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We calculate the electron self-energy in a magnetized QED plasma to the leading perturbative order in the coupling constant and to the linear order in an external magnetic field. We find that the chiral asymmetry of the normal ground state of the system is characterized by two new Dirac structures. One of them is the familiar chiral shift previously discussed in the Nambu–Jona-Lasinio model. The other structure is new. It formally looks like that of the chiral chemical potential, but is an odd function of the longitudinal component of the momentum, directed along the magnetic field. The origin of this new parity-even chiral structure is directly connected with the long-range character of the QED interaction. The form of the Fermi surface in the weak magnetic field is determined.

I. INTRODUCTION

The study of chiral asymmetry in the normal state of relativistic matter in a magnetic field is at present a very active research area in particle physics, with important developments also in condensed matter physics. Although a chirally asymmetric response of relativistic matter to an external magnetic field was discovered long ago [1, 2], the recent interest in this subject is connected with the theoretical prediction of the chiral magnetic effect (CME) in Refs. [3–6] and the subsequent experimental observation of the STAR collaboration of charge separation in heavy ion collisions [7–11].

The physical and mathematical reasons for the chiral asymmetry in relativistic matter in a magnetic field are quite transparent (for a recent elegant exposition, see Ref. [12]). In a free theory, the magnetic field $\mathbf{B}$ projects the spins of fermions on the lowest Landau level (LLL) along the direction of the magnetic field. Since fermions can freely propagate in a magnetic field only along or opposite to the direction of $\mathbf{B}$ and the helicity of massless fermions is the same as their chirality, magnetized relativistic matter responds chirally asymmetrically to magnetic field. This leads to the appearance of a non-dissipative axial current $\mathbf{j}_5 = e\mathbf{B}\mu/(2\pi^2)$ [1, 2]. This effect is known as the chiral separation effect in the literature (see, e.g., Sec. 2 in Ref. [13]).

It was suggested in Refs. [3, 5] that topological charge changing transitions in QCD during heavy ion collisions may result in the appearance of metastable domains with $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{CP}$ breaking with chirality induced in quark-gluon plasma by the axial anomaly. Phenomenologically, to mimic the effect of topological charge changing transitions, it was proposed in [6] to introduce a chiral chemical potential μ_5. This chemical potential couples to the difference between the number of left- and right-handed fermions and enters the Lagrangian density through the term $\mu_5\bar{\psi}\gamma^0\gamma^5\psi$. This produces a chiral asymmetry and leads to a non-dissipative electric current $\mathbf{j} = e^2\mathbf{B}\mu_5/(2\pi^2)$ in the presence of an external magnetic field.

First studies of interaction effects on the chiral asymmetry of relativistic matter in a magnetic field were done in Refs. [14–16] by using Nambu–Jona-Lasinio (NJL) like models with local interaction. In particular, by using the Schwinger–Dyson (gap) equation, it was found that the interaction unavoidably generates a chiral shift parameter Δ [14, 15] when the fermion density is nonzero. This parameter enters the low-energy effective Lagrangian density through the term $\Delta\bar{\psi}\gamma^3\gamma^5\psi$ and determines a relative shift of the momenta in the dispersion relations for opposite chirality fermions $k^3 \to k^3 \pm \Delta$, where k^3 is the longitudinal component of the momentum, directed along the magnetic field. Furthermore, as shown in Refs. [14, 15, 17], the chiral shift Δ is responsible for an additional contribution to the axial current. (Note, however, that the dynamical generation of the chiral shift cannot and does not modify the form of the chiral anomaly relation [17].)

The chiral asymmetry for noninteracting fermions exists only in the LLL. On the other hand, the chiral shift parameter found in Refs. [14, 15] in the NJL model is the same for all Landau levels. This means that the whole Fermi surfaces of the left- and right-handed fermions are shifted relative to each other by 2Δ in the longitudinal direction in momentum space. Such an unusual ground state closely resembles that in Weyl semimetals in condensed matter physics [18, 19], in which quasiparticles are described by the Weyl equation.

We should also mention that the absence of the chiral shift is not protected by any symmetry. The chiral shift breaks time reversal $\mathcal{T}$ and the rotational symmetry $SO(3)$ to the $SO(2)$ symmetry of rotations about the axis set

by the magnetic field. Since these symmetries are explicitly broken in magnetized relativistic matter, it is natural to expect that the generation of chiral shift and chiral asymmetry in all Landau levels is not a special property of the NJL model, but a model-independent phenomenon.

In this connection, it is instructive to discuss the equation for Δ in the perturbation theory in the NJL model [15]. In the first order in the coupling constant G_{int}, the value of Δ is proportional to the axial current in the free theory [15], $\Delta = -\frac{1}{2}G_{\text{int}}\langle j_5^3\rangle_0$, which is completely defined by the topological contribution $\langle j_5^3\rangle_0$ from the LLL [2]. Therefore, the interaction causes the chiral asymmetry of the LLL to propagate to higher Landau levels including those around the whole Fermi surface.

It was found in Refs. [14, 15, 17] that the interactions in the NJL model not only induce chiral asymmetry in the higher Landau levels, but also lead to the dynamical contribution of the higher levels to the axial current. In the recent paper [20], the leading radiative corrections to the axial current were calculated in dense QED in a magnetic field. It was found that like in the NJL model, the axial current is not fixed by the chiral anomaly relation and thus does not coincide with the expression in the free theory, solely provided by the LLL. Instead, it receives nontrivial radiative corrections produced at all Landau levels. Because of that, it is natural to expect that like in the NJL model, the chiral asymmetry in QED will be induced by interactions in higher Landau levels too.

This point was the main motivation for the present paper, in which we analyze the chiral asymmetry in the first order of perturbation theory in the QED coupling $\alpha = e^2/(4\pi)$. The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we introduce the model and set up the notation. The calculation of the self-energy is presented in Sec. III. Its projection onto Landau levels is considered in Sec. IV. The self-energy in the weak magnetic field limit is studied in Sec. V. The modified dispersion relations for the left- and right-handed fermions with the inclusion of the chiral asymmetry are calculated in Sec. VI. Finally, our discussion of the main results is given in Sec. VII. We use the units with $\hbar = c = 1$.

II.   MODEL

The Lagrangian density of QED in an external magnetic field is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}\left(i\gamma^\nu\mathcal{D}_\nu + \mu\gamma^0 - m\right)\psi, \tag{1}$$

where the covariant derivative is $\mathcal{D}_\nu = \partial_\nu - ieA_\nu^{\text{ext}} - ieA_\nu$ and m is the bare fermion mass. In order to describe a nonzero density plasma, we introduced the fermion chemical potential μ. Without the loss of generality, we assume that the external magnetic field $\mathbf{B}$ points in the z-direction. The components of the conventional vectors, including those of the vector potential $\mathbf{A}^{\text{ext}}$, are identified with the *contravariant* components. (Note that the components of the spatial gradient $\boldsymbol{\nabla}$ are given by $\partial_k \equiv -\partial^k$.) In the rest of this paper, we use the vector potential in the Landau gauge, $\mathbf{A}^{\text{ext}} = (0, x^1 B, 0)$.

Before proceeding to the main part of the analysis, we should recall that the fermion propagator in the presence of an external magnetic field is not a translation invariant function. From the physics viewpoint, this reflects the fact that charged fermions cannot have well defined momenta in the spatial directions perpendicular to the direction of the magnetic field. In the case of a uniform magnetic field, however, the propagator can be represented as a product of the Schwinger phase [21], which is the only part that spoils the translational invariance, and a translationally invariant function, i.e.,

$$S(x, y) = e^{i\Phi(x,y)}\bar{S}(x-y). \tag{2}$$

In the Landau gauge used here, the Schwinger phase is given by $\Phi(x, y) = -eB(x_1 + y_1)(x_2 - y_2)/2$. The Fourier transform of the translation invariant part of the fermion propagator $\bar{S}(x-y)$ reads [22]

$$\bar{S}(k) = 2ie^{-k_\perp^2\ell^2}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{(-1)^n D_n(k)}{[k_0 + \mu + i\epsilon\,\text{sign}(k_0)]^2 - 2n|eB| - (k^3)^2 - m^2}, \tag{3}$$

where $\ell \equiv 1/\sqrt{|eB|}$ is the magnetic length and

$$D_n(k) = \left[\gamma^0(k_0 + \mu) - \gamma^3 k^3 + m\right]\left[L_n\left(2k_\perp^2\ell^2\right)\mathcal{P}_+ - L_{n-1}\left(2k_\perp^2\ell^2\right)\mathcal{P}_-\right] + 2(\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{k}_\perp)L_{n-1}^1\left(2k_\perp^2\ell^2\right), \tag{4}$$

where $\mathcal{P}_\pm = [1 \pm i\,\text{sign}(eB)\gamma^1\gamma^2]/2$ are spin projectors and $L_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$ are generalized Laguerre polynomials [23]. (For the proper-time Schwinger representation of the propagator generalized to the case of finite density, see Appendix A in Ref. [20].) Note that, despite the appearance, this is not a conventional momentum-space representation of the fermion propagator. Strictly speaking, after the Schwinger phase is removed, the Fourier transform of $\bar{S}(x-y)$ cannot

even be interpreted as an actual propagator. The reason is that from the physics viewpoint the transverse components $\mathbf{k}_\perp$ of four-vector k are not good quantum numbers for classifying fermionic states in a magnetic field. To avoid a potential confusion, therefore, we call k a pseudo-momentum in what follows. It is instructive to mention though that, in the limit of large pseudo-momentum or weak magnetic field (i.e., $\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 \gg |eB|$), the effects of the Schwinger phase can be neglected and pseudo-momentum can be interpreted as an approximate (or "quasiclassical") fermion's momentum. We will utilize this fact in our weak field analysis in Sec. VI.

In the analysis below, we will be using the photon propagator in the Feynman gauge. In momentum space, its explicit form reads

$$D_{\mu\nu}(q) = -i\frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{q_\Lambda^2} \equiv -i\left(\frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^2 - m_\gamma^2 + i\epsilon} - \frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{q_0^2 - \mathbf{q}^2 - \Lambda^2 + i\epsilon}\right), \tag{5}$$

where, following the same methodology as in Ref. [20], we introduced a nonzero photon mass m_γ (since unlike the radiative corrections calculated in [20] the fermion self-energy is regular in the infrared region, we will set $m_\gamma = 0$ in the final results) and an ultraviolet cutoff Λ that will serve as an infrared and ultraviolet regulators, respectively, at the intermediate stages of calculations.

III. FERMION SELF-ENERGY IN A MAGNETIC FIELD

To leading order in coupling constant $\alpha = e^2/(4\pi)$, the fermion self-energy in QED is given by

$$\Sigma(x, y) = -4i\pi\alpha\gamma^\mu S(x, y)\gamma^\nu D_{\mu\nu}(x - y). \tag{6}$$

Notice that the self-energy $\Sigma(x, y)$ is not a translation invariant function when the external magnetic field is present. By making use of the propagator $S(x, y)$ in the Schwinger representation (2), it is convenient to factor out the Schwinger phase in the self-energy, i.e., $\Sigma(x, y) = \exp[i\Phi(x, y)]\bar{\Sigma}(x - y)$. The Fourier transform (or, equivalently, pseudo-momentum representation) of the translation invariant function $\bar{\Sigma}(x - y)$ is given by the following expression:

$$\bar{\Sigma}(p) = -4i\pi\alpha \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4}\gamma^\mu \bar{S}(k)\gamma^\nu D_{\mu\nu}(k - p) = -4\pi\alpha \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4}\gamma^\mu \bar{S}(k)\gamma_\mu \frac{1}{(k - p)_\Lambda^2}, \tag{7}$$

where $\bar{S}(k)$ is the Fourier transform of the translation invariant part of the fermion propagator, given in Eq. (3), and $D_{\mu\nu}(q)$ is the photon propagator in momentum space, given in Eq. (5). By taking into account the Dirac structure of $\bar{S}(k)$ and the identity $\gamma^\mu\gamma^\nu\gamma_\mu = -2\gamma^\nu$, it is straightforward to show that the resulting pseudo-momentum representation of the self-energy (7) has the following Dirac structures:

$$\bar{\Sigma}(p) = -\gamma^0\delta\mu(p) + p^3\gamma^3 \delta v_3(p) + (\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{p}_\perp)\delta v_\perp(p) + \mathcal{M}(p) - i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu}(p) - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta(p) - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_5(p). \tag{8}$$

The first four Dirac structures in Eq. (8) are standard and are present in the fermion self-energy also when the magnetic field is absent. The functions $\delta\mu(p)$, $\delta v_3(p)$, and $\delta v_\perp(p)$ define the wave-function renormalization and the modification of the (longitudinal and transverse) fermion velocities. Note that in the absence of a magnetic field $\delta v_3 = \delta v_\perp$. The contribution with the unit matrix $\mathcal{M}(p)$ gives a correction to the fermion mass function. As for the last three terms in the self-energy (8), they are obtained from Eq. (4) by taking the terms with the $i\gamma^1\gamma^2$ matrix in the spin projectors $\mathcal{P}_\pm$. Obviously, these Dirac structures are present only if there is a magnetic field. The terms with $\tilde{\mu}(p)$ and $\Delta(p)$ are the anomalous magnetic moment and chiral shift, respectively. They are generated [14, 15] in the NJL model too, where they are constants. Here, due to the long-range character of the QED interaction, however, these functions generally depend on the pseudo-momentum.

The last term in the self-energy (8) presents a qualitatively new type of contribution in QED. As we show below, it has the form $\mu_5(p) \equiv p_3 f(p)$, where $f(p)$ is a dimensionless function. This new contribution comes as a result of the long-range QED interaction and, thus, has no analog in the NJL model. If $\mu_5(p)$ were a constant and did not depend on pseudo-momentum, it would be identical with the chiral chemical potential μ_5 [6, 24], and would, therefore, break parity. Considering that neither the external magnetic field, nor the electromagnetic interaction breaks parity, the genuine chiral chemical potential cannot be generated in perturbation theory. Instead, we find that the function $\mu_5(p)$ in the self-energy (8) is an odd function of p^3-component of momentum and, therefore, is even under parity.

Combining Eqs. (7) and (8), one can determine the coefficient functions $\delta\mu(p)$, $\delta v_3(p)$, etc. of the translation invariant part of the fermion self-energy in pseudo-momentum space. However, as we mentioned above, the transverse components $\mathbf{k}_\perp$ of four-vector k are not good quantum numbers for fermions in a magnetic field. Therefore, although the pseudo-momentum representation in Eq. (8) will be extremely useful in the limit of weak magnetic field and we

will use it to analyze the chiral asymmetry of QED matter in Sec. VI, it is still highly desirable to obtain the self-energy in the much more natural Landau level representation, in which all dynamical functions of the self-energy are projected onto specific Landau levels. Clearly, the dynamical functions projected onto specific Landau levels provide a direct physical interpretation and are essential for determining the interaction induced modifications of the dispersion relations of quasiparticles in each individual Landau level n. In the next Section, we show how such a projection is realized and provide explicit formulas expressing the dynamical functions $\delta\mu_n$, $\delta v_{3,n}$, etc. projected onto specific Landau levels through the self-energy (7).

IV. PROJECTION ONTO LANDAU LEVELS

One of the standard approaches to treat quantum field theory of charged particles in an external magnetic field makes use of the Ritus eigenfunctions [25, 26]. In this study, however, we advocate a different approach that was recently developed in Ref. [27] in a study of graphene in a magnetic field. From the technical viewpoint, the key difference between the two methods lies in the use of the complete sets of eigenfunctions of different operators. In the Ritus method, one uses the eigenfunctions of the operator $(\boldsymbol{\pi} \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma})$ with a non-trivial Dirac structure and, thus, treats both the orbital and spinor parts of the fermion kinematics in a uniform fashion. In the method of Ref. [27], on the other hand, the eigenfunctions of the scalar operator $\boldsymbol{\pi}^2$ are used. This operator includes only the orbital part of the kinematics and, thus, requires to treat the spin part separately. The seeming inconvenience of dealing with the spinor part separately in the second method, in fact, appears to offer many advantages, ranging from a much more transparent interpretation of various Dirac structures in the propagator/self-energy to significant technical simplifications in calculations.

In the rest of this section, we give a detailed derivation of the expansion of the fermion self-energy over Landau levels. We will start by writing down the self-energy with all the Dirac structures in Eq. (8) in the coordinate space (Clearly, the Fourier transform of the self-energy in the pseudo-momentum representation and its multiplication by the Schwinger phase does not change the Dirac structure of the self-energy.) Thus, we have

$$\Sigma(x,y) = \left[-\gamma^0\delta\mu + \pi^3\gamma^3\delta v_3 + (\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)\delta v_\perp + \mathcal{M} - i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu} - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_5\right]\delta^4(x-y), \tag{9}$$

where $\pi_\perp$ is the canonical transverse momentum operator, which includes the vector potential. Here, $\delta\mu$, δv_3, $\delta v_\perp$, $\mathcal{M}$, $\tilde{\mu}$, Δ, and μ_5, are functions of the operators $-i\partial_0$ and π^3, as well as the operator $(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)^2\ell^2$.

The eigenvalues of the operator $\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp^2\ell^2$ are positive odd integers, $2N+1$, where $N = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ is the orbital quantum number [28]. The corresponding eigenfunctions $\psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)$ are well known and have the following explicit form:

$$\psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\ell}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^N N!\sqrt{\pi}}} H_N\left(\frac{x}{\ell} + p\ell\right) e^{-\frac{1}{2\ell^2}(x+p\ell^2)^2} e^{ipy\,\text{sign}(eB)}, \tag{10}$$

where $H_n(x)$ are Hermite polynomials [23]. By making use of the completeness of these eigenfunctions

$$\delta^2(\mathbf{r}_\perp - \mathbf{r}'_\perp) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dp\, \psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)\psi_{Np}^*(\mathbf{r}'_\perp), \tag{11}$$

one can rewrite the self-energy (9) in the form

$$\Sigma(x,y) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s=\pm} \int \frac{dp_0 dp^3 dp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-ip_0(x_0-y_0)+ip^3(x^3-y^3)}$$
$$\times \left[-\gamma^0\delta\mu + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_3 + (\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)\delta v_\perp + \mathcal{M} - i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu} - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_5\right] \mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)\psi_{Np}^*(\mathbf{r}'_\perp), \tag{12}$$

where $\delta\mu$, δv_3, ..., μ_5 are now functions of p_0, p^3, and the operator $(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)^2\ell^2$. In Eq. (12), we also inserted the unit matrix in the form of the sum of spin projectors, i.e., $1 = \sum_{s=\pm} \mathcal{P}_s$. It is easy to see that any function of $(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)^2\ell^2$ acting on $\mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np}$ reduces to a constant in the n-th Landau level. This is a consequence of the following identity:

$$(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)^2\ell^2 \mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np} = -(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp^2 + ieB\gamma^1\gamma^2)\ell^2 \mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np} = -2n \mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np}, \tag{13}$$

where $n \equiv N + (1+s)/2$ is the standard Landau level quantum number. This allows us to rewrite Eq. (12) as follows:

$$\Sigma(x,y) = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s=\pm} \int \frac{dp_0 dp^3 dp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-ip_0(x_0-y_0)+ip^3(x^3-y^3)} \Big[-\gamma^0\delta\mu_n + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_{3,n} + (\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)\delta v_{\perp,n} + \mathcal{M}_n$$
$$-i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu}_n - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta_n - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_{5,n}\Big] \mathcal{P}_s \psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)\psi_{Np}^*(\mathbf{r}'_\perp), \tag{14}$$

where the coefficient functions $\delta\mu_n$, $\delta v_{3,n}$, etc. depend on energy p_0 and longitudinal momentum p^3. Now, by taking into account the relation,

$$(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)\ell\,\psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp) = i\gamma^1\left[\sqrt{2(N+1)}\mathcal{P}_+\psi_{N+1,p}(\mathbf{r}_\perp) - \sqrt{2N}\mathcal{P}_-\psi_{N-1,p}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)\right], \tag{15}$$

and using formula 7.377 from Ref. [23],

$$\int\limits_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2}H_m(x+y)H_n(x+z)dx = 2^n\pi^{1/2}m!z^{n-m}L_m^{n-m}(-2yz), \tag{16}$$

we can perform the integration over p in Eq. (14). As expected, the result takes the form of a product of the Schwinger phase and a translationally invariant function, i.e.,

$$\Sigma(x,y) = e^{i\Phi(x,y)}\bar{\Sigma}(x-y), \tag{17}$$

where the latter is given by

$$\bar{\Sigma}(x) = \frac{e^{-\xi/2}}{2\pi\ell^2}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\int\frac{dp_0dp^3}{(2\pi)^2}e^{-ip_0x_0+ip^3x^3}\left\{\left(-\gamma^0\delta\mu_n + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_{3,n} - i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu}_n - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta_n - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_{5,n} + \mathcal{M}_n\right)\right.$$

$$\left. \times\left[L_n(\xi)\mathcal{P}_- + L_{n-1}(\xi)\mathcal{P}_+\right] - \frac{i}{\ell^2}(\mathbf{r}_\perp\cdot\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)\delta v_{\perp,n}L_{n-1}^1(\xi)\right\}, \tag{18}$$

and $\xi = \mathbf{r}_\perp^2/(2\ell^2)$. Here $L_{-1}(\xi) = 0$ by definition. Performing the Fourier transform, we finally find the sought expansion of the fermion self-energy over the Landau levels,

$$\bar{\Sigma}(p) = 2e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n\left\{\left(-\gamma^0\delta\mu_n + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_{3,n} - i\gamma^1\gamma^2\tilde{\mu}_n - \gamma^3\gamma^5\Delta_n - \gamma^0\gamma^5\mu_{5,n} + \mathcal{M}_n\right)\right.$$

$$\left. \times\left[L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\mathcal{P}_- - L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\mathcal{P}_+\right] - 2(\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp\cdot\mathbf{p}_\perp)\delta v_{\perp,n}L_{n-1}^1(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right\}. \tag{19}$$

In what follows, we will drop the $\delta v_\perp$-type corrections to the self-energy. For the purposes of this study, this is justified because such terms neither break the chiral symmetry, nor modify the chiral asymmetry of the ground state. On the other hand, it is necessary to keep the terms with $\delta\mu(p)$ and $\delta v_3(p)$. The reason for this becomes obvious after noticing that, when restricted to the subspaces of fixed spin projections, $\delta\mu(p)$ and $\delta v_3(p)$ mix up with $\Delta(p)$ and $\mu_5(p)$, respectively. The argument can be made explicit by making use of the following identities: $\gamma^0\mathcal{P}_\pm = \pm\text{sign}(eB)\gamma^3\gamma^5\mathcal{P}_\pm$ and $\gamma^3\mathcal{P}_\pm = \pm\text{sign}(eB)\gamma^0\gamma^5\mathcal{P}_\pm$. Note that a similar argument also necessitates the inclusion of the anomalous magnetic moment function $\tilde{\mu}(p)$ whenever the mass function $\mathcal{M}(p)$ is present.

Eq. (19) defines the expansion of the fermion self-energy over Landau levels. On the other hand, in the leading order of perturbation theory, the self-energy is given by Eq. (7). Combining these equations, it is not difficult to express the dynamical functions $\delta\mu_n$, $\delta v_{3,n}$, etc., projected onto specific Landau levels, through the self-energy (7). Multiplying these two equivalent expressions for the fermion self-energy by $\ell^2\pi^{-1}(-1)^{n'}e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}L_{n'}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\mathcal{P}_\pm$ and integrating over the perpendicular momentum $\mathbf{p}_\perp$, we arrive at the following set of equations:

$$\left[-\gamma^0\delta\mu_n + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_{3,n} + \mathcal{M}_n + \text{sign}(eB)\left(\tilde{\mu}_n + \gamma^0\Delta_n + \gamma^3\mu_{5,n}\right)\right]\mathcal{P}_- = I_n\mathcal{P}_-, \tag{20}$$

$$\left[-\gamma^0\delta\mu_n + p^3\gamma^3\delta v_{3,n} + \mathcal{M}_n - \text{sign}(eB)\left(\tilde{\mu}_n + \gamma^0\Delta_n + \gamma^3\mu_{5,n}\right)\right]\mathcal{P}_+ = I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+, \tag{21}$$

where

$$I_n = -4i(-1)^n\alpha\ell^2\int\frac{d^2k_\parallel d^2k_\perp d^2p_\perp}{(2\pi)^4}e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\gamma^\mu\,\bar{S}(k)\gamma^\nu D_{\mu\nu}(p-k). \tag{22}$$

When the free fermion propagator in Eq. (22) is replaced by the full propagator, which itself is a function of $\delta\mu_n$, $\delta v_{3,n}$, etc., the above set of equations will become an infinite set of the Schwinger-Dyson equations for the dynamical functions.

From Eqs. (20) and (21), we obtain the following relations which express the dynamical functions projected onto specific Landau levels through the self-energy (7):

$$\delta\mu_n = -\frac{1}{4}\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^0\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- + I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right)\right],\tag{23}$$

$$\Delta_n = \frac{\text{sign}(eB)}{4}\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^0\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- - I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right)\right],\tag{24}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_n = \frac{1}{4}\text{Tr}\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- + I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right),\tag{25}$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_n = \frac{\text{sign}(eB)}{4}\text{Tr}\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- - I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right),\tag{26}$$

$$p^3\delta v_{3,n} = -\frac{1}{4}\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^3\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- + I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right)\right],\tag{27}$$

$$\mu_{5,n} = -\frac{\text{sign}(eB)}{4}\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^3\left(I_n\mathcal{P}_- - I_{n-1}\mathcal{P}_+\right)\right].\tag{28}$$

The special role of LLL ($n = 0$) should be noted here. By taking into account that $I_{-1} = 0$, we find the following relations between the pairs of parameters: $\Delta_0 = -\text{sign}(eB)\delta\mu_0$, $\tilde{\mu}_0 = \text{sign}(eB)\mathcal{M}_0$, and $\mu_{5,0} = \text{sign}(eB)p^3\delta v_{3,0}$, i.e., only half of them remain independent in LLL. From the physics viewpoint, this reflects the spin-polarized nature of the lowest energy level.

The dynamical functions Δ_n and $\mu_{5,n}$ for $n \geq 1$ define chiral asymmetry in higher Landau levels. Therefore, these functions are of the most interest for us in the present paper. In terms of the self-energy (7), we can represent I_n in Eq. (22) as follows:

$$I_n = (-1)^n\frac{\ell^2}{\pi}\int d^2p_\perp e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\,\bar{\Sigma}(p).\tag{29}$$

Using it, we may rewrite Eqs. (24) and (28) in the following perhaps more transparent form:

$$\Delta_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{8}\frac{\ell^2}{\pi}\text{sign}(eB)\int d^2p_\perp e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\left[L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2) + L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right]\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^0\bar{\Sigma}(p)\right]$$
$$-\frac{(-1)^n}{8}\frac{\ell^2}{\pi}\int d^2p_\perp e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\left[L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2) - L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right]\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^3\gamma^5\bar{\Sigma}(p)\right],\tag{30}$$

$$\mu_{5,n} = -\frac{(-1)^n}{8}\frac{\ell^2}{\pi}\text{sign}(eB)\int d^2p_\perp e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\left[L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2) + L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right]\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^3\bar{\Sigma}(p)\right]$$
$$+\frac{(-1)^n}{8}\frac{\ell^2}{\pi}\int d^2p_\perp e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\left[L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2) - L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right]\text{Tr}\left[\gamma^0\gamma^5\bar{\Sigma}(p)\right],\tag{31}$$

where $\bar{\Sigma}(p)$ is given by Eq. (7). These expressions will in principle allow us to determine the chiral asymmetry for fermions in higher Landau levels. In the general case, however, the calculation of these parameters can only be done with the help of numerical methods. In fact, we should mention that our initial attempts at such calculations suggest that, despite several technical complications (e.g., highly oscillatory integrand, as well as the need to numerically regularize the integral and then perform the renormalization), the problem can possibly be solved with moderate computational resources. That, however, is beyond the scope of the present paper.

In the rest of this study, we will concentrate on the weak magnetic field limit. In addition to providing some simplifications in the analysis, the corresponding approximation is in fact sufficient for practically all stellar applications. Indeed, taking into account that

$$\frac{|eB|}{\mu^2} \simeq 6\times 10^{-4}\left(\frac{B}{10^{15}\text{ G}}\right)\left(\frac{100\text{ MeV}}{\mu}\right)^2,\tag{32}$$

we conclude that the magnetic fields can be treated as weak even in the case of magnetars.

V.   WEAK MAGNETIC FIELD LIMIT

Since the photon propagator (5) does not depend on the magnetic field, to find the self-energy (7) in a weak magnetic field we should determine the translation invariant part of the free fermion propagator $\bar{S}(k)$ in a weak magnetic field. To leading order in B, it reads [20]

$$\bar{S}(k) = \bar{S}^{(0)}(k) + \bar{S}^{(1)}(k) + \cdots , \tag{33}$$

where $\bar{S}^{(0)}$ is the free electron propagator in the absence of magnetic field and $\bar{S}^{(1)}$ is the linear in magnetic field part. They are

$$\bar{S}^{(0)}(k) = i\frac{(k_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - \mathbf{k} \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma} + m}{(k_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{k}^2 - m^2}, \tag{34}$$

$$\bar{S}^{(1)}(k) = -eB\frac{(k_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - k^3\gamma^3 + m}{\left[(k_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{k}^2 - m^2\right]^2}\gamma^1\gamma^2. \tag{35}$$

We find more convenient in this section instead $\bar{S}^{(1)}(k)$ given by Eq. (35) use the following equivalent representation [20]:

$$\bar{S}^{(1)}(k) = eB\left\{ \int_0^\infty s\,ds\, e^{is[(k_0+\mu)^2 - m^2 - \mathbf{k}^2 + i\epsilon]} + 2i\pi\theta(|\mu| - |k_0|)\theta(-k_0\mu)\delta'\left[(k_0 + \mu)^2 - m^2 - \mathbf{k}^2\right]\right\}$$
$$\times \left[(k_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - k^3\gamma^3 + m\right]\gamma^1\gamma^2, \tag{36}$$

where $\bar{S}^{(1)}(k)$ splits naturally into the "vacuum" and "matter" parts, with the latter containing the δ-function. [Note that the vacuum part is not precisely reflecting the nature of the first contribution, because it depends on the chemical potential.] It is convenient to treat the two pieces separately in the calculation of the self energy.

To linear order in magnetic field, the vacuum part of the self-energy is given by

$$\bar{\Sigma}^{(1)}_{\text{vac}}(p) = 8i\pi\alpha eB \int_0^\infty d\tau \int_0^\infty s\,ds \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{is[(k_0+\mu)^2 - m^2 - \mathbf{k}^2] + i\tau[(p_0 - k_0)^2 - (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k})^2]}\left[(k_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - k^3\gamma^3\right]\gamma^1\gamma^2$$
$$= -\frac{\alpha eB}{2\pi}\left[(p_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - p^3\gamma^3\right]\gamma^1\gamma^2 \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \frac{s\tau\,ds\,d\tau}{(s + \tau)^3} e^{-ism^2 + i\frac{s\tau}{s+\tau}[(p_0+\mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2]}$$
$$= -\frac{\alpha eB}{2\pi}\, i\gamma^1\gamma^2 \frac{(p_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - p^3\gamma^3}{(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2}\left[1 + \frac{m^2}{(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2}\left(\ln\frac{|m^2 + \mathbf{p}^2 - (p_0 + \mu)^2|}{m^2} - i\pi\theta[...]\right)\right], \tag{37}$$

where the imaginary part is nonzero when $(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 > m^2$. Note that this expression simplifies a lot in the chiral limit.

To the same linear order in magnetic field, the matter part of the self-energy is given by

$$\bar{\Sigma}^{(1)}_{\text{mat}}(p) = -\frac{\alpha eB}{\pi^2}\, i\gamma^1\gamma^2 \int d^4k \frac{(k_0 + \mu)\gamma^0 - k^3\gamma^3}{(p_0 - k_0)^2 - (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{k})^2}\, \theta(|\mu| - |k_0|)\theta(-k_0\mu)\delta'\left[(k_0 + \mu)^2 - m^2 - \mathbf{k}^2\right]. \tag{38}$$

We would like to emphasize that Eqs. (37) and (38) imply that only the chiral asymmetric structures Δ and μ_5 are generated in the fermion self-energy in the linear in B approximation. Therefore, we have the following contributions to the chiral shift and chiral chemical potential terms in Eq. (8):

$$\Delta_{\text{vac}}(p) = -\frac{i\alpha(p_0 + \mu)eB}{2\pi\left[(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2\right]^2}\left[(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 + m^2\ln\frac{|m^2 + \mathbf{p}^2 - (p_0 + \mu)^2|}{m^2} - i\pi\, m^2\,\theta\left[(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 - m^2\right]\right] \tag{39}$$

$$\mu_5^{\text{vac}}(p) = -p^3\Delta_{\text{vac}}/(p_0 + \mu), \tag{40}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{mat}}(p) = -\frac{\alpha eB}{4\pi|\mathbf{p}|}\ln\frac{p_0^2 - (|\mathbf{p}| - \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2})^2}{p_0^2 - (|\mathbf{p}| + \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2})^2} + \frac{\alpha eB\sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}{2\pi[\mathbf{p}^2 - (p_0 + \mu)^2]} + \frac{\alpha eBm^2(p_0 + \mu)}{2\pi\left[(p_0 + \mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2\right]^2}\ln\frac{\mu - \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}{\mu + \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}$$
$$+ \frac{\alpha eB}{8\pi|\mathbf{p}|}\left(\frac{(p_0 + \mu + |\mathbf{p}|)^2 - m^2}{(p_0 + \mu + |\mathbf{p}|)^2}\ln\frac{p_0 + |\mathbf{p}| - \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}{p_0 + |\mathbf{p}| + \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}} - \frac{(p_0 + \mu - |\mathbf{p}|)^2 - m^2}{(p_0 + \mu - |\mathbf{p}|)^2}\ln\frac{p_0 - |\mathbf{p}| - \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}{p_0 - |\mathbf{p}| + \sqrt{\mu^2 - m^2}}\right) \tag{41}$$

$$\mu_5^{\text{mat}}(p) = -\frac{\alpha e B p^3}{2\pi \mathbf{p}^2}\left[\frac{(p_0+\mu)\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}}{\mathbf{p}^2-(p_0+\mu)^2} + \frac{\mu^2+p_0(p_0+\mu)-\mathbf{p}^2+m^2}{2p\mu}\ln\frac{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|-\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2})^2}{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|+\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2})^2}\right.$$
$$+\frac{3(p_0+\mu)(p_0+\mu+|\mathbf{p}|)^2+m^2(p_0+\mu+2|\mathbf{p}|)}{4|\mathbf{p}|(p_0+\mu+|\mathbf{p}|)^2}\ln\frac{p_0+|\mathbf{p}|-\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}}{p_0+|\mathbf{p}|+\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}}$$
$$\left.-\frac{3(p_0+\mu)(p_0+\mu-|\mathbf{p}|)^2+m^2(p_0+\mu-2|\mathbf{p}|)}{4|\mathbf{p}|(p_0+\mu-|\mathbf{p}|)^2}\ln\frac{p_0-|\mathbf{p}|-\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}}{p_0-|\mathbf{p}|+\sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}}\right]. \tag{42}$$

Eq. (42) shows that, as mentioned above, $\mu_5(p)$ is indeed an odd function of p^3 and, therefore, it does not break parity.

It is useful to consider some particular limits of the obtained expressions. The first interesting case corresponds to the behavior of the chiral shift and chiral chemical potential on the Fermi surface, i.e., for $p_0 \to 0$ and $|\mathbf{p}| \to p_F \equiv \sqrt{\mu^2-m^2}$. We have

$$\Delta = \Delta_{\text{mat}} + \Delta_{\text{vac}} \simeq \frac{\alpha e B \mu}{\pi m^2}\left(\ln\frac{m^2}{2\mu(|\mathbf{p}|-p_F)}-1\right), \tag{43}$$

$$\mu_5 = \mu_5^{\text{mat}} + \mu_5^{\text{vac}} \simeq -\frac{\alpha e B \mu \cos\theta}{\pi m^2}\left(\ln\frac{m^2}{2\mu(|\mathbf{p}|-p_F)}-1\right), \tag{44}$$

where $\cos\theta = p^3/p$, i.e., θ is the angle between the magnetic field and momentum. Further, Eqs. (40) and (42) simplify strongly in the chiral limit, where for $\mu > 0$,

$$\bar{\Sigma}^{(1)}(p) \simeq -\frac{\alpha e B}{2\pi}\gamma^3\gamma^5\left[\frac{p_0+2\mu}{(p_0+\mu)^2-\mathbf{p}^2} - \frac{1}{4|\mathbf{p}|}\ln\frac{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|+\mu)^2}{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|-\mu)^2}\right]$$
$$+\frac{\alpha e B}{2\pi}\gamma^0\gamma^5\frac{p^3}{\mathbf{p}^2}\left[\frac{\mu(p_0+\mu)+\mathbf{p}^2}{(p_0+\mu)^2-\mathbf{p}^2} + \frac{\mu-p_0}{4|\mathbf{p}|}\ln\frac{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|-\mu)^2}{p_0^2-(|\mathbf{p}|+\mu)^2}\right]. \tag{45}$$

VI.   CHIRAL ASYMMETRY

The dispersion relations for fermion quasiparticles in a weak magnetic field can be formally obtained by considering the location of the poles of the fermion propagator. As we discussed in Sec. II, in the limit of large pseudo-momentum or weak magnetic field (i.e., $\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 \gg |eB|$), the effects of the Schwinger phase can be neglected and pseudo-momentum can be interpreted as an approximate (or "quasiclassical") fermion's momentum. Then the poles of the fermion propagator are defined by the following equation:

$$\det\left[i\bar{S}^{-1}(p) - \Sigma(p)\right] = 0. \tag{46}$$

To determine the dispersion relations from Eq. (46), we should define the inverse free propagator in the pseudo-momentum representation. It is not difficult to do following the procedure given in Sec. IV. The inverse free propagator in the coordinate space is defined as follows:

$$iS^{-1}(x,y) = \left(i\gamma^\nu\mathcal{D}_\nu + \mu\gamma^0 - m\right)\delta^4(x-y). \tag{47}$$

By making use of Eq. (11), one can rewrite the inverse free propagator (47) in the form

$$iS^{-1}(x,y) = \sum_{N=0}^\infty \int \frac{dp_0 dp^3 dp \; e^{-ip_0(x_0-y_0)+ip^3(x^3-y^3)}}{(2\pi)^2}\left[(p_0+\mu)\gamma^0 - p^3\gamma^3 - (\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp) - m\right]\psi_{Np}(\mathbf{r}_\perp)\psi_{Np}^*(\mathbf{r}_\perp'). \tag{48}$$

After taking into account the identity in Eq. (15) and the table integral in Eq. (16), we can easily perform the integration over the quantum number p. Just like in the case of the self-energy, the result takes the form of a product of the standard Schwinger phase and a translationally invariant function, i.e.,

$$iS^{-1}(x,y) = e^{i\Phi(x,y)}i\bar{S}^{-1}(x-y). \tag{49}$$

The translationally invariant function is given by

$$i\bar{S}^{-1}(x) = \frac{e^{-\xi/2}}{2\pi\ell^2}\sum_{n=0}^\infty \int\frac{dp_0 dp^3}{(2\pi)^2}e^{-ip_0 x_0+ip^3 x^3}\left\{\left[(p_0+\mu)\gamma^0 - p^3\gamma^3 - m\right][L_n(\xi)\mathcal{P}_- + L_{n-1}(\xi)\mathcal{P}_+]\right.$$
$$\left.+\frac{i}{\ell^2}(\mathbf{r}_\perp \cdot \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)L_{n-1}^1(\xi)\right\}, \tag{50}$$

where $\xi = \mathbf{r}_\perp^2/(2\ell^2)$. By performing the Fourier transform, we finally arrive at the following expansion of the translation invariant part of the inverse free propagator over Landau levels [compare with the corresponding expansion of the self-energy in Eq. (19)]:

$$i\bar{S}^{-1}(p) = 2e^{-p_\perp^2\ell^2}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n\Big\{\left[(p_0+\mu)\gamma^0 - p^3\gamma^3 - m\right]\left[\mathcal{P}_-L_n(2p_\perp^2\ell^2) - \mathcal{P}_+L_{n-1}(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\right] + 2(\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp\cdot\boldsymbol{p}_\perp)L_{n-1}^1(2p_\perp^2\ell^2)\Big\}.$$

(51)

Interestingly, by performing in this expression the summation over Landau levels using the following well-known formula [23]:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}z^n L_n^\alpha(x) = \frac{1}{(1-z)^{1+\alpha}}\exp\left(\frac{xz}{z-1}\right),$$

(52)

we obtain

$$i\bar{S}^{-1}(p) = (p_0+\mu)\gamma^0 - (\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp\cdot\mathbf{p}_\perp) - p^3\gamma^3 - m.$$

(53)

This is a remarkable result because it means that the translation invariant part of the inverse free propagator in a magnetic field is identical to the inverse free propagator in the absence of a magnetic field. Therefore, for the inverse free propagator, only the Schwinger phase contains information about the presence of a magnetic field.

For the free propagator in the weak field limit, the dependence on the Landau level index [which is the eigenvalue of the operator $-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_\perp\cdot\boldsymbol{\gamma}_\perp)^2\ell^2$] can be unambiguously replaced by the square of the transverse momentum, i.e., $2n|eB| \to \mathbf{p}_\perp^2$. Therefore, when using the pseudo-momentum representation in Eq. (46), we can interpret $\mathbf{p}_\perp^2$ as a convenient shorthand substitution for $2n|eB|$. Indeed, this is natural in the weak field limit, when the quantization of Landau levels is largely irrelevant. This implies the standard dispersion relation $p_0 = -\mu \pm \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_\perp^2 + p_3^2 + m^2}$, or equivalently $p_0 = -\mu \pm \sqrt{2n|eB| + p_3^2 + m^2}$ after the substitution $\mathbf{p}_\perp^2 \to 2n|eB|$.

By making use of the chiral representation of the Dirac γ-matrices, the inverse free propagator (53), and the self-energy in the weak magnetic field limit, Eq. (46) can be rewritten in the following equivalent form:

$$\det\begin{pmatrix} p_0 + \mu - (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_\perp\cdot\mathbf{p}_\perp) + (\Delta - p^3)\sigma^3 + \mu_5 & m \\ m & p_0 + \mu + (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_\perp\cdot\mathbf{p}_\perp) + (\Delta + p^3)\sigma^3 - \mu_5 \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

(54)

where $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ are Pauli matrices. Calculating the determinant, we obtain

$$\left[(p_0+\mu-\mu_5)^2 - \mathbf{p}_\perp^2 - (p^3+\Delta)^2\right]\left[(p_0+\mu+\mu_5)^2 - \mathbf{p}_\perp^2 - (p^3-\Delta)^2\right] - 2m^2\left[(p_0+\mu)^2 + \Delta^2 - \mathbf{p}_\perp^2 - p_3^2 - \mu_5^2\right] + m^4 = 0.$$

(55)

This expression can be factorized to produce two equations for predominantly left-handed and predominantly right-handed particles:

$$\left[(p_0+\mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}_\perp^2 - p_3^2 - m^2 - \Delta^2 + \mu_5^2 - 2\sqrt{(p^3\Delta + \mu_5(p_0+\mu))^2 + m^2(\Delta^2 - \mu_5^2)}\right] = 0,$$

(56)

$$\left[(p_0+\mu)^2 - \mathbf{p}_\perp^2 - p_3^2 - m^2 - \Delta^2 + \mu_5^2 + 2\sqrt{(p^3\Delta + \mu_5(p_0+\mu))^2 + m^2(\Delta^2 - \mu_5^2)}\right] = 0.$$

(57)

By making use of the analytical results for the self-energy obtained in the previous section, see Eqs. (39) – (42) and the dispersion relations that follow from Eqs. (56) and (57), we can easily write down the equations for the Fermi surfaces of both types of particles. Namely, we take $p^0 = 0$ and solve for p^3 as a function of $p_\perp$. The results are shown in the left panel of Fig. 1 in the case of the physical value of the fine structure constant ($\alpha = 1/137$) and the magnetic field $|eB| = 0.1\mu^2$. In order to clearly demonstrate the magnitude of the effect, in the right panel of Fig. 1 we also plot the difference between the longitudinal momenta with and without the inclusion of the interaction induced chiral asymmetry.

As the results in Fig. 1 demonstrate, the Fermi surface of the predominantly left-handed particles is slightly shifted in the direction of the magnetic field, while the Fermi surface of the predominantly right-handed particles is slightly shifted in the direction opposite of the magnetic field. This is in qualitative agreement with the finding in the NJL model [15]. In the case of QED with its long-range interaction, however, the chiral asymmetry of the Fermi surfaces comes not only from the Δ function, but also from the new function $\mu_5(p) \equiv p_3 f(p)$. Also, unlike in the NJL model, both of these functions have a non-trivial dependence on the particles' momenta. In particular, they reveal a logarithmic enhancement of the asymmetry near the Fermi surface.
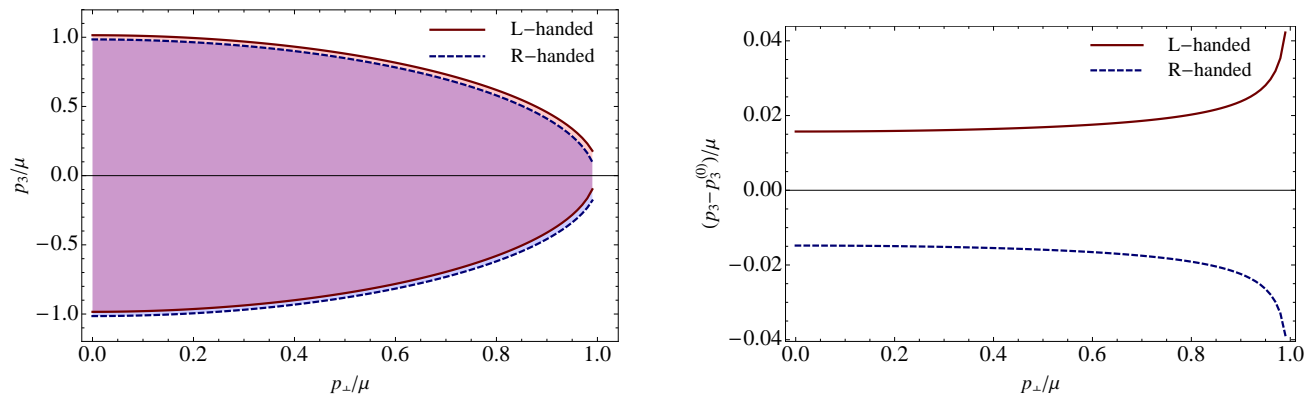
FIG. 1. Asymmetry of the Fermi surface for predominantly left-handed and right-handed particles for $|eB| = 0.1\mu^2$ and $\alpha = 1/137$.

VII.   DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Studying the fermion self-energy in dense QED in a magnetic field, we confirm, as suggested by the corresponding studies in the NJL model [14, 15], that nonzero radiative corrections to the axial current found in Ref. [20] are connected with the presence of chiral asymmetry in higher Landau levels induced by interaction. Our result for the fermion self-energy, obtained perturbatively in the coupling constant and in linear order in the external magnetic field, reveals the presence of two chirally asymmetric structures. One of them is the chiral shift function, analogous to the one previously obtained in the NJL model. The other one is a new structure that resembles the chiral chemical potential. However, unlike the chiral chemical potential, it preserves parity because it is an odd function of the momentum directed along the magnetic field. Note that this dependence on momentum is dictated by the parity symmetry. Since QED in a magnetic field is invariant under parity and the self-energy is obtained in a perturbation theory, parity cannot be broken. The term $\mu_5\bar{\psi}\gamma^0\gamma^5\psi$ is not parity invariant unless μ_5 is an odd function of momentum $\pi^3 = -i\partial_3$. The same argument also ensures that there is no electric current along the direction of the magnetic field, which would be present due to the chiral magnetic effect if one had $\mu_5 = \text{const}$.

The current study of the chiral asymmetry in the ground state of a cold dense QED plasma is in qualitative agreement with the earlier study of the asymmetry in the NJL model [14, 15]. In particular, the Fermi surfaces of the left- and right-handed fermions are shifted relative to each other in momentum space in the direction of the magnetic field. The value of the shift appears to be rather large and, thus, may have important phenomenological implications. For example, a relativistic matter in stars, in which the chiral shift parameter is nonvanishing, will cause neutrinos to scatter off asymmetrically. As proposed in Refs. [14, 15], this can provide a new mechanism for the pulsar kicks. Indeed, when the trapped neutrinos in a protoneutron star experience multiple elastic scattering on the chirally asymmetric state, they build up an anisotropic momentum distribution and, thus, provide a kick after leaving the star.

As should be clear from the physical meaning of the results obtained in this study, the chiral asymmetry in the ground state of the cold dense QED plasma is the main source of the radiative corrections to the axial current density calculated in Ref. [20]. Indeed, as the direct calculations show, the corresponding corrections originate from the perturbative self-energy contribution in the expansion of the fermion propagator. This observation is also consistent with the fact that the result for the axial current is particularly sensitive to the fermion states in the vicinity of the Fermi surface, i.e., the region of the phase space where the chiral asymmetry is most important.

In the future, it will be interesting to generalize the current study to the case of strong magnetic fields utilizing the expansion over Landau levels and using numerical methods in calculations. In addition, the role of the photon screening effects should be understood in detail. It will be also interesting to clarify the connection between the chiral shift in relativistic systems in a magnetic field and a class of condensed matter systems with Weyl quasiparticles, which reveal similar properties even in the absence of external fields [18, 19].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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