Noise in mesoscopic systems Pertti Hakonen Aalto University

Basics of scattering theory (Landauer-Büttiker theory) Fundamentals of shot noise

- Khlus formula (T, V, and f dependence of noise)
- shot noise thermometry
- examples from research
- duality between charge and phase
- Shot noise measurement techniques
 - basic problems
 - present correlation spectrometer
- Noise temperature consideration
 - amplifiers and matching





Shot noise

Classical shot noise: W. Schottky, Ann. Phys. (Leipzig) 57, 541 (1918)

 $\langle (\Delta I)^2 \rangle_{\nu} = 2e \langle I \rangle$

Quantum shot noise:



Khlus (1987), Lesovik (1989), Yurke and Kochanski (1989), Buttiker (1990) $|\Psi \rangle_{inc} = e^{ikx}$ $|\Psi \rangle_{ref} = re^{-ikx}$ $|\Psi \rangle_{tra} = t e^{ikx}$ $T = |t|^2$

 $\Rightarrow \langle (\Delta n_T)^2 \rangle = T(1-T) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \langle (\Delta I)^2 \rangle_{\nu} = 2e \langle I \rangle (1-T)$

Ya.M. Blanter and M. Büttiker, Physics Reports **336**, 166 (2000)



Scattering channels



asymptotic perfect translation invariant potential

$$V(x,y) = V(y) \implies$$

separable wave function

$$\phi_n^{\pm}(\mathbf{r}, E) = e^{\pm ik_n(E)x} \chi_n(y)$$

energy of transverse motion E_n channel threshold

energy for transverse and longitudinal motion $E = E_n + \hbar^2 k^2 / 2m$ scattering channel





Scattering matrix and the Fermi field



Fermi field in contact α

$$\widehat{\Psi}(\mathbf{r},t) = \sum_{n} \int \frac{dE_{\alpha n} \chi_{\alpha n}(y)}{[hv_{\alpha n}]^{1/2}} [e^{ikx} \widehat{a}_{\alpha n} + e^{-ikx} \widehat{b}_{\alpha n}] e^{-iE_{\alpha n}t/\hbar}$$





Current matrix

$$j(r,t) = -\frac{e\hbar}{2mi} [\Psi^{\dagger}(r)\nabla\Psi(r) - \Psi(r)\nabla\Psi^{\dagger}(r)]$$
$$I_{\alpha}(t) = \int dx_{\alpha}dy_{\alpha}j(x_{\alpha}, y_{\alpha}, z_{\alpha}, t)$$

$$I_{\alpha}(t) = \frac{e}{h} \int dE' dE [a_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(E')a_{\alpha}(E) - b_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(E')b_{\alpha}(E)]e^{i(E'-E)t/\hbar}$$
$$I_{\alpha}(t) = \frac{e}{h} \int dE' dE \sum_{\beta,\gamma} a_{\beta}^{\dagger}(E')A_{\beta\gamma}(\alpha, E', E)a_{\gamma}(E)e^{i(E'-E)t/\hbar}$$
$$A_{\beta\gamma}(\alpha, E', E) = \mathbf{1}_{\alpha}\delta_{\alpha\beta}\delta_{\alpha\gamma} - s_{\alpha\beta}^{\dagger}(E')s_{\alpha\gamma}(E)$$

dc-transport, ac-transport, noise



Conductance matrix

$$I_{\alpha} = \frac{e}{h} \int dE \left[(N_{\alpha} - R_{\alpha\alpha}) f_{\alpha} - \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} T_{\alpha\beta} f_{\beta} \right]$$

$$R_{\alpha\alpha} = Tr(s_{\alpha\alpha}^{\dagger} s_{\alpha\alpha})$$

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = Tr(s_{\alpha\beta}^{\dagger} s_{\alpha\beta})$$

$$f_{\alpha}(\mu_{\alpha}) = f(\mu_{0}) - (df/dE)eV_{\alpha} + ..$$

$$I_{\alpha} = \frac{e}{h} \sum_{\beta} G_{\alpha\beta} V_{\beta}$$

$$G_{\alpha\alpha} = \frac{e^{2}}{h} \int dE(-df/dE)(N_{\alpha} - R_{\alpha\alpha})$$

$$\sum_{\beta} G_{\alpha\beta} = 0$$

$$G_{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{e^{2}}{h} \int dE(-df/dE)T_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\sum_{\beta} G_{\alpha\beta} = 0$$





Shot-noise: two-terminal

$$S_{\alpha\beta} = 2\frac{e^2}{h} \sum_{\gamma\delta} \int dETr[A_{\gamma\delta}(\alpha)A_{\delta\gamma}(\beta)]f_{\gamma}(E)(1-f_{\delta}(E))$$

Consider a two-terminal conductor at T = 0, V > 0:

$$S = S_{11} = -S_{12} = -S_{21} = S_{22};$$

Quantum partition noise

$$S = 2\frac{e^2}{h} |eV| Tr[tt^{\dagger}rr^{\dagger}] = 2\frac{e^2}{h} |eV| \sum_n T_n(1 - T_n)$$

If all $T_n \ll 1$

$$S = 2e\left(\frac{e^2}{h}\sum_n T_n\right)|V| = 2e|I|$$

Schottky (Poisson)

Fano factor

$$F = \frac{S}{S_P} = \frac{\sum_n T_n (1 - T_n)}{\sum_n T_n}$$

Khlus (1987) Lesovik (1989) Buttiker (1990)





Shot-noise: Quantum point contact







Finite temparatures

$$S_{i}(\omega = 0) = 2\frac{e^{2}}{h}\int dE \left\{ T_{i}f_{L}(1 - f_{L}) + T_{i}f_{R}(1 - f_{R}) + T_{i}(1 - T_{i})(f_{L} - f_{R})^{2} \right\}$$

$$S_{I}(\omega = 0) = 2\frac{e^{2}}{h} \left\{ k_{B}T\sum_{i}T_{i}^{2} + eV\sum_{i}T_{i}(1 - T_{i}) \operatorname{coth}\left(\frac{eV}{2k_{B}T}\right) \right\}$$

$$S_{I} = 4\frac{e^{2}}{h}k_{B}TG, \quad V \to 0$$
Johnson-Nyquist noise
$$G = \frac{e^{2}}{\pi \hbar}\sum_{i}T_{i}$$

$$x = \frac{2k_{B}T}{eV}$$

Khlus formula (1987)

$$S(\omega) = \frac{e^2}{2\pi\hbar} \left\{ 2\hbar\omega \coth\left(\frac{\hbar\omega}{2k_{\rm B}T}\right) \sum_n T_n^2 + \left[(\hbar\omega + eV) \coth\left(\frac{\hbar\omega + eV}{2k_{\rm B}T}\right) + (\hbar\omega - eV) \coth\left(\frac{\hbar\omega - eV}{2k_{\rm B}T}\right)\right] \sum_n T_n(1 - T_n) \right\}.$$

-40

-20

0

 eV/k_BT

20

40

B. Reulet and co., 2013

A few examples







Chaotic cavity





Diffusive wire noise: length scales



More exotic examples: interactions







Shot noise with fractional charge

$$\overline{I} = q \overline{N} / \tau$$

$$\overline{\Delta N^2} = \overline{N}$$

$$\overline{\Delta I^2} = (q / \tau)^2 \overline{\Delta N^2} = q \overline{I} (1 / \tau)$$

$$S_I = 2qI \quad \text{where } q \text{ can be a fraction of } e$$

$$S_I = 2eI = 2e^2 f$$





Noise thermometry: why it is hard?

- Must be calibrated accurately to measure temperature accurately

- Cross correlation without any spurious correlations





Shot noise tunnel junction thermometer



- Built-in calibration like in CBT

L. Spietz, K.W. Lehnert, I. Siddiqi, and R.J. Schoelkopf, Science **300**, 1929 (2003).





The Shot Noise Thermometer:



Total cost of package <10\$

Lafe Spietz, Yale





Hot electron shot noise thermometry



1) Hot electrons

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \frac{dT_e^2}{dx^2} = -\left(\frac{eE}{k_B}\right)^2 + \Gamma\left(T_e^5 - T_0^5\right)$$
$$E = \rho(T_e)I$$

Wiedemann-Franz law

$$\frac{\kappa}{\sigma} = LT \qquad L = \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left(\frac{k_B}{e}\right)^2$$

$$T(x) = \sqrt{T_0^2 + \frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{e^2 I^2 R_N^2}{k_B^2} \left(1 - \frac{4x^2}{L^2}\right)}$$

F = constant $F = 3^{1/2}/4$



Hot electron shot noise thermometry



2) Regime where electron temperature is governed by electron-phonon coupling

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} \frac{dT_e^2}{dx^2} = -\left(\frac{eE}{k_B}\right)^2 + \Gamma\left(T_e^5 - T_0^5\right)$$
$$E = \rho(T_e)I$$

- Homogeneous overheating of the main part of the wire except close vicinity of the leads

$$S = \frac{4k_B T_{\text{max}}}{R_N} = \frac{4k_B}{R_N} \left(T_0^5 + \frac{I^2}{\sigma S^2 \Gamma} \right)^{1/5} \qquad F \propto I^{-3/5}$$



Electron-phonon coupling in graphene





Fifth power at Dirac point





Vibration modes in graphene



- Hard to excite

- Good coupling to electrons



- Weak coupling to electrons

Coupling strength to electrons?



A. Fasolino, J. Los, and M. Katsnelson, Nat Mater. **6**, 857, (2007)



RCSJ-MODEL: noise by phase slips



Fixed phase
 Running phase solutions
 noise by voltage pulses

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2} + \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} + \omega_p^2 \sin \varphi = \omega_p^2 \frac{I}{I_c}$$

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{2eI_c}{\hbar C} = \left(\frac{2e}{\hbar}\right)^2 \frac{E_J}{C}$$

$$Q = \omega_p \tau = \sqrt{\beta_c} \qquad \tau = RC$$







Current shot noise due to charge pulses: $Q = \int I dt$ $S_I = 2eI = 2e^2 f$ random pulses – white noise

Switch to flux quantum: $e \Leftrightarrow \varphi_0$ Voltage shot noise due to phase slips: $\Phi = \int V dt$

 $S_{V} = 2\varphi_{0}^{2}f = 2\varphi_{0}V \text{ random pulses - white noise}$ $\varphi_{0} = \frac{h}{2e} \text{ is the flux quantum}$

Thermally activated phase slips

D.S. Golubev and A.D. Zaikin Phys. Rev. B **78**, 144502 (2008)

Aalto University

A!

$$V = \varphi_0 \Gamma \sinh\left(\frac{\varphi_0 I}{2k_B T}\right) \qquad S_V = 2\varphi_0^2 \Gamma \cosh\left(\frac{\varphi_0 I}{2k_B T}\right)$$

$$F_V = \frac{S_V}{2\varphi_0 V} = \coth\left(\frac{\varphi_0 I}{2k_B T}\right)$$

$$F_V = \frac{S_V - S_V(0)}{2\varphi_0 V} = \operatorname{coth}\left(\frac{\varphi_0 I}{2k_B T}\right) - \frac{2k_B T}{\varphi_0 I}$$

Fano factor due to phase slips in RCSJ A!

Aalto University



Martin Žonda, Wolfgang Belzig, Tomáš Novotný Phys. Rev. B **91**, 134305 (2015).

Noise measurements

- Shot noise measurement in practice
- > Overview of our present scheme
- Mixers
- Data acquisition
- Calculating correlations
- GPU architecture
 - Benefits of data processing on GPU
 - Structure of data processing program
- Sensitivity of our setup





Basic diode measurement



- Basic noise measurement with diode detector
- Amplifier noise dominates (<1 % comes from sample with high impedance)</p>
- Measure DC voltage (about -10 mV)
- Drift and gain fluctuations cause problems (AC helps)
- Keep an eye on non-linearities





Noise power transmission

A

Measurement of *F* (without cross correlation)



$$S(V,T) - S(0,T)$$

= $\frac{4k_BT}{R} \left(F \frac{eV}{2k_BT} \operatorname{coth} \left(\frac{eV}{2k_BT} \right) - 1 \right)$

$$F_d \equiv \frac{1}{2e} \frac{dS}{dI} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dS/dV}{dI/dV}$$

- 1) "differential *F*" taken by lock-in technique
- 2) integrationto get the exact curve

$$S(I) - S(0) = \int_0^I 2eF_d dI$$

T

$$\widetilde{F} = \frac{1}{I} \int_0^I F_d dI$$



Correction of non-linearity in measurement of *F*_d





what we want



Correlation measurement

- Two RF channels used
- Noise of two amplifiers is not correlated
 - Correlation measurement removes the uncorrelated part
 - Only sample noise is observed
- Analog setups
 - Wide bandwidth
 - Hard to modify
- Digital setups
 - Narrower bandwidth
 - Calculate other quantities
 - Previous setups limited to few MHz
 - High data rates set requirements for data processing (FPGA etc.)



Our solution

- Digital spectrometer based on 4-channel digitizer card
- Quadrature detection of two channels
- Data processing in real time







RF downmixing

- 800 MHz is too high for direct digitizing
- Shift the frequency band to lower frequencies
- **Example: 800 850 MHz 0 50 MHz**
- Mixer multiplies RF signal and local oscillator (LO)







IQ mixer



Representation of RF signal:

$$x(t) = \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{I}} \cos(\omega t) + \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{Q}} \sin(\omega t)$$



> IF signal after IQ mixer and low-pass filter:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{LP}}(t) &= \frac{\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{LO}}}{2} \left[\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{I}} \cos\left((\omega - \omega_0)t\right) + \mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{Q}} \sin\left((\omega - \omega_0)t\right) \right] \\ \mathbf{Q}_{\mathrm{LP}}(t) &= \frac{\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{LO}}}{2} \left[-\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{I}} \sin\left((\omega - \omega_0)t\right) + \mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{Q}} \cos\left((\omega - \omega_0)t\right) \right] \end{split}$$

Orthogonality is maintained (90 phase difference)





IQ mixer device

Two-channel IQ mixer device

- Two Analog Devices ADL5380 quadrature demodulator boards
- Split LO signal



> 2 RF inputs, 4 IF outputs







Data acquisition

- AlazarTech ATS9440 capture card with PCI Express interface
- Four channels, 125 MS/s, 14-bit resolution
- Outputs data to computer RAM
- Data output rate 1 GB/s (2 bytes 4 ch. 125 MS/s)







Data acquisition

Cross-correlation in time domain:

$$z_{cor}\left[t\right] = \sum_{\tau = -\infty}^{\infty} \overline{x\left[\tau\right]} y\left[t + \tau\right]$$

Using Fourier transform and average:

$$z_{cor}\left[t
ight] = rac{1}{M}\sum_{k=1}^{M}\mathcal{F}^{-1}\left[\overline{X_{k}\left[f
ight]}\cdot Y_{k}\left[f
ight]
ight] \equiv rac{1}{M}\mathcal{F}^{-1}\left[\sum_{k=1}^{M}\overline{X_{k}\left[f
ight]}\cdot Y_{k}\left[f
ight]
ight]$$

- Linearity of Fourier transform (and FFT)
- > Autocorrelation: vector dot product





CUDA C instead of MATLAB

- Performance of Matlab was insufficient
- 60-fold speedup to Matlab without GPU, 13-fold speedup to Matlab with GPU
- Achieving 125 MS/s with Matlab would require a very powerful computer
- Speedup justifies the programming effort with C
- Very simple compared with FPGA programming





Theoretical sensitivity

Analog detection:

$$\Delta T = rac{T_s}{\sqrt{B au}}$$

Dicke radiometer formula

Digital with both quadratures:

$$\Delta T = rac{T_s}{\sqrt{2N}}$$

Relative sensitivity:

$$rac{\Delta T}{T_s} = rac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}$$



Measured sensitivity

Relative sensitivity: 2.8e-5 with 8.43 s averaging time



- Corresponds to $810 \,\mu\text{K}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
- Best reported sensitivity $710 \,\mu \text{K}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ (analog setup) F.D. Parmentier, et al., Rev. Sci. Instrum. **82**, 013904 (2011)





Cryogenic low-noise amplifier

- Covers 600-900 MHz band
- Single HEMT (Avago ATF-36077)
- Lumped element design:
 - Simple L-section impedance matching (L1,C3)
 - Stabilizing resistors (R2,R3)
 - DC-blocking capacitors (C1,C5)
 - ✓ Bias voltage feed (R1,C2,L2,C4)✓ Gain 21 dB
 - Noise temperature 7 KPower consumption 7.5 mW

T. Elo, P. Lähteenmäki, Z. Tan, D. Cox, and P. Hakonen, RSI to be published.







Calibration of noise spectrometers





available power: $S_I R / 4$ (when source and amplifier matched)



Also hot electron regime

$$S_I = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} 2eI \qquad F = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$





Multifrequency correlations I



Multifrequency correlations II





P. Lähteenmäki, G. S. Paraoanu, J. Hassel, P. Hakonen, Nature Comm. **7**, 12548 (2016)



LC circuit as quantum harmonic oscillator



SQL

Standard quantum limit

Equivalent circuit of an amplifier

H. Rothe and W. Dahlke, Proc. IRE 44, 811 (1956).



 $S_V(\omega)$ = output noise referred to input

 $S_I(\omega)$ = a real "back action" noise (A²/Hz) may be strongly correlated with S_V

Noise Temperature of an Amplifier

- Beware: definition varies



of the source :

$$S_V^{tot} = 4kT_N \operatorname{Re}[Z_S]$$

Assume:
$$Z_{in} = R_{in} >> R_S = Z_S$$

$$T_N = \frac{1}{4k_B} \left(\frac{S_V}{R_S} + S_I R_S \right)$$

Optimum Noise Temperature



 $E_{\rm N}$ is the signal energy that can be detected with SNR = 1

Quantum mechanics:

$$E_N \ge \hbar \omega / 2$$

T_n of cascaded amplifiers

C. D. Motchenbacher and J. A. Connelly, Low noise eletronic system design

$$T_N = T_{N_1} + T_{N_2} / G_1 + T_{N_3} / G_1 G_2 + \dots$$

- T_N of the first amplifier dominates if it has sufficient gain

$$T_{N_1} = 100 \text{ mK}$$
 SQUID amplifier
 $T_{N_2} = 10 \text{ K}$ HEMT amplifier

Desirable to have the gain of the SQUID amplifier ~30 dB

Measurement of Noise Temperature T_N



Matching

 How to preserve the band width when you connect your measuring apparatus to your sensor?

The theoretical maximum bandwidth:



"You cannot exceed inverse of RC time constant"

References

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J. Clarke and A.I. Braginsky, *The SQUID Handbook* (Wiley, Weinheim, 2004).

Sh. Kogan, *Electronic Noise and Fluctuations in Solids* (Cambridge, 1996)

OMT: Marie Curie innovative training network



based on Josephson inductance





Mesoscopic Transport and Quantum Coherence 2017 (QTC 2017)

- August 5-8, 2017 in Espoo, Finland
- Official satellite of LT28
 - electron transport
 - quantum thermodynamics
 - Josephson junction circuits including
 - superconducting qubits and circuit QED
 - cavity optomechanics
- http://www.li28.se; http://gtc2017.aalto.f
- Abstract submission deadline: March 31, 2017
- Chair: Mika Sillanpää (Aalto University)