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Quantum transport in carbon nanotubes

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Carbon nanotubes are a versatile material in which many aspects of condensed matter physics come together. Recent discoveries, enabled by sophisticated fabrication, have uncovered new phenomena that completely change our understanding of transport in these devices, especially the role of the spin and valley degrees of freedom. This review describes the modern understanding of transport through nanotube devices.

Unlike conventional semiconductors, electrons in nanotubes have two angular momentum quantum numbers, arising from spin and from valley freedom. We focus on the interplay between the two. In single quantum dots defined in short lengths of nanotube, the energy levels associated with each degree of freedom, and the spin-orbit coupling between them, are revealed by Coulomb blockade spectroscopy. In double quantum dots, the combination of quantum numbers modifies the selection rules of Pauli blockade. This can be exploited to read out spin and valley qubits, and to measure the decay of these states through coupling to nuclear spins and phonons. A second unique property of carbon nanotubes is that the combination of valley freedom and electron-electron interactions in one dimension strongly modifies their transport behaviour. Interaction between electrons inside and outside a quantum dot is manifested in SU(4) Kondo behavior and level renormalization. Interaction within a dot leads to Wigner molecules and more complex correlated states.

This review takes an experimental perspective informed by recent advances in theory. As well as the well-understood overall picture, we also state clearly open questions for the field. These advances position nanotubes as a leading system for the study of spin and valley physics in one dimension where electronic disorder and hyperfine interaction can both be reduced to a very low level.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATION

Carbon nanotubes are the magic wands of nanotechnology and seem to have it all. They are mechanically ultra-strong, the surface is perfectly clean, electrons move ballistically, and they vibrate like guitar strings with record-breaking quality factors. Moreover, by zipping nanotubes open one obtains the other wonder material, graphene. Together with C_{60}-buckyballs and diamond, these allotropes of carbon have a central position in nanotechnology. Many of their properties have been studied and reviewed in great detail (e.g. Saito et al., 1998).

Nanotube electronic transport properties have been studied since the mid-1990s, first in bulk quantities and since 1997 using individual single-wall nanotubes (Bockrath et al., 1997; Tans et al., 1997). Many of the basic transport properties were quickly discovered, including Coulomb blockade, Fabry-Perot interference, 1D electronic interactions, Kondo physics, spintronics effects, and induced superconductivity. These basic properties
have all been comprehensively reviewed, with both theoretical (e.g. Charlier et al., 2007) and experimental focus (e.g. Biercuk et al., 2008; Schönengerber, 2006). The general understanding in 2008 can be described as ‘consistent on a coarse scale’. On a finer scale the specific properties arising from residual disorder together with the specific, usually unknown, chirality of the nanotube under study were hampering a detailed description. On a coarse scale all nanotubes showed similar transport behaviour, but on a fine scale each experimentally studied nanotube was unique.

An important technical improvement was obtained by a new device scheme in which the nanotube was not exposed to any fabrication chemicals, thereby retaining pristine material quality (Cao et al., 2005). Transport experiments on such “ultra-clean” nanotubes immediately showed more reproducible detail despite the still unknown chirality. Most importantly, the role of spin-orbit interaction was strikingly uncovered (Kuemmeth et al., 2008). Although this spin-orbit interaction had already been predicted (Ando, 2000), it went unobserved and was therefore largely ignored until 2008. The experimental clarity made it clear, however, that detailed understanding of quantum phenomena in carbon nanotubes has to include this effect.

The electronic orbits in nanotubes come in two flavors, known as the $K$ and $K'$ valleys, that roughly correspond to clockwise and counter-clockwise motion around the tube. The resulting quantum states form interesting superpositions of spin up and spin down with the tube. The resulting quantum states form interesting superpositions of spin up and spin down with the $K$ and $K'$ valleys. The central aim of this review is to present a coherent description of spin-orbit and $K-K'$ physics in carbon nanotubes. We present the theory on a conceptual level and make references to detailed calculations in the literature. More details of the theoretical background are given in Appendix B. We highlight experimental results that demonstrate the essential concepts most clearly.

Spin-orbit and $K-K'$ physics and their experimental consequences are first described in Chapters I and III for nanotubes confined as single quantum dots. The quantum dot geometry allows for a precise, straightforward description of energy eigenstates, which can be probed with well-established techniques of Coulomb blockade spectroscopy. Double quantum dots increase the complexity, with quantum states now described by three numbers: spin (up or down), valley ($K$ or $K'$) and location (left or right). Since the occupancy of both quantum dots is so easily controlled by gate voltages, the double dot geometry provides for exquisite experimental control. Chapter IV describes spin-valley selection rules for tunneling, probed by Pauli blockade experiments. The experimental control in double dots is utilized further in Chapter V describing the realization and operation of qubits employing the various options for qubit states.

Chapters IV and V make use of a simplified model with electron-electron interactions included as a capacitive charging energy. In Chapter VI we extend this picture to include interactions between quantum dot states and the continuum in the leads. Quantum dots that are strongly coupled to leads show a strong renormalization of the energy states as well as the formation of macroscopic coherence in a Kondo state. Chapter VI focuses on renormalization and Kondo effects in the specific context of spin-orbit and $K-K'$ physics. In Chapter VII we consider interaction effects within quantum dots, which can be extraordinarily strong in the one-dimensional geometry of nanotubes. In quantum dots of a somewhat longer length, this leads to the formation of correlated Wigner molecules.

II. BASICS OF CARBON NANOTUBE DEVICES

A. Structure of carbon nanotubes

Carbon nanotubes consist of one or more concentric cylinders of graphene (Saito et al., 1998). Both multi-wall and single-wall carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs and SWCNTs) can be synthesized and measured, but in this review, we will discuss only SWCNTs. As well as being simpler, these are the most studied both experimentally and theoretically.

The structure of nanotubes derives from the structure of graphene. An SWCNT is equivalent to a rolled-up strip taken from the two-dimensional honeycomb of carbon atoms that makes up a graphene sheet (Fig. I(a)). Since there are infinitely many ways of selecting a strip to roll up, there are correspondingly many different nanotube structures. Each structure is specified by its chiral vector $C$, which connects lattice sites on opposite sides of the strip that are superposed by rolling up into a nanotube. A given structure is usually labelled by its chiral indices $(n, m)$, which are the coordinates of the chiral vector $C = na_1 + ma_2$ in terms of the graphene basis vectors $a_1$, $a_2$. From Fig. I(a), $n$ and $m$ are both integers; furthermore, to ensure that the same structure is not labelled two different ways, $m$ is conventionally taken in the range $-n/2 < m \leq n$. Instead of specifying $(n, m)$, a nanotube can also be described by its diameter and chiral
and not discussed further in this review. However, they are identical, except for a small nonlinear conductance prestructure. The transport properties of isomer pairs are identical except for a small nonlinear conductance prestructure. The transport properties of isomer pairs are identical except for a small nonlinear conductance prestructure. The transport properties of isomer pairs are identical except for a small nonlinear conductance prestructure.

Chiral nanotubes lack inversion symmetry; the inversion

arrangement of atoms along a cut normal to the nanotube circumference (inset) and connects lattice sites that are brought together by rolling up. Chiral indices \((n,m)\) completely define the nanotube structure. The unit cell of the nanotube (which is much larger than the unit cell of graphene) is outlined by dashed lines, and the unit vector \(T\) is indicated. Graphene coordinates \((x,y,z)\), nanotube coordinates \((t,c,r)\) and the chiral angle \(\theta\) are also marked. In this example, \((n,m) = (6,2)\) and \(\theta = 13.9^\circ\) (adapted from Churchill et al. 2012). (b) Nanotubes are divided into three classes according to their chiral indices: Zig-zag, armchair or chiral. Zig-zag and armchair nanotubes are so called because of the shape of the edge formed by a cut perpendicular to the nanotube axis (see highlighted lines in (a)). These three nanotubes are \((12,0)\), \((6,6)\) and \((6,4)\) (Charlier et al. 2007). (c,d) Nanotubes directly imaged by transmission electron microscopy (t), a (28,0) zig-zag nanotube (Warner et al. 2011) and scanning tunneling microscopy (d), an unidentified chiral nanotube (Venema et al. 1998).

Two special cases are zig-zag structures \((m = 0)\) and armchair structures \((n = m)\), so called because of the arrangement of atoms along a cut normal to the nanotube. Structures not in either category are called chiral (Fig. 1(b)). Unlike armchair and zig-zag structures, chiral nanotubes lack inversion symmetry; the inversion isomer of an \((n,m)\) chiral structure is an \((n + m, -m)\) structure. The transport properties of isomer pairs are identical, except for a small nonlinear conductance predicted at high magnetic field (Ivchenko and Spivak 2002) and not discussed further in this review. However, they do differ in their optical activity (Peng et al. 2007, Samsonidze et al. 2004). Some structure parameters and their dependence on chiral indices are given in Table I.

This structure is confirmed by atomic-resolution microscopy. Transmission electron microscopy images the entire cross section, allowing exact chiral indices to be deduced (Fig. 1(c)). Nanotubes on surfaces can be imaged by scanning tunneling microscopy (Fig. 1(d)), although because of the poor edge resolution, the precise chirality is usually undetermined. Both images confirm the atomic arrangement of Fig. 1(a), with the same atomic spacing \(a_{CC} = 0.142\) nm as graphite.

Unfortunately, high-resolution microscopy is usually incompatible with transport measurements and the chiral indices of nanotubes in electronic devices are often unknown. A few experiments have combined transport measurements with structure determination by electron diffraction (Allen et al. 2011, Kociak et al. 2002). The structure can also be determined using optical Raman or Rayleigh spectroscopy, which is less invasive but does not always give unambiguous chiral indices (Cao et al. 2004, Deshpande et al. 2009, Huang et al. 2005). Most of the results in this review will therefore be from nanotubes of unknown chirality; however, as discussed in the next chapter, the electronic properties of nanotubes are sufficiently independent of the chiral indices that most of the underlying physics can still be explored.

B. Quantum dots

A basic carbon nanotube electronic device is shown in Fig. 2(a). The purpose is to allow measurement of the electrical current \(I\) through a single nanotube (Bock et al. 2002).
C. Fabrication challenges of gated quantum devices

The realization of clean and tunable quantum dots in carbon nanotubes is not straightforward. Unlike carriers in III-V heterostructures, which are separated from the crystal’s surface by an atomically clean buffer layer, the nanotube’s \( \pi \)-band is comprised of atomic \( p \)-orbitals that stick out perpendicular to the surface (see Sec. [III]). Patterning of gate oxides, mechanical deformation, and contamination from fabrication chemicals can easily induce disorder and irreproducible device characteristics (Bezryadin et al. 1998; Zhu et al. 2005).

The characteristics of nanotube quantum dots depend on the bandgap, which varies widely between different nanotubes (Section [III.B]). Semiconducting nanotubes (bandgap \( \gtrsim 0.1 \) eV) often show poor transport characteristics at low carrier density and low temperature. Presumably, this arises from unintentional localization of carriers into disordered puddles, facilitated by the carriers’ relatively large effective mass. Conversely, in quasimetallic nanotubes (bandgap \( \lesssim 10 \) meV), controlled creation of sufficiently opaque barriers by electrostatic potentials is difficult, presumably due to the small effective mass (Section [III.B.1]). Sharp kinks made by atomic force microscope (AFM) manipulation or mechanical templating can be used to locally induce bandgaps and backscattering centers (Biercuk et al. 2004; Bozovic et al. 2001; Park et al. 2002; Postma et al. 2001; Stokes and Khondaker 2008; Yao et al. 1999), resulting in addressable tunnel barriers and Coulomb blockade even at room temperature. A similar effect can occur unintentionally due to disordered mechanical deformations induced by fabrication (Bezryadin et al. 1998).

The largest experimental interest has been attracted by devices between these extremes (narrow-gap nanotubes), for which tunable tunnel barriers can be induced locally by electrostatic gates rather easily. These nanotubes allow gate-controlled double-dot devices that do not uncontrollably break up into disordered puddles, yet their tunnel barriers remain tuneable over a wide range, even in the few-charge regime. Most devices can be classified according to whether gate fabrication occurs after nanotube growth (top gating), before growth (bottom gating), or on a separate chip (mechanical transfer method).

1. Top gating

The simplest way to make nanotube devices is usually to fabricate electrodes on top of carbon nanotubes. This allows complex devices with a wide range of contact materials including normal metals, ferromagnets, and superconductors. After growth or deposition, suitable nanotubes are imaged, and the electrodes are patterned subsequently by electron-beam lithography and liftoff. Early single-electron transistors were contacted in this way (Bockrath et al. 1997), as were the first double quantum dots (Mason et al. 2004). Although cleanliness and fabrication-induced disorder are a concern in this approach, devices fabricated this way have demonstrated ambipolar operation and discrete excited states (Biercuk et al. 2005), as well as charge sensing and pulsed gate spectroscopy (Biercuk et al. 2006; Gotz et al. 2008).

Full control of a double quantum dots requires at least five gate electrodes, necessitating devices with thin, high-dielectric constant gate oxides (e.g. aluminum or hafnium oxide deposited by atomic layer deposition) and densely packed gate arrays (Churchill et al. 2009a,b). Such a device is shown in Fig. 3(a-b), consisting of a fully tunable double quantum dot capacitively coupled via a floating gate electrode to a charge sensing single quantum
FIG. 3 (Color online) Schematics (a,c,e) and scanning electron micrographs (b,d,f) of devices fabricated by different methods. (a-b) Top gating: Nanotubes are located on a growth chip, and electrodes fabricated afterwards. Here a nanotube (not visible) is contacted by metal electrodes (purple) and covered by a thin gate oxide. Five gates (blue, green) control a double quantum dot, while a floating coupling antenna (orange) allows charge sensing via a separate dot formed on the same nanotube. Adapted from (Churchill et al., 2009b).
(c-d) Bottom gating: Trench, contacts, and gate electrodes are fabricated from inert materials before synthesis, and nanotubes grown across. (e-f) Mechanical transfer: Suspended nanotubes are synthesized on a growth chip, while electrodes are patterned on a device chip. By stamping the chips together, a nanotube is transferred to the device. Electrical current can be used to cut the nanotube at specific places. In this complex two-nanotube device, five gates (blue) define a single or double quantum dot in the upper nanotube, while a pair of dots in the lower nanotube serve as independent charge sensors. Adapted from (Waissman et al., 2013).

dot on the same nanotube. Among other applications, these devices allow measurement of spin relaxation and dephasing (Chapter V). By selectively etching the substrate underneath the nanotube, suspended devices can also be fabricated (Leturcq et al., 2009).

2. Bottom gating

A drawback of top gating is that the fabrication process itself can introduce disorder in the nanotube. An alternative is to grow or deposit nanotubes over predefined electrodes, resulting in devices with improved control and cleanliness (Cao et al., 2005). Early single quantum dots were realized by depositing nanotubes across Pt source and drain electrodes, using the Si/SiO$_2$ substrate as a backgate (Tans et al., 1997). Similar to graphene devices, where suspending the layer dramatically improved the mobility (Bolotin et al., 2008; Du et al., 2008), suspended nanotubes often showed near-ideal transport characteristics, indicating that much of the disorder arises from interactions with the substrate (Ilani and McEuen, 2010; Jung et al., 2013; Steele et al., 2009b).

Motivated by the results of suspended single quantum dots as in Fig. 3(d), more complex contact and gate arrays were developed that can be loaded into the nanotube growth furnace as the last step before cool down and measurements (Knemmeth et al., 2008; Steele et al., 2009b). Although these devices were of high quality and resulted in new discoveries, the harsh conditions in the growth reactor greatly restrict the materials and design. The overall device yield is low because a nanotube must grow across contacts and gates by chance.

3. Mechanical transfer

Mechanical transfer attempts to benefit from the best of both approaches, achieving high gate tunability without post-growth processing. The device chip (without nanotubes) and the growth chip (with nanotubes suspended across trenches) are fabricated separately. Just before measurement, a single nanotube is transferred from growth chip to device chip using an aligned stamping process (Pei et al., 2012; Wu et al., 2010). By employing piezo-controlled scanning probe microscope manipulators, the transfer is possible in vacuum at cryogenic temperatures (Waissman et al., 2013), allowing the cleanliness of the nanotube to be tested in situ. A state-of-the-art example is shown in Fig. 3(e-f).

D. Nanotube synthesis and isotopic engineering

For basic research applications nanotubes are readily synthesized in desktop-sized furnaces, using chemical va-

2 Nanotubes that have never been in contact with solvents, resists,
por deposition (usually from methane, ethanol or ethylene) in the presence of suitable catalysts [Kong et al., 1999; Kuemmeth et al., 2010]. Unlike III-V devices such as GaAs double dots, in which all stable isotopes possess a nuclear spin magnetic moment, carbon nanotubes allow fabrication of devices with and without nuclear spins in the host material in a straightforward way.

Nanotubes synthesized from natural hydrocarbons consist of 99% 12C and ~1% 13C. By using isotopically purified 13CH4 or 12CH4, the isotopic composition can be tuned during growth. This not only affects the phonon modes (revealed by Raman spectroscopy [Liu and Fan, 2001]), but also the electron spin properties, because 13C possesses a nuclear spin |I| = 1/2, while 12C has |I| = 0. As discussed in section IV.D a local spin impurity (such as 13C) can flip the spin and/or valley of an electron.

III. CARBON NANOTUBE BANDSTRUCTURE

Just as the atomic structure of carbon nanotubes can be derived from that of graphene, the electronic band structure inherits from graphene many of its properties. However, the simple effect of being rolled up drastically modifies the band structure, leading to many effects that are not present in graphene. The most dramatic difference is the introduction of a bandgap, which allows electrons in nanotubes to be confined using gate voltages, but a variety of more subtle effects arise, which will be discussed in this chapter.

Briefly, the results are as follows. Although graphene is a semimetal, the formation of a nanotube leads to a confinement bandgap (a few hundred meV) for two-thirds of the possible structures. These are known as semiconducting nanotubes. Most of the remaining nominally metallic nanotubes show narrow bandgaps (∼10 meV) due to a combination of curvature and strain. If the bandgap is undetectably small, the nanotube is called quasimetallic, and a metallic nanotube is defined as one for which the bandgap is exactly zero. More subtle details of the band structure become evident in a magnetic field, including a magnetic moment associated with the valley degree of freedom, and spin-orbit coupling that is much stronger than in graphene and arises from curvature.

A. From atomic carbon to graphene band structure

To understand nanotube band structure, we begin with the energy levels of atomic carbon. In a free atom, the six electrons occupy the configuration 1s^22s^22p^2. The outermost atomic shell includes one spherically symmetric s-orbital and three p-orbitals p_x, p_y, p_z (Fig. 4(a)). Because of twofold spin degeneracy in each orbital, there are therefore eight states in the outermost shell of the atom, of which four are occupied.

The 2s–2p energy splitting is small enough (less than a typical bond energy) that all four outermost orbitals can hybridize to form covalent bonds. For a given structure, the number of 2p orbitals that hybridize with the 2s orbital is determined by symmetry. In graphene, the p_z orbital, oriented perpendicular to the plane, is odd under z inversion and therefore cannot hybridize with the even-parity 2s orbital. No such symmetry protects the p_x and p_y orbitals. This type of hybridization, in which an s-orbital is mixed with two p-orbitals, is known as sp^2 hybridization.

In graphene, these three orbitals further hybridize across neighbouring atoms in the crystal, forming a low-energy (bonding) band σ and a high-energy (antibonding) band σ^* (Fig. 4(b)). Likewise, hybridization of the p_z orbitals forms bonding and antibonding bands denoted π and π^*, although with smaller bonding energy because the interatomic overlap is less. In undoped graphene, the electrons exactly fill the bonding bands, with three electrons per atom occupying σ and one occupying π. The σ band remains filled at all times and does not participate in transport. The electrical behaviour of nanotubes is
therefore determined almost entirely by the properties of the \( \pi \) and \( \pi^\ast \) bands.

Ignoring spin-orbit coupling, the \( p_z \) orbitals do not hybridize with any of the lower-lying states, so the structure of the \( \pi \) and \( \pi^\ast \) bands follows simply from energy levels in the honeycomb graphene potential. Graphene consists of a rhombus unit cell with a two-atom basis (Fig. 4(c)), and has the hexagonal Brillouin zone shown in Fig. 4(d). The corners of this hexagon in \( k \)-space are alternately labelled \( K \) or \( K' \). Because the three \( K \) points are connected by reciprocal lattice vectors, by Bloch’s theorem they correspond to equivalent electron states; likewise, the three \( K' \) points are equivalent to each other, but not to the \( K \) points. States close to the \( K' \) point are time-reversal conjugates of those close to the \( K \) point.

The band structure that arises from this potential (Fig. 4(e)) has quite unusual properties (Castro Neto et al., 2009; Saito et al., 1998; Wallace, 1947). Although there is no bandgap, the \( \pi \) and \( \pi^\ast \) bands touch only at \( K \) and \( K' \), where the density of states is zero. Since the available electrons exactly fill the \( \pi \) band, these points are where the Fermi level \( E_F \) intersects the band structure, so that undoped graphene is neither a true metal nor a true semiconductor, but a semimetal. Close to the Fermi surface, the dispersion relation is linear, with a slope that determines the Fermi velocity

\[
\nu_F = \frac{1}{\hbar} |\nabla_k E| \approx 8 \times 10^5 \text{ ms}^{-1}.
\]

Expanding about the \( K \) or \( K' \) point by writing \( k = K + \kappa \) or \( k = K' + \kappa \), and defining \( E_F \) as the zero of energy, the dispersion relation for \( |\kappa| \ll |K| \) is simply

\[
E = \pm \hbar \nu_F |\kappa|, \tag{1}
\]

where the + sign applies to electrons and the − to holes. Because this dispersion relation also describes massless Dirac fermions, the points where the bands touch are known as Dirac points, and the nearby bands as Dirac cones. The correspondence of electron states in a nanotube with solutions of a Dirac-like equation is explained in detail in Appendix [5]. Although we use this correspondence only in a few places in this Review, it is theoretically convenient because it allows many effects on nanotube band structure to be derived as perturbations to the Dirac equation.

3 This value is derived from numerical simulations of graphite (Painter and Ellis, 1970; Fatar and Rabii, 1982; Trickey et al., 1992) and nanotubes (Millium et al., 1992), which indicate \( \nu_F = 7.8 \pm 0.9 \times 10^5 \text{ ms}^{-1} \) (although interactions may renormalize the value significantly (Kane and Mele, 2004)), as well as nanotube STM density-of-states measurements (Odom et al., 1998; Wilder et al., 1998) and ballistic electron resonance experiments (Zhong et al., 2008), which give \( \nu_F = 7.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^5 \text{ ms}^{-1} \).

FIG. 5 (Color online) The effect of periodic boundary conditions around the nanotube circumference. (a,b) Requiring the electron wavefunction to be single-valued constrains \( k \) to lie on one of the quantization lines in reciprocal space corresponding to integer values of \( k_z D/2 \). If quantization lines intersect the Dirac points the nanotube is metallic (a), otherwise it is semiconducting (b), with minimum quantization line offset \( \Delta k_z = 2/3D \). The \( \{k_z, k_r\} \) axes in reciprocal space, corresponding to motion around or along the nanotube, are indicated. (c,d) Dispersion relations (in the lowest-energy one-dimensional band) close to a Dirac point for the two kinds of nanotube, showing how the offset gives rise to a bandgap. The Fermi level for undoped nanotubes is indicated. (e) Examples of quantization lines for several metallic and semiconducting structures of the three types shown in Fig. 1(b). Alone of the six possibilities, armchair semiconducting nanotubes do not exist.

B. Semiconducting, narrow-gap and metallic nanotubes

1. Theory

Since the nanotube diameter is usually much larger than the interatomic spacing, the graphene band structure is to a good approximation unperturbed by rolling up into a nanotube except for the imposition of a periodic boundary condition (Hamada et al., 1992; Saito et al., 1992). This is known as the ‘zone-folding approximation’. The boundary condition to ensure single-valuedness is that \( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{C} = 2\pi p \), where \( p \) is an integer, i.e. the component of \( \mathbf{k} \) perpendicular to the nanotube
axis is \( k_\perp = 2p/D \). The allowed \( k \)-values correspond to a series of lines in reciprocal space, known as quantization lines, running at an angle \( \pi/3 + \theta \) from the \( k_x \) axis (Fig. 3a-b)).

The one-dimensional dispersion relation \( E(\kappa_\parallel) \) is a cut along the quantization lines of the two-dimensional graphene dispersion relation. Since it is the branches closest to \( E_F \) that determine transport properties, we neglect the other branches. The nanotube bandgap depends on the minimum separation of the quantization lines from the Dirac points. There are two possible situations. If quantization lines run straight through the Dirac points (Fig. 3a,c)), then \( E(\kappa_\parallel) \) is linear near \( \kappa_\parallel = 0 \), giving zero bandgap and a metallic nanotube. However, if the lines bypass the Dirac points with separation \( \Delta \kappa_\perp \), the situation is as shown in Fig. 3b,d). The dispersion relation gives a pair of hyperbolae with bandgap \( E_G = 2\hbar v_F \Delta \kappa_\perp \), and therefore a semiconducting nanotube.

In the zone-folding approximation, the bandgap is determined by a simple rule: If \( n-m \) is a multiple of three, the nanotube is nominally metallic. Otherwise, it is semiconducting, with bandgap \( E_G = 4\hbar v_F/3D \approx 700 \text{ meV}/D[\text{nm}] \). In a collection of nanotubes with random chiral indices, semiconducting nanotubes will therefore outnumber metallic ones by approximately 2:1. Figure 3c) illustrates how the chiral indices determine whether the quantization lines intersect the Dirac points for various nanotube structures. Examples of both cases are shown for the three kinds of structure defined in Fig. 1(b), with one exception: Zig-zag and chiral tubes can be either semiconducting or metallic, but all armchair nanotubes are metallic.

The nanotube structure also sets the electron dispersion relation and hence the effective mass. The equation of the hyperbola in Fig. 3d) is (Zhou et al. 2005):

\[
E^\pm(\kappa_\parallel) = \pm \sqrt{\hbar^2 v_F^2 \kappa_\parallel^2 + E_G^2/4}. \tag{2}
\]

This low-energy dispersion relation is clearly electron-hole symmetric. This is a fragile symmetry, because any charge in the environment breaks it, but it is sometimes reflected in data (Jarillo-Herrero et al. 2004).

The effective mass arises from the curvature of the dispersion relation and for low energy (\( |E^\pm(\kappa_\parallel)| \ll E_G \)) is therefore:

\[
m_{\text{eff}} = \hbar^2 / \frac{d^2E}{d\kappa_\parallel^2} \approx E_G/7.3 \text{ eV} \times m_e, \tag{3}
\]

where \( m_e \) is the free electron mass. A bandgap of 100 meV corresponds to effective mass \( \sim 0.014m_e \), smaller than that in many conventional semiconductors (e.g. in GaAs \( m_{\text{eff}} = 0.067m_e \)). Because small \( m_{\text{eff}} \) leads to larger longitudinal level spacing, nanotubes with small \( E_G \) are often preferred for quantum dot experiments.

2. Valley as a good quantum number

Just as in graphene, the band structure in nanotubes is characterized by the two distinct valleys \( K \) and \( K' \), that are time-conjugate to each other. In graphene the robustness of the valley quantum number is linked to the symmetries of the lattice. Mixing between valleys requires a large transfer of crystal momentum, and is therefore weak in a smoothly varying Coulomb potential. This is less obvious in metallic nanotubes, because the two Dirac points sometimes remain well separated in momentum space, and sometimes they merge at \( k_z = 0 \). In fact, all metallic nanotubes (see Fig. 3b) can be classified in two classes (Samsonidze et al. 2003): the two Dirac points are either well-separated in longitudinal momentum space (such nanotubes are known as armchair-like metals), or collapse to the origin of the longitudinal Brillouin zone (zigzag-like metals). For chiral metallic nanotubes, this classification is possible by introducing a helical translational basis vector (Lunde et al. 2005). For the zigzag-like metals, the two bands at \( k_z = 0 \) are distinct by having different crystal angular momentum (Lunde et al. 2005).
where the angular momentum is defined as the quantum number related to the rotation part of the helical symmetry (White et al. 1993). In the armchair-like metals, the angular momenta are the same, but their longitudinal crystal momenta differ by $4\pi/3|T|$. Consequently, in both cases valley-valley scattering is suppressed by a difference in crystal angular momenta or crystal longitudinal momenta. Scattering within a valley may also require atomically sharp Coulomb scatterers or lattice imperfections, due to the spinor structure of the solutions to the Dirac equation, which differs between right movers and left movers (Ando and Nakanishi 1998; Ando et al. 1998; McEuen et al. 1999; Roche et al. 2002).

Armchair-like and zigzag-like band structures are exemplified in Fig. 6 The number of subbands equals the number of carbon atoms in the unit cell of the nanotube, spanned by C and T in Fig. 1(a). Each subband shown is two-fold degenerate due to spin, and can be thought of arising from a mapping of the quantization lines in Fig. 5 into the 1D Brillouin zone of the nanotube.

Local Coulomb scatterers can flip the valley index (Pályi and Burkard 2010), and spin-carrying impurities can flip both spin and valley with comparable rates (Pályi and Burkard 2009). One example is hyperfine coupling to nuclear $^{13}$C spins, which can cause both spin and valley relaxation. Another example is the local part of the electron-electron interaction, discussed in Chapter VII and Appendix B. In addition, electrical contacts can induce valley scattering due to valley mixing during tunneling (Sec. VI.C).

3. Experiment

Nanotubes of different kinds can be distinguished experimentally by measuring the current as a function of $V_G$ at fixed $V_{SD}$, as in Fig. 7(a-c). The potential induced by $V_G$ shifts the energy levels up or down and therefore tunes the position of the gap relative to $E_F$. Tuning $E_F$ into the bandgap suppresses the current. This can be seen in Fig. 7(a), where the Fermi level is shifted from the valence band (for $V_G \leq 0$) to the bandgap (for $V_G \geq 0$), showing that the nanotube is semiconducting. A quasi-metallic nanotube, by contrast, is one with no dependence on $V_G$ (Fig. 7(c)), indicating $E_G \ll k_B T$, where $k_B$ is Boltzmann’s constant and $T$ is temperature.

Experimentally, the fraction of nanotubes showing quasi-metallic behavior at room temperature is very small (\lesssim 1%) (Churchill 2012). More common is ‘narrow-gap’ behavior (Fig. 7(b)), where partial current suppression indicates a small bandgap $E_G \sim k_B T$ at room temperature (Ouyang et al. 2001). This interpretation is confirmed by low-temperature experiments (Fig. 7(d)), where precise measurements from Coulomb peak positions frequently give $E_G \sim 10 – 100$ meV (e.g. in Fig. 7(d), $E_G = 60$ meV). To explain such small bandgaps from circumferential quantization alone requires $D = 7 – 70$ nm, which would be structurally unstable and is excluded by AFM topography measurements. More likely, nearly all nanotubes that the zone-folding model predicts should be metallic acquire narrow bandgaps by perturbations discussed in the next section.

C. Structural origins of the narrow gap

1. Theory

The zone-folding approximation assumes that the allowed electron states in nanotubes are exactly the same as their equivalents in graphene. Perturbations arise if the symmetry of the carbon bonds is broken by changing the overlap between adjacent electron orbitals. One unavoidable example is the curvature of the rolled-up sheet (Blase et al. 1994). This has two effects on the band structure. First, it leads to a small renormalization of the Fermi velocity by at most a few percent, which is insignificant in experiments (Izumida et al. 2009). More importantly, it displaces the Dirac points in reciprocal
space away from $K$ and $K'$ (Izumida et al. 2009; Kane and Mele 1997), because of breaking of the three-fold symmetry. This shift is parameterized by a displacement vector $\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}$ (Fig. 8(a)), and is opposite for $K$ and $K'$ because states in the two valleys are time-reversal conjugates of each other (Castro Neto et al. 2009). In semiconducting nanotubes, $|\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}|$ is much smaller than the offset $\Delta \kappa_\perp$ arising from quantization, and therefore has only a small effect. However, in nominally metallic nanotubes, the shift of the Dirac cones relative to the quantization lines introduces a bandgap $E_G = 2\hbar v_F \Delta \kappa^\text{cv}_\perp$, where $\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}_\perp$ is the component of $\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}$ perpendicular to the nanotube axis (Fig. 8(b)). (The component parallel to the axis, $\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}_\parallel$, has no effect.) This curvature-induced bandgap is always much smaller than the quantization energy difference. Unlike the quantization bandgap, it depends on the chiral angle. As shown in the inset of Fig. 8(a), the vector $\Delta \kappa^\text{cv}$ points at an angle of $3\theta$ from the perpendicular. The curvature-induced bandgap is therefore proportional to $\cos 3\theta$; it is calculated to be $E_G^\text{cv} \approx 40 \text{ meV} \cos 3\theta$. 

\[ E_G^\text{cv} \approx \frac{40 \text{ meV}}{D[\text{nm}]^2} \cos 3\theta. \]  

(4)

For armchair nanotubes $\theta = \pi/6$ (Fig. 1(b)) and therefore $\cos 3\theta = 0$. These are the only nanotubes expected to be truly metallic, if no other perturbation is applied (see Appendix B for more theoretical details).

A gap of similar magnitude can be opened by strain, in a way that also depends on nanotube chirality (Heyd et al. 1997; Kane and Mele 1997; Rochefort et al. 1998; Yang and Han 2000). A uniaxial strain $\epsilon$ has the same symmetry-breaking effect as curvature (namely to break $C_3$), and therefore leads to a Dirac point displacement in the same direction with magnitude

\[ |\Delta \kappa^\epsilon| = \frac{12\zeta}{1 + 6\zeta} (1 + \lambda) \epsilon/a_{CC}, \]  

(5)

where $\lambda \approx 0.2$ is the Poisson ratio and $\zeta \approx 0.006$ is a parameter related to the carbon-carbon bond force constants (Huang et al. 2008; Nisoli et al. 2007). A torsional strain $\gamma$ displaces the Dirac points by an amount $|\Delta \kappa^\gamma| \approx \gamma$ at an angle $\pi/2 - 3\theta$ from the perpendicular (Yang and Han 2000). The uniaxial bandgap is therefore proportional to $\cos 3\theta$, while the torsional bandgap is proportional to $\sin 3\theta$. Armchair nanotubes are insensitive to uniaxial strain but most sensitive to torsional strain, while for zig-zag nanotubes the opposite is true. A third type of strain, nanotube bending, has no first-order effect on the bandgap for any structure (Kane and Mele 1997). Numerical estimates of these effects are given in Table III.

2. Experiment

The existence of a narrow gap in nominally metallic nanotubes was first shown in density of states measurements using scanning tunneling microscopy (Ouyang et al. 2001). For zig-zag nanotubes, a gap depending on diameter as $E_G = 39 \text{ meV}/D[\text{nm}]^2$ was found, in close agreement with theoretical expectations. Isolated armchair nanotubes showed no bandgap, consistent with the expected $\cos 3\theta$ dependence (and implying that torsion is the same symmetry-breaking effect as curvature (namely to break $C_3$), and therefore leads to a Dirac point displacement in the same direction with magnitude $|\Delta \kappa^\epsilon| = \frac{12\zeta}{1 + 6\zeta} (1 + \lambda) \epsilon/a_{CC}$.

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FIG. 9 (Color online) The contribution of strain to the bandgap. (a) Distortion of the lattice structure by tensile strain. (b) The experimental setup. An AFM tip is used simultaneously to gate and tension a suspended nanotube. (c) Conductance of an initially metallic nanotube as a function of gate voltage measured for several values of strain $\epsilon$, showing increasing bandgap with $\epsilon$. Inset: Maximum resistance as a function of $\epsilon$, fitted assuming thermally activated conductance across a bandgap proportional to $\epsilon$. The fit yields the strain sensitivity $dE/\epsilon = +35$ meV/%, where $\epsilon$ is expressed as a percentage. (d) Similar data for a semiconducting nanotube. In this case, the bandgap is found to decrease linearly with $\epsilon$, with fitted $dE/\epsilon = -53$ meV/%. (adapted from Minot et al., 2003).

By varying the applied force, it was possible both to induce a bandgap where none had been present before, and to decrease the bandgap in a semiconducting nanotube. From the variation of conductance with strain, it was possible to deduce $dE/\epsilon = +35$ meV/% for the metallic and $dE/\epsilon = -53$ meV/% for the semiconducting nanotube, both with unknown chirality, where $\epsilon$ is expressed as a percentage elongation of the nanotube. Both values are comparable with that expected from Eq. (3), $dE/\epsilon = 51$ meV/% $\cos 3\theta$. Similar results, including confirmation of the $\cos 3\theta$ dependence, have been obtained by optical methods (Huang et al., 2008).

D. Longitudinal confinement and quantum dot energy shells

Different modes of the longitudinal wavefunction in a quantum dot of length $L$ lead to different confinement energies $E_{\text{conf}}$. The mode spectrum can be quite complicated, depending on the bandgap, boundary conditions, and interactions. The confinement can be classified as atomically sharp or non-sharp (McCann and Fal'ko, 2004), with the latter further subdivided into hard-wall or soft-wall cases depending whether the potential rises over a shorter or a longer distance than the dot length. An additional complication arises from the fact that bound states are formed from right and left moving Dirac particles that do not necessarily have the same group velocity in the unconfined nanotube. In Fig. 6 right-movers and left-movers within a valley travel at different speeds. This effect arises away from $E_F$ due to trigonal warping of flat graphene. If curvature of the nanotube is also taken into account (not shown in Fig. 6), an even stronger asymmetry arises. This happens already at $E_F$ and directly affects how standing waves are constructed. For example, if the confinement of the quantum dot is sharp, then the discrete eigenstates of the quantum dot will be superpositions involving both valleys (Izumida et al., 2012). We mention two simple limiting cases (Fig. 10a). Electrons (or holes) with low enough energy sample only the region near the potential minimum where confinement is parabolic (known as ‘soft-wall confinement’). If the energy is also much less than $E_G$, so that by Eq. (3) the electron behaves as a massive particle (e.g. in a sufficiently large few-electron dot), the energy spectrum is harmonic with mode spacing $\Delta E_{\text{conf}} = h\omega_0$, where $\omega_0$ is the harmonic frequency.

Conversely, in a many-electron-quantum dot the kinetic energy may both be large enough to reach the hard walls of the potential well and be in the linear part of the dispersion relation Eq. (2), so that the velocity is $v_F$, independent of energy. The longitudinal modes then take on a sinusoidal form (Fig. 10a).
The orbital effect of a magnetic field $B$ is captured by modifying the bare-electron Schrödinger equation so that the momentum operator $p$ is replaced by $p - eA$, where $A(r)$ is the vector potential and $B = \nabla \times A$ (Merzbacher 1998). So long as $A(r)$ varies slowly on the scale of the lattice potential, the effect of this replacement on an electron confined in a closed loop is to add an Aharonov-Bohm phase to its eigenfunctions: if $\psi_0(r)$ is an eigenstate at $A = 0$, then

$$
\psi_A = \exp \left( i \frac{e}{\hbar} A(r) \cdot r \right) \psi_0
$$

is an eigenstate at finite $A$ with the same energy (Hofstadter 1976, Luttinger 1951). In other words, the finite-field dispersion relation $E_A(\kappa)$ is related to the zero-field dispersion relation $E_0(\kappa)$ by:

$$
E_A(\kappa) = E_0(\kappa + \Delta \kappa^B) \, \quad (7)
$$

where the field induced shift $\Delta \kappa^B$ is in a direction perpendicular to the nanotube axis and has magnitude (Ajiki and Ando 1993, Liu 1995)

$$
\Delta \kappa^B = \frac{2\pi e A}{\hbar} = \frac{eD}{4\hbar} B|| \, \quad (8)
$$

where $B||$ is the component of $B$ along the nanotube. The quantization condition, however, is unchanged.

The ground-state energies are plotted in Fig. 11(e and g) as a function of magnetic field. Each zero-field level is two-fold split, with slopes $dE/dB = \pm \Delta \kappa^B$ (11). This linear splitting allows each state to be assigned a magnetic moment $\pm \mu_{\text{orb}}$, which has a straightforward physical interpretation (Fig. 11(i)): Electron states with positive (negative) magnetic moment correspond to clockwise (counterclockwise) circulation of electrons around the nanotube. In this interpretation, the direction of circulation for the first electron switches as the field is swept through $B_{\text{Dirac}}$. A similar picture applies in the valence band. The orbital moment is related to the band structure by:

$$
\mu_{\text{orb}} = \frac{dE}{dB||} = \frac{eD}{4\hbar} \left| \frac{\partial E_{\text{Dirac}}(\kappa_+, \kappa_||)}{\partial \kappa_||} \right|, \quad (9)
$$

where $E_{\text{Dirac}}(\kappa_+, \kappa_||)$ is the two-dimensional energy function describing the Dirac cone. For an electron at low energy ($\kappa_|| \approx 0$), this takes the value:

$$
\mu_{\text{orb}}^0 = D e \nu_F / 4. \quad (10)
$$

To emphasize the analogy with the Zeeman spin splitting, an orbital $g$-factor $g_{\text{orb}} \equiv \mu_{\text{orb}} / \mu_B$ is sometimes defined, where $\mu_B$ is the Bohr magneton. For a nanotube with a bandgap, the magnetic energy in a parallel field $B_|| < B_{\text{Dirac}}$ is then:

$$
E_{\text{mag}} = \left( \mp g_{\text{orb}} \tau + \frac{1}{2} g_s s \right) \mu_B B_|| \, \quad (11)
$$
where $g_s \approx 2$ is the spin $g$-factor, the $+(-)$ sign applies for electrons (holes), and the valley and spin quantum numbers are denoted by $\tau = \{+1,-1\}$ for $\{K,K'\}$ and $s = \{+1,-1\}$ for $\{\uparrow,\downarrow\}$, with the spin axis, along $t$, being parallel to the nanotube.

2. Experiment

The orbital energy splitting can be seen in Coulomb ground-state spectroscopy as a function of magnetic field (Fig. 12), which shows the contribution $E_{\text{mag}}$ to the single-particle energy levels $E_N$ (Minot et al., 2004). Ignoring spin-orbit coupling (to be discussed in the next section), the first four electrons fill the four lowest states in order of energy: $K\downarrow$, $K\uparrow$, $K'\downarrow$, $K'\uparrow$. Subsequent electrons must enter a higher longitudinal state, or shell, of the dot, but repeat the fourfold filling sequence for spin-valley states. The expected pattern of ground state-energies is therefore alternating pairs with positive and negative magnetic moments. Typical data is shown in Fig. 12 for the first three hole shells. The measured magnetic moments, $\mu_{\text{orb}} \sim 0.9$ meV/T, are of the expected magnitude for orbital coupling with $D \approx 4.5$ nm. In terms of orbital $g$-factors, this would correspond to $g_{\text{orb}} \approx 16$, much larger than $g_s = 2$, qualitatively confirming the picture in the previous section. For a quantitative comparison with theory, an independent measurement of $D$ is necessary. This was achieved using an
AFM for a nanotube with $D = 2.6 \pm 0.3$ nm, for which $\mu_{\text{orb}} = 0.7 \pm 0.1$ meV/T was measured, in fair agreement with the value $\mu_{\text{orb}} = 0.52 \pm 0.06$ meV/T expected from Eq. (10) (Minot et al. 2004).

As seen from Fig. 11 a nanotube that is semiconducting at zero field becomes metallic in a parallel field with magnitude $|B||| = B_{\text{Dirac}}$. This peculiar metal-semiconductor transition is specific to the cylindrical form of nanotubes and in fact recurs periodically with every flux quantum, $\Phi_0 = h/e$ that threads the cross-section. For a semiconducting nanotube, the gap closes twice per period, at flux equal to $\Phi = \pi D^2 B||/4 = \Phi_0/3$ and $\Phi = 2\Phi_0/3$ where the open and filled circles respectively in Fig. 11h cross quantization lines. The semiconducting gap reopens completely at $\Phi = \Phi_0$. Figure 13 shows magnetoconductance of a semiconducting nanotube for which an AFM determined $D \approx 8$ nm. For this diameter, the expected $B_{\text{Dirac}}$ is 27 T, which is accessible at dedicated facilities. The nanotube has low conductance at zero field when $E_F$ is tuned into the gap. At 22 T the conductance is maximal, likely since the band gap is reduced to a smaller value. The band gap reopens to a maximum near 37 T before closing again as expected. The inset curve is calculated for $D = 8.1$ nm and predicts gap minima at 27 and 55 T. The observed conductance maximum, corresponding to the first gap closing, occurs at a somewhat lower field of 22 T, which is attributed to strain.

Equation (10) assumed an electron with zero longitudinal momentum. For electrons confined in a quantum dot, $\mu_{\text{orb}}$ is reduced, for the following reason (Jespersen et al. 2011a). As seen from the insets of Fig. 14 the partial derivative in Eq. (9) decreases with increasing $\kappa||$, the larger $\kappa||$, the smaller the fraction of $v_F$ directed around the nanotube and hence the smaller $\mu_{\text{orb}}$. Because of confinement the shells participating in transport consist of superpositions of states with $|\kappa||| \neq 0$. (This can be seen for the sequence of shells in Fig. 10). The total orbital moment therefore decreases with increasing confinement energy (Fig. 14), with predicted scaling (Jespersen et al. 2011a):

$$g_{\text{orb}} = \frac{g_0}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{2E_F}{E_G}\right)^2}}, \quad (12)$$

where $g_0$ is the unconfined value derived from Eq. (10),

$$g_0 = \frac{e v_F D}{4\mu_B}. \quad (13)$$

Figure 14 shows a series of measured $g_{\text{orb}}$ values as a quantum dot was tuned across the electron-hole transition using a gate voltage. As expected from Eq. (12), $g_{\text{orb}}$ is maximised close to the transition, where electrons and holes can occupy the lowest-energy confined states, but reduced as the quantum dot occupation is increased. The data is well fit by Eq. (12) assuming $E_F \propto V_G - 0.8$ V, which is reasonable if the length of the quantum dot is independent of gate voltage.

The orbital moment deduced from Fig. 14 corresponds by Eq. (13) to $D \approx 6$ nm. This is surprisingly large for the chemical-vapor-deposited nanotube used in the experiment, for which $D \lesssim 3$ nm is expected. Other experiments have measured a range of values for $g_{\text{orb}}$, while some have obtained similarly large values (Jarillo-Herrero et al. 2005a; Kuemmeth et al. 2008; Steele et al. 2013), other results are consistent with smaller-diameter nanotubes (Churchill et al. 2009a; Makarovski et al. 2007; Minot et al. 2004). Although the discrepancy is not large, it is possible that expectations for either the nanotube diameter or the orbital $v_F$ need to be revised.
FIG. 14 (Color online) Effect of confinement on magnetic moment. Main plot: Experimentally determined $g_{or}$ and $\mu_{or}$ (points) as a function of gate voltage, together with a fit to Eq. \ref{eq:12} \cite{Jespersen2011}. The fit assumes a constant dot length and linear dependence of $E_F$ on $V_G$. Left inset: Dirac cone showing quantization line and points corresponding to $k_{||}$ values for three longitudinal energy levels. Right inset: View of the Dirac cone from above, giving a physical explanation for the reduction of longitudinal energy levels. 

Measurements on devices with independently measured diameters would allow the discrepancy to be explored.

F. Spin-orbit coupling

On first consideration, it might be expected that carbon, as the second lightest of all semiconductors, should have negligible spin-orbit coupling. Indeed, spin-orbit coupling is comparatively weak in free carbon ($^3P_0$ – $^3P_1$ splitting $\sim 2$ meV \cite{Kramida2013}), and almost completely suppressed near the Dirac points in flat graphene \cite{Huertas-Hernando2006,Min2006}. However, it was realised by \cite{Ando2000} that the suppression relies on the symmetry of graphene. In a nanotube, this symmetry is broken by curvature, leading to a coupling of up to a few meV between the spin and orbital moment of electrons. This coupling, first detected by \cite{Kuemmeth2008}, is the key to controlling spins in nanotubes electrically. This section explains in detail how it arises and how it is measured.

1. Origin of spin-orbit interaction in carbon nanotubes

In atomic carbon, coupling between the total spin $S$ and orbital angular momentum $L$ adds a term to the Hamiltonian:

$$H_{SO}^{atomic} = \Delta_{SO}^{atomic} \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{S}$$

(14)

where $\Delta_{SO}^{atomic}$ is the atomic spin-orbit strength (From the atomic $^3P_0$ – $^3P_1$ splitting quoted above, $\Delta_{SO}^{atomic} \sim 4$ meV.) The effect of this coupling is to mix single-particle states with opposite spin from different orbitals, such as $|p^A\uparrow\rangle$ and $|p^B\downarrow\rangle$. Whether this leads to spin-orbit coupling in the band structure depends on how it affects hybridization between orbitals in different atoms, which in turn depends on the crystal structure.

The contrasting situations in flat and curved graphene are illustrated in Fig. 15, which shows the atomic orbitals for two adjacent atoms $A$ and $B$. Any effect on the band structure arises through the combination of intra-atomic spin-orbit coupling and inter-atomic hopping. In flat graphene (Fig. 15(a)), symmetry forbids direct hopping from a $p_z$ state on one atom to a $p_z$ state on another because $p_z$ and $p_z$ orbitals have opposite parity under $z$ inversion. Therefore atomic spin-orbit coupling between e.g. $|p^A\uparrow\rangle$ and $|p^B\downarrow\rangle$ states does not, to first order, introduce any non-spin-conserving hybridization between $|p^A\uparrow\rangle$ and $|p^B\downarrow\rangle$, and thus spin-orbit coupling in the $\pi$ band is second-order and in practice negligible.

This situation is changed in the presence of curvature, which breaks the $z$ inversion symmetry on which the above suppression relies (Fig. 15(b)). To understand this, it is convenient to work in the curved coordinate ba-
sis \{r,c,t\} labelling radial, circumferential and axial directions, so that the \(\pi\) band is composed predominantly of hybridised \(p_r\) orbitals. Since the \(p_r^A\) and \(p_r^B\) orbitals are not orthogonal, hopping between them is allowed, leading to an indirect hybridization between \(|p_r^A\rangle\) and \(|p_r^B\rangle\) and consequently a spin-orbit coupling in the \(\pi\) band.

As a result of this spin-orbit coupling, the effective hopping matrix element between \(p_r^A\) and \(p_r^B\) now contains both a direct and a spin-flip term. The interference between these terms causes a spin precession about the \(y\)-axis, and a corresponding splitting of the two spin states within a given valley as though by a magnetic field \(B_{SO}\) directed along the nanotube. The spin-orbit splitting is defined as the Zeeman splitting due to this field,\[
\Delta_{SO} = g_B \mu_B B_{SO}.
\]

Figure 16(a-b) show the consequences of spin-orbit coupling for the band edges. Without spin-orbit coupling (Fig. 16(a)), the zero-field levels are four-fold degenerate, but are split in a magnetic field through a combination of Zeeman and orbital coupling. (This figure differs from Fig. 11(g) by the inclusion of Zeeman spin splitting.) Spin-orbit coupling splits each four-fold degenerate level at \(B = 0\) into a pair of two-fold degenerate levels (Fig. 16(b)); each element of the pair comprises a Kramers doublet, as required by time-reversal symmetry. The sign of \(\Delta_{SO}\) determines whether parallel or antiparallel alignment of spin and valley magnetic moments is favoured. For \(\Delta_{SO} > 0\), the magnetic moments of spin and valley of the lowest (highest) edge of the conduction (valence) band add, whereas they subtract for \(\Delta_{SO} < 0\). (see Fig. 18 for examples.) For \(\Delta_{SO} > 0\), as drawn here, spin-orbit coupling favours alignment of the spin and valley magnetic moments. The lower doublet therefore comprises the states \(\{K'^\uparrow, K'^\downarrow\}\) for which both magnetic moments have the same sign, while the upper doublet comprises the states \(\{K'^\downarrow, K'^\uparrow\}\).

2. The discovery of nanotube spin-orbit coupling

Figure 16(c) shows excited-state spectroscopy of the first electron shell of an ultraclean nanotube as a function of magnetic field (Kuemmeth et al. 2008). The levels are split into two doublets, each one with a spin-orbit coupling (Fig. 16(b)) that energetically favours states with parallel spin and valley magnetic moment. The magnitude of the splitting was measured to be \(\Delta_{SO} = 0.37\) meV, corresponding to \(B_{SO} = 3.1\) T.

3. Different types of nanotube spin-orbit coupling

Detailed calculations of the spin-orbit coupling reveal that there are actually two terms in the spin-orbit Hamiltonian, corresponding to Zeeman-like and orbital-like coupling (Fig. 17). The Zeeman-like contribution, characterized by a parameter \(\Delta_{SO}^0\), gives rise to a vertical shift of the Dirac cones that is opposite for the two spin directions (Fig. 17(a)). This is equivalent to an effective Zeeman shift of each spin state given by:

\[
\Delta E_{SO}^{Z}(\tau, s) = \Delta_{SO}^0 \tau s.
\]

The orbital-like contribution to the Hamiltonian gives rise to a horizontal shift of the Dirac cones, similar to the curvature-induced shift discussed in Section III.C, but opposite for the two spin directions (Fig. 17(c)). This is equivalent to a spin-dependent magnetic flux coupling to the orbital moment. The magnitude of the horizontal shift in each cone is:

\[
\Delta \kappa_{\sigma, Orb}^{SO}(s) = \frac{\Delta_{SO}^I}{\hbar v_F} s.
\]
contribution can be understood as a Rashba-type coupling, arising from the broken reflection symmetry about the graphene plane. A curvature-induced displacement of the orbitals gives rise to a radial electric field, which circulating electrons experience as a magnetic field proportional to the azimuthal component of their momentum. It is similar to the Rashba coupling predicted by [Kane and Mele, 2005] for graphene in an electric field, and is equivalent to a horizontal shift of the dispersion relation of the form in Eq. (16).

The Zeeman-like contribution also comes from a lack of reflection symmetry through the nanotube surface. In contrast to the orbital-like contribution, which is caused by the homogeneous part of the radial electric field, the Zeeman-like contribution comes from variation of the electric field within the nanotube unit cell. In a tight-binding picture, this contribution can be thought of as curvature-induced spin-orbit coupling between next-nearest neighbours (e.g. from one $A$ site to another), whereas the orbital-like contribution comes from a curvature-induced nearest-neighbour spin-orbit scattering. The perturbation theory leading to these separate effects is outlined in Appendix [I].

The values of the coefficients $\Delta_{SO}^0$ and $\Delta_{SO}^1$ depend on the structure of the nanotube. The theoretical estimates appear to be:

$$\Delta_{SO}^0 \approx -\frac{0.3 \text{meV}}{D \text{[nm]}} \cos \theta \quad \text{(Zeeman-like)} \quad (17)$$

$$\Delta_{SO}^1 \approx \frac{0.3 \text{meV}}{D \text{[nm]}} \quad \text{(Orbital-like)} \quad (18)$$

These theoretical values are quite sensitive to the method of computation. The first calculations ([Ando, 2000], later refined by [Huertas-Hernando et al., 2006; Yanik et al., 2004]) considered the modification of hopping amplitudes by atomic spin-orbit coupling which gives rise to the orbital-like contribution. Later work [Izumida et al., 2009] calculated the spin-orbit correction in more detail using a non-orthogonal tight-binding calculation that incorporated the spin degree of freedom and used four orbital states per atom. This work was the first to predict the Zeeman-like contribution. The parameters $\Delta_{SO}^0$ and $\Delta_{SO}^1$ were estimated by [Izumida et al., 2009] in two ways: by nearest-neighbour tight-binding using density-functional theory potentials, and by fitting to a full numerical model, from which (17) and (18) are taken. They have also been calculated using an extended tight-binding Slater-Koster method ([Chico et al., 2009] and using density functional theory combined with atomic spin-orbit coupling and tight binding ([Zhou et al., 2009]). A similar calculation to [Izumida et al., 2009] was performed by [Jeong and Lee, 2009], corroborating these results. The coefficients have also been estimated by [Kiknovaja et al., 2011a], who included the effects of external electric fields. These different methods differ quantitatively by a factor up to $\sim 3$, but the $\cos 3\theta$ dependence is dictated by symmetry.

Combining Eqs. (15) and (16) shows that both spin and valley are good quantum numbers in a magnetic field $B_{||}$ directed along the nanotube. The corresponding eigenenergies ([Jespersen et al., 2011b] are, again assuming a flat potential as in Eq. (12):

$$E_{\tau,s}(B_{||}) = \pm \sqrt{\left( -\frac{E_G^0}{2} + \mu_{orb}^0 B_{||} + s\Delta_{SO}^1 \right)^2 + E_t^2} + s\tau \Delta_{SO}^0 + \frac{8g_\mu B_{||}}{2},$$

where $E_G^0$ is the bandgap at zero field without spin-orbit coupling and the upper (lower) sign refers to the conduction (valence) band. In the limit $E_G^0 \gg \Delta_{SO}^0, \Delta_{SO}^1$, this gives for the combined zero-field splitting:

$$\Delta_{SO} = 2 \left( \Delta_{SO}^0 \mp \Delta_{SO}^1 \frac{g_{orb}}{g_{orb}} \right),$$

FIG. 17 (Color online) Two types of spin-orbit coupling. (a-b) Zeeman-like coupling [Izumida et al., 2009] leads to a spin-dependent vertical shift of the band structure, equivalent to a Zeeman splitting (a) that is opposite in the two valleys. (b) Energy levels as a function of $B_{||}$. Going beyond Fig. 13, a residual bandgap (induced for example by level quantization) is assumed, leading to rounding of the band minima. (c-d) Orbital-like coupling [Ando, 2000] leads to a horizontal shift of the band structure (c) equivalent to a spin-dependent magnetic field coupling to $\mu_{orb}$. (d) Corresponding energy levels as a function of $B_{||}$. A signature to distinguish these two couplings comes from the energy minima in (b) and (d); whereas Zeeman-like coupling leads to minima in the first and second energy levels, orbital-like coupling leads to two minima in the ground level. In (a) and (c), thick arrows indicate evolution of the state energies in the Dirac cones as $B_{||}$ is increased. Spectra (b) and (d) are calculated from Eq. (19) using $E_G^0 = 4 \text{meV}, E_t = 1 \text{meV}, \mu_{orb}^0 = 0.9 \text{meV/T}, \Delta_{SO}^0, \Delta_{SO} = 0$ or $2 \text{meV}$. 

The values of $\Delta_{SO}^0$ and $\Delta_{SO}^1$ depend on the structure of the nanotube. The theoretical estimates appear to be:

$$\Delta_{SO}^0 \approx -\frac{0.3 \text{meV}}{D \text{[nm]}} \cos \theta \quad \text{(Zeeman-like)} \quad (17)$$

$$\Delta_{SO}^1 \approx \frac{0.3 \text{meV}}{D \text{[nm]}} \quad \text{(Orbital-like)} \quad (18)$$

These theoretical values are quite sensitive to the method of computation. The first calculations ([Ando, 2000], later refined by [Huertas-Hernando et al., 2006; Yanik et al., 2004]) considered the modification of hopping amplitudes by atomic spin-orbit coupling which gives rise to the orbital-like contribution. Later work [Izumida et al., 2009] calculated the spin-orbit correction in more detail using a non-orthogonal tight-binding calculation that incorporated the spin degree of freedom and used four orbital states per atom. This work was the first to predict the Zeeman-like contribution. The parameters $\Delta_{SO}^0$ and $\Delta_{SO}^1$ were estimated by [Izumida et al., 2009] in two ways: by nearest-neighbour tight-binding using density-functional theory potentials, and by fitting to a full numerical model, from which (17) and (18) are taken. They have also been calculated using an extended tight-binding Slater-Koster method ([Chico et al., 2009] and using density functional theory combined with atomic spin-orbit coupling and tight binding ([Zhou et al., 2009]). A similar calculation to [Izumida et al., 2009] was performed by [Jeong and Lee, 2009], corroborating these results. The coefficients have also been estimated by [Kiknovaja et al., 2011a], who included the effects of external electric fields. These different methods differ quantitatively by a factor up to $\sim 3$, but the $\cos 3\theta$ dependence is dictated by symmetry.

Combining Eqs. (15) and (16) shows that both spin and valley are good quantum numbers in a magnetic field $B_{||}$ directed along the nanotube. The corresponding eigenenergies ([Jespersen et al., 2011b] are, again assuming a flat potential as in Eq. (12):

$$E_{\tau,s}(B_{||}) = \pm \sqrt{\left( -\frac{E_G^0}{2} + \mu_{orb}^0 B_{||} + s\Delta_{SO}^1 \right)^2 + E_t^2} + s\tau \Delta_{SO}^0 + \frac{8g_\mu B_{||}}{2},$$

where $E_G^0$ is the bandgap at zero field without spin-orbit coupling and the upper (lower) sign refers to the conduction (valence) band. In the limit $E_G^0 \gg \Delta_{SO}^0, \Delta_{SO}^1$, this gives for the combined zero-field splitting:

$$\Delta_{SO} = 2 \left( \Delta_{SO}^0 \mp \Delta_{SO}^1 \frac{g_{orb}}{g_{orb}} \right),$$

where $g_{orb}^0$ is the bandgap at zero field without spin-orbit coupling and the upper (lower) sign refers to the conduction (valence) band. In the limit $E_G^0 \gg \Delta_{SO}^0, \Delta_{SO}^1$, this gives for the combined zero-field splitting:

$$\Delta_{SO} = 2 \left( \Delta_{SO}^0 \mp \Delta_{SO}^1 \frac{g_{orb}}{g_{orb}} \right),$$

where $g_{orb}^0$ is the bandgap at zero field without spin-orbit coupling and the upper (lower) sign refers to the conduction (valence) band. In the limit $E_G^0 \gg \Delta_{SO}^0, \Delta_{SO}^1$, this gives for the combined zero-field splitting:

$$\Delta_{SO} = 2 \left( \Delta_{SO}^0 \mp \Delta_{SO}^1 \frac{g_{orb}}{g_{orb}} \right),$$
Experimentally, the sign of $\Delta_{SO}$ can be deduced from the spectrum as follows (Fig. 18): If the two $K'$ states converge with increasing field and eventually cross (as in Fig. 19), then $\Delta_{SO} > 0$; if it is the $K$ states that cross, then the converse is true. From Eqs. (17,18,20), four predictions can be derived:

1. Spin-orbit coupling depends on chirality and diameter, hence different devices should display different coupling.

2. The different terms lead to different behaviour when fields comparable to $B_{\text{Dirac}}$ are applied (see Fig. 11). This can be seen by plotting the first four energy levels as a function of $B_{||}$ across the Dirac point. For orbital coupling (and assuming a residual bandgap remains), the lowest-energy level has a pair of minima (Fig. 17(d)), corresponding to the quantization lines crossing the Dirac points for spin up and spin down. For Zeeman-like coupling, the two minima occur in the first and second energy levels, as in (Fig. 17(b)).

3. The orbital-like term contributes with opposite sign to $\Delta_{SO}$ for electrons and holes, thereby breaking electron-hole symmetry (because the hole energy levels are no longer a mirror image of the electron levels.) The Zeeman-like term by itself preserves electron-hole symmetry (Fig. 18(b)).

4. The orbital contribution leads to a smaller energy shift for higher energy shells in the same way that an orbital magnetic field does (Sec. III.E).

Thus $\Delta_{SO}$ depends on density in the same way as $g_{\text{orb}}$ (Eq. 20).

Evidence for prediction (1) comes from measurements on several devices, presumably with a distribution of structures. The spin-orbit parameters are indeed found to take different values (Table II), although it has not yet been possible to determine chiral indices in the same device for comparison. The spread of $\Delta_{SO}$ is in fact larger than expected from Eq. (17-18), as discussed in Sec. III.II.

Testing prediction (2) experimentally requires a device where $B_{\text{Dirac}}$ lies at an accessible field. Figure 19(a) shows ground-state spectroscopy of the first four Coulomb peaks in a device where this was achieved (Steele et al, 2013). The pattern of energy levels clearly resembles Fig. 17(b) more than Fig. 17(d), suggesting that the coupling in this device is predominantly Zeeman-like.

Prediction (3) was confirmed in the first measurements by (Kuemmeth et al, 2008), who found $\Delta_{SO}$ to be different in both magnitude and sign for the first electron hole.
TABLE II Summary of spin-orbit parameters measured in literature, compared with the largest theoretical values predicted by Eq. (20). Unless otherwise noted, $D$ is measured from the orbital magnetic moment according to Eq. (12). The spread of $\Delta_{SO}$ values is large, but in many cases the measured values considerably exceed the largest possible predictions or have the wrong sign. Other measurements (eg. (Pei et al., 2012)) on the same devices are not included. Also not included are earlier measurements subsequently reinterpreted as indicating spin-orbit interaction with $\Delta_{SO} \sim \Delta_{KK}'$. Adapted from (Kuemmeth et al., 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>$D$ (theory)</th>
<th>$\Delta_{SO}$ (expt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nm</td>
<td>$\mu$eV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuemmeth et al., 2008</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill et al., 2009b</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhang et al., 2010</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jespersen et al., 2011b</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lai et al., 2014</td>
<td>1.3$^c$</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steele et al., 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device 1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device 2</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device 3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Schmid)</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleuziou et al., 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device 1</td>
<td>-240</td>
<td>(1h,3h few shells)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device 2</td>
<td>-340</td>
<td>(1e,3e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Schmid)</td>
<td>-470</td>
<td>(17e)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$ AFM measurement  
$^b$ Inferred from the magnetoresistance of an open CNT quantum wire.  
$^c$ Derived from many-electron regime but ignoring suppression of $g_{orb}$ by confinement (Eq. (12)). These are therefore likely to be underestimates.

and first hole. Further confirmation, and a test of prediction (4), was obtained in a different device where $\Delta_{SO}$ could be measured across several shells of both electrons and holes (Jespersen et al. 2011b). As seen in Fig. 19(b), $\Delta_{SO}$ decreases with higher $|E_v|$, qualitatively consistent with Eq. (20) assuming an orbital contribution. For the shells measured in this device, $\Delta_{SO}$ did not change sign between electron and holes, providing further evidence of a Zeeman-type contribution.

4. Uniform electric fields

As well as intrinsic spin-orbit coupling from the nanotube structure, there is also predicted to be an extrinsic coupling due to electric fields (Klinovaja et al., 2011a). This is a form of Rashba effect, and leads to a shift of the Dirac cones in $\kappa_\parallel$ by an amount

$$
\Delta\kappa^\text{SO,R} = \frac{eE\xi}{\hbar v_F} \tau \mathbf{s}_\perp, \tag{21}
$$

where $E$ is the electric field (perpendicular to the nanotube) and $s_\perp$ is the spin component perpendicular both to the nanotube and to $E$. The parameter $\xi$, which governs the strength of this effect, is uncertain because it depends on several numerically calculated band structure parameters, but is estimated as $\xi \simeq 2 \times 10^{-5}$ nm (Klinovaja et al., 2011a). This Rashba-like coupling has not yet been observed, but in principle allows for all-electrical spin manipulation (Bulaev et al., 2008; Klinovaja et al., 2011b).

G. Intervallley scattering

In quantum dots (i.e. confined states), magnetospectroscopy as in Fig. 16 allows measurement of a phenomenological parameter $\Delta_{KK'}$, that governs the strength of avoided level crossings between opposite valley states. This was observed by (Kuemmeth et al., 2008) in a suspended one-electron quantum dot for which $\Delta_{KK'} = 65 \mu$eV was found (Fig. 20(b)). Although this splitting indicates scattering between states in different valleys with the same spin, it does not reveal a specific mechanism. Grove-Rasmussen et al. 2012 investigated the suppression of $K - K'$ mixing by application of a parallel magnetic field. Experiments performed on top-contacted nanotubes showed $\Delta_{KK'}$ as small as 25 $\mu$eV (Churchill et al., 2009b), and Jespersen et al. 2011b reported significant fluctuations within a device $\Delta_{KK'} = 75 - 700 \mu$eV with no obvious correlation to gate voltage or occupation number. Although $\Delta_{KK'}$ has been used in other works as a empirical fitting parameter (Lai et al., 2014; Pei et al., 2012), the microscopic origin has not been investigated. In particular, all experiments involved finite tunneling to the source or drain electrode, and hence the intrinsic valley coupling in closed quantum dots has yet to be measured.

Historically, we suspect that electrical disorder on the scale of the interatomic spacing, leading to comparatively...
large $\Delta_{K'K'}$, was the main reason for the decade-long delay between the first nanotube quantum dots and the discovery of spin-orbit coupling. As evident from the next section, $\Delta_{K'K'}$ values larger than $\Delta_{SO}$ obscure the effects of spin-orbit coupling. It was only the development of low-disorder fabrication techniques that allowed such a delicate effect to be identified.

1. Putting it all together

Figure 21 shows calculated spectra in a single electron shell as a function of magnetic field in both perpendicular and parallel directions for a range of values of $\Delta_{SO}$ and $\Delta_{K'K'}$. This calculation proceeds by first working out the eigenenergies $E_{\tau,s}^\pm$ for a magnetic field directed along the nanotube and in the absence of disorder. Under the assumption that there is no mixing of electron and hole shells, i.e. in the limit

$E_G \gg |\Delta_{SO}^0|, |\Delta_{SO}^1|, |\mu_{orb}|B|, g_s\mu_B|B|$, \hspace{1cm} (22)

Eq. (19) reduces to:

$E_{\tau,s}^\pm \approx E_0^\pm + s\tau \frac{\Delta_{SO}}{2} + \left( \mp g_s \mu_B \sin \Theta \right) \sqrt{2 \mu_{orb} B ||}$, \hspace{1cm} (23)

where $E_0^\pm = \pm \sqrt{E_G^2 + E_N^2}$ is the energy without magnetic field or spin-orbit coupling.

Introducing disorder or slanting the field by an angle $\Theta$ (so that $B_|| = B \cos \Theta$) mixes the eigenstates. In the basis $(K^\uparrow, K'^\downarrow, K^\downarrow, K'^\uparrow)$, the Hamiltonian is:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix}
E_{1,1}^+ & 0 & 0 & \Delta_{KK'/2} \\
0 & E_{1,-1}^- & \Delta_{KK'/2} & 0 \\
0 & \Delta_{KK'/2} & E_{1,-1}^+ & 0 \\
\Delta_{KK'/2} & 0 & 0 & E_{1,1}^- \\
\end{pmatrix} + \frac{g_s \mu_B B}{2} \begin{pmatrix}
\cos \Theta - 1 & 0 & \sin \Theta & 0 \\
0 & 1 - \cos \Theta & 0 & \sin \Theta \\
\sin \Theta & 0 & 1 - \cos \Theta & 0 \\
0 & \sin \Theta & 0 & \cos \Theta - 1 \\
\end{pmatrix}.$$  

Figure 21 shows the numerically calculated eigenstates of this Hamiltonian. With no spin-orbit or disorder (Fig. 21a), the four states are degenerate at zero field,
being split through a combination of orbital and Zeeman coupling. Pure spin-orbit coupling (Fig. 21(b)) splits the zero-field quadruplet into two doublets; note that in small perpendicular field, Zeeman coupling is ineffective, because the spin states are locked to the valley, and valleys are not coupled. Pure disorder (Fig. 21(c)) suppresses orbital coupling at low field, but preserves the Zeeman splitting in both field directions.

In cases where both terms are finite but one dominates, the smaller parameter leads to anticrossings (Fig. 21(d-e)). Finally, if the two terms are of comparable finite magnitude, a complex spectrum emerges showing a mixture of effects (Fig. 21(f)). A small misalignment of the nanotube relative to the field axes, illustrated in the insets, introduces an anticrossing between the upper two states as a function of $B_{||}$. The magnitude of the anticrossing is $\Delta_{\Theta} = |\Delta_{SO}| \tan \Theta$.

This picture is confirmed in Fig. 22 for a device with comparable $\Delta_{KK'}$ and $\Delta_{SO}$. The energy levels were measured by cotunneling spectroscopy, which maps out energy differences between ground and excited states (see Jespersen et al. 2011b for discussion of this experimental technique). The resonant transitions appear as peaks or dips in $d^2I/dV_{SD}^2$ whenever $eV_{SD}$ is equal to the difference of energy levels. The measured transitions (Fig. 22(a)) as a function of perpendicular and parallel field agree well with the predicted level differences (Fig. 22(b)) from the spectrum (Fig. 22(c)), calculated in the same way as in Fig. 21 assuming $\Delta_{KK'} = 3\Delta_{SO}$. In particular, the curvature of energy levels in parallel field due to $\Delta_{KK'}$ mixing and the anticrossing in perpendicular field due to $\Delta_{SO}$ are seen. From similar data the parameters $\Delta_{SO}$ and $\Delta_{KK'}$ can be measured precisely over a wide range of electron and hole occupation (Jespersen et al. 2011b).

We conclude this section by summarizing, with best numerical estimates, the various nanotube band structure parameters discussed in the text (Table III). Experimentally, one set of parameters usually suffices to characterize an entire shell, implying that these parameters are not strongly affected by addition of a few extra electrons. This is as expected from the constant-interaction model, which assumes all interactions can be parameterized by a single constant capacitance (Appendix A).

H. Open questions

Comparison of theoretical and experimental spin-orbit coefficients show serious discrepancies. As shown in Table III different devices give unexpectedly large variation. From the diameters inferred from $\mu_{orb}$, Eqs. (17-18) predict that $\Delta_{SO}$ should range up to $\sim 400 \text{ meV}$. Instead, values as large as 3.4 meV have been reported, with several devices yielding results up to sixteen times larger than expected (Jhang et al. 2010; Steele et al. 2013). Other experiments have found $\Delta_{SO}$ within the expected range (Churchill et al. 2009b; Cleuziou et al. 2013; Jespersen et al. 2011a,b; Lai et al. 2014). Furthermore, in some cases the calculations even predict the wrong sign for both couplings $\Delta_{SO}^0$ and $\Delta_{SO}^\perp$ (Jespersen et al. 2011b; Kuemmeth et al. 2008).

These is clearly an open question for both theory and experiment. One explanation might be an uncertainty in the tight-binding overlap integrals, which enter Eqs. (17-18) as empirical input parameters. Alternatively, electron interactions may play a role. Another possibility is that some other symmetry-breaking between inside and outside the nanotube is responsible for the observed couplings, such as gate dielectric or adsorbates. For example, hydrogen adsorbed onto graphene is known to enhance the spin-orbit coupling (Balakrishnan et al. 2013). In nanotube devices, it is known that adsorbed water affects the current-voltage characteristics (Kim et al. 2003), although it is theoretically uncertain whether this is directly by modifying the band structure (Na et al. 2005) or through some other mechanism such as gathering ions from the environment (Sung et al. 2006).

A possibly related effect is that diameters inferred

---

**FIG. 22** (Color online) Energy levels for comparable spin-orbit coupling and intervalley scattering. (a) Measurements of the four states of an electron shell by cotunneling spectroscopy (see text). The second derivative $d^2I/dV_{SD}^2$ is plotted as a function of $V_{SD}$ and magnetic field. (b) Calculated transition energies to the first three excited states assuming $\Delta_{KK'} = 3\Delta_{SO}$, showing good agreement with the peaks/dips in (a). (c) Energy levels corresponding to the transitions (marked with arrows) in (b). Adapted from Jespersen et al. 2011b.
from measured $\mu_{\text{orb}}$ are sometimes unexpectedly large. Whereas chemical-vapor deposited nanotubes are expected to have $D \lesssim 3$ nm, values of $\mu_{\text{orb}}$ corresponding to $D \sim 5$ nm have been measured. \cite{Jarillo-Herrero2003, Kuemmeth2008, Minot2004}. However, other devices yield values in the expected range \cite{Churchill2009, Deshpande2008, Bockrath2008, Makarovski2007, Minot2004}. Measurements on nanotubes with known chiralities should help clarify these discrepancies.

Finally, we note that the prediction of complete band closing at $B_{\text{Dirac}}$ (Fig. 11) is not borne out by experiments, which typically find minimal bandgaps $E_G \approx 10 – 100$ meV. This hints at physics beyond the single-particle picture discussed here, for example formation of a Mott gap \cite{Deshpande2009}.

**IV. DOUBLE QUANTUM DOTS AND PAULI BLOCKADE**

Transport through a single quantum dot involves an electron from the Fermi sea in one lead that tunnels via a discrete quantum state to an empty state in the other lead. For two dots in series an additional tunneling event occurs which involves a transition from one particular, initial quantum state to a particular final state. This dot-to-dot transition is sensitive to selection rules, which determine the strength of the transition probability. The selection rules for nanotubes are based on the spin and valley quantum numbers. Whether or not the selection rules are obeyed in an experiment depends to what extent spin and valley are good quantum numbers and how this is affected by spin-orbit coupling, hyperfine interaction or disorder. This sensitivity makes double quantum dots a versatile platform for studying quantum states and relaxation processes in nanotubes (Fig. 23).

**A. Role of bandgap and electron-hole symmetry in charge stability diagrams**

1. **Theory**

A double quantum dot formed by two dots in series defined within the same nanotube has similarities and differences to double dots defined in conventional semiconductors reviewed by \cite{Wiel2002}. Analogous to Fig. 23, the device can be modelled by an electric circuit (Fig. 24(a)). If each of the tunnel barriers is sufficiently opaque, $\Gamma_{\text{L,R}} \ll E_C$, then the charge within each dot is quantized and the number of electrons $N_{\text{L,R}}$ can only change at specific gate voltages. A graph of the equilibrium charge configuration ($N_{\text{L}}, N_{\text{R}}$) as a function of gate voltages is called a stability diagram (Fig. 24(b)). The size of each region is a measure of the addition energy (Eq. (10)), horizontally for adding an electron in the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confinement bandgap</td>
<td>$4\varepsilon_F/3D$</td>
<td>0.70 eV/$D$ [nm]</td>
<td>\cite{Charlier2004}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curvature bandgap</td>
<td>$\frac{\hbar e}{\pi c} \cos 3\theta$</td>
<td>37 meV/$D$ [nm]$^2 \times \cos 3\theta$</td>
<td>\cite{Izumida2009}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strain bandgap</td>
<td>$\frac{2\hbar e}{\pi c} \frac{12c}{1+\ell c} (1+\gamma) \cos 3\theta$</td>
<td>51 meV/$\varepsilon$ [%] $\times \cos 3\theta$</td>
<td>\cite{Huang2008}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torsion bandgap</td>
<td>$2\hbar e \gamma \sin 3\theta$</td>
<td>0.018 meV $\times \gamma$ [$^\circ$/nm] $\times \sin 3\theta$</td>
<td>\cite{Yang2000}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective mass</td>
<td>$m_{\text{eff}} = E_G/2e_F^2$.</td>
<td>0.14$\mu_e \times E_G$ [eV]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbital magnetic moment</td>
<td>$\mu_{\text{orb}} = D\varepsilon_F/4$</td>
<td>0.20 meV/T $\times D$ [nm]</td>
<td>\cite{Ajiki1993}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeman magnetic moment</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}g_\mu_B \mu_B$</td>
<td>58 $\mu$eV/T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin-orbit coupling</td>
<td>$\tau \Delta_{SO}^0 + \Delta_{SO}^1 \sigma_3$ (see Appendix B)</td>
<td>$\Delta_{SO}^0 \approx -0.270$ meV $\cos 3\theta$</td>
<td>\cite{Izumida2009}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric field spin splitting</td>
<td>$eE_\xi$</td>
<td>$\sim 20$ $\mu$eV $\times E$ [Vnm$^{-1}$]</td>
<td>\cite{Klinovaja2011}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interv valley scattering</td>
<td>$\Delta_KK'$</td>
<td>$\Delta_{KK'} \geq 60$ $\mu$eV (typical)</td>
<td>\cite{Kuemmeth2008}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitudinal mode spacing (high-energy limit)</td>
<td>$\Delta_{E_{\text{conf}}} = \frac{\hbar v_F}{2L}$</td>
<td>1.7 meV/$L$ [nm]</td>
<td>\cite{Tans1997}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE III** Summary of nanotube quantum dot energy parameters. For the numerical values, representative estimates are given, based on experiments for the last two lines and theory elsewhere. A value $v_F = 8 \times 10^5$ ms$^{-1}$ has been assumed.
right dot and vertically for an addition to the left dot. In most semiconductor dots either the red or blue shaded region is accessible. In narrow-gap nanotubes the gate coupling can be sufficient to cross the bandgap, visible as larger honeycombs, and enter both regions. Because of the approximate electron-hole symmetry, a similar honeycomb pattern is expected in all regions of the stability diagram. Interestingly, the inter-dot tunnel barrier in the \((p, n)\) and \((n, p)\) regions is formed by a \(pn\) junction.

2. Experiment

The electron-hole stability diagram expected from Fig. 24 is most easily observed in narrow-gap nanotubes. Full control over the basic parameters of a double quantum dot, namely charge occupation \((N_L, N_R)\) and tunnel couplings \((\Gamma_{L}, \Gamma_{M}, \Gamma_{R})\), requires at least five gate electrodes, and hence the full charge stability diagram is at least five-dimensional. A two-dimensional cut is shown in Fig. 25. Here, the conductance \(g\) through the device is plotted as a function of two control parameters, \(V_R\) and \(V_L\). Figure 25 demonstrates that an actual device can show a stability diagram that is strikingly different from the diagram of Fig. 24 characteristic of the weak-coupling regime. In Fig. 25, the middle gate voltage was intentionally chosen such that electron-hole double dots and single dots with electron or hole filling were demonstrated within the same device. In this regime, cotunneling processes give a significant contribution to transport, and hence boundaries between Coulomb valleys as well as triple points show up as conductance features. Note both the spatial and electron-hole symmetry displayed by the data (mirror symmetry about the +45° and −45° diagonal respectively), attesting to the cleanliness and tunability of suspended devices as in Fig. 31.

If the tunnel rates are too small to measure conductance, the charge stability diagram can be studied by charge sensing. Such capacitive sensing techniques are useful for the readout of pulsed-gate experiments on closed double dots and qubits (Churchill et al., 2009), as well as for investigating the quantum capacitance associated with electron interactions and correlations (Ilani et al., 2006).

Many other regimes are possible in double quantum dots. For example, a sizable longitudinal level spacing in each dot can result in an overall eight-electron shell structure (Jørgensen et al., 2008), whereas strong inter-dot tunneling lifts charge quantization within each dot, which can be interpreted as the formation of delocalized molecular states (Gräber et al., 2006). Devices with ambipolar charge stability and a high degree of tunability have been used to study many phenomena, including Wigner crystallization (Pecker et al., 2013), Klein tunneling (Steele et al., 2009b), and tunable electron phonon coupling (Benyamini et al., 2014)
FIG. 25 (Color online) Conductance through a narrow-gap nanotube suspended over five gate electrodes that allow independent control over \(N_L, N_R, \Gamma_L, \Gamma_M, \) and \( \Gamma_R \). For the gate configuration shown, the nanotube is neutral in the center of the plot \((N_L, N_R) = (0, 0)\), forms a double quantum dot in the heteropolar regions (green and purple dots), and forms a single quantum dot in the homopolar regions (red/blue dot marks quantum dot charged with only electrons or only holes). Color-coded insets visualize the charge distribution along the nanotube for electrons (red shaded) and holes (blue shaded). Adapted from Waissman et al., 2013, device shown in Fig. 3(f).

B. Spectroscopy of energy levels in bias triangles

Increasing the source-drain bias \(V_{SD}\) across a double dot allows non-linear conductance to be probed, providing spectroscopic information on the energy levels. Applying a bias large enough to overcome Coulomb blockade causes the triple points to expand to finite-bias triangles. These triangles serve as a powerful experimental tool to reveal a variety of quantum effects in nanotubes. Figure 26 (a-c) shows the evolution of these triangles with increasing \(V_{SD}\). Pairs of bias triangles start to overlap once \(V_{SD}\) becomes larger than the mutual charging energy of the double dot. The finite bias breaks the left-right symmetry of a nominally symmetric device, yielding triangles pointing along the -45 degree diagonal with a direction depending on the sign of \(V_{SD}\). In panels (a)-(c) the sign of \(V_{SD}\) has been chosen such that electrons flow from the left contact (source) to the right contact (drain).

Under appropriate conditions, excited states (in either dot) are evident as discrete lines within a bias triangle. If interdot tunneling is the rate-limiting process, these lines appear parallel to the base of the triangles, but only if both tunnel rates to the leads remain at the same time smaller than level spacing and bias \((\Gamma_M < \Gamma_L, \Gamma_R < \Delta_L, |eV_{SD}|)\). From the line separation, measured from the base of the triangles, the corresponding excitation energies can be deduced (Wiel et al., 2002). Examples from three different devices (Fig. 26 (d-f)) show the expansion of the bias triangles with \(|V_{SD}|\) and the appearance of excited-state lines.

C. Pauli blockade involving spin and valley

1. Motivation

The dot-to-dot transitions in conventional double dots are strongly regulated by selection rules. These selection rules arise from the Pauli exclusion principle, and can provide insight into the robustness of quantum numbers in the two dots and during interdot tunneling. Since in nanotubes both spin and valley can form approximate good quantum numbers even in the presence of spin-orbit coupling, the manifestations of Pauli blockade and Pauli rectification are more complex than in conventional semi-
conductors. In this section, we briefly review Pauli blockade in conventional semiconductors with only twofold spin degeneracy to establish useful terminology. Next, we extend the model by adding twofold valley degeneracy to illustrate the persistence of Pauli blockade beyond spin blockade. In order to make connection to actual nanotube experiments, we then discuss the main effects of spin-orbit coupling and electron-electron interactions on two-electron states within a quantum dot. Finally, we present experimental evidence for Pauli blockade in nanotubes, and discuss the roles of spin, valley, and hyperfine coupling.

2. State counting and Pauli blockade

Pauli blockade is well established in conventional quantum dots containing a total of two electrons (Hanson et al., 2007). It relies on the fact that the (0,2) ground state is non-degenerate (it is a spin singlet) and is well separated in energy from the lowest spin triplet states, as illustrated in Fig. 27(a). The spin triplet states are antisymmetric in their orbital degree of freedom with respect to electron transposition, and hence necessarily involve an excited single-particle state. Therefore, the energy cost \( \Delta_{S,T} \) to form the Triplet (0,2) states, is approximately the single-particle level spacing in the right dot modified by electron interactions (cf. discussion of \( \Delta_{AS,S} \) in Fig. 28(a)). This is in contrast to the Triplet (1,1) states, which for small interdot tunneling are nearly degenerate with the Singlet (1,1). If the (0,2) splitting \( \Delta_{S,T} \) is larger than temperature, then a Triplet (1,1) can accidentally become occupied. For sufficiently large bias \( \mu_S - \mu_D \gg k_B T \), it is long-lived and results in a suppression of current as compared to current under opposite bias (not shown). (b) If each dot participates with one longitudinal single-particle shell, then 16 different (1,1) states are possible in carbon nanotubes, colored here according to their longitudinal symmetry (S or AS). If the right dot participates with the lowest longitudinal single-particle shell, then 6 different (0,2) states are possible. Other (0,2) states are higher in energy by \( \Delta_{AS,AS} \) (see Fig. 25).

FIG. 27 (Color online) Pauli rectification in conventional double dots and carbon nanotubes (Theory). (a) In a conventional double dot without spin-orbit coupling, the spin-triplet state in (0,2) involves an excited single-particle orbital of the right dot, and hence is energetically higher than the spin-singlet state in (0,2) by \( \Delta_{S,T} \). Near the (1,1)-(0,2) degeneracy, one of the spin-triplet states Triplet (1,1) can accidentally become occupied. For sufficiently large bias \( \mu_S - \mu_D \gg k_B T \), it is long-lived and results in a suppression of current as compared to current under opposite bias (not shown). (b) If each dot participates with one longitudinal single-particle shell, then 16 different (1,1) states are possible. Other (0,2) states are higher in energy by \( \Delta_{AS,AS} \) (see Fig. 25).

In nanotubes, the two-electron energy spectrum is richer due to the two valleys, as schematically shown in Fig. 27(b). For clarity, we have ignored spin-orbit coupling in this spectrum. However, anticipating the breakdown of spin-singlet and spin-triplet terminology due to spin-orbit coupling, we have labeled the states according to the symmetry of the longitudinal quantum numbers under electron exchange (S or AS as defined below). As we will see, Pauli blockade is nevertheless possible in nanotubes, even in the presence of spin-orbit coupling, assuming that spin and valley are (approximate) good quantum numbers.\(^7\) As in panel (a), interactions alter the spectrum, and the splitting between the symmetric ground state and antisymmetric excited states, \( \Delta_{AS,AS} \), is given by the level spacing modified by an interaction energy.

The case of two fourfold degenerate nanotube shells is shown in Fig. 28(b). The lower shell can be occupied by two electrons in six ways, while 16 different states are possible with one electron in each shell.\(^8\) Analogous to conventional semiconductor quantum dots and to lowest order, electron interactions split the 16 states into 10 longitudinal antisymmetric (lower energy) and 6 longitudinal symmetric states (higher energy). In the framework

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\(^6\) We capitalize Triplet and Singlet whenever we refer to specific spin-singlet and spin-triplet states indicated in Fig. 27.

\(^7\) Pauli rectification behavior can occur even in the absence of good quantum numbers, due to Kramers degeneracy. This was theoretically exemplified for double dots with strong spin-orbit coupling by Danon and Nazzaro (2009).

\(^8\) The multiplet \( S^+(0,2) \) representing two electrons in the upper shell is not shown in Fig. 25(b).
of first-order perturbation theory, this can be understood by calculating the exchange integral associated with each two-electron basis state, and noticing that it drastically differs between \( AS(0,2) \) states and \( S(0,2) \) states, due to the appearance of a highly oscillating integrand in the latter (cf. Eq. \((B38)\)). The complexity of the nanotube energy spectrum compared to conventional semiconductors is further revealed by turning on spin-orbit coupling within each multiplet, as shown by the rightmost panel of Fig. 28(b) and discussed further below.

State-counting arguments similar to those presented for \((0,2)\) lead to \(6 + 16 = 22\) symmetric and antisymmetric states in the \((1,1)\) configuration. Formally, this is accomplished by redefining the excited shell of the right dot as the lowest shell in the left dot: \( AS(0,2) \rightarrow AS(1,1), S'(0,2) \rightarrow S(1,1) \). In the limit of vanishing interdot tunneling, interactions can be neglected \((\Delta_{AS,S'} \rightarrow 0)\).

3. Symmetric and antisymmetric multiplets in nanotubes - Theory

To gain more insight into the two-electron states in the presence of spin-orbit interaction, we first consider the quantum numbers relevant for the lowest longitudinal symmetric multiplet \( S(0,2) \) in a single quantum dot. The valley, spin (and longitudinal) quantum numbers are listed in Table IV, where the states are organized according to their energies. The two-electron energy within the constant interaction model is found by adding the single-particle energies and a charging energy

\[
E = E(\nu, \tau, s) + E(\nu', \tau', s') + E_C
\]

where \( \nu = \nu' = 1 \) for the lowest shell and \( \tau, \tau' \) and \( s, s' \) are the valley and spin quantum numbers of the two electrons. The states are calculated by the method of Slater determinants, but taking account of the fact that \( \nu, \tau, \) and \( s \) are coupled.

Our conventions for labeling two-electron quantum states are stated in the second lines of the three table headers. For example, consider the \( S(0,2) \) state denoted \( K_{\downarrow}, K_{\uparrow} \), which is spin- and valley-unpolarized. Written
out explicitly, the energy and the state are

\[ E^{S(0,2)}_{K\downarrow,K'\uparrow} = -\Delta_{SO} + E_C + \Delta_{S,AS} \tag{25} \]

\[ |\psi^{S(0,2)}_{K\downarrow,K'\uparrow}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |1K\downarrow\rangle_1|1K'\uparrow\rangle_2 - |1K'\uparrow\rangle_1|1K\downarrow\rangle_2 \right), \tag{26} \]

where the subscripts on the right-hand side of Eq. \ref{eq:26} refer to electron 1 or 2, and the three labels in a single-particle state \(|\nu\tau_s\rangle\) are the longitudinal shell, valley and spin quantum numbers associated with that electron. The states in Table \ref{tab:IV} are classified as longitudinally symmetric or antisymmetric according to whether the wavefunction remains the same or changes sign under the interchange \(\nu \leftrightarrow \nu'\). Thus the example in Eq. \ref{eq:26} is symmetric (\(\nu = \nu'\)). We do not decompose \(|\nu\tau_s\rangle\) further into a product of longitudinal, valley, and spin wavefunctions, as this is strictly correct only at \(B = 0\) and in the absence of spin-orbit coupling.\footnote{See Appendix \ref{app:b} for a more thorough derivation of the basis used.} In general, the longitudinal wavefunction depends on both \(\tau\) and \(s\) \footnote{This decomposition can be illustrative \cite{Pecker2013} and \cite{Pei2013}, but is unsuitable for accurate calculations.} (Weiss \textit{et al.} 2010).

Next we consider two-electron states with one electron in the first excited shell. These ten antisymmetric states \((AS(0,2))\) and six symmetric states \((S'(0,2))\) are also listed with their energies in Table \ref{tab:IV}. As for \(S(0,2)\), the energies at \(B = 0\) are found by adding the single-particle energies, charging energy, and interaction energy. However, the expressions for the explicit states now contain four terms. For the spin and valley polarized states \((\tau s,\tau s)\), these four terms reduce to a simple two-term Slater determinant, but for the remaining six \(AS(0,2)\) and six \(S'(0,2)\) states this is not the case due to the interactions \(\Delta_{AS,AS'}\). This tells us that in general Eq. \ref{eq:24} is too simple to predict the spectrum accurately. In particular, it does not take magnetic fields into account, nor differences in spin-orbit coupling and valley scattering between different shells, not to mention short or long range interactions discussed in Section \ref{sec:VII}. As an example, the energy and quantum state of the spin-valley unpolarized \(AS(0,2)\) state denoted by \(K\downarrow,K'\uparrow\) are given by:

\[ E^{AS(0,2)}_{K\downarrow,K'\uparrow} = -\Delta_{SO} + E_C + \Delta_{S,AS} \tag{27} \]

\[ |\psi^{AS(0,2)}_{K\downarrow,K'\uparrow}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |1K\downarrow\rangle_1|2K'\uparrow\rangle_2 - |2K\downarrow\rangle_1|1K'\uparrow\rangle_2 \right) + |1K'\uparrow\rangle_1|2K\downarrow\rangle_2 - |2K'\uparrow\rangle_1|1K\downarrow\rangle_2. \tag{28} \]

The longitudinal antisymmetry of this state is easily seen by comparing terms in the same row of Eq. \ref{eq:28}, while comparing between rows shows the symmetry of the spin-valley part. The spin-valley unpolarized \(S'(0,2)\) state (also denoted \(K\downarrow,K'\uparrow\)) involves the same single-particle states, but is obtained by changing the longitudinal symmetry, i.e. by changing the sign on the second and third terms in Eq. \ref{eq:28}.

All relevant two-electron states in \((1,1)\) can also be constructed from Table \ref{tab:IV} simply by identifying \(S(1,1)\) with \(S'(0,2)\), and \(AS(1,1)\) with \(AS(0,2)\). This works by assigning \(\nu = 1(2)\) to the lowest shell in the right (left) dot, and setting level spacing and interactions to zero.

Having introduced all relevant \((1,1)\) and \((0,2)\) multiplets, a useful overview of the states and their mutual coupling is obtained by setting out the Hamiltonian in matrix form. Figure \ref{fig:29} shows schematic matrices for (a) a conventional semiconductor double dot in the spin-singlet/spin-triplet basis, and (b) a nanotube double quantum dot in the basis of the longitudinal symmetric/antisymmetric multiplets. These matrices can be divided into submatrices coupling manifolds of particular symmetry. In conventional semiconductors all submatrices are diagonal even when interactions are included. Tunnel coupling between states of the same singlet/triplet character is reflected (black dots) in the submatrices between \((1,1)\) and \((0,2)\) states. In nanotubes, the overall structure is similar, but the number of states in each multiplet is increased and the diagonal elements now include spin-orbit coupling. Again, states with identical symmetry are coupled by diagonal tunnel matrices, and weak interactions (denoted \(\Delta_{AS,AS'}\) above) appear as diagonal elements that shift the energies of multiplets with respect to each other. However, off-diagonal elements are allowed in the \((0,2)\) multiplets (gray dots), although arguments can be made that these are small (Appendix \ref{app:b}). Interactions within the \((0,2)\) multiplet (not included in Table \ref{tab:IV}) appear as diagonal and off-diagonal matrix elements, and are further discussed in Section \ref{sec:VII}.

Plots of energy versus detuning for the low-energy states (Singlet, Triplet and \(S,AS\)) are shown in Fig. \ref{fig:29}c-d) neglecting interactions \((\Delta_{AS,AS'} \rightarrow 0)\). The more complex spectrum for the nanotube is clearly revealed. Valley mixing (assumed zero in this figure) would lead to additional avoided crossings (off-diagonal elements in the matrix) between states with different valley quantum numbers. The non-avoided crossings between the \(AS(1,1)\) and \(S(0,2)\) states correspond to the long-lived \((1,1)\) states that give rise to Pauli rectification.

Tunneling from a blocked \(AS(1,1)\) state to a \(S(0,2)\) state requires a change of the longitudinal symmetry. For some states this may simply involve dephasing between the left and right single-particle states. For other states it also necessitates a change in quantum numbers of at least one electron. In particular, we distinguish lifting of Pauli blockade by:

- Dephasing only
- Valley flips
FIG. 29 (Color online) (a) Matrix representing the two-electron Hamiltonian for a conventional semiconductor double dot, assuming a single orbital on the left and two orbitals on the right. The basis states are spin-singlet and spin-triplet states as indicated, and dots indicate non-zero matrix elements. The submatrices in the (1,1) and (0,2) subspaces are all diagonal, and interdot tunneling (black dots) leaves singlet and triplet states uncoupled. To lowest order, interactions modify the diagonal elements between Triplet (0,2) and Singlet′ (0,2) eigenstates (colored dots), corresponding to the interaction energy $\Delta_{AS,S'}$ discussed in the text. For completeness, we include the higher-lying Singlet″ (0,2). (b) The analogous matrix for a nanotube double quantum dot with spin-orbit interaction, assuming a single longitudinal shell on the left and two shells on the right. The basis states are those of Table IV, hence longitudinally symmetric $S(1,1)$ and antisymmetric $AS(0,2)$ states are uncoupled. Most submatrices are still diagonal, but interactions are expected to result in significant off-diagonal matrix elements (gray dots) within the (0,2) sectors (cf. Sec. VII). (c) Energy versus detuning of the shaded states in (a), neglecting interactions. Zero detuning corresponds to the degeneracy between the ground states of (0,2) and (1,1). Avoided crossings due to interdot tunneling occur for states with the same symmetry. The degeneracy of the levels is indicated. Numerical parameters in this plot were chosen for illustrative purposes, and differ in actual devices. (d) The same plot for a nanotube, assuming identical spin-orbit coupling ($\Delta_{SO}$) in all shells. Interdot tunneling now leads to anticrossings between states with the same longitudinal symmetry.

- Spin flips
- Spin and valley flips

Interestingly, inspection of all ten $AS$ states reveals that a single flip in one of the dots (either spin flip or valley flip) suffices to turn any blocked state into an unblocked double dot configuration. However, some of these processes are suppressed by a combination of spin-orbit coupling and energy conservation. Examples are given in Appendix B.10.

To investigate which type of blockade is observed in experiments, careful identification of the involved states and quantum numbers is required. This is best facilitated by application of a magnetic field. In Fig. 30(a), the energies in two lowest single-particle shells are plotted against parallel magnetic field. The two-electron magnetic moments are obtained by summing the one-electron magnetic moments (Fig. 30(b)). As an example, the blue dots in Fig. 30(a) indicate the two single-particle energies summed to give the energy of the $S(0,2)$ state $K^\uparrow, K'^\downarrow$ as in Fig. 30(b). Similarly, the red dots indicate the two single-particle energies combining to give the $AS(0,2)$ state denoted $K^\downarrow, K^\downarrow$. The field dependence of the remaining states is found in a similar fashion. The states can be divided into pairs of valley-polarized, spin-polarized and spin-valley unpolarized states. Although all degeneracies of the two multiplets are lifted at finite field, and spin and valley quantum numbers can in principle be assigned based on the observed magnetic mo-
FIG. 30 (Color online) Magnetic field dependence of the 16 lowest (0,2) states (cf. Fig. 28). (a) Spectrum of the two lowest single-particle shells of the right dot, versus parallel magnetic field $B_{\|}$. There are six ways to fill the lowest shell with two electrons, each corresponding to a symmetric state in (b). The magnetic moment of each combination is simply the sum of the involved single-particle spin and orbital magnetic moments, shown here for two examples (red and blue dots). (b) Magnetic field dependence of the ten antisymmetric and six symmetric states. States that involve the ground state of the lowest shell, $K_\downarrow$, are plotted with solid lines.

4. Symmetric and antisymmetric multiplets in nanotubes - Experiment

The two-electron spectrum can be measured by high-bias spectroscopy near the (0,1)-(0,2). Assuming that the device starts in the (0,1) ground state ($K_\downarrow$), then exactly three states of the symmetric two-electron multiplet can be reached and four states of the antisymmetric multiplet (Fig. 30(a)). All other two-electron states would require a higher-order process, in which the incoming electron also promotes the resident electron to change its spin or valley quantum numbers. The expected addition spectrum is shown in Fig. 31(b), and the corresponding data in Fig. 31(b). Although the qualitative agreement is quite good, the data shows a surprisingly small multiplet splitting $\Delta_{S,AS}$, significantly less than the single-particle level spacing. This is due to strong electron-electron correlations (discussed in Sec. VII), that differ drastically from the weak exchange interactions in typical GaAs dots. This is of practical importance, because a small splitting $\Delta_{S,AS}$ makes it difficult to observe Pauli blockade in carbon nanotubes.

5. Pauli blockade in nanotubes - experiment

Generally, interdot transitions that are forbidden by spin or valley selection rules are of particular interest, because measurements of leakage current or double-dot charge state then illuminate spin dynamics and spin-valley relaxation processes. We return to this topic in Sec. V. Although aspects of Pauli blockade in nanotubes have been observed by multiple groups, this phenomenon is experimentally less generic than in GaAs. A detailed understanding of the data is complicated by the large number of states involved (see Fig. 29), and often a lack of knowledge of critical device parameters such as differences in intervalley scattering or spin-orbit coupling in left and right quantum dot, and the strength of electron-electron correlations. All these were neglected in Fig. 29 for sake of clarity.

Even the simplest manifestation of Pauli blockade, namely Pauli rectification in a DC transport experiment, can be obscured by other effects such as strong electron-electron correlations. In Fig. 27 we outlined the double dot energy levels for the (1,1)$\rightarrow$(0,2) transition and noted the importance of sufficiently large $\Delta_{S,AS}$. In the

\[ \Delta_{S,AS} \leq \Delta_0, \]

11 This requires that interactions have lifted the degeneracy with the $S'(0,2)$ multiplet not included in Fig. 30(b).
(n, n) and (p, p) regimes, $\Delta_{S,AS}$ is limited by the level spacing from the longitudinal quantization $\Delta_{K}$, and likely significantly reduced by correlation effects $\Delta_{S,AS}'$. In order to keep $\Delta_{S,AS}$ as large as possible, the bandgap of the nanotube can be used as an effective large “level spacing”, making the observation of Pauli blockade more robust against interaction effects. The transition between (3h, 1e) and (2h, 0) (green circle in Fig. 24(b)), is one example where the level spacing is enhanced by the band structure gap, $E_{G}$.

As shown in Fig. 32, rectification behavior for such a transition is observed for detunings as high as the applied bias voltage ($\pm$10 mV). This is higher than the spin-orbit splitting and estimated level spacing in this device (Pei et al., 2012). This observation of strong current suppression up to high bias can be linked to the advantageous use of the band gap energy (cf. Fig. 33(a)).

In the blocked bias triangle of Fig. 32(b), a small increase of leakage current is observed at a detuning of approximately $2 \times \Delta_{SO} = 3.2$ meV. This current can be interpreted as a weak lifting of Pauli blockade, but a quantitative understanding of this leakage current, and identification of the corresponding relaxation rates, has not been reached. We speculate that it is necessary to include interaction effects beyond the constant interaction model to explain such features.

6. Spin-valley blockade

Information about the role of spin and valley quantum numbers in the Pauli rectification of Fig. 32 can be obtained by applying a parallel magnetic field. If this induces an energy-level splitting larger than the interdot tunnel coupling or the intervalley scattering, we expect orbital and Zeeman couplings to restore valley and spin quantum numbers within the two-electron states. In turn we can associate these with the quantum numbers of single-particle levels.

In Fig. 33(e), the leakage current is measured as a function of detuning (defined in Fig. 32(b)) and $B_{\parallel}$. Interdot selection rules predict a blockade in this regime, and therefore the leakage current provides information about the relaxation of selection rules. The base of the bias triangle (detuning $\delta \sim 0$) corresponds to the ground state-to-ground state transition between (3h, 1e) and (2h, 0). Below, we will consider the magnitude of the leakage current as an indicator for spin and valley selection rules for the interdot charge transition.

Figure 33(a) shows the assignment of single-particle quantum numbers to the highest (lowest) longitudinal shell in the valence (conduction) band of the left (right) quantum dot. These quantum numbers were inferred from the magnetic field dependence of the stability diagram. Based on the single-particle picture, the ground state of (2h, 0) is expected to make a transition from $K'^{\uparrow}, \downarrow$ to $K'^{\uparrow}, K'^{\downarrow}$ as a function of parallel magnetic field, with important consequences for the interpretation of Pauli blockade. Figure 33(b) illustrates in the single-particle picture that Pauli blockade at low field can be partially lifted by flipping the spin of the right electron, whereas at higher magnetic field it requires a spin flip and a valley flip. Therefore, if valley is a good quantum number and conserved during interdot tunneling, then one expects that the ground state leakage current at higher field is smaller than the leakage current at lower fields. Indeed, this is seen in panel (e) by comparing conductance features marked in red and blue.

By considering the (3h, 1e) $\rightarrow$ (2h, 0) transition as similar to $(1, 1) \rightarrow (2, 0)$, we can provide an alternative interpretation of panel (e) in the language of two-electron states: We use the lowest (1, 1) energy state, $(K'^{\uparrow}, \downarrow)$, as a spectroscopic probe to measure the lowest multiplet in (2, 0). Figure 33(c) shows the lowest six states expected for (2, 0), similar to Fig. 30(b), but with different signs of spin-orbit coupling. States that involve the left $K'^{\uparrow}$ orbital are shown by solid lines. Transitions corresponding to those in panel (b) are indicated by blue and red arrows. We also exemplify a transition that, within the single-particle picture, is expected to be allowed (black arrow, does not require spin or valley flip) and expected to be forbidden (grey arrow, left electron would need to

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12 To avoid confusion, we show quantum numbers of electronic states, even for the valence band. Other publications may consider the absence of a $K'^{\uparrow}$ electron in the valence band as a $K'^{\downarrow}$ hole, due to conservation of angular momentum. Quantum numbers in Pei et al. (2012) and Steele et al. (2013) are not consistent with our identification.

13 The $(3h, 1e) \rightarrow (2h, 0)$ transition is similar to $(4N+1, 4M+1) \rightarrow (4N+2, 4M+0)$, and thereby similar to $(1, 1) \rightarrow (2, 0)$. However, care should be taken when translating conclusions about quantum numbers or electron interaction effects from the $(1, 1) \rightarrow (2, 0)$ model, due to the different physics that can occur in double dots, as well as different definitions of valley and spin in the hole language.
flip spin and valley). The magnetic field dependence expected for these transitions is shown in panel (d). The ground state transition requires spin or valley relaxation at low fields, whereas it requires spin and valley relaxation at high fields. This is in qualitative agreement with the data presented in panel (e). However, the observed absence of the allowed transition (black line), and the presence of the forbidden transition (grey dashed line), is not understood within our simplified model.

In summary, data suggests that both spin and valley can contribute to Pauli blockade, but a quantitative understanding of the leakage current, and identification of the corresponding relaxation rates, has not been reached. We speculate that several mechanisms can contribute, such as disorder, hyperfine coupling, spin-phonon coupling, or bend and spin-orbit mediated relaxation.

D. Lifting of Pauli blockade by hyperfine coupling

In this section we investigate double dots where Pauli blockade is partially lifted due to hyperfine interaction between the electron spin and the $^{13}$C nuclear spins.

1. Theory

Hyperfine interaction with disordered nuclear spins, such as $^{13}$C isotopes, couples different spin states by flip-flop processes and, in addition, different valley states, because of the atomically sharp length scale. It is therefore expected that hyperfine coupling generically lifts Pauli blockade and results in spin relaxation and spin dephasing processes. This mechanism of spin relaxation was considered by Semenov et al., 2007, whose numerical estimates predicted a spin relaxation time of the order of 1 s. Relevant for quantum dot experiments in carbon nanotubes, Fischer et al., 2009 and Yazyev, 2008 inspected the role of dipolar and Fermi contact interaction in sp-hybridized nanostructures, resulting in an interesting interplay between isotropic and anisotropic hyperfine interactions.

In the tightbinding picture of Pályi and Burkard, 2009, the hyperfine interaction with $^{13}$C is modeled by an on-site matrix element $H_{hf}$ on the site of each nuclear spin (Fig. 34): $(H_{hf})_{\sigma,\sigma'} = \sum_{s,s'} \delta_{\sigma}\delta_{\sigma'} S_A s \sigma s' l l', \sigma', s'$, where $A$ is a diagonal matrix, $l$ is the unit-cell index and $\sigma \in \{A,B\}$ is the sublattice index. Because the hyper-
fine coupling acts locally at each atomic lattice site \( R_{\text{so}} \) that contains a \( ^{13}\text{C} \), it couples not only to the electron spin, but also mixes the valley index (cf. discussion of valley scattering in Fig. 34). Pályi and Burkard 2009 estimate that the strength of the valley-conserving and valley-mixing parts of the effective hyperfine coupling are of the same order of magnitude. Pauli blockade, even in its strongest form protected by spin and valley (Sec. IV.C.6), can therefore be lifted by the presence of \( ^{13}\text{C} \) atoms. Pályi and Burkard 2009 considered the situation where valley scattering is dominated by hyperfine coupling. Ignoring spin-orbit coupling, they showed that the leakage current in the Pauli blockade regime of a double quantum dot is only strongly suppressed if both valley and spin splittings are larger than the hyperfine coupling.

The other limit, where valley scattering is dominated by disorder-induced valley scattering, was considered subsequenctly (Pályi and Burkard 2010). Ignoring hyperfine coupling, but assuming strong SOI (larger than the splittings due to disorder and interdot tunneling), it was predicted that the current in the Pauli blockade regime can show a dip at low fields. Although similar to experimental data discussed in Fig. 35(a), the amplitude of the predicted dip is orders of magnitude smaller than observed. In the theory, the low-field dip occurs because a difference in the valley coupling splittings diminishes the matrix element for tunneling, while at high fields the valley mixing is suppressed.

2. Experiment

Figure 35 shows electron transport through weakly tunnel-coupled, Pauli blocked double dots. Panels (a) and (b) show the asymmetry in forward and reverse bias for a nanotube enriched with \( ^{13}\text{C} \), similar to the Pauli blocked \( ^{12}\text{C} \) device discussed in Fig. 32. Figure 35(c) compares the magnetic field dependence of the reverse-bias leakage current near the base of the triangle with the forward current in the same tuning. Whereas the forward current is independent of applied magnetic field (indicating that the rate-limiting tunnel barrier, \( \Gamma_M \), is independent of magnetic field), the reverse leakage current is strongly suppressed only above a characteristic magnetic field scale, \( B_C \sim 6 \text{ mT} \) (Fig. 35(c)). Churchill et al. 2009a attributed the peak of the leakage current at \( B = 0 \) to spin-relaxation via electron-nuclear flip-flop processes, similarly to the situation in GaAs double dots and InAs nanowires (Koppens et al. 2005, Nadji-Perge et al. 2010b). Because of the mismatch of electron and nuclear magnetic moments, these energy-conserving flip-flop processes are expected to be strongly suppressed once the difference in Zeeman splitting ex-
ceeds the strength of the hyperfine coupling $B_{\text{nuc}}$. By estimating the number of nuclei, $N$, electron g-factor $g_e \sim 2 \gg g_{\text{nuc}}$, and assuming uniform coupling to a Gaussian-distributed Overhauser field, $g \mu_B B_{\text{nuc}} = A/\sqrt{N}$, an effective hyperfine coupling constant $A \sim 1 - 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$ can be estimated. This value is two orders of magnitude larger than predicted for carbon nanotubes [Fischer et al., 2009; Yazeyev, 2008] or measured in fullerences [Pennington and Stenger, 1996].

This puzzling result stimulated theoretical work by Coish and Qassemi [2011], who examined the role of thermally activated spin-flip cotunneling in lifting spin blockade. Their theory does not require large hyperfine coupling constants but predicts a peak width (set by temperature, here approximately 100 mK) that is too large. Matching the width in Fig. 35(c) would require a temperature below 10 mK for $g = 2$. This large value of the hyperfine interaction currently remains unexplained. It is, however, consistent with a subsequent measurement of the dephasing time in a $^{13}\text{C}$ double-dot device (Churchill et al., 2009a), discussed in the next section.

A strikingly different magnetic field dependence of the leakage current through a Pauli-blocked $^{12}\text{C}$ double dot is shown in Fig. 35(d): The leakage current shows a minimum at $B = 0$, whose width depends on the interdot tunnel coupling. Such behavior was seen in both $^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ devices, particularly for stronger interdot tunnelling. This is at first sight consistent with the predictions of Pályi and Burkard [2010], which give a peak or a dip depending on specific device parameters. However, the ratio of the observed low and high field currents is 50, rather than 1.5 as predicted, and the observed peak width in Fig. 35(e) did not depend on interdot tunneling.

An alternative explanation of the large dip is phonon and spin-orbit interaction mediated spin relaxation. Because spin-orbit coupling is even under time-reversal symmetry, one-phonon processes cannot mediate a coupling between time-conjugate states (so-called van Vleck cancellation, similar to electric dipole transitions). This leads to suppressed spin relaxation near $B = 0$ as discussed in Sec. 3.1.2 (Khaetskii and Nazarov, 2001; Van Vleck, 1940). It is, however, still unresolved what causes the large dip in some of the carbon nanotube devices.

Figure 35(e) shows a zoom in of the leakage current at low fields and small detuning for the device presented in Fig. 33(f). At first sight, the magnetic field dependence resembles that of Fig. 35(c), with a peak width that is approximately ten times smaller. Noting that this device had a natural abundance of $^{13}\text{C}$ (~ 1 %), and that the effective hyperfine coupling scales with the square root of the $^{13}\text{C}$ concentration, this data corroborates with the hyperfine coupling measured by (Churchill et al., 2009a). On second sight, a small splitting in the leakage current is evident near $B = 0$ (Fig. 35(f)), indicating that a full understanding of this system has not been reached yet. As discussed in (Pei et al., 2012 supplement), the splitting of the peak could arise from combinations of exchange interaction, spin-orbit coupling, and hyperfine coupling.

Looking beyond carbon nanotubes, we note that dips and peaks of the leakage current at $B = 0$ have been observed and discussed in InAs nanowires (Nadji-Perge et al., 2010b; Pfund et al., 2007) and silicon quantum dots (Lai et al., 2011; Yamahata et al., 2012).

### E. Open Questions

- The reproducibility of quantum properties, and the variability of device characteristics among nanotubes of identical chirality, has yet to be established. It is experimentally unverified whether right-handed and left-handed species have the same quantum properties. Similarly, the robustness of the valley index (isospin) for armchair-like and zigzag-like nanotubes has not been checked experimentally.

- Although Pauli blockade has been observed in different device geometries by several groups, it is not as well established as in III-V quantum double dots. In fact, several nanotube double dots showed no Pauli blockade, and it is debatable whether this should be attributed to differences in disorder, dielectric surrounding, or interaction effects.

- Relaxation times associated with valley relaxation, spin relaxation, spin and valley relaxation in single or double quantum dots at various magnetic fields have not yet been measured systematically.

- The type of hyperfine interaction (Fermi contact term vs dipolar) has not been studied experimentally. The unexplained strength of hyperfine interaction inferred from one study by Churchill et al. [2009a] remains to be confirmed. The lifting of Pauli blockade near $B = 0$ may have alternative explanations, but we are not aware of any that are consistent with experimental conditions. The short dephasing time measured in $^{13}\text{C}$ devices (Churchill et al., 2009a) is consistent with a large hyperfine coupling, but may originate from mechanisms unrelated to hyperfine coupling. Laird et al. [2013] measured a comparatively short dephasing time in predominantly $^{12}\text{C}$ nanotubes.

- In Appendix B.10 we argue that Pauli blockade protected by “spin and valley” strictly speaking does not exist. However, a single spin flip or valley flip does not conserve energy due to spin-orbit coupling.

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14 i.e. with natural abundance $^{13}\text{C}$. 
possibly making spin-and-valley flips the dominant relaxation process. This underlines the importance of understanding both spin and valley for any quantum device based on carbon nanotubes.

V. SPIN VALLEY COHERENCE

By studying the decay of spin and valley states, we can use them as delicate probes of their environment. In this Chapter, we discuss different ways for these states to decay, and show how they can be used as quantum bits. We focus especially on the interactions of electron spins with phonons and with magnetic nuclei.

We will discuss three distinct decay processes of quantum states, known as relaxation, dephasing and decoherence. Relaxation (characterized by time \( T_1 \)) describes the equilibration of population between two quantum states. Dephasing (characterized by time \( T_2 \)) describes loss of phase information in a quantum superposition. The main mechanism by which this happens is through fluctuations of the quantum energy splitting leading to accumulation of random phases. Decoherence describes the loss of phase information when slowly varying fluctuations are removed by dynamical decoupling. For the simplest decoupling scheme, Hahn echo (Sec. V.C.4), this is characterized by a time \( T_{\text{echo}} \), which is generally longer than \( T_2 \). For fuller discussion, see (Hanson et al. 2007).

A. Spin and valley coupling to phonons

1. Theory

Because the mechanical motion of nanotubes perturbs the confining potential of quantum dots, it couples distinct electron charge states. Through spin-orbit interaction, spin-valley states are also coupled to mechanical motion. This is most clearly evident as a relaxation channel for spin-valley states; excited states can decay by phonon emission, with a rate that depends on the coupling strength and the phonon density of states.

There are four types of phonon mode in nanotubes; radial breathing, twist, longitudinal and bending modes (Mariani and von Oppen 2009). These couple to spin-valley states through two general coupling mechanisms. Deformation-potential coupling perturbs the bandstructure and, combined with spin-orbit coupling, induces spin flips (Bulaev et al. 2008). Deflection coupling, changes the alignment of the nanotube to the magnetic field, thereby coupling spin and valley through the anisotropy of the valley magnetic moment (Borysenko et al. 2008; Rudner and Rashba 2010). Although deformation-potential coupling is present for all four mode types, deflection coupling arises only from bending modes. Nevertheless, it is calculated to be the dominant mechanism for phonon-mediated spin relaxation at low energy (Rudner and Rashba 2010).

Considering these mechanisms, several statements can be made about the expected \( T_1 \) between different valley-spin states as a function of magnetic field:

1. Relaxation between time-conjugate states is suppressed at low magnetic fields due to van Vleck cancellation (Khaetskii and Nazarov 2001). This is a consequence of time-reversal symmetry, and applies to relaxation within a Kramers doublet.

2. Relaxation between non-time-conjugate states occurs fastest when they are close together in energy. The reason is that the dispersion relation for bending-mode phonons, \( \omega(k) \propto k^2 \), leads to a density of states \( dk/d\omega \propto 1/\sqrt{\omega} \) which is maximal at \( \omega \to 0 \). This is in contrast to higher-dimensional systems, where the density of states is constant or increases with energy (Bulaev et al. 2008; Rudner and Rashba 2010).

3. The relaxation rate between two states is a non-monotonic function of their energy splitting, owing to interference between different contributions to the electron-phonon coupling. Interference is predicted between contributions from discrete and continuous phonon modes, as well as due to the match or mismatch of phonon wavelength with the wavelength of a confined electron. These interference oscillations should be evident in the dependence of \( T_1 \) on magnetic field (Bulaev et al. 2008).

2. Experiment

Spin-valley relaxation has been measured in the device of Fig. 3(a,b). This device, fabricated from a \(^{13}\text{C}\) nanotube, incorporates a double quantum dot and a nearby charge sensor, coupled via a floating coupling antenna, whose conductance is sensitive to the charge occupancy of the double dot. Relaxation is studied by preparing an AS two-electron state, Pauli blocked in (1,1), and using the charge sensor to monitor the time to decay to an unblocked S state (Churchill et al. 2009).

The two-electron state is manipulated using a cycle of gate voltage pulses, applied to gates L and R, to switch the dot potentials between different configurations (Fig. 5(a,b)). The cycle begins with the device configured at point E in gate space, where tunneling to the leads prepares the (0,1) configuration. The device is then pulsed to point R in (1,1), where an electron is reloaded into the left dot. Because \( \Delta_{S-AS} \) is small in the (1,1) configuration (left side of Fig. 29(d)), the two-electron state after reloading can be either S or AS. For readout, the device is quickly pulsed to point M, corresponding to the right side of Fig. 29(d), where the
FIG. 36 (Color online) Measurement of spin-valley $T_1$. (a) Pulse cycle to measure relaxation from AS to S states (see text). (b) Stability diagram close to the (1,1)-(0,2) transition with pulse cycle to measure relaxation from AS to S states (see text). (b) $\sim$ blockade enforces occupancy (1,1). This persists for a leading to (0,2) occupancy. However, for AS states, Pauli state was S, the left electron will tunnel to the right dot, to-charge conversion occurs; if the prepared two-electron ground-state configuration is S(0,2). Here a symmetry-

The interference oscillations of prediction (3) have not yet been reported. One reason may be that they are sensitive to the confinement potential. Whereas hard-wall confinement should give rise to sharp interference maxima of $T_1$ due to strongly varying overlap of electron and phonon wavefunctions with energy, soft confinement typical of few-electron devices is expected to lead to less pronounced maxima [Bulaev et al., 2008].

B. Hyperfine mixing of spin states

1. Theory

As well as electron-phonon interaction, a major influence on spin evolution in semiconductors is hyperfine interaction with uncontrolled lattice nuclear spins [Hanson et al., 2007]. An electron in a quantum dot interacts with all of the nuclei with which its wavefunction overlaps; the net effect is equivalent to an effective Zeeman field $B_{\text{nuc}}$ that fluctuates slowly about zero due to nuclear spin diffusion. Approximating an equal overlap with all nuclei in the quantum dot, each root-mean-square component of this field is $B_{\text{nuc}} = \sqrt{N_{13}A/N_{13}g_\mu_B}$, where $N_{13}$ is the number of nuclei in the dot of which $N_{13}$ are $^{13}$C and $A$ is the hyperfine constant. As discussed in Chapter IV, the local nature of the hyperfine interaction can cause spin relaxation. Here, we explain that this uncontrolled field also constitutes a major source of spin dephasing [Taylor et al., 2007], and its strength can be deduced by measuring $T_2$. 

2. Experiment

Electron spin dephasing was studied in the same device of Fig. 36(b). This was synthesized using 99% $^{13}$C, mak-

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15 We define spin-valley relaxation as relaxation between an AS and an S state. As discussed in Section IV.C.3, this can involve a flip of spin, valley, neither, or both.
ing hyperfine effects particularly strong. Dephasing was detected through the mixing of S and AS states with the two electrons in separate quantum dots (Churchill et al., 2009b). Because the random hyperfine field is in general different between the dots, the separated spins precess at different rates, mixing S and AS states.

The pulse scheme for this experiment (Fig. 37a-c) first configures the device in (0,2) at point P, where large $\Delta_{S,AS}$ causes tunneling to the leads to prepare an S state. By tilting the potential into (1,1) (point S, corresponding to left of Fig. 29(d)), the electrons are separated for a time $\tau_S$, during which precession in the hyperfine effective field can mix S and AS states. Finally, the gate voltages are pulsed back towards a (0,2) configuration (point M, corresponding to right of Fig. 29(d)) for measurement. As in Fig. 30, S states relax to (0,2) occupancy, whereas AS states remain blocked in (1,1). From the sensor conductance $g_C$ in the measurement configuration, averaged over many cycles, the probability of return to (0,2), and hence the degree of S-AS mixing during the separation step can be deduced.

As a function of $\tau_S$, the return probability $P(\tau_S)$ decays with characteristic time $T_2^* = 3.2$ ns (Fig. 37d), saturating at a value $P(\infty) \approx 0.17$. Attributing the observed $T_2^*$ solely to the difference of hyperfine effective field between dots, the effective hyperfine field is given by $B_{\text{nuc}} = h/\sqrt{2} g \mu_B T_2^* = 1.3$ mT. This is within a factor 3 of the value deduced from Fig. 35 ($\delta B_{\text{nuc}} = 4$ mT). However, this apparent agreement again suggests a hyperfine constant $A$ two orders of magnitude larger than expected theoretically (Fischer et al., 2009; Yazyev, 2008).

The long-$\tau_S$ saturation value of the return probability $P_S(\infty)$ should reflect the level diagram of Fig. 29(d). Assuming a large longitudinal level spacing, so that only one shell in each dot needs to be considered, the (1,1) configuration allows 16 states, but the lowest manifold in the (0,2) configuration only six. If mixing is fully incoherent, the saturation probability will then be $P(\infty) = 6/16 = 0.375$. If mixing is coherent, $P(\infty)$ will in general be higher. The case of a clean nanotube ($\Delta_{KK} = 0$ but including spin-orbit coupling) was analyzed by (Reynoso and Flensberg, 2011), who calculated the value for a range of specific cases. Depending on whether the system is prepared in its ground state, whether passage through the anticrossings in Fig. 29(d) is adiabatic, and depending on the strength of the magnetic field, $P(\infty)$ can be enhanced as high as unity. Including valley mixing makes the situation even more complicated because $\Delta_{KK}$ may differ between the dots. This gives rise to new avoided crossings in the level scheme of Fig. 29(d). The speed at which these crossings are passed, set by the detuning sweep rate, is of critical importance (Ribeiro et al., 2013a,b). In the simplest case, where the ground state is always prepared and the first crossing is adiabatic, a value $P(\infty) = 1/3$ is predicted, with corrections due to non-adiabaticity always positive (Reynoso and Flensberg, 2012). The measured $P(\infty) = 0.17$ is therefore lower than all existing theoretical predictions.

C. Qubits

1. Qubit states and the Bloch sphere

A quantum bit, or qubit, is a two-level system that can be controlled in a quantum coherent way (Nielsen and Chuang, 2000). An intuitive way to represent the state of a qubit is as a point on the surface of the Bloch sphere (Fig. 38a). With two orthogonal states of the qubit (for example two spin states) assigned as the basis states $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, any superposition can be written $|\psi\rangle = \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} |0\rangle + e^{i \theta} \sin \frac{\varphi}{2} |1\rangle$, where the parameters $\theta$ and $\varphi$ are polar coordinates representing that state. Any unitary single-qubit operation then corresponds to a rotation about the origin.

How can such rotations be achieved? One of the most useful techniques is by means of resonant driving at a

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frequency corresponding to the energy splitting between qubit states \( \{ \uparrow, \downarrow \} \) (for one electron in the shell) and \( \{ \uparrow^*, \downarrow^* \} \) (for two electrons in the shell) to emphasize the isomorphism with a spin qubit. In a parallel magnetic field and neglecting disorder, these are the eigenstates \( \{ K'\uparrow, K'\downarrow \} \) and \( \{ K\uparrow, K\downarrow \} \), but for general field direction or with disorder, they become entangled states of spin and valley. The experimental manipulation of these qubits, known as Kramers qubits or valley-spin qubits, is described in Sections V.C.3-V.C.4 (Rohling and Burkard, 2007). Several nanotubes have been clearly demonstrated (Laird et al., 2013). Kramers degeneracy guarantees that by reducing the magnetic field the qubit splitting can be made as small as desired.

Two other qubits can be defined that have not yet been realized experimentally. A pure spin qubit can be defined between the two states that cross at \( B_{||} = B_{SO} \), i.e. \( K'\uparrow \) and \( K'\downarrow \) in Fig. 38. For magnetic field aligned with the nanotube, the energy splitting vanishes at the crossing. However, even quite small misalignment \( \Theta \) leads to an appreciable splitting \( \Delta\Theta \). For example, with \( B_{SO} = 1 \) meV and \( \Theta = 1^\circ \), the minimum driving frequency is \( f = \Delta\Theta/h \approx 4.2 \) GHz. Alternatively a pure valley qubit can be defined at the anticrossing between states of the same spin \( (K'\uparrow \text{ and } K'\downarrow \text{ in Fig. 38}) \). However, the minimum driving frequency, set by \( \Delta_{KK'} \), can again be substantial, with a typical experimental value \( \Delta_{KK'} = 60 \) meV leading to minimum \( f = \Delta_{KK'}/h \sim 15 \) GHz. More importantly, it may be difficult to control \( \Delta_{KK'} \) experimentally.

These various qubits can be manipulated using time-varying electric and magnetic fields. Techniques for driving single-qubit operations have been developed extensively in GaAs quantum dots and many should be applicable to nanotubes (Hanson et al., 2007). Several schemes have been proposed. The conceptually simplest is to use an alternating magnetic field as in Sec. V.C.1. This should work for the spin and Kramers qubits, but not for the valley qubit, because it has no magnetic moment in the perpendicular direction. Since time-varying
magnetic fields are hard to generate in nanostructures, schemes have been suggested based on time-varying electric fields. The common principle is that moving the electron back and forth leads to an effective magnetic field mediated by spin-orbit coupling. For example, the Rashba-like coupling discussed in Section III.F.4 is equivalent to a momentum-dependent perpendicular magnetic field and can be used to manipulate both spin and Kramers qubits (Klinovaja et al. 2011a). The corresponding Rabi frequency is however rather low \( f_R \sim 5 \text{ MHz} \), making the driving inefficient in the presence of decoherence. A stronger coupling can be achieved in the presence of a bend, which gives a position-dependent effective magnetic field \( \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \) (Flensberg and Marcus, 2010) and mediates the only coherent control so far clearly achieved in nanotubes (see next section). Similarly, coupling to a true inhomogeneous magnetic field has been suggested \( (\text{Széchenyi and Pályi } 2013\text{b}) \). Another proposal relies on inhomogeneity of the disorder parameter \( \Delta_{KK'} \). Although random, if this inhomogeneity is static it should allow driving of both Kramers and valley qubits \( (\text{Pályi and Burkard } 2011, \text{ Széchenyi and Pályi } 2013\text{b}) \). These possibilities are summarized in Table V.

As well as the driving mechanism, important considerations are the effects of dephasing and decoherence, which limit the coherence time and reduce the fidelity of gate operations. In general, a qubit suffers decoherence through every channel by which it can be driven. As discussed in the first two sections of this Chapter, the dominant decoherence sources in nanotubes are expected to be random time-varying electric fields (e.g. from gate noise and nearby charge switches) and hyperfine coupling to \(^{13}\text{C}\) spins, which act as a time-varying magnetic field that varies on the scale of individual lattice sites. The detailed coherence properties depend on the strength and power spectrum of the various noise sources.

3. Electrically driven spin resonance in nanotubes

We now focus on the Kramers qubit, which has been experimentally demonstrated. Using bends to mediate qubit control was proposed by \( (\text{Flensberg and Marcus } 2010) \) and realised by \( (\text{Laird } et al. \ 2013) \). It relies on the anisotropic splitting of the Kramers doublets with magnetic field (Fig 20(d)). Each qubit can be regarded as an effective spin-1/2, with spin vector \( \mathbf{s}^\star \) whose components, just like those of the real spin, have eigenvalues defined as \( \pm 1 \). Unlike the real spin, the Zeeman splitting of this effective spin depends on field angle; the parallel and perpendicular components of the \( \mathbf{g} \)-tensor are:

\[
g_{||} = g_s \mp \frac{g_{\text{orb}} \Delta_{SO}}{\sqrt{\Delta_{KK'}^2 + \Delta_{SO}^2}} \tag{29}
g_{\perp} = \frac{g_s \Delta_{KK'}}{\sqrt{\Delta_{KK'}^2 + \Delta_{SO}^2}} \tag{30}
\]

where upper and lower signs correspond to starred and unstarred doublets respectively. The effective Zeeman Hamiltonian is then:

\[
\mathbf{H}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{2} \mu_{\text{B}} \mathbf{s}^\star \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}}, \tag{31}
\]

where \( \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \) is an effective magnetic field, defined as the tensor product \( \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \equiv \mathbf{g} \otimes \mathbf{B} \), about which \( \mathbf{s}^\star \) precesses. The geometric interpretation of Eq. (31) is shown in Fig. 39(a). When \( \mathbf{B} \) is applied perpendicular to the nanotube (right side of figure), \( \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \) is parallel to \( \mathbf{B} \). However, when \( \mathbf{B} \) is applied at an angle because the nanotube is bent (left side of figure), the parallel and perpendicular components of \( \mathbf{B} \) couple with separate proportionality constants, leading to a tilted \( \mathbf{B}_{\text{eff}} \).

By applying a microwave electric field to a bent nanotube, a quantum dot can be driven back and forth across the bend, experiencing an effective magnetic field that contains both a static component and a perpendicular oscillating component\(^{17}\). Thus the electric field drives transitions between the two qubit states. Because these two states do not have the same spin, this is a form of electrically driven spin resonance (EDSR).

Detection of EDSR is by measuring the current through a double quantum dot configured in a Pauli-
blocked configuration (Fig. 39(c)). With microwaves applied, a peak in current is observed whenever the resonance condition \( f = g\mu_B B / h \) is reached, indicating spin mixing by EDSR. The measured value \( g \approx 2 \) presumably arises because this device was highly disordered \((\Delta_{K'K} \gg \Delta_{SO})\) and/or in the many-carrier limit, consistent with irregular Coulomb spacings seen in transport data (not shown). As well as the main resonance, a series of subharmonics at integer frequency fractions are seen, due to anharmonicity of the confinement potential or disorder [Nowak et al., 2012; Széchenyi and Pályi, 2013a]. The resonant current increases with field as expected from Eq. (31) because \( B_{\text{eff}} \) and hence \( f_R \) becomes larger.

4. Qubit manipulation and characterization

The data of Fig. 39 shows only state mixing. Quantum coherent behaviour is demonstrated by measuring Rabi oscillations [Hanson et al., 2007]. This was achieved in a less disordered device using a pulsed measurement protocol that shuts off current while microwaves are applied (Fig. 40(a)). The scheme operates near the \((1,-1) \rightarrow (0,0)\) charge transition, where the qubit states participating in transport are \((\uparrow, \downarrow)\). Gate voltage pulses are used to adjust the detuning between two configurations, one Pauli-blocked where electron tunneling is selective on the qubit state, and one Coulomb-blocked where all tunneling is forbidden [Koppens et al., 2006]. The sequence has three stages. An initialization stage at a Pauli blockade configuration loads with high probability a parallel two-qubit state, (e.g. \(\downarrow\downarrow\)). The device is then configured in Coulomb blockade, where a qubit manipulation microwave burst is applied, possibly flipping one of the qubits. During this step, tunneling is energetically suppressed regardless of the spin state. Finally the configuration is returned to Pauli blockade. If no qubit flip occurred during the manipulation stage, the state remains blocked. However, if a qubit (in either dot) was flipped, tunneling will occur based on the overlap of the electron state on the left with the empty state on the right. Repeating this cycle many times, the time-average current is proportional to the qubit flip probability during the manipulation stage.

As a function of burst duration, this current is observed to oscillate (Fig. 40(b)), indicating coherent rotations between qubit states at Rabi frequency \( f_R \). The fitted \( f_R \) is proportional to the driving microwave amplitude (Fig. 40(c)), consistent with a harmonic confinement potential and a smooth bend. The dependence of \( f_R \) on field angle \( \Theta \) is consistent with bend-mediated EDSR coupling [Flensberg and Marcus, 2010] but not with e.g. Rashba-mediated coupling, suggesting that the bend is indeed the dominant EDSR mechanism in this device.

The qubit is characterized further by determining the coherence time \( T_{\text{echo}} \) [Hanson et al., 2007] which characterizes how long a superposition can be preserved by the use of a Hahn echo pulse. The coherence time \( T_{\text{echo}} \) is measured by a Ramsey fringe experiment (Fig. 41), which consists of (1) a \( \pi/2 \) rotation about \( X \) to create a state on the equator; (2) a wait of duration \( \tau \), with a \( \pi \) rotation about \( X \) or \( Y \) inserted half way; (3) a \( \pi/2 \) rotation with phase \( \phi \). Neglecting decoherence, the three rotations interfere to give a qubit flip probability proportional to \( 1 \pm \cos \phi \) (Fig. 41 inset). However, for \( \tau \gg T_{\text{echo}} \), phase information is lost during the wait step, and the qubit flip probability is 1/2 independent of \( \phi \). By fitting

![FIG. 40 (Color online) (a) Pulse sequence used for coherent qubit manipulation. After initialization in a Pauli-blocked qubit state, the device is pulsed into Coulomb blockade to allow qubit manipulation and returned to Pauli blockade for readout. Electron tunneling occurs only if a qubit was flipped during the manipulation step. Repeated with a period \( \sim 1 \mu s \), this leads to a current proportional to the qubit flip probability during the manipulation step. (b) Current (points) as a function of microwave burst duration for various applied powers, showing coherent Rabi rotations. The curves are fits to a model assuming a slowly varying random qubit detuning, due to e.g. charge noise. Traces are offset for clarity. (c) Rabi frequency as a function of microwave amplitude, with fit showing the expected proportionality. (d) Rabi frequency at constant microwave amplitude and power, showing a dependence on field angle \( \Theta \) consistent with bend-mediated EDSR. Adapted from Laird et al. 2013]
the decay of fringe amplitude versus $\tau$, the decay time $T_{\text{echo}} \approx 65 \text{ ns}$ is measured (Fig. 41). This coherence time $T_{\text{echo}}$ is distinct from the dephasing time $T^*_2$ discussed in the previous section because the $\pi$ rotation during step (2) makes it insensitive to slow fluctuations of the qubit splitting. The dephasing time of this qubit was measured by a similar method (not shown) and found to be $T^*_2 \approx 8 \text{ ns}$ [Laird et al., 2013].

Both $T^*_2$ and $T_{\text{echo}}$ are quite short compared with some other semiconductor spin qubits, such as GaAs [Bluhm et al., 2011], Si [Maune et al., 2012; Pla et al., 2012], or diamond [de Lange et al., 2010], but similar to results in InAs and InSb nanowires [van den Berg et al., 2013; Nadj-Perge et al., 2010a]. The measured $T^*_2$ is approximately consistent with hyperfine dephasing, given the unexpectedly large coupling discussed in Sec. V.B.2 [Churchill et al., 2009a], but for $T_{\text{echo}}$ to be limited in the same way, nuclear spin diffusion would have to be much faster than e.g. in GaAs. This would be very surprising, given the one-dimensional geometry and low density of nuclear spins in a nanotube. Fuller consideration of possible mechanisms led to the tentative conclusion that $T_{\text{echo}}$ and perhaps $T^*_2$ are limited by charge switchers in the substrate [Laird et al., 2013].

D. Open questions

Although the main results presented in this chapter are understood, there are still significant unresolved questions. In all these experiments, it is hard to convincingly identify the precise spin-valley states between which transitions occur. Whereas the experiment of Fig. 36 is sensitive to all forms of relaxation between AS and S states, which may be expected in general to have different rates, a single $T_1$ value appears sufficient to fit each decay curve in Fig. 36(c). Likewise, in the experiment of Fig. 37 it is not clear how the state populations redistribute themselves between S and AS states as a result of dephasing, and this is probably reflected in the unexplained $P(\infty)$ value discussed in Section V.B.2.

A related mystery comes from the spectra measured by EDSR. Although in a disordered many-carrier device, the expected resonances with $g \approx 2$ are observed (Fig. 39(c)), the spectrum in a cleaner device is more complex and not understood [Laird et al., 2013]. Whether the unexplained features relate to the unexpectedly short $T_{\text{echo}}$ is not known.

An exciting area opened by this work is the possibility to combine the spin degree of freedom with mechanical and optical degrees in clean, suspended nanotubes. There has already been progress in engineering quantized phonons in nanotubes and studying their interactions with the charge on quantum dots [Benyamin et al., 2014; Huttel et al., 2009; Lassagne et al., 2009; Sapmaz et al., 2005a; Sazonova et al., 2004; Steele et al., 2009a]. Evidence for the discreteness of longitudinal stretching phonon modes, comes from Frank-Condon blockade in suspended nanotubes [Leturcq et al., 2009; Sapmaz et al., 2005a], discussed theoretically by [Flensberg, 2006; Marian and von Oppen, 2009; Sapmaz et al., 2003]. By tuning the discrete phonon modes away from resonance with qubit splittings, long qubit lifetimes may be achievable. On the other hand, when the qubit splitting is nearly resonant with a discrete phonon mode, coherent energy exchange should be possible between them, in a solid-state analog of cavity quantum electrodynamics [Pályi et al., 2012]. Strong spin-phonon coupling in suspended nanotubes may also enable enhanced sensing of nanotube motion [Ohm et al., 2012]. Finally, Gal and Imamoglu [2008] and Li and Zhu [2012] theoretically investigate spin-based mechanics and quantum optics. Using a combination of magnetic fields and optical pump fields, they predict high-fidelity all-optical control of electron spins, phonon induced transparency, and applications in quantum communication.

Finally, we compare this work with the large body of experiments on spin relaxation, dephasing, and diffusion in ensembles of single-walled carbon nanotubes measured via ESR and EDSR spectroscopy at higher temperatures $4 - 300 \text{ K}$ [Petit et al., 1997]. These techniques focus on resonances that appear within a few percent of $g = 2$ at several Tesla. These results seem to contradict the understanding gained from quantum transport experiments because the $g$-factor is expected to be highly anisotropic in clean nanotubes. Therefore the debate whether such resonances reflect intrinsic spin properties of carbon nan-
otubes [Dora et al., 2008] and Kombarakkaran and Pietraß [2008], or defects [Rice et al., 2013], has yet to be settled. Indeed, sufficiently purified nanotubes where removal of the catalyst was confirmed by TEM were found not to yield an ESR signal [Zaka et al., 2010]. The level structure of Fig. 21 certainly provides no reason to believe that randomly orientated assemblies of nanotubes should yield resonances at $g \approx 2$. The only limit where $g \approx 2$ may occur is for samples in which $|\Delta_{KK}|$ exceeds both $|\Delta_{SO}|$ and the orbital magnetic field splitting, which is not the case for clean, intrinsic nanotubes.

VI. VALLEY PHYSICS IN OPEN QUANTUM DOTS

A. Transport in open regime

The previous chapters focused on closed quantum dots where low-transparency barriers ensure that transport occurs by sequential tunneling via strongly confined quantum states. However, nanotube devices with a range of transparencies can be fabricated, allowing the transition from closed dots to open transport regimes to be studied (Cao et al., 2005) and bias $V_{SD}$ for four nanotube devices with average conductances $g \sim 0.01, 0.5, 1.5, 3 e^2/h$. (schematic in (e)). All data was taken at 1.5 K and zero field. High (low) conductance is shown by light (dark) colors. Black bars indicate the gate voltage range for addition of four additional electrons. (e) Device schematic. Dashed paths indicate the origin of Fabry-Perot resonances induced by reflections at the contacts. Adapted from [Liang et al., 2005].

Figure 42(a-d) show transport spectroscopy data from four devices with varying contact transparency. All devices exhibit metallic characteristics at room temperature (not shown) with average conductances ranging from around 0.01 $e^2/h$ to 3 $e^2/h$, i.e. approaching the maximum conductance of 4 $e^2/h$ for a single nanotube. The first, low conductance device (a) behaves as a closed quantum dot. For the second device (b) with an average $g \sim 0.5 e^2/h$, i.e. close to the conductance quantum, the fourfold periodicity due to the valley and spin degeneracies is clearly reflected as clusters of four peaks (section IV.B). The enhanced background conductance reflects co-tunneling processes enabled by the stronger coupling. The most extraordinary features are the horizontal (gate independent) ridges of high conductance, e.g. occurring near zero bias in a large fraction of the Coulomb diamonds. These resonances are due to higher order tunneling processes, including Kondo physics that will be described in the next section.

For the next devices (c-d) the quantum dot features are smeared out as the increased coupling to leads allows for charge fluctuations on the nanotube. However, gate-periodic patterns remain and in the highly transmitting device (d) a distinct pattern of low-conductance lines dominates the spectroscopy plot. Here, in the simplest picture, mode reflections at the contacts (Fig. 42(e)) give rise to interference in transmission, so-called Fabry-Perot resonances [Liang et al., 2001]. The interference pattern appearing in bias spectroscopy plots is similar to universal conductance fluctuations (UCF) in other mesoscopic systems [Ihn 2010] and Nazarov and Blanter 2009]. However, the randomness that usually characterizes UCF is replaced by nearly perfect periodicity for one-dimensional, ballistic nanotube resonators.

B. Spin, valley and SU(4) Kondo effect in nanotubes

1. Theory and background

Transport in nearly-closed quantum dots can be described in terms of first-order sequential tunneling. With stronger coupling to the leads higher order processes involving virtual intermediate states become relevant (Fig. 43(a)). Initially, the system is in a state of Coulomb blockade (left). Higher order fluctuations can permit tunneling of the trapped electron to the right lead, while a second electron from the source enters the dot. Effectively, one electron charge, $e$, has been transferred from source to drain (right diagram) via an intermediate state (middle) that is classically forbidden due to energy conservation and Coulomb blockade. Such a process is called elastic co-tunneling [Ihn 2010]. For the specific case considered in Fig. 43(a) the localized spin on the dot has been flipped as permitted by the spin degeneracy of the
FIG. 43 (Color online) Kondo physics in nanotubes due to spin and valley degrees of freedom. (a) Schematics of an elastic cotunneling process resulting in a spin flip on the quantum dot. Such higher order processes give rise to the spin Kondo effect. (b) The Kondo effect can also occur if another quantum number is present in the leads and the dot, e.g. the valley quantum number as shown here. (c) In nanotubes valley and spin quantum numbers may additionally give rise to the SU(4) Kondo effect involving both degrees of freedom. (d) Nanotube schematic showing valley couplings in the lead and on the dot. For SU(4) Kondo effects to be observed these have to be small and valley-conserving tunneling from nanotube leads is required. (e) Energy versus parallel and perpendicular magnetic field for two conduction-band shells with spin-orbit interaction ($\Delta_{SO} > 0$). Dashed ellipses and related $B$-fields indicate degeneracies resulting in Kondo phenomena, e.g. SU(4) and various SU(2) Kondo effects. The SU(4) Kondo effect can be observed (lower shell) when the related energy scale is much larger than the zero-field (spin-orbit) splitting. (f) Flow diagram at $B = 0$ for fillings $N = 1$ − 3 showing that valley mixing reduces the SU(4) Kondo effect to two-level (2L), singlet-triplet (S-T) or no Kondo effect. Similarly spin-orbit interaction reduces SU(4) Kondo effect to SU(2) or no Kondo effect. The intervalley mixing parameter $\Delta_{KK'}$ represents all relevant mixing terms. Panels (a-c) adapted from (Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b).

The non-trivial result of such higher order spin-flip transitions is the appearance of a new ground state for the combined lead-dot system. This state is a superposition of all involved single-particle states and it forms a highly transmitting channel between source and drain. This channel forms a new transport resonance, known as a Kondo resonance, at the Fermi level and leads to breakdown of Coulomb blockade (Heikkila, 2013; Ihn, 2010; Nazarov and Blanter, 2009).

The superposition only exists at low temperatures where coherence is preserved. The temperature at which the transition from Coulomb blockade to transport resonance occurs is denoted the Kondo temperature, $T_K$. The energy scale $k_B T_K$ can be considered as the binding energy of a many-body singlet state formed from the quantum dot spin and a screening cloud of electrons in the lead. Kondo resonances appear in Fig. 42(b) as thin ridges of high conductance near zero bias. The corresponding charge states can be identified as the odd occupancy states where the quantum dot holds an unpaired electron in the last occupied shell. (The apparent resonances in some of the even diamonds will be discussed below.) Several diagnostics can be used to prove an underlying Kondo mechanism; the resonance should be suppressed by increasing temperature, bias voltage or by an external magnetic field that breaks the necessary level
Magnetic field splitting of and SU(4) Kondo physics at low and high hole filling, respectively. Panel (d) from (Jarillo-Herrero et al. 2005). This situation is absent in most other quantum dots that do not possess the built-in spatial symmetry that naturally leads to valley degeneracies for nanotubes. Figure 43(c) shows an example of states involved in this scenario where both the valley and spin quantum numbers can be exchanged during co-tunneling. In order to respect SU(4) symmetry, it is essential that transitions between all four states are possible. Even though a valley degeneracy exists in the nanotube, it does not ensure that the valley quantum number is also present in the leads. Figure 43(d) shows a nanotube quantum dot coupled to metallic leads. The black and red double arrows indicate that electrons need to enter a nanotube lead segment (t*) before tunnelling onto the quantum dot (t) to allow for SU(4) Kondo physics since this effect requires valley-conserving tunneling. As we discuss below, no significant K—K’ mixing during tunneling (Δ_{K‘}^{tunneling}), on the dot (Δ_{K‘}^{disorder}) or in the lead segments (Δ_{L/R}^{K‘}) as well as spin-orbit interaction are allowed. In order to link the different Kondo phenomena to the nanotube level structure, the spectrum of two shells are plotted in Fig. 43(e). The shells are chosen with finite spin-orbit interaction but no valley mixing. Dashed circles indicate spin and valley degeneracies that can lead to Kondo physics. When the SU(4) Kondo energy scale is much larger than the spin-orbit splitting, the SU(4) Kondo effect can be observed at zero field for occupations one through three as depicted for the lower shell in Fig. 43(e). The opposite case of smaller SU(4) Kondo temperature is shown for the upper shell, resulting in SU(2) Kondo effects for the two split Kramers doublets (orange circles at zero field) (Galpin et al. 2010).

Figure 43(e) also points to possible Kondo effects at finite parallel magnetic field. Within a shell, two SU(2) Kondo effects of different origin are possible, an (intra-shell) valley SU(2) Kondo effect at half-filling (red) and a spin SU(2) Kondo effect for three electrons in the shell (orange). Additionally, (inter-shell) valley Kondo effects low we discuss such a valley Kondo effect.

Both the ordinary spin 1/2 Kondo effect and the two-fold valley Kondo effect reflect SU(2) symmetry. However, for ideal nanotube dots the concomitant existence of valley and spin freedom leading to an approximate four-fold degeneracy could potentially lead to a Kondo effect described by the higher SU(4) symmetry class (Choi et al. 2005). This situation is absent in most other quantum dots that do not possess the built-in spatial symmetry that naturally leads to valley degeneracies for nanotubes. Figure 43(c) shows an example of states involved in this scenario where both the valley and spin quantum numbers can be exchanged during co-tunneling. In order to respect SU(4) symmetry, it is essential that transitions between all four states are possible.

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can arise at finite parallel field due to level crossings between two different shells. A finite valley mixing within the shells modifies the energy diagram (Fig. 21), but does not qualitatively change the inter-shell valley degeneracies (Grove-Rasmussen et al., 2012; Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b). However, the intra-shell valley degeneracies for parallel and perpendicular field are split, and for dominating valley mixing, a spin-orbit split degeneracy (not shown) emerges at finite perpendicular field giving rise to a singlet-triplet type (S-T) of Kondo effect (Nygård et al., 2003; Pustilnik et al., 2000). At zero field the SU(4) Kondo effect remains as long as the Kramers doublet splitting due to valley mixing and spin-orbit coupling is much smaller than the Kondo temperature (Borda et al., 2003; Galpin et al., 2010).

As shown in Fig. 43(e-f), the SU(4) Kondo effect can be observed for filling $N = 1 - 3$ (Anders et al., 2008), however, only if the valley quantum numbers are conserved during tunneling, i.e. no valley mixing. If this is not the case, the SU(4) Kondo effect reduces to two-level (2L) spin SU(2) (Büsser and Martins, 2007; Büsser et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2005; Lim et al., 2006) and singlet-triplet (S-T) (Eto and Nazarov, 2000; Izumida et al., 2001; Sasaki et al., 2000) Kondo effects for $N = 1, 3$ and $N = 2$, respectively.$^{19}$ For the 2LSU(2) Kondo effect, the Kondo temperature and maximum conductance $g = 2e^2/h$ at the center of the $N = 1, 3$ Coulomb diamond is the same as in the case of SU(4) Kondo effect, and the two effects are therefore to be distinguished either by magnetic field spectroscopy (Choi et al., 2005; Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b) or by the overall shape of the $N = 1 - 3$ linear conductance versus gate voltage (Makarovski and Finkelstein, 2008). Similarly, in the center of the $N = 2$ Coulomb diamond, both the singlet-triplet and SU(4) Kondo effects have the same theoretical maximum conductance $g = 4e^2/h$ (Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b). However, for sufficiently strong valley mixing (or spin-orbit interaction), a zero-field Kondo effect is absent for $N = 2$, as indicated in Fig. 21(b).

2. Experiments

Unconventional Kondo physics in nanotubes was first experimentally studied in (Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b) and later by (Cleuziou et al., 2013; Galpin et al., 2010) and (Jarillo-Herrero et al., 2005b), respectively. Our aim is to present data relevant for the spectrum of Fig. 43(e), starting with zero magnetic field Kondo physics followed by finite field phenomena for one shell and two shells.

![Figure 45: Kondo physics at finite field. (a) Differential conductance versus gate voltage and the corresponding charge stability diagram. A regular shell structure indicating faint Kondo resonances: Kramers (for $N = 1, 3$ at $B_{\parallel} = 0$), valley (for $N = 2$ at $B_{\parallel} = B_K$) and spin SU(2) (for $N = 1$ at $B_{\parallel} = B_K$). (b) Theoretical linear conductance versus gate voltage filling (expressed as effective filling $N_G$) and normalized parallel field $B_{\parallel}$. The calculation assumed $|\Delta_{SO}| > T^ {SU(4)}_{K}$. (Color online) Kondo physics at finite field. (c) Differential conductance as a function of gate voltage filling for electron filling one, two and three is observed at low gate voltages. For stronger valley interaction and reinterprets the early data (Galpin et al., 2010). Our aim is to present data relevant for the spectrum of Fig. 43(e), starting with zero magnetic field Kondo physics followed by finite field phenomena for one shell and two shells.

The ideal devices for studying an SU(4) Kondo effect are quantum dots with tunable couplings to the leads. Such devices can be realized in narrow-gap nanotubes where the conductance typically increases as carriers are added. Figure 44(a-b) shows the linear conductance $dI/dV_{SD}$ versus gate voltage and the corresponding charge stability diagram. A regular shell structure with zero-bias Kondo ridges for electron filling one, two and three is observed at low gate voltages. For stronger coupling to the electrodes the different charge states fully hybridize (Makarovski and Finkelstein, 2008; Makarovski, 2012). Equipping nanotubes with superconducting or ferromagnetic leads also give rise to new Kondo systems (Buitoelaar et al., 2002b; Hauptmann et al., 2008), beyond the scope of this review.

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19 The analysis in terms of singlet-triplet physics assumed zero spin-orbit interaction.

20 Other types of unconventional Kondo phenomena such as the two-impurity Kondo effect have been studied in nanotube systems (Bomze et al., 2010; Chang and Chen, 2009; Chorley et al., 2002b; Hauptmann et al., 2008), beyond the scope of this review.
et al. (2007) and a single merged peak is observed for the two right-most shells in Fig. 14(a). In this mixed-valence regime the lifetime broadening is comparable to or larger than the charging energy and the single-electron transport features merge into broad ridges as observed in the stability diagram. The observed behavior in both the Kondo and mixed-valence regimes has been reproduced by numerical renormalization group (NRG) calculations within an SU(4) Anderson model for various lead couplings, supporting this interpretation (Anders et al. 2008).

Figure 44(c) systematically studies the transition from SU(4) to SU(2) Kondo physics in a clean narrow-gap device (Cleuziou et al. 2013). The crossover is measured across seven shells, thereby varying both the spin-orbit interaction (decreases with filling, see Fig. 19) and the lead coupling (increases with filling). A transition from $\Delta_{SO} > T_K^{SU(4)}$ to $\Delta_{SO} < T_K^{SU(4)}$ versus hole filling, i.e. SU(2) to SU(4), can thus be realized in accordance with the lower arrow in the flow diagram of Fig. 43(f).

The SU(4) Kondo effect was also reported at $N = 1$ by (Jarillo-Herrero et al. 2005a,b) who observed a large Kondo temperature (> 10 K). Figure 17(d) shows the behavior of the Kondo resonance in a (parallel) magnetic field. The splitting into four (ideally six) peaks can be taken as an indication of SU(4) Kondo physics, since valley mixing induced by tunneling or disorder would split the level structure in two doublets, and only two peaks would emerge (Choi et al. 2005). A zero-bias ridge observed for $N = 2$ in the same work was analyzed in terms of singlet-triplet Kondo physics, but is also consistent with an SU(4) Kondo effect (Busser and Martins 2007).

Next we turn to Kondo phenomena at finite $B$ within a single shell (upper part of Fig. 43(c)). Recent experiments on the addition of the first four electrons in a device with clearly identified spin-orbit interaction give hints of the valley and finite-field spin SU(2) Kondo effects (Cleuziou et al. 2013). Figure 45(a) shows a color plot of the linear conductance versus parallel magnetic field and gate voltage, where white numbers and dashed lines indicate the electron filling and the possible Kondo ridges, respectively. Compared to the model above, the finite field spin SU(2) Kondo effect at $B_s$ for odd filling appears for $N = 1$ instead of $N = 3$ (whether it is the upper or lower two states that cross at high field depends on carrier type and the sign of the spin-orbit interaction (see Fig. 18)). The $N = 2$ valley Kondo effect at $B_{o2}$ is clearly visible close to the Coulomb peaks, mimicking the behavior of the Kramers Kondo effect at zero field. Due to small tunnel coupling in this device, valley or spin Kondo physics cannot be unambiguously identified from the data.

Similar data with strong Kondo ridges were already observed before the identification of nanotube spin-orbit interaction (see Fig. 12) shell around $V_C \sim 3 V$, but the Kondo ridge at half filling and finite $B$ was interpreted in terms of singlet-triplet Kondo physics (Jarillo-Herrero et al. 2005a). Later NRG modelling (Fig. 45(b)) suggested that the data could also be explained in terms of the spin-orbit energy spectrum (Galpin et al. 2010). The calculated color plot thus represents the ideal Kondo behavior for the upper shell in Fig. 43(e). Other experiments with dominating valley mixing ($\Delta_{KK'} > \Delta_{SO}$) also identify the spin SU(2) Kondo effect at $B_{||} = B_s$ (Jespersen et al. 2011b; Schmid et al. 2013).

Finally we address the (inter-shell) valley Kondo effect. It can be found at particular fields ($B_{o2}$, $B_{o3}$) that induce a valley degeneracy but not a degeneracy (Fig. 43(e)). Figure 45(c) shows the (parallel) magnetic field evolution of the conductance for a nanotube quantum dot that has strong Kondo resonances at zero field. At finite fields additional resonances appear at $B_{o2}$ and $B_{o3}$, consistent with valley degeneracies inducing a spinless valley SU(2) Kondo effect. The appearance of this Kondo resonance indicates that tunneling preserves the valley symmetry, which for this device is less obvious because of the metal deposited on top of the nanotube leads.

In several of the experiments above a Kondo effect arising from inelastic transitions gave rise to conductance peaks at finite bias. Such Kondo enhancement of inelastic cotunneling thresholds was observed and modelled in (Paaske et al. 2006) while a recent experiment revealed that certain cotunneling thresholds are not observed in the strong coupling regime (Schmid et al. 2013). The authors identify the two states involved in the relevant cotunneling processes as particle-hole symmetric and show theoretically that these processes do not give rise to Kondo correlations (even though cotunneling is allowed).

C. Level renormalization

The most visible consequence of the increased electrode couplings in Fig. 42 is a broadening of the energy levels, but this hybridization is also accompanied by less detectable level shifts. These shifts are named tunnel renormalization, since the effect stems from quantum charge fluctuations (cotunneling events) that are particularly relevant when the tunnel couplings are large. Car-

21 Depending on the exchange interaction, the triplet state occupying two different valleys may become the ground state. In a parallel magnetic field the singlet state occupying two down moving valleys thus crosses the effectively three-fold degenerate triplet states at relative low magnetic field giving rise to a Kondo effect (Zeeman effect negligible).

22 While this is a likely interpretation, some caution should be applied since level crossings with a different shell complicate the finite-field spin SU(2) identification.

23 The work considers a shell with both spin-orbit interaction and valley mixing. The eigenstates are therefore superpositions of all four basis states $|\sigma\rangle$. A simple example of a particle-hole symmetric pair is $\{|K_\downarrow\rangle, |K_\uparrow\rangle\}$. 
bon nanotube quantum dots have turned out to be ideal to observe such shifts in shells, in particular when the two doublets are differently coupled to the leads (Holm et al., 2008).

1. Theory

We consider a spinless nanotube shell model without any internal couplings and assume metallic leads (no valley quantum number). Since $|K\rangle$ and $|K'\rangle$ states are time-reversed partners, the tunnel couplings are equal $t = |t_{KK'}|$. Introducing a complex valley mixing term $\Delta_{KK'} = |\Delta_{KK'}| e^{i\phi_0}$ results in new eigenstates which have phase dependent tunnel couplings $t(1 + e^{i\phi_0})$ (Grove-Rasmussen et al., 2012). Figure 46(a) shows the energy versus parallel magnetic field for the new eigenstates that arise when the valley states are coupled. The schematic insets show that the electron probability distributions for the two eigenstates are different at zero field and thus the tunneling amplitude may be different depending on the exact site of a microscopic contact. This picture of tunneling into one particular atomic site with different probability for the two wave functions is probably too simple for a real device but is adopted here as a minimal model. In Fig. 46(b) the lead couplings for the two states are plotted for the case $\phi_0 = \pi$. At zero field the two new eigenstates have different couplings: the ground state doubles its coupling to the leads compared to the original states while the excited state decouples. The model also makes an important prediction about the magnetic field dependence of the couplings. At high parallel magnetic fields the ground and excited state couplings become equal, since the eigenstates are close to the original valley states $|K\rangle$ and $|K'\rangle$ whose probability distributions are equal at high fields (Fig. 46(a) inset).

We now examine the effect of the difference in lead-couplings on cotunneling transport. Consider two states with different tunnel couplings as indicated by the thickness of the arrows in Fig. 46(c-d) for a singly occupied dot $|1\rangle$. The ground state experiences stronger cotunneling charge fluctuations via the zero state $(|1\rangle_g \leftrightarrow |0\rangle)$ than the excited state $(|1\rangle_e \leftrightarrow |0\rangle)$ does. The renormalization shift increases with the coupling of the levels and thus the more strongly coupled state has the larger energy shift (Fig. 46(g)). Consequently, the threshold for inelastic cotunneling transport will increase (from $\delta$ to $\delta'$) near the $|1\rangle \leftrightarrow |0\rangle$ charge transition (left corner of diamond). In the stability diagram Fig. 46(h) the threshold will correspondingly be shifted to higher bias. In contrast, at the right side of the one-electron diamond, the dominant cotunneling processes involve the two-electron state $(|1\rangle \leftrightarrow |2\rangle)$. The situation is opposite here since the excited state $|1\rangle_e$ experiences stronger fluctuations and level shifts than the ground state $|1\rangle_g$ (Fig. 46(e-f)). Thus the cotunneling threshold will be reduced compared to the original level in this gate range. The resulting stability diagram is sketched in Fig. 46(h). The models above are easily extended to include spin and higher fillings, but the conclusions remain the same: tunneling-induced level renormalization can result in gate-dependent cotunneling features within the charge stability diamonds.

2. Experiment

Figure 47(a) shows a stability diagram with shell filling identified by the characteristic pattern of three smaller Coulomb diamonds followed by a larger one (see occupation numbers above the plot). This regular behavior is, however, not observed for all shells as seen from Fig. 47(b). In this case, the Kondo effect is only evident for...
FIG. 47 (Color online) Tunnel renormalization in nanotube stability diagrams. (a) Stability diagram for a shell with similar lead couplings to ground and excited states ($\Gamma_g \sim \Gamma_e$). Kondo ridges are observed for one and three electrons and inelastic cotunneling thresholds are gate-independent. (b) Stability diagram for a shell with asymmetric doublet lead couplings ($\Gamma_g \gg \Gamma_e$) deduced from the Kondo ridge appearing only for one electron and gate-dependent cotunneling thresholds for two and three electrons. (c) Diagram at zero field for a different device. The cotunneling threshold (green arrow) is gate-dependent due to asymmetric couplings. (d) At $B_\parallel = 2 \text{T}$ the inelastic cotunneling threshold (green arrow) is gate-independent due to similar couplings achieved by magnetic field tuning of lead couplings. Adapted from (Grove-Rasmussen et al., 2012; Holm et al., 2008).

The validity of the latter model can be tested by examining its prediction for the lead tunnel couplings in a magnetic field. Figure 47(c) shows a stability diagram of a shell whose behavior is similar ($\Gamma_g > \Gamma_e$) to that of Fig. 47(b). The corresponding stability diagram in parallel magnetic field $B_\parallel = 2 \text{T}$ is shown in Fig. 47(d). As predicted qualitatively by the model the gate dependence of the cotunneling threshold disappears at large field, where the lead couplings become equal, consistent with the observed widths of the Coulomb peaks within the shell (see green curve in Fig. 47(b)). This observation indicates that the origin of the asymmetry is related to valley mixing (Grove-Rasmussen et al., 2012).

Renormalization effects have also been established in devices coupled to ferromagnetic leads where the difference in the spin density of states of the electrodes leads to different effective tunnel coupling (Hauptmann et al., 2008; Martinek et al., 2005, 2003; Pasupathy et al., 2004). Furthermore, if valley mixing originates from cotunneling (not only disorder as reported above) different gate-dependent shifts are predicted with the possibility of the inelastic cotunneling lines crossing inside the Coulomb diamond (Kiršanskas et al., 2012).

D. Open questions

Several experiments have reported on features consistent with Kondo correlations originating from the additional valley degree of freedom. An unambiguous identification of the SU(4) Kondo effect would, however, call for control of the valley mixing parameters (Fig 43(d)), to tune the valley Kondo correlations. Valley mixing also plays a role for the inter-shell valley Kondo experiment, where incipient Kondo correlations enhancing finite bias features are analyzed. Such correlations are generally more difficult to quantify and clarifications may be obtained in tunable gate-defined dots with weak valley mixing, where the leads are constituted by nanotube segments.

VII. CORRELATED-ELECTRON EFFECTS

A. Introduction

Electron correlation effects due to Coulomb interaction can be strong in carbon nanotubes. One reason for this lies in the one-dimensional nature of the confinement: electrons in two or three dimensions can minimize their Coulomb repulsion by moving out of each other’s way. Electrons in nanotubes do not have this freedom, and instead tend to develop strong correlations. Electrons in nanotubes also see an environment with a low dielectric constant, which for suspended nanotubes corresponds to $\varepsilon = 1$ of free space. This is in contrast to electrons in semiconductors, where electric fields can be screened by

one electron, and the inelastic cotunneling thresholds are seen to have a marked gate dependence for two and three electrons where arguments similar to the model above hold (compare Fig. 46(b)). The absence of the Kondo effect for $N = 3$ indicates that the ground-state doublet is more strongly coupled to the leads than the excited-state doublet. The different behavior for different shells, such as between Fig. 47(a) and (b), can be understood as due to valley mixing with different phases for each shell and tunnel renormalization.

The effective doublet splitting is set by both spin-orbit and valley coupling, $\delta = \sqrt{\Delta_{SO}^2 + \Delta_{KK}^2}$, while in the lead-coupling model illustrated in Fig. 46(b) the origin of the coupling asymmetry was the valley coupling alone.

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24 For the one-electron case the inelastic cotunneling threshold is not visible due to the Kondo effect present at zero bias.
the large dielectric constant of the host material. These properties suggest that nanotubes are an interesting system for studying electron correlations.

The strength of Coulomb interactions with parabolic dispersion is characterized by an interaction parameter \( r_s \) defined by the ratio of the average interparticle spacing \( l \) to the Bohr radius \( a_0 \):

\[
    r_s = \frac{l}{a_0} = \frac{m_{\text{eff}} e^2 l}{\varepsilon \hbar^2} \approx \frac{E_C}{E_K} \tag{32}
\]

Within a numerical constant of order unity, \( r_s \) is also the ratio of the Coulomb interaction energy \( E_C = e^2/\varepsilon l \) to the kinetic energy \( E_K = \hbar^2/m^2 \). At high densities (small \( r_s \)), kinetic energy dominates and the single-particle approximation can be used for the electronic states. At low densities (large \( r_s \)), kinetic energy is quenched and the Coulomb interaction dominates the physics.

For semiconducting nanotubes at sufficiently low densities, the Fermi energy lies in the parabolic region of the dispersion relation (cf. Fig. 3) and \( r_s \) is a useful characterization of the strength of electron interactions. The typical energy scale for Coulomb interactions in carbon nanotubes for \( \varepsilon = 1 \) and \( l = 100 \text{ nm} \) is \( E_C = 13 \text{ meV} \). To estimate the kinetic energy, it is important to note that the effective mass is strongly dependent on the bandgap. For a semiconducting nanotube with a bandgap of 210 meV (\( m_{\text{eff}} = 0.029 \)), \( E_K = 260 \mu \text{eV} \) (Bohr radius \( a_0 \approx 2 \text{ nm} \)). This implies that two electrons in a 200 nm long quantum dot in such a nanotube corresponds to very strong interactions (\( r_s = 50 \)).

Advances in making clean suspended nanotubes have enabled the study of quantum dots at very low density with very low electronic disorder. Using these new devices, the question of electron interaction and correlation effects in nanotubes is being revisited from the ground up. In the few-electron regime in the clean limit, a clear understanding of the simplest case of two electrons is beginning to emerge.

B. Interactions in two-electron carbon nanotube quantum dots

The Coulomb interaction does not directly exert a force between spins. For example, the spin-spin coupling in the exchange interaction does not arise from a direct interaction between spins, but instead from a combination of the Pauli exclusion principle with the Coulomb repulsion between orbital wavefunctions. Thus, to approach Coulomb interaction phenomena, it is important to start by considering the properties of nanotube electronic wavefunctions.

The spatial wavefunction in a nanotube has several degrees of freedom: the position \( x \) along the nanotube axis, a subband index from the quantization around the circumference, and a valley index \( \tau \) specifying which of the two valleys (\( K, K' \)) is occupied by an electron. In nanotubes, it is convenient to separate the 1/\( r \) Coulomb interaction into long-range and short-range components. A natural length scale for this separation is the nanotube diameter.

This separation simplifies considerably the treatment of the Coulomb interaction in nanotubes (Wunsch [2009]). A first approximation is that neither the short-range nor long-range component mixes states from different subbands: this is justified by the large subband spacing, on the order of 0.2 eV. A second approximation is that only the short-range component of the Coulomb interaction will mix states from different valleys; this is justified since intervalley scattering requires a large momentum shift (Mayrhofer and Grifoni [2008], Secchi and Rontani [2013], Weiss et al. [2010], Wunsch [2009]).

The third approximation is that the envelope function \( \psi(x) \) describing the position of the electron along the nanotube axis is independent of spin and valley. Although this is not true in general (cf. Appendix 3.6), it is a reasonable approximation for smooth confinement potentials and relatively large quantum dots (Wunsch [2009]). Within these approximations, we can treat the long-range and short-range components of the Coulomb interaction separately: the long-range component couples to \( \psi(x) \), while the short-range component couples to the valley degree of freedom.

In the following, we start with long-range interactions, presenting a pedagogical model for the Wigner molecule in one dimension, reviewing calculations performed for nanotubes, and discussing experimental results demonstrating a two-electron Wigner molecule. We then focus on effects from the short-range interaction, discuss related experiments, and give an outlook towards interactions in the many-electron and many-hole regime.

1. Long-range interactions and Wigner molecules

Our pedagogical model focusses on the spatial two-electron wavefunction, assuming that the anti-symmetry of the total wavefunction is provided by appropriate symmetries in the spin/valley degree of freedom. By approximating the dispersion relation of a semiconducting nanotube by a parabola, we can write down a Schrödinger

\[ \text{For simplicity, in this section we use notation } t \text{ instead of notation } t \text{ used elsewhere in the review.} \]
equation with an effective mass \( m_{\text{eff}} = E_{\text{gap}}/2\hbar^2 \):

\[
-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x_1^2} - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial x_2^2} + V_0(x_1)\Psi + V_0(x_2)\Psi + V_C(x_1, x_2)\Psi = E\Psi
\]

(33)

where \( \Psi(x_1, x_2) \) is the two-electron spatial wavefunction, \( V_0(x) \) the external confining potential, and \( V_C(x_1, x_2) \) the Coulomb interaction between electrons. To restrict ourselves to the long-range component of \( V_C \), we include a cutoff in the \( 1/r \) Coulomb potential as follows:

\[
V_C(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon} \frac{e^2}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + d^2}}
\]

(34)

with \( d \) is chosen as the nanotube diameter. It is instructive to combine the confinement terms in a two-electron electrostatic potential \( V(x_1, x_2) = V_0(x_1) + V_0(x_2) + V_C(x_1, x_2) \). The problem of two interacting electrons in one dimension is then formally equivalent to that of a single electron confined in a two-dimensional potential \( V(x_1, x_2) \).

This problem can be solved on a desktop computer by exact diagonalization (Balder, 2008; Jauregui et al., 1993; Szafran et al., 2004). The results are shown in Fig. 48, taking \( m_{\text{eff}} = 0.03 m_e \), (corresponding to \( E_G = 210 \) meV and diameter \( D \approx 3.3 \) nm) and \( V_0(x) = \frac{1}{2}m_{\text{eff}}\omega^2x^2 \) with \( \hbar\omega = 10 \) meV (confinement length \( \approx 30 \) nm). These parameters correspond to \( r_s \approx 18 \) (Balder, 2008). The results with \( \varepsilon = 1 \) and without \( \varepsilon = \infty \) Coulomb interaction are shown in Fig. 48(a). Including interactions (lower panels in (a)), the Coulomb repulsion can be seen in \( V(x_1, x_2) \) as a diagonal line along \( x_1 = x_2 \). With these parameters, typical for nanotubes, the Coulomb interaction dominates over the confinement potential. In response, the single lobe of \( \Psi_S(x_1, x_2) \) in the single-particle model splits into two well-separated lobes, pushing the two electrons away from each other to minimize Coulomb repulsion (Fig. 48(c,d)). In this state, the two-electron probability density \( |\Psi(x_1, x_2)|^2 \) goes rapidly to zero along the \( x_1 = x_2 \) line, indicating the formation of a Wigner molecule. The quantity \( |\Psi(x, -x)|^2 \) in Fig. 48(c) can be viewed as a two-particle correlation density \( \rho(x) \) and its suppression near \( x = 0 \) corresponds to the formation of a "correlation hole" (Fig. 48(c)).

An important property of the Wigner molecule state is a strong suppression of the splitting \( \Delta_{S,AS} \) between the spatially symmetric ground state \( \Psi_S(x_1, x_2) \) and the spatially antisymmetric excited state \( \Psi_{AS}(x_1, x_2) \). Without interactions, \( \Delta_{S,AS} = \Delta_h = 10 \) meV, where \( \Delta_h = \hbar\omega \) is

\[
2^{7} \text{Integrating } |\Psi(x_1, x_2)|^2 \text{ along the diagonal } x_1 = x_2 \text{ in Fig. 48(a) yields the two-particle correlation function } \rho(r) = \int |\Psi(r/2 + X, -r/2 + X)|^2 dX.
\]

FIG. 48 (Color online) Toy model for the two-electron Wigner molecule in one dimension. (a) Two-electron potential \( V(x_1, x_2) \) (left panels), symmetric ground state wavefunction \( \Psi_S(x_1, x_2) \) (middle panels), and antisymmetric excited state wavefunction \( \Psi_{AS}(x_1, x_2) \) (right panels). Upper panels: no Coulomb interaction \( \varepsilon = \infty \). Lower panels: \( \varepsilon = 1 \). (b) Lineuts of \( V(x_1, x_2) \) along \( x_1 = x_2 \) with (solid) and without (dotted) Coulomb interactions. (c) Linecut of the ground state two-electron probability density \( |\Psi(x, -x)|^2 \) along \( x_1 = -x_2 \) in the single-particle model (red dashed line) and the Wigner molecule (red solid line). Blue lines: \( V(x, -x) \). The suppression of \( |\Psi(x, -x)|^2 \) near \( x = 0 \) is an indication of strong correlations. (d) Electron density \( \rho(x) = \int |\psi(x, z)|^2 dxdz \) in the Wigner molecule limit.
ment potential with a 50 meV barrier height, a nanotube diameter of 5 nm, a bandgap of 90 meV, and an effective mass of 0.009 $m_e$. In order to illustrate the transition from the single-particle limit to the Wigner molecule limit, the strength of the Coulomb interaction is tuned by changing the environmental dielectric constant $\varepsilon$, parametrized by an effective fine structure constant $\alpha = e^2/\varepsilon \varepsilon F = 2.2/\varepsilon \left( r_s = \frac{\alpha}{2 \pi} \varepsilon F \right)$. With no long-range interactions ($\alpha = 0$), the ground and excited multiplets are split by $\Delta_{S,AS} = \Delta_{ls}$, where $\Delta_{ls}$ is the single-particle level spacing. With strong interactions ($\alpha = 1$), the antisymmetric multiplet is pushed down in energy relative to the ground state, with $\Delta_{S,AS}$ becoming exponentially small. The two-electron state is deep in the Wigner molecule limit for $r_s \sim 7$, and already strongly correlated for intermediate $r_s$. Summarizing these predictions, Wigner correlations in a two-electron quantum dot cause a collapse of $\Delta_{S,AS}$.

Experiments with clean nanotubes have provided clear evidence of a Wigner molecule. Specifically, Pecker et. al (2013) compared a one-electron to a two-electron quantum dot in the same device (Fig. 50). A crucial step was a careful analysis of the magnetic field dependence of the excitation lines (Fig. 31). This allowed the authors to determine which splitting in Fig. 50(a) corresponds to $\Delta_{ls}$, and which splitting in Fig. 50(b) corresponds to $\Delta_{S,AS}$. They found $\Delta_{ls} = 8$ meV and $\Delta_{S,AS} = 0.85$ meV. The 10-fold suppression of $\Delta_{S,AS}$ compared to $\Delta_{ls}$ indeed indicates that the two-electron quantum dot forms a Wigner molecule.

2. Short-range interactions and intervalley exchange

In this section, we consider effects of the short-range Coulomb interaction on the spectrum of a two-electron quantum dot. As seen in the toy model, the long-range Coulomb interaction distorts the longitudinal wavefunctions, reducing the splitting $\Delta_{S,AS}$ between the symmetric and antisymmetric multiplets. Because the long-range interaction does not couple to valleys, it does not change the spin/valley level structure inside a multiplet. In contrast, the short-range Coulomb interaction can induce valley scattering, and thus changes the splitting between different valley and spin states.

Several exact diagonalization calculations have been performed accounting for Wigner molecule effects, spin-orbit coupling, and short-range Coulomb interactions (Secchi and Rontani 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013; Wunsch 2009). The resulting spectrum is shown in Fig. 51(a). In the calculation, $\alpha$ is set to zero to artificially suppress long-range interactions while keeping the short-range on-site energy $V_0$ constant. Figure 51(a) shows the spectrum.

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28 The Coulomb potential for the short-range interaction is taken with the same form as Eq. (34), but with cutoff $d$ chosen such that $V_C(x_1 = x_2) = V_0$, where $V_0 = 15$ eV is the charging energy associated with putting two electrons on the same $p_z$ orbital. Such a potential is also referred to as the Ohno potential (Mayrhofer and Grifoni 2008).

29 Physically, this could be achieved by placing the nanotube close to a metallic gate or dielectric slab, such that the distance to the surface is large compared to the diameter but small compared to the nanotube length.
FIG. 51. (Color online) Calculated two-electron quantum dot energies including short-range interactions. (a) Energies relative to the ground state of the spatially symmetric multiplet (colored lines) and the spatially anti-symmetric multiplet (grey lines). The horizontal parameter $\alpha$ characterizes the strength of the long-range interactions: $\alpha = 1$, Wigner molecule regime; $\alpha = 0$: no long-range correlations. Red (green): unpolarized valley/spin ground (excited) state. Blue: valley-polarized states. Purple: spin-polarized states. The degeneracy of each set of lines is indicated. For $\alpha = 1$, the grey lines become degenerate with the colored lines, as in Fig. 49 without spin-orbit coupling and short-range interactions. For $\alpha = 0$, long-range correlations are suppressed, the single-particle wavefunctions begin to overlap and short-range interactions become stronger. Here, new splittings $\Delta_{VBS}$ and $\Delta_{SO}^*$ appear in the valley-spin structure of the multiplet. (b,c) Magnetic field dependence of the ground-state multiplet for $\alpha = 0$ (b) and $\alpha = 1$ (c). Short-range interactions in (b) break the degeneracy between the valley-polarized states (blue lines) and the spin-polarized states (purple lines) at $B = 0$. For $\alpha = 1$, the valley/spin structure of the multiplet is the same as in the single-particle model, even though the longitudinal wavefunctions $\Psi(x_1, x_2)$ are highly correlated. States are labelled as in Table IV. Panel (a) adapted from Wunsch (2009).

as a function of $\alpha$ at zero magnetic field. The colored (grey) lines represent the $S$ ($AS$) multiplet of Fig. 49. For $\alpha = 1$, the dot is in the Wigner molecule regime due to long-range interactions, and the grey lines in (a) become nearly degenerate with the colored lines. Panels (b) and (c) show the $B_{||}$ dependence of the spatially symmetric multiplet for $\alpha = 0$ and $\alpha = 1$.

The influence of short-range interactions can be most clearly seen for $\alpha = 0$ (Fig. 51b). The first effect is to lift the degeneracy of the spin-polarized and valley-polarized states. In the single-particle model (and also at $\alpha = 1$, see below), these four states are degenerate at $B = 0$. With strong short-range interactions, the energy of the valley-polarized doublet (blue lines) is raised with respect to the spin-polarized doublet (purple lines). This is because a positive $U_0$ used in the calculation penalizes double occupancy of atomic sites, which by symmetry considerations does not occur for spin-polarized states (see Appendix B.9 for details). This results in a new splitting $\Delta_{VBS}$ within the $S(0,2)$ multiplet, which can be viewed as an effective intervalley exchange energy.\footnote{Note that in Fig. 51 the energies are plotted with respect to the ground state, explaining why spin-polarized states appear to be lowered with respect to valley-polarized states. The abbreviation VBS stands for “valley backscattering”, a name used for the term in the Coulomb scattering matrix that gives rise to an intervalley exchange splitting. For the $AS(0,2)$ multiplet, the effect of short-range Coulomb interaction is predicted to be much smaller [Secchi and Rontani (2013)], indicating that the longitudinal symmetry of the two-electron wavefunction plays important role (Appendix B.9).}

The second effect of the short-range interaction is seen in Fig. 51 as an increase in the splitting between the unpolarized ground state (red line) and the unpolarized excited state (green line). The splitting is now equal to $2\Delta_{SO}^* = 2\sqrt{2}\Delta_{SO} + \Delta_{VBS}$ instead of $2\Delta_{SO}$. An important consequence is that the two-electron ground state becomes valley-polarized at a higher magnetic field than without short-range interactions (in panel (b) the blue line crosses the red line at a higher magnetic field $B_{SO}^*$ than in panel (c)). In the Wigner molecule regime ($\alpha = 1$) the effects of short-range interactions are suppressed: Due to strong correlations, the two electrons have little overlap irrespective of their longitudinal symmetry, thereby suppressing double occupancy of the same atomic site. Similar intervalley exchange effects have also been seen in other calculations [Mayrhofer and Grifoni 2008, Secchi and Rontani 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, von Stecher et al. 2010].

Experiments by Cleuziou et al. demonstrated clear intervalley exchange effects in the spectra of clean nanotubes in the many-hole regime (Fig. 52). The key observation was that the $4N+1$ and $4N+3$ charge states showed a spectrum consistent with shell-filling of the single-particle valley/spin levels, whereas a different spectrum was observed for the $4N+2$ charge state (Cleuziou et al. 2013). This difference between odd and even filling of the nanotube multiplet is a clear signature that can only be explained including short-range interactions.

The spectrum measured for $4N+2$ filling is similar to that of Fig. 51b, except for the sign of the exchange interaction. In particular, theoretical treatments of inter-
valley exchange as outlined above predict that the valley-polarized states are raised in energy above the spin-polarized states (the blue lines in Fig. 51 are above the purple lines). In contrast, the observed spectra (Cleuziou et al. 2013) show the opposite (the blue lines in Fig. 52 c) are below the purple lines). This may indicate that the exchange integral implied from the experimental data has the opposite sign compared to that predicted by theory so far. A similar observation was also reported for electrons (Pecker et al. 2013). The reason for this sign difference is not understood, but suggests that the validity of theoretical approximations, as well as alternative mechanisms, should carefully be checked.

As discussed above, intervalley exchange is not expected to play a significant role in the few-electron regime, since the long-range Wigner correlations will suppress short-range Coulomb interactions. The device of Fig. 52 was in the many-hole regime: a possible explanation of why $\Delta_{VBS}$ is so large is that the long-range Coulomb interaction was screened by the holes in nearby shells. However, a large $\Delta_{VBS}$ was also reported in the few-electron regime by both Pecker et al. 2013 ($\Delta_{VBS} = 0.2$ meV) and Cleuziou et al. 2013 ($\Delta_{VBS} = 1.56$ meV calculated from the observed $\Delta_{SO}$). Estimates for uncorrelated states based on first-order perturbation theory predict $\Delta_{VBS}$ to be hundreds of $\mu$eV (Appendix B.9).

Taking into account correlations predicts a much smaller value, 1–10 $\mu$eV (Pecker et al. 2013) Secchi and Rontani 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013; Wunsch 2009). It is an open question why $\Delta_{VBS}$ is so large in these experiments.

Finally, the large $\Delta_{VBS}$ splitting seen in excited-state spectroscopy has important implications for ground-state spectroscopy, in which the magnetic field dependence of Coulomb peak position in gate voltage is used to infer the spin-orbit splitting (Churchill et al. 2006b; Steele et al. 2013). In particular, the magnetic field where kinks occur in the ground-state chemical potentials is now given by $B_{SO} = \Delta_{SO}^*/2\mu_{orb}$ instead of by $B_{SO} = \Delta_{SO}/2\mu_{orb}$. This raises the possibility that the large spin-orbit interaction reported in Steele et al. 2013 extracted from the ground state energies could be due to a large $\Delta_{SO}$ and $\Delta_{VBS}$ instead of a large $\Delta_{SO}$. The intervalley exchange splitting required to match the experimental data, however, would be $\Delta_{VBS} \sim 3$ meV, even larger than the already unexpectedly large values reported from excitation spectra Cleuziou et al. 2013 Pecker et al. 2013.

C. Beyond Wigner molecules: Correlation effects of many electrons in quantum dots

The search for strong correlation effects with many electrons inspired some of the very first experiments on nanotubes. These early experiments were motivated by the predictions of Luttinger liquid theory (Imambekov et al. 2012; Luttinger 1963) and focused on power-law behavior of the conductance (Bockrath et al. 1999; Yao et al. 1999). A detailed understanding of these experiments, however, was hampered by the large disorder present in these devices, which leads to localization and Coulomb blockade at low temperatures. Dynamical Coulomb blockade also leads to power-law dependence on bias and temperature (Ingold and Nazarov 1992). A clearer signature for a Luttinger liquid would be spin-charging separation, giving spin and charge modes with different velocities. Evidence for such spin-charge separation has been seen in GaAs wires (Auslaender et al. 2005), but has not been reported for nanotubes.

Correlation effects for two electrons in a carbon nanotube quantum dot are now relatively well understood theoretically, and well established experimentally. A natural question to ask is then: what happens if more electrons or holes are added to the quantum dot? From an experimental point of view, there have been suggestions of correlation effects in clean many-hole quantum dots.
Theoretical understanding of the single-particle physics has been important to obtain a complete picture of the allowed spin-orbit terms. There are still theoretical challenges relating to a quantitative microscopic understanding of the effects originating from the cylindrical geometry. As part of this, renormalization by long-range Coulomb interactions of the curvature-induced gap and the spin-orbit coupling has not been investigated.

Quantum dot states are best defined in closed systems and this review has therefore mainly focused on quantum dots with weak coupling to leads, just enough to allow a measurable current. Quantum dot states change when the tunnel coupling to the leads is increased, and qualitatively new phenomena can arise such as various Kondo effects and possibly even quantum phase transitions (Mebrahtu et al., 2013). Great potential for new experiments arises when the leads are given interesting properties.
For example superconducting leads can induce superconducting correlations that are restricted by the special spin-valley quantum numbers of nanotubes. One can imagine Josephson junctions with the junction consisting of a nanotube with multiple bends. Experiments using superconducting contacts performed so far indeed indicate a rich research direction (de Franceschi et al., 2010). Superconducting contacts to ultraclean nanotubes have also recently been demonstrated (Schneider et al., 2012), opening the possibility of studying proximity-induced superconductivity with exceptionally low electronic disorder. Magnetic materials could be used as contacts to explore spintronics confined to one dimension.

The field of quantum computing has been inspirational for the development of all kinds of qubit devices. This review discussed various types of nanotube. The coherent dynamics in qubits is extremely sensitive and can be used as a probe of the environment. Nanotube qubits could be used to study in detail nuclear spins or mechanical vibrations. The holy grail here could be the realization of a coherent coupling between spin and motion. Another inspiration from the field of qubits is the use of nanotubes as on-chip sensors like charge sensors (Biercuk et al., 2009a; Gotz et al., 2008), or as a component in circuit quantum electrodynamics (Delbecq et al., 2011). If long coherence times could be achieved, there is potential for a dramatically improved charge sensor (Dial et al., 2013). Nanotubes have the advantage for sensing that short quantum dots show Coulomb blockade up to room temperature (Postma et al., 2001). We hope this review inspires new generations of experiments taking advantage of the unique properties of carbon nanotubes. Similar to the evolution of quantum Hall physics in GaAs in the 1980s and 1990s, the remarkable quality of devices that can now be achieved using ultraclean techniques indicates that nanotubes will remain an exciting playground for exploring rich new physics for years to come.

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FIG. 53 Electrical model of a single quantum dot: a conducting island is coupled with tunnel rates $\Gamma_S$ and $\Gamma_D$ to source and drain, and with capacitance $C_S$, $C_D$, and $C_G$ to source, drain, and gates.

Appendix A: Quantum dots, Coulomb blockade and transport spectroscopy

Here we give a basic overview of quantum dots and transport spectroscopy, focusing on techniques by which data in this review is derived.

1. Coulomb blockade and the constant interaction model

An electrical schematic of a quantum dot as in Fig. 2 is shown in Fig. 53. If both the tunnel rates to the leads $\Gamma_{S,D}$ and the thermal energy $k_B T$ are less than the charging energy $E_C = e^2/C$, where $C$ is the total dot capacitance to the outside world, then the electron occupation becomes constrained to take an integer value. The equilibrium occupation can be adjusted by tuning $V_G$.

This quantization of the dot occupation strongly modifies the transport characteristics of this circuit. With all other parameters held fixed, any change of the dot occupation away from equilibrium increases the electrostatic energy of the system. This causes a suppression of the current known as Coulomb blockade. However, for particular values of $V_G$, the suppression can be lifted. This allows the energy levels of the quantum dot to be mapped out by measuring the device conductance as a function of $V_G$ (for extensive reviews, see (Hanson et al., 2001, 1997)).

Coulomb blockade is lifted whenever each step of electron tunneling through the device is energetically favourable. To understand how the observed conductance features relate to the energy levels of the device, we introduce the electrochemical potential $\mu(N)$ of the dot for occupation $N$, defined as the difference in energy $U$ between $N$-electron and $N - 1$-electron ground states:

$$\mu(N) = U(N) - U(N - 1).$$

Correspondingly, the electrochemical potentials of the leads are defined as the energy to add an additional electron at the Fermi level; with a bias $V_{SD}$ applied to the source as in Fig. 2(a),

$$\mu_S = E_F - e V_{SD}$$

$$\mu_D = E_F$$

where $E_F$ is the Fermi energy.
The electrochemical potential is in general related in a complicated way to the single-particle energy levels, because each electron added electrostatically perturbs the energies of the electrons already on the dot. However, the relationship becomes simpler in the constant-interaction model, which makes two assumptions. First, all Coulomb interactions, both between electrons on the dot and between the dot and the environment, are parameterised by a single constant capacitance $C$, which is the sum of capacitances $C_S, C_D, C_G$ to the source, drain and gate.

Second, the single-particle energy levels are assumed to be independent of these interactions, and therefore not changed by adding additional electrons. Under these assumptions, the dot energy is:

$$U(N) = \frac{-e(N - N_0) + C_S V_S + C_D V_D + C_G V_G}{2C} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} E_i, \quad (A4)$$

where $N_0$ is the occupancy with no voltages applied (set by fixed charges in the environment, e.g. substrate charges, and not necessarily quantized) and $E_i$ are the single-particle energy levels. The first term is the electrostatic energy stored in the dot capacitances, while the second is the sum of the single-particle confinement energies.

In devices with more than one gate, additional capacitances must be added to the model in a straightforward way.
In this approximation, the electrochemical potential is:

\[ \mu(N) = (N - N_0 - \frac{1}{2})E_C - \frac{E_C}{e}(C_S V_S + C_D V_D + C_G V_G) + E_N, \]

where \( E_C = e^2/C \) is the charging energy. The electrochemical potential increases for successive values of \( N \), forming a ladder of levels as shown in Fig. 54. The separation between adjacent levels in this ladder is called the addition energy:

\[ E_{\text{add}}(N) = \mu(N) - \mu(N - 1) = E_C + \Delta E(N) \]

and includes both an electrostatic term \( E_C \) and the quantum energy level spacing \( \Delta E(N) \equiv E_N - E_{N-1} \). From Eq. (A5), changing the gate voltage moves the entire ladder of electrochemical potentials up or down.

2. Low-bias spectroscopy

The condition that both tunneling events be energetically favourable is equivalent to saying that the chemical potential must decrease at each step. In other words, there must be some \( N \) for which the levels align with:

\[ \mu_S > \mu(N) > \mu_D. \]

Consider first the situation of low bias, where \( eV_{SD} \ll \Delta E, E_{\text{add}} \). The corresponding level diagram in the blockaded case (Fig. 54(a)), shows that no ground-state chemical potential satisfies Eq. (A7), so no current flows. However, by increasing \( V_G \) to lower the ladder of electrochemical potentials, the blockade can be lifted (Fig. 54(b)). As a function of \( V_G \), the current shows a series of Coulomb peaks, with each valley between the peaks corresponding to Coulomb blockade with a different fixed occupation \( N \) (Fig. 54(c)). For each \( N \), the peak separation in \( V_G \) is equal to \( E_{\text{add}}(N)/e\alpha_G \), where \( \alpha_G = C_G/C \) is the lever arm that characterizes the coupling of the gate to the dot. By measuring the Coulomb peak positions in gate space as a function of some external parameter, the evolution of energy levels can be deduced.

3. High-bias spectroscopy

Low-bias transport is only sensitive to the ground-state energy of the device. The excited states can also be probed by applying a bias larger than the single-particle level spacing, \( e|V_{SD}| > \Delta E \). Transport is now possible via excited states, giving rise to additional features in the conductance. Because \( V_{SD} \) is now large enough to populate excited states of the device, it is necessary to consider the corresponding electrochemical potentials. We define the first excited state electrochemical potential as

\[ \mu'(N) = U'(N) - U(N - 1) = \mu(N) + \Delta E(N + 1) \]

where \( U'(N) = U(N) + \Delta E(N + 1) \) is the first excited state of the \( N \)-electron dot. Higher excited states can be defined the same way (Kouwenhoven et al., 2001).

As illustrated in Fig. 54(f-h), transport can proceed via both the ground state and excited states within the bias window. As \( V_G \) is increased from the \( N - 1 \) electron valley, the current first increases when \( \mu(N) \) crosses \( \mu_S \) (Fig. 54(f)). With a further increase in \( V_G \), \( \mu'(N) \) enters the bias window (Fig. 54(g)). This allows transport via the first excited state, which continues until \( \mu(N) \) crosses \( \mu_D \) (Fig. 54(h)). For more positive values of \( V_G \), Coulomb blockade is reestablished, and transport is blocked through both ground and excited states.

This series of resonances between dot and lead electrochemical potentials is usually seen by plotting the conductance \( dI/dV_{SD} \) as a function of \( V_G \), which results in a series of peaks as each transport channel is opened or closed (Fig. 54(i)). From the peak spacings, the excited-state energies can be read off as shown. This technique also gives a convenient way to measure \( \alpha_G \); the gate voltage separation of the first and last peaks corresponds to shifting \( \mu(N) \) from \( \mu_S \) to \( \mu_D \), and is therefore equal to \( V_{SD}/\alpha_G \), where \( V_{SD} \) is set in the experiment. These two complementary spectroscopy methods allow the energy levels of the quantum dot to be measured as a function of various experimental parameters.

Appendix B: Theoretical background

The appendix introduces the theoretical background of this review. The focus will be pedagogical and we will not attempt to refer to relevant theoretical papers. For this we refer to more theoretical reviews, and to the main text. We derive the Dirac equation used extensively...
in the main text and introduce the so-called pseudospin. Moreover, physical pictures of the two types of spin-orbit coupling (orbital- and Zeeman-like terms), as well as the curvature-induced band gap are given. Finally, we address the form of the single-particle wavefunction.

1. Graphene band structure near the Dirac points

Since we are interested in the behavior close to the Fermi level, we focus on the behavior near the two Dirac points. This will be done in two ways: first a simple \( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p} \) calculation is applied to show that the spectrum can be derived from symmetry arguments alone. This is confirmed using a tight-binding calculation, which is also easier to generalize to the case with broken symmetry, as in a nanotube.

a. The \( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p} \) derivation

The \( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p} \) calculation for graphene (DiVincenzo and Mele, 1984; Marder, 2000) uses the fact that the potential has a unit cell of two carbon atoms and is invariant under translations \( \mathbf{T}_{A1,2} \) by lattice vectors \( \mathbf{a}_{1,2} \) as well as under rotation \( \mathbb{R}_{2\pi/3} \) around a lattice symmetry point (\( C_3 \) symmetry). At the Dirac points \( \mathbf{K} \) and \( \mathbf{K}' \), we define Bloch states, denoted \( \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}) \) and \( \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}) \), which are eigenstates of the translation operator:

\[
\mathbf{T}_{A1,2} \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{a}_{1,2}} \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}),
\]

and likewise for \( \mathbf{K}' \). They are degenerate because of the inversion symmetry (which interchanges \( A \) and \( B \) and \( -\mathbf{k} \)). The relative phase between two sites separated by the unit vector \( \mathbf{a}_1 \) is given by

\[
e^{i \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{a}_1} = e^{-i 2\pi/3} = \chi^*,
\]

and by \( \chi \) for \( \mathbf{K}' \). Symmetry allows the functions \( \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}_1} \) to be chosen as eigenstates of the rotations \( \mathbb{R}_{2\pi/3} \) around a center of a hexagon in the following way:

\[
\mathbb{R}_{2\pi/3} \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}} = \chi^* \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}}, \quad \mathbb{R}_{2\pi/3} \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}} = \chi \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}}.
\]

(At the \( \mathbf{K}' \) point, one should replace \( \chi \) by \( \chi^* \).)

We now derive an effective Hamiltonian using \( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p} \) perturbation theory. Expanding the Bloch Hamiltonian around the Dirac points, we write \( \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{k} \) and

\[
H_\mathbf{k} \approx H_\mathbf{K} + H_\mathbf{K}',
\]

where \( \tau = 1(-1) \) for the \( \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{K}') \) point. At \( \mathbf{K} \) the functions \( \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}} \) and \( \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}} \) are degenerate and we define our energy scale so that \( \langle \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}} | H_\mathbf{K} | \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}} \rangle = 0 \). The correction to the Hamiltonian is

\[
H_\mathbf{K}' = \frac{\hbar}{m} \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{p},
\]

with \( \mathbf{p} = -i\hbar \nabla \) being the momentum operator. In the \( \{ \Psi_A^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}), \Psi_B^{\mathbf{K}}(\mathbf{r}) \} \) basis, one can now find the matrix elements of the momentum operator \( \mathbf{p}_C^{\mathbf{K}C'} = \langle \Psi_C^{\mathbf{K}} | \mathbf{p} | \Psi_C^{\mathbf{K}'} \rangle \), where \( C, C' \) both take the values \( A \) or \( B \). Each matrix element \( \mathbf{p}_C^{\mathbf{K}C'} \) is a vector in the \( x-y \) plane of the graphene sheet. The \( AB \) component follows from the rotation symmetry of the wavefunctions:

\[
\mathbb{R}_{2\pi/3} \mathbf{p}_{AB}^{\mathbf{K}} = \chi^* \mathbf{p}_{AB}^{\mathbf{K}},
\]

while for \( \mathbf{K}' \), \( \chi^* \) is replaced by \( \chi \). The eigenvectors in Eq. (B6) are

\[
\mathbf{p}_{AB}^{\mathbf{K}} \propto \left( \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ i \end{array} \right), \quad \mathbf{p}_{AB}^{\mathbf{K}'} \propto \left( \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \right).
\]

In a similar way, the diagonal elements \( \mathbf{p}_{AA}^{\mathbf{K}} \) and \( \mathbf{p}_{BB}^{\mathbf{K}} \) vanish, since they obey an analogous equation to Eq. (B6), but with \( \chi \) replaced by \( 1 \), which only has zero solutions.

The low-energy Hamiltonian (B5) is thus

\[
H_\mathbf{K}' \propto \left( \begin{array}{cc} 0 & \tau \kappa_x - i \kappa_y \\ \tau \kappa_x + i \kappa_y & 0 \end{array} \right) = \hbar v_F (\tau \kappa_x \sigma_x + \kappa_y \sigma_y),
\]

where the Fermi velocity \( v_F \) was introduced as a phenomenological parameter, to match Eq. (1). Here \( \sigma_x, \sigma_y \) are the usual Pauli matrices, now working in sublattice or pseudospin space. \(^{35}\)

\(^{35}\) Some authors use another convention: \( H = \hbar v_F (\sigma_x + \tau k_y \sigma_y) \). This is equivalent to Eq. (B5) after a unitary transformation \( U = e^{-i \pi \sigma_x / 4} \) is applied to the Hamiltonian: \( H \rightarrow UHU^\dagger \).
b. The tight binding derivation

In the tight binding approach the starting point is the Bloch functions of A and B sublattices:

$$\psi_{A/B}(r) = \sum_n e^{ik\cdot R_n} \varphi_{A/B}(r-R_n), \quad (B9)$$

where $\varphi_{A/B}$ are the local basis functions for atomic orbitals at sites A and B, respectively (see Fig. 55). Neighbouring orbitals hybridise via bonds along direction $\delta_i$ with overlap matrix elements $t_{i}$, with $i = 1, 2, 3$. The Hamiltonian overlap of $\Psi^k_A$ and $\Psi^k_B$ is therefore

$$\langle \Psi^k_A | H | \Psi^k_B \rangle = \sum_i t_i e^{i\kappa \cdot (\delta_i - \delta_i)}. \quad (B10)$$

For graphene with $C_3$ rotation symmetry all bonds are of course the same ($t_1 = t$), and therefore expanding around the $K$ point gives (using the definitions in Table I):

$$\langle \Psi^k_A | H | \Psi^k_B \rangle = t \sum_i e^{i\kappa \cdot (\delta_i - \delta_i)} = \frac{i t}{\sqrt{3}} (\kappa_x - i\kappa_y). \quad (B11)$$

To be consistent with the $k \cdot p$ result $\langle B8 \rangle$, we then make a transformation of the phase of the basis states so that $\Psi^k_B \rightarrow -i\Psi^k_B$, which recovers the Hamiltonian $\langle B8 \rangle$.

c. Graphene wave functions and the meaning of pseudospin

Solving for the eigenenergies and eigenstates of the low-energy Hamiltonian $\langle B8 \rangle$

$$H^\kappa \psi^\kappa = E^\kappa \psi^\kappa, \quad (B12)$$

one finds that the energies are $E^\kappa = \pm h v_F \sqrt{\kappa_x^2 + \kappa_y^2}$, with the $\pm$ corresponding to the conduction and valence bands, respectively. The corresponding eigenstates are “spinors” in A/B space:

$$\psi^\kappa = \begin{pmatrix} F^\kappa_A(\kappa) \\ F^\kappa_B(\kappa) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \pm \frac{\sqrt{\kappa_x^2 + i\kappa_y}}{\sqrt{\kappa_x^2 + \kappa_y^2}} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (B13)$$

The pseudospinor gives the weights of the sublattice Bloch states $\langle B9 \rangle$. The wavefunction near $K$ is thus

$$\Psi_{K+\kappa}(r) = F^K_A(\kappa) \psi^K_A(r) + F^K_B(\kappa) \psi^K_B(r), \quad (B14)$$

which can be separated into a fast and a slow part:

$$\Psi_{K+\kappa}(r) \approx e^{i\kappa \cdot r} \left( F^K_A(\kappa) \psi^K_A(r) + F^K_B(\kappa) \psi^K_B(r) \right), \quad (B15)$$

where the plane wave part $e^{-i\kappa \cdot r}$ is the so-called envelope function. Of course, a similar relation holds near $K'$.

36 Note that these functions are not orthogonal. The overlap matrix should therefore in principle be included when solving Schrödinger’s equation $\langle B12 \rangle$. However, this turns out to be higher order in $\kappa$ and we can neglect it here.

2. Nanotubes: Graphene on a cylinder

One must take care when transforming from the graphene coordinates to the nanotube cylindrical coordinates. Above we used the coordinate system defined in Table I, i.e., the horizontal bonds in Fig. 55 are along our $x$-direction. When changing to the coordinate system $(k_\perp, k_\parallel)$, the coordinates are rotated as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \kappa_x \\ \kappa_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \kappa_\perp \\ \kappa_\parallel \end{pmatrix}, \quad (B16)$$

where $\theta$ is the angle between C and x, or $\theta = \pi/6 - \theta$ in terms of the chiral angle $\theta$. In these coordinates, Eq. $\langle B8 \rangle$ becomes

$$H^\kappa_{CNT} = U_\theta H^\kappa \U_\theta = h v_F (\tau \kappa_\perp \sigma_x + \kappa_\parallel \sigma_y), \quad (B18)$$

where the unitary operator $U_\theta$ is

$$U_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\tau \theta} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (B19)$$

The Hamiltonian $\langle B18 \rangle$ has eigenenergies $E(k_\parallel, k_\perp) = \pm \sqrt{k_\parallel^2 + k_\perp^2}$.

When a strip of graphene is rolled up to a nanotube, the wavefunctions are restricted by periodic boundary conditions ($\langle \Psi_{K+\kappa}(r) = \Psi_{K+\kappa}(r + C) \rangle$, implying that

$$e^{i(K+\kappa) \cdot C} = 1, \quad (B20)$$

where C is the chiral vector (Fig. 1). The condition for a metallic nanotube is that the spectrum of the Hamiltonian $\langle B18 \rangle$ is gapless, i.e., $\kappa_\perp = 0$. This happens when $\kappa \cdot C = 2\pi M$, where $M$ is an integer. From the definitions in Table I, this is equivalent to $n - m = 3M$ (Fig. 5).

3. The curvature-induced gap

When graphene is deformed into a nanotube, the curvature causes the overlap matrix elements to depend on direction. This breaks the rotational ($C_3$) symmetry and leads to a shift of the position of the Dirac cones in momentum space $\langle Kane and Mele 1997 \rangle$. Hence graphene remains ungapped when curved. However, in a nanotube, a shift of the Dirac cones opens a gap for a nominally metallic tube (Fig. 8). To understand these effects, we
return to the degenerate subspace \( \{ \Psi_A^K, \Psi_B^K \} \) and calculate the correction to first order in the curvature perturbation \( H_{cv} \). First of all, the diagonal matrix elements are equal\(^{37} \)

\[
\langle \Psi_A^K | H_{cv} | \Psi_B^K \rangle = \langle \Psi_B^K | H_{cv} | \Psi_B^K \rangle.
\]

Using the tight-binding wavefunctions, the off-diagonal elements become

\[
\langle \Psi_A^K | H_{cv} | \Psi_B^K \rangle \propto \delta t_1 + \delta t_2 \chi + \delta t_3 \chi^2,
\]

where \( \delta t_1 \) is the curvature correction to the hopping matrix elements for the three bonds. Since \( \delta t_1 \) is zero for a bond parallel to the tube axis, while it is maximal for a bond perpendicular to it, the leading angular dependence is \( \delta t_1 \propto \cos^2 \eta_i \), where \( \eta_i \) is the angle between the bond \( i \) and the chiral vector. Equation (B21) then evaluates to:\n
\[
\langle \Psi_A^K | H_{cv} | \Psi_B^K \rangle \propto \sum_{p=-1}^{1} \cos^2 \left( \frac{\vartheta + 2p\pi}{3} \right) \chi^p = \frac{3}{4} e^{-i2\vartheta},
\]

and with \( \chi \) replaced by \( \chi^* \) in the \( K' \) valley. Applying the same transformations leading to (B18) and the change of phase explained below Eq. (B11), we obtain the curvature correction in cylindrical coordinates:

\[
H_{\text{CNT,cv}} = v_f \Delta \kappa \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \tau e^{-i3\vartheta} \\ \tau e^{i3\vartheta} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = v_f \Delta \kappa \begin{pmatrix} \tau \cos(3\vartheta)\sigma_x - \sin(3\vartheta)\sigma_y \end{pmatrix}.
\]

When this is added to the Hamiltonian (B18), it is clear that both \( \kappa_{\perp} \) and \( \kappa_{\parallel} \) are shifted. However, the shift in \( \kappa_{\parallel} \) is unimportant and can be absorbed into the longitudinal momentum, whereas the shift in \( \kappa_{\perp} \) (the coefficient to \( \sigma_x \)) gives a gap in the nanotube spectrum as shown in Fig. 8.

4. Spin-orbit coupling

We now include the effect of spin-orbit coupling. Special relativity tells us that in an electric field, the spin of a moving electron experiences a magnetic field. The spin-orbit interaction (SOI) Hamiltonian is given by

\[
H_{\text{SOI}} = \alpha (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{p}) \cdot \mathbf{s},
\]

where \( \mathbf{E} \) is the electric field and \( \alpha \) is a constant derived from relativistic quantum mechanics. Each carbon ion contributes to \( \mathbf{E} \), giving rise to matrix elements between \( \pi \)-orbitals and in-plane orbitals, which in turn are coupled by curvature. To describe this based on microscopic parameters, one must start from the known atomic spin-orbit coupling of carbon and the \( sp^2 \) tight-binding parameters. However, since we do not aim to determine the size of the effect, we use a simpler approach, namely to introduce phenomenological parameters for the SOI-induced coupling between \( \pi \) orbitals in curved graphene. With this line of thinking, the perturbation (B24) gives matrix elements in the Bloch basis (B14).

As explained in Section III.F.1, broken symmetry in the nanotube allows the first-order matrix elements to be non-zero. First, let us assume the simplest way to break mirror symmetry, namely a constant electric field \( \mathbf{E}_r \) in the radial direction. We need to calculate the matrix elements of the spin-orbit Hamiltonian (B24) in the \( \{ \Psi_A^K(\mathbf{r}), \Psi_B^K(\mathbf{r}) \} \) basis. Taking the cross product in Eq. (B24) and projecting to the parallel direction \( \hat{T} \) gives

\[
E_r (\hat{z} \times \mathbf{p}_{AB})_{\parallel} = h v_F E_r \hat{r} \cdot (i\hat{x} + \hat{y}) = h v_F E_r e^{i\vartheta}, \quad (B25)
\]

where we used the matrix element of \( \mathbf{p} \) from Eq. (B17) and the rotation (B10). This also holds for the \( K' \) valley, if \( e^{i\vartheta} \) is replaced by \( e^{-i\vartheta} \). Thus after the unitary transformation (B19), we obtain the form of the orbital-like spin-orbit interaction in cylindrical coordinates:

\[
H_{\text{SOI,orbital-like}} = \Delta_{SO}^1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \tau s = \Delta_{SO}^1 \sigma_z \tau s, \quad (B26)
\]

where \( \Delta_{SO}^1 \) is a phenomenological parameter. As mentioned, the above arguments were based on symmetry considerations only and cannot give information about the magnitude of the effect, other than it is linear in the atomic SOI and linear in the inverse radius.

Thus, the orbital-like spin-orbit interaction has an easy physical interpretation: it is caused by a Rashba spin-orbit interaction, because it is proportional to the azimuthal momentum and the (mean) radial electric field. This is the SOI that was originally derived for graphene (Kane and Mele 1997) and for nanotubes (Ando 2000).

It was realized later that one more term is allowed by the reduced symmetry (see III.F.3). This term comes from the diagonal matrix elements:

\[
B_{AA,\parallel}^K = \left\langle \Psi_A^K | (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{p})_{\parallel} | \Psi_A^K \right\rangle, \quad (B27)
\]

and the identical expression for the \( B \) sublattice. For a constant electric field (or one obeying the \( C_3 \) symmetry) \( B_{AA,\parallel}^K \) is zero. When the rotational symmetry is broken, it can be non-zero. It turns out that \( B_{AA,\parallel}^K \) depends on the chirality. We study two special cases: armchair and zig-zag nanotubes.

**Armchair nanotubes** have mirror planes perpendicular to the nanotube axis through an \( A \) atom. Therefore the curvature-induced electric field has the same symmetry, and so does \( (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{p})_{\parallel} = E_{p, L} \). Moreover, using that the wavefunction transforms under reflection as \( \Psi_A^K \rightarrow (\Psi_A^K)^* \) (as evident from Fig. 55), we have for armchair nanotubes that

\[
B_{AA,\parallel}^K = - (B_{AA,\parallel}^K)^*, \quad (B28)
\]

---

37 This is because the combination of inversion and time-reversal symmetries rules out a \( \sigma_z \) term in the Hamiltonian.
and therefore purely imaginary. On the other hand, since the operator \((\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{p})_\parallel\) is Hermitian, we must at the same time have that \(B_{\AA,AA}^K = (B_{AA,\parallel}^K)^*\). Hence for an armchair nanotube \(B_{\AA,AA}^K = 0\).

Zig-zag nanotubes do not have a mirror plane perpendicular to the nanotube axis. Instead, there is a mirror plane along the axis of the tube, and since \((\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{p})_\parallel\) changes sign under this symmetry, there is no cancellation as for the armchair case.

Therefore, we conclude that there is a spin-orbit-interaction contribution, which is diagonal in pseudospin, having the form

\[
H = \Delta_{SO}^0 \tau_s,
\]

where \(\Delta_{SO}^0\) depends on chirality and the leading harmonics is therefore \(\Delta_{SO}^0 \propto \cos 3\theta\). This the Zeeman-like term of Eq. (17), which thus comes from intra-sublattice matrix elements, i.e., from next-nearest-neighbor matrix elements.

5. Final form of the Hamiltonian, spectrum and eigenstates

The final form of the low-energy Hamiltonian is the combination of the metallic nanotube Hamiltonian, the curvature term, and the two spin-orbit terms:

\[
H_K = \hbar v_F (\kappa_\parallel \sigma_y + \tau \Delta_{K\perp} \sigma_x) + \Delta_{SO}^0 \tau_s + \Delta_{SO}^1 \sigma_z \tau_s,
\]

where both \(\Delta_{K\perp}\) and \(\Delta_{SO}^0\) are proportional to \(\sin 3\theta = \cos 3\theta\). In addition, a magnetic field gives rise to an Aharonov-Bohm phase, as well as the usual Zeeman term:

\[
H_B = \hbar v_F \Delta_{K\perp} \sigma_x + \frac{1}{2} g_s \mu_B B \cdot \mathbf{B}.
\]

with \(\Delta_{K\perp}^B = eDB_\parallel/4\hbar\). The spectrum can be found by simple diagonalization of the Hamiltonian, giving the expression in Eq. (19) for \(E_\pm^s\). In that equation the gap is \(E_G^0 = -\hbar v_F \Delta_{K\perp}\) and the confinement energy is \(E_\nu = v_F \kappa_\parallel\).


Next we discuss the single-particle states in a quantum dot. We assume a parallel magnetic field (making the spin projection \(s\) along the axis a good quantum number) and a potential that is flat in the middle of the dot. The wave function is thus a superposition of right-moving and left-moving waves. In principle, both plane wave solutions close to \(K\) and \(K'\) should be included, because the dot terminations can mix the two valleys. However, we approximate the valley index a good quantum number, assuming a smooth confining potential, and later include mixing via a matrix element between the valley-polarized states, as explained in Sec. III.B. The standing wave is then of the form

\[
\Psi_{\text{dot},s}(t, c) = (Ce^{i\kappa_1 t} + De^{i\kappa_\parallel t}) u^K(t, c) \otimes |s\rangle,
\]

where \(u^K(t, c)\) is the periodic part of the Bloch wave function, and where the relation between \(C\) and \(D\) is determined by the reflection coefficients \(r_L\) and \(r_R\) at the ends of the dot, because the condition for a bound state is \(C = r_L D = r_L r_R C\). Importantly, the envelope of the wave function depends on valley and spin, because the parallel component of \(\kappa\) depends on both through the energy:

\[
\hbar v_F K_\parallel = \sqrt{(E - s\tau \Delta_{SO}^0)^2 - (s\Delta_{SO}^0 - E_G^0 + \tau E_B)^2}.
\]

(Here \(E_B = ev_F DB/4\).) For \(B = 0\), we thus have two Kramers doublets separated by an energy \(\Delta_{SO}\), as explained in the main text. We emphasize that because of the spin-orbit induced difference in \(\kappa_{\parallel}\), the two doublets cannot be written as product states of longitudinal, valley, and spin components.

In the main text, we refer to the single-particle states as \(|\nu \tau_s\rangle\), where \(\nu\) is a quantum number that labels the solutions to the above scattering problem. Two-electron states are then built from the two-electron Slater determinants: \(|\nu \tau_s\rangle|\nu' \tau'\rangle_2 - |\nu \tau_s\rangle_2|\nu' \tau'\rangle_1)/\sqrt{2}\) as in Table IV. These states do not take into account that the longitudinal wavefunctions are easily distorted by Coulomb interactions, resulting in highly correlated two-electron states (cf. Sec. VII).

7. Two-electron states and exchange interaction

In a two-electron quantum dot the question of interaction corrections to the simple single-particle filling arises. We will discuss these corrections on the level of first-order perturbation theory. The two-electron matrix element between four states \(\Psi_a, \Psi_b, \Psi_c, \) and \(\Psi_d\) has the form:

\[
V_{abcd} = \langle a, b|V|c, d\rangle = \int dr \int dr' \rho_{ad}(r) V(r, r') \rho_{bc}(r')
\]

where

\[
\rho_{ab}(r) = \langle \Psi_a | \langle \Psi_r | \rho_{bc}(r'),
\]

and \(V(r, r')\) is the Coulomb interaction potential. The state \(|a, b\rangle\) is a simple product state: \(|a, b\rangle = |a\rangle |b\rangle\) and not an antisymmetrized states as in the headers of Table IV. This matrix element between two Bloch states in Eq. (B14) is

\[
\rho_{k_1, k_2}(r) = \frac{1}{N_A} \sum_{R_a} (|\phi_{A}(r)|^2 + |\phi_{B}(r)|^2) e^{-i(k_1 - k_2) \cdot R_a},
\]

(B36)
where $N_A$ is a normalization equal to the number of unit cells and where we have neglected contributions from the overlap of neighboring atoms. The Coulomb matrix element obtained by inserting Eq. (B35) into (B34) naturally separates into a short and a long-range part $V = V^{SR} + V^{LR}$. The two contributions are

$$V^{SR}_{k_1k_2k_3k_4} \approx V_0^{SR} \delta_{k_1-k_2-k_3-k_4}$$  
$$V^{LR}_{k_1k_2k_3k_4} \approx \frac{1}{V} \int d\tau \int d\tau' V(\tau - \tau') \times e^{i(k_1-k_3) \cdot r + i(k_2-k_4) \cdot r'},$$

(B37a)

(B37b)

where $V_0^{SR} = 2U_0/N_A$ and where $V$ is a normalization area of the nanotube surface.

For a quantum dot of length $L$ and diameter $D$, the short-range part is $V^{SR} \approx U_0/(60LD/[nm]^2)$, which for parameters $L = 300$ nm, $D = 2$ nm, and $U_0 = 10$ eV gives $V_0^{SR} = 0.3$ meV.

8. Exchange integrals due to the long-range Coulomb interaction

Rotational symmetry can be used to show that the long-range part vanishes except when $(k_1 + k_2 - k_3 - k_4) \cdot C = 0$, which in terms of valley index means $\tau_1 + \tau_2 = \tau_3 + \tau_4$ (Weiss et al., 2010). This selection rule for valleys contrasts that for spin, which is $s_1 = s_4$ and $s_2 = s_3$. Separating the wave vectors and the coordinates into a transverse part and a longitudinal part, it becomes evident that the rapid oscillations of the Bloch wavefunctions make it a good approximation to ignore terms off-diagonal in valley indices, because

$$V^{LR}_{\tau_1\tau_2\tau_3\tau_4} \propto \int d\varphi d\varphi' e^{-iM(\tau_1-\tau_4)(\varphi-\varphi')} V(\varphi - \varphi'),$$

(B38)

where the condition $\tau_1 + \tau_2 = \tau_3 + \tau_4$ was used and where $M = K \cdot C/2\pi$ is an integer. Therefore, it is generally true that for narrow-gap nanotubes, which have $M \neq 0$, the Coulomb matrix element is strongly suppressed.

Turning to the case of two electrons in a single dot, occupying single-particle states $|\nu\tau\bar{s}\rangle$ in symmetric or antisymmetric combinations as discussed in Chapter IV, the matrix elements between such orbitals therefore obey

$$(1\tau_1 s_1, 2\tau_2 s_2)|V^{LR}|(3\tau_3 s_3, 4\tau_4 s_4) \propto \delta_{s_1,s_4} \delta_{s_2,s_3} \delta_{\tau_1,\tau_4} \delta_{\tau_2,\tau_3},$$

(B39)

Using this property, it is now straightforward to find the energies of the symmetric and antisymmetric states in Table IV. Starting with the states $S(0,2)$, we get four terms. The cross terms are seen to vanish, because they cannot have $\tau = \tau'$ and $s = s'$ at the same time. We therefore conclude that there are only diagonal, direct Coulomb interaction terms, i.e., no exchange corrections. Assuming the charge distribution of both Kramers pairs to be approximately the same, we thus have

$$\langle S(0,2)|V^{LR}|S(0,2) \rangle = E_C.$$

(B40)

Consider now the symmetric states containing different longitudinal modes, $S'(0,2)$. There are now eight terms. The non-zero terms have same valley and spin for same electron number. If $\tau = \tau'$ and $s = s'$, there are two positive cross terms. The same is true if $\tau \neq \tau$ and $s = s'$ (because of the fast oscillations that lead to Eq. (B39)). We therefore conclude:

$$\langle S'(0,2)|V^{LR}|S'(0,2) \rangle = E_C + 2C.$$  

(B41)

where

$$C = \frac{1}{4} (1Ks, 2K's)\langle V^{LR}|1K's, 2Ks \rangle. $$

(B42)

is an exchange-like Coulomb integral.

The situation is similar for the antisymmetric states $AS(0,2)$, except now the sign is opposite, i.e. there is an energy reduction due to exchange integrals. Note that the cases where $\tau s = \tau's$ give the same reduction, namely $-2C$. However, it is customary to include this energy in the definition of the energy difference $\Delta_{S,AS}$, which is what is done in Table IV.

9. Exchange integrals due to the short-range Coulomb interaction

For the short-range Coulomb interaction the valley selection rules in Eq. (B39) do not apply. Within the $S(0,2)$ multiplet we find that states with antiparallel spin are raised in energy, assuming a repulsive short-range interaction $U_0$. This is because in such a state, two electrons have a finite probability to occupy the same atomic site, in contrast to the spin-polarized states, where spatial antisymmetry means that the probability to occupy the same site is zero.

The antisymmetric states $AS(0,2)$ are almost unaltered by the short range interaction (Secchi and Rontani, 2013), because their longitudinal symmetries differ from those in $S(0,2)$. This can be intuitively understood by considering the limit $\Delta_{SO} \rightarrow 0$, which allows us to separate each two-electron wavefunction into a longitudinal part and a spin/valley part. In this limit, the probability to occupy the same cross section of the nanotube is zero for longitudinally antisymmetric states, thereby preventing double-occupancy of each atomic site. As an example, consider the valley-polarized state $K\downarrow, K\uparrow$. For $\Delta_{SO} \rightarrow 0$ it can be rewritten as $|(\nu, \nu') - |\nu', \nu\rangle \otimes |K, K\rangle \otimes (|\downarrow, \uparrow | + |\uparrow, \downarrow |)$, revealing that the longitudinal part of the orbital wavefunction is antisymmetric. This is in striking contrast to the same state in $S(0,2)$, which is longitudinally symmetric: $K\downarrow, K\uparrow \rightarrow |\nu, \nu\rangle \otimes |K, K\rangle \otimes (|\downarrow, \uparrow | - |\uparrow, \downarrow |)$.

10. Two-electron states and Pauli blockade

In Section 15 we discussed Pauli blockade of two-electron states. We noted that for some of the blocked
states Pauli blockade can be lifted by a dephasing mechanism only, whereas other blocked states require that the spin or valley quantum number within one of the dots be flipped. Here we give some examples.

As an example for lifting of Pauli blockade by dephasing, consider the blocked state $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$. From Table I we can write the total antisymmetric wave function by identifying $\nu = 1(2)$ with the lowest longitudinal shell in the right (left) dot. After rearranging some terms this state has the form:

$$
|1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\uparrow'\rangle_2 - |2K_\uparrow'\rangle_1|1K_\downarrow\rangle_2
+|1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\downarrow\rangle_2 - |2K_\downarrow\rangle_1|1K_\uparrow'\rangle_2. \quad (B43)
$$

We are interested in the time evolution of this state, and model dephasing by assuming an effective Kramers splitting in the left dot that is slightly larger than that in the right dot: $(E_{1K_\uparrow'} - E_{1K_\downarrow}) = (E_{2K_\uparrow'} - E_{2K_\downarrow}) + \delta$. Up to a trivial dynamical phase, the time evolution of this state is given by:

$$
|1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\uparrow'\rangle_2 - |2K_\uparrow'\rangle_1|1K_\downarrow\rangle_2 + e^{-2i\delta t}(|1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\downarrow\rangle_2 - |2K_\downarrow\rangle_1|1K_\uparrow'\rangle_2). \quad (B44)
$$

When $e^{-2i\delta t} = -1$ the blocked state $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$ has dephased into the unblocked state $S'(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$, thereby lifting Pauli blockade. This is similar to the rapid dephasing from the $T_1$ state to the $S$ state due to an Overhauser field difference in a conventional double dot.

Next, consider the blocked state $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\downarrow$. This state is characterized by the fact the electrons are both spin- and valley-polarized. We show that a valley flip in either dot will lift Pauli blockade. From Table I we can write the initial state as

$$
\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\downarrow \propto |1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\downarrow\rangle_2 - |2K_\downarrow\rangle_1|1K_\downarrow\rangle_2. \quad (B45)
$$

A valley flip in e.g. the left dot $(2K_\downarrow \rightarrow 2K_\downarrow')$ results in the state

$$
|1K_\downarrow\rangle_1|2K_\uparrow'\rangle_2 - |2K_\uparrow'\rangle_1|1K_\downarrow\rangle_2, \quad (B46)
$$

which is a superposition of the state $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\downarrow$ and the unblocked state $S'(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$. This process therefore lifts the Pauli blockade. Furthermore, a spin flip in the left dot results in a superposition of $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow$ and $S'(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$, whereas a spin- and valley-flip in the left dot results in a superposition of $\text{AS}(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$ and $S'(1,1)K_\downarrow, K_\uparrow'$. In either case, Pauli blockade is circumvented by the admixture of unblocked states (i.e. longitudinal symmetric states). These examples illustrate that Pauli blockade in nanotubes (with spin and valley assumed to be good quantum numbers) is generally weaker than Pauli blockade in conventional semiconductors (singlet-triplet blockade).

REFERENCES

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