Cotunneling-mediated observation of excited states in the Coulomb blockade regime

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We present finite bias transport measurements on a few-electron quantum dot. In the Coulomb blockade regime, we observe strong signatures of inelastic cotunneling which can directly be assigned to excited states observed in the non-blockaded regime. In addition, we observe structures related to sequential tunneling through the dot, occurring after it has been excited by an inelastic cotunneling process.

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