# nanomechanics and mesoscopic phonons



#### **Integrated Mechanical Circuits**

Courtesy CT-Cnyugen (Berkeley)

# Why NEMS? Device applications

• Smaller, cheaper, faster, lower power consumption

• "Phones of the future": NEM-devices are in the right frequency range (1-5 GHz) to replace elements in cell phones

• Better frequency selectivity (higher Q)

• Bulk passive components replaced by smaller size MEMS/NEMS components

New sensor applications

needed: high Q; high frequency

Nanotube RAM (including movie): http://www.nantero.com/index.html





# mass sensing on the level of single molecules





 $\partial M_{\min} \approx m / Q$ 

f <sub>0</sub>	<b>L</b> × <b>w</b> × <b>t</b> (μm)	M <sub>eff</sub>	Q	∂m <sub>min</sub> (d)
7.7 MHz	10 x 0.2 x 0.1	230 fg	10,000	1.4×10 <sup>8</sup>
"	II	"	100,000	1.4×10 <sup>7</sup>
380 MHz	1 x 0.05 x 0.05	3 fg	10,000	1.8×10 <sup>6</sup>
"	"	"	100,000	1.8×10 <sup>5</sup>
7.7 GHz	0.1 x 0.01 x 0.01	23 ag	10,000	1400
"	II	"	100,000	140

low M (high f); high Q

## carbon-nanotube oscillators towards zeptogram detection



FIG. 2. SEM image of a carbon nanotube oscillator. The inset shows the deposit induced by an electron beam deposition process.

M. Nishio et al. APL 86 (2005) 133111

# nanorelays: <u>low-power</u> mechanical switches



S.N. Cha et al. APL **86** (2005) 083105





S.W. Lee et al. Nanoletters (2004)

## nanotube-nanomechanics: rotator



#### rotating mirror



#### low-friction internal motion of the shells of a multi-wall nanotube makes motion possible

Fennimore et al, Nature **286** (1999) 2148

# bio-nanomechanics II



Coverslip coated with Ni-NTA

**bio-motors:** ATP fuelled biomotor with a fluorescent filament of a few micron length attached (time between pictures 133 ms)



H. Nori et al. Nature 386 (1997) 299

# nanomechanics of breaking an atomic gold wire





estimate force:  $x_0 = 0.2 \text{ nm}$   $E_b = 3 \text{ eV}$   $k \approx \frac{\partial^2 V(x)}{\partial^2 x} \approx 10 \text{ N/m}$  $F = kx_0 = 2 \text{ nN}$ 

G. Rubio et al., PRL 67 (1996) 2302

# Measurement of the conductance of a hydrogen molecule

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# vibrational modes in Pt-H<sub>2</sub>-Pt junctions



Djukic et al. cond/mat 0409640

# stretching the contact: longitudinal or transversal modes? $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{\omega}}$



# Casimir force: a force of nothing

inside the cavity : 
$$E = \sum_{k} \hbar \omega = \frac{\pi \hbar c}{L} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n$$
  
outside the cavity :  $E = \frac{\pi \hbar c}{L} \int_{0}^{\infty} n \, dn$ 

$$\Delta E = \frac{\pi \hbar c}{L} \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n - \int_{0}^{\infty} n \, \mathrm{d}n \right]$$

Euler - Maclauren :

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) - \int_{0}^{\infty} f(n) \, dn = \frac{1}{2} f(0) - \frac{1}{12} f'(0) + \frac{1}{720} f''(0) - \dots$$
$$f(n) = n \implies f(0) = 0, f'(0) = -\frac{1}{12}, f''(0) = 0$$
$$\Delta E = -\frac{\pi \hbar c}{12L} \implies \text{force} = \frac{\pi \hbar c}{12L^2}$$





can be generalized to other geometries (3D, platesphere), temperature effects and non-ideal conductors

# vacuum fluctuations: Casimir effect

In absence of electrostatic forces, attractive force between plate and sphere: F  $\propto z^{-3}$ 



**MEMS technology** 

(MicroElectroMechanical Systems)



H.B. Chan et al., Science 291 (2001) 1941

# mesoscopic phonons



By nanofabrication techniques, we can enter domain where particle wavelength is comparable to channel dimensions.

Courtesy Keith Schwab

## the thermal conductance "quantum"

derivation analogous to that of the electrical conductance quantum but look at the energy flux (instead of electron flux) and use Bose-Einstein statistics (consider two reservoirs with a T difference  $\Delta T$  coupled by a 1D channel)

$$J = \hbar \omega \, n \, v$$
  

$$J = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}k}{2\pi} \hbar \omega(k) \, \eta(\omega) \, v(k) \qquad \eta(\omega) = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar \omega/k_B T} - 1}; \quad v(k) = \frac{\mathrm{d}\omega}{\mathrm{d}k}$$
  

$$J_{TOT} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \hbar \omega \Big[ \eta^{+} - \eta^{-} \Big] \mathrm{d}\omega \qquad \eta^{+} - \eta^{-} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial T} \, \Delta T$$
  

$$G_{th} = \frac{J_{TOT}}{\Delta T} = \frac{\pi^{2} \, k_{B}^{2}}{3h} \, T$$

the existence of a thermal conductance quantum also indicates that it is difficult to cool nano-objects to their ground state !! Wiedemann-Franz law:  $G_{th} = LGT$ , L= Lorentz constant With  $G_0 = e^2/h$  one finds  $G_{th} = \pi^2 k_B^2 T/3h$ 

## quantum phonon transport



Schwab et al, Nature 404 (2000) 974

### eigenfrequencies cantilevers and beams



classical elasticity, Euler-Bernoulli theory:

$$\rho A \frac{\partial^2 u_y}{\partial t^2} + EI \frac{\partial^4 u_y}{\partial z^4} = 0, \qquad 0 < z < L$$

solve and use appropriate boundary conditions

#### top-down fabrication: surface nanomachining



- *high resolution e-beam lithography (x,y)*
- mono-crystalline epitaxial layers (z)

- GaAs-based systems
- Si-based systems (SOI)
- Silicon Carbide

### eigenfrequencies cantilever



$$I = \frac{WH^{3}}{12} \implies f_{n} = \frac{\alpha_{n}^{2}H}{2\pi L^{2}} \sqrt{\frac{E}{12\rho}}$$
  
boundary conditions:  
$$1 + \cosh(kL)\cos(kL) = 0$$
  
$$\alpha_{n} = k_{n}L; \ \alpha_{1} = 1.8751, \ \alpha_{2} = 4.6941, \ \dots, \ \alpha_{n} = \frac{\pi}{2}(2n-1)$$

for the first modes: not harmonic

sound velocity:  $v = (E/\rho)^{1/2}$ 

### eigenmodes of cantilever nanotube



TEM work: Gao et al, PRL 85 (2000) 622



P. Poncheral et al., Science 283 (1999) 1513

#### eigenfrequencies double clamped beams



 $\xi(0) = \xi'(0) = 0$  $\xi(L) = \xi'(L) = 0$ 

$$I = \frac{WH^{3}}{12} \implies f_{n} = \frac{\beta_{n}^{2}H}{2\pi L^{2}} \sqrt{\frac{E}{12\rho}}$$

boundary conditions:

 $\beta_n$ 

$$1 - \cosh(k_n L) \cos(k_n L) = 0$$
  
=  $k_n L$ ;  $\beta_1 = 4.7300$ ,  $\beta_2 = 7.8532$ , ....,  $\beta_n = \frac{\pi}{2}(2n+1)$ 

silicon: L=1 μm, H=W=0.1 μm, f<sub>0</sub>= 1GHz

nanotube: L= 100 nm, d = 1.4 nm, f<sub>0</sub>= 5 GHz

#### double clamped strings/beams



frequency  $\propto L^{-1}$ 

#### magnetomotive method: conducting beam (50 $\Omega$ )



Cleland and Roukes, Sensors and Actuators 72, 256 (1999)

 $\xi = 0.83$ , depends on bending profile

#### example of a measurement



For Q > 10: response of the damped, driven the same as that of a harmonic oscillator. Lorentzian peak shape; the width defines the Q-factor.

#### increasing drive: nonlinear response (Duffing oscillator)



Husain et al, APL 83 (2003) 1240

# interesting for applications (parametric amplification) and for new quantum effects (Thorwart et al. (2005))

# quantum-limited detection of motion



#### detection of gravitational waves

The MiniGRAIL detector is a cryogenic 68 cm diameter spherical gravitational wave antenna made of CuAI(6%) alloy with a mass of 1400 Kg, a resonance frequency of 2.9 kHz and a bandwidth around 230 Hz, possibly higher. The quantum-limited strain sensitivity dL/L would be ~4x10<sup>-21</sup>. The antenna will operate at a temperature of 20 mK. An other similar detector is being built in São Paulo, which will strongly increase the chances of detection by looking at coincidences. The sources we are aiming at are for instance, non-axisymmetric instabilities in rotating single and binary neutron stars, small black-hole or neutronstar mergers etc.

MiniGRAIL: Frossati (Leiden University)

#### quantum effects in a harmonic oscillator

$$H = \frac{1}{2}kx^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{p^{2}}{m}$$
$$\Rightarrow E_{n} = \hbar\omega\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

zero-point motion:

$$x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega_0}}$$



energy stored in the oscillator: 
$$\langle E \rangle = \frac{\hbar \omega}{2} + \frac{\hbar \omega}{e^{\hbar \omega/k_B T} - 1}$$

quantum regime if occupation number (N<sub>th</sub>) is of order one: 1 GHz  $\Rightarrow$  T<sub>sample</sub> < 50 mK

# zero point motion





expected rms displacement noise of a 4.4 GHz nanotube resonator as a function of temperature

#### needed: high Q; high frequency, low mass

# **MEMS** devices as electrometers



Cleland and Roukes, Nature **392** (1998) 160

•measured sensitivity (300 K): 0.1 *e*Hz<sup>-1/2</sup>

•ultimate sens. (300 K): 2 x 10 <sup>-5</sup> *e*Hz<sup>-1/2</sup>



# <u>towards</u> zero-point motion detection using a SET and a mixing technique $x_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m \alpha}}$



**Figure 1** The device used in the experiment. **a**, Scanning electron micrograph of the device, showing the doubly clamped GaAs beam, and the aluminum electrodes (coloured) forming the single electron transistor and beam electrode. Scale bar, 1  $\mu$ m. The Al/AlO<sub>x</sub>/Al tunnel junctions have approximately 50 × 50 nm<sup>2</sup> overlap. **b**, A schematic of the mechanical and electrical operation of the device.



#### $x_0$ a factor 100 above the quantum limit; $N_{th}$ = 10

Knobel and Cleland, Nature 424 (2003) 291

### almost quantum detection limit with RF-SET





 $x_0$  a factor 4.3 above the quantum limit;  $N_{th}$  = 58



**Fig. 3.** Charge noise power around the mechanical resonance with  $V_{NR} = 15$  V. Right peak is taken at 100 mK and is fit with a Lorentzian, shown as a red line. This noise power is used to scale the left peak taken with the refrigerator at 35 mK and corresponds to a resonator noise temperature of  $T_N^{NR} = 73$  mK. This then scales the white-noise floor, which corresponds to a system-noise temperature of  $T_N^{SSET} = 16$  mK = 18  $T_{QL}$ . Using the equipartition relation, the displacement resolution is 3.8 fm/  $\sqrt{Hz}$ . The inset shows the driven response, approximately 800 pm on resonance, with the data as circles and a Lorentzian fit as the solid lines. All SSET measurements are taken with the SSET biased near the double Josephson quasiparticle resonance peak.

 $rac{1}{2}k_{\scriptscriptstyle B}T=rac{1}{2}m\varpi^2x_{\scriptscriptstyle RMS}^2$ 

#### LaHaye et al., Science 304 (2004) 74

# Coulomb blockade in SET that can move

- usual CB theory does not apply since the gate capacitance is distance dependent
- mechanical degrees of freedom via classical theory of elasticity
- nanotube modeled as an elastic rod
- applicable to other suspended structures
- nanotube: hope for high Q-factors (smooth on a nanometer level)





S. Sapmaz et al., PRB 67 (2003) 235414

### bottom-up fabrication: suspended nanotubes



## bottom-up fabrication: suspended nanotubes





# after etching in acid (BHF)

Nygård and Cobden, APL 79 (2001) 4216

# electrostatic term in Coulomb Blockade is displacement dependent

$$W_{\text{el-st}}(z[x]) = \frac{(ne)^2}{2C_{\Sigma}} - neV_{C}$$

analytical case : 
$$C_{\rm L} = C_{\rm R} = 0$$

$$C_G(z[x]) = \int \frac{dx}{2\ln\left[\frac{2(R-z)}{r}\right]}$$

$$W_{\text{el-st}}(z[x]) = \frac{(ne)^2}{2C_0} - neV_G - \frac{(ne)^2}{L^2R} \int z[x] dx$$

Electrostatic force (z<<R) : mechanical correction proportional to (ne)<sup>2</sup>





#### the nanotube moves in discrete steps every time an additional electron tunnels onto it



#### As soon as $z_{max}$ >d, the strain due to deformation has to be taken into account

S. Sapmaz et al., PRB 67 (2003) 235414

#### electron-vibron coupling in a movable dot



Frank-Condon factors: overlap between the harmonic oscillator wave functions in the initial ground state and the displaced final electronic state

$$\widehat{H} = \frac{p^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega_0^2 x^2 + \lambda x$$

 $\lambda$ : e-ph coupling

$$g = \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\ell}{\ell_0}\right)^2 \qquad \qquad \ell_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{m\omega}}$$

$$\Gamma_{\mathrm{L,R}} \implies \Gamma_{\mathrm{L,R}} \left| \left\langle \Psi_{\mathrm{after}} \, | \, \Psi_{\mathrm{before}} \right\rangle \right|^2 = \Gamma_{\mathrm{L,R}} \, P_{nm}$$

Frank - Condon factors determine step heights in IV

$$P_{n0} = \left| \left\langle \Psi(x - \ell) \mid \Psi(x) \right\rangle \right|^2 = \frac{e^{-g} g^n}{n!}$$

in practice: steps visible if g > 0.1

Braig and Flensberg, PRB 68 (2003) 205323

# Frank-Condon factors reproduce step heights in the experiment reasonably well



e-ph coupling constant is about 1 and approximately length and gate independent: displacement ~1 pm !

# a nanotube of 1 micron length acts as a single quantum harmonic oscillator (ħω >> k<sub>B</sub>T) !!!

A better fit may be obtained if the influence of a gate voltage and asymmetric coupling is considered (Braig and Flensberg, 2003) or if non-equilibrium phonons are present (Mitra, Aleiner and Milles, 2004); Negative Differential Resistance not understood

# some vibrational modes nanotubes



#### data fit longitudinal (stretching) modes the best



Sapmaz et al. PRL 96 (2006) 26801