

# A hydrodynamic model approach to the formation of plasmonic wakes in graphene

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Using the hydrodynamic model in the electrostatic approximation, we describe the formation of graphene surface plasmons when a charge is in motion either perpendicular or parallel to a graphene sheet. In the first case, the electron-energy loss (EEL) spectrum of the electron is computed, showing that the resonances in the spectrum are linked to the frequency of the graphene surface plasmons. In the second case, we discuss the formation of plasmonic wakes due to the dragging of the surface plasmons induced by the motion of the charge. This effect is similar to Coulomb drag between two electron gases at a distance from each other. We derive simple expressions for the electrostatic potential induced by the moving charge on graphene. We find an analytical expression for the angle of the plasmonic wake valid in two opposite regimes. We show that there is a transition from a Mach-type wake at high speeds to a Kelvin-type wake at low ones and identify the Froude number for plasmonic wakes. We show that the Froude number can be controlled externally tuning both the Fermi energy in graphene and the dielectric function of the environment, a situation with no parallel in ship wakes. Using EEL we propose a source of graphene plasmons, based on a graphene drum built in a metallic waveguide and activated by an electron beam created by the tip of an electronic microscope. We also introduce the notion of a plasmonic billiard.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The hydrodynamic model<sup>1,2</sup> for plasmonics is a macroscopic approach to a microscopic problem, as was well noted by Ciraci *et al.*<sup>3</sup> (see also Ref. 4). This model combines Maxwell's equations, Euler's equation of hydrodynamics supplemented with a term due to the statistical pressure of an electron gas, and the continuity equation. This set of equations is used for describing the nonlocal optical response of either a metallic interface<sup>5-7</sup> or a metallic nano-structure<sup>8,9</sup>. The model can be applied both to 3D<sup>10</sup>, 2D<sup>11-13</sup>, or 1D metallic structures<sup>9,14,15</sup>. In the latter case the situation of two metallic nanoparticles in close proximity is rather important as it allows us to probe electromagnetic interactions between them down to the separation of few atoms<sup>16,17</sup>. Indeed, whereas an electromagnetic local description of the dimer optical properties predicts a divergent enhancement of the electromagnetic energy density in the gap region between the two nanoparticles, a nonlocal description predicts a reduction of the field enhancement when the two particles are at atomic distances from each other, in agreement with the experimental observations<sup>16,17</sup>.

In the past six years, graphene has emerged as a new platform for studying plasmonic effects in the THz and mid-IR, a spectral range where noble metal plasmons show poor spatial confinement. Since the hydrodynamic model can be applied to the 2D electron gas<sup>12</sup>, a natural question arises whether graphene, which supports a massless electron gas, can also be described by the hydrodynamic model. Müller *et al.* have shown that the massless electron gas in graphene behaves

as a nearly perfect fluid<sup>18</sup> with the electronic motion described by the Navier–Stokes equation, from which Euler's equation follows. This model for electronic motion has subsequently been applied to the characterization of the conductivity of graphene<sup>19</sup> as well as to the characterization of its plasmonic properties<sup>11</sup>.

One of the merits of the hydrodynamic model<sup>20,21</sup> is permitting the inclusion of nonlocal effects in the plasmonic response of the very small metallic nano-structures without much computational burden. Within this model nonlocality appears due to the dependence of the statistical pressure on the position of the particle, and Coulomb interactions are included via the coupling of Euler's equation with Maxwell's equations (or via Poisson's equation in an electrostatic calculation). Nonlocal effects emerge when the size of the nano-structures becomes small enough for coarse graining of the electronic charge no longer holds<sup>16</sup>. These effects have also impact in the optical properties of metallic gratings<sup>22</sup>. This happens when the wavelength of the surface plasmon in the metal is smaller than typical size of the nano-structures. Typically, the condition  $qc/\omega_p \gg 1$ , where  $q$ ,  $c$ , and  $\omega_p$  are the wavenumber of the surface plasmon, the speed of light in vacuum, and the plasma frequency of the metal, has to be full-filled for nonlocality to play an important role in the optical spectrum of the system. Physically, nonlocality arises due to the smearing of the electronic charge when probed down to the nanoscale<sup>23</sup>. As a consequence, the screening of the electromagnetic fields become less efficient when compared to the local calculation prediction. Given this, a simple model<sup>7</sup> for a nonlocal metal was introduced.

For graphene, the criterium for nonlocality to be

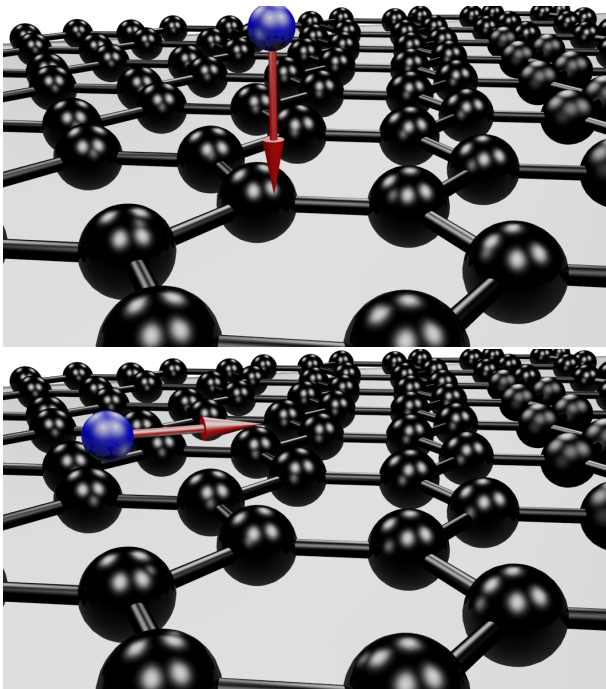


Figure 1. System considered in this paper: a charge is moving relatively to graphene either perpendicular (top panel) or parallel (bottom panel) to it. The effect of the interaction of the charge with the electron gas in graphene is studied using the hydrodynamic model, which has built in nonlocal corrections due to the statistical pressure of the electron gas. The charge induces surface plasmons in graphene which can be probed by EEL spectroscopy.

important is  $qc/(k_F v_F) \gg 1$ , with  $k_F$  and  $v_F$  being the Fermi wavenumber and Fermi speed respectively (clearly the system will be highly nonlocal near graphene neutrality point). For graphene near a metal, the dispersion is strongly dependent on distance between the two systems. Taking a metal-graphene distance of about 1.5 nm, the graphene-metal plasmons can appear in the mid-IR with a wavenumber of the order of  $200 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  (corresponding to a  $\lambda_{\text{spp}} = 2\pi/q \approx 30 \text{ nm}$ ). Considering a Fermi energy of graphene of about  $E_F = 0.4 \text{ eV}$  the previous condition gives  $qc/(k_F v_F) \sim 100$ , thus placing graphene in the strong nonlocal regime. In these conditions, this means that the optical properties of graphene, such as its optical conductivity, have to be taken as function of both frequency  $\omega$  and wave-vector  $\mathbf{k}$  in order to account for both temporal and spatial dispersion. Recently it became possible to retrieve experimentally the nonlocal optical conductivity of graphene using acoustic graphene plasmons<sup>24</sup>, introducing a test for the accuracy of many-body calculations. In this paper, nonlocality in graphene is taken into account at the level of the hydrodynamic model, considering a quantum pressure term that is space dependent. Basically, hydrodynamics is the small-wavenumber correction to the local description, and by carefully expanding the response function emerging from the random-phase approximation (RPA) we in general find a two-fluid model to account for both the interband and intraband effects, which both exhibit spatial dispersion, but with different nonlocal

parameters<sup>25</sup>. In this paper we neglect the interband contribution, since in the frequency window we are interested these type of transitions are blocked by Pauli's principle.

The remaining of the paper is organized as follows: in Sec. A we present a short derivation to Euler's equation of hydrodynamics starting from Boltzmann equation; this sets the stage for the next sections. In Sec. II the hydrodynamic model for graphene is presented, which will be solved in the sections to follow. In Sec. III we include external potentials due to charge densities in the model, which sets the basic equations for describing the effect of moving charges on graphene electronic properties. In Sec. IV the effect of moving charges (see figure 1) in the induction of plasmonic wakes at the surface of graphene is studied. In order to discuss plasmonic effects in graphene nano-structures, we consider in Sec. V the excitation of localized graphene plasmons by an electron in motion, impinging perpendicularly to a nano-rectangle of graphene located in a metallic waveguide. Finally, in Sec. VI we present a short overview of the paper, discuss possible extensions of this work, and introduce the concepts of Froude number for plasmonic wakes and of plasmonic billiards.

## II. HYDRODYNAMIC MODEL FOR DOPED GRAPHENE IN THE ELECTROSTATIC REGIME

The hydrodynamic model of the electromagnetic response of an electron gas couples Euler's equation to Maxwell's equations<sup>20,21,27,28</sup>. To emphasize the 2D nature of the problem, we will in the following introduce  $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z)$  with  $\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}$  being a 2D position vector in the plane of the graphene ( $z = 0$ ), while  $z$  is in the direction perpendicular to the graphene layer. If we introduce the density of particles in the gas per unit area as  $n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})$  then the mass density is defined as  $\rho(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) = mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})$ , where  $m$  is the mass of the particle and  $\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}$  is the 2D position vector. In terms of  $n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})$  Euler's equation reads (where we have dropped the average symbol for simplicity)

$$mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{g}mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) - \nabla P \quad (1)$$

If scattering is allowed, then a term of the form  $mn(\mathbf{r})\mathbf{v}/\tau$  must be included in the left hand side of the previous equation, and where  $\tau$  is a relaxation time taking into account the non-conservation of momentum. The physics of this added term stems for the electron-phonon and electron-electron interactions. We now consider that there is an external electric field applied the electron gas. This changes Euler's equation to

$$mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + mn(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = en(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \nabla \phi(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z=0) - \nabla P \quad (2)$$

where  $e$  is the elementary charge,  $\phi(\mathbf{r}) = \phi(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z)$  is the electrostatic potential, and the electric field follows from  $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \phi(\mathbf{r})$ .

Since we are dealing with an electron gas, the simplest approximation for the pressure is the statistical pressure encoded in the kinetic energy of the electron gas. For graphene the determination of the pressure (force per unit length in 2D) requires the calculation of the kinetic energy of the non-interacting gas as

$$K_g = 4A \int \frac{d\theta k dk}{(2\pi)^2} v_F \hbar k = v_F \hbar \frac{2}{3\pi} \pi^{3/2} N_e^{3/2} A^{-1/2} \quad (3)$$

where  $N_e$  is the total number of electrons,  $A$  is the area of the system, and we have expressed the Fermi momentum in graphene by  $k_F = \sqrt{\pi n_0}$ , where  $n_0$  is the 2D particle density. It follows that the pressure is given by

$$P = -\frac{\partial K_g}{\partial A} = v_F \hbar \frac{1}{3\pi} (\pi n_0)^{3/2}. \quad (4)$$

Note that the previous quantity is a 2D pressure. Next we consider that the pressure in the inhomogeneous gas has the same functional form in terms of density as that given by the previous equation. Using this assumption, we can now compute the gradient of the pressure as

$$\nabla P = v_F \hbar \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})} \nabla n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}). \quad (5)$$

Dividing the pressure by the graphene's Drude mass we obtain Euler's equation-of-motion for graphene as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = \frac{ev_F}{\hbar k_F} \nabla \phi(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) - \frac{v_F^2}{2n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})} \nabla n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \quad (6)$$

where the electrostatic potential depends on  $\mathbf{r}$  but is evaluated at the point in graphene given by  $\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0)$ . The other two equations defining the hydrodynamic model in the electrostatic limit are Poisson's equation

$$\nabla^2 \phi = -\frac{e}{\epsilon_0} [n_+ - n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})] \delta(z) \quad (7)$$

where  $n_+$  is the ionic charge density neutralizing the electron gas, and the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \mathbf{v}] = 0 \quad (8)$$

stating charge conservation in the graphene sheet.

We now linearize the hydrodynamic equations, assuming  $n(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \approx n_0 + n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})$  (we note in passing that for metals we have  $n_0 \gg n_1$ ; for graphene however this is not the case when the system is near the neutrality point. In this paper we will be far from this regime) and  $\phi(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \approx \phi_0(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) + \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})$ , and noting that  $\mathbf{v}$  is already a linear order quantity. This leads to the linear hydrodynamic model

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \frac{ev_F}{\hbar k_F} \nabla \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) - \frac{v_F^2}{2n_0} \nabla n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \quad (9a)$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi_1(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \delta(z) n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) \quad (9b)$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel})}{\partial t} + n_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \quad (9c)$$

Note that the second term on the right-hand-side of equation (9a) is proportional to  $1/n_0$  and therefore can rightfully be considered a correction to the first term. Indeed, we can rewrite this equation as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \frac{ev_F^2}{E_F} \nabla \phi_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) - \frac{\pi \hbar^2 v_F^4}{2 E_F^2} \nabla n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}), \quad (10)$$

which shows that the second term on the right-hand-side of this equation is of higher order in powers of  $1/E_F$ . Also the presence of  $\hbar^2$  in the second term signals the presence of a correction of quantum nature.

### A. Spectrum of the surface plasmons

For solving the previous three equations we introduce the Fourier transform in the plane (note that here  $\mathbf{k}$  is the in-plane 2D wavevector)

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, t) = \int \frac{d\omega d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{\parallel} - \omega t)} \quad (11)$$

and equivalent definitions for the pairs of transforms  $[n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, t); n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega)]$  and  $[\phi_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t); \phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega)]$ . Using the Fourier transforms in the hydrodynamic equations we obtain

$$-i\omega \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \frac{ev_F}{\hbar k_F} i\mathbf{k} \phi_1(\mathbf{k}, 0, \omega) - \frac{v_F^2}{2n_0} i\mathbf{k} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \quad (12a)$$

for Euler's equation,

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - k^2 \right) \phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \delta(z) n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \quad (12b)$$

for Poisson's equation, and

$$0 = -i\omega n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) + n_0 i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \quad (13)$$

for the continuity equation. Note that equation (12b) is nothing but the Green's function. For obtaining  $\phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega)$  we assume that  $\phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = A e^{-kz}$ , for  $z > 0$  and  $\phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = B e^{kz}$  for  $z < 0$ . The coefficients  $A$  and  $B$  are determined from the boundary conditions:  $A = B$  and  $-k(A + B) = \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ , which imply that

$$A = -\frac{e}{2k\epsilon_0} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega). \quad (14)$$

Using the last result in equation (12a) it follows a relation between  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$  and  $n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ . Using this relation in the continuity equation (13) we obtain

$$\hbar^2 \omega_{\text{spp}}^2 = \left[ 2\alpha E_F \hbar c k + \frac{v_F^2 \hbar^2}{2} k^2 \right] \approx 2\alpha E_F \hbar c k \quad (15)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the fine structure constant, with the approximate result valid for realistic ( $k < k_F$ ) wave numbers. We have, therefore, recovered the well known result for the square-root dispersion of graphene surface plasmons in the electrostatic limit<sup>29</sup>. This is consistent with a small-wavenumber expansion of the intraband part of the RPA result.

### III. 2D HYDRODYNAMIC MODEL IN THE PRESENCE OF EXTERNAL POTENTIALS

In this section we follow Fetter<sup>12</sup> for the calculation of response of the electron gas to external potentials. Let us consider the additional presence of external electrostatic forces acting on the electron gas. This is accounted for adding extra terms to both the hydrodynamic equation and Poisson's equation. These are modified as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \frac{ev_F}{\hbar k_F} \nabla [\phi_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) + \phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0)] - \frac{v_F^2}{2n_0} \nabla n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}) \quad (16a)$$

$$\nabla^2 [\phi_1(\mathbf{r}) + \phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r})] = -\frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \delta(z) n_1(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, 0) \quad (16b)$$

where  $\phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z)$  is the external potential due to the external forces,  $\rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega)$  is the volume density of external charges, and the continuity equation is unchanged by the presence of the additional potentials. As before, we introduce the Fourier transform of the different quantities, leading to

$$-i\omega \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \frac{ev_F}{\hbar k_F} i\mathbf{k} \phi(\mathbf{k}, 0, \omega) - \frac{v_F^2}{2n_0} i\mathbf{k} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \quad (17a)$$

for Euler's equation

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - k^2 \right) \phi(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = -\frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) + \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \delta(z) n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \quad (17b)$$

for Poisson's equation, where  $\phi(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \phi_1(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) + \phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega)$  [the continuity equation is unchanged:  $0 = -i\omega n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) + n_0 i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ ]. For solving equation (17b) we use the Green's function method. The free space Green's function is defined as

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - k^2 \right) g(\mathbf{k}, z - z', \omega) = -\delta(z - z') \quad (18)$$

from where it follows that

$$\phi(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \int dz' g(\mathbf{k}, z - z', \omega) \rho(\mathbf{k}, z', \omega) \quad (19)$$

where

$$\rho(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = -\frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \left[ \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) - \frac{e}{\epsilon_0} \delta(z) n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \right]. \quad (20)$$

The solution of equation (18) is well known and reads  $g(\mathbf{k}, z - z', \omega) = \exp(-k|z - z'|) / (2k)$ . As a consequence, the potential reads

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) &= \int dz' \frac{e}{2k\epsilon_0} e^{-k|z-z'|} \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z', \omega) \\ &\quad - \frac{e}{2k\epsilon_0} e^{-k|z|} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

which we write compactly as  $\phi(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \Phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) - \Phi_{2D,1}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega)$  where

$$\Phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \int dz' \frac{e}{2k\epsilon_0} e^{-k|z-z'|} \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z', \omega). \quad (22)$$

Using this result in the hydrodynamic equation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \omega \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, \omega) &= \frac{e}{m} \mathbf{k} [\Phi_{2D,1}(\mathbf{k}, 0, \omega) - \Phi_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, 0, \omega)] \\ &\quad + \frac{v_F^2}{2n_0} \mathbf{k} n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

From the previous equation we obtain the velocity which we plug in the continuity equation, that can be solved for  $n_1(\mathbf{k}, \omega)$ , and the induced potential is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) &= -\Phi_{2D,1}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) \\ &= \frac{n_0 e^3}{4\epsilon_0^2 m_g} \frac{e^{-k|z|}}{\omega^2 - \omega_{\text{sp}}^2} \int dz' e^{-k|z'|} \rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z', \omega). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

For computing these quantities in real space an inverse Fourier transform has to be performed.

### IV. INDUCED ELECTROSTATIC POTENTIAL DUE TO A MOVING CHARGE

Next we want to consider two applications of the central results obtained in the previous section. We shall consider the calculation of the induced electrostatic potential  $\Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, \omega)$  and induced electric field in graphene,  $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, \omega) = -\nabla \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, \omega)$ , due to a charge  $Ze$  moving at the speed  $v$ . We consider two cases

$$\rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = Z\delta(x)\delta(y)\delta(z - vt), \quad (25a)$$

$$\rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = Z\delta(x)\delta(y - vt)\delta(z - z_0). \quad (25b)$$

Equations (25a) and (25b) represent the motion of the moving charge perpendicular to the graphene plane (piercing it) and the motion of the moving charge parallel to the graphene plane at a height  $z = z_0$ , respectively. The Fourier transform in  $\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}$  and  $t$  of the charge distributions gives  $\rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = Z/v e^{i\omega z/v} \equiv Z/v e^{izk_z}$  and  $\rho_{\text{ex}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = Z\delta(z - z_0) 2\pi\delta(\omega - k_y v)$  for equations (25a) and (25b), respectively. In both cases we see a linear relation between the wavenumber and frequency:  $k_z = \omega/v$  and  $\omega = k_y v$  in the perpendicular and parallel motion, respectively (note, however, that due to lack of translation invariance along the  $z$ -direction,  $k_z$  is not a conserved quantity; this implies a non-trivial EEL spectrum). For ease of our later notation, we now introduce a common prefactor  $\Phi_0 \equiv \frac{Zn_0 e^3}{4\epsilon_0^2 m_g} \frac{1}{v^2} = \frac{Ze}{\epsilon_0} \alpha \frac{v_F c}{v^2} k_F$  that will serve to make many integrals dimensionless. Note that  $\Phi_0$  has units of electric potential. Since  $k_F = 2\pi/\lambda_F$ , where  $\lambda_F$  is the Fermi wavelength,  $\Phi_0$  can be interpreted as the average Coulomb energy between two particles in the electron gas.

#### A. Motion perpendicular to the graphene sheet

One experimental method of accessing graphene surface plasmons is measuring the energy loss of an

electron (or charged particle in general) when it passes through a graphene sheet. With this in mind we shall first consider the motion perpendicular to the graphene plane. The induced potential is given by

$$\Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = \Phi_0 v^2 \frac{e^{-k|z|}}{\omega^2 - \omega_{\text{spp}}^2} \frac{2vk}{v^2 k^2 + \omega^2} \quad (26)$$

Fourier transforming to real space and time we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}, z, t) &= \Phi_0 \\ &\times \int v^2 \frac{d\omega d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{-k|z|} e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{\parallel} - \omega t)}}{(\omega + i\eta)^2 - \omega_{\text{spp}}^2} \frac{2vk}{v^2 k^2 + \omega^2} \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where  $\eta$  is a small positive real number added to account for causality. The angular integral gives  $2\pi J_0(kr)$ . And after performing the frequency integral we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}, z, t) &= \Phi_0 \\ &\times \int_0^{\infty} v^3 \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi} e^{-k|z|} J_0(kr) I_1(\omega_{\text{spp}}, k, t) \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_1(\omega_{\text{spp}}, k, t) &= -\theta(t) \frac{\sin(\omega_{\text{spp}} t)}{\omega_{\text{spp}}} \frac{1}{\omega_{\text{spp}}^2 + v^2 k^2} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2vk} \frac{e^{-vk|t|}}{v^2 k^2 + \omega_{\text{spp}}^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Therefore the problem of finding the induced electrostatic potential amounts to a simple quadrature. In figure 2 we represent  $\Phi_{\text{in}}(r, 0, t)$  as function of the distance to the origin for four different times. For shorter times we see the formation of the surface plasmon wave. At longer times the surface plasmon has propagated a given distance. It is clear that the electrostatic disturbance is not monochromatic since a single wavelength cannot be identified from the figure. As we will see in the next section this will translate into a non-trivial spectrum for the energy loss of a charged particle when it transverses a graphene sheet.

## B. The EEL Spectrum

Here we want to compute the electron-energy loss (EEL) spectrum. This problem has been considered for graphene before using a completely different formalism<sup>31</sup>. Using the same methods of the previous reference, the problem of a 2D electron gas has also been considered<sup>32-34</sup>, including the case where magnetic field is present.

To goal in view we need the quantity  $E_z(0, z, \omega) = -\partial\Phi_{\text{in}}(0, z, \omega)/\partial z$  since by definition the EEL spectrum reads<sup>30</sup>

$$\Gamma(\omega) = \frac{Ze}{\pi\hbar\omega} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \Re\{e^{i\omega t} \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{E}(0, vt, \omega)\} \quad (30)$$

where  $\mathbf{V} = (0, 0, v)$  and  $Z = 1$  for the electron, and the symbol  $\Re$  stands for the real part. The induced

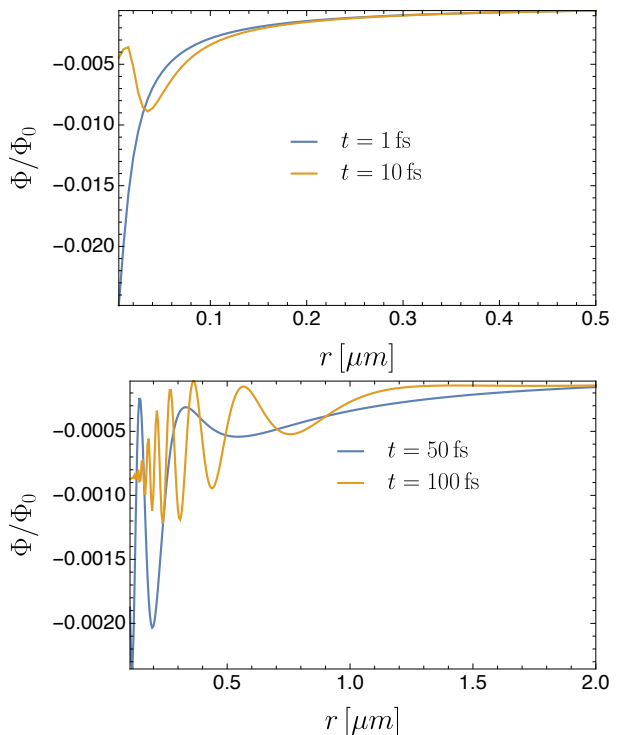


Figure 2. Potential at position  $z_0 = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  above the graphene sheet ( $E_F = 0.37 \text{ eV}$ ) for  $t = 1, 10 \text{ fs}$  (top) and  $t = 50, 100 \text{ fs}$  (bottom) and for a particle of speed  $v = 0.01c$ . At large distances the induced potential approaches zero. At shorter times, we witness the formation of the surface plasmon polariton. At longer times the disturbance in the electronic density propagates away from the point  $r = 0$ . The moving electric charge starts at the graphene sheet. As time evolves oscillatory behavior develops in the induced potential associated with the modulation of the electronic charge in the graphene sheet. The particle kinetic energy is about  $25 \text{ eV}$ . Note that the potential oscillations are not characterized by a well defined wavelength, meaning that surface plasmons of different wave numbers are excited simultaneously.

electrostatic potential reads

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(0, z, \omega) &= \Phi_0 \\ &\times \int_0^{\infty} v^2 \frac{k dk}{2\pi} \frac{e^{-k|z|}}{(\omega + i\eta)^2 - \omega_{\text{spp}}^2} \frac{2vk}{v^2 k^2 + \omega^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Therefore it follows that the EEL spectrum can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\omega) &= \frac{Ze}{\pi\hbar\omega} \Phi_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \int_0^{\infty} v^3 \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi} \frac{2vk}{v^2 k^2 + \omega^2} \\ &\quad \times \frac{\text{sign}(t) e^{-k|vt|} e^{i\omega t}}{(\omega + i\eta)^2 - \omega_{\text{spp}}^2} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

where the real part is implicit. Performing the time integral we find (using the Sokhotski-Plemelj theorem)

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\omega) &= \frac{Ze}{\pi\hbar\omega} \Phi_0 \int_0^{\infty} v^3 \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi} \frac{2vk}{v^2 k^2 + \omega^2} \\ &\quad \times \frac{2\omega}{k^2 v^2 + \omega^2} \pi \delta(\omega - \omega_{\text{spp}}). \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Writing  $\omega_{\text{spp}} = \sqrt{ak}$ , where the parameter  $a$  is:

$$a = 2\alpha E_{Fc}/\hbar, \quad (34)$$

and has units of acceleration [see equation (15)], we can easily integrate the delta function, reading

$$\Gamma(\omega) = Z^2 \frac{2\hbar}{E_F} \frac{\omega^2 v^2 / a^2}{(\omega^2 v^2 / a^2 + 1)^2} \quad (35)$$

a result that has been obtained in the literature before<sup>31</sup> using a different method based on reflection coefficients. Equation (35) has a maximum at the frequency

$$\hbar\omega_{\text{res}}/E_F = 2\alpha \frac{c}{v} \quad (36)$$

corresponding to an efficient excitation of surface plasmons of that frequency. We plot  $\Gamma(\omega)$  in figure 3. From this figure we see the dispersion shifts towards higher energies as the speed of the moving electron decreases, in agreement with equation (36). Looking at the frequency where the EEL spectrum has a maximum we can find the surface plasmon frequency. This frequency coincides with the interception of the  $\omega_{\text{spp}}$  curve with the line  $\omega = k_z v$ . This allows to retrieve the wavenumber  $k_z$  of the surface plasmon associated with the  $\omega_{\text{res}}$  obtained from the EEL spectrum. We note, however, that this process of exciting surface plasmons does not produce a monochromatic wave, as can be guessed from the broadening of the EEL spectrum and from figure 2. Note that from the latter figure we cannot attribute a single wavelength to the potential disturbance. As we will see, the motion of an electron parallel to a graphene sheet is able to induce a monochromatic plasmon.

### C. Motion parallel to the graphene sheet: Kelvin and Mach wakes

We now consider the case of a charge moving parallel to a graphene sheet at a constant height  $z_0$  (experimentally we could consider EEL with a tilted graphene sample). The calculation of the potential when the charge moves parallel to graphene follows from the Fourier representation of the charge density. In this case the calculation is simpler due to the presence of two Dirac delta-functions, but an integral in the coordinates  $k_x$  and  $k_y$  still persists. Let us compute the potential  $\Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}, z, t)$  starting from

$$\Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{k}, z, \omega) = 2\pi\Phi_0 v^2 \frac{e^{-k(|z|+z_0)}}{\omega^2 - \omega_{\text{spp}}^2} \delta(\omega - vk_y). \quad (37)$$

Note that the delta-function implies that the particle disperses with a frequency given by  $\omega = vk_y$ .

Fourier transforming equation (37) to real space and time, we obtain in polar coordinates

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = & \Phi_0 v^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{k dk}{2\pi} \\ & \times \frac{e^{-k(|z|+z_0)} e^{ik[r \cos(\theta-\theta') - vt \cos \theta]}}{(k \cos \theta v)^2 + i \text{sign}(\cos \theta) \eta - ak} \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

where  $\theta'$  is the polar angle of  $\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}$ . Using the Sokhotski-Plemelj theorem it follows that ( $f$  stands for principal value of the integral)

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = & \Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \frac{e^{-k\beta} e^{ik\gamma}}{k \cos^2 \theta - a/v^2} \\ & - i\pi\Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} e^{-k\beta} e^{ik\gamma} \text{sign}(\cos \theta) \\ & \times \delta(k \cos^2 \theta - a/v^2) \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Let us introduce the change of variables  $k \cos^2 \theta - a/v^2 = \kappa$  which modifies the integral to

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = & \Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-f(\theta)}}{\cos^2 \theta} \int_{-a/v^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\kappa}{\kappa} \frac{e^{-v^2 f(\theta) \kappa/a}}{\kappa} \\ & - i\pi\Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-f(\theta)}}{\cos^2 \theta} \text{sign}(\cos \theta) \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

where  $\beta = |z| + z_0$ ,  $\gamma = [r \cos(\theta - \theta') - vt \cos \theta]$ , and

$$f(\theta) = \frac{a}{\cos^2 \theta v^2} [\beta - i\gamma(\theta)]. \quad (41)$$

The principal value of the integral over  $\kappa$  gives the exponential integral function,  $\text{Ei}(x)$ , and the integral of the delta function is elementary. It then follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t) = & -\Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-f(\theta)}}{\cos^2 \theta} \text{Ei}[f(\theta)] \\ & - i\pi\Phi_0 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-f(\theta)}}{\cos^2 \theta} \text{sign}(\cos \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

In figure 5 we show two examples of the electrostatic potential induced by the charged particle moving relatively to graphene at a distance  $z_0$  from it. It is evident that the surface plasmons propagate in the form of ship wakes. Contrary to conventional wisdom, ship wakes are not<sup>32</sup> necessary given by Kelvin theory and the same happens for plasmonic wakes induced by the moving charge.

According to Kelvin theory half the angle of the cone of a ship wake is given by

$$\theta_K = \arctan \frac{1}{\sqrt{8}} \approx 19.47^\circ \quad (43)$$

that is, it is a constant number independent of the speed of the ship. For future notice, it is important to clarify how the opening angle of the plasmon wake is determined from our simulations: for a fixed value of  $|\mathbf{r}|$  we compute from the electrostatic potential the three components of the electric field as function of the angle  $\theta'$ ; we then use these results to compute the absolute value of the electric field and fit a Gaussian of the form  $Ae^{-(\theta' - \theta_{\text{max}})^2/\sigma}$ , where  $\theta_{\text{max}}$  is the angle where the intensity of the electric field is maximum, and  $A$  and  $\sigma$  are fitting parameters; the opening half angle is defined as the angle where the fitting function has the value of 0.61 of its maximum, at a radial position value given by  $|\mathbf{r}| = (2 + 1/4)2\pi v^2/a$  (other choices of  $|\mathbf{r}|$  lead to the same results). Using this procedure and with the help of dimensional analysis we

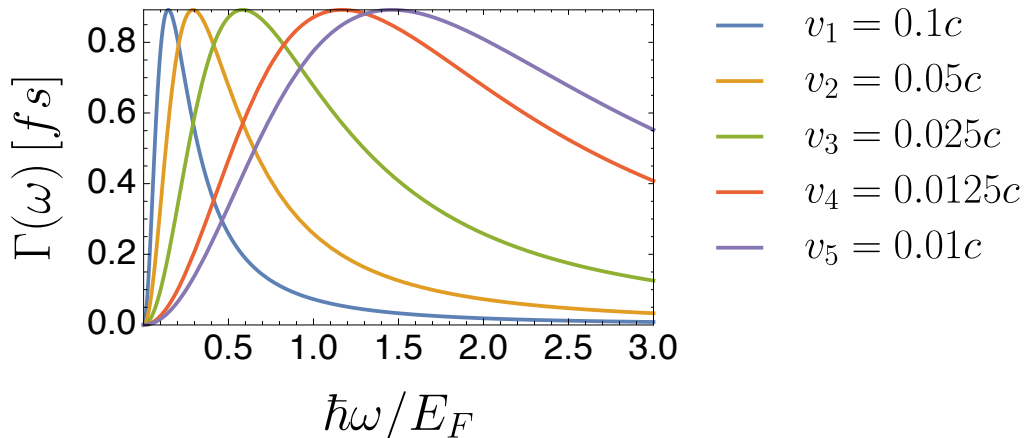


Figure 3. Loss spectrum as function of the energy for five speeds to the electron. The peaks disperse as function of the speed of the electrons. This allows to retrieve the dispersion of the plasmons. The wavenumber  $k_{\text{res}}$ , which satisfies the condition  $\omega_{\text{spp}}(k_{\text{res}}) = k_{\text{res}}v$ , is connected to the resonance frequency  $\omega_{\text{res}}$ , the maximum of the EEL spectrum. This relation allows to reconstruct the surface plasmon dispersion from the EEL spectrum. The Fermi energy is  $E_F = 0.4$  eV. The long tail as function of frequency suggests that a continuum of surface plasmons is excited by the moving charge.

have found that half the aperture of the cone is given with good accuracy by (in degree)

$$\theta' \approx \frac{1}{\delta} \sqrt{\frac{z_0 a}{v^2}} \equiv \frac{1}{\delta} \frac{1}{\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}} \quad (44)$$

for  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \gg 1$ , where  $\delta$  is a real constant that we have found to be of the order of  $\delta \approx 0.019 \pm 0.001$  ( $\delta \approx 1.09$  for  $\theta'$  in radians) and  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}$  is the plasmonic Froude number (see discussion in section VI). We note that formula (44) should work well only in the large Froude number regime and should be understood as the first term in powers of  $1/\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}$  of a more complex expression. From the numerical data, we have identified, a transition from a Mach-type wavefront, where the opening angle of the plasmon wake follows the law  $\theta \propto 1/v$ , at high speeds (for the remaining parameters fixed) to a Kelvin-type one, where the angle of the plasmon wake is independent of the speed of the moving charge (see discussion ahead). Indeed, for slow speeds compared to  $c$  (and small Froude numbers) the wavefront is always Kelvin-like, that is, with an opening angle for the wake independent of the speed of the moving charge. For the parameters of the top panel of figure 5 formula (44) predicts an angle of  $56^\circ$  well above Kelvin's value, whereas from the figure we estimate a value of about  $\sim 22.8^\circ$ . However, we note that the prediction is outside the validity of the condition  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \gg 1$  and therefore quantitative disagreement is expected. In this case the Froude number reads  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = 0.9$ . For the bottom panel of the same figure, formula (44) predicts a value of  $(18 \pm 3)^\circ$ , whereas from the electric field intensity we estimate a value of  $\sim 16.8^\circ$ , which is in very good agreement with the result given by equation (44). Note that in this case the Froude number is  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = 2.86$ . Also, note that from the top to the bottom panel,  $z_0$  has changed by one order of magnitude.

A study of the evolution of the plasmon wake from Kelvin-type to Mach-type is given in figure 6. Note the transition located at  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \sim 2$  from a Mach-type wake to a Kelvin-type one, as the Froude number de-

creases. The existence of such transition was first pointed out by Shi *et al.*<sup>33</sup>, who solved an identical problem numerically but gave no interpretation to the phenomenon as they were unable to identify the Froude number for graphene. A study of the prediction given by equation (44) and the estimation based on the Figures is given in table I. The agreement between the numbers in the two rows is good for values of  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}$  larger than 2, showing that the ansatz  $\theta = 1/(\delta \text{Fr}_{\text{pl}})$  does a good job at predicting the values obtained from the calculation of the absolute value of the electric field. The last row gives the Froude number. We have, therefore, gathered evidence for the existence of a transition from Mach-type to Kelvin-type waves at a critical Froude number of  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}^c \gtrsim 2$  (note that the ratio  $v/c$  is not the good quantity to analyze this problem).

For the parameters considered in figure 6, and as noted above, we have  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \approx 2.3$  for  $v/c = 0.25$ , the speed at which the transition from the Mach-like to Kelvin-like regime occurs (for the given parameters). Therefore the transition between the two regimes is controlled by Froude number, with the transition occurring roughly for  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \approx 2$ . This result should be a generic feature of plasmonic wakes in graphene. Finally, we note that the region of Kelvin-type has a constant angle (gray dashed line in figure 6) of  $(21.4 \pm 1.4)^\circ$ , a value larger than that predicted by Kelvin's theory, but with Kelvin's value within the interval of uncertainty. This larger value of the opening angle happens due to the definition we have used for determining it. Indeed, adopting a slightly different criterion the angle values would be slightly different, but the transition would occur at the same Froude number (results not shown). That is, the existence of a transition from Mach-like to Kelvin-like behavior does not depend on the criterion used to define the opening angle of the cone. We shall discuss more on all the above in section IVD and in section VI.

We can also compute the power added to the

$v/c$	0.075	0.1	0.125	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.95
$\theta_{\text{est}}$	22.8	22.8	21.6	21.6	20.4	19.2	18	16.8	14.4	12	9.6	8.4	7.2	6
$\theta'$	74	56	44	37	28	22.2	18.5	15.9	13.9	11.1	9.3	7.9	6.9	5.8
$\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}}$	0.68	0.91	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.7	3.2	3.6	4.5	5.4	6.3	7.2	8.6

Table I. Estimation of half the angle,  $\theta_{\text{est}}$ , of the cone associated with the moving plasmons induced by a moving charge compared with the prediction of equation  $\theta' = 1/(\delta \text{Fr}_{\text{pl}})$ , with  $\delta \approx 0.019$ . Note that the validity of this formula is restricted to  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} > 2$ . The parameters are  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$  and  $z_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$ . Figure 6 plots the numbers of the table in a log-log scale. Also note the transition at about  $v/c \approx 0.25$ . (See text for the method used to estimate  $\theta_{\text{est}}$ .) The last line gives the plasmonic Froude number (see discussion in section VI),  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = \sqrt{v^2/(z_0 a)}$ . It is clear that the criterion for the validity of formula (44) is related to the value of the Froude number: When  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \gtrsim 2$  the formula works well.

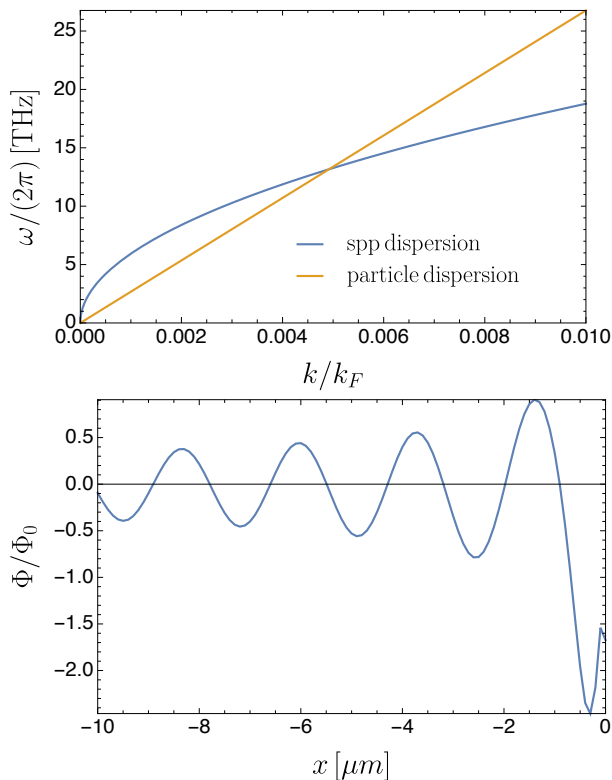


Figure 4. Spectrum (top) and electrostatic potential (bottom) along the direction of propagation of the moving particle. The particle dispersion, given by  $\omega = kv$ , is represented on the left image by the orange line. It intercepts the SPP dispersion at  $k/k_F = 0.00495$ , corresponding to a SPP wavelength of  $\lambda_{\text{spp}} = 2\pi/k \approx 2.3 \mu\text{m}$ . This value matches well the distance between successive crests of the potential,  $\Delta y \approx 2.4 \mu\text{m}$ . Changing the velocity of the particle changes the slope of the orange line and therefore the wavelength of the SPP, which turns into different distances between two successive crests of the potential. The parameters are:  $E_F = 0.37 \text{ eV}$ , corresponding to an electronic density equal to  $10^5 \mu\text{m}^{-2}$ ,  $v = 0.1c$ ,  $z_0 = 0.01 \mu\text{m}$ , and  $t = 0 \text{ fs}$ .

charged particle using the expression  $\mathcal{P} = Ze\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{E}(0, vt, z_0, t)$ , where  $\mathbf{V} = (0, v, 0)$  and  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}(x, y, z, t)$ . This means that we need to compute the  $y$ -component of the field. This follows from  $E_y = -\partial\Phi_{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}, z, t)/\partial y$ . Once the electric field is known, the power can be determined. The calculation is consistent if the energy loss is small compared to the kinetic energy of the particle. Since the field  $E_y(0, vt, z_0, t)$  is time independent the power loss is

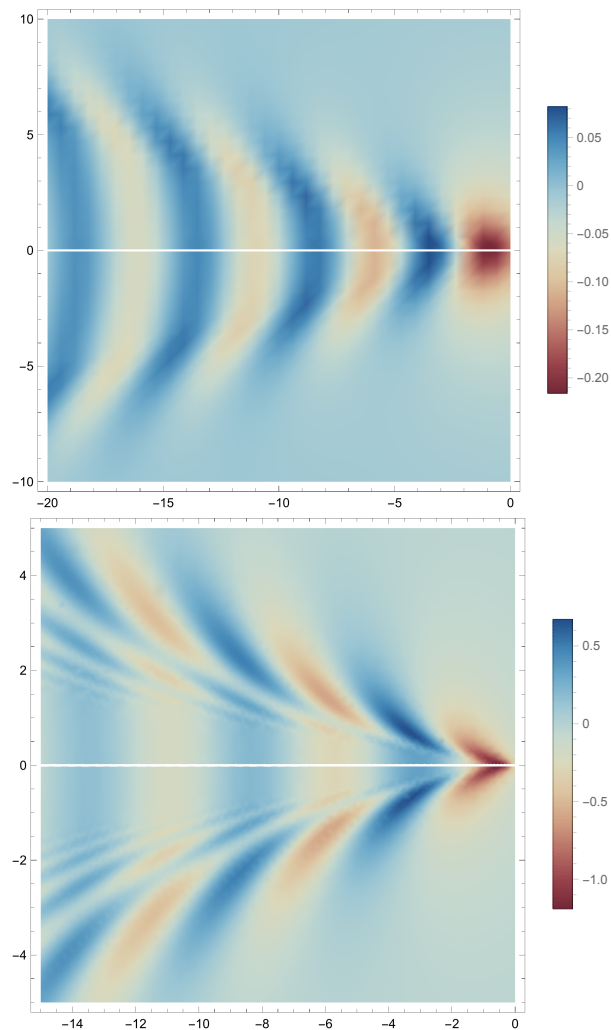


Figure 5. Electrostatic potential, in units of  $\Phi_0$ , in graphene for a particle moving parallel to it at  $z_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$  with speed  $v = 0.1c$  (top panel;  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ ) and at  $z_0 = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  with speed  $v = 0.1c$  (bottom panel;  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ ). The axes of the figures are in  $\mu\text{m}$ . A Kelvin wake develops on the graphene sheet in the image of the top panel. Indeed, in the top panel the half-opening angle is about  $\sim (22.8 \pm 0.3)^\circ$ , whereas in the bottom one is about  $\sim (16.8 \pm 0.3)^\circ$ . Note that the electrostatic potential fluctuations are much larger for the case depicted in the bottom panel, due to a closer proximity of the moving charge to graphene. Also note the presence of a plane wave in the central region of the wake (more evident in the bottom panel). (The horizontal and vertical scales in the two panels are different.)



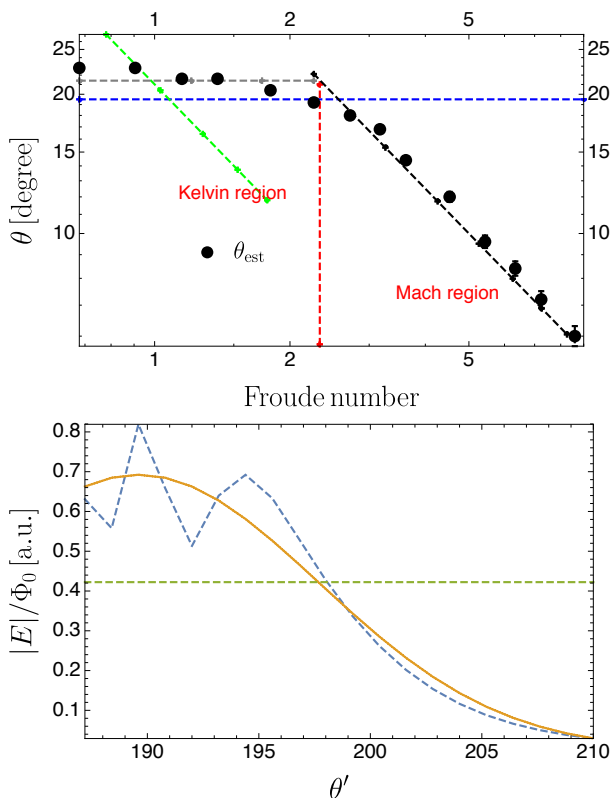


Figure 6. Graphical representation of the data of table I. Top panel: Note the transition at the Froude number  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} \sim 2$  from Mach-type to Kelvin-type of wake, as the Froude number decreases. The parameters are  $z_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$  and  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ , and the angle was measured at a distance  $|\mathbf{r}| = (2 + 1/4)2\pi v^2/a$  (corresponding to two wavelengths plus one quarter) from the apex of the cone. The error of the data points was estimated to be  $0.3^\circ$ . Different parameters will give similar curves to this one. The angle  $\theta_{\text{est}}$  is estimated from the electric field, for a given  $v/c$  ratio, as explained in the text. The dashed black line represents the angle given by the formula  $\theta = 1/(\delta \text{Fr}_{\text{pl}})$  as function of the Froude number (this formula only holds in the Mach-type region of the Froude number). The horizontal dashed blue line represents Kelvin's result (see section VI for a more thorough discussion of the role of the Froude number). The horizontal gray line is a fit to the simulation data points in the Kelvin region (the transition from Mach-like to Kelvin-like behavior is clearly seen to occur at the interception of the gray and black dashed curves). The green dashed line is an attempt to fit the simulation data points in Kelvin's region with the same expression used in the Mach region (this clearly fails to account for the behavior of the data). Bottom panel: here we give an example of the fitting procedure (see text for details). The dashed blue line is the simulation data, the orange solid line is the fit of the data to a Gaussian, and the dashed green line signals the value of 0.61 of the maximum of the fitting function which approximately corresponds to the inflection point of the curve ( $0.61 \approx e^{-1/2}$ ). The interception of the horizontal line with the solid curve defines the half angle of aperture of the wake cone. The speed of the particle is  $v = 0.1c$ ,  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ , and  $z_0 = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$ , corresponding to a Froude number of  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = 2.86$ . In this example we have  $\theta_{\text{est}} \approx 196.8 - 180 = 16.8^\circ$ .

also time independent. We have verified in our numerics (results not shown) the energy loss is of the order of 2 meV, for a particle with speed  $v = 0.1c$  (kinetic energy 2.5 keV) propagating over graphene a distance of  $3 \mu\text{m}$ . We note that the situation is different for the motion of a charged particle perpendicular to the graphene plane due to lack of translation invariance. In this latter case the power loss is time dependent.

Although numerical calculations are a powerful way of gaining understanding about a complex problem, much insight can be gained from deriving analytical results, even when they are only valid in special limits. In the present section we have conducted a fully numerical analysis of the plasmonic wake. In the next section two special limits are considered where it became possible to obtain closed analytical expressions for the shape of the wake.

#### D. Approximate analytical formulas for the plasmonic wake

In this section we derive analytical formulas for the plasmonic wakes valid in the limits  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$  and  $az_0/v^2 \ll 1$ . The first limit corresponds approximately to the case of the top panel of figure 5 ( $az_0/v^2 \simeq 1.2$ ) whereas the second limit corresponds to the bottom panel of the same figure ( $az_0/v^2 \simeq 0.12$ ). The exact form of the plasmonic wake is given by equation (42). However, we are interested here in obtaining approximate analytical expressions for the wake, which can then be used to gain some insight on its properties. To this end, we consider the asymptotic expression for the  $\text{Ei}(z)$  function, which to leading order reads  $\text{Ei}(z) \sim e^z/z$  ( $\Re z > 0$ ). This shows that to leading order the first integral in equation (42) is elementary and does not contribute significantly to the form of the wake as this comes from the exponential in the second integral [a careful numerical study of both integrals in equation (42) shows that this statement is approximately correct in some regimes]. In order to derive the needed asymptotic expressions we note that we need to compute the real part of the following integral [ignoring, for the time being, contributions coming from the first integral in equation (42)]:

$$I_2 = -i\pi \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \frac{e^{-\frac{az_0}{v^2 \cos^2 \theta}} e^{\frac{iar \cos(\theta-\theta')}{v^2 \cos^2 \theta}}}{\cos^2 \theta} \text{sign}(\cos \theta) \quad (45)$$

which can be shown to equal

$$\Re I_2 = 2\pi \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} d\theta \frac{e^{-\frac{az_0}{v^2 \cos^2 \theta}}}{\cos^2 \theta} \sin\left(\frac{ar \cos \theta'}{v^2 \cos \theta}\right) \times \cos\left(\frac{ar \tan \theta}{v^2 \cos \theta} \sin \theta'\right) \quad (46)$$

We now introduce the change of variable  $u = \tan \theta$ . This implies  $1/\cos^2 \theta = 1 + u^2$  and  $du = \sec^2 \theta d\theta$ . Therefore the integral reads

$$\Re I_2 = 2\pi e^{-az_0/v^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du e^{-u^2 az_0/v^2} \sin\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \cos\theta' \sqrt{u^2+1}\right) \times \cos\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \sin\theta' u \sqrt{u^2+1}\right) \quad (47)$$

Next we observe that for  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$  the kernel of the integral is strongly peaked at  $u = 0$ , due to the Gaussian exponential. Therefore, in this regime, we introduce the approximation

$$\Re I_2 \approx 2\pi e^{-az_0/v^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du e^{-u^2 az_0/v^2} \cos\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \sin\theta' u\right) \times \sin\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \cos\theta' (1+u^2/2)\right) \quad (48)$$

which, applying the exponential representation of the trigonometric formulas, can be seen as a Gaussian integral, which has the elementary solution:

$$\Re I_2 \approx -4\pi^{3/2} e^{-\beta} \frac{\Im\left(\sqrt{2\beta - i\gamma} e^{-i\gamma - \frac{\lambda^2}{4\beta + 2i\gamma}}\right)}{\sqrt{8\beta^2 + 2\gamma^2}} \quad (49)$$

where

$$\beta = \frac{az_0}{v^2} \quad (50a)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{ar}{v^2} \cos\theta' \quad (50b)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{ar}{v^2} \sin\theta' \quad (50c)$$

For obtaining the second term in equation (42) we have to divide equation (49) by  $4\pi^2$ . The obtained expression is valid for arbitrary large values of  $r$  and describes qualitatively the formation of the wake due to the moving charge in its regime of validity. As noted above, the first integral in equation (42) contributes little to leading order in the form of the asymptotic expression of the exponential integral function. However the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$  is likely to be experimentally challenging to access (see discussion below). Therefore, we would like to have an equation holding in the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gtrsim 1$ . Fortunately, this can be obtained treating the first integral approximately. The procedure is similar to that described above, except that in the end we still have to evaluate the additional integral coming from the principal value of the integral in the variable  $\kappa$ . The final result to the first integral in equation (42) reads (up to lowest order in the expansion of the arguments of the trigonometric functions)

$$I_1 \approx \Re \left[ \frac{\sqrt{2}(-2\beta + i\gamma)}{\pi \sqrt{(2\beta - i\gamma)^2 (2\beta + i\gamma)}} D(s) \right] \quad (51)$$

where  $s = \sqrt{i\phi + \psi}$  and  $D(z)$  is the Dawson integral,  $D(z) = e^{-z^2} \int_0^z e^{y^2} dy$ , and

$$\psi = \beta + \frac{4\beta\lambda^2}{16\beta^2 + 4\gamma^2}, \quad (52a)$$

$$\phi = \frac{\gamma(8\beta^2 + 2\gamma^2 - \lambda^2)}{2(4\beta^2 + \gamma^2)}. \quad (52b)$$

Therefore, the electrostatic potential (42) is approximately given by the sum:  $I_1 + (2\pi)^{-2} \Re I_2$ . This result is in quantitative agreement to the exact fully numerical calculation of equation (42). A better analytical approximation than equation (51) to the first integral in equation (42) can be obtained, but the resulting expression is too cumbersome to be given here.

Let us next consider the regime  $az_0/v^2 \ll 1$ . In this case the integral is dominated by values of  $u$  in a large range centered at  $u = 0$ . Therefore, the arguments of the trigonometric functions are expanded differently than before as:

$$\Re I_2 \approx 2\pi e^{-az_0/v^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du e^{-u^2 az_0/v^2} \sin\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \cos\theta' |u|\right) \times \cos\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \sin\theta' (u^2 + 1/2)\right) \quad (53)$$

The integral can be expressed in terms of the Error function,  $\text{erf}(x)$ , as

$$\Re I_2 \approx -4\pi^{3/2} e^{-\beta} e^{-\frac{\beta\gamma^2}{2(\beta^2 + \lambda^2)}} \times \Re \left[ \frac{e^{\frac{\gamma^2}{4\beta + 4i\lambda} + i\lambda/2} \text{erf}\left(\frac{\gamma}{2\sqrt{-\beta + i\lambda}}\right)}{\sqrt{-\beta + i\lambda}} \right] \quad (54)$$

Again, the previous expression is valid for an arbitrary large  $r$ . It is interesting to note that the Error function often appears in diffusion problems. Whether the propagation of the surface plasmons in this regime can be seen as a diffusion problem requires more work. Also in this case, we can obtain an expression for the first integral in equation (42). Proceeding as briefly described in the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$ , the expression for  $I_1$  reads

$$I_1 \approx -\frac{\Re[\sqrt{\beta - i\lambda} e^{-s} \text{erfi}(s)]}{\pi^{1/2} \sqrt{\beta^2 + \lambda^2}} \quad (55)$$

where in this case  $s = (4\beta^2 + \gamma^2 + 6i\beta\lambda - 2\lambda^2)/(4\beta + 4i\lambda)$  and  $\text{erfi}(z)$  is the complex error function. As before, the electrostatic potential (42) is approximately given by the sum:  $I_1 + (2\pi)^{-2} \Re I_2$ .

To compare the asymptotic expressions to the exact results we depict in figure 7 the same wakes shown in figure 5 but computed using equations (49) and (51), and equations (54) and (55). It is clear that the shape of the approximated wakes given in figure 7 is in qualitative agreement with the wakes depicted in figure 5. The agreement between the wake for  $z_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$  is only qualitatively accurate since the ratio  $az_0/v^2 \simeq 1.2$  is not in the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$ . Had we chosen a larger  $z_0$  or a smaller  $v$  and the agreement between the two wakes would have also been quantitatively better. In particular we note the disagreement in the value of the opening angle of the wake's cone (larger in the approximate wake). In the case of the bottom panel of figure 7 the agreement with the bottom panel of figure 5 is quite good, since in this case the wake for  $z_0 = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  is more accurate, given that the ratio  $az_0/v^2 \simeq 0.12$  can be considered to fulfill the condition  $az_0/v^2 \ll 1$ . Indeed, in both cases the cone

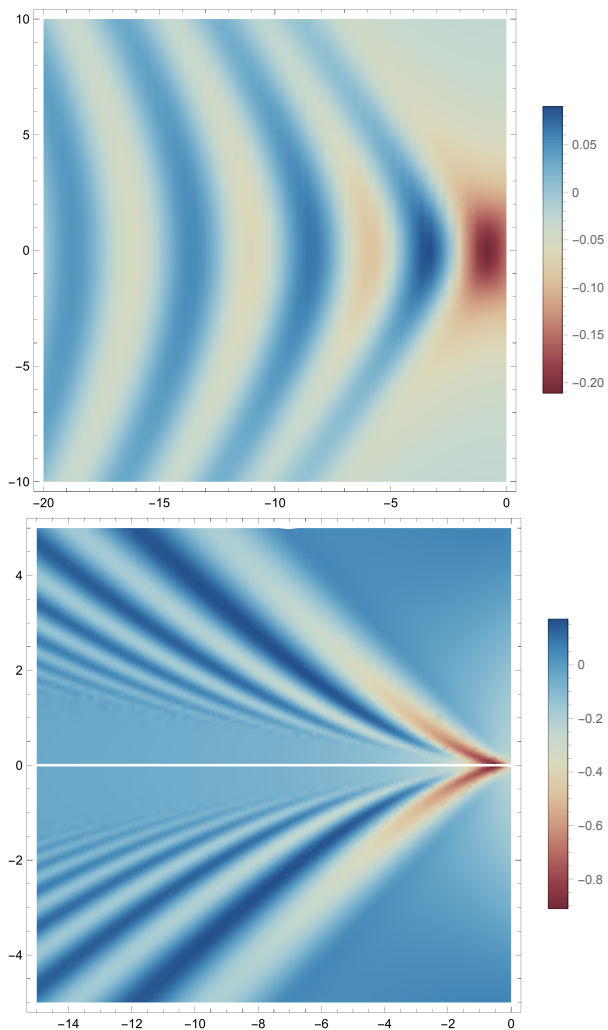


Figure 7. Electrostatic potential, in units of  $\Phi_0$ , in graphene for a particle moving parallel to it at  $z_0 = 1 \mu\text{m}$  with speed  $v = 0.1c$  (top panel;  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ ) and computed using equations (49) and (51), and at  $z_0 = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$  with speed  $v = 0.1c$  (bottom panel;  $E_F = 0.17 \text{ eV}$ ) and computed using equations (54) and (55). Note the quantitative agreement between corresponding panels in this figure and figure 5. The axes of the figures are in  $\mu\text{m}$ . The electrostatic potential was computed using the formula  $\Phi_{\text{in}}/\Phi_0 = I_1 + \Re I_2/(4\pi^2)$ .

of the wake has the same coordinate  $y \approx \pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ , for  $x = -15 \mu\text{m}$ . It is also clear that the form of the wake in this regime differs considerably from the previous one. This is a striking manifestation of the two aforementioned regimes. The existence of these two regimes was put in evidence in the numerical studies of table I and figure 6.

It is clear from this analytical analysis that there is a transition in the shape of the wake around  $az_0/v^2 \sim 1$  which is precisely the parameter that enters in the formula (44), derived based on intuition, numerical, and dimensional analysis. Therefore the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$  defines the Kelvin-like behavior of the wake, whereas the opposite regime defines the Mach-like behavior.

If we zoom out the wake in the top panels of Figures 5 and 7, we can clearly identify the presence of a plane wave superimposed on the wake. This is also evident in the bottom panel of figure 5. This plane

wave presents a number of crests and valleys. We note that the number of nodes and crests in the approximated wakes coincide with the same quantity in the exact wakes. Indeed if in equation (48) we make the approximation (since in this case the integral is dominated by values of  $u \approx 0$ )

$$\sin\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \cos \theta' (1 + u^2/2)\right) \approx \sin\left(\frac{ar}{v^2} \cos \theta'\right) \quad (56)$$

it is then clear that we have superimposed to the wake pattern a plane wave of the form  $\sin(ar \cos \theta'/v^2) = \sin(ax/v^2)$ . Considering the case of the top panel of figure 7 we have the ratio  $a/v^2 \approx 1.2 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ . Therefore the wavelength of the wave reads  $\lambda \approx 2\pi v^2/a \approx 5 \mu\text{m}$ , meaning that in the distance  $\Delta x = 20 \mu\text{m}$  we should have four crests, which is exactly what is seen in the top panels of Figures 5 and 7. The number of crests and valleys seen in the bottom panel of figure 5 is three, since  $\Delta x = 15 \mu\text{m}$ . We note the absence of the plane wave pattern in the wake of the bottom panel of figure 7; this is a consequence of the approximation of the argument of the sine-function used in the limit  $az_0/v^2 \ll 1$  (we have used a large  $u$  expansion and the plane wave depends on the small  $u$  values, as seen in the previous equation).

In figure 8 we show the electrostatic potential,  $\Phi/\Phi_0$ , along the direction  $\theta' = \pi$  ( $y = 0$ ). The agreement between the exact and the approximated formulas is excellent. Note, in the central panel, the missing plane wave oscillations in the approximated result for large Froude number; the reason for this has been discussed already. However, if we decrease  $z_0$  for increasing the Froude number, the wavelength of the plane wave becomes very large and agreement between the approximated and numerically exact solutions is excellent. The agreement between the approximated curves and the numerical exact ones is also good for values of  $y \neq 0$  (results not shown). The fact that the plane wave is missing in the limit of large Froude numbers hints that the approximation of the arguments of the trigonometric functions by their values in the limit  $u \rightarrow \infty$  is too drastic. This conclusion suggests keeping for the value of  $\Re I_2$  the same dependence has that used in the limit of small Froude number, since this part contains the plane wave, that is, we use equation (49) for  $\Re I_2$ . As for the integral  $I_1$  we expand the arguments of the two cosines differently: the one responsible for the plane wave is expanded in the limit of small  $u$  whereas the other is expanded in the limit of large  $u$ . With this procedure, we obtain for  $I_1$  the result

$$I_1 \approx \frac{\sqrt{\pi/2}}{4\pi^2} \left[ \frac{e^{-s_1/2}}{\sqrt{2\beta - i(\gamma - 2\lambda)}} f(s_1/2) + \text{c. c.} \right] + \frac{\sqrt{\pi/2}}{4\pi^2} \left[ \frac{e^{-s_2/2}}{\sqrt{2\beta - i(\gamma + 2\lambda)}} f(s_2/2) + \text{c. c.} \right], \quad (57)$$

with  $s_1 = 2\beta - 2i\gamma + i\lambda$ ,  $s_2 = 2\beta - i(2\gamma + \lambda)$ , and

$$f(z) = i\pi \text{erf} \left[ i\sqrt{|z|} e^{i\arg(z)/2} \right], \quad (58)$$

where  $\arg(z)$  is the argument of the complex number  $z$  and  $\Re z > 0$ . This last result for  $I_1$  together with equation (49) prove to be accurate in the regime  $az_0/v^2 \lesssim 1$ , as seen in the bottom panel of figure 8. Therefore this approach includes the plane wave present in the wake at intermediated Froude numbers. However, being exceptionally good in describing the  $\theta' = \pi$  case, this approximation does not excel for moderate to large angular deviations from  $\theta' = \pi$ , as it underestimates the amplitude of the plane wave along these directions.

From the previous analytical study, we learn that the plane wave existing in the wake has its wavelength controlled by the value of  $v^2/a$  and  $z_0$  plays no immediate role in this. From the analytical solution we also learn that the effect of the moving charge on the plasmonic wake diminishes exponentially with  $z_0$  due to the exponential factor  $e^{-az_0/v^2}$ . Therefore the regime  $az_0/v^2 \gg 1$  is likely to be experimentally challenging as the charge fluctuations are exponentially suppressed. This is also clear from the vertical scales of figure 7. From the previous discussion, it is obvious that the dimensionless ratio  $z_0a/v^2$  plays a fundamental role in determining the nature of the wake. As argued in section VI this quantity is related to the Froude number of plasmonic wakes induced by the Coulomb dragging effect of the passing charge.

Equation (54) can also be used to motivate equation (44). The procedure is somewhat delicate and we only outline the main steps. Firstly, we expand this equation in powers of the Froude number followed by an expansion in powers of  $1/\sqrt{r}$  when  $r \rightarrow \infty$  and gather the terms that decay slower with  $r$ —those proportional to  $1/\sqrt{r}$  (the other terms are discarded, that is, we make the far field approximation). Secondly, we expand the resulting function (the amplitude of the spatial dependent trigonometric function) around  $\theta' = \pi$  and obtain a function  $f(\theta')$ . Since we seek the maximum of the potential, we take the derivative of  $f(\theta')$  and equal it to zero,  $f'(\theta') = 0$ . Solving the previous equation for  $\theta'$  gives the position of the first maximum of the potential, which within the approximation of equation (54), reads  $\theta' = \pi \pm \sqrt{5}/(2\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}})$ , which has the correct order of magnitude we found from the fit made in figure 6.

## V. A SOURCE OF GRAPHENE PLASMONS

Next, we go back to the problem of a charged particle moving perpendicularly to a graphene sheet. In this section we consider a rectangular waveguide, of cross-section area  $A = L_x L_y$ , where  $L_x$  and  $L_y$  are the sides of the rectangle, as depicted in figure 9. A micro-rectangle of graphene is in the middle of the waveguide and an electron is sent along the axis of the waveguide. The waveguide will support discrete graphene plasmonic modes, which can be excited by the passing electron. The goal of this section is to determine the EEL spectrum of the micro-rectangle of graphene. This method will allow to probe and excite discrete plasmonic resonances in graphene.

This architecture can also be used as a source of

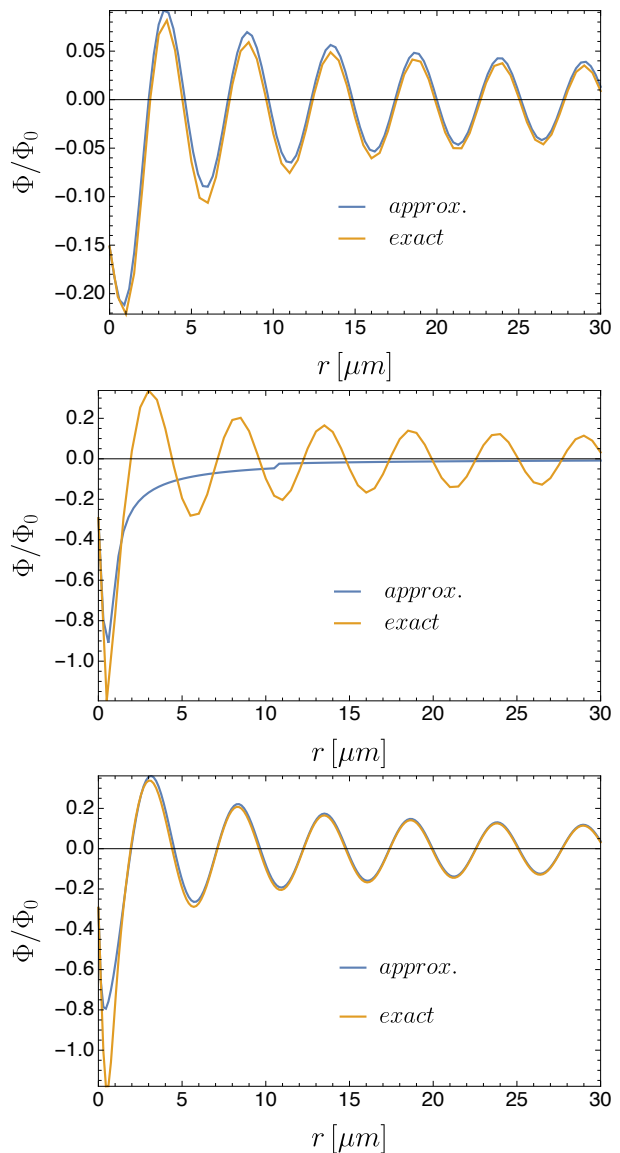


Figure 8. Comparison of the exact and approximated expression for the potential, in units of  $\Phi_0$ , along the direction  $\theta' = \pi$ . The parameters are the same as in figure 7. In the top panel the Froude number is  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = 0.90$  and in the central and bottom ones is  $\text{Fr}_{\text{pl}} = 2.86$ . Note the excellent agreement of the approximated result in the top panel, even though the Froude number is only slightly smaller than 1. Also note that in the central panel, for moderate Froude number, the plane wave is missing in the approximated curve [computed using equations (54) and (55)]; the reason for this is discussed in the text. In the bottom panel we improved over the approximation of the central panel using equations (49) and (57). However this level of approximation is only valid in the regime  $az_0/v^2 \lesssim 1$  where the plane wave is well developed. All the approximated curves were computed using the formula  $\Phi_{\text{in}}/\Phi_0 = I_1 + \Re I_2/(4\pi^2)$ .

plasmons. The idea is conceptually simple: a hole is bored in the metallic waveguide, such that a graphene ribbon extends itself outside the waveguide and connects to an external graphene sheet. The plasmons, once excited in the suspended graphene *drum skin* will propagate away from the drum through the channel connecting the drum to the external graphene sheet.

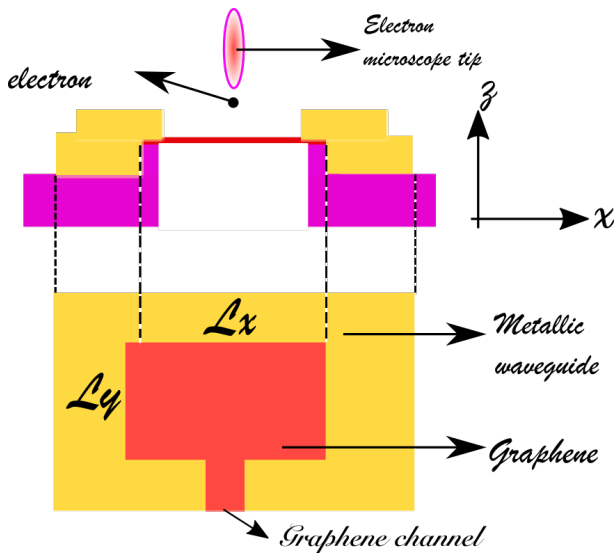


Figure 9. A graphene sheet enclosed in a metallic waveguide and suspended over a trench. The tip of an electronic microscope injects electrons in the waveguide and the passing through electron excites localized plasmons in graphene. If one bores a hole —graphene channel— in the metallic waveguide and let graphene occupy the hole and connects it to an external graphene sheet, this architecture can act as a source of graphene plasmons.

Choosing drums of different shapes and sizes allows to span a vast spectral range of graphene plasmons. Note that the graphene drum supports in-plane oscillations (compressible charge-density waves), rather than out-of-plane displacements (of the skin) common to the classical sound drum.

For solving this problem we have to consider, in addition to the hydrodynamic model, equations (9), the boundary conditions introduced by the waveguide walls, that is:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \right|_{y=0} = \left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \right|_{y=L_y} = 0, \quad (59a)$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \right|_{x=0} = \left. \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \right|_{x=L_x} = 0, \quad (59b)$$

$$v_y(y=0) = v_y(y=L_y) = v_x(x=0) = v_x(x=L_x) = 0, \quad (59c)$$

that is, we consider a perfect metallic conductor so that the tangential component of the electric field is null at the waveguide walls and the perpendicular component of the electronic current is null at the graphene boundary.

### A. Discrete plasmon dispersion

Firstly we consider the plasmonic solutions of the hydrodynamic model. The potential can be conveniently expanded in a Fourier series as:

$$\Phi_{\text{in}}(x, y, z) = \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} A_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi y}{L_y}\right) e^{-k_{nm}|z|}, \quad (60)$$

where

$$k_{nm} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{n\pi}{L_x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m\pi}{L_y}\right)^2}, \quad (61)$$

and integrating Poisson's equation (9b) with respect to the  $z$  coordinate we have:

$$n_1(x, y, \omega) = -\frac{2\varepsilon_0}{e} \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} A_{nm}(\omega) k_{nm} \times \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi y}{L_y}\right), \quad (62)$$

and the velocity components can be calculated with equations (9c) and (59c):

$$v_x(x, y) = \frac{2\varepsilon_0 i\omega}{e n_0} \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} B_{nm} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi y}{L_y}\right), \quad (63a)$$

$$v_y(x, y) = \frac{2\varepsilon_0 i\omega}{e n_0} \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} C_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi y}{L_y}\right), \quad (63b)$$

with the amplitudes  $A_{nm}$ ,  $B_{nm}$ , and  $C_{nm}$  related via

$$A_{nm} k_{nm} = B_{nm} \frac{n\pi}{L_x} + C_{nm} \frac{m\pi}{L_y}. \quad (64)$$

Lastly using equation (9) it follows the discretized version of the plasmon dispersion relation (15):

$$2\alpha E_F \hbar c k_{nm} + \frac{v_F^2 \hbar^2}{2} k_{nm}^2 = \hbar^2 \omega_{nm}^2. \quad (65)$$

Quite intuitively, this solution for the plasmons spectrum describes localized surface plasmons in the graphene sheet, in the form of standing waves.

### B. Motion of a charge along the axis of symmetry of the waveguide: Charge density fluctuation and EEL spectrum

Following the steps of section IV A, we consider the presence of an electron, moving parallel to the axis of the waveguide, and impinging perpendicularly on the graphene sheet. The density of external charge is given by:

$$\rho_{\text{ext}} = Ze\delta(x-x_0)\delta(y-y_0)\delta(z-vt), \quad (66)$$

that corresponds to a charged particle with velocity  $v$  aimed to the point  $(x_0, y_0)$  on the graphene surface.

The electric potential follows from solving Poisson's equation  $\nabla^2 \phi_{\text{ext}} = -\rho_{\text{ext}}/\varepsilon_0$  with the boundary condition (59). It then follows:

$$\Phi_{\text{ext}}(x, y, z, \omega) = \frac{4Ze}{\varepsilon_0 L_x L_y v} \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} \phi_{nm}(z) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \times \sin\left(\frac{m\pi y}{L_y}\right), \quad (67)$$

with

$$(\partial_z^2 - k_{nm}^2) \phi_{nm}(z) = -u_{nm} e^{-i\omega z/v}, \quad (68)$$

where we have used the completeness relation to rewrite the Dirac delta function as

$$\delta(x - x_0) = \frac{2}{L_x} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x_0}{L_x}\right), \quad (69)$$

with a similar expression for  $\delta(y - y_0)$ , and we have defined  $u_{nm} = \sin(n\pi x_0/L_x) \sin(m\pi y_0/L_y)$ .

Equation (68) can be solved with the Green's function method as in equation (18), leading to:

$$\phi_{nm}(z) = -\frac{u_{nm}}{(\omega/v)^2 + k_{nm}^2} e^{-i\omega z/v}. \quad (70)$$

Taking the divergence of Eq. (16a), with the density given by the Fourier expansion (62) and using the continuity equation after a Fourier transform in time we arrive at:

$$\frac{2\varepsilon_0}{e} \sum_{n,m=1} A_{nm} (\omega^2 - \omega_{nm}^2) k_{nm} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L_x}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi y}{L_y}\right) = -\frac{n_0 e v_F^2}{E_F} \nabla^2 \Phi_{\text{ext}}(z=0), \quad (71)$$

with  $\omega_{nm}$  given by Eq. (65). Finally, after projecting equation (71) in one of the basis functions, we find:

$$A_{nm} = 8\Phi_0 \frac{v}{L_x L_y} \frac{v_F^2}{E_F} \frac{k_{nm}}{\omega^2 - \omega_{nm}^2} \phi_{nm}(0). \quad (72)$$

The knowledge of  $A_{nm}$  allows to first compute  $n_1(x, y, \omega)$  and from this the determination of  $n_1(x, y, t)$  is possible after a Fourier transform. The determination of the velocity field requires the knowledge of the coefficients  $B_{nm}$  and  $C_{nm}$  which can be calculated using the density (62), the velocity (63), the electrostatic potential (60) and (67), into the equation (10) and using the dispersion relation (65), giving:

$$B_{nm} = \frac{n\pi}{L_x} \frac{A_{nm}}{k_{nm}}, \quad (73a)$$

$$C_{nm} = \frac{m\pi}{L_y} \frac{A_{nm}}{k_{nm}}. \quad (73b)$$

Note that equation (10) is vectorial, thus allowing for the determination of the two previous coefficients.

In figure 10 we depict the electronic density  $n_1(x, y, t)$  on the drum, for ascending times, induced by an electron transversing graphene at a speed of  $v = 0.1c$  (kinetic energy of 2.5 keV; note that this energy value is of the order of the energy used in SEM imaging of graphene and therefore would cause little to none damage to the material. We stress that the knock-on-threshold for electrons in graphene is much larger, close to 80 keV). Note in this figure the evolution of the charge density from initially circular concentric waves at the center of the drum for shorter times to interference fringes at larger times, due to

reflection at the boundaries of the drum. In the presence of the channel (see figure 9), the plasmonic wave reaches the boundary of the drum and some of the plasma frequency components will propagate through the channel outwards. Note that in figure 10 the electron hits the drum at its center. By choosing a different impact point we may relax reflection symmetries of the problem, thus in turn producing more directional waves (results not shown). In passing, we note that such directional waves could also be explored in non-integrable geometries, such as chaotically shaped billiards, or by turning from graphene to anisotropic 2D materials.

The EEL spectrum can be calculated using the same definition and method used in the previous section, and reads:

$$\Gamma(\omega) = \frac{\Psi_0}{\omega} \sum_{n,m=1}^{\infty} \delta(\omega - \omega_{nm}) \frac{k_{nm}^2 u_{nm}^2}{[\omega^2 + (k_{nm}v)^2]^2}, \quad (74)$$

with

$$\Psi_0 = 32\pi^2 \alpha^2 \hbar c^2 \frac{n_0 v_F^2 v^2}{L_x L_y E_F}. \quad (75)$$

The emergence of Dirac delta functions in the EEL spectrum guaranties that a single electron can excite multiple plasmon modes, albeit with different weights.

In the limit  $L_x = L_y \rightarrow \infty$  the sums are conveniently converted into an integral:

$$\Gamma(\omega) = \frac{\Psi_0}{\omega} \frac{L_x L_y}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \int_0^{\infty} k dk \delta(\omega - \omega_k) \frac{k^2 u^2(k, \theta)}{[\omega^2 + (kv)^2]^2} \quad (76)$$

We have to perform the integral over the delta function, which is elementary, and the angular integral, leading to:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\omega) &= \Psi_0 \frac{L_x L_y}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \frac{2\omega^2 u^2(\omega^2/a, \theta)}{(a^2 + v^2\omega^2)^2} \\ &= \frac{2\hbar}{E_F} \frac{v^2\omega^2/a^2}{(1 + v^2\omega^2/a^2)^2} \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

where, as before, we have written  $\omega_k = \sqrt{ak}$  (recall that  $a$  has unit of acceleration) and used the limit (choosing  $x_0 = y_0 = L_x/2$ )

$$\lim_{L_x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{16}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta u^2(\omega^2/a, \theta) = 2. \quad (78)$$

We have therefore recovered the result for a continuous graphene sheet, given by equation (35).

In figure 11 we depict the EEL spectrum of a graphene drum, given by equation (74). It is clear from this figure that a single electron can excite more than one surface plasmon mode. This is evident from the presence of several peaks in the EEL spectrum at different frequencies. This effect has already been seen in the excitation of localized plasmons in graphene nano-structures<sup>31</sup>. Also note that there is an optimal speed for the more efficient excitation of plasmons. For the first peak (at low frequencies) the optimal speed is in the interval  $v \in [0.1c, 0.2c]$ .

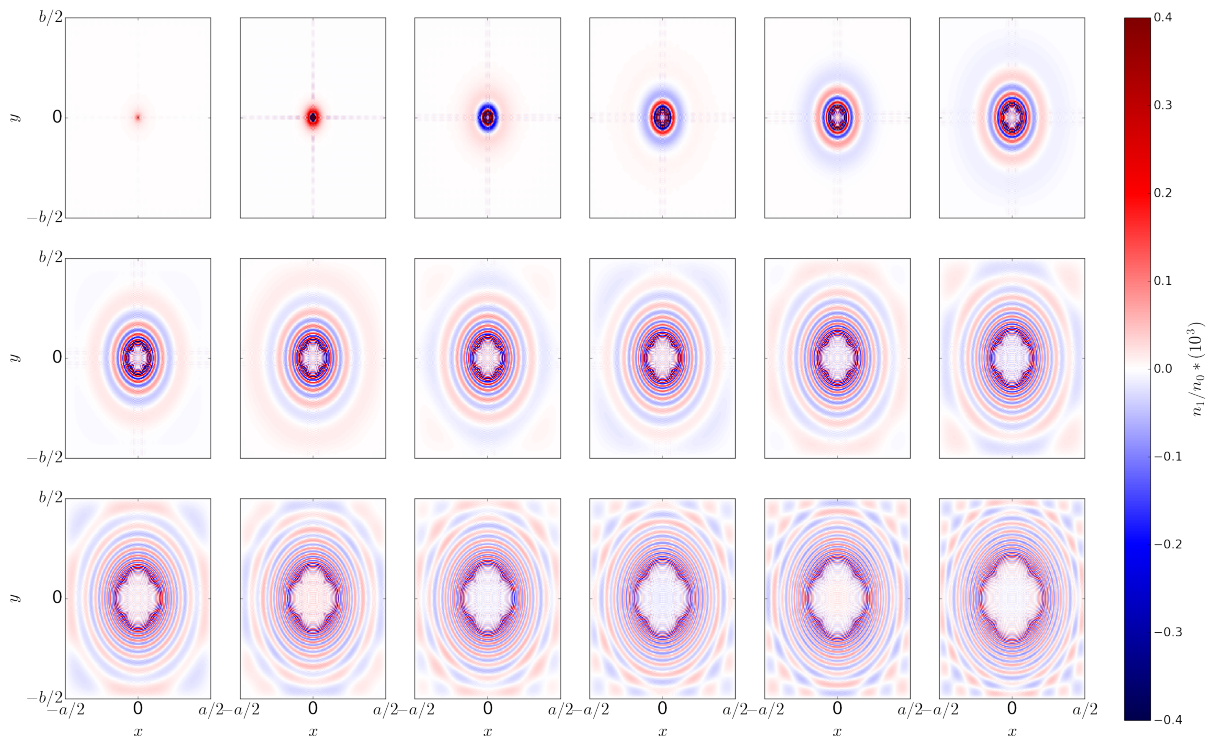


Figure 10. Induced electronic density fluctuations  $n_1(x, y)$  in the graphene drum for  $t = 0.1 \text{ fs} + 18(n - 1) \text{ fs}$ , where  $n$  is the number of the panel (ordered by rows from left to right). The parameters are:  $v = 0.1c$ ,  $E_F = 0.37 \text{ eV}$ , and  $L_x = L_y = 3 \mu\text{m}$ . Note the evolution of the density from a circle for short times and the development of interference fringes for larger times. The blue and red colors correspond, respectively, to negative and positive charge density fluctuations  $n_1(x, y)$  relatively to the homogeneous charge density  $n_0$ . Note that the wavelength of the plasmons when they are first created is much smaller than the size of the drum. It is therefore conceivable that they can escape through a graphene channel drilled in the walls of the waveguide. The figures present a high degree of symmetry because the impact point chosen for the electron is the center of the square.

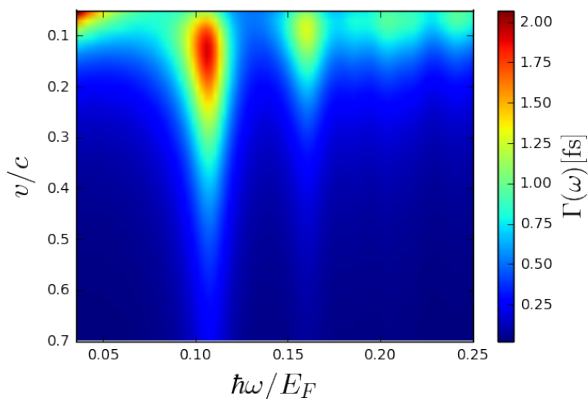


Figure 11. EEL spectrum of a graphene square drum ( $L_x = L_y = 3 \mu\text{m}$ ) as function of the speed of the moving charge and of the frequency. If we draw a horizontal line throughout the figure we obtain the EEL spectrum for a given speed. It is clear that this cut produces a new figure with peaks at certain frequencies, corresponding to the excitation of the localized plasmons in the drum. We have considered a Fermi energy of  $E_F = 0.37 \text{ eV}$  and have broadened the delta functions to Lorentzians with a relaxation rate of  $4.1 \text{ meV}$ .

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

We have considered the problem of the excitation of surface plasmons in graphene by a fast moving charge. We have analyzed two cases: (i) when the charge is moving perpendicular to the graphene sheet and (ii) when the charge is moving parallel to the graphene sheet. In the first case we have computed the EEL spectrum<sup>30</sup> and found that surface plasmons from a continuum of wave numbers are excited by this method. The excitation of surface plasmons of different frequencies has been discussed in the literature before<sup>31</sup> in the context of graphene based nanostructures. In this reference it is shown that for continuous graphene the EEL spectrum has a maximum at (in agreement with our result)  $\hbar\omega/E_F = 2\alpha c/v$  implying that the frequency maximum shifts to higher frequencies as  $v$  decreases, as seen in figure 3. Taking, for example,  $v/c = 0.01$ , the previous result implies that  $\hbar\omega/E_F \approx 1.5$ , which agrees with figure 3. As we have seen, in the case of an infinite graphene sheet the EEL spectrum has broad resonances, which is an indication of the simultaneous excitation of plasmons of different energies. In the second case, the moving charge induced a plasmonic wake as it moves over graphene.

Contrary to what could have been expected, the wake induced by the moving charge is not necessarily of Kelvin type and can also be of Mach type,

where the angle of the cone of the charge wake is proportional to the inverse of the speed of the moving charge and therefore can be much smaller than the value predicted by Kelvin theory. We have shown that there is a transition Froude number from Kelvin to Mach-type of ship wake. These two different possibilities have been observed in real ship wakes and the transition is controlled by the Froude number<sup>32</sup>,  $Fr = \sqrt{U^2/(Lg)}$ , where  $U$  is the ship speed,  $L$  is the hull ship length, and  $g$  is the acceleration of gravity. We have noted in our graphene problem that the dimensionless number  $az_0/v^2$  determines the transition from the Mach-like to Kelvin-like regimes. Therefore, we interpret  $Fr_{pl} = \sqrt{v^2/(z_0a)}$  as the Froude number for the plasmonic wakes in graphene, where the "acceleration"  $a$  depends on the Fermi energy of graphene, and controls the dispersion of graphene plasmons. The value  $Fr_{pl} \sim 2$  defines the transition region from Mach-type,  $Fr_{pl} \gg 1$ , to Kelvin-type,  $Fr_{pl} \ll 1$ , regimes. Indeed, for large Froude number in ship wakes the half angle of the aperture of the cone is given by<sup>32</sup>  $\theta_{ship} \approx (2\sqrt{2\pi}Fr)^{-1}$  which would predict a  $\delta = 2\sqrt{2\pi}$ , a number that is a much larger the value  $\delta \approx 1.09$  (for  $\theta$  in radians) we have found from our simulations. Presumably, our equation (44) is the first term of a series, in powers of  $1/Fr_{pl}$ , of a more complex expression involving the Froude number (see reference<sup>32</sup> for the case of ship wakes). We have also gathered numerical evidence of a critical Froude number that signals the transition from Mach-type to Kelvin-type of wakes, whose value reads approximately  $Fr_{pl}^c \approx 2$ . This value is about 4 times larger the critical Froude number in ship wakes<sup>32</sup>. On the other hand, for point like objects immersed in a fluid, the critical Froude number has been found to be larger than 2<sup>34</sup>, in agreement with our results. We note that the way the apparent opening angle of the wake is measured does not influence the value of the Froude number at which the transition occurs. See reference<sup>34</sup> for a different method from ours of measuring the angle. Interestingly, the parameter  $a$  also depends on the dielectric constant of the environment. This introduces an additional degree of freedom, besides the tuning of the Fermi energy, to gain control over the Froude number, a situation that has no parallel in ship wakes. We end this discussion noting that the group velocity of the plasmons in graphene reads  $v_g = d\sqrt{ak}/dk = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{a/k} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{a\lambda_{sp}/(2\pi)}$ . On the other hand gravity waves in deep waters propagate with a group velocity  $v_w = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{g\lambda/(2\pi)}$ . We note that  $v_g$  and  $v_w$  are identical, except that in  $v_g$  we have  $\lambda_{sp}$  the wavelength of the surface plasmon. It is therefore not so surprising that the same physics we find in ship wakes has also been found in surface plasmon wakes as long as the distance of the charged particle to the graphene sheet  $z_0$  plays the same role as the hull ship length  $L$ . This latter possibility was not evident from the outset.

Our calculations are valid for suspended graphene. It would be interesting to extend them for graphene on hexagonal Boron Nitride for discussing the excitation of phonon-plasmon-polaritons. Also, extending this work to multilayer graphene<sup>35</sup> is a natural con-

tinuation of this work.

We have also discussed the formation of localized plasmons in a graphene drum in a metallic waveguide. As noted, the system can be used as a plasmon source of collimated beam. We explored the rectangular drum, but a circular drum is also feasible and it will originate plasmons of different frequencies. We note that since for waveguides of the order of  $1\mu\text{m}$  its cut-off frequency is in the near-IR, the electron, once in the waveguide, can only radiate above this cut-off frequency. Therefore, all radiation that appears below this frequency is plasmonic in nature and there will be no transition radiation in that frequency range, at least for deep enough waveguides, compared with the plasmon confining length in the transverse direction. Also, we have studied the case where the electron impinges at the center of the square. If we had considered a different impinging point then we would have created highly directional plasmons oriented toward the channel that conducts the plasmons out of the drum. If below graphene a metal is positioned at a distance of one or two layers of hexagonal Boron Nitride, then graphene will support strongly confined plasmons, akin to acoustic plasmons in a continuous graphene sheet. This setup would functioned as a source of acoustic plasmons.

We can consider the graphene drum a plasmonic billiard, which presents a characteristic spectrum distribution as function of frequency. Both in classical and quantum billiards, it is well known that depending on their geometry, the trajectories (classical) and spectrum (quantum) can be chaotic. It would be interesting to study the spectrum distribution of plasmonic billiards in the future.

*Note added:* after the submission of this paper we became aware of a similar work<sup>36</sup>, but in the field of fluid dynamics.

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## Appendix A: From Boltzmann equation to Euler's equation of hydrodynamics

In this section we derive Euler's equation for fluid motion starting from Boltzmann equation. Let us as-



sume an electron gas characterized by the distribution function  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})d\mathbf{r}d\mathbf{v}$ , which specifies the number of particles in the gas having position and velocity centered at  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ , respectively, in the small volume  $d\mathbf{r}$  and in the small velocity range  $d\mathbf{v}$ . We can introduce a six-dimensional phase-space vector  $\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})$  whose time rate reads  $\dot{\mathbf{w}} = (\dot{\mathbf{r}}, \dot{\mathbf{v}})$ . If the forces are conservative then  $\dot{\mathbf{v}} = -\nabla\Phi$ , where  $\Phi$  is the potential energy per unit mass. The time evolution of the distribution function  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})$  is given by the Boltzmann equation<sup>26</sup>

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{g} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = 0 \quad (\text{A1})$$

where collisions have been excluded, and  $\mathbf{g}$  represents the external forces per unit mass. The previous equation is called the collisionless Boltzmann equation. Adding collisions amounts to adding a term of the form  $\gamma(t)$  to the right-hand-side of this equation. Boltzmann's equation is six-dimensional in phase space and has more information than we actually need. Since we want to know the position of the particles as function of time we can integrate Boltzmann equation over the coordinate  $\mathbf{v}$ . Next we will compute the first and second moments of the Boltzmann equation. To that end we introduce the mass density using the relation<sup>26</sup> (we are assuming all particles equal with mass  $m$ )

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{v} f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})m \quad (\text{A2})$$

and the velocity moment via<sup>26</sup>

$$\langle v_i \rangle = \frac{1}{\rho(\mathbf{r})} \int d\mathbf{v} f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})m v_i. \quad (\text{A3})$$

It is also convenient to introduce the second moment of the velocity as<sup>26</sup>

$$\langle v_i v_j \rangle = \frac{1}{\rho(\mathbf{r})} \int d\mathbf{v} f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})m v_i v_j. \quad (\text{A4})$$

Let us now take the zero moment of the Boltzmann equation

$$\int d\mathbf{v} \left[ \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{g} \cdot \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \right] = 0 \quad (\text{A5})$$

from where it follows the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r})}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}} \cdot [\rho(\mathbf{r})\langle \mathbf{v} \rangle] = 0 \quad (\text{A6})$$

stating mass conservation, and where we have used the divergence theorem leading to the following identity

$$\int_{\mathcal{V}} d\mathbf{v} \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = \int_{S_\infty} f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})d\mathbf{S}_\mathbf{v} = 0 \quad (\text{A7})$$

where  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}) = 0$  over a surface at infinity,  $S_\infty$ .

Let us next consider the first moment of the Boltzmann equation

$$\int d\mathbf{v} \mathbf{v} \left[ \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{g} \cdot \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \right] = 0 \quad (\text{A8})$$

which can be simplified to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [\rho(\mathbf{r})\langle \mathbf{v} \rangle] + \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [\rho(\mathbf{r})\langle v_i v_i \rangle] - \mathbf{g}\rho(\mathbf{r}) = 0 \quad (\text{A9})$$

where the third term was computed using integration by parts. This last equation is called the momentum equation. We now introduce the tensor  $\tau_{ij}^2 = \langle v_i v_j \rangle - \langle v_i \rangle \langle v_j \rangle$ . This conveniently allows us to write the term with the second moment in terms of products of first moments. Subtracting from the momentum equation the continuity equation we obtain for each component

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) \frac{\partial \langle v_j \rangle}{\partial t} + \rho(\mathbf{r}) \sum_i \langle v_i \rangle \frac{\partial \langle v_j \rangle}{\partial x_i} = g_j \rho(\mathbf{r}) - \sum_i \frac{\partial [\rho(\mathbf{r})\tau_{ij}^2]}{\partial x_i} \quad (\text{A10})$$

or in vectorial terms

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) \frac{\partial \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle}{\partial t} + \rho(\mathbf{r}) (\langle \mathbf{v} \rangle \cdot \nabla) \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle = \mathbf{g}\rho(\mathbf{r}) - \nabla P \quad (\text{A11})$$

where  $P$  is the pressure in the gas. The last equation is Euler's equation of fluids dynamics and is the starting point for the hydrodynamic model of plasmons in metals and in graphene. We should stress that the derivation of equation (A11) assumed a finite effective mass  $m$  for the particles in the gas. Adapting this equation for graphene will require the introduction of graphene electrons' Drude mass  $m_g = \hbar k_F / v_F$ , which links the Fermi momentum  $\hbar k_F$  to the Fermi velocity  $v_F$ ; both well-defined properties associated with the linear dispersion of massless Dirac fermions in graphene. This choice makes sense since we are describing transport properties: for a 2D electron gas with quadratic dispersion, the Drude conductivity depends on the effective mass  $m$  of the electron, whereas in graphene the same quantity depends on the mass  $m_g$ . Therefore it is permissible to replace  $m$  by  $m_g$  in the hydrodynamic equation<sup>21</sup>. A note is in order here: we have formulated the problem with the aid of velocity fields which is a natural choice for massive particles. Naturally, we could also have formulated the equation-of-motion in terms of the momentum fields in which case we would have arrived at the same final equation, but without the need to assign a Drude mass to the electrons in the graphene.

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