Probing electron interactions in a two-dimensional system by quantum magneto-oscillations

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We have experimentally studied the renormalized effective mass m^* and Dingle temperature T_D in two spin subbands with essentially different electron populations. Firstly, we found that the product m^*T_D that determines the damping of quantum oscillations, to the first approximation, is the same in the majority and minority subbands even at a spin polarization degree as high as 66%. This result confirms the theoretical predictions that the interaction takes place at high energies $\sim E_F$ rather than within a narrow strip of energies $E_F \pm k_BT$. Secondly, to the next approximation, we revealed a difference in the damping factor of the two spin subbands, which causes skewness of the oscillation line shape. In the absence of the in-plane magnetic field $B_\parallel$, the damping factor m^*T_D is systematically *smaller in the spin-majority subband*. The difference, quantified with the skew factor $\gamma = (T_{D\downarrow} - T_{D\uparrow})/2T_{D0}$ can be as large as 20%. The skew factor tends to decrease as $B_\parallel$ or temperature grow, or $B_\perp$ decreases; for low electron densities and high in-plane fields, the skew factor even changes sign. Finally, we compared the temperature and magnetic field dependencies of the magneto-oscillation amplitude with predictions of the interaction correction theory, and found, besides some qualitative similarities, several quantitative and qualitative differences. To explain qualitatively our results, we suggested an empirical model that assumes the existence of easily magnetized triplet scatterers on the Si/SiO_2 interface.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The problem of interactions between electrons in a disordered two-dimensional (2D) electron system remains a field of active research [1–24]. As the carrier density n decreases, the electron-electron interaction energy E_{ee} exceeds by far the kinetic Fermi energy $E_{ee}/E_F \sim r_s \gg 1$ [25]. The interactions reveal themselves in experiment via renormalization of the observable quasiparticle parameters such as the effective mass, spin susceptibility, g-factor, electron compressibility, etc. [5,24,26–28].

The interactions are usually treated within the framework of the Fermi-liquid (FL) theory, based on the concept of the low-energy ($\delta\varepsilon \ll E_F$) quasiparticles. The FL theory states that the low-energy properties of an interacting fermionic system are determined by the states in the vicinity of the Fermi surface, and are similar to those of a weakly interacting gas of quasiparticles with parameters different from the bare band values. A great body of data supports this viewpoint even for r_s values as high as $\sim$10 for 2D electron systems.

A natural question arises whether the FL approach in 2D remains valid as the interaction strength is further increased [19,20,29]. The interaction is predicted to lead to various non-Fermi-liquid ground states [19,20,30–32]. For example, it was suggested that in a multicomponent electron liquid the interactions are mediated by exchange of high-energy plasmons, irrelevant to spins, and thus should become similar to those in a bosonic liquid [7,16,21] as the number of components increases.

On the other hand, from intuitive expectations based on the RPA result [16,33], interactions within the minority subband should renormalize the effective mass stronger than in the majority one. In contrast to the latter expectations, earlier experiments [10,34] reported that the effective mass extracted from the amplitude of Shubnikov-de Haas (SdH) oscillations in Si-MOSFETs does not depend on the spin polarization to within 4%–5% accuracy. These conclusions, however, were drawn from the temperature decay of the oscillation amplitude, which was analyzed using the Lifshitz-Kosevich (LK) model for noninteracting electrons [35] and by ignoring the difference between the subband parameters. Since then, the theory of quantum oscillations for an interacting 2D system has been developed [17,18]; it was also experimentally shown that the LK model is not fully adequate and its use leads to overestimated mass values [13,22].

The Zeeman splitting of the spin subbands in the in-plane magnetic field can shed light on this puzzle. When the spin polarization $\zeta = (n_\uparrow - n_\downarrow)/n$ becomes of an order of 1, the spin subbands separation is of an order of $2E_F$. In this essentially high-energy problem, which formally goes beyond the framework of the FL theory, there is a possibility to answer the question of how electrons interact with each other in a multicomponent system with different subband populations. Particularly, whether interactions take place primarily within each spin subband, or in the entire electron system. In the current work, we address this question by performing precise measurements of the oscillation amplitude and line shape in independently controlled perpendicular and parallel magnetic fields.

The paper is organized as follows. Firstly, by using a model-independent general approach, we compare the renormalized quasiparticle parameters in two unequally populated spin subbands. By doing this, we verify the conclusion of the earlier experiments [5,10,34] that the electrons in the spin-minority and spin-majority subbands have almost the same "damping factor," i.e., the product of the effective mass and inverse quantum time m^*/τ_q, or, equivalently, m^*T_D (where $T_D = \hbar/2\pi\tau_q$ is the Dingle temperature). This equality holds with a reasonable accuracy, $\sim$15%, even if the subband populations differ by more than 60%. This experimental finding is in line with the recent theory [16].

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Secondly, we go beyond the qualitative comparison, and find that, to the next approximation, the partial damping factor of the SdH oscillations, $m^*T_{D\uparrow}$, in the majority (spin-up) subband is systematically *lower* (by ∼6%–14%) than that in the minority (spin-down) subband. This is reminiscent of the predictions of the RPA model [16], according to which for the majority subband m^* has to be smaller and T_D to be lower due to better screening.

However, the overall picture is rather complicated: the difference between the parameters $(m^*T_{D\uparrow\downarrow})$ in the two spin subbands diminishes in the limit of weak perpendicular and strong parallel fields, or high temperatures. Moreover, in strong parallel fields, the relation between the $(m^*T_{D\uparrow\downarrow})$ reverses, and this observation seems to be at odds with the common sense arguments based on the screening concept and RPA.

Finally, we tested the theory of magneto-oscillations (MO) in the correlated 2D systems by analyzing the temperature and field dependencies of the oscillation amplitude. We reveal some similarities and some deviations from the theory. Surprisingly, many of the inconsistencies with theory vanish or weaken when a parallel field is applied in addition to the perpendicular field.

Our results outline the incompleteness of the existing theory of magneto-oscillations, which, in our view, should take into account on an equal footing not only the temperature renormalization of the scattering rates and effective mass, but also the exchange-mediated interlevel interaction that modulates the energy splitting and screening, intervalley scattering, valley splitting, and Zeeman effects in the in-plane field.

In order to explain our results, we suggest an empirical model where shallow localized states at the Si/SiO_2 interface have a nonzero spin and can be easily spin polarized in the external field; scattering of mobile electrons by the interface states modifies the magneto-oscillation line shape and amplitude.

II. EXPERIMENTAL

Our resistivity measurements were performed with three high-mobility Si-MOSFET samples [36] using a conventional four-terminal ac technique. Experiments have been done using two cross-field superconducting coils [37]. This setup allowed us to vary independently the in-plane and perpendicular magnetic fields, and disentangle the electron parameters in the spin-up and spin-down subbands by analyzing the beating pattern (or line shape) of the SdH oscillations. The split-coil magnet generated the perpendicular magnetic field that was used for observation of the SdH oscillations in both the spin-up and spin-down spin subbands. The in-plane magnetic field $B_\parallel$ was used to spin polarize the electron system; the difference between subband populations is characterized by the spin polarization $\zeta = g^*\mu_B B_{\rm total}/2E_F$. The Si-MOSFET samples are well suited for measurements in tilted fields due to the narrowness of the confining potential well, which minimizes the effect of the in-plane field on the orbital effects [38].

Measurements were performed in a dilution refrigerator over the temperature range 0.1–1.2 K. This range corresponds mainly to the ballistic regime of the electron-electron interactions, $2\pi kT\tau/[\hbar(1+F_0^a)] > 1$ [3].

III. THEORY OF SDH OSCILLATIONS IN THE INTERACTING 2D FERMI LIQUID

The magneto-oscillations in the *noninteracting* Fermi gas are usually fitted by the Lifshitz-Kosevich (LK) formula, adapted for the 2D case and valid for a small amplitude of oscillations $\delta\rho/\rho \ll 1$ [35] :

$$\frac{\delta\rho_{xx}}{\rho_0} = +2\frac{\delta D}{D} = \sum_i A_i^{\rm LK}\cos\left[\pi i\left(\frac{\hbar c\pi n}{eB_\perp} - 1\right)\right] Z_i^s Z_i^v.$$
$$A_i^{\rm LK} = 4\exp\left(-\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T_D}{\hbar\omega_c}\right)\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T/\hbar\omega_c}{\sinh\left(\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T}{\hbar\omega_c}\right)}. \quad (1)$$

Here, $\omega_c = eB_\perp/m^*c$ is the cyclotron frequency, D is the 2D density of states, $T_D = \hbar/2\pi k_B\tau_q$ is the Dingle temperature, τ_q is the elastic all-angle (quantum) scattering time, and the Zeeman- and valley-splitting terms are

$$Z_i^s = \cos\left(\pi i\frac{\hbar\pi\zeta cn}{eB_\perp}\right), \quad Z_i^v = \cos\left(\pi i\frac{\Delta_V}{\hbar\omega_c}\right). \quad (2)$$

In the absence of the parallel field, the Zeeman term reduces to the field independent factor

$$\cos\left(\pi i\frac{\Delta_Z}{\hbar\omega_c}\right) = \cos\left(\pi i\frac{g^*m^*}{2m_e}\right).$$

In the case of *interacting* electrons, both the effective mass and the Dingle temperature are renormalized, which leads to an additional temperature and magnetic field dependence of the oscillations amplitude. The interaction quantum correction to the magneto-oscillation amplitude was considered in Refs. [17,18] and for the relevant case of Coulomb scattering reads as follows (Eq. (86) in Ref. [18]):

$$A1_1^{\rm int} = A_1^{\rm LK}F_{\rm int},$$
$$F_{\rm int} = \exp\left[\left(1 + 15\frac{F_0^a}{1+F_0^a}\right)\frac{\pi}{\omega_c\tau}\frac{k_BT}{E_F}\ln\left(\frac{\Delta}{T}\right)\right], \quad (3)$$

where $\Delta = q_{\rm TF}v_F = 4\pi e^2 D v_F/\overline{\kappa}$, $D = 2m/\pi\hbar^2$, $\overline{\kappa} = 7.7$ is the average dielectric constant [39], the factor 15 is the effective number of triplet terms for a two-valley system in (100)Si-MOS, and the term in the figure brackets is the same as in the quantum corrections to the conductivity [3,40].

Figure 1 shows the magnetic field and temperature dependencies of $F_{\rm int}$ for three typical densities and relevant ranges of temperatures and fields.

The extra damping factor $F_{\rm int}$ is reduced to unity when the term in the figure brackets in Eq. (3) approaches zero; for a two-valley system with 15 triplets, this should occur at $F_0^a = -0.0625$ (this value cannot be realized in conventional Si-MOSFETs). Therefore, for all accessible densities, the interactions are predicted to cause an additional decay of oscillations with $1/B_\perp$ and with temperature.

This prediction can be explained as follows: in the LK model [Eq. (1)], the amplitude damping factor contains the T-independent T_D:

$$-\ln\left[A_1^{\rm LK}(T, B_\perp)\right]\hbar\omega_c/2\pi^2 k_B \approx (T + T_D). \quad (4)$$

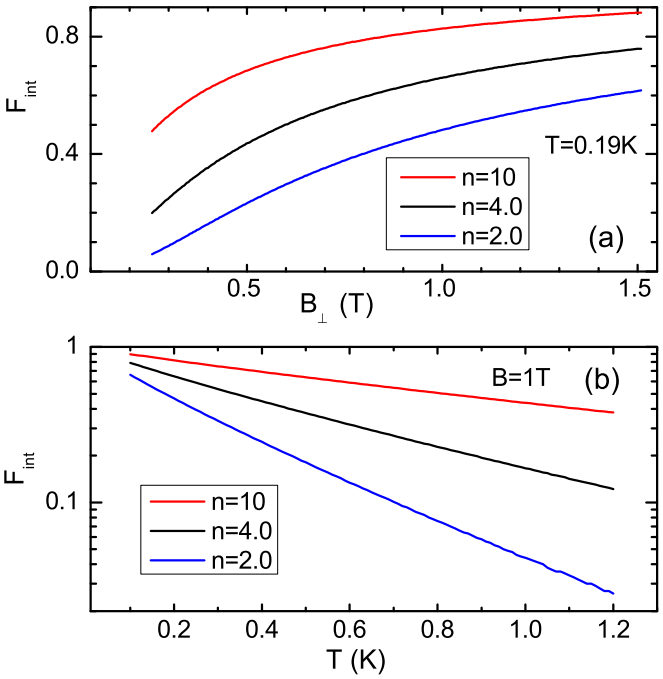


FIG. 1. (Color online) Calculated interaction corrections to the oscillation amplitude vs (a) $B_\perp$ field at T= 0.19 K and (b) temperature for $B = 1$ T. Three representative density values are 2, 4, and 10 in units of 10^{11} cm^{-2}. F_0^a values equal to -0.41, -0.334, and -0.22, respectively [22].

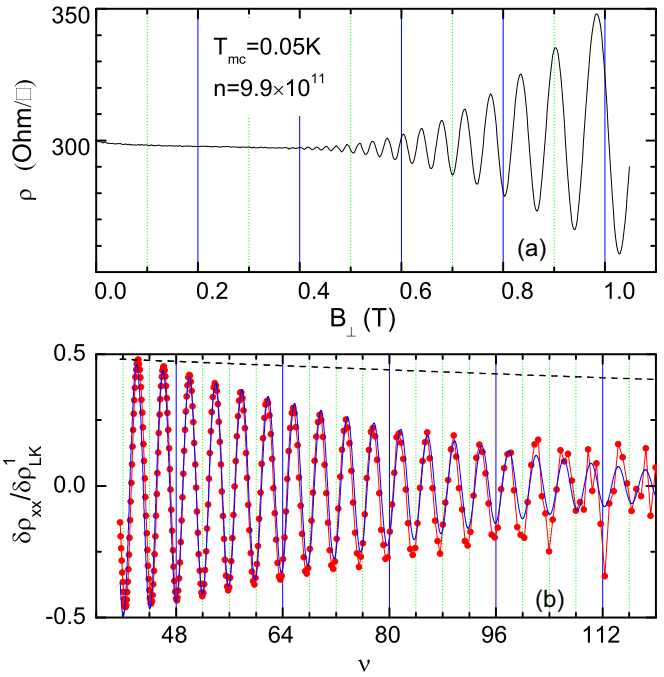


FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) The SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}$ vs $B_\perp$ in the absence of the parallel field. (b) The same oscillations normalized to the calculated amplitude of the first harmonic, Eq. (1), plotted vs the filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$. Dots with connecting lines are the data, the continuous curve calculations with an empirical field-dependent T_D (see below) with two parameters $T_{D0} = 0.737$ K and $d_1 = 0.1$ T. The dashed line shows how the amplitude should vary according to Eq. (3). The canonical values for $g = 2.57$ and $m^* = 0.225m_e$ have been used [41]. The carrier density is in units of cm^{-2}, $r_s = 2.61$.

By contrast, in the interacting case [Eq. (3)], the damping factor becomes temperature dependent:

$$-\ln\left[A_1^{\rm int}(T,B_\perp)\right]\frac{\hbar\omega_c}{2\pi^2 k_B} \approx (T + T_D^*). \qquad (5)$$

Here, the effective T_D^* includes corrections for both m^* and T_D:

$$T_D^* = T_{D0} - \left(1 + 15\frac{F_0^a}{1+F_0^a}\right)\frac{\pi}{\omega_c\tau}\frac{k_B T}{E_F}\ln\left(\frac{\Delta}{T}\right). \qquad (6)$$

Equation (4) is commonly used to find the effective mass from the slope of the $\ln A_1(T)$ dependence. The interaction correction to the damping, the second term in the latter equation, is usually negative and enhances oscillation damping with temperature. Its temperature dependence is nearly linear in T [see Fig. 1(b) and also Fig. 2(b)]. Therefore the use of Eq. (4) instead of Eq. (6) typically leads to an overestimated effective mass [13]. The interaction effects on the T and $B_\perp$ dependencies of the MO amplitude are very strong for two-valley systems, as Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) show.

The renormalized mass m^* and g^* factor were determined earlier in a number of experiments [5,13,22]; these parameters grow monotonically as the density decreases (and r_s increases) [41]. This trend is in line with the expectation of the FL theory. The Dingle temperature $T_D = \hbar/2\pi\tau_q$ is sample specific; for Si-MOSFETs, it is (roughly) close to that determined by the transport scattering rate $1/\tau_q \sim 1/\tau$. Below we refer to this well established (though not fully quantitatively explained) behavior of the ensemble averaged T_D, m^* and g^* for an unpolarized or partially polarized system as "conventional."

In what follows, we will use these known parameters and Eqs. (6) and (4) to find the effective $T_D^*(T, B_\perp, B_\parallel)$ from the measured oscillation amplitude at various T, $B_\perp$, and $B_\parallel$. The values of $T_{D\downarrow\uparrow}^*$ for individual subbands will be compared with each other, whereas the averaged value T_D^* will be compared with theoretical predictions.

IV. OSCILLATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF IN-PLANE FIELD

A. High density, weak interaction, and simple oscillation spectrum

We begin our analysis with oscillations at $B_\parallel = 0$ and high electron densities $n \approx 10^{12}$ cm^{-2} ($r_s \approx 2.6$). For such a high density the effective mass is well known [2,5,41,42]. On the other hand, this density is lower than the value 4×10^{12} cm^{-2}, at which the second quantization subband gets populated [39]. The intersubband scattering therefore can be neglected and the electron system is truly two dimensional. Additionally, since the Zeeman splitting at such high densities is much smaller than the cyclotron one, the spectrum of oscillations is simple with the first harmonic dominating.

An example of the MO data $\rho_{xx}(B_\perp)$ is shown in Fig. 2(a). In order to extract the oscillatory component $\delta\rho_{xx}$ from the raw data, we first cut off the low-field (weak localization, nonoscillatory) portion of the dependence from 0 to about 0.15 T, and then subtracted the monotonic background

magnetoresistance $\delta\rho_{xx} = \rho_0[1-\alpha(T,n)(\omega_c\tau)^2/(\pi\sigma_D e^2/h)]$ [18], where we used $\alpha(T,n)$ as a fitting parameter [the $\alpha(T)$ dependence is weak in the explored range of temperatures 0.1–1 K].

Further, in order to assign equal weights to all oscillations and for the simplicity of analysis, we normalize throughout the paper the extracted MO to the calculated amplitude of the first harmonic of Eq. (1), $\delta\rho_{\rm norm} = \delta\rho/\rho_1^{\rm LK}$, where we set the Zeeman and valley factors in Eq. (2) to unity. An example of oscillations with normalized amplitude is shown in Fig. 2(b) where they are plotted as a function of the filling factor $\nu = nhc/eB_\perp$ [43]. The reduced amplitude of the normalized oscillations here is simply the consequence of smallness of the Zeeman factor, $Z_1^s = 0.618$ for $g^*m^*/2m_e = 0.288$.

B. Experimental approach

The period of oscillations is not renormalized in the presence of electron-electron interactions since it depends solely on the ratio of the electron density to the magnetic flux density—neither of them is renormalized by interactions [44]. The quasiparticle parameters, such as g factor and m^* are significantly renormalized even at such a high density, $r_s = 2.61$. The amplitude damping of exp- and sinh- functions is therefore affected by interactions and will be analyzed in the subsequent sections. Since one of our goals is to test the theory of magneto-oscillations, we cannot apply the commonly used procedure of disentangling m^* and T_D^* by using the so-called "Dingle plot," i.e., by plotting $\ln(\delta\rho/\rho)$ versus $1/T$. Indeed, this procedure relies on Eq. (1) [and Eq. (4)], which is *a priori* inapplicable.

In what follows we use a different approach: we compare the measured oscillation pattern with Eqs. (1)–(3) for a given temperature (and $B_\parallel$ in the following sections), using earlier measured "canonical" values for the renormalized effective mass and g factor [41], and treat the Dingle temperature T_D as an adjustable parameter.

C. Over- and underdecay of the oscillation amplitude with inverse $B_\perp$ field

When oscillations are normalized to the amplitude of the first harmonic calculated from Eq. (1), their amplitude is expected to be field independent for the noninteracting case. However, as Fig. 2(b) shows, this is not the case: the MO amplitude at the lowest temperatures decays with inverse field faster than the LK formula predicts. Specifically, the MO amplitude in Fig. 2(a) over the range $\nu = 40$–120 (i.e., $B = 1$ to 0.34 T) is expected to vary by a factor of 100, whereas in fact it drops by a factor of ~400. We note that the same extra damping may be found in earlier papers (see, e.g., Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) in Ref. [22]) though have never been discussed. This extra damping is much stronger than the calculated from Eq. (3) interaction damping factor $F_{\rm int}$, which varies only by 16% (from 0.917 to 0.77) over the field range.

To overcome the limitations of Eqs. (1) and (3), we proceed in the following way: we introduce an empiric field dependence of the Dingle temperature using an additional adjustable parameter:

$$T_D = T_{D0}(1 + d_1/B_\perp). \quad (7)$$

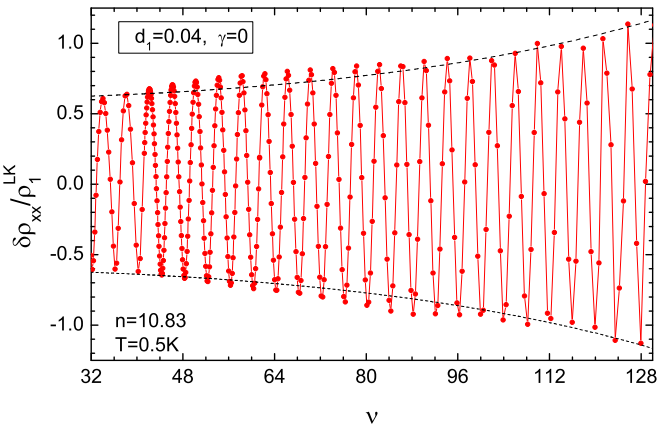


FIG. 3. (Color online) The SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}/\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ normalized to the amplitude of the first harmonic calculated with a field independent $T_D = 0.61$K vs filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$ in the absence of the parallel field. Dots with connecting lines are the data, the dashed curves show the calculated oscillation envelope with empirical field-dependent $T_D = 0.6(1 - 0.04/B_\perp)$ K. The canonical values for $g = 2.57$ and $m^* = 0.225$ have been used [41]. The carrier density is 10.83×10^{11} cm^{-2} and $T = 0.5$ K.

In particular, to fit the oscillations in Fig. 2(b), we have used $d_1 = 0.1$ T; as a result T_D varies by 15% in the shown field range and reasonably fits the data. Hypothetically, the actual electron temperature (which is not measured independently) could be higher than the known mixing chamber temperature. Under this assumption, the data in Fig. 2(b) may be also fitted if the electron temperature is assumed to be 0.3 K (whereas the mixing chamber temperature is 0.05 K). The latter explanation, however, is not supported by the data, because this "extra" decay almost vanishes when the in-plane field is applied in addition to $B_\perp$ (see below).

As temperature increases, the "overdecay" weakens and eventually transforms into an "underdecay," i.e., the oscillation amplitude starts decaying with the inverse field *weaker* than the LK formula predicts. This deficiency is not as strong as the excessive decay discussed above: for example, in Fig. 3, the raw oscillation amplitude $\delta\rho_{xx}$ at $T = 0.5$ K drops by a factor of 300 within the shown range $\nu = 32$–128 (i.e., $B_\perp = 1.2$–0.3 T). The normalized oscillations grow by a factor of 2; this growth is modeled in Fig. 3 by the field dependent $T_D = 0.6(1 + d_1/B)$ K (now with a negative $d_1 = -0.04$ T). Similarly, the oscillations for the same density at $T = 1$ K have been fitted with negative $d_1 = -0.09$ T. The "underdecay" is qualitatively reproducible in different cooldowns and, in contrast to the low-temperature data, cannot be explained by electron overheating. Obviously, the "underdecay" cannot be explained by interaction correction (5), which may produce only an extra decay with an increase of $1/B_\perp$; for this particular temperature, the predicted correction varies by a factor of 2 in the range of fields shown in Fig. 3.

The over- and underdecay also cannot be simply caused by a mistake in the calculated amplitude of oscillations; neither can it be attributed to the carrier density inhomogeneity over the sample area, nor to any instrumentation error. The amplitude variations are strong (up to a factor of 4); therefore they are most likely related to the exponential damping factors in

Eq. (1) rather than to the Zeeman and valley cosine terms in Eq. (2).

For completeness, we note that there is a third option to explain the (not-too-strong) over- and underdecay, by assigning different T_D values to the spin-up and spin-down subbands. For example, the data in Fig. 3 may be well fitted with $d_1 = 0$ and the use of $T_{D\uparrow,\downarrow} = 0.62(1 \pm \gamma)$ K with $\gamma = 0.18$.

For small Zeeman splitting $g\mu_B B \ll \hbar\omega_c$, the oscillations are featureless and we cannot determine unambiguously which of the above mentioned mechanisms is relevant. However, when the Zeeman splitting becomes comparable to the cyclotron one (which occurs either at low densities, or in the presence of $B_\parallel$), as will be shown below, the assumptions of the relevance of d_1 and γ gain solid experimental ground. Moreover, as will be shown below, the overdecay disappears when a rather weak $B_\parallel$ field is applied in addition to the $B_\perp$ field.

D. On the apparent smallness of the interlevel exchange interaction

In Fig. 2, the peak-to-peak variations $\delta\rho/\rho$ reach ≈28% at 1.3 T; correspondingly, the oscillations of the density of states $\delta g/g = 1/2(\delta\rho/\rho)$ reach ≈14%. The latter should cause oscillatory level broadening [45,46]. In order to test its importance, following Ref. [28], we modeled level broadening with

$$T_D(\nu) = T_{D0}(1 - \delta g/g). \tag{8}$$

It appears, however, that the introduction of the oscillatory $T_D(\nu)$ dependence does not eliminate the extra decay of the amplitude; we conclude that this factor is irrelevant.

The underdecay may also be caused by enhancement of the oscillations due to the interlevel exchange interaction [47,48]. This effect is caused by the exchange energy contribution, which lowers the chemical potential in the vicinity of integer fillings and makes the thermodynamic density of states negative [46,49]:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu} = -\alpha \frac{\kappa}{e^2 l_H} \begin{cases} \widetilde{\nu}^{1/2} & \text{for} \quad \widetilde{\nu} \leqslant 1/2, \\ (1-\widetilde{\nu})^{1/2} & \text{for} \quad \widetilde{\nu} > 1/2. \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

Here, l_H is the magnetic length, $\widetilde{\nu}$ is the fractional part of the filling factor, and α (which is of an order of 1 for classical Coulomb interaction) was experimentally found to be about 0.04–0.06 for Si-MOSFETs [48]. The estimated exchange contribution to $\partial n/\partial\mu$ is ten times smaller than the single-particle density of states and therefore is expected to cause at most a 20% correction to the amplitude of ρ_{xx} oscillations. We conclude therefore that the exchange enhancement of cyclotron splitting cannot be (solely) responsible for the factor of 4 extra decay of oscillations.

E. Proximity to the "spin-zero" regime

In the absence of $B_\parallel$ field, the spin subbands are created by the $B_\perp$ field, and according to the LK formula (1), the g^* factor affects only their magnitude provided the Zeeman splitting is $\lesssim T_D$. One might think therefore that the oscillations are featureless, insensitive to the quasiparticle parameters

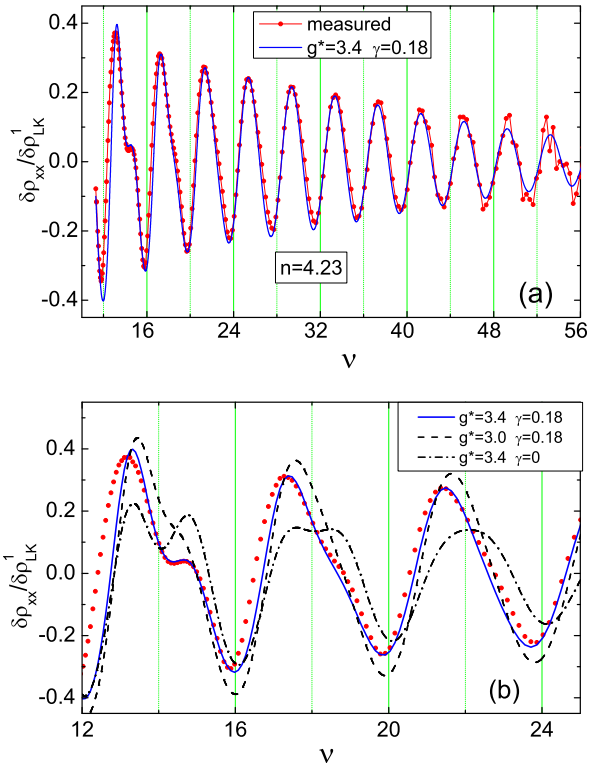


FIG. 4. (Color online) Normalized SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}/\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ in the absence of the parallel field vs filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$ [$T = 0.4$ K, carrier density 4.23×10^{11} cm^{-2}, and $r_s \approx 4.0$] (a) over a wide range of fields $B_\perp = 0.3$–1.5 T, and (b) oscillation fits corresponding to the sets of parameters shown in the figure.

and renormalization in individual spin subbands. However, as we show below, even in this case, the oscillation line shape provides information on the quasiparticle spectrum. This opportunity appears at lower electron densities, where the renormalized spin susceptibility $g^*m^*/2m_e$ approaches 1/2 [2,5]. This situation corresponds to the proximity of the spin splitting to half the cyclotron splitting. Under such conditions (called the "spin-zero" case), Z_1^s tends to vanish, which causes decrease of the main harmonic of the oscillations.

Figures 4 and 5 show two examples of oscillations and their modeling with the LK formula (1). The oscillations significantly deviate from the harmonic function. The corresponding data have been measured at two different cooldowns and the similarity of the features discussed below confirms that they are not caused by inhomogeneity of the electron density in the 2D system. Similar to the data in Fig. 2, for such low fields, the main period of oscillations $\Delta\nu = 4$ reflects the fourfold spin and valley degeneracy of the 2D electron system in (100)-Si. The amplitude of the oscillations is less than unity, which again suggests that the Zeeman splitting is close to the half the cyclotron splitting in Eq. (2), i.e., $(g^*m^*/2m_e) = 0.44$ is close to 1/2 for which $Z_1^s = 0$. This agrees with the directly measured renormalized spin susceptibility $(g^*m^*/2m_e) = 1.9m_b = 0.39$ for the given density value $r_s \approx 4$, Ref. [5].

Similar to the discussed case of higher densities, the amplitude of the *normalized* oscillations in Figs. 4 and 5 is decaying monotonically versus the inverse field (by a factor of

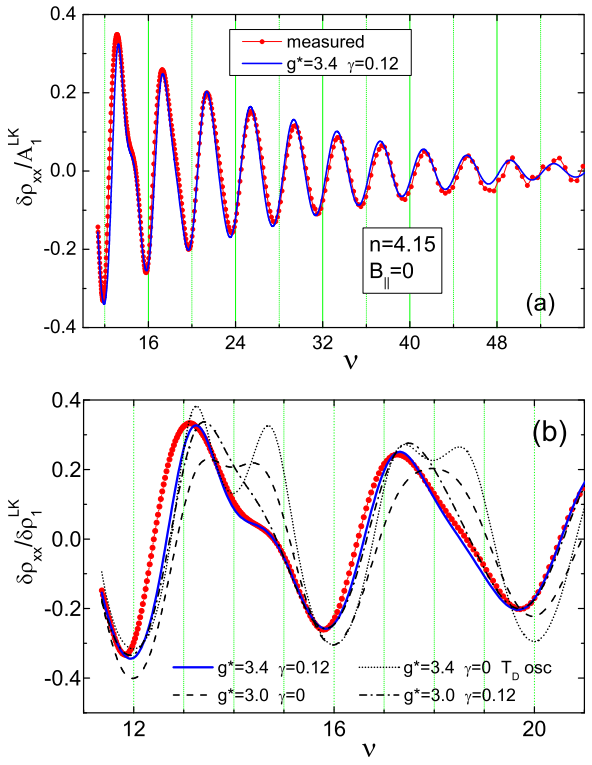


FIG. 5. (Color online) Normalized SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}/\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ in the absence of the parallel field vs filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$ [carrier density is 4.15×10^{11} cm^{-2}. $r_s \approx 4.0$, and $T = 0.19$ K] (a) in the wide range of fields $B_\perp = 0.3$–1.5 T, and (b) oscillation fits corresponding to the sets of parameters shown in the figure.

4 in the shown field range), rather than being field independent according to the LK model (1). This effect is ten times stronger than that expected due to the interaction correction (Fig. 1). This justifies our empirical assumption of the field-dependent level broadening $T_D(B_\perp)$ [see Eq. (7) and Fig. 2].

F. Asymmetry of two spin subbands

In the magneto-oscillation dependencies shown in Figs. 4 and 5, there is a "dip" due to the emerging Zeeman splitting at $\nu \approx 14$. When the splitting is not fully resolved yet, the dip position depends primarily on the g^* factor and points to its enhanced value, $g^* = 3.4$, as compared to the "canonical" value 3.15 [41] measured in Refs. [5,22] in the presence of a nonzero $B_\parallel$ field.

The asymmetry of the dip shoulders seen in Figs. 4(b), 5(b), and 6 suggests some nonequivalence of the two spin subbands. To explain the asymmetry, the oscillation magnitudes produced by the individual subbands must be different. The amplitude of oscillations is controlled by the product m^*T_D in Eq. (1); its variations for different subbands may be due to the difference in either m^* or T_D values. The estimate for the polarization dependence of the effective mass calculated in Ref. [16] in the large-N approximation [the degeneracy $N = 4$ in (100) Si-MOS]

$$m^*_{\downarrow\uparrow}/m^* = \frac{1+\zeta^2}{12N}\log\left(\frac{r_s N^{3/2}}{1+\zeta^2}\right) \qquad (10)$$

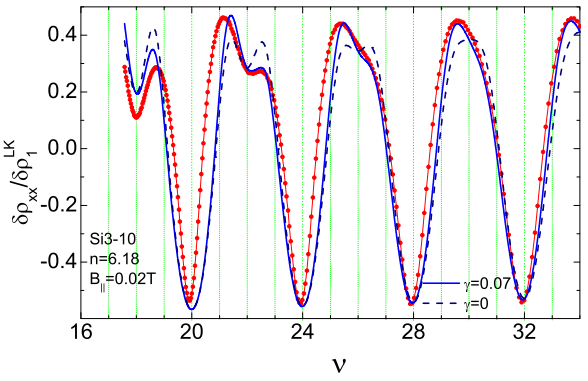


FIG. 6. (Color online) Normalized SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}/\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ in the absence of the parallel field vs filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$ [electron density is 6.18×10^{11} cm^{-2} ($r_s = 3.3$), $g^* = 2.9$]. Dots are the data, the continuous curve is a fit with $\gamma = +0.07$, and the dashed curve is a fit for $\gamma = 0$.

is negligibly small, e.g., the mass changes by less than 1% when ζ varies from 0 to 1 for $n = 4 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} ($r_s = 4$). It is stressed in Ref. [16] that there is no spin splitting of the effective mass within the large-N approximation. We therefore assume that m^* is the same for both subbands and attribute the difference in amplitude to the difference in Dingle temperatures. Correspondingly, we model the asymmetry using two different T_D values, for the majority and minority subbands:

$$T_{D\uparrow} = (1-\gamma) \quad \text{majority subband},$$
$$T_{D\downarrow} = (1+\gamma) \quad \text{minority subband}. \qquad (11)$$

The dip asymmetry allows us to determine the skew factor γ at those $B_\perp$ fields that correspond to the spin gaps (or beating nodes for nonzero $B_\parallel$, which are discussed below). The resulting γ appears to be unexpectedly large; it is also cooldown dependent, in contrast to the g^* factor: $\gamma \approx 0.18$ for Fig. 4 and $\gamma \approx 0.12$ for Fig. 5 (the two measurements have been performed at about the same density and with the same sample, but in two different cooldowns). The different depth of the dip at $\nu \approx 14$ in Figs. 4 and 5 indicates irreproducibility of the γ value in different cooldowns.

Beside modeling with an adjustable γ value, for comparison, the figures show examples of modeling with $\gamma = 0$ and with the canonical g-factor value. Figure 5(b) also shows modeling of the SdH oscillation shape using an oscillatory level broadening according to Eq. (8). One can see that the oscillatory $T_D(\nu)$ dependence does not explain the asymmetry of the oscillation line shape. Since oscillatory level broadening is irrelevant to both observable features of SdH oscillations, i.e., the extra decay of the amplitude with inverse field and asymmetry of the line shape, we ignore this effect in the rest of the paper.

G. Intermediate discussion of the results

On the basis of the above data analysis we have arrived at several conclusions. (i) For relatively low filling factors corresponding to the spin gaps $\nu = (4i-2)$ and in zero $B_\parallel$ field, the g^* factor is enhanced by ≈10%–15% as compared with its value previously measured at $B_\parallel \neq 0$ [5,22]. This enhancement

qualitatively agrees with our earlier measurements of a sharp $\chi^*(B_\parallel)$ field dependence [13] and with the nonlinearity of the spin magnetization measured in weak in-plane fields [50].

Alternatively, the g-factor enhancement might also result from the conventional exchange interaction between the adjacent spin levels. It is known that the latter can increase the energy splitting when the Fermi energy lies in the spin gap and the difference of spin-subband populations is the largest [39,45,47,48]. Although we cannot rule out completely the exchange mechanism, the interlevel exchange can hardly explain the enhanced g^* value at Zeeman gaps $\nu = 14$, 18, and 22 in Figs. 4–6. Indeed, there are two observations at odds with this explanation: (i) the enhanced g^* value does not decay with ν, being approximately the same for $\nu = 14$, 18, and 22 in Fig. 4(b), and for $\nu = 14$ and 18 in Fig. 5(b), and (ii) application of a strong parallel field restores the canonical g^* value (see below).

The same reasoning may be applied to the origin of the extra decay of the oscillation amplitude discussed in Sec. IV C: it can hardly be related to the exchange interaction enhancement of the oscillations [45,47,48]. Indeed, as Figs. 4(a) and 5(a) show, the normalized oscillation amplitude decays with the inverse field down to very weak fields (0.3 T) where the amplitude is as small as $\delta\rho/\rho \sim (0.2\text{–}1)\%$. At such weak fields $T_D \approx 0.9$ K, $\hbar\omega_c \approx 1.7$ K and the effective energy gap $\hbar\omega_c - \frac{1}{2}g^*\mu_B B \approx 1.4$ K; hence the neighboring levels overlap heavily and the exchange enhancement is expected to be negligible.

(ii) There is an unexpected difference in scattering rates between the two spin subbands, which we described by the skew factor γ, namely, $T_D \propto 1/\tau_q$ is about 20%–36% smaller in the majority subband, whereas the spin polarization $\zeta = (n_\uparrow - n_\downarrow)/n$ does not exceed 5% [54]. The skew factor, as was mentioned above, is cooldown dependent (compare Figs. 4 and 5).

In the absence of $B_\parallel$ field, the Zeeman splitting in weak fields is relatively small, and the respective spin dips at $\nu = (4 \times i - 2)$ can be observed only at the lowest temperatures (they quickly disappear as temperature increases). For this reason, it is difficult to probe the temperature dependence of γ and to clarify its origin. We have solved this problem by performing measurements in nonzero $B_\parallel$, where the Zeeman splitting is enhanced. The corresponding field and temperature dependencies of the skew factor will be discussed below.

(iii) The field dependence of the oscillation amplitude deviates from the conventional LK-type dependence $\sim\exp[-2\pi^2 k(T + T_D)/\hbar\omega_c]$, Eq. (1). There is an extra damping of the SdH amplitude with inverse $B_\perp$ field, which we described by the empirical field-dependent $T_D = T_{D0}(1 + d_1/B_\perp)$. The extra damping d_1 is much larger than the interaction correction [18]. It is not caused by the interlevel exchange interaction, hypothetic electron overheating, possible amplitude calibration errors, and possible inhomogeneity of the carrier density over the sample area.

The extra damping factor d_1 decreases and changes sign with temperature (compare Figs. 2 and 3) and with $B_\parallel$ field (for more detail, see below). Obviously, such behavior is inconsistent with the interaction correction (6), which cannot change sign. Two of the fitting parameters, d_1 and γ, are sample dependent and also depend on the temperature and $B_\parallel$ field; γ, additionally, depends on the $B_\perp$ field. In the absence of $B_\parallel$, we were able to reliably disentangle d_1 and γ only within a narrow temperature range 0.1–0.4 K. Their temperature dependencies over a wider temperature range $T = 0.1$–1 K have been measured in the presence of $B_\parallel$ field and will be discussed in the next section.

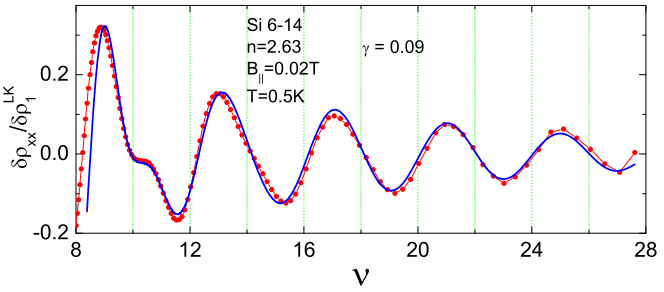


FIG. 7. (Color online) Normalized SdH oscillations $\delta\rho_{xx}/\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ in the absence of the parallel field vs filling factor $\nu \propto 1/B_\perp$ [electron density is 2.63×10^{11} cm^{-2} ($r_s = 5.07$), $g^* = 3.72$ (canonical value 3.24)]. Dots are the data, the continuous curve is a fit with $\gamma = +0.09$.

(iv) Even though the MO amplitude is small over the whole range of fields, for the strongest fields $B_\perp \approx 1.3$ T (i.e., the lowest filling factors $\nu < 10$) the MO line shape starts deviating from that calculated using Eq. (1) [see, e.g., Figs. 4, 5, 7, and 10(b)]. We attribute these high-field deviations to the interlevel exchange interaction that causes oscillatory level splitting and oscillatory broadening [39,45,47,48]. This effect is beyond the scope of this paper and we omit the strongest field data in our analysis.

V. OSCILLATIONS IN NONZERO $B_\parallel$ FIELD. AVERAGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTIALLY SPIN POLARIZED 2DE SYSTEM

A. Brief overview of the $B_\parallel$ field effect on the magneto-oscillations

In the presence of the parallel field $B_\parallel$, the SdH oscillations exhibit beatings; to make the origin of beating more transparent, we modify Eq. (1):

$$\frac{\delta\rho_{xx}}{\rho_0} = \sum_i 2\left(a\downarrow_i^{\rm LK} + a\uparrow_i^{\rm LK}\right)\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T/\hbar\omega_c}{\sinh\left(\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T}{\hbar\omega_c}\right)} \tag{12}$$

where

$$a(\downarrow,\uparrow)_i^{\rm LK} = \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi^2 i k_B T_{D\downarrow,\uparrow}}{\hbar\omega_c}\right) \times \cos\left\{i\pi\left[\frac{\hbar\pi nc}{eB_\perp}\left(1 \pm \frac{g\mu_B B_{\rm total}}{2E_F}\right) - 1\right]\right\} Z_i^v \tag{13}$$

with $B_{\rm total} = \sqrt{B_\perp^2 + B_\parallel^2}$. One can see that when $B_\parallel \neq 0$, the two oscillatory patterns interfere causing beatings.

Typical traces of the SdH oscillations in the presence of $B_\parallel$ field are shown in Figs. 8, and 9. Being normalized to the calculated amplitude of the first harmonic $\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$, Eq. (1), the oscillations exhibit a well pronounced beating pattern [see Figs. 8(b) and 10]. The oscillations envelope and phase, as well as the node position of beatings carry information on the g-factor value, and on the relative amplitude of the oscillatory

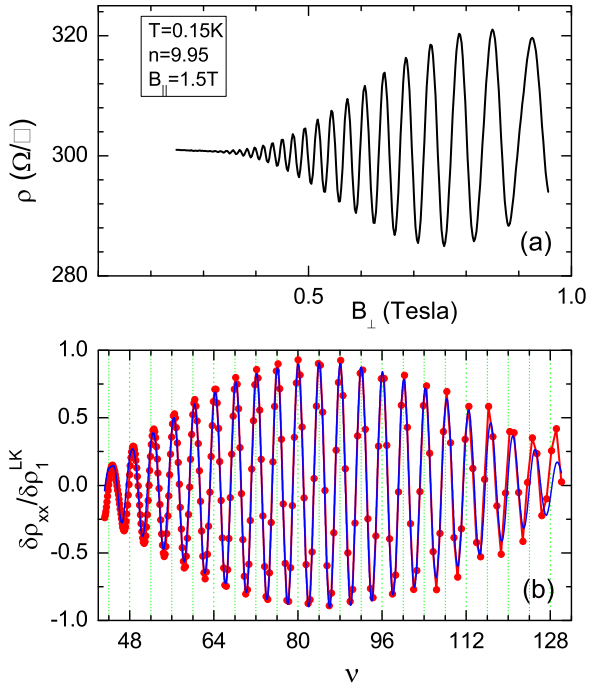


FIG. 8. (Color online) SdH oscillations in the presence of the parallel field: (a) $\rho(B_\perp)$ data for $B_\parallel = 1.5$ T and for almost the same density as that in Fig. 2. The temperature is $T = 0.15$ K. (b) Normalized oscillations $\delta\rho/\delta\rho_1^{\rm LK}$ (dots) and their fitting (line) with Eq. (1) using $T_D = 0.87$ K, $d_1 = 0$, $\gamma = 0$, and $g^* = 2.65$.

patterns generated by two spin subbands; the beating pattern is the subject of the analysis in this section.

Application of the in-plane field unexpectedly produces several remarkable effects: (i) the extra damping of oscillations [d_1 in Eq. (7)] decreases significantly or vanishes, (ii) the skew factor γ is significantly reduced, and (iii) g^* factor regains its canonical value [41].

Figures 8 and 10 illustrate that oscillations are now much better described by Eq. (1) and that their normalized

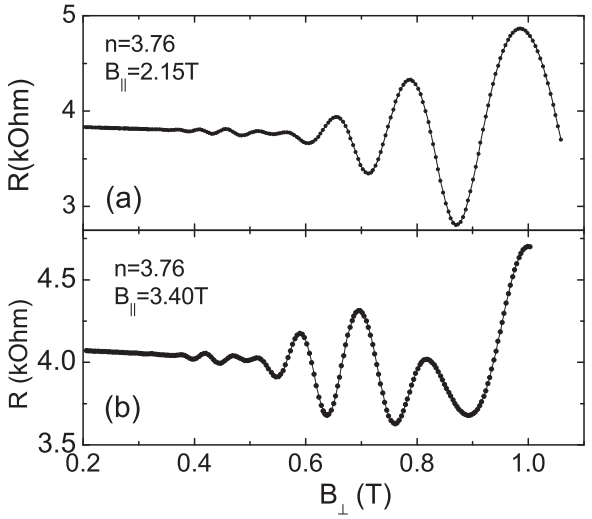


FIG. 9. Examples of SdH oscillations in the presence of the parallel field: (a) for $B_\parallel = 2.15$ and (b) for 3.4 T. The temperature $T = 0.1$ K. Carrier density is in units of 10^{11} cm^{-2}.

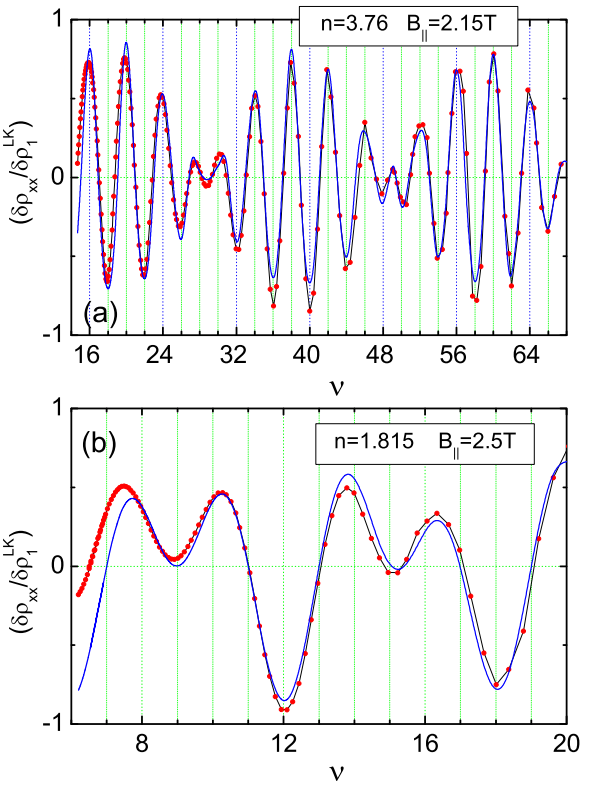


FIG. 10. (Color online) Examples of fitting with Eq. (1): (a) $n = 3.76$, $B_\parallel = 2.15$ T, and (b) $n = 1.815$, $B_\parallel = 2.5$ T. The temperature is $T = 0.1$ K and the density is in units of 10^{11} cm^{-2}. Dots are the normalized data $\delta\rho_{xx}/\rho_1^{\rm LK}$, curves are the fits with adjustable T_D, d_1, γ; $m^*(n)$ and $g^*(n)$ are the canonical values from Refs. [5,22]. $T_{D0} = 0.77$ K, $\gamma = 0.8\%$, and $d_1 = 0.07$ for panel (a). $T_{D0} = 0.87$ K, $\gamma = 4\%$, and $d_1 = 0.17$ for panel (b). Note that all ρ_{xx} minima on panel (b) correspond to the "spin gaps," $\nu = 4i - 2$ [43].

magnitude remains independent of $B_\perp$ field. We shall discuss this remarkable observation later, and now we return to the "conventional" behavior. Thanks to the high accuracy of the fitting, <1%, demonstrated in Figs. 8(b) and 10, the fitting parameters are determined with rather high precision. The high accuracy of the parameters extraction in the presence of $B_\parallel$ field allows us to perform a comparison of oscillations with the interaction correction theory.

B. Taking interaction into account

When comparing the MO amplitude for various $B_\parallel$ fields, we face a dilemma: which conductivity value should be used for normalization of the MO amplitude in Eq. (1), $\sigma_D(B_\parallel = 0)$ or $\sigma(T \to 0, B_\parallel)$? Neither the LK theory nor the theory in Refs. [17,18] consider the in-plane field, and, therefore, do not answer this question directly. In the framework of the interaction correction theory, σ_D should not be affected by the temperature and in-plane field, whereas both τ_q and τ are renormalized by interactions causing temperature and field dependencies of the conductivity. This suggests that the oscillation amplitude in Eq. (1) should be normalized to σ_D.

On the other hand, it was experimentally established that for Si-MOSFETs the magnetoresistance in the $B_\parallel$ field is

not entirely described by the interaction corrections: it is also strongly dependent on the magnetic field contribution to the mobility (the so-called "magnetic field driven disorder" [51,52]). In this case, if the disorder is altered by the parallel field [51,53], the scattering time would be field-dependent and, hence, the oscillation magnitude should be normalized to the field-modified $\sigma_D(B_\parallel)$. The latter value in the ballistic regime (i.e., ignoring logarithmic corrections) may be found as $\sigma(T \to 0, B_\parallel)$ [8].

The relative share of the two contributions to the magnetoresistance, the interaction corrections and magnetic field driven disorder, depends on the particular sample. In view of this uncertainty and in the spirit of the theory with which we compare our data, throughout the paper we normalize the MO amplitude to $\sigma_D(B = 0)$ even in the presence of $B_\parallel$ field; we have verified that the normalization to σ_D or $\sigma(B_\parallel, T = 0)$ results in a minor quantitative difference and does not affect our qualitative results and conclusions.

VI. INDIVIDUAL RENORMALIZATIONS IN EACH SUBBAND OF THE PARTIALLY POLARIZED 2D ELECTRON SYSTEM

We now analyze the line shape of SdH oscillations in order to determine the quantum scattering time in each spin subband as a function of the in-plane field and temperature. The emerging spin-splitting causes dips at the maxima of ρ_{xx} oscillations at $\nu = 4i - 2$, which grow with $B_\perp$ (i.e., as ν decreases). Figures 6 and 11 show the development of the spin structure in SdH oscillations at relatively high densities with an increasing in-plane field.

A. Background of the data analysis

In principle, one can determine all the renormalized parameters of the electron system, m^*, T_D, g^*, and the skew parameter γ, by fitting the interference pattern of quantum oscillations with Eqs. (1)–(5). However, the first two parameters that control the damping of the average MO amplitude are strongly correlated over the experimental ranges of temperatures and fields. For this reason, their product m^*T_D can be determined much more reliably. The g^* factor controls the characteristic fields where the dips appear due to the emerging spin splitting, as well as the nodes of beats. In its turn, γ controls mainly the asymmetry and magnitude of the oscillation pattern near the nodes and does not correlate with T_D.

The parameters g^* and γ are almost uncorrelated, and this fact enables us to disentangle them with a reasonable accuracy, $\sim$1.5% for g^* factor, and up to ± 0.002 for γ. We have taken into account the $\gamma(B_\perp, T)$ dependencies by analyzing the evolution of oscillations with temperature and $B_\parallel$ field for several fixed values of $B_\perp$ field at which we could extract γ from the interference pattern.

In order to decrease the number of fitting parameters, we analyzed the data using the following scheme. Initially, the beating pattern of oscillations versus $B_\perp$ field was fitted using Eq. (1) for a given density, $B_\parallel$ field, and temperature. The initial $m^*(n)$ and $g^*(n)$ values were calculated using the polynomial approximation of the experimental data [41]. The actual g^* value was further fine tuned by fitting the line shape of the nodes of oscillations and emerging spin gaps. As we mentioned above, for weak or zero $B_\parallel$, the canonical g^* value had to be increased by about 10%. This approach leaves us with only three adjustable parameters: T_{D0}, its field dependence d_1, and γ. The dependencies of these parameters on $B_\parallel$ field (see below) represent one of our main results.

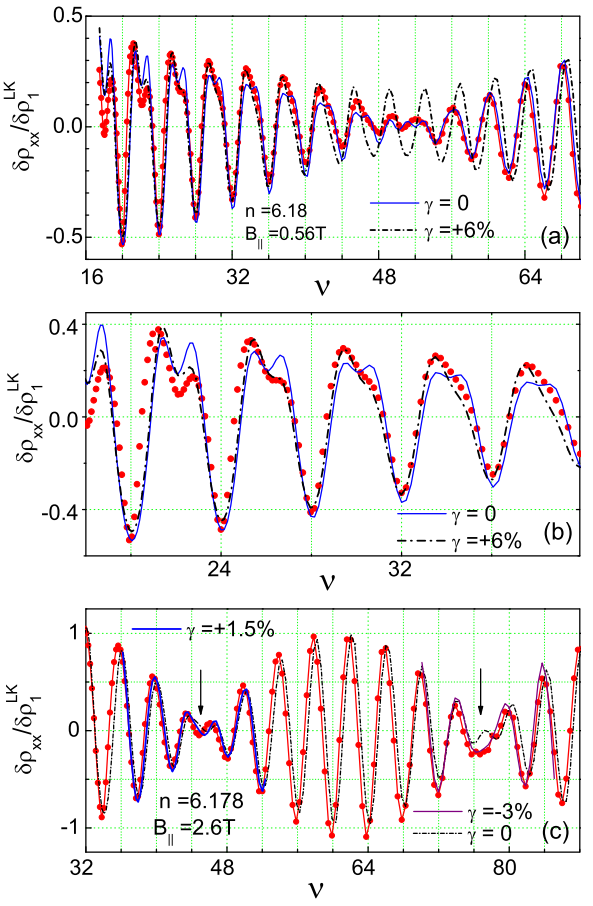


FIG. 11. (Color online) Examples of fitting SdH oscillations for sample Si3-10 at $n = 6.178 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2}: (a) $B_\parallel = 0.56$ T, $T_{D0} = 0.43$ K, and $T = 0.15$ K. (b) blow-up of the low field range $\nu = 16$–48 of the same data. (c) $B_\parallel = 2.6$ T and $T_{D0} = 0.45$ K. Dots show the normalized data, the continuous and dash-dotted curves show fittings with various γ values. Vertical arrows point at two nodes.

As we have already mentioned, the analysis is simplified essentially in the presence of a strong field $B_\parallel \gtrsim k_B T/2\mu_B$. In this case, the oscillations damping is reasonably well described with a $B_\perp$-*field independent* T_D value (i.e., d_1 may be neglected), and g^* factor regains its canonical value.

At the next step, for fixed $B_\parallel$ and $B_\perp$ fields, we analyzed the product m^*T_D as a function of temperature. These results will be compared with the theory Eqs. (3) and (6). Finally, we found that the extracted g^* and γ values vary slightly with perpendicular field; this dependence will be also discussed below.

We fitted the oscillations with Eqs. (1) and (3) using individual products m^*T_D for each spin subband,

$$(m^*T_{D\uparrow\downarrow}) = m_0^*T_{D0}(1 \pm \gamma),$$

where the average ("zero-field") mass $m_0^*(n)$ corresponds to the canonical value [5,41]. The sign of γ in the above equation is chosen in line with our intuitive expectations and the RPA results: for the majority ($\uparrow$) subband, the carrier density is larger, the interaction strength r_s is weaker, and screening is stronger; both latter factors are expected to lower the m^*T_D value.

Strictly speaking, relying solely on the experimental data, it is difficult to determine to which of the two parameters (either m^* or T_D) the skew factor γ is related to. However, the uppermost RPA estimate of the skewness in m^*, Eq. (10), is much smaller than the observed skewness in the MO amplitude in a purely perpendicular field. As will be shown below, the observed skewness tends to decrease with $B_\parallel$ field and, hence, with spin polarization, in direct contradiction with the RPA result. Moreover, according to recent calculations [16], the difference between $m_\uparrow^*$ and $m_\downarrow^*$ for a large-degeneracy (bosonic) 2D gas should be small and its dependence on the spin polarization should be very weak. Taking this into account, as well as the experimental evidence that T_D is noticeably dependent on $B_\parallel$ (see below), we have chosen to associate γ with skewness in $T_{D\downarrow,\uparrow}$ in the presence of a strong polarizing $B_\parallel$ field, in the same way as above in Eq. (11) for a purely perpendicular field.

Figure 11 shows that γ can be found by fitting the beats of the oscillations with rather high precision, typically $\pm 0.2\%$. The most sensitive to the γ value are the MO amplitude and phase near the nodes. Additional information on γ, even at zero parallel field, comes from emerging spin splittings in the vicinity of $\nu = 14$, 18, and 22 in Figs. 4(b), 5(b), and 7. Correspondingly, γ was determined as a function of $B_\parallel$ at several $B_\perp$ values.

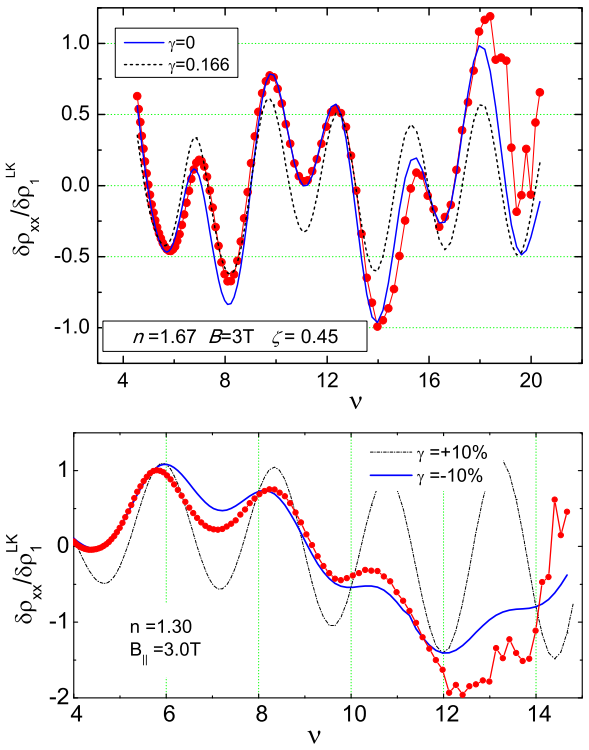


FIG. 12. (Color online) Examples of fitting SdH oscillations for sample Si3-10 at $B_\parallel = 3.0$ T: for $n = 1.67 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2}, $\zeta = 45\%$ (top) [54], and $n = 1.3 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2}, $\zeta = 66\%$), $T_{D0} = 0.67$ K (bottom). Dots show the normalized data, continuous and dashed curves show fittings with various γ values.

B. Variation of γ and d_1 with field and temperature

In the absence of the parallel field [Fig. 6(a)], γ has the anticipated sign; its value ($\sim +7\%$ in strong field $B_\perp = 1.4$ T) is of the order of the polarization degree $\zeta = \sim 4\%$ [54]. Figures 11(a) and 11(b) show that in the presence of $B_\parallel = 0.56$ T, γ changes from 6% (at $\nu = 20$–40) to almost zero in weak perpendicular fields (at $\nu \approx 48$–54, $B_\perp = 0.5$ T). Closer inspection of Fig. 11(a) reveals that this change occurs rather abruptly, between $\nu = 42$ and 49. We note that the Zeeman energy at the corresponding perpendicular field $B_\perp = 0.6$–0.53 T is ten times greater than the temperature 0.15K and is of the order of the level broadening T_D. The role of the latter relation will be discussed below.

In stronger parallel field $B_\parallel = 2.6$ T [Fig. 11(c)], the γ value similarly decreases from 1.5% to -3% as $B_\perp$ field decreases (i.e., ν increases from 72 to 80). And vice versa, γ tends to regain its original value with increasing $B_\perp$ field: at $B_\perp$ corresponding to $\nu \approx 44$, γ increases to $+1.5\%$. Note that the polarization degree varies negligibly, from $\zeta(B_{\text{total}}) = 8\%$ to 7.5%, over the range of fields in Fig. 11(b) and hence is irrelevant to the sign change of γ. We also note that the oscillation line-shape evolution with the field is fully reproducible and reversible.

The negative sign of γ implies that the m^*T_D product in the majority spin subband becomes *larger* than that in the minority subband, a result that obviously contradicts the common sense arguments based on the screening and RPA approaches. The γ decrease with $B_\parallel$ field is observed for the whole explored range of carrier densities, $1.3 \times 10^{11} < n < 10^{12}$ cm^{-2}; it becomes very pronounced at lower densities (Fig. 12). In the latter case for $\zeta = 66\%$, m^*T_D for the majority subband is by 20% *larger* than that for the minority subband.

A typical variation of the skewness γ with in-plane field is plotted in Figs. 13(a) and 13(b) for two carrier densities. The trend is similar for all densities, but at lower densities, the decrease of γ is more pronounced and γ drops to more negative values. For low densities, more than one node could be observed within the accessible range of $B_\perp$ fields; the respective γ values for two nodes are shown in Fig. 13(b). Again, in stronger $B_\perp$ fields (upper curve), the dependence $\gamma(B_\parallel)$ is weaker. Obviously, the variation of γ values for the two nodes [Fig. 13(b)] does not correlate with the polarization degree of the 2D system of mobile electrons $\zeta(B_{\text{total}})$ and, thus, cannot be attributed to it.

As we have mentioned above, γ changes with $B_\perp$ field, e.g., between two curves in Fig. 13(b), rather abruptly near the node. This clearly points to the relevance of the interlevel exchange. The situation illustrated schematically in Fig. 13(c) shows that the two subbands are inequivalent in the node vicinity. The difference in the population of spin-up and spin-down quasiparticles is the largest near the nodes, and the effective spin gap is expected to be enhanced. Although this mechanism solely cannot explain the variation of γ with in-plane field, we conclude that the interlevel exchange cannot be ignored completely.

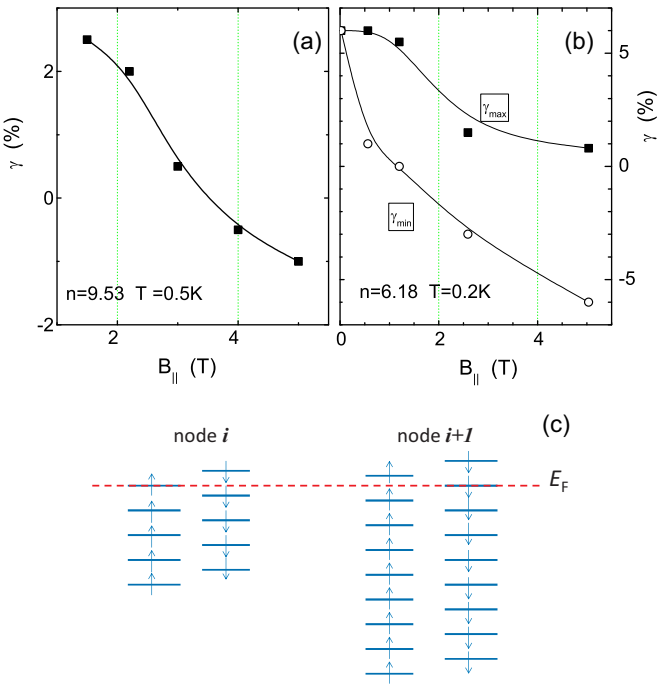


FIG. 13. (Color online) $B_\parallel$ field dependencies of the skew factor γ: (a) for $n = 9.53 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} extracted for a single node, (b) for $n = 6.178 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} for two nodes (upper curve for larger $B_\perp$ and lower curve for smaller $B_\perp$). (c) Schematic diagram of the Landau levels for two spin subbands, in the vicinity of two sequential nodes.

Figures 14 and 15 show that the temperature increase leads to the decrease of γ similar to that caused by the in-plane field [compare Figs. 13(a), 13(b), and 14(b)]. The extra damping parameter d_1 also decreases and changes sign as the temperature increases (see Fig. 15). This behavior is qualitatively similar for various carrier densities and $B_\parallel$ values.

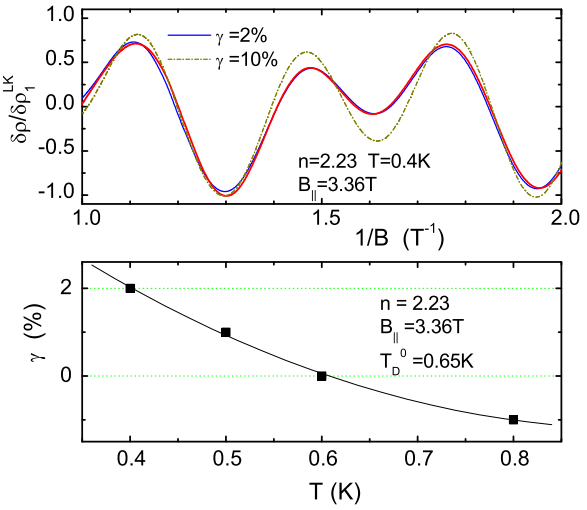


FIG. 14. (Color online) (a) SdH oscillations fitting at low densities and in the presence of strong $B_\parallel$ field. $T = 0.4$ K and $\zeta(B_{\rm total}) \approx 35\%$. (b) Typical temperature dependence of γ. Density is given in units of 10^{11} cm^{-2}. Sample Si6-14.

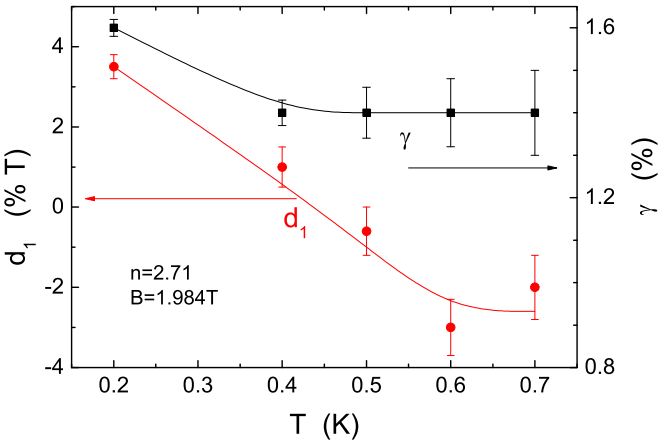


FIG. 15. (Color online) Typical temperature dependencies of γ and d_1 measured at fixed $B_\parallel = 1.984$ T. Density is given in units of 10^{11} cm^{-2}. Sample Si6-14.

VII. DISCUSSION

A. On the effective mass equality in the two subbands

The main result of our studies is the approximate equality of the renormalized parameters $(m^*T_{D\downarrow\uparrow})$ in two spin subbands for the spin polarization degree as high as 66% (see, e.g., Figs. 11 and 12). This observation is in line with the results of prior measurements [10,34]. Most clearly this equality is illustrated by a nearly vanishing amplitude of beats in the vicinity of nodes of the oscillatory pattern]see Figs. 10(a) and 11)].

Were the electrons interacting predominantly within each spin subband, the product $(m^*T_{D\uparrow,\downarrow})$ would have been essentially different with a skew parameter γ of the order of polarization ζ. Our result implies that the exchange takes place among all the electrons, irrelevant to their spins. This result also agrees with a recent theory [16] that considers a large-degeneracy 2D electron gas.

Strictly speaking, an alternative explanation can also be constructed in a scenario of electrons interacting predominantly within each subband. However, in this case the mass renormalization must almost entirely compensate the scattering rate renormalization within each subband to provide the same value of (m^*T_D). Taking into account that the combinations $(m^*T_{D\downarrow,\uparrow})$ remain almost the same for two subbands over ranges of the temperature and parallel field where T_D significantly changes, this possibility seems very unlikely. Moreover, in such a scenario of two "isolated" spin subsystems, both m^* and T_D should decrease with density, and, hence, their variations cannot compensate each other.

B. Temperature and field dependencies of magneto-oscillation damping. Comparison with the theory of an interacting 2D systems

Another goal of our study of SdH oscillations in Si-MOSFETs was to test the theory of quantum oscillations in an interacting 2D electron system. By measuring the amplitude of quantum oscillations versus the temperature and both field components, we aimed at verifying the main prediction of the theory—renormalization of the Dingle temperature $T_D^*(T, B_\perp)$

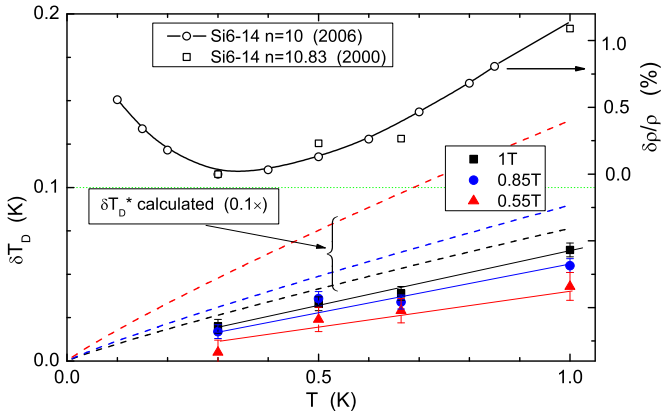


FIG. 16. (Color online) The dependence $T_D(T)$ measured at $B_\parallel = 0$ and $n = 10.83 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2}. Full symbols show $\delta T_D = T_D(T) - T_D(0)$ for three $B_\perp$ fields, the connecting solid lines are guide to the eye. $T_D(0) = 0.586$ K was subtracted to simplify comparison with the theory. Three dashed curves show the theoretical $\delta T_D^*(T)$ dependencies (divided by a factor of 10), calculated from Eq. (6) for $B_\perp = 1$, 0.85 and 0.55 T (from bottom to top). For comparison, the dependence $\rho(T, B = 0)$ is shown with empty symbols. Note a 0.1% reproducibility of $\delta\rho/\rho$ measured for the same sample Si6-14 several years apart.

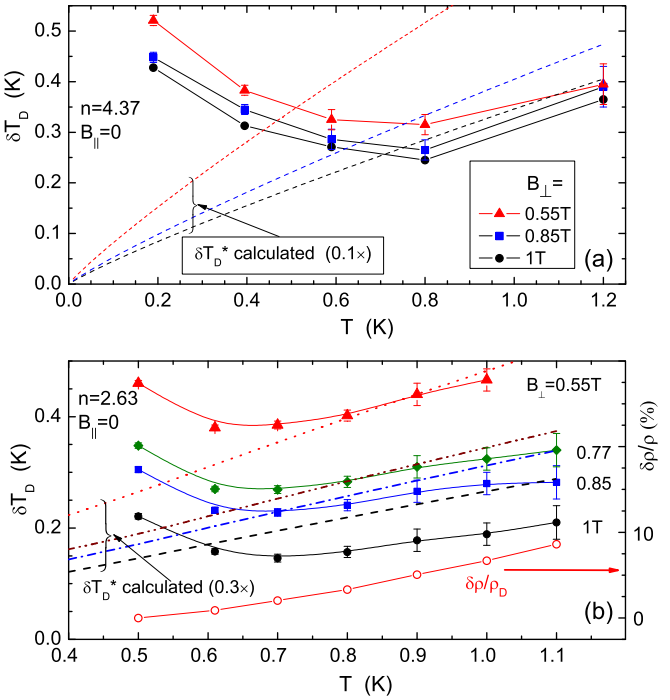


FIG. 17. (Color online) Comparison with theory of the $T_D(T)$ variations measured at $B_\parallel = 0$ for (a) $n = 4.37 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} and (b) for $n = 2.63 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2}. Symbols with connecting lines designate in (a) $\delta T_D = T_D - 0.225$ K values measured at three $B_\perp$ fields and in (b) $\delta T_D = T_D - 0.3$ K values measured at four $B_\perp$ fields. The curves are calculated from Eq. (6) for the same fields (from bottom to top) and reduced by 10× in (a) and by 3× in (b). For comparison, empty circles show also $\delta\rho/\rho$ variations with temperature. Sample Si6-14.

with the temperature and magnetic field. This prediction was made for the ballistic interaction regime, which is realized in our high mobility samples at $T > 0.3$ K. To simplify comparison of Eq. (6) with the $T_D(T)$ data, below we discuss the difference $\delta T_D = T_D(T) - T_D(0)$ where the T_{D0} values were estimated by extrapolating $T_D(T)$ to $T = 0$.

Figures 16 show that the monotonic $\delta\rho/\rho$ measured for the same sample in years 2000 and 2006 is highly (within 0.1%) reproducible. The MO amplitude is less reproducible, it is cooldown dependent (will be discussed below). For this reason in the next sections, we discuss only the data measured within one cooldown.

C. Comparison with the theory in the absence of $B_\parallel$ field

Figures 16 and 17 show $T_D(T)$ variations in zero $B_\parallel$ field, for high and low densities, respectively. T_D^* trends to grow with T, at least in the high temperature range, which is in qualitative agreement with theory. However, there are several quantitative inconsistencies with Eq. (6). (i) The experimental slope dT_D/dT is smaller (by a factor of 3–10) than the calculated dependence. (ii) The $T_D(T)$ dependence exhibits a minimum at a density-dependent temperature. (iii) The slope dT_D/dT does not follow the predicted $1/B_\perp$ field dependence: it saturates in low-$B_\perp$ fields (see Figs. 16–18).

According to Eq. (6), the slope dT_D^*/dT depends primarily on F_0^a and the number of triplet terms. Thus, to bring the calculated slope in agreement with our data in Fig. 16, we need to assume that either $F_0^a = -0.08$ (instead of canonical -0.22), or reduce the number of triplets (4.7 instead of 15). Using the same arguments for Fig. 17, the agreement can be reached by using $F_0^a = -0.21$ (instead of canonical -0.38), or 6.7 triplets instead of 15. Both assumptions are groundless.

For all densities there is an unexpected upturn of $T_D(T)$ at low temperatures; the temperature of the $T_D(T)$ minimum decreases as the density increases; $\delta T_D(T)$ also turns up at $T < 0.2$ K in Fig. 16, however, we could not quantify it because of a strong line-shape distortion (caused by the interlevel exchange, as mentioned above) and therefore do not show the data below $T = 0.3$ K. The upturn in $T_D(T)$ is reminiscent of the upturn in $\rho(T)$ [22], where it is caused by intervalley scattering, valley,

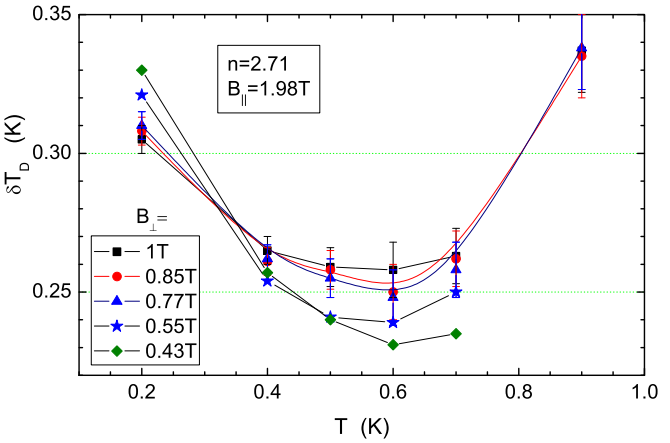


FIG. 18. (Color online) T_D variations with temperature. Density $n = 2.71 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} and $B_\parallel = 1.984$ T. Full symbols are for $\delta T_D = T_D - 0.275$ K, measured at five different $B_\perp$ fields. Sample Si6-14.

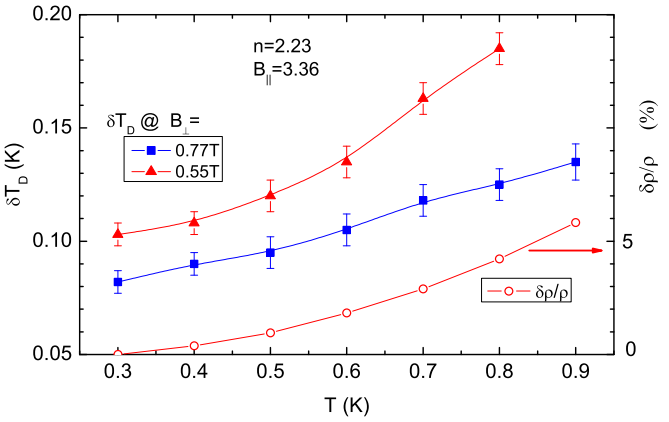


FIG. 19. (Color online) Full symbols show T_D variations with temperature for three values of the $B_\perp$ field. Density $n = 1.77 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} and $B_\parallel = 3.375$ T. Sample Si6-14.

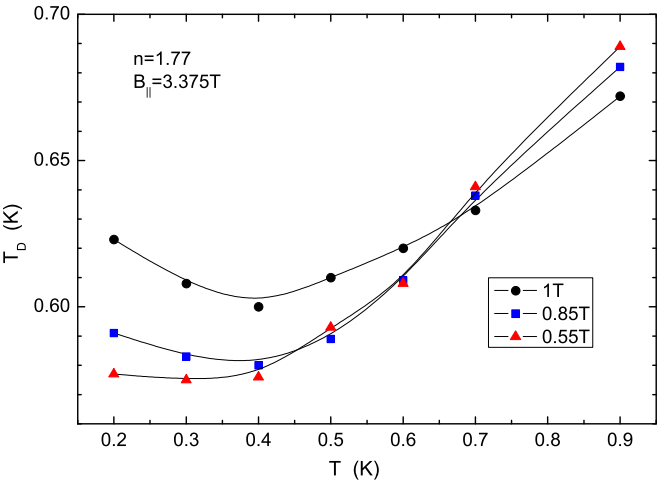


FIG. 20. (Color online) Full symbols show $\delta T_D = T_D - 0.44$ K variations with temperature for two values of the $B_\perp$ field. Density $n = 2.23 \times 10^{11}$ cm^{-2} and $B_\parallel = 3.36$ T. Empty circles, for comparison, depict $\delta\rho/\rho$. Sample Si6-14.

and Zeeman splitting, all of which reduce the effective number of triplets [22]. However, the temperature of $T_D(T)$ minimum is typically higher than that of $\rho(T)$: the upturn in $\rho(T)$ was observed below $T \approx 0.2$ K for our samples [22] at zero field. Figure 17 shows that the $\delta T_D(T)$ minima do not depend on $B_\perp$, a fact that rules out the effect of the magnetic field enhanced valley splitting. For this reason, we discuss below another mechanism of the oscillation damping related to the interface properties.

D. Comparison with theory in $B_\parallel \neq 0$ field

Potentially, quantitative understanding of the data may be further complicated by the $B_\perp$-field and the temperature dependencies of g^* and γ (see below), which are beyond the framework of the theory. Fortunately, for the oscillations measured in nonzero $B_\parallel$, the amplitude of beating antinodes is almost insensitive to γ and g^* values, which allows us to disentangle T_D, γ, and g^*.

The upturn in $T_D(T)$ usually occurs at high temperatures for both $B_\parallel = 0$ and $\neq 0$ (see Figs. 17–19). A closer inspection of the MO data shows that the upturn to a large extent reflects the exchange-enhanced spin gaps (i.e., the quantum Hall ferromagnetism, QHF). We believe that for this reason the upturn is so pronounced in Figs. 17–19. And vice versa, in those cases when we were able to trace MO amplitude far away from the corresponding spin gaps (as in Fig. 20), T_D drops monotonically down to the lowest accessible temperature.

The position of the $T_D(T)$ minimum is not affected by $B_\parallel$ (cf. Figs. 18 and 17). This suggests that the $T_D(T)$ minima are related to the physics of a quantizing field rather than to the purely Zeeman splitting.

Although the theory [17,18] considered T_D^* renormalization with temperature in the absence of $B_\parallel$, we attempted to test whether the magnetoresistance $\rho(B_\parallel)$ and MO amplitude T_D^* are affected by the same mechanism. Extraction of the $T_D(B_\parallel)$ dependence is complicated by the fact that the MO amplitude is affected by g^*, and γ which are both field-dependent. Figure 21 shows T_D measured at three different $B_\perp$ fields corresponding to the beating antinode and two adjacent nodes. Despite the experimental uncertainty which becomes very large at zero field, one can conclude that to the first approximation T_D is $B_\parallel$-independent. This behavior of T_D does not resemble the monotonic $\rho(B_\parallel)$ dependence shown in the same plot. In the framework of the interaction correction theory, the monotonic MR is related to the reduction of the effective number of triplets with $B_\parallel$, rather than the $1/\tau$ renormalization. The dissimilarity between the field dependencies of T_D and ρ suggests that the MO damping mechanism in parallel fields is different from that of the monotonic magnetoresistance. This conclusion is in line with our earlier finding [52] where it has been demonstrated that the monotonic magnetoresistance in the diffusive regime is not caused by the e-e interaction corrections solely.

E. T_D^* dependence on the $B_\perp$ field

According to Eq. (6), the correction δT_D^* should grow proportionally to the inverse perpendicular field. The data

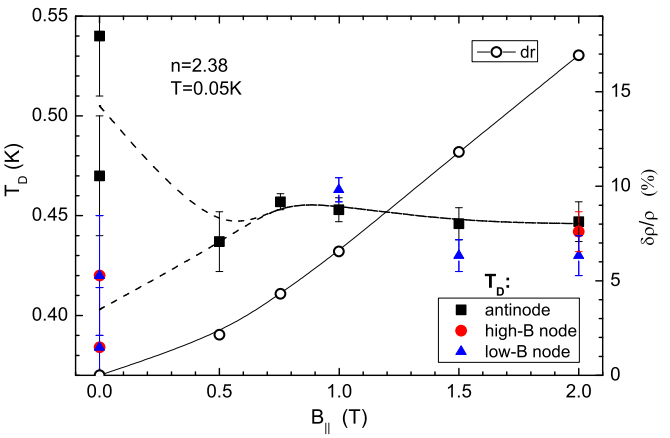


FIG. 21. (Color online) Variations of T_D with in-plane field. The temperature is 0.05 K and the density is $n = 2.38 \times 10^{11}$cm^{-2}. Empty circles show $\delta\rho/\rho$, full symbols show T_D measured at different $B_\perp$ fields, corresponding to the two nodes and one antinode. Sample Si6-14.

in Figs. 17 and 20 do show a certain growth of T_D with $1/B_\perp$. However, once the MO amplitude is affected by the developing QHF, the spin gap gets increased, the amplitude of the respective oscillations is enhanced and the corresponding T_D values are underestimated; the latter effect becomes more pronounced at stronger $B_\perp$. This results in a "wrong" sequence of curves in Figs. 16, 18, and 19 at low temperatures. In spite of the smallness of oscillations, $\delta\rho/\rho = 10^{-2} \div 10^{-4}$, the interlevel interaction remains sufficiently strong to impede comparison with theory. With increasing the temperature, these effects become negligible and the regular order of the $T_D(T, B_\perp)$ curves is restored (see the crossing of curves in Fig. 19).

The slope dT_D^*/dT should also grow linearly with $1/B_\perp$ [see Eq. (6)]; the low-density data (Fig. 17) indeed reflect the growth, whereas at high densities (Fig. 16) the slope is either independent of field or even has the opposite tendency. We believe that the predicted divergency of the slope $\propto 1/\omega_c\tau$ should be cut off in low fields by a characteristic energy that depends on the density and parallel field. In general, dT_D/dT and $dT_D/dB_\perp$ can not be fitted simultaneously: if one attempts to fit the field dependence of the slope, then the calculated $T_D^*(T)$ dependence would be too steep.

F. Unexpected results

Our study also revealed two effects that go beyond the existing theory, namely, the asymmetry (skewness) of the two spin subbands, and an extra decay of the MO amplitude with field. The major features of the two effects are as follows. (1) The factor m^*T_D is noticeably different for two spin-subbands. We assumed that m^* is the same in both subbands and quantitatively characterized the difference with a skew factor $\gamma = (T_{D\downarrow} - T_{D\uparrow})/2$. (2) As the temperature increases, the skew factor diminishes, changes sign and saturates at a small negative value. This value becomes progressively more negative as $B_\parallel$ increases and the density decreases. (3) In the absence of $B_\parallel$ the skew factor grows with $B_\perp$ from zero to $\sim$10% (even though the MO amplitude and polarization factor remain small), indicating a *smaller* T_D value in the spin-majority subband. (4) The extra decay of the MO amplitude $T_D(B_\perp)$ with $1/B_\perp$ is irrelevant to the interaction correction Eq. (6), being either much larger (for low temperatures) or even of the opposite sign (at elevated temperatures). We modeled the extra decay with an empirical $T_D(B_\perp)$ dependence.

The extra decay and the skew factor are somewhat correlated. Were we able to trace the skew factor continuously versus $B_\perp$ field, we would have disentangled the two parameters. Instead, we could determine γ only at several values of $B_\perp$ corresponding to the nodes of beatings.

In weak fields, the MO data can be fitted using the standard procedure with the exponential damping factor, Eqs. (4) and (6), which assumes that the field-independent $\gamma = 0$, and the extra decay of the MO amplitude is negligible. This approach, however, would leave unexplained the data at higher $B_\perp$ fields and in the vicinity of nodes. Moreover, within such an approach, the oscillations at lowest field overlap with the tail of the weak localization magnetoresistance and can be observed only over a narrow range of temperatures; both issues impede analysis of experimental data. Although we attributed the steplike variation of γ with $B_\perp$ field to the interlevel exchange interaction, we believe that this mechanism solely can not explain the variation of γ with the in-plane field and temperature, and hence, there are at least two effects at work that should be considered.

G. Empirical model

Our experimental data suggest that the existing theory of magneto-oscillations in 2D interacting systems is incomplete. We attempt therefore to sketch an empirical model that might explain the data. The first of the aforementioned features—nonequivalence of the two subbands (i.e., the large skewness γ)—provides an evidence for the existence of a spin-direction-dependent scattering of mobile electrons in 2D systems, which may be attributed to a triplet state of the scatterers. Both γ and d_1 are sensitive to the relatively weak fields ($\mu_B B \ll E_F$), which indicates that the above triplet scatterers are located in energy close to the Fermi level but do not belong to the Fermi liquid. Thus, to explain the skewness, we shall consider the picture of a two phase system consisting of the triplet localized states and the 2D Fermi liquid coexisting and interacting with the localized states.

The existence of the surface localized states is not surprising, they have been observed in (a) earlier measurements of the energy relaxation rate dominated by the piezocoupling of electrons with phonons at the Si-SiO_2 interface [56], and (b) the thermodynamic measurements of the electron magnetization [50], which revealed the existence of collective droplets with a large spin (i.e., triplet localized states). Their existence also follows from numerous compressibility measurements which show the compressibility increases with lowering carrier density, an effect that was explained in terms of the development of the two-phase state upon lowering density [57,58]. The surface localized states have been considered in the earlier theories [55].

The collective triplet localized states (we shall refer to them as large-size scatterers) can be easily polarized in an external magnetic field [50]. Therefore, in the absence of the parallel field and at sufficiently low temperatures, weak $B_\perp$ field spin polarizes the scatterers in the same direction as the mobile 2D electrons in the majority-spin subband. Due to the Pauli principle, the parallel spins interact weaker, which should lead to a weaker scattering of carriers in the majority subband by the localized states, and a positive skew factor that grows with $B_\perp$, in line with the aforementioned observations (1) and (3).

In this scenario the triplet state polarization is reduced at $T > 2\mu_B B_\perp/k_B$, or, alternatively, as the field decreases at a given temperature. Hence the skew factor must vanish at $B_\perp/T \lesssim 1$ T/K. Such anticipated $\gamma(T)$ and $\gamma(B_\perp)$ dependencies are also in a qualitative agreement with observations (2) and (3) (see also Figs. 14 and 11). In particular, the sharp, almost steplike changes in $\gamma(B_\perp)$ shown in Fig. 11 are reminiscent of the Brillouin function describing the spin magnetization of free spins [50] at finite temperature.

Within this model, it is easy to understand why the minima of T_D occur at such a high temperature, a factor of 2–3 greater than those in $\rho(T)$ [22]. Indeed, the collective triplet scatterers, due to their large size, $>\lambda_F$, and weak scattering potential,

produce predominantly small angle scattering. This scattering directly affects T_D, but contributes very little to ρ determined by the large angle scattering. The interplay between the quantum corrections (5) (with positive dT_D/dT) and all-angle scattering (for the small angle scattering, the number of scatterers grows as $1/T$ [50]) results in the $T_D(T)$ minimum. The minimum is shifted towards higher temperatures because the all-angle scattering is always stronger than the large-angle one. As the density decreases, the number of the large-size scatterers grows [50] and the minima are also shifted to higher temperatures (cf. Figs. 16 and 17).

With application of the in-plane field, the surface scattering becomes weaker (and, as a consequence, the skewness vanishes); simultaneously, the $T_D(T)$ minimum shifts to lower temperatures (see Figs. 19 and 20). In the presence of $B_\parallel$ field, several other effects may occur. Firstly, the electrons may be redistributed between the mobile and localized subband. In this case, the frequency of SdH oscillations would have been $B_\parallel$-dependent. Indeed, sharp variation of the SdH density has been reported earlier [13]. Secondly, when $B_\parallel$ becomes stronger than $B_\perp$, the spins of both scatterers and mobile electrons should be aligned within the 2DEG plane. However, because of a nonzero spin-orbit coupling, the spins of mobile electrons tend to align perpendicular to the **k** vector in the momentum space. As a result, the difference in scattering rate between the spin-majority and -minority subbands, γ, is expected to diminish in a strong $B_\parallel$ field. This expectation is also in a qualitative agreement with observation (4) (see also Fig. 13).

In the suggested model, we assume that (a) the localized triplet states exist close to the Fermi energy, (b) these states act as potential scatterers, and (c) the SO coupling is sufficiently strong at the Si-SiO_2 interface. The first two assumptions are in agreement with other available data [50,59]. The cooldown and sample dependence of γ and d_1 also points to their interface origin (i.e., association with shallow interface traps). The existence of the SO coupling in Si is usually neglected because of the large band gap and bulk inversion symmetry of Si. However, the potential well at the Si-SiO_2 interface is strongly asymmetric; from the magnetoresistance studies in a parallel magnetic field, we were able to estimate the strength of the SO coupling in Si-MOSFETs [60], with a moderate value of the SO coupling parameter. Also, as we have mentioned above, our measurements of the energy relaxation rate of 2D electrons in Si-MOSFETs [56] revealed a relatively strong electron-phonon coupling, which implies the piezoelectric coupling rather than the deformation potential one. The piezoelectric coupling requires lack of the inversion symmetry at the interface, and is the prerequisite for the SO coupling.

The last (fourth) unexpected observation is the extra decay of the oscillations, which is important for the proper analysis of the MO amplitude. (i) In the conventional approach, only the temperature dependence of the oscillation envelope is analyzed; this leads to averaging the extra decay out. This approach has been used in the majority of previous studies (e.g., Refs. [2,10]). Then, unavoidably, the effective mass extracted from the slope of the Dingle plot becomes dependent on the ranges of $B_\perp$ and temperature, on the particular sample, and on the cooldown conditions through the uncontrollable density of interface traps. This leads to substantial scattering of the $m^*(n)$ values measured in different experiments; this scattering exceeds by far the measurement accuracy in a single measurement run, a problem mentioned in several experimental papers.

(ii) In this paper, we analyzed the MO amplitude using field dependent T_D. This approach enabled us to fit reasonably well the oscillation line shape, phase (e.g., the locations of the minima in $B_\perp$ field), and the MO amplitude. As we explained above, this approach leads to a field dependent T_D.

(iii) Finally, as we have shown experimentally, in the presence of a large $B_\parallel$ field, the extra amplitude damping and the spin subband skewness vanishes, or, at least, tends to become $B_\perp$-field independent. As a result, the T_D value becomes adequately described with the theory (4) and (6). For this reason, the analysis of the oscillation amplitude in the presence of $B_\parallel$ field provides more reproducible values of $m^*(n)$. Thus the current analysis justifies our earlier conjecture in Ref. [5], where we measured the effective mass in the presence of the $B_\parallel$ field.

The suggested empirical model provides a qualitative description of all major observations. Still, a thorough microscopic model is required to explain the observed discrepancy between the measured oscillation decay (and its sign change with temperature) and the decay calculated from Eq. (6). The measured skewness γ not only decreases with $B_\parallel$, but also changes sign; this suggests that the spin-minority subband becomes less "disordered," an effect that seems puzzling. We speculate that within the considered scenario of easily spin-polarized triplet interface scatterers, a smaller broadening of levels in the spin-minority subband may be due to a more complex multilevel structure of the energy band of collective localized states. A more detailed theory should incorporate on equal footing also the interlevel interaction effects (i.e., quantum Hall ferromagnetism), which as we showed are relevant even to a small MO amplitude.

Finally, we note that the existing interaction theory describes the magneto-oscillations of thermodynamic rather than kinetic quantities, whereas the proportionality between the oscillations in magnetotransport and density of states, Eq. (1), has been established only for noninteracting systems [35].

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

To summarize, we performed studies of the Shubnikov-de Haas magneto-oscillations (MO) in the interacting 2D carrier system in high mobility Si-MOSFETs subjected to superimposed in-plane and perpendicular magnetic fields. We analyzed the oscillation damping parameter m^*T_D and the line shape of oscillations for the spin-up and spin-down subbands as a function of temperature and both field components.

Firstly, we found that the damping parameter m^*T_D, to the first approximation, is the same for both spin subbands, even though their population may differ as much as 66%. This implies approximate equality between $m^*_\uparrow$ and $m^*_\downarrow$ as well as between $T_{D\uparrow}$ and $T_{D\downarrow}$. This result suggests that the exchange interaction between electrons takes place over the whole electron system and over a wide range of energies $\sim E_F$ (rather than within each subband and only in the vicinity of E_F), regardless of how large the Zeeman splitting is.

Secondly, by analyzing the MO amplitude, we have shown that the experimental data systematically deviate from the conventional theory. We stress that the deviations cannot be detected by (conventional) plotting the MO amplitude versus temperature. Our data indicate that the damping factor is different for two spin subbands, and this results in skewness of the oscillation line shape. In the absence of the in-plane field, the damping factor m^*T_D is systematically *smaller in the spin-majority subband*. The difference, quantified by the skew factor $\gamma = (T_{D\downarrow} - T_{D\uparrow})/2T_{D0}$, can be as large as 20% and does not correlate with the spin-polarization degree. The skew factor tends to decrease as $B_\parallel$ or temperature grow, or $B_\perp$ decreases. For low electron densities and high in-plane field, γ even changes sign. To explain qualitatively these results, we suggested an empirical model that assumes that there is a considerable density of the easily magnetized triplet scatterers on the S/SiO_2 interface.

Our results also explain the origin of the well-known problem of strong scattering of the effective mass data. By fitting the MO amplitude with the conventional LK formula in the low-temperature range (where dT_D/dT is negative), one obtains an underestimated effective mass, and, vice versa, the same analysis in the high-temperature range (where dT_D/dT is positive) provides an overestimated m^* value. Our study shows how to avoid this ambiguity by performing the MO measurements in tilted fields and at elevated temperatures.

We compared the experimentally extracted temperature and perpendicular field dependence of the MO damping factor with the theory for an interacting 2D system. The comparison revealed some qualitative similarities as well as quantitative and qualitative differences. In accord with the theory, the extracted T_D typically grows with the temperature, with the exception of the lowest temperatures. This growth, however, is much weaker than the calculated dependence. The $T_D^*(B_\perp)$ was predicted to grow with the inverse magnetic field. Experimentally, at low densities, T_D indeed increases with $1/B_\perp$ and further saturates. For high densities, T_D is independent of the $B_\perp$ field, at odds with the theory.

Several of our observations are still to be explained by a more detailed theory. Particularly, it remains puzzling why the difference of the damping parameters in two spin subbands changes sign in the limit of large in-plane fields. Better understanding is required to explain an interesting observation that the magnetic field dependence of SdH oscillations, being at odds with the MO theory in weak $B_\parallel$, agrees surprisingly well with the same theory in stronger fields.

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