Time-dependent Landauer-Büttiker approach to charge pumping in ac-driven graphene nanoribbons

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We apply the recently developed partition-free time-dependent Landauer-Büttiker (TD-LB) formalism to the study of periodically driven transport in graphene nanoribbons (GNRs). When an ac driving is applied, this formalism can be used to prove generic conditions for the existence of a nonzero dc component of the net current (pump current) through the molecular device. Time-reversal symmetry breaking in the driving field is investigated and found to be insufficient for a nonzero pump current. We then derive explicit formulas for the current response to a particular biharmonic bias. We calculate the pump current through different GNR configurations and find that the sign and existence of a nonzero pump current can be tuned by simple alterations to the static parameters of the TD bias. Furthermore, we investigate transient currents in different GNR configurations. We find a selection rule of even and odd harmonic response signals depending on a broken dynamical inversion symmetry in the bias

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I. INTRODUCTION

Active electronic circuit components can now be fabricated on the nanoscale. These components typically consist of a molecular structure coupled to two or more conducting leads with an applied field that creates a net drift of electrons across the structure. The motivation for ever smaller transistors and wires lies in the available speedup arising from both nanometer-size and terahertz (THz) intramolecular transport processes [1]. Subsequent to the initial proposal of molecular rectification [2], chemical fabrication techniques have led to the realization of many interesting devices, including single-electron transistors [3,4], molecular wires [5,6], frequency doublers and detectors [7,8], and switches for fast memory storage [9,10].

The fabrication of molecular devices has caused recent experimental work to increasingly focus on dynamical properties of nanojunctions. The basic question of this field is to determine the ac current response to an external periodic electromagnetic field causing electronic excitations in the gigahertz- (GHz-) THz frequency range [11-15]. A phenomenon known as photon-assisted tunneling in which irradiated tunnel junctions acquire additional peaks in their conductance spectra has been experimentally demonstrated as an additional transport channel in a variety of structures, beginning with tunneling between oxide films in superconductors in 1962 [16]. These systems may find applications in frequency-sensitive detectors [17,18]. In Ohmic conductors, a bias that averages to zero over the driving signal time period will always produce a zero average current. However, when the current response to the applied bias is nonlinear, it is possible for an external periodic field to have a vanishing integral over its time period and still induce a directed current. The mechanism behind this phenomenon is similar to one known in the engineering literature as ac-dc conversion or rectification. In the quantum transport literature, nanoscale structures are known as quantum pumps if they possess periodically varying parameters that result in a net directed current, and the phenomenon of ac-dc conversion itself is known as charge pumping [19–21]. Quantum pumps can be created by the breaking of dynamical symmetries in the driving bias [22–24] in addition to adiabatically varying the physical parameters of the nanojunction [21,25]. Experimental demonstrations of two-parameter charge pumping have been carried out [26–28]. Recent theoretical work has demonstrated the possibility of single-parameter charge pumping in which a single periodic source may be used to generate a pump current [29–33]. These predictions were confirmed experimentally for the low-GHz frequency range in nanowires etched into semiconductor heterostructures [34–37].

When modeling electron transport through molecular devices in response to an external time-dependent field, a trade-off is always made between accuracy and computational time involved [38]. This trade-off becomes increasingly important as one moves from quantum dots to molecules with more complex electronic structures.

In principle, calculations of time-dependent electron transport should take into account the many-body nature of electron-electron and electron-phonon interactions [39]. However, in many systems of technological interest, it is possible to neglect explicit Coulombic interactions and work within an effectively ballistic transport regime. The most popular framework for the study of ballistic transport has been the Landauer-Büttiker formalism, which constructs transport quantities from scattering state solutions of electron wave packets propagating through the molecular device [40,41]. This was initially a steady-state theory, but it has been generalized in recent years to describe systems driven by periodically varying fields [42] and voltage pulses [43].

The present authors have contributed to a *partition-free* time-dependent Landauer-Büttiker (TD-LB) approach based on the nonequilibrium Green's function (NEGF) formalism [44–47]. In a partition-free transport setup the subsystems are prepared in equilibrium with each other before a bias is added to the electronic energies in the leads [48]. This is in contrast to the so-called *partitioned* switch-on approach [49–51] where the subsystems are suddenly brought into contact. For ballistic

transport the two approaches always give the same values of the current in the limit of long times after the switch on [48].

The TD-LB method neglects the electronic structure of the leads in the so-called wide-band limit approximation (WBLA) thus enabling an exact solution of the Kadanoff-Baym equations for all Green's functions of the molecular region. Initially, the partition-free approach was developed for constant bias switch-on processes [44,45] before it was generalized to the case of an arbitrarily time-dependent driving bias [46,47]. In the latter work, solutions were given for all Green's functions of the molecular region on the two-time plane. We note that, in the transient regime following the voltage quench, the partitioned and partition-free approaches yield a different current. However, recent work [52] indicates that, within the WBLA, it is always possible to simulate the results of a partition-free switch on within the partitioned approach of Jauho et al. [51].

A popular method for treating periodically driven quantum systems is the Floquet scattering matrix approach [22,30]. An explicit relation between the NEGF and Floquet formalisms excluding many-body interactions has been found in Ref. [53]. This relation has been used to formulate and efficiently solve the equations of motion for the Green's function for both charge and energy transport in ac-driven quantum systems [31,54–56] and was applied very recently to a similar graphene setup as in the present paper [57]. We emphasize that, in the formalism of the present paper, no assumptions need to be made about the periodicity of the bias voltage. The Floquet formalism focuses on long-time dynamics, but increasingly studies have focused on the short-time transient current response to a sudden quench described by a change in the Hamiltonian of the system at some special switch-on time t_0 . This change could involve a partitioned or a partition-free switch-on process discussed above.

Within noninteracting models, several numerical timepropagation schemes have been developed that go beyond the WBLA. However, these methods scale with the number of time steps N_t (to different powers) [58] and therefore can become very expensive for large molecular structures. By contrast, the TD-LB formalism used in this paper scales with the system size as N_s^2 but does not scale at all with N_t since all transport quantities are expressed as exact "single-shot" functions of the time. This enables a trivial parallelization of the calculation of the time-dependent current as the different single-shot calculations can be distributed over the machine cores with no need to share information between them [59]. So far, this formalism has been successfully applied to calculations of currents and populations in superconducting junctions [60], molecular wires [61,62], graphene nanoribbons (GNRs) [45,63], and double quantum dot [64] systems for a variety of different time-dependent biases. Recently, this formalism was extended to calculations of the transient current noise in extended molecular structures for which the two-time Green's functions are essential [47].

Even though *stationary* charge pumping in graphene-based systems has been studied both experimentally [65,66] and theoretically [67–71], the *transient regime* [72,73] has remained fairly unexplored. In the present paper, we will therefore apply the TD-LB formalism to the study of charge pumping in GNRs driven by periodic fields in both the transient and the long-time

regimes. In Sec. II A, the TD-LB theory we will use is outlined, and then in Sec. II B it is applied to the problem of charge pumping in a generic molecular junction. We then outline the conditions needed to generate a finite net current across the system purely by tuning parameters of the driving bias. This set of conditions is referred to as the quantum pump symmetry theorem. Moving on to the actual implementation of the theory in Sec. III, we choose an appropriate bias to investigate the dependence of the long-time pumped current on dynamical symmetry breaking in both zigzag (zGNR) and armchair (aGNR) configurations. Following this, we present for these configurations fully time-dependent calculations of the current in response to a simple sinusoidal driving field.

II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

A. The Hamiltonian and the NEGF

The theory of the NEGF is concerned with the calculation of ensemble averages in response to a bias switch-on event at time t_0 . These ensemble averages are propagated along the so-called Konstantinov-Perel' (KP) contour γ , which contains two horizontal branches C_-, C_+ running from t_0 to t and t to t_0 , respectively. It also includes a vertical branch C_M running in the imaginary time direction from t_0 to $t_0 - i\beta$, where β is the inverse temperature of the system. The latter propagation in imaginary time is mathematically isomorphic to a thermal averaging. In what follows, the variable z is used to refer to generic contour times, and it is therefore necessary to specify a generic Hamiltonian for all values that z takes along the KP contour:

$$\hat{H}(z) = \sum_{k\alpha\sigma} \varepsilon_{k\alpha}(z) \hat{d}^{\dagger}_{k\alpha\sigma} \hat{d}_{k\alpha\sigma} + \sum_{mn\sigma} h_{mn}(z) \hat{d}^{\dagger}_{m\sigma} \hat{d}_{n\sigma} + \sum_{m,k\alpha\sigma} [T_{mk\alpha}(z) \hat{d}^{\dagger}_{m\sigma} \hat{d}_{k\alpha\sigma} + T_{k\alpha m}(z) \hat{d}^{\dagger}_{k\alpha\sigma} \hat{d}_{m\sigma}]. (1)$$

The first term in this expression corresponds to the Hamiltonians describing the individual reservoirs/leads where the index α is used to label leads and k labels the kth lead eigenstate. The second term corresponds to the Hamiltonian of the molecular structure with indices n and m labeling molecular eigenstates. The final term describes the coupling of the leads and the central system with the corresponding matrix elements $T_{m,k\alpha}$, and σ denotes the spin degree of freedom of the electrons. The objects $\hat{d}_{k\alpha\sigma}$, $\hat{d}_{m\sigma}$ and $\hat{d}_{k\alpha\sigma}^{\dagger}$, $\hat{d}_{m\sigma}^{\dagger}$ are annihilation and creation operators of the leads and the central system.

The i, jth component of the one-particle Green's function on the KP contour is defined on the molecular basis as follows:

$$G_{ij}(z_1, z_2) = -i \frac{\text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta \hat{H}^{M}} \hat{T}_{\gamma} [\hat{d}_{i, H}(z_1) \hat{d}_{j, H}^{\dagger}(z_2)] \right]}{\text{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta \hat{H}^{M}} \right]}.$$
 (2)

In this expression, the contour arguments z_1 and z_2 can be chosen to lie anywhere on γ , corresponding to a thermal average of pairs of creation/annihilation processes occurring both in and out of equilibrium. \hat{T}_{γ} orders operators (Heisenberg picture) later on the KP contour to the left, and $\hat{H}^{\rm M} = \hat{H} - \mu \hat{N}$ is the Matsubara Hamiltonian describing the equilibrium system. Various components of the Green's function with useful physical meanings are defined by specifying the contour

times, for example, the lesser Green's function $G^{<}(t_1,t_2)$ may be obtained by choosing $z_1 \in C_-$ and $z_2 \in C_+$.

To describe the switch on of a bias within a partition-free approach, we assume that the lead-molecule coupling terms $T_{m,k\alpha}$ are present for the system both in and out of equilibrium, i.e., they are present for all values of z on the KP contour. In the time-dependent Hamiltonian previously studied within the TD-LB formalism, we assumed that the lead energies $\varepsilon_{k\alpha}(z)$ are contained in the following "block" of the Hamiltonian energy matrix:

$$[\mathbf{h}_{\alpha\alpha}(z)]_{kk'} = \begin{cases} [\varepsilon_{k\alpha} + V_{\alpha}(t)]\delta_{kk'}, & z \equiv t \in C_{-} \oplus C_{+}, \\ (\varepsilon_{k\alpha} - \mu)\delta_{kk'}, & z \in C_{M}. \end{cases}$$
(3)

Here, $V_{\alpha}(t)$ is an external bias applied to the leads of the nanojunction. Finally, the energies of the molecular structure Hamiltonian are allowed to be shifted by a spatially homogeneous time-dependent field V_C and a spatially local time-independent term u_{mn} ,

$$[\mathbf{h}_{CC}(z)]_{mn} = \begin{cases} h_{mn} + u_{mn} + V_C(t)\delta_{mn}, & z \in C_- \oplus C_+, \\ h_{mn} - \mu\delta_{mn}, & z \in C_M. \end{cases}$$

In what follows, we will set $u_{mn} = 0$ and $V_C(t) = 0$ as the effects of the latter kind of time dependence can be equivalently studied with a lead-independent term in the bias $V_{\alpha}(t)$ [62]. In this case, one can reexpress the Kadanoff-Baym equations for the different Green's-function components in terms of an effective non-Hermitian Hamiltonian [39],

$$\boldsymbol{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}} \equiv \boldsymbol{h}_{CC} - \frac{i}{2} \sum_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha},$$
 (5)

whose eigenvalues correspond to unstable eigenmodes of the molecular structure. These eigenmodes have a finite lifetime due to the presence of the level width matrix, which is defined in terms of the lead-molecule coupling,

$$[\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha}]_{mn}(\omega) = 2\pi \sum_{k} T_{m,k\alpha} \delta(\omega - \varepsilon_{k\alpha}) T_{k\alpha,n}, \qquad (6)$$

and assumed to be energy independent in accordance with the WBLA, i.e., it is evaluated at the Fermi energy of lead α . In terms of this effective Hamiltonian, we then may derive the following exact expression for the greater/lesser Green's functions [61]:

$$G_{CC}^{\geqslant}(t_1, t_2) = \mp i \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} f[\mp(\omega - \mu)]$$

$$\times \sum_{\alpha} \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}(t_1, t_0; \omega) \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha} \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(t_2, t_0; \omega), \qquad (7)$$

where we have defined the matrices S_{α} as follows:

$$\mathbf{S}_{\alpha}(t,t_{0};\omega) \equiv e^{-i\mathbf{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}}(t-t_{0})} [\mathbf{G}_{CC}^{\text{r}}(\omega) - i\mathbf{K}_{\alpha}(t,t_{0};\omega)]. \tag{8}$$

In this expression, we have defined the frequency-dependent retarded Green's function,

$$\boldsymbol{G}_{CC}^{\mathrm{r}}(\omega) = (\omega 1_{CC} - \boldsymbol{h}_{CC}^{\mathrm{eff}})^{-1}, \tag{9}$$

whose Hermitian conjugate is the advanced component $G_{CC}^{a}(\omega)$ [39,74,75]. In addition, we introduce the matrix

object,

$$\boldsymbol{K}_{\alpha}(t,t_{0};\omega) = \int_{t_{0}}^{t} d\bar{t} \, e^{-i(\omega \mathbf{1}_{CC} - \boldsymbol{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}})(\bar{t} - t_{0})} e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(\bar{t},t_{0})}. \tag{10}$$

Here, the time-dependent bias $V_{\alpha}(t)$ of lead α enters into Eq. (8) only via the phase factors,

$$\psi_{\alpha}(t_1, t_2) \equiv \int_{t_2}^{t_1} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}(\tau), \tag{11}$$

in the integrand of the K_{α} matrix. The time integrals in Eq. (8) can therefore often be removed analytically. The current in lead α is defined in terms of a particle number derivative,

$$I_{\alpha}(t) \equiv q \left\langle \frac{d\hat{N}_{\alpha}(t)}{dt} \right\rangle,$$
 (12)

where q is the electron charge and a factor of 2 is included in the particle number to account for spin degeneracy. From this definition, one can derive the following rather compact expression for the current (with the convention q=-1) [46,61]:

$$I_{\alpha}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega f(\omega - \mu) \text{Tr}_{C}$$

$$\times \left[2 \operatorname{Re}[i e^{i\omega(t - t_{0})} e^{i\psi_{\alpha}(t, t_{0})} \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}(t, t_{0}; \omega) \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha}] \right]$$

$$- \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} \mathbf{S}_{\beta}(t, t_{0}; \omega) \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta} \mathbf{S}_{\beta}^{\dagger}(t, t_{0}; \omega) \right]. \tag{13}$$

We note in passing that, whereas both time arguments in Eq. (8) are needed to calculate current correlations [47], for the first moment of the current only the single-time lesser Green's function is needed, corresponding to the second term in Eq. (13).

B. Symmetry conditions on a pump current

It is sometimes possible to induce a nonequilibrium process that breaks the spatial symmetry of current flow by introducing a term in the Hamiltonian that breaks time-reversal (TR) symmetry. Choosing $\Omega_{\alpha}=\Omega_{D}=\Omega_{\beta}$ to be the fundamental driving frequency of the periodic signal in the leads, we now define the pump current (also referred to as the dc component of the current in the literature [22,31]) at time τ after the switch-on time,

$$I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})}(\tau) \equiv \frac{\Omega_D}{2\pi} \int_{\tau}^{\tau + (2\pi/\Omega_D)} dt [I_{\alpha}(t) - I_{\beta}(t)]. \tag{14}$$

There may be conditions under which a finite pumping current exists in the transient regime following the switch on but not in the steady-state limit when transient modes in the current have decayed to zero. We would like to define general conditions under which this is *not* true, i.e., we wish to investigate *stable* quantum pumps generated by dynamical driving fields satisfying the following condition:

$$\lim_{t_0 \to -\infty} I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})}(\tau) \neq 0. \tag{15}$$

We work in the long-time limit because in this limit the charge pumped per cycle should have settled into a steady-state value. In this limit, it was shown in Ref. [46] that the long-time current can be expressed as

$$\lim_{t_0 \to -\infty} I_{\alpha}(t) = \lim_{t_0 \to -\infty} \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega \ f(\omega - \mu) \operatorname{Tr}_{C} \left\{ 2 \operatorname{Re} \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha} e^{i(\omega \mathbf{1}_{CC} - \mathbf{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}})(t - t_0)} e^{i\psi_{\alpha}(t, t_0)} \mathbf{K}_{\alpha}(t, t_0; \omega) - e^{-i\mathbf{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}}(t - t_0)} \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha} \sum_{\gamma} \mathbf{K}_{\gamma}(t, t_0; \omega) \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\gamma} \mathbf{K}_{\gamma}^{\dagger}(t, t_0; \omega) e^{i(\mathbf{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}})^{\dagger}(t - t_0)} \right\}.$$
(16)

We now impose that the bias driving the system is periodic with a basic driving frequency of Ω_D ,

$$V_{\alpha}(t) = V_{\alpha} \left(t + \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_D} \right). \tag{17}$$

We then can show that the phase factor of the bias is periodic and can therefore be represented as a Fourier series with undetermined coefficients,

$$e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(t,-\infty)} = \exp\left(-i\int_{-\infty}^{t-(2\pi/\Omega_D)} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}(\tau)\right)$$
$$= \sum_{n} c_n^{\alpha} e^{-in\Omega_D t}. \tag{18}$$

Here, we introduce the Fourier coefficient,

$$c_n^{\alpha} = \frac{\Omega_D}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi/\Omega_D} dt \, e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(t,-\infty)} e^{in\Omega_D t}.$$
 (19)

If, in addition, the bias is TR symmetric $V_{\alpha}(t) = V_{\alpha}(-t)$, then the phase factor satisfies another useful property in the long-time regime,

$$e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(t,-\infty)} = \exp\left(i\int_{-\infty}^{-t} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}(\tau)\right) \exp\left(i\int_{\infty}^{-\infty} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}(\tau)\right)$$
$$= \left[e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(-t,-\infty)}\right]^{*}. \tag{20}$$

Thus, from the identity (18) we conclude that the Fourier coefficients must satisfy the property,

$$c_n^{\alpha} = c_n^{\alpha *} \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{21}$$

Thus, any bias which breaks TR symmetry leads to a phase with complex Fourier coefficients $c_n^{\alpha} = |c_n^{\alpha}| e^{i\phi_{\alpha}^{(n)}}$.

In Appendix A, we use this property along with Eq. (18) to prove a general result, which we refer to as the *quantum pump* symmetry theorem:

If (i) $V_{\alpha}(t)$ and/or $V_{\beta}(t)$ is given by a sum of more than one harmonic with frequencies that are all integer multiples of Ω_D , (ii) in at least one of the leads, TR symmetry is broken in at least one of the harmonics, and (iii) the voltages satisfy $V_{\alpha}(t) \neq V_{\beta}(t)$, then there is a nonzero net pump current running between the α and the β leads.

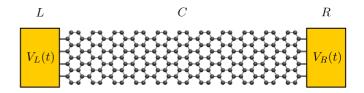
Out of conditions (i)–(iii), condition (iii) of this theorem is the only *necessary* condition for a pump current to exist as there can be no pump current if the bias in each lead is identical. The additional satisfaction of conditions (i) and (ii) together with (iii) constitutes a *sufficient* but *unnecessary* condition for the existence of a nonzero pump current, i.e., the stronger statement that the existence of a nonzero pump current requires (i) and (ii) to hold in addition to (iii) is not true. A pump current could exist, for instance, if TR symmetry was broken in one of the leads without the additional assumption that the relation (A11) holds, which would be true if, e.g., the amplitude of the driving signal was different in each lead. This quantum pump

symmetry theorem however gives experimentalists a means of generating a net current per driving cycle with zero net bias per cycle and with no difference in the amplitude of driving signals across the terminals of a nanodevice. It should also be noted that, in the so-called quantum ratchet effect, spatial asymmetry of the junction in addition to a periodic driving is used to generate a pumped current [23], but according to the quantum pump symmetry theorem proven here, the system may be completely spatially symmetric so that $\Gamma_{\alpha} = \Gamma_{\beta}$ and still there will be a reliable rectified current if the purely dynamical conditions (i)–(iii) of this theorem are satisfied. Calculations of the pump current through such a spatially symmetric system will be presented in Sec. III.

III. RESULTS

A. Transport setup

We investigate ac transport in two representative graphene structures, see Fig. 1. In the transport setup the central devices (C) are GNRs, and they are similar in length (\sim 4 nm), width $(\sim 1 \text{ nm})$, and in the number of carbon atoms (~ 200) . The difference is in the orientation of the GNR, one having armchair edges in the transport direction, while the other possesses zigzag edges. The leftmost atoms are connected to the left lead (L), whereas the rightmost atoms are connected to the right lead (R). The structures are modeled in the tight-binding framework with a nearest-neighbor hopping $t_C = 2.7 \text{ eV}$. From now on, we express all the energies in units of t_C . We wish to keep the tight-binding energy spectrum electron-hole symmetric, and we only include the first nearest-neighbours; however, the second- and third-nearest- neighbours could be included with the same computational cost [76]. As stressed in the previous section, we work in the partition-free setup



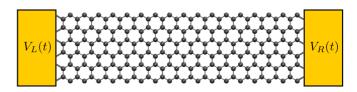


FIG. 1. Graphene nanoribbons studied in the ac transport simulations. Top: armchair edges longitudinally (transport direction); bottom: zigzag edges longitudinally.

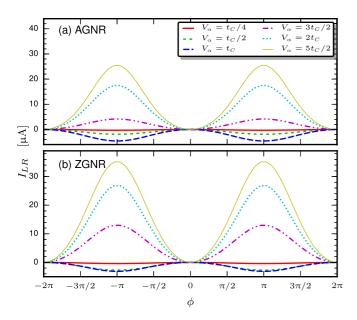


FIG. 2. Pump current versus the phase difference in (a) armchair and (b) zigzag graphene nanoribbons with varying bias strengths.

where the central region is being initially coupled to the lead environment. The global equilibrium temperature is set with $(k_{\rm B}T)^{-1}=100/t_{\rm C}$, and, with the symmetric energy spectrum, we also set the chemical potential at $\mu=0$. The coupling strength between the central region and the leads is included in the resonance width $\Gamma=\Gamma_L+\Gamma_R=t_C/40$ which

corresponds to a weak-coupling regime where the WBLA is a good approximation [77].

B. Nonzero pump current with zero net driving

We now wish to simulate the general result shown in Sec. II. We take the periodic bias profile for lead α to be of the form

$$V_{\alpha}(t) = V_{\alpha} + A_{\alpha}^{(1)} \cos(p_1 \Omega_D t + \phi_{\alpha}) + A_{\alpha}^{(2)} \cos(p_2 \Omega_D t),$$
(22)

where V_{α} is a constant shift of the energy levels, $A_{\alpha}^{(1),(2)}$ are the amplitudes of the first- and second-harmonic driving, Ω_D is the frequency of the driving, and ϕ_{α} is the phase shift of the first harmonic. This profile is periodic in $T \equiv \Omega_D/(2\pi)$ as in $V_{\alpha}(t+T) = V_{\alpha}(t)$. Formulas for the time-dependent current and pump current corresponding to this choice of bias are presented in Appendix C.

In Fig. 2 we plot the left-right pump current I_{LR} versus the phase difference $\phi \equiv |\phi_L - \phi_R|$ with varying bias strengths. To emphasize the dependence on ϕ alone, we choose the frequencies of the two harmonics in Eq. (22) to be equal $p_1 = 1 = p_2$. We take the oscillation amplitude to be half of the constant bias shift $A_{\alpha}^{(1)} = A_{\alpha}^{(2)} = V_{\alpha}/2$ and the oscillation frequency to be $\Omega_D = t_C$. We clearly observe the condition for zero pump current when $\phi = 0, \pm 2n\pi$ for integer n, and the maximal values are obtained when $\phi = \pm n\pi$. In addition, the curves are symmetric around $\phi = 0$. This can be understood by choosing all parameters in Eq. (C11) to be lead independent with the exception of the phase in which case one obtains the following pump current for the two-lead system:

$$I_{LR}^{(pump)} = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{j,k} \sum_{r,r',s,s'} \delta_{ss}^{rr'}(p_{i}) J_{r} \left(\frac{A^{(1)}}{p_{1}\Omega_{D}}\right) J_{r} \left(\frac{A^{(2)}}{p_{1}\Omega_{D}}\right) J_{s} \left(\frac{A^{(2)}}{p_{2}\Omega_{D}}\right) J_{s'} \left(\frac{A^{(2)}}{p_{2}\Omega_{D}}\right)$$

$$\times \frac{\langle \varphi_{k}^{R} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{L} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle \langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{R} | \varphi_{k}^{L} \rangle + \langle \varphi_{k}^{R} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{R} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle \langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{L} | \varphi_{k}^{L} \rangle}{\langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle \langle \varphi_{k}^{R} | \varphi_{k}^{L} \rangle \langle \bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*} \rangle} \left[e^{-i(r-r')\phi_{L}} - e^{-i(r-r')\phi_{R}} \right]$$

$$\times \left[\Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu - V - \Omega_{D}(p_{1}r + p_{2}s)] \right) - \Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*} - \mu - V - \Omega_{D}(p_{1}r' + p_{2}s')] \right) \right]. \tag{23}$$

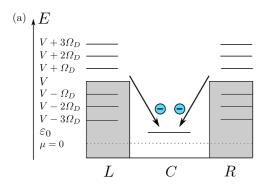
Note the similarity of this formula to the generic case in Eq. (A10), and in particular note how the phase difference $[e^{-i(r-r')\phi_L} - e^{-i(r-r')\phi_R}]$ has an identical structure to Eq. (A13). The presence of the function $\delta_{ss'}^{rr'}(p_i)$ guarantees that there is no pump current without a second harmonic in any lead (i.e., when $A_{\gamma}^{(2)} = 0$ for all γ) as in this case the summations over s,s' vanish and r=r'. Also, we note that from the relation.

$$e^{-i(r-r')\phi_L} - e^{-i(r-r')\phi_R} \propto -2i \sin\left((r-r')\frac{\phi}{2}\right),$$
 (24)

it is evident that the pump current in this system must be zero when $\phi = 0, \pm 2n\pi$ for integer n and that it possesses maximal values when $\phi_{LR} = \pm n\pi$. This behavior differs qualitatively from the dependence on a phase difference δ between oscillating parameters in standard treatments of double parametric quantum pumping [31]. In these approaches

the pumped current is usually proportional to $\sin(\delta)$ and is therefore asymmetric about its zero points, which occur at multiples of $\pm\pi$. As the formula for $I_{LR}^{(pump)}$ must be unchanged under the exchange of indices $r\leftrightarrow r'$, the expression (24) also implies that the pump current is unchanged upon reversal of sign $\phi\leftrightarrow -\phi$. Both these facts are reflected in the pump current characteristics of Fig. 2.

Interestingly, we also find that the pump current changes sign as the applied bias crosses the value $V_{\alpha} = t_C$. For single-level transport, i.e., when the molecular Hamiltonian is equal to the level energy $h_{CC}^{\rm eff} \equiv \varepsilon_0 - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma$, this sign reversal can be explained with a simple particle-hole symmetry argument [78], illustrated schematically in Fig. 3 with $\varepsilon_0 = 1$. Due to the periodic driving in the leads, transport channels are opened up between the dot energy and various photon-assisted sidebands, which occur with a weighting given by some product of Bessel functions appearing in the summation of Eq. (A10). When V >



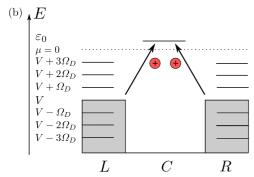


FIG. 3. Single-level schematic: electron transfer processes in the (a) $V > \varepsilon_0$ case are replaced by hole transfer processes in the (b) $V < \varepsilon_0$ case following inversion of the bias about the dot energy.

 ε_0 , shown in Fig. 3(a), electrons tunnel from the sidebands onto the level, crossing an energy gap of $|\mu + V + n\Omega_D - \varepsilon_0|$. When $V < \varepsilon_0$, shown in Fig. 3(b), electron tunneling processes are replaced by corresponding oppositely charged hole transfer processes with an energy gap of $-|\varepsilon_0 + \mu - V - n\Omega_D|$. These processes occur with the same weighting in the transmission as correspondent electron transfer processes in the $V > \varepsilon_0$ case as can be seen by evaluating the particle/hole populations for each ordering of V and ε_0 [78]. This argument may be extended to the graphene structures studied in the present paper if we note that the density of states for each structure has a pronounced peak (a van Hove singularity) at t_C . The situation is almost as if we had only one dominant energy level at $E = t_C$, and when the bias strength is close in energy with the resonant level the pump current changes sign. We note that analogous bias-dependent current sign switching about a point of symmetry in the GNR energy spectrum was observed experimentally in Ref. [65].

In Fig. 4 we display plots of the ϕ -dependent pump current in the different GNRs where the frequency ratio p_2/p_1 is allowed to vary. We choose the fixed bias shift $V_{\alpha} = 3t_C/2$ with all the other parameters as in Fig. 2. The current is plotted on a logarithmic scale as the presence of higher-frequency modes causes suppression of high-order Bessel functions in the summation of Eq. (23). In all cases displayed, the second harmonic in Eq. (22) drives the system with a frequency that is a multiple of the frequency of the first harmonic. This causes additional nodes to form at $\pm n2\pi/p_2$ in the phase-dependent pump current, corresponding to "off" states of the electric signal. Formally, this is because the phase dependence is coupled to p_2 through the presence of the generalized Kronecker $\delta_{ss}^{rr'}(p_i)$ in Eq. (23). The definition of this object

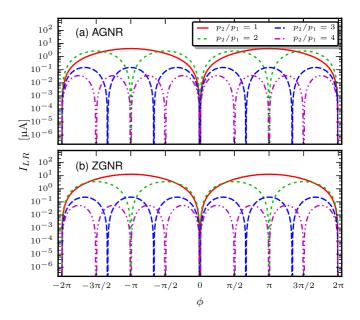


FIG. 4. Pump current versus the phase difference in (a) armchair and (b) zigzag graphene nanoribbons with different values of the frequency ratio p_2/p_1 , where $p_1 = 1$.

Eq. (C12) implies that we can make the replacement $r - r' \rightarrow -p_2(s-s')$ everywhere in Eq. (23) and therefore in the phase-dependent factor (24) so that the nodes of the pump current appear when $p_2(s'-s)\phi/2 = \pm n\pi$. This complex switching behavior provides experimentalists with a larger parameter space for the generation of off states in a GNR-based switch.

In Fig. 5 we also show how the pump current through the GNRs at a certain phase difference and bias strength depends on the driving frequency for $\Omega_D/t_C \ge 0.1$. Verifying the observation in Fig. 2 also here we see how the curves with $V_\alpha = t_C$ and $V_\alpha = 3t_C/2$ are of opposite signs. Interestingly, we also observe the pump current changing its sign as a function of

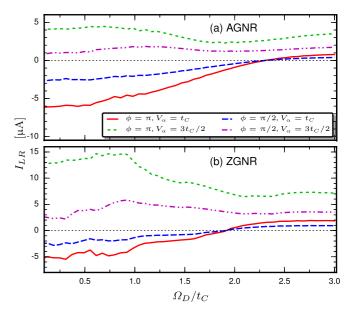


FIG. 5. Pump current versus the driving frequency in (a) armchair and (b) zigzag graphene nanoribbons with different bias and phase values.

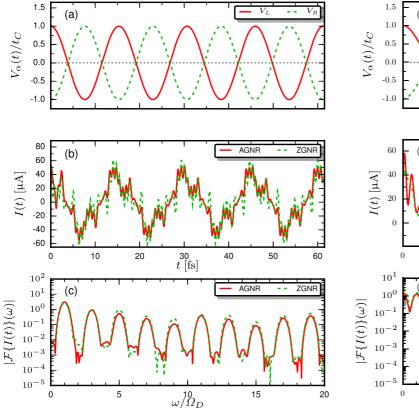


FIG. 6. Time-dependent response of the graphene nanoribbons to an odd-inversion-symmetric drive. (a) Time-dependent bias voltage profile, (b) transient current, and (c) Fourier transform of the transient current (arbitrary units).

the driving frequency. For instance, the pump current with $V_{\alpha} = t_C$ and $\phi = \pi/2, \pi$ becomes positive (for both armchair and zigzag geometries) with higher driving frequencies. The $\Omega_D \to 0$ limit of the pump current is discussed in Appendix B where it is shown to converge to zero at zero driving frequency. For different values of ϕ , the regime for driving frequencies that are small but still finite ($\Omega_D/t_C < 0.1$) may be explored by increasing the number of Bessel functions in the summations over r,r',s,s' until convergence is achieved.

C. High-harmonic response

Now we investigate the full time-dependent response of the GNRs to two different ac bias voltages. In contrast to the previous pump current calculations, now the bias profiles consist of a monoharmonic drive: $V_L(t) = V_0 + A \cos(\Omega_D t)$ and $V_R(t) = -V_L(t)$. In the following we consider the effects of odd-inversion symmetry of the bias profile with respect to half the period:

$$V_{\alpha}(t+T/2) = -V_{\alpha}(t). \tag{25}$$

By considering the Fourier series representation of this kind of bias, it is straightforward to show from the property (25) that all the even harmonics in the series vanish. In Fig. 6(a), we consider the current response to out-of-phase biases applied to each lead with constant term $V_0 = 0$. This bias profile satisfies the odd-inversion symmetry condition (25). The amplitude and the frequency of the oscillation are set, respectively, to $A = t_C$,

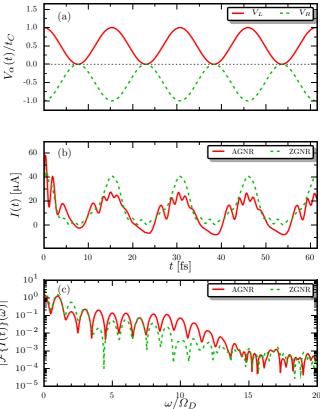


FIG. 7. Time-dependent response of the graphene nanoribbons to a broken-inversion-symmetric drive. (a) Time-dependent bias voltage profile, (b) transient current, and (c) Fourier transform of the transient current (arbitrary units).

 $\Omega_D = t_C/10 = 2\pi/T$ with period $T \approx 15$ fs. In Fig. 6(b) we show the transient current $I(t) \equiv [I_L(t) + I_R(t)]/2$ through the different GNR structures with the bias voltage profile of Fig. 6(a). Since our unit of energy is $\epsilon = 1$ eV, we have the conversions for the units of time and current by $t = \hbar/\epsilon \approx$ 6.58×10^{-16} s and $I = e\epsilon/\hbar \approx 2.43 \times 10^{-4}$ A, respectively. To study the response in more detail we take the absolute value of the Fourier transform (FT) of the time-dependent current signal, see Fig. 6(c). The FT is computed from an extended signal of the one shown in panel (b), and Blackman window filtering is used. The FT displays peaks at the odd harmonics of the basic driving frequency $\omega = (2n+1)\Omega_D$ up to very high-harmonic order. The appearance of odd harmonics only is due to the spectrum of the unbiased Hamiltonian being electron-hole symmetric and the odd-inversion symmetry of the applied ac bias profile. Physically, one may consider the picture in Fig. 3(a) with photon-assisted tunneling of electrons only permitted to occur from sidebands lying at odd multiples of Ω_D so that these are the resonant frequencies of the current. We note that the presence of these effects is indicative of a system operating far beyond the linear-response regime.

In the second case, we break the odd-inversion symmetry of the applied bias with a constant shift term, see Fig. 7(a). In this case we set $V_0 = t_C/2$ and $A = t_C/2$, and the driving frequency is chosen to be the same as in the first case. In Fig. 7(b) we show the transient behavior of the current with the on-off bias voltage profile in Fig. 7(a). Now, high harmonics

of even order will develop since we broke the odd-inversion symmetry of the applied bias voltage [79] and there is a nontrivial contribution to the current from photon-assisted sidebands occurring at even multiples of the fundamental driving frequency. Therefore, in addition to the odd harmonics in the previous case, we observe peaks [see Fig. 7(c)] at $\omega = 2n\Omega_D$ also up to very high harmonics. The appearance of the odd-even harmonics could also be controlled, e.g., by breaking the particle-hole symmetry of the unbiased Hamiltonian via second- and third-nearest-neighbor hoppings [80].

In this bias voltage range, no qualitative differences are found between the transient currents in the armchair and zigzag geometries, albeit certain peaks in the Fourier spectrum might be a little more pronounced, which is due to structure-specific lead-ribbon and intraribbon transitions: For instance, around $\omega=10\Omega_D=t_C$ the overall intensity of the harmonics is enhanced due to mixing with the intraribbon highest occupied molecular orbital-lowest unoccupied molecular orbital-like transitions. In both cases the time-dependent current [Figs. 6(b) and 7(b)] shows a rapid transient oscillation relaxing to a periodic steady-state-like solution on a time scale of about 10 fs. After this, a time-varying persistent oscillation is observed with a superimposed "ringing" feature due to the internal structure of the GNRs [46,51].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The time-dependent Landauer-Büttiker formalism was used to study charge pumping in a generic molecular junction, enabling fast simulation of the transient, nonadiabatic, and steady-state electron transport regimes for the same computational cost. It was shown via the quantum pump symmetry theorem that a nonzero net current across a nanojunction can

be generated purely by tuning the parameters of the driving

As an application of this theory we studied graphene nanoribbons driven by periodic fields in both the transient and the long-time regimes. We illustrated the consequences of the quantum pump symmetry theorem by choosing an appropriate bias to investigate the dependence of the long-time pumped current on dynamical symmetry breaking in different GNR configurations. The results of these calculations show that discrete on-off states of the current can be generated from analog waves, which has implications for the design of graphene-based GHz-THz frequency modulators [81], switches [82], and frequency detectors [83].

We also presented for these GNR configurations fully time-dependent calculations of the current in response to a simple sinusoidal driving field. By varying the inversion symmetry of the applied ac bias profiles, the current response *selectively* generates very high-order odd or even harmonics of the basic driving frequency. This will prove useful in the design of graphene-based switches or frequency detectors. Future work will involve an extension of the method presented here to calculations of the time-dependent current noise of GNRs and other two-dimensional materials [47].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: DETAILS OF THE QUANTUM PUMP SYMMETRY THEOREM

The bias in Eq. (17) can always be represented as a sum of N periodic terms with frequencies that are integer multiples of Ω_D ,

$$V_{\alpha}(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} V_{\alpha}^{(n)}(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} V_{\alpha}^{(n)} \left(t + \frac{2\pi}{p_n \Omega_D} \right), \tag{A1}$$

where p_n is an integer depending on the position n in the series. For example, the Fourier series of $V_{\alpha}(t)$ has the form of Eq. (A1) with $N \to \infty$ and with p_n ranging from minus to plus infinity. The trivial case of N = 1 and $p_1 = 1$ returns us to the basic periodic form (17), but it should be noted that, whereas the full signal $V_{\alpha}(t)$ has a time period of $\frac{2\pi}{\Omega_D}$, it does not have the periodicity $\frac{2\pi}{p_n\Omega_D}$ of its constituent terms. This allows us to study not only just the periodicity of the driving field, but also the decomposition of the driving field into harmonics of the fundamental driving frequency and the effect of the interplay of these harmonics on the pump current. With the representation of Eq. (A1), the exponential phase factor is a product of periodic functions,

$$e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(t,-\infty)} = \exp\left(-i\int_{-\infty}^{t} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}(\tau)\right) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \exp\left(-i\int_{-\infty}^{t} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}^{(n)}(\tau)\right) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \exp\left(-i\int_{-\infty}^{t-(2\pi/p_{n}\Omega_{D})} d\tau \ V_{\alpha}^{(n)}(\tau)\right). \tag{A2}$$

Each term in this product can therefore be expressed as a Fourier series as in Eq. (17),

$$e^{-i\psi_{\alpha}(t,-\infty)} = \sum_{m_1 \cdots m_N} c_{m_1}^{\alpha} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha} e^{-i\Omega_D(p_1 m_1 + p_2 m_2 + \dots + p_N m_N)t},$$
(A3)

where $c_{m_i}^{\alpha}$ are undetermined lead-dependent Fourier coefficients whose value depends upon the particular form of $V_{\alpha}^{(i)}(t)$. When we substitute Eq. (A3) into Eq. (16) and evaluate the time integrals, one obtains

$$\lim_{t_{0}\to-\infty}[I_{\alpha}(t)-I_{\beta}(t)] = \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega f(\omega-\mu) \sum_{\substack{m_{1},\ldots,m_{N}\\l_{1},\ldots,l_{N}}} \operatorname{Tr}_{C} \left(2\operatorname{Re}\left\{ i \left(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} c_{m_{1}}^{\alpha} c_{l_{1}}^{\alpha*} \cdots c_{m_{N}}^{\alpha} c_{l_{N}}^{\alpha*} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta} c_{m_{1}}^{\beta} c_{l_{1}}^{\beta*} \cdots c_{m_{N}}^{\beta} c_{l_{N}}^{\beta*} \right) \right.$$

$$\times e^{-i\Omega_{D}[p_{1}(m_{1}-l_{1})+\cdots+p_{N}(m_{N}-l_{N})]t} \boldsymbol{G}^{\mathbf{r}} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_{1}m_{1}+\cdots+p_{N}m_{N})]$$

$$-(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha}-\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta})c_{m_{1}}^{\gamma} c_{l_{1}}^{\gamma*} \cdots c_{m_{N}}^{\gamma} c_{l_{N}}^{\gamma*} e^{-i\Omega_{D}[p_{1}(m_{1}-l_{1})+\cdots+p_{N}(m_{N}-l_{N})]t} \boldsymbol{G}^{\mathbf{r}} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_{1}m_{1}+\cdots+p_{N}m_{N})]$$

$$\times \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\gamma} \boldsymbol{G}^{\mathbf{a}} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_{1}l_{1}+\cdots+p_{N}l_{N})] \right). \tag{A4}$$

Note that the expression (A4) is periodic with time period $2\pi/\Omega_D$ and therefore the long-time pump current can be evaluated over the integration range of $[0,2\pi/\Omega_D]$,

$$I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})} \equiv \lim_{l_0 \to -\infty} I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})}(\tau) = \frac{\Omega_D}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi/\Omega_D} dt \lim_{l_0 \to -\infty} [I_{\alpha}(t) - I_{\beta}(t)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega f(\omega - \mu) \sum_{\substack{m_1, \dots, m_N \\ l_1, \dots, l_N}} \delta_{m_i l_i}(N) \text{Tr}_C \left(2 \operatorname{Re} \left\{ i \left(\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha} c_{m_1}^{\alpha} c_{l_1}^{\alpha*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha} c_{l_N}^{\alpha*} - \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\beta} c_{m_1}^{\beta} c_{l_1}^{\beta*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\beta} c_{l_N}^{\beta*} \right) \right.$$

$$\times \mathbf{G}^{\text{r}} \left[\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N) \right] \right\} - (\mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha} - \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\beta}) \sum_{\gamma} c_{m_1}^{\gamma} c_{l_1}^{\gamma*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\gamma} c_{l_N}^{\gamma*}$$

$$\times \mathbf{G}^{\text{r}} \left[\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N) \right] \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\gamma} \mathbf{G}^{\text{a}} \left[\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N) \right] \right). \tag{A5}$$

Here we make the definition,

$$\delta_{m_i l_i}(N) \equiv \begin{cases} 1, & p_1(m_1 - l_1) + \dots + p_N(m_N - l_N) = 0, \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$
 (A6)

For instance, when N = 2, this can be written

$$\delta_{m_i l_i}(N) = \delta_{p_1 m_1, p_1 l_1} \delta_{p_2 m_2, p_2 l_2} + \delta_{p_1 m_1, p_2 l_2} \delta_{p_2 m_2, p_1 l_1} + \delta_{p_1 m_1, -p_2 m_2} \delta_{p_1 l_1, -p_2 l_2}. \tag{A7}$$

To simplify Eq. (A5), we use the identity,

$$G^{\mathsf{r}}(\omega + A) - G^{\mathsf{a}}(\omega + B) = G^{\mathsf{r}}(\omega + A)(B - A - i\Gamma)G^{\mathsf{a}}(\omega + B), \tag{A8}$$

thereby obtaining

$$I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega \, f(\omega - \mu) \sum_{\substack{m_1, \dots, m_N \\ l_1, \dots, l_N}} \delta_{m_i l_i}(N) \text{Tr}_C \Big[\Big(\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} c_{m_1}^{\alpha} c_{l_1}^{\alpha*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha} c_{l_N}^{\alpha*} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta} c_{m_1}^{\beta*} c_{l_1}^{\beta*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\beta} c_{l_N}^{\beta*} \Big)$$

$$\times (\boldsymbol{G}^{\text{r}} [\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N)] \{ \boldsymbol{\Gamma} - i [p_1 (m_1 - l_1) + \dots + p_N (m_N - l_N)] \} \boldsymbol{G}^{\text{a}} [\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N)] \}$$

$$- (\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta}) \sum_{\nu} c_{m_1}^{\nu} c_{l_1}^{\gamma*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\nu} c_{l_N}^{\gamma*} \boldsymbol{G}^{\text{r}} [\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N)] \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\gamma} \boldsymbol{G}^{\text{a}} [\omega + \Omega_D(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N)] \Big].$$
(A9)

Due to the presence of the generalized Kronecker function $\delta_{m_i l_i}(N)$, the second term on the second line of Eq. (A9) vanishes, and after some cancellations we arrive at the following:

$$I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int d\omega f(\omega - \mu) \sum_{\substack{m_1, \dots, m_N \\ l_1, \dots, l_N}} \delta_{m_i l_i}(N) \text{Tr}_{C} \left(\left(c_{m_1}^{\alpha} c_{l_1}^{\alpha*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha} c_{l_N}^{\alpha*} - c_{m_1}^{\beta} c_{l_1}^{\beta*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\beta} c_{l_N}^{\beta*} \right)$$

$$\times \left\{ \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{G}^{r} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N)] \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta} \boldsymbol{G}^{a} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N)] \right.$$

$$\left. + \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta} \boldsymbol{G}^{r} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N)] \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} \boldsymbol{G}^{a} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N)] \right) \right\}$$

$$\left. - (\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\beta}) \sum_{\gamma \neq \alpha, \beta} c_{m_1}^{\gamma*} c_{l_1}^{\gamma*} \cdots c_{m_N}^{\gamma} c_{l_N}^{\gamma*} \boldsymbol{G}^{r} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 m_1 + \dots + p_N m_N)] \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\gamma} \boldsymbol{G}^{a} [\omega + \Omega_{D}(p_1 l_1 + \dots + p_N l_N)] \right).$$
(A10)

We can immediately derive from Eq. (A10) some general rules for different numbers of harmonics. To focus on the effect of TR symmetry breaking, we assume that, for all terms except the jth, the coefficients in each lead are TR symmetric. The

*j*th harmonic in lead β is assumed TR symmetric and therefore real [by relation (21)], whereas the *j*th harmonic in lead α is assumed to break the TR symmetry, so it must be complex. We also assume that the coefficients of the *j*th harmonic have the same magnitude in each lead (i.e., that the *only* difference between harmonics in leads α and β is the broken TR symmetry of the latter) so that they are related by a multiplicative phase factor only

$$c_{m_i}^{\alpha} = c_{m_i}^{\beta} e^{i\phi_{m_j}^{\alpha}}.\tag{A11}$$

Finally we are in a position to prove some general results for different choices of N.

Let us first consider the case N = 1. In the single-harmonic case, coefficients of the different leads are related by a multiplicative phase factor, and so we obtain

$$\sum_{m_1,l_1} \left(c_{m_1}^{\alpha} c_{l_1}^{\alpha *} - c_{m_1}^{\beta} c_{l_1}^{\beta *} \right) \delta_{m_i l_i}(1) = \sum_{m_1} \left(|c_{m_1}^{\alpha}|^2 - |c_{m_1}^{\beta}|^2 \right) = 0.$$
(A12)

A pump current between leads α and β cannot be guaranteed in this case unless there are more than two electrodes [if there are just two, then the final term in Eq. (A10) is zero], and $\Gamma_{\alpha} \neq \Gamma_{\beta}$. For almost all systems of interest, therefore, N=1 implies $I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})}=0$.

Then, we have a look at the case of $N \neq 1$. If for all n_i 's, $c_{n_i}^{\alpha} = c_{n_i}^{\beta}$ then there would trivially be a zero pump current. However, the assumption (A11) means that one can write

$$(c_{m_1}^{\alpha}c_{l_1}^{\alpha*}\cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha}c_{l_N}^{\alpha*} - c_{m_1}^{\beta}c_{l_1}^{\beta*}\cdots c_{m_N}^{\beta}c_{l_N}^{\beta*}) = (c_{m_1}^{\alpha}c_{l_1}^{\alpha*}\cdots c_{m_{j-1}}^{\alpha}c_{l_{j-1}}^{\alpha*}c_{m_{j+1}}^{\alpha*}c_{l_{j+1}}^{\alpha*}\cdots c_{m_N}^{\alpha}c_{l_N}^{\alpha*})c_{m_j}^{\alpha}c_{l_j}^{\alpha*}(e^{i(\phi_{m_j}^{\alpha} - \phi_{l_j}^{\alpha})} - 1).$$
 (A13)

The generalized Kronecker $\delta_{m_i l_i}(N)$ does retain a term in which $m_j = l_j$ in which case the pump current vanishes, but it also returns a term which equals 1 when, for example, $p_j m_j = p_N l_N$ and $p_j l_j = p_N m_N$ as illustrated in the expansion (A7) for N = 2. This term will be finite, giving a nonzero pump current in general, and the proof of the quantum pump symmetry theorem is complete.

APPENDIX B: THE ADIABATIC LIMIT

As mentioned above, we can always choose the $V_{\alpha}^{(n)}(t)$ in Eq. (A1) to be sinusoidal (the $N \to \infty$ case) in which case the $c_{m_i}^{\alpha}$'s always can be replaced with a summation over Bessel functions of the first kind via the identity,

$$e^{ix \sin(z)} = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{\infty} J_r(x)e^{irz}.$$
 (B1)

In the sinusoidal series arising from the integral in Eq. (A2), the parameter x always has the dimension of an amplitude over a driving frequency $A_{\alpha}^{(n)}/\Omega_D$. Therefore to investigate the adiabatic limit $\Omega_D \to 0$ we can use the asymptotic expression for large x (see, e.g., Ref. [84]) $J_r(x) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \cos{(x - \frac{1}{2}r\pi - \frac{1}{4}\pi)}$ to conclude that the limiting value of the $c_{m_i}^{\alpha}$ for low frequencies is vanishing, i.e.,

$$\lim_{\Omega_{-}\to 0} c_{m_i}^{\alpha} = 0. \tag{B2}$$

This means that the adiabatic limit of the pump current is also vanishing,

$$\lim_{\Omega_D \to 0} I_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{(pump)}} = 0. \tag{B3}$$

This result is consistent with the prediction of Yuge et al. [25] for noninteracting systems that there is zero pump current when only the chemical potentials of the leads are adiabatically modulated in time.

APPENDIX C: DETAILS OF THE TD AND TIME-AVERAGED CALCULATIONS

We can remove all frequency integrals in Eq. (13) after expanding the Fermi function into a series expansion whose terms possess a simple pole structure [85],

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{e^{\beta x} + 1} = \frac{1}{2} - \lim_{N_p \to \infty} \sum_{l=1}^{N_p} \eta_l \left(\frac{1}{\beta x + i\zeta_l} + \frac{1}{\beta x - i\zeta_l} \right).$$
 (C1)

When the parameter values are $\eta_l = 1$ and $\zeta_l = \pi(2l-1)$, this is referred to as the Matsubara expansion, but one can also improve the convergence of this series for finite N_p by expressing the poles of the Fermi function as the solutions to an eigenproblem for a tridiagonal matrix [86–88] in the so-called Padé expansion.

To deal numerically with formulas containing the effective Hamiltonian h_{CC}^{eff} , we introduce the left and right eigenvectors,

$$\boldsymbol{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}} | \varphi_j^R \rangle = \bar{\varepsilon}_j | \varphi_j^R \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \varphi_j^L | \boldsymbol{h}_{CC}^{\text{eff}} = \bar{\varepsilon}_j \langle \varphi_j^L |.$$
 (C2)

All expressions containing the effective Hamiltonian can be recast into summations over left/right eigenvectors using the following idempotency relation:

$$\sum_{j} \frac{|\varphi_{j}^{R}\rangle\langle\varphi_{j}^{L}|}{\langle\varphi_{j}^{L}|\varphi_{j}^{R}\rangle} = 1 = \sum_{j} \frac{|\varphi_{j}^{L}\rangle\langle\varphi_{j}^{R}|}{\langle\varphi_{j}^{R}|\varphi_{j}^{L}\rangle}.$$
 (C3)

By inserting the expansion for the Fermi function in Eq. (13) and removing all frequency integrals, it is possible to evaluate exactly the time-dependent current in terms of a set of special functions. The first is the so-called *Hurwitz-Lerch transcendent* Φ [89],

$$\Phi(z,s,a) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{(n+a)^s}.$$
 (C4)

We will also use the *digamma function*, defined as the logarithmic derivative of the gamma function $\Psi(z) = d\Gamma(z)/dz$. The functions Φ and Ψ appear after we use the Matsubara parameters in Eq. (C1) and identify these special functions with the resulting infinite summations. They can be evaluated to arbitrary accuracy either by using an equivalent Padé expansion or by using known numerical routines [60,90,91]. We also define the following object as a series expansion:

$$\operatorname{cosech}\left(\frac{\pi}{\beta}(t_1 - t_2)\right)\Big|_{t_1 \neq t_2} \simeq 2\sum_{l=1}^{N_p} \eta_l [\theta(t_1 - t_2)e^{-(\zeta_l/\beta)(t_1 - t_2)} - \theta(t_2 - t_1)e^{-(\zeta_l/\beta)(t_2 - t_1)}],\tag{C5}$$

where this is set to zero when $t_1 = t_2$. For an arbitrary time-dependent bias, the function $\operatorname{cosech}(\frac{\pi}{\beta}(t_1 - t_2))|_{t_1 \neq t_2}$ may be implemented using either the Matsubara parameters or the Padé parameters as in Refs. [47,61]. We also note that the step function θ is defined by the midpoint convention. With these definitions, it is possible to expand the time-dependent current for an *arbitrary* time-dependent bias thus,

$$I_{\alpha}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{j} \left\{ \operatorname{Re} \left[2 \frac{\langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle}{\langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle} \left(-i e^{i \psi_{\alpha}(t, t_{0})} e^{-i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu)(t - t_{0})} \bar{\Phi}[t - t_{0}, \beta, -(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu)] \right) \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{i\pi}{\beta} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} d\tau \, e^{-i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu)(t - \tau)} e^{i \psi_{\alpha}(t, \tau)} \operatorname{cosech} \left[\frac{\pi}{\beta}(t - \tau) \right] \right|_{t \neq \tau} \right) \right]$$

$$\left. - \sum_{\gamma, k} \frac{\langle \varphi_{k}^{R} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\alpha} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle \langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\gamma} | \varphi_{k}^{L} \rangle}{\langle \varphi_{j}^{L} | \varphi_{j}^{R} \rangle \langle \varphi_{k}^{R} | \varphi_{k}^{L} \rangle} e^{-i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*})(t - t_{0})} \left[\frac{\Psi\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i}(\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*} - \mu)\right) - \Psi\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i}(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu)\right)}{\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*} - \bar{\varepsilon}_{j}} \right.$$

$$\left. + \int_{t_{0}}^{t} d\bar{t} \left\{ -i e^{-i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*} - \mu)(\bar{t} - t_{0})} e^{i\psi_{\beta}(\bar{t}, t_{0})} \bar{\Phi}[\bar{t} - t_{0}, \beta, -(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j} - \mu)] + \operatorname{c.c.}_{j \leftrightarrow k} \right\} + \frac{2\pi i}{\beta} I_{\gamma}(t, \beta, \mu, \bar{\varepsilon}_{j}, \bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*}) \right] \right\}. \tag{C6}$$

Here, we have defined the function,

$$I_{\gamma}(t,\beta,\mu,\bar{\varepsilon}_{j},\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_{0}}^{t} d\tau \int_{t_{0}}^{t} d\bar{\tau} \left. e^{i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{j}-\mu)(\tau-t_{0})} e^{-i(\bar{\varepsilon}_{k}^{*}-\mu)(\bar{\tau}-t_{0})} e^{-i\psi_{\gamma}(\tau,\bar{\tau})} \operatorname{cosech}\left(\frac{\pi}{\beta}(\tau-\bar{\tau})\right) \right|_{\tau\neq\bar{\tau}}.$$
 (C7)

We also have introduced the following compact notation for terms involving the Hurwitz-Lerch transcendent:

$$\bar{\Phi}(\beta, \tau, z) \equiv \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{\beta}\tau\right) \Phi\left(e^{-(2\pi\tau/\beta)}, 1, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta z}{2\pi i}\right).$$
 (C8)

This general result Eq. (C6) is valid for all time-dependent biases. However, for the purposes of this paper we may substitute the biharmonic bias Eq. (22) into Eq. (C6) by expanding the exponential phase factor in terms of Bessel functions of the first kind via Eq. (B1),

$$e^{i\psi_{\alpha}(t_{1},t_{2})} = e^{iV_{\alpha}(t_{1}-t_{2})} \sum_{r,r',s,s'} J_{r} \left(\frac{A_{\alpha}^{(1)}}{p_{1}\Omega_{\alpha}}\right) J_{r'} \left(\frac{A_{\alpha}^{(1)}}{p_{1}\Omega_{\alpha}}\right) J_{s} \left(\frac{A_{\alpha}^{(2)}}{p_{2}\Omega_{\alpha}}\right) J_{s'} \left(\frac{A_{\alpha}^{(2)}}{p_{2}\Omega_{\alpha}}\right).$$
(C9)

We note in passing that the same procedure has already been carried out for the current fluctuations in Ref. [47] and using the same logic we can remove all time integrals appearing in Eq. (C6),

$$\begin{split} I_{a}(t) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{j} \left\{ 2 \text{Re} \left[\frac{\langle \psi_{j}^{j} | \Gamma_{a} | \psi_{j}^{b} \rangle}{\langle \psi_{j}^{j} | \psi_{j}^{b} \rangle} \right] i e^{\frac{A_{ij}^{(D)}}{\beta_{ij}^{(D)}}} (\text{pid}_{p_{i}}(p_{i}\Omega_{c}) + \phi_{i}) - \sin \phi_{i}} e^{\frac{A_{ij}^{(D)}}{2\beta_{ij}^{(D)}}} \sin(p_{i}\Omega_{c}) - \phi_{i}} \sum_{\epsilon,r} J_{\epsilon} \left(\frac{A_{ij}^{(D)}}{p_{1}\Omega_{a}} \right) \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left[\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \left(\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)}} \right) J_{\epsilon} \left(\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)}} \right) J_{\epsilon} \left(\frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}^{(D)} + \tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})}{\tilde{\epsilon}_{i}} \frac{e^{-i(\epsilon_{i} - \epsilon_{i})(\epsilon_{$$

We note that the above formula is obtained by using the Matsubara parameters in Eq. (C5) and identifying all resulting infinite expansions with either the $\bar{\Phi}$ or the Ψ functions defined above. It is therefore an exact expression and is the expression used to obtain our numerical results for the time-dependent current in the different GNR configurations.

We now assume that the fundamental driving frequency is lead independent, $\Omega_{\gamma} = \Omega_{D}$ for all γ . This allows us to derive a formula for the time-independent steady-state pump current using the definitions in Eqs. (14) and (15),

$$\begin{split} I_{\alpha\beta}^{(\text{pump})} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{j,k} \sum_{r,r',s,s'} \delta_{ss'}^{rr'}(p_i) \left(\frac{\langle \varphi_k^R | \Gamma_\alpha | \varphi_j^R \rangle \langle \varphi_j^L | \Gamma_\gamma | \varphi_k^L \rangle}{\langle \varphi_j^L | \varphi_j^R \rangle \langle \varphi_k^R | \varphi_k^L \rangle \langle \bar{e}_j - \bar{e}_k^* \rangle} \right. \\ &\times \left\{ e^{-i(r-r')\phi_\alpha} J_r \left(\frac{A_\alpha^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_{r'} \left(\frac{A_\alpha^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_s \left(\frac{A_\alpha^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) J_{s'} \left(\frac{A_\alpha^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) \\ &\times \left[\Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_j - \mu - V_\alpha - \Omega_D(p_1 r + p_2 s)] \right) - \Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_k^* - \mu - V_\alpha - \Omega_D(p_1 r' + p_2 s')] \right) \right] \\ &- e^{-i(r-r')\phi_r} J_r \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_r \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(2)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_s \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) J_{s'} \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) \\ &\times \left[\Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_j - \mu - V_\gamma - \Omega_D(p_1 r + p_2 s)] \right) - \Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_k^* - \mu - V_\gamma - \Omega_D(p_1 r' + p_2 s')] \right) \right] \right\} \\ &- \frac{\langle \varphi_k^R | \Gamma_\beta | \varphi_j^R \rangle \langle \varphi_j^L | \Gamma_\gamma | \varphi_k^L \rangle}{\langle \varphi_j^L | \varphi_k^L \rangle \langle \bar{e}_j - \bar{e}_k^* \rangle} \left\{ e^{-i(r-r')\phi_\beta} J_r \left(\frac{A_\beta^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_r \left(\frac{A_\beta^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_s \left(\frac{A_\beta^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) J_{s'} \left(\frac{A_\beta^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) \\ &\times \left[\Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_j - \mu - V_\beta - \Omega_D(p_1 r + p_2 s)] \right) - \Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_k^* - \mu - V_\beta - \Omega_D(p_1 r' + p_2 s')] \right) \right] \\ &- e^{-i(r-r')\phi_r} J_r \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_r \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(1)}}{p_1 \Omega_D} \right) J_s \left(\frac{A_\gamma^{(2)}}{p_2 \Omega_D} \right) \\ &\times \left[\Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_j - \mu - V_\gamma - \Omega_D(p_1 r + p_2 s)] \right) - \Psi \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\beta}{2\pi i} [\bar{e}_k^* - \mu - V_\gamma - \Omega_D(p_1 r' + p_2 s')] \right) \right] \right\}). \end{split}$$

In this expression, we have used the modified Kronecker function,

$$\delta_{ss'}^{rr'}(p_i) \equiv \begin{cases} 1, & p_1(r-r') + p_2(s-s') = 0, \\ 0, & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$
(C12)

to make the replacement $\bar{\varepsilon}_j - \bar{\varepsilon}_k^* - \Omega_D[p_1(r - r') + p_2(s - s')] \leftrightarrow \bar{\varepsilon}_j - \bar{\varepsilon}_k^*$. Equation (C11) forms the basis for the static quantum pump calculations carried out in Sec. III.

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