Mesoscopic to universal crossover of transmission phase of multi-level quantum dots

Transmission phase (alpha) measurements of many-electron quantum dots (small delta) revealed universal phase lapses by pi between consecutive resonances. In contrast, for dots with only a few electrons (large delta) the appearance or not of a phase lapse depends on the dot parameters. We show that a model of a multi-level quantum dot with local Coulomb correlations and arbitrary level-lead couplings reproduces the generic features of the observed behavior. Universal behavior arises when the level spacing delta is small compared to the average level width, and follows from Fano-type antiresonances of pairs of renormalized single-particle levels.

Reference: C. Karrasch, T. Hecht, A. Weichselbaum, Y. Oreg, J. von Delft, and V. Meden, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 186802 (2007).