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Carbon-Based Devices for THz Technology

Mohamed Rinzan, Abdel El Fatimy and Paola Barbara

Georgetown University

Collaborators:

Greg Jenkins and Dennis Drew

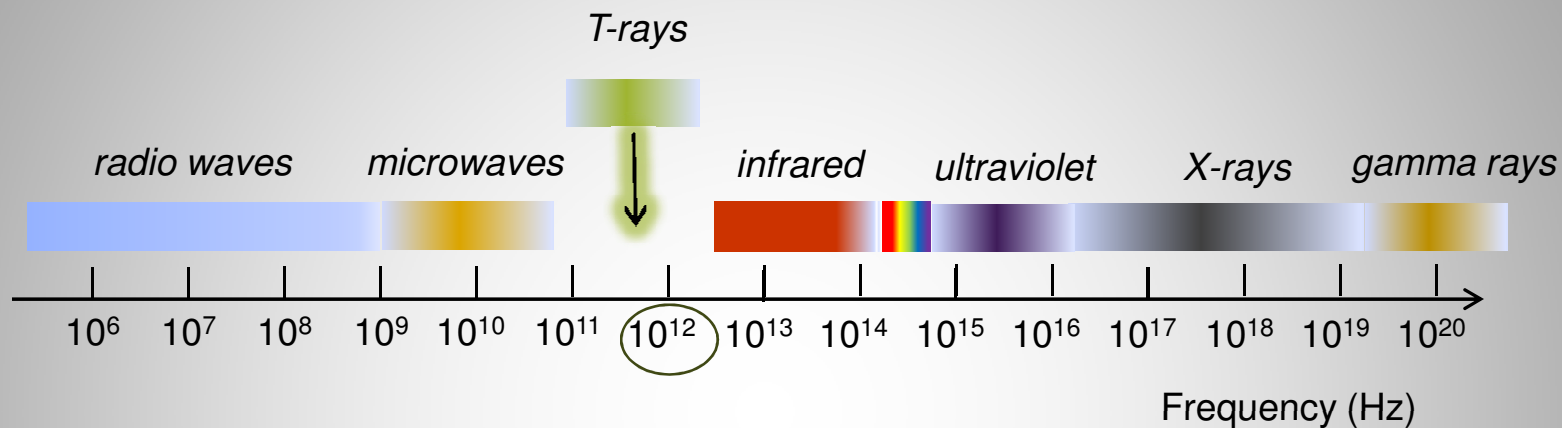
University of Maryland

Serhii Shafraniuk

Northwestern University



T-Rays



	T-rays	
frequency	0.1 THz	30 THz
photon energy	0.414 meV	124 meV
wavenumber	3.3 cm^{-1}	1000 cm^{-1}
wavelength	3 mm	$10 \mu\text{m}$

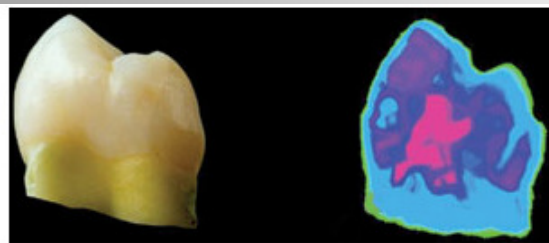
THz Applications

Imaging

Security applications



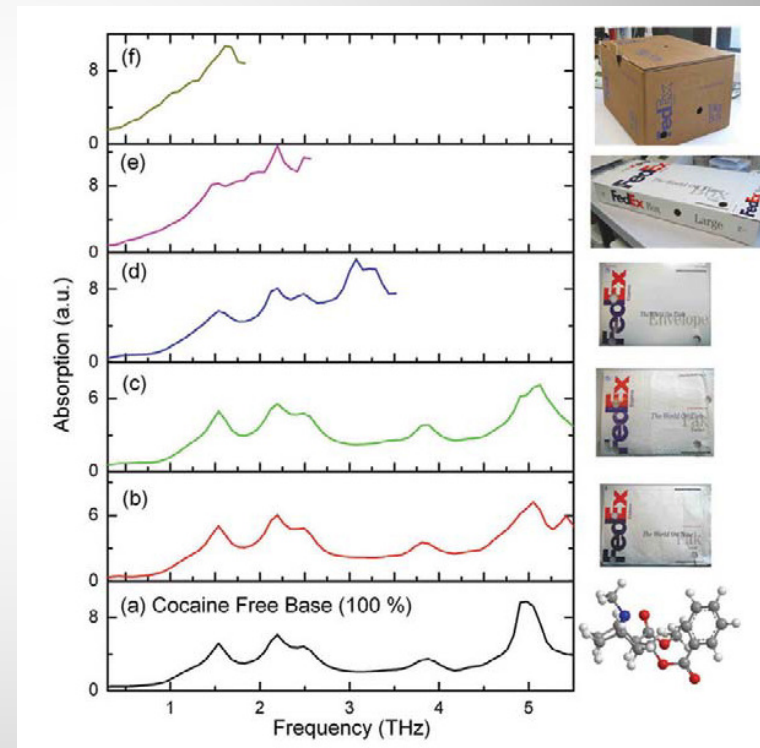
Medical diagnostics



TeraView , www.teraview.com

Spectroscopy

Chemical fingerprinting

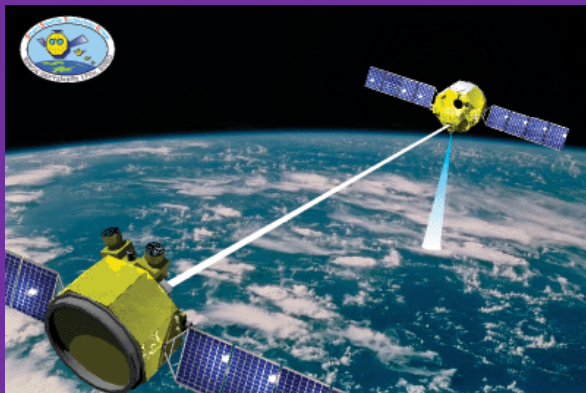


A. G. Davies et al. Materials Today, **11**, 18 (2008)

THz Applications

Communication

- **Satellite-satellite**
- **Secure short-range**



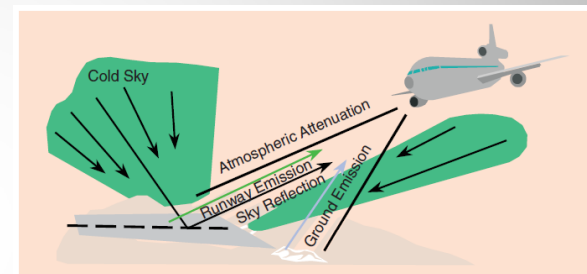
NICT National Institute of
Information and Communications Technology

NICT, Tokyo, Japan

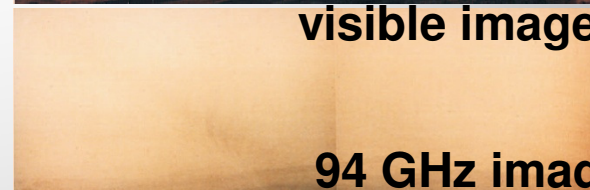
L. Yujiri, IEEE microwave magazine **4**, 39-50 (2003)

Passive Imaging

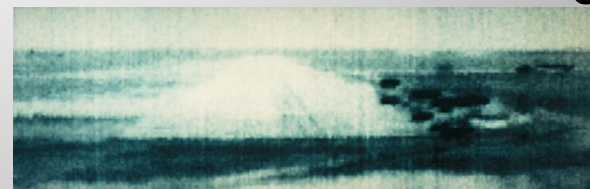
Dust and smoke conditions



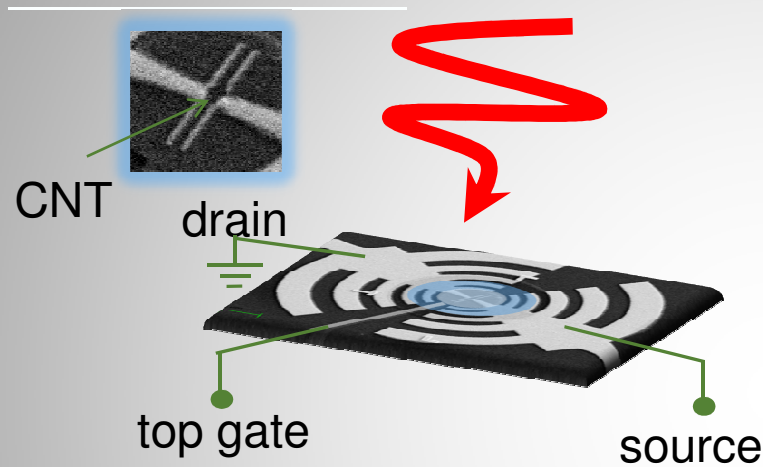
visible image with fog



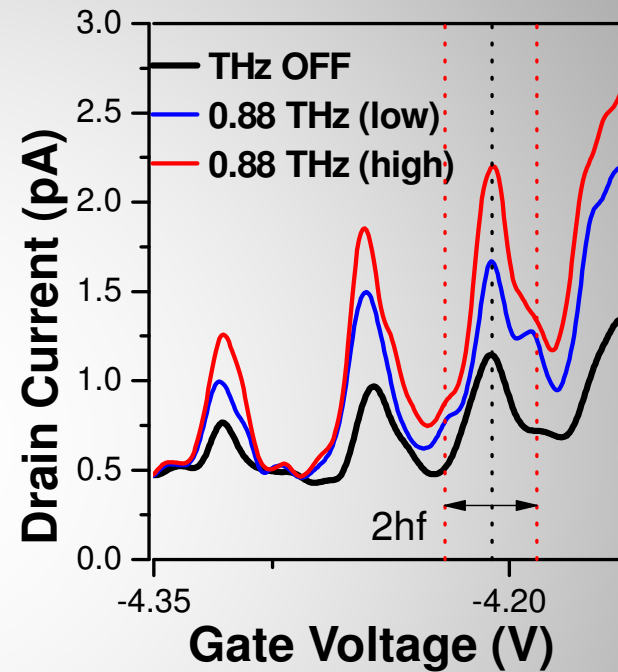
94 GHz image with fog



Quantum Dot Detectors



M. Rinzan et al. Nano Letters 12, 3097 (2012)



Pro

- **High Sensitivity** (fW)
- **Spectral resolution** (better than 0.1 THz)
- **Broad band detection** (0.6 - 2THz)

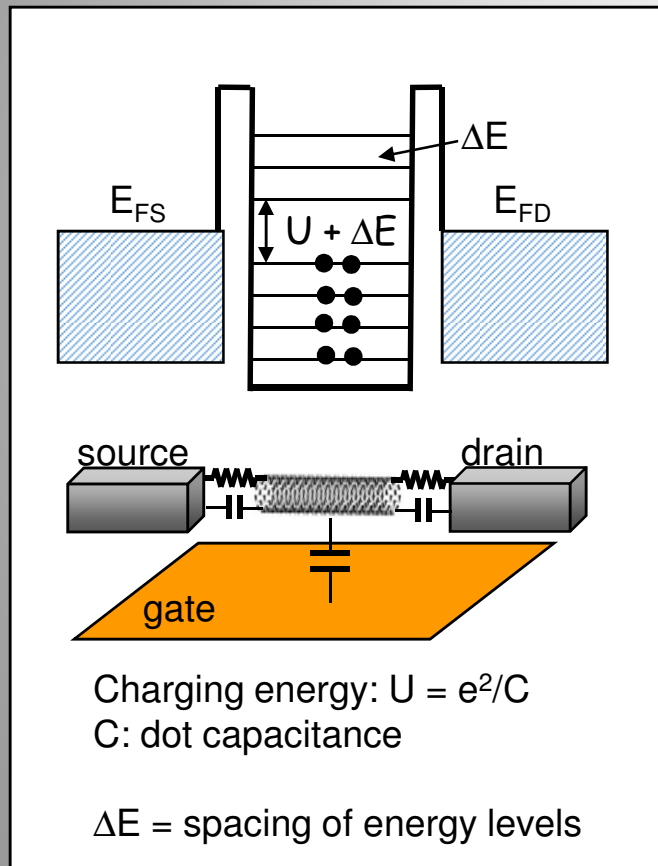
Contra

- **Low-temperature operation** (10K)
- **Non-linear response**

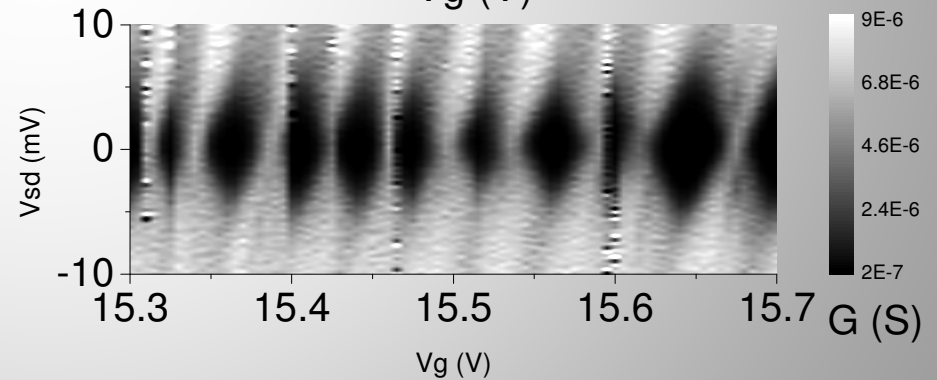
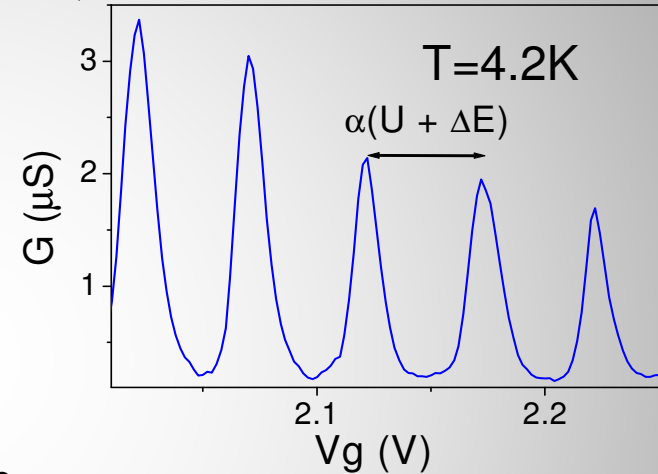
Carbon Q-dots

Basic properties:

Coulomb blockade and resonant tunneling



QD conductance – radiation off

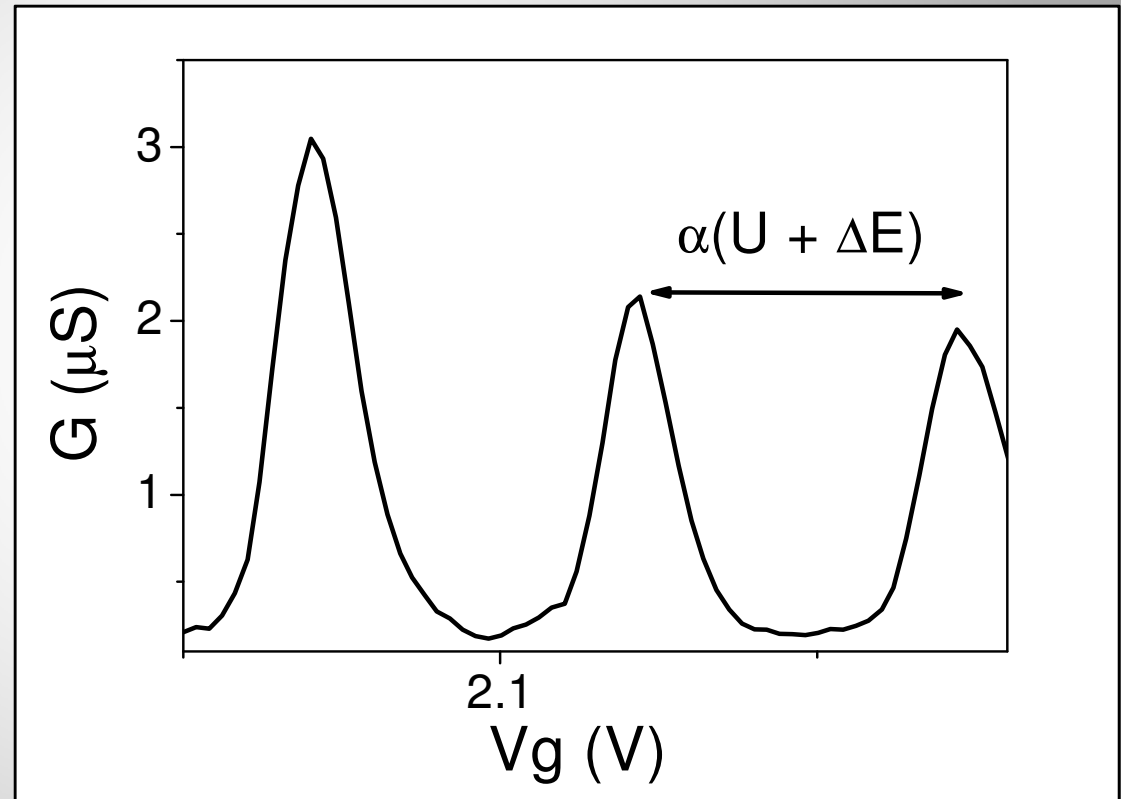
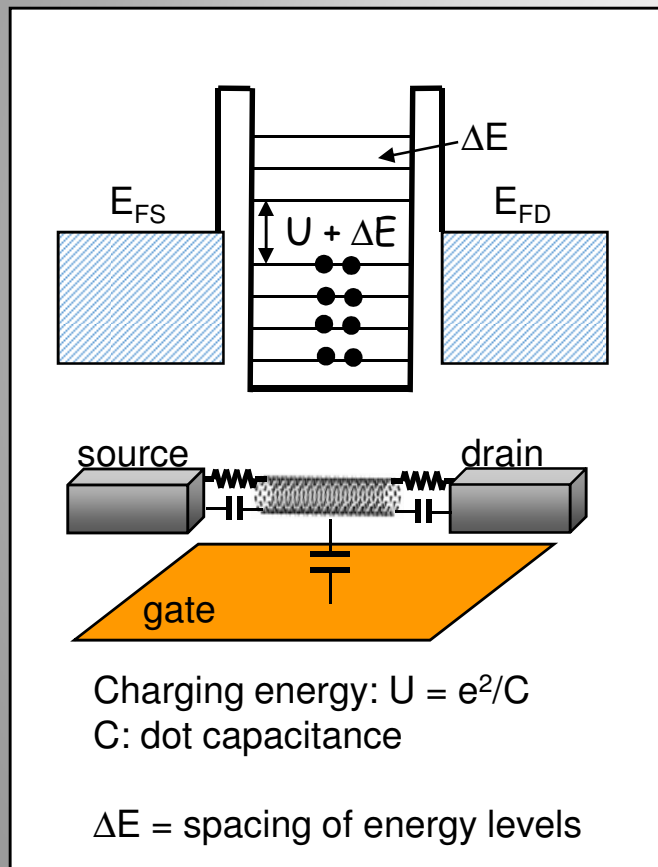


For a review: L. P. Kouwenhoven et al. *Electron Transport in Quantum Dots*, Proc. of the Adv. Study Inst. on Mesoscopic Electron Transport, (Kluwer 1997)

Carbon Q-dots

Basic idea:

Change in conductance due to absorption and emission of photons: PAT.

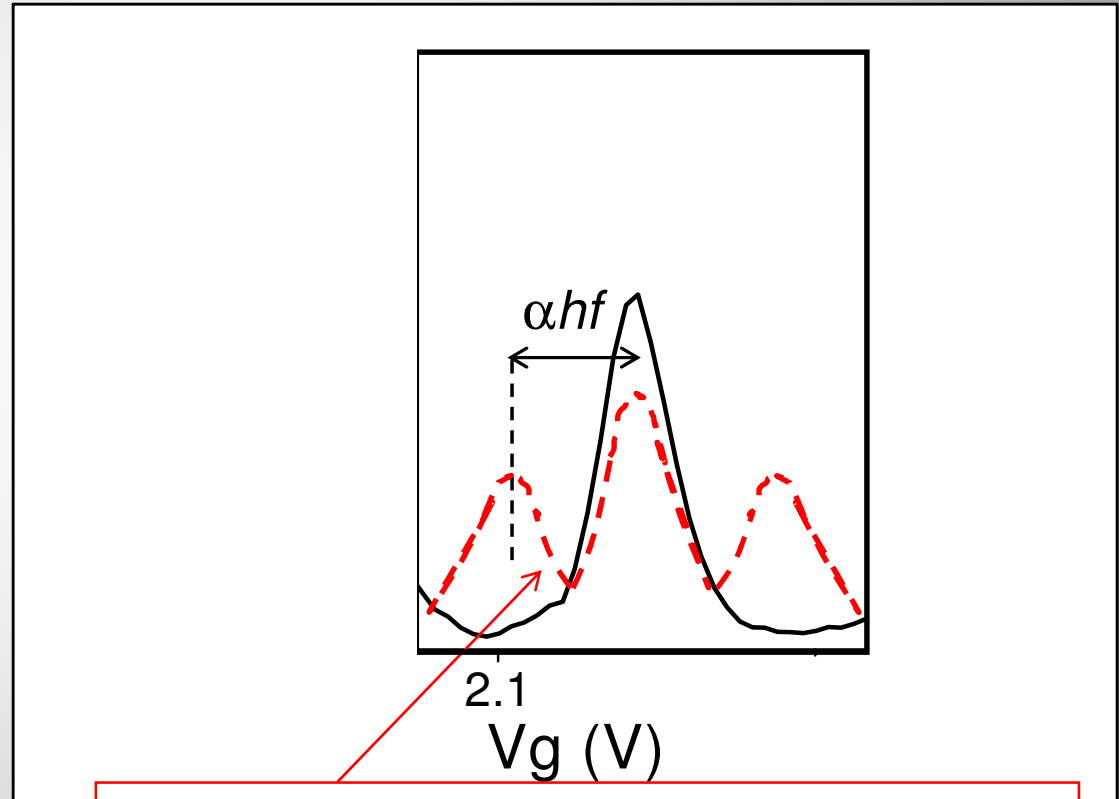
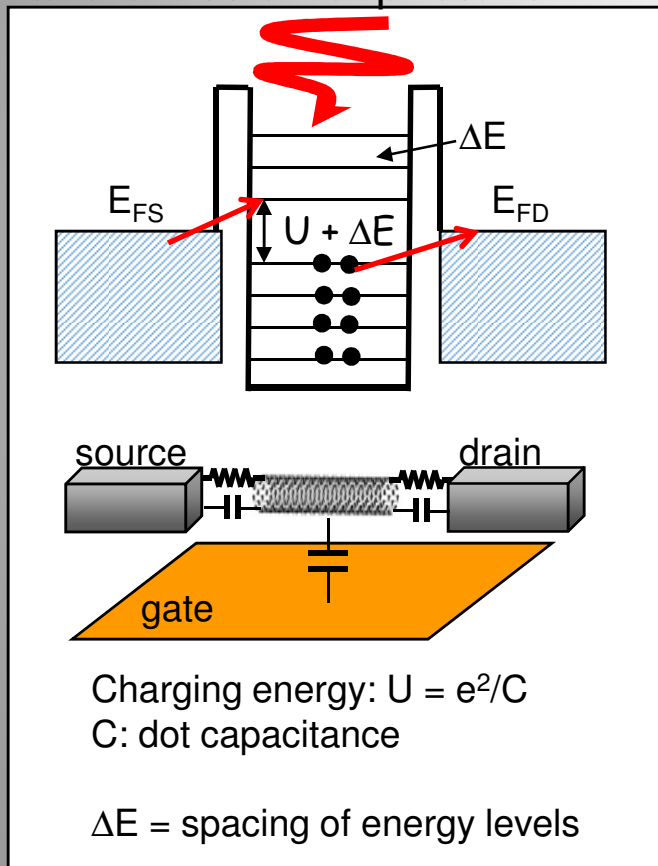


Carbon Q-dots

Basic idea:

Change in conductance due to absorption and emission of photons: PAT.

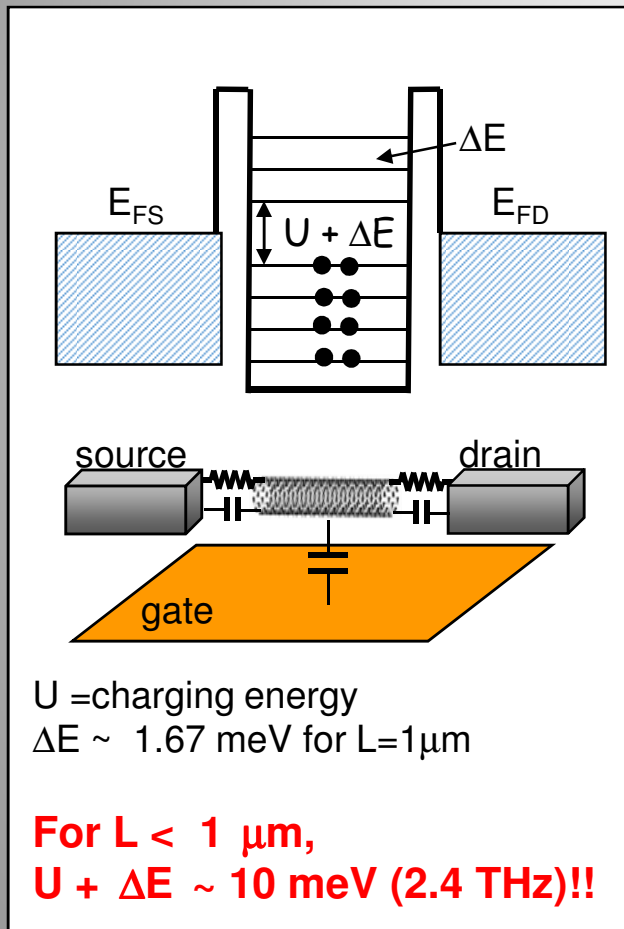
QD conductance – radiation ON



D.V. Averin, *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B 43, 6199 (1991).

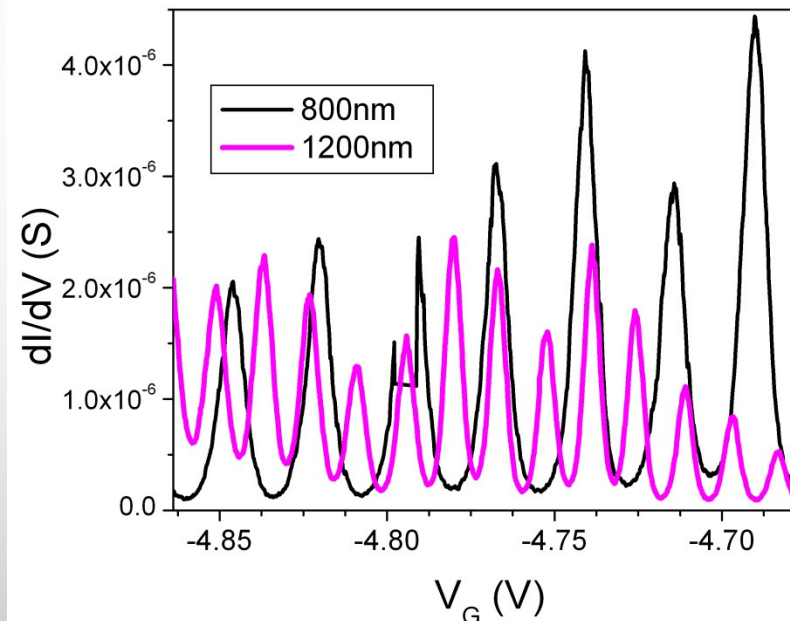
P. K. Tien and J. P. Gordon, Phys. Rev. 129, 647 (1963).

Why carbon quantum dots for THz detection



Main advantages:

- $U + \Delta E$ larger than in 2DEG quantum dots
- $U + \Delta E$ larger than typical Δ in SIS junctions
- $U + \Delta E$ inversely proportional to L

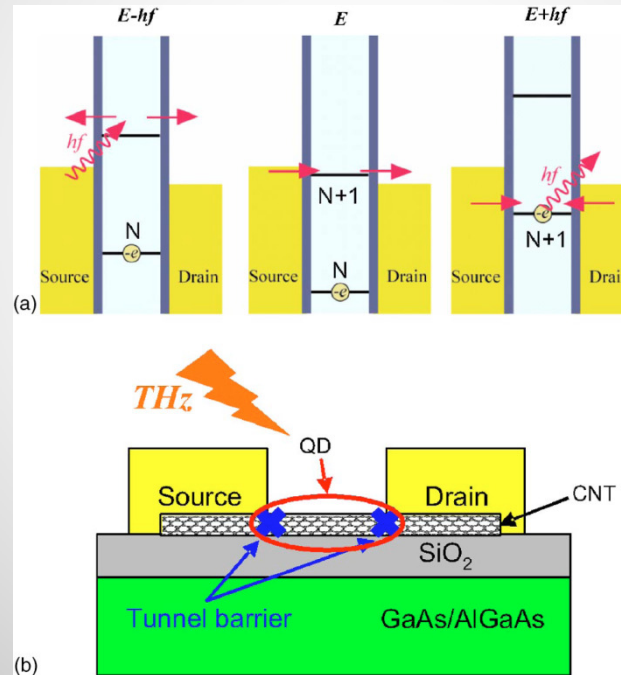


CNTs and THz detection by PAT

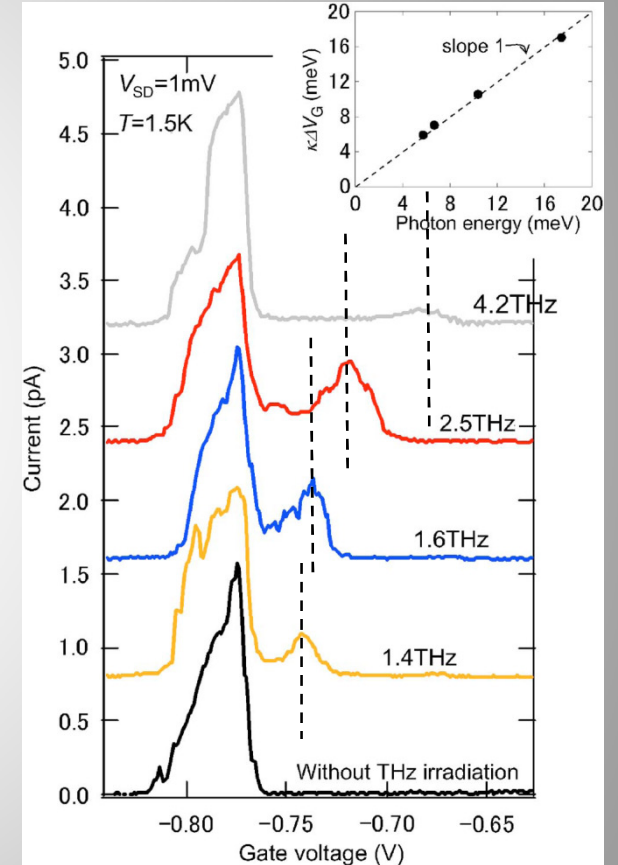
PAT detection demonstrated by
I. Kawano et al. (2008)!

Problems:

- Detected signal weak
- Response from very few samples



10 mW laser



I. Kawano et al., J. of Appl. Phys. **103**, 034307 (2008)

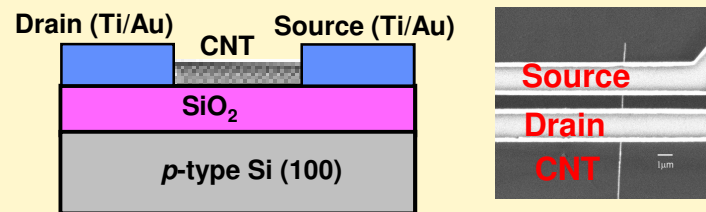
THz detection by PAT: Our approach

Main challenge:

Coupling THz radiation to quantum dots.

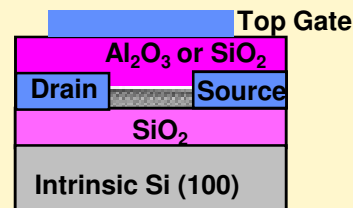
Typical Design:

Bottom gate and No THz Antenna → **poor coupling**



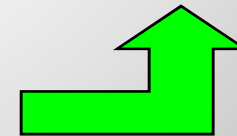
New Design :

- Side or Top gate
- Broadband THz Antenna



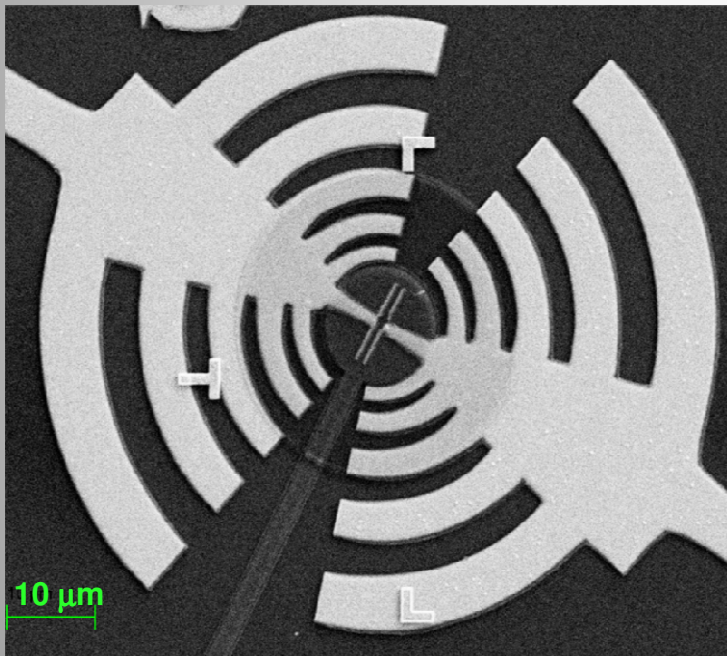
Better coupling:

- Impedance mismatch reduced
- larger detection area



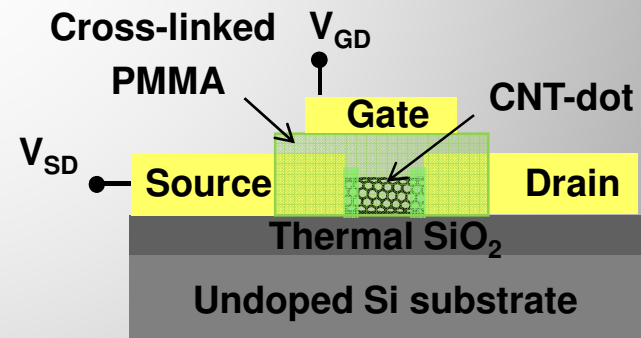
New design: on-chip antenna

Log-periodic antenna for broad band reception: 700 GHz to 2.5 THz

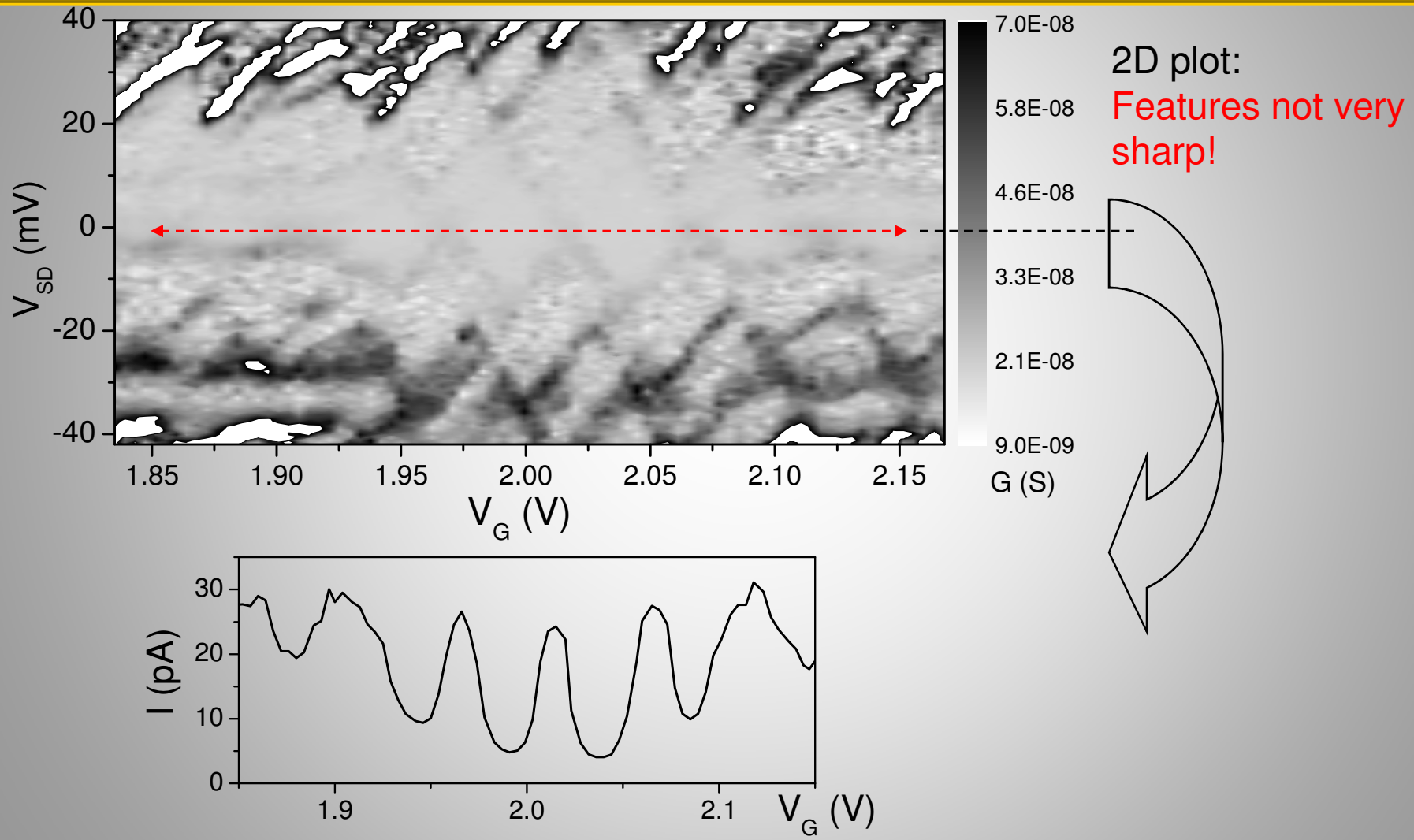


New design:

- Source-drain electrodes shaped like antennas
- Substrate: intrinsic silicon
- Patterning of small gate electrodes

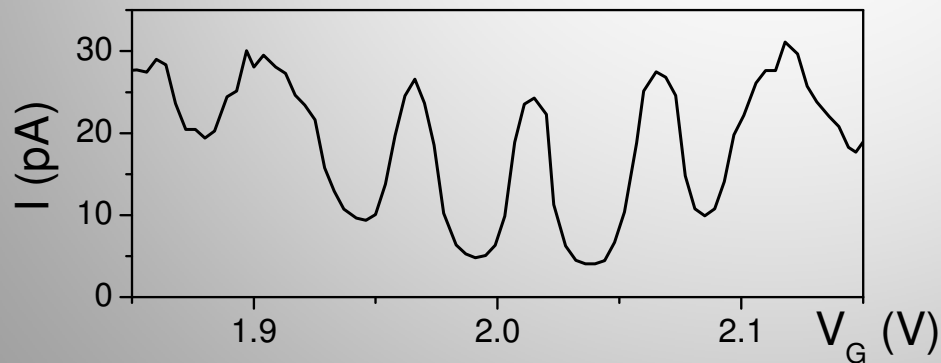
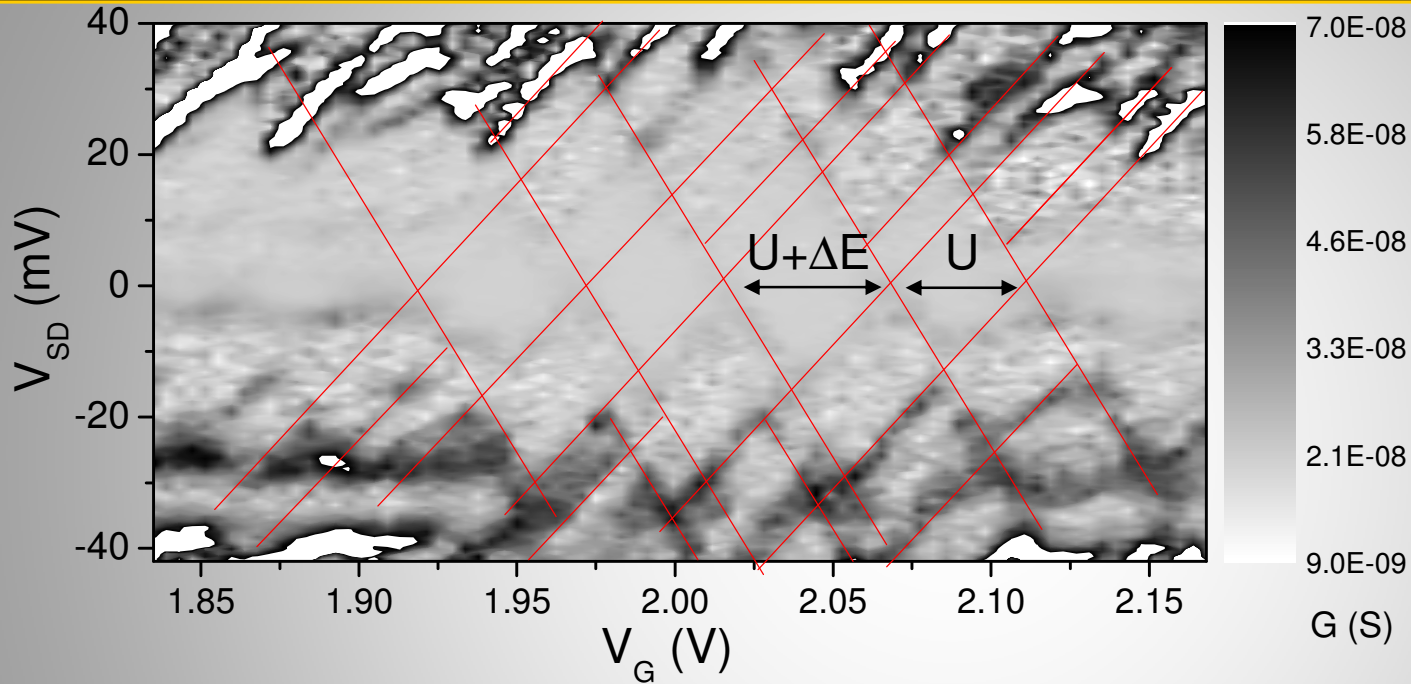


CNT quantum dot with top gate Device A



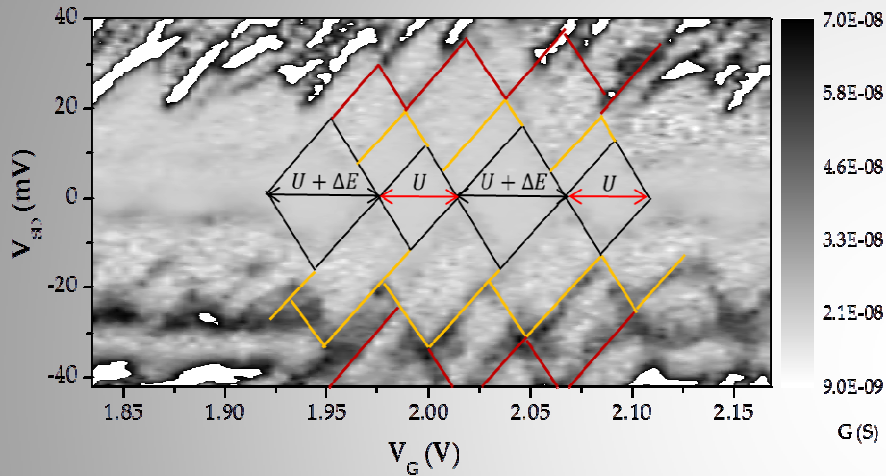
CNT quantum dot with top gate

Device A



Characteristic parameters

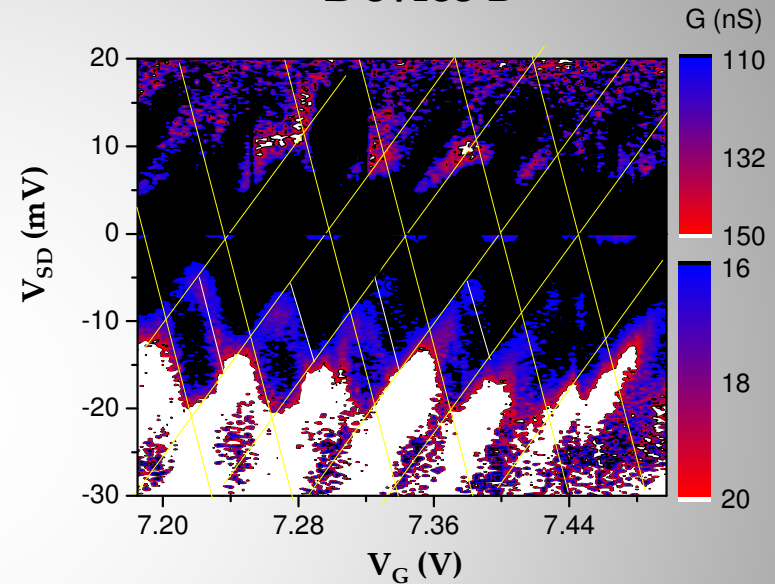
Device A



Gate efficiency = 32%

Energy (meV)	Capacitance (aF)
$U = 13.7$	$C_{\text{Dot}} = 11.7$
$\Delta E = 3.3$	$C_{\text{Source}} = 3.7$
$U + \Delta E = 17$	$C_{\text{Drain}} = 4.4$

Device B

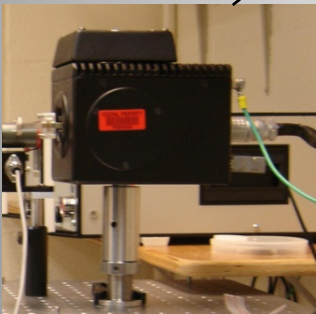
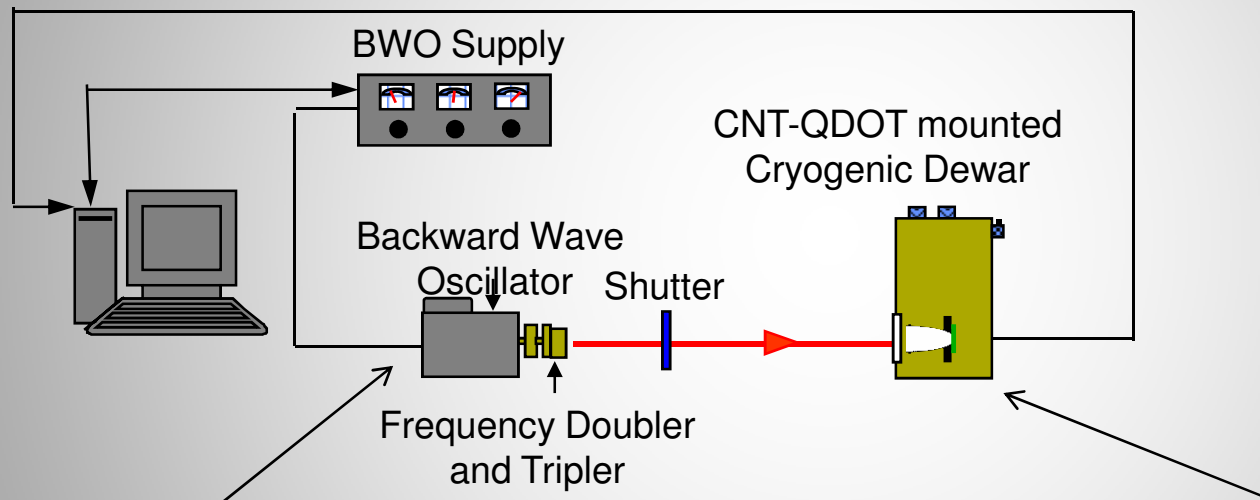


Gate efficiency = 18%

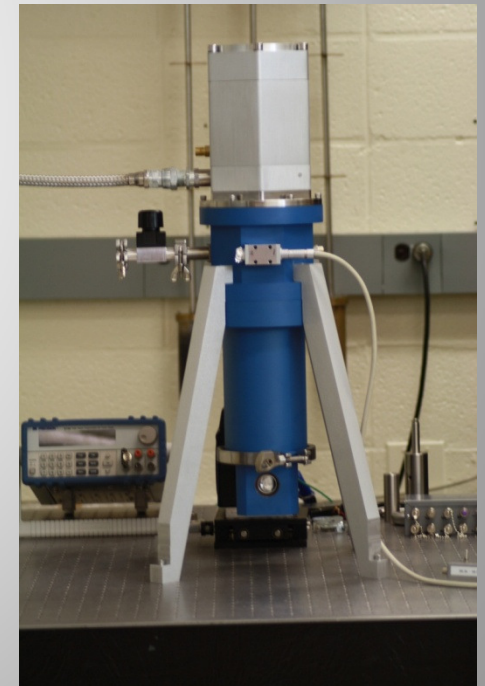
Energy (meV)	Capacitance (aF)
$U = 7.4$	$C_{\text{Dot}} = 21.7$
$\Delta E = 1.9$	$C_{\text{Source}} = 11.8$
$U + \Delta E = 17$	$C_{\text{Drain}} = 6.1$

Experimental set-up

Sample cooled down to about 4K



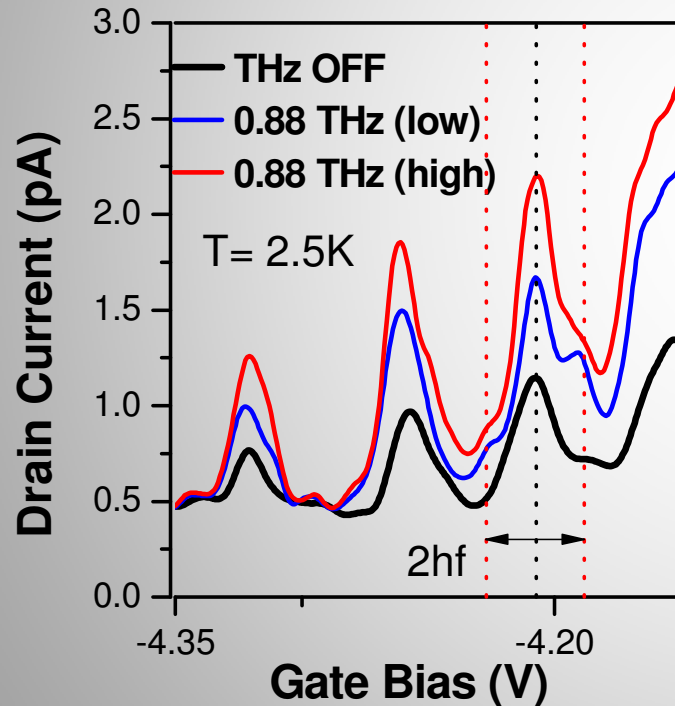
Closed-cycle optical cryostat



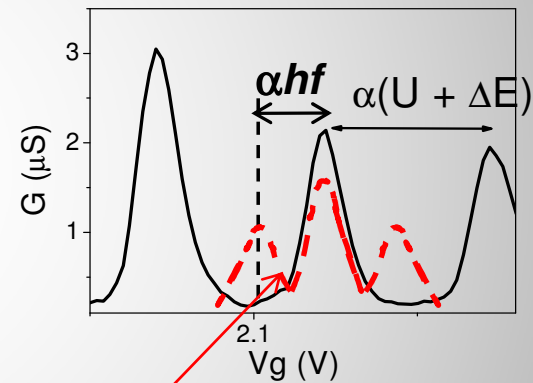
Tunable BWO: 0.6 – 1THz (0.1 - 0.02 mW)

Device B: BWO response and T dependence

Measured THz response



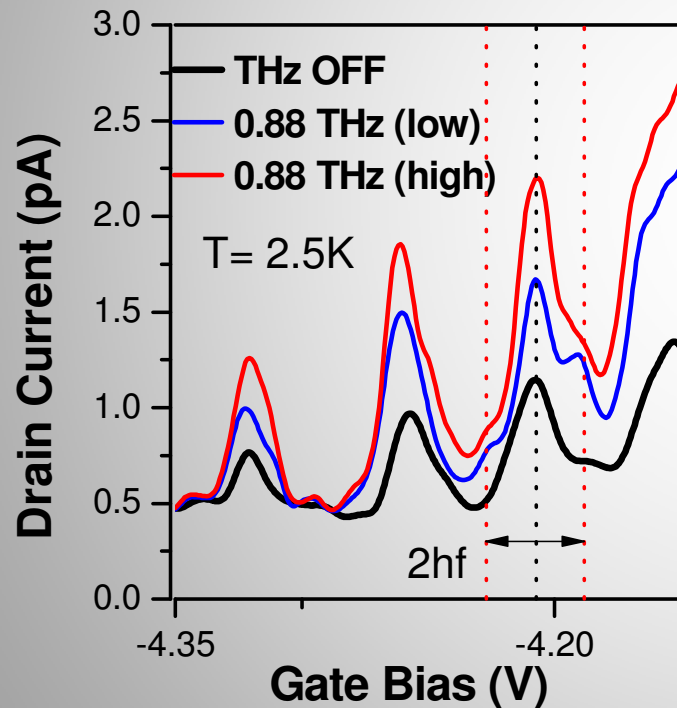
Expected THz response



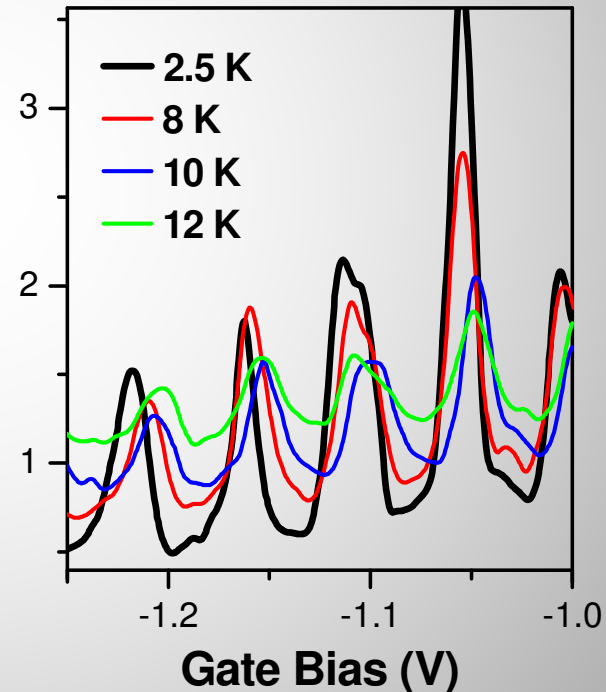
D.V. Averin, *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B 43, 6199 (1991).
P. K. Tien and J. P. Gordon, Phys. Rev. 129, 647 (1963).

Device B: BWO response and T dependence

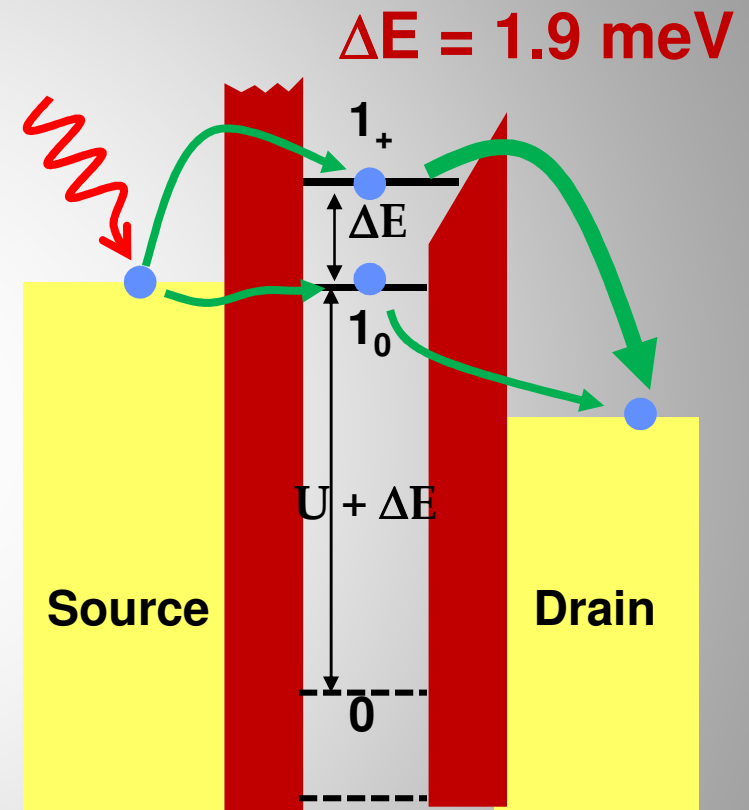
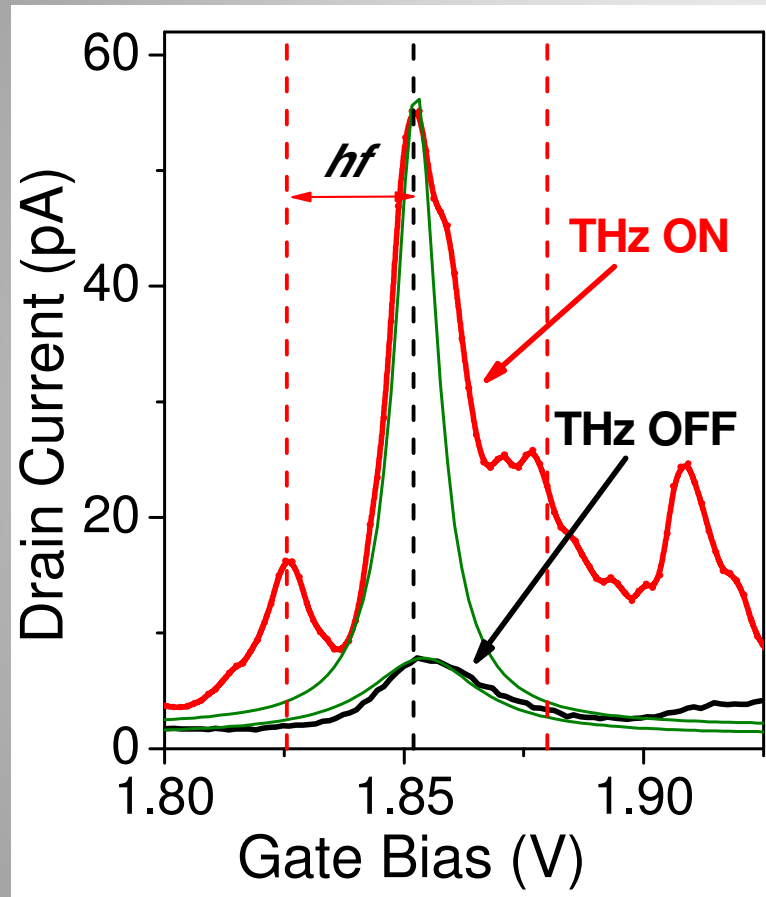
Measured THz response



Temperature dependence No THz applied



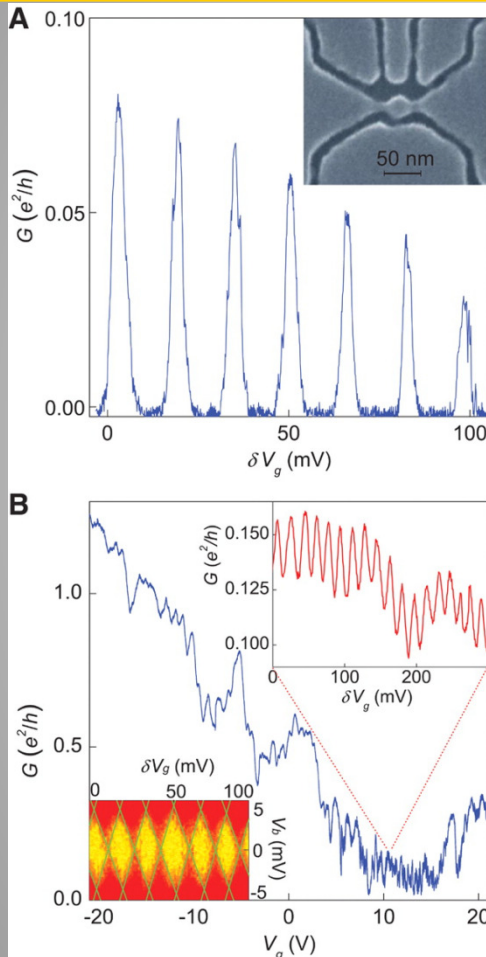
Device B: 1.3 THz response (1 mW laser source at UMD)



Non-equilibrium cooling of electrons in the CNT-Dot when THz frequency exceeds ΔE

Graphene QDots

Our approach



Graphene on SiC from K. Gaskill's group

L. A. Ponomarenko et al., *Science* 320, 5874 (2008)

Summary

PAT in CNT quantum dots with on-chip antennas:

- **Broadband detection in the range 0.6 THz - 1.3 THz**
- **High sensitivity (NEP < 10^{-15} W/Hz^{-1/2})**
- **Spectral resolution (better than 0.1 THz)**
- **Strong signal at 5K (source power 0.02 – 1 mW)**
- **THz-induced cooling**

M. Rinzan et al. Nano Letters **12**, 3097 (2012)

Future and ongoing work:

- **Better quality quantum dots.**
- **Quantum dots with tunable barriers**
- **Extend process to graphene**

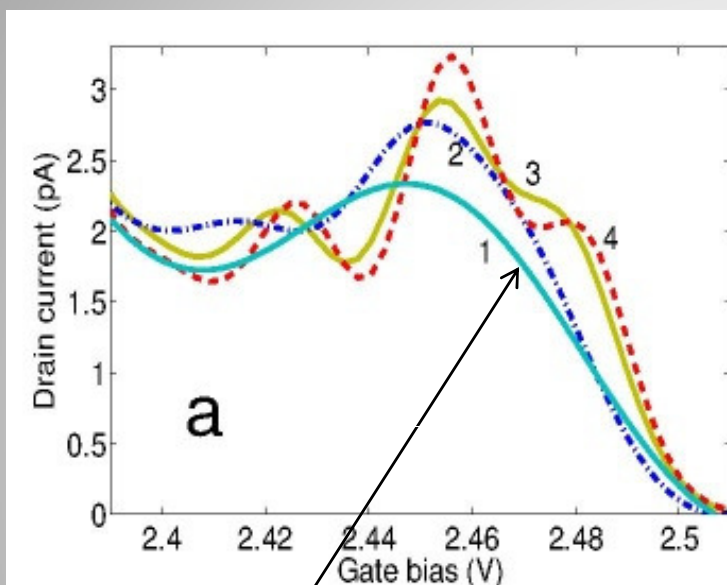
THANK YOU!





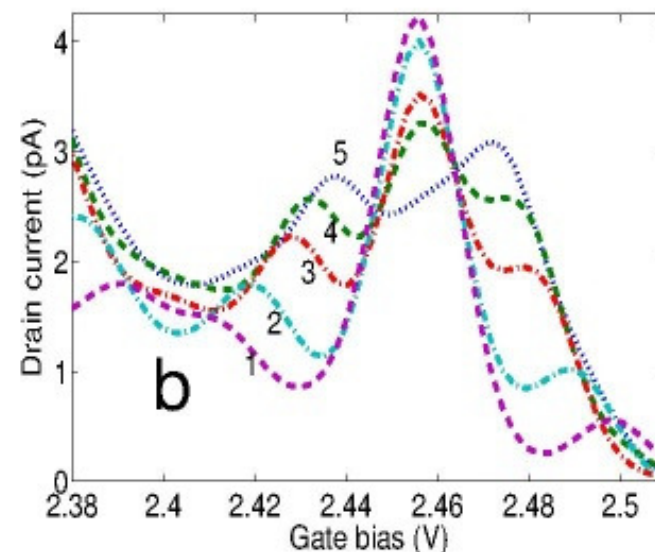


Simulations of cooling effect



THz off

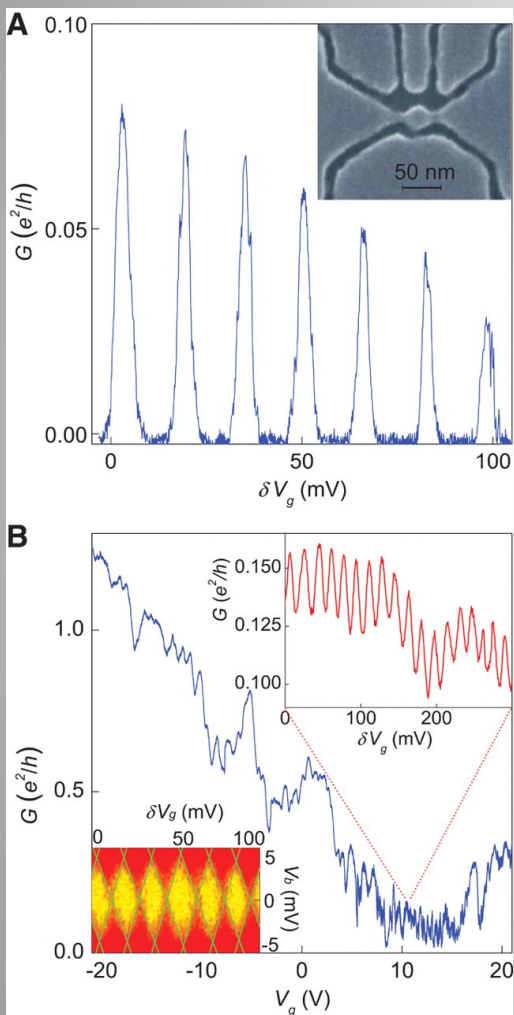
**Fixed frequency (1.26 THz)
Increasing field intensity
from curve 2 to 4**



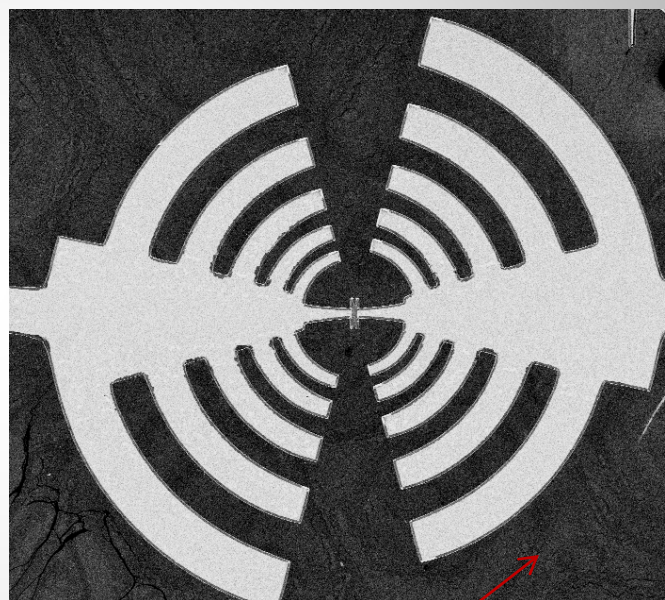
**Fixed field intensity.
Decreasing frequency
from curve 1 to 5.**



Graphene Q-dots



Our approach

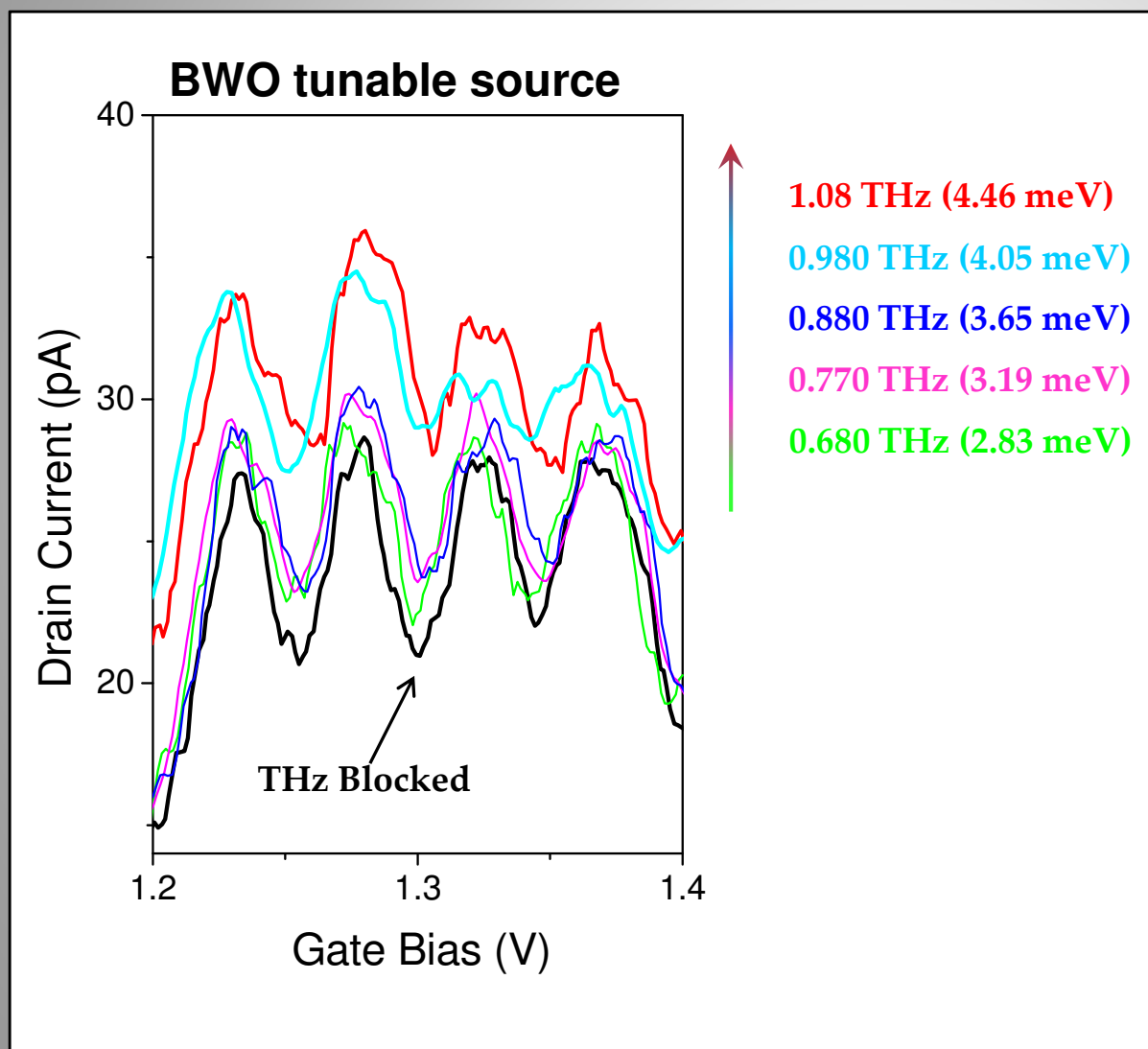


Graphene on SiC from K. Gaskill's group

L. A. Ponomarenko et al., Science **320**, 5874 (2008)



Device A : Broad band response



- No clear PAT peaks
- Main peak enhanced for frequencies above 0.880 THz

Energy level spacing

$$\Delta E = 3.3 \text{ meV}$$



Non-equilibrium cooling



Quantum kinetic equation for non-equilibrium distribution function g_n , the PASET current and the electron-phonon recombination

$$\frac{\partial g_n(\varepsilon_k)}{\partial t} = I_T(g_n, \varepsilon_k) + I_{ep}(g_n, \varepsilon_k) \equiv 0$$

$$I_T(g_n, \varepsilon_k) = \sum_m J_m^2(\alpha_{S,D}) \{ [\varpi_{k,+}^S(n, m) - \varpi_{k,-}^S(n, m)] - [\varpi_{k,+}^D(n, m) - \varpi_{k,-}^D(n, m)] \}$$

$$I_{ep}(g_n, \varepsilon_k) = -\frac{g_n(\varepsilon_k) - g_n^{(0)}(\varepsilon_k)}{\tau_{ep}}$$

$$\alpha_{S,D} = e\tilde{V}_{S,D}/hf$$

$$\varpi_{k,+}^{S(D)}(n, m) = \Gamma_{S(D)}(\varepsilon_+^{S(D),m}) f(\varepsilon_+^{S(D),m}, T_{\text{bath}}) [1 - g_n(\varepsilon_k)]$$

$$\varpi_{k,-}^{S(D)}(n, m) = \Gamma_{S(D)}(\varepsilon_-^{S(D),m}) [1 - f(\varepsilon_-^{S(D),m}, T_{\text{bath}})] g_n(\varepsilon_k)$$

$$\varepsilon_{+(-)}^{S(D)} = \varepsilon_k + \Delta E \cdot l + E_G + \Delta U_{n(n-1)}^{S(D)} + mhf$$



Non-equilibrium cooling



Power balance equation:

$$W_T + W_{ep} \equiv 0$$

With the power PASET tunneling power:

$$W_T = \sum_k \varepsilon_k I_T \{g_n, \varepsilon_k\}$$

And the power dissipated due to electron-phonon collision:

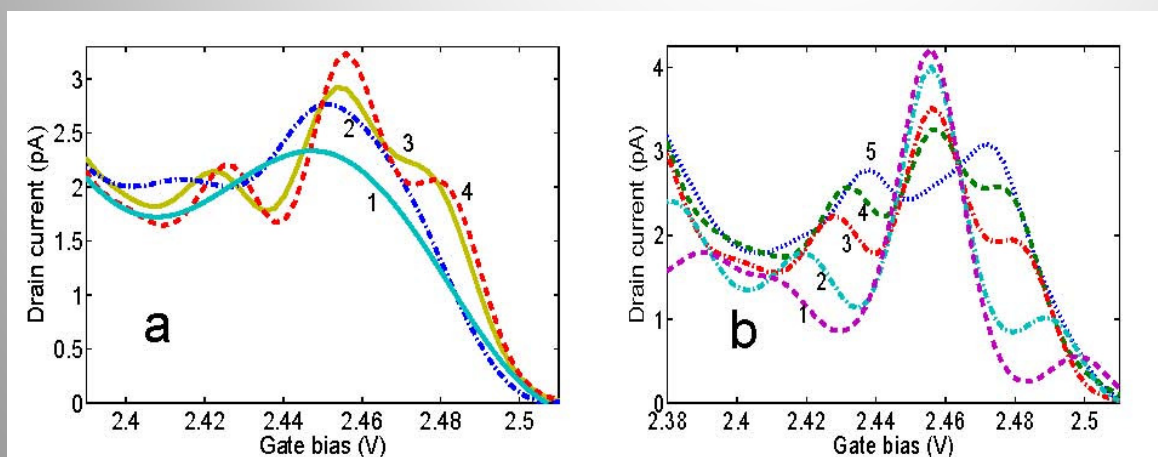
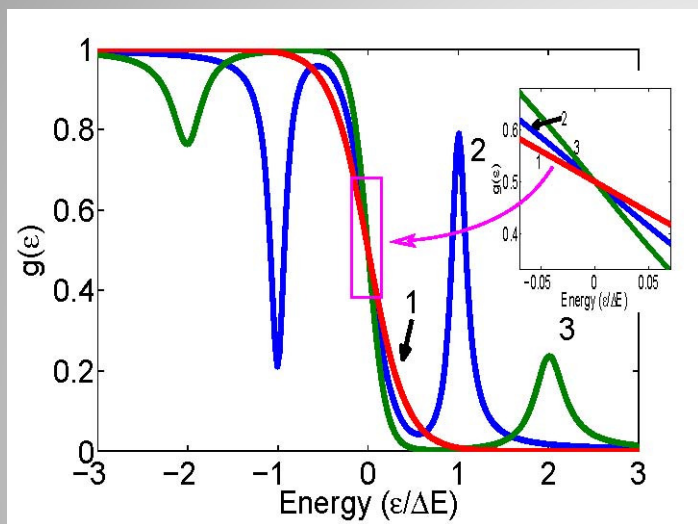
$$W_{ep} = \sum_k \varepsilon_k I_{ep} \{g_n, \varepsilon_k\}$$

With the number of electrons in the dot given by:

$$n = \sum_k g_n(\varepsilon_k)$$

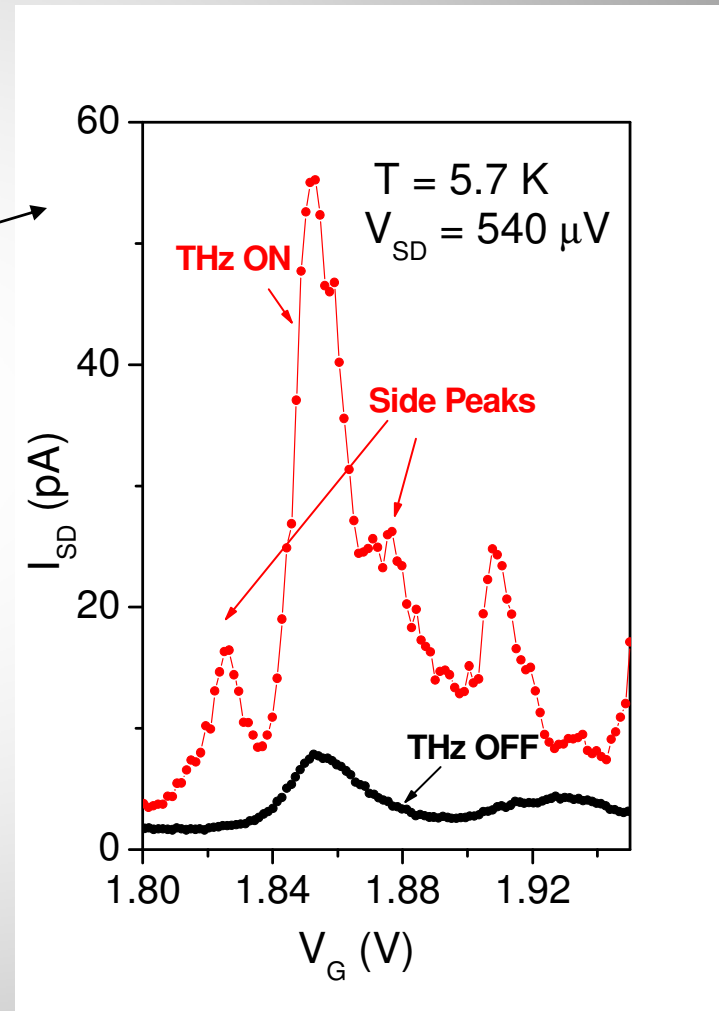
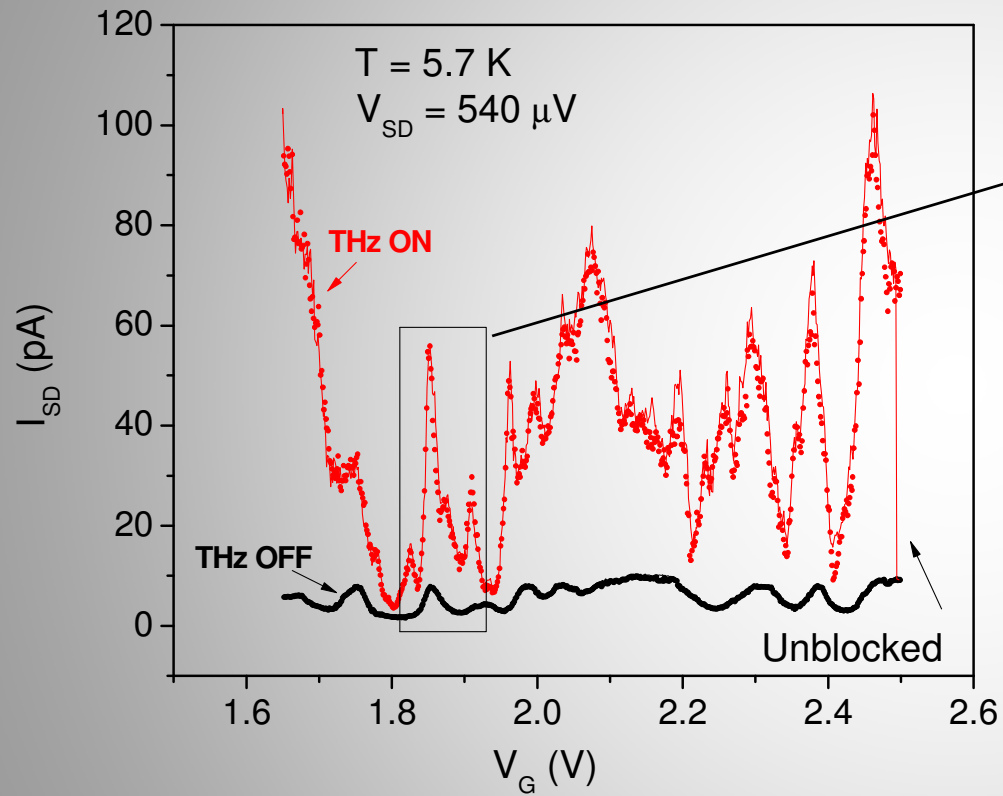


Non-equilibrium cooling



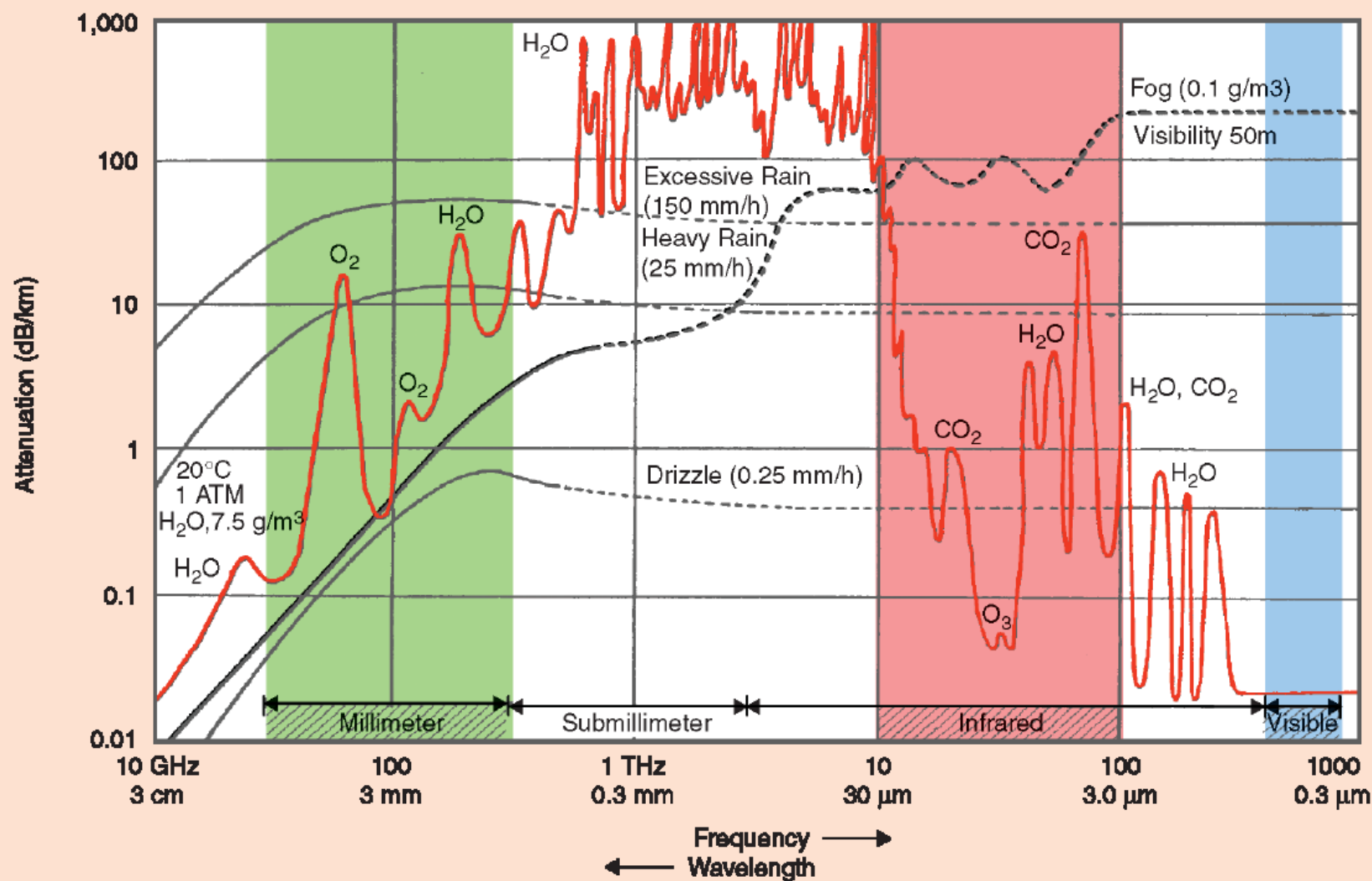


Laser source 1.3 THz: Device B



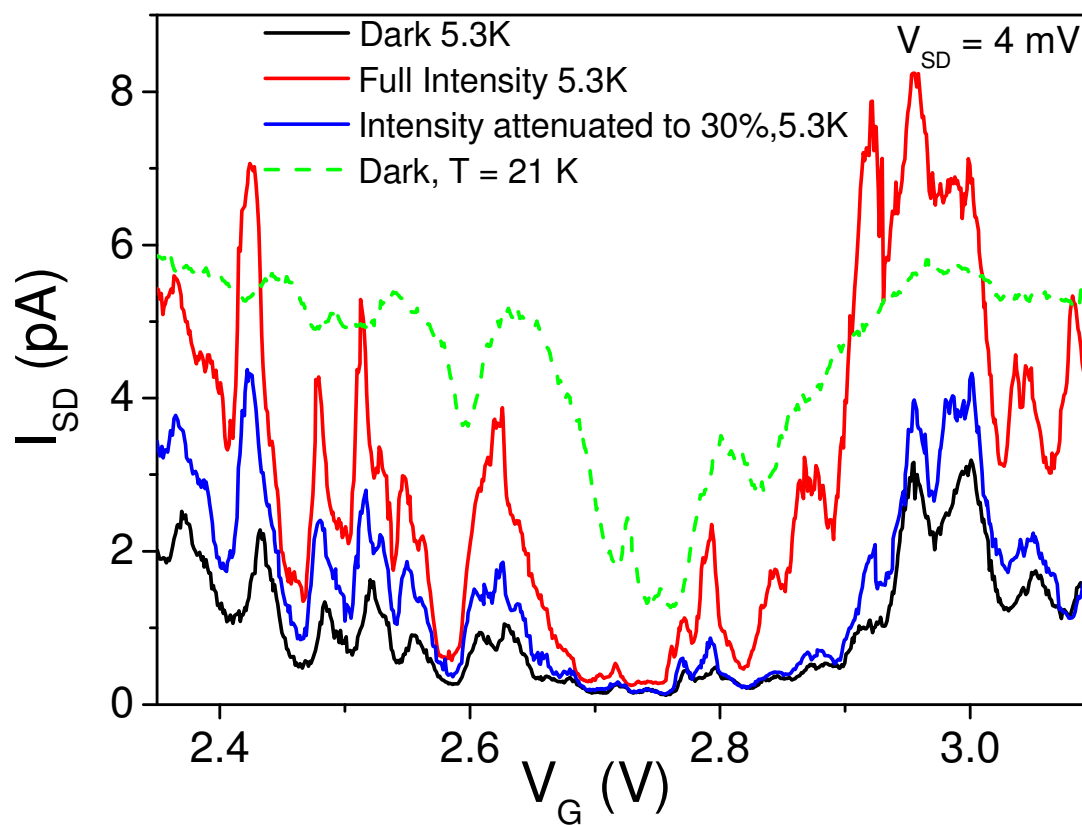


THz attenuation spectrum





Laser source 1.31 THz: Device A

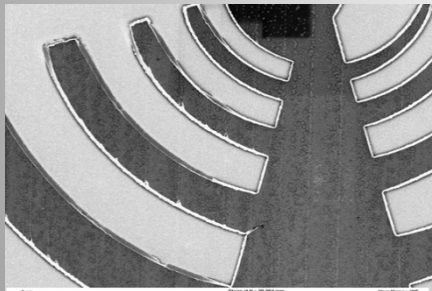
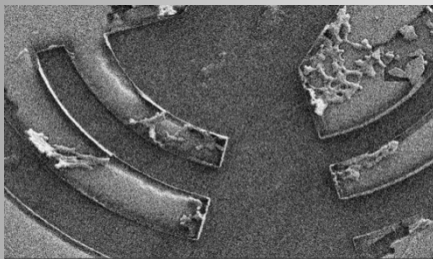




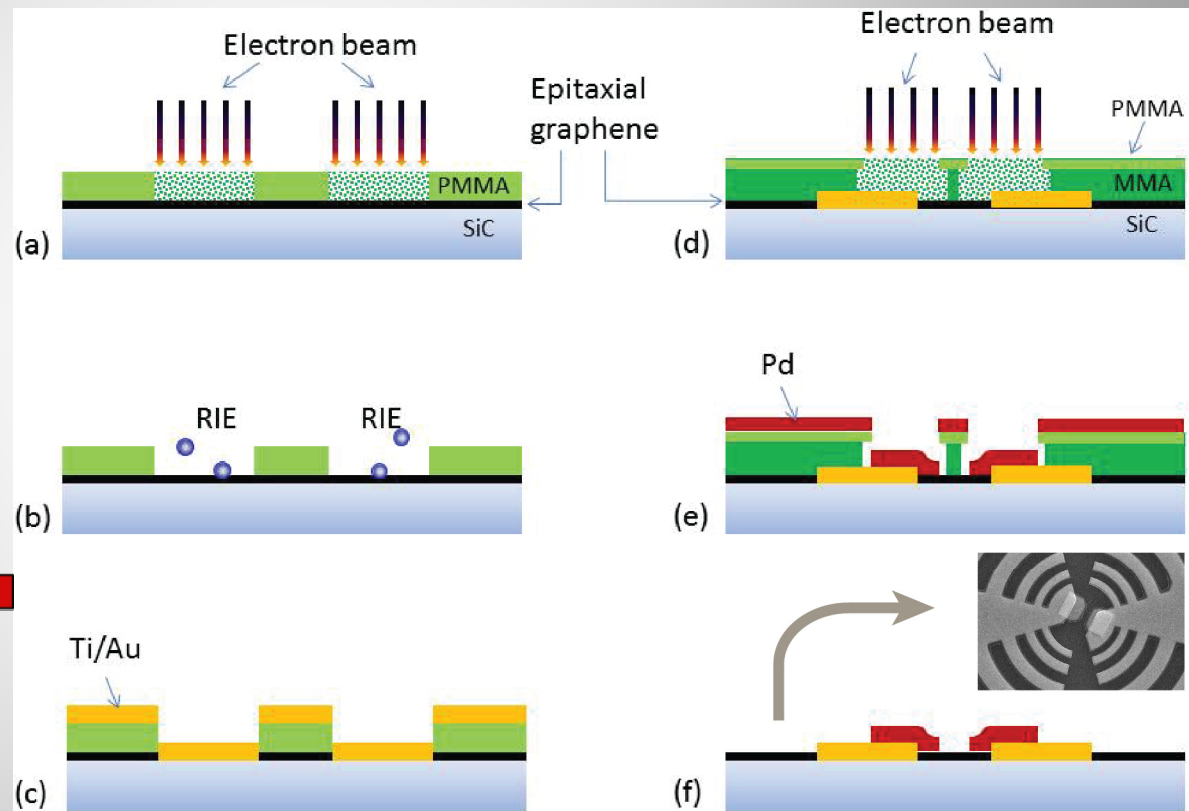
Development of detector arrays



Adhesion problems for graphene on SiC



Fabrication process for q-dot graphene detectors





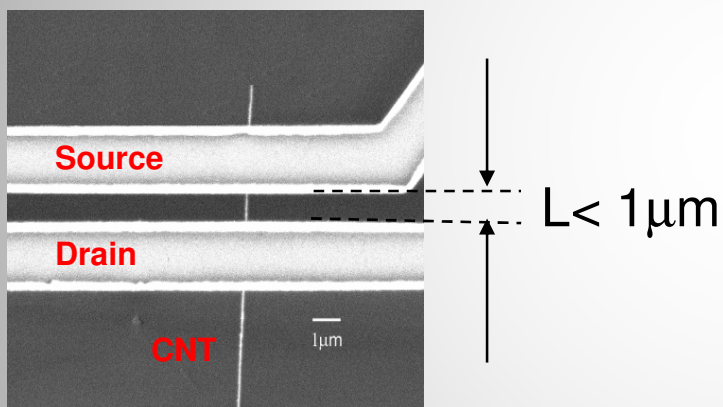
Quantum dot for semiconducting CNTs



Quantum dots:
Two main ingredients

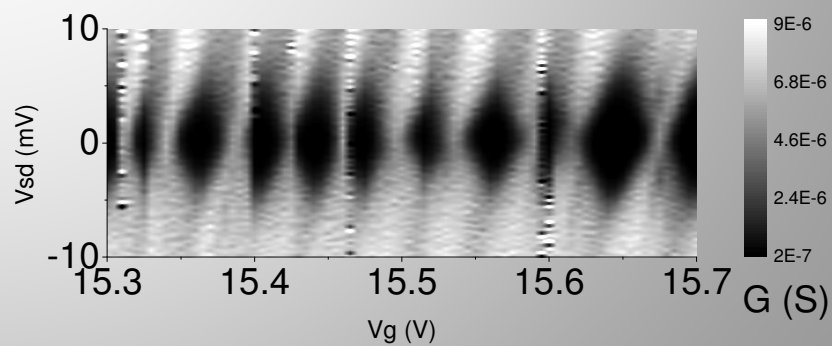
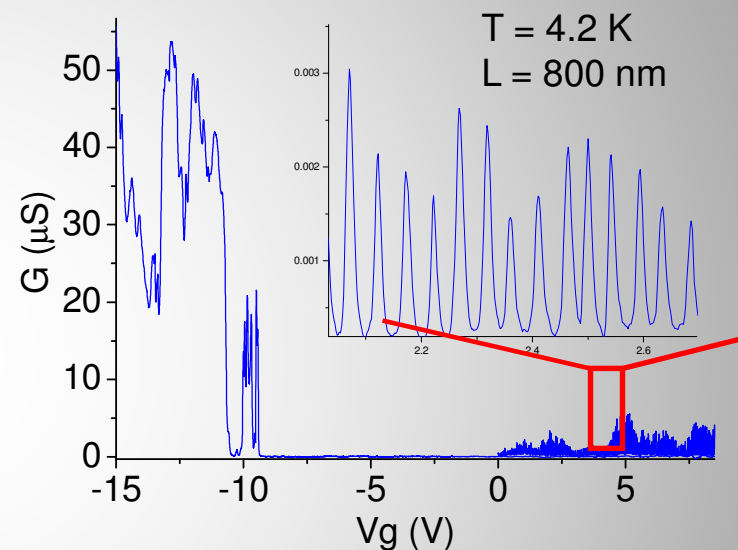


1)



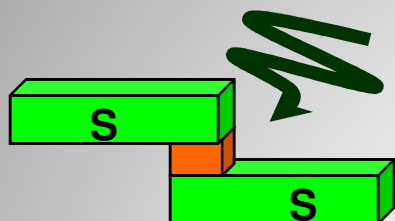
2)

Electrode material:
Ti, Al for large contact barriers

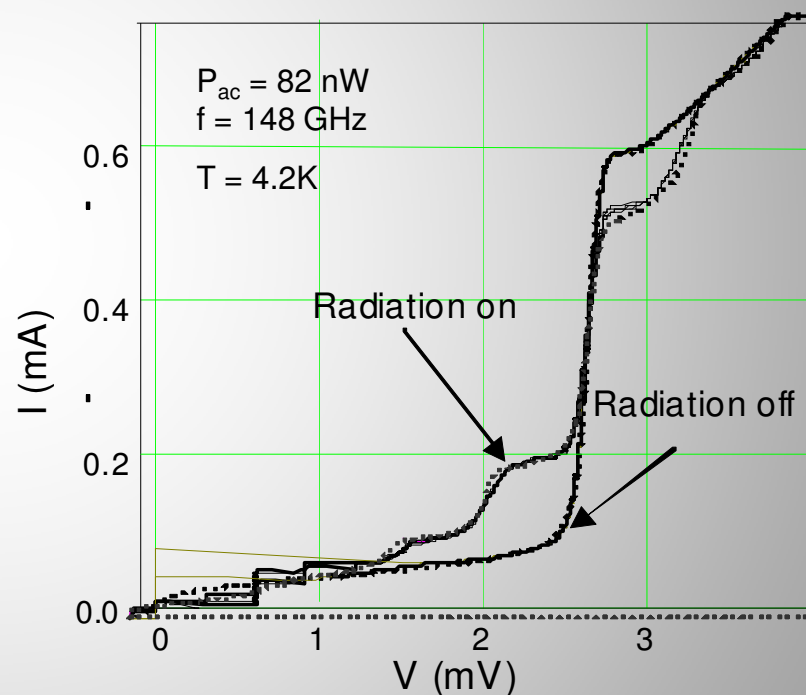
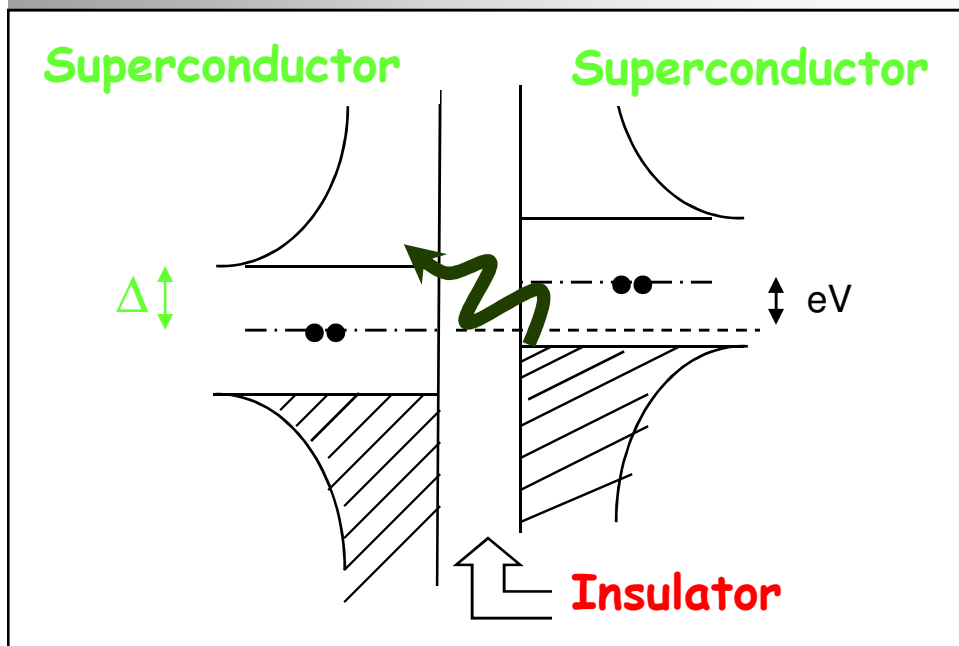




PAT in superconducting detectors



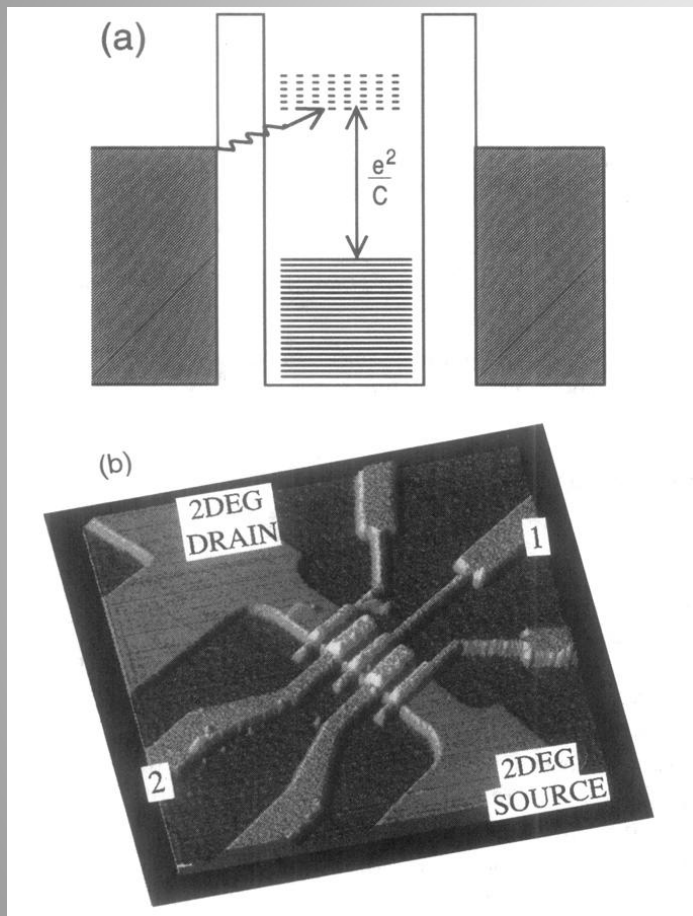
Photon assisted tunneling:
Widely used in SIS detectors



P. K. Tien and J. P. Gordon, Phys. Rev. 129, 647 (1963).

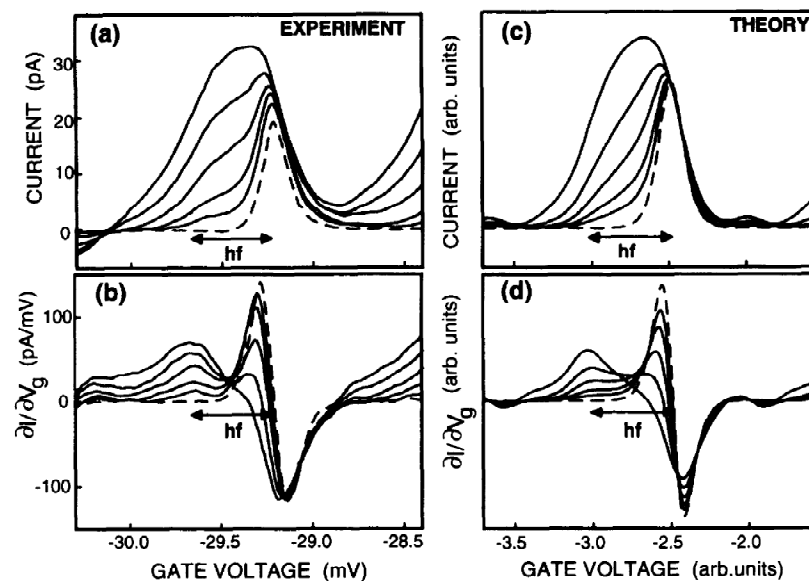


PAT in quantum dots



Photon assisted tunneling:
For quantum dots first observed in
2DEG, Kouwenhoven et al., 1994

9-36GHz, T = 100mK



D.V. Averin, A. N. Korotkov and K. K. Likharev, Phys. Rev. B **43**, 6199 (1991).

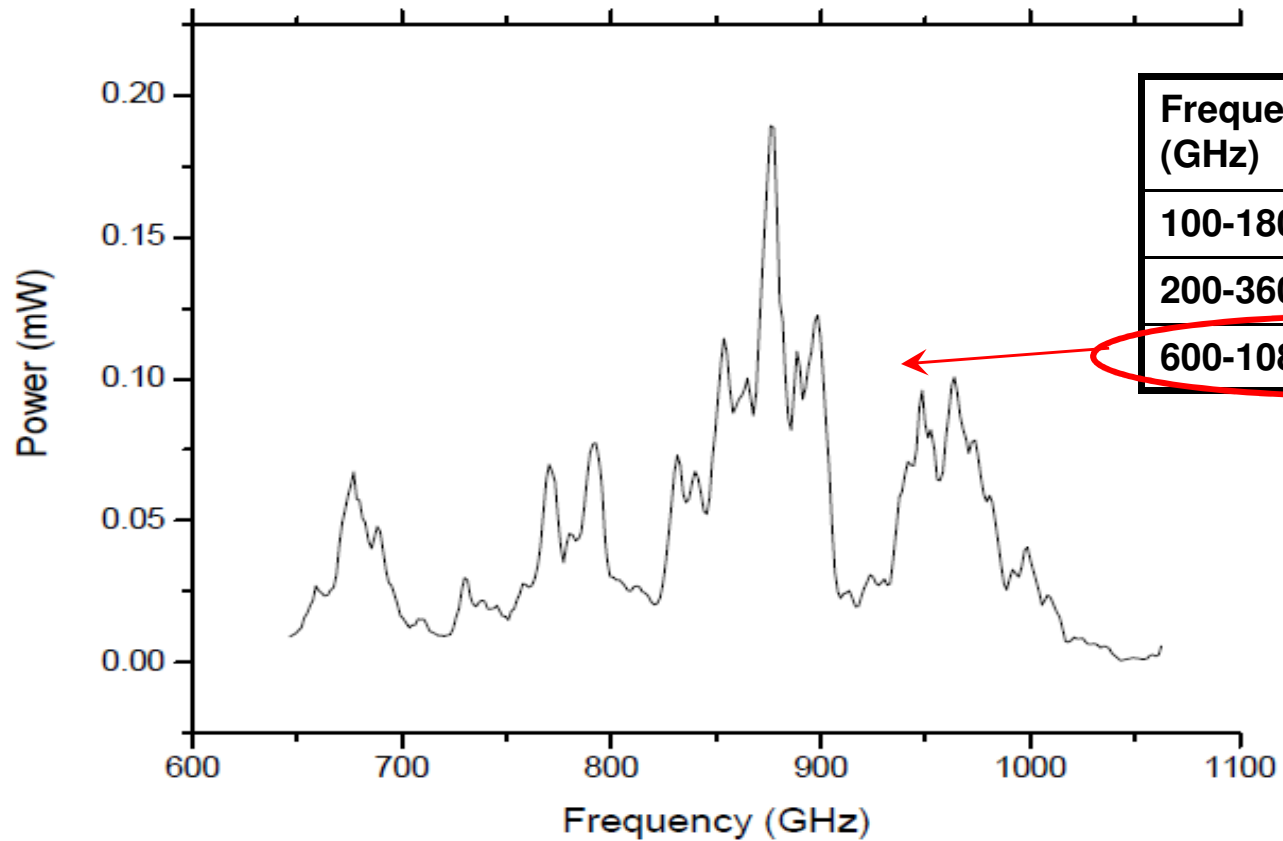
P. K. Tien and J. P. Gordon, Phys. Rev. **129**, 647 (1963).



BWO source



QS2-1000 Power Spectrum in 6x Configuration

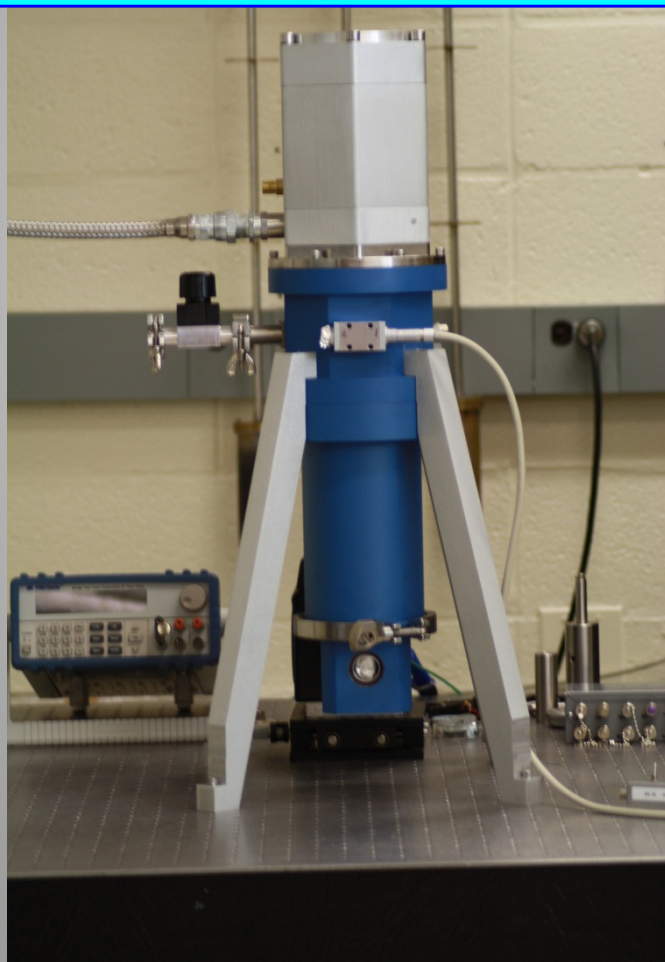




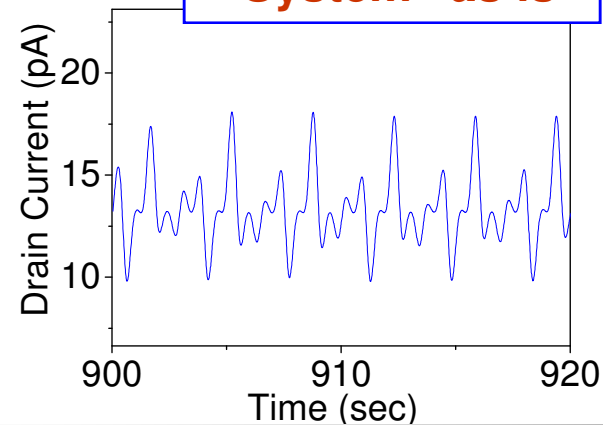
Cryo-free system



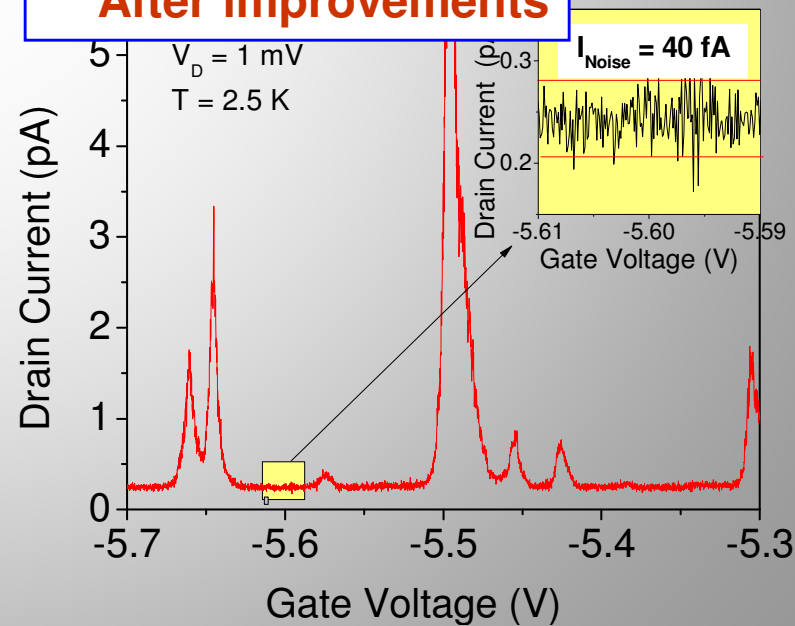
Improving noise level of a commercial close cycle cryostat for quantum dot spectrometer measurements.



System "as is"

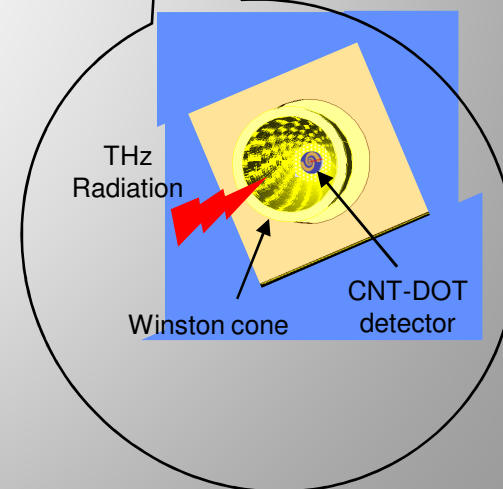
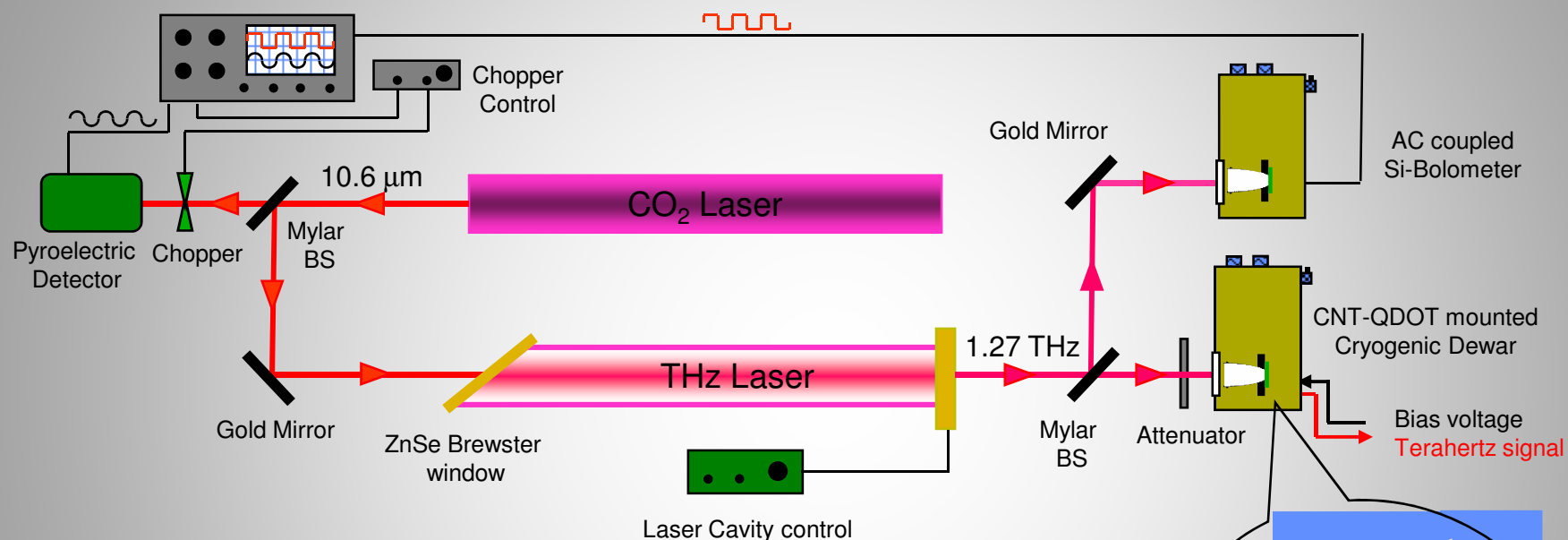


After improvements





THz laser source @ UMD





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