

Transport in Mesoscopic Structures: A Basic Introduction to the Theory

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- 1. Introduction and organization.**
- 2. Reminder of solid state physics.**
 - 2.1. Electronic states and their occupation.
 - 2.2. Reduced dimensions.
- 3. Coherent transport in mesoscopic structures: The scattering approach.**
 - 3.1. From macroscopic wires to atomic-scale junctions.
 - 3.2. Heuristic derivation of the Landauer formula.
 - 3.3. Penetration of a potential barrier: Tunnel effect.
 - 3.4. The scattering matrix in quantum mechanics.
 - 3.5. Resonant tunneling.
 - 3.6. Multichannel Landauer formula.
 - 3.7. Heat transport and thermoelectricity.
- 4. Coherent transport in molecular junctions: A case study.**
 - 4.1. Identifying the transport mechanism.
 - 4.2. Some lessons from the resonant tunneling model.
 - 4.3. A two-level model: transport through a hydrogen molecule.
 - 4.4. Length dependence of the conductance.
 - 4.5. Negative differential resistance.
- 5. Single-electron transistors: Coulomb blockade and Kondo physics.**
 - 5.1. Introduction.
 - 5.2. Charging effects in transport through nanoscale devices.
 - 5.3. Three-terminal devices.
 - 5.4. Coulomb blockade theory: constant interaction model.
 - 5.5. Intermediate coupling: cotunneling and Kondo effect.
 - 5.6. Single-molecule transistors: experimental results.
- 6. Incoherent transport in mesoscopic structures: the hopping regime.**
 - 6.1. Signatures of the hopping transport regime.
 - 6.2. Hopping transport in molecular junctions: Experimental examples.
 - 6.3. DNA-based molecular junctions.

7. Beyond electrical conductance.

- 7.1. Non-equilibrium current fluctuations: shot noise.
- 7.2. Thermopower or Seebeck coefficient.
- 7.3. Heat dissipation in ballistic nanostructures.

Bibliography

- 1) “*Molecular Electronics: An Introduction to Theory and Experiment*”, J.C. Cuevas and E. Scheer (World Scientific, Singapore, 2010).
- 2) “*Quantum Transport: Atom to Transistor*”, S. Datta, (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2005).
- 3) “*Lessons from Nanoelectronics: A New Perspective on Transport*”, S. Datta, (World Scientific, Singapore, 2012).