# CONTENTS

PREFACE v

1. INTRODUCTION 1

1. General Properties of Plasmas 1
   1.1 Definition of a Plasma 1
   1.2 Plasma as the Fourth State of Matter 1
   1.3 Plasma Production 2
   1.4 Particle Interactions and Collective Effects 3
   1.5 Some Basic Plasma Phenomena 4

2. Criteria for the Definition of a Plasma 6
   2.1 Macroscopic Neutrality 6
   2.2 Debye Shielding 7
   2.3 The Plasma Frequency 9

3. The Occurrence of Plasmas in Nature 11
   3.1 The Sun and its Atmosphere 13
   3.2 The Solar Wind 13
   3.3 The Magnetosphere and the Van Allen Radiation Belts 14
   3.4 The Ionosphere 16
   3.5 Plasmas Beyond the Solar System 17

4. Applications of Plasma Physics 17
   4.1 Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion 18
   4.2 The Magnetohydrodynamic Generator 22
   4.3 Plasma Propulsion 23
   4.4 Other Plasma Devices 23
CONTENTS

5. Gradient Drift 74

6. Parallel Acceleration of the Guiding Center 74
   6.1 Invariance of the Orbital Magnetic Moment and of the Magnetic Flux 75
   6.2 Magnetic Mirror Effect 77
   6.3 The Longitudinal Adiabatic Invariant 81

7. Curvature Drift 84

8. Combined Gradient-Curvature Drift 87

Problems 89

4. CHARGED PARTICLE MOTION IN TIME-VARYING ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS 95

1. Introduction 95

2. Slowly Time-Varying Electric Field 95
   2.1 Equation of Motion and Polarization Drift 95
   2.2 Plasma Dielectric Constant 97

3. Electric Field with Arbitrary Time Variation 100
   3.1 Solution of the Equation of Motion 100
   3.2 Physical Interpretation 102
   3.3 Mobility Dyad 105
   3.4 Plasma Conductivity Dyad 105
   3.5 Cyclotron Resonance 106

4. Time-Varying Magnetic Field and Space-Varying Electric Field 108
   4.1 Equation of Motion and Adiabatic Invariants 108
   4.2 Magnetic Heating of a Plasma 112

5. Summary of Guiding Center Drifts and Current Densities 115
   5.1 Guiding Center Drifts 115
   5.2 Current Densities 115

Problems 116
CONTENTS

Problems 157

7. THE EQUILIBRIUM STATE 161

1. The Equilibrium State Distribution Function 161
   1.1 The General Principle of Detailed Balance and Binary Collisions 162
   1.2 Summation Invariants 164
   1.3 Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution Function 165
   1.4 Determination of the Constant Coefficients 166
   1.5 Local Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution Function 169

2. The Most Probable Distribution 169

3. Mixture of Various Particle Species 170

4. Properties of the Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution Function 171
   4.1 Distribution of a Velocity Component 171
   4.2 Distribution of Speeds 174
   4.3 Mean Values Related to the Molecular Speeds 176
   4.4 Distribution of Thermal Kinetic Energy 178
   4.5 Random Particle Flux 178
   4.6 Kinetic Pressure and Heat Flux 181

5. Equilibrium in the Presence of an External Force 181

6. Degree of Ionization in Equilibrium and the Saha Equation 184
Problems 187

8. MACROSCOPIC TRANSPORT EQUATIONS 193

1. Moments of the Boltzmann Equation 193

2. General Transport Equation 194

3. Conservation of Mass 197
   3.1 Derivation of the Continuity Equation 197
   3.2 Derivation by the Method of Fluid Dynamics 198
   3.3 The Collision Term 200
4. Conservation of Momentum 200
   4.1 Derivation of the Equation of Motion 200
   4.2 The Collision Term 203

5. Conservation of Energy 204
   5.1 Derivation of the Energy Transport Equation 204
   5.2 Physical Interpretation 207
   5.3 Simplifying Approximations 207

6. The Cold Plasma Model 210

7. The Warm Plasma Model 211

Problems 212

9. MACROSCOPIC EQUATIONS FOR A CONDUCTING FLUID 219

1. Macroscopic Variables for a Plasma as a Conducting Fluid 219

2. Continuity Equation 222

3. Equation of Motion 223

4. Energy Equation 224

5. Electrdynamic Equations for a Conducting Fluid 227
   5.1 Maxwell Curl Equations 228
   5.2 Conservation of Electric Charge 228
   5.3 Generalized Ohm’s Law 229

6. Simplified Magnetohydrodynamic Equations 234

Problems 236

10. PLASMA CONDUCTIVITY AND DIFFUSION 238

1. Introduction 238

2. The Langevin Equation 238

3. Linearization of the Langevin Equation 240

4. DC Conductivity and Electron Mobility 242
   4.1 Isotropic Plasma 242
   4.2 Anisotropic Magnetoplasma 243
5. AC Conductivity and Electron Mobility 247
6. Conductivity with Ion Motion 249
7. Plasma as a Dielectric Medium 250
8. Free Electron Diffusion 251
9. Electron Diffusion in a Magnetic Field 254
10. Ambipolar Diffusion 256
11. Diffusion in a Fully Ionized Plasma 260

Problems 262

11. SOME BASIC PLASMA PHENOMENA 269

1. Electron Plasma Oscillations 269
2. The Debye Shielding Problem 273
3. Debye Shielding Using the Vlasov Equation 278
4. Plasma Sheath 279
  4.1 Physical Mechanism 280
  4.2 Electric Potential on the Wall 281
  4.3 Inner Structure of the Plasma Sheath 282
5. Plasma Probe 288

Problems 291

12. SIMPLE APPLICATIONS OF MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS 299

1. Fundamental Equations of Magnetohydrodynamics 299
  1.1 Parker Modified Momentum Equation 300
  1.2 The Double Adiabatic Equations of Chew, Goldberger, and Low (CGL) 302
  1.3 Special Cases of the Double Adiabatic Equations 305
  1.4 Energy Integral 307
2. Magnetic Viscosity and Reynolds Number 309
3. Diffusion of Magnetic Field Lines 311
4. Freezing of Magnetic Field Lines
to the Plasma 312
5. Magnetic Pressure 316
6. Isobaric Surfaces 318
7. Plasma Confinement in a Magnetic Field 319
Problems 322

13. THE PINCH EFFECT 325

1. Introduction 325
2. The Equilibrium Pinch 326
3. The Bennett Pinch 332
4. Dynamic Model of the Pinch 335
5. Instabilities in a Pinched Plasma Column 341
6. The Sausage Instability 342
7. The Kink Instability 345
8. Convex Field Configurations 346
Problems 348

14. ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES IN FREE SPACE 351

1. The Wave Equation 351
2. Solution in Plane Waves 352
3. Harmonic Waves 354
4. Polarization 358
5. Energy Flow 363
6. Wave Packets and Group Velocity 366
Problems 370
15. MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC WAVES 375

1. Introduction 375
   1.1 Alfvén Waves 376
   1.2 Magnetosonic Waves 377

2. MHD Equations for a Compressible Nonviscous Conducting Fluid 379
   2.1 Basic Equations 379
   2.2 Development of an Equation for the Fluid Velocity 381

3. Propagation Perpendicular to the Magnetic Field 382

4. Propagation Parallel to the Magnetic Field 383

5. Propagation at Arbitrary Directions 384
   5.1 Pure Alfvén Wave 386
   5.2 Fast and Slow MHD Waves 387
   5.3 Phase Velocities 387
   5.4 Wave Normal Surfaces 388

6. Effect of Displacement Current 390
   6.1 Basic Equations 392
   6.2 Equation for the Fluid Velocity 392
   6.3 Propagation Across the Magnetostatic Field 393
   6.4 Propagation Along the Magnetostatic Field 393

7. Damping of MHD Waves 394
   7.1 Alfvén Waves 395
   7.2 Sound Waves 396
   7.3 Magnetosonic Waves 396

Problems 397

16. WAVES IN COLD PLASMAS 400

1. Introduction 400

2. Basic Equations of Magnetoionic Theory 401

3. Plane Wave Solutions and Linearization 402

4. Wave Propagation in Isotropic Electron Plasmas 403
   4.1 Derivation of the Dispersion Relation 403
   4.2 Collisionless Plasma 405
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Time-Averaged Poynting Vector</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>The Effect of Collisions</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Wave Propagation in Magnetized Cold Plasmas</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Derivation of the Dispersion Relation</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>The Appleton-Hartree Equation</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Propagation Parallel to $B_0$</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Propagation Perpendicular to $B_0$</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Propagation at Arbitrary Directions</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Resonances and Reflection Points</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Wave Normal Surfaces</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>The CMA Diagram</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Some Special Wave Phenomena in Cold Plasmas</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Atmospheric Whistlers</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Helicons</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Faraday Rotation</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td></td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. WAVES IN WARM PLASMAS  453

1. Introduction  453

2. Waves in a Fully Ionized Isotropic Warm Plasma  453

2.1 Derivation of the Equations for the Electron and Ion Velocities  453

2.2 Longitudinal Waves  456

2.3 Transverse Wave  458

3. Basic Equations for Waves in a Warm Magnetoplasma  460

4. Waves in a Warm Electron Gas in a Magnetic Field  462

4.1 Derivation of the Dispersion Relation  462

4.2 Wave Propagation Along the Magnetic Field  463

4.3 Wave Propagation Normal to the Magnetic Field  466

4.4 Wave Propagation at Arbitrary Directions  469

5. Waves in a Fully Ionized Warm Magnetoplasma  470

5.1 Derivation of the Dispersion Relation  471

5.2 Wave Propagation Along the Magnetic Field  473

5.3 Wave Propagation Normal to the Magnetic Field  477
5.4 Wave Propagation at Arbitrary Directions 479

6. Summary 479

Problems 481

18. WAVES IN HOT ISOTROPIC PLASMAS 483

1. Introduction 483

2. Basic Equations 483

3. General Results for a Plane Wave
   in a Hot Isotropic Plasma 485
   3.1 Perturbation Charge Density and Current Density 485
   3.2 Solution of the Linearized Vlasov Equation 486
   3.3 Expression for the Current Density 488
   3.4 Separation into the Various Modes 489

4. Electrostatic Longitudinal Wave
   in a Hot Isotropic Plasma 491
   4.1 Development of the Dispersion Relation 491
   4.2 Limiting Case of a Cold Plasma 492
   4.3 High Phase Velocity Limit 493
   4.4 Dispersion Relation for
      Maxwellian Distribution Function 494
   4.5 Landau Damping 500

5. Transverse Wave in a Hot Isotropic Plasma 503
   5.1 Development of the Dispersion Relation 503
   5.2 Cold Plasma Result 504
   5.3 Dispersion Relation for
      Maxwellian Distribution Function 504
   5.4 Landau Damping of the Transverse Wave 505

6. The Two-Stream Instability 506

7. Summary 508
   7.1 Longitudinal Mode 508
   7.2 Transverse Mode 509

Problems 510
19. WAVES IN HOT MAGNETIZED PLASMAS

1. Introduction

2. Wave Propagation Along the Magnetostatic Field in a Hot Plasma
   2.1 Linearized Vlasov Equation
   2.2 Solution of the Linearized Vlasov Equation
   2.3 Perturbation Current Density
   2.4 Separation into the Various Modes
   2.5 Longitudinal Plasma Wave
   2.6 Transverse Electromagnetic Waves
   2.7 Temporal Damping of the Transverse Electromagnetic Waves
   2.8 Cyclotron Damping of the RCP Transverse Wave
   2.9 Instabilities in the RCP Transverse Wave

3. Wave Propagation Across the Magnetostatic Field in a Hot Plasma
   3.1 Solution of the Linearized Vlasov Equation
   3.2 Current Density and the Conductivity Tensor
   3.3 Evaluation of the Integrals
   3.4 Separation into the Various Modes
   3.5 Dispersion Relations
   3.6 The Quasistatic Mode
   3.7 The TEM Mode

4. Summary
   4.1 Propagation Along $B_0$ in Hot Magnetoplasmas
   4.2 Propagation Across $B_0$ in Hot Magnetoplasmas

Problems

20. PARTICLE INTERACTIONS IN PLASMAS
CONTENTS

4.2 Coulomb Interaction Potential 570

5. Cross Sections 572
  5.1 Differential Scattering Cross Section 574
  5.2 Total Scattering Cross Section 576
  5.3 Momentum Transfer Cross Section 577

6. Cross Sections for the Hard Sphere Model 578
  6.1 Differential Scattering Cross Section 578
  6.2 Total Scattering Cross Section 579
  6.3 Momentum Transfer Cross Section 579

7. Cross Sections for the Coulomb Potential 580
  7.1 Differential Scattering Cross Section 580
  7.2 Total Scattering Cross Section 581
  7.3 Momentum Transfer Cross Section 581

8. Screening of the Coulomb Potential 582

Problems 586

21. THE BOLTZMANN AND THE FOKKER-PLANCK EQUATIONS 589

1. Introduction 589

2. The Boltzmann Equation 590
  2.1 Derivation of the Boltzmann Collision Integral 590
  2.2 Jacobian of the Transformation 594
  2.3 Assumptions in the Derivation of the Boltzmann Collision Integral 596
  2.4 Rate of Change of a Physical Quantity as a Result of Collisions 597

3. The Boltzmann’s H Function 598
  3.1 Boltzmann’s H Theorem 599
  3.2 Analysis of Boltzmann’s H Theorem 601
  3.3 Maximum Entropy or Minimum H Approach for Deriving the Equilibrium Distribution Function 604
  3.4 Mixture of Various Particle Species 606

4. Boltzmann Collision Term for a Weakly Ionized Plasma 607
4.1 Spherical Harmonic Expansion of the Distribution Function 607
4.2 Approximate Expression for the Boltzmann Collision Term 609
4.3 Rate of Change of Momentum Due to Collisions 611

5. The Fokker-Planck Equation 612
5.1 Derivation of the Fokker-Planck Collision Term 612
5.2 The Fokker-Planck Coefficients for Coulomb Interactions 616
5.3 Application to Electron-Ion Collisions 621

Problems 621

22. TRANSPORT PROCESSES IN PLASMAS 628

1. Introduction 628

2. Electric Conductivity in a Nonmagnetized Plasma 629
   2.1 Solution of the Boltzmann Equation 629
   2.2 Electric Current Density and Conductivity 630
   2.3 Conductivity for Maxwellian Distribution Function 633

3. Electric Conductivity in a Magnetized Plasma 634
   3.1 Solution of Boltzmann Equation 634
   3.2 Electric Current Density and Conductivity 637

4. Free Diffusion 640
   4.1 Perturbation Distribution Function 640
   4.2 Particle Flux 641
   4.3 Free Diffusion Coefficient 641

5. Diffusion in a Magnetic Field 643
   5.1 Solution of Boltzmann Equation 643
   5.2 Particle Flux and Diffusion Coefficients 645

6. Heat Flow 647
   6.1 General Expression for the Heat Flow Vector 647
   6.2 Thermal Conductivity for a Constant Kinetic Pressure 648
   6.3 Thermal Conductivity for the Adiabatic Case 649

Problems 650
APPENDIX A
Useful Vector Relations 655

APPENDIX B
Useful Relations in Cartesian and
in Curvilinear Coordinates 658

APPENDIX C
Physical Constants (MKSA) 662

APPENDIX D
Conversion Factors for Physical Units 663

APPENDIX E
Some Important Plasma Parameters 664

APPENDIX F
Approximate Magnitudes in Some Typical Plasmas 667

INDEX 669
Fundamentals of Plasma Physics
Bittencourt, J.A.
2004, XXIII, 679 p. 328 illus., Hardcover