NEGATIVE-ENERGY WAVES IN A MAGNETIZED, HOMOGENEOUS PLASMA

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Abstract

The general expression for the second-order wave energy of a Vlasov-Maxwell system derived by Morrison and Pfirsch is evaluated here for the case of a magnetized, homogeneous plasma. It is again shown that negative-energy waves (which could become nonlinearly unstable and cause anomalous transport) exist for any deviation from monotonicity and/or any (however small) anisotropy in the equilibrium distribution function of any of the particle species. The partly unexpected and particularly interesting feature of the results is that, contrary to the proof of Morrison and Pfirsch, no restricting condition has to be imposed on the perpendicular wave number $k_{\perp}$ of the perturbation (i.e. large $k_{\perp}$ is not required). Finite-gyroradius effects are therefore not expected to improve the situation. Anisotropy alone would, however, impose a restriction on $k_z$, the parallel wave number, relating it to the gyroradius. As far as distribution functions with $v_z \frac{\partial f^{(s)}}{\partial v_z} > 0$ in some region of $v$-space are concerned, however{
1. Introduction

A general expression for the second variation of the free energy of a Vlasov-Maxwell equilibrium was previously derived by Morrison and Pfirsch [3, 4], who showed that negative-energy modes exist whenever the condition

\[(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{k}) \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{k} \right) > 0 \tag{1} \]

holds for any particle species \( \nu \) and for some vector \( \mathbf{k} \). Such negative-energy modes are important because they may become nonlinearly unstable [1, 2] and be of relevance to anomalous transport phenomena. However, the condition for the existence of these modes may require very highly localized perturbations, i.e., very high mode numbers \( k \). In fact, Morrison and Pfirsch made this assumption in order to prove condition (1). As far as distribution functions with \( v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_z} > 0 \) in some region of \( v \)-space are concerned, Pfirsch and Morrison [7], Eq. (144.b), obtained negative-energy perturbations within the framework of drift-kinetic theory with no conditions for \( k_\perp, k_z \), except \( k_z \neq 0 \). Since the Vlasov theory becomes inapplicable for wavelengths smaller than the Debye length, one must investigate how strongly localized the perturbations have to be. Also, if the required wavelengths are much smaller than the gyroradii, the relevance of the results is questionable, and finite-gyroradius effects would have to be taken into account. This paper treats this question for the case of a general, magnetized, homogeneous plasma; the localization needed for an inhomogeneous system is expected to be of the same order of magnitude.

In the following, the right choice of representation of the perturbations in velocity space is seen to lead to clear, simple but partly unexpected results, namely the fact that for the existence of negative-energy waves in the system under investigation no restriction has to be imposed on \( k_\perp \) if a monotonicity-isotropy condition for the equilibrium distribution function \( f^{(0)}_{\nu} \) of any particle species \( \nu \) is violated. However, if only anisotropy is present, then a restriction relating the parallel wave number \( k_z \) to the gyroradius has to be imposed.

According to [3], Eq. (61), the expression for the energy of arbitrary perturbations about arbitrary Vlasov-Maxwell equilibria is

\[
\delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \int d^3 x \, d^3 v \, \rho^{(0)}(x, v) \left\{ \frac{m_{\nu}}{2} \left( (\delta x_{\nu})^2 - (\delta x_{\nu})^2 \right) + \frac{e_{\nu}}{2} \left[ -2 \delta x_{\nu} \cdot \frac{v \times B}{c} + \frac{\delta x_{\nu} \times B^{(0)}}{c} \cdot d\delta x_{\nu} \right. \\
- \delta x_{\nu} \cdot (\delta x_{\nu} \cdot \nabla) \left\{ E^{(0)} + \frac{v \times B^{(0)}}{c} \right\} \right\} \\
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3 x (\delta E^2 + \delta B^2), \tag{2}
\]

the symbols used being explained in detail in [3]. The perturbations \( \delta x \) and \( \delta \dot{x} \) are derived from a generating function \( G(x, v) \). In particular ([3], Eq. (63))

\[
\delta x = \frac{1}{m} \frac{\partial G}{\partial v}. \tag{3}
\]

Here and in some of the following equations the indices \( \nu \) are suppressed for simplicity.

Since the operator \( d \) is defined as

\[
d = v \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{m} \left( E^{(0)} + \frac{v \times B^{(0)}}{c} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v}, \tag{4}
\]

it follows that

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) = d\left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} \right) + \frac{e}{mc} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial G}{\partial \dot{x}}. \tag{5}
\]

Furthermore ([3], Eq. (67))

\[
\delta \dot{x} = -\frac{1}{m} \left\{ \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{mc} \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} \left( -\frac{\partial A^{(0)}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial A^{(0)}}{\partial x_i} \right) + d \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} + \frac{e}{c} \delta A \right\} \\
= -\frac{1}{m} \left\{ \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} + \frac{e}{mc} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} + d \frac{\partial G}{\partial v} + \frac{e}{c} \delta A \right\}, \tag{6}
\]

which can be expressed as

\[
\delta \dot{x} = -\frac{1}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) - \frac{e}{mc} \delta A. \tag{7}
\]
Equations (3) and (5) yield
\[
\delta \dot{x} = \frac{1}{m} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) - \frac{e}{c} B^{(0)} \times \delta x - \frac{\partial G}{\partial \dot{x}} \right]
\]
and, therefore,
\[
\frac{m}{2} \left( (\delta \dot{x})^2 - (d \delta x)^2 \right) + \frac{e}{2c} \delta x \times B^{(0)} \cdot d \delta x =
\]
\[
\frac{1}{2m} \left[ \frac{2e}{c} \delta A \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) + \frac{e^2}{c^2} (\delta A)^2 + \frac{e}{c} B^{(0)} \times \delta x \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) \right]
\]
\[
- \frac{1}{c} B^{(0)} \times \delta x \cdot \frac{\partial G}{\partial \dot{x}} + 2 \frac{\partial G}{\partial \dot{x}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG) - \left( \frac{\partial G}{\partial \dot{x}} \right)^2 \right].
\]

The second-order wave energy can then be expressed as
\[
\delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \int \frac{d^3 x}{2m_{\nu}} f^{(0)}_\nu(x, v) \left[ -\left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG_\nu) \right.
\]
\[
- \frac{e_{\nu}}{m_{\nu}} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} + \frac{e_{\nu}}{m_{\nu}} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} dG_\nu
\]
\[
+ \frac{e^2_{\nu}}{c^2} (\delta A)^2 + 2 \frac{e_{\nu}}{c} \delta A \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG_\nu) + 2 \frac{e_{\nu}}{c} v \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \times \delta B
\]
\[
- \frac{e_{\nu}}{m_{\nu}} \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \left( E^{(0)} + \frac{v \times B^{(0)}}{c} \right) \right\}
\]
\[
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3 x (\delta E^2 + \delta B^2) \right].
\]

The terms appearing in $\delta^2 H$ can be transformed into more convenient expressions which, with the single exception of the term quadratic in $\delta A$, do not contain $f^{(0)}_\nu$ itself, but only its derivatives in $x$-$v$-space. For this purpose, we define a vector $a^{(0)}_\nu$ as in [3], i.e.
\[
a^{(0)}_\nu \equiv \frac{e_{\nu}}{m_{\nu}} \left( E^{(0)} + \frac{v \times B^{(0)}}{c} \right),
\]
and take into account the following identities:
\[
2 \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\frac{\partial x}{\partial v}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}} \left( v \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right) =
\]
\[
\left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ \left( v \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right\} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \cdot \left\{ \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \times \left( v \times \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \right) \right\},
\]
\[
2 \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left( a_v^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right) - \frac{e_v}{m_\nu c} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \\
+ \frac{e_v}{m_\nu c} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial (dG_{\nu})}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) a_v^{(0)} \right\} = \\
\frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ 2 \left( a_v^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right) \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} - \frac{e_v}{m_\nu c} G_{\nu} v \times \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left( B^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{e_v}{m_\nu} G_{\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \times \left( \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \times E^{(0)} \right) \right\} \\
- \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \cdot \left\{ \left( a_v^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right) \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right\} ,
\]
(13)

\[
2 \frac{e_v}{c} \left\{ \delta A \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (dG_{\nu}) + v \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \times \delta B \right\} = \\
2 \frac{e_v}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left\{ d(\nu \delta A) - G_{\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\nu \cdot \delta A) \right\} .
\]
(14)

These relations allow the second-order wave energy to be written as

\[
\delta^2 H = \sum_\nu \int \frac{d^3x \, d^3v}{2m_\nu} f_\nu^{(0)}(x, v) \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ \left( v \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right\} \\
+ \left( a_v^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right) \left( \frac{e_v}{m_\nu c} B^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} + 2 \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \right) \\
- \frac{e_v}{m_\nu c} G_{\nu} v \times \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left( B^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{e_v}{m_\nu} G_{\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \times \left( \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \times E^{(0)} \right) \right\} \\
+ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \cdot \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right) v - (dG_{\nu}) \frac{\partial G_{\nu}}{\partial v} \right\} \\
+ \left( \frac{e_v}{c} \delta A \right)^2 + 2 \frac{e_v}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ d(\nu \delta A) - G_{\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\nu \cdot \delta A) \right\} \right]\right]\right\} \\
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3x (\delta E^2 + \delta B^2) .
\]
(15)

Here, all the terms in square brackets which depend on the generating function \( G \) are expressed as divergences either in \( v \)- or in \( x \)-space. This proves convenient for applications.

It is straightforward, but lengthy and tedious, to show that Eq. (15) is in fact the same as Eq. (10).
Through some integrations by parts and neglect of surface terms, Eq. (15) can be transformed to

\[
\begin{align*}
\delta^2 H &= \sum \nu \int \frac{d^3x \ d^3v}{2m_\nu} \left[ \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ -\left( v \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} + \left( a_\nu^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \right) \left( \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu c} B_\nu^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} + 2 \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu c} G_\nu v \times \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left( B_\nu^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu} G_\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \times \left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \times E_\nu^{(0)} \right) \right) \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \cdot \left\{ - \left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \right) v + \left( dG_\nu \right) \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \right\} \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{f_\nu^{(0)} (e_\nu / c)^2}{c} - 2 \frac{e_\nu}{c} \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v} \cdot \left\{ d(G_\nu \delta A) - G_\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (v \cdot \delta A) \right\} \right] \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3x (\delta E^2 + \delta B^2),
\end{align*}
\] (16)

an expression which has the same structure as Eq. (13) of Ref. [4], but with \( x \) and \( v \) as the independent variables.

3. Second-order Electrostatic Wave Energy for a Magnetized Homogeneous Plasma

We now consider a homogeneous equilibrium with a constant, unperturbed magnetic field and no electric field, and assume purely electrostatic perturbations, i.e. we take

\[
B_\nu^{(0)} = B_\nu^{(0)} e_z, \quad E_\nu^{(0)} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} = 0,
\] (17)

and set

\[
\delta A = 0.
\] (18)

In this case, it is convenient to use Cartesian coordinates \((x, y, z)\) in \(x\)-space, and cylindrical coordinates \((v_\perp, \phi, v_z)\) in \(v\)-space, \(\phi\) being the angle between the projection of \(v\) onto the \(z-y\)-plane and the (arbitrary) \(z\)-axis.

With these assumptions, Vlasov’s equation reduces to \(\frac{\partial \nu^{(0)}}{\partial \phi} = 0\). Furthermore,

\[
a_\nu^{(0)} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial v} = -\omega_\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi},
\] (19)
where we have set
\[ \omega_\nu \equiv \frac{e_\nu B^{(0)}}{m_\nu c}. \]  
(20)

Thus, Eq. (16) becomes
\[ \delta^2 H = \sum_\nu \int \frac{d^3 x \, d^3 v}{2m_\nu}\left\{ - \left( \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) - 2\omega_\nu^2 \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} \left( \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 \right. 
+ \left. 2\omega_\nu \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \phi} \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) + 2\omega_\nu v_z \left\{ \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_z^2} - \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} \right\} G_\nu \frac{\partial^2 G_\nu}{\partial \phi \partial z} \right\} 
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3 x \delta E^2. \]  
(21)

Note that derivatives of \( G_\nu \) in \( \mathbf{v} \)-space only appear as derivatives with respect to \( \phi \!\!\). 

Since the equilibrium is \( \mathbf{x} \)-independent, an appropriate ansatz for the generating function \( G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) \) is
\[ G(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2}(g(\mathbf{v})e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + g^*(\mathbf{v})e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}). \]  
(22)

\( G \) is obviously real, \( g^* \) being the complex conjugate of \( g \). We limit ourselves here to a single \( k \). Any generating function \( G \) could be represented as a Fourier integral over \( d^3 k \), with coefficients \( g(\mathbf{v}, k) \).

Inserting Eq. (22) in Eq. (21) and subsequent \( \mathbf{x} \)-integration over a periodicity volume \( V \) leads to
\[ \delta^2 H = \sum_\nu \frac{V}{4m_\nu} \int d^3 v \left\{ -(\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{k}) \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{k} \right) g_\nu g^*_\nu \right. 
- 2\omega_\nu^2 \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} \frac{\partial g_\nu}{\partial \phi} \frac{\partial g^*_\nu}{\partial \phi} + i\omega_\nu \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{k} \right) \left( g_\nu \frac{\partial g^*_\nu}{\partial \phi} - g^*_\nu \frac{\partial g_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right) 
\left. + i\omega_\nu v_z \left\{ \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_z^2} - \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} \right\} \left\{ g_\nu \frac{\partial g^*_\nu}{\partial \phi} - g^*_\nu \frac{\partial g_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right\} \right\} 
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3 x \, \delta E^2. \]  
(23)

The complex function \( g(\mathbf{v}) \) can be represented as
\[ g(\mathbf{v}) = \Psi(\mathbf{v})e^{i\Gamma(\mathbf{v})}, \]  
(24)
where $\Psi(\nu)$ and $\Gamma(\nu)$ are real functions. Since $g(\nu)$ must be single-valued, $\Psi$ and $\Gamma$ are subject to the periodicity conditions

$$\Psi(\nu_1, \phi + 2\pi, v_z) = \Psi(\nu_1, \phi, v_z)$$

(25)

and

$$\Gamma(\nu_1, \phi + 2\pi, v_z) = \Gamma(\nu_1, \phi, v_z) + 2\pi n$$

(26)

with $n$ any integer number, i.e. $n = 0, \pm 1, \ldots$.

Inserting Eq. (24) in Eq. (23) yields

$$\delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \frac{V}{4m_0} \int d^3v \left( - (\nu \cdot k) (\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} \cdot k) \Psi_{\nu}^2 
- 2\omega_{\nu} \frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} \left\{ \left( \frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 + \Psi_{\nu}^2 \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 \right\} 
+ 2\omega_{\nu} (\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} \cdot k) \Psi_{\nu} \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} + 2\omega_{\nu} k_z v_z \left( \frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu}}{\partial \nu} - \frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} \right) \Psi_{\nu} \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right] 
+ \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3x \delta E^2, \right.$$ 

(27)

which is the general expression for the second-order energy of electrostatic waves of wave vector $k$ in a homogeneous magnetized plasma.

Note that $\delta^2 H$ is now a functional of $\Psi$, which appears as $\Psi$ and $\partial \Psi / \partial \phi$, and of $\Gamma$, which appears only as $\partial \Gamma / \partial \phi$.

4. Extremization of the Free Energy

It is now straightforward to minimize Eq. (27) with respect to $\Gamma$. This can be done either by minimizing with respect to $\Gamma$ itself, with Eq. (26) taken into account as a boundary condition, or by minimizing with respect to $\frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \phi}$, but then the subsidiary condition

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \phi} d\phi = 2\pi n$$

(28)

would have to be introduced. We choose the first way: the Euler equation to minimize $\delta^2 H$ with respect to $\Gamma$, if we write $\delta^2 H = \int d^3v I(\Gamma, \Gamma_\phi)$, $\Gamma_\phi \equiv \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \phi}$, is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left( \frac{\partial I}{\partial \Gamma_\phi} \right) - \frac{\partial I}{\partial \Gamma} = 0.$$

(29)
Since $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = 0$, Eq. (29) implies
\[
\frac{\partial I}{\partial \Gamma_\phi} = C(v_\perp, v_z) .
\] (30)

Explicitly, this means that
\[
-4\omega_\nu^2 \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} \Psi_\nu^2 \frac{\partial \Gamma_\nu}{\partial \phi} + 2\omega_\nu \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \cdot k \right) \Psi_\nu^2
\]
\[
+ 2\omega_\nu k_z v_z \Psi_\nu^2 \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2} - \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_z^2} \right) = C_\nu(v_\perp, v_z) .
\] (31)

From Eqs. (27) and (31) we then obtain
\[
\delta^2 H = \sum_\nu \frac{V}{4m_\nu} \int d^3v \left[ -(v \cdot k) \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \cdot k \right) \Psi_\nu^2 - 2\omega_\nu^2 \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \left( \frac{\partial \Psi_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right)^2
\]
\[
+ 2\omega_\nu \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \Psi_\nu^2 \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 + C_\nu \frac{\partial \Gamma_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right] ,
\] (32)

where $\frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu}}{\partial \phi}$, as determined from Eq. (31), still has to be inserted explicitly. The electrostatic energy term has been dropped in Eq. (32) since the perturbed charge density can be made zero for the perturbations considered here. This is shown in the Appendix.

Inserting $\frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \cdot k$ explicitly into Eq. (31), we see that $\Gamma_\nu$ can be split into a particular periodic part $\Gamma^{(1)}_\nu$ and a non-periodic contribution $\Gamma^{(2)}_\nu$:
\[
\Gamma_\nu = \Gamma^{(1)}_\nu + \Gamma^{(2)}_\nu ,
\] (33)

where
\[
\Gamma^{(1)}_\nu = \frac{v_\perp}{\omega_\nu} (k_x \sin \phi - k_y \cos \phi) ,
\] (34)
i.e.
\[
\frac{\partial \Gamma^{(1)}_\nu}{\partial \phi} = \frac{v_\perp}{\omega_\nu} (k_x \cos \phi + k_y \sin \phi)
\]
\[
= \frac{k \cdot v_\perp}{\omega_\nu} .
\] (35)

The term $(v \cdot k) \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \cdot k \right)$ appearing in Eq. (32) is, explicitly,
\[
(v \cdot k) \left( \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp} \cdot k \right) = 2 \left\{ v_\perp^2 (e_{v_\perp} \cdot k)^2 + v_z k_z v_\perp (e_{v_\perp} \cdot k) \right\} \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_\perp^2}
\]
\[
+ 2 \left\{ v_z^2 k_z^2 + v_z k_z v_\perp (e_{v_\perp} \cdot k) \right\} \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial v_z^2} ,
\] (36)
where

\[ \mathbf{e}_{v_{\perp}} \cdot \mathbf{k} = k_x \cos \phi + k_y \sin \phi. \]  

(37)

Inserting Eqs. (33), (35) and (36) in Eq. (32) yields

\[ \delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \frac{V}{4m_{\nu}} \int d^3v \left[ -2v_{\nu}^2 \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\nu}^2} \Psi_{\nu}^2 - 2\omega_{\nu}^2 \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2} \left( \frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 \right. \]

\[ + 2\omega_{\nu}^2 \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2} \Psi_{\nu}^2 \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 + C_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}) \frac{\partial \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right]. \]  

(38)

Note that this expression for \( \delta^2 H \) does not contain \( \mathbf{e}_{v_{\perp}} \cdot \mathbf{k} \) any more, but only \( k_z \). This means that the results will be independent of \( k_{\perp} \), the perpendicular wave number. If we define

\[ F_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}) = \frac{k_z v_{\parallel}}{2\omega_{\nu} \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2}} \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2} + \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\parallel}^2} \right), \]  

(39)

then the function \( \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu} \) has to satisfy the equation

\[ \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} - F_{\nu} \right) \Psi_{\nu}^2 = -\frac{C_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel})}{4\omega_{\nu}^2 \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2}}. \]  

(40)

The functions \( C_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}) \), which is constant in \( \phi \), and \( \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu} \) are determined from Eq. (40), together with the boundary condition on \( \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu} \), namely \( \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}(\phi + 2\pi) = \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}(\phi) + 2\pi n_{\nu} \):

\[ C_{\nu} = 8\pi\omega_{\nu}^2 \frac{1}{\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi} \left( F_{\nu} - n_{\nu} \right) \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2}. \]  

(41)

and

\[ \frac{\partial \Gamma^{(2)}_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} = F_{\nu} + 2\pi(n_{\nu} - F_{\nu}) \frac{1}{\Psi_{\nu}^2} \frac{1}{\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi} \frac{1}{\Psi_{\nu}^2}. \]  

(42)

Inserting these results in Eq. (38) leads to

\[ \delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \frac{V}{4m_{\nu}} \int d^3v \ 2\omega_{\nu}^2 \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_{\nu}}{\partial v_{\perp}^2} \left[ \frac{v_{\nu}^2 k_z^2}{4\omega_{\nu}^2} (1 - \alpha_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}))^2 \Psi_{\nu}^2 \right. \]

\[ - \left( \frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 - \frac{2\pi}{\int_0^{2\pi} d\phi} \frac{v_{\nu} k_z^2}{2\omega_{\nu}} \left( 1 + \alpha_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}) - n_{\nu} \right)^2 \right], \]  

(43)
where we have defined a local anisotropy parameter $\alpha_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{z})$:

$$
\alpha_{\nu}(v_{\perp}, v_{z}) \equiv \frac{\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{\perp}}}{\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}}}.
$$

(44)

We now consider this equation more closely:

### 4.1 $k_{z} = 0$ (wave propagation perpendicular to B$^{(0)}$)

In this case we obtain

$$
\delta^{2}H = \sum_{\nu} \frac{V}{4m_{\nu}} \int d^{3}v \, 2\omega_{\nu}^{2} \frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}^{2}} \left[ -\left( \frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} \right)^{2} - \frac{2\pi n_{\nu}^{2}}{\int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{\Psi_{\nu}}} \right],
$$

(45)

and $\delta^{2}H < 0$ if $\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}} > 0$ for some $v_{\perp}$, $v_{z}$ and for any particle species $\nu$, i.e. the presence of a local minimum in $f_{\nu}^{(0)}(v_{1}^{2})$ guarantees $\delta^{2}H < 0$ for all $k_{\perp}$. It suffices to localize $\Psi_{\nu}$ ($\frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi}$ is then also localized) to the region in $v_{\perp}$, $v_{z}$ where $\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}} > 0$. Outside this region $\Psi_{\nu}$ vanishes and all other $\Psi_{\mu}$ are set equal to zero. The sign of $\delta^{2}H$ is then determined by the sign of the integrand in the region of localization. There is no restriction on $k_{\perp}$, contrary to the results obtained in [5]. Those results are obtained when the class of possible perturbations is restricted by a particular choice of test functions, namely $\Gamma_{\nu} \equiv 0$ and $\frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial v_{z}} \equiv 0$, so that they do not correspond to the minimum $\delta^{2}H$.

### 4.2 $k_{z} \neq 0$ (either parallel or oblique wave propagation with respect to B$^{(0)}$)

If $\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}} > 0$ for some $v_{\perp}$, $v_{z}$, one localizes $\Psi_{\nu}$ around these velocities. Then:

If $\alpha_{\nu} = 1$, all terms in Eq. (43) are negative.

If $\alpha_{\nu} \neq 1$, one can use $n_{\nu}$ to make the expression in the square brackets negative:

If $\alpha_{\nu} > 0$, one can take $n_{\nu} = 0$, $\frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} = 0$.

If $\alpha_{\nu} \leq 0$, one can take $n_{\nu} > \frac{k_{\perp}v_{\perp}}{\omega_{\nu}} > 0$ or $n_{\nu} < \frac{k_{\perp}v_{\perp}}{\omega_{\nu}} < 0$, $\frac{\partial \Psi_{\nu}}{\partial \phi} = 0$.

Note that no condition is imposed on either $k_{\perp}$ or $k_{z}$.

If $\frac{\partial f_{\nu}^{(0)}}{\partial v_{1}} < 0$ for some $v_{\perp}$, $v_{z}$, one again localizes $\Psi_{\nu}$ around these velocities.
The case \( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} < 0 \) is the most interesting one since this condition always obtains for some \( \nu \perp \). The positive contribution of \( \left( \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 \) can be eliminated by choosing
\[
\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \phi} = 0. \tag{46}
\]
In this case we have
\[
\delta^2 H = \sum_{\nu} \frac{V}{4m_{\nu}} \int d^3 \nu \frac{k^2 v^2}{2} \Psi^2 \nu \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} \left[ (1 - \alpha_{\nu})^2 - \left( 1 + \alpha_{\nu} - \frac{2\omega_{\nu}n_{\nu}}{k_z v_z} \right)^2 \right], \tag{47}
\]
and thus, since \( \Psi^2 \nu \) is localized in \( \nu, v_z \), the condition for \( \delta^2 H < 0 \) is
\[
(1 - \alpha_{\nu})^2 - \left( 1 + \alpha_{\nu} - \frac{2\omega_{\nu}n_{\nu}}{k_z v_z} \right)^2 > 0, \tag{48}
\]
which means either
\[
\alpha_{\nu} > \frac{n_{\nu}\omega_{\nu}}{k_z v_z} > 1 \tag{49}
\]
(for \( \alpha_{\nu} > 1 \)) or
\[
\alpha_{\nu} < \frac{n_{\nu}\omega_{\nu}}{k_z v_z} < 1 \tag{50}
\]
(for \( \alpha_{\nu} < 1 \)).

The integer \( n_{\nu} \) and the wave number \( k_z \) can be arbitrarily chosen, and it is always possible to satisfy one of the inequalities (49), (50) for any anisotropy \( \alpha_{\nu} \neq 1 \), without any restriction being imposed on \( \nu \perp \)!

If \( \alpha_{\nu} > 1 \) \( \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} < \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} < 0 \right) \), then \( k_z \) is restricted by condition (49). If one sets \( k_z v_z = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_z} v_z = \frac{2\pi}{\tau_z} \), then inequality (49) becomes
\[
\alpha_{\nu} > \omega_{\nu} < \frac{2\pi}{\tau_z}. \tag{51}
\]
This means that \( n_{\nu} \) times the time that a particle needs to travel the distance \( \lambda_z \) must be larger than the period of the gyromotion, but smaller than \( \alpha_{\nu} \) times this period.

If \( 1 > \alpha_{\nu} > 0 \) \( \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} < \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial \nu^2} \leq 0 \right) \), then \( k_z \) is restricted by condition (50) in a way similar to that in the preceding case.
If $\alpha_\nu < 0$ ($\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_1} < 0$, $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_2} > 0$), then choosing $n_\nu = 0$ satisfies inequality (50) without any condition being imposed on $k_z$, except $k_z \neq 0$. This is similar to the results obtained by Pfirsch and Morrison [7], Eq. (144.b), within the framework of drift-kinetic theory for equilibrium distribution functions with $v_z \frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_z} > 0$ in some region of v-space.

For $\alpha_\nu \equiv 1$ and $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_1} < 0$ everywhere, we obtain $f^{(0)}_\nu = f^{(0)}_\nu (v_1^2 + v_2^2)$. The equilibrium distribution is a monotonically decreasing function of the particle energy, and no negative-energy modes exist. This is consistent with the general results obtained in [6].

5. Conclusions

In the case of a magnetized, homogeneous Vlasov plasma, waves of negative energy ($\delta^2 H < 0$) exist for any deviation from monotonicity (i.e. if $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_1} > 0$ and/or $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_2} > 0$ for some $v_1$, $v_2$) and/or any anisotropy $\alpha_\nu (v_1, v_2) \neq 1$. No restricting condition is imposed on the perpendicular wave number $k_\perp$. The situation therefore cannot be expected to be alleviated by finite-gyroradius effects.

For distribution functions with both $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_1}$ and $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_2} < 0$ everywhere, but which are anisotropic ($\alpha_\nu > 0$ and $\alpha_\nu \neq 1$ in some region of v-space) the existence of negative-energy waves imposes a restriction on the parallel wave number $k_z$ (condition (49) or condition (50)). However, if the distribution function is such that $\frac{\partial f^{(0)}}{\partial v_1} > 0$ in some region of v-space, then there is no restriction whatsoever on $k_\perp$, $k_z$, except $k_z \neq 0$. As shown by Pfirsch and Morrison [7], Eq. (144.b), this latter result also obtains within the framework of drift-kinetic theory.
APPENDIX

Neglect of the Electrostatic Energy Term

The contribution of the electrostatic energy term

\[
\frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^3x \delta E^2
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.1)

has been neglected. To justify this, let us consider the perturbed electric charge density \(\delta \rho\). Generally, the charge density is

\[
\rho = \sum_\nu e_\nu \int f_\nu d^3v,
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.2)

and the perturbed charge density is

\[
\delta \rho = \sum_\nu e_\nu \int \delta f_\nu d^3v.
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.3)

The perturbation in the distribution function is given by

\[
\delta f_\nu = \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \bigg|_p \cdot \delta x_\nu + \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial p_\nu} \bigg|_x \cdot \delta p_\nu,
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.4)

with \(p_\nu\) the canonical momentum of species \(\nu\), i.e.

\[
p_\nu = m_\nu v + \frac{e_\nu}{c} A^{(0)}(x).
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.5)

It therefore follows that

\[
\frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial \nu} \bigg|_x = m_\nu \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial p_\nu} \bigg|_x,
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.6)

\[
\frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \bigg|_x = \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \bigg|_p + \frac{\partial (p_\nu)_i}{\partial x} \bigg|_x \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial (p_\nu)_i} \bigg|_x
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.7)

\[
\frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \bigg|_p = \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \bigg|_v - \frac{e_\nu}{c} \frac{\partial A^{(0)}_i}{\partial x} \frac{\partial f_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial (p_\nu)_i} \bigg|_x
\]  \hspace{1cm} (A.8)
The perturbations $\delta x_\nu$ and $\delta p_\nu$ are given by

$$
\delta x_\nu = \left. \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial p_\nu} \right|_{x} = \frac{1}{m_\nu} \left. \partial G_\nu \right|_{v} ,
$$

(A.9)

$$
\delta p_\nu = - \left. \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right|_{p} = \frac{- \partial G_\nu}{\partial x} + \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu c} \left. \frac{\partial A_\nu^{(0)}}{\partial x} \right|_{v} ,
$$

(A.10)

Employing the relations above, one obtains $\delta f_\nu$ as a function of $x$ and $v$:

$$
\delta f_\nu = \frac{1}{m_\nu} \left[ \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} - \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu c} \left( \mathbf{B}^{(0)} \times \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial v} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \right] .
$$

(A.11)

Specializing this expression to the equilibrium given by Eqs. (17), we obtain

$$
\delta f_\nu = \frac{1}{m_\nu} \left[ 2 \omega_\nu \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial \phi} \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v^2_\nu} - \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v} \right]
$$

(A.12)

and

$$
\delta \rho = - \sum_\nu \frac{e_\nu}{m_\nu} \int d^3 \nu \frac{\partial G_\nu}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v} ,
$$

(A.13)

where we have used the fact that $G_\nu$ is single-valued, and that $f^{(0)}_\nu$ is $\phi$-independent.

Taking into account $G_\nu$ as given by Eqs. (22) and (24) yields

$$
\delta \rho = - \sum_\nu \int d^3 \nu i \frac{e_\nu}{2 m_\nu} \left( \frac{\partial f^{(0)}_\nu}{\partial v} \cdot \mathbf{k} \right) \Psi_\nu(v)(e^{i \Gamma_\nu(v) + i k \cdot \mathbf{x}} - e^{-i \Gamma_\nu(v) - i k \cdot \mathbf{x}}) .
$$

(A.14)

The perturbed charge density $\delta \rho$ can be made zero since our expression for $\delta^2 H$ only contains $\Psi^2_\nu$, $\left( \frac{\partial \Psi_\nu}{\partial \phi} \right)^2$, which are then chosen localized in $v_\perp$ or $v_z$. The distribution of signs in $\Psi_\nu$ and $\frac{\partial \Psi_\nu}{\partial \phi}$ is free. For instance, one can take $\Psi_\nu$ piecewise continuous in $v_\perp$ or $v_z$, with changing signs so that positive and negative contributions to $\delta \rho$ balance each other.
References


