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## Effects of spin-orbit coupling on quantum transport

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## Chapter 2

# Stroboscopic Model of Transport Through a Quantum Dot with Spin-Orbit Coupling

### 2.1 Introduction

Electrical conduction in semiconductor heterostructures is affected by the spin degree of freedom through spin-orbit coupling. In quantum dots with chaotic scattering a statistical approach is appropriate. The spin-orbit Hamiltonian (of either Rashba or Dresselhaus form) has a special structure, that of a non-Abelian vector potential. By a gauge transformation Aleiner and Fal'ko identified all possible symmetry classes and described the crossovers between them by means of random-matrix theory (RMT) [41]. This RMT has been extended by Brouwer *et al.* to the case that the spin-orbit coupling is nonuniform and thus the gauge transformation cannot be made [42, 43]. Experiments are in good agreement with the predictions of the theory [44, 45]. Recently a semiclassical theory of quantum dots with spin-orbit coupling has been developed [7, 8]. Exact quantum mechanical calculations of such “Rashba billiards” have also been reported [46]. In this chapter we will focus on the regime of strong chaos,

where RMT and semiclassics agree.

We present a fully quantum mechanical computer simulation to test the theory. In the case of spinless chaotic quantum dots, the stroboscopic model known as the quantum kicked rotator has been proven to be quite successful [47–53]. This model exploits the fact that, although the phase space of the open quantum dot is four-dimensional, the dynamics can be described, on time scales greater than the time of flight across the dot, as a mapping between points on a two-dimensional Poincaré surface of section. The kicked rotator gives a map on a two-dimensional phase space that has the same phenomenology as open quantum dots.

In this chapter we extend the model of the open kicked rotator to include spin-orbit coupling in a perpendicular magnetic field. We begin by describing the known model for a closed chaotic quantum dot [54] with spin-orbit coupling in Sec. 2.2.1, before discussing the opening up of the model in Sec. 2.2.2. The relation of the model to RMT is given in Sec. 2.3. This relation will give us a mapping between the model parameters and the microscopic parameters of a chaotic quantum dot. Numerical results for the weak (anti)-localization peak and its dependence on magnetic field and spin-orbit coupling strength are presented in Sec. 2.4 and compared with the analytical predictions from Sec. 2.3.

## 2.2 Description of the Model

### 2.2.1 Closed System

The symplectic kicked rotator has been introduced by Scharf [54] and studied extensively in Refs. 55–57. We summarize this known model of the closed system before proceeding to the open system in the next subsection.

The symplectic kicked rotator describes an electron moving along a circle with moment of inertia  $I_0$ , kicked periodically at time intervals  $\tau_0$  with a kicking strength that is a function of position and spin. We choose

units such that  $\tau_0 \equiv 1$  and  $\hbar \equiv 1$ . The Hamiltonian  $H$  is given by [54, 55]

$$H = \frac{1}{2}(p + p_0)^2 + V(\theta) \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta_s(t - n), \quad (2.1a)$$

$$V(\theta) = K \cos(\theta + \theta_0) + K_{\text{so}}(\sigma_1 \sin 2\theta + \sigma_3 \sin \theta). \quad (2.1b)$$

We have introduced the symmetrized delta function  $\delta_s(t) = [\delta(t + \epsilon) + \delta(t - \epsilon)]/2$ , with  $\epsilon$  an infinitesimal. The dimensionless angular momentum operator  $p = -i\hbar_{\text{eff}}\partial/\partial\theta$ , with  $\hbar_{\text{eff}} = \hbar\tau_0/I_0$  the effective Planck constant, is canonically conjugate to the angle  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . The kicking potential  $V(\theta)$  contains the Pauli spin matrices

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.2)$$

Potential scattering is parameterized by the kicking strength  $K$  and spin-orbit coupling by  $K_{\text{so}}$ . We choose smoothly varying functions of  $\theta$ , corresponding to a smooth potential. Disorder can be added via a rapidly varying function of  $\theta$ , cf. Ref. 58.

Spin rotation symmetry is broken if  $K_{\text{so}} \neq 0$ . The generalized time-reversal symmetry [54]

$$\mathcal{T} : \theta \mapsto -\theta, \quad p \mapsto p, \quad \sigma_i \mapsto -\sigma_i, \quad t \mapsto -t, \quad (2.3)$$

is preserved if  $\theta_0 = 0$  and is broken if  $\theta_0 \in (0, \pi)$ . A nonzero  $p_0$  ensures that the Hamiltonian has no other unitary or antiunitary symmetries [54].

Notice that the roles of  $p$  and  $\theta$  are interchanged in  $\mathcal{T}$  compared to the conventional time-reversal symmetry of the Rashba Hamiltonian and the spinless kicked rotator, which reads

$$\mathcal{T}' : \theta \mapsto \theta, \quad p \mapsto -p, \quad \sigma_i \mapsto -\sigma_i, \quad t \mapsto -t. \quad (2.4)$$

For this reason time-reversal symmetry in the symplectic kicked rotator is broken by a displacement of  $\theta$ , rather than by a displacement of  $p$  as in the spinless kicked rotator [59].

The stroboscopic time evolution of a wave function is governed by the

Floquet operator

$$\mathcal{F} = \text{T exp} \left[ -\frac{i}{\hbar_{\text{eff}}} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+1} H(t) dt \right], \quad (2.5)$$

where T denotes time ordering of the exponential. In the range  $[-1/2, 1/2]$  only  $t_0 = 0$  and  $t_0 = -1/2$  preserve  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry for  $\theta_0 = 0$ . We will find it convenient to choose  $t_0 = -1/2$  for numerical calculations and  $t_0 = 0$  for analytical work.

For  $p_0 = 0$  the reduction of the Floquet operator to a discrete finite form is obtained for special values of  $\hbar_{\text{eff}}$ , known as resonances [59]. For  $\hbar_{\text{eff}} = 4\pi/M$ , with  $M$  an integer, the Floquet operator is represented by an  $M \times M$  matrix of quaternions (cf. Sec. 1.2.2). For this value of  $\hbar_{\text{eff}}$  the momentum is restricted to  $p \in [0, 4\pi)$ , i.e. one can think of the Floquet operator as describing a map on a torus. For  $t_0 = -1/2$  the matrix elements in the  $p$ -representation are given by

$$\mathcal{F}_{ll'} = (\Pi U X U^\dagger \Pi)_{ll'}, \quad l, l' = 0, 1, \dots, M-1, \quad (2.6a)$$

$$\Pi_{ll'} = \delta_{ll'} e^{-i\pi l^2/M} \mathbf{1}, \quad (2.6b)$$

$$U_{ll'} = M^{-1/2} e^{-i2\pi ll'/M} \mathbf{1}, \quad (2.6c)$$

$$X_{ll'} = \delta_{ll'} e^{-i(M/4\pi)V(2\pi l/M)}. \quad (2.6d)$$

For  $t_0 = 0$  one has instead

$$\mathcal{F} = U X^{1/2} U^\dagger \Pi^2 U X^{1/2} U^\dagger. \quad (2.7)$$

These maps (2.6) and (2.7) are equivalent to the Hamiltonian (2.1) with  $p_0 = 0$ . A nonzero  $p_0$  may be introduced into the map by replacing  $\Pi$  with [59]

$$\Pi_{ll'} = \delta_{ll'} e^{-i\pi(l+l_0)^2/M} \mathbf{1}, \quad l_0 = \frac{p_0 M}{4\pi}. \quad (2.8)$$

This map is not rigorously equivalent to the Hamiltonian (2.1), but it has the same classical limit (for  $K_{\text{so}} = 0$ ) [51].

The generalized time-reversal symmetry (2.3) is expressed by the identity

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}^R, \quad \text{if } \theta_0 = 0. \quad (2.9)$$

The superscript  $R$  denotes the dual of a quaternionic matrix (as in Sec. 1.2.2),

$$\mathcal{F}^R \equiv \sigma_2 \mathcal{F}^T \sigma_2.$$

Here  $T$  denotes the transpose in the basis of eigenstates of  $p$  ( $p$ -representation). To verify Eq. (2.9) note that  $\sigma_2 \sigma_i^T \sigma_2 = -\sigma_i$  and that the transpose in  $p$ -representation takes  $\theta$  to  $-\theta$ .

### 2.2.2 Open System

To describe electrical conduction we open up the kicked rotator, following the general scheme of Refs. 47–50. We model a pair of  $N$ -mode ballistic point contacts that couple the quantum dot to electron reservoirs, by imposing open boundary conditions in a subspace of Hilbert space represented by the indices  $l_k^{(\mu)}$ . The subscript  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ , with  $N = N_1 + N_2$ , labels the modes (both spin directions), and the superscript  $\mu = 1, 2$  labels the point contacts. The  $N \times M$  quaternionic projection matrix  $P$  is given by

$$P_{kk'} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{1} & \text{if } k' = l_k^{(\mu)}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2.10)$$

The matrices  $P$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  together determine the scattering matrix

$$S(\varepsilon) = P(e^{-i\varepsilon} - \mathcal{F}Q^T Q)^{-1} \mathcal{F}P^T, \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\varepsilon \in [0, 2\pi)$  is the quasi-energy and  $Q^T Q = 1 - P^T P$ . One readily verifies that  $S$  is unitary.

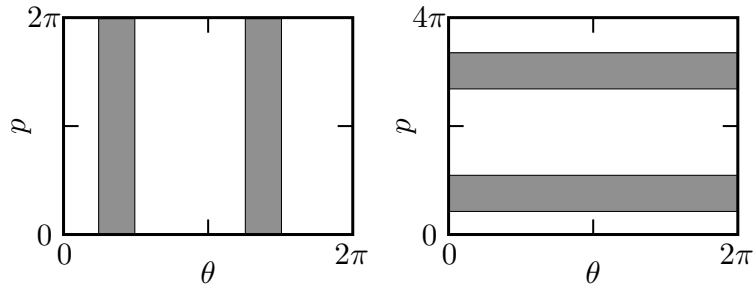
We need to ensure that the introduction of the point contacts does not break the  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry

$$S(\varepsilon) = S^R(\varepsilon), \quad \text{if } \theta_0 = 0, \quad (2.12)$$

or for non-zero  $\theta_0$  the more general duality relation

$$S(\theta_0) = S^R(-\theta_0). \quad (2.13)$$

This is assured by choosing the absorbing boundary conditions in a strip



**Figure 2.1.** Location of the absorbing boundary conditions (grey rectangles) in the classical phase space of the open kicked rotator. To ensure that the openings do not break the time reversal symmetry they are oriented parallel to the  $p$ -axis in the spinless kicked rotator (left panel) and parallel to the  $\theta$ -axis in the symplectic kicked rotator (right panel).

parallel to the  $\theta$ -axis, rather than parallel to the  $p$ -axis as in the spinless kicked rotator (cf. Fig. 2.1). The difference is due to the exchange of the roles of  $p$  and  $\theta$  in the time-reversal symmetry operation, compare Eqs. (2.3) and (2.4).

By grouping together the  $N_\mu$  indices belonging to the same point contact, the  $N \times N$  quaternionic matrix  $S$  can be decomposed into 4 sub-blocks containing the quaternionic transmission and reflection matrices,

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} r & t' \\ t & r' \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.14)$$

The value of  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary; we will take  $\varepsilon = 0$  in the analytical calculations and average over  $\varepsilon$  in the numerics. The  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry (2.12) requires that  $r = \sigma_2 r^T \sigma_2$ ,  $r' = \sigma_2 r'^T \sigma_2$ , and  $t' = \sigma_2 t^T \sigma_2$ .

The conductance  $G$  follows from the Landauer formula

$$G = \frac{e^2}{h} \text{Tr} \, tt^\dagger, \quad (2.15)$$

where the trace  $\text{Tr}$  is over channel indices as well as spin indices. Unitarity of  $S$  ensures that  $\text{Tr} \, tt^\dagger = \text{Tr} \, t't'^\dagger$ . For  $\theta_0 = 0$  the eigenvalues of  $tt^\dagger$  are doubly degenerate due to the  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry (Kramers degeneracy, cf.

Sec. 1.2.5). It will prove useful to write the Landauer formula in the form [42, 43]

$$G = \frac{2e^2}{h} \frac{N_1 N_2}{N} - \frac{e^2}{h} \text{Tr} S \Lambda S^\dagger \Lambda \equiv G_0 + \delta G, \quad (2.16)$$

with  $\Lambda$  a diagonal matrix having diagonal elements

$$\Lambda_{jj} = \begin{cases} N_2/N & j = 1, \dots, N_1, \\ -N_1/N & j = N_1 + 1, \dots, N. \end{cases} \quad (2.17)$$

The term  $G_0 = (2e^2/h)N_1N_2/N$  is the classical conductance and the term  $\delta G$ , of order  $e^2/h$ , is the quantum correction from the weak localization effect.

## 2.3 Relation to Random-Matrix Theory

Random-matrix theory (RMT) gives universal predictions for the quantum correction  $\delta G$  in Eq. (2.16). We calculate this quantity for the symplectic kicked rotator and compare with RMT. This will give us the relation between the parameters of the stroboscopic model and the microscopic parameters of the quantum dot.

The three universality classes of RMT are labeled by  $\beta = 1, 2, 4$ , with [60]

$$\delta G_{\text{RMT}} = \frac{\beta - 2}{2\beta} \frac{e^2}{h}. \quad (2.18)$$

In the absence of  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry one has  $\beta = 2$ . In the presence of  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry one has  $\beta = 1$  (4) in the presence (absence) of spin rotation symmetry. We will investigate the three symmetry breaking transitions  $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 2$ ,  $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 4$ , and  $\beta = 4 \rightarrow 2$  in separate subsections.

### 2.3.1 $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 2$ Transition

The  $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 2$  transition takes place in the absence of spin-orbit coupling ( $K_{\text{so}} = 0$ ). This transition was studied in Ref. 51 for the case that the symmetry  $\mathcal{T}'$  rather than  $\mathcal{T}$  is broken. To fully characterize the model we



need to reconsider this transition for the case of  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry breaking.

For small  $\theta_0$ ,  $\cos(\theta + \theta_0) \approx \cos \theta - \theta_0 \sin \theta$  and the Floquet matrix (2.7) takes the form

$$\mathcal{F}(K_{\text{so}} = 0, \theta_0 \rightarrow 0) = e^{\theta_0 W} \mathcal{F}_0 e^{\theta_0 W}, \quad (2.19a)$$

$$W = UYU^\dagger, \quad Y_{ll'} = \delta_{ll'} i(KM/8\pi) \sin(2\pi l/M). \quad (2.19b)$$

Here  $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}(K_{\text{so}} = 0, \theta_0 = 0)$  is unitary symmetric and  $W$  is real anti-symmetric. The scattering matrix (2.11) (at  $\varepsilon = 0$ ) becomes

$$S = T(1 - \mathcal{F}_0 R)^{-1} \mathcal{F}_0 T', \quad (2.20a)$$

$$T = P e^{\theta_0 W}, \quad (2.20b)$$

$$T' = e^{\theta_0 W} P^T, \quad (2.20c)$$

$$R = e^{\theta_0 W} Q^T Q e^{\theta_0 W}. \quad (2.20d)$$

Substitution of  $S$  into Eq. (2.16) gives the conductance  $G$ .

To make contact with RMT we assume that  $\mathcal{F}_0$  is a random matrix from the circular orthogonal ensemble (COE), expand the expression for  $G$  in powers of  $\mathcal{F}_0$  and average  $\mathcal{F}_0$  over the COE. In the regime  $1 \ll N \ll M$ , we can perform the average over the unitary group with the help of the diagrammatic technique of Ref. 17. Since  $\text{Tr} \Lambda = 0$  only the maximally crossed diagrams contribute to leading order in  $N$ . The result for the average quantum correction becomes

$$\langle \delta G \rangle = -\frac{2e^2}{h} \text{tr} T^\dagger \Lambda T (T' \Lambda T'^\dagger)^T \frac{1}{M - \text{tr} R^\dagger R^T}. \quad (2.21)$$

The factor of 2 comes from the spin degeneracy and the trace  $\text{tr}$  is over channel indices only. The two remaining traces are evaluated in the limit  $N, M \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed  $N/M$ . We find

$$M^{-1} \text{tr} T^\dagger \Lambda T (T' \Lambda T'^\dagger)^T = \frac{N_1 N_2}{N^2} \frac{N}{M}, \quad (2.22)$$

$$M^{-1} \text{tr} R^\dagger R^T = 1 - N/M - \theta_0^2 (KM/4\pi)^2 (1 - N/M). \quad (2.23)$$

Substitution into Eq. (2.21) gives the average quantum correction

$$\langle \delta G \rangle = -\frac{e^2}{h} \frac{2N_1 N_2}{N^2} \frac{1}{1 + (\theta_0/\theta_c)^2}, \quad (2.24a)$$

$$\theta_c = \frac{4\pi\sqrt{N}}{KM^{3/2}}. \quad (2.24b)$$

The RMT result has the same Lorentzian profile [61, 60]

$$\delta G_{\text{RMT}} = -\frac{e^2}{h} \frac{2N_1 N_2}{N^2} \frac{1}{1 + (B/B_c)^2}, \quad (2.25a)$$

$$B_c = C \frac{h}{eL^2} \left( \frac{NL\Delta}{\hbar v_F} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (2.25b)$$

with  $C$  a numerical constant of order unity,  $L = \sqrt{A}$  the size of the dot,  $A$  the area of the dot,  $\Delta = 2\pi\hbar^2/mA$  the mean spacing of the Kramers degenerate levels, and  $v_F$  the Fermi velocity. Comparison of Eqs. (2.24) and (2.25) allows us to identify

$$\theta_0/\theta_c = B/B_c. \quad (2.26)$$

### 2.3.2 $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 4$ Transition

The  $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 4$  transition is realized by turning on spin-orbit coupling ( $K_{\text{so}}$ ) in the absence of a magnetic field ( $\theta_0 = 0$ ). In this transition the quaternionic structure of the Floquet matrix plays a role. The Floquet matrix (2.7) has the form

$$\mathcal{F}(K_{\text{so}}, \theta_0 = 0) = e^{K_{\text{so}}A} \mathcal{F}_0 e^{K_{\text{so}}A}, \quad (2.27a)$$

$$A = U(\sigma_1 Y_1 + \sigma_3 Y_3) U^\dagger, \quad (2.27b)$$

$$(Y_1)_{ll'} = -\delta_{ll'} i(M/8\pi) \sin(4\pi l/M), \quad (2.27c)$$

$$(Y_3)_{ll'} = -\delta_{ll'} i(M/8\pi) \sin(2\pi l/M). \quad (2.27d)$$

The matrix  $A$  is real antisymmetric and thus  $\tilde{A} = -A$ , where the tilde denotes quaternion complex conjugation (cf. Sec. 1.2.2). The scattering

matrix takes the same form (2.20a), but now with

$$T = Pe^{K_{\text{so}}A}, \quad (2.28a)$$

$$T' = e^{K_{\text{so}}A}P^T, \quad (2.28b)$$

$$R = e^{K_{\text{so}}A}Q^T Q e^{K_{\text{so}}A}. \quad (2.28c)$$

The average of  $\mathcal{F}_0$  over the ensemble of unitary symmetric matrices only involves the channel indices and not the spin indices. To keep the quaternions in the correct order we adopt the tensor product notation of Brouwer *et al.* [42, 43]. The average of  $\delta G$  over  $\mathcal{F}_0$  gives, to leading order in  $N$ ,

$$\langle \delta G \rangle = \frac{e^2}{h} \sum_{\mu\nu} \left[ \tau \frac{\text{tr } E \otimes \tilde{E}'}{M\mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} - \text{tr } R \otimes \tilde{R}} \tau \right]_{\mu\nu; \mu\nu}, \quad (2.29)$$

where  $\tau = 1 \otimes \sigma_2$ ,  $E = T^\dagger \Lambda T$ , and  $E' = T' \Lambda T'^\dagger$ . The tensor product has a backward multiplication in the second argument,

$$(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d) \equiv ac \otimes db, \quad (2.30)$$

and the indices  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are the spin indices.

The two traces are calculated in the limit  $K_{\text{so}} \rightarrow 0$ ,  $N, M \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed  $N/M$ , leading to

$$M^{-1} \text{tr } E \otimes \tilde{E}' = \frac{N_1 N_2}{N^2} \frac{N}{M} \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}, \quad (2.31a)$$

$$M^{-1} \text{tr } R \otimes \tilde{R} = (1 - N/M)(1 - 4K_{\text{so}}^2(M/8\pi)^2) \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} \\ + 2K_{\text{so}}^2(M/8\pi)^2(1 - N/M)(\sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_1 + \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3). \quad (2.31b)$$

After substitution into Eq. (2.29) there remains a matrix structure that can be inverted, resulting in

$$\langle \delta G \rangle = \frac{e^2}{h} \frac{N_1 N_2}{N^2} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{1 + 2a^2} - \frac{1}{1 + 4a^2} \right), \quad (2.32a)$$

$$a = K_{\text{so}}/K_c, \quad K_c = \frac{4\pi\sqrt{2N}}{M^{3/2}}. \quad (2.32b)$$

The RMT result has the same functional form [42], with  $a^2 = 2\pi\hbar/N\tau_{\text{so}}\Delta$ .

Here  $\tau_{\text{so}}$  is the spin-orbit coupling time. Thus we identify

$$K_{\text{so}}/K_c = (2\pi\hbar/N\tau_{\text{so}}\Delta)^{1/2}. \quad (2.33)$$

### 2.3.3 $\beta = 4 \rightarrow 2$ Transition

In the presence of strong spin-orbit coupling ( $K_{\text{so}} \gg K_c$ ) the Floquet matrix takes for small  $\theta_0$  the same form as in Eq. (2.19a) for  $K_{\text{so}} = 0$ , but now  $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}(K_{\text{so}} \gg K_c, \theta_0 = 0)$  is a unitary self-dual matrix rather than a unitary symmetric matrix. We can repeat exactly the same steps as we did for  $K_{\text{so}} = 0$  but with  $\mathcal{F}_0$  a random matrix in the circular symplectic ensemble (CSE). We then average  $\mathcal{F}_0$  over the CSE. This leads to

$$\langle \delta G \rangle = \frac{e^2 N_1 N_2}{h} \frac{1}{N^2} \frac{1}{1 + (\theta_0/\theta_c)^2}, \quad (2.34)$$

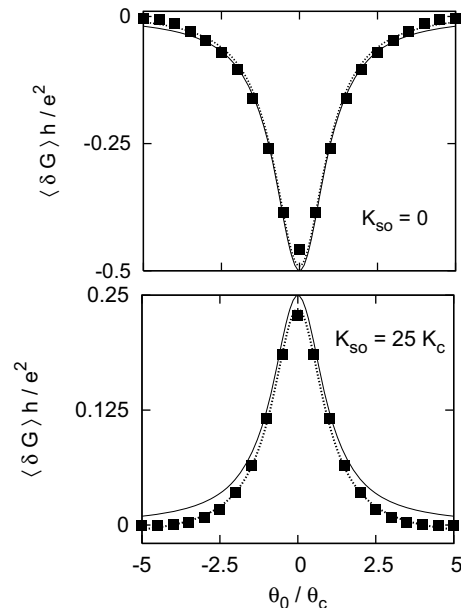
with  $\theta_c$  as in Eq. (2.24b). The width of the Lorentzian is therefore the same in the  $\beta = 1 \rightarrow 2$  and  $\beta = 4 \rightarrow 2$  transitions, in agreement with RMT [60].

## 2.4 Numerical Results

The numerical technique we use is the same as has been used before for the spinless kicked rotator [50, 51]. A combination of an iterative procedure for matrix inversion and the fast-Fourier-transform algorithm allows for an efficient calculation of the scattering matrix from the Floquet matrix.

The average conductance  $\langle G \rangle$  was calculated with the Landauer formula (2.15) by averaging over 60 different uniformly distributed quasi-energies and 40 randomly chosen lead positions. The quantum correction  $\langle \delta G \rangle$  is obtained by subtracting the classical conductance  $G_0$ . The numerical data is shown in Figs. 2.2 and 2.3. The magnetic field parameter  $\theta_0$  is given in units of  $\theta_c$  from Eq. (2.24b) and the spin-orbit coupling strength parameter  $K_{\text{so}}$  is given in units of  $K_c$  from Eq. (2.32b). The solid lines are the analytical predictions (2.24), (2.32), and (2.34) without any fitting parameter.

The small difference between the data and the predictions can be at-

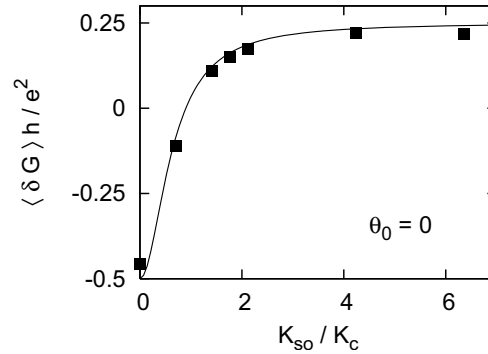


**Figure 2.2.** Average quantum correction  $\langle \delta G \rangle$  to the conductance as a function of the  $\mathcal{T}$ -symmetry breaking parameter  $\theta_0$ . The data points are for the symplectic kicked rotator characterized by  $K = 41$ ,  $M = 500$ ,  $N_1 = N_2 = 10$ ,  $l_0 = 0.2$ . The solid lines are the analytical predictions (2.24) and (2.34) in the absence and presence of spin-orbit coupling. The dotted lines are the solid lines with a vertical offset, to account for a difference between the predicted and actual value of the classical conductance  $G_0$ .

tributed to an uncertainty in the value  $G_0$  of the classical conductance. A small vertical offset (corresponding to a change in  $G_0$  of about 0.1%) can correct for this (dotted lines in Fig. 2.2). The strongly non-Lorentzian lineshape seen by Rahav and Brouwer [52, 53] in the spinless kicked rotator is not observed here.

## 2.5 Conclusion

We have presented a numerically highly efficient model of transport through a chaotic ballistic quantum dot with spin-orbit coupling, extending the earlier work on the spinless kicked rotator. Through a simple assumption of



**Figure 2.3.** Average quantum correction  $\langle \delta G \rangle$  to the conductance as a function of spin-orbit coupling strength  $K_{so}$  at zero magnetic field. Other parameters are the same as in Fig. 2.2. The solid line is the analytical prediction (2.32) for the crossover from weak localization to weak anti-localization.

a random Floquet matrix we have derived analytical predictions for the conductance of the model as a function of spin-orbit coupling strength and magnetic field. The functional form of the conductance coincides with random-matrix theory (RMT) and through this correspondence we obtain a mapping from microscopic parameters to model parameters. Numerical calculations are in good agreement with the analytical predictions.

In this chapter we have applied the model in a parameter regime where the transport properties of the system are analytically known through RMT, in order to test the validity of the model. In future work this model may provide a starting point for studies of transport properties in parameter regimes where RMT is known to break down. In certain cases, for example in the study of the effect of a finite Ehrenfest time on weak anti-localization, very large system sizes are required (cf. Refs. 52 and 53). An efficient dynamical model, as the one presented in this chapter, is then a valuable tool.

