

## Dynamics of optically injected currents in carbon nanotubes

L. L. Bonilla,<sup>1</sup> M. Alvaro,<sup>1</sup> M. Carretero,<sup>1</sup> and E. Ya. Sherman<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Gregorio Millán Institute for Fluid Dynamics, Nanoscience and Industrial Mathematics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Avenida de la Universidad 30, 28911 Leganés, Spain*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physical Chemistry, The University of the Basque Country, 48080 Bilbao, Spain*

<sup>3</sup>*IKERBASQUE Basque Foundation for Science, Bilbao, Spain*

(Received 2 June 2014; revised manuscript received 15 October 2014; published 31 October 2014)

We consider theoretically the dynamics of electric currents optically injected in carbon nanotubes. Although the plasma oscillations are not seen in these systems, the main effect on the carrier's motion is due to strongly nonuniform space-charge Coulomb forces produced by time-dependent separation of injected electron and hole densities. We calculate the evolution of the dipole moment characterizing the time- and coordinate-dependent charge-density distributions and analyze different regimes of the dynamics. The developed time-dependent dipole moment leads to a dipole radiation in the THz frequency range for typical parameters of injected currents.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.90.165441](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.90.165441)

PACS number(s): 73.63.Fg, 78.67.Ch, 42.65.Re

### I. INTRODUCTION

Optical manipulation of carriers in bulk solids and artificial structures is an interesting problem for fundamental and applied physics. By interference of single- and two-photon optical transitions induced by highly coherent laser beams, which can be controlled by the beams' phases, one can optically inject currents in semiconductors [1,2] and semiconductor nanostructures [3,4]. Recently, current injection using the same principle of interference was reported for a different class of systems such as graphene [5] and carbon nanotubes [6]. The understanding of the following dynamics of the injected currents can provide valuable information about both the injection process and the interactions in the system.

For two-dimensional semiconductor quantum wells [7], it was shown that the space-charge effects due to nonuniform charge density play a crucial role in the electron motion while relatively heavy holes can be taken at rest. If the space-charge effects dominate in the charge dynamics, the time scale of the evolution is given by the characteristic expected plasma frequency corresponding to the injected charge density and the laser spot size. However, the plasma oscillations should not be seen there since a highly nonuniform charge density is formed on the time scale of the order of the expected inverse plasma frequency.

In this respect, carbon nanotubes are very different from conventional semiconductors. Semiconducting nanotubes, where carriers have finite effective masses, were investigated intensively using optical techniques. Near the absorption threshold, they demonstrate excitonic effects in the optical absorption spectra [8] and in the subsequent dynamics [9]. Here electrons and holes give the same contribution to the optical properties. Another type of nanotubes is metallic systems, where the dispersion relation of carriers is linear in the momentum, making the plasma frequency a poorly defined quantity. As a result, even when the carrier momentum changes due to the relaxation and external forces, the velocity, and therefore the current, can remain constant. To change the carrier velocity, the momentum has to change sign. In general, for these "relativistic" spectra, even relatively strong Coulomb forces do not lead to the formation of excitons (for an exception, see Ref. [10]). This new type of dynamics, which

will be our focus here, can experimentally be seen in bunches of nanotubes containing metallic and semiconducting species. As we are interested in the optical response in the relatively low frequency infrared domain, semiconducting nanotubes will not contribute to the properties of our interest. Moreover, metallic nanotubes can be separated from the semiconducting ones [11] to provide a system for experimental study of the effects considered here.

A microscopic theory of current injection in semiconducting nanotubes has been developed [12] by using the analysis of the transition matrix elements on an atomic scale. However, the stage of the subsequent dynamics with a strongly nonuniform density has not yet been studied and understood. Here we study this process. The time-dependent injected current is accompanied by emission of radiation in the THz frequency domain. As we will show, the spectrum of this radiation provides information about the dynamics and properties of the system.

### II. MODEL DYNAMICS EQUATIONS

We begin with model equations for a single-wall carbon nanotube characterized by a dispersion relation (see Fig. 1):

$$\varepsilon(k) = \hbar|k|v_0, \quad \varepsilon(k) = -\hbar|k|v_0 \quad (1)$$

for electrons and holes, respectively, and velocities  $v(k) = \pm \text{sgn}(k)v_0$ , where  $v_0 = 10^8$  cm/s.

Optical injection produces electron and hole densities  $n^\pm$ ,  $p^\pm$ , respectively, in the coordinate ( $x$ ) and momentum ( $k$ ) space with corresponding velocities  $v$ :

$$n^+ = n^+(x, k, t), \quad p^- = p^-(x, k, t), \quad v = v_0; \quad (2)$$

$$n^- = n^-(x, k, t), \quad p^+ = p^+(x, k, t), \quad v = -v_0. \quad (3)$$

The local densities are defined as

$$\bar{n}^\pm = \bar{n}^\pm(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} n^\pm(x, k, t) dk, \quad \bar{n} = \bar{n}^+ + \bar{n}^-; \quad (4)$$

$$\bar{p}^\pm = \bar{p}^\pm(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p^\pm(x, k, t) dk, \quad \bar{p} = \bar{p}^+ + \bar{p}^-. \quad (5)$$

In what follows, we omit the explicit  $(x, t, k)$  dependence for brevity. The Boltzmann equations for the distribution functions

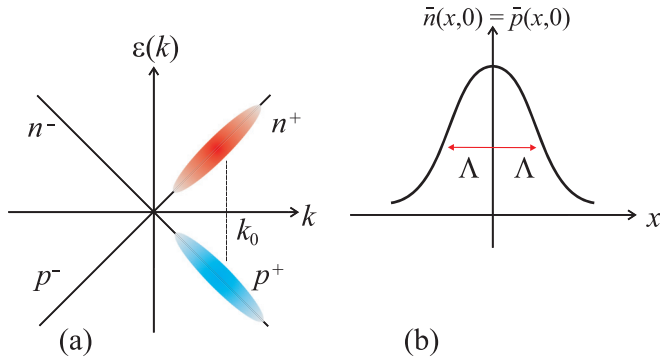


FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) Dispersion relation and density distribution in the momentum space. The peak in the optical radiation intensity corresponds to transitions at frequency  $2v_0k_0$ . (b) Electron/hole density induced by the laser spot vs  $x$ , where  $2\Lambda$  is the total spot width.

have the form

$$\frac{\partial n^\pm}{\partial t} + v(k) \frac{\partial n^\pm}{\partial x} + \frac{eE}{\hbar} \frac{\partial n^\pm}{\partial k} = -\frac{n^\pm - n_{\text{eq}}^\pm}{\tau_n}, \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{\partial p^\pm}{\partial t} - v(k) \frac{\partial p^\pm}{\partial x} - \frac{eE}{\hbar} \frac{\partial p^\pm}{\partial k} = -\frac{p^\pm - p_{\text{eq}}^\pm}{\tau_p}, \quad (7)$$

where  $e < 0$  is the electron charge and  $E \equiv E(x, t)$  is the coordinate- and time-dependent electric field produced by space-charge effects, that is, by nonuniform charge density. The local Fermi-Dirac equilibrium densities for electrons in Eqs. (6) and (7) are defined as

$$n_{\text{eq}}^\pm = 2 \frac{1}{\exp\{[\varepsilon(k) - \mu_n^\pm]/T\} + 1}, \quad (8)$$

where the factor 2 is due to spin degeneracy and  $T$  is the temperature measured in units of energy. In a similar way, we define the equilibrium distributions of holes. The coordinate- and time-dependent chemical potentials  $\mu_n^\pm$  and  $\mu_p^\pm$  guarantee the balance of the densities in the form  $\bar{n}_{\text{eq}}^\pm = \bar{n}^\pm$ ,  $\bar{p}_{\text{eq}}^\pm = \bar{p}^\pm$ . For example, the condition

$$\int_0^\infty n_{\text{eq}}^+ dk = \bar{n}^+ \quad (9)$$

yields

$$\mu_n^+ = T \ln[\exp(\hbar v_0 \bar{n}^+ / 2T) - 1]. \quad (10)$$

The electric field in Eqs. (6) and (7) can be expressed in terms of the integral of the charge density  $\bar{p}(x - s, t) - \bar{n}(x - s, t)$  as

$$E(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty [\bar{p}(x - s, t) - \bar{n}(x - s, t)] \mathcal{K}(s) ds, \quad (11)$$

where  $\mathcal{K}(s)$  is the Coulomb kernel for the nanotube. The expression for  $\mathcal{K}(s)$  is presented in the Appendix. As we will see, the important and unusual feature of Eq. (11) is that in the limit of a small-radius nanotube, the field  $E(x, t)$  is proportional to the local derivative of the density:  $\partial[\bar{p}(x, t) - \bar{n}(x, t)]/\partial x$ .

The initial distributions of electrons and holes are optically produced as

$$n(x, k, 0) = p(x, k, 0) = \frac{N}{\pi \Lambda K} \exp\left[-\frac{x^2}{\Lambda^2} - \frac{(k - k_0)^2}{K^2}\right], \quad (12)$$

where  $k_0$  is the injection point in momentum space,  $2\Lambda$  is the characteristic laser spot size, and  $N$  is the total number of injected electron/holes. We use  $k_0 = K = 200 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  [see Fig. 1(a)]. This is reasonable since the wave vector is limited by the requirement that the carrier energy should not exceed that of the optical phonon, otherwise a fast momentum and energy relaxation occur. A typical optical phonon energy is  $\hbar\Omega_{\text{ph}} = 0.18 \text{ eV}$  [14], which gives the estimate  $k_0 < \Omega_{\text{ph}}/v_0 = 275 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ . Integrating Eq. (12) over  $k$ , we obtain [see Fig. 1(b)]

$$\bar{n}(x, 0) = \bar{p}(x, 0) = \frac{N}{\sqrt{\pi} \Lambda} \exp(-x^2/\Lambda^2). \quad (13)$$

We define the one-dimensional (1D) electron/hole density

$$N_{\text{1D}} = \frac{N}{2\Lambda}, \quad (14)$$

and Eq. (13) becomes

$$\bar{n}(x, 0) = \bar{p}(x, 0) = \frac{2N_{\text{1D}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(-x^2/\Lambda^2). \quad (15)$$

Integrating Eqs. (6) and (7) over  $k$ , we get the charge continuity equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [(\bar{p}^+ + \bar{p}^-) - (\bar{n}^+ + \bar{n}^-)] \\ + v_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [(\bar{p}^- - \bar{p}^+) + (\bar{n}^- - \bar{n}^+)] = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

from which we define the local current:

$$I = I(x, t) = -e v_0 [(\bar{p}^- - \bar{p}^+) + (\bar{n}^- - \bar{n}^+)]. \quad (17)$$

### III. NUMERICAL SOLUTIONS

Before solving numerically the model equations, we introduce parameters describing the electron-electron interaction and the injection process. First we introduce a parameter characterizing the strength of the Coulomb forces. For this purpose, we use the following scaling argument. The Coulomb force acting at a carrier,  $F \sim Ne^2/\sqrt{\epsilon_\perp \epsilon_\parallel} \Lambda^2$ , where  $\epsilon_\perp$  and  $\epsilon_\parallel$  are the nanotube transversal and longitudinal permittivity, respectively (see the Appendix for details). In the absence of the plasma frequency and on the relevant time scale  $t_\Lambda \sim \Lambda/v_F$ , this force produces a change in momentum comparable to  $\hbar K$  if  $F t_\Lambda \sim \hbar K$ . This estimate yields the corresponding critical number of injected carriers per nanotube,  $N_c \equiv \sqrt{\epsilon_\perp \epsilon_\parallel} \hbar v_0 K \Lambda / e^2 \approx 1600$  (for  $K = 200 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ,  $\epsilon_\perp = 10$ , and  $\epsilon_\parallel = 30$ , in agreement with the experiment [13]), and the interaction effects are described by a dimensionless parameter  $N/N_c$ . If  $N/N_c \ll 1$ , then  $\bar{n}^\pm$  and  $\bar{p}^\pm$  are conserved and the initial density distributions move and separate, being only weakly deformed. Otherwise, the effect of Coulomb forces is strong. In this case, if  $E < 0$  ( $E > 0$ ), then  $\bar{n}^+$  and  $\bar{p}^-$  increase (decrease), and  $\bar{p}^+$  and  $\bar{n}^-$  decrease (increase). Since initially carriers are injected with positive momentum  $k_0 > 0$ , most of

the electrons/holes have  $k > 0$ . Thus  $n(x,0,t)$  increases and  $p(x,0,t)$  decreases when  $E > 0$ , and, therefore, the effect of the electric field is larger on the electrons than on the holes. Conversely, when  $E < 0$  the effect of the electric field is larger on the holes than on the electrons. However, when the number of electrons/holes having  $k < 0$  is larger, the sign of the electric field has the opposite effect for those electrons/holes.

An important limit on the number of injected particles is posed by the Pauli blocking condition, where the injection stops since all available electron/hole states became occupied by the previously excited carriers. The condition that the transition does not experience Pauli blocking limits the number of injected particles to the available phase volume  $2\Lambda\Delta K$ , where 2 is the spin factor. Therefore, the maximum ratio  $N/N_c$  should be considerably less than  $(\Delta K/K)\alpha(c/v_F)(2/\sqrt{\epsilon_\perp\epsilon_\parallel})$ , where  $\alpha \equiv e^2/\hbar c = 1/137$  is the fine-structure constant. Provided  $\Delta K \sim K = 275 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ , we obtain that  $N$  should be less than 400, restricting  $N/N_c$  to values considerably less than 0.3.

We consider current injection by tightly focused beams with  $\Lambda = 1 \mu\text{m}$  and a nanotube of radius  $a = 1.25$ , and we

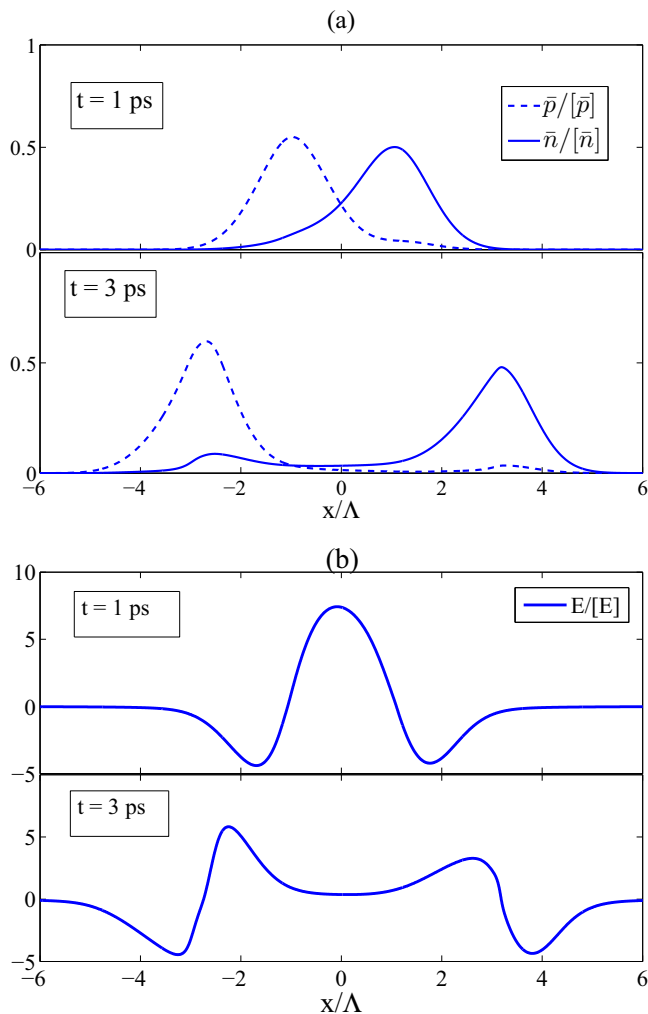


FIG. 2. (Color online) Profiles of (a) density of electrons/holes, and (b) electric field at different snapshots for case (a):  $\Lambda = 1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $N_{1D} \approx 12.5 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ ,  $\tau_p = \tau_n = 2 \text{ ps}$ ,  $N = 25$  electrons/holes. Here  $[\bar{p}] = [\bar{n}] = N/\Lambda = 2.5 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and the unit of electric field  $[E] \equiv |e|N/\epsilon_\perp\Lambda^2 = 36 \text{ V/cm}$ .

solve numerically Eqs. (6)–(11) in the following two cases (see Figs. 2–5): (a)  $N_{1D} \approx 1.25 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , injected  $N = 25$ ,  $N/N_c \approx 0.016$ , and  $I_{\text{max}} \approx 4 \mu\text{A}$ ; and (b)  $N_{1D} \approx 1.25 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $N = 250$ ,  $N/N_c \approx 0.16$ , and  $I_{\text{max}} \approx 40 \mu\text{A}$ . In both cases, we assume carriers scattering times  $\tau_n = \tau_p = 2 \text{ ps}$  at 300 K, as suggested by the estimates [15,16].

In case (a) there are few carriers, and electrons and holes go their separate ways without much interaction, as shown in Fig. 2. The effect of the nonequilibrium electric field is

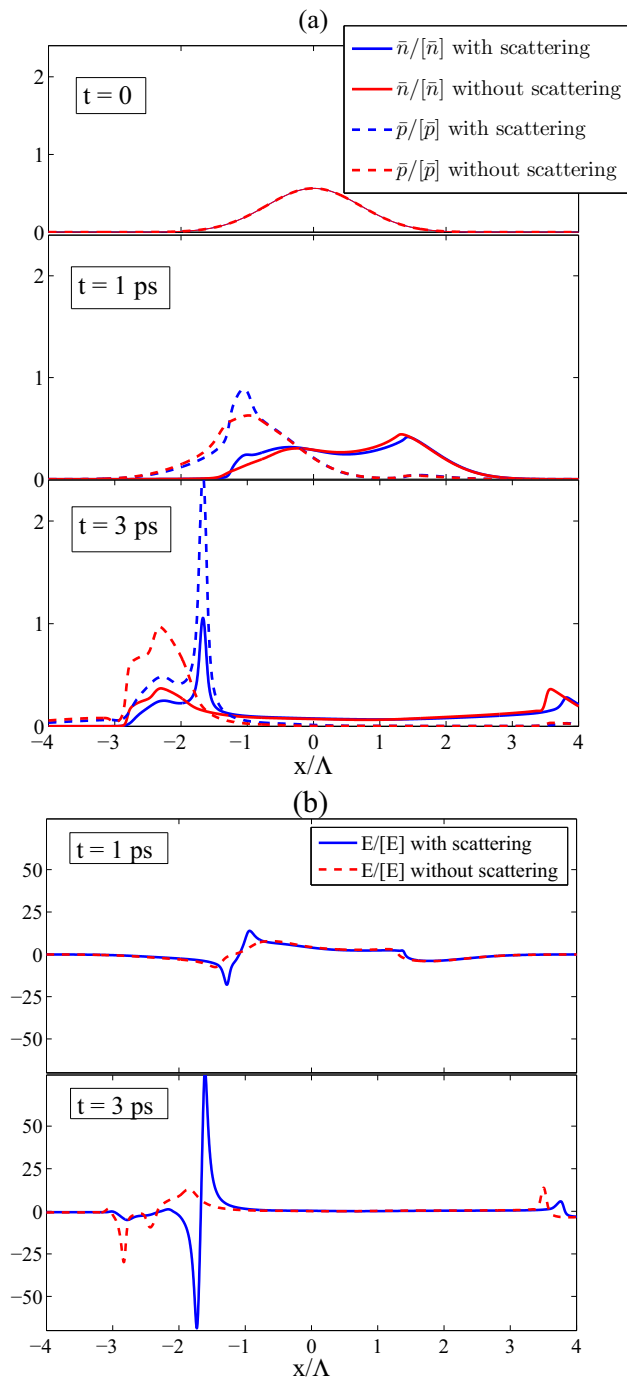


FIG. 3. (Color online) (a) Profiles of the electron/hole densities, and (b) electric field profile, at different snapshots, for  $N = 250$  electrons/holes. Here  $[\bar{p}] = [\bar{n}] = N/\Lambda = 2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and the unit of electric field  $[E] \equiv |e|N/\epsilon_\perp\Lambda^2 = 360 \text{ V/cm}$ .

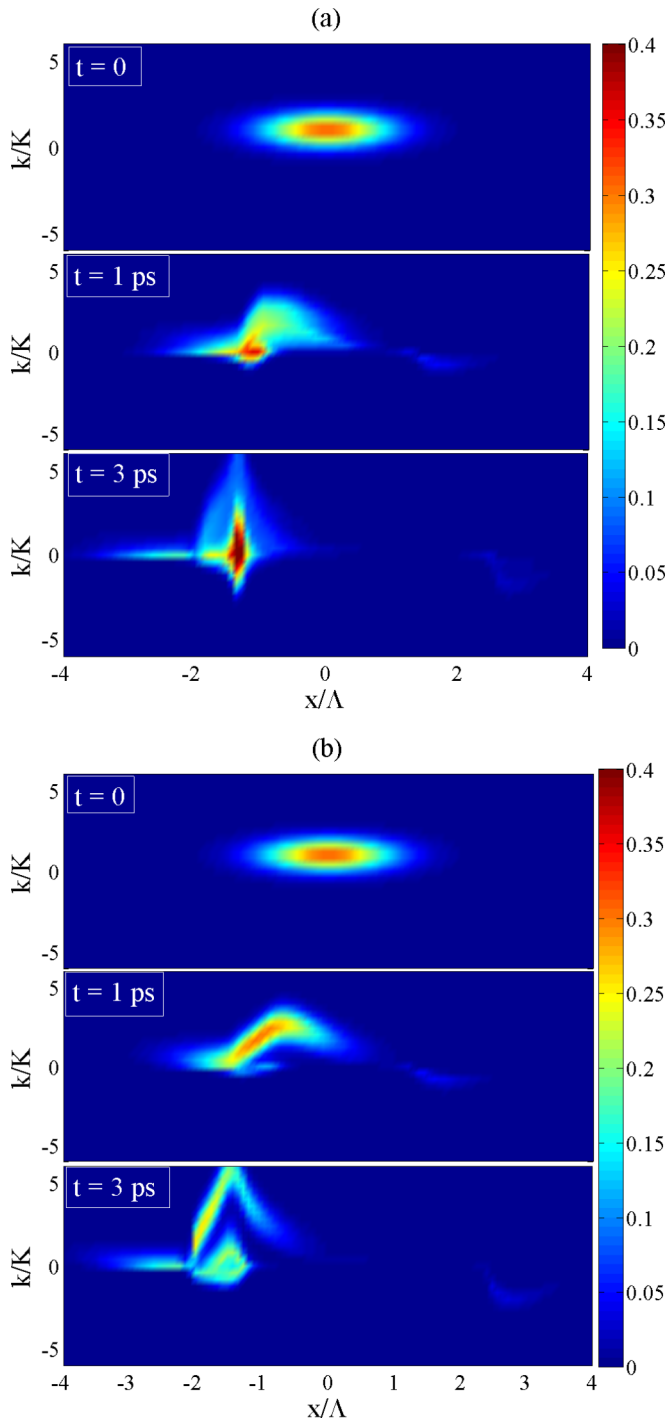


FIG. 4. (Color online) Hole density  $(p^+(x,k) + p^-(x,k))[p]$  at different snapshots for  $N = 250$  electrons/holes: (a) with scattering, (b) without scattering. Here  $[p] = N/\Lambda K = 1.25$ .

much greater in case (b), when there are ten times more carriers. Figure 3 shows that the interaction between carriers builds up a peak in the hole density. The extrema of the electric field are reached at the inflection points of the charge density,  $\bar{p}(x,t) - \bar{n}(x,t)$ , in agreement with the approximate formulas presented in the Appendix. The displacement and separation of the electron and hole peaks are of the order of the initial width  $\Lambda$ , that is, much larger than can be

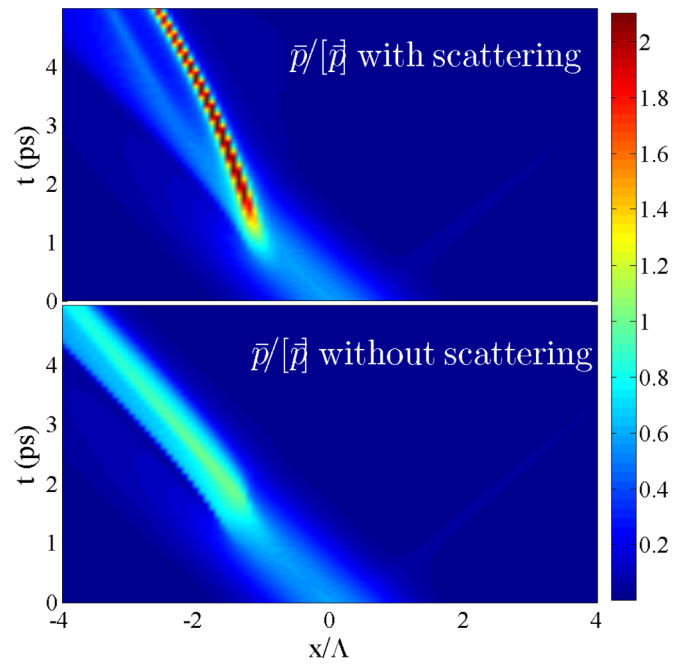


FIG. 5. (Color online)  $\bar{p}(x,t)/[\bar{p}]$  for  $N = 250$  electrons/holes. Here  $[\bar{p}] = N/\Lambda = 2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

observed in semiconductor quantum wells [3,7]. The reduction of separation by space-charge effects due to the finite mass of the carriers, similar to that in the quantum wells, can be expected in semiconductor nanotubes as well. As one can see in the figures for carrier densities and electric fields, the scattering sharpens the peaks in the carrier densities and the electric field and depresses the smooth regions thereof, but it does not change this qualitative picture. The reason is that the scattering tries to keep the carrier densities close to their local equilibrium values (Fermi functions), which have large gradients near  $k = 0$ . This enhances the effect of the electric field on the densities and sharpens their peaks.

Figure 3(b) shows the development of electric fields and, thus, details the way the carrier peaks are built. Since we inject current with positive momentum, the larger peaks of electron and hole densities correspond to  $k > 0$ . However, the hole population with  $k < 0$  splits in two parts and one part moves together with the hole population with  $k > 0$ , which helps to build up the hole population at the peak that moves to the left. Meanwhile, the electron population with  $k > 0$  also splits into two parts, and the one that moves to the left helps to reinforce the electron population with  $k < 0$ . The location of the electron peak that moves to the left is quite close to that of the left-moving hole peak. Then electrons and holes interact so that their left-moving peaks slow down almost to a halt at the same location.

This picture is confirmed in Fig. 4, which shows snapshots of the overall hole density  $p^+(x,k,t) + p^-(x,k,t)$  for  $N = 250$  electrons/holes. Note that the Coulomb forces stop the motion of carriers to the left and build up hole and electron peaks at  $x \approx 2.3\Lambda$ . Similarly, increasing the number of carriers narrows the peaks of their spatial density distributions, as shown in Fig. 5.

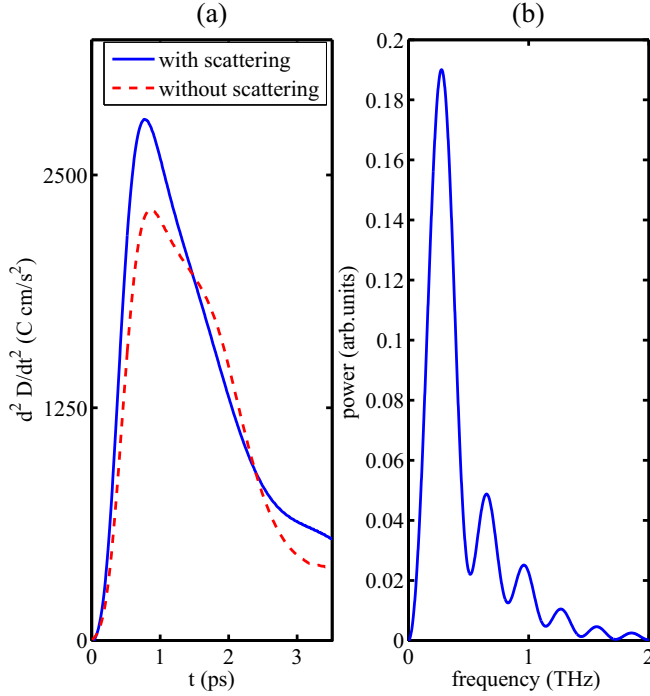


FIG. 6. (Color online) (a) Second time derivative of the dipole moment vs time and (b) power spectrum for  $N = 250$  electrons/holes. Scattering times are 2 ps for both types of carriers.

#### IV. DIPOLE RADIATION: INTENSITY AND SPECTRUM

To connect our results with possible experimental observations of the space-charge effects in the current evolution, here we study the radiation of a single nanotube after current injection to see how the system parameters can be found from the radiation intensity and the spectrum. For this purpose, we introduce the dipole moment as

$$D(t) = -e \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} [\bar{p}(x,t) - \bar{n}(x,t)]x dx, \quad (18)$$

where the corresponding radiation intensity is proportional to  $(d^2 D/dt^2)^2$ . The maximum value of  $D$  can be estimated as  $N|e|\Lambda$ . Taking into account that the time scale of the process is  $\Lambda/v_0$ , we obtain the typical value of  $d^2 D/dt^2$  of the order of  $|e|v_0^2 \times N/\Lambda$ . Taking into account the Pauli blocking limitations,  $N/\Lambda \leq K_0$ , we obtain the fundamental limit for the derivative  $d^2 D/dt^2 \leq ev_0\epsilon(k_0)/\hbar$ . The corresponding spectral density for current injected at  $t = 0$  is given by

$$I(\omega) \sim \left| \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{d^2 D}{dt^2} e^{i\omega t} dt \right|^2. \quad (19)$$

Figure 6 shows  $d^2 D/dt^2$  for  $N = 250$  with and without scattering effects. The system parameters demonstrate themselves in the spectrum of the radiation. Increasing the number of carriers produces a sharp peak that is somewhat augmented and sharpened by scattering. Although the scattering sharpens the distributions, it only weakly modifies the integral parameters such as the dipole moment, as can be seen in Fig. 6. The Fourier transform of  $d^2 D/dt^2$  provides the spectrum of the radiation peaked at the frequency of 200 GHz for a time window of 5 ps.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the time evolution of charge density after optical injection of a charge current in metallic carbon nanotubes with a “relativistic” spectrum and identified different regimes of dynamics. The main impact on the carrier density evolution is produced by the space-charge effects. However, due to the zero effective mass of the carriers, these Coulomb forces cannot prevent the calculated large separation of the electron and hole densities. This is in contrast to the relatively small separation expected in semiconductor structures, where electrons and holes have finite masses. Although the scattering of carriers by impurities and phonons considerably sharpens the density distribution, it does not influence strongly its integral characteristics such as the dipole moment resulting from the electron-hole separation, thereby rendering difficult the experimental verification of this effect. The time evolution of the dipole moment leads to a dipole radiation, which can be measured experimentally and provide information about the dynamics of the carriers. The spectral width of the radiation is mainly determined by the ratio of the “relativistic” velocity to the spatial width of the initial density distribution, while the intensity depends on the injected carrier density. Our results show that, as the intensity of the exciting radiation increases, there is a fundamental limit for the radiation intensity that is determined solely by the radiation frequency and related to Pauli blocking in the injection process. Realistic numerical parameters correspond to the radiation spectrum peaked at a fraction of a THz, in the range of experimental observation of Ref. [6].

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the University of Basque Country UPV/EHU under program UFI 11/55, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness of Spain (projects FIS2011-28838-C02-01 and FIS2012-36673-C03-01), and “Grupos Consolidados UPV/EHU del Gobierno Vasco” (IT-472-10).

#### APPENDIX

Here we derive the expression for the electric field and show the importance of the points where the derivative of the total charge density vanishes. The electric field is derived from the Coulomb forces for a single-wall nanotube:

$$E(x,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} [\bar{p}(x-s,t) - \bar{n}(x-s,t)] \mathcal{K}(s) ds, \quad (A1)$$

with

$$\mathcal{K}(s) = -\frac{2e}{\pi\epsilon_{\perp}} \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{s d\theta}{(s^2 + 4a^2 \frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}} \sin^2 \theta)^{3/2}}. \quad (A2)$$

We describe the ensemble of nanotubes of the radius  $a$  as an anisotropic medium with the longitudinal and transversal permittivities  $\epsilon_{\parallel}$  and  $\epsilon_{\perp}$ , respectively [13,17]. The shape of  $\mathcal{K}(s)$  in Eq. (A2) follows from the Poisson equation for the electric potential of a point positive charge  $-e$  at the origin,

$$[\epsilon_{\parallel} \partial_x^2 + \epsilon_{\perp} \nabla_{\perp}^2] \mathcal{V} = 4\pi e \delta(x) \delta(\mathbf{x}_{\perp}), \quad \mathbf{x}_{\perp} = (y,z), \quad (A3)$$

which can be written as

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tilde{x}^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tilde{y}^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tilde{z}^2}\right)\mathcal{V} = \frac{4\pi e}{\epsilon_{\perp}\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}}}\delta(\tilde{x})\delta(\tilde{y})\delta(\tilde{z}), \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$\tilde{x} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}}}, (\tilde{y}, \tilde{z}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_{\perp}}}(y, z).$$

In terms of the original variables, the solution is

$$\mathcal{V} = -\frac{e}{\epsilon_{\perp}\sqrt{x^2 + \frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}\mathbf{x}_{\perp}^2}}, \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{V}}{\partial x} = \frac{ex}{\epsilon_{\perp}} \left[ x^2 + \frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}\mathbf{x}_{\perp}^2 \right]^{-3/2}. \quad (\text{A6})$$

The electric field (A1) is found straightforwardly by convolution of  $-\partial\mathcal{V}/\partial x$  with the charge density  $[\bar{p}(x, t) - \bar{n}(x, t)]\delta(|\mathbf{x}_{\perp}| - a)/2\pi a$ . After integrating by parts, changing variables, and using that the electron and hole densities rapidly decrease at large  $|x| \gg \Lambda$ , (A1) becomes

$$E(x, t) = \frac{e}{\pi\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}\epsilon_{\perp}}}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} ds \left[ \bar{p}\left(x - 2as\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}}, t\right) - \bar{n}\left(x - 2as\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}}, t\right) \right] \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{d\theta}{(s^2 + \sin^2\theta)^{1/2}} \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$= \frac{e}{\pi\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}\epsilon_{\perp}}}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[ \bar{p}\left(x - 2as\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}}, t\right) - \bar{n}\left(x - 2as\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_{\parallel}}{\epsilon_{\perp}}}, t\right) \right] K\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}}\right) \frac{ds}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}}. \quad (\text{A8})$$

Here we have written the integral over  $\theta$  in terms of the complete elliptic integral of the first kind. Taking into account that the length scale of the electron and hole density distributions is of the order of  $\Lambda \gg a$ , one can approximate this expression as

$$E(x, t) \sim \frac{ef}{\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}\epsilon_{\perp}}}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}[\bar{p}(x, t) - \bar{n}(x, t)], \quad (\text{A9})$$

with a numerical factor

$$f = \pi \ln 2 + \frac{\pi^2}{8} + 2 \int_0^{\infty} \left[ K\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{s^2 + 1}}\right) - \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{8\sqrt{1 + s^2}} \right] \frac{ds}{\sqrt{1 + s^2}} \approx 5.43. \quad (\text{A10})$$

The approximate expression (A9) is a local relationship between the charge density and the electric field, thereby depending on the geometric mean of the permittivities,  $\sqrt{\epsilon_{\parallel}\epsilon_{\perp}}$ , to which both contribute equally.

- 
- [1] A. Haché, Y. Kostoulas, R. Atanasov, J. L. P. Hughes, J. E. Sipe, and H. M. van Driel *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **78**, 306 (1997).
- [2] Y. Kerachian, P. A. Marsden, H. M. van Driel, and A. L. Smirl, *Phys. Rev. B* **75**, 125205 (2007).
- [3] M. J. Stevens, A. Najmaie, R. D. R. Bhat, J. E. Sipe, H. M. van Driel, and A. L. Smirl, *J. Appl. Phys.* **94**, 4999 (2003); H. Zhao, E. J. Loren, A. L. Smirl, and H. M. van Driel, *ibid.* **103**, 053510 (2008).
- [4] A. Najmaie, R. D. R. Bhat, and J. E. Sipe, *Phys. Rev. B* **68**, 165348 (2003).
- [5] D. Sun, C. Divin, J. Rioux, J. E. Sipe, C. Berger, W. A. de Heer, P. N. First, and T. B. Norris, *Nano Lett.* **10**, 1293 (2010).
- [6] R. W. Newson, A. A. Green, M. C. Hersam, and H. M. van Driel, *Phys. Rev. B* **83**, 115421 (2011).
- [7] E. Ya. Sherman, R. M. Abrarov, and J. E. Sipe, *Phys. Rev. B* **80**, 161308 (2009).
- [8] O. J. Korovyanko, C.-X. Sheng, Z. V. Vardeny, A. B. Dalton, and R. H. Baughman *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **92**, 017403 (2004).
- [9] B. A. Ruzicka, R. Wang, J. Lohrman, S. Ren, and H. Zhao *Phys. Rev. B* **86**, 205417 (2012).
- [10] F. Wang, D. J. Cho, B. Kessler, J. Deslippe, P. J. Schuck, S. G. Louie, A. Zettl, T. F. Heinz, and Y. R. Shen, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **99**, 227401 (2007).
- [11] Y. Chen, A. K. Ng, S. Bai, R. Si, L. Wei, and Q. Wang, in *Carbon Nanotubes and their Applications*, edited by Q. Zhang (Stanford Publ., Singapore, 2012), p. 128.
- [12] J. H. Grönqvist, M. Hirtschulz, A. Knorr, and M. Lindberg, *Phys. Rev. B* **81**, 035414 (2010).
- [13] W. Lu, D. Wang, and L. Chen, *Nano. Let.* **7**, 2729 (2007).
- [14] S. Piscanec, M. Lazzeri, F. Mauri, and A. C. Ferrari, *Eur. Phys. J. Special Top.* **148**, 159 (2007).
- [15] M. Lazzeri and F. Mauri, *Phys. Rev. B* **73**, 165419 (2006).
- [16] P. A. Sundqvist, F. J. Garcia-Vidal, and F. Flores, *Phys. Rev. B* **78**, 205427 (2008).
- [17] T. O. Wehling, E. Sasioglu, C. Friedrich, A. I. Lichtenstein, M. I. Katsnelson, and S. Blügel, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **106**, 236805 (2011).