# Plasma Physics and Technology Single particle motion



### Mestrado Integrado em Engenharia Física Tecnológica

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### How to study plasmas

#### single particle motion ullet

- simple but powerful analysis
- enables to investigate key waves and instabilities in plasma physics
- plasma kinetic equations
  - general approach
  - can be solved using computer programs
- fluid equations
  - plasma waves and instabilities
  - interaction with electromagnetic waves



## why studying single particle motions is important?

interactions between individual pairs of charged particles is small

- •fields can become large when many particles interact, and lead to plasma oscillations
- •fields from many particles are smooth with small fluctuations on top
- small fluctuations lead to collisions
- macroscopic smoothed fields give rise to collective motions of the plasma
- smoothed fields (self-consistent + external)
- much insights can be gained by analysing the single particle motion
- •further analysis (not to be covered in our course): make fields self-consistent with particle motion

• if we can neglect collisions we can treat the plasma as a collection of charged particles each moving in



### energy equation

equation of motion (non-relativistic) lacksquare

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}}{\mathrm{d}t} = q\left(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}\right)$$

integration over particle orbit

$$\Delta \left(\frac{1}{2}m\mathbf{v}^{2}\right) = \int q\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} dt = \int q\mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{I}$$

$$\mathbf{v} dt = \mathbf{v} d\mathbf{I}$$
kinetic energy gain work done by electric field

#### **Dawson, pp 93-98**

#### work done by electric field in a charged particle

• dot product with **v** 

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}}{\mathrm{d}t} \cdot \mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{2}m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}^2}{\mathrm{d}t} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2}m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}^2}{\mathrm{d}t} \\ \frac{1}{2}m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}^2}{\mathrm{d}t} = q\mathbf{E} \\ (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

#### energy conservation law

• if 
$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}m\mathbf{v}^2\right) + q\Phi = \text{constant}$$

conservation of kinetic plus potential energy







## motion in uniform magnetic field - cyclotron motion

- velocity component along magnetic field does not change ( $v_{\parallel}$  = constant)
- magnitude of velocity component perpendicular to magnetic field does not change, as just showed ( $\mathbf{v}_{\perp}^2 = \text{constant}$ )
- motion is circular about the magnetic field  $\bullet$
- radius of circular orbit

$$m\frac{v_{\perp}^2}{r_c} = |q| |v_{\perp}| B \Leftrightarrow r_c = \frac{m|v_{\perp}|}{|q|B}$$

angular frequency

$$\omega_c = \frac{|q|B}{m}$$

**Dawson, pp 93-98** 





### cyclotron motion - formal derivation

equation of motion	
<ul> <li>assumptions</li> <li><b>B</b> is along z</li> <li><b>v</b> is along x and y</li> </ul>	• defining
• from equation of motion $dv_x$	leads to
$\frac{\frac{dx}{dt} = \omega_c v_y}{\frac{dv_y}{dt} = -\omega_c v_x}$	• integrat $w = w_0$
$\omega_c = \frac{qB_z}{m}$	• where $z_0 = x_0$

**Dawson, pp 93-98** 

#### integration of equations of motion

$$w = v_x + iv_y$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}w}{\mathrm{d}t} = -i\omega_c w$$

### tion yields

$$c_0 \exp\left(-i\omega_c t\right) \Rightarrow z = x + iy = i\frac{w_0}{\omega_c}\exp\left(-i\omega_c t\right) + z_0$$

$$_0 + iy_0 - i\frac{w_0}{\omega_c}$$







### cyclotron motion - formal derivation



**Dawson, pp 93-98** 





### cyclotron motion - simulation

### B field out of the plane; both particles have the same mass



**Dawson, pp 93-98** 



### cyclotron motion - simulation

### B field out of the plane; positive charge is more massive than negative charge



plasma is a diamagnetic medium:

the motion of the charges produces a current that induces a magnetic field into the plane **Dawson, pp 93-98** Jorge Vieira I IST 2019



### magnetic moment

- a current loop (I is the average current, A is the area of the loop) has a dipole moment •  $\mu = IA$
- average current is the average charge per unit time which passes a point in the orbit ullet

*I* =

area of the loop is •

 $A = \pi$ 

thus 

$$\mu = \frac{m\mathbf{v}_{\perp}^2}{2\|\mathbf{B}\|} = \frac{W_{\perp}}{\|\mathbf{B}\|}$$

Dawson, p 98

$$=\frac{q}{\tau}=\frac{q\omega_c}{2\pi}$$

$$\tau r_c^2 = \pi \frac{m^2 \mathbf{v}_\perp^2}{q^2 \mathbf{B}^2}$$

or 
$$\mu = -\frac{W_{\perp}}{\mathbf{B}^2}\mathbf{B}$$



## electric field drift (or ExB drift) - derivation

equation of motion (non-relativistic)

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}v_{\parallel}}{\mathrm{d}t} = qE_{\parallel}$$

#### motion across magnetic field

- equation of motion  $m\frac{\mathrm{d}v_{\perp}}{\mathrm{d}t} = q\left(\mathbf{E}_{\perp} + \mathbf{v}_{\perp} \times \mathbf{B}\right)$
- electric and magnetic components perpendicular to B
- it is possible to balance both components

#### balance electric and magnetic forces

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}v_{\perp}}{\mathrm{d}t}$$



#### Dawson, p 102-106

constant and spatially uniform E and B fields. motion along the magnetic field

solution •

$$v_{\parallel} = \frac{qE_{\parallel}}{m}t + v_{\parallel 0}$$

$$x_{\parallel} = \frac{qE_{\parallel}t^2}{m2} + v_{\parallel 0}t + x$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_{\perp} + \mathbf{v}_{\perp} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$$

• particle travels with constant perpendicular velocity.

• cross product with **B** gives

$$\mathbf{v}_E = \frac{\mathbf{E}_{\perp} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}^2}$$

### full solution

writing

$$\mathbf{v}_{\perp} = \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_E$$

gives for  $\mathbf{V}_1$ 

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}_1}{\mathrm{d}t} = q\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{B}$$

cyclotron motion plus a drift velocity





### electric field drift (or ExB drift) - simulation

### B field out of the plane; E in the y direction; both particles have the same mass



Dawson, p 102-106



### electric field drift (or ExB drift) - simulation

### B field out of the plane; E in the y direction; positive charge is more massive than negative charge



#### Dawson, p 102-106



## electric field drift (or ExB drift) - physical picture



•as a positive charge spirals in the magnetic field its energy changes due to the electric field

•the charge moves faster in the upper part of the trajectory

•curvature is smaller in the upper part of the trajectory than in the lower part and the particle drifts

•a negative charge spirals in the opposite direction

•radius of curvature is larger in the bottom part of the trajectory. drift is in the same direction

Dawson, p 102-106



### ExB drift and the de Hoffman-Teller frame

moving across a magnetic field gives rise to an electric field:



Dawson, p 102-106

For  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_E$  the equation above is zero, i.e. there is no electric field when moving with the drift velocity. Particles see a magnetic field and move accordingly.



## electric field drift (or ExB drift) - significant features

•in a neutral plasma, since positive and negative charges drift in the same direction, the ExB drift generates no current

• no work is done on average on either (positively or negatively charged) particle because the electric field is perpendicular to the drift velocity

Dawson, p 102-106



## external force (e.g. gravity) drift

equation of motion (non-relativistic)

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{F} + q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- drift depends on the sign of the charge of the particle •
- an external force acting on a neutral cloud will cause particles with opposite charges to drift in • opposite directions.
- the drift motion now gives rise to a current in the plasma •

#### **Dawson, p 106-107**



#### derivation

• make substitution  $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{F}/q$ 

$$\mathbf{v}_F = \frac{1}{q} \frac{\mathbf{F} \times \mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}^2}$$

motion is the cyclotron trajectory plus the drift •

#### important features







## time-varying electric field - polarisation drift

- spatially uniform E and B fields.
- the direction of E is constant in space but magnitude varies in time •
- consider  $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ •
- electric field varies little in a Larmor rotation lacksquare

derivation on physical grounds: kinetic energy change

- to first approximation:  $\mathbf{v}_{\perp} = \mathbf{v}_{\text{Larmor}} + \frac{\mathbf{E}(t) \times \mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}^2}$
- kinetic energy change averaged over the Larmor period

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \left( \frac{m}{2} \mathbf{v}_{\perp}^{2} \right) = m \mathbf{v}_{E} \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}_{E}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{m}{\mathbf{B}^{2}} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \left( \frac{\mathbf{E}^{2}}{2} \right)$$

#### Dawson, pp 107-110

#### initial assumptions

$$\frac{1}{\mathbf{E}} \frac{1}{\omega_c} \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{E}}{\mathrm{d}t} \ll 1$$









## time-varying electric field - polarisation drift



#### Dawson, pp 107-110

charge distribution due to polarisation drift

positive charges move in direction of **E**. negative charges move in the opposite to **E** 









## time-varying magnetic field - magnetic moment

- spatially uniform B field with amplitude varying in time lacksquare
- there will be an E field set up because B varies with time ullet
- this will give rise to ExB and polarisation drifts lacksquare
- we are interested in the fact that E has a curl and will hence do work on a circulating charge
- lets imagine that we subtract the ExB drift lacksquare

#### work done by electric field in a closed orbit

charge perpendicular energy of the particle

$$\delta W_{\perp} = q \int \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathrm{d}l$$

around a closed orbit

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot dl = \int \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = -\int \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{A}$$

#### Dawson, pp 114-116

#### initial assumptions









## time-varying magnetic field - magnetic moment

- spatially uniform B field with amplitude varying in time lacksquare
- there will be an E field set up because B varies with time ullet
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- we are interested in the fact that E has a curl and will hence do work on a circulating charge
- lets imagine that we subtract the ExB drift lacksquare

#### work done by electric field in a closed orbit

charge perpendicular energy of the particle

$$\delta W_{\perp} = |q| \pi r_c^2 \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t}$$

Or

$$\delta W_{\perp} = W_{\perp} \frac{2\pi}{\omega_c B} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial t}$$

#### Dawson, pp 114-116

#### initial assumptions









 consider slow variations of the magnetic field within the cyclotron radius

$$\frac{|\nabla \mathbf{B}| r_c}{|\mathbf{B}|} \ll 1$$

•general approach consists in finding the particle motion as a perturbation from the spatially uniform case

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r} + \boldsymbol{\rho}) = \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) + \boldsymbol{\rho} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$$

• Taylor expand the magnetic field about some **r** (which, in general, might depend on time)

#### Dawson, pp 116-117

### $\nabla \mathbf{B}$ tensor

$\partial B_x$	$\partial B_x$	$\partial B_x$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$
$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$
$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$



### non-uniform magnetic fields - diagonal terms

- •these terms are not all independent since  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
- •coordinate system where  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{0}) = B_0 \mathbf{e}_z$
- •neglect all off diagonal terms. then:

$$\begin{cases} B_z = B_0 + \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}_z}{\partial z}\right)_0 z \\ B_y = \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}_y}{\partial y}\right)_0 y \\ B_x = \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}_x}{\partial x}\right)_0 z \end{cases}$$

Dawson, pp 117-123

### $\nabla \mathbf{B}$ tensor

$\partial B_x$	$\partial B_x$	$\partial B_x$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$
$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$
$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$
$\partial x$	дy	$\partial z$



## (div)(conv)erging lines of force: force on a magnetic dipole

•because  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$  we can write  $\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z} = -\left[ \left( \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} \right)_0 + \left( \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial y} \right)_0 \right]$ •or  $B_{z} = B_{0} - \left| \left( \frac{\partial B_{x}}{\partial x} \right)_{0} + \left( \frac{\partial B_{y}}{\partial y} \right)_{0} \right| z$ 

•consider particle moving in z along with the field lines. particle sees B field varying in time

•the temporal variation will be slow as long as the spatial variation is slowly varying in space (assume that particle is not very fast)

conservation of magnetic moment

#### Dawson, pp 117-123

energy conservation

•conservation of magnetic moment:

$$W_{\perp} = |B| \mu = |B| \frac{W_{\perp 0}}{B_0}$$

since magnetic field does no work

$$W_{\parallel} = W - |B| \mu = W_{\parallel 0} + W_{\perp 0} - |B| \mu$$

- •parallel energy of particle **must change**
- conservation of energy differential form is the force on a magnetic dipole (minus sign is because the dipole is diamagnetic)

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}v_{\parallel}}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\mu\frac{\mathrm{d}|B|}{\mathrm{d}z}$$



### example: magnetic mirror

•recall the expression for the longitudinal energy

$$W_{\parallel} = W - |B| \mu = W_{\parallel 0} + W_{\perp 0} - |B| \mu$$

•when IBI increases  $W_{\parallel}$  decreases and vice versa.

- •thus charged particles traveling along z can be reflected due to the convergence of magnetic field lines which increases B close to the edges
- •Conservation of energy + conservation of magnetic moment give the critical value for the magnetic field ratio to ensure reflection as a function of the particle transverse velocity:

$$\frac{B_0}{B_R} = \frac{\mathbf{v}_\perp^2}{\mathbf{v}_{\perp 0}^2 + \mathbf{v}_{\parallel 0}^2}$$







### example: magnetic mirror

- •the magnetic field for reflection is higher for smaller transverse velocities
- •defining the pitch angle

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{|\mathbf{v}_{\perp}|}{|v_{\parallel}|}$$

•the reflection point becomes

$$\frac{B_0}{B_R} = \sin^2(\theta)$$

•thus, reflection occurs for angles larger than

$$\theta_c \ge \operatorname{asin}\left[\left(\frac{B_0}{B_{\max}}\right)^{1/2}\right]$$



• if the mirror is moving particles can accelerate and gain energy by a process called Fermi acceleration









### magnetic mirror on earth





### magnetic mirror machine



- •designed to confine the plasma in fusion devices
- •Edward Teller showed, however, that this configuration is inherently unstable
- •motivated the design of different magnetic field configurations to confine plasma in fusion devices





### non-uniform B fields - curvature of the lines of force

•equation for the lines of force (we can consider only one of the terms by suitably shifting the axis)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}z} = \frac{B_x}{B_z} = \frac{1}{B_0} \left(\frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z}\right)_0 z$$

• Or

$$x = x_0 + \frac{z^2}{2B_0} \left(\frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z}\right)_0$$

•for small z the lines of force are a segment of a circle (see image next slide)

Dawson, pp 123-127

$\partial B_x$	$\partial B_{x}$	$\partial B_x$
$\partial x$	дy	$\partial z$
$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$	$\partial B_y$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$
$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$	$\partial B_z$
$\partial x$	ду	$\partial z$



### non-uniform B field - curvature of lines of force

- local approximate curved B field line by a • small segment of a circle.
- assume that magnitude of B field is ulletconstant  $(B_0)$ , but the direction varies.
- we can thus write (R is radius of curvature):  $\bullet$

$$\frac{B_x}{B_0} = \tan\left(\theta\right) \simeq \theta \simeq \frac{z}{R}$$

for small z the magnetic field is: ullet

$$B_x = z \left(\frac{\partial B_x}{\partial z}\right)$$

Dawson, pp 123-127





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B field lines

➤ Z

### non-uniform B field - curvature of lines of force

equation of motion in cylindrical coordinates

$$m\left(\mathbf{e}_r\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}v_r}{\mathrm{d}t} - \frac{v_\theta^2}{r}\right] + \mathbf{e}_\theta\left[\frac{\mathrm{d}v_\theta}{\mathrm{d}t} + \frac{v_\theta v_r}{r}\right] + \mathbf{e}_z\frac{\mathrm{d}v_z}{\mathrm{d}t}\right] = q$$

- the component along  $\mathbf{e}_{\theta}$  gives conservation of angular momentum. gives rise to small variations of  $v_{\theta}$  during cyclotron motion which we neglect.
- the other two equations are for the gyration of a particle about an uniform B field subject to an external force with magnitude

$$F_r = \frac{mv_\theta^2}{R}$$

there is thus a drift parallel to the lines of force:  $v_{\tau}$ 

Dawson, pp 123-127



$$= \frac{mv_{\theta}^2}{RqB_0} = \frac{2W_{\parallel}}{RqB_0} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{v}_d = \frac{1}{q} \frac{\mathbf{F}_r \times \mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}^2} = \frac{mv_{\parallel}^2}{q\mathbf{B}^2} \frac{\mathbf{e}_r \times \mathbf{R}}{R}$$







### non-uniform B fields - $\nabla B$ drift

•these terms only mean that the strength of the B field varies in the (x,y) plane

•by choosing the coordinate system, we can consider just one of the terms

•assume that  $\partial B_{z}/\partial y = 0$ 

Dawson, pp 127-129



 $\partial B_{\chi}$  $\partial B_x$  $\partial B_{\chi}$  $\partial z$  $\partial y$  $\partial x$  $\partial B_{y}$  $\partial B_{v}$  $\partial B_{v}$  $\partial z$ ду  $\partial x$  $\partial B_z$  $\partial B_{7}$  $\partial B_z$  $\partial y$  $\partial z$  $\partial x$ 



## non-uniform B field - VB drift



●

 $r_{c}$ 

- negative charges drift to the left and positive charges to the right

#### Dawson, pp 127-129

#### physical picture

charged particle turning in a non-uniform magnetic field experiences a drift similar to the ExB

$$=\frac{m |\mathbf{v}_{\perp}|}{|q|\mathbf{B}}$$

Larmor radius is larger in the part of the trajectory where B is smaller (bottom half)





### non-uniform B field - $\nabla B$ drift



the average force along the magnetic field gradient over one cyclotron period must be zero •

$$\int_{z_1}^{z_2} F_x dt = 0 \qquad F_x = q v_y B_z(x) = e v_y \left[ B_0 + x \left( \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x_0} \right) \right]$$

thus  $\bullet$ 

$$\delta y = y_2 - y_1 = -\frac{1}{B_0}$$

#### Dawson, pp 127-129

#### derivation

$$\left(\frac{\partial B_z}{\partial B_x}\right) \int_{t1}^{t2} x v_y dt$$





### non-uniform B field - VB drift



- integral over **one** period is simply  $\pm \pi r_c^2$  (positive for electrons and negative for ions) ullet
  - hence  $\delta_{y} = y_{2} - y_{1} = \pm \frac{1}{B_{0}} \left( \frac{\partial B_{z}}{\partial x} \right)$
- dividing  $\delta y$  by the cyclotron period  $2\pi/\omega_c$ :

$$v_y = \frac{1}{q} \frac{m\mathbf{v}_\perp^2}{2B_0^2} \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x}$$

#### Dawson, pp 127-129

lacksquare

#### derivation

$$\int \pi r_c^2$$

$$v_y = \frac{q}{|q|} \frac{m \mathbf{v}_{\perp}^2}{2B_0^2} \frac{\mathbf{B} \times \nabla \mathbf{B}}{\mathbf{B}^2}$$





### Grad B drift - simulation

### B field out of the plane; B field is stronger for smaller values of y



#### Dawson, pp 127-129

