



**The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



2145-40

Spring College on Computational Nanoscience

17 - 28 May 2010

Metal Nanocontacts (Nanofriction): Physics, Theory, Simulation

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Italy

PHYSICS, THEORY, SIMULATION OF METAL NANOCONTACTS

E. Tosatti

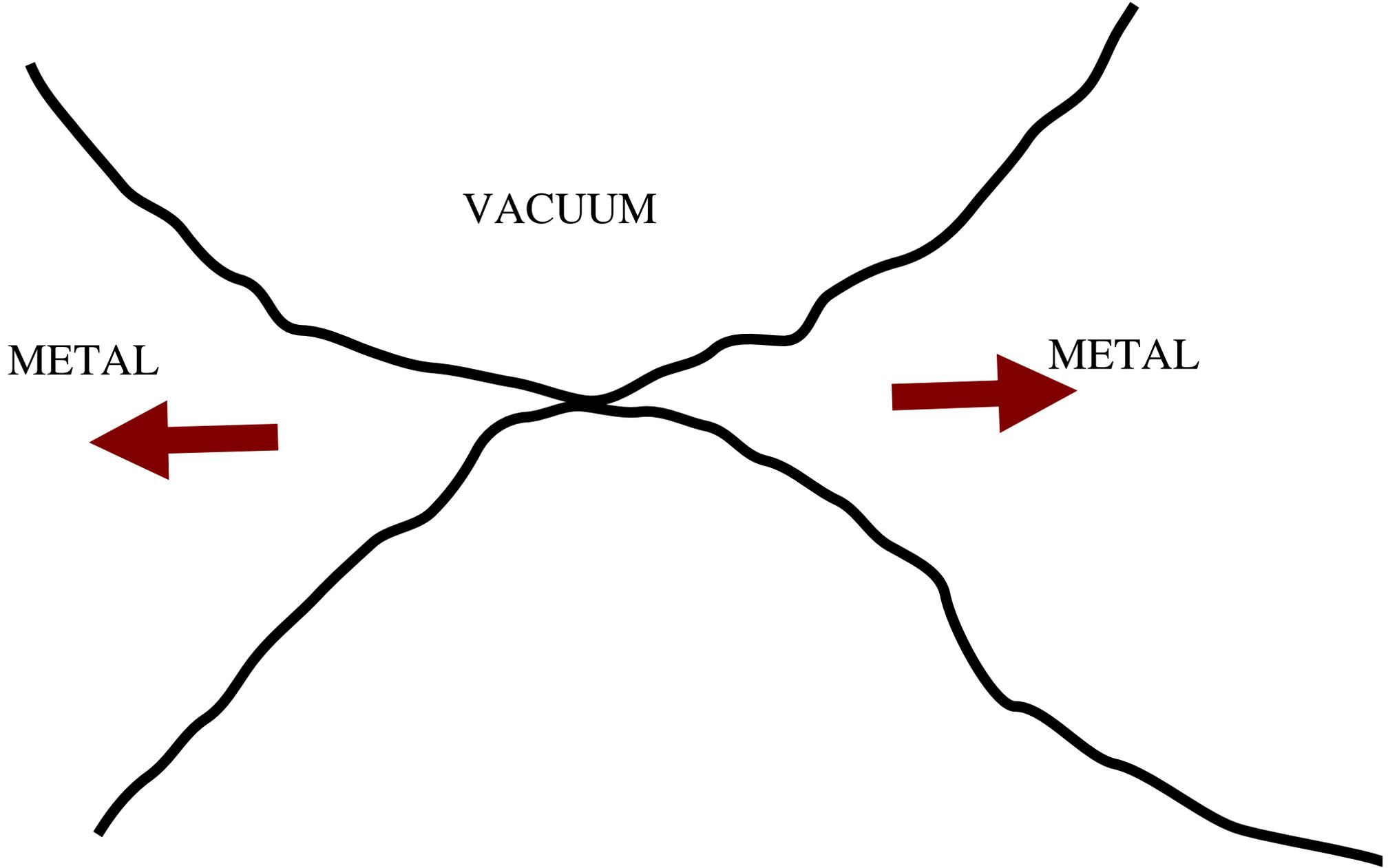
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ICTP Nanocollege, Trieste, 19 May 2010

MAKING AND BREAKING METAL-METAL CONTACTS





VACUUM

METAL

METAL

Rodrigues et al.
(2000)

METAL NANOCONTACTS

(Au)

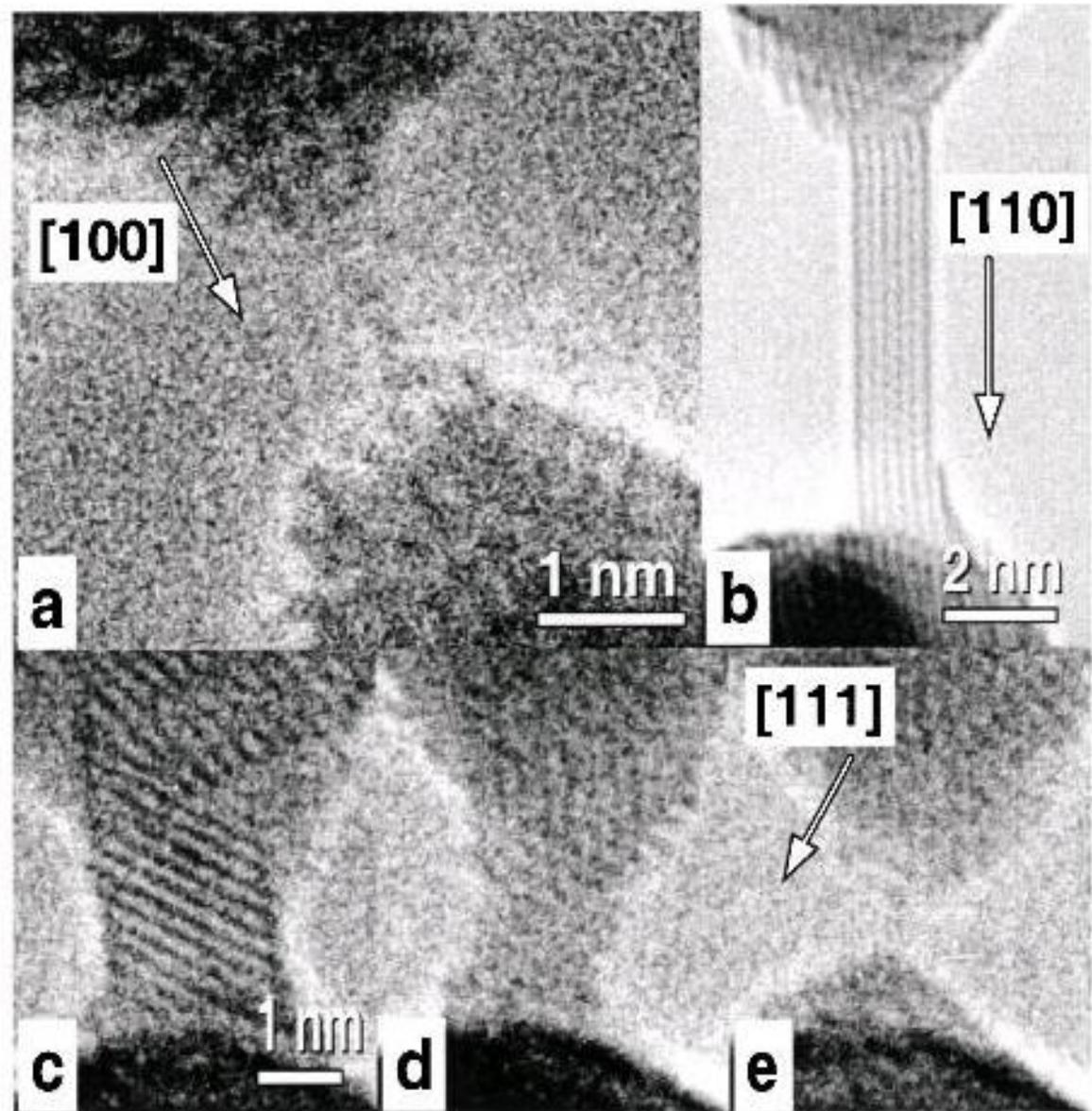
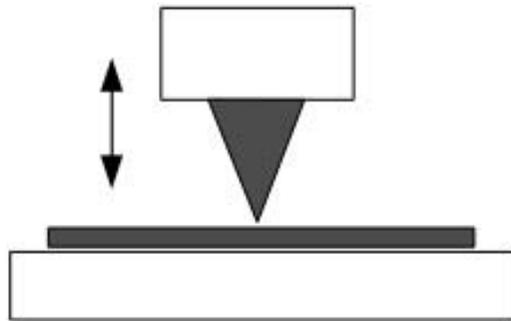


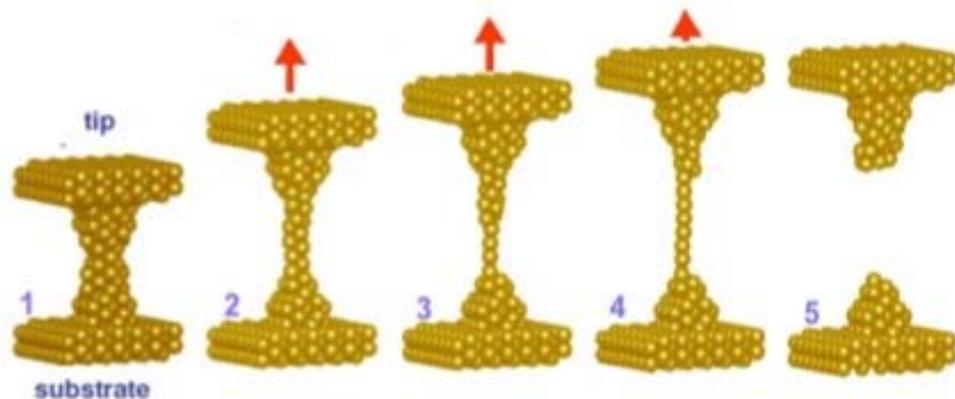
FIG. 2. HRTEM images of gold NWs; atomic positions appear dark. (a) [100] atom-chain NW; (b) rodlike [110] NW; (c)–(e) temporal evolution of a NW formed when the apices are sliding: 0, 17:12, and 24:15 min, respectively.

Fabrication of atomic-size contacts

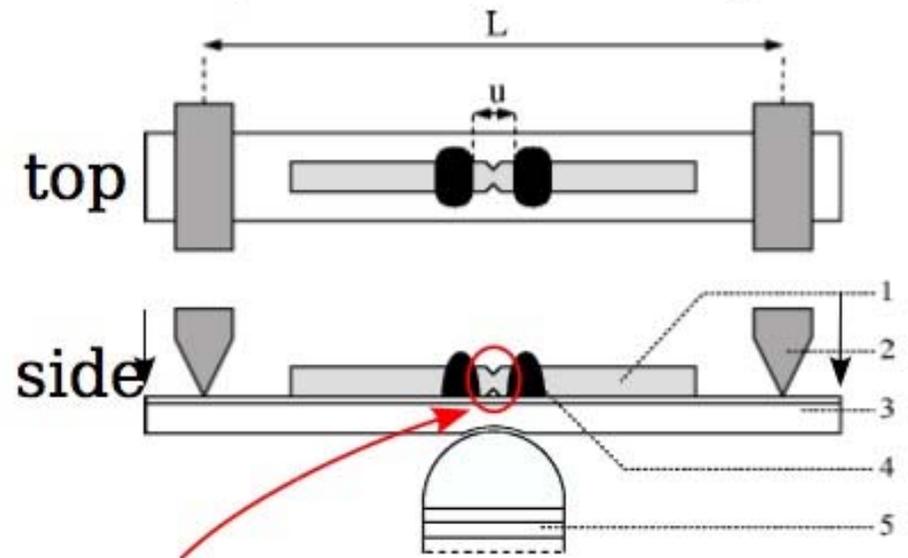
scanning tunneling microscope (STM)



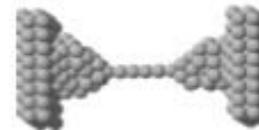
Simulation of the breaking of Au nanocontact



mechanically controllable break junction



down to atomic chain



- 1 - notched wire
- 2 - fixed counter supports
- 3 - bending beam
- 4 - drops of epoxy adhesive
- 5 - stacked piezo element

METAL NANOCNTACTS

1. STRUCTURE? EVOLUTION IN TIME?
2. CONDUCTANCE?
3. MAGNETISM? WHAT EFFECT ON CONDUCTANCE?
4. NANOMAGNETISM IN A NONMAGNETIC METAL CONTACT?
5. KONDO: A MANY-BODY EFFECT IN A NANOCNTACT

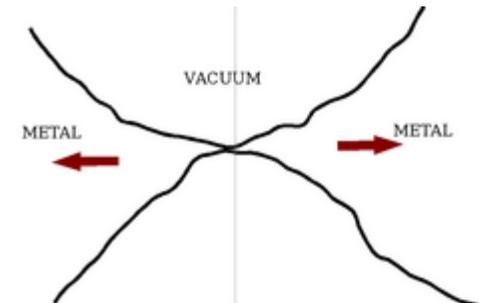
COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

- CLASSICAL (MOLECULAR DYNAMICS) SIMULATION OF NANOWIRES AND NANOCONTACT STRUCTURE + BREAKING
- AB INITIO DENSITY FUNCTIONAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE CALCULATIONS . CODES: MOSTLY PWSCF (QUANTUM ESPRESSO). EX-CORREL. FUNCTIONALS: LDA, GGA, (LDA+U)
- BALLISTIC CONDUCTANCE CALCULATIONS: IHM-CHOI METHOD (COMPLEX BAND STRUCTURE, PLANE WAVES) GENERALIZED TO ULTRASOFT PSEUDOPOTENTIALS. (SPIN-ORBIT INTERACTION INCLUDED: EFFECTS ON SPIN + ORBITAL NANOMAGNETISM, CONDUCTANCE)
- MANY BODY METHODS (NUMERICAL RENORMALIZATION GROUP) FOR KONDO EFFECT IN TRANSITION METAL ATOMIC NANOCONTACTS

STRUCTURE

TIME SCALES IN THE STRUCTURAL EVOLUTION OF NANOCONTACTS

τ_1 . FAST PLASTIC FLOW
AND THINNING



τ_2 . QUASI-EQUILIBRIUM LONG LIVED
(MAGIC) “NANOWIRE” STRUCTURES

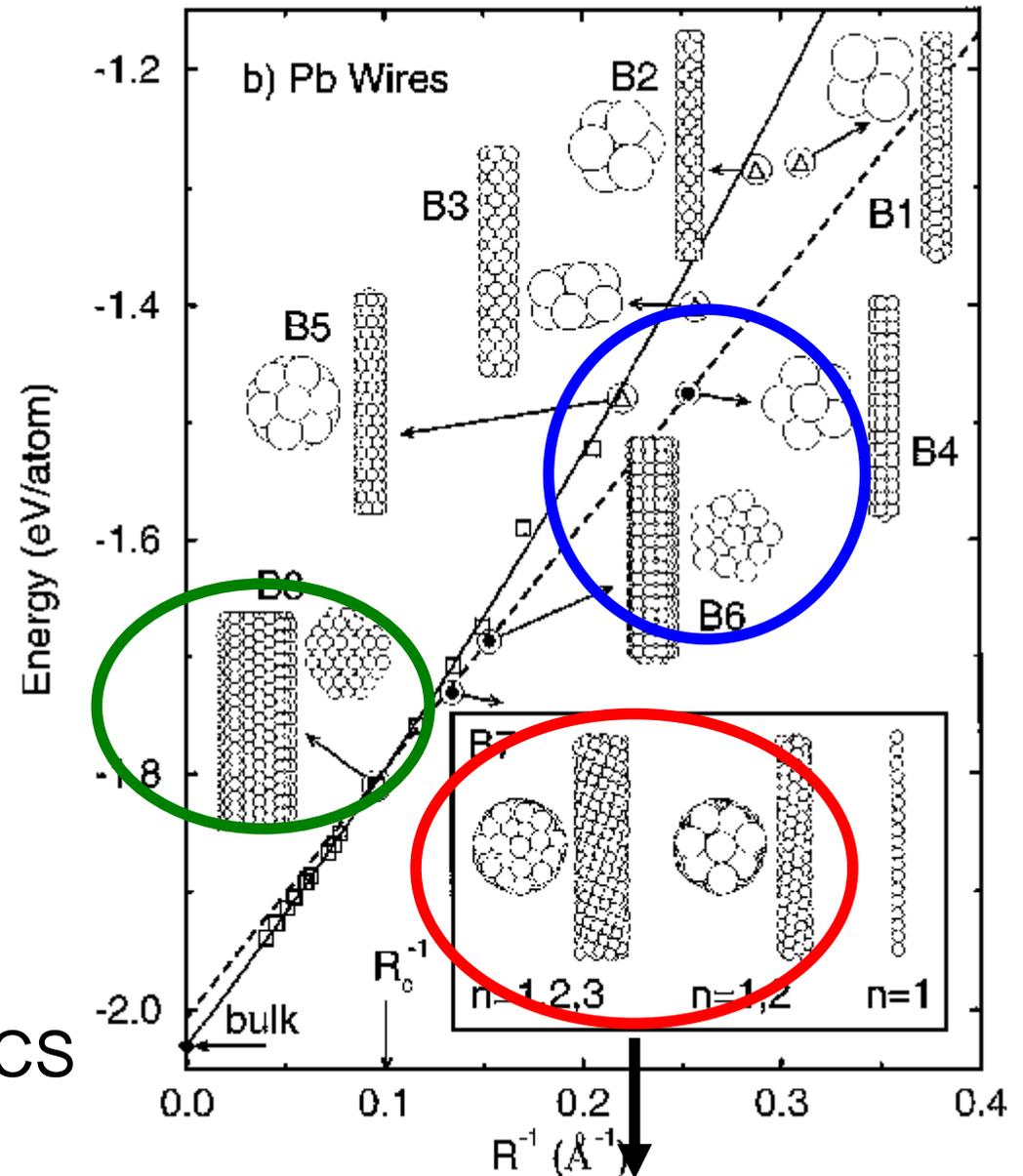
τ_3 . FINAL BREAKING

IDEAL ULTRATHIN NANOWIRES (THEORY): EXPECT NEW OPTIMALLY PACKED STRUCTURES

CRYSTALLINE,
ICOSAHEDRAL,
HELICAL

GULSEREN ERCOLESSI,
TOSATTI, PRL 80, 3775 (1998)

METHOD: MOLECULAR DYNAMICS
SIMULATIONS. POTENTIAL:
EMPIRICAL MANY BODY FORCES
(ERCOLESSI, ONG (1992))



COAXIAL "WEIRD NANOWIRES"

EXPERIMENT:

Takayanagi et al (2000)

MAGIC GOLD NANOWIRES



Au

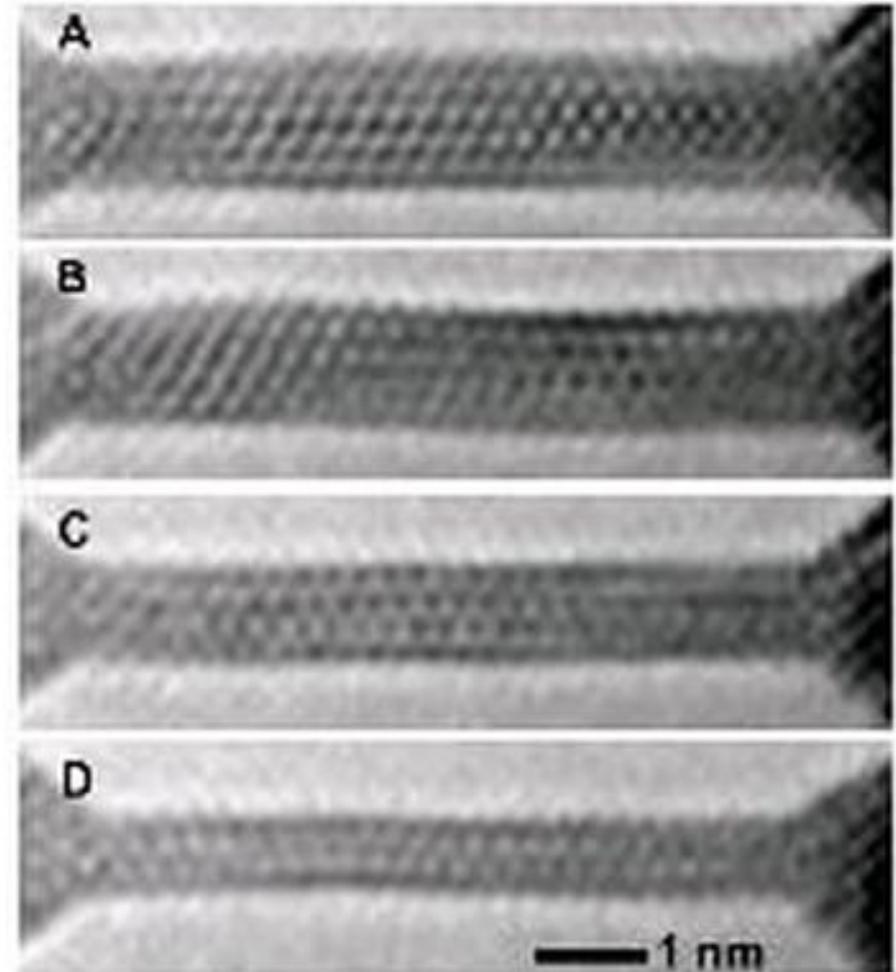


Fig. 1. TEM images of stable gold nanowires observed during one thinning process. The diameters of the wires in (A), (B), (C), and (D) are 1.3, 1.1, 0.8, and 0.6 nm, respectively. The dark dots represent positions of atoms projected on the image plane. The dark dots are aligned on atom rows along the wire axis. These wire images are wavy, particularly in (D).

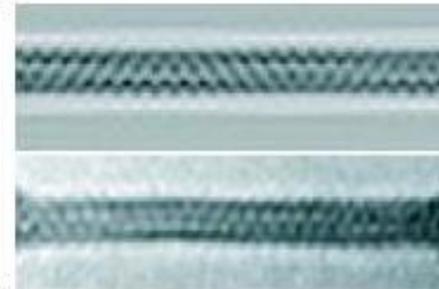
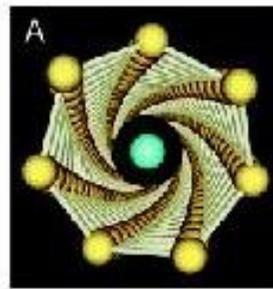
Au: TEM RESULTS ANALYSED

Takayanagi et al
(2000)

HELICAL!?

$\Delta N = 7$!?

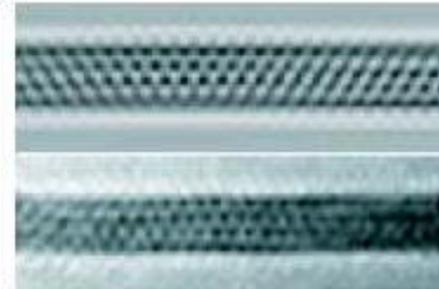
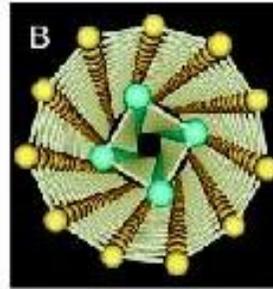
7-1



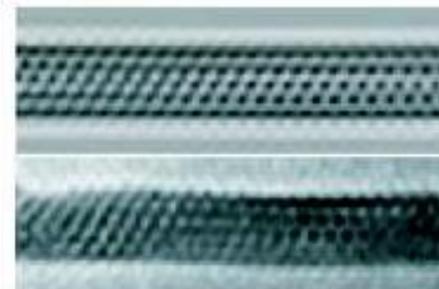
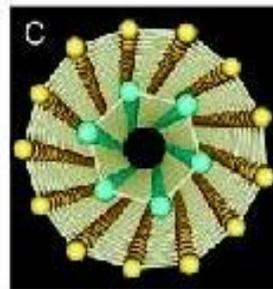
Model pict.

TEM pict.

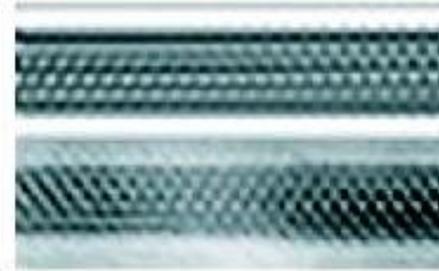
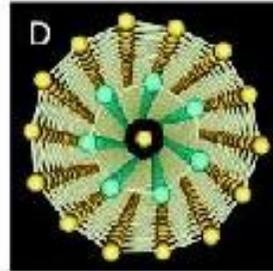
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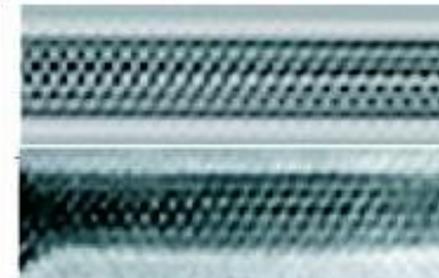
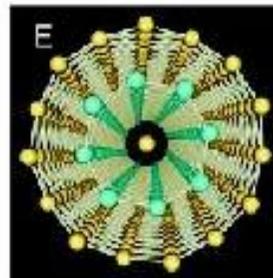
13-6



14-7



15-8



1 nm 

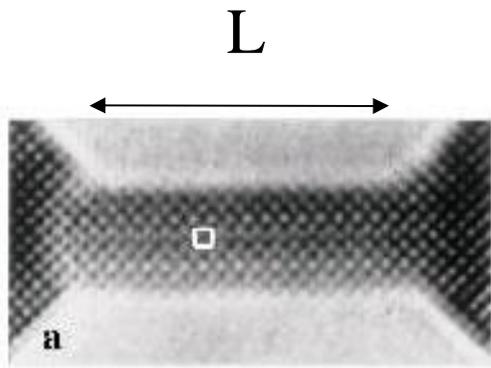
AB INITIO THEORY OF
MAGIC NANOWIRE STRUCTURES:
CALCULATE (AND MINIMIZE) **WHAT?**

MAGIC NANOWIRES = MINIMA OF
FREE ENERGY F ? **NO:**

-- $F(N)/N$ **decreases** as N grows: wires should
thicken.... but they **thin down!!**

-- Reason: wires are **tip-suspended**, do not
exist in isolation

THE CONCEPT OF **STRING TENSION**



Tosatti et al
 Science 291,
 288 (2001)

$$f = \frac{F - \mu N}{L}$$

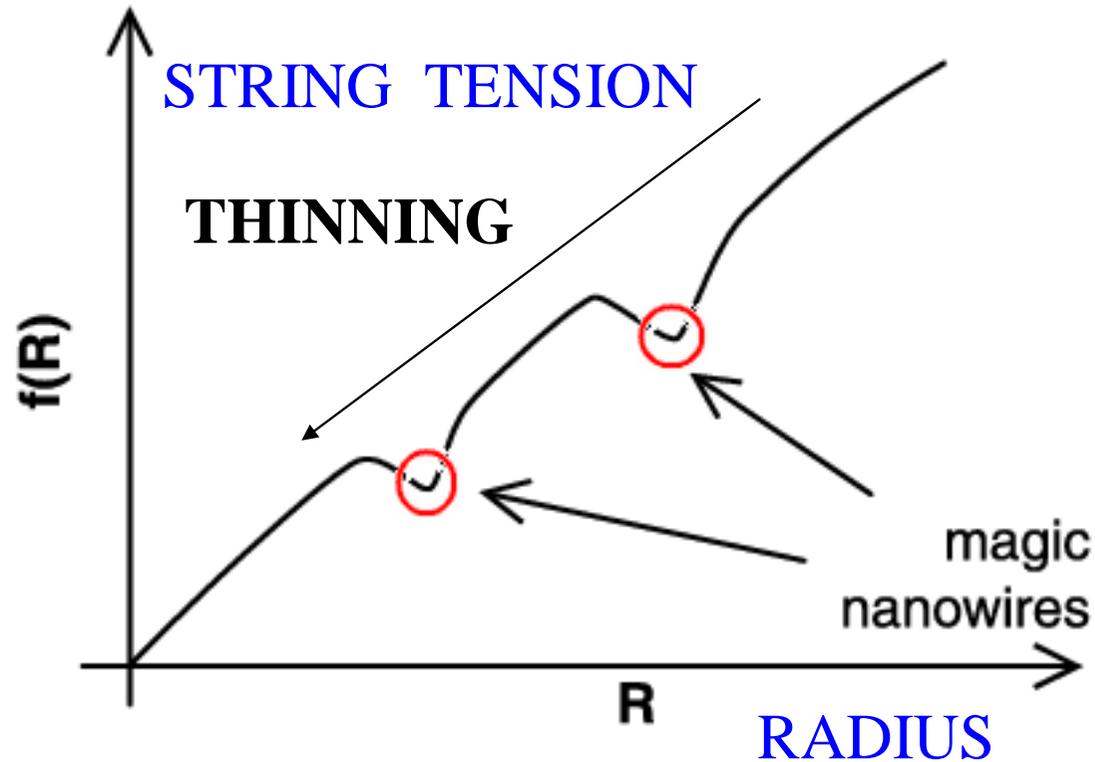


Fig. 1. String tension of a tip-suspended nanowire as a function of radius (schematic). Local minima signal long-lived magic nanowires. The wire disappears ($R = 0$) at true equilibrium.

ATOMS ESCAPE JUNCTION TO GO TO THE LEADS

MAGIC NANOWIRES: AB INITIO THEORY

(*Science* 291,288(2001))

$$f = \frac{F - \mu N}{L}$$

1. BUILD CRUDE WIRE MODEL USING EMPIRICAL FORCES, MOLECULAR DYNAMICS
2. OPTIMIZE STRUCTURE BY FIRST PRINCIPLES DENSITY FUNCTIONAL CALCULATIONS
3. OBTAIN F (= E AT $T=0$) AND L OF OPTIMAL ZERO STRESS STRUCTURE
4. μ = BULK COHESIVE ENERGY (CALC. SEPARATELY)
5. CALCULATE STRING TENSION f , REOPTIMIZE IN PRESENCE OF STRESS UNTIL SELFCONSISTENT
6. BUILD ANOTHER WIRE MODEL, ETC

MULTISHELL COAXIAL NANOWIRE MODELS

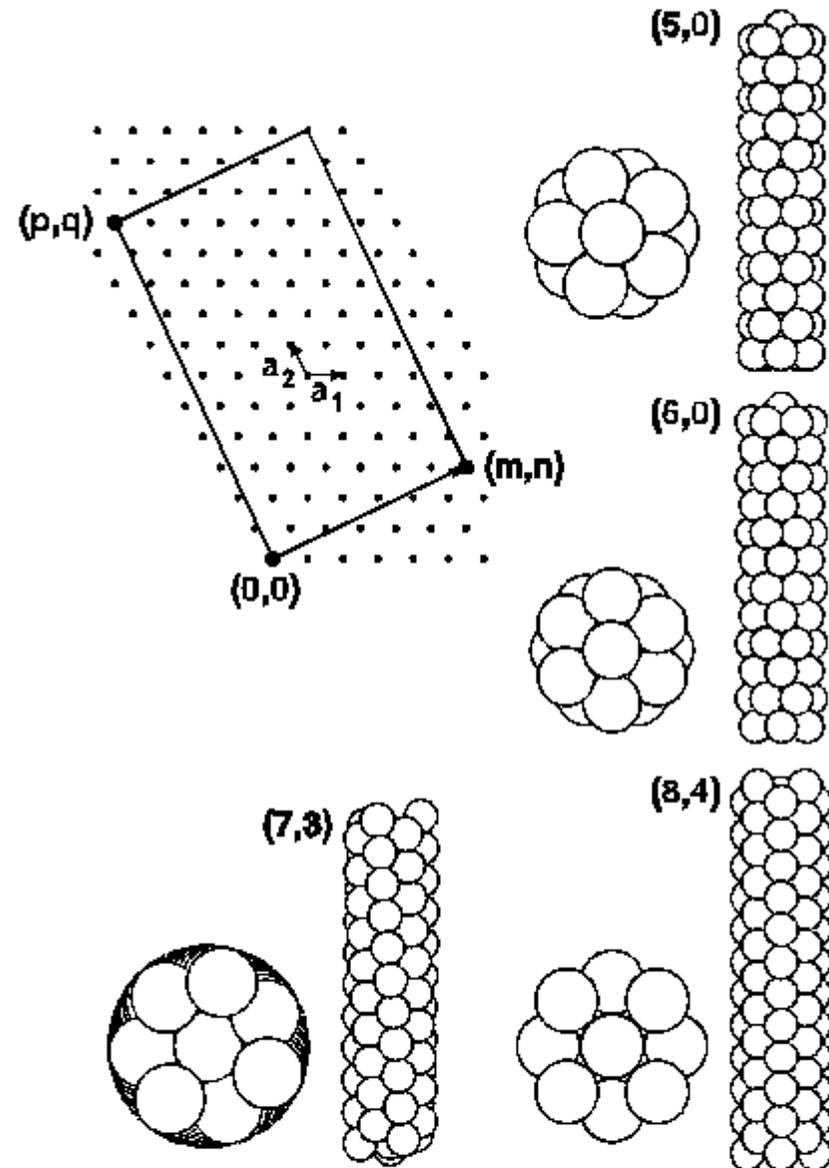


Fig. 2. Cylindrical folding of a triangular lattice for an (m, n) tube, with views of several coaxial tube nanowires. Each atom is pictured as a sphere of atomic radius. The $(7, 3)$ gold nanowire (note its chirality) was reported to be magic in (3).

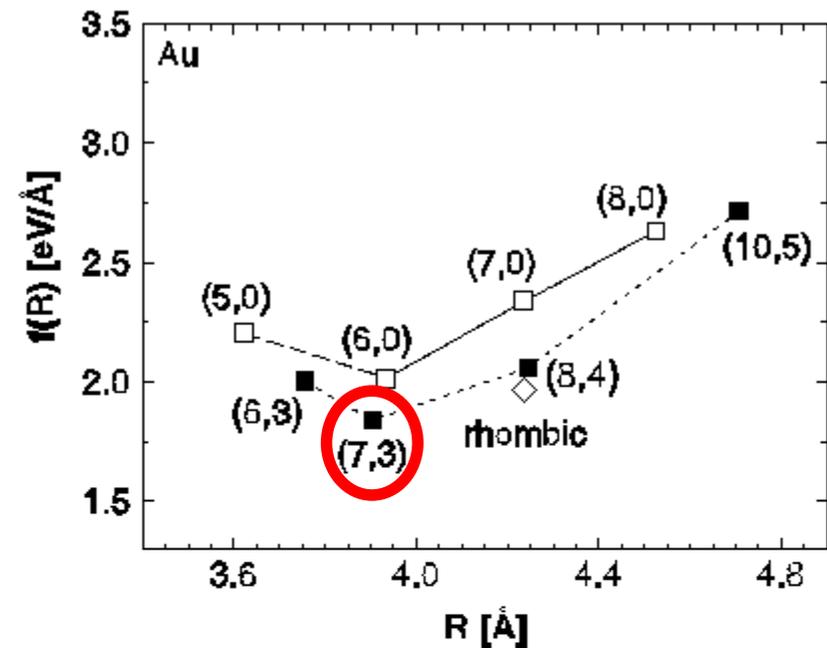
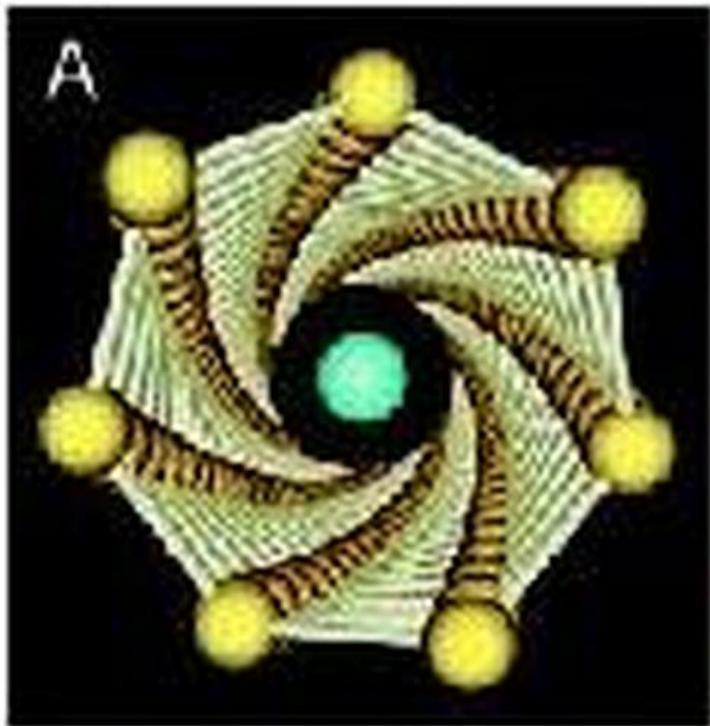
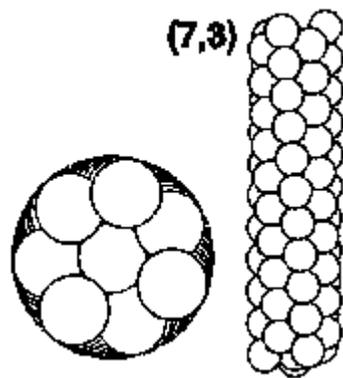


Fig. 3. Calculated (22) string tension ($1 \text{ eV}/\text{\AA} = 1.6 \text{ nN}$) of tip-suspended gold nanowires at zero temperature (only the largest and smallest n values are shown). The minimum demonstrates why the (7, 3) nanowire is magic. The calculations were carried out for infinite tip-free wires, with structure relaxed to minimize string tension (Eq. 1), starting from initial wire geometries obtained by Voter's potential; $\mu(\text{Au}) = -4.401 \text{ eV}$ was obtained from a separate bulk calculation.



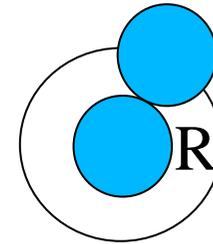
Science 291,288(2001)

WHY HELICAL?

$$f = \frac{F - \mu N}{L}$$

→ **HELICAL** TUBE NARROWER AND LONGER!

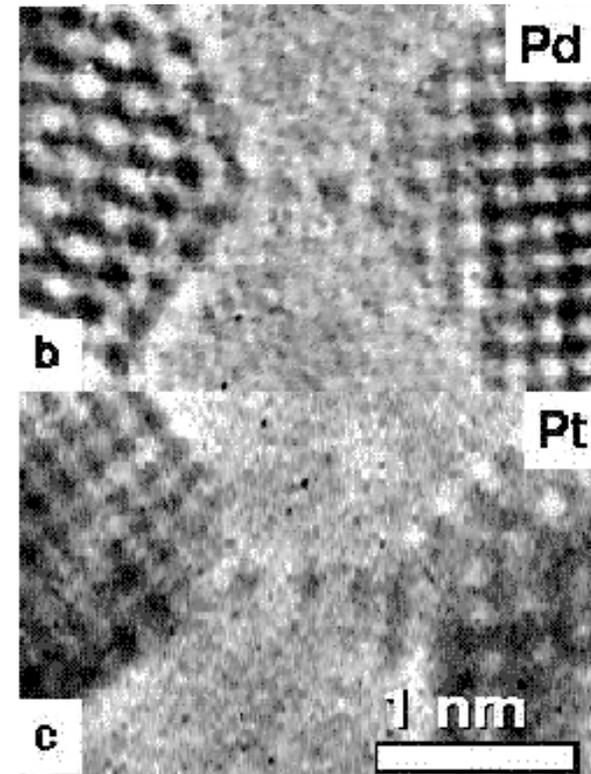
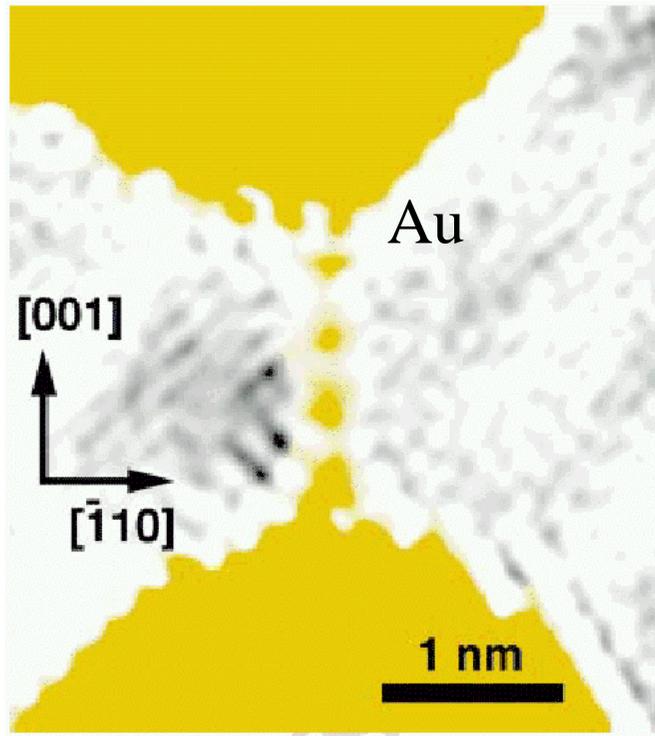
WHY $\Delta N = 7$?



→ $2\pi(2R) < \Delta N(2R) \rightarrow \Delta N=7!$

Monatomic nanowires

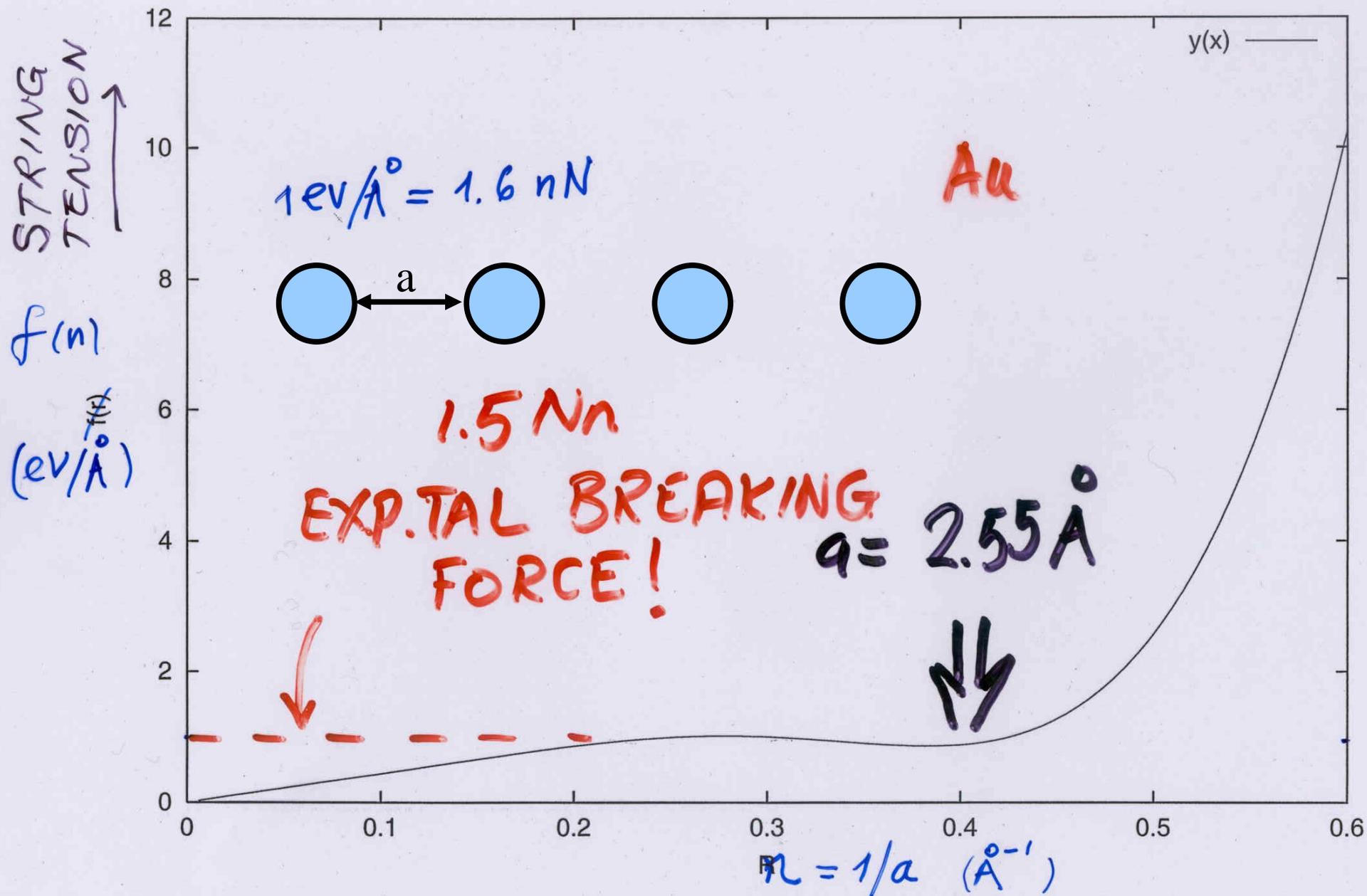
TEM = transmission electron microscope



Ohnishi et al., Nature 395,
780 (1998)

Rodrigues et al., Phys. Rev. Lett,
91, 096801 (2003)

Monatomic wires are magic too!

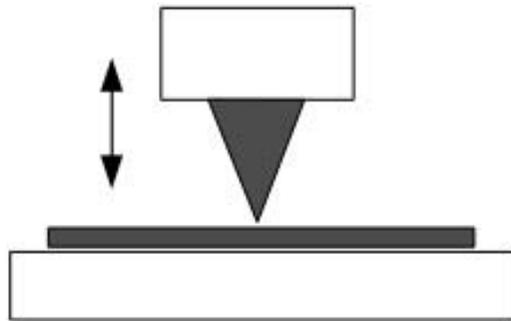


E.T., Sol. State Comm. 135, 610 (2005)

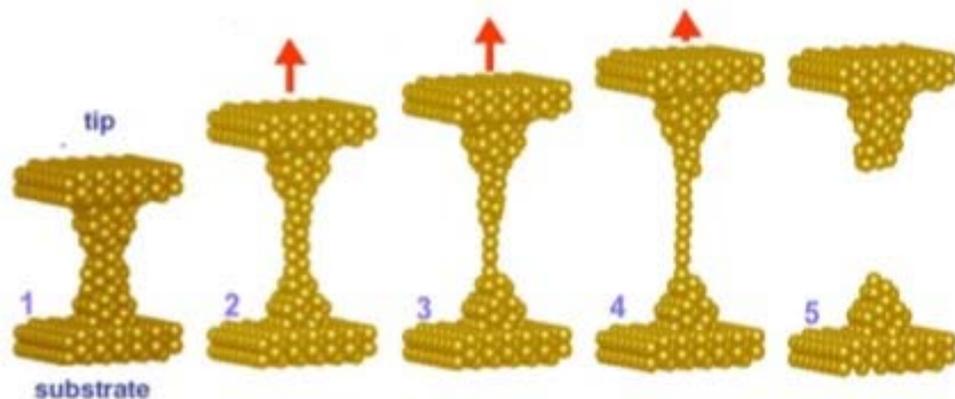
CONDUCTANCE

Fabrication of atomic-size contacts

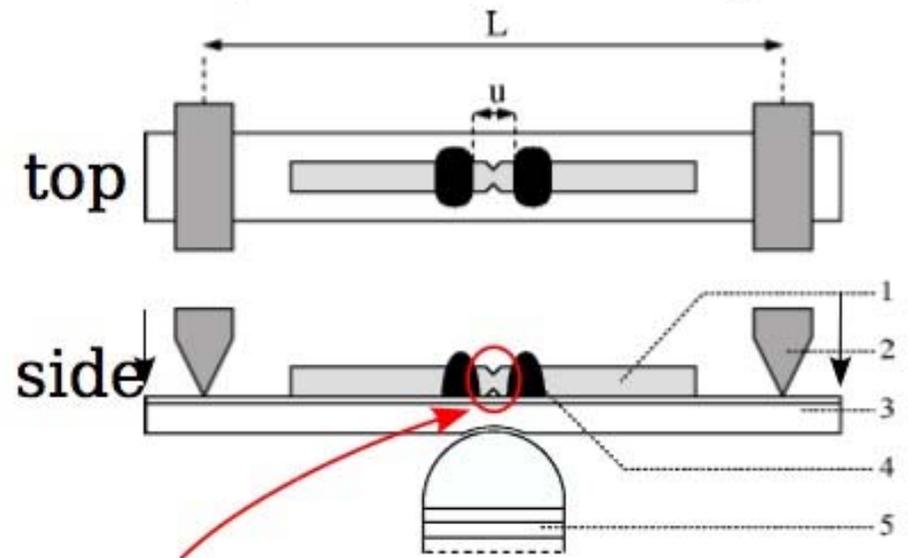
scanning tunneling microscope (STM)



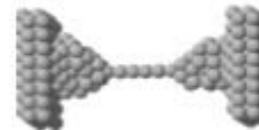
Simulation of the breaking of Au nanocontact



mechanically controllable break junction

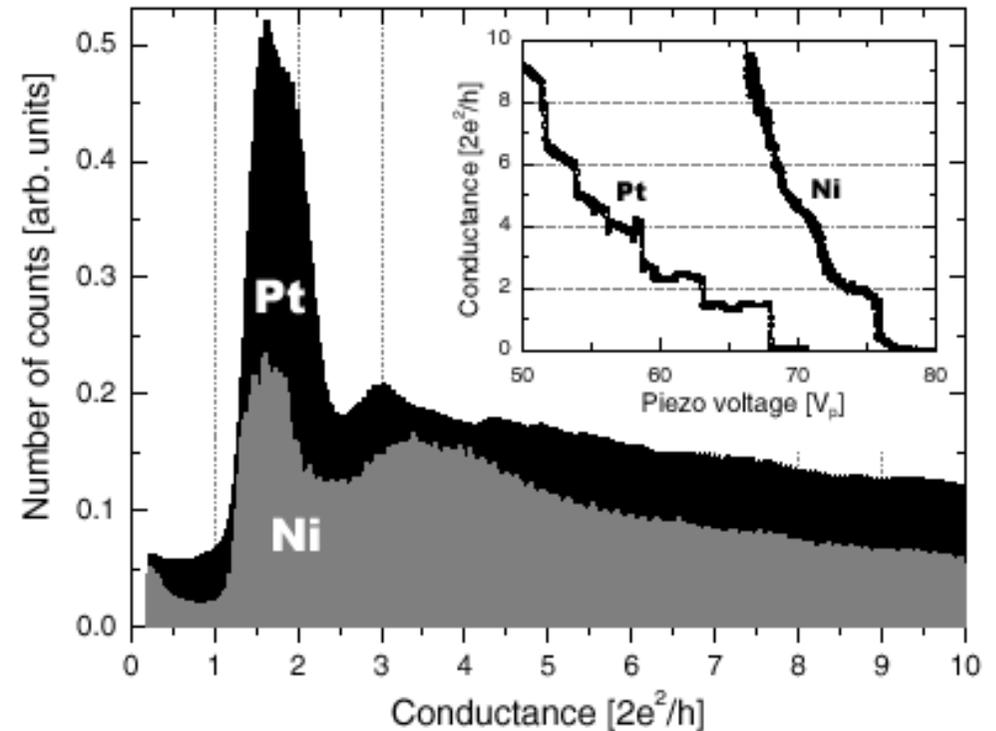
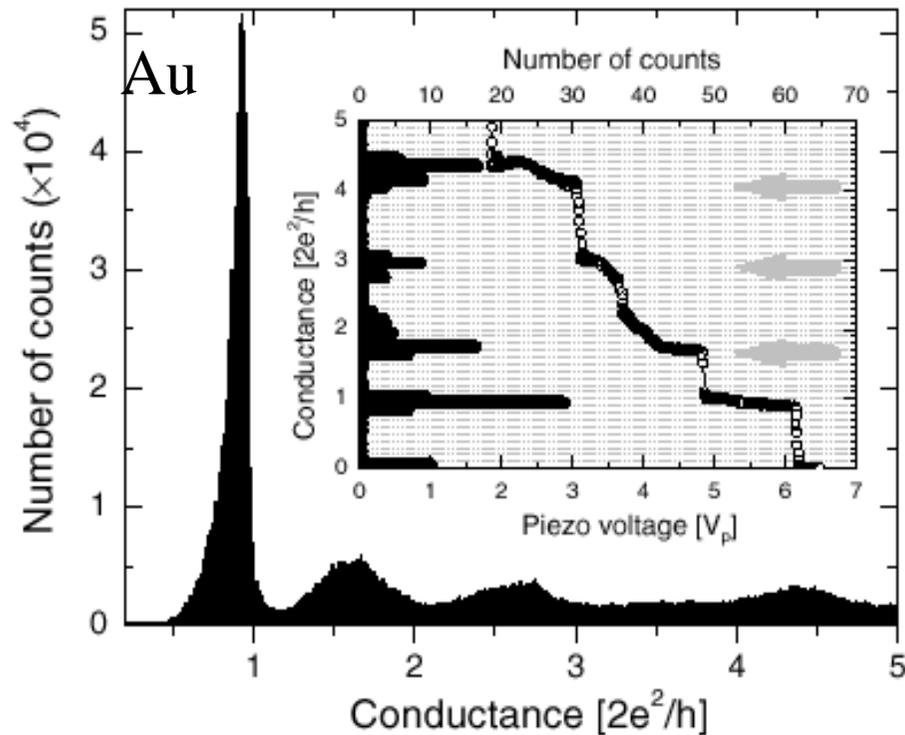


down to atomic chain



- 1 - notched wire
- 2 - fixed counter supports
- 3 - bending beam
- 4 - drops of epoxy adhesive
- 5 - stacked piezo element

Break junction conductance histograms: quantization

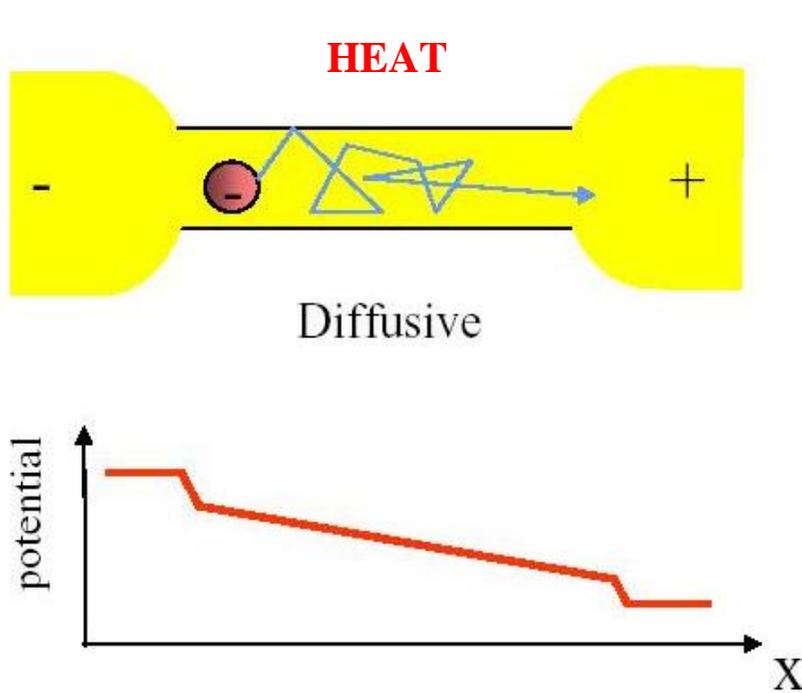


A. I. Yanson, Ph.D. Thesis, 2001

$$G_0 = 2e^2/h = (12.9 \text{ K}\Omega)$$

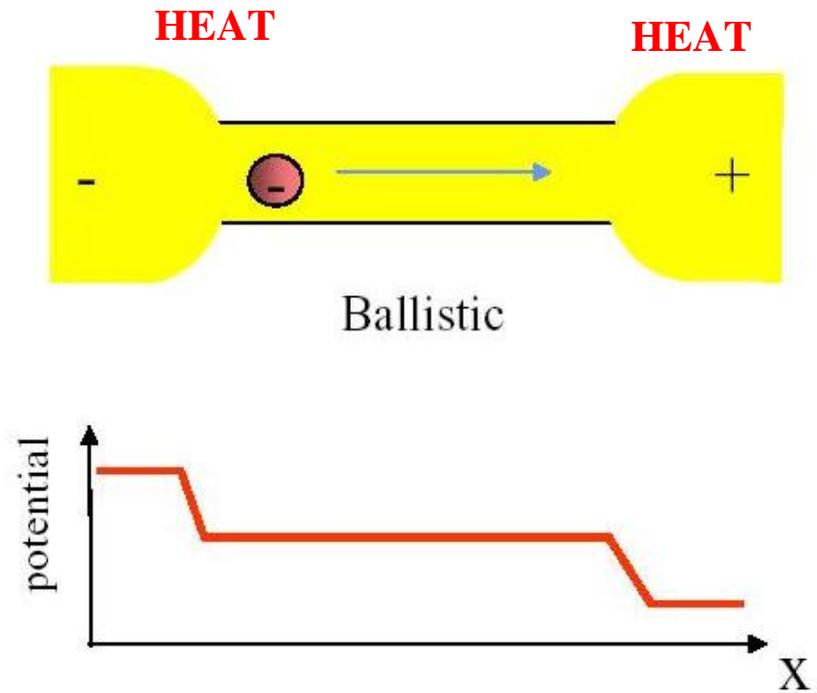
-1

Ballistic Electron Transport



Ohmic Conductor

$$R = \rho L/A$$



Quantum Transport

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

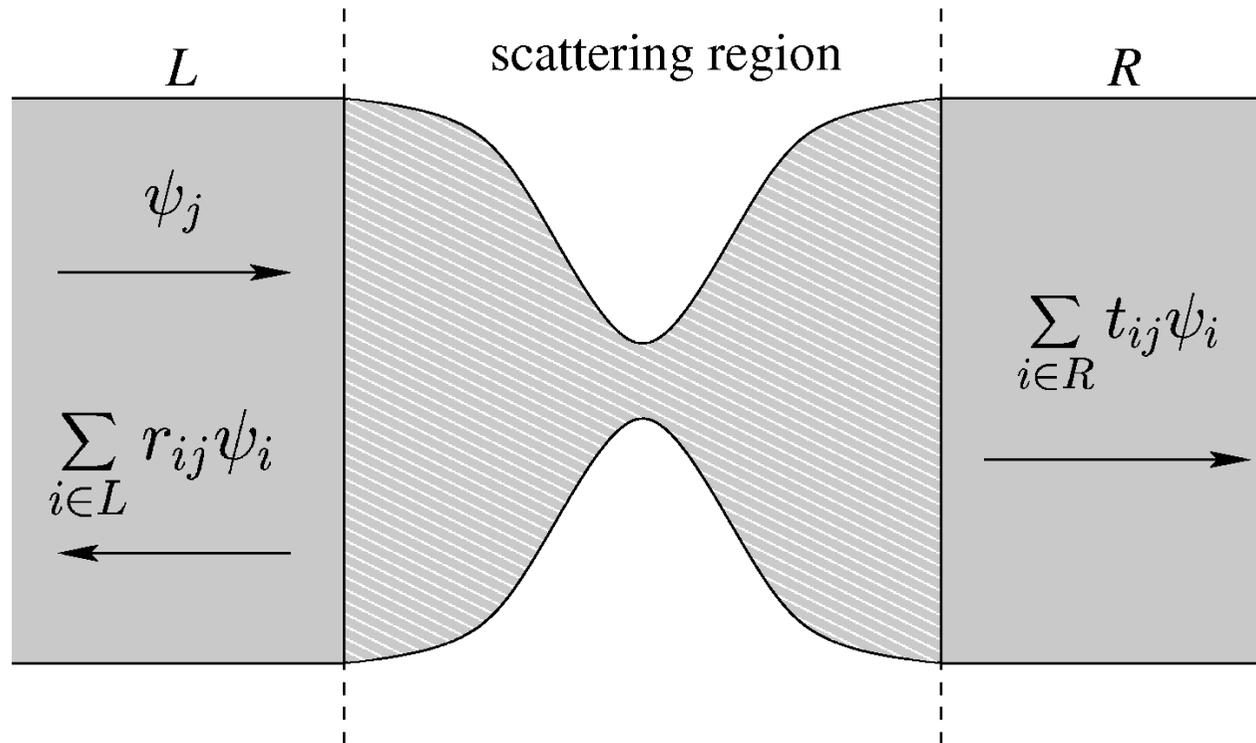
(Figure from B. Altshuler)

Ballistic conductance

Landauer-Buttiker formula for ballistic conductance:

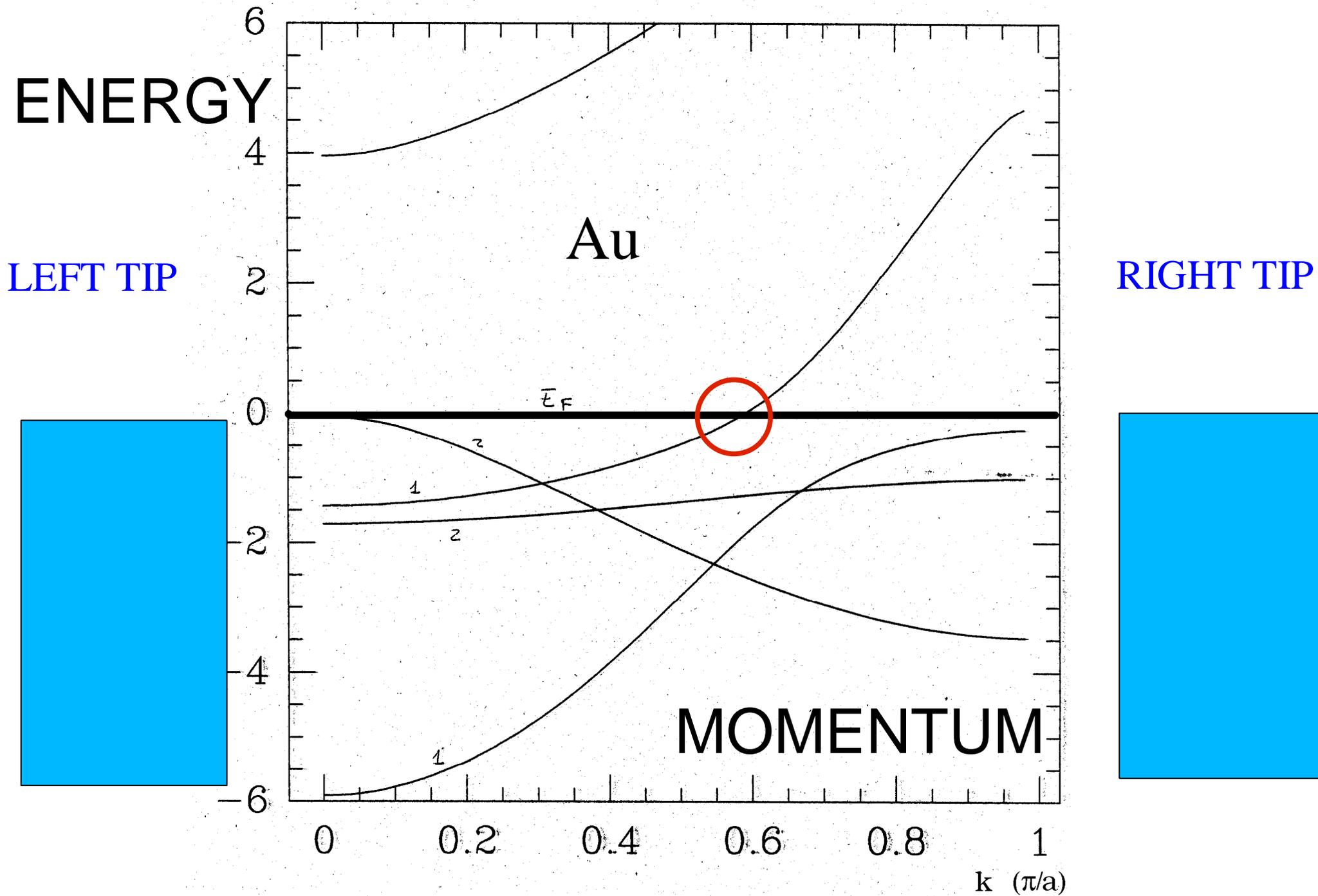
$$G = \frac{e^2}{h} \text{Tr}[T^+ T],$$

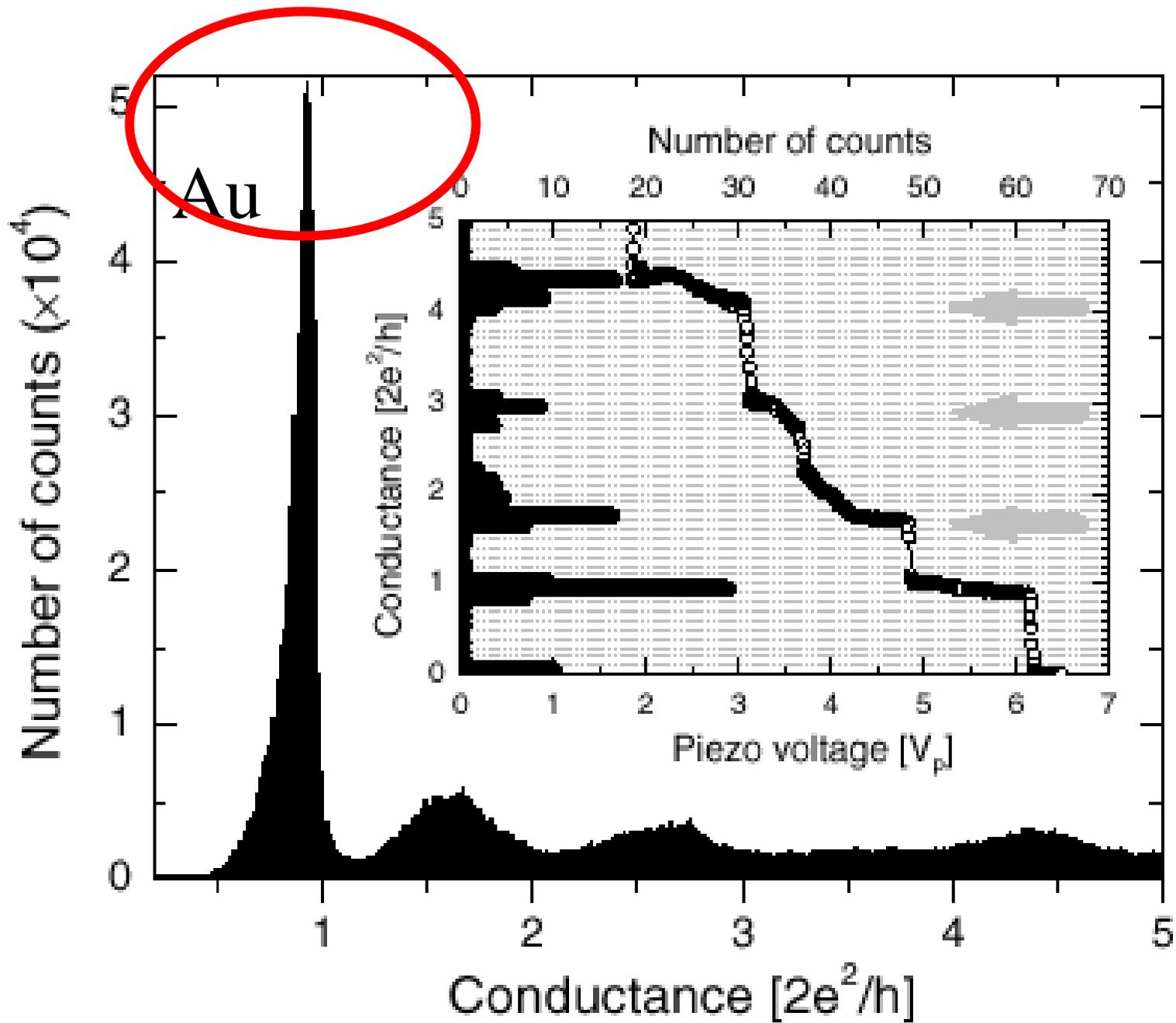
$$T_{ij} = \sqrt{\frac{I_i}{I_j}} t_{ij}$$



$$G < G_{\text{MAX}} = (e^2/h) (N_{\text{UP}} + N_{\text{DOWN}})$$

MONATOMIC Au CHAIN





A. I. Yanson, Ph.D. Thesis, 2001

COMPUTATIONAL APPROACH

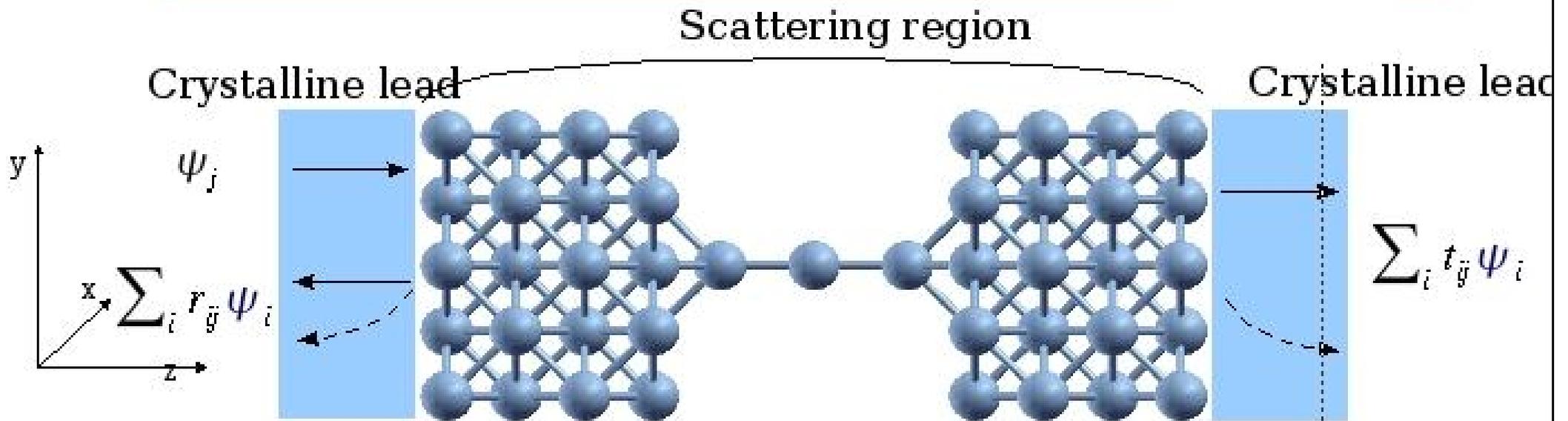
- ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE CALCULATIONS: DENSITY FUNCTIONAL THEORY (DFT).
- BALLISTIC CONDUCTANCE (LANDAUER) CALCULATIONS: COMPLEX BAND STRUCTURE (PLANE WAVES, ULTRASOFT PSEUDOPOTENTIALS, SPIN-ORBIT EFFECTS INCLUDED)

www.QUANTUM-ESPRESSO.org



SMOGUNOV, DAL CORSO, ET, PRB 70, 045417 (2004); PRB 73, 075418 (2006); PRB 78, 014423 (2008); [but also Mertig et al, Bluegel et al, Bagrets et al, Sanvito et al, Tsymbal et al, Barreteau et al, Brandbyge et al, Di Ventra et al, Todorov et al...]

Ballistic conductance calculation



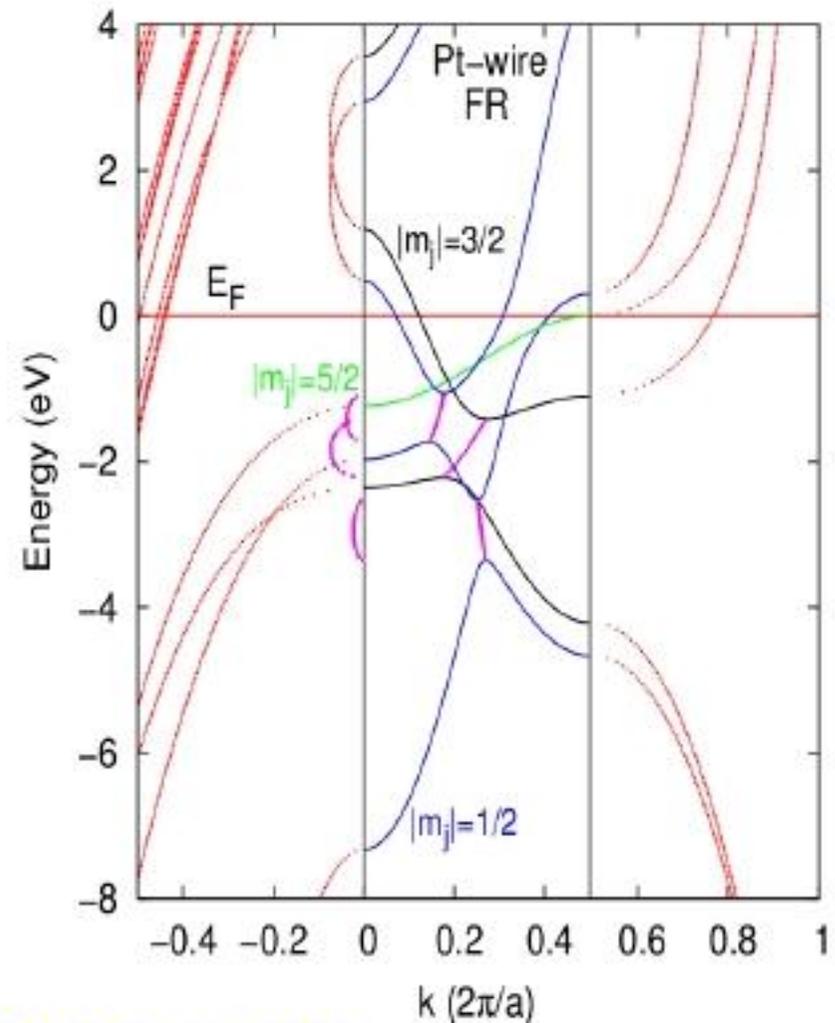
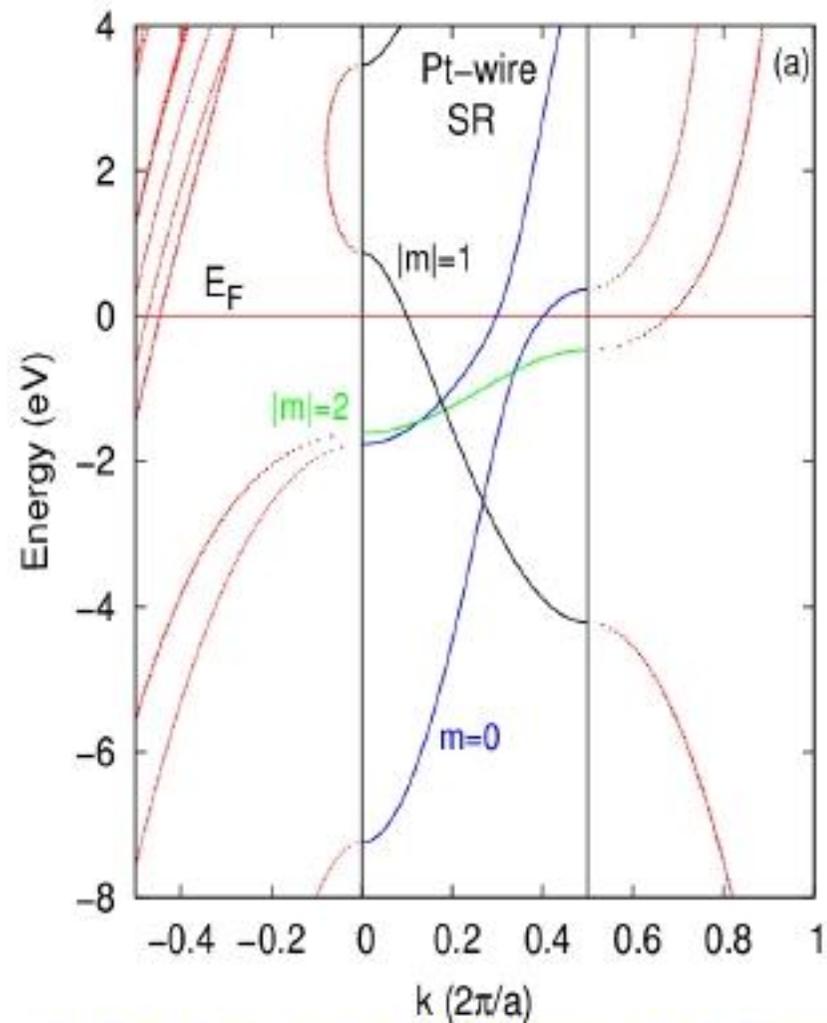
- Given the potential in the leads, find propagating (solid) and *evanescent* (dashed) states ψ_i making up the so-called *complex band structure* of the lead.
- Given s.c. potential in scattering region, construct the scattering states for each propagating wave ψ_j and find t_{ij} and r_{ij} by simple wavefunction matching
- WFs are expanded in plane waves in the XY plane and in the real space in the Z

Landauer-Büttiker formula (at zero temperature): $I = \frac{e}{h} \int_{\mu_R}^{\mu_L} T(E) dE$

where the total transmission $T = \sum_{ij} |t_{ij}|^2$

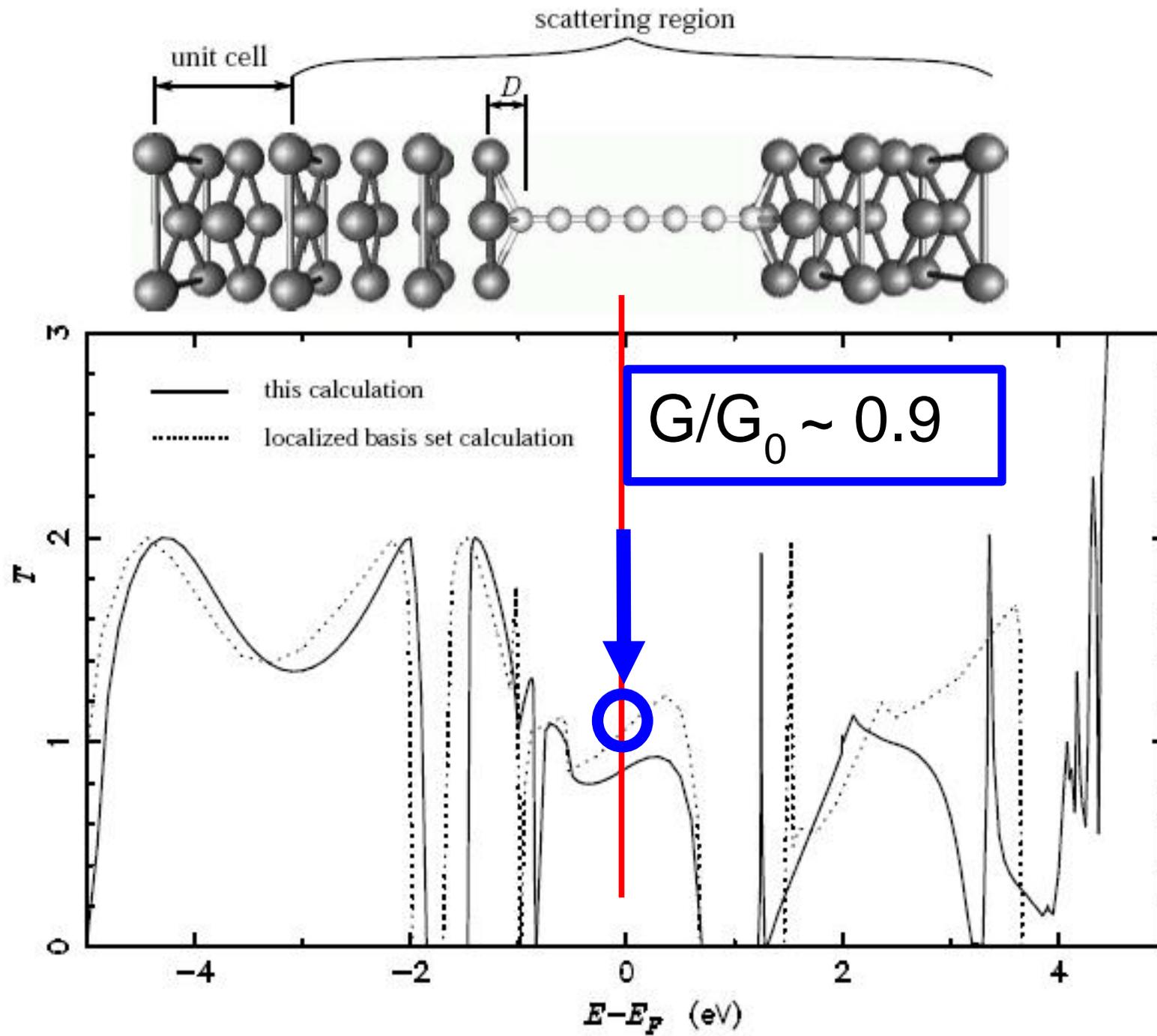
For infinitesimal voltage, $\mu_L - \mu_R = e \delta V$, $G = \frac{I}{\delta V} = \frac{e^2}{h} T(E_F)$.

Complex bands of a Pt monatomic wire



A. Dal Corso, A. Smogunov et al. Phys. Rev. B 74, 045429 (2006).

TEST CASE



MAGNETISM

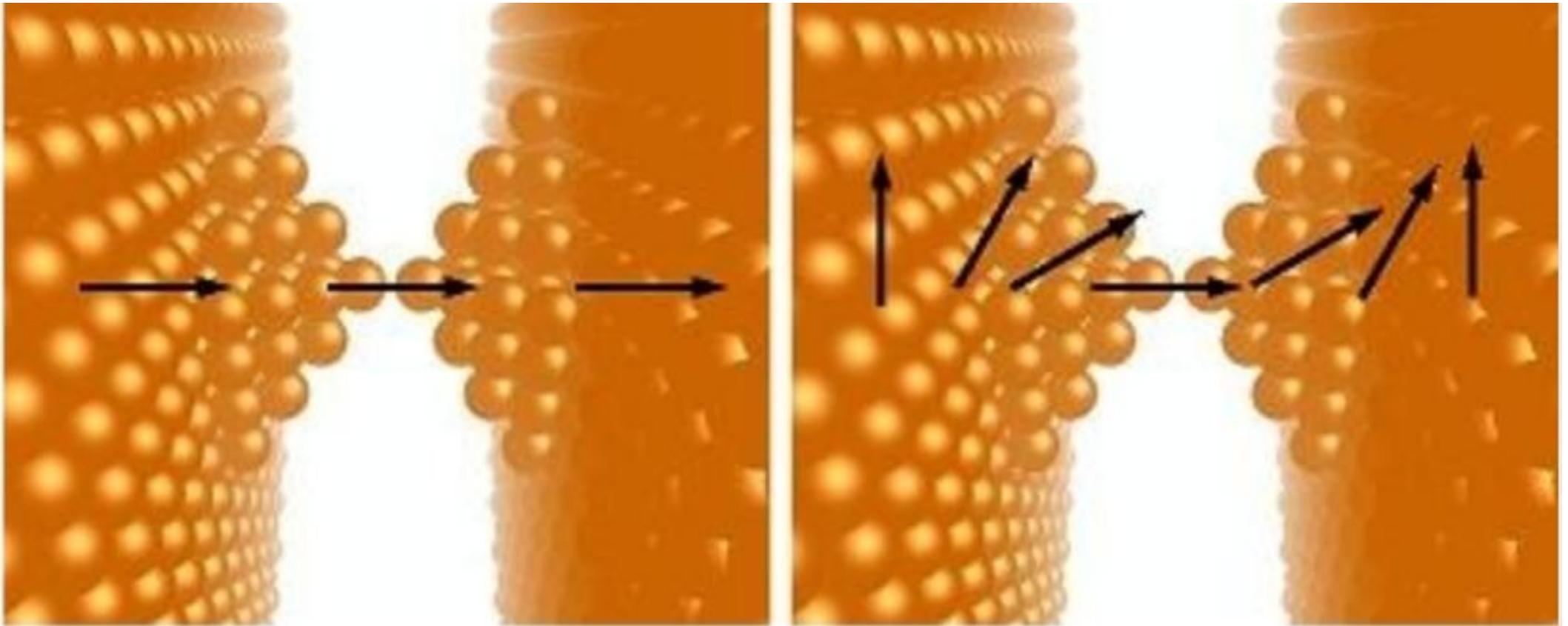
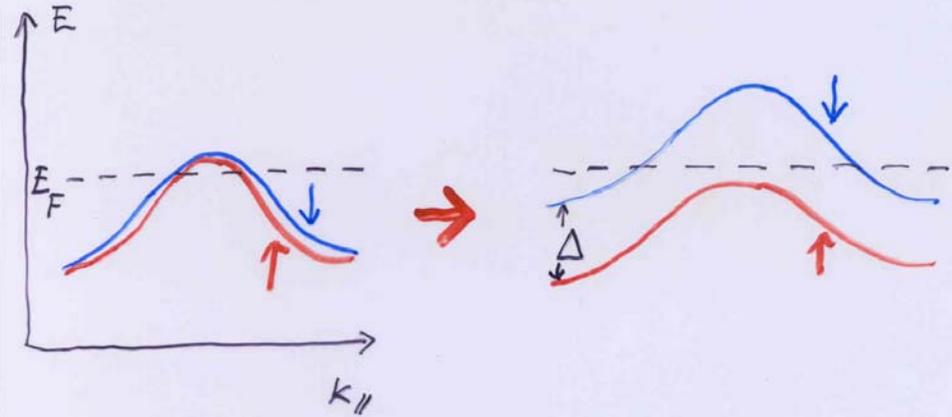


image from (Autes et al 2008)

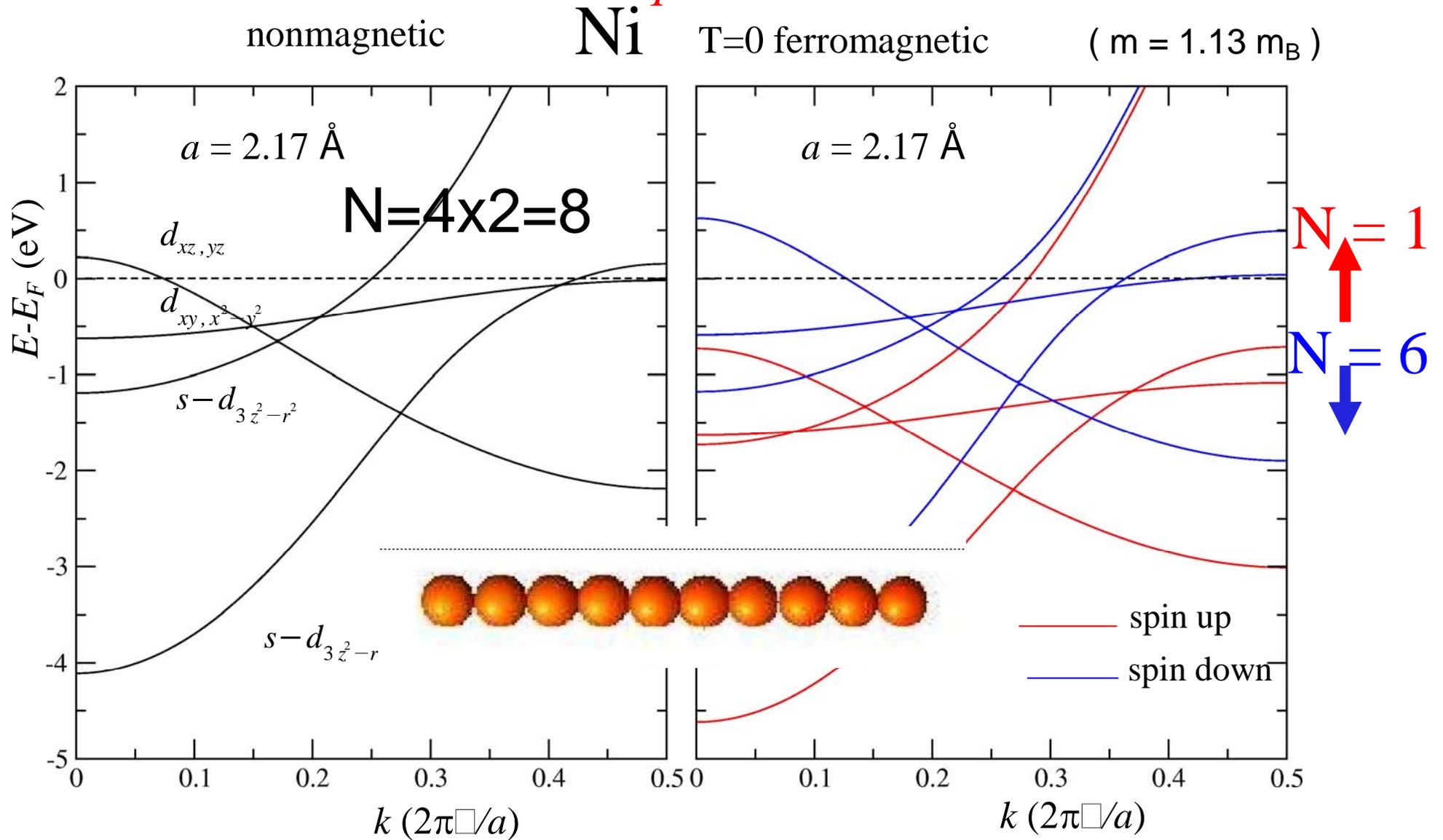
HOW MAGNETISM INFLUENCES BALLISTIC CONDUCTANCE



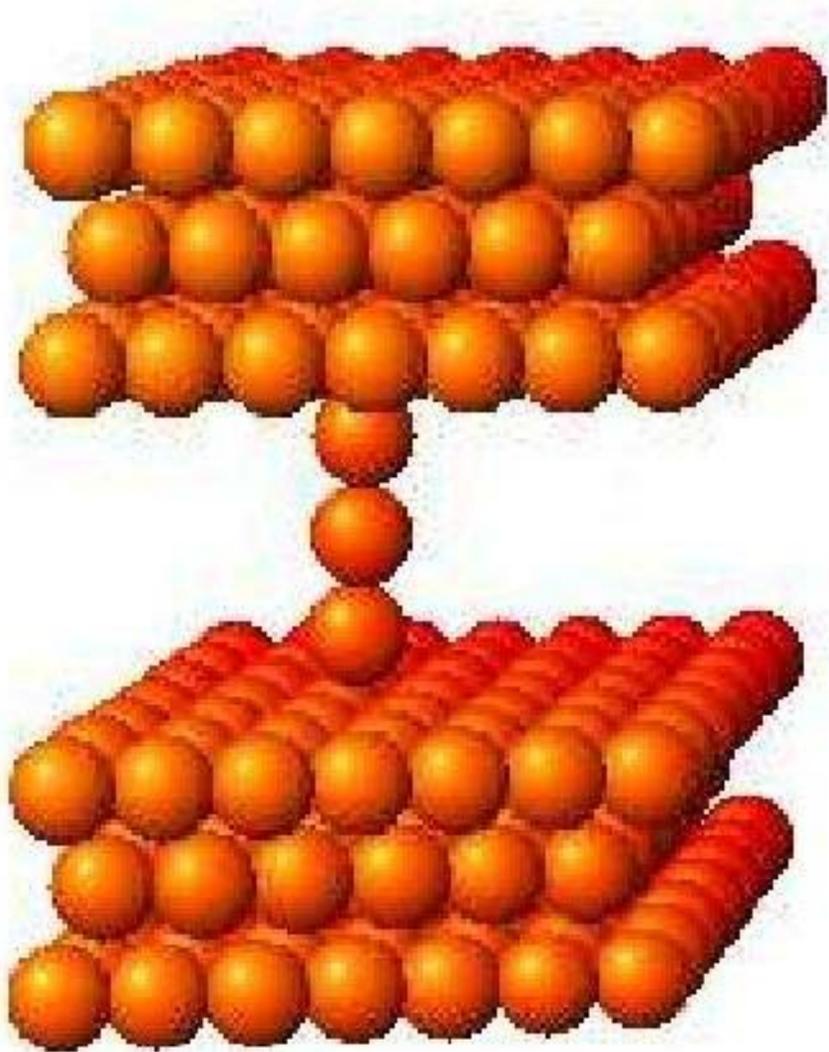
$$\frac{G}{2e^2/h} = \sum_{i\sigma} |t_{i\sigma}|^2 \lesssim N_{\uparrow} + N_{\downarrow}$$

$$G_{\text{MAG}} \leq G_{\text{NON MAG}} \quad E = E_F$$

Electronic structure of monatomic infinite Ni wire at equilibrium



CONDUCTANCE CALCULATIONS NICKEL NANOCONTACT



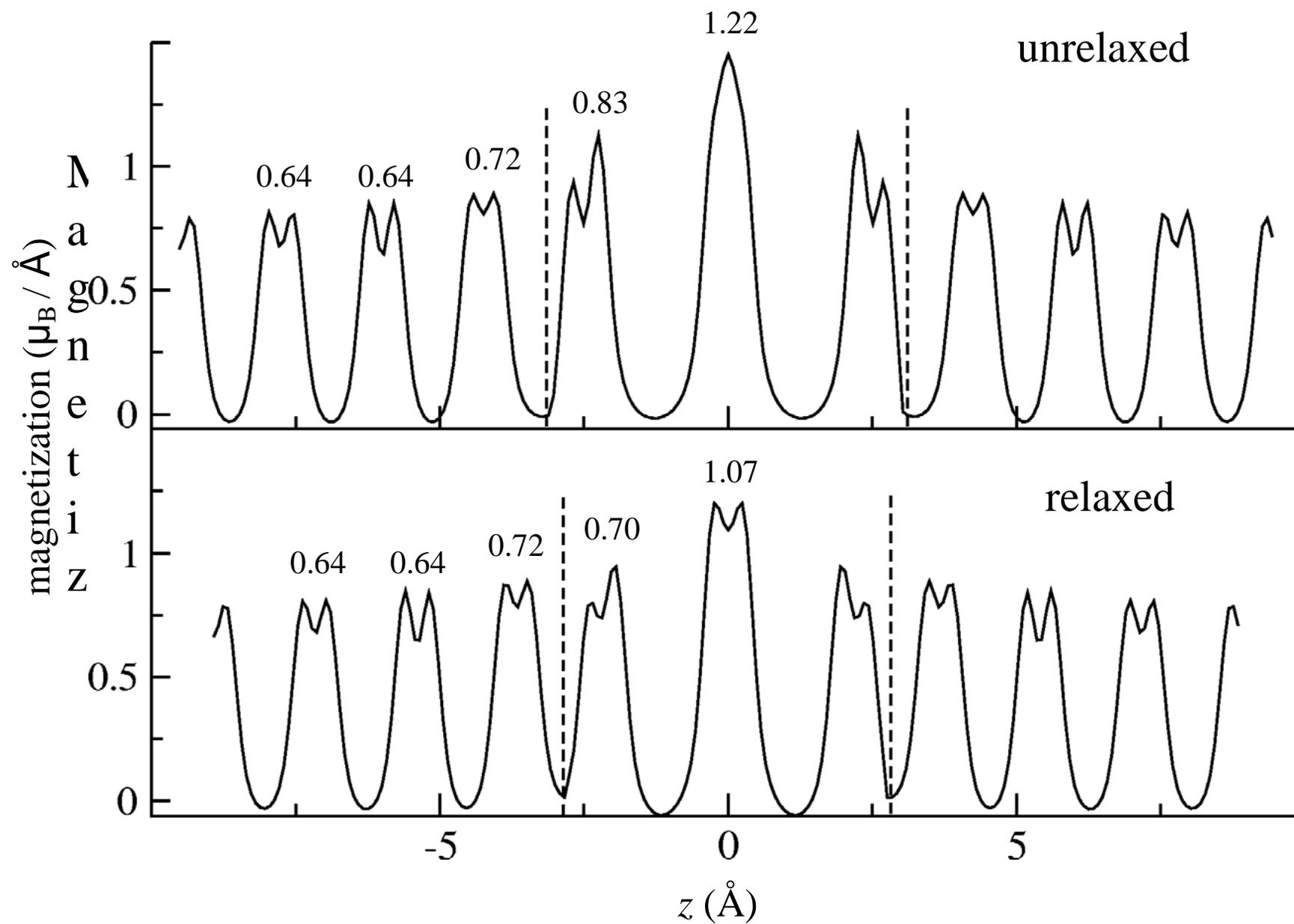
A) ab-initio electronic structure
(local spin density)

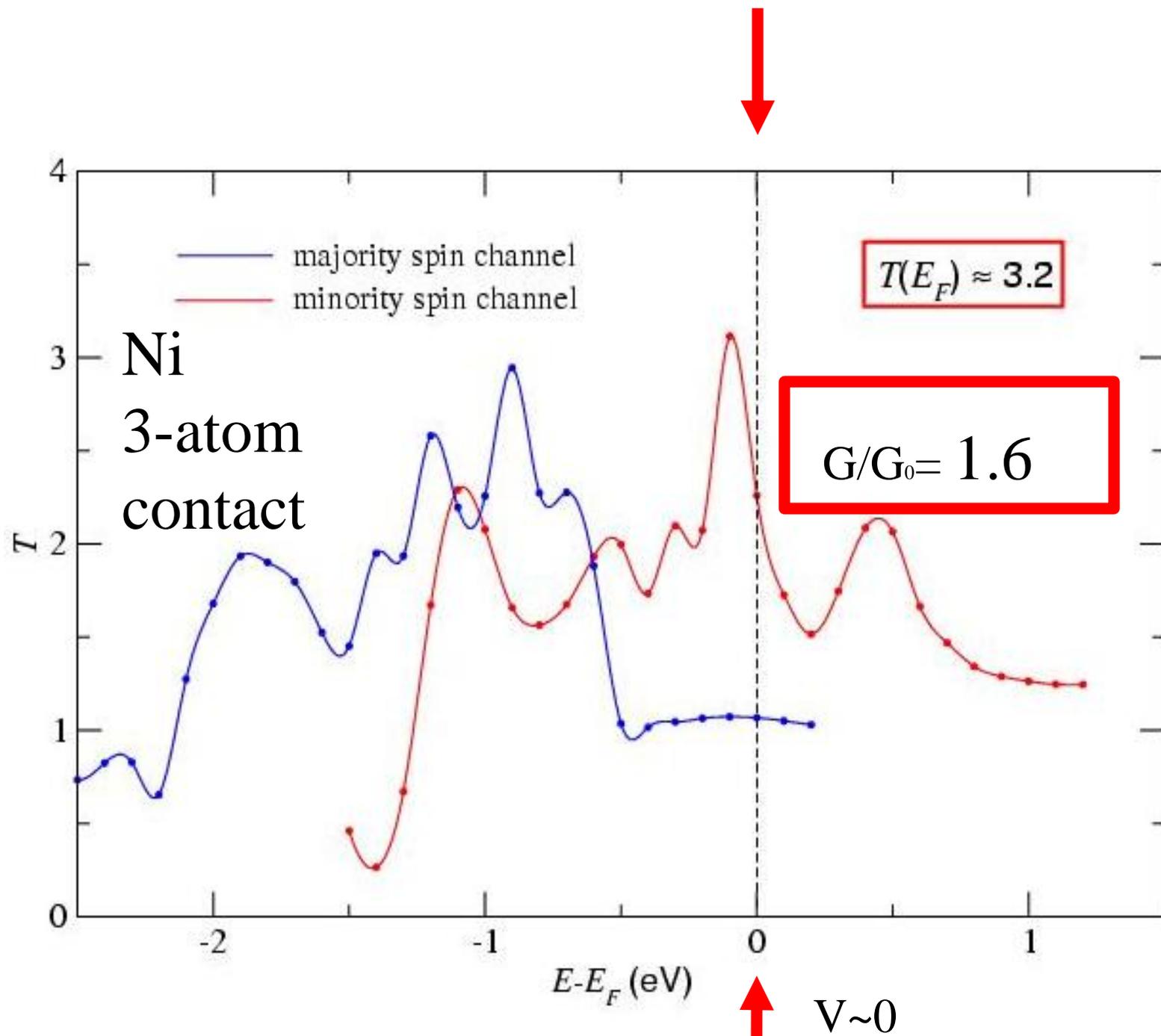
B) calculate transmission $T(E)$

C) ballistic conductance
 $G/G_0 = 0.5 T(E_F)$

SMOGUNOV, DAL CORSO, ET
PRB 70, 045417 (2004)

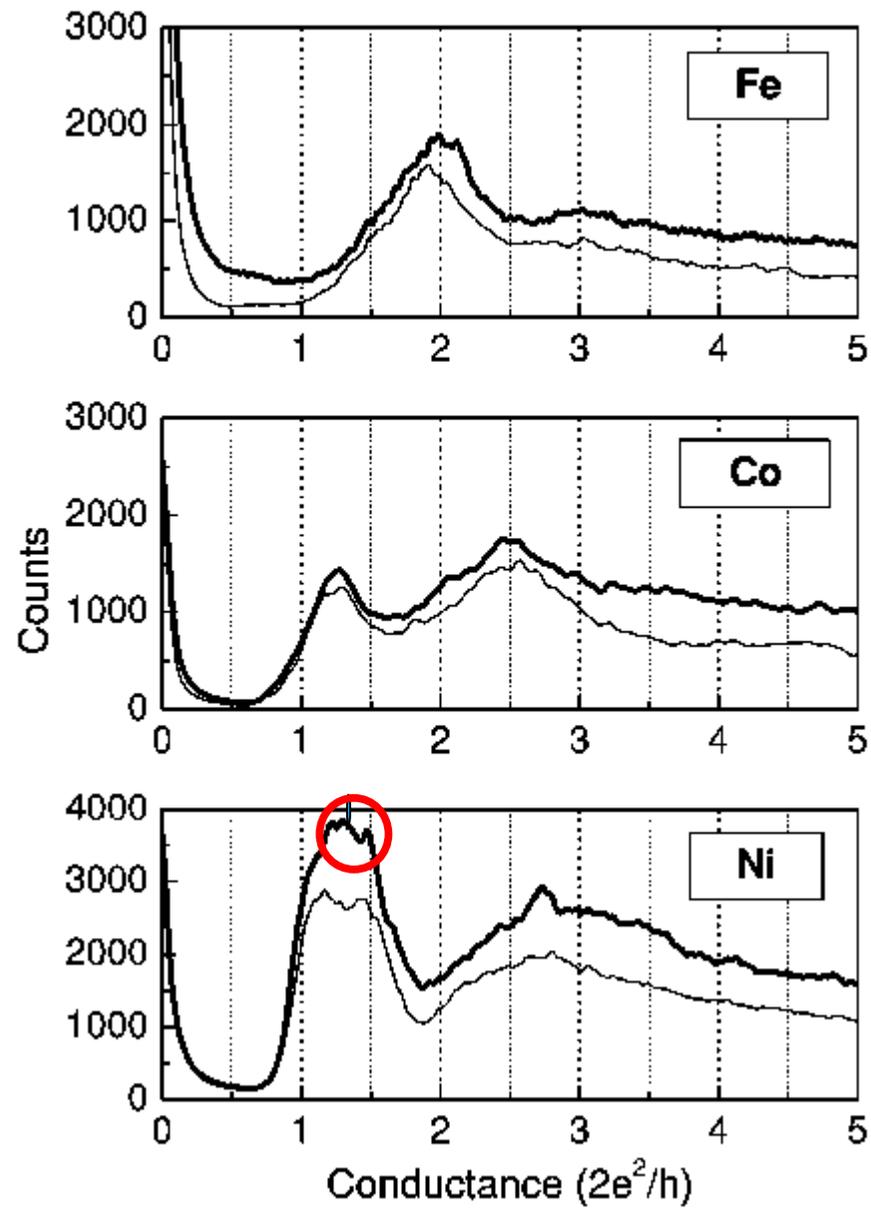
Magnetization along the wire direction in the 3-atom Ni nanocontact



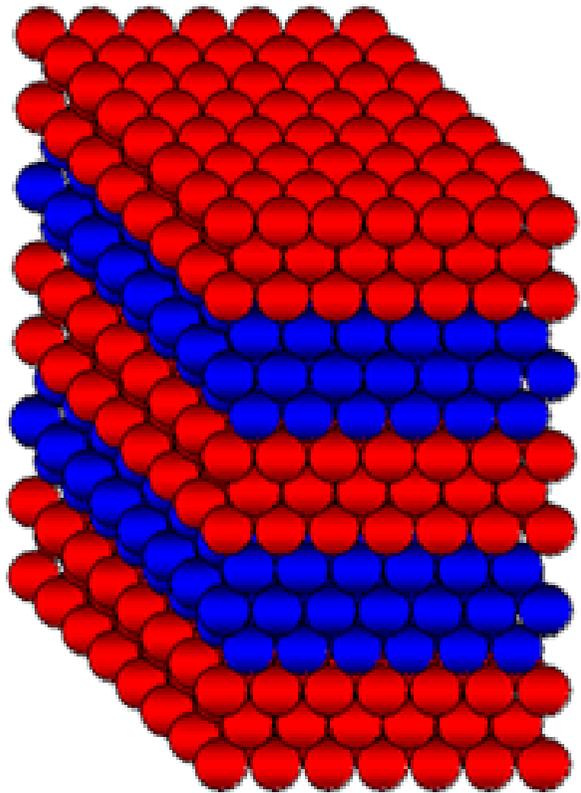


A. Smogunov et al (2004)

T= 4.2 K



“SPINTRONICS”



Aimantation des couches ferromagnétiques

Fe



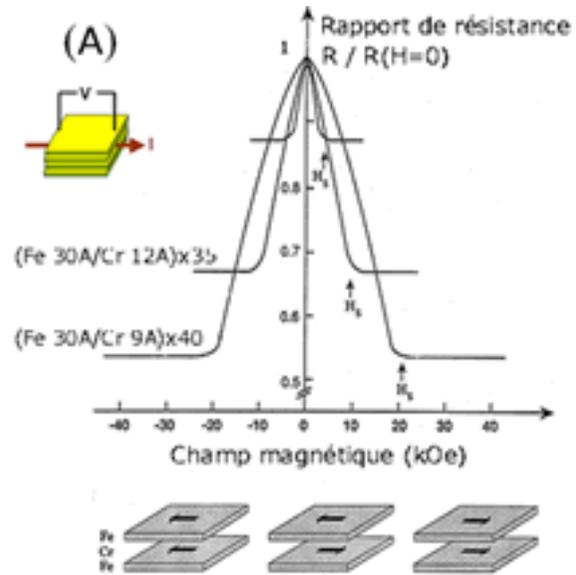
Cr

Fe



Cr

Fe

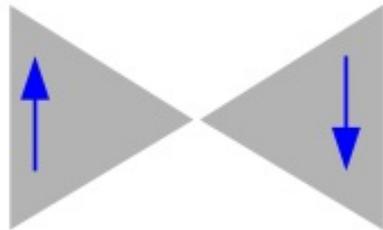
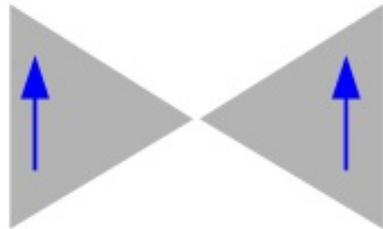


FERT



GRUENBERG

MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECTS AT NANOCONTACTS

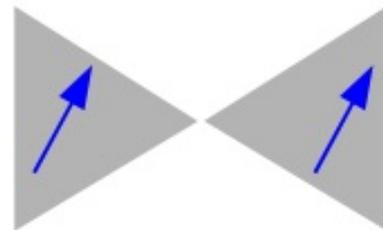
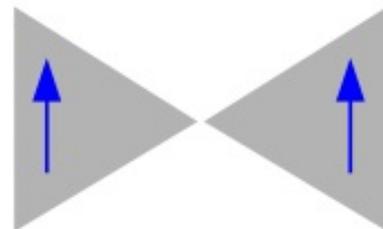


ballistic magnetoresistance (BMR)

$$\mathbf{BMR} = \frac{\mathbf{G}_{\uparrow\uparrow} - \mathbf{G}_{\uparrow\downarrow}}{\mathbf{G}_{\uparrow\downarrow}}$$

Fe: BMR ~ 20-70%

M. Viret et al., PRB 66, 220401 (2002)



ballistic anisotropic magnetoresistance (BAMR)

$$\mathbf{BAMR} = \frac{\mathbf{G}_{\perp} - \mathbf{G}_{\parallel}}{\mathbf{G}_{\parallel}}$$

Fe : BAMR ~ 20%

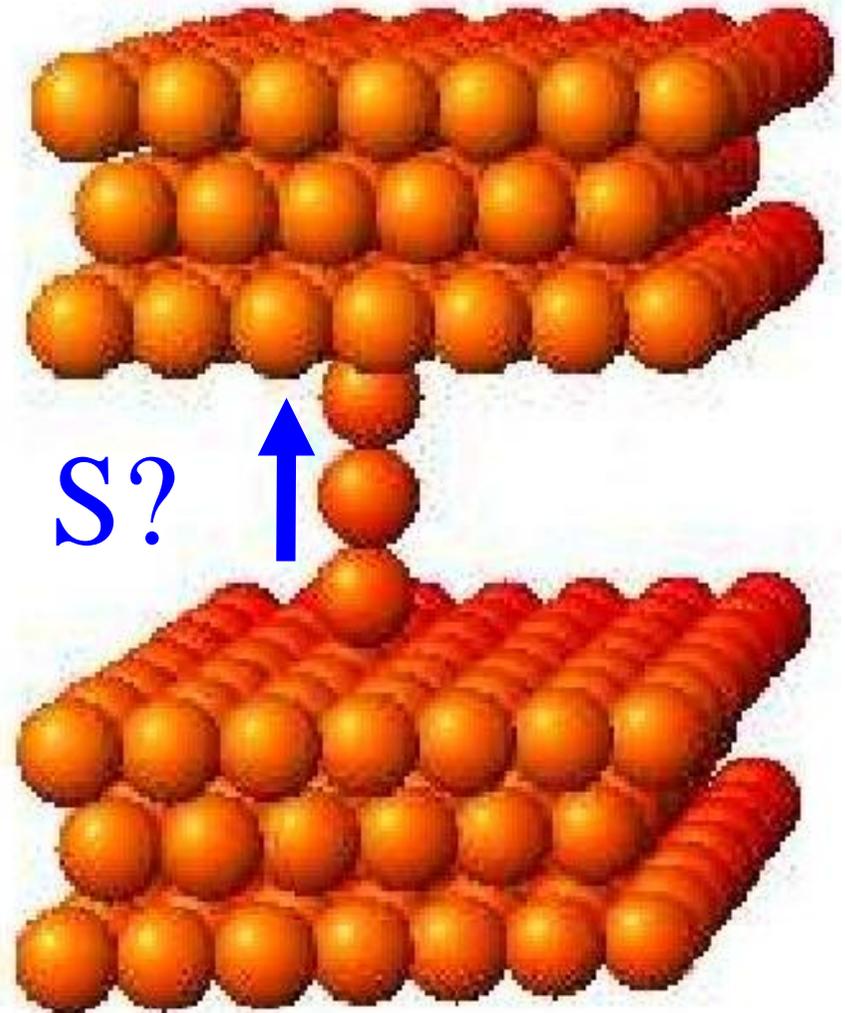
M. Viret et al., Eur. Phys. J. B 51, 1 (2006)

**NANOMAGNETISM
AT CONTACTS?
(speculative)**

CAN THIS BE **LOCALLY** MAGNETIC (AT $T=0$)?
WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON CONDUCTANCE?



Pt, Pd, ...



Magnetization of Pd 3 atom contact

P. Gava et al (2005)

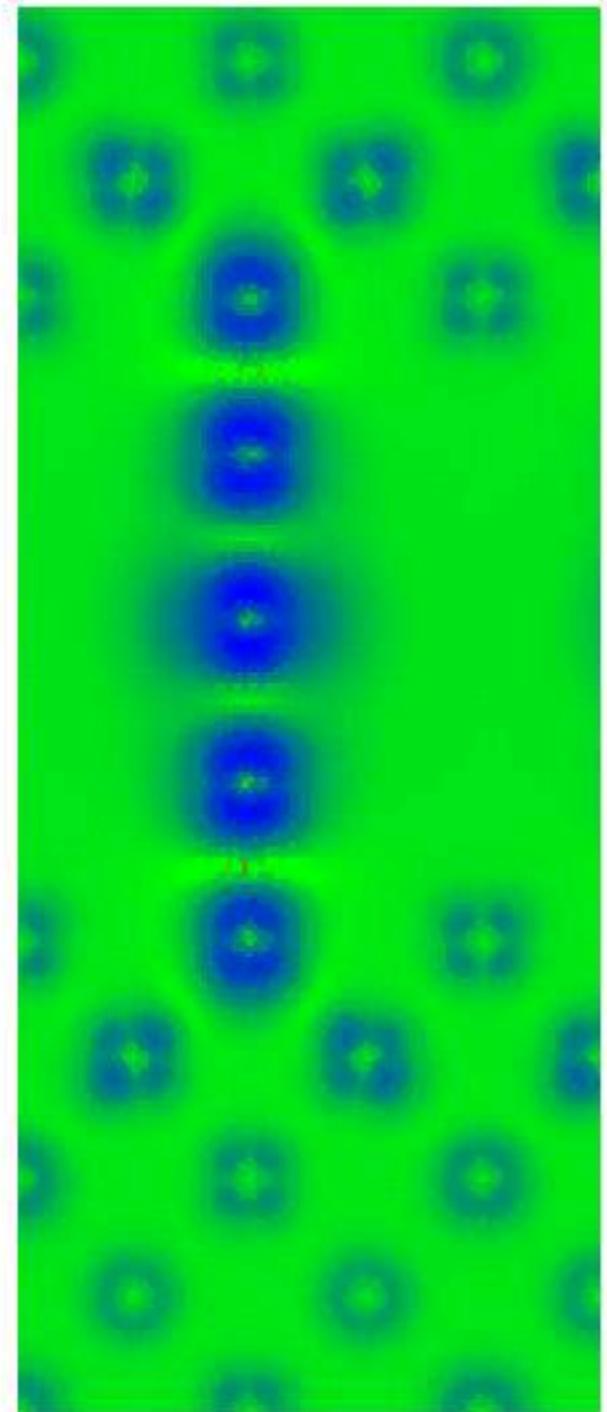
A

CAUTION: A VERY WEAK EFFECT!

0.19 μ_B

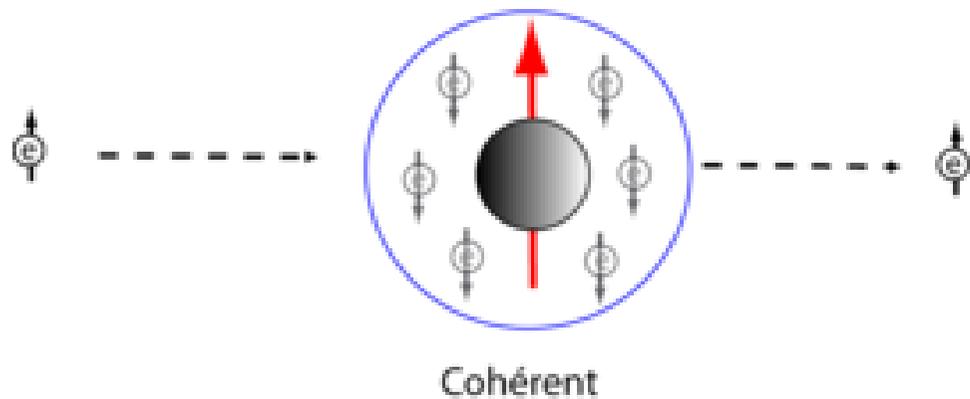
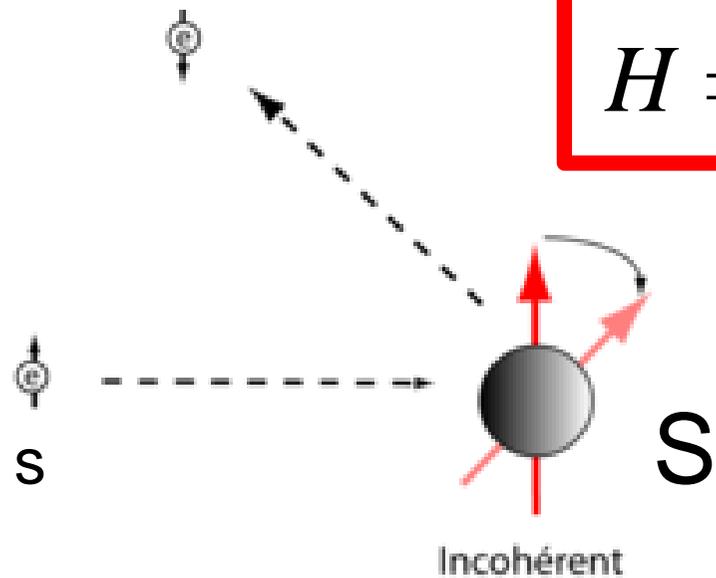
0.31 μ_B

0.19 μ_B



KONDO EFFECT

$$H = J s \cdot S \quad J > 0$$

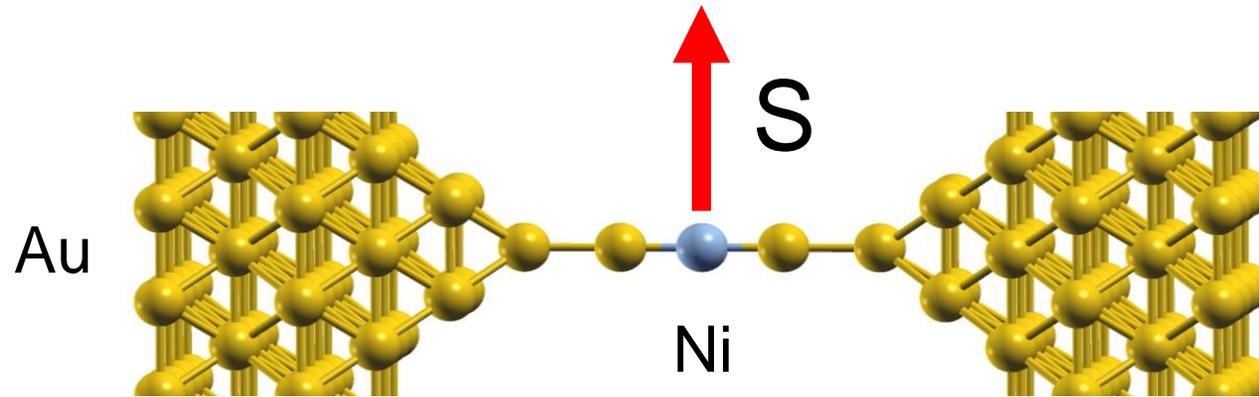


SCREENING

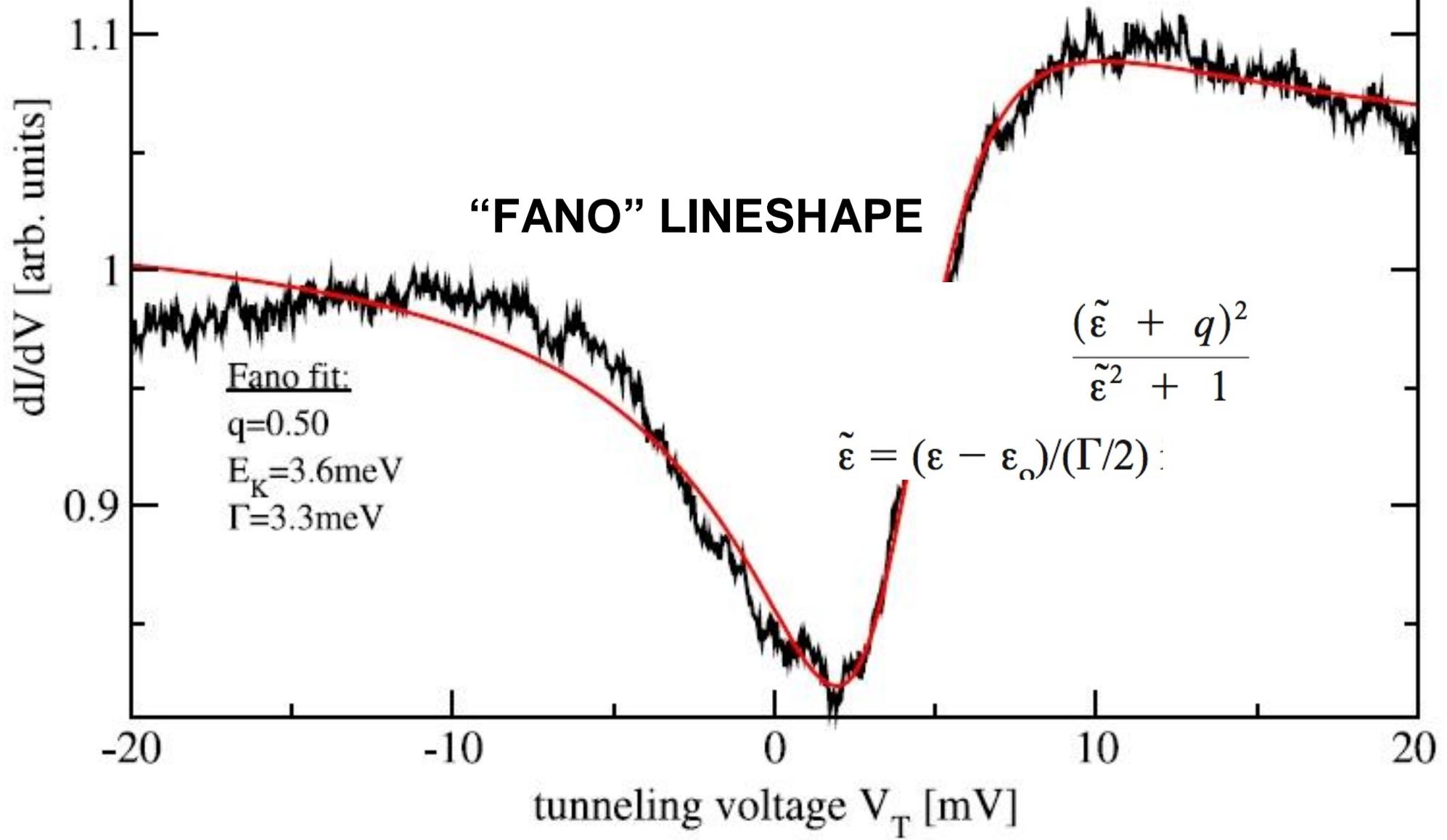


Jun Kondo

MAGNETIC IMPURITY IN A NONMAGNETIC METAL NANOCONTACT



Co/Cu(111) "ZERO BIAS ANOMALY"



"FANO" LINESHAPE

Fano fit:
 $q=0.50$
 $E_K=3.6\text{meV}$
 $\Gamma=3.3\text{meV}$

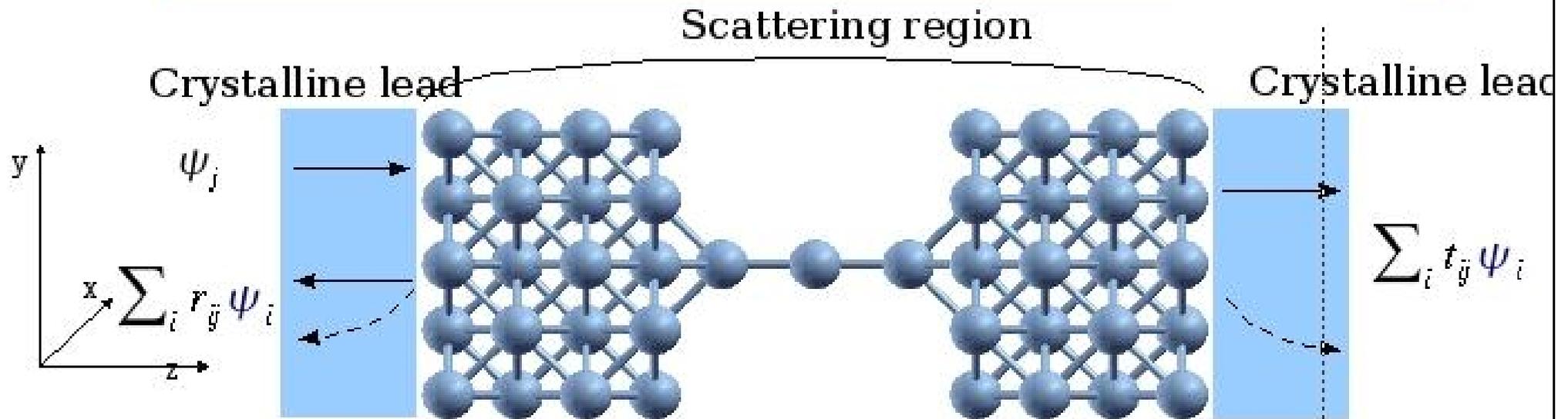
$$\frac{(\tilde{\epsilon} + q)^2}{\tilde{\epsilon}^2 + 1}$$

$$\tilde{\epsilon} = (\epsilon - \epsilon_0)/(\Gamma/2)$$

IS THIS STILL OK??

Ballistic conductance calculation

11



- Given the potential in the leads, find propagating (solid) and *evanescent* (dashed) states ψ_j making up the so-called *complex band structure* of the lead.
- Given s.c. potential in scattering region, construct the scattering states for each propagating wave ψ_j and find t_{ij} and r_{ij} by simple wavefunction matching
- WFs are expanded in plane waves in the XY plane and in the real space in the Z

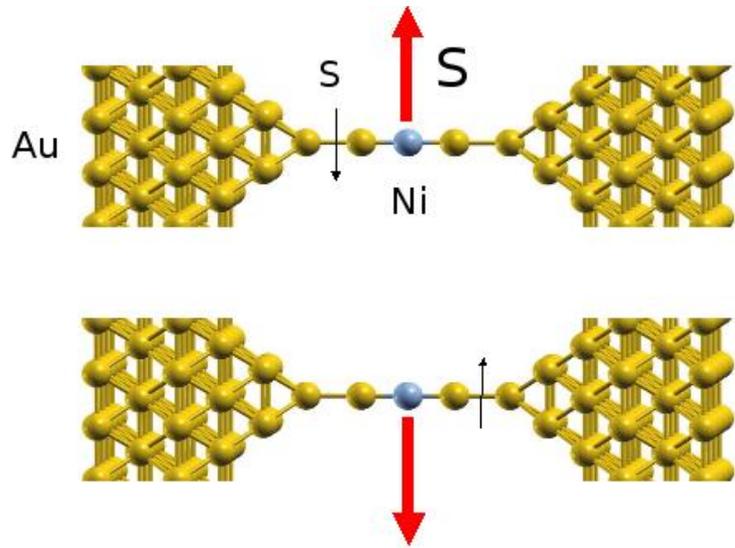
NO!!

Landauer-Büttiker formula (at zero temperature): $I = \frac{e}{h} \int_{\mu_r}^{\mu_l} T(E) dE$

where the total transmission $T = \sum_{ij} |t_{ij}|^2$

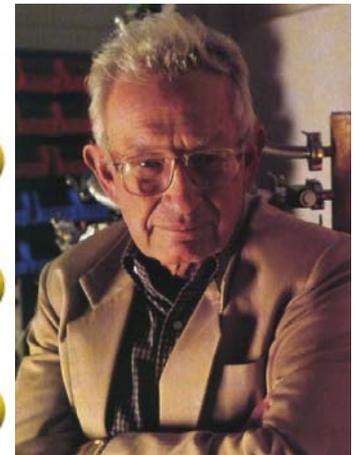
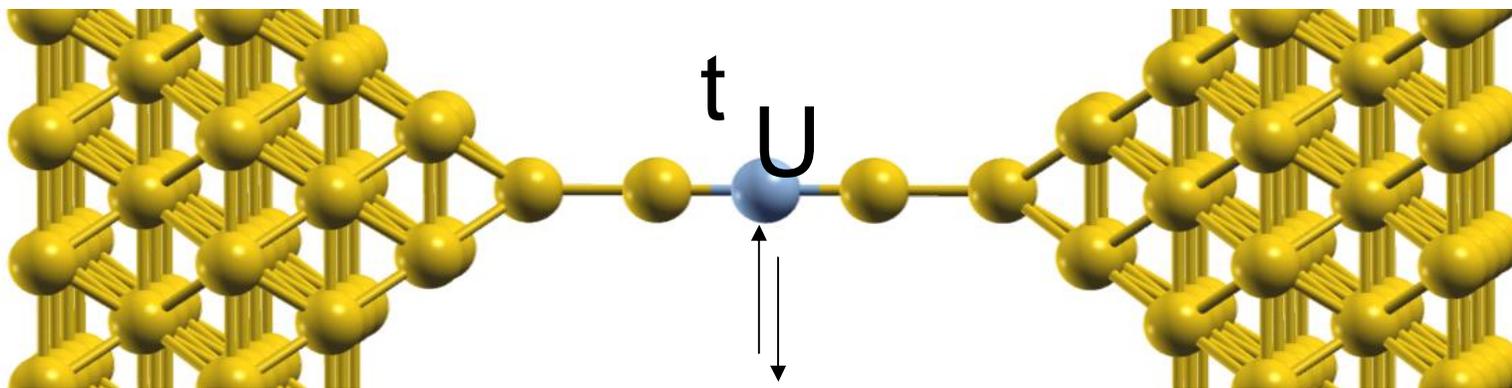
For infinitesimal voltage, $\mu_l - \mu_r = e \delta V$, $G = \frac{I}{\delta V} = \frac{e^2}{h} T(E_F)$.

MANY BODY EFFECT



$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^\dagger c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega}} \left(V_{\mathbf{k}} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^\dagger d_\sigma + \text{H.c.} \right) + \epsilon_d n_d + \frac{U}{2} (n_d - 1)^2,$$

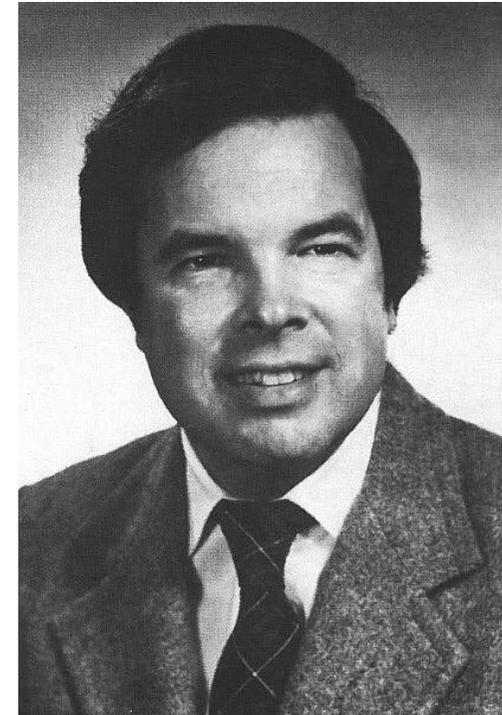
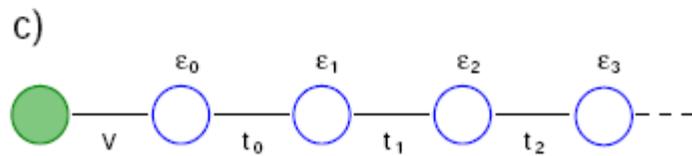
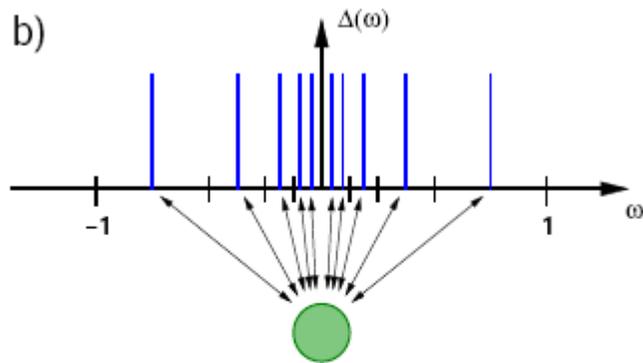
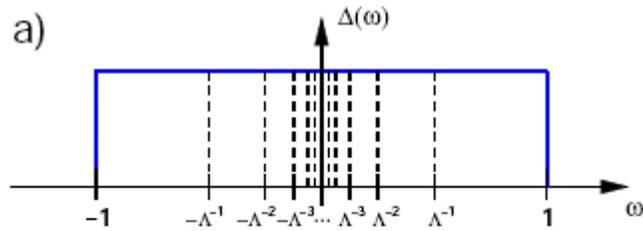
ANDERSON MODEL



SOLVED BY e.g., NUMERICAL RENORMALIZATION GROUP

NUMERICAL RENORMALIZATION GROUP

R. BULLA et al (2008)



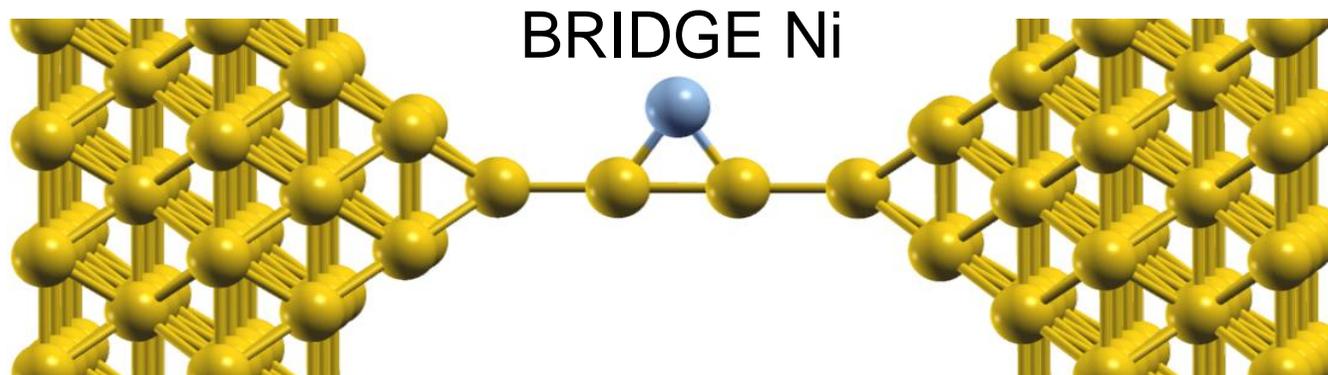
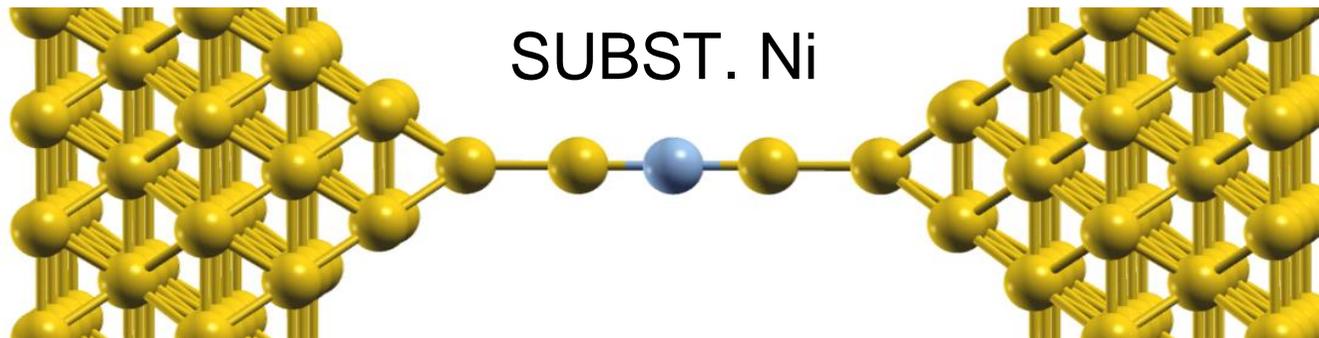
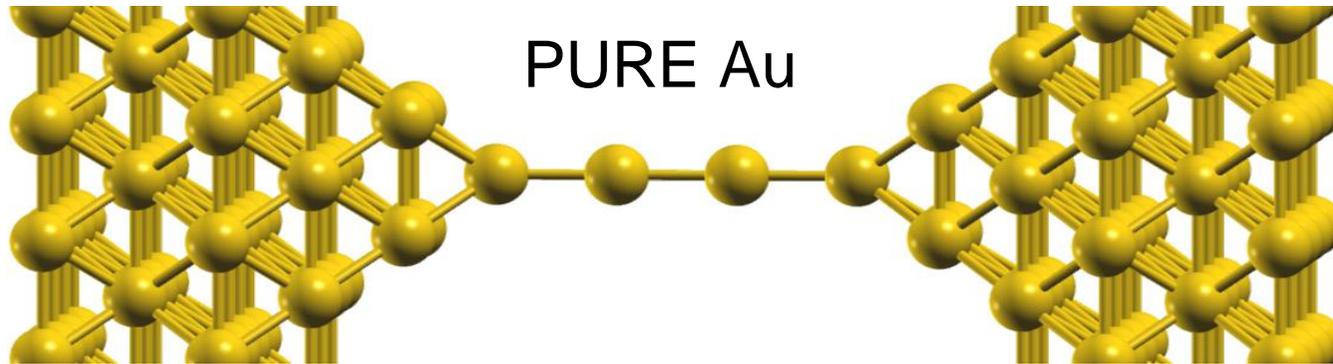
Ken Wilson

$$G = e^2/h \sum_{\sigma} \sin^2(\delta_{e\sigma} - \delta_{o\sigma})$$

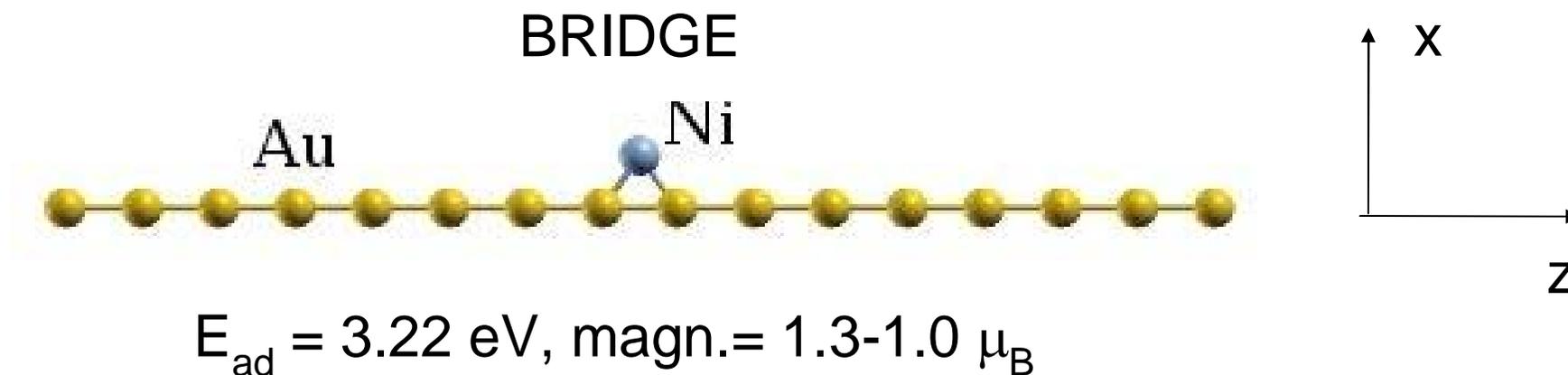
“DFT + NRG” STRATEGY

1. **DFT** ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE CALCULATION:
 - IDENTIFY NATURE, SYMMETRY OF COND. CHANNELS
 - MAGNETIZATION, SPIN OF IMPURITY
 - SYMMETRY OF FILLED + EMPTY MAGNETIC ORBITALS
 - **EXTRACT SCATTERING PHASE SHIFTS OF CONDUCTION ELECTRONS FOR EACH SYMMETRY & BOTH SPINS**
2. BUILD GENERALIZED **ANDERSON MODELS**, INCLUDING ALL SCATTERING SYMMETRY CHANNELS
 - **ADJUST PARAMETERS OF ANDERSON MODEL TO CLOSELY REPRODUCE DFT PHASE SHIFTS WITHIN HARTEE-FOCK APPROX.**
3. SOLVE ANDERSON MODEL WITH e.g., NUMERICAL RENORMALIZATION GROUP (**NRG**) TO OBTAIN SPECTRAL DENSITY, CONDUCTANCE.

TEST CASE: Au-Ni NANOCOCONTACT



DFT ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE CALCULATIONS



Y. MIURA et al. PRB (2008); R. MAZZARELLO et al (2009)

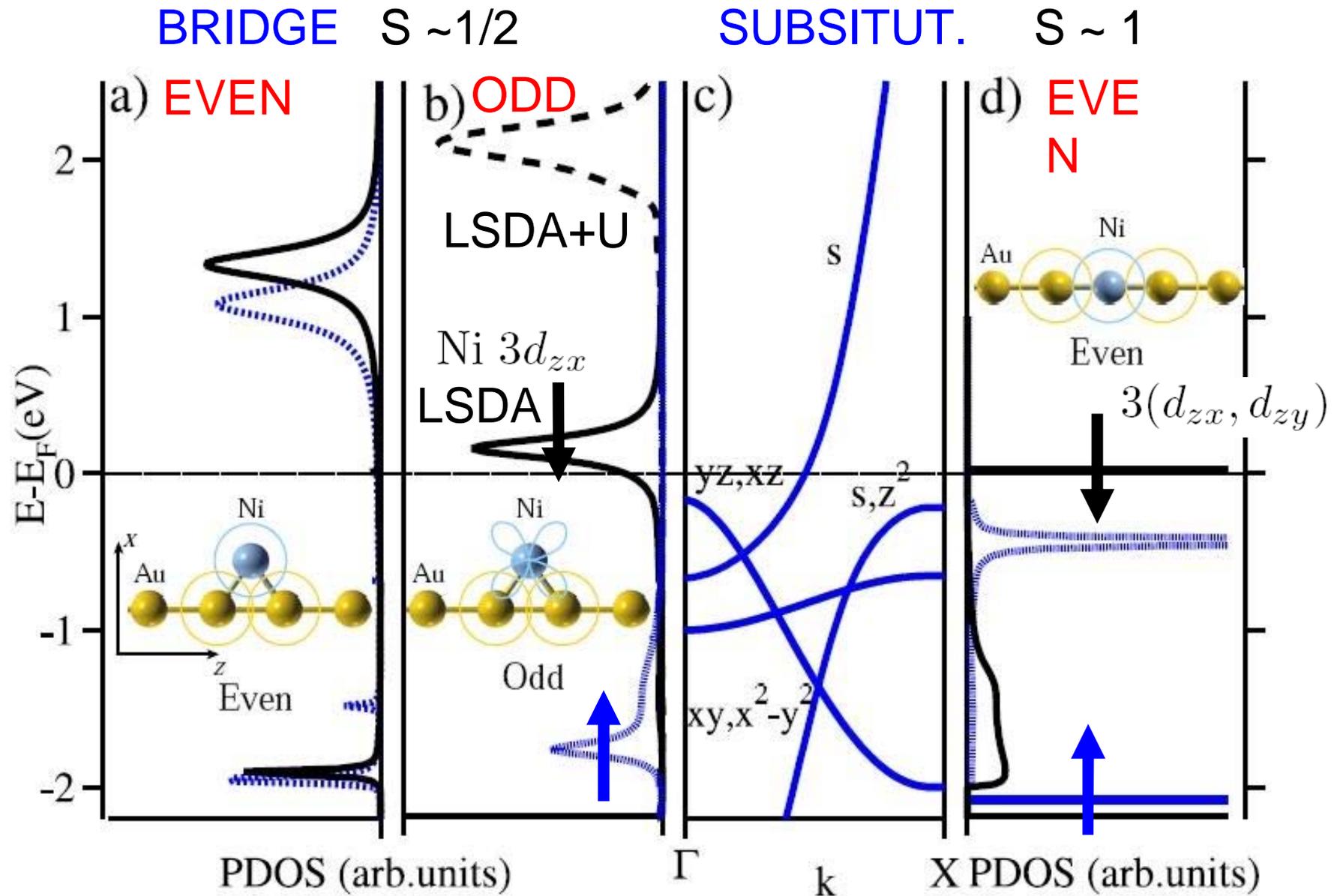
SUBSTITUTIONAL



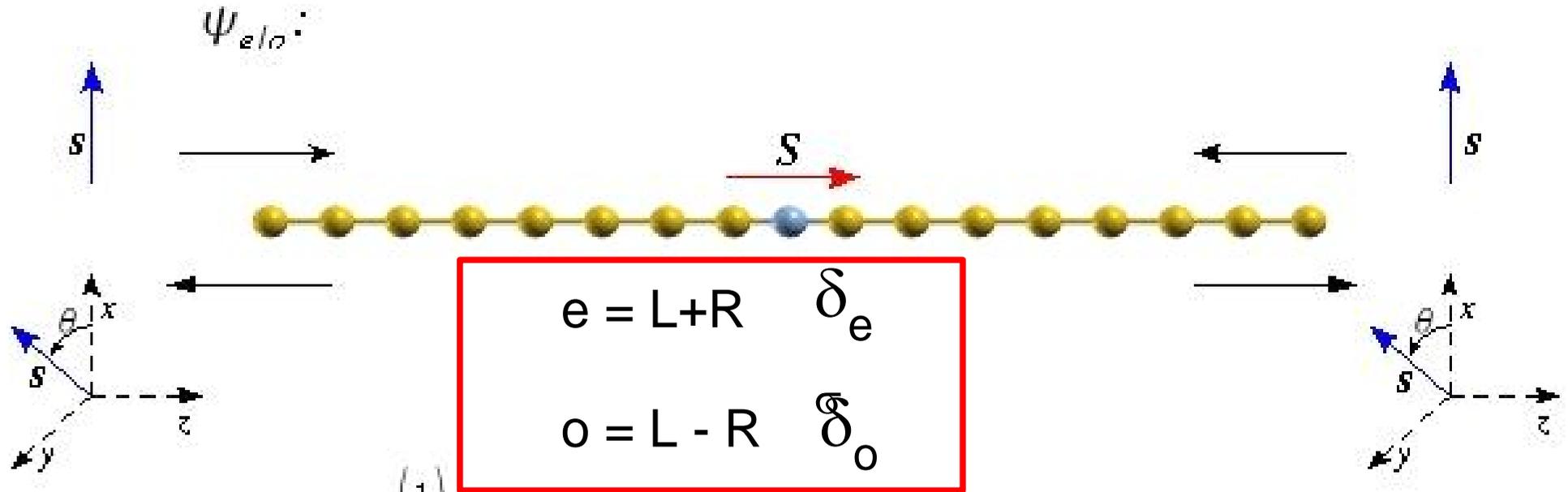
$E_{\text{ad}} = 2.32 \text{ eV}$, magn.= $1.9-2.0 \mu_{\text{B}}$

REFLECTION SYMMETRY: EVEN, ODD RELATIVE TO Ni

DFT CALCULATION: Ni SPIN DEPENDS ON GEOMETRY



CALCULATE IMPURITY PHASE SHIFTS BY SPIN ROTATION ANGLE



Incoming wave = $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, polarized in the x direction

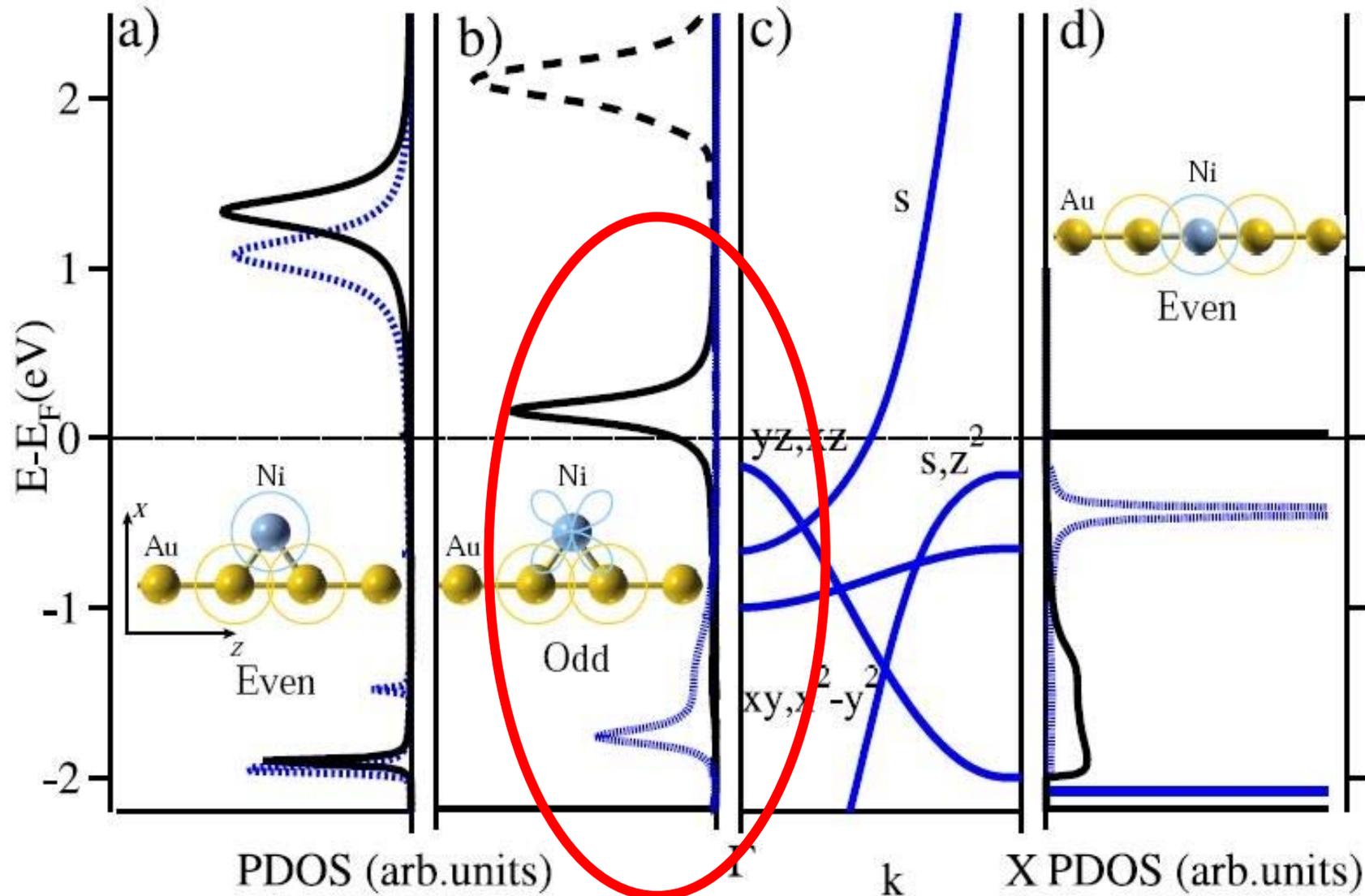
Outgoing wave = $\begin{pmatrix} e^{2i\delta_{elo}^+} \\ e^{2i\delta_{elo}^-} \end{pmatrix} = e^{i(\delta_{elo}^+ + \delta_{elo}^-)} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i(\delta_{elo}^+ - \delta_{elo}^-)} \\ e^{-i(\delta_{elo}^+ - \delta_{elo}^-)} \end{pmatrix} \sim e^{-i\frac{\sigma_z}{2} 2(\delta_{elo}^+ - \delta_{elo}^-)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

rotation on the angle $\theta = 2(\delta_{elo}^+ - \delta_{elo}^-)$ around the z axis

Simple model Kondo-like hamiltonian: $H = -\frac{d}{dx^2} + J\delta(x)S_z \cdot s_z \rightarrow \begin{matrix} \theta > 0, & \text{if } J > 0 & (\text{coupling antiferro}) \\ \theta < 0, & \text{if } J < 0 & (\text{coupling ferro}) \end{matrix}$

	δ_{elo}^+	δ_{elo}^-	θ_{elo}	Coupling
Bridge	1.16/0.96	1.02/1.52	-16° / +64°	F/AF
Subst.	0.74/1.19	0.62/1.13	-14° / -7°	F/F

-- ONLY ONE CASE (Bridge, odd) WHERE COUPLING IS **AF**
 REASON : IN MOST CASES SPIN IS A **SPECTATOR**

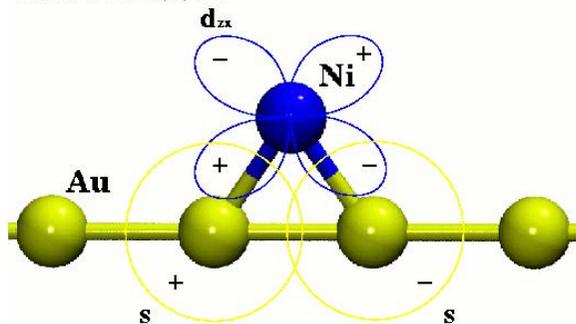


BRIDGE Ni

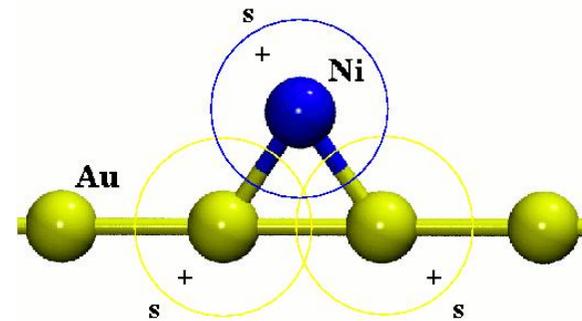
$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\text{eup}} - \delta_{\text{edown}} &> 0 && \text{ferro, small} \\ \delta_{\text{oup}} - \delta_{\text{odown}} &\ll 0 && \text{antiferro, large} \end{aligned}$$

EXTENDED ANDERSON MODEL

ODD CHANNEL



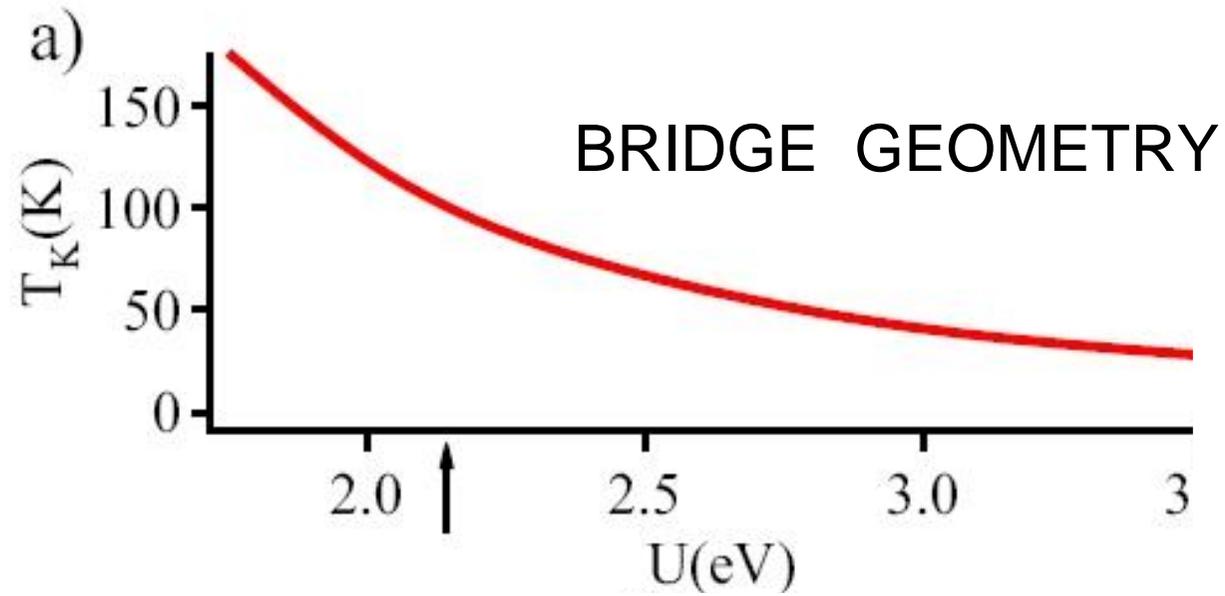
EVEN CHANNEL



$$\begin{aligned} H = & -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{a=R,L} \sum_{n \geq 1, \sigma} \left(c_{na\sigma}^\dagger c_{n+1a\sigma} + H.c. \right) - \frac{t}{2} \sum_{\sigma} \left(c_{1R\sigma}^\dagger c_{1L\sigma} + H.c. \right) \\ & + V_e \sum_{\sigma} \left[\left(c_{1R\sigma}^\dagger + c_{1L\sigma}^\dagger \right) d_{e\sigma} + H.c. \right] + V_o \sum_{\sigma} \left[\left(c_{1L\sigma}^\dagger - c_{1R\sigma}^\dagger \right) d_{o\sigma} + H.c. \right] \\ & + \sum_{p=e,o} \epsilon_p n_p + \frac{U}{2} (n_o - 1)^2, \end{aligned}$$

	Bridge (eV)	Substitutional (eV)
ϵ_e	0	0
Γ_e	3	3
ϵ_o	-1.5	-2.1
Γ_o	0.25	—
U	2.2 (3.5*)	2.12
J_H	0.3	0.2
δ	0.38 rad	—

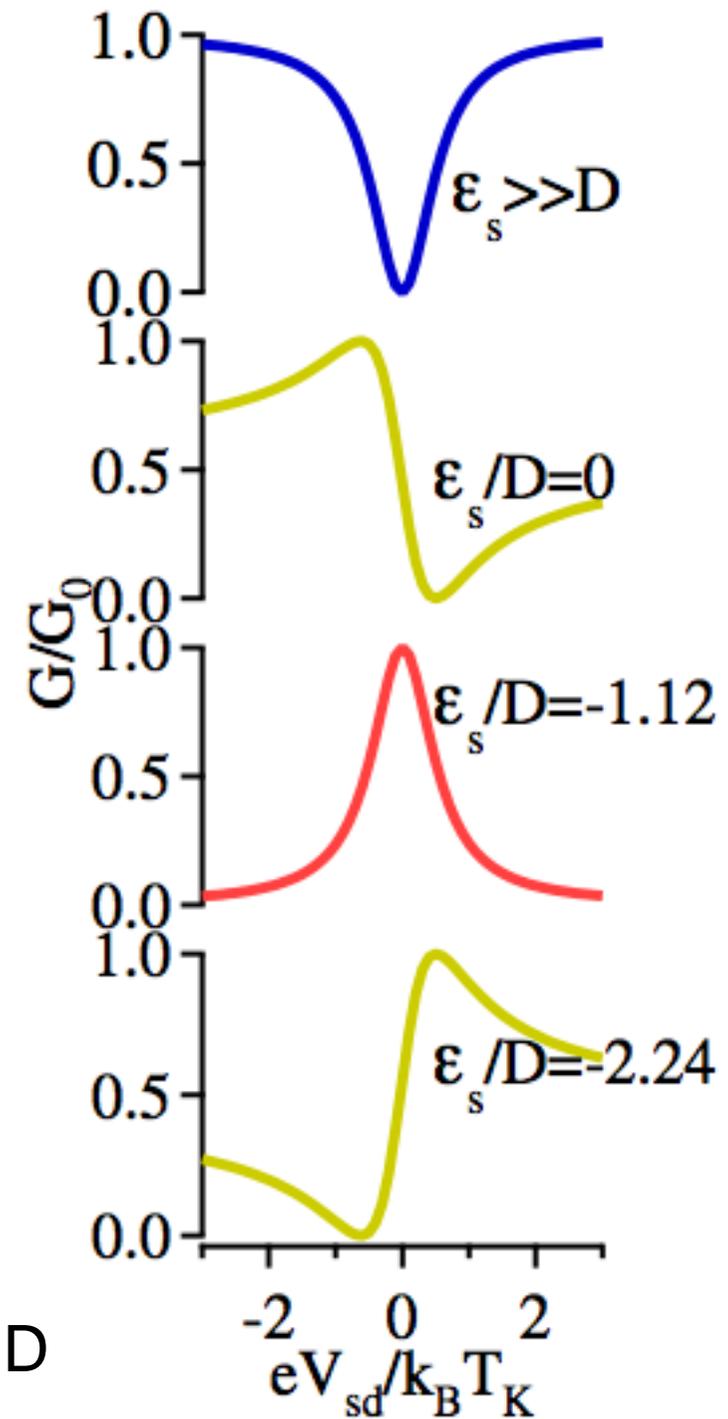
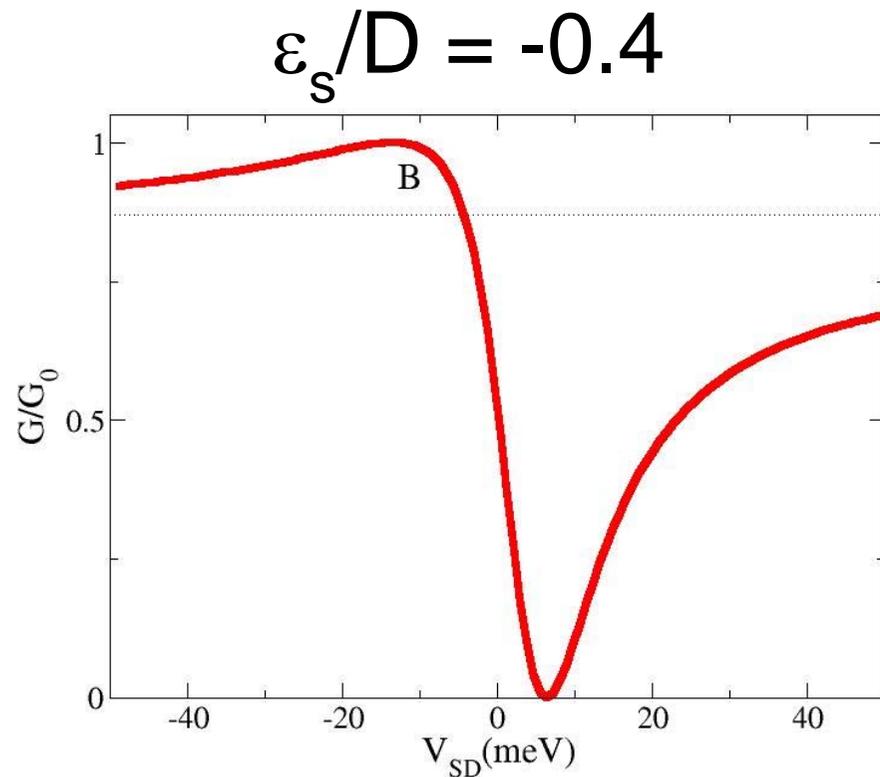
Angle (rad)	Bridge DFT (HF-AIM)	Subst. DFT (HF-AIM)
θ_e	-0.28 (-0.28)	-0.19 (-0.19)
θ_o	1.10 (1.17)	-0.12 (-0.00)



KONDO TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED BY HUBBARD **U**

BRIDGE GEOMETRY

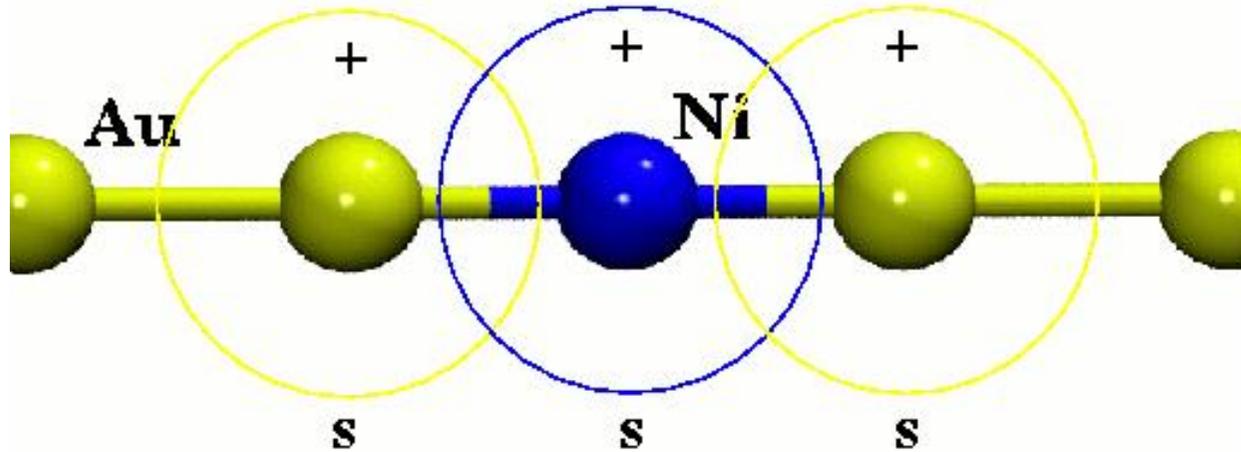
DIFFERENTIAL CONDUCTANCE



FANO INTERFERENCE CONTROLLED
BY s CHANNEL ENERGY POSITION

SUBSTITUTIONAL Ni

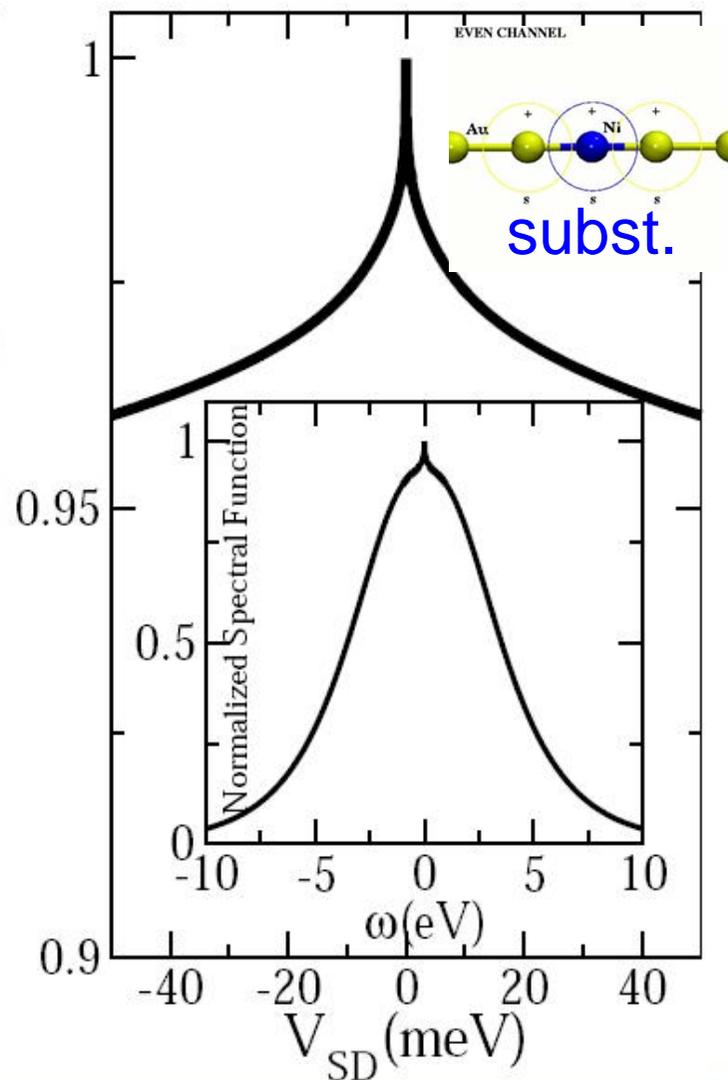
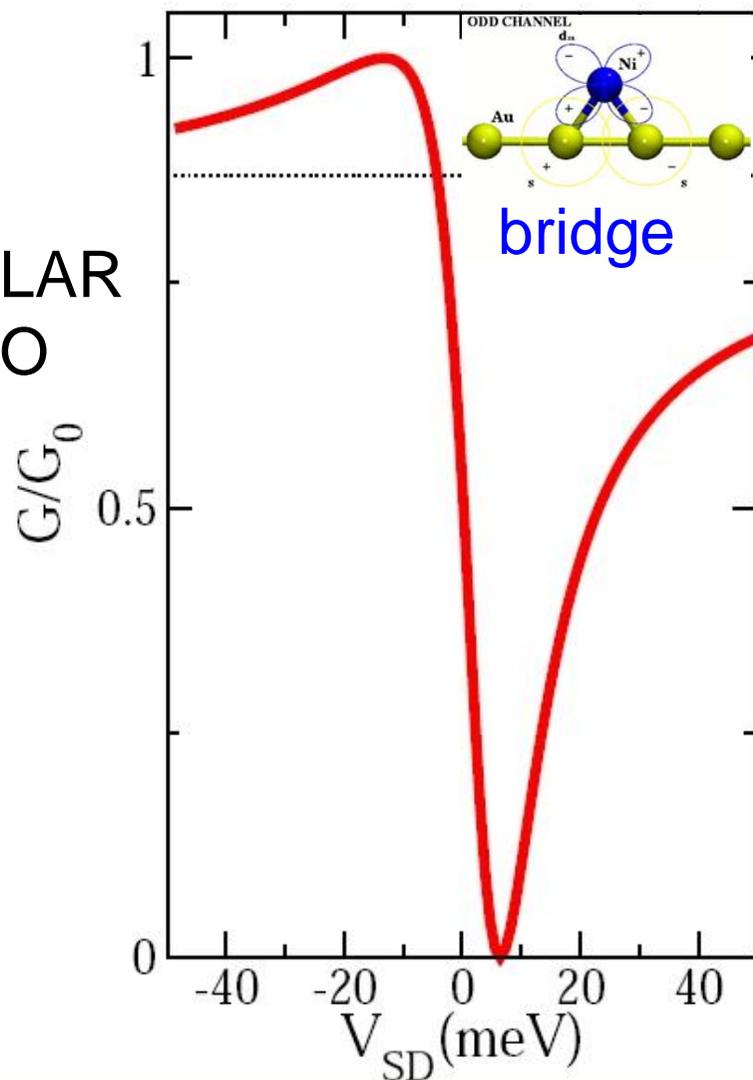
SPIN 1 IS SPECTATOR,
COUPLING IS "FERRO"



$$\begin{aligned}
 H = & \sum_{kp\sigma} \epsilon_{pk} c_{kp\sigma}^\dagger c_{kp\sigma} + \sum_{k\sigma} V_{ks} \left(c_{ke\sigma}^\dagger s_\sigma^\dagger + H.c. \right) \\
 & + \sum_{\sigma} \epsilon_s s_\sigma^\dagger s_\sigma + \sum_{\sigma\alpha} \epsilon_\alpha d_{\alpha\sigma}^\dagger d_{\alpha\sigma} + \\
 & U \sum_{\alpha} n_{\alpha\uparrow} n_{\alpha\downarrow} + J_H \vec{S}_s \cdot \vec{S}_{d_\alpha} \quad J_H < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

PREDICT GEOMETRY-DEPENDENT KONDO EFFECTS, DIFFERENT ZERO_BIAS CONDUCTANCE ANOMALIES

REGULAR
KONDO



“FERRO”-
KONDO
(sketch)

Experiment?

CONCLUSIONS

UNSUSPECTEDLY RICH PHYSICS AT NANOCONTACTS

QUASI-EQUILIBRIUM MAGIC NANOWIRES

BALLISTIC CONDUCTANCE AND MAGNETISM

LOCAL CONTACT MAGNETISM IN Pt, Pd?

KONDO EFFECT ACROSS MAGNETIC IMPURITIES

CALCULABLE IN ATOMISTIC DETAIL

SOME GENERAL REFERENCES (mainly experimental)

-- METAL NANOCNTACTS, BREAK JUNCTIONS

N. Agrait et al, *Physics Reports* 377, 81 (2003)

-- MAGNETISM AND CONDUCTANCE

Various articles by M. Viret, and by A. Fert

-- KONDO EFFECT AND ZERO BIAS CONDUCTANCE ANOMALIES IN ATOMIC NANOCNTACTS

See, e.g., M. Ternes et al, *J. Phys.-Cond. Matt.* 21 ,
053001 (2009).

SOME WORK DONE IN TRIESTE

- O. Gulseren et al , Phys. Rev. Lett.80, 3775 (1998)
- E. Tosatti et al., Science 289, 561 (2000)
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- A. Delin, E. T. , Phys. Rev. B 68, 1444434 (2003)
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- P. Gentile et al, EPL 87, 27014 (2009).
- P. Lucignano et al., Nature Mat. 8, 563 (2009)

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- R. Mazzarello (Trieste)
- G. Sciauzero (Trieste)
- A. Smogunov (Trieste)**
- R. Weht (Buenos Aires)



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