



Charge-statistics separation and probing non-Abelian states

D. E. Feldman and Feifei Li

Department of Physics, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, USA

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Several states were proposed as candidates for the $\nu=5/2$ quantum Hall plateau. We suggest an experiment which can determine the physical state. The proposal involves transport measurements in the geometry with three quantum Hall edges connected by two quantum point contacts. In contrast to interference experiments, this approach can distinguish the Pfaffian and anti-Pfaffian states as well as different states with identical Pfaffian or anti-Pfaffian statistics. The transport is not sensitive to the fluctuations of the number of the quasiparticles trapped in the system.

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The Pauli-spin-statistics theorem does not apply in two dimensions and anyons can exist in addition to usual fermions and bosons. Different types of anyonic statistics can be classified as Abelian and non-Abelian.¹ In the former case, the wave function of an anyon system acquires a phase factor after one particle makes a circle around other anyons. In the latter case not only the wave function but also the quantum state changes after a particle moves along a closed loop.

Gauge invariance guarantees that fractionally charged excitations of electronic systems must be anyons.² Hence, the observation of fractional charges in quantum Hall systems³⁻⁵ proves the existence of fractional statistics. However, the experiments³⁻⁶ have provided little information about the details of the quasiparticle statistics in the quantum Hall effect (QHE). In particular, the existence of non-Abelian anyons¹ remains an open problem.

A promising place to look for non-Abelian statistics is the QHE plateau at the filling factor $\nu=5/2$. The nature of the $5/2$ QHE state has not been understood yet and most theoretical proposals involve non-Abelian statistics.⁷⁻⁹ However, a simpler Abelian state is also a possibility.^{9,10} Six simplest theoretical proposals are described in Table I (see also Ref. 9).

Several interferometry experiments were proposed^{2,11} for probing the $5/2$ state. The simplest approach is based on the Fabry-Perot geometry.¹¹ This approach can, however, work only if the number of the quasiparticles trapped in localized states inside the interferometer does not fluctuate on the time scale of the experiment.¹² Since the energy gap for neutral excitations is likely to be low, this condition may not be easy to satisfy at realistic temperatures. The Mach-Zehnder inter-

ferometry is free from this limitation but shares another limitation with the Fabry-Perot approach. It cannot distinguish any of the non-Abelian states listed in Table I from each other. So far interferometry¹³ and other approaches^{14,15} allowed the measurement of the quasiparticle charge $q=e/4$ in the $5/2$ state. This is not sufficient for the determination of the physical $5/2$ state since $q=e/4$ is predicted by all theories of the $5/2$ plateau listed in Table I.

Thus, some method other than interferometry is desirable. One idea consists in checking scaling relations^{9,16} such as the power dependence of the current on the voltage $I \sim V^s$ in a quantum point contact (QPC).⁹ Unfortunately, even in the simplest case of the Laughlin states the theory has not been reconciled with the measurements of the I - V curve.¹⁷ Besides, this approach is not expected to distinguish the anti-Pfaffian and edge-reconstructed Pfaffian states.⁹

In this Rapid Communication we suggest another approach which leads to qualitatively different results for all states listed in Table I and is not sensitive to the number of the trapped quasiparticles. It involves transport measurements in the geometry illustrated in Fig. 1. This geometry is similar to the one used in experiments with Laughlin states.¹⁸ Edge 3 connects source S3 with drain D3 and separates regions with filling factors of $5/2$ and 2 . Edges 1 and 2 connect source S1 with drain D1 and source S2 with drain D2 and separate the region with filling factor of 2 from the region with filling factor of zero. Electrons can tunnel across the integer QHE region through quantum point contacts QPC1 and QPC2 with the tunneling amplitudes Γ_1 and Γ_2 (Fig. 1), respectively, at the distance a from each other. The techniques for making QPCs in the $5/2$ states are now well

TABLE I. Proposed $5/2$ states. The second column shows the numbers of the right- and left-moving modes (R and L) with Majorana fermions being counted as $1/2$ of a mode. ‘‘A’’ and ‘‘N’’ denote Abelian and non-Abelian statistics, respectively.

State	Modes	Statistics	Signature
$K=8$	1R	A	$F_2=4e; I_1, S_1=0$
Pfaffian	3/2R	N	$F_2=5/2e; I_1, S_1=0$
331	2R	A	Nonuniversal $F_2; I_1, S_1=0$
Edge-reconstructed Pfaffian	2R+1/2L	N	$S_1 \neq 0, I_1=0$
Nonequilibrated anti-Pfaffian	1R+3/2L	N	F_1 is independent of the edge shape
Disorder-dominated anti-Pfaffian	1R+3/2L	N	F_1 depends on the edge shape

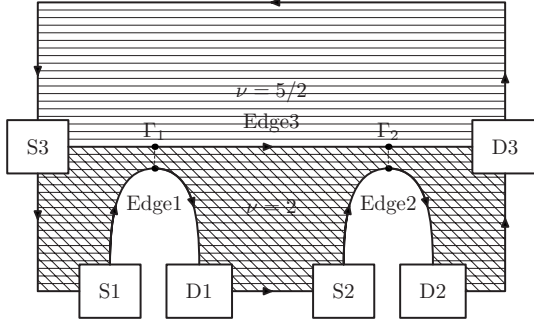


FIG. 1. Setup with two quantum point contacts. Arrows show the propagation direction of charged modes.

developed.^{13–15} The charge-density drop between the $\nu=2$ and $5/2$ regions can be achieved with the front gates, e.g., similar to Ref. 6. Source S3 is maintained at zero voltage. We consider two situations for the electric potentials of sources S1 and S2: (1) $V(S1)=V$ and $V(S2)=0$ and (2) $V(S1)=0$ and $V(S2)=V$. In the first case we calculate the current I_2 and noise S_2 in drain D2. In the second case we find the current I_1 and noise S_1 in drain D1. Nonzero I_1 is possible only in some states due to the presence of contra-propagating edge modes on the boundary between the $\nu=5/2$ and 2 regions. We will see below that different states can be distinguished by zero or nonzero I_1 and/or S_1 and by universal or nonuniversal Fano factors $F_1=S_1/I_1$ and $F_2=S_2/I_2$. The outcomes of the proposed experiment for different states are summarized in Table I. The physics is analogous in a similar geometry with all three edges separating a QHE liquid with $\nu=5/2$ from regions with $\nu=0$. However, an analytical calculation is impossible in that setup and its numerical analysis will be discussed elsewhere.

The system in Fig. 1 has the following Lagrangian:

$$L = \sum_{k=1}^3 L_k - \int dt \sum_{k=1}^2 [\Gamma_k T_k + \text{H.c.}], \quad (1)$$

where L_k are the Lagrangians of the three edges, Γ_k are the tunneling amplitudes at the two QPCs, $T_k = \epsilon_k^\dagger \psi(x_k) \eta_k$ are the tunneling operators, ϵ_k are the electron annihilation operators on edges 1 and 2, $\psi(x_k)$ are the electron annihilation operators on edge 3 ($x_1=0, x_2=a$), and the Klein factors η_k make sure that the tunneling operators T_k commute. The operator $\psi(x)$ and action L_3 of fractional QHE edge 3 depend on the model (Table I). $L_{1,2}$ describe chiral Fermi-liquid systems. Edges 1 and 2 have two channels with spin up and down but it is sufficient to include only one of them in $L_{1,2}$ because of the spin conservation at the tunneling events. The zero-temperature correlation functions of the fields ϵ assume the Fermi-liquid form $\langle \epsilon_k^\dagger(t_1) \epsilon_k(t_2) \rangle \sim 1/[i(t_1-t_2) + \delta]$.

Below we use the perturbation theory to calculate the current and noise in the order $\Gamma^2 \Gamma_2^2$. The perturbative calculation is legitimate if $\Gamma^2 (eV)^{2s+1} / E_c^{2s+2} < eV$, where s is the scaling dimension of the operators T_k and E_c is the cutoff energy of the order of the QHE energy gap. We neglect the thermal noise $\sim \Gamma^2 T^{2s+1}$. For $\Gamma \sim E_c^{s+1} / (eV)^s$ this condition reduces to $eV > T$. Thus, we concentrate on the low-temperature

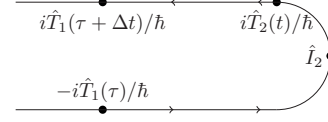


FIG. 2. The Keldysh contour.

limit $T=0$. We assume that the distance a between the point contacts is sufficiently large, $a \gg a_V = \hbar v / (eV)$, where v is of the order of the edge mode velocity. This will allow us to treat QPC1 and QPC2 as independent. At the same time we neglect equilibration between different copropagating and contrapropagating edge modes on the scale a . Indeed, if the Lagrangian of any model in Table I contains a large contribution, responsible for edge equilibration, or such contribution renormalizes to a large value at the scale a_V then it opens a gap and/or modifies the character of soft modes and hence changes the model.

We begin with the simplest case of the $K=8$ state.^{9,10} Calculations are similar but longer for the other models. The simplifications are due to the existence of only one edge mode on edge 3 in the $K=8$ model whose Lagrangian is

$$L_3/\hbar = - (2/\pi) \int dt dx [\partial_t \phi \partial_x \phi + v (\partial_x \phi)^2] \quad (2)$$

with the charge density on the edge $e \partial_x \phi / \pi$ and edge mode velocity v . In contrast to all other states in Table I, only electron pairs but not electrons can tunnel into the $K=8$ edge.¹⁹ Thus, $\psi = \exp(8i\phi)$ and ϵ_k should be understood as pair annihilation operators, $\langle \epsilon_k^\dagger(t) \epsilon_k(0) \rangle \sim 1/(it + \delta)^4$.

The operator of the current through QPC2 can be found as the time derivative of the charge on edge 2, $I_2 = (iq/\hbar) [\Gamma_2^\dagger T_2^\dagger - \Gamma_2 T_2]$, where q is the carrier charge. The noise is $S_2 = 2 \int_{-\infty}^0 \langle I_2(t) I_2(0) + I_2(0) I_2(t) \rangle dt$. We assume that $qV(S1) < 0$; i.e., the chemical potential of edge 1 is lower than the potentials of edges 2 and 3. It is convenient to switch to the interaction representation such that all three chemical potentials become zero. This introduces a time dependence²⁰ into the operator $T_1 \sim \exp(iqVt/\hbar)$. We use the fourth-order Keldysh perturbation theory.²¹ Every nonzero contribution to I_2 and S_2 includes all four operators $T_1, T_1^\dagger, T_2, T_2^\dagger$. One finds

$$I_2 = q(i/\hbar)^4 |\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2|^2 \int d\tau d\Delta dt T_c \langle T_1(\tau) T_1^\dagger(\tau + \Delta t) \times [T_2(t) T_2^\dagger(0) - T_2^\dagger(t) T_2(0)] \rangle, \quad (3)$$

where the integration extends over the Keldysh contour (Fig. 2). T_c denotes Keldysh time ordering. The time scale of one tunneling event $t_V \sim a_V/v$ can be found from the energy uncertainty relation and is set by the voltage bias V . The main contribution to the integral comes from small $t \sim t_V$ and $\Delta t \sim t_V$ and from the large travel time between the QPCs $\tau \approx -a/v$. This allows us to extend the integration with respect to Δt and τ from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$ on both upper and lower branches of the Keldysh contour (Fig. 2) keeping still the same ordering of operators in Eq. (3) as in the case of negative $\tau \gg t, \Delta t$. Technically this corresponds to shifting a variable τ

$\rightarrow \tau + a/v$ and taking the limit $a \rightarrow \infty$. The result of the integration with respect to τ is nonzero only if T_1^- and T_1^+ are located on different branches. The integration with respect to Δt yields a nonzero result only if T_1^+ is on the upper (i.e., later) branch. Finally, it is convenient to group together:

(1) the first term from the square brackets in Eq. (3) with t on the upper branch and the second term with t on the lower branch and

(2) the first term from the square brackets with t on the lower branch and the second term with t on the upper branch.

One obtains two contributions I^\pm to I_2 proportional to the following integrals:

$$I^\pm = \int dt d\Delta t \tau \frac{\exp(i|qV|\Delta t/\hbar)}{(\delta + i\Delta t)^{12}} \times \frac{1}{(\delta \pm it)^{12}} \frac{[\delta + i(\tau + \Delta t)]^8 [\delta + i(t - \tau)]^8}{[\delta + i(\tau + \Delta t - t)]^8 [\delta - i\tau]^8}. \quad (4)$$

The t integration in I^- yields zero since both poles are in the lower half plane. Thus, the current is proportional to I^+ . This integral can be calculated analytically but its value is unimportant for the calculation of the Fano factor $F_2 = S_2/I_2$. One can easily check that S_2 reduces to the same integral I^+ and $F_2 = 2q = 4e$. The result is easy to understand. It reflects the fact that the current I_2 is created by a random flux of charge- $2e$ particles. Certainly, the same Fano factor would be seen in a simpler geometry with one tunneling contact. The situation is more interesting in the remaining models from Table I. In all of them $q=e$ and the Fano factor in a single-QPC geometry is the same, $F=2e$. However, in the two-QPC geometry (Fig. 1), their transport properties are considerably different.

We first consider the Pfaffian state.⁷ It has two edge modes:¹ a charged boson ϕ and neutral Majorana fermion λ which propagate with different velocities v_c and v_n . The Majorana mode contains information about non-Abelian statistics and thus the Pfaffian state exhibits charge-statistics separation. The Lagrangian is

$$L_3/\hbar = \int dt dx [-\partial_x \phi (\partial_t + v_c \partial_x) \phi / (2\pi) + i\lambda (\partial_t + v_n \partial_x) \lambda]. \quad (5)$$

The electron operator is $\psi = \lambda \exp(-2i\phi)$. We will need the four-point correlation function for Majorana fermions, i.e., $\langle \lambda(1)\lambda(2)\lambda(3)\lambda(4) \rangle = \langle \lambda(1)\lambda(2) \rangle \langle \lambda(3)\lambda(4) \rangle - \langle \lambda(1)\lambda(3) \rangle \langle \lambda(2)\lambda(4) \rangle + \langle \lambda(1)\lambda(4) \rangle \langle \lambda(2)\lambda(3) \rangle$, where $\langle \lambda(x,t)\lambda(0,0) \rangle = 1/[\delta + i(t-x/v_n)]$. The calculations follow the same line as above. The only difference comes from the fact that one needs to take into account the contributions to the current and noise from $\tau \approx -a/v_c$ (we will denote these contributions as I_c and S_c) and $\tau \approx -a/v_n$ (I_n and S_n). All contributions $I_{c,n}$ to I_2 and $S_{c,n}$ to S_2 can be found with the same steps as in the $K=8$ model (one makes a shift $\tau \rightarrow \tau + a/v_{c,n}$ and takes the limit $a \rightarrow \infty$ for the calculation of $I_{c,n}$). One finds $S_c = 2eI_c$, $I_n = 0$, and $S_n = S_c/4$. Thus, the Fano factor $F_2 = (S_c + S_n)/(I_c + I_n) = 5e/2$ is universal and exceeds the double carrier charge.

The above result has a simple explanation. After tunneling to edge 3 at QPC1, a charge- e hole splits into charged and

neutral excitations which propagate toward QPC2 with different velocities. When the charged excitation arrives to QPC2, its energy can be used for the tunneling of the charge e into edge 2. This process is responsible for I_c and S_c . When a neutral excitation arrives to QPC2 its energy can also be used for a tunneling event. However, since the creation and annihilation operators of the Majorana fermion λ are the same, charge can tunnel both from and to edge 3. This explains why $I_n = 0$. On the other hand, both tunneling directions contribute to the excessive noise S_n and increase the Fano factor in comparison with a single-mode system.

In the edge-reconstructed Pfaffian state⁹ there are three modes: right-moving charged and neutral Bose modes ϕ_c and ϕ_n and a left-moving Majorana fermion λ ;

$$L_3/\hbar = 1/(4\pi) \int dt dx [-2\partial_x \phi_c (\partial_t + v_c \partial_x) \phi_c - \partial_x \phi_n (\partial_t + v_n \partial_x) \phi_n + w \partial_x \phi_c \partial_x \phi_n + 4\pi i \lambda (\partial_t - v_\lambda) \lambda]. \quad (6)$$

Due to the left-moving mode, a nonzero S_1 becomes possible in contrast to the nonreconstructed Pfaffian state. The theory has three most relevant electron creation operators on edge 3: $\lambda \exp(2i\phi_c)$ and $\exp(2i\phi_c \pm i\phi_n)$. Thus, one needs to introduce three pairs of tunneling constants $\Gamma_k^{(\lambda)}$, $\Gamma_k^{(+)}$, and $\Gamma_k^{(-)}$, where $k=1,2$ labels QPCs. The interaction between the two Bose modes affects the Fano factor F_2 which depends on all six tunneling constants. We focus instead on the current and noise at QPC1 when $V(S1)=0$ and $V(S2) \neq 0$. Nonzero S_1 becomes possible due to the contrapropagating Majorana mode and hence only the tunneling operator $\lambda \exp(2i\phi_c)$ should be taken into account. The physics and calculation are exactly the same as for I_n and S_n in the Pfaffian case. We find $I_1 = 0$; $S_1 = \frac{4\pi^2 e^2}{15\hbar E_c^3} |\Gamma_1^{(\lambda)} \Gamma_2^{(\lambda)}|^2 (eV)^5$, where E_c is the cutoff energy scale of the order of the bulk gap.

We now consider the anti-Pfaffian state.⁸ We start with the simpler nonequilibrated version of that state. It has two contrapropagating charged modes $\phi_{1,2}$ and a Majorana fermion:

$$L_3/\hbar = 1/(4\pi) \int dt dx [-\partial_x \phi_1 (\partial_t + v_1 \partial_x) \phi_1 + 2\partial_x \phi_2 (\partial_t - v_2 \partial_x) \phi_2 + w \partial_x \phi_1 \partial_x \phi_2 + 4\pi i \lambda (\partial_t - v_\lambda \partial_x) \lambda]. \quad (7)$$

The model has many independent electron operators but only one most relevant tunneling operator dominates the transport. Thus, it is sufficient to include only two tunneling constants $\Gamma_{1,2}$ in the model. Due to the presence of contrapropagating charged modes, both I_1, S_1 and I_2, S_2 are nonzero if $V(S2)$ or $V(S1) \neq 0$, respectively, in contrast to all previous models. The current and noise I_1, S_1 are proportional to $|\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2|^2$. Hence, the Fano factor F_1 is independent of Γ_k .

The disorder-dominated anti-Pfaffian state⁸ has one charged mode and three contrapropagating Majorana modes λ_n with the same velocity v_λ ,

$$L_3/\hbar = \int dt dx [-\partial_x \phi_c (\partial_t + v_c \partial_x) \phi_c] / (2\pi) + i \sum_{n=1}^3 [\lambda_n (\partial_t - v_\lambda \partial_x) \lambda_n]. \quad (8)$$

The three most relevant tunneling operators become $(\vec{\Gamma}_k \vec{\lambda}) \exp(-2i\phi_c) \epsilon_k^\dagger \eta_k$, where the tunneling amplitudes $\vec{\Gamma}_k = (\Gamma_k^{(1)}, \Gamma_k^{(2)}, \Gamma_k^{(3)})$, $k=1,2$, are three-component vectors. Just like in the nonequilibrated anti-Pfaffian model, $I_1, S_1 \neq 0$. They are proportional to Γ^4 . Only contributions with two $\Gamma_k^{(n)}$ (with the same or different n) and two complex conjugate $\Gamma_l^{(m)*}$ (with the same or different m) are allowed. Each power of $\Gamma_1^{(n)}$ or $\Gamma_1^{(n)*}$ must be accompanied by the same power of $\Gamma_2^{(n)}$ or its conjugate. Besides, the action is invariant with respect to orthogonal transformations $\vec{\lambda} \rightarrow \hat{O} \vec{\lambda}$ and $\vec{\Gamma}_k \rightarrow \hat{O} \vec{\Gamma}_k$ and hence so are the current and noise. Hence, $I_2 = \frac{2\pi^3 e(\epsilon V)^5}{15\hbar E_c^8} [c_1^I |\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2|^2 + c_2^I |\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2^*|^2]$, where c_l^I are constants. The noise S_1 has a similar structure with different constants c_l^S and an overall factor of $2e$. If only one component of each of the vectors $\vec{\Gamma}_k$ is nonzero then the problem reduces to the edge-reconstructed Pfaffian model. From the comparison with the results for that model one finds $c_1^I = -c_2^I$ and $c_1^S + c_2^S = 1$. Finally, the analysis of the same type as in the $K=8$ model shows that $c_1^S = c_1^I$ and $c_2^S = -c_2^I$. Thus, $F_1 = 2e [|\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2|^2 + |\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2^*|^2] / [|\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2|^2 - |\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2^*|^2]$. From this result one can see a drastic difference between two versions of the anti-Pfaffian model. Let a gate electrode modify the shape of edge 3. This changes the edge disorder contribution to the action. In the

nonequilibrated model, it includes terms, linear in $\phi_{1,2}$, such as $\int dx dt u(x) \partial_x \phi_1$, where $u(x)$ is random. The disorder contribution to the action of the disorder-dominated model is quadratic in Majorana fermions. We ignored such contributions so far since they can be gauged out⁸ from the action by a linear transformation of the fields at the expense of changing Γ 's. In the nonequilibrated model this does not affect the Fano factor independent of Γ_k . The Fano factor depends on the edge disorder and hence the edge shape in the disorder-dominated state.²²

The last state is the Abelian (331) state^{9,10} with the action

$$L_3/\hbar = -1/(4\pi) \int dt dx [3\partial_t \phi_1 \partial_x \phi_1 - 4\partial_t \phi_1 \partial_x \phi_2 + 4\partial_t \phi_2 \partial_x \phi_2 + w_{n,m} \partial_x \phi_n \partial_x \phi_m]. \quad (9)$$

The two most (and equally) relevant electron creation operators are $\exp(3i\phi_1 - 2i\phi_2)$ and $\exp(i\phi_1 + 2i\phi_2)$. Hence, two pairs of Γ 's must be included in the model. Just like in the Pfaffian state, $I_1, S_1 = 0$. At the same time, one can easily see that F_2 depends on the interaction strength $w_{n,m}$ and thus is nonuniversal in contrast to the Pfaffian and $K=8$ cases.

In conclusion, we suggest an experiment which can distinguish six candidate states for the $5/2$ QHE plateau. The charge-statistics separation leads to different transport properties in the two-QPC geometry. The signatures of all states are summarized in Table I.

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²²One can detect the nonequilibrated anti-Pfaffian state from transport measurements in a bar geometry since the quantum Hall conductance σ in that state is $7e^2/(2h)$. Indeed, the left electrode injects charge into the ϕ_1 channel and two integer QHE edges on the lower edge. This contributes $3e^2/h$ to σ . It also injects additional current from left to right into the ϕ_2 channel on the upper edge.