

## 2-dimensional electron gases in oxide heterostructures

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Oxide materials display within the same family of compounds a variety of exciting electronic properties ranging from ferroelectricity to ferromagnetism and superconductivity. These systems are often characterized by strong electronic correlations, complex phase diagrams and competing ground states. This competition makes these materials very sensitive to external parameters such as pressure or magnetic field. An interface, which naturally breaks inversion symmetry, is a major perturbation and one may thus expect that electronic systems with unusual properties can be generated at oxide interfaces. A striking example is the interface between LaAlO<sub>3</sub> and SrTiO<sub>3</sub>, two good band insulators, which was found in 2004 to be conducting [1], and, in some doping range, superconducting with a maximum critical temperature of about 200 mK [2]. The characteristics observed in the normal and superconducting states are consistent with a two-dimensional electronic system.

In this presentation, I will briefly motivate the search for novel properties at oxide interfaces before to focus on the 2-dimensional electron gas observed in at the LaAlO<sub>3</sub>/SrTiO<sub>3</sub> interface. The thickness of the electron gas is found to be a few nanometers at low temperatures. This electron gas with low electronic density, typically  $5 \cdot 10^{13}$  electrons/cm<sup>2</sup>, and naturally sandwiched between two insulators is ideal for performing electric field effect experiments allowing the carrier density to be tuned. I will discuss the origin of the electron gas [3]; field effect experiments and the phase diagram of the system [4]; superconductivity and the role of spin orbit [5,6]; and if time allows the physics of high mobility samples that display Shubnikov de Haas oscillations [7].

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