Acoustic plasmons in type-I Weyl semimetals

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(Received 3 November 2020; accepted 27 April 2021; published 6 May 2021)

Massless chiral fermions emergent in inversion symmetry-breaking Weyl semimetals (WSMs) reside in the vicinity of multiple low-symmetry nodes and thus acquire strongly anisotropic dispersion. We investigate the longitudinal electromagnetic modes of two-component degenerate Weyl plasma relevant to the realistic band structure of type-I WSM. We show that the actual spectrum of three-dimensional collective density excitations in the TaAs family of WSM is gapless due to emergence of acoustic plasmons corresponding to out-of-phase oscillations of the plasma components. These modes exist around the [001] crystallographic direction and are weakly damped, due to large difference in the Weyl velocities of the W_1 and W_2 quasiparticles propagating along [001]. We show that acoustic plasmons can manifest themselves as slow beatings of electric potential superimposed on fast plasmonic oscillations upon charge relaxation. The revealed acoustic modes can stimulate purely electronic superconductivity, collisionless plasmon instabilities, and formation of Weyl soundarons.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevB.103.205201

I. INTRODUCTION

Weyl fermion (WF)-like [1] quasiparticles in the recently discovered Weyl semimetals (WSMs) manifest themselves in peculiar optical and transport phenomena [2,3] related to highenergy physics analogies. Imposed by the specific nature of single-particle excitations, the plasma modes of WFs in WSM [4,5] mimic the ones of ultrarelativistic plasma [6]. The consistent theory of the bulk plasmon dispersion in WSMs taking into account ultraviolet cutoff was elaborated in Refs. [7–9] for both extrinsic and intrinsic cases, including the case of parallel electric and magnetic fields, related to the nontrival topological issue of chiral anomaly inherent to WSM [10]. Due to nontrivial topology, a type of topological surface collective excitations associated with Fermi arcs arose [11–13], and the conventional surface plasmon polaritons in timereversal symmetry-breaking WSM become nonreciprocal at zero magnetic field [14,15]. These features, in addition to the characteristic plasmon energy on the order of tens of meV [15], make WSMs promising materials for THz plasmonics [16].

The band structure of real WSM materials is more complicated than that given by the "prototypical" Weyl Hamiltonian [1], since it is multinodal [17–23]. Because of the low local symmetry of the Weyl nodes, WF dispersion acquires strong anisotropy and tilt [24–28]. This leads to qualitative difference in predictions of the *prototypical* and *realistic* models of WSM, including existence of type-II WSM [2] undamped plasmon modes in it [29], photocurrent effects [30,31], and Auger recombination [32].

In the realistic band structure of type-I WSMs, there are at least two (nonequivalent) degenerate distributions of carriers resident in the vicinity of different Weyl nodes, which coexist at any direction of the wave vector, thus making the WF plasma in WSM *multicomponent*. The difference in the Fermi wave vectors $k_F = \mu/v$ (hereinafter $\hbar = 1$) between two groups of WFs can originate solely from the Weyl velocity anisotropy $v_2 \neq v_1$ while the Fermi levels are equal $\mu_2 = \mu_1$ [Fig. 1(a)], as happens in the doped WSMs of HgTe family [33] possessing a single node group, e.g., in HgTe [22] under strain or chalcopyrite compounds [23]. Further, we will refer to this case as *homogeneous Weyl plasma* (WP). In *heterogeneous Weyl plasma* [Fig. 1(b)] specific to the TaAs family [17–20] of WSMs [34], both unequal values of the chemical potentials and Weyl velocities at the nodes contribute to complexity of the WP properties.

In this paper, we show that the structure of plasma excitations in real WSM materials, such as TaAs, NbAs, TaP, and NbP, is fundamentally different from the one expected in the prototypical model [7–9]. The dielectric response of two-component WP supports formation of the acoustic plasmons [35], corresponding to out-of-phase density oscillations in components, even in isotropic approximation for each component, above some contrast in the WF velocities and/or concentrations (Sec. II A). The anisotropic WP behaves as an isotropic one with the direction-dependent WF velocities and effective concentrations (Sec. II B). Thus, the existence of an acoustic mode depends on the direction as well. Strongly anisotropic dispersion of WFs and heterogeneous nature of the WP in TaAs family of WSM are favorable for propagation of the acoustic plasmons in some range of directions. As a result, the spectrum of plasma excitations in real WSM is gapless. In order to demonstrate that the acoustic modes can be directly observed in experiments, we calculate (Sec. II C) the energy loss function within a full random phase approximation (RPA) and investigate (Sec. III) relaxation of initial perturbation in two-component WP. This problem is related to

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FIG. 1. Implementation of the *two-component* degenerate plasma in Weyl semimetals: (a) homogeneous plasma formed within the single Weyl node group, and (b) heterogeneous plasma in the multigroup Weyl semimetals (TaAs-like).

time-domain experimental setups. Some other intriguing phenomena related to acoustic plasmons in WSMs and potential applications are discussed in Sec. IV.

II. PLASMA EXCITATION MODE STRUCTURE OF TYPE-I WSM

A. Acoustic modes in two-component isotropic WP

To reveal the gapless nature of WP excitations in WSM, we start with the minimal model describing two-component WP formed by WFs with isotropic Weyl velocities $v_{1,2}$ occupying the Weyl nodes with degeneracy factors $\eta_{1,2}$ and the Fermi levels μ_1 and μ_2 , respectively. The Weyl Hamiltonian for two types of WFs (j = 1, 2) reads

$$H_i = v_i \mathbf{k} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}. \tag{1}$$

The dielectric function of two-component WP is given by

$$\varepsilon(\omega, q) = 1 + \Delta \varepsilon_1(\omega, q) + \Delta \varepsilon_2(\omega, q), \tag{2}$$

where contributions of the WP components $\Delta \varepsilon_j(\omega, q)$ are additive and are given by the dielectric function of prototypical WSM [7] with the parameters v, η , and μ , specific to each component.

To find the collective modes of the two-component WP, we need to solve the standard equation Re $\varepsilon(\omega, q) = 0$ [36]. In the quasiclassical domain $(\omega, v_j q \ll 2\mu_j)$, the contributions to dielectric function from the WP components are given by

$$\Delta \varepsilon_j(\omega, q) = \frac{q_{\tau_j}^2}{q^2} \left[1 + \frac{\omega}{2v_j q} \ln \left| \frac{\omega - v_j q}{\omega + v_j q} \right| \right] + i\pi \frac{\omega}{2v_j q} \frac{q_{\tau_j}^2}{q^2} \Theta(v_j q - \omega), \qquad (3)$$

where $q_{\tau j} = \sqrt{2\eta_j \alpha_j / \pi \varkappa_0} k_{Fj}$ is the Thomas-Fermi wave vector, $\alpha_j = e^2 / v_j \varkappa_b$ is the Weyl fine structure constant, \varkappa_b is the background dielectric constant, $\varkappa_0 = 1 + \frac{\eta_1 \alpha_1}{3\pi} \ln \frac{\omega_A}{2\mu_1} + \frac{\eta_2 \alpha_2}{3\pi} \ln \frac{\omega_A}{2\mu_2}$ describes the renormalization of \varkappa_b [7,8], and ω_A is the cutoff energy of the WF model [8,37].

We focus on the emergence of acoustic plasmon modes $\omega_{ac}(q) = sq$ [35] lying between the WF dispersion lines of the slow and fast plasma components $v_1q < \omega < v_2q$. In the limit of $q \rightarrow 0$, Re $\varepsilon(\omega_{ac}(q), q) = 0$ transforms into the equation



FIG. 2. Existence conditions and velocities of acoustic plasmons. The relative difference of Weyl velocities δv is varied along the horizontal axis, and the relative difference of carrier densities of two types δn is varied along the vertical one. The color encodes the velocity of acoustic plasmon *s* (in units of minimum Weyl velocity). In the middle blue-filled region, acoustic plasmon does not exist. Solid lines correspond to homogeneous plasma (e.g., doped HgTe [22] under strain or chalcopyrite compounds [23]), heterogeneous plasma of TaAs ($\mu_2/\mu_1 = 5$ [17]), and NbAs ($\mu_1/\mu_2 = 8.25$ [20,28]). Dashed part of the TaAs composition line corresponds to the anisotropic WP in (110) and (110) planes within the numerically predicted band structure [24,28].

for sound velocity

$$\left|\frac{s-v_1}{s+v_1}\right|^{sq_{T_1}^2/2v_1} \left|\frac{s-v_2}{s+v_2}\right|^{sq_{T_2}^2/2v_2} = e^{-(q_{T_1}^2+q_{T_2}^2)}$$
(4)

depending on the ratios of WF velocities $\delta v = v_2/v_1$ and Thomas-Fermi wave vectors $\delta q_T = q_{T2}/q_{T1}$. Using the relation

$$\frac{q_{T2}}{q_{T1}} = \left(\frac{\eta_2 n_2^2 v_1^3}{\eta_1 n_1^2 v_2^3}\right)^{1/6},\tag{5}$$

it is convenient to consider solution of Eq. (4) in terms of the dimensionless parameters

$$\Delta v = \frac{E_2(q) - E_1(q)}{E_2(q) + E_1(q)} = \frac{v_2 - v_1}{v_2 + v_1},\tag{6}$$

$$\Delta n = \frac{n_2 - n_1}{n_2 + n_1},\tag{7}$$

expressing degree of the quantum mechanical and statistical imbalance between the WP components. Here $E_j(q) = v_j q$ denotes the dispersion of WFs and n_j are concentrations in the plasma components

$$n_j = \frac{\eta_j}{6\pi^2} \frac{\mu_j^3}{v_j^3}.$$
 (8)

The color diagram in Fig. 2 shows the existence domain and velocity of acoustic plasmons (in the units of the smaller WF velocity– v_1 at $\Delta v > 0$ and v_2 at $\Delta v < 0$). It is asymmetric with respect to permutation of plasma components (i.e., to the simultaneous transformations $\Delta n \rightarrow -\Delta n$ and $\Delta v \rightarrow -\Delta v$) representing the effect of the difference in Weyl node degeneracy on the acoustic plasmon formation. In Fig. 2, we consider

 $\delta \eta = \eta_2/\eta_1 = 2$ characteristic for TaAs family of WSMs, so at $\Delta v > 0$ the number of the fast nodes is greater than the slow ones, while at $\Delta v < 0$ the situation is opposite.

Since the ratio of Fermi energies $\delta \mu = \mu_2/\mu_1$ in real WSMs is fixed, but the ratio of densities n_j can be different, realistic two-component WP compositions are presented on the diagram by the curves

$$\Delta n(\Delta v) = \frac{\delta \eta \delta \mu^3 (1 - \Delta v)^3 - (1 + \Delta v)^3}{\delta \eta \delta \mu^3 (1 - \Delta v)^3 + (1 + \Delta v)^3}$$
(9)

at the specific $\delta\mu$ and $\delta\eta$. Figure 2 shows that in the *homogeneous* plasma (depicted by the blue line) the acoustic mode arises only at extreme difference between velocities of the WP components $\Delta v \gtrsim 0.99$, i.e., $v_2/v_1 \gtrsim 20$, when the $\Delta n(\Delta v)$ line (9) at $\delta\mu = 1$ and $\delta\eta = 1$ enters the acoustic plasmon domain. With the increase of heterogeneity $\delta\mu$, WP composition line crosses the border at moderate Δv and the acoustic mode tends to exist at a wider range of Δv . Namely, the *heterogeneous* WP lines corresponding to TaAs and NbAs lie well inside the acoustic plasmon domain. The upper curves lying predominantly at $\Delta n > -\Delta v$ correspond to $\mu_2 > \mu_1$, and the lower ones correspond to $\mu_2 < \mu_1$.

A similar mechanism governs the formation of acoustic spin plasmon in spin-polarized degenerate two-dimensional electron gas [38] at $P = (n_{\uparrow} - n_{\downarrow})/(n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow}) > 1/7$. In this case, quasiparticles with different spins possess equal parabolic dispersions and thus Fermi velocities v_{Fj} are determined by the concentrations of plasma components. Therefore, the only independent parameter controlling the emergence of linearly dispersing collective modes is spin polarization *P* analogous to Δn in (7).

Acoustic plasmon mode lies in the domain of small, but nonzero Landau damping provided by the interband singleparticle excitations in the fast component. Therefore, the criteria of its existence is smallness of the collisionless damping $\gamma_{ac}(q) = \text{Im}\varepsilon / \frac{\partial \text{Re}\varepsilon}{\partial \omega} |_{\omega_{ac}(q)}$ compared to the plasmon frequency $\omega_{ac}(q)$. In the quasiclassical domain, the ratio $\gamma_{ac}(q)/\omega_{ac}(q)$ is constant and its explicit form is given by

$$\frac{\gamma_{ac}(q)}{\omega_{ac}(q)} = \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{s}{v_2} \frac{q_{r_2}^2 (s^2 - v_1^2) (v_2^2 - s^2)}{q_{r_1}^2 v_1^2 (v_2^2 - s^2) - q_{r_2}^2 v_2^2 (s^2 - v_1^2)}.$$
 (10)

Figure 3 displays the contour plot of $\gamma_{ac}(q)/\omega_{ac}(q)$ for two-component WP compositions supporting the acoustic collective mode (Fig. 2). With account for damping, the domain of acoustic plasmon existence shrinks to the area of greater $|\Delta v|$, but TaAs and NbAs lines reside in the region of welldefined acoustic mode.

B. Plasmon spectrum of type-I WSM

In experimentally relevant WSMs, WF reside in the vicinity of multiple Weyl nodes belonging to the single or multiple node groups W_n . Weyl nodes of the same group are linked by the crystal symmetry operations $g_i \in \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{T}$ where \mathcal{T} is the time reversal and \mathcal{G} is the point group of WSM, e.g., C_{4v} for TaAs family WSM [2] and D_{2d} for HgTe family WSMs [22,23]; see Fig. 4. Because of the low local symmetry, WF states near the node $W_{n,i}$ are described by the generalized Weyl



FIG. 3. Contour plot of the dimensionless damping parameter (10) for acoustic plasmon in the region of its existence in WSM with $\eta_2/\eta_1 = 2$.

Hamiltonian

$$H_{i,n} = \mathbf{v}_n^{(t)} g_i \mathbf{k} \sigma_0 + \hat{v}_n g_i \mathbf{k} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}, \qquad (11)$$

where **k** is the WF wave vector with respect to the position of $W_{n,i}$ in the Brillouin zone, σ_0 is the identity matrix, and $\mathbf{v}_n^{(t)}$ and \hat{v}_n are tilt and Weyl velocities respectively.

The dielectric response of the multinode WF system is given by the sum of individual contributions from each Weyl node. Linearity of the Hamiltonian (11) in **k** allows one to relate the contribution to the dielectric function from a node $W_{n,i}$ with that of the prototypical WSM with the Fermi level μ_n and the average Weyl velocity $v_n = |\det \hat{v}_n|^{1/3}$, $\Delta \varepsilon_n(\omega, q)$, via a linear coordinate transform [32]. Thus, the total $\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ is given by

$$\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = 1 + \sum_{n,i} \Delta \varepsilon_n \big(\omega - \mathbf{v}_n^{(t)} g_i \mathbf{q}, \left| v_n^{-1} \hat{v}_n g_i \mathbf{q} \right| \big).$$
(12)

This expression is applicable to the arbitrary type-I WSM until the tilt becomes large enough to form the type-II WSM. Since every node has a time-reversal partner with the same chirality but opposite tilt velocity, the expansion of (12) in powers of $|\mathbf{v}_n^{(t)}|/|\hat{v}_n\mathbf{e_q}|$ starts with the quadratic terms and the tilt-induced linear Doppler shift in $\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ is absent [28].



FIG. 4. Projection of the band structure of (a) TaAs family WSMs and (b) HgTe family WSMs on the (001) crystallographic plane. Filled ellipses show the cross sections of the approximate Fermi surfaces. Red dashed lines denote mirror symmetry planes perpendicular to (001). Blue lines and dots correspond to symmetry axes.

Following properties of the individual WFs, WP in type-I WSM is substantially anisotropic and multicomponent because of nonequivalence in energies of the WFs from different nodes (of either the same or different groups) at a given wave vector \mathbf{q} . In the directions and planes of high symmetry, the WP of experimentally available WSMs reduces to two components. The dielectric response is thus equivalent to the one of isotropic two-component WP considered in Sec. II A, but with the direction-dependent parameters

$$n_j \to n_j(\mathbf{e_q}) = \eta_j [k_{\scriptscriptstyle Fj}(\mathbf{e_q})]^3 / 6\pi^2, \qquad (13)$$

$$v_j \to v_j(\mathbf{e_q}) = \hat{v}_j \mathbf{e_q},$$
 (14)

where $\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{q}/q$. Thus, $\Delta n(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}})$ and $\Delta v(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}})$ in (7), (6), and (9) become direction dependent. The position of the corresponding WP composition line and the range of actual $\Delta v(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}})$ (i.e., points on it) are determined by specific band structure parameters of WSM: heterogeneity $\delta \mu$, the values and anisotropy of Weyl velocities $v_j(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{q}})$, and orientation of the principal axes of \hat{v}_n with respect to crystal lattice. Below, we consider the spectrum of the collective excitations of WP in WSMs of TaAs and HgTe families, within the realistic band structure.

Weyl nodes present in TaAs-like WSMs are generally located in low-symmetry points of the Brillouin zone close to high-symmetry mirror planes (100) and (010) [17,19,20,24,28]. The overall 24 nodes are divided into two groups with different Fermi energies: 8 nodes of type W_1 in the (001) plane and 16 nodes W_2 in the two planes perpendicular to [001] with $|k_{z}| \neq 0$. According to numerical calculations of the band structure [24,28], principal axes of Weyl velocity tensors $\hat{v}_{1,2}$ for both groups $W_{1,2}$ are almost collinear to the cubic ones. Since the Weyl nodes of opposite chiralities are connected via the mirror reflections and time reversal, we can neglect this small misorientation. We also ignore the minor difference between $v_{x,y}$ for $W_{1,2}$ and consider the averaged velocity $\bar{v}_{x,y} = v_{x,y}^{(1)}/2 + v_{x,y}^{(2)}/2$ instead. In this section $v_c^{(n)}$, c = x, y, z denote the principal values of the Weyl velocity tensor \hat{v}_n in the group W_n .

With the band structure of TaAs-like WSMs shown in Fig. 4(a), the embodied WP is exactly two component only in the (110), (110), and (001) planes. Namely, the dielectric response in the (001) plane is given by the WFs belonging to the two sets of Weyl nodes connected via C_4 rotation around the [001] axis. Due to the multigroup structure of TaAs-like WSMs, WFs with $v_{(001)}(\mathbf{e_q})$ and $v_{(001)}(C_4\mathbf{e_q})$ can belong to both degenerate distributions described by the Fermi energies $\mu_{1,2}$ respectively. Thus, WP in the (001) plane is effectively homogeneous with the Fermi energy $\sqrt{(\eta_1\mu_1^2 + \eta_2\mu_2^2)/(\eta_1 + \eta_2)}$. The maximum velocity difference between the plasma components is achieved in [100] and [010] directions and its magnitude $\bar{v}_x/\bar{v}_y = 1.56$ guaranties (see Sec. II A) the absence of acoustic plasmons in the (001) plane.

In the (110) crystallographic plane, WFs belonging to the W_1 and W_2 groups of Weyl nodes form, respectively, the slow and the fast components of anisotropic heterogeneous WP. According to the phase diagram shown in Fig. 2, the part of the TaAs composition line which describes the WP in the (110) plane (denoted by the white dashes) lies well inside the



FIG. 5. Anisotropy (red curve) of acoustic plasmon velocity $s(\theta)$ [in units of $v_{(110)}^{(1)}(\theta)$] in the upper half of the (110) crystallographic plane of TaAs with Weyl velocities taken from Ref. [28]. Directions in which acoustic plasmon can propagate lie inside the $2\theta_{crit}^{(110)}$ angle formed by the two solid blue lines.

acoustic plasmon domain and the linearly dispersive collective mode is supported. The maximum speed of sound is achieved in the most favorable direction [001] due to the huge ratio [17,19,20,24] of $v_z^{(2)}/v_z^{(1)} \approx 15$ [28]. This direction is shown on the TaAs composition line by the right endpoint of the dashed part at $\Delta v_{[001]} = 0.875$. With the increase of the polar angle θ with respect to the [001] direction, the difference in the velocities of plasma components

$$v_{(110)}^{(j)}(\theta) = \sqrt{v_{[110]}^2 \sin^2 \theta + \left[v_z^{(j)}\right]^2 \cos^2 \theta}$$
(15)

becomes smaller and the speed of acoustic plasmon rapidly decreases (see Fig. 5). The point { $\Delta n(\Delta v_{(110)}(\theta)), \Delta v_{(110)}(\theta)$ } describing the (110) WP on the phase diagram moves, respectively, along the TaAs composition line toward $\Delta v_{[110]} = 0$ corresponding to the [110] (or [110]) direction, when $v_{(110)}^{(1)}(\theta)$ and $v_{(110)}^{(2)}(\theta)$ merge into $v_{[110]}^2 = (\bar{v}_x^2 + \bar{v}_y^2)/2$. Thus, acoustic plasmon does not propagate in the range of directions in the (110) plane lying between [110] and the critical direction corresponding to the polar angle $\theta_{\rm crit}^{(110)}(\delta\mu) \approx 0.9$.

Anisotropy of the acoustic plasmon velocity in the (110) plane is also affected by the crystal point symmetry. Because of the presence of the $M_{(1\bar{1}0)}$ mirror plane, the $s(\mathbf{e_q})$ plot presented in Fig. 5 is symmetric with respect to the flip of the vertical axis, i.e., to the $[1\bar{1}0] \leftrightarrow [\bar{1}10]$ permutation. Strictly speaking, acoustic plasmons which propagate toward [100] ($0 < \theta < \pi/2$) and opposite to it ($\pi/2 < \theta < \pi$) are not equivalent in inversion symmetry breaking WSMs like TaAs. The lack of inversion symmetry is introduced into the dielectric function of type-I WSM (12) via nonzero but rather small tilt velocity. The tilt affects the difference of acoustic plasmon velocities $s(\theta) \neq s(\pi - \theta)$ that arise as second-order effects [see the discussion after Eq. (12)].

In an arbitrary plane (*kl*0), WF dispersion in TaAs-like WSMs is described by the two pairs of Weyl velocities: $v_z^{(1,2)}$ in the [001] direction and $v_{(001)}(\mathbf{e_q})$ and $v_{(001)}(C_4\mathbf{e_q})$ perpendicular to it. Therefore, the embodied WP is four-component in (*kl*0) and the velocity contrast induced by the giant inequality of $v_z^{(2)}$ and $v_z^{(1)}$ is lowered at a given angle θ in comparison to the (110) plane, so that $\Delta v_{(kl0)}(\theta) < \Delta v_{(110)}(\theta)$. With deviation from the (110) plane, acoustic plasmon propagate in a narrower range of directions near [001] (and [001]) characterized by smaller critical angle $\theta_{crit}^{(kl0)} < \theta_{crit}^{(110)}$. We expect $s(\mathbf{e_q})$

in (*kl*0) to become even more anisotropic with respect to [001] and the $s(\mathbf{e_q})$ plot shown in Fig. 5 to squeeze in the vertical direction. Thus, the collective mode spectrum of TaAs-like WSMs is *gapless* due to formation of weakly damped acoustic plasmon with strongly anisotropic dispersion.

In the case of HgTe family WSMs [22,23] of D_{2d} point group, eight Weyl nodes of the single group W_1 lie exactly in planes (100) and (010). The directions of principal axes of \hat{v} have not been studied numerically yet. Symmetry considerations dictate that one of them should be practically perpendicular to the vertical plane to which the particular Weyl node belongs. For the sake of simplicity, we assume that the principal axes of \hat{v} coincide with the cubic axes; see Fig. 4(b). WF plasma is exactly two-component (except for the (110) set of planes and [001] direction) and is formed by the quasiparticles resident in the vicinity of the Weyl nodes linked by the mirror symmetry operations $M_{(110)}$ and $M_{(1\bar{1}0)}$. However, the velocity anisotropy is not strong enough [22,23] for this homogeneous plasma to support the acoustic plasmon even in the most favorable directions [100] and [010], where Δv reaches its maximum. Therefore, the collective plasma mode spectrum of HgTe family WSMs is gapped, being dominated solely by the *optical plasmon mode*, corresponding to the *in-phase* density oscillations in the plasma components. We point out that at arbitrary orientation of the principal axes of \hat{v} homogeneous plasma of the HgTe family WSMs become multicomponent and less favorable for the formation of acoustic modes by the same reason as discussed for TaAs (kl0) planes, and the predicted plasmon structure remains unchanged.

In the heterogeneous WP with $\delta \mu \approx 1$, ω_{opt} stays well below the edge of the interband single-particle continuum given by $\omega = 2\mu_1$, where μ_1 is the smaller of Fermi energies. In this domain, $\Delta \varepsilon_j(\omega, 0) = -\omega_j^2/\omega^2$ and the optical plasmon frequency is given by the conventional expression $\omega_{opt} = \sqrt{\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2}$, where $\omega_j \sim \sqrt[3]{n_j}$ is the plasmon frequency of the isolated WP components. As the heterogeneity $\delta \mu$ increases, ω_{opt} approaches $2\mu_1$ and the singularity in $\text{Re}\varepsilon(\omega, 0)$ (at $\omega = 2\mu_1$) inherent to the degenerate plasma with linear dispersion [39] affects the optical plasmon energy [10]. At T = 0, it prevents ω_{opt} from entering the single-particle continuum domain, while at finite temperature the singularity is smeared and the optical plasmon vanishes when $2\mu_1 \approx T$.

C. Full RPA energy-loss function and short-wavelength plasmon dispersion

Full RPA energy-loss function calculations confirm the plasmon structure of type-I WSMs predicted in the previous section. In particular, in the case of heterogeneous plasma of TaAs with the composition shown in Fig. 2, the loss function $\text{Im}[-\varepsilon^{-1}(\omega, \mathbf{q})]$ demonstrates two distinct peaks corresponding to optical and acoustic collective modes [Fig. 6(a)]. In the homogeneous case, there exists a single optical plasmon peak [Fig. 6(b)]. Consequently, acoustic plasmon dispersion in WSMs should be directly measurable via the energy-loss spectroscopy experiments.

Plasmon dispersion in the short wavelength domain is generally determined by the full RPA dielectric function [7]. According to Fig. 6(a), acoustic plasmon stays well defined



FIG. 6. Full RPA energy-loss function for the cases of (a) heterogeneous WP in TaAs supporting the acoustic plasmon mode and (b) homogeneous plasma of HgTe-like WSM (see Fig. 2). Here $\langle \mu \rangle = (\mu_1 + \mu_2)/2$ and $\langle v \rangle = (v_1 + v_2)/2$.

in this region, its dispersion acquires small nonlinearity, and the optical and acoustic modes tend to merge with WF's dispersion lines $\omega = v_{2,1}(\mathbf{e_q})q$, respectively.

In the limit $v_2/v_1 \gg 1$, dispersion and damping of acoustic and optical modes can be studied analytically. When the frequency ω approaches the dispersion line $v_F q$, the dielectric response of the degenerate gas with linear dispersion is determined by the singularity in Re $\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q})$, being logarithmic in WSMs [7] and square-root in graphene [40]. Since $\omega_{ac}(\mathbf{q}) \approx v_1(\mathbf{e_q})q \ll v_2(\mathbf{e_q})q$,

$$\Delta \varepsilon_1(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{\eta_1 \alpha_1}{6\pi} \left(\frac{6k_{F_1}^2}{q^2} - 1 \right) \ln \left| 1 - \frac{\omega}{v_1 q} \right|, \qquad (16)$$

$$\Delta \varepsilon_2(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{q_{T_2}^2}{q^2} + i\pi \frac{\omega}{2v_2 q} \frac{q_{T_2}^2}{q^2},$$
 (17)

and the corresponding acoustic plasmon dispersion and damping

$$\omega_{ac}(\mathbf{q}) = v_1 q \left[1 + \exp\left(-2\frac{\delta q_T^2}{1 - q^2/6k_{F_1}^2}\right) \right], \quad (18)$$

$$\frac{\gamma_{ac}}{\omega_{ac}} = 6\pi \frac{\delta q_{T}^{2}}{\delta v} \frac{1}{1 - q^{2}/6k_{F1}^{2}} \exp\left(-2\frac{\delta q_{T}^{2}}{1 - q^{2}/6k_{F1}^{2}}\right).$$
(19)

Due to the pronounced logarithmic singularity, $\omega_{ac}(\mathbf{q})$ has an endpoint at $|\mathbf{q}| = \sqrt{6}k_{F1}(\mathbf{e_q})$. The nonlinear correction to $\omega_{ac}(\mathbf{q})$ and the damping are small, independent of the magnitude of δq_T . The similar singularity-induced endpoint emerges in the optical plasmon dispersion. It was previously obtained from numerical calculations in one-component WP within full RPA approximation [7,10].

III. RELAXATION OF INITIAL PERTURBATION IN TWO-COMPONENT WP

To demonstrate experimental feasibility of acoustic plasmons in WSMs, we consider the relaxation of initial perturbation in isotropic two-component WP. This problem underlies the direct observation of plasma oscillations in time-resolved measurements of voltage between injector and detector contacts placed on a sample [41,42]. Following the method described in Ref. [43], we study the self-consistent response to the weak initial plane-wave-like perturbation of the fast component within the set of linearized collisionless (since the effective dimensionless interaction strength is small $\tilde{\alpha}_i$ =



FIG. 7. Relaxation dynamics [(a), (d)] of the self-consistent potential $\delta V_q(t)$ (20), relaxation spectrum $\tilde{K}_2(\omega, q)$ [(b), (e)] after (21), and full RPA loss function [(c), (f)] at $\langle v \rangle q = 0.4 \langle \mu \rangle$ in heterogeneous [Fig. 6(a)] and homogeneous [Fig. 6(b)] WP respectively. Vertical dashed black lines correspond to the boundaries $\omega = v_{1,2}q$ of intraband and interband single-particle excitations.

 $e^2/\hbar v_j \varkappa_b \varkappa_0 \ll 1$) Boltzman equations for both components (see Appendix A). The time evolution of the dimensionless self-consistent potential $\delta V_q(t)$ per one perturbed WF is given by the Fourier transform of the dimensionless RPA relaxation propagator [36,44] of the fast component $\tilde{K}_2(\omega, q)$

$$\delta \mathcal{V}_q(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} e^{-i\omega t} \tilde{K}_2(\omega, q), \qquad (20)$$

$$\tilde{K}_2(\omega, q) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon(\omega, q)} \frac{\tilde{\Pi}_2(0, q) - \tilde{\Pi}_2(\omega, q)}{i\omega}.$$
 (21)

Here $\tilde{\Pi}_2(\omega, q)$ is the dimensionless quasiclassical noninteracting polarizability (A8) and $\varepsilon(\omega, q)$ is given by Eqs. (2) and (3). The distant stages of the relaxation process are determined by the poles of the relaxation propagator (21) given by $\varepsilon(\omega, q) = 0$ and the asymptotic behavior of $\delta V_q(t)$ has the form [43]

$$\delta \mathcal{V}_q(t) \sim \sum_l e^{-i\,\omega_l(q)t} e^{-\gamma_l t},\tag{22}$$

where l denotes the plasmon dispersion branch.

To investigate the number and damping of the complex zeros of the full dielectric function given by Eqs. (2) and (3), we calculate the relaxation dynamics of $\delta V_q(t)$ by performing the one-dimensional numerical integration in (20) over real frequencies. In agreement with the collective mode structure described in Sec. II A, the relaxation spectrum $\tilde{K}_2(\omega, q)$ of TaAs [Fig. 7(b)] is dominated by two signatures correspond-

ing to acoustic and optical plasmon peaks in the full RPA energy-loss function [Fig. 7(c)]. As a result, high-frequency oscillations of $\delta V_q(t)$ relevant to optical plasmon (which has entered the Landau damping region at the considered wave vector) are affected by the distinct low-frequency modulation at $\omega_{ac}(q)$ with shorter lifetime, demonstrating the direct experimental accessibility of acoustic plasmons in TaAs-like WSMs. According to Figs. 7(d) and 7(e), relaxation of initial perturbation in homogeneous WP in governed by the only present optical mode [Fig. 7(f)], as expected. Since optical plasmon is undamped in this case (Fig. 6), we have introduced an artificial collisional damping Im $\varepsilon = 10^{-2}$ to regularize the frequency integration in (20).

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In real TaAs-family WSMs, Weyl nodes of the same group with opposite chiralities are located close to each other with respect to the size of the first Brillouin zone. The typical value of this internode distance in TaAs is $|\mathbf{Q}| \approx 0.05 \frac{\pi}{a}$ [17], where *a* is the lattice constant. Therefore, internode transitions may give significant contribution to the total dielectric function and thus affect the plasmon dispersion as happens with the emergence of additional harmonics in the Friedel oscillation pattern [7]. In Appendix B, we show that such chirality-flip transitions lead to additional (and rather small) renormalization of the background dielectric constant provided $k_F^{(n)}(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{Q_n}}) \ll |\mathbf{Q_n}|$. Thus, the revealed collective mode structure remains qualitatively unchanged.

We believe that our results will stimulate further research on the acoustic plasmon-mediated phenomena in WSMs. In particular, TaAs-family WSMs may demonstrate the similar unconventional superconductivity as twisted bilayer graphene [45], sharing the purely electronic mechanism of pairing [46] mediated by acoustic plasmons [47-50]. In this case, the absence of the isotope effect will serve as a hallmark of it [51]. The emergence of acoustic plasmons in WSMs introduce other mechanisms of plasmon instability in materials with linear quasiparticle dispersion. Due to the lack of Galilean invariance and singularities in $\operatorname{Re} \varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ at quasiparticle dispersion line $\omega = vq$, negative Landau damping in onecomponent Dirac plasma is prohibited [52] in collisionless regime and the emission of plasmons is feasible only when the hydrodynamic transport takes place [53]. In heterogeneous two-component Weyl-Dirac plasma, the possibility of Cherenkov radiation of acoustic plasmons [54] is determined only by the relation between the drift velocity of the fast component and the sound velocity s, being independent of the particular transport regime. Additionally, the emergence of acoustic plasmons could qualitatively change the renormalization of the quasiparticle band structure due to the strong plasmon-WF coupling. In addition to predicted plasmaronic subband [55] associated with optical plasmons, the composite quasiparticles consisting of acoustic plasmon and WF-Weyl soundarons [56]—may arise and mix with each other.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work of D.S. was supported by Grant No. 21-52-12041 of the Russian foundation for basic research. A.N.A. acknowledges the support by the Foundation for the Advancement of Theoretical Physics and Mathematics BASIS (Grant No. 19-1-5-127-1).

APPENDIX A: EXPLICIT SOLUTION FOR THE SELF-CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO THE INITIAL PERTURBATION IN ISOTROPIC DEGENERATE TWO-COMPONENT WP

The time evolution of the self-consistent response of the form

$$n_j(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) = n_j^{(0)}(p) + \delta n_j(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t)$$
(A1)

to the weak initial perturbation

$$g(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = n_2(0, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) - n_2^{(0)}(p)$$
 (A2)

is governed by the set of linearized collisionless Boltzman equations for both components

$$\frac{\partial \delta n_j}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v}_j \frac{\partial \delta n_j}{\partial \mathbf{r}} + \nabla \mathcal{V} \frac{\partial n_j^{(0)}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = 0, \qquad (A3)$$

where j = 1, 2 is the plasma component index, $n_j^{(0)}(p) = \theta(p_F^{(j)} - p)$ is the equilibrium distribution function, $\delta n_j(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}, t) \ll n_j^{(0)}(p)$ is the small nonequilibrium correction to it, and $\mathbf{p} = \hbar \mathbf{k}$ is the momentum of WFs. In this section, we reintroduce the Planck constant for the sake of clarity. According to (A3), the spatial Fourier transform of the self-consistent potential $\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is given by

$$\mathcal{V}_q(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-i\omega t} \mathcal{V}_{\omega q}^{(+)} d\omega, \qquad (A4)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{V}_{\omega q}^{(+)}}{V_q} = -\frac{\eta_2}{i\,\varepsilon(\omega,q)} \int \frac{g_q(\mathbf{p})}{\mathbf{v}_2 \mathbf{q} - \omega - i0} \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi\hbar)^3},\qquad(A5)$$

where $V_q = \frac{4\pi e^2}{\varkappa_0 q^2}$ is the three-dimensional Coulomb potential. We consider the initial perturbation to be plane-wave-like $g(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) = g_q(\mathbf{p})e^{i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{r}}$. Since Eq. (A3) describes the kinetics of degenerate plasma in the quasiclassical limit $v_2 p \ll \mu_2$, $\hbar\omega \ll \mu_2$, the dielectric function in (A5) determining the self-consistent response coincides with the one given by Eqs. (2) and (3). For the sake of simplicity, we consider the perturbation to be isotropic in momentum space. Therefore, integrations over magnitude $p = |\mathbf{p}|$ and directions $\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{p}}$ of the WF's momenta can be carried out separately for an arbitrary form of $g_q(p)$. After we combine (A4) and (A5) at $g_q(\mathbf{p}) = g_q(p)$, the time evolution of the self-consistent potential in WP per one of the $\mathcal{N}_2(q) = \eta_2 \int g_q(p) \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi\hbar)^3}$ perturbed WFs is given by

$$\delta \mathcal{V}_q(t) = \frac{\mathcal{V}_q(t)}{V_q \mathcal{N}_2(q)} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} e^{-i\omega t} \tilde{K}_2(\omega, q)$$
(A6)

is determined by the quasiclassical form of the dimensionless PRA relaxation propagator

$$\tilde{K}_2(\omega, q) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon(\omega, q)} \frac{\tilde{\Pi}_2(0, q) - \tilde{\Pi}_2(\omega, q)}{i\omega}, \quad (A7)$$

where the dimensionless noninteracting quasiclassical polarizability $\tilde{\Pi}_2(\omega, q) = \Pi_2(\omega, q)/D_2(\mu_2)$ has the form

$$\tilde{\Pi}_{2}(\omega,q) = -\left[1 + \frac{\omega}{2v_{2}q} \ln\left|\frac{\omega - v_{2}q}{\omega + v_{2}q}\right|\right] - i\pi \frac{\omega}{2v_{2}q} \theta(v_{2}q - \omega)\theta(v_{2}q + \omega). \quad (A8)$$

Here $D_2(\mu_2)$ is the density of states of the fast WF at Fermi level.

APPENDIX B: EFFECT OF THE INTERNODE CHIRALITY-FLIP TRANSITIONS ON THE DIELECTRIC FUNCTION OF WSM

Dielectric function of the multinode WSM with the allowance for the chirality-flip transitions between the nearest Weyl nodes of the same type has the form

$$\Delta \varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_{\chi, \chi', n, i} \Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi')}(\omega, \mathbf{q}), \qquad (B1)$$

where $\chi = \pm$, $\chi' = \pm$ are chiralities, *i* denote the symmetry operations in WSM, and *n* is the node group index. Nondiagonal (in χ) components of $\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi')}(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ correspond to chirality-flip transitions, while diagonal ones coincide with the terms of (12)

$$\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta \varepsilon_n(\omega, \left| v_n^{-1} \hat{v}_n g_i \mathbf{q} \right|), \tag{B2}$$

where we have already neglected the tilt velocity-induced Doppler shift for the same reasons stated in Sec. II B.

Chiral-dependent Hamiltonian relevant to a certain node $W_{n,i}^{(\chi)}$ is derived from the Hamiltonian of the isolated Weyl node $H = \hat{v}_{n,i} \mathbf{k} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ by substitutions $\mathbf{k} \to \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{K}_{W_{n,i}^{(\chi)}}$ and $\hat{\sigma} \to \chi \hat{\sigma}$, where $\hat{v}_{n,i} = \hat{v}_n g_i$ is the local Weyl velocity tensor and $\mathbf{K}_{W_{n,i}^{(\chi)}}$ is the position of the Weyl node in the Brillouin zone. The neighbor Weyl nodes with opposite chiralities are separated by the $\mathbf{K}_{W_{n,i}^{(+)}} - \mathbf{K}_{W_{n,i}^{(-)}} = \mathbf{Q}_{n,i} = g_i \mathbf{Q}_n$ specific for the group W_n . Therefore, the components of chirality-dependent dielectric function are connected to diagonal ones via the transformation

$$\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi')}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi)} \left(\omega, \mathbf{q} + \frac{\chi - \chi'}{2} \mathbf{Q}_{n,i} \right), \quad (B3)$$

leading to

$$\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(-\chi\chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta \varepsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q} + \chi \mathbf{Q}_{n,i}), \qquad (B4)$$

and the equivalence of diagonal components $\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(++)}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(--)}(\omega, \mathbf{q})$ (in equilibrium).

Finally, the total dielectric function is given by the sum of intranode term coinciding with (12) and the internode one

$$\varepsilon(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \varepsilon_{\text{intra}}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) + \varepsilon_{\text{inter}}(\omega, \mathbf{q}),$$
 (B5)

$$\varepsilon_{\text{intra}}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = 1 + \sum_{\substack{\chi = \pm \\ n, i}} \Delta \epsilon_{n, i}^{(\chi\chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q}), \quad (B6)$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{inter}}(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_{\substack{\chi = \pm \\ n, i}} \Delta \epsilon_{n, i}^{(\chi \chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q} + \chi \mathbf{Q}_{n, i}).$$
(B7)

Since the plasmon dispersion in the short-wavelength domain is limited by the critical endpoints (see Sec. II C) and we are interested only in $\omega/v_{n,i}(\mathbf{e_q})$, $|\mathbf{q}| \leq k_F^{(n,i)}(\mathbf{e_q})$, the resolvability condition $k_F^{(n,i)}(\mathbf{e_{q_{n,i}}}) \ll |\mathbf{Q}_{n,i}|$ of the Weyl nodes leads to

$$\Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi)}(\omega, \mathbf{q} + \chi \mathbf{Q}_{n,i}) \approx \Delta \epsilon_{n,i}^{(\chi\chi)}(0, |\mathbf{Q}_{n,i}|), \qquad (B8)$$

which is given predominantly by the interband transitions (typical intraband excitation energy μ_n is incomparable with

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 $v(\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{Q}_{n,i}})|\mathbf{Q}_{n,i}|$). Therefore, the effect of internodal scattering reduces to additional quite small renormalization of background dielectric constant

$$\varkappa_b \varkappa_0 \to \varkappa_b \varkappa_0 \left[1 + \frac{\eta_1 \alpha_1}{3\pi} \ln \frac{\Lambda}{Q_1} + \frac{\eta_2 \alpha_2}{3\pi} \ln \frac{\Lambda}{Q_2} \right], \quad (B9)$$

where Λ is the cutoff wave vector of linear dispersion.

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