

Crossover between strong and weak measurement in interacting many-body systems

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PAPER

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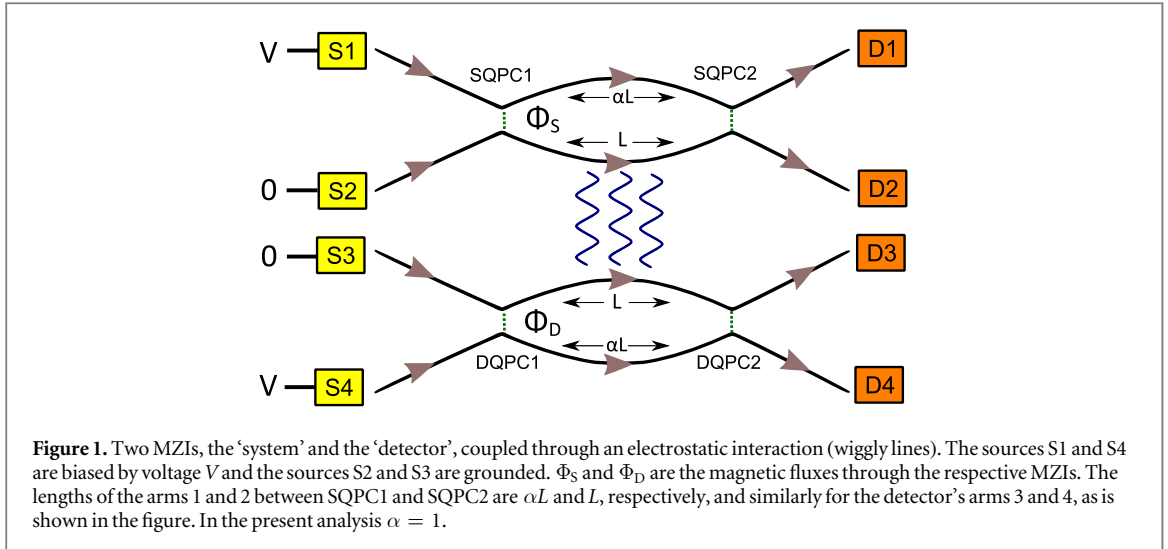
Measurements with variable system–detector interaction strength, ranging from weak to strong, have been recently reported in a number of electronic nanosystems. In several such instances many-body effects play a significant role. Here we consider the weak-to-strong crossover for a setup consisting of an electronic Mach–Zehnder interferometer, where a second interferometer is employed as a detector. In the context of a conditional which-path protocol, we define a generalized conditional value (GCV), and determine its full crossover between the regimes of weak and strong (projective) measurement. We find that the GCV has an oscillatory dependence on the system–detector interaction strength. These oscillations are a genuine many-body effect, and can be experimentally observed through the voltage dependence of cross current correlations.

1. Introduction

Measurement in quantum mechanics is inseparable from the dynamics of the system involved. The formal framework to describe quantum measurement, introduced by von Neumann [1], allows to consider two limits: in the limit of strong system (S)–detector (D) coupling, the detector's final states are orthogonal. This is associated with the evasive notion of quantum collapse. In the other limit, that of weak (continuous) measurement of an observable (reflecting weak coupling between S and D [2]), the system is disturbed in a minimal way, and only partial information on the state of the latter is provided [3]. We note that this hindrance can be overcome, by resorting to a large number of repeated measurement (or a large ensemble of replica on which the same weak measurement is carried out).

Weak measurements, due to their vanishing back-action, can be exploited for quantum feedback schemes [4, 5] and conditional measurements. The latter is especially interesting for a two-step measurement protocol (whose outcome is called *weak value* (WV) [6]), which consists of a weak measurement (of the observable \hat{A}), followed by a strong one (of \hat{B}), $[\hat{A}, \hat{B}] \neq 0$. The outcome of the first is conditional on the result of the second (postselection). WVs have been observed in experiments [7–12]. Their unusual expectation values [6, 13–15] may be utilized for various purposes, including weak signal amplification [16–23], quantum state discrimination [24–26], and non-collapsing observation of virtual states [27]. The particular features of WVs rely on weak measurement, and are washed out in projective measurements. Understanding the relation and the crossover between these two tenets of quantum mechanics is therefore an important issue on the conceptual level.

The WV protocol perfectly highlights the difference between weak and strong (projective) measurements, thus providing a platform to study the crossover between the two. Indeed, within the two-step measurement protocol, it is possible to control the strength of the first measurement. This allows to define a *generalized conditional value* (GCV), interpolating between WV and (*strong value*) (SV). The latter, in similitude to WV, refers to a two-step measurement protocol. Unlike WV, in a SV protocol both steps consist of a strong measurement. The mathematical expression for GCV is depicted below in equation (1). It amounts to the



average of the first measurement’s reading (whatever its strength is), conditional on the outcome of the second measurement. This has been studied in the context of single-degree-of-freedom systems [28–31], where the WV-to-SV crossover is quite straightforward and is a smooth function of the interaction strength. We note that in experiments with electron nanostructures, interactions between electrons play a crucial role. A many-body theory of variable strength quantum measurement is called for. In many cases, the interaction strength can be controlled experimentally [10, 32].

In this letter, we demonstrate theoretically that interactions can modify this weak-to-strong crossover in a qualitative way, in particular, making it an oscillating function of the interaction strength. Conversely, these oscillations serve as a smoking gun manifestation of the many-body nature of the system at hand, and present guidelines for observing them as function of experimentally more accessible variables (e.g. the voltage bias). Our analysis sheds light on the relation between two seemingly very different descriptions of quantum measurement, with emphasis on the context of many-body physics.

Motivated by the two step WV protocol, we define the (GCV) of the operator \hat{A} as an average shift of the detector, $\delta\hat{q} = \hat{q} - \langle\hat{q}\rangle|_{g=0}$, during the measurement process, projected onto a postselected subspace by the projection operator, Π_f , and normalized by the bare S–D interaction strength, g . The GCV is given by

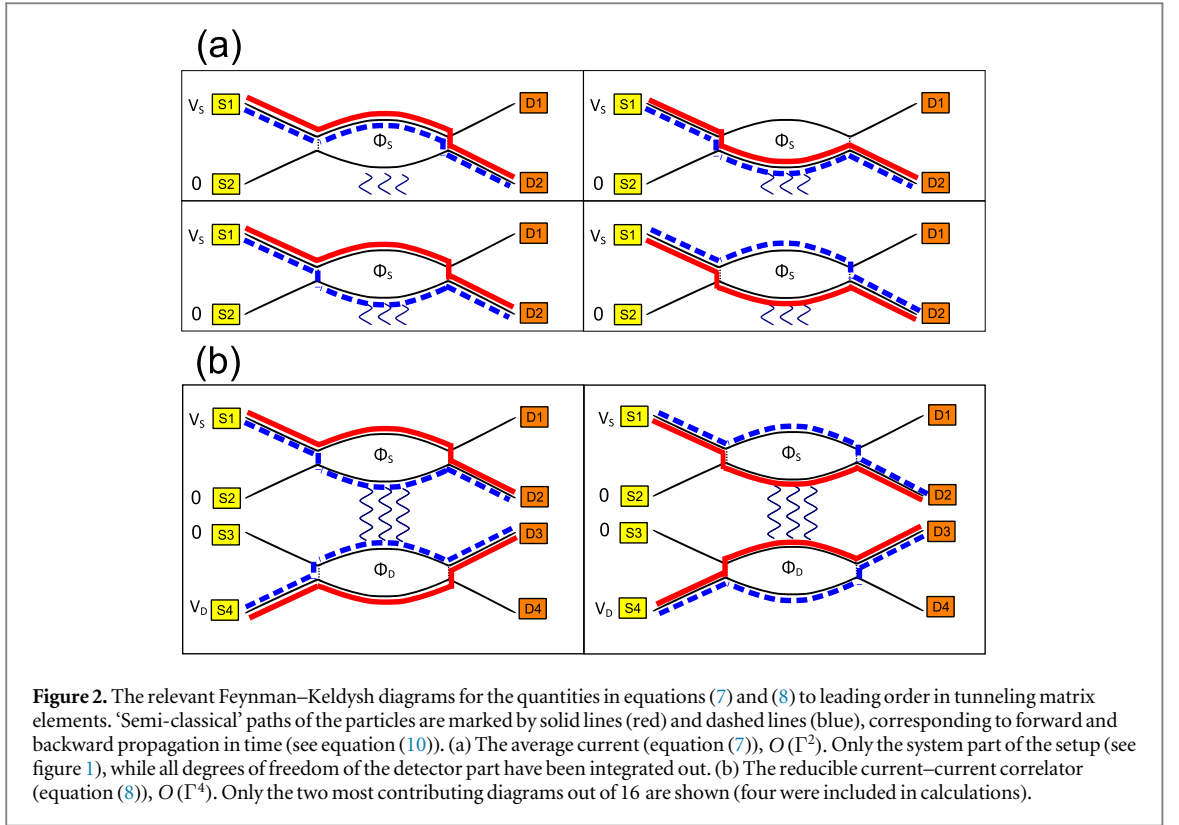
$$\langle\hat{A}\rangle_{\text{GCV}} = \frac{\text{Tr}\{\delta\hat{q}\hat{U}^\dagger\rho_0\hat{U}\Pi_f\}}{g\text{Tr}\{\hat{U}^\dagger\rho_0\hat{U}\Pi_f\}}, \quad (1)$$

where ρ_0 is the total density matrix which describes the initial state of S and D, and the time ordered operator $\hat{U} = \mathcal{T}e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\mathcal{H}^{\text{SD}}dt}$ describes the evolution in time of the whole setup during the measurement. Here, the system–detector coupling, $\mathcal{H}^{\text{SD}} = -gw(t)\hat{p}\hat{A}$, with $w(t)$ —the time window of the measurement; \hat{q} and \hat{p} are the ‘position’ and ‘momentum’ operators of the detector ($[\hat{q}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$). We note that equation (1) provides the correct WV [6] and SV [33] in the respective limits ($g \ll 1$, $g \gg 1$). Our approach here is in full agreement with earlier analyses of quantum measurement in the context of single particle systems [28–31].

Our specific setup is depicted in figure 1. It consists of two Mach–Zehnder interferometers (MZIs), the ‘system’ and the ‘detector’ respectively, that are electrostatically coupled [32, 34]. It is possible to tune the respective Aharonov–Bohm fluxes, Φ_S and Φ_D independently [32].

2. A two-particle analysis

As a prelude to our analysis of a truly interacting many-body system, we briefly present an analysis of the same system on the level of a single particle in the system, interacting with a single particle in the detector. According to this (over)simplified picture, particles going simultaneously through the interacting arms 2 and 3 (see figure 1), gain an extra phase $e^{i\gamma}$ [35, 36], where γ takes values in the range $[0, \pi]$. First, we consider the intra-MZI operators, defined in a two-state single particle space, $\{|m\rangle\}$, with $m = 1, 2$ for the ‘system’ (an electron propagating in arm 1 or 2) and similarly $m = 3, 4$ for the ‘detector’. The dimensionless charge operator (measuring the charge between the corresponding quantum point contacts (QPCs)), in this basis has a form $Q_m = |m\rangle\langle m|$. The transition through the p th QPC is described by the scattering matrix $\mathcal{S}_p = \begin{pmatrix} r_p & t_p \\ -t_p^* & r_p \end{pmatrix}$,



$p = 1_s, 2_s, 1_d, 2_d$ [37]. The entries r_p and t_p encompass information about the respective Aharonov–Bohm flux and for $p = 2_s, 2_d$, about the orbital phase gained between the two QPCs. The dimensionless current operators at the source (S1, S2) and the drain (D1, D2) terminals of the system–MZI are given by $I_{S_m} = \mathcal{S}_1 Q_m \mathcal{S}_1^\dagger$ and $I_{D_m} = \mathcal{S}_2^\dagger Q_m \mathcal{S}_2$, respectively, with $m = 1, 2$, and similarly for the detector with $m = 3, 4$ and employing the matrices \mathcal{S}_{1_d} and \mathcal{S}_{2_d} .

In view of equation (1), the initial state of the setup, which is described by the injection of two particles into terminals S1 and S4 respectively, can be written as the density matrix $\rho_0 = I_{S1} \otimes I_{S4}$ operating in the two-particle product space, $|m\rangle \otimes |n\rangle$ ($m = 1, 2, n = 3, 4$). The corresponding dynamics is that of two particles propagating simultaneously through arms m and n . The interaction between the particles is described by the operator $\hat{U} = e^{i\gamma Q_2 \otimes Q_3}$. A positive reading of the projective measurement consists of the detection of a particle at D2, and is described by the projection operator $\Pi_f = I_{D2} \otimes \mathbf{1}$. The detector reads the current at D3 (δq of equation (1) corresponds to $\mathbf{1} \otimes \delta I_{D3}$). Plugging these quantities into equation (1) yields an expression for the two-particle GCV (see appendix A)

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{\langle I_{D2} \delta I_{D3} \rangle}{\gamma \langle I_{D2} \rangle} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\langle \delta I_{D3} \rangle + \frac{\langle \langle I_{D2} I_{D3} \rangle \rangle}{\langle I_{D2} \rangle} \right). \quad (2)$$

The averages are calculated with respect to the total density matrix after the measurement, $\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \text{Tr} \{ \hat{O} \hat{U}^\dagger \rho_0 \hat{U} \}$. We have defined $\delta I_{D3} \triangleq I_{D3} - \langle I_{D3} \rangle|_{\gamma=0}$, and $\langle \langle I_{D2} I_{D3} \rangle \rangle \triangleq \langle I_{D2} I_{D3} \rangle - \langle I_{D2} \rangle \langle I_{D3} \rangle$ is the irreducible current–current correlator. A straightforward calculation (see appendix B) yields

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)}{\gamma} \frac{\Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle \right\} + \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta Q_3 I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle}{\langle I_{D2} \rangle_0 + 4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0 \right\} + 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0}, \quad (3)$$

where $\langle \hat{O} \rangle_0 \triangleq \text{Tr} \{ \hat{O} \rho_0 \}$ is an average with respect to the non-interacting setup, $\langle \delta I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle \triangleq \langle I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle_0 - \langle I_{D3} \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0$ and $\langle \delta Q_3 I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle \triangleq \langle Q_3 I_{D3} Q_3 \rangle_0 - \langle I_{D3} \rangle_0 \langle Q_3^2 \rangle_0$. This result shows a smooth and trivial crossover between the weak ($\gamma \rightarrow 0$) and strong ($\gamma \rightarrow \pi$) limits. The specific form depends on the parameters of S and D (the magnitude of the inter-edge tunneling; the value of the Aharonov–Bohm flux). For some range of values (e.g., $t_{1_s} = t_{2_s} = t_{1_d} = t_{2_d} = 0.1$, $\Phi_S/\Phi_0 = 0.99\pi$, $\Phi_D = 0$) the function is non-monotonic (but non-oscillatory), while for other values it is monotonic.

3. A full many-body analysis

The Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^S + \mathcal{H}^D + \mathcal{H}^{\text{SD}}$ describes the system, the detector, and their interaction. The system's Hamiltonian consists of $\mathcal{H}^S = \mathcal{H}_0^S + \mathcal{H}_T^S + \mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^S$, with

$$\mathcal{H}_0^S = -iv_F \sum_{m=1}^2 \int dx_m: \Psi_m^\dagger(x_m) \partial_{x_m} \Psi_m(x_m), \quad (4a)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_T^S = \Gamma_1 \Psi_1^\dagger(x_1^1) \Psi_2(x_2^1) + \Gamma_2 \Psi_1^\dagger(x_1^2) \Psi_2(x_2^2) + \text{h. c.}, \quad (4b)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}^S = \sum_{m=1}^2 g_{\parallel} \int dx_m: (\Psi_m^\dagger(x_m) \Psi_m(x_m))^2. \quad (4c)$$

Here Γ_p is the tunneling amplitude at QPC p and x_m^p is the coordinate at QPC p on arm m . A similar expression holds for the 'detector' MZI, $S \Leftrightarrow D$, with a summation over the chiral arms $m = 3, 4$. We next assume that the lengths of the interacting arms are equal, $x_2^s - x_2^1 = x_3^d - x_3^1$. The S–D interaction Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H}^{\text{SD}} = g_{\perp} \int dx_2 \int dx_3 \delta(x_2 - x_3): \Psi_2^\dagger(x_2) \Psi_2(x_2) :: \Psi_3^\dagger(x_3) \Psi_3(x_3):, \quad (5)$$

where the normal ordering with respect to the equilibrium (no voltage bias) state is defined as $:\Psi^\dagger \Psi: \triangleq \Psi^\dagger \Psi - \langle 0 | \Psi^\dagger \Psi | 0 \rangle$.

We are now at the position to construct the GCV for the actual many-body setup. We employ equation (2) to define the many-body GCV of Q_2

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{MB}} = \frac{v_F}{g_{\perp}} \left(\langle \delta I_{D_3} \rangle + \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \frac{\langle \langle I_{D_2}(t) I_{D_3}(0) \rangle \rangle}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle} \right), \quad (6)$$

where the current operator is given by, $I(x, t) = ev_F: \Psi^\dagger(x, t) \Psi(x, t):$. We average over time $\tau \gg \frac{L}{v_F}$. The problem is now reduced to the calculation of average currents and a current–current correlator. This is done perturbatively in the tunneling strength, but at arbitrary interaction parameter, employing the Keldysh formalism. In this limit expectation values are taken with respect to tunneling decoupled edge states. The current is,

$$\langle I_{D_2}(x) \rangle = -\frac{iev_F}{2} \sum_{p,q=\{1,2\}} \Gamma_p \Gamma_q \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} G_{1,\alpha\beta}(x - x_1^p, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^d G_{2,\gamma\delta}(x_2^p - x_2^q, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^d G_{1,\epsilon\zeta}(x_1^q - x, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q, \quad (7)$$

and the irreducible current–current correlator (see appendix C)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \langle \langle I_{D_2}(x', t) I_{D_3}(x, 0) \rangle \rangle &= \left\{ \sum_{pqrs} \Gamma_p \Gamma_q \Gamma_r \Gamma_s \frac{e^2 v_F^2}{2\tau} \int \frac{d\omega_2 d\omega_3}{(2\pi)^2} \right. \\ &\times G_{1,\alpha\beta} \left(x' - x_1^p, \omega_2 - \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^d G_{4,\eta\theta} \left(x - x_4^r, \omega_3 + \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\theta\lambda}^d \tilde{M}'_{\nu\kappa\gamma\delta} (x_2^p, x_2^q, x_3^r, x_3^s; \omega_3, \omega_2, \bar{\omega}) \\ &\left. \times \hat{\gamma}_{\kappa\lambda}^d G_{4,\lambda\mu} \left(x_4^s - x', \omega_3 - \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^d G_{1,\epsilon\zeta} \left(x_1^q - x, \omega_2 + \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q \hat{\gamma}_{\eta\mu}^q \right\} \Big|_{\bar{\omega} \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}} + \{ \dots \} \Big|_{\bar{\omega} \rightarrow -\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}}. \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

Here $\{ \dots \}$ reproduces the first part of the rhs, with $\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}$ replaced by $-\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}$, the summation is over $p, q = (1_s, 2_s), r, s = (1_d, 2_d)$ and repeating indices; $\hat{\gamma}^d = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\hat{\gamma}^q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ are the Keldysh $\hat{\gamma}$ matrices. G_m is the fermionic propagator on the m th arm (see equation (10)), and

$$\tilde{M}'(\omega_2, \omega_3) \triangleq \tilde{M}(\omega_2, \omega_3) - G_2(\omega_2) G_3(\omega_3). \quad (9)$$

Here $\tilde{M}_{\delta\gamma\beta\alpha}(r_4, r_3, r_2, r_1) \triangleq -\langle T \Psi_{3,\delta}(r_4) \tilde{\Psi}_{3,\gamma}(r_3) \Psi_{2,\beta}(r_2) \tilde{\Psi}_{2,\alpha}(r_1) \rangle$ is the collision matrix of two electrons in arms 2 and 3 (see appendix D).

The expressions for the expectation values of equations (7) and (8) can be represented diagrammatically in terms of the contributing processes. In these Feynman–Keldysh diagrams, each line corresponds to a propagator G (see equation (10)), and the vertices represent tunneling. The diagrams (to leading order in tunneling matrix elements) are depicted in figure 2. There are 16 diagrams contributing to the irreducible current–current correlator. The leading diagrams (figure 2(b)) correspond to an electron in the system (going through arm 2) that maximally interacts with an electron in the detector (going through arm 3)⁵.

⁵ For these diagrams the time of the two particles being inside the interaction region is maximal; the other diagrams are almost reducible (i.e., decoupled from each other), and are thus neglected.

Explicit evaluation of GCV requires the calculation of the single electron G_m and the collision matrix⁶ \tilde{M} . We first compute the propagators on arms 2 (G_2) and 3 (G_3), where both the inter- and the intra-channel interaction is present. This yields

$$G_{m,\alpha\beta}(x, \omega) = -\frac{i}{2v_F} [F(\omega) + \alpha\Theta(x) - \beta\Theta(-x)] \times e^{i\omega\frac{x}{u}\xi(\lambda)} \int_{-1}^1 \zeta\left(T\frac{|x|}{u}\lambda, s\right) e^{is\omega\frac{|x|}{u}\lambda} ds, \quad (10)$$

where $\alpha, \beta = \pm 1$ are the Keldysh indices (in forward/backward basis), x and ω are the distance traveled by and the energy of the particle, and T is the temperature. We define the renormalized interaction

$$\lambda = \left[\frac{1}{u} \frac{2g_{\perp}}{\pi} - \left(\frac{1}{u} \frac{2g_{\perp}}{\pi} \right)^{-1} \right]^{-1}, \quad F(\omega) = \tanh\left(\frac{\omega}{2T}\right), \quad \Theta(x) \text{ is the Heaviside function, } \xi(\lambda) = \frac{2\lambda^2}{\sqrt{4\lambda^2 + 1} - 1},$$

and $\zeta(A, s) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{\sinh[\pi A(1-s)]\sinh[\pi A(1+s)]}}$.

The propagators in channels 1 (G_1) and 4 (G_4) are obtained by substituting $g_{\perp}=0$ in equation (10). This result recovers the simple non-interacting Green function with a renormalized velocity $u = v_F + \frac{2g_{\parallel}}{\pi}$ due to intra-channel interaction. The maximal interaction between channel 2 and 3 is at $g_{\perp} = \frac{\pi}{2}u$ (instability point). Similarly to the two-particle analysis, here too the SV limit is reached at a finite value of the inter-channel interaction.

4. Results

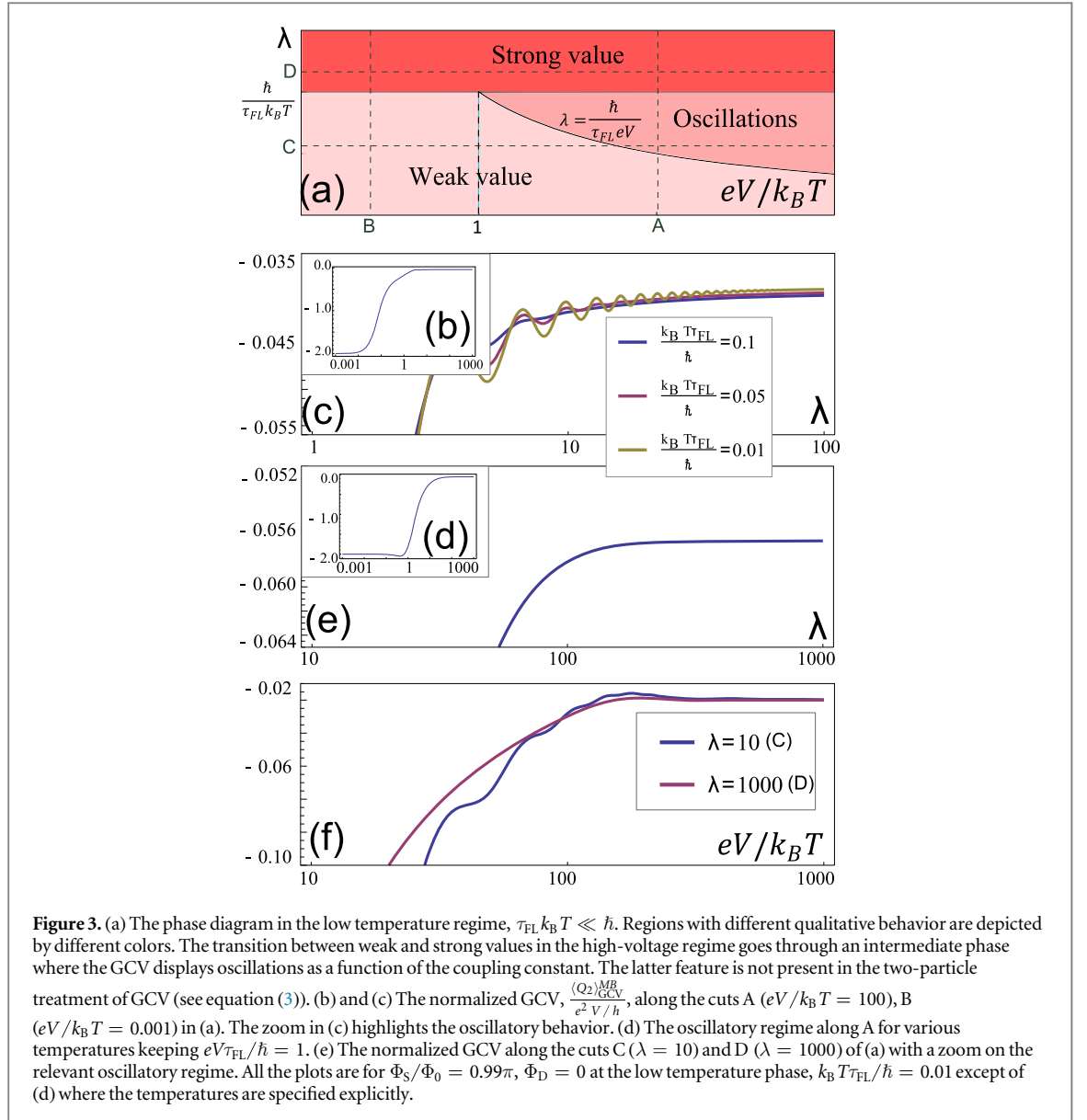
Plugging equations (10) and equation (D.14) to equations (7) and (8), we obtain the final expression for the GCV in equation (6). The result is depicted in figure 3. We identify a high temperature regime, $\tau_{\text{FL}} k_B T \gg \hbar$ (τ_{FL} is the time of flight through the interacting arm of MZI, $\tau_{\text{FL}} = \frac{L}{u}$), where the GCV is exponentially suppressed by the factor $e^{-\frac{\tau_{\text{FL}} k_B T}{\hbar}}$ due to averaging over an energy window $\sim T$. In the opposite, low temperature limit, the phase diagram shows novel oscillatory behavior. We plot the phase diagram of GCV in a parameter space spanned by the applied voltage normalized by the temperature ($eV/k_B T$) and the renormalized interaction strength (λ) (see figure 3). In the low voltage limit ($eV \ll k_B T$) the size of the injected wave function is large compared with L . In this limit interaction effects should be less significant. The weak-to-strong crossover is smooth in similitude to the two particle result (see equation (3)). For $eV > k_B T$, multiple particle interaction effects become important, and three different regimes are obtained as function of λ . Here, as function of increasing λ , oscillatory behavior ($\sim J_0\left(\frac{\lambda eV \tau_{\text{FL}}}{\hbar}\right)$, where J_0 is the 0th order Bessel function) of the crossover from WV to SV is predicted. The behavior of the GCV in the different regimes is summarized in a phase diagram in figure 3(a), along with the dependence of the GCV on the interaction strength (figures 3(b)–(d)) and voltage bias (figure 3(e)).

5. Discussion

The oscillations found here and the physics of visibility lobes that was found experimentally [38] and studied theoretically [39–41] in the context of coherent transport through a MZI, are both related to interaction effects in an interferometry setup. To understand this similarity we employ a caricature semi-classical picture: a single particle wave-packet, whose energy components are in the interval $[0, eV]$, is injected into the system MZI (arm 1 of figure 1). During its propagation through the interacting arm, its dynamics is affected by Coulomb interaction with the entire out-of-equilibrium Fermi sea of electrons inside the interaction region of the detector MZI (arm 3 of figure 1), producing a phase shift of the systems wave-packet. When this single particle wave-packet interacts with a single electron in the detector (see the discussion preceding equation (2)), its phase shift is $0 \leq \gamma \leq \pi$. If the detector's arm consists of N electrons, a phase shift of $N\gamma$ is produced, giving rise to oscillations as function of the interaction strength or N . More qualitatively: the number of background non-equilibrium electrons inside the detector MZI, $\langle N \rangle = \frac{LeV}{2\pi u}$ [39–41], splits into n and $\langle N \rangle - n$ in arms 3 and 4 respectively, with probability $P(n) = T^n R^{\langle N \rangle - n} \binom{\langle N \rangle}{n}$, $R = |r_d|^2$, $T = |t_d|^2$.

Neglecting, for the sake of this caricature, time dependent quantum fluctuations in the number of particles (we have treated those in full), the incremental addition to the (system) wave packet action due to an electron in arm 2 interacting with n background electrons in arm 3 is $\Delta S(n, t_0) = \frac{g_{\perp}}{L} \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \tau_{\text{FL}}} n(t) dt$. Here $t_0 \in [0, eV]$ is the injection time of an electron wave packet. The added phase to the single particle wave-function is:

⁶ As each channel is only slightly perturbed out of equilibrium, methods of equilibrium bosonization may be employed.



$\psi \rightarrow \psi e^{i\Delta S}$. It follows that the current at D2 per a specific n is $I_{D2}(n, t_0) = \frac{e^2 V}{h} \left(R^2 + T^2 + 2RT \cdot \Re e \left\{ e^{2\pi i \frac{\Phi_S}{\Phi_0}} e^{i\Delta S(n, t_0)} \right\} \right)$. The mean current is a weighted average over all $\{n\}$ and t_0 , leading to a lobe structure. For example, when $\langle N \rangle \ll 1$, then $\Delta S(n) = \frac{g_L \tau_{\text{FL}} n}{L}$, and the total current is $I = \frac{e^2 V}{h} \left(R^2 + T^2 + 2RT \cdot D \Re e \left\{ e^{2\pi i \frac{\Phi_S}{\Phi_0} + i\eta_D} \right\} \right)$, where $D e^{i\eta_D} = R + T e^{\frac{i g_L \tau_{\text{FL}} \langle N \rangle}{L}}$, which is periodic in g_L with a period of $\frac{(2\pi)^2 u}{\tau_{\text{FL}} eV}$. We can repeat the same argument for the detector MZI and obtain the same lobe structure dependence there.

Measurements on setups consisting of two electrostatically coupled MZI have been reported [32], albeit not in the context of the present work. By means of external gates one may control the magnitude of the coupling λ . More accessible experimentally would be to fix the distance between the MZIs and observe oscillations with V at moderately low values of λ .

The present analysis interpolates between two conceptually distinct views of measurement in quantum mechanics: the von Neumann projection postulate, and the continuous time evolution in the weak system–detector coupling limit. Admittedly these two views could be obtained as limiting cases of the same formalism. The analysis presented here demonstrates that the interpolation between the two is non-trivial. Oscillatory crossover is a unique feature of our many-body analysis. The setup chosen to demonstrate this SV-to-WV crossover consists of two coupled MZIs (the ‘system’ and the ‘detector’). Measurements on such a setup have

been reported in the literature (see e.g., [32]), with a considerable latitude of controlling the system–detector coupling. We conclude that our predictions are, then, within the realm of experimental verification.

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Appendix A. Derivation of the formula for two-particle GCV in terms of the irreducible correlation function

Here we present an extended derivation of equation (2). The two-particle GCV of Q_2 is defined by,

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{\langle I_{D_2} \delta I_{D_3} \rangle}{\gamma \langle I_{D_2} \rangle} = \frac{\langle I_{D_2} (I_{D_3} - \langle I_{D_3} \rangle_0) \rangle}{\gamma \langle I_{D_2} \rangle}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

This can be rewritten as,

$$\frac{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle \langle I_{D_3} \rangle - \langle I_{D_2} \rangle \langle I_{D_3} \rangle_0 + \langle I_{D_2} I_{D_3} \rangle - \langle I_{D_2} \rangle \langle I_{D_3} \rangle}{\gamma \langle I_{D_2} \rangle} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

which yields equation (2)

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\langle \delta I_{D_3} \rangle + \frac{\langle \langle I_{D_2} I_{D_3} \rangle \rangle}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle} \right). \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Appendix B. Strong-to-weak crossover of GCV for two particle system

Here we present the derivation of GCV for two particle system (i.e. equation (3)). In accordance with equation (A.1) we compute the current–current correlator $\langle I_{D_2} I_{D_3} \rangle$ and the average current $\langle I_{D_2} \rangle$, defined with respect to the density matrix $\rho = e^{i\gamma Q_2 Q_3} I_{S_1} \otimes I_{S_4} e^{-i\gamma Q_2 Q_3}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I_{D_2} I_{D_3} \rangle &= \text{Tr} \{ I_{D_2} I_{D_3} e^{i\gamma Q_2 Q_3} I_{S_1} I_{S_4} e^{-i\gamma Q_2 Q_3} \} \\ &= \text{Tr} \{ I_{D_2} I_{D_3} (1 + (e^{i\gamma} - 1) Q_2 Q_3) I_{S_1} I_{S_4} (1 + (e^{-i\gamma} - 1) Q_2 Q_3) \}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where in the last step we employed $e^{\gamma Q_2 Q_3} = 1 + (e^{i\gamma} - 1) Q_2 Q_3$ because the eigenvalues of Q_i are only 0 or 1. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I_{D_2} I_{D_3} \rangle &= \langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0 \langle I_{D_3} \rangle_0 \\ &\times \left(1 + \frac{4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle_0 \right\} + 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle_0}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0 \langle I_{D_3} \rangle_0} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where $\langle \rangle_0$ denotes average with respect to the noninteracting setup ($\gamma \rightarrow 0$). Similar calculation for $\langle I_{D_2} \rangle$ yields

$$\langle I_{D_2} \rangle = \langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0 \left(1 + \langle Q_3 \rangle_0 \frac{4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \right\} + 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0} \right). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

Plugging equations (B.2) and (B.3) in equation (A.1) yields an expression for a two particle GCV

$$\langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle \right\} + \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta Q_3 I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle}{\gamma \langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0 + 4 \sin\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \Re \left\{ i e^{\frac{i\gamma}{2}} \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0 \right\} + 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right) \langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0}. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

In the weak limit ($\gamma \rightarrow 0$) this expression simplifies to

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 0} \langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = 2 \Re \left\{ \frac{i \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0} \right\} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

and in the strong limit ($\gamma \rightarrow \pi$)

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow \pi} \langle Q_2 \rangle_{\text{GCV}}^{\text{TP}} = \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{\langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta Q_3 I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle - \Re \{ \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle \delta I_{D_3} Q_3 \rangle \}}{\langle I_{D_2} \rangle_0 - 4 \Re \{ \langle I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0 \} + 4 \langle Q_2 I_{D_2} Q_2 \rangle_0 \langle Q_3 \rangle_0}. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

Appendix C. Perturbative calculation of expectation values

In this section we derive the expression for expectation values of the current and the current–current correlator. Employing a path integral formalism, a general formula for the expectation value of an operator $\hat{O}[\Psi^\dagger, \Psi]$ is

$$\langle \hat{O}[\Psi^\dagger, \Psi] \rangle = \frac{\int \mathcal{D}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] \hat{O}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] e^{iS[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi]}}{\int \mathcal{D}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] e^{iS[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi]}}, \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where $S = S_0 + S_{\text{int}} + S_T$ is the full action over the Schwinger–Keldysh contour with

$$S_0[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] = \sum_{m=1}^4 \int dr dr' \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(r) \check{G}_{m,\alpha\beta}^{-1}(r-r') \Psi_{m,\beta}(r'), \quad (\text{C.2})$$

$$S_{\text{int}}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] = \sum_{m,n=1}^4 \int dr \rho_{m,\alpha}(r) g_{mn} \hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^d \rho_{n,\beta}(r) \quad (\text{C.3})$$

and

$$S_T[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] = \sum_{m,n=1}^4 \int dr dr' \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(r) \Gamma_{mn}(r, r') \hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^d \Psi_{n,\beta}(r'), \quad (\text{C.4})$$

where α, β are the Keldysh indices in forward/backward basis, m, n are the wire indices, r denotes the spacial two-vector ($r = (x, t)$), $\rho_{m,\alpha}(r) = \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(r) \Psi_{m,\alpha}(r)$ is the density of the particles, $\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^d$ is the Keldysh matrix (see table C2)

$$g_{mn} = \begin{pmatrix} g_{\parallel} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g_{\parallel} & g_{\perp} & 0 \\ 0 & g_{\perp} & g_{\parallel} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & g_{\parallel} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{C.5})$$

$$\Gamma_{mn}(r, r') = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Gamma_s(x, x') & 0 & 0 \\ \Gamma_s^*(x, x') & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \Gamma_d^*(x, x') \\ 0 & 0 & \Gamma_d(x, x') & 0 \end{pmatrix} \delta(t-t') \quad (\text{C.6})$$

and $\Gamma_s(x, x') = \Gamma_1 \delta(x - x_1^s) \delta(x' - x_2^s) + \Gamma_2 \delta(x - x_1^{2s}) \delta(x' - x_2^{2s})$ and $\Gamma_d(x, x') = \Gamma_d \delta(x - x_3^d) \delta(x' - x_4^d) + \Gamma_{2d} \delta(x - x_3^{2d}) \delta(x' - x_4^{2d})$. $\check{G}_{m,\alpha\beta}^{-1}(k, \omega)$ is the inverse of the fermionic Green function for particles whose dynamics is described by $\mathcal{H}_0^S + \mathcal{H}_0^D$, which in (k, ω) representation is given by [42]

$$\check{G}_{m,\beta\alpha}(k, \omega) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{F(\omega) + \alpha}{\omega - v_F k + i\epsilon} - \frac{F(\omega) - \beta}{\omega - v_F k - i\epsilon} \right]. \quad (\text{C.7})$$

Here we assume the setup was in thermal equilibrium with a temperature T (described by the fermionic population function $F(\omega) = \tanh\left(\frac{\omega}{2T}\right)$) at the time $t \rightarrow -\infty$, when the tunneling Γ , and the interaction g were adiabatically turned on. By assuming small tunneling the action can be expanded in power series to desired order in Γ , then equation (C.1) gets a form

$$\langle \hat{O}[\Psi^\dagger, \Psi] \rangle = \frac{\sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \langle \hat{O}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] (iS_T[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi])^n \rangle_\Omega}{\sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \langle (iS_T[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi])^n \rangle_\Omega}, \quad (\text{C.8})$$

where $\langle \rangle_\Omega$ denotes averaging with respect to the action $S_0 + S_{\text{int}}$.

The current in a chiral system with linear dispersion is linearly proportional to the density ($\langle I \rangle = ev_F \langle \rho \rangle$). The expectation value of the density is obtained by weakly perturbing the system by a quantum potential probe V^q , which should be taken to zero at the end to restore causality [42]. Therefore, we obtain an expression for the current measured at Dm ($m = 1, 2, 3, 4$) (see figure 1)

Table C1. A list of Keldysh $\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^\chi$ matrices (for fermions) in different bases of bosonic (χ) indices and fermionic indices (α, β).

χ	α, β	
	(+/-)	(cl/q)
+	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^+ = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
-	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^- = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
cl	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^{cl} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^{cl} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
q	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Table C2. A list of Keldysh $\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^\chi$ matrices (for bosons) in different bases of bosonic χ, α and β indices.

χ	α, β	
	(+/-)	(cl/q)
+	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^+ = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
-	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^- = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$
cl	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^{cl} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^{cl} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
q	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\hat{\eta}_{\alpha\beta}^q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\langle I_{Dm}(x, t) \rangle = -\frac{ie\nu_F}{2} \text{Tr} \{ \tilde{G}_m(x, t; x, t) \hat{\gamma}^q \},$$

where $\tilde{G}_{m,\beta\alpha}(x, t; x, t) = -i \langle \mathcal{T} \Psi_{m,\beta}(x, t) \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(x, t) \rangle$ is the fermionic Green function of the system (averaged with respect to the full action, S) at point (x, t) of the m th arm. The trace is over the Keldysh indices, where $\hat{\gamma}^q$ is the Keldysh matrix (see table C1). For the sake of simplicity we compute first $\langle I_{D1}(x, t) \rangle$ by expanding it to second (leading) order in Γ . We then employ the current conservation to find $\langle I_{D2} \rangle$, $\langle I_{D2}(x, t) \rangle = I_0 - \langle I_{D1}(x, t) \rangle$, where $I_0 = \frac{e^2}{h} V$. To this order, particle tunnels twice. We employ equation (C.8) to expand \tilde{G} in S_Γ . This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \langle I_{D2}(x, t) \rangle &= \frac{ie\nu_F}{2} \int dt_1 dt_2 \sum_{p,q=\{1,2,s\}} \\ &\times \{ \Gamma_p^* \Gamma_q G_{1,\alpha\beta}(x - x_1^p, t - t_1) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^d G_{2,\gamma\delta}(x_1^p - x_2^q, t_1 - t_2) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^d G_{1,\epsilon\zeta}(x_1 - x, t_1 - t) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q \}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.9})$$

Here

$$G_m(x, t)_{\beta\alpha} = -i \langle \mathcal{T} \Psi_{m,\beta}(x, t) \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(0, 0) \rangle \quad (\text{C.10})$$

is the fermionic Green function averaged with respect to the interacting action, $S_0 + S_{\text{int}}$. We perform Fourier transform over the time variable to obtain

$$\langle I_{D2}(x, 0) \rangle = \frac{ie\nu_F}{2} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \sum_{p,q=\{1,2,s\}} \Gamma_p^* \Gamma_q G_{1,\alpha\beta}(x - x_1^p, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^d G_{2,\gamma\delta}(x_1^p - x_2^q, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^d G_{1,\epsilon\zeta}(x_1 - x, \omega) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q. \quad (\text{C.11})$$

To find the current-current correlator, we generalize the last procedure, employing $\langle \langle I_{D2} I_{D3} \rangle \rangle = \langle \langle I_{D1} I_{D4} \rangle \rangle$, to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \langle \langle I_{D1}(x', t) I_{D4}(x, 0) \rangle \rangle \\
&= -\frac{e^2 v_F^2}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \sum_{pqrs} \Gamma_p^* \Gamma_q \Gamma_r^* \Gamma_s \int dt_1 dt_2 dt_3 dt_4 \\
&\times G_{1,\alpha\beta}(x' - x_1^p, t' - t_1) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^{cl} G_{4,\eta\theta}(x - x_4^r, 0 - t_4) \hat{\gamma}_{\theta\delta}^{cl} \tilde{M}'_{\nu\kappa\gamma\delta}(x_3^s, x_3^r, x_2^q, x_2^p; t_3, t_4, t_2, t_1) \\
&\times \hat{\gamma}_{\kappa\lambda}^{cl} G_{4,\lambda\mu}(x_4^s - x', t_3 - 0) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^{cl} G_{1,\epsilon\zeta}(x_1^q - x, t_2 - t) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q \hat{\gamma}_{\mu\eta}^q,
\end{aligned} \tag{C.12}$$

where $\tilde{M}'(r_4, r_3, r_2, r_1) \triangleq \tilde{M}(r_4, r_3, r_2, r_1) - G_2(r_2 - r_1)G_3(r_4 - r_3)$. And

$$\tilde{M}_{\delta\gamma\beta\alpha}(r_4, r_3, r_2, r_1) \triangleq -\langle \mathcal{T} \bar{\Psi}_{3,\delta}(r_4) \bar{\Psi}_{3,\gamma}(r_3) \bar{\Psi}_{2,\beta}(r_2) \bar{\Psi}_{2,\alpha}(r_1) \rangle \tag{C.13}$$

is the collision matrix. We perform Fourier transform over the time differences, such that ω_2 corresponds to $t_2 - t_1$, ω_3 to $t_4 - t_3$ and $\bar{\omega}$ to $\frac{1}{2}(t_3 + t_4) - \frac{1}{2}(t_1 + t_2)$. Finally, it yields

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \langle \langle I_{D1}(x', t) I_{D4}(x, 0) \rangle \rangle = -\frac{e^2 v_F^2}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \sum_{pqrs} \Gamma_p^* \Gamma_q \Gamma_r^* \Gamma_s \int \frac{d\bar{\omega} d\omega_2 d\omega_3}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i\bar{\omega}t} \\
&\times G_{1,\alpha\beta} \left(x' - x_1^p, \omega_2 - \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\beta\gamma}^{cl} \times G_{4,\eta\theta} \left(x - x_4^r, \omega_3 + \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\theta\delta}^{cl} \tilde{M}'_{\nu\kappa\gamma\delta}(x_3^s, x_3^r, x_2^q, x_2^p; \omega_3, \omega_2, \bar{\omega}) \\
&\times \hat{\gamma}_{\kappa\lambda}^{cl} G_{4,\lambda\mu} \left(x_4^s - x', \omega_3 - \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\delta\epsilon}^{cl} G_{1,\epsilon\zeta} \left(x_1^q - x, \omega_2 + \frac{\bar{\omega}}{2} \right) \hat{\gamma}_{\zeta\alpha}^q \hat{\gamma}_{\mu\eta}^q.
\end{aligned} \tag{C.14}$$

In order to find a simpler expression for the time integral over τ , we denote the current–current correlator by $F(t)$: $F(t) = \langle \langle I_{D2}(x', t) I_{D3}(x, 0) \rangle \rangle$, and its Fourier transform $F(\bar{\omega})$. Equation (C.14) can be written in these terms as

$$\bar{F} \triangleq \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt F(t) = \frac{1}{\tau} \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} dt \int \frac{d\bar{\omega}}{2\pi} e^{i\bar{\omega}t} F(\bar{\omega}). \tag{C.15}$$

It is easy to find an expression for $F(\bar{\omega})$ by comparing equations (C.14) and (C.15). First, we write

$\frac{1}{2\tau} [F(\bar{\omega}) + F(-\bar{\omega})] = \frac{1}{4\tau} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [F(t) + F(-t)] (e^{i\bar{\omega}t} + e^{-i\bar{\omega}t}) dt$. From the other hand we approximate the average by,

$$\bar{F} \approx \frac{1}{2\tau} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [F(t) + F(-t)] e^{-\pi(t/\tau)^2} dt,$$

where we have assumed that $F(t)$ grows much slower than $e^{\pi(t/\tau)^2}$, and the antisymmetric part of $F(t)$ is cancelled by the averaging. By comparing the exponentials in the two equations we obtain $\bar{\omega} = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}$.

Then $\bar{F} = \frac{1}{2\tau} \left[F\left(\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}\right) + F\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\tau}\right) \right]$.

Appendix D. Calculation of the fermionic correlators

Here we derive the expressions for the fermionic propagator (see equation (C.10)) and the collision matrix (see equation (C.13)) averaged with respect to the action $S_0 + S_{\text{int}}$, within an interacting arms (2, 3) of MZI (the propagator in arms 1 and 4 can be found by taking $g_{\perp} \rightarrow 0$). In this calculation we employ the functional bosonization approach for system out of equilibrium [43, 44]. We apply the Hubbard–Stratonovich transformation, and introduce the bosonic auxiliary field Φ , writing an action $S_0 + S_{\text{int}}$ as [45]

$$S_0 + S_{\text{int}}[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi; \Phi] = \bar{\Psi} G_{[\Phi]}^{-1} \Psi + \frac{1}{4} \Phi g^{-1} \Phi, \tag{D.1}$$

with the notation

$$\bar{\Psi} G_{[\Phi]}^{-1} \Psi = \sum_{m=2,3} \int dr dr' \bar{\Psi}_{m,\alpha}(r) G_{[\Phi]m,\alpha\beta}^{-1}(r - r') \Psi_{m,\beta}(r'),$$

where

$$G_{[\Phi]m,\alpha\beta}^{-1}(r - r') = \check{G}_{m,\alpha\beta}^{-1}(r - r') - \hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^{\chi} \Phi_{m,\chi}(r) \delta(r - r')$$

and

$$\Phi g^{-1} \Phi = \sum_{m,n=2,3} \int dr \Phi_{m,\alpha}(r) g_{mn}^{-1} \hat{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^d \Phi_{n,\beta}(r),$$

where we implicitly sum over the Keldysh indices $\alpha, \beta, \chi = \pm 1$ (in forward/backward basis) and g_{mn}^{-1} is the inverse of the $m, n = 2, 3$ submatrix of g_{mn} (see equation (C.5)). Following the functional bosonization procedure

[45], we obtain a general expression for an n -fermion correlator

$$\left\langle \mathcal{T} \prod_i^n \Psi_{a_i}(r_i) \bar{\Psi}_{b_i}(q_i) \right\rangle = \left\langle \mathcal{T} \prod_i^n \Psi_{a_i}(r_i) \bar{\Psi}_{b_i}(q_i) \right\rangle_0 e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left\langle \mathcal{T} \left(\sum_i^n \theta_{a_i}(r_i) - \theta_{b_i}(q_i) \right)^2 \right\rangle_\Phi}, \quad (\text{D.2})$$

where $a, b = (\alpha, m)$ denote the Keldysh and the wire indices, $r, q = (x, t)$, $\langle \rangle_0$ is the fermionic correlator with respect to the free action

$$S_0[\bar{\Psi}, \Psi] = \bar{\Psi} \check{G}^{-1} \Psi, \quad (\text{D.3})$$

and $\langle \rangle_\Phi$ is the Φ -field correlator with respect to the action

$$S_\Phi[\Phi] = \frac{1}{4} \Phi g^{-1} \Phi + \Phi \hat{\Pi} \Phi \quad (\text{D.4})$$

respectively. Here

$$\Phi \hat{\Pi} \Phi = \sum_{m=2,3} \int dr dr' \Phi_{m,\alpha}(r) \hat{\Pi}_{m,\alpha\beta}(r, r') \Phi_{m,\beta}(r')$$

with the polarization matrix

$$\hat{\Pi}_{m,\alpha\beta}(r - r') = \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \{ \hat{\gamma}^\alpha \check{G}_m(r - r') \hat{\gamma}^\beta \check{G}_m(r' - r) \}, \quad (\text{D.5})$$

where the trace is taken over the Keldysh fermionic indices [42]. The θ field is defined by

$$\theta_{m,\alpha}(r) = -i \sum_{\beta\gamma=\pm 1} \int dr' G_{m,\alpha\beta}^B(r - r') \hat{\eta}_{\beta\gamma}^{cl} \Phi_{m,\gamma}(r'), \quad (\text{D.6})$$

where G^B is the bosonic free Green function with linearized spectrum,

$$G_{m,\beta\alpha}^B(k, \omega) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{B(\omega) + \alpha}{\omega - v_F k + i\epsilon} - \frac{B(\omega) - \beta}{\omega - v_F k - i\epsilon} \right]. \quad (\text{D.7})$$

The action for the Φ field (see equation (D.4)) is quadratic due to Larkin–Dzyaloshinskii [46] theorem, therefore an exact expression for the Φ -field correlator is

$$i\check{Q}_{mn,\alpha\beta}(r - r') \triangleq \langle \mathcal{T} \Phi_{m,\alpha}(r) \Phi_{n,\beta}(r') \rangle_\Phi = i(g_{mn}^{-1} \hat{\eta}_{\alpha,\beta}^{cl} \delta(r - r') + \delta_{mn} \hat{\Pi}_{m,\alpha,\beta}(r - r'))^{-1}.$$

We reduce the problem of finding an inverse of an infinite-dimensions matrix, inverting it to the finite (4) dimensions by Fourier-transforming it to a diagonal (k, ω) basis. Employing equation (D.6) we obtain the θ -field correlator

$$\begin{aligned} i\check{K}_{mn,\alpha\beta}(r - r') &\triangleq \langle \mathcal{T} \theta_{m,\alpha}(r) \theta_{n,\beta}(r') \rangle_\Phi \\ &= -i \int dq dq' [G^B(r - q) \hat{\eta}^{cl} \check{Q}(q - q') \hat{\eta}^{cl} G^B(q' - r')]_{mn,\alpha\beta}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.8})$$

where we implicitly sum over the Keldysh and the wire indices. This yields,

$$\check{K}_{mn} = \delta_{mn} \begin{pmatrix} B[\check{K}_{\parallel}^R - \check{K}_{\parallel}^A] & \check{K}_{\parallel}^R \\ \check{K}_{\parallel}^A & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \sigma_{mn}^x \begin{pmatrix} B[\check{K}_{\perp}^R - \check{K}_{\perp}^A] & \check{K}_{\perp}^R \\ \check{K}_{\perp}^A & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{D.9})$$

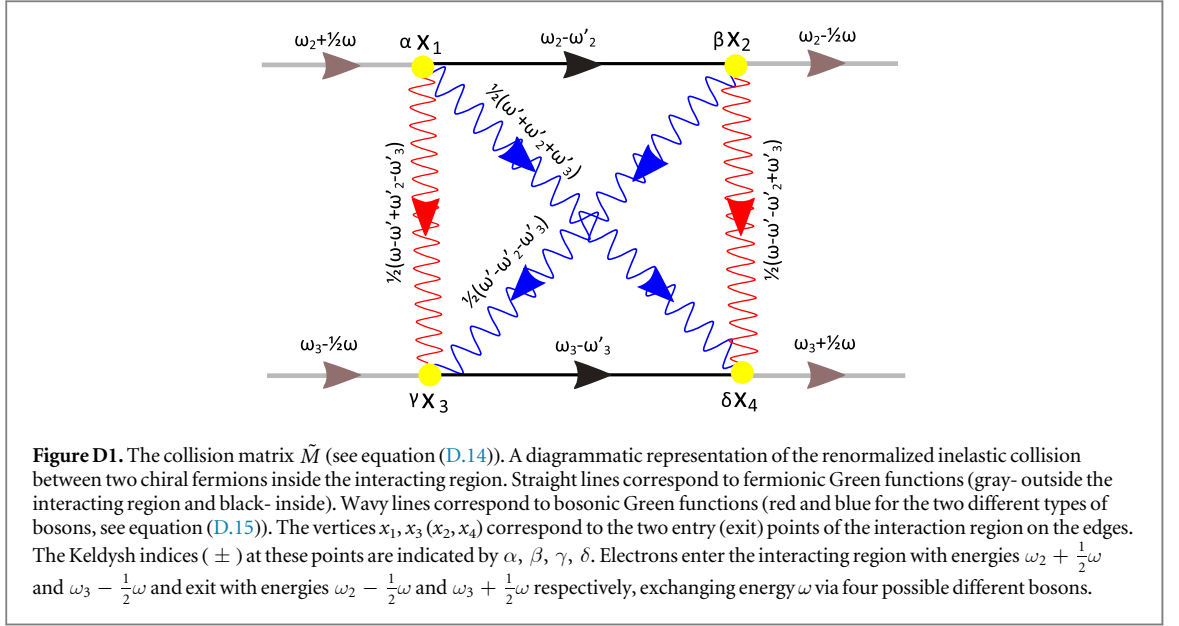
where

$$\check{K}_{\parallel}^{R/A}(k, \omega) = \frac{\pi}{k} \left[\frac{1}{\omega - v_\rho k \pm i\epsilon} + \frac{1}{\omega - v_\sigma k \pm i\epsilon} - \frac{2}{\omega - v_F k \pm i\epsilon} \right] \quad (\text{D.10})$$

and

$$\check{K}_{\perp}^{R/A}(k, \omega) = \frac{\pi}{k} \left[\frac{1}{\omega - v_\rho k \pm i\epsilon} - \frac{1}{\omega - v_\sigma k \pm i\epsilon} \right]. \quad (\text{D.11})$$

Here, $v_\rho = u + \frac{2g_{\perp}}{\pi}$, $v_\sigma = u - \frac{2g_{\perp}}{\pi}$, with $u = v_F + \frac{2g_{\parallel}}{\pi}$. We plug this result in equation (D.2) to compute the Green function (equation (C.10)) and the collision matrix of the particles in arms 2 and 3 (equation (C.13)). The calculation requires transformation of equations (D.10) and (D.11) to real (x, t) space. Here we present the final result,



$$G_{m,\beta\alpha}(x, t) = -\frac{T}{2v_F} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sinh\left[\pi T\left(t - \frac{x}{v_p} + \frac{i}{\Lambda}[\alpha\Theta(t) - \Theta(-t)]\right)\right]}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sinh\left[\pi T\left(t - \frac{x}{v_\sigma} + \frac{i}{\Lambda}[\alpha\Theta(t) - \beta\Theta(-t)]\right)\right]}}. \quad (\text{D.12})$$

Fourier-transforming the time coordinate yields,

$$G_{m,\beta\alpha}(x, \omega) = -\frac{i}{2v_F} [F(\omega) + \alpha\Theta(x) - \Theta(-x)] e^{i\omega\frac{x}{v_p}\xi(\lambda)} \int_{-1}^1 \varsigma\left(T\frac{|x|}{u}\lambda, s\right) e^{is\omega\frac{|x|}{u}\lambda} ds \quad (\text{D.13})$$

with the definitions $\lambda = \left[\frac{1}{u} \frac{2g_\perp}{\pi} - \left(\frac{1}{u} \frac{2g_\perp}{\pi}\right)^{-1}\right]^{-1}$, $\xi(\lambda) = \frac{2\lambda^2}{\sqrt{4\lambda^2 + 1} - 1}$ and

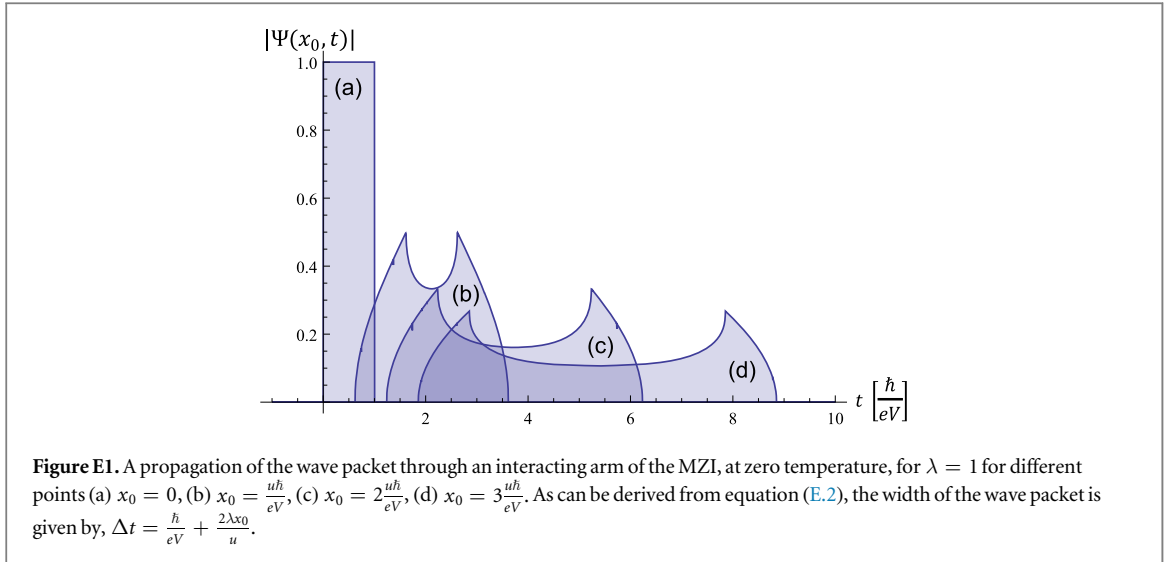
$\varsigma(A, s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sinh[\pi A(1-s)]\sinh[\pi A(1+s)]}}$. For the sake of consistency check, $\lim_{g_\perp \rightarrow 0, g_\parallel \rightarrow 0} G = \check{G}$. And the collision matrix reads

$$\tilde{M}_{\delta\gamma\beta\alpha}(x_4, x_3, x_2, x_1) = G_{3,\delta\gamma}(x_{43}) G_{2,\beta\alpha}(x_{21}) \tilde{\zeta}_{\gamma\alpha}^{(1)}(x_{31}) \tilde{\zeta}_{\delta\beta}^{(1)}(x_{42}) \tilde{\zeta}_{\gamma\beta}^{(2)}(x_{32}) \tilde{\zeta}_{\delta\alpha}^{(2)}(x_{41})$$

where, $\tilde{\zeta}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1)}(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sinh\left[\pi T\left(t - \frac{x}{v_p} + \frac{i}{\Lambda}[\alpha\Theta(t) - \beta\Theta(-t)]\right)\right]}}$ and $\tilde{\zeta}_{\beta\alpha}^{(2)}(x, t) = (\tilde{\zeta}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1)}(x, t))^{-1}$. Fourier-transforming the time coordinates yields,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{M}_{\delta\gamma\beta\alpha}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \omega_3, \omega_2, \omega) &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d\omega' d\omega'_2 d\omega'_3}{(2\pi)^3} G_{3,\delta\gamma}(x_{43}, \omega_3 - \omega'_3) G_{2,\beta\alpha}(x_{21}, \omega_2 - \omega'_2) \\ &\times \tilde{\zeta}_{\gamma\alpha}^{(1)}\left(x_{31}, \frac{\omega - \omega' + \omega'_2 - \omega'_3}{2}\right) \tilde{\zeta}_{\delta\beta}^{(1)}\left(x_{42}, \frac{\omega - \omega' - \omega'_2 + \omega'_3}{2}\right) \\ &\times \tilde{\zeta}_{\gamma\beta}^{(2)}\left(x_{32}, \frac{\omega' - \omega'_2 - \omega'_3}{2}\right) \tilde{\zeta}_{\delta\alpha}^{(2)}\left(x_{41}, \frac{\omega' + \omega'_2 + \omega'_3}{2}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.14})$$

where we have used the short notation $x_{ij} = x_i - x_j$; G is the single particle propagator given by equation (D.13), and $\tilde{\zeta}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1/2)}(x, \omega) = 2\pi\delta(\omega) \cosh\left(\frac{\pi T x \lambda}{u}\right) - 2x\lambda \tilde{Z}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1/2)}(x, \omega)$, where $\tilde{Z}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1/2)}$ is given by



$$\tilde{Z}_{\beta\alpha}^{(1/2)}(x, \omega) = -\frac{i}{2u} [B(\omega) + \alpha\Theta(x) - \beta\Theta(-x)] e^{i\omega\frac{x}{\xi(\lambda)}} \int_{-1}^1 \kappa(T\frac{|x|}{u}\lambda, s) e^{\pm i s \omega \frac{x}{u}} \lambda ds, \quad (\text{D.15})$$

where $B(\omega) = \coth\left(\frac{\omega}{2T}\right)$ is the Bose function and $\kappa(A, s) = \sqrt{\frac{\sinh[\pi A(1+s)]}{\sinh[\pi A(1-s)]}}$. Equation (D.14) has a pictorial interpretation, presented in figure D1, according to which, the \tilde{Z} particles are the dressed bosons that carry the interaction between the electrons.

Appendix E. Passage of the electron through the MZI: a semiclassical picture

Here we present the propagation of a localized wave packet (according to a semiclassical picture) through an interacting arm of MZI, and derive the condition to be in the semiclassical regime. We assume semiclassically a propagating rectangular shaped wave packet with a width $\sim \frac{\hbar}{eV}$ in time domain (see figure E1). The propagation of the single particle wave function can be derived by convolving the initial state with the retarded Green function,

$$\Psi(x, t) = i \int G^R(x - x', t) \Psi(x', 0) dx'. \quad (\text{E.1})$$

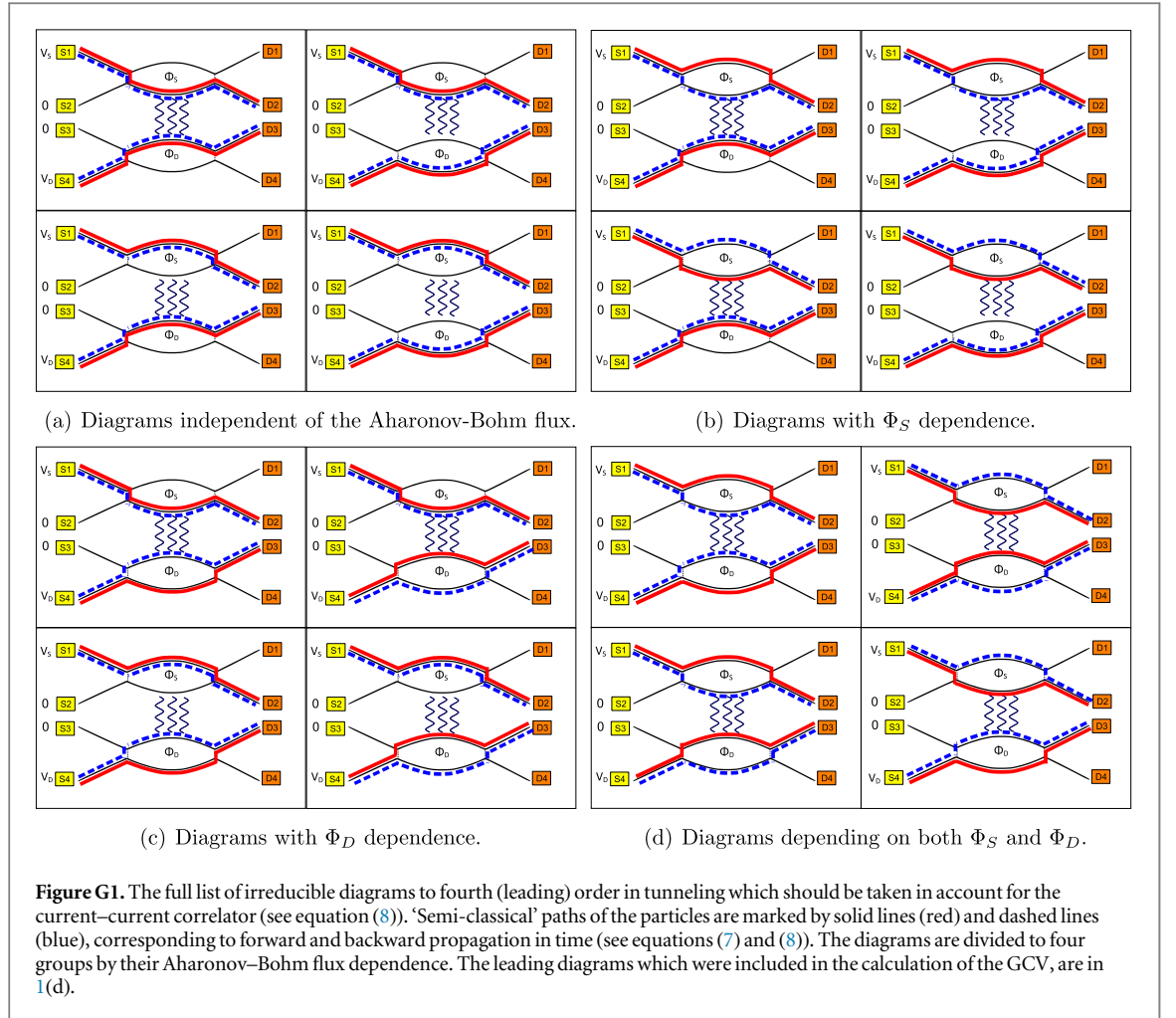
An expression for the zero temperature retarded Green function is (this is simply derived from equation (10))

$$G^R(x, t) = \frac{i u}{\pi \lambda x v_F} \frac{\Pi\left(\frac{u}{x\lambda}\left(t - \frac{x\xi(\lambda)}{u}\right)\right)}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{u}{x\lambda}\left(t - \frac{x\xi(\lambda)}{u}\right)\right)^2}}, \quad (\text{E.2})$$

where $\Pi(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & -1 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{o. w.} \end{cases}$ is a rectangle function. The wave packet at four different points is shown in figure E1. We observe, the wave packet has been broadened as a result of the interaction, its width in time at different space points is given by $\Delta t(x_0) = \frac{\hbar}{eV} + \frac{2\lambda x_0}{u}$. The center of mass of the wave packet then propagates with velocity $v_{\text{CM}} = \frac{u}{\xi(\lambda)}$. Consistent with the semiclassical picture, we require the width of the wave packet to be much smaller compared with the propagation time through the MZI, $\Delta t(L) \ll L/v_{\text{CM}}$. From this condition we deduce, $eV \gg \frac{\hbar u}{L}$ and $\lambda \ll 1$.

Appendix F. General GCV for an N-state system

Here we present a derivation of GCV for a general system with N -states being measured by a Gaussian detector. We show that the weak-to-strong crossover in such a case may be oscillatory with a bounded number of periods of the order of $O(N^2)$. The initial state of the system is a mixed state, which is represented by the density matrix $\rho_s = \sum_{n,m} R_{nm} |\alpha_n\rangle \langle \alpha_m|$. The detector is initialized in the zeroth coherent state (we denote the α' s coherent state by $|\tilde{\alpha}\rangle$) such that its density matrix is $\rho_d = |\tilde{0}\rangle \langle \tilde{0}|$. We neglect the dynamics of the system and the detector assuming the measurement process was short in time compared to the typical timescales of the system and the detector. The coupling Hamiltonian is $\mathcal{H}_I = w(t) g \hat{A} (b^\dagger + b)$ with b, b^\dagger are the ladder operators of the



detector, $\hat{A} = \sum_n a_n |\alpha_n\rangle \langle \alpha_n|$ and $w(t)$ is a window function around the time of the measurement. The post-selection is represented by the projection operator, $\Pi_f = \sum_{n,m} P_{nm} |\alpha_n\rangle \langle \alpha_n|$. Plugging into equation (1) and considering, $\rho_{\text{tot}} = \rho_s \otimes \rho_d$ and $\delta q = b$, yields

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle_{\text{GCV}} = \frac{\sum_{n,m} a_n R_{nm} P_{mn} e^{-\frac{g^2}{2}(a_n - a_m)^2}}{\sum_{n,m} R_{nm} P_{mn} e^{-\frac{g^2}{2}(a_n - a_m)^2}}. \quad (\text{F.1})$$

The numerator and the denominator consist of sums of Gaussian (in g) functions, with different coefficients and prefactors. Each Gaussian is a monotonic function (for $g > 0$), thus the maximal number of extremas in the weak-to-strong crossover ($g \in [0, \infty)$) is of the order of $O(N^2)$, where N is the number of system’s states.

Appendix G. A full list of diagrams

Figure G1 depicts a full list of irreducible diagrams to fourth (leading) order in tunneling which should be taken in account for the current–current correlator. It is divided to diagrams with no flux dependence (see figure G1(a)), diagrams which are dependent on either Φ_S or Φ_D (see figures G1(b) and (c)), and diagrams which are depend on both Φ_S and Φ_D , see figure G1(d).

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