

## Problem 6

ES2. Problem 2Ambipolar and Viscous Damping

Momentum equations:

$$\text{ions: } \frac{\partial \vec{u}_i}{\partial t} + \vec{u}_i \cdot \nabla \vec{u}_i = - \frac{\nabla p_i}{\rho_i} + \cancel{\nu_i \nabla^2 \vec{u}_i} - \mu_{in} (\vec{u}_i - \vec{u}_n) + \frac{\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{B}}{4\pi \rho_i}$$

$$\text{neutrals: } \frac{\partial \vec{u}_n}{\partial t} + \vec{u}_n \cdot \nabla \vec{u}_n = - \frac{\nabla p_n}{\rho_n} + \nu_n \nabla^2 \vec{u}_n - \mu_{ni} (\vec{u}_n - \vec{u}_i)$$

$$\text{incompressibility: } \nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i = \nabla \cdot \vec{u}_n = 0$$

$$\text{m. field: } \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} + \vec{u}_i \cdot \nabla \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{u}_i + \cancel{\eta \nabla^2 \vec{B}}$$

Ignore ion viscosity: formally, this assumes

$$\nu_i \ll \nu_n \text{ and } \nu_i k^2 \ll \mu_{in}$$

(but also, ion viscosity isn't really isotropic and is heavily suppressed in the directions  $\perp \vec{B}$ , so we can't really keep it and expect correct physics for shear Alfvén waves)

Ignore magnetic diffusivity as well: again,

$$\eta \ll \nu_n \text{ and } \eta k^2 \ll \mu_{in}$$

~~Remember~~ Note that, assuming elastic ion-neutral collisions,

$$\rho_i \mu_{in} = \rho_n \mu_{ni}$$

Define degree of ionisation:  $\alpha = \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_i + \rho_n}$ . Then

$$\mu_{ni} = \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_n} \mu_{in} = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \mu_{in}$$

Consider straight-field static equilibrium:

$$\vec{B}_0 = B_0 \hat{z}, \quad \vec{u}_i = \vec{u}_n = 0$$

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Perturbed velocities in terms of displacements:

$$\vec{u}_i = \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_i}{\partial t}, \quad \vec{u}_n = \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_n}{\partial t}$$

Then  $\frac{\partial \delta \vec{B}}{\partial t} = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \nabla \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_i}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \delta \vec{B} = B_0 \nabla_{\parallel} \vec{\xi}_i$  magnetic field frozen into ions.

$$\frac{\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{B}}{4\pi \rho_i} = \frac{\vec{B}_0 \nabla_{\parallel} \delta \vec{B}}{4\pi \rho_i} = \frac{B_0^2}{4\pi \rho_i} \nabla_{\parallel} \vec{\xi}_i = v_A^2 \nabla_{\parallel}^2 \vec{\xi}_i$$

So, we get

Alfvén waves

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\xi}_i}{\partial t^2} = v_A^2 \nabla_{\parallel}^2 \vec{\xi}_i - \mu_{in} \left( \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_i}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_n}{\partial t} \right) \\ \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\xi}_n}{\partial t^2} = \nu_n \nabla^2 \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_n}{\partial t} - \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \mu_{in} \left( \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_n}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \vec{\xi}_i}{\partial t} \right) \end{cases}$$

ion-neutral collisions

↑  
neutral viscosity

Fourier transform:

$$\begin{cases} -\omega^2 \vec{\xi}_i = -k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 \vec{\xi}_i + i\omega \mu_{in} (\vec{\xi}_i - \vec{\xi}_n) \\ -\omega^2 \vec{\xi}_n = i\omega \nu_n k^2 \vec{\xi}_n + i\omega \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} (\vec{\xi}_n - \vec{\xi}_i) \end{cases}$$

$$\left( \omega^2 - k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 + i\omega \mu_{in} \right) \vec{\xi}_i = i\omega \mu_{in} \vec{\xi}_n \quad (1)$$

$$\left( \omega^2 + i\omega \nu_n k^2 + i\omega \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) \vec{\xi}_n = i\omega \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \vec{\xi}_i \quad (2)$$

$$\left( \omega^2 - k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 + i\omega \mu_{in} \right) \left( \omega^2 + i\omega \nu_n k^2 + i\omega \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \right) = -\omega^2 \mu_{in}^2 \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}$$

$$\omega^4 - \omega^2 k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 + i\omega^3 \mu_{in} + i\omega^3 \nu_n k^2 - i\omega \nu_n k^2 k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 - \omega^2 \mu_{in} \nu_n k^2$$

$$+ i\omega^3 \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} - i\omega k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2 \mu_{in} \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} - \omega^2 \mu_{in}^2 \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} = -\omega^2 \mu_{in}^2 \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}$$



$$(ii) \quad \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right)^2 \approx \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega_0 = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} k_{\parallel} V_A \quad \text{to zeroth order}$$

Next order:  $\omega = \omega_0 + \delta\omega$

$$i \frac{k_{\parallel} V_A}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right)^3 - \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \frac{\delta\omega}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right] - i \frac{k_{\parallel} V_A}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right) + \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} = 0$$

$$\frac{2}{1-\alpha} \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \frac{\delta\omega}{k_{\parallel} V_A} = i \frac{k_{\parallel} V_A}{\mu_{in}} \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \left[ \underbrace{\left( \frac{\omega_0}{k_{\parallel} V_A} \right)^2 - 1}_{\alpha - 1} \right]$$

$$\delta\omega = -\frac{i}{2} (1-\alpha)^2 \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 V_A^2}{\mu_{in}}$$

So

$$\omega = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} k_{\parallel} V_A - \frac{i}{2} (1-\alpha)^2 \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 V_A^2}{\mu_{in}} \quad (5)$$

↑ Alfvén waves                      ↑ Antipolar damping

NB: (4) and (5) are 3 solutions.

(4) is much more strongly damped than (5), so (5) is the interesting wave.

Note that  $k_{\parallel} V_A \ll \mu_{in}$  means  $k \lambda_{mfp} \ll \frac{v_{th}}{V_A} \sim \left( \frac{\rho_n}{\rho_n} \frac{4\pi \rho_i}{B^2} \right)^{1/2} \sim \beta^{1/2}$

$v_n k^2 \ll \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 V_A^2}{\mu_{in}}$  means  $v_{th} \lambda_{mfp} \ll \frac{V_A^2}{v_{th}} \lambda_{mfp} \Rightarrow \beta \ll 1$

So this is a regime with heavy collisions and strong magnetic field.

In the case of non-small  $\beta$ , we have to consider other limits.



3)  $k_{\parallel} v_A \ll \nu_n k^2 \ll \mu_{in}$

Eq. (6) still valid, but  $\frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A}$  is large.

Dominant balances:

(i) Same as (4)

(ii)  $\frac{1}{1-\alpha} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^2 \approx -i \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)$

$\omega \approx -i(1-\alpha) \nu_n k^2$  (8)

(iii)  $i \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \approx \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}$

$\omega \approx -i \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2}{\nu_n k^2}$  (9)

This is called viscous relaxation (no waves!)

(4) and (8) are much faster damping rates, so (9) is the most interesting.

Conditions for it to work:  $(\beta \gg 1)$ ,  $k \lambda_{mf} \ll \beta^{1/2}$  as before

~~$\nu_n k^2 \ll k_{\parallel} v_A$~~   $\nu_n k^2 \gg k_{\parallel} v_A$  is  $k \lambda_{mf} \gg \frac{1}{\beta^{1/2}}$

and  $\nu_n k^2 \ll \mu_{in}$  means  $\nu_n \lambda_{mf} k^2 \ll \frac{v_{th}}{\lambda_{mf}} \Rightarrow k \lambda_{mf} \ll 1$

Thus,

$\frac{1}{\beta^{1/2}} \ll k \lambda_{mf} \ll 1$

collisional regime, high  $\beta$ .

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$$4) \underline{\nu_n k^2 \gg \mu_{in} \gg k_{||} v_A}$$

Eq. (3) becomes

$$i \frac{k_{||} v_A}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right)^3 - \frac{\nu_n k^2}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right)^2 - i \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{||} v_A} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right) + \frac{\nu_n k^2}{\mu_{in}} = 0$$

small
large
large
large

Dominant balances:

$$(i) \quad i \frac{k_{||} v_A}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right)^3 \approx \frac{\nu_n k^2}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right)^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\omega = -i \nu_n k^2} \quad (10)$$

$$(ii) \quad - \frac{\nu_n k^2}{\mu_{in}} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right)^2 \approx i \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{||} v_A} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \right) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\omega = -i \mu_{in}} \quad (11)$$

$$(iii) \quad -i \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{||} v_A} \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_A} \approx \frac{\nu_n k^2}{\mu_{in}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\omega \approx -i \frac{k_{||}^2 v_A^2}{\mu_{in}}} \quad (12)$$

This is the slowest damping rate. It's called ambipolar relaxation (no waves!)

$\nu_n k^2 \gg \mu_{in}$  means  $k \lambda_{\text{mpf}} \gg 1$ , also  $(\beta \gg 1)$ ,  $k \lambda_{\text{mpf}} \ll \beta^{1/2}$  as before

Thus,  $1 \ll k \lambda_{\text{mpf}} \ll \beta^{1/2}$  weakly collisional regime, high  $\beta$ .

Note that the fluid treatment is not really valid in this regime, so the results are suspect.

$\nearrow$   
(collisionless  $k \lambda_{\text{mpf}} \gg 1$ )





$$2i \frac{\delta\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} = \frac{\mu_{\text{lin}}}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \Rightarrow \delta\omega = -\frac{i}{2} \mu_{\text{lin}}$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{\omega = \pm k_{\parallel} v_A - \frac{i}{2} \mu_{\text{lin}}} \quad (15)$$

Alfvén wave      weakly damped by collisions

$\nu_n k^2 \ll \mu_{\text{lin}}$  means  $k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll 1$ , so  $\beta^{1/2} \ll k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll 1$   
Collisional, low  $\beta$ .

2)  $\mu_{\text{lin}} \ll \nu_n k^2$  ~~Eq. (13)~~ Eq. (13) becomes

$$i \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^3 - \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^2 - i \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} + \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A} = 0$$

$$i \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^2 - 1 \right] - \frac{\nu_n k^2}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \left[ \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^2 - 1 \right] = 0$$

$$\left[ \left( \frac{\omega}{k_{\parallel} v_A} \right)^2 - 1 \right] (i\omega - \nu_n k^2) = 0$$

Solutions:  $\boxed{\omega = -i \nu_n k^2}$  (16)

and  $\boxed{\omega = \pm k_{\parallel} v_A}$  (17) undamped Alfvén wave

$\mu_{\text{lin}} \ll \nu_n k^2$  means  $k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \gg 1$  ~~collisionless~~ collisionless regime, fluid results suspect...

Summary

$\beta \ll 1$

$k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll \beta^{1/2}$

$\omega = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} k_{\parallel} v_A - \frac{i}{2} (1-\alpha)^2 \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2}{\mu_{in}}$  (5)

$\beta^{1/2} \ll k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll 1$

$\omega = \pm k_{\parallel} v_A - \frac{i}{2} \mu_{in}$  (15)

$k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \gg 1$

$\omega = \pm k_{\parallel} v_A$  (17)

$\beta \gg 1$

$k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll \frac{1}{\beta^{1/2}}$

$\omega = \pm \sqrt{\alpha} k_{\parallel} v_A - \frac{i}{2} (1-\alpha) \nu_n k^2$  (7)

$\frac{1}{\beta^{1/2}} \ll k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll 1$

$\omega = -i \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2}{\nu_n k^2}$  (9)

$1 \ll k \lambda_{\text{mp}} \ll \beta^{1/2}$

$\omega = -i \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_A^2}{\mu_{in}}$  (12)