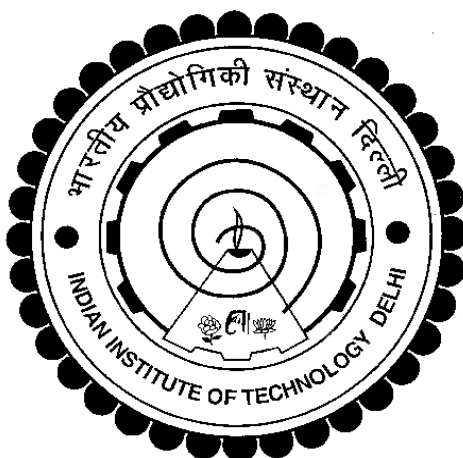


GRADIENT-DRIVEN INSTABILITIES IN $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ PLASMA SYSTEMS

MUNISH



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
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by

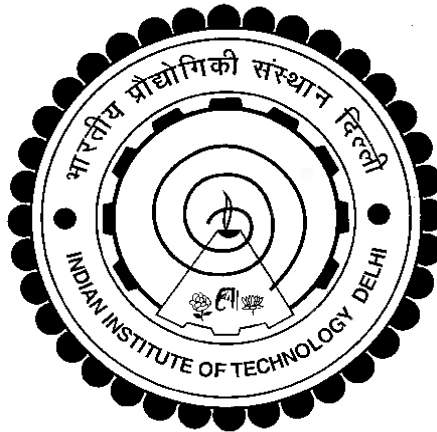
MUNISH

Department of Physics

Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

to the



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

January 2023

Dedicated to

my family and loved ones

and

those

whoever inspired and encouraged me

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Gradient-Driven Instabilities in $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ Plasma Systems**” being submitted by **Mr. Munish** is worthy of consideration for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and is a record of the original bonafide research work carried out by him under my guidance and supervision, and that the results contained in it have not been submitted in part or full to any other university or institute for award of any degree / diploma.

I certify that he has pursued the prescribed course of research. I approve the thesis for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Hitendra K. Malik

Professor

Department of Physics

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

INDIA

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Abstract

$\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ plasma systems refer to plasma contained within a region of crossed electric and magnetic fields. The three main examples of such a configuration are Hall thrusters, Tokamaks and inductively coupled plasmas. A Hall Thruster is an electric propulsion device used for space propulsion and orbit corrections. It basically consists of a cylindrical channel with electric field along the axial direction and the magnetic field along the radial direction. Exotic gases like Xenon and Krypton are used for providing thrust. Electrons emitted from the cathode get trapped due to their $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ drift and ionize the neutral gas released from the anode. In this way, ions and electrons are generated and we obtain plasma inside the system. Electric field along the axial direction forces the ions to accelerate out from the channel, thereby providing the thrust to the Hall Thruster. A Tokamak is a plasma confinement device where magnetic field lines are used for confinement. A conventional Tokamak has a donut like shape, often called a Torus. Plasma confinement is needed to carry out sustained thermonuclear reaction, similar to the ones inside the core of stellar bodies. Ions and electrons inside such plasma have high thermal energy and velocities. For controlled fusion process, the plasma should not collide with the wall and it must keep moving within the cylinder. On the other hand, in inductively coupled plasmas, energy is supplied by electric currents which are produced by electromagnetic induction. These plasma sources are used for various purposes including etching and deposition.

Generally, the unperturbed or equilibrium state of a plasma is characterized by Maxwellian velocity distribution of plasma species and absence of free energy to excite waves. Any deviation from these may result in breakdown of thermodynamic equilibrium which is often called instability. Instability is characterized by the presence of free energy to excite waves and absence of thermodynamic equilibrium. Generally, we have four types of instabilities present inside a plasma system. These are classified basis on the type of free energy available to excite waves in the system. These are streaming instability, Rayleigh-Taylor (RT) instability, universal instability and kinetic instability. In the thesis, we are concerned with the gradient-driven instability, similar to the RT instability that generally arises when a heavier fluid is supported by a lighter fluid under the effect of gravity. The plasma in an $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ system is subjected to gradients in density and temperature. So, we are looking at the behavior of the growth rate of this instability with respect to other system parameters like magnetic field, ion and electron temperatures, dust density, ionization, etc.

This is due to the fact that during collision of ions and electrons with the walls of the confinement device, often dust gets generated. Dust is basically a cluster of atoms which gets charged by the electrons and ions accumulating on them. The presence of dust affects the growth of instability in plasma. Alongside generation of dust, ionization also takes place in such devices. So, in the thesis, we have considered the variation of instability growth rate with density of dust and ionization frequency.

The work in the thesis is divided mainly into four parts. In the first part, we look at the behavior of the instability in the presence of temperature gradient. The gradient in temperature arises due to nonuniform drift of the plasma species and their nonuniform collisions. After solving the necessary continuity, momentum and Poisson's equations, we look for the complex roots that lead to the excitation of waves in the system. It is observed that the magnetic field and scale length of density gradient have a suppressing effect on the growth rate, whereas the ion temperature gradient, background plasma density and electron temperature have an enhancing effect on the instability growth rate. In the second part, we analyze the growth rate of instability in the presence of ionization. It is found that the ionization frequency and ion temperature gradient have an enhancing effect on the growth rate whereas the magnetic field and plasma background density have a suppressing effect on the growth rate. Moreover, the growth seems to get suppressed in the presence of doubly charged ions as compared to singly charged ions. Interestingly, the variation in channel length has a very weak effect on the growth rate. In the third part, we look for the variation of the growth rate in the presence of dust contamination in the system. Normalized growth rate increases with the increase in the dust temperature attributed to the enhanced thermal energy. Growth rate also increases with the dust density as increased dust density means reduction in electron density which are basically decoupling agents here on account of their lighter mass and low frequency of these waves. Large ion temperature gradient along with higher dust charge has a significant role on the magnitude of the growth rate. In the last part, we look at the effect of ionization in the presence of dust contamination on the normalized growth rate of instability. Here the majority of the results is similar to the previous part but there is a difference in the order of magnitude. Growth rate increases with the charge on the dust particles as this leads to higher Coulombic force in the system. The important observation in this system is that the growth rate of the instability is not uniform throughout the $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ chamber, but it depends on the position where we are observing the instability.

सारांश

$\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ प्लाज़्मा सिस्टम लम्बवत विद्युत और चुंबकीय क्षेत्रों के एक क्षेत्र के भीतर समाहित प्लाज़्मा को संदर्भित करता है। इस तरह के विन्यास के तीन मुख्य उदाहरण हैं- हॉल थ्रस्टर, टोकामक्स और इंडक्टिवली कपल्ड प्लाज़्मा। हॉल थ्रस्टर एक विद्युत प्रणोदन उपकरण है जिसका उपयोग अंतरिक्ष प्रणोदन और कक्षा सुधार के लिए किया जाता है। इसमें मूल रूप से एक बेलनाकार चैनल के अक्षीय दिशा के साथ विद्युत क्षेत्र और त्रिज्य दिशा के साथ चुंबकीय क्षेत्र होता है। ज़ेनन और क्रिप्टन जैसी निष्क्रिय गैसों का उपयोग प्रणोद प्रदान करने के लिए किया जाता है। कैथोड से निकलने वाले इलेक्ट्रॉन अपने $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ बहाव के कारण फंस जाते हैं और एनोड से निकलने वाली उदासीन गैस को आयनित कर देते हैं। इस प्रकार, आयन और इलेक्ट्रॉन उत्पन्न होते हैं और हम सिस्टम के अंदर प्लाज़्मा प्राप्त करते हैं। अक्षीय दिशा के साथ विद्युत क्षेत्र आयनों को चैनल से बाहर निकलने के लिए मजबूर करता है, जिससे हॉल थ्रस्टर को प्रणोद मिलता है। टोकामक प्लाज़्मा को बाध्य करने वाला उपकरण है जहाँ चुंबकीय क्षेत्र रेखाओं का उपयोग बंधन के लिए किया जाता है। पारंपरिक टोकामक का आकार डोनट जैसा होता है, जिसे अक्सर टोरस कहा जाता है। तारकीय निकायों के कोर के अंदर वाले सितारों के समान निरंतर थर्मोन्यूक्लियर प्रतिक्रिया करने के लिए प्लाज़्मा बंधन की आवश्यकता होती है। ऐसे प्लाज़्मा के अंदर आयनों और इलेक्ट्रॉनों में उच्च तापीय ऊर्जा और वेग होते हैं। नियंत्रित संलयन प्रक्रिया के लिए प्लाज़्मा को दीवार से नहीं टकराना चाहिए और इसे सिलेंडर के भीतर घुमते रहना चाहिए। दूसरी ओर, आगमनात्मक रूप से युग्मित प्लाज़्मा में विद्युत धाराओं द्वारा ऊर्जा की आपूर्ति की जाती है जो विद्युत चुंबकीय प्रेरण द्वारा उत्पन्न होती हैं। इन प्लाज़्मा स्रोतों का उपयोग नक्काशी और निक्षेपण सहित विभिन्न उद्देश्यों के लिए किया जाता है।

आम तौर पर प्लाज़्मा की अपरिवर्तित या संतुलन स्थिति को प्लाज़्मा अवयव के मैक्सवेलियन वेग वितरण और तरंगों को उत्तेजित करने के लिए मुक्त ऊर्जा की अनुपस्थिति की विशेषता है। इनमें से कोई भी विचलन थर्मोडायनामिक संतुलन के टूटने का परिणाम हो सकता है जिसे अक्सर अस्थिरता कहा जाता है। तरंगों को उत्तेजित करने के लिए मुक्त ऊर्जा की उपस्थिति और थर्मोडायनामिक संतुलन की अनुपस्थिति अस्थिरता की विशेषता है। आम

तौर पर हमारे पास प्लाज्मा सिस्टम के अंदर चार प्रकार की अस्थिरता मौजूद होती है। सिस्टम में तरंगों को उत्तेजित करने के लिए उपलब्ध मुक्त ऊर्जा के प्रकार के आधार पर इन्हें वर्गीकृत किया गया है। ये स्ट्रीमिंग अस्थिरता, रेले-टेलर (आरटी) अस्थिरता, सार्वभौमिक अस्थिरता और गतिज अस्थिरता हैं। शोध ग्रंथ में हमारी रूचि आरटी अस्थिरता के समान ढाल-संचालित अस्थिरता से संबंधित है, जो आम तौर पर तब उत्पन्न होती है जब गुरुत्वाकर्षण के प्रभाव में एक हल्का तरल पदार्थ द्वारा भारी तरल पदार्थ को साधा जाता है। $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ प्लाज्मा सिस्टम में प्लाज्मा घनत्व और तापमान में ढाल के अधीन होता है। इसलिए, हम चुंबकीय क्षेत्र, आयन और इलेक्ट्रॉन तापमान, धूल घनत्व, आयनीकरण, आदि जैसे अन्य सिस्टम पैरामीटर के संबंध में इस अस्थिरता की वृद्धि दर के बदलाव को देख रहे हैं। यह इस तथ्य के कारण है कि आयनों और इलेक्ट्रॉनों की प्लाज्मा बंधन यंत्र की दीवारों के साथ टक्कर के दौरान अक्सर धूल उत्पन्न हो जाती है। धूल मूल रूप से परमाणुओं का एक समूह है जो उन पर जमा हुए इलेक्ट्रॉनों और आयनों द्वारा आवेशित हो जाता है। धूल की उपस्थिति प्लाज्मा में अस्थिरता की वृद्धि को प्रभावित करती है। धूल उत्पन्न होने के साथ-साथ ऐसे उपकरणों में आयनीकरण भी होता है। इसलिए, शोध ग्रंथ में हमने धूल के घनत्व और आयनीकरण आवृत्ति के साथ अस्थिरता वृद्धि दर की भिन्नता पर विचार किया है।

शोध ग्रंथ के कार्य को मुख्यतः चार भागों में विभाजित किया गया है। पहले भाग में, हम तापमान प्रवणता की उपस्थिति में अस्थिरता के बदलाव को देखते हैं। तापमान में प्रवणता प्लाज्मा अवयव के गैर-समान बहाव और उनके गैर-समान टकरावों के कारण उत्पन्न होती है। आवश्यक निरंतरता, संवेग और पॉइसन के समीकरणों को हल करने के बाद, हम उन जटिल *moolon* की तलाश करते हैं जो सिस्टम में तरंगों के उत्तेजना की ओर ले जाती हैं। यह देखा गया है कि चुंबकीय क्षेत्र और घनत्व प्रवणता की माप का विकास दर पर दमनकारी प्रभाव पड़ता है, जबकि आयन तापमान प्रवणता, प्लाज्मा घनत्व और इलेक्ट्रॉन तापमान का अस्थिरता विकास दर पर घनात्मक प्रभाव पड़ता है। दूसरे भाग में, हम आयनीकरण की उपस्थिति में अस्थिरता की वृद्धि दर का विश्लेषण करते हैं। यह पाया गया है कि आयनीकरण आवृत्ति और आयन तापमान प्रवणता का विकास दर पर घनात्मक प्रभाव पड़ता है जबकि चुंबकीय क्षेत्र और प्लाज्मा पृष्ठभूमि घनत्व का विकास दर पर दमनकारी प्रभाव पड़ता है। इसके अलावा, एकल आवेशित आयनों की तुलना में दोगुने आवेशित आयनों की उपस्थिति में विकास दर

घटता हुआ प्रतीत होता है। दिलचस्प बात यह है कि चैनल की लंबाई में भिन्नता का विकास दर पर बहुत कम प्रभाव पड़ता है। तीसरे भाग में, हम सिस्टम में धूल संदूषण की उपस्थिति में विकास दर में बदलाव की तलाश करते हैं। बढ़ी हुई तापीय ऊर्जा के कारण धूल के तापमान में वृद्धि के साथ सामान्यीकृत विकास दर बढ़ जाती है। धूल के घनत्व के साथ विकास दर भी बढ़ती है क्योंकि धूल के घनत्व में वृद्धि का मतलब इलेक्ट्रॉन घनत्व में कमी है जो मूल रूप से उनके हल्के द्रव्यमान और इन तरंगों की कम आवृत्ति के कारण यहां डीकपलिंग एजेंट हैं। उच्च धूल आवेश के साथ बड़े आयन तापमान प्रवणता की विकास दर के परिमाण पर महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है। अंतिम भाग में हम अस्थिरता की सामान्यीकृत वृद्धि दर पर धूल संदूषण की उपस्थिति में आयनीकरण के प्रभाव को देखते हैं। यहाँ अधिकांश परिणाम पिछले भाग के समान हैं लेकिन परिमाण की माप में अंतर है। धूल के कणों पर आवेश के साथ विकास दर बढ़ती है क्योंकि इससे सिस्टम में उच्च कूलम्बिक बल उत्पन्न होता है। इस प्रणाली में महत्वपूर्ण अवलोकन यह है कि अस्थिरता की वृद्धि दर पूरे $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$ कक्ष में एक समान नहीं है, लेकिन यह उस स्थिति पर निर्भर करती है जहां हम अस्थिरता देख रहे हैं।

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List of Symbols

α :	Ionization rate
ε_0 :	Permittivity of the free space
B_0 :	External magnetic field
e :	Electronic charge
E_1 :	Perturbed electric field
k :	Wavenumber
λ :	Wavelength of oscillations
m_e :	Electron mass
m_i :	Ion mass
n_e :	Electron density
n_{e0} :	Background electron density
n_{e1} :	Perturbed electron density
n_i :	Ion density
n_{i0} :	Background ion density
n_{i1} :	Perturbed ion density
ω :	Frequency of oscillations
ω_e :	Electron plasma frequency
Ω_e :	Electron cyclotron frequency

ω_i :	Ion plasma frequency
Ω_i :	Ion cyclotron frequency
ϕ_1 :	Perturbed electric potential
T_e :	Electron temperature
T_i :	Ion temperature
U_0 :	Electron velocity
U_{x0} :	x-component of electron velocity
U_{y0} :	y-component of electron velocity
V_0 :	Ion velocity
V_{x0} :	x-component of ion velocity
V_{y0} :	y-component of ion velocity
Ze :	Ion charge

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