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Published in:
Physical Review B

Publication date:
2016

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):

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Electron and phonon drag in thermoelectric transport through coherent molecular conductors

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(Received 24 January 2016; revised manuscript received 12 April 2016; published 4 May 2016)

We study thermoelectric transport through a coherent molecular conductor connected to two electron and two phonon baths using the nonequilibrium Green’s function method. We focus on the mutual drag between electron and phonon transport as a result of ‘momentum’ transfer, which happens only when there are at least two phonon degrees of freedom. After deriving expressions for the linear drag coefficients, obeying the Onsager relation, we further investigate their effect on nonequilibrium transport. We show that the drag effect is closely related to two other phenomena: (1) adiabatic charge pumping through a coherent conductor; (2) the current-induced nonconservative and effective magnetic forces on phonons.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.93.205404

I. INTRODUCTION

The possibility to engineer electron and phonon transport independently in nanostructures makes them an ideal candidate for thermoelectric applications, the conversion of heat to electricity, and vice versa [1–11]. Thermoelectric transport in quantum wells, wires, and dots has been the focus of intense study in the past decades. Recently, it has become possible to measure the thermopower of molecular junctions, the extreme minimization of electronics [6,7,9,10]. Although still in its infancy from an application point of view, academically thermopower has proven useful as a complementary tool to explore the transport properties of molecular devices. For example, the sign of the thermopower gives information about the relative position of the electrode Fermi level within the HOMO-LUMO gap of the molecule [6,7,9,12]; the quantum interference effect [13–16] and many-body interactions [17–20] also show their signatures in the thermopower.

The interaction between electrons and vibrations within the molecule couples charge and phonon heat transport. The signature of this coupling in electrical current has been used as a spectroscopy tool to unambiguously identify the molecule. However, much of the early theoretical work on thermoelectric transport in molecular conductors treats electron and phonon transport separately, within the linear regime. Recently, there are more attempts trying to include the electron-phonon(e-ph) interaction, extend the analysis to the nonlinear regime [12,21–37], and consider multiterminal transport [38–44]. The e-ph interaction modifies the electronic transmission and consequently the thermopower. Extending to the nonlinear regime also helps to make connection with the current-induced heating and heat transport in molecular devices.

In this paper, we study the nonequilibrium thermoelectric transport through a model device, connected to two electron and two phonon baths, including the e-ph interaction within the device. We use the nonequilibrium Green’s function (NEGF) method to take into account the effect of e-ph interaction within the lowest order perturbation [45], assuming the interaction is weak. Thus, our approach does not apply to molecular junctions that couple weakly to the electrodes [24,28,34]. In the linear regime, we derive the thermoelectric transport coefficients including the e-ph interaction. We pay special attention to the drag coefficients, whereby a temperature difference between the phonon baths drives an electrical current between the electron baths, and vice versa. The drag effect has been well studied in translational invariant systems but less considered in a nanoco conductor. We make connections between electron/phonon drag and other related effects, e.g., the current-induced nonconservative, effective magnetic force [46–48], and adiabatic pumping in a coherent conductor [49,50]. These effects can only emerge in a nanoco conductor with at least two phonon degrees of freedom. This makes our study different and complementary to most other works [24,28,34,38,51]. Furthermore, we extend the analysis to the nonlinear regime, look at the drag effect on energy transfer between electrons and phonons, and discuss the possibility of driving heat flow using an electric device or charge transport using heat [38,51].

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we introduce our model setup and present analytical results for the charge and heat currents focusing on the electron/phonon drag effect. In Sec. III we analyze a simple one-dimensional (1D) model system to illustrate that the drag effect shares the same origin as that in a translational invariant lattice and can be understood as a result of the momentum transfer between electrons and phonons. We also provide numerical results for the model system. Section IV gives concluding remarks. Finally, the details of the derivation are given in Appendices A–C.

II. THERMOELECTRIC TRANSPORT

A. System setup and Hamiltonian

We consider a model device containing an electronic (\(H_e\)) and a phononic (vibrational) part (\(H_p\)), with interactions between them \(H_{ep}\). The electronic part is linearly coupled to two separate electron baths (\(L, R\)), so does the vibrational...
part (Fig. 1). The coupling matrix is denoted by $V^a_{\sigma}$. The Hamiltonian of the entire system is written as

$$H = \sum_{\sigma=e,p} H_\sigma + H_{ep} + \sum_{a=L,R} \left( H^a_\sigma + V^a_{\sigma} \right).$$

The electron and phonon subsystem (device plus left and right baths) are noninteracting. For example, the phonons are described within the harmonic approximation, and the electrons within a single particle picture. We assume no direct coupling between these baths. The only many-body interaction is $H_{ep}$ within the device. In a tight-binding description of the electronic Hamiltonian, it can be written as

$$H_{ep} = \sum_{i,j,k} M_{ij}^k c^\dagger_{ij} c_{jk} u_k,$$

where $c^\dagger_{ij}$ ($c_{ij}$) is the electron creation (annihilation) operator for the $i$($j$)th electronic site, and $u_k$ is the mass-normalized displacement away from the equilibrium position of the $k$th degrees of freedom, i.e., $u_k = \sqrt{m_k r_k}$, with $m_k$ the mass of the $k$th degree of freedom, and $r_k$ its displacement away from equilibrium position. $M_{ij}^k$ is the e-ph interaction matrix element. We consider spinless electrons throughout this paper.

To calculate the electrical and heat current, we assume the e-ph interaction is weak, and keep only the lowest order self-energies \cite{52}. We perform an expansion of the Green’s functions and current up to the second order in $M$, following the idea of Ref. \cite{45}. For example, the lesser Green’s function is expanded as

$$G^< \approx G^0 + G^0_{\sigma} \Sigma_{ep} G^0_\sigma + G^0_{\sigma} \Sigma_{ep}^\dagger G^0_{\sigma}^\dagger + G^0_{\sigma} \Sigma_{LR} G^0_\sigma G^0_{\sigma}^\dagger,$$

with $\Sigma_{LR} = \Sigma_L + \Sigma_R$ the self-energy due to coupling to electrodes, $\Sigma_{ep}$ self-energy due to e-ph interaction, and $G^0$ the noninteracting electron Green’s function. Similar expression holds for $G^>$ and $D^{-<}$. The details of the method can be found in Appendix A and Refs. \cite{21,45,52}.

### B. Linear transport coefficients

In the linear response regime, we introduce an infinitesimal change of the chemical potential or temperature at one of the baths, $\alpha$, e.g., $\mu^\alpha = \mu + \delta \mu$, $T^\alpha = T + \delta T^\alpha$, with $\mu$ and $T$ the corresponding equilibrium values. We look at the response of the charge and heat current due to this small perturbation. Up to the second order in $M$, the result is summarized as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\delta \mu}{\epsilon} \\ \frac{\delta T}{\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{L} & \mathcal{L} \mathcal{Q}_0 \\ \mathcal{L} \mathcal{Q}_1 & \mathcal{K}_p \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta \mu \\ \delta T \end{pmatrix},$$

where we define the positive current direction as that electrons/phonons go from the bath to the device, and $J^e$, $J^p$, $J^a$ are the electrical current and the heat current carried by electrons and phonons, respectively. The expressions for the coefficients $\mathcal{L}$ and $\mathcal{K}_p$ are given in Appendix A. Both include three contributions. The first term is the elastic Landauer result. The second term is the (quasi)elastic correction due to change of the electron spectral function. The last one is the inelastic term. The effect of each part in $\mathcal{L}$ on the conductance and Seebeck coefficient have been analyzed in Ref. \cite{52} for a single level model. $\mathcal{Q}_0$ and $\mathcal{Q}_1$ are the drag coefficients. We use the following convention for the drag effect: The electron drag effect corresponds to generating phonon flow due to electron flow, while the phonon drag corresponds to the opposite process. We can write $\mathcal{Q}_0$ and $\mathcal{Q}_1$ as

$$\mathcal{Q}_0 = -\sum_{\beta} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{h}_\omega \text{Tr}[\Lambda^{(\alpha)}_{\sigma\beta}(\omega) \Lambda^{(\alpha)}_\sigma(\omega)] \delta_{n_B n_B}(\hbar \omega, T),$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_1 = -\sum_{\beta} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{h}_\omega \text{Tr}[\Lambda^{(\alpha)}_{\sigma\beta}(\omega) \Lambda^{(\alpha)}_\sigma(\omega)] \delta_{n_B n_B}(\hbar \omega, T),$$

where $n_B(\hbar \omega, T) = [\exp(\hbar \omega/k_B T) - 1]^{-1}$ is the Bose-Einstein distribution function. Throughout the paper, we use Tr[·] for trace over phonon indices, $\text{Tr}[\cdot]$ for trace over electronic degrees of freedom, $\Lambda^{(\alpha)}_\sigma(\omega)$ is the (time-reversed) phonon spectral function [Eq. (A8)], and $\Lambda^{(\alpha)}_{\sigma\beta}(\omega)$ is defined as

$$\Lambda^{(\alpha)}_{\sigma\beta}(\omega) = \int \frac{d\epsilon}{2\pi} [f(\epsilon, \mu^\alpha, T^\alpha) - f(\epsilon, \mu^\beta, T^\beta)] \text{X}_{\sigma\beta}(\epsilon, \epsilon^-).$$

![FIG. 1. Schematic representation of the model system considered in this paper and its different possible situations: (a) By applying a voltage bias, heat can be extracted from one of the phonon baths, although they remain at the same temperature. (b) By applying a temperature difference between the two phonon baths, an electrical current can be generated between the two electron baths. This contributes with a phonon-drag part to the thermopower.](image-url)
We get
\[\frac{Q_{\text{e}}}{Q_{\text{el}}} = \frac{1}{1 + \mu \frac{\delta}{T}}\]
where \(\mu\) and \(\delta\) are the chemical potential and the temperature, respectively. The above equation is a nonadiabatic correction to the adiabatic theory.

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**Fig. 2.** The schematic diagram of the nanoscale device used in the experiment. The device consists of a nanowire with a length of \(L\) and a width of \(W\), terminated by two electrodes. The nanowire is biased by an external voltage \(V\), and the temperatures of the left and right electrodes are \(T_L\) and \(T_R\), respectively.

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**Fig. 3.** The measured temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The black line represents the result from the nonadiabatic model, while the red line represents the result from the adiabatic model. The experimental data are shown as the blue dots with error bars. The agreement between the theory and the experiment is good for biases \(V\) below a certain value, but diverges for higher biases.

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**Fig. 4.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model. The comparison between the theoretical predictions and the experimental data is shown in the inset.

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**Fig. 5.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 6.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 7.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 8.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 9.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 10.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 11.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 12.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 13.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 14.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 15.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 16.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 17.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 18.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 19.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.

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**Fig. 20.** The calculated temperature dependence of the Seebeck coefficient of the nanowire at different biases. The solid line represents the nonadiabatic model, while the dashed line represents the adiabatic model.
prohibits phonon adsorption process at \( T = 0 \). This equation can also be written in a compact form as

\[
Q = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega \text{Tr} \left[ \Delta_{LR}^{(0)}(\omega) \Delta_n(\hbar \omega, T; \hbar \omega - eV, T) \right],
\]

(19)

with

\[
\Delta_n(h\omega_1, T_1; h\omega_2, T_2) = n_g(h\omega_1, T_1) - n_g(h\omega_2, T_2).
\]

(20)

Energy transfer within the device breaks the balance between the device and bath phonons. As a result, the extra energy is further transferred to the two phonon baths. The heat current flowing out of the phonon bath \( \alpha \) is given by the minus of Eq. (19) with \( \bar{\Delta}_\alpha \) replaced by \( \bar{\Delta}_\alpha \), such that

\[
J^L_p + J^R_p + Q = 0,
\]

(21)

as required by the energy conservation.

In fact, we can split \( J^\alpha_p \) into two parts according to their symmetry upon bias reversal \( J^\alpha_p = J^{a,h}_p + J^{a,p}_p \), where \( J^{a,h}_p \) and \( J^{a,p}_p \) are even and odd functions of \( eV \). We call them the Joule heating and Peltier drag current, respectively. Assuming constant electron DOS, we get

\[
J^{a,h}_p \approx -\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega}{4\pi^2} \hbar (h\omega) \text{Tr}[\text{Re} X_{LR}(\mu, \mu) \text{Re} \bar{A}_\alpha(\omega)],
\]

(22)

\[
J^{a,p}_p \approx \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega}{4\pi^2} \hbar (h\omega) \text{Tr}[\text{Im} X_{LR}(\mu, \mu) \text{Im} \bar{A}_\alpha(\omega)].
\]

(23)

The two coefficients are

\[
h(h\omega) = \sum_{s=\pm 1} \hbar (h\omega + s eV) \Delta n_g(h\omega + s eV; h\omega),
\]

(24)

\[
p(h\omega) = \sum_{s=\pm 1} s \hbar (h\omega + s eV) \Delta n_g(h\omega + s eV; h\omega).
\]

(25)

The Joule current corresponds to the energy transfer from the electrons to the phonons in Eq. (19), i.e., \( J^{L,h}_p + J^{R,h}_p + Q = 0 \). But the drag current is related to the \( Q_0 \) coefficient in Sec. II B and depends on the direction of current flow, i.e., \( J^{L,p}_p + J^{R,p}_p = 0 \). This relation follows from the fact that \( \text{Im} A = \text{Im} \bar{A} = \text{Im} \bar{A}_L + \text{Im} \bar{A}_R = 0 \). We will see later that it is due to momentum transfer between electrons and phonons. In the limit of high temperature \( (k_B T \gg eV) \), we have \( h(h\omega) \to 0 \), and \( p(h\omega) \to 2eV k_B T \). The drag part will dominate over the Joule heating part. In this case, it is possible to extract heat from one of the phonon baths by applying a voltage bias, similar to a refrigerator, as shown in Fig. 1(b).

We note that in Ref. [54], we have studied the same problem using the semiclassical generalized Langevin equation approach. Similar equations were derived there, and the asymmetric heat flow was attributed to the asymmetric current-induced forces. These two complementary analyses show that the two effects are closely related.

2. Temperature-driven electric current (\( \mu^\alpha = \mu^R, T_\alpha \neq T_e \))

In the second setup, we apply a temperature difference between the electron and phonon subsystem at zero voltage bias. This drives an electrical current within the device [see Eq. (A19)]

\[
I^\alpha = e \sum_p \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{Tr}[\Delta_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)}(\omega) \Delta_n(\hbar \omega, T_p; \hbar \omega, T_e)]
\]

(26)

Here, \( \bar{\alpha} \) means the lead different from \( \alpha \). There are two possible situations here. The first one is that the phonon baths are at the same temperature \( (T_p) \) but different from that of electron baths \( (T_e) \). We can consider the two phonon baths as an effective single bath. The four-terminal setup reduces to a three-terminal one, and equation (26) simplifies to

\[
I^\alpha = e \sum_p \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{Tr}[\Delta_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)}(\omega) \Delta_n(\hbar \omega, T_p; \hbar \omega, T_e)]
\]

(27)

The three-terminal setup has been considered in Ref. [38]. For a single electronic level coupling to one phonon mode, equation (27) agrees with result therein. Due to the temperature difference between the electron and phonon systems, there will be energy flow between them. It has been analyzed in Sec. III C of Ref. [52]. A similar problem has been considered in Refs. [58–61]. Here we focus on the other situation, where we apply a temperature difference between the two phonon baths [Fig. 1(b)]. This generates a phonon-drag electrical current. For constant electronic DOS, we get

\[
I^\alpha \approx e \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi^2} \hbar \omega \text{Tr}[\text{Im} X_{\alpha\beta}(\mu, \mu) \text{Im} \bar{A}_\beta(\omega)]
\]

\[
\times \Delta n_g(h\omega, T_p^\alpha; h\omega, T_p^\alpha),
\]

(28)

extending the result in Sec. II B to the nonlinear regime.

III. MODEL CALCULATION

A. 1D model and qualitative analysis

For the ease of understanding the general results in Sec. II, we now study a simple 1D atomic chain. The electronic Hamiltonian takes the tight-binding form, with the hopping matrix element \( -t \),

\[
H_e = -t \sum_{\langle i, j \rangle \neq 0} |c_i|^2 c_j.
\]

(29)

The electron dispersion relation is \( \varepsilon_k = -2t \cos k \), where \( k \) is the 1D wave vector [Fig. 3(d)]. We have set the lattice distance \( a = 1 \). For this 1D lattice, due to translational invariance, the
Blue and red lines depict phonon emission processes due to e-ph (c) Phonon dispersion relation. (d) Electron dispersion relation. Normally, the electron energy is much larger

\[ k_L \]

lines in (c). Depending on the value of \( j \) and \( n \), respectively. The corresponding spectral functions, defined

The phonon retarded Green’s function is

\[ G^r_{0,jl}(\epsilon) = \frac{e^{i[\epsilon L^{(\pm)}]_n}}{2i[|\sin k_L(\epsilon^+)|]} \].

Hereafter, we take \( k_L(\epsilon^+) > 0 \) and \( k_R(\epsilon^+) = -k_L(\epsilon^+) < 0 \) as the wave vectors corresponding to the scattering state with energy \( \epsilon^+ = \epsilon + i0^+ \), coming from the left and the right, respectively. The corresponding spectral functions, defined within the electron energy band, are

\[ A_{L,jl}(\epsilon) = \tilde{A}_{L,jl}(\epsilon) = \frac{e^{i[\epsilon L^{(\pm)}]_n}}{2i[|\sin k_L(\epsilon^+)|]}, \quad A_R(\epsilon) = \tilde{A}_R(\epsilon). \]

The ions are connected by 1D springs with spring constant \( K_0 \)

\[ H_p = \sum_{j} \left( \frac{1}{2} u_j^2 + K_0 u_j^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} K_0 \sum_{|j-j'|=1} u_j u_{j'}. \]

The phonon retarded Green’s function is

\[ D^r_{0,jl}(\omega) = \frac{e^{i[\omega L^{(\pm)}]_n}}{2i[|\sin(\omega^+)]|}. \]

Within the phonon band, is

\[ A_{L,jl}(\omega) = \tilde{A}_{L,jl}(\omega) = \frac{e^{i[q L^{(\pm)}]_n}}{2K_0[|\sin q L(\omega^+)|]}, \quad A_R(\omega) = \tilde{A}_R(\omega). \]  

Here, \( q L(\omega^+) > 0 \) is the phonon wave vector corresponding to scattering wave coming from the left.

To consider the e-ph interaction, we assume the atomic motion modifies the hopping matrix element linearly, i.e.,

\[ H_{\text{ep}} = -m \sum_j u_j (c_j^{\dagger} c_{j+1} - c_j^{\dagger} c_{j-1} + \text{H.c.}). \]

For a phonon emission process through electronic transition from the initial left scattering states \( |\psi_L(k_L)\rangle \) to the final right scattering state \( |\psi_R(k_R)\rangle \), only phonon mode that fulfills the energy and crystal-momentum conservation can be excited, e.g., \( (\psi_L(k_L)) M^q |\psi_R(k_R)\rangle \sim \delta(k_L - k_R - q + G)\delta(\epsilon(k_L) - \epsilon(k_R) - \hbar \omega(q)) \). Here, \( G \) is a reciprocal lattice vector. It is this selection rule that gives the electron/phonon drag effect in a translational invariant lattice [Figs. 3(c)–3(d)].

To show that similar mechanism works in a coherent nanoconductor, we artificially switch off the e-ph interaction, except at two sites, e.g., we only consider coupling to \( u_n \) and \( u_{n+1} \) [Fig. 3(b)]. That is, in Eq. (35), the sum over \( j \) only applies to these two sites. Then, only nearest hopping between four sites, \( n-1,n,n+1,n+2 \), are modified by atomic motion. We set these four sites as our device, and all other sites as electron and phonon baths \( L \) and \( R \). In this case, the condition of energy conservation is still valid, but the conservation of crystal momentum is not, since the local e-ph interaction breaks the translation invariance. The matrix element is

\[ \langle \psi_L(k_L) | M^q | \psi_R(k_R) \rangle = \frac{-m}{\hbar \sqrt{|\psi_L(k_L)| \psi_R(k_R)|^2}} e^{-ik_L [1 + e^{i(q-k_L+k_R)}]} \times [1 - e^{-i(k_R-k_L)}]. \]

Here, \( \psi_L/k_R \) is the group velocity of the \( L/R \) scattering state with wave vector \( k_L/R \). We can see that the squared scattering matrix element \( |\langle \psi_L(q_L) | M^q | \psi_R(q_R) \rangle|^2 \neq |\langle \psi_L(q_L) | M^{-q} | \psi_R(q_R) \rangle|^2 \), their difference

\[ \Delta M_{LR} \propto \sin \phi \sin \varphi. \]

We have defined \( \phi = k_L - k_R \). This means the electrons have a different probability of exciting left and right traveling phonon waves. The difference depends on the electron and phonon wave vectors. For example, similar to the 1D lattice, electrons with \( \epsilon < 0 \) (below half filling) preferentially emit phonons traveling to the right. From another point of view, the holes dominate the inelastic transport [54]. This breaks the left-right symmetry, and generates drag effect in a nanoconductor, although the crystal-momentum selection rule is not valid.

To make connection with the NEGF approach in Sec. II, we can calculate the real space e-ph interaction matrix at sites \( n \) and \( n+1 \), and find

\[ M_{LR}^{n,n+1} = \langle \psi_L(k_L) | M^{n+1} | \psi_R(k_R) \rangle = e^{-i \phi (\psi_L(k_L) | M^n | \psi_R(k_R))}. \]

So,

\[ X_{LR}^{n,n+1}(\epsilon(k_L), \epsilon(k_R)) = |M_{LR}^{n,n+1}|^2 \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & e^{-i \phi} \\ 0 & 1 \end{array} \right). \]
Making use of Eq. (34), we get, for given electron \((k_L, k_R)\) and phonon wave vectors \(q\), that satisfy the requirement of energy conservation, \(\epsilon(k_L) = \epsilon(k_R) + \hbar\omega(q)\), the electron ‘drag’ term becomes

\[
\text{Tr}[	ext{Im}X_{LR}(\omega)\text{Im}A_L(\omega)] \propto \sin \phi \sin q_L(\omega^+).
\]  

(39)

This is consistent with our scattering analysis and shows that the drag effect we discuss here shares the same origin as that in a lattice system.

**B. Numerical results**

Now we present our numerical results for the 1D model with localized e-ph interaction using the formulas developed in Sec. II. In Fig. 4, we show the calculated phonon drag contribution to the Seebeck coefficient. The parameters, given in the figure caption, are chosen to closely resemble that of a single atom gold chain [62–65]. The single electron contribution to the Seebeck coefficient vanishes since we have a perfect electron transport channel. The drag coefficient is zero at \(E_F = 0\) due to electron-hole symmetry [54]. But once moving to \(E_F = -1\) eV, the symmetry is broken, and we get a nonzero value. Positive \(S\) means the holes dominate over the electrons in the inelastic scattering process. The saturation of the \(S\) with \(T\) can be understood from Eq. (9), i.e., at high temperature, \(\tilde{Q}_0 \propto T\), while \(S \propto \tilde{Q}_0/T\).

Figures 5 and 6 show the results for the setup in Fig. 1(a). The temperatures of all the baths are the same, while there is a voltage bias applied between the two electron baths. We define the power as \(Q\) in Eq. (19). Figure 5 shows its dependence on the voltage bias at different temperatures and Fermi levels. For \(E_F = 0\), the heat flow into the two phonon baths are symmetric [Figs. 6(a) and 6(b)]. But when we move to \(E_F = -1.0\) eV, they show strong asymmetry, due to the drag part of the heat current [Figs. 6(c) and 6(d)]. It next, we show in Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) that the heat flows into the left and right phonon baths are drastically different at the two Fermi levels. For \(E_F = 0\), the heat flow into the two phonon baths are symmetric [Figs. 6(a) and 6(b)]. But when we move to \(E_F = -1.0\) eV, they show strong asymmetry, due to the drag part of the heat current [Figs. 6(c) and 6(d)]. It
depends on the phase of the electron wave function, which in our case could be tuned by changing the chemical potential. At $E_F = -1$ eV, the probability of emitting right traveling phonons is larger, resulting in larger heat current into bath $R$. This is the same with the lattice system [Figs. 3(c) and 3(d)]. Comparing results at $T = 4.2$ and 300 K, we find that the asymmetry increases with temperature. Interestingly, at 300 K, we can extract heat from the right phonon bath by applying the voltage bias. This is a prototype atomic ‘refrigerator.’ The results calculated using the generalized Langevin equation (GLE) approach [53] [Fig. 6(e)] and self-consistent Born approximation (SCBA) [21] [Fig. 6(f)] show that, although the magnitude of the heat current changes, the qualitative conclusions remain no matter which approximation we use.

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, by assuming linear coupling between electrons and phonons in a four-terminal nanodevice, we have shown that in the linear transport regime, in addition to modifying the normal thermoelectric transport coefficients, e-ph interaction also introduces new drag type coefficients. The drag effect can be traced back to the momentum transfer between the electrons and phonons. We have shown that it is closely related to the adiabatic pumping and current-induced forces in a coherent conductor. So in principle phonon-drag thermopower behaves as an alternative way of probing these current-induced forces. The expressions derived in this paper can be readily applied to the realistic structures by combining these with first-principles electronic structure calculation [68–70]. Finally, we note that one could also study similar drag effect in Coulomb coupled all-electronic devices [42–44].

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

J.T.L. is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant Nos. 11304107 and 61371015). J.-S.W acknowledges support of an FRC Grant No. R-144-000-343-112. M.B. acknowledges support from the Center for Nano-structured Graphene (Project DNRF103).

### APPENDIX A: DETAILS OF THE DERIVATION

Our starting point is the Meir-Wingreen formula for charge and heat current

$$I^a = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} \text{Tr}[G^+(\varepsilon)\Sigma_\alpha^+(\varepsilon) - G^-(\varepsilon)\Sigma_\alpha^-(\varepsilon)],$$

$$J^a_\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} (\varepsilon - \mu^a) \text{Tr}[G^-(\varepsilon)\Sigma_\alpha^-(\varepsilon) - G^+(\varepsilon)\Sigma_\alpha^+(\varepsilon)],$$

$$J^a_p = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \text{Tr}[D^+(\omega)\Pi^\alpha_\omega(\omega) - D^-(\omega)\Pi^\alpha_\omega(\omega)].$$

The expansion is performed by substituting Eq. (3) and similar expression for $D^{+,\alpha}$ into Eqs. (A1)–(A3). The electrical current injected from $\alpha$ can be written as

$$I^a = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} \text{Tr}\left[G^+_0\Sigma_{LR}^+ G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^- - G^+_0\Sigma_{LR}^- G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \text{Tr}[G^+_0\Sigma_{cp}^+ G^0\Sigma_{LR}^+ G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^- - G^-_0\Sigma_{cp}^- G^0\Sigma_{LR}^- G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^+]ight]$$

$$+ \text{Tr}[G^+_0\Sigma_{LR}^+ G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^- G^+_0\Sigma_{cp}^+ - G^-_0\Sigma_{LR}^- G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^+ G^-_0\Sigma_{cp}^-] + \text{Tr}[G^+_0\Sigma_{cp}^+ G^0\Sigma_{LR}^+ G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^- - G^-_0\Sigma_{cp}^- G^0\Sigma_{LR}^- G^0\Sigma_{\alpha}^+],$$

Similarly, the heat current from phonons injected from $\alpha$:

$$J^a_p = -\int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \text{Tr}[D^+_0\Pi_{LR}^+ D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^- - D^+_0\Pi_{LR}^- D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^+] + \text{Tr}[D^+_0\Pi_{cp}^+ D^0\Pi_{LR}^+ D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^- - D^-_0\Pi_{cp}^- D^0\Pi_{LR}^- D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^+]$$

$$+ \text{Tr}[D^+_0\Pi_{LR}^+ D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^- D^+_0\Pi_{cp}^+ - D^-_0\Pi_{LR}^- D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^+ D^-_0\Pi_{cp}^-] + \text{Tr}[D^+_0\Pi_{cp}^+ D^0\Pi_{LR}^+ D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^- - D^-_0\Pi_{cp}^- D^0\Pi_{LR}^- D^0\Pi_{\alpha}^+],$$

with $\Pi(\omega)$ being the phonon self-energy. We have omitted the argument $\varepsilon$ or $\omega$ in the Green’s functions or self-energies.

1. **Linear coefficient: $\mathcal{L}$**

We group the current into three terms, giving three coefficients,

$$\mathcal{L}_n = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \mathcal{L}_n^{(i)}.$$  

Using the expressions for the DOS and time-reversed DOS of electrons and phonons originating from lead $\alpha$,

$$A_\alpha(\varepsilon) = G^+_\alpha(\varepsilon)\Gamma_\alpha^+(\varepsilon)G^0_\alpha(\varepsilon), \quad \bar{A}_\alpha(\varepsilon) = G^+_\alpha(\varepsilon)\Gamma_\alpha^-(\varepsilon)G^0_\alpha(\varepsilon), \quad A(\omega) = A_L(\omega) + A_R(\omega),$$

$$A_\alpha(\omega) = D^+_\alpha(\omega)\Gamma_\alpha^+(\omega)D^0_\alpha(\omega), \quad \bar{A}_\alpha(\omega) = D^+_\alpha(\omega)\Gamma_\alpha^-(\omega)D^0_\alpha(\omega), \quad \bar{A}(\omega) = A_L(\omega) + A_R(\omega),$$

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they can be written as
\begin{equation}
L^{(1)}_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} (\varepsilon - \mu)^{\gamma} \text{tr}[A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) \Gamma_{\alpha}(\varepsilon)] f^{\prime}(\varepsilon), \quad L^{(2)}_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} (\varepsilon - \mu)^{\gamma} \text{tr}[A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) \Gamma_{\alpha}(\varepsilon)] f^{\prime}(\varepsilon), \quad (A9)
\end{equation}
\begin{equation}
L^{(3)}_{\alpha} = i \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} (\varepsilon - \mu)^{\gamma} \text{tr}[(\Sigma_{ep}^{\ast}(\varepsilon) - \Sigma_{ep}^{\ast}(\varepsilon)) A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon)] f^{\prime}(\varepsilon). \quad (A10)
\end{equation}
We have defined $f^{\prime}(\varepsilon) = -\frac{\partial f^{\ast}(\varepsilon)}{\partial \varepsilon}$. $L^{(1)}_{\alpha}$ is the single electron Landauer result. $L^{(2)}_{\alpha}$ is due to corrections to the electron DOS

\begin{equation}
\Delta A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) = G^{\ast}_0(\varepsilon) \Sigma_{sp}^{\ast}(\varepsilon) A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) + A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) \Sigma_{ep}^{\ast}(\varepsilon) G^{\ast}_0(\varepsilon). \quad (A11)
\end{equation}
$L^{(3)}_{\alpha}$ is the inelastic term. The effect of e-ph interaction on the $L_{\alpha}$ in a single level model has been studied in Ref. [52].

2. Linear coefficient: $K$

The phonon thermal conductance has similar form

\begin{equation}
K_{p} = \sum_{i=1}^{3} K_{p}^{(i)} \quad (A12)
\end{equation}
with

\begin{equation}
K_{p}^{(1)} = \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \hbar \omega \text{tr}[A_{\alpha}(\omega) \Gamma_{\alpha}(\omega)] \frac{\partial n_{B}}{\partial T} T_{p},
K_{p}^{(2)} = \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \hbar \omega \text{tr}[\Delta A_{\alpha}(\omega) \Gamma_{\alpha}(\omega)] \frac{\partial n_{B}}{\partial T} T_{p},
K_{p}^{(3)} = i \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \hbar \omega \text{tr}[(\Pi_{ep}^{\ast}(\omega) - \Pi_{ep}^{\ast}(\omega)) A_{\alpha}(\omega)] \frac{\partial n_{B}}{\partial T} T_{p}. \quad (A13)
\end{equation}
Here, $K_{p}^{(2)}$ is due to corrections to the phonon DOS. $\Delta A_{\alpha}$ is defined similar to Eq. (A11).

3. Drag coefficients: $Q_{\alpha}$ and $\tilde{Q}_{\alpha}$

The coefficients $Q_{\alpha}$ and $\tilde{Q}_{\alpha}$ come only from the fourth term in Eqs. (A4) and (A5). They are related to the phonon/electron drag effect, e.g., a phonon temperature difference between the two leads gives rise to an electric current, and vice versa. To derive it, we write the contribution from the fourth term as

\begin{equation}
I^{\alpha,(4)} = \frac{e}{\hbar} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} \text{tr}[G^{\ast}_0(\varepsilon) \Sigma_{\alpha}^{\ast} - G^{\ast}_0(\varepsilon) \Sigma_{\alpha}^{\ast}]. \quad (A15)
\end{equation}
Using the expression for $\Sigma_{ep}^{\ast}$,

\begin{equation}
\Sigma_{ep}^{\ast}(\varepsilon) = i\hbar \sum_{kl} \int (M^{\ast} G^{\ast}_0(\varepsilon) D_{0,kl}^{\ast}(\omega)) \frac{d\omega}{2\pi}, \quad (A16)
\end{equation}
and Eqs. (A7) and (A8), we get

\begin{equation}
I^{\alpha,(4)} = e \sum_{\varepsilon} \int \frac{d\varepsilon}{2\pi} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{tr}[M^{\ast} A_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) A_{\alpha}(\omega)(f_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) - f_{\beta}(\varepsilon))(1 + n_{\gamma}(\omega)) - (1 - f_{\alpha}(\varepsilon)) f_{\beta}(\varepsilon)n_{\gamma}(\omega)]. \quad (A17)
\end{equation}
We have used the abbreviation $f_{\alpha}(\varepsilon) = f(\varepsilon, \mu^{\alpha}, T_{p}^{\alpha})$, $n_{\gamma}(\omega) = n_{B}(\omega, T^{\gamma})$. Using the mathematical relation

\begin{equation}
[f(x) - \Theta(t)][f(y) - \Theta(-t)] = [\Theta(t) + n(x - y)][f(x) - f(y)], \quad (A18)
\end{equation}
with $\Theta(t)$ the Heaviside step function, $f(x) = 1/(e^{x} + 1)$, $n(x) = 1/(e^{x} - 1)$, we have

\begin{equation}
I^{\alpha,(4)} = e \sum_{\varepsilon} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \text{tr}[L_{\alpha}(\omega) A_{\alpha}(\omega)](n_{\gamma}(\omega) - n_{B}(\hbar \omega + \mu^{\beta} - \mu^{\alpha})). \quad (A19)
\end{equation}
It’s easy to see that if $\mu^{L} = \mu^{R}$, and $T^{L} = T^{R}$, $I^{\alpha,(4)} = 0$. If $T^{\alpha} = T_{p}^{\alpha} + \delta T$, we get

\begin{equation}
I^{\alpha,(4)} = -e \sum_{\varepsilon} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega \text{tr}[L_{\alpha}(\omega) A_{\alpha}(\omega)] \frac{\partial n_{B}}{\partial \hbar \omega} \frac{\delta T}{T}. \quad (A20)
\end{equation}
In the same way,

\begin{equation}
I^{\alpha,(4)} = -e \sum_{\varepsilon} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega (\varepsilon - \mu^{\alpha}) \text{tr}[\Delta L_{\alpha}(\omega) A_{\alpha}(\omega)] \frac{\partial n_{B}}{\partial \hbar \omega} \frac{\delta T}{T}. \quad (A21)
\end{equation}
From this we get $Q_{\alpha}$ as in Eq. (6).
Substituting the phonon self-energy
\[ \Pi_{kl}(\omega) = -i \int \frac{d\epsilon}{2\pi} \text{tr}[M_k^* G_0^{-}\epsilon \epsilon \Pi_M^{-}\epsilon \epsilon (\epsilon \epsilon)] \] (A22)
into
\[ J^{(4)}_{\alpha} = - \int \frac{d\omega}{4\pi} \hbar \omega \text{Tr}[D_0^{l *} \Pi_{\epsilon}^{-} \epsilon \epsilon - D_0^{l} \Pi_{\epsilon}^{-} \epsilon \epsilon]. \] (A23)

Similar manipulation gives \( \bar{Q}_a \).

4. Power

For a finite \( eV \), Joule heating becomes important. The power defined as energy current from the electrons to the phonons is [21]:
\[ Q = -i \int \frac{d\epsilon}{2\pi} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega \text{Tr}[\text{tr}[MG_0^{-}\epsilon \epsilon \Pi_M^{-}\epsilon \epsilon (\epsilon \epsilon)]], \] (A24)
Using Eqs. (A7), (A8), and (A18), we can show that it is equivalent to
\[ Q = \sum_{\alpha \beta} \int \frac{d\epsilon}{2\pi} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega \text{Tr}[X_{\alpha \beta}(\epsilon, \epsilon \epsilon)A(\omega)] n_B(\hbar \omega)(n_B(\hbar \omega + \mu^\beta - \mu^\alpha) + 1)(f_\alpha(\epsilon) - f_\beta(\epsilon \epsilon)). \] (A25)
It is nonzero only when \( \alpha \neq \beta \), so
\[ Q = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hbar \omega \text{Tr}[\Lambda_{L,R}(\omega)A(\omega)] \Delta n_B(\hbar \omega, T; \hbar \omega - eV, T). \] (A26)

APPENDIX B: ONSAGER SYMMETRY

Here, we show that \( \bar{Q}_a = \bar{Q}_a \) in the presence of time-reversal symmetry, e.g., \( (G')^T = G' \). In that case, from Eq. (A8), we have
\[ \bar{A}_a = A_a^*, \quad \bar{\Lambda} = A, \quad \bar{A}_a = A_a^*, \quad \bar{\Lambda} = A. \] (B1)
Furthermore, \( A \) and \( \Lambda \) are both real. Consequently, in the linear response regime, we can set \( f(\epsilon, \mu^\alpha, T^\alpha) = f(\epsilon, \mu^\beta, T^\beta) \) in Eq. (7), and get
\[ \sum_{\beta} \Lambda_{a\beta}^{(\alpha)} = \sum_{\beta} \Lambda_{a\beta}^{(\alpha)} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{\beta} \Lambda_{a\beta}^{(\alpha)} \end{bmatrix}^+. \] (B2)
Using the above two equations, we see that \( \bar{Q}_a^* = \bar{Q}_a \).

On the other hand, the coefficients \( Q_a \) are real \( Q_a = Q_a^* \). This can be seen from the fact that: (1) the matrices \( M, A, \Lambda \) are real, and \( A_a/\Lambda_a \) is Hermitian; (2) the trace of their products is real. Putting them together, we get the desired result \( \bar{Q}_a = \bar{Q}_a \).

APPENDIX C: EQUIVALENCE TO THE RESULTS OF REF. [38]

Here, we show that results of Ref. [38] [Eqs. (35) and (36)] are a special case of our results. There, the authors considered one electronic level at \( (\epsilon_0) \) coupled to one vibrational mode with angular frequency \( \omega_0 \). The electronic level couples to two electrodes and the vibrational mode couples to one phonon bath, characterized by \( \gamma_{ph} \). In this special case, all the matrices become numbers. We get \( G_0^{-}\epsilon \epsilon = \{\epsilon + i \gamma(\epsilon)/2 - \epsilon_0\}^{-1} \), with \( \gamma(\epsilon) = \gamma_R(\epsilon) + \gamma_L(\epsilon) \), and \( D_0^{-}(\omega) = [(\omega + i \gamma_{ph})^2 - \omega_0^2]^{-1} \). Now we have \( \bar{Q}_0 = 0 \), since the phonon mode couples only to one bath and \( \Lambda_a \) is real. Substituting these two equations to Eq. (6), and assuming \( \gamma_{ph} \) is small, we get
\[ Q_a = m^2 \int \frac{d\epsilon}{4\pi} (\epsilon + \hbar \omega_0/2 - \mu)^{2} |G_0^{-}\epsilon \epsilon + h\omega_0/2|^{2} |G_0^{-}\epsilon \epsilon - h\omega_0/2|^{2} \theta_{\hbar \omega_0 n_B(\hbar \omega_0)} |\gamma_a(\epsilon - h\omega_0/2)\gamma_a(\epsilon + h\omega_0/2) - \gamma_a(\epsilon + h\omega_0/2)\gamma_a(\epsilon - h\omega_0/2)| (f(\epsilon + h\omega_0/2) - f(\epsilon - h\omega_0/2)). \] (C1)
This is consistent with Eqs. (35) and (36) of Ref. [38]. The extra factor \( 1/2 \) in Eq. (C1) comes from different definition of the e-ph interaction \( m \). Note that we need \( \gamma_a(\epsilon) \) to be energy dependent, and \( \gamma_a(\epsilon) \neq \gamma_a(\epsilon) \), in order for \( Q \neq 0 \).