

List of IC@N Research Projects and Supervisors

School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences (SPMS)	
Name of Supervisor	Research Project Description
Assoc Prof Roderick Wayland BATES roderick@ntu.edu.sg	Synthesis of Natural and Unnatural Products The project will involve the synthesis of “small” natural products or unnatural molecules as part of ongoing projects in this lab. Examples include using the [2 + 2 + 2] cyclootrimerisation of alkynes to form natural products, exploration of novel Diels-Alder reactivity, hydroformylation chemistry and cationic cyclisation. Where possible, successful synthesis of the target molecules will lead to biological studies.
Asst Prof CHEN Gang rnachen@ntu.edu.sg	Developing RNA Duplex-Binding Peptide Nucleic Acids for Biotechnological Applications The overall goal of Gang CHEN research group is to better understand the structures and the physical-chemical properties of RNAs and RNA-ligand complexes to provide deeper insight into and to facilitate precise control of the diverse biological functions involving RNA. Naturally-occurring triplexes are important for shaping RNAs into complex three-dimensional architectures and are important for diverse biological functions. As double-stranded RNA stem regions are often involved in biologically important tertiary triplex structure formation and protein binding, the ability to sequence-specifically target any desired RNA duplexes would have great potential for biomedical applications. We are developing a four-letter chemical code (T, L, S, and Q) for the recognition of RNA Watson-Crick duplexes. RNA duplexes with any Watson-Crick pairs (AU, GC, UA, or CG) can be recognized by forming T-AU, L-GC, S-UA, and Q-CG base triples, respectively. The four bases are grafted on the Peptide Nucleic Acid (PNA) with an unnatural peptide-like backbone. Remarkably, the triplex-forming PNAs can selectively bind to RNA duplexes over single-stranded RNAs and DNA duplexes. Compared to a traditional duplex-forming antisense strand, the advantages of a triplex-forming PNA are as follows: (1) The triplex formation strategy facilitates the targeting of not only the sequence but also the secondary structure of RNA, which results in high selectivity. (2) The triplex formation does not involve the disruption of the pre-formed RNA secondary structure of the target sequence, which presumably facilitates fast binding kinetics. Compared to small molecule binders, triplex-forming PNAs are advantageous for sequence-specifically binding to RNA duplex structures and can do so in a programmable manner. We employ techniques related to organic synthesis, peptide chemistry, nucleic acid structural studies and functional assays. We have demonstrated

	<p>that triplex-forming PNAs can specifically bind to RNA duplex structures, and thus modulate mRNA translation and virus replication.</p>
<p>Asst Prof Felipe GRACIA fgracia@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Mechanochemical Synthesis of Main Group Compounds and Complexes</p> <p>Traditional chemical wisdom often cites Aristotle ‘compounds do not react unless fluid or dissolved’ as one of the original sources contributing to the default assumption of the need for solvents in molecular syntheses. This dogma of indispensable solvent use for chemical syntheses has existed for many centuries and has often been counterproductively deep-rooted in the minds of molecular synthetic chemists. There are distinct advantages to using solvents, primarily to promote the interaction of reagents, accelerate reaction rates, potentially alter the distribution of products, and the facile separation and purification of products. However, cleaner and more environmentally friendly synthetic technologies have become of pinnacle importance in both academia and industry, since commonly used organic solvents in laboratories and chemical industries are recognized as wasteful and environmentally unsustainable.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof Rei KINJO rkinjo@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Development of Low-valent Boron Species and Its Metal Complexes</p> <p>In this project the candidate will be synthesizing the novel low-valent boron-containing species and its transition metal complexes. The candidate will examine the reactivity of those complexes towards small molecules such as H₂, CO₂, CO. This project would be conducted through a joint PhD program, thus, the duration is 4 years.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof LEONG Weng Kee chmlwk@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Organometallic compounds towards biomedical applications</p> <p>We are interested in the application of organometallic (OM) compounds to biological and biomedical problems. Please contact PI for more information. https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/chmlwk/</p>
<p>Assoc Prof SO Cheuk Wai cwso@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Synthesis of Low-valent Group 14 Compounds for Small Molecules Activation</p> <p>This project aims at discovering new low-valent group 14 compounds, which can perform transition-metal like reactivity to activate small molecules into useful materials. The duration of the project is 6 months.</p>
<p>Asst Prof SOO Han Sen hansen@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Photocatalytic Carbon-Carbon Bond Activation of Natural Products</p>

	<p>First row transition metal complexes are cheap and abundant compounds that have applications such as catalysis for organic transformations and photodegradation of biomass. The use of molecular compounds for photocatalytic oxidation of non-food biomass lignin is an underdeveloped area that is critical in Singapore since we can exploit this technology to manage woody waste from neighbouring countries.</p> <p>In this project, new vanadium-based molecular catalysts will be developed for light driven oxidation processes. A recent reference from our team is this: http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2015/sc/c5sc02923f</p> <p>The tasks include: (1) synthesis of the new molecular vanadium catalysts; (2) preparation of suitable substrates in C-C activation reactions; (3) screening substrates for chemical reactivity.</p>
<p>Prof TAN Choon Hong choonhong@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Mechanistic Studies of Halogen-Bonding in Bisguanidinium Phase Transfer Catalysis</p> <p>In this project the candidate will be working on the mechanistic aspects of bisguanidinium phase transfer catalyzed enantioselective nucleophilic substitution reactions. He will be investigating on the existence of halogen bonding in one of the key intermediates.</p> <p>The minimum duration of the project is 3 months.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof TAN Howe Siang howesiang@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Ultrafast Spectroscopy of Photosynthetic Light Harvesting Complexes</p> <p>We use the latest laser spectroscopic techniques to study the picosecond to femtosecond dynamics in the excitation energy transfer processes in the Light Harvesting complexes in plant and Marine phytoplankton photosynthetic systems.</p> <p>Photosynthesis is probably one of the most important complex biological process on earth. Much of this complex machinery is still not well understood. One important area is the Light Harvesting process which is the initial process where sunlight is captured and then channelled to reaction centre in the photosystems.</p>
<p>Nanyang Assistant Professor Miao Yansong yansongm@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Development and Applications of Ultrafast Multidimensional Optical Spectroscopy</p> <p>Ultrafast Multidimensional Optical Spectroscopy is an improvement on the more well know ultrafast pump-probe or transient absorption spectroscopy. It is able to provide both frequency and time resolution to ultrafast spectroscopic studies. We are currently developing and using these techniques to study the complex energy transfer, spectral diffusion and other ultrafast dynamics in systems ranging from biology (Photosynthetic light harvesting in plants) to</p>

	<p>nanomaterials (Quantum Dots and nanoplatelets).</p> <p>https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/howesiang/new/index.htm</p>
<p>Assoc Prof XING Bengang bengang@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>NIR Fluorescent Imaging Contrast Agents for Precise Manipulation Cell Functions and Localized Theranostics</p> <p>We will design and prepare "smart" and unique optogenetic signal switching probe molecules which will specifically respond to the biological microenvironment stimulation for tumor localization and regulation of cell surface activities. The students will learn basic organic/peptide synthesis, bioconjugation, pharmaceutical science and imaging measurements.</p> <p>The project may need 6 months to complete.</p> <p>NIR optogenetic regulation of cell membrane functions for mediating insulin resistance</p> <p>In this proposal, we create a unique and specific NIR optogenetic strategy to real-time regulate Akt, and precisely manipulate type 2 diabetes processing <i>in vitro</i> and in animal models. Through a photo-inducible protein interaction module (e.g. opto-Akt) of cryptochrome2 (CRY2) and CIB1, our NIR light-mediated upconversion emission can real-time trigger the CRY2-CIB1 dimerization and induces the translocation of Akt to membrane, which thus optogenetically activate Akt signaling pathway to facilitate glucose uptake in living subjects.</p> <p>The project may need 6 months to complete.</p>
<p>Asst Prof KIAH Han Mao hmkiah@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Bounds on Constrained Codes for DNA Data Storage</p> <p>The goal of the project is to study codes that satisfy certain runlength and GC-content constraints with certain error-correcting capabilities. The candidate will apply techniques such as the generalized sphere-packing bounds to determine the optimal code size or code redundancy.</p> <p>The duration of the project is at least three months.</p>
<p>Asst Prof Ariel NEUFELD ariel.neufeld@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Deep Learning approach to solve portfolio optimization problems in financial markets</p> <p>The goal of this project is to implement and analyze the effectiveness of different machine learning techniques such as for example deep neural networks (DNN) to optimize portfolios in real financial markets.</p> <p>The duration of the project is about 5 months.</p>
<p>Asst Prof TONG Ping tongping@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Time Series Analysis With Deep Learning Techniques and Beyond</p>

	<p>Time series analysis has wide applications in many fields such as economics, finance, computer sciences, engineering, and earth sciences, where understanding patterns and trends is important to decision making and predicting future behaviours. For example, the ground motion caused by an earthquake is recorded as a course of time. Time-series data are always noisy and high-dimensional. These features increase the difficulty of deep and precise analysis. Recent development in deep learning provides some new techniques for efficient time-series analysis. In this project, we aim to create new models of unsupervised learning of features for time series analysis and prediction. Applications into seismic data for earthquake identification & prediction and for petroleum exploration will be explored.</p>
<p>Asst Prof XIA Kelin xiakelin@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Topology Based Machine Learning for Biomolecular Data Analysis</p> <p>In this project the candidate will be trained on topological data analysis and basic machine learning tools. The candidate will also apply these tools in realistic biological problems, such as drug design, chromosome structure characterization, molecular dynamics analysis, etc.</p> <p>The minimum for this project would be 3 months.</p>
<p>Asst Prof Marco BATTIATO marco.battiato@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Numerical Solution of the Boltzmann-Maxwell System for Ultrafast Out of Equilibrium Dynamics</p> <p>The study of ultrafast dynamics (phenomena happening in less than 1 picosecond) triggered by ultra-short laser excitations present formidable theoretical challenges. Electrons within the material cannot be considered close to equilibrium. The characteristics of their strongly out of equilibrium distribution dictate the wide range of peculiar dynamics that can be observed in these extreme timescales. From the theoretical point of view, the necessity of fully accounting for a generic shape of the distribution function sharply rises the complexity of the problem.</p> <p>We are using and developing state of the art theoretical and numerical techniques ranging from Monte Carlo integration, discontinuous Galerkin discretization, and machine learning strategies to address the problem. The group is currently developing a large scale software for the numerical solution of the coupled Boltzmann and Maxwell equations in real materials.</p> <p>The projects available cover one of the techniques mentioned above. The student will work in close connection with one of the members of the group.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof CHIA Ee Min, Elbert elbertchia@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Ultrafast Terahertz Spectroscopy of Halide Perovskite Solar Cells</p>

	<p>The student will use ultrafast terahertz spectroscopy to study organometallic halide perovskite solar cells, and from it to obtain the density, mobility, recombination kinetics and quantum yield of the photogenerated carriers.</p> <p>Spin-to-charge Conversion in Topological Materials The student will use terahertz emission spectroscopy to study the ultrafast spin injection and spin-to-charge processes in topological materials. We aim to elucidate the spin current density, surface versus bulk contribution, and spin to charge conversion timescale in various ferromagnetic/topological material heterostructures.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof Rainer Helmut DUMKE rdumke@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Development of Superconducting Quantum Circuits</p> <p>In this project the candidate will be trained in the basics of superconducting quantum circuits. He will get an overview in basic fabrication processes as well in the design and simulation of superconducting quantum circuits. The minimum duration for this project would be 3 months.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof FAN Hongjin fanhj@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Development of Smart Nanomaterials for Metal Ion Storage</p> <p>In this project the candidate will be trained in the selection and synthesis of nanomaterials, and their electrochemical properties in metal ion storage (such as Na and Zn and K). He will learn the recent advance in new-generation batteries, the structure, working mechanism and challenges. The minimum duration for this project would be 3 months.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof LEW Wen Siang wensiang@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Dynamics of Magnetic Skyrmion in Perpendicular Magnetic Anisotropy Structures</p> <p>Magnetic skyrmions are particle-like magnetization configurations which can be found in materials with broken inversion symmetry. The study of magnetic skyrmions have been extensive due to the potential of exploiting the skyrmion as information carriers in memory devices. For one, the skyrmions' topological nature confer upon them a high degree of stability against external excitations. The particle-like configuration also grants the skyrmion an extra degree of spatial freedom to circumvent around random pinning sites or impurities as they move within the magnetic layer. These positive traits combined with the ultra-low electrical current required to drive the skyrmion has led to the conceptualization of a "Skyrmion memory" that could possess both the large data density of traditional hard disk and fast access speeds of random access memory. In this research project we propose to experimentally inject, detect and manipulate magnetic skyrmions in a perpendicular magnetic anisotropy film stack</p>

and demonstrate that it is possible to guide the movement of the skyrmion.

Spin-Orbit Torque Devices as Synaptic Weights in an Artificial Neural Network

An artificial neural network (ANN) takes inspiration from its biological counterpart to solve problems through processes that mimic the human brain, such as by acquiring knowledge through learning processes. In such ANNs, neurons are connected to each other through connections analogous to synapses, and each synapse has a strength or weight, w_{ij} , associated to it. In a bid to work towards energy-efficient brain-inspired computing, it is vital to seek out solutions to ANN beyond-CMOS. One such contender is in the emerging spin-orbit torque (SOT) device. The non-volatile and analogue-like response observed in SOT devices can be engineered to function as synaptic weights. Together with the appropriate electronic circuitry and neural network computing model, specific functions such as character recognition can be achieved.

Asst Prof LIEW Chi Hin Timothy
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Spin Switching Waves in Exciton-Polariton Condensates

Exciton-polaritons are hybrid states of light and matter forming in quantum wells strongly coupled to optical modes, typically inside a semiconductor microcavity. Being a mixed photonic-condensed matter system, exciton-polaritons have been shown to give rise to a number of striking fundamental effects, including room temperature Bose-Einstein condensation, ultra-low threshold lasing, and room temperature superconductivity. Exciton-polaritons are also known for their spin sensitive physics, where they are considered candidates for spin optoelectronics. In previous work, spinor multistability has been demonstrated under coherent resonant excitation leading to switching waves suitable for polariton-based circuits. In the present project, we will lift the requirement of resonant excitation and study non-resonantly induced bistability. From the practical point of view this allows to construct polariton-based circuits without an external laser source, using instead on-chip electrical injection techniques. From the theoretical point of view, we will need to make use of the interplay between nonlinearity and parity-time symmetry breaking. Having achieved non-resonantly induced bistability, we will be able to study the propagation of dynamic switching waves and solitons.

This is a purely theoretical research project. It will involve becoming familiar with the theory of exciton-polaritons and using a combination of numerical and analytical techniques to solve nonlinear differential equations (the nonlinear Schrodinger equation). Positive results will have significance for

	<p>our experimental collaborators.</p> <p>The duration of the project is 2 months.</p>
<p>Prof PHAN Anh Tuan phantuan@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Structural Basis for the Design of Anticancer Drugs Targeted to Quadruplex DNA and RNA</p> <p>DNA G-quadruplexes in telomeres and oncogenic promoters and RNA G-quadruplexes in the 5' untranslated regions of oncogenes have been established as promising anticancer targets. Development of small molecules that interact with and stabilize G-quadruplexes is of great interest to many academic laboratories and pharmaceutical companies. We will use Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and other biophysical techniques to characterize the principle for molecular recognition of G-quadruplexes. Our structural studies will provide a platform for anticancer drug design.</p> <p>DNA and RNA Oligonucleotides with Anticancer and Anti-HIV Activity</p> <p>Several guanine-rich oligonucleotides have been shown to exhibit anticancer and anti-HIV activity. We will characterize the structures of various such sequences. These structural studies can be correlated with activity tests to establish structure-activity relationships. This work will involve preparation of DNA and RNA samples and characterization of their structures by using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and other biophysical techniques.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof Massimo PICA CIAMARRA massimo@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Computational Study of Systems of Self-Driven Particles</p> <p>Cars on a highway, school of fishes, bacteria colonies, cell sheets, crowd, etc, are just a few examples of systems of many "particles" which have a motility. That is, the particles move exerting a force on their surrounding. Computational models and theoretical approaches developed to study physical systems have been show to be useful to investigate the behavior of these systems. During the GRI, the student will be able to familiarize with related computational model and to investigate the behavior of such systems.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof PIRAMANAYAGAM S.N. prem@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Magnetic Devices for Neuromorphic Computing</p> <p>Human brains compute complicated information with a power of around 20W, whereas powerful computers require several kW for doing the same. In this sense, neuromorphic computing is a goal of many researchers and the computer architecture, laid out by Von Neumann might be phased out in future. In this project, the student will work on designing circuits for neuromorphic computing. He will also work on fabricating some</p>

	<p>magnetic materials and devices to perform as the elements of neuromorphic computing. The student is expected to have a good set of computing and experimental skills.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof Pinaki SENGUPTA psengupta@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Chiral Spin Liquids in Quantum Magnet</p> <p>The past decade has seen an explosion in the investigation of topological phases of matter following the theoretical prediction, and subsequent experimental discovery of topological insulators. We shall use large scale computer simulations to study magnetic analogues of topological phases of matter in interacting quantum spin systems. In particular, we shall explore the emergence of chiral spin liquids in geometrically frustrated quantum magnets. These unique spin states do not develop any magnetic order down to absolute zero temperature. Yet, they are not completely disordered. Instead, they possess topological order known as chiral spin order. Such states have been predicted (and putatively observed) in many real quantum magnets. Our results will lead to a better insight into the character and origin of these novel states of matter.</p>
	<p>Magnon Dynamics in Frustrated Quantum Magnets</p> <p>Quantum spin systems have long served as a paradigm for studying many body physics. The direct control of collective excitations (magnons) via an external magnetic field enables us to explore vast regions of parameter space which is usually much more difficult in bosonic systems. We shall explore approximate analytic approaches for studying the properties of magnons (static and dynamic) of magnons in a family of frustrated quantum magnets. In particular, we shall explore the emergence of topological phases of magnons in the presence of artificial gauge fields – an area of intense activity in present day Condensed Matter Physics research.</p>
	<p>Topological order in Bose Einstein Condensates in quantum magnets</p> <p>Quantum magnets have long served as ideal testbeds to realise complex bosonic phases. Inspired by the recent developments in topological quantum states, we develop a theoretical framework to realise the magnonic analogue of such phases in microscopic models of interacting quantum spins in different lattice geometries. In particular we have already found that the Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction (DMI), that is present in many quantum magnets, induces topological character to magnon bands. In this project we shall systematically investigate the effects of topological magnon bands on the character of Bose Einstein Condensate of magnons in $S=1/2$ Heisenberg spins on</p>

	<p>the honeycomb lattice. We shall use a combination of analytical calculations and numerical simulations to study this system.</p>
<p>Asst Prof Ranjan SINGH ranjan@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Superconductor Photonics In this project, the student would unravel the photonic/plasmonic properties of superconducting waveguides which offers almost a lossless platform for transportation of highly confined terahertz light.</p>
	<p>Phase Change Materials Based Microelectromechanical Cantilevers for Tunable Photonics In this project, we propose to exploit the structural phase change of Vanadium dioxide/ GST based mechanical cantilevers that would have movable characteristics and thus would provide large contrast metamaterial resonances for device applications.</p>
	<p>Lithography-free Thin Film Nanophotonic Sensors Here, we plan to excite singular phase behaviour in metal-dielectric stacks and strong absorption of light with close to zero reflection feature. Such sharp phase singularities could provide extremely ultrasensitive large area sensing of small biomolecules.</p>
<p>Prof SHEN Zexiang zexiang@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Electronic and Optical Properties of Perovskite Materials Study of Perovskite materials is among the hottest topics in science today. The optical and electronic properties of perovskites often show very strong layer-dependent properties. Detailed understanding of the inter-layer interaction will help greatly in tailoring the properties for applications. Raman/Photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy and imaging have been extensively used in the study of nano-materials and nano-devices. They provide critical information for the characterization of the materials such as electronic structure, optical property, phonon structure, defects, doping and stacking sequence.</p>
	<p>Graphene Materials for Fast Charging Battery and Supercapacitor Applications Graphene, which consists of atom-thick sheets of carbon, has attracted tremendous attention from applied science community due to its extraordinary electrical, mechanical and thermal properties. Graphene is the basic structural element of other allotropes, including graphite, charcoal, carbon nanotubes and fullerenes. Conducting polymer with extra high specific capacity are promising next-generation electrodes for supercapacitors. However, conducting polymer based supercapacitor electrodes suffer from a short cycle life. This project studies conducting polymers incorporate with graphene as energy storage electrodes with both long cycle stability and high capacity.</p>

	<p>Novel Properties of 2D Materials 2D materials/heterostructures display a wide range of phenomena & unique properties: semiconducting, metallic, superconducting, that may them unique for a very wide range of applications. This project will study the properties of 2D materials using optical means – non-destructive, non-contact and non-invasive, as well as very fast.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof Cesare SOCI csoci@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Flexible Perovskite Lasers Despite the simplicity of the original perovskite crystal structure, this family of compounds shows an enormous variety of structural modifications and variants with crystal structures related to the mineral perovskite CaTiO₃. Hybrid perovskites show very interesting properties in photovoltaics and optoelectronics application, thanks to the possibility to chemically-tune their characteristics and to process films entirely from solution. Within this project, we will embed hybrid perovskites yielding amplified spontaneous emission within planar polymer microcavities with large area (several square centimetres), in order to produce flexible and bendable lasers which are tunable over the visible and NIR spectrum.</p>
	<p>Plasmonic Metamaterials for Cell Optostimulation The use of light as a stimulation tool has emerged in the last decade as a valid alternative to traditional techniques based on extracellular electrode arrays for both electrical cell stimulation and cell recording purposes. In this project we will investigate new abiotic/biotic interfaces based on metamaterial surfaces in contact with living cells. The metamaterial surface, properly coated by a photoactive polymer, will allow light management for cell stimulation and control of cell physiology, and diagnostic of the cleft (the thin gap between the cell membrane and the substrate). The main idea is to exploit the evanescent field generated by the metamaterial in the NIR spectral range to address the cleft locally and obtain unprecedented information on the coupling mechanism between the substrate and the cell.</p>
	<p>Topological Insulator Plasmonics Topological insulator crystals are extremely attractive materials for realizing low-loss and reconfigurable nanophotonic devices owing to the presence of topologically protected surface states that can be modulated optically, electrically, or by external magnetic fields. Isolating and utilizing the plasmonic properties of metallic surface states in topological insulators, however, have proven challenging, particularly at optical frequencies. In this project we will use a combination of broadband spectroscopic techniques to study the optical response induced by surface states in exfoliated, unstructured and nanostructured films of chalcogenide crystals.</p>

Assoc Prof SUM Tze Chien
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Probing the Energetics and Carrier Dynamics in novel Organic-Inorganic Perovskite Solar Cells

Halide perovskite solar cells are the most promising 3rd generation solar cells with efficiencies exceeding 22%. In this project, we investigate the charge dynamics and relaxation mechanisms in novel halide perovskite materials (beyond CH₃NH₃PbI₃ – e.g. Pb-free systems). The student will be tasked with sample preparation and characterization of the band structure using UV/X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy and the carrier dynamics using ultrafast optical spectroscopy.

Mesoscopic Physics in Low-Dimensional Halide Perovskites

Halide perovskites have demonstrated outstanding optoelectronic properties. In this project, we investigate the photophysical properties of perovskite nanostructures (e.g., quantum dots, nanoplatelets or nanowires) using ultrafast optical spectroscopy. The student will be tasked with sample preparation and characterization using optical spectroscopy techniques like transient photoluminescence and pump-probe spectroscopy.

Asst Prof WANG Xiao, Renshaw
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Studying Electrical Devices Consisting of Ultrathin Materials

In this project, students will fabricate transistors using ultrathin materials, such as atomically thin complex oxide, and characterize their electrical properties. The gating will be realized by gating the ultrathin materials using ionic liquids or ferroelectric oxides to modulate the properties of carriers inside. Taking ionic-liquid gating as an example, the ionic liquid, which is a type of liquid hosts a certain concentration of mobile ions, is sandwiched between a gating electrical lead and the ultrathin materials in a conventional field effect transistor configuration. Conductivity of the devices is the easiest properties to modulate. Most likely, a metal-insulator transition will be expected by modulating the electron. However, conductivity is not the only properties, magnetic properties may also be modulated.

Investigating Photoconductivity of Nanomaterials

In this project, students will characterize the conductivity changes of nanomaterials under the light irradiation. When light is shined on a material, electrons inside are excited by the energy absorbed by the material. Consequently, the conductivity of the materials may be enhanced. This optical and electrical phenomenon is photoconductivity. The photoconductivity phenomenon has a great application potential in many areas. Here, we propose using a laser with different wavelengths in the visible range, in order to provide different energy for excitation. Our laboratory will provide suitable nanomaterials, such as low dimensional complex oxide LaMnO₃. These materials will serve as the photoconductive

	<p>materials to form a simplified photodetector. The performance of the photodetector will also be measured.</p>
<p>Assoc Prof David Paul Maxime WILKOWSKI david.wilkowski@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>Dynamic of an Ultracold Atomic Wavepacket in Synthetic Gauge Potentials Thanks to some early works in particular done by M. Berry, it was realized that topology, geometry, and gauge fields play key roles in quantum physics as exemplified by fundamental phenomena such as the Aharonov-Bohm effect, quantum hall effect, spin-orbit coupling. In addition to condensed-matter physics, ultracold atoms platforms have recently been used to mimic gauge fields structures, which is simply obtained by addressing the ultracold atoms with laser fields. In close contact with an on-going experimental work, the intern will develop theoretical and numerical models in the context of non-Abelian gauge fields. Even if the gauge field is uniform, very surprising and counterintuitive phenomena are expected such as non-inertial ballistic trajectory or negative reflection at a potential barrier.</p> <p>An optical lift for ultracold gas The objective of this internship will be to design and realize an optical lift for an ultracold atomic gas. The gas is initially trapped into an optical standing wave, made of two counter-propagating laser fields at the same optical frequency. Then, one or both optical frequencies are changed such that their difference is non-zero. In this situation, the standing wave is moving at a velocity $c/2$, and could drag the atoms at the same speed. The change of the laser frequency has to be smooth enough such that the atoms are following adiabatically the moving standing wave. The condition of this adiabatic following will be derived during the internship. Moreover, the total displacement of the atoms has to be known at an interferometric level, i.e. better than the laser wavelength. To do so, a Michelson-like interferometer will be inserted into the setup to keep track of the relative phase variation of the counter-propagating laser. https://ultracold.quantumlah.org/</p>
<p>Asst Prof YONG Ee Hou eehou@ntu.edu.sg</p>	<p>The Statistical Mechanics of RNA In this project, students will understand 1) elastic models of RNA, 2) topological classification of RNA, 3) RNA folding, and 4) connection to random matrix theory.</p> <p>Network Dynamics In this project, students will use network science to look at properties of different complex networks, from neural networks, football clubs, tennis, etc. We will model the complex works using nonlinear dynamic equation and look at their emergent properties.</p>

Assoc Prof ZHANG Baile
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Topological phases in classical wave systems

Classical waves, such as electromagnetic waves and sound waves, provide a very useful platform to explore exotic topological phases of materials. In this project, we will design a one-dimensional topological insulator using classical waves, and study its unique properties.