PLASMA ASTROPHYSICS

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NOTES:http://www.astro.iag.usp.br/~dalpino (references therein)

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Contents

- What is plasma?
- Why plasmas in astrophysics?
- Quasi neutrality
- Fluid approximation: MHD Eqs.
- Magnetic Force
- Magnetic Flux Freezing
- Applications

What is PLASMA?

- Gas with sufficient number of free charged particles (positive + negative) → so that its behaviour dominated by electromagnetic forces.
- Even low ionization degree (~1%): sufficient for gas to show electromagnetic properties (electrical conductivity ~ fully ionized gas).

Why Plasmas?

Plasma

- Most common (90%) state of matter in the universe.
- On earth exceptional, but obtained in laboratory thermonuclear fusion experiments at high temperatures ($T \sim 10^8 \, {\rm K}$).
- Crude definition: Plasma is a completely ionised gas, consisting of freely moving positively charged nuclei and negatively charged electrons.

Applications

- Magnetic plasma confinement for (future) energy production by Controlled Thermonuclear Reactions.
- Dynamics of astrophysical plasmas (solar corona, planetary magnetospheres, pulsars, accretion disks, jets, etc.).

Why Plasmas in Astrophysics ?

The universe does not consist of ordinary matter)

• > 90% *is plasma:*

electrically neutral, where the nuclei and electrons are not tied in atoms but *freely move as fluids*.

Example: The Sun



a magnetized plasma!

(sunatallwavelengths.mpeg)

Example: Coronal loops (cont'd)



[from recent observations with TRACE spacecraft]

Example: Magnetosphere



Example: Accretion disk and jets (YSO)



Young stellar object $(M_* \sim 1 M_{\odot})$: accretion disk 'seen' edge-on as dark strip, jets colored red.

Example: Accretion disk and jets (AGN)



Active galactic nucleus ($M_* \sim 10^8 M_{\odot}$): optical emission (blue) centered on disk, radio emission (red) shows the jets.

Importance of Plasmas

- Magnetized plasmas are present in almost all astrophysical objects
- They are **crucial** in:
 - star formation; late stages
 - solar and stellar activity
 - formation of jets and accretion disks

formation and propagation of cosmic rays
galaxy structure

Importance of Plasmas

• They are also *crucial* in:

- ISM

- molecular clouds
- supernova remnants
- proto-planetary disks
- planetary nebulae

GRBs

Importance of Plasmas

 Their importance not well understood yet in:

stellar evolution

galaxy evolution

 structure formation in the early Universe

Exs. Plasmas in Earth

Example: Polar lights



Plasmas in Laboratory

Major goal:

Thermonuclear fusion (as in the interior of stars) → production of energy!



 \Rightarrow Magnetic fields provide the only way to confine matter of high temperatures during long times.

Plasmas in Laboratory: TOKAMAK



PLASMA: simple definition

 Plasma is an ionized gas.

 Rate of ionization:
 $\frac{n_i}{n_n} = \left(\frac{2\pi m_e k}{h^2}\right)^{3/2} \frac{T^{3/2}}{n_i} e^{-U_i/kT}$ (Saha equation)

 - air:
 T = 300 K, $n_n = 3 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3}$, $U_i = 14.5 \text{ eV} \Rightarrow n_i/n_n \approx 2 \times 10^{-122}$ (!)

 - tokamak:
 $T = 10^8 \text{ K}$, $n_i = 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$, $U_i = 13.6 \text{ eV} \Rightarrow n_i/n_n \approx 2.4 \times 10^{13}$

PLASMA: Microscopic Definition

Plasma is a quasi-neutral gas of charged and neutral particles which exhibits collective behaviour (Chen).

(a) Long-range collective interactions dominate over binary collisions with neutrals

(b) Length scales large enough that quasi-neutrality ($n_e \approx Z n_i$) holds

(c) Sufficiently many particles in a Debye sphere (statistics)

PLASMA: Quasi Neutrality

 $Zen_i \approx en_e$

- Assume local charge concentration ($\delta n e$)
- \rightarrow according to Coulomb law:

$$ightarrow$$
 generates the electric field:

$$\vec{\nabla}.\vec{E} = \frac{\partial E_{//}}{\partial x} = 4\pi\delta\rho = -4\pi e\delta n_e$$

$$E_{//} = 4\pi e n_e \xi$$

→ E_{//} provokes on the thermal random motion of electrons: flow with velocity $v_{//}$: $\frac{dv_{//} - d^2\xi}{d^2\xi} = \frac{e}{E} = \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{c}$

$$\frac{dt}{dt} = \frac{a}{dt^2} = -\frac{e}{m_e} E_{//} = -\frac{4\pi m_e e}{m_e} \xi$$

• Solution: simple harmonic motion with plasma electron frequency that in the average neutralizes $E_{//}$:

$$\omega_{pe} = \left(\frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e}\right)^{1/2} \simeq 5.6 \times 10^4 n_e^{1/2} \quad s^{-1}$$

Quasi Neutrality - Plasma Frequency

• w_{pe} defines natural plasma frequency (neutralizes E effect)

• ions oscilate with much << frequency \rightarrow (practically at rest in relation to els.)

$$\omega_{pi} = \left(\frac{Zm_e}{m_i}\right)^{1/2} \omega_{pe}$$

• Any external electric field E applied with freq. $W < W_{pe}$ is unable to penetrate the plasma

• Debye length:

$$\lambda_D = v_{th}/\omega_{pe}$$

 \rightarrow E does not penetrate plasma if:

$$\omega < \omega_{pe}$$
 ou $\lambda > \lambda_{D}$

PLASMA: Debye length (\Lambda_D)

• $\Lambda_D \rightarrow$ scale within which separation between charges can be "felt":

$$\lambda_D \simeq \frac{v_{th}}{\omega_{pe}} \simeq \left(\frac{KT_e}{4\pi n_e e^2}\right)^{1/2} = 7 \ cm \ (T_e/n_e)^{1/2}$$

• Within sphere of radius $(\Lambda_D) \rightarrow$ charge neutrality is not valid: electrostatic external oscillations with $\Lambda \leq \Lambda_D$ penetrate the sphere and feel the collective effects of the charges \rightarrow strongly damped (Landau damping)

• Electric Potential Field of a charge within plasma: has its action screened (or partially blocked) by cloud of charges

$$\phi(r) = \frac{-en_1}{r} e^{-r/\lambda_D}$$

PLASMA: collective behavior

Conditions:

(a) $\tau \ll \tau_n \equiv \frac{1}{n_n \sigma v_{\rm th}}$ tokamak: $\tau \ll 2.4 \times 10^6 \,\mathrm{s}$ *corona:* $\tau \ll 2 \times 10^{20} \, \mathrm{s}$; (b) $\lambda \gg \lambda_D \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_0 kT}{e^2 n}}$ tokamak: $\lambda_D = 7 \times 10^{-5} \,\mathrm{m}$ corona: $\lambda_D = 0.07 \,\mathrm{m}$; (c) $N_D \equiv \frac{4}{3}\pi\lambda_D^3 n \gg 1$ tokamak: $N_D = 1.4 \times 10^8$ corona: $N_D = 1.4 \times 10^9$.



PLASMA: Quasi Neutrality

- Tpypical dimension of astrophysical plasmas: L>> A
 - \rightarrow quase neutrality is valid
 - \rightarrow Internal E fields: little important

(neutralized by strong oscillations w_{pe})

 \rightarrow External E fields typically do not penetrate

 $(\omega \leftrightarrow \omega_{pe}, \lambda > \lambda_{D})$

 \rightarrow Below: macroscopic description of a plasma as a fluid

Three theoretical models:

- Theory of motion of single charged particles in given magnetic and electric fields;
- Kinetic theory of a collection of such particles, describing plasmas microscopically by means of particle distribution functions f_{e,i}(r, v, t);
- Fluid theory (magnetohydrodynamics), describing plasmas in terms of averaged macroscopic functions of r and t.

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Equation of motion)

of charged particle in given electric and magnetic field, $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r},t)$ and $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r},t)$:

$$m\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}).$$

- Apply to constant magnetic field B = Be_z, E = 0:
- Systematic solution of Eq. (1) with v = dr/dt = (x, y, z) gives two coupled differential equations for motion in the perpendicular plane:

$$\ddot{x} - (qB/m) \dot{y} = 0,$$

 $\ddot{y} + (qB/m) \dot{x} = 0.$
(2)

 \Rightarrow periodic motion about a fixed point $x = x_c$, $y = y_c$ (the guiding centre).

Cyclotron motion

This yields periodic motion in a magnetic field, with gyro- (cyclotron) frequency

$$\Omega \equiv \frac{|q|B}{m} \tag{3}$$

and cyclotron (gyro-)radius

$$R \equiv \frac{v_{\perp}}{\Omega} \approx \frac{\sqrt{2mkT}}{|q|B}$$
. (4)

 $\Rightarrow\,$ Effectively, charged particles stick to the field lines.

Opposite motion of electrons and ions about guiding centres with quite different gyrofrequencies and radii, since $m_e \ll m_i$:

$$\Omega_e \equiv \frac{eB}{m_e} \gg \Omega_i \equiv \frac{ZeB}{m_i}, \qquad R_e \approx \frac{\sqrt{2m_ekT}}{eB} \ll R_i \approx \frac{\sqrt{2m_ikT}}{ZeB}.$$
 (5)



Cyclotron motion (cont'd)

Orders of magnitude

• Typical gyro-frequencies, e.g. for tokamak plasma (B = 3 T):

 $\Omega_e = 5.3 \times 10^{11} \, \mathrm{rad} \, \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ (frequency of $84 \, \mathrm{GHz}$),

 $\Omega_i = 2.9 \times 10^8 \,\mathrm{rad\,s^{-1}}$ (frequency of $46 \,\mathrm{MHz}$).

• Gyro-radii, with $v_{\perp} = v_{\rm th} \equiv \sqrt{2kT/m}$ for $T_e = T_i = 1.16 \times 10^8 \, {\rm K}$:

 $v_{\text{th},e} = 5.9 \times 10^7 \,\text{m s}^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad R_e = 1.1 \times 10^{-4} \,\text{m} \approx 0.1 \,\text{mm} \,,$

 $v_{\text{th},i} = 1.4 \times 10^6 \,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad R_i = 4.9 \times 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{m} \approx 5 \,\mathrm{mm}\,.$

 \Rightarrow Tokamak time scales $(\sim 1\,\rm{s})$ and dimensions $(\sim 1\,\rm{m})$ justify averaging.

- Magnetic fields:
 - 1. charged particles gyrate around field lines;

2. fluid and magnetic field move together ("B frozen into the plasma");

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 Fluid theory (magnetohydrodynamics), describing plasmas in terms of averaged macroscopic functions of r and t.

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A plasma consists of a very large number of interacting charged particles \Rightarrow kinetic plasma theory derives the equations describing the collective behavior of the many charged particles by applying the methods of statistical mechanics. ($\omega \ge \omega_{pe}$)

Three theoretical models:

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Fluid theory (magnetohydrodynamics), describing plasmas in terms of averaged macroscopic functions of r and t.

Fluid description: MHD

Macroscopic definition

Macroscopic model: size and time scales are large enough \rightarrow possible to apply AVERAGES over microscopic quantities: colective plasma oscillations and collective cyclotron motions of ions and electrons

(a) $\tau \gg \Omega_i^{-1} \sim B^{-1}$ (time scale longer than inverse cyclotron frequency); (b) $\lambda \gg R_i \sim B^{-1}$ (length scale larger than cyclotron radius).

 \Rightarrow MHD \equiv magnetohydrodynamics

Fluid description: MHD

Maxwell eqs. + hidrodynamics eqs. = Eqs. MHD

 Maxwell's equations describe evolution of electric field E(r, t) and magnetic field B(r, t) in response to current density j(r, t) and space charge \(\tau(r, t):\)

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t},$$
 (Faraday) (1)

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}, \quad c \equiv (\epsilon_0 \mu_0)^{-1/2}, \quad \text{('Ampère')}$$
(2)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\tau}{\epsilon_0}, \tag{Poisson} \tag{3}$$

Gas dynamics equations describe evolution of density ρ(r, t) and pressure p(r, t):

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \equiv \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0, \qquad \text{(mass conservation)} \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{Dp}{Dt} + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \equiv \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla p + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0, \qquad \text{(entropy conservation)} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\frac{\mathrm{D}}{\mathrm{D}t} \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla$$

is the Lagrangian time-derivative (moving with the fluid).

 $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$

Fluid description: MHD

One-fluid approximation:

(combining eqs. of motion of els. and ions)

Define one-fluid variables that are linear combinations of the two-fluid variables:

$$\rho \equiv n_e m_e + n_i m_i, \qquad \text{(total n})$$

$$\tau \equiv -e (n_e - Z n_i), \qquad \text{(charge}$$

$$\mathbf{v} \equiv (n_e m_e \mathbf{u}_e + n_i m_i \mathbf{u}_i) / \rho, \qquad \text{(center}$$

$$\mathbf{j} \equiv -e (n_e \mathbf{u}_e - Z n_i \mathbf{u}_i), \qquad \text{(current}$$

$$p \equiv p_e + p_i. \qquad \text{(presset}$$

(total mass density) (charge density) (center of mass velocity) (current density) (pressure)

MHD Equations



$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) &= 0, \qquad \text{(continuity)} \\ \rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) + \nabla p - \frac{1}{c} \vec{J} \times \vec{B} = 0, \qquad \text{(momentum)} \\ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla p + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} &= (\gamma - 1) \eta |\mathbf{j}|^2, \qquad \text{(internal energy)} \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + c \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} &= 0, \qquad \text{(Faraday)} \end{split}$$

where	W	h	е	re
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and

$$\vec{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} \qquad \text{(Ampère)}$$

$$\vec{E} = -\frac{\vec{v}_e}{c} \times \vec{B} + \frac{m_e}{e} \vec{g} - \frac{1}{n_e e} \vec{\nabla} p_e + \eta \vec{J} \qquad \text{(Ohm)}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \qquad \text{(no magnetic monopoles)}$$

is initial condition on Faraday's law.

Electric Resistivity: $\eta = \frac{m_e v_{th} \sigma_{ei}}{Ze^2}$



neglected)

MHD Equations: ± usual

$$\begin{array}{l} \hline \textbf{CGS} \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0 , \qquad (continuity) \\ \rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) + \nabla p - \left[\frac{1}{c} \vec{J} \times \vec{B} \right] = 0 , \qquad (momentum) \\ \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla p + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \left[(\gamma - 1) \eta |\mathbf{j}|^2 \right] , \qquad (internal \ energy) \\ \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) + \nu_M \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B} \qquad (magnetic \ induction) \\ \vec{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} \qquad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 . \qquad (Ampere, \ divergencia) \\ \end{array}$$
Where magnetic resistivity:
$$\begin{array}{c} \nu_M = \frac{\eta c^2}{4\pi} \quad (\mathbf{cm}^2/\mathbf{s}) \end{array}$$

Eq. of state to close the system:

$$p=(\gamma-1)\rho e$$

Magnetic Force





Dipole magnetic field of a star magnetosphere (ex. pulsar):

tension = pressure magnetic

$$\frac{1}{c}(\vec{J}\times\vec{B}) = 0$$

IDEAL MHD

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) + \nu_M \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B}$$

Ratio between these two terms:

$$\frac{\mid \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) \mid}{\nu_M \mid \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B} \mid} \sim \frac{L v_e}{\nu_M} = R_{eM}$$

 \rightarrow Magnetic Reynolds number

 \rightarrow

In astrophysical plasmas in general: $R_{eM} >>1 \rightarrow ideal MHD$:

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) + \nu_k \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B}$$

Exceptions: $R_{eM} \approx 1$:Ex. Magnetic Reconnection \rightarrow resistive MHD

Ideal MHD → B Flux Freezing

With
$$\eta$$
 = 0: $\nu_M = rac{\eta c^2}{4\pi}$ =0 and

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v_e} \times \vec{B})$$

Integrating over an open surface A surrounded by a closed contour ∂S and using Stokes' theorem:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int_{A}\vec{B}.d\vec{A} + \oint_{\partial S}(\vec{v}_{e} \times d\vec{s}).\vec{B} = 0$$



→ The magnetic flux through A with closed contour that moves with the electron gas is CONSTANT (if perfectly conductive fluid)

\rightarrow Concept of flux freezing

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi=0$$

Where d/dt is comoving derivative:

$$\phi = \int \vec{B}.d\vec{A}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v}_e.\vec{\nabla}$$

B Flux Freezing: ideal MHD

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi=0$$

\rightarrow Magnetic flux freezing:

• It means we can see the lines of force of B as "frozen" in the electron gas and moving along with the gas

• Any motion transverse to the lines of force of the magnetic field, carries them along with the fluid

• A fluid element that moves along a flux tube remains moving with it.





→ In astrophysical plasmas: flux freezing valid in general because

$$L, v \gg 1 \rightarrow \frac{Lv_e}{\nu_M} = R_{eM} \gg 1$$

• BUT there are exceptions:

Ex. 1) magnetic reconnection sites

Ex. 2) star formation

Ex. 3) dynamos: magnetic field generation

 \rightarrow NO

Ex. 1) magnetic reconnection sites: B flux does not conserve because





[from recent observations with TRACE spacecraft]

 $\frac{Lv_e}{-1} = R_{eM} \quad \sim 1$ ν_M

 $\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) + \nu_M \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B}$

\rightarrow NO

Ex. 2) collapse of an interstellar cloud to form a star:

If we use ideal MHD \rightarrow B flux conservation : + mass conservation eq., we obtain: B* ~ 10⁹ G !

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B})$$

BUT, observations: $B_* \sim 10^3 G$

Therefore: There was no flux conservation! There were flux removal. What resistive process did that?

Self-Gravitating collapsing clouds

Self-gravitating gas + central spherical potential (~1/r²)



Subcritical core

Supercritical core

β=3, n=100 cm⁻³

t~ 40Myr

Leão et al. 2013

MHD turbulent diffusion: new scenario

In presence of turbulence: field lines reconnect fast (Lazarian & Vishniac 1999) and magnetic flux transport becomes efficient



Lazarian 2005, 2012 Santos-Lima et al. 2010, 2012, 2013 de Gouveia Dal Pino et al. 2012

Self-Gravitating collapsing clouds

Turbulent Reconnection Diffusion (Lazarian 06; Santos-Lima, de Gouveia Dal Pino, Lazarian 2010, 2012, 2013)



Leão, dGDP, Santos-Lima, Lazarian 2013

\rightarrow NO

Ex. 3) dynamo: generates magnetic fields: obviously does not conserve magnetic flux \rightarrow NON IDEAL MHD

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}) + \frac{\eta c^2}{4\pi} \vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{B} - \frac{c}{n_e^2 e} \vec{\nabla} n_e \times \vec{\nabla} p_e$$

....+ new terms

Solar Dynamo Example

1.0



Guerrero & de Gouveia Dal Pino 2008 →

Turbulent Dynamo in ICM





- Magnetic field is turbulent (Ensslin & Vogt 2005)
- Turbulent dynamo operates (Brandenburg & Subramanian 05)
- Dynamo amplifies seed fields (AGNs, galactic winds, mergers)

ICM - COLLISIONLESS

Low density of IGM & ICM:

 \rightarrow ion Larmor radius $R_i \ll$ mean free path $\lambda_{mfp} \sim L$

$$R_i \sim 10^5 \text{ km} \ll \lambda_{mfp} \sim 10^{15} \text{ km} \sim L$$

In absence of collisions: $p_{//} \neq p_{\perp}$

Kinetic-MHD description

$$P_{ij} = p_\perp \delta_{ij} + (p_\parallel - p_\perp) b_i b_j,$$

Kinetic-MHD Turbulence in the ICM

Solve: MHD equations with p_{ij}



Conservation of magnetic momentum + adiabatic law = CGL condition (Chew, Goldberger & Low 1956):

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{p_{\perp}}{\rho B}\right) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{p_{\parallel} B^2}{\rho^3}\right) = 0$$

$$A = \frac{p_{\perp}}{p_{\parallel}} = \left(\frac{B}{B_0}\right)^3 \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{-2}$$

Turbulent Dynamo in the ICM:

Amplification of Cosmic Magnetic Fields



Santos-Lima et al. 2013; Kowal et al. 2011

Scales of actual plasmas

	l ₀ (m)	$B_0(\mathbf{T})$	t ₀ (s)
tokamak	20	3	$3 imes 10^{-6}$
magnetosphere Earth	$4 imes 10^7$	$3 imes 10^{-5}$	6
solar coronal loop	10^{8}	$3 imes 10^{-2}$	15
magnetosphere neutron star	10^{6}	10^{8} *	10^{-2}
accretion disc YSO	1.5×10^9	10^{-4}	7×10^5
accretion disc AGN	4×10^{18}	10^{-4}	2×10^{12}
galactic plasma	10^{21}	10^{-8}	10^{15}
	$(= 10^5 \text{ ly})$		$(=3\times10^7y)$

pulsars, called magnetars, have record magnetic fields of 10¹¹ T : the plasma Universe is ever expanding!

+Aplications: (Ideal) MHD: Waves

Normal compressible fluids:

 Acoustic waves (release of free energy associated with non-uniform density or velocities)

In plasmas:

- Besides these: new modes appear

- Waves: modes with real frequencies

Perturbing MHD equations

Hypotesis:

- B_o, ρ_o, v_o, p_o : constant and uniform at equilibrium state
- Consider perturbations in plasma: λ << L (dimension of the system)

Perturbing the system $f(\vec{x}, \psi) = f_o + f_1(\vec{x}, t) + f_2(\vec{x}, t) + ...$ Physical quantity at equilibrium (order 0)

 $f_1(\vec{x},t)$: 1st order perturbation: $f_1(\vec{x},t) \ll f_o$

Neglect:
$$f_1^2, f_2, g_2^2, g_2, f_1g_1$$
, etc.

 $v = v_o + v_1$, take $v_o = 0$, denote $v_1 = v$

1st order equations

• Coeficients of eqs. are constants:



solution:

$$f_1(\vec{x}, t) = f_1 exp(nt + i\vec{k}.\vec{x})$$

If n imaginary and k real \rightarrow WAVE

If n real and n>0 \rightarrow growth rate of INSTABILITY: $f \sim exp(nt)$

If n complex \rightarrow wave with growing (or non-growing) amplitude with time

If k real \rightarrow wave with constant amplitude in space

If k imaginary \rightarrow wave with growing or damping amplitude in space

Dispersion relation n(k)



Since these eqs. are homogeneous: solutions only if determinant of coefficients = 0 -> result dispersion relation n(k)

Taking eq. for v_2

$$n^{2} + n(\nu + \nu_{M})k^{2} + k^{2}v_{A}^{2}\cos^{2}\theta + \nu\nu_{M}k^{4} = 0$$

No limite que $k\nu << v_A$ e $k\nu_M << v_A,$ (3.34) reduz-se a:

 $n = \pm i k v_A cos \theta$

velocidades de fase ao longo de \vec{x}_1 são ($v_\phi = \pm in/k$): 3

$$v_{\phi} = \mp v_A cos\theta = \mp \frac{B_o}{\sqrt{4\pi\rho_o}} cos\theta$$

$$v_A = \frac{B_o}{(4\pi\rho_o)^{1/2}}$$

k

Β,

This mode: Alfven wave

Alfven wave

First described bt Alfven (1953): Alfven wave.

Velocity perturbation transverse to plan k and Bo

Propagates // Bo



Key role in transmiting forces, like acoustic waves in non-magnetized gas

Since motion transverse to *B*: lines of force are bent by the motion of the wave and a restauring force due to magnetic tension is exerted by lines (similar tension in a rope):

Magneto-acoustic Waves



Other aplications

- Shock waves
- Particle Acceleration (next lectures)
- Instabilities
- Magnetic Reconnection (next lectures)
- Winds
- Dynamos
- Turbulence
- Etc....