

EPFL

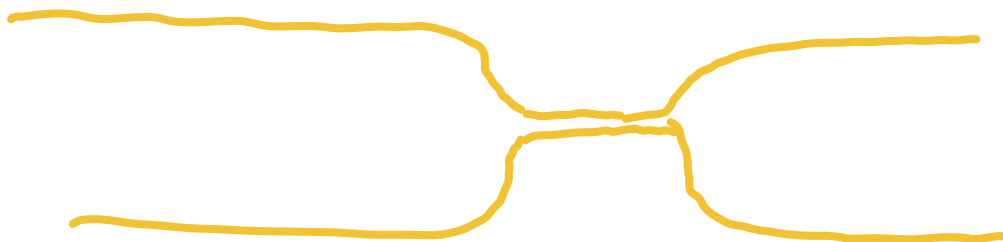
# MICRO-435 Quantum and Nanocomputing

Edoardo Charbon  
Mariagrazia Graziano

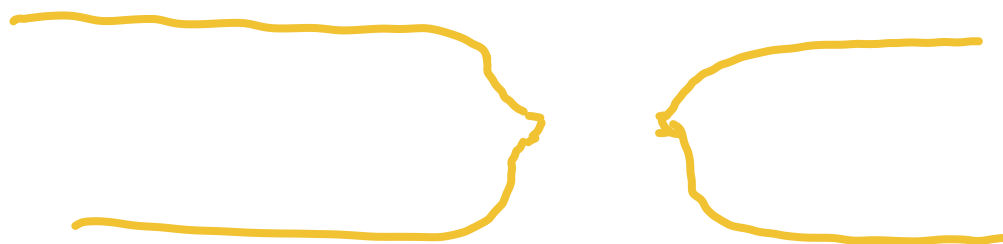
CONDUCTION IN MOLECULAR TRANSISTORS  
A SIMPLE MODEL

11-12 | 11 | 25

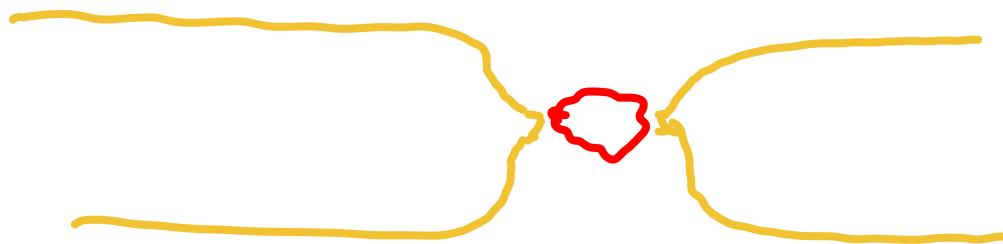
# THE REFERENCE SYSTEM



NANOWIRE

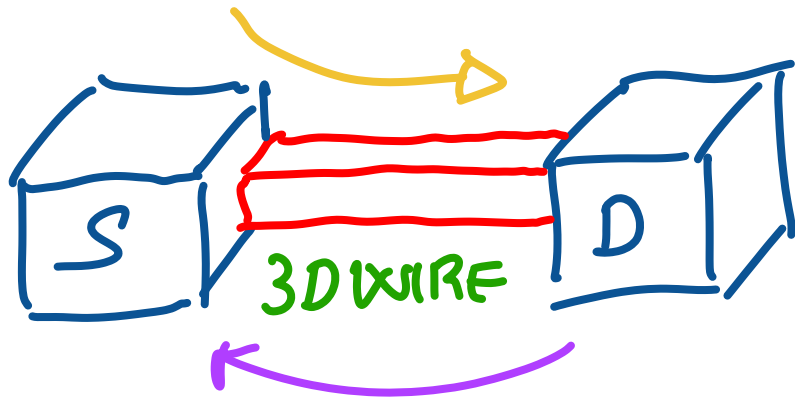
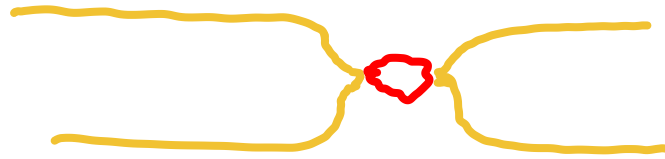


NANOGAP



NANOGAP  
+  
MOLECULE

HOW DOES CONDUCTION HAPPEN IN THIS SYSTEM?



3D SYSTEM

ELECTRONS FREE TO MOVE  
IN ALL DIRECTIONS OF WIRE

$V_{DS} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  ENERGY

$$J_m = q \mu_m \cdot n \mathcal{E}$$

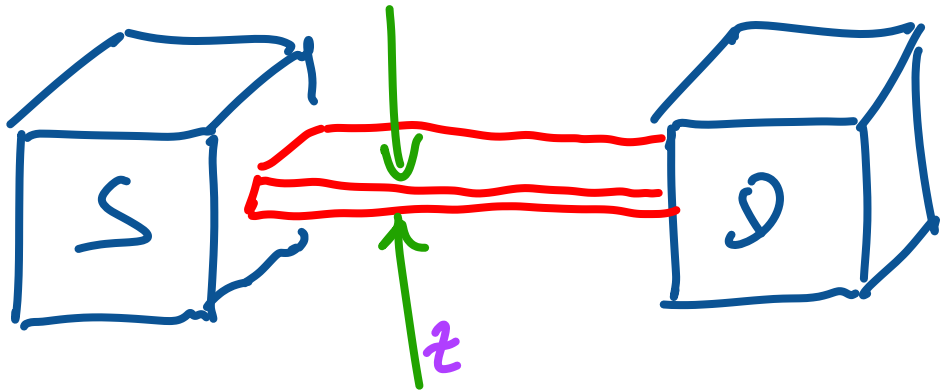
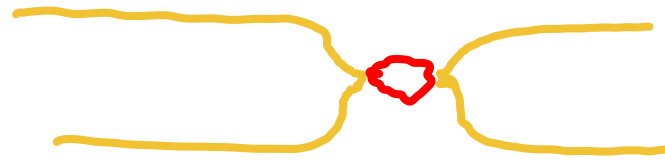
CURRENT IN THE CRISTAL  
WITH SCATTERING

↑  
NUMBER OF CHARGES

IN A CONDUCTION BAND

TOO MACROSCOPIC

HOW DOES CONDUCTION HAPPEN IN THIS SYSTEM?



2D SYSTEMS  
1 DIRECTION IS  
CONFINED DUE TO  
SCALING AT MM SIZE

ELECTRONS ARE FREE  
IN 2 DIRECTIONS

CONFINED IN 1 DIRECTION

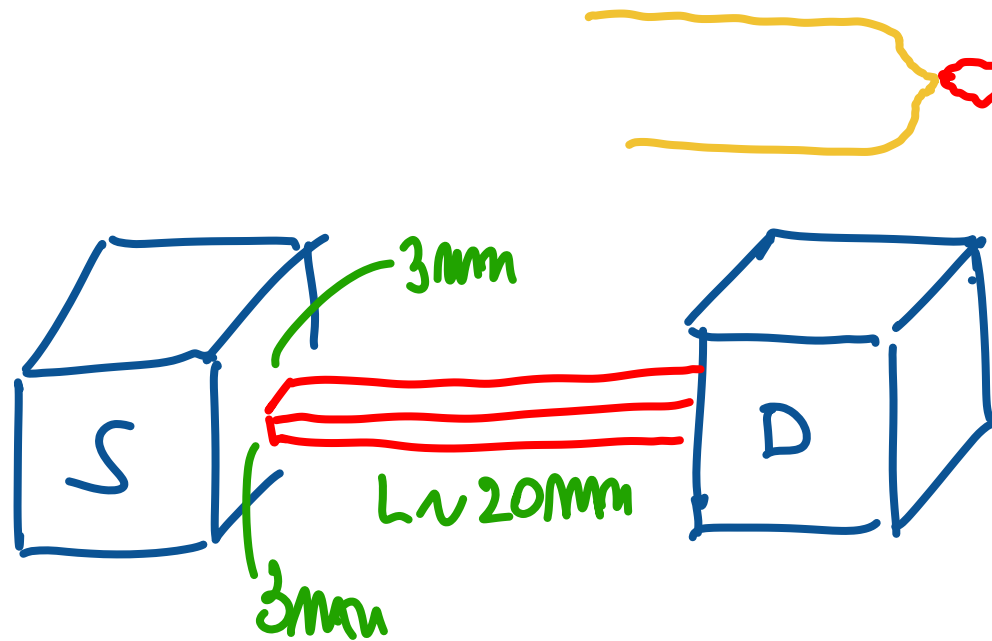
$N_{2D}(E)$

HOW MANY CHARGES  
IN THE WIRE AND HOW  
DISTRIBUTED?

$\Rightarrow$  SQUARE WELL  
APPROXIMATION

TOO MACROSCOPIC

HOW DOES CONDUCTION HAPPEN IN THIS SYSTEM?



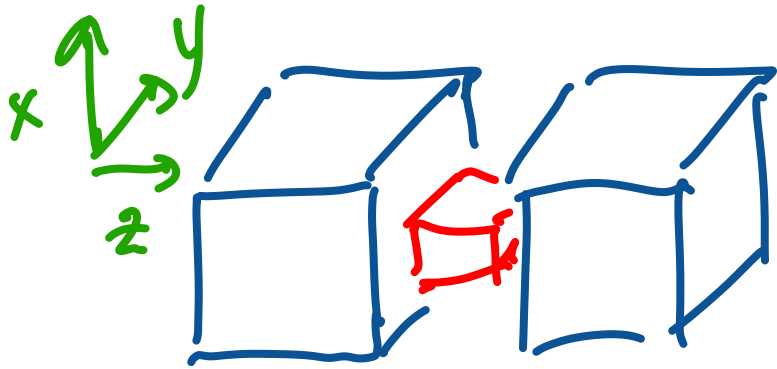
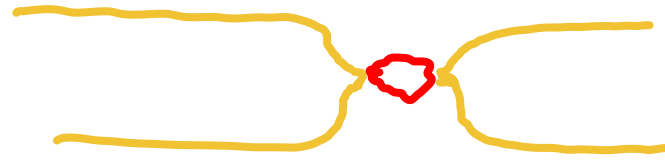
1D SYSTEM  
QUANTUM WIRE  
CHARGES CAN MOVE IN  
1 DIRECTION  
EACH ELECTRON  
CONTRIBUTES INDIVIDUALLY  
TO THE CONDUCTION

$N_{1D}(E)$ ?

BOUNDING BOX MODEL

FOR SOME CONDITION OF THE MOLECULAR  
SYSTEM IT COULD BE USED

HOW DOES CONDUCTION HAPPEN IN THIS SYSTEM?



QD SYSTEMS  
QUANTUM DOT

EX.  $3\text{nm} \times 3\text{nm} \times 3\text{nm}$   
x y z

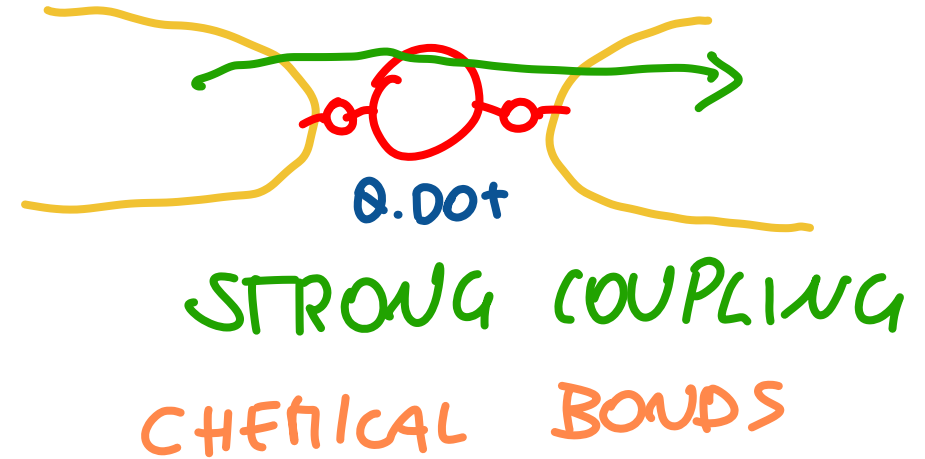
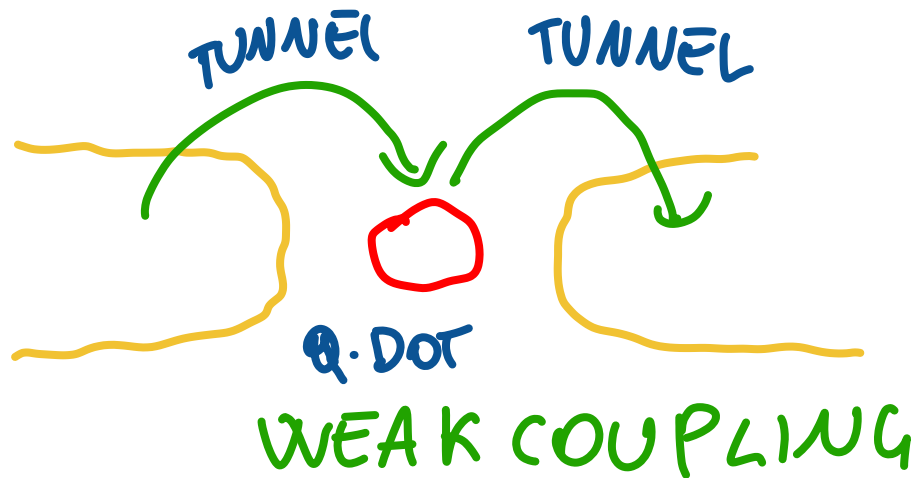
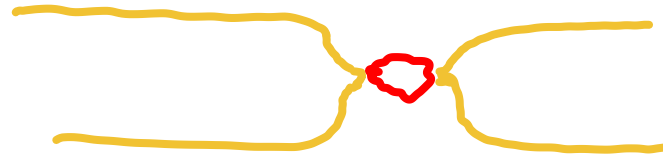
CONDUCTION DEPENDS ON  
COUPLING BW. DOT AND  
ELECTRODES

WEAK COUPLING  $\rightarrow$  S.E.T.

THE BOUNDING BOX APPROXIMA-  
TION DOES NOT GIVE A GOOD  
APPROXIMATION OF THE ALLOWED  
ENERGIES IN THE DOT

STRONG COUPLING  $\rightarrow$  MOLE-  
CULES

HOW DOES CONDUCTION HAPPEN IN THIS SYSTEM?



CURRENT IS THE RESULT  
OF A SEQUENTIAL TUNNELING  
PROCESS

S. E. T.

BONDS ALLOW  
THE FLOW OF  
ELECTRONS SIMILAR  
TO QUANTUM WIRE

MOLECULAR TRANSISTORS

# MODEL FOR CONDUCTION IN STRONGLY COUPLED QUANTUM DOTS

→ COHERENT TRANSPORT OF ELECTRONS

FROM

SOURCE  
ELECTRODE

TO

MOLECULE

TO

DRAIN  
ELECTRODE

THE FLOW  
DEPENDS ON

- $N$
- D.O.S.
- $F$

# CONDUCTANCE IN S.C. QDOTS

→  $N$  : NUMBER OF ELECTRONS

→ D.D.O.S: DENSITY OF STATES

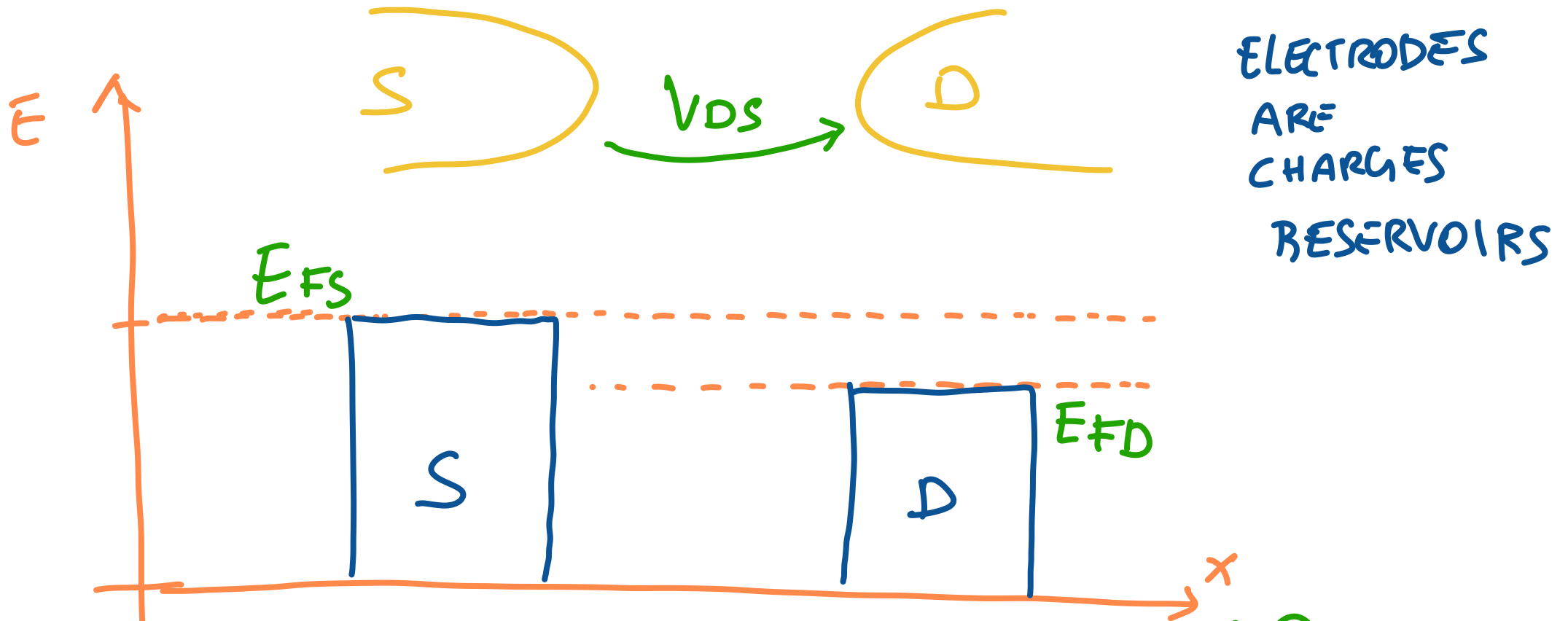
N. OF FREE STATES THAT AN ELECTRON CAN OCCUPY

(N. OF STATES IN A CONDUCTOR PER UNIT ENERGY)

→  $F$  : FERMI FUNCTION

PROBABILITY THAT THE STATE CAN BE OCCUPIED BY ELECTRON

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOTS



if  $T=0K$  The Fermi level

$E_{FS}$   
FERMI LEVEL OF SOURCE

$> E_{FS}$  ALL STATES EMPTY

$< E_{FS}$  ALL STATES OCCUPIED

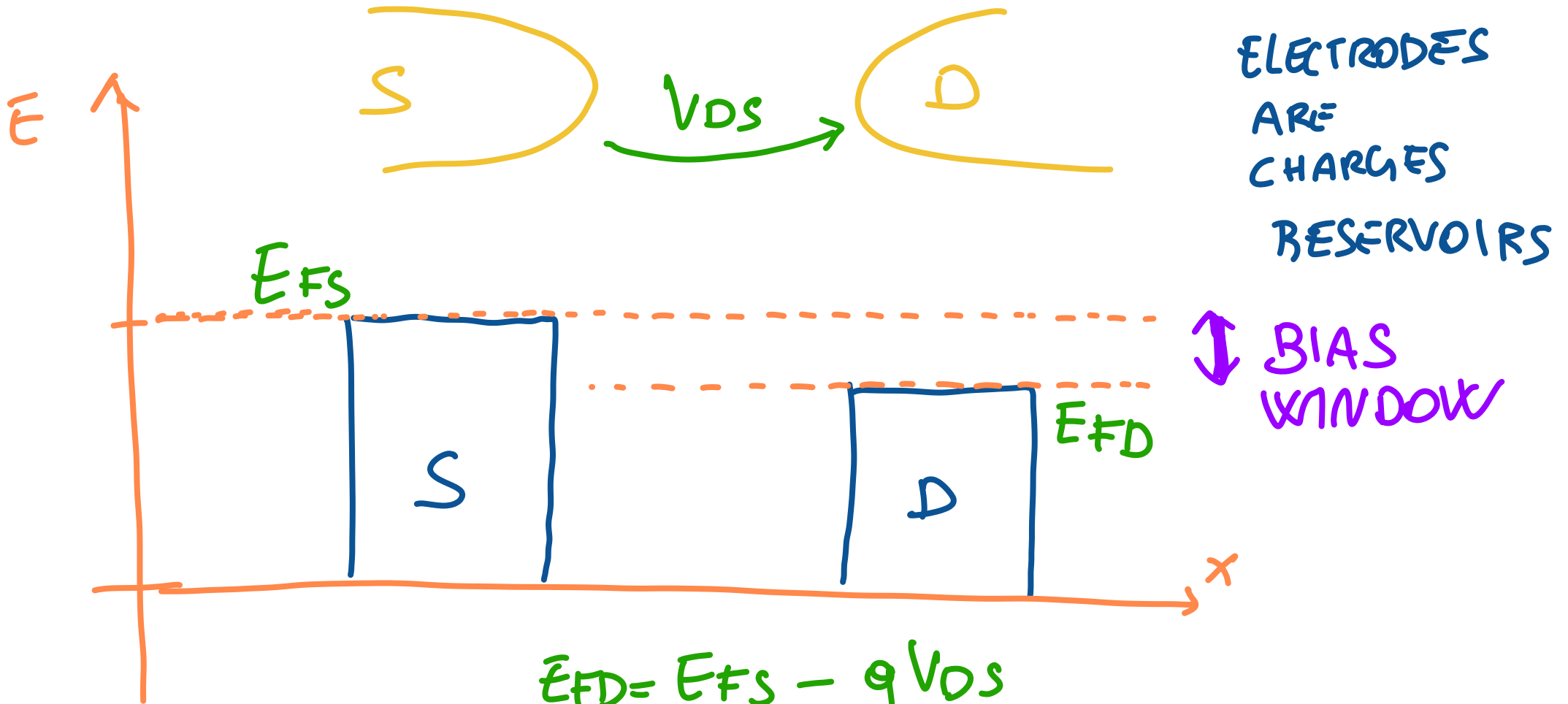
Fermi level @ DRAIN

$E_{FD}$

$> E_{FD}$   
All states empty

$< E_{FD}$  all states occupied

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOTS

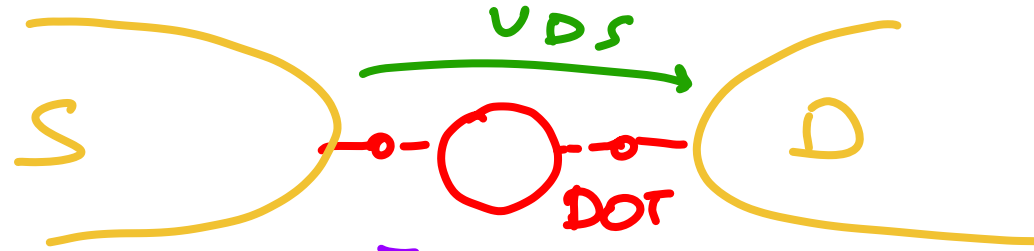


$$E_{FD} = E_{FS} - qV_{DS}$$

$$f(E, E_{FS}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{E - E_{FS}}{kT}}}$$

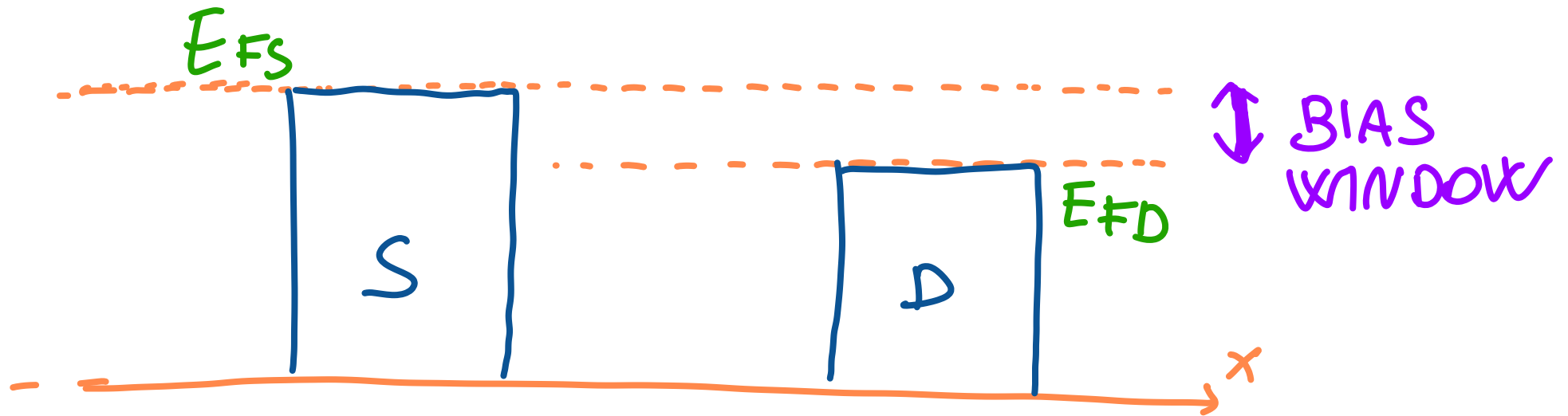
$$f(E, E_{FD}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{E - E_{FD}}{kT}}}$$

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOTS



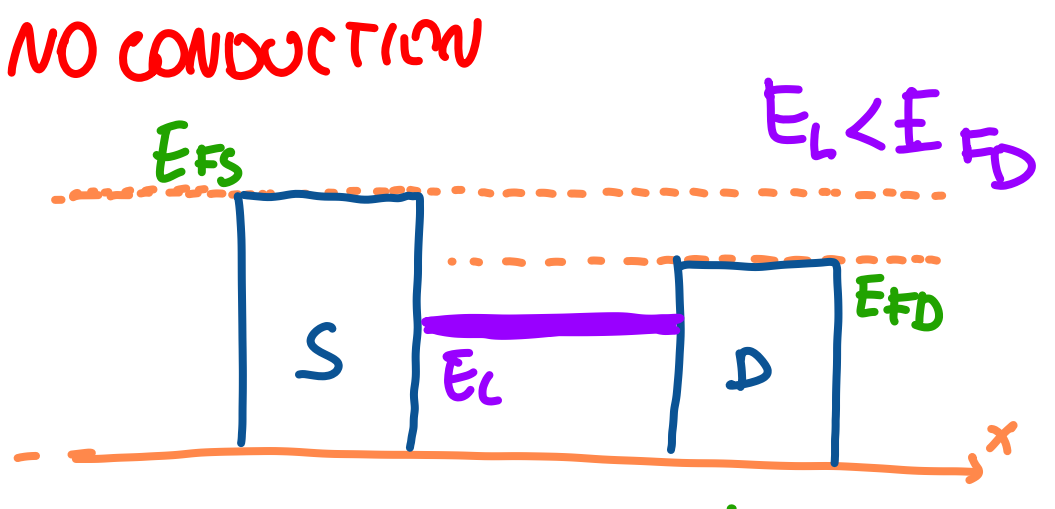
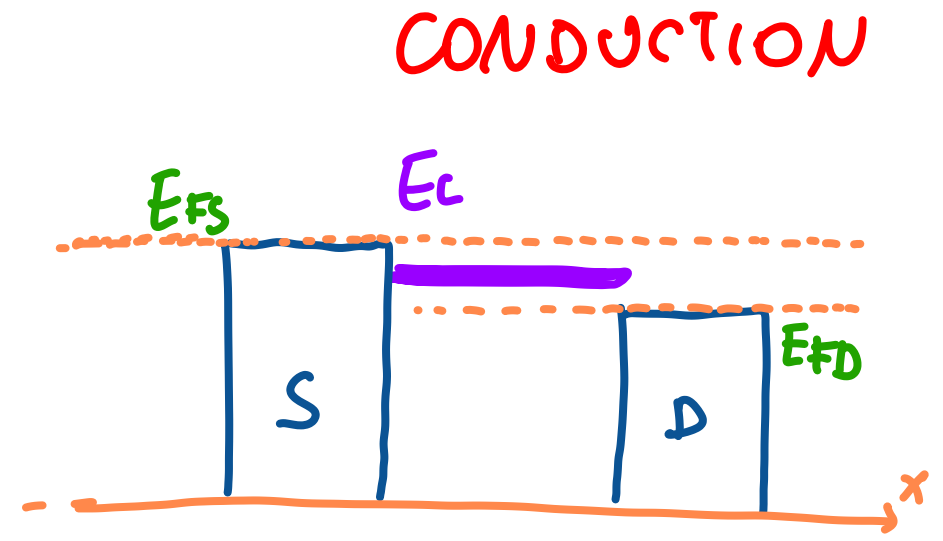
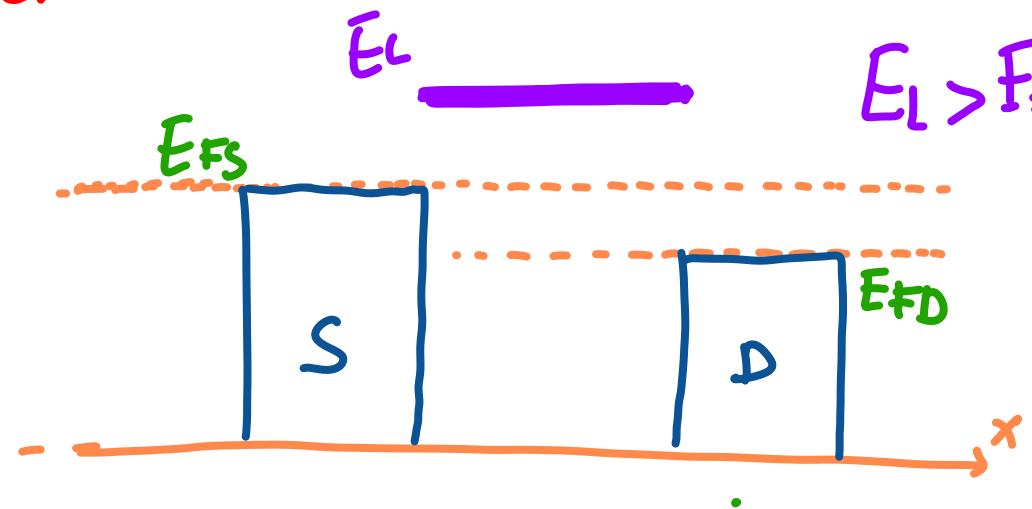
THE DOT CONTRIBUTES  
WITH  $N$  electrons  $e^-$   
AT ENERGY  $E_L$

THE DOT CONTRIBUTES  
WITH DISCRETE LEVELS  
OF POSSIBLE ENERGY STATES

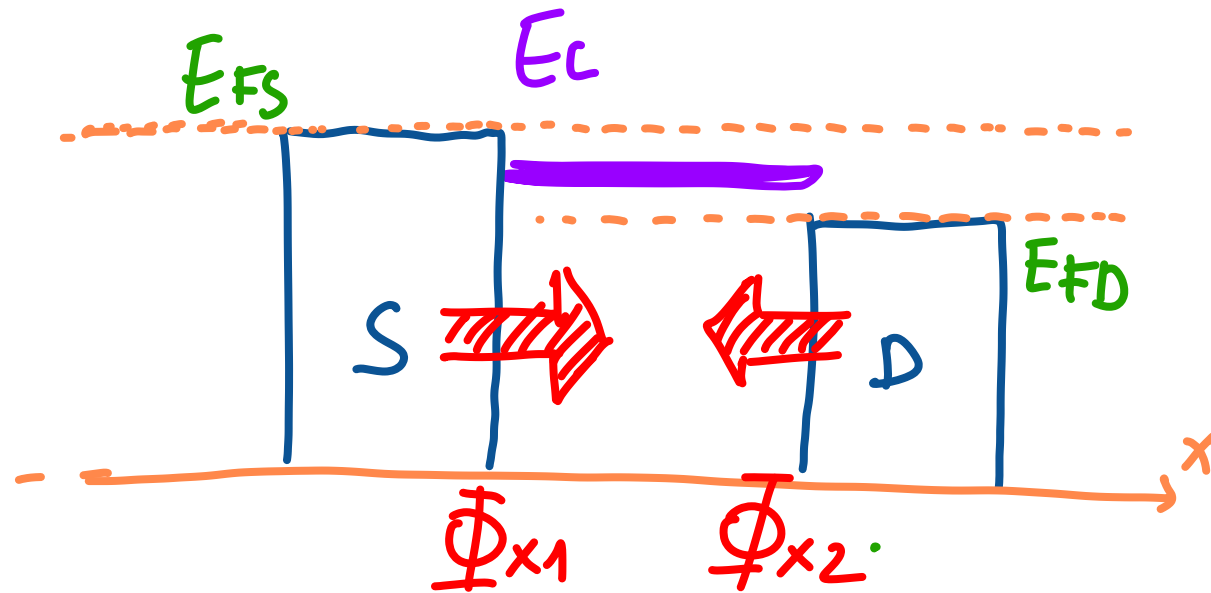


$\forall$  LEVEL  $N : [0 \div 2]$

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOTS



# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOT



FLUXES OF ELECTRONS  
FROM ELECTRODES TO DOT

THE BOND B.W. DOT AND ELECTRODES QUALIFY  
THE INTERFACE AND THE TRANSFER TIME  
REQUIRED THE ELECTRON TO MOVE FROM S TO DOT  
OR FROM S TO DOT

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOT

$$\tau_1 = \frac{\hbar}{\gamma_1}$$

$\gamma_1$ : COUPLING  
FACTOR BW.  
SOURCE &  
DOT

$$\tau_2 = \frac{\hbar}{\gamma_2}$$

$\gamma_2$ : COUPLING  
FACTOR BW  
DRAIN &  
DOT

# CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOT

$$\Phi_{X1 \rightarrow \text{DOT}} = \frac{2 \cdot f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FS})}{\tau_1} = \frac{2\gamma_1 f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FS})}{\hbar}$$

↖ FROM S TO DOT

$$\Phi_{\text{DOT} \rightarrow 1} = \frac{N}{\tau_1} = \frac{\gamma_1 \cdot N}{\hbar}$$

↙ FROM DOT TO S

$$\Phi_{X2 \rightarrow \text{DOT}} = \frac{2 f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FD})}{\tau_2} = \frac{2\gamma_2 f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FS})}{\hbar}$$

↖ FROM D. TO DOT

$$\Phi_{\text{DOT} \rightarrow 2} = \frac{N}{\tau_2} = \frac{\gamma_2 \cdot N}{\hbar}$$

↙ FROM DOT TO D.

## CONDUCTION IN S.C. QDOT

$$\text{NET FLUX } \bar{\Phi}_{X1} = \frac{\gamma_1}{h} [2f(E_L, E_{FS}) - N]$$

$$\text{NET FLUX } \bar{\Phi}_{X2} = \frac{\gamma_2}{h} [2f(E_L, E_{FS}) - N]$$

DIFFERENCE B/W. FLUX GOING IN AND OUT  
FROM ON ELECTRODE TO THE DOT

# CONDUCTION W Q.DOT S.C.

FOR CONSERVATION OF CHARGE IN  
STEADY STATE

$$\Phi_{X1} = -\Phi_{X2}$$

SUBSTITUTING  $\rightarrow$  OBTAIN  $N$

$$N = \frac{2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} \left[ \gamma_1 f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FS}) + \gamma_2 f(\bar{E}_L, \bar{E}_{FD}) \right]$$

see exercises to compute  $N$

# CURRENT IN S.C. QD.

$$I_{DS} = q \cdot \Phi_{x1} \text{ net flux}$$

SUBSTITUTE  $\Phi_{x1}$  and  $N$

$$I_{DS} = \frac{q}{h} \cdot \frac{2\gamma_1 \gamma_2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} \left[ f(E_L, E_{FS}) - f(E_L, E_{FD}) \right]$$

see exercises for examples

# CONDUCTION IN MOLECULAR Q.D.

→ LEVEL BROADENING

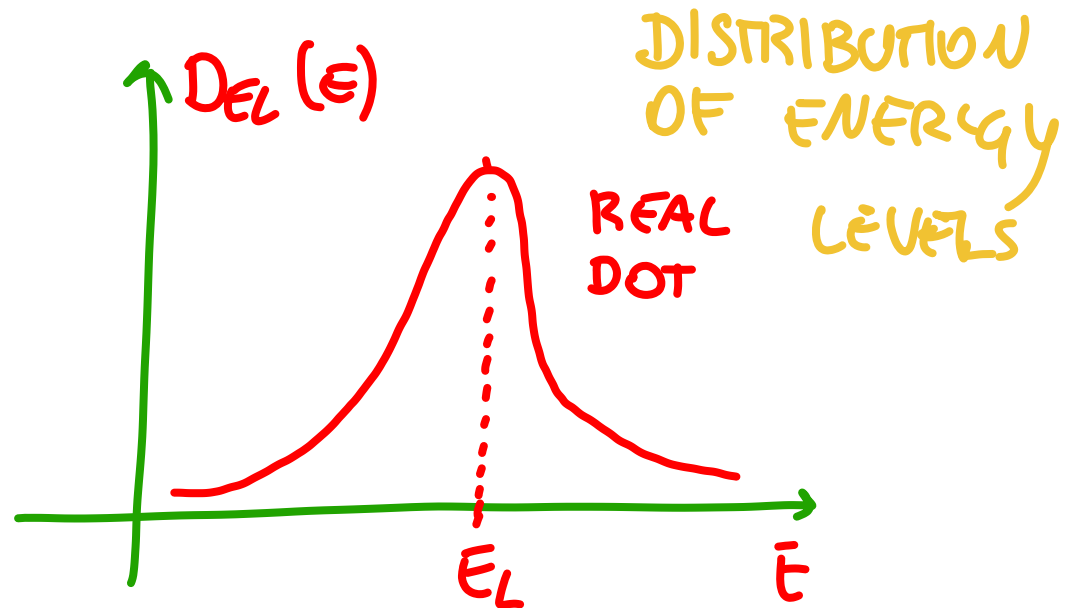
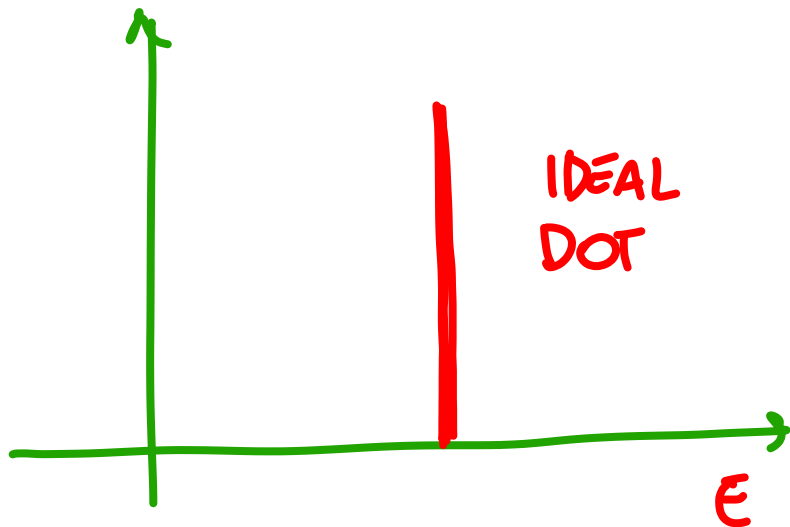
→ CHARGE EFFECT

→ EXTERNAL SOURCES

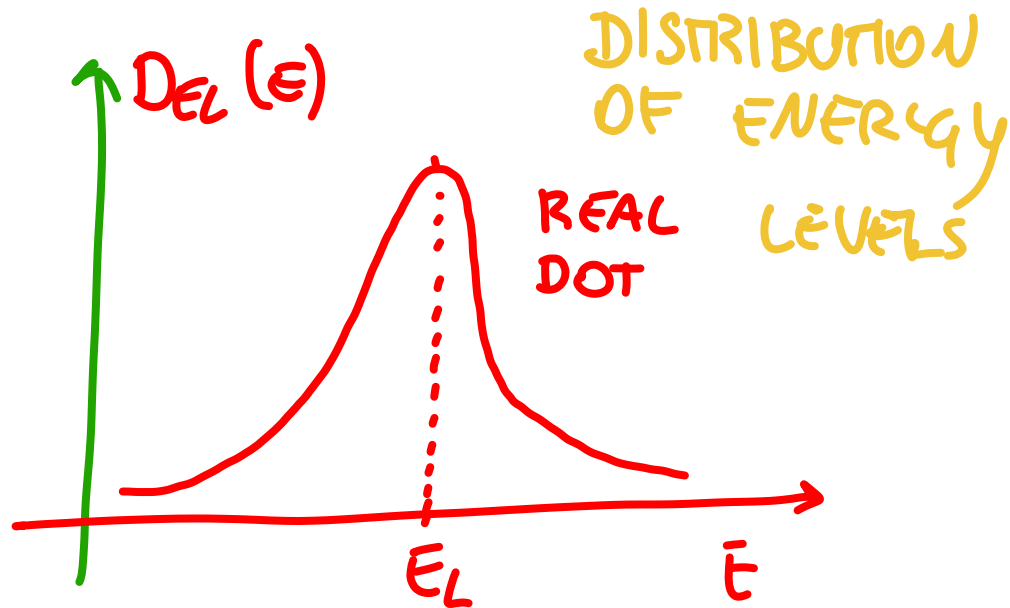
# CONDUCTION IN MOLECULAR Q.D

IN A REAL DOT e.g. MOLECULE

THE ENERGY LEVEL  $\underline{E_L}$  IS NOT DISCRETE



# LEVEL BROADENING



LORENTZIAN  
DISTRIBUTION

$$D_{EL}(\epsilon) = \frac{\gamma/2\pi}{(\epsilon - E_L)^2 + (\gamma/2)^2}$$

# CURRENT WITH BROADENING

$$I_{DS} = \frac{q}{h} \frac{2\gamma_1\gamma_2}{\gamma_1+\gamma_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} D_{EL}(\bar{E}-U) \cdot [f(\bar{E}, E_{FS}) - f(\bar{E}, E_{FD})] d\bar{E}$$

..... SEE NEXT SLIDES

$$T(\bar{E}) = 2\pi \frac{\gamma_1\gamma_2}{\gamma_1+\gamma_2} D_{EL}(\bar{E})$$

TRANSMISSION  
SPECTRUM

# LANDAUER EQUATION

$$I_{DS} = \frac{2e}{h} \int T(E) [f(E, E_{FS}) - f(E, E_{FD})] dE$$

↑  
INCLUDES THE DOS  
OF COMPLEX MOLECULAR  
SYSTEMS

← DENSITY  
OF  
STATES

EPFL

# MICRO-435 Quantum and Nanocomputing

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MODELING OF MOLECULAR TRANSISTOR - PART 2  
COMPLETE SIMPLE MODEL

# THE TOTAL ENERGY

$$I_{DS} = \frac{q}{h} \frac{2\gamma_1 \gamma_2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} D_{EL}(\epsilon - U) \cdot [f(\epsilon, E_{FS}) - f(\epsilon, E_{FD})] d\epsilon$$

$U$ ?

→ GENERALIZATION FOR THE ENERGY OF THE SYSTEM USED TO MODEL OTHER EFFECTS ON THE SYSTEM

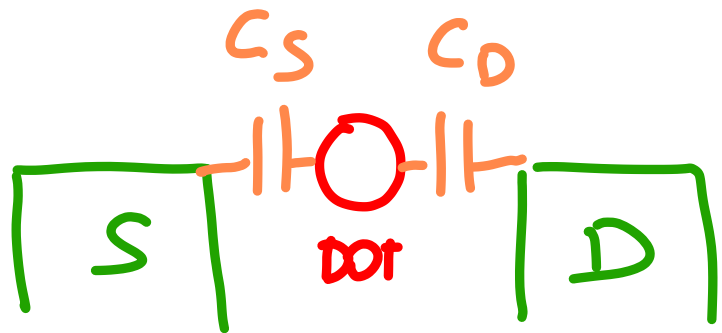
1)  $E_F$  OF DOT    2) CHARGE EFFECT    3) GATING

$$U = U_{VDS} + U_{\text{CHARGING EFFECT}} + U_{\text{GATING}}$$

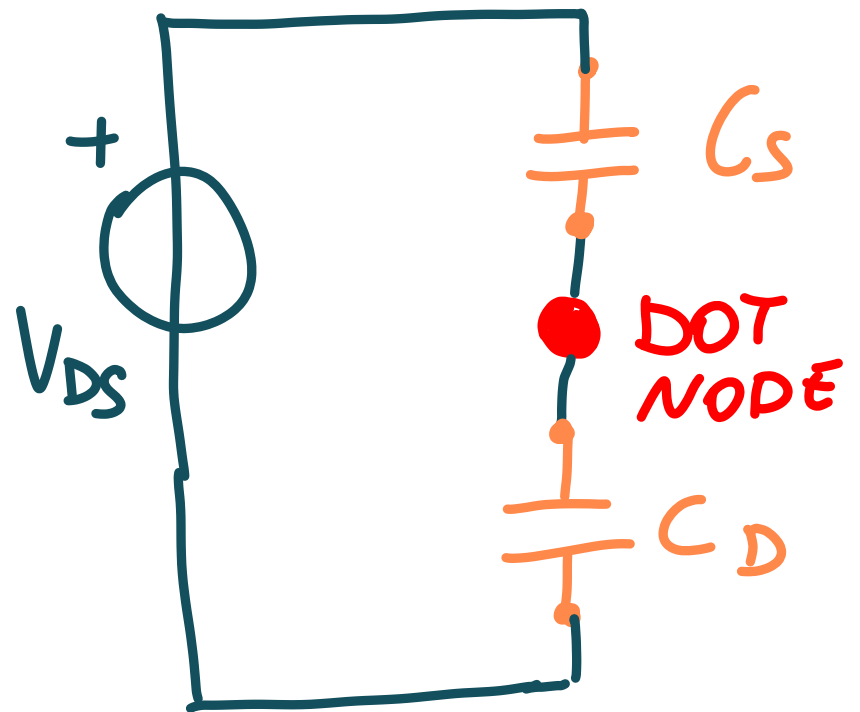
①

# CONTRIBUTION OF $V_{DS}$

## EQUIVALENT MODEL

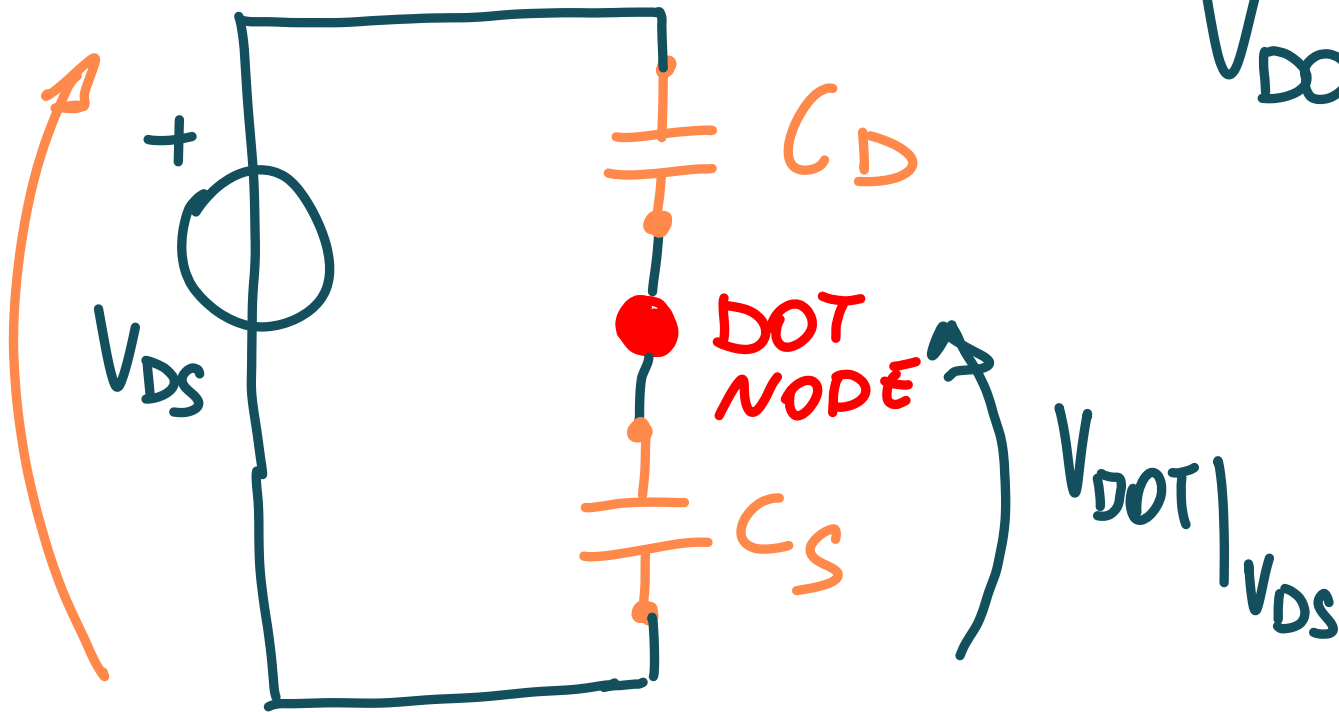


INTRODUCE EQUIVALENT  
CAPACITANCES TO  
MODEL THE IMPACT  
ON ENERGY THROUGH  
THE 2 CONNECTIONS



# CONTRIBUTION OF $V_{DS}$

CAPACITIVE  
DIVIDER



$$V_{DOT} = V_{DS} \cdot \frac{C_D}{C_D + C_S}$$

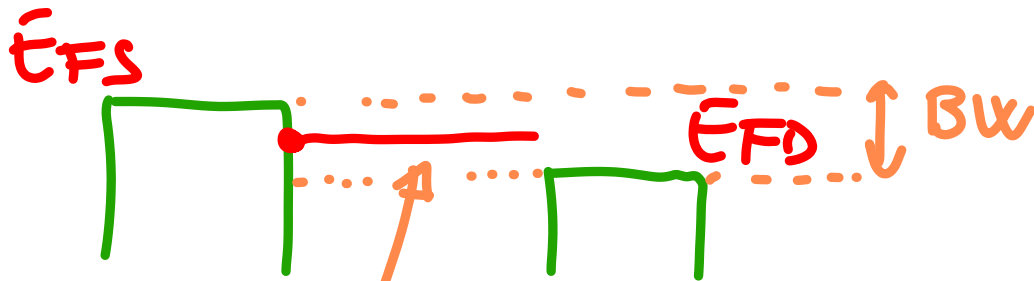
$C_S$  and  $C_D$   
REPRESENT THE  
QUALITY OF  
THE CONNECTION

# CONTRIBUTION OF $V_{DS}$

- IF THE QUALITY OF THE 2 CONTACTS IS THE SAME  $C_S = C_D \Rightarrow V_{dot} = \frac{1}{2} V_{DS}$

FOR THIS REASON

$$E_{Fdot} = E_{FS} - \frac{qV_{DS}}{2}$$



FALLS IN THE MIDDLE OF  
 $E_L = E_{Fdot}$  BW IN THESE  
CONDITIONS

# CONTRIBUTION OF $V_{DS}$

IN GENERAL

$$U_{DS} = -qV_{DOT} = -q \cdot \frac{C_D}{C_{ES}} \cdot V_{DS}$$

$$C_{ES} = C_S + C_D$$

$T(E-U)$  CHANGES

IF DOT WELL CONNECTED TO SOURCE AND POORLY  
CONNECTED TO DRAIN  $C_D \ll C_S$

$\Rightarrow \bar{E}_{F DOT} \rightarrow$  NEAR  $\bar{E}_{FS}$

AND VICEVERSA

TYPICAL  
VALUES OF

$C_S \sim C_D \sim 10^{-18}$

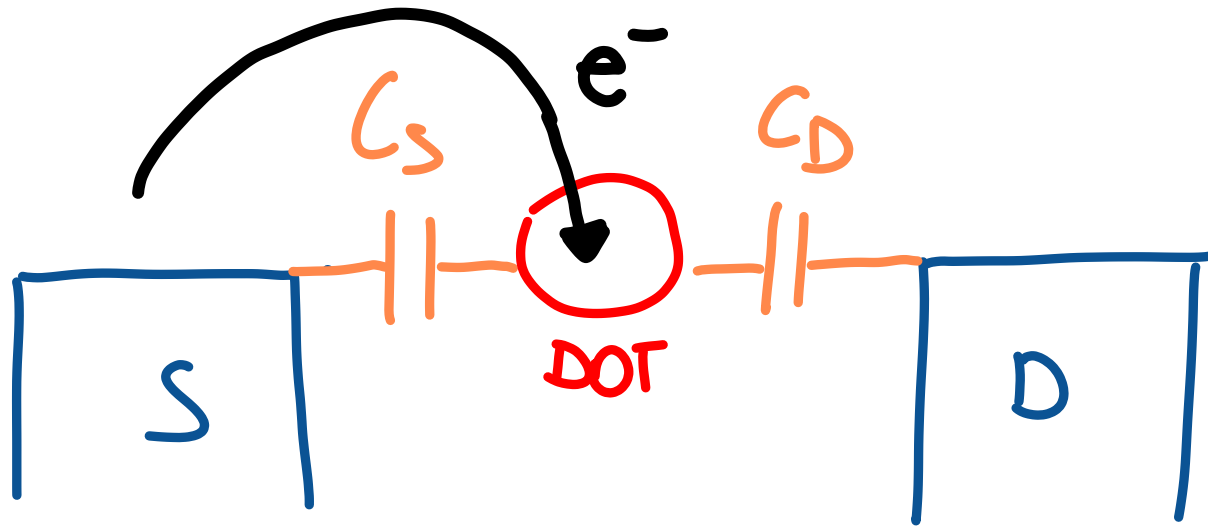
$qF \sim 10$

FEW attofarad

②

# CHARGING EFFECT

NOT OBSERVED IN STANDARD SYSTEMS  
(always present but has impact at  
nanoscale only)



STARTING  
MODEL

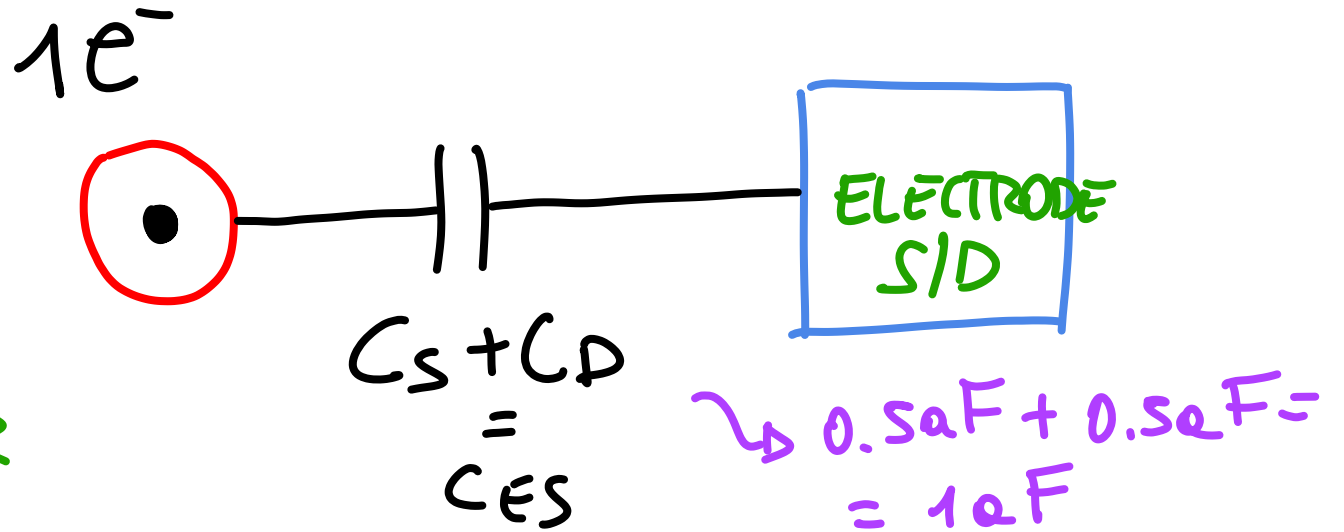
SOURCE AND  
DRAIN AT  
SAME POTENTIAL  
 $V_{DS}=0$

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHARGE IS INJECTED IN  
THE DOT, WITH THE HYPOTHESIS OF NEUTRAL DOT

# CHARGING EFFECT

## REMODEL THE SYSTEM

- DOT IS A CHARGE CONTAINER



- S or D is ELECTRODE

- CAPACITANCE IS THE SUM (PARALLEL!)

$\Delta V$  VARIATION OF VOLTAGE  
 $\Downarrow$

$\Delta Q$  VARIATION OF CHARGE

$$\Delta Q = C_{ES} \cdot \Delta V$$

$\curvearrowright$  1 electron

## CHARGING EFFECT

$$\Delta Q = -q$$

$$C_{ES} = C_D + C_S$$

$$\Delta V = \frac{-q}{C_{ES}} = - \frac{1.6 \cdot 10^{-19}}{1 \cdot 10^{-18}} = -0.16 \text{ V} = -160 \text{ mV}$$

$\Rightarrow$  THE ELECTRON INJECTION SHIFTS THE VOLTAGE OF  $\sim 160 \text{ mV}$

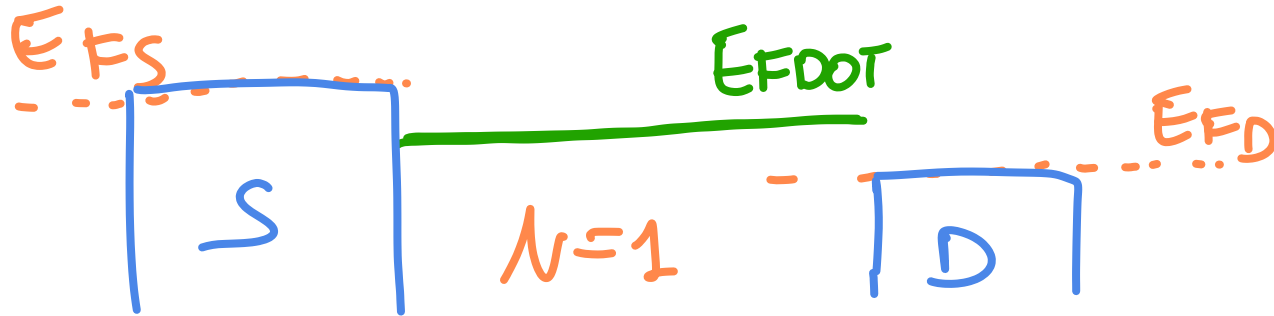
$$U_{\text{CHARGING-EFFECT}} = -q \Delta V = \frac{q^2}{C_{ES}} \approx 0.16 \text{ eV}$$

$\Rightarrow$  SHIFT POTENTIAL  $\Rightarrow$  SHIFT  $D_{E2} \Rightarrow T(E) \Rightarrow I_{DS}$

# CHARGING EFFECT

$V_{DS} \neq 0$

NO CHARGING EFFECT



$$N = \frac{2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} \left[ \gamma_1 f(E_L, E_{FS}) + \gamma_2 f(E_L, E_{FD}) \right]$$

NEAR TO 1  
(occupied states)

NEAR TO 0  
(unoccupied states)

if  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$   $N = 1$

IF C. E. IS  
CONSIDERED



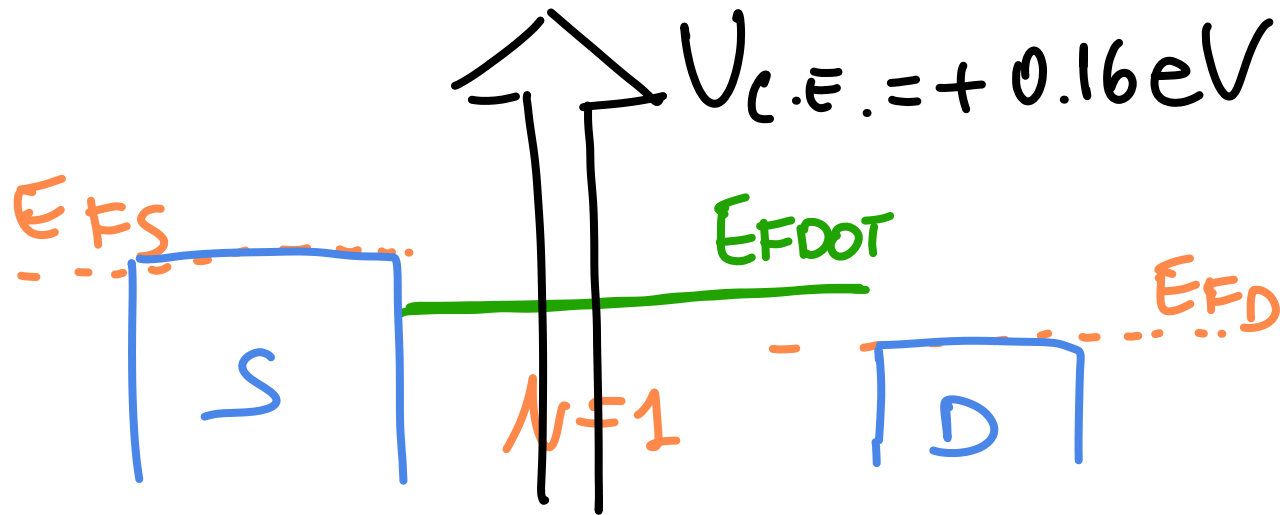
WHEN  $1e^-$   
JUMPS IN THE  
CHANNEL



$U$  CHANGES  
 $\sim 0.16eV$



C. E.



THE  $E_{\text{LEVEL DOT}}$  COULD ESCAPE  
FROM BW, THE CHARGE IN  
BW REDUCES !!!

???

# SELF-CONSISTING FIELD : SCF

LET'S CONSIDER BROADENING ALSO

$$N = \frac{2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} D_{\text{EL}}(E - U) \left[ \gamma_1 f(\tilde{\epsilon}, E_{\text{FS}}) + \gamma_2 f(\tilde{\epsilon}, E_{\text{FD}}) \right] d\tilde{\epsilon}$$



RESULT OF  
INTEGRATION



DISTRIBUTION OF DENSITY OF STATES



QUANTITY OF CHARGE

# S.C.F.

$$U_{\text{CHARGING EFFECT}} = U_0 (N - N_0)$$

WHERE  $U_0 = \frac{q^2}{C_{ES}}$   $C_{ES}$  TOTAL CAPACITANCE

$N_0$  NUMBER OF ELECTRONS  
AT EQUILIBRIUM

$N$  ACTUAL VALUE NUMBER  
OF ELECTRONS

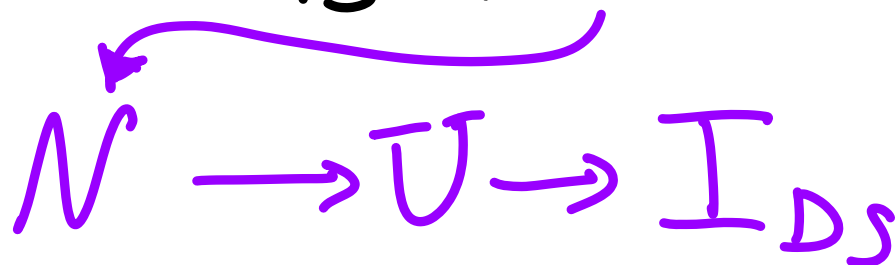
# SELF CONSISTING FIELD

$$N = \frac{2}{f_1 + f_2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} D_{\text{EL}}(E - U) \cdot [\dots] dE$$

$$U_{\text{C.E.}} = U_0 (N - N_0)$$

$$U_0 = \frac{+q^2}{C \epsilon_s}$$

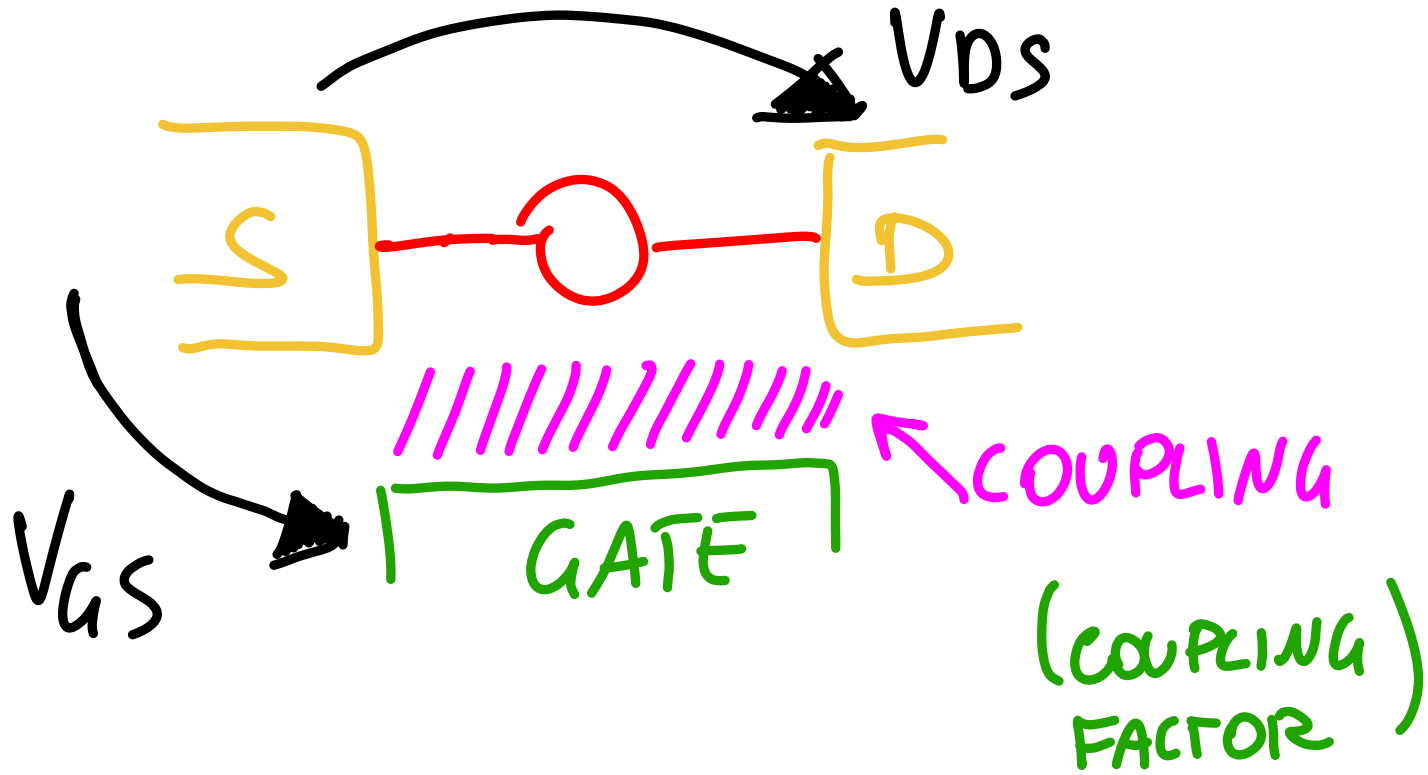
WHEN  
CONVERGENCE  
IS REACHED



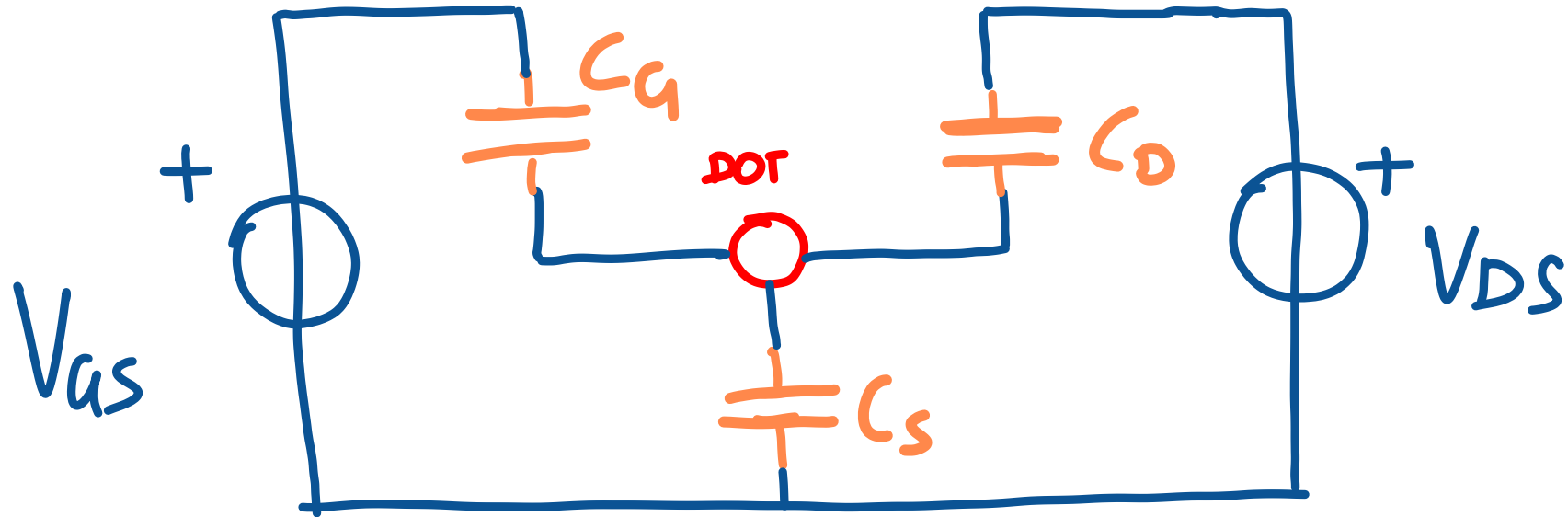
SCF  
LOOP

③

# GATING

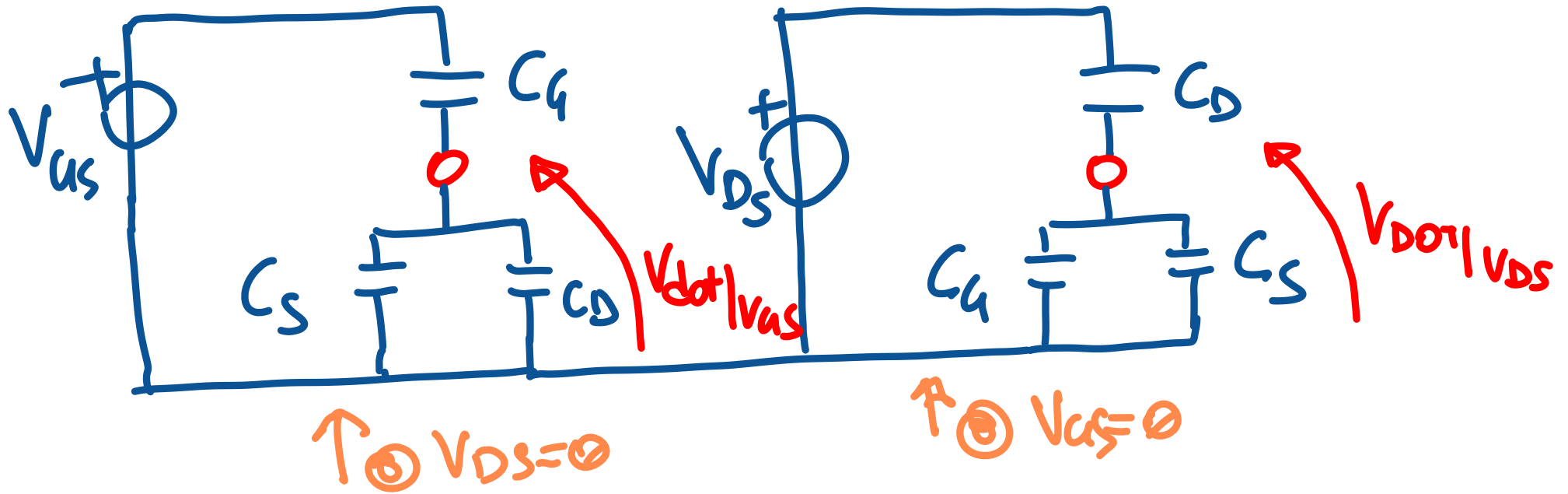


# GATING IN CAPACITIVE MODEL



$C_g$  MODELS THE CONTACT  
WITH THE GATE THROUGH A  
COUPLING FACTOR

# SUPERPOSITION OF EFFECTS

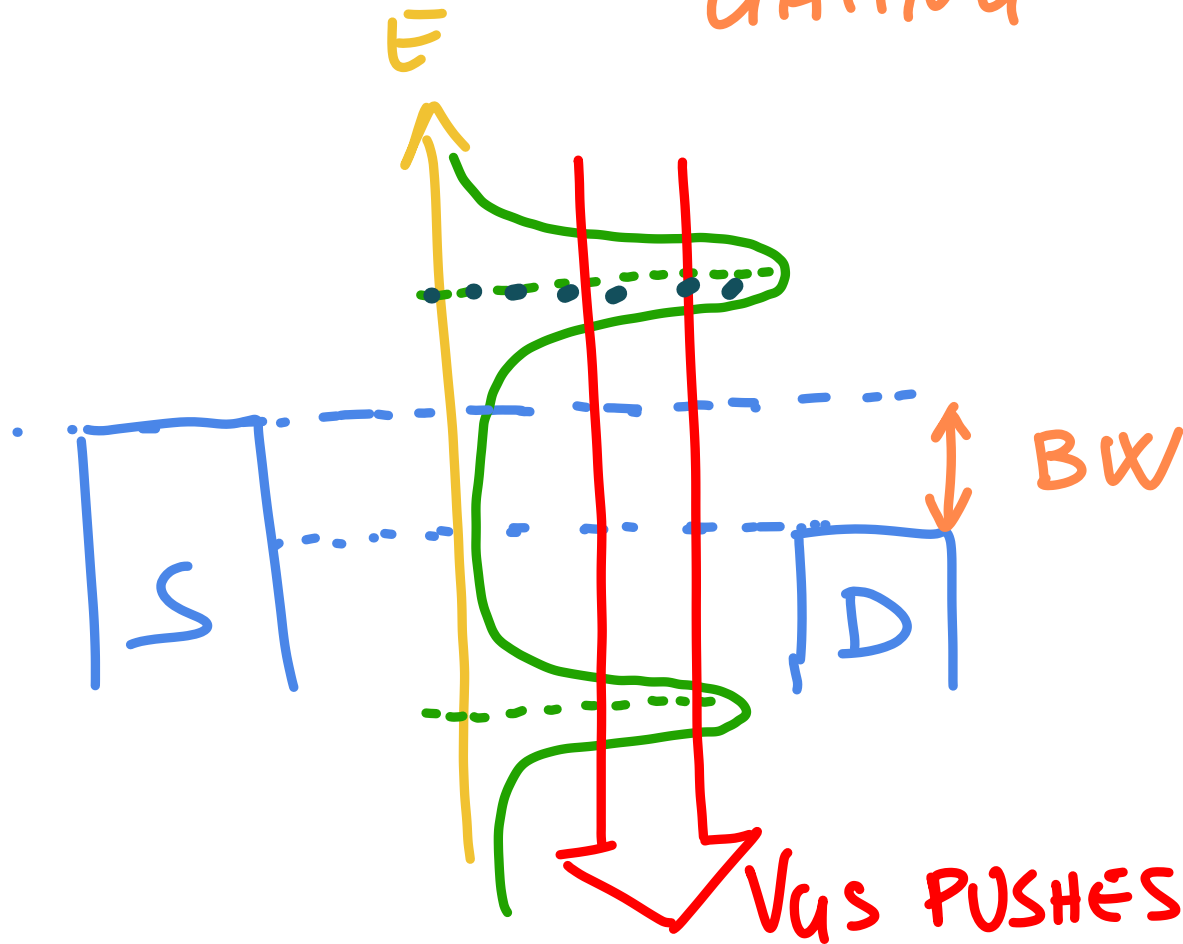


$$U_{V_{GS}} = -q V_{\text{DOT}} | V_{GS} = -q \left( V_{GS} \cdot \frac{C_G}{C_G + C_S // C_D} \right) = -q V_{GS} \cdot \frac{C_G}{C_{ES}}$$

if  $V_{GS} > 0$   $U_{V_{GS}}$   $\downarrow$  TOWARD LOWER ENERGIES

if  $V_{GS} < 0$   $U_{V_{GS}}$   $\nearrow$  TOWARD HIGHER ENERGIES

# GATING



example a case  
WITH 2  $E_L$   
WITH BROADENING  
INITIALLY  
NOT IN BW

$V_{gs}$  PUSHES DOWN

$$V_{gs} > 0$$

$$U/V_{gs} = -q \frac{C_g}{C_{es}} V_{gs}$$

1 PEAK  
MIGHT  
ENTER IN  
BW !!

OVER ALL

$$U = U_{V_{as}} + U_{V_{os}} + U_{C_E}$$

$$U_{V_{as}} = -g V_{as} \cdot \frac{C_G}{C_{ES}}$$

$$U_{V_{os}} = -g V_{os} \cdot \frac{C_D}{C_{ES}}$$

$$U_{C_E} = \frac{g^2}{C_{ES}}$$

$$C_{ES} = C_G + C_S + C_D$$

↑ TO BE CONSIDERED WITH  $V_a$