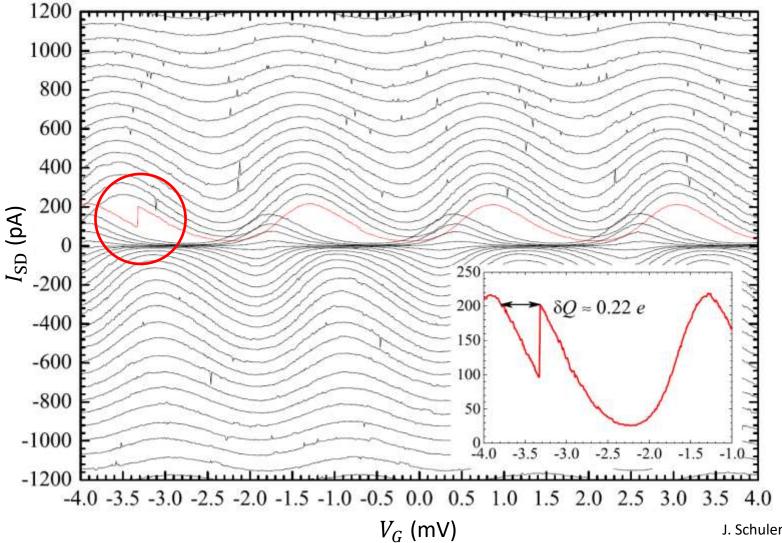
experimental data on AI/AIO<sub>x</sub>/AI/AIO<sub>x</sub>/AI - SET

 $V_{\mathrm{SD}}$  is varied for different curves

J. Schuler, Ph.D. Thesis (WMI 2005)



**SET Coulomb oscillations - effect of single fluctuating background charges** 



AI/AIO<sub>x</sub> / AI/AIO<sub>x</sub> /AI - SET

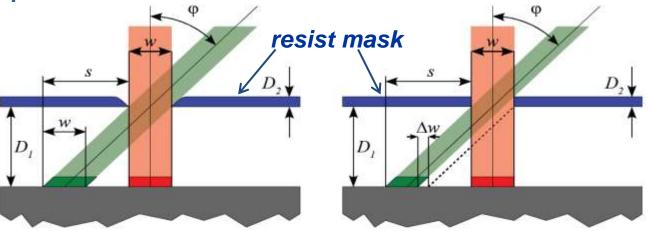
shift of  $I_{SD}(V_G)$  curve due to fluctuating background charge

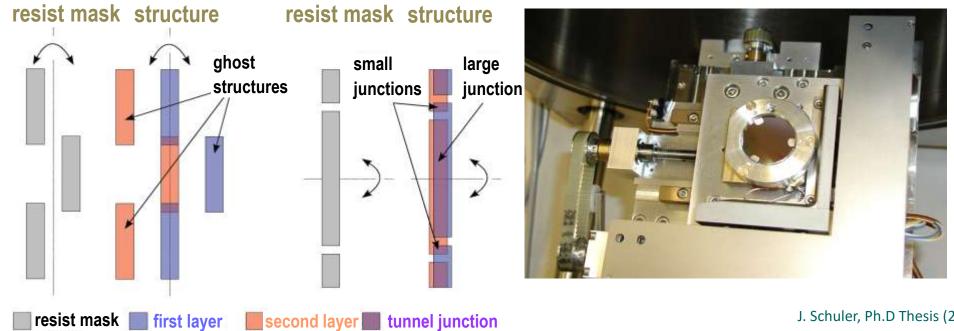
J. Schuler, Ph.D. Thesis (WMI 2005)



**SET fabrication by two-angle shadow evaporation** 

fabrication of sub-μm Josephson Junctions by shadow vaporation technique



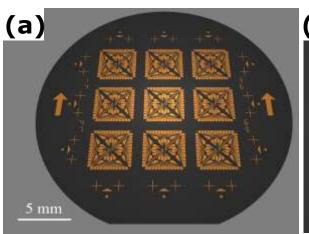


J. Schuler, Ph.D Thesis (2005)

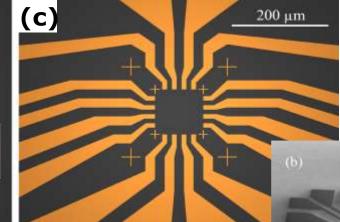


**SET fabrication by two-angle shadow evaporation** 

### **Optical Lithography**



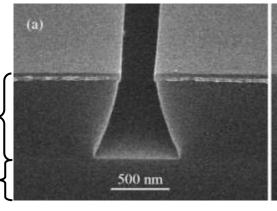


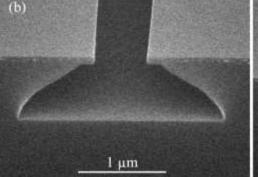


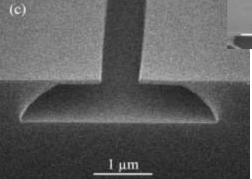
## **Electron Beam Lithography**

two-layer e-beam resist

Si substrate



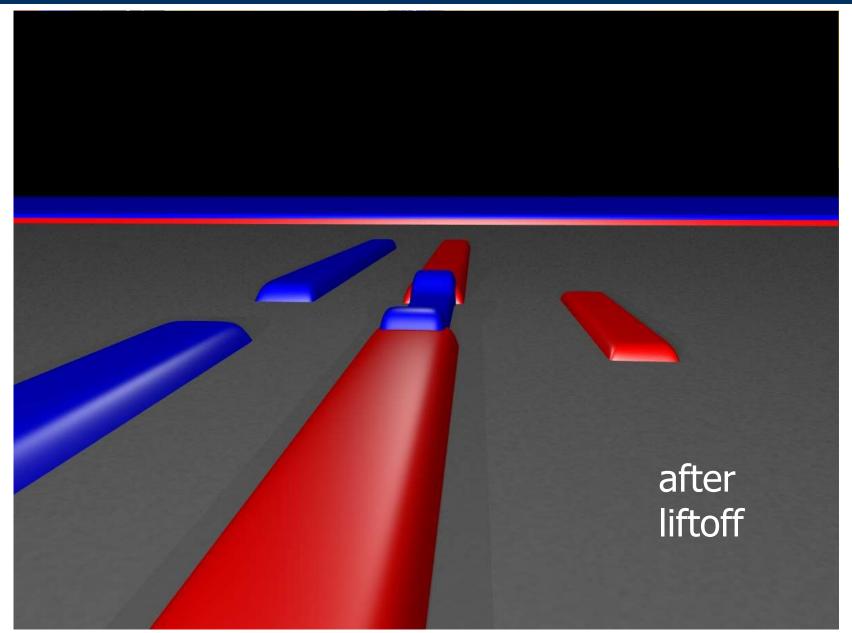




500 µm

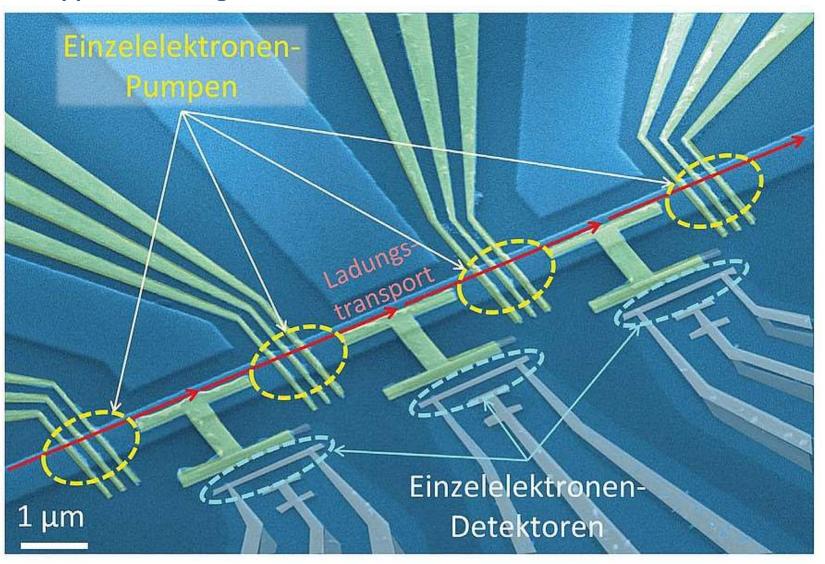


 SET fabrication by two-angle shadow evaporation





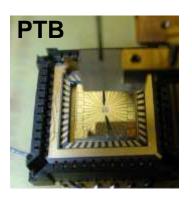
**SET application: single electron detector** 



prototype of a selfreferenced quantum current source developed at PTB with four semiconductor single-electron current sources ("single-electron pumps") connected in series and three metallic single electron detectors



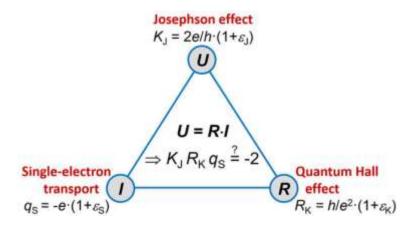
- **SET applications** 
  - sensitive electrometers:  $\frac{\Delta Q}{Q} \simeq 10^{-5} e$

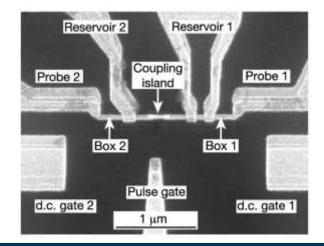


- electron pumps
  - → transporting electrons one by one: counting of electrons
    - $\rightarrow$  current standard:  $I = e \cdot f$
    - → application of oscillating gate voltage
- charge Qubits
  - → basic element for quantum information systems

#### Quantum oscillations in two coupled charge qubits

Yu. A. Pashkin, T. Yamamoto, O. Astafiev, Y. Nakamura, D. V. Averin and J. S. Tsai Nature 421, 823-826(20 February 2003)







SET applications – the quantum metrology triangle

