

Quantum electricity: from Ampère to electron quantum optics

P. Degiovanni (ENS Lyon)

C. Chaubet (Univ. Montpellier)

A. San Miguel (Univ. Claude Bernard)

A. Feller & B. Souaille (Univ. Lille)

B. Roussel (Univ. Aalto)

G. Rebora & M. Paulet (ENS Lyon)



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

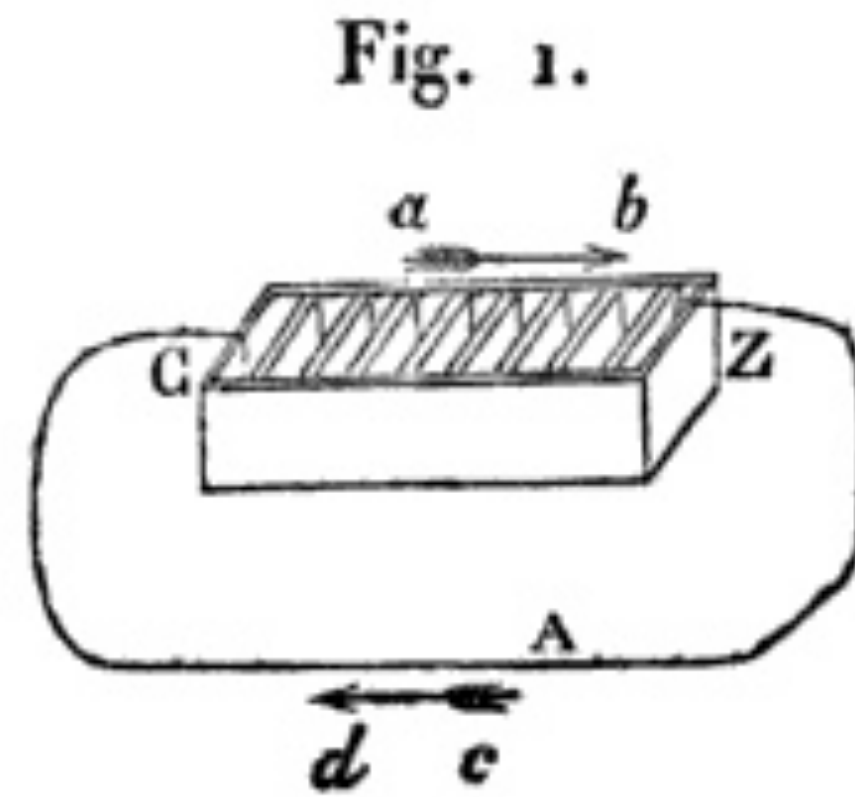


Le courant électrique de 1821 à 2025

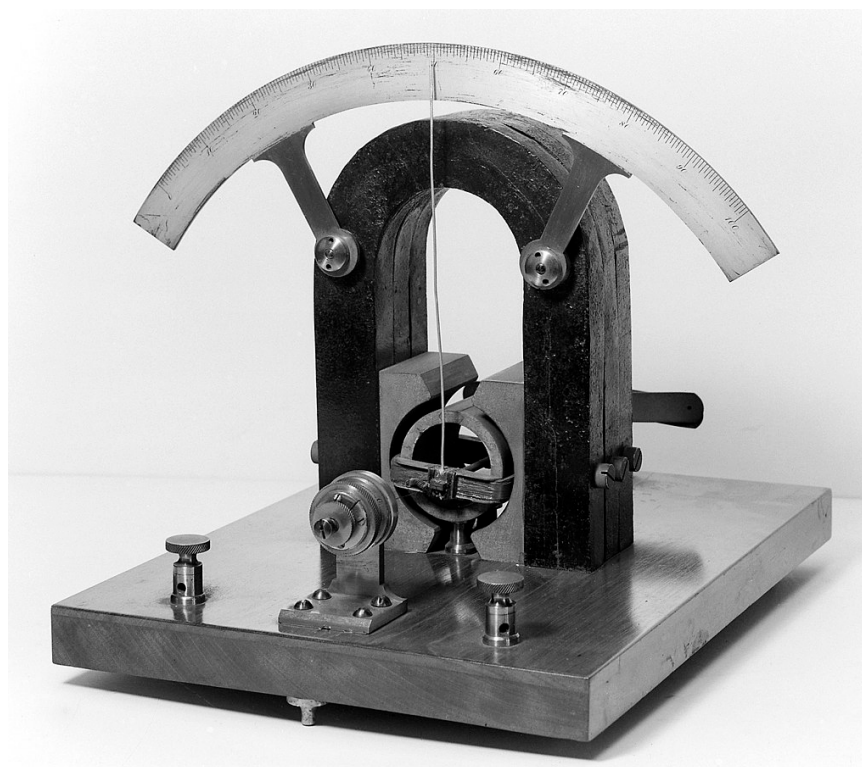
Le courant électrique de 1821 à 2025



A.M. Ampère



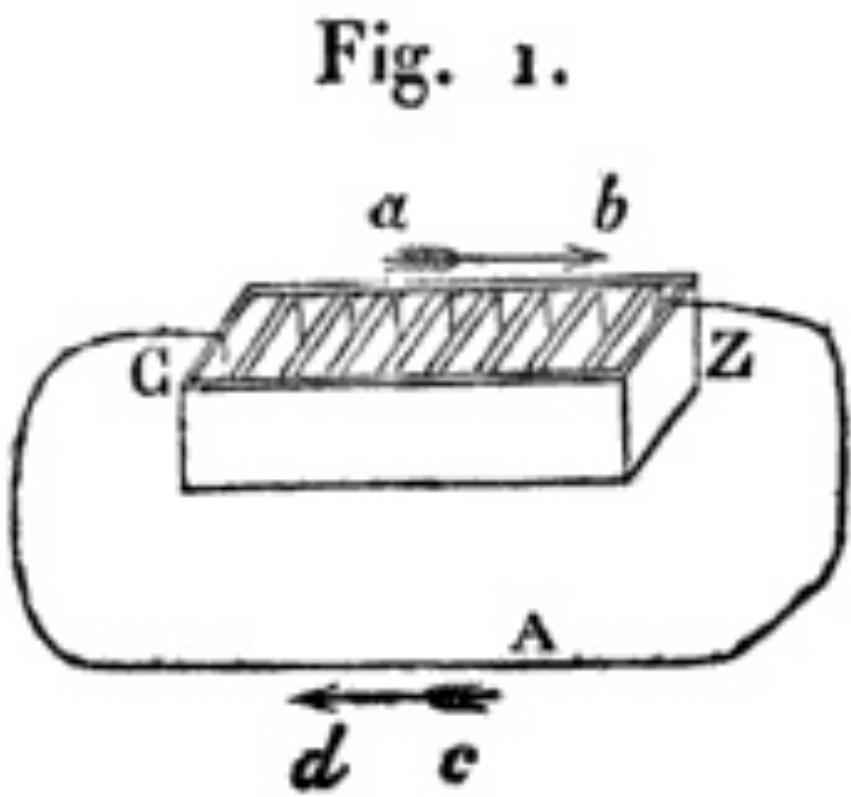
Galvanometer



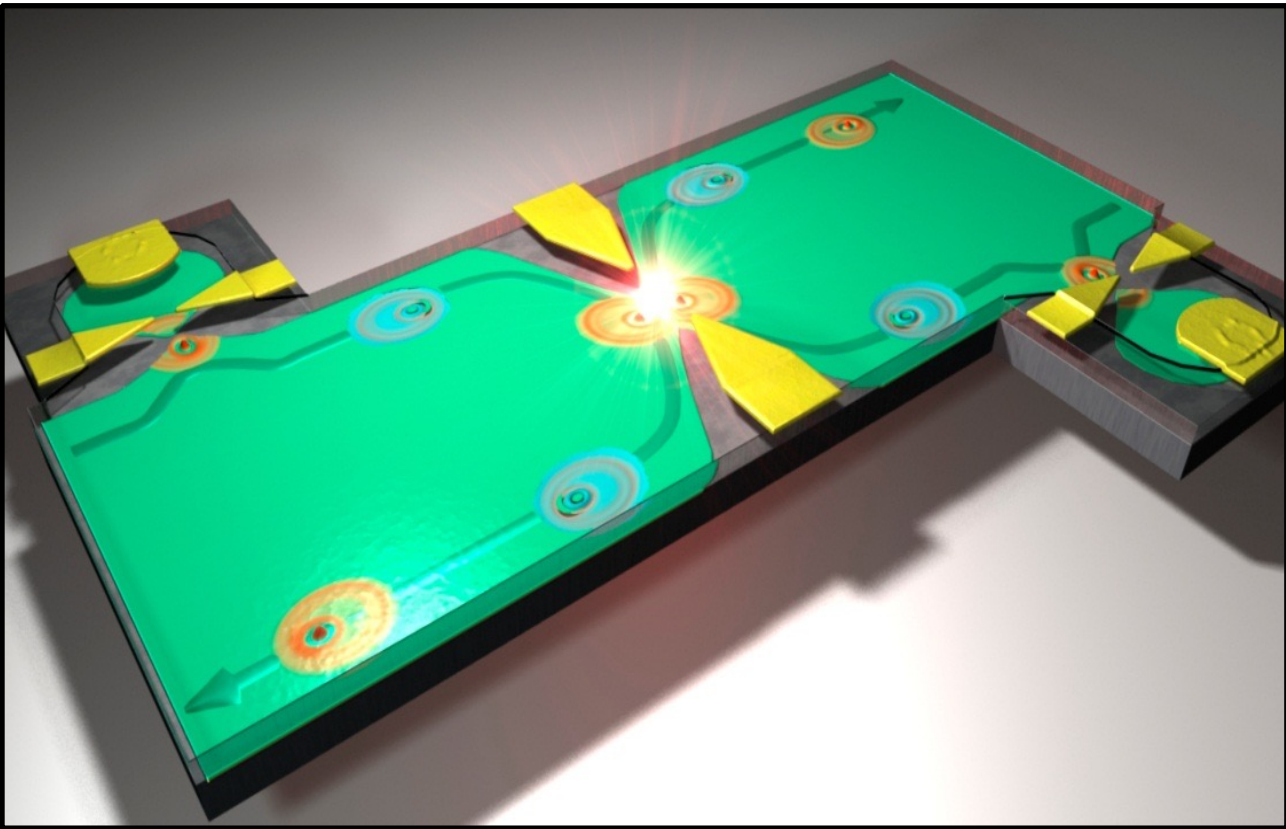
Le courant électrique de 1821 à 2025



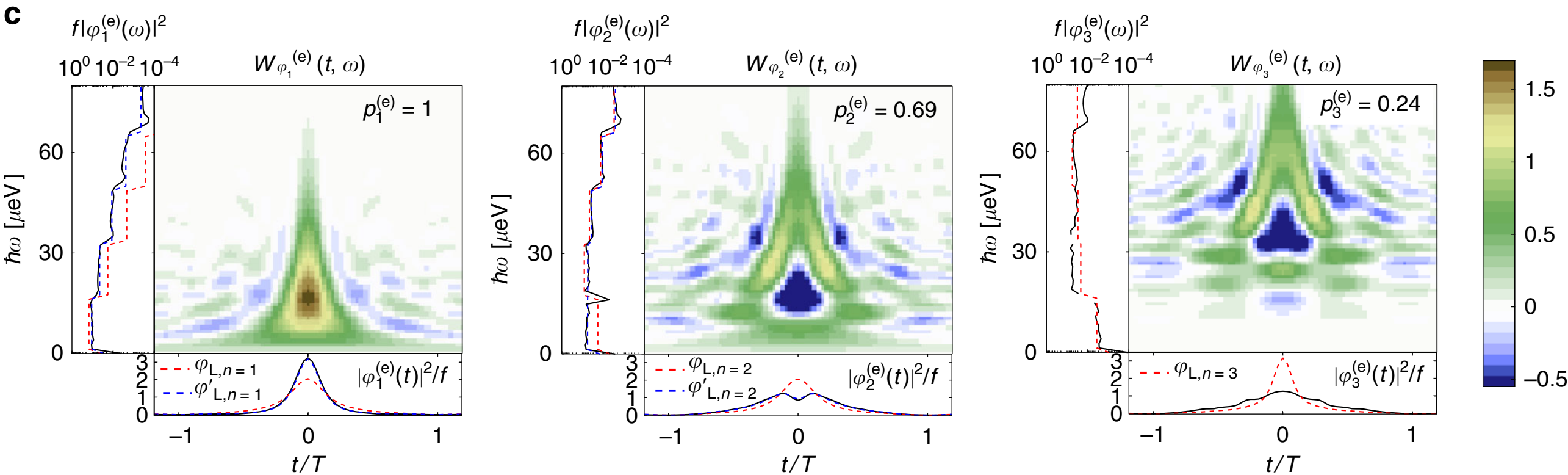
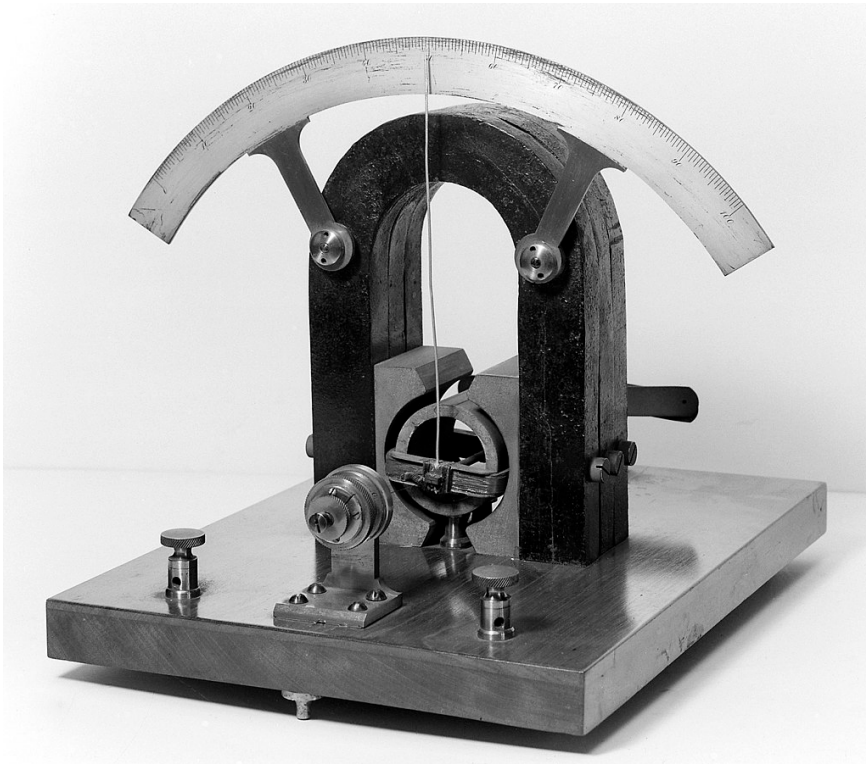
A.M. Ampère



Galvanometer



Quantum current analyzer



Outline

- From Ampère to electrical circuits
- Quantum physics within electricity
- Towards quantum coherent electronics
- Presentation of the PCP 2025 cycle

Part I: From Ampère to electrical circuits

- From Ampère to Maxwell
- Classical circuit theory
- A story of fields, charges and currents
- How does energy flow ?

From Ampère to Maxwell



From Ampère to Maxwell



1775

1836



From Ampère to Maxwell



1775

1836

1800

1820

1827

1831

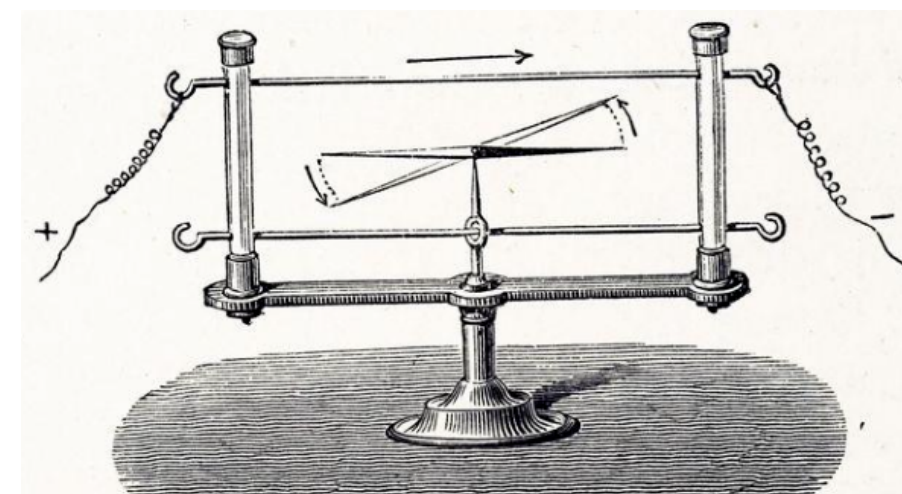
1745



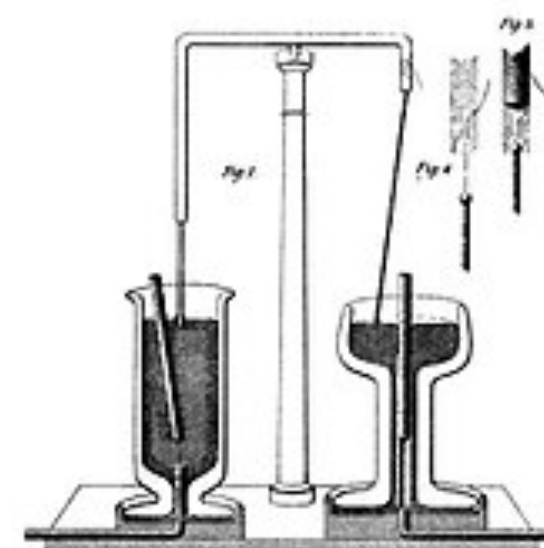
Capacitor



Battery (Volta)

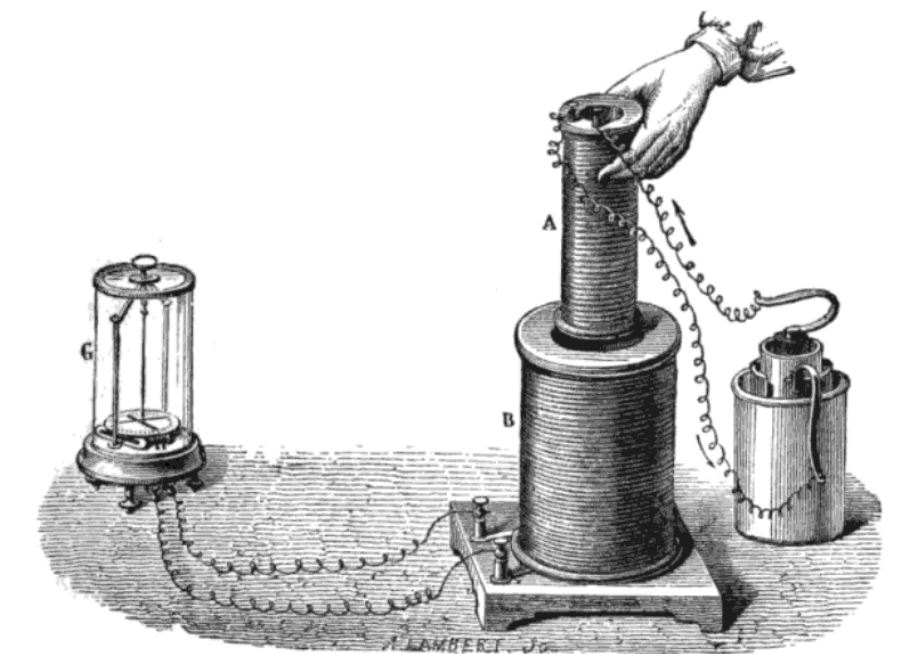


Expérience d'Oersted



Electromagnetic rotation
(Faraday 1821)

Loi d'Ohm

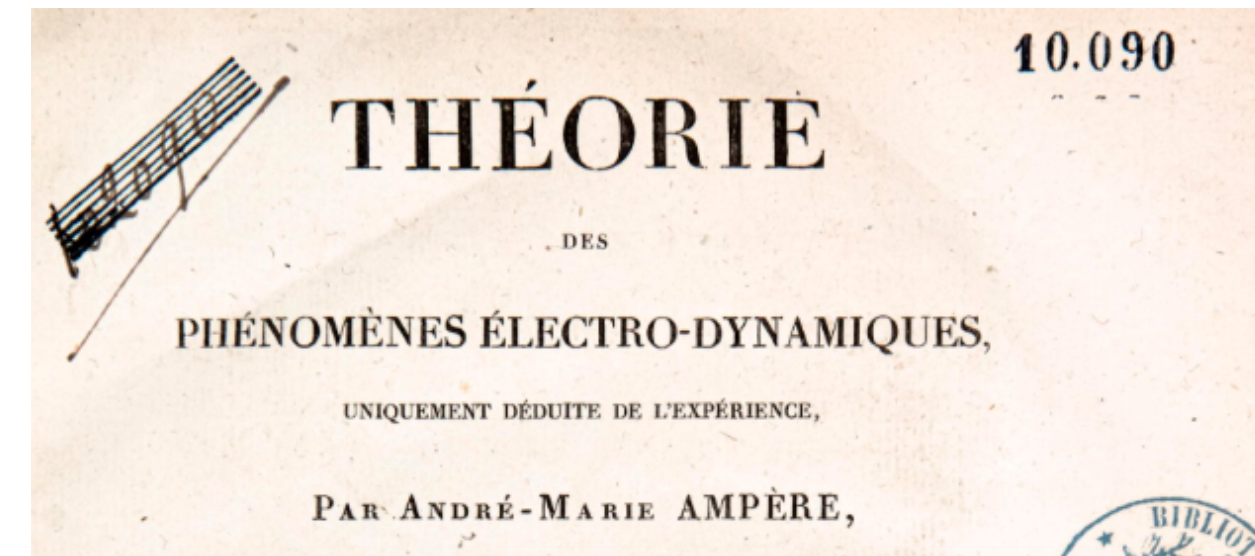


Induction (Faraday)

From Ampère to Maxwell



1775



1826

1836

1800

1820

1827

1831

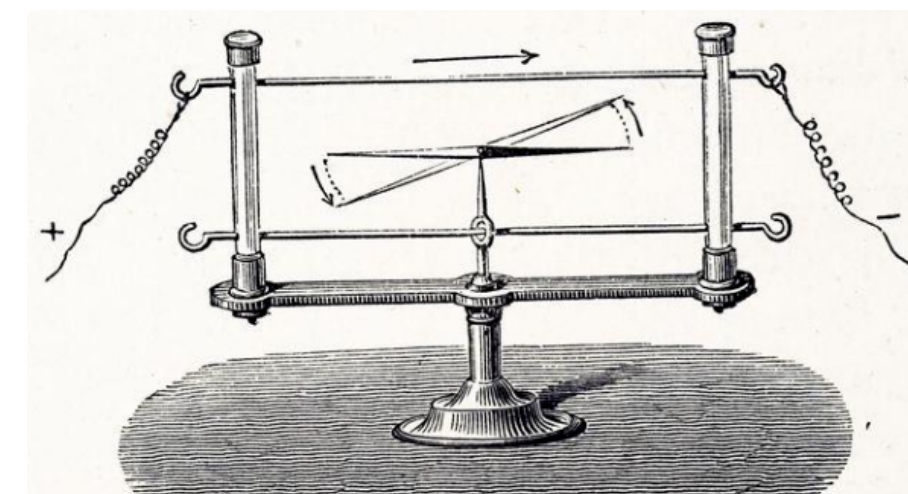
1745



Capacitor

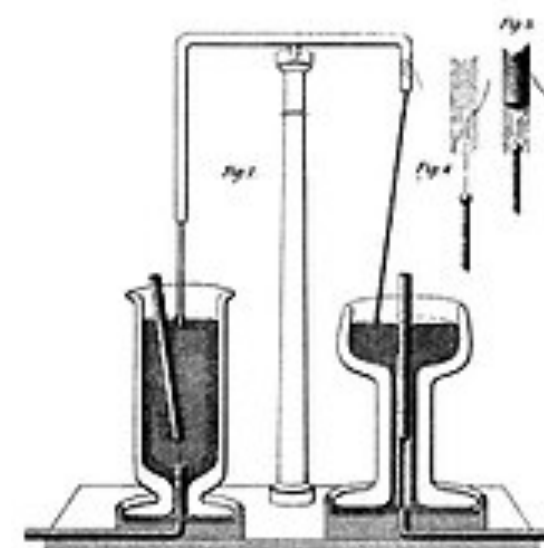


Battery (Volta)

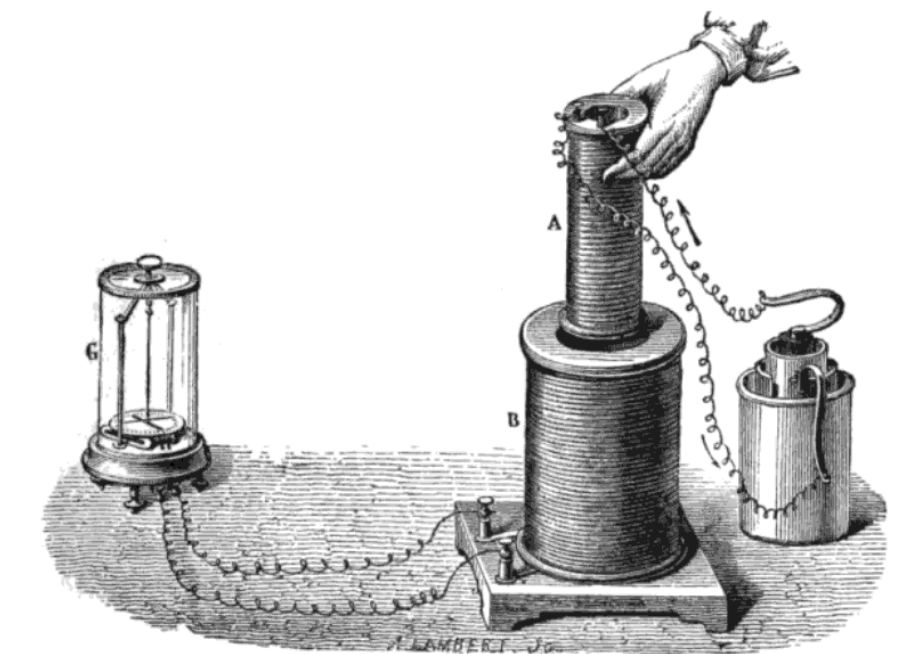


Expérience d'Oersted

Loi d'Ohm

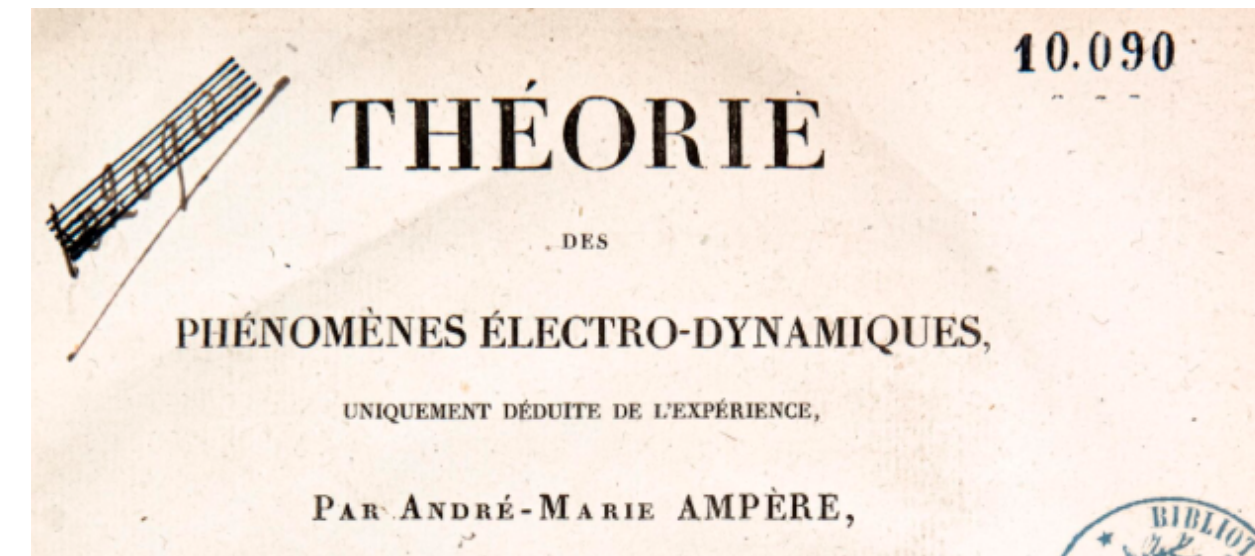


Electromagnetic rotation
(Faraday 1821)



Induction (Faraday)

From Ampère to Maxwell



1775

1820 → 1826

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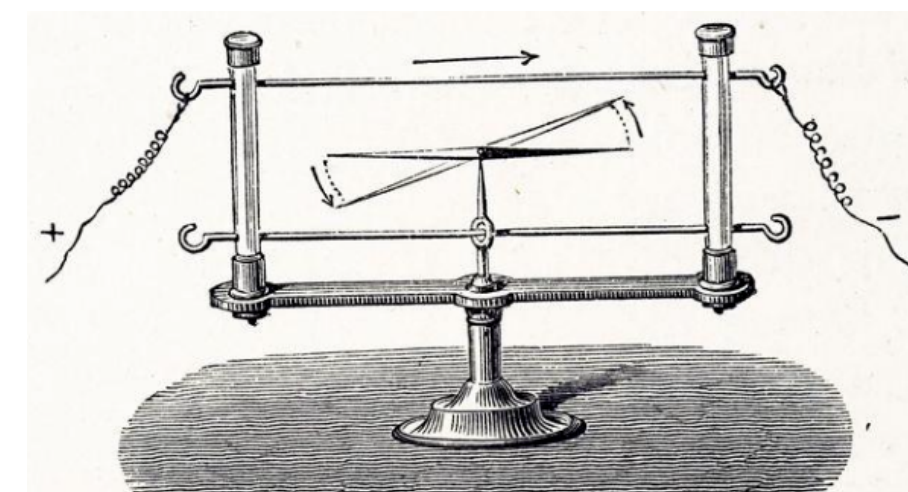
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Capacitor

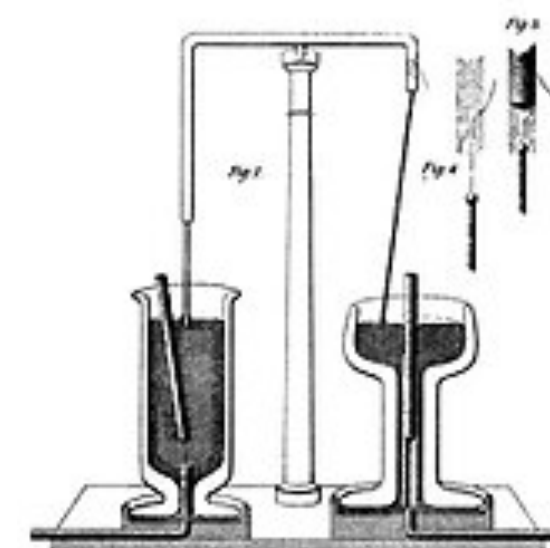


Battery (Volta)

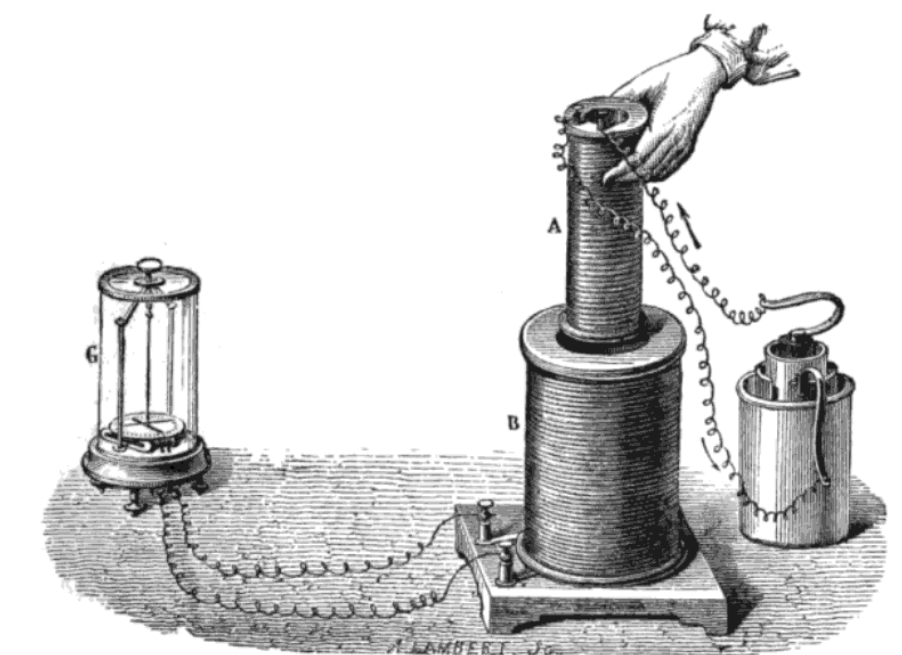


Expérience d'Oersted

Loi d'Ohm



Electromagnetic rotation
(Faraday 1821)

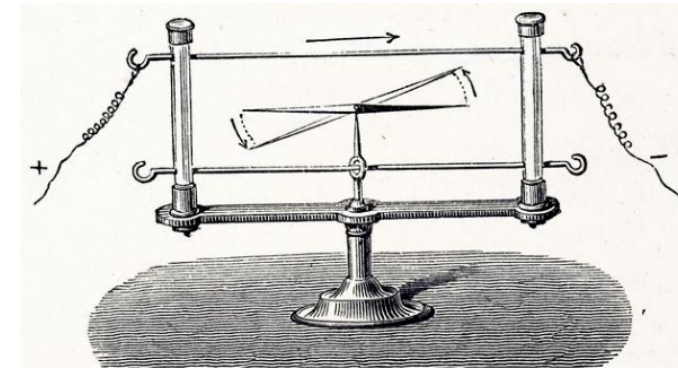


Induction (Faraday)

From Ampère to Maxwell

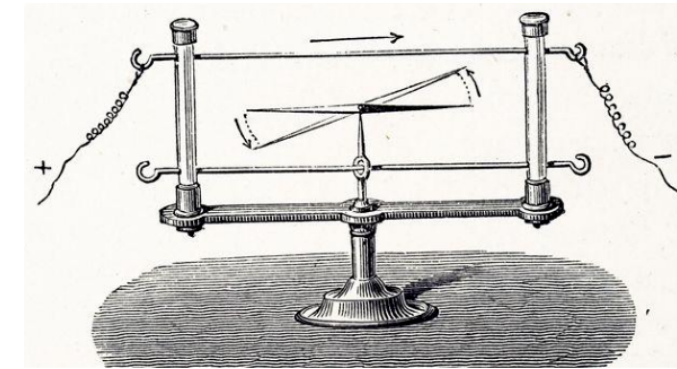
From Ampère to Maxwell

Notion de courant électrique

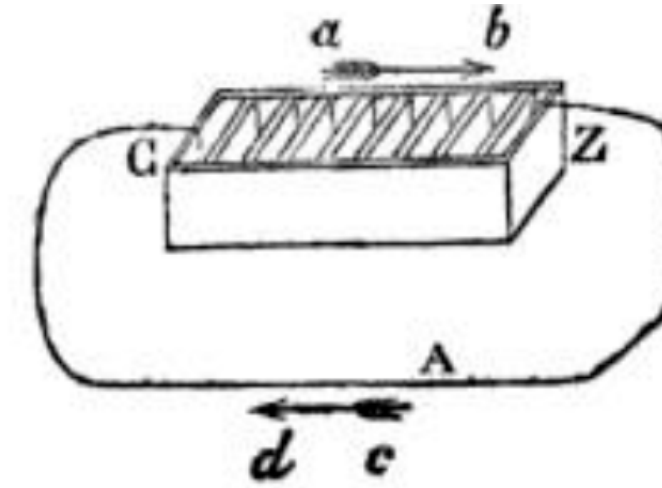


From Ampère to Maxwell

Notion de courant électrique

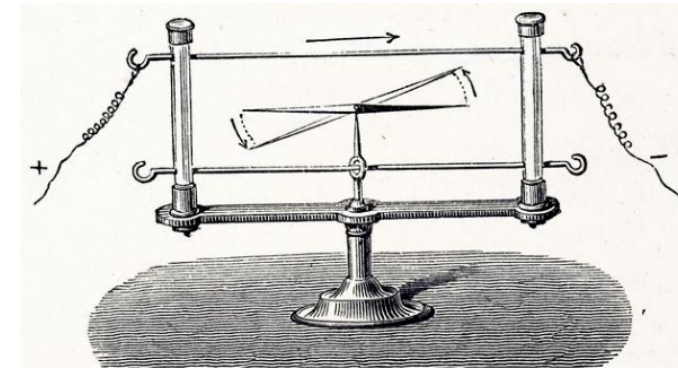


Notion de circuit électrique

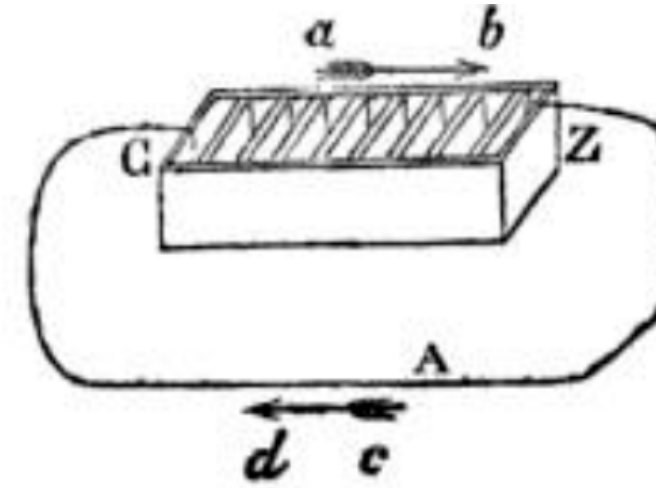


From Ampère to Maxwell

Notion de courant électrique



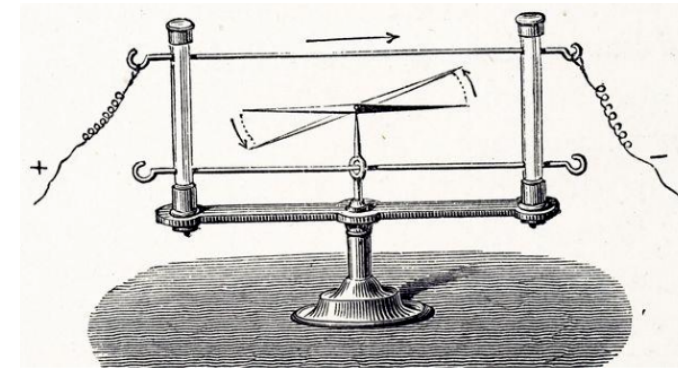
Notion de circuit électrique



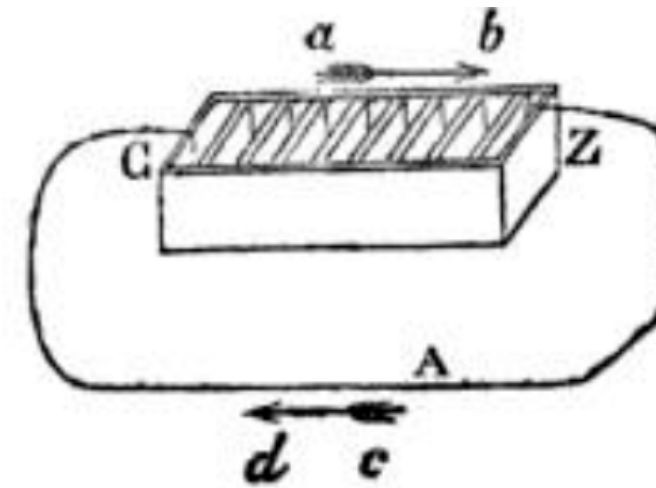
Unification électricité et magnétisme

From Ampère to Maxwell

Notion de courant électrique

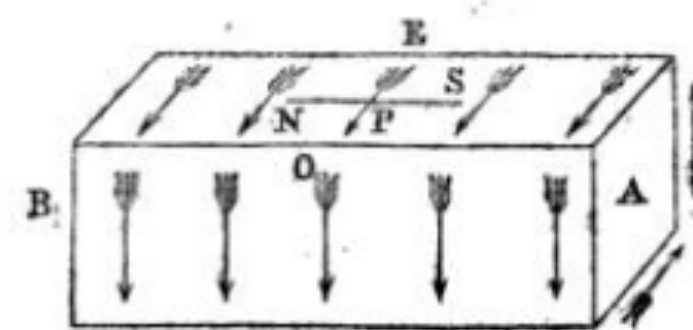


Notion de circuit électrique



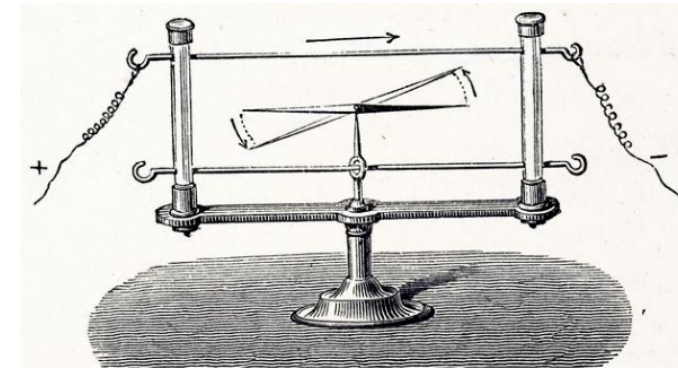
Unification électricité et magnétisme

Courants moléculaires

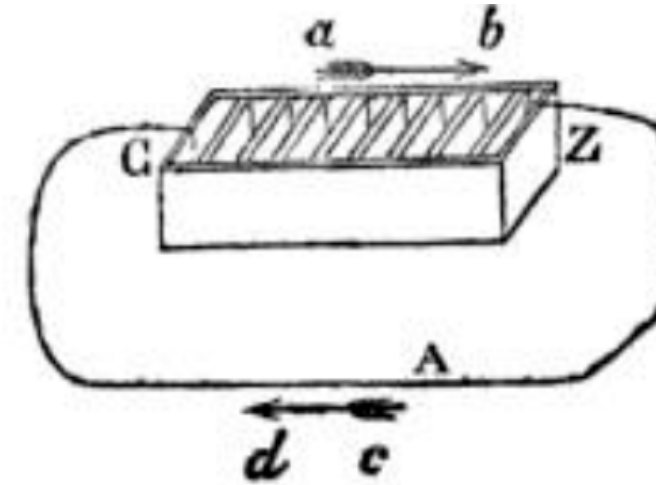


From Ampère to Maxwell

Notion de courant électrique

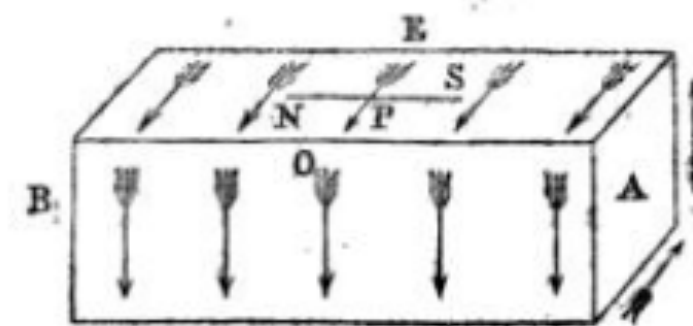


Notion de circuit électrique

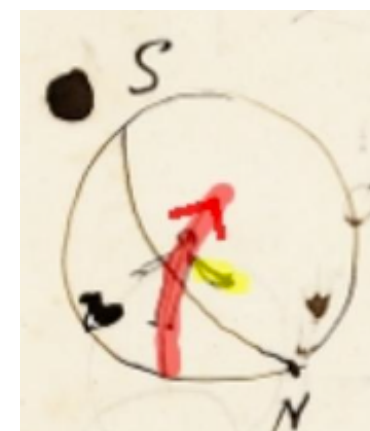


Unification électricité et magnétisme

Courants moléculaires

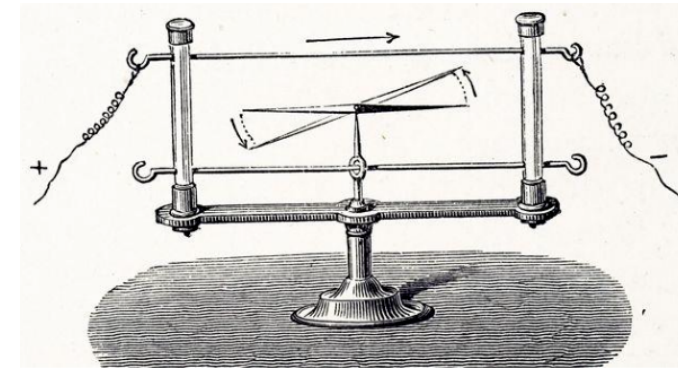


Géo-dynamo

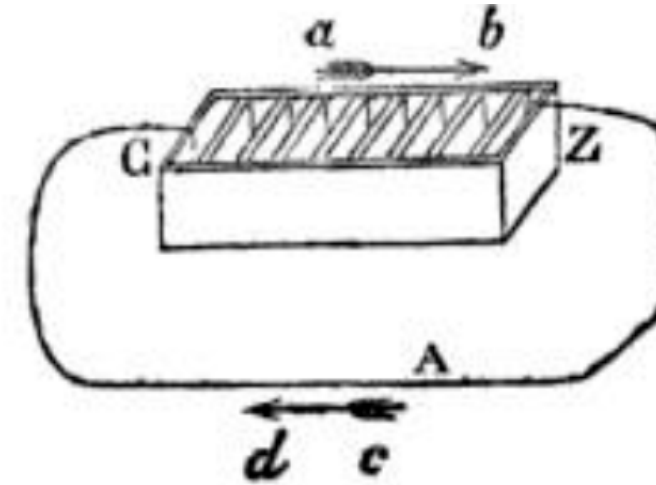


From Ampère to Maxwell

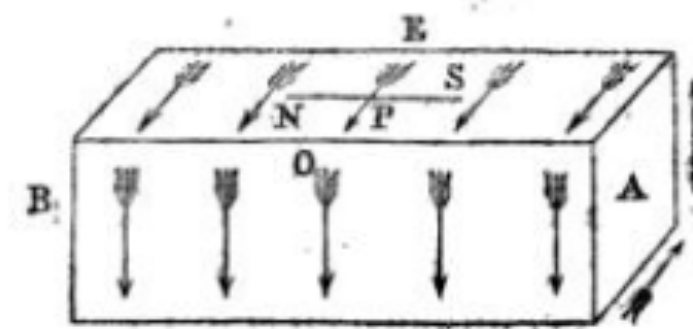
Notion de courant électrique



Notion de circuit électrique



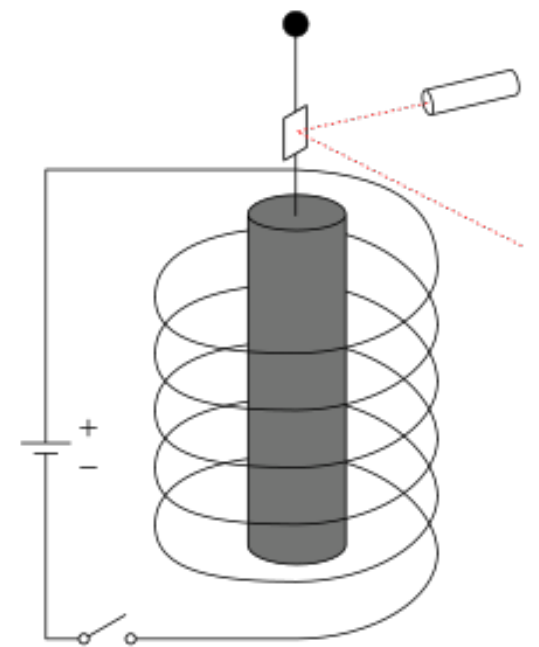
Unification électricité et magnétisme



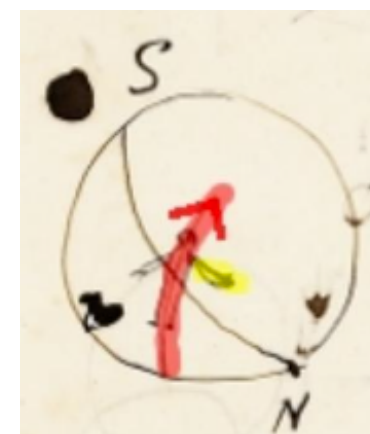
Einstein-de Haas (1915)

*Experimenteller Nachweis der
Ampereschen Molekularströme*

Courants moléculaires

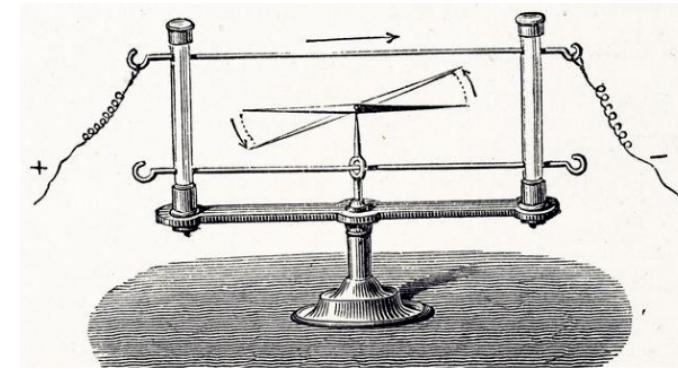


Géo-dynamo

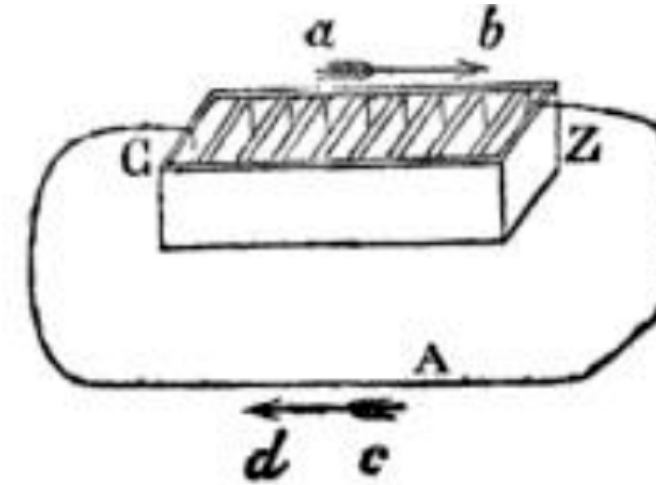


From Ampère to Maxwell

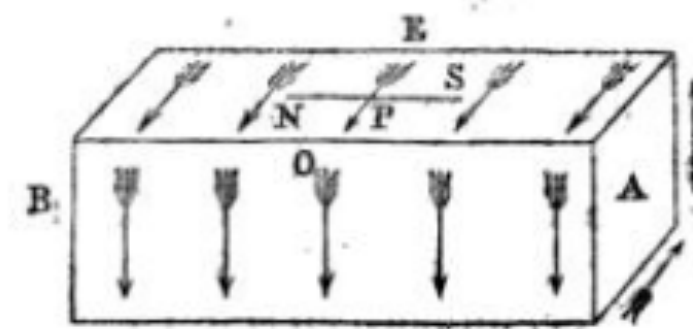
Notion de courant électrique



Notion de circuit électrique

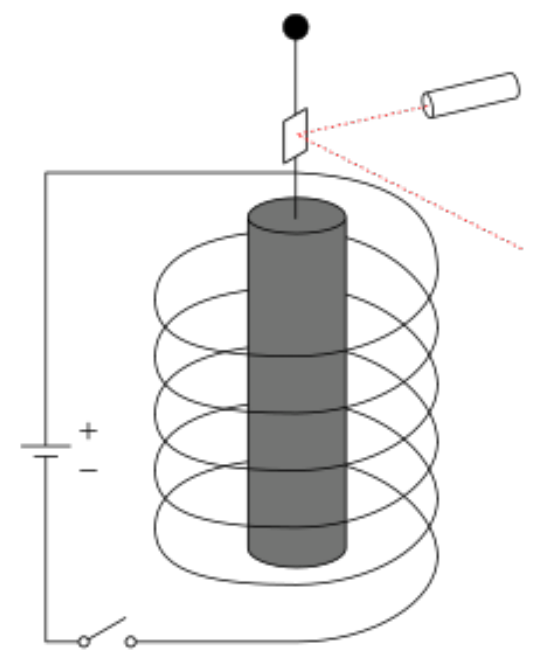


Unification électricité et magnétisme



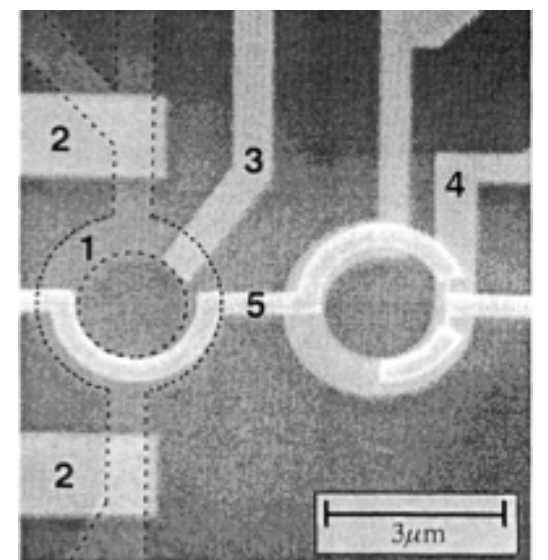
Einstein-de Haas (1915)

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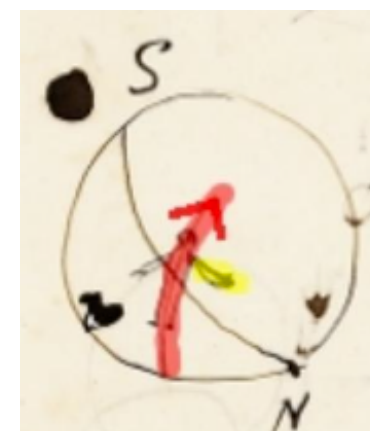


Courants moléculaires

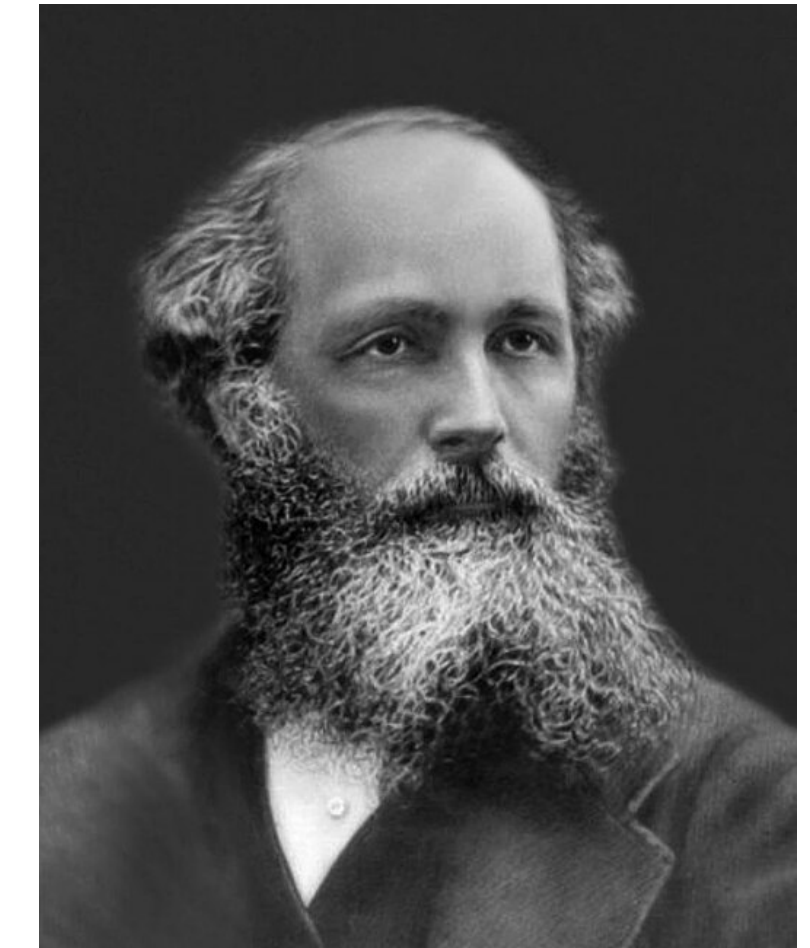
Courants permanents (1983)



Géo-dynamo



Maxwell's theory (1865)



$$\text{div}(\mathbf{E}) = \frac{\rho}{\varepsilon_0}$$

$$\overrightarrow{\text{rot}}(\mathbf{E}) = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V - \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}$$

$$c^2 \overrightarrow{\text{rot}}(\mathbf{B}) = \frac{\mathbf{j}}{\varepsilon_0} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

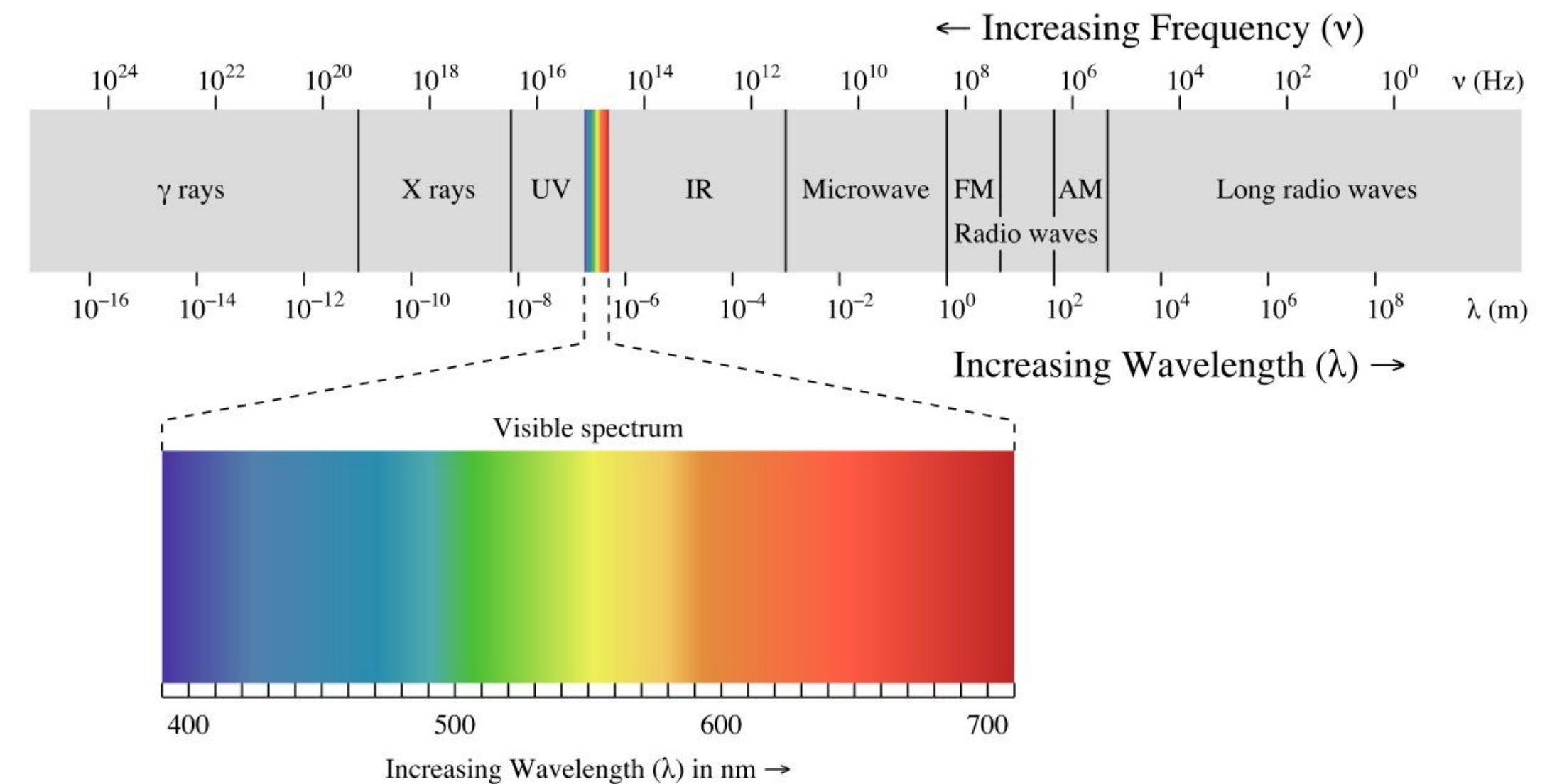
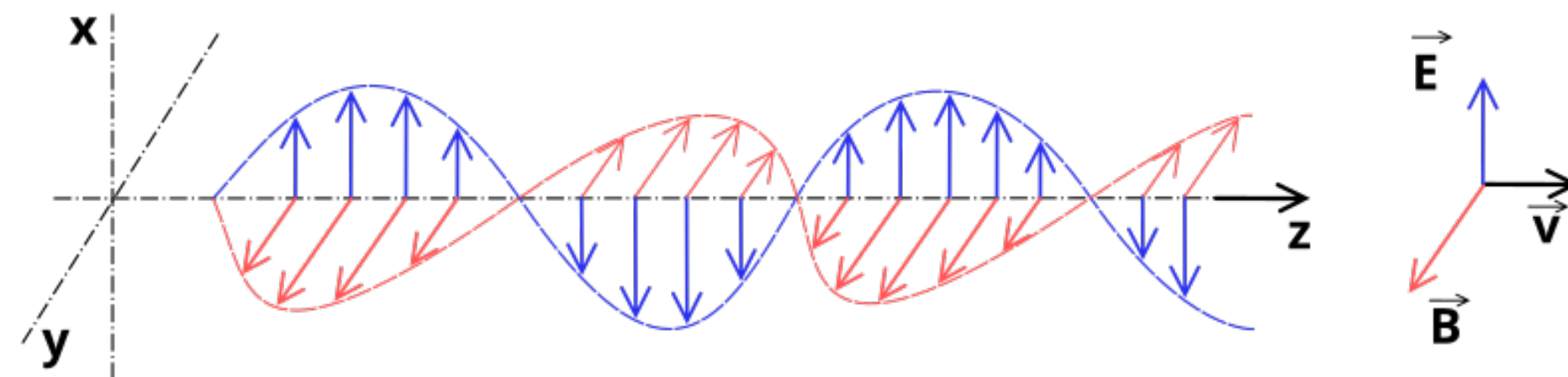
$$\text{div}(\mathbf{B}) = 0$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \overrightarrow{\text{rot}}(\mathbf{A})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} (\mathbf{E}^2 - c^2 \mathbf{B}^2) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mat}} + \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{A} - \rho V$$

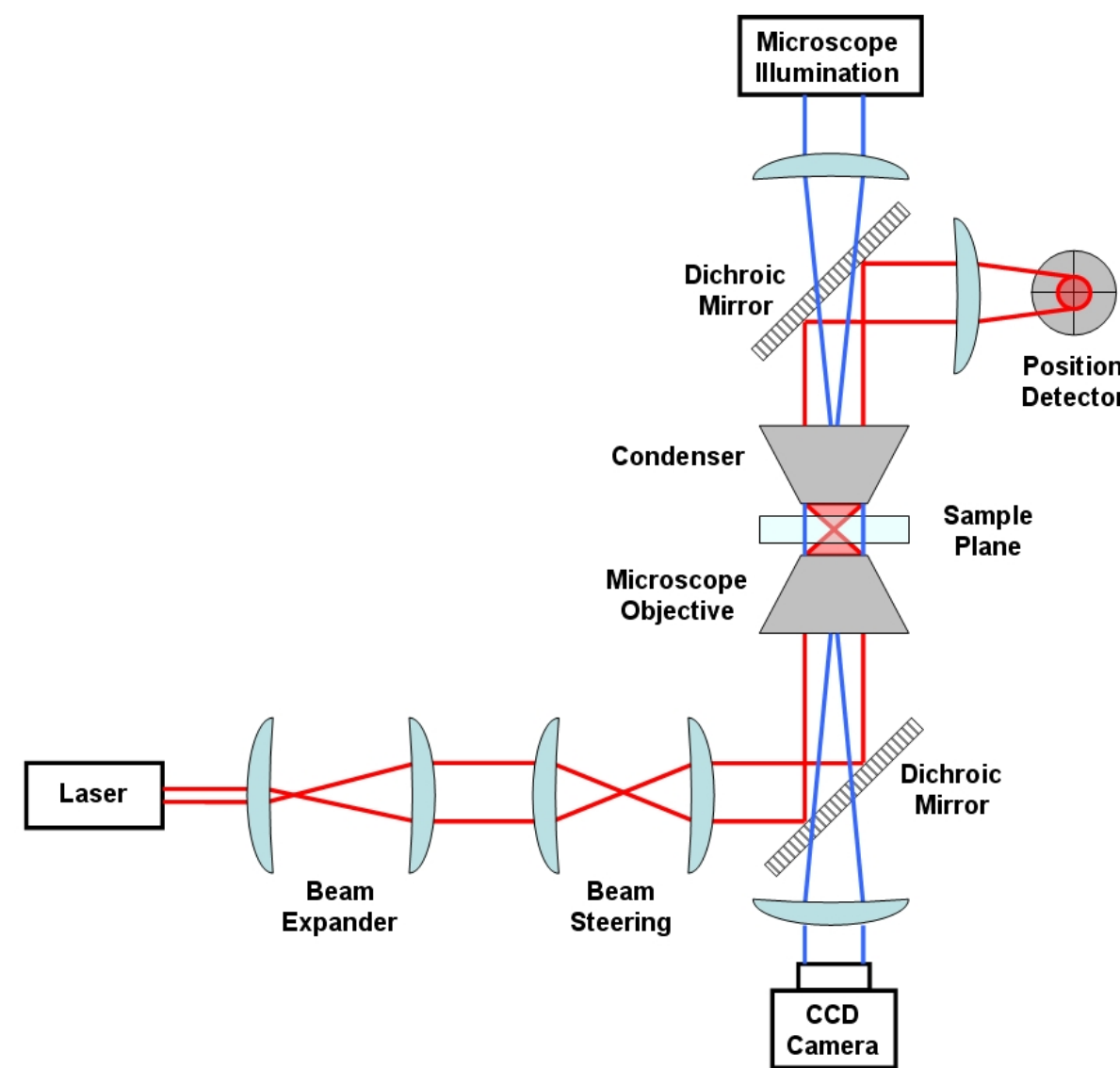
$$\mathbf{f} = \rho \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{j} \wedge \mathbf{B}$$

Electromagnetic waves



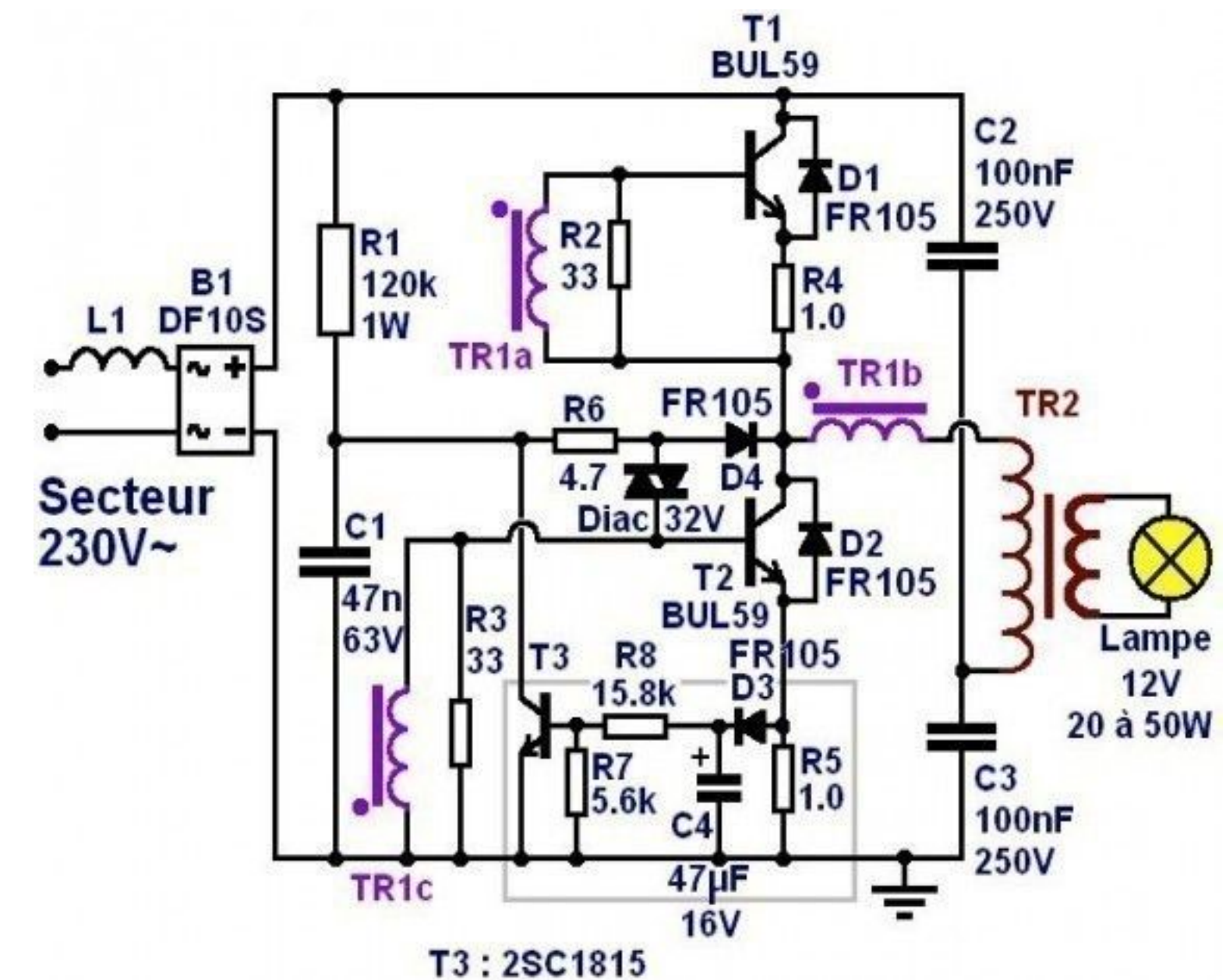
Dr. Maxwell & Mr. Kirchhoff ?

Optics



Fields, optical sources & detectors
but **no voltages, no currents, no circuit**

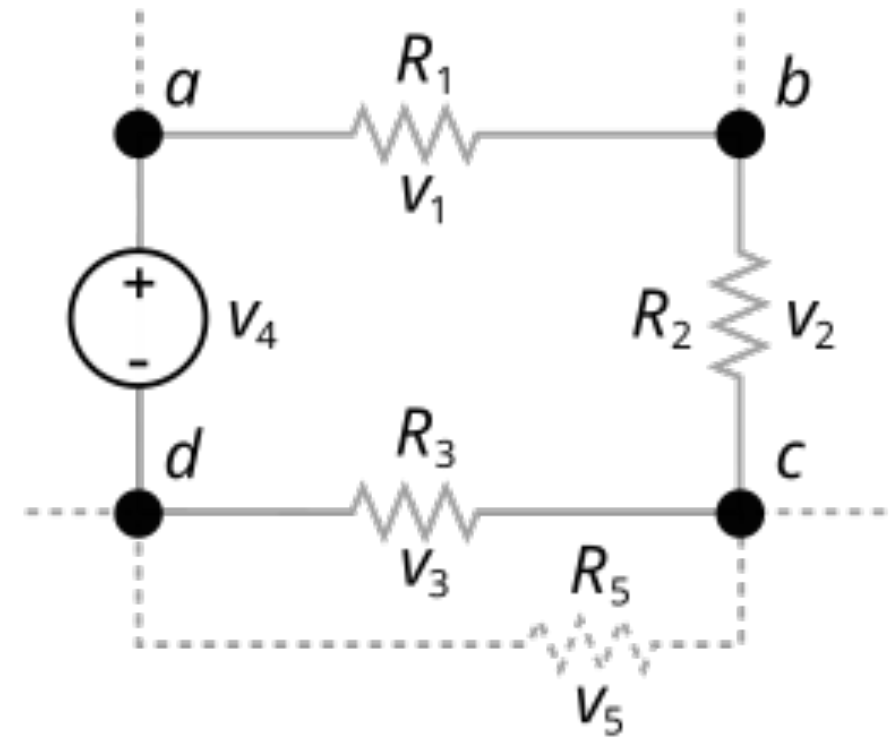
Everyday life electricity



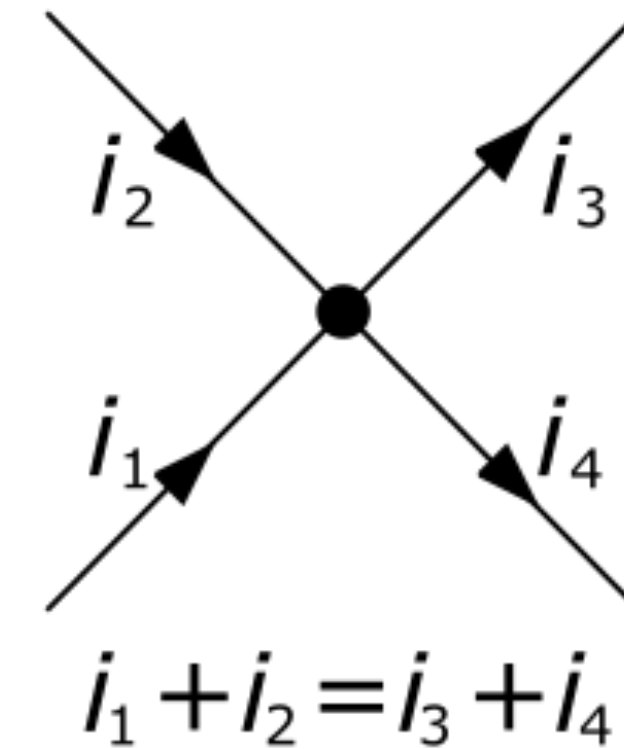
Voltages, currents & components
but **no fields**

Kirchhoff laws for electrical circuits

$$\sum_{b \in \partial \Sigma} V_b = 0$$



$$\sum_{b \in \partial b = (\star, i)} I_b = 0$$



Original form: dc case

G. Kirchhoff, *Annalen des Physik und Chemie* **54**, 497-514 (1845)

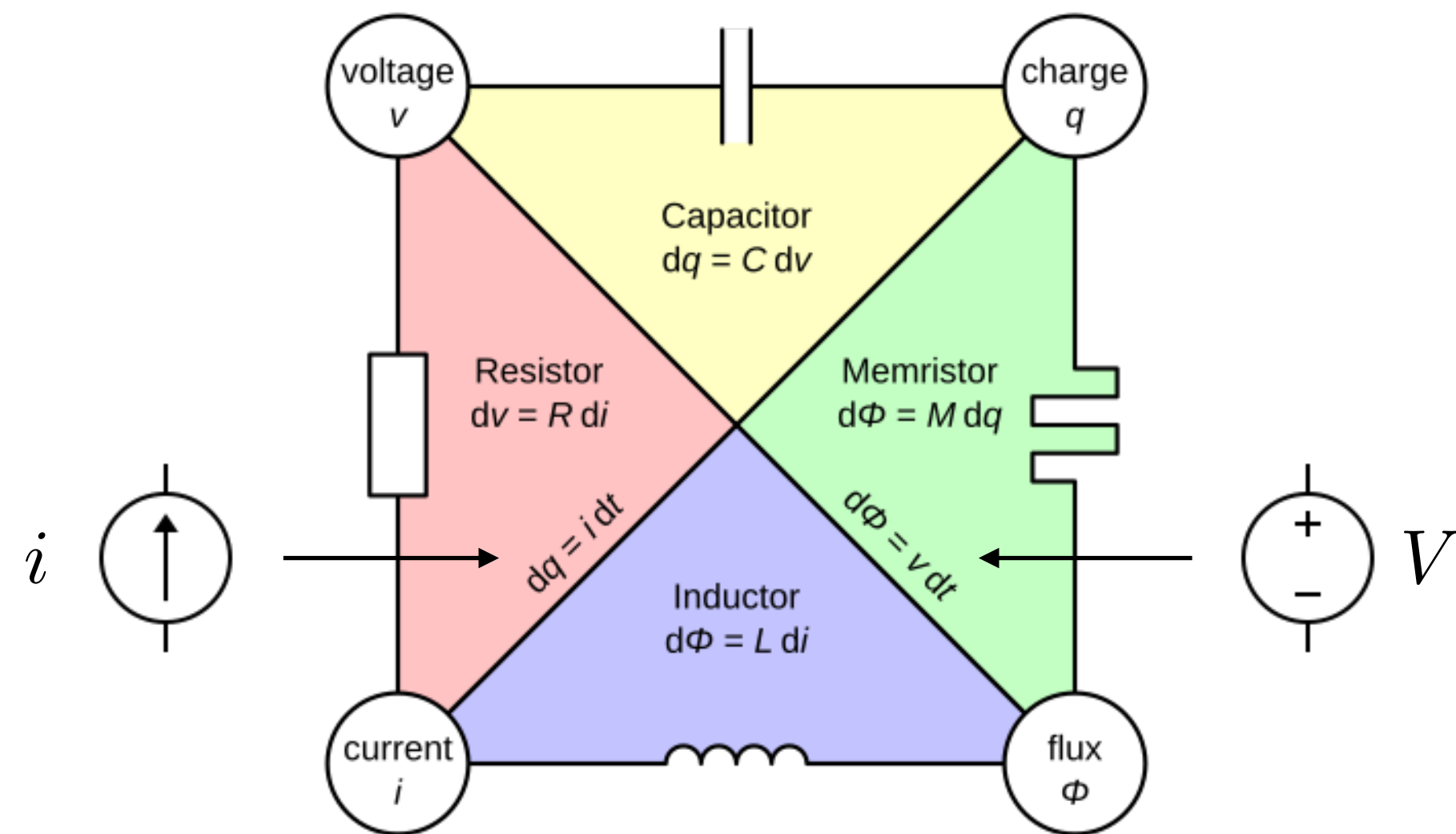
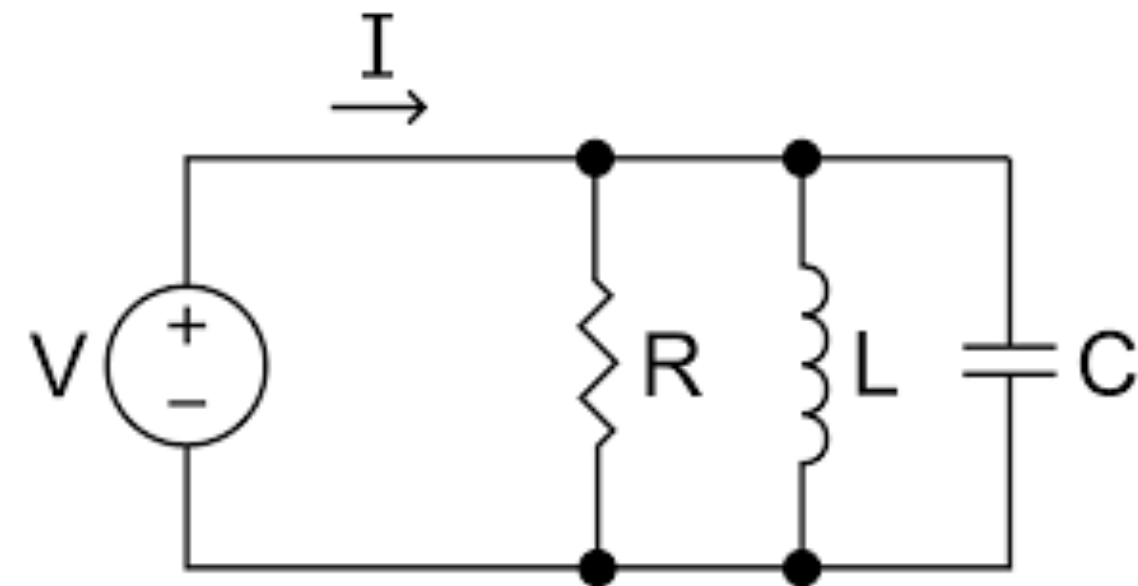
Extensions: ac case but « low frequency », with induction

$$\oint_C \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = - \frac{d\Phi_B(\Sigma)}{dt}$$

J. R. Carson, *Electromagnetic theory and the foundation of electrical circuit theory*,
The Bell Technical Journal **6**, 1-27 (1927)

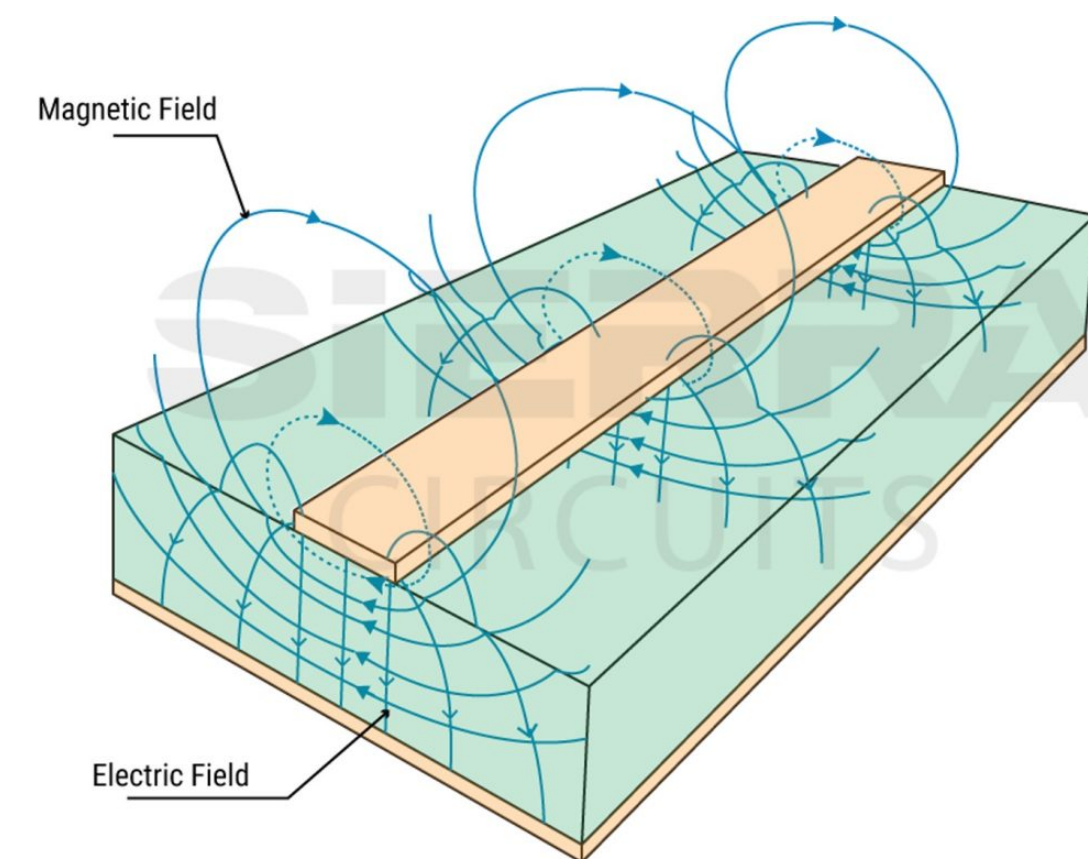
Lumped elements model of electrical circuits

Discrete representation of electrical circuits

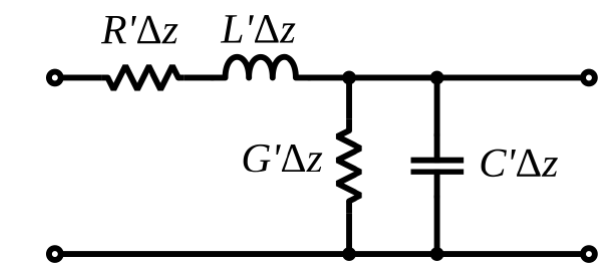


Also applicable at low frequencies to continuous circuits

Microstrip line

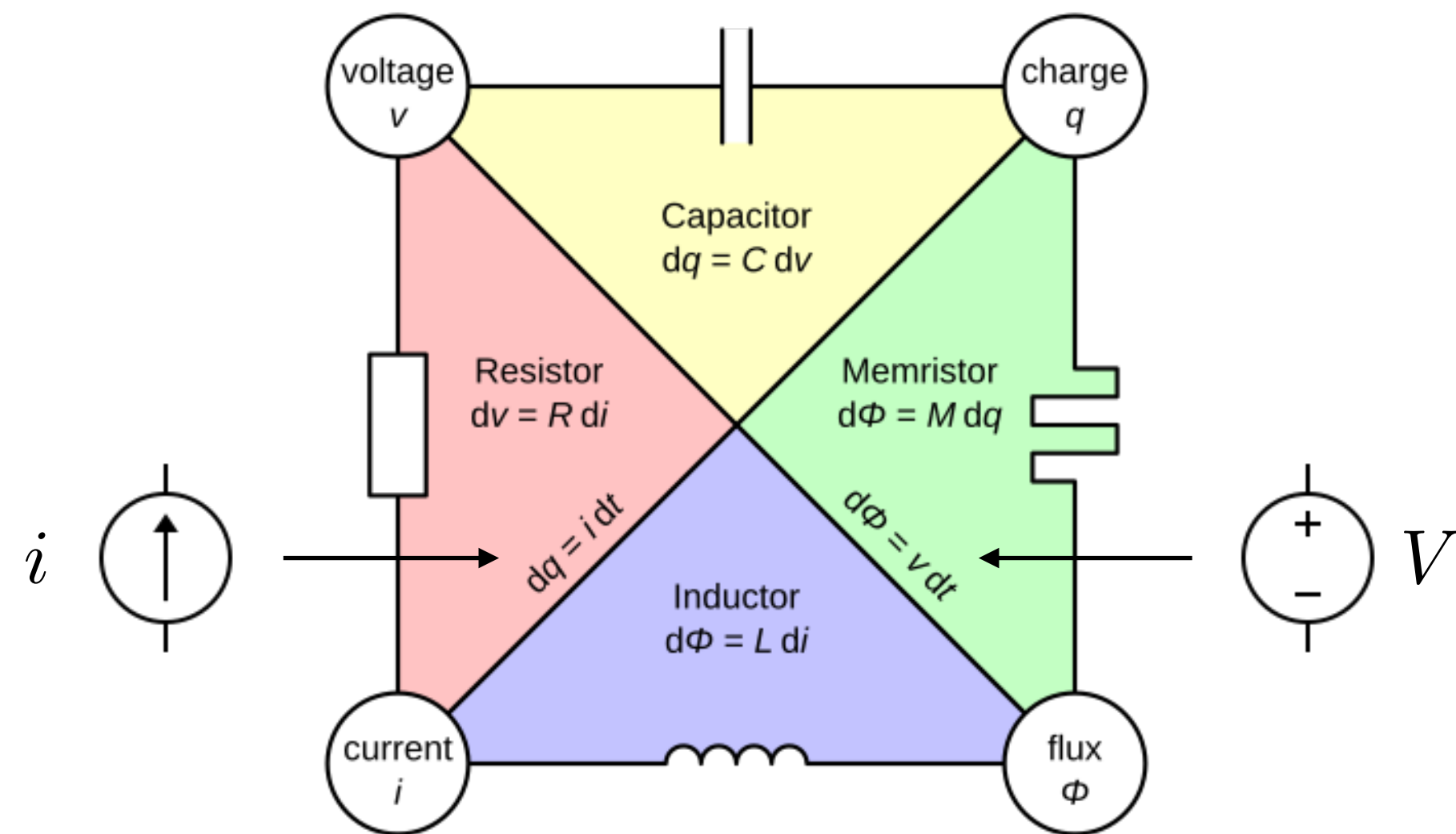
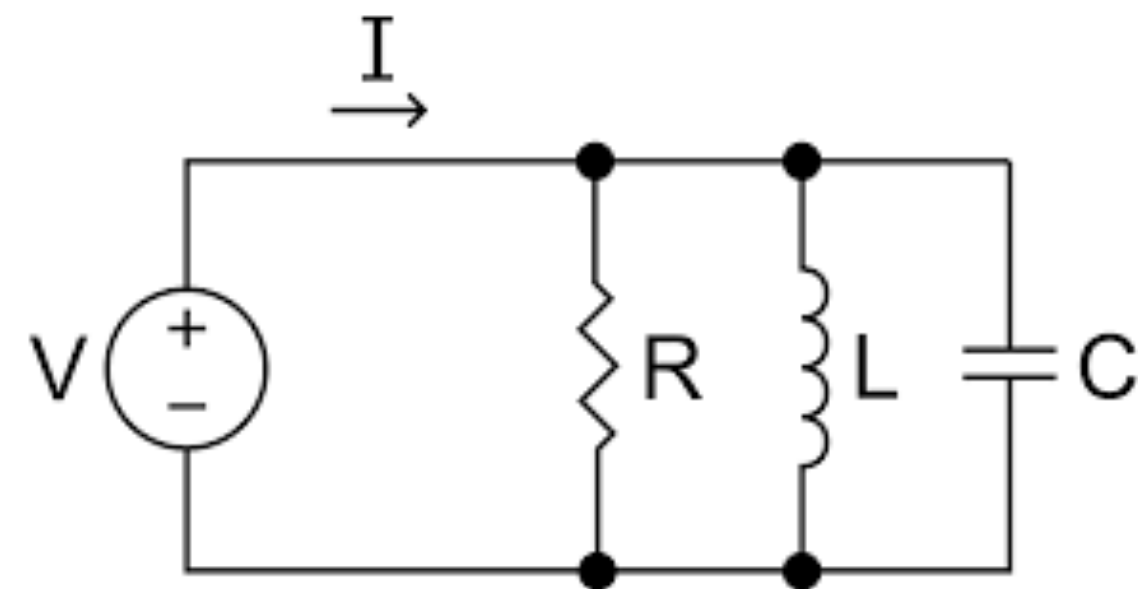


Lumped elements



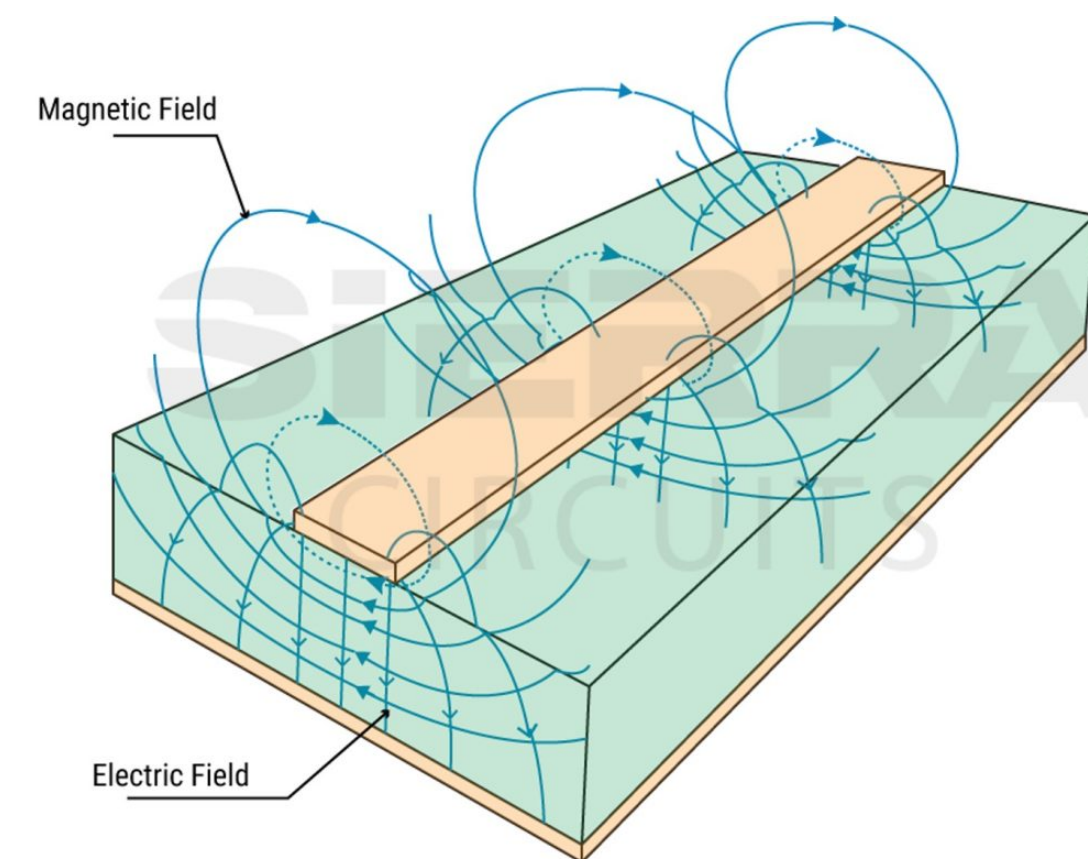
Lumped elements model of electrical circuits

Discrete representation of electrical circuits

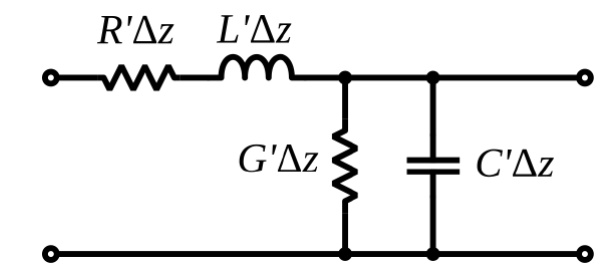


Also applicable at low frequencies to continuous circuits

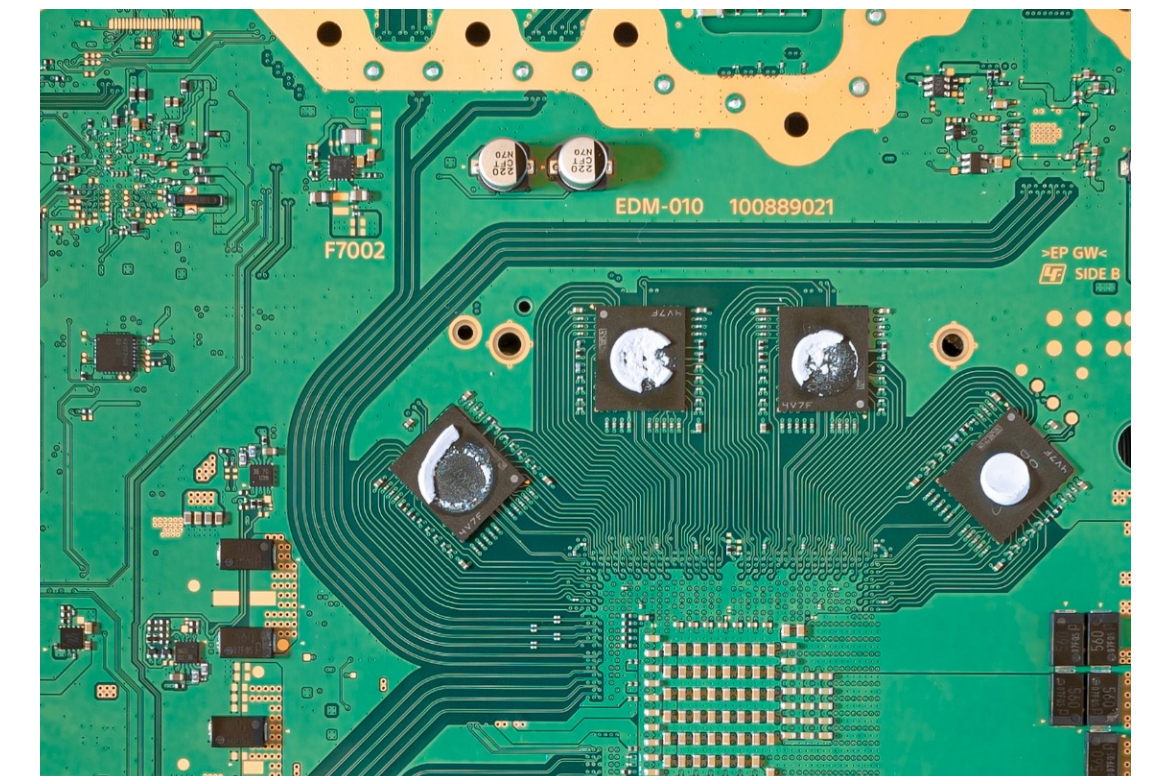
Microstrip line



Lumped elements

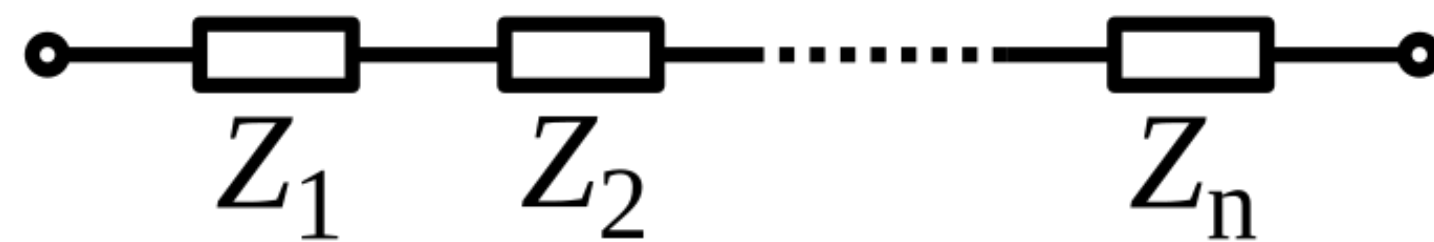


High frequency ?

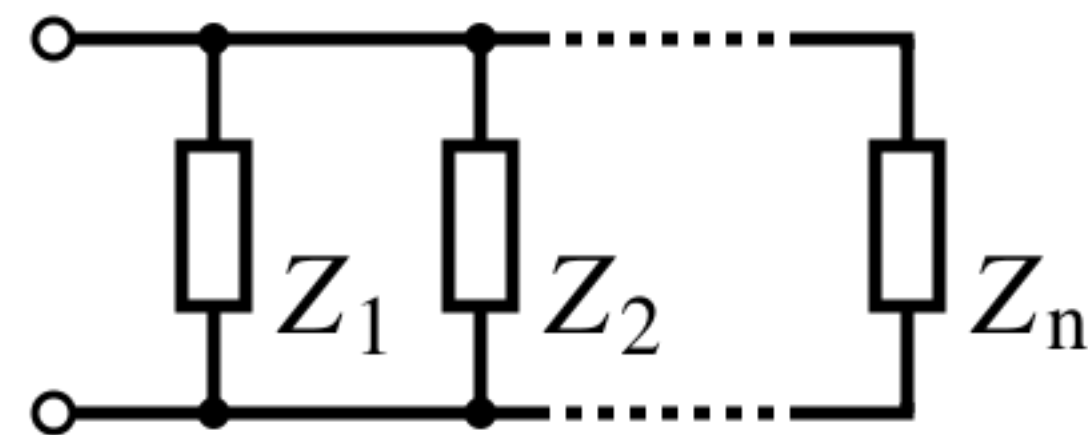


Classical laws of electricity

Composition of impedances and admittances



$$Z_{\text{tot}} = \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j$$



$$Z_{\text{tot}}^{-1} = \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j^{-1}$$

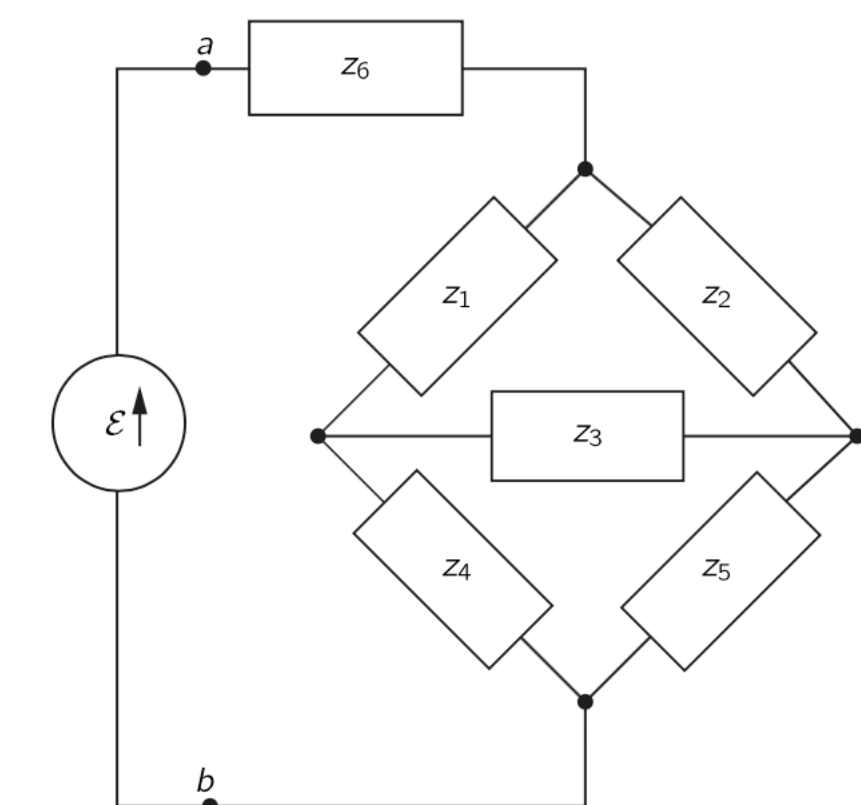
Teleggen's theorem

$$\sum_b I_b V_b = 0$$

Follows from Kirchhoff laws

Valid for any circuit (*even with active and non linear elements*)

B.D.H. Tellegen, Phillips Research Reports 7, 259 (1952)

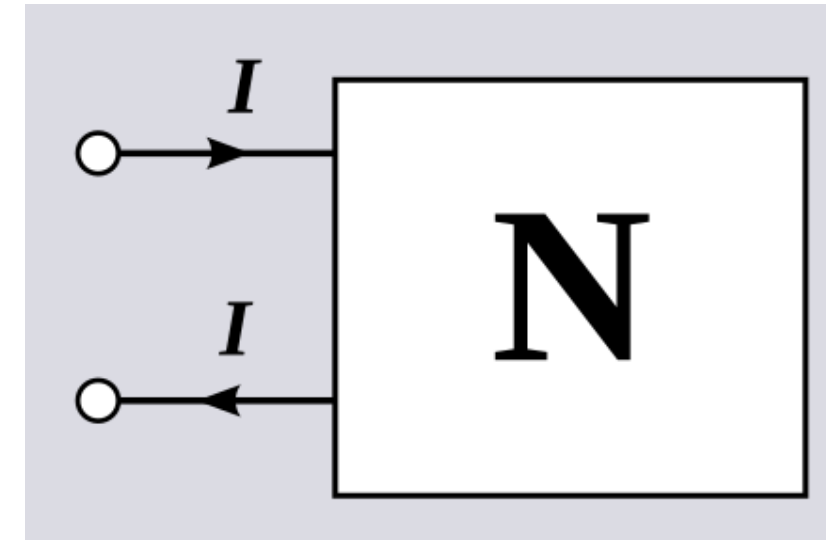


Electrical circuit synthesis

Impedance of a passive dipole element

$$\Re(Z(s)) > 0 \text{ for } \Im(s) < 0$$

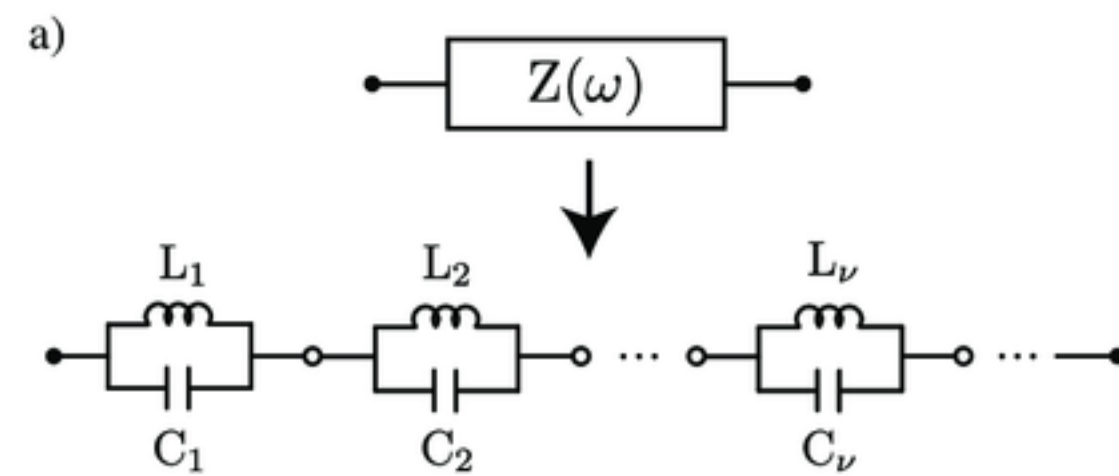
$$\Im(Z(s)) = 0 \text{ for } \Re(s) = 0$$



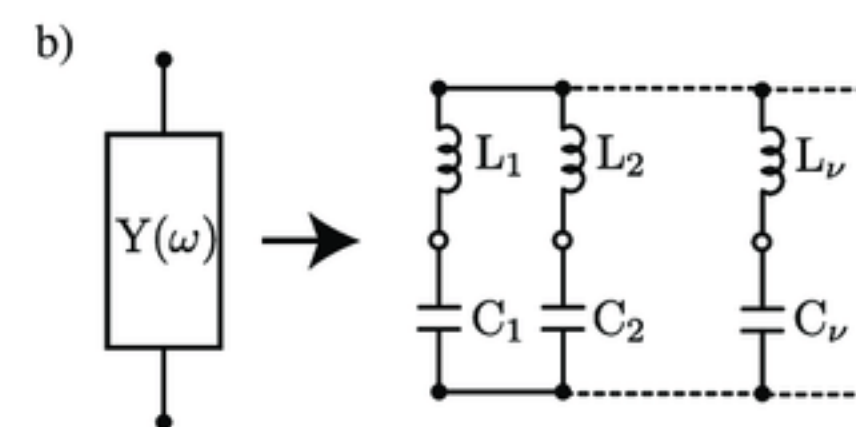
G. Cauer

O. Brune, *Synthesis of passive networks*, PhD thesis MIT (1929)

Forster 1st form



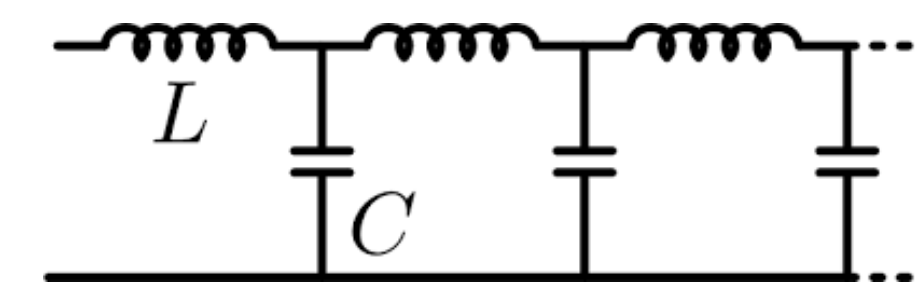
Forster 2nd form



Partial fraction expansion

R. M. Forster, The Bell Technical Journal 3, 259-267 (1924)

Cauer 1st form



Continuous fraction expansion

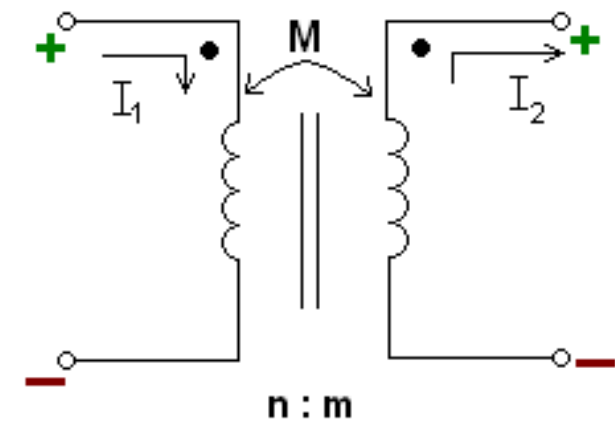
G. Cauer, PhD thesis (1926)

R. P. Feynman *et al*, *Lectures on Physics*, chap. 22, sec. 22-4, 22-6 & 22-7.

Linear electrical circuits: response coefficients

Linear electrical circuits: response coefficients

Mutual inductance matrix



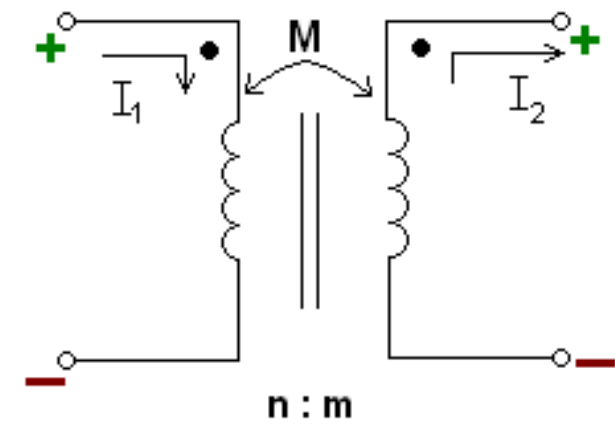
$$\Phi = \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{I}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{L}$$

$$L_{i,j} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \oint_{C_i, C_j} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i d\mathbf{r}_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \quad i \neq j$$

Linear electrical circuits: response coefficients

Mutual inductance matrix

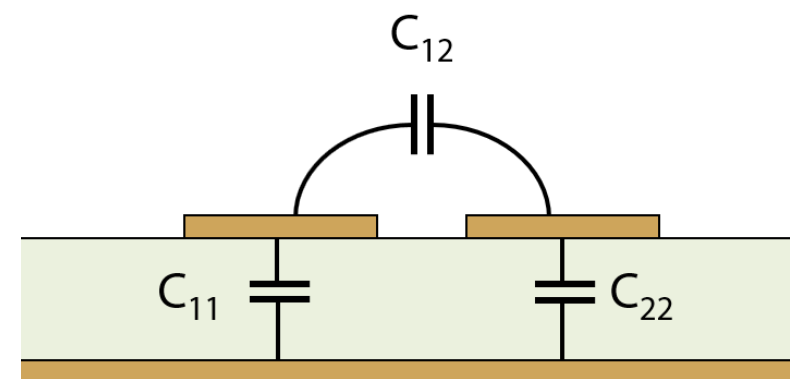


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Mutual capacitance matrix



$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{U}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}$$

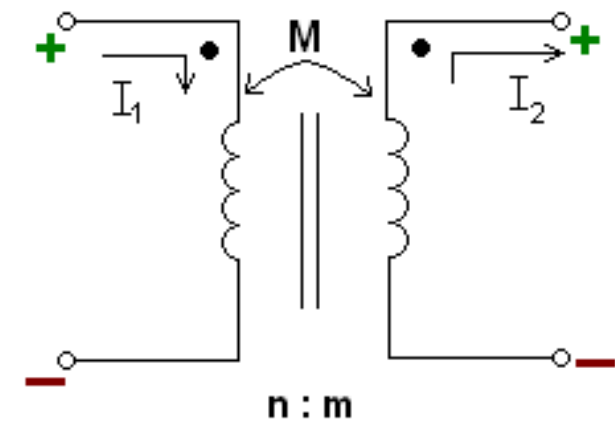
Total mutual influence

$$\mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Gauge invariance}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{1} \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Total neutrality}$$

Linear electrical circuits: response coefficients

Mutual inductance matrix



$$\Phi = \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{I}$$

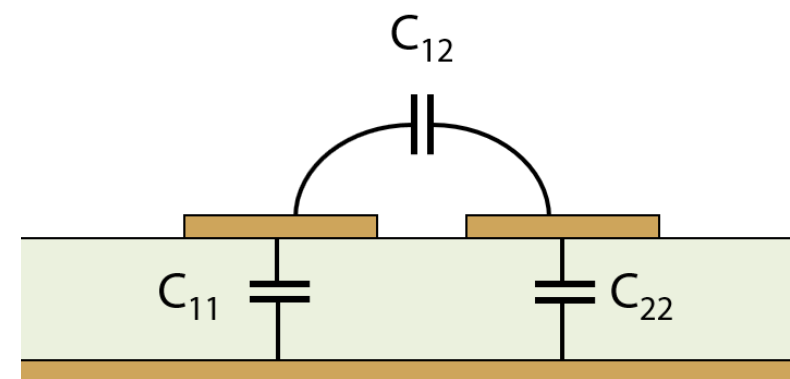
$${}^t\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{L}$$

$$L_{i,j} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \oint_{C_i, C_j} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i d\mathbf{r}_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \quad i \neq j$$

Computational methods: numerics (COMSOL)

Yu. Ya. Iossel, E.S. Kochanov, and M.G. Strunsky,
The calculation of electrical capacitance (1969)

Mutual capacitance matrix



$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{U}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}$$

Total mutual influence

$$\mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0}$$

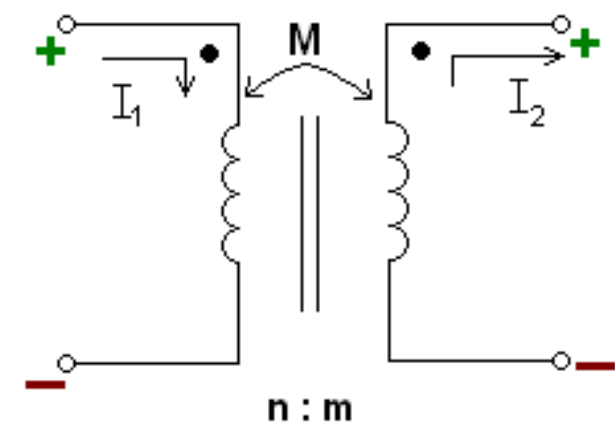
Gauge invariance

$${}^t\mathbf{1} \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0}$$

Total neutrality

Linear electrical circuits: response coefficients

Mutual inductance matrix



$$\Phi = \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{I}$$

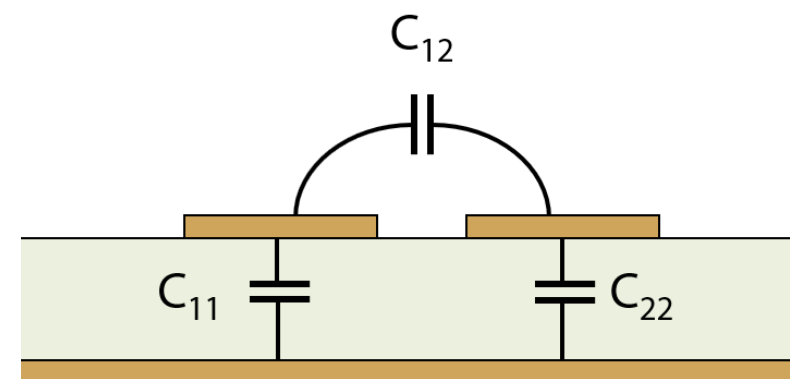
$${}^t\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{L}$$

$$L_{i,j} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \oint_{C_i, C_j} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i d\mathbf{r}_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} \quad i \neq j$$

Computational methods: numerics (COMSOL)

Yu. Ya. Iossel, E.S. Kochanov, and M.G. Strunsky,
The calculation of electrical capacitance (1969)

Mutual capacitance matrix



$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{U}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}$$

Total mutual influence

$$\mathbf{C} \cdot \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Gauge invariance}$$

$${}^t\mathbf{1} \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Total neutrality}$$

Resistance

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \mathbf{E} \quad (\text{Local form})$$

$$\text{For a wire: } I = G V \quad \text{with } G = \frac{\sigma S}{L}$$



Empirical law: σ is material specific (not of geometric / electrostatic origin)

How electricity flows: a story of charges, currents and fields

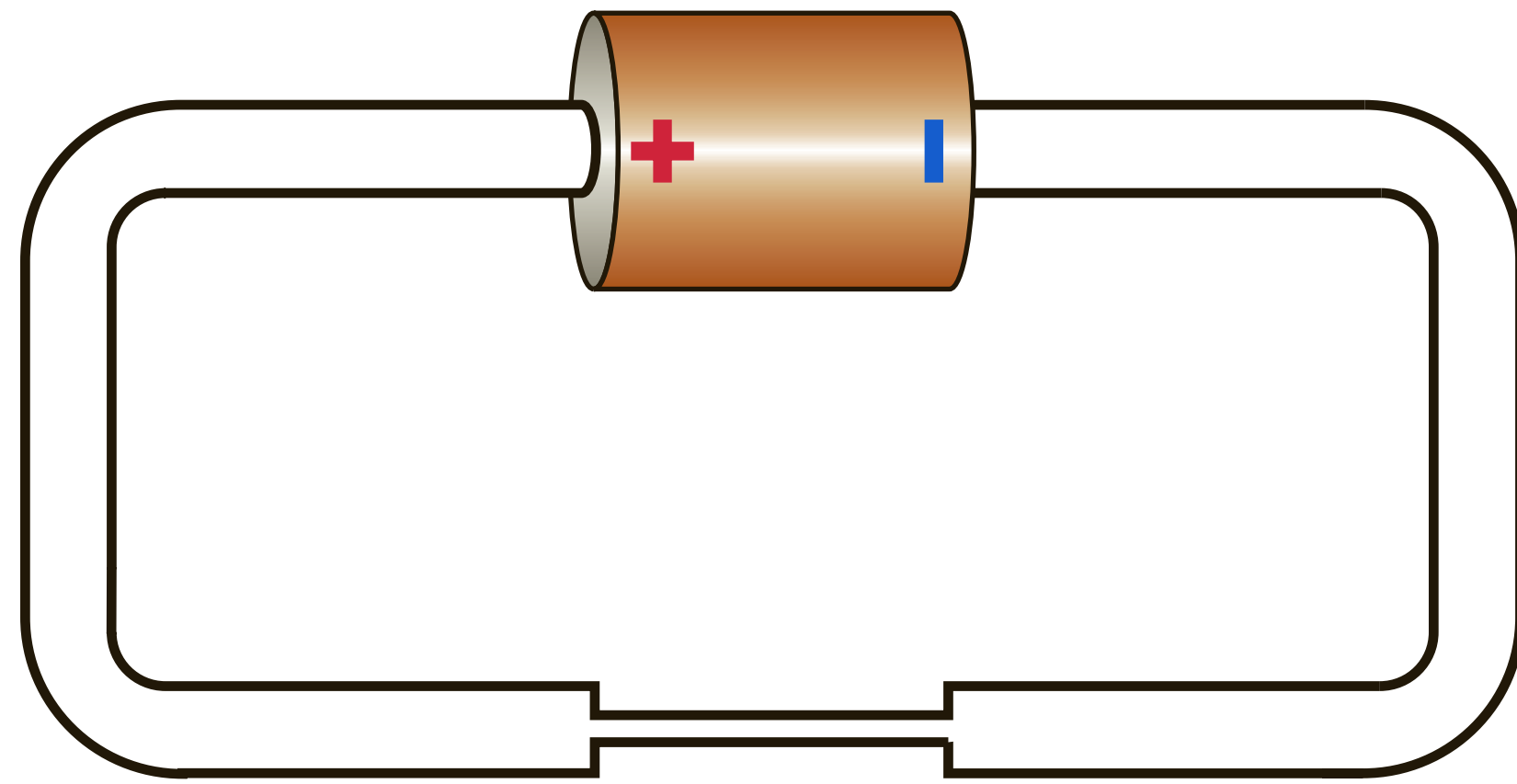


Je suis sûr que vous ne savez pas exactement comment marche l'électricité. Et je ne parle même pas de choses compliquées comme du courant alternatif ou des transistors. Non un truc simple: une pile, une ampoule. Qu'est ce qui se passe vraiment au niveau physique dans les fils électriques ?

D. Louapre, ScienceEtonnante (3/11/2024)

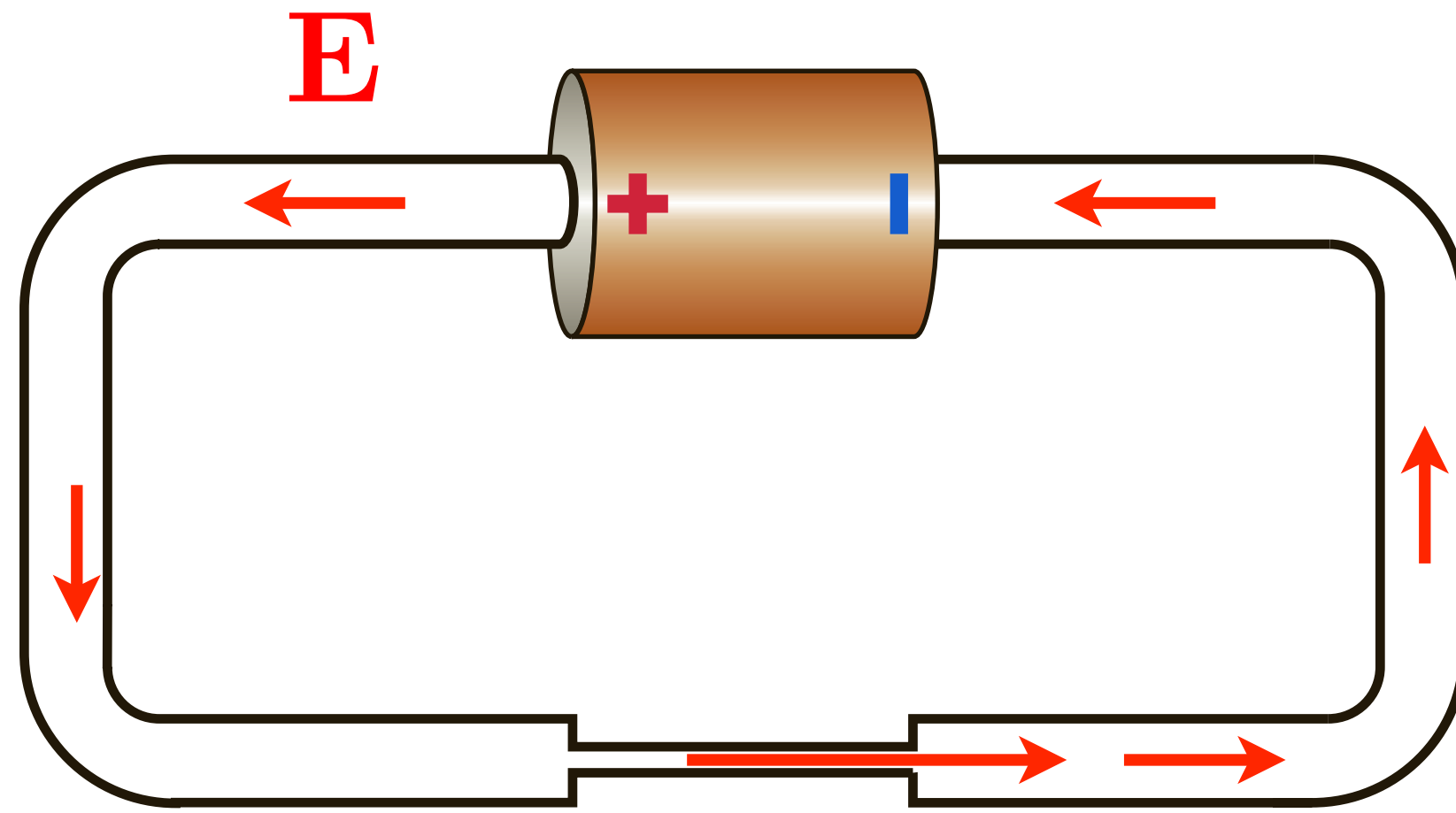
G. Kirchhoff, *On the deduction of Ohm's laws in connexion with the theory of electrostatics*
Philosophical Magazine **37**, 463-468 (1850)

The *charges* side of electricity



$$R = \frac{\rho L}{S}$$

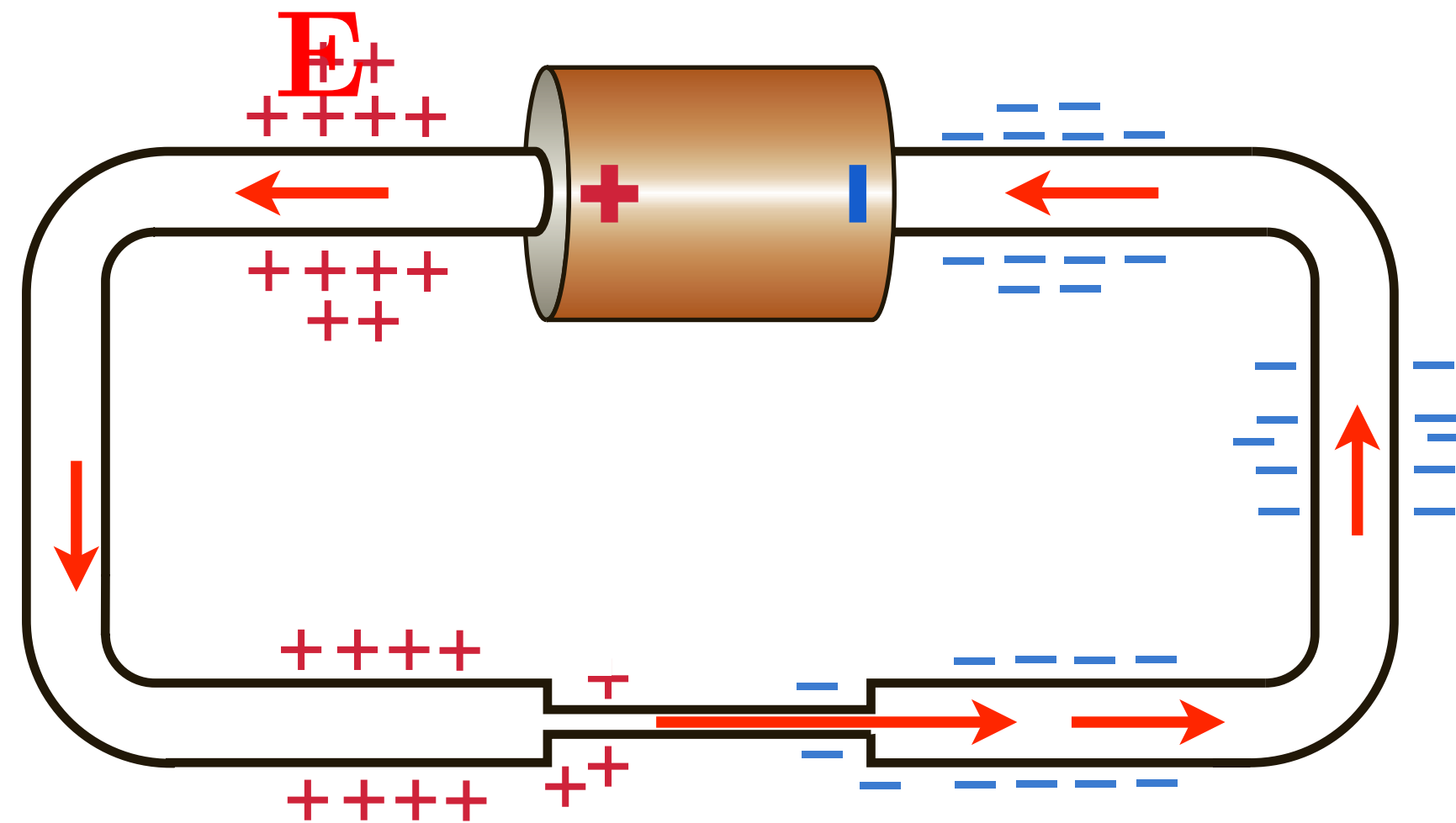
The *charges* side of electricity



$$R = \frac{\rho L}{S}$$

$$|\mathbf{E}| = \frac{\rho I}{S}$$

The *charges* side of electricity



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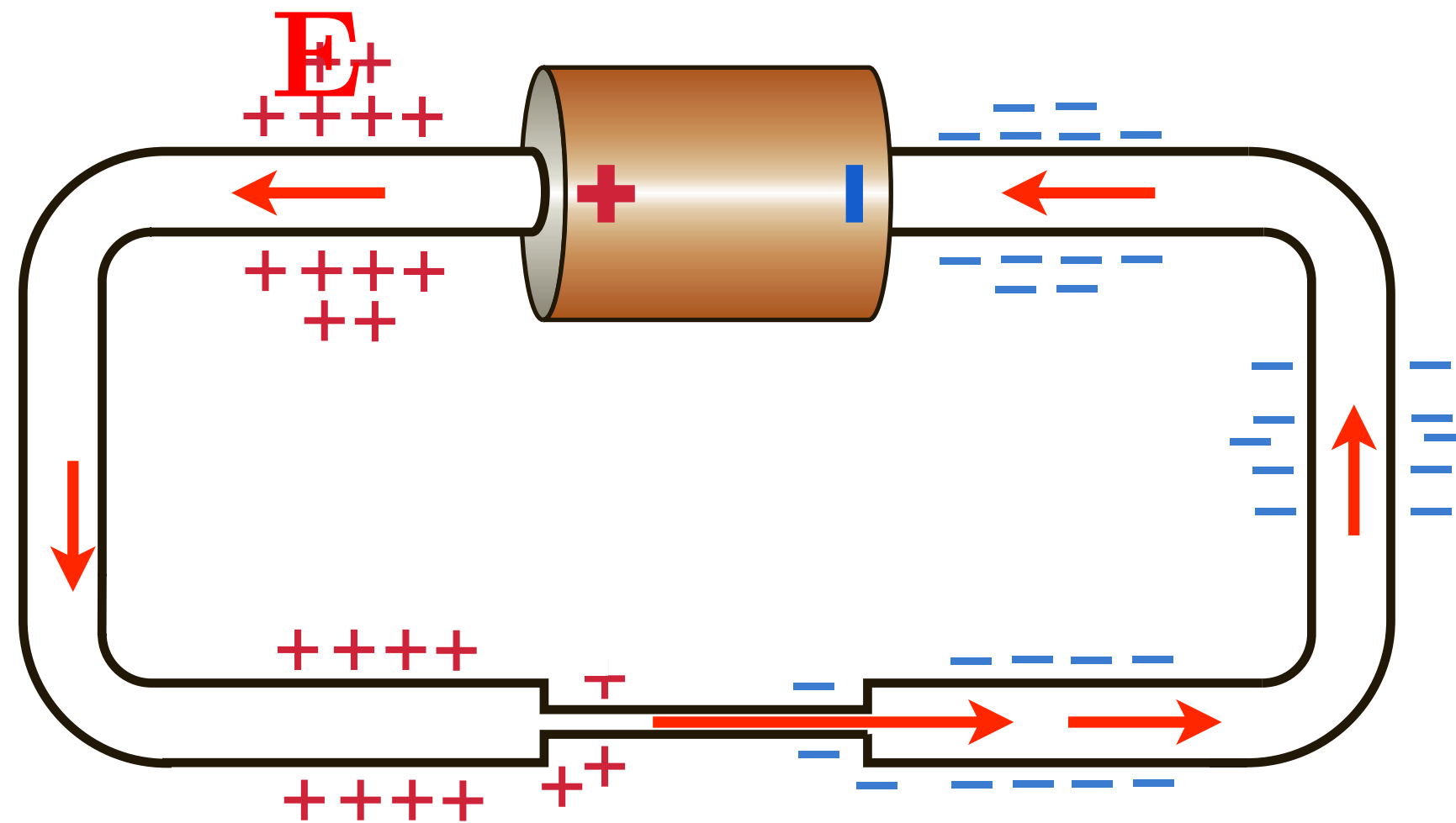
$$|\mathbf{E}| = \frac{\rho I}{S}$$

The *charges* side of electricity

Copper $\rho = 1.72 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \text{ m}$

$$I = 1 \text{ A} \quad S = 1 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$E = 1.72 \times 10^{-2} \text{ V/m}$$



$$R = \frac{\rho L}{S}$$

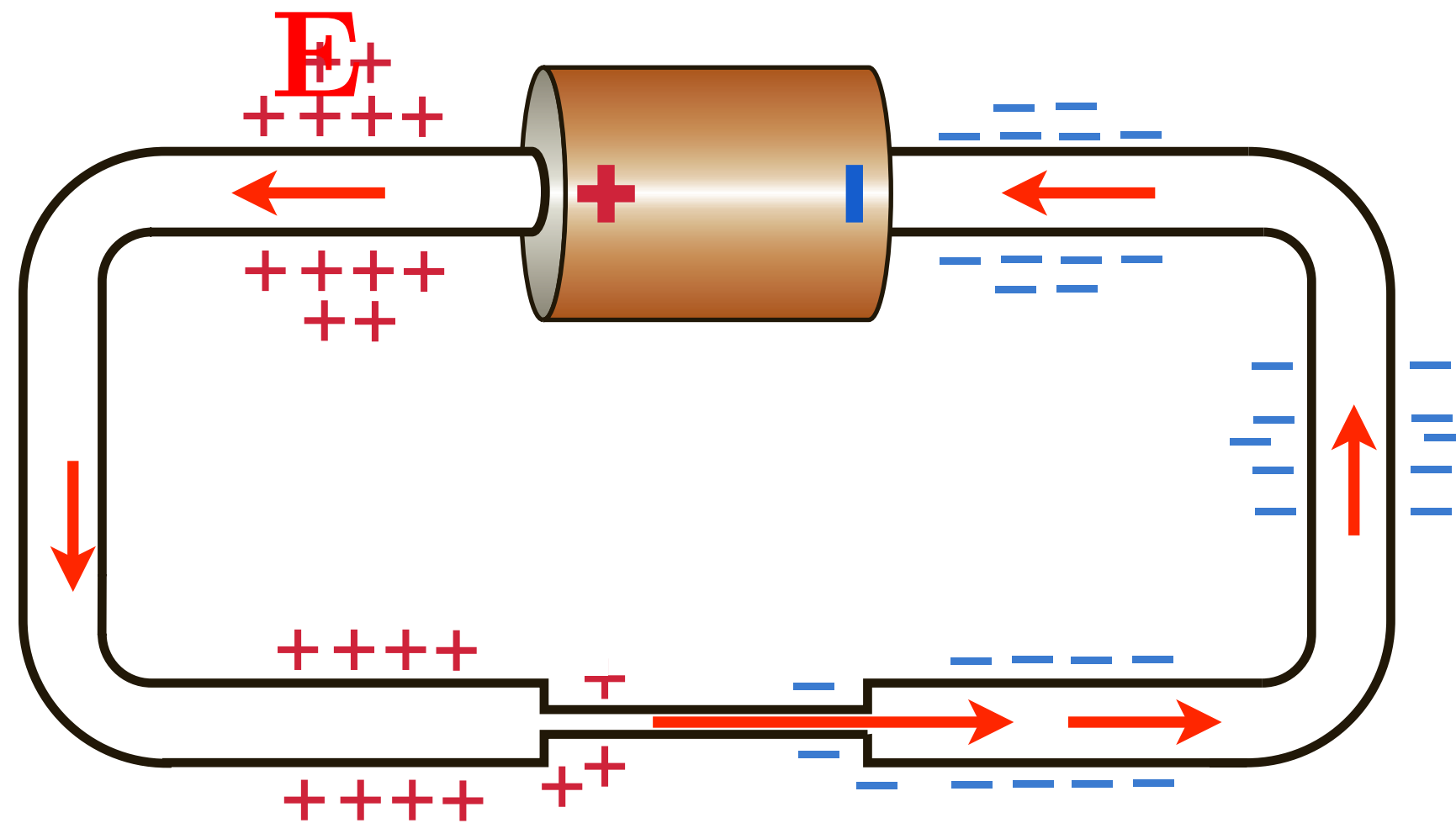
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Point charge estimate:

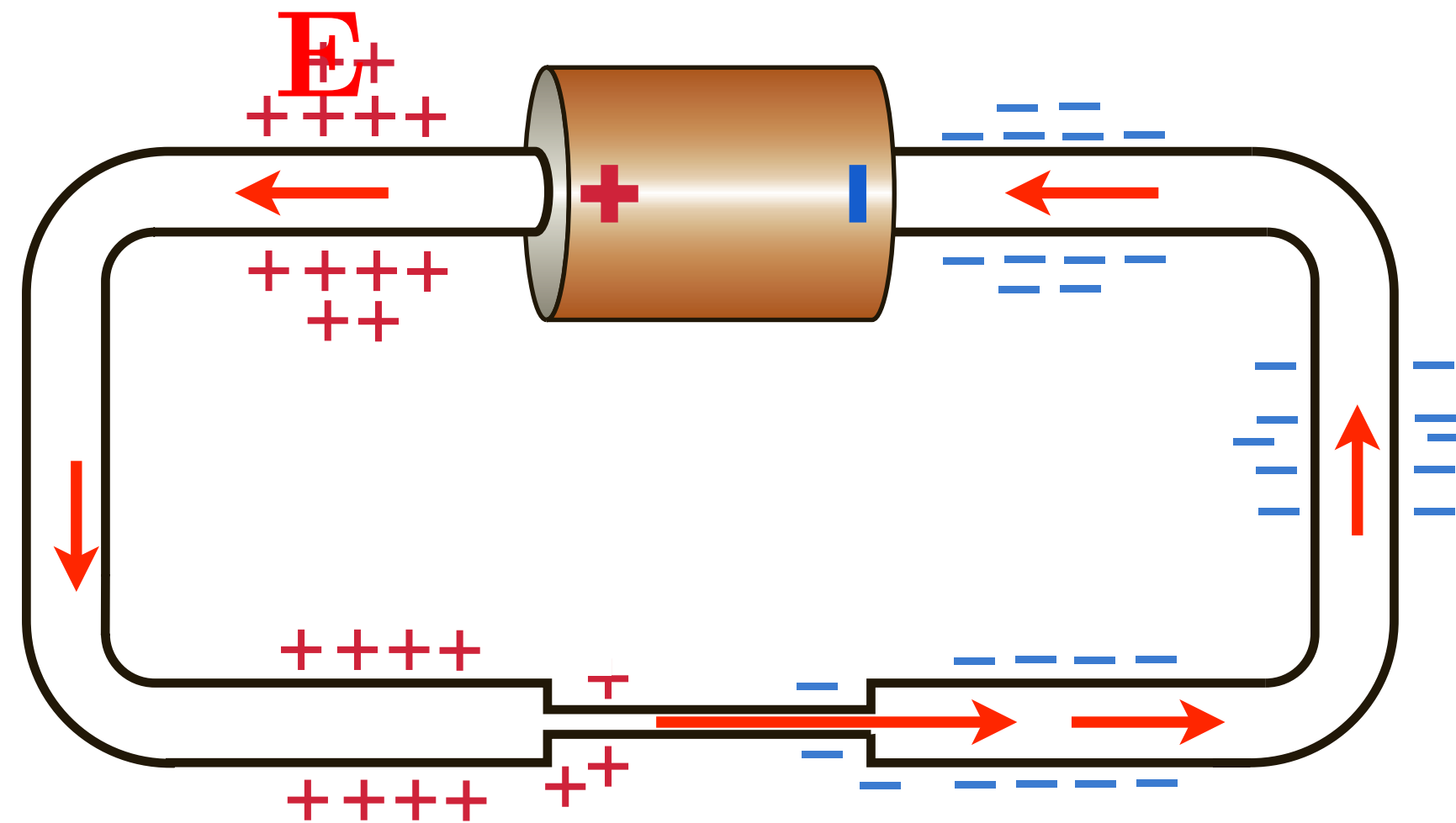
For $d = 0.28 \text{ mm}$

$$E = \frac{qe}{4\pi\epsilon_0 d^2} \rightarrow q = 0.94$$

$$R = \frac{\rho L}{S}$$

$$|\mathbf{E}| = \frac{\rho I}{S}$$

The *charges* side of electricity



$$R = \frac{\rho L}{S}$$

$$|\mathbf{E}| = \frac{\rho I}{S}$$

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$$I = 1 \text{ A} \quad S = 1 \text{ mm}^2$$

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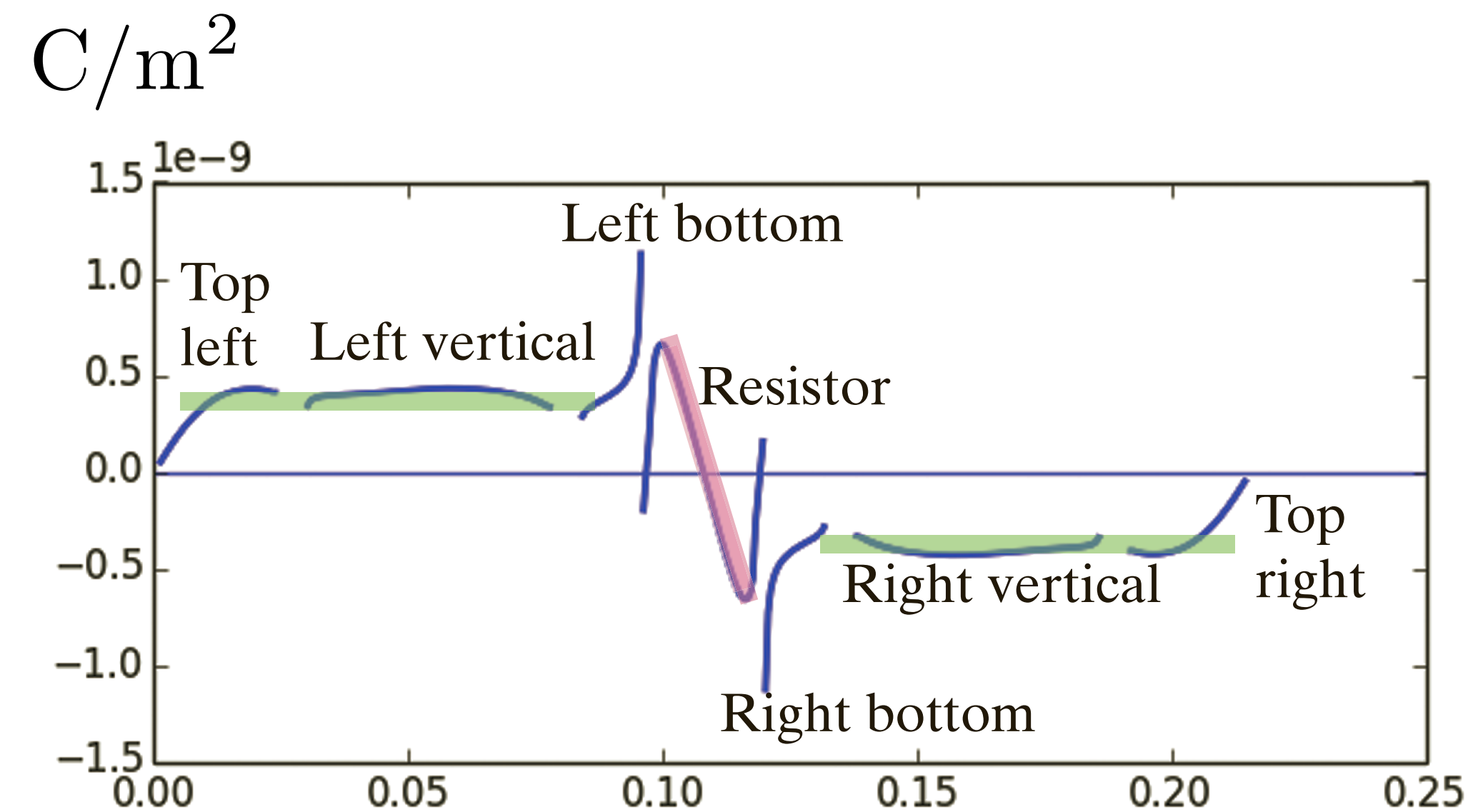
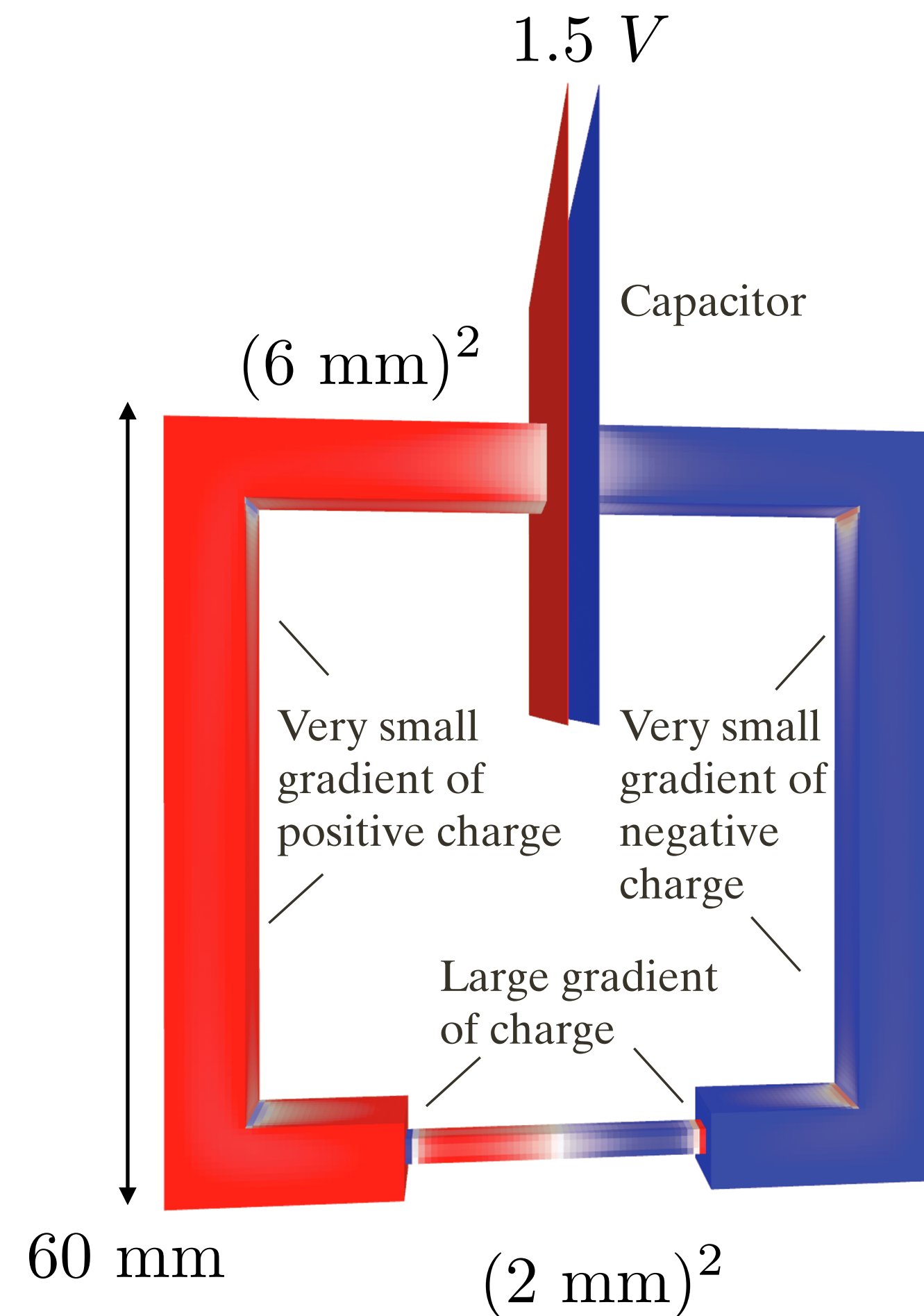
Surface charge estimate:

$$E = \frac{qe}{\epsilon_0 S} = \frac{\rho I}{S} \rightarrow q = \frac{\epsilon_0 \rho}{e} I$$

$$\frac{\epsilon_0 \rho}{e} = 0.95 \text{ A}^{-1}$$

W. G. V. Rosser, Am. J. Phys. **38**, (1970)

The *charges* side of electricity



R. W. Chabay and B. A. Sherwood, *Matter & Interactions*, 4th ed., Wiley (2025)
Volume II, Chap. 18, sec. 18.5

Visualizing the electrical field around an electrical circuit

Demonstration of the Electric Fields of Current-Carrying Conductors

OLEG JEFIMENKO

Physics Department, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

(Received July 31, 1961)

The making of the two-dimensional printed circuit type models of current-carrying conducting systems and the use of these models for demonstrating the electric fields of current-carrying conductors is described. The models are produced by drawing the systems under consideration on glass plates using a transparent conducting ink. The electric lines of force inside and outside the elements of these models are demonstrated with the aid of grass seeds strewn upon them.

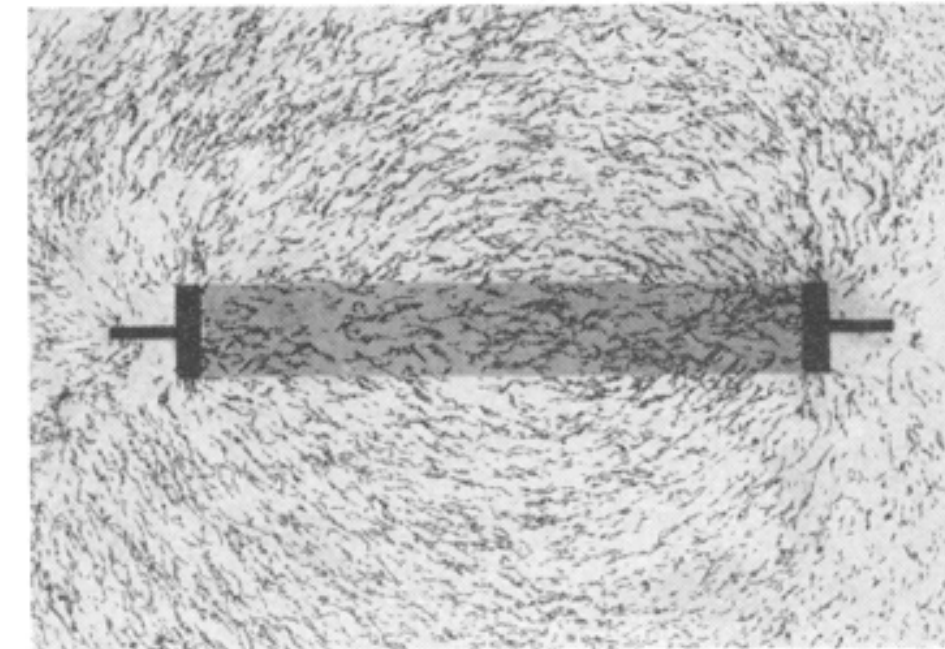


FIG. 1. Electric field of a straight conductor.

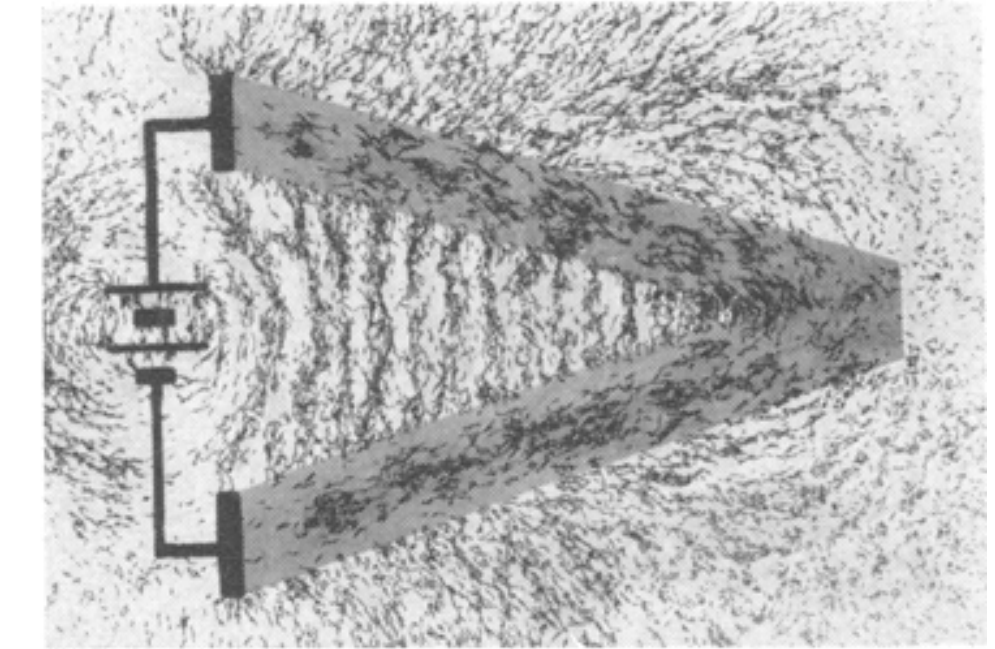


FIG. 2. Electric field of two intersecting straight conductors.

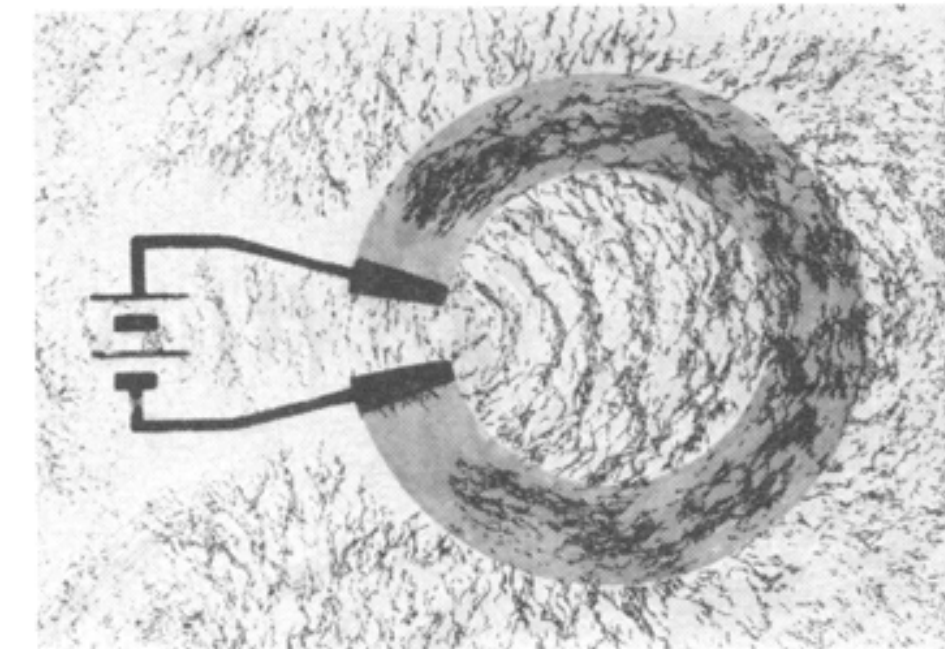


FIG. 3. Electric field of a circular conducting ring (hollow cylinder).

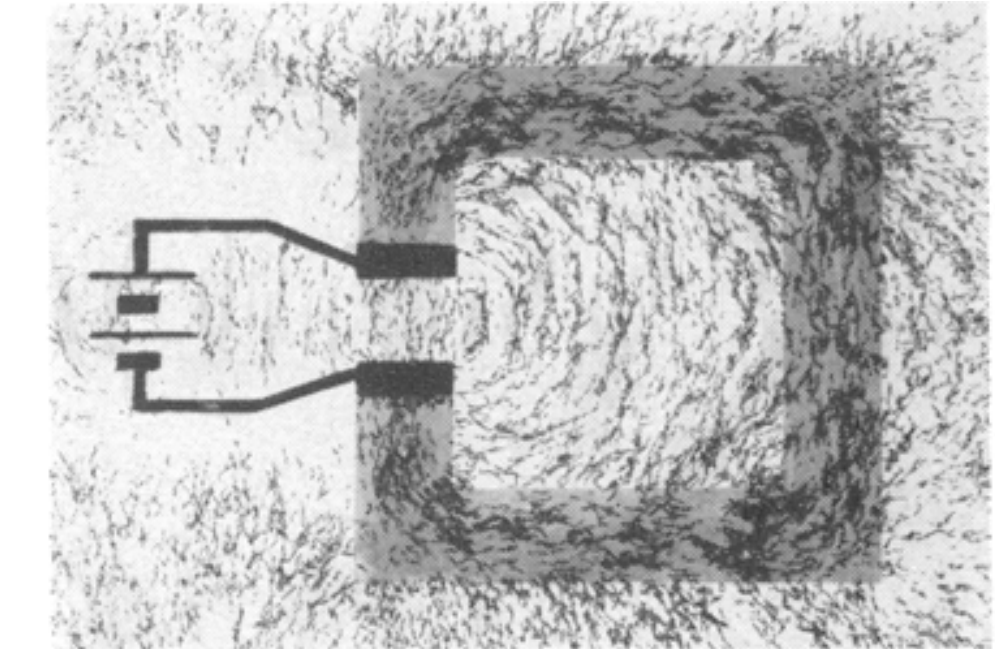


FIG. 4. Electric field of a square-shaped conducting ring (box).

O. Jefimenko, *Am. J. Phys.* **30**, 19 (1962)

A. K. Torres Assis and J. Akashi Hernandez, *The electric force of a current* (2007)

Energy flow and conservation in Maxwell's theory

Energy flow and conservation in Maxwell's theory

Energy conservation equation

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2} (\mathbf{E}^2 + c^2 \mathbf{B}^2)$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \varepsilon_0 c^2 \mathbf{E} \wedge \mathbf{B}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} + \text{div}(\mathbf{S}) = -\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{E}$$

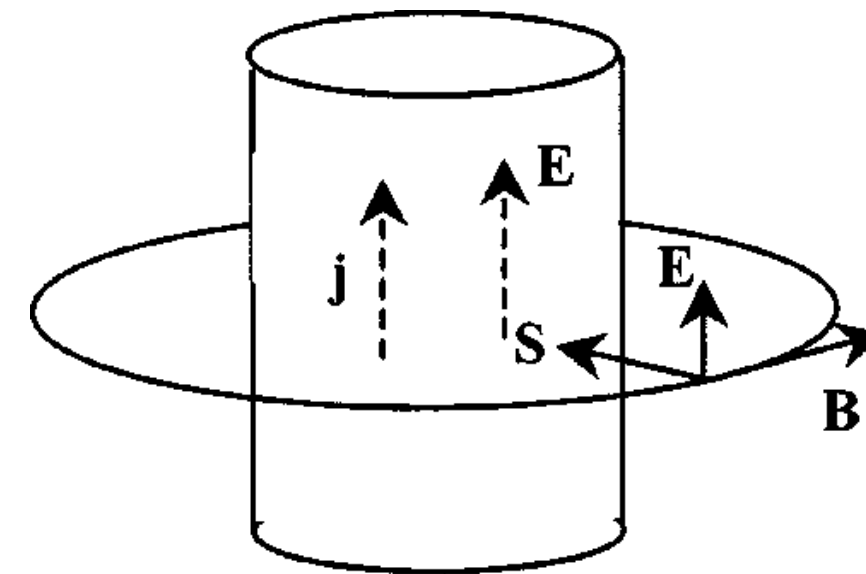
Energy flow and conservation in Maxwell's theory

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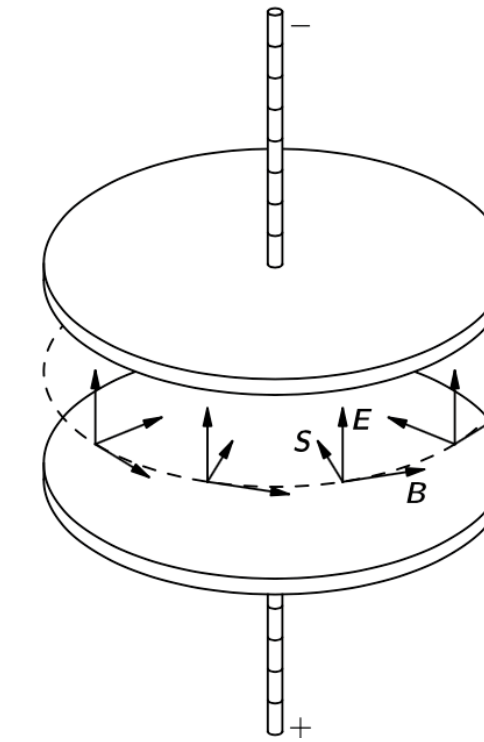
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Close to a resistive wire



Close to a charging capacitor

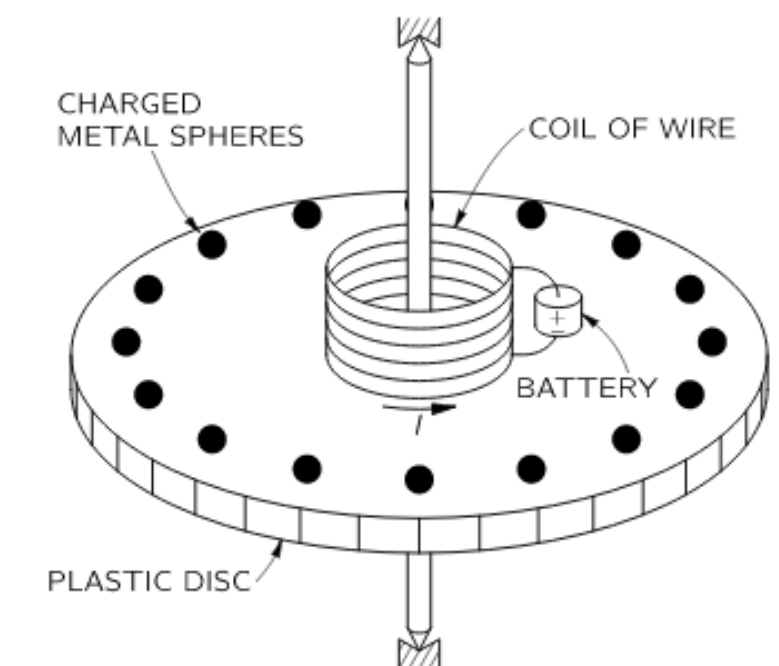


Fig. 17-5. Will the disc rotate if the current I is stopped?

R.P. Feynman *et al*, Lectures on Physics, chap. 27 (1965)

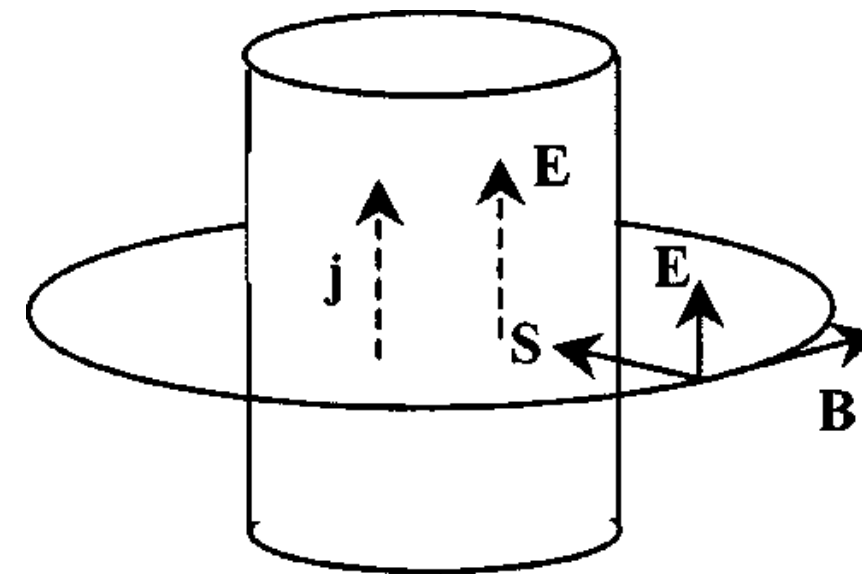
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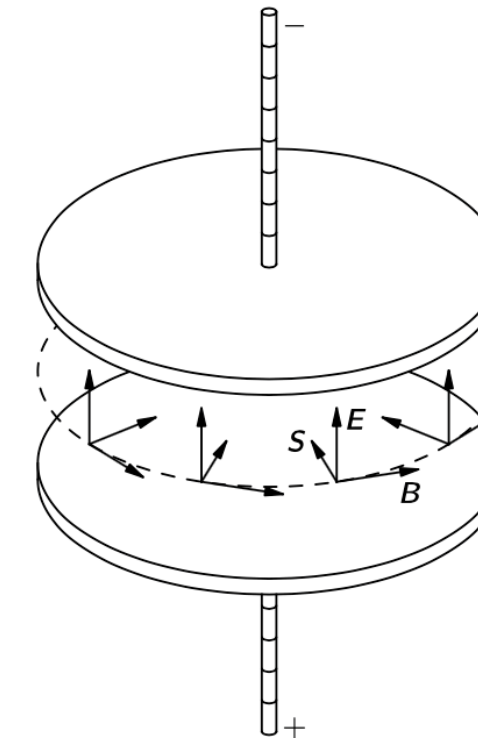
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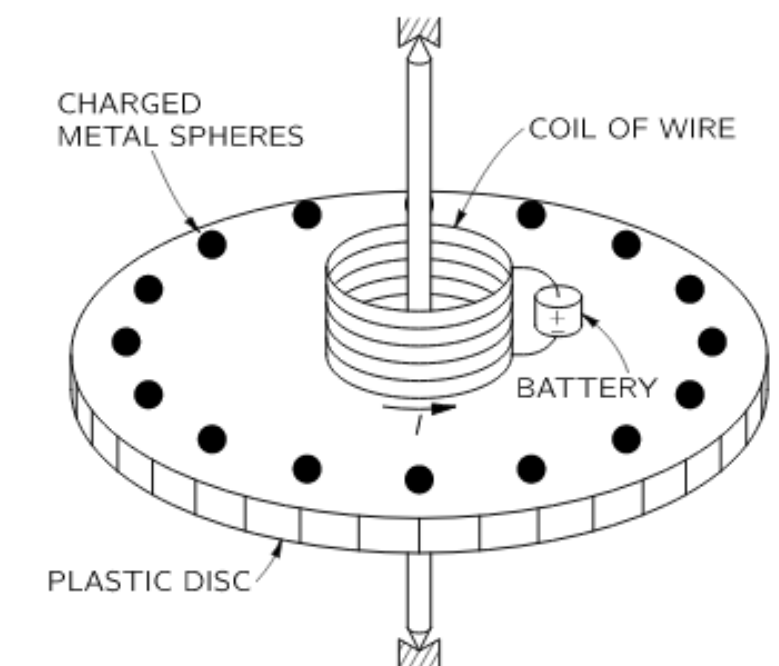


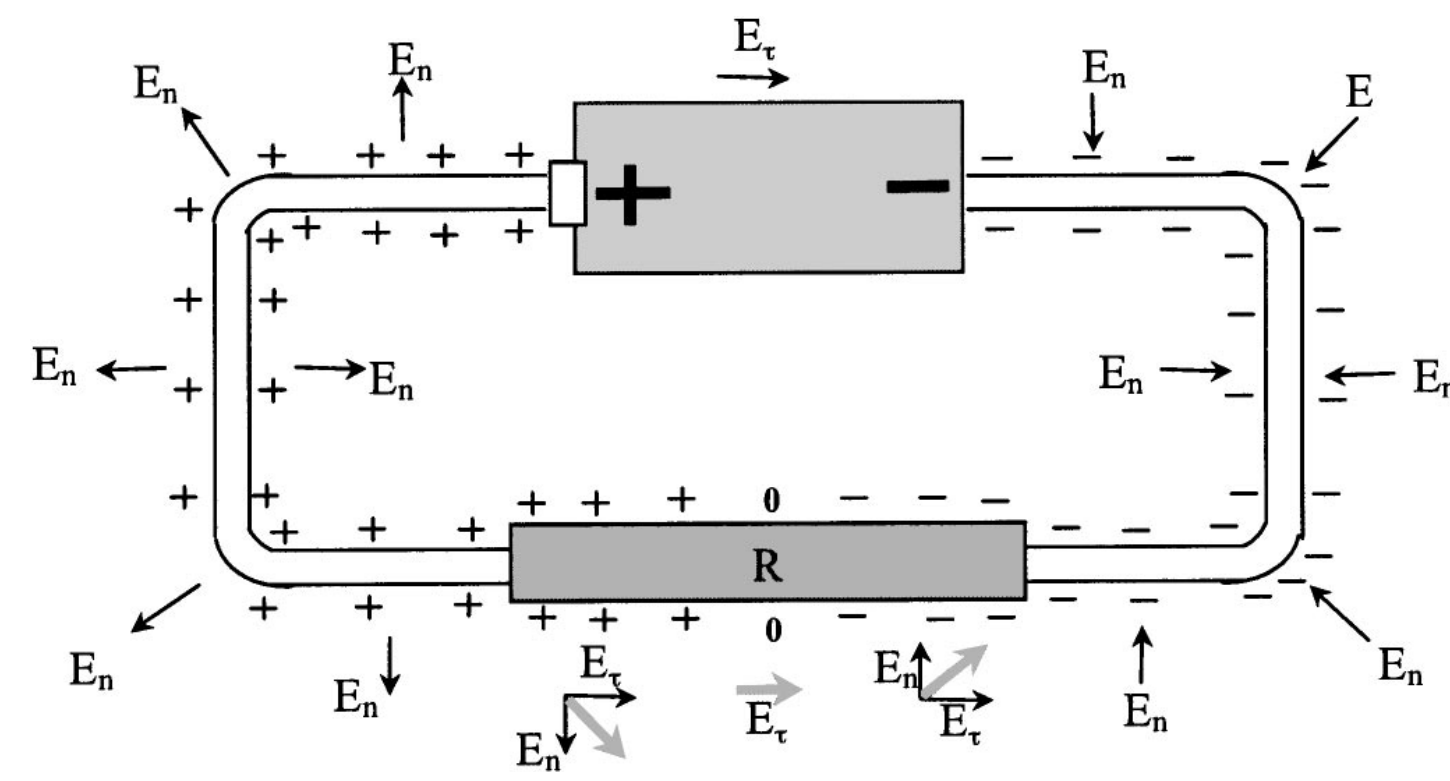
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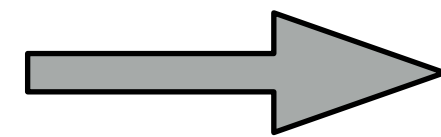
Question: what about an electrical circuit ?

How energy flows in stationary circuits ?

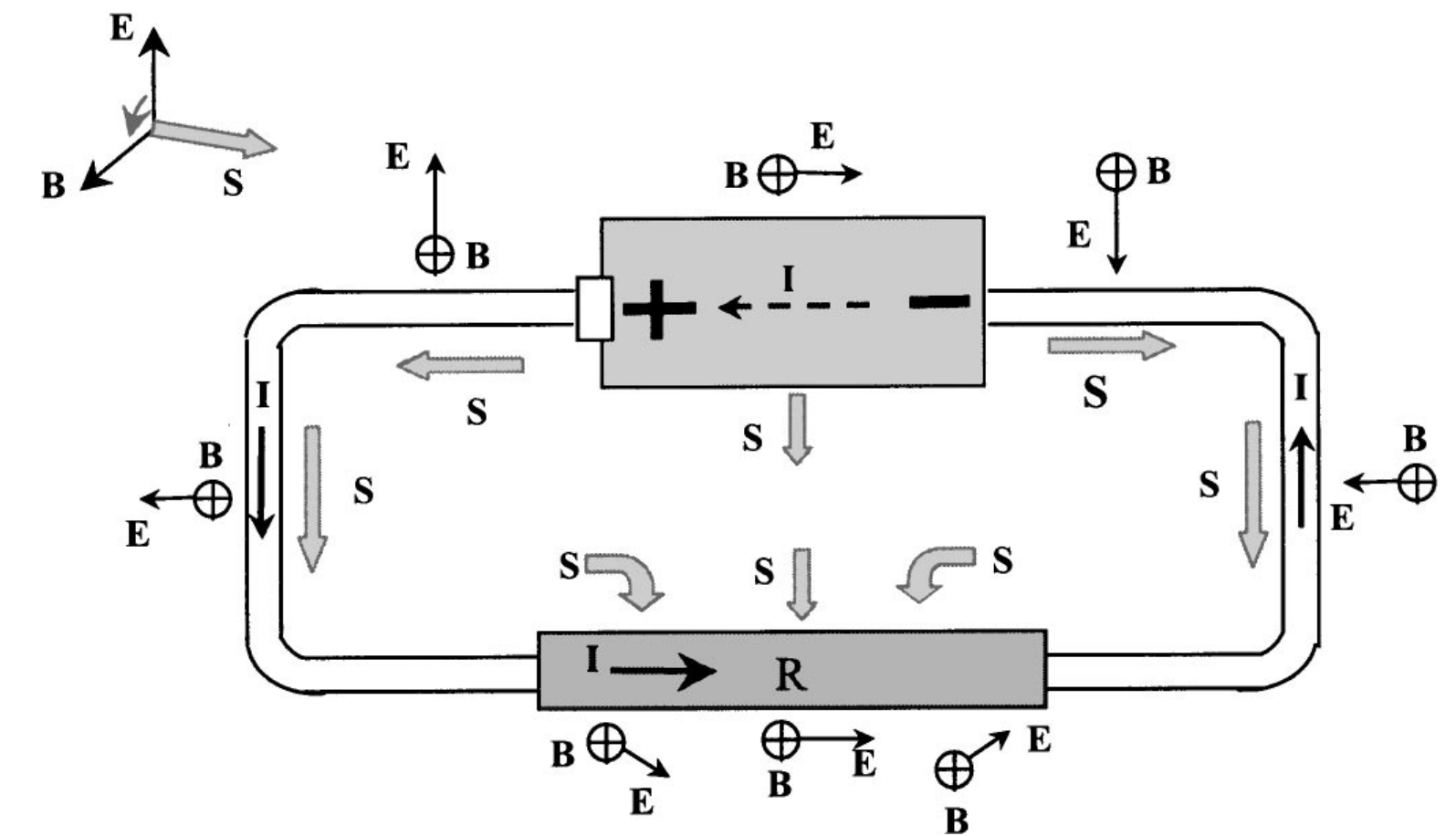
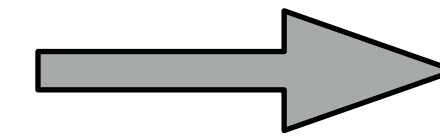
Question: what about an electrical circuit ?



Surface charges
Electrical current



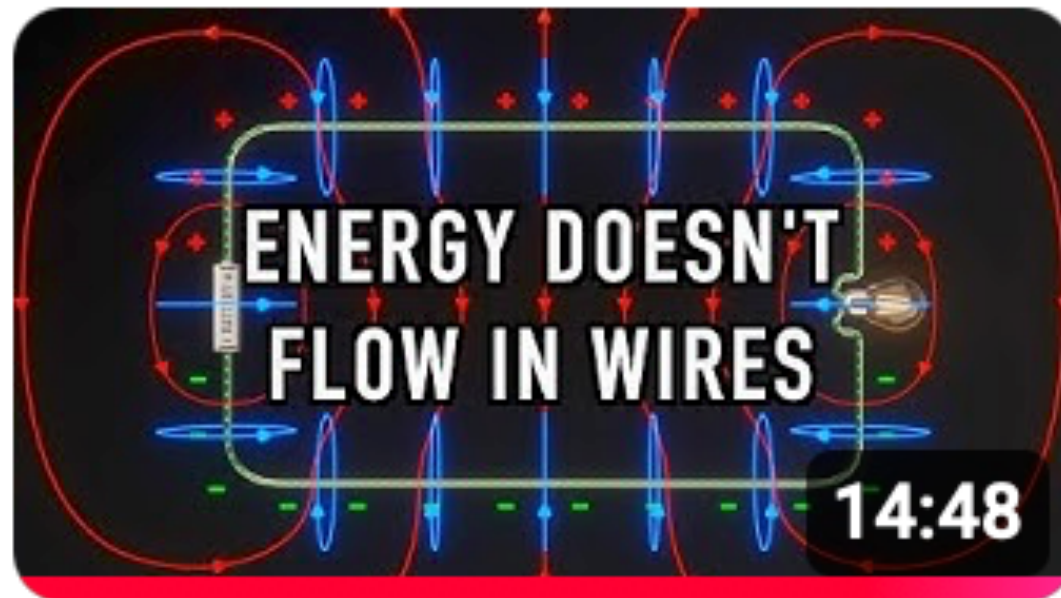
Electric field
Magnetic field



Energy flow (Poynting vector)

I. Galli and E. Goihbarg, Am. J. Phys. **73**, 141 (2005)

Electrical circuits and EM waves

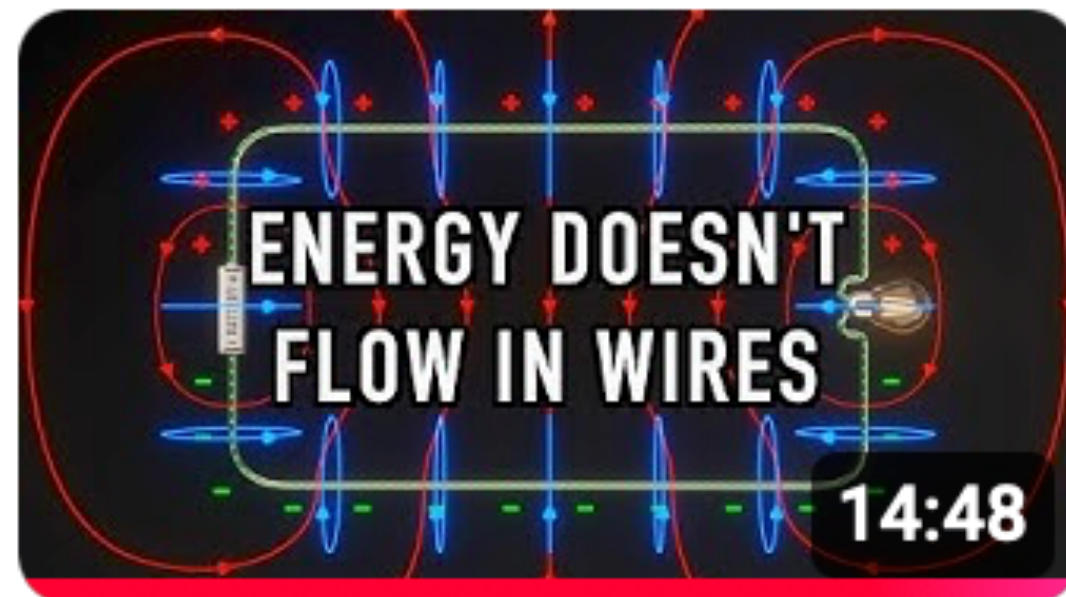


The Big Misconception About Electricity

Veritasium ✓

24 M de vues • il y a 3 ans

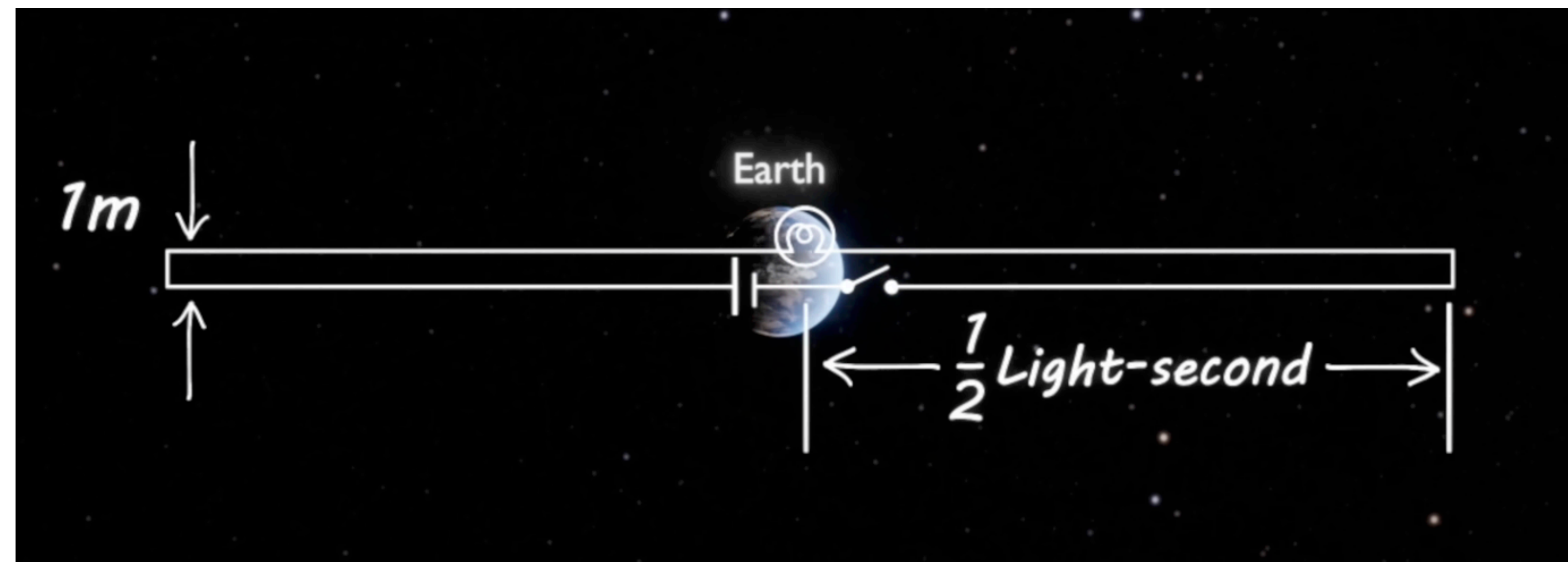
Electrical circuits and EM waves



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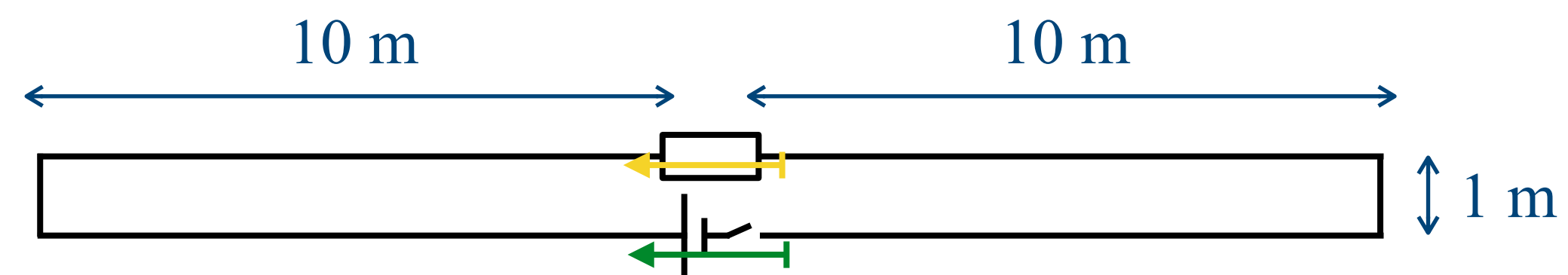
24 M de vues • il y a 3 ans



1 s or 3 ns ?

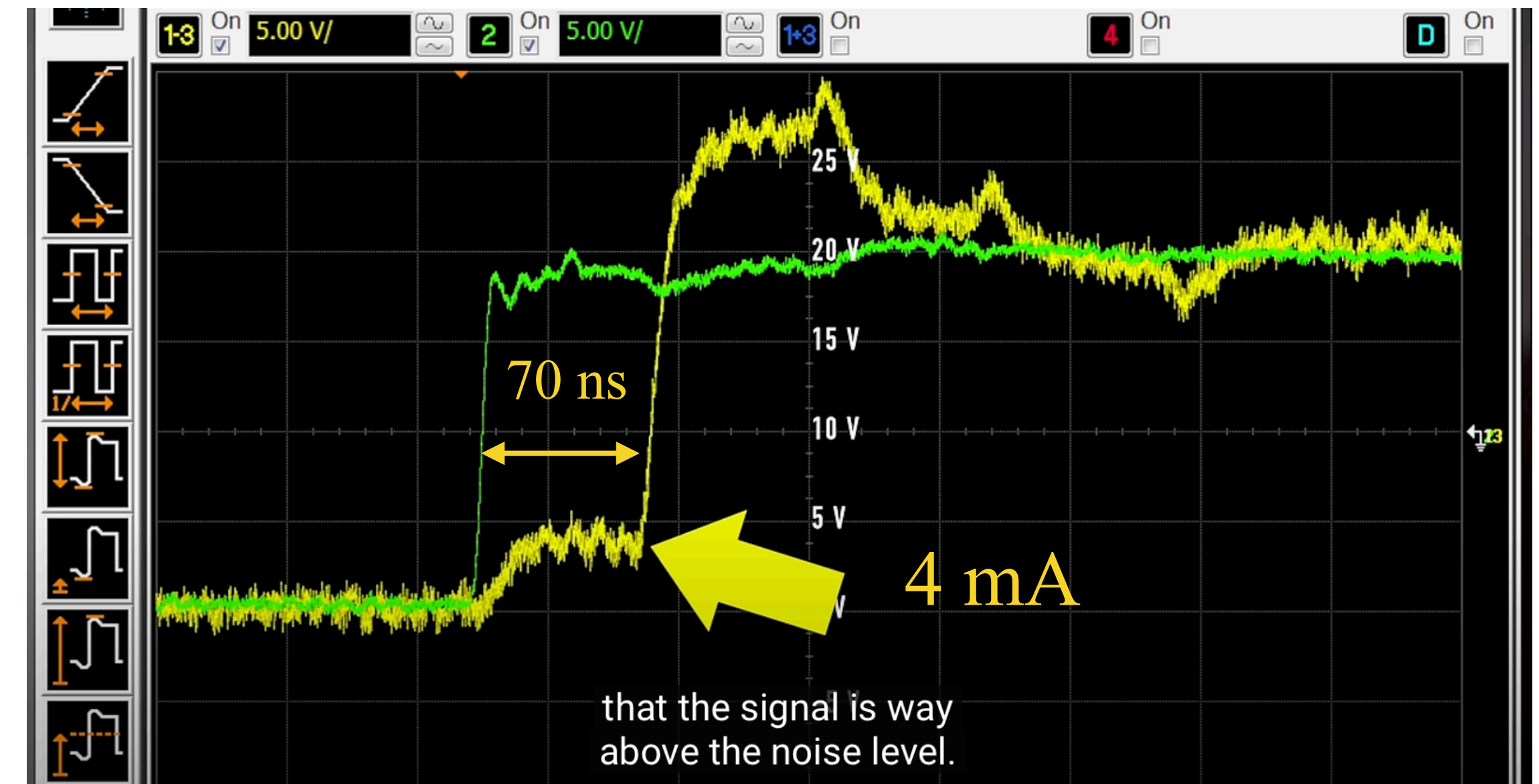
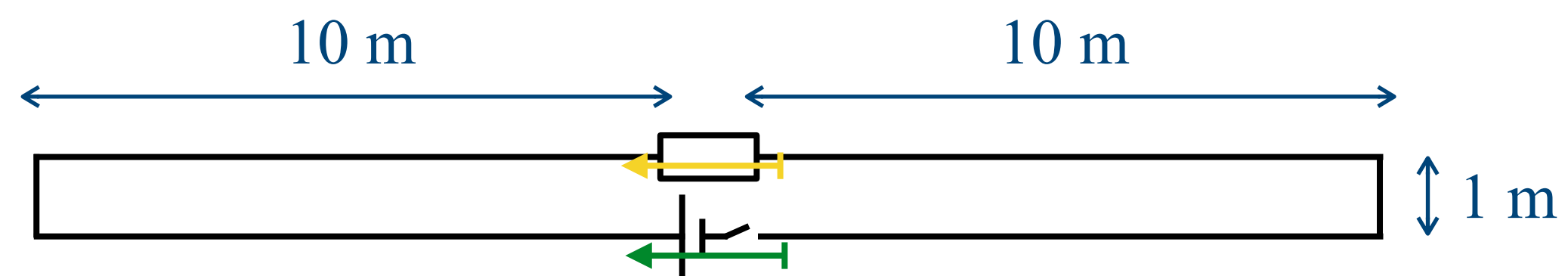
Electrical circuits and EM waves

Experimental results !



Electrical circuits and EM waves

Experimental results !

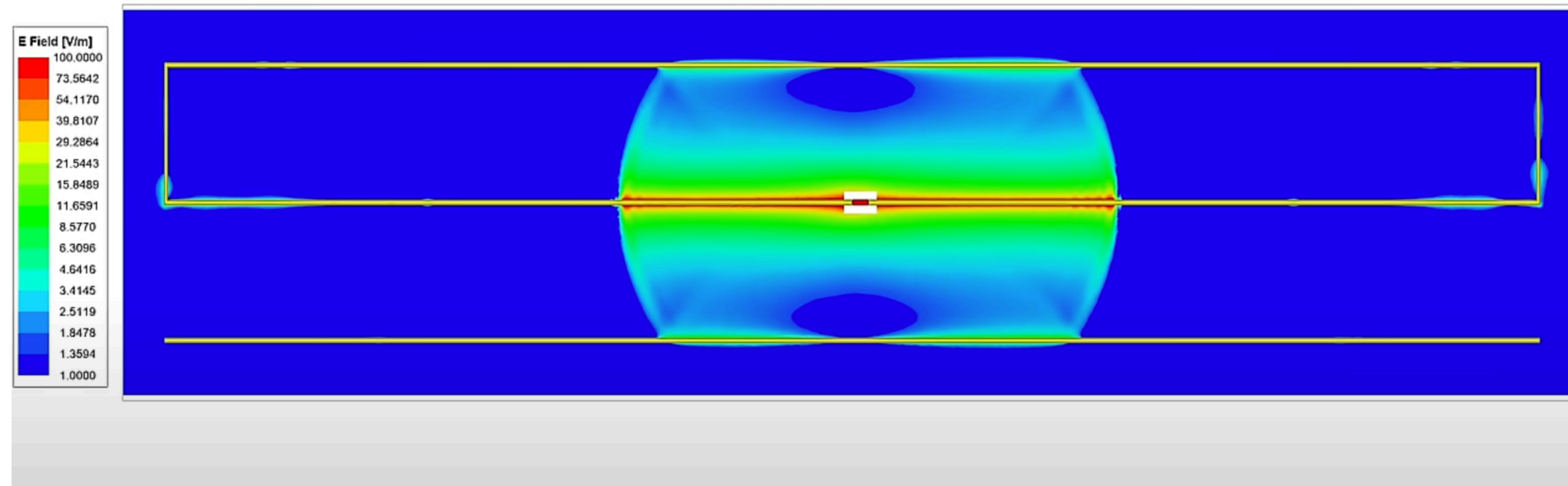


50 ns





Electric field simulation

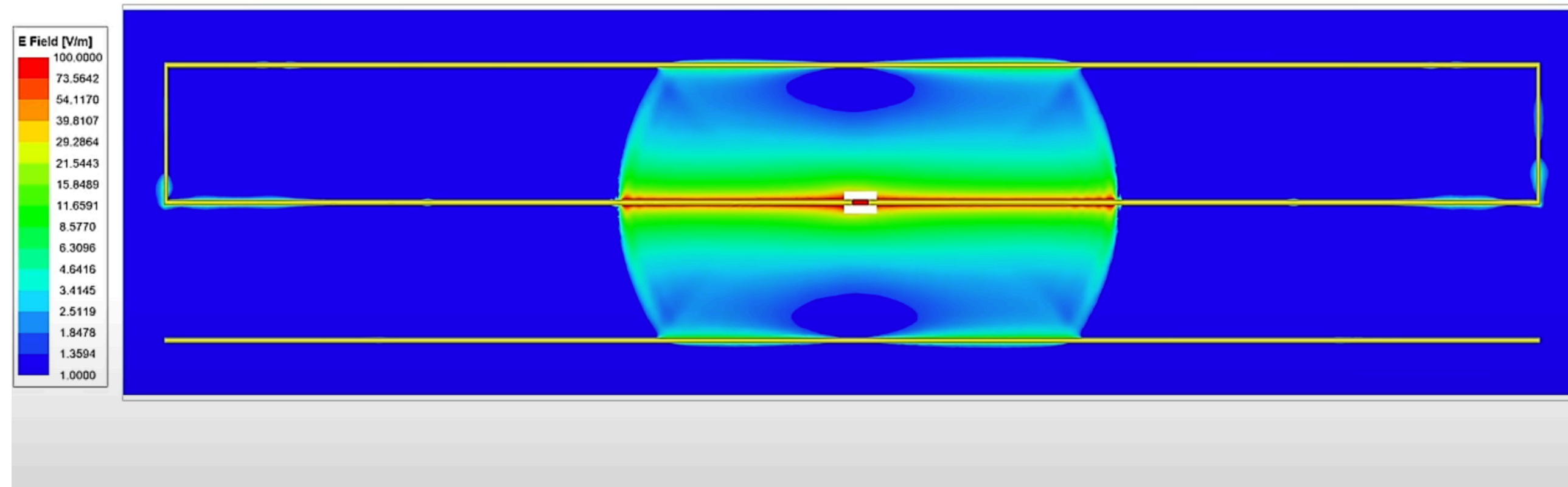


Outgoing wave at the speed of light

Transient regime: the propagating electric field
can induce current in the resistor !



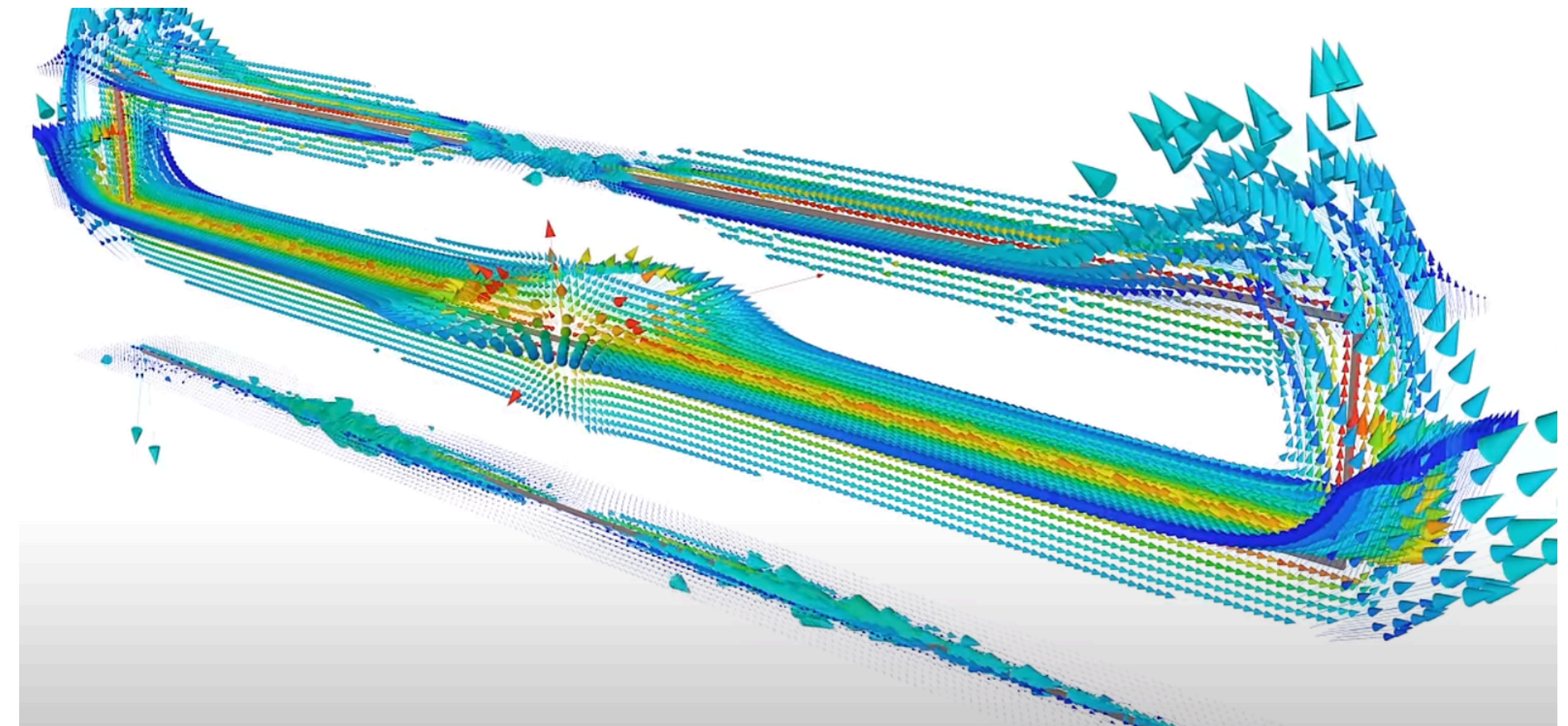
Electric field simulation



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Poynting vector simulation



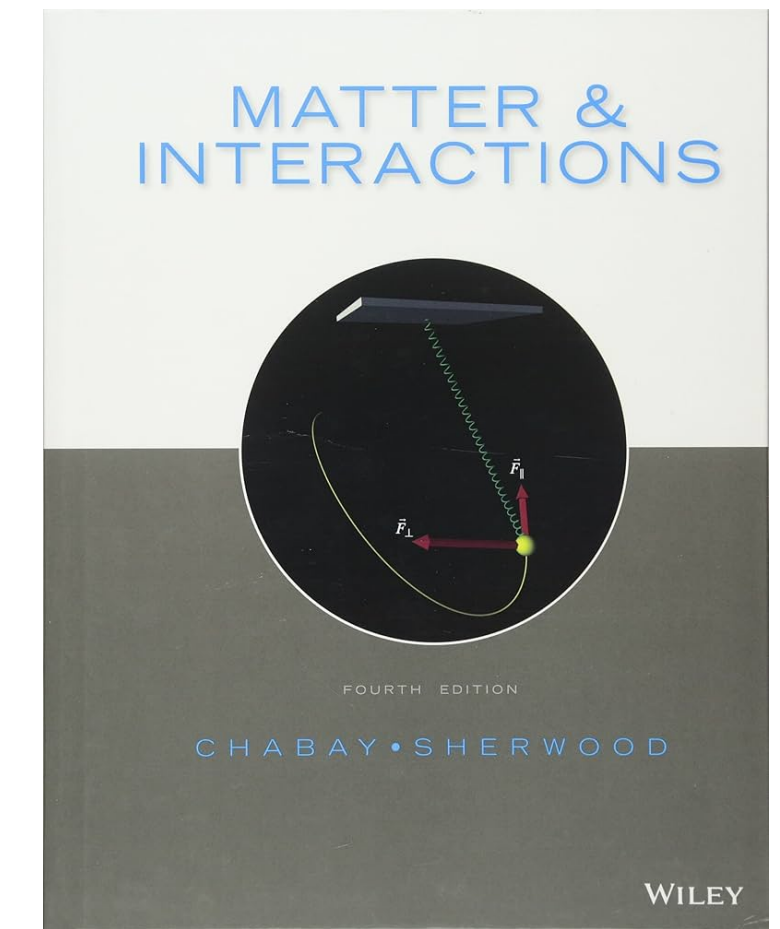
Close to stationary regime:
the energy flows is located **around the wires !**

Key messages on classical macroscopic circuits

Key messages on classical macroscopic circuits

Electrical circuits exhibit surface charges that:

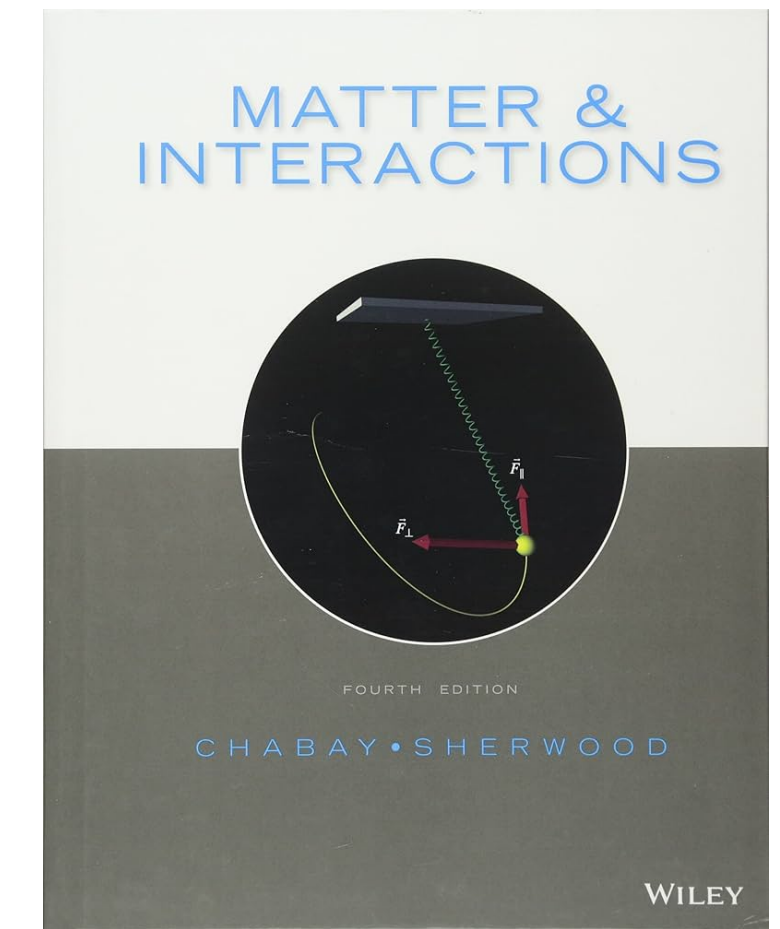
- Maintain the potential around the circuit
- Generate the electrical field outside the conductors
- Ensure the confinement of the electrical current within the conductors



Key messages on classical macroscopic circuits

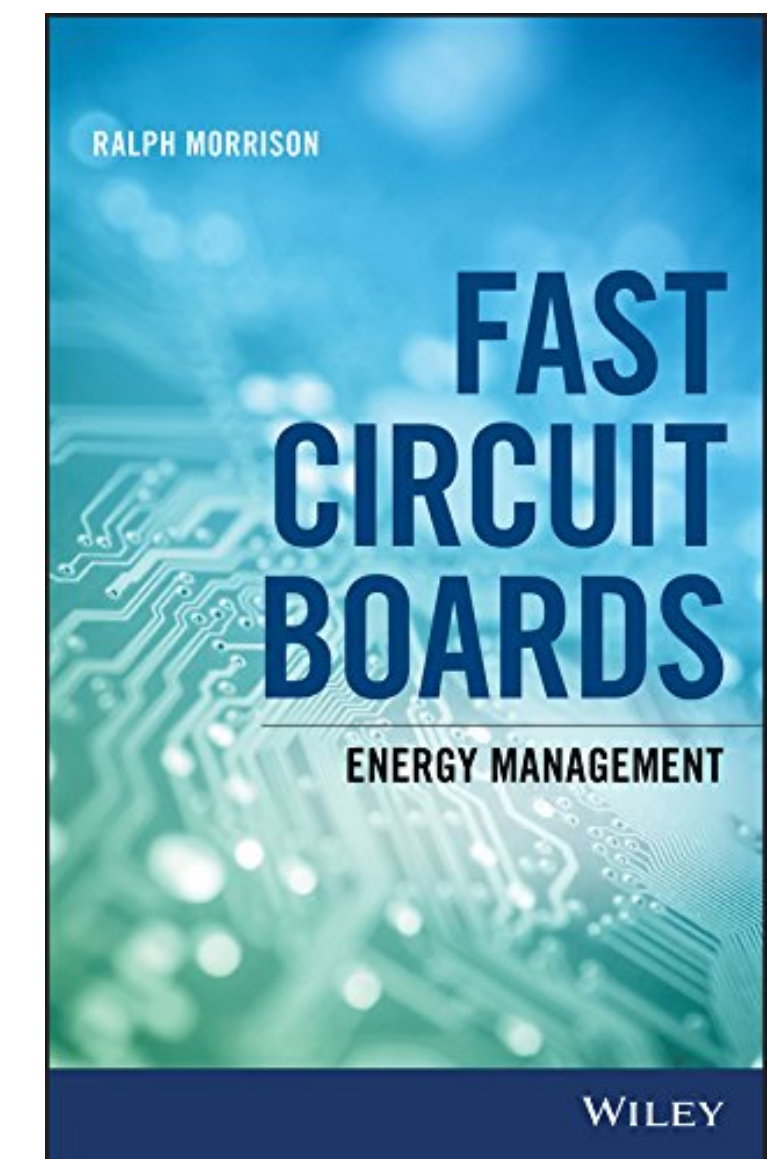
Electrical circuits exhibit surface charges that:

- Maintain the potential around the circuit
- Generate the electrical field outside the conductors
- Ensure the confinement of the electrical current within the conductors



Buildings have walls and halls.
People travel in the halls, not the walls.
Circuits have traces and spaces.
Energy travels in the spaces, not the traces.

Ralph Morrison



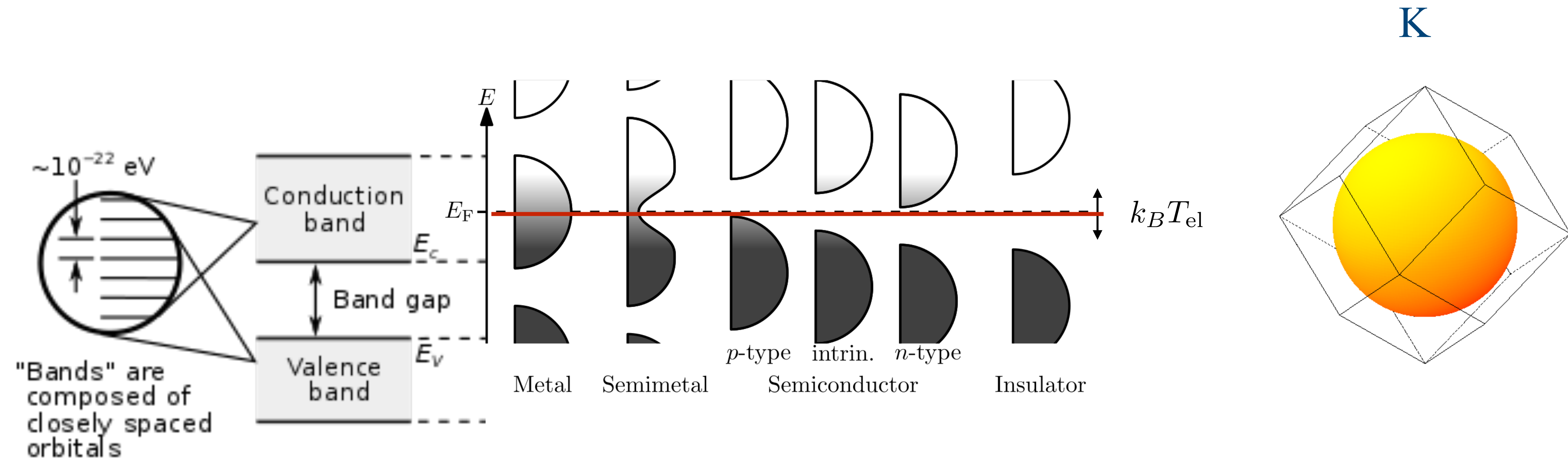
Outline

- From Ampère to electrical circuits
- **Quantum physics within electricity**
- Towards quantum coherent electronics
- Presentation of the PCP 2025 cycle

Part II: The quantum within electricity

- Quantum electrons in solids
- Quantum capacitances and inductances

Electrons in « ideal » solids

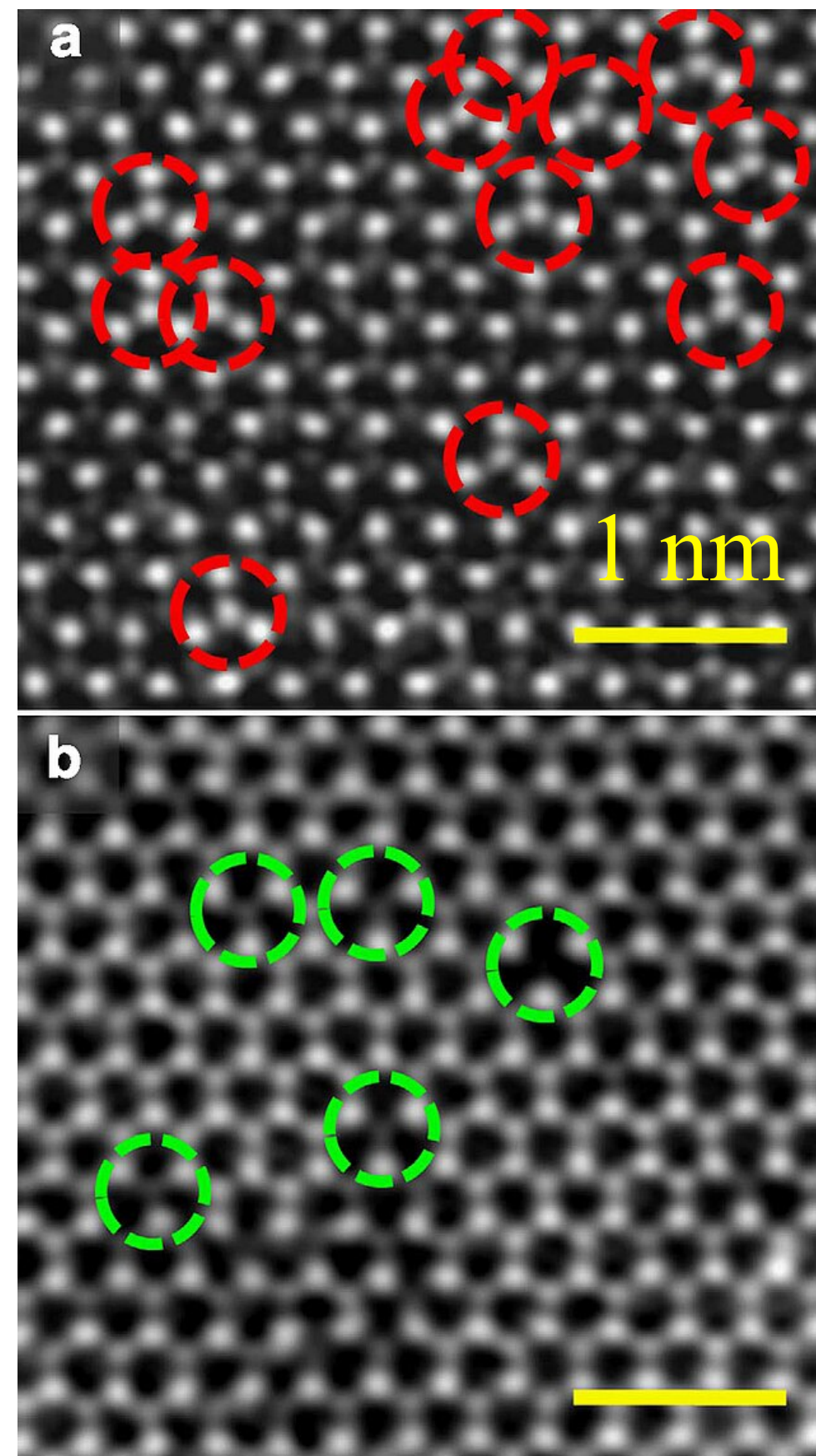


C. Kittel, *Quantum theory of solids*, chap 9.

Ideal crystal: macroscopic Slater determinant of delocalized electrons

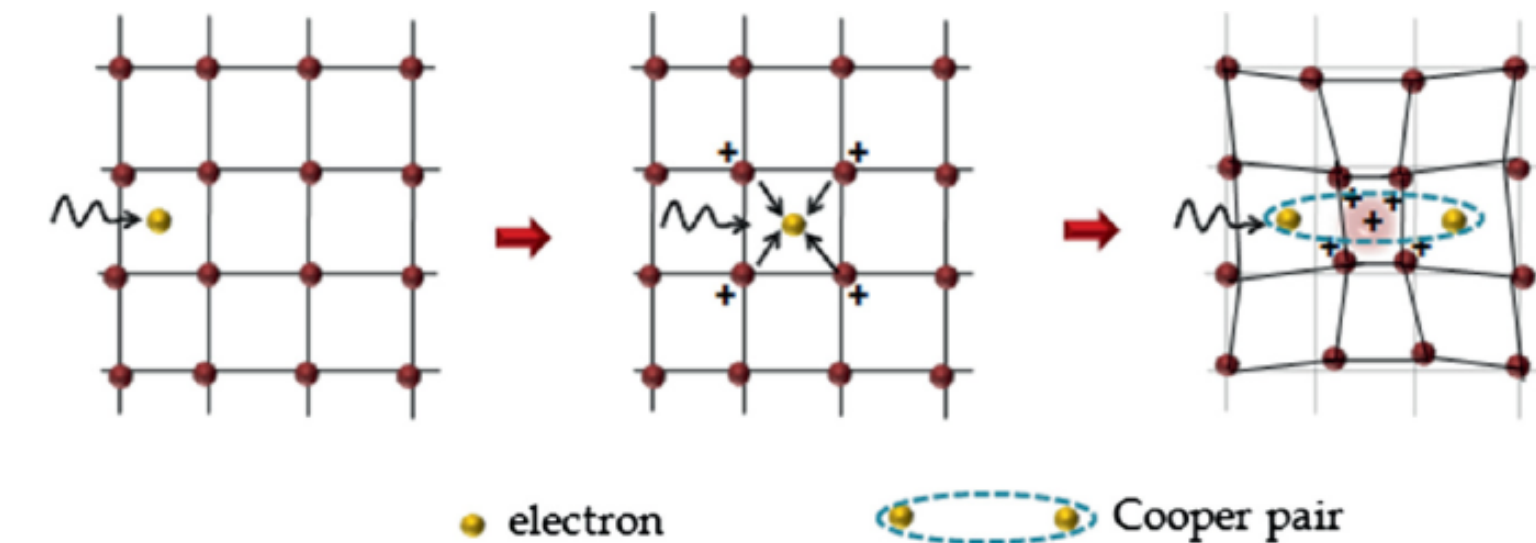
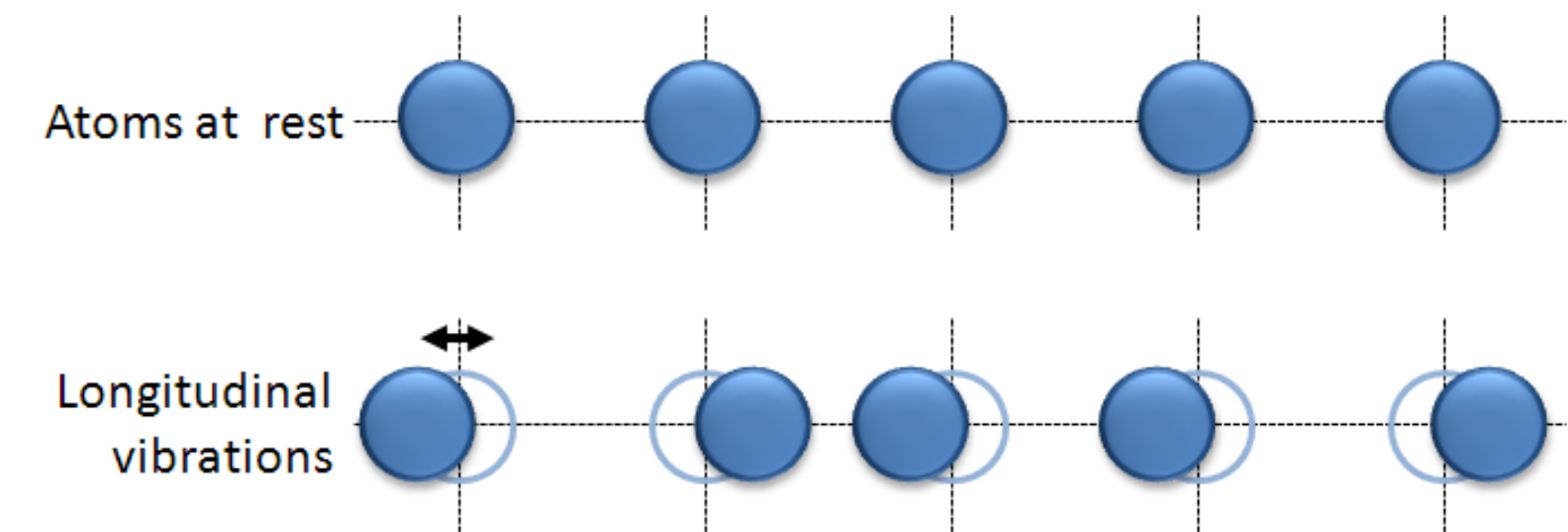
Electrons in « real » solids

Crystal defects (*elastic collisions*)



Dynamical degrees of freedom (*inelastic collisions*)

Phonons



See H. Pothier's talk (19/03/2025)

Others: TLS, magnetic impurities, etc

Electron / electron interactions !

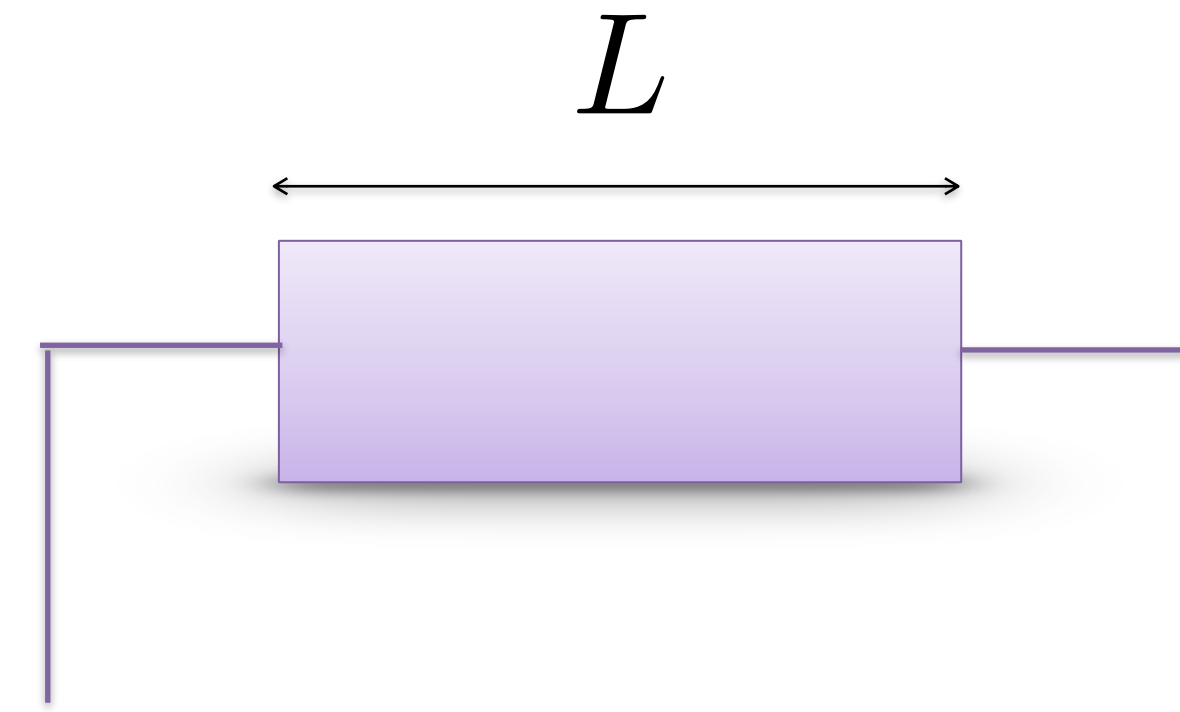
Transport of electrons

Relevant length scales

l_e elastic scattering length

l_ϕ inelastic scattering length

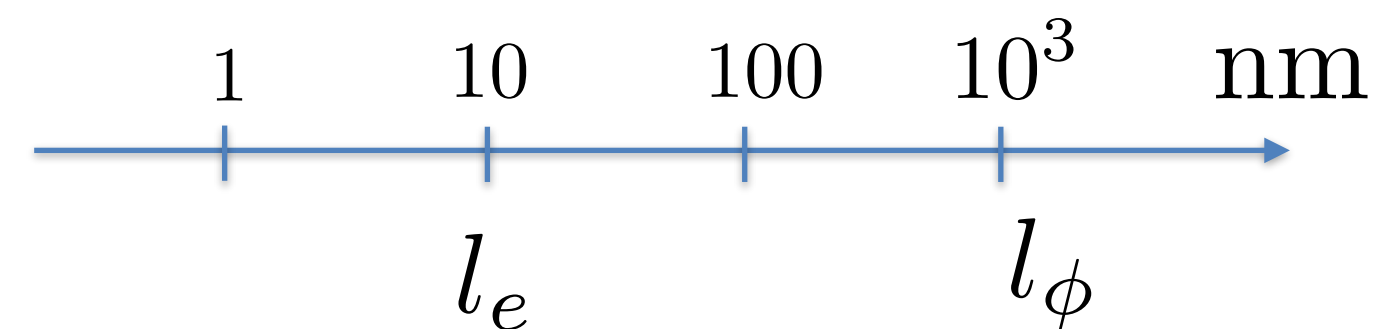
Coherent transport is defined by: $L \lesssim l_\phi$



$$l_e \ll L \lesssim l_\phi$$

Diffusive transport

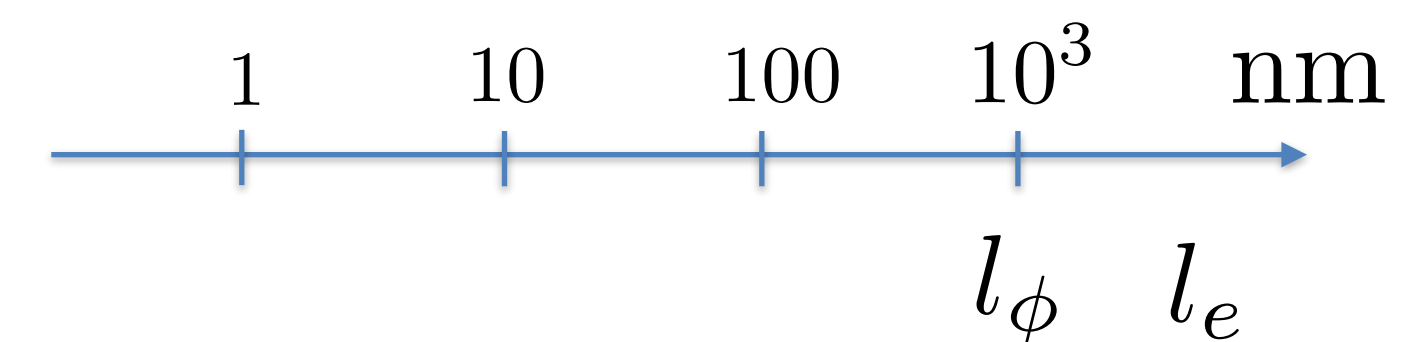
Metal at 1 K



$$L \lesssim l_e \text{ and } l_\phi$$

Ballistic transport

2DEG at 1 K



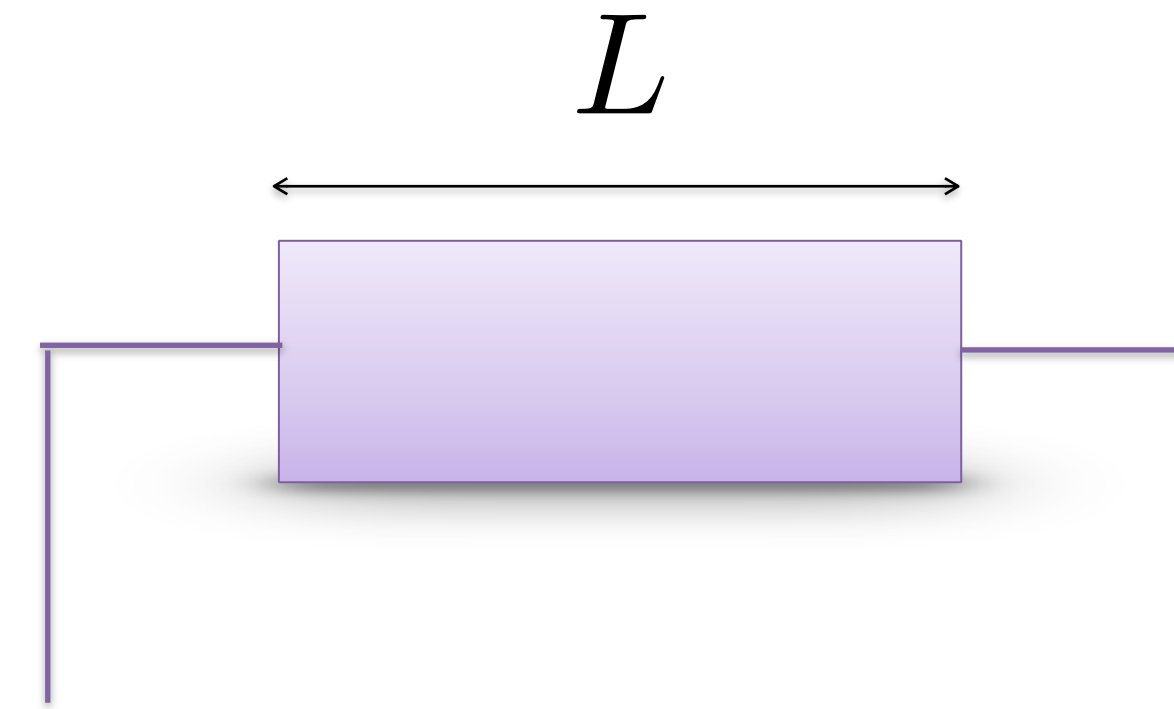
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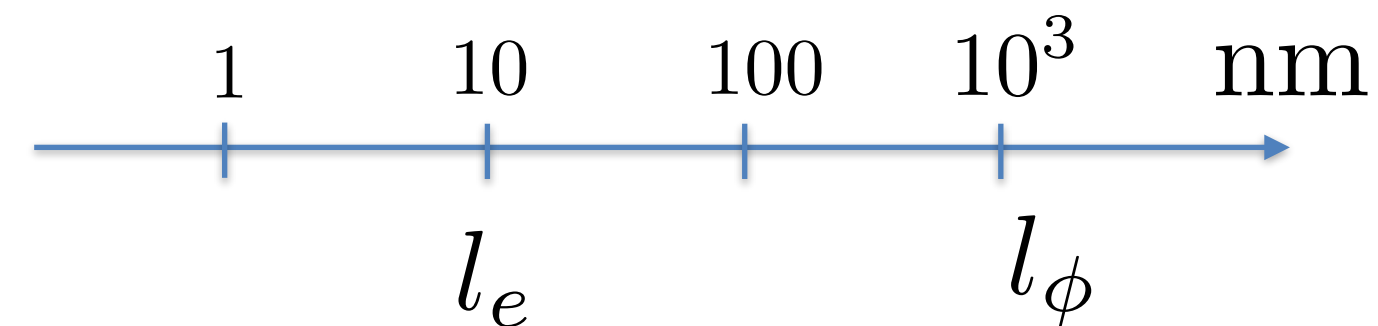
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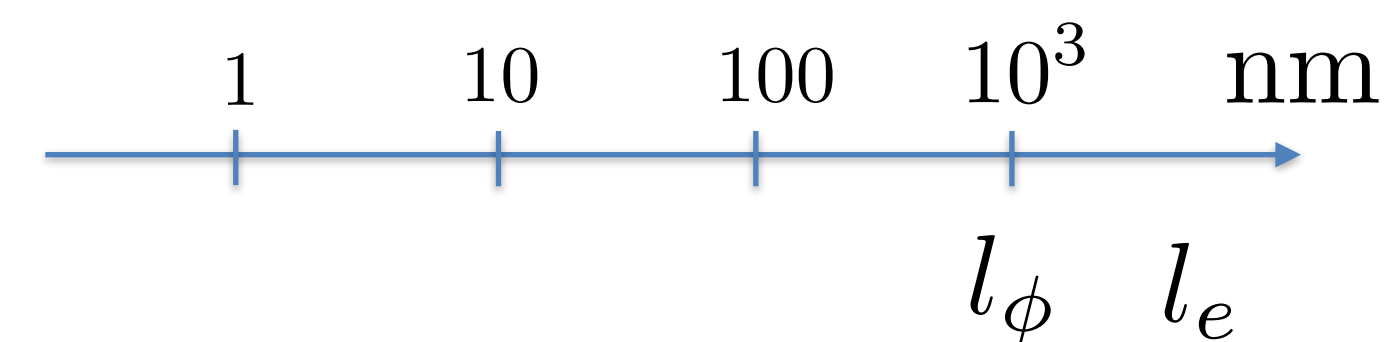
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Ballistic transport

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Conductivity in the semi-classical approach

First order electronic coherence at time t

$$\mathcal{G}_t^{(e)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \text{Tr} (\psi(\mathbf{r}) \rho(t) \psi^\dagger(\mathbf{r}'))$$

Contains information on single particle quantities:

$$\langle \mathbf{j}(t, r) \rangle = \int \langle \mathbf{r}_+ | \hat{j}(r) | \mathbf{r}_- \rangle \mathcal{G}_t^{(e)}(\mathbf{r}_+, \mathbf{r}_-) d^d \mathbf{r}_+ d^d \mathbf{r}_-$$

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Problem: evolution of $\mathcal{G}_t^{(e)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$?

Conductivity in the semi-classical approach

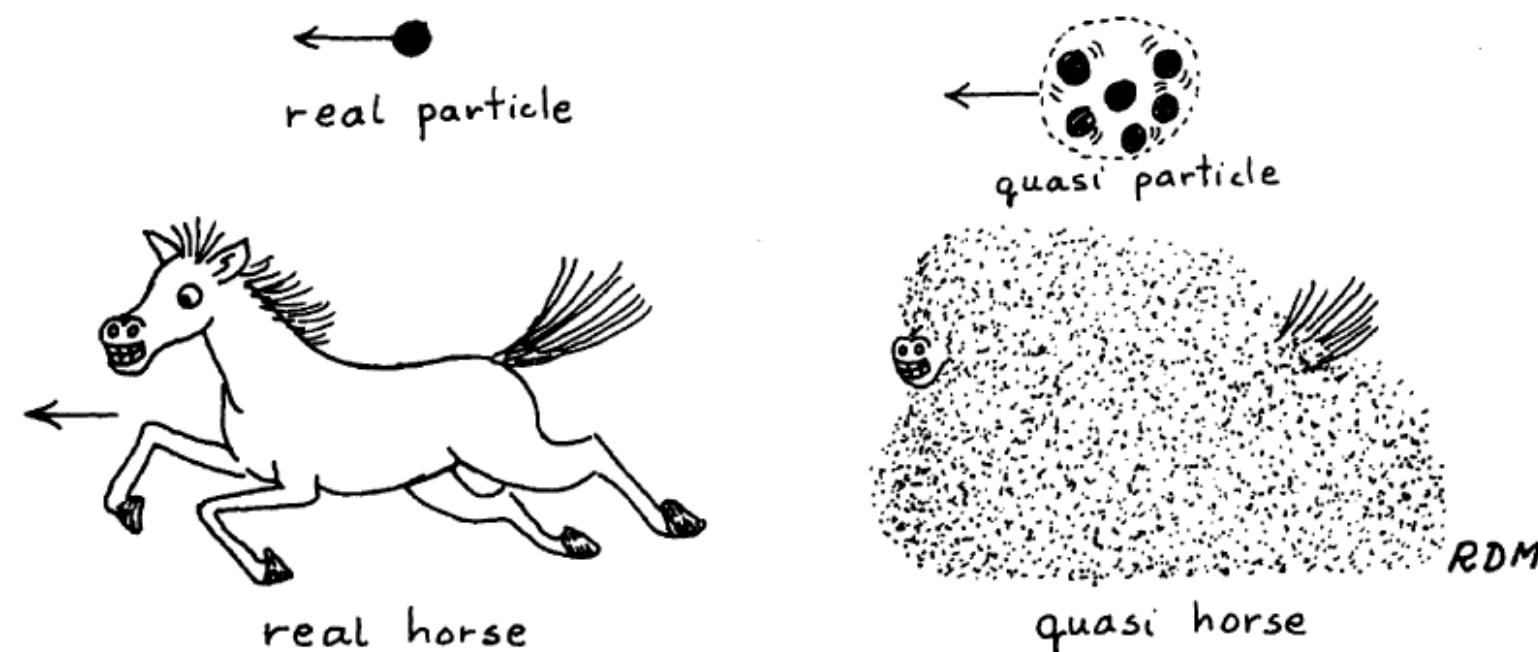
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Conductivity in the semi-classical approach

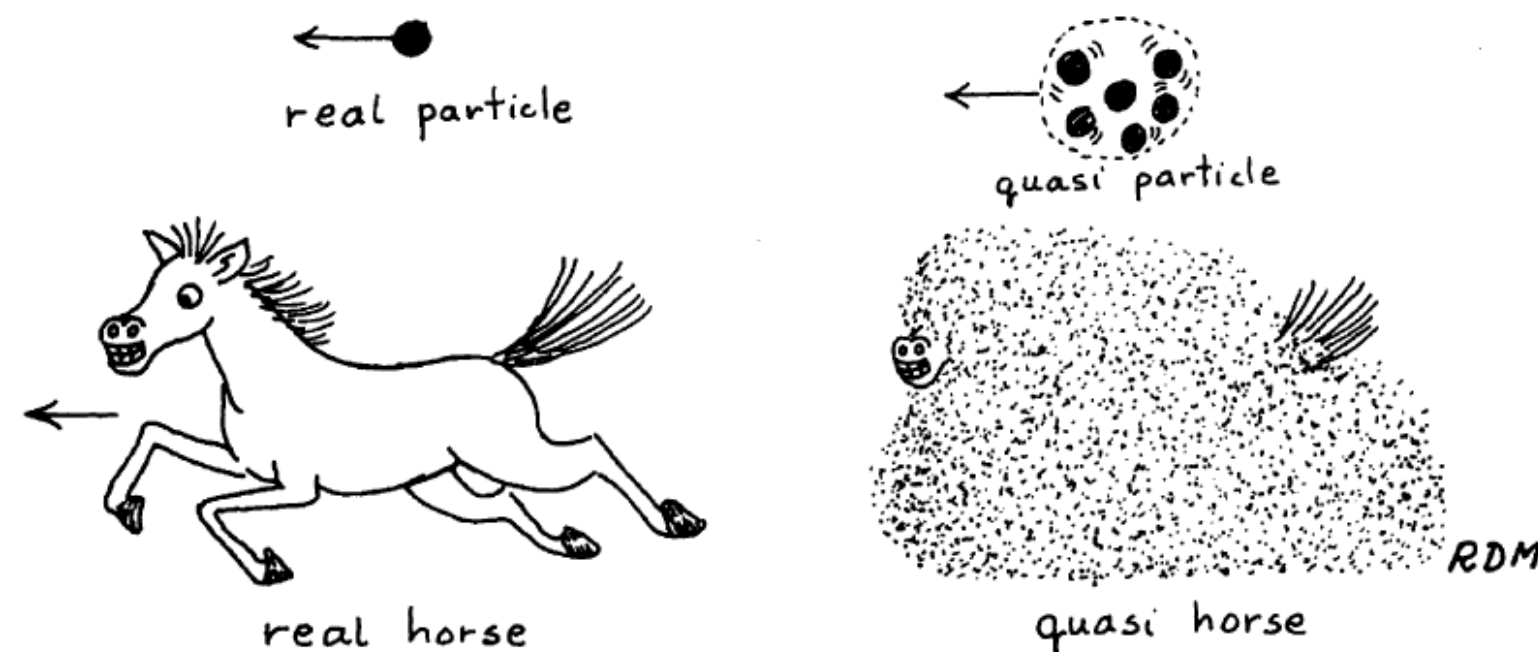
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Some 1D chiral systems with interactions $\rightarrow$ See G. Fève's talk (16/04/2025)

Conductivity in the semi-classical approach

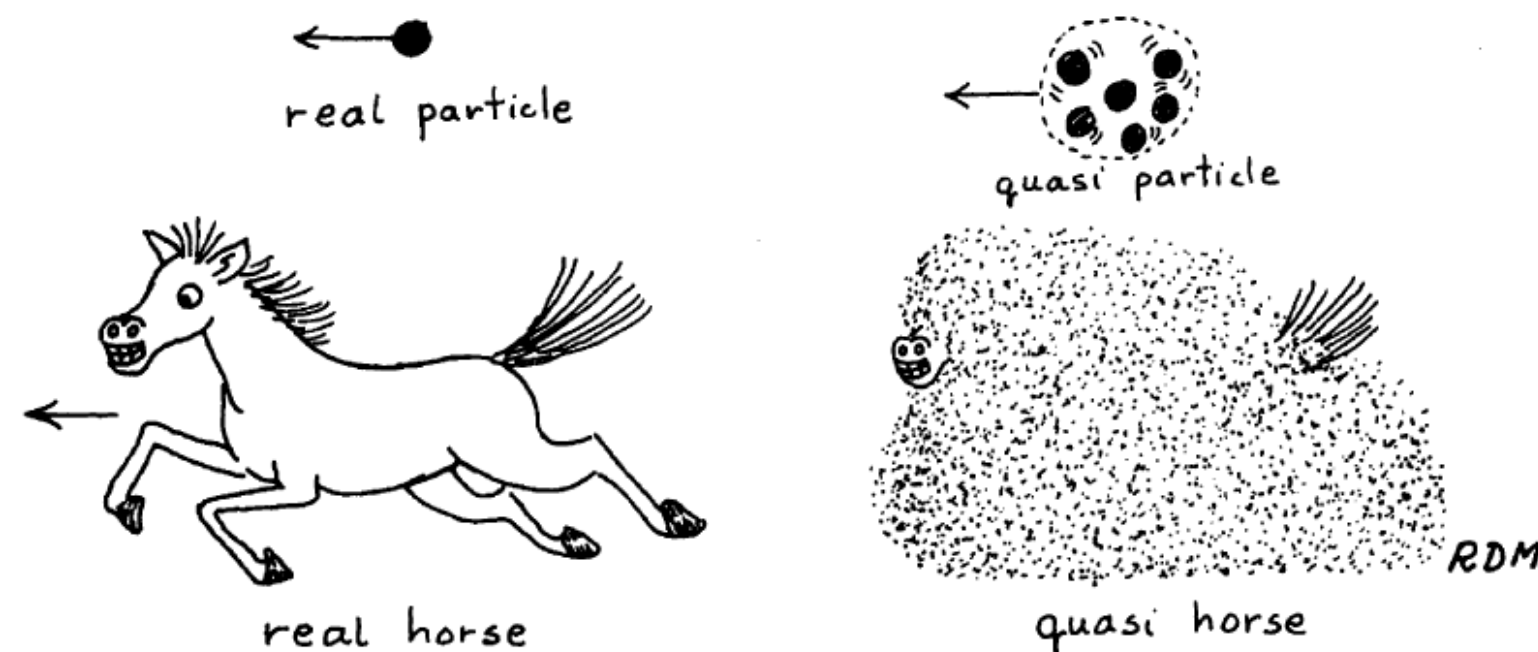
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Problem: evolution of $\mathcal{G}_t^{(e)}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$?



Some 1D chiral systems with interactions → See G. Fève's talk (16/04/2025)

Normal metals with not too strong disorder and interactions

Semi-classical propagation of electrons

Disordered but not too much

$$k_F l_e \gg 1$$

Classical motion with
multiple collisions

$$D = \frac{v_F l_e}{d} = \frac{v_F^2 \tau}{d}$$

$$l_e = v_F \tau$$

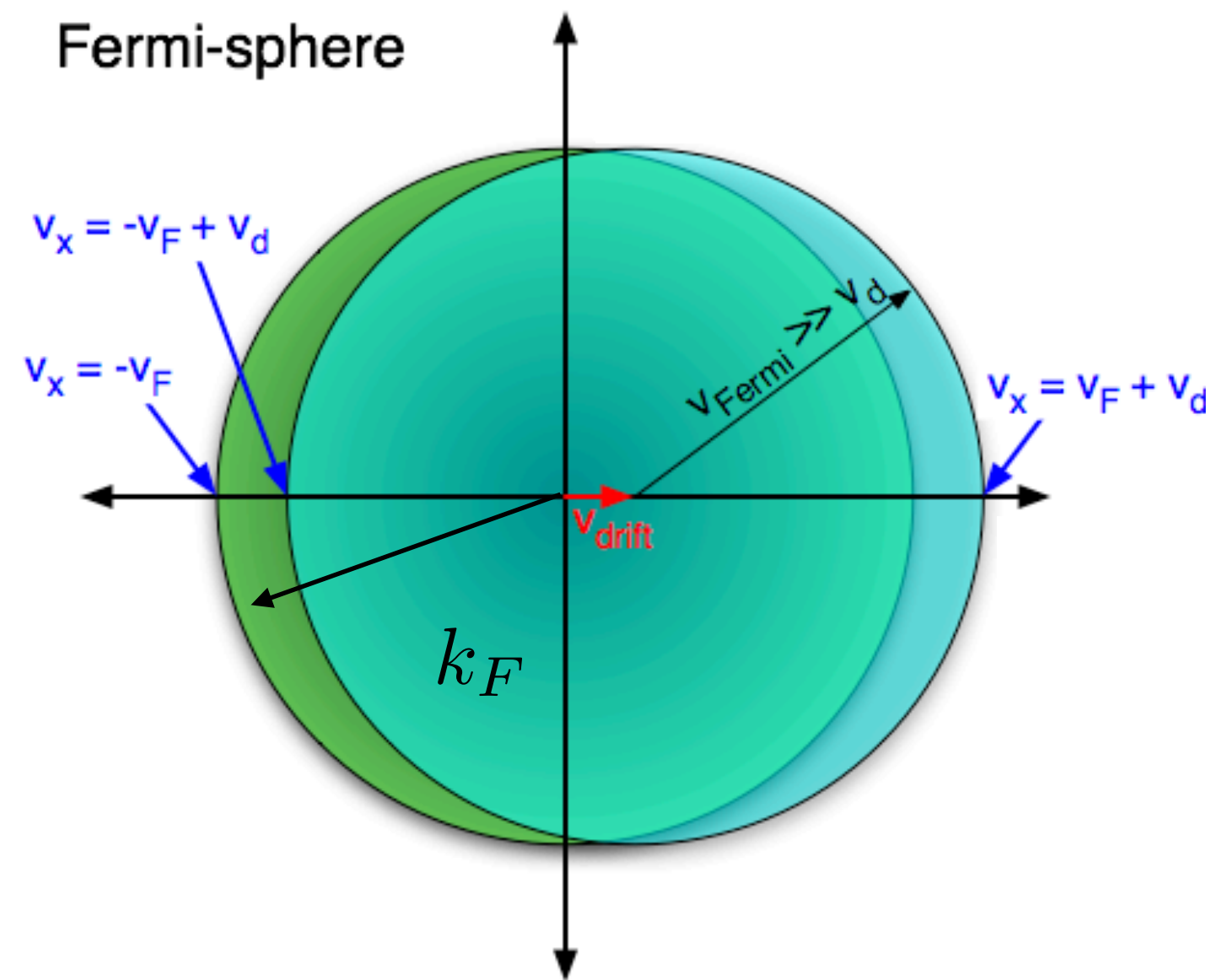
$$\tau \simeq 10^{-14} \text{ s} \quad (300 \text{ K})$$

Drude model

$$E(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{(\hbar \mathbf{k})^2}{2m_*}$$

$$v_F = \frac{\hbar k_F}{m_*}$$

Cu: $E_F = 7.05 \text{ eV} \simeq 82 \times 10^4 \text{ K}$
 $v_F \simeq 1.57 \times 10^6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$



$$\mathbf{j} = \frac{ne^2 \tau}{m_*} \mathbf{E}$$

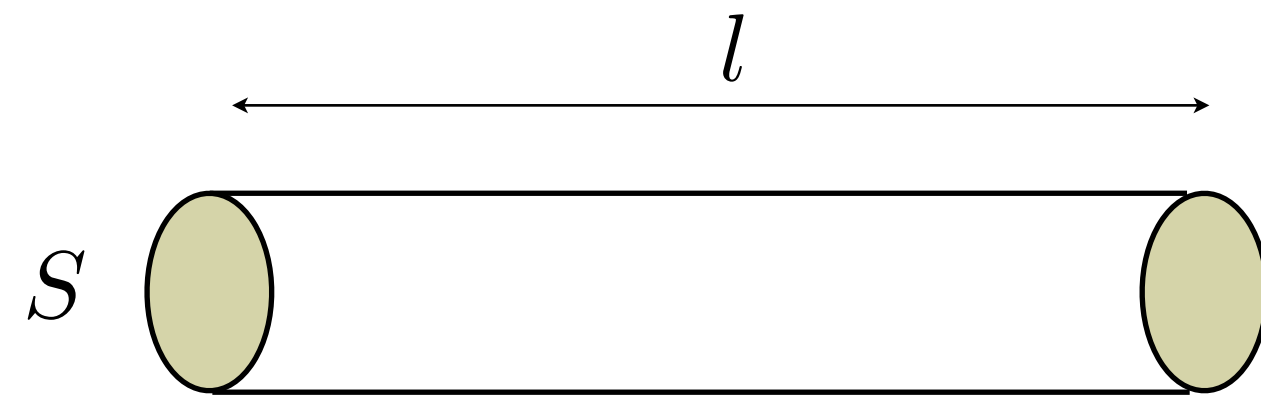
$$\sigma = \frac{ne^2 \tau}{m_*} = \frac{ne^2 D}{d v_F^2}$$

$$v_{\text{drift}} = \mu E$$

$$\mu \simeq 10 - 50 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ V}^{-1} \quad (300 \text{ K})$$

G. Montambaux, Ecole du GDR Physique Quantique Mésoscopique (2012)
 G. M et E. Akkermans, *Physique mésoscopique des électrons et des photons*, Savoirs Actuels

Energy flow and stock



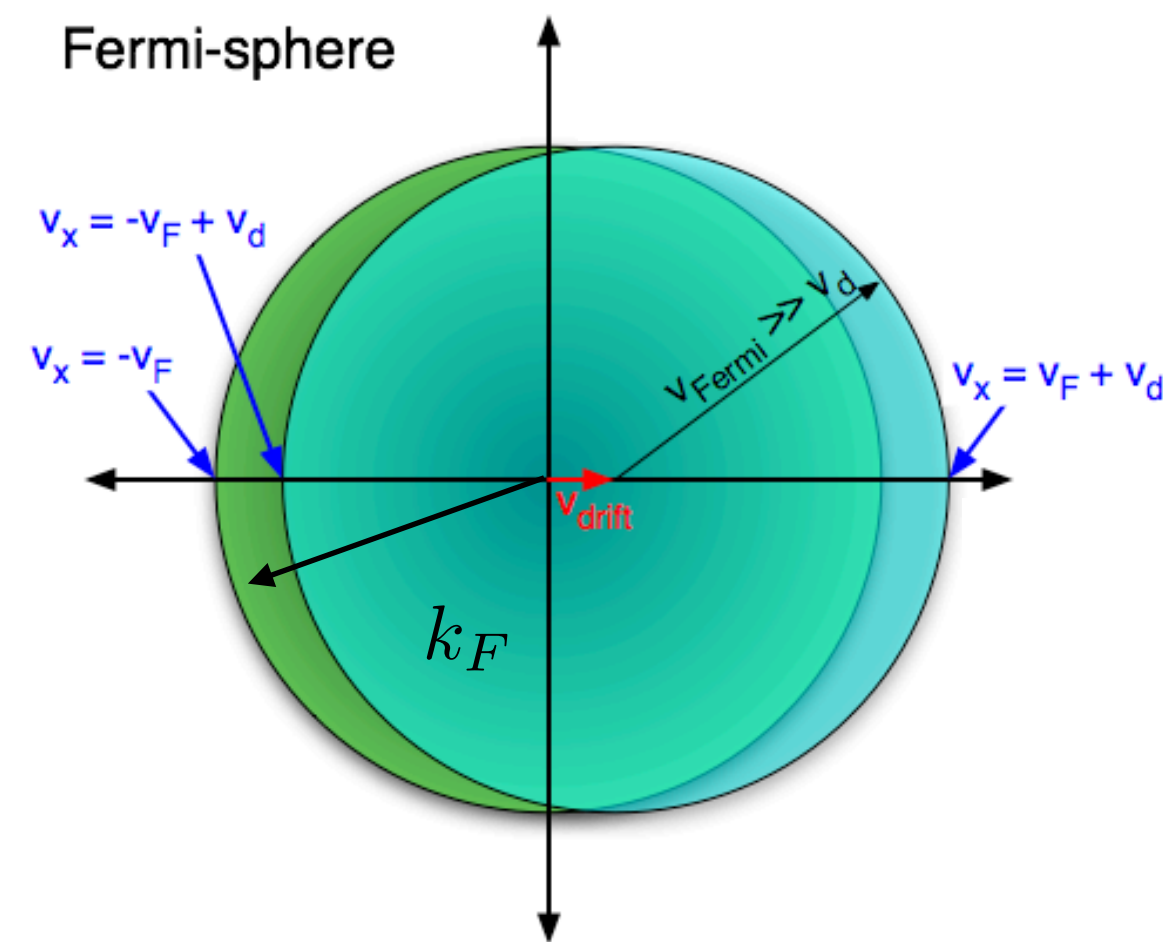
Magnetic energy

$$E_{\text{mag}} = \frac{L_{\text{m}} I^2}{2}$$

Relaxation times of RL circuit

$$\frac{L_{\text{m}}}{R} = \frac{Z_0}{R} \frac{l}{c} \mathcal{F}_{\text{geom}}$$

$$Z_0 = \frac{1}{\epsilon_0 c} \simeq 377 \, \Omega$$

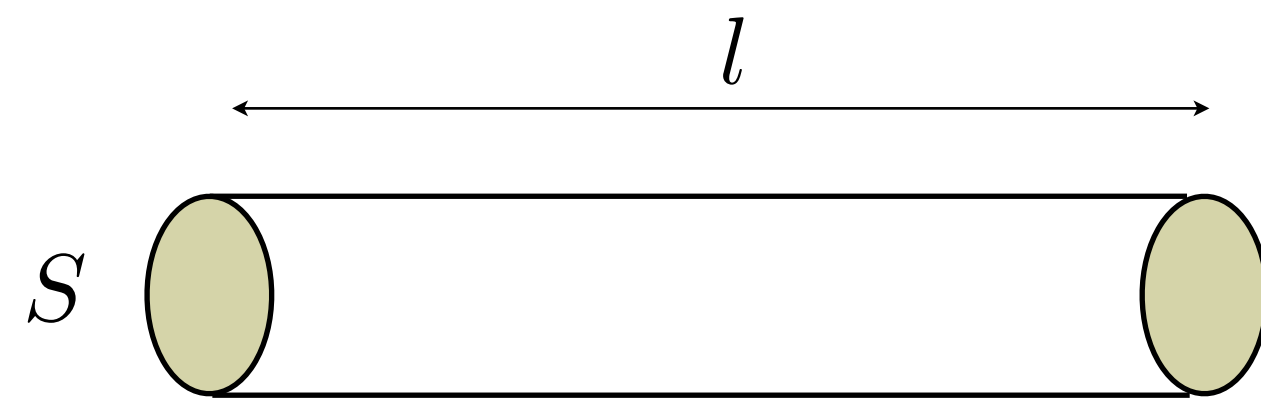


Kinetic energy of electrons

$$E_{\text{cin}} = \frac{L_K I^2}{2}$$

$$\frac{L_K}{R} = \frac{\tau}{2}$$

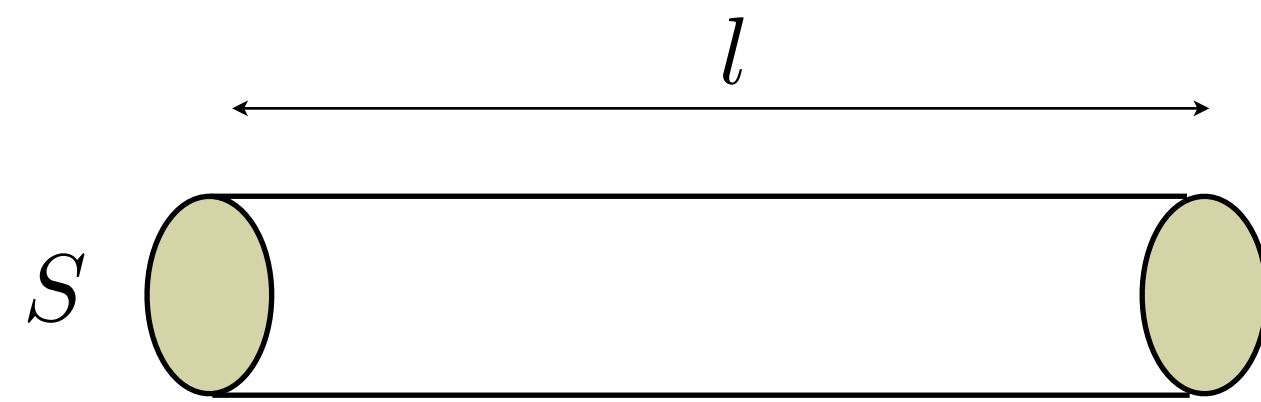
Energy stock and flow



Energy stocks

$$\frac{E_{\text{B}}}{E_{\text{kin}}} \sim \frac{Z_0}{R} \frac{l}{c\tau}$$

Energy stock and flow

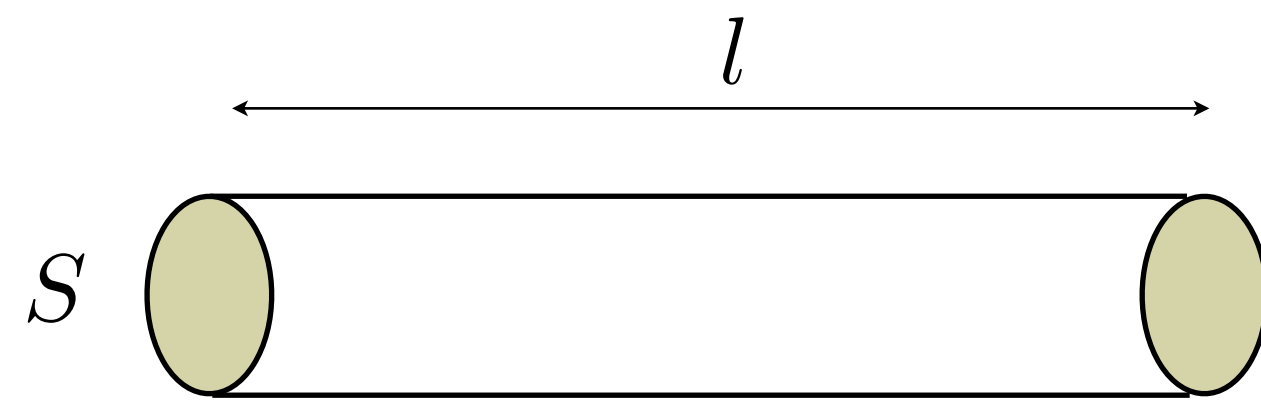


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$$\frac{E_{\mathbf{B}}}{E_{\text{kin}}} \sim \frac{Z_0}{R} \frac{l}{c\tau}$$

$$\frac{E_{\mathbf{E}}}{E_{\text{kin}}} \sim \frac{R}{Z_0} \frac{l}{c\tau}$$

Energy stock and flow



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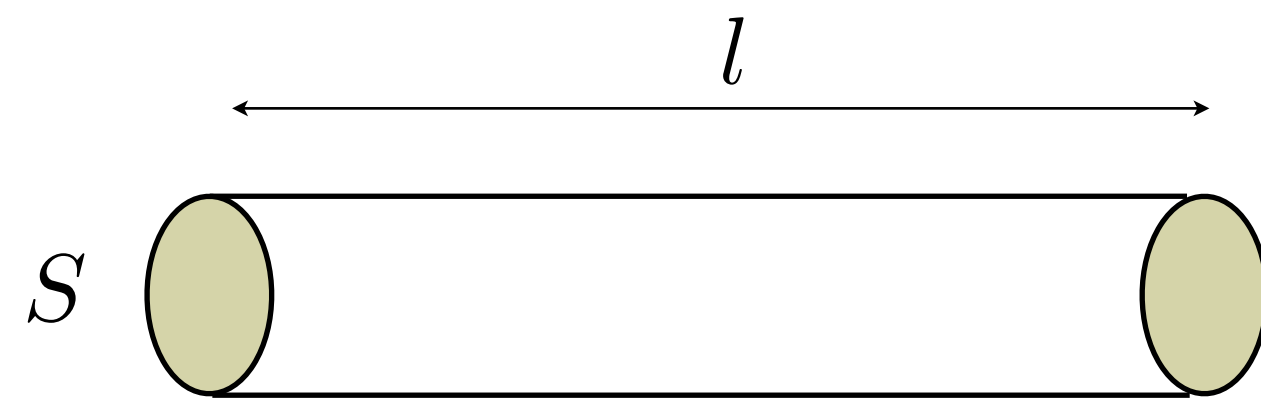
$$c\tau \simeq 3 \mu\text{m}$$

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$$l \gg c\tau \implies E_{\mathbf{B}}, E_{\mathbf{E}} \gg E_{\text{kin}}$$

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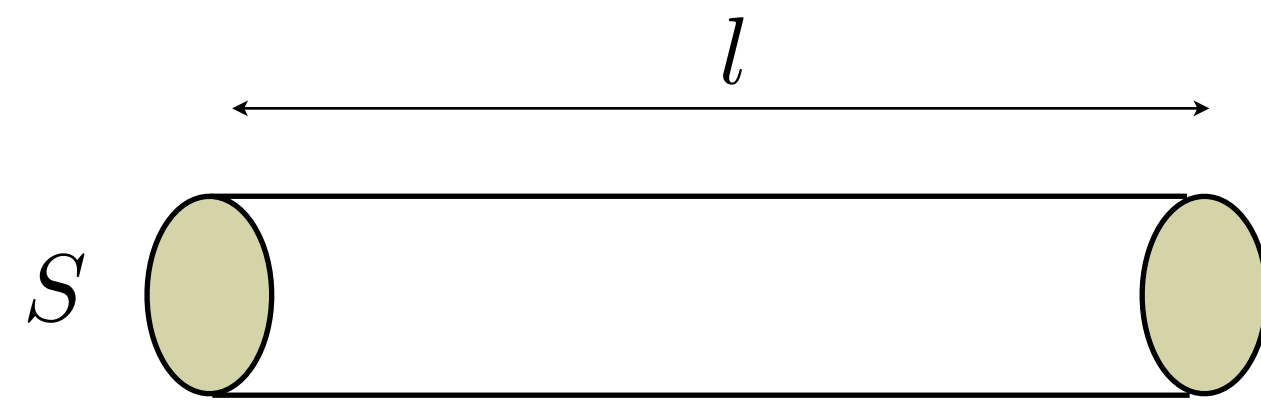
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Energy stock and flow



Energy stocks

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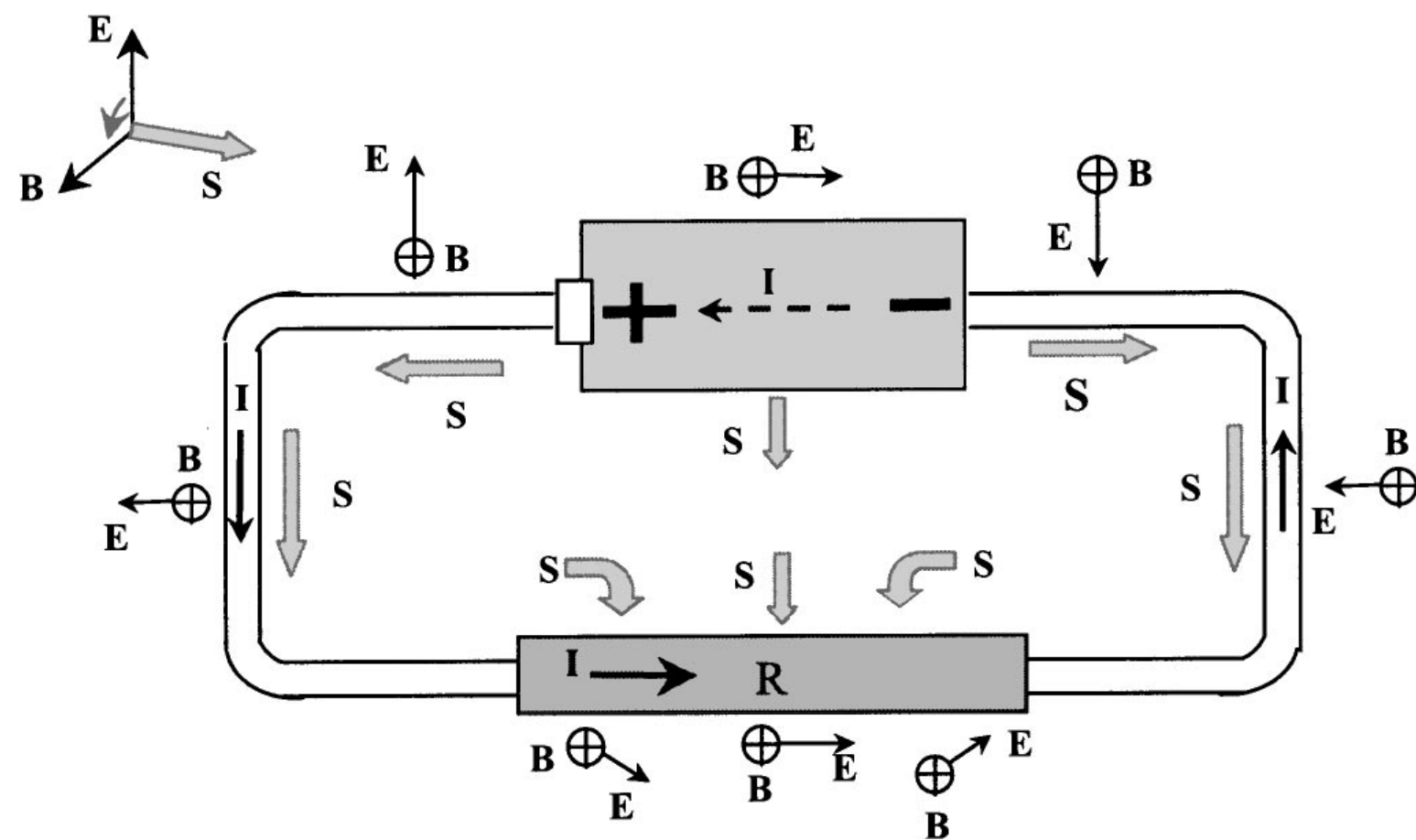
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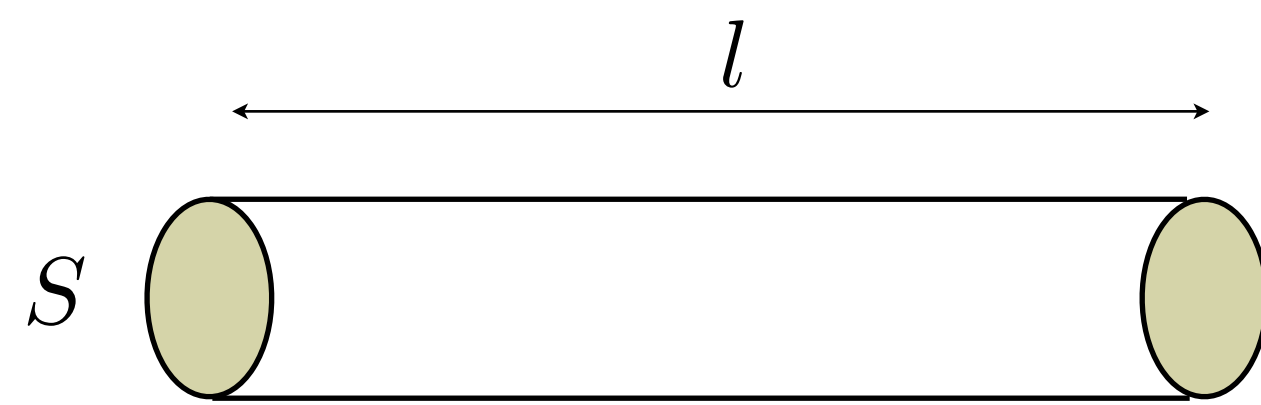
Energy flux

$$\Phi_{\mathbf{S}} = RI^2$$

$$\Phi_{\text{kin}} \sim \frac{L_K I^2}{l} v_{\text{drift}}$$



Energy stock and flow



Energy stocks

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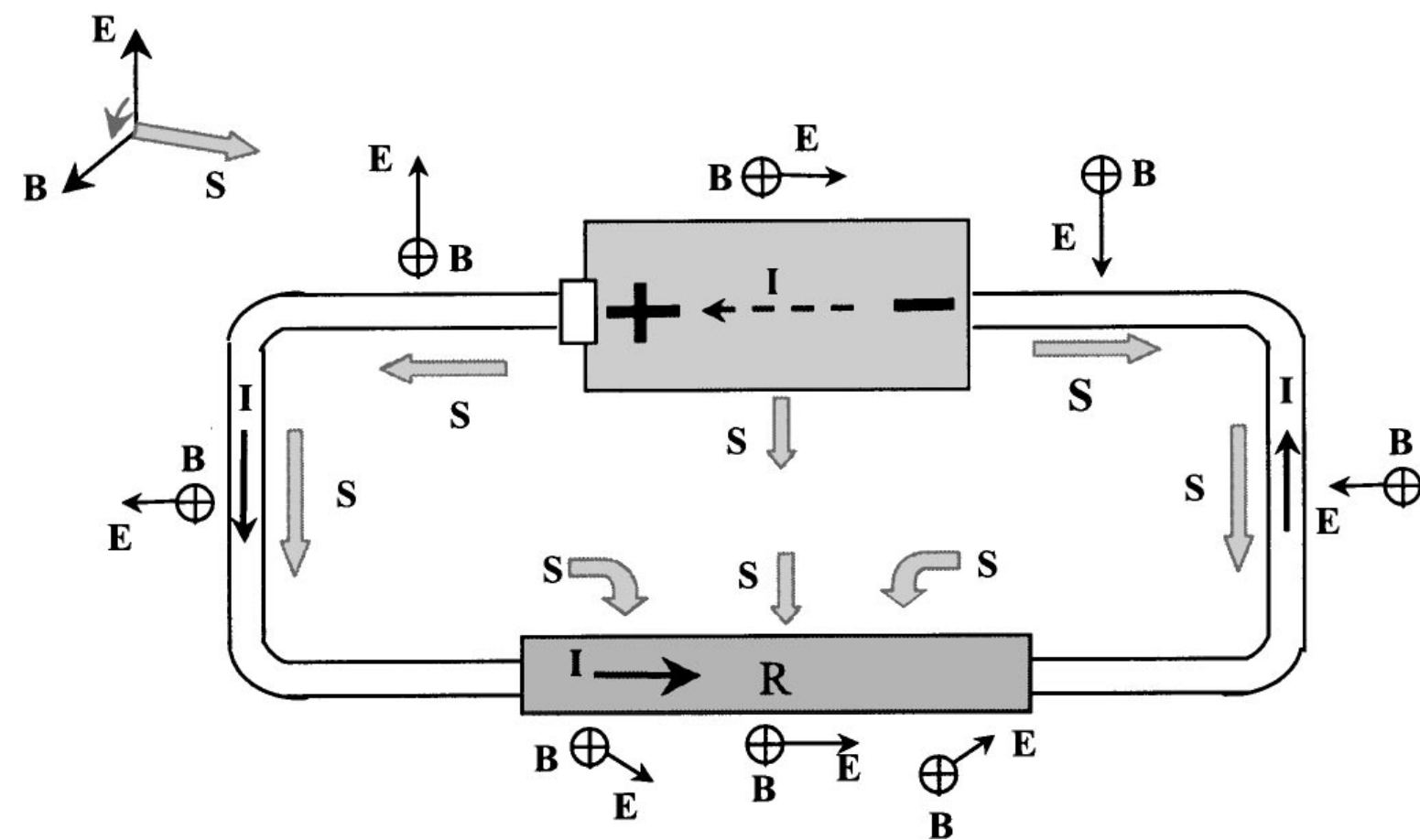
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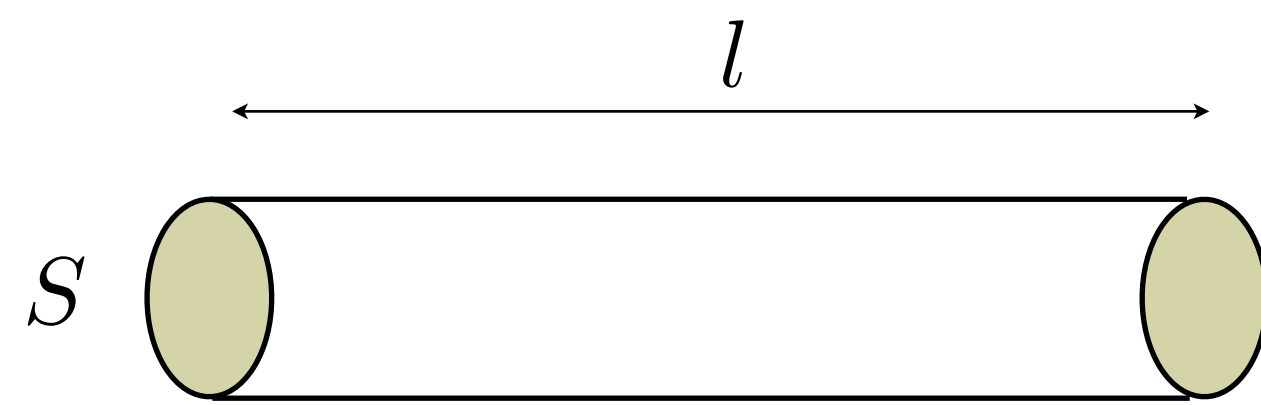


$$\Phi_{\mathbf{S}} = RI^2$$

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Energy stock and flow



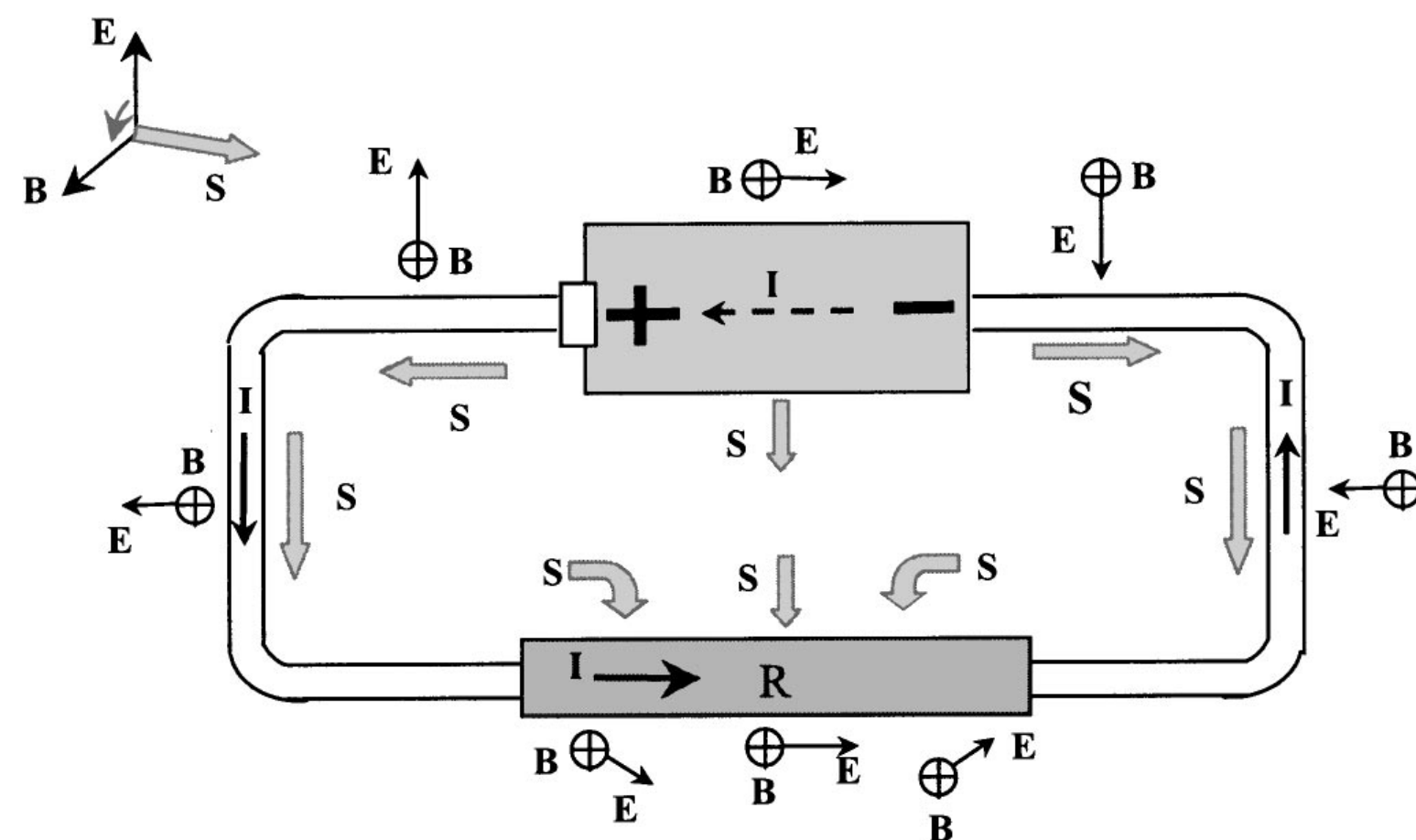
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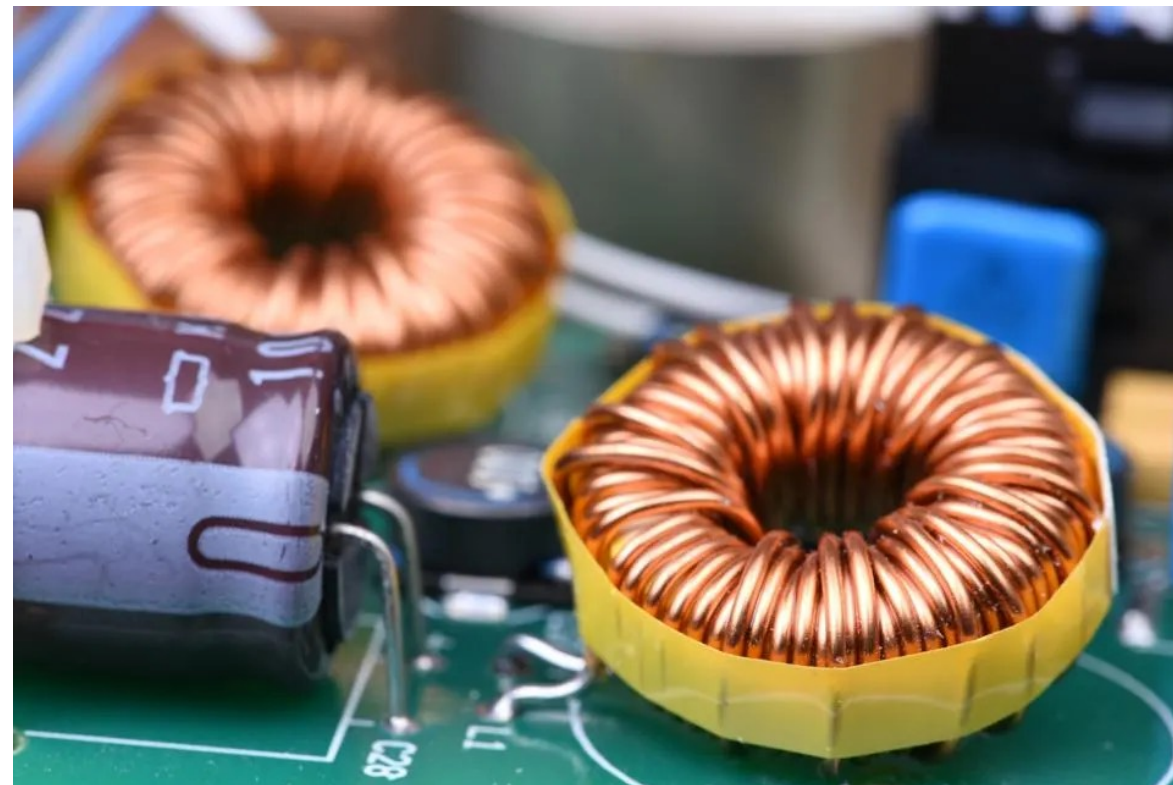
$$\frac{\Phi_{\mathbf{S}}}{\Phi_{\text{kin}}} = \frac{R}{L_K} \frac{l}{v_{\text{drift}}} \sim \frac{l}{l_e} \frac{v_F}{v_{\text{drift}}} \gg 1$$

$$l \gg l_e \text{ and } v_F \gg v_{\text{drift}}$$

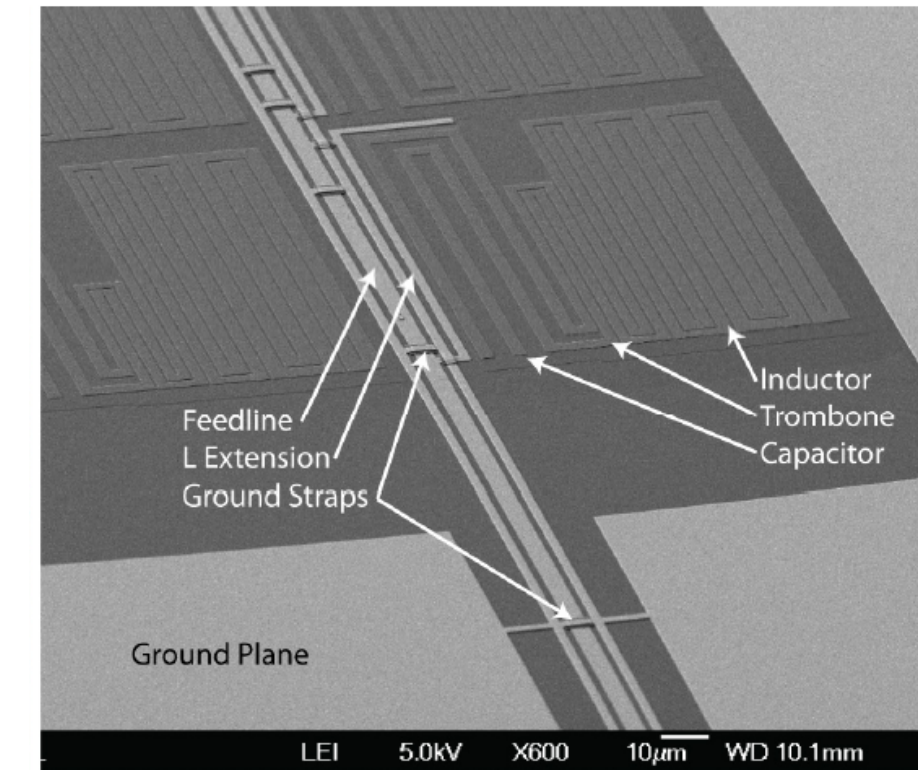
How electricity flows in « simpler » conductors ?



Usual conductors:
« big », 3D



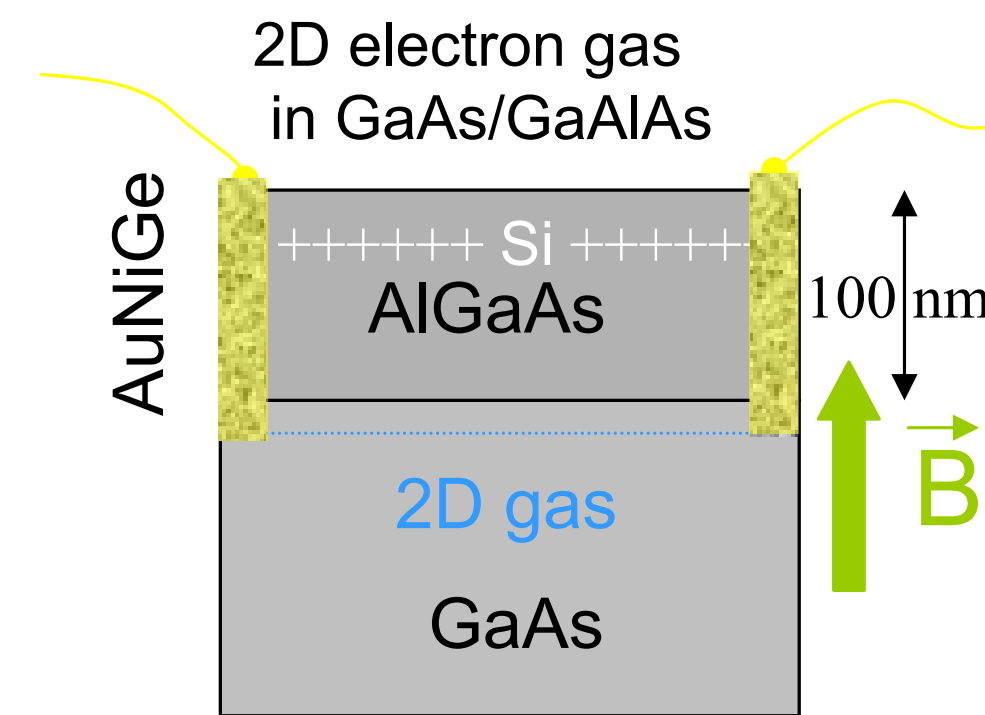
Simpler conductors:
« small », low dimensional



Role of quantum effects ?

Quantum Hall devices

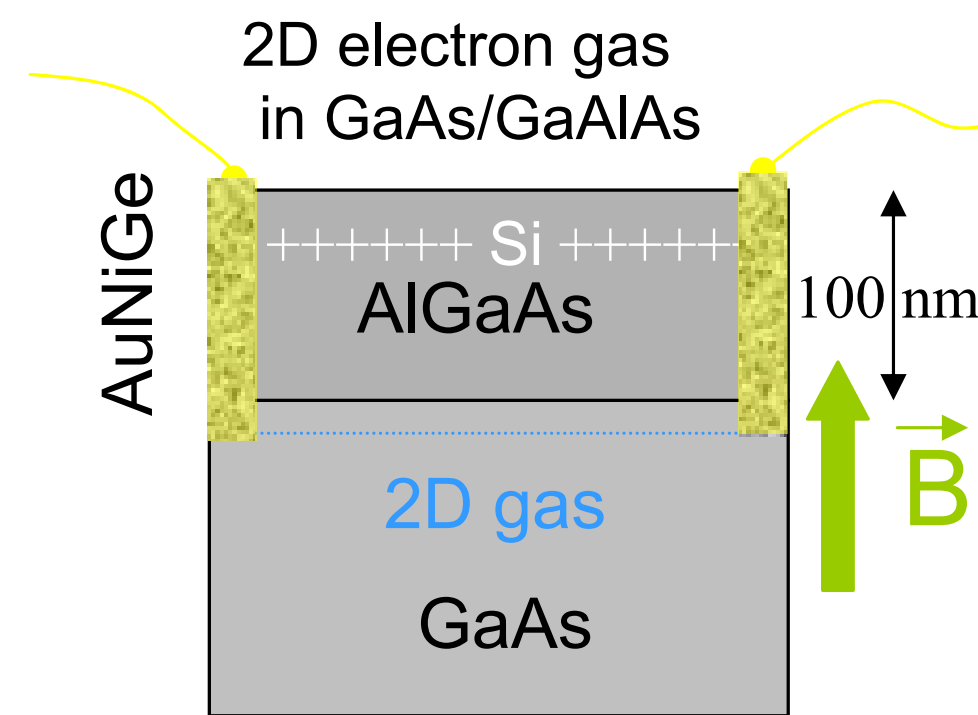
2DEG



$$n \simeq 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$$
$$\mu \simeq 10^6 \text{ cm}^2/\text{VS}$$

Quantum Hall devices

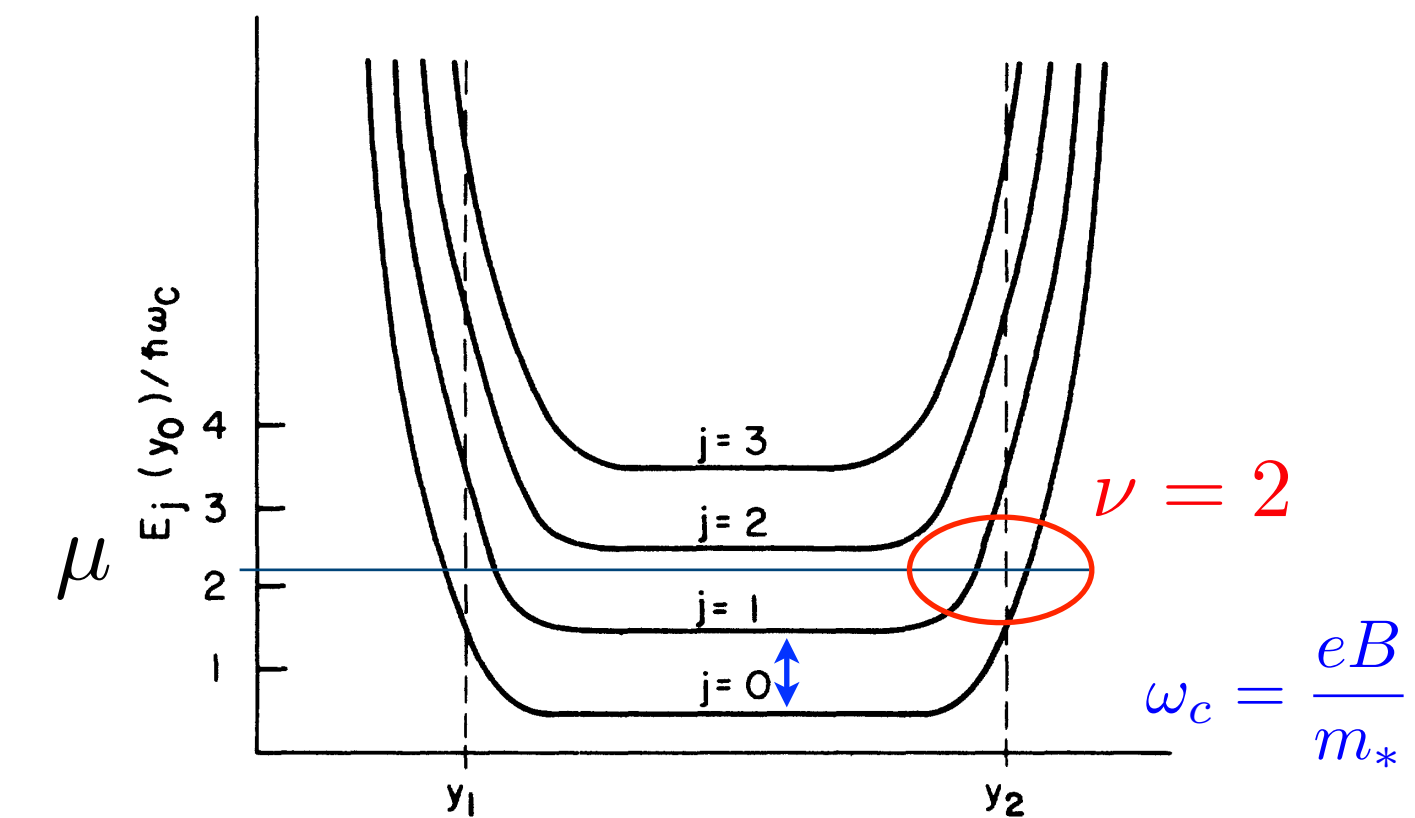
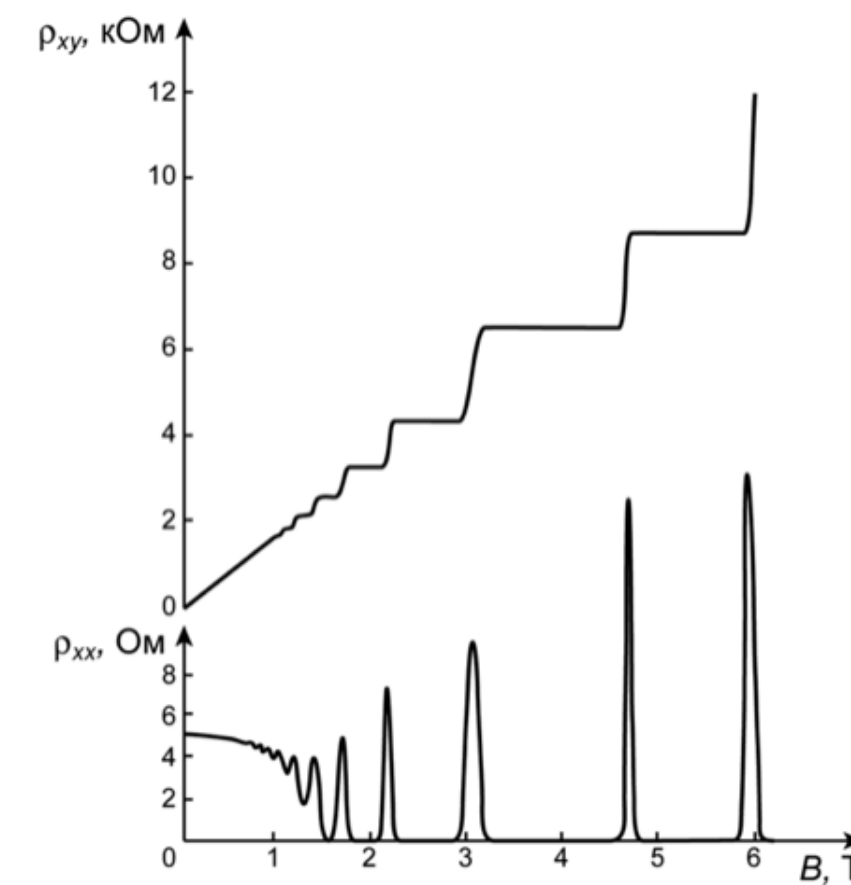
2DEG



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Edge channels: 1D chiral wires



Insulating 2D bulk. Conducting edge channels!

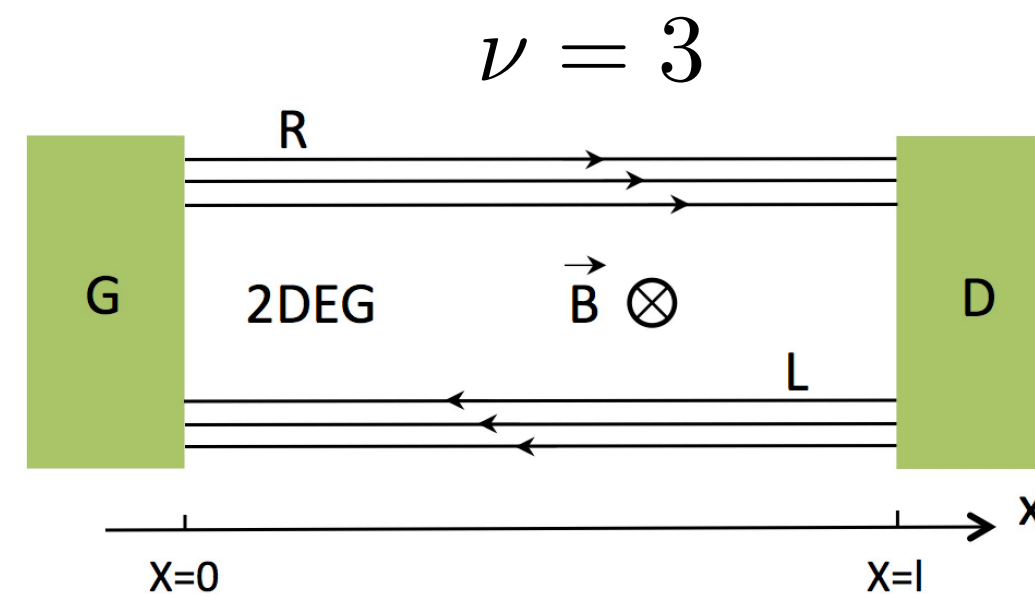
Chiral relativistic fermions

$$v_F \simeq 10^5 - 10^6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$$

M. Büttiker, Phys. Rev. B. **88**, 9375 (1988)

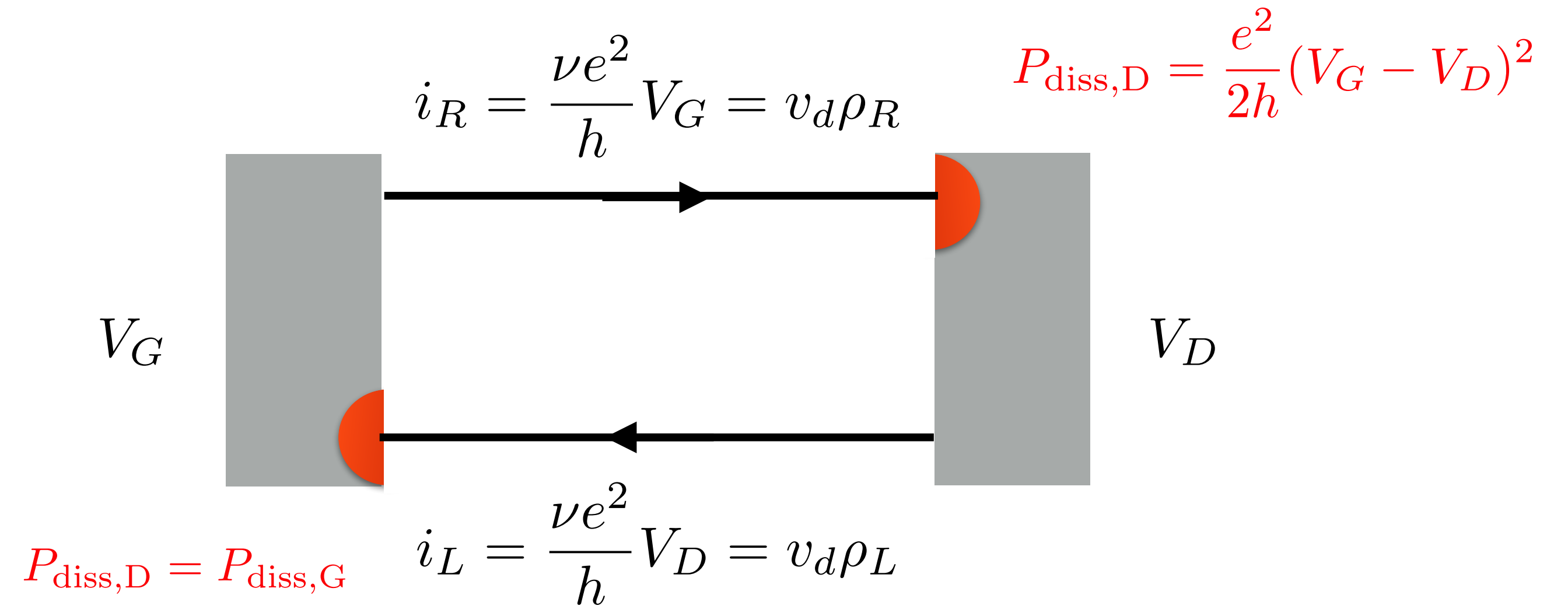
Quantum Hall devices

Quantum Hall bar:
a very special wire



Two directions but
no backscattering!

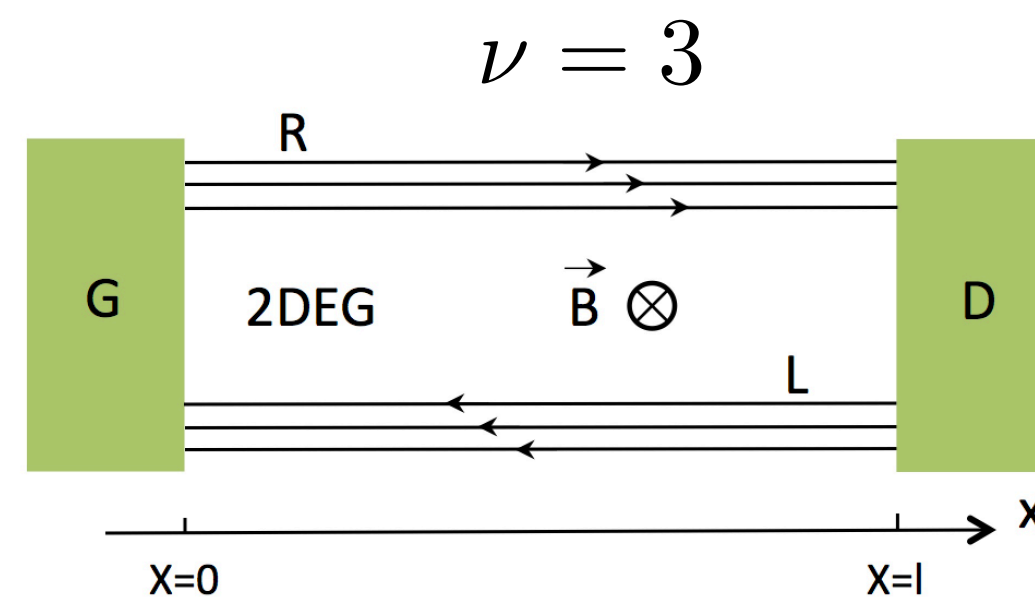
$$v_{\text{drift}} = v_F$$



$$V_G - V_D = R_H(\nu) I \quad P_{\text{diss}} = R_H(\nu) I^2 \quad R_H(\nu) = \frac{R_K}{\nu}$$

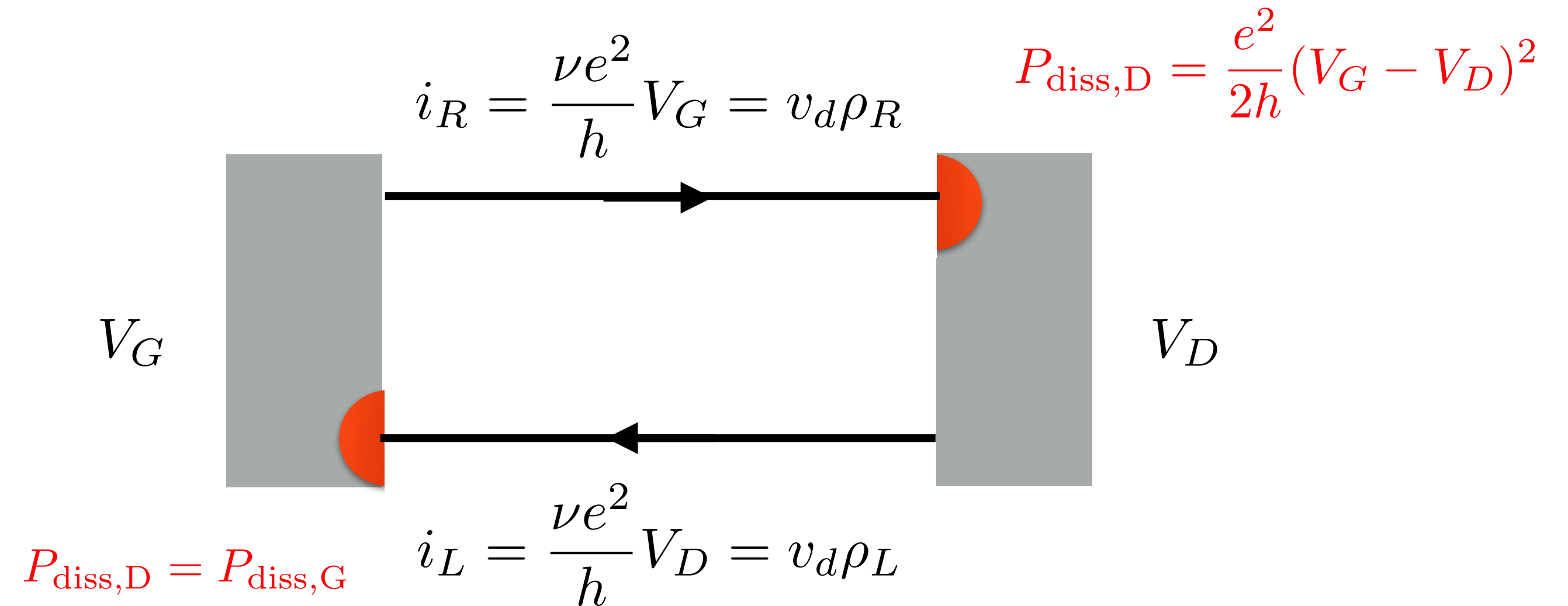
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Question: **is it just a resistance ?**

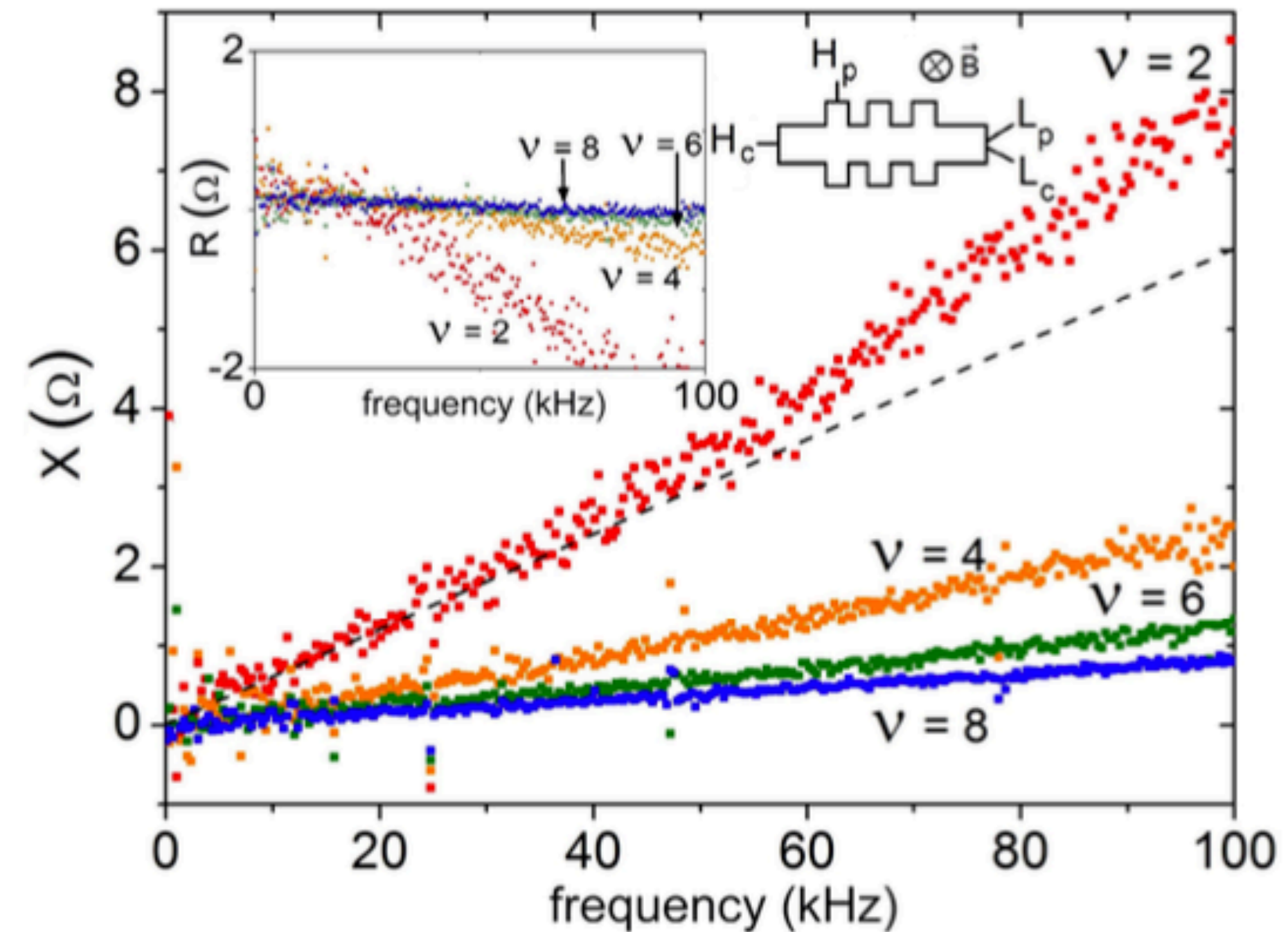
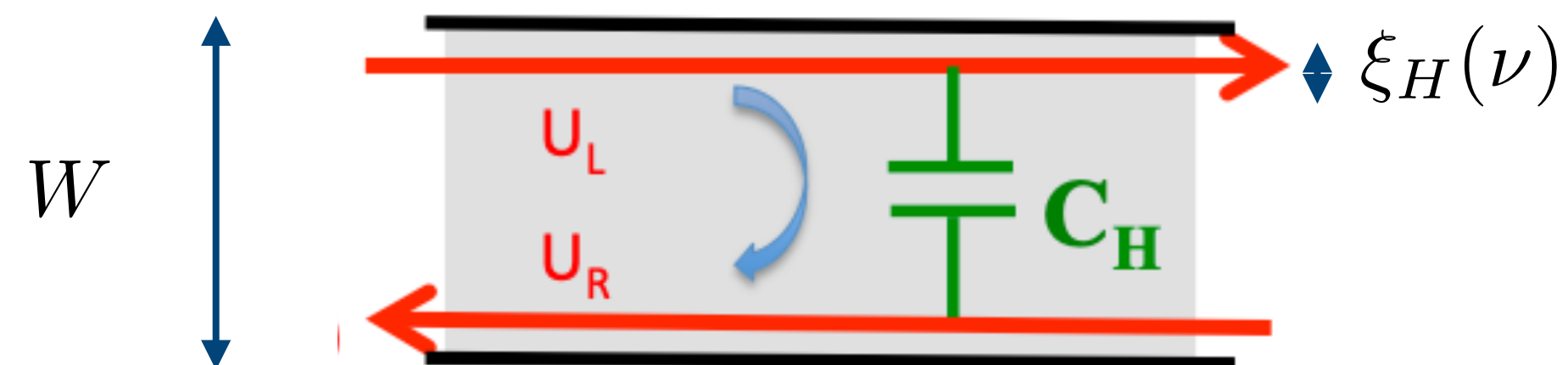
The quantum Hall bar: experiment

Impedance measurement

$$\frac{L}{R_H(\nu)} = \frac{l}{2v(\nu)}$$

$$v(\nu) = \underbrace{v_d(\nu)}_{\text{bare drift velocity}} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_H(\nu)}{2\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r} \log\left(\frac{W}{\nu\xi_H(\nu)}\right)}_{\text{Coulomb interaction correction}}$$

Charge density waves along edge channels



$$2 \times 0.4 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$\nu = 2 \text{ to } 10$$

A. Delgard *et al*, Phys. Rev. B **104**, L121301 (2021)

Principle of microwaves circuits, McGraw Hill (1948)

M.K. Haldar *et al*, IEEE Access **10**, 79249 (2022)

I. Safi, Eur. Phys. J. D **12**, 451 (1999)

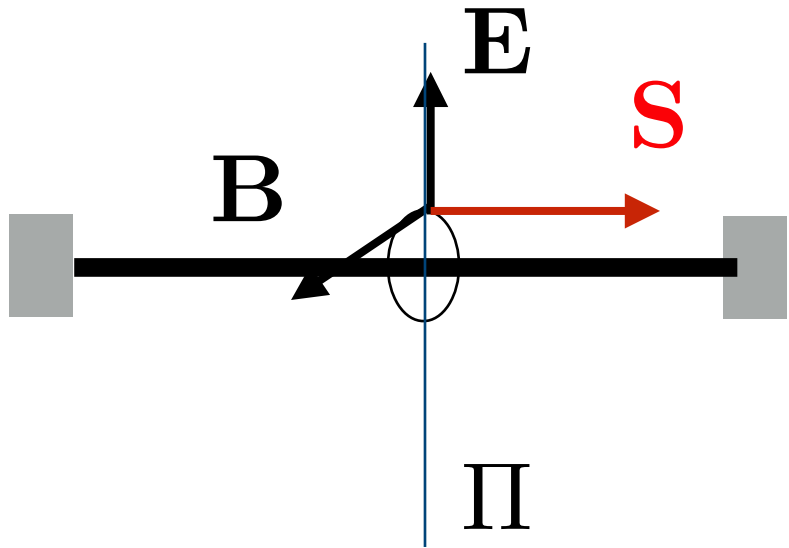
Energy stock and flow

	Normal wire	Quantum Hall bar (v=1)
$E_{\mathbf{B}}/E_{\text{kin}}$	$\sim \frac{Z_0}{R} \frac{l}{c\tau}$	$\sim \frac{Z_0}{R_K} \frac{v_F}{c}$
$E_{\mathbf{E}}/E_{\text{kin}}$	$\sim \frac{R}{Z_0} \frac{l}{c\tau}$	$\sim \frac{R_K}{Z_0} \frac{v_F}{c}$
Energy flux ratios	$\frac{R I^2}{\Phi_{\text{kin}}(\Pi)} \sim \frac{l}{l_e} \frac{v_F}{v_{\text{drift}}}$	$\frac{\Phi_S(\Pi)}{\Phi_{\text{kin}}(\Pi)} \sim \frac{\alpha_{\text{qed}}}{\pi \epsilon_r} \frac{c}{v_F}$

$$\frac{Z_0}{R_K} = 2 \alpha_{\text{qed}}$$

$$\alpha_{\text{qed}} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\hbar c} \simeq \frac{1}{137}$$

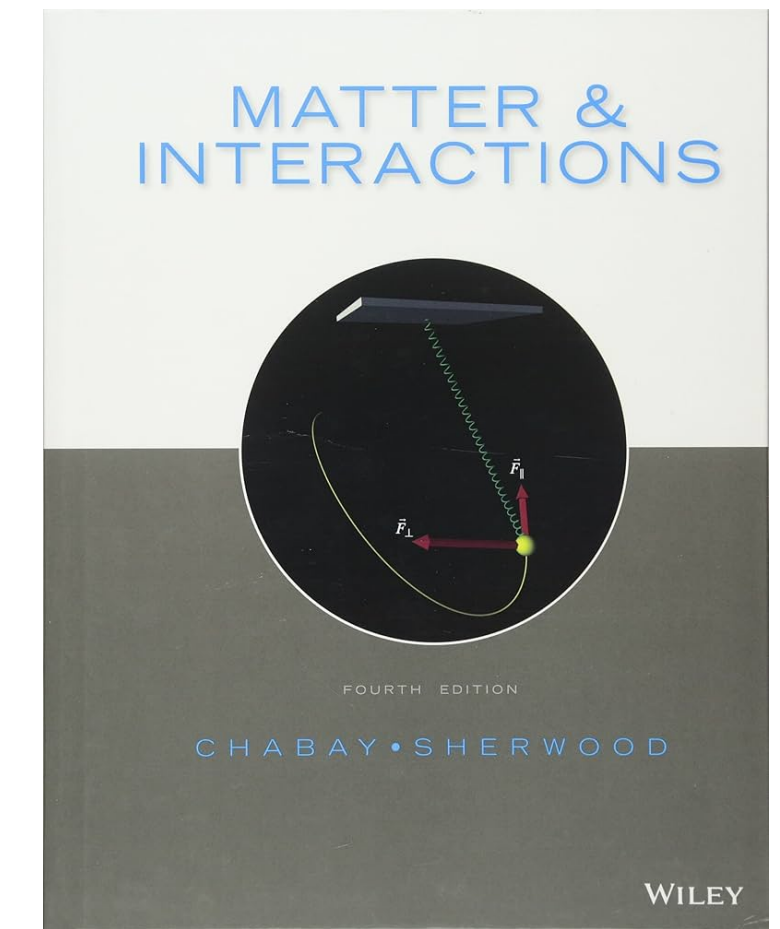
$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0\epsilon_r v_F} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{qed}}}{\epsilon_r} \frac{c}{v_F}$$



Key messages on simple, not fully quantum, circuits

Electrical circuits exhibit surface charges that:

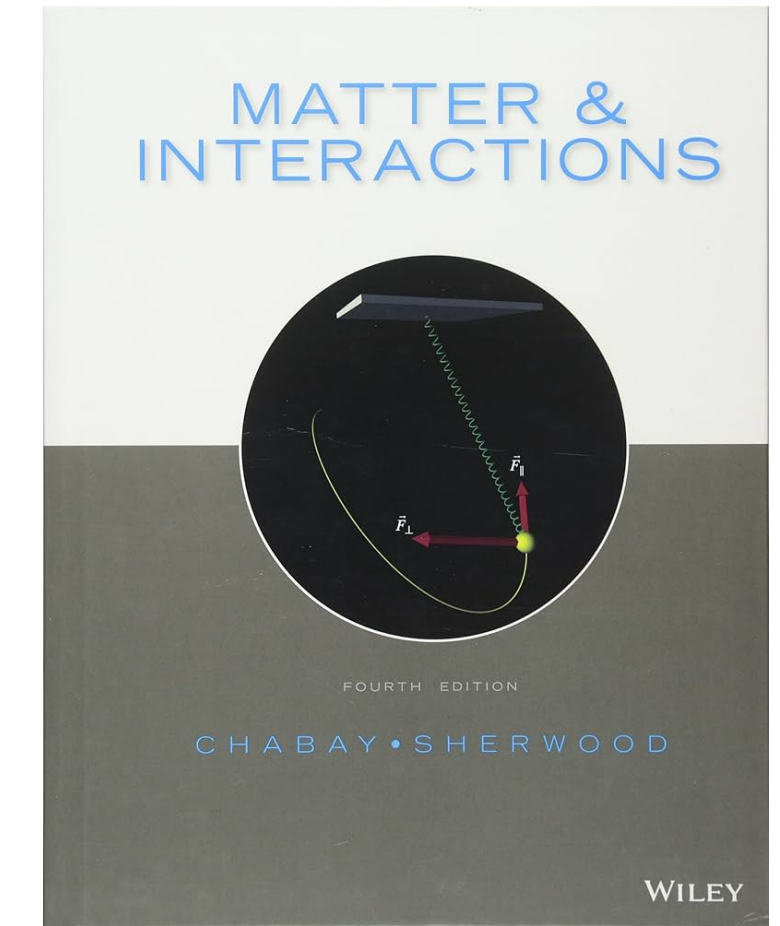
- Maintain the potential around the circuit
- Generate the electrical field outside the conductors
- Ensure the confinement of the electrical current within the conductors



Key messages on simple, not fully quantum, circuits

Electrical circuits exhibit surface charges that:

- Maintain the potential around the circuit
- Generate the electrical field outside the conductors
- Ensure the confinement of the electrical current within the conductors



Energy is not necessarily carried by the EM field

Sometimes, dissipation takes place in the contacts !

Capacitance and inductances are renormalized because the electrical current is carried by Fermions !!!



Coulomb interaction effects can be strong !

Outline

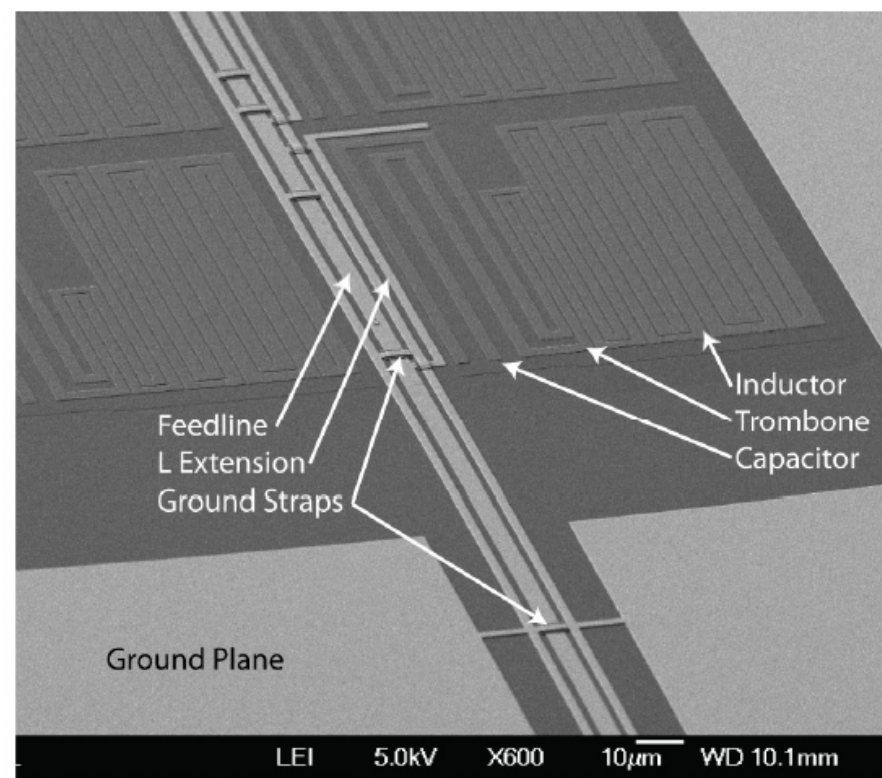
- From Ampère to electrical circuits
- Quantum physics within electricity
- **Towards quantum coherent electronics**
- Presentation of the PCP 2025 cycle

- Quantum transport
- AC transport and Coulomb interactions
- Quantum electrical currents and photons

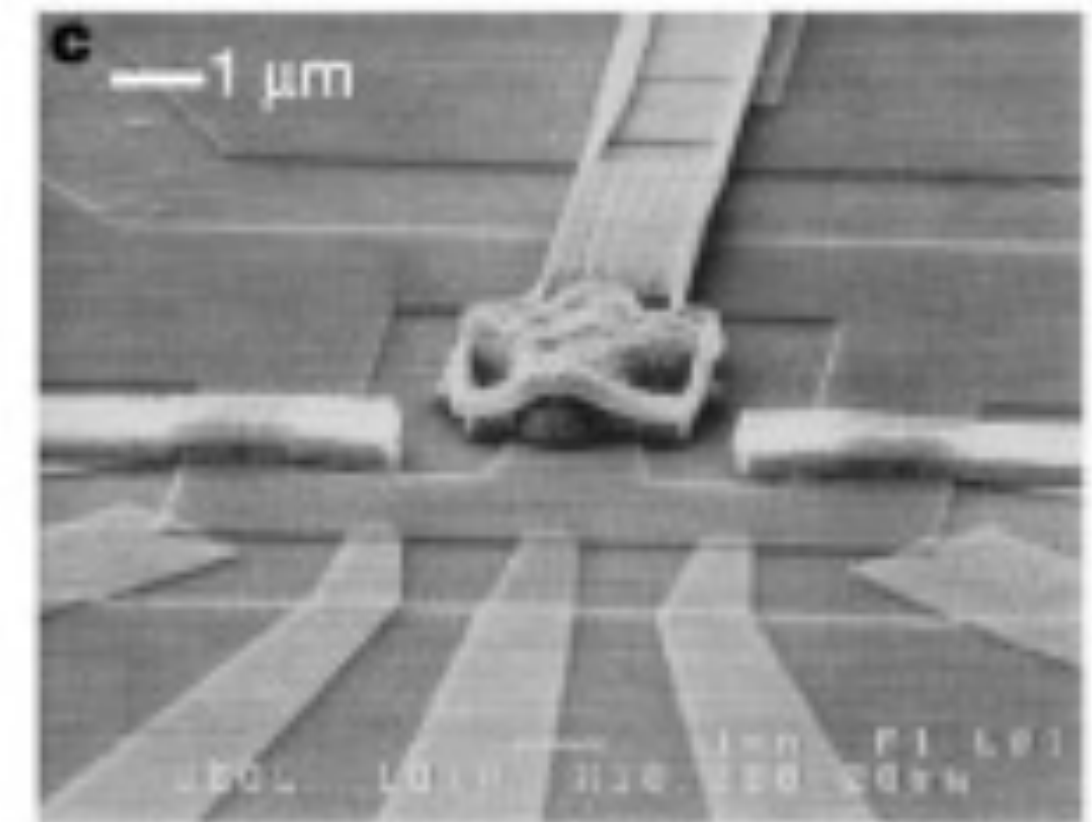
How electricity flows in « quantum » conductors ?



Simpler conductors:
« small », but not yet quantum



Quantum conductors:
electronic interferences ?



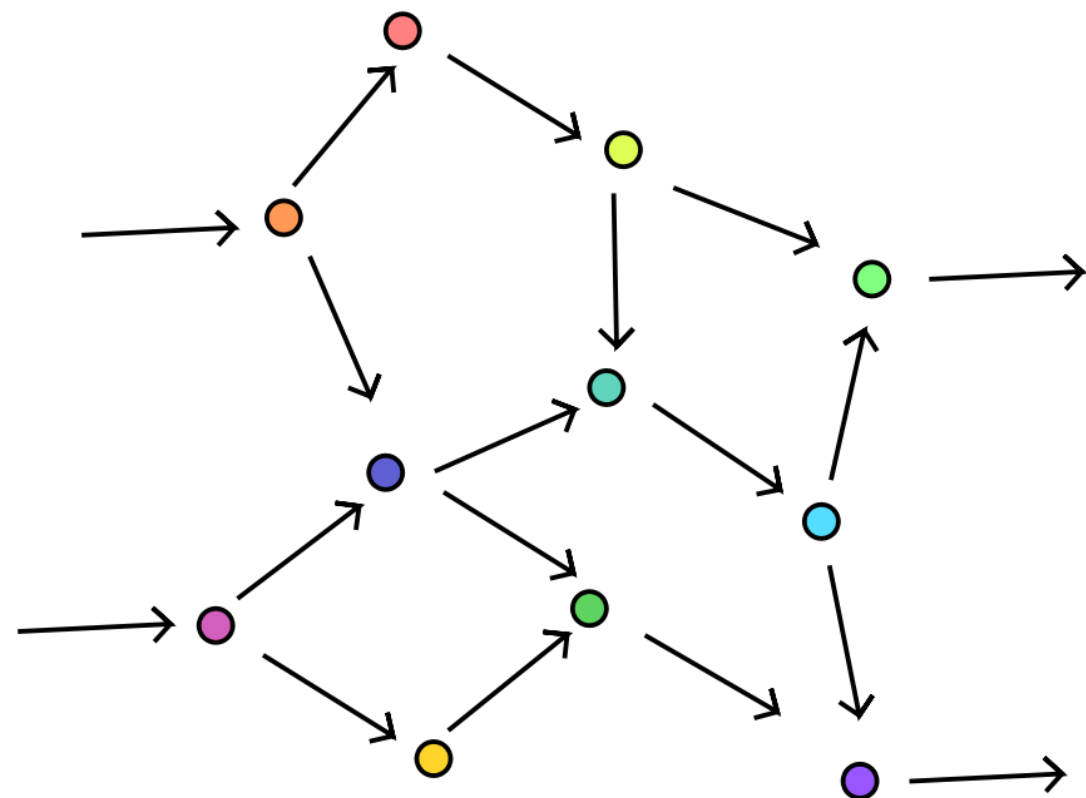
Electronic coherence ?

Quantum coherence for electrons in a conductor

Quantum coherence for electrons in a conductor

$$l_e \ll L \lesssim l_\phi$$

Diffusive transport

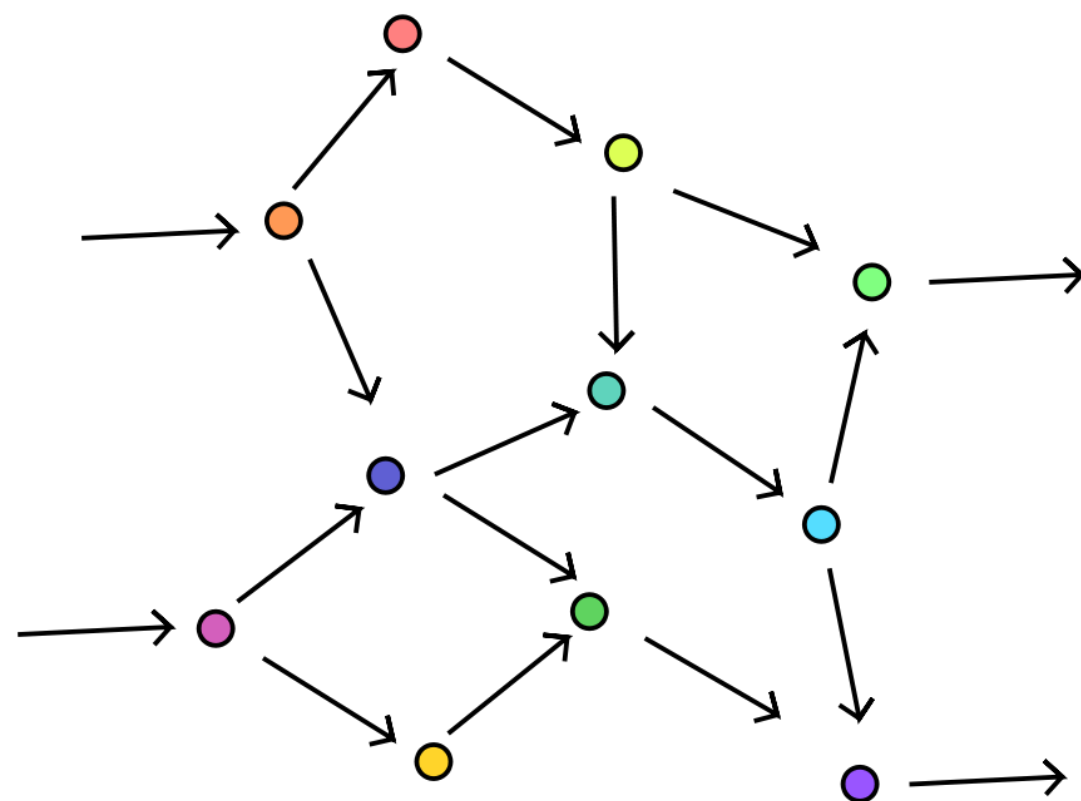


Deviations to classical diffusion:
weak localization, *etc*

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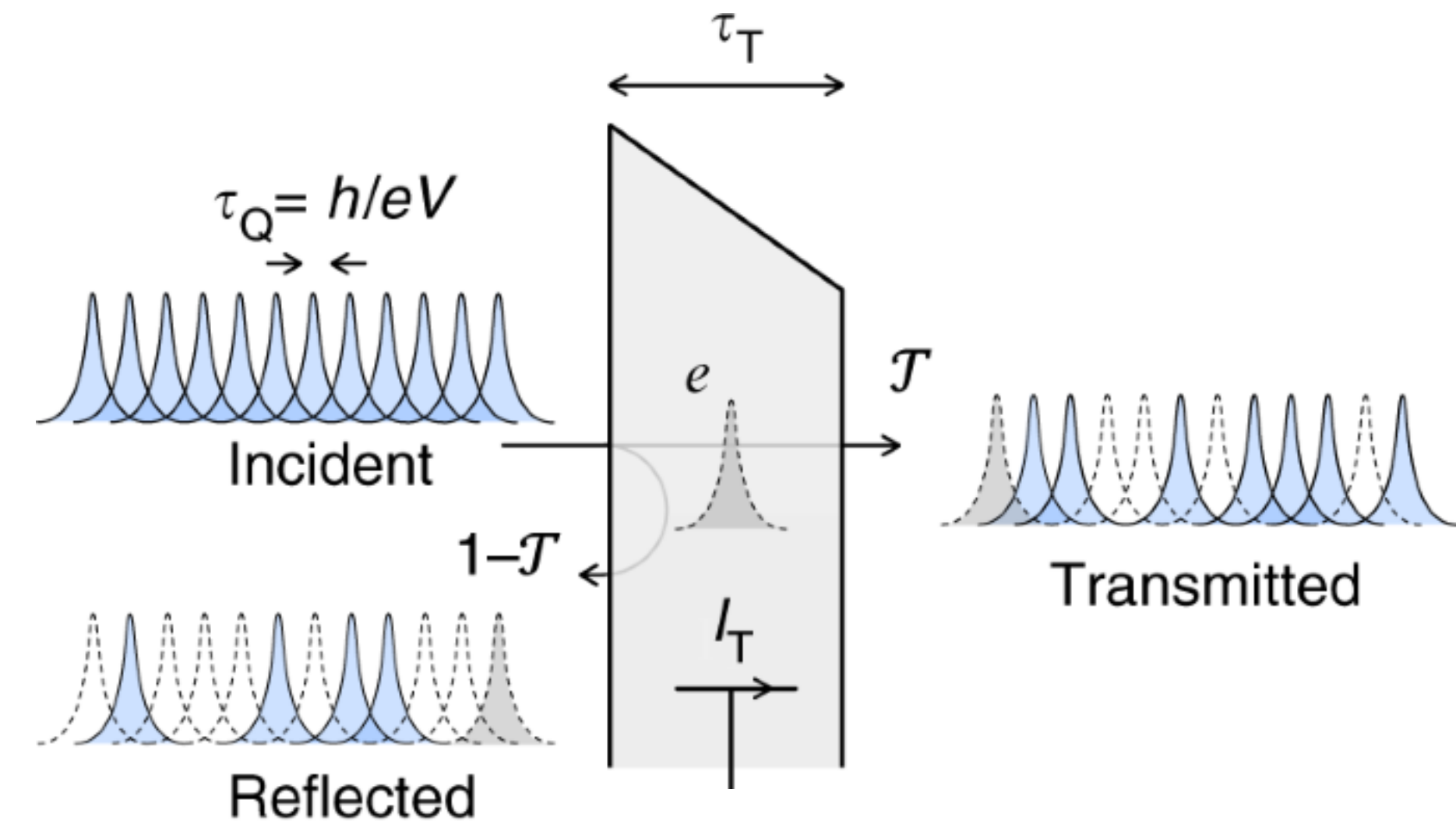
Diffusive transport



Deviations to classical diffusion:
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$$L \lesssim l_e \text{ and } l_\phi$$

Ballistic transport

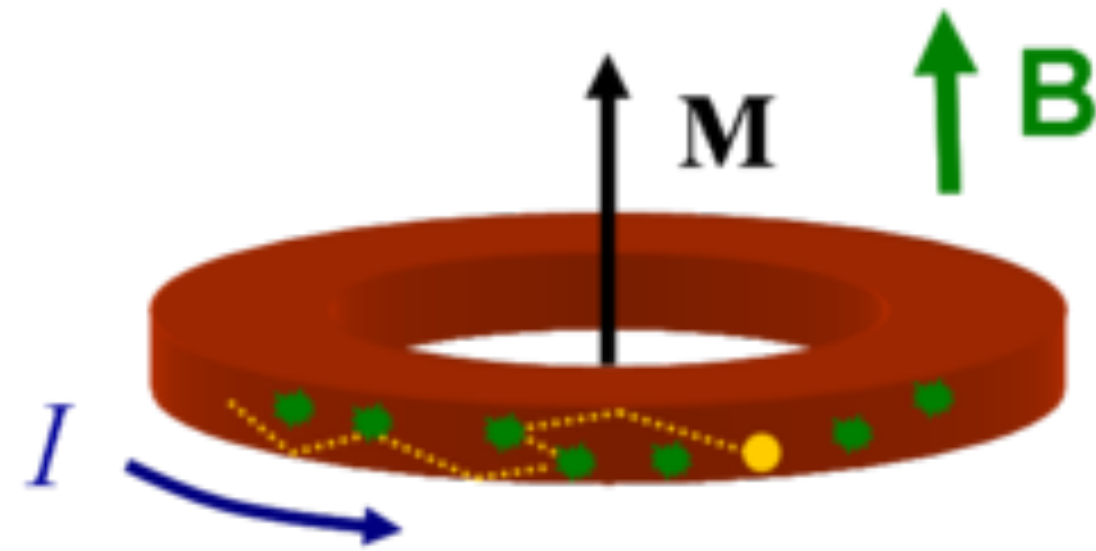


Conductors as electronic waveguides
and scatterers

Electronic coherence: permanent currents

Electronic coherence: permanent currents

$$\psi(x + L) = e^{2\pi i \frac{\Phi_B}{h/e}} \psi(x)$$



M. Büttiker, Y. Imry and R. Landauer, Phys. Lett. A **96**, 365 (1983)

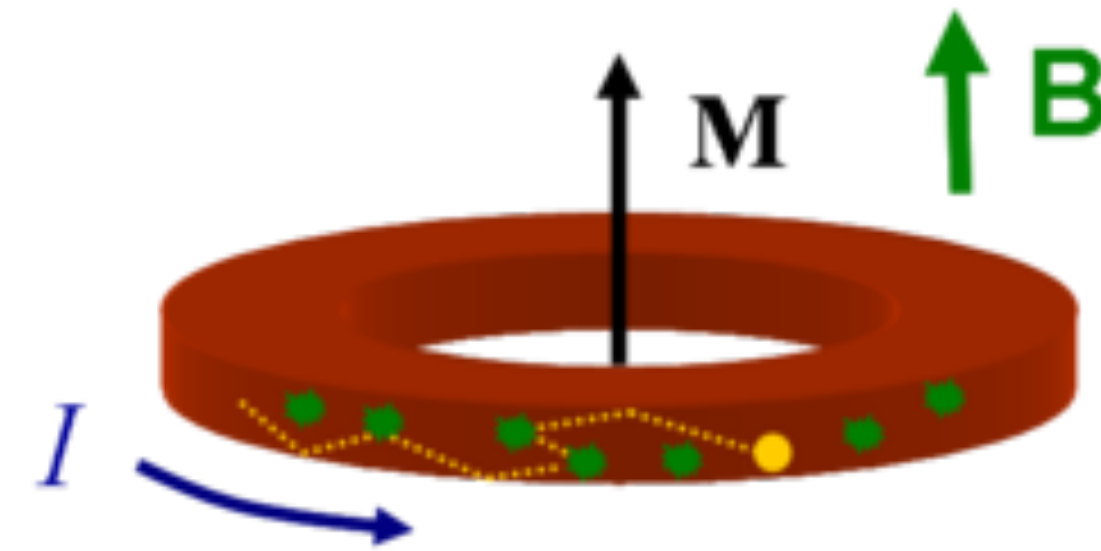
$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{l}} e^{ikx}$$

$$k_n = \frac{2\pi}{l} \left(n + \frac{\Phi_B}{h/e} \right)$$

$$i(k_n) = -e \frac{\hbar k_n}{m_*} = -\frac{2\pi e}{m_* l^2} \left(n + \frac{\Phi_B}{h/e} \right) \quad \text{current per level}$$

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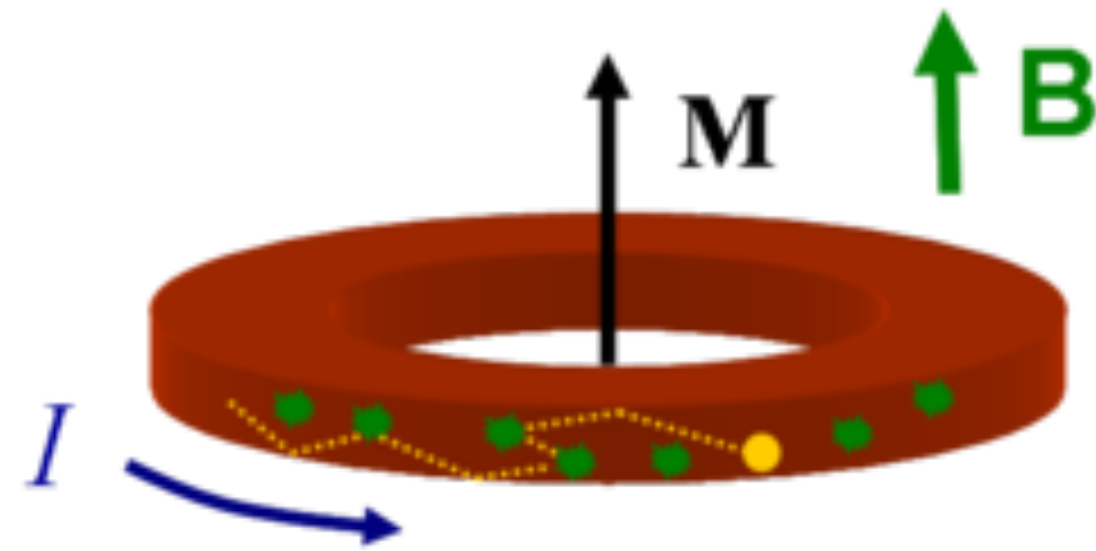
Experiments

700 isolated rings

L.P. Lévy *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **64**, 2074 (1990)

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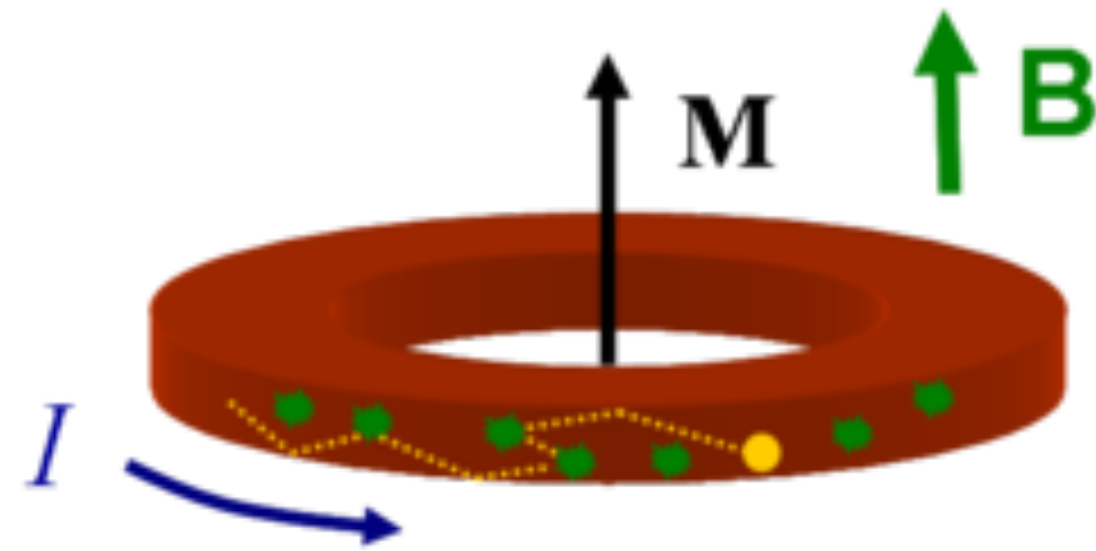
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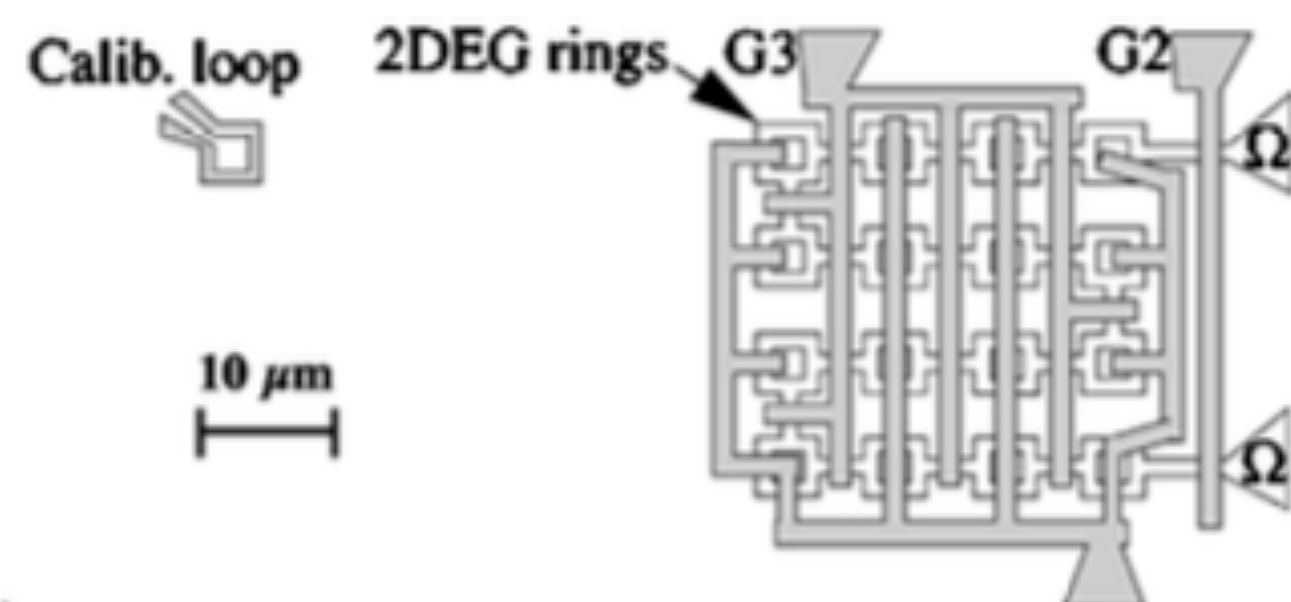
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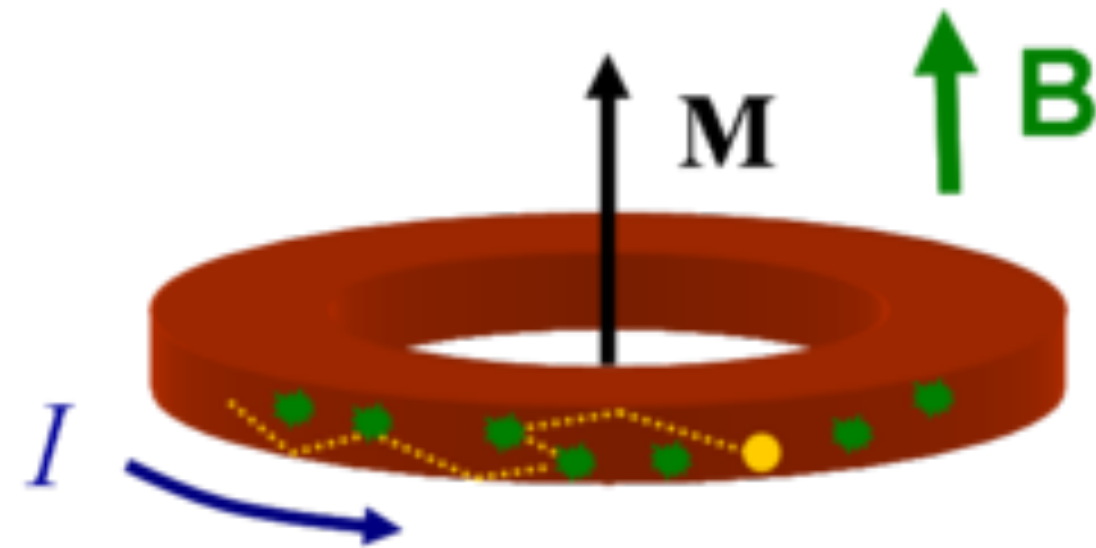
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W. Rabaud *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **86**, 3124 (2001)

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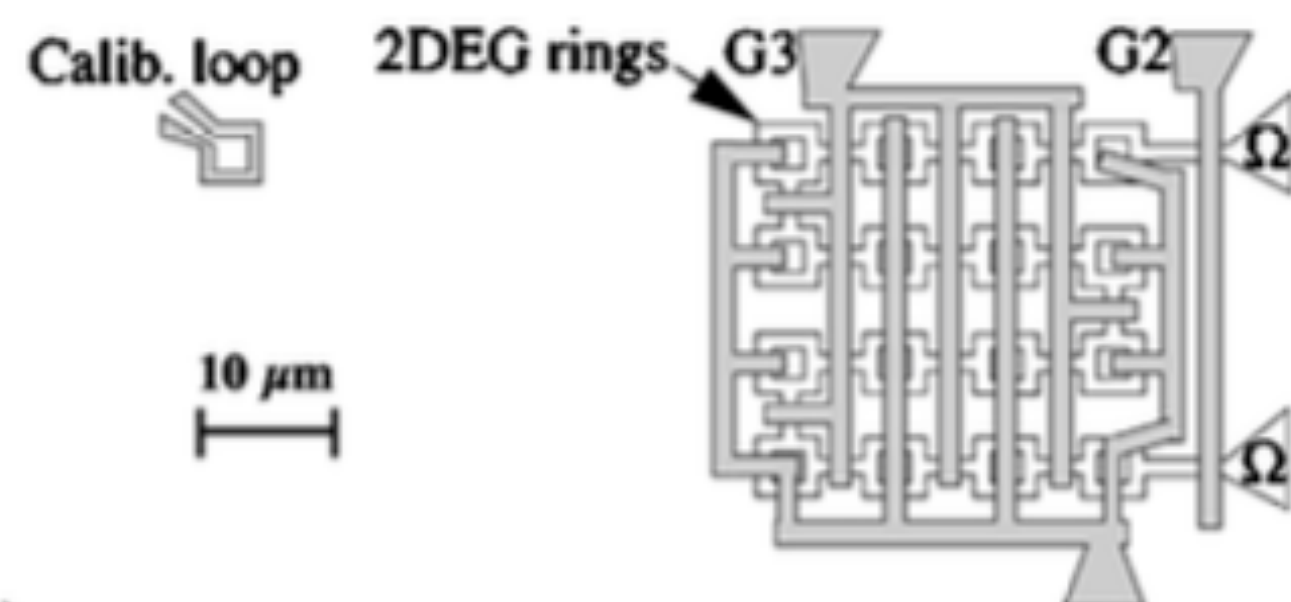
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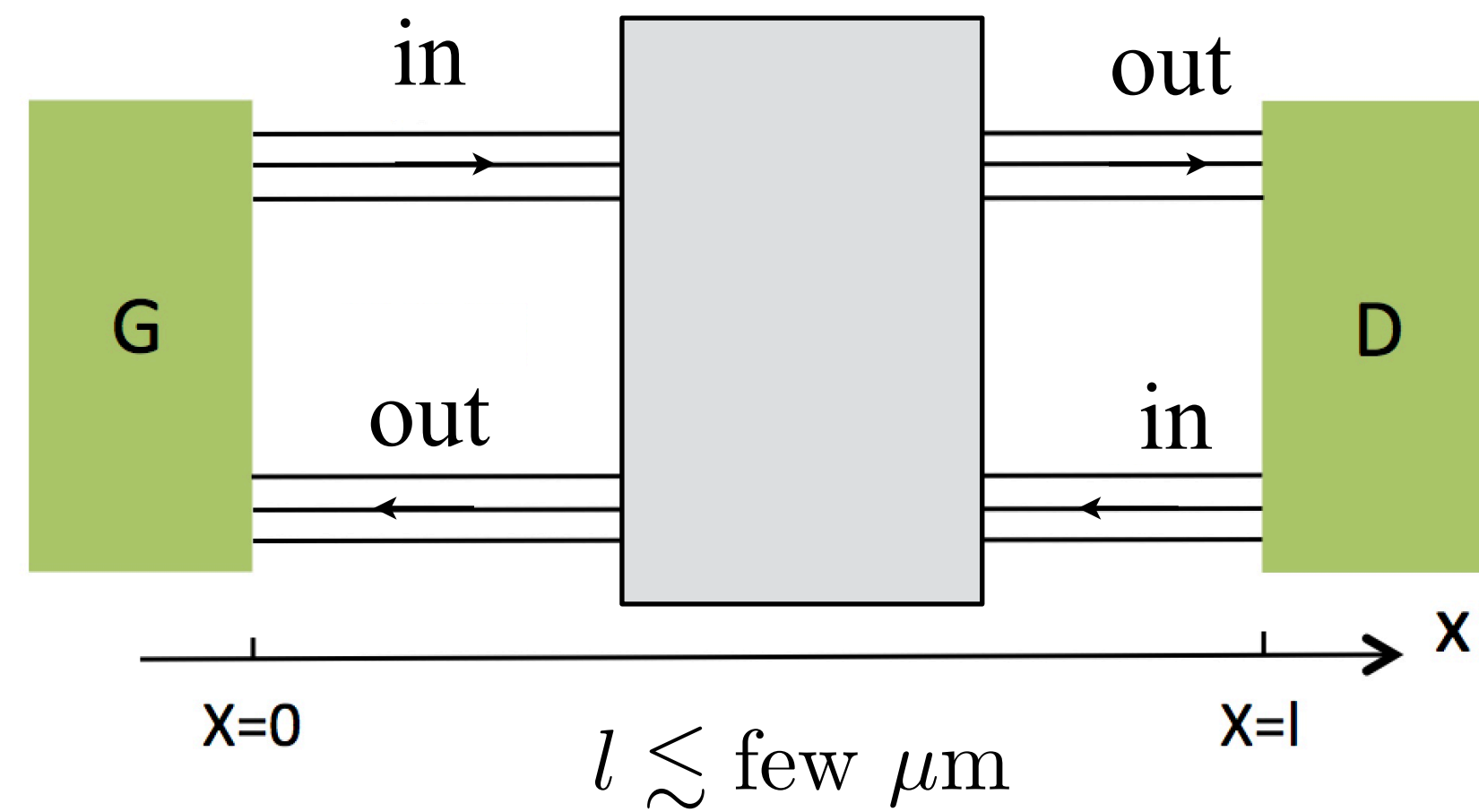
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Macroscopic molecular currents *à la Ampère!*

dc transport in quantum conductors: electronic scattering

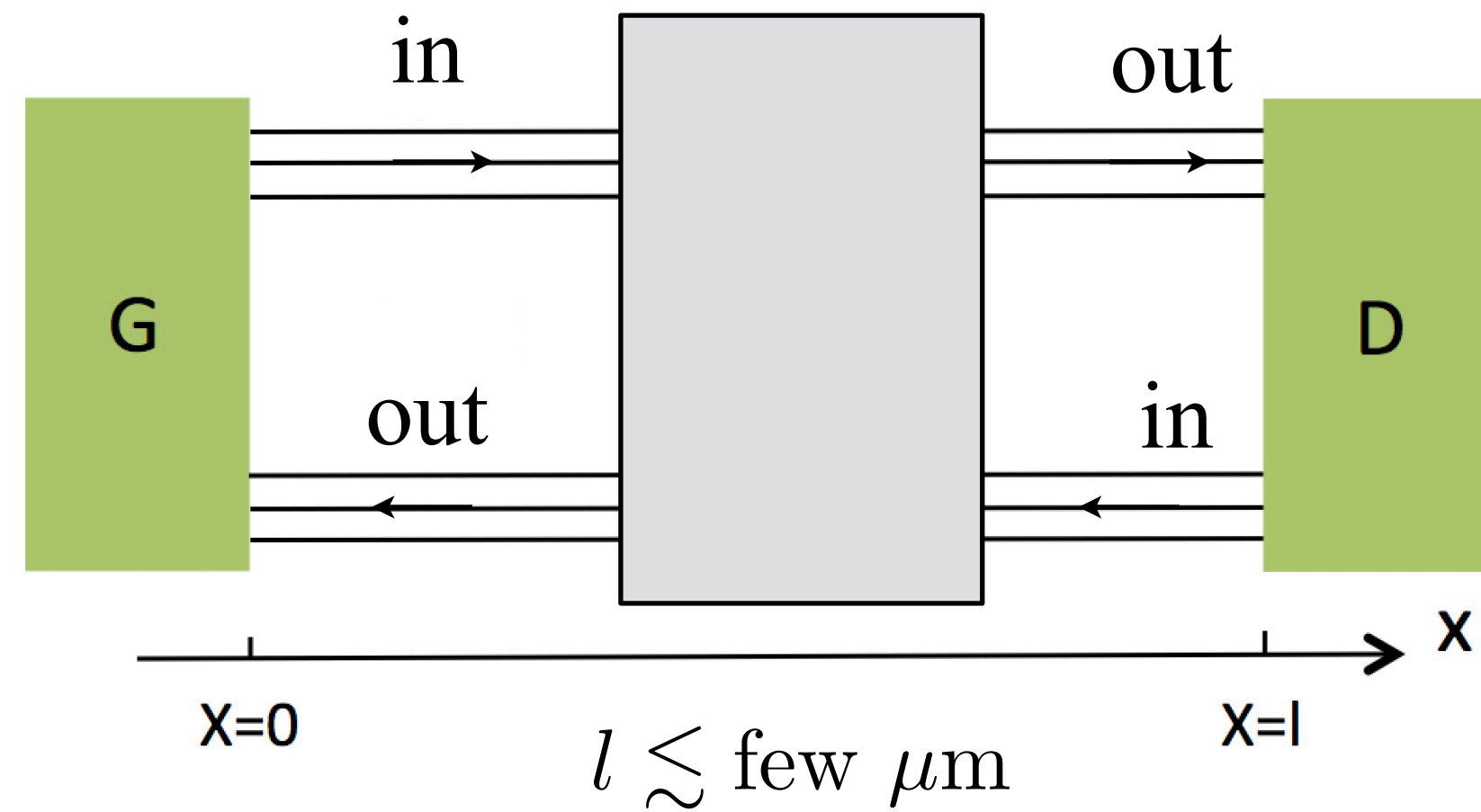
dc transport in quantum conductors: electronic scattering

Quantum conductor = Coherent electronic scatterer



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Reservoirs:

Nothing comes back from reservoirs!

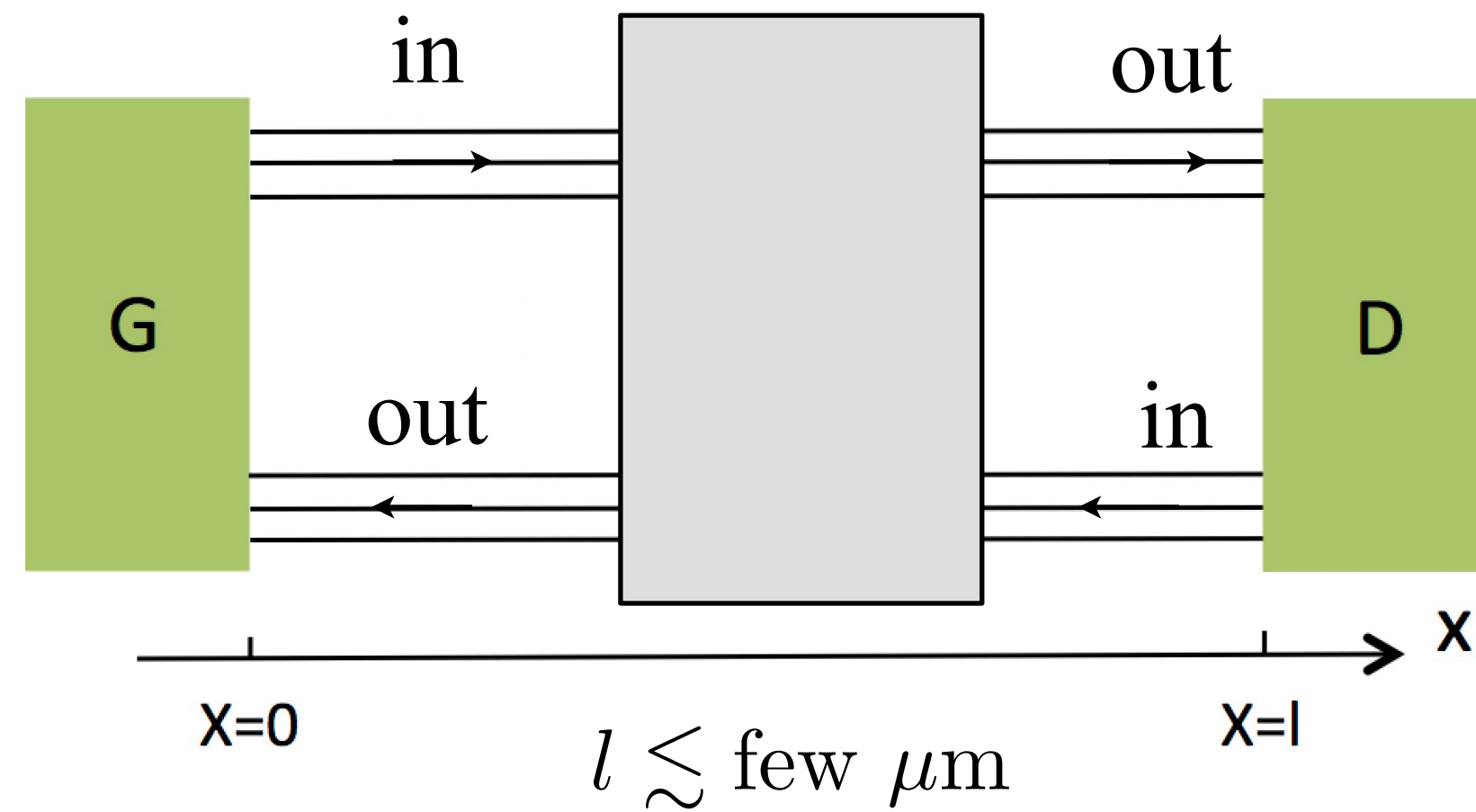
Emit equilibrium streams of electrons $(\mu_D, T_{\text{el},D})$

$$f_D(\omega) = \frac{1}{e^{(\hbar\omega - \mu_D)/k_B T_{\text{el},D}} + 1}$$

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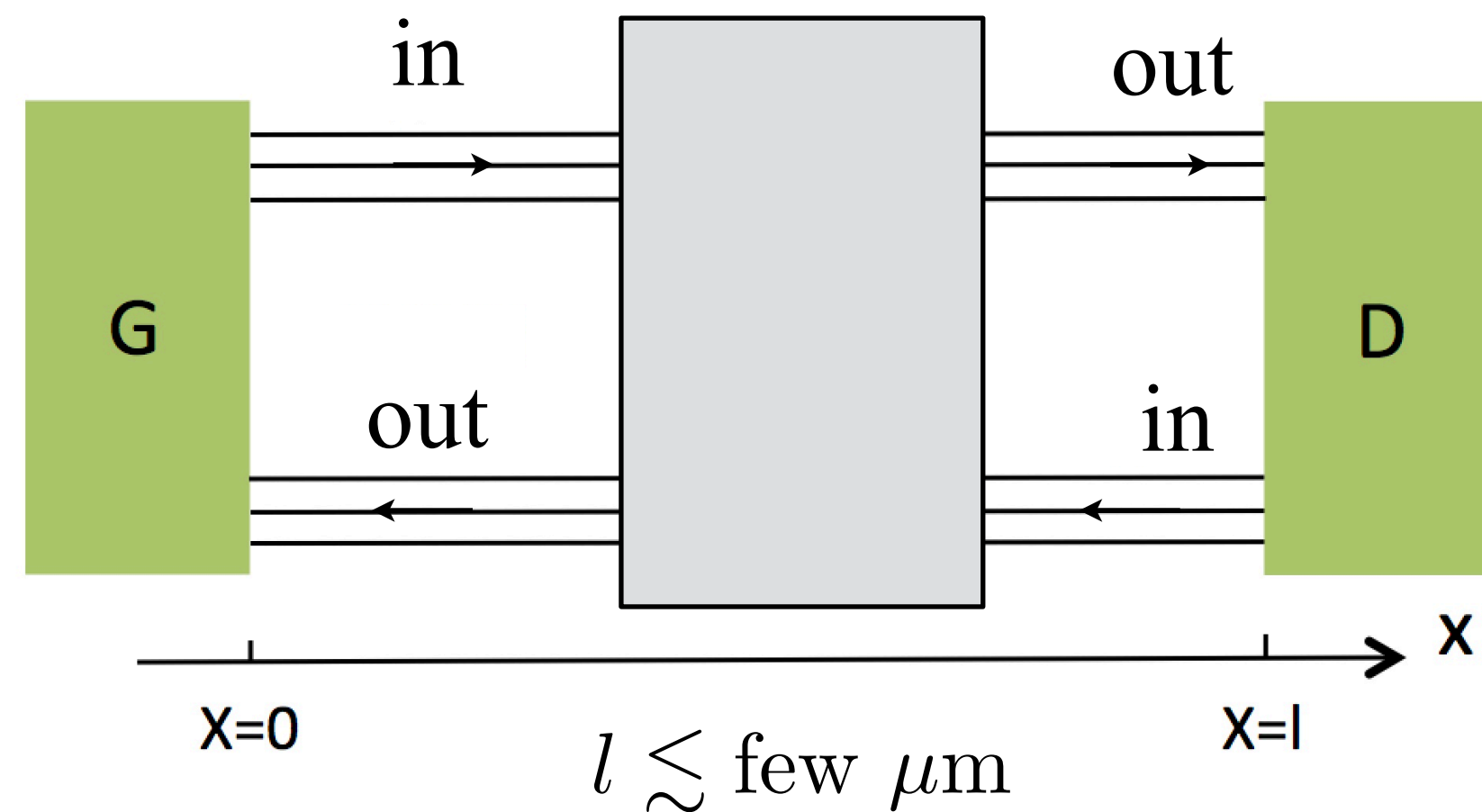
$$\langle I \rangle = -\frac{e}{h} \int (T_{G,D}(E) f_G(E) - T_{D,G}(E) f_D(E)) dE$$

Transmission probability

dc transport in quantum conductors: electronic scattering

Quantum conductor = Coherent electronic scatterer

Reservoirs:



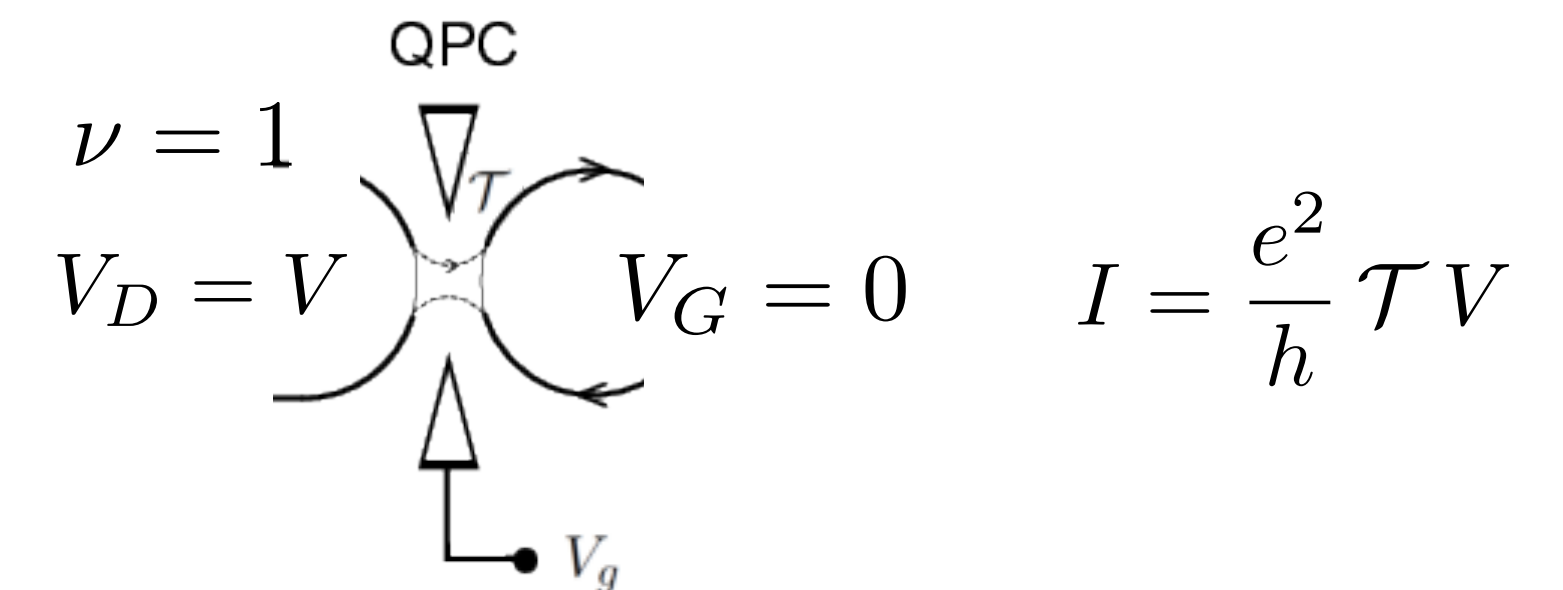
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Emit equilibrium streams of electrons $(\mu_D, T_{\text{el},D})$

$$f_D(\omega) = \frac{1}{e^{(\hbar\omega - \mu_D)/k_B T_{\text{el},D}} + 1}$$

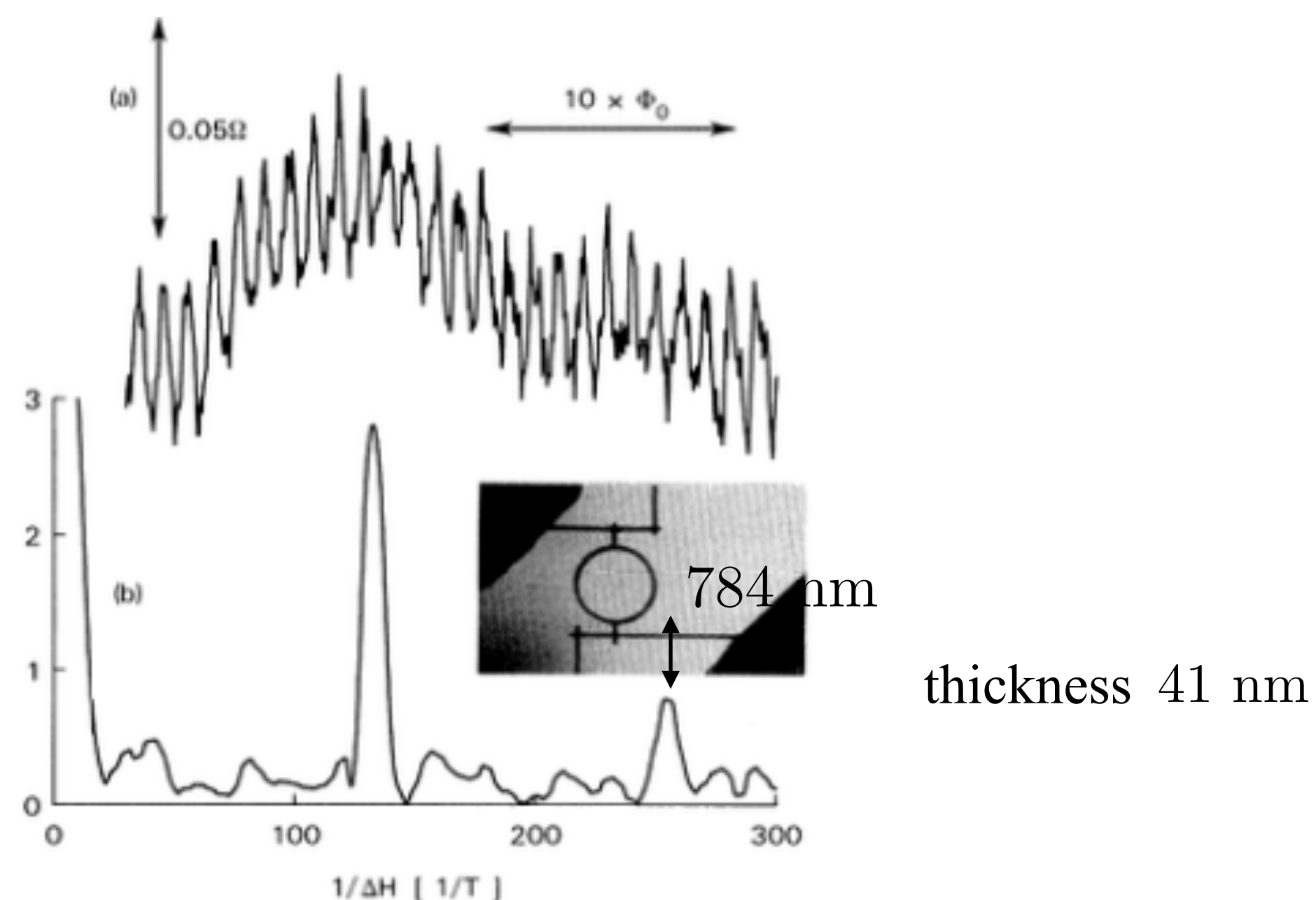
$$\langle I \rangle = -\frac{e}{h} \int (T_{G,D}(E) f_G(E) - T_{D,G}(E) f_D(E)) dE$$

Transmission probability

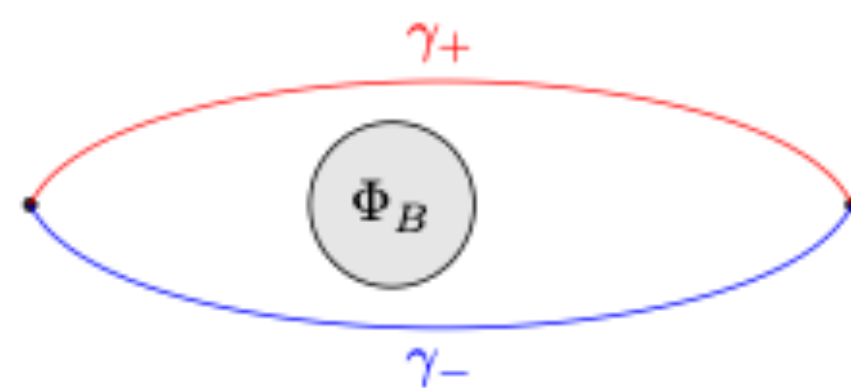


Electronic coherence: breakdown of impedance composition laws

Conductances do not add in parallel !



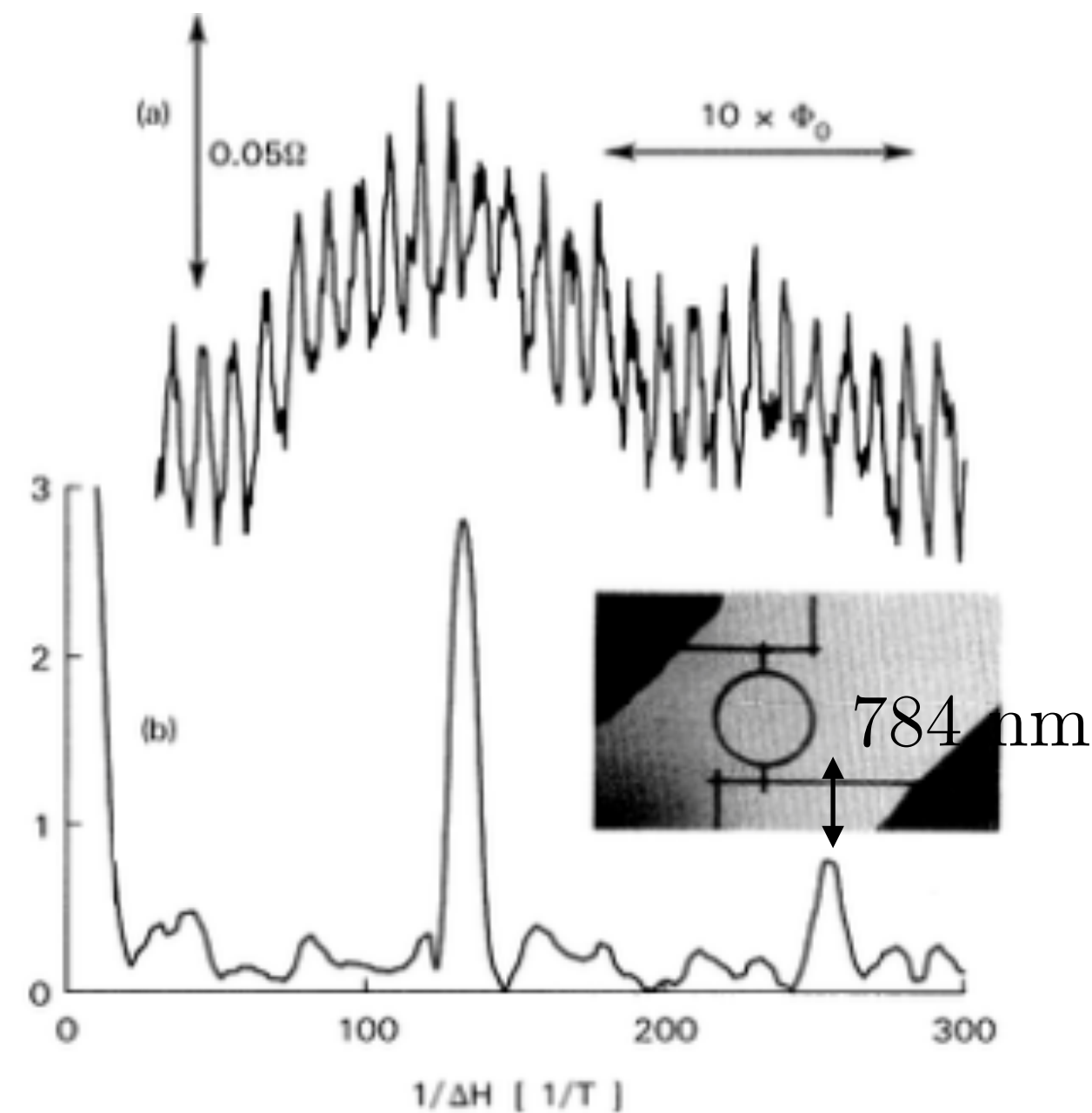
Periodicity: $\Phi \mapsto \Phi + \frac{h}{e}$



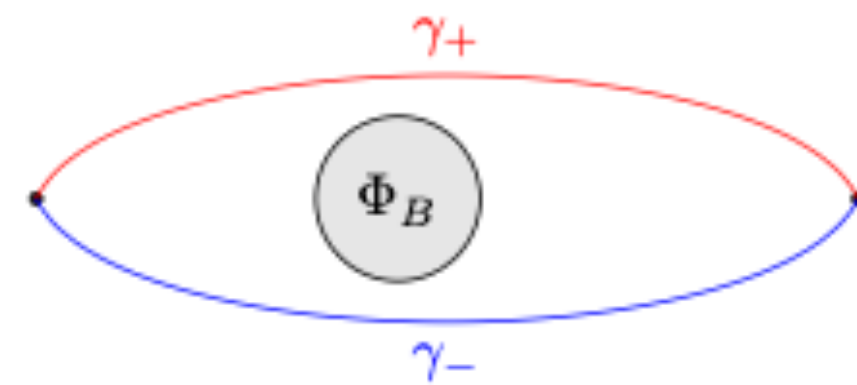
R.A. Webb *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **54**, 2696 (1985)

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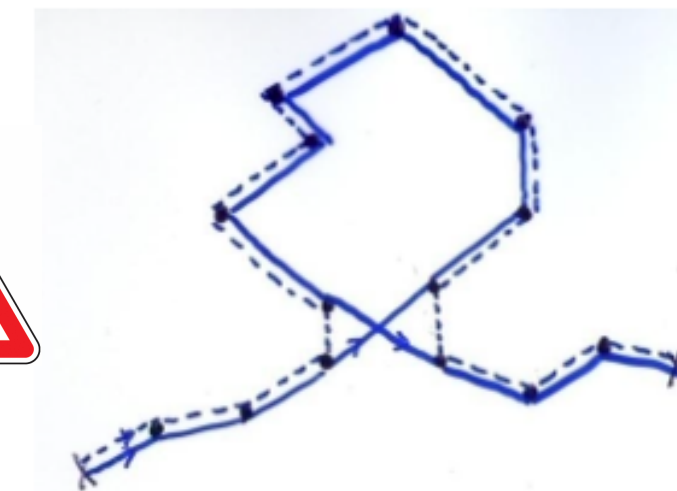
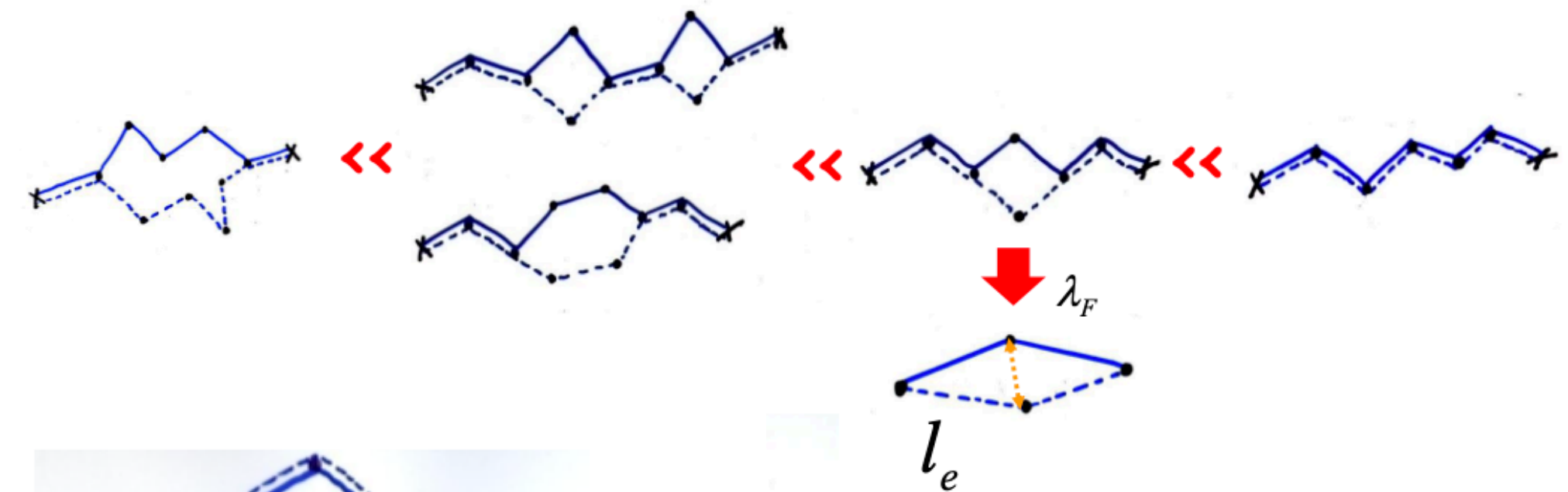


R.A. Webb *et al*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **54**, 2696 (1985)

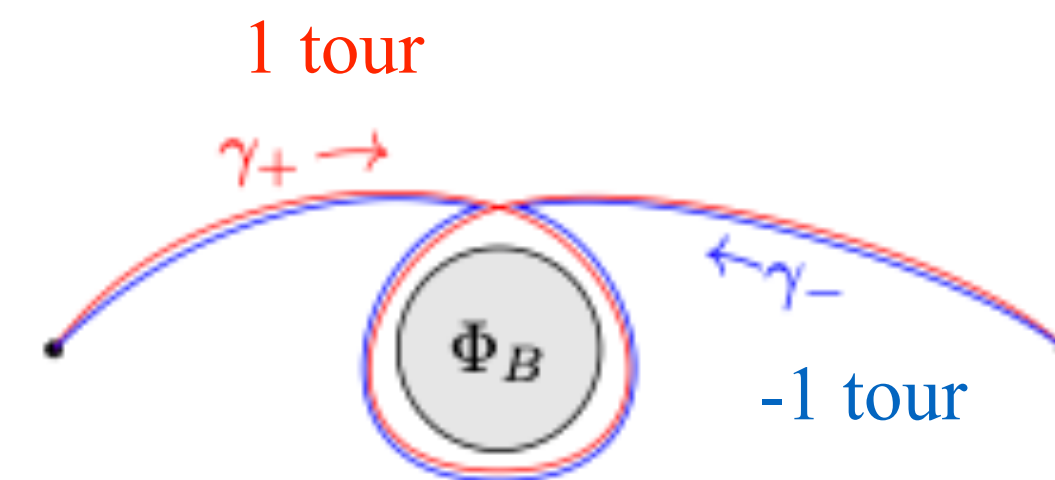
Older experience: $\Phi \mapsto \Phi + \frac{h}{2e}$

D. Yu. and Yu. V. Sharvin, JETP Lett. **34** (1981)

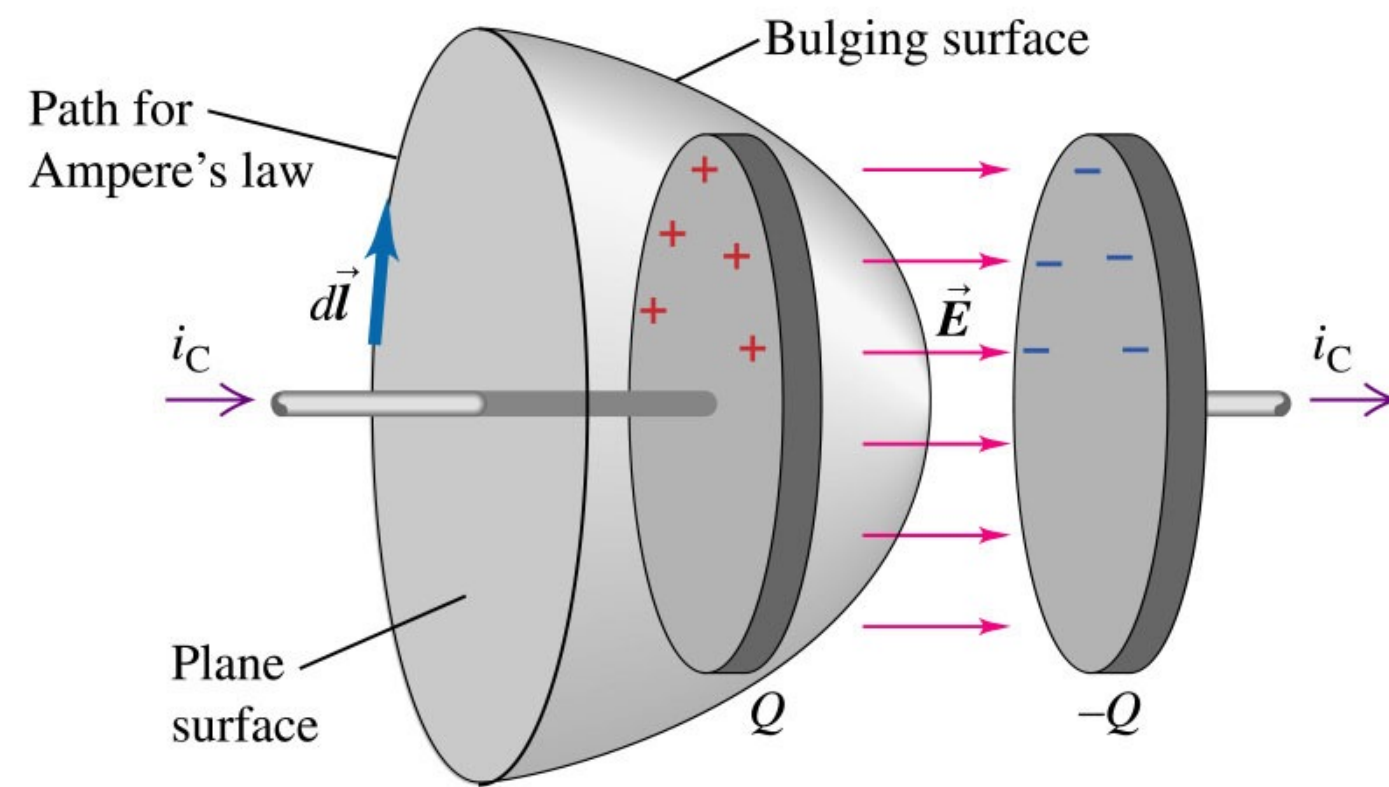
Classical contributions



Quantum corrections:
Weak for $R \ll R_K$

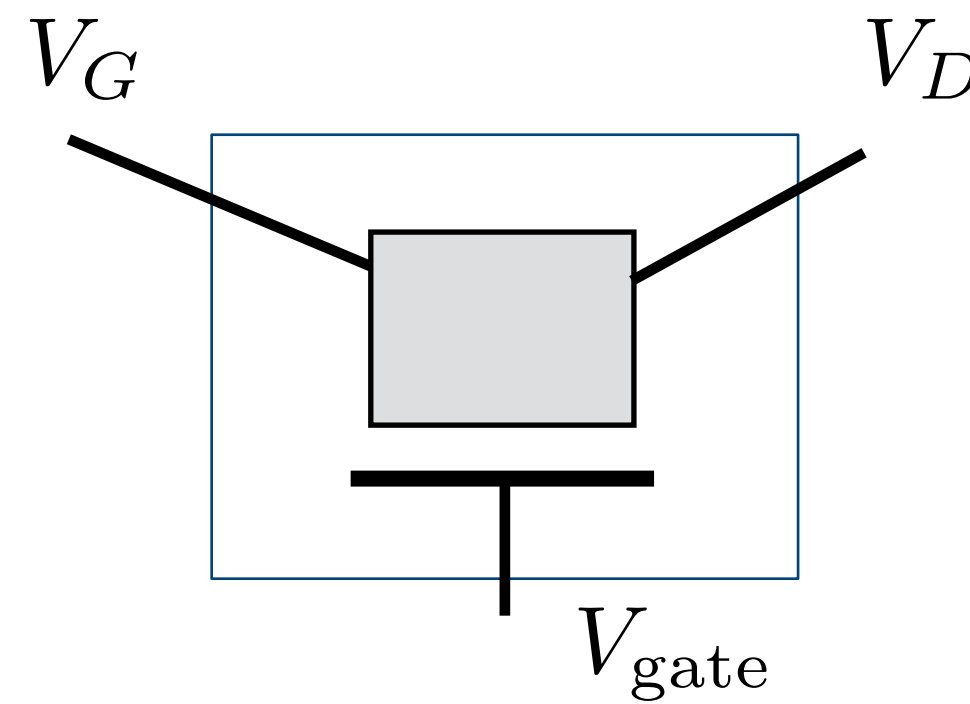


AC transport and Coulomb interactions



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$$c^2 \overrightarrow{\text{rot}}(\mathbf{B}) = \frac{\mathbf{j}}{\varepsilon_0} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$



$$\sum_{\alpha} I_{\alpha, \text{in}} = 0$$

$$\forall \alpha, V_{\alpha} \mapsto V_{\alpha} + V$$

changes nothing

current conservation

gauge invariance

Gauge invariance and charge conservation require **Coulomb interactions**

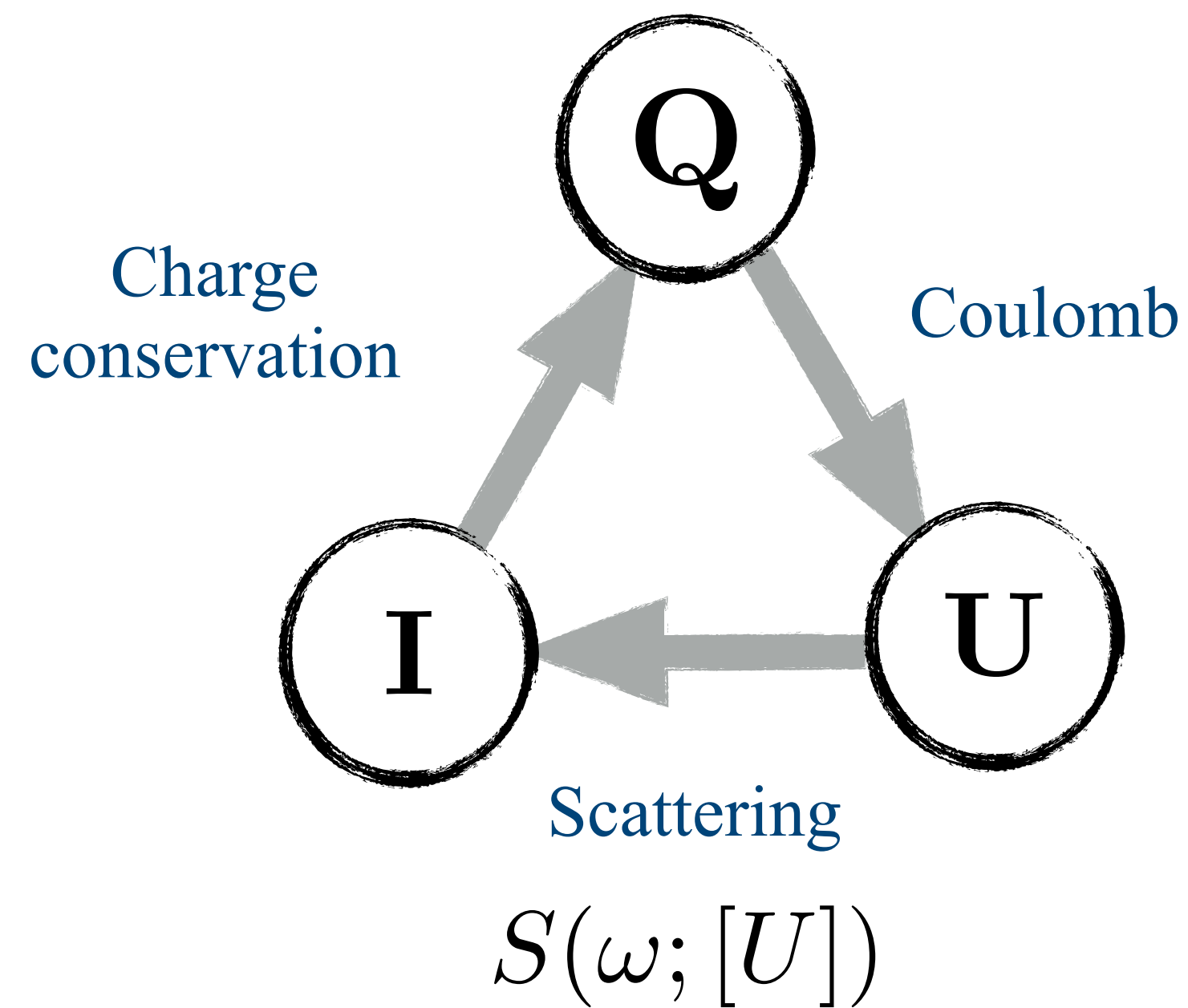
M. Büttiker, J. Phys.: Cond. Matt. **5**, 9361 (1993)

AC quantum transport and Coulomb interactions

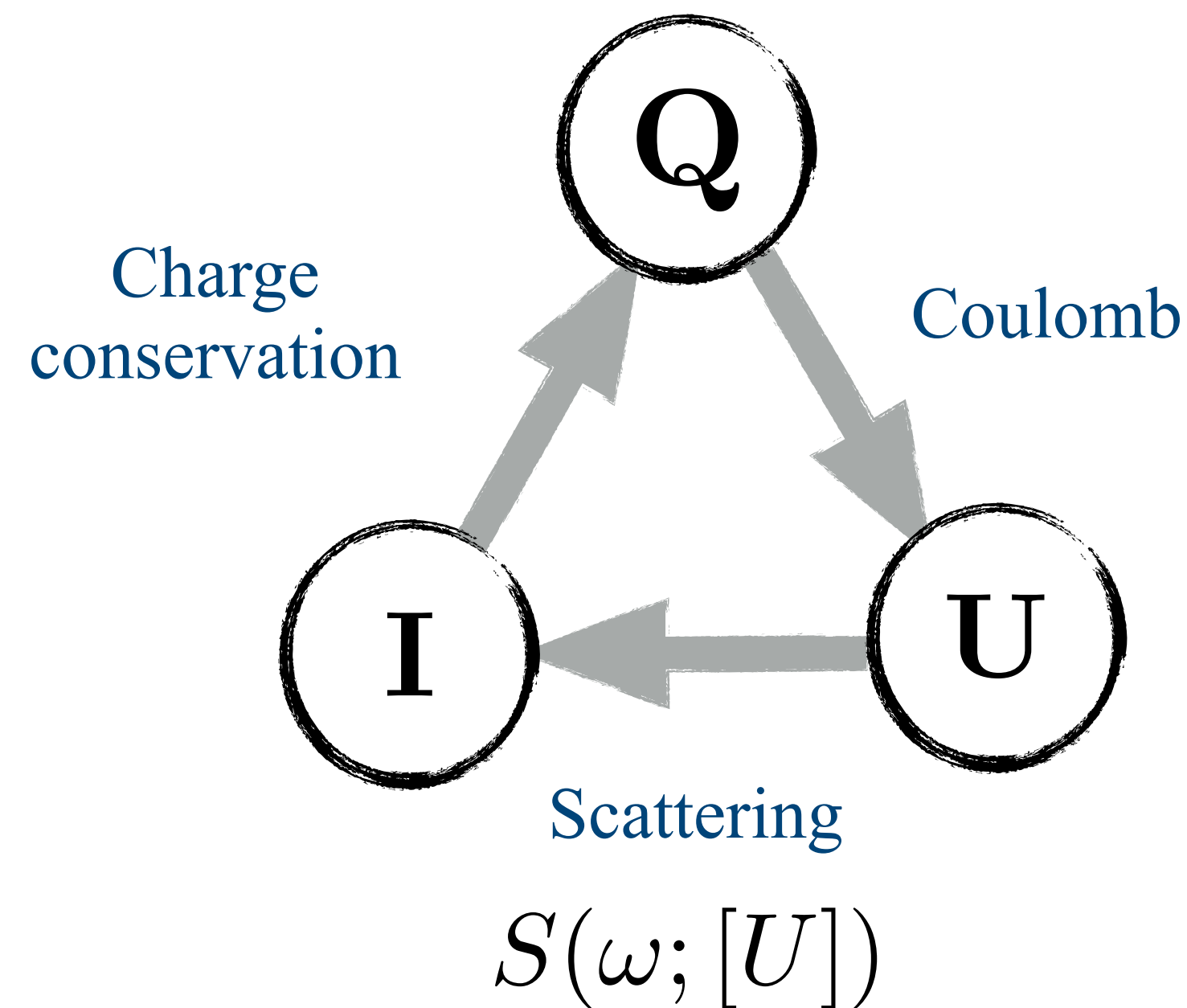
Classical self-consistent potential for electronic scattering

AC quantum transport and Coulomb interactions

Classical self-consistent potential for electronic scattering



Classical self-consistent potential for electronic scattering



Charges from potentials (Coulomb)

$$Q_\alpha = \sum_\beta C_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{geom})} U_\beta$$

Charges from currents

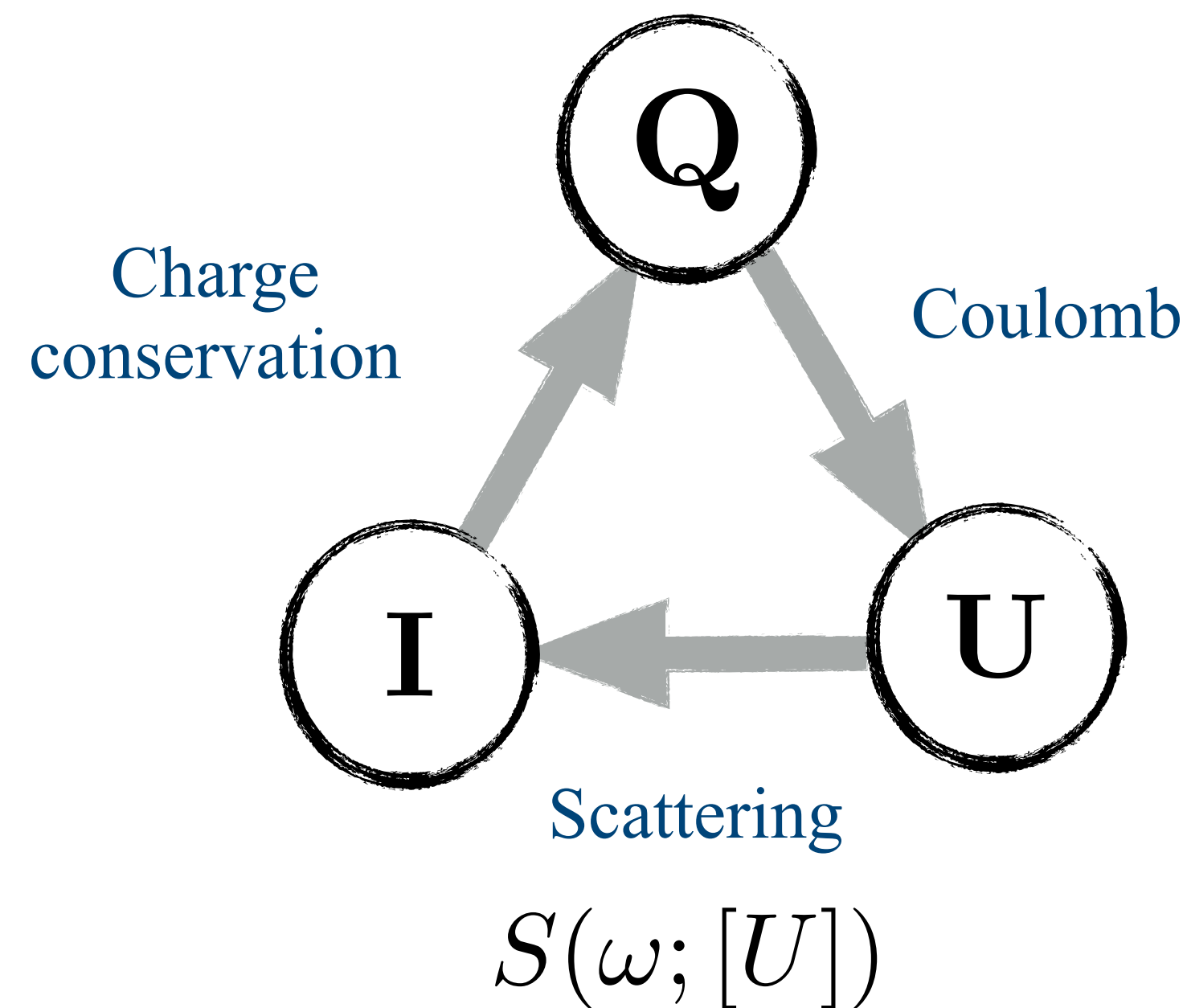
$$-i\omega Q_\alpha(\omega) = \sum_{j \mapsto \alpha} I_j(\omega)$$

Charges from electronic scattering

$$I_j(\omega) = \mathcal{I}_j(\omega; [S, V_j])$$

A Prêtre *et al*, Phys. Rev. B **54**, 8130 (1996)

Classical self-consistent potential for electronic scattering



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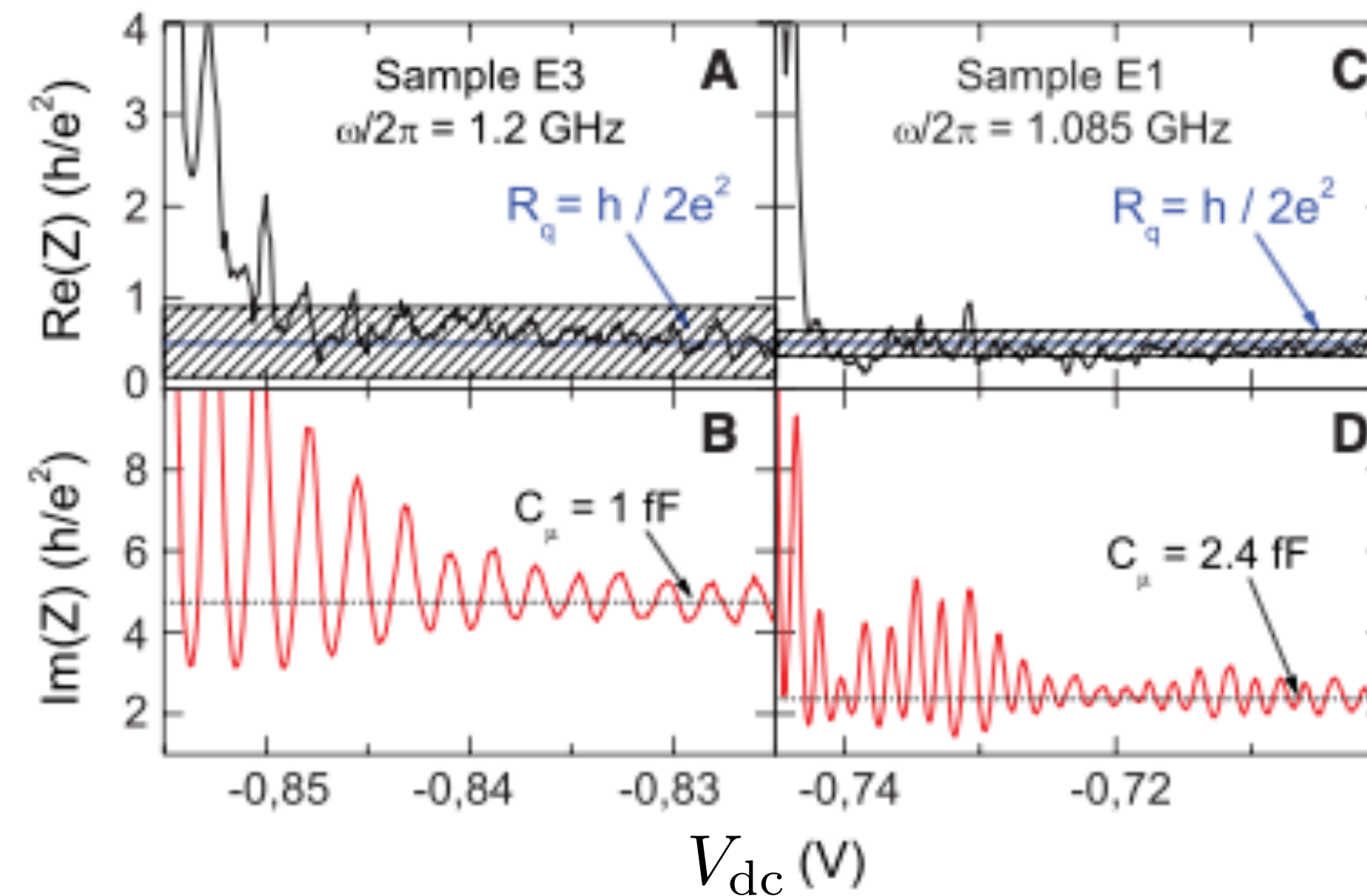
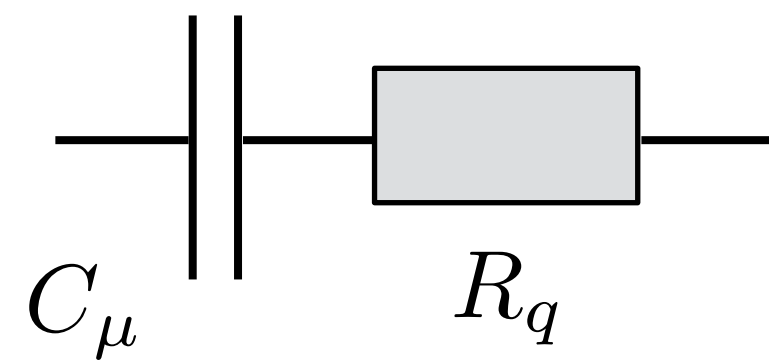
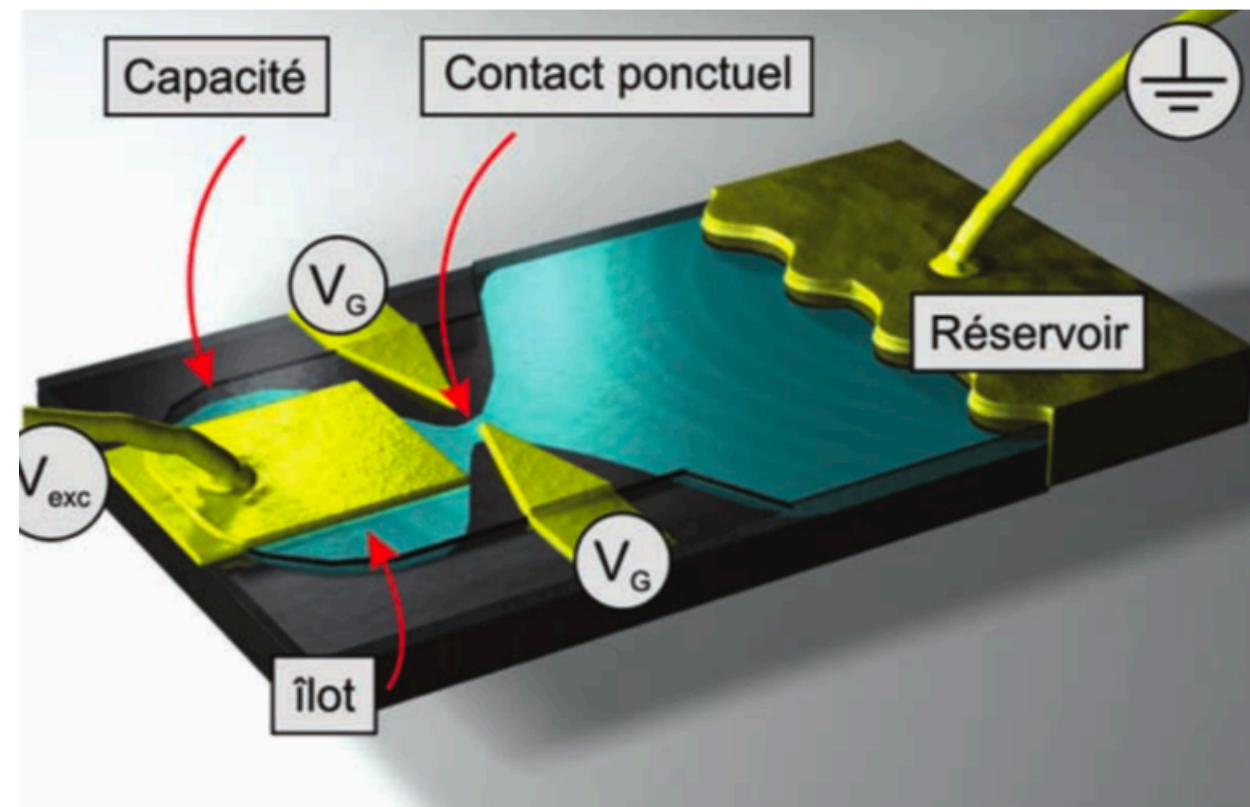
Non-linear dc response

T. Christen and M. Büttiker, Europhys. Lett. **35**, 523 (1996)

AC quantum transport: the mesoscopic RC circuit

GHz frequency measurement of the impedance

J. Gabelli *et al*, Science **313**, 499 (2006)



$$\frac{1}{C_\mu} = \frac{1}{C_g} + \frac{1}{C_q(V_{dc})}$$



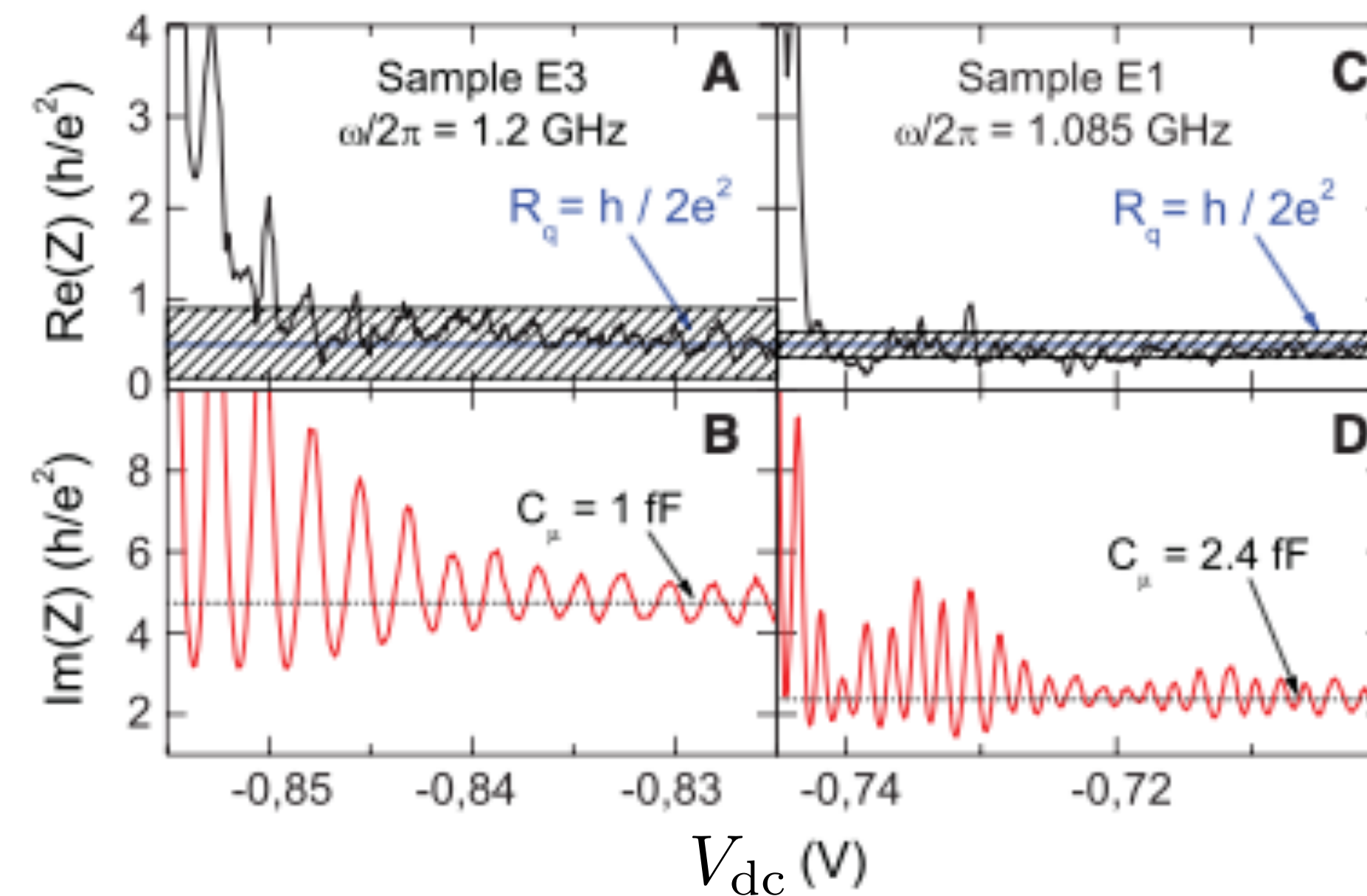
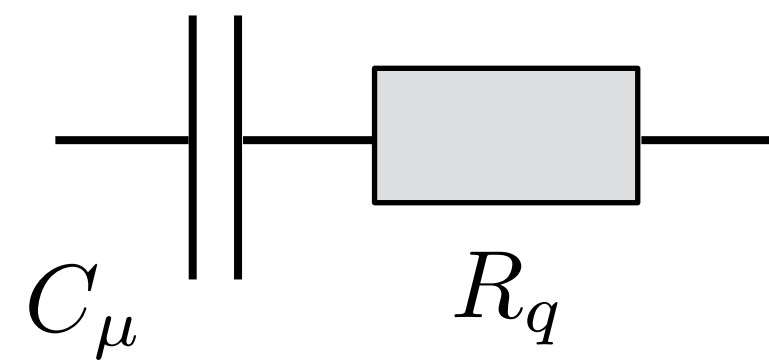
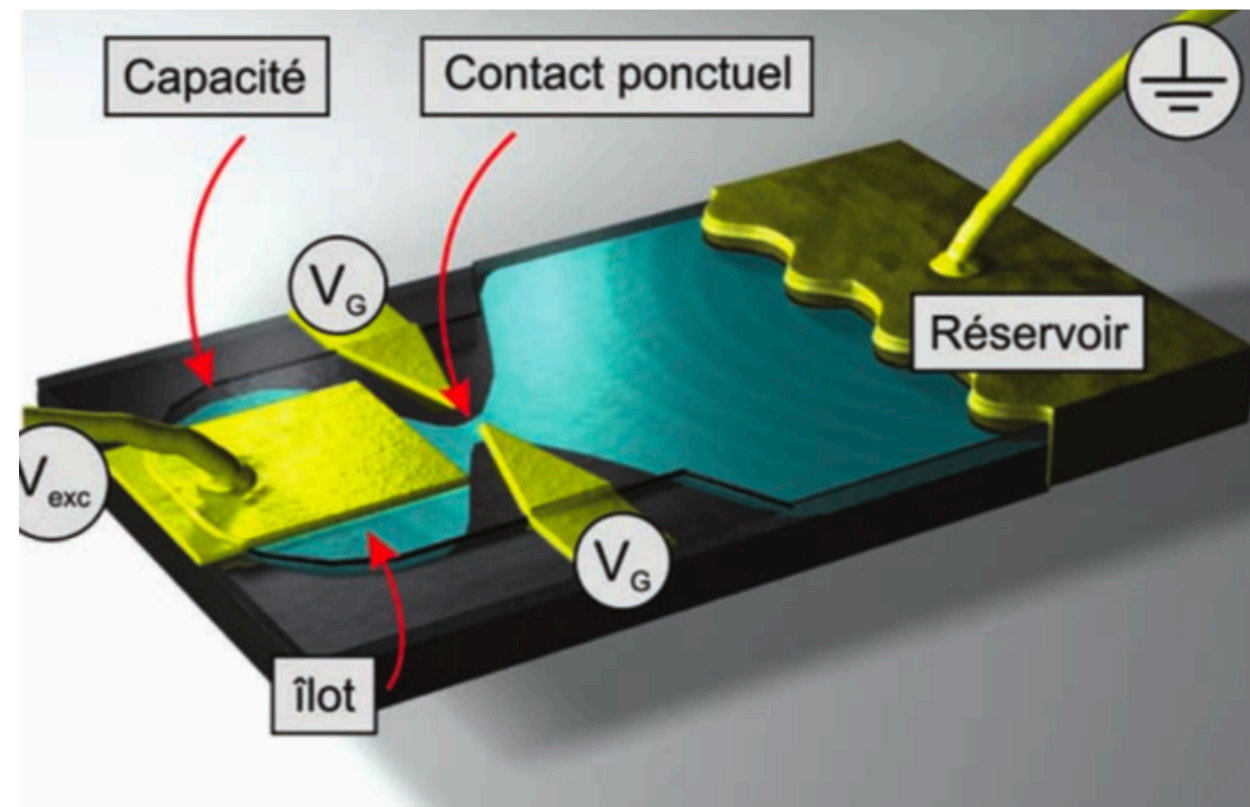
$$R_q = \frac{R_K}{2} \neq \frac{R_K}{\mathcal{T}}$$

Theory: M. Büttiker *et al*, Phys. Lett. A **180**, 364 (1993)

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Violation of Kirchhoff's Laws for a Coherent RC Circuit

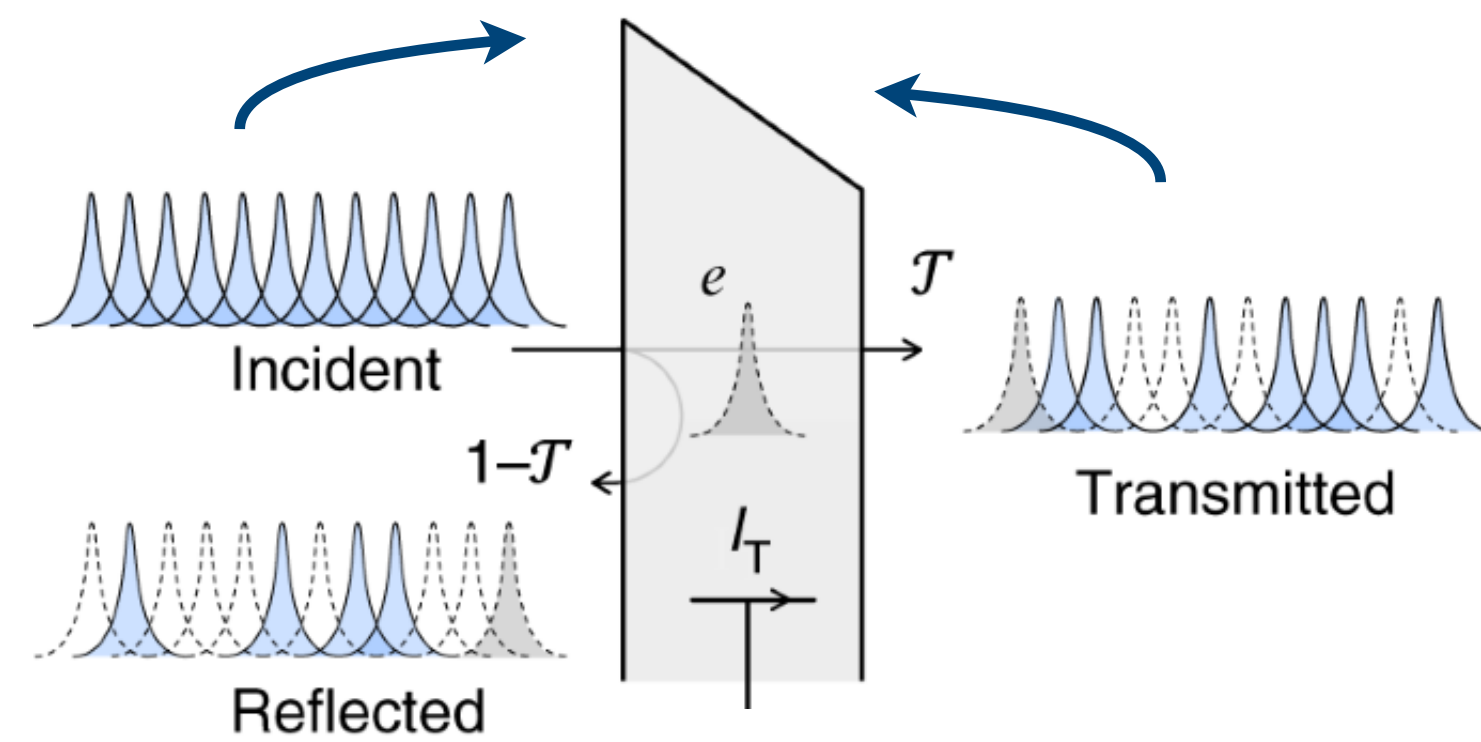
J. Gabelli,¹ G. Fève,¹ J.-M. Berroir,¹ B. Plaçais,¹ A. Cavanna,²
B. Etienne,² Y. Jin,² D. C. Glattli^{1,3*}

Theory: M. Büttiker *et al*, Phys. Lett. A **180**, 364 (1993)

Electronic transport in the quantum domain

Büttikerian paradigm: conductors as electronic scatterers and waveguides

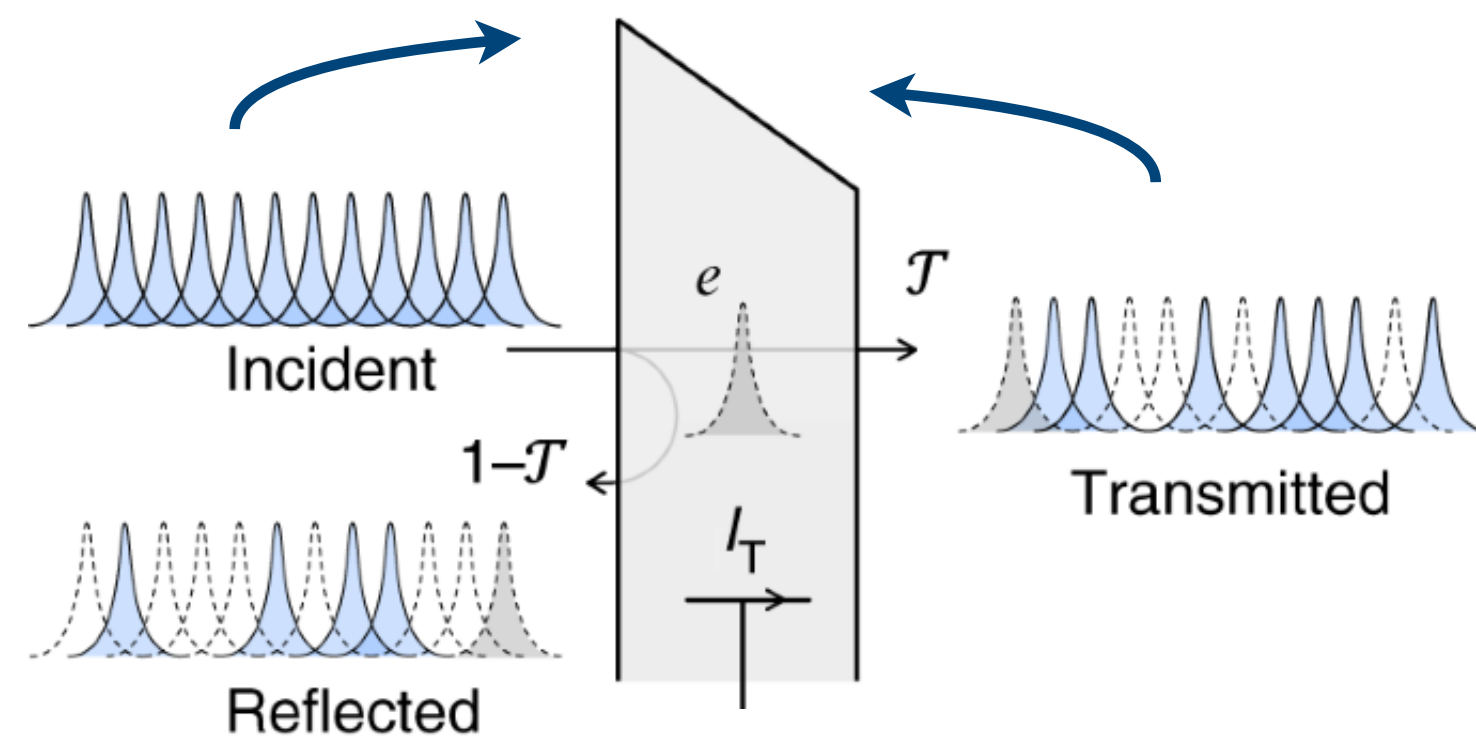
Self consistent approach



Electronic transport in the quantum domain

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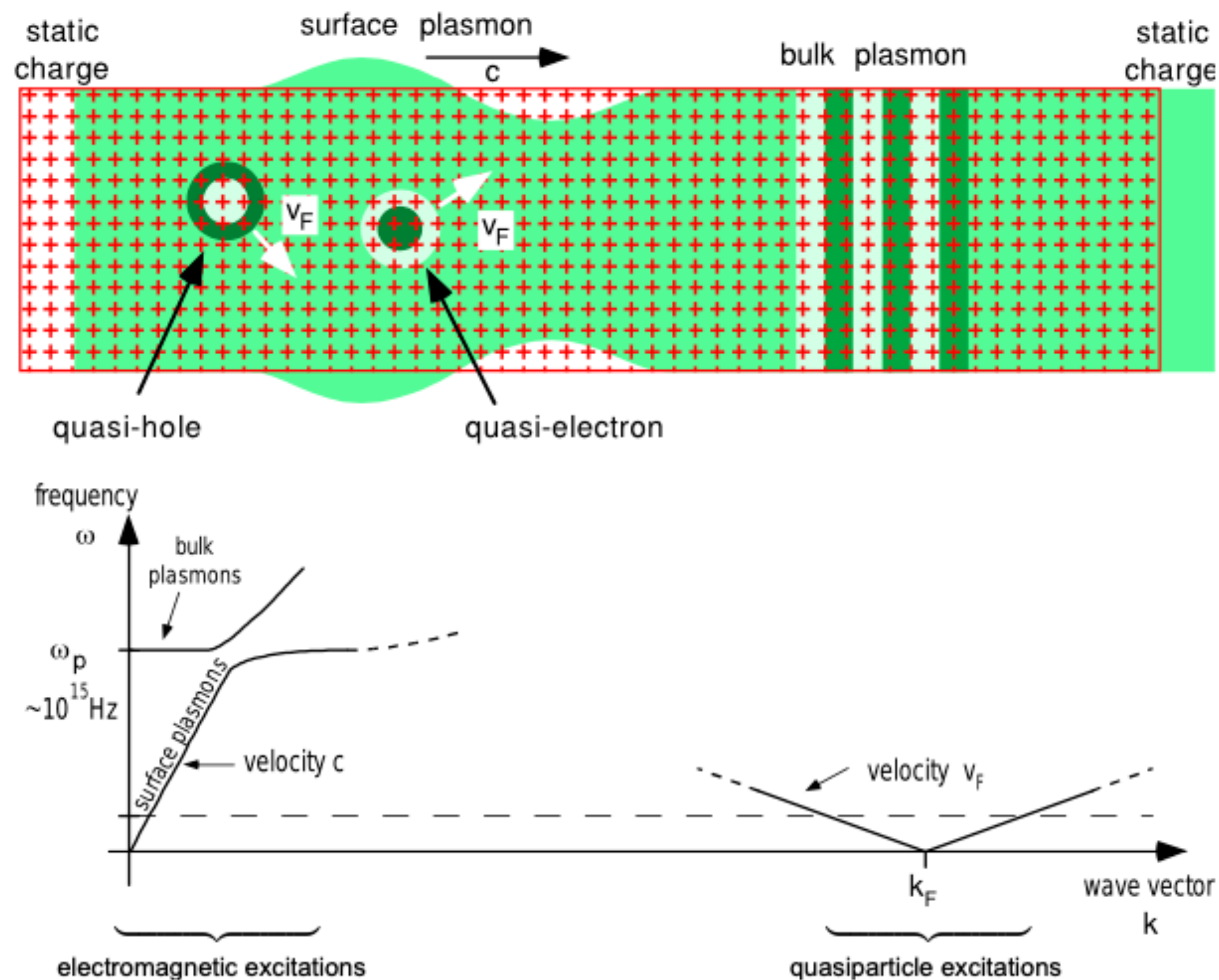
Self consistent approach



Question: what hides beyond this « classical scatterer » picture ?

Quantum currents and photons

Excitations of the electronic fluid in a metal

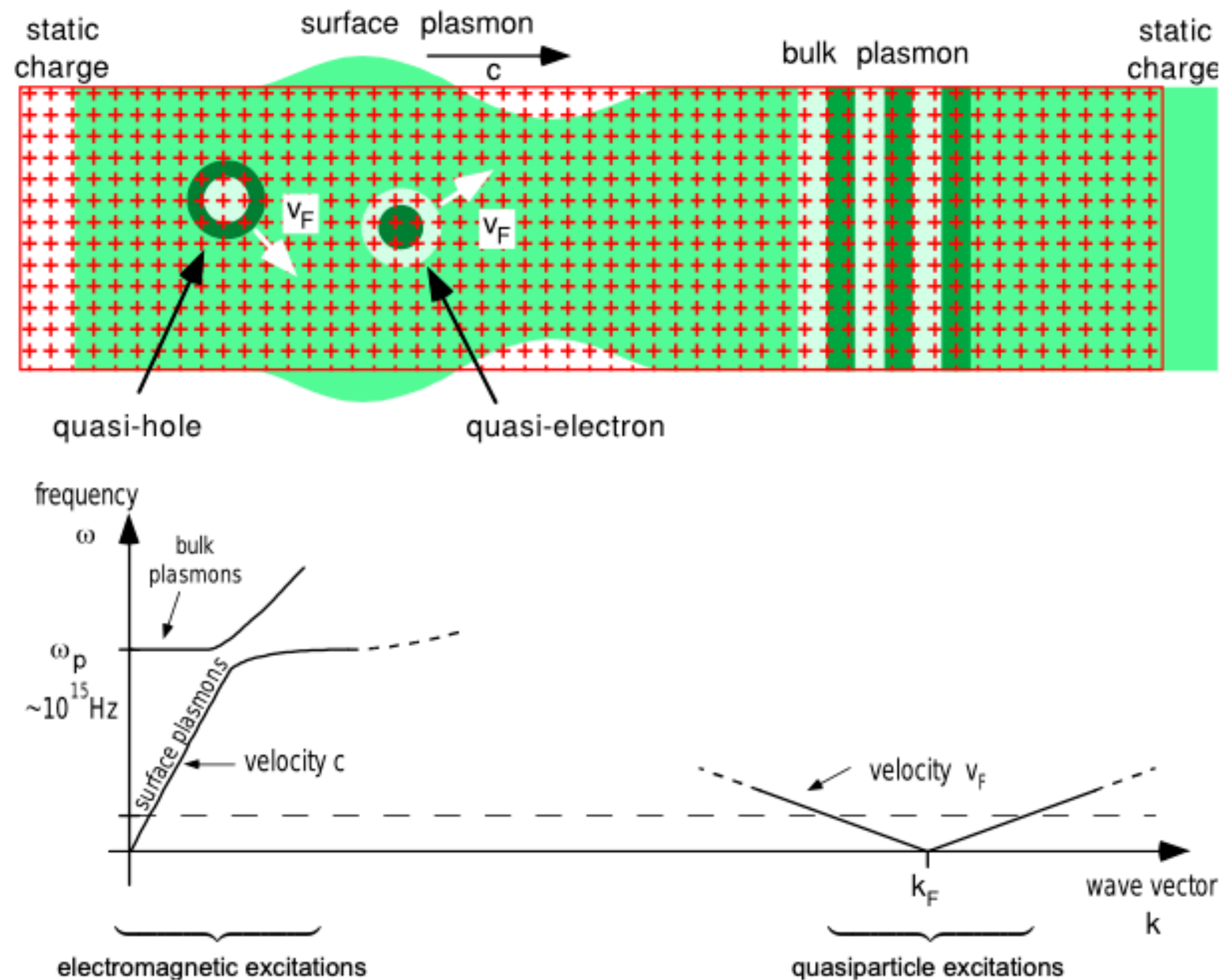


Ph. Joyez, *Introduction to quantum circuits* (Univ. Denis Diderot, Master DQ)

Quantum currents and photons

Excitations of the electronic fluid in a metal

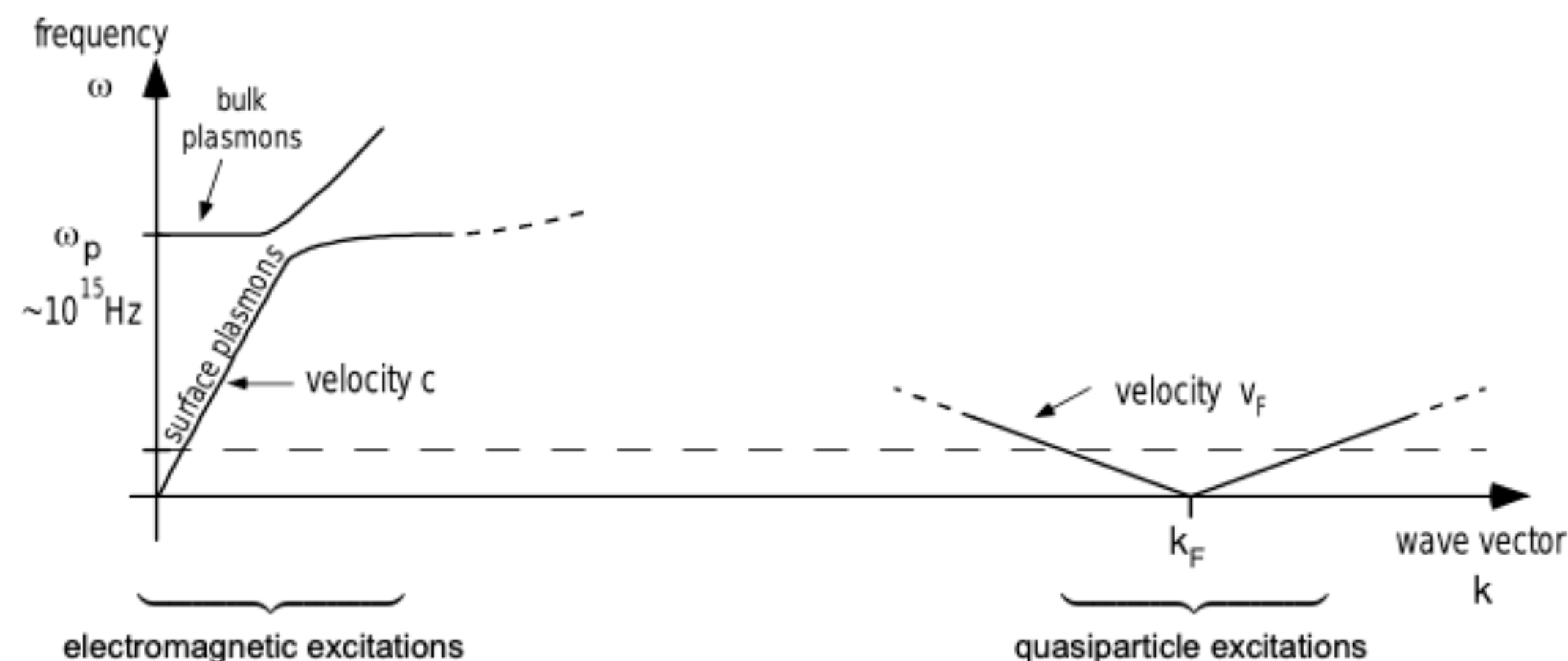
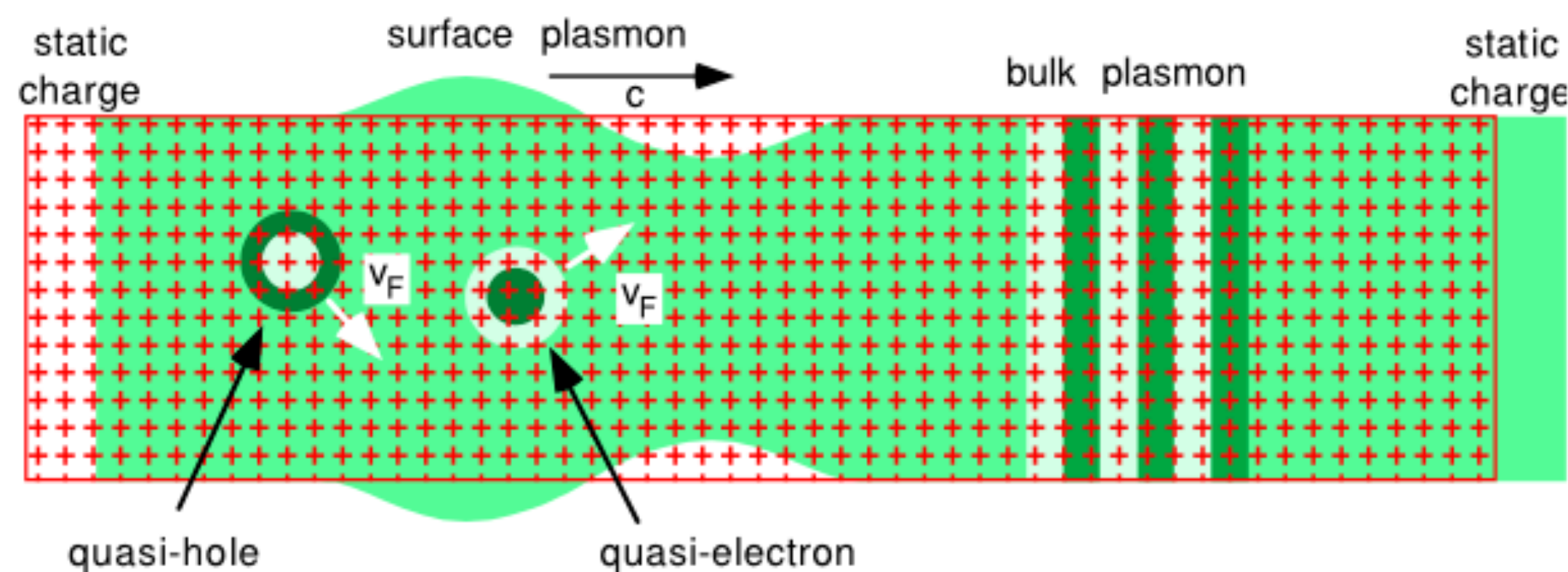
Static charges: role in dc transport.



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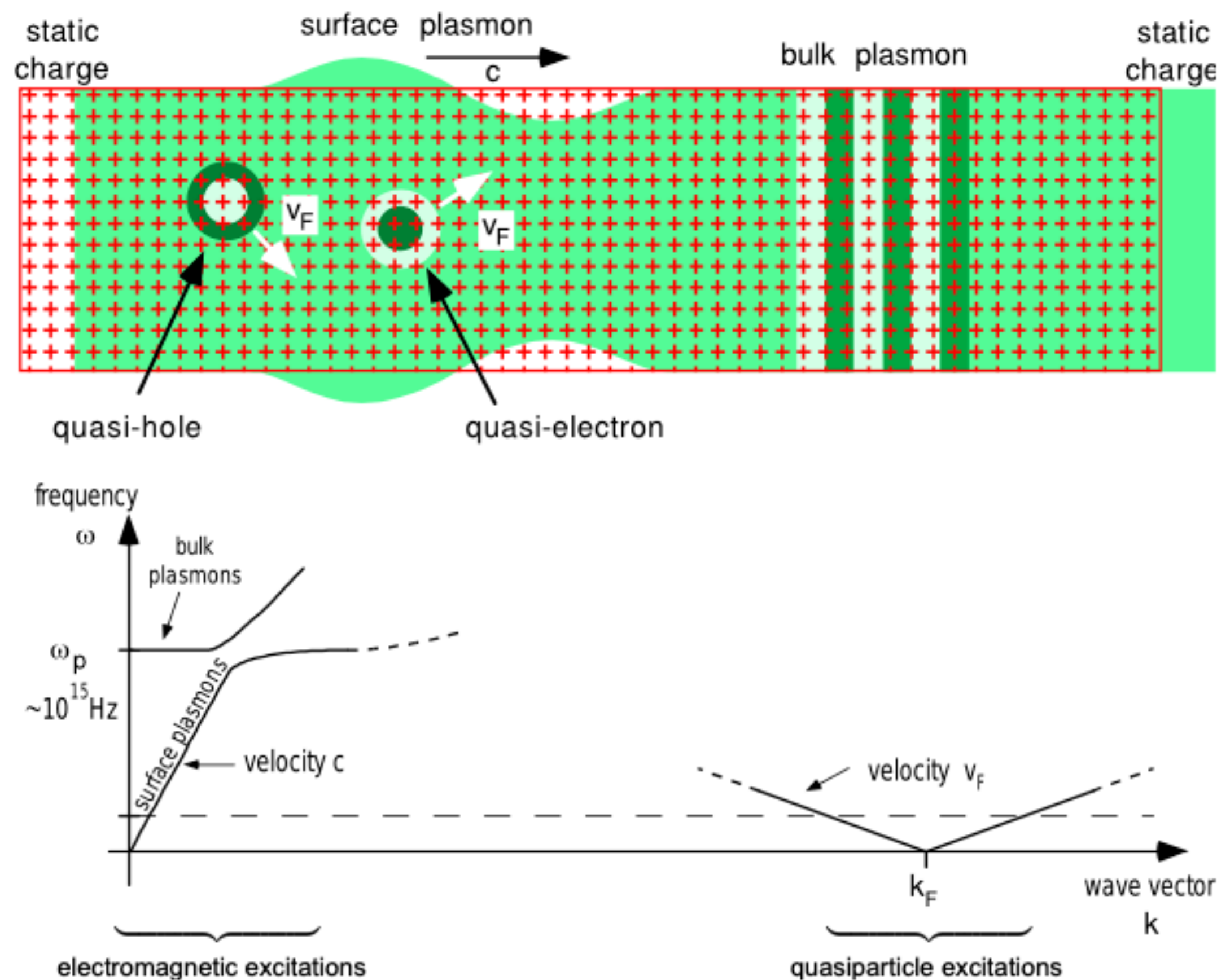


Static charges: role in dc transport.

Low energy plasmons (surface charge density waves): role in ac transport and transient regimes. *Hybridize with the EM field.* Coulomb couplings in mesoscopic systems.

Quantum currents and photons

Excitations of the electronic fluid in a metal



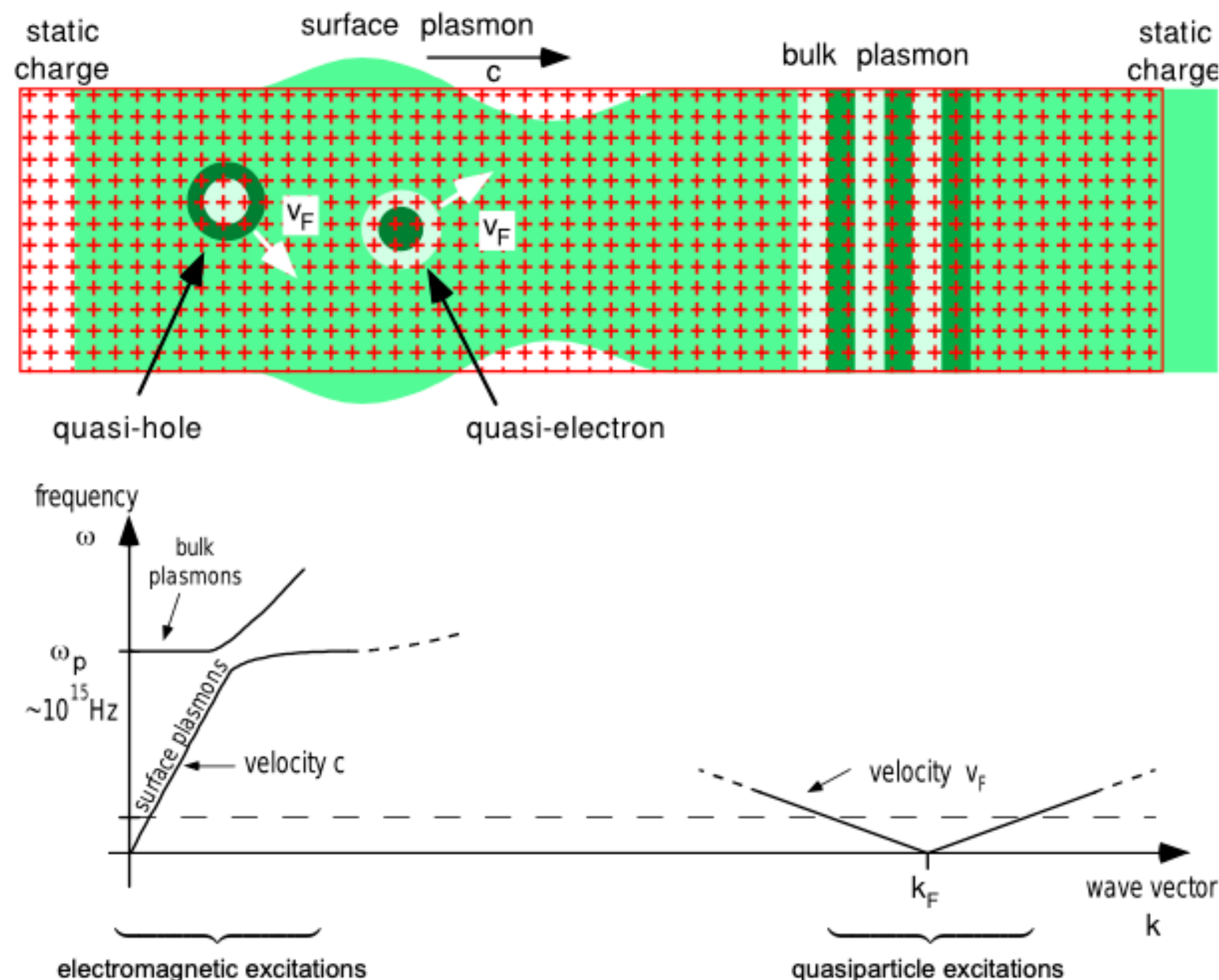
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Bulk plasmons: optical frequencies (*too high for nano electronics*)

Quantum currents and photons

Excitations of the electronic fluid in a metal



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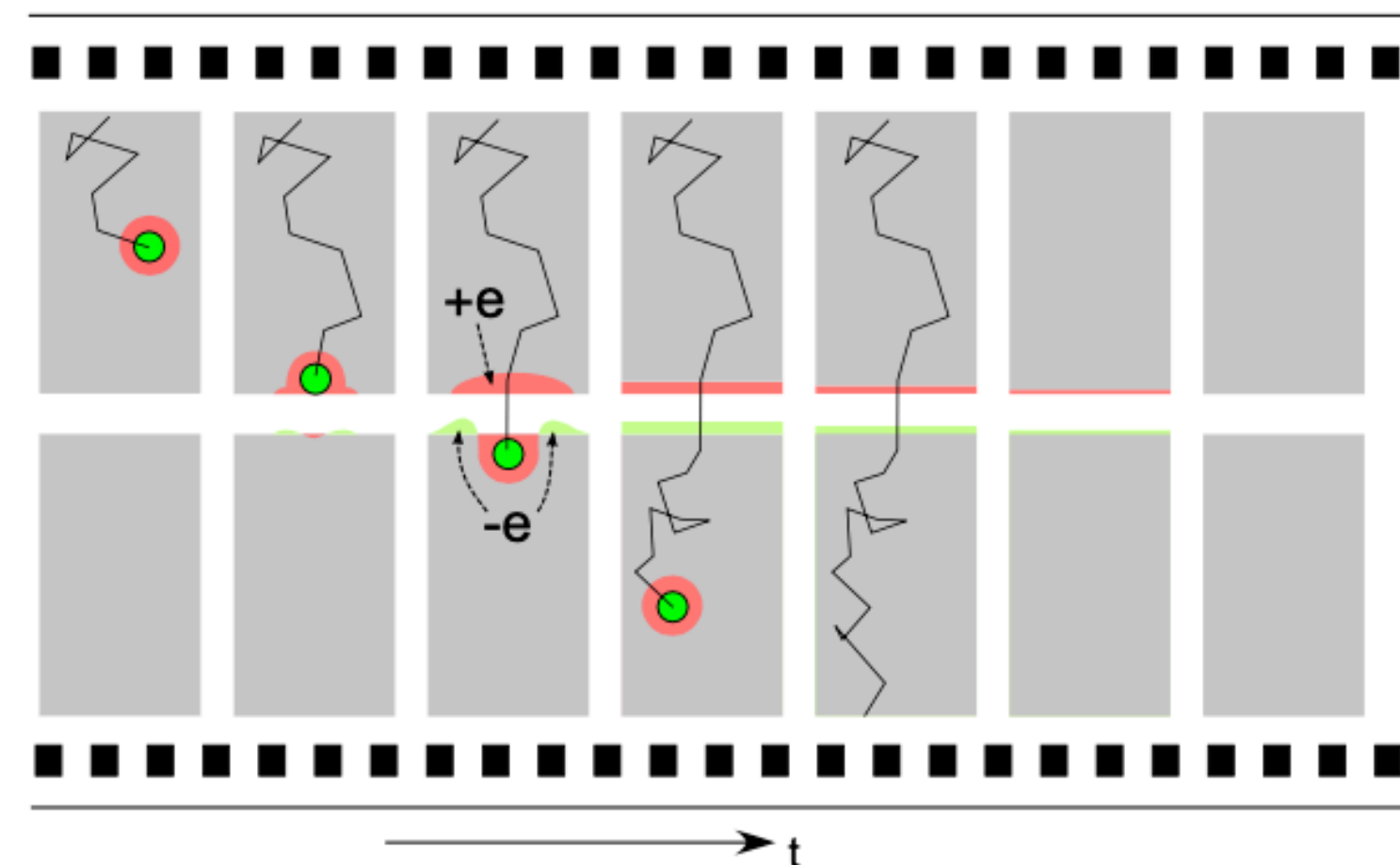
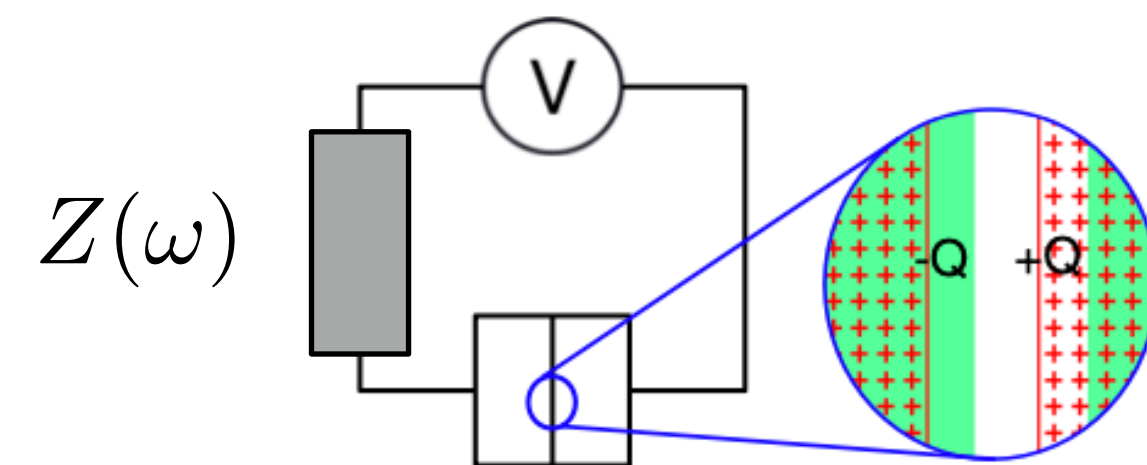
Bulk plasmons: optical frequencies (*too high for nano electronics*)

Quasi-particles: only feel a Coulomb screened interactions (*electron scattering approach*)

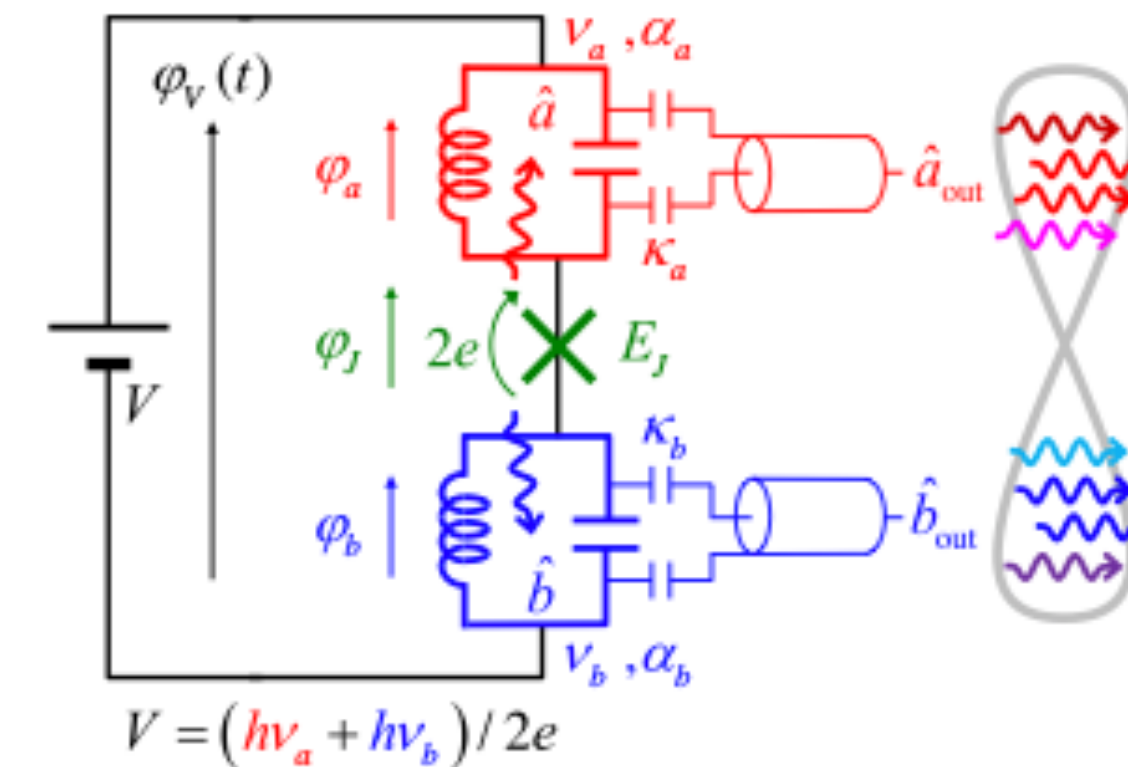
Ph. Joyez, *Introduction to quantum circuits* (Univ. Denis Diderot, Master DQ)

Dynamical Coulomb blockade

Dynamical Coulomb blockade



Can be used to generate quantum microwave radiation



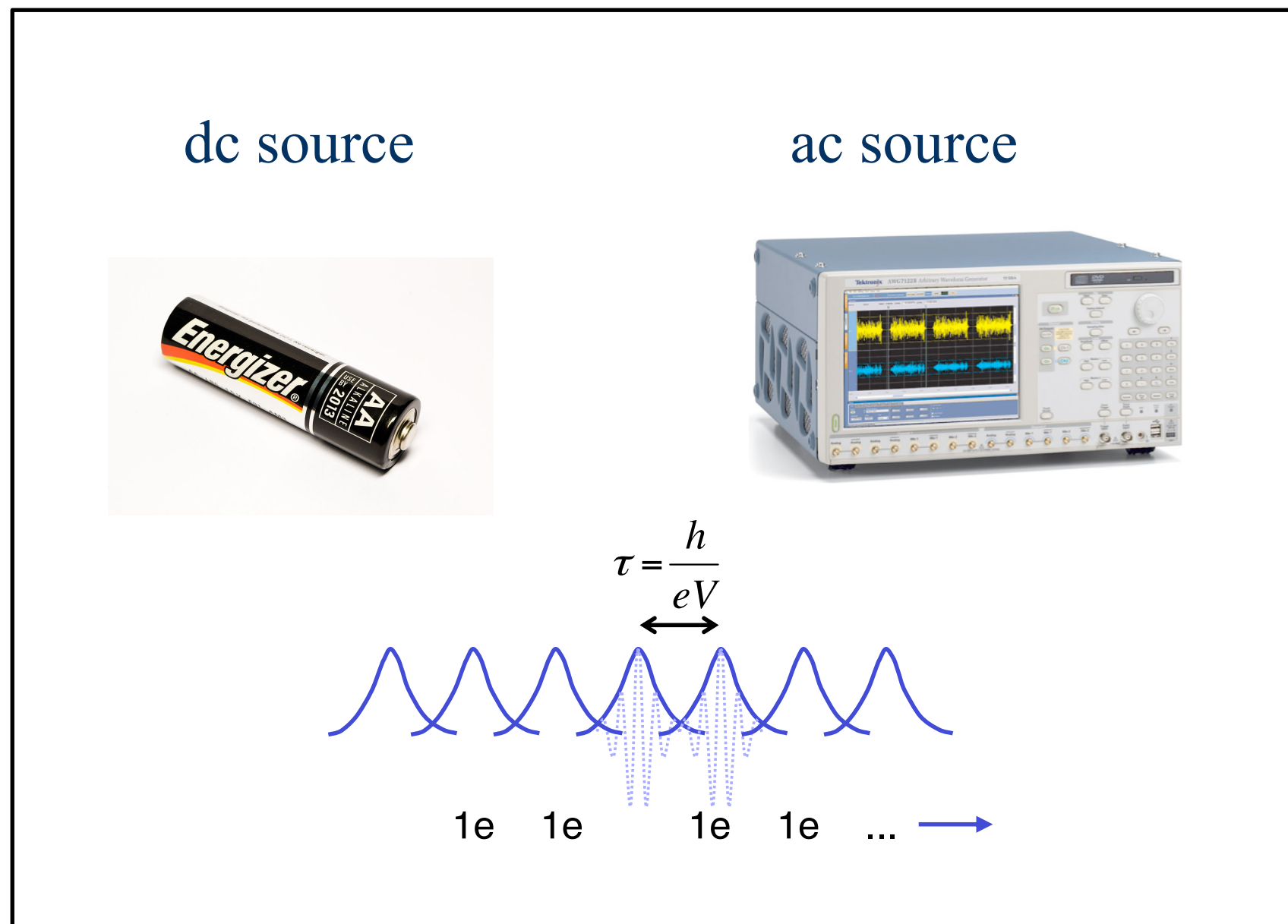
A. Peugeot *et al*, Phys. Rev. X **11**, 031008 (2021)



See F. Pierre's talk (9/4/2025)

Electron quantum optics

Coherent nano-electronics:
many electrons sources



Many overlapping electrons!

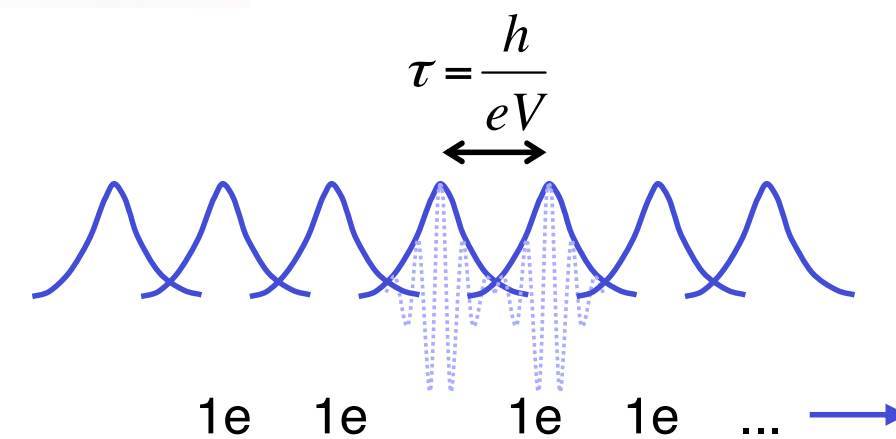
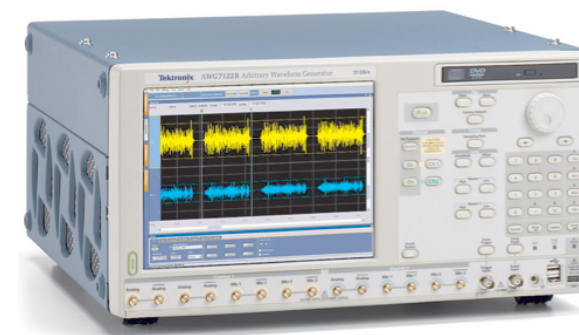
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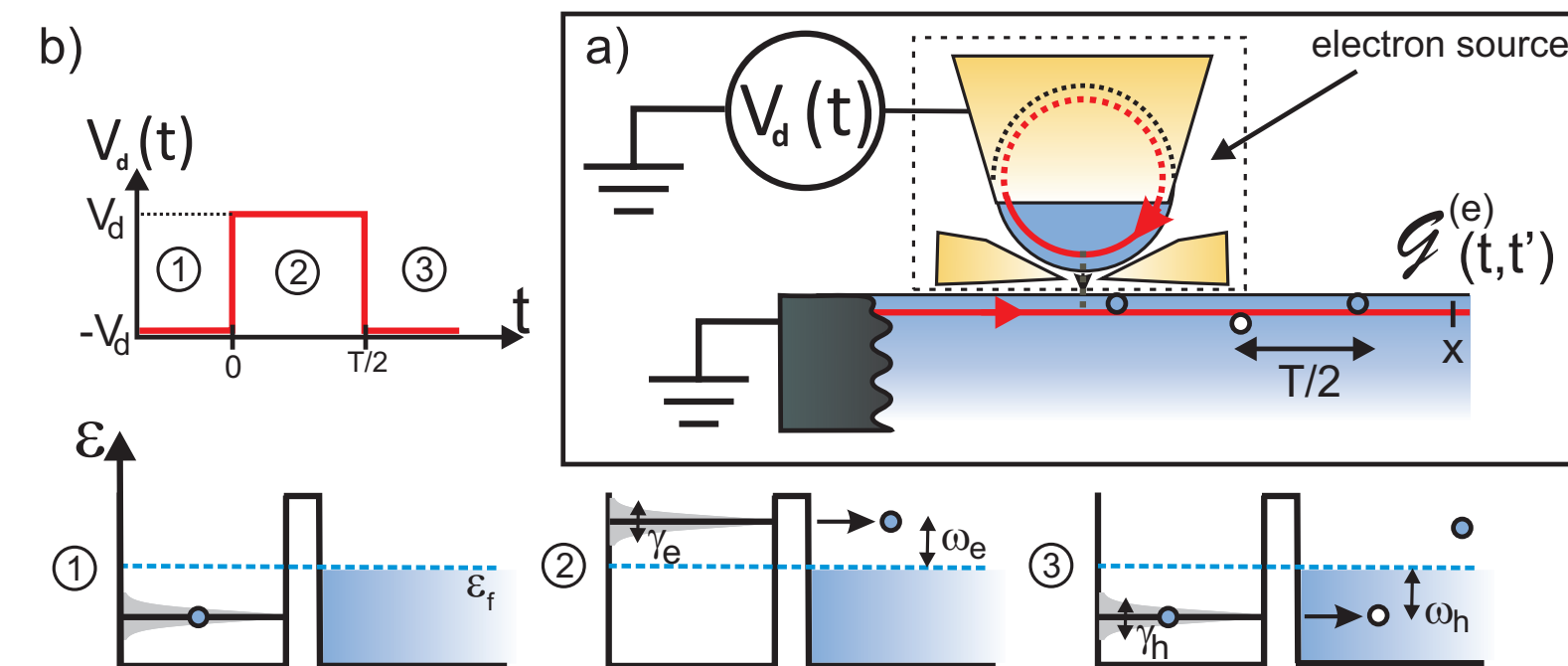
Electron quantum optics:
single or few electrons sources

dc source

ac source

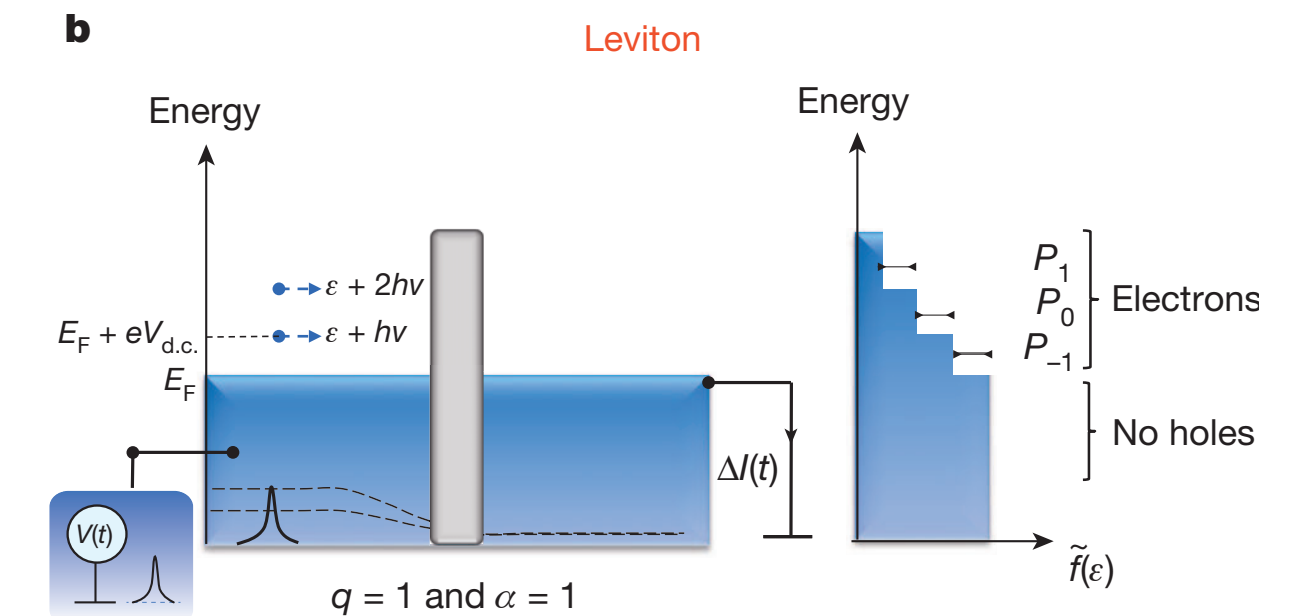


Landau excitation source:



G. Fève *et al*, Science **316**, 1169 (2007)

Leviton source:



J. Dubois *et al*, Nature **502**, 659 (2013)

Many overlapping electrons!

Well separated electronic excitations

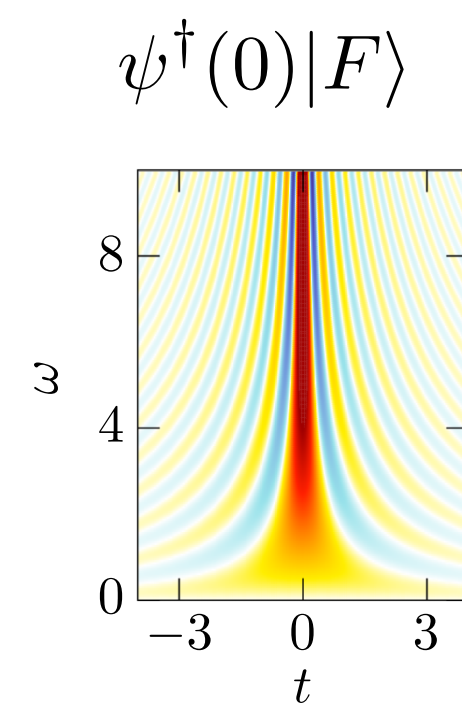
E. Bocquillon *et al*, Ann. Phys. (Berlin) **526**, 1-30 (2014)



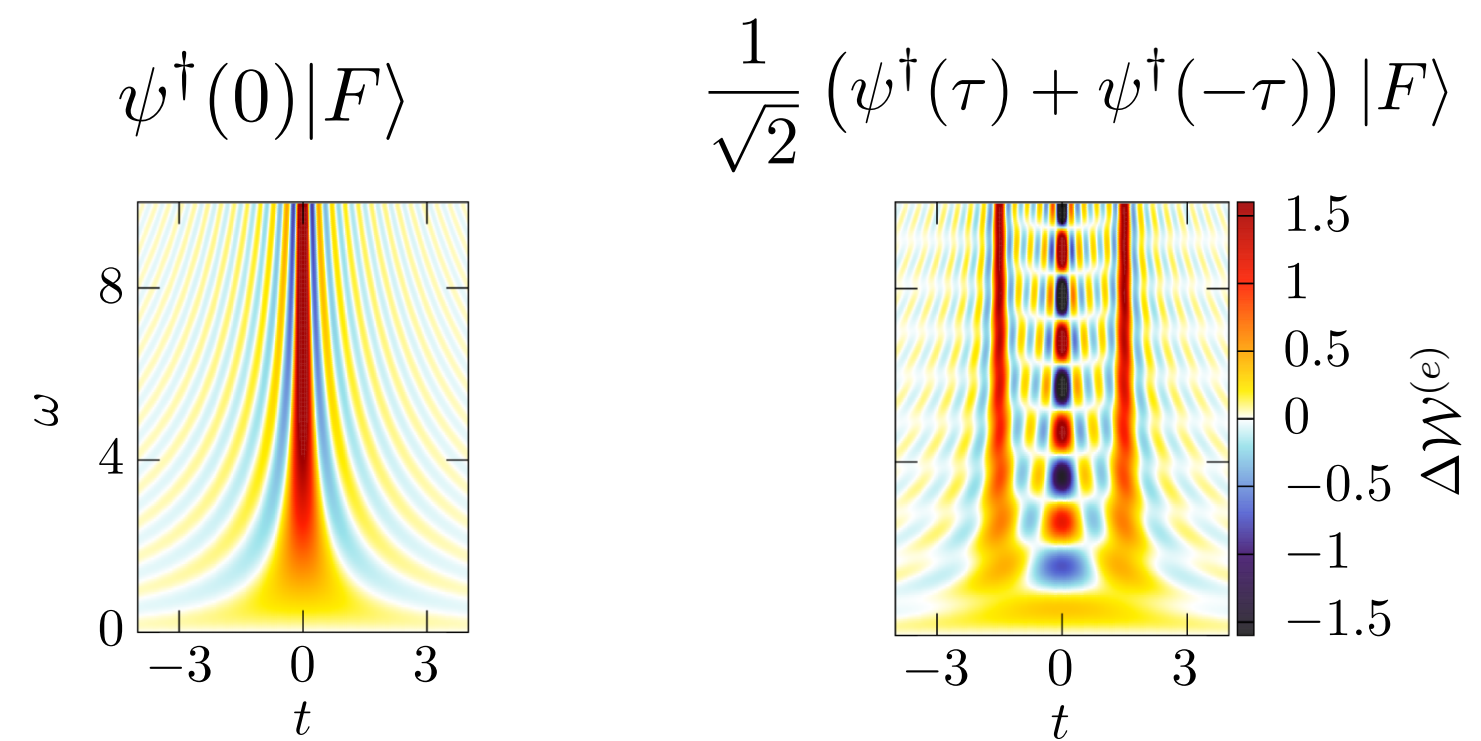
See G. Fève's talk (16/04/2025)

Quantum electrons, currents and photons

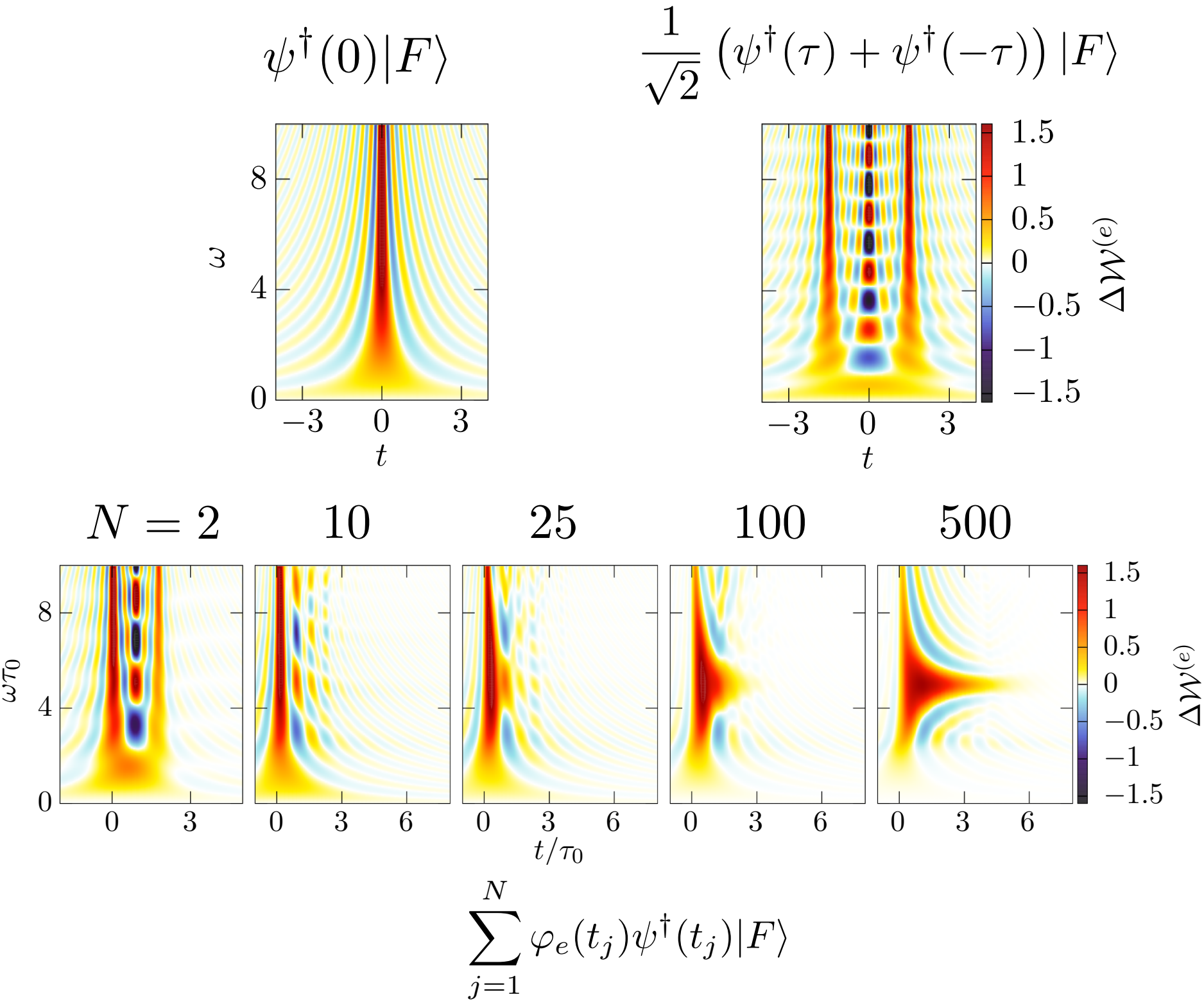
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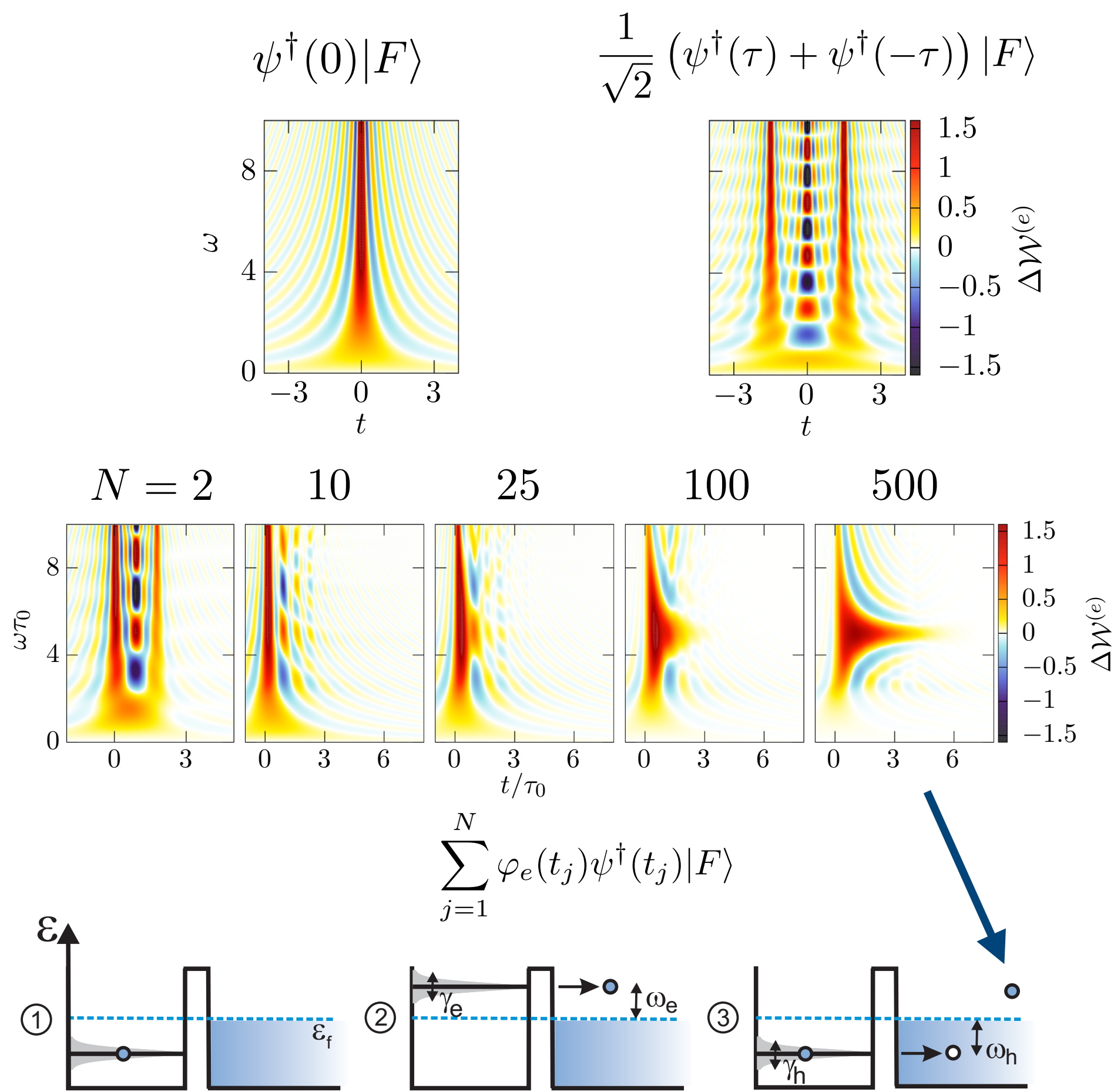
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Quantum electrons, currents and photons

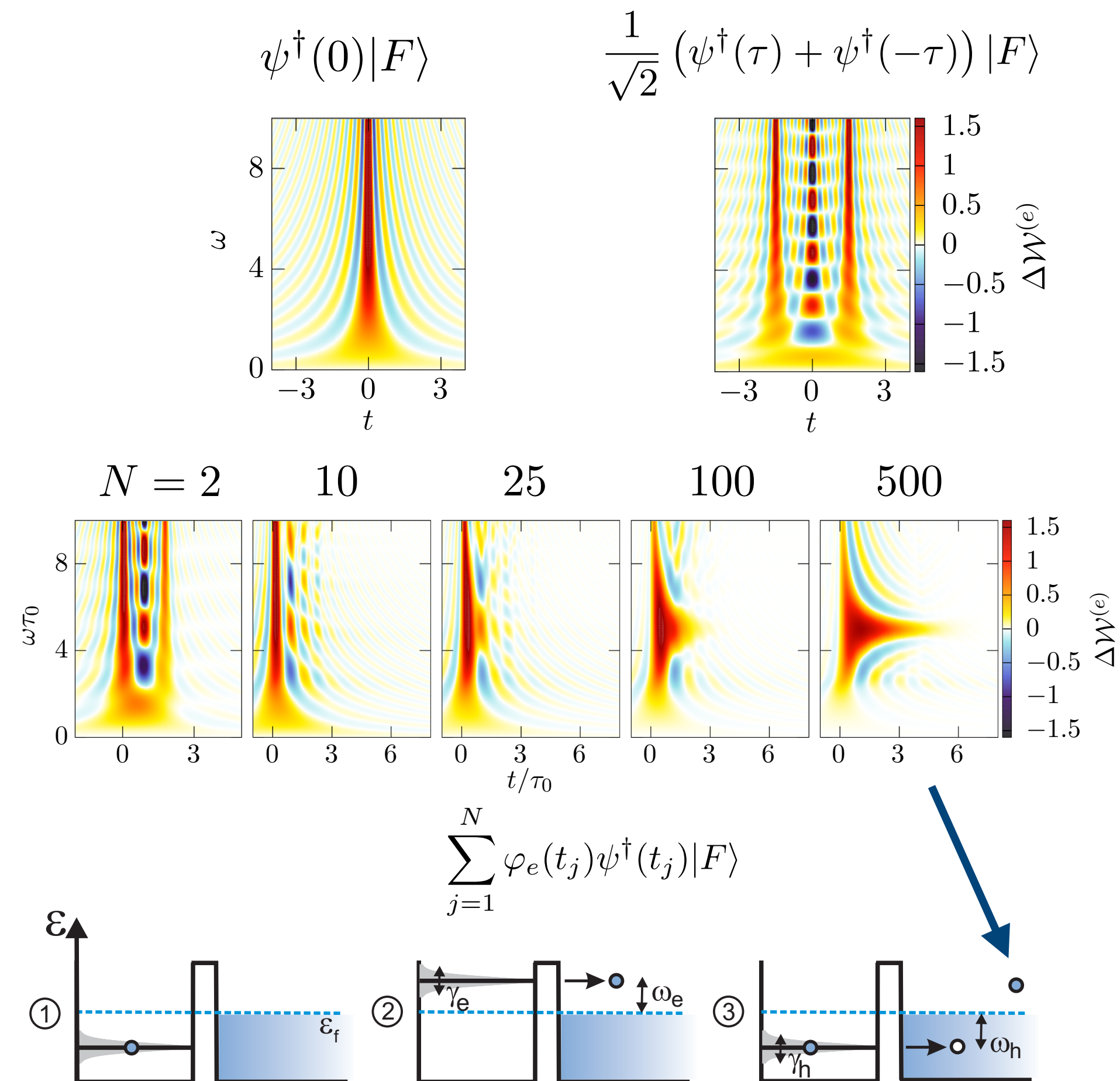


Quantum electrons, currents and photons



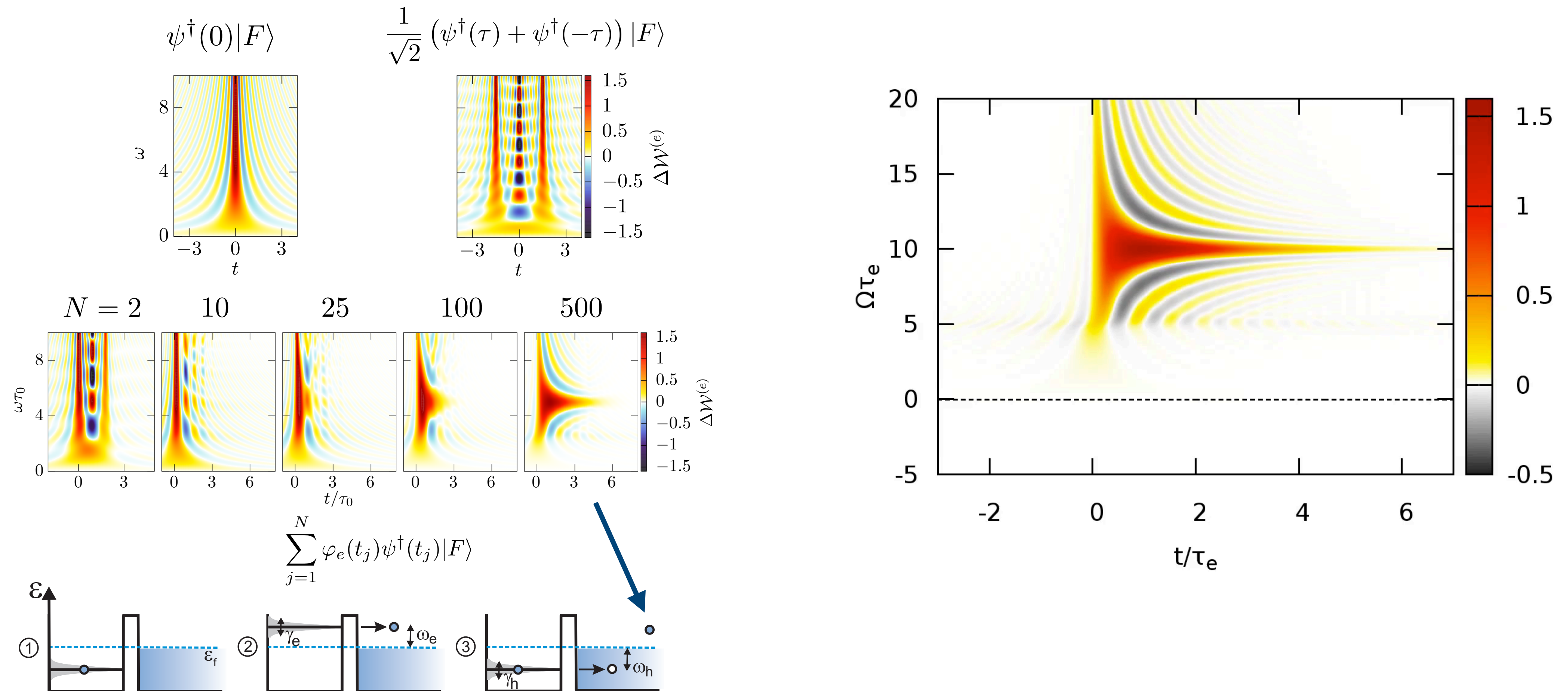
Quantum electrons, currents and photons

Single electron excitations are generically quantum plasmonic states !



Quantum electrons, currents and photons

Single electron excitations are generically quantum plasmonic states !



Key message on fully quantum electrical circuits



Fully quantum electricity is QED on a chip !



Outline

- From Ampère to electrical circuits
- Quantum physics within electricity
- Towards quantum coherent electronics
- **Presentation of the PCP 2025 cycle**

Depuis Ampère jusqu'à l'électronique quantique



Hughes Pothier (CEA Saclay/SPEC)

19 mars 2025 (16h30, Amphi Dirac)

La supra-conductivité, de sa découverte aux circuits quantiques



Lucian Prejbeanu (CEA Grenoble/Spintec)

2 avril 2025 (16h30, Amphi Ampère)

Innovations spintroniques pour un numérique frugal et agile



Frédéric Pierre (C2N Palaiseau)

9 avril 2025 (16h30, Amphi Ampère)

Circuits quantiques composites: des nouvelles lois du transport à la simulation quantique



Gwendal Fève (LPENS Paris)

16 avril 2025 (16h30, Amphi Ampère)

L'optique quantique électronique: de l'électron unique aux anyons



Anne Lhuillier (Lund University)

30 avril 2025 (16h30, Amphi Ampère)

Mouvement des électrons dans les atomes à l'échelle attoseconde

Merci de votre attention...

