

PAPER: Classical statistical mechanics, equilibrium and non-equilibrium

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit

Nicolás Tizón-Escamilla¹, Vivien Lecomte² and Eric Bertin²

 ¹ Aix Marseille Université, Université de Toulon, CNRS, CPT, Turing Center for Living Systems, Marseille, France
 ² Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, LIPhy, F-38000 Grenoble, France E-mail: nicolas.tizon-escamilla@univ-amu.fr

Received 5 June 2020 Accepted for publication 21 August 2020 Published 29 September 2020

Online at stacks.iop.org/JSTAT/2020/093208 https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-5468/abb235

Abstract. We consider a particle with a Langevin dynamics driven by a uniform non-conservative force, in a one-dimensional potential with periodic boundary conditions. We are interested in the properties of the system for atypical values of the time-integral of a generalized particle current. To study these, we bias the dynamics, at trajectory level, by a parameter conjugated to the current, within the large-deviation formalism. We investigate, in the weak-noise limit, the phase diagram spanned by the physical driving force and the parameter defining the biased process. We focus in particular on the depinning transition in this two-dimensional phase diagram. In the absence of trajectory bias, the depinning transition as a function of the force is characterized by the standard exponent $\frac{1}{2}$. We show that for any non-zero bias, the depinning transition is characterized by an inverse logarithmic behavior as a function of either the bias or the force, close to the critical lines. We also report a scaling exponent $\frac{1}{3}$ for the current when considering the depinning transition in terms of the bias, fixing the nonconservative force to its critical value in the absence of bias. Then, focusing on the time-integrated particle current, we study the thermal rounding effects in the zero-current phase when the tilted potential exhibits a local minimum. We derive in this case the Arrhenius scaling, in the small noise limit, of both the



particle current and the scaled cumulant generating function. This derivation of the Arrhenius scaling relies on the determination of the left eigenvector of the biased Fokker–Planck operator, to exponential order in the low-noise limit. An effective Poissonian statistics of the integrated current emerges in this limit.

Keywords: stochastic particle dynamics, large deviations in non-equilibrium systems, weak-noise limit in rare events

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Model and dynamics2.1. Model: a driven particle in a one-dimensional potential with metastability2.2. Distribution of an additive observable	5 5 7
3.	Critical lines separating fixed points and propagative trajectories 3.1. Critical lines for $0 \le f \le f_c$	8 9
4.	Scaling of ϕ and \bar{v} close to the critical line $\lambda_c^-(f)$ 4.1. Transition as a function of λ for $0 \leq f < f_c$.1 .2 .4 .5 .5 .6 .7
5.	Finite-temperature effects on the dynamical phase transition15.1. Description of the thermal rounding15.2. Strategy to obtain the Arrhenius scaling in the zero-current phase15.3. Relation between the effective dynamics and the dominant eigenvectors25.4. Left eigenvector at dominant order in $\varepsilon \to 0$ 25.5. Determination of the thermal effects in the zero-current region25.6. Interpretation of the form of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ and of its cusp singularity25.7. Discussion on the order of limits $\lambda \to 0$ and $\varepsilon \to 0$ in the $f = 0$ case3	.8 .8 19 21 21 24 28 31
6.	Conclusion and outlook 3	3
	Acknowledgments	3 4
A	ppendix A. Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry and mirror symmetry 3A.1. Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry 3 A.2. Mirror symmetry to change the sign of f 3	34 34 34

Appendix B. Determination of the left eigenvector scaling function U_L 33	5
Appendix C. Left and right eigenvectors at leading order in ε in the zero-current phase 3' C.1. Left eigenvector for $f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$ 3' C.2. Right eigenvector for $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$ 3' C.3. Explicit expression for the left and right eigenvectors for the sinusoidal case 4'	7 7 9 0
Appendix D. Proof that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$ for $z \neq z^*$ 42	1
Appendix E. Determination of the Arrhenius scaling in the regime $0 < \lambda < f$ 43	3
Appendix F. Derivation of the diffusion coefficient40F.1. Settings40F.2. Relation between the functions P and Q and the diffusion coefficient D41F.3. Diffusion coefficient for an equilibrium (reversible) dynamics42F.4. Average velocity \bar{v} in the case of a generic force42F.5. Diffusion coefficient D in the case of a generic force52F.6. Simplification of the expression of the diffusion coefficient D53F.7. Low-temperature asymptotics for \bar{v} and D in the pinned regime54References53	6 6 7 8 9 1 3 4 5

1. Introduction

The dynamics of an equilibrium system can be described in many cases as a Langevin dynamics [1, 2]. This dynamics can be driven out of equilibrium by introducing a nonconservative force, that generates a current and breaks the microscopic time reversibility, or detailed balance. Another way to bias the equilibrium statistics is by conditioning the statistics of full trajectories to have a given average value of a time-integrated observable, like the average particle current, the average activity, or the average energy dissipation [3-7]. Such an approach relies on the full statistics of trajectories [8, 9] instead of the single-time probability distribution of microscopic configurations. When trajectories are considered in the limit of long time intervals, this approach can be conveniently formulated using the large deviation framework [10-14], which is particularly instrumental to evaluate the statistics of time-integrated observables [13-22]. One may guess from physical intuition that biasing the dynamics by imposing a non-zero average current should be similar to imposing a physical driving force that generates a current.

This correspondence can be put on a firm ground by using methods based on an abstract transformation of the deformed Markov operator to define a probabilityconserving effective dynamics [3-5, 23-27]. An illustration of this procedure in the simple case of a particle in a one-dimensional periodic potential with a Langevin dynamics has been given in reference [28] (see also our previous contribution [6]). Such driven one-dimensional problems are of interest since they can be studied experimentally (for instance to study modified fluctuation-dissipation relations [29]) and provide examples of Brownian ratchets (see [30] for a review). In this work, we are interested in the characteristic behavior of the particle for trajectories conditioned to present an atypical value of the time-averaged velocity v on a long time window. By a change of ensemble at trajectory level, such 'microcanonical' (or conditioned) ensemble is shown to be equivalent to a biased ensemble where trajectories are weighted by $e^{\lambda tv}$, where λ plays the role of a Lagrange multiplier conjugated to v (see [5]). In this paper, we focus our analytical study on the biased ensemble only. In the 1D problem we consider, biasing the dynamics amounts to an effective Langevin dynamics with a uniform drive in a 'renormalized' periodic potential [6, 28]. Hence, perhaps at odds with a naive physical picture, biasing the dynamics by the average current is not simply equivalent to including a uniform driving force in the system, but the potential energy is also modified in a non-trivial way.

Interestingly, this modification of the potential energy has important consequences on the scaling properties of the depinning transition which separates, in the weaknoise limit, the zero-current regime where the particle is trapped in a minimum of the tilted potential, from the non-zero current regime where a propagative motion sets in. In the absence of bias $(\lambda = 0)$ the particle is trapped in a local minimum of the potential unless the drive f is large enough to allow the particle to reach a steady state with non-zero average current \bar{v} . This standard 'depinning transition' leads for the average current \bar{v} to a scaling $\bar{v} \sim (f - f_c)^{1/2}$ with the distance to the critical force $f_{\rm c}$ [31–34]. If, instead, one fixes f = 0 and varies the value of λ , one observes an analogous 'dynamical phase transition' (DPT): the bias λ toward atypical velocities has to be large enough for the particle to reach a non-zero velocity state [28], but in that case one finds an inverse logarithmic scaling of the current \bar{v} close to the DPT [6], in terms of the Lagrange multiplier λ . One may then wonder how the two scalings can be matched when considering the full parameter plane (λ, f) of the statistical bias λ and the physical drive f, rather than the two parameter lines $(\lambda, f = 0)$ and $(\lambda = 0, f)$. Remark that, in our system of interest, the transition lines in the (λ, f) plane separate zero-current and propagative regimes; for convenience, the corresponding DPTs will also be called depinning transitions, by extension of the $\lambda = 0$ case. Note that the relation between the $\lambda = 0$ depinning transition and the DPT was also investigated in reference [28].

In this paper, we investigate in the weak-noise limit the phase diagram of the depinning transition of a one-dimensional biased Langevin process corresponding to a particle in a potential, with a non-conservative driving force f and a biasing parameter λ conjugated to a generalized current v. The transition lines between zero-current and non-zero-current phases in the phase diagram (λ, f) are determined. The scalings of the scaled cumulant generating function (SCGF) $\phi(\lambda, f)$ and of the average current \bar{v} close to one of the transition lines are obtained. We find in particular that the standard depinning exponent $\frac{1}{2}$ of the depinning transition is only valid for the non-biased dynamics ($\lambda = 0$), while any amount of bias ($\lambda \neq 0$) leads to a generic inverse logarithmic scaling of the generalized current \bar{v} close to the critical line. We also report a scaling exponent $\frac{1}{3}$ for the current when considering the depinning transition in terms of λ , right at the critical force f_c . Crossover lines between the different scaling behaviors

in the plane (λ, f) are briefly discussed. In addition, we study the thermal rounding effects in the zero-current phase. Denoting by ε the amplitude of the noise, we obtain an Arrhenius scaling $\approx e^{-\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda,f)/\varepsilon}$ for the SCGF, as well as for the generalized current $\bar{v}(\lambda, f)$, in the low-noise asymptotics $\varepsilon \to 0$. A justification for such an Arrhenius scaling was given in reference [28] (within the Freidlin–Wentzell–Graham formalism [35, 36]), and we provide in this paper a method for the explicit determination of the Arrhenius function $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)$. We discuss the physical implication of the result in terms of an effectively Poissonian distribution of the integrated current in the small-noise limit.

The study of the SCGF in this problem has a long history, starting with the determination of the entropy current distribution in models of colloidal particles [37–39] and studies of the current distribution [28, 40–42] but it is only recently that analytical studies of the DPTs at small noise were achieved [6, 26]. We refer the reader to section 3 for a comparison of our results to previous ones. A difficulty is that the order of the transition as a function of the Lagrange multiplier λ is not obvious (with a logarithmic singularity [6]) whenever the potential in which the particle evolves presents metastable states. Proesmans and Derrida [26] have determined analytically the finite-temperature exponential corrections of the form $e^{-\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda,f)/\varepsilon}$ for the SCGF in situations where the potential presents no metastable state, using a WKB approach. In the present paper, following a different approach, we consider the case of a potential with a metastable state, which, as we detail, modifies the nature of the DPTs while also bringing a new host of technical issues that we overcome in order to determine the SCGF associated with the particle current.

2. Model and dynamics

2.1. Model: a driven particle in a one-dimensional potential with metastability

Consider a particle of position x(t) at time t, evolving on a ring of period 1, subjected to a continuous force field F(x) and to a Gaussian white noise $\eta(t)$. In the overdamped limit, the Langevin equation describing the evolution of the position is:

$$\dot{x}(t) = F(x(t)) + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta(t) \tag{1}$$

(the overdot denotes a time derivative). The noise $\eta(t)$ has zero mean and correlation $\langle \eta(t)\eta(t')\rangle = \delta(t-t')$. The spatial period of the force is equal to 1, i.e., F(x+1) = F(x), and the temperature is $\varepsilon/2$.

In our previous study [6], we have studied the statistics of an observable of the type

$$A(t_{\rm f}) = \int_0^{t_{\rm f}} \mathrm{d}t \ h(x(t)) + \int_0^{t_{\rm f}} \mathrm{d}t \ g(x(t)) \dot{x}(t)$$
(2)

with arbitrary functions g(x) and h(x), and where the stochastic integral involving g(x) is understood in a Stratonovich sense (see e.g. [43]). This will be also the case of all the stochastic integrals described in this paper. In the following, we will specialize to current-type observables, for which h(x) = 0, so that the observable $A(t_f)$ reads as



Figure 1. Schematic representation of the conservative contribution $F_0(x) = -V'(x)$ to the one-dimensional force $F(x, f) = F_0(x) + f$ that we consider. The potential V(x) and its corresponding force $F_0(x)$ are periodic functions on [0, 1]. The constant drive f verifies $f = \int_0^1 dx \ F(x, f)$.

 $A(t_{\rm f}) = \int_0^{t_{\rm f}} dt \ g(x(t)) \dot{x}(t)$. As discussed in [6], the force field F(x) can be decomposed without loss of generality into a conservative part $F_0(x) = -V'(x)$ (where V(x) is a periodic function of x of period 1) and a homogeneous drive f,

$$F(x, f) = F_0(x) + f.$$
 (3)

By definition, $\int_0^1 dx \ F_0(x) = 0$, so that $f = \int_0^1 dx \ F(x, f)$. Since we are specifically interested in this work in the dependence of the dynamics on the non-conservative force f, we have made the f-dependence explicit and wrote the force as F(x, f). We assume that the conservative part $F_0(x)$ of the force has a single local maximum $F_{\max} = F_0(x_M) > 0$ and a single local minimum $F_{\min} = F_0(x_m) < 0$ (see figure 1). We also assume that $F_0(x)$ is monotonous on the intervals separating the maximum and the minimum (there are two such intervals because of the periodic boundary conditions), so that there exist two stationary points where $F_0(x) = 0$. A typical example of such a force is $F_0(x) = \sin(2\pi x)$. Note that we may further assume that $x_M < x_m$ as in the purely sinusoidal case, which can be achieved through a simple translation of the x variable. We also focus on the case of a positive drive $f \ge 0$ (without loss of generality, since, as seen from equation (1), one can change the sign of f through $x \mapsto 1 - x$).

In the following, we tackle the general form (3) of the force, considering in some illustrations the simple sinusoidal force field

$$F_{\sin}(x,f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f \tag{4}$$

for instance to compute explicitly quantities which depend on the details of the potential. The amplitude of the sine contribution is set to 1 without loss of generality, through a rescaling of time and temperature.

2.2. Distribution of an additive observable

The distribution of the observable $A(t_f)$ in the large-time limit is determined through the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ defined as³

$$\left\langle \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A(t_{\mathrm{f}})} \right\rangle \underset{t_{\mathrm{f}}\to\infty}{\simeq} \mathrm{e}^{t_{\mathrm{f}}\,\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,f)}$$
(5)

where the average is taken over trajectories of duration $t_{\rm f}$. The parameter λ is a statistical bias acting at the level of trajectories, by reweighting the probability of trajectories associated with the Langevin equation (1). The standard Langevin dynamics is recovered in the case $\lambda = 0$. Up to a rescaling of the parameter λ , one sets without loss of generality $\int_0^1 dx \ g(x) = 1$, which will prove useful to lighten notations⁴. In the large $t_{\rm f}$ limit, the conditioned trajectory ensemble (where $A(t_{\rm f})/t_{\rm f} = a$ is fixed) and the canonical trajectory ensemble (weighted by $e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A(t_{\rm f})}$) become equivalent, for an appropriate value of λ (see for instance [4, 5, 14, 44]). Also, the distribution of A verifies a large-deviation principle $P[A(t_{\rm f}) = a t_{\rm f}] \simeq e^{t_{\rm f} \Pi_{\varepsilon}(a)}$ as $t_{\rm f} \to \infty$. If Π_{ε} is a concave function of a, then it is related to φ_{ε} via a Legendre transform. In the present paper, we focus our study on $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda)$.

In [6], we studied in particular how a biased conservative dynamics (i.e., $\lambda \neq 0$, but f = 0) can be mapped to non-conservative, unbiased dynamics (i.e., $\lambda = 0$ and $f \neq 0$) [28], a case which is intuitively easier to grasp. In the present work, we instead leave aside this mapping, and rather consider the interplay of the statistical bias λ and the physical driving f on the same dynamics. In other words, we investigate the (λ, f) phase diagram of the model, and thus emphasize the dependence of relevant quantities on the parameters λ and f.

For the original dynamics, at zero temperature and in the absence of bias $(\lambda = 0)$, the behavior of the average velocity

$$\bar{V} = \lim_{t_f \to \infty} \frac{1}{t_f} \int_0^{t_f} \mathrm{d}t \ \dot{x}(t) \tag{6}$$

as a function of the driving force f is very simple: there is a critical value of the force $f_c = -F_{\min} > 0$ such that for $f < f_c$, the particle is trapped in a stationary point x_s satisfying $F(x_s, f) = 0$ in the noiseless situation, and can only escape the trap from thermal activation; for $f > f_c$, there are no stationary points, the particle is no longer trapped and can thus move freely across the system. This phenomenology is well known [31, 32] and is one of the simplest instances of the depinning transition (see e.g. [33, 34] for reviews). The average velocity of the particle behaves as $|f - f_c|^{1/2}$ for $f > f_c$ and is governed by the so-called mean-field depinning exponent $\beta = \frac{1}{2}$. See also reference [28] for a discussion on the role of such depinning behavior for the DPT as a function of λ .

³ Throughout the paper, we use the symbol \approx for the asymptotic logarithmic equivalence in the case of large deviation scalings, and the symbol \approx for the standard asymptotic equivalence (i.e., when the correct prefactors are included). Following standard practice in physics papers, we use the symbol \sim to denote equivalent (typically power-law) scalings when prefactors are not included explicitly. ⁴ We easily see that $A(t_f) = \int_0^{t_f} dt g(x(t)) \dot{x}(t)$ is split into a sum of two terms: one that is equal to $\int_0^1 dx g(x)$ times the number of turns (counted algebraically) that x(t) performs on $[0, t_f]$; and one that can be bounded by max_[0,1]g. Thus, if $\int_0^1 dx g(x) = 0$, the observable $A(t_f)$ is not extensive in time at large t_f and the relevant large-deviation scaling to consider is different from (5).

To characterize more generally this transition for the biased process, we are specifically interested in the behavior of the average value

$$\bar{v}(\lambda, f) = \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \frac{1}{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle_{\lambda} \quad \text{with} \quad \langle \cdot \rangle_{\lambda} = \frac{\left\langle e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A(t_{\rm f})} \cdot \right\rangle}{\left\langle e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A(t_{\rm f})} \right\rangle} \tag{7}$$

as a function of the two relevant parameters (λ, f) , in the small noise asymptotics $\varepsilon \to 0$. At a qualitative level, both parameters λ and f can be understood as bias parameters that impose a nonzero value of \bar{v} . However, we have shown in [6] that both parameters have quite different effects at a quantitative level. Note that the notation \bar{v} is chosen here because, for g(x) = 1, the observable \bar{v} is simply the average current, or average velocity of the particle. In the following, we thus call \bar{v} the generalized average current. Also, in the Legendre transformation between $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ and $\Pi_{\varepsilon}(a)$, the quantity \bar{v} is precisely such that $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \Pi_{\varepsilon}(\bar{v}) - \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}\bar{v}$ so that understanding the dependency of \bar{v} on λ allows one to reconstitute the behavior of the distribution $P[A(t_{\rm f}) = at_{\rm f}]$ from the knowledge of $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$.

We now turn to the determination of the critical lines separating the zero-current and non-zero-current phases in the phase diagram (λ, f) .

3. Critical lines separating fixed points and propagative trajectories

It the zero-temperature limit, a DPT separates zero-current and non-zero-current phases; it was investigated numerically using an eigenvector decomposition in [38, 39], with the observation of a 'kink' or a 'wedge' shape of the SCGF. The current distribution was investigated in a systematic way in [28] where, at low temperature, a 'kink' behavior was also obtained numerically using a Fourier–Bloch decomposition. In [6], for the non-driven dynamics (f = 0) we derived an analytical characterization of the singularity, showing that it presents a continuous but logarithmic behavior as a function of λ close to the transition point. In [26] the transition was studied analytically in the regime where the tilted potential presents not metastable state. In this section and the next one, we fully characterize the phase diagram in the (λ , f) plane and identify the critical behavior close to singularities.

The determination of the critical lines that we now present relies on results derived in [6, 26], that we briefly recall below. In the small-noise limit, the path-integral description of trajectorial average in equation (5) is dominated by an 'optimal trajectory'. It has been shown that depending on (λ, f) , the optimal trajectory can be either a fixed point or a propagative trajectory, and the criterion allowing one to distinguish between these two possibilities was also determined in [6]. In the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$, the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ behaves as

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\sim} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \phi(\lambda, f)$$
 (8)

where $\phi(\lambda, f)$ does not depend on ε . Optimal trajectories are then propagative if and only if the following criterion is satisfied [6]:

$$|\lambda - f| > \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \ \sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) + F(x, f)^2} \tag{9}$$

where $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) = \max_x \left[-\frac{1}{2}F(x, f)^2\right]$. The assumptions h(x) = 0 and $\int_0^1 dx \ g(x) = 1$ have been used to simplify the criterion given in [6]. When equation (9) holds, the SCGF $\phi(\lambda, f)$ is solution of the equation

$$\int_{0}^{1} dx \,\sqrt{2\phi(\lambda, f) + F(x, f)^{2}} = |\lambda - f|.$$
(10)

Otherwise, if equation (9) is not satisfied, the optimal trajectories are fixed points and $\phi(\lambda, f) = \mathcal{V}_{\max}(f)$. The domain of validity of equation (9) is limited by two lines $\lambda_c^-(f)$ and $\lambda_c^+(f)$, respectively defined by

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) = f - \int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \,\sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\rm max}(f) + F(x, f)^{2}},\tag{11}$$

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^+(f) = f + \int_0^1 dx \ \sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\rm max}(f) + F(x, f)^2}.$$
(12)

In figure 2 we show a representation of the corresponding phase diagram in the plane (λ, f) for the sinusoidal force field $F_{\sin}(x, f)$. As a consistency check, one sees that the critical value $f_c = -F_{\min} > 0$ of the force is such that $\lambda_c^-(f_c) = 0$. Indeed f_c is the minimum force for which $F(x, f) \ge 0$ for all $x \in [0, 1]$, hence $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f_c) = 0$ and

$$\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,\sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f_c) + F(x, f_c)^2} = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,F(x, f_c) = f_c,\tag{13}$$

leading to $\lambda_c^-(f_c) = 0$. By symmetry, the condition $\lambda_c^+(f) = 0$ yields the negative critical force $-F_{\max}$ that is not in the range of force we consider. In [6, 28], for the sine force (4), the values $\lambda_c^\pm(0) = \pm \frac{2}{\pi}$ have been determined. Here we wish to determine the values of $\lambda_c^-(f)$ and $\lambda_c^+(f)$ for any f > 0 (the values for f < 0 are obtained by a simple symmetry, as discussed in section 2.1). We thus need to evaluate the integral appearing in equation (9), which requires to distinguish the cases $0 \leq f \leq f_c$ and $f > f_c$.

3.1. Critical lines for $0 \leq f \leq f_c$

When $0 \leq f \leq f_c$, there exist crossing points such that F(x, f) = 0 and one thus has $\mathcal{V}_{\text{max}} = 0$. The integral appearing in equations (11) and (12) then reads

$$\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,\sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) + F(x,f)^2} = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,|F(x,f)| = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,|F_0(x) + f|, \qquad (14)$$



Figure 2. Phase diagram in the plane (λ, f) for the sinusoidal force field $F_{sin}(x, f)$ of equation (4). The two types of optimal trajectories are a fixed point (**red**), associated with a zero current, or a propagative trajectory (**blue**), associated with a non-zero current. The critical lines $\lambda_c^{\pm}(f)$ separate these propagative and zero-current phases. The order of the transitions along these lines is non trivial and discussed in section 4.

which leads to

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{\pm}(f) = f \pm \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, |F(x, f)|.$$
(15)

In the specific case where $F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f$, we get the explicit result

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{\pm}(f) = f \pm \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\sqrt{1 - f^2} + f \ \arcsin \ f \right). \tag{16}$$

We can check here explicitly that $f_c = -F_{\min} = 1$ is the solution of $\lambda_c^-(f_c) = 0$. In addition, one can use the explicit form (16) of $\lambda_c^-(f)$ to evaluate its asymptotic behavior for $f \to 0$ and $f \to 1^-$,

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) = -\frac{2}{\pi} + f - \frac{1}{\pi}f^2 + o(f^2), \quad f \to 0,$$
(17)

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(1-\delta f) = -\frac{4\sqrt{2}}{3\pi} \,(\delta f)^{3/2} + o(\delta f^{3/2}), \quad \delta f \to 0^+.$$
⁽¹⁸⁾

The behavior of $\lambda_c^+(f)$ can be obtained from the relation $\lambda_c^+(f) = 2f - \lambda_c^-(f)$ (which expresses that two critical values λ_c^{\pm} are related by the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry discussed in appendix A).

3.2. Critical lines for $f > f_c$

When $f > f_c$, $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f)$ is nonzero and depends on the details of the force field F(x, f). To go beyond the general expressions (11) and (12), one needs to specify explicitly the force field. In the case $F(x, f) = F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f$, for which $f_c = 1$, we get $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) = -\frac{1}{2}(f-1)^2$. One thus has

$$\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \ \sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max} + F(x)^2} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\theta \ \sqrt{(2f-1) + \sin^2\theta + 2f} \ \sin\theta \tag{19}$$

which, after some algebra, yields

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[f \, \arctan \sqrt{f-1} - \sqrt{f-1} \right],\tag{20}$$

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{+}(f) = 2f - \frac{2}{\pi} \left[f \, \arctan \sqrt{f-1} - \sqrt{f-1} \right]. \tag{21}$$

From these expressions, the asymptotic forms of $\lambda_c^{\pm}(f)$ for $f \to \infty$ and for $f \to 1^+$ are easily determined. One finds in particular for $\lambda_c^-(f)$

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) = f - \frac{4}{\pi} f^{1/2} + o(f^{1/2}), \quad f \to \infty,$$
(22)

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(1+\delta f) = \frac{4}{3\pi} (\delta f)^{3/2} + o(\delta f^{3/2}), \quad \delta f \to 0^+.$$
(23)

Equations (18) and (23) show that the behavior of the critical line $\lambda_{\rm c}^-(f)$ is not symmetric in the two limits $f \to 1^+$ or $f \to 1^-$: the power-law behavior $\propto |\delta f|^{3/2}$ is the same but the prefactors are different. Note last that the behavior of $\lambda_{\rm c}^+(f)$ is easily obtained from the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry $\lambda_{\rm c}^+(f) = 2f - \lambda_{\rm c}^-(f)$ (see appendix A).

4. Scaling of ϕ and \bar{v} close to the critical line $\lambda_{c}^{-}(f)$

For a generic force F(x, f), we now specialize, for simplicity, to the vicinity of the lower critical line $\lambda_c^-(f)$. Results for the other critical line $\lambda_c^+(f)$ can be obtained in a similar way using the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry (see appendix A). To determine the SCGF $\phi(\lambda, f)$, we need to solve the equation

$$\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \,\sqrt{2\phi(\lambda,f) + F(x,f)^2} = -\lambda + f \tag{24}$$

for $\lambda < \lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f)$. The current \bar{v} is then obtained as [6]

$$\bar{v}(\lambda, f) = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \lambda}(\lambda, f).$$
(25)

We set $\lambda = \lambda_c^-(f) - \delta \lambda$ with $\delta \lambda > 0$ and look for the asymptotic behavior of ϕ for $\delta \lambda \to 0$. Using equation (11), one rewrites equation (24) as

$$\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, \left[\sqrt{2\phi(\lambda, f) + F(x, f)^2} - \sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) + F(x, f)^2}\right] = \delta\lambda \tag{26}$$

which is reexpressed using the relation $\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b} = (a - b)/(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})$ as

$$2\left(\phi(\lambda,f) - \mathcal{V}_{\max}(f)\right) \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi(\lambda,f) + F(x,f)^2} + \sqrt{2\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) + F(x,f)^2}} = \delta\lambda.$$
(27)

To proceed further, it is convenient to deal separately with the cases $0 \leq f < f_c$ and $f > f_c$, as done above for the determination of the critical lines.

4.1. Transition as a function of λ for $0 \leq f < f_c$

For $0 \leq f < f_c$, one has $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) = 0$, and equation (27) simplifies to

$$2\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + F(x,f)^2} + |F(x,f)|} = \delta\lambda,\tag{28}$$

where we have dropped the explicit (λ, f) -dependence of ϕ to lighten notations. For small $\delta\lambda$, ϕ is also small, so that one needs to evaluate the asymptotic behavior for small ϕ of the integral appearing in equation (28).

We recall that, as shown on figure 1, we have assumed that the conservative part $F_0(x)$ of the force has a single local maximum and a single local minimum, and that it is monotonous in the two intervals between the maximum and the minimum. By continuity of the force field, this implies that the force field $F(x, f) = F_0(x) + f$ exhibits two zerocrossing points, i.e., points x such that F(x, f) = 0 in the case $0 \leq f < f_c$ considered here (and no zero-crossing points for $f > f_c$). Let us denote as x_1 and x_2 the distinct values of x satisfying $F(x_i, f) = 0$ (i = 1, 2). We assume that $\partial_x F(x_i, f) \neq 0$ (i = 1, 2), so that F(x, f) behaves linearly in the vicinity of each x_i . Defining the intermediate point $x_1^* = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 + x_2)$, one can split the interval [0, 1] into two subintervals $[0, x_1^*]$ and $[x_1^*, 1]$, each subinterval containing a single zero-crossing point x_i . For later convenience, we define the notations $x_0^* = 0$ and $x_2^* = 1$, so that we can generically write the subintervals as $[x_{i-1}^*, x_i^*]$, for i = 1, 2.

The asymptotic evaluation of the integral in equation (28) goes as follows. On each subinterval $[x_{i-1}^*, x_i^*]$, the integral

$$\mathcal{J}_{i} = \int_{x_{i-1}^{*}}^{x_{i}^{*}} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + F(x,f)^{2}} + |F(x,f)|}$$
(29)

is logarithmically diverging if $\phi = 0$, due to a divergence of the integrand around $x = x_i$. A small, but nonzero ϕ thus effectively acts as a cut-off to regularize the diverging integral. For small ϕ , the integral is dominated by the vicinity of the crossing point x_i where $F(x_i, f) = 0$, and the leading behavior of the integral can be obtained by expanding F(x, f) to first order around $x = x_i$, yielding

$$\mathcal{J}_{i} \approx \int_{x_{i-1}^{*}}^{x_{i}^{*}} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + F_{i}^{\prime 2} (x - x_{i})^{2}} + |F_{i}^{\prime} (x - x_{i})|}$$
(30)

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit where we have introduced the shorthand notation $F'_i = \partial_x F(x_i, f)$. With the change of variable $x = x_i + \sqrt{\phi} y$, we obtain

$$\int_{x_{i-1}^*}^{x_i^*} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + F_i'^2 (x - x_i)^2} + |F_i'(x - x_i)|} = \int_{(x_{i-1}^* - x_i)/\sqrt{\phi}}^{(x_i^* - x_i)/\sqrt{\phi}} \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\sqrt{2 + F_i'^2 y^2} + |F_i'y|}.$$
 (31)

The last integral over the variable y diverges logarithmically, when $\phi \to 0$, at both the lower and upper bounds of the integral. We are thus led to the following asymptotic estimation, to leading order in ϕ when $\phi \to 0$,

$$\int_{(x_{i-1}^*-x_i)/\sqrt{\phi}}^{(x_i^*-x_i)/\sqrt{\phi}} \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\sqrt{2+F_i'^2 y^2} + |F_i'y|} \approx \frac{1}{2|F_i'|} \ln \phi|.$$
(32)

Gathering terms, equation (28) reads, in this asymptotic regime, as

$$\phi \left| \ln \phi \right| \left(\frac{1}{|F_1'|} + \frac{1}{|F_2'|} \right) \approx \delta \lambda.$$
(33)

Inverting the relation to get the leading order expression of ϕ in terms of $\delta\lambda$, one gets

$$\phi\left(\lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\tilde{\phi}(f)\,\delta\lambda}{|\ln \,\delta\lambda|}, \quad \tilde{\phi}(f) = \frac{|F_{1}'F_{2}'|}{|F_{1}'| + |F_{2}'|},\tag{34}$$

where we recall that $F'_i = \partial_x F(x_i, f)$ depends on f. From equation (25), the average generalized current \bar{v} then reads as

$$\bar{v}\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\tilde{\phi}(f)}{|\ln \delta\lambda|}.$$
(35)

The depinning transition (which is a DPT) as a function of λ for $0 \leq f < f_c$ thus behaves with a logarithmic divergence, at odds with standard DPTs, which are first- or secondorder [16, 45–48]. This shows that the logarithmic, almost discontinuous DPT as a function of λ found in [6] for f = 0 is actually present in the whole range of force $0 \leq f < f_c$.

In the specific case of a sinusoidal force field $F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f$, one has $|F'_1| = |F'_2| = \pi \sqrt{1 - f^2}$, resulting in

$$\phi\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\pi}{2}\sqrt{1 - f^2} \frac{\delta\lambda}{|\ln \delta\lambda|},\tag{36}$$

$$\bar{v}\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\sqrt{1 - f^2}}{|\ln \delta\lambda|}.$$
(37)

Note that one generically expects, for $f = f_c - \delta f$ (with $\delta f > 0$ and small) the scaling $\tilde{\phi}(f) \sim (\delta f)^{1/2}$, as found on the example of the sine force field (4).

4.2. Transition as a function of λ for $f > f_c$

We now turn to the case $f > f_c$, for which F(x, f) > 0 for all x. The force field F(x, f) has a single minimum $F_m(f)$ at a point x_m and $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f) = -\frac{1}{2}F_m(f)^2 < 0$. Writing $\delta \phi = \phi(\lambda, f) - \mathcal{V}_{\max}(f)$, equation (27) turns into

$$2\delta\phi \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\delta\phi + F(x,f)^{2} - F_{\mathrm{m}}(f)^{2}} + \sqrt{F(x,f)^{2} - F_{\mathrm{m}}(f)^{2}}} = \delta\lambda,$$
(38)

where we recall that $\delta\lambda > 0$ is defined by $\lambda = \lambda_c^-(f) - \delta\lambda$. For $\delta\phi \to 0$, the integral in equation (38) is dominated by the divergence of the integrand close to $x = x_m$. Expanding F(x, f) in the vicinity of x_m , we get to leading order $F(x, f)^2 - F_m^2 = F_m F_0'' (x - x_m)^2$, with the shorthand notation $F_0'' = \partial_x^2 F_0(x_m, f)$, and where we have dropped the explicit *f*-dependence of F_m on *f* to lighten notations. Note that $F_0'' > 0$ because it corresponds to a minimum of the force field. In the small $\delta\phi$ limit, equation (38) can thus be rewritten as

$$2\delta\phi \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\delta\phi + F_{\mathrm{m}}F_{0}''(x - x_{\mathrm{m}})^{2}} + \sqrt{F_{\mathrm{m}}F_{0}''}|x - x_{\mathrm{m}}|} = \delta\lambda.$$
(39)

Using the change of variable $x = x_{\rm m} + \sqrt{\delta \phi} y$, we get in the limit $\delta \phi \to 0$,

$$\int_{-x_{\rm m}/\sqrt{\delta\phi}}^{(1-x_{\rm m})/\sqrt{\delta\phi}} \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\sqrt{2+F_{\rm m}F_0''y^2} + \sqrt{F_{\rm m}F_0''}|y|} \approx \frac{1}{2\sqrt{F_{\rm m}F_0''}} \ln \delta\phi|. \tag{40}$$

It follows that

$$\phi\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\tilde{\phi}(f)\,\delta\lambda}{\left|\ln \,\delta\lambda\right|}, \quad \tilde{\phi}(f) = \sqrt{F_{\rm m}F_{0}''},\tag{41}$$

where we recall that both $F_{\rm m}$ and F_0'' depend on f. From equation (25), the average generalized current \bar{v} then reads, for $\delta \lambda \to 0^+$, as

$$\bar{v}\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{\bar{\phi}(f)}{\left|\ln \ \delta\lambda\right|}.\tag{42}$$

In the specific case of a sinusoidal force field $F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f$, one has $F_{\rm m} = f - 1$ and $F_0'' = 4\pi^2$, so that $\bar{\phi}(f) = \pi\sqrt{f-1}$, leading for $\delta\lambda \to 0^+$ to

$$\phi\left(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx 2\pi\sqrt{f - 1} \frac{\delta\lambda}{\left|\ln \ \delta\lambda\right|},\tag{43}$$

$$\bar{v}\left(\lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - \delta\lambda, f\right) \approx \frac{2\pi\sqrt{f-1}}{\left|\ln \delta\lambda\right|}.$$
(44)

We thus recover a logarithmic depinning behavior (or DPT) very similar to that of the case $0 \leq f < f_c$, but with different prefactors. Note that the range of force $f > f_c$ was also studied in reference [26] but the critical behavior of the phase transition was not determined.

4.3. Transition as a function of λ at the critical force $f = f_c$

We now investigate the criticality of the SCGF for $f = f_c$. As a first indication, one sees that the leading terms found for the SCGF ϕ and for the generalized average current \bar{v} vanish when $f \to f_c$, see equations (36) and (37) for $f < f_c$ and equations (43) and (44) for $f > f_c$. This suggests that a different scaling behavior may take place at the critical force f_c . We thus consider the case $f = f_c$ and $\lambda = \lambda_c^-(f_c) - \delta\lambda = -\delta\lambda$ with $\delta\lambda > 0$ (we recall that $\lambda_c^-(f_c) = 0$). Thus, according to equation (27), we obtain

$$2\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + (F_0(x) + f_c)^2} + |F_0(x) + f_c|} = \delta\lambda \tag{45}$$

where we have used $\mathcal{V}_{\max}(f_c) = 0$. For $f = f_c$, the force field $F(x, f_c)$ now has a single zerocrossing point at $x = x_m$, which is also the minimum of $F_0(x)$. We can then follow the same initial steps as in section 4.1. Expanding $F_0(x)$ around $x = x_m$, we get to leading order $F_0(x) + f_c = \frac{F_0''}{2}(x - x_m)^2$, with the shorthand notation $F_0'' = F_0''(x_m)$ (note that $F_0'' > 0$). To determine $\phi = \phi(-\delta\lambda, f_c)$, we thus have to solve the equation

$$4\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{8\phi + F_0''^2 (x - x_\mathrm{m})^4} + F_0'' (x - x_\mathrm{m})^2} \approx \delta\lambda.$$
(46)

Performing the change of variable $x = x_{\rm m} + (\phi^{1/4}/\sqrt{F_0''})y$ and taking the limit $\phi \to 0$ in the bounds of the integral, we eventually get

$$\frac{8C}{\sqrt{F_0''}}\phi^{3/4} \approx \delta\lambda, \quad \text{with} \quad C = \int_0^\infty \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\sqrt{y^4 + 8} + y^2} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2}{6 \times 2^{3/4}\sqrt{\pi}}.$$
 (47)

It follows that

$$\phi \approx \frac{F_0^{\prime\prime 2/3}}{(8C)^{4/3}} \delta \lambda^{4/3}, \text{ and } \bar{v} \approx \frac{4}{3} \frac{F_0^{\prime\prime 2/3}}{(8C)^{4/3}} \delta \lambda^{1/3}.$$
 (48)

In the specific case of a sinusoidal force field $F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin 2\pi x + f$, both the SCGF and the average generalized velocity take the form:

$$\phi \approx \left(\frac{\pi}{4C}\right)^{4/3} \delta \lambda^{4/3}, \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{v} \approx \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{\pi}{4C}\right)^{4/3} \delta \lambda^{1/3}.$$
 (49)

We thus get a non-standard exponent $\frac{1}{3}$ for the depinning transition as a function of λ right at the critical force f_c .

4.4. Depinning transition as a function of the force f for fixed λ

We have analyzed above the DPT in the (λ, f) -plane, close to the critical line $\lambda_c^-(f)$, by varying the parameter λ at a fixed driving force f. This was motivated in part by technical considerations, because the asymptotic evaluation of ϕ is more easily carried out when varying λ at fixed f. In addition, evaluating the generalized average current \bar{v} requires to differentiate ϕ with respect to λ at fixed f, and thus to know explicitly the λ -dependence of the SCGF ϕ .

While looking at the transition as a function of λ is standard in the context of DPT, it may be more natural to consider the transition as a function of the physical drive f (at fixed λ) when thinking in terms of a depinning transition. We thus discuss in this section how the above results can be recast in terms of a depinning transition as a function of the drive f. Yet, before coming to this point, we start by showing how the standard depinning transition can be reformulated in the present framework.

4.4.1. Standard depinning transition around $f = f_c$ for $\lambda = 0$. We first show how the standard depinning transition, corresponding to the unbiased dynamics $\lambda = 0$, can be obtained from the analysis of equation (24) in the vicinity of the critical force f_c . Although we are interested in the behavior at $\lambda = 0$, the current is obtained by evaluating $\partial_{\lambda}\phi$, hence we need to determine $\phi(\lambda, f)$ in the vicinity of $\lambda = 0$, and not only $\phi(0, f)$. We thus consider an arbitrarily small value of λ . Using equation (10) under the above assumptions, the equation determining $\phi = \phi(\lambda, f)$ is given by

$$\int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \,\sqrt{2\phi + F(x, f)^2} = f - \lambda.$$
(50)

For $\lambda = 0$, one has $\phi(0, f) = 0$ for all $f > f_c$, as can be seen from equation (50) since $\int_0^1 dx \sqrt{F(x, f)^2} = f$ if $F(x, f) \ge 0$ for all x (which is true when $f \ge f_c$). Subtracting the latter equation to equation (50) and using again the relation $\sqrt{a} - \sqrt{b} = (a-b)/(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})$ we get

$$2\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\sqrt{2\phi + (F_0(x) + f_c + \delta f)^2} + |F_0(x) + f_c + \delta f|} = -\lambda,\tag{51}$$

where we have focused on the case $f = f_c + \delta f$. Note that equation (51) differs from equation (27), because we now vary f at fixed λ instead of varying λ at fixed f. Setting $\phi = 0$ in the denominator of the integrand in equation (51) does not induce any divergence of the integral, so we can safely make this replacement to determine the leading order behavior of ϕ in terms of λ and δf . We then get

$$\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{F_0(x) + f_\mathrm{c} + \delta f} = -\lambda. \tag{52}$$

Note that we have dropped the absolute value because the integrand is positive. For small δf , the last integral is dominated by the vicinity of $x = x_{\rm m}$ where $F_0(x)$ is minimum, because $F_0(x_{\rm m}) + f_{\rm c} = 0$. Expanding the integrand to leading order, one finds

$$\phi \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\frac{1}{2} F_0'' \left(x - x_\mathrm{m}\right)^2 + \delta f} \approx -\lambda,\tag{53}$$

with $F_0'' = F_0''(x_m)$. The integral in equation (53) diverges when $\delta f \to 0$, and its asymptotic behavior can be extracted using the change of variable $x = x_m + \sqrt{2\delta f/F_0''}y$, leading to

$$\sqrt{\frac{2}{F_0''}} \frac{\phi}{\sqrt{\delta f}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{y^2 + 1} \approx -\lambda.$$
(54)

We thus obtain the following asymptotic behavior of the SCGF ϕ and of the generalized current \bar{v} for $\lambda \to 0$ and $\delta f \to 0$ (in this order),

$$\phi \approx -\pi \sqrt{\frac{F_0''}{2}} \lambda \sqrt{\delta f} \tag{55}$$

and, using equation (25),

$$\bar{v} \approx \pi \sqrt{\frac{F_0''}{2}} \sqrt{\delta f}.$$
(56)

So we recover with this method the standard scaling exponent $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 1D depinning transition, usually obtained from the study of the deterministic dynamics close to the saddle node [28, 31–34].

4.4.2. Crossovers between scaling behaviors around $(\lambda = 0, f = f_c)$. We have seen above that different scaling behaviors appear in the vicinity of the critical point $(\lambda = 0, f = f_c)$. Up to now, we have varied the parameters along specific lines in the (λ, f) -plane. It is of interest to look at the crossovers between the different types of scaling in the full (λ, f) -plane.

A simple and heuristic way to study these crossovers is to compare the orders of magnitude of the different scalings obtained. For instance, for $f = f_c + \delta f > f_c$ and $\lambda = -\delta\lambda < 0$, one can compare (omitting prefactors) the behavior $(\delta\lambda)^{1/3}$ obtained for \bar{v} at $f = f_c$ to the term $(\delta f)^{1/2}$ obtained at $\lambda = 0$. Balancing the two terms yields a crossover line $\delta\lambda \sim (\delta f)^{3/2}$, or equivalently $\delta f \sim (\delta\lambda)^{2/3}$. One thus expects that for $\delta f \ll (\delta\lambda)^{2/3}$ (with both δf and $\delta\lambda$ small), $\bar{v} \sim (\delta\lambda)^{1/3}$, while in the opposite regime $\delta f \gg (\delta\lambda)^{2/3}$, $\bar{v} \sim (\delta f)^{1/2}$.

A similar reasoning can be performed for $f = f_c - \delta f < f_c$ and $\lambda = \lambda_c^-(f) - \delta \lambda$ ($\delta \lambda > 0$). For small enough $\delta \lambda$, the results of section 4.1 apply, and $\bar{v} \sim (\delta f)^{1/2} |\ln \delta \lambda|^{-1}$, while for $\delta f = 0$, $\bar{v} \sim (\delta \lambda)^{1/3}$. Equating the two scalings, one finds for the crossover line the scaling behavior

$$\delta f \sim (\delta \lambda)^{2/3} (\ln \ \delta \lambda)^2. \tag{57}$$

Hence for $\delta f \ll (\delta \lambda)^{2/3} (\ln \delta \lambda)^2$, one expects $\bar{v} \sim (\delta \lambda)^{1/3}$, while in the opposite case $\bar{v} \sim (\delta f)^{1/2} |\ln \delta \lambda|$.

4.4.3. Depinning transition as a function of the force f for arbitrary λ . We have recovered above in section 4.4.1 that for $\lambda = 0$, the depinning transition as a function of the force f is characterized by the standard exponent $\frac{1}{2}$, in the sense that $\bar{v} \sim (f - f_c)^{1/2}$. For $\lambda \neq 0$, we now try to recast the results obtained above on the depinning transition as a function of λ in terms of the transition as a function of δf . This can be done as follows. We know from sections 4.1 and 4.2 that $\bar{v}(\lambda_c^-(f) - \delta\lambda, f) \approx \tilde{\phi}(f) |\ln \delta\lambda|^{-1}$ for a small $\delta\lambda > 0$.

Now considering instead a variation of f, one can evaluate $\bar{v}(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f), f + \delta f)$ as

$$\bar{v}(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f), f + \delta f) = \bar{v}(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f + \delta f) - \delta\lambda, f + \delta f)$$
(58)

$$\delta\lambda = \frac{\mathrm{d}\lambda_{\mathrm{c}}^{-}}{\mathrm{d}f}\,\delta f.\tag{59}$$

As long as $d\lambda_c^-/df \neq 0$, which is true for all $f \neq f_c$ $(f \ge 0)$, we thus have that

$$\bar{v}(\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f), f + \delta f) \approx \frac{\tilde{\phi}(f + \delta f)}{|\ln \delta \lambda|} \approx \frac{\tilde{\phi}(f)}{|\ln \delta f|},\tag{60}$$

neglecting the factor $d\lambda_c^-/df$ in the logarithm for $\delta f \to 0$.

5. Finite-temperature effects on the dynamical phase transition

5.1. Description of the thermal rounding

The results we have obtained so far are describing the leading order in the smallnoise asymptotics $\varepsilon \to 0$. In particular, the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ behaves as $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\phi(\lambda, f)$, with $\phi(\lambda, f) \neq 0$ in the non-zero current regime $(\lambda > \lambda_c^+(f) \text{ or } \lambda < \lambda_c^-(f))$, while the zerocurrent regime $\lambda_c^-(f) \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_c^+(f)$ is characterized by $\phi(\lambda, f) = 0$. This implies that the large deviation function $\Pi_{\varepsilon}(a, f)$ behaves as $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\pi(a, f)$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$, with $\pi(a, f)$ presenting a cusp at the generalized average current \bar{v} . This singular behavior means that even the expected Gaussian fluctuations around \bar{v} are not described by the dominant order in ε we have computed.

To understand how a small but finite ε can round or amend the observed singularities, one thus needs to determine how $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ scales with ε in the zero-current regime beyond the minimum order $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\phi(\lambda, f) = 0$. In this case we will assume g(x) = 1, which implies that the generalized current \overline{v} is the standard particle current or average velocity (see equation (7) and below). A natural approach consists then in considering the biased Fokker–Planck operator

$$\mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \cdot = -\partial_x \left((F(x) - \lambda) \cdot \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} - F(x) \right) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \partial_x^2 \cdot, \tag{61}$$

whose largest eigenvalue is $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$. The first two terms are responsible for its dominant behavior $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\phi(\lambda, f)$, while the last term, which accounts for diffusion, describes corrections around it (as generically in the WKB or Freidlin–Wentzell–Graham approaches [35, 36]; see [6, 28] for the problem at hand). A customary route to follow consists in implementing a perturbation expansion, considering $\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\partial_x^2$ as a perturbation term in (61). The eigenvalue $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ is associated with left and right eigenvectors of \mathbb{W}_{λ} , that we denote L(x) and R(x) and expand as

$$L(x) = \exp\left[-\frac{U_L(x)}{\varepsilon} + U_{L0}(x) + \varepsilon U_{L1}(x) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)\right],$$
(62)

$$R(x) = \exp\left[-\frac{U_R(x)}{\varepsilon} + U_{R0}(x) + \varepsilon U_{R1}(x) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2)\right].$$
(63)

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit In turn, this corresponds to an expansion of the SCGF as

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \frac{\phi(\lambda, f)}{\varepsilon} + \phi_0(\lambda, f) + \varepsilon \phi_1(\lambda, f) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2).$$
(64)

However, in the zero-current regime, such a perturbative approach fails: it would yield $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = 0$ at all orders in powers of ε , while in fact the SCGF behaves as

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\asymp} e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)} \quad \text{for} \quad \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) < \lambda < \lambda_{c}^{+}(f),$$
(65)

as we will show. This behavior is non-analytic as a function of ε and cannot be described by an expansion of the form (64). Physically, it corresponds to the fact that, in the zerocurrent regime, the dynamics is governed by metastable states: the time scale defining the current is coming from an escape mechanism whose rate takes an Arrhenius form with an exponential behavior leading to equation (65). Nyawo and Touchette in reference [28] justified such behavior of the SCGF (within the Freidlin–Wentzell–Graham approach [35, 36]), and studied it numerically. The Arrhenius function $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)$ was determined analytically by Proesmans and Derrida in [26] in the special situation where the dynamics presents no metastable state, using a WKB approach and asymptotic matching. We focus in this paper on the more complex case where the dynamics presents a metastable state, which renders the analysis more intricate while also inducing a different behavior of the Arrhenius function $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)$.

There are many ways to derive an Arrhenius scaling in general: in a path-integral approach, one would have to enumerate and sum over the infinite number of possible trajectories going from a metastable state to another (see for instance section 2.2 of chapter 7 in [49]). In our case, a path-integral formulation is available [6] but the instantons are not obvious to determine. From an operator viewpoint, if the dynamics is reversible (i.e., if the operator (61) can be made Hermitian), one finds a Boltzmann-like ground state but this is not the case here. If the operator (61) was probability-preserving, we could find its ground state, even in the absence of reversibility (see for instance [2, 50]) but when $\lambda \neq 0$ the operator does not preserve probability. We thus have to resort to a different approach, that we now describe, and that also allows us to determine some aspects of the behavior of the SCGF that go beyond the exponential behavior of equation (65).

5.2. Strategy to obtain the Arrhenius scaling in the zero-current phase

We will base our analysis on the observation that the biased evolution operator can be made probability-preserving after an appropriate transformation consisting in a shift and a change of basis [3, 23–25]. Defining a diagonal operator whose elements are the components of left eigenvector of (61), one performs a similarity transformation that describes an 'effective dynamics' (or 'auxiliary dynamics') which is asymptotically equivalent at large times to the biased dynamics and to the conditioned dynamics [3–5] after proper normalization. As is well-known [6, 28] and recalled in more details below, the effective dynamics takes place in a tilted potential U_{λ}^{eff} decomposed as

$$U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = V_{\lambda}(x) - f_{\lambda} x \tag{66}$$

where V_{λ} is periodic [i.e., $V_{\lambda}(x) = V_{\lambda}(x+1)$] and f_{λ} is a uniform force. The determination of U_{λ}^{eff} is not an easy task, and cannot be done at all orders in ε in general (see reference [28] for a perturbative study using a Fourier–Bloch decomposition).

The derivation of the required order is detailed in section 5.4. If $U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x)$ is known, then, although the dynamics is non-reversible (if $f_{\lambda} \neq 0$), the steady state can be written explicitly [2]. Recalling that we focus on the case g(x) = 1, it is then known [50, 51] that for the Langevin dynamics of a particle in an arbitrary tilted potential $U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = V_{\lambda}(x) - f_{\lambda} x$ (with $V_{\lambda}(x)$ a periodic potential), the average velocity $\langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}}$ is obtained from

$$\frac{1}{\langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}}} = \frac{2}{\varepsilon} \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}z \,\,\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon} f_\lambda z} \,G(z) \tag{67}$$

with

$$G(z) = \int_0^1 dx \ e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [V_{\lambda}(x+z) - V_{\lambda}(x)]}.$$
 (68)

Such expression is valid when $f_{\lambda} > 0$ (and can be adapted to the case $f_{\lambda} < 0$). We refer to appendix **F** for a self-contained derivation and for other expressions valid for any f_{λ} . Using the fact that $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}}$ together with the saddle-point asymptotics

$$G(z) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\asymp} e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [V_{\lambda}(X(z)+z) - V_{\lambda}(X(z))]}$$
(69)

with

$$X(z) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{0 \le x \le 1} \left[V_{\lambda}(x+z) - V_{\lambda}(x) \right], \tag{70}$$

one finds that the SCGF takes the following exponential form:

$$\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,f) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\simeq} e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda,f)} \tag{71}$$

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = -2\min_{z \ge 0} \left[-V_{\lambda}(X(z) + z) + V_{\lambda}(X(z)) + f_{\lambda} z \right].$$
(72)

Note that the two optimization principles (70) and (72) are not done on the same intervals. In these expressions, the asymptotic equivalents denoted by $\simeq_{\varepsilon \to 0}$ are logarithmic: for instance equation (71) means that $\log |\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)| \approx -\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda, f)$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$. Going beyond (i.e. obtaining the prefactor of the exponential) would require to integrate the fluctuations around the saddle-point, which is not immediate, since the function V_{λ} present singularities. It would also require to determine the finite- ε corrections to the potential V_{λ} . As announced in equation (65), the SCGF also presents an Arrhenius scaling of the form $e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda,f)}$, but, as we discuss later in section 5.6, the two Arrhenius functions Φ and $\tilde{\Phi}$ are not the same. This is due to a constant contribution in the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$, that vanishes when differentiating w.r.t. λ . We will first determine $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ from the optimization principles (70) and (72), and then infer the value of $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)$.

We are thus able to determine the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ if we know the effective tilted potential $U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = V_{\lambda}(x) - f_{\lambda} x$. We thus need to evaluate the effective tilted potential

 $U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x)$, which requires the determination of the left eigenvector L(x) of the operator \mathbb{W}_{λ} defined in equation (61). In the following, we first recall in section 5.3 the relation between U_{λ}^{eff} and the left eigenvector L(x). We then compute in section 5.4 the left eigenvector L(x) at minimal order in ε . We present in section 5.5 the calculation of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ from (72), leading to the determination of the SCGF $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ in the scaling form of equation (65), before commenting further on its physical interpretation in section 5.6. We finally discuss in section 5.7 the non-trivial interchange of the limits $\lambda \to 0$ and $\varepsilon \to 0$ in the equilibrium case f = 0.

Note that, as shown in appendix A, the SCGF verifies a Gallavotti–Cohen-type symmetry [20, 52–54] of the form $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \varphi_{\varepsilon}(2f - \lambda, f)$. This means that the SCGF is symmetric around the point $\lambda = f$; we thus restrict our study to the case $\lambda < f$ (where the average current is positive) without loss of generality.

5.3. Relation between the effective dynamics and the dominant eigenvectors

We recall here the generic result providing the relation between the potential U_{λ}^{eff} of the effective dynamics and the dominant eigenvectors of the tilted operator. One defines $\langle L|$ as the left eigenvector of \mathbb{W}_{λ} corresponding to the maximal eigenvalue $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$. As in references [3, 24, 25], one constructs a diagonal operator \hat{L} whose elements are the components of $\langle L|$. One directly checks that

$$\langle -|\mathbb{W}_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbb{W}_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}} = \hat{L}\mathbb{W}_{\lambda}\hat{L}^{-1} - \varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)\mathbf{1}.$$
 (73)

This means that $\mathbb{W}_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}$ is probability-preserving. As generically derived in [3–5] and detailed in [6] for our example at hand, if one writes $L(x) = e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}U_L(x)}$, one obtains by direct computation that $\mathbb{W}_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}$ is a Fokker–Planck evolution operator:

$$\mathbb{W}_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}} = -\partial_x \left[\left(F(x, f) - \lambda g(x) - U'_L(x) \right) \cdot \right] + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \partial_x^2 \cdot , \qquad (74)$$

It is of course probability-preserving and corresponds to the evolution of a particle subjected to a force $F_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = F(x, f) - \lambda g(x) - U'_L(x)$. The function $U_L(x)$ is periodic (as discussed in [6]) and depends on ε in general (although one expects that it behaves as ε^0 at dominant order for $\varepsilon \to 0$). In this framework, we can thus write the effective force $F_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x)$ as deriving from an effective tilted potential $U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x)$

$$F_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = -\partial_x U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) \tag{75}$$

$$U_{\lambda}^{\text{eff}}(x) = V_{\lambda}(x) - f_{\lambda}x \text{ with } V_{\lambda}(x) = V(x) + U_L(x) \text{ and } f_{\lambda} = f - \lambda.$$
 (76)

5.4. Left eigenvector at dominant order in $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

To compute the required order in ε of the effective periodic potential V_{λ} entering the expression (72) of $\Phi(\lambda, f)$, we see from equations (70)–(72) that only the leading order, in ε^0 , of V_{λ} matters for the optimization principles in (70) and (72). Consequently, from (76), we only have to determine the dominant behavior of $U_L(x)$. We derive here the leading-order behavior of the left eigenvector. For completeness, we also provide in

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit appendix C the corresponding expression of the right eigenvector, although it will not be used in what follows.

The left eigenvalue equation associated with the Fokker–Planck operator (61) reads:

$$\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon L''(x) + (F(x,f) - \lambda)L'(x) + \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} - F(x,f)\right)L(x) = \varphi_{\varepsilon}L(x).$$
(77)

As we already mentioned, we focus here on the zero-current phase $\lambda_c^-(f) \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_c^+(f)$, where $\phi(\lambda, f) = 0$, i.e., the contribution to order ε^{-1} to the SCGF φ_{ε} vanishes. It would be natural to assume the left eigenvector L(x) to take for $\varepsilon \to 0$ the asymptotic form $L(x) \propto e^{-U_L(x)/\varepsilon}$ where $U_L(x)$ is sufficiently regular, i.e., has a continuous derivative. However, the left eigenspace associated with the eigenvalue φ_{ε} may be of dimension larger than one, and we thus rather write the left eigenvector L(x) as a linear superposition of different solutions of the form $e^{-U_L(x)/\varepsilon}$. An important point is that only the linear combination needs to fulfill the spatial periodicity condition, whereas the individual solutions do not need to satisfy this constraint.

Introducing the ansatz $L(x) = e^{-U_L(x)/\varepsilon}$ in equation (77), we find at leading order ε^{-1} the equation

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(U_L'(x) \right)^2 - (F(x, f) - \lambda) U_L'(x) + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} - \lambda F(x, f) = 0,$$
(78)

leading to the solution

$$U'_L(x) = F(x, f) - \lambda - \sigma_i(x) |F(x, f)|, \qquad (79)$$

where $\sigma_i(x) = \pm 1$ is a sign that may *a priori* depend on *x*. Yet, assuming continuity of the function $U'_L(x)$ imposes that the function $\sigma_i(x)$ can only change sign at points *x* such that F(x, f) = 0. Equation (78) thus exhibits four continuous solution functions $U'_{L,i}(x)$ (an unexpected result given that equation (78) is a second-order ordinary equation U'_L), given by

$$U'_{L1}(x) = F(x, f) - \lambda - |F(x, f)|$$
(80)

$$U'_{L,2}(x) = F(x, f) - \lambda + |F(x, f)|$$
(81)

$$U_{L,3}'(x) = -\lambda \tag{82}$$

$$U'_{L,4}(x) = 2F(x, f) - \lambda.$$
 (83)

The presence of four solutions instead of two comes from the fact that independent pairs of solutions of equation (78) can be connected with sufficient regularity. By integration we obtain, recalling that F(x) = -V'(x) + f,

$$U_{L,1}(x) = -V(x) + (f - \lambda)x - \int_0^x dy |F(y, f)| + k_1$$
(84)

$$U_{L,2}(x) = -V(x) + (f - \lambda)x + \int_0^x dy |F(y, f)| + k_1 + k_2$$
(85)

$$U_{L,3}(x) = -\lambda x + k_1 + k_3 \tag{86}$$

$$U_{L,4}(x) = -2V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x + k_1 + k_4,$$
(87)

where the k_i 's are integration constants, and where the potential V(x) satisfies V(0) = V(1) = 0. Note that for convenience, we have split the integration constants in the functions $U_{L,2}(x)$, $U_{L,3}(x)$ and $U_{L,4}(x)$ into two separate constants, to set apart the overall constant k_1 that is eventually determined by normalization, and should be held fixed but arbitrary when determining the functional form of the left eigenvector L(x). Given these multiple solutions for $U_L(x)$, the left eigenvector L(x) should in principle be written as a linear combination of all possible solutions:

$$L(x) = e^{-U_{L,1}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_2 \ e^{-U_{L,2}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_3 \ e^{-U_{L,3}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_4 \ e^{-U_{L,4}(x)/\varepsilon}, \quad (88)$$

which includes an integration over the undetermined constants k_2 , k_3 and k_4 . However, in the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$, the integrals over k_i are dominated by their lower bounds k_i^{\min} , that remain to be specified. Hence, L(x) takes for $\varepsilon \to 0$ the form $L(x) \simeq e^{-U_L(x)/\varepsilon}$ with $U_L(x)$ given by

$$U_L(x) = \min \left\{ U_{L,1}(x), U_{L,2}(x), U_{L,3}(x), U_{L,4}(x) \right\},$$
(89)

where the functions $U_{L,i}(x)$ take the forms given in equations (84)–(87), with the constants k_2 , k_3 and k_4 taking their minimal value k_i^{\min} compatible with the constraint of periodicity of the function $U_L(x)$, namely $U_L(0) = U_L(1)$. Note that we would have obtained the same result as given in equation (89) if we had chosen to fix another integration constant instead of k_1 .

The solution of the optimization problem (89) is presented in appendix B. The result reads as follows.

• If $\lambda_{c}^{-}(f) < \lambda < 0$ (see figure 3, left):

$$U_{L}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - \lambda - \lambda x & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{L}^{*} \\ -2 V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } x_{L}^{*} < x < 1, \end{cases}$$
(90)

where x_L^* is determined by the continuity of $U_L(x)$ at $x = x_L^*$, yielding the condition

$$V(x_L^*) = \frac{\lambda}{2} + f(x_L^* - 1).$$
(91)

• If $0 < \lambda < f$ (see figure 3, right):

$$U_L(x) = k_1 + \begin{cases} -2V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_c^-(f) - \lambda & \text{if } 0 \leqslant x \leqslant x_L^\dagger \\ -\lambda x + \lambda_c^-(f) & \text{if } x_L^\dagger \leqslant x \leqslant 1, \end{cases}$$
(92)

where x_L^{\dagger} is determined by imposing $U_L(x)$ to be continuous at $x = x_L^{\dagger}$, i.e.

$$V(x_L^{\dagger}) = f x_L^{\dagger} - \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$
(93)

As a consistency check, we remark that in both cases, when $\lambda \to 0$, the function $U_L(x)$ becomes constant (in equations (90) and (92), one has $x_L^* \to 1$ and





Figure 3. (Left) The four functions $U_{L,1}, \ldots, U_{L,4}$ defined in equations (84)–(87) for the optimal values of k_2 , k_3 and k_4 , in the case $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < 0$. The final result $U_L(x)$ of the optimization principle (89) is plotted in dashed line. The force is $F_{\sin}(x, f) = \sin(2\pi x) + f$ with f = 0.3 and $\lambda = -0.17$. (Right) Same, for the case $0 < \lambda \leq f$. The force is the same but now $\lambda = 0.15$.

 $x_L^{\dagger} \to 0$ respectively). This result is expected since for $\lambda = 0$ the dynamics described by the tilted evolution operator is probability-preserving and its left eigenvector is constant.

Finally, note that the function $U_L(x)$ as given by equations (90) and (92) also satisfies equation (78), but does not necessarily have a continuous derivative. One may thus wonder if we should have released the constraint that the function $U_L(x)$ should have a continuous derivative when looking for solutions of equation (78). However, looking from the outset for solutions $U'_L(x)$ of equation (78) that would not be continuous yields an infinite set of solutions parametrized by the location of possible discontinuities, out of which it would be very difficult to find the relevant solution. It is thus more convenient to proceed as we have done, by restricting ourselves to functions $U_{L,i}(x)$ having continuous derivatives, and writing L(x) as a linear combination of functions as done in equation (88), which yields a well-defined procedure to determine the correct function $U_L(x)$ in the low noise limit.

The computation of the function $U_L(x)$ for the regime $f < \lambda \leq \lambda_c^+(f)$, as well as a particularization to the sinusoidal force $F_{\sin}(x, f)$ case can be found in appendix C.

5.5. Determination of the thermal effects in the zero-current region

Once the left eigenvector is determined, we are now in a position to obtain the Arrhenius scaling in the zero-current regime. Following the approach described in section 5.2, to obtain the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ we need to solve the two optimization problems (70) and (72), where f_{λ} is given by equation (76). Again, we restrict our study to the regime $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < f$ as a consequence of the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry of the SCGF (see appendix A).

Let us focus first on the case $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < 0$ (the case $0 < \lambda < f$, which follows similar lines, is treated in appendix E). We make use of the result (90) for $U_L(x)$ at leading order in ε , to obtain the effective periodic potential $V_{\lambda}(x)$ from its definition given in





Figure 4. Schematic representation of the force, F(x, f) (left) and the derivative of the effective potential, $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ (right).

equation (76) as:

$$V_{\lambda}(x) = k_1 + \begin{cases} V(x) - \lambda(1+x) + \lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) & \text{if } 0 \le x \le x_L^* \\ -V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda_{\rm c}^+(f) & \text{if } x_L^* \le x \le 1. \end{cases}$$
(94)

The first derivative $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ of the effective potential $V_{\lambda}(x)$ reads (see figure 4 for a schematic illustration for a generic potential)

$$V_{\lambda}'(x) = \begin{cases} -F(x,f) + f - \lambda & \text{if } 0 \leqslant x \leqslant x_L^* \\ F(x,f) + f - \lambda & \text{if } x_L^* \leqslant x \leqslant 1. \end{cases}$$
(95)

A key property of $V'_{\lambda}(x)$, to be used below, is that (see figure 4)

$$V'_{\lambda}(x) > f - \lambda \quad \text{for } x_{c} < x < x_{L}^{*}, \tag{96}$$

$$V'_{\lambda}(x) < f - \lambda \quad \text{for } \ 0 \leqslant x < x_{c} \text{ or } x_{L}^{*} < x < 1.$$

$$(97)$$

Noting that $V_{\lambda}(x+z) - V_{\lambda}(x) = \int_{x}^{x+z} dy V_{\lambda}'(y)$, the optimization problem (70) reads as

$$X(z) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{0 \leqslant x \leqslant 1} \int_{x}^{x+z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y), \tag{98}$$

i.e., one has to maximize the algebraic area between x and x + z under the curve $V'_{\lambda}(x)$. On the other hand, the problem (72) can be also rewritten as

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = -2\min_{z \ge 0} \zeta(z), \tag{99}$$

where

$$\zeta(z) \equiv (f - \lambda)z - \int_{X(z)}^{X(z)+z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y).$$
(100)

We note that since $f - \lambda > 0$ and due to the periodicity of X(z) and $V_{\lambda}(x)$, the minimum of $\zeta(z)$ is reached for $z \in (0, 1)$.



Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit

Figure 5. Sketch of the graphical argument leading to the key properties of X(z). On each graph, the shaded area indicates the integral of $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ over the interval [X(z), X(z) + z]. Top left: case $z = z^*$, where $X(z) = x_c$. Top right: case $0 < z < z^*$, where $x_c < X(z) < x_L^*$ with $X(z) + z \leq x_L^*$. Bottom: case $z^* < z < 1$, illustrated here with $0 \leq X(z) < x_c$, both for $X(z) + z = x_L^*$ and for $X(z) + z > x_L^*$.

In the following, we describe a graphical argument which helps us to find the solutions of the optimization problems (98) and (99). It turns out that to determine the minimum of $\zeta(z)$, the full determination of X(z) is not required, but one only needs to know some properties of X(z) that can be understood graphically:

- If $z = z^* \equiv x_L^* x_c$, then $X(z^*) = x_c$ (see top left panel of figure 5);
- If $0 < z < z^*$, then $x_c < X(z) < x_L^*$ with $X(z) \leq x_L^* z$ (see top right panel of figure 5);
- If $z^* < z < 1$, then either $0 \leq X(z) < x_c$ (see bottom panels of figure 5) or $x_L^* < X(z) < 1$.

These properties of X(z) mainly rely on the inequalities (96) and (97). Let us consider first the case $z = z^* \equiv x_L^* - x_c$. Choosing a value $X(z^*) \neq x_c$ instead of the optimal value x_c , one would replace in the integral $\int_{X(z^*)}^{X(z^*)+z^*} V'_{\lambda}(y) \, dy$ a subinterval where $V'_{\lambda}(y) > f - \lambda$ by another subinterval where $V'_{\lambda}(y) < f - \lambda$, leading to a smaller value of the integral. Similar reasonings lead to the conclusion that X(z) lies in the interval $x_c < X(z) < x_L^*$ for $0 < z < z^*$ and outside this interval for $z^* < z < 1$. Note that in the latter case, it

seems that in most (if not all) situations, one has $0 \leq X(z) < x_c$ (at least we could not find examples where $x_L^* < X(z) < 1$).

Using these properties of X(z), we show in appendix D that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$ for all $z \neq z^*$. This allows us thus conclude that $\zeta(z)$ has its global minimum at $z = z^*$. We can now proceed to compute the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$. According to equation (99), we get:

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = f(x_L^* - x_c) - V(x_L^*) + V(x_c).$$
(101)

Taking into account equation (91) for x_L^* , the Arrhenius function can be rewritten as

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = \lambda - 2f(1 - x_{\rm c}) - 2V(x_{\rm c}).$$
(102)

Then we note that using the definition (15) of $\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f)$, we have

$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) = f - \int_0^{x_{\rm c}} \mathrm{d}y \ F(y, f) + \int_{x_{\rm c}}^1 \mathrm{d}y \ F(y, f) = 2f(1 - x_{\rm c}) + 2V(x_{\rm c}).$$
(103)

Hence, we obtain the final result

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = \lambda - \lambda_c^-(f) \tag{104}$$

for $\lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) < \lambda < 0$. This expression of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ is also found to be valid for $0 < \lambda < f$ (the computation is detailed in appendix E). In addition, using the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry $\Phi(\lambda, f) = \Phi(2f - \lambda, f)$ (see appendix A), one eventually obtains the expression of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ on the full zero-current range $\lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) < \lambda < \lambda_{\rm c}^+(f)$,

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = f - \lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) - |\lambda - f|.$$
(105)

This is our final result for the function Φ describing the Arrhenius behavior $\simeq e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda,f)}$ of $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,f)$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$. By continuity of the maximal eigenvalue of the tilted operator (which is continuous in f), we expect that it is also true for $f = \lambda$. The derivation of this expression was done for f > 0. We show in appendix A that, thanks to the mirror symmetry, it is also valid for f < 0. Again by continuity of the maximal eigenvalue of the tilted operator, we expect that it is also true for f = 0. It turns out that the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ exhibits a cusp in $\lambda = f$, a property that we further discuss in the following section. Before that, we derive the Arrhenius function $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)$ describing the Arrhenius behavior of the SCGF itself. Our previous result indicate that a primitive in λ of $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ takes the form $C(\lambda, \varepsilon) e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda, f)}$ where the function $C(\lambda, \varepsilon)$ is exponentially dominated by $e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda, f)}$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$ [i.e. $\log |C(\lambda, \varepsilon)| \ll \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$]. Hence:

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \int_{0}^{\lambda} \mathrm{d}\bar{\lambda} \ \partial_{\bar{\lambda}}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\bar{\lambda}, f) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\approx} C(\lambda, \varepsilon) \,\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda, f)} - C(0, \varepsilon) \,\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(0, f)}, \qquad (106)$$

since the SCGF is equal to 0 in $\lambda = 0$. We thus have $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f) = \min \{\Phi(\lambda, f), \Phi(0, f)\}$ and we find

$$\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f) = \begin{cases} f - \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - |\lambda - f| & \text{if } |\lambda - f| \ge |f| \\ f - \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - |f| & \text{if } |\lambda - f| \le |f|. \end{cases}$$
(107)



Figure 6. (Left) Numerical evaluation of $\Phi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = -\varepsilon \log |\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)|$ describing the behavior $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \simeq e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi(\lambda, f)}$, as predicted analytically in the $\varepsilon \to 0$ limit (equation (105), plain line), and as evaluated numerically on a lattice version of the model with 64 sites and for small but finite values of ε indicated in the legend. The force is the sine model of equation (4) with $f = \frac{1}{2}$, and λ varies in $[\lambda_c^-, \lambda_c^+]$. At finite values of ε , one observes boundary layers for λ close to f and close to λ_c^\pm , indicating that the limits $\varepsilon \to 0$ and $\lambda \to \{f, \lambda_c^\pm\}$ do not commute. (**Right**) Numerical evaluation of $\tilde{\Phi}_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = -\varepsilon \log |\varepsilon^{-1}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)|$ describing the behavior $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \simeq e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda, f)}$ as predicted analytically in the $\varepsilon \to 0$ limit (equation (107), plain line). Boundary layers are present in $\lambda = \lambda_c^{\pm}$ (indicating the boundary of the pinned regime) and for $\lambda \in \{0, 2f\}$, corresponding to the switch between one term dominating the other in equation (106).

A comparison of the results of equations (105) and (107) to numerical evaluations of the Arrhenius functions, performed by diagonalization of the tilted operator of a lattice version of the system at small but finite ε , is presented on figure 6, showing a good agreement on the example of the sine force of equation (4).

5.6. Interpretation of the form of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ and of its cusp singularity

To discuss the physical consequences and interpretation of the form (105) of the Arrhenius function in the $\varepsilon \to 0$ asymptotics, we recall that the derivative $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon} \simeq e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\Phi}$ of the SCGF represents (up to prefactors) the average velocity in the biased ensemble, $\bar{v}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}} = -\varepsilon \, \partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$, but also that when performing the Legendre–Fenchel transform

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \max\left\{\Pi_{\varepsilon}(a) - \lambda a\right\},\tag{108}$$

the maximum is reached in $a = \bar{v}(\lambda)$. Thus, the cusp in the expression (105) of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ implies that at this order in ε , there is a DPT in $\lambda = f$. Physically, this point corresponds to the cancellation of the tilt $f_{\lambda} = f - \lambda$ of the effective potential [see equation (76)]. At fixed f and increasing λ , the transition thus occurs precisely at the point where trajectories switch from escaping toward the left direction to escaping toward the right direction. A finer analysis of such switch, which would take into account higher-order corrections in ε , would detail how the transition from left-moving to right-moving classes of trajectories takes place. A possible method to do

so would be to generalize the WKB and asymptotic matching approach of Proesmans and Derrida [26] to the case where the dynamics presents metastable states.

However, at the order in ε we have considered, the result (105) we obtained for the Arrhenius function has several interesting consequences. We first remark that the non-analyticity of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ in equation (105) implies that the distribution of $\frac{1}{t_f}A(t_f)$ at large t_f develops different regimes, obtained by inverse Legendre transform of (108). The regime around $\lambda = 0$ corresponds to the most typical large deviations [those around the most probable value of $\frac{1}{t_f}A(t_f)$], while the regime corresponding to $\lambda > f$ describes different fluctuations.

We now discuss these regimes, depending on whether f = 0 or not. If $f \neq 0$, the expression (105) implies that all scaled cumulants of the current $\frac{1}{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^n \rangle_{\rm c}$ are equal, at exponential order in ε :⁵

$$\lim_{t_{\rm f}\to\infty} \left. \frac{1}{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^n \rangle_{\rm c} \right. = \left. (-\varepsilon)^n \frac{\partial^n}{\partial \lambda^n} \right|_{\lambda=0} \varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \underset{\varepsilon\to 0}{\asymp} e^{\lambda_{\rm c}^-(f)/\varepsilon}.$$
(109)

The equality of all cumulants would show that the distribution of particle current $a \equiv A(t_f)/t_f$ is Poissonian, provided a is not too far from the average value \bar{v} .⁶ Here we can only prove that cumulants are equal at exponential order in ε , as described in (109). This suggests that the statistics should at least be close to a Poissonian one in the low-noise limit. It is also possible to show that the prefactors of the exponential in equation (109) for the first two cumulants are equal (see appendix F), which supports the possibility that the Poissonian statistics is also valid beyond the exponential order. A correspondence to the current statistics in asymmetric random walks, obtained and discussed in references [20, 39], could be interestingly probed.

Physically, the Poissonian regime pictures the fact that, at dominant order, the distribution of the time-integrated current is governed by independent escape events that all happen at the same rate. The occurrence of a Poisson distribution for a continuous variable such as the current can be understood as follows: the motion of the particle occurs along a succession of metastable states, making it almost as discrete. The large-time asymptotics implies that obtaining a non-zero value of the time-averaged current is possible only if a large number of discrete jumps in successive metastable states of the tilted potential occur. In particular, the average current \bar{v} behaves as $\bar{v} \simeq e^{\lambda_c^-(f)/\varepsilon}$ for $\varepsilon \to 0$. Interestingly, this behavior has a simple physical interpretation. Defining the tilted potential U(x) = V(x) - fx, such that U'(x) = -F(x, f), the extrema of the tilted potential U(x) are located in x = 0, x_c and 1; x_c corresponds to a local minimum of the tilted potential, whereas x = 0 and 1 correspond to local maxima. It follows that the energy barrier ΔU to be overcome by a particle moving to right (i.e., along the direction of the force f) is $\Delta U = U(1) - U(x_c) = -f(1 - x_c) - V(x_c)$ (we recall that V(1) = 0). From equation (103), we thus have that $\lambda_c^-(f) = -2\Delta U$. Further recalling that the temperature T is given by $\varepsilon = 2T$, we obtain the simple Arrhenius law $\bar{v} \approx e^{-\Delta U/T}$ for

⁵Note that in this expression of the cumulants, one should differentiate n-1 times w.r.t. λ the expression $e^{-\frac{1}{\epsilon}\Phi(\lambda,f)}$ of $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,f)$ rather than differentiate n times the expression $e^{-\frac{1}{\epsilon}\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda,f)}$ of $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,f)$, because the constant term in equation (106) makes that $\tilde{\Phi}(\lambda,f)$ is constant for $\lambda \in [0, 2f]$, as seen in equation (107).

⁶ The threshold value of a corresponds to $\lambda = f$ in the Legendre transform, where a cusp is observed.

 $T \rightarrow 0,$ hence providing a clear and simple physical interpretation of our results for $\lambda = 0.$

Coming back to the DPT at $\lambda = f$, the latter tells that, beyond a certain value of the time-integrated current (where the particle is forced to go in the opposite direction to the one naturally imposed by f, the distribution changes drastically; and, because of the non-analyticity, this happens in a way that cannot be seen by a mere expansion of the SCGF in powers of λ around $\lambda = 0$ (again, at the order in ε we are working). Note that an analogous phenomenon happens for the fluctuations of current of particles in the WASEP on a ring of L sites [16, 45]: in the large L limit (which is a small-noise limit), the SCGF is quadratic around the origin as function of λ , meaning that the fluctuations of the current seem Gaussian (their distribution is Gaussian for a given range of values). A DPT also occurs for strong enough atypical values of the current, which is manifested as a non-analyticity in the SCGF: the current distribution becomes non-Gaussian for atypical enough values of the current. For the cumulants, this is manifested at finite L by a dominant order in L which is Gaussian and sub-dominant ones which are non-Gaussian [55]. For our system of interest, one has an analogous phenomenology: current fluctuations are Poissonian on a range close enough to the typical fluctuations, and become non-Poissonian above, in a singular manner. We expect that this DPT is also manifested in the cumulants of the current at finite temperature: they are Poissonian at dominant order in $\varepsilon \to 0$, but present non-Poissonian contributions at higher order. We illustrate this point for the first and second cumulants in appendix F, by showing that they are different at any finite ε , but they become equivalent in the $\varepsilon \to 0$ limit, where both cumulants go to zero.

If f = 0, the consequences of the DPT, now located in $\lambda = 0$ are even more drastic. The procedure we have followed yields an SCGF which does not even describe expected Gaussian fluctuations for small current fluctuations: indeed, for f = 0 one has $\lambda_{\rm c}^{\pm}(f) = \pm \lambda_{\rm c}^0$ with $\lambda_{\rm c}^0 = \int_0^1 {\rm d}x \, |V'(x)|$, and with this notation our result (105) for the Arrhenius function reads as $\Phi(\lambda, f) = \lambda_c^0 - |\lambda|$. Its derivative in $\lambda = 0$ is singular, implying that the Taylor expansion of $\partial_{\lambda}\phi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f)$ in $\lambda = 0$ is not well defined (while for instance we expect a finite diffusion coefficient, see references [56, 57] and appendix F). We discuss the scaling of such Gaussian fluctuations, in section 5.7 below, specializing to the case of the sine force, and analyzing the non-commutation of the limits $\lambda \to 0$ and $\varepsilon \to 0$. The obtained result (105) can only give us information about current fluctuations which are larger than the Gaussian ones. We thus expect the phenomenology to be as follows for small but finite ε : (i) small enough fluctuations of the current are Gaussian (on a range of λ that is not captured by our analysis of $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ and correspond to the fact that the particle can escape toward left or right with comparable probability. (ii) Larger fluctuations of current (corresponding to $0 < |\lambda| < \lambda_c^0$) occur again in a Poissonian way, but with a rate that depends on the sign of the current fluctuations we are considering; in that regime, the average current (given by $-\varepsilon \partial_\lambda \varphi_\varepsilon$) is exponentially small with the temperature. (iii) Even larger fluctuations of current (corresponding to $|\lambda| > \lambda_c^0$), where now the amplitude of the current is not small with ε , are not Poissonian and are described by the SCGF in the propagative regime.

5.7. Discussion on the order of limits $\lambda \to 0$ and $\varepsilon \to 0$ in the f = 0 case

For f = 0, the DPT in $\lambda = 0$ makes that the cumulant of the average current cannot be determined from φ_{ε} or $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$. We discuss in this subsection at which scale around $\lambda = 0$ a finite value of ε rounds the transition, and allows one to recover the expected Gaussian fluctuations of the current. We focus here on the case of the sine force, for which $\lambda_c^{\pm}(0) = \pm \frac{2}{\pi} \equiv \pm \lambda_c^0$. Starting from the expression (67) of $\langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}}$, what the computation leading to (105) has shown is actually that

$$\varepsilon \partial_{\lambda} \varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f = 0) = -\langle \dot{x} \rangle_{\text{eff}} \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{=} \operatorname{sign}(\lambda) \varepsilon B \, e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(\lambda_{c}^{0} - |\lambda|)} + o\left(\varepsilon \, e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(\lambda_{c}^{0} - |\lambda|)}\right).$$
(110)

The prefactor B depends a priori on λ and ε , and to actually compute it, one should integrate the fluctuations around the saddle-point evaluation of equations (67) and (68), but this is not an obvious task since the effective periodic potential $V_{\lambda}(x)$ presents cusps. We have incorporated in (110) a prefactor sign(λ) because for f = 0, positive (resp. negative) values of λ favor negative (resp. positive) values of the current.

For the sine force (4), numerical evidence support the fact that B is independent of λ and ε , as $\varepsilon \to 0$ (see figure 7). The rest of this subsection is based on this hypothesis and thus remain more heuristic than the other sections of the paper. Integrating equation (110) with the constraint $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(0,0) = 0$, one gets

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,0) \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{=} \left(e^{\frac{|\lambda|}{\varepsilon}} - 1 \right) B \ e^{-\frac{\lambda_{c}^{0}}{\varepsilon}} + o\left(e^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}(\lambda_{c}^{0} - |\lambda|)} \right).$$
(111)

This improved form now goes to 0 as $\lambda \to 0$, as in the generic expression (106) and for $\varepsilon \to 0$, as shown on figure 7 (right), with a numerical prefactor *B* compatible with a value 1, that we now heuristically retain. However, the expression (111) of the SCGF is still non-analytical in the vicinity of $\lambda = 0$. In particular, this expression does not describe the Gaussian fluctuations, that occur on a smaller scale that we now discuss.

The diffusion coefficient $D = \lim_{t_f \to \infty} \frac{1}{2t_f} \langle A(t_f)^2 \rangle_c$ was derived in references [56, 57] (by use of a representation in terms of the moments of the first passage time [58]). In appendix F, we provide for completeness a different derivation, based on a more general approach, and that uses the joint position and current distribution formalism (in the spirit of Derrida's approach for discrete random walks [59]). The result reads

$$D = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}} \quad \text{so that}$$
(112)

$$D_{\varepsilon \to 0} \approx \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{|V_{\min}'' V_{\max}''|} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(V_{\max} - V_{\min})}, \qquad (113)$$

with V_{max} and V_{min} the maximum and minimum values taken by the potential on its spatial period (and $V''_{\text{min,max}}$ the value of the second derivative at the position of the extrema). From the definition (5) of the SCGF we find that, at fixed ε and for small λ , the Gaussian fluctuations of velocity are described by

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda,0) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\lambda^2}{\varepsilon^2} D + O\left((\lambda/\varepsilon)^3\right).$$
(114)





Figure 7. (Left) Ratio between the logarithms of numerical evaluation of $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f = 0)$ and the analytical estimate of equation (110). One observes boundary layers for λ close to 0 and close to $\pm \lambda_c^0$, at finite values of ε , indicating that the limits $\varepsilon \to 0$ and $\lambda \to \{0, \pm \lambda_c^0\}$ do not commute. The numerical estimate is done by diagonalization on a discrete system of 64 sites at f = 0 and values of ε indicated in the caption. (**Right**) Same but now for $\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f = 0)$ and the improved analytical estimate equation (111). It shows that part of the boundary layer for λ close to 0 has been absorbed (while it is not close to $\pm \lambda_c^0$). It is compatible with a numerical prefactor B equal to 1 in (110).

This expansion is valid for small λ/ε because we used the parameter $\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$ in $\langle e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A} \rangle$ for the SCGF.

To analyze the importance of the order of limits, it is more convenient to introduce a rescaled counter $\Lambda = \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$. Using the values $\lambda_c^0 = \frac{2}{\pi}$, $V_{\text{max}} - V_{\text{min}} = \frac{1}{\pi}$ and $|V''_{\text{min}}V''_{\text{max}}| = (2\pi)^2$ for our potential of interest $V(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} [\cos(2\pi x) - 1]$ corresponding to the sine force (4), we see that

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\varepsilon\Lambda, 0) = \begin{cases} \left(e^{|\Lambda|} - 1\right) e^{-\frac{\lambda_{\varepsilon}^{0}}{\varepsilon}} + o\left(e^{-\frac{\lambda_{\varepsilon}^{0}}{\varepsilon}}\right) & \text{if } \varepsilon \to 0 \text{ is taken at fixed } \lambda = \varepsilon\Lambda \\ \left[\frac{1}{2}\Lambda^{2} + O(\Lambda^{3})\right] e^{-\frac{\lambda_{\varepsilon}^{0}}{\varepsilon}} & \text{if } \Lambda \to 0 \text{ is taken before } \varepsilon \to 0, \end{cases}$$
(115)

from equations (111) and (113)–(114) respectively. These two asymptotic behaviors describe different regimes: the first one is a regime of 'large' fluctuations where $\Lambda = \lambda/\varepsilon \gg 1$, while the second one is valid for values of Λ which remain finite with ε . If one formally expands $e^{|\Lambda|} - 1$ for $\Lambda \to 0$ (although the expression is not supposed to be valid in this limit), the order Λ^2 of the expansion matches that of the $\Lambda \to 0$ expansion (done before taking the $\varepsilon \to 0$ limit) shown in equation (115). However in the first case of order of limits, an extra contribution $\propto |\Lambda|$ is present, showing that the order of the two limits cannot be exchanged. The matching of the Λ^2 term between the two asymptotics seems to indicate that the crossover regime between the two regimes in (115) is smooth. To summarize, the Gaussian fluctuations happen on a scaling $\lambda = \varepsilon \Lambda$ with finite Λ , i.e. in a boundary layer around $\lambda = 0$ of width ε that vanishes as $\varepsilon \to 0$.

6. Conclusion and outlook

In this work, we have studied the biased Langevin process associated with a generalized time-integrated current, for a particle in a one-dimensional potential with periodic boundary conditions, driven by a uniform non-conservative force. Both the physical driving force f and the statistical bias parameter λ allow for the definition of the biased process generating a particle current, but their quantitative effect is different. These two control parameters naturally span a two-dimensional phase diagram within which depinning transitions (i.e., transitions between zero-current and non-zero-current phases) occur.

Focusing on the low-noise limit, we have shown that in this phase diagram, the standard depinning exponent $\frac{1}{2}$ is the exception rather than the rule: it only characterizes the depinning transition as a function of the force f, in the absence of statistical bias ($\lambda = 0$). At the very same critical point in the phase diagram, we have found that the depinning transition considered as a function of λ (with f fixed) instead yields an exponent $\frac{1}{3}$. And even more strikingly, the depinning transition around any other point of the critical lines is characterized by an inverse logarithmic decay of the generalized current, either as a function of the bias λ or of the non-conservative force f.

We have also studied the thermal rounding effects in the zero-current phase, and characterized the resulting Arrhenius scaling in the low noise limit for both the SCGF and the generalized current. We have found in particular a very simple expression for the effective energy barrier of the biased dynamics, which behaves linearly with λ , and boils down for $\lambda = 0$ to the energy barrier to escape the metastable state of the tilted potential.

As for future work, it may be of interest to push the low- ε expansion to the next order to capture non-Poissonian corrections to the statistics of current. A natural picture of the results we have obtained at finite temperature is that the current can be written as a sum of two terms: (i) a number of turns (which is integer and thus a good candidate to present a Poisson statistics) plus (ii), an extra contribution that is non-integer and that results from thermal fluctuations beyond the Arrhenius scaling. In this picture, the second contribution would make the integrated current truly non-Poissonian; it could be interesting to put this image on firm grounds, for instance by studying a possible mapping to the current SCGF in asymmetric random walks [20, 39]. Changing ensemble from the process biased by λ to the process conditioned by a fixed value of the current could prove instructive, in particular for the nature of the DPT in the microcanonical ensemble. Also, the mean velocity and diffusion coefficient were recently computed in an active one-dimensional run-and-tumble model [60]; an extension of our results to this problem could shed light on the nature of rare events in active matter. Last, it might be worth exploring other generalizations of the model, by including for instance inertial effects in the Langevin dynamics.

Acknowledgments

Financial supports from the 'Investissements d'Avenir' French Government program managed by the French National Research Agency (ANR-16-CONV-0001) and from Excellence Initiative of Aix-Marseille University—A*MIDEX as well as from the grant IDEX-IRS 'PHEMIN' of the Université Grenoble Alpes are acknowledged. VL acknowledges support by the ERC Starting Grant No. 680275 MALIG, the ANR-18-CE30-0028-01 Grant LABS and the ANR-15-CE40-0020-03 Grant LSD.

Appendix A. Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry and mirror symmetry

A.1. Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry

Starting from the expression (61) of the biased evolution operator \mathbb{W}_{λ} , one decomposes the force as F(x) = -V'(x) + f with $f = \int_0^1 dx \ F(x)$ and V(x) a periodic function on [0, 1], and one defines a diagonal operator \hat{P}_{GC} of elements $(\hat{P}_{GC})_{xx} = e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}$. Then, one checks by direct computation that

$$\hat{P}_{\rm GC}^{-1} \mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \hat{P}_{\rm GC} \cdot = \left(\left(F(x) - \lambda' \right) \right) \partial_x \cdot + \frac{\lambda'}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\lambda'}{2} - F(x) \right) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \partial_x^2 \cdot = \mathbb{W}_{\lambda'}^{\dagger} \cdot \quad \text{with } \lambda' = 2f - \lambda,$$
(116)

where \dagger indicates the adjoint operator. The lhs of (116) is a similarity transformation which leaves the spectrum invariant (since $e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}$ is a periodic function of x the vector space is also unchanged). Since an operator and its adjoint have the same spectrum (hence the same maximal eigenvalue), one finds that

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) = \varphi_{\varepsilon}(2f - \lambda, f). \tag{117}$$

This is an instance of Gallavotti–Cohen-type symmetry for the SCGF of the current [20, 52–54], shown here using a method closely related to that of Kurchan [54].

A.2. Mirror symmetry to change the sign of f

Performing the mirror symmetry $X \mapsto 1 - X$ on x in the Langevin equation (1), one sees that the mirror variable $x_1(t) = 1 - x(t)$ of x(t) evolves in a potential $V_1(x_1) \equiv V(1 - x_1)$ and a drive -f. Besides, because $e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}\int_0^t dt \dot{x}} = e^{+\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}\int_0^t dt \dot{x}_1}$, we have that, for the SCGF.

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, V, f) = \varphi_{\varepsilon}(-\lambda, V_1, -f), \tag{118}$$

where we made explicit the dependency in the periodic potential and the drive as an argument of φ_{ε} . This identity allows one to relate the f > 0 and the f < 0 domains. It is easy to see that the quantity \mathcal{V}_{max} is invariant by $(V, f) \mapsto (V_1, -f)$ so that, from equation (11), $\lambda_c^-(V_1, -f) = 2f + \lambda_c^-(V, f)$. To show that the expression (105) of the

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ is valid for any sign of f, we finally write, for f < 0:

$$\Phi(\lambda, V, f) \stackrel{(118)}{=} \Phi(-\lambda, V_1, -f) \stackrel{(105)}{=} -f - \lambda_c^-(V_1, -f) - |\lambda - f|$$

= $f - \lambda_c^-(V, f) - |\lambda - f|.$ (119)

Appendix B. Determination of the left eigenvector scaling function U_L

In this appendix, we determine the explicit form of the function $U_L(x)$ solution of the extremalization principle (89). To determine k_i^{\min} [defined after (89)], we proceed as follows. First of all, we shift the x variable, without loss of generality, so that F(x, f) > 0for $0 < x < x_c(f)$ and F(x, f) < 0 for $x_c(f) < x < 1$. Here $x_c(f)$ is the point $x < x_m$ at which F(x, f) cancels and becomes negative for $x > x_c(f)$. We then evaluate, for each function $U_{L,i}(x)$, the difference $U_{L,i}(1) - U_{L,i}(0)$. Since we are in the zero-current regime, λ satisfies $\lambda_c^-(f) \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_c^+(f)$. We recall that we consider $0 \leq f < f_c$ and we restrict here our computations to the regime $\lambda_c^-(f) \leq \lambda < f$ (the complementary regime $f \leq \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$ is addressed in appendix C). We now distinguish between two cases:

• $\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) < \lambda < 0$ (see figure 3 of the main text, left): recalling the expressions (15) of $\lambda_{\rm c}^{\pm}(f)$, one finds

$$U_{L,1}(1) - U_{L,1}(0) = -\lambda + \lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) < 0$$
(120)

$$U_{L,2}(1) - U_{L,2}(0) = -\lambda + \lambda_c^+(f) > 0$$
(121)

$$U_{L,3}(1) - U_{L,3}(0) = -\lambda > 0 \tag{122}$$

$$U_{L,4}(1) - U_{L,4}(0) = -\lambda + 2f > 0.$$
(123)

As a result, one has $U_{L,1}(0) > U_{L,1}(1)$, whereas $U_{L,i}(0) < U_{L,i}(1)$ for $i \in \{2, 3, 4\}$. As we now show, this implies that $U_L(1) = U_{L,1}(1)$. For all $j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$, we have

$$U_L(0) = \min \{ U_{L,1}(0), U_{L,2}(0), U_{L,3}(0), U_{L,4}(0) \} \leq U_{L,j}(0) < U_{L,j}(1).$$
(124)

Using the periodicity condition $U_L(0) = U_L(1)$, it follows that $U_L(1) < U_{L,j}(1)$ for all $j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$. Hence necessarily $U_L(1) = U_{L,1}(1)$. Then, the periodicity of $U_L(x)$ in (89) and the fact that $U_{L,j}(x)$ increases between 0 and 1 for $j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ impose that the optimal values of the k_j 's are determined by $U_{L,j}(0) = U_{L,1}(1)$, for $j \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ (see figure 3, left). Using $U_{L,1}(1) = k_1 - \lambda + \lambda_c^-(f)$ and the expressions (85)–(87) one finds that the optimal values of the constants are

$$k_2^{\min} = k_3^{\min} = k_4^{\min} = -\lambda + \lambda_c^-(f) \equiv k_{\min}.$$
(125)

The equality of these constants implies that $U_{L,3}(x) \leq U_{L,2}(x)$ and $U_{L,3}(x) \leq U_{L,4}(x)$ on [0, 1] so that the optimization principle (89) only takes place between $U_{L,1}(x)$ and $U_{L,3}(x)$. The first inequality $U_{L,3}(x) \leq U_{L,2}(x)$ is easily shown as follows:

$$U_{L,2}(x) - U_{L,3}(x) = -V(x) + fx + \int_0^x dy \, |F(y,f)| = \int_0^x dy \, [F(y,f) + |F(y,f)|] \ge 0.$$
(126)

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit The second inequality $U_{L,3}(x) \leq U_{L,4}(x)$ can be obtained by using two different expressions of $U_{L,4}(x) - U_{L,3}(x)$:

$$U_{L,4}(x) - U_{L,3}(x) = \int_0^x dy \ F(y, f) = f - \int_x^1 dy \ F(y, f),$$
(127)

also using $\int_0^1 dy \ F(y, f) = f$. When $x < x_c(f)$, $\int_0^x dy \ F(y, f) \ge 0$ because the integrand is positive. For $x > x_c(f)$, $\int_x^1 dy \ F(y, f) \le 0$ because the integrand is negative; it follows that $f - \int_x^1 dy \ F(y, f) \ge 0$ (we recall that $f \ge 0$).

Hence, denoting by x_L^* the intersection point between the two functions $U_{L,1}(x)$ and $U_{L,3}(x)$, we finally obtain:

$$U_{L}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - \lambda - \lambda x & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{L}^{*} \\ -2 V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } x_{L}^{*} < x < 1, \end{cases}$$
(128)

where x_L^* is the solution of the equation

$$V(x_L^*) = \frac{\lambda}{2} + f(x_L^* - 1), \tag{129}$$

derived by imposing continuity of $U_L(x)$ at $x = x_L^*$. Note that to obtain equation (128), we used that for $x > x_L^*$ one has $x > x_c(f)$, so that F(x, f) < 0 for $x_L^* < x < 1$ and, from (84)

$$U_{L,1}(x) = k_1 - V(x) + (f - \lambda)x - \int_0^1 dy |F(y, f)| - \int_x^1 dy [-V'(x) + f]$$

= $k_1 - 2V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda_c^+(f).$ (130)

• $0 < \lambda < f$ (see figure 3 of the main text, right): in this case, $U_{L,1}$ and $U_{L,3}$ decrease their value between x = 0 and x = 1 while $U_{L,2}$ and $U_{L,4}$ increase it (as seen from equations (120)-(123)). Hence equations (120), (121) and (123) remain valid, while equation (122) is replaced by $U_{L,3}(1) - U_{L,3}(0) = -\lambda < 0$. Using the same type of argument as for the previous case, we find that the overall increasing functions $U_{L,2}$ and $U_{L,4}$ should match at x = 0, while the overall decreasing functions $U_{L,1}$ and $U_{L,3}$ should match at x = 1. The condition $U_{L,1}(1) = U_{L,3}(1)$ leads to $k_3 = \lambda_c^-(f)$, whereas the condition $U_{L,2}(0) = U_{L,4}(0)$ simply yields $k_2 = k_4$. From the periodicity condition of U_L , one also has $U_{L,3}(1) = U_{L,4}(0)$, which gives $k_2 = k_4 = \lambda_c^-(f) - \lambda$. One thus obtains:

$$U_L(x) = k_1 + \begin{cases} -2V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_c^-(f) - \lambda & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq x_L^\dagger \\ -\lambda x + \lambda_c^-(f) & \text{if } x_L^\dagger \leq x \leq 1, \end{cases}$$
(131)

where x_L^{\dagger} is determined by imposing $U_L(x)$ to be continuous at $x = x_L^{\dagger}$, i.e.

$$V(x_L^{\dagger}) = f x_L^{\dagger} - \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$
(132)

For completeness, a similar derivation of the left eigenvector for $f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$ and of the right eigenvector is given in appendix C.

Appendix C. Left and right eigenvectors at leading order in ε in the zero-current phase

In this appendix we complete the derivation of the left eigenvector presented in section 5.4 of the main text and in appendix B for $f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$, and we show the functional form of the right eigenvector at dominant order. Finally, we complete our study by particularizing both solutions to the sinusoidal case $F_{sin}(x, f)$.

C.1. Left eigenvector for $f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$

As we have shown in section 5.4 of the main text, the left eigenvector can be written as

$$L(x) = e^{-U_{L,1}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_2 \ e^{-U_{L,2}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_3 \ e^{-U_{L,3}(x)/\varepsilon} + \int dk_4 \ e^{-U_{L,4}(x)/\varepsilon}, \quad (133)$$

where the functions $U_{L,i}$ are given by equations (84)–(87) and we have included an integration over the undetermined constants k_i . In the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$, we assume that L(x) takes the asymptotic form $L(x) \simeq e^{-U_L(x)/\varepsilon}$ with $U_L(x)$ given by

$$U_L(x) = \min \left\{ U_{L,1}(x), U_{L,2}(x), U_{L,3}(x), U_{L,4}(x) \right\},$$
(134)

where one has to minimize also over the constants k_2 , k_3 and k_4 , compatible with the periodicity constraint $U_L(0) = U_L(1)$. We are now in position to determine the form of the left eigenvector. To do so, we will follow the procedure shown in appendix **B**. We first shift the x variable, without loss of generality, in such a way that F(x, f) > 0 for $0 < x < x_c(f)$ and F(x, f) < 0 for $x_c(f) < x < 1$. Thus, $x_c(f)$ is the point at which $F(x_c(f), f) = 0$. Since we are interested in the case $f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$, we now consider two different cases:

• $2f < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$: first, to fix the value of the constants k_i 's, we study the difference $U_{L,i}(1) - U_{L,i}(0)$. Recalling the expressions (15) of $\lambda_c^{\pm}(f)$, one finds

$$U_{L,1}(1) - U_{L,1}(0) = -\lambda + \lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) < 0 \tag{135}$$

$$U_{L,2}(1) - U_{L,2}(0) = -\lambda + \lambda_{\rm c}^+(f) > 0 \tag{136}$$

$$U_{L,3}(1) - U_{L,3}(0) = -\lambda < 0 \tag{137}$$

$$U_{L,4}(1) - U_{L,4}(0) = -\lambda + 2f < 0.$$
(138)

Consequently, one has $U_{L,2}(0) < U_{L,2}(1)$, whereas $U_{L,i}(0) > U_{L,i}(1)$ for $i \in \{1, 3, 4\}$, which implies that $U_L(0) = U_{L,2}(0)$. Indeed, if we had considered $U_L(0) = U_{L,j}(0)$ for some $j \in \{1, 3, 4\}$, we would have obtained:

$$U_{L}(1) = \min \left\{ U_{L,1}(1), U_{L,2}(1), U_{L,3}(1), U_{L,4}(1) \right\} \leqslant U_{L,j}(1) < U_{L,j}(0), \ (139)$$

and the function $U_L(x)$ would not be a continuous periodic function. Once we have shown that $U_L(0) = U_{L,2}(0)$, we can determine the optimal values of k_j 's by imposing periodicity of the left eigenvector:

$$U_{L,1}(1) = U_{L,2}(0) \rightarrow \bar{k}_2^{\min} = \lambda_c^-(f) - \lambda$$
 (140)

$$U_{L,3}(1) = U_{L,2}(0) \rightarrow \bar{k}_3^{\min} = \lambda_c^-(f)$$
 (141)

$$U_{L,4}(1) = U_{L,2}(0) \rightarrow \bar{k}_4^{\min} = -\lambda_c^+(f).$$
 (142)

The values of these constants, together with the form of the solutions (84)–(87) imply that $U_{L,3}(x) \leq U_{L,1}(x)$ and $U_{L,4}(x) \leq U_{L,1}(x)$, $\forall x \in [0, 1]$, so

$$U_L(x) = \min \left\{ U_{L,2}(x), U_{L,3}(x), U_{L,4}(x) \right\}.$$
(143)

The first inequality can be proved as:

$$U_{L,1}(x) - U_{L,3}(x) = -V(x) + fx - \int_0^x dy |F(y, f)| - \lambda_c^-(f)$$

= $-\int_x^1 dy \left(F(y, f) - |F(y, f)|\right) \ge 0,$ (144)

while the second one is proven as:

$$U_{L,1}(x) - U_{L,4}(x) = V(x) - fx - \int_0^x dy |F(y, f)| + \lambda_c^+(f)$$

= $\int_x^1 dy \left(F(y, f) + |F(y, f)|\right) \ge 0.$ (145)

As we have shown, $U_{L,2}(x)$ is minimum at x = 0. One can also see that

$$U_{L,4}(x) < U_{L,2}(x)$$
 for $x \in [x_{4,2}, 1]$, with $x_{4,2} > x_c$ (146)

 $U_{L,3}(x) < U_{L,2}(x)$ for $x \in [x_{3,2}, 1]$, with $x_{3,2} < x_{c}$ (147)

$$U_{L,3}(x) < U_{L,4}(x)$$
 for $x \in [x_{3,4}, 1]$, with $x_{3,4} < x_c$ (148)

where $x_{3,2}$ and $x_{3,4}$ are the solution of the equations

$$2(fx_{3,2} - V(x_{3,2})) - \lambda = 0$$
(149)

$$2(fx_{3,4} - V(x_{3,4})) - 2f = 0.$$
(150)

According to equations (146)-(148), we observe that $x_{3,2} < x_{4,2}$. In addition, equations (149) and (150) show that $x_{3,2} > x_{3,4}$. Therefore, the minimization only takes place between $U_{L,2}(x)$ and $U_{L,3}(x)$, and we obtain:

$$U_{L}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} -2V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) - \lambda & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{L}^{\dagger} \\ -\lambda x + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) & \text{if } x_{L}^{\dagger} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$
(151)

with $x_L^{\dagger} = x_{3,2}$. Note that $U_L(x)$ exhibits in this λ -regime the same functional form as the one found in the regime $0 < \lambda < f$ (see equation (92) in the main text and equation (131) in appendix B).

• $f < \lambda < 2f$: in contrast to what happens in the previous case, in this regime both $U_{L,1}$ and $U_{L,3}$ are decreasing functions between x = 0 and x = 1 while $U_{L,2}$ and $U_{L,4}$ are increasing functions in such an interval, as we can see from equations (135)–(138). The problem of deriving U_L is then identical to the one already studied in appendix B for $0 < \lambda < f$, so its form is also given by equation (151).

C.2. Right eigenvector for $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < \lambda_c^+(f)$

Once the left eigenvector is known, we can derive the form of the right eigenvector at dominant order in ε by using the similarity transformation $\hat{P}_{\rm GC}^{-1} \mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \hat{P}_{\rm GC} \cdot = \mathbb{W}_{\lambda'}^{\dagger} \cdot$, found in appendix A, where $\hat{P}_{\rm GC}$ is the diagonal operator of elements $(\hat{P}_{\rm GC})_{xx} = e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}$, \mathbb{W}_{λ} is the Fokker–Planck operator and $\lambda' = 2f - \lambda$ (see equation (116)). We observe that:

$$\mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \hat{P}_{\mathrm{GC}} L(\lambda', x) = \hat{P}_{\mathrm{GC}} \left(\mathbb{W}_{\lambda'}^{\dagger} L(\lambda', x) \right) = \varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda') \hat{P}_{\mathrm{GC}} L(\lambda', x), \qquad (152)$$

where for convenience we have made explicit the dependence of the left eigenvector $L(\lambda, x)$ on λ . Hence, taking into account the Gallavotti–Cohen symmetry (117), the right eigenvector is of the form:

$$R(\lambda, x) = \hat{P}_{\rm GC} L(2f - \lambda, x). \tag{153}$$

At leading order, this relation implies:

$$U_R(\lambda, x) = 2V(x) + U_L(2f - \lambda, x), \qquad (154)$$

where again for convenience we have made explicit the dependence on λ . We can then determine the functional form of U_R by distinguishing two cases:

• $\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) < \lambda < 2f$:

$$U_{R}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} \lambda x + \lambda - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{R}^{*} \\ 2 V(x) - (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) & \text{if } x_{R}^{*} < x < 1, \end{cases}$$
(155)

with x_R^* the intersection point between the two branches.

• $2f < \lambda < \lambda_{c}^{+}(f)$:

$$U_{R}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} 2V(x) - (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{R}^{\dagger} \\ \lambda x - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } x_{R}^{\dagger} < x < 1, \end{cases}$$
(156)

with x_B^{\dagger} again the intersection point between the two branches.

Interestingly, in the non-driven case f = 0 one can easily find that:

 $x_R^* = 1 - x_L^*, \qquad x_R^{\dagger} = 1 - x_L^{\dagger}.$ (157)

C.3. Explicit expression for the left and right eigenvectors for the sinusoidal case

In order to illustrate the different results obtained for the left and right eigenvectors at dominant order, we now particularize to the case of a sinusoidal force of the form:

$$F_{\rm s}(x,f) = \sin 2\pi x_f + f,$$
 (158)

where $x_f = x - \arcsin f/(2\pi)$. Note that we have shifted the x variable in order to satisfy that $F_s(x, f) > 0$ for $x \in [0, x_c]$ and $F_s(x, f) < 0$ for $x \in [x_c, 1]$, with $x_c = \arcsin f/\pi + 1/2$. In this case, $U_L(x)$ takes the following form.

•
$$\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) < \lambda < 0$$
:

$$U_L(x) = k_1 + \begin{cases} -\lambda(1+x) + \lambda_c^-(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_L^* \\ -\frac{\cos 2\pi x_f - \sqrt{1-f^2}}{\pi} + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda_c^+(f) & \text{if } x_L^* < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

$$(159)$$

where $x_L^* > x_c$ is the solution of the equation:

$$-\frac{\cos\left(2\pi x_{L}^{*}-\arcsin f\right)-\sqrt{1-f^{2}}}{\pi}+2fx_{L}^{*}+\lambda-2f=0,$$
(160)

and with $\lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f)$ given by equation (16).

• $0 < \lambda < \lambda_{\rm c}^+(f)$

$$U_{L}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} -\frac{\cos 2\pi x_{f} - \sqrt{1 - f^{2}}}{\pi} + (2f - \lambda)x - \lambda + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{L}^{\dagger} \\ -\lambda x + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) & \text{if } x_{L}^{\dagger} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$
(161)

where $x_L^{\dagger} < x_c$ is the solution of the equation:

$$-\frac{\cos\left(2\pi x_L^{\dagger} - \arcsin f\right) - \sqrt{1 - f^2}}{\pi} + 2f x_L^{\dagger} - \lambda = 0.$$
(162)

On the other hand, the leading contribution to the right eigenvector is:

•
$$\lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) < \lambda < 2f$$
:

$$U_{R}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} \lambda x + \lambda - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{R}^{*} \\ \frac{\cos 2\pi x_{f} - \sqrt{1 - f^{2}}}{\pi} - (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_{c}^{-}(f) & \text{if } x_{R}^{*} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$
(163)

where $x_R^* < x_c$ is the solution of the equation:

$$\frac{\cos\left(2\pi x_R^* - \arcsin\ f\right) - \sqrt{1 - f^2}}{\pi} + 2f(1 - x_R^*) - \lambda = 0.$$
(164)





Figure 8. (Left) The different solutions $U_{L,i}(x)$ with i = 1, ..., 4 entering into play in the minimization problem for dominant order of the left, for $k_1 = 0$, f = 0 and $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$ for the sine force of equation (4). The purple envelope encodes the final form of both $U_L(x)$. (Right) Comparison between the analytical solution of $U_L(x)$ (purple line) and $U_R(x)$ (blue line), see equations (161) and (165), and numerical results for a discretized system with 128 sites and noise amplitude $\varepsilon = 2^{-7}$ (triangles) and $\varepsilon = 2^{-8}$ (circles).

• $2f < \lambda < \lambda_{\rm c}^+(f)$

$$U_{R}(x) = k_{1} + \begin{cases} \frac{\cos 2\pi x_{f} - \sqrt{1 - f^{2}}}{\pi} - (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } 0 < x < x_{R}^{\dagger} \\ \lambda x - \lambda_{c}^{+}(f) & \text{if } x_{R}^{\dagger} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$
(165)

where $x_R^{\dagger} > x_c$ is the solution of the equation:

$$\frac{\cos\left(2\pi x_R^{\dagger} - \arcsin f\right) - \sqrt{1 - f^2}}{\pi} - 2f x_R^{\dagger} + \lambda = 0.$$
(166)

In figure 8 (left) we show the analytical results of the dominant order of the left eigenvector for the non-driven case f = 0. In addition, numerical results obtained by direct diagonalization of a discretized version of the biased operator (and small values of ε) are also shown in figure 8 (right), where we observe they are in good agreement with the asymptotic prediction.

Appendix D. Proof that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$ for $z \neq z^*$

In this appendix, we provide the technical proof used in section 5.5 of the main text that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$ for $z \neq z^*$. We first recall that, giving the form of the effective potential $V_{\lambda}(x)$ (see equation (94)), we can deduce that:

$$V_{\lambda}'(x) > f - \lambda \quad \text{for } x_{c} < x < x_{L}^{*}, \tag{167}$$

$$V_{\lambda}'(x) < f - \lambda \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x < x_{c} \text{ or } x_{L}^{*} < x < 1.$$

$$(168)$$

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit We then distinguish two situations:

• $0 < z < z^*$: in this case, we can write, defining the domain $I_1 \equiv [x_c, X(z)] \cup [X(z) + z, x_L^*]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(z^*) - \zeta(z) &= (f - \lambda)(z^* - z) - \int_{x_c}^{x_L^*} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{X(z)}^{X(z) + z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) \\ &= -\int_{I_1} \mathrm{d}y \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] < 0, \end{aligned}$$
(169)

using the inequality (167). It follows that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$ for $0 < z < z^*$.

• $z^* < z < 1$: in this interval of z, we need to study separately the two possibilities $0 \leq X(z) < x_c$ and $x_L^* < X(z) < 1$. We consider first the case $0 \leq X(z) < x_c$. If we assume that $X(z) + z \leq 1$, we have, defining $I_2 \equiv [X(z), x_c] \cup [x_L^*, X(z) + z]$

$$\zeta(z) - \zeta(z^*) = (f - \lambda)(z - z^*) - \int_{X(z)}^{X(z) + z} dy \ V'_{\lambda}(y) + \int_{x_c}^{x_L^*} dy \ V'_{\lambda}(y)$$
$$= -\int_{I_2} dy \ \left[V'_{\lambda}(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] > 0, \tag{170}$$

using the inequality (168), whence $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$.

On the other hand, if X(z) + z > 1, taking into account the periodicity of $V_{\lambda}(x)$ we can write

$$V_{\lambda}(X(z) + z) - V_{\lambda}(X(z)) = V_{\lambda}(X(z) + z - 1) - V_{\lambda}(X(z))$$
$$= \int_{0}^{X(z) + z - 1} dy V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{X(z)}^{1} dy V_{\lambda}'(y), \quad (171)$$

where we note that $V_{\lambda}(0) = V_{\lambda}(1) = 0$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(z) - \zeta(z^*) &= (f - \lambda)(z - z^*) - \int_0^{X(z) + z - 1} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) - \int_{X(z)}^1 \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{x_c}^{x_L^*} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) \\ &= -\int_{I_3} \mathrm{d}y \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] > 0, \end{aligned}$$
(172)

where we have defined the domain $I_3 \equiv [0, X(z) + z - 1] \cup [X(z), x_c] \cup [x_L^*, 1]$, and used the inequality (168). So we also find in this case that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$.

Finally, we mention for completeness the case $x_L^* < X(z) < 1$, although we could not find an example where this situation occurs. In this case we would have that $1 + x_L^* \leq X(z) + z < X(z) + 1$ (see figure 4). Using again the periodicity of $V'_{\lambda}(x)$, we get after reorganizing the terms

$$\zeta(z) - \zeta(z^*) = -\int_{I_4} \mathrm{d}y \, \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] > 0 \tag{173}$$

from equation (168), with $I_4 \equiv [0, x_c] \cup [x_L^*, X(z) + z - 1] \cup [X(z), 1]$, leading again to the result $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$.

Thus, we have shown that for all $z \neq z^*$, $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^*)$.

Appendix E. Determination of the Arrhenius scaling in the regime $0 < \lambda < f$

In this appendix we derive the form of the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$ associated with the $\varepsilon \to 0$ Arrhenius scaling $\partial_{\lambda}\varphi_{\varepsilon}(\lambda, f) \simeq e^{-\Phi(\lambda, f)/\varepsilon}$ for the derivative of the SCGF when $0 < \lambda < f$. This complements the case $\lambda_c^-(f) < \lambda < 0$ treated in section 5.5 of the main text. To do so, we recall the formalism already described in section 5.2, where we show that the Arrhenius function can be determined by solving the two optimization problems

$$X(z) = \operatorname*{argmax}_{0 \leqslant x \leqslant 1} \left[\int_{x}^{x+z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) \right]$$
(174)

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = -2\min_{0 \le z < 1} [\zeta(z)], \tag{175}$$

with $\zeta(z)$ defined as

$$\zeta(z) \equiv (f - \lambda)z - \int_{X(z)}^{X(z)+z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y).$$
(176)

The effective potential $V_{\lambda}(x) = V(x) + U_L(x)$ is periodic, and in this expression $U_L(x)$ is the leading contribution of the left eigenvector in the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$. Using the expression (92) of $U_L(x)$, we get

$$V_{\lambda}(x) = k_1 + \begin{cases} -V(x) + (2f - \lambda)x + \lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) - \lambda & \text{if } 0 \leqslant x \leqslant x_L^{\dagger} \\ V(x) - \lambda x + \lambda_{\rm c}^-(f) & \text{if } x_L^{\dagger} \leqslant x \leqslant 1, \end{cases}$$
(177)

where x_L^{\dagger} is determined by imposing $V_{\lambda}(x)$ to be continuous at $x = x_L^{\dagger}$, i.e.

$$V(x_L^{\dagger}) = f x_L^{\dagger} - \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$
(178)

It follows that the derivative $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ of the effective potential is given by

$$V_{\lambda}'(x) = \begin{cases} F(x,f) + f - \lambda & \text{if } 0 \leqslant x \leqslant x_L^{\dagger} \\ -F(x,f) + f - \lambda & \text{if } x_L^{\dagger} \leqslant x \leqslant 1. \end{cases}$$
(179)

The shape of $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ is illustrated on figure 9 for a sine force field. As seen on figure 9, $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ satisfies the following inequalities:

$$V'_{\lambda}(x) < f - \lambda \quad \text{for } x_L^{\dagger} < x < x_c, \tag{180}$$

$$V'_{\lambda}(x) > f - \lambda \quad \text{for } 0 \leqslant x < x_L^{\dagger} \text{ or } x_c < x < 1.$$
(181)

These inequalities play a key role in what follows.



Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit

Figure 9. Top left: schematic representation of the derivative of the effective potential, $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ for $0 < \lambda < f$. The three other panels display a sketch of the graphical argument leading to the key properties of X(z). On each graph, the shaded area indicates the integral of $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ over the interval [X(z), X(z) + z]. Top right: case $z = z^{\dagger}$, where $X(z) = x_{c}$. Bottom left: case $0 < z < z^{\dagger}$, where $x_{c} < X(z) < 1$. Bottom right: case $z^{\dagger} < z < 1$, illustrated here with $x_{L}^{\dagger} \leq X(z) < x_{c}$.

Since $f - \lambda > 0$ and due to the periodicity of X(z) and $V_{\lambda}(x)$, the minimum in equation (175) is reached for $z \in [0, 1)$. Following a similar approach to the one presented in section 5.5 of the main text, we partly use a graphical argument to find a solution of the optimization problems (174) and (175). To optimize the function $\zeta(z)$, we need to know some properties of the function X(z) that provides the maximum of the area under the curve $V'_{\lambda}(x)$ between x and x + z, for $0 \leq z < 1$. Graphically, one can deduce from figure 9 the following properties of X(z):

- For $z = z^{\dagger} \equiv x_L^{\dagger} + 1 x_c$, one finds $X(z^{\dagger}) = x_c$.
- For $0 < z < z^{\dagger}$, one has either $0 < X(z) < x_L^{\dagger}$ or $x_c < X(z) < 1$.
- For $z^{\dagger} < z < 1$, X(z) satisfies $x_L^{\dagger} \leq X(z) < x_c$.

In the following, we then show that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^{\dagger})$ for all $z \neq z^{\dagger}$. We distinguish two situations (see figure 9):

• $0 < z < z^{\dagger}$: in this case, one has to study separately the regimes $0 < X(z) < x_L^{\dagger}$ and $x_c < X(z) < 1$. For $0 < X(z) < x_L^{\dagger}$, we graphically observe that $X(z) + z \leq x_L^{\dagger}$ (see figure 9). Hence, by using the periodicity of $V_{\lambda}(x)$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(z^{\dagger}) - \zeta(z) &= (f - \lambda)(z^{\dagger} - z) - \int_{x_{c}}^{1} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) - \int_{0}^{x_{L}^{\dagger}} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{X(z)}^{X(z)+z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) \\ &= -\int \mathrm{d}y \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] < 0, \end{aligned}$$
(182)

$$= \int_{I_5}^{I_5} ug \left[V_{\lambda}(g) - (f - \lambda) \right] < 0, \qquad (102)$$

where we have defined the domain $I_5 \equiv [0, X(z)] \cup [X(z) + z, x_L^{\dagger}] \cup [x_c, 1]$, and used the inequality (181).

On the other hand, when $x_c < X(z) < 1$, one can deduce that $X(z) + z \leq 1 + x_L^{\dagger}$. Then, assuming that X(z) + z > 1 and using again the periodicity of $V_{\lambda}(x)$, we have

$$\zeta(z^{\dagger}) - \zeta(z) = (f - \lambda)(z^{\dagger} - z) - \int_{x_{c}}^{x_{L}^{\dagger} + 1} dy \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{X(z)}^{X(z) + z} dy \ V_{\lambda}'(y)$$
$$= -\int_{I_{6}} dy \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] < 0, \tag{183}$$

with $I_6 \equiv [X(z) + z - 1, x_L^{\dagger}] \cup [x_c, X(z)]$, and thanks to the inequality (181). Finally, if we now assume X(z) + z < 1 we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(z^{\dagger}) - \zeta(z) &= (f - \lambda)(z^{\dagger} - z) - \int_{x_c}^{x_L^{\dagger} + 1} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{X(z)}^{X(z) + z} \mathrm{d}y \ V_{\lambda}'(y) \\ &= -\int_{I_7} \mathrm{d}y \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] < 0, \end{aligned}$$
(184)

having defined the domain $I_7 \equiv [0, x_L^{\dagger}] \cup [x_c, X(z)] \cup [X(z) + z, 1]$, and using again equation (181). We have thus shown that $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^{\dagger})$ for all z in the interval $(0, z^{\dagger})$;

• $z^{\dagger} < z < 1$: given the form of $V_{\lambda}(x)$, we can see that the condition $x_L^{\dagger} + 1 \leq X(z) + z < X(z) + 1$ is satisfied in this regime (see figure 9). Then, we obtain

$$(z) - \zeta(z^{\dagger}) = (f - \lambda)(z - z^{\dagger}) - \int_{X(z)}^{X(z)+z} dy \ V_{\lambda}'(y) + \int_{x_{c}}^{x_{L}^{\dagger}+1} dy \ V_{\lambda}'(y) = -\int_{I_{8}} dy \ \left[V_{\lambda}'(y) - (f - \lambda) \right] > 0,$$
(185)

where $I_8 \equiv [x_L^{\dagger}, X(z) + z - 1] \cup [X(z), x_c]$, and using the inequality (180). Hence $\zeta(z) > \zeta(z^{\dagger})$ for $z^{\dagger} < z < 1$.

Now that we have established that the global minimum of $\zeta(z)$ is located at z^{\dagger} , we determine the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$. From equation (175) we obtain

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = f(x_L^{\dagger} + 1 - x_c) - \lambda - V(x_L^{\dagger}) + V(x_c).$$
(186)

Using equations (178) and (103), we eventually find

$$\Phi(\lambda, f) = \lambda - \lambda_{\rm c}^{-}(f) \tag{187}$$

for $0 < \lambda < f$, as announced in section 5.5 of the main text.

https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-5468/abb235

ζ

Appendix F. Derivation of the diffusion coefficient

If the average velocity \bar{v} of the driven particle in 1D has been known for a long time [31], it is only relatively recently [56, 57] that the diffusion coefficient D has been computed for $f \neq 0$, using exact representations in terms of the moments of a first passage time (see e.g. [58]). To compute D, we rather adapt the Langevin dynamics method of Derrida [59], who studied a similar question for a particle hopping on a discrete ring of finite size. We translate his approach into the language of joint probability densities, which allows us to make the link with the LDF framework. This approach is also more general (for instance, it allowed recently for a study of a similar problem in the context of active particles [60]).

F.1. Settings

We recall that we consider an additive observable $A(t_f)$ of the form (2) with h(x(t)) = 0and g(x(t)) = 1; i.e. $A(t_f)$ represents the position counted algebraically

$$A(t_{\rm f}) = \int_0^{t_{\rm f}} {\rm d}t \ \dot{x}(t)$$
(188)

on a time window of duration $t_{\rm f}$. The average velocity v and the diffusion coefficient D are

$$\bar{v} = \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \frac{1}{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle, \qquad D = \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \frac{1}{2t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle_c.$$
(189)

The time evolution of the joint probability $\overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f})$ and of its Laplace transform $\hat{P}_{\lambda}(x, t_{\rm f}) = \int dA \ e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A} \overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f})$ are governed by the operators

$$\overset{\circ}{\mathbb{W}} = -\partial_x \left((F(x) - \varepsilon \partial_A) \cdot \right) + \partial_A \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_A \cdot -F(x) \cdot \right) + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \partial_x^2 \cdot \tag{190}$$

$$\mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \cdot = -\partial_x \left((F(x) - \lambda) \cdot \right) + \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} - F(x) \right) \cdot + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon \partial_x^2 \cdot, \tag{191}$$

in the sense that $\partial_{t_f} \overset{\circ}{P} = \overset{\circ}{\mathbb{W}} \overset{\circ}{P}$ and $\partial_{t_f} \hat{P}_{\lambda} = \mathbb{W}_{\lambda} \hat{P}_{\lambda}$. The two operators are related by the correspondence $\partial_A \leftrightarrow \frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}$. This can be easily proved by multiplying the evolution equation for $\overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_f)$ by a factor $e^{-\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon}A}$, integrating over A (we recall that the domain of A is the whole real line), and performing an integration by parts. We now introduce

$$P(x, t_{\rm f}) = \int dA \; \stackrel{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f}) = \hat{P}_{\lambda=0}(x, t_{\rm f}) \tag{192}$$

$$Q(x,t_{\rm f}) = \int \mathrm{d}A \, A \stackrel{\circ}{P}(x,A,t_{\rm f}) = -\varepsilon \partial_{\lambda} \hat{P}_{\lambda}(x,t_{\rm f}) \Big|_{\lambda=0},\tag{193}$$

which are periodic functions of x. To determine their evolution equation, one notes that $P(x, t_f)$ is the usual probability density that verifies the Fokker–Planck equation, while

$$\partial_{t_{\mathrm{f}}}Q = \mathbb{W}Q - \varepsilon \partial_{\lambda} \mathbb{W}_{\lambda} | \underset{\lambda=0}{P}, \text{ implying}$$

$$\partial_t P = -\partial_x \left(FP - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x P \right) \tag{194}$$

$$\partial_{t_{\rm f}}Q = -\partial_x \left(FQ - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x Q\right) - \varepsilon \partial_x P + FP, \tag{195}$$

where for simplicity we do not indicate the arguments of the functions. The introduction of the two functions $P(x, t_{\rm f})$ and $Q(x, t_{\rm f})$, that satisfy the coupled equations (194) and (195), allows one to determine the mean velocity and the diffusion coefficient by solving

these equations instead of determining the full dependency in A or in λ of $P(x, A, t_f)$ or of $\hat{P}_{\lambda}(x, t_f)$.

F.2. Relation between the functions P and Q and the diffusion coefficient D

From (193), the average value of $A(t_f)$ reads $\langle A(t_f) \rangle = \int dx \, dA \, A \stackrel{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_f) = \int dx \, Q(x, t_f)$ and from (195) it verifies

$$\partial_{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle = \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ P(x, t_{\rm f}),$$
(196)

where and thereafter $\int dx$ denotes $\int_0^1 dx$, and we used the periodicity in x of the functions F and Q. Similarly, using the periodicity in x we see from (190) that the second moment of $A(t_f)$ verifies

$$\partial_{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle = \int \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}A \, A^2 \, \partial_A \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_A \overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f}) - F(x) \overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f}) \right)$$
$$= \int \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{d}A \, \left(\varepsilon \overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f}) + 2F(x)A \overset{\circ}{P}(x, A, t_{\rm f}) \right)$$
$$= \varepsilon + 2 \int \mathrm{d}x \, F(x)Q(x, t_{\rm f}). \tag{197}$$

At large time, one expects that [59]

$$P(x, t_{\rm f}) \underset{t_{\rm f} \to \infty}{\to} P_0(x), \qquad Q(x, t_{\rm f}) \underset{t_{\rm f} \to \infty}{=} Q_0(x) + t_{\rm f} Q_1(x) + o(t_{\rm f}^{\ 0}), \tag{198}$$

where corrections to these asymptotic behaviors are exponentially decreasing in time. For $P(x, t_f)$ this follows from the Fokker–Planck evolution, and $P_0(x)$ is the steady state distribution, normalized to $\int dx P_0 = 1$. For $Q(x, t_f)$ we now show that the large-time behavior (198) is compatible with the evolution equation (195). Inserting (198) into equations (194)–(195), we indeed obtain:

$$0 = -\partial_x \left(FP_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x P_0 \right) \tag{199}$$

$$0 = -\partial_x \left(FQ_1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x Q_1 \right) \tag{200}$$

$$Q_1 = -\partial_x \left(FQ_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x Q_0 \right) - \varepsilon \partial_x P_0 + FP_0.$$
(201)

Since $P_0(x)$ and $Q_1(x)$ verify the same linear equation with the same periodic boundary condition, they are proportional. The normalization of Q_1 is fixed by integrating (201) on [0, 1], which imposes $\int dx Q_1(x) = \int dx F(x) P_0(x)$, hence finally:

$$Q_1(x) = P_0(x) \int dx' F(x') P_0(x').$$
(202)

We now determine from these large-time asymptotics the behavior of the first and second moment of $A(t_{\rm f})$. From the identity $\langle A(t_{\rm f})\rangle = \int dx Q(x, t_{\rm f})$ and equation (198) we have that at large time

$$\langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} = \int dx \ Q_0(x) + t_{\rm f} \int dx \ Q_1(x) + o(t_{\rm f}^{\ 0})$$

$$\stackrel{(202)}{=} \int dx \ Q_0(x) + t_{\rm f} \int dx \ F(x) \ P_0(x) + o(t_{\rm f}^{\ 0}),$$
(203)

and thus for the average velocity [see also equation (196) which yields the same result]:

$$\bar{v} = \lim_{t_f \to \infty} \frac{1}{t_f} \langle A(t_f) \rangle = \lim_{t_f \to \infty} \partial_{t_f} \langle A(t_f) \rangle = \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ P_0(x).$$
(204)

Similarly, from equations (197) and (198):

$$\partial_{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \varepsilon + 2 \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ Q_0(x) + 2t_{\rm f} \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ Q_1(x) + o(t_{\rm f}^{\ 0}). \tag{205}$$

Inserting in this equation the form (202) of $Q_1(x)$, one observes that for the diffusion coefficient D, the term proportional to t_f in the expression of the second moment is canceled by the one coming from the first moment:

$$D = \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \frac{1}{2t_{\rm f}} \left[\langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle - \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle^2 \right] = \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \frac{1}{2} \partial_{t_{\rm f}} \left[\langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle - \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle^2 \right]$$
$$= \lim_{t_{\rm f} \to \infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial_{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f})^2 \rangle - \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle \partial_{t_{\rm f}} \langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle \right]$$
(206)

$$D \stackrel{(203)}{=} \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ Q_0(x) - \left(\int \mathrm{d}x \ Q_0(x)\right) \left(\int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ P_0(x)\right). \tag{207}$$

We remark that to obtain this expression it was essential to determine the subleading contribution $\propto t_{\rm f}^0$ of $\langle A(t_{\rm f}) \rangle$ in (203). We see from the expression (207) that the diffusion coefficient is fully determined by the knowledge of the functions P_0 and Q_0 , solutions of the equations (199) and (201), which we now solve at equilibrium (f = 0, section F.3) and out of equilibrium ($f \neq 0$, sections F.5 and F.6).

F.3. Diffusion coefficient for an equilibrium (reversible) dynamics

If the force F(x) derives from a periodic potential V(x) as F(x) = -V'(x), the steady state is the Boltzmann distribution at temperature $\varepsilon/2$ that verifies $FP_0 = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x P_0$ and

reads:

$$P_0(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}, \quad Z = \int dx e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}.$$
 (208)

From (202), one has $Q_1(x) = 0$ (as expected, at equilibrium, the average velocity \bar{v} is zero, see equation (204)). To determine the diffusion coefficient from (207), there remains to solve the equation (201), which can be rewritten

$$0 = -\partial_x \left(FQ_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x Q_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P_0 \right).$$
(209)

Thus there is a constant C_1 such that

$$FQ_0 = C_1 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x Q_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P_0.$$
(210)

Inserting this result into (207), one finds by periodicity:

$$D = C_1 \tag{211}$$

(the term ε in equation (207) is indeed canceled). To determine the constant C_1 without directly solving for $Q_0(x)$, one sets $Q_0(x) = R_0(x) e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}$ with $R_0(x)$ a periodic function on [0, 1]. From (210) one finds:

$$\partial_x R_0 = \frac{1}{Z} - \frac{2}{\varepsilon} C_1 \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)} \tag{212}$$

and the expression of C_1 is finally determined by integrating (212) on [0, 1]:

$$C_1 = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{Z} \frac{1}{\int \mathrm{d}x \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}}.$$
(213)

The final expression of the equilibrium diffusion coefficient is determined from (211) and from the expression of the partition function Z:

$$D = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{\left(\int \mathrm{d}x \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}\right) \left(\int \mathrm{d}x \ \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}V(x)}\right)}.$$
(214)

This result, first obtained in [61], can also be found using the fluctuation-dissipation relation (applying for instance the results of section 11.3.1 in Risken's book [2]), valid at equilibrium when the force derives from a potential.

F.4. Average velocity \bar{v} in the case of a generic force

One writes the periodic force as deriving from a non-periodic tilted potential U(x) such that

$$F(x) = -U'(x),$$
 $U(1) - U(0) = -\int dx \ F(x) = -f,$ (215)

where f is the tilt of the potential. We also decompose U(x) = V(x) - fx where V(x) is a periodic function of x on [0, 1]. Then the steady state $P_0(x)$ can be written as follows, using periodicity [2, 26]:

$$P_0(x) = \frac{1}{Z_f} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \left(\int_0^x \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)} + \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}f} \int_x^1 \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)} \right), \tag{216}$$

where Z_f is the normalization constant ensuring $\int dx P_0(x) = 1$. From (204), the average current \bar{v} is [2, 26]:

$$\bar{v} = \int \mathrm{d}x \ F(x) \ P_0(x)$$

$$= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{Z_f} \int \mathrm{d}x \ \left[\partial_x \left(\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \right) \left(\int_0^x \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)} + \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}f} \int_x^1 \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)} \right) \right]$$

$$\bar{v} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left[\mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}f} - 1 \right]$$
(218)

$$\bar{v} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{Z_f} \left[e^{\bar{\varepsilon} f} - 1 \right]$$
(218)

where we integrated by parts and used the definition (215) of the tilt.

Such expressions of the steady state (216) and of the average velocity (218) are interesting because they only involve integrals on [0, 1], but their use is limited because the expression of the normalization constant Z_f is rather cumbersome. In the spirit of [50, 51], it is also interesting to use a different representation of the steady state P_0 and of the average velocity \bar{v} , valid for f > 0,⁷ that provides a clearer physical picture and proves useful to determine the diffusion coefficient D. We write

$$P_0(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \tilde{P}_0(x)$$
(219)

$$\tilde{P}_0(x) = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y+x)} = \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)},\tag{220}$$

where the integrals converge since we have assumed f > 0, and Z is determined by imposing the normalization $\int dx P_0(x) = 1$. We first notice that this probability is periodic, as required, since

$$\frac{P_0(x+1)}{P_0(x)} = \frac{\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[V(x)-(x+1)f]}}{\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[V(x)-xf]}} \frac{\int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[V(y+x)-(y+x+1)f]}}{\int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[V(y+x)-(y+x)f]}} = \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}f} \ \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}f} = 1.$$
(221)

Thanks to this periodicity, the corresponding average velocity, given by equation (204), reads

⁷ The case f < 0 is obtained by mirror symmetry $x \mapsto 1 - x$, see appendix A.

$$\bar{v} = -\int \mathrm{d}x \ U'(x) P_0(x) = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathrm{d}x \ \partial_x \left(\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \right) \tilde{P}_0(x)$$
$$= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \left\{ \left[P_0(x) \right]_0^1 - \frac{1}{Z} \ \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \tilde{P}'_0(x) \right\}$$
$$= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{Z}, \tag{222}$$

where we used that, from equation (220), $\tilde{P}'_0(x) = -e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}$. Last, to check that the expression (219) and (220) of the steady state is indeed the periodic solution of the Fokker–Planck equation (199), one computes

$$-\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x P_0(x) = U'(x)P_0(x) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}\tilde{P}'_0(x) \stackrel{(222)}{=} U'(x) P_0(x) + \bar{v}, \qquad (223)$$

which shows that $-\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x P_0(x) + F(x) P_0(x)$ is a constant (equal to the average current), and by differentiation w.r.t. x that indeed $P_0(x)$ is the periodic solution of equation (199).

The interest of the representation (219) and (220) of the steady state (a periodic method of variation of constants) is that the constant Z and thus the average velocity (222) take the simple form

$$Z = \int_0^{+\infty} dy \int_0^1 dx \ e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(y+x) - U(x)]}$$
(224)

$$\bar{v} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{\int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(y+x) - U(x)]}},\tag{225}$$

that we used in the main text (equations (67) and (68)) in order to determine the SCGF of the current in the low-temperature limit. Decomposing the first integral of (225) as a union of the intervals [n, n + 1] for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and summing over n, one recovers the previous expression (218) of the velocity, as easily checked.

F.5. Diffusion coefficient D in the case of a generic force

We now wish to determine the expression of D from equation (207). As we remarked, the steady-state 'constant of motion' implied by equation (199) is precisely the average current:

$$F(x) P_0(x) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x P_0(x) = \bar{v}.$$
(226)

(This can also be verified from equations (216) and (218).) The expression of $Q_1(x)$ inferred from (202) is thus:

$$Q_1(x) = \bar{v} P_0(x). \tag{227}$$

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit It thus remains to determine properties of the function Q_0 , by solving equation (201), which we rewrite as

$$\bar{v} P_0 = -\partial_x \left(FQ_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x Q_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P_0 \right) \underbrace{-\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \partial_x P_0 + FP_0}_{\stackrel{(226)}{=} \bar{v}}.$$
(228)

This implies that there exists a constant C_2 such that

$$FQ_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x Q_0 = C_2 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}P_0 + \bar{v}(x - \Pi_0), \quad \text{with} \quad \Pi_0(x) = \int_0^x dx' \ P_0(x'). \tag{229}$$

Integrating this identity on [0, 1] and using the periodicity of Q_0 one obtains:

$$\int dx \ F(x)Q_0(x) = C_2 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \bar{v}\left\langle x - \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle_0, \quad \text{with} \quad \langle \dots \rangle_0 \equiv \int dx \ \dots \ P_0(x).$$
(230)

We used the equality $\int dx \Pi_0(x) = \langle 1 - x \rangle_0$, obtained by integration by part. Inserting (217) and (230) in the expression (207) of the diffusion coefficient, one obtains:

$$D = C_2 + \bar{v} \left\langle x - \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle_0 - \bar{v} \int \mathrm{d}x \ Q_0(x).$$
(231)

In contrast to the equilibrium case, one now needs to solve for $Q_0(x)$ in order to evaluate the last missing integral, $\int dx Q_0(x)$. To do so, we define a periodic function R(x) which is the rhs of the equation (229)

$$R(x) = C_2 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P_0(x) + \bar{v} \left(x - \Pi_0(x) \right),$$
(232)

so that $Q_0(x)$ verifies the equation

$$FQ_0 - \frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x Q_0 = R.$$
(233)

We now show that similarly to the expression (219) and (220) of P_0 , the periodic solution of (233) reads

$$Q_0(x) = \frac{2}{\varepsilon} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \tilde{Q}_0(x)$$
(234)

$$\tilde{Q}_0(x) = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y+x)} R(y+x) = \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(y)} R(y).$$
(235)

The integrals converge since R is periodic and bounded and we assumed f > 0. A computation analogous to equation (221) shows that the expression (234) and (235) of $Q_0(x)$ is a continuous periodic function. Besides, since $\tilde{Q}'_0(x) = -e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}R(x)$, one has

$$-\frac{\varepsilon}{2}\partial_x Q_0(x) = U'(x) P_0(x) - e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}\tilde{Q}'_0(x) = -F(x) P_0(x) + R(x), \quad (236)$$

which shows that indeed the expression (234) and (235) of Q_0 is the periodic solution to equation (233). Also, from the expression (225) of \bar{v} , we remark that the constant C_2 in the expression (231) of D is canceled by the contribution $\propto C_2$ coming from R(t)in $\bar{v} \int dx Q_0(x)$. Hence, C_2 can safely be set to 0. Collecting the previous results, the expression of the diffusion coefficient (valid for f > 0) is:

$$D = \bar{v} \left\langle x - \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle_0 - \frac{1}{Z} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(y) - U(x)]} \left\{ \bar{v} \, \left(y - \Pi_0(y)\right) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} P_0(y) \right\}.$$
(237)

F.6. Simplification of the expression of the diffusion coefficient D

The obtained expression (237) is rather cumbersome. To simplify it we introduce the function

$$\Upsilon(x) = \int_{x}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}w \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(w)},\tag{238}$$

which, as previously, is well defined for f > 0. It satisfies $\Upsilon'(x) = -e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}$ and $P_0(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}\Upsilon(x)$. We decompose $D = D_0 + D_1 + D_2$ with

$$D_0 = \bar{v} \left\langle x - \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle_0 \tag{239}$$

$$D_1 = -\frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[U(y) - U(x)]} \ (y - \Pi_0(y)) \tag{240}$$

$$D_{2} = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{1}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \int_{x}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(y) - U(x)]} P_{0}(y).$$
(241)

We have that

$$D_2 = \frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \ \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \Upsilon(y) \tag{242}$$

and, integrating by parts:

$$D_{1} = \frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} dx \ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \int_{x}^{+\infty} dy \ \Upsilon'(y) \int_{0}^{y} dz \ (1 - P_{0}(z))$$

$$= \frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} dx \ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \left\{ \left[\Upsilon(y) \int_{0}^{y} dz \ (1 - P_{0}(z)) \right]_{y=x}^{y=+\infty} \right.$$

$$- \int_{x}^{+\infty} dy \ \Upsilon(y) \ (1 - P_{0}(y)) \right\}$$

$$= -\frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} dx \ \left\{ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \Upsilon(x) \int_{0}^{x} dz \ (1 - P_{0}(z)) \right.$$

$$+ \left. e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \int_{x}^{+\infty} dy \ \Upsilon(y) \ (1 - P_{0}(y)) \right\}, \qquad (243)$$

Current statistics and depinning transition for a one-dimensional Langevin process in the weak-noise limit so that, by compensation with the expression (242) of D_2 :

$$D_{1} + D_{2} = -\frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, \left\{ \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \Upsilon(x) \int_{0}^{x} \mathrm{d}z \, \left(1 - P_{0}(z)\right) - \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \int_{x}^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \Upsilon(y) P_{0}(y) \right\}.$$
(244)

Then, using $e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)}\Upsilon(x) = ZP_0(x)$, the first integral in (244) reads

$$-\frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \Upsilon(x) \int_{0}^{x} \mathrm{d}z \, (1 - P_{0}(z)) = -\bar{v} \, \langle x \rangle_{0} + \bar{v} \underbrace{\int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, \Pi_{0}'(x) \Pi_{0}(x)}_{=\frac{1}{2}[\Pi_{0}(x)^{2}]_{0}^{1} = \frac{1}{2}} = -\bar{v} \, \langle x - \frac{1}{2} \rangle_{0}, \qquad (245)$$

which compensates exactly with D_0 (see equation (239)). Finally, from equation (244) and from the expression (238) of the function Υ , the resulting expression of the diffusion coefficient, valid for f > 0, is:

$$D = \frac{\bar{v}}{Z} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}U(x)} \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \Upsilon(y) \, P_0(y)$$

$$= \bar{v} \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \int_x^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}y \, \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}[U(x) - U(y)]} \, P_0(y)^2.$$
(246)

This result is valid for any $\varepsilon > 0$. Although these expressions are simpler than equation (237), we could not find a more direct derivation of them within our approach. They are equivalent to the ones obtained in [56, 57].

F.7. Low-temperature asymptotics for \bar{v} and D in the pinned regime

We have seen in section 5.6 that as $\varepsilon \to 0$ in the pinned regime $0 < f < f_c$, all scaled cumulants of $A(t_f)$ scale logarithmically in the same way, as $\simeq e^{\lambda_c^-(f)/\varepsilon}$, corresponding to a Poissonian regime of fluctuations in some range of current fluctuations. We also discussed that finite-temperature corrections to the behavior of the cumulants encode the DPT observed in the Arrhenius function $\Phi(\lambda, f)$. The exact expressions (225) of \bar{v} and (246) of D, valid for all $\varepsilon > 0$, are different, showing that at finite ε the current fluctuations are not Poissonian. In order to illustrate these aspects of the distribution of $A(t_f)$, we now analyze the small- ε behavior of \bar{v} and D.

For $0 < f < f_c$, using a $\varepsilon \to 0$ saddle-point evaluation of the integrals in the expression (225) of \bar{v} in order to estimate its exponential and sub-exponential behavior, one finds:

$$\bar{v} \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\approx} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{|U''_{\max}U''_{\min}|} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(U_{\max} - U_{\min})}, \quad \text{for } 0 < f < f_c.$$
(247)

Here U_{\min} is the minimum value of the tilted potential U(x) for $x \in [0, 1]$ and U_{\max} the value of the local maximum of U(x) that is located immediately to its right (and

similarly for the second derivatives). One should beware that the $\varepsilon \to 0$ limit does not commute with the $f \to 0$ limit (for f = 0, one has $\bar{v} = 0$), nor with the $f \uparrow f_c$ limit. This is because at f > 0, the $\varepsilon \to 0$ asymptotics means that the barrier $U_{\text{max}} - U_{\text{min}}$ is (i) strictly smaller than the barrier to the *left* direction (but the barriers to the left and the right are equal for f = 0); and (ii) much larger than ε (but the barrier is equal to 0 at $f = f_c$).

For the diffusion coefficient, one uses the expression (246) valid for f > 0 and the form (219) and (220) of the steady state P_0 to write that

$$D = \frac{\bar{v}}{Z^2} \int_0^1 dx \int_x^{+\infty} dy \ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(x) - U(y)]} \left\{ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon} U(y)} \int_y^{+\infty} dz \ e^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} U(z)} \right\}^2$$
$$\stackrel{(222)}{=} \left(\frac{2}{\varepsilon}\right)^2 \bar{v}^3 \int_0^1 dx \ \int_x^{+\infty} dy \int_y^{+\infty} dz \int_y^{+\infty} dz' \ e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon} [U(x) + U(y) - U(z) - U(z')]}.$$
(248)

$$\underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\approx} \bar{v}^3 \exp\left\{\frac{2}{\varepsilon} \max\left[U(z) + U(z') - U(x) - U(y)\right]\right\}$$
(249)

where the maximum is evaluated for $x \in [0,1]$ and $y, z, z' \in \mathbb{R}$ with the constraint $x \leq y \leq z, z'$. It is reached for $x = y = x_{\min}$ and $z = z' = x_{\max}$ and takes the value $2(U_{\max} - U_{\min})$. To conclude, using equation (247), the logarithmic equivalents of \bar{v} and D are the same:

$$\bar{v} \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\simeq} \mathrm{e}^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(U_{\max} - U_{\min})}, \quad \text{for } 0 < f < f_{\mathrm{c}}$$
 (250)

$$D \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\simeq} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(U_{\max} - U_{\min})}, \quad \text{for } 0 < f < f_c,$$
(251)

which illustrates the Poisson structure in the distribution of A(t) at small noise, that we determined in the main text. The prefactors, obtained by a saddle-point analysis of equations (225) and (248), are also the same:

$$\bar{v} \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\approx} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{|U''_{\max}U''_{\min}|} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(U_{\max} - U_{\min})}, \quad \text{for } 0 < f < f_c$$
(252)

$$D \underset{\varepsilon \to 0}{\approx} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{|U''_{\max} U''_{\min}|} e^{-\frac{2}{\varepsilon}(U_{\max} - U_{\min})}, \quad \text{for } 0 < f < f_{c},$$
(253)

illustrating that to observe a departure from the purely Poissonian behavior, higherorder corrections in powers of ε are needed.

References

- [1] Van Kampen N G 2007 Stochastic Processes in Physics and Chemistry 3rd edn (Amsterdam: Elsevier)
- [2] Risken H 1996 The Fokker-Planck Equation: Methods of Solution and Applications (Springer Series in Synergetics, vol 18) 2nd edn (New York: Springer)
- [3] Jack R L and Sollich P 2010 Large deviations and ensembles of trajectories in stochastic models Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl. 184 304
- [4] Chetrite R and Touchette H 2013 Nonequilibrium microcanonical and canonical ensembles and their equivalence *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 111 120601

- [5] Chetrite H R and Touchette H 2015 Nonequilibrium Markov processes conditioned on large deviations Ann. Henri Poincaré 16 2005
- [6] Tizón-Escamilla N, Lecomte V and Bertin E 2019 Effective driven dynamics for one-dimensional conditioned Langevin processes in the weak-noise limit J. Stat. Mech. 013201
- [7] Tociu L, Fodor E, Nemoto T and Vaikuntanathan S 2019 How dissipation constrains fluctuations in nonequilibrium liquids: diffusion, structure, and biased interactions Phys. Rev. X 9 041026
- [8] Onsager L and Machlup S 1953 Fluctuations and irreversible processes Phys. Rev. 91 1505
- [9] Machlup S and Onsager L 1953 Fluctuations and irreversible process. II. Systems with kinetic energy *Phys. Rev.* 91 1512
- [10] Ellis R S 1985 Entropy, Large Deviations, and Statistical Mechanics (Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften) (New York: Springer)
- [11] Ellis R S 1995 An overview of the theory of large deviations and applications to statistical mechanics Scand. Actuar. J. 1995 97
- [12] Ellis R S 1999 The theory of large deviations: from Boltzmann's 1877 calculation to equilibrium macrostates in 2D turbulence Phys. D 133 106
- [13] Bertini L, De Sole A, Gabrielli D, Jona-Lasinio G and Landim C 2015 Macroscopic fluctuation theory Rev. Mod. Phys. 87 593
- [14] Touchette H 2009 The large deviation approach to statistical mechanics Phys. Rep. 478 1
- [15] Derrida B 2007 Non-equilibrium steady states: fluctuations and large deviations of the density and of the current J. Stat. Mech. P07023
- [16] Bertini L, De Sole A, Gabrielli D, Jona-Lasinio G and Landim C 2005 Current fluctuations in stochastic lattice gases Phys. Rev. Lett. 94 030601
- [17] Bertini L, Sole A D, Gabrielli D, Jona-Lasinio G and Landim C 2006 Non equilibrium current fluctuations in stochastic lattice gases J. Stat. Phys. 123 237
- [18] Hurtado P I, Espigares C P, del Pozo J J and Garrido P L 2014 Thermodynamics of currents in nonequilibrium diffusive systems: theory and simulation J. Stat. Phys. 154 214
- [19] Derrida B and Lebowitz J L 1998 Exact large deviation function in the asymmetric exclusion process Phys. Rev. Lett. 80 209
- [20] Lebowitz J L and Spohn H 1999 A Gallavotti–Cohen-type symmetry in the large deviation functional for stochastic dynamics J. Stat. Phys. 95 333
- [21] Derrida B and Appert C 1999 Universal large-deviation function of the Kardar–Parisi–Zhang equation in one dimension J. Stat. Phys. 94 1
- [22] Harris R J and Touchette H 2017 Phase transitions in large deviations of reset processes J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 50 10LT01
- [23] Miller H D 1961 A convexity property in the theory of random variables defined on a finite Markov chain Ann. Math. Stat. 32 1260
- [24] Simon D 2009 Construction of a coordinate Bethe ansatz for the asymmetric simple exclusion process with open boundaries J. Stat. Mech. P07017
- [25] Popkov V, Schütz G M and Simon D 2010 ASEP on a ring conditioned on enhanced flux J. Stat. Mech. P10007
- [26] Proesmans K and Derrida B 2019 Large-deviation theory for a Brownian particle on a ring: a WKB approach J. Stat. Mech. 023201
- [27] Derrida B and Sadhu T 2019 Large deviations conditioned on large deviations I: Markov chain and Langevin equation J. Stat. Phys. 176 773
- [28] Nyawo P T and Touchette H 2016 Large deviations of the current for driven periodic diffusions Phys. Rev. E 94 032101
- [29] Gomez-Solano J R, Petrosyan A, Ciliberto S, Chetrite R and Gawędzki K 2009 Experimental verification of a modified fluctuation-dissipation relation for a micron-sized particle in a nonequilibrium steady state *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **103** 040601
- [30] Reimann P 2002 Brownian motors: noisy transport far from equilibrium Phys. Rep. 361 57
- [31] Stratonovich R L 1965 Oscillator synchronization in the presence of noise Non-Linear Transformations of Stochastic Processes (Amsterdam: Elsevier) p 269
 Stratonovich R L 1958 Oscillator synchronization in the presence of noise Radiotekh. Elektron. 3 497 (Translated
- by M Nadler) (Engl. transl.)
 [32] Henry Strogatz S 2001 Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos: With Applications to Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Engineering (Studies in Nonlinearity) 2nd print edn (Mass: Perseus Books Cambridge) OCLC: 248691524
- [33] Fisher D S 1998 Collective transport in random media: from superconductors to earthquakes Phys. Rep. 301 113

- [34] Brazovskii S and Nattermann T 2004 Pinning and sliding of driven elastic systems: from domain walls to charge density waves Adv. Phys. 53 177
- [35] Graham R and Tél T 1985 Weak-noise limit of Fokker–Planck models and nondifferentiable potentials for dissipative dynamical systems Phys. Rev. A 31 1109
- [36] Freidlin M I and Wentzell A D 2012 Random Perturbations of Dynamical Systems (Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften) 3rd edn (Berlin: Springer)
- [37] Speck T, Blickle V, Bechinger C and Seifert U 2007 Distribution of entropy production for a colloidal particle in a nonequilibrium steady state *Europhys. Lett.* **79** 30002
- [38] Mehl J, Speck T and Seifert U 2008 Large deviation function for entropy production in driven one-dimensional systems Phys. Rev. E 78 011123
- [39] Speck T, Engel A and Seifert U 2012 The large deviation function for entropy production: the optimal trajectory and the role of fluctuations J. Stat. Mech. P12001
- [40] Alexander F J and Eyink G L 1997 Rayleigh–Ritz calculation of effective potential far from equilibrium Phys. Rev. Lett. 78 1
- [41] Nemoto T and Sasa S-i 2011 Variational formula for experimental determination of high-order correlations of current fluctuations in driven systems Phys. Rev. E 83 030105
- [42] Nemoto T and Sasa S-i 2011 Thermodynamic formula for the cumulant generating function of time-averaged current Phys. Rev. E 84 061113
- [43] Øksendal B 2013 Stochastic Differential Equations: An Introduction with Applications (Universitext) 6th edn (Berlin: Springer) p 6
- [44] Garrahan J P, Jack R L, Lecomte V, Pitard E, van Duijvendijk K and van Wijland F 2009 First-order dynamical phase transition in models of glasses: an approach based on ensembles of histories J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 42 075007
- [45] Bodineau T and Derrida B 2005 Distribution of current in nonequilibrium diffusive systems and phase transitions Phys. Rev. E 72 066110
- [46] Garrahan J P, Jack R L, Lecomte V, Pitard E, van Duijvendijk K and van Wijland F 2007 Dynamical first-order phase transition in kinetically constrained models of glasses *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 98 195702
- [47] Lecomte V, Appert-Rolland C and van Wijland F 2007 Thermodynamic formalism for systems with Markov dynamics J. Stat. Phys. 127 51
- [48] Jack R L, Nemoto T and Lecomte V 2020 Dynamical phase coexistence in the Fredrickson–Andersen model J. Stat. Mech. 053204
- [49] Coleman S 1988 Aspects of Symmetry: Selected Erice Lectures (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- [50] Le Doussal P and Vinokur V M 1995 Creep in one dimension and phenomenological theory of glass dynamics Phys. C 254 63
- [51] Scheidl S 1995 Mobility in a one-dimensional disorder potential Z. Phys. B: Condens. Matter 97 345
- [52] Gallavotti G and Cohen E G D 1995 Dynamical ensembles in nonequilibrium statistical mechanics Phys. Rev. Lett. 74 2694
- [53] Gallavotti G and Cohen E G D 1995 Dynamical ensembles in stationary states J. Stat. Phys. 80 931
- [54] Kurchan J 1998 Fluctuation theorem for stochastic dynamics J. Phys. A: Math. Gen. **31** 3719
- [55] Appert-Rolland C, Derrida B, Lecomte V and van Wijland F 2008 Universal cumulants of the current in diffusive systems on a ring Phys. Rev. E 78 021122
- [56] Reimann P, Van den Broeck C, Linke H, Hänggi P, Rubi J M and Pérez-Madrid A 2001 Giant acceleration of free diffusion by use of tilted periodic potentials *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 87 010602
- [57] Reimann P, Van den Broeck C, Linke H, Hänggi P, Rubi J M and Pérez-Madrid A 2002 Diffusion in tilted periodic potentials: enhancement, universality, and scaling *Phys. Rev. E* 65 031104
- [58] Hänggi P, Talkner P and Borkovec M 1990 Reaction-rate theory: fifty years after Kramers Rev. Mod. Phys. 62 251
- [59] Derrida B 1983 Velocity and diffusion constant of a periodic one-dimensional hopping model J. Stat. Phys. 31 433
- [60] Le Doussal P, Majumdar S N and Schehr G 2020 Velocity and diffusion constant of an active particle in a one dimensional force field EPL 130 40002
- [61] Lifson S and Jackson J L 1962 On the self-diffusion of ions in a polyelectrolyte solution J. Chem. Phys. 36 2410