Quantum Dot Modeling using NEMO 3-D

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http://hpc.jpl.nasa.gov/PEP/gekco

Work performed in collaboration with

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Presentation Outline

- Motivation
- What is a Quantum Dot ?
- Quantum Dot Modeling (NEMO 3-D):
  - Tight Binding Parameterization
  - Strain
  - Alloy Disorder
  - Interface Interdiffusion
  - Parallelization
  - Nanotubes
- Conclusion / Future Vision

Technology Push
Toward Fundamental Limitations

Commercial market pushes computing performance (FLOPS/weight/power):

- Enabled by device miniaturization
- Enabled by chip size increase
- Limited by: Costs of fabrication
- Limited by: Discrete atoms/electrons

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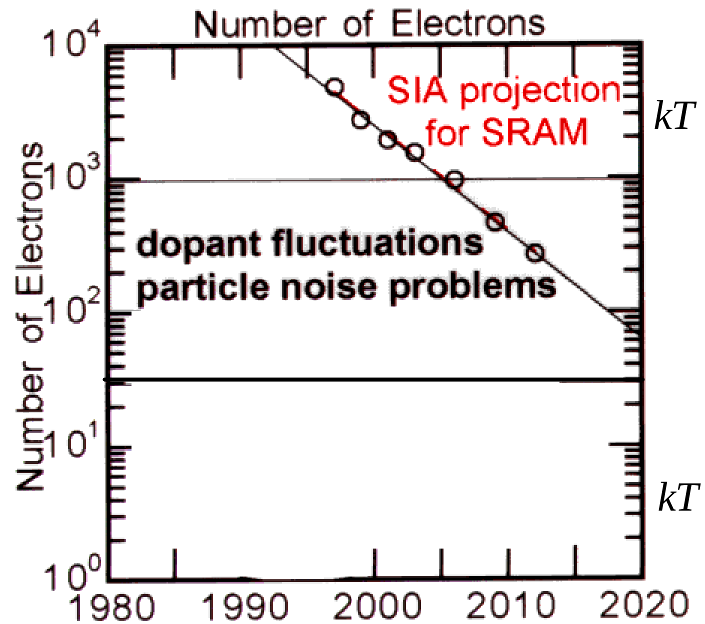

$$kT >> \frac{e^2}{2C}$$

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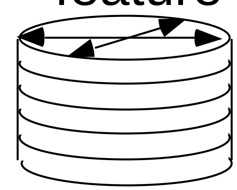
2-D feature

Lithography



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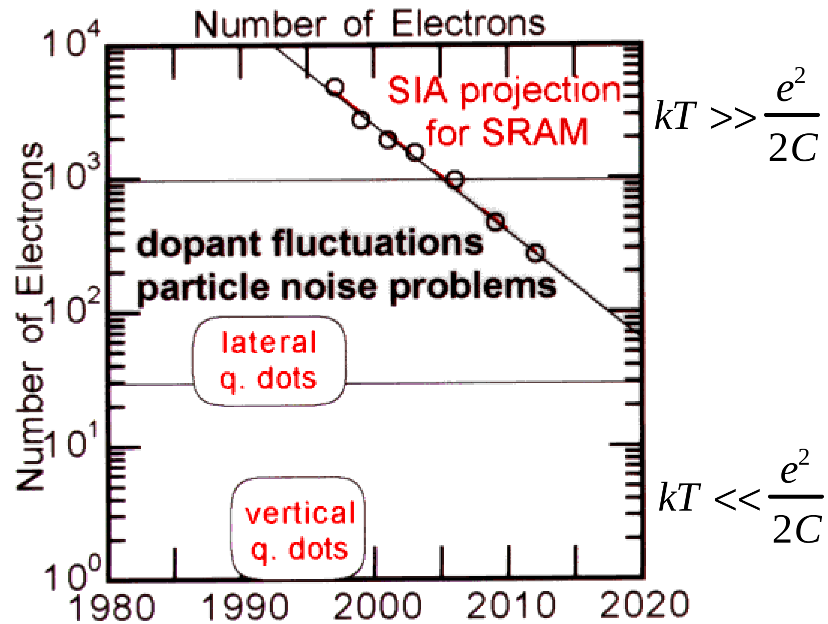

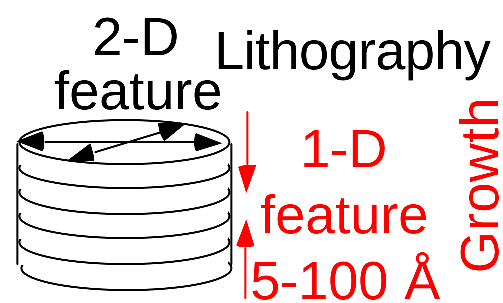

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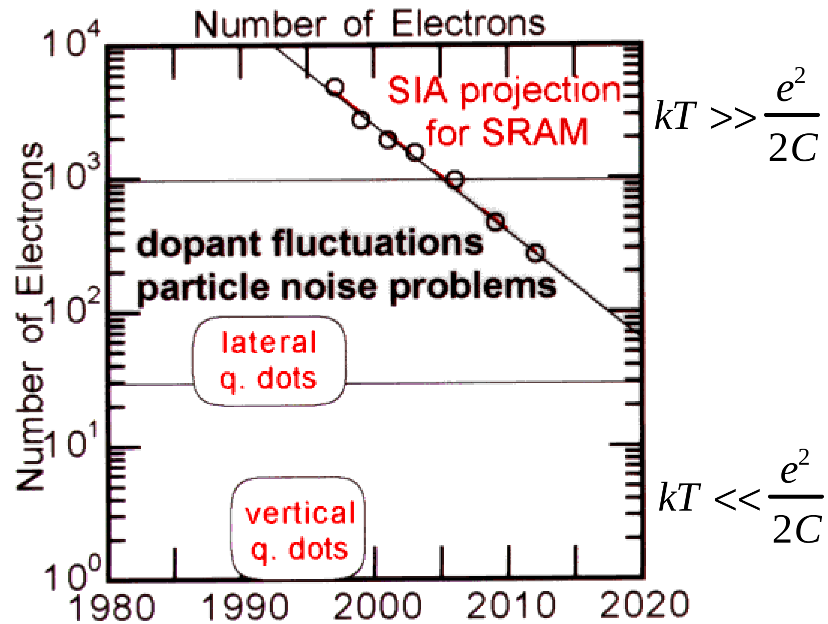
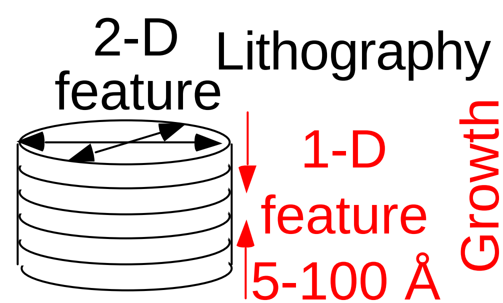
Quantum Dots Push beyond SIA with near and long term applications

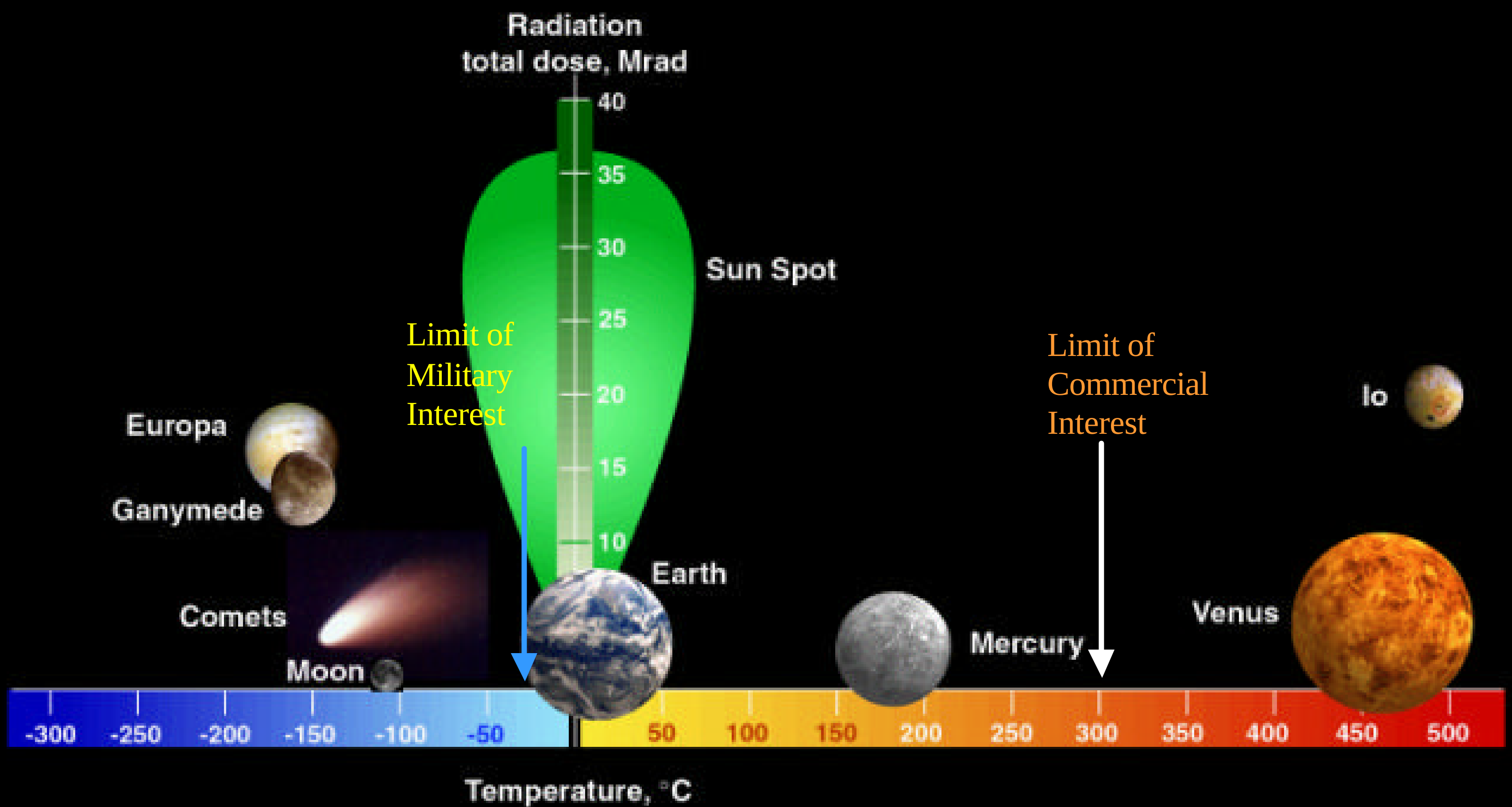
- Detectors / lasers
- Memory and logic





Quantum dots go beyond the SIA roadmap and enable near and long term NASA applications

Planetary Extreme Environments

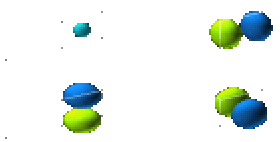


NASA radiation and temperature requirements extend beyond commercial and military interest

Quantum Dot Modeling - Development of Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool

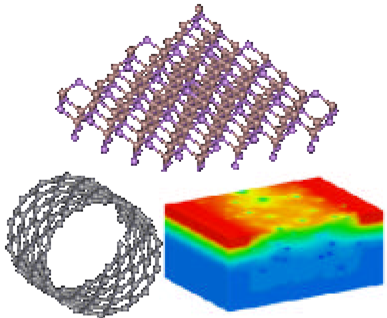
Nano-scale Device Analysis / Synthesis

Development of a Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool

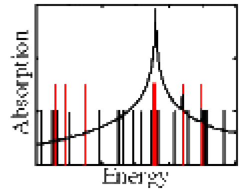


Atomic Orbitals size: 0.2nm

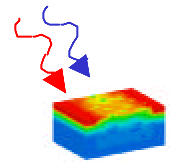
+



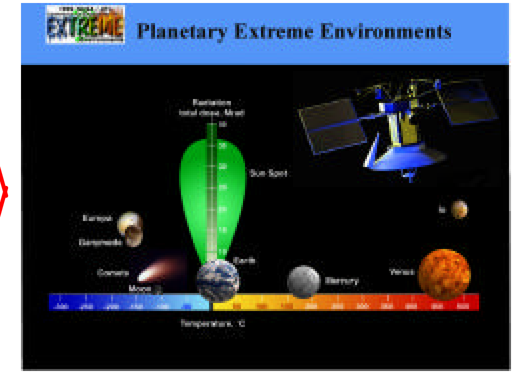
Nanoscale Structures (~20nm)



New Devices for **Sensing** and **Computing**



Analyze Devices: **Environment** and **Failures**



Assertions / Problems:

- Nanoscale electronic structures are built today! The design space is huge: choice of materials, compositions, doping, size, shape
- Radiation on today's sub-micron devices modifies the electronics on a nanoscale.

Approach:

- Deliver a 3-D atomistic simulation tool
- Enable analysis of arbitrary crystal structures, particles, atom compositions and bond/structure at arbitrary temperatures and ambient electric and magnetic fields.

Collaborators:

- U. of Alabama, Ames, Purdue

NASA Relevance:

- Enable new devices needed for NASA missions beyond existing industry roadmap:
  - Water detection -> 2-5µm Lasers and detectors.
  - Avionics -> High density, low power computing.
- Analyze state-of-the-art devices for non-commercial environments:
  - Europa -> Radiation and low temperature effects. Aging and failure modes.
  - Jovian system -> Magnetic field effects
  - Venus -> high temperature materials: SiGe

Impact:

- Low cost development of revolutionary technology
- Narrow empirical/experimental search space

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Modeling will narrow the empirical search space!

What is a Quantum Dot ?
Basic Application Mechanisms

Physical Structure:

- Well conducting domain surrounded in all 3 dim. by low conducting region(s)
- Domain size on the nanometer scale

Electronic structure:

- Contains a countable number of electrons
- Electron energy may be quantized -> artificial atoms (coupled QD->molecule)

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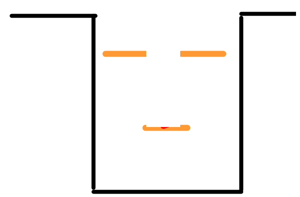

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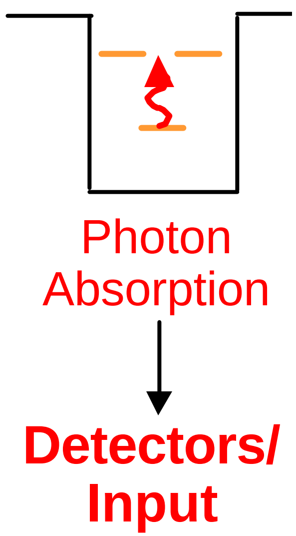

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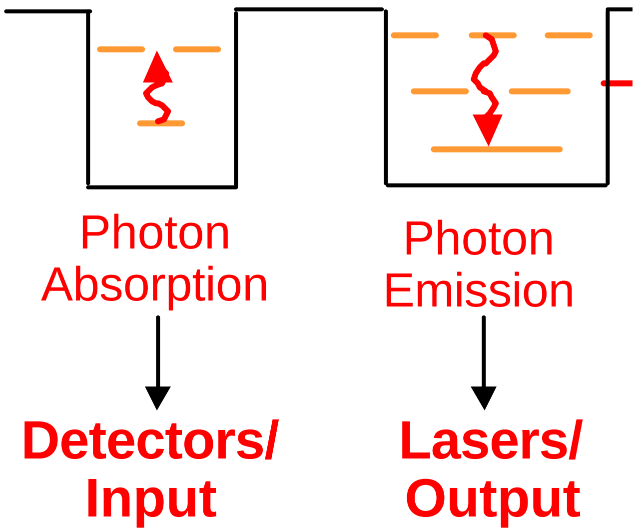

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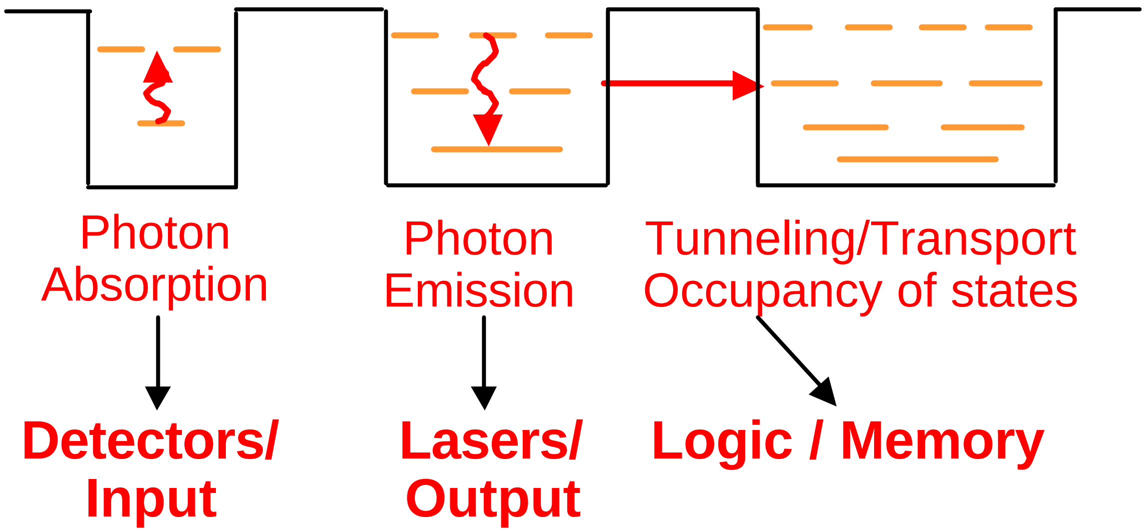

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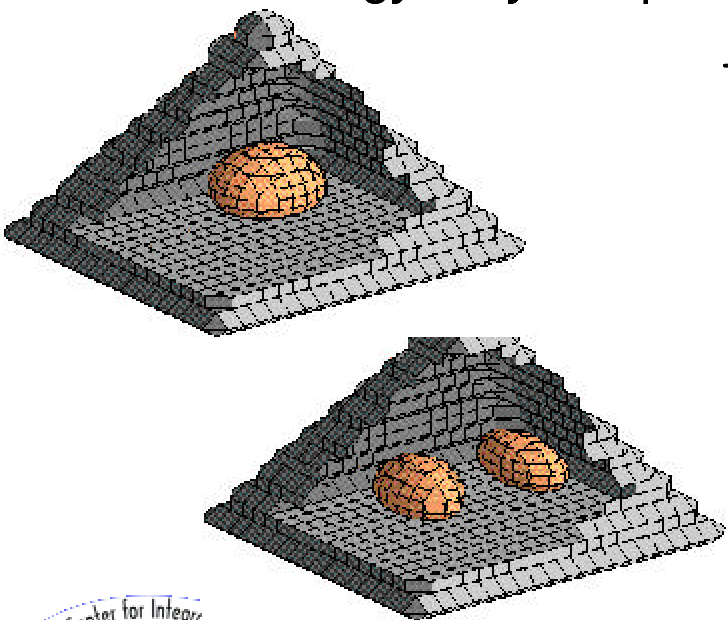
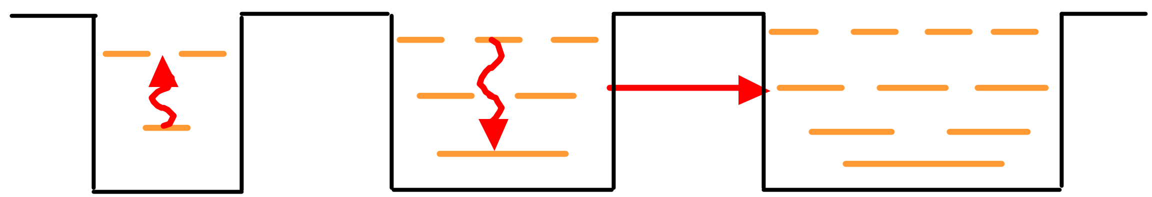




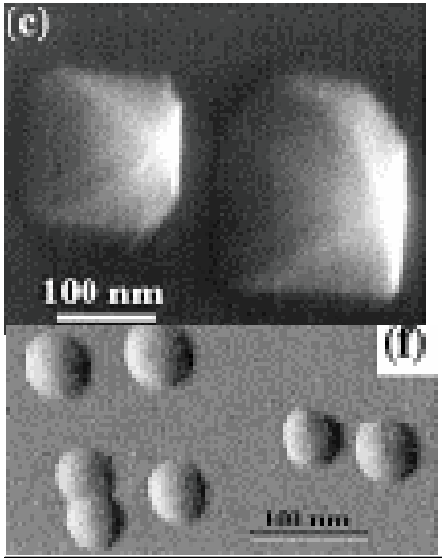
Photon Absorption → **Detectors/ Input**

Photon Emission → **Lasers/ Output**

Tunneling/Transport Occupancy of states → **Logic / Memory**

Quantum dots are artificial atoms that can be custom designed for a variety of applications

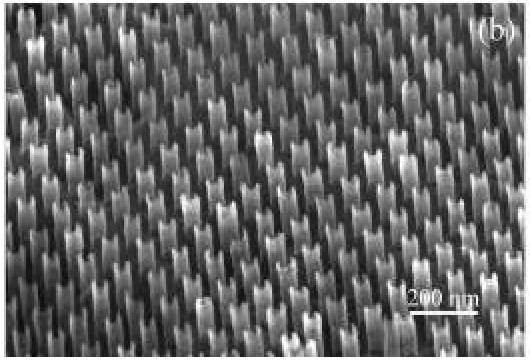
Nanotechnology / Nanoelectronic Example Implementations



Self-assembled , InGaAs on GaAs.

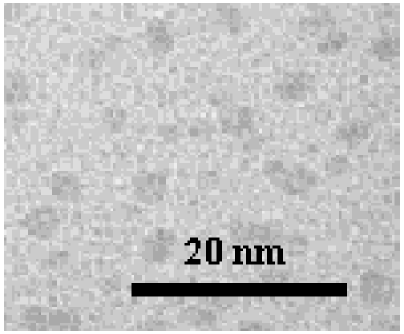
Pyramidal or dome shaped

R.Leon,JPL(1998)



Nanotube Arrays,

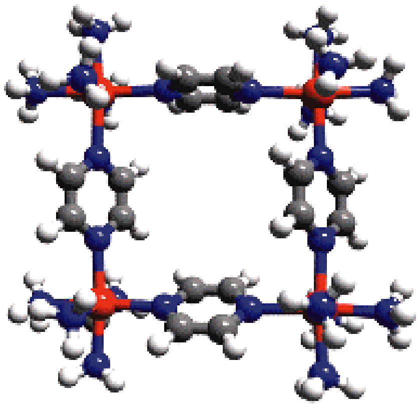
Jimmy Xu, Brown Univ. (1999)



Nanocrystals:

Si implanted in SiO_2

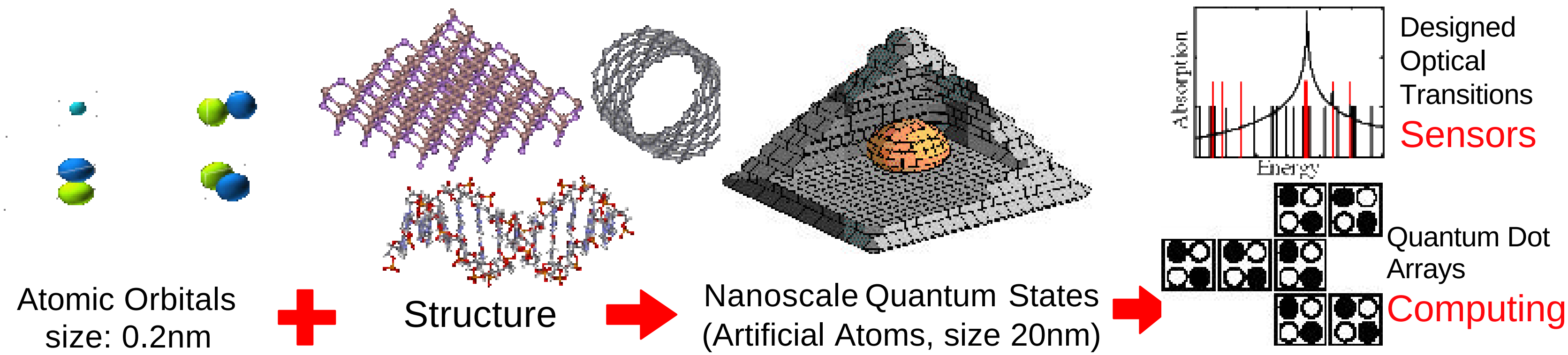
Atwater, Caltech (1996)



Molecular Dots
Ruthenium-based molecule Ru4(NH3)16(C4H4 N2)410+ proposed by Marya Lieberman, Notre Dame (1999)

Low Dimensional quantum confinement can be achieved in a variety of material systems

Technical Approach



Problem:

Nanoscale device simulation requirements:

- Cannot use bulk / jellium descriptions, need description of the material atom by atom
  => use pseudo-potential or local orbitals
- Consider finite extension, not infinitely periodic
  => local orbital approach
- Need to include about one million atoms.
  => need massively parallel computers
- The design space is huge: choice of materials, compositions, doping, size, shape.
  => need a design tool

Approach:

- Use local orbital description for individual atoms in arbitrary crystal / bonding configuration
  - Use s, p, and d orbitals.
  - Use genetic algorithm to determine material parameter fitting
- General structure input → nanotube
- Develop efficient parallel algorithms to generate eigenvalues/vectors of very large matrices (N=40million for a 2 million atom system).
- Compute mechanical strain in the system.
- Alloy disorder → linewidth broadening
- Interface interdiffusion

Realistic material description at the atomic level enables simulation of realistic nanoelectronic devices.

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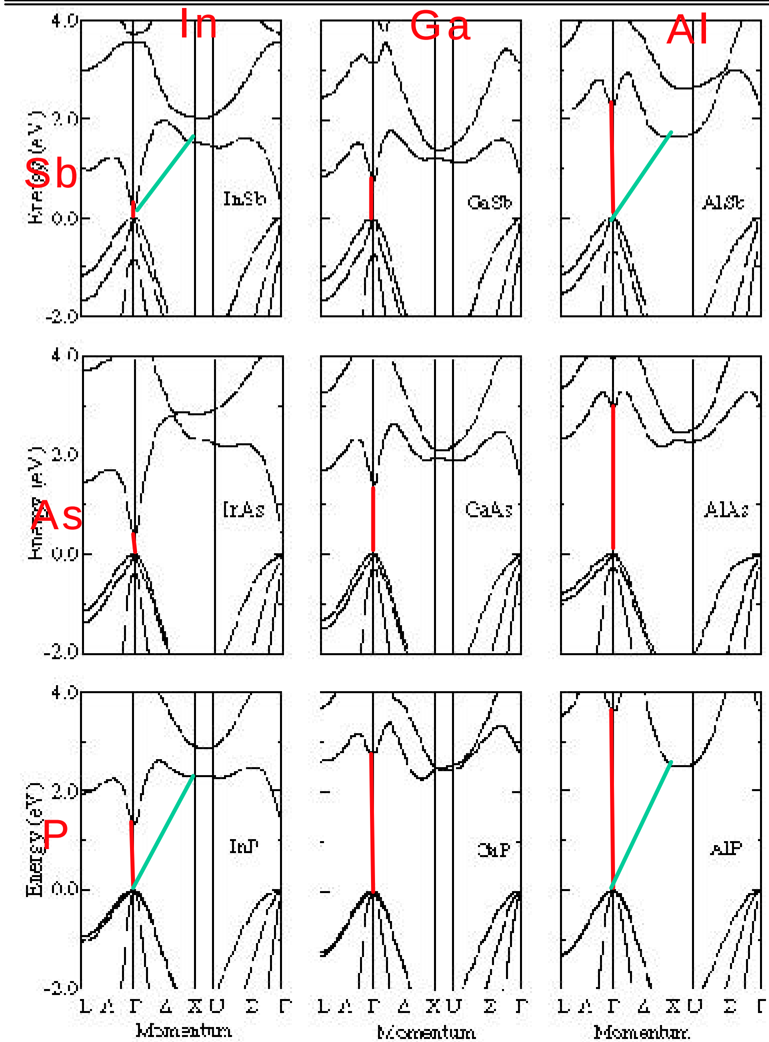
Genetic algorithm based material parameter analysis



Problem:

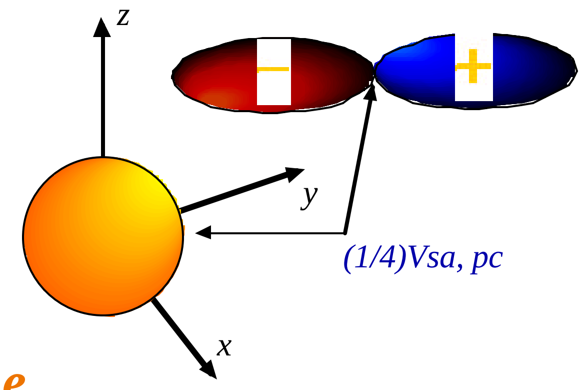
- Want atomistic / orbital based material description.
- Need to fit 15-30 orbital interaction energies to 20-30 material properties (bandgaps and masses)

Approach:

- Use massively parallel genetic algorithm to perform multidimensional optimization

Results/Impact:

- Established a 3x3 array of materials and their parameters that are the building blocks of quantum dots.
- Enable the atomistic simulation of quantum dots.



Genetic algorithm enabled the establishment of a material basis set.

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Mechanical Strain Calculations

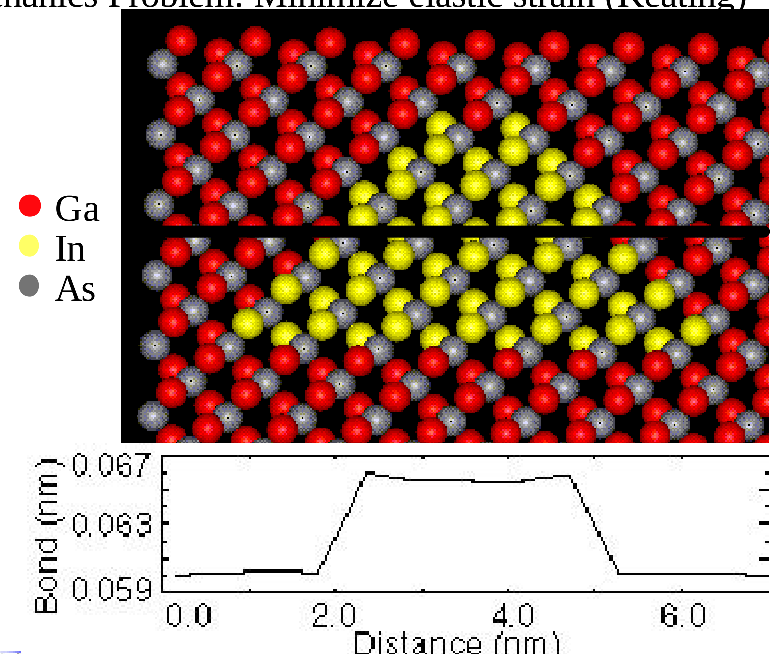
Problem:
- Self-assembly dot formation due to strain
- Small mechanical strain (5% bond length)
  → dramatic effects on electronic structures

Approach:
- Nanomechanical strain calculation
- Nanoelectronic strain calculation.

Results:
- Implemented a mechanical strain model.
- Implemented atomistic bandstructure model that comprehends strain.

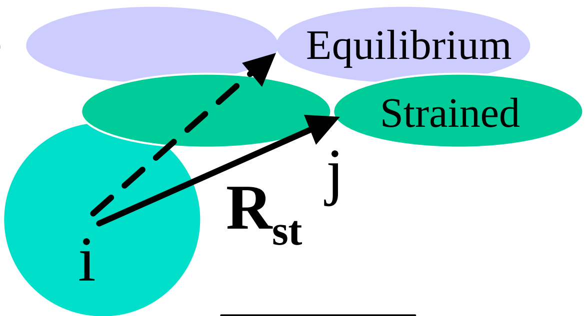
Impact:
- Can simulate realistic quantum dots.
- Can estimate optical transition energies properly.

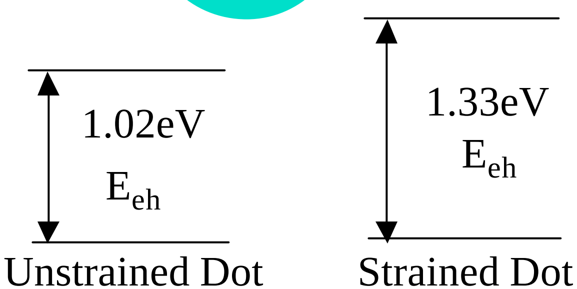
Mechanics Problem: Minimize elastic strain (Keating)



Electronics Problem: Effect of overlap changes

Orbital overlap changes
➔ bandgaps and masses





Pyramidal InAs Dot Simulation
Base: 7nmx7nm Height: 3nm Embedded in GaAs

Small strain has dramatic effects on the electronic structure.

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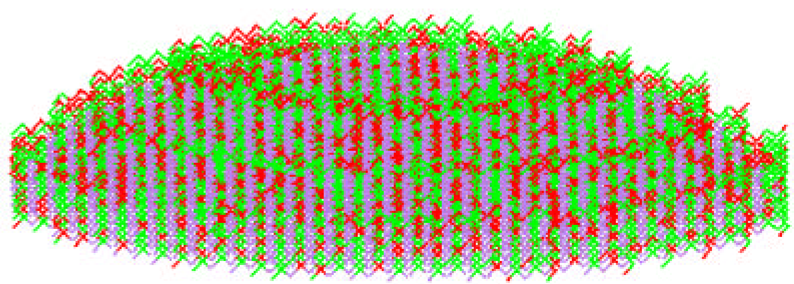
Alloy Disorder in Quantum Dots

Problem:
- Cations are randomly distributed in alloy dots.
- Does alloy disorder limit electronic structure uniformity for dot ensembles?

Approach:
- Simulate a statistical ensemble of alloyed dots.
- Requires atomistic simulation tool.

Results:
- Simulated 50 dots with random cation distributions.
- Inhomogeneous broadening factor of 9.4 meV due to alloy disorder.

Impact:
- Fundamental uniformity limit for ensemble of alloy-based quantum dots.

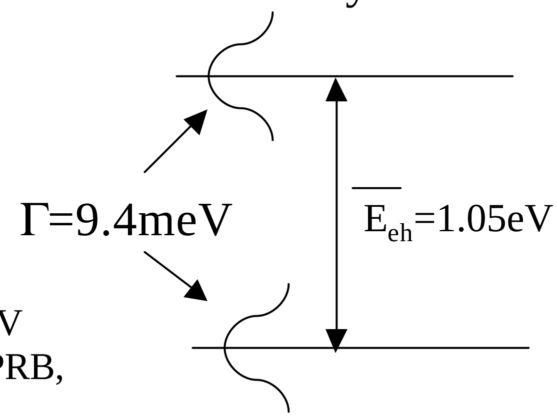


$In_{0.6}Ga_{0.4}As$ Lens Shaped Dot

(Diameter=30nm, Height=5nm, GaAs embedded)

In and Ga atoms are randomly distributed
Inhomogeneous Broadening?

Simulation of Alloy Dot Ensemble



Measured
Γ=34.6 meV
(R. Leon, PRB,
58, R4262)

9.4meV Theoretical Lower Limit

Alloy disorder presents a theoretical lower limit on optical linewidths

Atomistic Grading Simulation

Problem:
- Quantum dot interfaces may not be sharp.
- There may be cation redistribution around the interface => grading of the concentration.
- How does the interfacial grading affect the electronic structure?

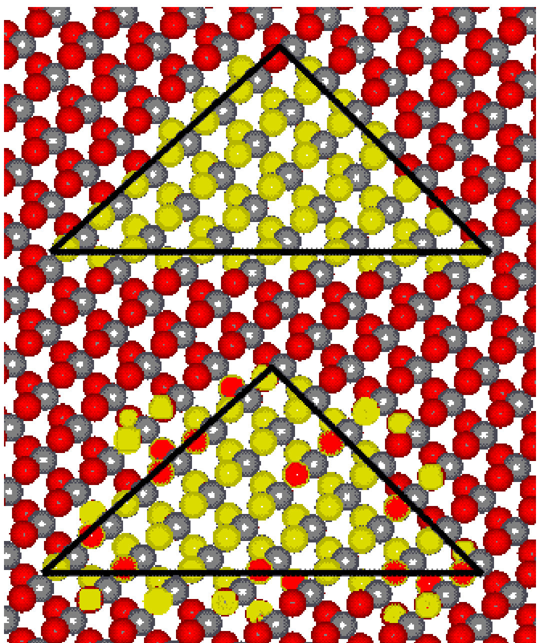
Approach:
- Simulate quantum dot atomistically with graded interfaces as a function of interdiffusion length.

Results:
- More Ga in the quantum dot raises the energy of the transition energies.
- Less Ga in the barriers softens the barriers, reduces the binding of the excited states to the quantum dot and reduces $\Delta E = E_2 - E_1$.

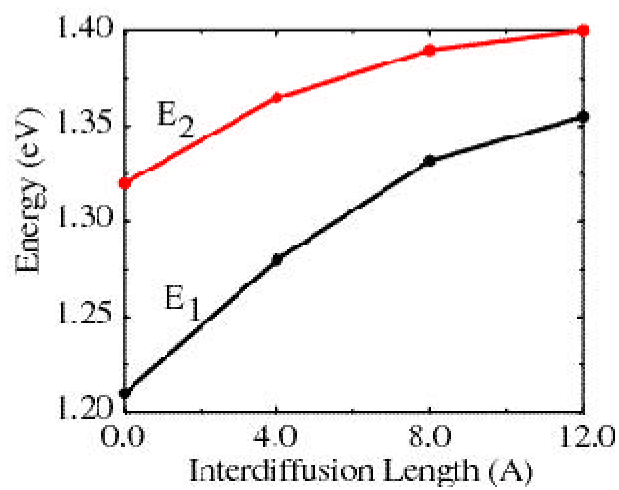
Impact:
- Verify experimentally suggested interdiffusion process may be responsible for blue shift and reduction in ΔE.

Cartoon Visualization of Interdiffusion

Slice through 2 Qdots with thickness of 3 atoms - with and without interdiffusion



Ga
In
As



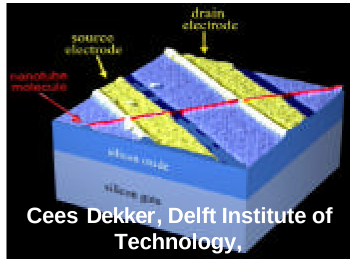
Pyramidal InAs in GaAs, Diameter=10nm, Height=4.2nm
5 samples per data point

Interdiffusion widens the bandgap => blueshift

Incorporate Arbitrary Molecular Files → Nanotubes

Background:

- Carbon nanotubes are currently explored for electronic and structural applications.



Cees Dekker, Delft Institute of Technology,

Objective/Motivation:

- Simulate optical interactions and electron transport in nanotubes

Problem:

- Need nanotube structural information.
- We do not have that expertise.

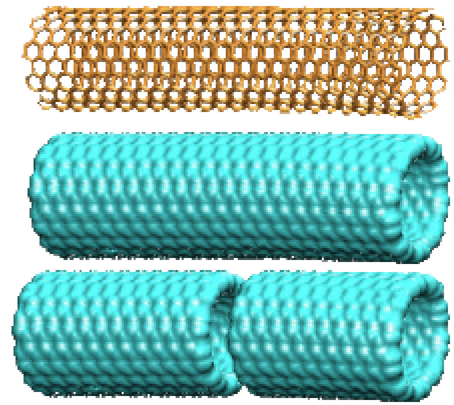
Approach:

- Expanded code to read standard chemical structure file format.
- Get structural information from other researchers.

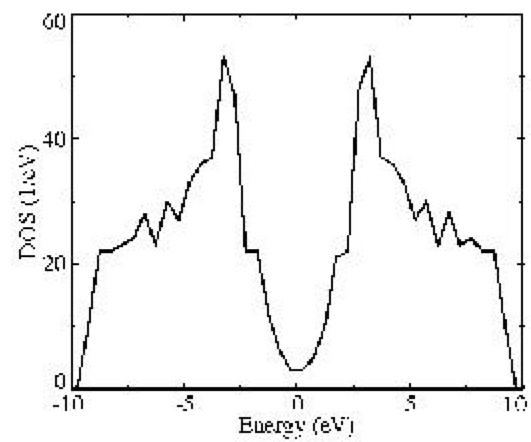
Result:

- Simulated nanotube ground states and density of states.

Preliminary Data



Finite size nanotube ground and excited state



Density of States

We can input molecular dynamics based files and perform electronic structure calculations

Code Parallelization

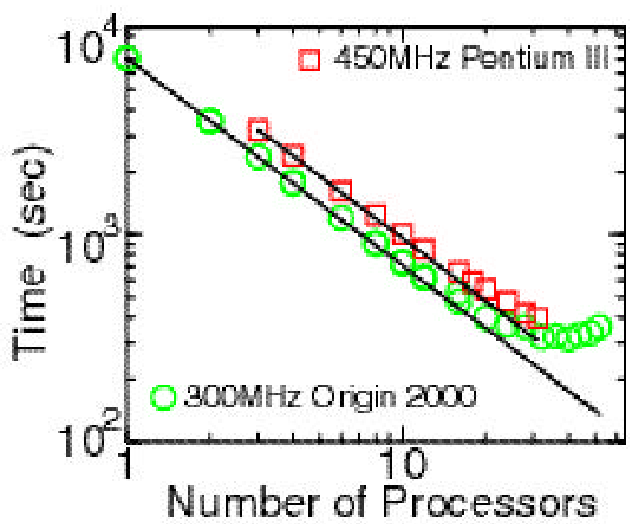
Problem:
- Need to calculate eigenvalues of a complex matrix of the order of 40 million.
  => must parallelize code

Approach:
- Compare Origin 2000 with distributed memeroy beowulf.
  - beowulf: 450 MHz, 32 nodes, 500 MB/node
  - Origin 2000: 300 MHz, 128 cpu, 64 GB

Vision:
- Utilize a designated beowulf cluster of PC's as a workhorse for these simulations. Each node might have 1-4 shared memory CPUs on one motherboard.

Results:
- Inexpensive commodity cluster scales competitively with shared memory Origin 2000.

Impact:
- Enabled simulation of 2 million atom systems with 20 orbitals on each atom
  => matrix of order 40million



Compare Origin 2000 vs. Beowulf:

10 Lanczos Iterations for a 1million atom system.

Cluster of commodity PC's can beat a supercomputer for our problem

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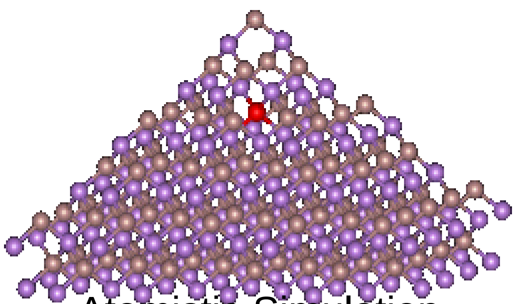
Future Plans

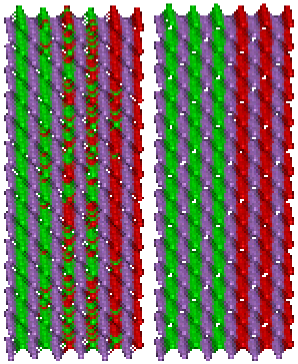
- Simulation of ensembles of alloyed quantum dots
  - Study fundamental limit of spectral lines due to alloy disorder
- Simulation of many-body effects via configuration interaction
  - Simulate optical transitions including effects of excitons
- Electron transport through quantum dot
  - Explore design possibilities for electronic transport devices
- “Super-scaled” tight-binding model to treat large arrays of quantum dots
- Transport through Nanotubes
- Develop a world-class 3-d nanoelectronic modeling tool

Conclusions / Future Vision

- Parallelization (2×10^6 atoms)
- Graded junctions, alloy disorder, strain
- Made significant progress towards a general atomistic simulation tool
- Envision this tool to have impact on quantum dots, end of SIA roadmap issues, and molectronics.

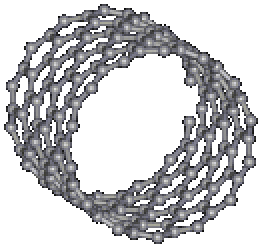
Quantum Dots


Atomistic Simulation

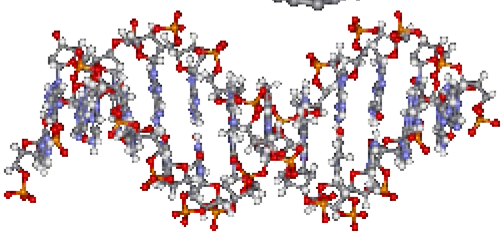
Grading

Graded Abrupt

Transport in Molecules

Carbon Nanotubes

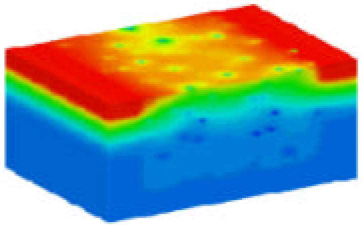


DNA

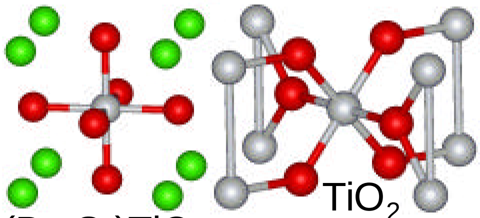


End of SIA Roadmap

Dopant Fluctuations in Ultra-scaled CMOS



Electron Transport in Exotic Dielectrics


$(Ba,Sr)TiO_3$ TiO_2

The best is still to come!

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Backup Foils

Technical Accomplishments (Physics)

- Genetic algorithm based material parameter analysis
  - Establish a material basis set needed for atomistic simuations
- Mechanical strain calculation
  - Enable proper modeling of optical bandgaps
    -> proper tuning of optical transitions
- Alloyed Dot simulation
  - Enable simulation of realistic quantum dot compositions
  - Enable analysis of inhomogeneous linewidth broadening due to alloy disorder
- Atomistic grading simulation
  - Enable simulation of realistic quantum dot interfaces
  - Enable simulation of interface interdiffusion and the resulting modification of the confined quantum states.

We are just starting to explore the capabilities of this simulator!

Technical Accomplishments (Software)

- **Parallelization**
  - **Evaluate performance of 2 different parallel computing paradigms:**
    - **shared memory (all CPUs can access the same memory)**
    - **distributed memory (message passing between CPUs)**

  $\Rightarrow$ **performed a 2 million atom simulation in the distributed model**

- **Analysis of general molecular inputs -> Nanotubes**
  - **Enable electronic simulation of "arbitrary" crystal structures generated from other structural simulators.**
    -> Expansion to Moletronics

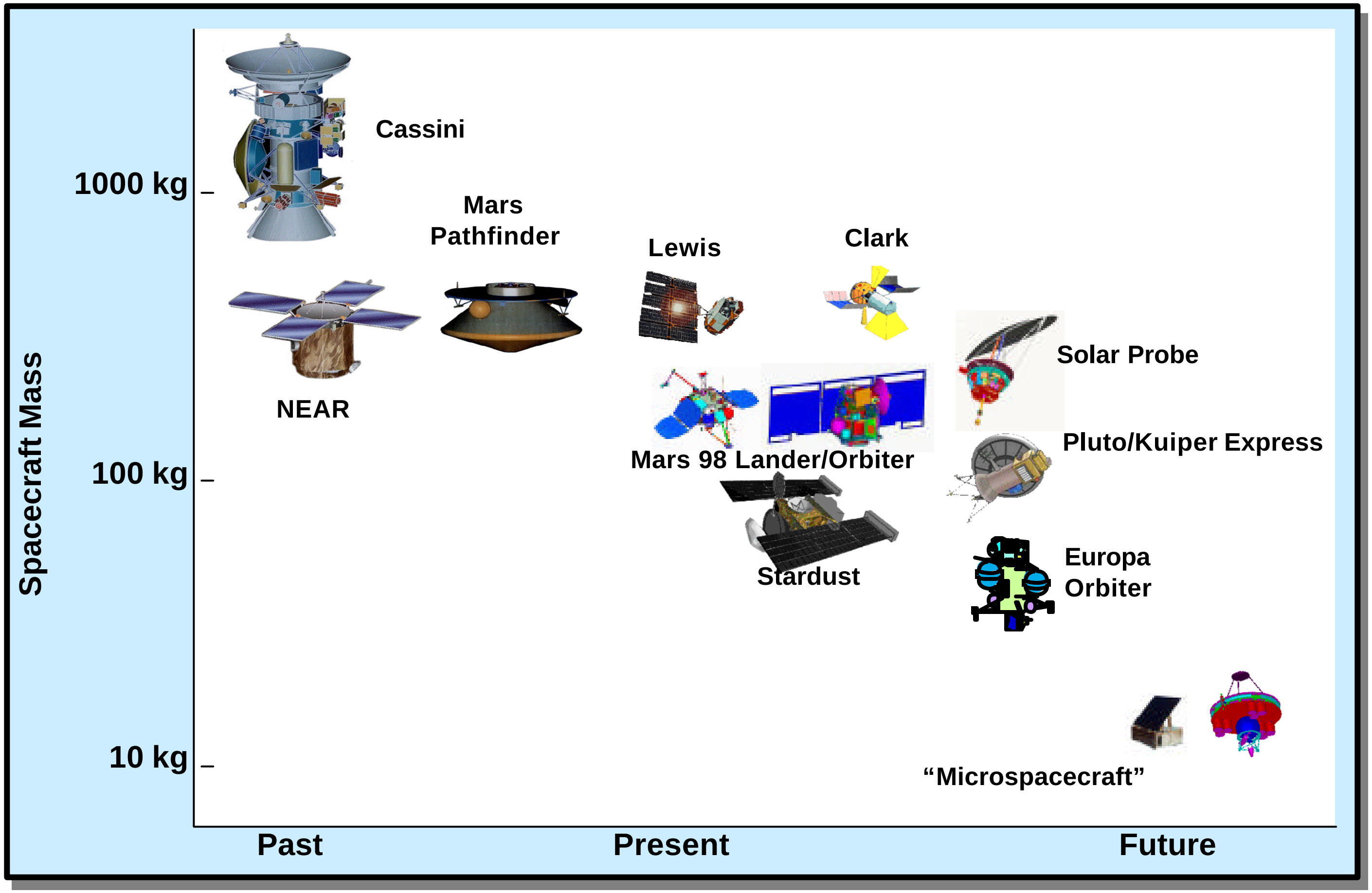
3 person years of software work at JPL and 22 person years NEMO leverage enabled the simulation capabilities.

NASA Mission Requirements

- High radiation tolerance
- Extreme temperature operation
- Low weight, low power, high performance, high capacity

NASA missions require systems that currently do not exist

Progressive Spacecraft Miniaturization



Low weight, low power and high efficiency

Have a special meaning to NASA

Need for Nanoelectronic Simulation

Problems:

- **Design space is huge**
  - **Choice of materials, shapes, orientations, dopings, heat anneals**
- **Characterizations are incomplete and invasive / destructive**

Simulation Impact:

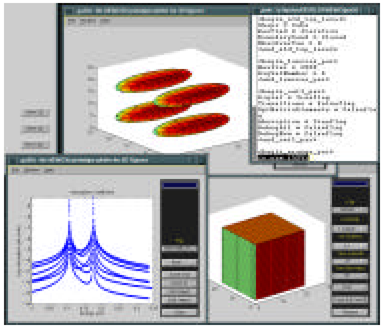
- **Aide Design**
  - **Fast, cost effective.**

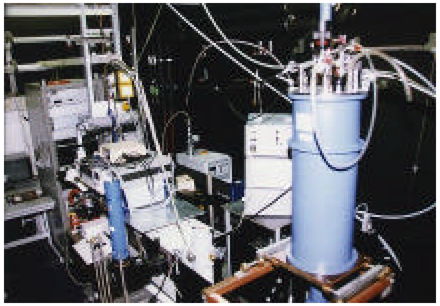
  -> Device performance
  already successful for 1-D quantum devices

- **Aide Characterization**
  - **Non-invasive**
  - **More accurate**

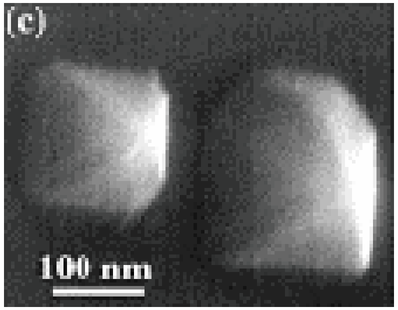
  -> Structure and doping analysis
  already successful for 1-D quantum devices

Simulation





Characterization



Fabrication

Modeling, Characterization and Fabrication are inseparable for nanoscale devices

Nanotechnology Project Portfolio

- **Modeling**
  - Enable the exploration of the nanotechnology design space.
- **Characterization**
  - Optical, structural, transport and radiation testing.
- **Devices**
  - **Lasers / Output:**
    Enable radiation hard, narrow linewidth tunable lasers.
  - **Sensors / Input:**
    Enable acoustic and electronic sensors based on nanotubes.
  - **Memory:**
    Enable high density, low power, non-volatile, radiation hard storage.
- **Architectures:**
  - Enable massively parallel and fault tolerant computing architectures.

Future deep space applications will directly benefit from directed nanotechnology research

Related Work

Investigator	Location	Hamiltonian	Atomistic	Many-Body	Extendable to Molecules?
Pryor	Lund	k•p	NO	YES	NO
Bimberg	Berlin	k•p	NO	NO	NO
Freund	Brown	k•p	NO	NO	NO
Leburton	Illinois	1 Band	NO	NO	NO
Zunger	NREL	Pseudopotential	**YES**	NO	NO
Bowen/Klimeck	JPL	Tight-binding	**YES**	NO*	**YES**

* - Planned for 01

Why JPL? JPL has expertise and infrastructure to tackle such large problems.

We are in a excellent position to simulate molecular electronics from the bottom -up

Objective

- **Long term objective:**
  - Develop and demonstrate a physics-based, atomistic simulation tool for semiconductor quantum dots and molecular based electronic devices
- **Near term objective:**
  - Develop this year the technology necessary to simulate optical transitions in a single quantum dot
- **Tasks in FY 00:**
  - Alloyed dot simulation (04/00)
  - Shared memory parallelization (05/00)
  - 3-D visualization (05/00)
  - Atomistic grading simulation (07/00)
  - Atomistic impurity simulation (09/00)

We build a bottom-up, atomistic nanelectronic design tool

Software Structure Prototype/Vision

Objective:

- Design, develop, test and deliver an interactive quantum dev. design tool
- Customers: Experimentalists not Simulation Specialists !

Problem:

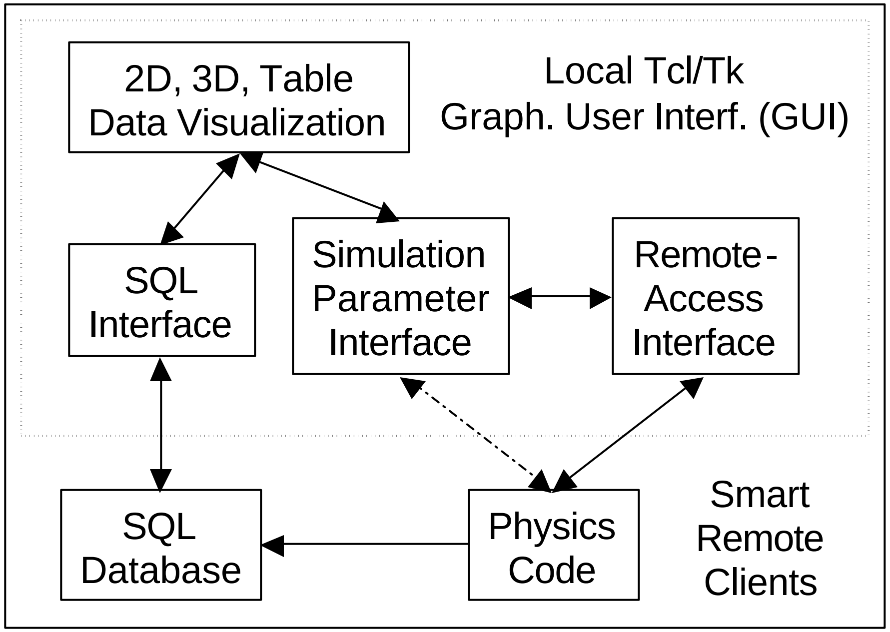
- Simulations are CPU intensive -> need supercomputers
- Datasets are typically 4-dim ->need custom visualization
- Local workstations are PC, MAC, SUN or SGI ->need portable Graph. User Interf.
- Input requirements change fast ->need dynamic GUI design

Approach:

- Heterogeneous client-server Tcl/Tk-based GUI

Impact:

- Using this approach on 2 completely independent simulators with little additional development time.



Smarts are OUTSIDE the GUI:

- Physics code contains I/O structures
- Database completely general

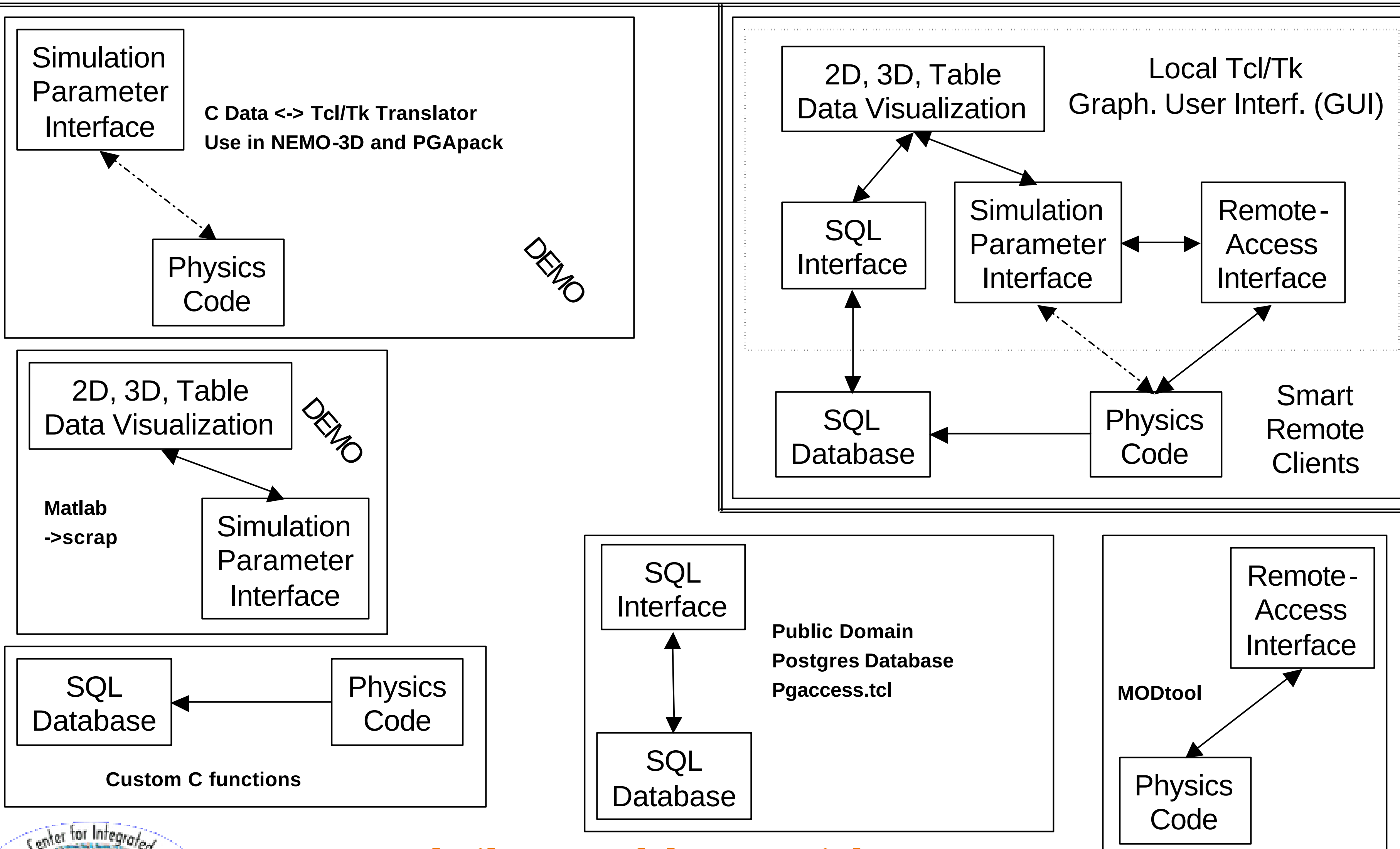
-> GUI retrieves I/O structures and data from smart clients.

-> Flexibility for user and developer

Flexible software design enables use in various different simulators

Quantum Dot Modeling - Development of Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool

Software Structure Status



Have built most of the essential components, need to go through integration process.

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Quantum Dots: Optical and Structural characterization

Task Lead: Rosa Leon

Objectives:

COMPUTERS

- Quantum Dots can enable new types of computing architectures (for example QCA).

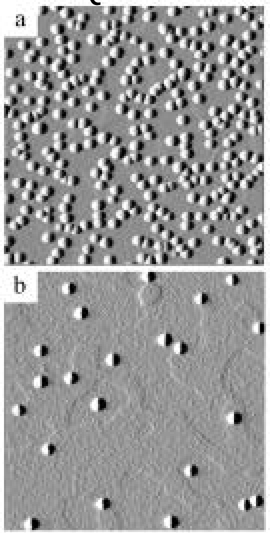
MEMORIES

- QDs can be used in ultra-high density optical memories.

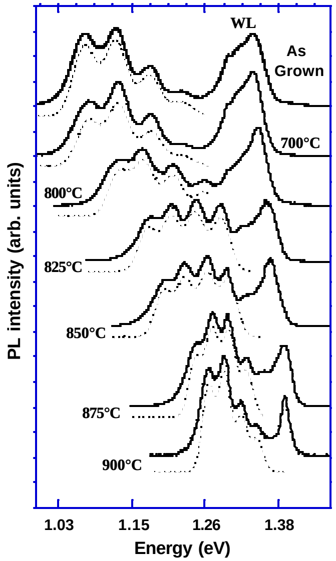
RADIATION TOLERANCE

- QDs enable radiation-hard opto-electronic devices.

InGaAs Quantum Dots



Squares are 1 µm by 1 µm



Tuning inter-sublevel energies in Quantum Dots

Approach:

- **Achieve positional order of Quantum Dots (QDs) by combining patterning and various types of growth experiments.**
- **Implement experimental capabilities for in-house QD characterization.**
- **Collaborate with Universities on fabrication, growth experiments, and characterization.**
- **Perform tests and experiments on existing QD structures - understand QD properties and how they impact their various device applications.**

Center for Integrated Space Microsystems CISM

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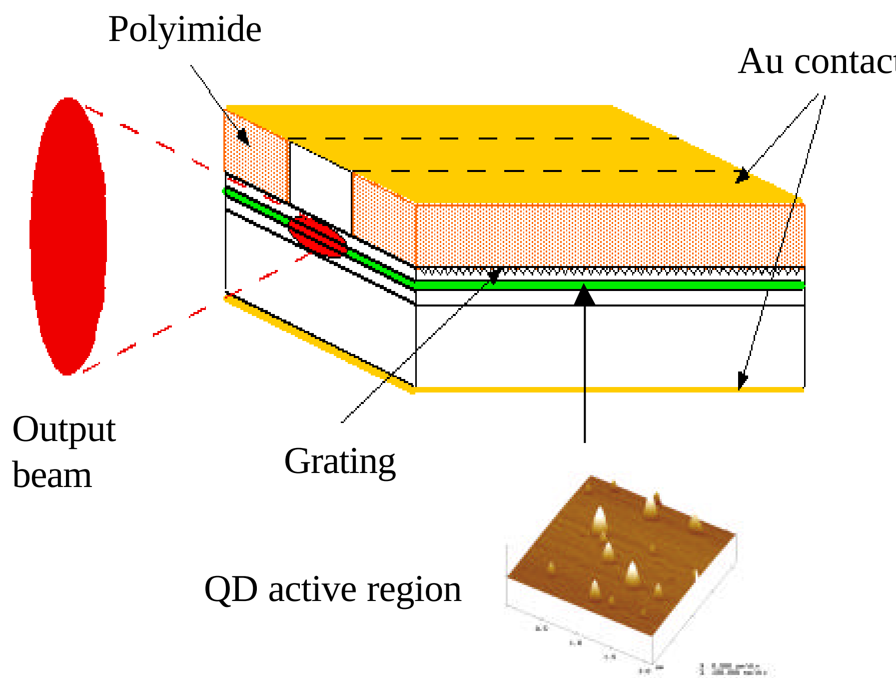
UAH

Quantum Dot Fabrication for Lasers

Task Lead: Yueming Qiu

Objective:

- Design and fabricate high efficient, low power consumption, radiation hard QD based optoelectronic devices, such as:
  - lasers
    - ultralow threshold current density
    - temperature insensitive
    - narrow linewidth



NASA applications:

- Large format, low noise IR detector arrays are enabling technology for SSE
- Broad area of applicability:
  - Spectroscopy
  - Microinstruments
  - Communications
  - LIDAR and Interferometry

Collaborators:

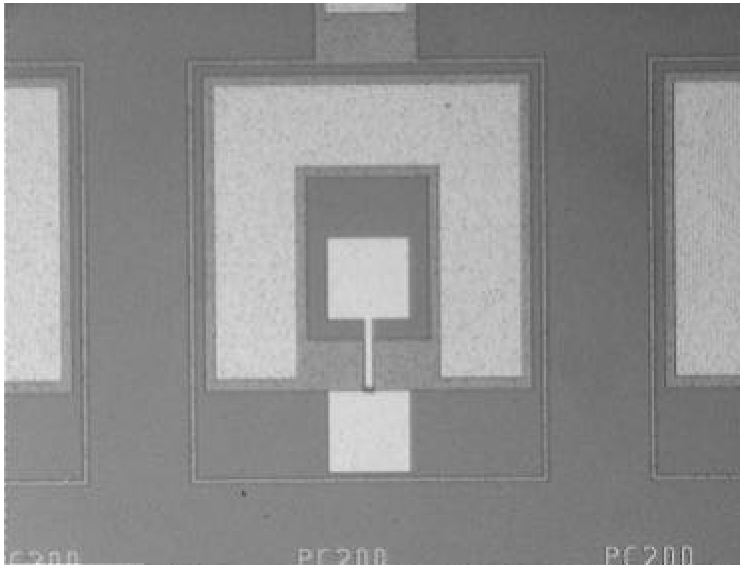
- University of New Mexico

Single Electron Nonvolatile Memory

Task Lead: Doug Bell

Task Purpose/Objectives:

- Develop a *room-temperature, radiation-tolerant* memory technology based on single-electron storage.
- Decrease read/write time by orders of magnitude using a novel peaked-tunnel-barrier concept.
- Increase capability for computing storage by increasing storage density and decreasing storage power.



Major Products:

- Silicon nanocrystal floating-gate memory
- Shape-engineered tunnel barrier for breakthrough read/write speed.

NASA Relevance:

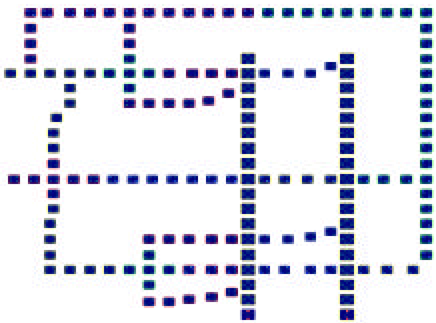
- **Space Science**: (autonomous spacecraft systems and robots)
- **Earth Science**: (autonomous navigation / guidance; sensing and sensor webs)
- **Human Exploration**: (autonomous robotic monitoring systems)

Quantum Dot Modeling - Development of Bottom-Up Nanoelectronic Modeling Tool

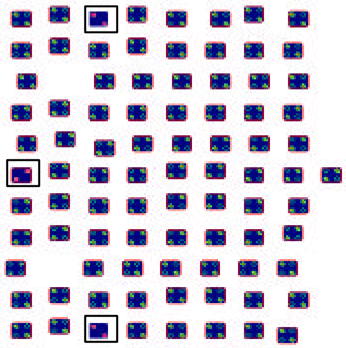
Quantum Dots Based Computing:

Quantum Dots Cellular Automata (QCA) Architectures and Applications

Task Lead: Amir Fijani



Novel QCA Circuits: A Bit-Serial Adder



Novel QCA Gates: Fault Tolerant Majority Gate

Objective:

- Develop new logic gates and circuits with emphasis on fault tolerance capabilities.
- Develop massively parallel computing architectures by exploiting inherent features of QCA.

Accomplishments:

- Alternative design of highly fault tolerant logic gates based on arrays of QCA.
- Massively parallel computing architectures for a set of signal/image processing applications.

NASA Relevance:

- Enable smaller and smarter spacecraft by providing drastic improvement over VLSI technology in terms of
  - Integration density
  - Mass, volume, and power consumption
  - Radiation tolerance
  - Enabling novel applications

External Collaborators:

- University of Notre Dame
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory

QCA: A totally new computing paradigm

Challenges: Architecture and Application Design, Fault Tolerance

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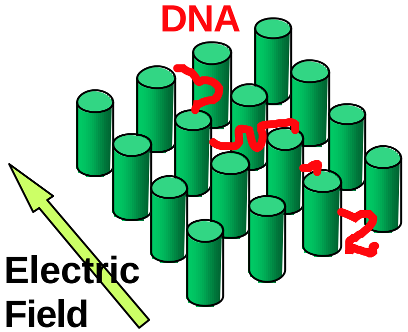
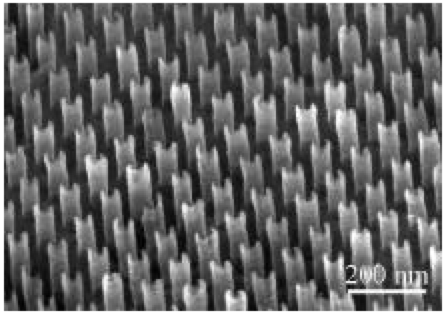
Bio-Inspired Nanotube Array Applications

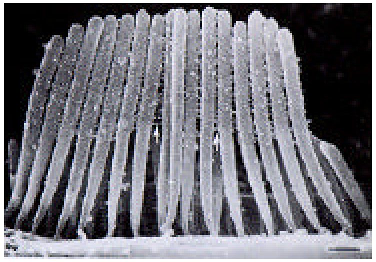
Task Lead: Brian Hunt



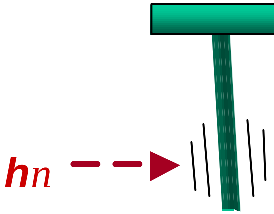
Nanotube-array electrophoresis system



Carbon nanotube array. Xu et al.



Biomimetic acoustic sensor



Mechanical signal processing

Motivation / Impact:

- Nanotubes combine useful properties and nanoscale dimensions
- NT-based electro-mechanical devices provide enabling technology for NASA missions: e.g., biomolecular probes, nanoexplorers

Objective:

Demonstrate prototype nanotube-based devices

- NT electrophoresis system
- Biomimetic acoustic sensor
- NT actuators
- NT high-Q resonators
- NT electronic components

NASA Applications:

- Search for life via acoustic and molecular signatures
- Nanoscale fabrication and characterization
- Revolutionary computing components
- Intense electron sources

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Motivation / Customers

- **NASA Relevance**:
  - Enable devices needed for NASA missions beyond existing industry roadmap:
    - 2-5μm lasers and detectors
    - High density, low power computation (logic and memory)
    - Life signature biosensors
- **Impact**:
  - Low cost development of revolutionary technology.
  - Narrow empirical/experimental search space
- **Customers / Missions**:
  - CISM
  - MDL
  - HPCC

Potential Benefits / Payoffs

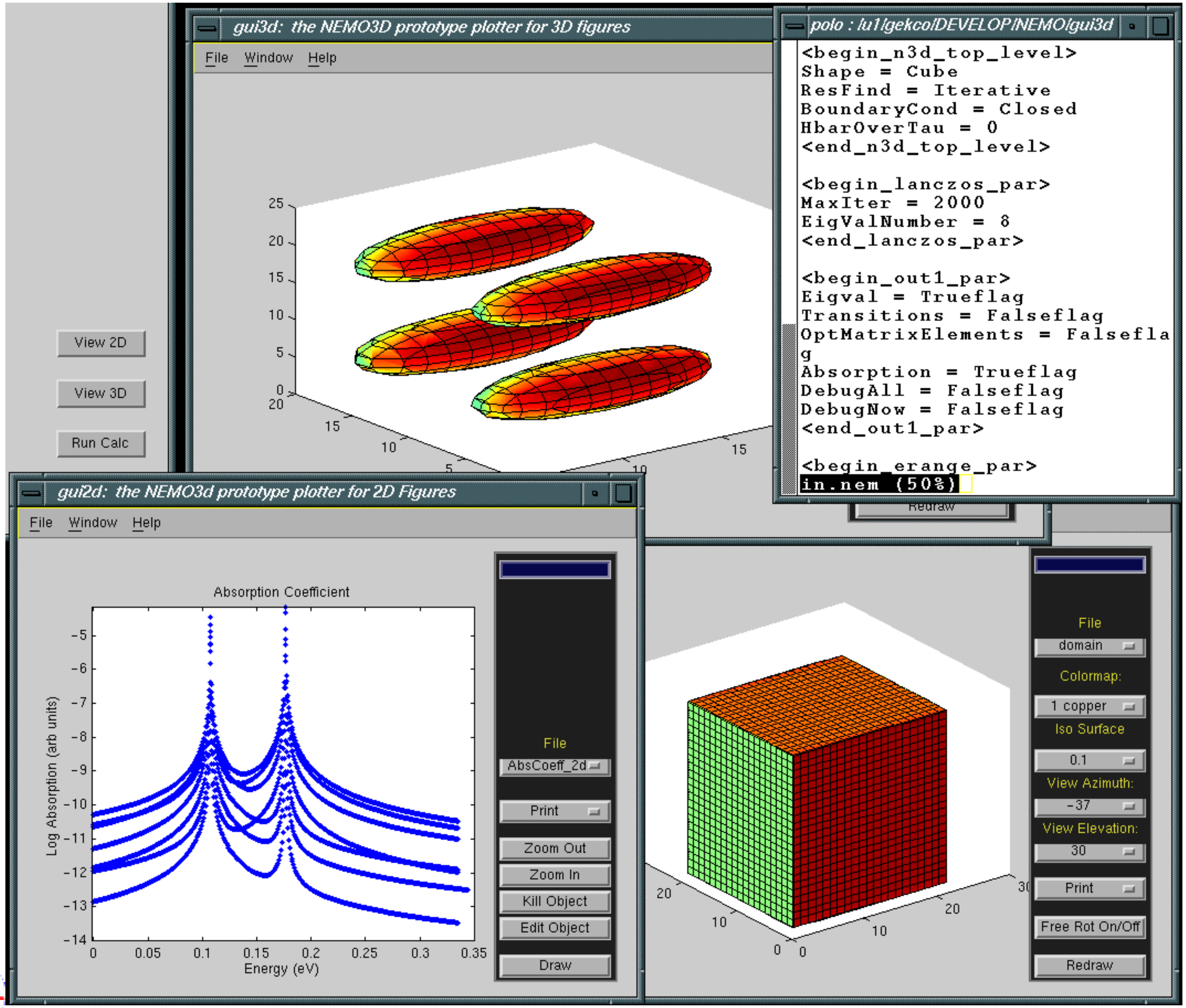
NASA Relevance:

- 2-5mm Lasers and detectors
- High density, low power computation (logic and memory)
- Life signature biosensors

Impact:

- Narrow empirical/experimental search space
- Low cost development of revolutionary technology.

Delivery of a Simulation Tool



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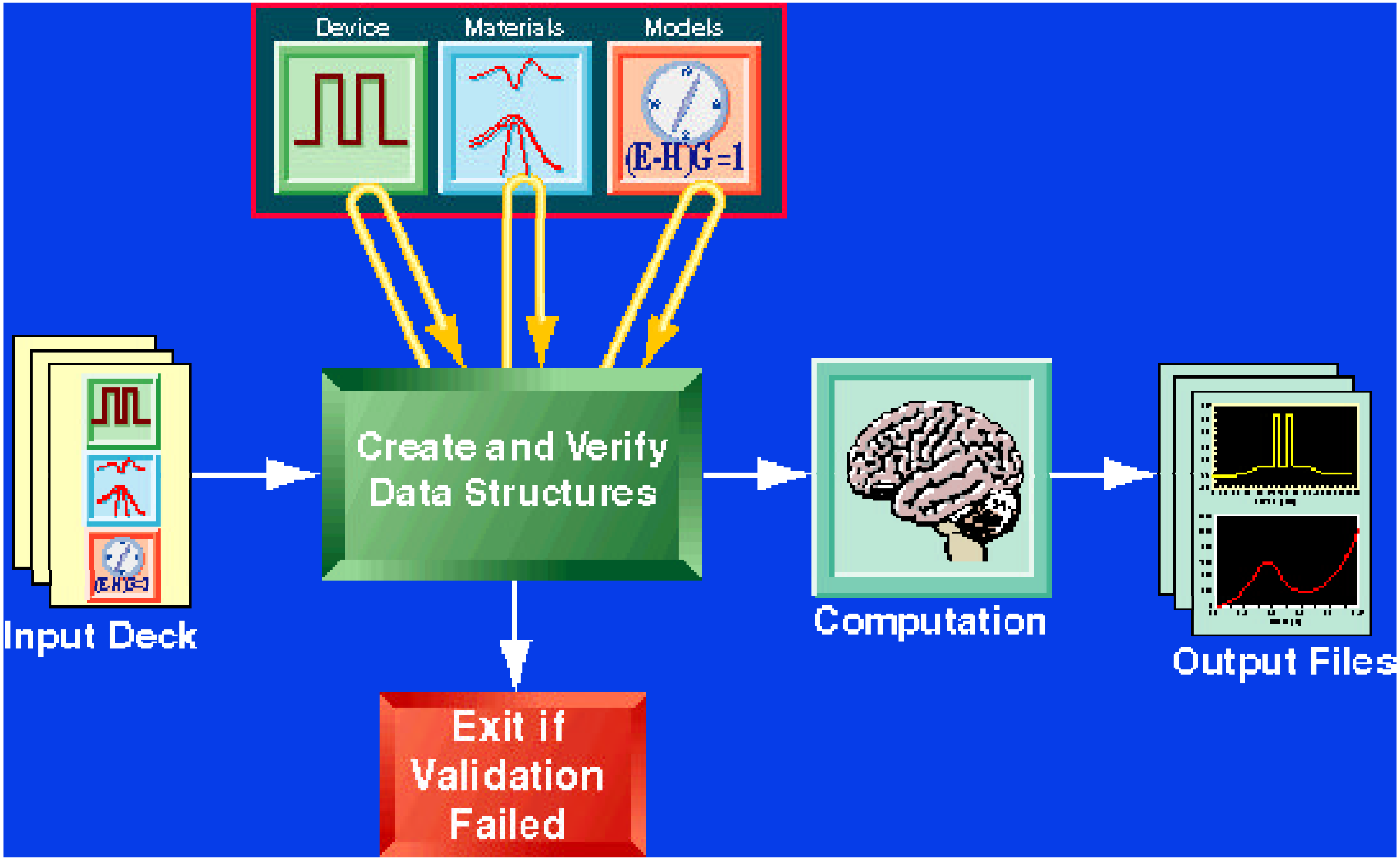
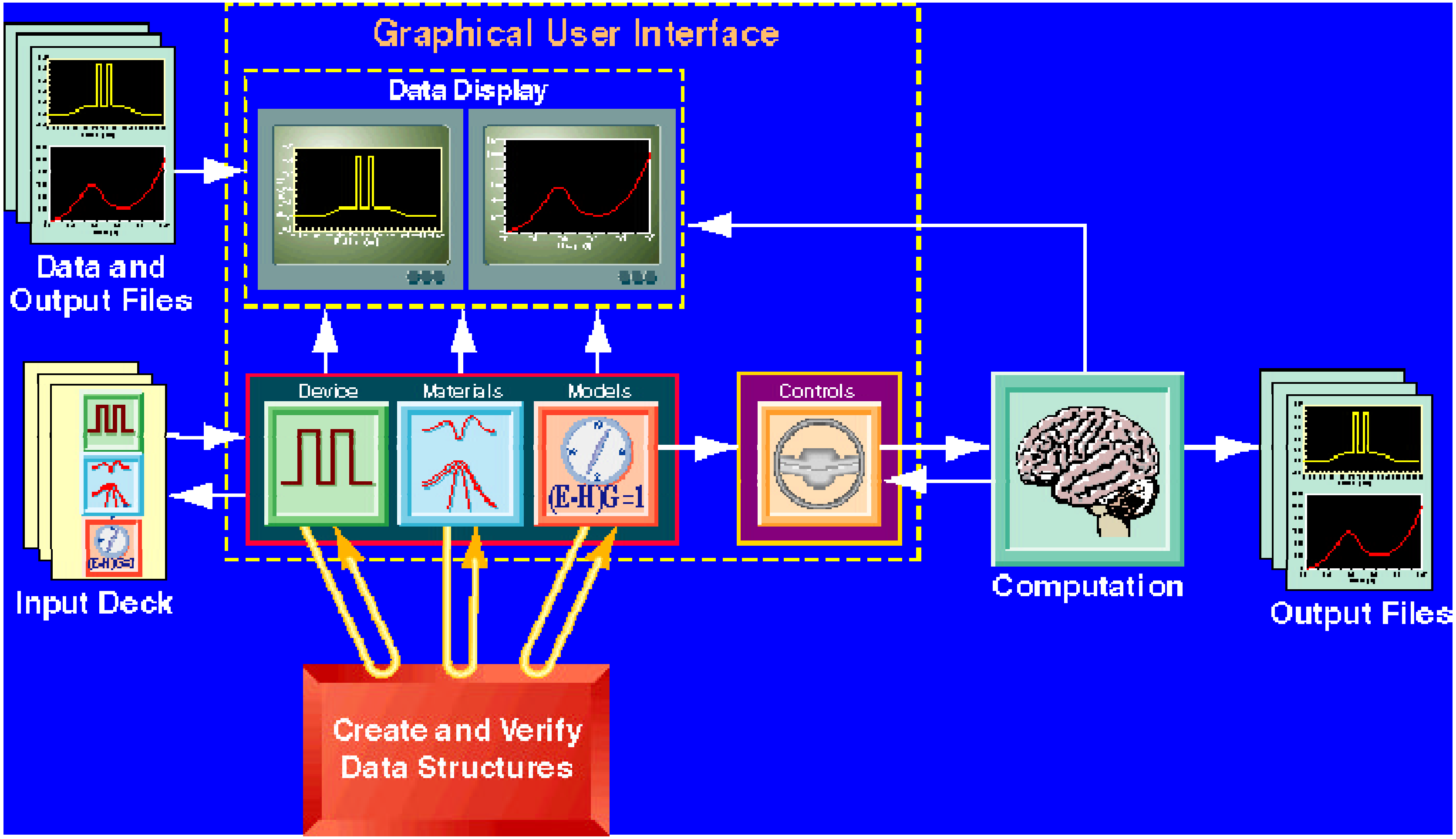
Batch Dataflow is Linear



GUI Data Flow is Continuous



GUI interacts with different software blocks continuously

Hierarchial Ordering of User Input

Semi-class. self-cons. pot. & single band current	Quantum self-cons. potential & single band current
	exchange & correlation?
	how to go from bias to bias?
Specify desired outputs	Specify desired outputs
Quantum region: "Where are wave-functions?"	Quantum region: "Where are wave-functions?"
Non-equilibrium region: "Where are the reservoirs?"	Non-equilibrium region: "Where are the reservoirs?"
	Quantum Charge region: "Where is the charge quantum mechanically calculated?"
Adaptive energy grid	Resonances-based energy grid

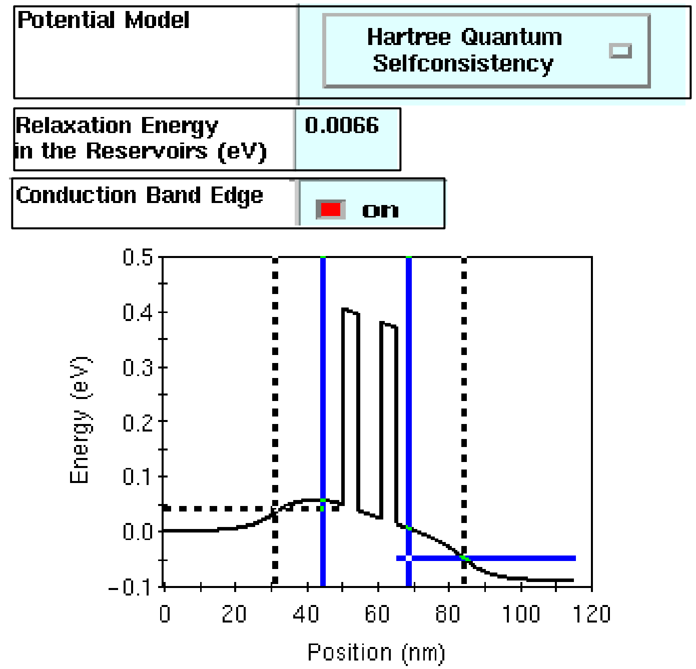
Ask user for input that is really needed.
-> User input determines the sequence of simulation parameter windows.

Generic Data Structure I/O

Dynamic GUI Design.

- data structure
- member descriptor

-> I/O for GUI or files



Graphical User Interface

Data Structure

```
PotType potential
real hbarovertau
Boolean Ec
RangeStruct NonEq
```

Translator

Create / Read (Translator ↔ Graphical User Interface)

Read / Create (Translator ↔ File/Batch User Interface)

File/Batch User Interface

```
potential=Hartree
hbarovertau=0.0066
Ec=FALSE
< start=45, end=69 >
```

Theorist

Software Engineer

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