

## Detecting delocalization-localization transitions from full density distributions

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Characterizing the delocalization transition in closed quantum systems with a many-body localized phase is a key open question in the field of nonequilibrium physics. We exploit the fact that localization of particles as realized in Anderson localization and standard many-body localization (MBL) implies Fock-space localization in single-particle basis sets characterized by a real-space index. Using a recently introduced quantitative measure for Fock-space localization computed from the density distributions, the occupation distance, we systematically study its scaling behavior across delocalization transitions and identify critical points from scaling collapses of numerical data. Excellent agreement with literature results is found for the critical disorder strengths of noninteracting fermions, such as the one-dimensional Aubry-André model and the three-dimensional Anderson model. We observe a distinctively different scaling behavior in the case of interacting fermions with random disorder consistent with a Kosterlitz-Thouless transition. Finally, we use our measure to extract the transition point as a function of filling for interacting fermions.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Anderson localization [1] generalizes to disordered systems of interacting particles [2,3], leading to many-body localization (MBL). MBL conceptually fits into the framework of thermalization in closed quantum systems [4–7] as a generic exception from eigenstate thermalization [8–12]. The MBL transition is visible in properties of many-body eigenstates at a finite energy density [9], such as area-law entanglement [13–15], and in properties of time-evolved states in global quenches, such as slow logarithmic entanglement entropy growth [16–18] and persistent density inhomogeneities [19,20]. Experiments with ultracold atoms [19–28], solid-state spin systems [29,30], trapped ions [31], and superconducting qubits [32–36] emulated various lattice models with disorder and probed their localization properties [19–35]. Some of the experiments measure eigenstate properties, e.g., the level statistics [31,33], while most of the efforts address dynamical aspects, including the imbalance [19,20,22–25,35], the time-dependent entanglement entropy [26,31,32,34], and  $n$ -point correlators [27,28,30].

There is, however, an ongoing debate on the nature of the ergodic-to-MBL transition, and even the very existence of MBL in the field's standard model, namely, interacting spinless fermions in one dimension, has been challenged [37–47]. The current proposals for the transition in the thermodynamical limit are (i) a continuous transition with a power-law scaling of correlations [48,49], (ii) a transition involving Griffiths regions [50,51], (iii) Kosterlitz-Thouless- (KT) type scaling [41,52–58] as a special case of proposal (ii) [51], and (iv) the absence of a true MBL phase in the thermodynamic limit [37,41–44,46,47]. While numerical methods play a key role, they are limited with regard to the accessible system sizes [11,14–17,37–49,56,59–67]. Therefore, there is

a clear need to identify observables for the characterization of localization-delocalization transitions that can be measured in state-of-the-art and future experiments with quantum simulators and are easy to compute numerically as well.

Motivated by these open questions, in this work, we establish the recently introduced occupation distance [67] as a useful quantitative measure for characterizing delocalization-localization transitions. As our main results, we first show that the occupation distance detects localization-delocalization transitions in noninteracting Hamiltonians, including the one-dimensional (1D) Aubry-André model (AAM) and the three-dimensional (3D) Anderson model (3AM), finding excellent agreement with literature results for the critical disorder strengths. Second, we report evidence for a KT scaling for interacting spinless fermions in one dimension. Third, as an application, we study the dependence of the critical disorder strength on filling in the interacting model.

Given a single-particle basis set  $|\phi_\alpha\rangle$  and corresponding creation and annihilation operators  $c_\alpha^\dagger$  and  $c_\alpha$ , the occupation distance is

$$\delta n_\alpha = |n_\alpha - [n_\alpha]|, \quad (1)$$

where  $[n_\alpha]$  is the closest integer to the occupation  $n_\alpha = \langle \Psi | c_\alpha^\dagger c_\alpha | \Psi \rangle$  in a given many-body state  $|\Psi\rangle$ . In Anderson and MBL insulators, there is Fock-space localization [3,63,68,69] in the basis of quasiparticles (1-bits) [18,70–72], the eigenbasis of one-particle density matrices [63,67,73–78], the Anderson eigenstates [73], and the basis of physical densities  $n_i = \langle \Psi | c_i^\dagger c_i | \Psi \rangle$  [67,73]. Here, we concentrate on the latter since these objects are the easiest to obtain numerically and experimentally.

To illustrate the concept of our approach, in Fig. 1, we show a typical distribution of  $n_i$  sampled over eigenstates and

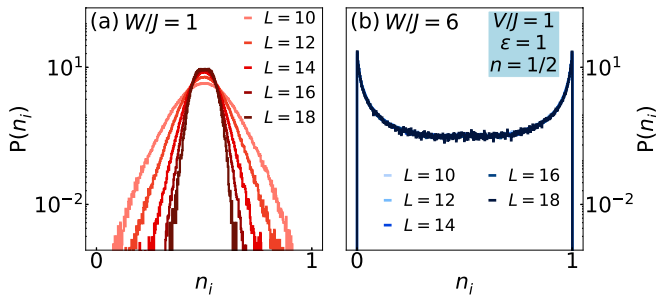


FIG. 1. Interacting fermions, Eq. (3), with  $V/J = 1$ ,  $\epsilon = 1$ ,  $n = 1/2$ : Full distributions of local occupations  $n_i$  in (a) the delocalized phase ( $W/J = 1$ ) and (b) the localized phase ( $W/J = 6$ ) for  $L = 10, 12, 14, 16, 18$ . In (b), the distributions overlap.

disorder realizations for a half-filled chain of interacting spinless fermions [64,67,79], whose model is defined in Eq. (3) below. The distribution has a Gaussian-like shape in the delocalized regime [see Fig. 1(a)], and its width shrinks as the system size increases. By contrast, in the localized regime [see Fig. 1(b)], the distribution has a bimodal structure and is independent of system size, which is typical for the localized phase.

In Fig. 2, we show typical distributions of  $\delta n_i$  corresponding to the distributions of  $n_i$  in Fig. 1. The distribution has a maximum at  $\delta n_i = n = 0.5$  in the delocalized regime [see Fig. 2(a)] which gets larger as the system size increases. By contrast, in the localized regime [see Fig. 2(b)], the distribution has a sharp maximum at  $\delta n_i = 0$ , and its shape is almost independent of  $L$ . Hence, in the delocalized regime, the disorder-averaged occupation distance  $\overline{\delta n_i}$  approaches the average particle filling  $n = N/L$  for  $N, L \rightarrow \infty$  ( $N$  is the particle number, and  $L$  is the number of sites), while in the localized regime, it saturates to a lower value [67]. In the following, we determine the position of the critical point by studying the scaling properties of  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$ .

## II. MODELS

To establish the validity of our approach, we first apply it to noninteracting systems given by

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (c_i^\dagger c_j + \text{H.c.}) + \sum_i \epsilon_i n_i \quad (2)$$

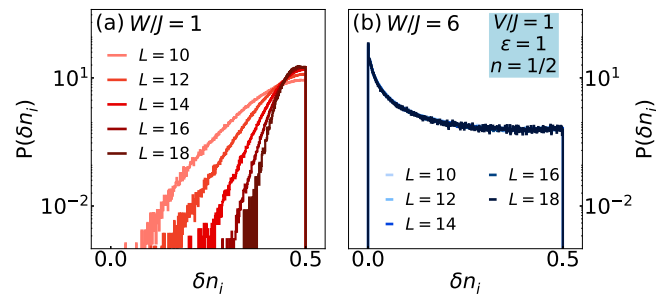


FIG. 2. Interacting fermions, Eq. (3), with  $V/J = 1$ ,  $\epsilon = 1$ ,  $n = 1/2$ : Full distributions of the occupation distances  $\delta n_i$  (a) in the delocalized phase ( $W/J = 1$ ) and (b) in the localized phase ( $W/J = 6$ ) for  $L = 10, 12, 14, 16, 18$ . For the localized phase in (b), the distributions overlap.

that exhibit a localization-delocalization transition ( $J$  is the hopping matrix element). For the AAM, the external potential in Eq. (2) is quasiperiodic,  $\epsilon_i = W \cos(2\pi qi + \phi)$ , where  $\phi$  is a global phase and  $W$  is the amplitude of the potential, which is incommensurate for an irrational wave number  $q$ . A standard choice for  $q$  is the inverse golden ratio  $q = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ . The AAM has an inherent self-duality at  $W_c/J = 2$ , giving rise to a sharp metal-insulator transition [80–90], observed experimentally using cold atoms [91,92] and photonic lattices [93]. In the 3AM, fermions hop on a 3D lattice with uncorrelated random on-site energies  $\epsilon_i \in [-W/2, W/2]$ . Numerical studies of transport properties [94–97] based on the transfer-matrix technique have shown that, at half filling, the system remains insulating for  $W > W_c \approx 16.54J$  [98] and, below  $W_c$ , it is diffusive [99,100]. At the transition, the 3AM exhibits subdiffusion [99] and multifractal single-particle wave functions [101,102].

To investigate the MBL transition, we consider spinless fermions with a nearest-neighbor interaction described by the Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^L \left[ -\frac{J}{2} (c_i^\dagger c_{i+1} + \text{H.c.}) + \epsilon_i \left( n_i - \frac{1}{2} \right) + V \left( n_i - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( n_{i+1} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right], \quad (3)$$

where  $c_i^{(\dagger)}$  is a fermionic creation (annihilation) operator,  $n_i = c_i^\dagger c_i$  is the density at site  $i$ ,  $J/2$  is the hopping matrix element,  $V$  is the strength of the nearest-neighbor interactions, and  $\epsilon_i$  is a random potential drawn from a uniform box distribution  $[-W, W]$  (we use a different convention for  $W$  compared to the 3AM to be consistent with the MBL literature). Using a Jordan-Wigner transformation, Eq. (3) maps onto a spin-1/2 XXZ chain with random local magnetic field (note the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  in front of the hopping term), a standard system for studies of MBL [12,48,60,61].

We define the target energy density via  $\epsilon = \frac{2(E - E_{\min})}{E_{\max} - E_{\min}}$ , where  $E$  is the many-body energy of a particular eigenstate and  $E_{\max}$  and  $E_{\min}$  are the maximum and minimum energies for each disorder realization, respectively. Hence,  $\epsilon = 1$  corresponds to the middle of the many-body spectrum.

## III. RESULTS FOR NONINTERACTING MODELS

We solve the single-particle problem  $H\phi_\alpha = \epsilon_\alpha\phi_\alpha$  with periodic boundary conditions using full exact diagonalization for  $L \leq 20000$ . To obtain those single-particle states  $\epsilon_\alpha$  contributing to  $\epsilon = 1$  many-body states, we use a Monte Carlo generation to sample the statistics of occupied single-particle orbitals. To this end we generate two arrays,  $O$  and  $U$ , containing the indices of occupied and unoccupied single-particle states, respectively (for half filling both arrays have length  $L/2$ ). The initialization of these two arrays is random. Once we have the two arrays, we check whether the many-body energy  $E = \sum_{\alpha \in O} \epsilon_\alpha$  belongs to the target energy window. If not, then we generate a new many-body state by taking a random integer from each array,  $r_O$  and  $r_U$ , and we exchange the corresponding elements  $O_{r_O} \leftrightarrow U_{r_U}$ . We continue until we find a many-body state with  $E$  which belongs to the

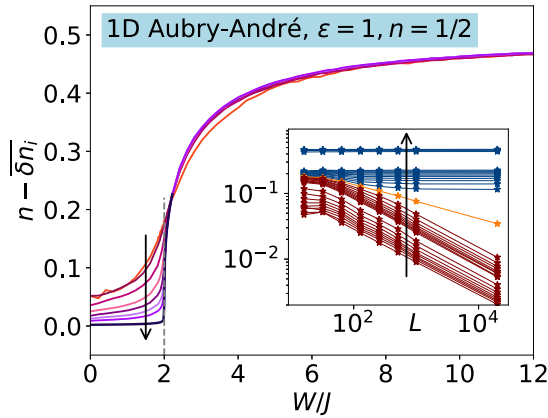


FIG. 3. AAM:  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $W/J$  for  $L = 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1000, 20\,000$ . The arrow specifies increasing  $L$ , and the dashed line denotes the transition point [80]. Inset: Log-log plot of the data from the main panel as a function of  $L$  deep in the delocalized regime ( $W/J = 0.02$ – $1.62$ , in steps of  $0.2$ , red), close to the transition ( $W/J = 1.82$ – $2.22$ , in steps of  $0.02$ , yellow being the transition point), and deep in the localized phase ( $W/J = 6.02$ – $12.02$ , in steps of  $2$ , blue). The arrow indicates increasing disorder strength.

target energy window. For each disorder realization out of (up to)  $10^4$  samples, we take one such many-body eigenstate with  $\epsilon \in (0.9995, 1.0005)$ .

In the main panel in Fig. 3, we plot  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of disorder strength for different system sizes. As expected, in the delocalized phase ( $W/J < 2$ ), this quantity quickly decays to zero for  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , while in the localized phase ( $W/J > 2$ ), it saturates to a finite value. This saturation is reached for system sizes larger than the localization length. For the largest system sizes, we observe saturation in almost the whole localized phase except for a tiny window around the transition, where the localization length diverges.

To get further insights, in the inset in Fig. 3, we plot  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $L$  in log-log scale for different disorder strengths  $W/J$ . For  $L > 200$ , the decay is governed by a power law  $L^{-\alpha}$  with  $\alpha \approx 0.5$  for all values of  $W/J < 2$ . Remarkably, exactly at the transition point, the decay is governed by a different exponent,  $\alpha_c \approx 0.25$ , revealing the different nature of the single-particle wave functions at the critical point [82–90]. In the localized regime, the saturation is reached already for  $L \approx 1000$  even for values of  $W/J$  close to the transition point. To summarize, for the AAM, there is a remarkable difference in the behavior of the occupation distance when comparing the localized and delocalized phases. The power-law decay of  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  in the metallic phase and its saturation to a constant in the localized regime are clearly reminiscent of the behavior of the inverse participation ratio in the single-particle problem.

The corresponding analog of Fig. 3 for the 3AM is displayed in Fig. 4. Here,  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  clearly decays to zero for  $L \rightarrow \infty$  in the delocalized phase ( $W/J < 16$ ). Oppositely, in the localized regime, there is a clear onset of saturation for  $L \approx 20$ – $36$  for  $W/J > 17$ . The trends are less clear for  $W_c/J \approx 16$ – $17$ , i.e., close to the estimated transition  $W_c/J \approx 16.54$  [98]. We observe that for all  $L$  values considered here, the decay in the delocalized phase is governed by a power law  $L^{-\alpha}$ , but the exponent  $\alpha$  now depends on the disorder

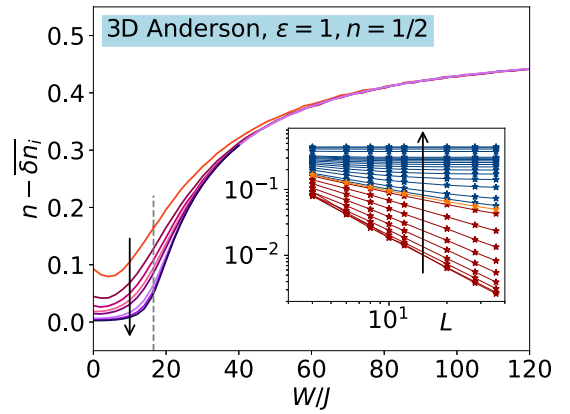


FIG. 4. 3AM:  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $W/J$  for  $L^3 = 4^3, 6^3, 8^3, 10^3, 12^3, 20^3, 28^3, 36^3$ . The arrow specifies increasing system size, and the dashed line denotes the transition point estimated from other measures,  $W_c/J \approx 16.54$  [98]. Inset: Log-log plot of the data from the main panel as a function of  $L$  in the delocalized regime ( $W/J = 0.02$ – $16.02$  in steps of  $2$ , red), at the estimated transition point [98] ( $W_c/J \approx 16.54$ , yellow), and in the localized phase ( $W/J = 17.02, 18.02$ – $40.02$  in steps of  $2$ , blue). The arrow specifies increasing disorder strength.

strength, most likely due to the limited system sizes available. At the estimated transition point [98], we find that the decay is governed by the exponent  $\alpha_c \approx 0.75(5)$ .

We next perform a scaling collapse of the data in Fig. 3, focusing on the delocalized phase and the vicinity of the transition point. For this purpose, in Fig. 5, we replot the data using the dimensionless variables  $w = L^{1/\nu}(W - W_c)/J$  and  $(n - \overline{\delta n_i})L^\mu$  for the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, respectively. To get the best-quality estimate of the exponent  $\nu$ , the scaling collapse needs to be performed for system sizes in the scaling regime. Therefore, we include only systems with  $L \geq 256$ , which is *a posteriori* justified by the results (see the inset in Fig. 3). For the AAM, we then find  $\mu \simeq 0.25(5)$ ,  $W_c/J = 2.00(5)$ , and the

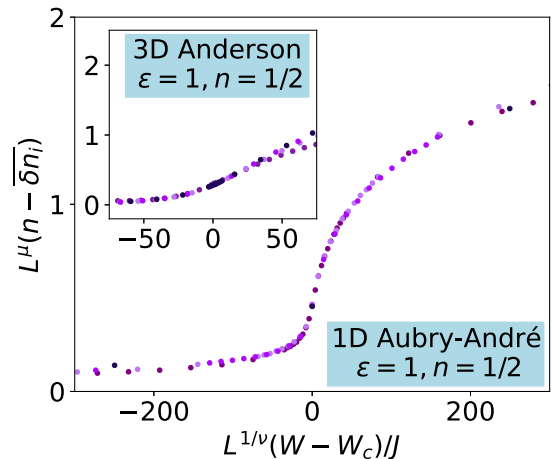


FIG. 5. AAM: Scaling collapse of  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  for  $L = 256, 512, 1000, 20000$  and fitting parameters  $W_c = 2.00(5)J$ ,  $\mu = 0.25(5)$ ,  $\nu = 1.05(5)$ . Inset: Scaling collapse for the 3AM using  $L^3 = 12^3, 20^3, 28^3, 36^3$  with fitting parameters  $W_c = 16.3(2)J$ ,  $\mu = 0.50(5)$ ,  $\nu = 1.60(5)$ .

expected critical exponent  $\nu \simeq 1.05(5)$  (see the main panel in Fig. 5). As a side remark, note that  $\mu \simeq \alpha_c$ , so that the product  $(n - \overline{\delta n_i})L^\mu$  takes a finite value at the transition point. Interestingly, we have recovered the values of  $W_c/J = 2$  and  $\nu = 1$  known from the single-particle transition [80,81], which suggests that the Fock-space delocalization-localization transition is driven by the divergent localization length in the single-particle states.

We carry out the same scaling-collapse procedure for the 3AM. Here, the best up-to-date estimate for the critical disorder strength is  $W_c/J \approx 16.54$  [98], which is obtained using the transfer-matrix method for the midspectrum states of the single-particle Hamiltonian. In the inset in Fig. 5, we show the scaling collapse, obtained by retaining only the data sets with  $L \geq 12$  (see the inset in Fig. 4). We then find  $\mu \simeq 0.50(5)$ ,  $W_c/J = 16.3(2)$ , and the expected critical exponent  $\nu \simeq 1.60(5)$  (see the inset in Fig. 5). The estimates of the critical point  $W_c/J \simeq 16.3(2)$  and the critical exponent  $\nu \simeq 1.60(5)$  are quite close to the values  $W_c/J = 16.54$ ,  $\nu = 1.572$  obtained with the transfer-matrix method [98], where much larger system sizes (up to  $L = 64$ ) were considered. We attribute the small differences between the estimates to residual finite-size effects. Additionally, the many-body Slater determinant can contain a fraction of single-particle states whose energy lies close to the band edge. Since these states localize for a much weaker disorder, it is, in principle, possible that  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  saturates to a small, but finite, value in the vicinity of the critical point, in contrast to the scaling ansatz. For the system sizes that we considered, however, we do not find clear evidence for this effect.

The presented results for the AAM and the 3AM confirm that the occupation distance accurately captures the transitions. Thus, remarkably, by exploiting Fock-space localization, the transition points can be determined from the distributions of the simple-to-calculate quantity  $n_i$ . Moreover, the advances in characterizing MBL also feed back into devising hitherto unexplored approaches for disordered noninteracting models (see also [103–105]).

#### IV. RESULTS FOR INTERACTING MODELS

We now turn our attention to the interacting model in Eq. (3), considering values of the filling in the range  $1/10 \leq n \leq 2/3$ ,  $L \leq 30$ , and  $10^4$  disorder realizations (see the Appendix for details). We impose periodic boundary conditions. For a given disorder realization, we use the shift-and-invert method [48,106] to efficiently extract the six eigenstates closest to the target energy  $\epsilon = 1$ .

The main panel in Fig. 6 shows  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of disorder strength for  $n = 1/3$  (for other values of  $n$ , the behavior is similar). For  $W/J < 3.6$ , there is a clear decay towards zero, while for  $W/J > 4.2$ , there is a slow saturation to a finite value. However, the decay in the delocalized phase has a character different from the one previously observed for the noninteracting models. In particular, as seen in the inset in Fig. 6, the decay of the average occupation distance is not algebraic, but exponential. This is a consequence of the exponential decay of the fluctuations according to the eigenstate thermalization hypothesis [4–6,107].

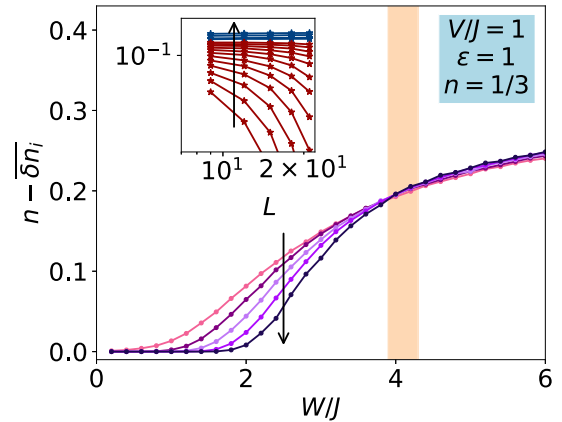


FIG. 6. 1D interacting fermions, Eq. (3) ( $\epsilon = 1, V/J = 1, n = 1/3$ ):  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $W/J$  for  $L = 9, 12, 15, 18, 21$ . The arrow specifies increasing system size, and the shaded area indicates the estimated range of the transition point. Inset: Log-log plot of the data from the main panel as a function of  $L$  in the delocalized regime (red symbols,  $W/J = 1.2-3.6$ , in steps of 0.2) and in the localized phase (blue symbols,  $W/J = 4.2, 5.0, 6.0$ ). The arrow specifies increasing disorder strength.

The exponential dependence on  $L$  in the delocalized phase suggests that, for the interacting system, the scaling collapse of the data in Fig. 6 is of the KT type. We also add that the KT form of the scaling is inspired by the recent literature on the phenomenological renormalization group theories of the MBL transitions [52–54]. To verify this hypothesis, in Fig. 7 (main panel), we first display  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $J/W$ . Then, in the inset, we plot the same data as a function of the variable  $\ln(L/\xi)$ , where  $\xi = \exp(-a/\sqrt{J/W - J/W_c})$  is the KT length, with  $W_c$  and  $a$  being fitting parameters. Evidently, a KT-like scaling for the occupation distance is consistent with our data, and the collapse is of similar

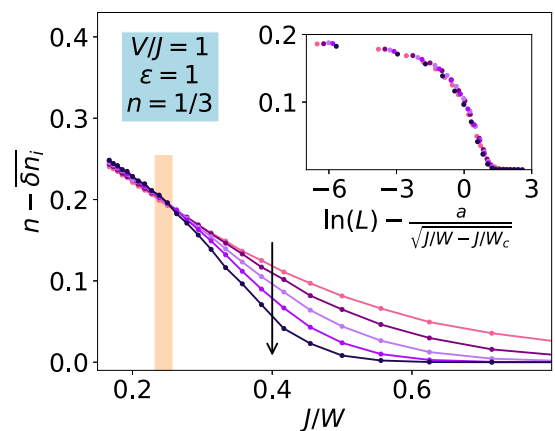


FIG. 7. 1D interacting fermions, Eq. (3), with  $\epsilon = 1, V/J = 1, n = 1/3$ :  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$  as a function of  $J/W$  for  $L = 9, 12, 15, 18, 21$ . The arrow specifies increasing system size, and the shaded area indicates the estimated range of the transition point. Inset: Scaling collapse of the data from the main panel in the delocalized phase as a function of  $\ln(L/\xi)$ , where  $\xi = \exp(-a/\sqrt{J/W - J/W_c})$  with fitting parameters  $W_c/J = 4.1(2)$  and  $a = 1.00(5)$ . For the scaling collapse all the data in the ergodic regime, i.e., with  $J/W > J/W_c$ , are used.

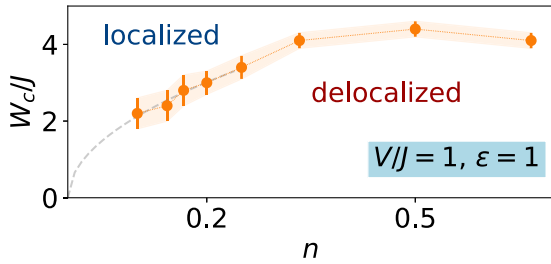


FIG. 8. 1D interacting fermions, Eq. (3), with  $\epsilon = 1$ ,  $V/J = 1$ : Transition point  $W_c/J$  as a function of filling  $n$  (dots) estimated from scaling collapses as in Fig. 7. The dashed line is a power-law fit to  $W_c \approx cn^\lambda$ , where  $\lambda = 0.58(10)$ .

quality in the whole delocalized region. We note that with the power-law scaling, we did not obtain a satisfactory collapse of our data (not shown). Interestingly, KT scaling predicts a jump of the occupation distance at the critical point  $W_c$  for  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , which agrees with the jump of the multifractal dimension of the eigenstates at the localization-delocalization transition reported in [58,66,108,109]. Our analysis of *full* density distributions is more advantageous than the study of the minimum deviation from  $n_i = 1$  (a single number) studied in [56] since our measure suffers less from numerical or experimental uncertainties.

Finally, we repeat the same procedure for different particle fillings to extract  $W_c = W_c(n)$ . The full density dependence of the transition point in the interacting system has not been explored before and is an additional quantitative prediction which could be explored in future experiments. The density dependence of the transition in the interacting system is different from the AAM, where the critical disorder strength is the same for all fillings; thus, the  $n$  dependence of  $W_c/J$  hints at a different mechanism of the transition in interacting systems. The resulting phase boundary between MBL and delocalized states is displayed in Fig. 8. First, note that the critical disorder strength is particle-hole symmetric with respect to filling, i.e.,  $W_c(n) = W_c(1 - n)$ . Second,  $W_c$  takes its maximum value at half filling, where  $W_c/J = 4.4(2)$ , consistent with other works [48,56,63,66,67] (see also [37–41,49,110–114]). Third, for  $n < 0.5$ ,  $W_c/J$  decreases steadily as the filling diminishes and must vanish at zero filling. Indeed, all single-particle states are localized in an infinite lattice, and few-particle states remain also localized, although short-range interactions can substantially increase their localization length [115–117] (a similar situation occurs also in two dimensions; see [118]). By fitting the data in Fig. 8 at low fillings with a power law  $W_c/J \approx cn^\lambda$ , where  $c$  and  $\lambda$  are fitting parameters, we obtain  $\lambda = 0.58(10)$ .

## V. CONCLUSIONS

We demonstrated that the quantitative analysis of density distributions is instrumental for the characterization of localization-delocalization transitions. Our approach based on the occupation distance exploits both real-space *and* Fock-space localization as characteristic properties of states with localized (quasi)particles. We showed that the average occupation distance [67], extracted from the density distributions, exhibits critical scaling behavior at the transition of noninteracting models such as the 1D Aubry-André and 3D Anderson

models as well as of interacting spinless fermions. In the noninteracting models, the average occupation distance collapses with a power-law decay, while in the interacting model, the observed KT scaling hints at a different mechanism of the MBL transition consistent with the predictions of [41,52–54,56,57]. Finally, we extracted the filling dependence of the transition point and observed an approximate square-root dependence,  $W_c \propto \sqrt{n}$ .

The measurement of densities is simple and suffers less from errors in numerical methods such as the density matrix renormalization group than more complicated observables and time-dependent objects [119]. Regarding quantum-gas experiments, while they do not access eigenstates, the measurement of distributions of densities after slow loading processes into disorder potentials may yield similar information, which should be studied further. Such experiments would neither be restricted to small systems, as is the case for the measurement of the entanglement entropy [26,34], nor require time-dependent measurements, further reducing uncertainties. Our results thus provide a path for studying delocalization-localization transitions in future scaled-up quantum-gas microscope experiments, aiming at clarifying the nature of the transition in interacting systems and the existence of the MBL phase.

Research data is partially available as ancillary files [120].

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## APPENDIX: FINITE-SIZE SCALING ANSATZ AND DATA COLLAPSES

We now turn to the scaling collapses of  $n - \overline{\delta n_i}$ . For the noninteracting models, i.e., the AAM and the 3AM, we consider a scaling ansatz of the form  $L^{-\mu} f(wL^{1/\nu})$ , where  $w = W/J - W_c/J$  is the distance from the transition point,  $f(t)$  is the scaling function of interest, and  $\{W_c, \mu, \nu\}$  are the fitting parameters. In the interacting model, we use an ansatz of the KT form,  $g[\ln(L) - \ln(a/\sqrt{J/W - J/W_c})]$ , with  $g(t)$  being the scaling function of interest and  $\{W_c, a\}$  being the fitting parameters. The system sizes considered for the interacting model are listed in Table I. We calculate six eigenstates close to  $\epsilon = 1/2$  for the  $10^4$  disorder realization for Hilbert spaces  $< 25\,000$  and the  $10^2$ – $10^3$  disorder realization for the larger ones. Note that this gives, in total,  $L \times 6 \times 10^4$  and  $L \times 6 \times (10^2$ – $10^3)$  values of the density  $n_i$  for the density histograms, which is sufficient for converged results for the averages.

To assess the quality of the scaling collapses, i.e., the smoothness of the functions  $f(t)$  and  $g(t)$  of the argument  $t$ , we use a cost function introduced in Ref. [41]:

$$C_X = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N_p-1} |X_{j+1} - X_j|}{\max\{X_j\} - \min\{X_j\}} - 1, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where  $X$  stands for the values of  $f$  and  $g$  and the set  $\{X_j\}$  of  $N_p$  values  $X_j$  is ordered by the values of the argument  $t$ .

TABLE I. System sizes for the interacting system considered in this study; the corresponding sizes of the Hilbert space are written in parentheses.

$n$	$L(dim)$	$L(dim)$	$L(dim)$	$L(dim)$	$L(dim)$
$\frac{2}{3}$	9 (84)	12 (495)	15 (3003)	18 (18 564)	21 (116 280)
$\frac{1}{2}$	10 (252)	12 (924)	14 (3432)	16 (12 870)	18 (48 620)
$\frac{1}{3}$	9 (84)	12 (495)	15 (3003)	18 (18 564)	21 (116 280)
$\frac{1}{4}$	12 (220)	16 (1820)	20 (15 504)		
$\frac{1}{5}$	15 (3003)	20 (4845)	25 (53 130)		
$\frac{1}{6}$	12 (66)	18 (816)	24 (10 626)		
$\frac{1}{7}$	14 (91)	21 (1330)	28 (20 475)		
$\frac{1}{10}$	20 (190)	30 (4060)			

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