

Summer 2011

Cold Plasma Dispersion relation

Let us go back to a single particle and see how it behaves in a high frequency electric field. We will use the force equation and Maxwell's equations. The high frequency field will be that of a wave in the plasma.

The high frequency field is $\vec{E}(t) = \vec{E}_0 e^{i\omega t}$. The frequency can be as high as the cyclotron frequency. The force law is

$$\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{q}{m} (\vec{E}_0 e^{i\omega t} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}). \text{ Let } \vec{v} = \vec{v}_c + \vec{v}_E e^{i\omega t}, \text{ where } v_c \text{ does not depend on } \omega.$$

The force law gives us:

$$\frac{d\vec{v}_c}{dt} + i\omega \vec{v}_E e^{i\omega t} = \frac{q}{m} (\vec{E}_0 e^{i\omega t} + \vec{v}_c \times \vec{B} + \vec{v}_E \times \vec{B} e^{i\omega t}). \text{ One set of terms has a } \omega \text{ in}$$

front of them all and an $e^{i\omega t}$ dependence, the other does not; in fact we have 2 equations:

$$(I) \quad \frac{d\vec{v}_c}{dt} = \frac{q}{m} (\vec{v}_c \times \vec{B})$$

The first is the usual cyclotron motion

$$i\omega \vec{v}_E e^{i\omega t} = \frac{q}{m} \vec{E}_0 e^{i\omega t} + \frac{q}{m} \vec{v}_E \times \vec{B} e^{i\omega t}$$

equation, we know the answer(see appendix I) . The second may be re-written as

$$(II) \quad (i\omega + \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{v}_E = \frac{q}{m} \vec{E}. \text{ Now multiply equation II by the operator}$$

$$(i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times)$$

$$\left((i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \right) (i\omega + \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{v}_E = \frac{q}{m} (i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{E}.$$

Let us now see what the left hand side is

$$\left((i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \right) (i\omega + \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{v}_E = -\omega^2 \vec{v}_E - \frac{q^2}{m^2} \vec{B} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{v}_E)$$

$$= -\omega^2 \vec{v}_E - \frac{q^2}{m^2} (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{v}_E) \vec{B} + \frac{q^2}{m^2} B^2 \vec{v}_E$$

Equating both sides

$$-\omega^2 \vec{v}_E - \frac{q^2}{m^2} (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{v}_E) \vec{B} + \frac{q^2}{m^2} B^2 \vec{v}_E = \frac{q}{m} (i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{E} \quad \text{This may be written as}$$

$$(\omega_c^2 - \omega^2) \vec{v}_E - \frac{q^2}{m^2} (\vec{B} \cdot \vec{v}_E) \vec{B} = \frac{q}{m} (i\omega - \frac{q}{m} \vec{B} \times) \vec{E} \quad ; \quad \frac{q^2 B^2}{m^2} = \omega_c^2$$

The next step is to break the velocity into components perpendicular and parallel to the magnetic field. First for the parallel case. The parallel case $\vec{B} \cdot \vec{v}_{E\parallel} = B v_{E\parallel}$

$$\vec{v}_E = \vec{v}_{E\parallel} + \vec{v}_{E\perp}$$

$$(\omega_c^2 - \omega^2) \vec{v}_{E\parallel} - \frac{q^2 B^2}{m^2} \vec{v}_{E\parallel} = i\omega \frac{q}{m} \vec{E}_{\parallel} \quad , \quad \vec{B} \times \vec{E} \text{ is } \perp \text{ to } B$$

(III) $\vec{v}_{E\parallel} = -i \frac{q}{\omega m} \vec{E}_{\parallel}$ The parallel component of v oscillates as if B was

not there but the oscillation is out of phase by 90 degrees ($i = e^{\frac{i\pi}{2}}$).

For the perpendicular component

$$(\omega_c^2 - \omega^2) \vec{v}_{E\perp} = \frac{q}{m} (i\omega - \vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_{\perp} \quad , \quad \vec{\omega}_c = \frac{q\vec{B}}{m}$$

(IV) $\vec{v}_{E\perp} = \frac{q}{m} \frac{(i\omega - \vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_{\perp}}{(\omega_c^2 - \omega^2)}$ Note this has a resonance at the cyclotron

frequency. This is an operator equation of the form $\vec{v}_{\perp} = \vec{A} \vec{E}_{\perp}$ where A is a complex operator, which could be a tensor.

Now let us further break down the perpendicular velocity and electric field (which is that of the wave) into two components each rotating around the magnetic field in opposite directions.

$$\vec{v}_{\perp} = \vec{v}_L + \vec{v}_R \quad \vec{E}_{\perp} = \vec{E}_L + \vec{E}_R \quad \text{Using (IV) as a guide}$$

$$(V) \quad \vec{E}_L \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[\vec{E}_{\perp} + \frac{(i\vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_{\perp}}{(\omega_c)} \right] ; \quad \vec{E}_R \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[\vec{E}_{\perp} - \frac{(i\vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_{\perp}}{(\omega_c)} \right] ; \quad \vec{E}_{\perp} \Rightarrow \vec{E}_{\perp} e^{i\omega t} \quad \text{Let us now}$$

assume the magnetic field is constant and is in the z direction.

$$\vec{E}_L = \frac{1}{2} [E_{\perp} e^{i\omega t} \hat{r} + iE_{\perp} e^{i\omega t} \hat{\theta}] ; \quad \vec{E}_R = \frac{1}{2} [E_{\perp} e^{i\omega t} \hat{r} - iE_{\perp} e^{i\omega t} \hat{\theta}] ; \quad \vec{B} = B_0 \hat{k}$$

$$\text{Re}(\vec{E}_L) = \frac{1}{2} [E_{\perp} \cos(\omega t) \hat{r} + \text{Re}(i(\cos(\omega t) + i \sin(\omega t))) E_{\perp} \hat{\theta}] = \frac{1}{2} E_{\perp} \cos(\omega t) \hat{r} - \frac{1}{2} E_{\perp} \sin(\omega t) E_{\perp} \hat{\theta}$$

This is an electric field vector that rotates clockwise around the magnetic field. This is the same direction that an ion will take so the E_L field can resonate with the ion gyro motion.

The E_R field will resonant with the electrons as it will rotate in the counterclockwise direction. If we re-write the electric field in the perpendicular direction for ion motion as:

$$\vec{E}_\perp = E_x \hat{i} + E_y \hat{j} \quad \vec{\omega}_c = \omega_c \hat{k}$$

$$\text{for } E_L, \quad E_L = \frac{1}{2}(E_x \hat{i} + E_y \hat{j}) + \frac{1}{2} \hat{k} \times [E_x \hat{i} + E_y \hat{j}] = \frac{1}{2}(E_x - iE_y) \times [\hat{i} + \hat{j}]$$

the time dependence is still inside E in the above.

If we put the time dependence back $\text{Re}[\hat{i} + \hat{j}]e^{i\omega t} = \cos(\omega t)\hat{i} - \sin(\omega t)\hat{j}$

which is a unit vector spinning in the L direction. Now substitute the rotating vectors into equation (IV) first for E_L then for E_R .

$$\begin{aligned} (i\omega - \vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_L &= \frac{1}{2} (i\omega - \vec{\omega}_c \times) \left[\vec{E}_\perp + \frac{(i\vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_\perp}{(\omega_c)} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ i\omega \vec{E}_\perp - \vec{\omega}_c \times \vec{E}_\perp - \frac{\omega(\vec{\omega}_c \times) \vec{E}_\perp}{(\omega_c)} - \frac{(i\vec{\omega}_c \times)(\vec{\omega}_c \times \vec{E}_\perp)}{(\omega_c)} \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} i \left\{ (\omega + \omega_c) \left[\vec{E}_\perp + \frac{i\vec{\omega}_c \times \vec{E}_\perp}{\omega_c} \right] \right\} = i(\omega + \omega_c) \vec{E}_L \quad (\text{note } \vec{E}_\perp \cdot \vec{\omega}_c = 0) \end{aligned}$$

Then the operator equation (IV) is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v}_L &= \frac{qi}{m} \frac{(\omega + \omega_c) \vec{E}_L}{(\omega_c^2 - \omega^2)} = \frac{qi}{m} \frac{\vec{E}_L}{(\omega_c - \omega)} \\ \text{(V)} \quad \vec{v}_R &= \frac{-qi}{m} \frac{\vec{E}_L}{(\omega_c + \omega)} \end{aligned}$$

This may be written as a tensor for the rotating electric field in the frame of the rotating particle

$$\text{(VI)} \quad \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} v_L \\ v_R \\ v_\parallel \end{bmatrix} = \vec{v} \vec{E} = \frac{iq}{m} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\omega_c - \omega} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-1}{\omega_c + \omega} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{-1}{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_L \\ E_R \\ E_\parallel \end{bmatrix}$$