

Two Dimensional Electron Gases at Oxide Interfaces

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DFG: SFB 484, EC: Nanoxide

2-DEGs Can Be Realized in Oxides



The *n*-type LaAlO₃ / SrTiO₃ Interface



LaAIO₃ band-insulator

 $LaTiO_3$

SrTiO₃ band-insulator, quantum-paraelectric

A. Ohtomo, H. Hwang, Nature <u>427</u>, 423 (2004)

Sample Configuration

Contacts via ion-etching and Au-sputtering





8 unit cells LaAlO₃ on SrTiO₃



	σ _s (Ω/□)-1	<i>n</i> _S (cm ⁻²)	µ (cm²/Vs)
300 K	5×10 ⁻⁵	2-4×10 ¹³	7
4.2 K	5×10 ⁻³	2-4×10 ¹³	700

STEM: Cross Section

HAADF

LAADF

L. Fitting-Kourkoutis, D.A. Muller (Cornell)

Interface Conductivity vs Number of LaAIO3 Unit Cells

reproduced by Chalmers, Geneva, Naples, Stanford, Tokyo, Twente S. Thiel *et al.*, Science **313**, 1942 (2006) The Polar Catastrophe is another Possible Source of Charge Carriers

N. Nakagawa et al., Nature Materials (2006)

Patterning the Electron Gas

- interface is not exposed to environment
- surface remains unexposed
- compatible with standard lithography techniques

Schneider et al., APL 89, 122101 (2006)

LETTERS

Mapping the spatial distribution of charge carriers in LaAIO₃/SrTiO₃ heterostructures

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Profiling the interface electron gas of LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃ heterostructures by hard X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy

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FIG. 4: (Color online) Comparison between experimental data and simulated spectra of the Ti $^{3+}$ spectral weight for the annealed 4 uc sample.

Low Carrier Density at the Interfaces ~2-4×10¹³/cm²

TiO₂-plane

TIO

↔ 3.9 Å

Gate-Field Induced Phase Transition to 2-DEG?

Field Effect Experiments - Top Gate

Field Effect Tuning of the Interface Properties

Measured Phase Diagram of the LaAIO₃/SrTiO₃ Interface

A.D. Caviglia et al., nature 2008

Electric Field Lithography

induce insulator-metal transition locally

Nanowires

an be written and erased repeatedly
are stable at 300 K for > 24 h (but not always)

C. Cen et al., Nature Materials 7, 298 (2008)

Electric Field Lithography

induce insulator-metal transition locally

written wires with nanotube diameter

Nanowires

an be written and erased repeatedly
are stable at 300 K for > 24 h (but not always)

C. Cen et al., Nature Materials 7, 298 (2008)

Possible Writing Mechanism

C. Cen et al., Science in press

LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃

YBa₂Cu₃O₇

LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃

(AIGa)As/GaAs Heterostructure