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Physics of Kinetic Alfvén Waves :
A Gyrokinetic Theory Approach



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RMPPL(2021)

Outlines

(I) Introduction : Alfvén wave continuum,
phase mixing, "singular" resonance

(II) Linear Kinetic Physics :

Linear gyrokinetic theory, mode conversion,
spatial/temporal scales, observations

(III) Nonlinear Kinetic Physics :

Nonlinear gyrokinetic theory, parametric decay,
convective cells, simulations

(IV) Summary & Discussions

† In collaborations with Y. Lin (Auburn U)
and F. Zonca (ENEN Frascati)



(I) Introduction

① Shear Alfvén waves (SAW) [H. Alfvén 1942] ⇒ Anisotropic electromagnetic waves in magnetized plasmas (Laboratory, space, solar etc.): Anisotropic conducting medium [σ_{||} → ∞, σ_⊥: finite]



$$\omega^2 = k_{||}^2 V_A^2 \equiv \omega_A^2$$

$$k_{||} = \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 / B_0 \equiv \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{b}_0$$

$$V_A^2 \approx [4\pi n_0 m_i / B_0^2]^{-1}$$

$$V_g = V_A \mathbf{b}_0$$

◦ Readily excited by either external perturbations (e.g. solar wind, antenna) or intrinsic instabilities (e.g. beam/rf injections)

◦ In realistic nonuniform plasmas —
 $\omega_A^2 \Rightarrow \omega_A^2(x)$; x: (radial) nonuniformities

⇒ $\omega^2 = \omega_A^2(x)$: SAW continuous spectrum
[first noted by H. Grad (1969)]

$$\Rightarrow [\partial_t^2 + \omega_A^2(x)] \delta B_y(x, t) = 0$$

◦ $\delta B_y(x, t) = \hat{\delta B}_y(x, t=0) \exp[-i \omega_A(x) t]$

AMPTE/CCE Satellite

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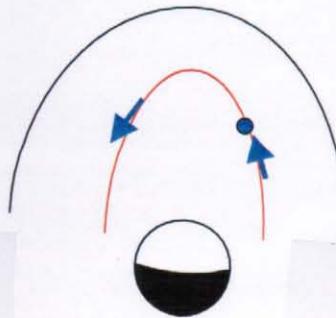
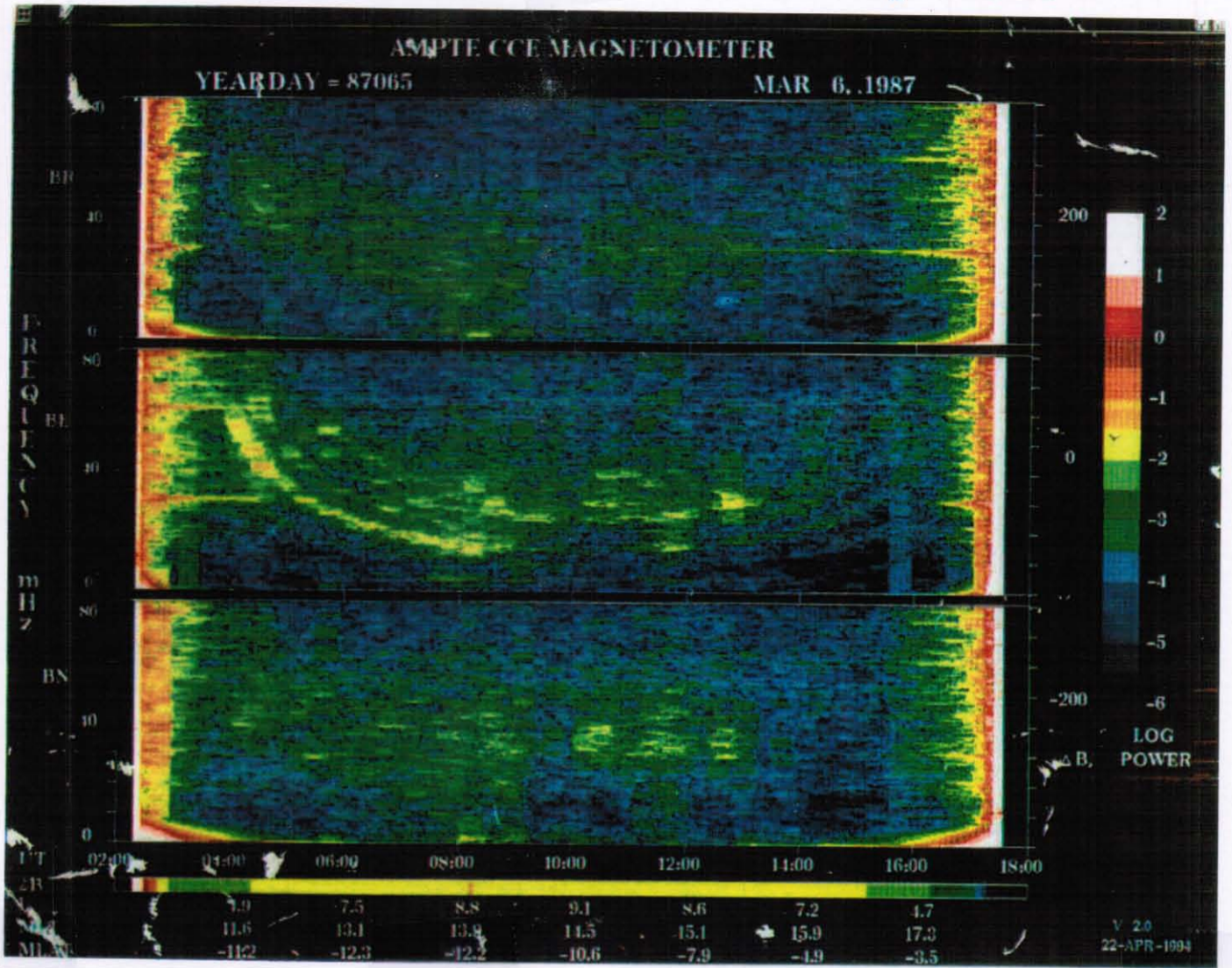
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[Engebretson et al, 1987] JGR

SB_R

SB_E

SB_{||}

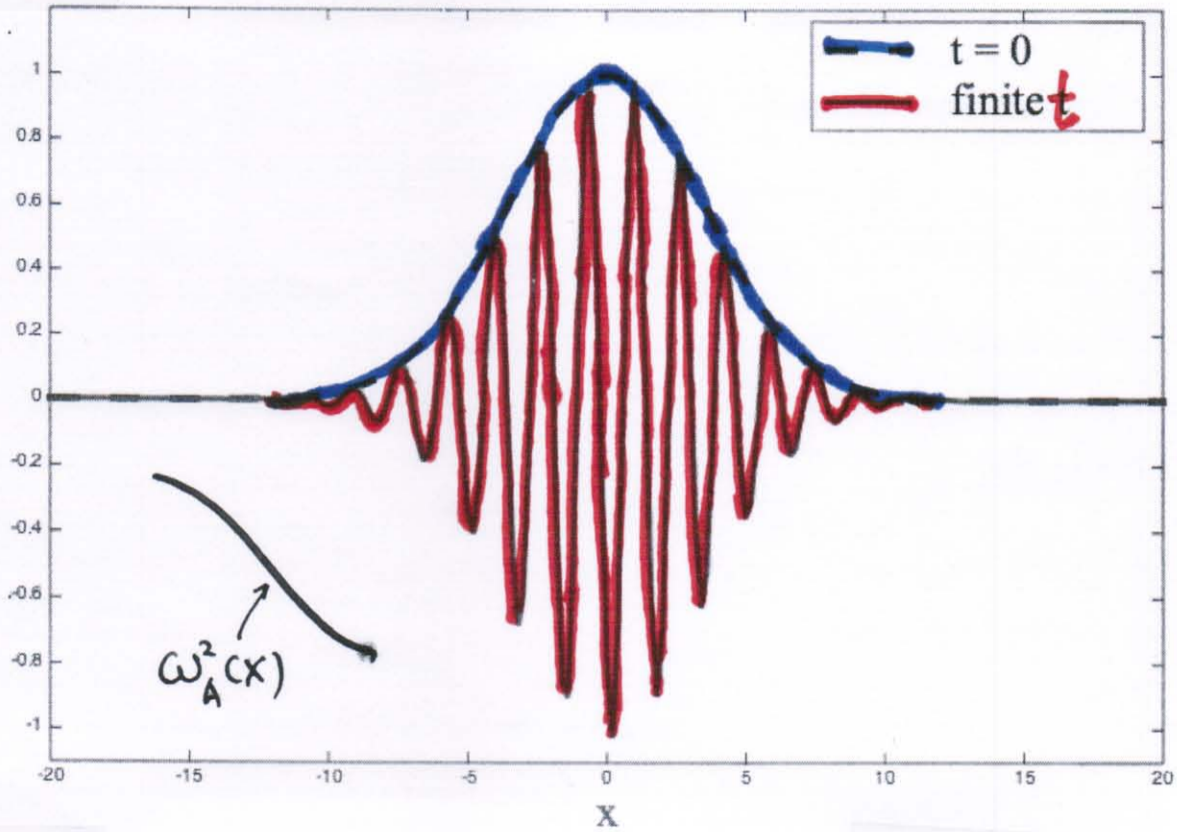




⇒ Significant implications to spatial scales:

$$|k_x| \equiv \left| \frac{d \ln S_{By}}{dx} \right| \Rightarrow \left| \frac{d\omega_A}{dx} \right| t \quad (\text{phase mixing})$$

○ As t increases: long scales evolve into short scales



[Z. Qiu Thesis] GAM

⇒ |k_x| → ∞ as t → ∞: singularity at steady state



① Steady state SAW equation:

$$\left\{ \frac{d}{dx} [\omega_A^2(x) - \omega^2] \frac{d}{dx} + v(x) \right\} \delta B_x(x) = 0$$



[C&H, 1974]

⇒ at $x = x_0$: $\omega^2 = \omega_A^2(x_0) \Rightarrow$ SAW resonance

⇒ singularity and resonant wave absorption

② "Singularity" in the ideal MHD (magnetohydrodynamic)

theory (valid for macroscopic dynamics)

⇒ importance of microscopic scale lengths:

$$r_i = v_{ti} / \Omega_i \text{ (ion Larmor radius); } r_s = \frac{c_s}{\Omega_i}, c_s = v_{ti} \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{T_i}}$$

⇒ Discovery of Kinetic Alfvén Wave (KAW) [1975, 1976]

⇒ complicated analyses: $|\omega / \Omega_i| \ll 1$ limit of Vlasov dynamics ⇒ intractable for realistic nonuniform plasmas / in the nonlinear regime

⇒ Employing the powerful gyrokinetic theory to study KAW physics!!



(II) Linear Kinetic Physics

(II.A) Linear gyrokinetic theory [1978; cf. JGR 1991]

① Theoretical foundation-

- $\epsilon \equiv \rho_i/a$; a : macroscopic scale, $\epsilon \sim O(10^{-3} - 10^{-2}) \ll 1$
- $|\frac{\omega}{\Omega_i}| \sim O(\epsilon)$, Ω_i : cyclotron freq., $|k_{\perp} \rho_i| \sim O(1)$
- $|\omega| \sim |k_{\parallel} v_{te}|$ (wave-particle "Landau" resonance)
- $\Rightarrow |k_{\parallel}/k_{\perp}| \sim O(\epsilon)$; $|\omega|/|k_{\perp} v_A| \sim O(\epsilon) \Rightarrow$ fast wave suppressed!

② Phase-space coordinate transformation-

- $(\underline{x}, \underline{v}) \Rightarrow$ slowly varying guiding-center variables
 \Rightarrow systematically averaging out the fast cyclotron motion

- $(\underline{X}, \underline{V})_g$: $\underline{X}_{\perp} = \underline{x}_{\perp} + \underline{\rho}$, $\underline{\rho} = \underline{v} \times \underline{b}_0 / \Omega_c$, $X_{\parallel} = x_{\parallel}$,
 $\underline{V} = (\epsilon = v^2/2, \mu = v_{\perp}^2/2B_0)$; μ : adiabatic inv.

③ Consider the simple case:

- uniform, isotropic Maxwellian plasma
- particle velocity distribution function:

$$f(\underline{x}, \underline{v}, t) = F_M(\epsilon) + \delta f(\underline{x}, \underline{v}, t)$$



③ Field variables: $(\delta\phi, \delta A) + \nabla \cdot \delta A = 0$

$\Rightarrow (\delta\phi, \delta A_{||}, \delta B_{||})$: $\delta B_{||} \approx 0$ in $\beta (\equiv \frac{4\pi n_0 T}{B_0^2}) \ll 1$ plasmas

(i) $\delta f = -\frac{q}{T} F_M \delta\phi + e^{-\underline{p} \cdot \underline{v}} \delta g$ $f_0 = F_{\text{Maxwell}}$
 $\underline{p} = \underline{v} \times \underline{b} / c$

(ii) $(\partial_t + v_{||} \nabla_{||}) \delta g = \frac{q}{T} F_M \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_\alpha$

(iii) $\langle \delta L_g \rangle_\alpha = \langle e^{-\underline{p} \cdot \underline{v}} (\delta\phi - v_{||} \delta A / c) \rangle_\alpha$ synophase-averaging

(iv) $\delta g_{jR} = - \left[\frac{e}{T} F_M J_0(k_{||} R) \frac{\omega}{k_{||} v_{||} - \omega} (\delta\phi - v_{||} \delta A / c) \right]_j$

(v) let $\delta\psi_R = (\omega \delta A_{||} / c k_{||})$ effective induced potential
 $(\delta\phi, \delta A = \delta A_{||} \underline{b})$

Field Eqs.

(vi) Quasi-neutrality condition

$\sum_j \left(\frac{n_0 e^2}{T} \right)_j \delta\phi_R + \sum_j \left(\frac{n_0 e^2}{T} \right)_j \Gamma_{0j} [\xi_j z_j \delta\psi_R - (1 + \xi_j z_j) \delta\psi_R] = 0$

o $\Gamma_{0j} = I_0(k_{||} R_j) \exp(-k_{||}^2 R_j^2 / 2 \equiv b_j) = I_0(b) \exp(-b)$

o $\xi_j = \omega / (k_{||} v_{||j})$ $Z(\xi)$: plasma function → Ruzmike's Law

(vii) Vorticity eqn.

$\nabla \cdot \underline{\Gamma} = \nabla_{||} \delta J_{||} + \nabla_{\perp} \cdot \underline{\Gamma}_{\perp} = 0$

$\left[i \frac{e^2}{4\pi} k_{\perp}^2 \frac{k_{||}^2}{\omega_R} \right] \delta\psi_R - i \omega_R \delta\phi_R \left[\sum_j \left(\frac{n_0 e^2}{T} \right)_j (1 - \Gamma_{0j}) \right] = 0$



(viii) $|R_L^2 P_e^L| \ll 1$, vorticity eqn. \Rightarrow

$\Rightarrow \omega_k^2 \delta \phi_k = \delta \psi_k (k_{||} V_A)^2 b_k / (1 - P_k)$

$b_k = b_i = k_{\perp}^2 \rho_i^2 / 2$

$P_k = P_{oi}$

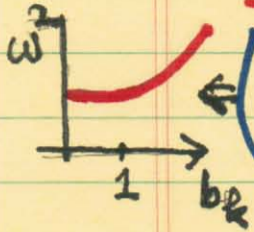
(ix) $|\xi_i| = (\omega / k_{||} v_{ei}) \gg 1 \Rightarrow |\xi_e| = (\omega / k_{||} v_{te}) \ll 1 \gg \beta_i, \beta_e \gg m_e / m_i$

$\partial-N \Rightarrow$

$\delta \psi_k = [1 + (\frac{T_e}{T_i})(1 - P_k)] \delta \phi_k \equiv \sigma_k \delta \phi_k$

$\frac{T_e}{T_i} \equiv \tau$

(x) Linear dispersion relation



$\omega_k^2 \approx (k_{||} V_A)^2 \sigma_k b_k / (1 - P_k)$

recovers previous Ulsov results

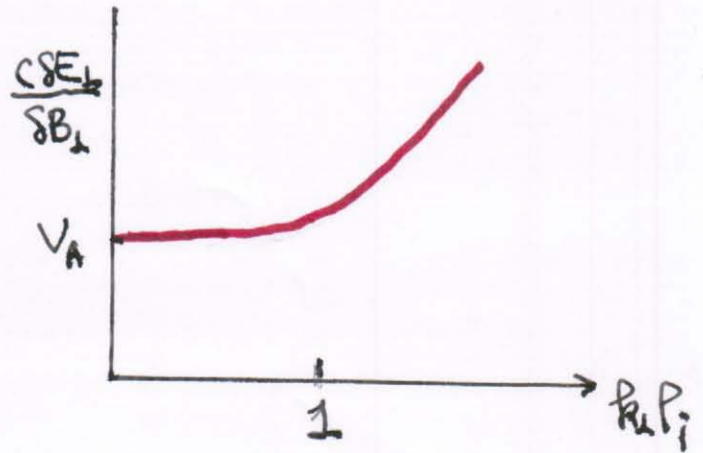
(xi) finite parallel electric field

$\delta E_{||k} = i k_{||} \tau (1 - P_k) \delta \phi_k \approx i k_{||} \left[\begin{matrix} k_{\perp}^2 \rho_i^2 \tau \\ \tau \end{matrix} \right] \delta \phi_k$ $b_k \ll 1$
 $b_k \gg 1$

\Rightarrow accelerating/heating of charged particles
aurorae, solar corona

(x) Wave polarization

$\frac{c \delta E_{\perp}}{\delta B_{\perp}} = V_A \left[\frac{b_k}{\sigma_k (1 - P_k)} \right]^{1/2}$



\Rightarrow important for wave identification



① $|k_{\perp}^2 P_i^2| \ll 1$ (limit :

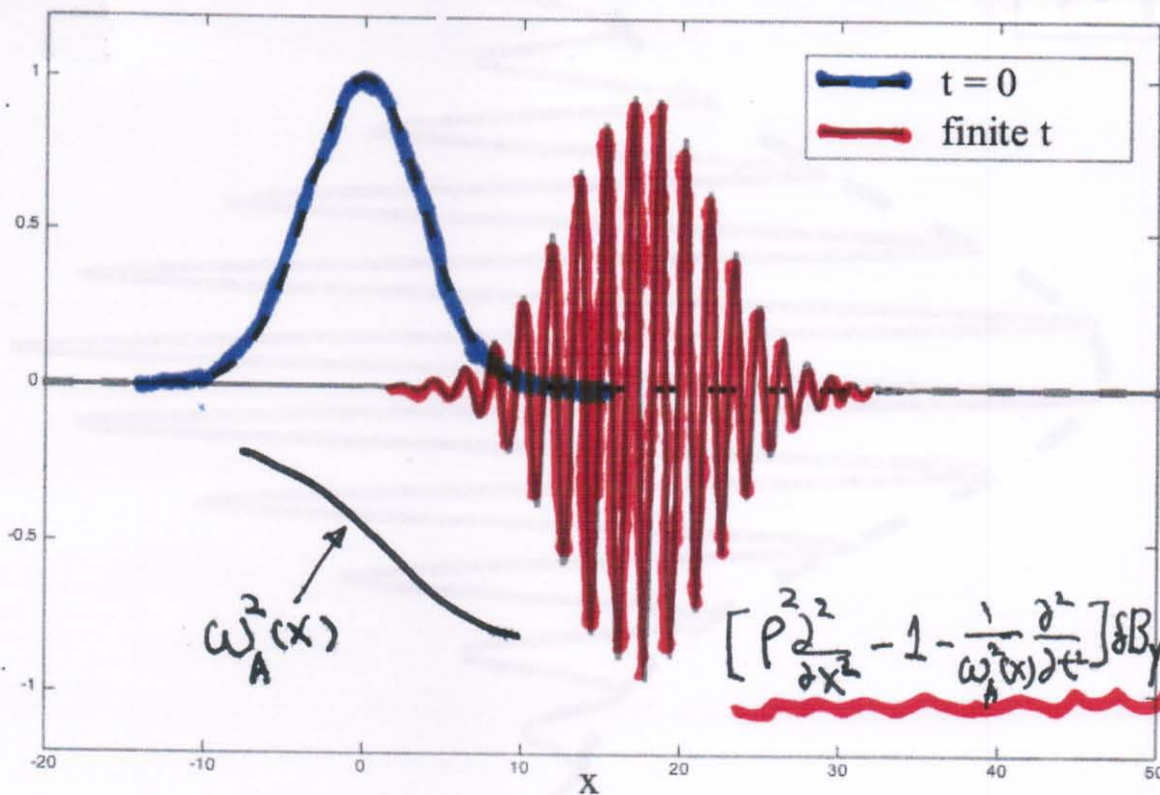
$\Rightarrow \omega_R^2 \approx \omega_A^2(x) [1 + k_{\perp}^2 P^2]; P^2 \equiv P_i^2 [\frac{3}{4} + \frac{T_e}{T_i}]$

$\Rightarrow k_{\perp}^2 > 0, \omega^2 > \omega_A^2(x) \Rightarrow$ propagating

$k_{\perp}^2 < 0, \omega^2 < \omega_A^2(x) \Rightarrow$ cutoff

\Rightarrow finite group velocity $\perp B_0$

$v_{g\perp} \approx \frac{c v_A}{k_{\perp}} (k_{\perp}^2 P^2) \hat{k}_{\perp}$



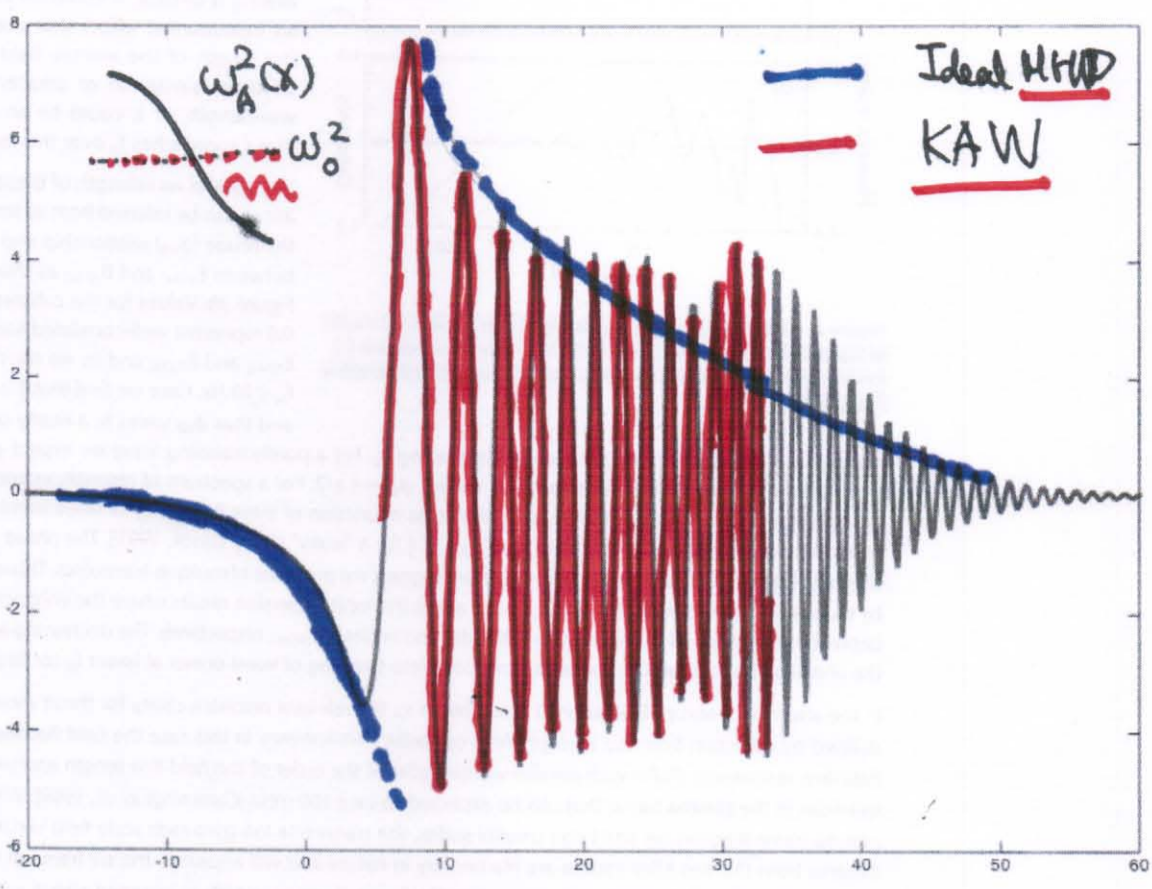
[Z. Qiu thesis] **GAM → KGAM**

① Steady state ("singular" resonance) \Rightarrow mode conversion

$$\Rightarrow \left\{ p^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \left[\frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega_A^2(x)} - 1 \right] \right\} \delta \hat{B}_y(x) = \delta \hat{B}_{y0} \quad [1976]$$



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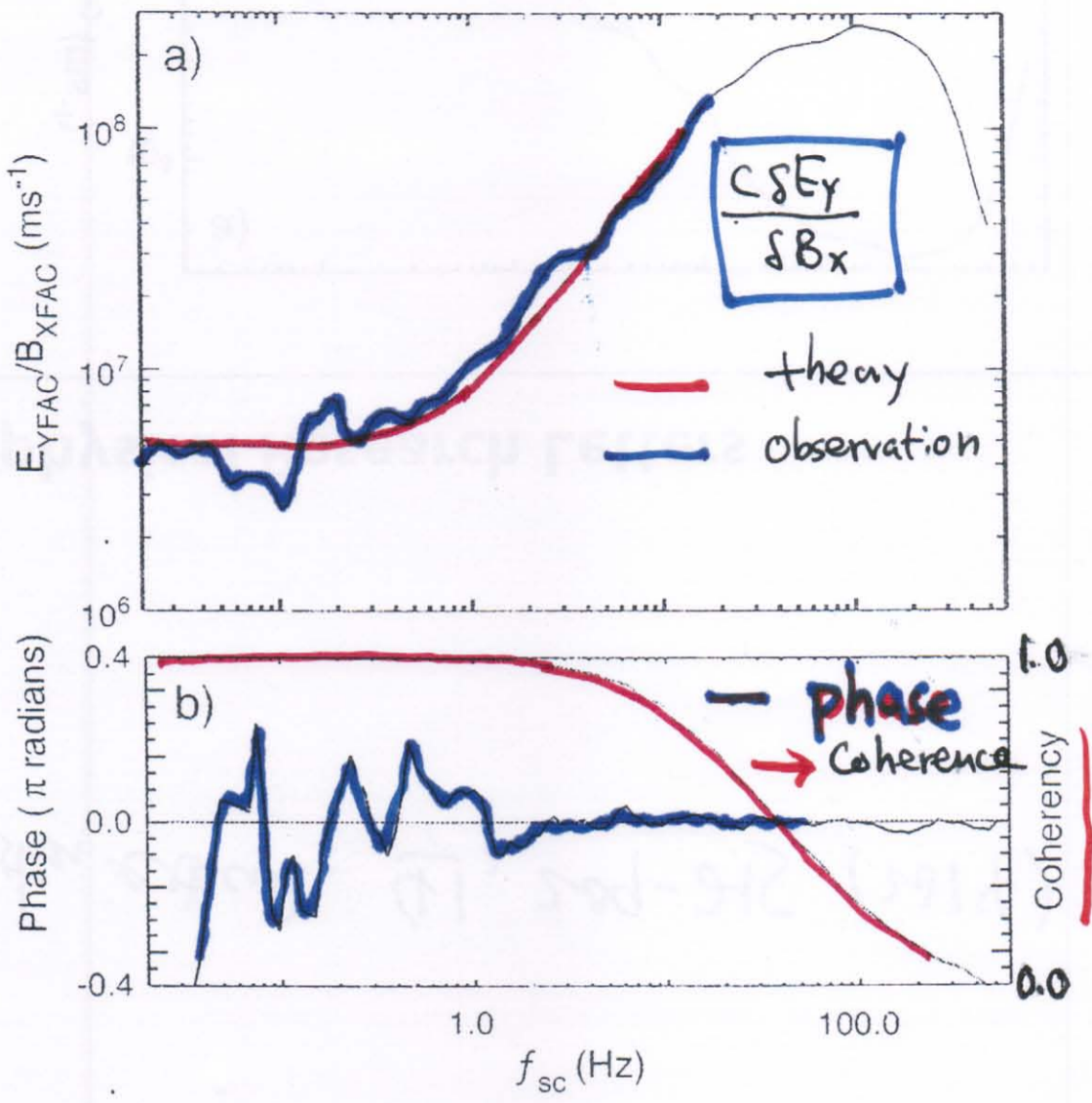
\Rightarrow Scale length : $(\Delta x)_0 = (P^2 L_A)^{1/3}$, L_A : scale of $\omega_A^2(x)$

\Rightarrow temporal scale : $|k_x|_0 = \omega_A' t_0 = (\Delta x_0)^{-1}$

\Rightarrow $\omega_0 t_0 = \left(\frac{L_A}{P} \right)^{2/3} \sim O(10^2)$

\Rightarrow "Airy" enhancement :

$|\delta \hat{B}_y(\Delta x)| \approx O \left[\left(\frac{L_A}{P} \right)^{2/3} \right] |\delta \hat{B}_{y0}|$



$k_i \rho_i \geq 1$ and in Doppler shift mentioned above will be larger than the wave frequency (f_p) for f accounts for the Doppler shift though for the Doppler shift. The origin of the B_{XFAC} ratio for writing is unclear. The length of the wave becomes similar to the wavelength, or that f approaches the wave frequency. The parallel wave variations can be interpreted in terms of the phase (ϕ_{EB}) between E_{YFAC} and B_{XFAC} . Figure 3b. Value 0.6 represents the coherence between E_{YFAC} and B_{XFAC} for $f_{sc} \leq 20$ Hz. Here ϕ_{EB} is constant and that ϕ_{EB} varies in a

Figure 3. (a) The ratio E_{YFAC}/B_{XFAC} averaged over the interval shown in Figure 2. Red line shows the fit of the local dispersion relation for kinetic Alfvén waves. (b) Relative phase and coherency (red) between E_{YFAC} and B_{XFAC} .

manner as it decreases in magnitude with increasing f_{sc} . For a purely traveling wave while for a standing wave or resonance we expect $\phi_{EB} = \pm \pi/2$. For a spectrum of multiple harmonics the expected phase variation as a function of wave frequency is arbitrary between $\pm \pi/2$ for a perfect cavity and $|\phi_{EB}| < \pi/2$ for a "leaky" cavity [Lysak, 1991].



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Salam et al

Cluster observations in solar wind [ApJ 2012]

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 745:L9 (5pp), 2012 January 20

SALEM ET AL.

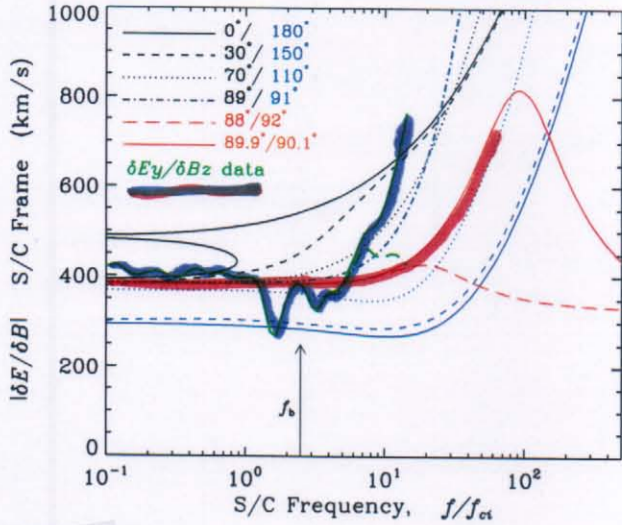


Figure 3. Prediction of $|\delta E / \delta B|_{S/C}$ for kinetic Alfvén waves (red curves) or whistler waves (black and blue curves) with specified angle θ . Cluster measurements of $|\delta E_y / \delta B_z|$ up to 2 Hz, or $12f_{ci}$, are presented without (green solid) and with (green dashed) the EFW noise floor removed.

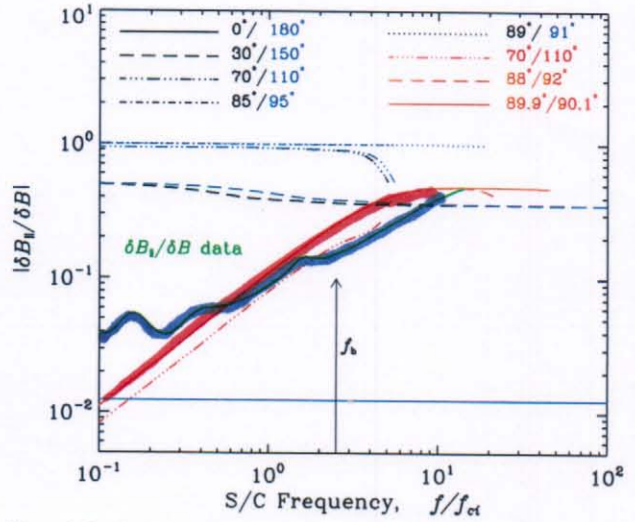


Figure 4. Prediction of $|\delta B_{\parallel} / \delta B|_{S/C}$ for kinetic Alfvén waves (red) or whistler waves (black/blue) with specified angle θ . Cluster FGM measurements up to 2 Hz, or $12f_{ci}$, are shown in green.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

$$|\delta E_y / \delta B_z|$$

$$|\delta B_{\parallel} / \delta B|$$

— observation

— observation

— theory

— theory

② Lab observations :

o ~1980 Lausanne, Swiss

o TFTR [K.L. Wong]



(III) Nonlinear Kinetic Physics

F-C

(III.A) Nonlinear gyrokinetic theory [cf. 1982]



① Nonlinear ordering :

$$|\delta f / F_0| \sim O(\epsilon) \Rightarrow |\delta \mathbf{u}_\perp \cdot \nabla_\perp| \equiv \omega_{ne} \sim O(\omega)$$

\Rightarrow Valid for strong turbulence

② Nonlinear gyrokinetic equations

$$\delta f = -\frac{q}{T} F_M \delta \phi + e^{-\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla} \delta g$$

$$[\partial_t + v_{||} \partial_z + \langle \delta \mathbf{u}_{Eg} \rangle \cdot \nabla] \delta g = \frac{q}{T} F_M \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_\alpha$$

$$\langle \delta L_g \rangle = \left\langle e^{\mathbf{p} \cdot \nabla} (\delta \phi - v_{||} \delta A_{||} / c) \right\rangle_{\alpha \text{ gyro phase averaging}}$$

$$\langle \delta \mathbf{u}_{Eg} \rangle = \frac{c}{B_0} \mathbf{b} \times \nabla \langle \delta L_g \rangle_\alpha$$

$$= \frac{c}{B_0} \langle \delta \mathbf{E}_\perp \rangle_\alpha \times \mathbf{b} + v_{||} \frac{\langle \delta B_\perp \rangle_\alpha}{B_0}$$

* $\beta \ll 1 \Rightarrow |\delta B_{||}| \approx 0$



o Fourier expansion \Rightarrow

$$i(k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} - \omega_{pe}) \delta g_k = -i \frac{\omega_p^2}{T} J_k \delta L_{gk} F_M$$

$$+ \frac{c}{B_0} \Lambda_{k'}^{k''} [J_{k'} \delta L_{k'} \delta g_{k''} - J_{k''} \delta L_{k''} \delta g_{k'}]$$

$$\bullet \Lambda_{k'}^{k''} = b \cdot (\underline{k}'_{\perp} \times \underline{k}''_{\perp}), \quad \underline{k}' + \underline{k}'' = \underline{k} \quad (*)$$

$$\bullet \delta L_k = \delta \phi_k - v_{\parallel} \delta A_{\parallel k} / c$$

o Field equations

o Quasi-neutrality condition ($q := e$)

$$\Rightarrow e n_0 (1 + \tau) \frac{\delta \phi_k}{T_e} = \langle J_k \delta g_{ki} - \delta g_{ke} \rangle_v$$

$\bullet \tau \equiv T_e / T_i \quad \Leftarrow$ Poisson's eqn $(k \lambda_D)^2 \ll 1$

o Parallel Ampere's Law

$$\Rightarrow k_{\perp}^2 \delta A_{\parallel k} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \delta J_{\parallel k}$$

$$+ \nabla \cdot \delta \underline{J} = i k_{\parallel} \delta J_{\parallel k} + i k_{\perp} \cdot \delta \underline{J}_{\perp k} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\sum_j q_j \langle J_k (*) \rangle_{jv} \quad \uparrow$$



[RMP 2006]

① The nonlinear gyrokinetic vorticity eqn.

(line-bending inertial)

$$\Rightarrow i k_{\parallel} \delta J_{\parallel k} - i \frac{c}{4\pi} \frac{\omega_k}{V_A^2} \frac{R_{\perp}^2}{b_k} (1 - \Gamma_k) \delta \phi_k = \underbrace{(NL)_A}_{\text{Maxwell stress}} + \underbrace{(NL)_{\phi}}_{\text{gyrokinetic-ion Reynolds stress}}$$

- $b_k = R_{\perp}^2 e^{-\frac{1}{2} k_{\perp}^2}, \quad \Gamma_k = I_0(b_k) \exp(-b_k)$

- $(NL)_A = - \Lambda_{R'}^{R''} \left[\delta A_{\parallel R'} \delta J_{\parallel R''} - \delta A_{\parallel R''} \delta J_{\parallel R'} \right] / B_0$

\Rightarrow "Maxwell stress"

- $(NL)_{\phi} = \frac{ec}{B_0} \Lambda_{R'}^{R''} \left\langle \left(J_k J_{k'} - J_{k''} \right) \delta L_{k'} \delta g_{k''} - \left(J_k J_{k''} - J_{k'} \right) \delta L_{k''} \delta g_{k'} \right\rangle$

\Rightarrow "gyrokinetic-ion Reynolds stress"

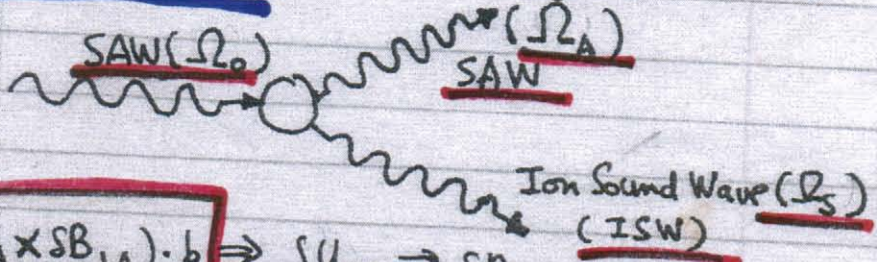
(III.B) Parametric decay instabilities

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3-wave parametric decays



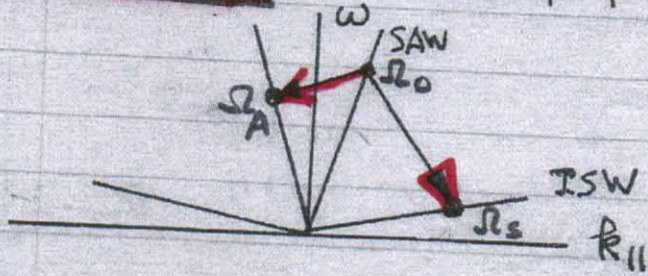
① Ideal MHD theories (1969 Sagdeev + Galeev)



○ $(\delta J_{\perp A} \times \delta B_{\perp A}) \cdot \hat{b} \Rightarrow \delta U_{\parallel S} \Rightarrow \delta n_s$

○ $\delta n_s \delta U_{\perp PA} \Rightarrow \delta J_{\perp A}^{ne}$

○ Backscattering \Rightarrow Counter-Propagating SAWs

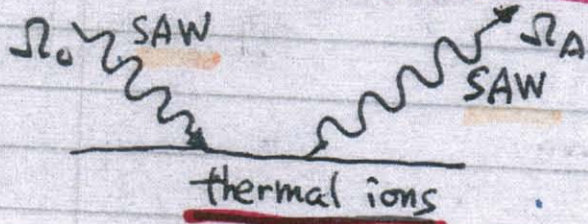


○ $\omega - k_{\parallel}$ matching conditions

$$\Omega_0 = (\omega_0, k_{\parallel 0}) = \Omega_s + \Omega_A$$

② Similar physics for nonlinear ion Landau damping

Text:



ion-induced scatterings

○ $\omega_s = \omega_0 - \omega_A \approx k_s v_{ti}$

\Rightarrow Ω_s heavily damped ISW (quasi mode)

GK theory of Parametric Decays of KAW

(2011)

P17
in
P47

overview of results

(I) Parametric dispersion relation

① $\epsilon_s [\epsilon_{A-} + \chi_{A-}^{(2)}] = C_k |\Phi_0|^2$ $|\Phi_0|$: pump wave

o s : low-freq. sound wave

ISW

$\epsilon_s = 1 + \tau + \tau \Pi_s \mathcal{F}_s Z(\mathcal{F}_s)$

$\tau = T_e/T_i$

$\Pi_s = I_0(b_{is}) \exp(-b_{is})$

$\mathcal{F}_s = |\omega_s| / (k_{s\parallel} v_{ti})$

$b_R = k_{\perp}^2 \rho_i^2 / 2$

o A_- : Daughter KAW

KAW

$\epsilon_{A-} = \frac{(1 - \Pi_-)}{b_{i-}} - \left(\frac{k_{\parallel} v_A}{\omega_-} \right)^2 \sigma_-$

$\sigma_- = 1 + \tau(1 - \Pi_-)$

② C_k : Shielded Ion Scatterings

① $C_k = \lambda^2 H^2 \sim O(|\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0}|^2) \gg 1$

o $\lambda^2 = \left(\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0} \right)^2 \frac{[(\underline{k}_s \rho_s \times \underline{k}_0 \rho_s) \cdot \underline{b}]^2}{(b_s \sigma_-)} \sim O\left(\frac{\Omega_i^2}{\omega_0^2}\right) \gg 1$

o $H = (\sigma_0 \sigma_- - F_1 \sigma_s / \Pi_s) \sim O(1)$

o $F_1 = \int d^3V F_{hi} J_0 J_- J_s \equiv \langle J_0 J_- J_s \rangle_V$

③ χ_{A-} : Bare ion scatterings (Ion Cuyton Scattering)

$\chi_{A-} = \epsilon_s (\lambda^2 / \Pi_s) G |\Phi_0|^2$; $G = \langle J_0^2 J_-^2 \rangle_V - F_1^2 / \Pi_s \geq 0$
Schwartz inequality

① $|k_{\perp} \rho_i|^2 \ll 1 \Rightarrow |RHS| \propto \left| \frac{\delta B_{\perp 0}}{B_0} \right|^2 (k_{\perp} \rho_i)^4$

② $|k_{\perp} \rho_i|^2 \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow |RHS| \propto \left| \frac{\delta B_{\perp 0}}{B_0} \right|^2 (k_{\perp} \rho_i)^{-1}$

\Rightarrow maximal scatterings around $|k_{\perp} \rho_i| \sim O(1)$.

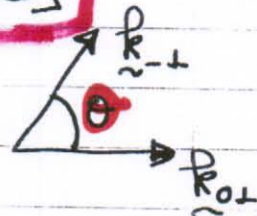
(ii) Contrast with ideal MHD theory (S+G, 1969)

③ C_K replaced by

MHD \Rightarrow

$C_I = |k_{\perp 0} \rho_s \cdot k_{\perp 1} \rho_s|^2 / [b_{s-} (1 + \delta_i T_i / T_e)]$

$\Rightarrow \frac{b_{s0}}{(1 + \delta_i T_i / T_e)} \cos^2 \theta \approx O(1)$



④ $C_K = \left(\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0} \right)^2 \frac{b_{s0}}{\sigma} H^2 \sin^2 \theta \approx O\left(\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0} \right)^2$

$\Rightarrow |C_K| / |C_I| \sim O\left(\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0} \right)^2 \gg \gg 1$ for $|k_{\perp} \rho_i| \sim O(1)$

⑤ For $|k_{\perp} \rho_i|^2 \ll 1$

* $\Rightarrow |C_K| / |C_I| \sim O\left(\frac{\Omega_i}{\omega_0} \right)^2 (k_{\perp} \rho_i)^4$

* $\Rightarrow |k_{\perp} \rho_i| \geq O\left(\frac{\omega_0}{\Omega_i} \right)^{1/2} \ll 1$ kinetic effects dominate!

\Rightarrow ⑥ ideal MHD approximation breaks down

faster in the nonlinear physics regime

quantitatively and qualitatively !!

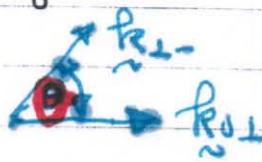
(following discussions)

⑥ Qualitative difference

• $C_I \propto \cos^2 \theta \Rightarrow$ maximizes for

MHD

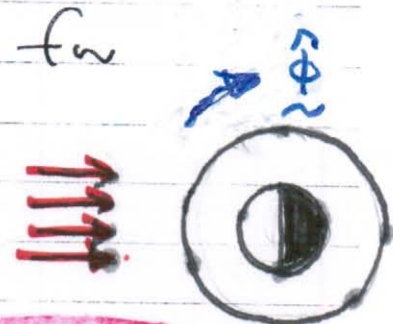
$\Rightarrow \boxed{\tilde{k}_{\perp} \parallel \tilde{k}_{\parallel}}$



• $C_K \propto \sin^2 \theta \Rightarrow$ maximizes for

Kinetic

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\tilde{k}_{\perp} \perp \tilde{k}_{\parallel}}$



• Mode conversion $\Rightarrow \boxed{\tilde{k}_{\perp} = k_{\perp} \hat{r}}$

MHD $\Rightarrow C_I \Rightarrow \tilde{k}_{\perp} \approx k_{\perp} \hat{r} \Rightarrow$ little transpore!!

Kinetic $\Rightarrow C_K \Rightarrow \tilde{k}_{\perp} \approx k_{\perp} \hat{r} \Rightarrow$ symmetry breaking
 \Rightarrow finite transpore!!

• $C_I \Rightarrow$ anisotropic spectrum $\perp B_0$

$C_K \Rightarrow$ isotropic spectrum $\perp B_0$

** [Note: $D_{rr} \propto k_{\perp}^2 |\phi|^2$] (JGR 1999)

⑦ generalized angular momentum

$\langle P_{\phi} \rangle_{\alpha} \Leftrightarrow$ guiding-center position
radial

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R20 九

Lin et al. PRL [2012]



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Hybrid simulation



Mode Conversion
KAW

$|R_x| \gg |R_y|$
pump

$|R_y| \gg |R_x|$
decay KAW

$T_i/T_e \cong 2.5$

PRL 109, 125003 (2012)

PHYSICAL REV

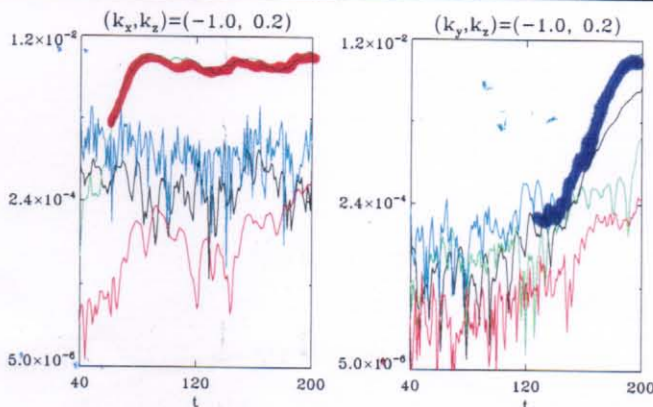


FIG. 3 (color). Time evolution of B_x (black), B_y (green), E_y (blue), and E_{\parallel} (red) for the KAW modes dominated by k_x (left column) at $y = 32$ and for those dominated by k_y (right) at the resonance point $x = 53$ in the inhomogeneous magnetopause.

Uniform
pump

decay
KAW

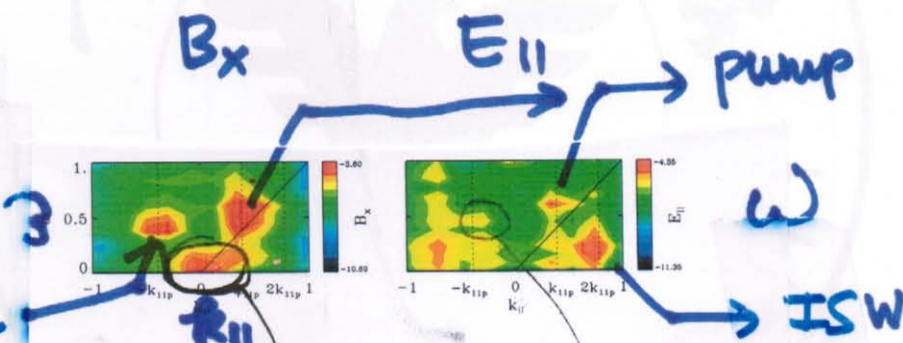


FIG. 4 (color online). k_{\parallel} - ω spectra of B_x and E_{\parallel} obtained from the simulation of decay of an initial pump KAW in a uniform plasma. The solid black line indicates the dispersion relation of the MHD shear Alfvén mode for reference.

decay
KAW

$k_{\parallel} \approx 0$

MSCC [Convective cells] later

$|R_y| \gg |R_x| \sim 0(1)$

maximal PDI



(III.C) ⊙

Convective cells (~1970's)

⇒ $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 = 0}}$ and $\underline{\underline{\omega \approx 0}}$

◦ Electrostatic convective cells (ESCC)

⇒ $\underline{\underline{\delta E = \delta E_{\perp}}}$ [Dawson and Okuda]

◦ Magnetostatic convective cells (MSCC)

⇒ $\underline{\underline{\delta B = \delta B_{\perp}}}$ [Chu et al.]

⇒ anomalous \perp \mathbf{B}_0 transport.

⊙ In fusion laboratory plasmas -

$\underline{\underline{[\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 = 0]}}$

Zonal structures ⇒ self-regulation of turbulence (transport)

◦ Zonal flow ⇔ ESCC

◦ Zonal field/current ⇔ MSCC

⇒ Zonal structures : Subset of convective cells

⇒ Renewed interest in nonlinear excitations of convective cells !!



① Convective cells generation by Alfvén waves

o In uniform, magnetized plasmas

⇒ Ideal MHD limit ⇒

$$\text{Reynold stress} + \text{Maxwell stress} \approx 0$$

⇒ Pure Alfvénic state ⇒ no convective cell generation

o Non-ideal effects ⇒ Kinetic Alfvén Wave (KAW)

o Convective cells by KAW :

Previous studies (since 1978 by Sagdeev et al)

assume $|k_{\perp}^2 \rho_i^2| \ll 1$ (drift-kinetic ions)

and/or decoupled EScc and MScc ⇒

incorrect stability analyses!

o Spontaneous excitation of coupled EScc + MScc via modulational instability of KAW sets in when $|k_{\perp} \rho_i| \sim O(1)$!!

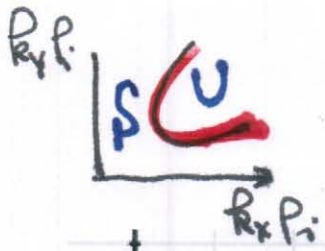
[ZLC, EPL, 2015]

Numerical Solutions of the

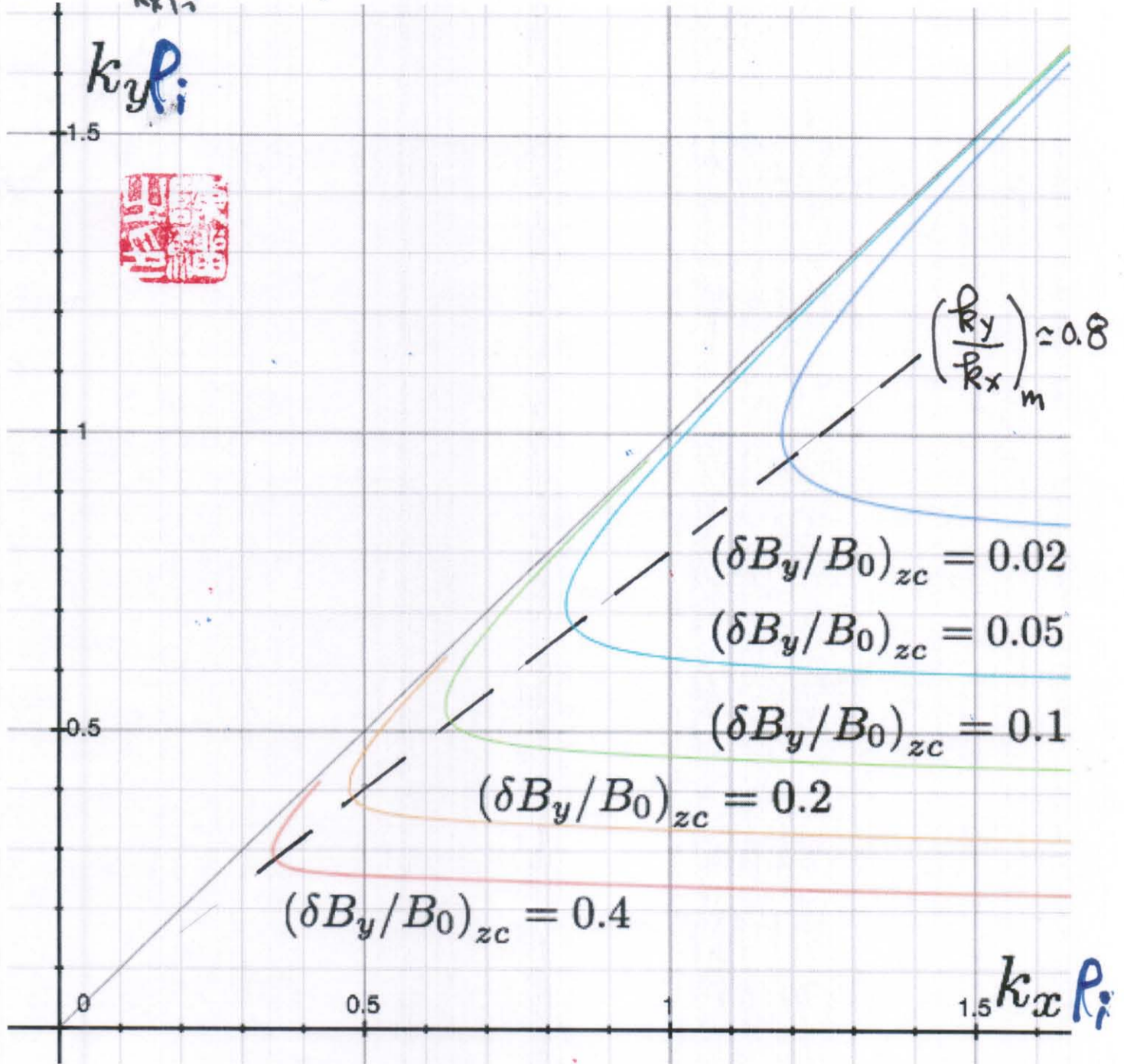
M.I. Disp Relation

[$\beta_e = \beta_i = 0.2$, $\tau = 1$]

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78
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Marginal stability curves



Marginal stability curves

SE

R13

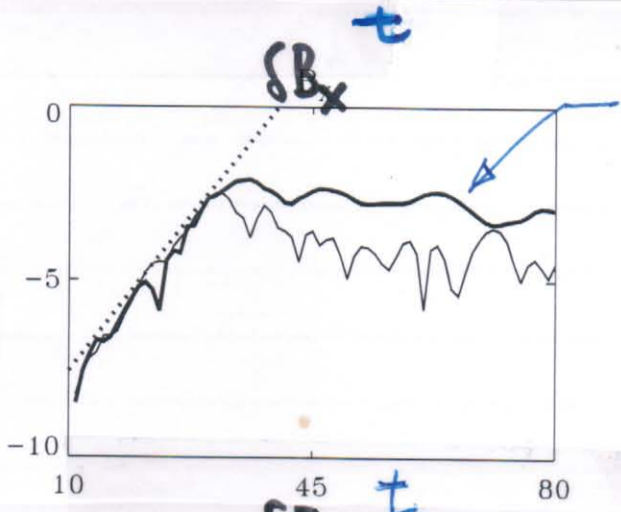
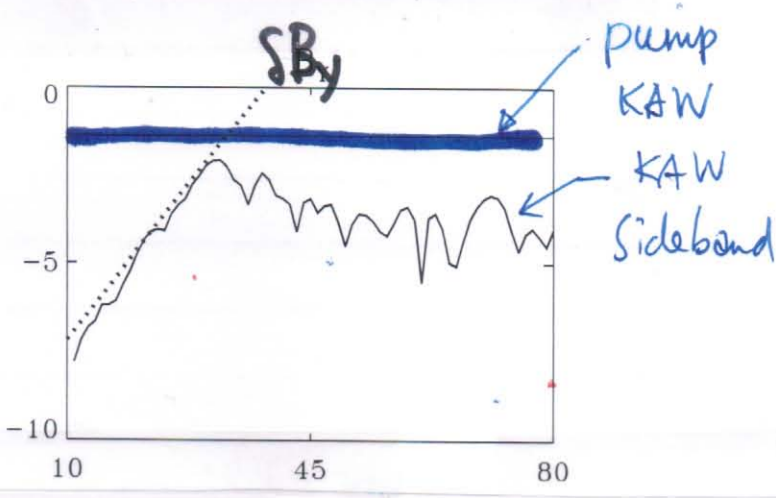
$\delta B_{y0}/B_0 = 0.4$, $k_{x0} l_i = 1.25$, $k_{y0} l_i = 0.8$

P24 2

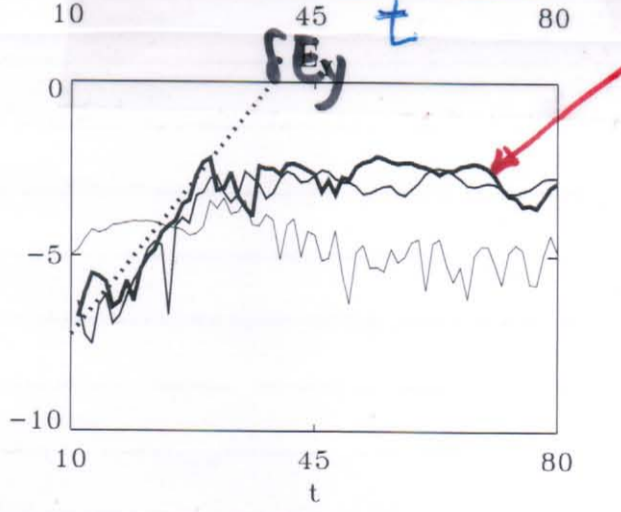
陈子育



Simulation



$\delta B_{\perp z}$ (MSCC)



$\delta E_{\perp z}$ (ESCC)

\Rightarrow MSCC (δB_{xz}) and ESCC (δE_{yz}) coupled!
 $\Rightarrow [V_{ti} \delta B_{xz} / c \delta E_{yz}] \approx 0.17$ (Theory: 0.14) p.16

p.16



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γ_z / ω_{ci}

lines = Theory

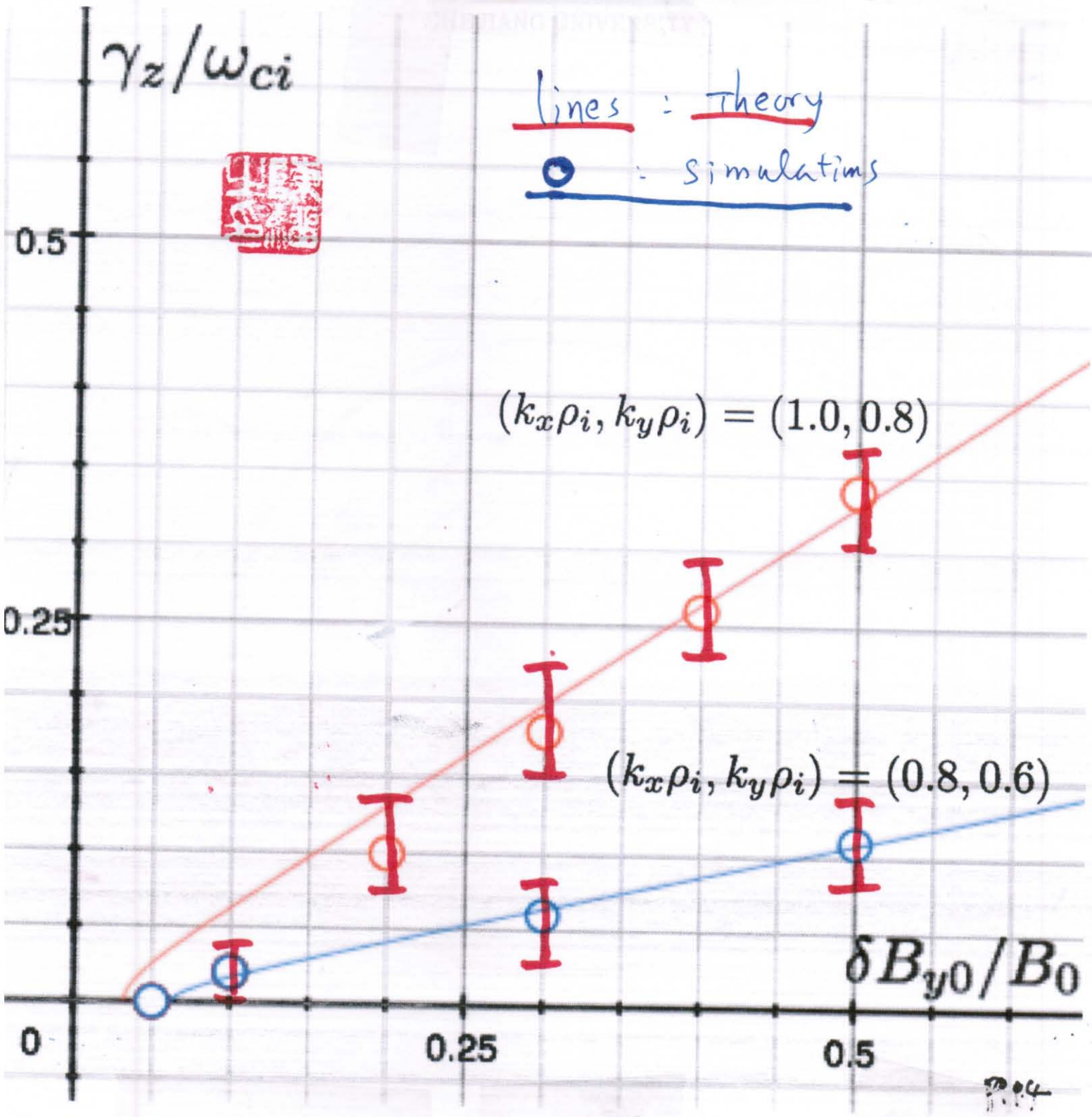
○ = simulations



$(k_x \rho_i, k_y \rho_i) = (1.0, 0.8)$

$(k_x \rho_i, k_y \rho_i) = (0.8, 0.6)$

$\delta B_{y0} / B_0$





(IV) Summary + Discussions



① Kinetic Alfvén waves play crucial roles in the phase-space dynamics of charged particles; accelerating, heating and transports, in nature + Lab. plasmas. [KTAE, KBAE, etc]

② Gyrokinetic theory provides powerful theoretical (analytical and numerical) tools for studying the physics of KAW.

③ Finite- k_{\perp} effects affect both qualitatively and quantitatively the processes of parametric decay instabilities as well as the excitations of convective cells (zonal flow/current-field):

Maximum scatterings occur around $|k_{\perp} \rho_i| \sim O(1)$

⇒ ideal MHD/2-fluid/drift-kinetic approaches:
inadequate !!

⇒ Supported by both analytical and simulation studies.

⇒ $e-i$ decoupling much enhanced in the KAW regime!



⑤ Characteristic KAW time scale:

$$\omega_0 t_0 = (L_A / \rho)^{2/3} \sim O(10^2) \text{ and } (\delta / \omega_A)_{AE} \sim O(10^{-2})$$

for Alfvén-wave instabilities in laboratory fusion

plasmas $\Rightarrow \delta t_0 \sim O(1)$: KAW could play

important roles in instabilities driven by
e.s., fusion & particles.

⑥ Interesting and important issues; such as
long-time-scale nonlinear dynamics in realistic
non-uniform plasma environments remain
little explored. [e.g., K-AEs & Digt Waves, etc.]

Thanks! 谢谢!!