
Charge- and energy noise in ac-driven conductors and their detection from frequency-resolved potential- and temperature fluctuations

Janine Splettstoesser^{*1}, Nastaran Dashti¹, Macej Misiorny¹, Peter Samuelsson²,
Francesca Battista³, and Federica Haupt⁴

¹Chalmers University of Technology, Department for Microtechnology and Nanoscience – Kemivägen 9,
41296 Göteborg, Sweden

²Department of Physics, Lund University – S- 22100 Lund, Sweden

³Departamento de Física, FCEyN, Universidad de Buenos Aires – Ciudad Universitaria, 1428 CABA
Argentina, Argentina

⁴JARA Institute for Quantum Information, RWTH Aachen University – D-52056 Aachen, Germany,
Germany

Abstract

The time-dependent driving of nanoscale conductors allows for the controlled creation of single-electron excitations. This effect has been demonstrated experimentally both by application of time-dependent driving to gates coupled to confined systems, such as quantum dots [1], and by specifically shaped ac-driving of two-dimensional conductors [2,3].

However, the spectral properties of the injected signal are in general not known; moreover, the particle emission goes along with the excitation of electron-hole pairs with some unknown energy distribution. These issues can be addressed by studying fluctuations in the detected currents: not only do such fluctuations provide more insight into how to increase the precision of the single-particle emission, but also they allow for obtaining more information about the character of the emitted signal.

Here, I will present a theoretical study of charge and energy currents and their fluctuations in coherent conductors driven by different types of time-periodic bias voltages, based on a scattering matrix approach [4,5]. Specifically, we investigate the role of electron-like and hole-like excitations created by the driving in the charge current noise, where they only contribute separately. In contrast, additional features due to electron-hole correlations appear in the energy noise.

We then compare two different types of driving schemes [6], that is for a driven mesoscopic capacitor [1] as well as for a Lorentzian-shaped bias voltage [3], which do not differ in the number of injected particles, but only in their energetic properties.

Finally, I will discuss proposals for the detection of charge and energy noise, either through power fluctuations [4], or via frequency-dependent temperature and electrochemical-potential fluctuations in a probe reservoir [7].

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^{*}Speaker

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