

# How to include electron-phonon scattering effects in large-scale atomistic simulations

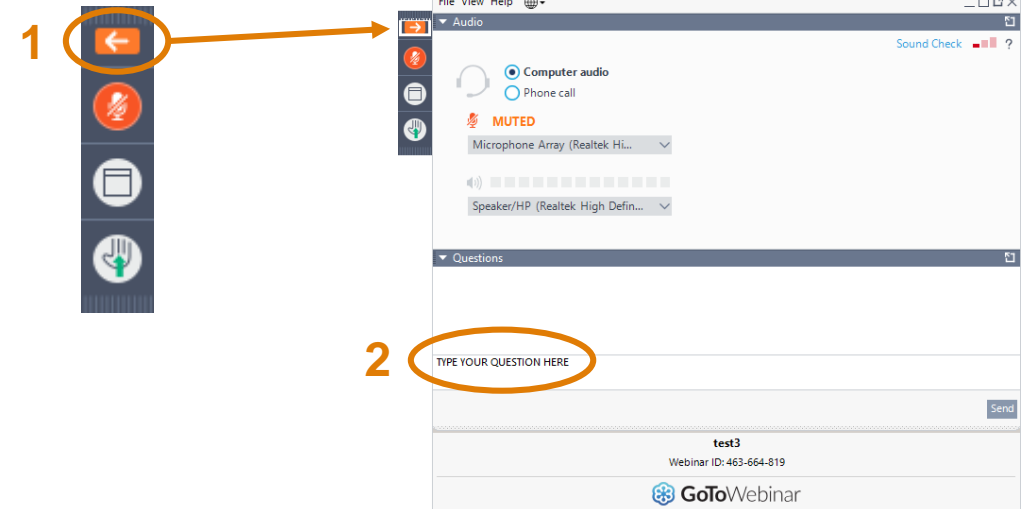
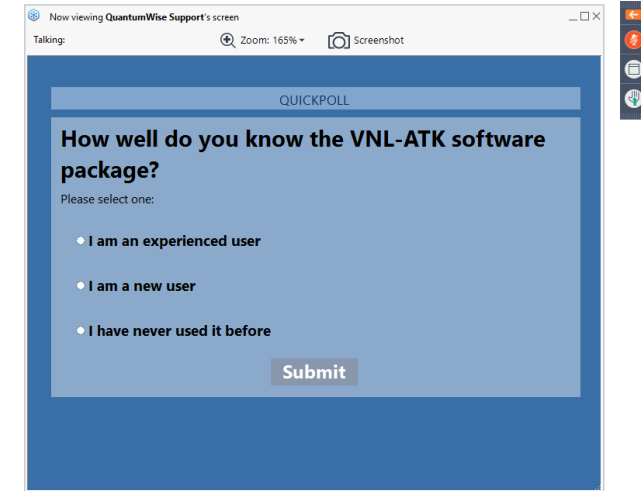
**Daniele Stradi**  
**Ulrik Grønbjerg Vej-Hansen**

# Synopsys QuantumWise

December, 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

# General info about this seminar.

- ❑ Two **polls** will be distributed during the webinar. The window will change temporarily to allow the attendees to answer the poll. The duration of each poll will be of 30 seconds.
- ❑ You can **ask questions** by clicking on the **orange button** (1). A new window will open in which you can type your question (2). As many questions as possible will be addressed by the presenters in the Q&A session at the end of the webinar.

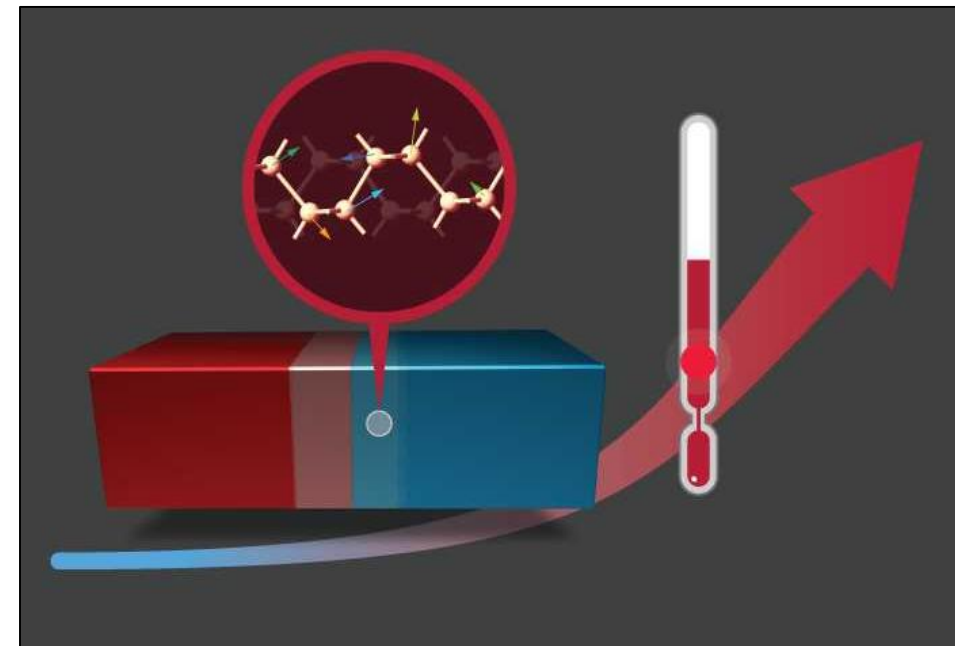


# Outline.

- ❑ Overview of the STD – Landauer (Special Temperature Displacement – Landauer) method in **ATK**.
- ❑ Introduction to e-ph scattering effects.
- ❑ Role of e-ph scattering effects in the performance of electronic devices.
- ❑ Atomistic simulations of ultra-scaled electronic devices using **ATK**.
- ❑ The STD-Landauer method.
  - Target applications.
  - Theory.
  - General considerations.
- ❑ How to setup, run and analyze an STD-Landauer calculation in **ATK**.

# Overview of the STD – Landauer (Special Temperature Displacement – Landauer) method in **ATK**.

- ❑ **Parameter-free first-principles electronic transport simulations** of devices can be performed in **ATK** using density functional theory (**DFT**) combined with Non-equilibrium Green's function (**NEGF**). See:
  - <https://docs.quantumwise.com/manuals/ATKDFT.html>
  - <https://docs.quantumwise.com/manuals/NEGF.html>
- ❑ **STD-Landauer** is a computationally efficient method to include electron-phonon scattering effects in **ATK** electronic transport simulations using DFT-NEGF.
- ❑ It makes it possible to calculate finite-temperature characteristics of devices using only few computationally intensive **ATK** device simulations.
- ❑ It is targeted at technologically relevant and structurally homogeneous systems.



# Introduction to e-ph scattering effects.

The total Hamiltonian of the system can be formally separated in three terms:  $\hat{H}_{\text{tot}} = \hat{H}_{\text{e}} + \hat{H}_{\text{ph}} + \hat{H}_{\text{e-ph}}$

Electrons

Phonons

Interaction between  
electrons and phonons

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□ Within the **Born-Oppenheimer approximation**:

- The electronic Hamiltonian depends parametrically on the nuclear coordinates;
- The interaction between electrons and phonons can be written as:

$$\hat{H}_e = \hat{H}_e^0 + \underbrace{\sum_{i,j} \left. \frac{\partial \hat{H}_e}{\partial Q_{ij}} \right|_{\mathbf{Q}=0} Q_{ij}}_{\text{Electron-phonon interaction}} + \dots$$

We neglect higher-order terms

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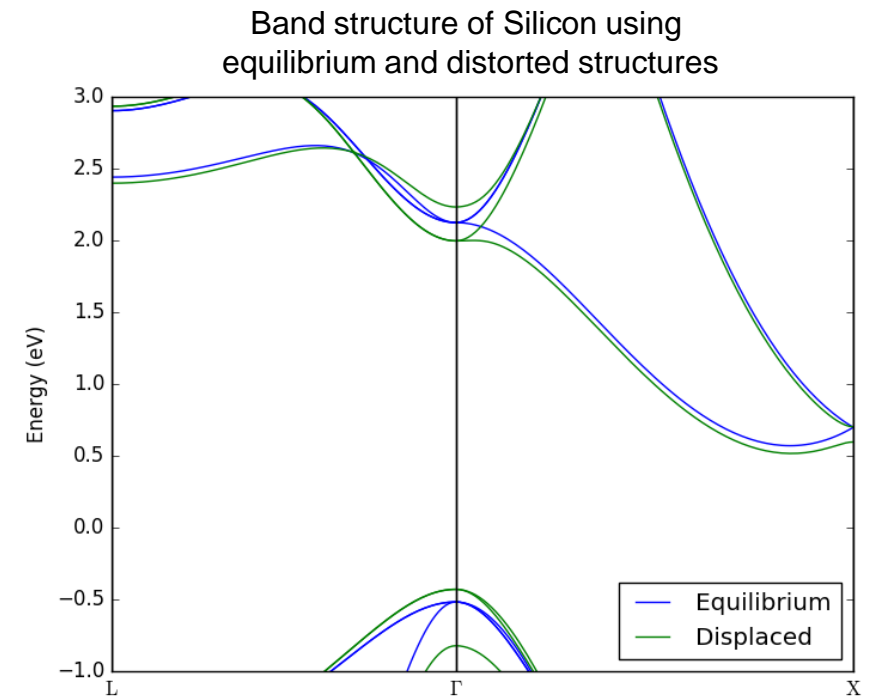
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□ Assuming that the energy dispersion of a band is known, the e-ph interaction can be understood as a **shift of the electronic band energy caused by a static displacement** of the atoms:

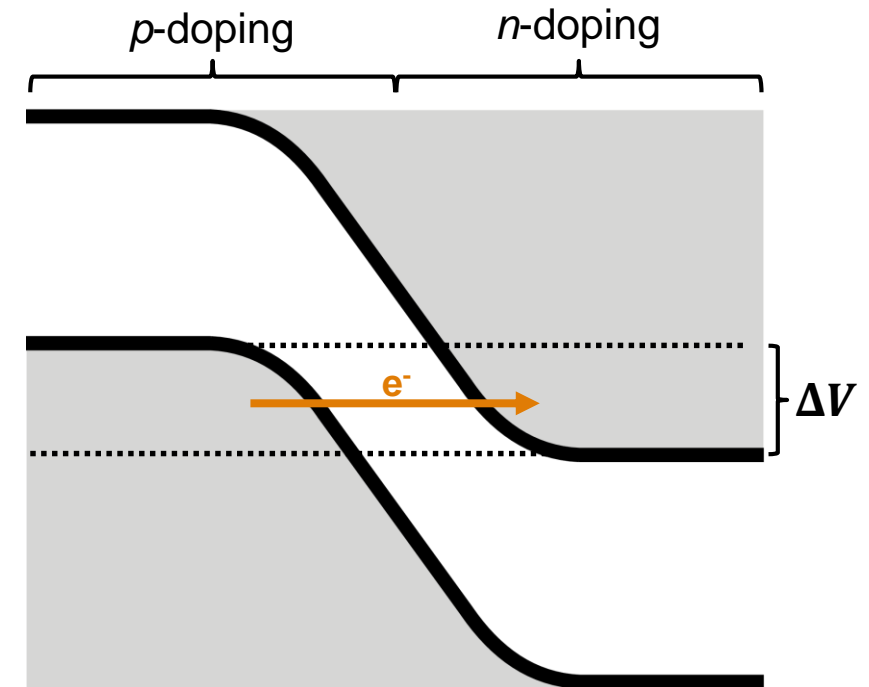
$$\left. \frac{\partial \hat{H}_e}{\partial Q_{ij}} \right|_{\mathbf{Q}=0} Q_{ij} \approx \left. \frac{\partial \hat{E}_{n\mathbf{k}}}{\partial Q_{ij}} \right|_{\mathbf{Q}=0} Q_{ij}$$



Cardona, Yu *Fundamentals of Semiconductors* (Springer, 2005)

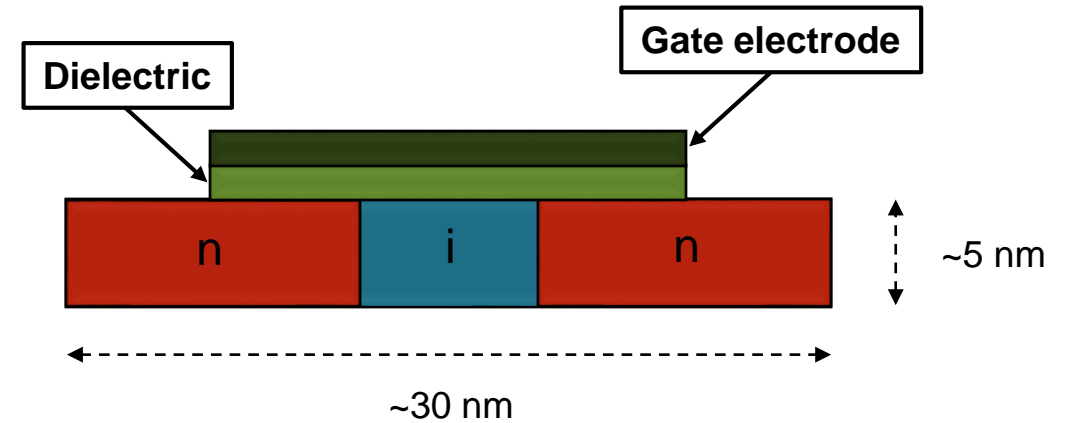
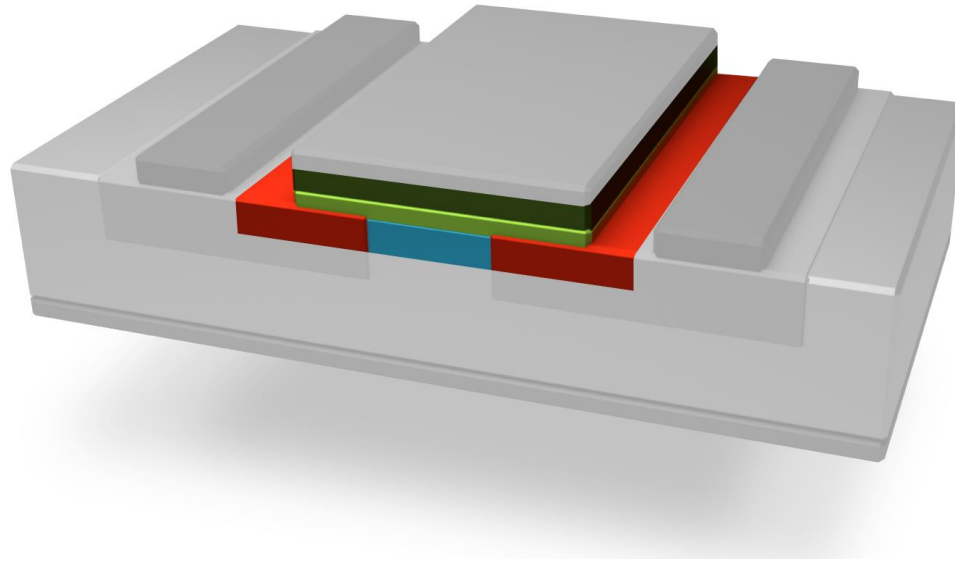
# Role of e-ph scattering effects on the performance of electronic devices.

- ❑ As transistors scale below 10 nm, **quantum mechanical (QM) phenomena** start playing an important role in the performance of the transistors.
- ❑ **Direct QM tunneling** between the source and drain electrodes can become important due to scaling down of channel length.
- ❑ The tunneling current can be affected by **electron-phonon scattering effects**, ultimately modifying the characteristics of the transistor.





# Atomistic simulations of ultra-scaled electronic devices.



- ❑ Atomistic simulations using **ATK** and *ab-initio* density functional theory (DFT) can nowadays be used to simulate **systems of ~1000 atoms**, which allows one to investigate **small but realistic models of the transistor**.
- ❑ These model systems are still considered as **large-scale in *ab-initio* theory**.
- ❑ **Conventional perturbative approaches used to include e-ph effects are too computationally demanding** to be used routinely in combination with these large-scale models.

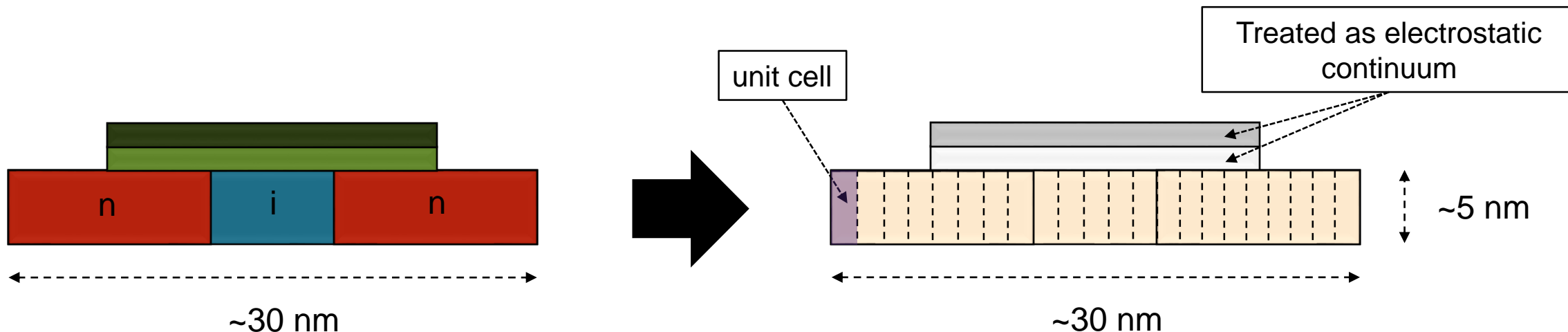
# The STD-Landauer method: Introduction and target applications.

- ❑ **STD:** a Special Thermal Displacement is used to account for the effect of temperature on the atomic lattice.
- ❑ **Landauer:** Landauer theory is used to calculate the current between the source and drain electrodes.

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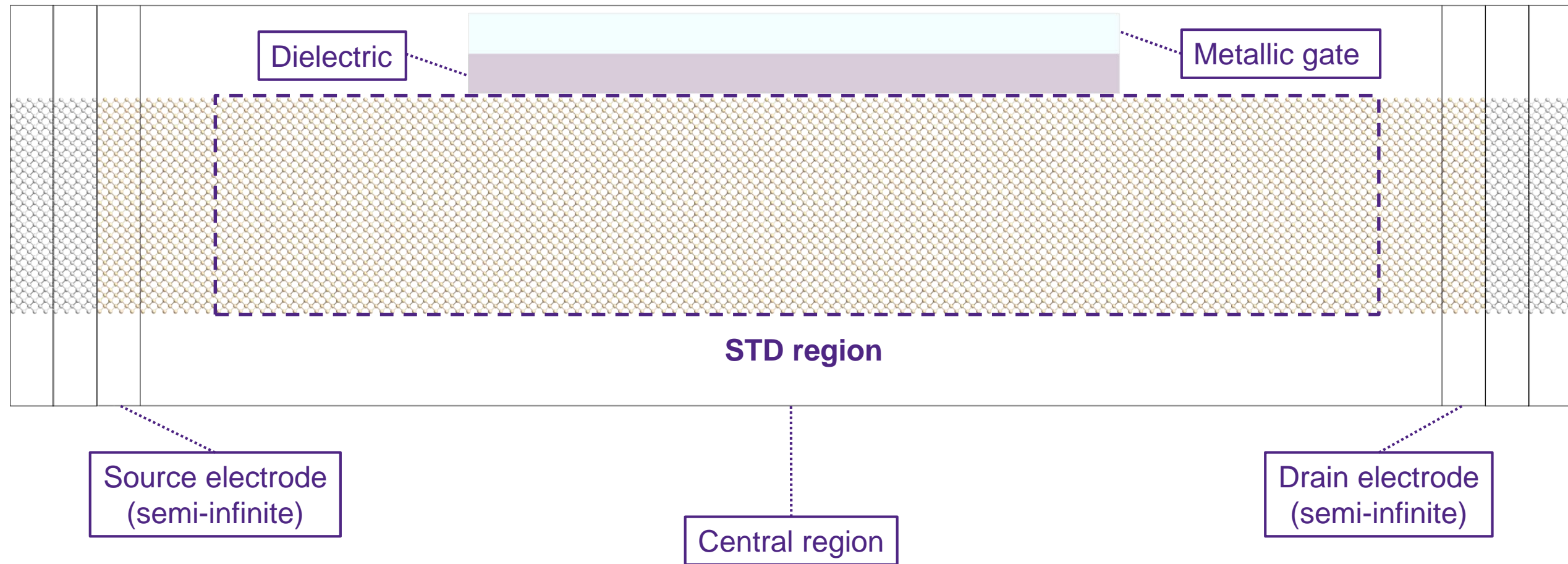
- ❑ The STD-Landauer method is designed to include electron-phonon scattering effects in **large-scale homogeneous devices formed by a large number of repetitions of a single unit cell** along the transport direction.



- ❑ Example of applications: *p-n* junctions, *n-i-n* junctions.

# The STD-Landauer method: Introduction and target applications.

- ❑ A practical example of an system suited for an STD-Landauer calculation with **ATK**:



# The STD-Landauer method: Theory.

- Williams-Lax theory for optical adsorption [*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **115**, 177401 (2015) and references therein]:

$$\underbrace{\langle \epsilon_2(\omega, T) \rangle}_{\text{Expectation value at temperature } T} = Z^{-1} \sum_n \exp(-E_n/k_B T) \underbrace{\langle \epsilon_2(\omega, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}) \rangle_n}_{\text{Expectation value of state } n \text{ with nuclear displacements } \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}}$$

- The **expectation value** of the imaginary part of the dielectric constant  $\epsilon_2$  at temperature  $T$  is given by a **canonical average** over all the expectation values of  $\epsilon_2$  for all possible nuclear displacements  $\{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}$ .

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How to perform efficiently the configurational sampling over all the possible nuclear displacements  $\{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}$ ?



# The STD-Landauer method: Theory.

Special displacement to approximate the correct thermally-averaged observable,  $\langle \mathcal{T}(E, T) \rangle \approx \mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$ .

□ **1<sup>st</sup> step:** solution of  $\langle \mathcal{T}(E, T) \rangle$  around the equilibrium configuration:

2. Evaluate integral analytically

$$\langle \mathcal{T}(E, T) \rangle = \prod_{\lambda} \int du_{\lambda} \frac{\exp(-u_{\lambda}^2/2\sigma_{\lambda}^2)}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\lambda}} \mathcal{T}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_{\lambda}\})$$

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Diagram illustrating the steps and components of the equation:

- 2. Evaluate integral analytically** (points to the integral)
- 1. Expand in a Taylor series** (points to the Taylor expansion)
- 0th order** (points to  $\mathcal{T}_0(E)$ )
- 2nd order** (points to the second-order term)
- 4th order and higher** (points to  $\mathcal{O}(\sigma^4)$ )

- Only **even order terms** are present.
- The width  $\sigma$  is related to the **mean square displacement**  $\langle \mathbf{u}_{\lambda}^2 \rangle = \sigma_{\lambda}^2(T)$ , therefore  $\mathbf{u}_{\lambda} = s_{\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda}(T)$ .
- Assuming that all the phonons have the same contribution,  $s_{\lambda} = \pm 1$ . **The sign for each phonon  $\lambda$  is undefined.**

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□ **2<sup>nd</sup> step:** solution of  $\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$  around the equilibrium configuration and choice of the appropriate signs  $s_\lambda$ :

$$\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}) = \underbrace{\mathcal{T}_0(E)}_{\text{0th order}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda} s_{\lambda} \frac{\partial \mathcal{T}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_{\lambda}\})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_{\lambda}} \sigma_{\lambda}}_{\text{1st order}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda \lambda'} s_{\lambda} s_{\lambda'} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{T}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_{\lambda}\})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_{\lambda} \partial \mathbf{u}_{\lambda'}} \sigma_{\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda'}}_{\text{2nd order}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\sigma^3)}_{\text{3rd order and higher}}$$

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The diagram shows four boxes labeled "0th order", "1st order", "2nd order", and "3rd order and higher" arranged horizontally. Brackets connect these boxes to the corresponding terms in the equation below: the 0th order box to  $\mathcal{T}_0(E)$ , the 1st order box to the first sum, the 2nd order box to the second sum, and the 3rd order and higher box to  $\mathcal{O}(\sigma^3)$ .

$$\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\}) = \mathcal{T}_0(E) + \sum_{\lambda} s_{\lambda} \frac{\partial \mathcal{T}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda} + \sum_{\lambda \lambda'} s_{\lambda} s_{\lambda'} \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{T}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_\lambda \partial \mathbf{u}_{\lambda'}} \sigma_{\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda'} + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^3)$$

- The relation  $\langle \mathcal{T}(E, T) \rangle \approx \mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$  is verified when:
- The signs  $s_\lambda$  are chosen so that  $S = (s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4, \dots) = (+, -, +, -, \dots)$ .
  - The number of phonons  $N_\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  and successive phonon modes are nearly degenerate ( $\omega_\lambda \approx \omega_{\lambda+1}$ ).

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  - The number of phonons  $N_\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  and successive phonon modes are nearly degenerate ( $\omega_\lambda \approx \omega_{\lambda+1}$ )
- For **large systems with a high repetitions of unit cells** along the transport direction, these conditions are met using the **special displacements**:

$$\mathbf{u}_{STD} = \sum_{\lambda} (-1)^{\lambda-1} \sigma_{\lambda} \mathbf{e}_{\lambda}$$

**T-dependent width**

- Normal mode of phonon  $\lambda$  at  $T = 0K$
- Can be calculated using ATK

# The STD-Landauer method: General considerations.

- ❑ The STD-Landauer method uses a **single special displacement** to provide a **temperature-dependent transmission**  $\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$  that **approximates the correct thermally-averaged observable**  $\langle \mathcal{T}(E, T) \rangle$ ;
- ❑ The method **applies to systems with a high degree of repetition of the same basic unit cell** along the transport direction since it relies on cancellations of errors between degenerate phonon modes;
- ❑ The method is **best suited for systems with bulk-like nonlocalized vibrations**;
- ❑ Computationally efficient force fields [Modelling Simul. Mater. Sci. Eng. 25 085007 (2017)] are available in **ATK** to calculate the phonons of a large selection of technologically important systems. Therefore:
  1. The phonons can be evaluated at essentially zero computational cost.
  2. Only  $\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$  is evaluated using density functional theory (DFT).

Only one computationally intensive DFT calculation is needed to evaluate  $\mathcal{T}_{STD}(E, \{\mathbf{u}_\lambda\})$  at a given temperature.

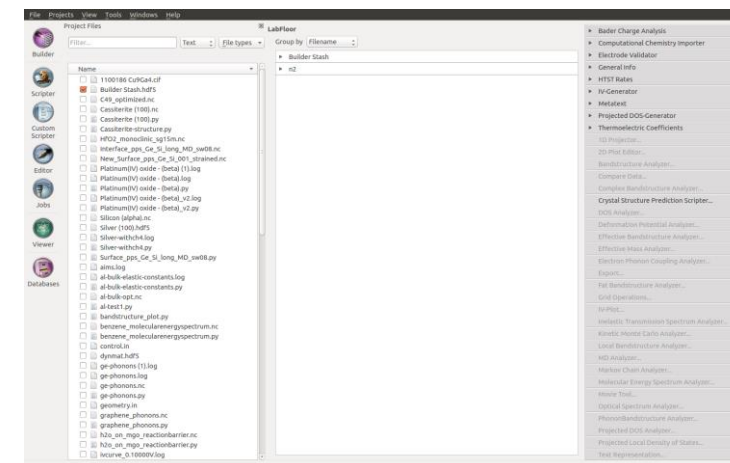
# How to setup, run and analyze an STD-Landauer calculation in VNL and ATK.

- ❑ Using the Standard Thermal Displacement in ATK and VNL
- ❑ Live demonstration in VNL
- ❑ IV curve in silicon pn-junction with and without electron-phonon scattering effects
- ❑ Current in a silicon n-i-n double-gated MOSFET



# Using the Standard Thermal Displacement in ATK/VNL

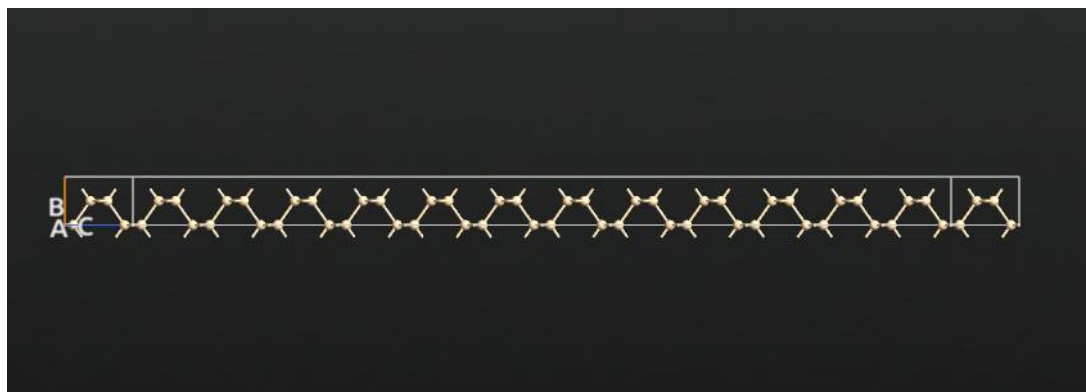
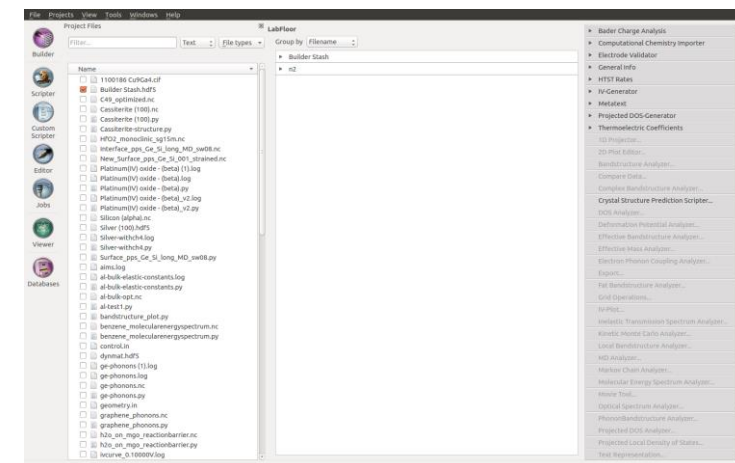
What is needed to use the STD method in ATK/VNL?



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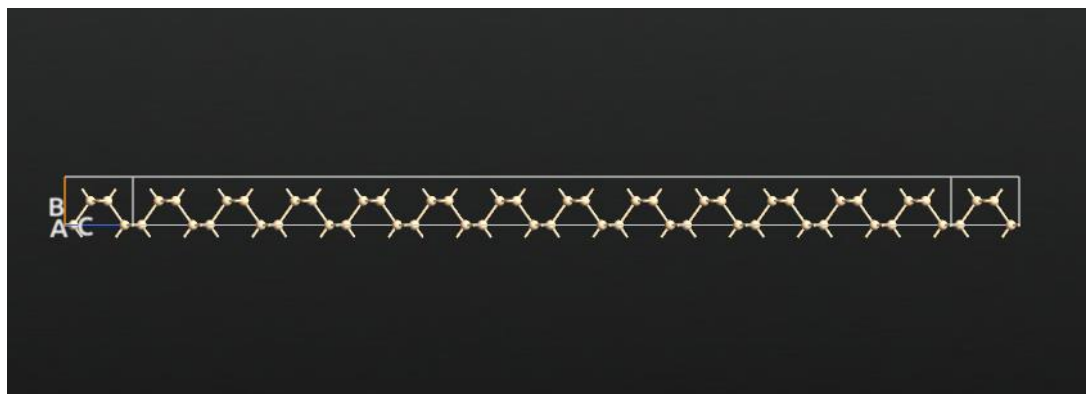
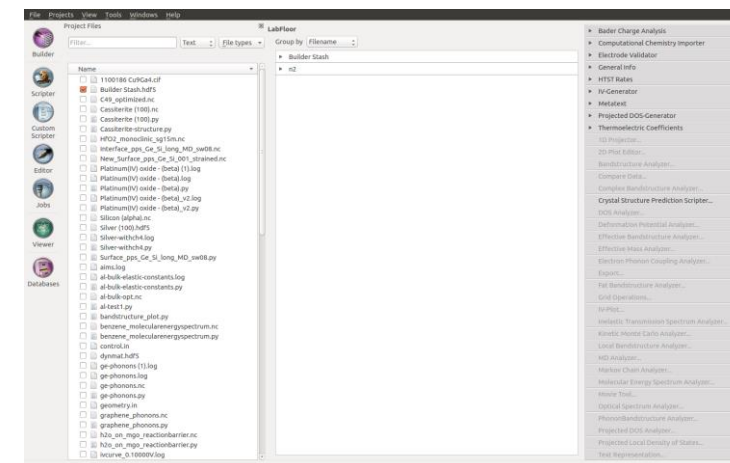
❑ A configuration of atoms, such as a Silicon pn-junction



# Using the Standard Thermal Displacement in ATK/VNL

What is needed to use the STD method in ATK/VNL?

- ❑ A configuration of atoms, such as a Silicon pn-junction
- ❑ A dynamical matrix, containing information on the phonon modes



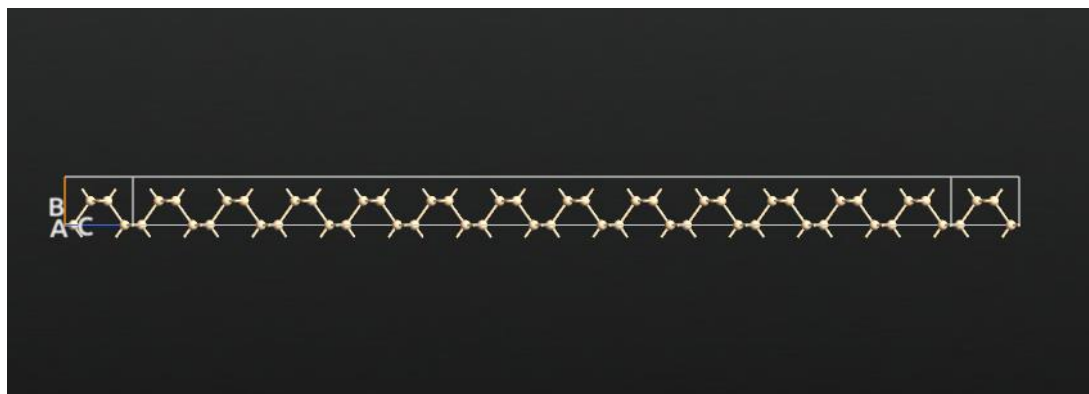
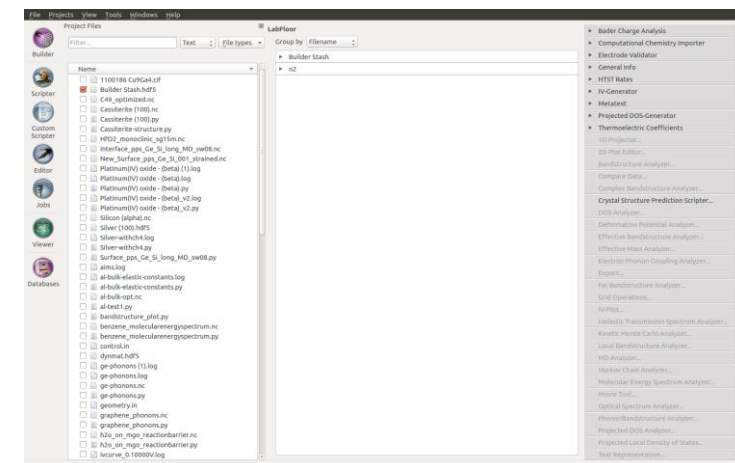
$$D_{ij}$$

dyn-mat-demo.hdf5  
DynamicalMatrix\_0

# Using the Standard Thermal Displacement in ATK/VNL

What is needed to use the STD method in ATK/VNL?

- ❑ A configuration of atoms, such as a Silicon pn-junction
- ❑ A dynamical matrix, containing information on the phonon modes
- ❑ A user-defined temperature



$$D_{ij}$$

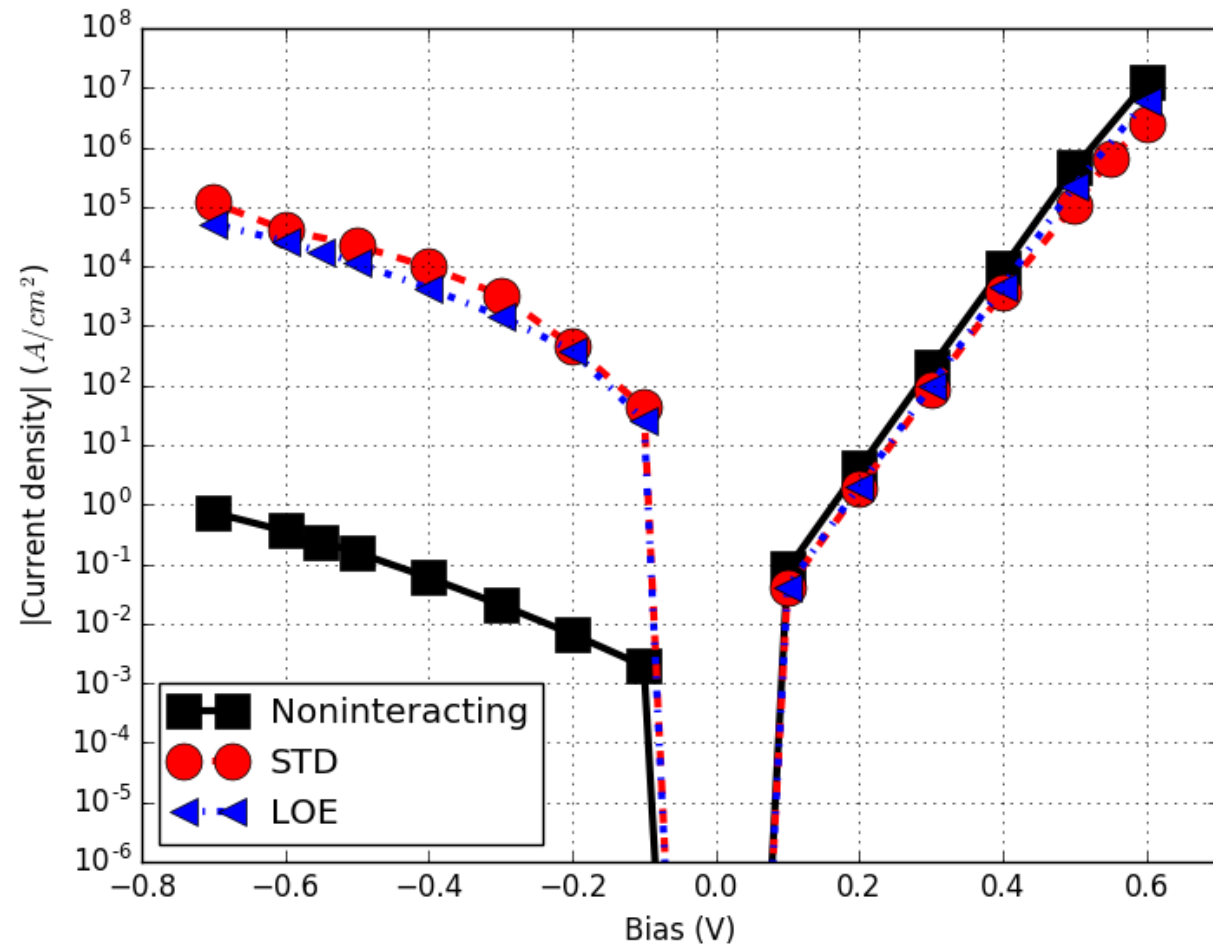
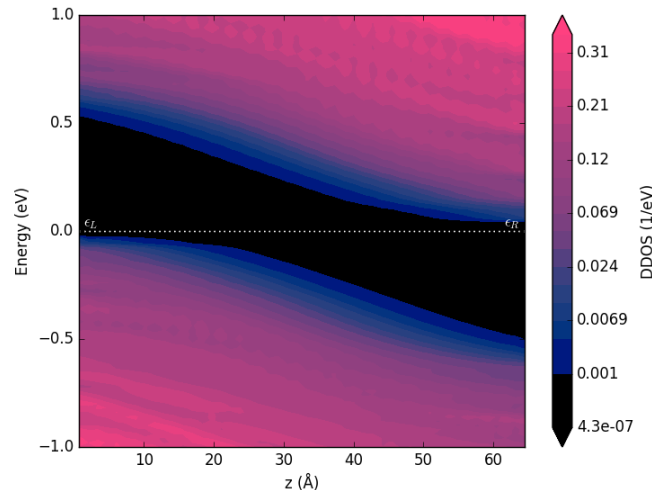
dyn-mat-demo.hdf5  
DynamicalMatrix\_0

$$T = 300K$$

# Live demonstration with VNL

# IV Curve for silicon pn-junction at 300 K – using STD

- Current under reverse bias is strongly influenced by electron-phonon scattering effects
- Agreement between the more advanced methods (LOE) and the Special Thermal Displacement (STD) method for the current



[https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std\\_transport/std\\_transport.html](https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std_transport/std_transport.html)

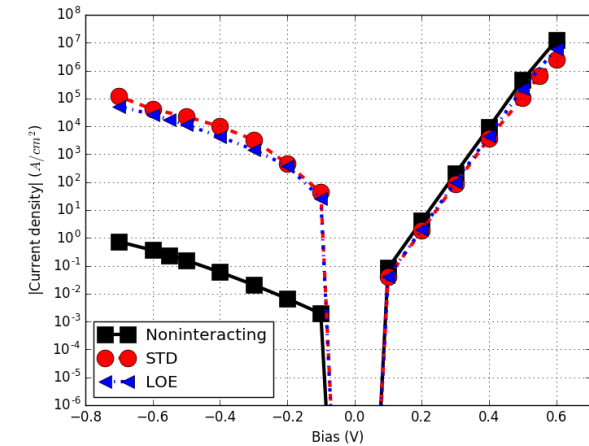
# Comparing the numbers

$I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$  :

Bias [V]	Noninteracting	STD	LOE
$\pm 0.5$	$8 \cdot 10^6$	5	20
$\pm 0.6$	$7 \cdot 10^7$	58	200

Timings :

	Noninteracting	STD	LOE
Time spent on IV curve:	28 h	129 h	468 h

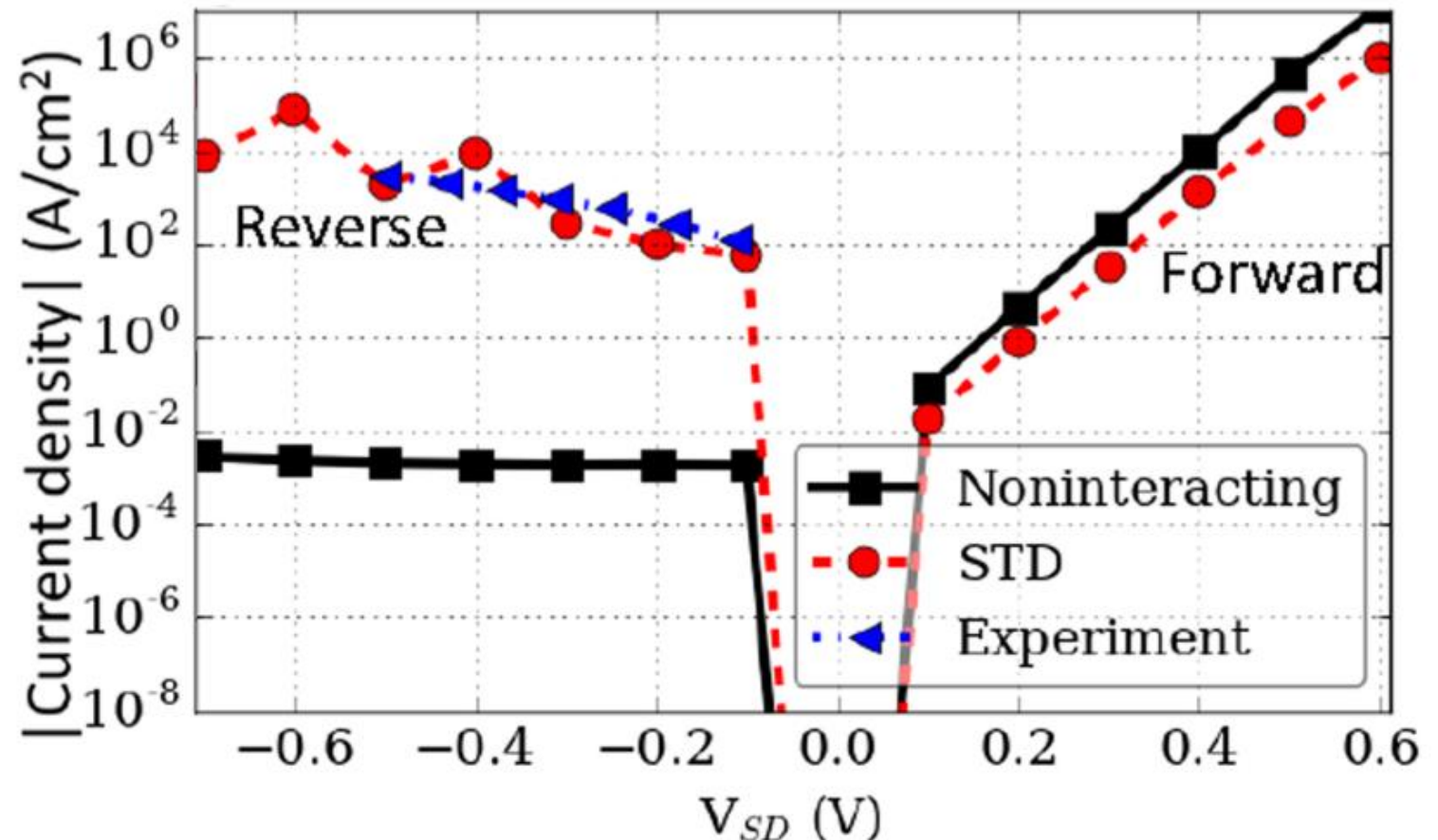


- ❑ Note that the LOE method requires the calculation of the Hamiltonian derivatives, which is very memory-demanding, and thus impractical for large systems.

[https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std\\_transport/std\\_transport.html](https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std_transport/std_transport.html)

# Longer silicon pn-junction also possible – using STD

- ❑ This device is 19.6 nm long and 152 atoms
- ❑ The previous one is 6.5 nm and 52 atoms
- ❑ More advanced methods are unfeasible at this size unless several approximations are used
- ❑ Good agreement with experiment



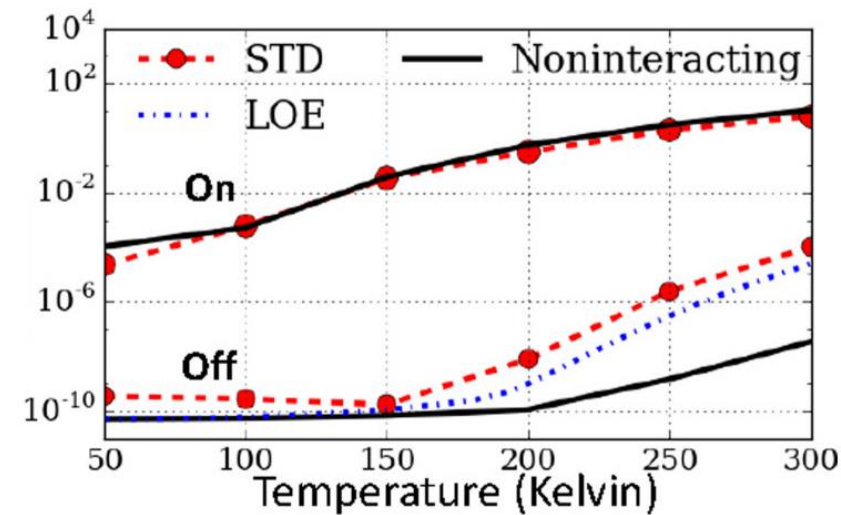
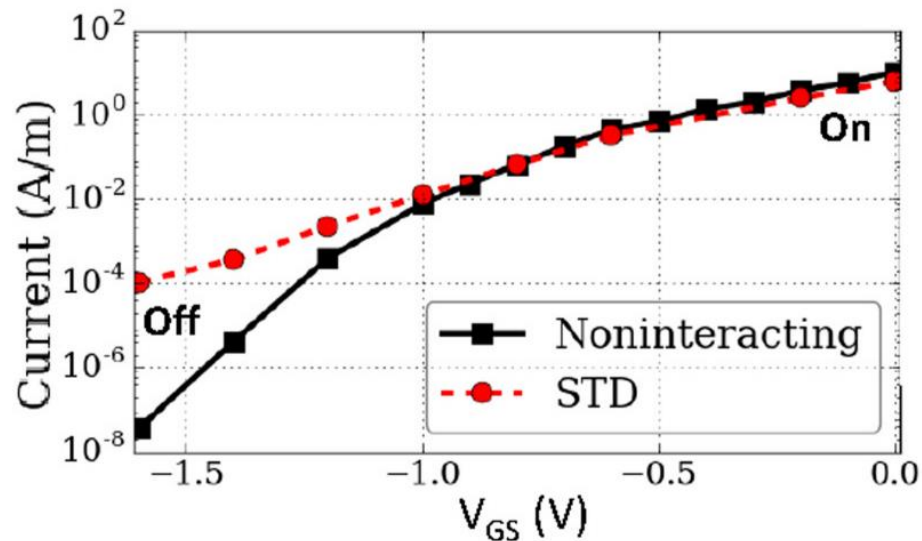
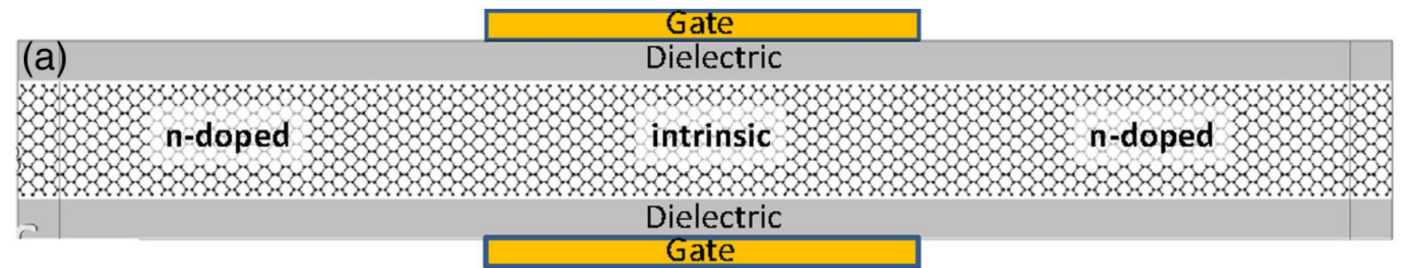
Gunst, T., Markussen, T., Palsgaard, M. L. N., Stokbro, K., & Brandbyge, M. (2017). "First-principles electron transport with phonon coupling: Large scale at low cost." *Physical Review B*, **96**(16), 161404. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.96.161404



# Silicon n-i-n-junction at 300 K – using STD

❑ Silicon n-i-n junction with a double gate  
– approximately 30 nm long and 1500 atoms

❑ Current as a function of gate voltage shows a big impact for the off-state



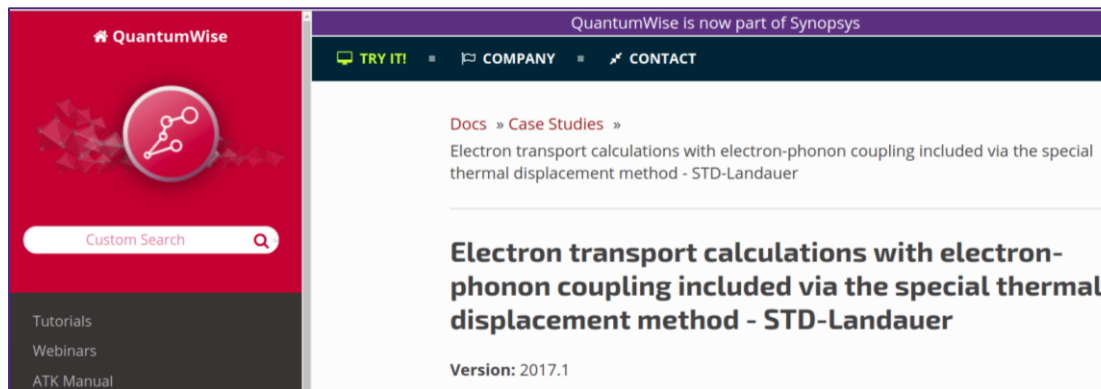
Gunst, T., Markussen, T., Palsgaard, M. L. N., Stokbro, K., & Brandbyge, M. (2017). "First-principles electron transport with phonon coupling: Large scale at low cost." *Physical Review B*, **96**(16), 161404. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.96.161404

# Thank You



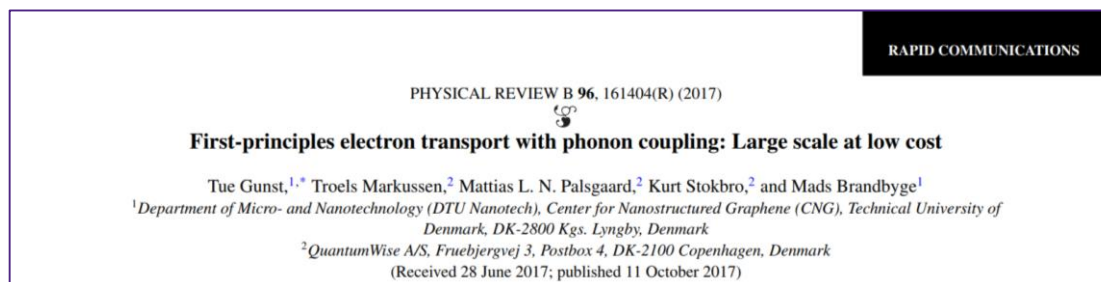
## On-line material:

[https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std\\_transport/std\\_transport.html](https://docs.quantumwise.com/casestudies/std_transport/std_transport.html)



The screenshot shows the QuantumWise website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'TRY IT!', 'COMPANY', and 'CONTACT'. The main content area features a sidebar with 'Tutorials', 'Webinars', and 'ATK Manual'. The central article is titled 'Electron transport calculations with electron-phonon coupling included via the special thermal displacement method - STD-Landauer' and is labeled as 'Version: 2017.1'. The article text describes electron transport calculations with electron-phonon coupling included via the special thermal displacement method - STD-Landauer.

# Thank You



The screenshot shows the abstract of a paper from Physical Review B. The title is 'First-principles electron transport with phonon coupling: Large scale at low cost'. The authors are Tue Gunst, Troels Markussen, Mattias L. N. Palsgaard, Kurt Stokbro, and Mads Brandbyge. The abstract mentions the Department of Micro- and Nanotechnology (DTU Nanotech), Center for Nanostructured Graphene (CNG), Technical University of Denmark, and QuantumWise A/S. The paper was received on June 28, 2017, and published on October 11, 2017.

☐ A survey will be sent to all attendees at the end of the webinar