

Plasma Physics I

Series 5 (October 8, 2025)

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Exercise 1

- a.) Consider the magnetic flux through a given surface moving with the plasma,

$$\Phi_B(t) \equiv \int \int_{S(t)} \mathbf{B}(t) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

Starting from the ideal MHD equations, show that the magnetic flux is *frozen* in the plasma,

$$\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} = 0$$

What does this imply on the magnetic topology in such a plasma?

- b.) Consider now that the plasma has some finite resistivity. How does this affect the magnetic flux?
- c.) Find the diffusion equation for the magnetic field in a resistive plasma. Estimate the diffusion time of the magnetic field in ITER (characteristic length $L = 3$ m, electron temperature $T_e = 10$ keV).

Exercise 2

- a.) Demonstrate that the propagation of a transverse wave along the z axis ($\mathbf{k} = k\mathbf{e}_z$) in a string with tension S and mass per unit length M is given by:

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial z^2} = \frac{M}{S} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

- b.) Considering the ideal MHD model, demonstrate that the *Alfvén* waves (or *shear* waves), propagating along the magnetic field ($\mathbf{k} \parallel \mathbf{B}_0$, $\mathbf{B}_0 = B_0\mathbf{e}_z$), can be described with the same equation of a transverse wave in a string. Identify the terms M and S in the equation in a.) for the Alfvén waves.
- c.) The tokamak ITER will operate with a plasma D - T at 13 keV with a uniform electron density $n_e = 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and a magnetic field $B = 6$ T. Evaluate the phase velocity of the Alfvén waves for that plasma.
- d.) Fusion reactions $D^+ + T^+ \rightarrow He_{(3.5\text{MeV})}^{++} + n_{(14\text{MeV})}$ occur when a plasma is heated with ion beams D^+ with energy of 1 MeV. Which charged particles are resonant with the Alfvén waves (same velocity with wave)?