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Two-dimensional conductivity at LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃ interfaces

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Experiments have observed a two-dimensional electron gas at the interface of two insulating oxides: strontium titanate ($SrTiO_3$) and lanthanum aluminate ($LaAlO_3$).

These interfaces exhibit metallic, superconducting, and magnetic behaviours, which are strongly affected by impurities.

We introduce a simple model to study the two-dimensional conductivity at $LaAlO_3/SrTiO_3$ interfaces.

Motivated by experiments, we assume that impurities lie at the interface and their density is low.

In our model, we treat the $LaAlO_3$ as an insulator and model the $SrTiO_3$ film.

By solving a set of self-consistent Hartree equations for the charge density, we obtain the band structure of the ${\rm SrTiO_3}$ film.

We then study the relative contributions made by the occupied bands to the two-dimensional conductivity of the ${\rm LaAlO_3/SrTiO_3}$ interface.

We find that the fractional conductivity of each band depends on several parameters: the mass anisotropy, the filling, and the impurity potential.

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