

# Optically Controlled Excitonic Transistor and Router

**P. Andreakou**<sup>1,2</sup>, S. V. Poltavtsev<sup>1,3</sup>, J. R. Leonard<sup>1</sup>, E. V. Calman<sup>1</sup>, M. Remeika<sup>1</sup>,  
Y. Y. Kuznetsova<sup>1</sup>, L. V. Butov<sup>1</sup>, J. Wilkes<sup>4</sup>, M. Hanson<sup>5</sup>, A. C. Gossard<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>: Department of Physics, University of California at San Diego, USA

<sup>2</sup>: Laboratoire Charles Coulomb, CNRS-INP-UMR 5221, Université Montpellier 2, France

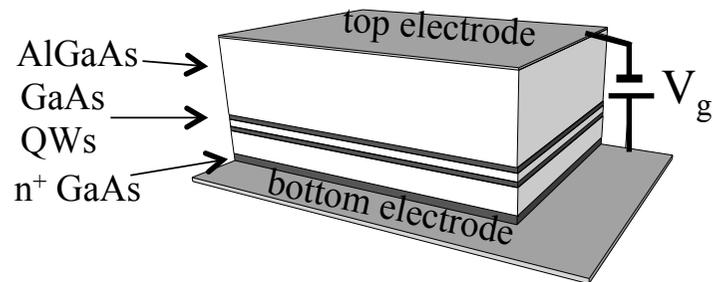
<sup>3</sup>: Spin Optics Laboratory, St. Petersburg State University, Russia

<sup>4</sup>: Department of Physics and Astronomy, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

<sup>5</sup>: Materials Department, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA

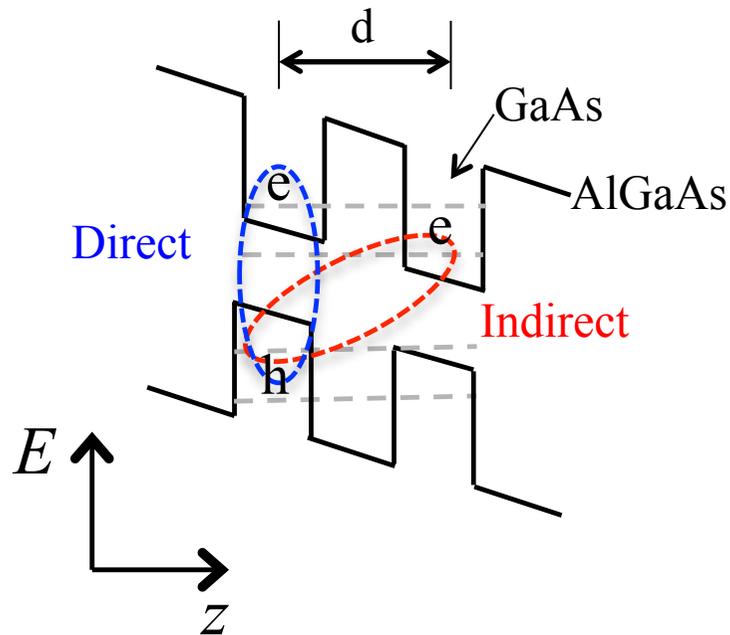
**e-mail: [p.andreakou@gmail.com](mailto:p.andreakou@gmail.com)**

# Introduction to indirect excitons



**Exciton:** bound electron – hole pair

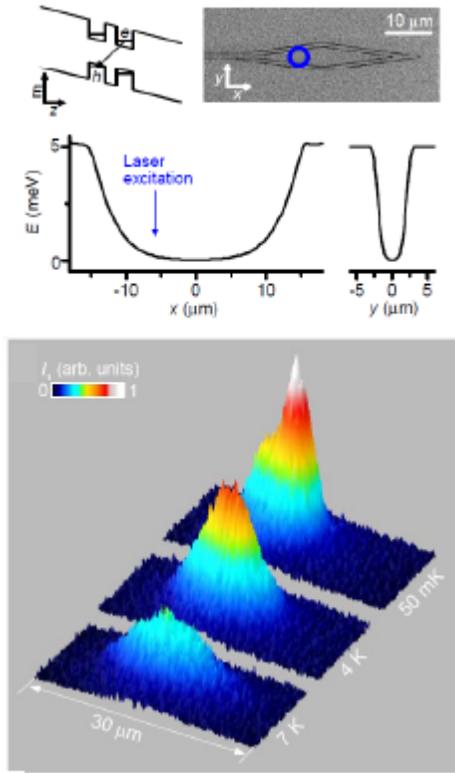
**Indirect exciton:** electron and hole are confined to spatially separated quantum wells



## Properties of indirect excitons

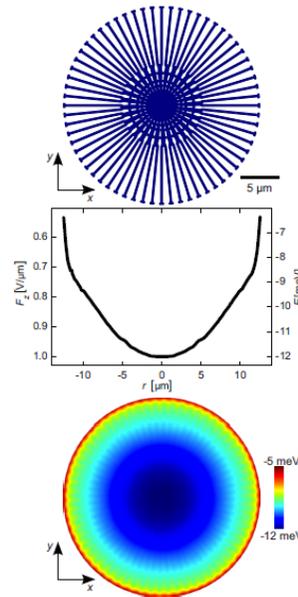
- ✓ Increased lifetime
  - increased transport distances
- ✓ are oriented dipoles:
  - repulsive interaction screens disorder in the sample
  - exciton energy is controllable by applied voltage  $E=edFz$

# Excitonic Devices

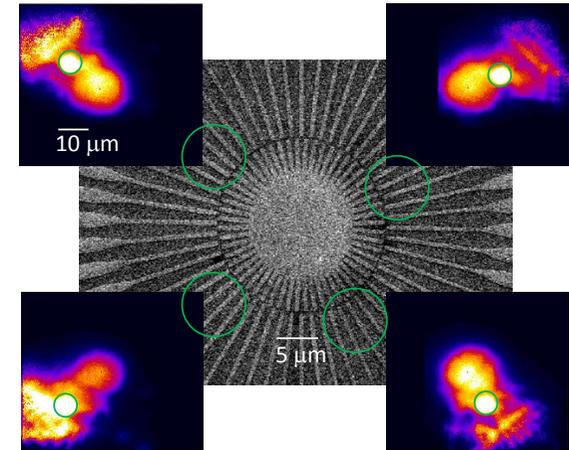


- Electrostatic traps for excitons

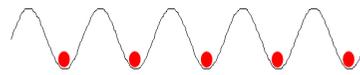
A.A. High et al, PRL (2009)  
A.A. High et al, Nano Lett. (2012)



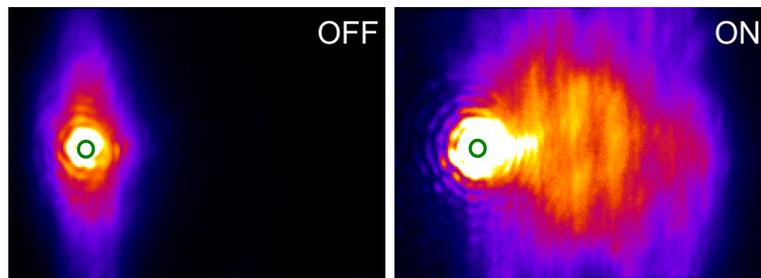
- 2D large electrostatic traps for excitons



## Moving Lattices:

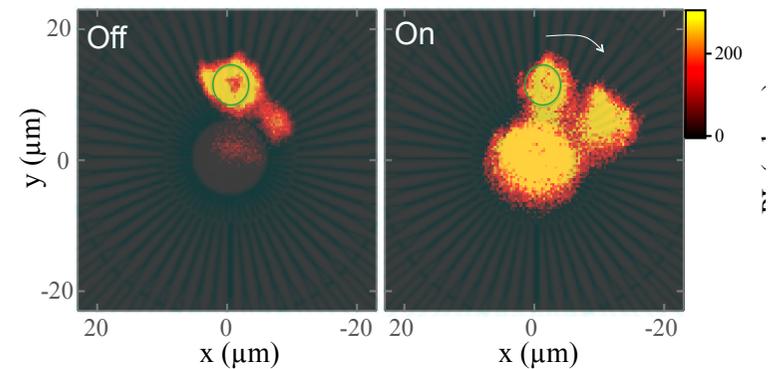


- Excitonic conveyer



A.G. Winbow et al, PRL (2011)  
J.R. Leonard et al, APL (2012)

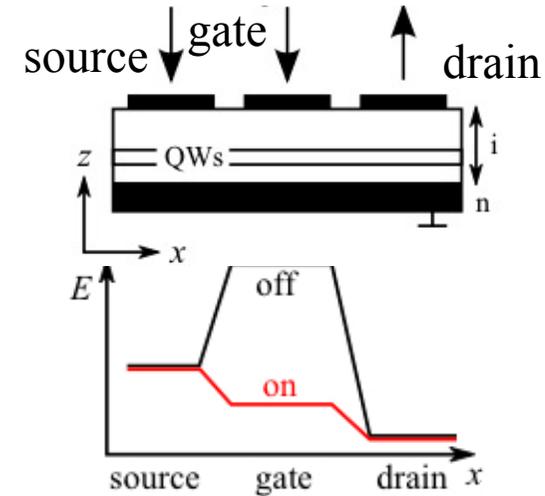
- Stirring potentials -Carousel



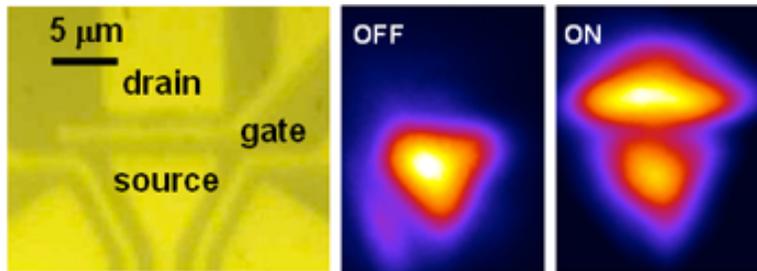
# Excitonic transistors

- Compact
- High speed

Time delay between signal processing and optical communication is effectively eliminated



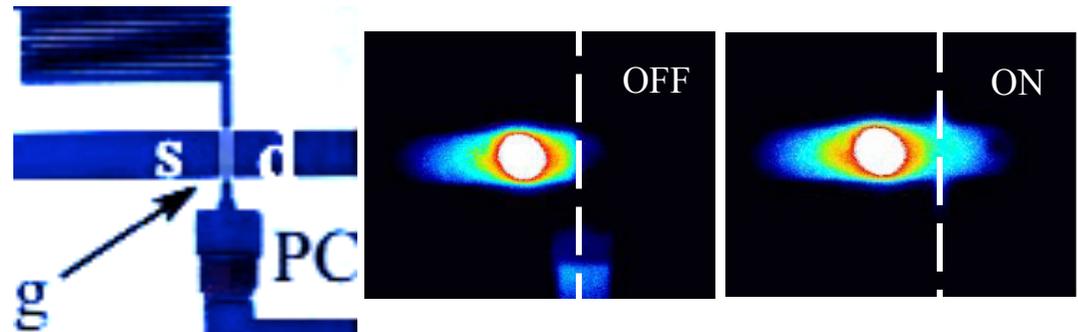
## Exciton optoelectronic transistor



Source and drain are photonic;  
Exciton flux from source to drain is controlled by voltage on gate electrode

A.A. High *et al*, *Optics Lett.* **32**, 2466 (2007)

## All-optical excitonic transistor



Light controls light by using excitons as an intermediate medium.

Source and drain are photonic.

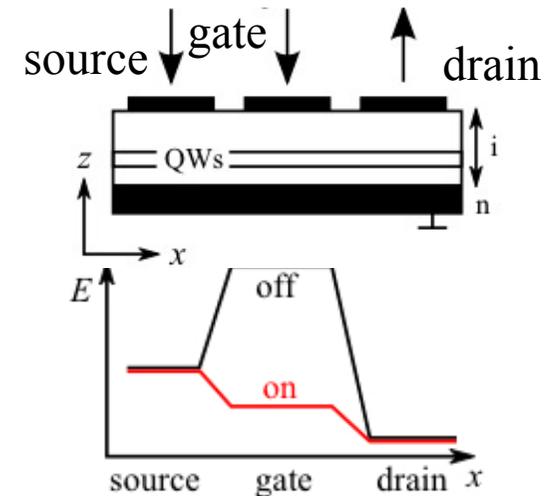
Light changes voltage at gate electrode, controlling exciton flux from source to drain.

Y.Y. Kuznetsova *et al*, *Optics Lett.* **35**, 1587 (2010)

# Excitonic transistors

- Compact
- High speed

Time delay between signal processing and optical communication is effectively eliminated



Exciton optoelectronic transistor

All-optical excitonic transistor

## Limitation of these devices:

Use of many electrodes at different voltages creates surface currents that leads to the heating

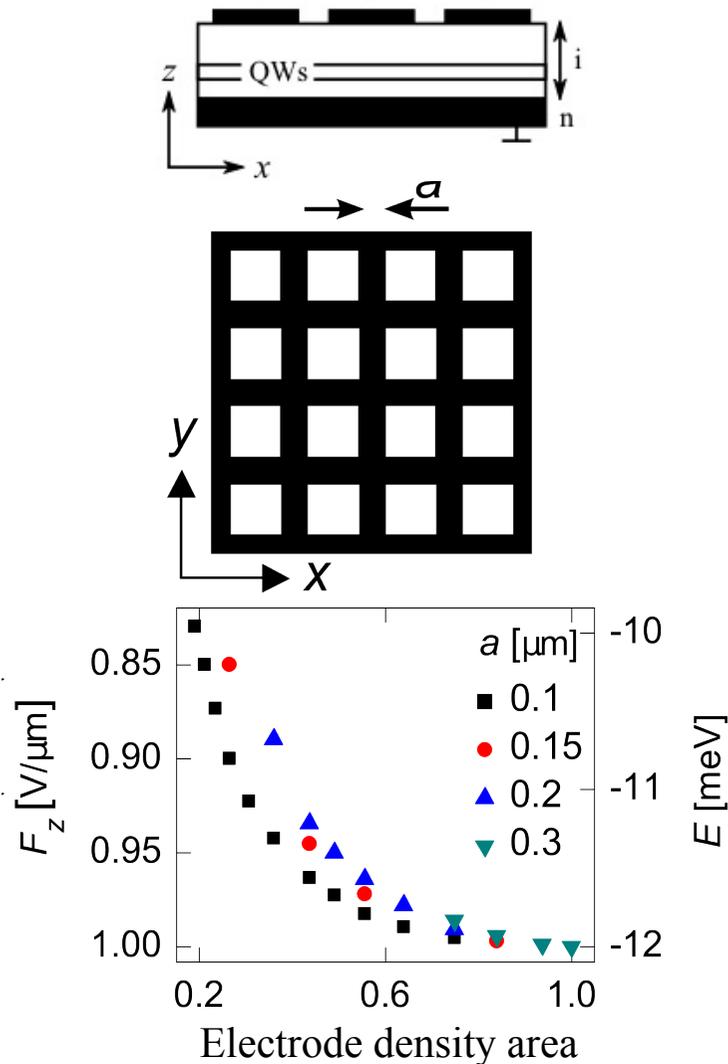
✓ **Solution:** Development of a **single electrode device** at constant voltage – Easy to connect and control

ON

A.A. High *et al*, *Optics Lett.* **32**,  
2466 (2007)

Y.Y. Kuznetsova *et al*, *Optics Lett.* **35**,  
1587 (2010)

# Control of indirect excitons energy landscape

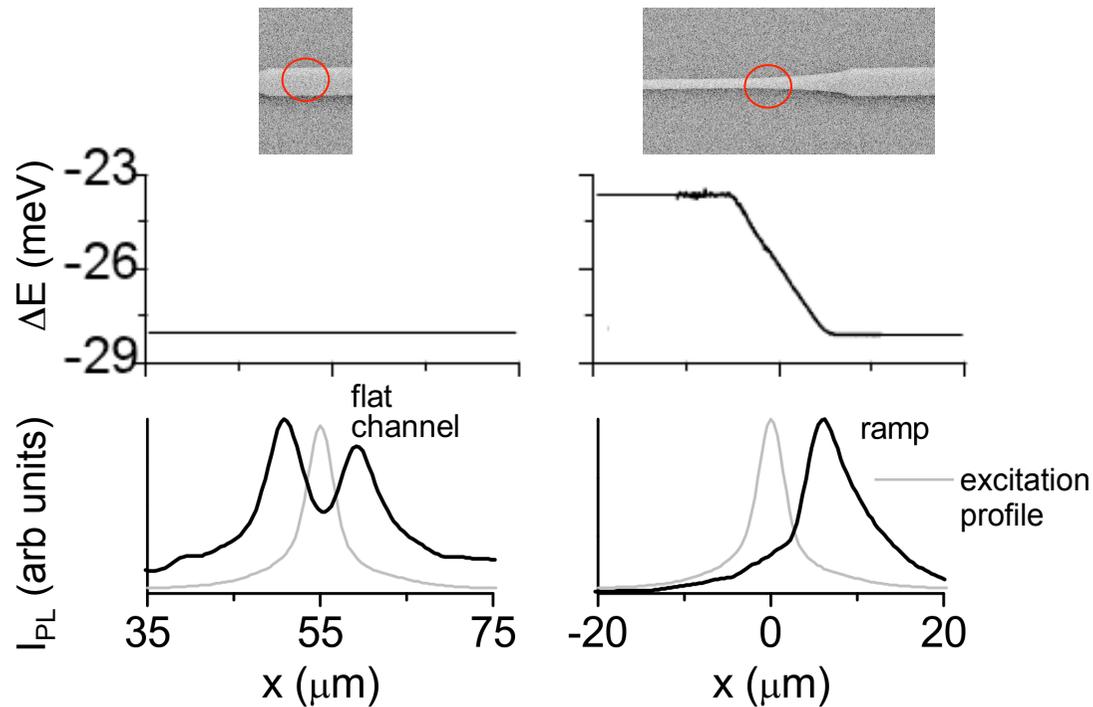


$$\Delta E = edF_z = edV/d_s$$

- Exciton energy landscape is controlled using a single shaped electrode at constant voltage
- Gaps in the top electrode reduce  $F_z$  due to the divergence of electric field

# Excitonic Ramp- Diode

Single electrode device at constant voltage



**Flat channel:** exciton transport symmetric about the excitation spot

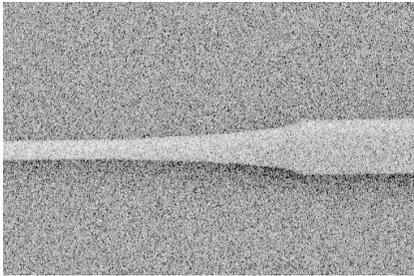
**Ramp:** exciton transport in the direction of lower potential energy  
→ realizes directed transport of excitons as a diode  
realizes directed transport of electrons

Appl. Phys. Lett. 100, 231106, (2010)

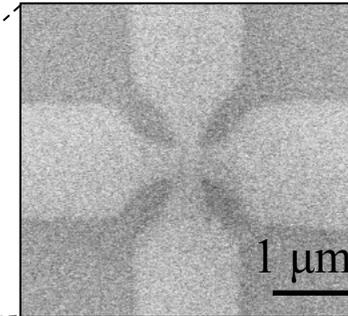
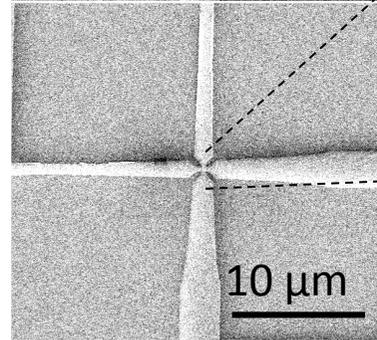
# Optically controlled excitonic transistor

## Single electrode devices

Excitonic Ramp



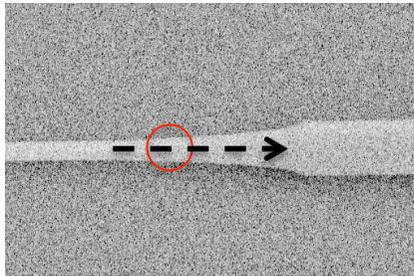
Excitonic Transistor



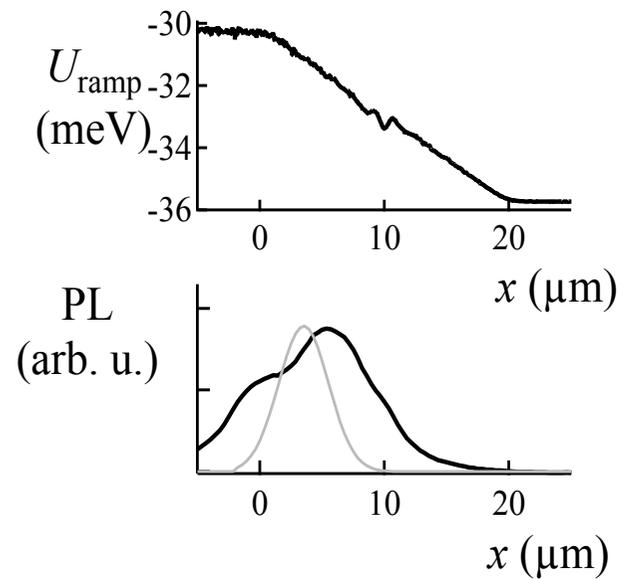
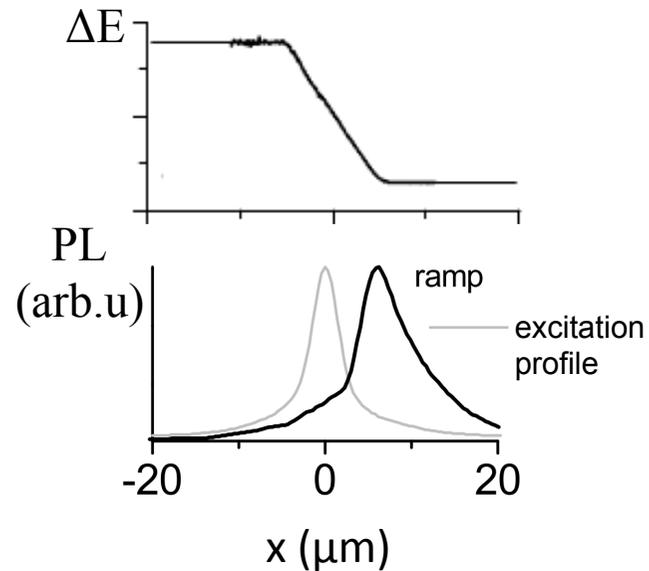
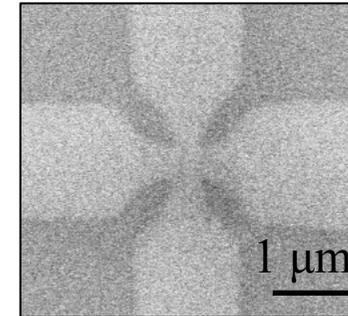
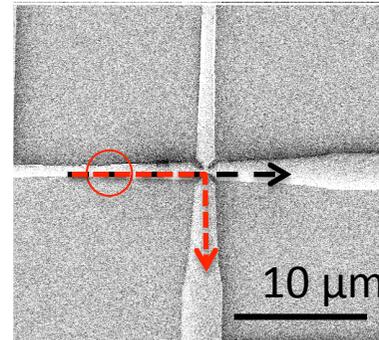
# Optically controlled excitonic transistor

## Single electrode devices

Excitonic Ramp

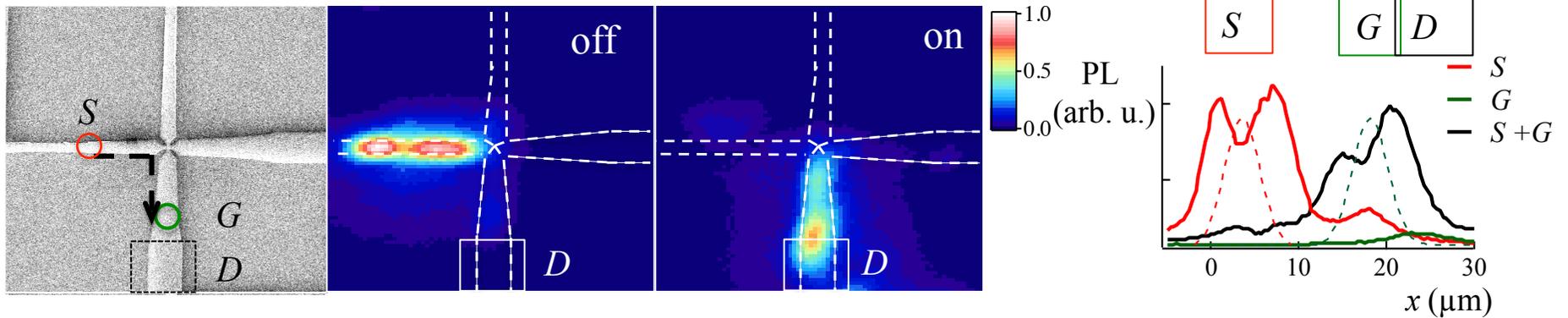


Excitonic Transistor

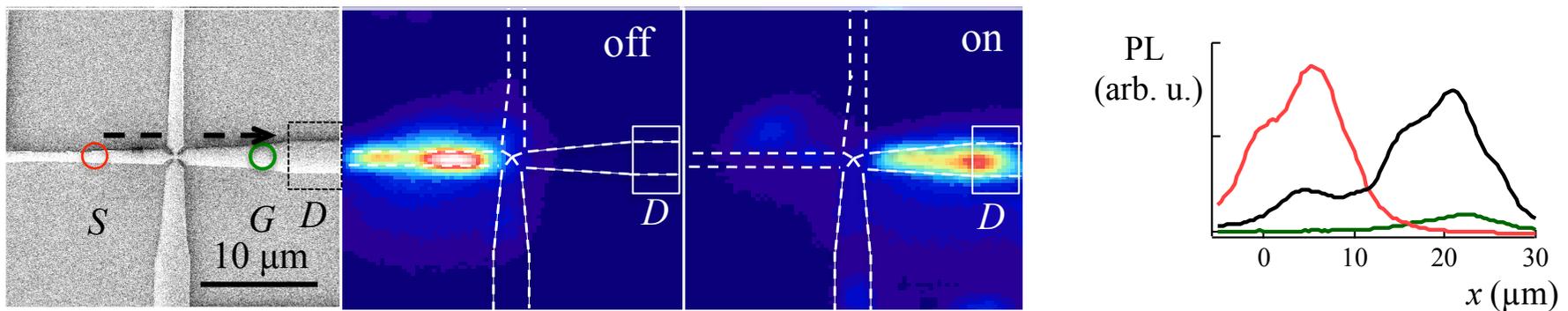


# Operation of the excitonic transistor-router

## Turned path operation

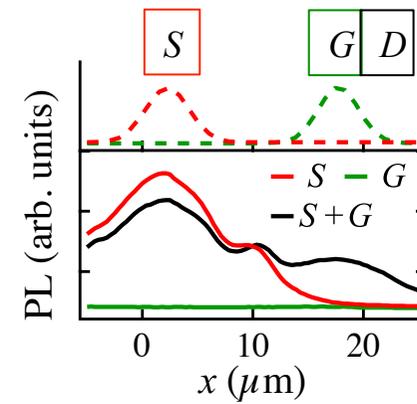
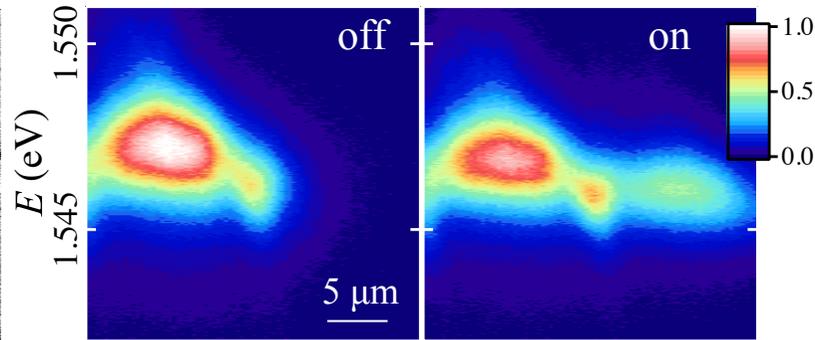
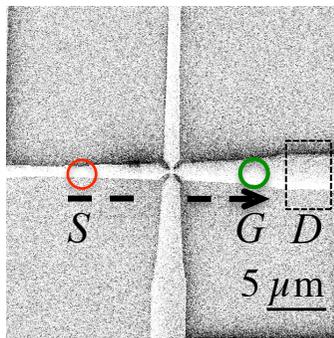
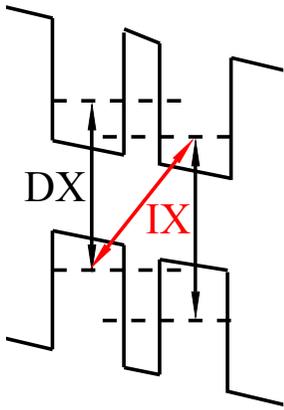


## Straight path operation



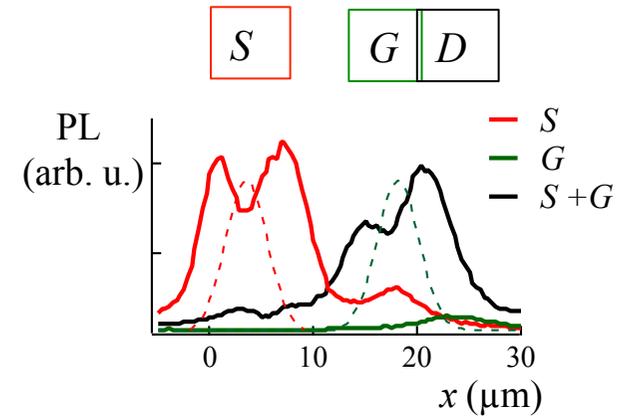
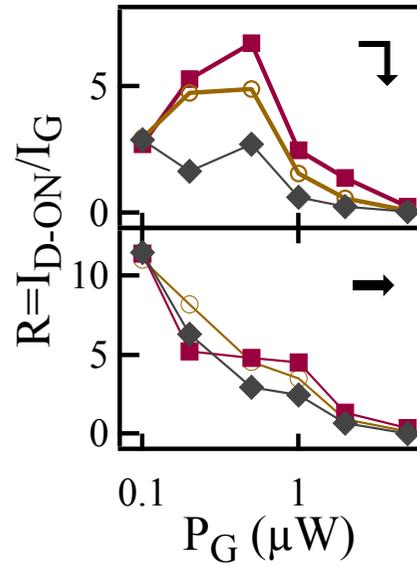
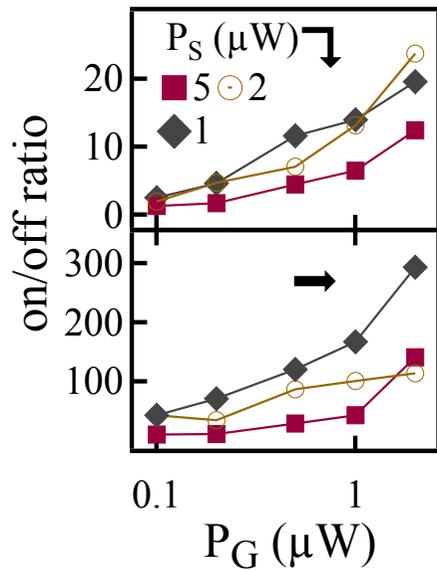
$$P_S = 0.5 \mu\text{W} - P_G = 0.2 \mu\text{W}$$

# Transistor effect at DX resonance excitation



$$P_S = 2 \mu\text{W} - P_G = 1 \mu\text{W}$$

# Transistor effect efficiency



$on/off\ ratio = \frac{\text{Excitonic signal at drain: S, G on}}{\text{Excitonic signal at drain: S on G off}}$

$R = \frac{\text{Excitonic signal at drain: S, G on}}{\text{Excitonic signal: S off- G on}}$

# Drift diffusion modeling

Non-linear transport equation:

$$\underbrace{\nabla \left[ D \nabla n \right]}_{\text{Diffusion}} + \underbrace{\mu n \nabla (u_0 n + U_{ramp})}_{\text{Drift}} - \frac{n}{\tau_{PL}} + \Lambda_S + \Lambda_G = 0$$

Diffusion

Drift

$$\mu = D / (k_B T)$$

$$D = D_o \exp[-U_o / (u_o n + k_B T)]$$

$n$ : distribution of IX

$D$ : diffusion coefficient

$\mu$ : mobility

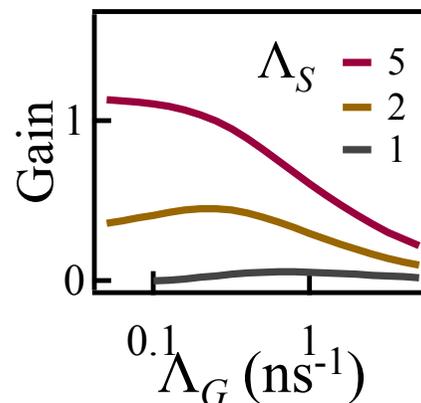
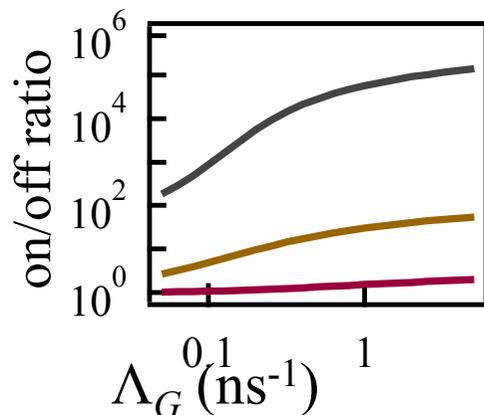
$D_o$ : diffusion coefficient in absent of disorder

Disorder Amplitude:

$$U_o / 2 = 0.5 \text{ meV}$$

Calculation of spatially varying temperature through the thermalization equation

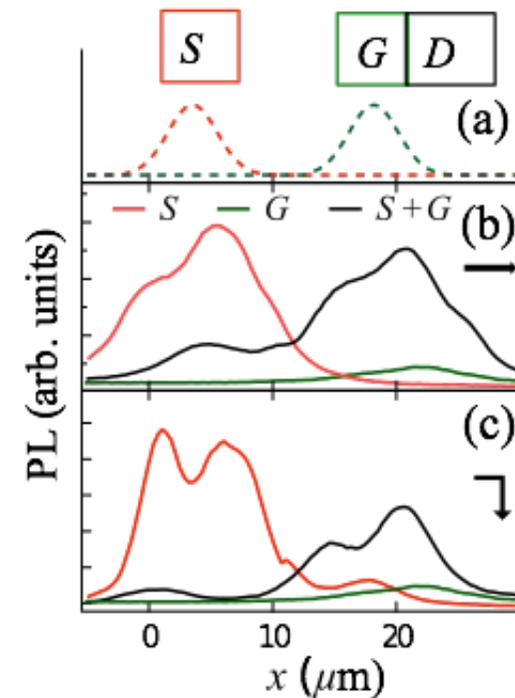
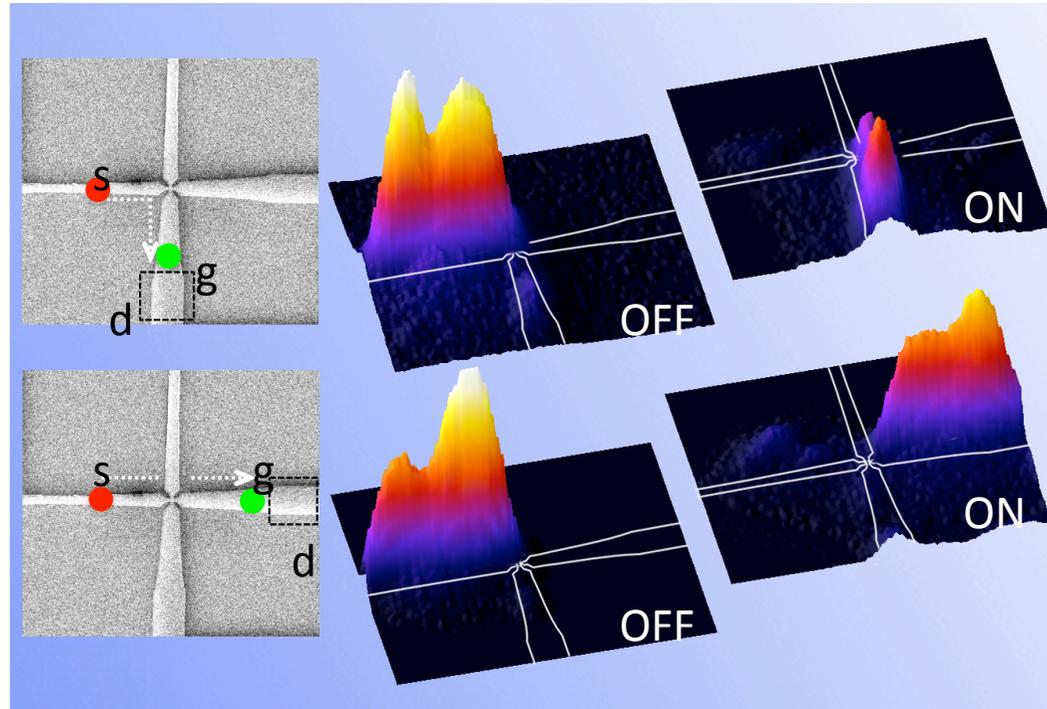
$$S_{phonon}(T_o, T) = S_{pump}(T_o, T, \Lambda_S + \Lambda_G, E_{inc})$$



PRB **80**, 155331 (2009)

# Conclusions

## New optical excitonic transistor/router



- Single-electrode design prevents heating by in-plane currents
- ON-OFF ratio reaches 300
- Low-intensity gate beam creates high-intensity output

P. Andreakou, S.V. Poltavtsev, J.R. Leonard, E.V. Calman, M. Remeika, Y.Y. Kuznetsova, L.V. Butov, J. Wilkes, M. Hanson, A.C. Gossard, Appl. Phys. Lett. 104, 091101 (2014)



*Thank you for your attention!*