

1 **Stable Universal 1- and 2-Input Single-Molecule Logic Gates**2
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34 **Keywords:** Molecular computing, Coulomb blockade, Logic gate, Molecular electronics,
35 Single-electron transistor.

36

37 **Abstract:** Controllable single-molecule logic operations would enable development of reliable
38 ultra-minimalistic circuit elements for high-density computing but require stable currents from
39 multiple orthogonal inputs in molecular junctions. Utilizing the two unique adjacent conductive
40 molecular orbitals (MOs) of gated Au/S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S/Au (Fc=ferrocene) single-electron
41 transistors (~2 nm), we present a stable Single-Electron Logic Calculator (SELC) allowing real-
42 time modulation of output current as a function of orthogonal input bias (V_b) and gate (V_g)
43 voltages. Reliable and low-voltage ($|V_b| < 80$ mV, $|V_g| < 2$ V) operations of SELC depend upon
44 the unambiguous association of current resonances with energy shifts of the MOs (which show
45 an invariable, small energy separation of ~100 meV) in response to the changes of voltages,
46 which is confirmed by electron transport calculations. Stable multi-logic operations based on
47 the SELC modulated current conversions between the two resonances and Coulomb blockade
48 regimes were demonstrated via the implementation of all universal 1-input
49 (YES/NOT/PASS_1/PASS_0) and 2-input (AND/XOR/OR/NAND/NOR/INT/XNOR) logic
50 gates.

51

52 1. Introduction

53 Effective control of electronic properties of molecular junctions for stable rectification^[1-2],
54 switching^[3-4], memory^[5-6] and logic operation^[7-12] is critical for reducing the area and power
55 consumption of electrical circuits. Important advances have been made in the design of
56 multifunctional molecular devices that employ external stimuli (e.g., chemical, light, magnetic
57 or electric field) to modulate electron transport through molecular junctions^[2-3,5,7,11,13-21]. The
58 modulations typically rely on stimulus-induced changes in molecular electronic states^[5,14,22]
59 and therefore the functional diversity and signal stability of molecular devices depend on the
60 availability of different stable electronic states and efficient conversions between them^[2-3,7,23].
61 As all-electrical-driven devices, three-terminal solid-state single-electron transistors
62 (SETs)^[17,24-30] not only reflect the quantum behavior of intramolecular electron transport, such
63 as Coulomb blockade^[19-20,31-32], Zeeman effect^[20-21], thermoelectric properties^[25-26,33] and
64 Kondo effect^[21,34-36], but also have the unique advantage of controlling the molecular orbitals
65 (MOs) by applying external electrostatic potentials^[17,26,36-39], thereby providing new
66 opportunities for the ultra-miniaturization of computing elements^[40-43]. However, there are still
67 two key challenges in utilizing SETs in single-molecule functional devices. First, the

68 background electrostatic potentials of molecular junctions that affect the absolute energy of
 69 MOs are difficult to control, and so the resonance regions determined by MOs are normally
 70 different for different junctions formed with the same molecule^[19-20,31,43]. Second, the
 71 multifunctional implementation requires clear boundaries between Coulomb blockade and
 72 resonance regimes^[20,28,32], which are complicated by the electrode-induced energy-level
 73 broadening of MOs^[17,28-29,44].

74 Targeting these two challenges, we screened Au/S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S/Au (Fc=ferrocene)
 75 SETs from five different kinds of Fc-based gated SET junctions (see **Figure 3** and
 76 Supplementary Information (SI) S8) and designed a prototype Single-Electron Logic Calculator
 77 (SELC). First, instead of relying on absolute currents affected by the uncertainty of background
 78 electrostatic potentials, we employ current conversions between two sturdy and well-defined
 79 resonance regimes rendered by two adjacent conductive MOs of Fc. The MOs have a stable,
 80 small energy separation of around 100 meV and sit close to the Fermi energy of the electrodes in
 81 all five different Fc-based SETs and our DFT calculations show that this energy signature is not
 82 dependent on the conformation of the molecule inside the transistor^{[24-25],[45-48]}. Crucially, our
 83 measurements and calculations show that the current conversions due to the modulation of MOs
 84 by gate (V_g) and bias (V_b) voltages are stable. Second, we used n-alkyl (-CH₂)_n, n≥3 linkers
 85 to minimize the broadening of the MO energy levels^[25] on the Fc moiety by effectively isolating
 86 Fc from the electrodes^[16,49-50]. Hence, we obtained a sharp-edged diamond-shaped Coulomb
 87 blockade regime in Au/S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S/Au SETs that allows the generation of clear
 88 current switching signals. The small energy separation of the two adjacent conductive MOs of
 89 Fc supports logic operations at low input voltages ($|V_b|<80$ mV, $|V_g|<2$ V) far below the 1.5-5
 90 V drive voltage and 3-15 V gate voltage of CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide
 91 Semiconductor). By implementing all universal logic gates (the four 1-input gates YES, NOT,
 92 PASS_1, and PASS_0 and the seven 2-input gates AND, XOR, OR, NAND, NOR, INT, and
 93 XNOR), we demonstrate reliable programmable logic operations based on one single-molecule
 94 SET.

95

96 **2. The SELC Design**

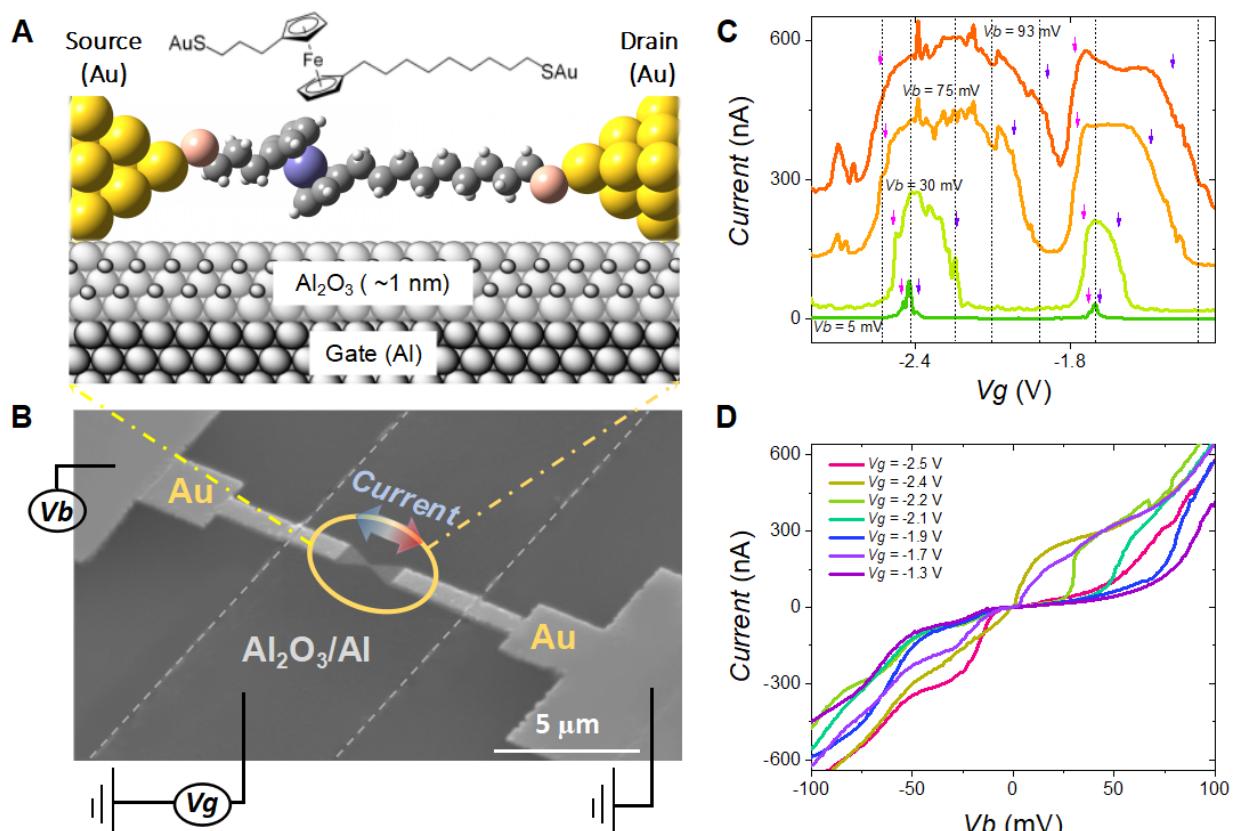
97 **Figure 1A, B** show the schematic configuration and circuit design of the three-terminal SELC
 98 comprising the functional Au/S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S/Au molecular junction (see SI-S1 and S2
 99 for details) strung over an Al back-gate (third terminal) with Al₂O₃ as the insulating layer
 100 between the junction and the gate. Along the junction, the Fc moiety is electronically isolated
 101 by the -(CH₂)₃- and -(CH₂)₉- linkers on either side and the molecule is connected to the source

102 and drain nano-electrodes by thiolate–metal bonds. Studies of similar Fc-based molecules in
 103 three-terminal SETs^[24-25] and SAM-based junctions^[49,51-53] have shown that asymmetric -
 104 (CH₂)_n- linkers cause unequal coupling between the molecule and the electrodes, leading to
 105 current rectification^[49] and thus providing a natural route to encode information *via* orthogonal
 106 modulations of the MOs by V_g and V_b . To minimize the probability of several molecules bridging
 107 one nanogap, we created low coverage of molecules on an array of gold electrodes^[21] (see SI-S2).

108 In the experiment, after electromigration, 37 of the 214 correctly broken nanowires showed a
 109 molecular signal (current of nA scale, see Figure S3). That is, the molecules were sufficiently
 110 diluted that less than 20% of the nanogaps could be successfully connected by molecules, which
 111 greatly reduces the possibility of multiple molecules connecting between the same nanogap at
 112 the same time (< 4%).

113 Figure 1C, D show representative I - V_g and I - V_b curves measured from the three-terminal
 114 junction at different values of V_b and V_g , respectively. The distinct current bi-plateau feature
 115 and the linear variation of the switch points and widths of the plateaus with V_g and V_b indicate
 116 that the molecular junction has been formed and the current through it can be effectively
 117 controlled by V_g and V_b .

118



119
 120 **Figure 1.** The design of SELC. (A) Chemical structure and schematic of a S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S molecule
 121 bridging the nanogap between two nano-electrodes. (B) SEM image of a SELC showing the Au nanowire on

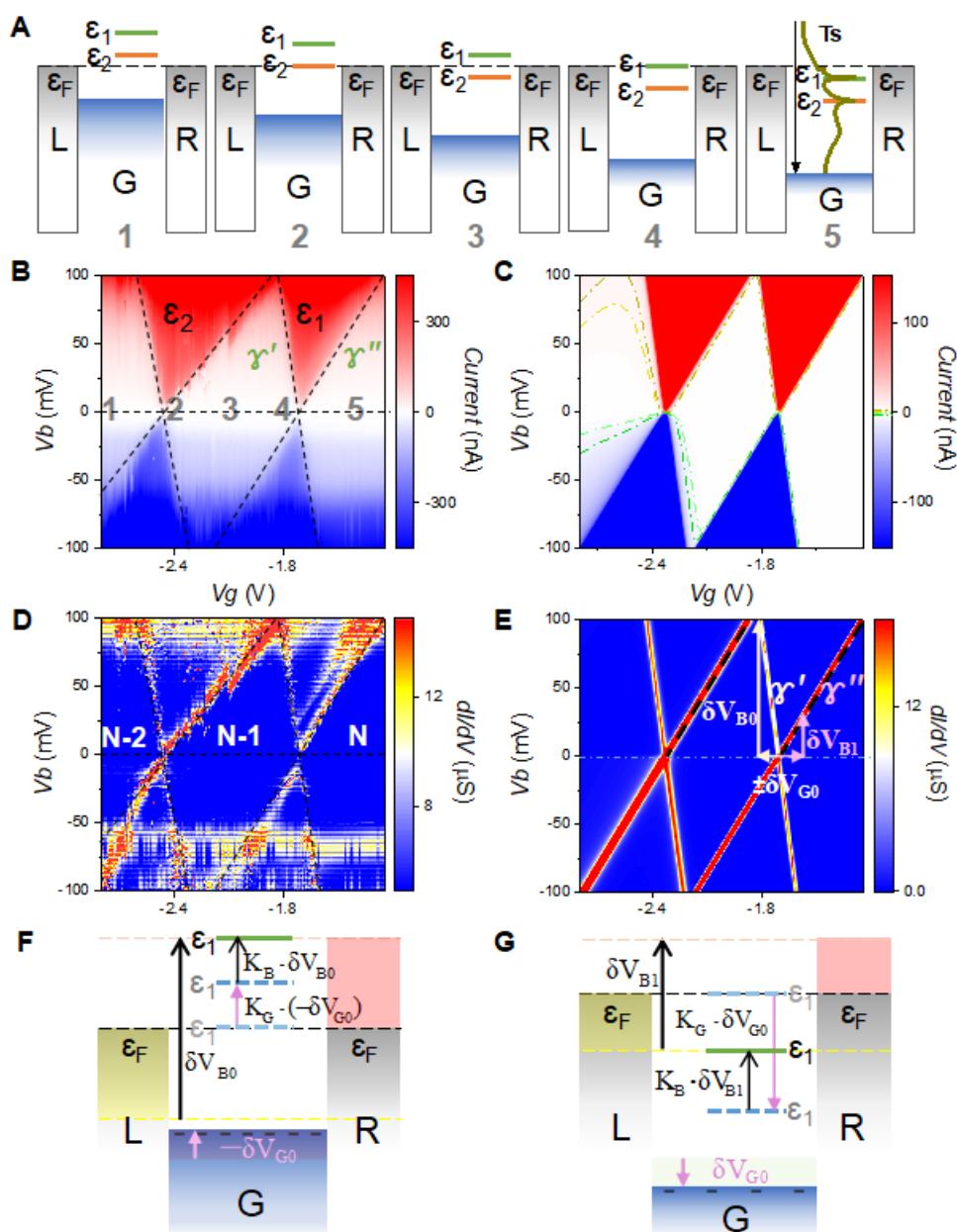
122 the $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Al}$ back-gate on a Si wafer and positions where V_b and V_g are applied. The nanowire and the back-gate were patterned by electron-beam and optical lithography, respectively^[54]. The molecular junction formed in the center of the nanowire was produced using current feedback-controlled electromigration^[17,25,55-56] (see SI-S2 for details). (C) Representative I - V_g curves for different values of V_b measured at 225 mK. The arrows mark the switch points of the current plateaus. The dashed lines indicate the V_g values corresponding to the seven I - V_b curves in (D). (D) Representative I - V_b curves for the seven different V_g values. $T = 225$ mK.

128

129 **3. Results and Discussion**130 **3.1. Current map measurements and calculations**

131 The color-map of the measured current through the SELC as a function of V_b and V_g is shown
 132 in **Figure 2B**. The color code divides the map into different transmission regimes. The red and
 133 blue colors respectively indicate the positive and negative currents in the resonance regime,
 134 where the energy levels of the conductive MOs (ε_1 : HOMO-1 and ε_2 : HOMO-2, see SI-S3 (2))
 135 lie within the bias window, are well-separated, and are conductive due to their coupling to both
 136 electrodes (in contrast to ε_0 : HOMO, where the long-alkyl chain isolates the Fc-centered level
 137 from one electrode). In the map, ε_1 and ε_2 indicate their resonance regions. One distinct
 138 characteristic, which is shared by all five different kinds of Fc-based gated SETs (see SI-S8), is
 139 evident in Figure 2, showing that ε_1 and ε_2 overlap at around ± 100 meV. The left (r') and right
 140 (r'') dashed lines indicate the edges of the ε_1 resonance region. Clear transitions between the
 141 resonance regime and the Coulomb blockade regime (white diamond-shaped areas) are shown
 142 in the corresponding differential conductance (dI/dV) map of Figure 2D. ‘1’, ‘3’ and ‘5’ indicate
 143 the Coulomb blockade regions under different gate voltages near zero-bias. They correspond
 144 directly to the energy diagram in Figure 2A, with both MO levels above/below the Fermi energy
 145 for region ‘1’/‘5’, respectively, and with the electrostatic potential of the leads sandwiched
 146 between the two MO levels for region ‘3’, *i.e.*, the bias window sits within the energy gap
 147 between the two MOs. This creates the diamond-shaped Coulomb blockade region trapped
 148 within a ~ 100 mV bias voltage range which corresponds to the energy difference between the
 149 two MOs ($\Delta MOs = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2$), as marked by the crossing of the ε_1 and ε_2 resonance boundaries.
 150 The computed electron transmission spectrum (T_s) overlaid in Figure 2A (state ‘5’) is the zero-
 151 bias T_s of the molecular junction calculated by DFT-NEGF method (see SI-S3 (2) for details).
 152 The energy difference between the two T_s peaks describes the calculated ΔMOs , which is about
 153 110 meV in good agreement with the measurements and is robust even for different
 154 conformations of the molecule and different electrode distances in the SET (see **SI-**Figure S5****
 155 and **Figure S6**). The narrow widths of the peaks represent the small broadenings of the MOs,
 156 ensuring small currents in the Coulomb blockade region. Due to the asymmetry of the $-(\text{CH}_2)_9-$

157 and $-(\text{CH}_2)_3$ - linkers, the molecule–electrode couplings under positive and negative biases are
 158 different, resulting in different extensions of the Ts peaks. Consequently, the background
 159 (blockade) current under negative bias voltage is higher than at positive bias (as seen in Figure
 160 2B and C, corresponding to the measured and calculated current maps, respectively). In addition,
 161 no Kondo effect was observed in the experiment and the molecule should be in the ground state
 162 ($S = 0$) (see SI-S12). DFT calculations show the spin degeneracy of the ground state molecule
 163 in the absence of magnetic field. For convenience of Helium-3 cryostat, the experiments were
 164 performed at temperatures below 4.2 K (mainly 225 mK) and the measured current is
 165 independent with the temperature. In our previous work^[25], where similar molecules were studied,
 166 a clear edge between the resonance regime and the Coulomb blockade regime can persist up to
 167 120 K.



169

170 **Figure 2.** The current modulation of SELC. (A) Schematic diagrams of the shift of MOs manipulated by the
 171 gate voltage at zero-bias. The Ts of state '5' indicates that the conductive MOs (ε_1 : HOMO-1, ε_2 : HOMO-2)
 172 are below the Fermi energy when V_g is close to zero. At charge points '2' and '4', ε_1 and ε_2 are respectively
 173 aligned with the Fermi level of the electrodes. (B) Measured current map at 225 mK with $V_b: 231 \times V_g: 231$
 174 points. The red/blue colors indicate positive/negative resonance currents, respectively. The numbers
 175 correspond to the diagrams in (A). ε_1 and ε_2 resonance regions correspond to the MOs. (C) Calculated current
 176 map with $V_b: 101 \times V_g: 142$ points. The background pattern (marked by the dashed contour lines) is
 177 contributed by the extension of transmission peaks. (D) Measured differential conductance map highlighting
 178 the edges between resonance and Coulomb blockade regimes. 'N-2', 'N-1' and 'N' indicate the number of
 179 fully occupied MOs. (E) The calculated differential conductance map. $-\delta V_{G0}$ and $+\delta V_{G0}$ indicate charging
 180 and discharging of the Gate. δV_{B0} and δV_{B1} indicate the increase of V_b from 0 V to r' and r'' edges,
 181 respectively. (F and G) schematically show how the energy of ε_1 MO modulated by V_b and V_g aligns with
 182 the Right and Left electrode Fermi levels. The light blue dashed line indicates the initial energy of ε_1 . The
 183 dark blue dashed line indicates the energy of ε_1 when V_g changes ((F) $-\delta V_{G0}$ or (G) $+\delta V_{G0}$). The green line
 184 indicates the final energy of ε_1 after adding the change of V_b (δV_{B0} or δV_{B1}). K_B and K_G are the energy change
 185 rates.

186

187 Due to the monotonic evolution of the energy eigenvalues of MOs under bias and gate
 188 voltages^[17,39,46], we developed a theoretical model to describe the energy change rates (K_B and
 189 K_G) of MOs, which are directly related to the molecular dipole moments along the directions of
 190 voltages (see SI-S3 (1) for details). Thus, K_B and K_G can be calculated by the shift rates of Ts
 191 under bias and gate voltages, respectively (see SI-S3 (3))^[38-39]. However, K_B , K_G and the MO
 192 energy shift (*MOs Shift*) are directly related to the configuration and background electrostatic
 193 potential of the molecular junction. Thus, to understand the junction configuration in the
 194 experiment, we calculated 12 different configurations for the 3-terminal molecular junction of
 195 the same molecule (see SI-S3 (4)) and analyzed their corresponding K_B , K_G , ΔMOs and *MOs*
 196 *Shift* values (see SI-S3 (5) **Table S1**). The data show that ΔMOs remains near constant (~110
 197 meV) for the different configurations, in line with the experimental observations and proving
 198 that the Coulomb region lies stably within a well-defined and easily accessed bias voltage range
 199 (see SI-S4) despite the potentially shifted current maps for different junction configurations.
 200 Indeed, the experimental K_B and K_G can be extracted from the slopes of r' and r'' edges for
 201 both MO resonance regions^[17] as (see SI-S3 (5) for details): $K_B = (r' + r'')/2(r' - r'')$, $K_G = -$
 202 $r' r''/(r' - r'')$. Figure 2F and G illustrate the combined modulation of the shifts of ε_1 energy level
 203 in terms of the energy change rates K_B and K_G .

204 The corresponding DFT-NEGF calculated current and differential conductance (dI/dV) maps

205 of the junction (see SI-S3 (6)) are shown in Figure 2C and E, respectively. The Ts not only
 206 reproduces the asymmetric background of Coulomb blockade regions under bias reversal, but
 207 also resolves the different widths of the γ' and γ'' edges (see Figure 2E and D), which can be
 208 understood by the directional shift of the Ts towards the bias window controlled by the gate
 209 voltage (note the asymmetric Ts peaks in Figure 2A-5, discussed in SI-S3 (6)). Since the K_B and
 210 K_G values correspond directly to the electronic structure of the conductive MOs, it reflects the
 211 dipole moments of each MO. Therefore, the similarity of experimental and theoretical
 212 calculations on the parallel evolution of the two MOs along the gate voltage (see Figure S6) is
 213 a good proof that there is only one molecule in the junction. If the two resonance regions are
 214 provided by two independent molecules, then the slopes of their corresponding edges will not
 215 be parallel to each other due to the different dipole moments at different attachment positions
 216 within the gap. Thus, the agreement between the theoretical calculations and experimental
 217 measurements (data for different Fc-based SETs are shown in SI-S8) strongly demonstrates that
 218 the electrostatic modulation of the two conductive MOs of the Fc moiety provides a two-state
 219 Coulomb blockade region at $V_b=1\sim100$ mV. The differences between the theoretical current
 220 map (Figure 2C) and the measured results (Figure 2B) are due to the fact that the effect of the
 221 gate voltage field on the molecular configuration, the leaking currents through the gate to
 222 source/drain, and the inelastic electron tunneling (IET) current of the molecule are not
 223 considered. As discussed in SI-S7, Figure 2B shows the current shift in the high gate voltage
 224 region ($|V_g| > 2.2$ V), which is caused by a small change in the molecular configuration under
 225 high gate electrostatic field. Furthermore, the current in the Coulomb blockade region of Figure
 226 2B is > 0.1 nA (see SI-S11), while the blockade current in the theoretical case can reach 10^{-6}
 227 nA. Finally, the measured IET spectra and corresponding vibrational modes shown in SI-S9
 228 also provide strong evidence that an individual molecule is responsible for the transport
 229 behavior.

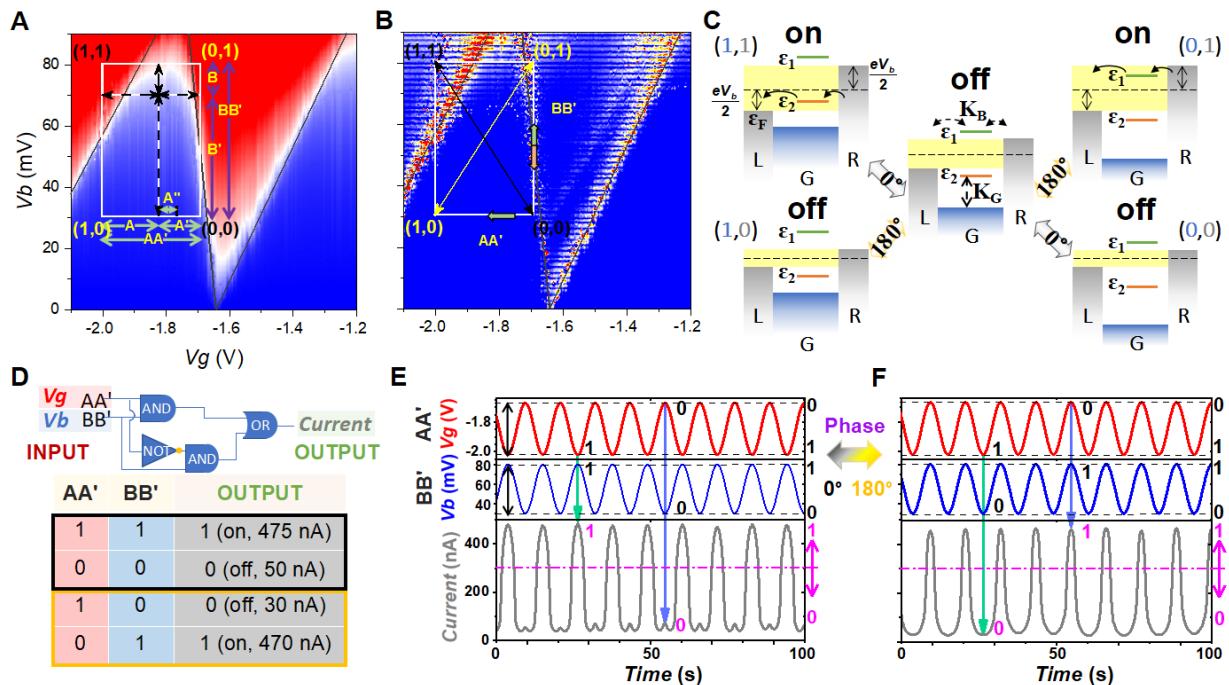
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231 3.2. Working principle of the resettable SELC

232 Using the two-state diamond-shaped Coulomb blockade feature provided by the two MOs, we
 233 establish SELC by using the current as Output signal, and the gate (Input1: V_g) and the bias
 234 (Input2: V_b) voltages as two orthogonal Input signals. **Figure 3** summarizes the working
 235 principle of our SELC. Figure 3A shows the detailed current map. Four input ranges of V_g and
 236 three of V_b are determined based on the current oscillation signal (see SI-S5) across the
 237 Coulomb diamond region, labelled A (-1.82 V '0' to -2.02 V '1'), A' (-1.67 V '0' to -1.82 V '1'),
 238 A'' (-1.77 V '0' to -1.82 V '1'), AA' (-1.67 V '0' to -2.02 V '1') and B (70 mV '0' to 80 mV '1'), B'

239 (30 mV '0' to 70 mV '1'), BB' (30 mV '0' to 80 mV '1'). The (1, 1) input represents the V_g and
240 V_b both at high states in their own ranges, which is opposite to the (0, 0) input, for instance.
241 Correspondingly the (1, 0) input means that the V_g is at high state while the V_b is at low state,
242 opposite to the (0, 1) input. The current (Output) is represented by the color code in the map,
243 red indicating high current state (>300 nA, 'on', '1') and blue the low current state (<300 nA,
244 'off', '0'). The white rectangles indicate logic operation areas, defined by two orthogonal input
245 ranges (*i.e.*, one V_g range and one V_b range). The horizontal/vertical black dashed arrows
246 represent the operating ranges of the gate/bias voltage under a particular bias/gate voltage.

247 We take the 2-input logic operation along AA' and BB' as an example to introduce the
248 working principle of the logic gates within a set operating area. Figure 3B is the corresponding
249 logic diagram in the differential conductance map. The arrows in the white rectangle illustrate
250 how V_g and V_b are combined to govern the current switching across the edges of the resonance
251 and Coulomb blockade regions. The black arrow indicates that the changes of V_g (along the
252 short-green-left arrow of AA') and V_b (along the short-green-up arrow of BB') are in the same
253 phase (0°). The corresponding multi-cycle logic input and output signals are shown in Figure
254 3E. As the input gate signal and input bias signal change in phase from (0, 0) to (1, 1), the signal
255 of output current changes from '0' (off) to '1' (on). Thus, high V_g and high V_b inputs (1,1) lead
256 to high output current '1', while low V_g and low V_b inputs (0,0) lead to low output current '0'.
257 However, when the change of V_g (along the short-green-left arrow of AA') and V_b (along the
258 short-orange-down arrow of BB') are out of phase (180°), the logic operation changes (Figure
259 3F). In this case, as V_g and V_b change from (0, 1) to (1, 0), output current changes from '1' (on)
260 to '0' (off).



261

Figure 3. Logic calculation based on resonance excitations of MOs. (A) Measured 231×231 points current map at 225 mK marked with logic operating voltage-ranges. A, A', A'', AA' and B, B', BB' are the voltage-ranges of input-gate and input-bias, respectively. White rectangles mark 2-input logic operation areas. Input (1, 1) means high-gate and high-bias voltages, (0, 0) is the opposite case. Input (1, 0) means high-gate and low-bias voltages, (0, 1) is the opposite. (B) Differential conductance map corresponding to (A). Input AA'-BB' is an example to illustrate how gate (V_g) and bias (V_b) voltages are combined to achieve logic operations. The black arrow goes from (0, 0) to (1, 1), when V_g and V_b both change along the short green arrows. The yellow arrow goes from (0, 1) to (1, 0), when V_b and V_g change along the short orange and green arrows, respectively. (C) The schematic diagrams describe the energy level distributions of the four input cases in (B). Phase 0° and 180° correspond to the black and yellow arrow, respectively. (D) Equivalent logic circuit and truth table with AA'-BB' inputs at 0° and 180° phases. (E and F) show the curves of input V_g and V_b and measured output current at 0° and 180° , respectively.

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Figure 3C schematically shows the energy distributions of MOs (ε_1 and ε_2) under the voltages indicated by black and yellow arrows in Figure 3B. The two orthogonal inputs switch the output current by shuttling the MOs in and out of the bias window. The central diagram corresponds to the intersection of the arrows. The four diagrams on the corners correspond to the four terminals of the arrows (1,1), (0,0), (1,0) and (0,1). The top two diagrams show the resonance states, where ε_1 or ε_2 is in the bias window, generating high-current “on” states (>300 nA, output=1). The rest belong to the Coulomb blockade regime, with no MO in the bias window. They correspond to low-current “off” states (<300 nA, output=0). This logic operation is illustrated in the truth table in Figure 3D and repeated for several cycles in Figure 3E, F to show the stability of SELC. Note that the signal remained stable throughout the whole experiment

285 for about 2 months, even independent of the scan rate variation of the input signal, see SI-
 286 **Figure S12**. At least 37 cycles were taken for each curve, see **SI-**Figure S11****; for illustrative
 287 purposes only 9 cycles (40 points per cycle) are shown in Figure 3. The result of this logic
 288 operation can be interpreted as a complex logic gate array of one “INH” gate (inhibit) and one
 289 “AND” gate feeding their outputs into an “OR” gate. In this logic operation, SELC acts as a
 290 high-bias voltage indicator, *i.e.*, a high-bias input produces a high-current output, while a low-
 291 bias input produces a low-current output. The on/off ratio of high and low output currents is
 292 ~10.

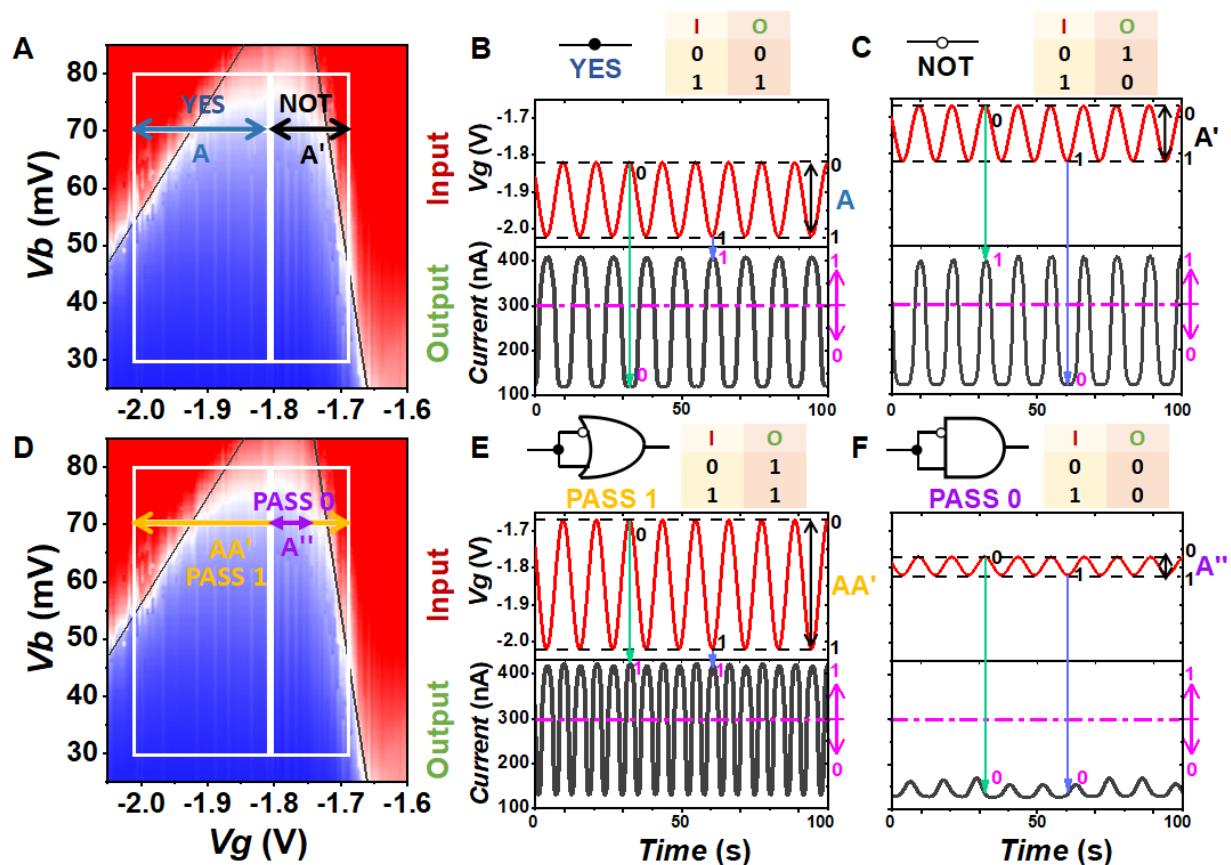
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294 **3.3. SELC 1-input logic gates**

295 For the 1-input logic gates, V_g is the only input, current is the output, and V_b is fixed at 70 mV.
 296 **Figure 4A** shows V_g ranges A and A' for 1-input logic gates “YES” and “NOT”, respectively.
 297 Figure 4B, C show corresponding electronic symbols, truth tables and Input/Output signals.
 298 The 1-input “YES” logic gate is based on current switching between the ϵ_2 resonance regime
 299 and the Coulomb blockade region. In this case, the high V_g ('1', -2.02 V) leads to resonance
 300 conductance of ϵ_2 MO, resulting in high current ('1', ~410 nA). The low V_g ('0', -1.82 V) reduces
 301 the energy of ϵ_2 MO and moves it out of the bias window, resulting in current blockade ('0',
 302 ~120 nA). Thus, high-input leads to high-output and low-input leads to low-output, “YES” logic.
 303 Conversely, for the 1-input “NOT” logic gate the operation is based on current switching
 304 between the Coulomb blockade region and the ϵ_1 resonance regime. In this case, at the high V_g
 305 ('1', -1.82 V) no MO lies in the bias window, so the current is in the blockade region ('0',
 306 ~120 nA). The low V_g ('0', -1.67 V) further reduces the energy of MOs and shifts ϵ_1 into the bias
 307 window, so the current is in the resonance region ('1', ~410 nA). Thereby, high-input leads to
 308 low-output and low-input leads to high-output, “NOT” logic.

309 Figure 4D shows the V_g ranges AA' and A'' for 1-input logic gates “PASS 1” and “PASS 0”,
 310 respectively. According to the discussion above, the 1-input “PASS 1” logic gate involves
 311 current switching between ϵ_2 and ϵ_1 resonance regimes. Both high and low inputs led to high
 312 outputs, “PASS 1” logic. Since the switching process of the output current spans the entire
 313 Coulomb blockade region, the frequency of the output current signal is doubled compared with
 314 the input gate signal. This interesting feature can be used as a frequency multiplier. The current
 315 signal is also used as an address for the logic operations to define the Coulomb diamond region,
 316 which provides important information for calibrating the V_g ranges (see SI-S5 for details). By
 317 contrast, the 1-input “PASS 0” logic gate is based on the stability of the blockade current. In
 318 this case, at both high ('1', -1.82 V) and low ('0', -1.77 V) V_g , the two MOs are distributed on

319 both sides of the bias window (as shown in Figure 3C-‘off’), so the output current is in the
 320 Coulomb blockade region (‘0’, ~120 nA) contributed by the extension between the two
 321 transmission peaks of Ts (shown as Figure 2A ‘5’). High-input and low-input both lead to low-
 322 outputs, “PASS 0” logic.



323
 324 **Figure 4.** Four resettable universal 1-input logic gates. In (A and D), input gate voltages with A, A', AA' and
 325 AA'' ranges are marked on the current maps, which indicate 1-input “YES”, “NOT”, “PASS 1” and “PASS 0”
 326 logic gates. (B) Equivalent circuit, truth table and corresponding Input/Output signal for 1-input “YES” gate.
 327 With the gate voltage change from -2.02 V '1' to -1.82 V '0', the current changes from 410 nA '1' to 120 nA
 328 '0'. (C) For 1-input “NOT” gate, with gate voltage change from -1.82 V '1' to -1.67 V '0', the current changes
 329 from 120 nA '0' to 405 nA '1'. (E) For 1-input “PASS 1” gate, with the gate voltage change from -2.02 V '1'
 330 to -1.67 V '0', the current changes from 410 nA '1' to 405 nA '1'. The frequency of the current signal is doubled
 331 compared with the input gate signal. (F) For 1-input “PASS 0” gate, with the gate voltage change from -1.82
 332 V '1' to -1.77 V '0', the current changes from 120 nA '0' to 130 nA '0'. All 1-Input logic gates operate at 70
 333 mV bias.

334

335 3.4. SELC 2-input logic gates

336 Based on the gate voltage ranges of the 1-input logic gates, bias voltage control is added, so
 337 that all seven universal 2-input logic gates can be realized, as demonstrated in **Figure 5**. In the
 338 2-input logic gates, gate voltage is Input-signal 1 and bias voltage is Input-signal 2. The main

339 difference between the operation of 2-input and 1-input logic gates is the phase control. The 2-
 340 input logic gate contains two input signals, and the phase difference between them determines
 341 the moving direction of the MOs relative to the bias window, thereby affecting the state of the
 342 output current. Thus, phase control combined with different operating voltage makes it possible
 343 to realize all 2-input universal logic gates.

344 Figure 5A shows the 2-input “AND” gate. Its operation area is defined by A-B' in both 0°
 345 and 180° phases. The input ranges of V_g and V_b are shown on the current map. The graphs on
 346 the right are the Input/Output signals in 0° and 180° phases, respectively. In 0° phase, by
 347 changing V_g (Input-1, red curve) from -2.02 V '1' to -1.82 V '0' (range A) and changing V_b
 348 (Input-2, blue curve) from 70 mV '1' to 30 mV '0' (range B'), the current (Output, grey curve)
 349 changes from 400 nA '1' to 25 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 1, (0,0) \rightarrow 0. In 180° phase, as V_g changes
 350 from '1' to '0' (A) and V_b changes from '0' to '1' (B'), the current changes from 40 nA '0' to 120
 351 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 0, (0,1) \rightarrow 0. “AND” gate works as a Carry in a Half-adder logical circuit
 352 that performs an addition operation on two binary digits.

353 Figure 5B shows the “INH” gate. Its operation area is defined by A'-B' in both 0° and 180°
 354 phases. In 0° phase by changing V_g from -1.82 V '1' to -1.67 V '0' (range A') and changing V_b
 355 from 70 mV '1' to 30 mV '0' (range B'), the current changes from 120 nA '0' to 50 nA '0', *i.e.*,
 356 (1,1) \rightarrow 0, (0,0) \rightarrow 0. In 180° phase, by changing V_g from '1' to '0' (A') and changing V_b from
 357 '0' to '1' (B'), the current changes from 25 nA '0' to 420 nA '1', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 0, (0,1) \rightarrow 1. It
 358 works as a Borrow in Half-subtractor.

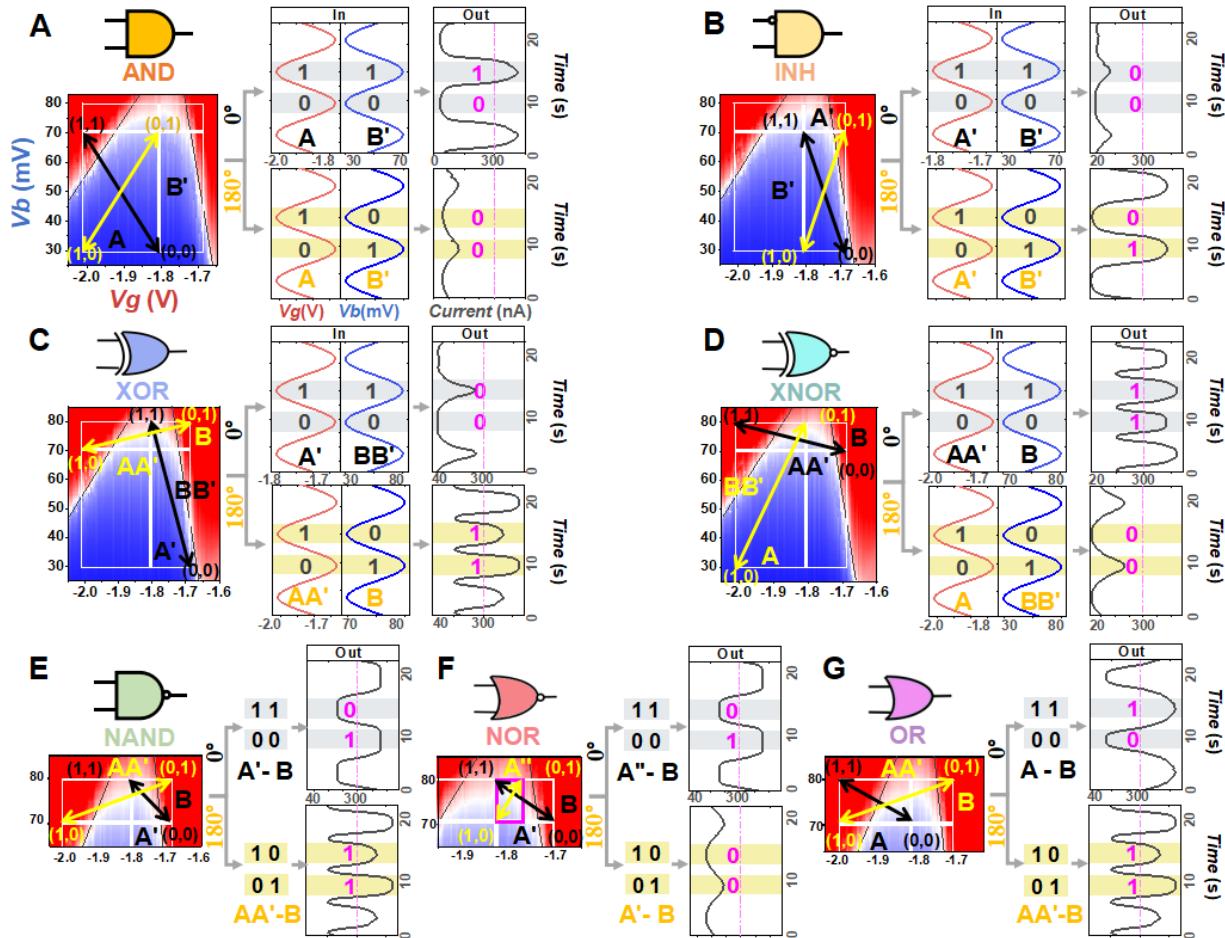
359 Figure 5C and D show the “XOR” and “XNOR” gates, respectively. They have different
 360 input voltage ranges in different phases. For the “XOR” gate in 0° phase, as V_g changes from -
 361 1.82 V '1' to -1.67 V '0' (A') and V_b changes from 80 mV '1' to 30 mV '0' (BB'), current changes
 362 from 230 nA '0' to 75 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 0, (0,0) \rightarrow 0. At 180° phase, as V_g changes from -
 363 2.02 V '1' to -1.67 V '0' (AA') and V_b changes from 70 mV '0' to 80 mV '1' (B), current changes
 364 from 400 nA '1' to 480 nA '1', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 1, (0,1) \rightarrow 1. Notably, the input gate voltage and bias
 365 voltage in both phases have the same minimum value of -1.67 V and the same maximum value
 366 of 80 mV, respectively. This means that only the amplitudes of the input voltage ranges are
 367 changed with the phase. It works as a Sum in Half-adder and Diff. in Half-subtractor. For the
 368 “XNOR” gate, with AA' and B inputs in 0° phase, current changes from 480nA '1' to 420 nA '1',
 369 *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 1, (0,0) \rightarrow 1. In 180° phase, the corresponding inputs are A and BB', and current
 370 changes from 25 nA '0' to 200 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 0, (0,1) \rightarrow 0. The input gate voltage and bias
 371 voltage in both phases have the same maximum value of -2.02 V and 80 mV, respectively.

372 Figure 5E, F and G show the “NAND”, “NOR” and “OR” gates. These three logic gates have

373 the same bias voltage range in both phases, only the gate voltage range changes with phase. To
 374 avoid repetition, we omitted the curves of the input signals and kept only the input voltage range
 375 and Boolean states. For “NAND” gate, the inputs in 0° phase are A' for V_g and B for V_b . The
 376 current changes from 200 nA '0' to 420 nA '1', *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 0, (0,0) \rightarrow 1. The inputs in 180°
 377 phase are AA' and B. The current changes from 400 nA '1' to 480 nA '1', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 1, (0,1)
 378 \rightarrow 1. For “NOR” gate, the Input/Output signal in 0° phase are the same with “NAND” gate (A'-
 379 B), *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 0, (0,0) \rightarrow 1. The inputs in 180° phase are A'' and B. The current changes from
 380 120 nA '0' to 210 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,0) \rightarrow 0, (0,1) \rightarrow 0. For “OR” gate, the inputs in 0° phase are A
 381 for V_g and B for V_b . The current changes from 480 nA '1' to 120 nA '0', *i.e.*, (1,1) \rightarrow 1, (0,0) \rightarrow
 382 0. In 180° phase, the input ranges are AA' and B, the same as “NAND” and “XOR” gates, *i.e.*,
 383 (1,0) \rightarrow 1, (0,1) \rightarrow 1. To clearly show the relationship between the input and output signals,
 384 two cycles are shown in Figure 5. The multi-cycle output curves for the 2-input logic gates are
 385 shown in SI-S6 **Figure S10**.

386 From Figure 5 it is clear that SELC can realize all the universal 2-input logic gates within
 387 one gated single-molecule junction, in contrast to conventional CMOS (see SI-S10). It allows
 388 dynamic logic circuits to be scaled down to a few nanometers, and the single-junction design
 389 greatly reduces charge leakage, charge sharing, and back-gate coupling between devices.
 390 Crucially, only a 2 V gate voltage (CMOS is in the 3-15 V range) and 100 mV drive voltage
 391 (well below the 1.5-5 V of CMOS) are required to run the SELC.

392



393

394 **Figure 5.** Seven resettable universal 2-Input logic gates. (A and B) “AND” and “INH” logic gates with A-B’ and A’-B’ inputs in both phases, respectively. The black and yellow arrows in current map are corresponding
 395 to the Input/Output signals in 0° phase and 180° phase, respectively. (C) “XOR” logic gate with A’-BB’ input
 396 in 0° phase and AA’-B input in 180° phase. The input gate voltages in both phases have the same minimum
 397 value and the input bias voltages in both phases have the same maximum value, *i.e.*, the (0,1) point is the
 398 same in the voltage ranges in both phases. The highest gate voltage and the lowest bias voltage (*i.e.*, the (1,0)
 399 point) from 0° phase to 180° phase is changed. (D) “XNOR” logic gate with AA’-B input in 0° phase and A-
 400 BB’ input in 180° phase. The input gate and bias voltages in both phases have the same maximum value, *i.e.*,
 401 the (1,1) point is the same in the voltage ranges in both phases. The lowest gate voltage and the lowest bias
 402 voltage (*i.e.*, the (0,0) point) from 180° phase to 0° phase is changed. (E, F and G) “NAND”, “NOR” and
 403 “OR” logic gates have the same input bias voltage range in both phases and change the gate voltage range
 404 with phase only. “NAND” has A’-B input in 0° phase and AA’-B input in 180° phase. “NOR” has A’-B input
 405 in 0° phase and A”-B input in 180° phase. “OR” has A-B input in 0° phase and AA’-B input in 180° phase.
 406

407

408 4. Conclusion

409 We report molecular-scale SELC in a three-terminal SET by utilizing adjacent conductive
 410 MOs provided by a single Fc-based molecule. Its operating principle is based on predictable
 411 and reliable current conversions modulated by voltages crossing the stable Coulomb blockade
 412 regime, avoiding dependence on absolute current and improving function reproducibility.

413 Compared with other approaches^[24,26-27,32-33,57], the non-conjugated asymmetric Fc-based
414 molecule naturally provides logic operations via its robust and unique Coulomb blockade
415 characteristics. The isolation provided by the asymmetric n-alkyl (n>3) linkers on either side of
416 the Fc moiety ensures narrow MO levels, efficiently suppressing current in the Blockade regime
417 and enabling encoding of information via orthogonal modulation for the realization of
418 sophisticated operation functions. This results in clear and multi-cycle stable current signals
419 controlled by two orthogonal electrostatic fields, enabling in-situ implementation of all four
420 universal 1-input and all seven universal 2-input logic gates in a single molecule with high
421 stability. Through phase control of an external circuit, the benefits of implementing multiple
422 logic operations within a single molecule (instead of connecting several separate devices with
423 switching characteristics in series) are low charge leakage, with no mutual interference, small
424 functional area (~2 nm), low operating voltage (because the applied potential only drops over
425 one element^[5]) and simple device construction. Crucially, our design can be extended to multi-
426 channel mesoscopic Coulomb blockade systems, field-effect single molecules or molecular
427 layers, with promising future applications of SELC in realizing multifunctional nanodevices
428 including frequency multipliers, diodes, switches, voltage indicators, and calculators, among
429 others.

430

431 **5. Methods**

432 *Synthesis of the molecule:* We followed a previously reported procedures^[16,25,58] to synthesize
433 and characterize AcS-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-SAC and AcS-(CH₂)₆-Fc-(CH₂)₆-SAC as described in
434 SI-S1.

435 *Sample preparation for SELCs:* The previously reported method^[25] was followed to fabricate the
436 chip with nanowires and back-gates, as presented in SI-S2. After the chip has been properly
437 fabricated, it is immersed into the diluted molecular solution (dissolved in ethanol) for about 30–
438 40 minutes to allow the molecules to adsorb to the surface of the gold nanowire. The chip is then
439 gently washed several times with the molecular solution, then washed with ethanol and blow
440 dried with N₂ to remove excess molecular solution to ensure that the remaining molecules were
441 firmly attached to the gold surface. We mounted the chip on the chip holder in a home-made
442 probing box, which can be used for current feedback-controlled electromigration, to narrow the
443 nanowire into single-atom-contact nanoelectrodes (see SI-S2 **Figure S3**). The whole process was
444 carried out in a nitrogen-filled environment at room temperature and pressure. After the
445 nanoelectrodes formed, the chip was transferred to a Helium-3 cryostat for measurements at low
446 temperature. The base temperature of the cryostat (225 mK) was used for convenience, as these

447 measurements could be done at LN₂ temperatures^[25].

448 *The current measurements:* The current through the SELC as a function of bias and gate
449 voltages was measured via a Keithley 6430 Source Meter by applying the bias voltage on the
450 Au electrodes in DC. The gate voltage was applied through the Al₂O₃/Al gate and controlled by
451 a Keithley 2400. The SELCs were mounted on the chip holder in a vacuum tube and placed in
452 vacuum inside the sample holder of the Helium-3 cryostat.

453 *DFT-NEGF calculations:* The transmission spectra (Ts) of different structures of the Al₂O₃/Al
454 gated Au/S(CH₂)₃Fc(CH₂)₉S/Au junction were calculated using the DFT-NEGF method
455 implemented in the Atomistix ToolKit (ATK)^[59] package (see SI-S3 (2) for details). Based on
456 these Ts, the theoretical modulation parameters of the molecular orbitals (MOs) of different
457 structures by the bias voltage and the gate voltage were calculated (see SI-S3 (3) for details).
458 The mechanisms of the modulation were defined by the theoretical model (see SI-S3 (1) for
459 details). The comparison between measured parameters and calculated parameters is shown in
460 Table S1 (see SI-S3 (4)). The calculated current map is drawn by integrating Ts as a function of
461 bias voltage and gate voltage. The values of K_B , K_G and *MOs Shift* in Exp.1 in SI-Table S1 are
462 used in the integration. The Ts under positive bias and negative bias are represented by Ts
463 calculated at 100 mV and -100 mV, respectively (see SI-S3 (6) for details).

464

465 **Supporting Information**

466 Supporting Information is available from the Wiley Online Library or from the author.

467

468 **Conflict of Interest**

469 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

470

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591

592 *Table of Contents*

593 Single-molecule logic devices are ideal candidates for ultra-minimalistic circuit elements to
594 perform high-density computing. Gated Au/S-(CH₂)₃-Fc-(CH₂)₉-S/Au single-electron
595 transistors not only hold the advantage of controlling molecular orbitals (MOs) via bias and
596 gate voltages, but also exhibit a unique electronic structure with two adjacent MOs. This
597 provides a Single-Electron Logic Calculator to implement all universal logic gates within a
598 single-molecule device.

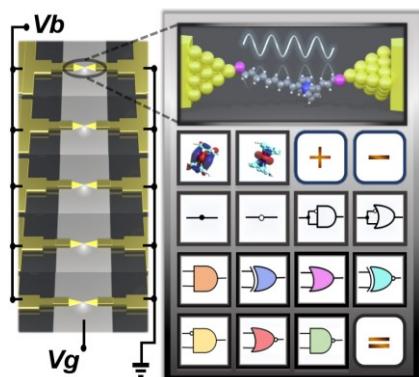
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601 Thompson, C. A. Nijhuis*, E. del Barco*

602

603 **Stable Universal 1- and 2-Input Single-Molecule Logic Gates**

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