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<sup>1</sup>D.N. Borisenko, <sup>2</sup>P.M. Walmsley, <sup>2</sup>A.I. Golov,  
<sup>1</sup>N.N. Kolesnikov, <sup>1</sup>Yu.V. Kotov, <sup>1</sup>A.A. Levchenko\*, <sup>2</sup>M.J. Fear

<sup>1</sup>ISSP RAS, Chernogolovka, Moscow region, Russia, 142432

<sup>2</sup>The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

\*E-mail: levch@issp.ac.ru

### Field-emission source of charges based on nanotubes for low temperature experiments

In this report we present two methods of production of field-emission charge sources based on carbon nanotubes, that can be used in low-temperature investigation of properties of injected charges in cryogenic liquids and crystals. The sources were made from metal disks with a diameter of 10 mm and thickness of about 1 mm. The thermal emission on a source does not exceed  $E < 10^{-6}$  W.

**Key words:** autoemission charges, nanotubes, cryocrystals.

Д.Н. Борисенко, П.М. Уолмслей, А.И. Голов, Н.Н. Колесников, Ю.В. Котов,  
А.А. Левченко, М.Д. Феер

### Источник автоэмиссионных зарядов на основе нанотрубок для низкотемпературных экспериментов

В настоящем докладе мы представляем два способа производства автоэмиссионных источников заряда на основе углеродных нанотрубок, которые могут быть использованы в низкотемпературных исследованиях свойств инжектированных зарядов в криогенных жидкостях и кристаллах. Измерения I-V (ток-напряжение) зависимости источников первой серии показали, что в сверхтекучем гелии He-II ток отрицательных зарядов на уровне 10-12 А появляется при напряжении на источнике  $U = -120$  В, и увеличивается до 10-9 А с увеличением  $U$  до -170 В. Таким образом, наблюдаемая зависимость существенно сильнее, чем квадратичная зависимость  $I(U)$ , что может быть объяснено наличием в объеме образца большого количества дефектов, которые могут улавливать инжектируемые заряды.

**Ключевые слова:** автоэмиссионные заряды, нанотрубки, криокристаллы.

Д.Н. Борисенко, П.М. Уолмслей, А.И. Голов, Н.Н. Колесников, Ю.В. Котов,  
А.А. Левченко, М.Д. Феер

### Төмен температуралы тәжірибелер үшін нанотүтікшелер негізінде автоэмиссиялы зарядтардың көзі

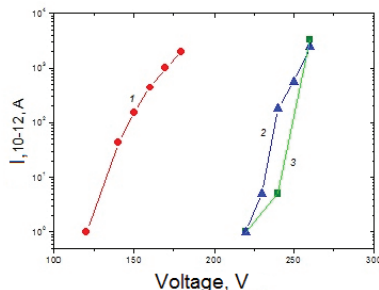
Бұл баяндамада біз криогенді сұйықтарда және кристалдардағы инжектрлік зарядтардың қасиетін төмен температуралы зерттеулерде қолданылуы мүмкін көміртек негізіндегі нанотүтікшелердің автоэмиссиялық көзін алудың екі жолы туралы айтамыз. I-V бірінші серия көздерінің тәуелділіктерін өлшеулер (ток-кернеу) асқын аққыш гелийде He-II 10-12 А деңгейіндегі теріс зарядтардың тогы көзде  $U = -120$  В кернеу болған кезде көрінетіні және  $U = -170$  В дейін артқанда 10-9 А дейін артатынын көрсетті. Осылайша, бақыланып отырған тәуелділік квадраттық тәуелділікке қарағанда айтарлықтай күшті болады. Бұл үлгінің көлемінде инжектрленген зарядтарды ұстайтын ақаудың көп болуымен түсіндіріледі.

**Түйін сөздер:** автоэмиссионды зарядтар, нанотүтікшелер, криокристалдар.

In this report we present two methods of production of field-emission charge sources based on carbon nanotubes, that can be used in low-

temperature investigation of properties of injected charges in cryogenic liquids and crystals. The sources were made from metal disks with a diameter

of 10 mm and thickness of about 1 mm. The thermal emission on a source does not exceed  $E < 10^{-6}$  W. The first series of sources was prepared by the deposition of nanotubes from the arc discharge on a flat copper substrate, and the second series – by a mechanical rubbing of nanotubes in porous metal.



**Figure 1** – The dependence of current through the diode in superfluid helium He-II on voltage applied to the source at  $T=1.3$ K. Curve 1 – negative charges, curve 2 – positive charges. Curve 3 – current of negative charges in three weeks after first test.

In test experiments the sources were placed on inner surface of a plate of the diode with gap 0.5 mm.

Measurements of I-V (current-voltage) dependence of sources from first series showed

that in the superfluid He-II a current of negative charges at the level of  $10^{-12}$ A occurred when the voltage applied to the source was  $U = -120$  V, and it increased to  $10^{-9}$ A with raising  $U$  up to  $-170$  V. When the polarity of voltage was changed the current of positive charges in the diode occurred at the voltage  $U > 220$  V. In a source from the second series the current of negative charges at the level of  $10^{-12}$ A in the superfluid He-II was registered at the voltage  $U = -260$  V.

We applied the source from the first series to investigate the motion of negative and positive charges in the samples of solid helium at temperatures down to 75 mK. Voltage dependence of negative charges current at voltages above 250V can be described by a power-law function,  $I \sim U^\eta$ , where  $\eta$  is closed to 7.5. The observed significantly stronger than quadratic dependence of  $I(U)$  can be associated with the presence in the volume of the sample of a large number of defects that can trap injected charges [1].

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