Excitations and phase ordering of the spin-stripe phase of a binary dipolar condensate

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We consider the ground states, excitations, and dynamics of a quasi-two-dimensional binary dipolar Bose-Einstein condensate. Our focus is on the transition to a spin-stripe ground state in which the translational invariance is spontaneously broken by a striped immiscible pattern of the alternating components. We develop a ground-state phase diagram showing the parameter regime where the spin-stripe state occurs. Using Bogoliubov theory, we calculate the excitation spectrum and structure factors. We identify a balanced regime where the system has a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry, and in the spin-stripe state this yields a nonsymmorphic symmetry. We consider the evolution of the system following a quench from the uniform to spin-stripe state, revealing ordering dynamics involving defects of the stripe order. Using an order parameter to characterize the orientational order of the stripes, we show that the phase ordering exhibits dynamic scaling.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Recent experimental activity has revealed the tendency of suitably confined dipolar Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) to form spatially structured states such as droplet crystals [\[1\]](#page-8-0) and supersolids [\[2–4\]](#page-8-0). These states occur in regimes where the system is unstable at the mean-field level, with beyond-meanfield effects preventing mechanical collapse [\[5–7\]](#page-9-0) (also see [\[8\]](#page-9-0)). Before these developments, theoretical proposals considered the possibility of structured ground states emerging in binary (i.e., two-component) dipolar BECs [\[9,10\]](#page-9-0) (also see [\[11\]](#page-9-0)). Here the structure formation is driven by an instability to immiscibility, rather than collapse, and beyond-mean-field effects are not required (cf. $[12,13]$). Interest in this system has increased with the first experimental production of binary dipolar condensates of erbium and dysprosium atoms [\[14\]](#page-9-0) and the demonstration of interspecies Feshbach resonances [\[15\]](#page-9-0). The possibility of supersolidity in these systems was recently theoretically explored in regimes where the components are miscible $[16,17]$ and immiscible $[17–19]$, and a configuration supporting self-bound (cohesive) crystals [\[20\]](#page-9-0) has been proposed.

Here, we examine properties of immiscible crystal states occurring in a planar quasi-two-dimensional (quasi-2D) binary dipolar BECs. Our focus is on stripe states with a one-dimensional crystal pattern in which a spatial modulation of the wave functions occurs along one direction in the plane of the trap. We refer to this as a spin-stripe state because the broken translational invariance is most strongly revealed in the (pseudo)spin density of the condensate, i.e., the difference in density between the components. This work generalizes the recent immiscible supersolid states considered in cigar-shaped potentials [\[18,19\]](#page-9-0) to a quasi-2D planar case. In previous work [\[21\]](#page-9-0) we quantified the instabilities of this system in the uniform phase, identifying the conditions where density or spin modes cause dynamical instabilities and whether those modes are long wavelength (phonon) or short wavelength (roton)

in character. In this paper we explore the regimes where a uniform miscible state is unstable to a spin excitation, resulting in immiscible ground states. For the spin-stripe ground states we calculate their properties and excitation spectrum. For excitations propagating along the planar direction normal to the stripes, the system has three gapless excitation branches and exhibits acoustic and optical phononlike modes, as recently discussed by Kirkby *et al.* [\[22\]](#page-9-0). Here, our focus is on the density- and spin-dynamical structure factors. We identify an interesting nonsymmorphic symmetry that is revealed by the excitations of the spin-stripe state when both components are suitably balanced. We also mention the stripe phase that occurs in spin-orbit-coupled binary BECs [\[23–26\]](#page-9-0). This stripe state exhibits a modulation in the total density and has two gapless excitation branches [\[27\]](#page-9-0).

We also consider how the system orders into the spin-stripe phase following a sudden quench from the uniform miscible state. Immediately following the quench, we observe that small domains of spin-stripe order develop with different orientations ϕ of the stripe pattern. The growth rate of the stripe patterns is found to be in good agreement with the imaginary part of the frequency of the unstable spin-excitation mode of the initial state. As time progresses, we observe phaseordering dynamics, in which the spin-stripe domains merge and grow. When the domains are relatively large compared to the microscopic length scales, we find that the domains grow with a power law, i.e., $L_{\phi}(t) \sim t^{1/z}$, where L_{ϕ} is the domain size and $1/z$ is the dynamic critical exponent. In this regime we find that the order-parameter correlation function displays dynamical scaling [i.e., when lengths are scaled by $L_{\phi}(t)$, it is time independent]. While there have been some studies of the miscible to immiscible dynamics in finite binary dipolar BECs [\[10,13,28,29\]](#page-9-0), they have not considered a quantitative description of how the order develops following such a quench. Furthermore, the presence of both superfluid and spin-stripe order makes this an interesting many-body system to study phase transition and ordering dynamics.

The outline of this paper is as follows. In Sec. II we develop the formalism for the ground states and excitations of the planar 2D binary dipolar BEC. We also define the balanced regime, where the system has a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry between the components, which then manifests as a nonsymmorphic symmetry in the spin-stripe state. While our primary results are based on numerical solution of the associated Gross-Pitaevskii and Bogoliubov–de Gennes (BdG) equations, we also develop a variational result for the spin-stripe state in the balanced regime. In Sec. [III](#page-3-0) we present our results for the ground-state phase diagram over a wide parameter regime. We find that spin-stripe phases are favored by a significant difference in the dipole strength of the components, so that a dipolar-nondipolar mixture or an antiparallel mixture (where the second component has dipolar polarization opposite to the first one) favors the spin-stripe state. As the dipole-dipole interactions (DDIs) become more similar both within and between components, the spin-stripe lattice constant diverges, and the ground state approaches the usual case of an immiscible fluid (i.e., one large domain of each component). Our results for the density and spin dynamical structure factors illustrate the excitations of the spin-stripe state and reveal the nonsymmorphic symmetry in the balanced case. In Sec. [IV](#page-6-0) we study the quench dynamics following a sudden change in parameters taking the system from a uniform miscible state to the regime where the ground state is a spin-stripe state. We examine the growth of local order following the quench and, on longer timescales, the spatial growth of order as signified by an order parameter characterizing the spin-stripe orientations. We show that at late times the order tends to grow with a power law and the dynamical scaling holds. We also observe defects of the order such as disclinations and grain boundaries. We conclude in Sec. [V.](#page-8-0)

II. FORMALISM

Our system is a two-component (binary) Bose gas of dipolar atoms with their magnetic moments polarized along the *z* axis. These components could correspond to two different atoms or different spin states of a particular atom. In what follows we treat the masses of the atoms in each component with the same value *M*. The low-energy interactions between these atoms are described by

$$
U_{ij}(\mathbf{r}) = g_{ij}^{s} \delta(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{3g_{ij}^{dd}}{4\pi} \frac{1 - 3\cos^{2}\theta}{r^{3}},
$$
 (1)

where *i*, $j = 1, 2$ label the components. Here, $g_{ij}^s =$ $4\pi a_{ij}^s \hbar^2 / M$ is the *s*-wave coupling constant between components *i* and *j*, with a_{ij}^s being the *s*-wave scattering length. The DDI coupling constant is $g_{ij}^{dd} = \mu_0 \mu_i^m \mu_j^m / 3$, with μ_i^m being the magnetic dipole moment along *z* of component *i*. The DDIs are anisotropic, with θ being the angle between the relative separation of the dipoles **r** and the dipole polarization axis. Note that for the case of antiparallel dipoles, e.g., $\mu_1^m > 0$ and $\mu_2^m < 0$, we can have $g_{12}^{dd} < 0$, while $g_{ii}^{dd} \ge 0$ always.

We consider a system with strong axial harmonic confinement along the *z* axis with frequency ω_z and unconfined in the *xy* plane, i.e., $V(z) = \frac{1}{2}M\omega_z^2 z^2$.

A. Mean-field ground states

The mean-field description for the ground-state wave functions $\Psi_i(\mathbf{x})$ of a zero-temperature BEC is provided by the two-component dipolar Gross-Pitaevskii theory [\[30\]](#page-9-0) with the energy functional

$$
E = \int d\mathbf{x} \sum_{i=1}^{2} \Psi_i^*(\mathbf{x}) \Bigg[-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2M} + V(z) \Bigg] \Psi_i(\mathbf{x})
$$

$$
+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{2} \int d\mathbf{x} \, d\mathbf{x}' \, |\Psi_i(\mathbf{x})|^2 U_{ij}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}') |\Psi_j(\mathbf{x}')|^2. \tag{2}
$$

We assume the system is in the quasi-2D regime, where interaction energy scales are small compared to $\hbar \omega_z$ so that axial degrees of freedom are frozen out and the axial wave function is well approximated by the harmonic-oscillator ground state $\chi(z) = e^{-z^2/2l_z^2}/(\pi^{1/4}\sqrt{l_z})$, where $l_z = \sqrt{\hbar/M\omega_z}$ is the harmonic-oscillator length. We search for stripe phases, with variation along only one direction in the plane, which we take to be the *x* direction, giving a ground-state wave function of the form

$$
\Psi_i(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{n}\psi_i(x)\chi(z),\tag{3}
$$

where we have taken the areal density *n* of each component to be the same and $\psi_i(x)$ is dimensionless. This ansatz allows us to consider uniform miscible states with $\psi_i(x) = 1$ and striped states for which we take the spatial variation to be periodic with unit cell (uc) length *L*, i.e., $\psi_i(x) = \psi_i(x + L)$, with the normalization constraint $\int_{\text{uc}} dx |\psi_i(x)|^2 = L$. In practice a slight tilt of the dipole polarization to have a transverse component could be used to give preference to a particular direction (e.g., see [\[10\]](#page-9-0)). We focus our attention here on striped states since 2D patterns are generally of higher energy for the parameter regimes we consider.

Our interest is to determine the wave function that minimizes the energy per particle for fixed average areal density *n*. We can do this by finding the energy Eq. (2) in a single unit cell and dividing by the number of particles in the cell *N* to get

$$
\mathcal{E}_L = \sum_{i=1}^2 \int_{\text{uc}} \frac{dx}{2L} \psi_i^* \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^2 \Phi_{ij}(x) \right] \psi_i, \quad (4)
$$

which is the energy per particle. Here, we have neglected the constant zero-point energy of χ , and the interactions are described by [\[10,21,31,32\]](#page-9-0)

$$
\Phi_{ij}(x) = n\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{\tilde{U}_{ij}(k_x)\mathcal{F}|\psi_j|^2\},\tag{5}
$$

where F denotes the one-dimensional Fourier transform of the *x* coordinate in a unit cell and \mathcal{F}^{-1} is the inverse transform (against the k_x coordinate). Here, the quasi-2D interaction kernel is

$$
\tilde{U}_{ij}(k_x) = \frac{g_{ij}^s + g_{ij}^{dd}[2 - 3G_0(k_x l_z/\sqrt{2})]}{\sqrt{2\pi}l_z},
$$
\n(6)

with $G_0(q) = \sqrt{\pi} q e^{q^2}$ erfc(*q*), where erfc is the complementary error function.

To determine the ground states we minimize \mathcal{E}_L with respect to the wave functions $\{\psi_1, \psi_2\}$ for any given *L*. Then we find which uc length *L* gives the minimum \mathcal{E}_L . For the uniform miscible case the wave functions are constant, and \mathcal{E}_L is independent of *L*. In general, the stationary-state solutions will satisfy the coupled Gross-Pitaevskii equation (GPE)

$$
\mathcal{L}_{GP,i}\psi_i(x) = \mu_i \psi_i(x),\tag{7}
$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{GP,i} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \sum_j \Phi_{ij}(x)$ and μ_i is the chemical potential for component *i*. In practice we locate these solutions using gradient-flow (imaginary-time) evolution (e.g., see [\[28,33,34\]](#page-9-0)) to optimize the wave functions.

B. Excitations and structure factors

The collective excitations can be obtained by linearizing the time-dependent GPE, $i\hbar\dot{\Psi}_j = \delta E/\delta \Psi_j^*$, around a stationary solution as

$$
\Psi_j(\mathbf{x},t) = e^{-i\mu_j t/\hbar} [\sqrt{n}\psi_j(x) + \vartheta_j(\boldsymbol{\rho},t)] \chi(z), \qquad (8)
$$

where $\rho = (x, y)$. From the ground-state symmetries the excitations take the form

$$
\vartheta_j(\boldsymbol{\rho},t) \equiv \sum_{\mathfrak{v}} [c_{\mathfrak{v}} u_{\mathfrak{v}j} e^{i(q_x x + k_y y - \omega_{\mathfrak{v}t})} - c_{\mathfrak{v}}^* v_{\mathfrak{v}j}^* e^{-i(q_x x + k_y y - \omega_{\mathfrak{v}t}^*)}],
$$
\n(9)

where c_v are the (assumed to be small) expansion coefficients and $\{u_{\nu i}(x), v_{\nu i}(x)\}\$ and ω_{ν} are the quasiparticle amplitudes and angular frequencies, respectively. The quantum numbers to describe the excitation are $v = (v, q_x, k_y)$, with $|q_x| \le K/2$ being the quasimomentum in the first Brillouin zone, where $K = 2\pi/L$ is the reciprocal-lattice vector; k_y describes the plane-wave behavior along *y*; and ν represents the remaining band information. We have used a Bloch form for the *x* dependence of the wave function, with $\{u_{\nu i}(x), v_{\nu i}(x)\}$ being periodic functions on the unit cell.

The excitations satisfy the BdG equations H_{q_x,k_y} **w**_{*v*} = $\hbar \omega_{\nu} \mathbf{w}_{\nu}$, where $\mathbf{w}_{\nu} = (u_{\nu 1}, u_{\nu 2}, v_{\nu 1}, v_{\nu 2})^T$ and

$$
H_{q_x,k_y} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathsf{L} + \mathsf{X} & -\mathsf{X} \\ \mathsf{X} & -\mathsf{L} - \mathsf{X} \end{pmatrix} . \tag{10}
$$

Here, we have introduced the matrices L, with components $L_{ij} = (-1)^{i-1} \mathcal{L}_i \delta_{ij}$, where

$$
\mathcal{L}_j = \frac{\hbar^2}{2M} \left[\left(q_x - i \frac{d}{dx} \right)^2 + k_y^2 \right] + \sum_{k=1}^2 \Phi_{jk}(x) - \mu_j, \quad (11)
$$

and X, with components

$$
X_{ij}f = n\psi_i \mathcal{F}^{-1}\big\{\tilde{U}_{ij}\big[\sqrt{(q_x + k_x)^2 + k_y^2}\big]\mathcal{F}\big\{\psi_j f\big\} \big\}.
$$
 (12)

We can quantify the character of the excitations by introducing dynamic structure factors, which can be measured through Bragg spectroscopy [\[35–38\]](#page-9-0). In a two-component system we can define a *density* (+) and the *spin-density* (−) dynamic structure factor as [\[39\]](#page-9-0)

$$
S_{\pm}(\mathbf{k}_{\rho},\omega) = \sum_{\nu} |\delta \tilde{n}_{\mathbf{k}_{\rho}\nu}^{\pm}|^2 \delta(\omega - \omega_{\nu}), \tag{13}
$$

where $\mathbf{k}_{\rho} = (k_x, k_y)$. The wave vector k_x determines the quasimomentum q_x , reduced to the first Brillouin zone by the reciprocal-lattice vector *K* for integer *m*, i.e., $k_x = q_x + mK$. The density fluctuations are $\delta n_{\nu j}(x)e^{i(q_x x + k_y y)}$, where

$$
\delta n_{\nu j}(x) = \sqrt{n} \psi_j(x) [u_{\nu j}(x) - v_{\nu j}(x)], \qquad (14)
$$

$$
\delta \tilde{n}_{\mathbf{k}_{\rho}\nu}^{\pm} = \int_{\text{uc}} d\rho \, e^{-imKx} [\delta n_{\nu 1}(x) \pm \delta n_{\nu 2}(x)]. \tag{15}
$$

Consistent with our quasi-2D approximation, we neglect axial excitations, which will appear for $\omega \gtrsim \omega_z$.¹

C. Balanced regime

We now specialize the formalism outlined in the previous sections to the balanced case, where, in addition to the areal density of the components being identical, we take the magnitudes of the dipole moments and the intraspecies contact interactions of each component to be the same, i.e.,

$$
g_{11}^{s} = g_{22}^{s},
$$

\n
$$
g_{11}^{dd} = g_{22}^{dd} = |g_{12}^{dd}|.
$$
\n(16)

The latter condition requires the magnitudes of the magnetic moments of both species to be identical but allows for the moments to be aligned parallel $(\mu_1^m = \mu_2^m, g_{12}^{dd} > 0)$ or antiparallel ($\mu_1^m = -\mu_2^m$, $g_{12}^{dd} = -g_{ii}^{dd} < 0$). Under these conditions the Hamiltonian has a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry, i.e., invariance to exchange of the components.

1. Ground symmetry and variational approach

Following our numerical results in this regime e.g., see Fig. $2(c1)$ below, the ground-state wave functions of both components can be chosen to be real, with the wave function of one component equal to the other translated by half a unit cell, i.e.

$$
\psi_1(x) = \hat{T}_{L/2}\psi_2(x),\tag{17}
$$

where \hat{T}_a is the operator implementing a spatial translation of *a* along *x*. This symmetry manifests in the results for the excitations we present later.

Due to the similarity of the components we describe the spin-stripe state with a variational wave function of the form

$$
\psi_i(x) = \cos \eta + (-1)^{i-1} \sqrt{2} \sin \eta \cos(2\pi x/L). \tag{18}
$$

Here, η is the order parameter for the spin stripe, with the state being uniform for $\eta = 0$. This wave function satisfies Eq. (17) and the normalization condition $\int_{uc} dx |\psi_i|^2 = L$. We restrict $\eta \in [0, \eta_0]$, where $\eta_0 = \cot^{-1} \sqrt{2}$ is the value at which the wave function has a zero crossing. Evaluating the energy per particle [\(4\)](#page-1-0), we obtain

$$
\mathcal{E}_{\text{var}}(L,\,\eta) = \frac{h^2 \sin^2 \eta}{4ML^2} + \frac{n}{4} \bigg[\tilde{U}_+(0) + \sin^2 2\eta \tilde{U}_-\bigg(\frac{2\pi}{L}\bigg) + \frac{1}{2} \sin^4 \eta \tilde{U}_+\bigg(\frac{4\pi}{L}\bigg) \bigg],\tag{19}
$$

where $\tilde{U}_{\pm}(k) = \tilde{U}_{ii}(k) \pm \tilde{U}_{12}(k)$. Variational solutions can be identified by finding the minima of $\mathcal{E}_{var}(L, \eta)$.

¹This is a reasonable approximation because only even bands can contribute to S_{\pm} , and their contribution will generally be weak.

FIG. 1. (a) Dynamical stability diagram of a miscible uniform state. Inset (a1) shows the stability diagram over a broader parameter regime (details of instability identification can be found in [\[21\]](#page-9-0)). Colored lines and attached markers in (a) correspond to the results shown in Fig. 2 with the same color. (b) Ground-state phase diagram. Contrast C_1 is used as the spin-stripe order parameter, except in the green-shaded region, where the ground state has a triangular crystalline pattern. In the two domains region we have set $C_1 = 1$. Here $C_1 \rightarrow 1$, but it is difficult to calculate accurately due to the large domain size and sharp boundaries [also see Figs. $2(b2)$ and $2(c3)$]. Calculation parameters: $ng_{ii}^s/\hbar\omega_z l_z = 5$ and $g_{11}^{dd}/g_{11}^s = 0.9$.

2. Excitations

We can formalize the symmetry observed in Eq. (17) with the operator

$$
\Lambda = T_{L/2}\sigma_x,\tag{20}
$$

where σ_x is the Pauli *x* matrix acting in the pseudospin- $\frac{1}{2}$ space of the components. The GPE and BdG operators respect the Λ symmetry, i.e.,

$$
H_{q_x,k_y} = \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \Lambda \end{pmatrix} H_{q_x,k_y} \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \Lambda \end{pmatrix}^\dagger, \tag{21}
$$

and the excitations can be taken to be eigenstates of Λ as

$$
\begin{pmatrix} \Lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \Lambda \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{w}_{\nu} = \lambda \mathbf{w}_{\nu}.
$$
 (22)

FIG. 2. System properties along specified lines in the dynamic stability diagram [Fig. $1(a)$]: (a1) Roton wave vectors. (a2) Energy per atom. (b1) Reciprocal-lattice vectors. (b2) Contrast of component 1. (c1)–(c4) Spin-stripe state densities of components 1 (blue) and 2 (orange). Colored lines and markers in (a) and (b) are for the parameters indicated by the same lines and markers in Fig. $1(a)$. The diamonds labeling the subplots in (c) identify the solution parameters in Fig. $1(a)$. Gray dashed lines in (b1), (b2), (c1), and (c4) are variational results for the balanced case. Black crosses in (b1) indicate the average domain size from dynamical results from the simulations presented in Fig. [5\(b\).](#page-6-0)

Here, we also introduce the quantum number $\lambda = \pm 1$. In the uniform state the symmetry is trivially reduced to σ_x and reflects that excitations can be chosen to be in-phase $(\lambda = 1, density)$ modes or out-of-phase $(\lambda = -1, spin)$ modes (see Ref. $[21]$). For the modulated case Λ reflects a nonsymmorphic symmetry, which arises from a combination of point-group operations with nonprimitive lattice translations (see Ref. [\[40\]](#page-9-0)).

III. RESULTS FOR GROUND STATES AND EXCITATIONS

A. Ground-state phase diagram

1. Uniform-miscible-state instabilities

First, we consider the system in a uniform miscible state (i.e., $\psi_i = 1$) and study its collective excitations to quantify when it becomes unstable. Our results for this are shown in Fig. $1(a)$ as the relative dipole moment and the interspecies contact interaction vary. Here, we describe the interspecies interaction in terms of the parameter

$$
\delta_{12} = \frac{g_{12}^s}{\sqrt{g_{11}^s g_{22}^s}}.
$$
\n(23)

For reference, a nondipolar binary condensate is stable and miscible for $|\delta_{12}| \leq 1$ and is immiscible for $\delta_{12} > 1$.

The dynamical stability diagram presented in Fig. $1(a)$ is similar to that explored in Ref. [\[21\]](#page-9-0) but here is specialized to the quasi-2D assumption and is restricted to the region where

FIG. 3. Excitations and dynamic structure factors for balanced antiparallel uniform states close to the spin-stripe transition. Excitations with (a) $\lambda = 1$ and (b) $\lambda = -1$ for three values of δ_{12} . (a1) Density and (b1) spin dynamic structure factors for the uniform ground state with $\delta_{12} = 0.45$. The relevant $\lambda = 1$ (solid) and $\lambda = -1$ (dashed) excitation branches are shown in (a1) and (b1) as white lines for reference. Excitations for $\delta_{12} = \delta_c = 0.55$ shown in (a) and (b) correspond to the purple circles in Figs. $1(a)$, $2(a)$, and $2(b)$. The dynamical structure factors were broadened by setting $\delta(\omega) \rightarrow e^{-(\omega/\omega_B)^2}/\sqrt{\pi \omega_B}$ in Eq. [\(13\)](#page-2-0) with $\omega_B = 0.04\omega_z$.

immiscibility transitions occur.² The two unstable regions in Fig. $1(a)$ correspond to the area where long-wavelength spin phonon modes or short-wavelength spin roton modes soften and become dynamically unstable. The spin character of the unstable modes can be assessed from their dominant contribution occurring in the *S*[−] structure factor (see Fig. 3 below and [\[21\]](#page-9-0)), and for the balanced case these modes have $\lambda = -1$. Such unstable modes suggest that the components will spatially separate, leading to an immiscible transition. This indicates an immiscible state will emerge as the ground state.

2. Ground-state phase diagram

Using the formalism outlined in Sec. ΠA we can find the ground states in the regions where the uniform miscible state is dynamically unstable. The ground-state phase diagram is shown in Fig. $1(b)$, with some example states shown in Figs. $2(c1)-2(c4)$. When the uniform miscible state is unstable, the ground state has a modulated density in plane that arises because the two components are immiscible and partially separated. The modulation of the density of component 1 is characterized by the density contrast

$$
C_1 = \frac{\max |\psi_1|^2 - \min |\psi_1|^2}{\max |\psi_1|^2 + \min |\psi_1|^2}.
$$
 (24)

Here, a contrast of 0 indicates that the state is uniform, and a (maximal) contrast of 1 indicates that the density of that component goes to zero at some point in the unit cell. We shade the phase diagram in Fig. $1(b)$ according to the component-1 density contrast of the lowest-energy spin-stripe state. Note that when component 1 begins to modulate (i.e., $C_1 > 0$), component 2 also modulates such that the dense regions of each component avoid each other [e.g., see Figs. $2(c1)-(c4)$].

For parameters considered in our results, the transition from the uniform to spin-stripe state is continuous; i.e., the contrast emerges continuously as δ_{12} varies [see Fig. [2\(b2\)\]](#page-3-0). The reciprocal-lattice vector of the spin-stripe state decreases with δ_{12} [see Fig. [2\(b1\)\]](#page-3-0), but most importantly, it is strongly dependent on the relative dipole strength between the components, as characterized by the ratio μ_2^m / μ_1^m [see Fig. [2\(a1\)\]](#page-3-0). In the region where the uniform state exhibits a spin-roton instability [light-green-shaded region in Fig. $1(a)$], the stripe state emerges with microscopic length scale $L \sim l_z$. For example, $L \approx \pi l_z$ for the antiparallel case, increasing to $L \approx 1.6 \pi l_z$ for the dipolar-nondipolar case. In the region where the uniform state exhibits a long-wavelength spin-phonon instability [lavender-shaded region in Fig. [1\(a\)](#page-3-0) and as $\mu_1^m / \mu_2^m \rightarrow 1$ in Fig. [2\(a1\)\]](#page-3-0) the length *L* diverges, consistent with the system preferring to become immiscible by forming a single large domain of each component. We refer to this as the region with two domains, which can be understood using a model with two uniform condensates of equal average areal density *n* and no intercomponent interaction. In the ground state of this model, the two components have equal pressure, and the energy per particle [\(4\)](#page-1-0) is

$$
\mathcal{E}_{\text{LD}} = \frac{n}{4} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{2} \sqrt{g_{ii}^{s} + 2g_{ii}^{dd}} \right)^{2},\tag{25}
$$

shown as a pink line in Fig. $2(a2)$. Equating this to the energy of a miscible uniform case in the quasi-2D approximation [Eq. [\(19\)](#page-2-0) with $\eta = 0$] yields a result coinciding with the BdG approach used in [\[21\]](#page-9-0) and shown by the pink lines in Fig. [1.](#page-3-0)

We also indicate in Fig. $1(b)$ the small region where a triangular immiscible state emerges as the ground state via a first-order transition from the uniform state. The roton softening boundary (light-blue solid line in Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0) is enclosed within it; i.e., the transition to the triangular state generally occurs at a slightly lower δ_{12} value. Stronger nonlinearities (i.e., larger ng_{ij}^s and ng_{ij}^{dd}), more strongly imbalanced regimes, or in-plane confinement could be used to favor the triangular spin state over a broader parameter regime, but we do not consider that further here.

For the balanced antiparallel case $\mu_1^m / \mu_2^m = -1$ we compare the numerical and variational results for the spin-stripe state properties in Figs. $2(b1)$, $2(b2)$, $2(c1)$, and $2(c4)$. These comparisons show excellent agreement and verify the utility of the variational approach to the ground states in the balanced regime.

²We exclude the region of mechanical instability, which requires accounting for quantum fluctuations (e.g., see [\[12,13\]](#page-9-0)).

B. Excitations and structure factors

1. Uniform miscible state

In Figs. $3(a)$ and $3(b)$, we consider the excitations in uniform balanced ground states with antiparallel dipoles $\mu_1^m / \mu_2^m = -1$ for several values of δ_{12} . In the uniform state there are two gapless excitation branches. For the balanced case, these branches have density $(\lambda = 1)$ and spin $(\lambda = -1)$ character. As δ_{12} increases, the slope of the density branch near $k_{\rho} = 0$ (where $k_{\rho}^2 = k_x^2 + k_y^2$) also increases. In contrast the spin-excitation branch develops a rotonlike (localminimum) feature that softens to zero energy as $\delta_{12} \rightarrow \delta_c \approx$ 0.55. At this critical value we identify the roton wave vector *k*rot as the wave vector at which the roton first softens to zero energy [see Fig. [3\(b\)\]](#page-4-0). For $\delta_{12} > \delta_c$ the uniform state is unstable, and the spin-stripe state is the ground state [see Figs. $2(b1)$, $2(b2)$, and $2(c1)$]. The spin stripe forms with $K = k_{\text{rot}}$ at the critical point.

In Figs. $3(a1)$ and $3(b1)$ we show the dynamic structure factors for the $\delta_{12} = 0.45$ case. Excitations with $\lambda = +1$ and $\lambda = -1$ contribute to the S_+ and S_- dynamic structure factors, respectively, and the dip in *S*[−] clearly reveals the spin roton. In Fig. $1(a)$ the spin-roton softening is used to identify the roton stability boundary (light blue line).

2. Balanced spin-stripe state

In Figs. $4(a1)$ and $4(a2)$ we consider the excitation spectrum (white lines) for $\delta_{12} > \delta_c$, where the ground state is a spin-stripe state [the case shown in Fig. $2(c1)$]. Here, we show the excitations propagating with quasimomentum normal to the stripe (i.e., along *x*). The excitations are repeated in the extended zone scheme to allow comparison with the dynamic structure factors. We observe three gapless excitation branches in this phase, with two being $\lambda = 1$ excitation branches and one being a $\lambda = -1$ branch. This is consistent with the prediction of $2 + D$ Nambu-Goldstone modes for a two-component supersolid state [\[41\]](#page-9-0), where *D* is the dimensionality of crystalline order (here $D = 1$ for the spinstripe state). We denote the lowest-energy $\lambda = 1$ branch as the density superfluid mode (adopting the terminology used in Ref. [\[22\]](#page-9-0)) and the two upper branches as the (gapless) acoustic and (gapped) spin-Higgs modes, respectively. Similarly, we denote the lowest-energy $\lambda = -1$ gapless branch as the spin superfluid mode and the upper gapped branch as the optical mode. For comparison there are two gapless modes and a Higgs mode in scalar dipolar supersolids [\[42\]](#page-9-0).

In Figs. $4(a1)$ and $4(a2)$ the density and spin-density dynamic structure factors are shown. Here, we observe that the excitation contributions alternate between causing density and spin fluctuations as k_x increases and we cross Brillouin zones. For example, only the $\lambda = 1$ modes (solid lines) contribute to S_+ for $0 \le k_x \le K/2$, whereas only the $\lambda = -1$ modes (dashed lines) contribute for $K/2 \le k_x \le 3K/2$. This arises from the nonsymmorphic symmetry identified in Sec. [II C 2](#page-3-0) and can also be seen as a consequence of Fourier transforming *L*/2-periodic and *L*/2-antiperiodic functions from Eqs. [\(15\)](#page-2-0) and (22) . This symmetry also causes a degeneracy in the excitations, notably that pairs of $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = -1$ bands

FIG. 4. Excitations and dynamic structure factors for (a) balanced spin-stripe states with $\mu_2^m / \mu_1^m = -1$ and $\delta_{12} = 0.6$ and (b) unbalanced spin-stripe states with $\mu_2^m / \mu_1^m = 0$ and $\delta_{12} = 1.15$. White lines indicate the periodically extended excitation spectrum. Solid ($\lambda = 1$) and dashed ($\lambda = -1$) lines in (a) indicate the associated symmetries for the balanced case. The dynamical structure factors were broadened as for Fig. [3.](#page-4-0)

are degenerate at the band edge $q_x = K/2$.³ This degeneracy is most readily seen in the dynamic structure factor results where the $\lambda = \pm 1$ excitation bands are plotted together for reference, as there is no sign of avoided crossings at the Brillouin zone boundaries. Another feature of this symmetry is that the spin-density response diverges at $k_x \to K$ and $\omega \to 0$ [see Fig. 4(a2)] and the density response diverges at $k_x \rightarrow 2K$ and $\omega \rightarrow 0$ [see Fig. 4(a1)].

In Figs. $4(a3)$ and $4(a4)$ we examine the excitations propagating parallel to the stripe (i.e., along *y*). In this direction momentum is a good quantum number. We see that the three gapless bands have different behavior compared to the

³We have the additional symmetry operator P_{k_x} describing the invariance of the system under the inverse of the *x* component of momentum. This pins the band crossing to the edge of the Brillouin zone [\[40\]](#page-9-0).

results for propagation normal to the stripe [see Figs. [4\(a1\)](#page-5-0) and $4(a2)$]. Most notably, the lowest-energy density band has quadratic (i.e., free particle) character and corresponds to a transverse excitation of the stripe and, as a result, makes no contribution to the density structure factor. Similarly, the higher density and spin bands that contribute to the respective structure factors all correspond to longitudinal excitations of the stripes.

3. Unbalanced case: Dipolar-nondipolar mixture

In Figs. $4(b1)$ and $4(b2)$ we consider the excitations and structure factor for an unbalanced case of a dipolar-nondipolar mixture $(\mu_2^m = 0)$ for the stripe state shown in Fig. [2\(c2\).](#page-3-0) Here, we can no longer separate excitations into pure spin or density character (i.e., λ is no longer a good quantum number). The nonsymmorphic symmetry is broken for this case, and the exact degeneracies at the band edge are now replaced by avoided crossings.

IV. QUENCH DYNAMICS

We now examine the dynamics of a quench from the uniform-miscible to spin-stripe state to explore the dynamics of stripe formation. Specifically, at time $t = 0$ we set δ_{12} to a value where a spin-stripe state is expected and simulate the dynamics according to the time-dependent GPE. This implements an instant quench in the interspecies interaction.

We perform these simulations on a square grid of side length *l* with periodic boundary conditions. We add a complex normally distributed noise to the initial miscible state $\psi_i = 1$, which mimics quantum and thermal fluctuations in the quantum field theory [\[43–](#page-9-0)[45\]](#page-10-0). The noise is added to momentum space to modes with wave vectors $k_0 l_z \leq 3.5$. This choice restricts the noise to the low-kinetic-energy modes but ensures that the dynamically unstable Bogoliubov modes have some finite initial occupations. The noise is weak and changes the relative normalization of the initial field by \sim 10⁻⁶.

Immediately following the quench, unstable modes initiate the immiscibility dynamics. The immiscibility is conveniently described using the (pseudo)spin density

$$
F_z(\rho) = |\psi_1(\rho)|^2 - |\psi_2(\rho)|^2, \tag{26}
$$

which characterizes the differences in densities of both components. To quantify the early-time dynamics of the spinstripe formation we use the expectation

$$
\langle F_z^2 \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{A} \int d\rho \, F_z^2(\rho), \tag{27}
$$

where $A = l^2$ is the total area of the system. The evolution of $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ following the quench is shown in Fig. 5(a), where $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ has a small nonzero value at $t = 0$ arising from the initial noise and grows exponentially with time, which reflects the unstable excitations of the initial state. We then identify the growth rate of $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ associated with the most unstable mode as

$$
\Gamma = \max_{\nu} \operatorname{Im} \{ \omega_{\nu} \}. \tag{28}
$$

The results in Fig. $5(a)$ show that this provides a good quantitative description of the exponential growth at early times. In

FIG. 5. Early- and moderate-time growth of spin-stripe order following a sudden quench to $\delta_{12} = 0.8$. (a) Evolution of $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ (black line), with an exponential-growth fit (gray-dash-dotted line), and the Bogoliubov prediction $\sim e^{4\Gamma t}$ (purple dashed line). Inset (a1) shows real (solid line) and imaginary (dashed line) $\lambda = -1$ excitation spectra. (b) Comparison of Bogoliubov prediction (purple dashed line) to the fitted exponential growth rate (gray crosses) for quenches to various δ_{12} values. The three colored markers in (b) have the parameters indicated by the same markers in Fig. [1\(a\).](#page-3-0) Examples of the (c) early- $(t = 10/\omega_z)$ and (d) moderate- $(t = 100/\omega_z)$ time spin-density patterns for $\delta_{12} = 0.8$. Other parameters are the same as the values used in Fig. [2\(c1\).](#page-3-0) The green line in (a) indicates $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ for the spin-stripe ground state. Simulations were performed on a square grid with side length $l = 40l_z$, 200 points in each direction, and periodic boundary conditions.

Fig. 5(b) we consider how the early-time growth rate changes with δ_{12} and verify the applicability of Eq. (28) for these cases. This growth eventually saturates on a timescale of $t \sim 10/\omega_z$ when $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ saturates to a value close to the expected value for the spin-stripe ground state.

In Fig. $5(c)$ we show an early-time spin-density pattern following the quench. Later, at $t = 100/\omega_z$ [see Fig. 5(d)], the spin-stripe structure is already well established, although the orientation of the stripes varies over space. From these stripes we can extract the mean reciprocal-lattice vector, which we display as the black crosses in Fig. $2(b1)$ and which is seen to be in good agreement with the expected ground-state reciprocal-lattice vectors.

The early-time growth in immiscible binary and spin-1 condensates was considered in previous work (e.g., see Refs. [\[46–48\]](#page-10-0)), and the initial evolution of $\langle F_z^2 \rangle$ is similar to our observations. However, in these nondipolar systems irregular domains develop, rather than regular spin stripes. As time progresses, the spin domains grow in size with time in a coarsening process [\[49\]](#page-10-0) that evolves the system towards one large domain of each component (also see [\[50–54\]](#page-10-0)).

FIG. 6. (a) Illustrative example of the spin density at $t =$ $1600/\omega_z$ following a quench to the spin-stripe phase. The black circle identifies a disclination defect in the stripe pattern, and the two white circles identify grain-boundary defects. (b) Schematic of a $+1/2$ disclination defect in a stripe pattern. The orientation of a vector perpendicular to the stripes (black lines) [see (c)] rotates by 180° as we travel over the closed circular path drawn around the core of the defect. (c) Schematic example of the normal vectors **n**ˆ perpendicular to the stripes (also see text). We use these normal vectors to quantify the orientation order. (d) The orientation order (angle) of the normal vectors corresponds to the spin density in (a). Other parameters are the same as the values used in Fig. $5(a)$. Simulation is performed on a square grid with side length $l = 160l_z$ (one quarter of the simulation area is shown), with 800 points in each direction.

We are also interested in how the orientation order grows in the spin-stripe phase. Initially, the stripe domains (i.e., regions with regular stripe spacing and orientation) extend over small length scales [e.g., see Fig. $5(c)$]. At later times the domains are observed to be larger [e.g., compare Figs. $5(d)$ and $6(a)$]. We can see two types of defects in the example presented in Fig. 6. First, we can see a disclination point defect indicated by the black circle drawn in Fig. $6(a)$ [also see Fig. $6(b)$]. Second, we observe a grain-boundary line defect indicated by the thick magenta lines inside the white circles in Fig. $6(a)$. These defects are known from the theory of 2D solids (e.g., see Ref. [\[55\]](#page-10-0)).

To characterize the spin-stripe orientation order, the relevant order parameter is the orientation angle $\phi(\rho)$ of the normal vectors of the spin density in the *xy* plane [\[56\]](#page-10-0). We show a schematic example of the unit normal vectors $\hat{\bf{n}}$ in Fig. $6(c)$ to demonstrate how we map the spin density in Fig. $6(a)$ onto $\phi(\rho)$ in Fig. $6(d)$.⁴ Because the magnitude of the normal vectors vanishes at the local maximum and minimum of F_z and due to fluctuations, we remove some

FIG. 7. Phase-ordering kinetics of the spin-stripe state. (a) Spatially and angular averaged correlation function for 32 trajectories (thin lines) and the averaged result (thick line) at $t = 2000/\omega_z$ after quench. (b) The orientation order-parameter correlation function at three different times after the quench. (c) Collapse of correlation functions in (b) by scaling with the correlation length $L_{\phi}(t)$. (d) Growth of the correlation length at late times following the quench, indicating a power-law growth. The circles mark the results corresponding to the cases shown in (b). We used 32 trajectories for δ_{12} < 0.9 and 8 trajectories for δ_{12} = 0.9. Inset: comparison of dynamic critical exponents (circles) and the superfluid fraction *fs* (dashed line). Other parameters are the same as those used in Fig. [5.](#page-6-0) Simulations were performed on a square grid with side length $l = 409.6l_z$, with 2048 points in each direction.

short-wavelength noise by a Gaussian filtering. Some residual noise remains on the filtered order parameter, but generally, it is seen to vary smoothly over space. The results of Fig. $6(d)$ also clearly reveal the point and line defects.

To examine how order develops after the quench we evaluate the order-parameter correlation function

$$
G(\boldsymbol{\rho},t) = \frac{1}{A} \int d\boldsymbol{\rho}' e^{2i[\phi(\boldsymbol{\rho}+\boldsymbol{\rho}')-\phi(\boldsymbol{\rho}')]}. \tag{29}
$$

In practice the result is calculated using angular averaging to produce $G(\rho, t)$. An example of the late-time correlation function for 32 independent quench trajectories is shown in Fig. $7(a)$ as thin lines, and the average over these trajectories is shown as a thick line. Using this technique, we construct the averaged correlation functions at different times [see Fig. 7(b)]. At each time we identify the correlation length $L_{\phi}(t)$ (i.e., typical domain size) as $G[L_{\phi}(t), t] = G(0, t)/e$. The results in Fig. $7(c)$ show that the correlation functions scaled by their correlation lengths, i.e., $G[\rho/L_{\phi}(t), t]$, exhibit a collapse to a time-independent function. This verifies dynamic scaling of the order parameter at late times in the phase ordering. Here, the results shown are taken at times from $t \sim 10^2/\omega_z$ to $\sim 3 \times 10^3/\omega_z$. The lower time limit is to ensure that the correlation length is sufficiently large compared to

⁴The stripe-orientation order can be characterized by a nematic director. To reflect this we take the normal vectors to be in the upper half plane $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \text{sgn}(\frac{\partial F_z}{\partial y}) \frac{\nabla F_z}{|\nabla F_z|}$.

the microscopic lengths (e.g., stripe wavelength). The upper time limit is imposed to prevent the correlation length from becoming comparable to the grid extent; i.e., we restrict the data to cases where $L_{\phi}(t) \lesssim l/4$.

In Fig. $7(d)$ we show several averaged correlation length $L_{\phi}(t)$ growth curves for quenches to δ_{12} values in the range $0.65 \le \delta_{12} \le 0.9$. For $0.65 \le \delta_{12} \le 0.8$ they are seen to grow with time consistent with a power law $L_{\phi} \sim t^{1/z}$, with an exponent $1/z$ that depends on the values of δ_{12} [see fits in Fig. [7\(d\)](#page-7-0) and exponents shown in the inset]. The result for $\delta_{12} = 0.9$ grows more slowly, and the domain size appears to saturate at late times. Our results for $\delta_{12} = 1$ to 1.2 (not shown) are similar to the $\delta_{12} = 0.9$ case, but once the domain size reaches $L_{\phi} \sim 10 l_z$, any further increase is very slow. In general, we find that the $\delta_{12} \geqslant 0.9$ cases grow slower than a power law.

Several factors may play a role in the phase-ordering dependence on δ_{12} . First, as δ_{12} increases, the density contrast of each component increases, and transport is inhibited. Indeed, the density contrast from the broken translational invariance of the spin-stripe state leads to a reduction in the superfluid fraction of each component, which we quantify using the Leggett result [\[57\]](#page-10-0) applied to component 1,

$$
f_s = L \left[\int_{uc} \frac{dx}{|\psi_1(x)|^2} \right]^{-1},\tag{30}
$$

with the results shown in the inset in Fig. $7(d)$. We observe that the dynamic critical exponent decreases as the superfluid fraction decreases. A second factor is that for deeper quenches (i.e., to large δ_{12}) a higher density of disclinations is created. Studies of stripe pattern ordering in 2D smectic systems found that as the disclination density increased, the phase ordering progressed at a significantly slower rate [\[56\]](#page-10-0).

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this work we have characterized the phase diagram for a quasi-2D binary BEC focusing on the spin-stripe state, which occurs when there is a difference in the DDIs between the components. We have also calculated the excitations of the spin-stripe state and explored the role of \mathbb{Z}_2 and nonsymmorphic symmetries in the balanced regime. This work laid the foundation for us to study the dynamics of how stripe order forms following a sudden quench from a miscible state to the parameter regime where the spin-stripe state is the expected ground state. The system exhibits novel dynamics in this transition as domains consisting of spin-stripes with different orientations form across the system. At the interface between these domains, various defects such as grain boundaries and disclinations occur. Our results showed that as time evolves, dynamic scaling can occur, although for larger δ_{12} values we find that the domains are almost frozen and grow very slowly. For values of δ_{12} where phase ordering occurs, we found dynamic critical exponents in the range $1/z \sim 0.4-0.6$. For comparison, work on binary fluids [\[58\]](#page-10-0) established growth laws of $t^{1/3}$, *t*, and $t^{2/3}$ in the diffusive, viscous hydrodynamic, and inertial hydrodynamic regimes, respectively [\[49,58\]](#page-10-0). The 2D smectic liquid crystal also has a stripe pattern, although it is a single-component system. Experimental studies of the phase ordering in 2D smectics $[56,59]$ found a $t^{1/4}$ growth law, reduced from the $t^{1/2}$ law observed in 2D nematic liquid crystals. In the smectic system the growth of the order was observed to follow the average spacing between disclinations. Furthermore, we find that the phase ordering changes character as δ_{12} increases and the number of defects increases. For sufficiently high δ_{12} values the phase ordering appears to stop, and microscopic domains remain frozen in. This suggests that a detailed investigation of the defect dynamics could shed light on the ordering dynamics in the spin-stripe phase.

Following the experimental progress in producing binary dipolar mixtures, our predictions, particularly for the groundstate structure and excitations, could be explored with these systems using quasi-2D box potentials [\[60\]](#page-10-0). Experimental work on the spin-stripe phase transition dynamics would complement efforts looking at the ordering dynamics of immiscible quantum phases explored in spinor BECs. Of note is the experiment of Huh *et al.* [\[61\]](#page-10-0) that observed the ordering dynamics in the easy-axis regime of a ferromagnetic spin-1 BEC, where the system evolves as an immiscible twocomponent mixture. Those experiments were able to find universal scaling in the evolution of the spin correlations (cf. Ref. [\[62\]](#page-10-0)). However, even in smaller systems the early-stage evolution of the transition to a spin stripe could be studied. In addition to the growth rates of local order, it would be interesting to quantify the emergence and evolution of defects. Dipolar BECs are prone to developing sharp density features in boxlike potentials $[63, 64]$, but recent work showed that having appropriately chosen soft walls realizes the homogeneous limit [\[65\]](#page-10-0), relevant to our predictions here.

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