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Polaron residue and spatial structure in a Fermi gas

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Abstract – We study the problem of a mobile impurity of mass M interacting via a s -wave broad or narrow Feshbach resonance with a Fermi sea of particles of mass m . Truncating the Hilbert space to at most one pair of particle-hole excitations of the Fermi sea, we determine ground state properties of the polaronic branch other than its energy, namely the polaron quasiparticle residue Z , and the impurity-to-fermion pair correlation function $G(\mathbf{x})$. We show that $G(\mathbf{x})$ deviates from unity at large distances as $-(A_4 + B_4 \cos 2k_F x)/(k_F x)^4$, where k_F is the Fermi momentum; since $A_4 > 0$ and $B_4 > 0$, the polaron has a diverging rms radius and exhibits Friedel-like oscillations. In the weakly attractive limit, we obtain analytical results, that in particular detect the failure of the Hilbert space truncation for a diverging mass impurity, as expected from Anderson orthogonality catastrophe; at distances between $\sim 1/k_F$ and the asymptotic distance where the $1/x^4$ law applies, they reveal that $G(\mathbf{x})$ exhibits an intriguing multiscale structure.

Introduction. – The physics of atomic Fermi gases has recently experienced a fast development, thanks to the Feshbach resonance technique that allows to tune the s -wave scattering length a of the interaction, and to obtain highly degenerate strongly interacting Fermi gases [1, 2]. The first realizations of spin polarized configurations [3, 4] asked for theoretical interpretation of the experimental results, and shortly afterwards it was proposed that, in the strongly polarized case, the minority atoms dressed by the Fermi sea of the majority atoms form a normal gas of quasiparticles called polarons [5, 6], which agrees with the experimental phase diagram [3, 7].

The basic single-polaron properties, such as its binding energy to the Fermi sea and its effective mass, are now well understood, both for broad [5, 6, 8, 9] and narrow [10–12] Feshbach resonances. Here we study the polaron ground state properties going beyond the energy search, for both types of resonance. We study the quasiparticle residue Z , already investigated experimentally in [13, 14] and theoretically in [11, 15], and the intriguing issue of the density distribution that surrounds the impurity, as characterized by the pair correlation function: This gives access to the spatial extension of the polaron, of potential important consequences on the properties of the polaronic gas.

Model. – We consider in three dimensions an ideal gas of N same-spin-state fermions of mass m , enclosed in a cubic quantization volume V with periodic boundary conditions. The gas is perturbed by an impurity, that is a dis-

tinguishable particle, of mass M . The impurity interacts with each fermion resonantly on a s -wave broad or narrow Feshbach resonance, as described by a two-channel model [16–18], with a Hamiltonian \hat{H} written in [10]: The particles exist either in the form of fermions or impurity in the open channel, or in the form of a tightly bound fermion-to-impurity molecule in the closed channel. These two forms are coherently interconverted by the interchannel coupling of amplitude Λ ¹. We restrict to the zero-range (or infinite momentum cut-off) limit, so that the interaction is characterized by the s -wave scattering length a and the non-negative Feshbach length R_* [19]. In terms of the effective coupling constant g and of the interchannel coupling Λ , one has

$$g = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2 a}{\mu} \quad \text{and} \quad R_* = \frac{\pi\hbar^4}{\Lambda^2\mu^2}, \quad (1)$$

where $\mu = mM/(m + M)$ is the reduced mass. A broad Feshbach resonance corresponds to $R_* = 0$.

Polaronic ansatz. – Whereas the ground state of the system presents two branches, a *polaronic* branch and a *dimeronic* branch [8, 10–12, 15, 20, 21], we restrict to the polaronic branch. The ground-state of the N fermions is the usual Fermi sea (“FS”), of energy $E_{\text{FS}}(N)$. We determine the ground state of a single impurity interacting with the N fermions under the approximation proposed in

¹We can neglect the open-channel fermionic interaction if its (background) scattering length a_{bg} is \approx the van der Waals length.

[6] (and generalized to encompass the narrow resonance case in [10, 12]), that truncates the Hilbert space to at most one pair of particle-hole excitations of the Fermi sea. For a zero total momentum, this corresponds to the ansatz

$$|\psi_{\text{pol}}\rangle = \left(\phi \hat{d}_0^\dagger + \sum_{\mathbf{q}} \phi_{\mathbf{q}} \hat{b}_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger \hat{u}_{\mathbf{q}} + \sum_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}} \phi_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}} \hat{d}_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{u}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{u}_{\mathbf{q}} \right) |\text{FS}\rangle, \quad (2)$$

where $\hat{d}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$, $\hat{u}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$ and $\hat{b}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$ are the creation operators of an impurity, a fermion and a closed-channel molecule of wave vector \mathbf{k} . The prime above the summation symbol means that the sum is restricted to \mathbf{q} belonging to the Fermi sea of N fermions, and to \mathbf{k} not belonging to that Fermi sea. The successive terms in (2) correspond in that order to the ones generated by repeated action of the Hamiltonian \hat{H} on the $\Lambda = 0$ polaronic ground state. One then has to minimize the expectation value of \hat{H} within the ansatz (2), with respect to the variational parameters ϕ , $\phi_{\mathbf{q}}$ and $\phi_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}}$, with the constraint $\langle \psi_{\text{pol}} | \psi_{\text{pol}} \rangle = 1$. Expressing $\phi_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}}$ in terms of $\phi_{\mathbf{q}}$ and $\phi_{\mathbf{q}}$ in terms of ϕ , as in [10], one is left with a scalar implicit equation for the polaron energy counted with respect to $E_{\text{FS}}(N)$; in the thermodynamic limit:

$$\Delta E_{\text{pol}} \equiv E_{\text{pol}} - E_{\text{FS}}(N) = \int' \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}, \quad (3)$$

where the prime on the integral over \mathbf{q} means that it is restricted to the Fermi sea $q < k_{\text{F}}$, with the Fermi momentum k_{F} related as usual to the mean density of the Fermi sea $\rho = N/V$ by $k_{\text{F}} = (6\pi^2\rho)^{1/3}$. The function of the energy in the denominator of the integrand is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}} = & \frac{1}{g} - \frac{\mu k_{\text{F}}}{\pi^2 \hbar^2} + \frac{\mu^2 R_*}{\pi \hbar^4} \left(\Delta E_{\text{pol}} + \frac{\mu}{m} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} \right) \\ & + \int' \frac{d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}'} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}'} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}} - \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2 k'^2} \right), \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2m}$ for the fermions, $E_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{\hbar^2 \mathbf{k}^2}{2M}$ for the impurity, and the prime on the integral over \mathbf{k}' means that it is restricted to $k' > k_{\text{F}}$.

Quasiparticle residue. – The polaron is a well-defined quasiparticle if it has a non-zero quasiparticle residue Z , which is defined in the Green's function formalism from the long imaginary-time decay of the Green's function [8]. Within the polaronic ansatz (2), it was shown in [15] that simply $Z = |\phi|^2$. We first write the amplitude $\phi_{\mathbf{q}}$ in terms of the denominator (4) as [10]:

$$\phi_{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\mathcal{A}}{\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}} \quad (5)$$

where \mathcal{A} is a normalization factor. Then using Eq. (5) and the coupled equations for ϕ , $\phi_{\mathbf{q}}$ and $\phi_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{q}}$ [10], we get the

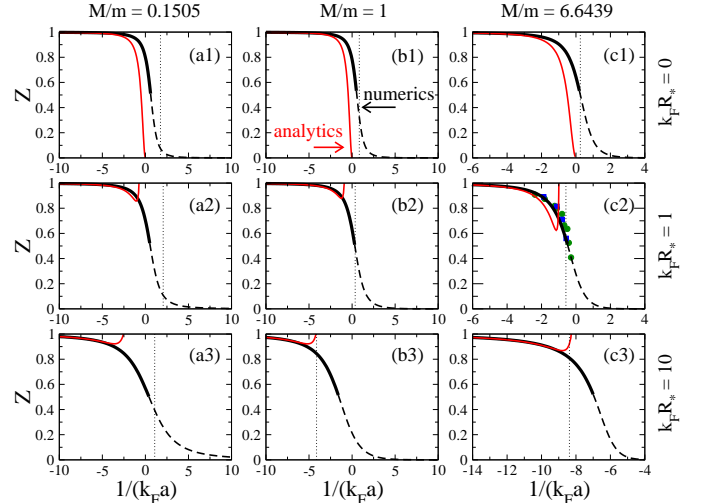


Fig. 1: (Color online) Quasiparticle residue (6) for various mass ratios: $M/m = 0.1505$ (column a), $M/m = 1$ (column b), $M/m = 6.6439$ (column c), and various Feshbach lengths: $k_{\text{F}} R_* = 0$ (row 1), $k_{\text{F}} R_* = 1$ (row 2), $k_{\text{F}} R_* = 10$ (row 3). Black line (solid for $Z > 1/2$, dashed for $Z < 1/2$): numerical solution. Red line: Second order weakly attractive expansion (22), that diverges for $R_* > 0$ when s of Eq. (19) tends to unity, and for $R_* = 0$ when $1/(k_{\text{F}} a) \rightarrow 0$. Points in (c2): Experimental data of [14] for $k_{\text{F}} R_* \simeq 0.9474$. Vertical dotted lines [10]: Polaron-to-dimeron crossing point [on the left (resp. right) of this line, the ground state is polaronic (resp. dimeronic)].

following expression for the residue:

$$\begin{aligned} Z \equiv |\phi|^2 = & \left[1 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \int' \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}} \right. \\ & \left. + \int' \frac{d^3 k d^3 q}{(2\pi)^6} \left(\frac{1/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}} \right)^2 \right]^{-1}. \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

In Fig. 1 we plot Z as a function of $1/k_{\text{F}} a$ for various mass ratios M/m and reduced Feshbach lengths $k_{\text{F}} R_*$. We find that Z tends to 1 when $a \rightarrow 0^-$, as expected, and to 0 when $a \rightarrow 0^+$. The polaronic ansatz *a priori* makes sense when Z is close to unity, and its accuracy becomes questionable when $Z \rightarrow 0$. In Fig. 1, we thus have plotted Z in dashed line for a predicted value below 1/2. In the weakly attractive limit, we shall give below a systematic expansion of Z up to second order in $k_{\text{F}} a$.

Pair correlation function. – The pair correlation function $G(\mathbf{x}_u - \mathbf{x}_d)$ is proportional to the probability density of finding a fermion at position \mathbf{x}_u knowing that the impurity is localized at \mathbf{x}_d . In terms of the fermionic and impurity field operators $\hat{\psi}_u(\mathbf{x}_u)$ and $\hat{\psi}_d(\mathbf{x}_d)$:

$$G(\mathbf{x}_u - \mathbf{x}_d) = \frac{\langle \hat{\psi}_u^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_u) \hat{\psi}_d^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_d) \hat{\psi}_d(\mathbf{x}_d) \hat{\psi}_u(\mathbf{x}_u) \rangle}{\rho \rho_d}. \quad (7)$$

Here $\rho = N/V$ is the unperturbed mean fermionic density, and $\rho_d = \langle \hat{\psi}_d^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_d) \hat{\psi}_d(\mathbf{x}_d) \rangle$ is the mean density of

impurity for the interacting system. Due to the inter-channel coupling, the impurity has a non-zero probability π_{closed} (studied in [10]) to be tightly bound within a closed-channel molecule, where it cannot contribute to $G(\mathbf{x})$ and to ρ_d . In terms of the probability $\pi_{\text{open}} = 1 - \pi_{\text{closed}}$ for the impurity to be in the open channel, one finds that $\rho_d = \pi_{\text{open}}/V$. In the thermodynamic limit, the open-channel probability is related to the quasiparticle residue as

$$\frac{\pi_{\text{open}}}{Z} = 1 + \int' \frac{d^3k d^3q}{(2\pi)^6} \left(\frac{1/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

while the pair correlation function is

$$G(\mathbf{x}) = 1 + \frac{Z}{\rho \pi_{\text{open}}} \left[-2f(\mathbf{x}) + \int' \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} |f_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x})|^2 - \int' \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} |\tilde{f}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})|^2 \right], \quad (9)$$

where we have introduced the functions

$$f_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x}) = \int' \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}} \quad (10)$$

$$\tilde{f}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) = \int' \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}} \quad (11)$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \int' \frac{d^3k d^3q}{(2\pi)^6} \frac{e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})\cdot\mathbf{x}}/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}}{E_{\mathbf{q}-\mathbf{k}} + \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}} - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{q}} - \Delta E_{\text{pol}}}. \quad (12)$$

Interestingly, the contribution involving $f(\mathbf{x})$ is an interference effect between the subspaces with zero and one pair of particle-hole excitations in the Fermi sea. In Fig. 2 we plot the numerically obtained deviation $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ of the pair correlation function from unity (which is both its large distance limit and its non-interacting limit): The presence of the impurity induces oscillations in the fermionic density that are still significant at distances of several $1/k_F$.

Properties of the pair correlation function. – A first property of the $G(\mathbf{x})$ function is the sum rule:

$$\int d^3x [G(\mathbf{x}) - 1] = 0, \quad (13)$$

where the thermodynamic limit was taken and the integral is over the whole space. This sum rule follows directly from the integral representation of the Dirac delta distribution $\int d^3x \exp(i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}) = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{k})$.

A second property is that, in the limit where $x \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$G(\mathbf{x}) - 1 \underset{x \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} -\frac{A_4 + B_4 \cos(2k_F x)}{(k_F x)^4}. \quad (14)$$

The prefactor of $1/(k_F x)^4$ is thus a periodic function of x of period π/k_F , with a mean value A_4 and a cosine contribution (of amplitude B_4) reminiscent of the Friedel oscillations. The fact that the mean value A_4 differs from

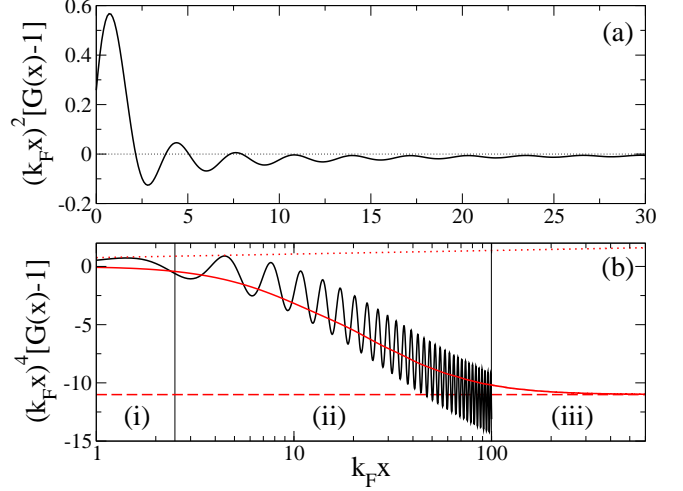


Fig. 2: (Color online) Deviation of the pair correlation function from unity (its uncorrelated value), for $M/m = 6.6439$, $k_F R_* = 1$ and $1/k_F a = -2$. (a,b) Black thick line: Numerical solution (9). (b) Red solid line: multiscale prediction (31). Dashed line: non-oscillating bit of the asymptotic prediction (14) with A_4 given by (26). Dotted line: non-oscillating bit of the prediction (30). (i), (ii) and (iii): zones of the multiscale structure of $G(\mathbf{x})$ defined below Eq. (31).

zero has an important physical consequence: It shows that the polaron is a spatial extended object, since even the first moment $\langle x \rangle$ of $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ diverges (logarithmically) in the thermodynamic limit.

Eq. (14) results from an asymptotic expansion of (10,11,12) in powers of $1/x$, obtained by repeated integration by parts as in [22], always integrating the exponential function $e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ or $e^{\pm i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$ to pull out a $1/x$ factor²:

$$f_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x}) \sim \frac{\mu/(2\pi^2 \hbar^2)}{x^2 k_F \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}} \sum_{u=\pm 1} F(k_F, u; q, u') e^{ik_F x u} \quad (15)$$

$$\tilde{f}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x}) \sim \frac{-\mu k_F/(2\pi^2 \hbar^2)}{x^2 k^2 \mathcal{D}_{k_F \mathbf{e}_z}} \sum_{u'=\pm 1} F(k, u; k_F, u') e^{ik_F x u'}, \quad (16)$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \sim \frac{-\mu/(8\pi^4 \hbar^2)}{x^4 \mathcal{D}_{k_F \mathbf{e}_z}} \sum_{u, u'=\pm 1} F(k_F, u; k_F, u') e^{ik_F x (u-u')}. \quad (17)$$

Here \mathbf{e}_z is the unit vector along z , u is the cosine of the angle between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{k} , u' is the cosine of the angle between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{q} , and the function F is defined as follows:

$$F(k, u; q, u') = \left[-\frac{4m^2}{(m+M)^2} (1-u^2)(1-u'^2) \frac{q^2}{k^2} + \left(1 + \frac{m-M}{m+M} \frac{q^2}{k^2} - \frac{2\mu}{M} \frac{q}{k} u u' - \Delta E_{\text{pol}} \frac{2\mu}{\hbar^2 k^2} \right)^2 \right]^{-1/2}. \quad (18)$$

Therefore, in Eq. (9) the integrals containing $|f_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{x})|^2$ and $|\tilde{f}_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{x})|^2$ provide a $1/x^4$ contribution with an oscillating

²One also uses the fact that, uniformly in the integration domain: $\forall n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4 \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $C_{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4} \in \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $|\partial_k^{n_1} \partial_u^{n_2} \partial_q^{n_3} \partial_{u'}^{n_4} F(k, u; q, u')| \leq C_{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4} q^{n_2 + n_4}$.

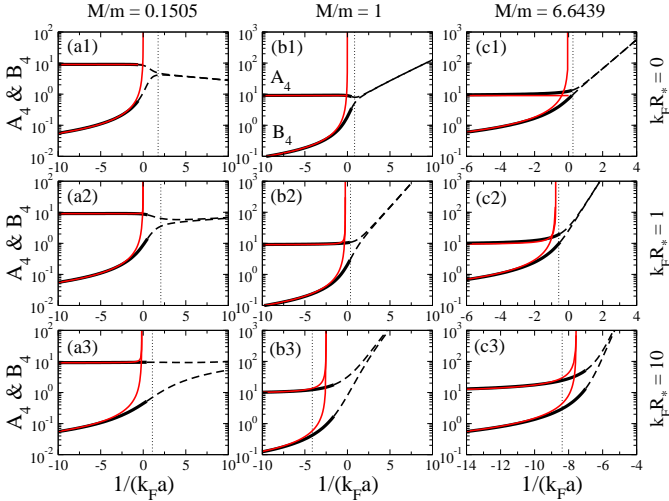


Fig. 3: (Color online) Coefficients A_4 and B_4 in the asymptotic expansion (14) of the pair correlation functions, for various mass ratios: $M/m = 0.1505$ (column a), $M/m = 1$ (column b), $M/m = 6.6439$ (column c), and various Feshbach lengths: $k_{\text{F}}R_* = 0$ (row 1), $k_{\text{F}}R_* = 1$ (row 2), $k_{\text{F}}R_* = 10$ (row 3). Upper and lower black lines (solid for $Z > 1/2$, dashed for $Z < 1/2$): Numerical evaluation of A_4 and B_4 , respectively. Red lines: leading order analytical results (26) and (27), that diverge for $R_* > 0$ when s of Eq. (19) tends to unity, and for $R_* = 0$ when $1/(k_{\text{F}}a) \rightarrow 0$. Vertical dotted lines: polaron-to-dimeron crossing point.

prefactor, as $f(\mathbf{x})$ does. In Fig. 3 we plot A_4 and B_4 as functions of $1/k_{\text{F}}a$ for various values of the mass ratio M/m and reduced Feshbach length $k_{\text{F}}R_*$.

In the weakly attractive limit. – Following Ref. [10], we define for $a < 0$

$$s \equiv \frac{\mu}{m} (-aR_*)^{1/2} k_{\text{F}}, \quad (19)$$

and we take the limit $a \rightarrow 0^-$ for fixed $s < 1$ (which implies $R_* \rightarrow +\infty$). Then ΔE_{pol} tends to 0^- , so that the integral appearing in (4) is bounded [10], we have

$$g\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}} \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow 0^-} 1 - (sq/k_{\text{F}})^2, \quad (20)$$

and, after integration over \mathbf{q} in Eq. (3), we get as in [10]:

$$\Delta E_{\text{pol}} \underset{a \rightarrow 0^-}{\sim} \frac{\hbar^2 k_{\text{F}}^2}{\mu} \frac{k_{\text{F}} a}{\pi} \frac{1}{s^2} \left[\frac{\text{arctanh } s}{s} - 1 \right]. \quad (21)$$

Also, the interchannel coupling amplitude Λ scales as $(-k_{\text{F}}a)^{1/2}$, see Eq. (1), and a systematic expansion of observables may be performed in powers of $k_{\text{F}}a$, treating the interchannel coupling $\Lambda \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{u} \hat{d} + \text{h.c.}$ within perturbation theory. The terms neglected in the ansatz (2) have an amplitude $O(\Lambda^3)$, that is a probability $O(\Lambda^6)$. One can thus extract from Eq. (6) the exact value of Z up to Λ^4 :

$$\frac{1}{Z} \underset{a \rightarrow 0^-}{=} 1 + \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \left[c_1 \frac{k_{\text{F}} a}{\pi} + c_2 \left(\frac{k_{\text{F}} a}{\pi} \right)^2 + O(k_{\text{F}} a)^3 \right]. \quad (22)$$

The first coefficient of the expansion (22) is given by

$$c_1 = - \left(\frac{1}{1-s^2} - \frac{\text{arctanh } s}{s} \right), \quad (23)$$

it originates from the second term in Eq. (6), a closed-channel contribution. This is why $c_1 = 0$ on a broad Feshbach resonance where $s = 0$. The second coefficient is

$$c_2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(1+\alpha)^2 (s \text{arctanh } s - \alpha \text{arctanh } \alpha)}{1-s^2} \frac{1}{s^2 - \alpha^2} - \frac{1}{2} \left[1 + \frac{2m^2}{\mu^2} \left(\frac{\text{arctanh } s}{s} - 1 \right) \right] \left[\frac{1+s^2}{(1-s^2)^2} - \frac{\text{arctanh } s}{s} \right] + \frac{1}{2(1-s^2)} + \frac{s^2(1-\alpha)(1+\alpha)^2 \text{arctanh } \alpha}{(1-s^2)^2(s^2 - \alpha^2)} - \frac{[s^4 + (1+\alpha)^2 s^2 - \alpha^2] \text{arctanh } s}{2s(1-s^2)(s^2 - \alpha^2)}, \quad (24)$$

where the mass contrast $\alpha = (M-m)/(M+m)$ also obeys $2 \text{arctanh } \alpha = \ln(M/m)$ ³. The first term in Eq. (24) originates from the last term in (6), an open channel contribution. For a broad Feshbach resonance ($s = 0$), it is non-zero, whereas the sum of the other terms of (24), originating from the closed channel, vanishes, and $c_2 = \frac{\ln(M/m)}{1-m^2/M^2}$.

It is instructive to analyze the perturbative expansion in the exactly solvable limit of $M/m \rightarrow +\infty$: The impurity can then be considered as a pointlike scatterer of fixed position, for convenience at the center of a spherical cavity of arbitrarily large radius R , imposing contact conditions of scattering length a and effective range $-2R_*$ on the fermionic wavefunction [19]. In the thermodynamic limit, one can then construct the Fermi sea of exactly calculable single-particle eigenstates in this scatterer-plus-cavity problem. As shown in [9] on a broad Feshbach resonance, the truncated ansatz (2) provides a good estimate of ΔE_{pol} for $M/m \rightarrow \infty$. On the contrary, we find that it is qualitatively wrong for the quasiparticle residue: From Eq. (6), it predicts a non-zero value of Z , whereas the exact Z vanishes for $M/m \rightarrow \infty$, which proves the disappearance of the polaronic character. For an infinite mass impurity, indeed, Z is the modulus squared of the overlap between the ground state of the free Fermi gas and the ground state of the Fermi gas interacting with the scatterer. This overlap was studied in [23], and vanishes in the thermodynamic limit, a phenomenon called the Anderson orthogonality catastrophe. Satisfactorily, the perturbative expansion (22) is able to detect this catastrophe:

$$c_2 \underset{M/m \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{\ln(M/m)}{(1-s^2)^2}. \quad (25)$$

Such a logarithmic divergence with the mass ratio was already encountered in the context of the sudden coupling of a Fermi sea to a finite mass impurity, see the unnumbered equation below (4.3) in [24]. It originates from the first

³Contrarily to a first impression, c_2 has a finite limit when $s \rightarrow \alpha$.

term of (24), that is from the last term of (6), where it is apparent that $\int' d^3k d^3q / (k^2 - q^2)^2$ diverges logarithmically at the Fermi surface.

Turning back to a finite mass ratio M/m , we now calculate the coefficients A_4 and B_4 in Eq. (14) to leading order in $k_F a$. The integrals appearing in Eq. (9) contribute to these coefficients to second order in $k_F a$, see Eqs. (15,16), since $1/\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{q}}$ scales as g^4 . Also Z/π_{open} deviates from unity only to second order in $k_F a$, see Eq. (8). The leading order contribution to A_4 and B_4 is thus given by the interference term $f(\mathbf{x})$, and from Eq. (17) we obtain

$$A_4 \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow 0^-} A_4^{(0)} = \frac{3s^2}{1-s^2} \left(\frac{\text{arctanh } s}{s} - 1 \right)^{-1}, \quad (26)$$

$$B_4 \underset{a \rightarrow 0^-}{\sim} -\frac{3}{2\pi} \left(1 + \frac{M}{m} \right) \frac{k_F a}{1-s^2}. \quad (27)$$

These analytical predictions are satisfactorily compared to the numerical evaluation of A_4 and B_4 in Fig. 3.

Taking again $M/m \rightarrow +\infty$, we find a severe divergence in the small- $k_F a$ expansion: The coefficient of the term linear in $k_F a$ in B_4 diverges linearly with the mass ratio. Instead, the coefficient of the term linear in $k_F a$ in A_4 (not given) diverges only logarithmically with the mass ratio $\sim -A_4^{(0)} \frac{\ln(M/m)}{\pi(1-s^2)}$. This suggests that, for an impurity of infinite mass, the asymptotic behaviour of $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ is no longer $O(1/x^4)$ and that it decreases more slowly. To confirm this expectation, restricting for simplicity to a broad Feshbach resonance ($R_* = 0$), we have calculated the exact mean fermionic density in presence of a fixed pointlike scatterer, obtaining an expression equivalent to the one of §2.2.2 of [25] and leading at large distances to

$$G(\mathbf{x}) - 1 \underset{x \rightarrow +\infty}{\sim} \frac{3}{2(k_F x)^3} \text{Re} \left(e^{2ik_F x} \frac{k_F a}{1 + ik_F a} \right). \quad (28)$$

As this $1/x^3$ law has a zero-mean oscillating prefactor, $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ has a non-diverging integral over the whole space.

Multiscale structure of $G(\mathbf{x})$. – In the weakly attractive limit, it is apparent from Eqs. (10,11,12) that the functions $f_{\mathbf{q}}$, $\hat{f}_{\mathbf{k}}$ and f are of order one in $k_F a$, so that the leading order contribution to $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ in Eq. (9) originates from the interference term $\propto f(\mathbf{x})$ and is also of order one:

$$G(\mathbf{x}) - 1 \underset{a \rightarrow 0^-}{=} O(k_F a). \quad (29)$$

One then expects that, when $k_F x \gg 1$, $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ drops according to the asymptotic $1/x^4$ law with a coefficient of order one in $k_F a$. This simple view is however infirmed by Eq. (26), where A_4 has a non-zero limit $A_4^{(0)}$ for $a \rightarrow 0^-$. This suggests that the $1/x^4$ law is only obtained at distances that diverge in the weakly attractive limit.

To confirm this expectation, one calculates $f(\mathbf{x})$ to first order in $k_F a$ for a fixed \mathbf{x} [by using (20) and neglecting

⁴The integrals over \mathbf{k} of the modulus squared of (15), and over \mathbf{q} for the modulus squared of (16), have contributions scaling as $(k_F a)^2 \ln(k_F a)$ that cancel in their difference.

ΔE_{pol} in the denominator of (12)], then one takes the limit $k_F x \gg 1$. As shown in the appendix, this gives

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{G(\mathbf{x}) - 1}{\epsilon} \underset{x \rightarrow \infty}{=} \frac{A_4^{(0)}}{(k_F x)^4} \left\{ -\frac{M}{4m} \cos(2k_F x) + \frac{s^2}{2(1-s^2)} + \frac{m}{2M} \left[\gamma - \frac{3}{2} + \ln(2k_F x M/m) \right] \right\} + O\left[\frac{1}{(k_F x)^5} \right] \quad (30)$$

with the positive quantity $\epsilon \equiv -\Delta E_{\text{pol}}/E_F \ll 1$ and $\gamma \simeq 0.577215$ is Euler's constant. For that order of taking limits, the oscillating bit still obeys a $1/x^4$ law, with the same coefficient B_4 as in (27); on the contrary, the non-oscillating bit obeys a *different* $\ln x/x^4$ asymptotic law (dotted line in Fig. 2b), which shows that the validity range of the $1/x^4$ law is pushed to infinity when $a \rightarrow 0^-$.

Remarkably, by keeping ΔE_{pol} in the denominator of (12), one can obtain, see the appendix, an analytical expression for $G(\mathbf{x}) - 1$ that contains both the $\ln x/x^4$ and the $1/x^4$ laws as limiting cases, and that describes the crossover region with cosine- and sine-integral functions:

$$G(\mathbf{x}) - 1 \underset{k_F x > 1}{=} \frac{A_4^{(0)} \epsilon}{(k_F x)^4} \left\{ \frac{m}{M} \left[\text{Ci}(k_F x \epsilon^{1/2}) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Ci}(k_F x \epsilon) \right] - \frac{1}{4} k_F^2 x^2 \epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \text{Si}(k_F x \epsilon/2) \right) \sin(k_F x \epsilon/2) - \text{Ci}(k_F x \epsilon/2) \cos(k_F x \epsilon/2) \right] + O(1) \right\} \quad (31)$$

where the remainder $O(1)$ is a *uniformly* bounded function of $k_F x > 1$ and $\epsilon \ll 1$. This formula satisfactorily reproduces the numerical results, see Fig. 2b, where $\epsilon \simeq 0.160$. It reveals that the pair correlation function has a multiscale structure for a weakly attractive interaction, with three spatial ranges⁵: (i) the logarithmic range, $1 < k_F x < \epsilon^{-1/2}$, (ii) the crossover range, $\epsilon^{-1/2} < k_F x < 16\epsilon^{-1}$, and (iii) the asymptotic range, $16\epsilon^{-1} < k_F x$. The logarithmic range is immediately recovered from $\text{Ci}(u) = \ln u + O(1)$. The $\epsilon^{-1/2}$ scaling of its upper limit is intuitively recovered if one assumes that the relevant wave vectors in (12) obey $|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}| \approx 1/x$: Neglecting ΔE_{pol} with respect to $E_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}$ in the denominator of (12) then indeed requires $k_F x \lesssim (M\epsilon/m)^{-1/2}$.

Conclusion. – The fermionic polaron, composed of an impurity particle dressed by the particle-hole excitations of a Fermi sea close to a broad or narrow Feshbach resonance with zero-range interaction, is a spatially extended object: The density perturbation induced by the impurity in the Fermi gas asymptotically decays as the inverse quartic distance, with a spatially modulated component reminiscent of the Friedel oscillations. In the weakly attractive limit, $k_F a \rightarrow 0^-$ with $|a|R_*$ fixed, where systematic analytical results are obtained, this density perturbation reaches its asymptotic regime over distances diverging as $1/(k_F^2 |a|)$ and exhibits at intermediate distances

⁵The first relative deviation of $(k_F x)^4 [G(\mathbf{x}) - 1]$ from its $x \rightarrow \infty$ limit is $-24/(k_F x \epsilon)^2 + \frac{m}{2Mx} \sin(k_F x \epsilon)$. For $m\epsilon/M < 6$, this is $< 10\%$ for $k_F x \epsilon > 16$. From a similar first-deviation analysis, being in the logarithmic range actually requires $k_F x \epsilon^{1/2} < (\mu/M)^{1/2}$.

a rich multiscale structure. This may have important consequences on the interaction between polarons [26].

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Appendix. – The integral over \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{q} in $f(\mathbf{x})$ reduces to a triple integral over k , q and the angle θ between \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{q} . Taking $\lambda = |\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}|$ rather than θ as the variable, and changing the integration order, we get $f(\mathbf{x}) = (-\mathcal{F}/x) \int_0^{+\infty} d\lambda \sin(\lambda x) \varphi(\lambda)$ with $\mathcal{F} = (1 - s^2) A_4^{(0)} \rho \epsilon / 2$,

$$\varphi(\lambda) = \int_{\max(1-\lambda, 0)}^1 dq \int_{\max(\lambda-q, 1)}^{\lambda+q} dk \frac{kq/(1-s^2q^2)}{\frac{m}{M}\lambda^2 + k^2 - q^2 + \epsilon}$$

and $1/k_F$ is the unit of length. $\varphi(\lambda)$ is a C^2 function over $[0, 2]$ and $[2, +\infty[$, with $\varphi(0) = 0$, $\varphi''(0) = 1/[\epsilon(1-s^2)]$, but with a jump $J = \varphi''(2^+) - \varphi''(2^-) \underset{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}{=} M/[4m(1-s^2)]$.

Triple integration by parts over each interval gives

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\mathcal{F}}{x^4} \left[J \cos 2x + \varphi''(0) + \int_0^{+\infty} d\lambda \varphi^{(3)}(\lambda) \cos \lambda x \right].$$

The contribution of J reproduces Eq. (27). We find that $\varphi(\lambda)$ varies at three scales, ϵ , $\epsilon^{1/2}$ and ϵ^0 . For $0 < \lambda < \epsilon^{3/4}$, we use the scaling $\lambda = \epsilon t$ and expand $\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda)$ in powers of ϵ at fixed t . For $\epsilon^{3/4} < \lambda < \epsilon^{1/4}$, we use the scaling $\lambda = \epsilon^{1/2} u$ and expand $\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda)$ at fixed u . For $\epsilon^{1/4} < \lambda < 1$, we directly expand at fixed λ . With $\eta = m/M$, this gives

$$\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda) = -\frac{4/(1-s^2)}{\epsilon^2(1+2t)^3} - \frac{\eta Y(t-1)/t + O(2t+1)^{-3}}{2\epsilon(1-s^2)} + \dots$$

$$\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda) = -\frac{(1-\eta u^2)(1+4\eta u^2 + \eta^2 u^4)}{2\epsilon^{1/2} u^3(1+\eta u^2)^2(1-s^2)} + \frac{3 + O(u^4)}{4u^4(1-s^2)} + \dots$$

$$\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda) = \left[\frac{\eta}{2\lambda(1-s^2)} + O(\lambda^0) \right] + \frac{\epsilon[1 + O(\lambda)]}{2\lambda^3(1-s^2)} + \dots$$

where Y is the Heaviside function, and the $O(\cdot)$ apply for $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, respectively. If one needs the integral of $\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda) \cos(\lambda x)$ up to an error $O(1)$ uniformly bounded in x and ϵ , one can apply several simplifications over each interval. E.g., for $\epsilon^{1/4} < u < 1$, one can approximate $\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda)$ by an expansion in powers of u , and for $1 < u < \epsilon^{-1/4}$, by an expansion in powers of $1/u$. Adding contributions of all intervals, we concatenate them by pairs, and further noting that $J = O(1)$, $\int_{\epsilon^{-1/4}}^{\epsilon^{-1/2}} \frac{dt}{\epsilon} |t^{-3} - \frac{3}{2}t^{-4} - (t+1/2)^{-3}| = O(1)$, $\int_{\epsilon^{-1/2}}^{+\infty} \frac{dt}{\epsilon} t^{-3} = O(1)$, $\int_1^{+\infty} d\lambda |\varphi^{(3)}(\lambda)| = O(1)$, we get

$$G(\mathbf{x}) - 1 = \frac{A_4^{(0)} \epsilon}{x^4} \left\{ -\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{dt}{2\epsilon} \frac{\cos(x\epsilon t)}{(t+1/2)^3} + \eta \left[\int_{\epsilon}^{\epsilon^{1/2}} \frac{d\lambda}{2\lambda} \cos(\lambda x) - \int_{\epsilon^{1/2}}^1 \frac{d\lambda}{2\lambda} \cos(\lambda x) \right] + O(1) \right\}.$$

Explicitly evaluating the integrals gives Eq. (31) ⁶.

Finally, to obtain (30), one omits ϵ in the denominator of $\varphi(\lambda)$, so that it is no longer C^2 at the origin: $\varphi''(\lambda) = \{\eta[\ln(\eta\lambda/2) + 3/2] - s^2/(1-s^2)\}/[2(1-s^2)] + O(\lambda)$. We thus locally split $\varphi''(\lambda)$ as the sum of a singular part $\propto \ln \lambda$ and a C^∞ function. The only trick is then to take, in the last triple integration by parts over λ and in the bit involving the singular part, $(1 - \cos \lambda x)/x$ as a primitive of $\sin \lambda x$.

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⁶We have checked that the leading correction to (20) gives, as expected, a contribution also $O(1)$ to the expression in between curly brackets in (31).