

# Acknowledgement

## Lectures 3-6: On Randomness and Percolation Theory

S. Singh (Georgia Tech), N. Pimparkar (AMD), P. Nair (Postdoc), J. Go, and B. Roy (Graduate students), T. Low (postdoc),

Prof. J. Murthy (Purdue), J. Rogers (UIUC), R. Bashir (UIUC), M. Chowwalla (Rutgers)

## Lectures 7-10: On Reliability Theory

H. Kufluoglu (TI), K. Kang (Intel), A. E. Islam, D. Varghese, and M. Masduzzaman (Graduate Students)

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# Acknowledgement

## Funding and Resources

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Texas Instruments  
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company  
Motorola

## And as always ...

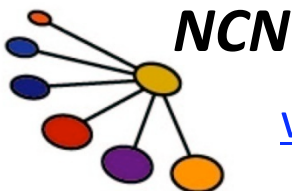
Prof. Mark Lundstrom and Prof. S. Datta

2009 NCN@Purdue-Intel Summer School  
Notes on Percolation and Reliability Theory

# Lecture 1

## Percolation in Electronic Devices

**Muhammad A. Alam**  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN USA



**NCN**

[www.nanohub.org](http://www.nanohub.org)

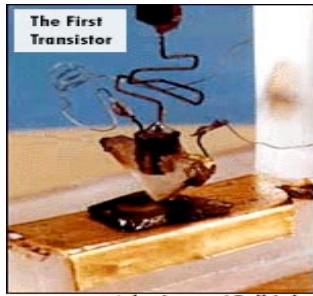
**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

# outline of lecture 1

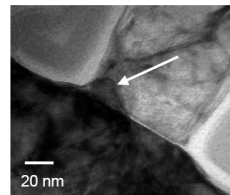
- 1) Reliability and Randomness in Electronics
- 2) Averages and Deviations
- 3) Nonlinear Percolation for in-plane Transport
- 4) Finite Fractals for out-of-plane Transport
- 5) Correlation in Time-dependent Degradation
- 6) Conclusions

# reliability and randomness in electronics

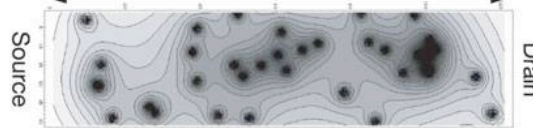
1947 ....



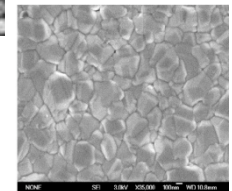
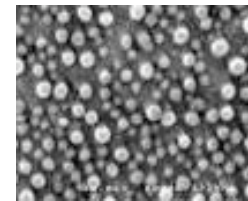
Dielectric BD



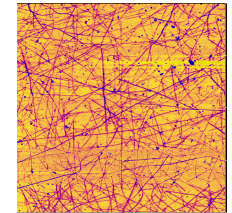
Random Dopants



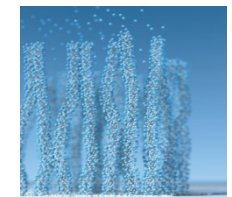
NC Flash



Poly-Si



NanoNet Biosensors

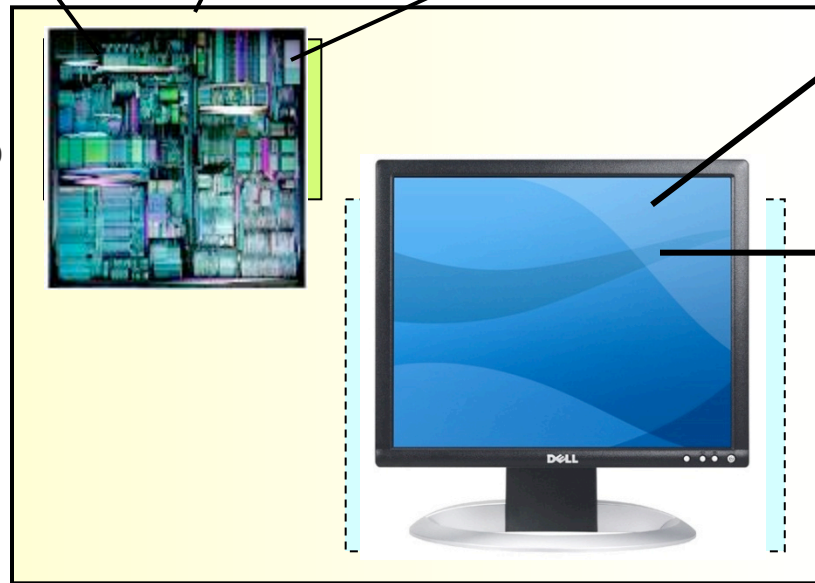


super-capacitors



Performance

high  
medium  
low



small

medium

large

Area

Ohm's law is dead ...  
And averages do not  
mean what they used to

# derivation of Ohm's law

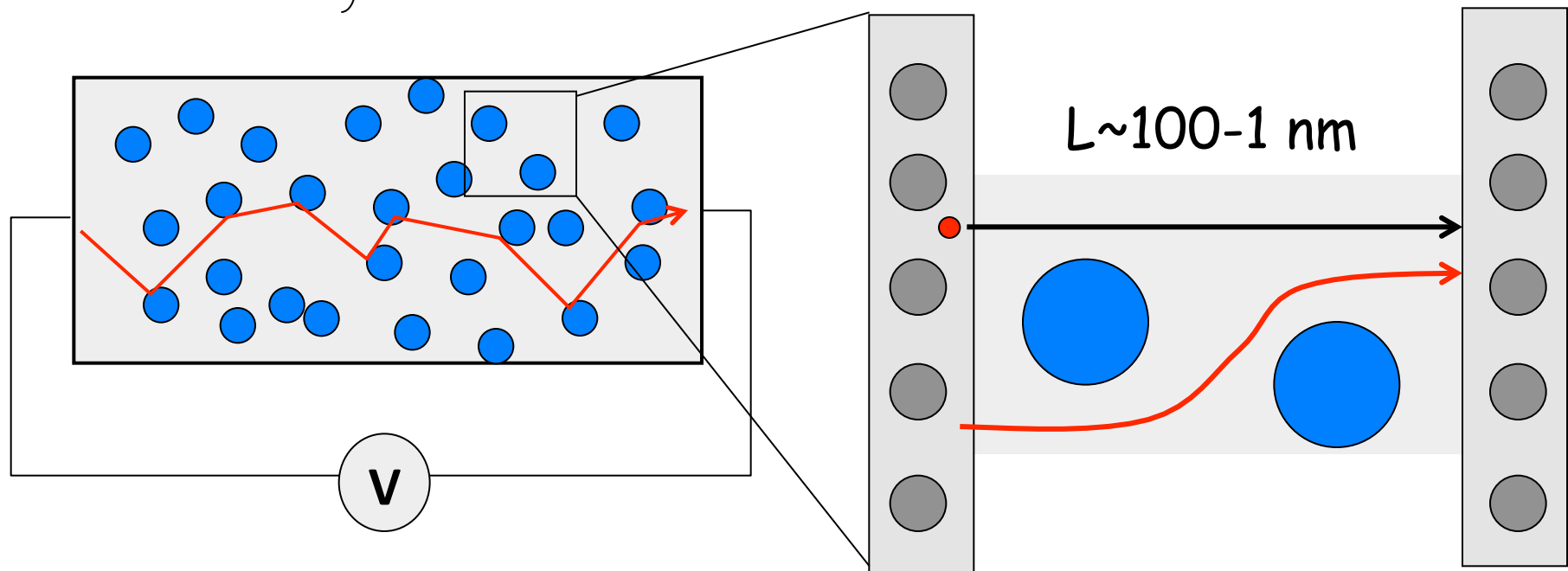
$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = q n \mathbf{v}$$

$$= q n \mu \mathbf{E}$$

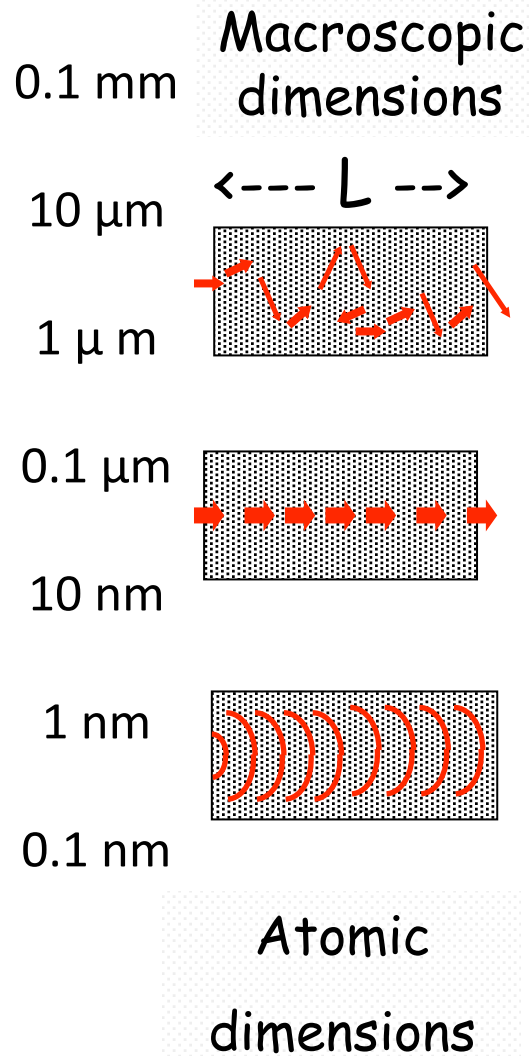
$$\sigma = q n \mu = q^2 n \frac{\tau}{m^*}$$

$$G = \sigma \frac{W}{L} = q^2 n \frac{\tau}{m^*} \frac{W}{L}$$



$\tau, m^*, L, W$  do not mean what they used to ...<sub>6</sub>

# transport at various scales

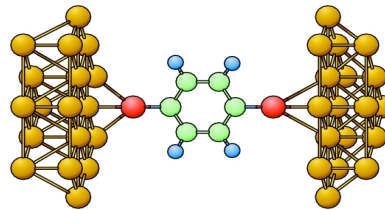


$$G = \sigma A / L$$

$$\sigma = q^2 n \tau / m^*$$

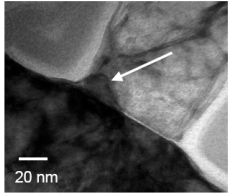
$$\tau = ? \text{ "not well defined"}$$

$$m^* = ? \quad n = ?$$

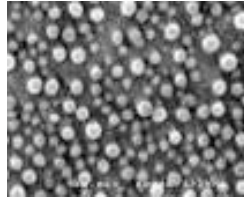


# meaning of length ?!

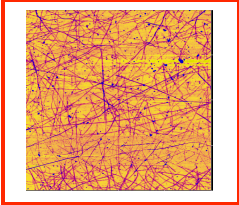
Dielectric BD



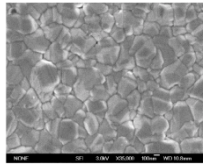
NC Flash



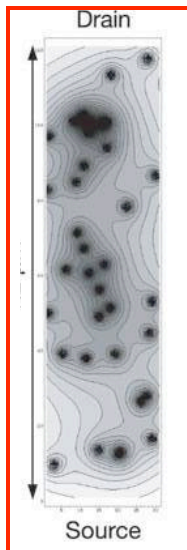
NanoNet Biosensors



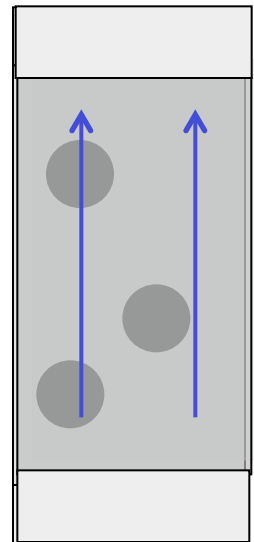
Poly-Si



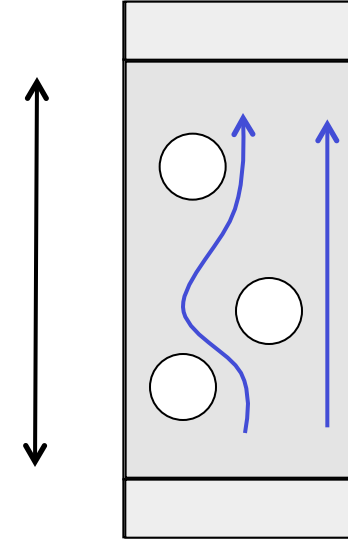
Random Dopants



Top down

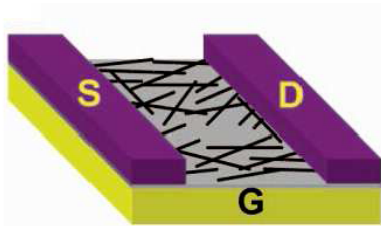


Bottom up

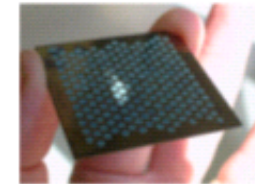
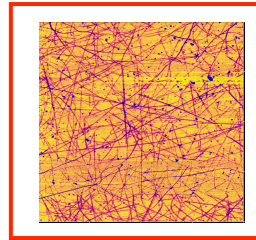
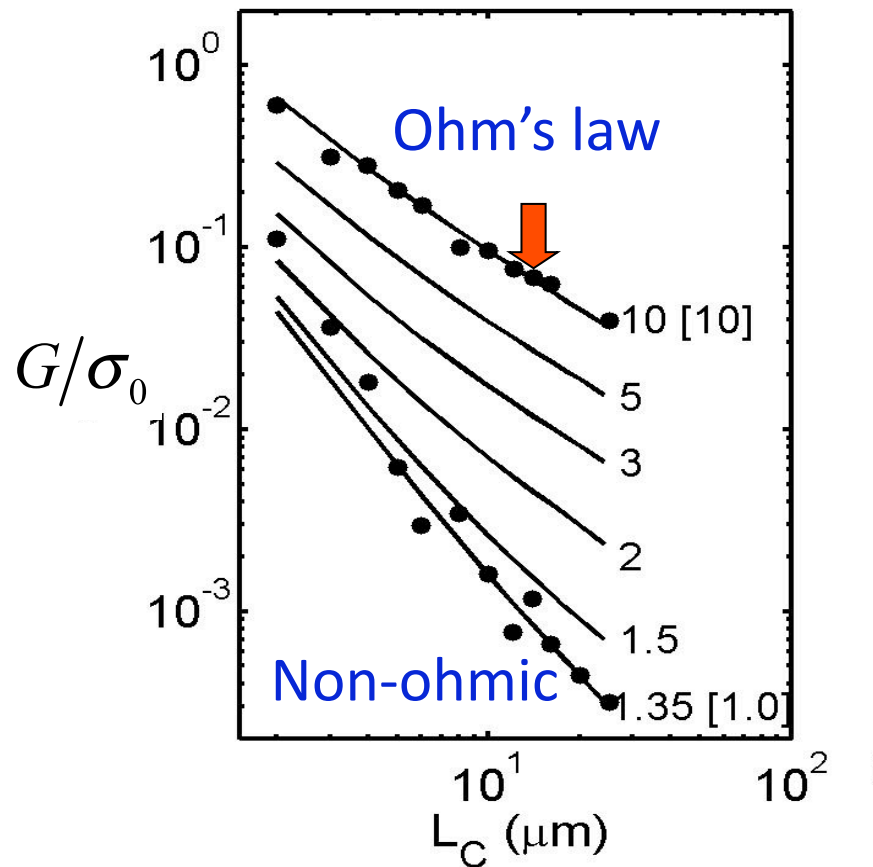




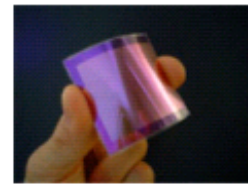
# randomness & the end of Ohm's law



$$\frac{G}{\sigma_0} = \frac{W}{L_c}$$



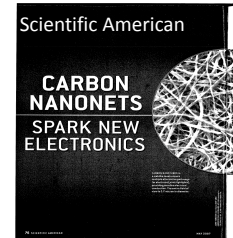
Drug Discovery Substrates



Conformal Solar Cells



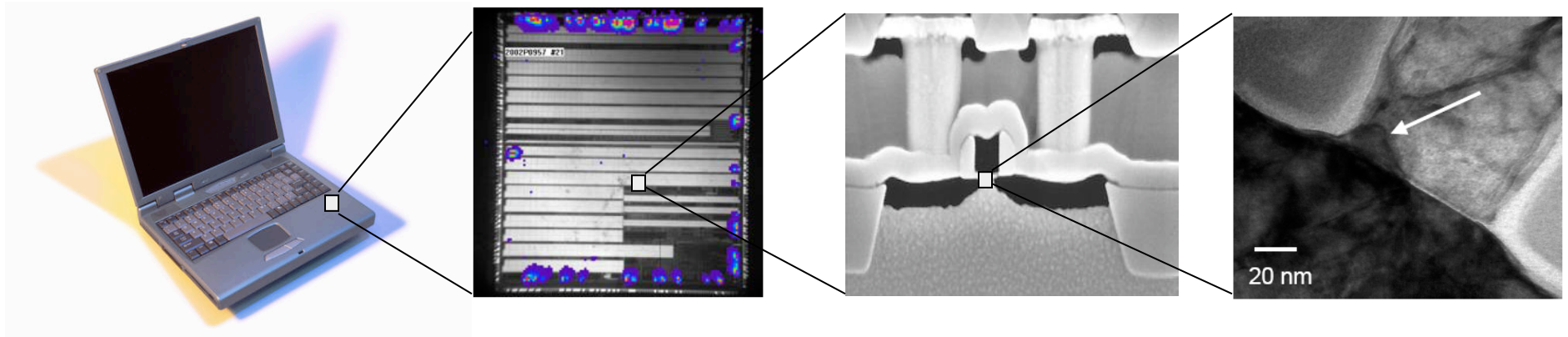
Flexible Electronics



## Experimental Demonstrations

Rogers, UIUC; Lieber, Harvard; Gruner, UCLA;  
 Seidel, Infineon; E. Snow, NRL; Nanomix Inc.  
 Janes, Purdue; Nanosys Inc.

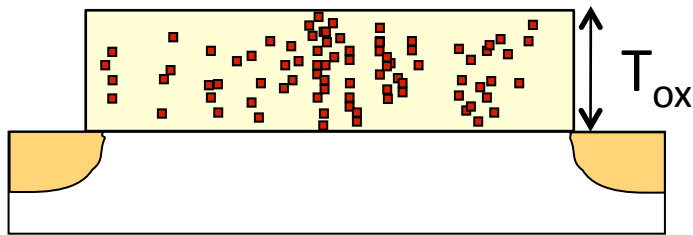
# importance of reliability



ICs operate in incredibly harsh conditions and massive field-returns can put a company out of business ... A very important practical problem.

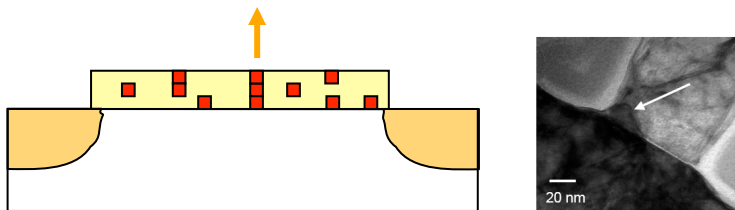
# the meaning of average breakdown field

Thick Oxides (circa 1980)

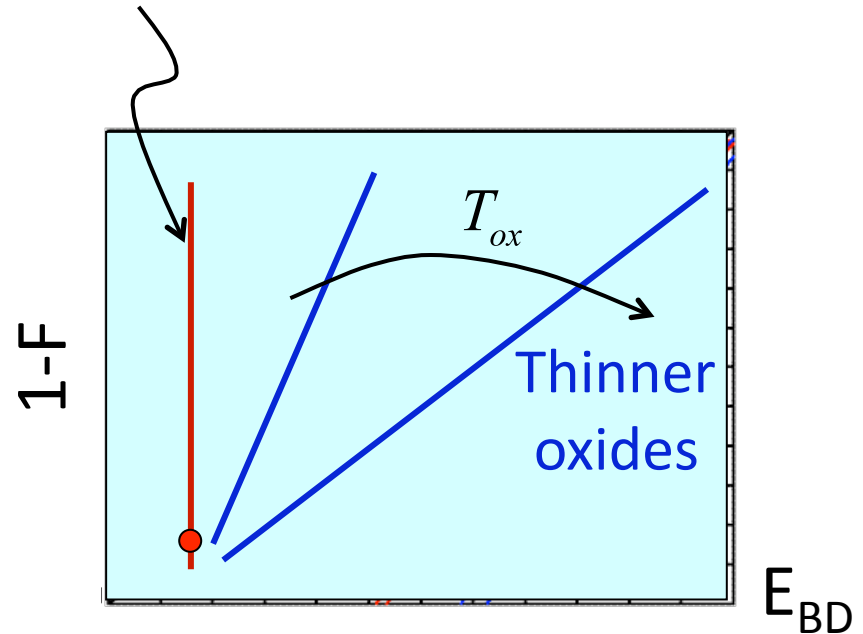


$$E_{BD} = \frac{V_{BD}}{T_{ox}} \leftarrow$$

Thin Oxides (late 1990s)



Thick oxide



What does  $T_{ox}$  mean?

# the “bottom-up” view of a resistance

Ballistic Transistors (Prof. Lundstrom)

$$G = \sigma \frac{W}{L} = q^2 n \frac{\tau}{m^*} \frac{W}{L}$$

Percolation theory (This Series)

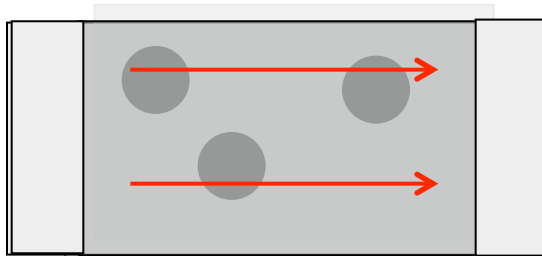
Quantum transport (Prof. Datta)

# outline of lecture 1

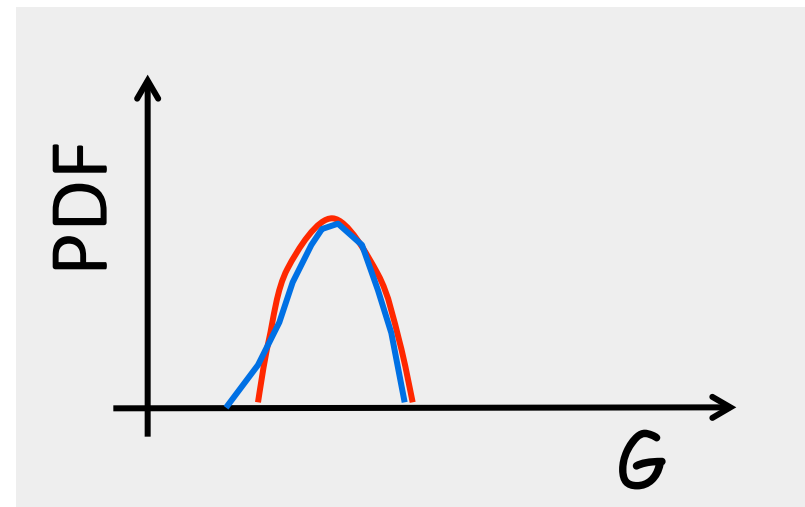
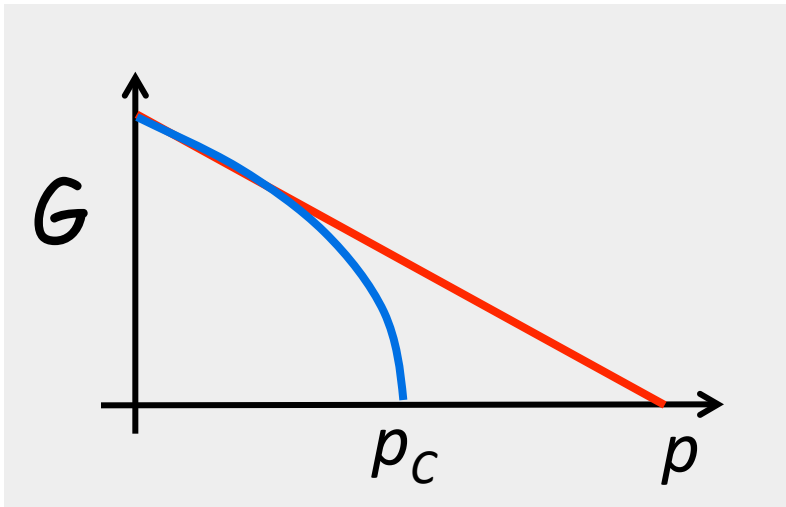
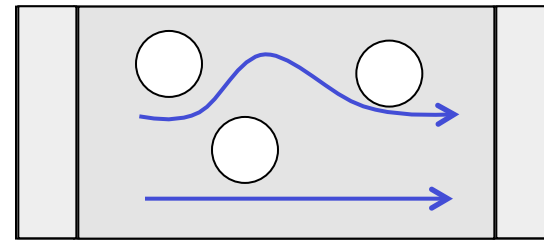
- 1) Reliability and Randomness in Electronics
- 2) Averages and Deviations**
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# averages and deviation

Top down



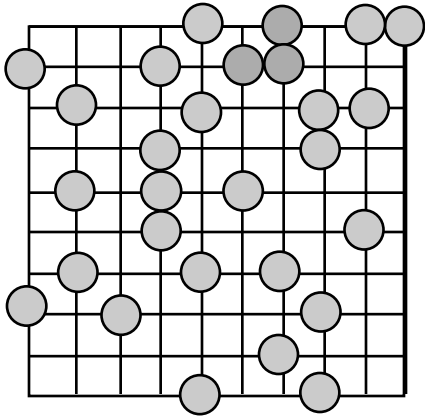
Bottom up



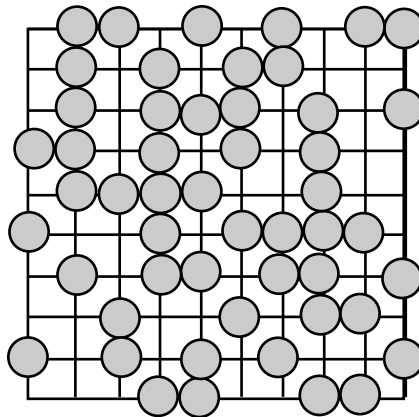
... wrong on both counts and computer alone can not help

# top down classical approach ....

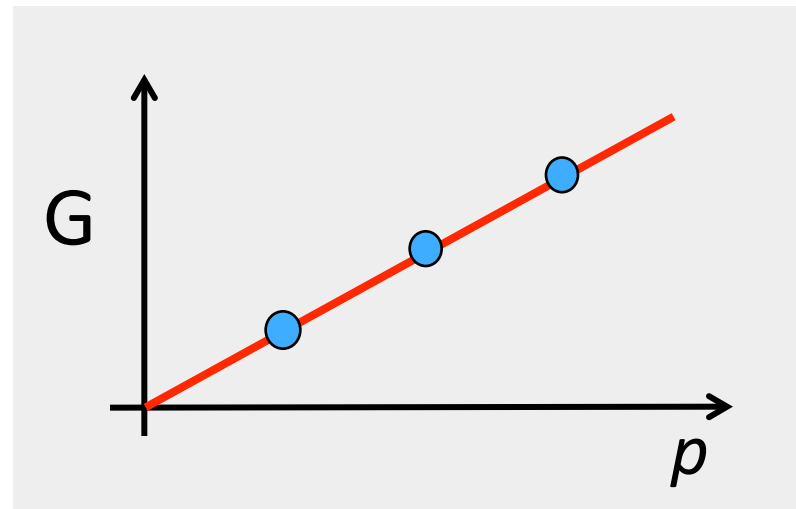
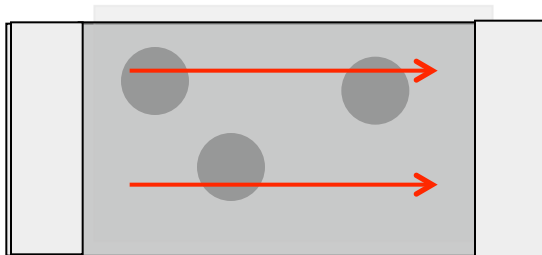
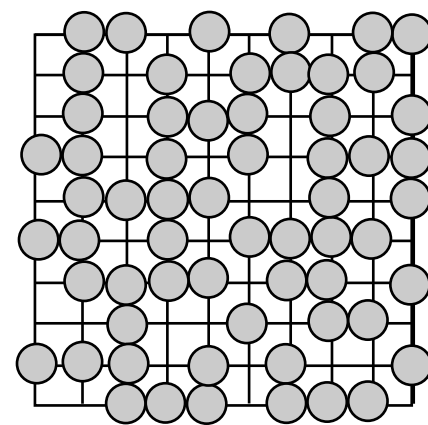
$p=0.3$



$p=0.5$



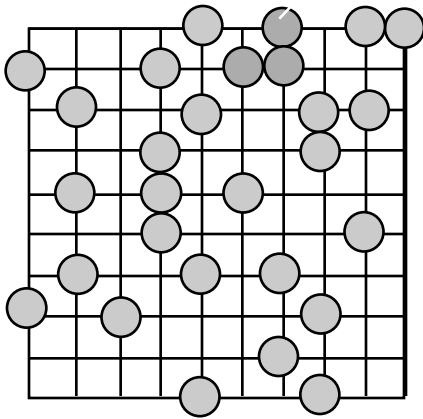
$p=0.8$



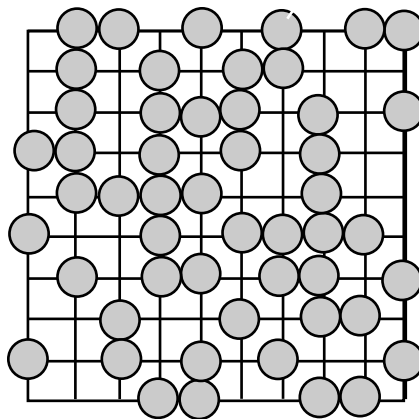
... that's what textbooks say!

# basics of percolation: averaging matters

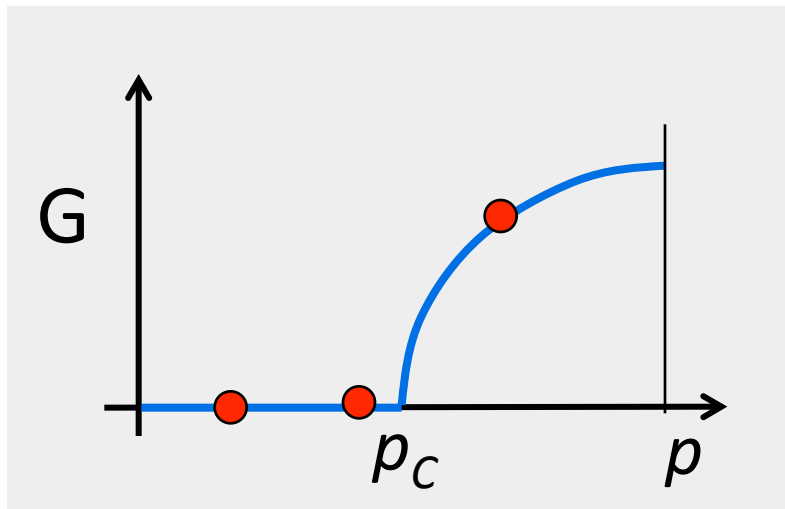
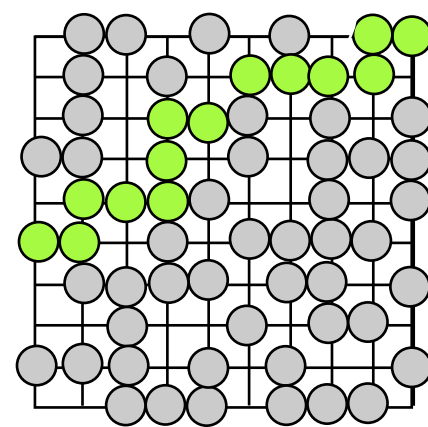
$p=0.3$



$p=0.5$



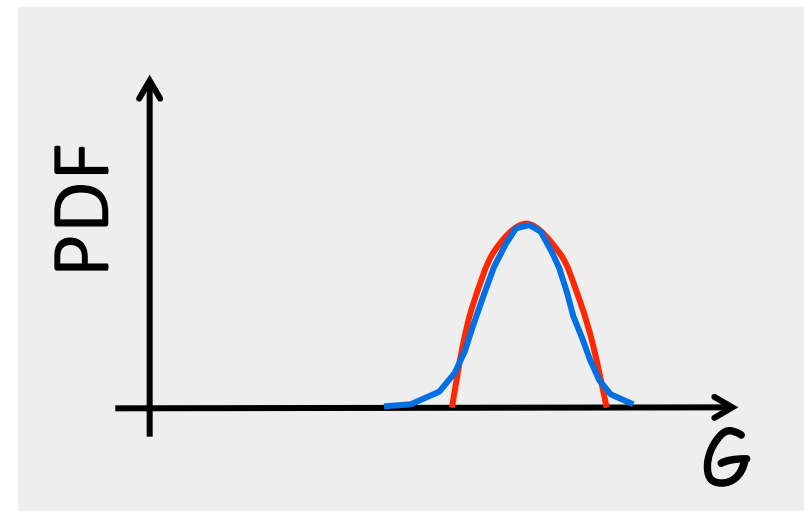
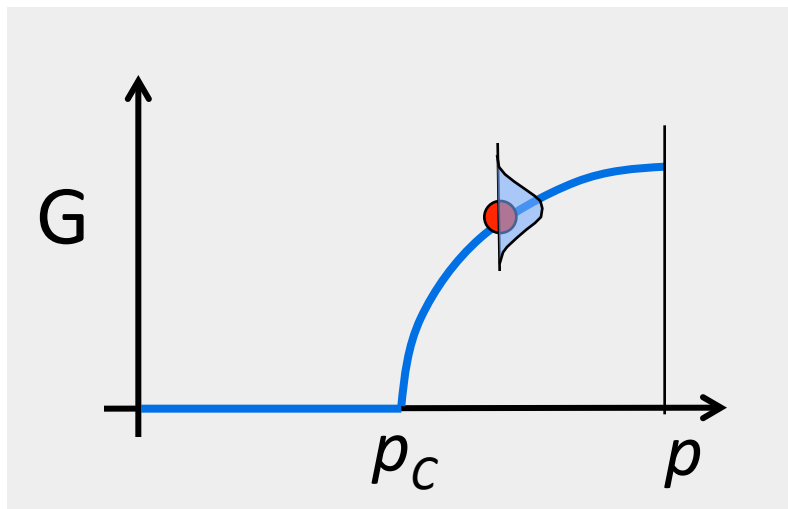
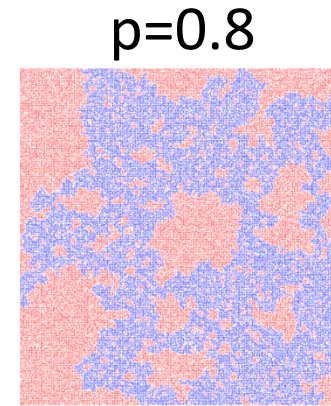
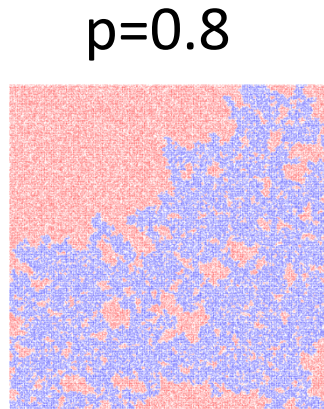
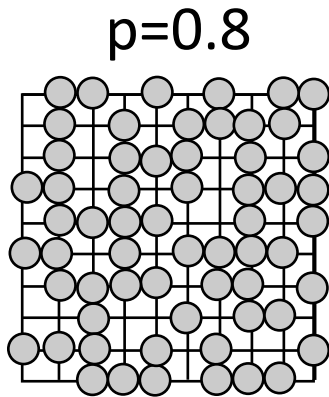
$p=0.8$



Consequences of adding a new disk depends on existing configuration ...

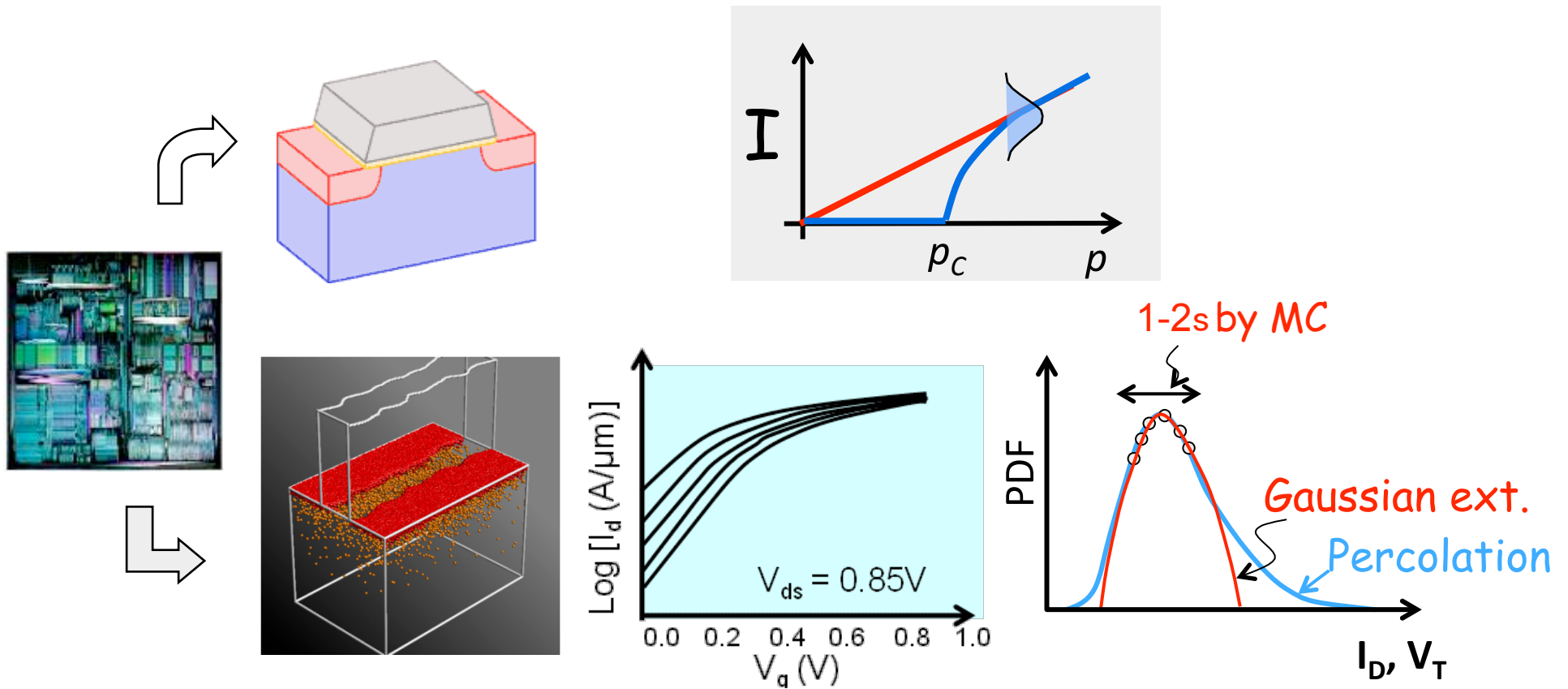


... and so does the fluctuation



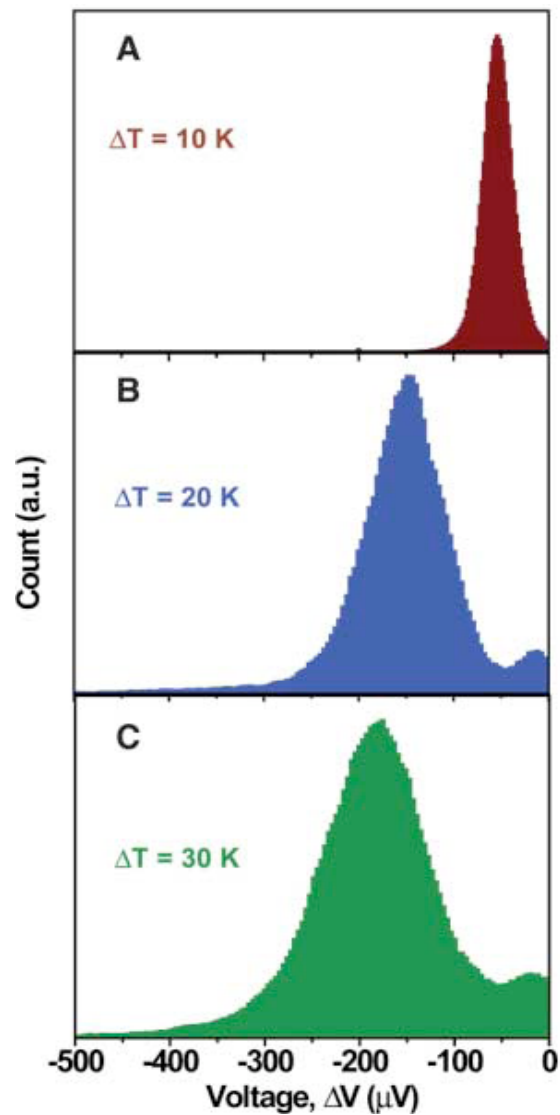
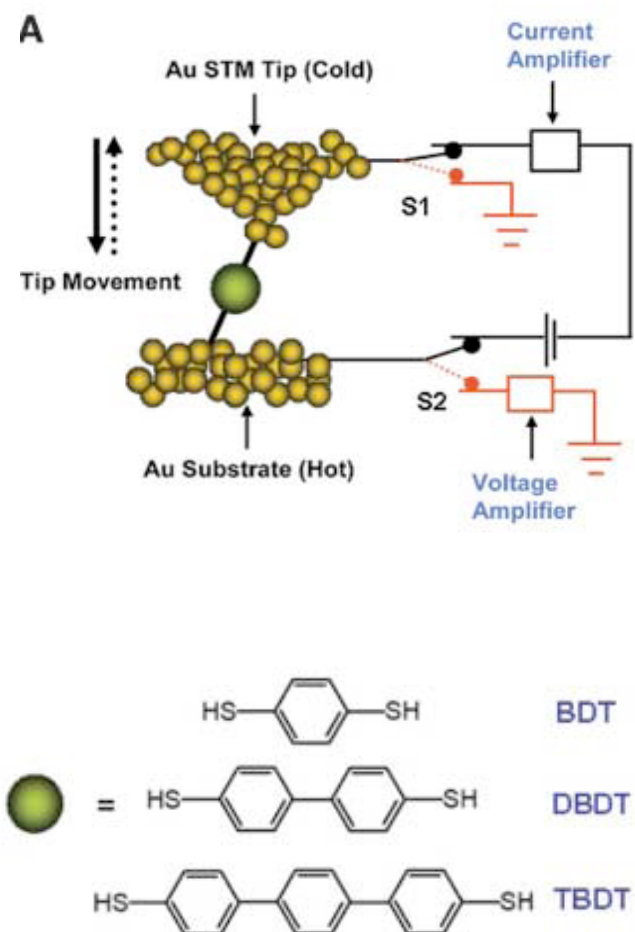
May look the same, but have very different implications

# current approach: transistor design



Gaussian distribution inappropriate ...  
Monte Carlo simulation is not enough

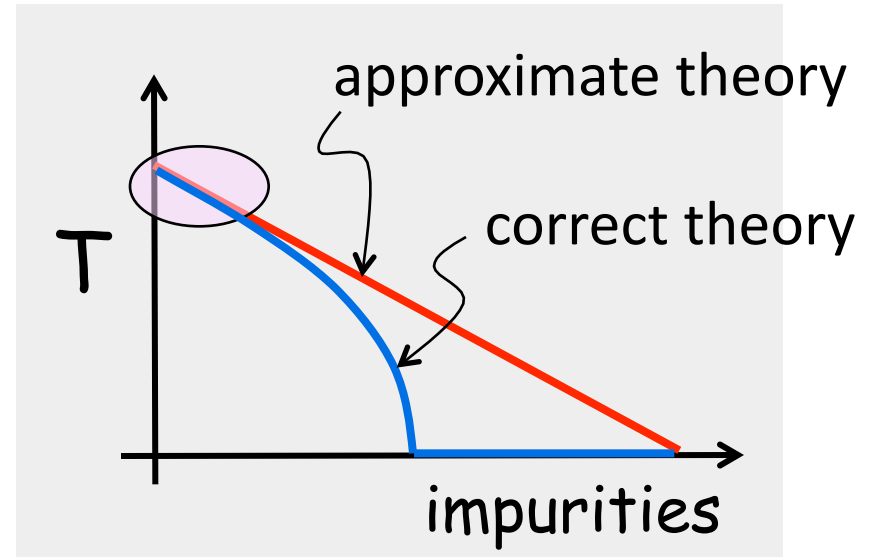
# thermal conduction in molecules



A. Majumdar, Nature, 2007

# why do we not hear about percolation (1) ?

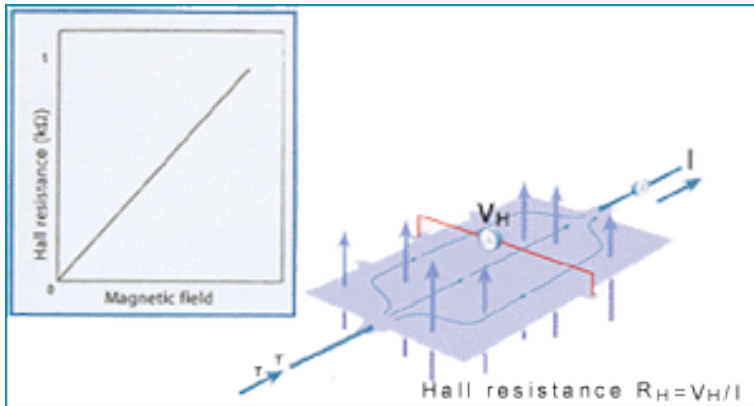
1 mm<sup>3</sup> ~ 10<sup>17</sup> molecules



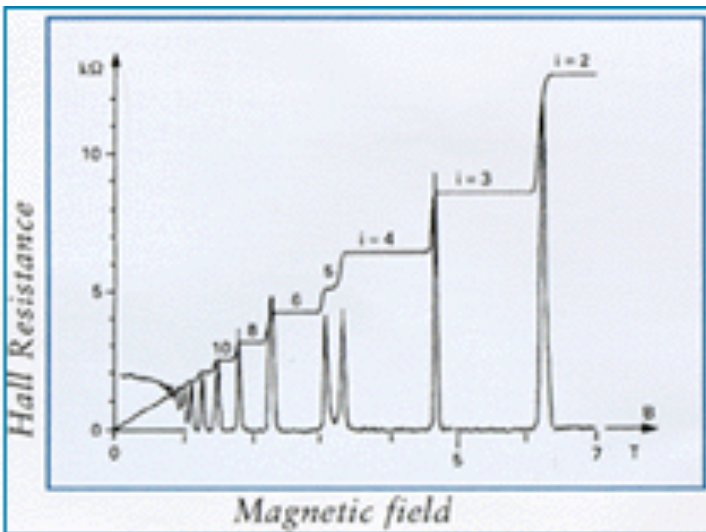
Given traces of impurity, change in property (e.g. transmission) is easily predicted.

Fluctuation in properties of large system is small and all approach Gaussian distribution at its limit.

# why do we not hear about percolation (2) ?



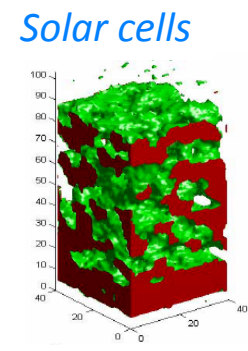
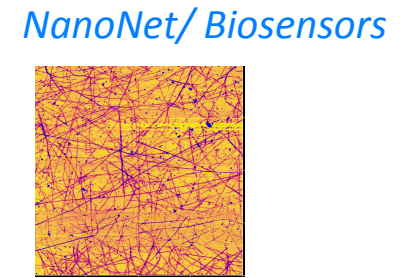
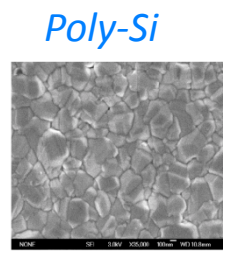
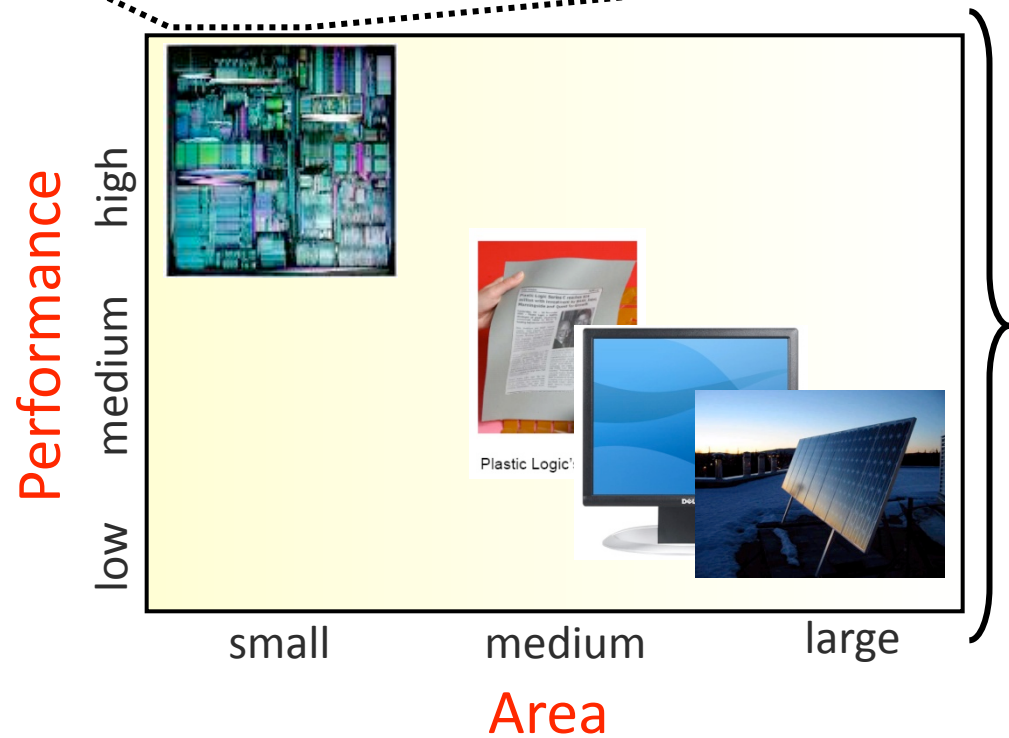
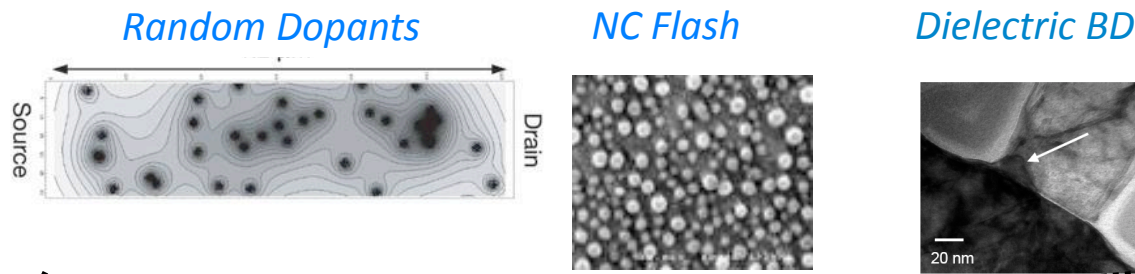
Some small systems have unusually robust properties, (e.g., quantum Hall effect) and physicists often focus on those extra-ordinary aspects of small systems ...



# outline of lecture 1

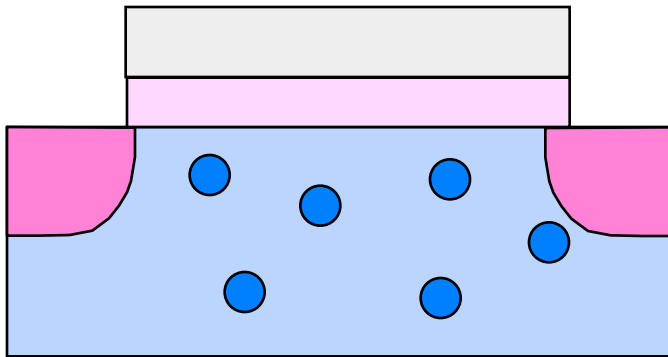
- 1) Reliability and Randomness in Electronics
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# Mapping electronic device problems to percolation



# random dopant fluctuation

side view



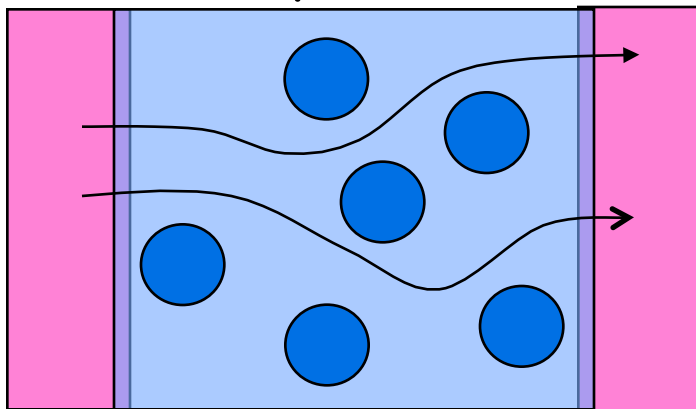
@ $1e18/cm^3$

100 nm --- 1000 dopants

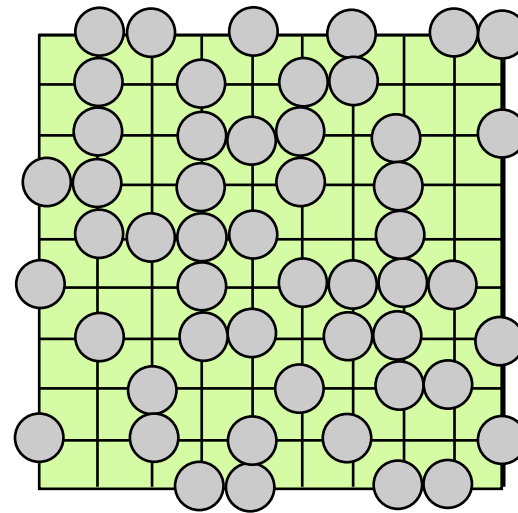
20 nm --- 40 dopants

10 nm --- 10 dopants

top view

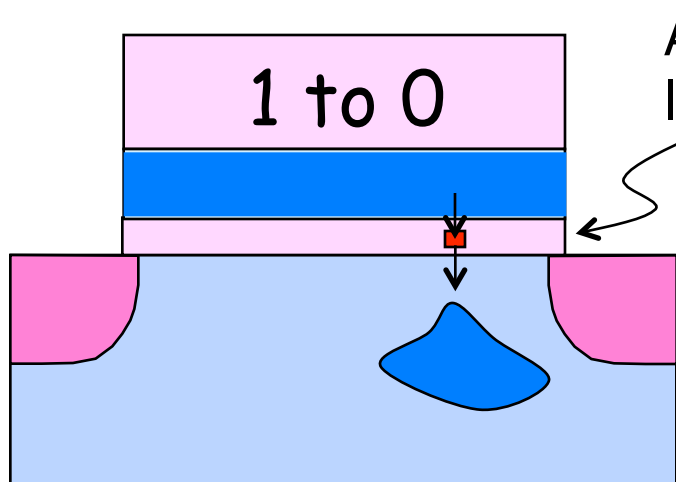


model

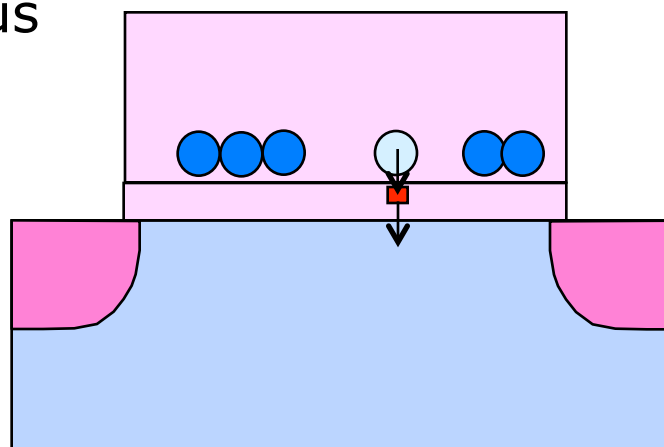




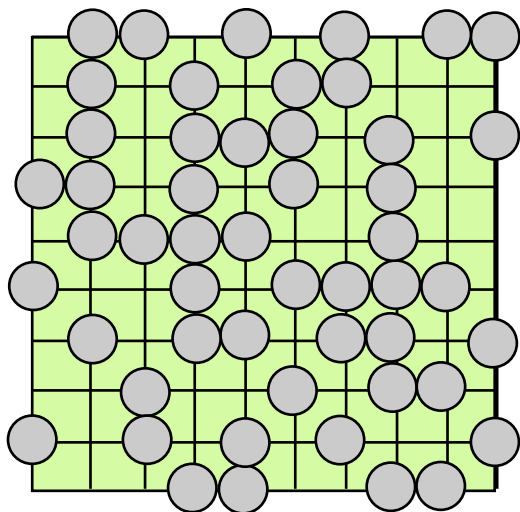
# flash vs. nanocrystal flash



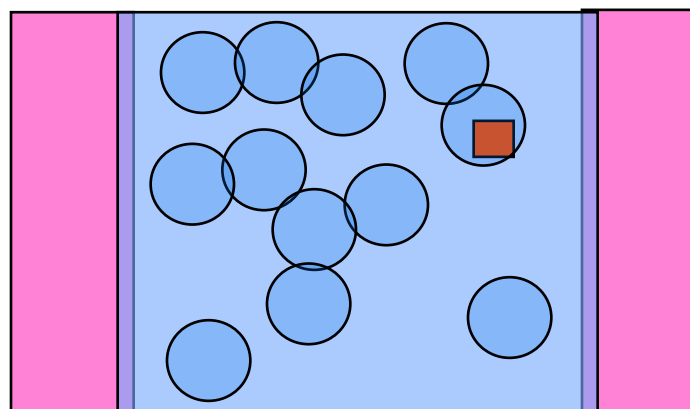
Anomalous leakage



model

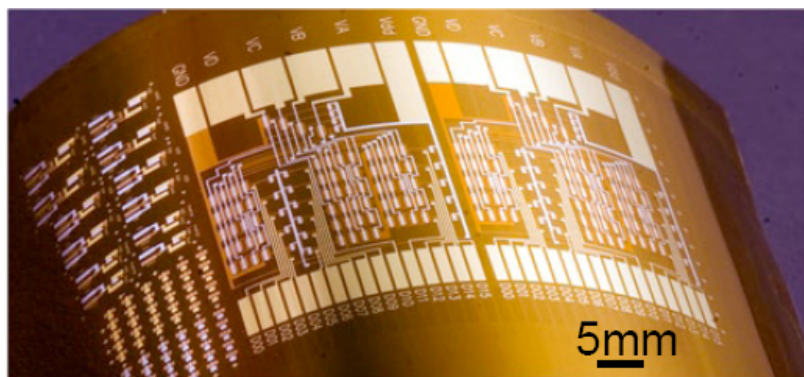


Top view

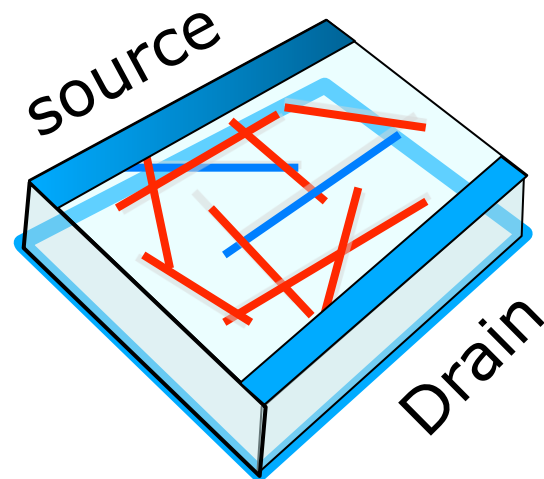


island size distribution ...

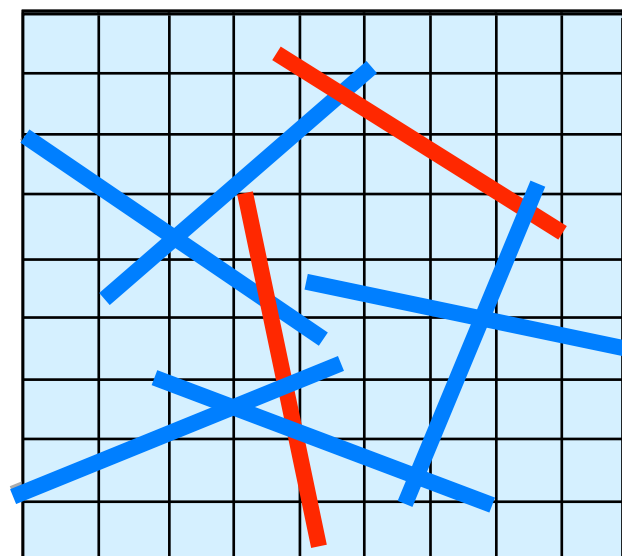
# flexible nanonet transistors (lectures 3, 4)



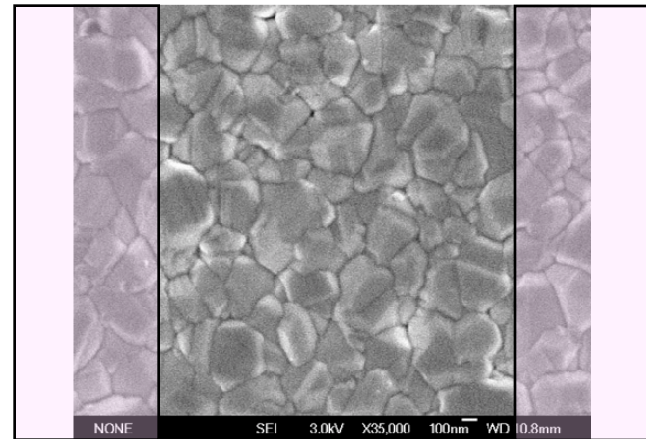
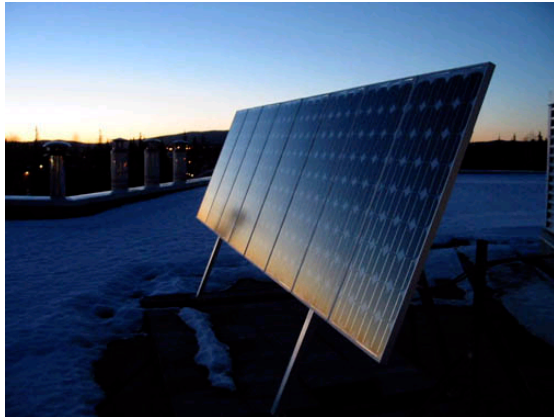
Cao, Nature, 2008



Heterogeneous percolation



# solar cells and display electronics

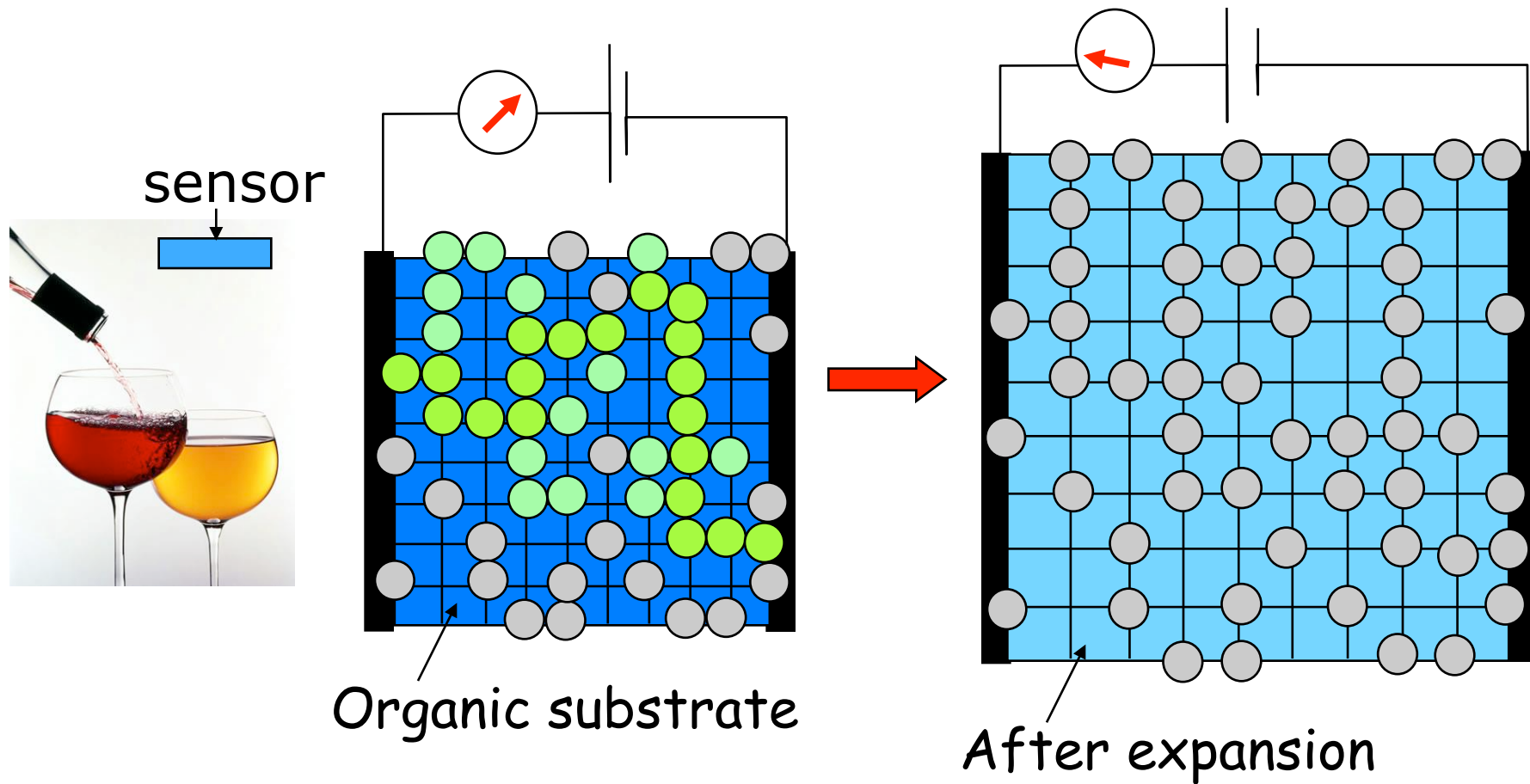


Key issues:

Transport through barriers  
created by grain boundaries

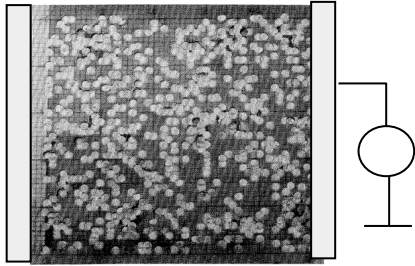
Device/device fluctuation

# chemical sensors and e-nose



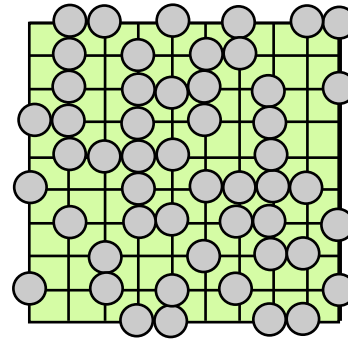
percolation threshold ...

# classical vs. nonlinear percolation



Dobson, PRL, 1971

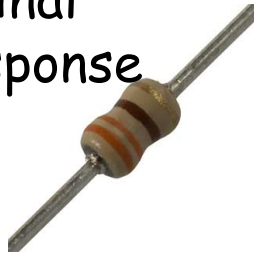
Schmelzer, PRL, 2002



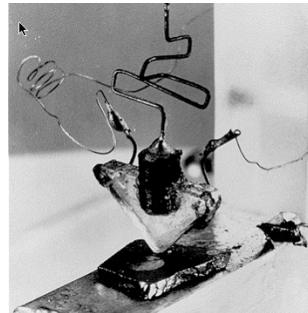
Percolation (1970s)

Theory of Nonlinear Percolation ?!

Two Terminal  
Linear Response



Ohm's law (1827)



Multiple Terminal  
Nonlinear Response

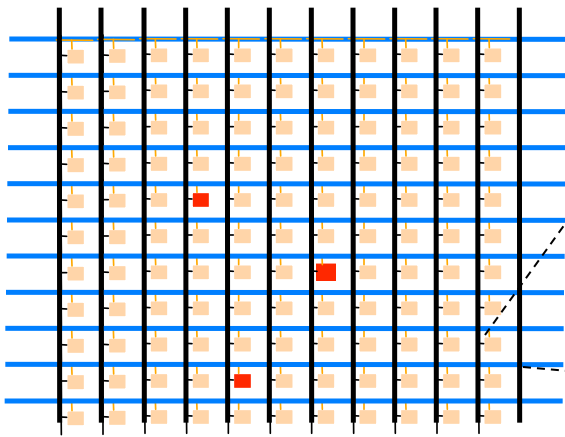
Transistor Theory (1947)

# outline of lecture 1

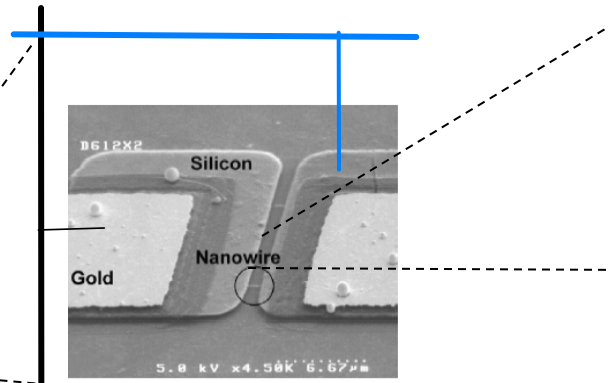
- 1) Reliability and Randomness in Electronics
- 2) Averages and Deviations
- 3) Nonlinear Percolation for in-plane Transport
- 4) Finite Fractals for out-of-plane Transport**
- 5) Correlation in Time-dependent Degradation
- 6) Conclusions

# biosensors (lecture 5)

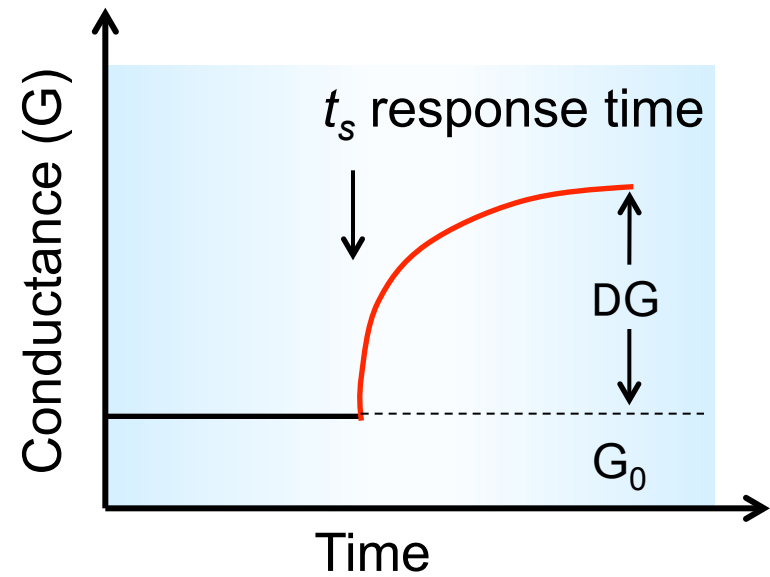
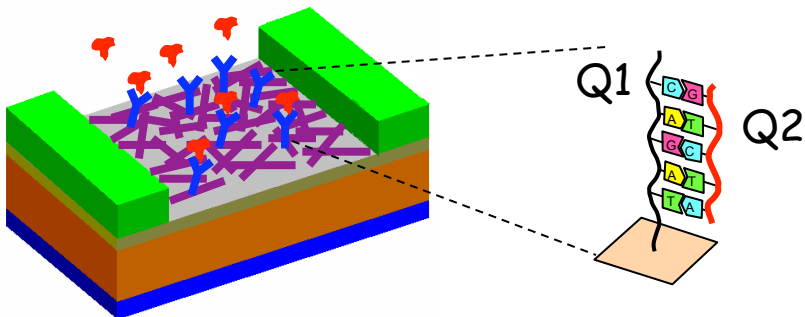
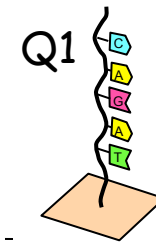
An array ...



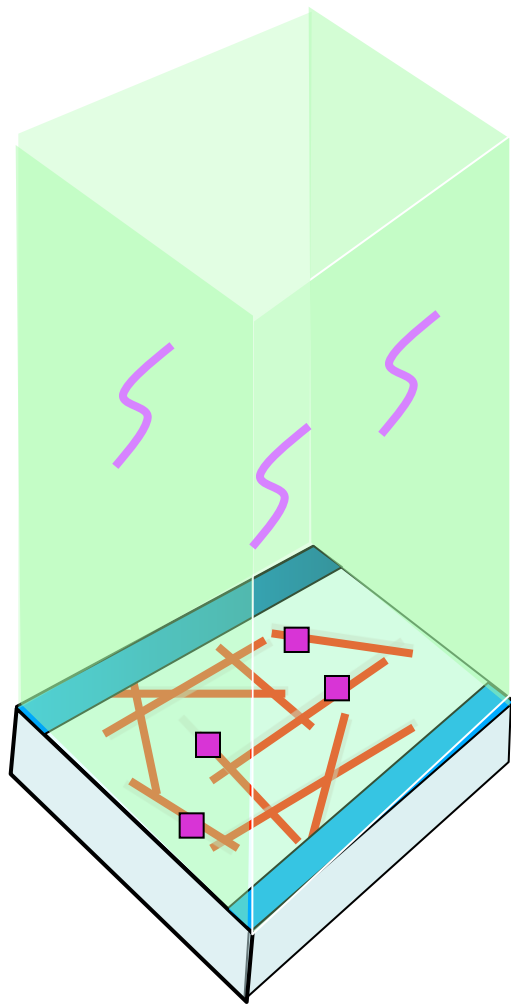
Individual sensor



Capture Probe

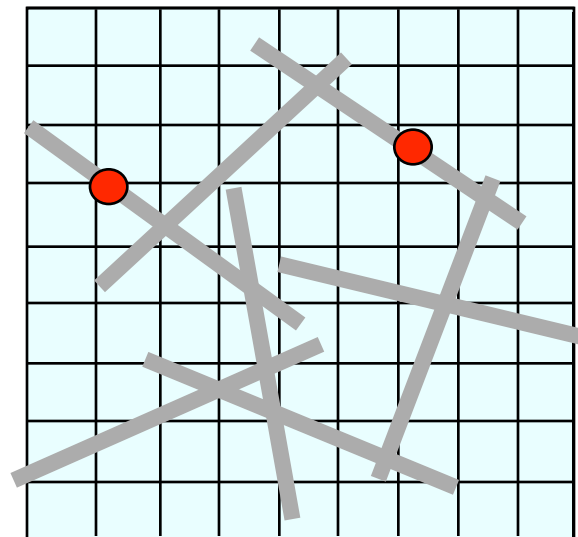


# diffusion towards disordered biosensors...



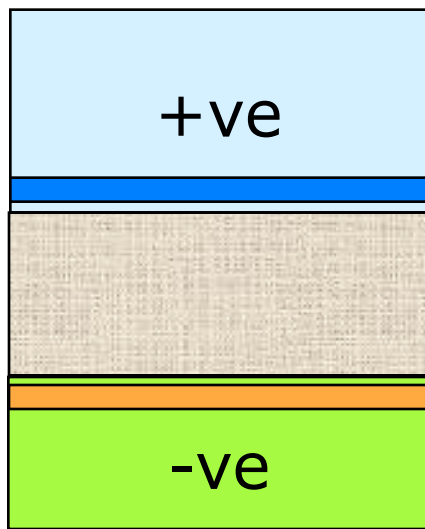
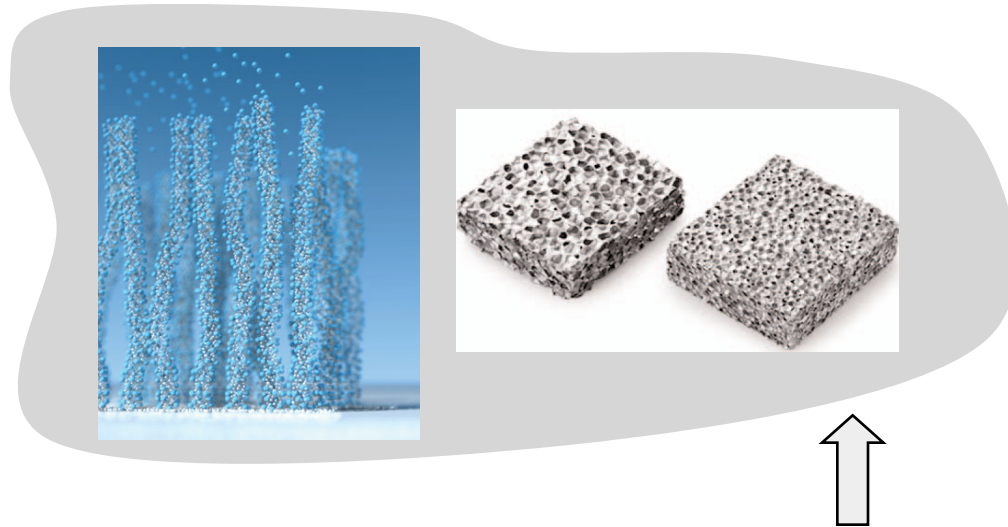
## Key issues:

- density dependent response time
- conductivity, transfer resistance or substrate dependence
- Channel length scaling

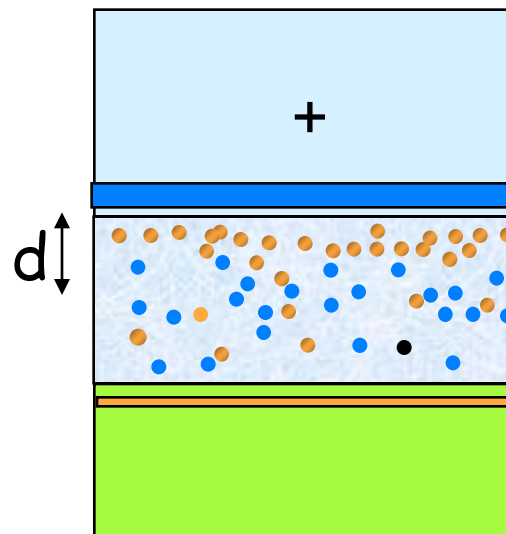




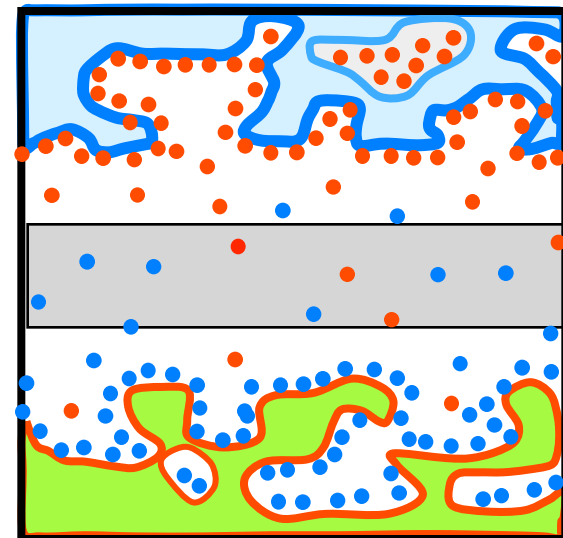
# super-capacitors (lecture 6)



Parallel plate capacitor

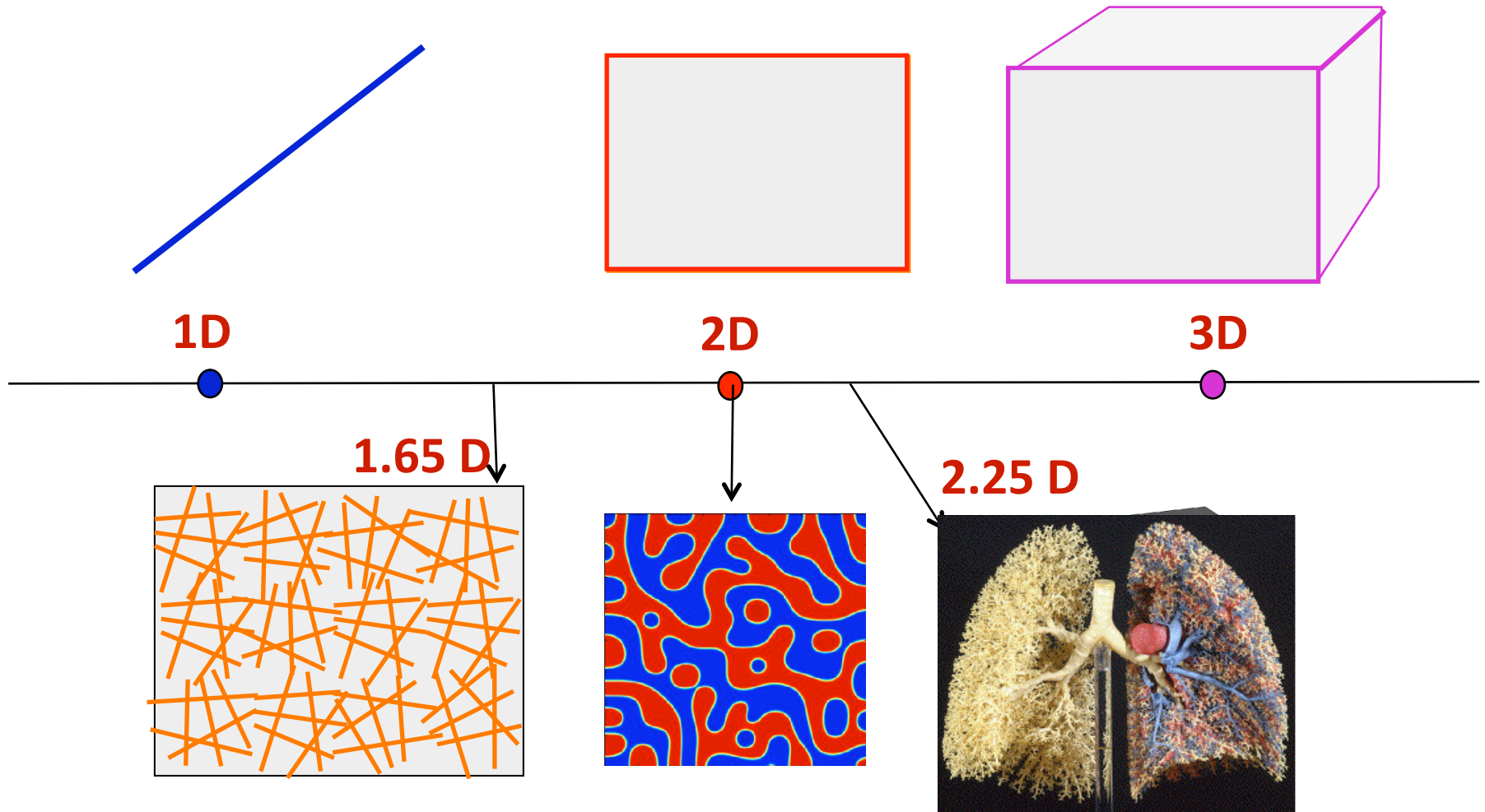


Electrolyte capacitor



Super-capacitor

# finite fractals ...

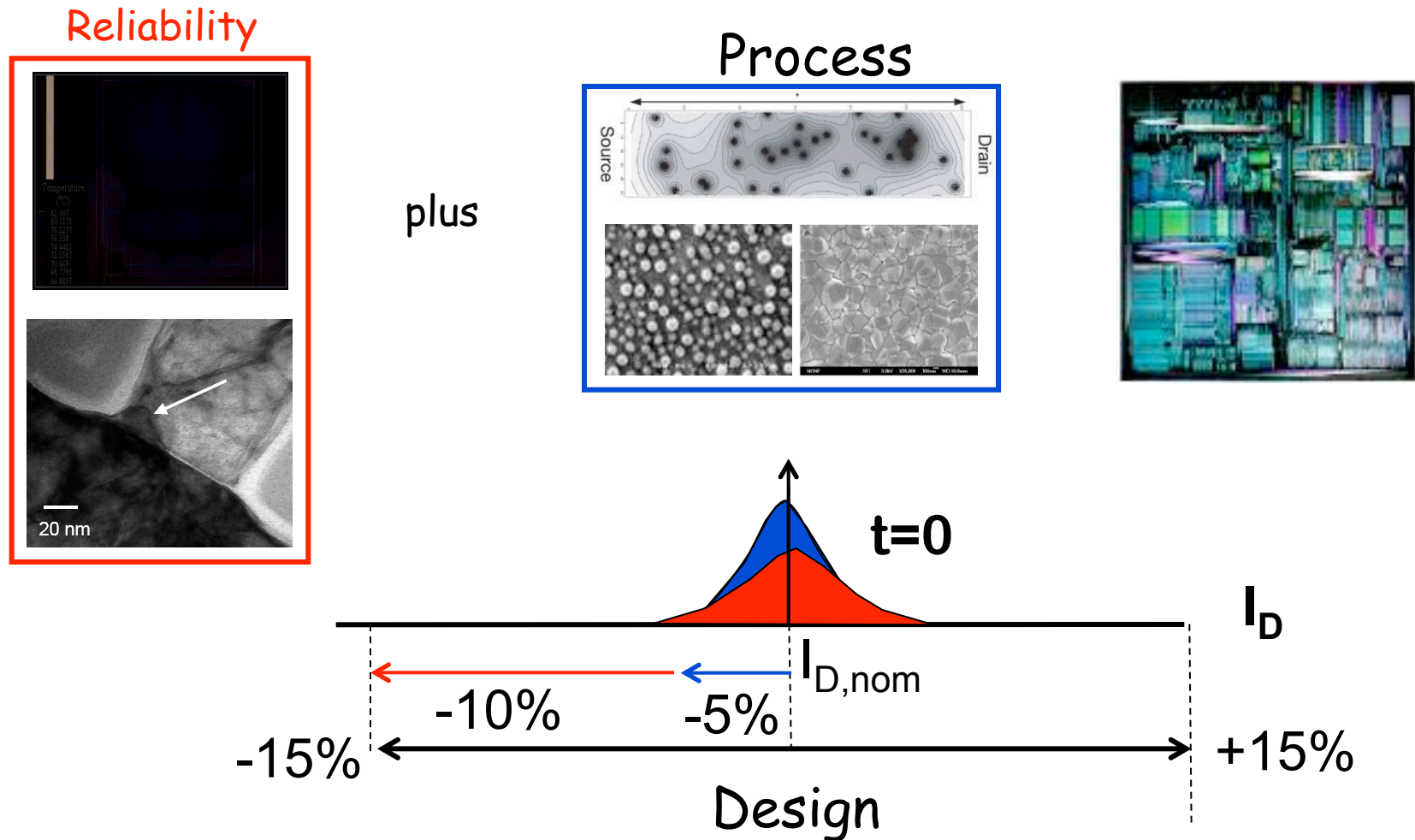


Fractal theory is for infinite, scale-invariant systems,  
Electrical devices involve finite fractals

# outline of lecture 1

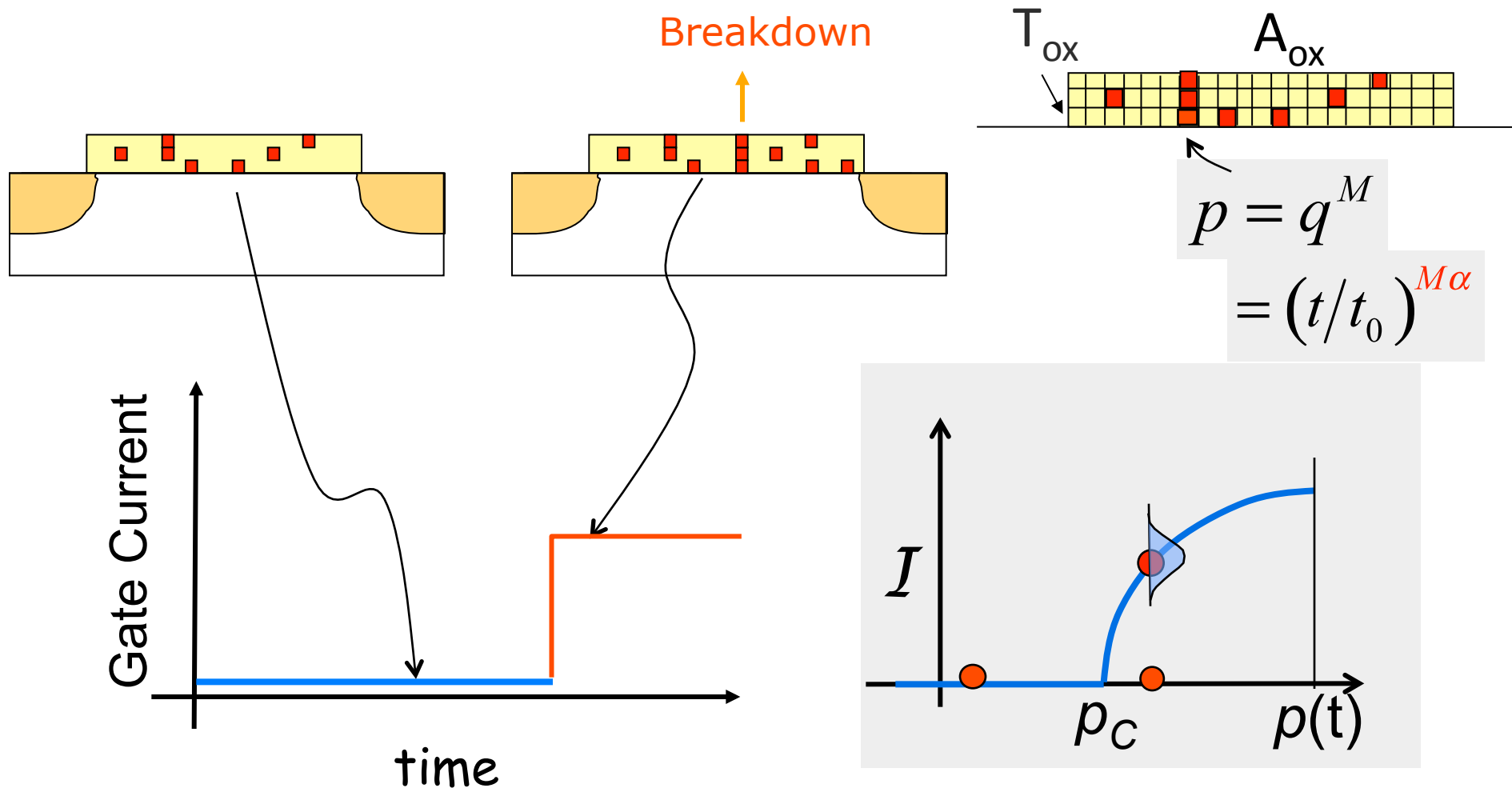
- 1) Reliability and Randomness in Electronics
- 2) Averages and Deviations
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- 4) Finite Fractals for out-of-plane Transport
- 5) Correlation in Time-dependent Degradation**
- 6) Conclusions

# reliability and randomness (lecture 7-10)



Reliability is a very important practical problem...

# oxide degradation/breakdown (lectures 8,9)

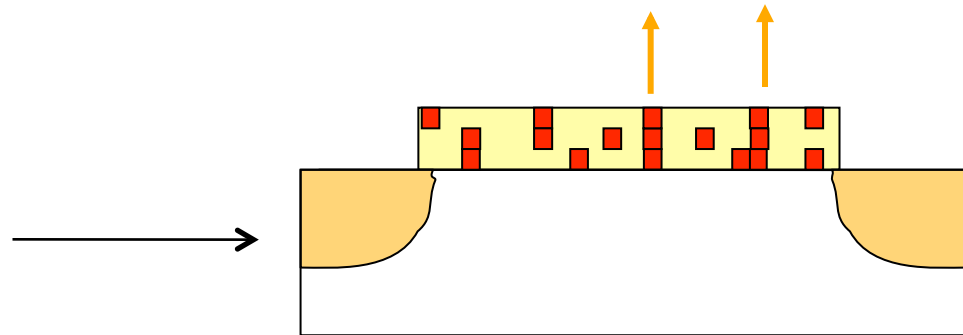


# correlation, power-laws, role of contacts

**Correlated** breakdown  
in Thick Insulators



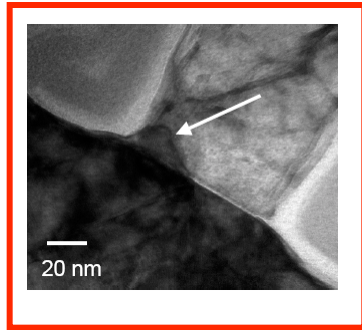
**Uncorrelated** Breakdown  
In Thick Insulators



Theory of partially correlated breakdown  
is important and contacts define everything.

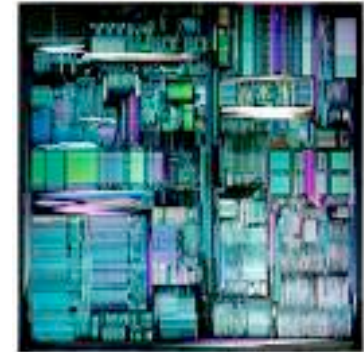
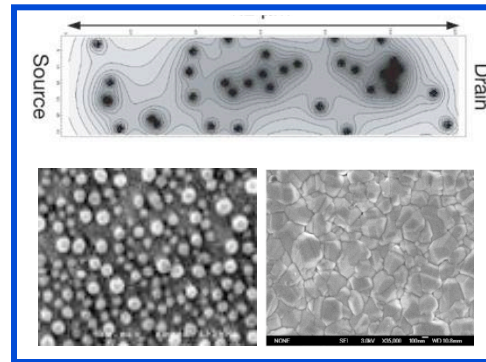
# equivalence between spatial/temporal fluctuation

Reliability

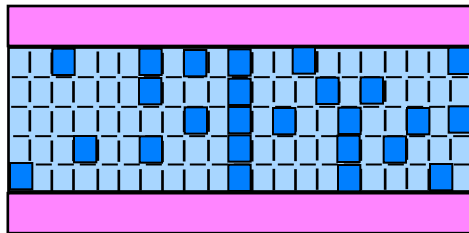


plus

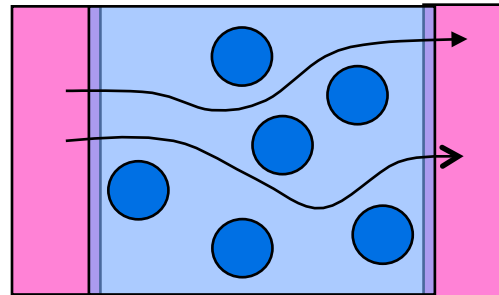
Process



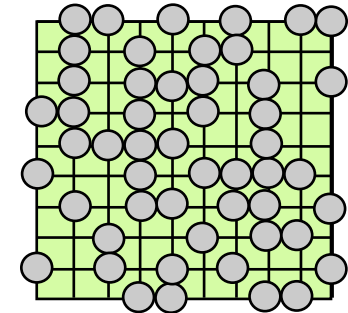
Side view (TDDB)



top view (RDF)



model

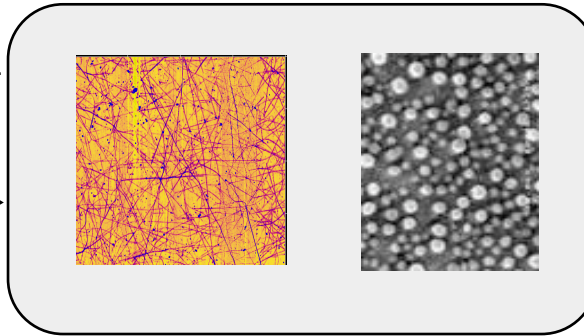
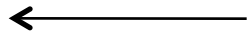


Spatial and temporal fluctuation should be considered with same framework ...

# theory and application: back & forth

Nonlinear

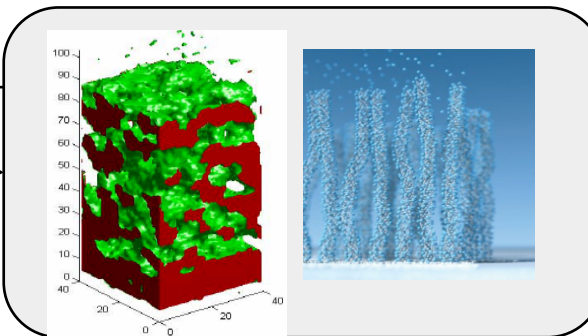
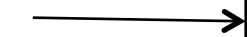
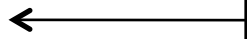
Percolation



Lectures 3,4

Finite

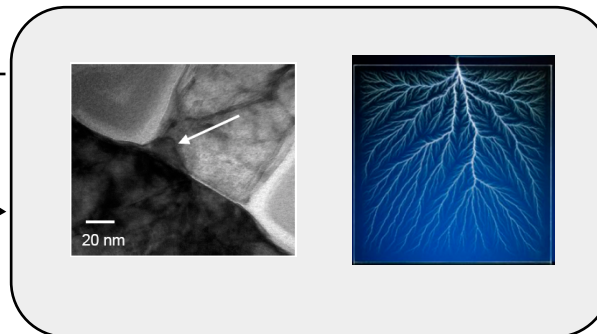
Fractals



Lectures 5,6

Correlated

Temporal  
Percolation

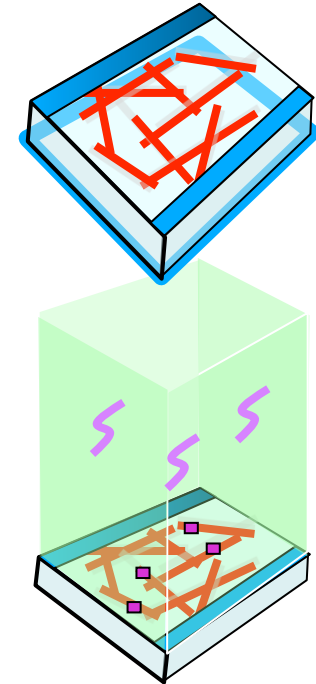


Lectures 7-10



# conclusions

- Properties of small electronic devices are dictated by spatial and temporal randomness that cannot be described by classical theories.
- We will use theories of percolation and fractals to describe such systems.
- Even these theories must be generalized to nonlinear and heterogeneous percolation, finite fractals, and correlated breakdown.
- If we understand these problem, many topics beyond electronics will also become clear.



# Figure references/credits

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