

# Numerical renormalization group approach for simulating quantum nano-devices

Frithjof B. Anders

Lehrstuhl für Theoretische Physik II - Technische Universität Dortmund

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

DFG

 **JÜLICH**  
FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM  
John von Neumann  
Institut für Computing



# Collaborators

## TU Dortmund



Benedikt Lechtenberg  
NRG



Avi Schiller †, Jerusalem

## FZ Jülich



Stefan Tautz



Christian Wagner



Ruslan Temirov

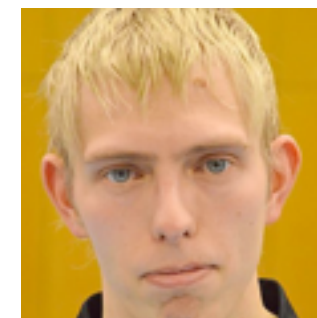


Taner Esat  
STM

## Uni Münster



Michael Rohlfing



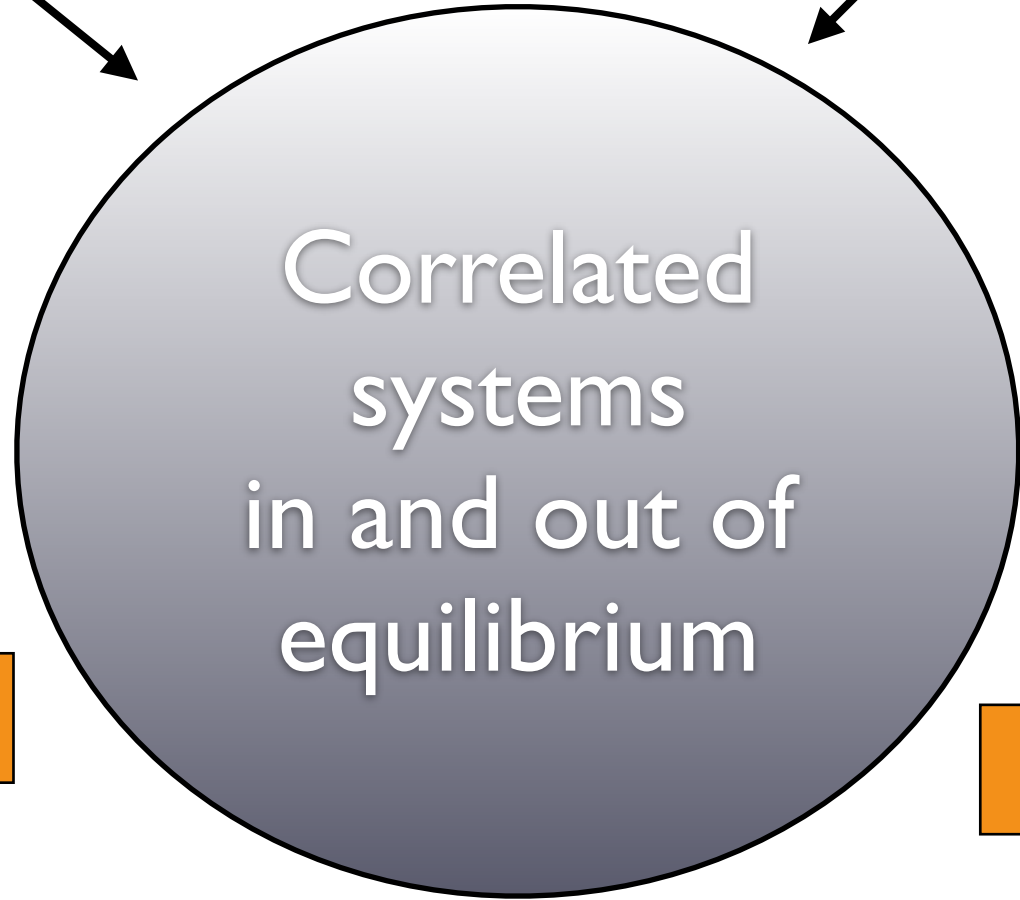
Thorsten Deilmann  
LDA+GdW

Peter Krüger

Femtosecond  
spectroscopy

Bulk materials  
 $\sim 10^{24}$  particles

relaxation dynamics



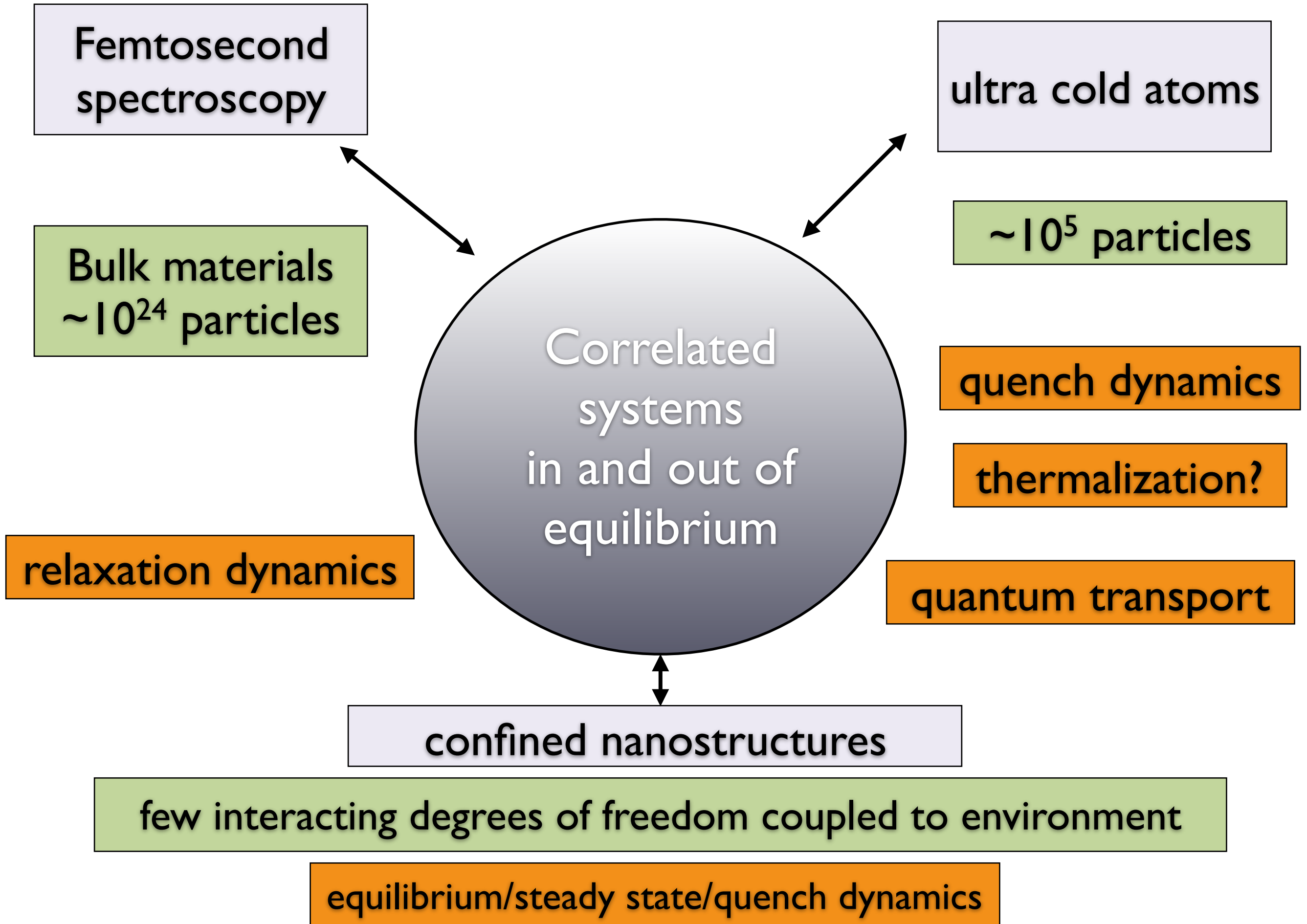
ultra cold atoms

$\sim 10^5$  particles

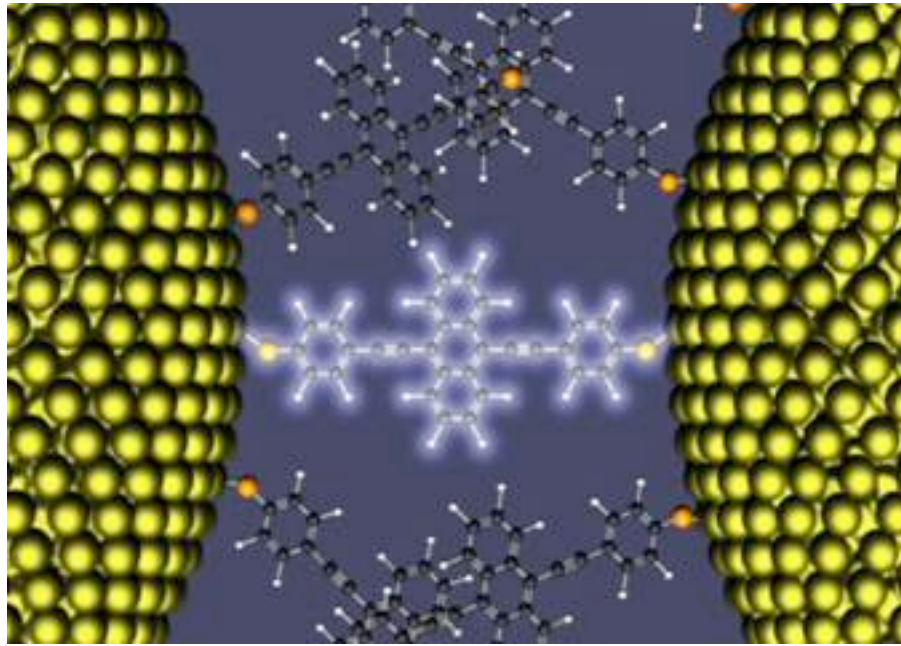
quench dynamics

thermalization?

quantum transport





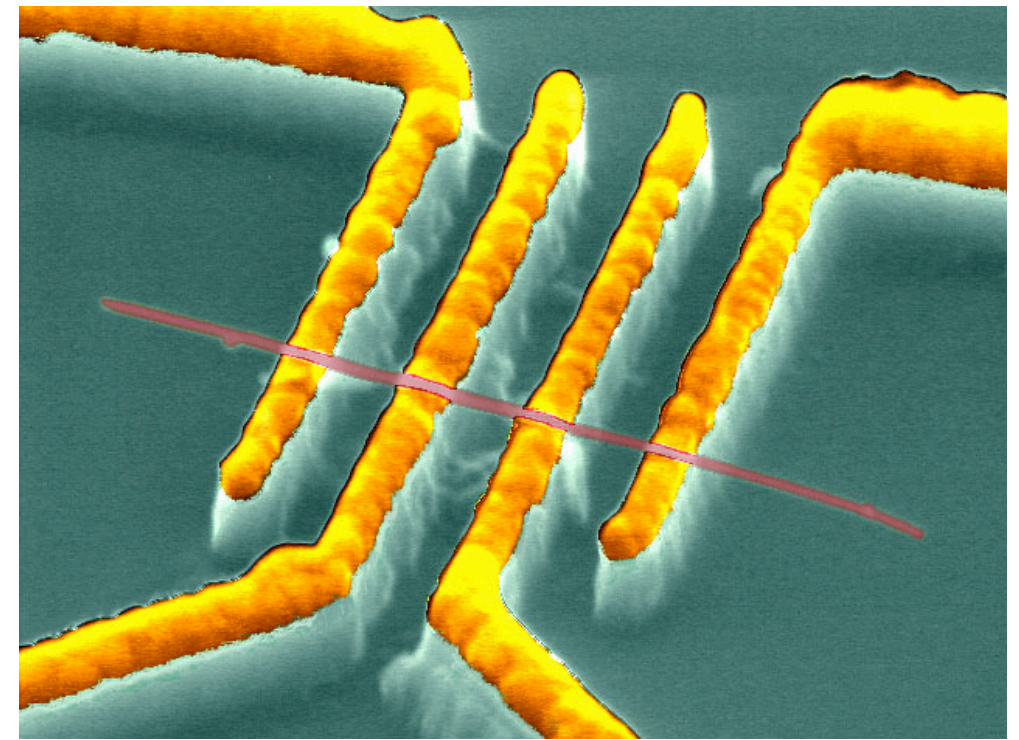


source: Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe

## Electron confinement: strong Coulomb interaction

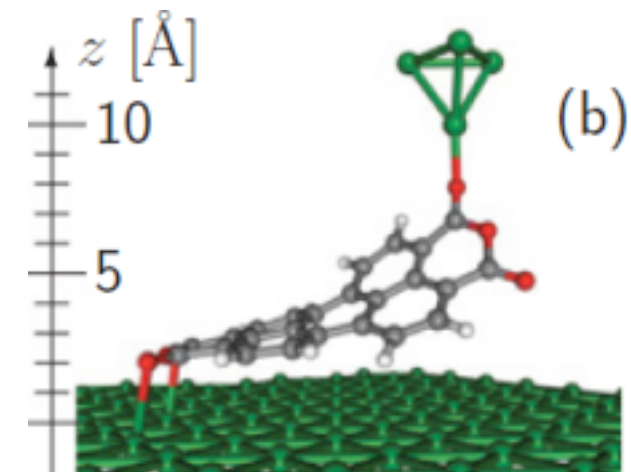
challenges:

- controllable, reproducible molecular connections
- induced local moments for spin manipulations
- **modeling correlated systems in and out of equilibrium**

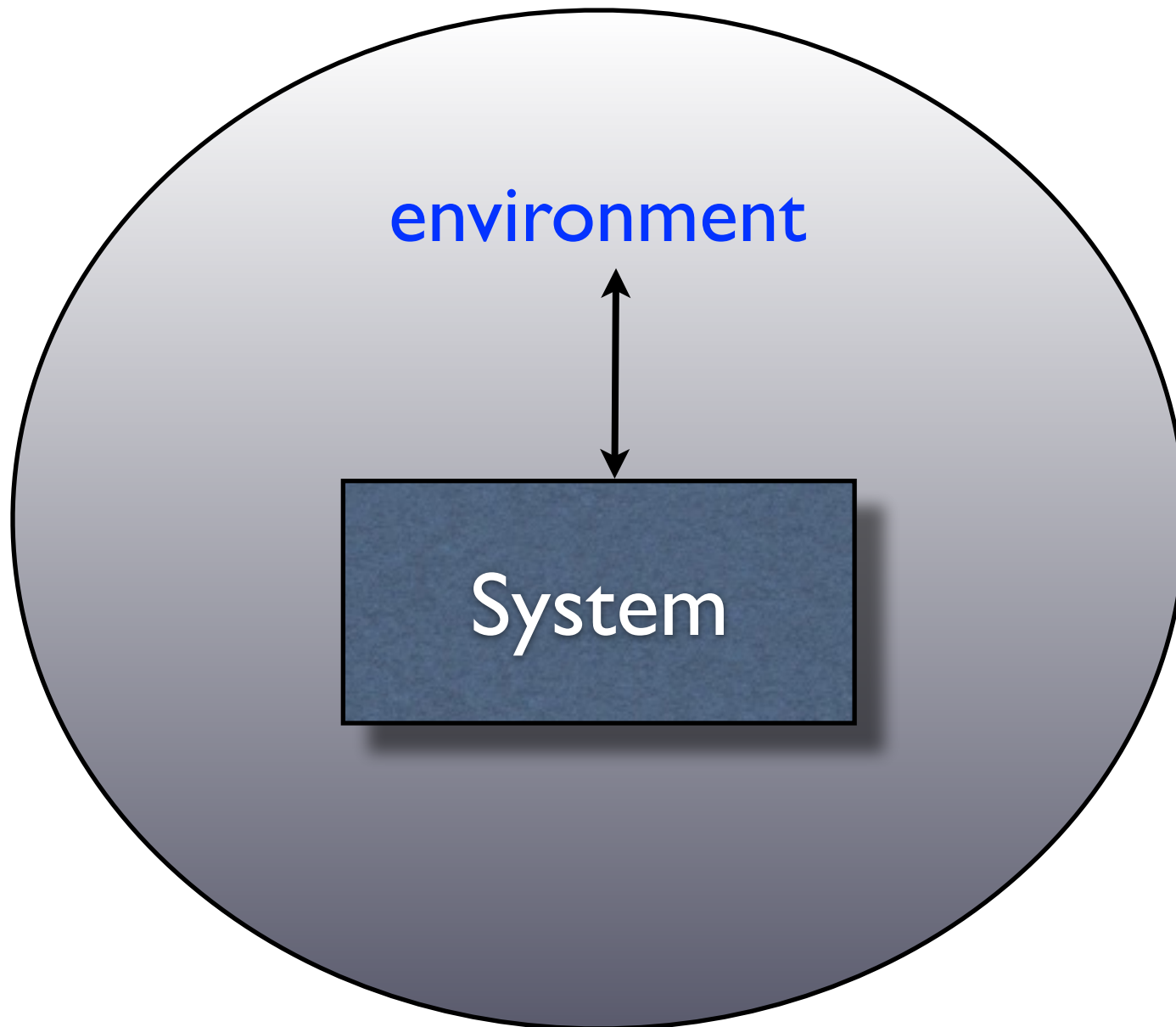


NCCR Nanoscale Science  
Institute of Physics, University of Basel

STM Au/PTCDA



see als Fabian Pauly talk



simulation of

- **real-time dynamics** in
- **quantum transport** though

small quantum systems

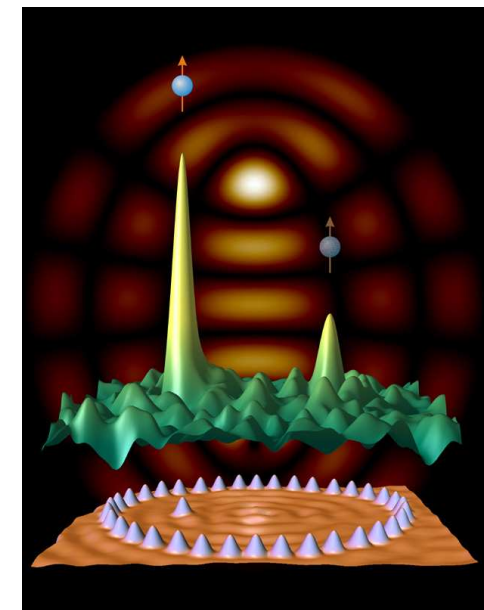
**problem:**

- **entanglement with the environment**
- **change of ground state**

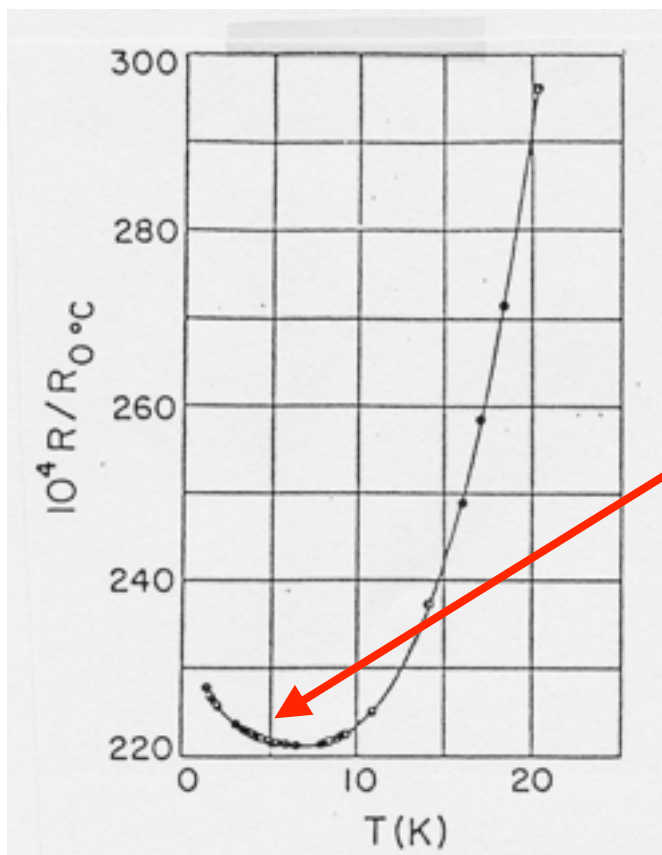
# Kondo model: drosophila of solid state theory



## Quantum-mirage: Co on Cu



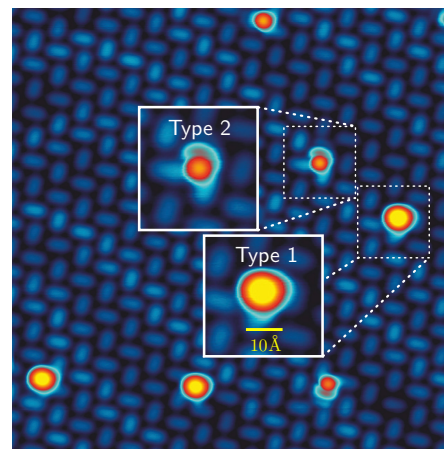
Manoharan et al,  
Nature 403, 512 (2000)



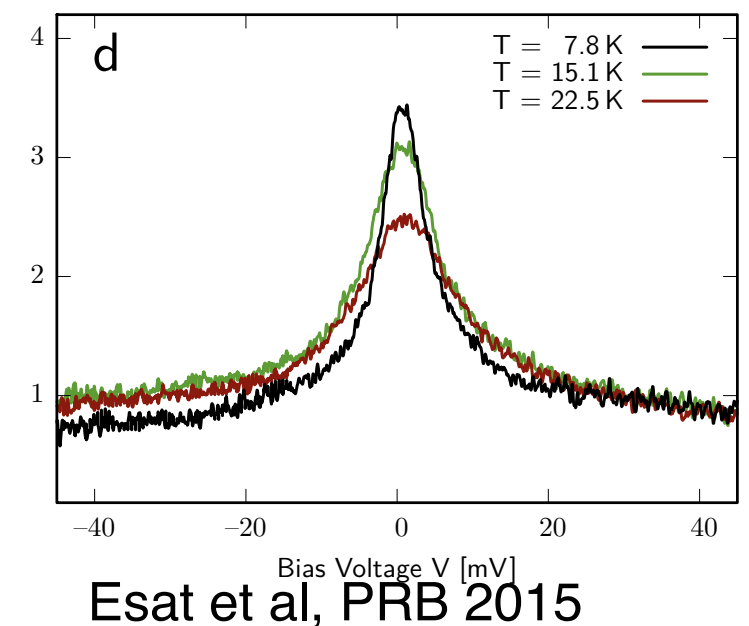
## Kondo scale $T_K$

$$T_K = D e^{-\frac{1}{\rho J}}$$

de Haas, de Boer, van den Berg  
Physica 1,1115 (1934)

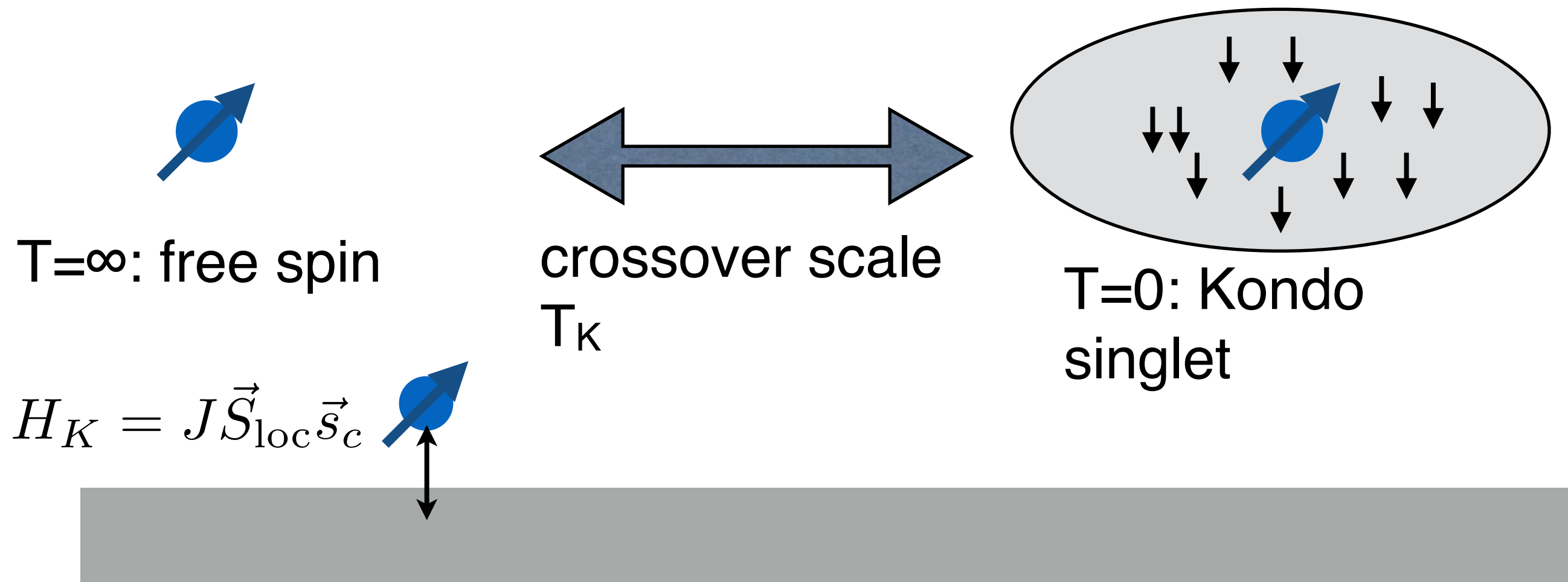


## Au/PTCDA on Au(111)



# Kondo model: drosophila of solid state theory

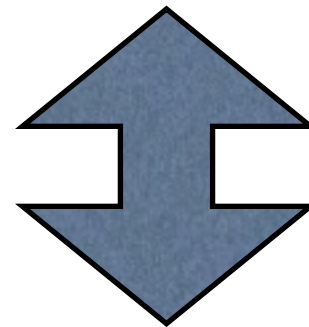
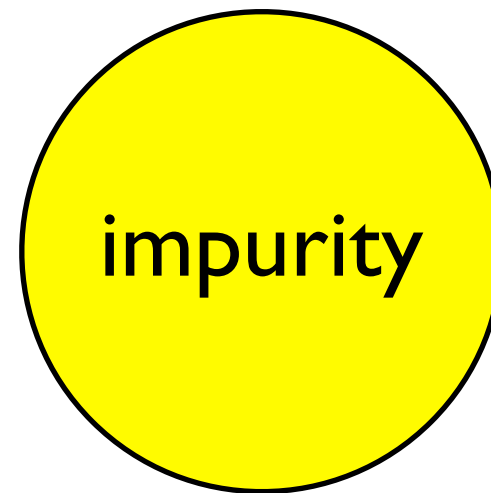
---



$s=1/2$ : Kondo singlet formation  
non perturbative since orthogonal ground state

# Numerical renormalization group

---

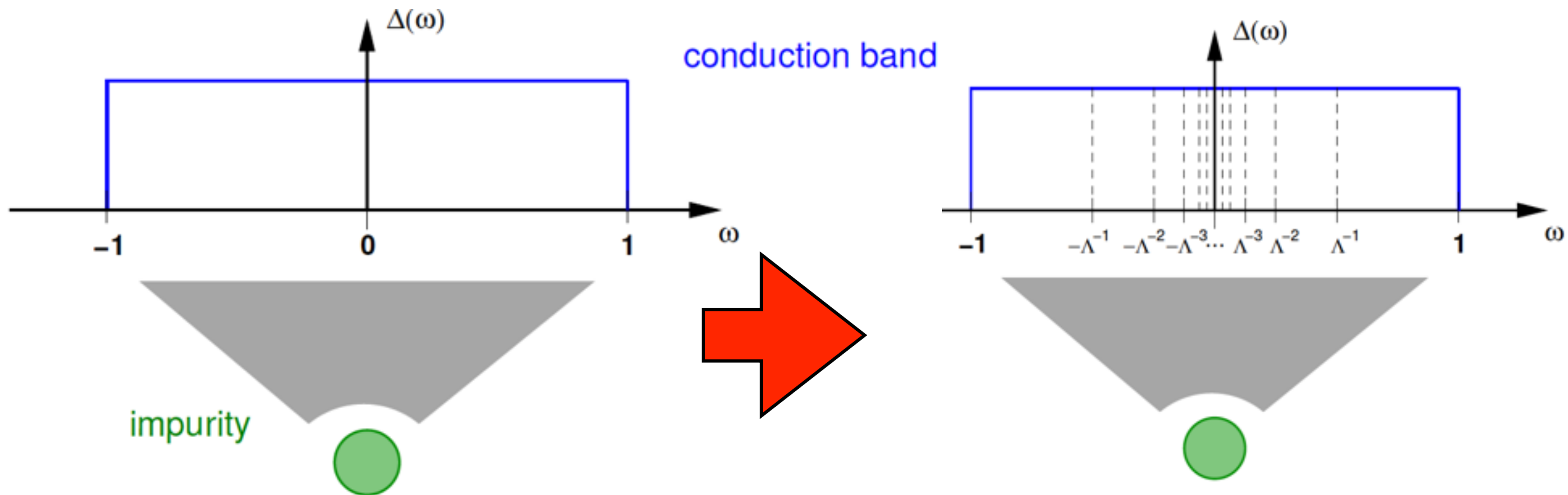


conduction band continuum

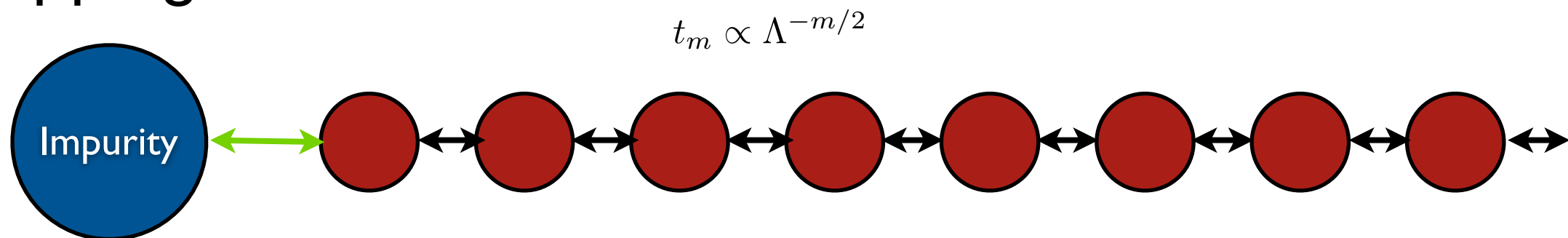


# Numerical renormalization group

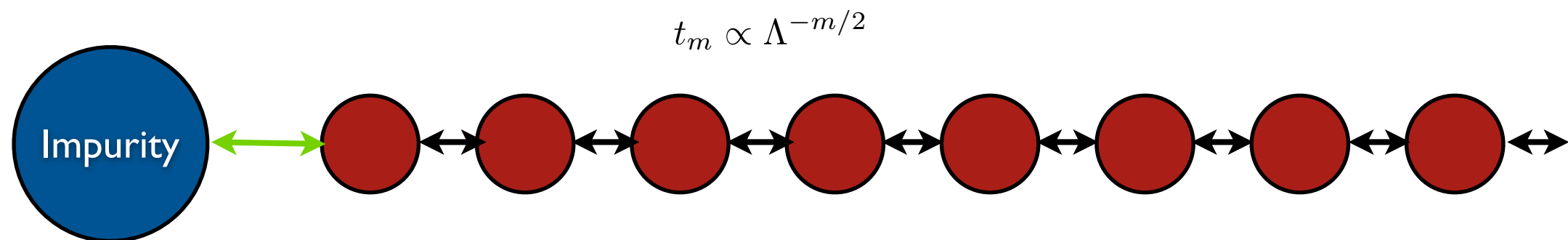
Ken Wilson 1975, Nobel price 1982



Mapping onto a semi-infinite chain



# Numerical renormalization group



- separation of energy scales:  
**discretisation parameter  $\Lambda > 1$**

- iterative diagonalisation:

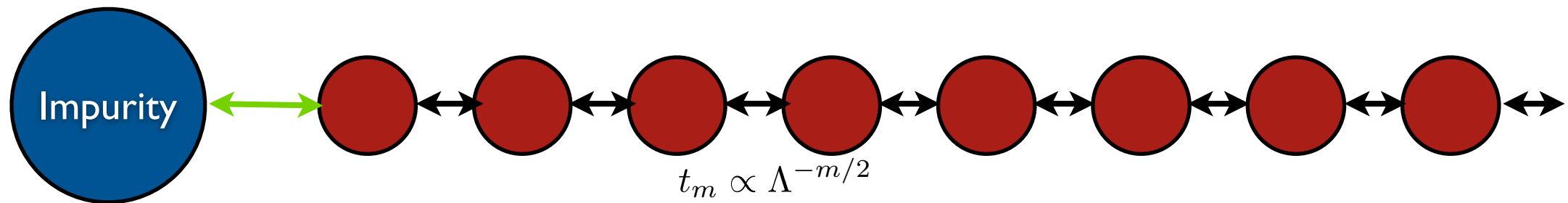
➡ approx. eigenbasis

$$H|l, e; m\rangle \approx E_l|l, e; m\rangle$$

➡ complete basis set: used for real time dynamics and spectral functions

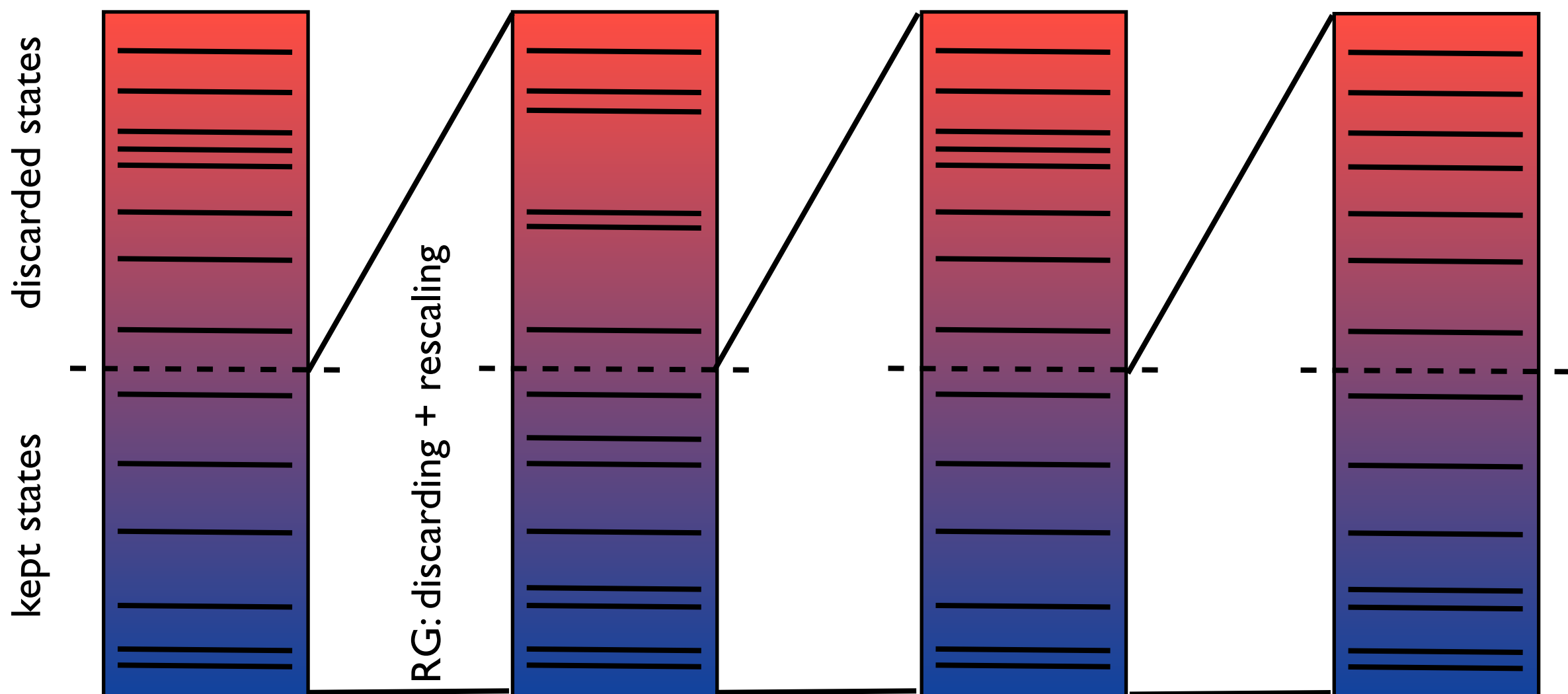
$$\hat{1} = \sum_m \sum_l \sum_e |l, e; m\rangle \langle l, e; m|$$

# Numerical renormalization group



Anders, Schiller, PRL 2005, PRB 2006

iterative diagonalisation



**all discarded states: complete basis set**

$$\hat{1} = \sum_m^N \sum_l \sum_e |l, e; m\rangle \langle l, e; m|$$

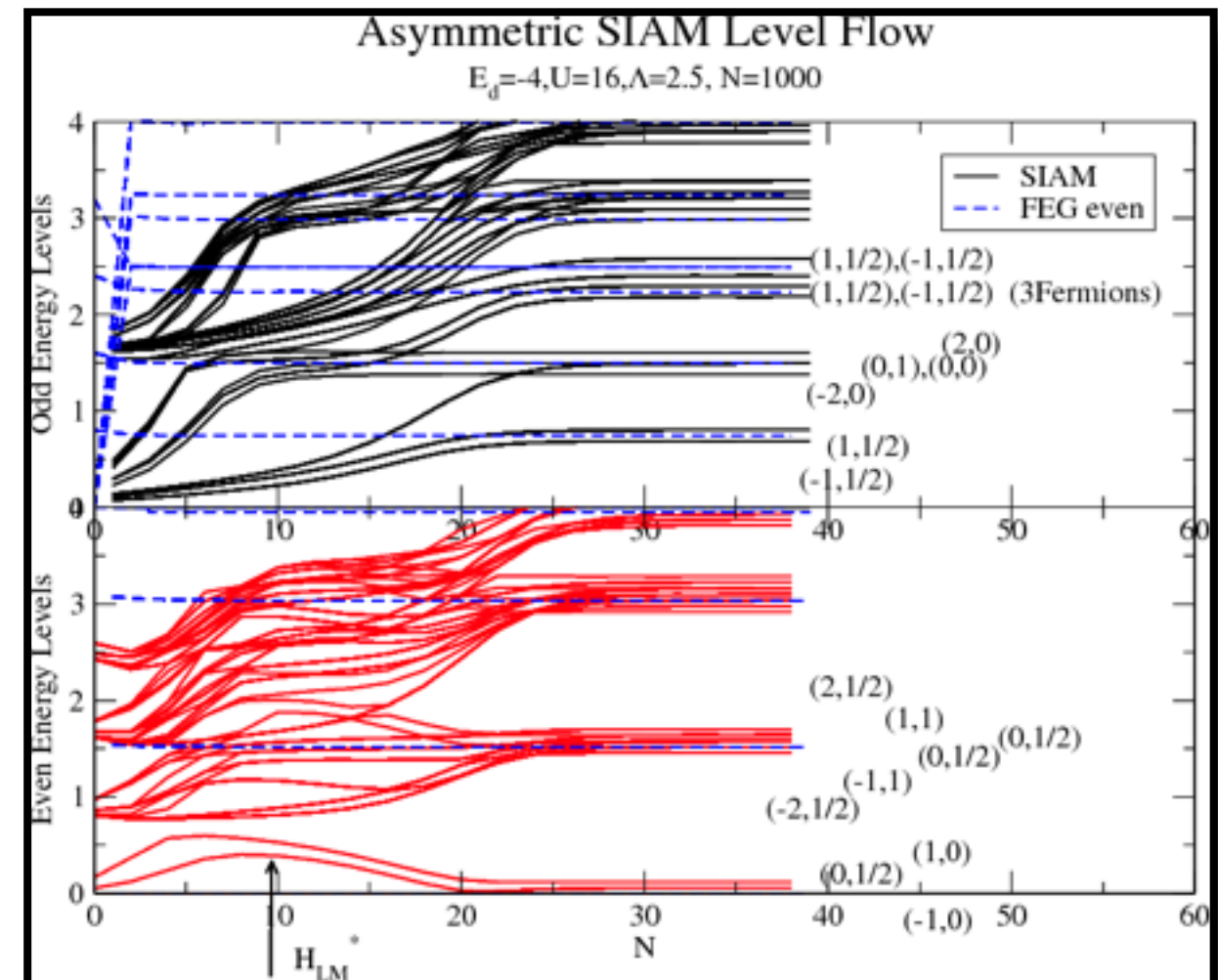
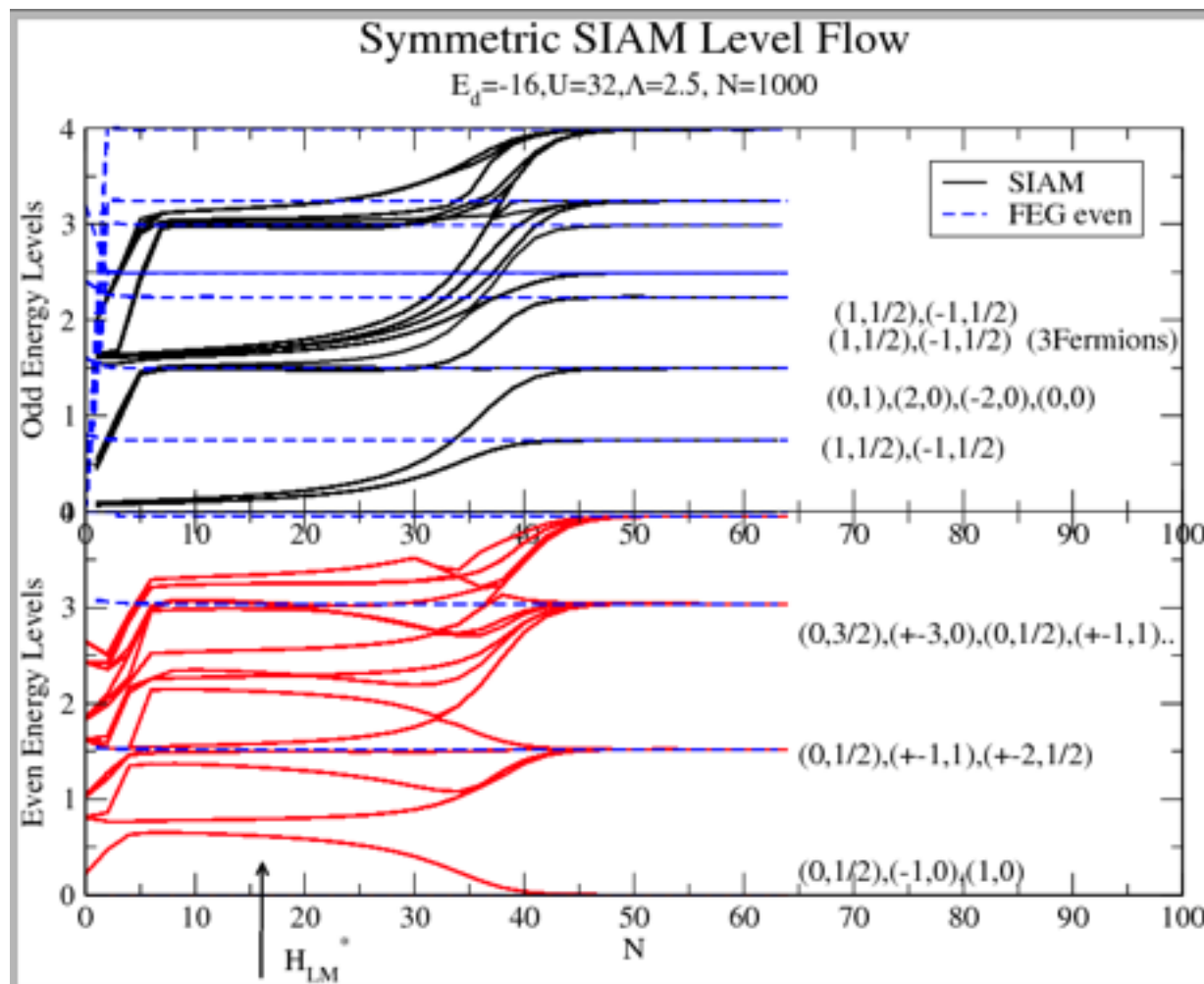
# Numerical renormalization group

What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points



# Numerical renormalization group

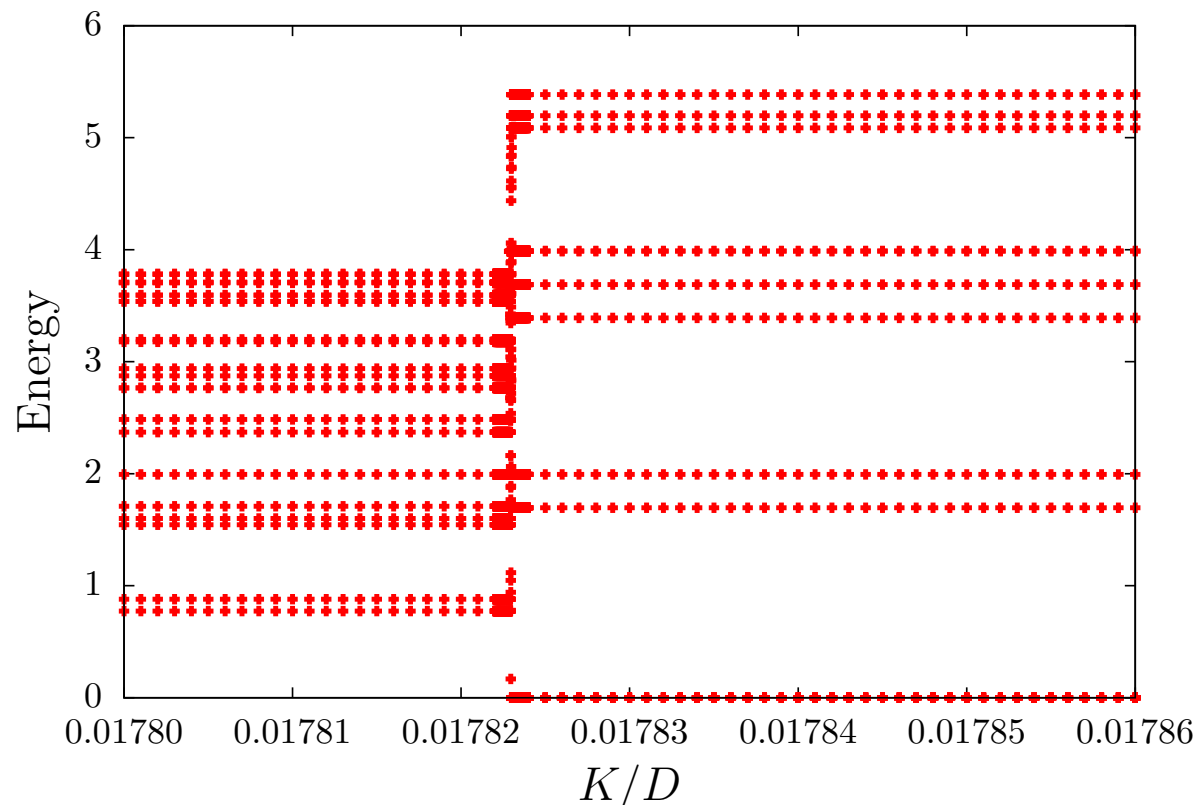
What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points

**3. Quantum critical points and quantum phase transitions**



external control parameter  $K$ :  
change of fixed points



# Numerical renormalization group

---

What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points

3. Quantum critical points and quantum phase transitions

**4. Stability of fixed points**

$$R[H^* + \delta H] = H^* + \delta H' = H^* + \sum_i \lambda_i c_i \Delta H_i$$

- $\lambda_i < 1$ : irrelevant operator
- $\lambda_i = 1$ : marginal operator (marginal relevant: Kondo coupling)
- $\lambda_i > 1$ : relevant operator: flow away from the fixed point

# Numerical renormalization group

What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points

3. Quantum critical points and quantum phase transitions

4. Stability of fixed points

**5. Spectral functions**

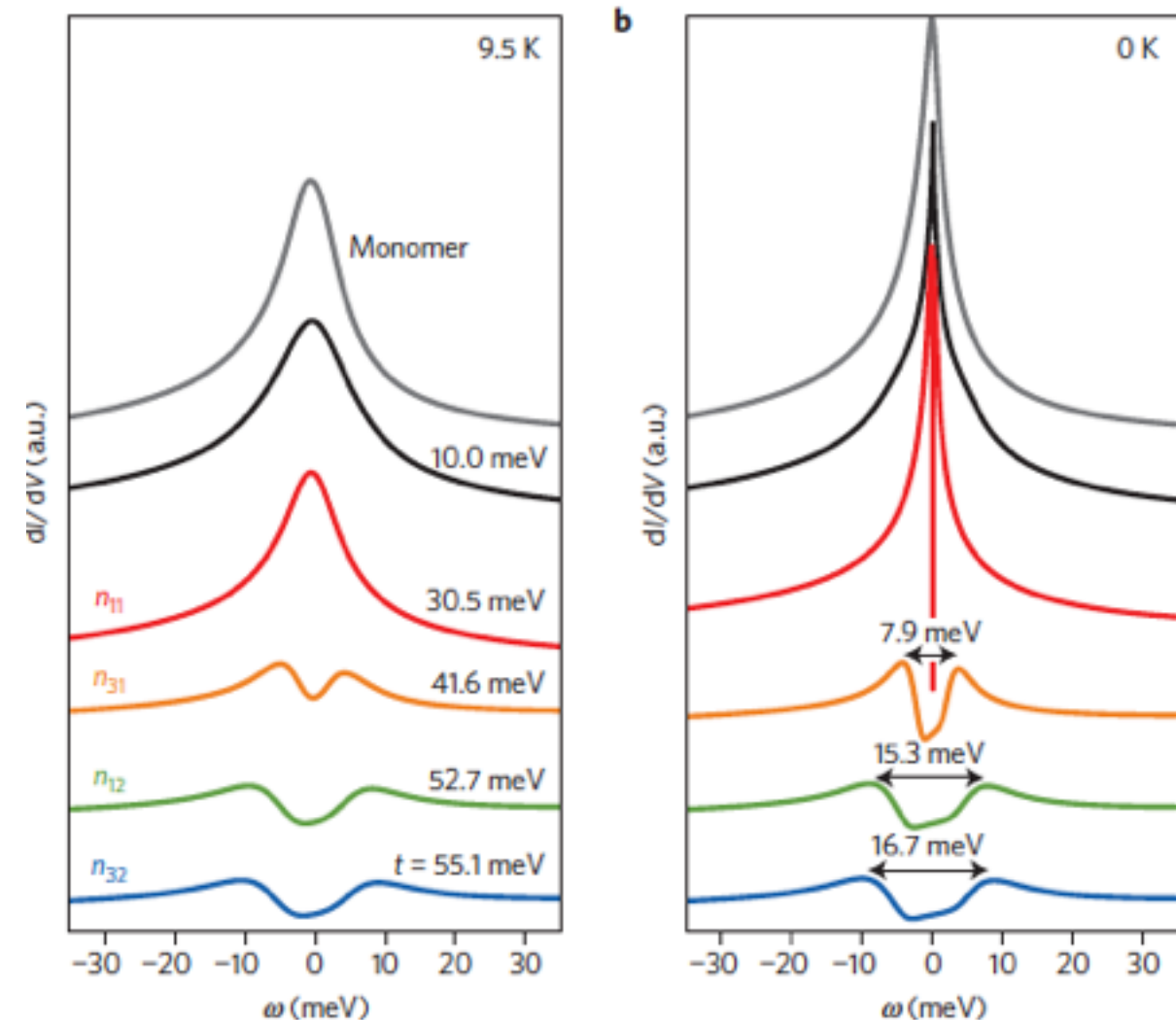
Hofstetter, PRL 2001

Peters et al, PRB 2006

Weichselbaum et al, PRL 2007

example: spectra for Au/PTCDA dimers

Esat et al, Nature Physics 2016



# Numerical renormalization group

What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points

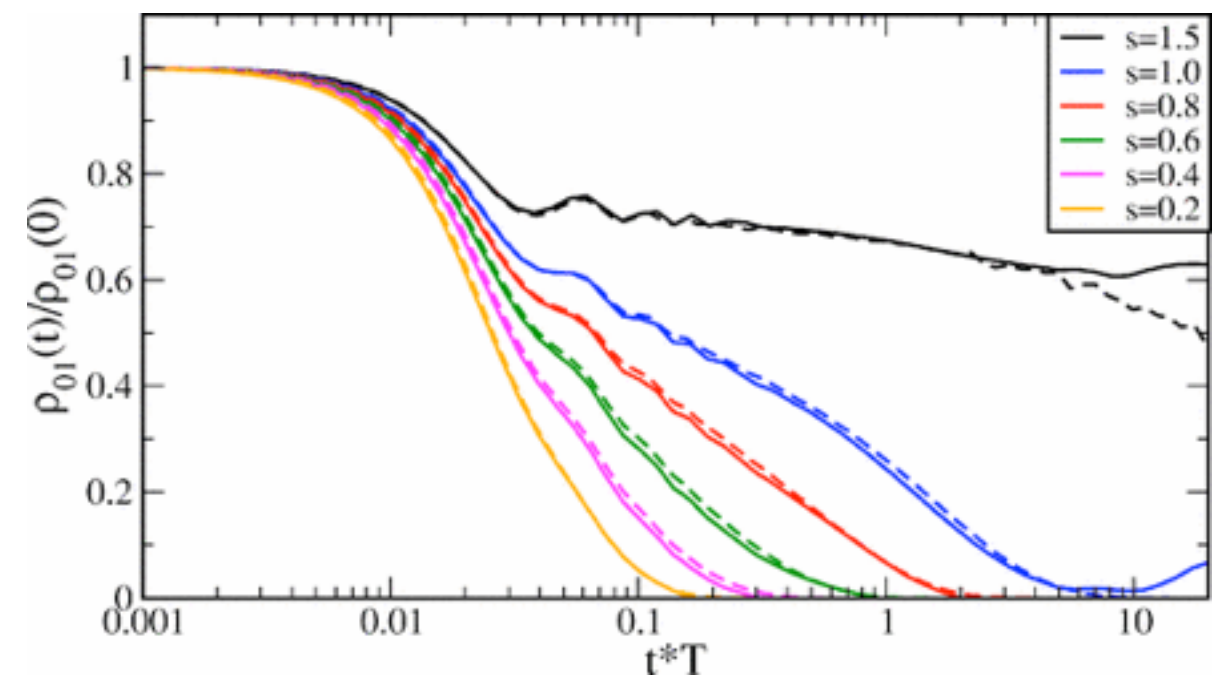
3. Quantum critical points and quantum phase transitions

4. Stability of fixed points

5. Spectral functions

**6. Real time dynamics after quenches: TD-NRG**

$$\langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle = \sum_m \sum_{rl} \rho_{rl}^{\text{red}} \langle l | \hat{O} | r \rangle e^{i(E_l - E_r)t}$$



# Numerical renormalization group

What does the NRG tells us?

1. thermodynamical expectation values

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \sum_l \frac{e^{-\beta E_l}}{Z} \langle l | \hat{O} | l \rangle$$

2. Level flow of low lying excitations: fixed points

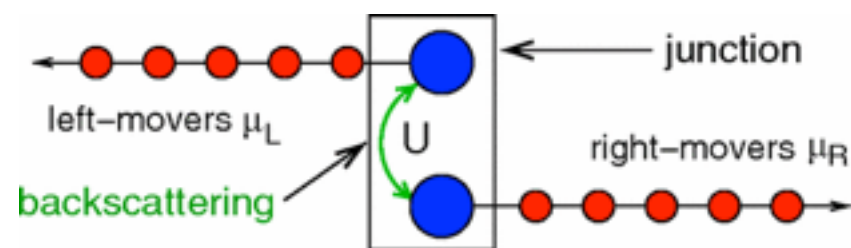
3. Quantum critical points and quantum phase transitions

4. Stability of fixed points

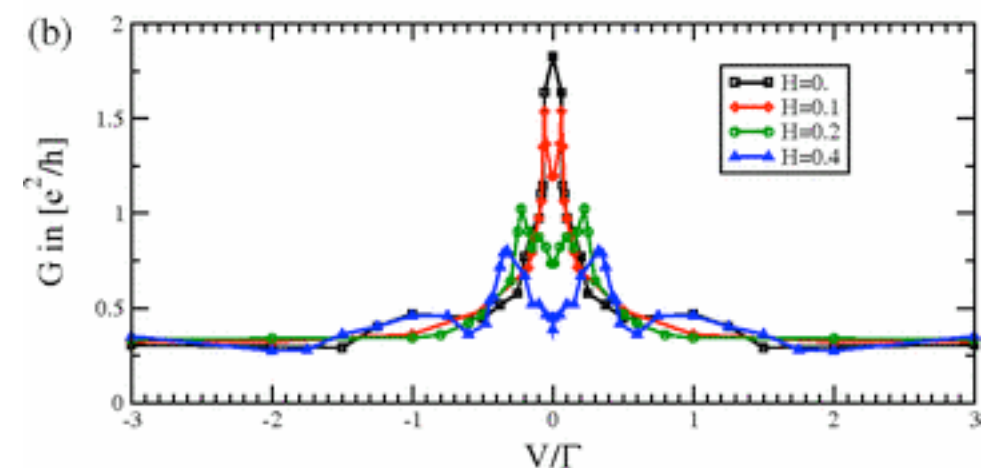
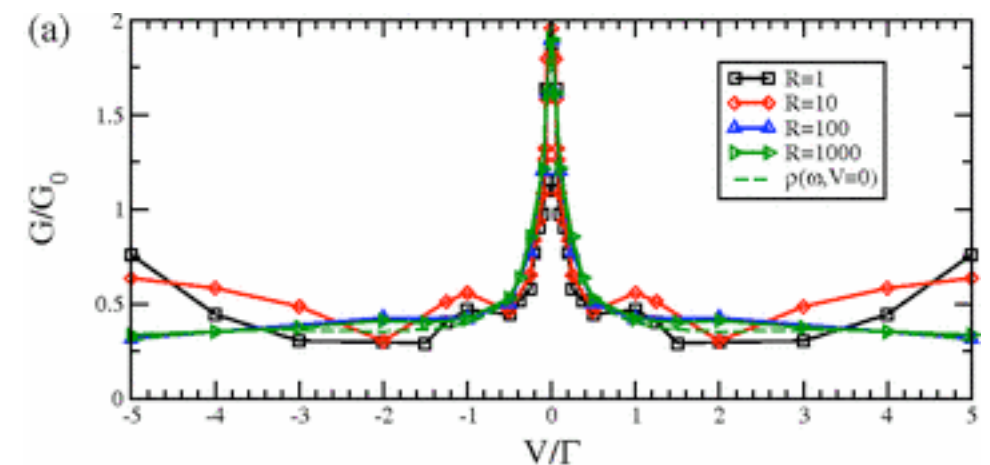
5. Spectral functions

6. Real time dynamics after quenches (TD-NRG)

**7. Steady-State currents: (SNRG)**



Anders, PRL 2008



# NEQ numerical renormalization group

---

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle(t) = \text{Tr} \left[ \hat{O} \hat{\rho}(t) \right]$$

- equilibrium: one condition  $\hat{\rho}(t) = \hat{\rho}_0 = \exp(-\beta H)/Z$
- non-equilibrium: two conditions:  $\hat{\rho}_0$  and  $H^f$

$$\hat{\rho}(t) = e^{-iH^f t} \hat{\rho}_0 e^{iH^f t}$$

- calculation of the trace using energy eigenstate

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle(t) = \sum_{n,m} \langle E_n | \hat{O} | E_m \rangle \langle E_m | \rho_0 | E_n \rangle e^{-i(E_m - E_n)t}$$

TD-NRG complete basis set:

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle(t) = \sum_m \sum_{\substack{l \text{ or } l' \\ \text{discarded}}} \langle l | \hat{O} | l' \rangle e^{i(E_l - E_{l'})t} \rho_{l'l}^{red}(m)$$



# Applications

1. TD-NRG: propagation of Kondo correlations
2. Steady-state currents
3. chemically driven quantum phase transition in Au/PTCDA dimers on a gold surface

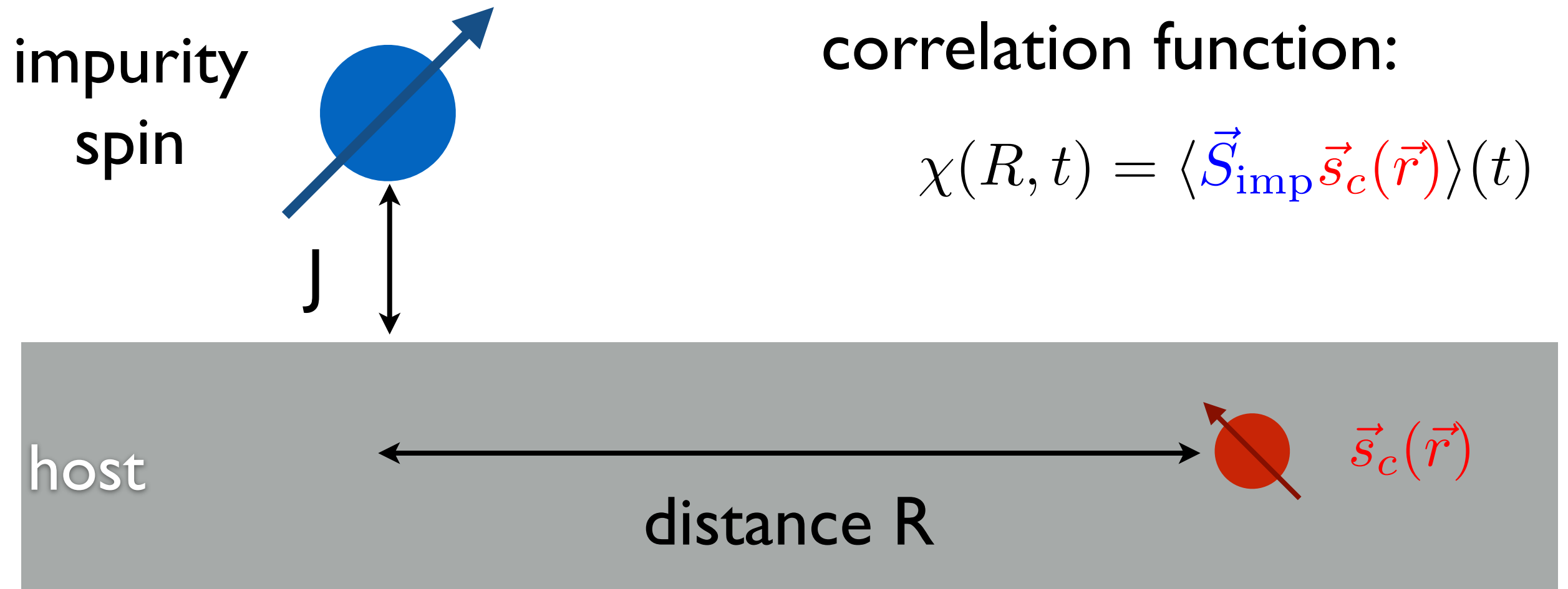
# Applications

**1. TD-NRG: propagation of Kondo correlations**

2. Steady-state currents

3. chemically driven quantum phase transition in  
Au/PTCDA dimers on a gold surface

# Kondo model: finite R spin-spin correlations

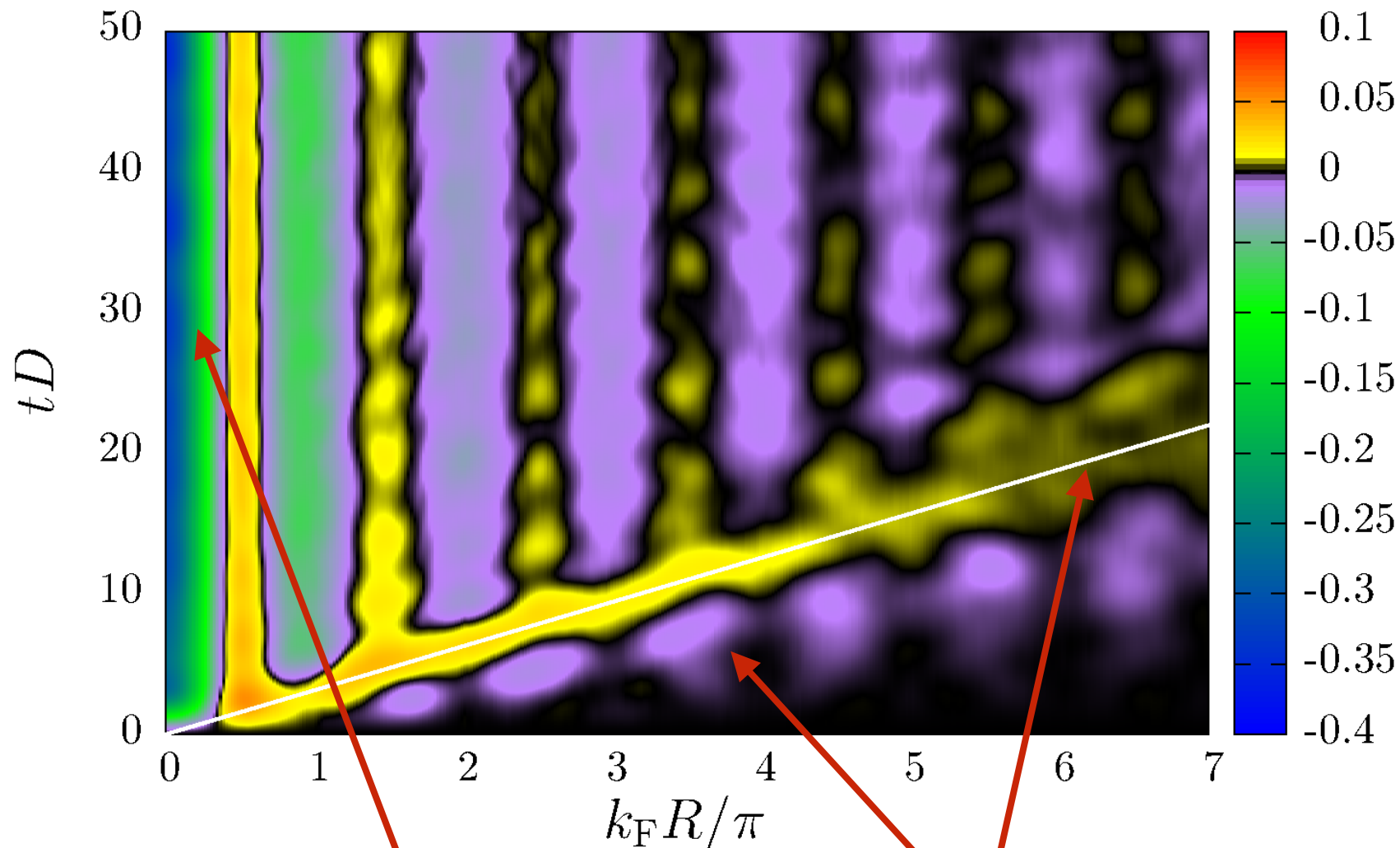


J. Kondo, Prog. Theor. Phys 32, 37 (1964)

$$H = \sum_{\sigma} \int_{-D}^D d\varepsilon \varepsilon c_{\varepsilon\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{\varepsilon\sigma} + J \vec{S}_{\text{imp}} \vec{s}_c(0)$$

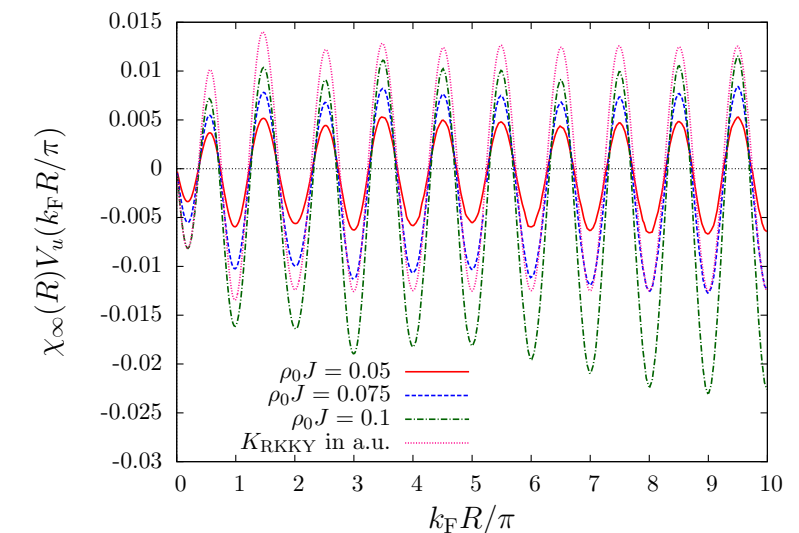
R dependency: mapping on a two band model: even and odd parity

# non-equilibrium dynamics



$$\chi(R, t) = \langle \vec{S}_{\text{imp}} \vec{s}_c(\vec{r}) \rangle(t)$$

$$\rho_0 J = 0.3$$

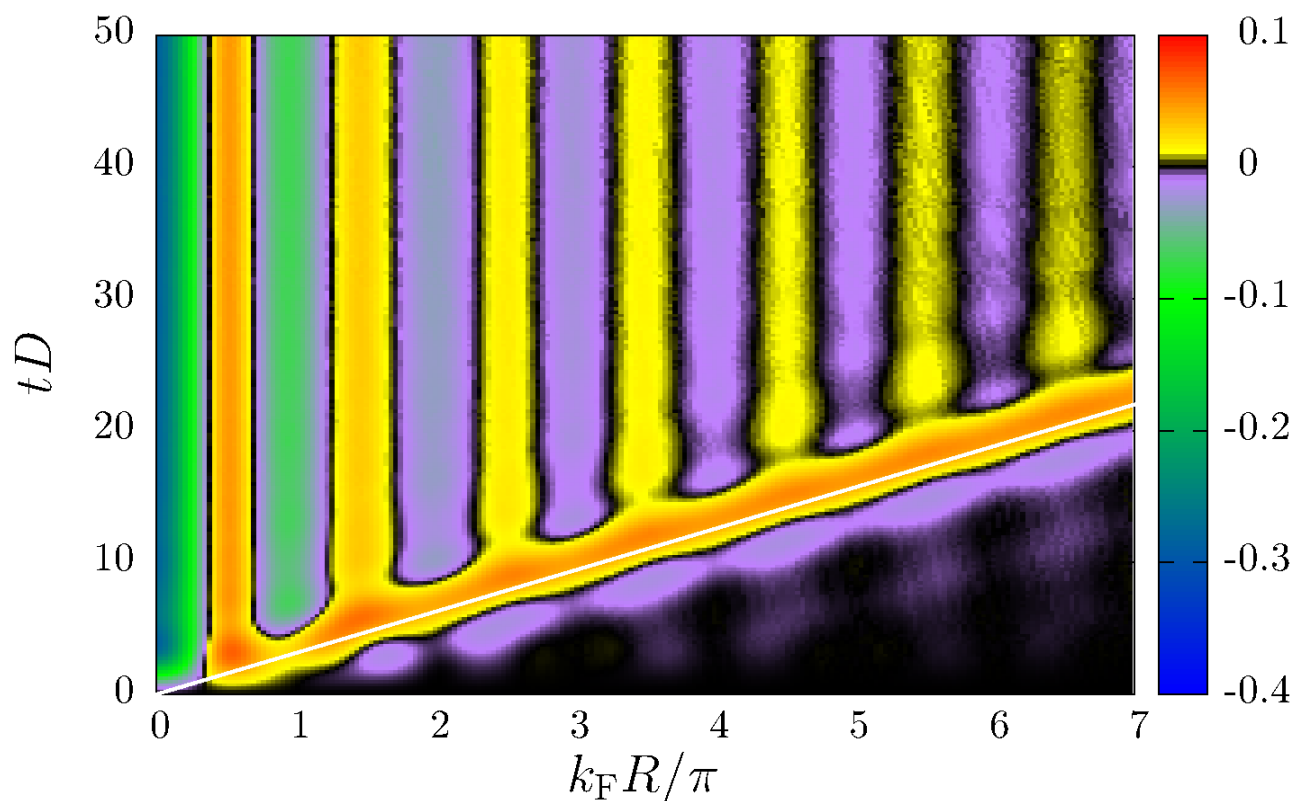


- “light-cone” physics  $R = v_F t$
- **surprise:** buildup of correlations **outside** the light-cone
- fast short time scale and **thermalisation** inside the light-cone

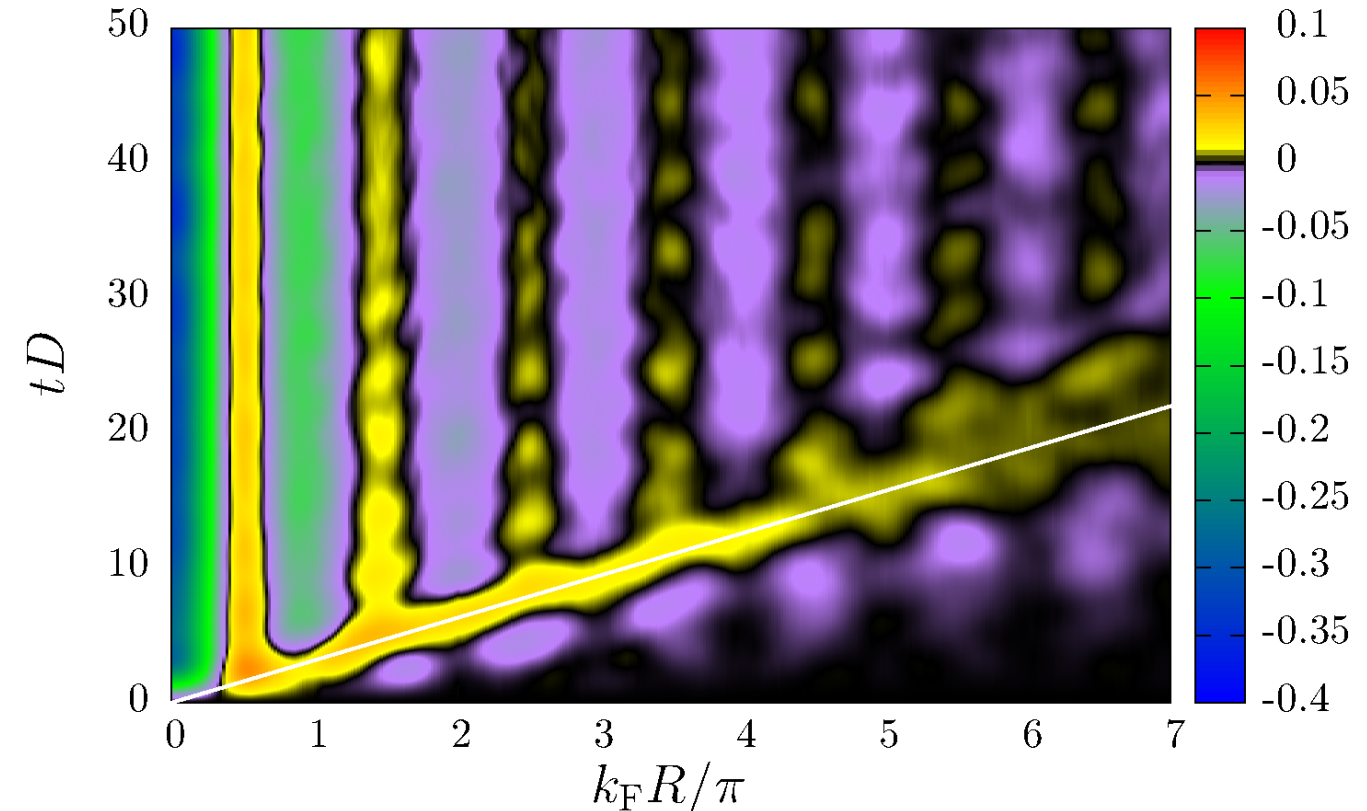
Lechtenberg, FBA Phys. Rev. B 90, 045117 (2014)

# Comparison: perturbation theory

$$\rho^I(t) = \rho_0 + i \int_0^t [\rho_0, H_K^I(t_1)] dt_1 - \int_0^t \int_0^{t_1} [[\rho_0, H_K^I(t_2)] H_K^I(t_1)] dt_2 dt_1 + O(J^2)$$



second order perturbation theory  
no Kondo effect



TD-NRG  
Kondo effect included

qualitative very good agreement: correlations outside the light cone persist

Lechtenberg, FBA Phys. Rev. B 90, 045117 (2014)



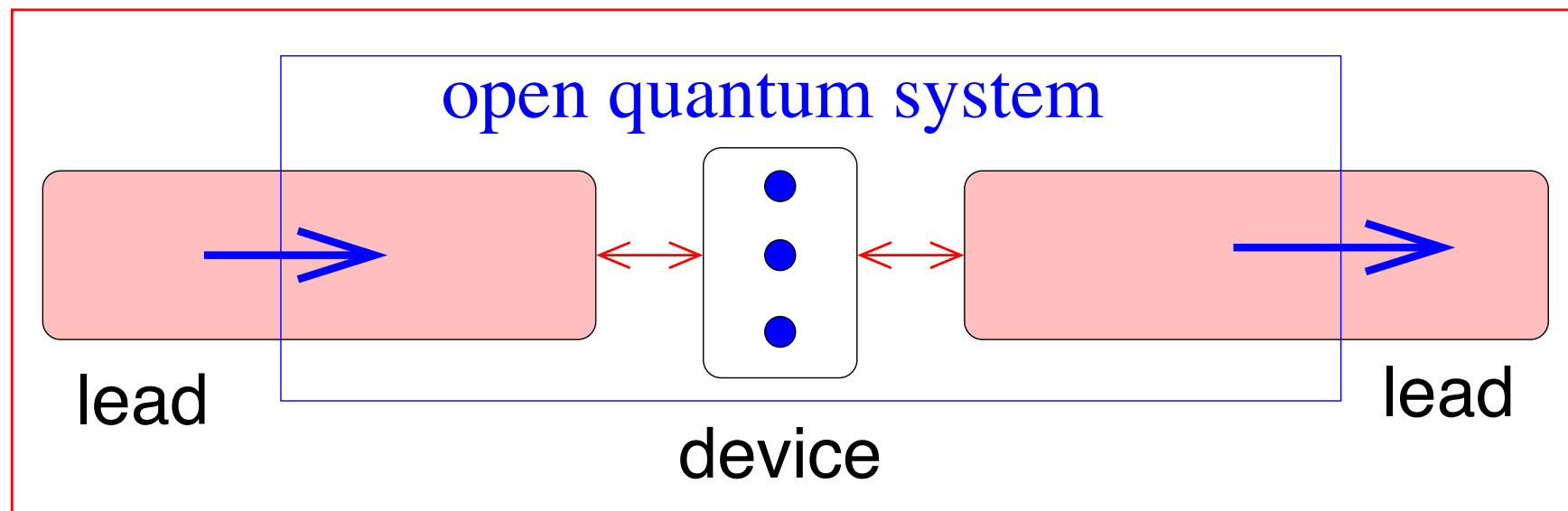
# Applications

1. TD-NRG: propagation of Kondo correlations

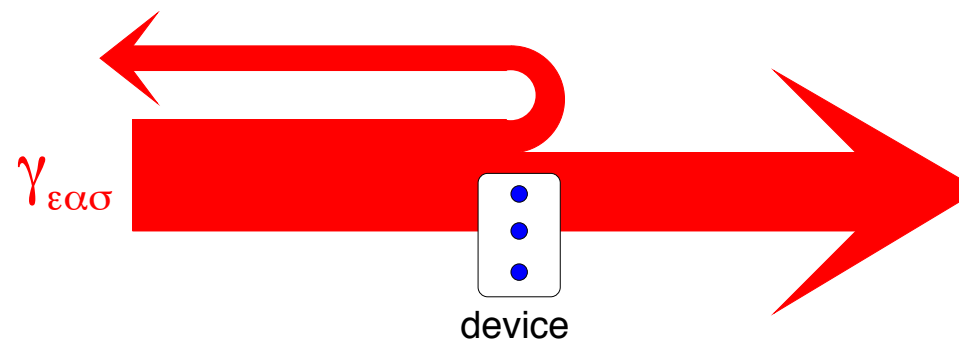
**2. Steady-state currents**

3. chemically driven quantum phase transition in  
Au/PTCDA dimers on a gold surface

# Boundary condition



Lippmann-Schwinger scattering states



Steady state:

$$\rho(\mu_L, \mu_R) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta(H - Y(\mu_L, \mu_R))}$$

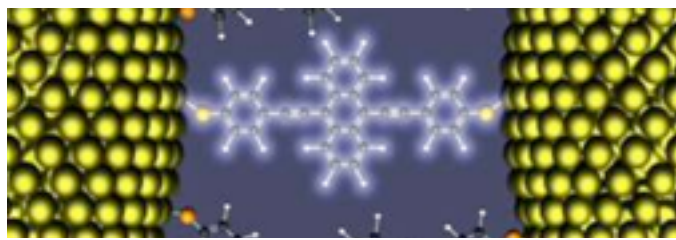
Hershfield, PRL, 70, 2134 (1993)

SNRG:

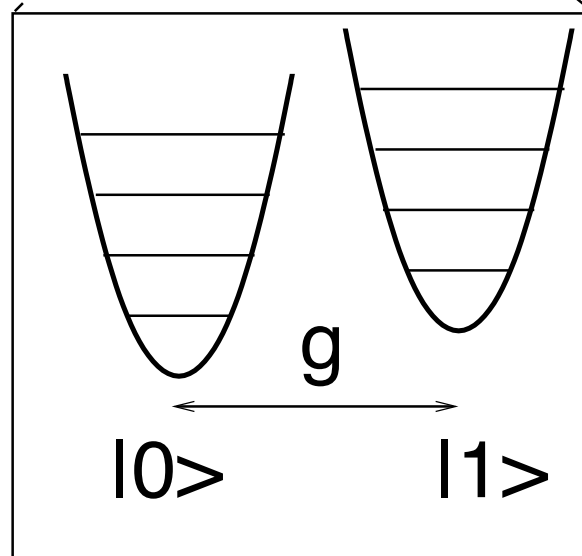
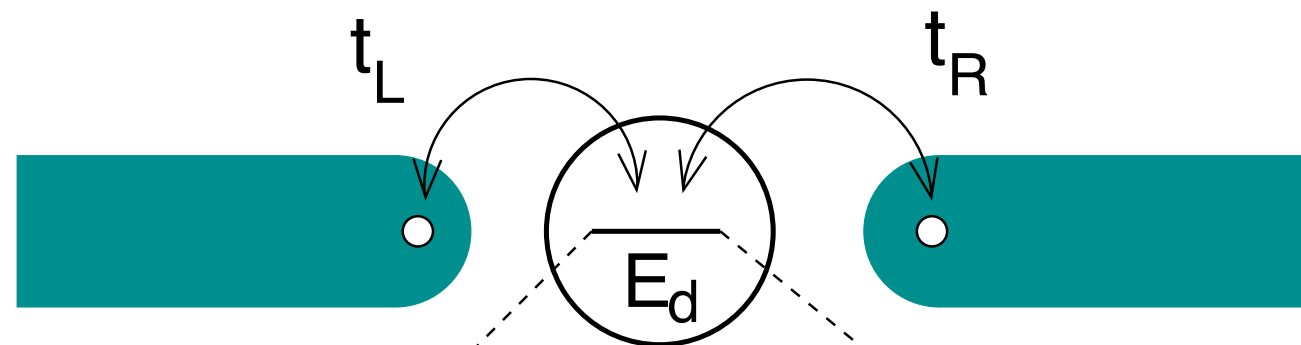
$$\rho(\mu_L, \mu_R) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iHt} \rho_0(\mu_L, \mu_R) e^{-iHt}$$

including charging energy exactly

Anders, PRL, 101, 066804 (2008)



# Holstein Anderson model



$$g = \lambda_{\text{ph}} / \omega_0$$

rel. el.-phonon  
coupling

Lang, Firsov, JETP 16, 1301 (1962)

**polaron formation:  
entanglement between electron  
and phonon**

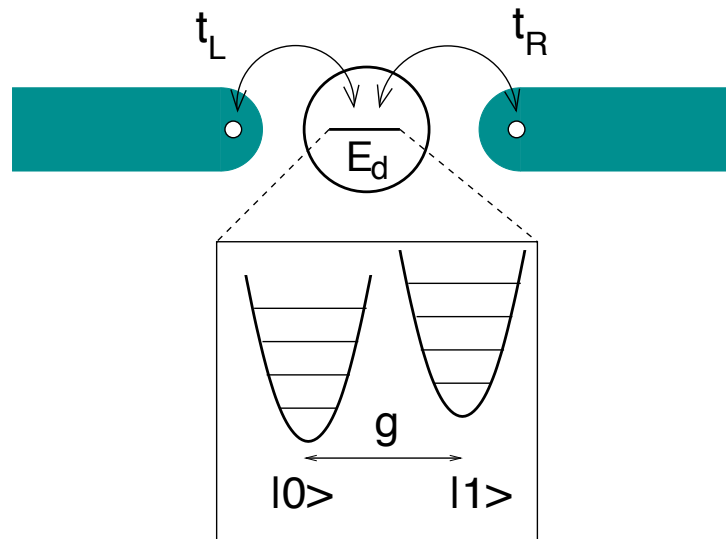
$$H_{\text{e-ph}} = \lambda_{\text{ph}} (\hat{n} - n_0) (b + b^\dagger)$$

- two leads
- molecular level
- tunnel term
- phonon mode
- electron phonon coupling

$t_L = t_R = 0$ : exactly solvable local  
problem

M. Galperin et al, J.of Physics: Condensed Matter 19, 103201 (2007)

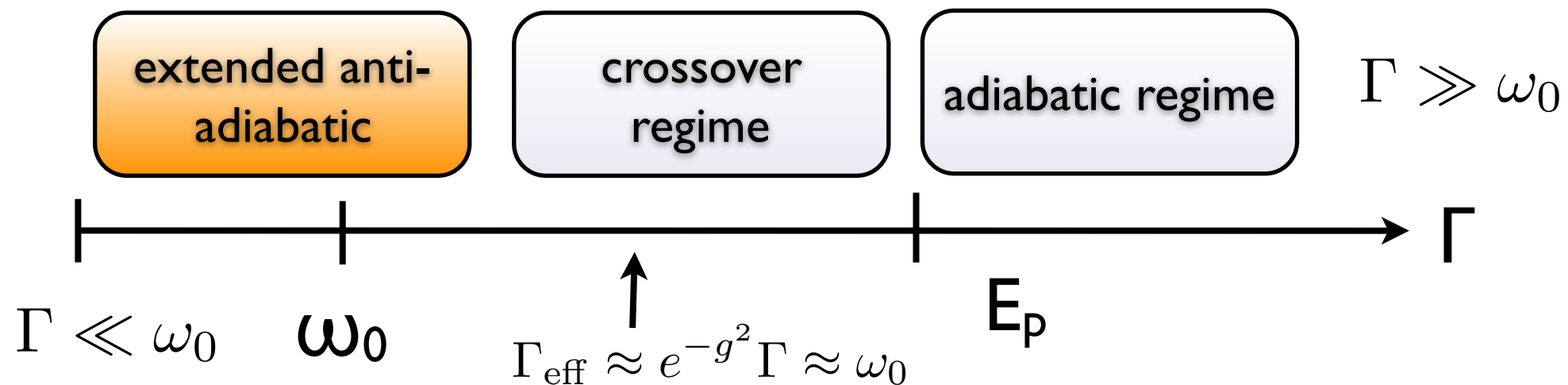
# Equilibrium properties



## Three energy scales

- charge fluctuation  $\Gamma = \pi t^2 \rho_0$
- phonon frequency  $\omega_0$
- polaronic shift  $E_p = \frac{\lambda_{\text{ph}}^2}{\omega_0} = g^2 \omega_0$

$\omega_0$  finite



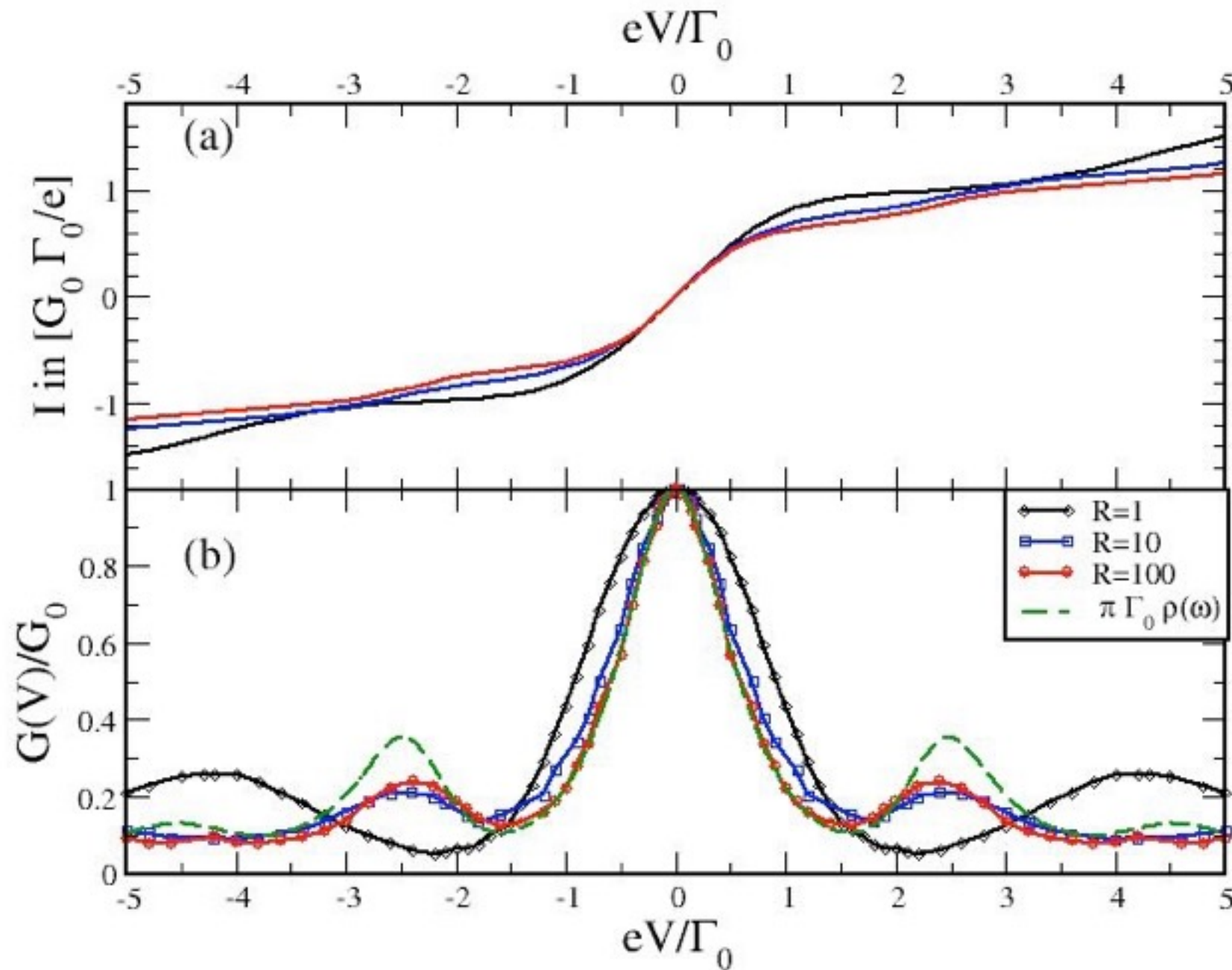
$\Gamma_{\text{eff}}$  : Polaron formation, tunneling suppressed

Lang, Firsov, JETP 16, 1301 (1962)

Eidelstein et al, PRB 87, 075319 (2013)

A. Jovchev, FBA, PRB 87, 195112 (2013)

# ph-symmetric case



$$G_0 = \frac{e^2}{h} \frac{4\Gamma_L \Gamma_R}{\Gamma_0^2}$$

$$R = \frac{\Gamma_L}{\Gamma_R}$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{\text{ph}}}{\Gamma_0} = \frac{\omega_0}{\Gamma_0} = 2$$

tunnel regime  
 $R \rightarrow \infty$

A. Jovchev, FBA, PRB 87, 195112 (2013)

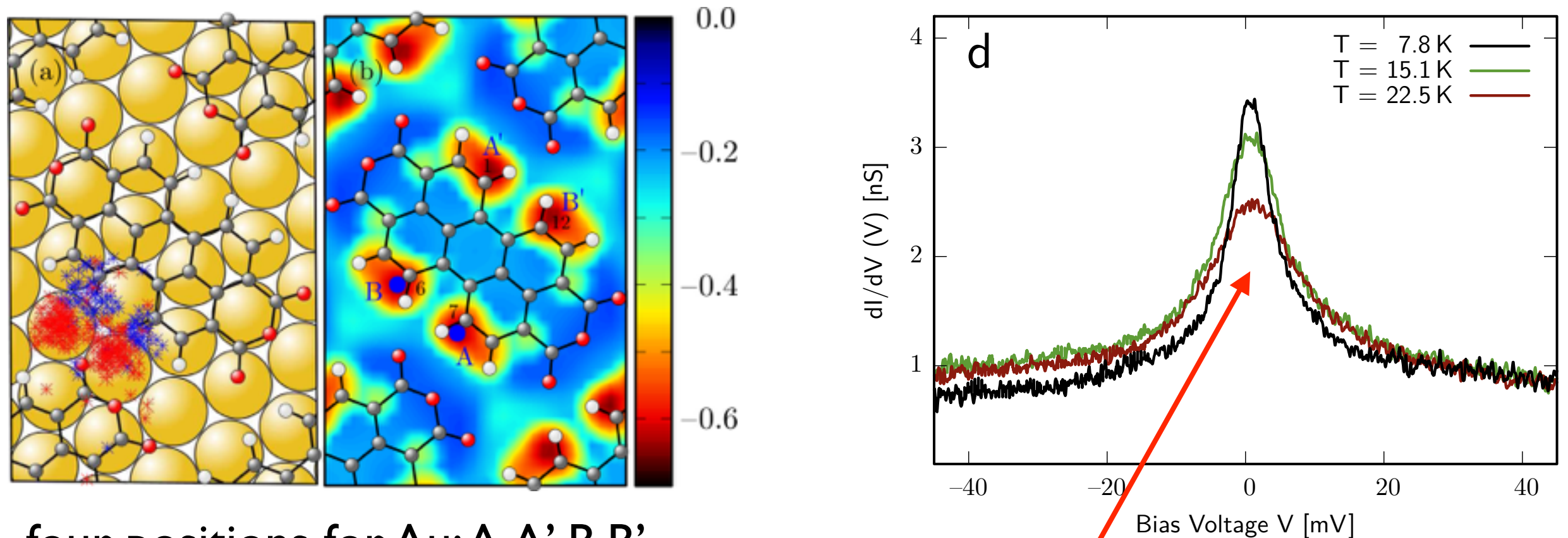
# Applications

1. TD-NRG: propagation of Kondo correlations

2. Steady-state currents

**3. chemically driven quantum phase transition  
in Au/PTCDA dimers on a gold surface**

# STM image Au/PTCDA on Ag(111)



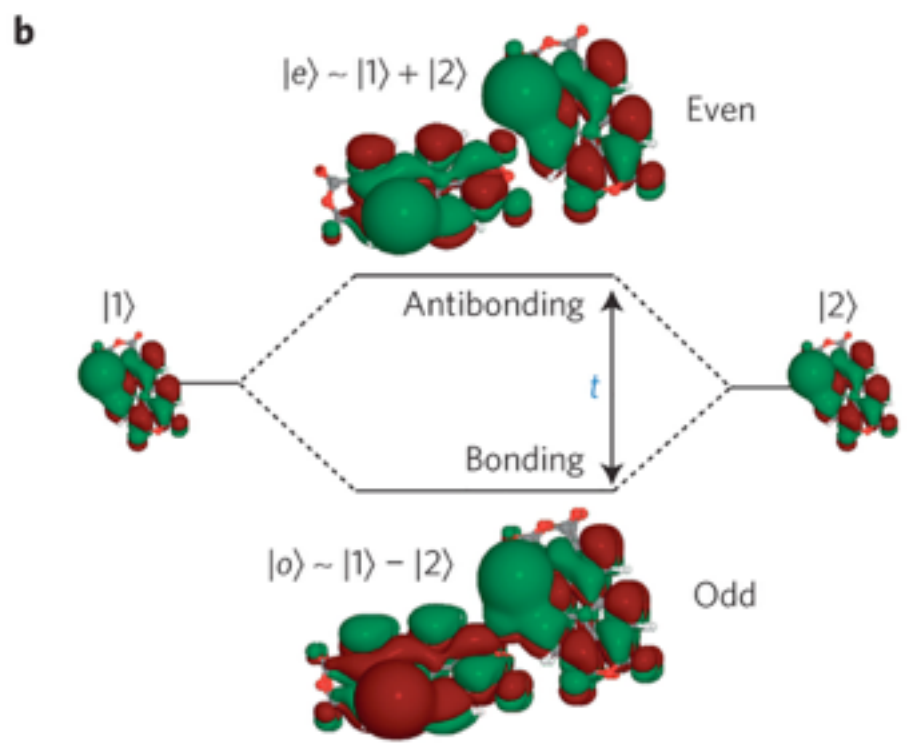
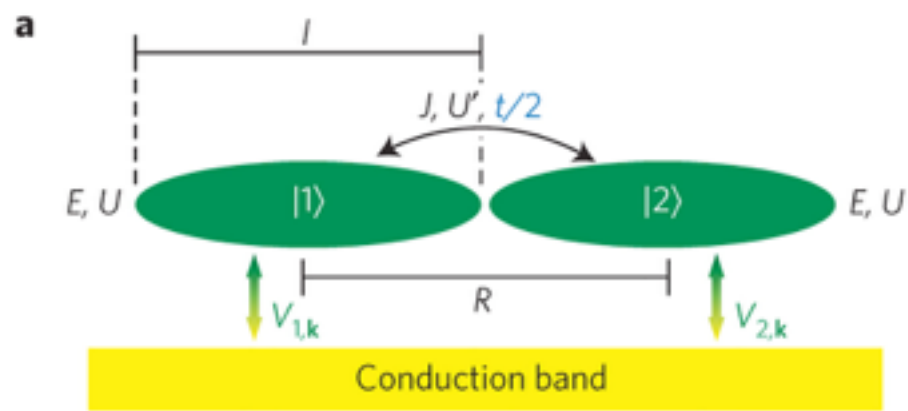
four positions for Au: A, A', B, B'

- an extend  $\pi$  orbital is induced in the Au/PTCDA complex
- ➔ spin moment induced
- ➔ experimental evidence: Kondo effect measured via STM

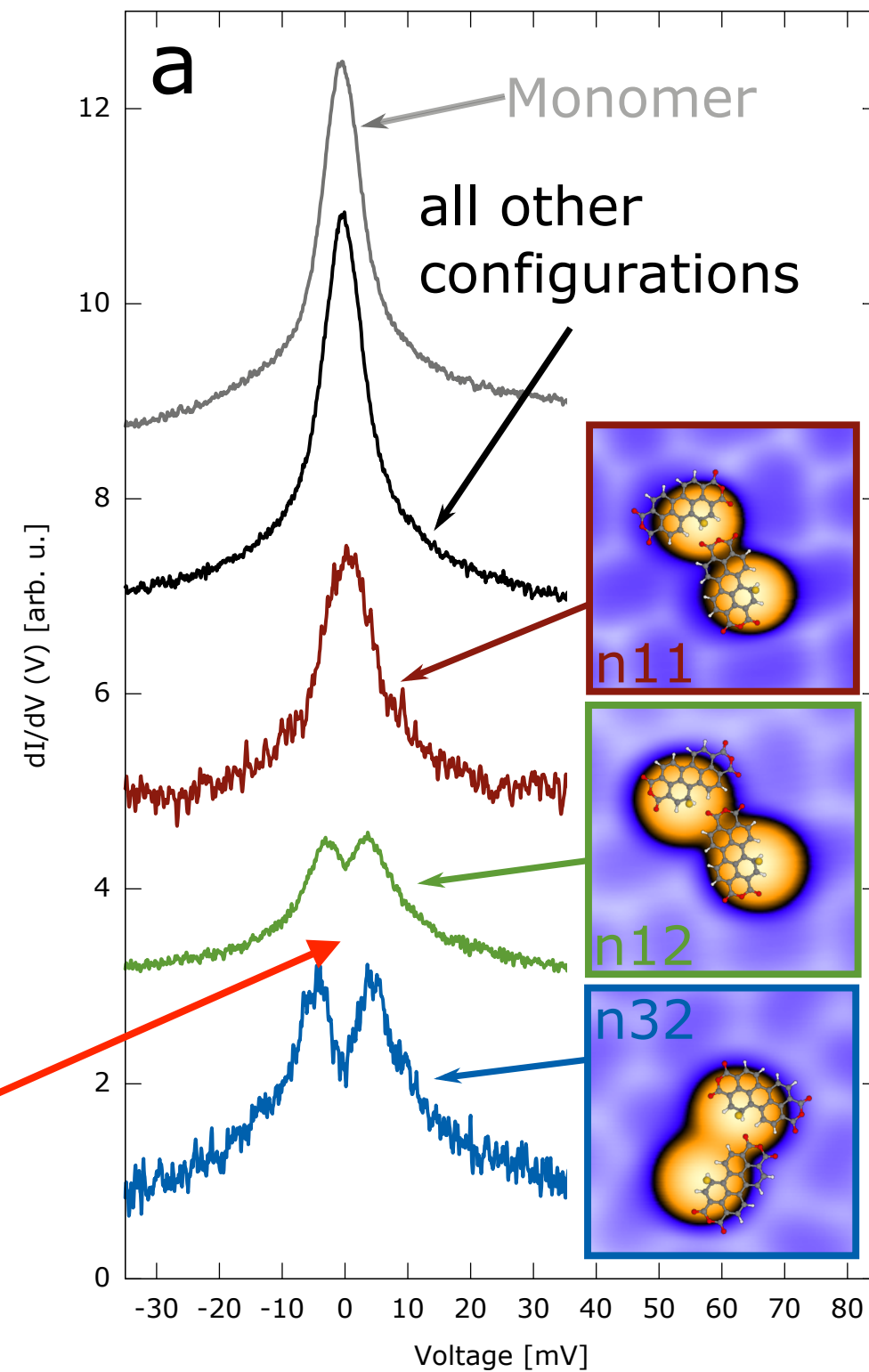
Esat et al, PRB 91,144415 (2015)



# Dimer Au/PTCDA on Au(111)

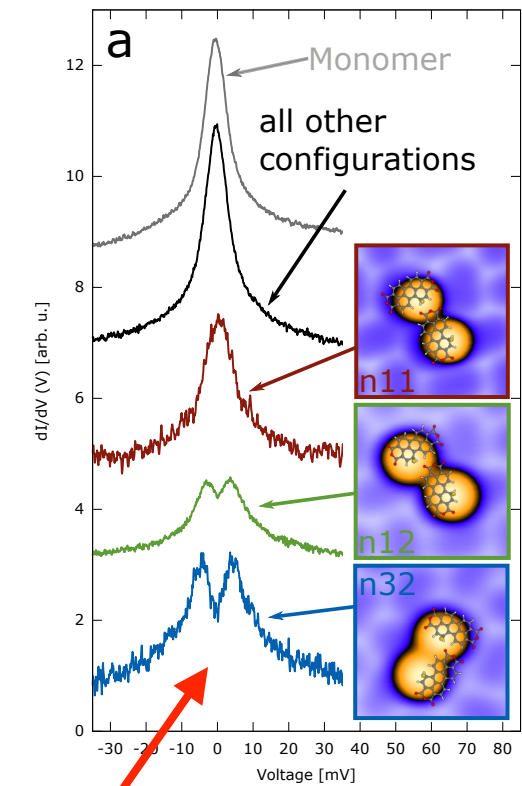
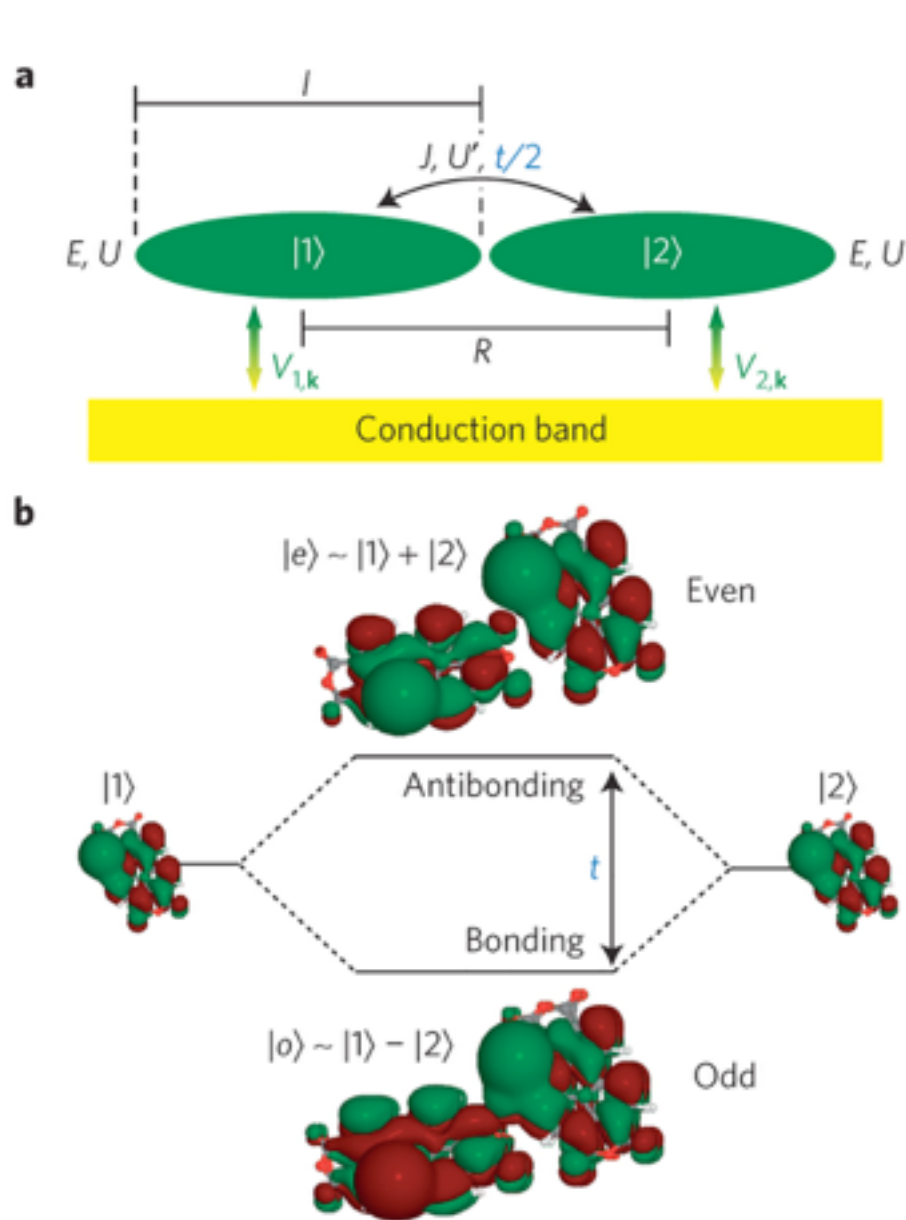


**origin of the gap?**



Esat et al, Nature Physics 2016

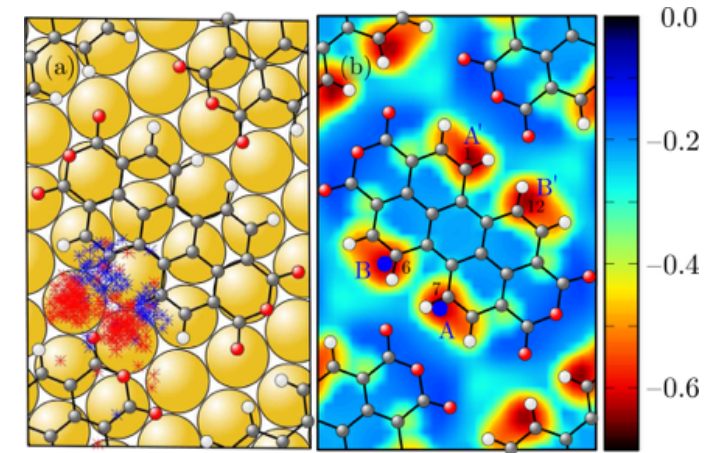
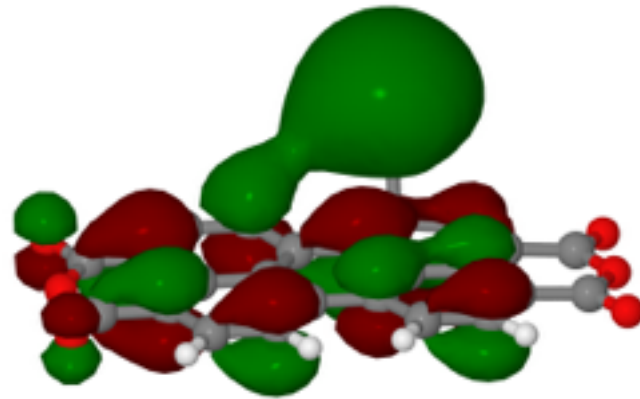
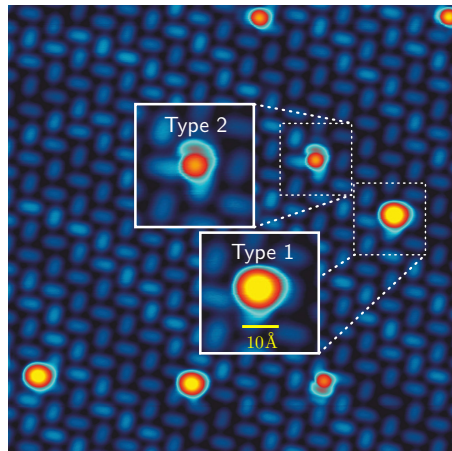
# Dimer Au/PTCDA on Au(111)



- chemical bonding between the  $\pi$  orbitals
- Hund's  $J$  negligible, included via  $J=t^2/U$
- ➔ chemically driven quantum phase transition
- role of parity breaking?

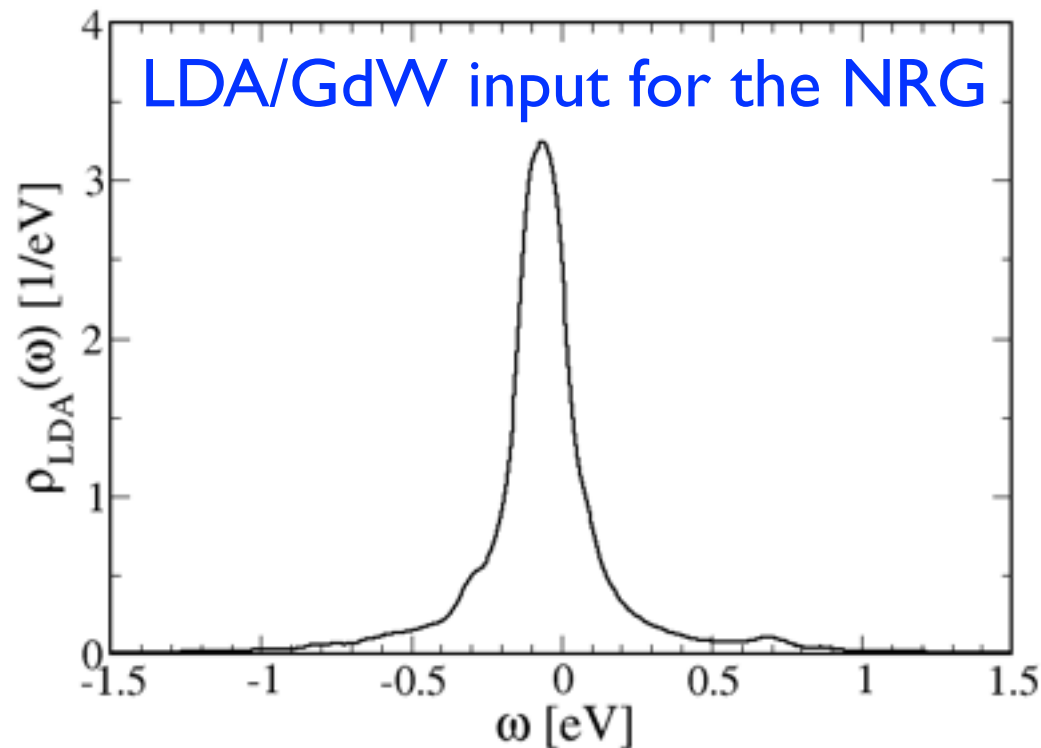
Esat et al, Nature Physics 2016

# Modelling of the Au/PTCDA: combine LDA+NRG



Esat et al, PRB 91,144415 (2015)

Input from LDA+GdW:  $\rho_{\pi}(\omega)$  interpreted as MF DOS



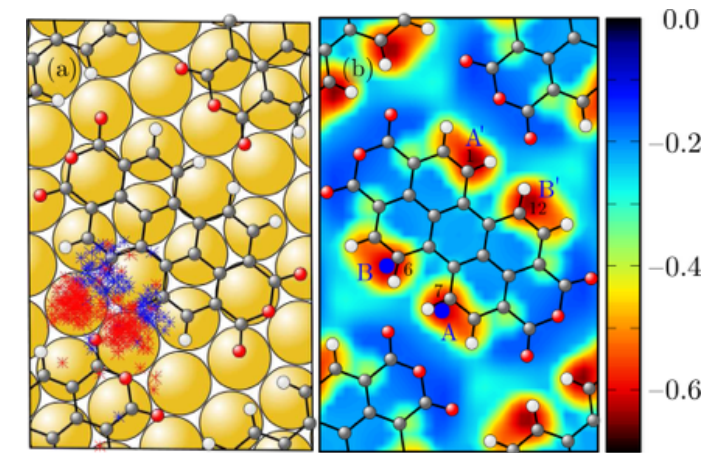
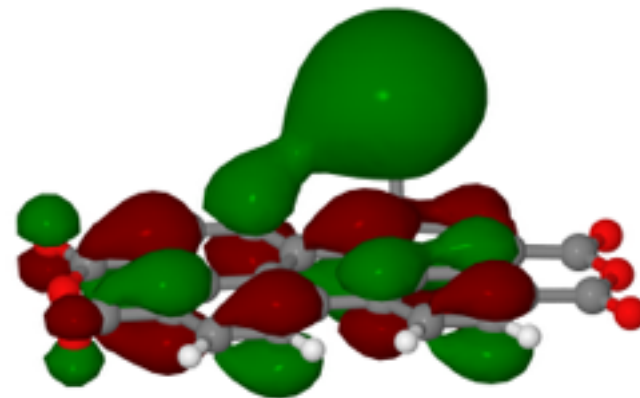
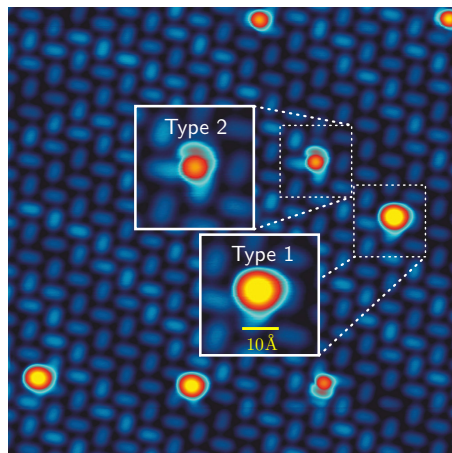
$$G_{\sigma}^{LDA}(z) = \frac{1}{z - E^{\pi} - U \langle n_{-\sigma} \rangle - \Delta(z)}$$

$$\Delta(z) = \sum_k \frac{V_k^2}{z - \varepsilon_k} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \frac{\Gamma(\omega)}{z - \omega}$$

$$U = \int d^3r d^3r' |\psi_{\pi}(\mathbf{r})|^2 W(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') |\psi_{\pi}(\mathbf{r}')|^2$$

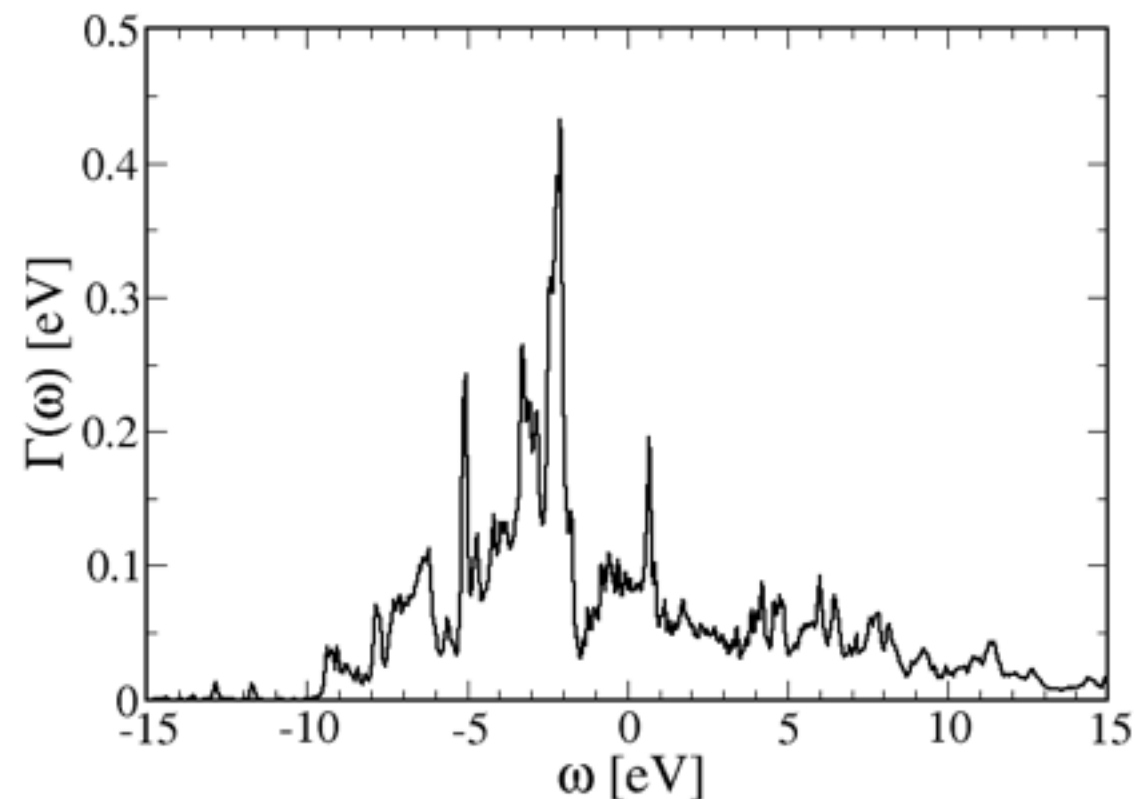
**U known from LDA:  
calculate  $E^{\pi}$  and  $\Gamma(\omega)$**

# Modelling of the Au/PTCDA



Esat et al, PRB 91,144415 (2015)

Input from LDA:  $\rho_{\pi}(\omega)$  interpreted as MF DOS



$$G_{\sigma}^{LDA}(z) = \frac{1}{z - E^{\pi} - U \langle n_{-\sigma} \rangle - \Delta(z)}$$

$$\Delta(z) = \sum_k \frac{V_k^2}{z - \varepsilon_k} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \frac{\Gamma(\omega)}{z - \omega}$$

U known: calculate  $E^{\pi}$  and  $\Gamma(\omega)$

$$U_{\text{dimer}} = 1.4 \text{ eV}$$

$$E^{\pi} \sim -0.95 \text{ eV}$$

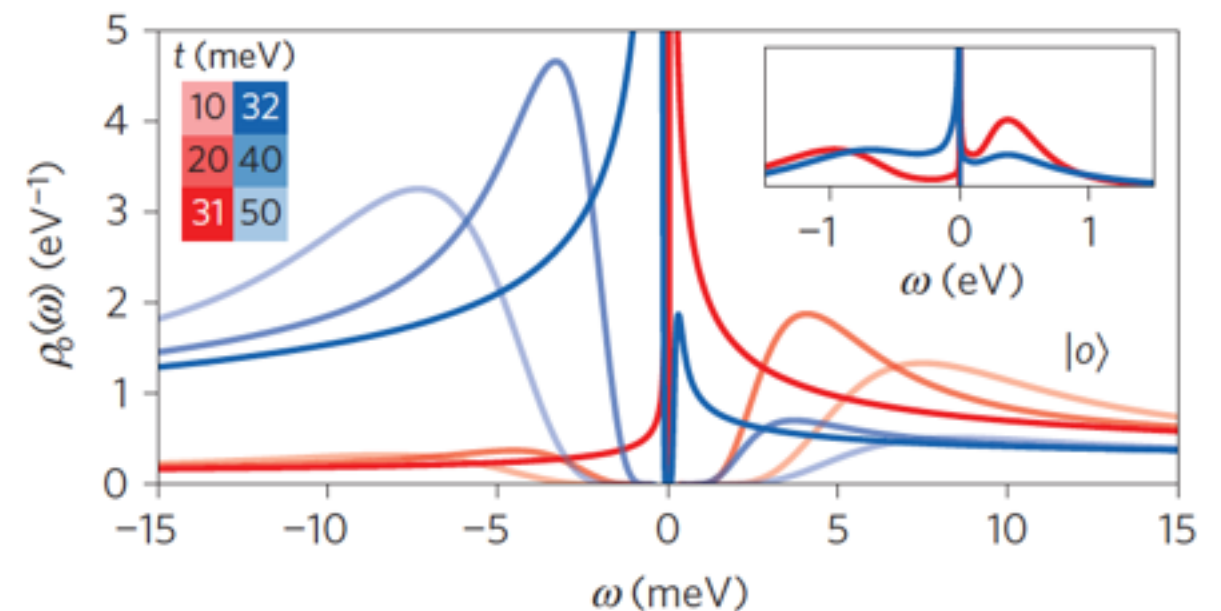
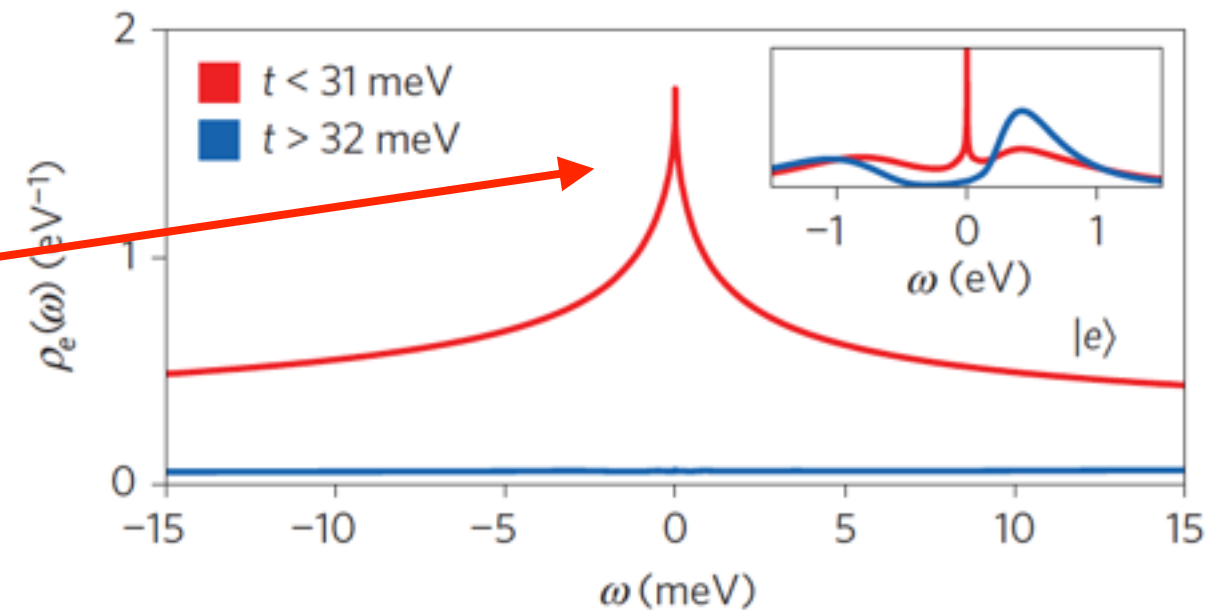
$\Gamma(\omega)$  input for the NRG



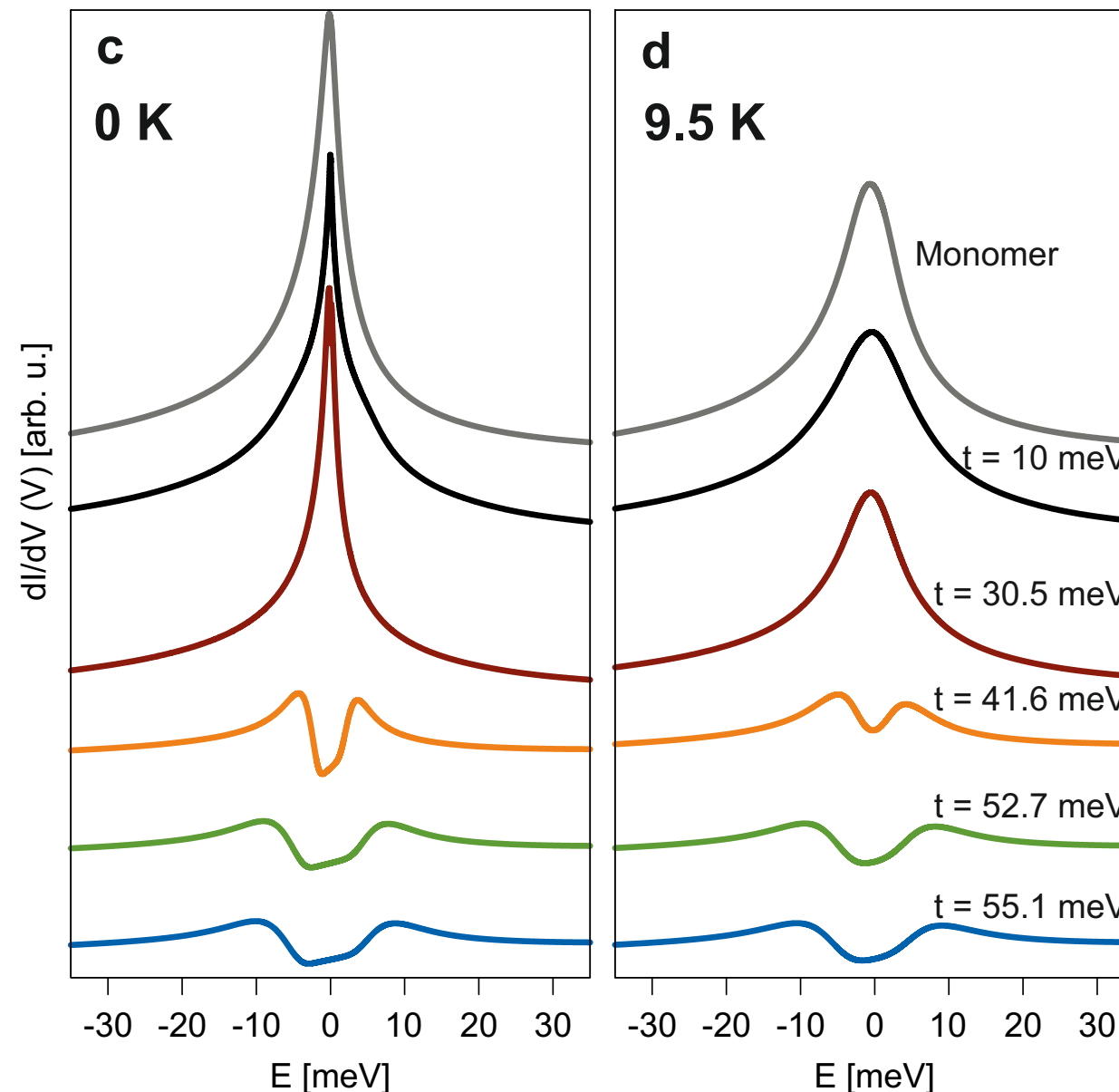
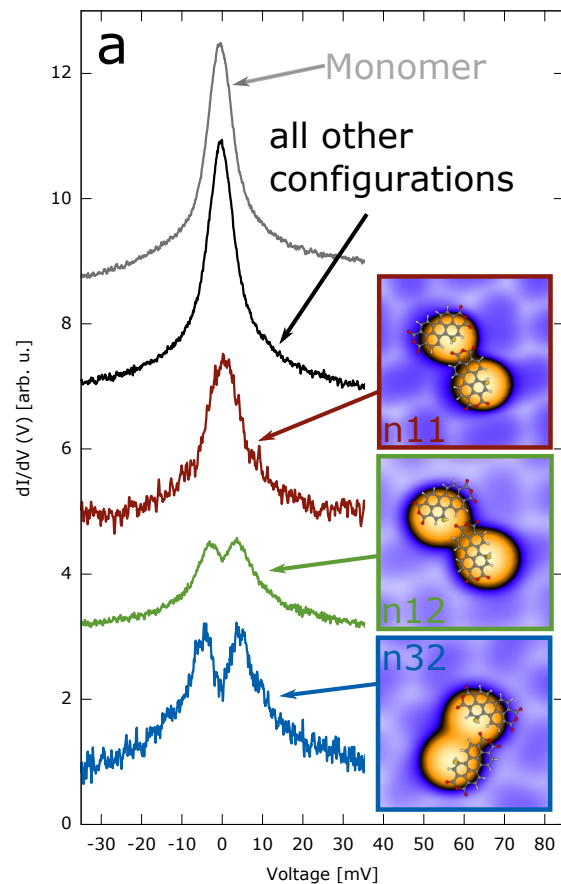
# Dimer: (Au/PTCDA)<sub>2</sub>

Parity conserving:

- Kondo effect: even orbital
- beyond the QCP: total collapse of Kondo resonance
- x-ray edge physics: odd orbital
- **no gap!**



# Dimer Au/PTCDA on Au(111)



- different  $n_{ij}$ : different tunneling  $t$
- parity breaking: gap formation

**LDA+NRG calculations: excellent agreement with experiment with no adjustable parameter**

Esat et al, Nature Physics 2016

# Summary

- The numerical renormalization group is a powerful tool to address nano-devices in the strong coupling regime
- Combining the NRG with ab-initio methods leads to an approach with predictive power.
- The NRG can address
  - ◆ non-equilibrium dynamics
  - ◆ steady-state currents in quantum impurity systems