

# Thermotronics: toward the developement of circuits to manage radiative heat flux

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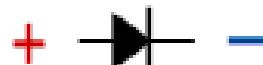
[pba@institutoptique.fr](mailto:pba@institutoptique.fr)

# Historical breakthroughs in electronics



F. Braun  
1874

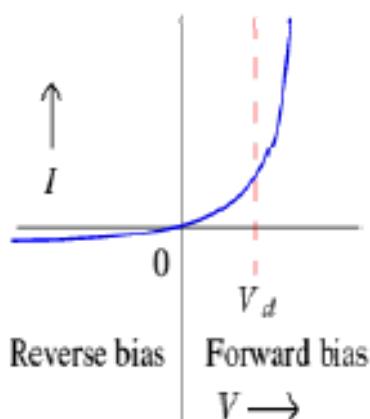
**Diode**  
Perfect rectification of current



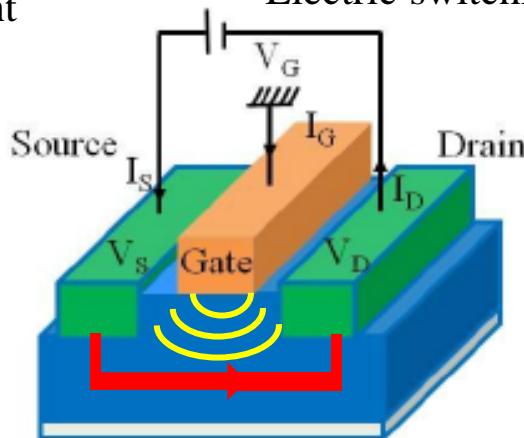
Forward bias



Reverse bias



**Transistor (FET)**  
Electric switching, modulation and amplification



J. Bardeen, W. Brattain, W. Shockley  
**Random access memory (RAM)** 1947-1951

Volatile memory



Williams and Kilburn  
1946

# Question

*Are there thermal analogs to electric circuits to manage heat flows with photons as we do with electrons for electric current?*

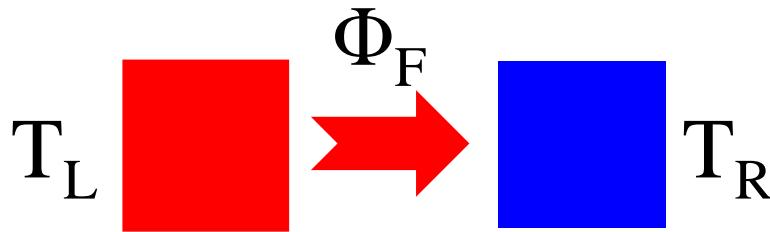
# Outline

- **Radiative diode with phase change materials**
- **Thermal transistor in systems with negative differential thermal resistance**
- **Thermal memory with multistable thermal states in many body systems**
- **Heat flux splitting with graphene tuning and photon thermal Hall effect**

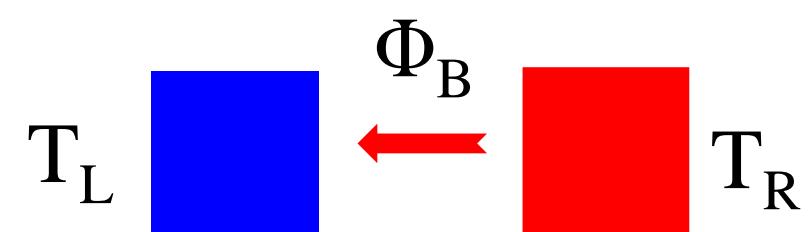
# Radiative diode

# What is the thermal rectification?

Forward:



Backward:

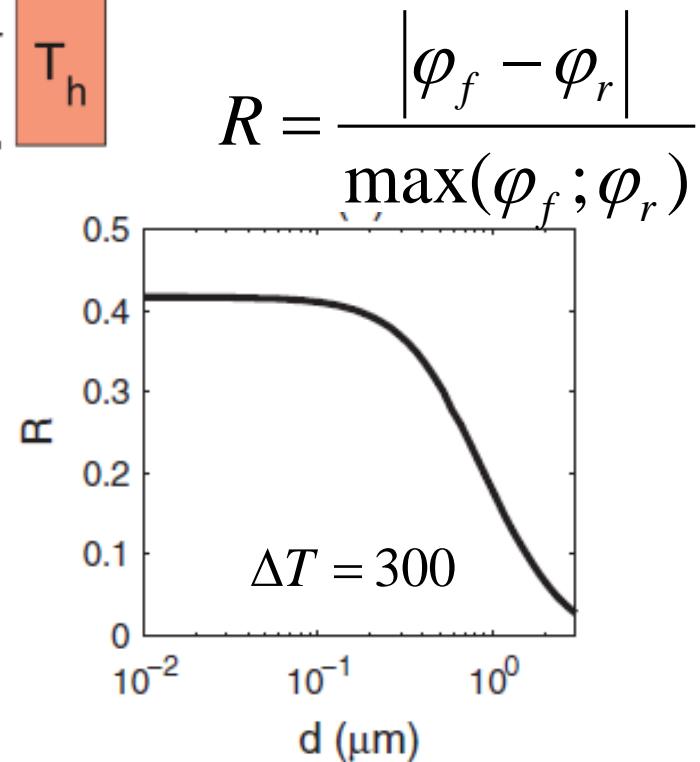
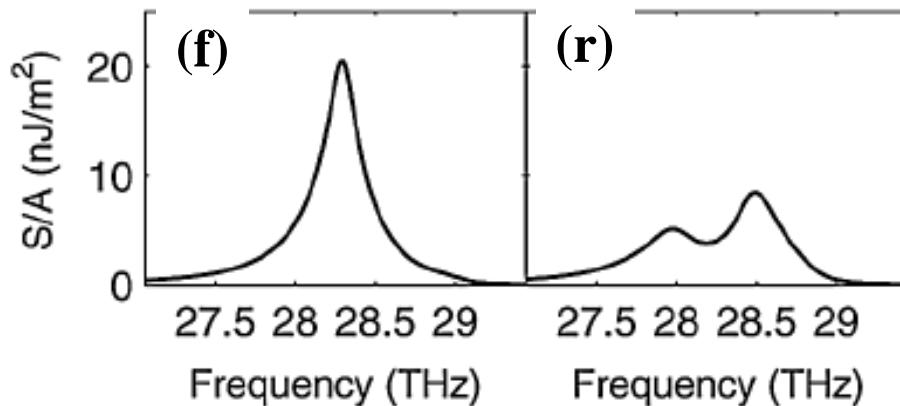
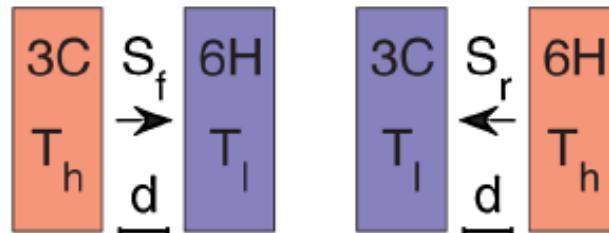


Landauer formulation of heat exchanges :

$$\Phi_{F,B} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \underbrace{[\Theta(\omega, T_{L,R}) - \Theta(\omega, T_{R,L})]}_{\text{Energy } \hbar\omega \text{ of mode}} \int \underbrace{\frac{d\vec{K}}{(2\pi)^2} \tau_{F,B}(\omega, \vec{K})}_{\text{Probability (efficiency) of transfer}}$$

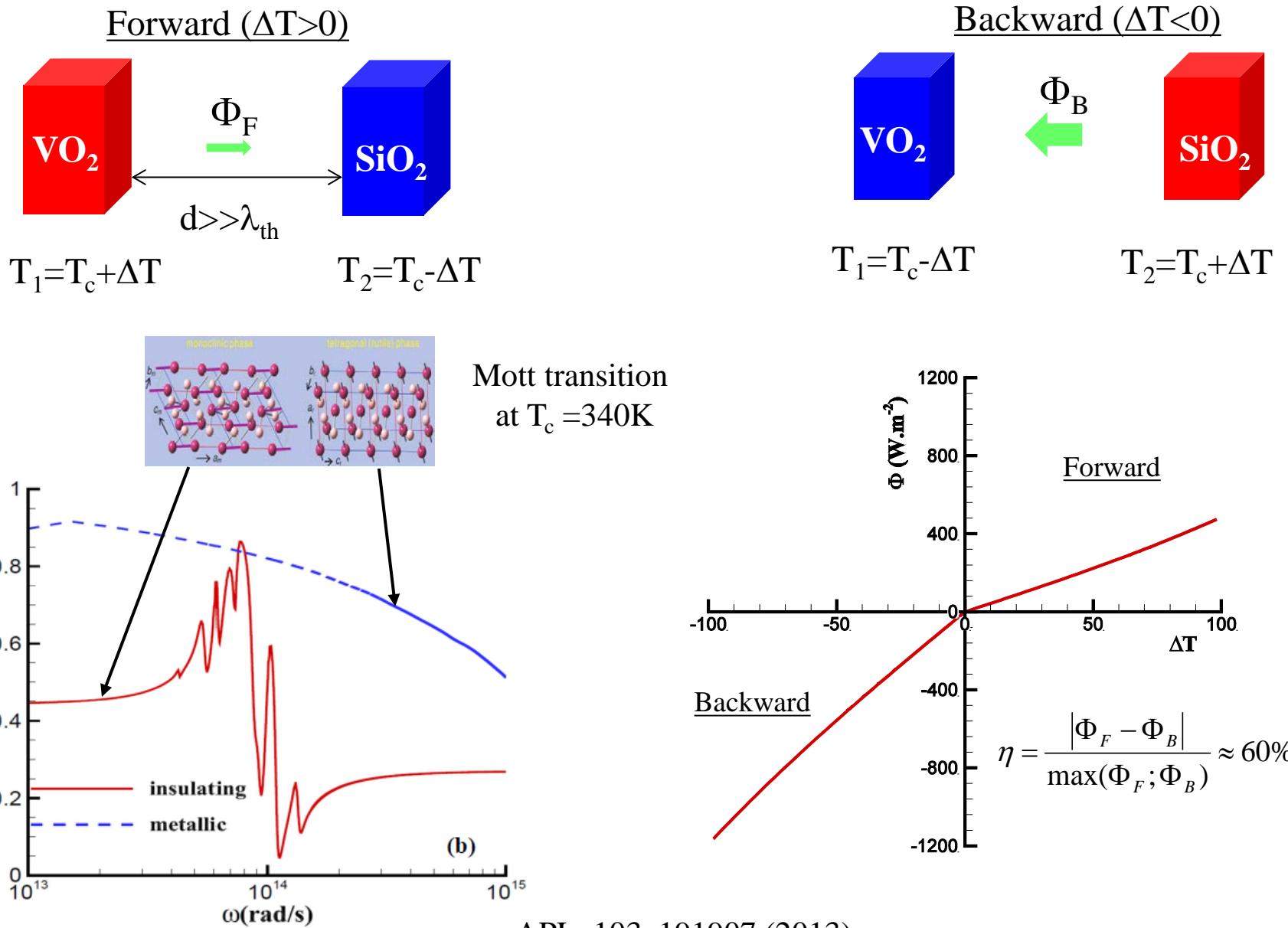
→ **Rectifying the flux requires a dependence of optical properties with the temperature**

## Thermal Rectification through Vacuum

Clayton R. Otey,<sup>1,\*</sup> Wah Tung Lau (留華東),<sup>2</sup> and Shanhui Fan (范汕洄)<sup>2,†</sup>

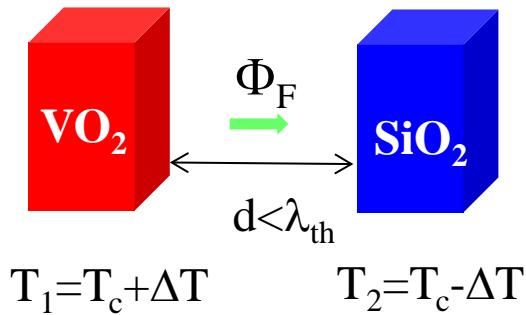
But rectification is not strong enough to make a thermal diode

# A phase-change radiative thermal diode

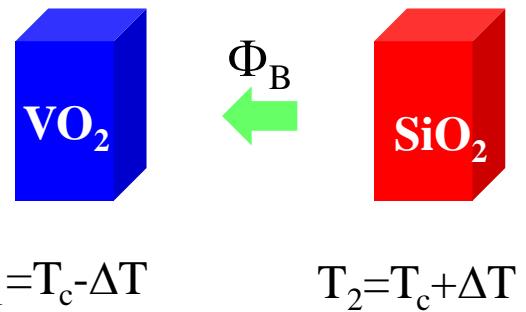


# A phase-change radiative thermal diode

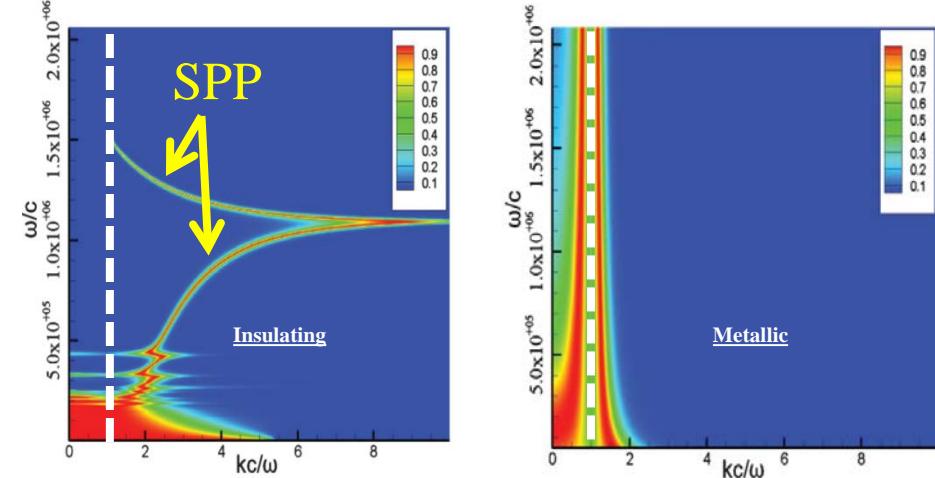
Forward ( $\Delta T > 0$ )



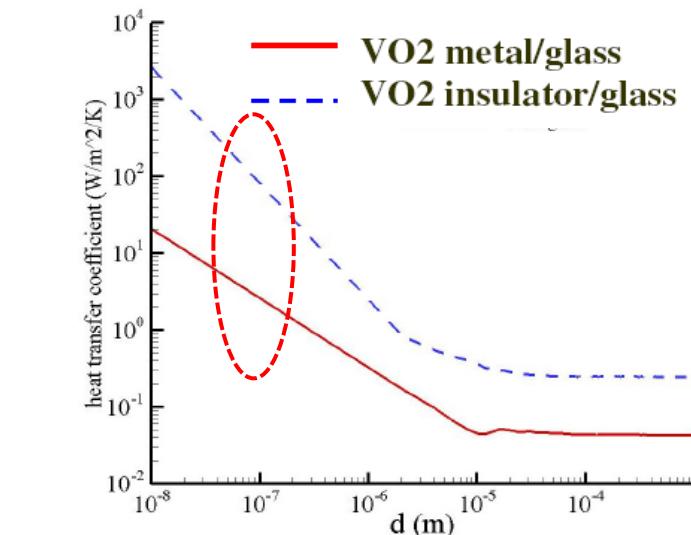
Backward ( $\Delta T < 0$ )



Coupling efficiency



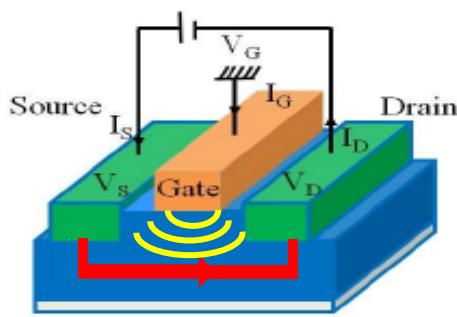
$d < 100 \text{ nm}$



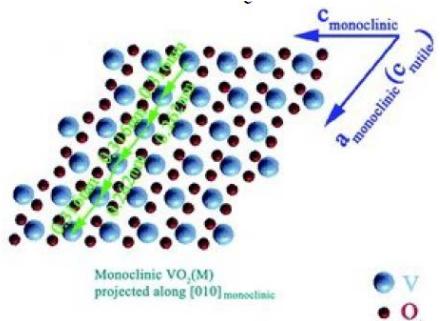
$$\eta = \frac{|\Phi_F - \Phi_B|}{\max(\Phi_F; \Phi_B)} > 99\%$$

# Radiative transistor

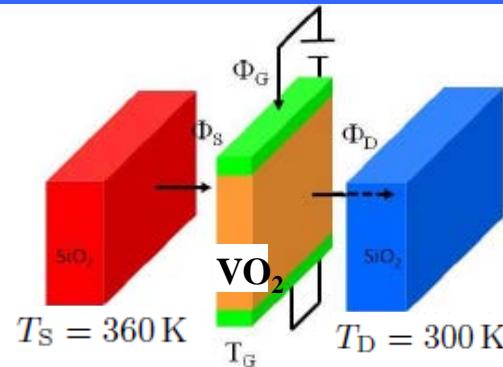
# A near-field thermal transistor



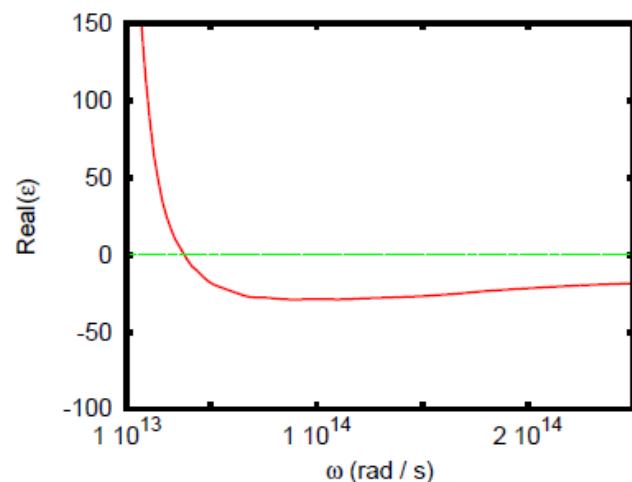
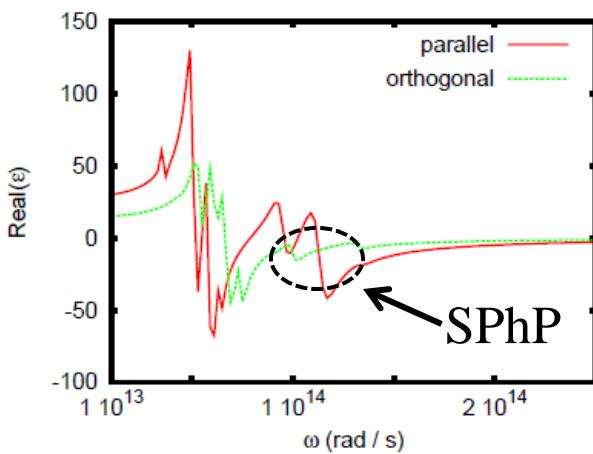
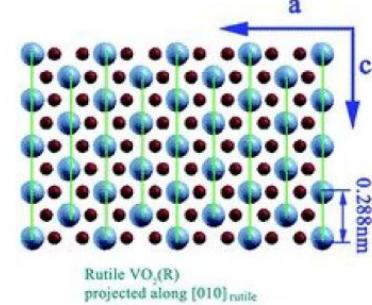
$T_G < T_c$  (insulator)



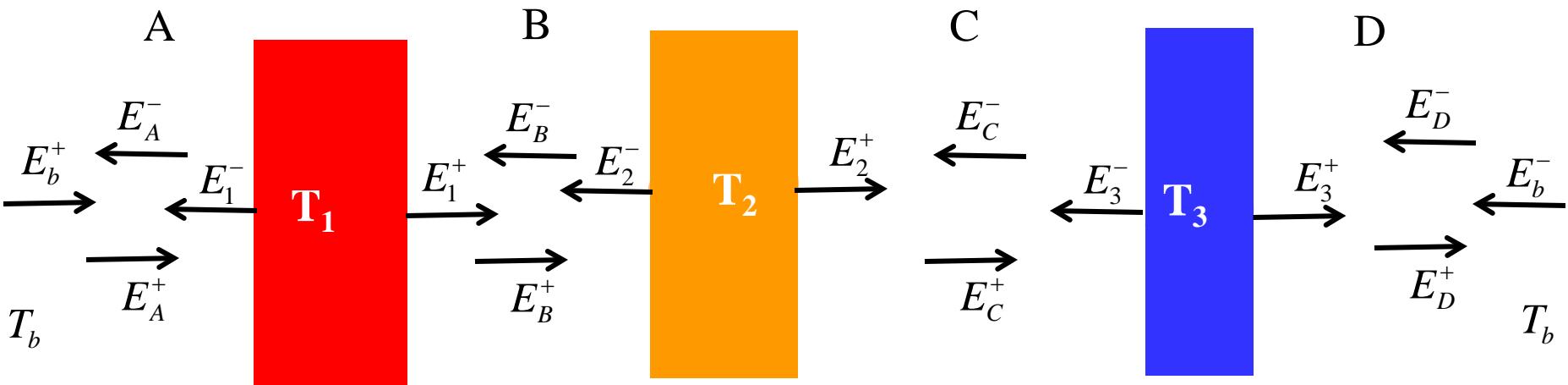
Phase transition  
at  $T_c = 341$  K



$T_G > T_c$  (metal)



# Two and many body radiative heat transfer :



Normal component of Poynting vector:

$$\langle S \rangle \cdot e_z = \langle E \times H \rangle \cdot e_z = \sum_p \int \frac{d^2 k}{(2\pi)^2} \sum_{\phi,\phi'} \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} F_p^{\phi\phi'}(k, \omega) \langle E_p^\phi(k, \omega), E_p^{\phi'}(k, \omega) \rangle$$

From the scattering theory:

$$E_B^+ = E_1^+ + \mathfrak{I}_1^+ E_b^+ + \mathfrak{R}_1^- E_B^-$$

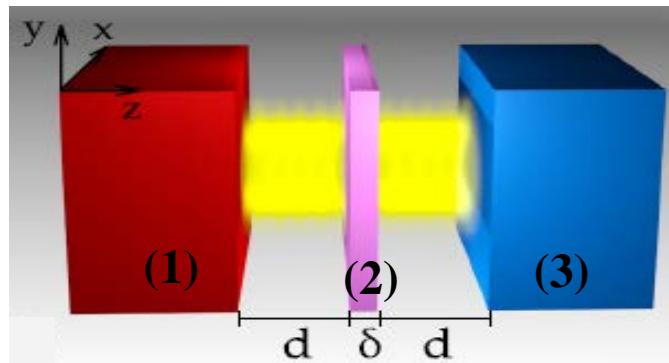
$$E_B^- = E_2^- + \mathfrak{I}_2^- E_C^- + \mathfrak{R}_2^+ E_B^+$$

etc...

Fluctuation theory:

$$\langle E_p^\phi(k, \omega), E_p^{\phi'}(k, \omega) \rangle = \sum_{i=1,2,3,b} \alpha_i C_{p,i}^{\phi\phi'} C_{p,i}^{\phi\phi'} \infty n(\omega, T_i)$$

# Heat transfer in a three slab system



PRL, **109**, 244302 (2012);  
Messina et al. PRA **89**, 052104 (2014)

$$\varphi_3(\omega, d, \delta) = \varphi_3^{(23)}(\omega, d, \delta) + \varphi_3^{(12)}(\omega, d, \delta)$$

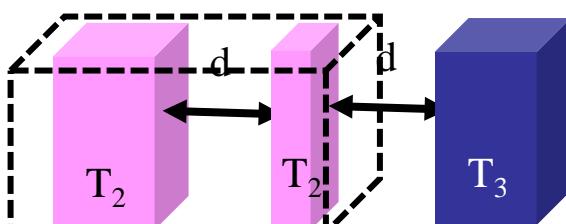
where

$$\varphi_3^{(23)} = \hbar\omega \sum_p \int \frac{d^2 k}{(2\pi)^2} [n(\omega, T_2) - n(\omega, T_3)] \tau_p^{(23)}(\omega, k, d, \delta)$$

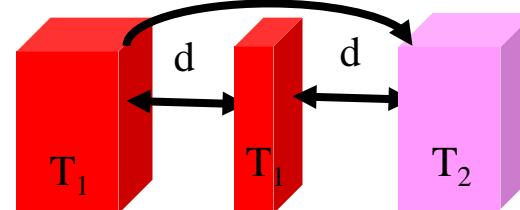
$$\varphi_3^{(12)} = \hbar\omega \sum_p \int \frac{d^2 k}{(2\pi)^2} [n(\omega, T_1) - n(\omega, T_2)] \tau_p^{(12)}(\omega, k, d, \delta)$$

$$\tau_p^{(23)} = \frac{4 \operatorname{Im}(\rho_{12,p}(\delta)) \operatorname{Im}(\rho_{3,p}) e^{-2\operatorname{Im}(k_z)d}}{\left| 1 - \rho_{12,p}(\delta) \rho_{3,p} e^{-2\operatorname{Im}(k_z)d} \right|^2}$$

$$\tau_p^{(12)} = \frac{4 |\tau_{2,p}(\delta)|^2 \operatorname{Im}(\rho_{1,p}) \operatorname{Im}(\rho_{3,p}) e^{-4\operatorname{Im}(k_z)d}}{\left| 1 - \rho_{12,p}(\delta) \rho_{3,p} e^{-2\operatorname{Im}(k_z)d} \right|^2 \left| 1 - \rho_{1,p} \rho_{2,p}(\delta) e^{-2\operatorname{Im}(k_z)d} \right|^2}$$



2 body exchange between  
the couple (1,2) at temperature  $T_2$  and (3)

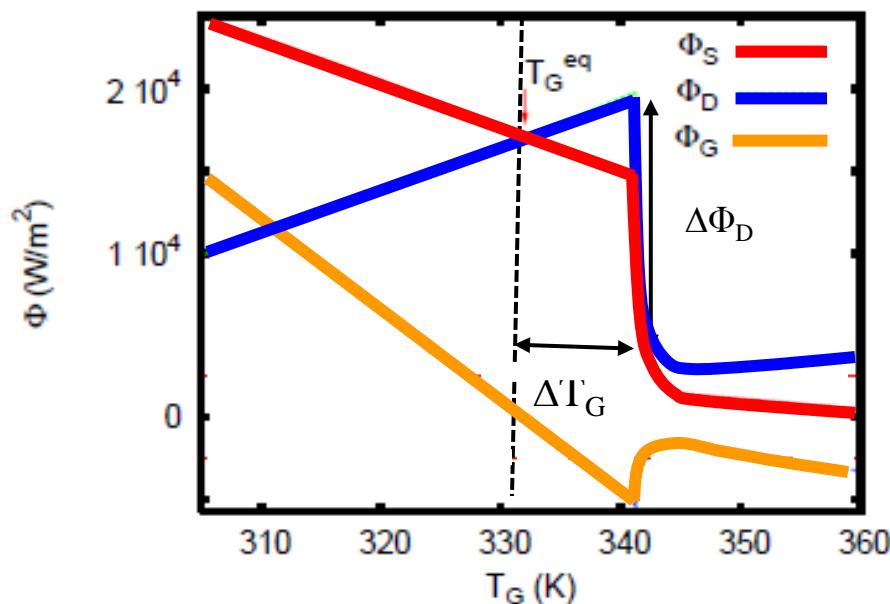
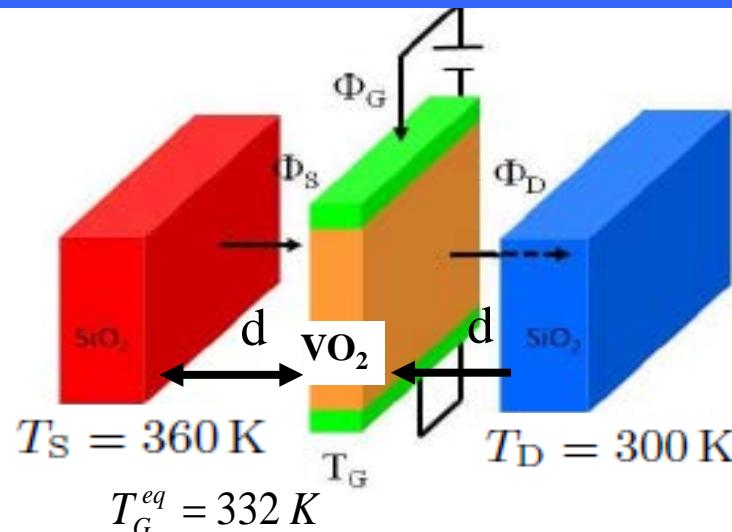


purely 3 body effect

# A near-field thermal transistor

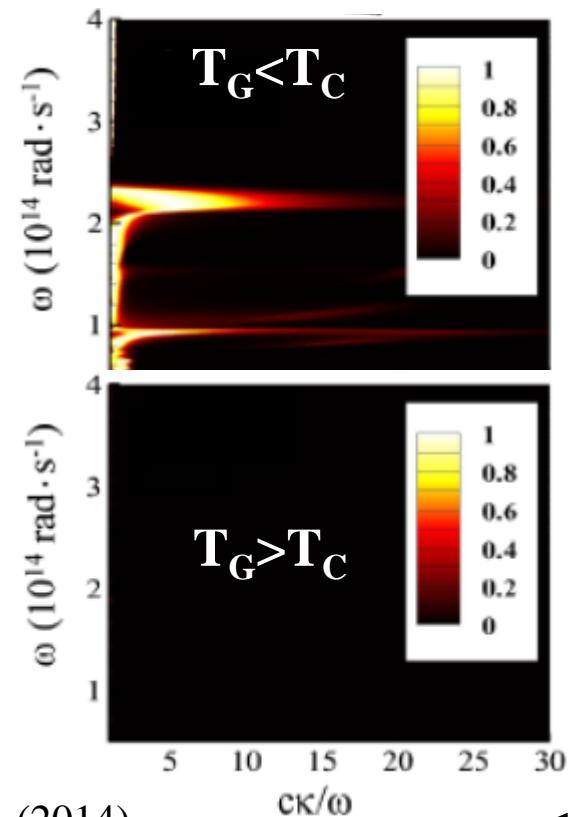
Operating modes :

- 1-Thermal switch
- 2-Flux modulation
- 3-Flux amplification

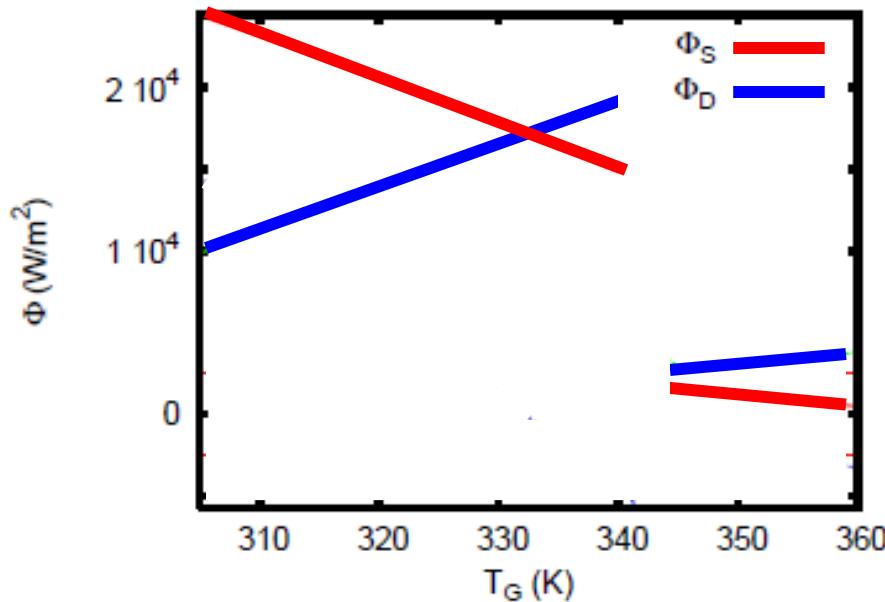
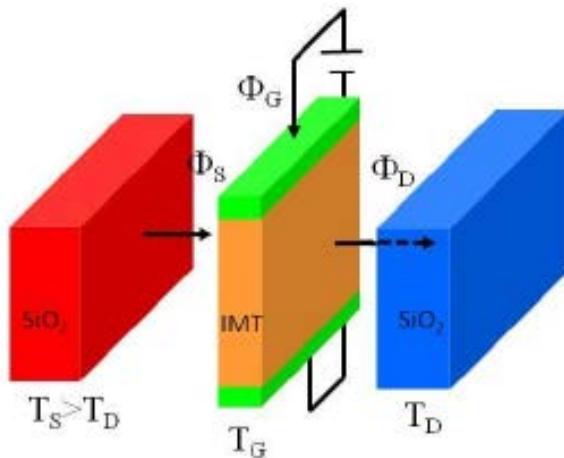


$$d \ll \lambda_W$$

Coupling efficiency:



# How to get a transistor effect?



Flux amplification:

$$a \equiv \left| \frac{\partial \Phi_D}{\partial \Phi_G} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial \Phi_D}{\partial (\Phi_S - \Phi_D)} \right| \quad \Phi_G = \Phi_S - \Phi_D$$

Differential thermal resistance :

$$\left. \begin{aligned} R_S &= -\left( \frac{\partial \Phi_S}{\partial T_G} \right)^{-1} \\ R_D &= \left( \frac{\partial \Phi_D}{\partial T_G} \right)^{-1} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \rightarrow \quad a = \left| \frac{R_S}{R_S + R_D} \right|$$

$$R_S > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad R_D > 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad a < 1$$

Far from the transition, the thermal transistor does not work!

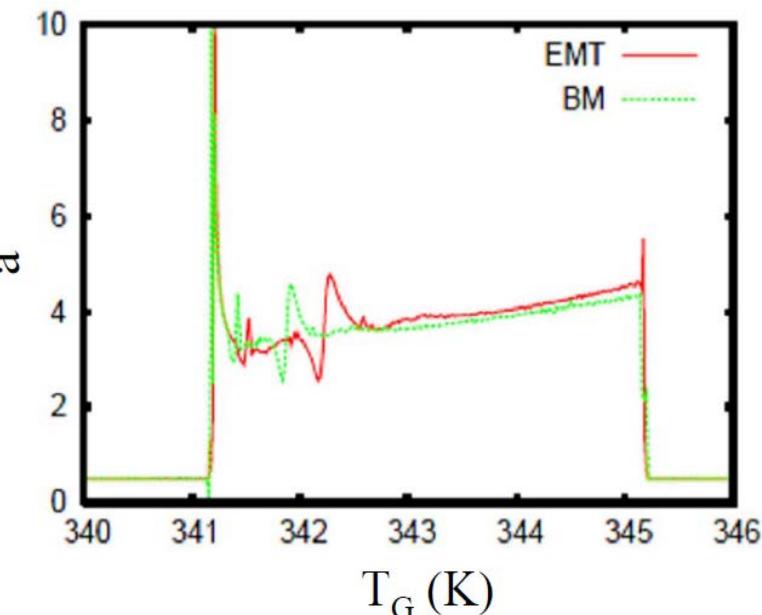
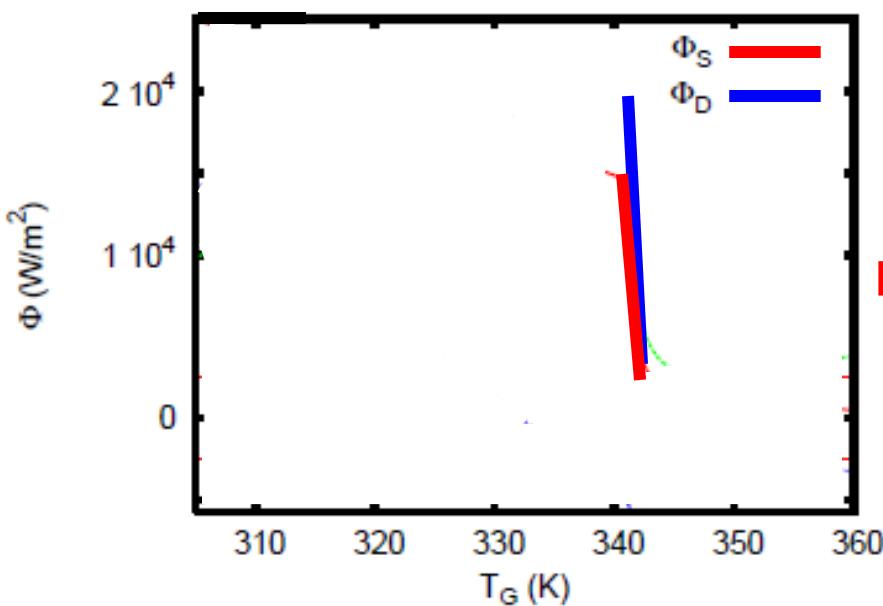
# A near-field thermal transistor

Operating modes :

- 1-Thermal switch
- 2-Flux modulation
- 3-**Flux amplification**

$R_S > 0$  and  $R_D < 0$       Negative differential  
Resistance

$$a = \left| \frac{R_S}{R_S + R_D} \right| > 1$$



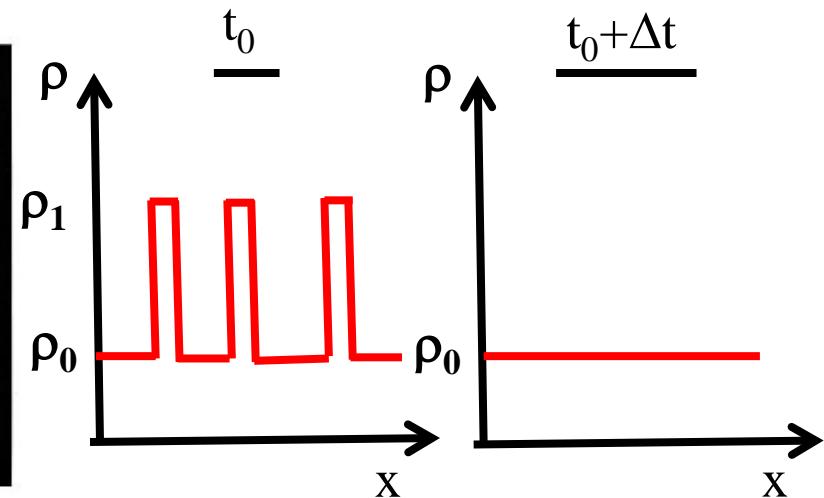
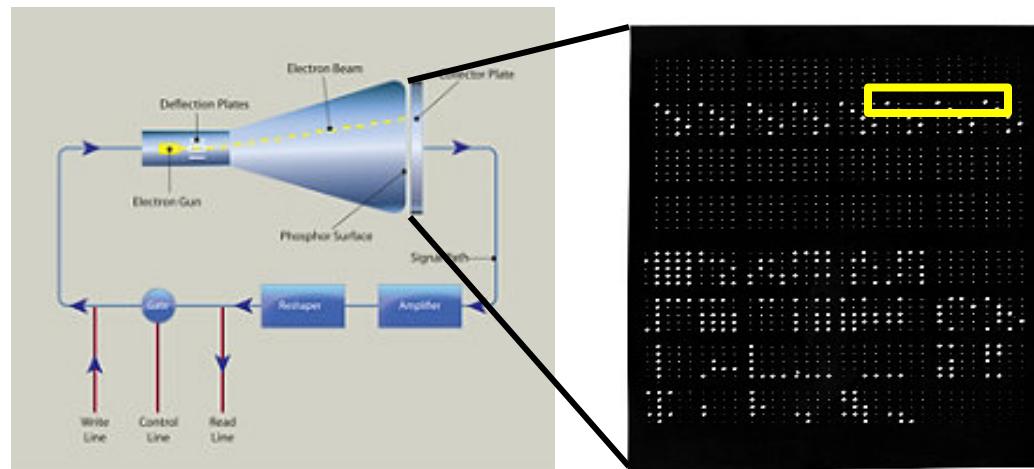
Amplification requires a negative differential resistance

# Radiative memory

# The first volatile memory

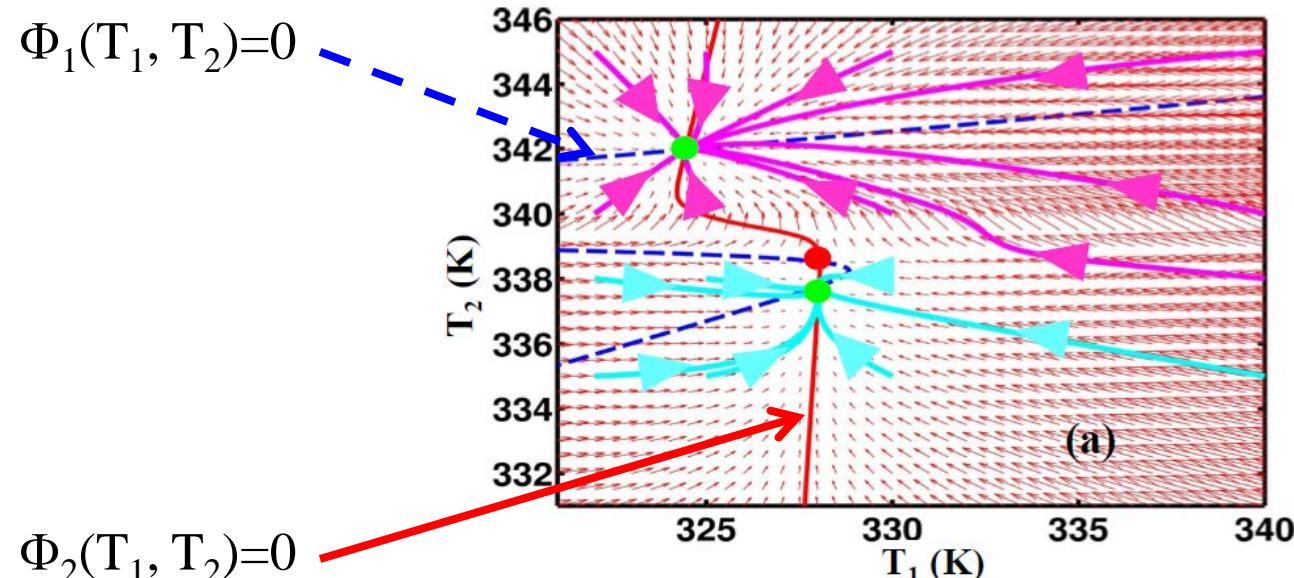
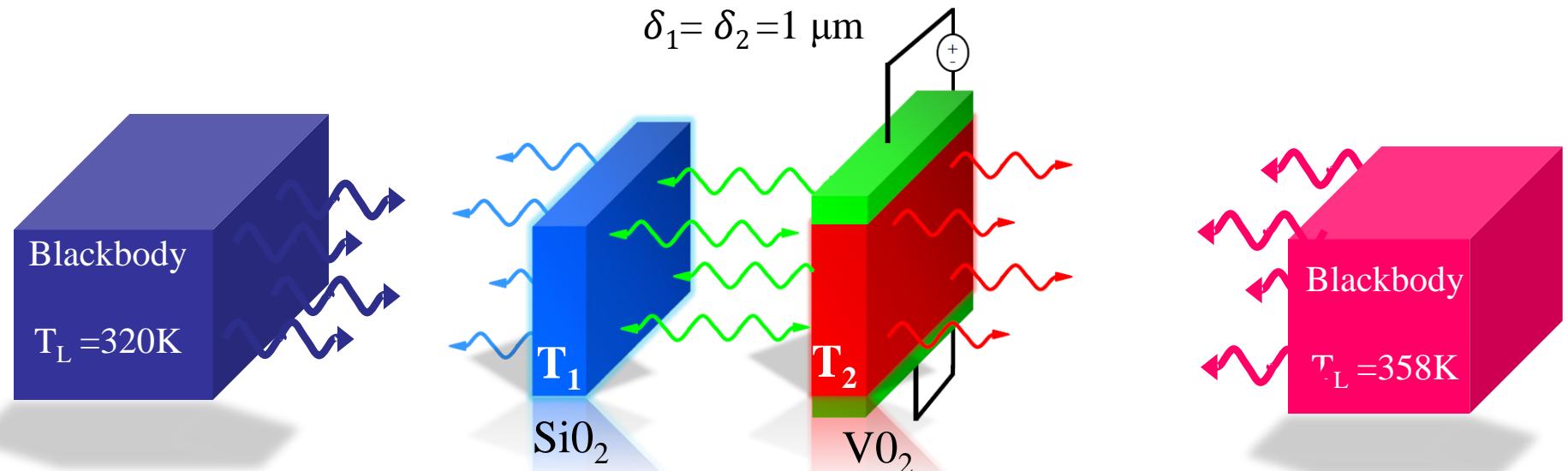


Williams and Kilburn  
1946



$(\rho_0, \rho_1) \leftrightarrow (0,1)$  → a volatile bit of information

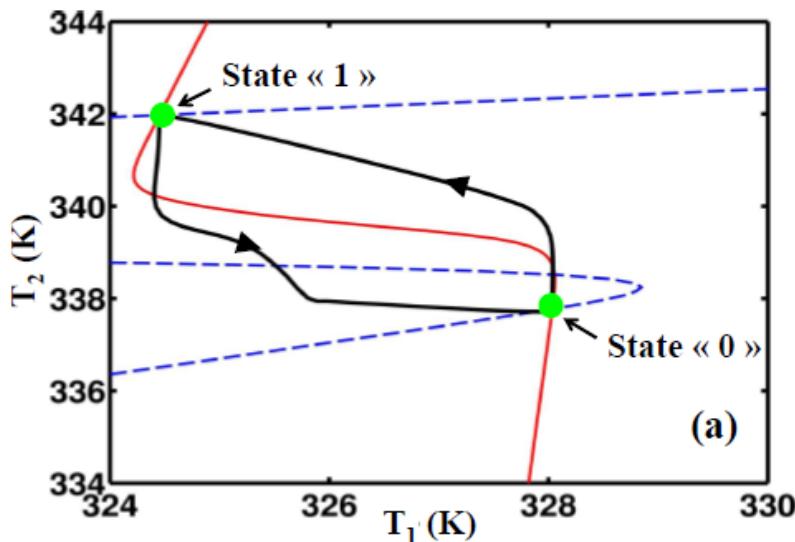
# Bistability and thermal memory



**2 stable states**  
=

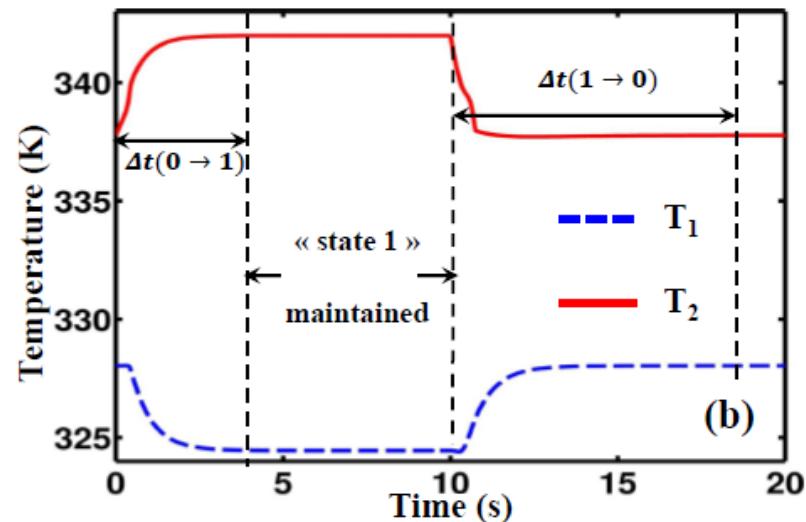
**a bit (0,1) of information**

# Volatile thermal memory



Writing of state « 1 »

$$\begin{cases} \rho_1 C_1 \partial_t T_1 = \Phi_1 / \delta_1 \\ \rho_2 C_2 \partial_t T_2 = \Phi_2 / \delta_2 + Q_2 \\ (T_1, T_2)_0 \text{ State « 0 »} \end{cases}$$



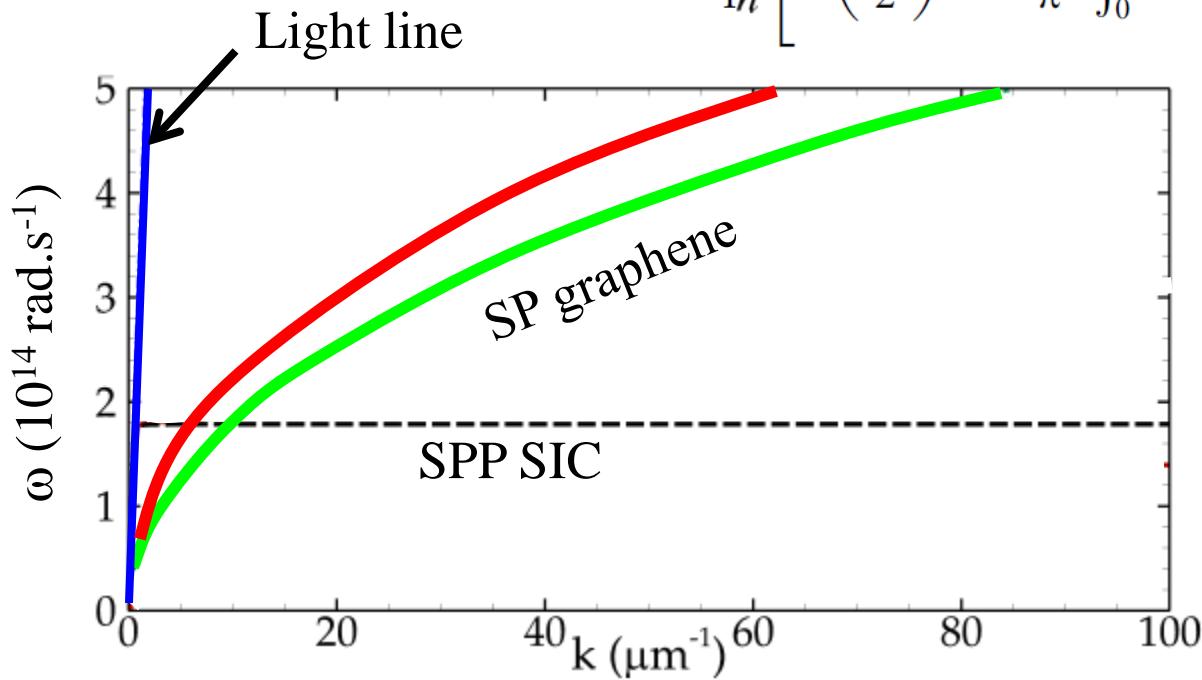
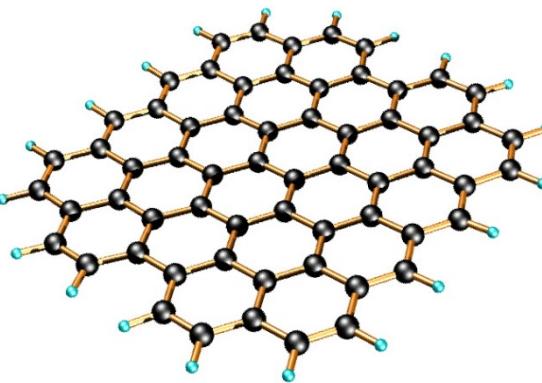
Writing of state « 0 »

$$\begin{cases} \rho_1 C_1 \partial_t T_1 = \Phi_1 / \delta_1 \\ \rho_2 C_2 \partial_t T_2 = \Phi_2 / \delta_2 - \tilde{Q}_2 \\ (T_1, T_2)_1 \text{ State « 1 »} \end{cases}$$

The thermal states are permanent while both baths radiate

# Active splitting of heat flux

# Near-field heat splitter



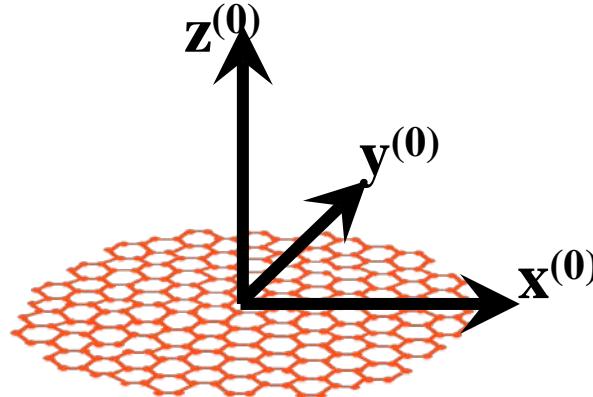
Electronic conductivity :

$$\sigma = \sigma_D + \sigma_I$$

$$\sigma_D(\omega) = \frac{i}{\omega + \frac{i}{\tau}} \frac{2e^2 k_B T}{\pi \hbar^2} \log \left( 2 \cosh \frac{\mu}{2k_B T} \right)$$

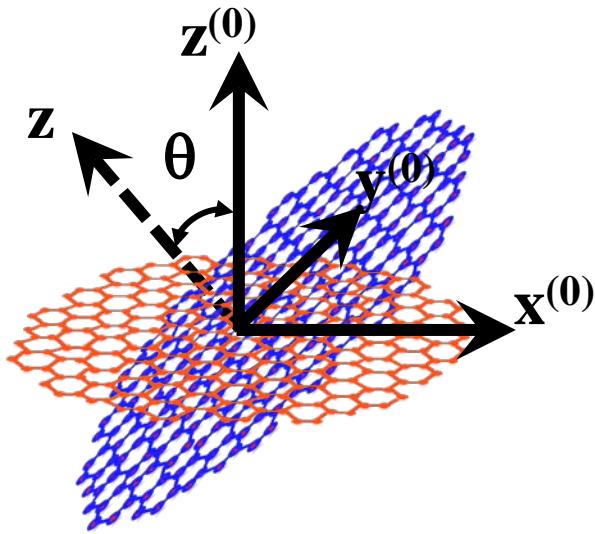
$$\sigma_I(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{4\hbar} \left[ G\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right) + i \frac{4\hbar\omega}{\pi} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{G(\xi) - G\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2}\right)}{(\hbar\omega)^2 - 4\xi^2} d\xi \right]$$

# Near-field heat splitter



Thongrattanasiri et al. PRL. 108, 047401 (2012).

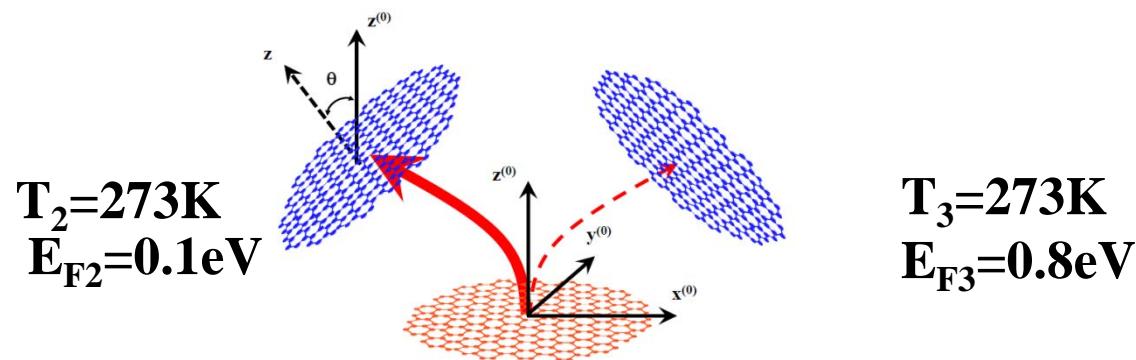
$$\bar{\bar{\alpha}}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha_i(\omega) = 3 \frac{c^3 \kappa_{r,i}}{2\omega_{p,i}^2} \frac{1}{\omega_{p,i}^2 - \omega^2 - i\kappa_i \omega^3 / \omega_{p,i}^2}$$



$$\bar{\bar{\alpha}}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha_i(\omega) = 3 \frac{c^3 \kappa_{r,i}}{2\omega_{p,i}^2} \frac{1}{\omega_{p,i}^2 - \omega^2 - i\kappa_i \omega^3 / \omega_{p,i}^2}$$

$$\bar{\bar{\alpha}} = R \bar{\bar{\alpha}}^0 R^{-1} \quad \text{with the rotation matrix } R$$

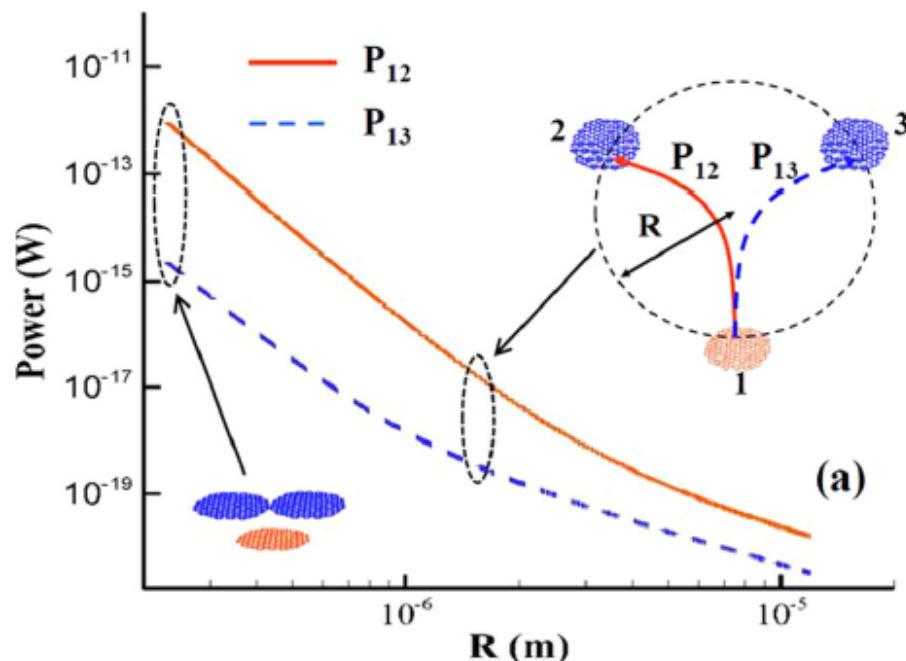
# Near-field heat splitter



$T_2=273\text{K}$   
 $E_{F2}=0.1\text{eV}$

$T_3=273\text{K}$   
 $E_{F3}=0.8\text{eV}$

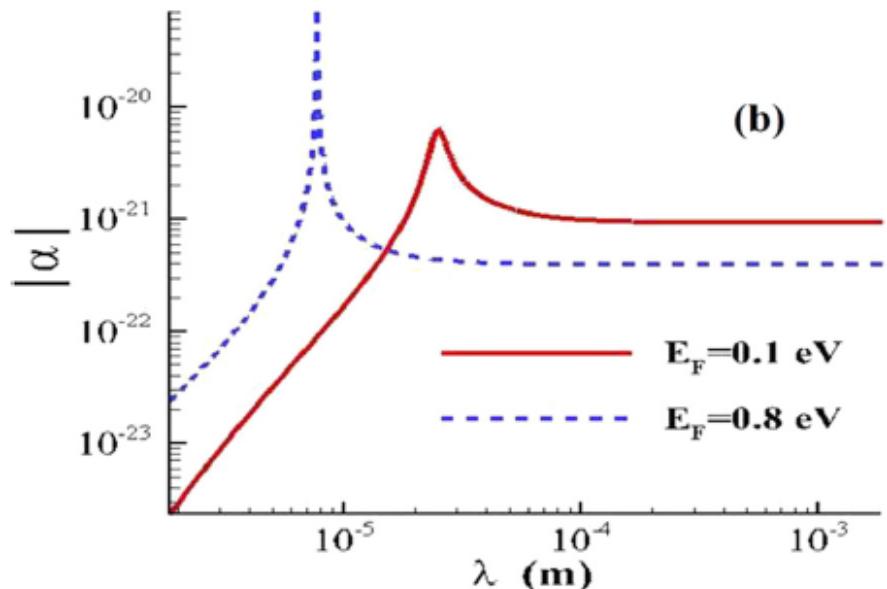
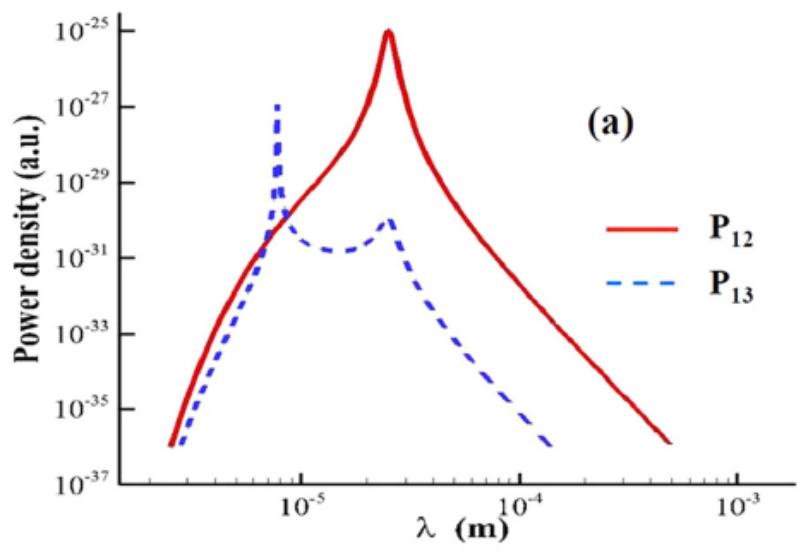
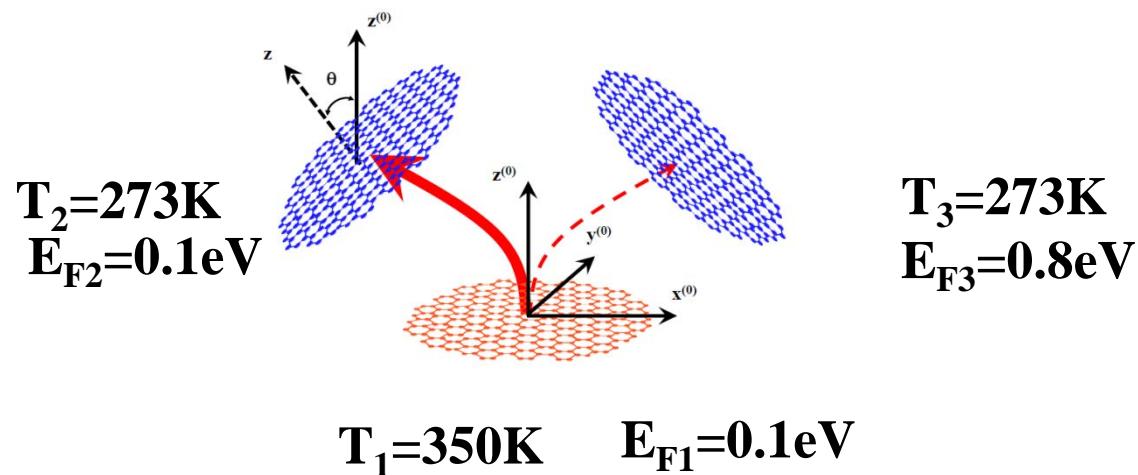
$T_1=350\text{K}$      $E_{F1}=0.1\text{eV}$



APL, 107, 053109 (2015)

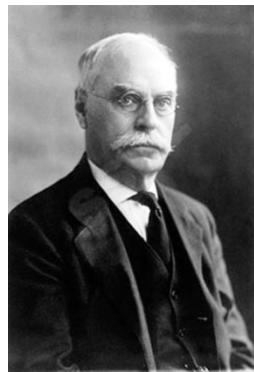
99:1 splitter at micrometer scale

# Near-field heat splitter

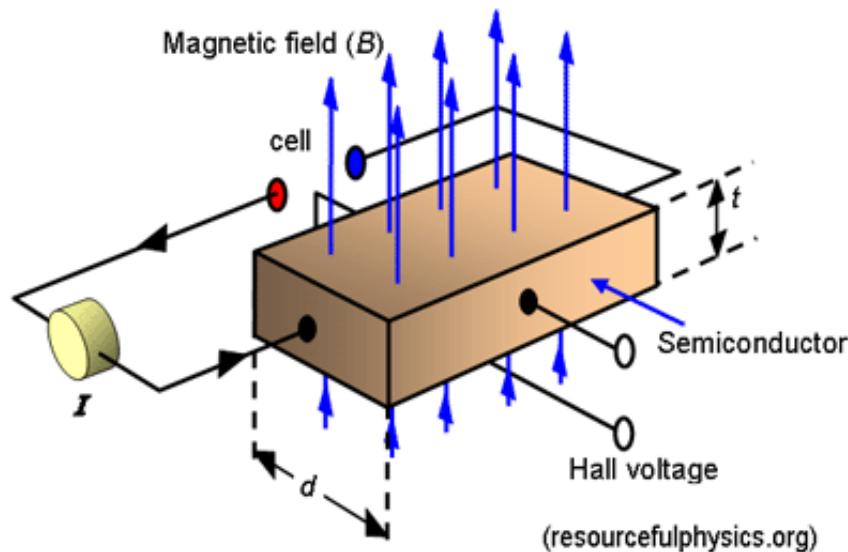


# Hall effect-Thermal Hall effect

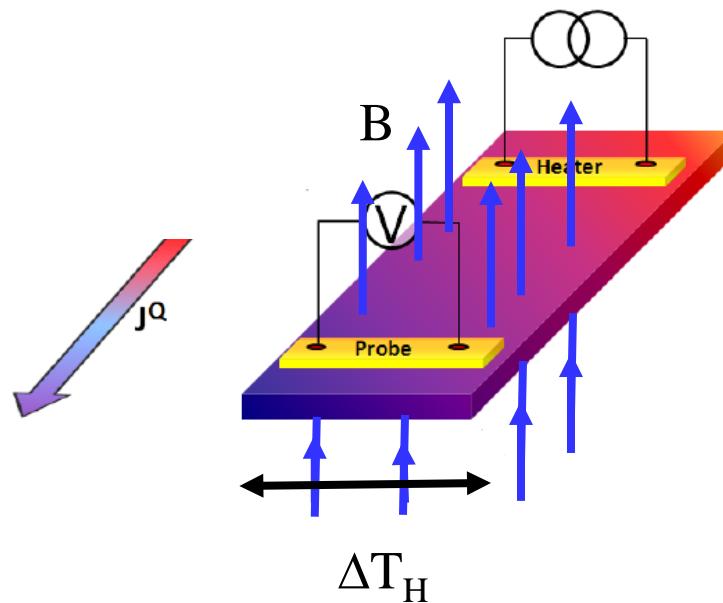
Edwin Hall, 1879



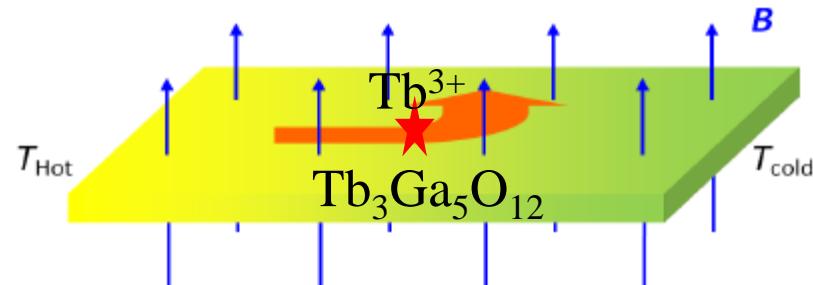
Lorentz Force:  
 $F = q[E + (v \times B)]$



Righi,Leduc,1888

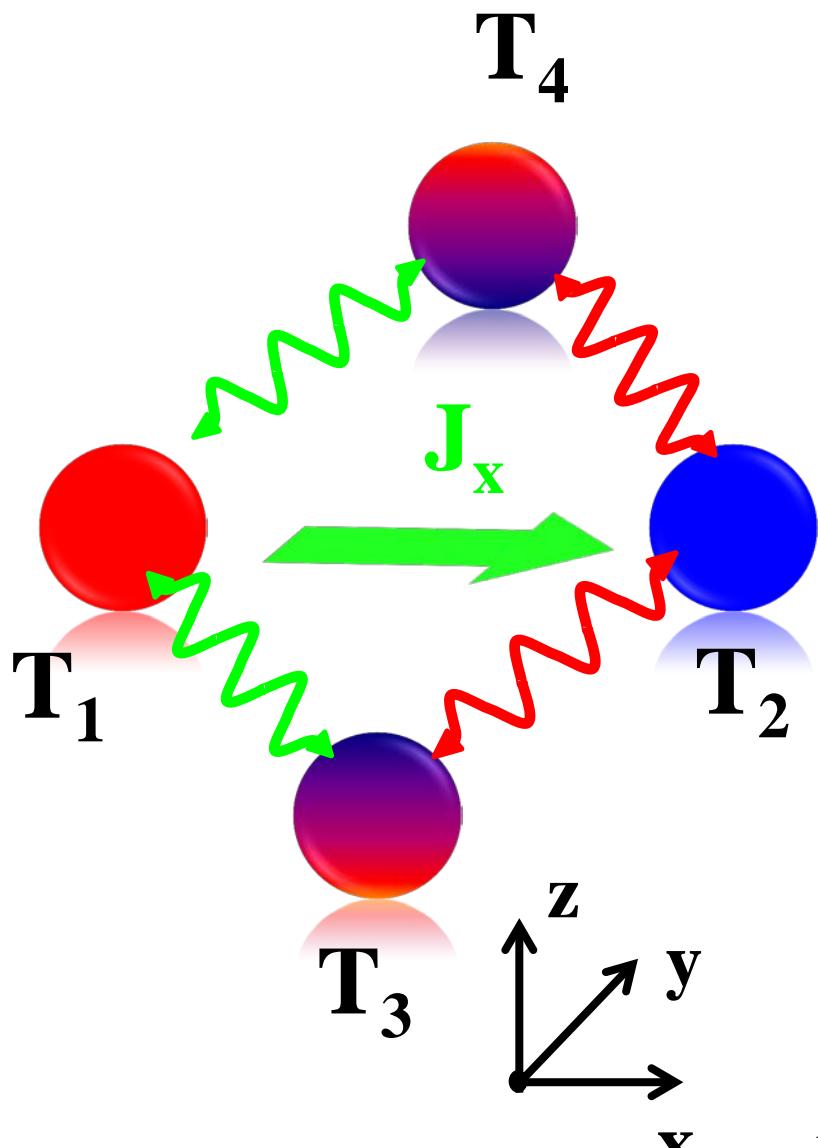


Strohm, 2005 (phonon Hall effect)



Mori et al., PRL, 113, 265901 (2014)

# Photon thermal Hall effect



4-terminal InSb (magneto-optical) junction

$$B=0 \rightarrow \varepsilon_{InSb} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

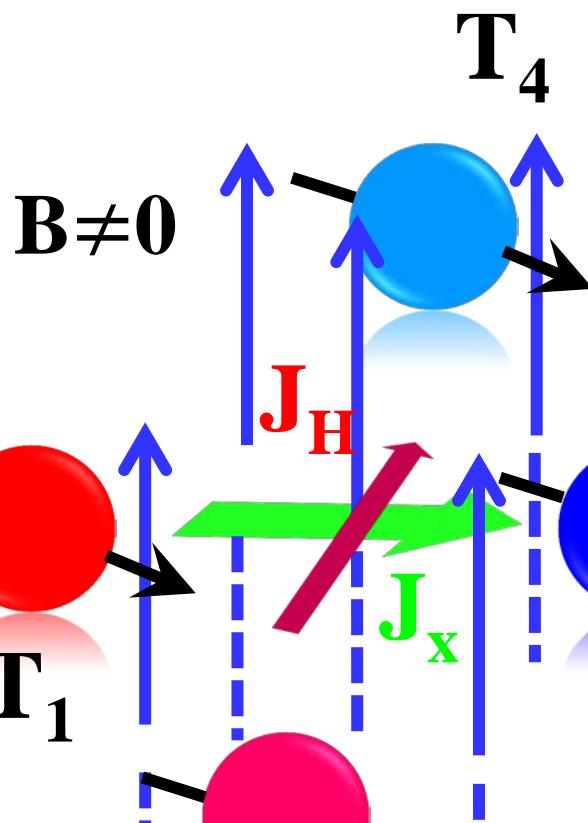
$$\varepsilon_1(H) = \varepsilon_\infty \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_L^2 - \omega_T^2}{\omega_T^2 - \omega^2 - i\Gamma\omega} + \frac{\omega_p^2(\omega + i\gamma)}{\omega[\omega_c^2 - (\omega + i\gamma)^2]} \right)$$

with  $\omega_c = \frac{eB}{m^*}$  cyclotron frequency

$$T_3 = T_4 \rightarrow J_H = J_y = 0$$

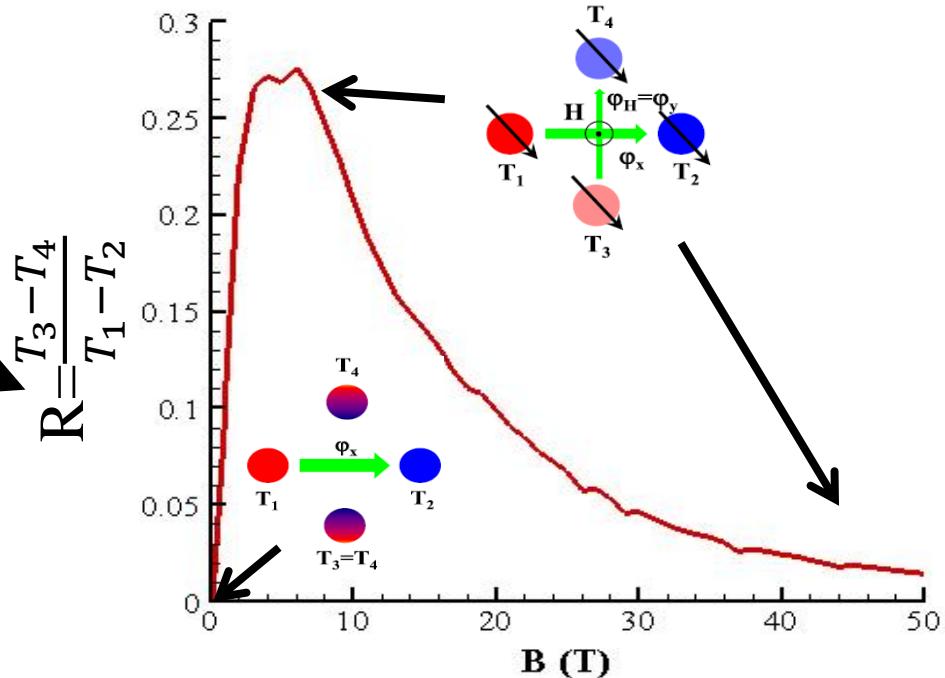
No Hall flux

# Photon thermal Hall effect



$$\varepsilon = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & -i\varepsilon_2 & 0 \\ i\varepsilon_2 & \varepsilon_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$B \neq 0 \rightarrow$  InSb anisotropic  
(symmetry breaking)  $\rightarrow J_H \neq 0$



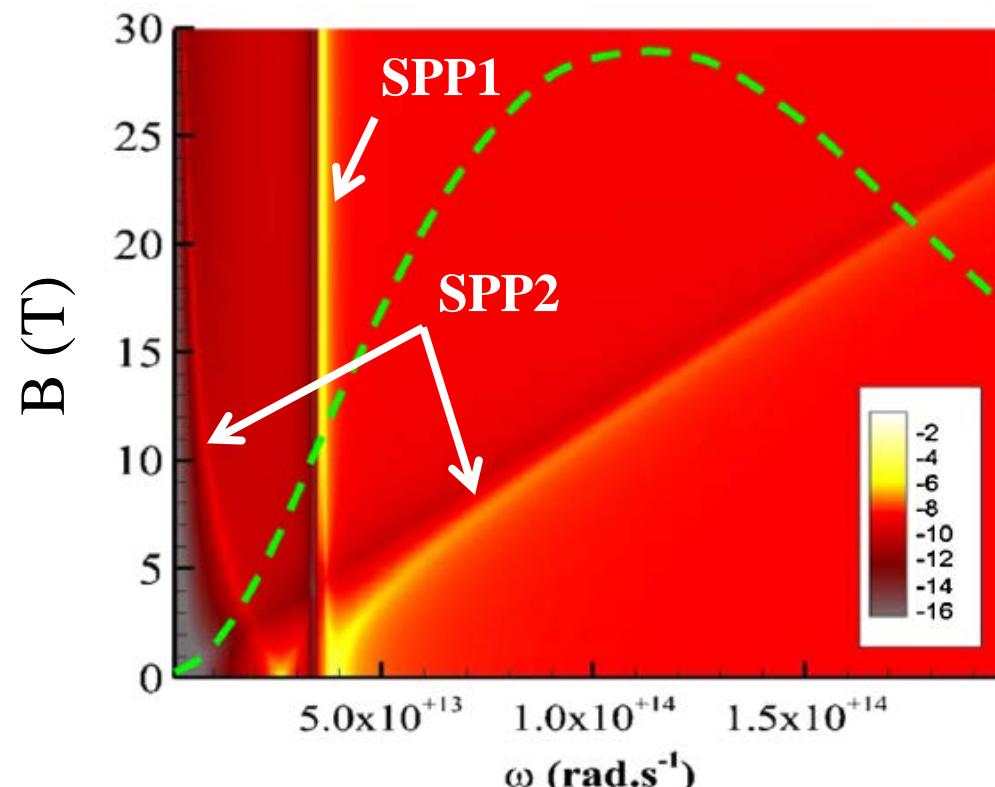
$$\varepsilon_2(H) = \frac{\varepsilon_\infty \omega_p^2 \omega_c}{\omega[(\omega + i\gamma)^2 - \omega_c^2]}$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = \varepsilon_\infty \left( 1 + \frac{\omega_L^2 - \omega_T^2}{\omega_T^2 - \omega^2 - i\Gamma\omega} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega + i\gamma)} \right)$$

# Photon thermal Hall effect

Quasistatic polarizability:

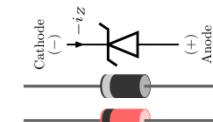
$$\bar{\alpha}_{0i}(\omega) = 4\pi r^3 (\bar{\epsilon} - \epsilon_h \bar{1})(\bar{\epsilon} + 2\epsilon_h \bar{1})^{-1} \rightarrow \infty \quad \xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}} \begin{cases} \epsilon_3(\omega) + 2\epsilon_h = 0 & \text{SPP1} \\ [\epsilon_1(\omega) + 2\epsilon_h]^2 - \epsilon_2^2(\omega) = 0 & \text{SPP2} \end{cases}$$



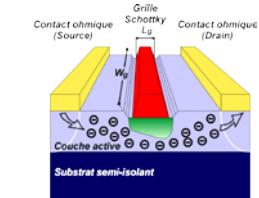
# Summary

- New radiative effects and basic functionalities :

- strong thermal rectification with MIT materials → diode



- high NDTR both in near and far-field regime → transistor



- bistable thermal states → memory



- SPP tunnelling with graphene or magnetic field → heat flux splitter

- Potential applications :

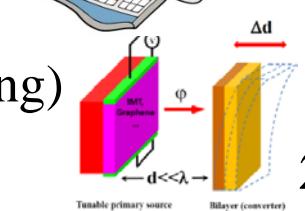
- thermal management at nano and macroscale



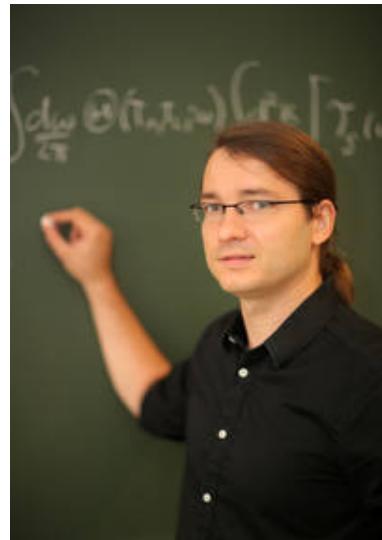
- information treatment without electricity (low speed)



- Optomechanical systems (nanoheat engines and energy harvesting)



# Acknowledgments



S.A. Biehs  
(Oldenburg, Germany)



V. Kubytskyi  
(LCF, Palaiseau)



R. Messina  
(L2C, Montpellier)

