Decay of two-dimensional quantum turbulence in binary Bose-Einstein condensates

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We study two-dimensional quantum turbulence in miscible binary Bose-Einstein condensates in either a harmonic trap or a steep-wall trap, where the condensates have unequal intra-component coupling strengths and asymmetric trap frequencies. The initial turbulence, generated through a stirring potential, decays to interlaced so-called vortex-antidark structures with a large size of the vortex core, when the inter-component coupling strength is nearly equal to the intra-component one. This interlaced lattice structure, a quasi-equilibrium vortex lattice, and the corresponding incompressible spectra develops a plateau around the inverse healing length \( k = \xi^{-1} \), by preserving the power-law \( E^{\alpha}(k) \sim k^{-\alpha} \) with \( \alpha = 5/3 \) for small wave numbers and \( \alpha = 3 \) for large wave numbers. We also study the impact of the inter-component interaction to the cluster formation of like-signed vortices in an elliptical steep-wall trap, finding that the inter-component coupling gives rise to the decay of the clustered configuration.

I. INTRODUCTION

Turbulence is a complex dynamical behavior of a chaotic dynamical system, which connects the two distinct physical properties, namely, order and chaos [1]. In a two-dimensional (2D) fluid, there are two notable predictions in the turbulence theory: i) The existence of a negative temperature regime and the associated formation of clusters of point vortices predicted by Onsager [2], ii) The existence of inverse energy cascade, an energy flow towards the largest spatial length, predicted by Kraichnan [3, 4]. These two predictions are focal to the understanding of turbulence in 2D fluids.

The precise control over the parameters such as the trapping frequencies and atomic interactions renders Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) one of the widely used nonlinear systems to study the turbulent dynamics in quantum fluids, where the turbulence is referred to as quantum turbulence [5–12]. In 2D quantum fluids, a topological excitation is a vortex with a quantized circulation around the vortex core with a finite size. A remarkable feature of the 2D quantum turbulence is the existence of Kolmogorov’s \( k^{-5/3} \) law in the incompressible kinetic energy spectrum, which has a similarity to the energy cascade in classical fluids [13–15], where \( k \) is the wave number. Furthermore, the spectrum shows a \( k^{-3} \) dependence for length scales smaller than the vortex core size determined by the healing length [16]. While the initial stage of the turbulent dynamics is driven by the annihilation of the oppositely circulating vortices, the final stage goes to the negative temperature state caused by the “evaporative heating” of the vortex system, where the annihilation of oppositely circulated vortices ceases [17, 18] and exhibits a \( k^3 \) scaling in the range of the small wave number [19]. In the negative temperature state, and in the presence of trap conditions that allow for this (e.g. steep-wall traps allow for this, while parabolic ones suppress it [20]), the like-signed vortices accumulate to form giant vortex clusters (also known as Onsager vortex clusters). These clusters stay on the two opposite sides of a bounded condensate. Recently, by initiating the turbulent dynamics of the vortices, two landmark experiments reported in Refs. [21, 22] have shown for the first time the existence of the negative temperature state and the Onsager vortex cluster. It has been proposed that the cluster formation of single species vortices is also possible in the dilute atomic gases [23], and relevant considerations have been extended also to the finite temperature condensates [24].

The multi-component BEC setting, either of same atomic species [25–29] or of different atomic species [30–33], enriches significantly the phenomenology of vortices due to the presence of two competing energy scales of intra- and inter-component interactions [34]. A highly notable feature is that the core of the one vortex can fill with the density of the other component, resulting in the formation of interlaced vortex patterns or vortex-bright structures [35–37]. In the miscible multi-component case where the components co-exist (rather than phase-separate), it is more relevant to refer to these states as vortex-antidark solitons [38]. Such vortices have larger core size and nontrivial vortex-vortex interaction [39, 40] as compared with those in the single-component BEC. Hence, it is natural to inquire whether the turbulent dynamics in a binary condensate may exhibit unprecedented features. Furthermore, the two-component system gives the freedom of investigating the turbulence under both symmetric and asymmetric setup of parameters involved, where the asymmetry can represent the cases of unequal intra-component strength [29, 41] and asymmetric trap frequency [21].

In this paper, we study the vortex turbulence in a

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II. THEORETICAL MODEL OF BINARY BECS

We begin with the effectively 2D Gross-Pitaevskii (GP) energy functional $E[\Psi_j, \Psi_{j'}] = \int E_{2D}(r) d^2r$ expressed in terms of the condensate wave functions $\Psi_j$ for the $j$-th component ($j = 1, 2$), where the energy density is

$$
E_{2D}(r) = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left[ \frac{\hbar^2}{2 m_j} |\nabla \Psi_j|^2 + V_j(r) |\Psi_j|^2 + \frac{g_{jj} |\Psi_j|^4}{2} \right] + g_{12} |\Psi_1|^2 |\Psi_2|^2.
$$

(1)

Here, the wave functions obey the normalization $\int d^2r |\Psi_j|^2 = N_j$ with the particle number $N_j$ in the 2D system. The parameter $m_j$ represents the atomic mass of the $j$-th component, $g_{jj} = 4\pi \hbar^2 a_{jj}/m_j$ the intracomponent interaction strength, $g_{12} = 2\pi \hbar^2 a_{12}/(m_1 m_2)$ the intercomponent one, where $a_{jj}$ and $a_{12}$ denote the corresponding s-wave scattering lengths. Throughout the paper we consider the case of equal particle numbers $N_1 = N_2 \equiv N$ and equal masses $m_1 = m_2 = m$; for completeness, we consider the case where $N_1 \neq N_2$ briefly also in Appendix B. The mass equality suggests our focus on a scenario of two hyperfine states of the same gas, in particular $^{87}$Rb as discussed below [51]. The 2D interaction strengths $g_{jk}$ are related with a 3D coupling constant $g_{jk}^{3D}$ as $g_{jk} = g_{jk}^{3D} \int |\psi(z)|^4 dz/ \int |\psi(z)|^2 dz$ with the longitudinal component of the wave function being $\psi(z)$. The one-body potential $V_j$ consists of two parts denoted as $V_{Tj}(r)$ and $V_s(r)$; the trapping potential $V_{Tj}(r)$ has the form

$$
V_{Tj}(r) = \frac{1}{2} m_0 \omega_r^2 R_0^2 \left( \frac{(1 + \epsilon_{xj}) x^2 + (1 + \epsilon_{yj}) y^2}{R_0} \right)^{\alpha},
$$

(2)

where $\omega_r$ is the radial harmonic frequency, $\epsilon_{xj}$ and $\epsilon_{yj}$ represent the trap anisotropy along the $x$- and $y$-directions, respectively, and $R_0$ is the typical size of the potential. For $\alpha = 2$, Eq. (2) represents a harmonic-oscillator potential, while for a large $\alpha$ it can be considered as a steep-wall potential. The additional potential $V_s(r)$ represents the stirring obstacle as introduced below.

From Eq. (1) we get the time-dependent GP equations (GPE)

$$
\frac{i}{\hbar} \frac{\partial \Psi_j}{\partial t} = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_j(r) + g_{jj} |\Psi_j|^2 + g_{12} |\Psi_{j'}|^2 \right] \Psi_j.
$$

(3)

In the following, we denote the physical quantities in units of the radial harmonic oscillator, i.e., the length, time, energy are scaled by $a_0$, $1/\omega_r$, $\hbar \omega_r$, respectively, where $a_0 = \sqrt{\hbar/(m \omega_r)}$ is the radial harmonic oscillator length. The wave function is scaled as $a_0^{-1} \sqrt{N}$, which leads to $\int d^2r |\Psi_j|^2 = 1$ and the dimensionless coupling constants $g_{jk} = g_{jk} N m / \hbar^2$. Then, the Thomas-Fermi
III. VORTEX TURBULENCE IN A HARMONIC TRAP

We consider a mixture of 2D BECs of $^{87}$Rb atoms. In a harmonic trap ($\alpha = 2$) with the frequency $\omega_r = 2\pi \times 15$ Hz and the aspect ratio $\lambda = \omega_z/\omega_r = 10$. Choosing the $s$-wave scattering length $a_1 = 100a_B$ [29] ($a_B$ is the Bohr radius), and $N^{3D} \approx 6.5 \times 10^4$, we get the parameter values as $a_0 \approx 2.7\mu$m and $g_{11} = g_{11} N m / h^2 = 4\pi N^{3D} (a_1/a_0) \sqrt{\lambda/(2\pi)} \approx 2000$ [20]. The inter-component coupling strength is chosen as $0 < g_{12} < \sqrt{g_{11}g_{22}}$, being repulsive and in the miscible regime [51].

In order to generate the vortices, we use a stirring technique [17, 48, 52-55]. For this, we consider the time-dependent repulsive Gaussian potential,

$$V_s(x, y, t) = V_0 \exp \left[ -\frac{(x-x_0(t))^2}{\sigma^2_0} - \frac{(y-y_0(t))^2}{\sigma^2_0} \right]$$  \hspace{0.5cm} (4)

This represents an obstacle potential created by a blue-detuned laser beam directed axially along the trap [56, 57]. The repulsive Gaussian potential has a strength of $V_0 = 1.2\mu \approx 42.28 \hbar \omega_r$ and a width $\sigma_0 = 0.1R_{TF}$. In Eq. (4), $x_0(t) = r_0 \cos(\omega t / \tau_0) = r_0 \cos(2\pi t / T)$ and $y_0(t) = \tilde{r}_0 \sin(2\pi t / T)$, where $T$ is the period and $v$ is the velocity of the obstacle [53, 55]. Since it is found that for a harmonically trapped condensate the maximum excitation depends on the position of the obstacle, we fix $r_0 \approx 0.4R_0$, corresponding to the location where the energy required to form a vortex dipole is minimal [53, 58]. We further fix $v = 0.6c_s$, where $c_s = \sqrt{\mu / m} = \sqrt{\mu_0 a_0 \omega_r}$ is the velocity of the sound wave (Bogoliubov speed of sound).

The numerical simulations are performed as follows. We first get the initial stationary solution through the imaginary time propagation of the GPE (3) in the presence of the static obstacle of Eq. (4). Next, the condensate is evolved via real-time simulations, being stirred by the potential of Eq. (4) for two periods, where the obstacle strength is ramped down to zero in the second period (see Appendix A). Just after that, we set the time $t = 0$, i.e., the end of the preparation stage and the beginning of our evolution observations. We use a split-step fast-Fourier scheme for the numerical simulation [59]. In the simulation, we take the simulation domain $[-15:15] \times [-15:15]$ (the spatial size $L = 30$) with $M \times M$ grid points. We consider $M = 1024$ and 512, and the time step $\Delta t$ in such a way that the width of the spatial grids $\Delta x = L/M < \xi/a_0$ and the time step satisfy $\Delta t < (\Delta x)^2/2$.

The stirring potential can generate vortices via two mechanisms. One is the vortex-anti-vortex pair nucleation which occurs at the low density region induced by the repulsive Gaussian potential. Although the considered impenetrable obstacle with $V_0 / \mu > 1$ is able to emit a single vortex into the condensate, even when the co-produced partner (anti-vortex) is well inside the obstacle-induced zero-density region [53, 60, 61], a vortex and an anti-vortex are always emitted simultaneously from the obstacle in our setting. The other mechanism is the vortex entrance from outside of the condensate boundary due to the random distribution of phase in the low-density periphery, where the energy cost for vortex formation is minimal. Nevertheless, we confirmed in our simulation that the second scenario is less probable, as shown in Appendix A.

Now, we analyze both the vortex dynamics and the energy spectra. To calculate the spectra we take the average over 4 different initial conditions and these initial conditions are obtained by changing $\sigma_0$ and $V_0$ by small amounts.

A. Vortex dynamics in turbulent binary BECs

As a parametric example for our numerical demonstration, we set $g_{12} = 0.95g_{11}$ and $g_{22} = g_{11} = g_1$: recall that in such systems the ability to tune scattering lengths via Feshbach resonances exists and has been used to move, e.g., from immiscible to miscible regimes [31]. For this set of $g_{ij}$’s, we get $\mu = 35.23$, $\xi \approx 0.119a_0$, $R_{TF} \approx 8.39a_0$, and $c_s \approx 5.93a_0\omega_r$. By stirring the obstacle potential, the vortices and anti-vortices are emitted from it and eventually form a turbulent state. For this set of parameters, however, we noticed that the turbulent dynamics and the energy spectra are similar to that of a single-component case [20, 53]. This is due to the fact that the two components behave in the same manner under the symmetric choice of the parameters (see Fig. 1(k-r)) and, as a result, the vortices in both components are always co-located. The incompressible kinetic energy spectra exhibit the $k^{-5/3}$ power law in the infrared (IR) region $k\xi < 1$ and $k^{-3}$ power law in the ultraviolet (UV) region $k\xi > 1$: see, e.g. [12, 16, 17].

In reality, there are ingredients that can break the parameter symmetry between the two components. In order to break this symmetry, we introduce a small anisotropy in the trapping potential of Eq. (2) within the first component as $\epsilon_{x1} = 0.025$ while the other $\epsilon_{x(y)j} = 0$. An introduction of the parameter anisotropy dramatically changes the dynamics as seen in Fig. 1(i-p; contrary to the isotropic panels (a-h)). Here the snapshots of the density of the first and second components are shown in the upper (i-l) and the middle (m-p) panels, respectively. We see that an initial turbulent structure undergoes gradual change into an interlaced lattice of the so-called vortex-antidark structures [38] where the density of one component sits in the core of a vortex in the other component [35, 36, 41, 62, 63] within our miscible configuration. This quasi-equilibrium state of vortex-antidark solitary waves is reminiscent of a vortex lattice (a two-
component variant thereof), but the vortices continue to rearrange their positions as time evolves. The resulting vortices are singly quantized vortices with the counterclockwise winding, as seen in Fig. 1(q) and (r). The size of the vortex cores in the interlaced lattice state is determined by the spin healing length

$$\xi^2 = \xi^2 \frac{g + g_{12}}{g - g_{12}}$$

(5)

instead of the mass healing length $\xi^2 = \alpha_0^2/(2\mu)$ [39]. Thus, the vortices have an extended core due to the spin healing length when $g_{12}$ is nearly equal to $g$.

We also find that the formation of the interlaced vortex lattice state is depending on the values of $g_{12}$. To see this, we first calculate the inter and intra-component energy. For an interlaced vortex structure, the inter-component interaction energy is minimized [36]. Figure 2 shows the evolution of the intra-

$$E_{\text{intra}}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \int d\mathbf{r} |\Psi_j|^4$$

and inter-component energies $E_{\text{inter}}(t) = g_{12} \int d\mathbf{r} |\Psi_1|^2 |\Psi_2|^2$. It displays that initially the inter-component energy decreases with time; the intra-component interaction energy concurrently increases. This process is associated with the effective phase separation due to the relative displacement of the vortex positions of each component. Subsequently, the inter-component energy increases and saturates close to its value at $t = 0$. We noticed that this energy exchange process that leads to the phase separation is occurring only at higher $g_{12}$ as shown in the Appendix D. It indicates that the interlaced vortex lattice state is favorable only at larger values of $g_{12}$ and the increase in $E_{\text{intra}}$ at the initial times reflects the local density variation during the phase separation process. To address the formation of interlaced vortex lattice state in more detail, we calculate the energy spectra of the compressible and incompressible kinetic energies as shown in the next subsection.

It is noticed that even for smaller values of the anisotropy ($\epsilon_{g1} \sim 0.005$) the results remain similar, yet the time required to form such interlaced lattice varies. Indeed, as shown in Fig. 2, the relaxation time of the energies toward the quasi-equilibrium becomes longer as the trap anisotropy $\epsilon_{g1}$ becomes smaller, and presumably goes to infinity in the limit of $\epsilon_{g1} = 0$.

In order to get a further insight into the turbulent dynamics, we calculate the angular momentum per particle

$$l_{zi} = -\frac{i\hbar}{2} \int dxy \Psi_i^*(x \partial_y - y \partial_x) \Psi_i.$$  

(6)

Fig. 3(a) shows the time evolution of $l_{zi}$ for the compo-
development of the GPE. Similar relaxation dynamics can although the total energy is conserved during the time de-
leads to the (quasi-)equilibrium configuration of vortices,
vortex-phonon interaction takes place and it eventually
within the condensates. The energy dissipation via the
continuation of vortices and anti-vortices results in finite positive an-
gular momentum. This is stemming from the counter-
clockwise rotation of the obstacle during stirring. In this
case, the (counter-clockwise) vortices are more pushed to-
wards the center, where the density of the condensate is
higher, than the (clockwise) anti-vortices. In a similar
vein, we observed that the vortex distribution obtained
from a clockwise moving obstacle has a finite negative an-
gular momentum. The initial difference in the angu-
lar momenta between the components is due to the trap
anisotropy which breaks the rotational symmetry. The
two components can exchange their angular momenta
due to the presence of the inter-component mean-field
coupling. At the same time, the magnitude of the to-
total angular momentum decays slowly as time evolves.
This is because the time derivative of the angular mo-
momentum is non-vanishing when there are asymmetries in
the trapping potential or the nonlinear mean-field en-
ergy densities [64]. Both contributions are found to play
a role. The nonlinear one reflects the (radial) symmetry
breaking induced by the stirring, while the one associ-
ated with the confinement reflects the possible deviation
from radial symmetry of the trapping potential. Dur-
ing the dynamical process, from turbulence to the lattice
configuration, the system either ejects the anti-vortices
through the periphery of the condensate due to the ini-
tial stirring, or annihilation of vortex anti-vortex pairs
occurs, emitting small-amplitude (phonon) wavepackets
within the condensates. The energy dissipation via the
vortex-phonon interaction takes place and it eventually
leads to the (quasi-)equilibrium configuration of vortices,
although the total energy is conserved during the time de-
velopment of the GPE. Similar relaxation dynamics can
be seen in the single-component BEC in a rotating poten-
tial [65, 66]. When the stirring period is increased such
as 3 or 4 periods, the initial net angular momentum at
t = 0 is also increased, so that the quasi-equilibrium con-
figuration possesses a bigger lattice than that in Fig. 1.

![Figure 3. The evolution of the angular momentum per particle, (a) in the presence of the trap anisotropy \( \epsilon_{g1} = 0.025 \) (corresponding to Fig. 1), and (b) with a small difference between the intra-component coupling strengths as \( g_{11} = 0.975 g_{22} \), but without the trap anisotropy \( \epsilon_{xj} = \epsilon_{yj} = 0 \).](image)

As another example of parameter asymmetry among
the components, we study the turbulent dynamics and
the angular momentum evolution for the asymmetric intra-component coupling strength \( g_{11} = 0.975 g_{22} \)
[63, 67] by setting \( \epsilon_{xj} = \epsilon_{yj} = 0 \); see again Eqs. (10)-(11) in [64]. The simulation result shows that the dy-
namics is similar to Fig. 1, where the initial turbulent state undergoes a dynamical transition into the inter-
laced vortex lattice configuration (see Appendix B). The
evolution of the angular momenta in Fig. 3(b) shows that
the exchange process of the angular momentum eventu-
ally causes an imbalance of the angular momentum in
the quasi-equilibrium state, where the number of the re-
mainning vortices in the second component is more than
that of the first component. This is in line with the
dynamical robustness of the vortices in the second com-
ponent when it bears a larger intra-component strength
\( g_{22} > g_{11} \) [68, 69].

Interestingly, such a dynamically turbulent stage and
the subsequent formation of large core vortices have been
observed in the JILA experiment of a two-component condensate [63], where the asymmetry among the com-
ponents exists due to the population difference and the
different intra-component strengths. In the experiment,
a fraction of the first component with a vortex lattice,
which was initially prepared, was coherently transferred to
the second component. Then, an interlaced vortex lat-
tice emerged dynamically through a transient turbulent
state. The transition time from the turbulence to the
interlaced lattice was about a few seconds, which is in
reasonable agreement with our numerical results, where
the lattice structure appears after \( t \sim 100 \), i.e., \( t \sim 1 \) sec
in the physical units.

Finite size effects are also crucial for the interlaced vor-
tex lattice formation. To address the finite size effect, we
perform a numerical experiment in a homogeneous sys-
tem without a trap by considering a periodic boundary
condition, and by keeping the parameters \( g_{11} = 0.975 g_{22} \)
and \( g_{12} = 0.95 g_{11} \). Due to the periodic boundary condi-
tion, the only mechanism of energy dissipation is vortex
anti-vortex annihilation and, as a result, equal numbers of
vortices and anti-vortices are expected to be main-
tained during the time evolution. The result indicates
that the vortices almost completely disappear through the
pair annihilation in the final quasi-steady state (see
Appendix C). Thus, the external trap plays an impor-
tant role in the formation of the interlaced vortex lattice
structure.
B. Kinetic Energy Spectra

In order to study the characteristics of the emergent quantum turbulence (as a result of our preparation procedure), we calculate the incompressible and compressible kinetic energy spectrum, \( E^ic(k) \) and \( E^c(k) \) [7, 70, 71], for the case of \( \epsilon_{g1} = 0.025 \), \( g_{11} = g_{22} \), and various values of \( g_{12} \) (see appendix E). The incompressible fluid part of the condensate represents the divergence free component of the condensate velocity. The spectral behavior in the UV (large \( k \)) region represents the contribution from the vortex core, while that in the IR (small \( k \)) region indicates the largest scales involved (of the order of the condensate size). Figure 4(a) shows \( E^ic(k) \) of the \( \Psi_1 \)-component at several times for a weak inter-component coupling \( g_{12} = 0.1g_{11} \). The spectrum at each time exhibits a behavior similar to a 2D single-component BEC [72]. In the UV regime at \( k > \xi^{-1} \) determined by the mass healing length, the spectrum exhibits the power-law \( k^{-3} \) and this scaling continues up to \( k_\xi \sim 2\pi/\xi \). In the regime of \( k_R < k < \xi^{-1} \), the spectrum clearly exhibits the Kolmogorov power-law \( \sim k^{-5/3} \), a characteristic of the inverse energy cascade, where \( k_R = 2\pi / R_{TF} \). In this regime, a vortex–anti-vortex annihilation process strongly affects the spectral behavior due to the sound wave emission [66, 72, 73]. Additionally, the magnitude of the spectrum at later times gradually develops in the UV region and forms a nearly flat range around \( k \sim \xi^{-1} \). A similar scenario to the one shown here was observed in a single-component BEC in the work of [66].

This flattening effect is more visible at higher \( g_{12} \) as shown in Figs. 4(b) and (c). The extended core size and the formation of interlaced vortex structures are reflected in the spectrum as a plateau around \( k = \xi^{-1} \) at large times and it extends to the IR regime. Nevertheless, the spectrum still preserves the \( k^{-3} \) and \( k^{-5/3} \) laws in the UV and IR limit, respectively. Figure 3 shows that the angular momentum curve significantly fluctuates even after reaching the interlaced vortex lattice state because the randomly moving vortices rearrange their positions to form a lattice. This may be a reason for the \( k^{-5/3} \) law in the IR region, as the pairwise interactions of the vortices over the lattice scale maintain (albeit in a reduced wavenumber interval) the relevant energy cascade.

Next, we turn to the compressible energy spectrum, for which typical results for the same parameters with Fig. 4 are shown in Fig. 5. Here, the early-time stage of the spectrum exhibits, for smaller \( g_{12} \), the \( k^{-3/2} \) (only in a small area around \( k = \xi^{-1} \))- and \( k^{-7/2} \)-power law for the IR and the UV region, respectively, which is consistent with the turbulence in a single-component BEC for a clustering regime [53]. As time evolves the spectrum around the \( k \sim \xi^{-1} \) becomes flat (after \( t > 50 \)) and deviates from \( k^{-3/2} \) power-law. This behavior has also been observed in a single-component BEC for both the harmonically trapped [53], and the homogeneous [70] case. On the other hand, for higher \( g_{12} \) even at early-time the \( k^{-3/2} \) power-law that represents weak-wave tur-

Figure 4. The incompressible kinetic energy spectrum of the first component in a harmonic trap (\( \alpha = 2 \)) with a small anisotropy \( \epsilon_{g1} = 0.025 \) at different times for (a) \( g_{12} = 0.1g_{11} \), (b) \( g_{12} = 0.6g_{11} \), and (c) \( g_{12} = 0.95g_{11} \). The spectrum of the second component shows a similar trend. The black and red dashed lines serve as guide to the eye for the \( k^{-5/3} \) and \( k^{-3} \) power laws, respectively. The vertical maroon dashed lines (from left to right) represent \( k_R \), \( k_s = 2\pi/\xi_s \) and \( k_\xi \); the vertical brown solid lines (from left to right) represent \( k = \xi_s^{-1} \) and \( k = \xi^{-1} \). Here an average over 4 different initial conditions is considered.
IV. VORTEX CLUSTER FORMATION

It is well-known that the systems having a bounded energy spectrum with more than one conserved quantity ex-
hibit a negative temperature regime [76]. The existence of the negative temperature restricts the thermalization of an isolated system. A well-known example for this case is a bounded 2D fluid with a large number of point vortices as indicated by Onsager [2]. In the negative temperature regime, the like-signed vortices condense to form a giant vortex cluster. One of the main contributions in the further development of Onsager’s theory on the existence of the negative absolute temperatures and the associated vortex cluster formation is from Kraichnan [3, 4], who conjectured that clusters of like-signed vortices originate from the incompressible kinetic energy cascade of a 2D system. Hints of signatures of such clustered states of like-signed vortices were reported in Ref. [17], conducted in a 2D trapped dilute atomic gases. Although many theoretical investigations had connected this cluster formation with the negative temperature, experimental evidence showcasing the connection between the negative temperature and the vortex cluster was absent until the recent discovery of such states in the two remarkable experiments reported in [21, 22].

It has been shown that the formation of clustered vortices occurs via an evaporative heating mechanism that removes the low-energy vortex dipoles from the condensates through vortex pair annihilation [20, 72]. Here, we study the cluster formation of the two-component BECs, especially the impact of the inter-component coupling $g_{12}$. One of the main factors that affect the cluster formation is the vortex-sound coupling. An efficient way to reduce such coupling is to consider a non-circular geometric trap with a non-circular obstacle [21, 50, 77, 78]. Since it is found that a harmonic trap suppresses the cluster formation [20], we consider an elliptical steep-wall trap with $\epsilon_{xj} = 0.3$, $\epsilon_{yj} = -0.3$, and $\alpha = 50$. The vortex nucleation is caused by the non-circular shaped Gaussian obstacle, which has the form

$$V_s(x, y, t) = V_0 \exp \left[ -\frac{d_s^2(x - x_0(t))^2 + y^2}{\sigma^2} \right],$$

with $d_s = 3$ and $x_0(t) = 0.6R_{TF} \sin(2\pi t/T)$, where $R_{TF} \approx 8.34a_0$. We sweep the condensate with an obstacle of strength $V_0 = 15\mu$ for a half of the period $T$ with velocity $v = 0.4v_s$. Here we ramp down the obstacle to zero during the range from $t = T/4$ to $t = T/2$.

Of the numerous measures of this clustered states listed in the references [17, 18, 20, 72, 79–82], we use the vortex dipole moment to detect such states [72]. The dipole moment is defined as

$$d = |d| = \sum_i q_ir_i,$$

where $q_i = \pm h/m$ and $r_i$ is the position of the vortex and detected by measuring the Jacobian field [82–84]. Here, the vortex positions of the wave function $\Psi$ are mapping to density of vortices $\rho_v(r, t)$ as

$$\rho_v(r, t) = \delta(\Psi)D(r, t),$$

where the Jacobian determinant $D$ is

$$D(r, t) = \left| \begin{array}{cc} \partial_x \text{Re}\Psi & \partial_y \text{Re}\Psi \\ \partial_x \text{Im}\Psi & \partial_y \text{Im}\Psi \end{array} \right| = \text{Im}(\partial_x^*\Psi \partial_y\Psi). \quad (10)$$

The position of vortices can be determined from nonzero values of the Jacobian field, while the rotational direction can be determined from its sign. Here $+q_i$ indicates the charge of a vortex and $-q_i$ represents the charge of an anti-vortex.

![Figure 7. Vortex dynamics of a binary BEC in an elliptic steep-wall trap with $\epsilon_{xj} = 0.3$, $\epsilon_{yj} = -0.3$ and $\alpha = 50$. The snapshots of the density of the both the components at (a-e) $t = 0$, (b,f) $t = 10$, and (c,g) $t = 50$ and (d,h) $t = 500$. The red, blue, green and black lines represent the vortex cluster, anti-vortex cluster, dipoles (i.e., lines connecting the vortices in a dipole) and the dipole moment (see the definition in Eq. (8)), respectively. The corresponding phase profiles are shown in the lower two rows of panels. Here, the coupling constants are $g_{11} = 0.975g_{22}$ and $g_{12} = 0.95g_{11}$.](image)

Since we have already seen the formation of large-core vortices in the harmonic-trap resulting from the initial stirring for an anisotropic condensate in the previous section, here we investigate the turbulent dynamics for $g_{11} = 0.975g_{22}$ in an elliptical steep-wall trap. Figure 7 shows the vortex turbulent dynamics at different times for the miscible case with $g_{12} = 0.95g_{11}$. The upper panel (a–d) represents the density of the first component, while the bottom panel (e–h) represents that of the second component. The corresponding phase profiles are shown in (i–l) and (m–p), respectively. Though cluster formation is apparent in the initial stage of the dynamics through a large dipole-moment (a) $d^* \sim 0.37,$
The evolution of the dipole moment $d'$ of the first component and the angular momentum per particle for several values of $g_{12}$. In the lower panel, the solid lines represent the $l_{11}$, while the dotted lines represent $l_{12}$.

(b) $d' \sim 1.16$, (c) $d' \sim 0.63$, in the final stage it again leads to a quasi-equilibrium vortex-antidark structure with $d' = 0$ that persists throughout our simulations. Here $d' = 2d/(N_v R_0)$, where $N_v$ is the sum of vortices and anti-vortices. Due to the nearly zero angular momentum at $t = 0$, shown in Fig. 8(b), the number of vortices is also nearly zero. On the other hand, for $g_{11} = g_{22}$ we see the vortex clusters even at larger times (see Appendix F).

In Fig. 8, we show the evolution of the dipole moment $d'$ and the time dependence of the angular momentum per particle for different values of $g_{12}$. For higher values of $g_{12}$, the dipole moment goes to zero, corresponding to the quasi-equilibrium state without clusters as shown in Fig. 7. On the other hand, for the lower values of $g_{12}$ the dipole moment remains finite even at larger times. The transition to the quasi equilibrium state for higher $g_{12}$ can be further understood from the angular momentum. Though initially both components have the same angular momentum, the rate of angular momentum transfer among the components for larger $g_{12}$ is higher. Since $g_{22} > g_{11}$ the final angular momentum (vortices) prefers to remain in the $\Psi_2$-component, which is consistent with the argument of the dynamical stability of the corresponding states [68, 69]. This may lead to the long time persistence of isolated vortex-antidark structures.

The snapshots of the density of the both the first (top panel) and second components (bottom panel) at $t = 500$ shown in Fig. 9 further elucidate the transition. The disappearance of vortices at higher $g_{12}$ is a crucial factor preventing the cluster formation.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

We have investigated the two-dimensional quantum turbulence of miscible binary BECs, modeled by the GP equation. We considered both the symmetric and asymmetric setup of the system parameters where the asymmetry is introduced through the difference of the trap-frequencies or that of the intra-component interaction strength. We followed an analogous stirring mechanism to the one that has been previously used in a one-component experiment to initiate the turbulent dynamics [17, 50].

The initially generated vortices that resulted from the stirring are located at the same position in both components for the symmetric situation throughout its dynamical evolution and exhibit a similar type of energy spectra as that of a single-component condensate [16]. In the asymmetric situation deviating slightly from the isotropic regime, however, as time increases, we see the increased core size of vortices with the same unit charge and the formation of vortex-antidark solitonic lattices with the components mutually filling each other (i.e., where one has a dip associated with a vortex, the other has a bump). Before forming this lattice state the system passes through a turbulent stage in which transferring of angular momentum among the components occurs. This process occurs at the cost of inter-component energy. Interestingly, a related dynamical turbulent stage may be directly connected with the observations of the JILA ex-
periment of a binary condensate [63], where the asymmetry among the components was due to the population difference and the distinct intra-component interaction strengths [29, 41]. Furthermore, the spectra at the initial stage of turbulence dynamics feature similar power-laws as in the symmetric case. We see the signature of inverse energy cascade from the incompressible kinetic energy spectrum with $k^{-5/3}$ power-law for the small wave number regime ($k\xi < 1$) and $k^{-3}$ for the large wave number ($k\xi > 1$) regime, while a plateau arises between the two regions that is more significant, the higher the value of $g_{12}$. This particular pattern involving the two power laws and the plateau between them seems particular to our two-component setting.

The measurement of the s-wave scattering lengths for a binary condensate of $^{87}$Rb shows an asymmetry in the intra-component interaction strengths [29, 41]. Moreover, the ability of designing not only anisotropic potentials, but, in principle, arbitrary confining conditions is within reach in BEC experiments [85]. Hence, the dynamics discussed here for the asymmetric case should be directly accessible experimentally. Our results also point to the fact that the inter-component interaction strengths shift the infinite temperature line, beyond which we expect the negative temperature. Similar results are reported in [43, 44]; this is a direction worth exploring further. In yet another vein, recent work has started exploring further solitary wave structures involving more than two components [86, 87]. Appreciating the possible scenarios in such a generalized setting involving also the spin degree of freedom and associated magnetic excitations may be of interest in its own right. Additionally, in a multi-component system, there exist two phonon branches, density (in-phase) wave and spin (out-of-phase) wave (See the equation 2 in [88]). For an asymmetric set up in the limit $g_{12} \rightarrow g$, the energy of the spin-wave mode is lowered and can thus be excited much easily. Hence, it is interesting to see the contribution of the density-wave and the spin-wave components to the compressible energy. We are currently working on that and relevant results will be presented elsewhere.

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Appendix A: Vortex nucleation during the stirring procedure

Figure 10. Snapshots of the density of the first component just after the obstacle starts to move (a) and (b), and that for $t = 0$ (c) after completing the 2nd period of the stirring. The positions of vortices and anti-vortices are plotted by (red) circles and (light blue) triangles, respectively. Here, the parameter values correspond to those in Fig. 1.

Figure 10 shows the snapshots of the density of the first component during the stirring process in Sec. III, which is before our $t = 0$. The obstacle induces counterclockwise rotation centered at a radius $r_0 = 0.4R_{TF}$ beyond the critical velocities for vortex nucleation. The snapshots show that vortices are nucleated at the zero density region at the obstacle, in the form of vortex–anti-vortex pairs. Note that, as shown in Fig. 10(a) and (b), the vortices with counterclockwise circulation are emitted into the inner region of the condensate, while the anti-vortices with clockwise circulation are into the opposite outer side. This imbalance of the vortex and anti-vortex distribution is responsible for the nonzero angular momentum at $t = 0$.

Appendix B: Turbulent dynamics for $g_{11} \neq g_{22}$ or $N_1 \neq N_2$

Here, we show the turbulent dynamics and the subsequent quasi-equilibrium states for the cases of $g_{11} \neq g_{22}$ or $N_1 \neq N_2$ without the trap asymmetry ($\epsilon_{y1} = 0$). The stirring procedure is the same as before. Figure 11 shows the density of the first and second components at (a,c) $t = 0$ and (b,d) $t = 800$ for $g_{11} = 0.975g_{22}$ and $g_{12} = 0.95g_{11}$, while $N_1 = N_2$. The dynamics exhibits a behavior similar to Fig. 1 and leads to the formation of interlaced lattice state of vortices as in Fig. 11(b) and (d). We also show the turbulent dynamics when the particle number is slightly different $N_1 \neq N_2$; Fig. 12 shows the density of the first and second components at (a,c) $t = 0$ and (b,d) $t = 400$. Here, the dimensionless $g_{ij}$’s assume the values indicated in the caption. When the population difference is small, we have observed similar dynamics as in the previous case.
Appendix C: Turbulent dynamics and angular momentum evolution for the homogeneous condensates

In this Appendix we demonstrate the turbulent dynamics for the homogeneous system, where the stirring procedure is made in a way similar to the trapped system. We evolve the initial wave function \( \psi = \sqrt{\mu/(g_{11} + g_{12})} \), with \( \mu = 34.78 \) by setting \( V_f = 0 \) in Eq. (3). We implement periodic boundary condition. Since there is no low density region, as seen in the outside of the Thomas-Fermi radius in the trapped system, the vortex–anti-vortex annihilation is an only mechanism of the decay of the vortex excitation, and as a result, equal numbers of vortices and those of anti-vortices are expected in the final state.

\[ \xi_s = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{g_{22}}{\mu_1 g_{22} - \mu_2 g_{12}} + \frac{g_{12}}{\mu_2 g_{11} - \mu_1 g_{12}} \right) \]  

(C1)
However, the phase profiles show that the vortices do not survive in the long time dynamics, due to the fact that equal numbers of vortices and antivortices undergo pair annihilations. This behavior can be understood from the evolution of the angular momentum. There is a finite angular momentum at $t = 0$, caused by the introduction of the stirring potential that breaks the rotational symmetry of the system. After the long-time evolution, the angular momentum eventually goes to zero, although a small oscillation can be seen for the first component, which is caused by the survived vortex and anti-vortex seen in the phase profile of Fig. 13(d).

Figure 14. The angular momentum per particle corresponding to the Fig. 13. Here $g_{11} = 0.975g_{22}$ and $\epsilon_{xj} = \epsilon_{yj} = 0.0$.

Appendix D: Vortex turbulent dynamics for several values of $g_{12}$

Here we discuss the $g_{12}$-dependence of the turbulent dynamics. We set $g_{11} = g_{22}$ and $\epsilon_{g1} = 0.025$ and the vortices are generated by the stirring potential in the same way as before. Figure 15 shows the condensate density at $t = 2000$ for different strengths of $g_{12}$. It shows the clear interlaced lattice state of the like-signed vortices for higher $g_{12}$. With decreasing $g_{12}$, the vortex-antidark lattice situation disappears and the vortex structure resembles that in a single-component condensate. Also, the vortices feature chaotic motions which cannot be interpreted as an interlaced lattice state.

Appendix E: Numerical Calculation of Energy Spectra

To calculate the energy spectra [5, 13, 70, 89], we do the decomposition as follows. The kinetic energy term $|\nabla \Psi|^2/2$ in the Hamiltonian Eq. (1) can be written as

$$\frac{1}{2} |\nabla \Psi|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{n} |u|^2 + |\nabla \sqrt{n}|^2 \right),$$

where the Madelung transformation $\Psi = \sqrt{n} e^{i\phi}$ yields the condensate density $n = |\Psi|^2$ and the superfluid velocity $u = \nabla \phi$. We do not consider the index $j$ to represent the components. Here the first and second terms represent the density of the kinetic energy ($E_{ke}$) and the quantum pressure ($E_q$), respectively, where the energies are given by

$$E_{ke} = \frac{1}{2} \int n |u|^2 d^2 r, \quad E_q = \frac{1}{2} \int |\nabla \sqrt{n}|^2 d^2 r.$$  

The velocity vector $u$ now can be written as a sum over a solenoidal part (incompressible) $u^c$ and an irrotational (compressible) part $u^c$ as

$$u = u^c + u^c,$$

such that $\nabla \cdot u^c = 0$ and $\nabla \times u^c = 0$. We next define the scalar potential $\Phi$ and the vector potential $A$ of the velocity field which satisfy the relations

$$\sqrt{n} u^c = \nabla \times A, \quad \sqrt{n} u^c = \nabla \Phi,$$

respectively. Taking the divergence of the equation for the scalar potential we obtain

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \nabla \cdot (\sqrt{n} u^c) = \nabla \cdot (\sqrt{n} u).$$

From this Poisson equation we numerically determine the scalar potential $\Phi$ [71]. On applying the Fourier transform to the Eq. (E5) we get

$$\tilde{\Phi} = \frac{F[\nabla \cdot \sqrt{n} u]}{k_x^2 + k_y^2}.$$  

After taking the inverse Fourier transform of $\tilde{\Phi}$, we get $\sqrt{n}u^c$ from Eq. (E4). Further we can find $\sqrt{n}u^c$ from Eq. (E3).

The compressible and incompressible kinetic energies are then

$$E^{ic,c} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2 r |\sqrt{n} u^{ic,c}(r)|^2,$$
In the $k$-space, the total incompressible and compressible kinetic energy $E^{\text{ic,c}}_{\text{kin}}$ is represented by

$$E^{\text{ic,c}}_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=x,y} \int d^2 k |F_j(k)|^{\text{ic,c}}|^2, \quad (E8)$$

where $F_j(k)$ is the Fourier transform of $\sqrt{m}u_j$ of the $j$-th component of $\mathbf{u} = (u_x, u_y)$. We can modify Eq. (E8) as

$$E^{\text{ic,c}}(k) = \frac{k}{2} \sum_{j=x,y} \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\phi_k |F_j(k)|^{\text{ic,c}}|^2, \quad (E9)$$

where we consider the polar coordinates and $k = \sqrt{k_x^2 + k_y^2}$. We numerically integrate over the $k$-shell (summing over the grid points) to find $E^{\text{ic,c}}(k)$. Now to get the respective kinetic energy, we integrate $E^{\text{ic,c}}(k)$ with respect to $k$.

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