

Time-resolved charge fractionalization in inhomogeneous Luttinger liquids

E. Perfetto and G. Stefanucci

Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Via della Ricerca Scientifica 1, I-00133 Rome, Italy; INFN, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Via E. Fermi 40, 00044 Frascati, Italy; and European Theoretical Spectroscopy Facility (ETSF)

H. Kamata and T. Fujisawa

Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2-12-1 Ookayama, Meguro, Tokyo 152-8551, Japan

(Received 12 March 2014; published 29 May 2014)

The recent observation of charge fractionalization in single Tomonaga-Luttinger liquids (TLLs) [H. Kamata *et al.*, *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **9**, 177 (2014)] opens new routes for a systematic investigation of this exotic quantum phenomenon. In this Rapid Communication we perform measurements on *two* adjacent TLLs and put forward an accurate theoretical framework to address the experiments. The theory is based on the plasmon scattering approach and can deal with injected charge pulses of arbitrary shape in TLL regions. We accurately reproduce and interpret the time-resolved multiple fractionalization events in both single and double TLLs. The effect of intercorrelations between the two TLLs is also discussed.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.89.201413](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.89.201413)

PACS number(s): 71.10.Pm, 72.15.Nj, 73.43.Fj, 73.43.Lp

Introduction. When electrons are confined in one spatial dimension the traditional concept of Fermi-liquid quasiparticles breaks down [1–3]. The Fermi surface collapses and the elementary excitations become collective modes of bosonic nature [4]; these are two distinctive features of the so-called Tomonaga-Luttinger liquid (TLL) [5,6]. A paradigmatic example of TLL is the edge state of a quantum Hall system, typically created on contiguous boundaries of two-dimensional semiconductor heterostructures [7]. Here the properties of the TLL can be tuned by varying the gate voltage [8], the magnetic field, the filling factor ν [7], and electrostatic environment of the channel [9,10]. Spatially separated TLLs with opposite chirality can be realized in systems with $\nu > 1$, and as a result of strong correlations, charge fractionalization occurs [11,12]. According to the plasmon scattering theory [13,14] an electron injected into a TLL region undergoes multiple reflections from one edge of the sample to the other. A fraction r (dependent on the TLL parameter g) of the injected charge Q is reflected back in the adjacent edge, and the remaining fraction $1 - r$ is transmitted forward through the same edge. This fractionalization is a *transient* effect [13–21]. Due to charge compensations occurring at every fractionalization a full charge Q is transmitted in the long-time limit. Therefore, only time-resolved (or finite frequency) experiments could detect the value of the fractional charge rQ . The first conclusive evidence of transient fractionalization was reported only recently by means of time-resolved transport measurements of charge wave packets [22]. This provides complementary evidence of fractionalization seen in shot-noise measurements [19–21,23], frequency-domain experiments [24], and momentum-resolved spectroscopy [25].

In this Rapid Communication we implement the technique developed in Ref. [22] to perform transport measurements across *two* spatially separated TLLs and highlight the effect of inter-TLL interactions. Furthermore, we put forward a theoretical framework to calculate the evolution of wave packets of *arbitrary* shape scattering against multiple noninteracting-liquid/TLL interfaces arranged in different geometries. By a proper treatment of the boundary conditions we are able

to make direct comparisons with the measured signal. All features of the transient current are correctly captured both in the single and double TLL systems.

Experimental setup. Figure 1 shows the sample patterned on a GaAs/AlGaAs heterostructure with chiral one-dimensional edge channels formed along the edge of the two-dimensional electronic system (2DES) in a strong perpendicular magnetic field B . Artificial TLL can be formed in a pair of counterpropagating edge channels along both sides of a narrow gate metal [22]. Other unpaired channels are considered as noninteracting (NI) leads. Two types of TLL regions were investigated: type-I TLL, with NI leads on both ends, and type-II TLL, with NI leads only on the left and a closed end on the right. We can selectively activate one or both the TLL regions by applying appropriate voltages (V_{G1} and V_{G2}). A nonequilibrium charge wave packet of charge $Q \simeq 150e$ is generated by depleting electrons around an injection gate with a voltage step applied on the gate. The wave packet travels along a NI lead as shown in Fig. 1, and undergoes charge fractionalization processes at the left and right ends of the TLL regions. The multiple charge fractionalization processes must be investigated separately. The reflected wave packet appears on another NI lead, on which a time-resolved charge detection scheme is applied with a quantum point contact (QPC) detector [8]. We have successfully resolved the reflected wave packets of charge $Q_1^{(\text{refl})}$ fractionalized at the left boundary and $Q_2^{(\text{refl})}$ at the right boundary. Typical wave forms are shown by dots in Figs. 3 and 4. The fractionalization ratio r , which is related to the TLL parameter g through $g = (1 - r)/(1 + r)$, can be extracted from $r = Q_1^{(\text{refl})}/Q$ and is found to be approximately $g = 0.92$ [22]. The charge velocity in the TLL region can be measured from the time interval between the two reflected wave packets. The interest in activating both type-I and -II regions is to assess the role of the long-range Coulomb interaction between the two TLLs.

Model and formalism. To model the setup of Fig. 1 we consider two parallel chiral edges hosting right- (R) and left- (L) moving electrons (see Fig. 2). Electrons with opposite chirality experience a space-dependent repulsion $V(x)$. In the

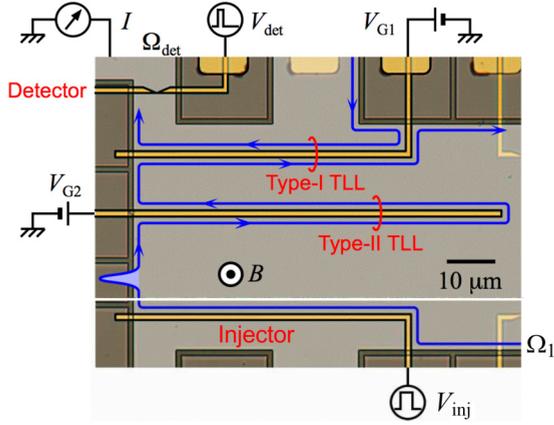


FIG. 1. (Color online) Optical micrograph of the sample (the horizontal white line indicates that unused parts are not shown). Metal gate electrodes (gold regions) are patterned on a 2DES (light-gray region) and etched insulating GaAs (dark-gray regions). The 2DES located 90 nm below the surface has a density of $1.45 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and a low-temperature mobility of $4.0 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Chiral one-dimensional edge channels are formed along the edge of the 2DES in a strong perpendicular magnetic field $B = 4.0 \text{ T}$, which corresponds to a bulk filling factor $\nu = 1.5$. Type-I and type-II TLL regions have an effective length of $\ell_1 = 68$ and $\ell_2 = 80 \mu\text{m}$, respectively, and a width of $1 \mu\text{m}$. The charge wave packet is injected at the falling edge of a voltage step 5 mV in amplitude applied to an injection gate V_{inj} . The QPC detector is set at the pinched-off regime, and one of the gate voltages is modulated by a voltage pulse V_{det} of height 0.2 V for a period of 80 ps to temporally enhance the transmission probability of the QPC. The average current I through the QPC as a function of time interval t between two voltage pulses is measured at the detection Ohmic contact Ω_{det} under the pulse pattern repeated at 25 MHz. All measurements were carried out at $\sim 300 \text{ mK}$.

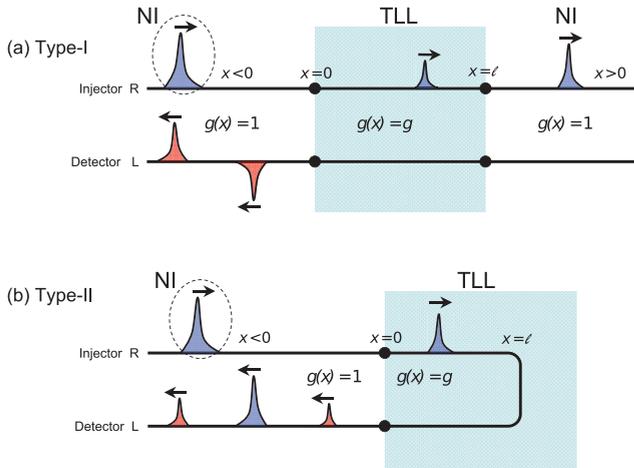


FIG. 2. (Color online) Model of the experimental setup. The wave packet is injected from the R edge (dashed circle). The figure shows a snapshot of the fractionalized charge when the injected wave packet has passed the TLL region. Transmitted packets are dark (blue) and reflected packets are light (red). Type-I geometry (a): R and L edges with NI regions for $x < 0$ and $x > \ell$, and activated TLL region for $0 < x < \ell$. Type-II geometry (b): A single bent edge with NI regions for $x < 0$, and activated TLL region for $0 < x < \ell$.

regions where $V(x) = 0$ we have a NI liquid and otherwise, $V(x) = V$, a TLL is formed. For electrons with the same chirality an additional repulsion $U(x) = U$ in the NI liquid and $U(x) = U^*$ in the TLL is included. Spatial inhomogeneities in $V(x)$ induce backscattering from the R to the L edge (and vice versa) even without an interedge hopping [13,14]. The low-energy Hamiltonian of the system reads [7]

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{\alpha=L,R} i\alpha v_F \int dx \hat{\psi}_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(x) \partial_x \hat{\psi}_{\alpha}(x) + 2\pi \int dx \left\{ V(x) \hat{n}_R(x) \hat{n}_L(x) + \frac{U(x)}{2} [\hat{n}_R^2(x) + \hat{n}_L^2(x)] \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where the fermion field $\hat{\psi}_{R/L}^{(\dagger)}$ destroys (creates) R/L edge-state electrons moving with bare Fermi velocity $\alpha v_F \equiv \pm v_F$, and $\hat{n}_{\alpha} \equiv \hat{\psi}_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \hat{\psi}_{\alpha}$ is the density fluctuation operator. For a nonperturbative treatment of the interaction we bosonize the field operators as $\hat{\psi}_{\alpha}(x) = \frac{\eta_{\alpha}}{\sqrt{2\pi a}} e^{-2\sqrt{\pi} i \hat{\phi}_{\alpha}(x)}$, with η_{α} the anticommuting Klein factor, a a short-distance cutoff, and $\hat{\phi}_{\alpha}(x)$ the chiral boson fields. The density can then be expressed as $\hat{n}_{\alpha} = -\partial_x \hat{\phi}_{\alpha} / \sqrt{\pi}$. By introducing the auxiliary fields $\hat{\phi} = \hat{\phi}_L + \hat{\phi}_R$ and $\hat{\theta} = \hat{\phi}_L - \hat{\phi}_R$, Eq. (1) becomes [1]

$$\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int dx \left\{ \frac{v(x)}{g(x)} [\partial_x \hat{\phi}(x)]^2 + v(x) g(x) [\partial_x \hat{\theta}(x)]^2 \right\}, \quad (2)$$

where for a TLL region of length ℓ the parameter $g(x)$ and the renormalized velocity $v(x)$ depend on the interactions through the relations

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{v_F + U^* - V}{v_F + U^* + V}} \equiv g & \text{for } 0 < x < \ell \\ 1 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$v(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{(v_F + U^*)^2 - V^2} \equiv v^* & \text{for } 0 < x < \ell \\ v_F + U \equiv v & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The temporal evolution of the system is governed by the equation of motion for $\hat{\phi}$ [26]. Taking the average $\phi(x,t) \equiv \langle \hat{\phi}(x,t) \rangle$ over an arbitrary wave-packet state we find

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \phi(x,t) = v(x) g(x) \partial_x \left(\frac{v(x)}{g(x)} \partial_x \phi(x,t) \right), \quad (4)$$

which implies that ϕ and $\frac{v(x)}{g(x)} \partial_x \phi$ are continuous for all x . For independent channels, as those of the type-I geometry illustrated in Fig. 2, these are the only conditions to impose on the solution of Eq. (4) [10,13,27]. On the other hand, for the type-II geometry one has to further impose that R electrons are converted into L electrons and vice versa, i.e., that the channels are not independent. The proper treatment of boundary conditions, absent in previous works, leads to a qualitatively different transient fractionalization since the transmission and reflection coefficients are entangled. Once $\phi(x,t)$ is known the total density and current are extracted from $\rho(x,t) = e \langle \hat{n}(x,t) \rangle = -e \partial_x \phi(x,t) / \sqrt{\pi}$ and $j(x,t) = e \partial_t \phi(x,t) / \sqrt{\pi}$.

We consider an incident wave packet injected in the upper R edge (see Fig. 2). Then the solution of Eq. (4) can be expanded in right-moving scattering states $s_q(x)$ of energy $\epsilon_q = vq$ according to $\phi(x,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dq}{2\pi} \phi_q s_q(x) e^{-i\epsilon_q t}$ [28]. For

a wave packet initially, say at time $t = 0$, localized in $x < 0$ the function ϕ_q is related to the Fourier transform $\rho_q^{(\text{inc})}$ of $\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x) = \rho(x, 0)$ by the relation $\phi_q = \frac{i\sqrt{\pi}}{eq} \rho_q^{(\text{inc})}$ [29]. Therefore, once $s_q(x)$ is known the time-dependent density and current are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(x, t) &= -i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dq}{2\pi} \frac{\rho_q^{(\text{inc})}}{q} e^{-i\epsilon_q t} \partial_x s_q(x), \\ j(x, t) &= v \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dq}{2\pi} \rho_q^{(\text{inc})} e^{-i\epsilon_q t} s_q(x). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Below we solve the scattering problem in the geometries of the experiment.

Type-I geometry. This geometry is illustrated in Fig. 2(a) and has been realized in Ref. [22]. We look for scattering states of the form

$$s_q(x) = \begin{cases} e^{iqx} + r_q e^{-iqx} & \text{for } x < 0 \\ a_q e^{iq'x} + b_q e^{-iq'x} & \text{for } 0 < x < \ell \\ t_q e^{iq'x} & \text{for } x > \ell, \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

with $q' = \frac{v}{v^*} q$. By imposing the continuity conditions at the boundaries we obtain a 4×4 linear system [26] that we solve exactly. If we are interested in the current detected at the collector (located in $x < 0$) only the reflection coefficient r_q is needed [30]:

$$r_q = -r + 4g \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \zeta_n e^{2inq'\ell}, \quad (7)$$

where $g_{\pm} = 1 \pm g$, $r = \frac{g_-}{g_+}$, and $\zeta_n = \frac{g_-^{2n-1}}{g_+^{2n+1}}$. Inserting this expression in Eq. (5) the time-dependent density and current for $x < 0$ read [31]

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(x, t) &= \rho^{(\text{inc})}(x_-) + \rho^{(\text{refl})}(x_+), \\ j(x, t) &= v[\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x_-) - \rho^{(\text{refl})}(x_+)], \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

with $x_{\pm} = x \pm vt$, $x_n = \frac{2n\ell v}{v^*}$, and

$$\rho^{(\text{refl})}(x_+) = r\rho^{(\text{inc})}(-x_+) - 4g \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \zeta_n \rho^{(\text{inc})}(-x_+ + x_n). \quad (9)$$

Equation (9) generalizes the result of Ref. [13] to arbitrary wave-packet shapes. The first reflection occurs at time $t_1 = |x_0|/v$ ($x_0 < 0$ being the initial position of the wave packet) at the left boundary and a fractionalized charge $Q_1^{(\text{refl})} = rQ$ is reflected back in the L edge [here $Q = \int dx \rho^{(\text{inc})}(x)$]. The transmitted fractional charge propagates in the TLL region, a second reflection occurs at the right boundary, and at time $t_2 = t_1 + 2\ell/v^*$ a second wave packet of charge $Q_2^{(\text{refl})} = -Q(4gg_-/g_+^3) = -Qr(1-r^2)$ appears in the L edge. The fractionalization sequence continues *ad infinitum* and the reflected charge $Q_n^{(\text{refl})}$ diminishes at each event. At the end of the infinite sequence the total reflected charge vanishes since $Q^{(\text{refl})} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Q_n^{(\text{refl})} = -r - 4g \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \zeta_n = 0$. This is a consequence of the chiral charge conservation and highlights the transient nature of the fractionalization phenomenon. For the comparison with the experiment we acquire $\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x_0 - vt)$ from Ref. [22] (see inset in Fig. 3) and used $g = 0.92$, $\ell = \ell_1 = 68 \mu\text{m}$, and $v^* = 150 \text{ km/s}$ and estimated v by a

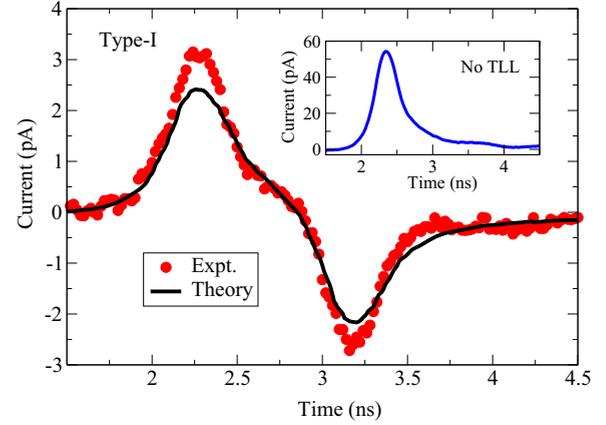


FIG. 3. (Color online) Type-I geometry: Calculated current (black curve) from Eqs. (8) and (9) versus measured current (dotted-red curve) from Ref. [22]. The inset shows the incident wave form $\rho^{(\text{inc})}$.

best fitting. As shown in Fig. 3 the agreement with the current calculated from Eq. (8) is remarkably good.

Type-II geometry. Here a single edge is bent on itself as illustrated in Fig. 2(b). Therefore R electrons in the upper branch are converted in L electrons in the lower branch. We model this geometry by imposing that the L amplitude b_q of the scattering state in the TLL region equals $-a_q e^{2iq'\ell}$ [26]. Following the same line of reasoning as before we find the reflection coefficient

$$r_q = -r + 4g \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \xi_n e^{2inq'\ell}, \quad (10)$$

with $\xi_n = (-1)^n \frac{g_-^{n-1}}{g_+^{n+1}}$. We observe that $|r_q| = 1$ as it should due to charge conservation. The density and current at the collector in $x < 0$ are still given by Eq. (8) but the reflected density reads

$$\rho^{(\text{refl})}(x_+) = r\rho^{(\text{inc})}(-x_+) - 4g \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \xi_n \rho^{(\text{inc})}(-x_+ + x_n). \quad (11)$$

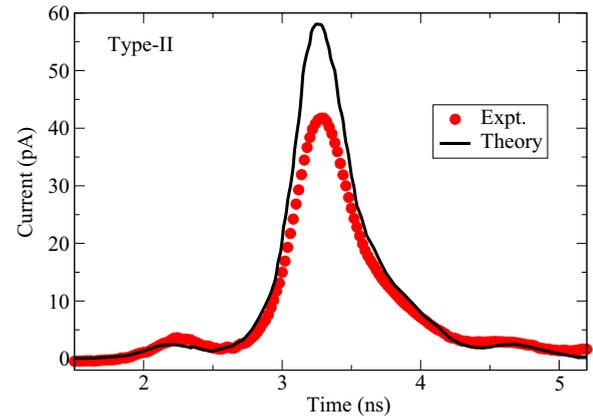


FIG. 4. (Color online) Type-II geometry: Calculated current (black curve) from Eqs. (8) and (11) versus measured current (dotted-red curve) from Ref. [22].

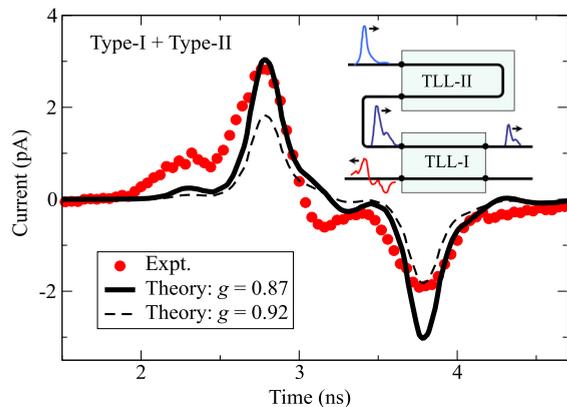


FIG. 5. (Color online) Measured current (dotted-red curve) from TLL-I when both TLL-I and TLL-II are activated versus calculated current with $g = 0.92$ (black dashed curve) and $g = 0.87$ (black solid curve). The inset shows a cartoon of the fractionalization process. The velocities in TLL-I and TLL-II are different (with $V_{G1} = -0.19$ V and $V_{G2} = -1.4$ V) in order to isolate four fractionalized wave packets.

In Fig. 4 we show the calculated (black curve) and measured [22] (dotted-red curve) current in the lower branch. The parameters are the same as in Fig. 3 with the only difference that $\ell = \ell_2 = 80$ μm . Again, good agreement between theory and experiment is found. The theory reproduces a small first reflection of charge rQ (occurring at time t_1) and a subsequent large transmitted charge $(4g/g_+^2)Q$ (occurring at time t_2).

Type-I + type-II geometry. Finally we present numerical and experimental results when both type-I and type-II TLLs are activated. As illustrated in Fig. 1 the wave packet injected into TLL-II is partially transmitted toward TLL-I and the resulting reflected wave packet is then measured at the collector. The measured signal is displayed in Fig. 5 (dotted red curve). The simultaneous activation of TLL-I and TLL-II produces a richer current pattern characterized by an additional peak and dip. These extra structures are naturally interpreted within our theory. The reflected wave packet is given by $\rho^{(\text{refl})}(x_+)$ with only TLL-I activated by replacing $\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x)$ in Eq. (8) with the outcome $\rho(x_-)$ obtained by a preliminary calculation with only TLL-II activated. TLL-II alone produces a wave form similar to the incident one, with the addition of a small side peak of

weight r on the left (see Fig. 4). The temporal delay between the peaks is $\Delta t_{\text{II}} = 2\ell_2/v_{\text{II}}^*$, where v_{II}^* is the renormalized velocity inside TLL-II. When this double-peaked wave packet enters TLL-I the reflected current displays a first replica of the incident shape with positive weight r and a second replica of the incident shape with negative weight $-r(1-r^2)$, as we demonstrated in Fig. 3. The delay between the two replicas is $\Delta t_1 = 2\ell_1/v_1^*$, v_1^* being the renormalized velocity inside TLL-I. This explains the experimentally observed pattern of Fig. 5 (the inset shows a cartoon of this double fractionalization process).

The calculated reflected current is shown in Fig. 5 for comparison. From $\Delta t_{\text{I(II)}} = \ell_{1(2)}/v_{\text{I(II)}}^*$ with $\Delta t_1 \approx 1.0$ ns and $\Delta t_{\text{II}} \approx 0.5$ ns we estimated $v_1^* \approx 136$ km/s, $v_{\text{II}}^* \approx 320$ km/s, and v by a best fitting. The value $g = 0.92$ (black dashed curve) is probably too large as the additional peak and dip are almost invisible. We therefore repeated the calculation with $g = 0.87$ (black solid curve) to match the height of the positive main peak and found that the additional peak and dip are correctly more pronounced. The physical justification of a smaller g is elaborated in the conclusions.

Conclusions. We extended the plasmon scattering approach to address the charge fractionalization phenomenon recently observed in artificial TLLs of different geometries [22]. The method allows us to monitor the temporal evolution of a charge wave packet in each chiral edge of the experimental setup, thus providing a tool for a direct comparison with the time-resolved transport measurement. Quantitative agreement between theory and experiment is obtained for the type-I and type-II geometries. We then performed new measurements in a double-TLL geometry and found indications that electron correlations are enhanced due to the repulsion between electrons in different TLLs. Our calculations neglect the inter-TLL repulsion and the enhancement of correlations is effectively accounted for by a reduced TLL parameter g . The proper inclusion of the long-range interaction across the bulk two-dimensional electron gas is eventually required for the ultimate understanding of the transport properties of interacting edge channels.

Acknowledgments. E.P. and G.S. acknowledge funding by MIUR FIRB Grant No. RBFR12SW0J. H.K. and T.F. acknowledge funding by JSPS KAKENHI (Grants No. 21000004 and No. 11J09248). We also thank N. Kumada, M. Hashisaka, and K. Muraki for experimental support.

- [1] T. Giamarchi, *Quantum Physics in One Dimension* (Clarendon, Oxford, 2004).
- [2] G. Giuliani and G. Vignale, *Quantum Theory of the Electron Liquid* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2008).
- [3] J. González, M. A. Martín-Delgado, G. Sierra, and M. A. H. Vozmediano, *Quantum Electron Liquids and High- T_c Superconductivity* (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1995).
- [4] F. D. M. Haldane, *J. Phys. C: Solid State Phys.* **14**, 2585 (1981).
- [5] S. Tomonaga, *Prog. Theor. Phys.* **5**, 544 (1950).
- [6] J. M. Luttinger, *J. Math. Phys.* **4**, 1154 (1963).
- [7] A. M. Chang, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **75**, 1449 (2003).
- [8] H. Kamata, T. Ota, K. Muraki, and T. Fujisawa, *Phys. Rev. B* **81**, 085329 (2010).
- [9] N. Kumada, H. Kamata, and T. Fujisawa, *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 045314 (2011).
- [10] M. Hashisaka, H. Kamata, N. Kumada, K. Washio, R. Murata, K. Muraki, and T. Fujisawa, *Phys. Rev. B* **88**, 235409 (2013).
- [11] K.-V. Pham, M. Gabay, and P. Lederer, *Phys. Rev. B* **61**, 16397 (2000).
- [12] K.-I. Imura, K.-V. Pham, P. Lederer, and F. Piéchon, *Phys. Rev. B* **66**, 035313 (2002).
- [13] I. Safi and H. J. Schulz, *Phys. Rev. B* **52**, R17040 (1995).

- [14] I. Safi, *Ann. Phys.* **22**, 463 (1997).
- [15] M. J. Salvay, H. A. Aita, and C. M. Naón, *Phys. Rev. B* **81**, 125406 (2010).
- [16] E. Perfetto, G. Stefanucci, and M. Cini, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 156802 (2010).
- [17] M. J. Salvay, A. Iucci, and C. M. Naón, *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 075482 (2011).
- [18] E. Perfetto, M. Cini, and S. Bellucci, *Phys. Rev. B* **87**, 035412 (2013).
- [19] B. Trauzettel, I. Safi, F. Dolcini, and H. Grabert, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **92**, 226405 (2004).
- [20] E. Berg, Y. Oreg, E.-A. Kim, and F. von Oppen, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 236402 (2009).
- [21] I. Neder, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **108**, 186404 (2012).
- [22] H. Kamata, N. Kumada, M. Hashisaka, K. Muraki, and T. Fujisawa, *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **9**, 177 (2014).
- [23] H. Inoue, A. Grivnin, N. Ofek, I. Neder, M. Heiblum, V. Umansky, and D. Mahalu, [arXiv:1310.0691](https://arxiv.org/abs/1310.0691).
- [24] E. Bocquillon, V. Freulon, J. M. Berroir, P. Degiovanni, B. Plaais, A. Cavanna, Y. Jin, and G. Fve, *Nat. Commun.* **4**, 1839 (2013).
- [25] H. Steinberg, G. Barak, A. Yacoby, L. N. Pfeiffer, K. W. West, B. I. Halperin, and K. Le Hur, *Nat. Phys.* **4**, 116 (2007).
- [26] See Supplemental Material at <http://link.aps.org/supplemental/10.1103/PhysRevB.89.201413> for details on the explicit solution of Eq. (4) in the different geometries.
- [27] M. Horsdal, M. Rypestøl, H. Hansson, and J. M. Leinaas, *Phys. Rev. B* **84**, 115313 (2011).
- [28] For an incident wave packet injected from $x = -\infty$ in the lower L edge $e^{-i\epsilon_q t} \rightarrow e^{i\epsilon_q t}$.
- [29] The property that the expansion coefficients of $\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x)$ are the same in the scattering-state basis and in the plane-wave basis is crucial to perform the q integral in Eqs. (5). This property can be checked by calculating $\rho^{(\text{inc})}(x)$ for all x (see Ref. [26]).
- [30] To evaluate ρ and j in $x > 0$ the expressions of a_q , b_q , and t_q are needed [26].
- [31] Within our convention the current j carried by an excess of left-moving electrons is *negative*. Thus in order to compare the theoretical results with the experiment in Ref. [22], in producing the plots we have to revert the “-” sign appearing in the second lines of Eqs. (8).