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Coupled density-spin Bose-Einstein condensates dynamics and collapse in systems with quintic nonlinearity

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We investigate the effects of spin-orbit coupling and Zeeman splitting on the coupled density-spin dynamics and collapse of the Bose-Einstein condensate driven by the quintic self-attraction in the same- and cross-spin channels. The characteristic feature of the collapse is the decrease in the width as given by the participation ratio of the density rather than by the expectation values of the coordinate. Qualitative arguments and numerical simulations reveal the existence of a critical spin-orbit coupling strength which either prohibits or leads to the collapse, and its dependence on other parameters, such as the condensate's norm, spin-dependent nonlinear coupling, and the Zeeman splitting. The entire nonlinear dynamics critically depends on the initial spin state.

I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of the collapse as a trend to catastrophic shrinkage of a self-attracting system has proved its relevance in many branches of nonlinear physics [1, 2]. The realization of the ultracold atomic matter has greatly increased the variety of possible nonlinear phenomena [3]. In atomic Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs), the self-attraction driving collapse either occurs naturally, or can be achieved by means of the engineered Feshbach resonance [4]. Recently developed techniques which make it possible to produce synthetic gauge fields [5, 6] and spin-orbit coupling (SOC) [7–11] greatly expands the versatility of the self-interacting quantum matter and variety of collapse-related phenomena [12, 13], as well as general properties of nonlinear two-component systems [14]. By introducing coupled spin-mass-density dynamics with a spin-dependent velocity, SOC can affect the collapse [15, 16] and produce soliton-like stable states [17, 18], which would be unstable, or would not exist, in the absence of SOC.

In effectively one-dimensional (1D) settings, the collapse is driven by three-body attractive interactions, which correspond to the quintic nonlinearity in the respective Gross-Pitaevskii equations (GPEs), as the 1D collapse cannot be caused by two-body attraction (represented by cubic terms in the GPEs) [20]. Indeed, an elementary estimate demonstrates that the absolute values of the negative three-body energy, which drives the self-compression of the condensate, exceeds its kinetic energy, which impedes the collapse, by a factor $\sim N^2$, where N is the condensate's norm. Thus, the collapse may set in if N is large enough.

Here we consider effects of SOC and Zeeman splitting (ZS) on the collapse in a 1D system with various forms of the quintic self-attraction [21–23]. In 1D settings these effects can be presented in simple and transparent form as a competition between the velocity caused by self-attraction, which is generated in the collapse process, and an anomalous SOC-induced spin-dependent velocity.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, the model of the spin-orbit and Zeeman-coupled BEC with three-body interactions is introduced. Then, in Sec. III we address the dynamics of the system with different initial spin states in the absence of spin-related effects, by means of the variational approximation. Section IV deals with combined SOC-ZS effects, by considering several different realizations of the model demonstrating qualitatively different behaviors. The paper is concluded by Sec. V.

II. THE MODEL AND SELF-INTERACTION

We consider a quasi-1D BEC with pseudospin 1/2, subject to the action of the artificial SOC and ZS and extended along the x direction. The corresponding two-component wave function is

$$\psi(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} u(x, t) \\ v(x, t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

with total norm

$$N \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (|u|^2 + |v|^2) dx. \quad (2)$$

For brevity, the explicit (x, t) dependence is written only when it is necessary. The combination of same- and cross-spin interaction energies is defined as (cf. Refs. [24, 25])

$$E_g = -\frac{1}{3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[g_1 (|u|^6 + |v|^6) + 3g_2 |u|^2 |v|^2 (|u|^2 + |v|^2) \right] dx, \quad (3)$$

where positive coupling constants g_1 and g_2 represent the three-particle attraction in the same- and cross-spin channels, respectively.

The evolution of the system is governed by the equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = H\psi, \quad (4)$$

with Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2M} + H_{\text{so}} + H_Z + H_g, \quad (5)$$

where $p = -i\hbar\partial/\partial x$ is the momentum and M the atomic mass, while the SOC and ZS terms are

$$H_{\text{so}} = \frac{\alpha}{\hbar} p \sigma_x, \quad H_Z = \frac{\Delta}{2} \sigma_z. \quad (6)$$

Here α and Δ are the SOC and ZS strengths, respectively, with σ_x and σ_z being the Pauli matrices. The synthetic spin-orbit interaction in cold atoms can be generated by Raman coupling schemes which simultaneously flip atomic pseudospin and transfer momentum [5]. As a result, a variety of synthetic fields can be engineered using highly coherent laser beams. The synthetic Zeeman fields can be produced with the same experimental setup [6, 9, 10]. The self-interaction term has the form

$$H_g = \begin{pmatrix} \delta E_g / \delta u^* & 0 \\ 0 & \delta E_g / \delta v^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

with variations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta E_g}{\delta u^*} &= - \left[g_1 |u|^4 + g_2 (2|uv|^2 + |v|^4) \right], \\ \frac{\delta E_g}{\delta v^*} &= - \left[g_1 |v|^4 + g_2 (2|uv|^2 + |u|^4) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The total energy of the system is

$$E = E_k + E_{\text{so}} + E_Z + E_g, \quad (9)$$

where

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2M} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left(\left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right|^2 \right) dx \quad (10)$$

is the kinetic energy, with the SOC and ZS terms being

$$E_{\text{so}} = -i\alpha \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \psi^\dagger \sigma_x \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} dx, \quad (11)$$

$$E_Z = \frac{\Delta}{2} \langle \sigma_z \rangle N, \quad (12)$$

and

$$\langle \sigma_z \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \psi^\dagger \sigma_z \psi dx. \quad (13)$$

By means of obvious rescaling, we set $\hbar = M = 1$ and thus cast Eqs. (4)-(8) into a coupled GPE system:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\Delta}{2} + \frac{\delta E_g}{\delta u^*} \right) u - i\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial x} v, \quad (14)$$

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\Delta}{2} + \frac{\delta E_g}{\delta v^*} \right) v - i\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial x} u. \quad (15)$$

Note that the SOC Hamiltonian introduces a spin-dependent velocity defined by commutator

$$V = i \left[\frac{p^2}{2} + H_{\text{so}}, x \right] = p + V_{\text{so}}, \quad (16)$$

where $V_{\text{so}} = \alpha \sigma_x$ becomes a non-diagonal 2×2 matrix. As shown below, in the course of the BEC evolution, this anomalous velocity makes its density spatially split in two spin-projected species. Depending on the E_g energy in Eq. (3), this splitting can either prevent the collapse, suppressing the same-spin self-interaction due to the g_1 term, or drive the collapse by enhancing cross-spin coupling caused by the g_2 -related contribution.

It is also relevant to mention that, in the absence of ZS ($\Delta = 0$), Eqs. (14) and (15) admit a reduction to the single GPE with the quintic self-attractive term and no SOC. Indeed, the substitution of

$$v(x, t) = \pm u(x, t) = U(x, t) \exp(\mp i\alpha x + i\alpha^2 t/2) \quad (17)$$

transforms both equations into one:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} U = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - g|U|^4 \right) U, \quad g \equiv g_1 + 3g_2. \quad (18)$$

It is commonly known that Eq. (18) admits a family of *Townes-soliton* solutions [25] with arbitrary chemical potential $\mu < 0$:

$$U = e^{-i\mu t} \left(-\frac{3\mu}{g} \right)^{1/4} \sqrt{\text{sech}(2\sqrt{-2\mu}x)}. \quad (19)$$

The solution family is degenerate, as the soliton's norm does not depend on μ :

$$N_{\text{Townes}} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{2g}}, \quad (20)$$

and all the solitons are unstable against the onset of the collapse. However, the possibility of the reduction, based on Eq. (17), to the single GPE (18) does not mean that the dynamics governed by Eqs. (14) and (15) with $\Delta = 0$ reduces to that of the single-GPE in the generic situation. In particular, we will show that the SOC suppresses the onset of the collapse in solutions stemming from the single-component input, given by Eq. (21), if the spin-orbit coupling α is larger than a critical value α_{cr} , dependent on the system parameters N, g_1, g_2, Δ , and the initial conditions.

III. DYNAMICS WITHOUT SPIN-ORBIT COUPLING: THE ROLE OF THE SPIN STATE

As a starting point, we present here results for the collapse in the absence of SOC, taking the input as an eigenstate of σ_z ,

$$u(x, 0) = A(0) \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2a^2(0)}\right), \quad v(x, 0) = 0, \quad (21)$$

where $A(0)$ and $a(0)$ are the initial amplitude and width of the wave packet, with norm

$$N = \sqrt{\pi} A^2(0) a(0). \quad (22)$$

The corresponding interaction and kinetic energies, (3) and (10), are

$$E_g = -\frac{1}{3} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g_1 |u(x, 0)|^6 dx = -\frac{g_1 N^3}{3 \sqrt{3} \pi a^2(0)}, \quad (23)$$

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{\partial u(x, 0)}{\partial x} \right|^2 dx = \frac{N}{4a^2(0)}, \quad (24)$$

whose ratio $|E_g/E_k|$ scales $\sim N^2$, as mentioned above, implying the domination of the the interaction energy for large norms. To study the evolution of the first component of $\psi(x, t)$, we use the variational ansatz,

$$\psi(x, t) = A(t) \exp \left[-\frac{x^2}{2a^2(t)} + ib(t)x^2 \right] \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (25)$$

where $a(t)$ and $b(t)$ are the time-dependent width and chirp, respectively. The corresponding Euler-Lagrange equations, corresponding to Eqs. (14) and (15), are [26, 27]

$$\frac{da}{dt} = 2ab, \quad \frac{db}{dt} = \frac{1}{2a^4} - 2b^2 - \frac{2g_1 N^2}{3 \sqrt{3} \pi a^4}. \quad (26)$$

Further, after the elimination of b from Eq. (26), one arrives at the Ermakov equation [28, 29],

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{\Lambda}{a^3}, \quad \Lambda \equiv \frac{4g_1 N^2}{3 \sqrt{3} \pi} - 1, \quad (27)$$

which admits well-known analytical solutions with two integration constants, $C_{1,2}$:

$$a(t) = \pm \sqrt{-\Lambda/C_1 + C_1 t^2 + 2C_1 C_2 t + C_1 C_2^2}. \quad (28)$$

For the initial condition $(da/dt)(0) = 0$, the positive branch in Eq. (28) yields

$$a(t) = \sqrt{-\Lambda/C_1 + C_1 t^2}. \quad (29)$$

The critical norm for the Gaussian ansatz (21) with initial $\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1$ [see Eq. (13)], determined by setting $\Lambda = 0$ in Eq. (27), is

$$N_c^{\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1} = \sqrt{3 \sqrt{3} \pi / 4} g_1^{-1/2} \approx 2.02 g_1^{-1/2}. \quad (30)$$

This value is only slightly larger than the exact value of the norm of the corresponding Townes soliton, $(\pi/2) \sqrt{3/2} g_1^{-1/2} \approx 1.924 g_1^{-1/2}$, see Eq. (20), demonstrating that the Gaussian ansatz is suitable for predicting the corresponding critical norm.

For $\Lambda > 0$, solution (29) with $C_1 < 0$ describes the collapse process [30]:

$$a(t) = a(0) \sqrt{1 - \frac{t^2}{t_c^2}}, \quad (31)$$

where $a^2(0) \equiv \Lambda/|C_1|$, and the collapse time is $t_c = \sqrt{\Lambda}/|C_1| \equiv a^2(0)/\sqrt{\Lambda}$. The characteristic velocity developed in the course of collapsing is

$$V_c = a(0)/t_c = \sqrt{\Lambda}/a(0). \quad (32)$$

To estimate an effect of the interplay of two spin components on the onset of the collapse, we now take the eigenstate of σ_x as the initial state [cf. Eq. (21)]:

$$u(x, 0) = v(x, 0) = \frac{A(0)}{\sqrt{2}} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{2a^2(0)} \right) \quad (33)$$

with the same norm as in Eq. (22). In this case, the kinetic energy is again given by Eq. (24), while the interaction energy is

$$E_g = -\frac{1}{4}(g_1 + 3g_2) \frac{N^3}{3\sqrt{3}\pi a^2(0)}. \quad (34)$$

Since at $g_2 = 0$, the self-interaction energy for the state in Eq. (33) is factor of 2 smaller than that in Eq. (21) while their kinetic energies are equal, the critical value $N_c^{(\sigma_x)=1}$ is larger by a factor of 2 than one given by Eq. (30). For $g_2 = g_1$ (the Manakov's spin-isotropic form of the interaction [31]), the critical norm is independent of the spin orientation.

IV. COLLAPSE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SPIN-ORBIT COUPLING AND ZEEMAN COUPLINGS

Here we focus on how the SOC and ZS strengths, α and Δ , respectively, affect the collapse dynamics. To this end, we perform a qualitative analysis and numerically solve the GPE system of Eqs. (14) and (15), using the split-operator technique [32] for SOC systems.

To characterize the evolution of the width of the wave packet, we use the time-dependent inverse participation ratio (IPR) [33], defined as

$$\zeta(t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (|u|^2 + |v|^2)^2 dx. \quad (35)$$

In turn, the IPR-related width is defined as

$$a_\zeta(t) = N^2 / \sqrt{2\pi} \zeta. \quad (36)$$

Another definition of the width is determined by the total spread of the wave packet,

$$a_s^2(t) \equiv \langle x^2(t) \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^2 (|u|^2 + |v|^2) dx. \quad (37)$$

It is shown below that these widths feature qualitatively different time dependences, due to a non-Gaussian actual shape of the collapsing wave packet.

A. Effect of the spin-orbit coupling at short time

Here we take an eigenstate of σ_z as the initial state, i.e. $\psi(x, 0) = [u_0(x), 0]^T$ (T stands for transposition), and begin with an analytical consideration for small t , which provides a good insight into the collapse dynamics. To single out the qualitative SOC effect, we, for the time being, omit the nonlinearity (and ZS) in Eqs. (14) and (15), thus observing that SOC splits the input into eigenstates of σ_x , and these spin-projected components evolve independently:

$$\psi(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} u_0(x - \alpha t) \\ u_0(x - \alpha t) \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} u_0(x + \alpha t) \\ -u_0(x + \alpha t) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (38)$$

At small t , using expansion

$$u_0(x \pm \alpha t) \approx u_0(x) \pm \alpha t u_0'(x) + \frac{1}{2} (\alpha t)^2 u_0''(x), \quad (39)$$

we identify the leading terms,

$$u(x, t) = u_0(x) + \frac{1}{2} u_0''(x) (\alpha t)^2, \quad v(x, t) = -u_0'(x) \alpha t. \quad (40)$$

The evolution produces a spin dipole moment, defined as

$$d_\sigma \equiv \frac{1}{N} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \langle \psi | x \sigma_x | \psi \rangle dx, \quad (41)$$

which represents separation of the spin components, and may be considered as an additional dynamical variable. For the spinor

wave function taken as per Eqs. (38)-(40), one has

$$d_\sigma = \alpha t, \quad (42)$$

demonstrating the separation of spin contributions with opposite $\langle \sigma_x \rangle$. Accordingly, the width of the wave packet, defined as per Eq. (35), is

$$a_\zeta(t) = a_\zeta(0) \left[1 + 4 \frac{d_\sigma^2}{\zeta(0)} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (u_0(x)u'_0(x))^2 dx \right]. \quad (43)$$

Now one can calculate the evolution of the z component of the spin,

$$\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1 - 4d_\sigma^2 \frac{E_k}{N}. \quad (44)$$

If the ZS term is restored, the respective Zeeman energy shift is

$$E_Z = -2 \Delta d_\sigma^2 E_k. \quad (45)$$

It depends on the sign of the ZS strength, Δ , demonstrating the significance of the direction of the Zeeman field. Further, the correction to interaction energy (3) is

$$\Delta E_g = (5g_1 - g_2) d_\sigma^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [u'_0(x)]^2 u_0^4(x) dx, \quad (46)$$

demonstrating that the effect of self-interaction nearly cancels at $5g_1 = g_2$.

As an example, we take the initial state in the form of Eq. (21), where $a_\zeta(0) = a(0)$. For the interaction-energy correction we obtain

$$\Delta E_g = (5g_1 - g_2) d_\sigma^2 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{18\pi} \frac{N^3}{a^4(0)}, \quad (47)$$

and the spin projection becomes

$$\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1 - \frac{d_\sigma^2}{a^2(0)}. \quad (48)$$

Accordingly, the IPR-determined packet's width increases as

$$a_\zeta(t) = a(0) \left[1 + \frac{d_\sigma^2}{a^2(0)} \right]. \quad (49)$$

Comparing this expression to Eq. (31), we see that the effect of SOC on the BEC width dominates for

$$\alpha > V_c, \quad (50)$$

i.e., if the anomalous velocity exceeds the characteristic velocity developed in the course of collapsing.

B. Zero cross-interaction: $g_1 \neq 0, g_2 = 0, \Delta = 0$

We begin systematic analysis of the dynamics, neglecting the nonlinear interaction between the components, i.e., setting $g_2 = 0$ in Eqs. (14) and (15). In Fig. 1, we display numerical results for three different values of the SOC strength, α . Note that the packet's shape is strongly non-Gaussian even in the case of $\alpha = 0$. As a result, width $a_s(t)$, defined by Eq. (37), does not display the collapse, and one needs to examine the IPR as in Eqs. (35) and (36). The reason for this peculiarity is discussed below.

Naturally, the collapse time strongly depends on α , diverging when the SOC strength is approaching a critical value, α_{cr} . This value is determined by condition (50), which implies that a typical anomalous velocity induced by SOC, $V_{so} \sim \alpha$, exceed the collapse velocity V_c , see Eq. (32). If $\alpha = \alpha_{cr}$, the simulations demonstrate that the BEC starts its evolution by compressing in the beginning, but then slightly expands (not shown in detail). As α approaches α_{cr} , the collapse time diverges as $\sim (\alpha_{cr} - \alpha)^{-1/2}$.

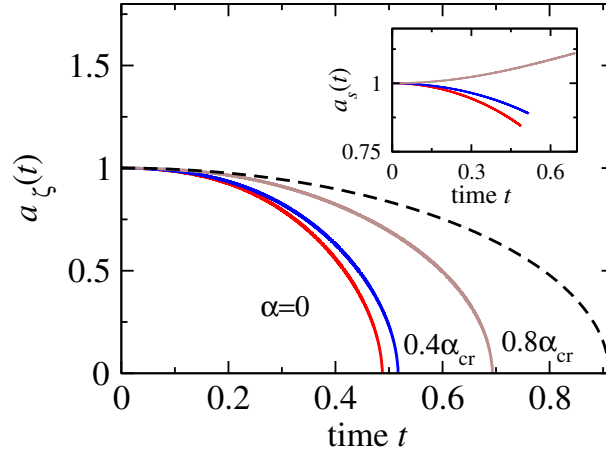


FIG. 1: (Color online) Widths $a_z(t)$, calculated as per Eq. (35) (the main plot), and $a_s(t)$, defined as per Eq. (37) (the inset), for different values of the SOC strength, α , shown near the plots. Here $\alpha_{\text{cr}} = 1.16$ for $N = 3$, $g_1 = 1$, $g_2 = 0$, and $\Delta = 0$. For comparison, the dashed line displays the width evolution for the Gaussian-ansatz solution, given by Eq. (31). Note that for this choice of parameters $\Lambda \approx 1.2$ [see Eq. (27)], and the ansatz predicts the collapse at $t_c \approx 0.9$ and $V_c \approx 1.1$, very close to the numerically obtained value, $\alpha_{\text{cr}} = 1.16$, as seen here. Here and in the following figures we use $a(0) = 1$ for the initial Gaussian states.

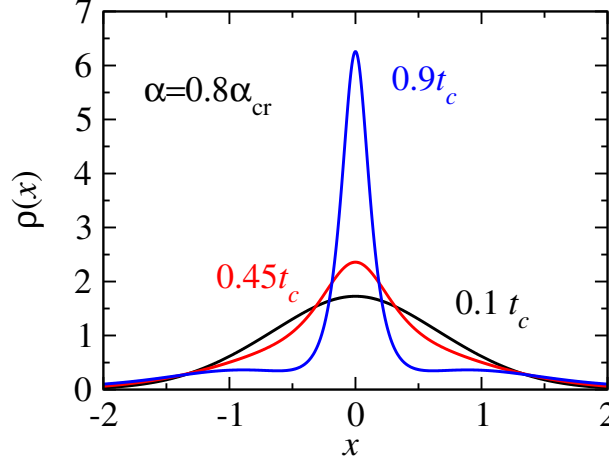


FIG. 2: (Color online) Density profiles of the collapsing wave packet, $\rho(x) = |v|^2 + |u|^2$, produced by numerical simulations of Eqs. (14) and (15) with initial conditions (21), at time t marked near the plots. Wings are clearly seen in the figure at $|x| > 1/2$. Here $\alpha = 0.8\alpha_{\text{cr}}$ for $N = 3$, $g_1 = 1$, $g_2 = 0$, and $\Delta = 0$.

To better understand the difference between the evolution of the IPR- and the $\sqrt{\langle x^2 \rangle}$ -based widths, which are defined by Eqs. (31) and (36), we display, in Fig. 2, density profiles at different times, which show well-developed wings. Therefore, while the core part of the wave packet collapses, its shell extends and leads to finite $\langle x^2 \rangle$. The evolution of the wings, initially observed in Ref. [25], is attributed to very fast decrease in the interaction-energy density. This is confirmed by comparing the numerical and variational solutions. The collapse occurs faster than predicted by Eq. (31), as only a fraction of the BEC density in the vicinity of the origin undergoes the collapse. Thus, although the Gaussian ansatz accurately predicts the critical norm, it is not suitable for modeling dynamical features of the collapse.

As follows from condition $\alpha_{\text{cr}} \sim V_c$, the critical value of the SOC strongly depends on the norm of the wave packet. For sufficiently large N , no value of α is sufficient to arrest the collapse, as shown in Fig. 3, since a fully separated packet still has a sufficient norm to drive the collapse. Taking into account the fact that $N_c^{(\sigma_x)=1} = 2N_c^{(\sigma_z)=1}$, and that the fast separation reduces the norm per component by a factor of two, we conclude that, at $N > 4N_c^{(\sigma_z)=1}$, the critical value α_{cr} diverges, as can be seen in the more rapid increase in α_{cr} in Fig. 3 as N approaches $4N_c^{(\sigma_z)=1}$.

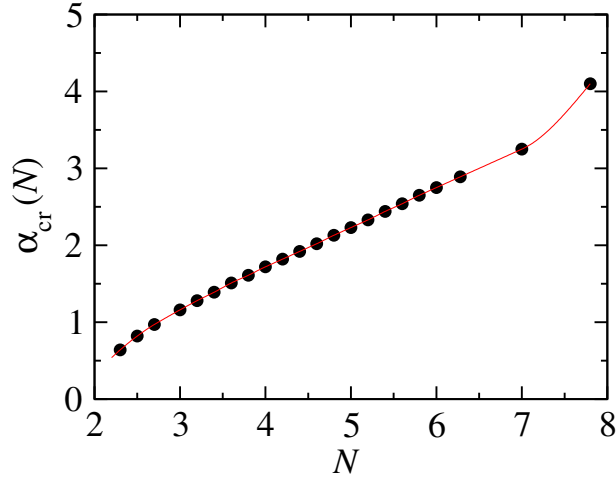


FIG. 3: (Color online) Critical value α_{cr} of the SOC strength, such that the collapse in the system with the self-attraction ($g_1 = 1, g_2 = 0, \Delta = 0$) does not occur at $\alpha > \alpha_{\text{cr}}$, vs. the total norm, N . The red line is an interpolation connecting all data points. Note that, as clearly seen in the figure, the condition $\alpha_{\text{cr}} \sim \sqrt{\Lambda}/a(0)$ predicts linear dependence of $\alpha_{\text{cr}}(N)$ in the interval of $N_{\text{cr}}^{\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1} \lesssim N \lesssim 4N_{\text{cr}}^{\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1}$, where $N_{\text{cr}}^{\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1} \approx 2.0$ is the critical value either in the variational approximation (30) or the exact one in Eq. (20).

C. Effect of the Zeeman splitting: $g_1 \neq 0, g_2 = 0, \Delta \neq 0$

Regarding the effect of ZS on the collapse, there may be either a competition or mutual enhancement of the SOC and ZS terms. The dependence of the critical value, α_{cr} , on the ZS strength, Δ , is plotted in Fig. 4, indicating a strong $\Delta \leftrightarrow -\Delta$ asymmetry, related to the Δ -dependence of the Zeeman energy in Eq. (45). In particular, the total energy decreases at $\Delta < 0$, which facilitates the onset of the collapse, hence α_{cr} is larger in this case. On the other hand, at $\Delta > 0$ both the SOC and ZS terms resist the collapse, as seen in Fig. 5.

Another characteristic feature of the collapse-expansion dichotomy is the time dependence of the spin presented in the inset of Fig. 5, which shows relatively slow non-decaying evolution if the collapse occurs, and decays to zero otherwise (if the condensate expands, instead of blowing up). The spin separation caused by the anomalous velocity leads to decrease of the total spin, by producing a mixed spin state with $\sum_{j=x,y,z} \langle \sigma_j \rangle^2 < 1$. In particular, the state approximately given by Eq. (38) shows that, in the limit of $at \gg a(0)$, all expectation components of the spin vanish, corresponding to the maximally mixed spin state, where $\sum_{j=x,y,z} \langle \sigma_j \rangle^2 = 0$.

At a sufficiently large $\Delta > 0$, ZS can dominate in the spin evolution, making it difficult to spatially separate the spin components. This is shown in Fig. 6, where it is seen that, in the limit of very large Δ , the collapse occurs as in the absence of SOC. The suppression of the SOC effect by large Δ can be explained as follows [34]. Consider a Fourier component of the BEC wave function with momentum p . The corresponding spin precession rate, as follows from Eq. (5), is $\sqrt{\Delta^2 + 4\alpha^2 p^2}$, and the orientation of the spin-precession axis is $\mathbf{n}_s = (\alpha p, 0, \Delta/2)$. In the limit of $\Delta \gg \alpha p$, equivalent to the condition $\Delta \gg \alpha/a(0)$, the direction of \mathbf{n}_s is close to the z -axis and the maximum value of the anomalous velocity $\alpha \sigma_x$, achieved in the course of the BEC evolution, corresponds to the maximally achieved $\sigma_x \sim 4(\alpha/a(0))/\Delta$, and becomes $\sim 4\alpha(\alpha/a(0))/\Delta$, decreasing as $1/\Delta$. Therefore, in this limit, imposed on the value of Δ , the additional condition, dependent on the BEC self-interaction, for the occurrence of the collapse can be rewritten as $4\alpha(\alpha/a(0)\Delta) \ll V_c$, or, equivalently, $\Delta \gg 4\alpha^2/(a(0)V_c)$, where $V_c = \sqrt{\Lambda}/a(0)$ is given by Eq. (32).

D. The collapse driven by the cross-spin attraction: $g_1 = 0, g_2 \neq 0, \Delta = 0$

To complete the analysis of the effects of SOC on the BEC collapse, we consider the system of GPEs (14) and (15), which includes solely the cross-nonlinearity, *viz.*, $g_1 = 0$ and $g_2 = 1$ at the initial condition $\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1$, as presented in Eq. (21). Here the dynamics is qualitatively different from the evolution for the same-spin interaction since in the absence of the spin-orbit coupling the initial state spreads for any norm. Therefore, the collapse can happen only as a result of the SOC-driven spatial splitting of the wave packet into spin-polarized complexes, similar to that predicted by Eq. (38) resulting in the cross-spin attraction between the spin components. Thus, in contrast to the above case with $g_2 = 0$, here the collapse becomes possible when the SOC strength *exceeds* a certain critical value: $\alpha > \alpha_{\text{cr}}$. It is worth noting that at $g_1 = 0$ in a state with $\langle \sigma_x \rangle = 1$, defined in Eq. (33), the critical norm \tilde{N}_{cr} is given by $\tilde{N}_{\text{cr}} = (3\pi)^{1/4} g_2^{-1/2}$, as can be seen from Eqs. (24), (30), and (34).

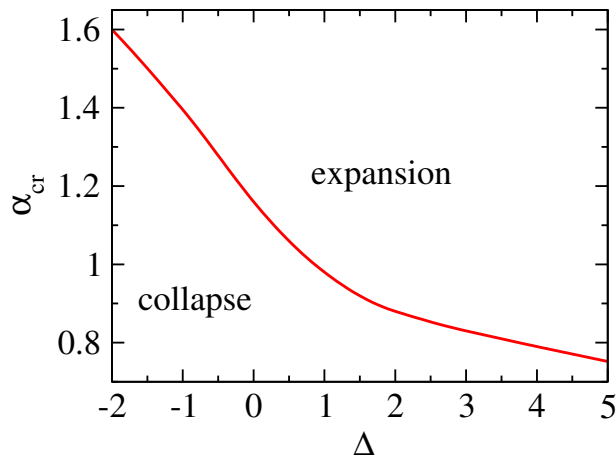


FIG. 4: (Color online) The stability diagram in the $(\alpha_{\text{cr}}, \Delta)$ plane for solutions stemming from the single-component input based on Eq. (21). Other parameters are $N = 3$, $g_1 = 1$, $g_2 = 0$.

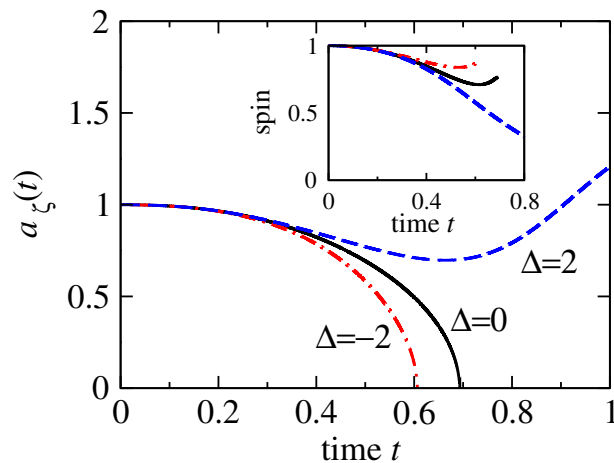


FIG. 5: (Color online) The time dependence of the width and mean value of the spin component $\langle \sigma_z \rangle$ of the collapsing and expanding wave packets, generated by input (21), at different values of the ZS strength, Δ (shown near the curves). Other parameters are $N = 3$, $g_1 = 1$, $g_2 = 0$.

Although the resulting evolution is very complex, the critical value can be estimated here from the following scaling argument based on presentation of the wavefunction similar to that in Eq. (38). First, let us assume that the spin-orbit coupling is sufficiently strong to ensure that the initial wavepacket with the norm N and $\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 1$ rapidly splits in two Gaussian wavepackets, having the same density profiles as the initial one, albeit with the norm $N/2$ and spin projections $\langle \sigma_x \rangle = \pm 1$. Then, if $N > 2\tilde{N}_{\text{cr}}$, each spatial component of the BEC will collapse independently. This argument, consistent with Eq. (47), shows that the minimal time required to switch on the cross-spin interaction is the time of the essential spatial separation of the spin components, that is $\sim a(0)/\alpha$ [34]. On the other hand, in the absence of the self-interaction, at time $t > a^2$, the wavepacket spreads with the rate of the order of $1/a(0)$, due to the Heisenberg momentum-position uncertainty ratio. Therefore, the required separation can be achieved at $\alpha \sim 1/a(0)$, establishing the low boundary for the critical α for the norm of the order of \tilde{N}_{cr} . Note that for the norm $N \gg \tilde{N}_{\text{cr}}$, a strong separation is not needed for the collapse, leading to a decrease in the α_{cr} with N . This realization requires a separate analysis. The results of numerical calculations shown in Fig. 7 confirm that this realization self-interaction is indeed qualitatively different from the one with the same-spin interaction. The numerical value $\alpha_{\text{cr}} = 0.76$ agrees well with the above presented scaling argument $\alpha_{\text{cr}} \sim 1$.

For experimental manifestations of the effects considered here, one might follow proposal of Ref. [35] by adding the realizations of SOC and ZS terms. Since it is possible to tune the atomic scattering length to change the interatomic interaction by Feshbach resonance [4], one might reduce the strength of the repulsive two-body interaction and amplify the three-body attractive interaction, making the three-body collisions dominant. In addition, the three-body losses could be ignored in the system since the collapse time scale is short.

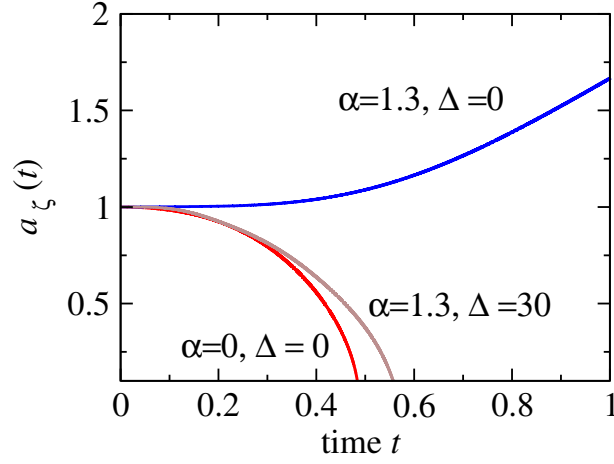


FIG. 6: (Color online) The time dependence of the width of the collapsing or expanding wave packets, defined as per Eq. (35), at values of parameters shown near the plots. The simulations were performed with initial conditions given by Eq. (21). At sufficiently large Δ the collapse is enforced, the evolution of the width being close to that in the absence of SOC. Note that $\alpha_{\text{cr}} = 1.16$ at $\Delta = 0$. The norm fixed here is $N = 3$.

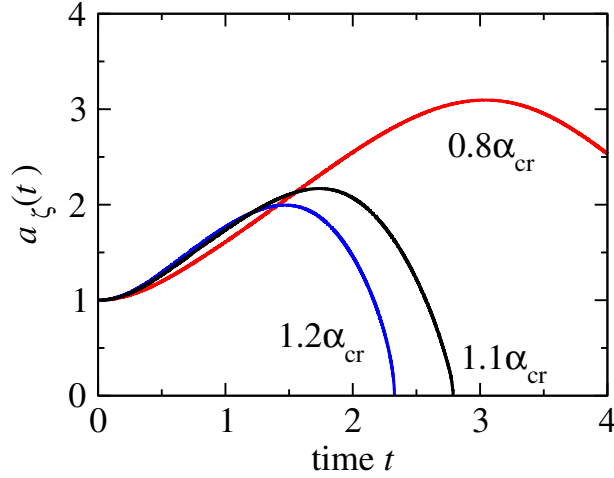


FIG. 7: (Color online) The widths of the collapsing wave packets, calculated as per Eq. (35), in the system which includes solely the cross-attraction between the components, i.e., $g_1 = 0$ and $g_2 = 1$ in Eqs. (14) and (15), other parameters being $N = 6$ and $\Delta = 0$, which corresponds to $\alpha_{\text{cr}} = 0.76$. The simulations were initiated by input (21).

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the dynamics of density and spin patterns in the one-dimensional BEC collapse driven by the quintic same- and cross-spin interaction in the presence of artificial spin-orbit coupling (SOC) and Zeeman splitting (ZS). The dynamics is determined by the interplay of the nonlinear attraction and the splitting of the spinor wave function into spin-polarized complexes, driven by the SOC-induced anomalous spin-dependent velocity [see Eq. (38)]. We performed investigation of the qualitative features of the collapse dynamics, varying the SOC and ZS strengths. In particular, we found that the Zeeman term can either support or suppress the collapse, depending on the initial conditions and direction (sign) of the Zeeman field. The effect of the SOC critically depends on the form of the quintic attraction terms. Namely, it tends to suppress the collapse which is driven by the self-attraction in each BEC component, and, on the other hand, SOC supports the collapse in systems with the cross-spin attraction. We numerically obtained critical values of the spin-orbit coupling, establishing the boundary between collapsing and expanding states. In addition, our calculations demonstrated that due to a non-Gaussian evolution of the density, to see the collapse in these systems, one needs to study the inverse participation ratio rather than expectation values of the coordinate. Taking into account continuous Lie symmetries [36] can be useful for the future studies of the spin effects. Although topological arguments related to the formation of vortex-like structures, which appear due to the spin-orbit coupling [17, 18] or without it [37], cannot be directly applied here, studies of possible stationary pseudo-spinor structures in two dimensions, including relaxation effects, are of interest and will be a topic of further research.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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