Lecture 2:

Quasiparticle current in N/I/S junctions

(cooling, charge imbalance, Coulomb blockade)

Tunneling DOS



FIG. 1. Tunnel current between Al and Pb through Al_2O_3 film as a function of voltage. (1) $T = 4.2^{\circ}K$ and 1.6°K, H = 2.7 koe (Pb normal). (2) T = 4.2°K, H = 0.8koe. (3) $T = 1.6^{\circ}$ K, H = 0.8 koe. (4) $T = 4.2^{\circ}$ K, H = 0(Pb superconducting). (5) $T = 1.6^{\circ}$ K, H = 0 (Pb superconducting).



tive to slope of curve 1.

Tunneling DOS and fluctuations

PRL 101, 157006 (2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 10 OCTOBER 2008

Disorder-Induced Inhomogeneities of the Superconducting State Close to the Superconductor-Insulator Transition

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Exchange Fields and the Finite Bias Tunneling Anomaly in Paramagnetically Limited Superconducting Al Films

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Cooling

Electronic microrefrigerator based on a normal-insulator-superconductor tunnel junction



charge imbalance

Experimental Observation of Pair-Quasiparticle Potential Difference in Nonequilibrium Superconductors*

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It is shown experimentally that when a quasiparticle current is converted into a pair current in a superconductor, the quasiparticle potential in the nonequilibrium region differs from the pair chemical potential.



FIG. 1. Sample configuration. In order of deposit the films are Al (XX'), Sn (YY'), varnish, Cu (ZZ') and Pb (ZZ'). Galvanometer G and resistor R meathe potential difference V between Y and Z.



Temperature (K)

FIG. 3. Plot of $\zeta = V \Omega \mathcal{G}_{NS} I^{-1}$ versus temperature for the three thinnest samples.

з

Temperature (K)

spin imbalance

PRL 109, 207001 (2012)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

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Long-Range Spin-Polarized Quasiparticle Transport in Mesoscopic Al Superconductors with a Zeeman Splitting

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Parity effect





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 $\delta \bar{n} = -(\bar{q}(U) - \bar{q}(0))/e$

F-9119th Giesperivereent France Fig. 3a we show, as a function of U, the energy of the different *n* states for the non-superconducting case NATURE = 0,0A to the normalized by the state of the stat value of the integer closest to $\overline{C_g U}/e$, which corresponds to the 4 lowest energy state, hence the staircase pattern of Fig. 3b. In Fig. 3e we show the case of a superconducting island such that, at the lowest temperatures, $\tilde{\Delta} > E_c$ in zero magnetic field. In that case, for every value of U, the ground state of the circuit always 2 corresponds to an even *n*, which explains the doubling in Fig. 3f of the step height compared to Fig. 3b. The energy asymmetry between states with even and odd n has recently been observed 0 through the <u>2e-periodicity</u> of the gate-charge dependence of the current in Coulomb blockade electrometers with a superconducting island of the asymmetric estaircase of a -2 superconducting box⁵. It is important to note that although 2erquantization infplies hedessarily 2e-periodicity, the converse is not true, as shown by Fig. 3d. The results reported here reveal new information: direct transitions between fully paired even states, which do not create a quasiparticle excitation, can be -6 L the sole charge-transfer mechanism, provided that $\tilde{\Delta} > E_{c} \gg k_{\rm B}T$, conditions which could not be satisfied in previous island-charge measurements. This perfect 2e-quantization necessitates that the system finds, as U is increased, its lowest energy state by the coherent tunnelling of two electrons from the reservoir into the island to form a Cooper pair. The rate of this process, also known as Andreev reflection¹³ is proportional to $(R_K/R_t)^2$ (ref. FIG. 2 Variationsdoptherstoragenvolueveakeuthanorie.glatelestrooianzaelling, tion C_U/et be T= 28 AK. Which reis variage of the adapted heless,

to the sample ausnothe deertopid of The island of and displayer conducence urable island. Foroeteroffyeguilibriumaveebeenconfischoetnicestyaby of and Andrics, prorespectivelyes The sleavers than do &r referstoretmentonignessealshortbisteps, of the respectively rder of 10^{-2} s.

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Measurement of the Even-Odd Free-Energy Difference of an Isolated Superconductor

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FIG. 5. Difference *D* between the free energies of the island with an odd and an even number of electrons as a function of temperature. Experimental values (dots) are directly measured in units of E_c . Dashed line is a theoretical expression of $D(T)/\Delta$ (scale on the right-hand side), assuming a continuous BCS density of states, $\rho_A = 0.572 \text{ eV}^{-1}$, $N_A = 38 \times 10^7$, and $\Delta^{\text{fit}}/e = 195 \ \mu\text{V}$ (see text). Full line is a modified expression corresponding to a single, twofold degenerate state added at 0.8 Δ . The vertical scale factors of theory and experiment coincide for $C_{\Sigma}^{\text{fit}} = 0.19 \text{ fF}$.

Anderson criterion

ARTICLE

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Superconducting parity effect across the Anderson limit

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Coulomb blockade in NISIN junction

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

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Excitation of Single Quasiparticles in a Small Superconducting Al Island Connected to Normal-Metal Leads by Tunnel Junctions

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NISIN turnstile

Hybrid single-electron transistor as a source of quantized electric current

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