Noise Thermometry by Measuring Shot Noise of a Tunnel Junction

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We have fabricated tunnel-junction devices consisting of Al-AlOx-Al by two angle-evaporation method and have measured shot noise of those devices at 4.2 K in the frequency range of 900-1200 MHz. Even though shot noise of a tunnel-junction device shows conventional S_I = 2eI at high bias voltage, it exhibits temperature and bias voltage dependence at low bias voltage (eV \sim k_BT), which can be utilized to construct a noise thermometer. We measured the shot noise of a single junction and fitted the result with theoretical prediction. The inferred temperature from the fitting is compared with a commercially available temperature sensor. In a long term, we plan to operate the thermometer in a wide temperature range of 0.3-500 K and to further improve the accuracy and uncertainty. After full development in the future, we expect that the shot noise thermometer can become a practical primary thermometer in wide temperature range.

Keywords: shot noise, tunnel junction, noise thermometer