Dynamical symmetry breaking in transport through molecules

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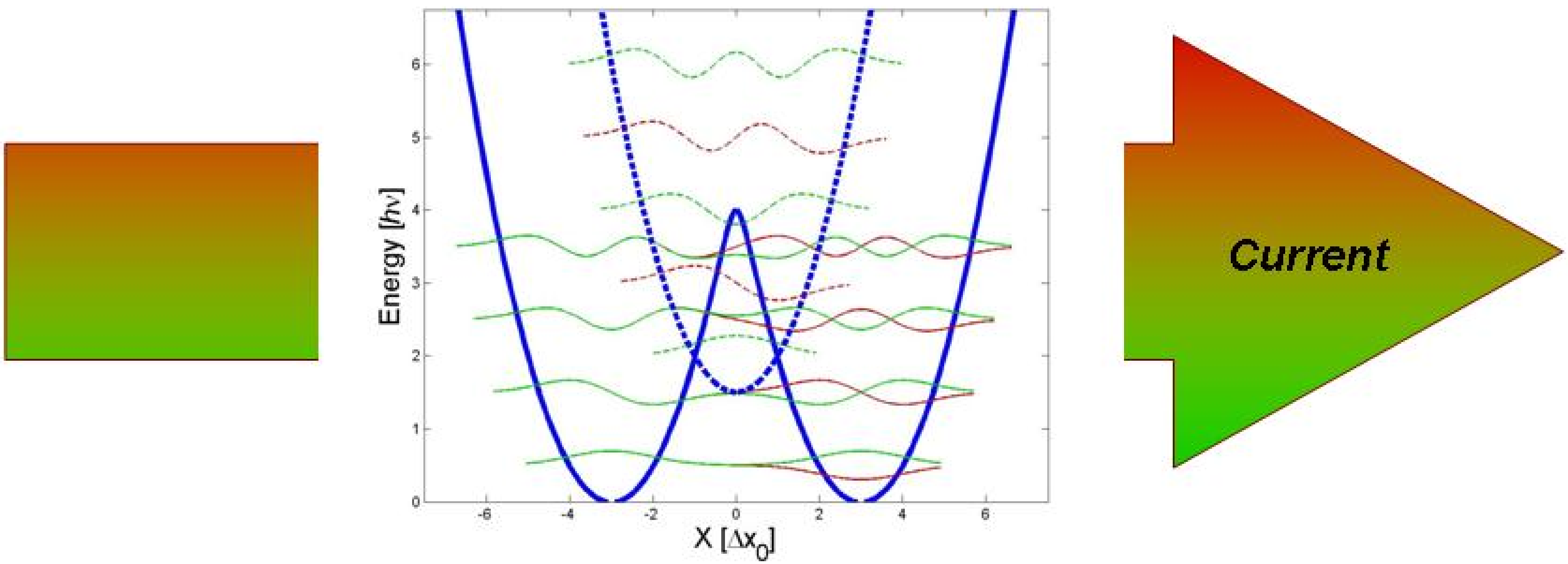
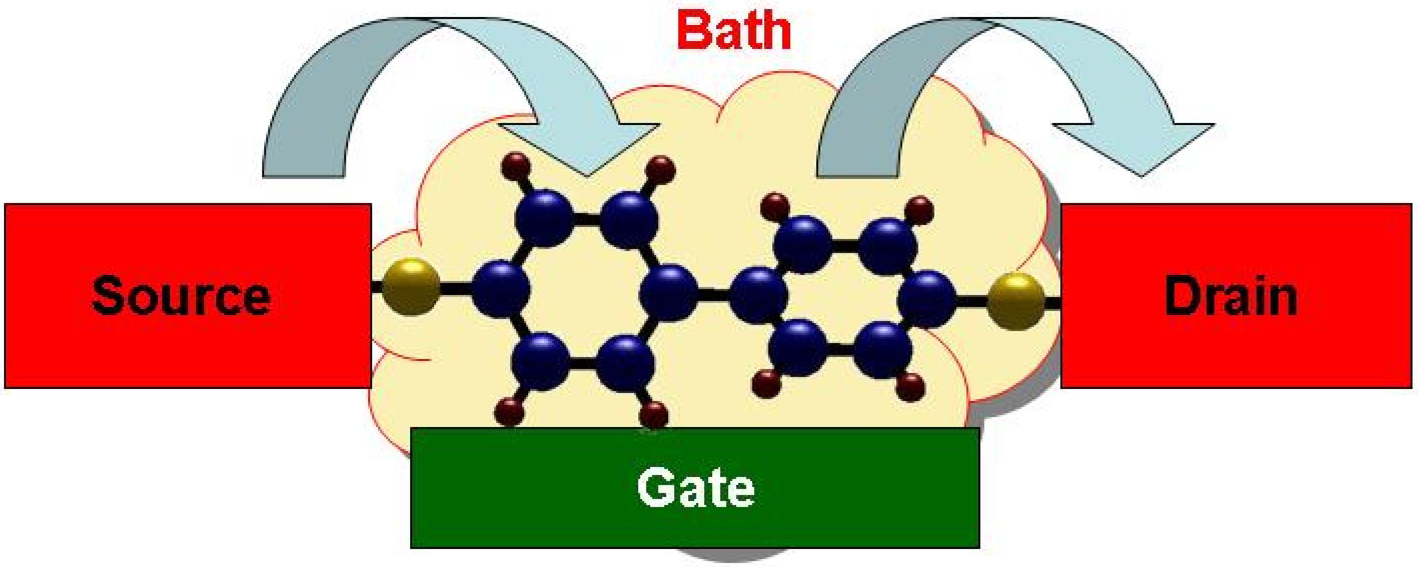
Even or Odd ?



The system



- Weak coupling to the leads + low temperature → Coulomb blockade
- Gate voltage: a three terminal device
- Molecule can move: consider the softest mode

The Hamiltonian

The hamiltonian of the device can be written as

$$H = H_{\mathrm{S}} + H_{\mathrm{EL}} + H_{\mathrm{B}} + V_{\mathrm{T}} + V_{\mathrm{SB}}$$

where

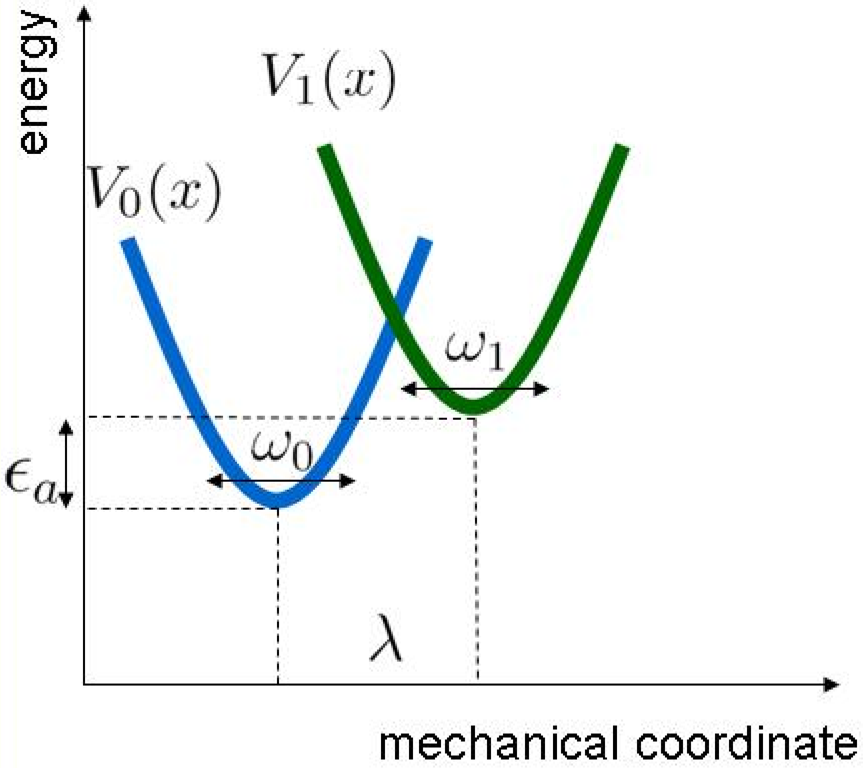
$$H_{\mathrm{S}} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + |0\rangle\langle 0|\, V_0(\hat{x}) + |1\rangle\langle 1|\, V_1(\hat{x})$$

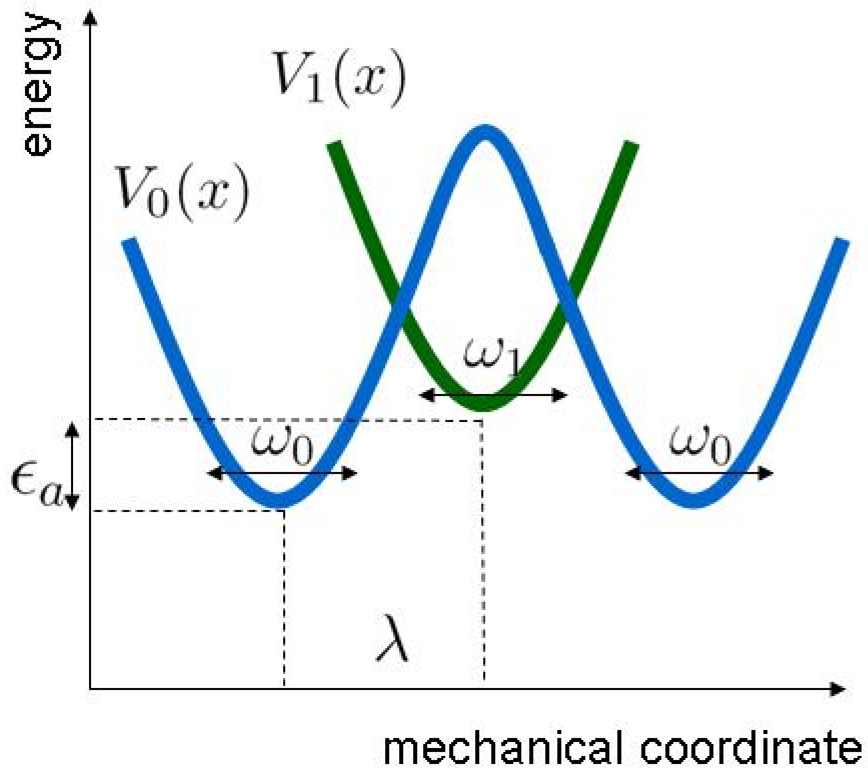
and

$$V_{\mathrm{T}} = t \sum_{k;\alpha=\mathrm{L,R}} \left(|0\rangle\langle 1| c^{\dagger}_{k\alpha} + |1\rangle\langle 0| c_{k\alpha} \right)$$

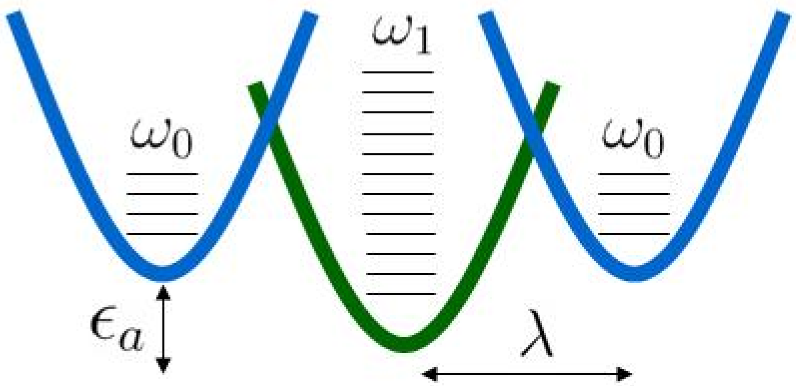
$$V_{\mathrm{SB}} = \hbar \tilde{g} \sum_q \hat{x}(d_q + d_q^{\dagger})$$

Symmetry of the adiabatic potentials





A generic model



- Harmonic approximation for the anionic state

- Low laying states of a double (harmonic) well potential for the neutral state

- The effective Hilbert space is defined by the unity operator:

$$\mathbb{1} = |1\rangle\langle 1| + |0\rangle\langle 0|(\mathcal{P}_+ + \mathcal{P}_-)$$

where

$$\mathcal{P}_\pm = \sum_{n=0}^{N} |n, \pm\rangle\langle n, \pm|$$

Effective Hamiltonian

The only components of the Hamiltonian modified by the projection are:

$$H_{\mathrm{S}}^{eff} = |0\rangle\langle 0| \sum_{\tau=+,-} \left[\mathcal{P}_\tau(\tfrac{1}{2} + d_\tau^\dagger d_\tau)\mathcal{P}_\tau\right] \hbar\omega_0 + |1\rangle\langle 1| \left[(\tfrac{1}{2} + d^\dagger d)\hbar\omega_1 + eV_g - \epsilon_a\right]$$

and

$$V_{\mathrm{T}}^{eff} = \sum_{k;\alpha=\mathrm{L,R}} \left[t|0\rangle\langle 1|c_{k\alpha}^\dagger(\mathcal{P}_+ + \mathcal{P}_-) + h.c.\right]$$

$$V_{\mathrm{SB}}^{eff} = \hbar g \sum_q (d_q + d_q^\dagger)\left\{|1\rangle\langle 1|(d + d^\dagger) + |0\rangle\langle 0| \sum_{\tau=-,+} \left[\mathcal{P}_\tau(d_\tau + d_\tau^\dagger + \tau 2\lambda)\mathcal{P}_\tau\right]\right\}$$

Generalized Master Equation

$$\dot{\sigma}(t) = \mathcal{L}\,\sigma(t) = (\mathcal{L}_{\rm coh} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm driv} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm damp})\,\sigma(t)$$

- The Generalized Master Equation is derived in second order perturbation in the interaction Hamiltonians $V_{\rm T}^{eff}$ and $V_{\rm SB}^{eff}$
- Coherences between different charge states vanish
- Due to the mechanical (quasi-)degenerate neutral states we MUST keep coherences between displaced mechanical states

Electrical leads

$$(\mathcal{L}_{\text{driv}}\,\sigma)_{11} = \sum_{\alpha,\tau}\left[2(\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}}\,\sigma_{00}\,\mathcal{P}_{\tau} + \mathcal{P}_{\tau}\,\sigma_{00}\,\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}}{}^{\dagger}) - (\mathcal{P}_{\tau}\,\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{out}}\,\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{11}\,\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{out}}{}^{\dagger}\mathcal{P}_{\tau})\right]$$

$$(\mathcal{L}_{\text{driv}}\,\sigma)^{\tau\tau'}_{00} = \sum_{\alpha}\mathcal{P}_{\tau}\left[\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{out}}\,\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{11}\,\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{out}}{}^{\dagger} - 2(\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}}\,\sigma_{00} + \sigma_{00}\,\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}}{}^{\dagger})\right]\mathcal{P}_{\tau'}$$

where

$$\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}} = \overbrace{\frac{\Gamma_{\alpha}}{2}}^{\text{bare tunneling rate}}\sum_{m,n\tau}|m\rangle\Big\{\underbrace{f_{\alpha}[eV_g - \epsilon_a + \hbar\omega(m-n)]}_{\text{Fermi factor}}\underbrace{\langle m|n,\tau\rangle}_{\text{Franck-Condon coefficient}}\Big\}\langle n,\tau|$$

$$\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{out}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\alpha}}{2}\sum_{m,n\tau}|n,\tau\rangle\langle m| - \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\text{in}}{}^{\dagger}$$

$$\left(\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{coh}}\,\sigma = -\frac{i}{\hbar}[H^{eff}_{\text{S}},\sigma]\ \right)$$

Mechanical bath

$$(\mathcal{L}_{\rm damp}\,\sigma)_{11} = -\frac{i\gamma}{2\hbar}[\hat{x},\{\hat{p},\sigma_{11}\}] - \frac{\gamma m\omega}{\hbar}(\bar{N}+\tfrac{1}{2})[\hat{x},[\hat{x},\sigma_{11}]]$$

$$(\mathcal{L}_{\rm damp}\,\sigma)_{00}^{\tau\tau'} = -\frac{i\gamma}{2\hbar}\mathcal{P}_\tau[\hat{x},\{\hat{p},\sigma_{00}^{\tau\tau'}\}]\mathcal{P}_{\tau'}$$

$$-\frac{\gamma m\omega}{\hbar}(\bar{N}+\tfrac{1}{2})\mathcal{P}_\tau[\hat{x},[\hat{x},\sigma_{00}^{\tau\tau'}]]\mathcal{P}_{\tau'}$$

$$\boxed{-8\gamma\frac{k_{\rm B}T}{\hbar\omega}\lambda^2(\mathcal{P}_+\,\sigma_{00}^{\tau\tau'}\,\mathcal{P}_- + \mathcal{P}_-\,\sigma_{00}^{\tau\tau'}\,\mathcal{P}_+)}$$

Interwell dephasing term

Observables

- Current:

$$I^{stat} = \mathrm{Tr}_{\mathrm{S}}[\sigma^{stat}\hat{I}_{\mathrm{L}}]$$

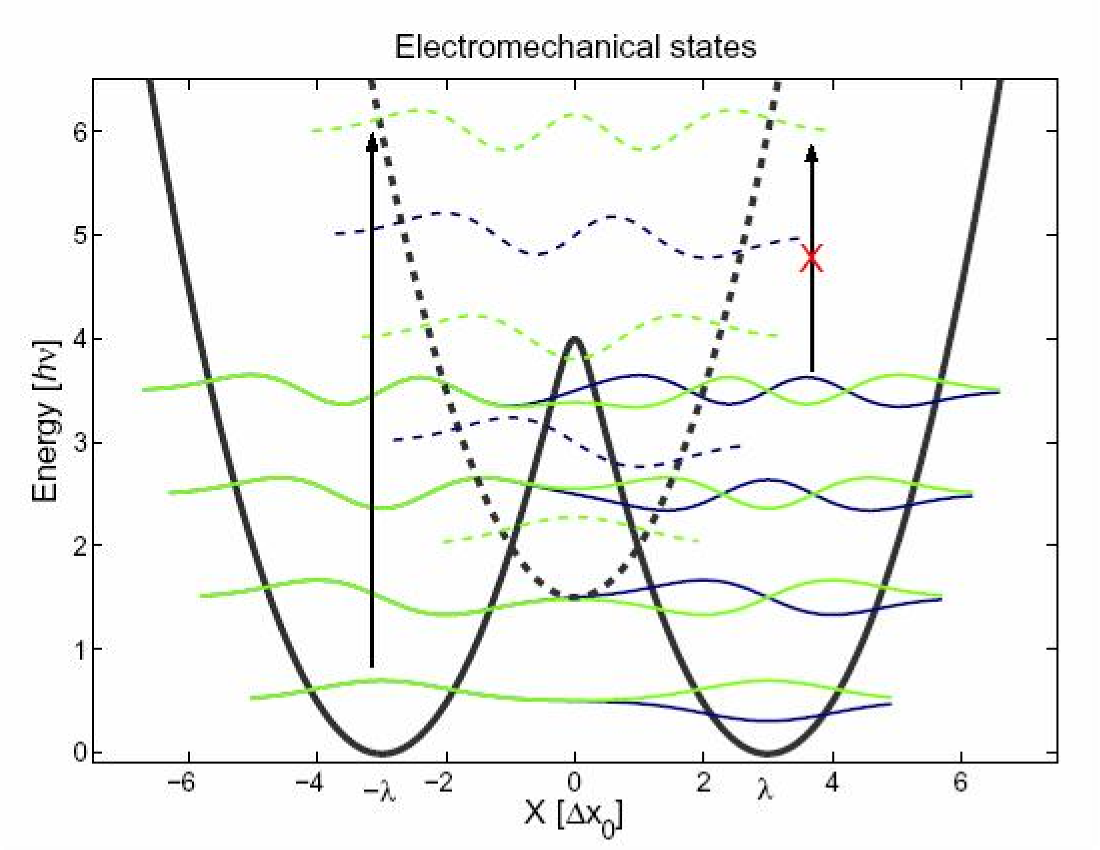
$$\hat{I}_{\mathrm{L}} = \sum_{\tau}\left[2|0\rangle\langle 0|(\mathcal{P}_\tau\,\Gamma^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{in}} + {\Gamma^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{in}}}^{\dagger}\mathcal{P}_\tau) - |1\rangle\langle 1|(\mathcal{P}_\tau\,\Gamma^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{out}} + {\Gamma^{\mathrm{L}}_{\mathrm{out}}}^{\dagger}\mathcal{P}_\tau)\right]$$

- Parity:

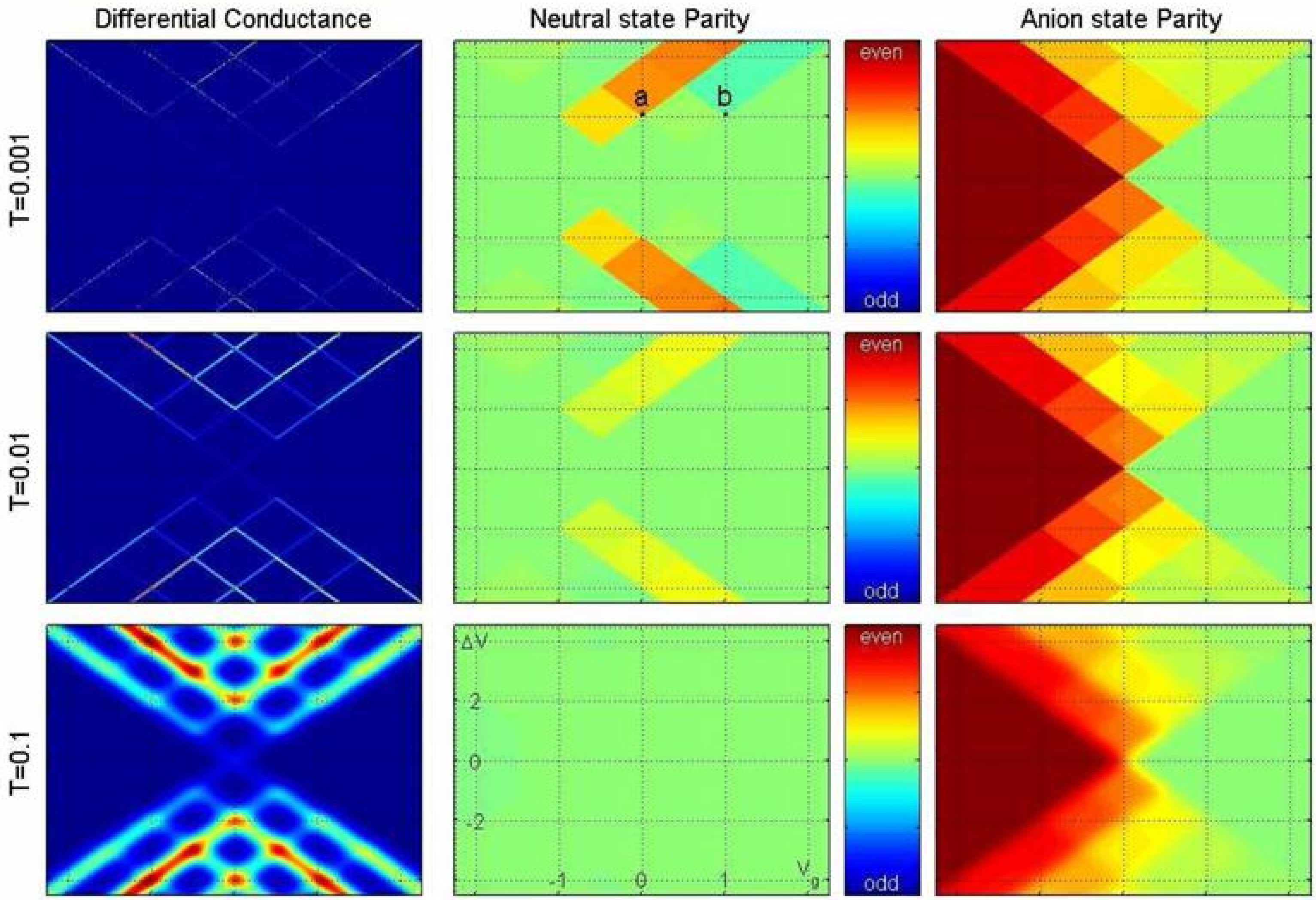
$$P_0 = \sum_{n=0}^{N}\langle 0,e,n|\sigma^{stat}|0,e,n\rangle - \langle 0,o,n|\sigma^{stat}|0,o,n\rangle$$

$$P_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\langle 1,2n|\sigma^{stat}|1,2n\rangle - \langle 1,2n+1|\sigma^{stat}|1,2n+1\rangle$$

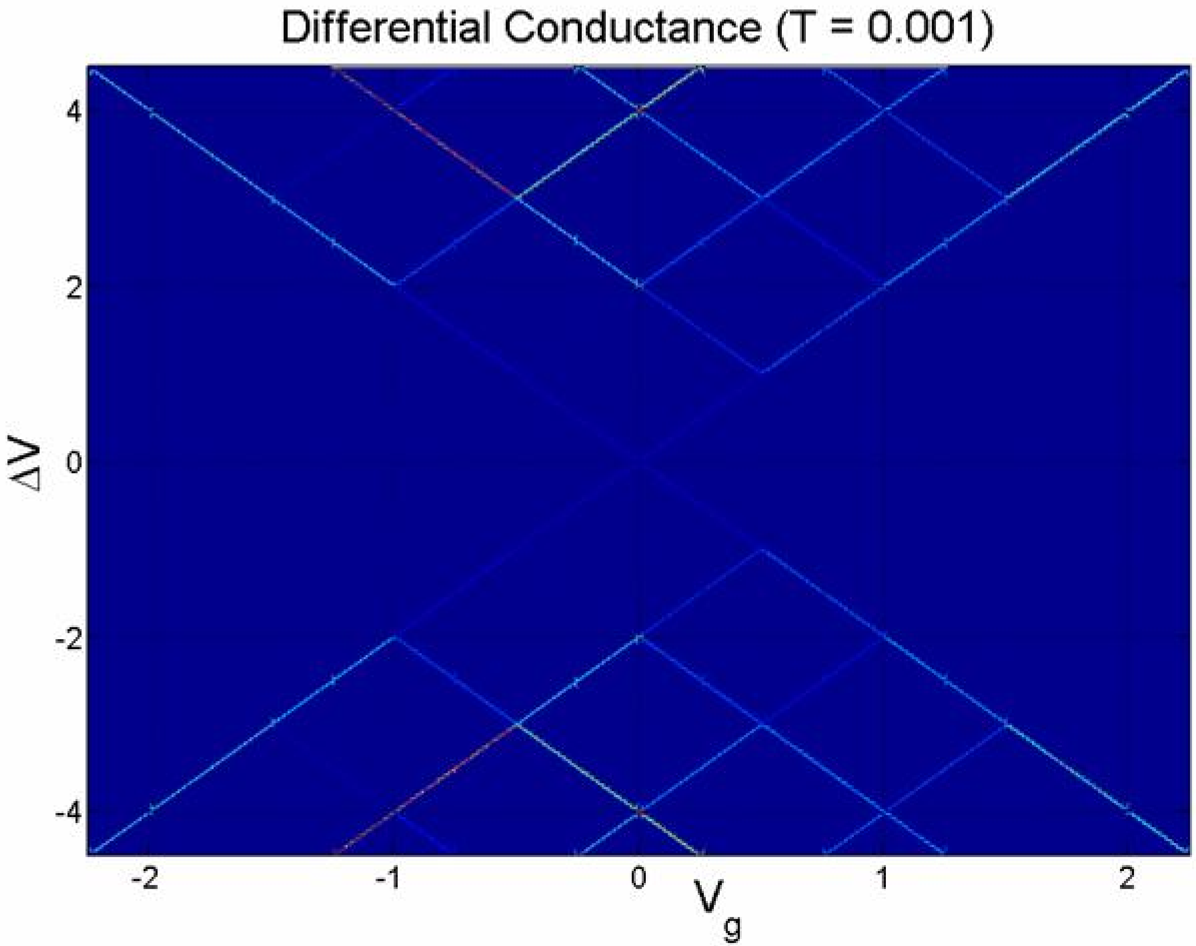
Electromechanical states



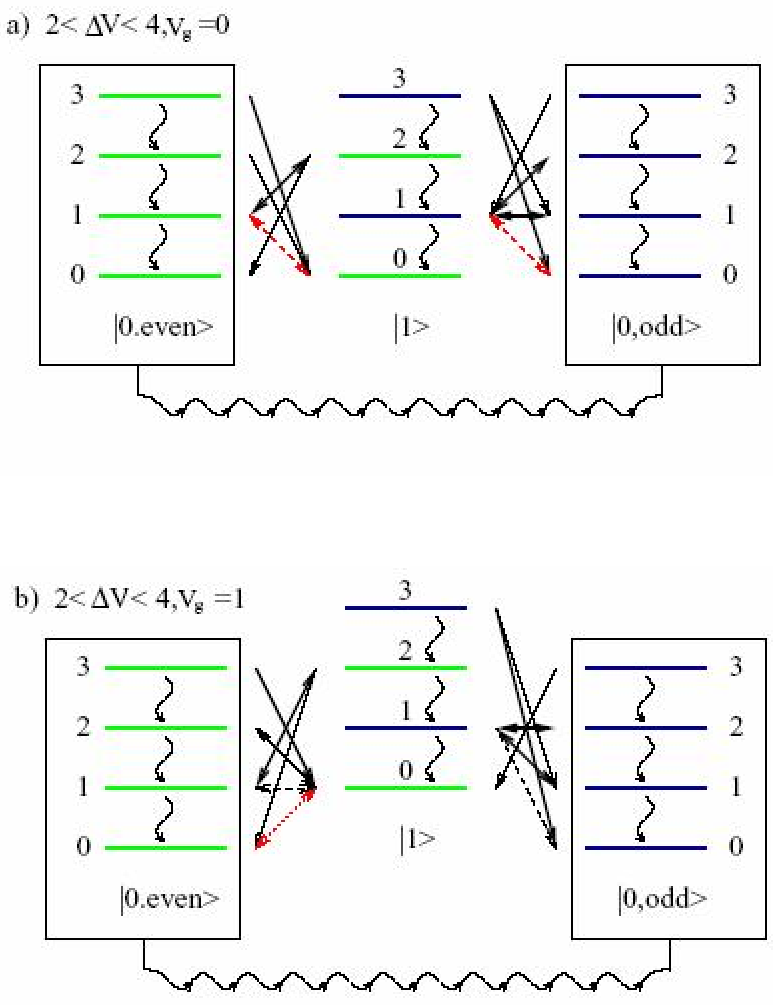
Symmetry breaking

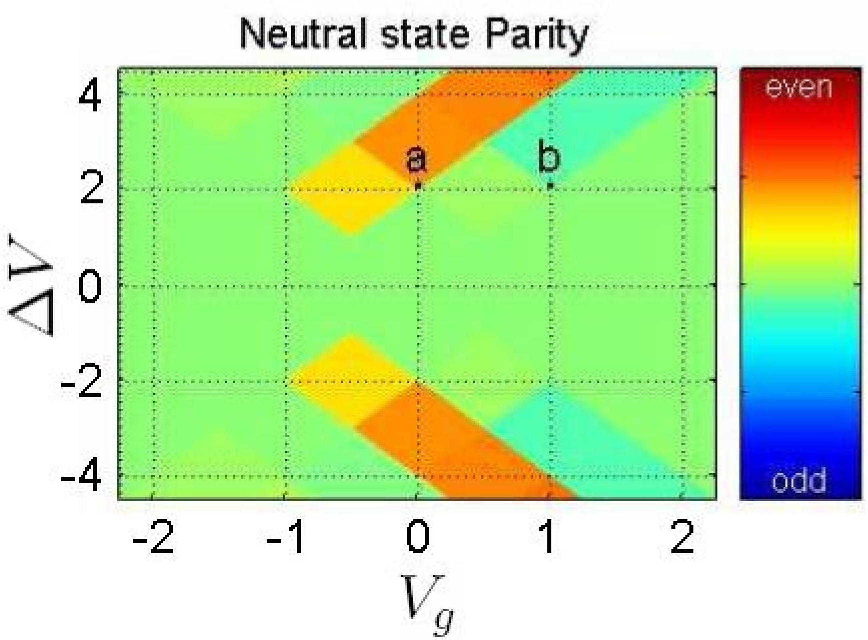


Gate voltage asymmetry



Un-blocking rates





Summary

- We derived an effective Hamiltonian for the biphenyl transistor
- We obtained the description of the electromechanical dynamics in terms of a GME
- We observed the parity dynamical symmetry-breaking in different bias and gating conditions
- We investigated the relevance of the mechanical coherences in the transport mechanism: i.e. gate voltage asymmetry of the differential conductance

Thanks for your attention…

Lambda scaling