



Non-local gravity wave turbulence in presence of condensate

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The $k^{-23/6}$ wave action spectrum with an inverse cascade is one of the fundamental Kolmogorov–Zakharov solutions for gravity wave turbulence, which is part of the citation for the Dirac Medal in 2003. Instead of confirming this solution, however, several existing simulations and experiments suggest a spectrum of k^{-3} in set-ups corresponding to the inverse cascade. We provide a theoretical explanation for the latter, considering the condensate that naturally forms in finite domains of experiments/simulations. Our new theory hinges on: (1) derivation of a spectral diffusion equation when non-local interactions with the condensate become dominant, for the first time systematically formulated for quartet-interaction systems; and (2) careful analysis of the asymptotics of interaction coefficient with a remarkable cancellation of all leading-order terms.

Key words: surface gravity waves

1. Introduction

Wave turbulence theory (WTT) is a statistical closure that provides a coarse-grained description for evolution of random weak wave fields (Zakharov, Lvov & Falkovich 1992; Nazarenko 2011; Galtier 2022). It has been applied successfully to very different physical

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cases, from quantum (Proment, Nazarenko & Onorato 2012; Kolmakov, McClintock & Nazarenko 2014) to classical (Zakharov & Filonenko 1967; Zakharov 1999; Connaughton, Nazarenko & Quinn 2015) to cosmological (Galtier & Nazarenko 2017) wave systems. One of the most important applications of WTT is the water surface gravity waves, understanding which is important for sea navigation and industrial offshore activities. A review of important achievements in this area can be found in Nazarenko & Lukaschuk (2016). For a kinetic description of weakly nonlinear gravity waves, there are two quadratic (in the wave amplitude) invariants: the energy and the wave action. This system is characterized by a dual cascade behaviour, for which there exist two local Kolmogorov–Zakharov (KZ) spectra, one in which the energy is cascading downscale (Zakharov & Filonenko 1967), and the other one where the wave action is cascading upscale (Zakharov & Zaslavskii 1982). Realizability of the KZ spectra requires locality of interactions in the scale space, which in turn is possible only if there are sufficiently wide inertial ranges of scales without local energy pile-up in the spectral space. However, often there is no efficient dissipation mechanism at the large scales, which leads to a spectrum pile-up (or condensation) at the scales of the order of the largest available scale in the system – the size of the containing basin. We emphasize that, in contrast with a uniform condensate in an infinite system, our condensate is weakly non-uniform, i.e. it contains small but non-zero wavenumbers. In laboratory experiments and numerical simulations, the largest available scale is limited by the size of the flume or the computational domain, whereas in open seas, this scale may be set by a swell or the water depth. Such condensation can lead to breakdown of locality of interactions.

In the present paper, we will develop a WTT description of gravity waves in the presence of a strong large-scale condensate formed due to inverse cascade. This will allow us to propose an explanation for deviations from the inverse-cascade KZ spectrum that were recently observed numerically in Korotkevich (2023) and earlier reported experimentally in Nazarenko & Lukaschuk (2016) and Deike, Laroche & Falcon (2011).

A standard approach in describing the gravity waves (including that in Korotkevich 2023) is to consider a two-dimensional surface over a three-dimensional potential flow of an ideal incompressible infinitely deep fluid with velocity $\mathbf{v} = \nabla\Phi(x, y, z; t)$, where $\Phi(x, y, z; t)$ is the velocity potential. Capillary effects are neglected, assuming that they are small with respect to gravity. The Hamiltonian variables for this system are elevation of the surface $\eta(x, y; t)$ and velocity potential on the surface $\psi(x, y; t) = \Phi(x, y, z; t)|_{z=\eta}$ (Zakharov 1967). It is convenient to introduce normal canonical variables $a_{\mathbf{k}}$, corresponding to expansion in Fourier harmonics as follows:

$$a_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}}{2k}} \eta_{\mathbf{k}} + i \sqrt{\frac{k}{2\omega_{\mathbf{k}}}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}, \quad \text{where } \omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{gk}. \quad (1.1)$$

In terms of these variables, the surface dynamics is Hamiltonian,

$$\dot{a}_{\mathbf{k}} = -i \frac{\delta H}{\delta a_{\mathbf{k}}^*}, \quad (1.2)$$

with the Hamiltonian H being the total physical energy of the wave system (not shown).

For statistical description of a stochastic wave field one can use a pair correlation function called the wave action spectrum,

$$\langle a_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}'}^* \rangle = n_{\mathbf{k}} \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'), \quad (1.3)$$

where the angular bracket denotes averaging over the ensemble of initial conditions (which have random phases), and δ denotes the Dirac delta function. The spectrum $n_{\mathbf{k}}$ is a

measurable quantity, directly related to observable correlation functions; e.g. from the definition of a_k , one can get

$$\langle \eta_k \eta_{k'}^* \rangle = I_k \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \quad \longrightarrow \quad I_k = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega_k}{g} (n_k + n_{-k}). \quad (1.4)$$

Under the WTT assumptions, i.e. small wave amplitudes, random phases and large-basin limit, spectrum n_k obeys the Hasselmann wave kinetic equation (WKE) (Nordheim 1928; Peierls 1929; Hasselmann 1962):

$$\frac{\partial n_k}{\partial t} = I_{St} + f_p(k) - f_d(k). \quad (1.5)$$

Here, f_p and f_d are some pumping and damping terms respectively, and I_{St} is a so-called collision integral:

$$I_{St} = 4\pi \int \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 n_k n_{k_1} n_{k_2} n_{k_3} \left(\frac{1}{n_k} + \frac{1}{n_{k_1}} - \frac{1}{n_{k_2}} - \frac{1}{n_{k_3}} \right) \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_3) \\ \times \delta(\omega_k + \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_2} - \omega_{k_3}) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{k}_3. \quad (1.6)$$

The interaction coefficients $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3}$ can be found in e.g. Pushkarev, Resio & Zakharov (2003) and in Appendix B. The kinetic equation and its modifications are the basis for all wave forecasting models (Cavaleri *et al.* 2007).

One can consider stationary solutions of the WKE in the so-called inertial interval – range of scales far from pumping and damping regions. Such solutions have to obey the $I_{St} = 0$ equation. Beyond obvious Rayleigh–Jeans thermodynamic equilibrium (zero flux) solutions $n_k \sim 1/(\omega_k + \text{const})$, there are dynamic equilibrium solutions, corresponding to finite fluxes of conserved quantities, the so-called KZ spectra (Zakharov *et al.* 1992; Nazarenko 2011). Equations (1.5)–(1.6) describe a four-wave process of scattering of two waves into two waves. This means that in addition to the total energy $E = \int \omega_k n_k d\mathbf{k}$, there is a conservation of the total wave action (‘number of waves’) $N = \int n_k d\mathbf{k}$. Thus there are two KZ spectra: one describing a local downscale (with respect to the forcing scale) energy cascade,

$$n_k^{DC} = C_P P^{1/3} k^{-4}, \quad (1.7)$$

and the other one a local upscale (towards smaller k) wave action cascade (Zakharov & Zaslavskii 1982),

$$n_k^{IC} = C_Q Q^{1/3} k^{-23/6} \sim k^{-3.83}. \quad (1.8)$$

Here, P and Q are the fluxes of energy and wave action, respectively, C_P and C_Q are some constants, and $k = |\mathbf{k}|$.

In a recent paper Korotkevich (2023), the primordial dynamical equations were simulated in a region $L_x = L_y = 2\pi$ with double periodic boundary conditions, which means that components of \mathbf{k} 's were integer numbers. Grid resolution was $N_x = N_y = 512$. Pumping was isotropic with respect to angle, and concentrated in a ring $k \in (60, 64)$ with random phase of every pumped harmonic. Damping started at $k_d = 128$. As a result, in the range of wavenumbers smaller than $k = 60$, one would expect to find a spectrum similar to (1.8). Nevertheless, it was reported that the observed inverse-cascade spectrum had a different slope, close to $n_k \sim k^{-3.07}$, which was indistinguishable for significantly different levels of nonlinearity in the system. This numerically observed spectrum is rather close to two previous independent experimental results. One of the experiments (Nazarenko

& Lukaschuk 2016), conducted in a tank of size 42 cm \times 42 cm, showed $n_k \sim k^{-2.5}$ or $n_k \sim k^{-3}$ depending on the forcing frequency (see figure 12 in Nazarenko & Lukaschuk (2016) for the corresponding energy spectra E_k). The other experiment (Deike *et al.* 2011), conducted earlier in a 20 cm \times 20 cm tank filled with mercury, showed that the spectral slope varies from $n_k \sim k^{-3}$ to $n_k \sim k^{-3.65}$ (see figure 2 in Deike *et al.* (2011) for the corresponding frequency spectrum E_ω), from low to high nonlinearity levels. In particular, the k^{-3} spectrum at low nonlinearity is associated with a clear condensate at large scales, whereas the $k^{-3.65}$ spectrum (closer to the KZ solution) is present without a clear condensate, perhaps due to some effective large-scale dissipation mechanism at high nonlinearity in their experiment, e.g. bottom or/and wall friction.

In previous works (Korotkevich 2008, 2012), it was shown that condensate plays an important role in the nonlinear interaction processes for such systems. Specifically, the measured dispersion relation in Korotkevich (2013) demonstrated that the influence of the condensate on the harmonics in the region of inverse cascade cannot be neglected. There are several approaches that allow one to take the condensate influence into account. Probably the most obvious one is based on Bogolyubov's transformation technique, as in the case of dilute Bose gas, similar to the recent work in Griffin *et al.* (2022) – see sections about degenerated almost ideal Bose gas in Abrikosov, Gorkov & Dzyaloshinskii (1962) or Lifshitz & Pitaevskii (1978). This approach requires the condensate to be a coherent object, which is usually achieved due to the fact that it is located at a single harmonic, $k = 0$. In the case of numerical simulations in Korotkevich (2023), the condensate was roughly a ring in the k -space, whose further cascade to low wavenumbers is prohibited by the finite size effect of the domain. The pictures of the $|a_k|^2$ distributions are shown in figure 1.

One can see that the wave amplitudes are randomized and, in most cases, are significantly different from each other in amplitude even for harmonics close in \mathbf{k} . So the Bogolyubov approach is clearly not applicable. There are more than a hundred harmonics in the condensate ring. Since averaging over an ensemble of realizations is computationally unfeasible, we average the $|a_k|^2$ function over the azimuthal angle, and obtain an object $\langle |a_k|^2 \rangle$, which can be considered as an approximation for n_k . Thus one can try to modify the WKE (1.5) to describe the statistics of the wave field on the background of condensate.

In the remainder of the paper, we will describe our new theoretical development following the above idea that allows an explanation of the k^{-3} spectrum observed in experiments and simulations. There are two major elements of our development. First, there is the derivation of a spectral diffusion equation for surface gravity waves in the presence of condensate. In addition to the derivation from the WKE that we have in the main paper, we also put an alternative derivation in Appendix C, which relies on a Wentzel–Kramers–Brillouin (WKB) approximation of the Zakharov equation. The two approaches yield exactly the same result, including the detailed formulation of the diffusion coefficient. We note that the spectral diffusion equation has been developed previously for triad-resonant systems, such as internal gravity waves (McComas & Bretherton 1977), Rossby waves (Connaughton *et al.* 2015) and magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence (Nazarenko, Newell & Galtier 2001). Our current work provides the first systematic formulation for a quartet-resonant system, which involves much more complexity in both approaches of derivation. The second element is a careful analysis on the asymptotics of the interaction coefficient at the limit of non-local interactions. We will show that this calculation yields a remarkable cancellation of all leading-order terms,

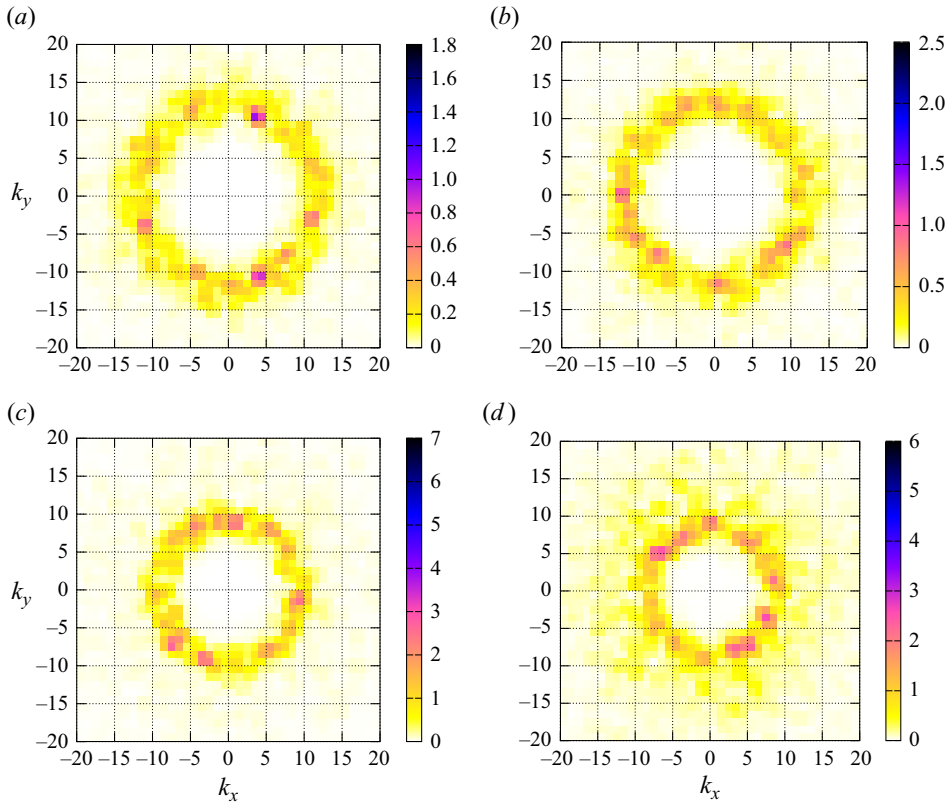


Figure 1. Surfaces of $|a_k|^2 \times 10^8$ in the condensate region for four simulations of Korothevich (2023) corresponding to four different mean wave slopes μ , for (a) $\mu = 0.054$, (b) $\mu = 0.067$, (c) $\mu = 0.093$, (d) $\mu = 0.135$.

which is crucial in obtaining the correct scaling of the diffusion coefficient. Finally, it is the combination of these two elements that allows us to achieve the correct stationary solution with the k^{-3} spectrum.

2. New theory on non-local gravity wave turbulence

2.1. Derivation of the diffusion equation in the presence of condensate

Assume that the condensate modes are much stronger than any other harmonics, so that for any four waves in the resonant quartet, the dominant contribution comes from the situation that two waves k_1 and k_3 are in the condensate (see figure 2), satisfying

$$\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}_1 = \mathbf{k}_2 + \mathbf{k}_3, \quad \omega_k + \omega_{k_1} = \omega_{k_2} + \omega_{k_3}. \quad (2.1a,b)$$

We consider the case $k \gg k_{1,3}$ and strong condensate $n_{k_{1,3}} \gg n_k, n_{k_2}$. The case when both condensate waves are at one side of resonant conditions (2.1a,b) cannot be realized. The situation is isotropic with respect to azimuthal angle. For simplicity, let us consider the case where the condensate is supported in a ring as in figure 2. Writing $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3$ for the difference of wave vectors, i.e. $\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}$, and neglecting $1/n_{k_{1,3}}$ terms in (1.6),

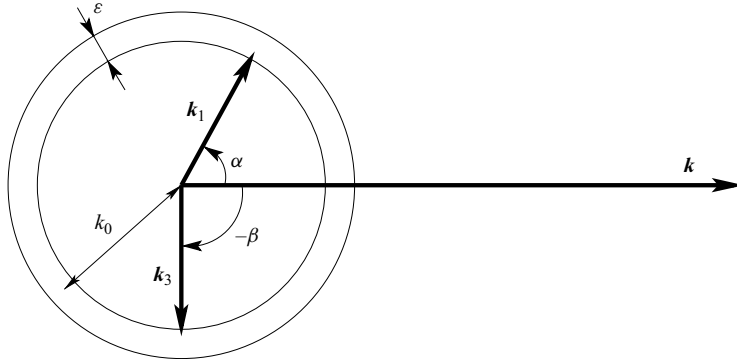


Figure 2. Scheme of considered wave vectors with respect to position of condensate ring.

one gets

$$\frac{\partial n_k}{\partial t} \approx 8\pi \int \left\{ \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 n_{k_1} n_{k_3} (n_{k_2} - n_k) \delta(\Omega) \right\}_{k_2=k+q} dk_1 dk_3, \quad (2.2)$$

where $\Omega = \omega_k + \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_2} - \omega_{k_3}$. The additional factor of two relative to (1.6) is due to the fact that the condensate is supported on either k_2 or k_3 .

Next, we exploit Taylor expansion in q of the expression

$$\left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 (n_{k_2} - n_k), \quad (2.3)$$

where $k_2 = k + q$ to second order (see Appendix A):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n_k}{\partial t} \approx & 8\pi \int n_{k_1} n_{k_3} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k \delta(\Omega)|_{k_2=k+q} dk_1 dk_3 \\ & + 4\pi \int n_{k_1} n_{k_3} \left\{ 2 \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \right\}_{k_2=k} \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k \\ & + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k) \delta(\Omega)|_{k_2=k+q} dk_1 dk_3. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

To simplify (2.4), we consider the expansion of Ω in q :

$$\Omega = \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_3} - \nabla_k \omega_k \cdot \mathbf{q} + O(|q|^2). \quad (2.5)$$

Using the equation $\omega_k = \sqrt{gk}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega & \approx \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_3} - \frac{\sqrt{g}}{2} \frac{\mathbf{k}}{k^{3/2}} \cdot (\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3) \\ & = \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_3} - \frac{\sqrt{g}}{2} \frac{k_1 \cos \alpha - k_3 \cos \beta}{k^{1/2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

where α and β are as in figure 2. Here, we keep the next order term, which becomes part of the leading one if $k_1 \approx k_3$. It should be noted that $\delta(\Omega)$ (here and below we use the last expression for Ω) is invariant with respect to exchange $k_1 \leftrightarrow k_3$. Using this symmetry as well as $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} = T_{k_2,k_3}^{k,k_1}$, and taking into account the fact that k_1 and k_3 are dummy

variables so that value of an integral must not change after exchange $\mathbf{k}_1 \leftrightarrow \mathbf{k}_3$, the first term of (2.4) is integrated to zero, due to change of sign of \mathbf{q} after the mentioned exchange of integration variables. For evaluation of the second term in (2.4) at $\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}$, one can use

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{k}_2} \left| T_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k_2, k_3} \right|^2 \Big|_{\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}} = \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| T_{\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k, k_3} \right|^2 \Big|_{\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \left| T_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k, k_3} \right|^2, \quad (2.7)$$

where the second equality should be understood in the context of integration over \mathbf{k}_1 and \mathbf{k}_3 as in (2.4). As a result, (2.4) can be transformed (after combining the second and third terms) into the expression

$$\frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{k}}}{\partial t} \approx 4\pi \int n_{\mathbf{k}_1} n_{\mathbf{k}_3} \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(\mathbf{q} \left| T_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k, k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} n_{\mathbf{k}} \right) \delta(\Omega) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3. \quad (2.8)$$

This is a continuity equation for the wave action $n_{\mathbf{k}}$,

$$\frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{k}}}{\partial t} + \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{k}} = 0 \quad (2.9)$$

with action flux $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{k}}$ for an isotropic spectrum, where

$$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{k}} = -4\pi \int n_{\mathbf{k}_1} n_{\mathbf{k}_3} \mathbf{q} \left| T_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k, k_3} \right|^2 \frac{\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{k}}{k} \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{k}}}{\partial k} \delta(\Omega) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3. \quad (2.10)$$

Under the same isotropic consideration, we have

$$N = \int n_{\mathbf{k}} d\mathbf{k} = \int n_{\mathbf{k}} 2\pi k dk, \quad (2.11)$$

$$\frac{\partial(2\pi k n_{\mathbf{k}})}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{k}}}{\partial k} = 0. \quad (2.12)$$

Here, we introduced the isotropic wave action flux

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\mathbf{k}} = 2\pi \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{k}} = & - \left[\frac{8\pi^2}{k} \int n_{\mathbf{k}_1} n_{\mathbf{k}_3} \delta(\Omega) \right. \\ & \left. \times \left(\left| T_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k, k_3} \right|^2 (\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{k})^2 \right) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3 \right] \frac{\partial n_{\mathbf{k}}}{\partial k}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

One can integrate out k_3 using $\delta(\Omega)$. In order to do this, we need to set $\Omega = 0$ in (2.6). Solving this quadratic equation for $\sqrt{k_3}$ and taking into account condition $k_1 \ll k$, we get

$$k_3 \approx k_1 - k_1 \sqrt{\frac{k_1}{k}} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta). \quad (2.14)$$

The integration in (2.13) is over $0 \leq \alpha, \beta < 2\pi$ and k_1 . If the relative width of the condensate ring ε/k_0 is small, then from (2.14), k_3 will be outside the ring for various values of $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 2\pi)$; see figure 2. However, if the condensate ring is wide ($\varepsilon/k_0 \gg 2(k_0/k)^{1/2}$), then we can always find $k_3 \approx k_1$ for all $0 \leq \alpha, \beta < 2\pi$. In other words, in the non-local resonant quartets, the lengths of vectors \mathbf{k}_1 and \mathbf{k}_3 are nearly equal, whereas their respective directions are allowed to be arbitrary (details can be found in Appendix D).

As a result of the above strong inequality, we can take $n_{k_3} = n_{k_1}$, thus we have a diffusion equation

$$2\pi k \frac{\partial n_k}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial k} \left(D_k \frac{\partial n_k}{\partial k} \right), \tag{2.15}$$

with diffusion coefficient

$$D_k = 8\pi^2 k \int_{k_1 \ll k} n_{k_1}^2 \frac{k_1^4}{\left| \frac{d\omega_{k_1}}{dk_1} \right|} \left[\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha)^2 d\alpha d\beta \right] dk_1. \tag{2.16}$$

2.2. Asymptotics of the interaction coefficient and stationary solution

In [Appendix B](#), it is shown that the first non-vanishing term in the expansion of T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} in $k_{1,3}/k$ (after cancellation of all leading-order terms of order $k^2 k_1$) is

$$T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} = -\frac{(kk_1)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)^2. \tag{2.17}$$

To find the diffusion coefficient (2.16), one needs to compute the following integral using (2.17):

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha)^2 d\alpha d\beta = \frac{25(kk_1)^3}{256\pi^2}, \tag{2.18}$$

which results in

$$D_k = \lambda k^4, \quad \lambda = \frac{25\pi}{16} \int_{k_1 \ll k} n_{k_1}^2 k_1^{15/2} dk_1 = \text{const.} \tag{2.19}$$

Note that we lose the universal (i.e. independent of the spectrum shape) scaling $D_k \sim k^4$ if the width of the condensate is $\varepsilon/k_0 \sim (k_0/k)^{1/2}$.

Note also that the expression for the diffusion coefficient (2.19) is different from the one previously obtained in Zakharov (2010), which is a consequence of an error in obtaining the asymptotics of the interaction coefficient made in the latter paper. The calculation of the latter paper is for a different purpose of obtaining the locality window of power-law spectra of gravity waves. As a result, we can now correct the upper boundary of locality for the power-law spectra $n_k \sim k^{-x}$, which follows from the convergence condition in the integral of (2.19), giving $x < 17/4$ (cf. the respective condition $x < 19/4$ written in Zakharov 2010). This correction makes the locality window narrower than previously thought, but does not affect the forward and inverse-cascade KZ spectra as local solutions (just by the margin of $1/4$ in the forward cascade!). The correction in (2.19) also likely affects the lower boundary of the locality window according to the procedure outlined in Zakharov (2010). However, the calculation for the UV boundary is much more involved, and the procedure needs to be put under close scrutiny before a definitive answer can be given. We leave this task to our future work.

From $Q = -D_k \partial n_k / \partial k = \text{const}$, we immediately get

$$n_k = \frac{Q}{3\lambda} k^{-3}, \tag{2.20}$$

which is a constant-flux power-law solution. Note that since both n_k and λ are positive, the wave action flux Q is positive too, i.e. it is towards high k and has the opposite direction

with respect to the wave action flux on the local KZ solution with $Q = \text{const}$. But by the standard Fjørtoft argument, the wave action cannot be continuously transferred to high k' values – otherwise, the amount of energy transferred to these wavenumbers would be greater than the energy produced by the forcing, which is impossible. Therefore, the non-local cascade must drain energy from the condensate. Indeed, for the energy of the out-of-condensate modes, we have from (2.15) that

$$\dot{E} = \int \omega_k (D_k n'_k)' dk = \frac{7\lambda}{4} \int k^{5/2} n_k dk > 0. \quad (2.21)$$

Thus for any shape of n_k , the energy of the out-of-condensate modes is growing, and since the total energy must be conserved, in the absence of forcing and dissipation, we conclude that the condensate energy must be decreasing at the same rate. We also conclude that for a steady state to exist, there should exist a mechanism of supplying the energy from the forcing region to the condensate that is not the diffusive mechanism arising from the WKE in the non-local regime (since the latter transfers energy in the opposite direction).

3. Conclusions and discussion

In this paper, we considered turbulence of water surface gravity waves and developed a WTT for non-local wave action spectrum evolution in the presence of a strong large-scale condensate. We derived a singular inhomogeneous spectral diffusion equation governing such an evolution. We found a stationary solution corresponding to a constant wave action cascade, $n_k \sim k^{-3}$, and proposed it as an explanation of the spectrum observed numerically in Korotkevich (2023) and experimentally in recent wave tank experiments (Nazarenko & Lukaschuk 2016; Deike *et al.* 2011).

Regarding the mechanism of supply of energy and wave action to the condensate, one can envisage two scenarios. First, the condensate could be built up via a local inverse cascade at the initial stages, followed by the non-local regime switching the cascade direction. Clearly, in this case the non-local regime would not be able to sustain itself due to the condensate drainage (the existence of a stationary solution in the absence of a large-scale forcing is prohibited by the wave action conservation), and the system would return to the local regime with a possible periodic repetition of the local–non-local cycle. We rule out this possibility because no such oscillations are observed in the numerical simulations. The second possibility is excitation of the condensate modes directly from a non-resonant three-wave process following modulational instability of the forcing modes. Such a mechanism requires that the spectrum of the waves in the forcing range is sufficiently strong – clearly, a feature seen in the numerical results of Korotkevich (2023). Moreover, the latter process could remain active simultaneously with the non-local direct cascade and thereby contribute to formation of a stationary spectrum. However, this scenario, proposing an implicit forcing mechanism, which could possibly explain the existence of the steady non-local cascade in the numerics of Korotkevich (2023), remains speculative and requires further validation.

In this paper, we mostly considered the effect of the resonant wave quartets, which implies that all the scales, including the condensate, are populated by weakly nonlinear waves. However, the WKB description (C20) derived in Appendix C does include the non-resonant non-local interactions; it is valid for the cases when the condensate scales are strongly nonlinear. Making analytical predictions about the spectra in this case is difficult as it implies knowledge of the low- k dynamics, which is not a part of the WKB description

itself. This can be done in future by assuming a simplified model for the low- k dynamics or by using direct numerical simulations for resolving the low wavenumber part, and using a ‘particle-in-cell method’ for the high-frequency WKB equations, as done previously for acoustic waves in Nazarenko, Zabusky & Scheidegger (1995).

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Appendix A. Taylor expansion of an integrand up to second order

Let us start from the k and k_2 dependent part of an integrand. We will also use the fact that k_1 and k_3 are dummy variables (used for integration), and can be exchanged with proper adjustment of an integrand without the change of the value of the integral. We will consider Taylor expansion of the expression

$$F = \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 (n_{k_2} - n_k) \tag{A1}$$

with respect to $k_2 = k + q$ around k ; here, $q = k_1 - k_3$. It should be noted that $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3}$ is a homogeneous function, so one could divide all k_i by k and use the fact that we consider the setting where $k_{1,3}/k \ll 1$, so $|q|/k \ll 1$, and expansion of $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3}$ considering $|q|$ small with respect to k is a valid procedure. Also we suppose that function n_k has all necessary properties, so it can be expanded in terms of q considering it as a small perturbation. For instance, numerical data in Korotkevich (2023) supposed $n_k \sim k^{-3.07}$, which is a decaying power-law function that again allows us to divide all k_i by k , so again Taylor expansion assuming $|q|$ small with respect to k is a reasonable procedure.

The zeroth order of the expansion is obviously zero:

$$F|_{k_2=k} = 0. \tag{A2}$$

The first order of the expansion is (before evaluation at $k_2 = k$)

$$D_{k_2} F = \left(q \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) (n_{k_2} - n_k) + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 q \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2}. \tag{A3}$$

Evaluated at $k_2 = k$, this expression is

$$D_{k_2} F|_{k_2=k} = \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 q \cdot \nabla_k n_k. \tag{A4}$$

Using the symmetry $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} = T_{k_2,k_3}^{k,k_1}$ and taking into account the already mentioned fact that k_1 and k_3 are dummy variables, and the value of an integral must not change after

exchange $k_1 \leftrightarrow k_3$, this expression will be integrated to zero, because the integral of (A4) changes sign due to change of sign of \mathbf{q} after the mentioned exchange of integration variables. So one needs to consider the next order of the expansion.

Using (A3), the second order of the expansion is (before evaluation at $k_2 = k$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{k_2}^2 F &= D_{k_2}(D_{k_2} F) = \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) (n_{k_2} - n_k) + \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2} \\
 &+ \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2} + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2}) \\
 &= \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) (n_{k_2} - n_k) \\
 &+ 2 \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2} + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} n_{k_2}). \tag{A5}
 \end{aligned}$$

Evaluating (A5) at $k_2 = k$, one gets

$$D_{k_2}^2 F \Big|_{k_2=k} = 2 \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \Big|_{k_2=k} \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k). \tag{A6}$$

Using again the symmetry $T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} = T_{k_2,k_3}^{k,k_1}$ and the fact that every term in (A6) has two factors \mathbf{q} , so exchange $k_1 \leftrightarrow k_3$ does not change the signs of terms, for evaluation of the first term of (A6) at $k_2 = k$ one can use the equality

$$\nabla_{k_2} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 \Big|_{k_2=k} = \nabla_k \left| T_{k_2,k_3}^{k,k_1} \right|^2 \Big|_{k_2=k} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_k \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2. \tag{A7}$$

As a result, we get the following expansion of F up to second order:

$$\begin{aligned}
 F &= \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k_2,k_3} \right|^2 (n_{k_2} - n_k) \approx \left(\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \right) \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k + \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k (\mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k) \\
 &= \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k \left(\left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k \right) = \nabla_k \cdot \left(\mathbf{q} \left| T_{k,k_1}^{k,k_3} \right|^2 \mathbf{q} \cdot \nabla_k n_k \right). \tag{A8}
 \end{aligned}$$

Appendix B. Interaction coefficient reduction

We reproduce the formula for the matrix element of interaction (interaction coefficient) from Zakharov (1999) with corrections from Pushkarev *et al.* (2003) (where we introduce notation $\omega_i = \omega_{k_i}$):

$$T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4, PRZ} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\tilde{T}_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4} + \tilde{T}_{k_2 k_1}^{k_3 k_4} \right), \tag{B1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{T}_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4} = & -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{1}{(k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4)^{1/4}} \\
 & \times \left\{ -12k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4 - 2(\omega_1 + \omega_2)^2 [\omega_3 \omega_4 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2) - k_1 k_2) \right. \\
 & + \omega_1 \omega_2 ((\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) - k_3 k_4)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\
 & - 2(\omega_1 - \omega_3)^2 [\omega_2 \omega_4 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_1 k_3) + \omega_1 \omega_3 ((\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_2 k_4)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\
 & - 2(\omega_1 - \omega_4)^2 [\omega_2 \omega_3 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_1 k_4) + \omega_1 \omega_4 ((\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_2 k_3)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\
 & + [(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2) + k_1 k_2][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_3 k_4] \\
 & + [-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_1 k_3][-(\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_2 k_4] \\
 & + [-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_1 k_4][-(\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_2 k_3] \\
 & + 4(\omega_1 + \omega_2)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2) - k_1 k_2][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) - k_3 k_4]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2}^2 - (\omega_1 + \omega_2)^2} \\
 & + 4(\omega_1 - \omega_3)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_1 k_3][(\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_2 k_4]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3}^2 - (\omega_1 - \omega_3)^2} \\
 & \left. + 4(\omega_1 - \omega_4)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_4) + k_1 k_4][(\mathbf{k}_2 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_2 k_3]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_4}^2 - (\omega_1 - \omega_4)^2} \right\}. \tag{B2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Expression (B1) satisfies conditions $T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4, PRZ} = T_{k_2 k_1}^{k_3 k_4, PRZ} = T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_4 k_3, PRZ}$ but lacks an important symmetry $T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4} = T_{k_3 k_4}^{k_1 k_2}$ (analogue of Hermitian symmetry in quantum mechanics). This symmetry is a consequence of the fact that the system is Hamiltonian with a real Hamiltonian function. As a result, we need to perform an additional symmetrization:

$$T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4} = \frac{1}{2} \left(T_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4, PRZ} + T_{k_3 k_4}^{k_1 k_2, PRZ} \right). \tag{B3}$$

B.1. Wave system in presence of condensate

We consider the following situation. Two wave vectors (\mathbf{k}_2 and \mathbf{k}_4) are out of the condensate, and two other wave vectors are in the condensate (\mathbf{k}_1 and \mathbf{k}_3). In accordance with the derivation of the diffusion equation in the main paper, the condensate wave vectors must be approximately on the same circle $|\mathbf{k}_1| = |\mathbf{k}_3| = k_0$. Since the interaction coefficient is invariant with respect to the k -space rotations, we can take \mathbf{k}_2 directed along the x -axis, and measure the angles on the condensate circle with respect to this direction: $\mathbf{k}_1 = (k_0 \cos(\beta), k_0 \sin(\beta))^T$ and $\mathbf{k}_3 = (k_0 \cos(\alpha), k_0 \sin(\alpha))^T$, where β and α are the angles between \mathbf{k}_2 and \mathbf{k}_1 , and \mathbf{k}_2 and \mathbf{k}_3 , respectively.

The resonant condition for the wave vectors is

$$\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}_3 + \mathbf{k}_4, \tag{B4}$$

and for the frequencies,

$$\omega_1 + \omega_2 = \omega_3 + \omega_4. \tag{B5}$$

Because the condensate is a long-wave background, we can consider the case $k_0 \ll k_{2,4}$, where $k_i = |\mathbf{k}_i|$. So we have a small parameter $k_0/k_{2,4} \ll 1$. This is our major tool for simplification (reduction) of the matrix element. For the purposes of this paper, and because of the absence of \mathbf{k}_2 in (2.8) (also see (A8)), all we need is to consider the following two functions $\tilde{T}_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k}$ and $\tilde{T}_{k k_1}^{k_3 k}$. Thus we set $\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}_4$ in $\tilde{T}_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4}$ (but not in the resonance conditions (B4) and (B5)).

B.2. The $\tilde{T}_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k}$ contribution

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k} = & -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{1}{(k_0 k)^{1/2}} \\ & \times \left\{ -12k_0^2 k^2 - 2(\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 [\omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k) \right. \\ & + \omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\ & - 2(0)^2 [\omega_k^2 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2) + \omega_0^2 (2k^2)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\ & - 2(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 [\omega_k \omega_0 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k) + \omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k k_0)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\ & + [(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k] \\ & + [-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2][0] \\ & + [-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][-(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k k_0] \\ & + 4(\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k]}{\omega_{k_1+k}^2 - (\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2} \\ & + 4(\omega_3 - \omega_1)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2][(2k^2)]}{\omega_{k_1-k_3}^2 - (\omega_3 - \omega_1)^2} \\ & \left. + 4(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k k_0]}{\omega_{k_1-k}^2 - (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2} \right\}. \tag{B6} \end{aligned}$$

In the main text, we showed that $|\omega_3 - \omega_1| = O(|\mathbf{q}|)$, and therefore $(\omega_3 - \omega_1)^2 = O(|\mathbf{q}|^2)$, whereas $\omega_{k_1-k_3}^2 = |\mathbf{q}|$. Therefore, the second fractional term is $O(|\mathbf{q}|^3)$, so it can be neglected.

Using the expressions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} (\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 &= gk \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) \approx gk \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right), \\ (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 &= gk \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) \approx gk \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right), \\ \omega_{\mathbf{k}_1+\mathbf{k}}^2 &= gk \sqrt{1 + 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx gk \left(1 + \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta \right), \\ \omega_{\mathbf{k}_1-\mathbf{k}}^2 &= gk \sqrt{1 - 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx gk \left(1 - \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta \right), \\ \omega_{\mathbf{k}_3-\mathbf{k}}^2 &= gk \sqrt{1 - 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \alpha + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx gk \left(1 - \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \alpha \right), \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B7})$$

one can get for the $1/g^2$ group of terms,

$$\begin{aligned} &-2(\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 [\omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k) + \omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\ &\quad - 2(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 [\omega_k \omega_0 ((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k) + \omega_0 \omega_k ((\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k k_0)] \frac{1}{g^2} \\ &= -2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha - 2) \\ &\quad - 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha + 2) \\ &\approx -2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha - 2) \\ &\quad - 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha + 2) \\ &= 16k^2 k_0^2 - 4k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B8})$$

For the terms in the square brackets, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k] + [-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][-(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k k_0] \\ &= k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \beta + 1)(\cos \alpha + 1) + k^2 k_0^2 (1 - \cos \beta)(1 - \cos \alpha) \\ &= 2k^2 k_0^2 + 2k^2 k_0^2 \cos \beta \cos \alpha. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B9})$$

The first fractional term is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 4(\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}}^2 - (\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2} \\
 &= 4k \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) \frac{k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \beta - 1)(\cos \alpha - 1)}{k \sqrt{1 + 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} - k \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right)}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{B10}$$

Now one needs to use expansion of the square root in the denominator up to the k_0/k terms:

$$\sqrt{1 + 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx 1 + \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta. \tag{B11}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 4(\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0 k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}}^2 - (\omega_0 + \omega_k)^2} \\
 & \approx 4k^2 k_0^2 \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) \frac{\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1 - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)}{-2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} - \frac{k_0}{k} (1 - \cos \beta)} \\
 & \approx -2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 + 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\
 & \quad \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 - \cos \beta) \right),
 \end{aligned} \tag{B12}$$

where we used expansion up to $\sqrt{k_0/k}$ terms:

$$\frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 - \cos \beta)} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 - \cos \beta). \tag{B13}$$

The last fractional term is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 4(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}}^2 - (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2} \\
 &= 4k \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) \frac{k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \beta + 1)(\cos \alpha + 1)}{k \sqrt{1 - 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} - k \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right)}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{B14}$$

Now one needs to use expansion of the square root in the denominator up to the k_0/k terms:

$$\sqrt{1 - 2 \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx 1 - \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \beta. \tag{B15}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} & 4(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0 k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}}^2 - (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2} \\ & \approx 4k^2 k_0^2 \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}}\right) \frac{\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1 + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)}{2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} - \frac{k_0}{k} (1 + \cos \beta)} \\ & \approx 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}}\right) (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\ & \quad \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 + \cos \beta)\right), \end{aligned} \tag{B16}$$

where we used expansion (up to $\sqrt{k_0/k}$ terms)

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 + \cos \beta)} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 + \cos \beta). \tag{B17}$$

Let us factor out $k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{k/k_0}$ terms from both fractional terms (B12) and (B16):

$$\begin{aligned} & -2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) + 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \\ & \quad \times (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) = 4k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha). \end{aligned} \tag{B18}$$

This term cancels exactly with the corresponding term in (B8). So there will be no terms like that in the final expansion.

Now let us extract all $k^2 k_0^2$ terms from both fractional terms (B12) and (B16):

$$\begin{aligned} & -4k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\ & \quad + k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 - \cos \beta) \\ & \quad - 4k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha \\ & \quad + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) + k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 + \cos \beta) \\ & = -6k^2 k_0^2 - 4k^2 k_0^2 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + 2k^2 k_0^2 \cos^2 \beta, \end{aligned} \tag{B19}$$

where we have used

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 - \cos \beta) \\ & \quad + (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 + \cos \beta) \\ & = 2 + 4 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + 2 \cos^2 \beta. \end{aligned} \tag{B20}$$

Taking into account the $-12k^2k_0^2$ term at the beginning of the curly brackets in (B6), and the isotropic terms in (B8), (B9) and (B19), one can see that such terms cancel.

Angular dependent $k^2k_0^2$ terms from (B9) and (B19) (pay attention, they are absent in (B8)) give

$$-2k^2k_0^2 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + 2k^2k_0^2 \cos^2 \beta = 2k^2k_0^2 \cos \beta (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha). \tag{B21}$$

This term will vanish if $\cos \beta - \cos \alpha = 0$. For every given β , there are only two values of $\alpha = \pm\beta$ when this is satisfied. For example, for a trivial process $T_{k_1k_2}^{k_1k_2}$ (in our case it corresponds to $\mathbf{k}_1 = \mathbf{k}_3$, which is prohibited), this term will be absent. But in general it is present and is the main contribution term.

As a result, for $\tilde{T}_{k_1k}^{k_3k}$, the first non-vanishing term is

$$\tilde{T}_{k_1k}^{k_3k} \approx -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{1}{(k_0k)^{1/2}} 2k^2k_0^2 \cos \beta (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha) = -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} 2 \cos \beta (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha). \tag{B22}$$

B.3. The $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k}$ contribution

Let us recall that $T_{k_1k}^{k_3k,PRZ} = (\tilde{T}_{k_1k}^{k_3k} + \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k})/2$, so one needs to find all corresponding terms for $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k}$ as well:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k} &= -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{1}{(k_0k)^{1/2}} \\ & \times \left\{ -12k_0^2k^2 - 2(\omega_k + \omega_0)^2[\omega_0\omega_k((\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_1) - k_0k) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \omega_0\omega_k((\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0k)] \frac{1}{g^2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - 2(\omega_k - \omega_0)^2[\omega_0\omega_k((\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0k) + \omega_0\omega_k((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + kk_0)] \frac{1}{g^2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - 2(0)^2[\omega_0^2(2k^2) + \omega_k^2((\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2)] \frac{1}{g^2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + [(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_1) + k_0k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k] \right. \\ & \quad \left. + [-(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0k][-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + kk_0] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ [0][-(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2] \\
 &+ 4(\omega_k + \omega_0)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_1) - k_0k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) - k_0k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{k}_1}^2 - (\omega_k + \omega_0)^2} \\
 &+ 4(\omega_k - \omega_0)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0k][(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_3}^2 - (\omega_k - \omega_0)^2} \\
 &+ 4(\omega_k - \omega_{k_4})^2 \frac{[2k^2][(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_3) + k_0^2]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_4}^2 - (\omega_k - \omega_{k_4})^2} \Big\}. \tag{B23}
 \end{aligned}$$

Here, the last fractional term can be neglected for a reason similar to the one given in the paragraph after (B6).

As one can see, all leading-order terms are the same as for $\tilde{T}_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k}$ with exception of the denominator of the second fractional term, where $\omega_{k_1-k}^2$ is replaced by $\omega_{k-k_3}^2$. So let us work only with this term:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_3}^2 - (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2} \\
 &= 4k \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right) \frac{k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \beta + 1)(\cos \alpha + 1)}{k \sqrt{1 - 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \alpha + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} - k \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} + \frac{k_0}{k} \right)}. \tag{B24}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now one needs to use expansion of the square root in the denominator up to the k_0/k terms:

$$\sqrt{1 - 2\frac{k_0}{k} \cos \alpha + \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^2} \approx 1 - \frac{k_0}{k} \cos \alpha. \tag{B25}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
 &4(\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2 \frac{[(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k][(\mathbf{k}_3 \cdot \mathbf{k}) + k_0k]}{\omega_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}_3}^2 - (\omega_0 - \omega_k)^2} \\
 &\approx 4k^2 k_0^2 \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) \frac{\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1 + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)}{2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} - \frac{k_0}{k} (1 + \cos \alpha)} \\
 &\approx 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right) (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\
 &\times \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} (1 + \cos \alpha) \right), \tag{B26}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we used expansion (up to $\sqrt{k_0/k}$ terms)

$$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}}(1 + \cos \alpha)} \approx \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}}(1 + \cos \alpha)\right). \quad (\text{B27})$$

Let us extract $k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{k/k_0}$ terms from both fractional terms (B12) and (B26):

$$\begin{aligned} & -2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) + 2k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \\ & \times (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) = 4k^2 k_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B28})$$

This term cancels exactly with the corresponding term in (B8). So, there will be NO terms like that in the final expansion.

Now let us extract all $k^2 k_0^2$ terms from both fractional terms (B12) and (B26):

$$\begin{aligned} & -4k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\ & + k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 - \cos \beta) \\ & - 4k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha)) \\ & + k^2 k_0^2 (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 + \cos \alpha) \\ & = -6k^2 k_0^2 - 4k^2 k_0^2 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + k^2 k_0^2 \cos^2 \beta \\ & + k^2 k_0^2 \cos^2 \alpha + k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B29})$$

where we used

$$\begin{aligned} & (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha - (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 - \cos \beta) \\ & + (1 + \cos \beta \cos \alpha + (\cos \beta + \cos \alpha))(1 + \cos \alpha) \\ & = 2 + 4 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \alpha + (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B30})$$

Taking into account the $-12k^2 k_0^2$ term at the beginning of the curly brackets of (B23), and isotropic terms in (B8), (B9) and (B29), one can see that such terms cancel.

Angular dependent $k^2 k_0^2$ terms from (B9) and (B29) (pay attention, they are absent in (B8)) give

$$\begin{aligned} & -2k^2 k_0^2 \cos \beta \cos \alpha + k^2 k_0^2 \cos^2 \beta \\ & + k^2 k_0^2 \cos^2 \alpha + k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1) \\ & = k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \alpha - \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \cos \beta + 1). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B31})$$

This term will vanish if $\cos \beta - \cos \alpha = 0$. For every given β , there are only two values of $\alpha = \pm \beta$ when this is satisfied. For example, for a trivial process $T_{k_1 k_2, k_1 k_2}$ (in our case it corresponds to $k_1 = k_3$, which is prohibited), this term will be absent. But in general it is present and is the main contribution term.

Finally, for $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k}$, we get the first non-vanishing term:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k} &\approx -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{1}{(kk_0)^{1/2}} k^2 k_0^2 (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \alpha - \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \cos \beta + 1) \\ &= -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \alpha - \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \cos \beta + 1). \end{aligned} \tag{B32}$$

B.4. The first non-vanishing term of the matrix element

If we take the arithmetic mean value of (B22) and (B32), then we get the main term in $T_{k_1k}^{k_3k,PRZ}$:

$$T_{k_1k}^{k_3k,PRZ} = \frac{\tilde{T}_{k_1k}^{k_3k} + \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k}}{2} \approx -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{32\pi^2} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)(\cos \beta \cos \alpha + 1 + \cos \alpha - 3 \cos \beta). \tag{B33}$$

It should be noted that the expression is not symmetric with respect to exchange of α and β . This is exactly the consequence of lack of symmetry with respect to exchange of pairs of vectors (the lower and the upper pair) $T_{k_1k_2}^{k_3k_4} = T_{k_3k_4}^{k_1k_2}$, which for our case means $T_{k_1k}^{k_3k} = T_{k_3k}^{k_1k}$, or $T(\mathbf{k}, k_0, \alpha, \beta) = T(\mathbf{k}, k_0, \beta, \alpha)$. The expression (B3) after substitution of (B33) takes the form

$$T_{k_1k}^{k_3k} = \frac{T(\mathbf{k}, k_0, \alpha, \beta) + T(\mathbf{k}, k_0, \beta, \alpha)}{2} = -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)^2. \tag{B34}$$

In the wave kinetic equations, we use the square of (B34) and obtain

$$\left| T_{k_1k}^{k_3k} \right|^2 = \frac{(kk_0)^3}{256\pi^4} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)^4. \tag{B35}$$

For a flux in an angularly symmetric case, one needs to compute

$$D(k) = 2\pi k \int_{0, k_1 \ll k}^{+\infty} n_{k_1}^2 k_1^{9/2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left| T_{k_1k}^{k_3k} \right|^2 (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha)^2 d\alpha d\beta dk_1. \tag{B36}$$

We can integrate this (average by angles) over the interval $[0, 2\pi)$ for both α and β , as there is no dependence on the angle (the situation is isotropic with respect to polar angles), and obtain

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left| T_{k_1k}^{k_3k} \right|^2 (\cos \beta - \cos \alpha)^2 d\alpha d\beta = \frac{(kk_1)^3}{256\pi^4} 25\pi^2 = \frac{25k_1^3}{256\pi^2} k^3. \tag{B37}$$

B.5. Symbolic computations of the next-order term of the matrix element expansion

We used **Maxima Computer Algebra System (1982–2023)** (specifically wxMaxima for GNU Linux) in order to compute the next-order term in the expansion of the matrix element $T_{k_1k}^{k_3k}$ and to check all previous calculations. In order to simplify expressions, we

factored out

$$-\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{(kk_0)^2}{(kk_0)^{1/2}} = -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} \quad (\text{B38})$$

from all the terms, and had to consider expansion of

$$\frac{k_4}{k} = \frac{|\mathbf{k} + \Delta\mathbf{k}|}{k}. \quad (\text{B39})$$

The small parameter k_0/k is denoted by x . Here is the code.

```

/* In order to allow for next-order terms, we take into
account relative difference between  $k_2=k$  and  $k_4$ . */
k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(sqrt(1+2*x*(cos(beta)-
cos(alpha)+2*x^2*(1-cos(beta-alpha)))) , x, 0, 2);

/* For brevity we denote \tilde{T} with just T. */

/* This is Appendix B.2. */
T_1234_first_term(x, beta, alpha) := -12*k4_over_k(x, beta,
alpha);

T_1234_over_g_2_term_1(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(-2*(sqrt(x)+1)
^2*(sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))*(cos(beta)-1)+(cos
(alpha)+x*(cos(beta-alpha)-1)-k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))),
x, 0, 2) / sqrt(x);

T_1234_over_g_2_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := -0;

T_1234_over_g_2_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(-2*((sqrt(x)-
sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)))^2)*((cos(beta)
+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha))+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))
+sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))*(cos(alpha)+1)),
x, 0, 2) / sqrt(x);

T_1234_over_g_2_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_over_g_2_term
_1(x, beta, alpha)+T_1234_over_g_2_term_2(x, beta, alpha)
+T_1234_over_g_2_term_3(x, beta, alpha);

T_1234_square_brackets_term_1(x, beta, alpha) := taylor
((cos(beta)+1)*(cos(alpha)+x*(cos(beta-alpha)-1)
+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)), x, 0, 2);

T_1234_square_brackets_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := taylor
((-cos(beta-alpha)+1)*(-(1+x*(cos(beta)-cos(alpha)))
+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)), x, 0, 2);

T_1234_square_brackets_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := taylor
((-cos(alpha)+1)*(-(cos(beta)+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha)))
+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)), x, 0, 2);

```

```
T_1234_square_brackets_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_square_
brackets_term_1(x, beta, alpha) + T_1234_square_brackets_
term_2(x, beta, alpha) + T_1234_square_brackets_term_3
(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
T_1234_fractional_term_1(x, beta, alpha) := taylor
(4*(1+sqrt(x))^2*(cos(beta)-1)*(cos(alpha)
+x*(cos(beta-alpha)-1)-k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)) /
(sqrt(1+2*x*cos(beta)+x^2)-(1+sqrt(x))^2), x, 0, 2);
```

```
T_1234_fractional_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := 0;
```

```
T_1234_fractional_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(4*(sqrt(x)
-sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)))^2*(cos(alpha)+1)*
(cos(beta)+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha))+k4_over_k
(x, beta, alpha)) / (sqrt((k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))^2
-2*x*(cos(beta)+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha)))+x^2)
-(sqrt(x)-sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha)))^2), x, 0, 2);
```

```
T_1234_fractional_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_fractional_
term_1(x, beta, alpha) + T_1234_fractional_term_2(x, beta,
alpha) + T_1234_fractional_term_3(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
T_1234(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_first_term(x, beta, alpha) + T_
1234_over_g_2_terms(x, beta, alpha) + T_1234_square_
brackets_terms(x, beta, alpha) + T_1234_fractional_terms
(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* In order to see expansion, we evaluate the \tilde{T} as
in the end of Appendix B.2.,
Eq. (26). */ T_1234(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* This is Appendix B.3. */ T_2134_
over_g_2_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(-2*(1-sqrt(x))^2*
(sqrt(k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))*(cos(alpha)+1)+(cos(beta)
+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha))+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))), x, 0, 2) /
sqrt(x);
```

```
T_2134_over_g_2_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(-2*(1-sqrt(k4_
over_k(x, beta, alpha)))^2*((1+x*(cos(beta)-cos(alpha))
+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))+x*(cos(beta-alpha)+1)), x,
0, 2) / x;
```

```
/* The first term divided by g^2 is the same as in
Appendix B.2. */
```

```
T_2134_over_g_2_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_2134_over_g_2_term_1
(x, beta, alpha) + T_2134_over_g_2_term_2(x, beta, alpha) + T_
2134_over_g_2_term_3(x, beta, alpha);
```

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```
T_2134_square_brackets_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := taylor((-cos(alpha)+1)*(-cos(beta)+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha)))+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha), x, 0, 2);
```

```
T_2134_square_brackets_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := taylor((-1-x*(cos(beta)-cos(alpha))+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))*(-cos(beta-alpha)+1), x, 0, 2);
```

```
T_2134_square_brackets_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_square_brackets_term_1(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_square_brackets_term_2(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_square_brackets_term_3(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* The first fractional term is the same as in Appendix B.2. */
```

```
T_2134_fractional_term_2(x, beta, alpha) := taylor(4*(1-sqrt(x))^2*(cos(alpha)+1)*(cos(beta)+x*(1-cos(beta-alpha))+k4_over_k(x, beta, alpha))/(sqrt(1-2*x*cos(alpha)+x^2)-(1-sqrt(x))^2), x, 0, 2);
```

```
T_2134_fractional_term_3(x, beta, alpha) := 0;
```

```
T_2134_fractional_terms(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_fractional_term_1(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_fractional_term_2(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* The first term of the whole expression is the same as in Appendix B.2. */
```

```
T_2134(x, beta, alpha) := T_1234_first_term(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_over_g_2_terms(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_square_brackets_terms(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134_fractional_terms(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* In order to see expansion, we evaluate the \tilde{T} as in the end of Appendix B.2.
```

```
*/T_2134(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* This is Appendix B.4. */
```

```
T_PRZ(x, beta, alpha) := (T_1234(x, beta, alpha)+T_2134(x, beta, alpha))/2;
```

```
/* Evaluation */ T_PRZ(x, beta, alpha);
```

```
/* This is Appendix B.2. */
```

```
T_full(x, beta, alpha) := (T_PRZ(x, beta, alpha)+T_PRZ(x, alpha, beta))/2;
```

```
/* Evaluation of final expression of matrix element, as in Appendix B. */ T_full(x, beta, alpha);
```

One can see that the expansion of $T_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k}$ up to the next order is

$$T_{k_1 k}^{k_3 k} \approx -\frac{(kk_0)^{3/2}}{16\pi^2} \left\{ (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)^2 + \frac{(\cos \alpha + \cos \beta) [(\cos \alpha - \cos \beta)^2 - 4 - 4 \cos(\alpha - \beta)]}{2} \sqrt{\frac{k_0}{k}} \right\}. \quad (\text{B40})$$

Appendix C. Derivation of the diffusion equation from the Zakharov equation

Below, we will derive a WKB description for water gravity waves on a background of a large-scale condensate wave component followed by assuming that the waves are weak and random, obtaining the same spectral diffusion equation as the one derived in the main text. One aim of this exercise is to show that the limit of weak nonlinearity commutes with the scale separation limit. Our approach will be similar in spirit to the one used for a three-wave MHD system in Nazarenko *et al.* (2001), except that here, for the first time, we apply it to a four-wave system.

We start from the Zakharov equation of surface gravity waves in standard form:

$$i \frac{\partial b_k}{\partial t} = \omega_k b_k + \int T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} b_1^* b_2 b_3 \delta(k + k_1 - k_2 - k_3) dk_1 dk_2 dk_3, \quad (\text{C1})$$

with $\omega_k = k^{1/2}$, $k = |\mathbf{k}|$ the dispersion relation, and b_k the canonical variable obtained from a near-identity Lee transform of variable a_k defined in the main paper. We consider the condensate condition where (C1) is dominated by non-local interactions of long and short waves, and we take

$$\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_2 : \text{large wavenumbers}, \quad \mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_3 : \text{small wavenumbers}, \quad (\text{C2a,b})$$

with scale separation, e.g. $k \gg k_1$. Accordingly, (C1) reduces to

$$i \frac{\partial b_k}{\partial t} = k^{1/2} b_k + 2 \int d\mathbf{k}_2 b_2 \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} b_1^* b_3 \delta(k + k_1 - k_2 - k_3) dk_1 dk_3, \quad (\text{C3})$$

where the factor 2 comes from the fact that we can exchange \mathbf{k}_2 and \mathbf{k}_3 in (C2a,b). We further define

$$A(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}) = \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} b_1^* b_3 \delta(k + k_1 - k_2 - k_3) dk_1 dk_3 \quad (\text{C4})$$

and

$$B(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}) = k^{1/2} \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_2) + 2A(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}), \quad (\text{C5})$$

so that (C3) can be written as

$$i \frac{\partial b_k}{\partial t} = \int B(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}) b_2 d\mathbf{k}_2. \quad (\text{C6})$$

We note that $A(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k})$ satisfies the symmetry property

$$\begin{aligned} A^*(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}) &= \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} T_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}_1}^{\mathbf{k}_2\mathbf{k}_3} b_1 b_3^* \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_3) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3 \\ &= \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} T_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}_3}^{\mathbf{k}_2\mathbf{k}_1} b_3 b_1^* \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}_3 - \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_1) d\mathbf{k}_3 d\mathbf{k}_1 \\ &= A(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_2), \end{aligned} \tag{C7}$$

where in the last equality we have used the symmetry property of the interaction coefficient $T_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}_3}^{\mathbf{k}_2\mathbf{k}_1} = T_{\mathbf{k}_2\mathbf{k}_1}^{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}_3}$ that is required for (C1) to be a Hamiltonian system with real Hamiltonian (see discussion in Appendix A). In addition, we have

$$B^*(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}) = B(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}_2). \tag{C8}$$

The derivation of the WKB (Liouville) equation requires the definition of wave action $n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})$ (neglecting time dependence in the definition for simplicity). One of the approaches for this is to use the Wigner transform, formulated here as the inverse Fourier transform of correlation in wavenumber space:

$$n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) = \int e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* \rangle d\mathbf{q}, \tag{C9}$$

with the angle bracket representing ensemble average. It follows that

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \int e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \partial_t \langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* \rangle d\mathbf{q}, \tag{C10}$$

where

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \partial_t b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} &= -i \int B(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) b_2 d\mathbf{k}_2, \\ \partial_t b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* &= i \int B^*(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2) b_2^* d\mathbf{k}_2, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{C11}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= i \int d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left[B^*(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2) \langle b_2^* b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} \rangle - B(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) \langle b_2 b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* \rangle \right] \\ &= i \int d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left[B(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_2) \langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} b_2^* \rangle - B(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) \langle b_2 b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* \rangle \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{C12}$$

We further introduce change of variables $\mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2 - \mathbf{q}'/2$ and $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{q}'' + \mathbf{q}'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= i \int d\mathbf{q}' d\mathbf{q}'' e^{i(\mathbf{q}''+\mathbf{q}') \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left[B(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}''/2 - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2 - \mathbf{q}'/2) \langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}''/2+\mathbf{q}'/2} b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}''/2-\mathbf{q}'/2}^* \rangle \right. \\ &\quad \left. - B(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2 - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2 + \mathbf{q}'/2) \langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}''/2-\mathbf{q}'/2} b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}''/2-\mathbf{q}'/2}^* \rangle \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{C13}$$

We define a condensate-modulated frequency

$$\Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) = \int e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} B(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) d\mathbf{q}, \tag{C14}$$

Inverting (C9) and (C14), we obtain

$$\langle b_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2} b_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}/2}^* \rangle = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}, \tag{C15}$$

$$B(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}. \tag{C16}$$

Substituting (C15) and (C16) into (C13) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= i \int d\mathbf{q}' d\mathbf{q}'' e^{i(\mathbf{q}'+\mathbf{q}') \cdot \mathbf{x}} \\ &\times \left[\frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q}'' \cdot \mathbf{x}''} \Omega(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}'') d\mathbf{x}'' \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q}' \cdot \mathbf{x}'} n(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}') d\mathbf{x}' \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q}' \cdot \mathbf{x}'} \Omega(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}') d\mathbf{x}' \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \int e^{-i\mathbf{q}'' \cdot \mathbf{x}''} n(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}'') d\mathbf{x}'' \right]. \\ &= \frac{i}{(4\pi^2)^2} \int d\mathbf{q}' d\mathbf{q}'' d\mathbf{x}' d\mathbf{x}'' \exp(i\mathbf{q}'' \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'') + i\mathbf{q}' \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')) \\ &\quad \times [\Omega(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}'') n(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}') - \Omega(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}') n(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}'')]. \end{aligned} \tag{C17}$$

Applying the symmetry $\mathbf{q}', \mathbf{x}' \leftrightarrow \mathbf{q}'', \mathbf{x}''$ to the first term of the above equation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} &= \frac{i}{(4\pi^2)^2} \int d\mathbf{q}' d\mathbf{q}'' d\mathbf{x}' d\mathbf{x}'' \exp(i\mathbf{q}'' \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'') + i\mathbf{q}' \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')) \\ &\quad \times [\Omega(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}') n(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}'') - \Omega(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}'/2, \mathbf{x}') n(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}''/2, \mathbf{x}'')]. \end{aligned} \tag{C18}$$

The term in the square bracket of the above equation can be Taylor expanded (considering $\mathbf{q}', \mathbf{q}''$ as small quantities relative to \mathbf{k}) as

$$[\dots] = -\mathbf{q}'' \cdot \frac{\partial \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}')}{\partial \mathbf{k}} n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}'') + \mathbf{q}' \cdot \frac{\partial n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}'')}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}'). \tag{C19}$$

To continue, we take the first term in (C19) as an example. We can combine the factor $-\mathbf{q}''$ with one exponential to obtain $(\partial/\partial \mathbf{x}'') e^{i\mathbf{q}'' \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'')}$, and perform integration by parts to move the \mathbf{x}'' derivative to $n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}'')$. Applying this procedure to both terms in (C19) and using the relation $\int d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}}/4\pi^2 = \delta(\mathbf{x})$ results in

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{k}} \cdot \frac{\partial n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} - \frac{\partial \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \cdot \frac{\partial n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{k}} = 0. \tag{C20}$$

This is the WKB equation, which can also be written in the form of a Liouville equation:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \{H, n\} = 0, \tag{C21}$$

where $\{\cdot\}$ represents the Poisson bracket, and

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} B(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) \\ &= \int d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left[|\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2|^{1/2} \delta(\mathbf{q}) + 2A(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}/2) \right] \\ &= |\mathbf{k}|^{1/2} + 2 \int d\mathbf{q} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k-k/2, k_3} b_1^* b_3 \delta(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3) d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C22})$$

Our next goal is to derive the diffusion equation from (C20) or (C21). We consider $b_1^* b_3 \sim O(\epsilon)$, and rewrite (C22) as

$$\Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}) = \omega(\mathbf{k}) + \epsilon \Omega_0(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}), \quad (\text{C23})$$

where $\omega(\mathbf{k}) = |\mathbf{k}|^{1/2}$ is the inherent frequency, and $\epsilon \Omega_0(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})$ is the remaining (small) condensate-modulated component.

We also rewrite (C20) in standard ray-tracing form:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \frac{\partial n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \dot{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \frac{\partial n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{k}} = 0, \quad (\text{C24})$$

with ray equations

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\partial \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{k}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{k}} = -\frac{\partial \Omega(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = -\epsilon \frac{\partial \Omega_0(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}. \quad (\text{C25})$$

Since $\nabla \cdot \dot{\mathbf{x}} = -\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{k}}$, (C25) can be formulated as

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{x}} n) + \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{k}} n) = 0. \quad (\text{C26})$$

Let

$$n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}, t) = \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) + \tilde{n}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}, t), \quad (\text{C27})$$

where \bar{n} is the spatially homogeneous part, and \tilde{n} the ‘wiggles’ due to the large-scale condensate modulation. Also, $t_d = \epsilon^2 t$ is a slow diffusion time that will be characterized in the final diffusion equation.

We consider randomized large-scale condensate motion with averaging operator $E[\cdot]$ that can be considered as an ensemble average or spatial average $\int \cdot d\mathbf{x} / L^2$, with large L . Then it follows that

$$\bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) = E[n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}, t)] \quad (\text{C28})$$

and (using (C26) and (C25))

$$\partial_t \bar{n} = -E[\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{k}} n)] = \epsilon \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (\bar{n} + \tilde{n}) \right] \right) = \epsilon \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \tilde{n} \right] \right), \quad (\text{C29})$$

where the last equality comes from the fact that \bar{n} is independent of \mathbf{x} so that the average over the large-scale condensate motion (for the first term) gives zero.

We next expand the wave action along a ray:

$$\begin{aligned}
 n(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}, t) &= n\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', \mathbf{x} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t') dt', t - T\right) \\
 &= \bar{n}\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', t_d - \epsilon^2 T\right) + \tilde{n}\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', \mathbf{x} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t') dt', t - T\right) \\
 &= \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) - \epsilon^2 T \partial_t \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) \\
 &\quad + \tilde{n}\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', \mathbf{x} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t') dt', t - T\right). \tag{C30}
 \end{aligned}$$

Keeping $O(1)$ terms in (C30) (we note that this is consistent with the later choice of time scale T), we obtain

$$\bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x}, t) = - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) + \tilde{n}\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', \mathbf{x} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t') dt', t - T\right). \tag{C31}$$

We choose T large enough so that the second term in (C31) is de-correlated with the large-scale motion (but still smaller compared to the diffusion time scale), i.e. $T \sim O(1/\epsilon)$. Then

$$E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \tilde{n}\left(\mathbf{k} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt', \mathbf{x} - \int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{x}}(t') dt', t - T\right) \right] = 0. \tag{C32}$$

Substituting (C31) into (C29), and considering (C32), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \partial_t \bar{n} &= -\epsilon \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \left(\int_{t-T}^t \dot{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) \right) \right] \right) \\
 &= \epsilon^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \left(\int_{t-T}^t \partial_{\mathbf{x}} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k} + \epsilon \frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}}(t - t'), \mathbf{x} - \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}}(t - t'), t' \right) dt' \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) \right) \right] \right) \\
 &= \epsilon^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \left(E \left[\frac{\partial \Omega_0}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \left(\int_{t-T}^t \partial_{\mathbf{x}} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x} - \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}}(t - t'), t' \right) dt' \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \bar{n}(\mathbf{k}, t_d) \right) \right] \right), \tag{C33}
 \end{aligned}$$

where in the last equality, we neglect the higher-order (ϵ^3) terms. Equation (C33) is in fact in the form of a diffusion equation. To see this, we write it in Einstein notation, and in the meanwhile absorb ϵ^2 into t on the left-hand side to form t_d , neglect the overbar on n and subscript d of t . This gives the final diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = \partial_{k_i} (D_{ij} \partial_{k_j} n), \tag{C34}$$

with

$$D_{ij} = E \left[\partial_{x_i} \Omega_0 \int_{t-T}^t \partial_{x_j} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x} - \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}}(t - t'), t' \right) dt' \right], \tag{C35}$$

where (with a little abuse of notation) $k_{i,j}$ represents the (i, j) th component of vector \mathbf{k} .

We next perform detailed analysis on the diffusion coefficient (C35) to show that it is equivalent to the result derived in the main paper from the WKE. Under a change of

variable $t' = t + s$, (C35) reads

$$D_{ij} = E \left[\partial_{x_i} \Omega_0 \int_{-T}^0 \partial_{x_j} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x} + \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}} s, t + s \right) ds \right], \quad (\text{C36})$$

where

$$\partial_{x_i} \Omega_0 = 2i \int d\mathbf{q} q_i e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3 T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k-q/2, k_3} b_1^* b_3 \delta(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3), \quad (\text{C37})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x} + \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}} s, t + s \right) &= 2 \int d\mathbf{q}' \exp(i\mathbf{q}' \cdot (\mathbf{x} + \partial_{\mathbf{k}} \omega s)) \\ &\times \int_{2,4 \text{ small}} d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{k}_4 T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_2}^{k-q/2, k_4} b_2^*(t+s) b_4(t+s) \delta(\mathbf{q}' + \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_4), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C38})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{x_j} \Omega_0 \left(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x} + \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{k}} s, t + s \right) &= 2i \int d\mathbf{q}' q'_j \exp(i\mathbf{q}' \cdot (\mathbf{x} + \partial_{\mathbf{k}} \omega s)) \\ &\times \int_{2,4 \text{ small}} d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{k}_4 T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_2}^{k-q/2, k_4} b_2^*(t+s) b_4(t+s) \delta(\mathbf{q}' + \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_4). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C39})$$

Assuming linear dynamics for the large-scale condensate motion, we have

$$b_2^*(t+s) = b_2^*(t) e^{i\omega_2 s}, \quad b_4(t+s) = b_4(t) e^{-i\omega_4 s}. \quad (\text{C40})$$

Substituting (C37)–(C40) into (C36), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D_{ij} = E \left[-4 \int d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}' q_i q'_j e^{i(\mathbf{q}'+\mathbf{q}) \cdot \mathbf{x}} \int_{1,2,3,4 \text{ small}} d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_2 d\mathbf{k}_3 d\mathbf{k}_4 \right. \\ \times T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k-q/2, k_3} T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_2}^{k-q/2, k_4} b_1^* b_2^* b_3 b_4 \\ \left. \times \int_{-T}^0 \exp(i(\mathbf{q}' \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{k}} \omega + \omega_2 - \omega_4)s) ds \times \delta(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3) \delta(\mathbf{q}' + \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_4) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C41})$$

For T large enough, the s integral becomes $\pi \delta(\mathbf{q}' \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{k}} \omega + \omega_2 - \omega_4)$ (which is half of the $-\infty$ to ∞ integration). The expectation operator can be distributed to $e^{i(\mathbf{q}'+\mathbf{q}) \cdot \mathbf{x}}$ and $b_1^* b_2^* b_3 b_4$ due to independence. For the former, we need $\mathbf{q}' = -\mathbf{q}$ to keep (C41) non-zero. For the latter, Wick's rule can be applied with $E[b_1^* b_2^* b_3 b_4] = n_1 n_3 \delta_{14} \delta_{23}$ (note that $\delta_{13} \delta_{24}$ is not possible due to other delta constraints in (C41)). Considering all the above simplifications, we arrive at

$$D_{ij} = 4\pi \int d\mathbf{q} q_i q_j \int_{1,3 \text{ small}} d\mathbf{k}_1 d\mathbf{k}_3 \left| T_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}/2, \mathbf{k}_1}^{k-q/2, k_3} \right|^2 n_1 n_3 \delta(\mathbf{q} \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{k}} \omega - \omega_3 + \omega_1) \delta(\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_3). \quad (\text{C42})$$

In (C42), we can change \mathbf{q} into $-\mathbf{q}$ in the integrand using symmetry of the integration. Then, under the condensate condition, for which $q \ll k$ (so that Taylor expansion of the interaction coefficient leads to higher-order terms of $O(q^3)$ in the integrand, which can be neglected), we see that (C42) is consistent with the diffusion coefficient in the main paper. One can continue to make the isotropic assumption and solve for the stationary solution from here.

Appendix D. Limits on small parameter k_0/k or where our theory is applicable?

Let us consider the situation with a given vector k . The resonant conditions can be written as

$$k_1 + k = k_3 + k + q, \tag{D1}$$

$$\sqrt{k_1} + \sqrt{k} = \sqrt{k_3} + (|k + q|^2)^{1/4}, \tag{D2}$$

where k_1 and k_3 are vectors in condensate, and $q = k_1 - k_3$, so

$$|k + q|^2 = k^2 + 2k \cdot q + |q|^2 \approx k^2 + 2k(k_1 \cos \alpha - k_3 \cos \beta). \tag{D3}$$

After expansion up to first order in $k_{1,3}/k$, one gets

$$\sqrt{k_1} + \sqrt{k} = \sqrt{k_3} + \sqrt{k} \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{k_1}{k} \cos \alpha - \frac{k_3}{k} \cos \beta \right) + O \left(\frac{|q|^2}{k^2} \right) \right], \tag{D4}$$

$$2 \frac{\sqrt{k_1} - \sqrt{k_3}}{\sqrt{k}} \approx \frac{k_1}{k} \cos \alpha - \frac{k_3}{k} \cos \beta. \tag{D5}$$

The latter estimate implies that in resonant quartets, $|k_3 - k_1| \ll k_1, k_3 \approx k_0$. Indeed, assuming *a priori* that this is true, we have

$$\sqrt{k_1} - \sqrt{k_3} \approx \frac{k_1 - k_3}{2\sqrt{k_0}}, \tag{D6}$$

which confirms the above strong inequality. Then also

$$\frac{k_1 - k_3}{\sqrt{kk_0}} \approx \frac{k_1}{k} \cos \alpha - \frac{k_3}{k} \cos \beta \approx \frac{k_0}{k} (\cos \alpha - \cos \beta), \tag{D7}$$

so

$$\cos \alpha - \cos \beta \approx \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \frac{k_1 - k_3}{k_0}. \tag{D8}$$

For example, in numerical simulations of Korotkevich (2023) in the case of highest steepness $\mu \approx 0.135$, one can estimate that $k_0 \approx 8-9$, and width of the ring (decay by factor e from maximum) is $\varepsilon \approx 4$. This means that we have

$$|\cos \alpha - \cos \beta| < \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}} \frac{\varepsilon}{k_0} \approx 0.5 \sqrt{\frac{k}{k_0}}. \tag{D9}$$

So if $k/k_0 \geq 16$, then the right-hand side is greater than 2, and we can cover all possible values of $\cos \alpha - \cos \beta$, meaning that limits of integration are $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 2\pi)$. Also, for any relative width of the condensate ring ε/k_0 , we can limit ourselves with k/k_0 large enough to cover all possible values of α and β , i.e. $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 2\pi)$. Indeed, here is the approximate relation for the relative width of the condensate ring ε/k_0 and the relative distance k_0/k (recall, that $|\cos \alpha - \cos \beta|$ has to take all possible values from 0 to 2):

$$\frac{\varepsilon/k_0}{\sqrt{k_0/k}} \geq 2. \tag{D10}$$

In the other words, going far enough in k (making the denominator small enough), we can make the values on the left-hand side of the latter relation reach the necessary threshold, after which one can integrate over the whole range $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 2\pi)$.

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