Dynamics of a degenerate Cs-Yb mixture with attractive interspecies interactions

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We probe the collective dynamics of a quantum degenerate Bose-Bose mixture of ^{133}Cs and ^{174}Yb with attractive interspecies interactions. Specifically, we excite vertical center-of-mass oscillations of the Cs condensate. We observe significant damping for the Cs dipole mode, due to the rapid transfer of energy to the larger Yb component and the ensuing acoustic dissipation. Numerical simulations based on coupled Gross-Pitaevskii equations provide excellent agreement with experiment and additionally reveal the possibility of late-time revivals (beating), which are found to be highly sensitive to the Cs and Yb atom number combinations. By further tuning the interaction strength of Cs using a broad Feshbach resonance, we explore the stability of the degenerate mixture. We observe collapse of the Cs condensate mediated by the attractive Cs-Yb interaction when $a_{\text{Cs}} < 50 a_0$, well above the single-species collapse threshold, in good agreement with simulations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Superfluid mixtures formed of ultracold atoms offer a versatile playground for studies of binary fluid dynamics in both Bose-Bose and Bose-Fermi mixtures. Interplay between superfluids can lead to counterflow instabilities [1–4] and quantum turbulence [1,5]. Previous experimental work has explored collective excitations in the form of scissors mode oscillations [6] in repulsive Bose-Bose mixtures; spin dynamics in spinor Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) with repulsive interactions [7]; and dipolar oscillations [8], breathing dynamics [9], and the exchange of angular momentum [10] in Bose-Fermi mixtures. The role of immiscibility and temperature in the expansion dynamics of repulsive Bose-Bose mixtures has also been investigated [11]. Experimental control in ultracold atomic mixtures allows the balance of the inter- and intraspecies interactions to be tuned, enabling further manipulation of the coupled dynamics and stability of the system. This can result in novel bound states such as bright-dark solitons [12] and exotic vortex lattices [13,14] and enable miscibility studies [15]. Prior research on dynamical instabilities associated with attractive interspecies interactions has focused

on Bose-Fermi mixtures, where the bosonic species mediates collapse and subsequent density-dependent atom loss in the fermionic species [16–18]. However, recent studies have used Bose-Bose mixtures to probe the region where the net mean-field interaction is close to zero, resulting in the observation of quantum droplets where quantum fluctuations provide a repulsive force that stabilizes against collapse [19–21].

In this paper, we probe the collective dynamics and stability of a quantum degenerate Bose-Bose mixture of ^{133}Cs and ^{174}Yb with an attractive interspecies interaction characterized by the scattering length $a_{\text{CsYb}} = -75 a_0$ [22]. The Cs intraspecies scattering length a_{Cs} is a tunable experimental parameter via a broad, low-field magnetic Feshbach resonance [23,24], while the ^{174}Yb intraspecies scattering length is $a_{\text{Yb}} = 105 a_0$. We use vertical Cs center-of-mass (CoM) oscillations to probe the collective dynamics of the system, observing an upwards mean-field shift of the CoM dipole mode frequency. We also find that the attractive interspecies interaction results in complicated coupled dynamics, as Cs pulls along Yb in the region of Cs-Yb overlap. We probe the stability of the mixture by tuning the Cs interaction strength across the collapse threshold, demonstrating Yb-mediated collapse of the Cs BEC, well above the single-species collapse threshold.

II. EXPERIMENTAL OVERVIEW

We prepare dual-degenerate mixtures of ^{133}Cs in the $|F = 3, m_F = +3\rangle$ hyperfine state and ^{174}Yb using the apparatus and procedures described in Refs. [25–29]. Our dual-species evaporation relies on sympathetic cooling of Cs with Yb, resulting in an imbalanced mixture with typical condensate atom numbers of $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (50, 5) \times 10^3$ with

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FIG. 1. Cs and Yb coupled dynamics. (a) Layout of the bichromatic optical dipole trap. (b) Numerically generated coupled displaced 3D density profiles for Cs (red) and Yb (blue) upon introducing a $+0.95\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ vertical shift of the Cs trap minimum (at time $t = 0$) with $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$. Solid lines are sliced density profiles along the x , y , and z axes. (c) Vertical CoM position of the Cs BEC after 40 ms ToF vs hold time in the trap measured experimentally (green circles) and simulated numerically (red line). The solid green line is a fit to the experiment: $Ae^{-\beta t} \sin(\omega t + \phi_0)$ with $A = 52(8) \mu\text{m}$, $\omega = 2\pi \times 260(2) \text{ Hz}$, and $\beta = 0.10(2) \text{ ms}^{-1}$. The numerical plot is based on an average over 204 particle number sets, with the red band indicating the standard deviation. Atom numbers are randomly selected such that their mean is $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$, with a 20% standard deviation. (d) Corresponding CoM position of the Cs BEC performed in the absence of Yb, yielding $\omega = 2\pi \times 251(1) \text{ Hz}$. The dashed green line in (c) reproduces the fit to the measurement shown in (d).

up to 20% shot-to-shot variation [29]. The condensates are confined in a bichromatic optical dipole trap (BODT) [30], using laser beams with wavelengths of 532 and 1070 nm aligned as shown in Fig. 1(a). We define a coordinate system (x, y, z) with x along the copropagating BODT beams and z being the vertical direction. The axes $\tilde{x}$ and $\tilde{y}$ for the Cs trap are rotated 20° from the Yb trap axes; the rotation of the $\tilde{x}$ (weak) and $\tilde{y}$ trap axes results from the differences in Cs and Yb polarizabilities at the BODT wavelengths. The final trap frequencies are $(\omega_x, \omega_y, \omega_z)_{\text{Yb}} = 2\pi \times (10, 120, 80) \text{ Hz}$ for

Yb and $(\omega_{\tilde{x}}, \omega_{\tilde{y}}, \omega_z)_{\text{Cs}} = 2\pi \times (40, 70, 260) \text{ Hz}$ for Cs. The vertical trap frequencies are very sensitive to the overlap of the BODT beams and can vary by up to 10% with day-to-day realignment of the trap [29].

III. COUPLED DYNAMICS

A. Center-of-mass oscillations

We explore the coupled dynamics of the mixture by exciting Cs center-of-mass (CoM) oscillations in the vertical

direction. At the end of the dual-species evaporation sequence we adiabatically ramp on a magnetic field gradient of 9.0 G/cm in the z direction. This additional magnetic potential causes a $0.96(7)\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ vertical shift of the Cs trap minimum, without directly acting on Yb, which has no magnetic moment. The gradient is rapidly switched off, exciting the vertical CoM dipole mode. We wait a variable hold time before turning off the trapping potential and then perform absorption imaging of the Cs condensate after 40 ms of levitated time of flight (ToF). We hold a_{Cs} constant at $275 a_0$ for both in-trap oscillations and the subsequent ToF. To account for the high sensitivity of the vertical trap frequencies to alignment, we reference the coupled Cs-Yb dynamics to the Cs CoM oscillations in the absence of Yb by taking both measurements in quick succession. We obtain the Cs-only reference by selectively removing Yb with a 5-ms pulse of light resonant with the $^1S_0 \rightarrow ^1P_1$ transition at 399 nm prior to exciting the Cs CoM oscillations. To gain further insight into the rich oscillatory dynamics, our experimental measurements are supplemented by numerical simulations based on coupled three-dimensional (3D) Gross-Pitaevskii equations (GPEs) (see Appendixes A and B). A numerical visualization of the initial geometry with $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$ atoms, $\omega_{\text{Cs},z} = 2\pi \times 250$ Hz, and an imposed $+0.95\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ vertical shift of the Cs trap position is shown in Fig. 1(b).

The measured vertical CoM oscillations of the Cs BEC in the presence of the Yb BEC are shown by the green circles in Fig. 1(c). These oscillations are strikingly different from the corresponding Cs-only oscillations shown in Fig. 1(d) [also dashed green line in Fig. 1(c)], which occur at the Cs natural trap frequency $\omega_{\text{Cs},z} = 2\pi \times 251(1)$ Hz with minimal damping. In the presence of Yb, the Cs CoM oscillations experience a frequency shift upwards of $4(1)\%$, with significant damping. This shift is in good agreement with a first-order mean-field prediction that assumes a Thomas-Fermi profile for the Yb BEC and neglects the back action of the Cs BEC on the Yb atoms due to the large number imbalance (see Appendix B 1). Under such assumptions, the interspecies interaction results in an additional attractive quadratic potential for Cs that leads to a 5% upwards frequency shift.

The numerical simulations reveal that both components start the coupled dynamics from nonequilibrium positions with respect to their trap centers. The attractive Cs-Yb interaction induces a density “bulge” in the Yb BEC in the region of Cs-Yb overlap, visible in the z -axis density profile shown in Fig. 1(b). The off-center bulge leads to a vertical Yb CoM shift upwards of $\Delta z_{\text{Yb}}^{\text{CoM}} = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$. Similarly, the Cs CoM shift reduces to $\Delta z_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{CoM}} = 0.88 \mu\text{m}$.

The simulated vertical CoM oscillations of the Cs BEC are shown by the red line in Figs. 1(c) and 1(d) for Cs + Yb and Cs only, respectively. The Cs + Yb simulations indicate that the CoM shifts and ensuing coupled dynamics are highly sensitive to the relative Cs and Yb atom numbers, with representative plots over a range of atom numbers shown in Appendix B 2. Therefore, to account for shot-to-shot variations in both Cs and Yb atom numbers, the simulation result shown in Fig. 1(c) is based on the average of 204 atom number combinations, randomly selected such that their mean and standard deviations are $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$ and 20%, respectively, in broad agreement with the values

measured experimentally. As shown in Fig. 1(c), this leads to excellent agreement with the experimental observations. Representative density snapshots are provided in Appendix B 3, and a video of the coupled dynamics is available in the Supplemental Material [31]. The results from the Cs-only simulations shown in Fig. 1(d) provide excellent agreement with the experiment independent of Cs atom number. Closer analysis of the simulations reveals that the Cs + Yb dynamics are complicated by the different vertical trap frequencies experienced by the two components ($\omega_{\text{Cs},z} \approx 3 \omega_{\text{Yb},z}$), the large atom number imbalance ($N_{\text{Yb}}/N_{\text{Cs}} \approx 6$), and the broader spatial extent of the Yb BEC in the weakly confined direction. The resulting evolution is thus dominated by the dynamics of the central bulge in the Yb BEC that directly interacts with the Cs BEC.

B. Damping and excitations

A striking feature of Fig. 1(c) is the fast damping of the Cs CoM oscillations in the presence of the Yb BEC, with the amplitude falling to $1/e$ its initial value in $10(2)$ ms. We explore the origin of this damping in Fig. 2. Figure 2(a) shows the numerical CoM motions out to 180 ms, while Fig. 2(b) shows the evolution of the relevant energies over the same timescale. The gray region shown in both plots indicates the first 22 ms of evolution, where the primary damping and subsequent energy transfer occur. Looking first at the changes in the Cs and Yb energies shown in Fig. 2(b), we see that there is a net loss of $\sim 85\%$ of the initial excess Cs potential energy over the first ≈ 22 ms. This energy is transferred to the Yb component through a coupling of the CoM motions to low-lying excitations. Although the initial excitations are produced along the z axis of relative motion, an additional secondary mode coupling between the z and y directions gradually develops owing to the comparable Yb trap frequencies in these directions. This is evident in Fig. 2(b) as an out-of-phase oscillation in $\Delta E_{\text{Yb},y}^0$ and $\Delta E_{\text{Yb},z}^0$, which is correlated with oscillations of the condensate widths. The z - y secondary mode coupling saturates after ≈ 22 ms, signaling the end of the primary phase of rapid evolution. At this point the initial excess Cs single-particle energy concentrated along z has been converted to Yb single-particle energy across both the z and y directions in comparable fractions. Smaller, secondary couplings along the x direction (the weak axis of the trap) occur at longer timescales. Additionally, at longer times the abundant excitations in the system begin to thermalize, causing further damping and minimizing the amplitude of beating observed in the Cs CoM dynamics.

Earlier related studies of repulsively coupled nonlinear superfluids [9,32–34] have identified two distinct excitation mechanisms. Firstly, in a number-imbalanced system such as ours, the motion of the smaller superfluid through the larger component can lead to single-component excitations in the larger superfluid. For the attractive interaction in our system, this is analogous to stirring a single-component superfluid with a focused red-detuned laser beam [35,36]. Secondly, hydrodynamic considerations in the homogeneous limit reveal the existence of a dynamical instability whenever the relative motion of two superfluids exceeds some characteristic speed. In the limit of small interspecies interactions, this speed

FIG. 2. Cs and Yb excitation and energy exchange calculated numerically in a coupled-GPE treatment with $(N_{\text{Yb}}, N_{\text{Cs}}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$. (a) Extended numerical evolution of the vertical CoM motions. (b) Changes in the total energy of Cs and Yb ($\Delta E_{\text{Cs/Yb}}^{\text{tot}}$), the Cs-Yb interaction energy (ΔU_{CsYb}), and the main corresponding single-particle energy along the z and (for Yb only) the y axis. Note the more gradual initial increase along y , consistent with a secondary excitation mechanism, and the initial out-of-phase oscillations between z and y directions for Yb. The gray region shown in both (a) and (b) indicates the first 22 ms of evolution, where the primary damping and subsequent energy transfer occur.

approaches the sum of the sound velocities of the two (uncoupled) superfluids [4,32–34]. This counterflow instability leads to the simultaneous generation of pairs of excitations in both superfluids [32]. We believe that both these mechanisms are at play in our experiment as we show in Fig. 3.

In the left panel of Fig. 3(a) we plot the simulated CoM motion for Cs (red) and Yb (blue) over the first 22 ms, where the dominant dynamics, energy transfer, and dissipation occur. The right panel zooms in further to examine the system behavior over the first Cs-oscillation cycle ($T_{\text{Cs}} \approx 3.7$ ms), which seeds the subsequent dynamics. We also track the CoM of the central bulge in the Yb BEC (dashed blue line), by limiting the CoM calculation to the central region where Yb is colocated with the Cs BEC ($|x| < 10 \mu\text{m}$, $|y| < 6 \mu\text{m}$, and $|z| < 3 \mu\text{m}$). The contrast between the central Yb bulge and the total Yb CoM motion reveals evidence for secondary (non-central) dynamics within Yb. These secondary dynamics arise as a result of micromotions in Yb both within and beyond the region of Cs-Yb overlap. Such micromotions are associated with the emerging excitations and include both in-phase and

out-of-phase oscillations of the central bulge and the total Yb CoM.

The spatial-temporal evolution of the local velocity fields shown in Figs. 3(b) and 3(c) is useful for visualizing the two excitation regimes. The velocity field along the z axis for Cs(Yb) is obtained from $v_{\text{Cs(Yb)}} = \hbar \nabla \arg[\psi_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}(0, 0, z)] / m_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}$, where m is the mass and ψ is the condensate wave function. During the initial half oscillation ($0 < t < T_{\text{Cs}}/2$), Cs exhibits coherent harmonic motion, maintaining a constant phase profile across its vertical width. In contrast, during this same initial period, incoherent features gradually emerge in the Yb component in the form of counterpropagating density waves as the relative velocity between the two components increases, consistent with the single-excitation picture. Here, the Cs BEC both is smaller than Yb and executes faster oscillations. Therefore it acts as a perturbing attractive barrier, which travels through the Yb BEC and drags along the central Yb density bulge. As shown in Fig. 3(c), the bulge begins to track the downward Cs motion at $t \sim 1$ ms ($T_{\text{Cs}}/4$), which corresponds to the point of maximum downward Cs velocity. This in turn causes Cs to slow down as it continuously transfers energy to Yb.

Counterflow dynamics occur when Cs reverses its motion at $t \approx 1.9$ ms ($T_{\text{Cs}}/2$, dashed vertical line) while the central Yb bulge continues its downward motion. This creates a direct counterflow between the two components, whose magnitude increases over the next quarter cycle of the Cs oscillation (until $t = 3T_{\text{Cs}}/4$). The counterflow is clearly visible in Fig. 3(d), which depicts the spatial-temporal evolution of the scaled relative velocities $(v_{\text{Cs}} - v_{\text{Yb}})/(c_{\text{Cs}} + c_{\text{Yb}})$ along the z axis. Here, the sum of the instantaneous local speeds of sound $(c_{\text{Cs}} + c_{\text{Yb}})$ provides an upper bound for the critical velocity of the coupled system, with the onset of counterflow instabilities expected for $(v_{\text{Cs}} - v_{\text{Yb}})/(c_{\text{Cs}} + c_{\text{Yb}}) \sim 1$. This choice is based on the predicted critical velocity of counterflow for two *weakly coupled* superfluids of $(c_{\text{Cs}} + c_{\text{Yb}})$ [32,34], where $c_i = \sqrt{g_i n_i / m_i}$ with $g_i = 4\pi \hbar^2 a_{ii} / m_i$ is the critical sound speed for each individual component and the density n_i is measured locally at each moment in time. The establishment of direct counterflow between the Cs and Yb components leads to the emergence of incoherent features in the propagation of Cs and coinciding secondary excitations of Yb. These features are consistent with the generation of coupled excitations in the two components, as a result of the counterflow instability near the edges of the Cs-Yb overlap region where the densities, and thus speeds of sound, are appropriately reduced. For reference, the edges of the Cs component ($n_{\text{Cs}} = 2 \mu\text{m}^{-3}$) are indicated in Figs. 3(c) and 3(d) by the pair of (approximately horizontal) black lines.

The moving Cs component also induces a secondary, at times opposing in direction, flow within the central Yb bulge, thus giving rise to the coexistence of flows in the same and opposing directions (the extension of comoving and counter-moving modes to two superfluids which experience different trap frequencies [15]). The countermoving mode within the Yb BEC is particularly evident at $t = T_{\text{Cs}}$ (solid vertical line), when the Cs CoM next reverses its direction. Here, we see a stark difference in the behavior between the CoM motion of the central Yb bulge and that of the full Yb system [see

FIG. 3. Analysis of the Cs-Yb coupled dynamics during the first 22 ms [panels at left, (i)] and zoomed in to the first 5 ms [panels at right, (ii)]. All parameters are calculated from the numerical simulations used for Fig. 2. (a) Vertical CoM oscillation of Cs (red) and Yb (blue). The dashed blue line shows the CoM of the central “bulge” region of Yb (defined by $|x| < 10 \mu\text{m}$, $|y| < 6 \mu\text{m}$, and $|z| < 3 \mu\text{m}$). (b) and (c) Cs and Yb velocity fields along the z axis [defined by $v_{Cs(Yb)} = \hbar \nabla \arg[\psi_{Cs(Yb)}(0, 0, z)]/m_{Cs(Yb)}$]. (d) Scaled relative local velocity $(v_{Cs} - v_{Yb})/(c_{Cs} + c_{Yb})$ along the z axis, where $c_{Cs(Yb)} = \sqrt{g_{Cs(Yb)} n_{Cs(Yb)}/m_{Cs(Yb)}}$ is the local speed of sound evaluated using the local atom density. The velocity plots include a gray mask to filter out regions corresponding to Cs (b) and Yb [(c) and (d)] atomic densities lower than $2 \mu\text{m}^{-3}$. The pairs of (approximately horizontal) black lines in (c) and (d) denote the vertical extent of the Cs velocity profile shown in (b). The dashed and solid vertical lines mark the Cs CoM turning points at $T_{Cs}/2 \approx 1.9$ ms and $T_{Cs} \approx 3.7$ ms, respectively.

panel (ii) of Fig. 3(a)]. The ensuing Yb motion, which extends beyond the region of Cs-Yb overlap, feeds back into Cs by exciting phonons at the edges of the Cs component where its density is lowest [see Figs. 3(b)–3(d)], leading to a complicated energy transfer and phonon-excitation mechanism in both components. Such features can also be seen in the Fourier spectra shown in Fig. 4 revealing coexistence of dynamical components for both Cs and Yb across the same dominant frequencies. We have further verified that smaller initial amplitude oscillations give rise to reduced damping and fewer excitations.

C. Beating and long-time dynamics

Although the dominant dynamics occur during the experimentally probed timescale of 22 ms, closer inspection of the long-time coupled evolution for a fixed total atom number reveals smaller-scale energy transfers between the Cs and Yb components. This results in partial revivals in the Cs CoM oscillations, as shown in Fig. 2(a). Such beating arises from the existence of two closely located dominant frequencies for

Cs (both within a few percent of the natural Cs frequency), the origin of which can be attributed to the coexisting secondary dynamical micromotions (combinations of appropriate comoving and countermoving modes) in the central z region. This is in contrast to the beating observed in Ref. [9], which resulted from the two components having comparable trap frequencies.

Here, we use our coupled-GPE simulations to shed more light on the Cs-Yb coupled dynamics, by analyzing the mixture’s excitation spectrum, through the Fourier spectra of $z_{Cs(Yb)}^{\text{CoM}}$. As shown in Fig. 4, we observe a multitude of excitation frequencies in both components, consistent with the complicated excitation generation discussed above. The Fourier spectra reveal the simultaneous presence of dominant oscillation modes for both Cs and Yb, both close to the natural frequencies of each component and close to the difference (and average value) of such frequencies, indicating the strong presence of comoving and countermoving oscillating components.

As expected, the dominant dynamics for each component arise at frequencies close to their natural frequency, slightly

FIG. 4. The Fourier spectra of $z_{Cs(Yb)}^{CoM}$ for $(N_{Yb}, N_{Cs}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$ (based on an evolution of 413.8 ms giving a spectral resolution of $\omega_{Cs,z}/650$). The red and blue solid lines are the spectra of Cs and Yb, respectively. The pink and blue dotted lines are the corresponding spectra for the case where the other component is static (see text for details). In (b) we zoom in to the region around $\omega/\omega_{Cs,z} = 1$ to show the splitting of the oscillation frequency in Cs.

upshifted due to the mutual attractive mean-field potential. To better characterize the role of the attractive mean-field potential, we have performed corresponding GPE simulations for Cs (Yb) when coupled to a *static* mean-field contribution from the second component [i.e., Yb (Cs)]. At each time step the *static* component is reset to its configuration at $t = 0$, thereby only contributing to the effective (trap + mean field) potential felt by the main component. The resulting spectra are shown for Cs (Yb) by the pink (light blue) dotted line, clearly revealing the previously mentioned $\approx 5\%$ frequency upshift for Cs. The more massive Yb component, which is affected less by the Cs attraction, experiences a smaller upshift.

Returning to the coupled dynamics, the spectra clearly demonstrate splitting of the dominant upshifted frequency of each component into multiple frequencies. Such frequencies are generally found to be upshifted from the natural frequency and to lie on either side of the static-mean-field contribution, thus highlighting the dynamical role of the other component. For Cs, we find two dominant frequencies, of broadly comparable importance. For the “primary” atom number combination considered here, these are $\omega_{Cs,z}^{(1)} \sim 1.063\omega_{Cs,z}$ and $\omega_{Cs,z}^{(2)} \sim 1.005\omega_{Cs,z}$. The difference in these two frequencies establishes a timescale $2\pi/|\Delta\omega| \approx 69$ ms which leads to the underlying beating cycle reported in Fig. 2(a). The period of this beating cycle is highly sensitive to the particular atom numbers considered (see Appendix B 2). This sensitivity, combined with rapid damping, makes it hard to characterize such effects in our current experiments.

IV. MIXTURE COLLAPSE

In a separate study, we explore the dynamical instabilities of the mixture further by tuning the relative mean-field contributions through varying the Cs scattering length. The attractive interspecies interaction between Cs and ^{174}Yb gives rise to mean-field collapse of the Cs BEC mediated by

FIG. 5. Dual-species collapse. (a) Cs collapse mediated by ^{174}Yb (top row) and Cs single-species collapse (bottom row). Images show the Cs BEC optical depth (OD) profile for varying a_{Cs} . Pink contours show $1/e$ and $1/e^2$ of peak OD. (b) Cs condensate number as a function of Cs scattering length for Cs collapse mediated by ^{174}Yb (green circles) and Cs single-species collapse (red circles). The dashed line at $a_{Cs} = -2.5 a_0$ denotes the theoretically predicted single-species collapse threshold for $N_{Cs} = 4 \times 10^3$. The dashed line at $a_{Cs} = 54.3 a_0$ corresponds to the cancellation of mean-field interactions $\delta g = 0$. The results of GPE simulations with three-body loss are shown with green (Cs + Yb) and red squares (Cs only); lines are guides to the eye.

the presence of the Yb BEC, as shown in Fig. 5. In both single-component and dual-species BECs, the onset of collapse is related to a mechanical instability arising from the population of imaginary Bogoliubov modes [37]. In a single-component BEC, collapse [38–42], along with its associated density-dependent atom loss, occurs when the intraspecies interaction becomes sufficiently attractive to overcome the zero-point kinetic energy associated with the harmonic trapping potential. For a given atom number N , the scattering length $a^{(crit)}$ associated with the onset of collapse is given by $|a^{(crit)}| = C\sqrt{\hbar/(m\bar{\omega})}/N$, where $\bar{\omega}$ is the geometric mean of the trap frequencies and C is a numerical constant weakly dependent on the trap geometry [40,43,44]. In contrast, the dual-species collapse threshold primarily depends on the balance of the inter- and intraspecies interactions, and the critical point for collapse is determined by the parameter $\delta g = g_{12} + \sqrt{g_{11}g_{22}}$, which describes the balance of mean-field interactions in the system. Here, $g_{ij} = 2\pi\hbar^2 a_{ij}(m_i + m_j)/(m_i m_j)$ is the interaction coupling constant. When $\delta g < 0$, the modes of the density branch of the Bogoliubov excitation spectrum become imaginary, leading to the onset of mechanical instabilities and subsequent collapse [16–18].

In our experiment, we approach the collapse instability by varying a_{Cs} via a magnetic Feshbach resonance. We begin with a dual-species BEC formed with $a_{Cs} = 147 a_0$, with atom numbers $(N_{Yb}, N_{Cs}) = (50, 4) \times 10^3$. We ramp a_{Cs} to the desired value over 10 ms, hold for 30 ms, and then ramp back to $a_{Cs} = 147 a_0$ over 10 ms prior to ToF expansion and imaging. As shown in Fig. 5, we observe the onset of collapse as a marked decrease in Cs atom number due to density-dependent three-body losses ($K_{3,Cs} \sim 1 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$ [28,29,45] for the range of magnetic fields explored). Figure 5(a) shows absorption images of the Cs BECs for varying Cs scattering lengths, both with (top row) and without (bottom row) Yb present. The presence of Yb causes the collapse instability to occur at $a_{Cs} > 0$, where we would expect a stable single-component Cs BEC. In addition to atom loss, we also observe a change in aspect ratio for the Cs cloud. We quantify the collapse in Fig. 5(b) by plotting Cs condensate number versus Cs scattering length. Red circles denote Cs single-species collapse occurring when $a_{Cs} \leq 0$. The vertical line at $a_{Cs} = -2.5 a_0$ marks the predicted collapse point $a_{Cs}^{(crit)}$ for $N_{Cs} = 4 \times 10^3$ atoms. Green circles show Cs collapse mediated by the presence of Yb. The vertical line at $a_{Cs} = 54.3 a_0$ marks the point where $\delta g = 0$ for the Cs-Yb mixture.

We model the experimental protocol numerically using the 3D coupled GPEs with a density-dependent three-body loss term for Cs and $\omega_{Cs,z} = 2\pi \times 260 \text{ Hz}$ (see Appendixes A and C). The simulation results are shown in Fig. 5(b) for Cs + Yb (green squares) and Cs only (red squares). For Cs scattering lengths lower than the range shown, the simulations do not converge at the highest resolutions we could feasibly use, indicative of mean-field collapse [31]. We find good agreement with the experimental results using a thermal Cs three-body loss coefficient of $K_{3,Cs} = 1.8 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$. This is in reasonable agreement with other experimental measurements of $K_{3,Cs}$ [28,29,45] (see Appendix C 2). We observe that the Yb-mediated collapse is broader than predicted by the GPE simulations, while the Cs-only collapse is not. Because both types of collapse were observed at a similar temperature, finite-temperature effects do not appear to offer a straightforward explanation for this broadening. This raises the possibility that the broadening may be indicative of beyond-mean-field effects, related to the formation of quantum droplets recently observed in both K spin mixtures [19,20] and Rb-K mixtures [21]. For Cs + Yb, the weak and attractive net mean-field interaction δg required to support the droplet phase arises for Cs scattering lengths below and in the vicinity of $a_{Cs} = 54.3 a_0$. This possibility is an interesting direction for future studies.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have probed the collective dynamics of a quantum degenerate Bose-Bose mixture of Cs and ^{174}Yb with attractive interspecies interactions. Observations of the CoM oscillations of Cs in the presence of Yb have revealed a measurable increase in the dipole mode frequency and significant damping as energy is transferred to Yb. We find good agreement with numerical simulations which highlight the complexity of the coupled dynamics. We have also investigated the stability of the degenerate mixture by crossing the transition for

dual-species collapse and find good agreement with coupled-GPE simulations that include a Cs three-body loss term. This opens up new prospects for the study of the BEC-to-quantum-droplet phase transition.

In this context, a key advantage of Cs-Yb mixtures is that the Cs scattering length may be precisely tuned without affecting Yb. Additionally, the very different atomic structures of Cs and Yb enable species-specific optical traps with low photon scattering rates. These advantages may prove invaluable for precise studies of binary fluid dynamics in both Bose-Bose and Bose-Fermi Cs-Yb mixtures.

The data presented in this paper are available [46].

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APPENDIX A: THEORETICAL MODEL

Our theoretical model is based on a three-dimensional mean-field description by the coupled Gross-Pitaevskii equations (GPEs)

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi_{Yb}}{\partial t} = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m_{Yb}} + V_{Yb}(\mathbf{r}) + g_{Yb}|\psi_{Yb}|^2 + g_{CsYb}|\psi_{Cs}|^2 - \mu_{Yb} \right] \psi_{Yb} \quad (A1)$$

and

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi_{Cs}}{\partial t} = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m_{Cs}} + V_{Cs}(\mathbf{r}) + g_{Cs}|\psi_{Cs}|^2 + g_{CsYb}|\psi_{Yb}|^2 - \mu_{Cs} - \frac{i\hbar K_{3,Cs}^{(C)}}{2} \right] \psi_{Cs}, \quad (A2)$$

where $\psi_{Yb(Cs)}$ is the mean-field wave function of Yb (Cs) trapped in the harmonic potential $V_{Yb(Cs)}(\mathbf{r})$ and $g_{ij} = 2\pi\hbar^2 a_{ij}(m_i + m_j)/(m_i m_j)$ is the interaction coupling constant. The Cs three-body loss coefficient for the condensate is $K_{3,Cs}^{(C)}$, while the corresponding thermal coefficient $K_{3,Cs}$ is a factor of 3! higher [47]. The wave functions are normalized to the total atom numbers,

$$\int d\mathbf{r} |\psi_{Yb}|^2 = N_{Yb} \quad \text{and} \quad \int d\mathbf{r} |\psi_{Cs}|^2 = N_{Cs}. \quad (A3)$$

The trapping potentials are considered as

$$V_{Yb} = \frac{m_{Yb}}{2} (\omega_{Yb,x}^2 x^2 + \omega_{Yb,y}^2 y^2 + \omega_{Yb,z}^2 z^2) \quad (A4)$$

and

$$V_{Cs} = \frac{m_{Cs}}{2} [\omega_{Cs,\tilde{x}}^2 \tilde{x}^2 + \omega_{Cs,\tilde{y}}^2 \tilde{y}^2 + \omega_{Cs,z}^2 (z - \Delta z)^2]. \quad (A5)$$

Here, the $\tilde{x}$ and $\tilde{y}$ axes in V_{Cs} indicate that the weak trap axis ($\tilde{x}$) and one of the transverse trap axes ($\tilde{y}$) of Cs are rotated by $\alpha = 20^\circ$ with respect to the x (weak) and y axes of Yb, while the z axis remains coincided, in agreement with the experimental setup. Δz is the displacement of the Cs trap minimum from the minimum of the Yb trap.

The coupled GPEs are simulated using Fourier pseudospectral methods. In the simulations, the trapping frequencies are as described in the relevant sections, and we take $a_{\text{Yb}} = 105 a_0$ and $a_{\text{CsYb}} = -75 a_0$, where a_0 is the Bohr radius. In Appendix B we define parameters useful for comparison with the experimental measurements and for the analysis of the dynamics discussed in the main text.

APPENDIX B: COUPLED OSCILLATIONS

The coupled oscillations of Cs and Yb BECs triggered by the sudden removal of the Cs trap displacement are modeled by the GPEs without the inclusion of the three-body loss term (setting $K_{3,\text{Cs}}^{(\text{C})} = 0$), based on an initial Cs trap displacement $\Delta z = 0.95 \mu\text{m}$, $\omega_{\text{Cs},z} = 2\pi \times 250 \text{ Hz}$, and fixed $a_{\text{Cs}} = 275 a_0$. The initial Cs trap displacement is implemented in the stationary initial condition, generated by solving Eq. (A2) with the imaginary-time propagation method. Subsequently, Δz is set to zero for all $t \geq 0$ to mimic the experimental procedure. The required set of particle numbers for the initial condition is reached by a self-consistent choice of the chemical potentials $\mu_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}$ [48] during imaginary-time evolution.

The time propagation is conducted by the Runge-Kutta fourth-order method with a fixed time step $dt = 10^{-3}/\omega_{\text{Cs},z} \approx 6.36 \times 10^{-4} \text{ ms}$ and a grid discretization of $\Delta x = \Delta y = \Delta z = 0.5 l_z$ with $l_z = \sqrt{\hbar/m_{\text{Cs}}\omega_{\text{Cs},z}} \approx 0.55 \mu\text{m}$ found to be sufficient to perform the coupled oscillation dynamics (conserving both the particle number and total energy during the whole evolution). The simulation box size is set to be at least 1.5 of the largest noncoupled Thomas-Fermi radii of the two clouds along each direction to ensure that the dynamics are not affected by the box size (which, for the case discussed in the main text, corresponds to $66.2 \times 19.8 \times 16.5 \mu\text{m}^3$). The numerical simulations are implemented using MATLAB 2018B on an Nvidia Tesla K40 graphics processing unit (GPU) card.

Our numerical simulations focus on the characterization of the *in situ* center of mass (CoM) along the z direction

$$z_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}^{\text{CoM}} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}} \int d\mathbf{r} z |\psi_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}(\mathbf{r})|^2, \quad (\text{B1})$$

for each species. A full time-of-flight (ToF) simulation is numerically forbidden due to the huge computational size constraints imposed by the $V_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}$ anisotropy. Instead, direct comparison with the experimental ToF data is facilitated by mapping the numerical *in situ* results to a ToF measurement by

$$\text{Cs ToF position} \approx \tau_{\text{ToF}} \frac{dz_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{CoM}}(t)}{dt}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

using the experimental ToF expansion time $\tau_{\text{ToF}} = 40 \text{ ms}$ and assuming that the condensate carries its moving velocity during the ToF expansion. The time derivative is computed by the

central-finite-difference method, namely,

$$\frac{dz_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{CoM}}(t)}{dt} \approx \frac{[z_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{CoM}}(t + 0.5\Delta t) - z_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{CoM}}(t - 0.5\Delta t)]}{\Delta t}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

with $\Delta t = 0.5/\omega_{\text{Cs},z}$. This mapping provides an excellent agreement of numerical predictions with experimental observations as shown in Fig. 1(d).

Energy calculations across the three directions x , y , and z (collectively labeled by ν) are based on the single-particle Hamiltonian contributions

$$E_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu}^0 = \int d\mathbf{r} \psi_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}^* \hat{H}_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu}^0 \psi_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}, \quad (\text{B4})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu}^0 &= \text{KE}_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu} + V_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu} \\ &= -\frac{\hbar^2 \partial_\nu^2}{2m_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}} + \frac{m_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}}{2} \omega_{\text{Cs(Yb)},\nu}^2 \nu^2 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B5})$$

includes both kinetic energy (KE) and potential energy (V) contributions. The intra- and interspecies interaction energies are evaluated by

$$U_{\text{Cs(Yb)}} = \frac{g_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} |\psi_{\text{Cs(Yb)}}|^4 \quad (\text{B6})$$

and

$$U_{\text{CsYb}} = g_{\text{CsYb}} \int d\mathbf{r} |\psi_{\text{Cs}}|^2 |\psi_{\text{Yb}}|^2, \quad (\text{B7})$$

respectively.

1. Mean-field frequency shift

The frequency shift of dynamical collective modes of coupled superfluids due to the cross interaction between components has been studied in the context of both Bose-Bose and Bose-Fermi superfluid mixtures [9,34,49–51]. In the Cs-Yb mixture under consideration here, the Cs particle number is much smaller than the Yb number. We can therefore neglect the back action of Cs on Yb. As a consequence, the Yb component oscillates with the harmonic trap frequency $\omega_{\text{Yb},z}$. Moreover, within the Thomas-Fermi approximation, the Yb density profile, given by $n_{\text{Yb}}(z) = [\mu_{\text{Yb}} - V_{\text{Yb},z}(z)]/g_{\text{Yb}}$, can be used to estimate the effective potential acting on Cs due to interspecies interactions. The effective Cs potential along the z axis is then $V_{\text{Cs},z}^{\text{eff}}(z) \approx V_{\text{Cs},z} + g_{\text{CsYb}} n_{\text{Yb}}(z)$. This potential has an effective harmonic frequency of

$$\omega_{\text{Cs},z}^{\text{eff}} = \omega_{\text{Cs},z} \sqrt{1 - \frac{a_{\text{CsYb}} m_{\text{Yb}}^2}{a_{\text{Yb}} M_\mu m_{\text{Cs}}} \frac{\omega_{\text{Yb},z}^2}{\omega_{\text{Cs},z}^2}}, \quad (\text{B8})$$

where $M_\mu = 2m_{\text{Yb}}m_{\text{Cs}}/(m_{\text{Yb}} + m_{\text{Cs}})$ is the reduced mass. This simple formula predicts $\omega_{\text{Cs},z}^{\text{eff}} \approx 1.05\omega_{\text{Cs},z}$, which captures the effective frequency for the Cs BEC in the presence of a static Yb BEC.

2. Dependence on particle number and axis rotation

All the results presented in this section are based on a definite particle number combination, with the finer details of the dynamics highly dependent on the relative Cs/Yb atom number. Figure 6 compares the experimental data (green

FIG. 6. (a)–(d) ToF Cs CoM positions along the z direction in the presence of the Yb component predicted numerically (red line) and measured experimentally (green circles). The experimental data set is compared with simulations corresponding to different atom numbers, consistent with atom number variations of up to 1.25σ from the “primary” values $(N_{Yb}, N_{Cs}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$. In addition to numerical predictions in the actual experimental geometry with $\alpha = 20^\circ$ (solid red lines) (as also presented in the main text), the corresponding dynamics for $\alpha = 0^\circ$ are also shown (dashed pink lines). The green line shown is the corresponding best fit to the experimental data set.

circles/line) against numerical simulations (red line) based on four different (definite) atom number combinations, chosen here to reflect number variations of up to $\approx 1.25\sigma$ from the “primary” atom number combination used in the main text, $N_{Cs} = (6.5 \pm 1.5) \times 10^3$ and $N_{Yb} = (40 \pm 10) \times 10^3$. Here, $\sigma \sim 20\%$ is the standard deviation in the experimental atom numbers. These reveal good overall agreement over the range of available experimental data, but with a sensitivity of the late-time [$t > (15\text{--}20)$ ms] oscillations to the precise atom numbers (and, in particular, to the Yb atom number, which is the largest component). With this in mind, we focus our analysis in this paper on the primary atom number combination of $(N_{Yb}, N_{Cs}) = (40, 6.5) \times 10^3$, which is in broad agreement with the values measured experimentally and leads to excellent agreement with the experimental observations shown in Fig. 1(c) of the main text. [Recall that Fig. 1(c) of the main text is based on weighted combinations of different atom numbers, statistically distributed around the primary mean value].

We also investigated the effect of the rotation of the Cs trapping potential from that of the Yb trap. Specifically, the simulated dynamics with a rotation angle of $\alpha = 20^\circ$ (solid red lines in Fig. 6) are contrasted with corresponding dynamics in the absence of any rotation ($\alpha = 0^\circ$, dashed pink lines). The near-perfect overlap over the probed timescales conclusively rules out mismatch of the axes as a primary reason for the observed dynamics.

3. Density snapshots

To better visualize the complicated dynamics inherent in the coupled evolution of our system, we provide representa-

tive snapshots of the Cs and Yb density profiles in Fig. 7. Here, we show 3D density isosurfaces and their corresponding 1D and 2D sliced density profiles during the first ≈ 22 ms of coupled evolution. A video of the full evolution, which also includes later times, can be found in the Supplemental Material [31]. From these, we can see the different stages of the evolution, including the Yb component being dragged by Cs over the first ≈ 2 ms, the subsequent double-peak distribution of Yb along the z axis, and the gradual excitations along different directions, with excitations along x evident by ≈ 21 ms.

APPENDIX C: COLLAPSE PROPERTIES AND DYNAMICS

We model the experiment using a three-dimensional mean-field description, expressed mathematically as two-component coupled GPEs with an added three-body loss term [52] for Cs as detailed in Eqs. (A1)–(A5). Here, we have $\Delta z = 0$, $\omega_{Cs,z} = 2\pi \times 260$ Hz, and a time-varying a_{Cs} . Our numerical simulations of these coupled GPEs, described below, use Fourier pseudospectral methods with adaptive Runge-Kutta time stepping and are implemented using the XMDS2 software [53].

1. Ground states and static collapse analysis

One can attempt to find ground-state solutions [$\partial_t \psi_{Yb} = \partial_t \psi_{Cs} = 0$] to the coupled GPEs with a fixed Cs scattering length and zero three-body loss $K_{3,Cs}^{(C)} = 0$. Below a critical value of Cs scattering length, $a_{Cs}^{(crit)}$, collapse occurs [41], and mean-field ground-state solutions cease to exist. We use imaginary-time propagation to find ground-state solutions numerically. For Cs only, with $N_{Cs} = 4 \times 10^3$, we find $a_{Cs}^{(crit)} \approx -2.15 a_0$. We found that an approximate variational calculation [54,55] assuming a Gaussian ground-state profile (and ignoring rotation of trap axes) yields a fairly similar result ($a_{Cs}^{(crit)} \approx -2.48 a_0$) without the computational effort of solving the GPE. With Yb also present, with atom numbers $N_{Cs} = 4 \times 10^3$ and $N_{Yb} = 5 \times 10^4$, we find $a_{Cs}^{(crit)} \approx 51.25 a_0$ using imaginary-time propagation. In this case, a Gaussian variational calculation gives incorrect results ($a_{Cs}^{(crit)} \approx -1.75 a_0$) since the Yb condensate is far from having a Gaussian profile.

2. Dynamical collapse analysis

To model the dynamic collapse experiments reported in the main text, we perform real-time simulations of the coupled GPEs that are intended to match the experimental protocol. We begin from the Cs + Yb ground-state solution, found as described above, with $a_{Cs}(t=0) = 147 a_0$, $N_{Cs} = 4 \times 10^3$, and $N_{Yb} = 5 \times 10^4$. When simulating the Cs-only dynamic collapse experiments, we continue to find the Cs + Yb ground state, but we remove Yb atoms immediately at time $t = 0$ by setting $\psi_{Yb} = 0$, in analogy to the experimental protocol.

We then perform a real-time simulation of the coupled GPEs in which the Cs three-body loss coefficient is set to a constant, nonzero, value and the Cs scattering length is varied in time to match the experimental protocol. Specifically, we implement in sequence a hold at $a_{Cs}(t) = 147 a_0$ for 5 ms, a 10-ms linear ramp to $a_{Cs}(t) = a_{Cs}^{(jump)}$, a hold at this value for

FIG. 7. (a)–(f) Density snapshots of Cs (red) and Yb (blue) at different times during the first ≈ 21 ms of coupled evolution. Shown are (i) 3D profiles corresponding to density isosurfaces for the 5% peak density of Yb at $t = 0$ with corresponding slices shown along each axis and 2D sliced density snapshots across the (ii) x - y ($z = 0$) plane, (iii) x - z ($y = 0$) plane, and (iv) y - z ($x = 0$) plane.

30 ms, a 10-ms ramp back to $a_{\text{Cs}}(t) = 147 a_0$, and a final 1-ms hold at this value. At this time in the experimental protocol a time-of-flight measurement begins; in the simulations we simply read out the final atom numbers. We repeat this process for varying values of $a_{\text{Cs}}^{\text{(jump)}}$, obtaining the results reported in

the main text [see Fig. 5(b)]. All parameters are set to experimentally measured values rather than fitted to the data, except for the Cs three-body loss coefficient. The latter is less precisely constrained by experimental measurements. In practice we repeated the simulations for a few trial values and found

that $K_{3,\text{Cs}} = 1.8 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$ gives a reasonable quantitative match to the results of the collapse experiment. As stated in the main text, this is in reasonable agreement with other experimental measurements of $K_{3,\text{Cs}}$ [28,29,45]. For reference, Ref. [45] found $8.2 \times 10^{-29} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s} \lesssim K_{3,\text{Cs}} \lesssim 1.3 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$ over the range of scattering lengths in our collapse experiments (not including possible calibration uncertainties mentioned therein), Ref. [28] found $1_{-0.9}^{+1} \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$, and Ref. [29] found an upper bound of $\sim 8 \times 10^{-27} \text{ cm}^6/\text{s}$. While a direct comparison is difficult because these measurements were performed at different magnetic field strengths and temperature ranges, and these two parameters strongly influence the three-body loss coefficient in the vicinity of an Efimov minimum [56], clearly the order of magnitude is in reasonable agreement. We have not searched for a precise best-fit value of $K_{3,\text{Cs}}$ (e.g., by least-squares fitting) because of the long computational times needed for the simulations.

By default our data points are from simulations in a box of dimension $(L_x, L_y, L_z) = (96, 24, 24) \mu\text{m}$ with grid resolution of 3/2 points/ μm in each direction. We checked convergence of the final N_{Cs} value to $\approx 1\%$ by repeating selected simulations at higher resolution (3 points/ μm) and in larger boxes in the most-constrained direction ($L_y = 48 \mu\text{m}$). Our data points with the lowest $a_{\text{Cs}}^{(\text{jump})}$ value in each simulation were obtained from higher-resolution simulations, for which the final N_{Cs} value agreed to within $\approx 1\%$ with the larger-box simulations. For values of $a_{\text{Cs}}^{(\text{jump})} \lesssim -0.7 a_0$ (Cs only) or $\lesssim 51 a_0$ (Cs + Yb) the three-body loss coefficient is not sufficient to prevent a mean-field collapse, even in our higher-resolution simulations. When this occurs, the final Cs number is not converged and changes with the grid resolution. Quantitative modeling of this collapse regime would require a description at either finite temperature, beyond mean field, or both, which is beyond the scope of this work.

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