Collision-dominated nonlinear hydrodynamics in graphene

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We present an effective hydrodynamic theory of electronic transport in graphene in the interaction-dominated regime. We derive the emergent hydrodynamic description from the microscopic Boltzmann kinetic equation taking into account dissipation due to Coulomb interaction and find the viscosity of Dirac fermions in graphene for arbitrary densities. The viscous terms have a dramatic effect on transport coefficients in clean samples at high temperatures. Within linear response, we show that viscosity manifests itself in the nonlinear conductivity as well as dispersion of hydrodynamic plasmons. Beyond linear response, we apply the derived nonlinear hydrodynamics to the problem of hot-spot relaxation in graphene.

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Physics at long time and length scales can be conveniently described within the hydrodynamic approach [1]. The appeal of this approach is hinged on its ability to describe a wide range of physical systems [2,3] using the same, relatively small, set of quantities and equations governing their behavior. At the same time, the final form of the hydrodynamic equations varies from system to system [1,3], reflecting the particular symmetries and other physical features of the problem.

Traditional hydrodynamics [1] describes the system in terms of the velocity field v. The equations describing the velocity field (e.g., the Euler equation in the case of the ideal liquid or the Navier-Stokes equation if dissipation is taken into account) can be either inferred from symmetry arguments or derived from the Boltzmann kinetic equation. Both approaches require one to express the fluxes of conserved quantities (energy, momentum, etc.) in terms of v. In particular, the viscous terms appearing in the Navier-Stokes equation can be traced to a particular approximation for the momentum flux (or the stress tensor) \( \Pi_{\alpha\beta} \). The specific form of \( \Pi_{\alpha\beta} \) depends on whether one discusses a usual, Galilean-invariant or a relativistic, Lorentz-invariant system.

Low-energy excitations in graphene [4] present a most interesting case of a system that is neither Galilean nor Lorentz invariant. This poses a significant challenge in establishing the hydrodynamic description in graphene, which has to be derived from first principles [5–19]. The resulting equations should account for physical processes at time and length scales that are much longer than the scales related to the microscopic processes responsible for equilibration of the system. The issue of scale separation is especially important in the vicinity of charge neutrality in clean graphene. Without interaction, there is no “intrinsinc” energy scale other than temperature.

The interest in hydrodynamics in graphene has been underpinned by the tremendous promise for potential applications, e.g., for optoelectronics [20,21], where the hydrodynamic approach is particularly suitable for describing the low-frequency optical response [8,22]. Linearized hydrodynamic equations provide effective tools for evaluating transport coefficients in graphene and graphene-based double-layer devices [18,23–26]. At the same time, novel experimental techniques [21,27–33] bring the studies of nonlinear effects and nonlocal transport phenomena in graphene within reach, while improved fabrication methods have yielded ultraclean samples [34]. For example, graphene on hexagonal boron nitride has been shown to support astonishingly homogeneous charge densities [35].

In this paper, we derive a hydrodynamic description of electronic transport in graphene in the collision-dominated regime, where the shortest time scale in the problem is provided by electron-electron interaction. On the contrary, time scales associated with potential disorder are assumed to be the longest in the system. Consequently, disorder plays no role in our theory. Our derivation is based on the quantum kinetic equation (QKE) approach, which has been previously used to derive the macroscopic linear-response theory [18].

The transition from the microscopic, kinetic description to the macroscopic, hydrodynamic equations is simplified by the so-called “collinear scattering singularity” of the collision integral [8,11,18,24,36–38] in the QKE, i.e., the observation that kinematic properties of the Dirac quasiparticles lead to a divergence in the collision integral for scattering processes involving quasiparticles moving along the same direction. Dynamical screening regularizes the divergence [18,24,38], such that the resulting generic relaxation rates in graphene contain a large factor \( \tau_{\text{e}}^{-1} \ll |\ln \alpha_g| \gg 1 \), where \( \alpha_g = \varepsilon^2/\epsilon v_g \) is the effective coupling constant (here, \( \epsilon \) is the effective dielectric constant of the substrate and \( v_g \) is the “speed of light” in graphene). Depending on the substrate, the coupling constant may be small [26,39,40], \( \alpha_g < 1 \). There are, however, three macroscopic currents [9,18] that are not relaxed at times of order \( \tau_{\text{e}} \): (i) the energy current \( j_E \); (ii) the electric current \( j_I \); and (iii) the so-called imbalance current [10] \( j_I \).

The energy current \( j_E \) in graphene is equivalent to the total momentum of electrons and thus cannot be relaxed by electron-electron interaction. The electric current in graphene is determined by the velocity rather than the momentum.
and therefore is not a conserved quantity. However, it is conserved in the collinear scattering processes and hence the corresponding relaxation rate does not contain the logarithmic enhancement. Finally, the imbalance current $j_I$ is proportional to the sign of the quasiparticle energy and to the velocity. Similarly to the electric current, it does not experience logarithmically enhanced relaxation. The imbalance current is related to the quasiparticle number or imbalance density $[10] n_I = n_{+} - n_{-}$, where $n_{+}$ and $n_{-}$ are the particle numbers in the upper (conduction) and lower (valence) bands. Neglecting the Auger processes, quasiparticle recombination due to, e.g., electron-phonon interaction, and three-particle collisions due to weak coupling, one finds that $n_{+}$ and $n_{-}$ are conserved independently. In this case, which will be considered in the rest of the paper, not only the total charge density $n = n_{+} - n_{-}$, but also the quasiparticle density $n_I$ is conserved.

At times longer than $\tau_{ee}$, physical observables can be described within the macroscopic (or hydrodynamic) approach. The existence of the three slow-relaxing modes in graphene implies a peculiar two-step thermalization.

Short-time electron-electron scattering (at time scales up to $\tau_J$) establishes the so-called “unidirectional thermalization” $[24]$; the collinear scattering singularity implies that the electron-electron interaction is more effective along the same direction. Within linear response $[18]$, one can express the nonequilibrium distribution function in terms of the three microscopic currents $j, j_{\parallel}$, and $j_{\perp}$. The currents can then be found from the macroscopic equations. The currents $j$ and $j_{\parallel}$ are not conserved and can be relaxed by the electron-electron interaction. Close to charge neutrality, the corresponding relaxation rates can be estimated as $[6,40] \tau_{ee}^{-1} \sim a_e^2 T \ll \tau_f^{-1}$. These rates enter the macroscopic equations as frictionlike terms. The macroscopic linear-response theory has the same form on time scales shorter or longer than $\tau_{ee}$.

Beyond linear response, the scattering processes characterized by the time scale $\tau_{ee}$ play an important role in thermalizing quasiparticles moving in different directions and thus lead to establishing the local equilibrium. This is the starting point for derivation of the nonlinear hydrodynamics, which is valid at time scales much longer than $\tau_{ee}$. In view of conservation of the particle number, energy, and momentum, as well as independent conservation of the number of particles in the two bands in graphene, we may write the local equilibrium distribution function as $[12,14]$

$$f_{\lambda,k}(r) = \left(1 + \exp[\beta(w)(\epsilon_{\lambda,k} - \mu_{\lambda}(r) - u(r) \cdot \mathbf{k})]\right)^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

where $\epsilon_{\lambda,k} = \hbar v_F k$ denotes the energies of the electronic states with the momentum $\mathbf{k}$ in the band $\lambda = \pm$, $\mu_{\lambda}(r)$ the local chemical potential, the local temperature is encoded in $\beta(r) = 1/T(r)$, and $u(r)$ is the hydrodynamic velocity field which we define in the following (this field should not be confused with quasiparticle velocities $v$). The distribution function (1) follows from the standard argument similar to the Boltzmann’s H-theorem $[2]$: the equilibrium state is characterized by time-independent entropy. The particular form (1) takes into account the symmetry properties of the two-body electron-electron interaction and is valid for arbitrary single-particle spectrum. The latter means that Eq. (1) relies on neither Galilean nor Lorentz invariance.

Expanding the local equilibrium distribution function (1) up to the leading order in deviations from the uniform, equilibrium Fermi distribution, we recover the distribution function used in the linear-response theory $[18]$. As we have already mentioned, this linearized distribution has the same form also on time scales shorter than $\tau_{ee}$. This is a property of the linear approximation. Should we attempt to find the subleading nonlinear terms in the distribution function for $t < \tau_{ee}$, the result would not correspond to the Taylor expansion of Eq. (1).

Assuming the local equilibrium (1) for times $t \gg \tau_{ee}$, we derive the nonlinear hydrodynamics in graphene similarly to the standard Chapman-Enskog procedure $[2,41–43]$. The important feature of our theory is the larger than usual number of hydrodynamic modes (densities of conserved quantities): total charge, energy, and quasiparticle imbalance densities and the energy current. The independence of these modes can be traced to the specific feature of the quasiparticle spectrum in graphene: the inequivalence of velocity and momentum.

Having derived the hydrodynamic equations, we turn to consider a representative example of nonlinear physics in graphene, the relaxation of a hot spot. By this we mean a particular nonequilibrium state of the system that is characterized by a locally elevated energy density. Such a state can be prepared with the help of a local probe or focused laser radiation. Evolving the system according to the hydrodynamic theory, we find a rather surprising result. Although as expected $[28,29]$, the hot spot emits plasmonic waves that carry energy away, a nonzero excess energy density remains at the hot spot. Physically, this effect appears due to compensation between the pressure and the self-consistent electric (Vlasov) field, which leads to a quasiequilibrium. Taking into account the dissipation leads to the decay of the quasiequilibrium energy density at the hot spot. This decay, however, is characterized by a longer time scale compared to the initial emission of the plasmonic waves. At the same time, viscous effects lead to damping of the plasmonic waves themselves.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Sec. I, we develop the nonlinear hydrodynamic theory including dissipative terms starting from the QKE. In Sec. II, we briefly discuss linear response in graphene. Finally, Sec. III is devoted to nonlinear hydrodynamics in graphene. Here, we present results on the relaxation dynamics of a hot spot obtained by a numerical integration of the hydrodynamic equations. Technical details, e.g., the calculation of scattering rates for the dissipative terms, are relegated to Appendices.

I. HYDRODYNAMIC THEORY IN GRAPHENE

In this section, we develop a hydrodynamic theory of transport in graphene in the collision-dominated regime. We begin with a short overview of the microscopic mechanisms responsible for establishing the hydrodynamic regime. The resulting hydrodynamic equations are summarized in Sec. 1D.

A. From the microscopic theory to hydrodynamics

1. Microscopic description

Microscopically, the electronic system is governed by the Boltzmann kinetic equation

$$\hat{L}f = S_{ee} [f] - \tau_{ee}^{-1} (f - f_{eq}), \quad (2)$$
with the standard Liouvillian form in the left-hand side,
\[ \mathcal{L} = \partial_t + v \cdot \nabla_r + [eE + e(v \times B)] \cdot \nabla_k, \] (3)
and the collision integral in the right-hand side. Scattering off potential disorder is described within the usual \( \tau \approx \tau_{\text{dis}} \) approximation with \( \tau_{\text{dis}} \) being the disorder mean-free time. Electron-electron interaction is described by the collision integral \( S_{ee}[f] \).

In graphene, the electronic states can be labeled by the momentum \( \mathbf{k} \) and the band index \( \lambda = \pm \). These states are characterized by the energies \( \epsilon_{\lambda k} = \lambda v_g k \) and velocities \( v = \lambda v_g k / k \), where \( v_g \sim 10^6 \text{ m/s} \). Hereafter, we will work with the units where \( v_g = 1 \). Consequently, the distribution function can be denoted as \( f = f_{\lambda k}(\mathbf{r}) \). The angular average in the disorder part of the collision integral is defined as the average over the direction of \( \mathbf{k} \):
\[ \langle f \rangle_\mathbf{k} = \int f = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{d \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{f}_{\lambda k}}{2\pi}. \] (4)

In the interaction-dominated regime, the scattering time due to electron-electron interaction is much smaller than the disorder scattering time \( \tau_{ee} \gg \tau_{\text{dis}} \).

The same condition was previously used in the derivation of the linear-response theory in graphene. Within linear response, the role of disorder is to establish the steady state. Similarly, in this paper we keep in mind that infrared divergencies should be cut by disorder. However, for physical this task. Similarly, in this paper we keep in mind that infrared divergencies should be cut by disorder. However, for physical

The nonequilibrium corrections to the distribution function should leave the conserved quantities unchanged [2]. As a result, the coefficient \( h_0^{(j)} = 0 \) (which could be understood as a shift of the velocity \( u \)), while the tensors \( g^{(k)} \) have to be traceless [otherwise the three terms in Eq. (5c) would shift the particle-number density \( n \), imbalance density \( n_I \), and energy density \( n_E \), respectively].

The coefficients \( h_0^{(j)} \) and \( g^{(j)} \) are determined from the QKE [6,44], which becomes a matrix equation in the restricted subspace of modes \( \phi_j \). In what follows, we will use a shorthand notation
\[ S_{ee}[f] \approx -\mathcal{C} \delta f, \] (6)
where the matrix \( \mathcal{C} \) corresponds to the linearized collision integral. The technicalities of inverting the matrix \( \mathcal{C} \) are discussed in Appendix A, where we also relate the matrix collision integral to the diagrammatic calculation of conductivity and viscosity based on the Kubo formula.

Finally, macroscopic equations describing electronic transport in graphene are obtained by integrating the kinetic equation with the distribution function (5). In the hydrodynamic regime, i.e., at time scales much longer than \( \tau_{ee} \), the natural macroscopic variables are the modes that are not relaxed by electron-electron interaction. All nonconserved quantities should be expressed in terms of such “hydrodynamic” modes. In graphene, these include the densities \( n, n_I, \) and \( n_E \), and the energy current \( J_E \). The electric and imbalance currents can then be found using the equations of state. The emerging hydrodynamics is valid as long as the macroscopic quantities vary slowly on the scale \( l_{\text{hydro}} \) set by interactions.

2. Macroscopic quantities

Most two-body electron-electron collisions in graphene leave the particle number in each band unchanged. This is the consequence of the linear dispersion relation. The only exception is given by the so-called Auger processes, where the direction of the momentum of all initial and final states in each scattering event is the same (i.e., all four states belong to the same straight line on the dispersion cone). In the absence of disorder, the probability of Auger processes vanishes within the random phase approximation. Even if impurity-assisted processes are taken into account, the recombination rate due to Auger processes remains small. Other processes that may contribute to quasiparticle recombination include electron-phonon interaction (by means of either two-phonon or impurity-assisted scattering) and three-particle collisions. All these processes introduce parametrically small relaxation rates [10] (close to charge neutrality, at least of order \( \alpha_g^2 T \)).
Here, we will neglect recombination and assume the densities \( n_\pm \) to be conserved independently.

The particle and energy densities \( n_\pm \) and \( n_E \) can be calculated with the help of the distribution function in a standard way
\[
n_+ = \int_k f_+, k, \tag{7a}
\]
\[
n_- = \int_k (1 - f_-, k), \tag{7b}
\]
\[
n_E = \int_{\lambda, k} \varepsilon_{\lambda, k} f_{\lambda, k} - n_{E0}. \tag{7c}
\]

Here, we introduced the shorthand notation
\[
\int_k \equiv N \int d^2k / (2\pi)^2 \cdots, \quad \int_{\lambda, k} \equiv \sum_{\lambda = \pm} \int_k, \tag{8}
\]
where \( N = 4 \) accounts for the spin and valley degeneracy in graphene. In Eq. (7c), we measure the energy density \( n_E \) with respect to \( n_{E0} \),
\[
n_{E0} = \int_k \varepsilon_{-, k} \rightarrow \int_{k < \Delta} \varepsilon_{-, k}, \tag{8}
\]
which is the total energy density at charge neutrality and zero temperature. The ultraviolet cutoff \( \Delta \) must be formally included [also in Eq. (7c)]. However, it drops out of the physical results.

The densities of the conduction and valence bands [Eqs. (7a) and (7b)] can be combined into the total charge and imbalance densities
\[
n = n_+ - n_-, \tag{9a}
\]
\[
n_I = n_+ + n_. \tag{9b}
\]

The macroscopic currents are defined
\[
j_+ = \int_k v_+, k f_+, k, \tag{10a}
\]
\[
j_- = \int_k v_-, k f_-, k, \tag{10b}
\]
\[
j_E = \int_{\lambda, k} \varepsilon_{\lambda, k} v_{\lambda, k} f_{\lambda, k}. \tag{10c}
\]
The electron and hole currents [Eqs. (10a) and (10b)] can be combined into the electric and imbalance (or quasiparticle) currents
\[
j = j_+ - j_-, \tag{10d}
\]
\[
j_I = j_+ + j_. \tag{10e}
\]
In graphene, the energy current \( j_E \) is equivalent to the momentum and is conserved, while the electric and imbalance currents can be damped by electron-electron interaction.

### B. Generalized Euler equation

In this section, we derive the macroscopic theory of electron transport in graphene in the absence of dissipation. The resulting hydrodynamic equations represent a generalization of the Euler equation of an ideal liquid to Dirac fermions in graphene.

#### 1. Continuity equations in graphene

The hydrodynamic equations for the densities and currents can be obtained by averaging the QKE (2) with respect to the modes (5d). This yields the continuity equations for the hydrodynamic densities
\[
\partial_t n_\pm + \nabla \cdot j_\pm = 0, \tag{11a}
\]
\[
\partial_t n_I + \nabla \cdot j_I = 0, \tag{11b}
\]
\[
\partial_t n_E + \nabla \cdot j_E = eE \cdot j, \tag{11c}
\]
as well as the equation for the energy current
\[
\partial_t j_{E, \alpha} + \nabla \cdot \Pi_{E, \alpha} = -e(n_E - en_\mu \times B)_{\alpha} = -j_{E, \alpha} / \tau_{\text{dis}}. \tag{12}
\]
Using the local distribution function \( 1 \), we can express the energy current in terms of the hydrodynamic velocity:
\[
j_E = \frac{3n_E u}{2 + u^2}. \tag{13}
\]
Equation (12) includes the momentum flux or stress tensor
\[
\Pi_{E, \alpha} = \int_{k, \lambda} \varepsilon_{\lambda, k} v_\alpha v_\beta f_{\lambda, k}. \tag{14}
\]
In the absence of magnetic field, we use the distribution functions \( 1 \) and \( 5 \) to express \( \Pi_{E, \alpha} \) in terms of \( u \):
\[
\Pi_{E, \alpha} = \frac{n_E}{2 + u^2} \left[ \delta_{\alpha\beta}(1 - u^2) + 3u_\alpha u_\beta \right] + \delta \Pi_{E, \alpha}. \tag{15}
\]
Here, the last term \( \delta \Pi_{E, \alpha} \) describes the dissipative effects that are considered in the next section. The first term is the generalization of the usual stress tensor of an ideal liquid \( 1 \) to the case of Dirac fermions in graphene. The unusual form of Eq. (15) reflects the absence of Galilean as well as Lorentz invariance in the system.

The electric and imbalance currents can be similarly related to the hydrodynamic velocity
\[
\tilde{j} = nu + \delta \tilde{j}, \tag{16a}
\]
\[
\tilde{j}_I = n_I u + \delta \tilde{j}_I. \tag{16b}
\]

Here again we have introduced the dissipative corrections \( \delta \tilde{j}, \delta \tilde{j}_I \). Neglecting these terms along with \( \delta \Pi_{E, \alpha} \), the equations presented in this section describe the flow of the ideal electronic liquid. Since we are describing charged particles, the electric field should include the self-consistent electric (Vlasov) field
\[
E_V(r) = -\nabla_r \tilde{n}(r) = -\nabla_r \int d^2r' V(r - r') \delta n(r'). \tag{17}
\]
Here, \( \tilde{n}(r) = n(r) - n_0 \) is the local charge fluctuation, \( n_0 \) is the background charge density, and \( V(r) = e^2 / r \) is the three-dimensional (3D) Coulomb potential.

#### 2. Hydrodynamics of ideal electron liquid

In the traditional hydrodynamics \( 1 \), the ideal fluid is described by the Euler equation. The Euler equation is nothing but the continuity equation for the momentum density, where

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the stress tensor is expressed in terms of the velocity field. The latter is typically done on the basis of Galilean invariance.

Similar equation can be formulated for the electron liquid in graphene. The momentum density is equivalent to the latter is typically done on the basis of Galilean invariance.

Substituting Eqs. (13) and (15) into Eq. (12) yields the Euler equation

\[ \partial_t \frac{3n_E u_\alpha}{2 + u^2} + \nabla u \frac{n_E (1 - u^2)}{2 + u^2} + \nabla \beta \frac{3n_E u_\alpha u_\beta}{2 + u^2} = e n E_a. \]  

(18)

This equation is complemented by the continuity equations (11) and the self-consistency condition (17). This set of equations generalizes the hydrodynamics of an ideal liquid to Dirac fermions in graphene in the absence of dissipation.

C. Dissipative corrections

In this section, we extend in the hydrodynamic theory of Dirac fermions in graphene by taking into account dissipative effects. We use the explicit form of the nonequilibrium distribution function (5) to evaluate the dissipative corrections \( \delta j, \delta f, \) and \( \delta T_{\alpha\beta} \). Comparing our results with the canonical form of the viscous terms in the stress tensor, we find the expression for the viscosity coefficients in graphene. We calculate the dissipative corrections to leading order in the gradient expansion. The parameter controlling the expansion is similar to the Knudsen number \( \text{Kn} = \text{hydro}/\lambda_v \), where \( \lambda_v \) is the characteristic length scale of hydrodynamic fluctuations.

1. Dissipative corrections to the currents

Macroscopic equations that describe the electric and imbalance current densities \( j \) and \( f \) can be obtained by integrating the kinetic equation similarly to the derivation of Eq. (12). However, as \( j \) and \( j \) are not conserved, the resulting equations contain nonvanishing contributions of the collision integral. These contributions can be written in the form

\[ (\nu, \mathcal{L} f) = -(\nu, C \delta f^{(1)}), \]

(19a)

\[ (\lambda, \nu, \mathcal{L} f) = - (\lambda, \nu, C \delta f^{(1)}), \]

(19b)

where we have used a shorthand notation

\[ (g, f) = \int_{\lambda, k} g_{\lambda k} f_{\lambda k}. \]

(19c)

Using the distribution function (5b) we can now construct the explicit relation between the dissipative corrections to currents and the coefficients \( h_{\alpha}^{(i)} \):

\[ \begin{pmatrix} \delta j_\alpha \\ \delta j_{1, \alpha} \\ \delta j_{T, \alpha}/T \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{M} \begin{pmatrix} h_{\alpha}^{(1)} \\ h_{\alpha}^{(2)} \\ h_{\alpha}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}, \]

(20a)

where the matrix \( \mathcal{M} \) is given by

\[ \mathcal{M} = \frac{1}{2T} \begin{pmatrix} C_1 & C_\lambda & C/_{T} \\ C_\lambda & C_1 & C_{|1|}/T \\ C/_{T} & C_{|1|}/T & C_{|2|}/T^2 \end{pmatrix}, \]

(20b)

with the matrix elements

\[ C_X = NT \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\nu \nu X \left( - \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \nu} \right). \]

(20c)

The coefficients \( C_{|1|}/T, C_{|1|}/T, \) and \( C_{|2|}/T^2 \) are proportional to the macroscopic densities

\[ C_{|1|}/T = 2n, \quad C_{|1|}/T = 2n_1, \quad C_{|2|}/T^2 = 3n_E/T. \]

(20d)

In Eq. (20c), \( T \) is the equilibrium background temperature.

The relation (20a) allows us to write the macroscopic equations for the electric and imbalance currents in the matrix form

\[ \partial_t \begin{pmatrix} j \\ j_1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \nabla n - eE \partial_{\mu} n \\ \nabla n_1 - eE \partial_{\mu} n_1 \end{pmatrix} = -C_j \begin{pmatrix} \delta j \\ \delta j_1 \end{pmatrix}. \]

(21)

The matrix \( C_j \) plays the role of the collision integral in the reduced three-mode space. Its inverse is given by

\[ C_j^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \tau_1 & \tau_2 \\ \tau_3 & \tau_4 \end{pmatrix}. \]

(22)

The transport scattering times \( \tau_j \) are obtained from the matrix elements \( (\phi, C\phi) \) of the linearized collision integral \( C \), where \( \phi \) and \( \phi' \) are the modes defined in Eq. (5d). The off-diagonal times \( \tau_{2,3} \) change their sign for \( n \to -n \). In the nondegenerate regime \( \mu \ll T \) the times \( \tau_j \) are determined by temperature and electron-electron interaction \( \tau_j = f_j (\mu/T)/(\alpha^2 T) \), where \( f_j (\mu/T) \) is a smooth, dimensionless function. Close to the Dirac point,

\[ \tau_2 = \tau_3 = 0, \quad \tau_4 = \frac{\pi}{2T^2 \ln 2} (\lambda \nu_0 C \lambda \nu_0) \approx 0.05 \alpha^2 T. \]

(23a)

Far away from the Dirac point, \( \mu \gg T \), the system behaves similarly to the usual Fermi liquid, where the transport mean-free time due to electron-electron interaction vanishes (physically, because of the Galilean invariance). Technically, all macroscopic currents become equivalent and in particular are characterized by the same transport relaxation rate which is much smaller than the usual rate \( \tau_{ee} \sim T/\mu \) determining both the quasiparticle lifetime and thermalization. Further details of the calculation are relegated to Appendix A I.

Solving Eq. (21) for the electric currents to leading order in the gradient expansion (i.e., in the Knudsen number \( \text{Kn} \)), we obtain the dissipative corrections in Eqs. (16a) and (16b):

\[ \begin{pmatrix} \delta j \\ \delta j_1 \end{pmatrix} = C_j^{-1} \nu_j, \]

(24)

where the vector \( \nu_j \) is given by

\[ \nu_j = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \nabla n_E - \frac{1}{2} \nabla n - \left( \frac{2\alpha^2}{\alpha^2 - \epsilon} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} n \right) E. \]

(25)
Here, we have neglected the frequency dependence formally present in Eq. (21). While perfectly valid in the vicinity of the Dirac point [where the hydrodynamic description is valid at time scales much longer than the relaxation times due to electron-electron interaction that form the matrix (22)], this approximation should be abandoned in the degenerate regime. For \( \mu \gg T \), the transport relaxation rates are suppressed (see above) and the matrix (22) becomes nearly degenerate. In that case the validity of the hydrodynamic regime is determined by \( \tau_{\text{ ee}}^{-1} \sim T^2/\mu \) and hence the frequency dependence in Eq. (24) should be retained.

Individual terms in Eq. (25) allow for a simple physical interpretation. The first term in each row describes the thermoelectric effect; the second term describes diffusion of electrons and quasiparticles; the last term leads to the finite conductivity of graphene due to electron interactions [36]. The latter comprises a Drude-type term, which becomes more apparent if we identify the mass density \( \rho \sim 3n_E/2n \) [see Eq. (41) and the text following] and a second term that gives rise to the finite conductivity at the Dirac point for vanishing charge density \( n \).

2. Dissipative corrections to the energy stress tensor

The macroscopic currents (10) are defined as the first-order moments of the distribution function with respect to the three modes (5d). The second-order moments yield the “generalized stress tensors”

\[
\Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} = \int_{l,k} \left[ \phi_I v_{\alpha} v_{\beta} f_{l,k} \right].
\]

Here, the term with \( l = 3 \) is (up to the factor of \( T \) ) the usual stress tensor (14). We also define the corresponding dissipative corrections

\[
\delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} = \int_{l,k} \left[ \phi_I v_{\alpha} v_{\beta} \delta f_{l,k} \right] = \begin{cases} \delta \Pi, & l = 1 \\ T^{-1} \delta \Pi^E, & l = 2 \\ T^{-1} \delta \Pi^E, & l = 3 \\ \end{cases}
\]

where the latter has been already defined in Eq. (15).

The dissipative corrections (27) can be found by integrating the kinetic equation similarly to what was done for the currents above. This way we find the relation

\[
\begin{pmatrix} T \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^E \\ \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^E \\ \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M} \begin{pmatrix} g_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \\ g_{\alpha\beta}^{(2)} \\ g_{\alpha\beta}^{(3)} \end{pmatrix}
\]

between \( \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \) and the coefficients \( g_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \) from Eq. (5c). The matrix \( \mathcal{M} \) is defined in Eq. (20b). Now, we can express the right-hand side of the integrated kinetic equation in terms of the \( \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \). The resulting matrix equation reads as [cf. Eqs. (19) and (21)]

\[
(\phi_I v_{\alpha} v_{\beta}, \mathcal{L} f) = - (\phi_I v_{\alpha} v_{\beta}, \mathcal{L} f^{(2)}) = - C_{\pi,ln} \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(n)}.
\]

Inverting the matrix collision integral \( C_{\pi} \), we solve the above equation and find the dissipative corrections (27) similarly to Eq. (24):

\[
\begin{pmatrix} \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta} \\ \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^E \\ T^{-1} \delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^{(l)} \end{pmatrix} = C_{\pi}^{-1} v_{\pi,\alpha\beta},
\]

where to leading order in the gradient expansion

\[
v_{\pi,\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \nabla \cdot (n u) - \nabla u \cdot (n u) - \nabla u \cdot (n u) - \nabla u \cdot (n u) \end{pmatrix} \]

\[
\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M} [\delta_{\alpha\beta} \nabla \cdot (n_E u) - \nabla u \cdot (n_E u) - \nabla u \cdot (n_E u)].
\]

The matrix collision integral \( C_{\pi} \) is discussed in detail in Appendix A2. Hereafter, we restrict our discussion to the nondegenerate regime \( \mu \ll T \). Close to the Dirac point we find

\[
C_{\pi} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} C_{\pi,11} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C_{\pi,22} & C_{\pi,23} \\ 0 & C_{\pi,32} & C_{\pi,33} \end{pmatrix},
\]

with the matrix elements given by

\[
C_{\pi,ij} = \frac{1}{T} (\phi_I I_{\alpha\beta}, \mathcal{C} \phi_k I_{\alpha\beta})(\mathcal{M}^{-1})_{kj}.
\]

The traceless tensor \( I_{\alpha\beta} \) is defined as

\[
I_{\alpha\beta} = v_{\alpha} v_{\beta} - \delta_{\alpha\beta}/2.
\]

Close to charge neutrality (see Appendix A2 for details), all matrix elements in Eq. (31b) are of the same order

\[
\frac{1}{T^2} (\phi_I I_{\alpha\beta}, \mathcal{C} \mathcal{L} I_{\alpha\beta}) \sim \lambda (\mathcal{L} I_{\alpha\beta}, \mathcal{C} \mathcal{L} I_{\alpha\beta}) \sim \alpha^2_i T^3.
\]

The dissipative correction to the stress tensor (15) is given by the third component of Eq. (30a). To leading order in the fluctuations of the densities, i.e., for \( \delta n_E / n_E \ll 1 \) as well as \( T \delta n_I / n_E \ll 1 \) and \( T \delta n_I / n_E \ll 1 \), the correction \( \delta \Pi^E \) takes the canonical form [1]

\[
\delta \Pi_{\alpha\beta}^E = - \eta [\nabla u \cdot \mu - \nabla \mu \cdot u - \delta_{\alpha\beta} \nabla \cdot u],
\]

with the viscosity coefficient

\[
\eta = \frac{T}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} C_{\pi}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} n & n_I & 3n_E/2T \end{pmatrix}
\]

[see Eqs. (30)]. Close to the Dirac point, this yields

\[
\eta = T (\tau_{\pi,1} n + \tau_{\pi,2} n_I)/4 + 3 \tau_{\pi,3} n_E/8.
\]

At the Dirac point, the first term in Eq. (35) drops out and we are left with two contributions to the viscosity \( \eta \). The times \( \tau_{\pi,1}, \tau_{\pi,2}, \) and \( \tau_{\pi,3} \) are obtained from inverting the collision integral (31) where the charge density is decoupled from the imbalance and energy densities:

\[
\tau_{\pi,1} = 0,
\]

\[
\tau_{\pi,2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C_{\pi,22}}{\delta n_E / n_E},
\]

\[
\tau_{\pi,3} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{C_{\pi,33}}{\delta n_I / n_I}.
\]
The energy density and the hydrodynamic velocity enter the expression for the hydrodynamic pressure in terms of the nonlinear:

$$P = \frac{1 - u^2}{2 + u^2} n E. \quad (38a)$$

For small velocities, the pressure assumes the standard value for a scale-invariant gas $P_0 = n E/2$, however, for large velocities approaching unity $u \lesssim 1$ it vanishes as $\sim (1 - u^2)$. The enthalpy of the system $W = n E + P$ is then given by

$$W = \frac{2w}{2 + u^2}, \quad w = n E + P_0 = 3n E/2, \quad (38b)$$

with the latter being the linear enthalpy of graphene.

The continuity equations (11) are now modified by the dissipative terms (25):

$$\partial_t n + \nabla \cdot (n u) = -\nabla \cdot \delta j, \quad (39a)$$
$$\partial_t n I + \nabla \cdot (n I u) = -\nabla \cdot \delta j I, \quad (39b)$$
$$\partial_t n E + \nabla \cdot (W u) = e n E \cdot u. \quad (39c)$$

Finally, adding the dissipative part of the stress tensor (33) to the Euler equation (18), we obtain a generalization of the Navier-Stokes equation to Dirac fermions in graphene. Using the equations of state (38), we can bring the resulting equation to the canonical form (cf. Ref. [11])

$$W \partial_t u + W(u \cdot \nabla)u + \nabla P + u \partial_t P + u(\delta j \cdot E) = en[E - u(u \cdot E)] + \eta \nabla^2 u. \quad (40)$$

The term $u \partial_t P$ in the left-hand side of Eq. (40) is reflection of nearly relativistic nature of charge carriers in graphene. In the limit $u \to 1$, the electric field on the right-hand side of Eq. (40) does not affect the absolute value of the velocity which is limited by $v_F$.

The complete system of the hydrodynamic equations in graphene includes Eqs. (38)–(40), as well as the equations defining the nonequilibrium corrections to the electric and imbalance currents (24).

II. LINEAR RESPONSE

A. Nonlocal optical conductivity

Evaluation of the linear-response transport coefficients within the hydrodynamic theory is straightforward. Linearizing the Navier-Stokes equation, we recover the linear-response theory derived in Ref. [18] with the important addition of time- and momentum-dependent contributions. Solving these equations for $\mu \lesssim T$, we find the expression for the momentum-dependent optical conductivity in graphene up to the subleading order in $g^2/\omega$ [and for $1/(\omega \tau_{\text{diss}}) \to 0$]:

$$\sigma(\omega, q) = \sigma_0 + \frac{2e^2 n^2}{3n E \omega} \left[ 1 + \frac{iq^2}{\omega^2} \left( \frac{2}{3} - \frac{2n E}{3n E} \right) \right]$$
$$+ \frac{iq^2}{\omega} \left[ \frac{t_1 + t_2 t_3}{2} \left( \frac{2e^2 n^2}{3n E} + e^2 \partial_\mu n \right) \right.$$
$$+ \frac{t_2 (t_1 + t_3)}{2} \left( \frac{2e^2 n n_1}{3n E} + e^2 \partial_\mu n_1 \right) \right]. \quad (41)$$

Here, $\sigma_0$ is the electron-electron contribution to the dc conductivity in graphene [18,36]

$$\sigma_0 = e^3 \left[ t_1 \left( \frac{\partial_\mu n}{2} + \frac{2n^2}{3n E} \right) + t_2 \left( \frac{\partial_\mu n_1}{2} + \frac{2n n_1}{3n E} \right) \right]. \quad (42a)$$

In the above results, $n$, $n_1$, and $n E$ are the equilibrium background densities; the scattering times $t_i$ follow from Eq. (22) (see also Appendix A 2). At the Dirac point [50], the electronic compressibility in graphene is $\partial_\mu n = 4 n T \ln 2/\pi$, and hence [5,7]

$$\sigma_0 = Ae^2/\alpha_0^2, \quad (42b)$$

where we find $A = 0.19$ (previously, the value $A = 0.12$ was reported by Ref. [36], where both the Hartree and Fock contributions were taken into account).

At $q = 0$, the conductivity (41) can be interpreted in terms of the usual Drude formula, where the role of the effective mass density is played by the ratio $3n E/(2n)$. The result (41) suggests a possibility to measure the viscosity coefficient in graphene in nonlocal transport measurements [30,31]. However, precisely at the Dirac point ($n = 0$), the optical conductivity is independent of viscosity. Physically, viscosity is associated with the momentum density, i.e., the energy current. At the Dirac point, the energy and electric currents...
decouple [18] and hence the conductivity is unaffected by viscous effects.

Finally, let us remark on the apparent contradiction between Eq. (41) and the corresponding result of Ref. [8], where it was found that the expansion of the optical conductivity in \( q/\omega \) contains linear terms missing in Eq. (41). The reason for this disagreement is that we have calculated the response to the total electromagnetic field, while the result of Ref. [8] represents the response to the external field. In the latter case, one has to take into account screening which leads to the linear in \( q \) terms in nonlocal conductivity.

**B. Hydrodynamic energy waves and plasmons**

In a formally infinite system, the hydrodynamic theory (38)–(40) admits solutions in the form of collective energy waves with the dispersion relation (which we obtain as an expansion in \( q/\omega < 1 \) for \( \mu \lesssim T \) [50])

\[
\omega(q) = -\frac{i}{2\tau_{\text{dis}}} + i\pi q \frac{\alpha_g \alpha_0}{e^2} - iq^2 \left( \frac{\eta}{n_E} + \frac{\tau_1 + \tau_4}{4} \right) + \left[ \frac{q^2}{2} + \frac{4 \alpha_g n^2}{3n_E q} \right] - q^4 \left( \frac{\eta}{3n_E} - \frac{\alpha_0 \alpha_g}{2e^2 q} + \frac{\tau_1 + \tau_4}{4} + \frac{1}{2\tau_{\text{dis}} q^2} \right)^2.
\]

(43)

These solutions can be interpreted as the hydrodynamic zero modes corresponding to poles in the response functions (see Appendix B). Here, we have also taken into account weak disorder scattering plays a similar role [see Eq. (43)].

For pure systems in the absence of dissipation, the dispersion relation (43) greatly simplifies. At charge neutrality \((n = 0)\), the leading term is linear in \( q \),

\[
\omega(n = 0, \tau_{\text{dis}} \to \infty, \eta \to 0) \approx v_F q/\sqrt{2}.
\]

(44)

This acoustic energy wave [15] is analogous to the long-wavelength oscillations in interacting systems of relativistic particles [1], sometimes called “cosmic sound.” Such oscillations play an important role in astrophysics [51,52].

Away from charge neutrality, the collective modes of a pure system exhibit the square-root spectrum typical for two-dimensional (2D) plasmons:

\[
\omega(\tau_{\text{dis}} \to \infty, \eta \to 0) \approx n \left[ \frac{2\alpha_g q}{3n_E} \right].
\]

(45)

Let us stress that this mode is not the usual random phase approximation (RPA) plasmon. The crucial point is that the hydrodynamic description developed in this paper is valid at length scales much longer than the scale \( l_{\text{hydro}} \) associated with electron-electron interaction, i.e., for very small momenta \( q \ll l_{\text{hydro}}^{-1} \). In contrast, the usual RPA plasmons [23,37] are discussed for momenta that are large compared to the characteristic scales of both disorder and interaction.

In regular 2D electron systems, electric current is relaxed by disorder and, as a result, the plasmon waves are damped at the lowest momenta. The plasmon dispersion is given by [53]

\[
\omega \left( \omega + \frac{i}{\tau_{\text{dis}}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \kappa q v_F^2,
\]

such that for momenta smaller than the inverse Thomas-Fermi screening radius

\[
\omega(q \ll \kappa) = -\frac{i}{2\tau_{\text{dis}}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \kappa q v_F^2 - \frac{1}{4\tau_{\text{dis}}}}.
\]

(46)

As a result, for momenta much smaller than the inverse mean-free path, the plasmon dispersion is purely imaginary, as expected for diffusive systems. For energy waves in graphene disorder scattering plays a similar role [see Eq. (43)]

Moreover, in graphene the electric current is relaxed also by electron-electron interactions [6,18,24,36,37,54,55]. As a result, the plasmon modes are damped [55] similarly to Eq. (46) even in the absence of disorder:

\[
\omega = -\frac{i}{2\tau_{ee}} + \sqrt{\omega_p^2 - \frac{1}{4\tau_{ee}^2}},
\]

where \( \omega_p^2 = \kappa q/2 \) for \( q \ll \kappa \) with the inverse Thomas-Fermi screening radius being \( \kappa = 2\pi \alpha_g (\partial_{\kappa} \eta) \). Such plasmons exist even at charge neutrality [37] (for \( T > 0 \)). Thus, for small momenta, the plasmons are overdamped in contrast to the energy waves (43). However, away from charge neutrality, the energy waves hybridize with the charge sector due to Vlasov self-consistency leading to dynamic oscillations of the charge density with the dispersion (45), that is similar to \( \omega_p \), but with a smaller prefactor. These oscillations should be experimentally observable in the same way as usual plasmons [28,29], provided that the samples (as well as the time scale of the measurements) are in the hydrodynamic regime.

Far away from the Dirac point \((\mu \gg T)\), the distinction between the charge and energy sectors of the theory disappears, such that the energy waves coincide with the usual plasmon [15]: for \( \mu \gg T \), the dispersion (45) reproduces \( \omega_p \). Technically, the transport relaxation time due to electron-electron interaction that determines the above plasmon damping becomes much longer than the usual electron-electron scattering time that is responsible for thermalization in the system [see discussion following Eqs. (23)].

Viscous forces influence the collective modes (43) in the higher order in \( q/\omega \) [cf. Eq. (41)]. Unlike the case of the optical conductivity, here viscosity enters in a linear combination with the scattering times \( \tau_1 \) and \( \tau_4 \). Consequently, measuring the energy-wave dispersion might not be the best way to find the viscosity in graphene. However, combining such measurements with the measurement of nonlocal conductivity, one can find experimental values for not only \( \eta \), but also the scattering times \( \tau_i \).

The above results are illustrated in Fig. 1, where we plot the dispersion (43) for different chemical potential. The inset illustrates the role of disorder [cf. Eq. (46)].
III. NONLINEAR EFFECTS: RELAXATION OF A HOT SPOT

In this section, we report results of a numerical integration of the nonlinear hydrodynamic equations (38)–(40) describing relaxation of a hot spot.

Let us prepare the system in a homogeneous, equilibrium state characterized by the charge density \( n(0) \) (i.e., away from charge neutrality), energy density \( n_E(0) \), and imbalance density \( n_I(0) \). On top of this equilibrium background, we create a hot spot: a locally elevated energy density. For simplicity, we choose a Gaussian profile with the peak height \( n_E = 1.8 n_E(0) \) [see Fig. 2(a)]. The resulting nonequilibrium state will serve an initial condition for the subsequent time evolution that follows Eqs. (38)–(40).

The computer simulations are performed in a semi-implicit scheme [56]. The diffusive and viscous corrections are discretized implicitly. This scheme is suitable for a wider class of problems that are characterized by competing convective and diffusive terms. Moreover, the simulations are performed on a staggered grid to avoid unphysical density oscillations [57].

A. Ideal flow

Within the hydrodynamic approach, the energy flow is coupled to the charge flow by means of the self-consistent electric field (17). Turning off the Vlasov terms (i.e., setting \( E = 0 \)), we arrive at an essentially neutral system where the energy flow is decoupled from the rest of the degrees of freedom.

In such a system, creating an excess energy density leads to excitation of ballistic (due to absence of dissipation) energy waves with the linear dispersion (44). This flow is illustrated in Fig. 2(b), where we plot the resulting energy density profile along the line \( y = 0 \) as a function of the \( x \) coordinate and time. In Fig. 2, we use arbitrary units since the time and length scales associated with the ballistic propagation in an ideal system are determined by the initial conditions.

The decay of the hot spot into the energy waves does not lead to an immediate relaxation of the initial energy density profile [see Fig. 2(b)]. In contrast to the three-dimensional flow, the Green’s function of the 2D wave equation exhibits a long-time tail \( \sim t^{-1} \). As a consequence, the relaxation of the hot spot in the dissipationless limit without Vlasov field shows

FIG. 1. (Color online) Energy-wave dispersion (43), for different chemical potentials. In the main panel (a), we compare the energy waves in an ideal fluid (dashed lines) to the dissipative (viscous) flow (solid lines). The inset (b) shows the effect of disorder scattering at small momenta. The curves are calculated for \( 1/T \tau_{\text{dis}} = 0.001 \).

FIG. 2. (Color online) Hot-spot relaxation of a neutral ideal fluid obtained from the Euler hydrodynamics (11)–(18) without the Vlasov self-consistent electric field \( E = 0 \). The left panel shows the initial energy bump with the height \( n_E = 1.8 n_E(0) \). The right panel shows the evolution of the energy density (in units of the equilibrium background \( n_E/n_E(0) \)) as a function of the \( x \) coordinate and time (arbitrary units) along the line \( y = 0 \).
FIG. 3. (Color online) A snapshot of the charge density $n$. The equilibrium value of the charge density is $n^{(0)} = 1.9 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$. The initial height of the energy bump is $n_E = 1.8 n^{(0)}$. The inset (b) illustrates the solitonlike composite profile that is established at the origin. The blue curve shows the dip in the charge density and the red curve shows the excess energy density. The arrows show the balanced hydrodynamic forces: the pressure (red arrow) and the self-consistent electric field (blue arrow).

2. Charge fluctuations

In a charged system, i.e., in the presence of the self-consistent electric field, the cosmic sound wave shown in Fig. 2 is accompanied by fluctuations of the charge density (see Fig. 3).

The excess energy density generates the pressure force described by $\nabla \beta P_{\Pi \delta n}$. This creates the initial energy flow that corresponds to the nonzero hydrodynamic velocity $u$ [see Eq. (13)] and hence translates into an electric current (16a), which is coupled to the charge density by means of the continuity equation (11a). This way, the initial evolution of the excess energy density leads to a depletion of the charge density at the origin.

Now, the nonequilibrium charge density profile results in the self-consistent electric field [due to Vlasov terms (17)]. Remarkably, in the absence of dissipation the electric field partially compensates the pressure force leading to the appearance of a stable solitonlike composite density profile at the origin: after the initial outflow of energy carried away by the cosmic sound waves, some excess energy density remains at the point of the initial perturbation accompanied by the dynamically generated dip in the charge density (see Fig. 3).

The establishing of the depletion in the charge density is accompanied by the charge flow shown in Fig. 4. Although that figure shows the flow in the presence of dissipation, at the short time scales used in the figure the dissipative effects are still weak and the resulting flow can be considered dissipationless.

power-law decay. This slow relaxation of the energy density around the origin (afterglow) can be seen in Fig. 2(b).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented a hydrodynamic description of the electronic transport in graphene. Our formalism allows for a consistent treatment of nonlinear hydrodynamic effects as well as dissipative phenomena due to electron-electron interaction. Our theory describes the following hydrodynamic modes: the energy, particle, and imbalance densities and the energy current. The electric and imbalance currents
are relaxed by electron-electron scattering and have to be obtained from the equations of state. The resulting macroscopic description includes a generalization of the Navier-Stokes equation in graphene (40), the nonlinear relations (38) between the hydrodynamic pressure and enthalpy, and the hydrodynamic velocity $\mathbf{u}$ that is related to the energy current. These relations play the role of the equations of state. Finally, the three macroscopic densities obey the set of continuity equations (39).

Having derived the hydrodynamic theory from the Boltzmann kinetic equation, we are able to calculate explicitly the set of scattering times that determine the coefficients in the hydrodynamic equations, in particular the viscosity (37) and the dc conductivity at charge neutrality (42b). The latter is the manifestation of the non-Galilean-invariant nature of the electronic system in graphene, where the electric current can be relaxed by electron-electron interaction.

In laboratory experiments, viscous effects can be detected, for instance, by measuring nonlocal conductivity in graphene [30,31]. Within linear response, viscosity affects the conductivity away from charge neutrality and at nonzero momenta. Another experimentally detectable viscous effect is the plasmon lifetime in graphene. Although the viscosity coefficient enters the plasmon damping in a linear combination with other interaction-dependent parameters [see Eq. (43)], measuring both the plasmon lifetime and nonlocal conductivity may give experimental access to several relaxation times determined by electron-electron interaction.

Beyond linear response, we have considered the simplest example of nonlinear phenomena in graphene: the relaxation dynamics of a hot spot (see Fig. 2). This analysis takes into account the convective nonlinearities and the residual Coulomb interaction. In the macroscopic equations, the latter manifests the self-consistent electric field due to charge fluctuations and the dissipative corrections. We have found that the hot-spot relaxation proceeds in two stages. The first stage, lasting no longer than a few picoseCONDS, is characterized by the metastable charge-energy profile at the origin and the traveling energy waves that carry excess energy and charge away from the hot spot (see Figs. 3 and 4). The emitted waves exhibit characteristic modulation due to the self-consistent Vlasov electric field. During the second stage, dissipative effects start playing a definitive role in the process leading to the diffusive charge propagation, damped energy waves, and the decay of the solitonic charge-energy profile at the origin. The dissipative effects are much slower than the initial evolution of the hot spot. In particular, the metastable charge-energy profile remains visible at times of order 10 ps, which should be detectable in laboratory (see Fig. 4).

The traveling energy waves are accompanied by fluctuations of the charge density due to nonlinear coupling between the energy and charge sectors in the theory away from charge neutrality. Precisely at the Dirac point, the energy waves have linear dispersion (44), similar to the cosmic sound [15]. For finite background charge densities the dispersion of the energy waves (45) becomes similar to the usual 2D plasmons [23], with its intrinsic lifetime determined by electron-electron interaction. However, as the hydrodynamic theory is valid only for time and length scales that are much larger than the typical scales associated with the electron-electron scattering, the true plasmon modes remain overdamped [53]. However, far away from charge neutrality (\(\mu \gg T\)), we recover the usual plasmon in graphene.

The hydrodynamic theory presented in this paper is valid as long as quasiparticle recombination processes remain slow (technically, infinitely slow). At time scales exceeding the recombination times, the imbalance density is no longer conserved and the structure of the hydrodynamic equations changes. However, the Navier-Stokes equation (40) is independent of the imbalance density and remains valid even at the longest time scales.

The problem of the hot-spot relaxation and traveling energy waves considered in this paper is closely related to recent experimental imaging of plasmons in graphene [28,29,33]. While the existing experiments are focusing on the high-frequency optical phenomena, we hope that our investigation of the energy waves in graphene will motivate future measurements in the low-frequency, hydrodynamic regime. At the same time, nonlocal transport measurements [30,31] may uncover exciting manifestations of the nonlinear, viscous flow in graphene including vortices and laminar wake.

Our hydrodynamic theory can be further applied to more realistic, experimentally relevant geometries in order to study possible realizations of the plethora of hydrodynamic phenomena in graphene. After a straightforward generalization, the theory allows us to consider the thermoelectric effects as well as the effects of the external magnetic field. This work will be reported elsewhere.

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APPENDIX A: THE ee-COLLISION INTEGRAL

The electron-electron collision integral in the QKE (2) is given by

\[
S_{ee}[f] = \sum_{\nu,\nu',\nu''} \int_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{p},\mathbf{k}'} |M|^{-2}(2\pi)^3 \delta(\epsilon_{\nu,\mathbf{p}} + \epsilon_{\nu',\mathbf{k}'} - \epsilon_{\nu'',\mathbf{k}}) \delta(p + k - p' - k') \times \{f_{\nu',\mathbf{k}}(1 - f_{\nu,\mathbf{p}})[1 - f_{\nu'',\mathbf{k}}] - f_{\nu,\mathbf{p}} f_{\nu',\mathbf{k}}[1 - f_{\nu'',\mathbf{k}}][1 - f_{\nu',\mathbf{k}}] \}. \quad (A1a)
\]
Here, the matrix element of Coulomb scattering is given by

$$|M|^2 = N|V(\omega,q)|^2 \Theta_{\lambda,p,p'} \Theta_{\lambda',\nu,k'}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (A1b)

with the graphene-specific Dirac factors

$$\Theta_{\lambda,p,p'} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \lambda \frac{p - p'}{pp'} \right) = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \hat{v}_{\lambda,p} \cdot \hat{v}_{\lambda',p'}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (A1c)

prohibiting backscattering. In Eq. (A1b), $\omega = \epsilon_{\lambda,p} - \epsilon_{\lambda',p'}$ is the transferred energy and $q = p' - p$ the transferred momentum.

Linearizing the collision integral (A1) with respect to the deviations (5) of the distribution function from the local equilibrium (1), we obtain the operator [2,18]

$$\mathcal{C} \delta f_{\lambda,k} = \sum_{\nu,k'} \int_{k',k'} |M|^2 (2\pi)^3 \delta(\epsilon_{\nu,p} + \epsilon_k - \epsilon_{\nu,p'} - \epsilon_k) \delta(p + k - p' - k')$$

$$\times f^{(0)}_{\nu,p} f^{(0)}_{\nu,k} \left[ 1 - f^{(0)}_{\nu,p} \right] \left[ 1 - f^{(0)}_{\nu,k} \right] \left[ \delta f_{\nu,p} + \delta f_{\nu,k} - \delta f_{\nu,k'} - \delta f_{\nu,k'} \right].$$  \hspace{1cm} (A2)

1. Transport scattering times due to electron-electron interaction

In this section, we give explicit expressions for the scattering times $\tau_i$ constituting the matrix collision integral in the space of macroscopic currents $j$ and $J_j$ [see Eq. (21)]. These equations are obtained by averaging the QKE with respect to $\nu$ and $\lambda \nu$. Therefore, the right-hand side of Eq. (21) is given by

$$C_J \left( \frac{\delta j}{\delta J_j} \right) = \left( \frac{\nu, C \delta f^{(1)}}{\lambda \nu, C \delta f^{(1)}} \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (A3)

The scalar product $(\ldots)$ was defined in Eq. (19c).

Dissipative corrections to the macroscopic currents $\delta j$ and $\delta J_j$ are determined by the nonequilibrium contribution to the distribution function (5) as

$$\delta j_k = (\phi_k v, -T \delta f^{(1)}_k \delta f^{(0)}),$$  \hspace{1cm} (A4)

such that

$$\delta j = \delta J_1, \quad \delta J_1 = \delta j_2.$$  \hspace{1cm}

Here, we remind the reader that the terms proportional to $u$ in Eqs. (16) follow directly from the local equilibrium distribution (1). The functions $\phi_k$ are the modes (5d).

Now, we can use the definition (A4) to express the coefficients $h^{(j)}$ in the nonequilibrium distribution (5) in terms of $\delta j$ and $\delta J_j$. This allows us to find the explicit form of the matrix collision integral $C_J$ [see Eq. (22)]. After some algebra, we find

$$[C_J]_{jk} = \sum_{j=1}^{2} \left[ M^{-1} \right]_{jk} (\phi_j v, C \phi_j v, u),$$  \hspace{1cm} (A5)

where the matrix $M$ is given by Eq. (20b).

The matrix elements in Eq. (A5) can be evaluated explicitly using the methods of Refs. [18,24]. Noting that in the integrated electron-electron collision integral the summation over scattering states $\{ \lambda, k \}$ and $\{ \lambda', k' \}$ separates, we express the matrix elements as

$$(\phi v, C \phi' v) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int d\omega \int d^2 q \frac{|V(\omega,q)|^2}{\sinh^2(\omega/2T)} \left[ \Gamma^{(2)}_{\phi,\phi'}(\omega,q) \Gamma^{(1)}_{\lambda,\lambda'}(\omega,q) \right].$$  \hspace{1cm} (A6)

Here, the vertex functions are defined as $[\lambda' = \text{sign}(\epsilon_{\lambda,p} + \omega)]$

$$\Gamma^{(0)}_{\lambda,p}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int \delta(\epsilon_{\lambda,p} - \epsilon_{\lambda',p+q} + \omega)(f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q}) \Theta_{\lambda,p,\lambda',p+q},$$  \hspace{1cm} (A7a)

$$\Gamma^{(1)}_{\phi,\phi'}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int \delta(\epsilon_{\lambda,p} - \epsilon_{\lambda',p+q} + \omega)(f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q}) \Theta_{\lambda,p,\lambda',p+q} \phi_{\lambda',p+q} \hat{v}_{\lambda',p+q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \hat{v}_{\lambda,p} \mu,$$  \hspace{1cm} (A7b)

$$\Gamma^{(2)}_{\phi,\phi'} = \frac{1}{T} \int \delta(\epsilon_{\lambda,p} - \epsilon_{\lambda',p+q} + \omega)(f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q}) \Theta_{\lambda,p,\lambda',p+q}$$

$$\times \phi_{\lambda',p+q} \hat{v}_{\lambda',p+q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \hat{v}_{\lambda,p} \mu \phi_{\lambda',p+q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \hat{v}_{\lambda,p} \mu.$$  \hspace{1cm} (A7c)

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The stress tensors were defined in Eqs. (26) and (27). Defining the deviations from equilibrium as
\[ \delta \Pi_{a\beta} = (\phi_k v_{a\beta} - \delta f^{(2)} \partial_x f^{(0)}), \]
we can express the coefficients \( g^{(j)} \) in the nonequilibrium distribution function (5) in terms of \( \delta \Pi_{a\beta}^{(k)} \). Similarly to the arguments presented in the previous section, this yields the explicit form of the matrix collision integral \( C_{\pi} \):
\[ [C_{\pi}]_{jk} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{3} [M^{-1}]_{jk} (\phi_l I_{a\beta}, C_{\phi_j I_{a\beta}}). \]

Here, the matrix \( M \) is given by Eq. (20b) and the traceless tensor \( I_{a\beta} \) is defined in Eq. (31c).

The matrix elements \((\phi_l I_{a\beta}, C_{\phi_j I_{a\beta}})\) can be evaluated similarly to Eqs. (A7):
\[ (\phi I_{a\beta}, C\phi I_{a\beta}) = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d\omega \int d^2 q \frac{|V(\omega,q)|^2}{\sin^2(\omega/2T)} \left[ \Xi^{(1)}_{\phi, a\beta}(\omega,q) \Gamma^{(0)}(\omega,q) - \Xi^{(1)}_{\phi, a\beta}(\omega,q) \Xi^{(1)}_{\phi', a\beta}(\omega,q) \right]. \]

Here, the tensor vertex functions are \([\lambda' = \text{sign}(\varepsilon_{\lambda',p} - \omega)]\)
\[ \Xi^{(1)}_{\phi, a\beta}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\lambda',p} \delta(\varepsilon_{\lambda',p} - \varepsilon_{\lambda',p+q} + \omega)(f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q}) \Theta_{\lambda',p+q} [\phi_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p+q} - \delta_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p+q}], \]
\[ \Xi^{(2)}_{\phi, a\beta}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\lambda',p} \delta(\varepsilon_{\lambda',p} - \varepsilon_{\lambda',p+q} + \omega)(f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda',p+q}) \Theta_{\lambda',p+q} \times [\phi_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p+q} - \delta_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p}][\phi_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p+q} - \delta_{\lambda',p+q} I_{a\beta,p}]. \]

For further calculations, it is useful to express the tensor \( I_{a\beta} \) in terms of the basis vectors \( \{\hat{q}, \hat{q} / q, \hat{z} \times \hat{q} \}\):
\[ I_{a\beta} = A_{k,q} (2\hat{q}_a \hat{q}_\beta - \delta_{a\beta}) + B_{k,q} (\hat{q}_{\perp,a} \hat{q}_{\beta} + \hat{q}_a \hat{q}_{\perp,b}), \]
where
\[ A_{k,q} = \frac{(k \cdot q)^2 - 1}{(kq)^2} + \frac{1}{2}, \quad B_{k,q} = \frac{(k \cdot q)(k \cdot q)}{k^2 q^2}. \]
Due to the conservation laws of the electron-electron interaction, we effectively have $A \to A$. Using the $\delta$ function in Eqs. (A12a) and (A12b), one obtains ($\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{\lambda,k}$)

$$\tilde{A}_{k,q} = (\omega^2 - q^2) \frac{(2\varepsilon + \omega)^2 - q^2}{8\varepsilon^2 q^2}. \quad (A15)$$

Furthermore, the coefficient $B$ drops out in the vertex function $\Xi^{(1)}$ since it is antisymmetric in the angle between $q$ and $k$. In the tensor vertex function $\Xi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q)$ we get a separate contribution from $A$ and $B$ but they are orthogonal. For $B$ we obtain with the help of the $\delta$ functions ($\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{\lambda,k}$)

$$B_{k,q} = \text{sign}(k \cdot \hat{q}_\perp) \sqrt{(q^2 - \omega^2)(2\varepsilon + \omega)^2 - q^2} \frac{(\omega^2 - q^2 - 2\varepsilon\omega)}{4\varepsilon^2 q^2}. \quad (A16)$$

Finally, with the help of the angular averages

$$\int d\varphi_q \varphi_a \varphi_b \varphi_c \varphi_d = \frac{\pi}{4} (\delta_{ab} \delta_{cd} + \delta_{ad} \delta_{bc} - \delta_{ac} \delta_{bd}),$$

$$\int d\varphi_q (2\varphi_a \varphi_b - \delta_{ab})(2\varphi_c \varphi_d - \delta_{cd}) = \pi (\delta_{ab} \delta_{cd} - \delta_{ad} \delta_{bc} - \delta_{ac} \delta_{bd}),$$

$$\int d\varphi_q (\varphi_a \varphi_b + \varphi_a \varphi_c + \varphi_d \varphi_e) = \pi (\delta_{ab} \delta_{ce} - \delta_{ad} \delta_{bc} - \delta_{ac} \delta_{bd})$$

and the projected quantities $\Xi^{(1,2)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}$ obtained after averaging Eqs. (A12) over the angle $\varphi_q$ of the transferred momentum $q$,

$$\Xi^{(1)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\lambda,p} \delta(\varepsilon_{\lambda,p} - \varepsilon_{\lambda,p\pi} + \omega) (f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p\pi}) \Theta_{\lambda,p\lambda,p\pi} \phi_{\lambda,p\pi} \tilde{A}_{k,q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \tilde{A}_{k,q} \cdot,$$  

(A17a)

$$\Xi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\lambda,p} \delta(\varepsilon_{\lambda,p} - \varepsilon_{\lambda,p\pi} + \omega) (f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p\pi} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p\pi}) \Theta_{\lambda,p\lambda,p\pi} \phi_{\lambda,p\pi} \tilde{A}_{k,q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \tilde{A}_{k,q} \cdot,$$  

(A17b)

$$\Xi^{(2)}_{\perp\phi\pi}(\omega,q) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{\lambda,p} \delta(\varepsilon_{\lambda,p} - \varepsilon_{\lambda,p\pi} + \omega) (f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p\pi} - f^{(0)}_{\lambda,p\pi}) \Theta_{\lambda,p\lambda,p\pi} \phi_{\lambda,p\pi} \tilde{A}_{k,q} - \phi_{\lambda,p} \tilde{A}_{k,q} \cdot,$$  

(A17c)

we can write the matrix elements as

$$(\phi_l_{\alpha\beta\phi}, C_{\phi'\pi}) = \frac{1}{16\pi} (\delta_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta} + \delta_{\alpha\delta} \delta_{\beta\gamma} - \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{\gamma\delta}) \int d\omega \int d^2 q \frac{|V(\omega,q)|^2}{\sinh^2(\omega/2T)} \times [\Xi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q) \Gamma^{(0)}(\omega,q) + \Xi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q) \Gamma^{(0)}(\omega,q) - \Xi^{(1)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q) \Xi^{(1)}_{\alpha\beta\phi\pi}(\omega,q)]. \quad (A18)$$

Here, we can drop the terms proportional to $\delta_{\alpha\beta}$ since the energy stress tensors are traceless. Due to their symmetry in $\alpha \leftrightarrow \beta$, we effectively have

$$\delta_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta} + \delta_{\alpha\delta} \delta_{\beta\gamma} - \delta_{\alpha\beta} \delta_{\gamma\delta} \to 2\delta_{\alpha\gamma} \delta_{\beta\delta}. \quad (A19)$$

The matrix elements (A18) determine the quantities $C_{\pi,ij}$ [Eqs. (31)], which in turn determine the viscosity (35).

**APPENDIX B: LINEAR-RESPONSE FUNCTIONS**

In linear response, we linearize the hydrodynamic equations with respect to the linear fluctuations of the hydrodynamic quantities $\delta n, \delta n_{\perp}, \delta n_{E}, \delta u$:

$$n \to n + \delta n, \quad n_{\perp} \to n_{\perp} + \delta n_{\perp}, \quad n_{E} \to n_{E} + \delta n_{E}, \quad u \to \delta u. \quad (B1)$$

We furthermore introduce the response functions to the external perturbation $E = -iq\varphi$:

$$\delta n = \chi_{e}\varphi, \quad \delta n_{\perp} = \chi_{\perp}\varphi, \quad \delta n_{E} = T \chi_{E}\varphi, \quad \delta u = -i \frac{qT}{qn_{E}} \chi_{u}\varphi. \quad (B2)$$
Linearizing the continuity equations (39) and the Navier-Stokes equation (40), we find the matrix equation for the response functions $\chi$:

$$
\begin{pmatrix}
-i\omega + \frac{\tau_1}{2}q^2 - 2\pi e q \sigma_0 & \frac{\tau_1}{2}q^2 & -\frac{n_l}{\eta} q \\
\frac{\tau_1}{2}q^2 & -i\omega + \frac{\tau_1}{2}q^2 & -\frac{n_l}{\eta} q \\
0 & 0 & -i\omega
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
\chi_n \\
\chi_l \\
\chi_u
\end{pmatrix}
= \frac{-q^2:\sigma_0}{e}
\begin{pmatrix}
\chi_n \\
\chi_l \\
\chi_u
\end{pmatrix},
$$

(B3)

where [cf. Eq. (42a)]

$$
\sigma_0 = e^2 \left[ \tau_1 \left( \frac{\partial_1 n}{2} - \frac{2n^2}{3n_E} \right) + \tau_3 \left( \frac{\partial_1 n}{2} - \frac{2n n_1}{3n_E} \right) \right], \quad \sigma_0^* = e^2 \left[ \tau_3 \left( \frac{\partial_1 n}{2} - \frac{2n^2}{3n_E} \right) + \tau_4 \left( \frac{\partial_1 n}{2} - \frac{2n n_1}{3n_E} \right) \right]
$$

The dispersion (43) of the collective modes follows from zeros of the determinant of the matrix in the left-hand side of Eq. (B3).

In contrast to the energy waves and plasmons, which describe the response of the system to an external perturbation, the conductivity of an infinite system is defined as the response to the total electric field. Consequently, in order to find the conductivity (41), we need to consider the irreducible response functions, which satisfy the equation similar to Eq. (B3), but without the Vlasov terms in the left column of the matrix in the left-hand side. Then, the conductivity is found from the Ohm’s law

$$
\delta j = (-iq\varphi) \left[ \frac{\sigma_0}{e} + \frac{1}{2}(\tau_1 \chi_n + \tau_2 \chi_l) - \frac{n_l}{3n_E} T \chi_E + \frac{n_T}{q n_E} \phi_E \right],
$$

(B4)

where $\varphi$ is now the total potential in the system (including the self-consistent Vlasov contribution).
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