The Metal-Insulator Transition (MIT) in two dimensions: Yet Another Surprise.*

Shiqi Li, Qing Zhang, Pouyan Ghaemi and M. P. Sarachik
City College of New York, CUNY

According to theory and confirmed by experiment, no metallic phase was thought to be possible in two dimensions. It was therefore a big surprise in 1994 when an apparent metal-insulator transition was reported in the strongly interacting 2D electron system in high mobility silicon MOSFETs (Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistors) [1]. A great deal of theoretical and experimental activity ensued to determine whether this is a transition rather than crossover behavior, and to determine the nature of the transition. Most (but not all) experiments have claimed to show that this is a quantum phase transition that occurs in the limit T→0 at finite electron density n_c. In this talk, I will present new data that holds yet another surprise [2].

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