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Quantum interference effects and molecular electronics

Philippe Lafarge

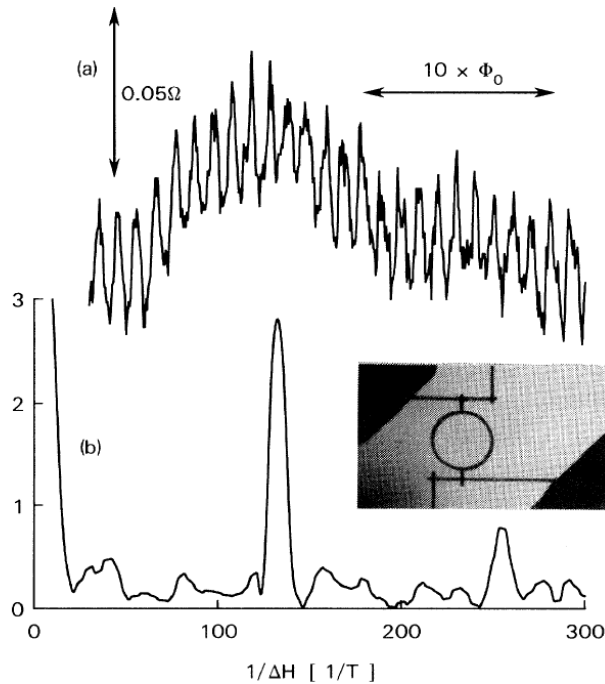
Université Paris Diderot, CNRS, Paris, France
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Optics 2014 - sept. 10, 2014

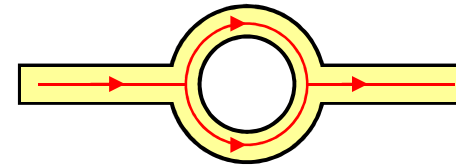
Quantum interference in mesoscopic systems

Aharonov-Bohm effect in a metal ring



R. A. Webb *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **54**, 2696 (1985)

phase coherent transport



$$|\Psi\rangle = c_1|\varphi_1\rangle + c_2|\varphi_2\rangle$$

$$P_{QM} = |A_1 + A_2|^2$$



quantum interference

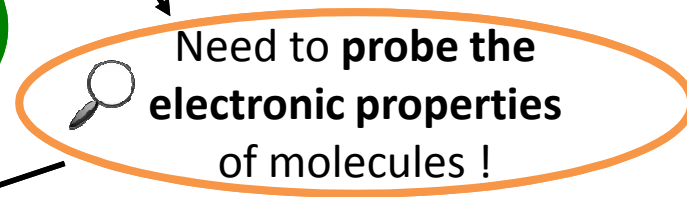
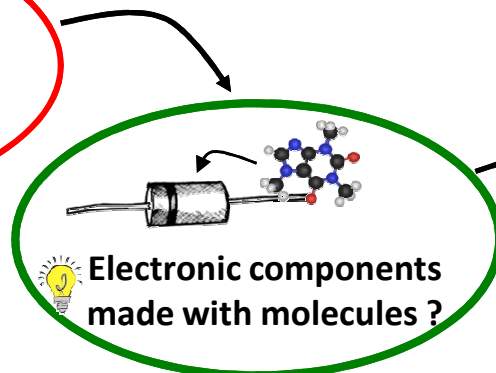
phase shift controlled by magnetic flux
 $= \pi \Phi/\Phi_0$

Molecular electronics

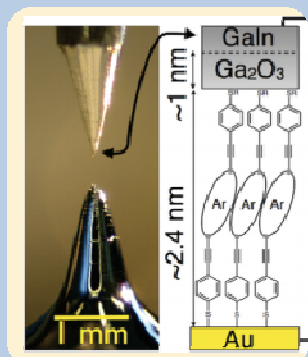
- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interference
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

MOLECULES

- Nanoscale structures
- chemically active
- Cost-effective

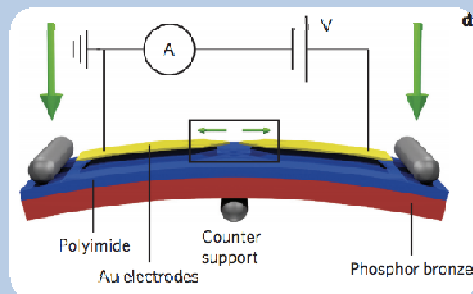


Molecular junctions



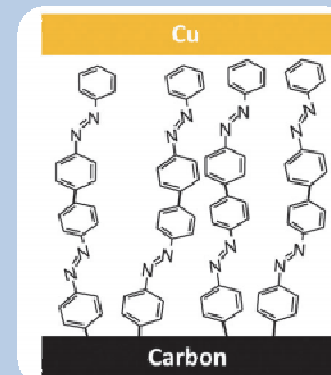
D. Fracasso et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 133, 9556-9563

Monolayer molecular junctions
Based on self assembled monolayers (SAMs)



M. L. Perrin et al. *Nat Nano* **2013**, 8, 282-287

Mechanically controlled break-junctions
One or a few molecules connected



R. McCreery et al. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2013**, 15, 1065

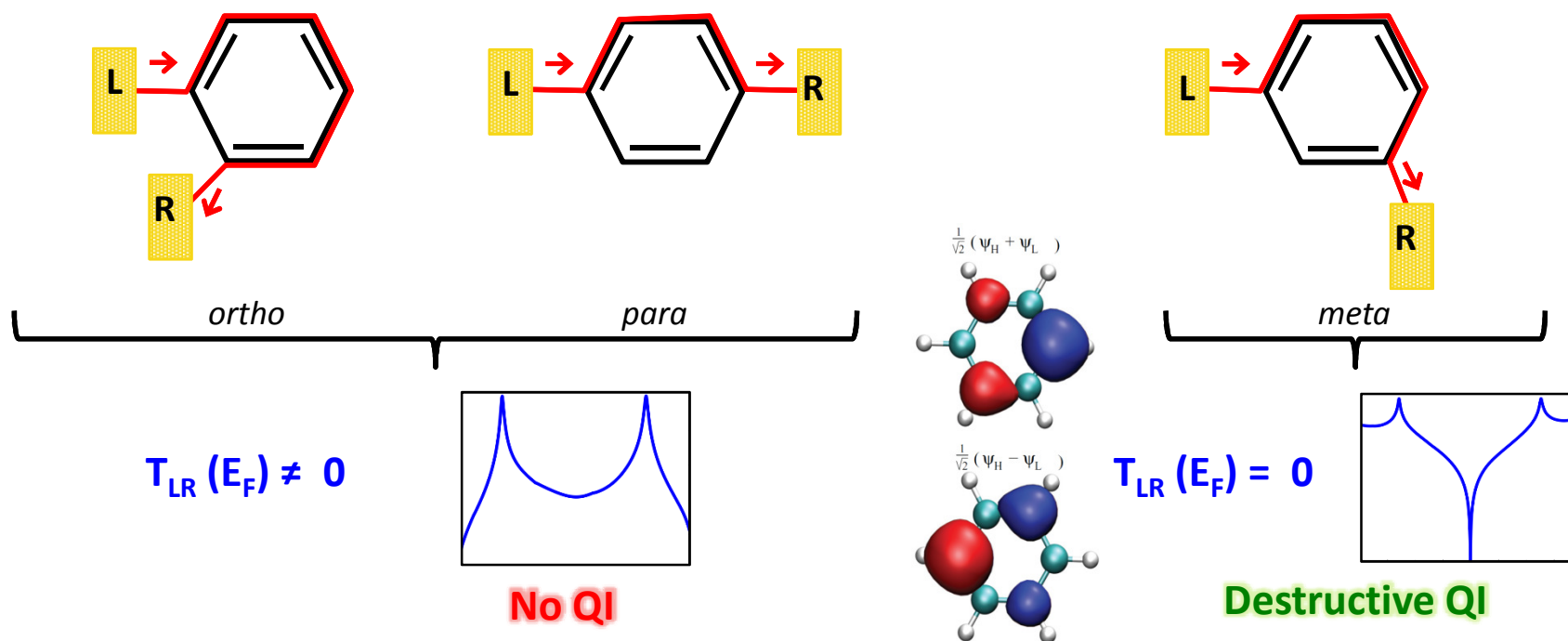
Solid state planar junction
Millions of molecules are connected thanks to electrografting

Quantum interference

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interference
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

- The connection between the molecule and the electrodes influences the
- electronic properties described by the electronic transmission probability $T_{LR}(E)$

↳ Electron transport through a single benzene molecule connected in ortho, para or meta.



P. Sautet, C. Joachim, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, **153**, 511 (1988)

T. Markussen et al. *Nano Lett.* **10**, 4260-4265 (2010)

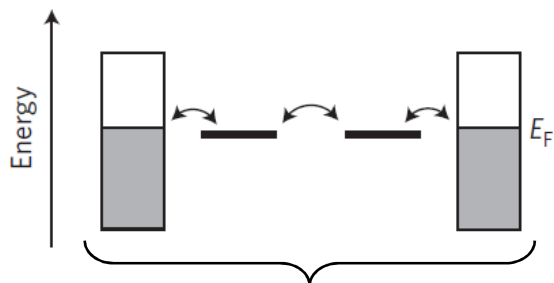
C. R. Arroyo et al. *Ang.Chem.*, **125**, 3234-3237 (2013)

QI and molecular structure

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interference
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives



linearly conjugated
Anthracene (AC)



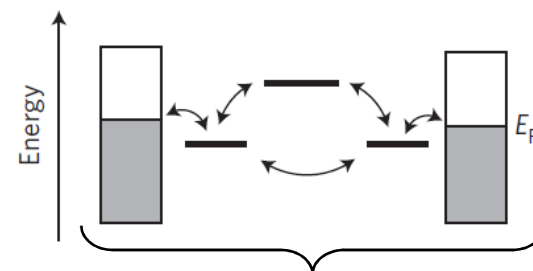
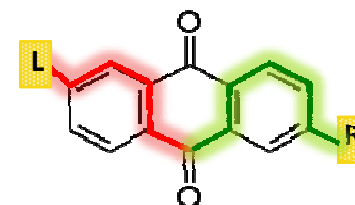
Only **1 path** allowed

Constant transmission function at E_f

No QI

✓ **Molecular junctions**
Energy diagrams
(Localized Molecular Orbitals)

cross conjugated
Anthraquinone (AQ)



2 phase-opposed electronic paths

Antiresonance in the transmission function

$$T(E_f) = 0$$

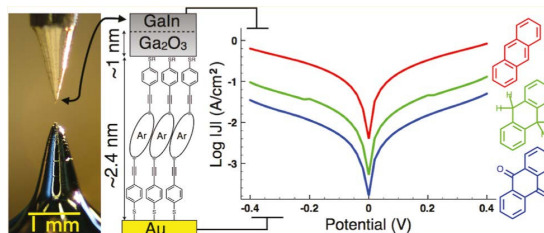
Destructive QI

First experimental evidences

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interference
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

- In SAMs of AC and AQ arylethynylene thiolates with eutectic Ga-In top contacts

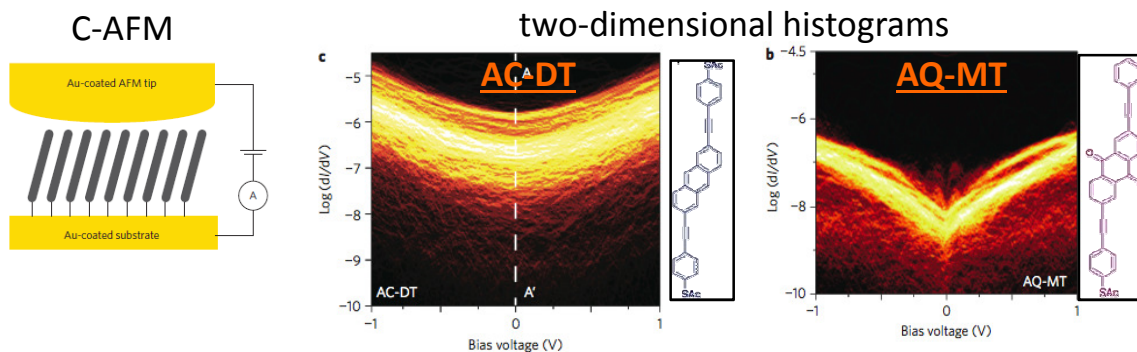
D. Fracasso et al., JACS 133, 9556 (2011)



$$I_{AQ}(V) < I_{AC}(V)$$

- From an indirect measurement of AQ and AC based SAMs, statistical analysis

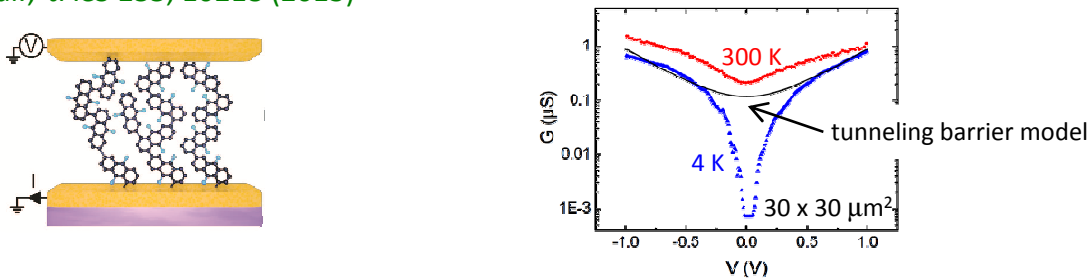
C.M.Guédon et al. Nat Nano. 7, 305-309 (2012)



$$dI/dV \text{ vs } V$$

- In AQ based molecular junctions from a direct measurement of the conductance curves

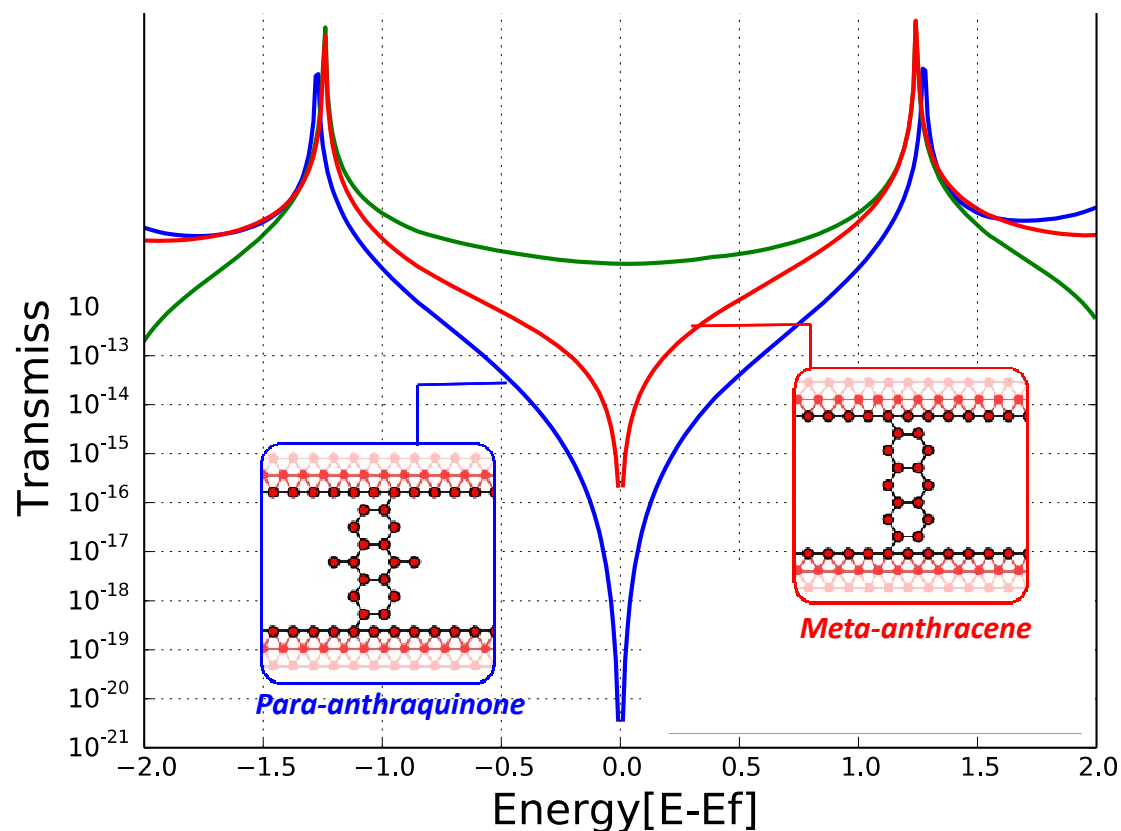
Rabache et al., JACS 135, 10218 (2013)



Transmission function calculation

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

- **Tight binding approach** applied to charge transport (KWANT)
- Key role played by **the way the molecules are connected to the electrodes.**



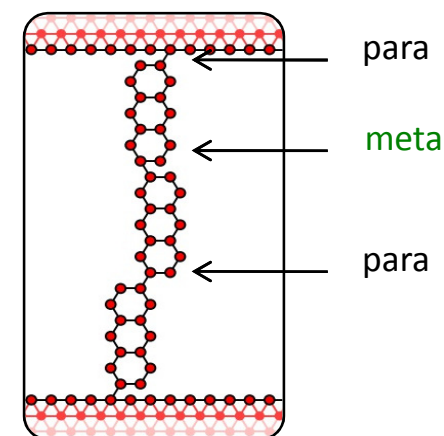
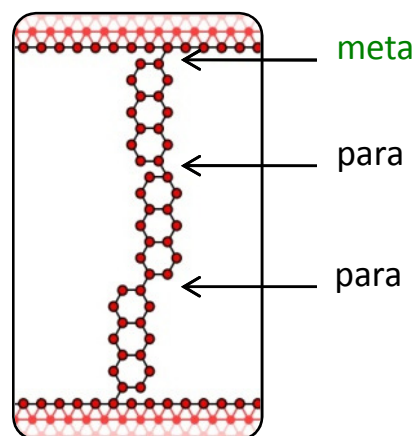
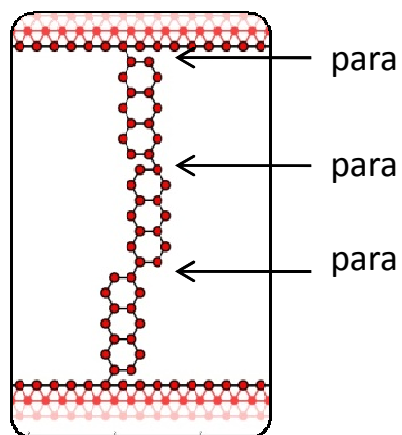
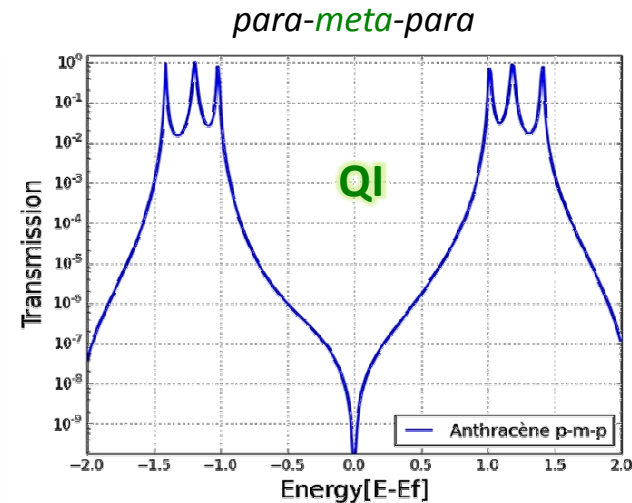
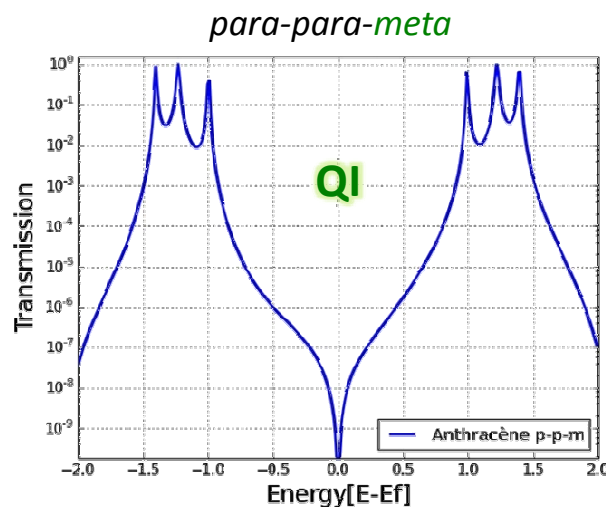
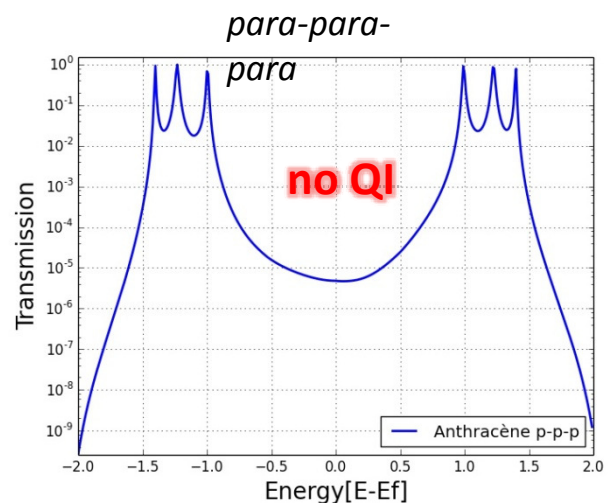
Parameters

On site energies = 0eV / Coupling energies = -3eV / Coupling to the electrodes = -1eV

Simulations for anthracene

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

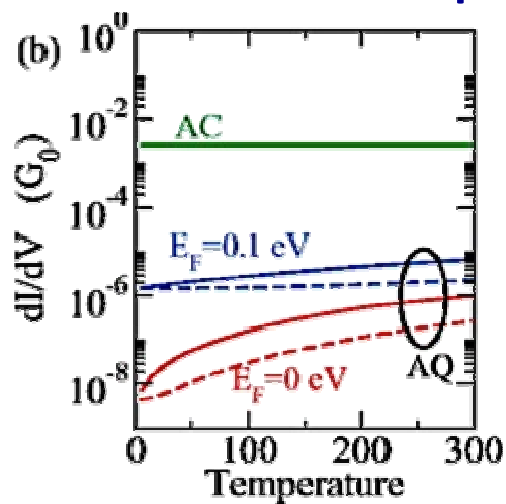
- One meta connection in a chain is enough to make QI occur



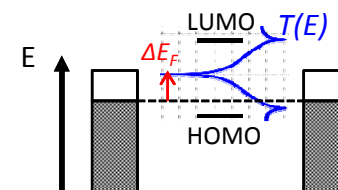
Recent theoretical predictions

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

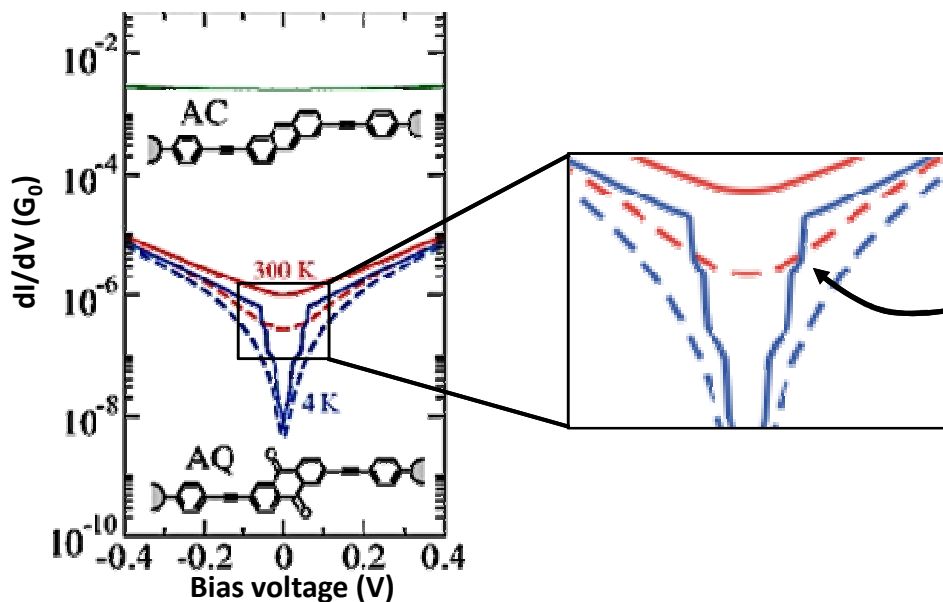
Influence of the temperature on QI effects



- No thermal activation
- Dependence on the **alignment of the transmission node** and the **Fermi level** (blue and red lines)
- **el-ph interactions** (solid lines)



Structures in the dI/dV curves

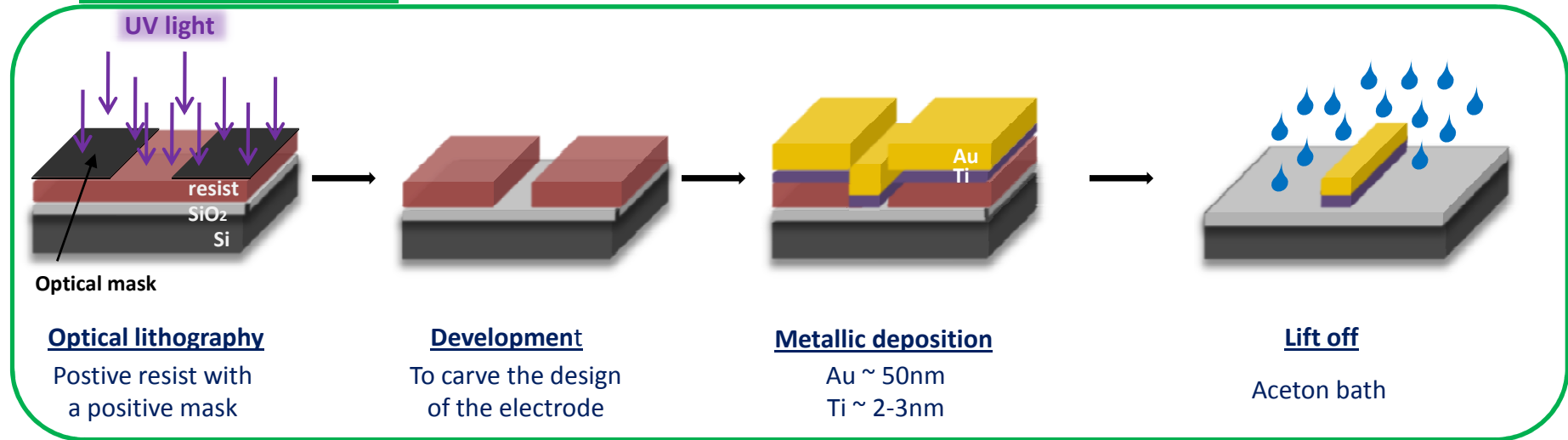


- Steps visible a low T with el-ph interactions (solid blue line), not visible at RT (solid red line)

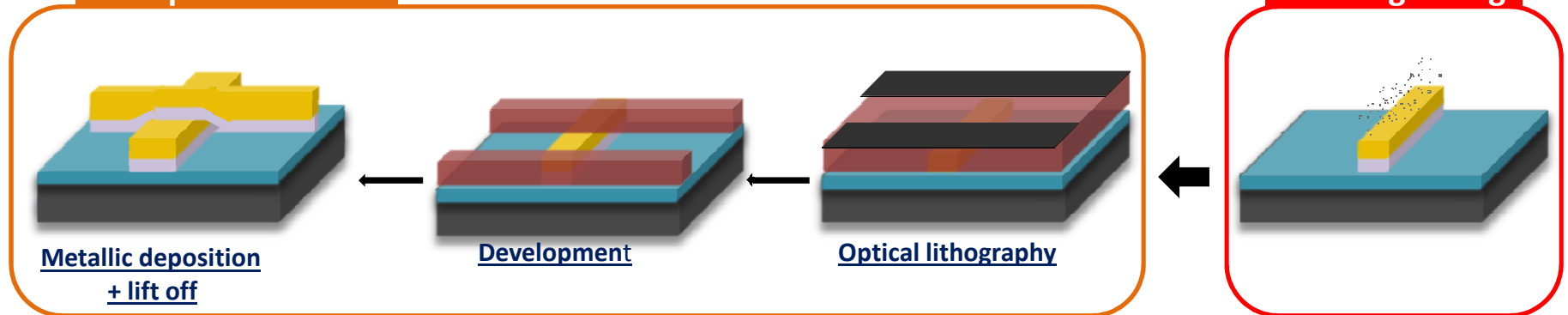
Fabrication of the junctions

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

Bottom electrode



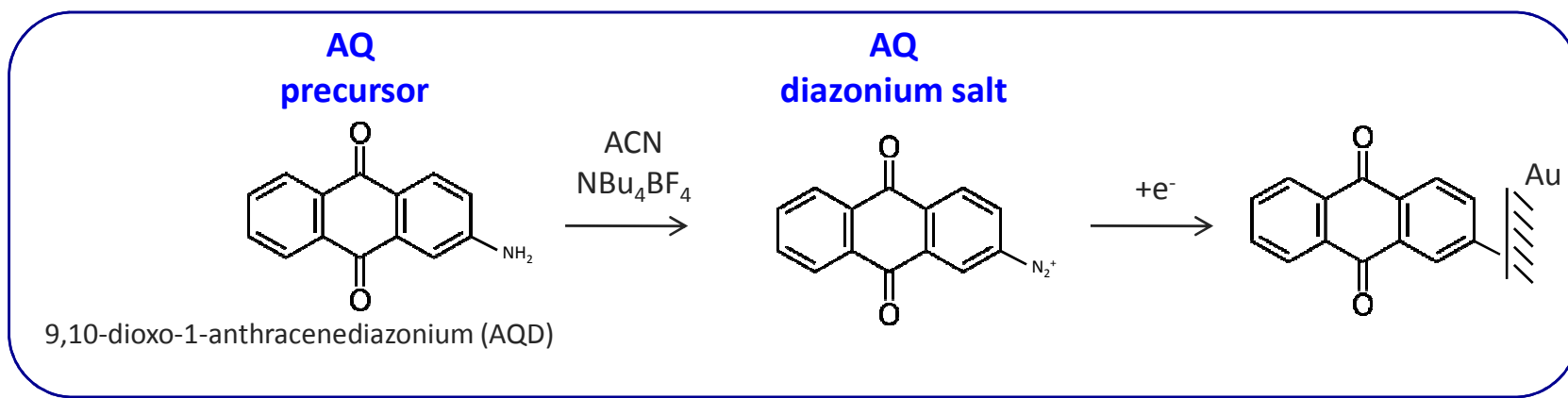
Top electrode



Fabrication of the junctions

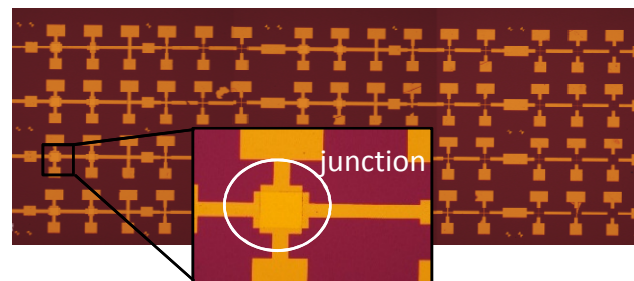
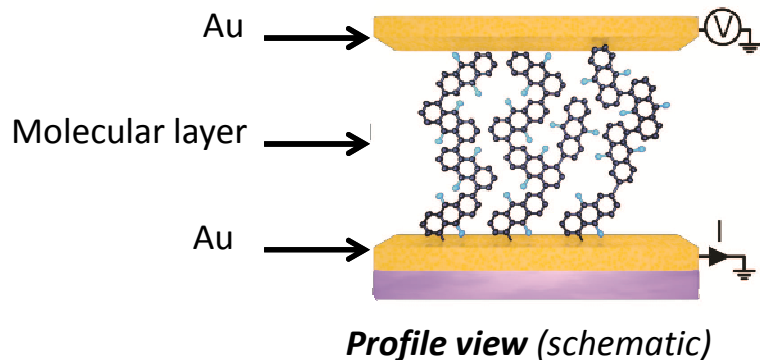
- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

➔ Formation of organic film by **reduction of diazonium salt**



P. Martin, J.-C. Lacroix, ITODYS lab, Paris Diderot University

➔ **Final solid state planar junctions** (cross bar geometry)

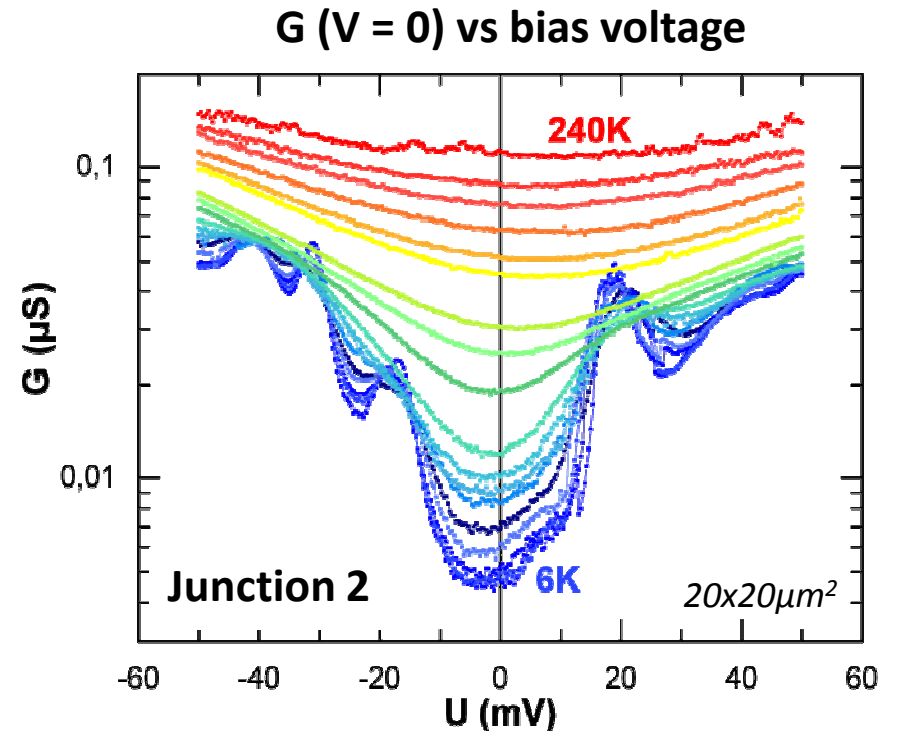
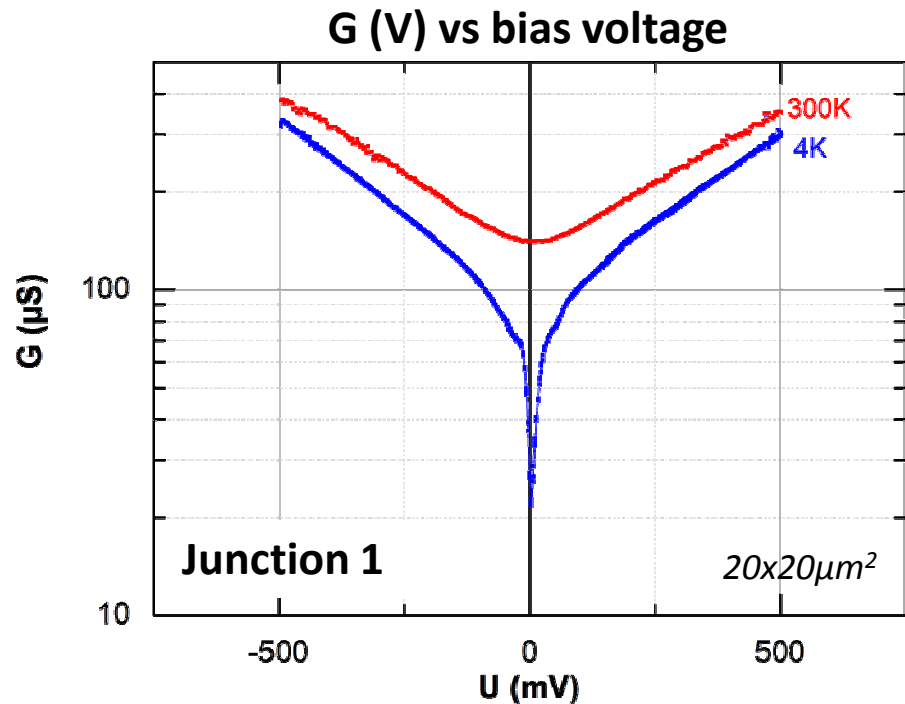


Crossed bar geometry junctions (optical image x 20)
Samples made with 24 junctions of 20x20μm²

Conductance measurements

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

- Au/ AQ /Au junctions

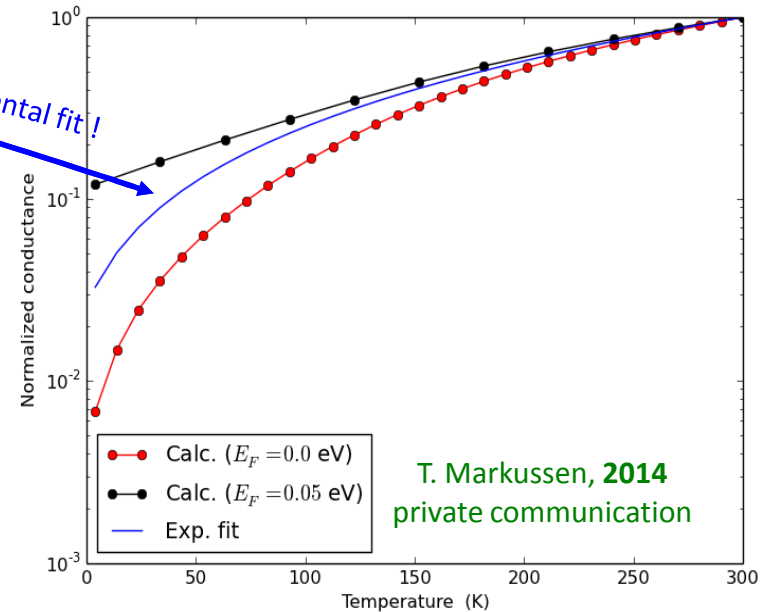
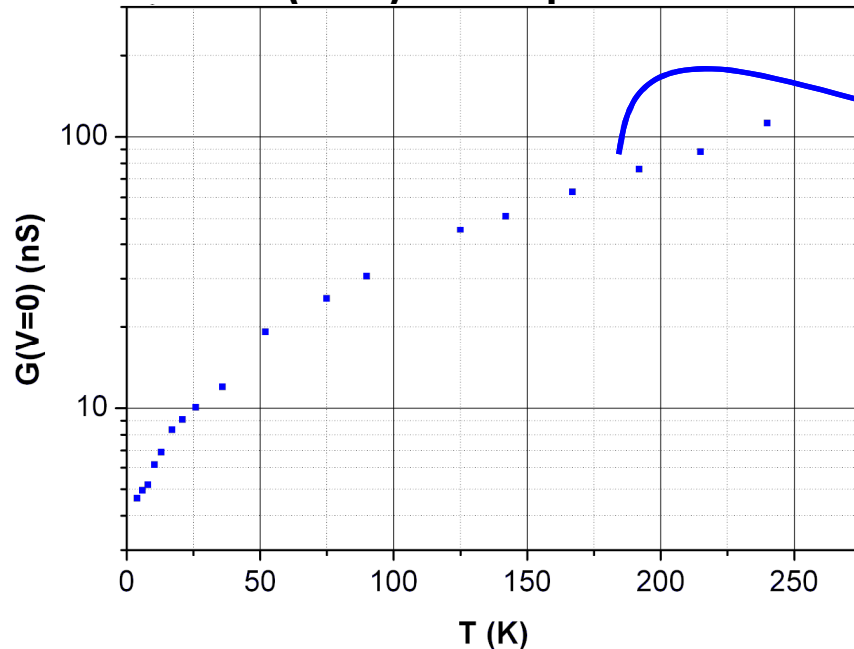


- Antiresonance dip at 4K, lower visibility at 300K
- Temperature dependent structures at low T

Conductance vs temperature

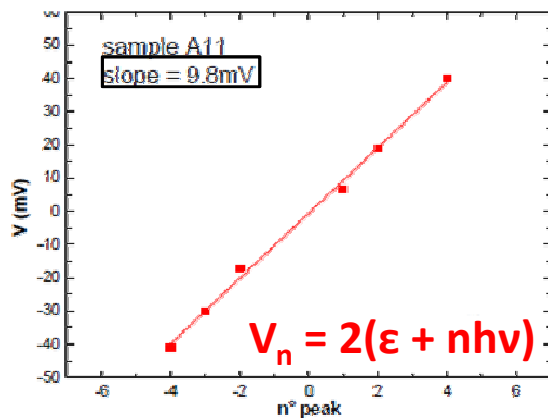
- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

G (V=0) vs temperature



T. Markussen, 2014
private communication

Energy of the structures vs the position



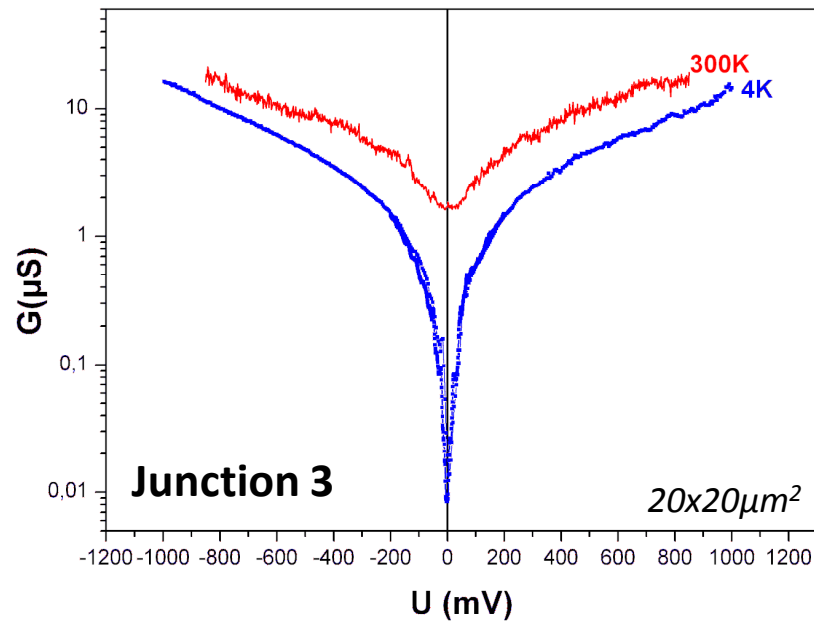
- Experimental behaviour (blue line) similar to the one predicted for single molecule junctions with el-ph interactions (red line)
- Decoherence by electron phonon coupling ?

Anthracene based junctions

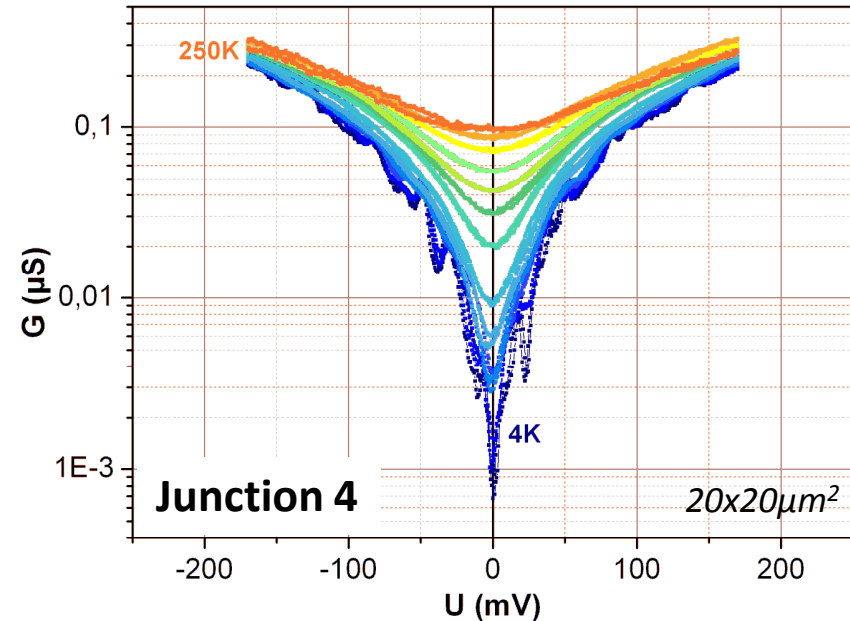
- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

- Au / AC /Au based junctions

G (V) vs bias voltage



G (V = 0) vs bias voltage

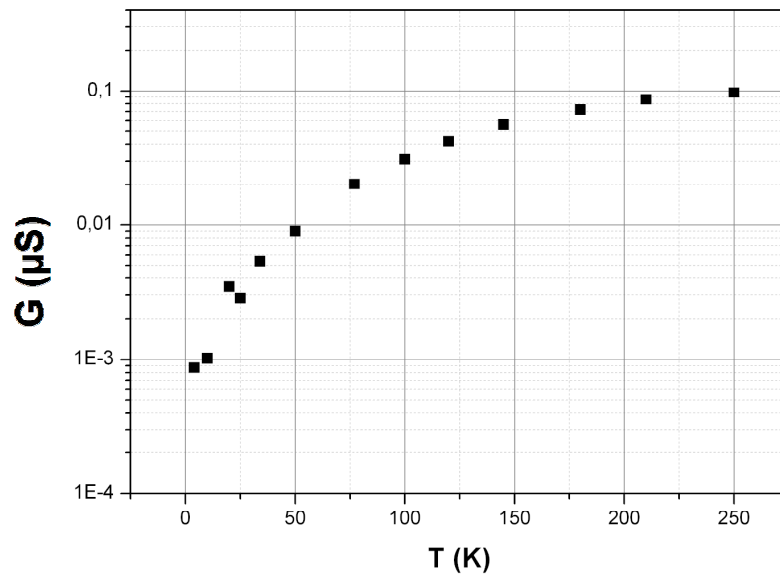


- Antiresonance dip at 4K, lower visibility at 300K as for the AQ-based junctions
- Temperature dependent structures at low T

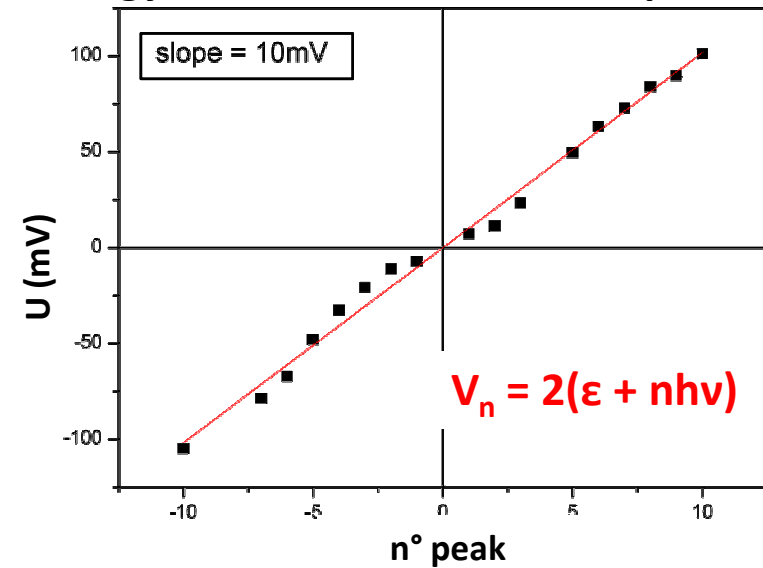
Temperature dependence

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

G (V= 0) vs temperature



Energy of the structures vs the position



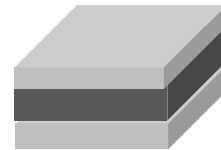
- Experimental behaviour similar to the one predicted for single and AQ based junctions
- Decoherence by electron phonon coupling ?
- Same vibrational modes as for the AQ excited

Molecular junction and tunneling

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

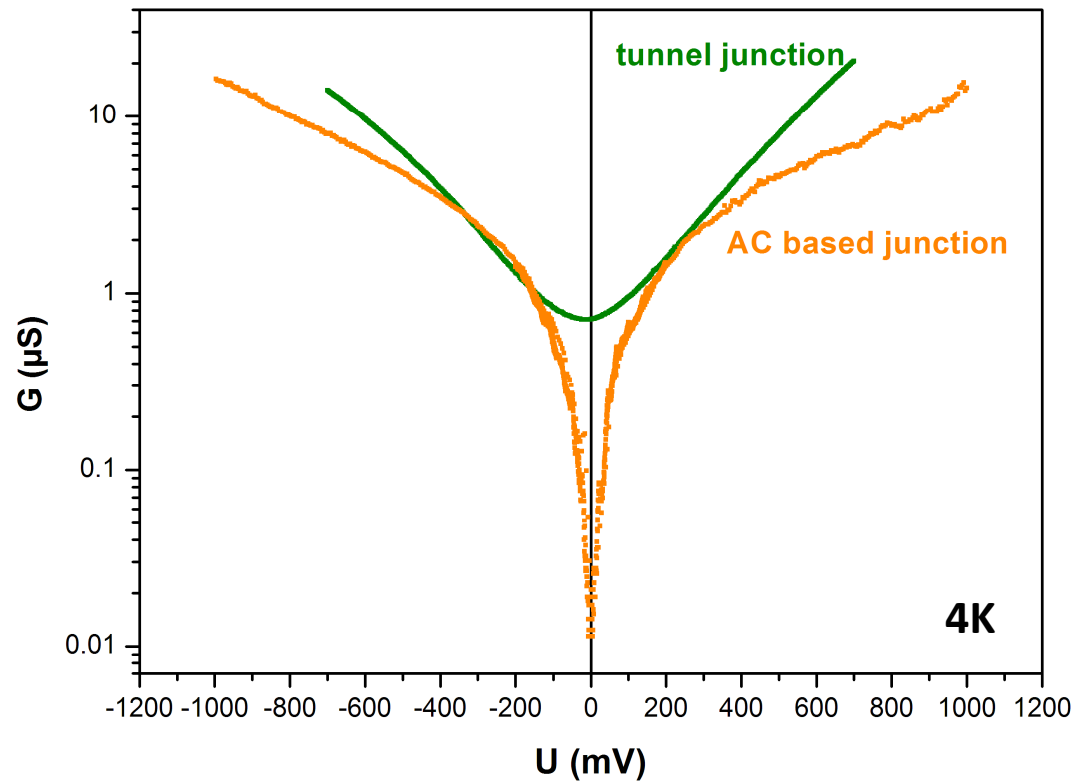
- QI vs tunnel behaviour

➔ Metallic tunnel junctions Al / Al₂O₃ / Al



Al (50nm)
Al₂O₃ (~ nm)
Al (50nm)

➔ Different shapes at low T



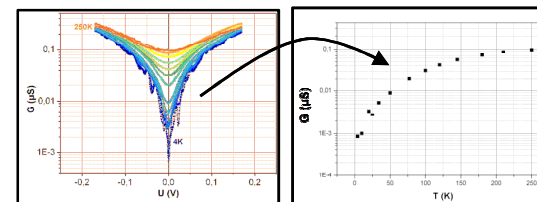
Conclusions and perspectives

- ✓ Molecular junctions
- ✓ Quantum interferences
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Experimental results
- ✓ Conclusions and perspectives

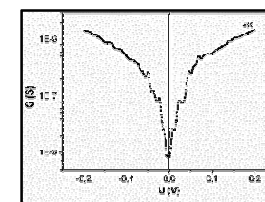
- **Large area solid state molecules based junctions** (with AQ, AC, oxides...)



- **Direct measurement of large antiresonance dip** in dI/dV curves with a **strong temperature dependence**.



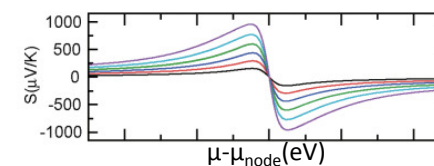
- **Additional structures at low T** that could be the **signatures of vibrational modes of the organic layer**.



- **Giant thermoelectric effect** predicted in molecular junctions where QI occur...

J.P. Bergfield and C.A. Stafford, NanoLett. 9, 3072 (2009)

J.P. Bergfield, M.A. Solis and C.A. Stafford, ACS Nano 4, 5314 (2010)



Thank you

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