

# Terahertz magnetospectroscopy of two-dimensional plasma oscillations in GaN/AlGaN heterostructures

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Lecture on *Selected aspects of nanotechnology*

Seminar at the LNCMI, Grenoble, 17.12.2012

## Outline

- 1 Excitation of plasmons in two-dimensional electron gas
- 2 Samples under investigation
- 3 Magnetotransport measurements and their interpretation
- 4 Results of THz magnetospectroscopy
- 5 Methods of extracting valuable information from the raw spectra
- 6 Theoretical description of non-local properties of an electron gas
- 7 Interpretation of experimental results & discussion
- 8 Summary

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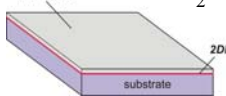
## Excitation of plasmons in 2DEG

**2D case:**

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{Ne^2}{2m^* \epsilon_0 \epsilon_{eff}} k$$

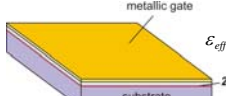
F. Stern, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **18**, 546 (1967)

**ungated 2DEG:**

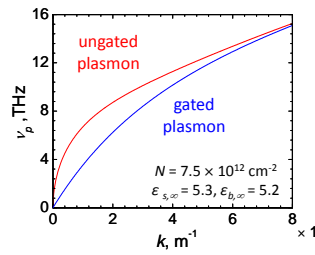
$$\epsilon_{eff} = \frac{\epsilon_s}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_b}{2} \frac{1 + \epsilon_b \tanh(kd)}{1 + \tanh(kd)}$$


N. Okisu et al., *App. Phys. Lett.* **48**, 776 (1986)

**gated 2DEG:**

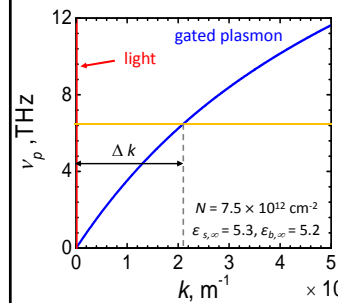
$$\epsilon_{eff} = \frac{\epsilon_s + \epsilon_b \coth(kd)}{2}$$


A. V. Chaplik, *Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz.* **62**, 746 (1972)  
[ *Sov. Phys. JETP* **35**, 395 (1972) ]

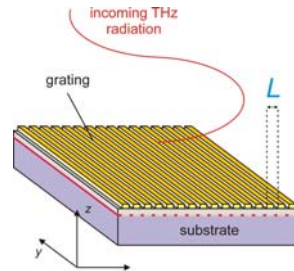


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## Excitation of plasmons in 2DEG



**standard system intended for plasmon excitations**



diffraction of the incident THz radiation on the grating

➔

generation of in-plane waves with  $k$  vectors:

$$k_{x,n} = nG \quad G = 2\pi / L \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

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### Grating-gate transistor structures

- Growth & processing:** R. Gaska & J. Yang, Sensor Electronic Technology, Inc., Columbia, South Carolina, USA
- GaN/AlGaN heterostructure grown by Migration Enhanced Metal-Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition**
- Si doping of Al<sub>0.2</sub>Ga<sub>0.8</sub>N barrier layer of d = 28 ± 2 nm thickness: 2 × 10<sup>18</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>**
- active area: 1.6 × 1.6 mm<sup>2</sup>**

**4 grating structures:**  
 L: 2.5 μm, 3.0 μm, 3.5 μm, 4.0 μm  
 S: 0.35 μm or 0.85 μm  
 W = L - S

reference structure without a gate/grating

SEM image

N. Pala et al., Proc. of IEEE Sensors Conf., Atlanta, GA, October 2007, 291-292 (2007)

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### First experiments (without magnetic field)

APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS 96, 042105 (2010)

#### Temperature dependence of plasmonic terahertz absorption in grating-gate gallium-nitride transistor structures

A. V. Muravyov,<sup>1,2,3</sup> D. B. Winkler,<sup>1</sup> V. V. Popov,<sup>1</sup> D. V. Polischuk,<sup>3</sup> N. Pala,<sup>4</sup> X. Hu,<sup>5</sup> P. Gaska,<sup>6</sup> H. Sawada,<sup>7</sup> E. E. Paik,<sup>8</sup> and M. S. Shur<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Physics of Microstructures, RAS, Nizhnii Novgorod 603950, Russia  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, RWTH Aachen 52074, Germany  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Electrical, Computer and System Engineering, Rochester Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York 12180, USA  
<sup>4</sup>Institute for Physics of Microstructures, RAS, Nizhnii Novgorod 603950, Russia  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Florida International University, Miami, Florida 33199, USA  
<sup>6</sup>Sensor Electronic Technology, Inc., 107 Miller Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29208, USA  
<sup>7</sup>Department of Physics, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida 32816, USA

(Received 12 July 2009; accepted 21 December 2009; published online 26 January 2010)

Strong plasmon resonances have been observed in the terahertz transmission spectra (1–5 THz) of large area (16 mm<sup>2</sup>) grating-gate AlGaN/GaN-based high-electron-mobility transistor (HEMT) structures at temperatures from 10 to 170 K. The resonance frequencies correspond to the excitation of plasmons with wave vectors equal to the reciprocal lattice vectors of the metal grating, which serves both as a gate electrode for the HEMT and a coupler between plasmons and incident terahertz radiation. Wide tunability of the resonances by the applied gate voltage demonstrates potential of these devices for terahertz applications. © 2010 American Institute of Physics.

**Equations:**  

$$\omega_{p,j}^2 = \frac{Ne^2}{2m^* \epsilon_0 \epsilon_{\text{eff}}(k_j d)} k_j^2 \quad \epsilon_{\text{eff}}(k_j d) = \frac{\epsilon_s + \epsilon_b \text{ctgh}(k_j d)}{2}$$

$$k_j d \ll 1 \Rightarrow \epsilon_{\text{eff}}(k_j d) \approx \frac{\epsilon_b}{2k_j d} \quad \omega_{p,j}^2 \approx \frac{Ne^2 d}{m^* \epsilon_0 \epsilon_b} k_j^2$$

the resonances. The best fit of the resonance shift versus  $U_g$  for the first, second, and third resonances in Fig. 2(b) corresponds to  $U_g = -8$  V, while the value of  $U_g$  found from the transconductance measurements is about -4 V. We explain this by a voltage drop across the channel caused by the gate leakage current crowding at the edges of the structure. The gate leakage conductivity is about 0.005 Ω<sup>-1</sup> at T=10 K, while the conductivity of the channel is about 0.02 Ω<sup>-1</sup> (for  $U_g=0$ ). As a result, the applied gate voltage  $U_{g,\text{app}}$  (specified in Fig. 2(b)) appears almost two times higher than the actual

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### Magnetotransport characterization

**B up to 10 T**

**S = 0.35 μm**

**S = 0.85 μm**

Normalized FFT power spectrum (arb. units)

2DEG density (m<sup>-2</sup>) × 10<sup>17</sup>

Normalized Soft oscillations, a.u.

Inverse of Magnetic Field, T<sup>-1</sup>

2DEG concentration, cm<sup>-2</sup>

Gate Voltage, V

$N(V_g) = \frac{\epsilon_s \epsilon_0}{ed} (V_g - V_{th})$

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### Magnetotransport characterization

#### Quantum relaxation time

$R_{\text{shot}} \approx R_0 \left( 1 + \frac{4A}{\sinh A} \exp\left(-\frac{\pi m^*}{eB\tau_q}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi m^* \hbar}{eB} + \phi\right) \right)$

$A = \frac{4\pi^2 k_B T m^*}{\hbar e B}$

Normalized FFT power spectrum (arb. units)

2DEG density (m<sup>-2</sup>) × 10<sup>17</sup>

FWHM of the peak in FFT power spectrum (m<sup>-2</sup>)

Quantum Relaxation Time, τ<sub>q</sub> (ps)

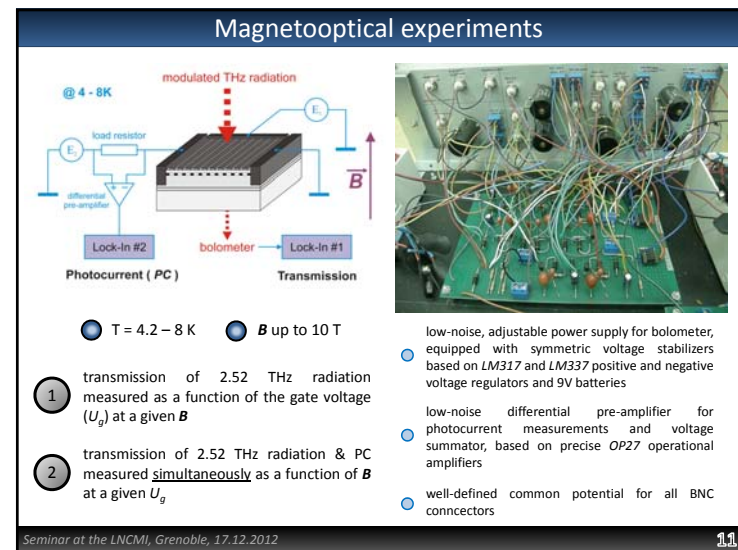
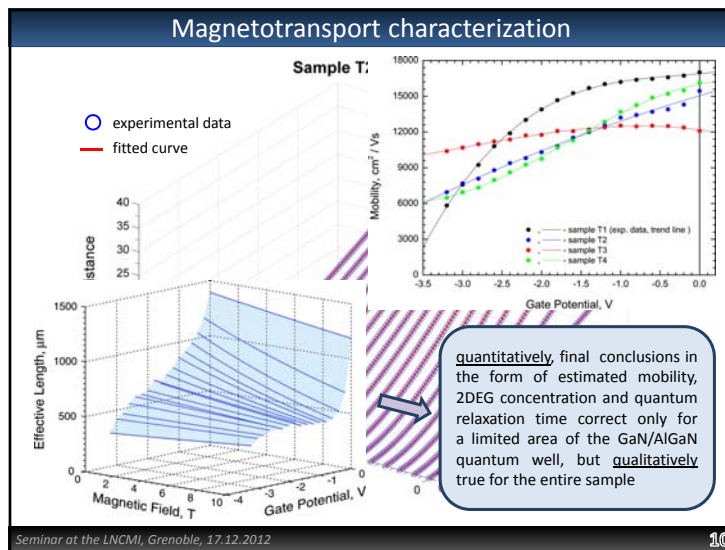
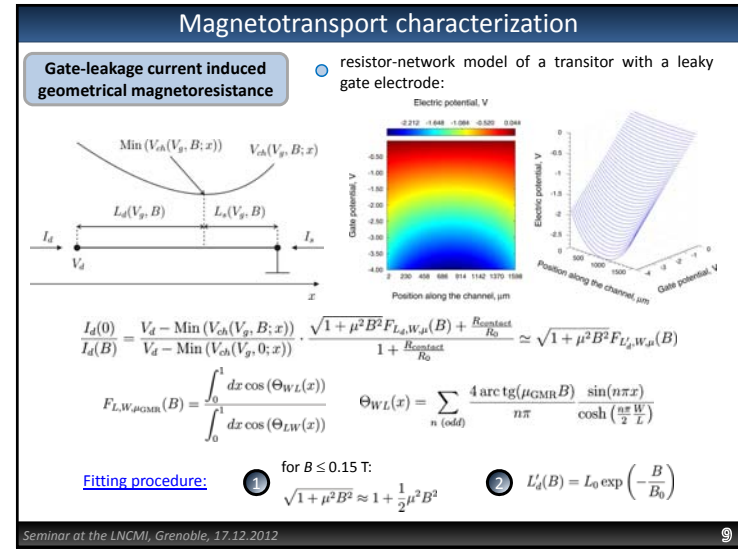
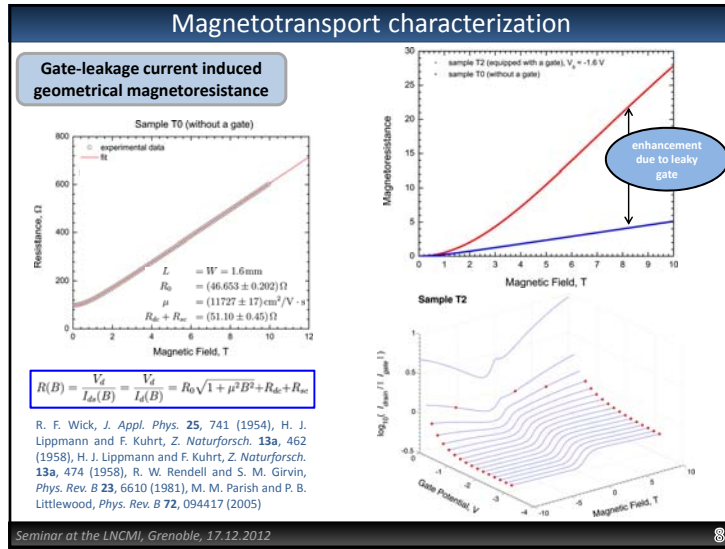
Quantum Relaxation Time (ps)

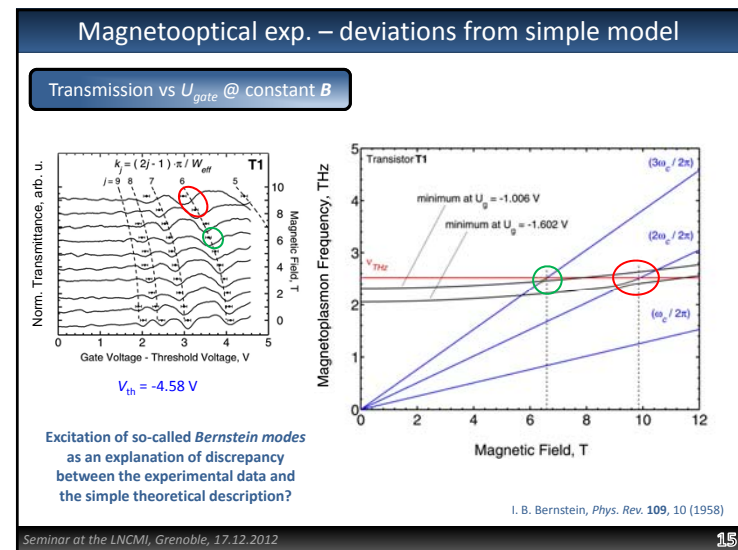
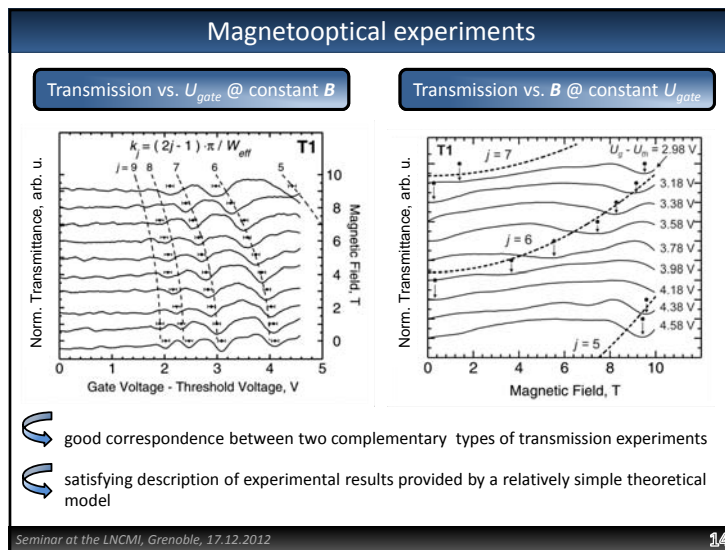
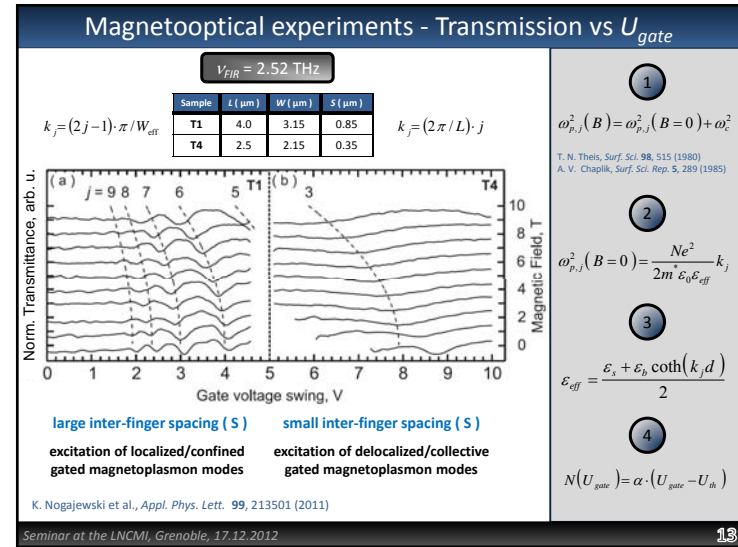
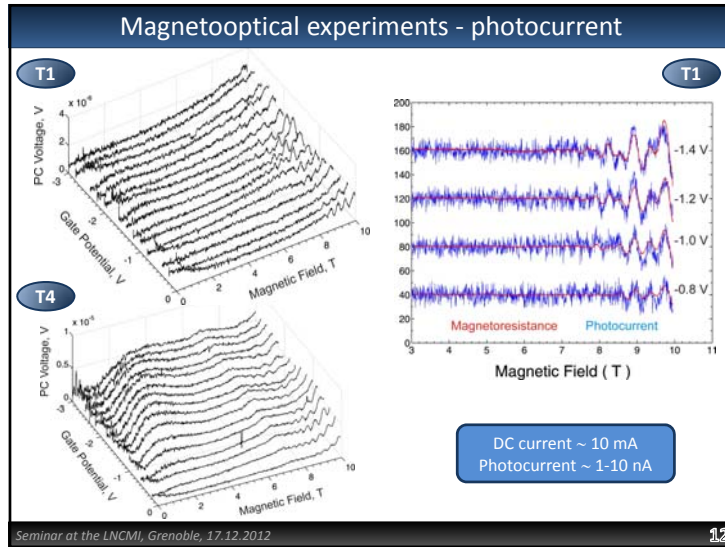
2DEG density (m<sup>-2</sup>) × 10<sup>16</sup>

$\Delta(\tau_q) = A_1 \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_q}{T_1}\right) + A_2 \exp\left(-\frac{\tau_q}{T_2}\right) + \Delta_0$

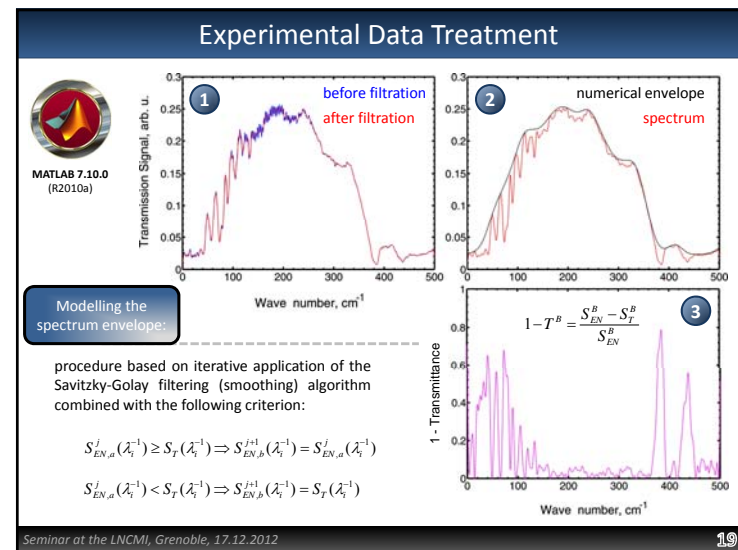
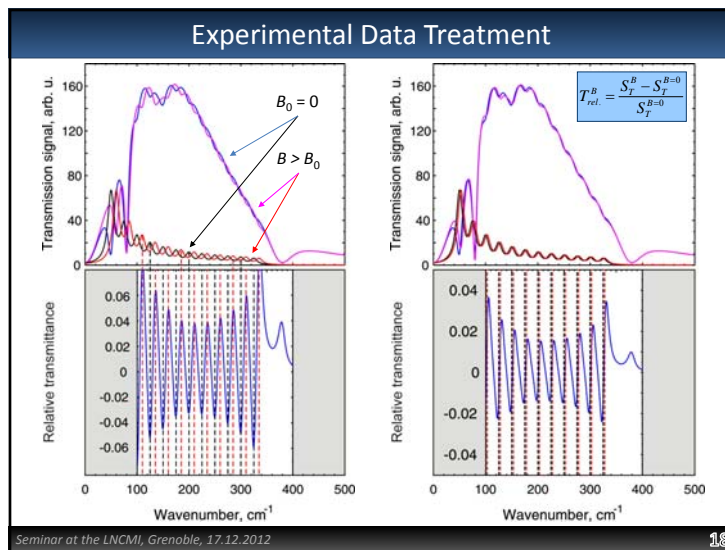
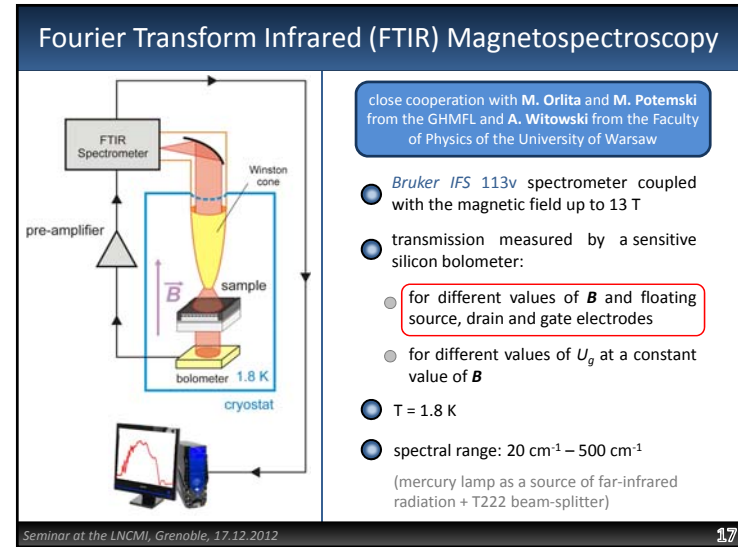
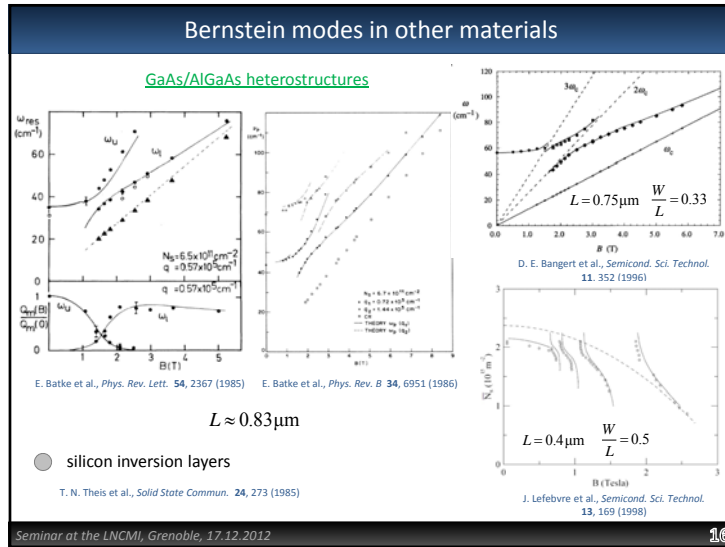
$\Delta_0 = (5.500 \pm 0.068) \times 10^{15} \text{m}^{-2}$   
 $A_1 = (3.22 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{16} \text{m}^{-2}$   
 $T_1 = (4.19 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-14} \text{s}$   
 $A_2 = (1.55 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{17} \text{m}^{-2}$   
 $T_2 = (7.46 \pm 0.20) \times 10^{-15} \text{s}$

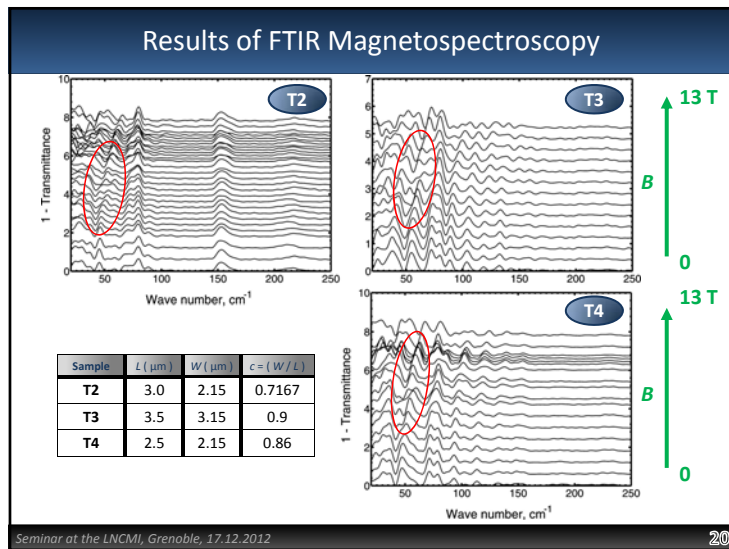
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### Experimental Data Treatment - FSD

function determining the shape of spectral lines  $\rightarrow$   $E(\nu) = G(\nu) * \tilde{E}(\nu) = \int G(\nu') \tilde{E}(\nu - \nu') d\nu'$

spectrum without line broadening  $\rightarrow$   $I(x) = F^{-1}\{E(\nu)\} = \int E(\nu) \exp(-2\pi i \nu x) d\nu$

normal/inverse Fourier transform of the convolution of two functions is equal to the product of normal/inverse Fourier transforms of each function

more complicated reality:

$$\tilde{E}_{imp}(\nu) = F\left\{\frac{D_s(x)I(x)}{F^{-1}\{G(\nu)\}}\right\} = F\left\{\frac{D_s(x)F^{-1}\{E(\nu)\}}{F^{-1}\{G(\nu)\}}\right\}$$

apodization function  $\rightarrow$

#### Fourier Self-Deconvolution (FSD)

Most commonly observed profiles of spectral lines:

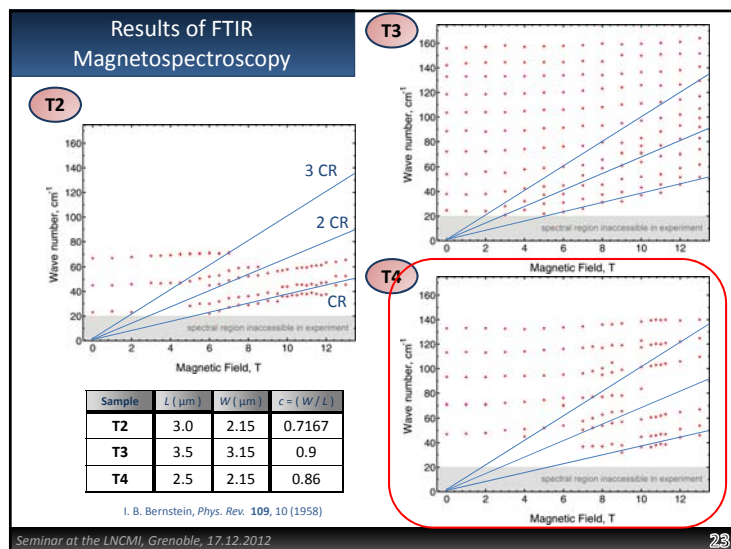
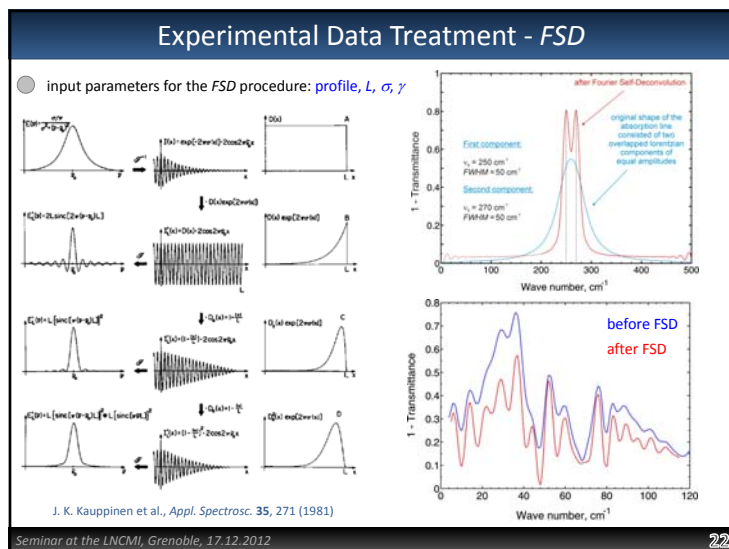
**Lorentz's profile:**  $L(\nu; \gamma) = \frac{\gamma}{\pi(\nu^2 + \gamma^2)}$   
 $F^{-1}\{L(\nu; \gamma)\} = \exp(-2\pi\gamma|x|)$

**Gauss's profile:**  $G(\nu; \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{\nu^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$   
 $F^{-1}\{G(\nu; \sigma)\} = \exp(-2\pi^2\sigma^2 x^2)$

**Voigt's profile:**  $V(\nu; \gamma, \sigma) = L(\nu; \gamma) * G(\nu; \sigma)$   
 $F^{-1}\{V(\nu; \gamma, \sigma)\} = F^{-1}\{L(\nu; \gamma)\} \cdot F^{-1}\{G(\nu; \sigma)\}$

J. K. Kauppinen et al., Appl. Spectrosc. 35, 271 (1981)  
 J. K. Kauppinen et al., Anal. Chem. 53, 1454 (1981)  
 J. K. Kauppinen et al., Appl. Opt. 20, 1866 (1981)  
 J. K. Kauppinen et al., Appl. Opt. 21, 1866 (1982)

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### Description of non-local properties of an electron gas

**The Model:**

- 1 **is based** on a self-consistent solution of the **Boltzmann-Vlasov kinetic equation** describing the motion of electrons forming a plasma subject to an external magnetic field
- 2 **includes** the long-range Coulomb interaction between electrons in the form of self-consistent electric field
- 3 **neglects:** local-field corrections, correlation effects, exchange and short-range Coulomb interactions between electrons
- 4 **assumes** validity of the relaxation time, effective mass and random phase approximations
- 5 **focuses** on long-wavelength plasma excitations

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + [\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla + e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_p] f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right)_{\text{coll}}$$

+ Maxwell's equations

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + [\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla + e(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_p] f = - \frac{f - f^0(\mathbf{p})}{\tau}$$

$$f \equiv f(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}, t) = f^0(\mathbf{p}) + \delta f(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}, t) \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{\mathbf{p}}{m^*}$$

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \frac{e}{(2\pi)^3} \int (\mathbf{p} / m^*) \delta f(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}, \omega) d^3 p$$

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \sigma(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \mathbf{E}$$

$$\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{k}) = \varepsilon_{\text{unice}}(\omega) + \frac{i\sigma(\omega, \mathbf{k})}{\omega \varepsilon_0}$$

$$\varepsilon_{xx}(\omega, \mathbf{k}) = 0$$

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### Description of non-local properties of an electron gas

- implicit dependence on  $k$  of  $\sigma(\omega, \mathbf{k})$  through  $\omega_p(k)$  and so-called **non-local parameter**

$$X_j = k_j \frac{u_F}{\omega_c} = \frac{k_j m^* u_F}{e B} = k_j R_c = 2\pi \frac{R_c}{\lambda_j}$$

measure of the **extent** to which the **cyclotron motion** of electrons probes the **spatially non-uniform electric field** of the **plasma wave**

- $X_j \rightarrow 0 \Leftrightarrow$  local limit
- $X_j \approx 1 \Leftrightarrow$  strong non-local effects

- estimation of the  $X$  parameter for the **T4** sample:
 
$$N = 8.8 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}^{-2} \quad m^* = 0.22 m_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_F = \frac{\hbar}{m^*} (2\pi N)^{1/2} = 3.91 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$L = 2.5 \mu\text{m} \quad j = 2 \quad k_j = \frac{2\pi j}{L} \quad B = 8 \text{ T} \quad \Rightarrow \quad X_2(B=8\text{T}) \approx 0.31$$

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### Non-local dispersion of 2D magnetoplasmons

$$\varepsilon_{xx} \frac{\omega^2 - \omega_{LO}^2}{\omega^2 - \omega_{TO}^2} - \varepsilon_{xx} \omega_p^2(k_j) \frac{6}{X_j^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 g_n(X_j)}{\omega^2 - (n f_n \omega_c)^2} = 0$$

for a given  $B$  and  $j$ , polynomial function of  $\omega$  which roots correspond to magnetoplasmon resonances

$$X_j = k_j \frac{u_F}{\omega_c} = \frac{k_j m^* u_F}{e B} = k_j R_c = 2\pi \frac{R_c}{\lambda_j} \quad g_n(X_j) = \frac{1}{X_j} \int_0^{X_j} J_{2n}(2\xi) d\xi$$

$$\omega_p^2(k_j) = \frac{N e^2}{2m^* \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_{\text{eff}}(k_j)} k_j \quad k_j = \frac{2\pi j}{L}$$

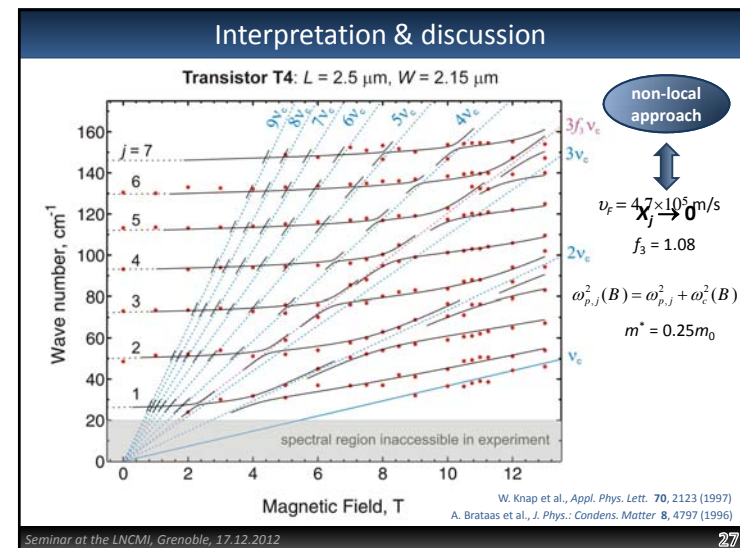
known from magnetotransport measurements (appropriately corrected due to leaky gate effects for non-zero  $V_g$ )      known grating parameter

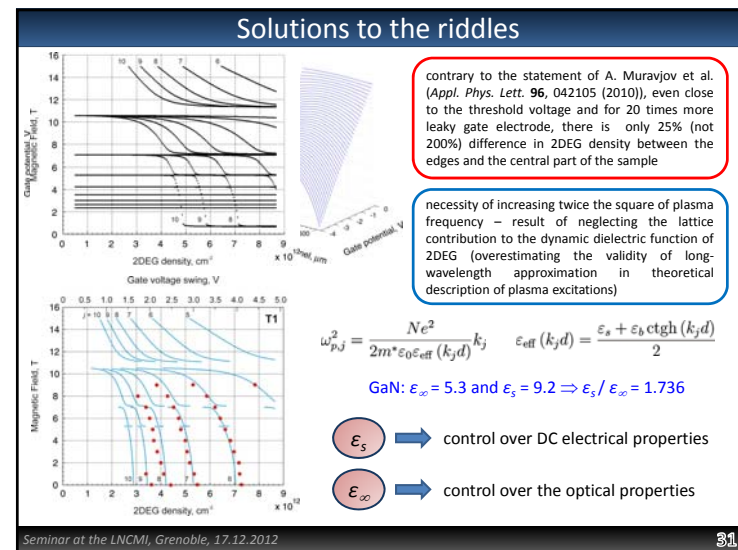
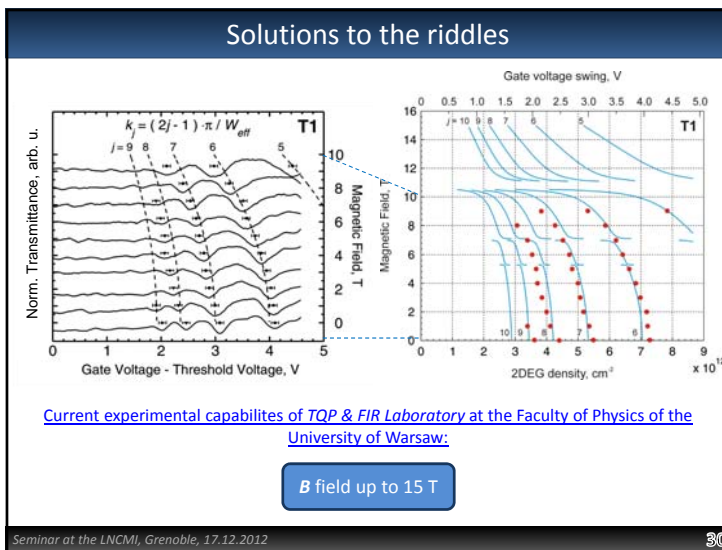
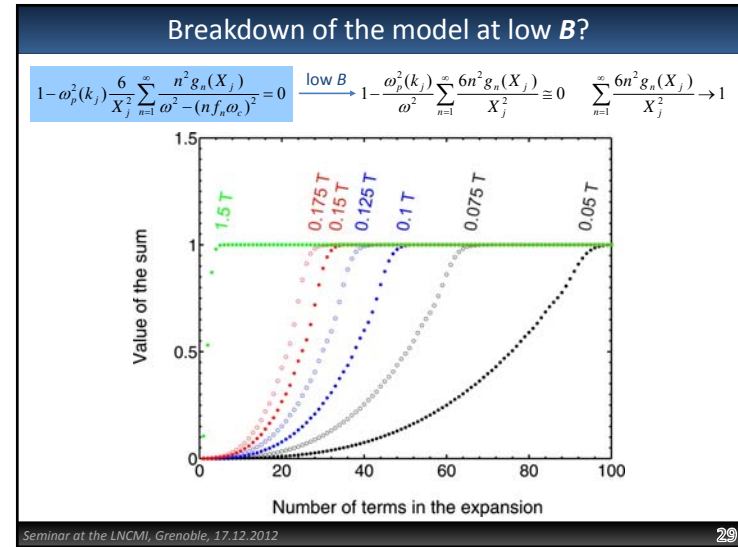
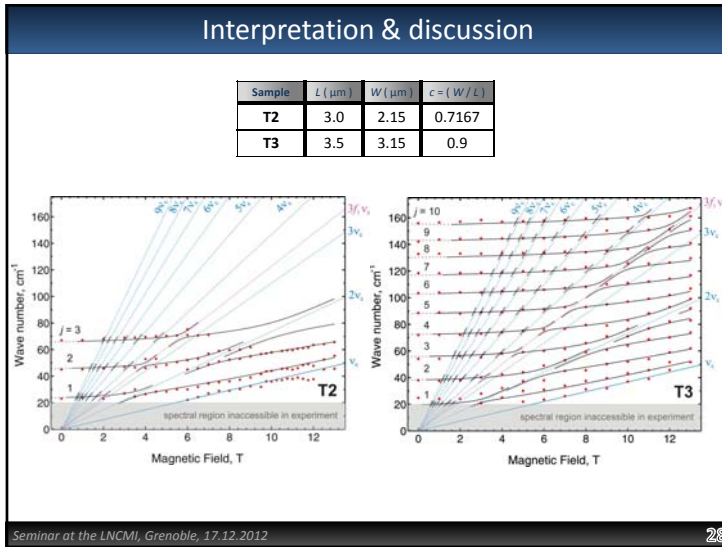
$$\varepsilon_{s,\infty} = 5.3 \text{ (GaN)} \quad \varepsilon_{b,\infty} = 5.2 \text{ (Al}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{N)} \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 9 \quad f_1 \equiv 1 \quad f_2 = 1$$

$$v_{LO} = 742 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (GaN)} \quad v_{TO} = 560 \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ (GaN)}$$

**only 3 fitting parameters:  $m^*, u_F, f_3$**

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## Summary

- 1 The first report on experimental observation of non-local interaction between 2D magnetoplasmons and CR harmonics in GaN/AlGaIn heterostructures
- 2 The strength of non-local interaction of the same value as in the case of GaAs/AlGaAs heterostructures
- 3 Observation of non-local interaction between both the second and the third CR harmonic and higher order magnetoplasmon resonances (up to 7<sup>th</sup>)
- 4 Non-local dispersion of magnetoplasmons well described within a semi-classical model based on a solution of the Boltzmann-Vlasov kinetic equation of motion of electrons forming a plasma subjected to an external magnetic field
- 5 Decrease of the third harmonic cyclotron mass in comparison with the primary cyclotron mass – phenomenon not observed up to now due to lack of experimental data for higher Bernstein modes, originating probably from the band structure effects
- 6 Significant influence of the gate-leakage current on the effective geometry of the samples under investigation
- 7 Important role of lattice vibrations in correct description of plasma oscillations

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## Presentation and publication of the results

- 40<sup>th</sup> "Jaszowiec" 2011 International School & Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors, June 25 - July 1, 2011, Krynica-Zdrój, Poland – oral presentation
- 36<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves, October 2 - 7, 2011, Hyatt Regency Downtown, Houston, Texas, USA – 2 oral presentations
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Terahertz Nanoscience and 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop of International Terahertz Research Network (GDR-I), November 24 - 29, 2011, Nakanoshima Center, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan – invited talk
- 41<sup>st</sup> "Jaszowiec" 2012 International School & Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors, June 8 - 15, 2012, Krynica-Zdrój, Poland – oral presentation
- 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on "High Magnetic Fields in Semiconductor Physics", July 22 - 27, 2012, Chamonix Mont-Blanc, France – poster presentation
- 31<sup>st</sup> International Conference on the Physics of Semiconductors, July 29 – August 3, 2012, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland – oral presentation
- OTST 2013 International Workshop on Optical Terahertz Science and Technology, April 1 – 5, 2013, Kyoto Terra, Japan – waiting for notification of abstract acceptance
- K. Nogajewski et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **99**, 213501 (2011)
- Two manuscripts in preparation (to be submitted soon)

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**J. Kossut**  
Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

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**M. Grynberg**  
Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Poland

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**JU ENIAC MERCURE** project  
No. 220120

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Thank you very much for your  
kind attention!

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## Appendix: Literature

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2. H. Ehrenreich, and M. H. Cohen, *Phys. Rev.* **115**, 786 (1959)
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