



Theory and DFT simulations of spin-polarized transport

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Theoretical background for electron transport

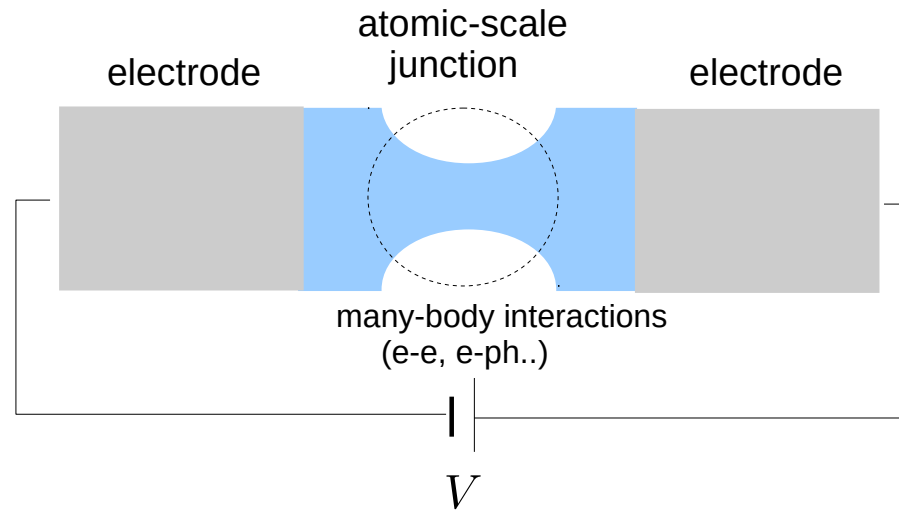
- Non-Equilibrium Green's Functions (NEGF)
- relation of NEGF to the Landauer-Büttiker formalism: conductance=transmission
- NEGF for different system partitionings:
 - 4-parts (STM, Cesar lecture)
 - 5-parts (single molecule geometry)
- spin-polarized transport
- NEGF with Density functional theory (DFT)

Selected results on spin-polarized transport in molecular junctions

- perfect spin-filtering by orbital mismatch of wave functions
- efficient spin-filtering by quantum interference
- spin-orbit torque exerted on a magnetic molecule

Bibliography

- [1] Elke Scheer (Auteur), Juan Carlos Cuevas, «Molecular Electronics: An Introduction To Theory And Experiment», 2017
- [2] Mahdi Pourfath, «The Non-Equilibrium Green's Function Method for Nanoscale Device Simulation», 2014
- [3] Pier A. Mello, Narendra Kumar, «Quantum Transport in Mesoscopic Systems: Complexity and Statistical Fluctuations», 2004



Calculate current $I(V)$

General framework — Non-Equilibrium Green's Functions (NEGF) **(Ref. [1,2])**

[Kadanoff and Baym, and independently by Keldysh in the early 1960's]



Elastic (coherent) regime, no many-body interactions

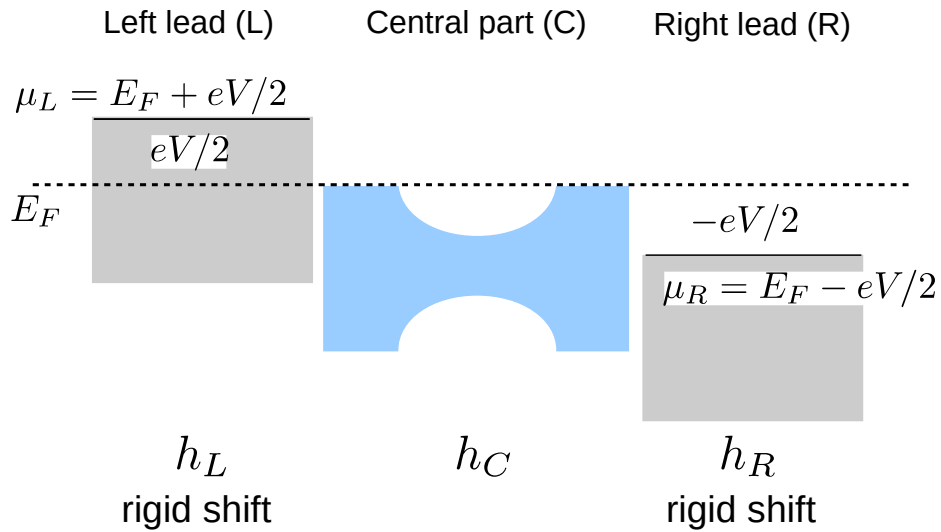
Landauer-Büttiker formula for elastic conductance:

$$G = I/\delta V = G_0 T(E_F)$$

Where $T(E_F)$ is the total electron transmission at the Fermi energy;

$G_0 = e^2/h$ is the conductance quantum (per spin).

Disconnected junction

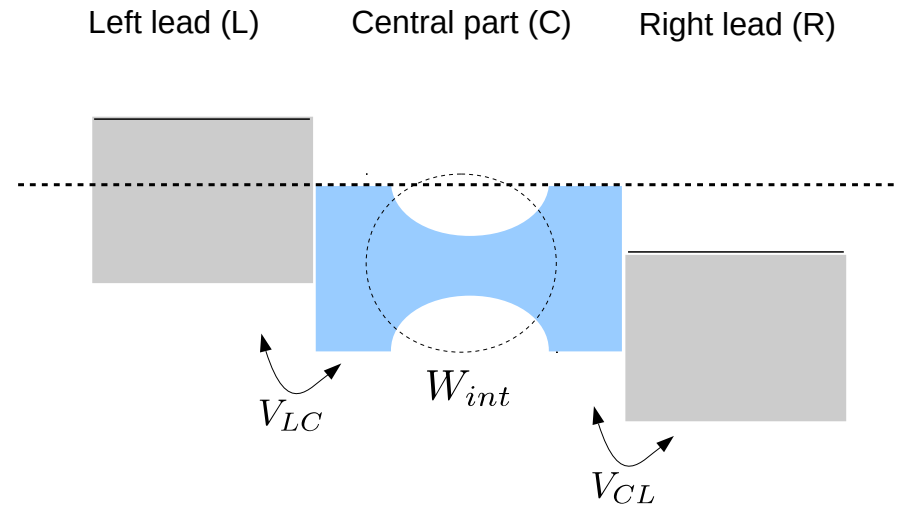


Tight-binding like Hamiltonian:

$$h = h_L + h_C + h_R = \sum_{mn} V_{mn} c_m^\dagger c_n$$

$\{m, n\}$ are localized orbitals (like s, p, d, \dots)

Connected junction



$$\mathcal{H} = h + [V_{LC} + V_{RC} + h.c.] + W_{int}$$

perturbation = $V + W_{int}$

\swarrow \searrow
 couplings many-body interactions

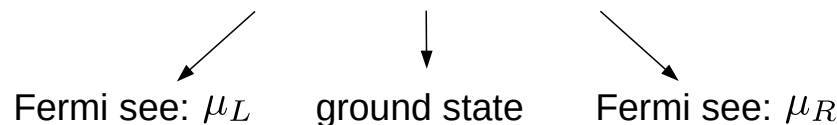
Known state ψ



Unknown state Ψ

?

$$\psi = |\psi_L\rangle \otimes |\psi_C\rangle \otimes |\psi_R\rangle$$



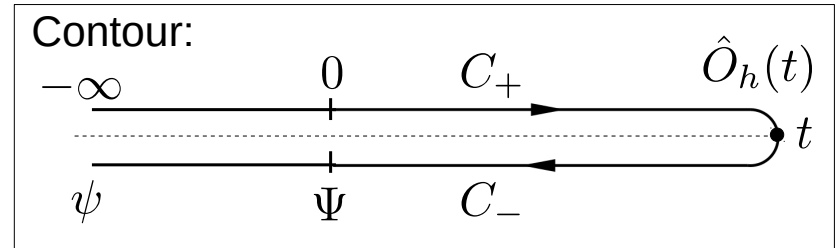
Mean value of any observable \hat{O} : $O(t) = \langle \Psi | \hat{O}_{\mathcal{H}}(t) | \Psi \rangle$; $\hat{O}_{\mathcal{H}}(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{\mathcal{H}}t} \hat{O} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{\mathcal{H}}t}$

Adiabatic switching on interactions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\Psi\rangle &= \hat{S}(0, -\infty) |\psi\rangle & \hat{O}_{\mathcal{H}}(t) &= \hat{S}(0, t) \hat{O}_h(t) \hat{S}(t, 0) \\
 \text{with the evolution operator:} & & \hat{O}_h(t) &= e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{h}t} \hat{O} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{h}t} \\
 \hat{S}(t_2, t_1) &= \mathcal{T}_t \left\{ \exp \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \delta \hat{h}_I(t) dt \right) \right\} & &
 \end{aligned}$$



$$O(t) = \langle \psi | \hat{S}(-\infty, t) \hat{O}_h(t) \hat{S}(t, -\infty) | \psi \rangle$$



Four main Green functions are needed due to two branches on the contour:

$$i\hbar G_{mn}^>(t_2, t_1) = \langle \Psi | \hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) | \Psi \rangle, \quad \text{or } G_{mn}^{-+}(t_2, t_1) \quad \text{-- greater}$$

$$i\hbar G_{mn}^<(t_2, t_1) = - \langle \Psi | \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) | \Psi \rangle, \quad \text{or } G_{mn}^{+-}(t_2, t_1) \quad \text{-- lesser}$$

$$i\hbar G_{mn}^r(t_2, t_1) = \theta(t_2 - t_1) \langle \Psi | \left[\hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \right]_+ | \Psi \rangle \quad \text{-- retarded}$$

$$i\hbar G_{mn}^a(t_2, t_1) = -\theta(t_1 - t_2) \langle \Psi | \left[\hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \right]_+ | \Psi \rangle \quad \text{-- advanced}$$



$$\hat{h} = \sum_{mn} t_{mn} \hat{c}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_n = \sum_k \epsilon_k \hat{c}_k^\dagger \hat{c}_k$$

$$\hat{c}_k(t) = \hat{c}_k e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon_k t}$$

In time domain:

$$i\hbar g_k^>(t_2, t_1) = [1 - f(\epsilon_k)] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon_k (t_1 - t_2)}$$

$$i\hbar g_k^<(t_2, t_1) = -f(\epsilon_k) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon_k (t_1 - t_2)}$$

$$i\hbar g_k^r(t_2, t_1) = \theta(t_2 - t_1) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon_k (t_1 - t_2)}$$

$$i\hbar g_k^a(t_2, t_1) = -\theta(t_1 - t_2) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \epsilon_k (t_1 - t_2)}$$



Fourier transform to time domain:

$$g_k^>(E) = -2\pi i [1 - f(\epsilon_k)] \delta(E - \epsilon_k)$$

$$g_k^<(E) = 2\pi i f(\epsilon_k) \delta(E - \epsilon_k)$$

$$g_k^{r/a}(E) = \frac{1}{E \pm i\eta - \epsilon_k}$$

where Fermi-Dirac distribution: $f(E) = [1 + e^{(E-\mu)/kT}]^{-1}$

In any basis too:

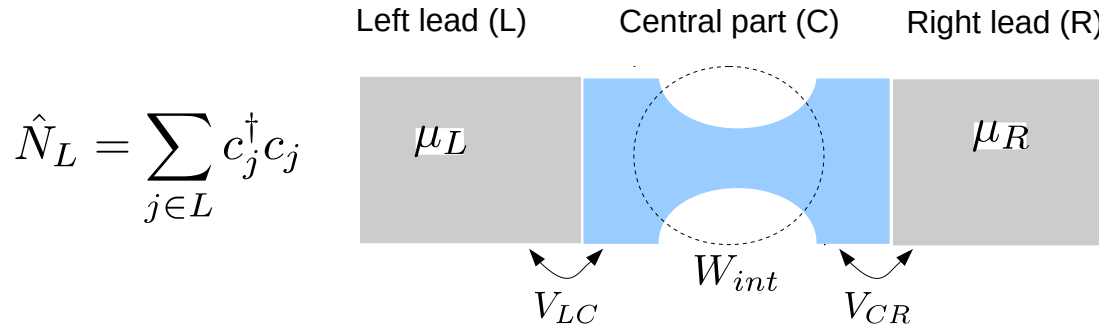
$$g^>(E) = [1 - f(E)] \{g^r(E) - g^a(E)\}$$

$$g^<(E) = -f(E) \{g^r(E) - g^a(E)\}$$

$$g^{r/a}(E) = \frac{1}{E \pm i\eta - \epsilon_k}$$

Well-known relation with Cauchy principal part:

$$\frac{1}{E \pm i\eta - \epsilon_k} = \text{P} \left(\frac{1}{E - \epsilon_k} \right) \mp i\pi \delta(E - \epsilon_k)$$



Starting with:

$$I_L = -e \frac{d \langle \hat{N}_{L, \mathcal{H}}(t) \rangle}{dt}$$

Final expression:

$$I_L = \frac{e}{h} \int dE \text{Tr}[\Sigma_L^< G_{CC}^> - \Sigma_L^> G_{CC}^<]$$

$$\begin{cases} G_{CC}^{</>} = G_{CC}^r [\Sigma_L^{</>} + \Sigma_R^{</>} + \Sigma_{int}^{</>}] G_{CC}^a \\ G_{CC}^{r/a} = [(E - H_{CC} - \Sigma_L^{r/a} - \Sigma_R^{r/a} - \Sigma_{int}^{r/a})]^{-1} \end{cases}$$

Dyson equation:

$$G^{r/a} = g^{r/a} + g^{r/a} V G^{r/a} + g^{r/a} \Sigma_{int}^{r/a} G^{r/a}$$

Contact self-energies:

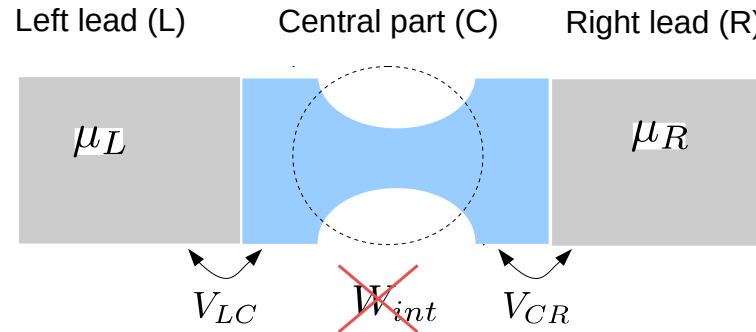
$$\Sigma_L^{r/a}(E) = V_{CL} g_{LL}^{r/a}(E) V_{LC}$$

$$\Sigma_L^<(E) = V_{CL} g_{LL}^<(E) V_{LC} = -f_L(E) V_{CL} [g_{LL}^r(E) - g_{LL}^a(E)] V_{LC} = i f_L(E) \Gamma^L(E)$$

$$\Sigma_L^>(E) = V_{CL} g_{LL}^>(E) V_{LC} = -i [1 - f_L(E)] \Gamma^L(E)$$

With coupling matrices defined as: $\Gamma^L = i(\Sigma_L^r - \Sigma_L^a)$

$$W_{int} = 0$$



If no interactions are present in the Central part (elastic or coherent regime): $\Sigma_{int}^{<, >, r, a} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_L &= \frac{e}{h} \int dE \text{Tr} \left[i f_L(E) \Gamma^L(E) G^r(E) \left\{ -i[1 - f_L(E)] \Gamma^L(E) - i[1 - f_R(E)] \Gamma^R(E) \right\} G^a(E) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + i[1 - f_L(E)] \Gamma^L(E) G^r(E) \left\{ i f_L(E) \Gamma^L(E) + i f_R(E) \Gamma^R(E) \right\} G^a(E) \right] \\
 &= \frac{e}{h} \int [f_L(E) - f_R(E)] \cdot \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L(E) G_{CC}^r(E) \Gamma^R(E) G_{CC}^a(E)] dE
 \end{aligned}$$

Denoting $\text{Tr} [\Gamma^L(E) G_{CC}^r(E) \Gamma^R(E) G_{CC}^a(E)] = T(E)$

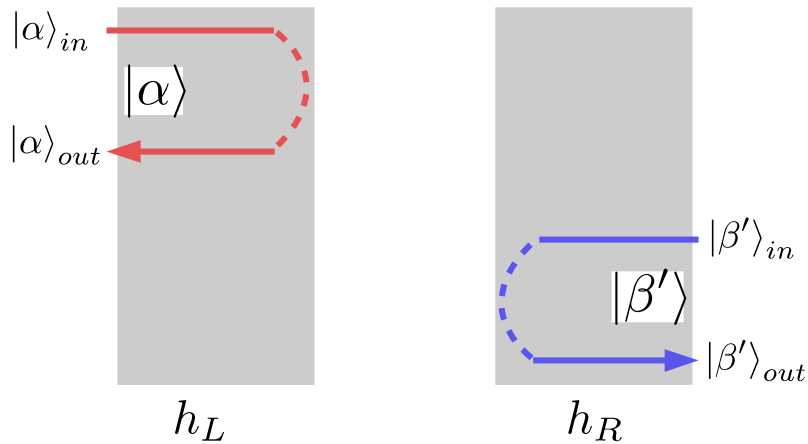
We arrive at:

$$I_L = \frac{e}{h} \int [f_L(E) - f_R(E)] T(E) dE$$

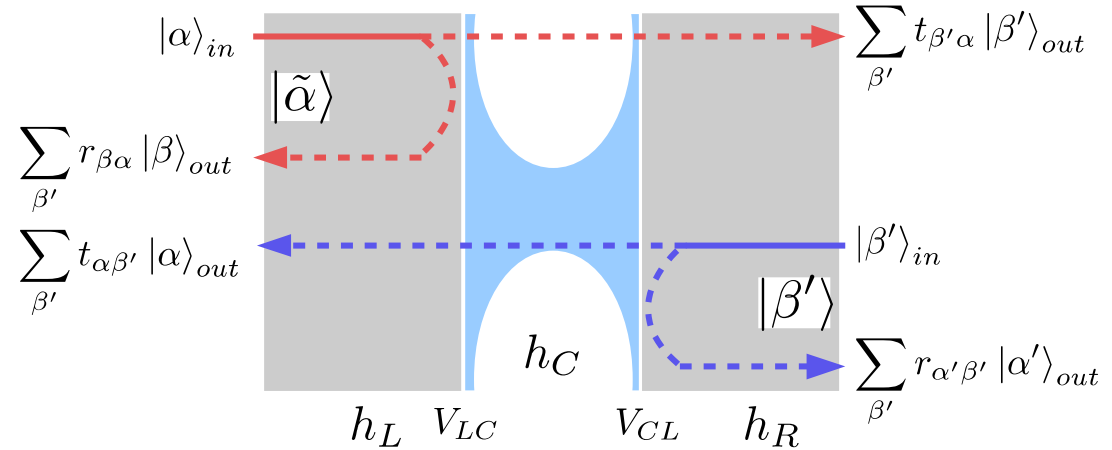
Transmission function ?

At fixed energy E :

Decoupled leads



Junction



$$\alpha = 1, \dots, N_L$$

$$\beta' = 1, \dots, N_R$$

$N_{L/R}$ – number of channels = bands crossing the energy E

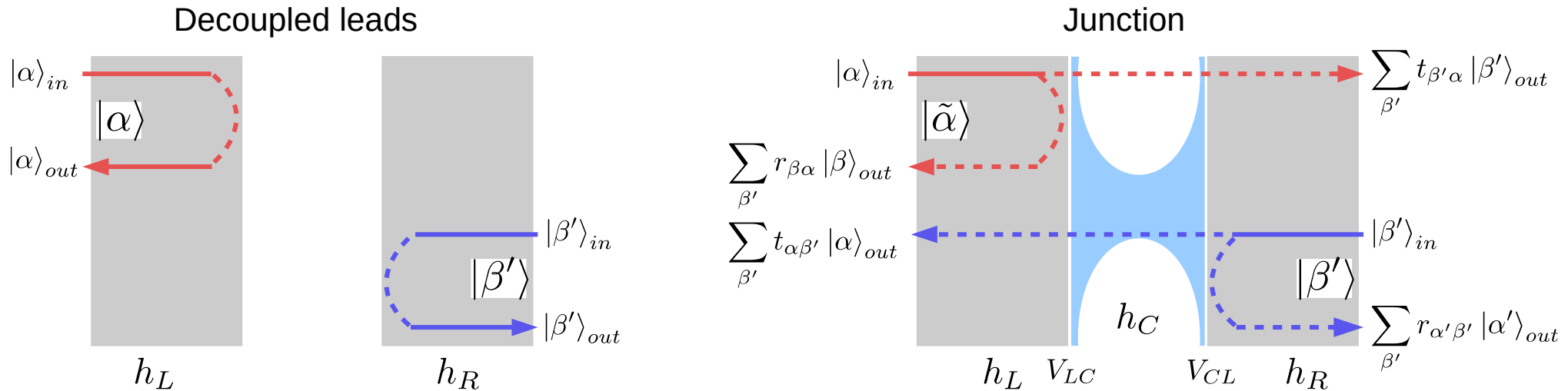
$|\rangle_{in/out}$ are normalized to carry the unit current

When the coupling is switched on:

$$\{\alpha, \beta'\} \longrightarrow \{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}'\}$$

Energy-dependent transmission is defined by:

$$T_{L \rightarrow R} = \sum_{\beta' \alpha} |t_{\beta' \alpha}|^2 = \sum_{\alpha \beta'} |t_{\alpha \beta'}|^2 = T_{L \leftarrow R} = T(E)$$



$$\{\alpha, \beta'\} \longrightarrow \{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}'\}$$

Lippmann-Schwinger equation (**Ref. [3]**):

$$|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle = |\alpha\rangle + g^r(E)V |\tilde{\alpha}\rangle; \quad V = V_{LC} + V_{RC} + h.c.$$

and GFs for decoupled system are:

$$g^r(E) = [E + i\delta - h]^{-1}; \quad h = h_L + h_C + h_R$$

Iterating:

$$|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle = |\alpha\rangle + g^r(E)V |\alpha\rangle + \underbrace{g^r(E)V [g^r(E) + g^r(E)V g^r(E) + \dots] V}_{\text{full } G^r(E)} |\alpha\rangle$$

and therefore:

$$|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle = |\alpha\rangle + g^r(E)V|\alpha\rangle + g^r(E)VG^r(E)V|\alpha\rangle$$

In the decoupled leads GFs can be conveniently written in terms of asymptotic states as **(Ref. [3])**:

$$g_L^r(E) = -2\pi i \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_L} |\alpha\rangle_{out} \langle\alpha|; \quad g_R^r(E) = -2\pi i \sum_{\beta'=1}^{N_R} |\beta'\rangle_{out} \langle\beta'|$$

so that the scattering wave in Leads, originated from $|\alpha\rangle$, take the following form:

$$|\alpha\rangle \rightarrow |\alpha\rangle - 2\pi i \sum_{\beta} |\beta\rangle^{out} \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\beta m}^L G_{mn}^r V_{n\alpha}^L - 2\pi i \sum_{\beta'} |\beta'\rangle^{out} \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\beta' m}^R G_{mn}^r V_{n\alpha}^L$$

with $V_{\beta m}^L = \langle\beta|V_{LC}|m\rangle$ and $V_{\beta' m}^R = \langle\beta'|V_{RC}|m\rangle$

It follows therefore that reflection and transmission amplitudes are given by:

$$r_{\beta\alpha} = \delta_{\beta\alpha} - 2\pi i \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\beta m}^L G_{mn}^r V_{n\alpha}^L; \quad t_{\beta'\alpha} = -2\pi i \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\beta' m}^R G_{mn}^r V_{n\alpha}^L$$

hopping
 $C \rightarrow R$
propagation
 $C \rightarrow C$
hopping
 $L \rightarrow C$

Finally, the coupling matrices in the diagonal α, β' basis take form:

$$\Gamma_{mn}^L = 2\pi \sum_{\alpha} V_{m\alpha}^L V_{\alpha n}^L; \quad \Gamma_{mn}^R = 2\pi \sum_{\alpha'} V_{m\alpha'}^R V_{\alpha' n}^R$$

So we now arrive at the final expression for the Trace:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}[\Gamma^L G_{CC}^r \Gamma^R G_{CC}^a] &= 4\pi^2 \sum_{iklm, \alpha\alpha'} V_{i\alpha}^L V_{\alpha k}^L G_{kl}^r V_{l\alpha'}^R V_{\alpha'm}^R G_{mi}^a \\ &= 4\pi^2 \sum_{iklm, \alpha\alpha'} V_{\alpha k}^L G_{kl}^r V_{l\alpha'}^R V_{\alpha i}^{L*} G_{im}^{r*} V_{m\alpha'}^{R*} = \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} |t_{\alpha\alpha'}|^2 = T_{L\leftarrow R} = T_{L\rightarrow R} = T \end{aligned}$$

Keeping in mind:

$$t_{\beta'\leftarrow\alpha} = t_{\beta'\alpha} = -2\pi i \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\beta'm}^R G_{mn}^r V_{n\alpha}^L; \quad t_{\alpha\leftarrow\beta'} = t_{\alpha\beta'} = -2\pi i \sum_{m,n \in C} V_{\alpha m}^L G_{mn}^r V_{n\beta'}^R$$



$$\text{Tr}[\Gamma^L G_{CC}^r \Gamma^R G_{CC}^a] = T$$

Landauer formula for electric current:

$$I = e/h \int T(E)[f_L - f_R]dE; \quad f_{L/R}(E) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E - \mu_{L/R})/kT}}$$

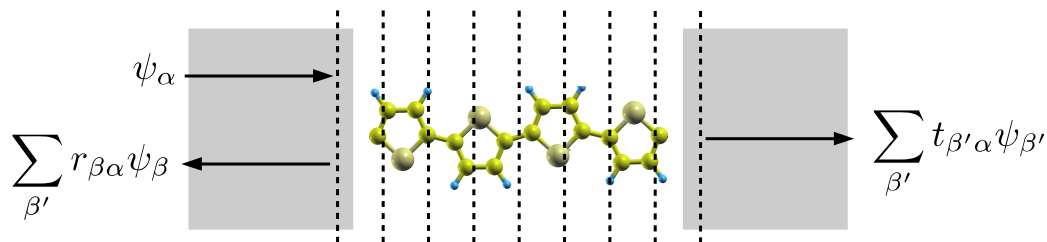
with total transmission $T(E) = \sum_{\beta'\alpha} |t_{\beta'\alpha}|^2$

In the linear regime (small bias):

$$G = I/\delta V = G_0 T(E_F)$$

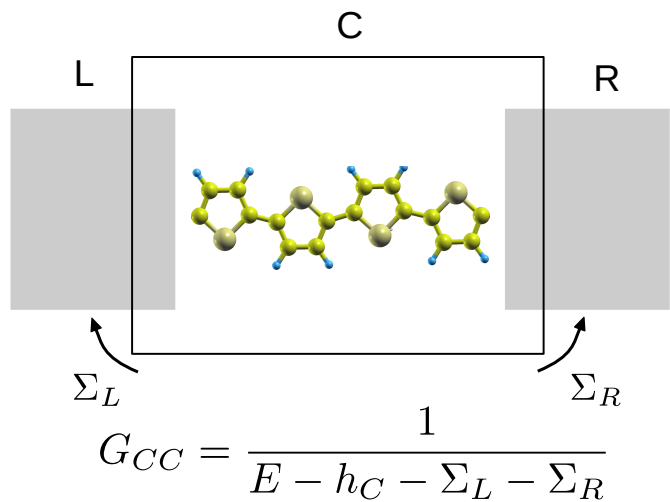
where $G_0 = e^2/h$ is the conductance quantum (per spin).

– Scattering approach, wave function matching



$$T = \sum_{\beta' \alpha} |t_{\beta' \alpha}|^2$$

– Non-Equilibrium Green Functions (NEGF)

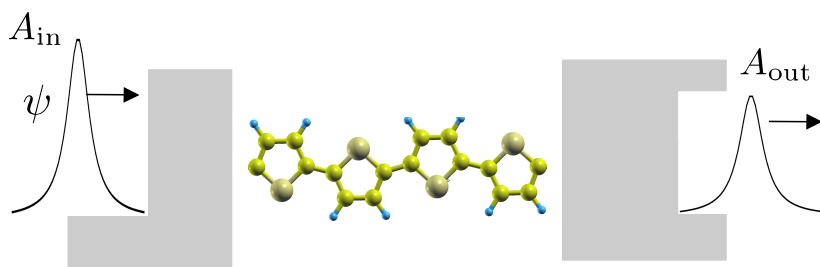


$$T = \text{Tr}[\Gamma^L G_{CC}^r \Gamma^R G_{CC}^a]$$

$$\Gamma^{L/R} = i(\Sigma_{L/R}^r - \Sigma_{L/R}^a)$$

$\Sigma_{L/R}$ – contact self-energies

– Wave packet propagation

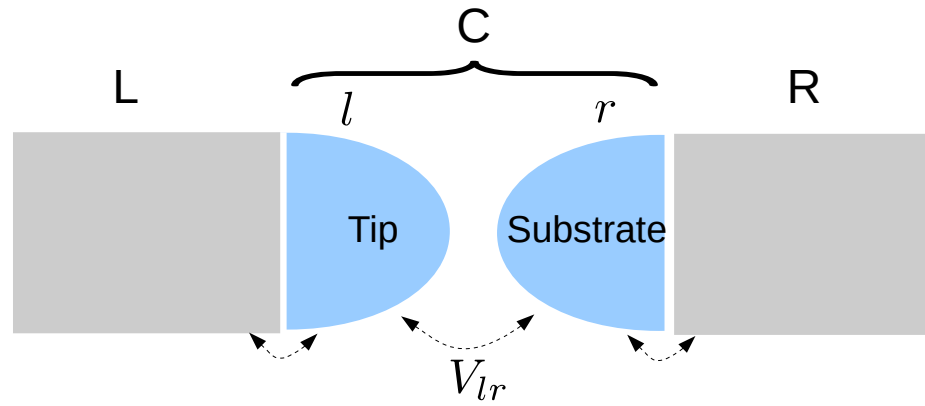


$$T \approx A_{out}/A_{in}$$

Time evolution with Schrodinger equation:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H} \psi$$

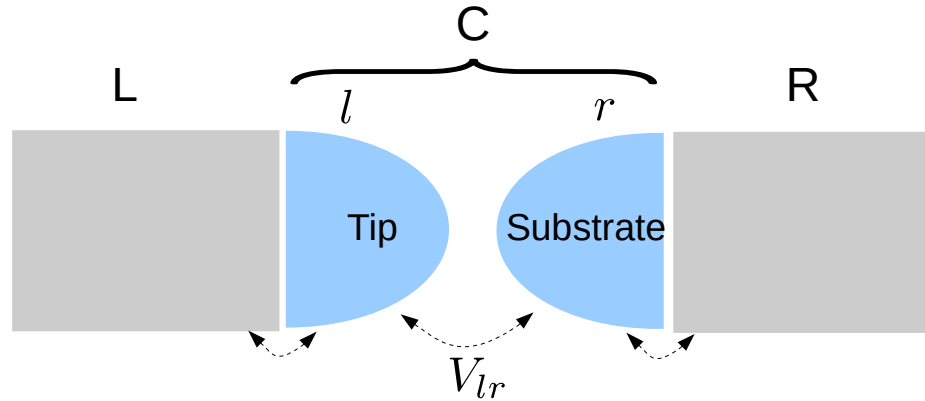
few el. wave packets / fs ($\sim 1/h$)



$$V_{Lr} = 0$$

$$V_{lR} = 0$$

$$\underline{\text{Perturbation} = V_{lr}}$$



$$V_{Lr} = 0$$

$$V_{lR} = 0$$

$$\text{Perturbation} = V_{lr}$$

$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L G_{CC}^r \Gamma^R G_{CC}^a] = \text{Tr} [\Gamma_l^L G_{lr}^r \Gamma_r^R G_{rl}^a]$$

Dyson equations: $G_{lr} = g_l V_{lr} G_{rr}; \quad G_{rr} = g_r + g_r V_{rl} G_{lr}$

$$G_{lr} = g_l V_{lr} g_r + g_l V_{lr} g_r V_{rl} G_{lr}$$

Expanding iteratively:

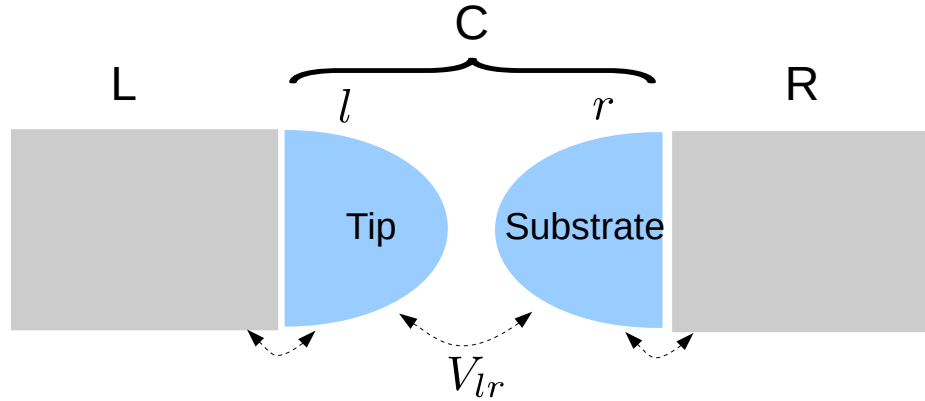
$$G_{lr} = g_l V_{lr} g_r + g_l V_{lr} g_r V_{rl} g_l V_{lr} g_r + \dots = g_l \underbrace{[V_{lr} + V_{lr} g_r V_{rl} g_l V_{lr} + \dots]}_{\mathcal{T}_{lr}} g_r$$

Introduced this way \mathcal{T} -matrix can be written as:

$$\mathcal{T}_{lr} = V_{lr} \cdot [1 - g_r V_{rl} g_l V_{lr}]^{-1} = V_{lr} \cdot D_r$$

So we get: $G_{lr} = g_l \mathcal{T}_{lr} g_r$ and similarly: $G_{rl} = g_r \mathcal{T}_{rl} g_l$

which describes propagation from one side to another with renormalized hopping elements



$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma_l^L \cdot g_l^r \mathcal{T}_{lr}^r g_r^r \cdot \Gamma_r^R \cdot g_r^a \mathcal{T}_{rl}^a g_l^a] = \text{Tr} [\underbrace{g_l^a \Gamma_l^L g_l^r}_{\text{Tip}} \cdot \mathcal{T}_{lr}^r \cdot \underbrace{g_r^r \Gamma_r^R g_r^a}_{\text{Substrate}} \cdot \mathcal{T}_{rl}^a]$$

Non-perturbed (by V_{lr}) Green functions are:

$$g_l^{r/a} = [E - h_l - \Sigma_L^{r/a}]^{-1} \longrightarrow i(g_l^{a-1} - g_l^{r-1}) = i(\Sigma_L^r - \Sigma_L^a) = \Gamma_l^L$$

Multiply on both sides by $g_l^{a/r}$ and $g_l^{r/a}$:

$$\underline{2\pi\rho_l} = i(g_l^r - g_l^a) = \underline{g_l^a \Gamma_l^L g_l^r} = g_l^r \Gamma_l^L g_l^a$$

density of states

Similarly:

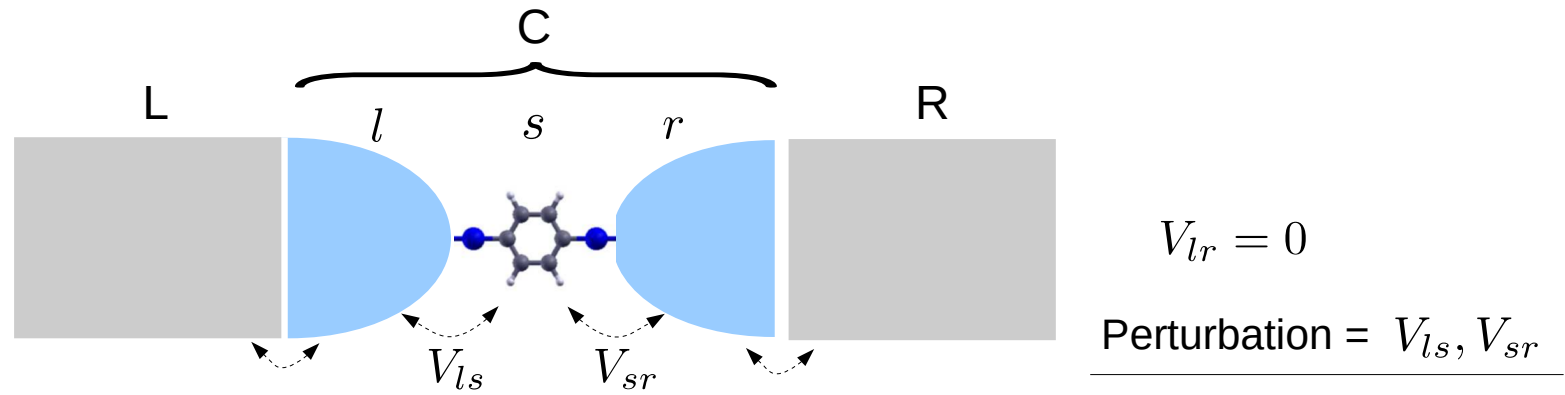
$$\underline{2\pi\rho_r} = i(g_r^r - g_r^a) = g_r^a \Gamma_r^R g_r^r = \underline{g_r^r \Gamma_r^R g_r^a}$$

density of states

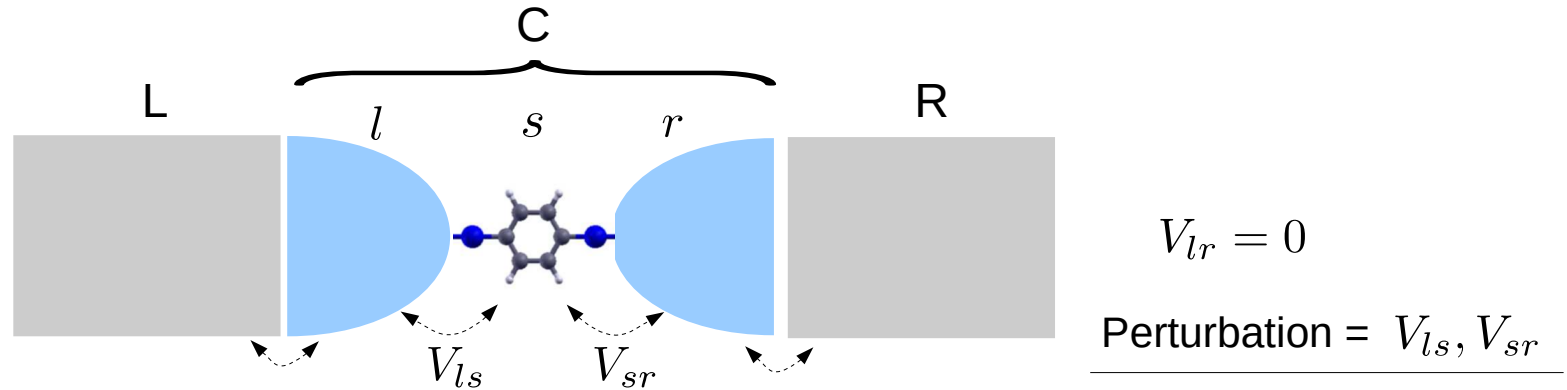
And finally:

$$T = 4\pi^2 \text{Tr} [\rho_l \mathcal{T}_{lr}^r \rho_r \mathcal{T}_{rl}^a] = 4\pi^2 \text{Tr} [\rho_l V_{lr} D_r^r \rho_r V_{rl} D_l^a]$$

In lowest order, $T_{lr}^r = V_{lr}$, $T_{rl}^a = V_{rl}$, and we recover the well-known expression.



The transport goes fully through the active region (s), a molecule, for example



The transport goes fully through the active region (s), a molecule, for example

Again:

$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L G_{CC}^r \Gamma^R G_{CC}^a] = \text{Tr} [\Gamma_l^L G_{lr}^r \Gamma_r^R G_{rl}^a]$$

Dyson equations:

$$G_{lr} = g_l V_{ls} G_{sr}; \quad G_{sr} = G_{ss} V_{sr} g_r$$

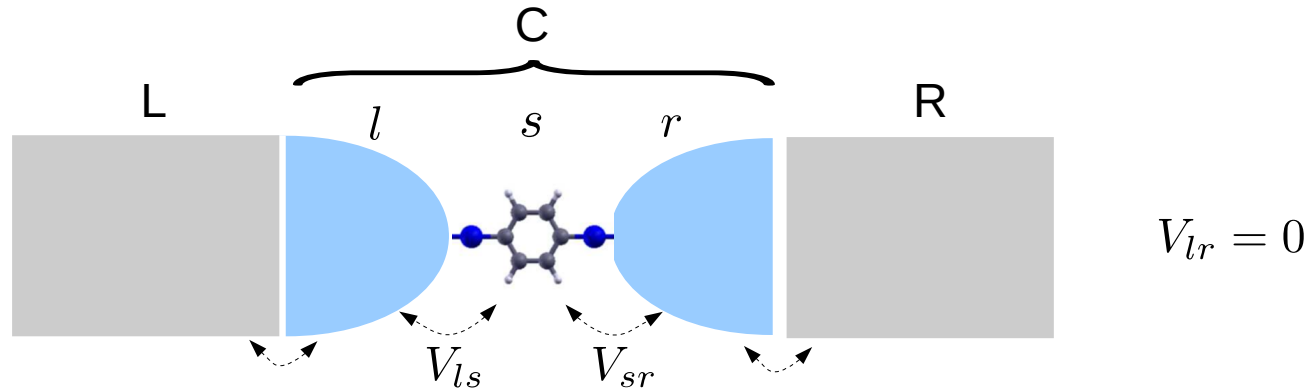


$$G_{lr} = g_l V_{ls} G_{ss} V_{sr} g_r$$

expressed in terms of the GF of the active region, G_{ss}

Therefore:

$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma_l^L \cdot g_l^r V_{ls} G_{ss}^r V_{sr} g_r^r \cdot \Gamma_r^R \cdot g_r^a V_{rs} G_{ss}^a V_{sl} g_l^a]$$



$$\text{Tr} [\Gamma_l^L \cdot g_l^r V_{ls} G_{ss}^r V_{sr} g_r^r \cdot \Gamma_r^R \cdot g_r^a V_{rs} G_{ss}^a V_{sl} g_l^a] = \text{Tr} \left[\underbrace{V_{sl} g_l^a \Gamma_l^L g_l^r V_{ls}} \cdot G_{ss}^r \cdot \underbrace{V_{sr} g_r^r \Gamma_r^R g_r^a V_{rs}} \cdot G_{ss}^a \right]$$

Using derived above relations for 4-parts division:

$$\underbrace{V_{sl} g_l^a \Gamma_l^L g_l^r V_{ls}} = \underbrace{V_{sl} [i(g_l^r - g_l^a)] V_{ls}} = i[\Sigma_l^r - \Sigma_l^a] = \Gamma^l$$

$$\underbrace{V_{sr} g_r^r \Gamma_r^R g_r^a V_{rs}} = \underbrace{V_{sr} [i(g_r^r - g_r^a)] V_{rs}} = i[\Sigma_r^r - \Sigma_r^a] = \Gamma^r$$

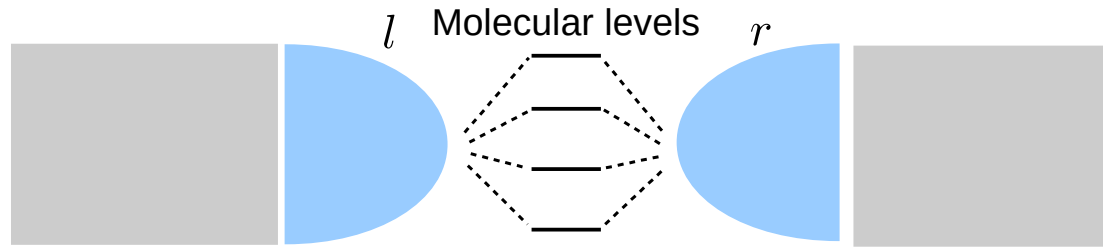
Coupling matrices of the active region

Its GFs are given by:

$$G_{ss}^{r/a} = [E - h_s - \Sigma_l^{r/a} - \Sigma_r^{r/a}]^{-1}$$

And we arrive finally at:

$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^l G_{ss}^r \Gamma^r G_{ss}^a]$$



$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^l G_{ss}^r \Gamma^r G_{ss}^a]; \quad G_{ss}^{r/a} = [E - h_s - \Sigma_l^{r/a} - \Sigma_r^{r/a}]^{-1}$$

In the basis of molecular orbitals: $h_s = \text{diag}\{\varepsilon_\alpha\}$

Independent coupling: $\Sigma_l = \text{diag}\{\Sigma_{l,\alpha}\}$

Wide-band approximation: $\Sigma_{l,\alpha}^{r/a} = \mp \frac{i\Gamma_{l,\alpha}}{2}$

– similar for the right connection, r

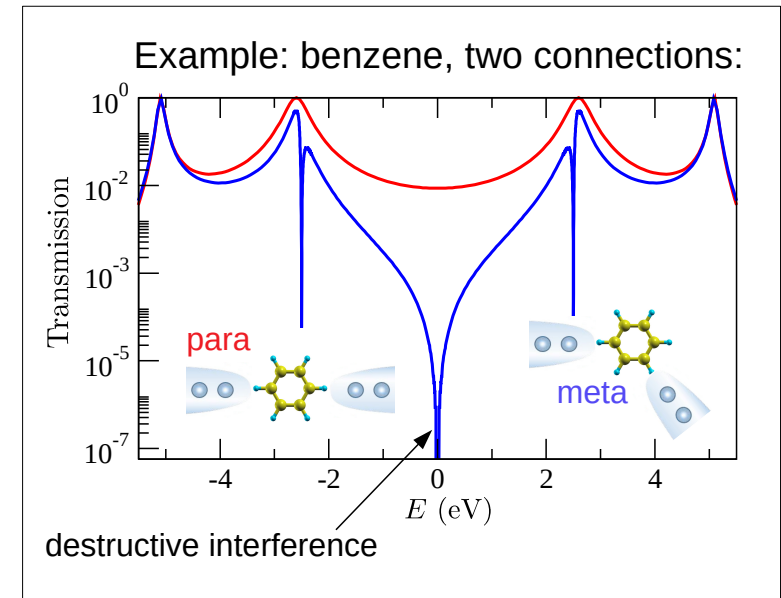
In this case the total transmission takes the form:

$$T = \sum_{\alpha} T_{\alpha}; \quad T_{\alpha} = \frac{\Gamma_{\alpha}^l \Gamma_{\alpha}^r}{(E - \varepsilon_{\alpha})^2 + (\Gamma_{\alpha}^l + \Gamma_{\alpha}^r)^2/4}$$

If symmetric coupling: $T_{\alpha} = \frac{\Gamma_{\alpha}^2}{(E - \varepsilon_{\alpha})^2 + \Gamma_{\alpha}^2} \longrightarrow$

$T_{\alpha} \rightarrow 1$ at $E = \varepsilon_{\alpha}$
resonant tunneling

If non independent couplings, possible interference: $\longrightarrow T \neq \sum_{\alpha} T_{\alpha}; \quad T \rightarrow 0$ at some energies



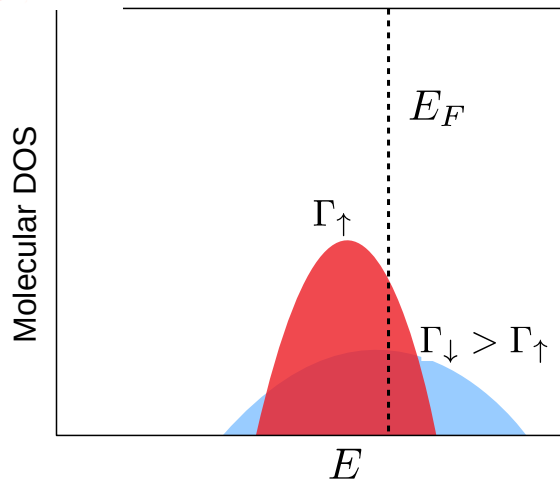
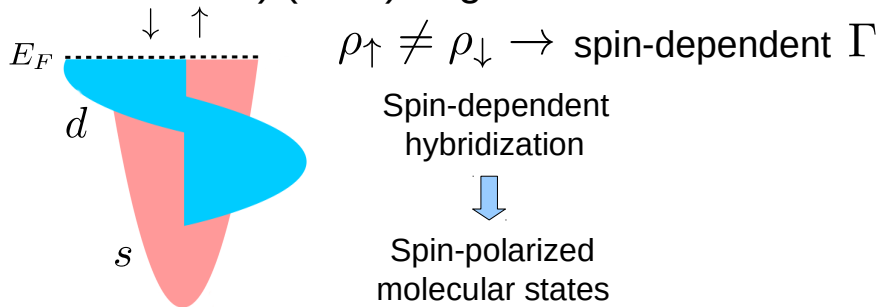
$$T = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^l G_{ss}^r \Gamma^r G_{ss}^a]; \quad G_{ss}^{r/a} = [E - h_s - \Sigma_l^{r/a} - \Sigma_r^{r/a}]^{-1}$$

$$\Gamma^l = i[\Sigma_l^r - \Sigma_l^a] = V_{sl}[i(g_l^r - g_l^a)]V_{ls} \sim 2\pi|V_{sl}|^2 \rho_l \quad - \text{similar for } r$$

Spin polarized transmission, $T_\uparrow \neq T_\downarrow$, $T = T_\uparrow + T_\downarrow$

Two possible mechanisms:

a) (ferro)magnetic electrodes

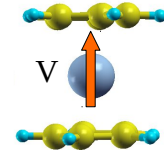


$$T_\uparrow(E_F) \neq T_\downarrow(E_F)$$

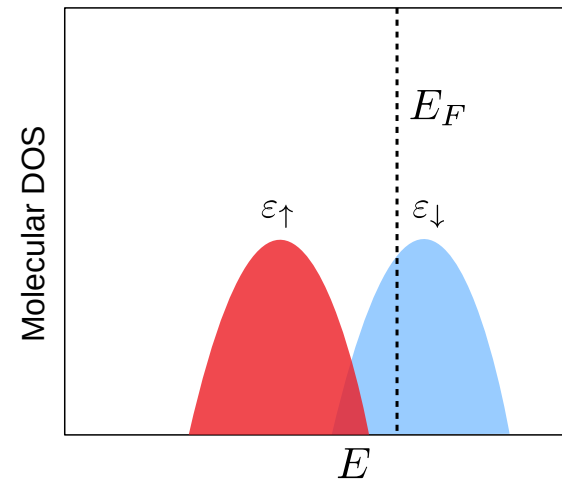
$$G = G_\uparrow + G_\downarrow = (e^2/h)[T_\uparrow(E_F) + T_\downarrow(E_F)]$$

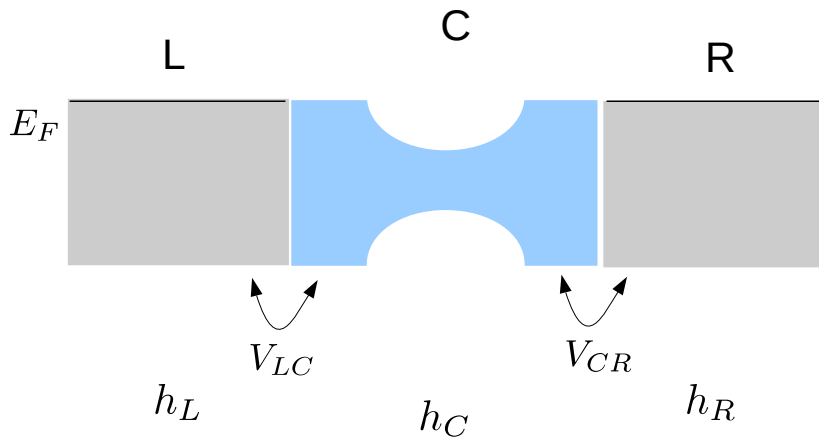
b) magnetic molecule

$$h_{s\uparrow} \neq h_{s\downarrow}$$



Spin-polarized molecular states



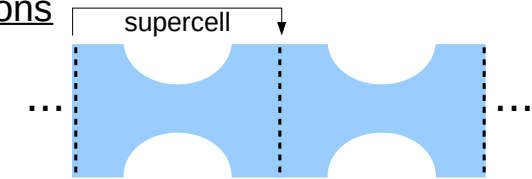


(Spin-dependent) $h_L, h_C, h_R, V_{LC}, V_{CR} - ?$

DFT (Density functional theory) calculations in equilibrium state:

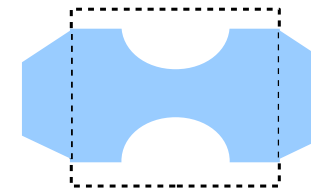
- perfect lead calculations
- central scattering region

periodic conditions



or

finite cluster



- Self-consistent Kohn-Sham (KS) equations of DFT:

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_{\text{KS}}(r) \right] \phi_i(r) = \epsilon_i \phi_i(r)$$

$$V_{\text{KS}}(r) = V(r) + e^2 \int \frac{n(r')}{|r - r'|} d^3 r' + V_{\text{xc}}[n](r)$$

$$n_0(r) = \sum_i^{\text{occ.}} |\phi_i(r)|^2$$

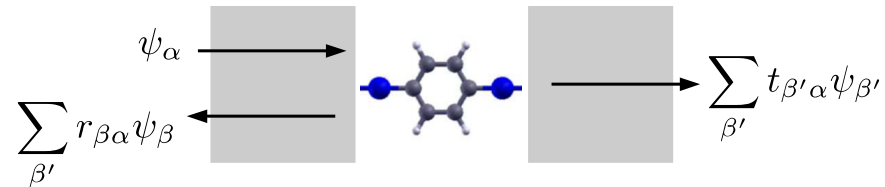
Hartree potential

exchange-correlation potential of n

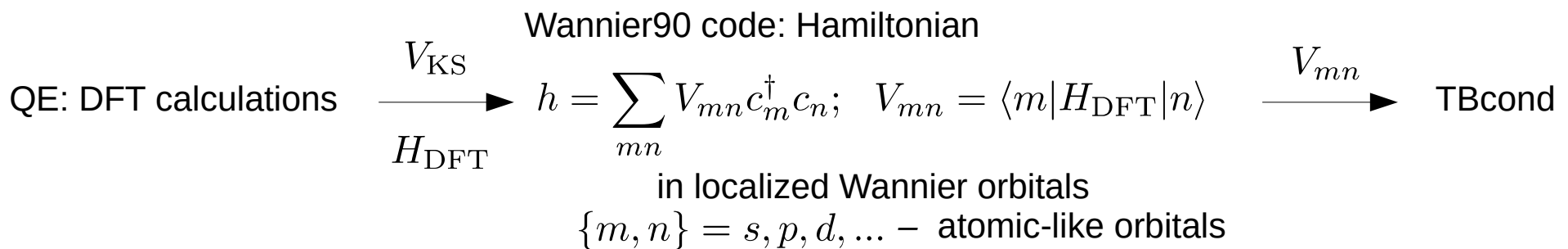
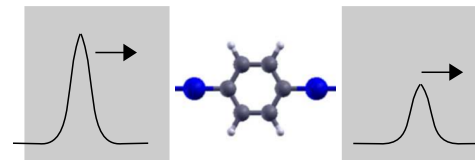
- TranSiesta: DFT in localized basis set, NEGF
- QuantumATK: DFT in localized basis set, NEGF
- Fireball: DFT in localized basis set, NEGF
- Kwant: large-scale tight-binding, scatt. approach and wave packets
- ...

Electron transport with Quantum-ESPRESSO (QE) plane wave code:

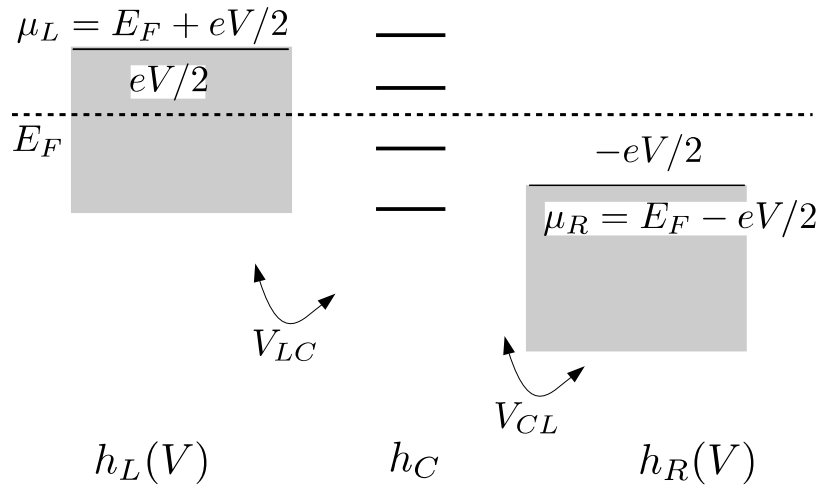
– **PWcond**: plane-waves, scattering approach:



– **TBcond**: «tight-binding», NEGF or wave packets:



At finite applied voltage:

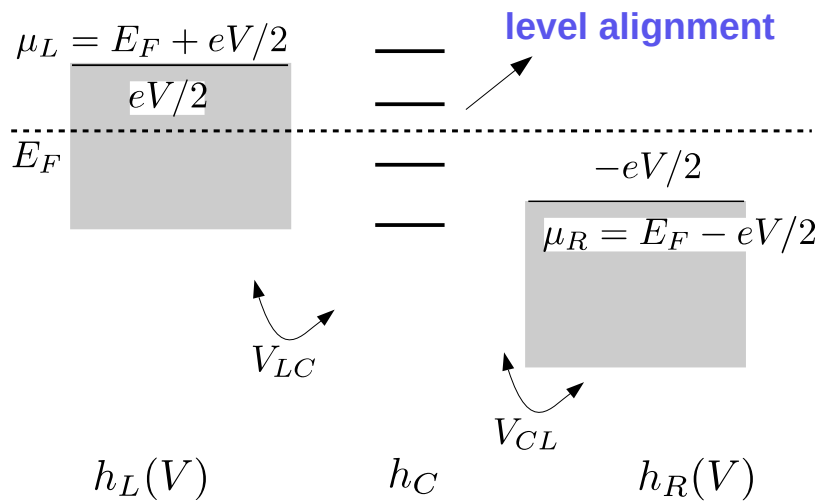


$$h_X(V) \rightarrow g_X(V) \rightarrow \Sigma_X(V) \rightarrow \Gamma_X(V); \quad X = L, R$$



$$T(E, V) = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L(E, V) G^r(E, V) \Gamma^R(E, V) G^a(E, V)]$$

At finite applied voltage:



$$h_X(V) \rightarrow g_X(V) \rightarrow \Sigma_X(V) \rightarrow \Gamma_X(V); \quad X = L, R$$

$$T(E, V) = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L(E, V) G^r(E, V) \Gamma^R(E, V) G^a(E, V)]$$

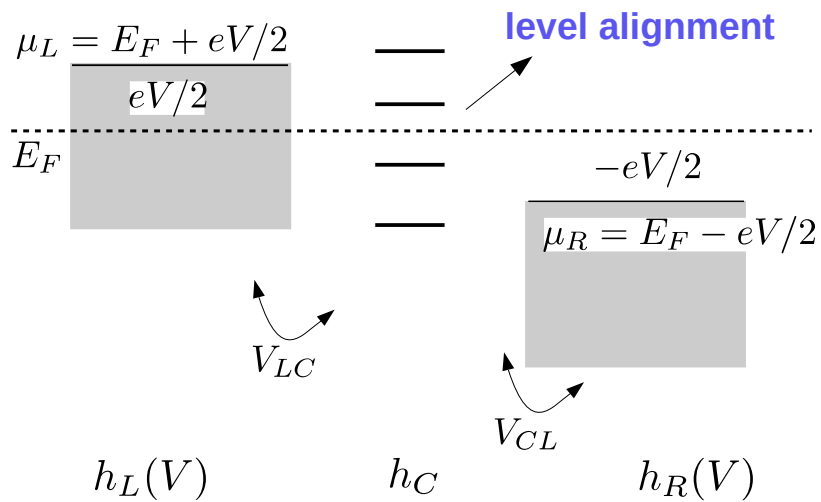
$$G^{r/a} = [(E - \boxed{h_C} - \Sigma_L^{r/a} - \Sigma_R^{r/a})]^{-1}$$

?

$$h_C[n_0] \rightarrow h_C[n]$$

$n = n_0 + \delta n$ – redistributed charge due to applied V

At finite applied voltage:



$$h_X(V) \rightarrow g_X(V) \rightarrow \Sigma_X(V) \rightarrow \Gamma_X(V); \quad X = L, R$$

$$T(E, V) = \text{Tr} [\Gamma^L(E, V) G^r(E, V) \Gamma^R(E, V) G^a(E, V)]$$

$$G^{r/a} = [(E - \boxed{h_C} - \Sigma_L^{r/a} - \Sigma_R^{r/a})]^{-1}$$

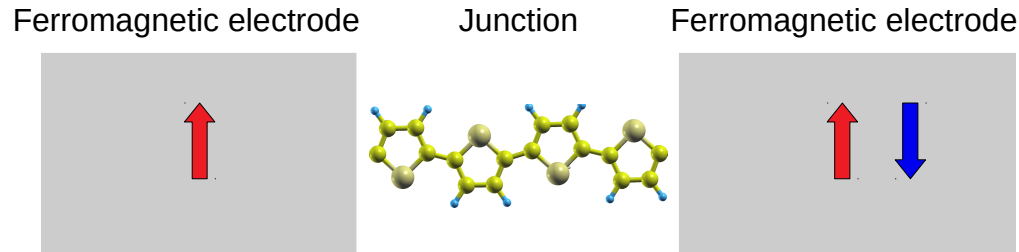
?

$$h_C[n_0] \rightarrow h_C[n]$$

$n = n_0 + \delta n$ – redistributed charge due to applied V

Therefore a self-consistent calculations is required in principle:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} G^{r/a} = [(E - h_C[n] - \Sigma_L^{r/a} - \Sigma_R^{r/a})]^{-1} \\ G^< = G^r [\Sigma_L^< + \Sigma_R^<] G^a \\ \rho_{mn} = \langle c_m^\dagger c_n \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int dE G_{nm}^<(E) \longrightarrow i\hbar G^<(t_2, t_1) = -\langle \hat{c}^\dagger(t_1) \hat{c}(t_2) \rangle \\ n(r) = \langle \hat{\psi}^\dagger(r) \hat{\psi}(r) \rangle = \sum_{mn} \phi_m^*(r) \phi_n(r) \langle \hat{c}_m^\dagger \hat{c}_n \rangle = \sum_{mn} \phi_m^*(r) \phi_n(r) \rho_{mn} \\ \text{where } \hat{\psi}(r) = \sum_m \phi_m(r) \hat{c}_m; \quad \hat{\psi}^\dagger(r) = \sum_m \phi_m^*(r) \hat{c}_m^\dagger \end{array} \right.$$



Parallel magnetic alignment (P):

Spin-polarization, spin filtering (SP):

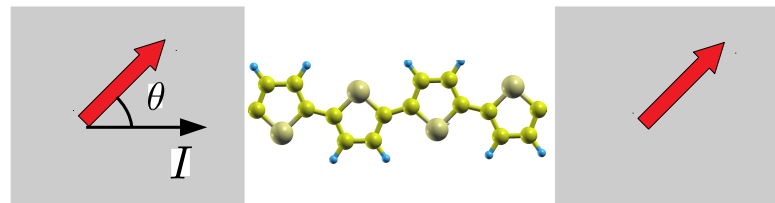
$$SP = (G_{\downarrow} - G_{\uparrow}) / (G_{\downarrow} + G_{\uparrow})$$

Antiparallel magnetic alignment (AP):

Magnetoresistance (MR):

$$MR = (G_P - G_{AP}) / G_{AP}$$

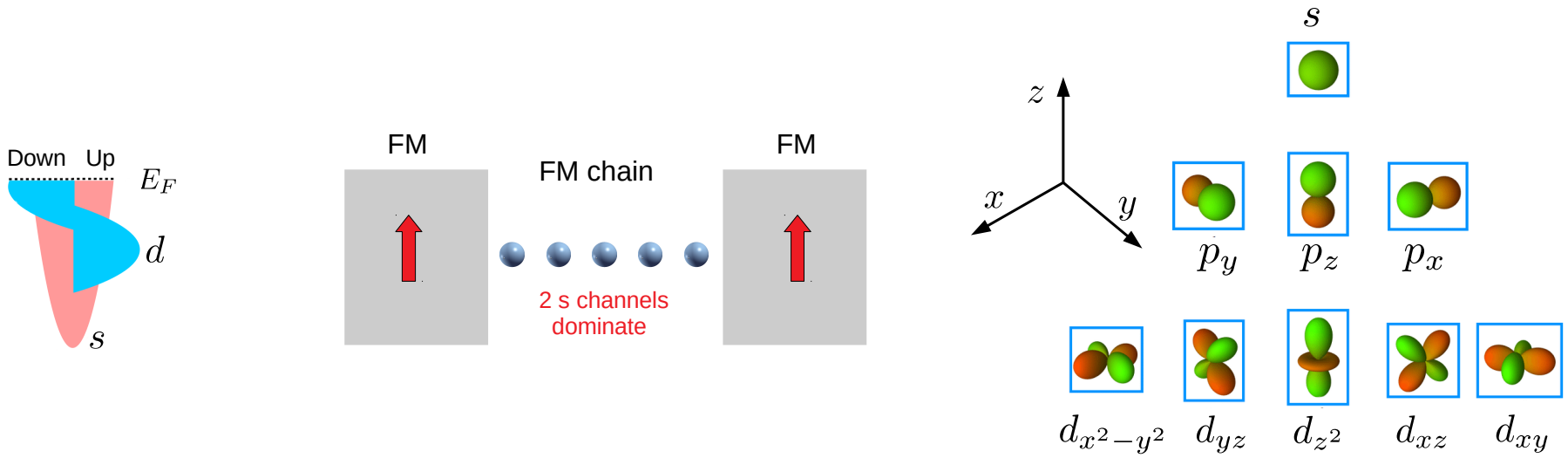
Isotropic magnetoresistance (AMR):



$$I(\theta) = ?$$

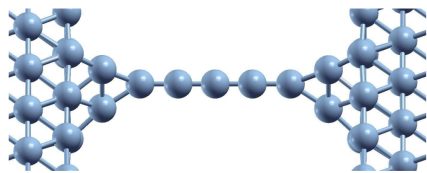
Need for spin-orbit coupling (SOC)

Goal: find systems with enhanced effects

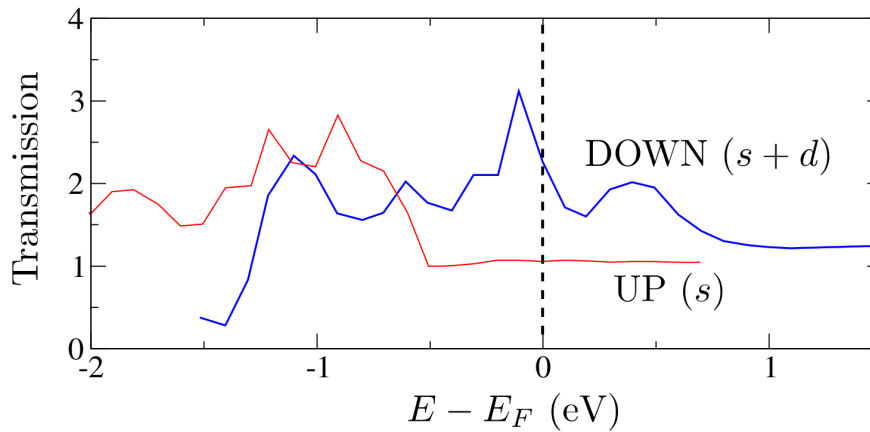


$$G_{\sigma} = e^2/h \sum_{\alpha} T_{\sigma\alpha}(E_F) \quad \text{-- sum over all orbital channels, } s \text{ and } d$$

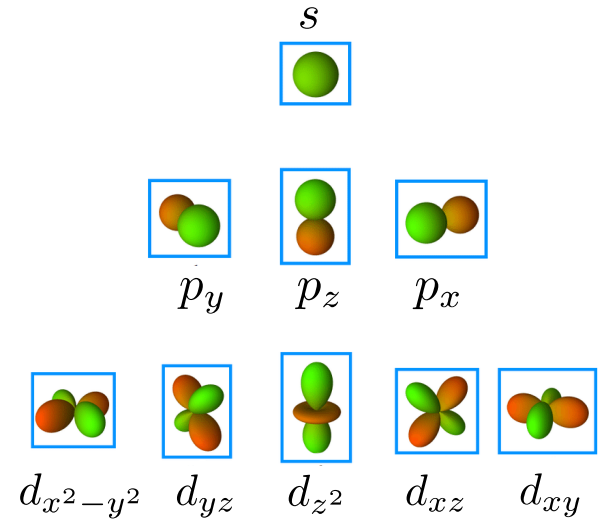
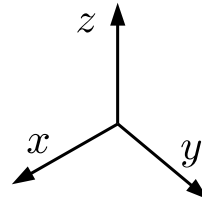
Ni nanocontact



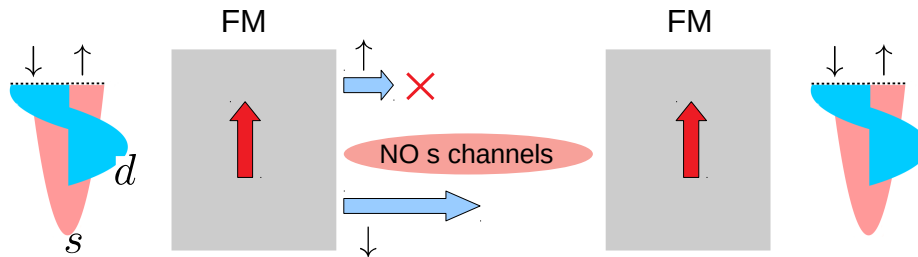
[PRB **73**, 075418 (2006)]



$$SP = (G_{\downarrow} - G_{\uparrow}) / (G_{\downarrow} + G_{\uparrow}) \approx 33\%$$

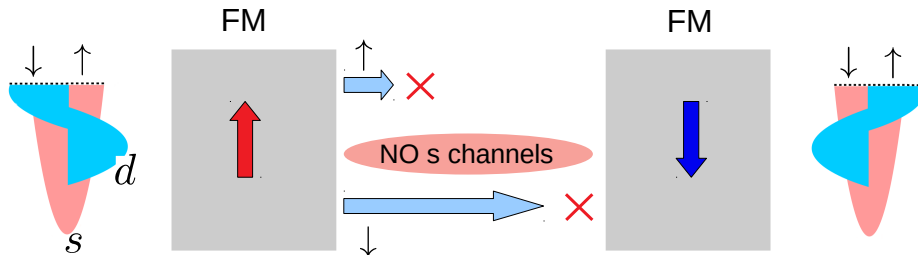


Parallel magnetic alignment:

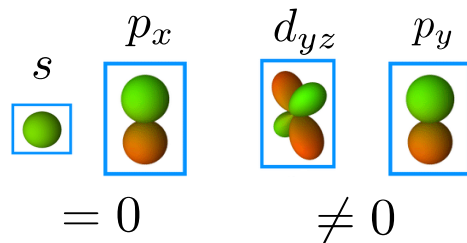
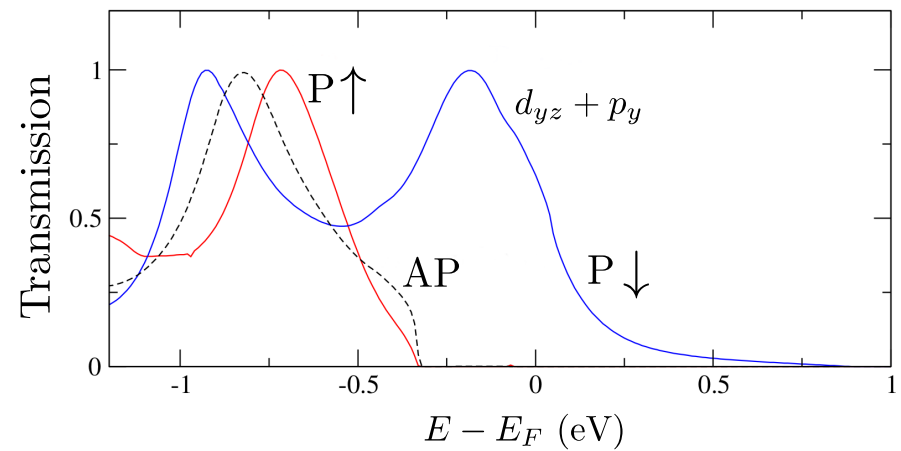
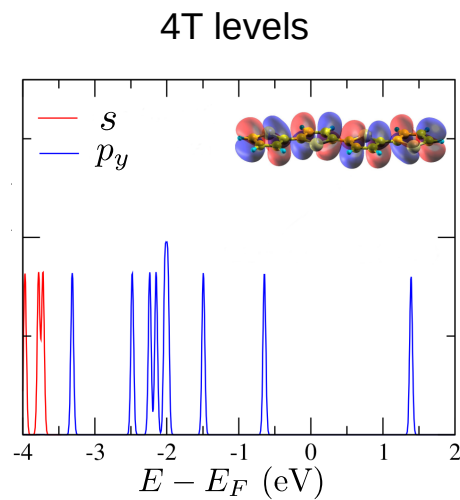
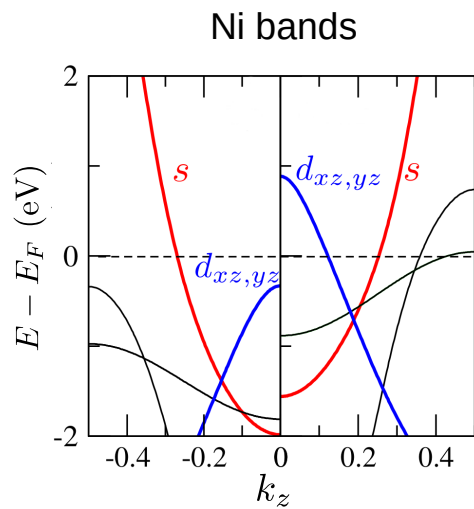
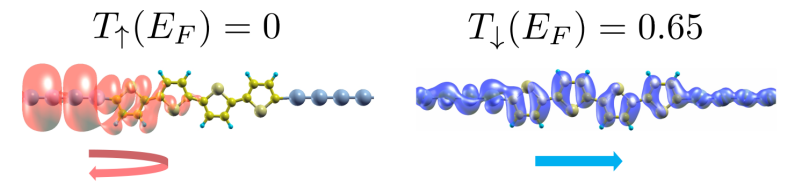
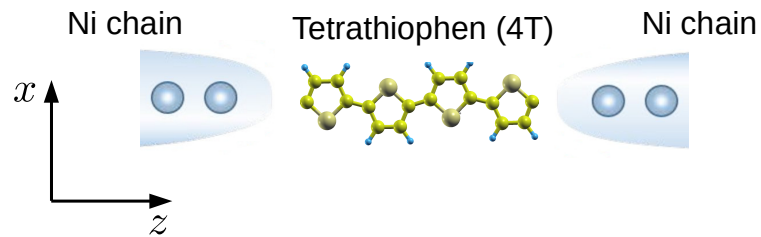


$$G_{\uparrow} = 0, G_{\downarrow} \neq 0 \rightarrow \text{SP} = 100\%$$

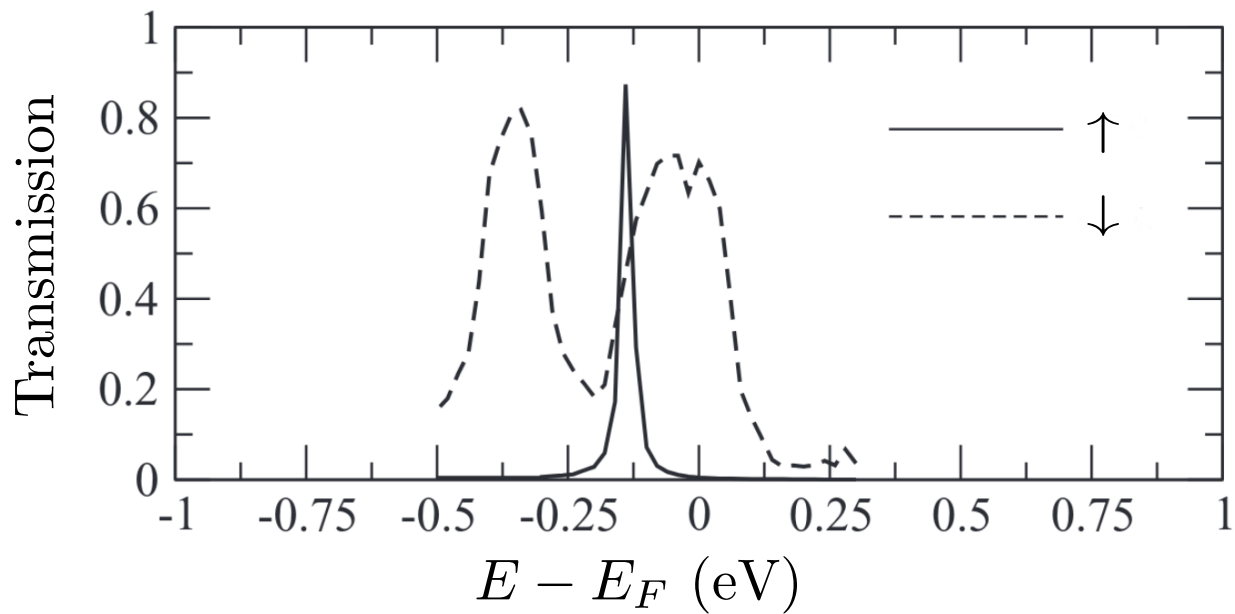
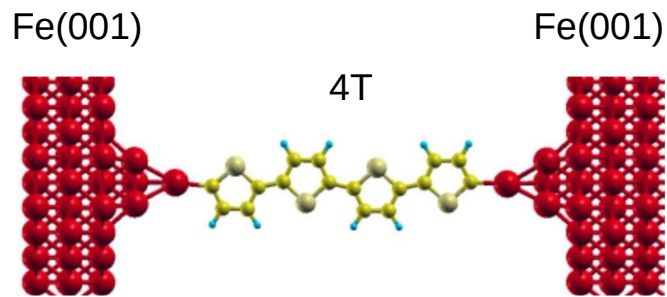
Antiparallel magnetic alignment:



$$G_{\uparrow} = 0, G_{\downarrow} = 0 \rightarrow \text{infinite MR}$$

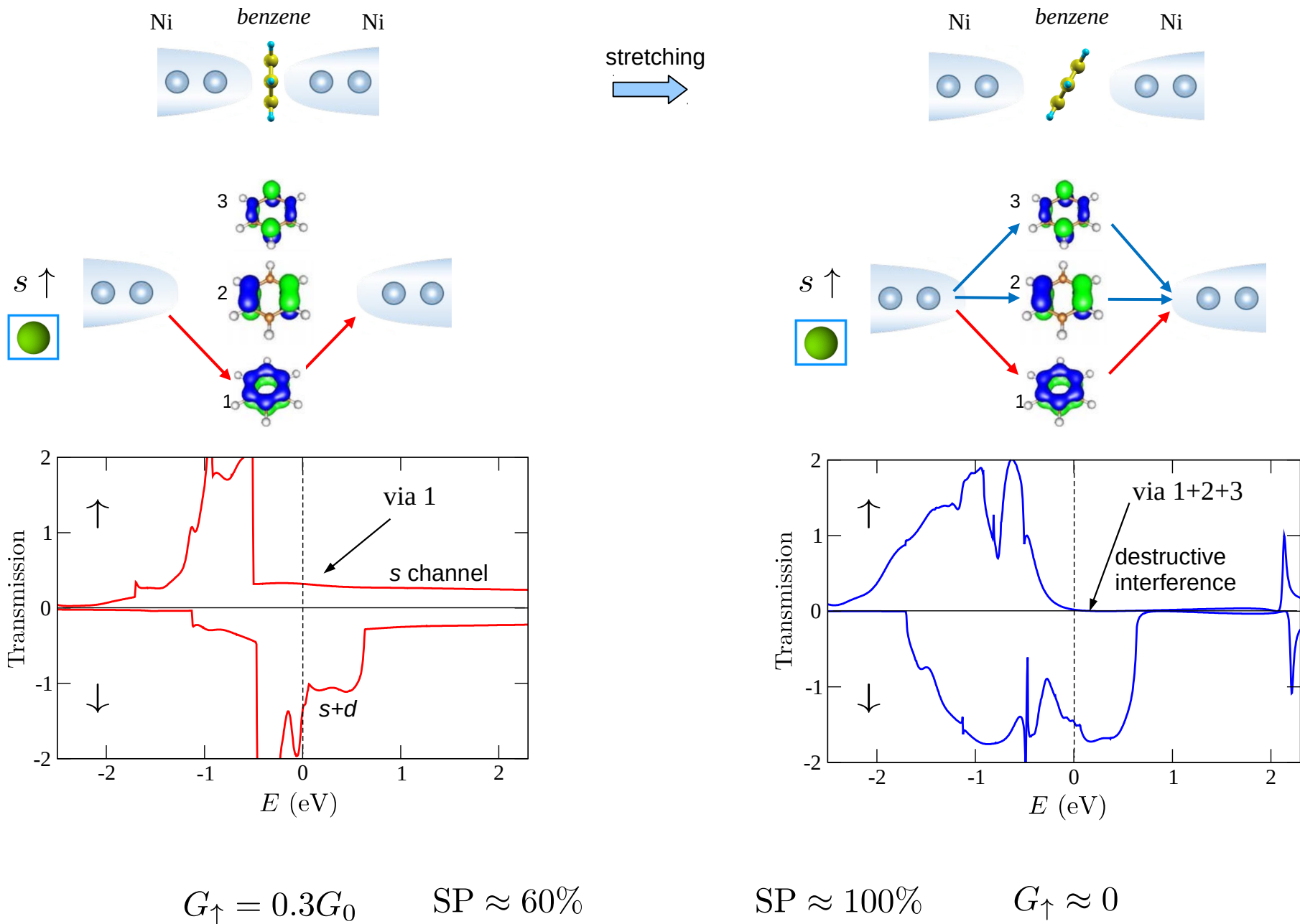


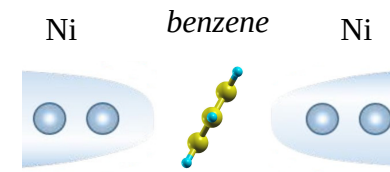
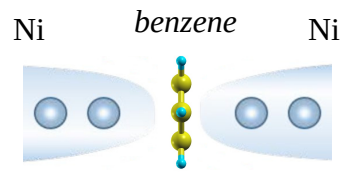
SP = 100%
infinite MR



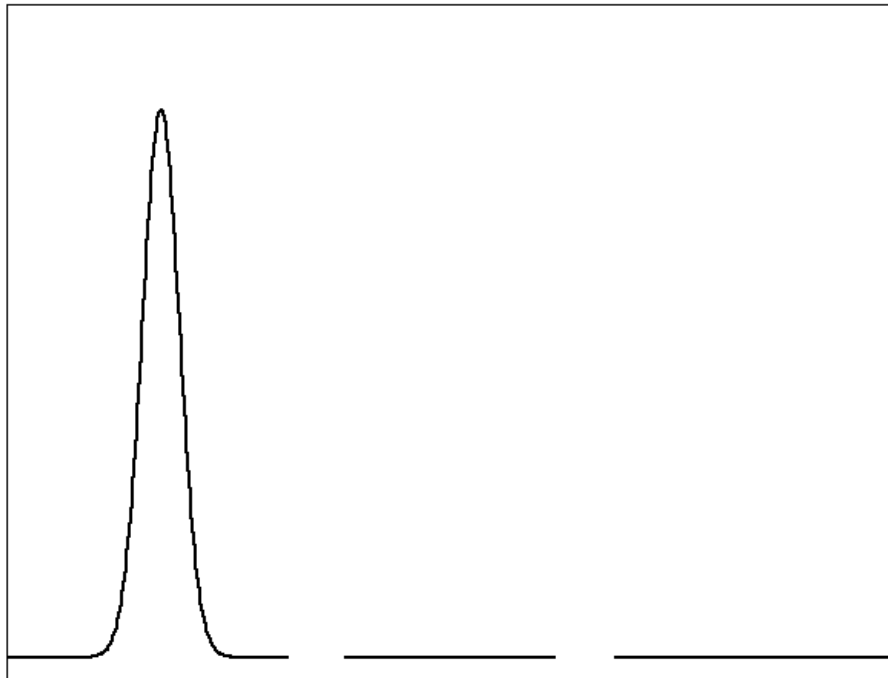
$$G_{\uparrow} \approx 0.004G_0$$

$$G_{\downarrow} \approx 0.7G_0$$

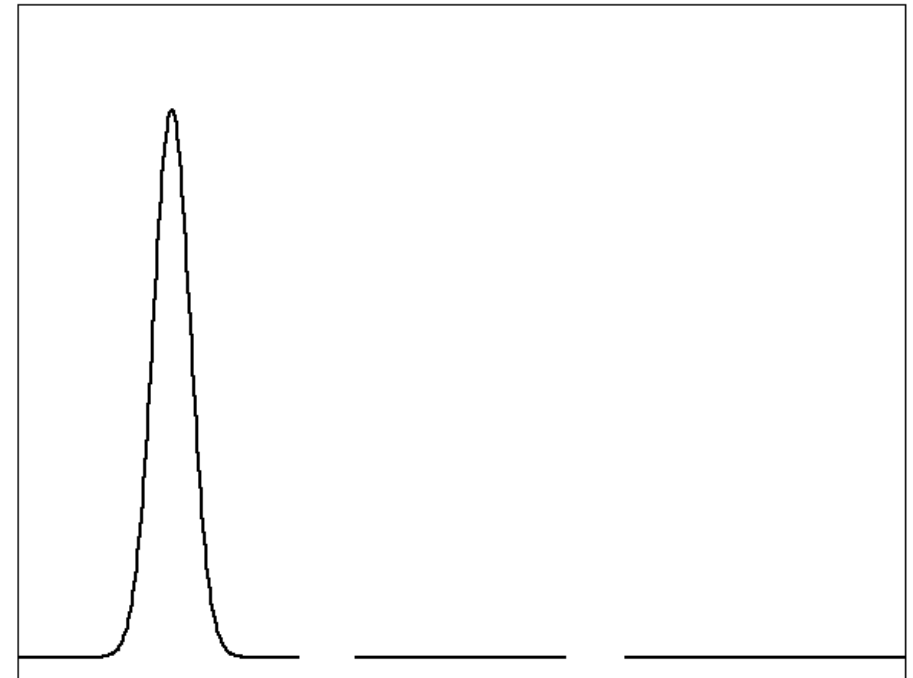




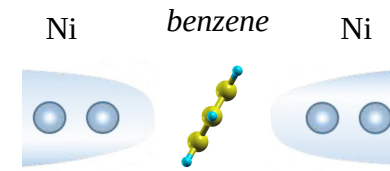
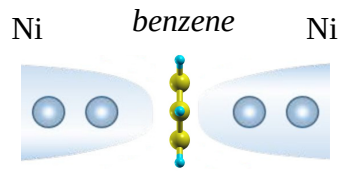
Wave packets propagation at the Fermi energy:



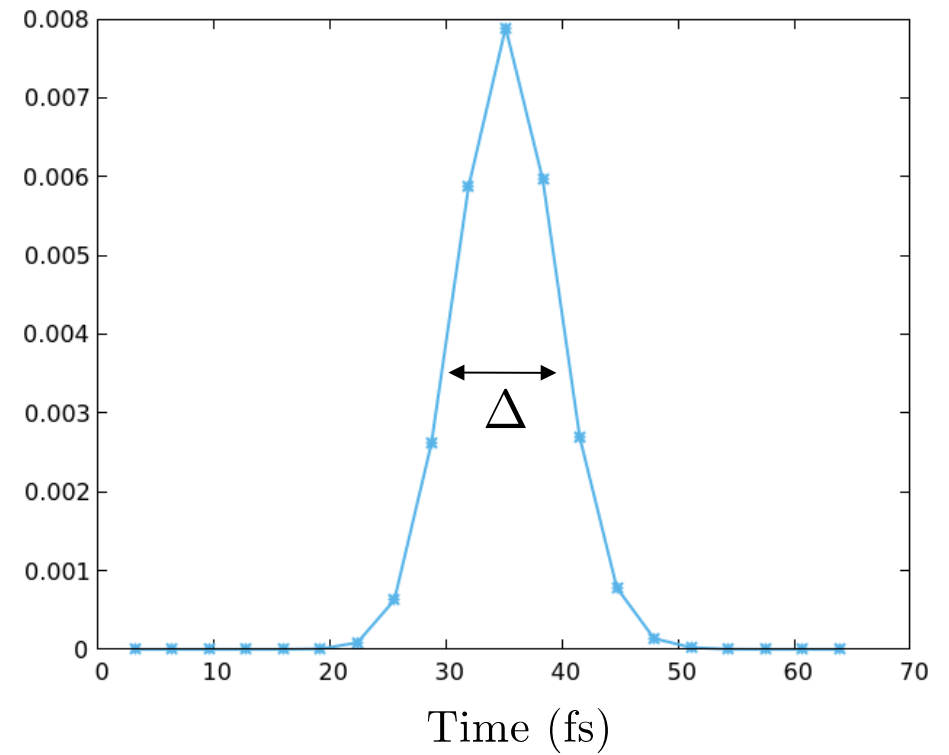
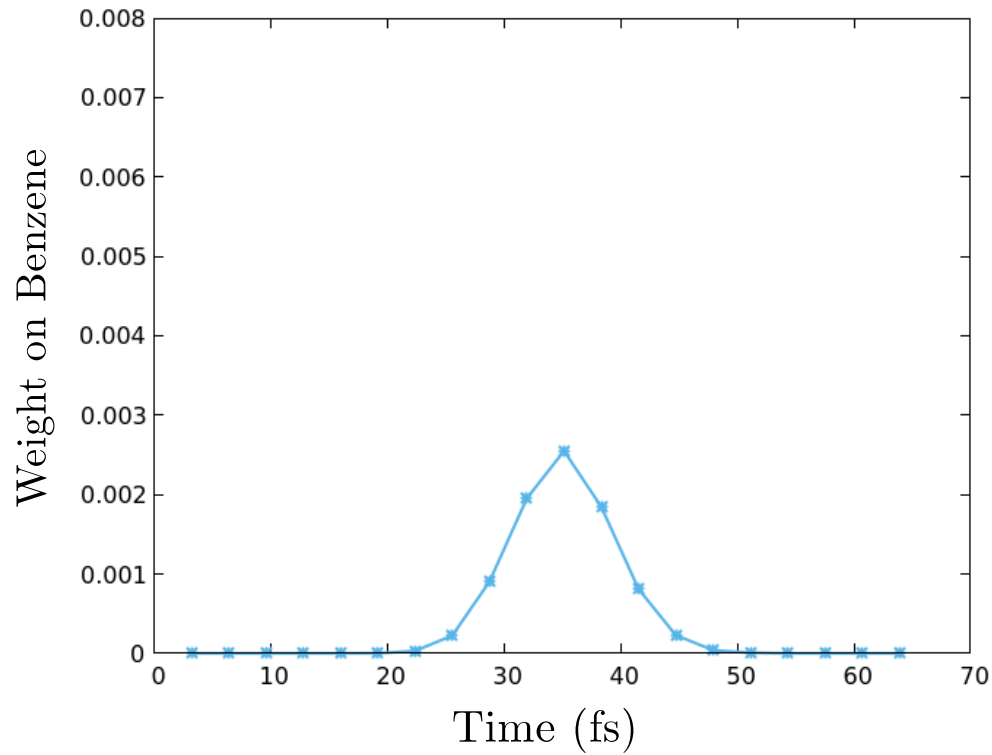
Molecular levels (1)



Molecular levels (1,2,3)

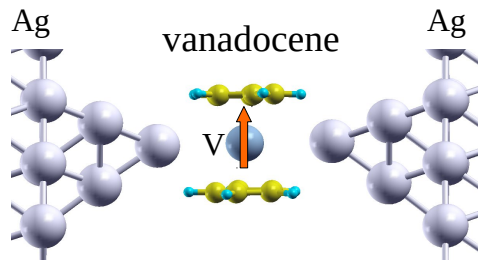


Wave packets propagation time across the molecule:



$\Delta \approx 10 \text{ fs}$

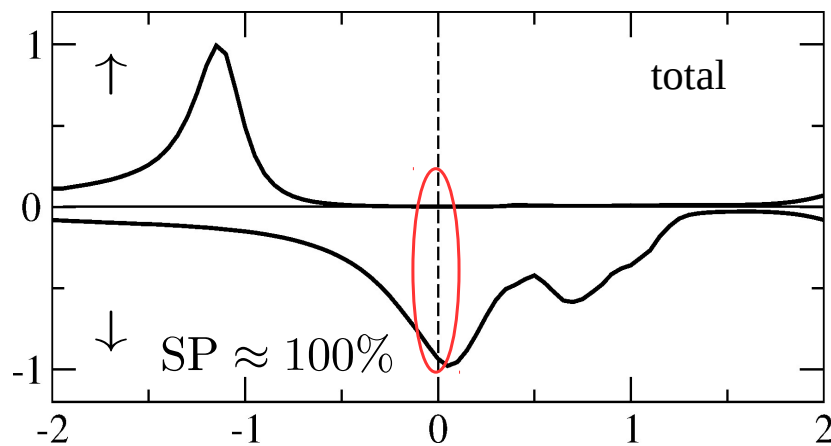
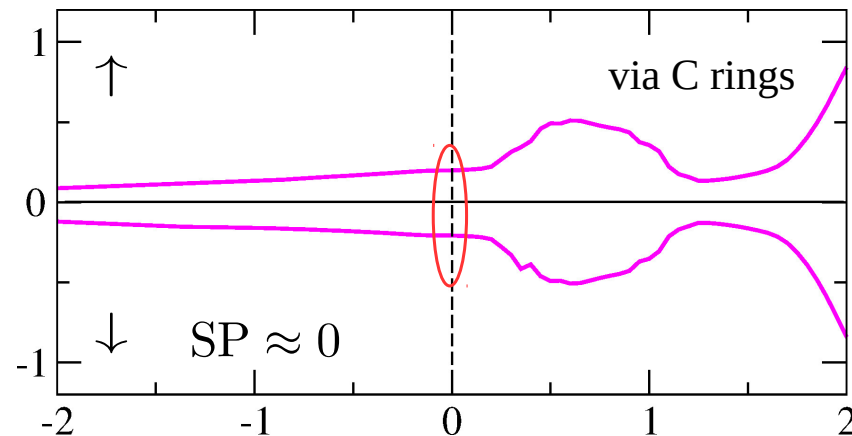
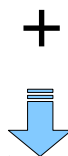
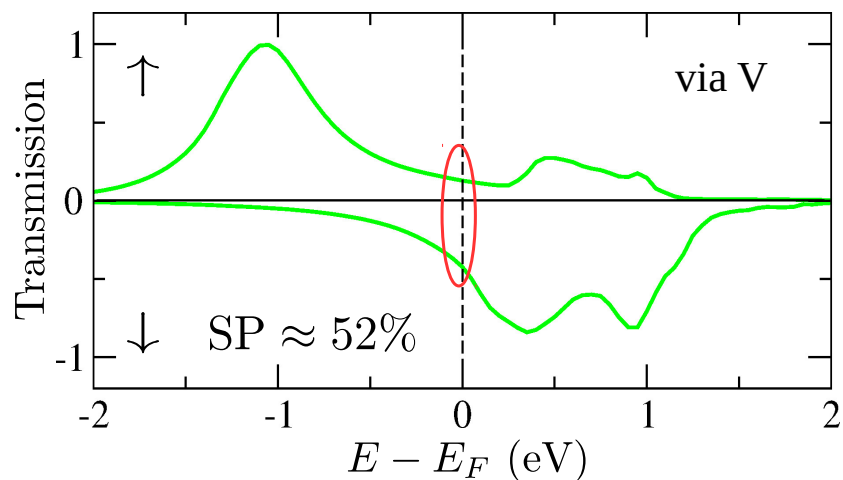
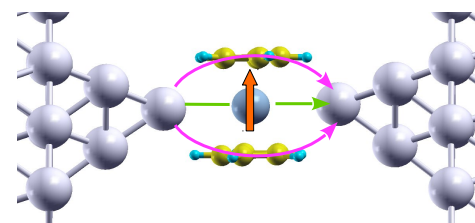
Molecular junction

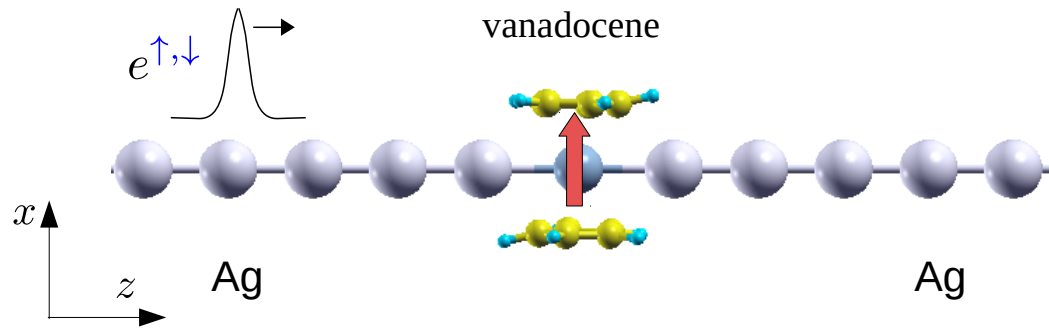


Exp: $G \approx 1G_0$
(Oren Tal's group, Israel)

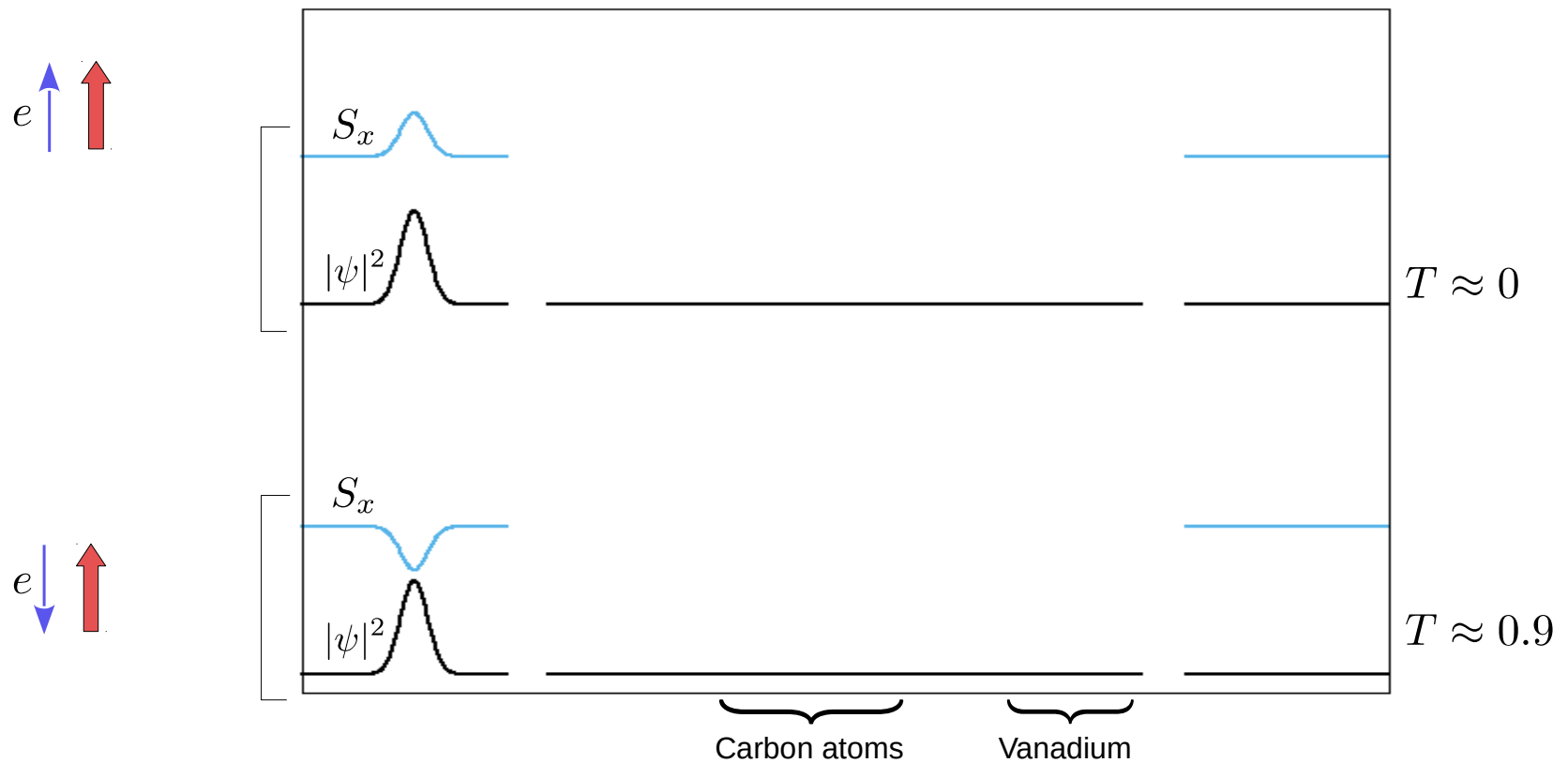
One fully polarized channel

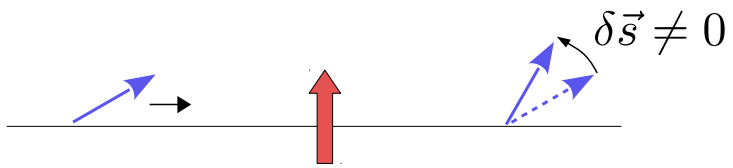
Propagation paths:





Wave packets at the Fermi energy:

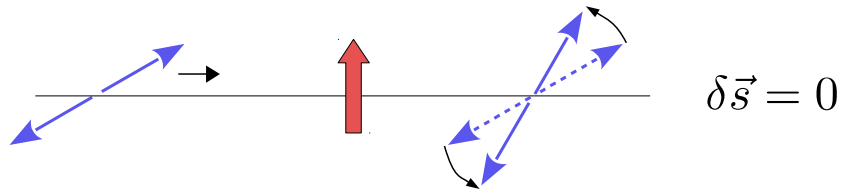




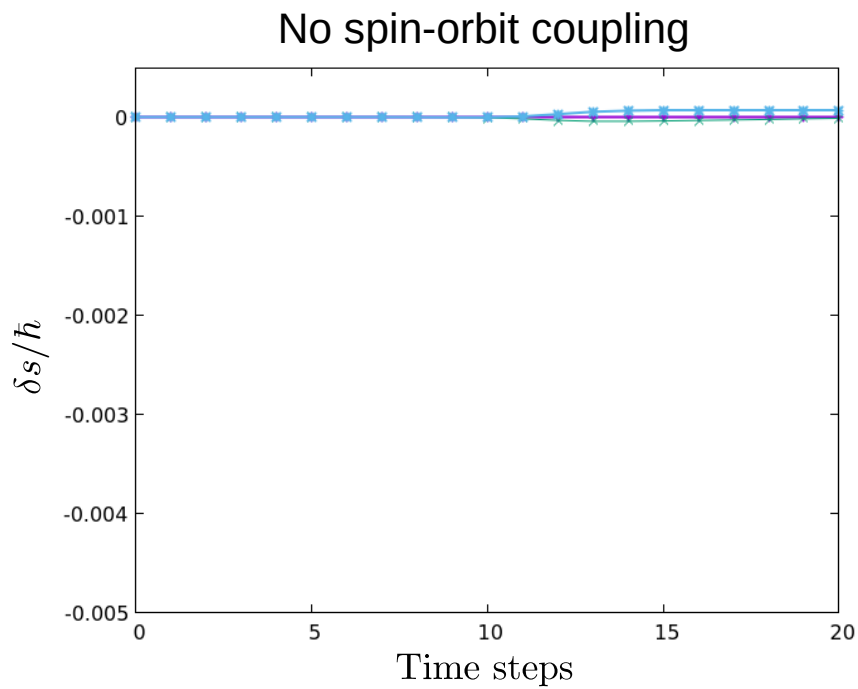
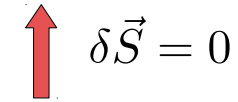
Spin-transfer torque

A diagram illustrating the spin-transfer torque equation. It shows a white arrow pointing vertically upwards, representing the magnetization vector \vec{S} . A red arrow points downwards and to the right, representing the change in magnetization $\delta\vec{S}$. A curved arrow above the white arrow indicates a clockwise rotation. To the right of the diagram is the equation $\delta\vec{S} = -\delta\vec{s}$.

$$\delta\vec{S} = -\delta\vec{s}$$



No spin-transfer torque

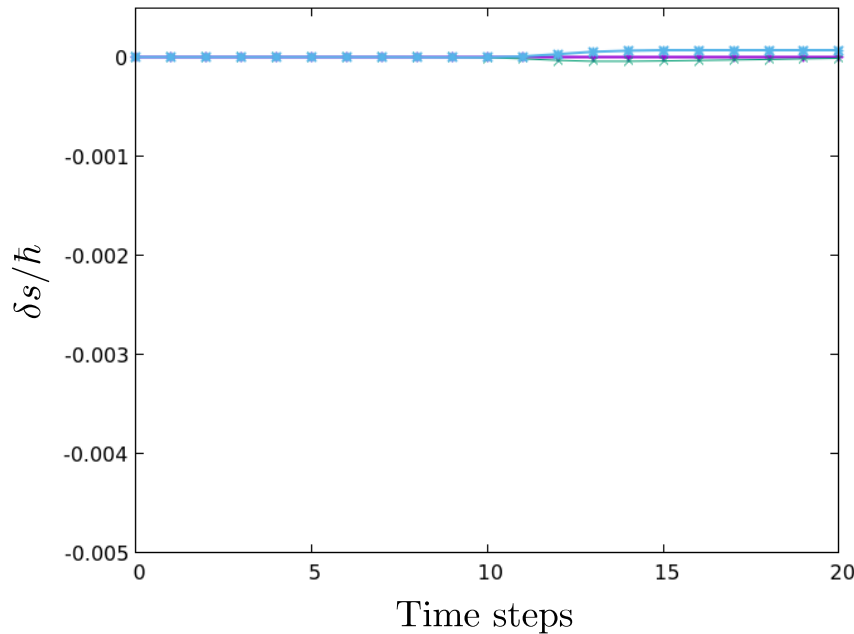


Spin-orbit torque

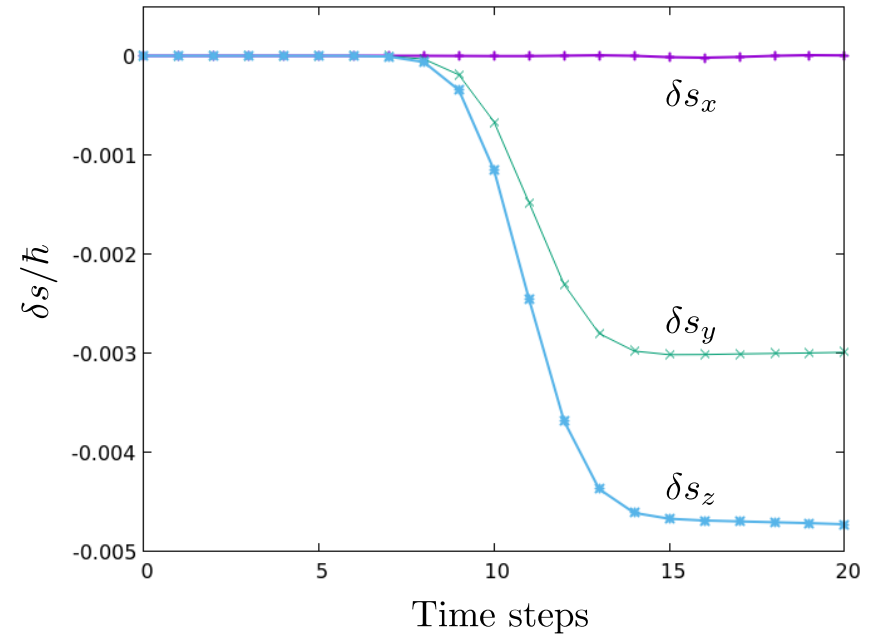


$$\delta \vec{S} \neq 0$$

No spin-orbit coupling

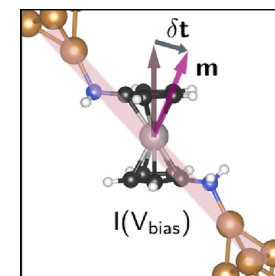


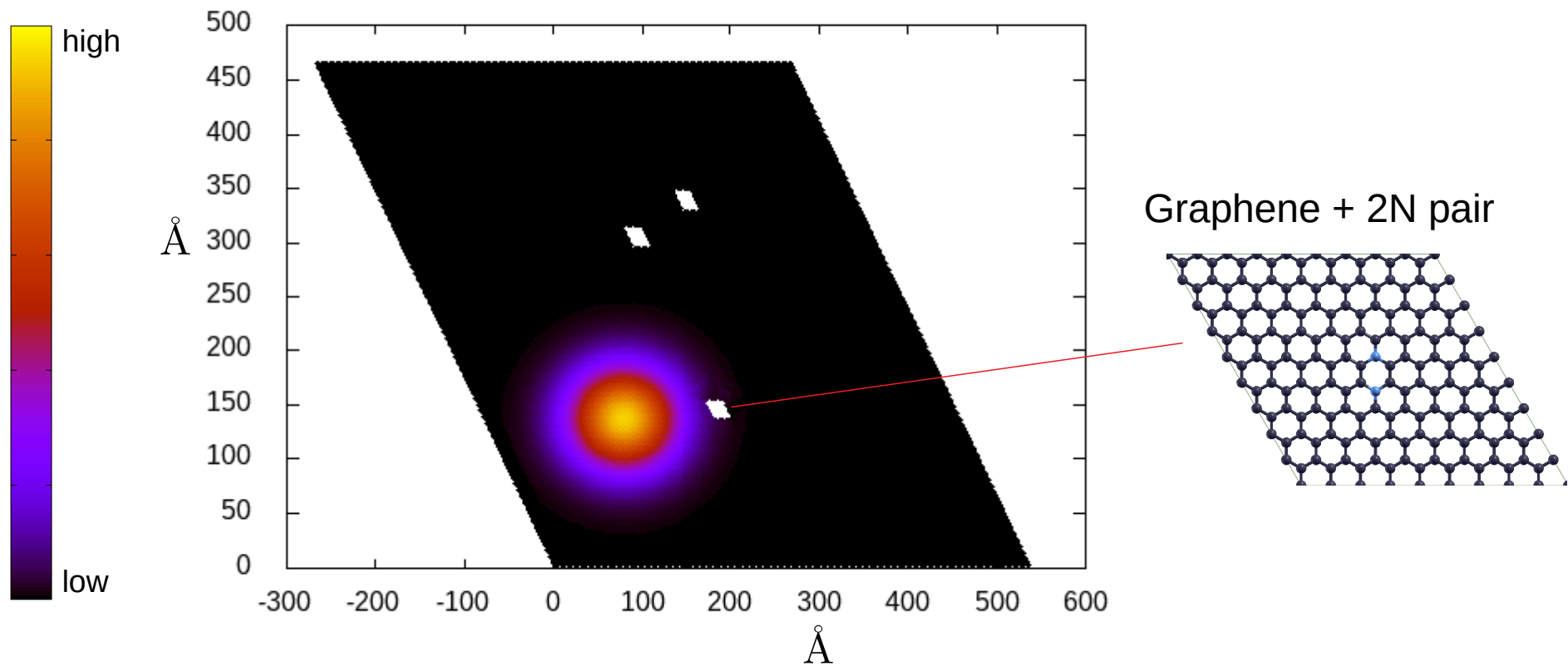
With spin-orbit coupling



Nice paper on the subject by M. Camarasa-Gómez,
D. Hernangómez-Pérez, F. Evers

[J. Phys. Chem. Lett. **15**, 5747 (2024)]





- [1] Elke Scheer (Auteur), Juan Carlos Cuevas, «Molecular Electronics: An Introduction To Theory And Experiment», 2017
- [2] Mahdi Pourfath, «The Non-Equilibrium Green's Function Method for Nanoscale Device Simulation», 2014
- [3] Pier A. Mello, Narendra Kumar, «Quantum Transport in Mesoscopic Systems: Complexity and Statistical Fluctuations», 2004

ANNEXE

Different pictures

$$\mathcal{H} = h + \boxed{[V_{LC} + V_{RC} + h.c.] + W_{int}} \text{ perturbation } \delta \hat{h}$$

Mean value of any observable \hat{O} (current too), $t = 0$ reference time :

$$O(t) = \langle \Psi_S(t) | \hat{O} | \Psi_S(t) \rangle; \quad \Psi_S(t) = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{\mathcal{H}} t} \Psi_S(0); \quad \hat{O} \text{ is time independent} \quad - \text{ Schrödinger picture}$$

$$O(t) = \langle \Psi_{\mathcal{H}} | \hat{O}_{\mathcal{H}}(t) | \Psi_{\mathcal{H}} \rangle; \quad \Psi_{\mathcal{H}} \text{ is time independent}; \quad \hat{O}_{\mathcal{H}}(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{\mathcal{H}} t} \hat{O} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{\mathcal{H}} t} \quad - \text{ Heisenberg picture}$$

$$O(t) = \langle \Psi_I(t) | \hat{O}_I(t) | \Psi_I(t) \rangle; \quad \Psi_I(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{h} t} \Psi_S(t); \quad \hat{O}_I(t) = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{h} t} \hat{O} e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{h} t} \quad - \text{ Interaction picture}$$

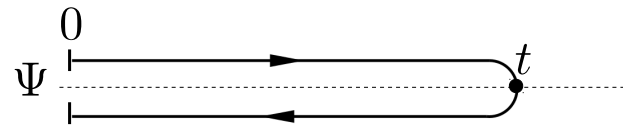
At reference time $t = 0$ states are the same in all pictures: $\Psi_S(0) = \Psi_{\mathcal{H}} = \Psi_I(0) = \Psi$

Time evolution of the state:

$$\Psi_I(t) = \hat{S}(t, 0) \Psi$$

with evolution operator:
$$\hat{S}(t_2, t_1) = \mathcal{T}_t \left\{ \exp \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \delta \hat{h}_I(t) dt \right) \right\}$$

$$O(t) = \langle \Psi | \hat{S}(0, t) \hat{O}_I(t) \hat{S}(t, 0) | \Psi \rangle$$

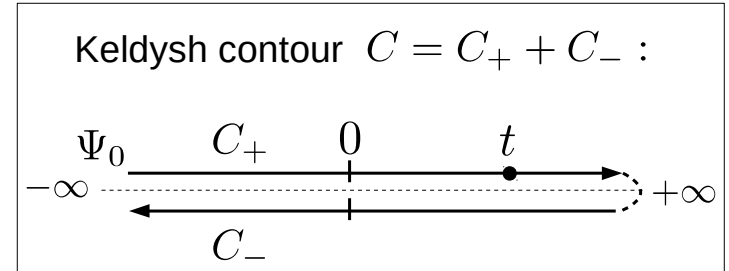


NEGF Contour

Assuming adiabatic switching on the perturbation:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \hat{S}(0, -\infty) |\Psi_0\rangle$$

$$O(t) = \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{S}(-\infty, 0) \cdot \hat{S}(0, t) \hat{O}_I(t) \hat{S}(t, 0) \cdot \hat{S}(0, -\infty) | \Psi_0 \rangle$$



$$O(t) = \langle \Psi_0 | \mathcal{T}_C \left\{ \hat{S}_C \hat{O}_I(t) \right\} | \Psi_0 \rangle; \quad \hat{S}_C = \mathcal{T}_C \left\{ \exp \left(-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_C \delta h_I(\tau) d\tau \right) \right\}$$

Contour Green functions:

$$i\hbar G_{mn}(\tau_2, \tau_1) = \langle \Psi | \mathcal{T}_C \left\{ \hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(\tau_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(\tau_1) \right\} | \Psi \rangle$$

$$i\hbar G_{mn}(\tau_2, \tau_1) = \langle \Psi_0 | \mathcal{T}_C \left\{ \hat{S}_C \hat{c}_{m,I}(\tau_2) \hat{c}_{n,I}^\dagger(\tau_1) \right\} | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

Dyson equation for contour GFs:

$$G(1', 1) = g(1', 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 g(1', 2) V(2) G(2, 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 \int_C d\tau_3 g(1', 2) \Sigma_{int}(2, 3) G(3, 1)$$

$$G(1', 1) = g(1', 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 G(1', 2) V(2) g(2, 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 \int_C d\tau_3 G(1', 2) \Sigma_{int}(2, 3) g(3, 1)$$

Green functions in the time domain

Produces four Green functions in the time domain:

$$G(\tau_2, \tau_1) = \begin{cases} G^{++}(t_2, t_1) & \tau_2, \tau_1 \in C_+ \\ G^{--}(t_2, t_1) & \tau_2, \tau_1 \in C_- \\ G^{<}(t_2, t_1) & \tau_2 \in C_+, \tau_1 \in C_- \\ G^{>}(t_2, t_1) & \tau_2 \in C_-, \tau_1 \in C_+ \end{cases}$$

$$G^r = G^{++} - G^{<}; \quad G^a = G^{--} - G^{>}$$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} i\hbar G_{mn}^{<}(t_2, t_1) &= - \left\langle \Psi \left| \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \right| \Psi \right\rangle \\ i\hbar G_{mn}^{>}(t_2, t_1) &= \left\langle \Psi \left| \hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \right| \Psi \right\rangle \\ i\hbar G_{mn}^r(t_2, t_1) &= \theta(t_2 - t_1) \left\langle \Psi \left| \left[\hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \right]_+ \right| \Psi \right\rangle \\ i\hbar G_{mn}^a(t_2, t_1) &= -\theta(t_1 - t_2) \left\langle \Psi \left| \left[\hat{c}_{m,\mathcal{H}}(t_2) \hat{c}_{n,\mathcal{H}}^\dagger(t_1) \right]_+ \right| \Psi \right\rangle \end{aligned} \right.$$

$$G^{++} + G^{--} = G^{>} + G^{<}; \quad G^r - G^a = G^{>} - G^{<}$$

Dyson equation in the time and frequency

Once again Dyson equation for contour GFs :

$$G(1', 1) = g(1', 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 g(1', 2) V(2) G(2, 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 \int_C d\tau_3 g(1', 2) \Sigma_{int}(2, 3) G(3, 1)$$

$$G(1', 1) = g(1', 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 G(1', 2) V(2) g(2, 1) + \int_C d\tau_2 \int_C d\tau_3 G(1', 2) \Sigma_{int}(2, 3) g(3, 1)$$

Using real time GFs, going to time integrals and performing Fourier transform:

$$G^{r/a}(E) = g^{r/a}(E) + g^{r/a}(E) V G^{r/a}(E) + g^{r/a}(E) \Sigma^{r/a}(E) G^{r/a}(E)$$

$$G^{</>}(E) = g^{</>}(E) + g^{</>}(E) V G^a(E) + g^r(E) V G^{</>}(E) \\ + g^{</>}(E) \Sigma^a(E) G^a(E) + g^r(E) \Sigma^{</>}(E) G^a(E) + g^r(E) \Sigma^r(E) G^{</>}(E)$$

Electric current within NEGF

$$I_L(t) = -e \frac{d \langle \hat{N}_{L,\mathcal{H}}(t) \rangle}{dt} = -\frac{ie}{\hbar} \langle [H, \hat{N}_{L,\mathcal{H}}(t)] \rangle \quad \hat{N}_L = \sum_k c_k^\dagger c_k = \sum_j c_j^\dagger c_j$$

$$I_L = \frac{ie}{\hbar} \sum_{j \in L, n \in C} \langle V_{jn} c_j^\dagger(t) c_n(t) - V_{nj} c_n^\dagger(t) c_j(t) \rangle = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int dE [G_{CL}^<(E) V_{LC} - V_{CL} G_{LC}^<(E)]$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_L &= \frac{e}{\hbar} \int dE \text{Tr}[(G_{CC}^< V_{CL} g_{LL}^a + G_{CC}^r V_{CL} g_{LL}^<)] V_{LC} - V_{CL} (g_{LL}^< V_{LC} G_{CC}^a + g_{LL}^r V_{LC} G_{CC}^<)] \\ &= \frac{e}{\hbar} \int dE \text{Tr}[(G_{CC}^r - G_{CC}^a) V_{CL} g_{LL}^< V_{LC} - V_{CL} (g_{LL}^r - g_{LL}^a) V_{LC} G_{CC}^<] \end{aligned}$$

$$I_L = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int dE \text{Tr}[V_{CL} g_{LL}^< V_{LC} (G_{CC}^> - G_{CC}^<) - V_{CL} (g_{LL}^> - g_{LL}^<) V_{LC} G_{CC}^<]$$

$$= \frac{e}{\hbar} \int dE \text{Tr}[\Sigma_L^< G_{CC}^> - \Sigma_L^> G_{CC}^<]$$

Slide 7

Derivation of the Keldysh formula

Equation on Page 7: $G_{CC}^{</>} = G_{CC}^r [\Sigma_L^{</>} + \Sigma_R^{</>} + \Sigma_{int}^{</>}] G_{CC}^a$

Dyson:

$$G^< = g^< + g^< V G^a + g^r V G^< + g^< \Sigma^a G^a + g^r \Sigma^< G^a + g^r \Sigma^r G^<$$



$$\left[1 - g^r (V + \Sigma^r) \right] G^< = g^< \left[1 + (V + \Sigma^a) G^a \right] + g^r \Sigma^< G^a$$



$$G^< = \underbrace{\left[1 - g^r V - g^r \Sigma^r \right]^{-1}}_{\mathbf{1}} g^< \left[1 + V G^a + \Sigma^a G^a \right] + \underbrace{\left[1 - g^r V - g^r \Sigma^r \right]^{-1}}_{\mathbf{1''}} g^r \Sigma^< G^a$$

$$G^r = g^r + g^r V G^r + g^r \Sigma^r G^r \longrightarrow G^r = \underbrace{\left(1 - g^r V - g^r \Sigma^r \right)^{-1}}_{\mathbf{2}} g^r$$

Dyson:

$$G^r = g^r + G^r V g^r + G^r \Sigma^r g^r \longrightarrow G^r = \underbrace{\left(1 + G^r V + G^r \Sigma^r \right)^{-1}}_{\mathbf{3}} g^r$$

$$G^< = \underbrace{\left[1 + G^r V + G^r \Sigma^r \right]}_{\mathbf{1-2-3}} g^< \left[1 + V G^a + \Sigma^a G^a \right] + \underbrace{G^r \Sigma^< G^a}_{\mathbf{1''-2}}$$

valid in the whole region (L+C+R)

Derivation of the Keldysh formula (Central region)

$$G^< = \left[1 + G^r V + G^r \Sigma^r \right] g^< \left[1 + V G^a + \Sigma^a G^a \right] + G^r \Sigma^< G^a$$

Taking CC block:

$$X = L, R, \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{CC}^< &= g_C^< + \sum_X g_C^< V_{CX} G_{XC}^a + g_C^< \Sigma_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a + && \text{1-1,2,3} \\
 &\dots \\
 &+ \sum_X G_{CX}^r V_{XC} g_C^< + \sum_X G_{CC}^r V_{CX} g_X^< V_{XC} G_{CC}^a + \sum_{XX'} G_{CX'}^r V_{X'C} g_C^< V_{CX} G_{XC}^a + && \text{2-1,2,2''} \\
 &\dots \\
 &+ \sum_X G_{CX}^r V_{XC} g_C^< \Sigma_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a + && \text{2-3} \\
 &\dots \\
 &+ G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^r g_C^< + \sum_X G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^r g_C^< V_{CX} G_{XC}^a + G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^r g_C^< \Sigma_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a + && \text{3-1,2,3} \\
 &\dots \\
 &+ \underline{\underline{G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^< G_{CC}^a}} \\
 &\dots \\
 C_{CC}^< &= g_C^< \left(1 + \sum_X \Sigma_X^a G_{CC}^a + \Sigma_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a \right) + \left(\sum_X G_{CC}^r \Sigma_X^r + G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^r \right) g_C^< + && \text{1-1,2,3} \\
 &\dots && \text{2-1,3-1} \\
 &+ G_{CC}^r \left(\sum_{X'} \Sigma_{X'}^r + \Sigma_{CC}^r \right) g_C^< \left(\sum_X \Sigma_X^r + \Sigma_{CC}^a \right) G_{CC}^a \\
 &\dots \\
 &+ \underline{\underline{G_{CC}^r \left(\sum_X \Sigma_X^< + \Sigma_{CC}^< \right) G_{CC}^a}} && \text{2-2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Derivation of the Keldysh formula (Central region)

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{CC}^< &= g_C^< \left(1 + \sum_X \Sigma_X^a G_{CC}^a + \Sigma_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a \right) + \left(\sum_X G_{CC}^r \Sigma_X^r + G_{CC}^r \Sigma_{CC}^r \right) g_C^< + \\
 &+ G_{CC}^r \left(\sum_{X'} \Sigma_{X'}^r + \Sigma_{CC}^r \right) g_C^< \left(\sum_X \Sigma_X^r + \Sigma_{CC}^a \right) G_{CC}^a \\
 &+ G_{CC}^r \left(\sum_X \Sigma_X^< + \Sigma_{CC}^< \right) G_{CC}^a
 \end{aligned}$$



$$G_{CC}^< = \left(1 + G_{CC}^r \tilde{\Sigma}_{CC}^r \right) g_C^< \left(1 + \tilde{\Sigma}_{CC}^a G_{CC}^a \right) + G_{CC}^r \tilde{\Sigma}_{CC}^< G_{CC}^a$$

with $\tilde{\Sigma}_{CC}^{r/a/<} = \sum_X \Sigma_X^{r/a/<} + \Sigma_{CC}^{r/a/<}$

Often first term is disregarded (?):

$$G_{CC}^< = G_{CC}^r \tilde{\Sigma}_{CC}^< G_{CC}^a$$