

converting energies. The electron's thermal current removes heat from the hot reservoir via $(J_{el}^R)_{\Delta V}$ and rejects waste heat into the cold reservoir via $(J_{el}^L)_{\Delta V}$. No energy conversion is possible when the Seebeck coefficients is vanishing.

We also consider the nanojunction in a three-terminal geometry, where the current, voltage, and electric power can be modulated by the gate voltages, which shift the states of the junction. We observe that the gate field can control the magnitude, power on-off, and polarity of the induced current and voltages generated by the Seebeck effect. Such current-voltage characteristics could be useful in the design of nanoscale electronic devices such as

a transistor or switch. Notably, the nanojunction as a transistor with a fixed finite temperature difference between electrodes can power itself using the Seebeck effect. The results of this study may be of interest to researchers attempting to develop new forms of thermoelectric nano-devices.

The authors thank Ministry of Education, Aiming for Top University Plan (MOE ATU), National Center for Theoretical Sciences (South), and National Science Council (Taiwan) for support under Grants NSC 97-2112-M-009-011-MY3, 098-2811-M-009-021, and 97-2120-M-009-005.

-
- * Electronic address: yuchangchen@mail.nctu.edu.tw
- ¹ A. Aviram and M. A. Ratner, Chem. Phys. Lett. **29**, 277 (1974).
 - ² M. A. Reed, C. Zhou, C. J. Muller, T. P. Burgin, and J. M. Tour, Science **278**, 252 (1997).
 - ³ M. Di Ventra, *Electrical transport in nanoscale systems*, (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008).
 - ⁴ C. C. Kaun and H. Guo, Nano Lett. **3**, 1521 (2003).
 - ⁵ M. Di Ventra and N. D. Lang, Phys. Rev. B **65**, 045402 (2001).
 - ⁶ A. Nitzan and M. A. Ratner, Science **300**, 1384 (2003).
 - ⁷ W. Wang, T. Lee, I. Kretschmar, and M. A. Read, Nano Lett. **4**, 643 (2004).
 - ⁸ M. Galperin, A. Nitzan, and M. A. Ratner, Phys. Rev. B **78**, 125320 (2008).
 - ⁹ J. Jiang, M. Kula, W. Lu, and Y. Luo, Nano Lett. **5**, 1551 (2005).
 - ¹⁰ L. H. Yu, C. D. Zangmeister, and J. G. Kushmerick, Phys. Rev. Lett. **98**, 206803 (2007).
 - ¹¹ M. Paulsson, T. Frederiksen, and M. Brandbyge, Nano Lett. **6**, 258 (2006).
 - ¹² G. C. Slomon, A. Gagliardi, A. Pecchia, T. Frauenheim, A. Di Carlo, J. R. Reimers, and N. S. Noel, J. Chem. Phys. **124**, 094704 (2006).
 - ¹³ J. G. Kushmerick and J. Lazorcik, C. H. Patterson, and R. Shashidhar, Nano Lett. **4**, 639 (2004).
 - ¹⁴ Y. C. Chen, M. Zwolak, and M. Di Ventra, Nano Lett. **5**, 621 (2005).
 - ¹⁵ Y. C. Chen, Phys. Rev. B **78**, 233310 (2008).
 - ¹⁶ I. S. Kristensen, M. Paulsson, K. S. Thygesen, and K. W. Jacobsen, Phys. Rev. B **79**, 235411 (2009).
 - ¹⁷ D. Djukic and J. M. van Ruitenbeek, Nano Lett. **6**, 789 (2006).
 - ¹⁸ M. Kiguchi, O. Tal, S. Wohlthat, F. Pauly, M. Krieger, D. Djukic, J. C. Cuevas, and J. M. van Ruitenbeek, Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 046801 (2008).
 - ¹⁹ P. J. Wheeler, J. N. Russom, K. Evans, N. S. King, and D. Natelson, Nano Lett. **10**, 1287 (2010).
 - ²⁰ Y. C. Chen and M. Di Ventra, Phys. Rev. Lett. **95**, 166802 (2005).
 - ²¹ Y. S. Liu and Y. C. Chen, Phys. Rev. B **83**, 035401 (2011).
 - ²² Y. C. Chen, M. Zwolak, and M. Di Ventra, Nano Lett. **3**, 1691 (2003).
 - ²³ Z. Huang, B. Xu, Y. C. Chen, M. Di Ventra, and N. J. Tao, Nano Lett. **6**, 1240 (2006).
 - ²⁴ M. Di Ventra, S. T. Pantelides, and N. D. Lang, Appl. Phys. Lett. **76**, 3448 (2000).
 - ²⁵ C. L. Ma, D. Nghiem, and Y. C. Chen, Appl. Phys. Lett. **93**, 222111 (2008).
 - ²⁶ P. M. Solomon and N. D. Lang, ACS Nano **2**, 435 (2008).
 - ²⁷ N. D. Lang and P. M. Solomon, ACS Nano **3**, 1437 (2009).
 - ²⁸ H. Song, Y. Kim, Y. H. Jang, H. Jeong, M. A. Reed, and T. Lee, Nature **462**, 1039 (2009).
 - ²⁹ C. H. Ahn, A. Bhattacharya, M. Di Ventra, J. N. Eckstein, C. D. Frisbie, M. E. Gershenson, A. M. Goldman, I. H. Inoue, J. Mannhart, A. J. Millis, A. F. Morpurgo, D. Natelson, and J. M. Triscone, Rev. Mod. Phys. **78**, 1185 (2006).
 - ³⁰ S. M. Lindsay and M. A. Ratner, Advanced Materials **19**, 23 (2007).
 - ³¹ N. J. Tao, Nat. Nanotechnol. **1**, 173 (2006).
 - ³² B. Ludoph and J. M. van Ruitenbeek, Phys. Rev. B **59**, 12290 (1999).
 - ³³ P. Reddy, S. Y. Jang, R. A. Segalman, and A. Majumdar, Science **315**, 1568 (2007).
 - ³⁴ K. Baheti, J. A. Malen, P. Doak, P. Reddy, S. Y. Jang, T. D. Tilley, A. Majumdar, and R. A. Segalman, Nano Lett. **8**, 715 (2008).
 - ³⁵ J. A. Malen, P. Doak, K. Baheti, T. D. Tilley, R. A. Segalman, and A. Majumdar, Nano Lett. **9**, 1164 (2009).
 - ³⁶ J. A. Malen, S. K. Yee, A. Majumdar, and R. A. Swgalman, Chem. Phys. Lett. **491**, 109 (2010).
 - ³⁷ M. Paulsson and S. Datta, Phys. Rev. B **67**, 241403(R) (2003).
 - ³⁸ X. Zheng, W. Zheng, Y. Wei, Z. Zeng, and J. Wang, J. Chem. Phys. **121**, 8537 (2004).
 - ³⁹ B. Wang, Y. Xing, L. Wan, Y. Wei, and J. Wang, Phys. Rev. B **71**, 233406 (2005).
 - ⁴⁰ F. Pauly, J. K. Viljas, and J. C. Cuevas, Phys. Rev. B **78**, 035315 (2008).
 - ⁴¹ Y. Dubi and M. Di Ventra, Nano Lett. **9**, 97 (2009).
 - ⁴² T. Markussen, A. P. Jauho, and M. Brandbyge, Phys. Rev. Lett. **103**, 055502 (2009).
 - ⁴³ S. H. Ke, W. Yang, S. Curtarolo, and H. U. Baranger, Nano Lett. **9**, 1011 (2009).
 - ⁴⁴ C. M. Finch, V. M. García-Suárez, and C. J. Lambert, Phys. Rev. B **79**, 033405 (2009).
 - ⁴⁵ T. Markussen, A. P. Jauho, and M. Brandbyge, Phys. Rev. B **79**, 035415 (2009).
 - ⁴⁶ J. P. Bergfield and C. A. Stafford, Nano Lett. **9**, 3072 (2009).
 - ⁴⁷ Y. S. Liu, Y. R. Chen, and Y. C. Chen, ACS Nano **3**, 3497 (2009).
 - ⁴⁸ M. Galperin, A. Nitzan, and M. A. Ratner, Molecular