Fabry-Pérot and Aharonov-Bohm interference in ideal graphene nanoribbons

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(Received 24 June 2022; revised 12 August 2022; accepted 29 August 2022; published 9 September 2022)

Quantum-mechanical calculations of electron magnetotransport in ideal graphene nanoribbons are presented. In noninteracting theory, it is predicted that an ideal ribbon that is attached to wide leads should reveal Fabry-Pérot conductance oscillations in magnetic field. In the theory with Coulomb interaction taken into account, the oscillation pattern should rather be determined by the Aharonov-Bohm interference effect. Both of these theories predict the formation of quasi-bound states, albeit of different structures, inside the ribbon because of strong electron scattering on the interfaces between the connecting ribbon and the leads. Conductance oscillations are a result of resonant scattering via these quasibound states.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.106.115408](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.106.115408)

I. INTRODUCTION

Interference is a fundamental phenomenon in which two coherent waves superpose to form a resultant wave of greater or lower amplitude. Electrons, as particles that share wave properties, reveal quantum interference, which is a counterpart of classical interference in which the wave function interferes with itself—a phenomenon that was demonstrated in the double-slit experiments in the 1960s [\[1\]](#page-6-0). Electron quantum interferometers have been used to explore many physical phenomenon including, for example, anyon statistics in fractional quantum Hall effect [\[2\]](#page-6-0) and the interplay between charge and wave electron properties [\[3\]](#page-6-0). Nearly two decades ago, graphene emerged as a two-dimensional (2D) material with unusual electronic properties that were best described by theories for massless relativistic particles [\[4\]](#page-6-0). These properties have been exploited in graphene-based interferometers [\[5–12\]](#page-6-0). Fabry-Pérot and Aharonov-Bohm interference in a perpendicular magnetic field has recently been demonstrated in graphene interferometers with high visibility and less obscuration by Coulomb charging effects [\[5\]](#page-6-0). The aim of this study is to provide the quantum-mechanical theory of electron interference in one of the simplest graphene-based devices graphene nanoribbon (GNR)—that realistically represents an experimental setup in which a ribbon is connected to two wide graphene electrodes $[13]$, and which might be used further as a building block for more complex interferometer structures, like the ones in Ref. [\[5\]](#page-6-0).

In optics, Fabry-Pérot (FP) interference occurs in a system of two parallel surfaces when optical waves are

only allowed to pass through if they are in resonance with the active region of the device. An electron analog to an optical FP interferometer has been demonstrated in many experimental realizations [\[5–9,14–16\]](#page-6-0). Similarly to an optical wave, for an electron wave to pass through the active region, multiple reflections between two transmission barriers are required to be in phase, a condition referred to as constructive interference. This condition can be written as

$$
i\frac{\lambda_F}{2} = l, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., \tag{1}
$$

where λ_F is the de Broglie wavelength of an electron at the Fermi energy E_F , and *l* is the length of the active region. Having condition (1) satisfied, the electron is resonantly (nearly perfectly) transmitted or reflected through a device. In the system that is studied in this manuscript, a pair of interfaces between narrow and wide graphene regions serve as electronic mirrors that confine electron waves in analogy to confinement of light in an optical Fabry-Pérot cavity. Note that Eq. (1) is valid only for multiple reflections between two perfectly smooth barriers. In graphene, such reflections strongly depend on the geometry of atomic edges, which could have, e.g., a zigzag or armchair shape. Respectively, Eq. (1) is modified, but is still used below for a simplified analysis of magnetotransport in GNRs.

A mesoscopic device, in which electrons can be guided into spatially separated paths when placed in perpendicular magnetic fields, reveals another physical phenomenon: the Aharonov-Bohm (AB) interference [\[17\]](#page-6-0). Conductance through this device shows a peak each time a flux enclosed by the area separating electron paths *S* changes by the flux quantum $\phi_0 = h/e$. An associated phase shift of electron wave function in the paths accumulates a value of 2π . As a function of magnetic field *B*, conductance shows periodic oscillations with period

$$
\Delta B = \frac{\phi_0}{S}.\tag{2}
$$

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Graphene AB interferometers have been demonstrated in Refs. [\[11,12\]](#page-6-0). In the literature, an interferometer operating on AB effect is also referred to as a Mach-Zehnder [\[10,18\]](#page-6-0) or FP [\[5\]](#page-6-0) interferometer, depending on the device configuration and path counting details. However, for the GNR configuration considered here, the difference between FP and AB interference is important, leading to different observables, and so these terms are opposed here. Comment on AB terminology will be given later on.

Theoretical studies of electron quantum interference in graphene have focused on *p*-*n* junctions [\[7–10,19,20\]](#page-6-0), quantum rings $[21,22]$, quantum antidots $[12]$, and GNRs $[16,23-$ [25\]](#page-6-0). For *p*-*n*-*p* junctions, Shytov *et al.* [\[19\]](#page-6-0) showed that FP interference depends on the electron's incident angle and, in a small perpendicular magnetic field, scattering amplitude changes the sign, which are both signatures of Klein tunneling through a graphene *p*-*n* junction. This was later confirmed experimentally [\[6\]](#page-6-0). In Ref. [\[7\]](#page-6-0), Klein tunneling was shown to yield a strong collimation in transmission and FP resonances to occur in bipolar and unipolar regimes due to reflection at internal $n-p$ ($p-n$) interfaces and at the outer contacts. At high magnetic fields, when currents carrying one-dimensional edge channels form [\[17\]](#page-6-0), the graphene *p*-*n* junction starts hosting these edge channels along its interface and acts as an AB interferometer. The edge channels propagate, separated from each other by a distance, and couple at end points, where the *p*-*n* junction meets the physical graphene boundary, thus forming an encircled area [\[10\]](#page-6-0). For quantum rings made of graphene, numerical calculations show conventional AB magnetoconductance oscillations (similarly to 2D GaAs-based electron gases) when magnetic fields are not high enough to bring the system into the quantum Hall regime [\[22\]](#page-6-0). In the quantum Hall regime, a graphene antidot reveals AB interference that is dominated by either electron interaction or single-particle resonant tunneling, depending on the coupling to the antidot bound edge channels [\[12\]](#page-6-0). AB conductance oscillations were also predicted to occur in GNR placed on a stepped substrate, such that *B* spatially varies, and oppositely propagating edge states are obtained in terrace and facet zones of the step, resulting in interedge scattering [\[23\]](#page-6-0). At zero *B*, Darancet *et al.* [\[24\]](#page-6-0) demonstrated the existence of FP interference oscillations in GNRs in analogy with optics.

The object of this theoretical study is a GNR that is similar to GNRs that are typically fabricated in experiments based on nanolithography [\[13\]](#page-6-0). In these experiments, 2D graphene is first covered by a protective resist layer. The desired GNR geometry is then patterned by electron-beam lithography, followed by plasma etching. The resulting structure exposes the hexagonal graphene lattice (usually very defective) along its physical boundaries. It should be noted that a long narrow ribbon, wide semi-infinite leads, and the interfaces between them are all integrated parts of the system that contribute to the measured signal and, for accurate analysis, need to be treated as a whole. This is conceptually similar to an extended molecule in molecular electronics [\[26\]](#page-6-0) and is in line with ideas about the role of contacts in ballistic conduction [\[17,27\]](#page-6-0). Accounting for ribbon-to-lead interfaces has shown, for example, to result in transport gaps that are very different from predictions based on simple theories that approximate the

system only by its narrowest part (i.e., GNR to have straight geometry with ribbon and leads of the same width) [\[28\]](#page-6-0). Consequently, this study considers electronic and transport properties of an "extended" GNR that is otherwise ideal, free of defects.

In this manuscript, energy and transport properties of ideal GNRs *in perpendicular magnetic fields* are studied by quantum-mechanical calculations in noninteracting and interacting approaches. The latter accounts for the long-range repulsive Coulomb interaction between charged particles within the Hartree approximation. The noninteracting approach shows that an ideal ribbon attached to two wide leads shows Fabry-Pérot conductance oscillations in the magnetic field. This is a result of resonant backscattering on quasibound states that are formed inside the ribbon. Conductance oscillations in the noninteracting approach follow the interference condition [\(1\)](#page-0-0). The inclusion of Coulomb interaction into theory brings qualitatively new physics with conductance oscillations determined rather by the Aharonov-Bohm effect, where the magnetic field period is determined by the ribbon area, Eq. [\(2\)](#page-0-0). The effects of FP and AB interference are unexpected (from a naive viewpoint) for this kind of structure because it is inherently open, atomically ideal, and contains no potential barriers. Observing either of these effects allows one to discriminate between whether or not Coulomb interaction dominates electron transport in GNR.

This manuscript is organized as follows. In the first part, electron magnetotransport is studied in a simpler noninteracting approach, and electronic wave interference in ideal GNR is discussed. In the second part, the effects due to inclusion of Coulomb interaction into the theory are presented for the same device geometry. Differences in the results of the noninteracting model are then analyzed. Finally, the implications of a possible experiment are discussed, followed by the conclusion. The theoretical model is presented briefly here; for detailed formulation of the model and the computational method, the reader is referred to the earlier publications in Refs. [\[28,29\]](#page-6-0).

The model is based on the tight-binding Hamiltonian in the Hartree approximation [\[28–31\]](#page-6-0),

$$
H = -\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_i V_i^H a_i^\dagger a_i \tag{3}
$$

$$
V_i^H = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0\varepsilon} \sum_{j\neq i} n_j \bigg(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|^2 + 4b^2}}\bigg), \quad (4)
$$

where a_i^{\dagger} (a_i) is the creation (destruction) operator of the electron on the site *i* and the angle brackets denote the nearest neighbor indices. The magnetic field is included via Peierls substitution $t_{ij} = -t \exp(i\frac{2\pi}{\phi_0} \int_{\mathbf{r}_i}^{\mathbf{r}_j} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{r})$, where $t = 2.7$ eV. The Hartree potential V_i^H describes the long-range Coulomb interaction of electron at the *i*th atom with uncompensated charge density $-en$ in the system $[28-32]$; $-en_i$ is the electron charge at the lattice site j and \mathbf{r}_j is the position vector of that site; ε (=3.9 of SiO₂ for results below) is the dielectric permittivity; and $b (=10 \text{ nm})$ is the distance to the screening gate electrode. If $V_i^H = 0$, then the resulting Hamiltonian becomes the standard noninteracting approximation for electrons on a graphene lattice $[4,33]$. In order to solve

FIG. 1. (c), (d) Conductance and (e), (f) density of states (DOS) in GNR as a function of magnetic field calculated in the noninteracting approach. (d) and (f) show the magnified areas where the resonances due to Fabry-Pérot interference are designated by matching conductance dips with enhanced DOS. The integers in (d) mark resonances, of which the fifth and fourth are further detailed in local DOS plots (a) and (b). Local DOS (ρ) is gray-scale and dot-size coded in (a) and (b). The gray dashed and dash-dotted lines in (c) and (d) show conductance in the ribbon (the long narrow part sandwiched between the interfaces) and leads, respectively. The triangles in (d) mark *B* corresponding to the resonant condition [\(1\)](#page-0-0) counted from the magnetosubband edge at $B = 132.5$ T. The arrow in (c) marks B , for which the cyclotron diameter equals the ribbon width, $d_c = w$. $E_F = 0.3$ *t*. Temperature $T = 0$ K.

the transport problem within this tight-binding model, the recursive Green's function method is used, together with the self-consistent solution for the electrostatic potential and charge density [\[17,28,29\]](#page-6-0).

The system studied is armchair GNR with armchair edges along straight segments of ribbon and semi-infinite leads. It is assumed that there are no defects in the bulk or at the edges. The central part of the GNR has a width $w = 10$ nm and is connected to twice wider leads via mesoscopically smooth junctions $[28]$; see the outlines in the top panels in Figs. 1 and [2.](#page-3-0)

II. FABRY-PÉROT INTERFERENCE IN THE NONINTERACTING MODEL

The noninteracting model predicts that in a perpendicular magnetic field *B*, both two-terminal conductance and density of states (DOS) in GNR oscillate with features being recognizable as a result of Fabry-Pérot interference, Fig. 1. At $B = 0$ T, conductance G in GNR is determined by the electron scattering at the interfaces connecting the ribbon to the leads, which is very similar to strong scattering in

graphene constrictions, where poor conductance quantization was found [\[29,34\]](#page-6-0). These wide-to-narrow interfaces serve as transmission barriers and intrinsic scattering sources, even though they are mesoscopically smooth, because of the broken graphene sublattice symmetry [\[4\]](#page-6-0) along interface edges and multiple alternating zigzag and armchair terminations [\[35\]](#page-6-0). At $B = 0$ T, the inequality $G < G$ ^{ribbon} G ^{leads} holds, where the ribbon superscript denotes the central part of GNR; see Fig. $1(c)$.

From low to moderate *B*, the Landau levels start to develop, which affects the electron quantization subbands that are gradually pushed up in energy and depopulate [\[17\]](#page-6-0). This can be observed as a staircase decrease of *G*ribbon and *G*leads in Fig. $1(c)$. As an electron subband moves up, the longitudinal part of the electron energy and associated wave vector k_{\parallel} gradually decreases. This gradual decrease brings the GNR system through a series of sharp resonances, which are pronounced as coupled *G* dips and DOS peaks in Figs. $1(c)$ – $1(f)$. Enhanced DOS implies constructive interference of the single-particle state inside the ribbon, while *G* dip strongly suggests *resonant backscattering* of the incident electron in the Bloch state of the semi-infinite lead on that state. *G* oscillates with nearly

FIG. 2. (a)–(f) Same as Fig. [1](#page-2-0) but calculated using the Hartree approach. The device geometries used for both calculations are exactly the same; the geometry can be traced in the top plots (a) and (b). The inset between (d) and (f) shows power spectrum estimation for conductances using Fourier transform (FT), where a peak corresponding to $\Delta B = 9.5$ T is marked [\[42\]](#page-6-0). The voltage on the gate electrode [\[28,29\]](#page-6-0) is 30 V. $T = 20$ K.

constant amplitude of half of the conductance quanta $2e^2/h$ and with period scaling inversely with *B*. This large amplitude points to a nearly perfect resonant reflection for the highest occupied quantization subband. To get further physical insight, let us use the relationship between the wave vector of Dirac electrons and *B*,

$$
k = \sqrt{\frac{2eB}{\hbar}},\tag{5}
$$

and then relate it to the de Broglie wavelength in Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-0) by $k = k_{\parallel} = 2\pi/\lambda_F$. Counting from the magnetosubband edge at $B = 132.5$ T, the resonance condition [\(1\)](#page-0-0) is satisfied for magnetic fields marked by the triangle pointers in Fig. $1(d)$, if $l = 67$ nm is used as a fit parameter. This *l* value matches well the effective geometrical length of the ribbon, sandwiched between two interfaces, as indicated in Fig. $1(a)$, and it clearly points out that *the resonances in the noninteracting theory are due to Fabry-Pérot interference*. The integers *i* in Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-0), which are referred to as FP modes, are numbered in Fig. [1\(c\).](#page-2-0) Meanwhile, $i = 4$ and $i = 5$ modes are selected as examples and their local DOS ρ is shown in Figs. [1\(a\)](#page-2-0) and [1\(b\),](#page-2-0) where the node structure of the longitudinal electron wave is clearly discernible. Thus, the open-ended ideal GNR supports longitudinal resonant electron states in a magnetic field. This is similar to the effects found for carbon nanotubes [\[14\]](#page-6-0) and

ballistic constrictions in conventional 2D electron gas [\[36\]](#page-6-0) and GNRs [\[24\]](#page-6-0) at zero *B*.

The resonance $i = 1$ at $B = 131.5$ T in Fig. [1\(d\)](#page-2-0) reveals a zigzaglike feature that is similar to a Fano-type resonance $[37]$. For $i = 1$, the electron wave is nodeless, half of the de Broglie wavelength, and the single-particle state has the strongest localization in comparison to other $(i > 1)$ states, defined by the width of the DOS peak, see Fig. [1\(f\).](#page-2-0) This is a realization of the Fano model in the sense that it includes the quasi-bound state, localized inside the ribbon, that interacts with the continuum of extended states in the leads. When the energy of incident electron coincides exactly with resonance energy, the FP phase flips by π [\[37\]](#page-6-0). Note that similar antiresonance has been found in many mesoscopic devices, for example, a quantum antidot-based interferometer in conventional 2D electron gas [\[38\]](#page-6-0) and short GNR at zero *B* [\[16\]](#page-6-0).

The conductance curves in Figs. $1(c)$ and $1(d)$ show additional, superimposed oscillatory dependence. This is a result of interference from other magnetosubbands, which all provide propagating single-particle states at E_F in the ribbon.

At high *B*, the Landau levels dominate the energy spectrum, and the edge channels are well defined and propagate along the physical boundaries of GNR without, or with little, backscattering [\[17\]](#page-6-0). This denotes the quantum Hall regime

and $G \approx G^{\text{ribbon}} \approx G^{\text{leads}}$ with little deviation at the transition regions between quantization plateaux. This can be loosely characterized by *B* for which the cyclotron diameter $d_c =$ $2E_F/v_FeB$ is less than the ribbon width *w*, see the mark in Fig. $1(c)$; $v_F = 10^6$ m/s. Because the scattering efficiency of the wide-narrow interfaces is reduced, the Fabry-Pérot interference is hardly observable at high magnetic fields.

III. AHARONOV-BOHM INTERFERENCE IN THE HARTREE MODEL

The long-range Coulomb interaction has several pronounced effects on the energy structure and transport properties of GNRs. First, it is known to cause charge accumulation at graphene boundaries [\[29,30,32,39\]](#page-6-0). This charge accumulation is related to formation of the triangular potential wells, which, in the magnetic field, accommodate extra forward and backward moving edge channels. These edge channels, according to the Landauer formula [\[27\]](#page-6-0), contribute to ballistic conduction [\[32\]](#page-6-0) and thus cause *G* to deviate from stairlike dependence predicted by the noninteracting theory, compare Figs. $1(c)$ and $2(c)$ for the leads and ribbon [\[39,40\]](#page-6-0). (Note that the self-consistent calculations in the Hartree theory are performed at finite temperature $T = 20$ K, which in itself contributes as an averaging factor on the observable qualities, so that *G* appears smoothed in Fig. $2(c)$. In contrast, the noninteracting calculations are performed at $T = 0$ K.) In the quantum Hall regime, the part of the structures that is away from the boundaries is filled out by the compressible strip [\[41\]](#page-6-0), which is an area with a magnetosubband pinned to the Fermi energy [\[39\]](#page-6-0). The pinning effect reflects the screening ability of the system, in which free electrons can redistribute to minimize electrostatic energy, a property that is peculiar to a metallic system as opposed to an insulator. Another effect of Coulomb interaction is the strong electron localization along the interface physical boundaries (while expelling an electric current toward the interior) [\[28\]](#page-6-0), compare local DOS in Figs. $1(a)$ and $1(b)$ and $2(a)$ and $2(b)$.

An important effect introduced by Coulomb interaction on transport in GNR is *periodic* conductance oscillations at moderate *B*, see Figs. $2(c)$ and $2(d)$. Period estimation gives $\Delta B \approx 9.5$ T, which is corroborated by one of the peaks in the power factor spectrum of the Fourier transform $[42]$. Substitution ΔB into Eq. [\(2\)](#page-0-0) gives $S = 440$ nm². If adjusted by the finite decay length of the wave function, this agrees reasonably well with geometrical ribbon area 600 nm^2 . As in the noninteracting theory, *G* dips match DOS peaks. This implies a resonant backscattering process due to the singleparticle state formed between narrow-wide interfaces. This is supported by local DOS ρ , visualization in Figs. [2\(a\)](#page-3-0) and [2\(b\),](#page-3-0) where the ribbon is uniformly filled in by the resonant state at ρ peak and is "empty" otherwise. The structure of the resonant states is the same for all peaks. Contrary to the noninteracting theory, *conductance oscillations in the Hartree approximation are due to the Aharonov-Bohm effect.* AB interference can be understood as a result of electron screening when energy levels of the resonant states inside the ribbon, which are poorly coupled to continuum of states in the leads, are adjusted to minimize the electrostatic energy of GNR. Every time a magnetic flux enclosed by the ribbon changes by the

flux quantum, one single-particle state sweeps through E_F and *G* develops one full oscillation. AB oscillations in both G and DOS are more pronounced at intermediate magnetic fields, at which the edge channels start to form but the system is not yet deep in the quantum Hall regime. This condition might be expressed as $d_c \approx w$, where the cyclotron diameter *dc* in the self-consistent Hartree calculation is convenient to express via the charge density *n*: $d_c = 2\hbar \sqrt{\pi n}/eB$. In the ribbon center, $n \approx 5 \times 10^{17}$ m⁻², and for this *n*, the equality $d_c = w$ is marked by the arrow in Fig. [2\(f\).](#page-3-0)

A switch from the FP to AB interference due to the Coulomb interaction can be understood in the following way. Let's begin with a classical viewpoint since Coulomb interaction is the classical effect of repulsive force between charged particles. Having repulsive interaction on and allowing charges to move freely cause all features in charge density distribution inside GNR, like the ones seen in local DOS in Figs. $1(a)$ and $1(b)$, to smear out. The charge particles distribute uniformly inside the interior in the absence of an external electric field. If the latter is applied to the system, electrons redistribute further to account for both mutual interaction and external electric field. [In the limit case of metal, all free electrons redistribute toward the surface such that there is no electric field inside metal [\[43\]](#page-6-0). GNR is affected similarly, though it is far from this limit because of finite ε in Eq. [\(4\)](#page-1-0).] This effect is referred to as screening. Charge redistribution is related to finding the total electrostatic energy that is minimal of all possible configurations. Adding quantum mechanics into the speculation causes the resonant energy levels to pin to E_F . As *B* varies, the levels gradually (de)populate one by one, causing equidistant features in *B* for *G* and DOS, observed as AB interference.

Regarding the name "Aharonov-Bohm," it should be mentioned that Aharonov and Bohm originally proposed an experiment to show that observable effects could result from vector potential **A** on phases to the probability amplitudes associated with various electron paths, even though $B = 0$ in those paths [\[44\]](#page-6-0). Here, no well-defined paths exist because *B* is not sufficiently high to bring the system into the quantum Hall effect regime. However, the name "Aharonov-Bohm" is still adopted, as is typically done in the solid-state experiments going under this name, because of similarity to the original AB effect in the sense of *G* invariance under changing *B* piercing the ribbon by one flux quanta [\[17\]](#page-6-0).

Within the Hartree approximation, an analogous effect of correlation of the single-particle states at E_F , when the states depopulate sequentially in *B*, was shown to occur in an antidot-based Aharonov-Bohm interferometer in a conventional 2D electron gas [\[38\]](#page-6-0). Sequential depopulation implies that the number of charges in the region where quasi-localized states reside will change nonlinearly, which in turn indicates the possibility of Coulomb blockade physics. The Hartree theory, however, is unable to capture Coulomb blockade [\[38\]](#page-6-0), and the question of whether an ideal GNR inherently supports Coulomb blockade remains open, which is in contrast to disordered GNRs where it was shown to be the dominant mechanism of charge transport [\[13,45\]](#page-6-0).

The Aharonov-Bohm conductance oscillations that are predicted here for GNRs have similarities with an experiment by Loosdrecht *et al.* [\[46\]](#page-6-0) on quantum point contact in the GaAs heterostructure, where two-terminal magnetoresistance revealed periodic *B* oscillations between the quantum Hall plateaux. Loosdrecht *et al.* [\[46\]](#page-6-0) explained this as quantum interference due to tunneling between edge states across the point contact at the potential step at the entrance and exit of the constriction. However, apart from apparently the structure (which is a long graphene ribbon here and a short point contact in GaAs in Ref. [\[46\]](#page-6-0)), the difference is that in the present work magnetic fields are low in order for the quantum Hall plateaux to occur, and GNR is ideal without any imposed potentials.

IV. CONCLUSION

Quantum-mechanical calculations suggest that ideal GNR in a geometry with wide leads, which is typically realized in experiments based on nanolithography [\[13\]](#page-6-0), should exhibit a Fabry-Pérot or Aharonov-Bohm interference pattern in magnetoconductance, depending on whether or not Coulomb interactions dominate. This is a counterintuitive finding because GNR is inherently open, atomically ideal, and contains no potential barriers. Electron quantum interference is related to strong electron scattering on the interfaces that connect the ribbon with electrodes and is a result of resonant backscattering via the quasi-bound state formed inside the ribbon. The structure of the quasi-bound states is different in noninteracting and Hartree theories; it might be accessed in local density of states spectroscopy measurements and further used to characterize interference effects in GNRs.

It is expected that the above results should be valid for GNRs irrespective of edge terminations because the edge specifics are of less importance at operational magnetic fields and device widths. In addition, in GNRs of the same geometries as those considered here, the transport gaps have been shown to be nearly identical for armchair and zigzag terminations [\[28\]](#page-6-0). The results for zigzag GNR in the noninteracting theory are explicitly given in the Appendix.

It is also expected that the above results should be applicable for GNRs in straight geometry provided by the strong electron scattering on potential barriers at metal-graphene contacts [\[7,9,16\]](#page-6-0).

The defects should destroy the interference effects predicted in this study. However, these effects should become experimentally observable as the quality of the GNR samples improves.

The predicted interference effects hardly validate an ideal GNR for application as an interferometer (or etalon), mainly because the conductance oscillations are superimposed on relatively high background conductance and the visibility [\[5,10,18\]](#page-6-0) of such an interferometer would be low. One route to improve visibility might be to decrease the total number of electron quantization subbands. Another would be to design the proper shape and size of the interface regions, which are the sources of strong electron scattering in graphene.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by Swedish National Infrastructure for Computing (SNIC 2021/22-961).

APPENDIX: FABRY-PÉROT INTERFERENCE IN ZIGZAG NANORIBBONS

In the noninteracting approach, GNR with zigzag edge termination also reveals a Fabry-Pérot type of interference (Fig. 3) but with conductances being due to resonant transmission instead of the backscattering that was found for armchair GNR in Sec. [II.](#page-2-0) This difference might be explained by two factors. First, coupling between the quasi-bound states, which are still identical for both kinds of GNRs [compare Figs. $3(a)$ and $1(a)$], and extended states in the leads is different. Second, the extended electronic states in zigzag and armchair GNRs [\[47\]](#page-6-0) are different for magnetic field intervals where FP interference occurs. In those intervals, zigzag GNRs reveal predominant intersubband scattering.

Interestingly, magnetoconductance in GNRs in general can reveal resonances due to transmission, reflection, or of Fano type, which allows (unexpectedly) rich physics for such a simple system.

FIG. 3. (b) Conductance and (c) DOS in zigzag GNR as a function of *B* calculated in the noninteracting approach. Only a range of magnetic fields is shown where Fabry-Pérot oscillations are clearly observable. Local DOS ρ in (a) is given for the fifth FP mode. The black triangles in (b) mark *B* obtained from a fit to Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-0) for the effective length $l = 62$ nm. The plots in this figure are similar to Figs. $1(a)$, $1(d)$, and $1(f)$. Mesoscopic geometries of GNRs in this figure and in Fig. [1](#page-2-0) are identical. $E_F = 0.3$ *t*. $T = 0$ K.

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