

Lecture 21 - Plasma Waves & Instabilities

11/7/17

from last time...

MHD Waves, MHD

Linearized eqns: for sys that is initially homogen.

$$\textcircled{1} -\omega \rho_0 \hat{u} = -\vec{k} \left(\hat{p} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{\vec{B}} \quad \text{E field}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \omega \hat{\vec{B}} = -\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \hat{u} + \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{u}, \quad \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{B}} = 0 \quad \text{B-field \& constr.}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \omega (\hat{p} - c_s^2 \hat{\rho}) = 0 \quad \text{pressure}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \omega \hat{\rho} = \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u} \quad \text{mass density}$$

⇒ 8 eqns and one constraint (all coupled)

↳ 7 distinct values of ω for a given $\vec{k}$

Case I: $k_{||} = 0, k_{\perp} \neq 0$

Magnetosonic wave

$$\omega^2 = k_{\perp}^2 (c_s^2 + c_A^2)$$

sound speed

Alfven speed

$\vec{k}_{\perp}$

compressional mode, prop perp to B_0

$\vec{B}_0$

$$c_s^2 = \frac{\Gamma P_0}{\rho_0}, \quad c_A^2 = \frac{B^2}{4\pi \rho_0}$$

Γ = ratio of specific heats

⇒ 5 $\omega = 0$ modes

~~Alfven wave~~

* Aside: next HW (what #), problem #1

- set of eqns in which ion dynamics are thrown out

↳ eqns for an electron fluid

Electron MHD Eqns

* imp't for magnetosphere dynamics, etc.

$$n_{oi} = n_{oe} = \text{const}$$

electron eqn of motion: (ignore pressure; it's also const)

$$m_e n_o \frac{d \vec{v}_e}{dt} = -n_o e \vec{E} - \frac{e}{c} n_o \vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}$$

- can write in terms of $\vec{J}$ since ions ~ stationary

$$\vec{J} = -n_e e \vec{v}_e$$

plug in $\vec{J}$,

multiply top & bottom by e^2

$$\underbrace{-\frac{m_e}{e} \frac{d\vec{J}}{dt}}_{\text{current}} = -n_0 c \vec{E} \underbrace{\frac{e}{c} n_0 \vec{v}_e \times \vec{B}}_{\text{electric field}}$$

solving...

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times \vec{E} = 0, \quad \vec{J} = \nabla \times \vec{B} \left(\frac{4\pi}{c} \right)$$

complete indep.
set of eqns

$\Rightarrow$ yields "whistler waves"

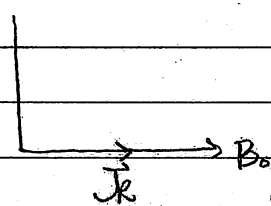
divide by n_0 to get char. scale

$$\frac{m_e}{n_0 e^2} \Rightarrow \frac{c^2}{\omega_{pe}^2} \quad \left. \vphantom{\frac{m_e}{n_0 e^2}} \right\} \text{scale length}$$

where $\frac{c}{\omega_{pe}} = d_e$, the e^- skin depth

Case II: $k_{\parallel} \neq 0, k_{\perp} = 0$

need various comp of $\vec{u}$ & $\vec{B}$



where we know

project comp in
specific directions

Take $\vec{k} \cdot \textcircled{1}$; $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$

$$\textcircled{10} \quad w \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} = k_{\parallel}^2 \left(\hat{p} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{must also be 0} \\ \text{b/c } \vec{k} \text{ in } \vec{B}_0 \text{ direction} \\ (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B} = 0) \end{array}$$

Take $\vec{k} \times \textcircled{1}$ to elim 1st RHS term

$$\textcircled{11} \quad w \vec{k} \times \hat{\vec{u}} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} k_{\parallel} B_0 \vec{k} \times \hat{\vec{B}}$$

take $\vec{k} \times \textcircled{2}$ to determine this

$$\textcircled{12} \quad w \vec{k} \times \hat{\vec{B}} = \underbrace{-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0}_{=k_{\parallel} B_0} \vec{k} \times \hat{\vec{u}}$$

These form a closed sys of eqns w/ $\textcircled{3}$ & $\textcircled{4}$:

$$\textcircled{13} \quad w(\hat{p} - c_s^2 \hat{\rho}) = 0$$

$\hookrightarrow$ if $\hat{p} - c_s^2 \hat{\rho} \neq 0, w = 0$

$$\textcircled{14} \quad w \hat{\rho} = \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}}$$

modes

what does this give us?

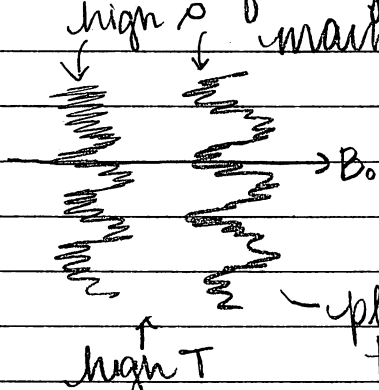
①: $\hat{P} = 0, \hat{\rho} \neq 0$

($\Rightarrow$ entropy mode, from eq. ⑬)

$\rightarrow$ means $n_0 \hat{T} + \hat{n} T_0 = 0$, where $T \neq 0$

if n goes up, T goes down to

maintain const press (const $P \rightarrow$ no sound wave)



* becomes purely damped mode

plasma really quickly smooth out temp. $\rightarrow$ not a realistic mode.

$\Rightarrow$ doesn't really exist in nature (related to temp. variation along B_0 ; unrealistic thermal conduction)

②: ⑩, ⑬, ⑭ form closed set that yield sound waves

$$\omega \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u} = k_{\parallel}^2 c_s^2 \frac{1}{\omega} \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}$$

$$\rightarrow \omega^2 = k_{\parallel}^2 c_s^2$$

* comp. moving along $\vec{B}$ -field $\omega = \pm k_{\parallel} c_s$ 2 modes assoc w/ this!

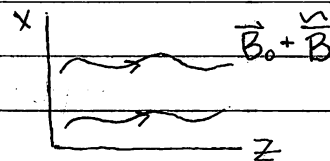
③: Alfvén waves — ⑪ & ⑫

Note: Alfvén waves do not

$$\omega \rho_0 \vec{k} \times \hat{u} = + \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{k_{\parallel} B_0}{\omega} (+) B_0 k_{\parallel} \vec{k} \times \hat{u} \quad \text{carry entropy}$$

$$\omega^2 = k_{\parallel}^2 \frac{B_0^2}{4\pi \rho_0} = k_{\parallel}^2 c_A^2$$

2 modes here as well!



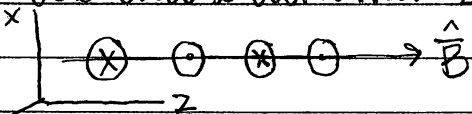
Two Polarizations

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{B}_x, \hat{u}_x &\neq 0, \\ \hat{B}_y, \hat{u}_y &\neq 0 \end{aligned}$$



perturbations travel @ Alfvén speed

We have another 2 $\rightarrow$ in/out!



i.e. $\pm k_{\parallel} c_A$ for each polarization

* solar wind filled w/ Alfvén waves!

$\Rightarrow$ 7 total modes for Case II

Case III - The General Case $k_{\parallel} \neq 0, \vec{k} \neq 0$

Goal: How to solve these w/out doing a ton of algebra

INSERT! Pg. 9

③, ④ unchanged, but must deal w/ coupled vector eqns ① & ②

↳ we know $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}$ an imp+ value but do not want to break down $\vec{k}$ or $\hat{u}$ into x, y, z comp.

- Take $\vec{k} \cdot \textcircled{1}$

gives one comp of $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}$ (elim ^{3rd} ~~2nd~~ term RHS)

- Take $\vec{B}_0 \cdot \textcircled{1}$

gives all 3 comp of $\hat{u}$

- Take $(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \textcircled{1}$ (elim 1st term RHS)

- still have $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{B} = 0$

- $\vec{B}_0 \cdot \textcircled{2}$

All covered in the insert

- $(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \textcircled{2}$, $B_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}$ term goes away

*Algebra for this in online notes

Result:

$$\omega^2 = \frac{k^2 C_{ms}^2 \pm \sqrt{k^4 C_{ms}^4 - 4k^2 C_s^2 k_{\parallel}^2 C_A^2}}{2}$$

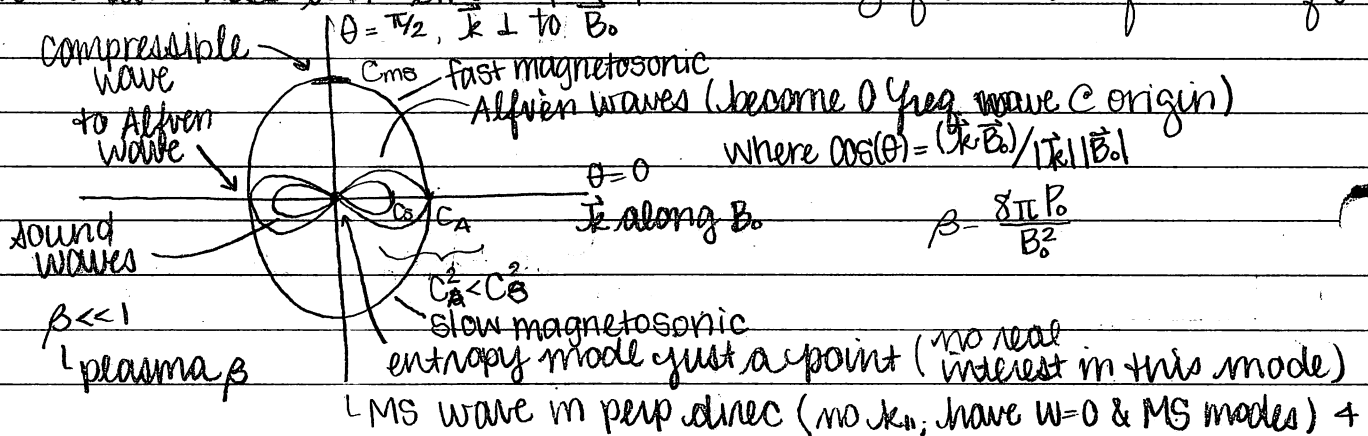
magnetosonic wave

$$C_{ms}^2 = C_A^2 + C_s^2$$

$$\omega^2 = k_{\parallel}^2 C_A^2$$

Alfvén wave (comes out on its own even in general angle case)

What do these look like? - plot phase velocity of wave as function of θ



What happens to C_{ms} as $\theta \rightarrow 0$ (when $\vec{k}$ along $\vec{B}_0$)?

Parallel propagation

$\vec{k}_\perp = 0$ - sign gives 0-freq wave (sound wave)

$$\omega^2 \frac{1}{2} [k_{||}^2 C_{ms}^2 \pm \sqrt{k_{||}^4 C_{ms}^4 - 4 k_{||}^4 C_S^2 C_A^2}]$$

$$\frac{(C_A^2 + C_S^2)^2}{k_{||}^4 (C_A^2 - C_S^2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{k_{||}^2 (C_A^2 + C_S^2) \pm k_{||}^2 (C_A^2 - C_S^2)}{2}$$

$$\oplus = \frac{1}{2} k_{||}^2 [2C_A^2]$$

$$\ominus = \frac{1}{2} k_{||}^2 [2C_S^2]$$

$\Rightarrow k_{||}^2 C_A^2$ ms wave becomes Alfvén wave

$C_A^2 < C_S^2$ corresponds to

$$\frac{B_0^2}{4\pi\rho_0} \rightarrow \frac{\Gamma P_0}{\rho_0} \Rightarrow \beta < 1, \beta = \frac{8\pi P_0}{B_0^2}$$

$\theta \rightarrow \pi/2?$

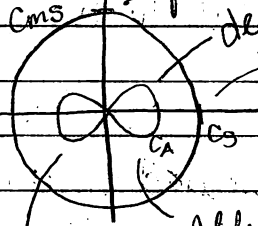
⊥ Propagation

$\vec{k}_{||} = 0$

$$\omega^2 = k^2 C_{ms}^2 \text{ and } 0$$

for $\beta \gg 1$:

Fast wave
degenerate modes



* sound waves really susceptible to damping

(compressional modes & ms modes readily damped)

Alfvén wave inside sound wave in this case

fully

* Alfvén waves much harder to damp

have resonant interactions in collisionless case

BUT: we had no energy source - no growth or damping

NOW: Add free energy - generates instabilities in these waves

↳ instabilities lead to growth

Instabilities dep. on type of free energy!

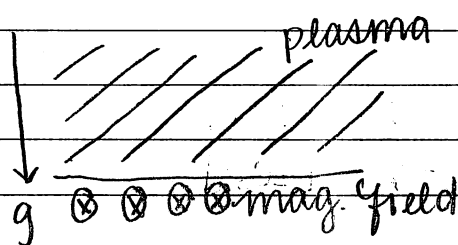
→

Ideal MHD Stability

Driver
①

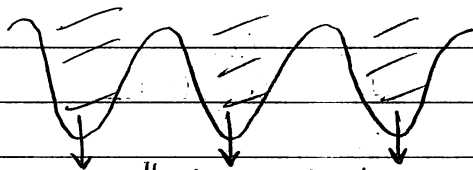
type of free energy
Gravitational: Rayleigh Taylor

↳ heavy material supported by light material



unstable to Rayleigh Tay.

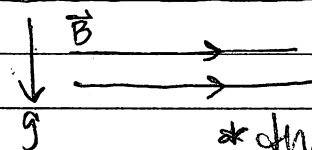
↓ evolves to



↳ "fingers" dragged down

B field does nothing to stop

Parker Inst.



apply perturbation wavevectors to undulate field lines

mass density draining down

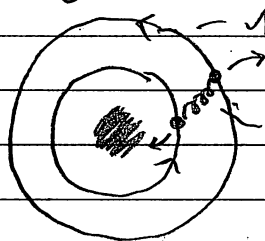
"along undulated field lines into magnetic valleys"

* this is a buoyancy inst.

Magnetorotational Instability (MRI)

* ang. mom. transport in accretion disks

e.g. accretion of matter in a disc around a BH or NS



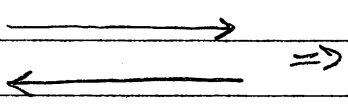
mat. forms flows

"spring coupling" moves ang. mom. out and matter inward to accrete

* From Ab80 - The inner particle is moving faster than its partner. The inner particle is then slowed (think "pulled back") by the outer, giving some of its ang. mom. to the outer, such that it must move inward and accrete. Outer also more stable now on closer orbit.

Driver
②

Flow: Kelvin Helmholtz



* caused by shear in flow
(velocity difference across the interface between two fluids)

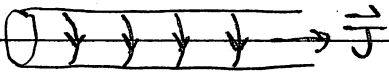
wraps in on self to form vortices of instability, e.g., solar wind, planetary magnetosphere

predicts the onset of instability and transition to turbulent flow in fluids of different densities moving @ different speeds
** will be HW prob to calc. growth rate

Driver
③

Magnetic Field:

(z-pinch)

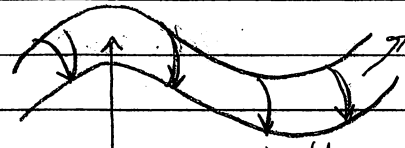
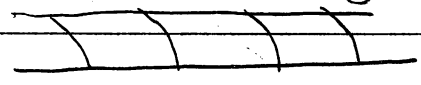


"sausage instability"
"necking down"

plasma flow driven by magnetic tension increase at pinch

★

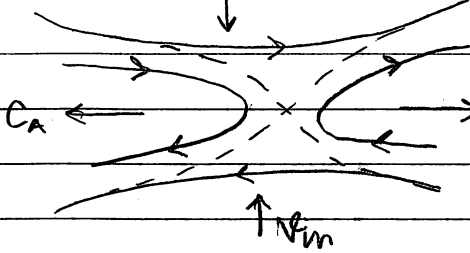
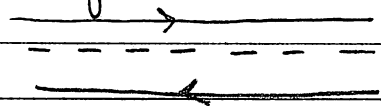
kink instability



* Where is plasma flow??

magnetic forces larger inside the kink

magnetic reconnection



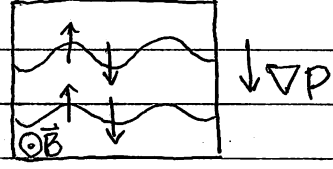
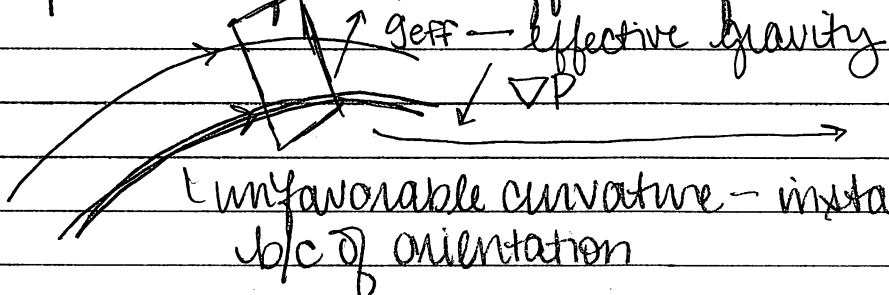
e.g. solar & planetary magnetospheres

plasma shoots out @ Alfvén speed

D4

Pressure

• part. rest frame sees effective force outwards



unfavorable curvature - instability like R-Tay. b/c of orientation

→ drift waves, * ^{important in} magnetospheres, fusion
caused by effective curvature like this?

→ Pressure anisotropy

$P_{\parallel} \neq P_{\perp}$ drives instability

• firehose instability ("thrashes around")

$P_{\parallel} > P_{\perp}$, $\vec{B} \neq 0$

↳ stuff going along faster than containment

• minor instability, $P_{\perp} > P_{\parallel}$ forms spontaneous

$\vec{B} \neq 0$ mag. mirrors

(recall from HW)

What if no ambient B ?

Weibel instability $B \neq 0$? $B = 0$

$P_{xx} \neq P_{yy} \Rightarrow$ spontaneous generation of $\vec{B}$

* important in shock waves

NEXT: details of Rayleigh Taylor

- $P_{\parallel} > P_{\perp}$

- EM waves not descr. by MHD

INSERT: Case III - The General Case

From ③ & ④

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \textcircled{3} \omega(\hat{P} - c_s^2 \hat{\rho}) = 0 \\ \textcircled{4} \omega \hat{\rho} = \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} \end{array} \right\} \hat{P} = c_s^2 \frac{1}{\omega} \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}}$$

↑ both unchanged in this case

SPACE

We must deal with the coupled vector eqns ① & ②

↳ we know $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}}$ is an important value! but we do not want to break down $\vec{k}$ or $\hat{\vec{u}}$ into x, y, z components

- Take $\vec{k} \cdot \textcircled{1}$

$$\vec{k} \cdot (-\omega \rho_0 \hat{\vec{u}}) = \vec{k} \cdot \left[-\vec{k} \left(\hat{P} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{\vec{B}} \right]$$

this term is eliminated; $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{B}} = 0$

$$+\omega \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} = +k^2 \left(\hat{P} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right)$$

↑ plug in above value from ③ & ④

$$\omega \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} = k^2 \left(c_s^2 \frac{1}{\omega} \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right)$$

↓ multiply through by ω ↓

$$\textcircled{15} \omega^2 \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} = k^2 \left(c_s^2 \rho_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}} + \omega \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right)$$

- Take $\vec{B}_0 \cdot \textcircled{1}$

$$\vec{B}_0 \cdot (-\omega \rho_0 \hat{\vec{u}}) = \vec{B}_0 \cdot \left[-\vec{k} \left(\hat{P} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{\vec{B}} \right]$$

$$\omega \rho_0 \hat{\vec{u}} \cdot \vec{B}_0 = \vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \left(\hat{P} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}}}{4\pi} \right) - \frac{1}{4\pi} \vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0 (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\vec{B}})$$

↑ plug in for $\hat{P}$

$$\omega \rho_0 \hat{\vec{u}} \cdot \vec{B}_0 = c_s^2 \frac{1}{\omega} \rho_0 (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}})$$

$$\textcircled{16} \omega \hat{\vec{u}} \cdot \vec{B}_0 = \frac{c_s^2}{\omega} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{\vec{u}})$$

- Take $(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \textcircled{1}$

$$(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot (-\omega \rho \hat{u}) = (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \left[-\vec{k} \left(\frac{c_s^2}{\omega} \rho \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u} + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{B}}{4\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{B} \right]$$

$$\omega \rho \hat{u} \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) = \frac{c_s^2}{\omega} \rho \vec{k} (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) + \frac{\vec{k}}{4\pi} (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{B}) \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} \hat{B}) \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0)$$

$\uparrow \quad \vec{k} \cdot \hat{B} = 0 \quad \uparrow$

$$\textcircled{17} \omega \rho \hat{u} \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{B}$$

⑮, ⑯, and ⑰ give all three components of $\hat{u}$. We now must determine the three components of $\vec{k}$.

- Still have $\vec{k} \cdot \hat{B} = 0$

- Take $\vec{B}_0 \cdot \textcircled{2}$

$$\vec{B}_0 \cdot (-\omega \hat{B}) = \vec{B}_0 \cdot (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \hat{u} + \vec{B}_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u})$$

$$\textcircled{18} \omega \vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{B} = (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{u}) + B_0^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u})$$

*this does not match online notes, pg. 145 (Lec 11a)

- Take $(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \textcircled{2}$

$$(\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot (\omega \hat{B}) = (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0 \hat{u} + \vec{B}_0 \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u})$$

$$\omega (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{B} = (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{u} + \vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{k} (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{u} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\textcircled{19} \omega (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{B} = (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{u}$$

Our constraint along with ⑱ and ⑲ give all three components of $\vec{k}$. Having this full set of equations and constraints, we can solve for the modes of this general case.

→ Begin w/ Eq. ⑮

$$\text{Eq. ⑱} \omega \vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{B} = (-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{u}) + B_0^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u})$$

$$\omega^2 \rho (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) = k^2 \left(c_s^2 \rho \vec{k} \cdot \hat{u} + \omega \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{B}}{4\pi} \right)$$

↑ divide through by ρ

$$\omega^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) = k^2 \left[c_s^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) + \frac{1}{4\pi \rho} \left(B_0^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) - \underbrace{(\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{u}) (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0)}_{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \hat{u} = \frac{1}{\omega} \textcircled{18} = \frac{1}{\omega} \left[\frac{c_s^2}{\omega} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) \right]} \right) \right]$$

$$\omega^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) = k^2 \left[c_s^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) + \frac{1}{4\pi\rho_0} \left(B_0^2 (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) - \frac{c_s^2}{\omega^2} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \cdot \hat{u}) \right) \right]$$

★ (c_A^2) * In what sec did we define this? #20?

$$\omega^2 = k^2 c_s^2 + \frac{k^2 B_0^2}{4\pi\rho_0} - \frac{c_s^2}{4\pi\rho_0 \omega^2} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0)^2 k^2$$

★ $(k_{||}^2 c_A^2)$; from sec #20, case II

$$\omega^2 - k^2 (c_s^2 + c_A^2) + \frac{k^2 c_s^2 k_{||}^2 c_A^2}{\omega^2} = 0$$

← multiply through

$c_{ms}^2 =$ magnetostatic wave speed ($= c_f$, fast wave)

$= c_s^2 + c_A^2$

$$(\omega^2 - k^2 c_{ms}^2) \omega^2 + k^2 c_s^2 k_{||}^2 c_A^2 = 0$$

↳ quadratic equation →

$$\Rightarrow \omega^2 = \frac{k^2 c_{ms}^2 \pm \sqrt{k^4 c_{ms}^4 - 4 k^2 c_s^2 k_{||}^2 c_A^2}}{2}$$

4 modes

magnetosonic waves

BUT! We still have two unused equations

→ Begin w/ eq. (17)

$$\omega \rho_0 \hat{u} \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{B}$$

$= \frac{1}{\omega} (19) = \frac{1}{\omega} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0) (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{u}$

divide out

$$\omega \rho_0 \hat{u} \cdot (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi\omega} (\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0)^2 (\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_0) \cdot \hat{u}$$

multiply through

$$\omega^2 = \frac{(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{B}_0)^2}{4\pi\rho_0} \quad \backslash \quad k_{||}^2 c_A^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega^2 = k_{||}^2 c_A^2$$

Alfvén waves

* Note: this comes out on its own even in the general angle case

- This is a shear Alfvén, where $\hat{P} = 0$ and $\hat{B} \cdot \vec{B}_0 = 0$

