



**Arab Academy**  
for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport

**EGY**  **Plasma**

# Classification of plasma forces and species

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# Aim of the lecture

## You should learn

- **Types of plasma**
- **Plasma components**
- **Forces in plasma**
- **Examples**
- **Comparison between forces**

# Types of plasmas

- **(I) Classical plasma**

+ve ions / electrons / -ve ions / positrons

- **(II) Dusty (complex) plasma**

+ve dust / -ve dust / +ve ions / electrons / -ve ions

- **(III) Quantum plasma**

Electrons / positrons / holes / +ve ions

# Classical plasma

Plasma Comp.

Electron + Positron + Ion

+ve ions & -ve ions & electrons

Time Scale

Slow  
(Mobile Ions)

Fast  
(Stationary Ions)

Slow

Fast

# Dusty plasma

Plasma Comp.

+ve dust & -ve dust & electrons & +ve ions

+ve dust & -ve dust & electrons & +ve ions & -ve ions

Time Scale

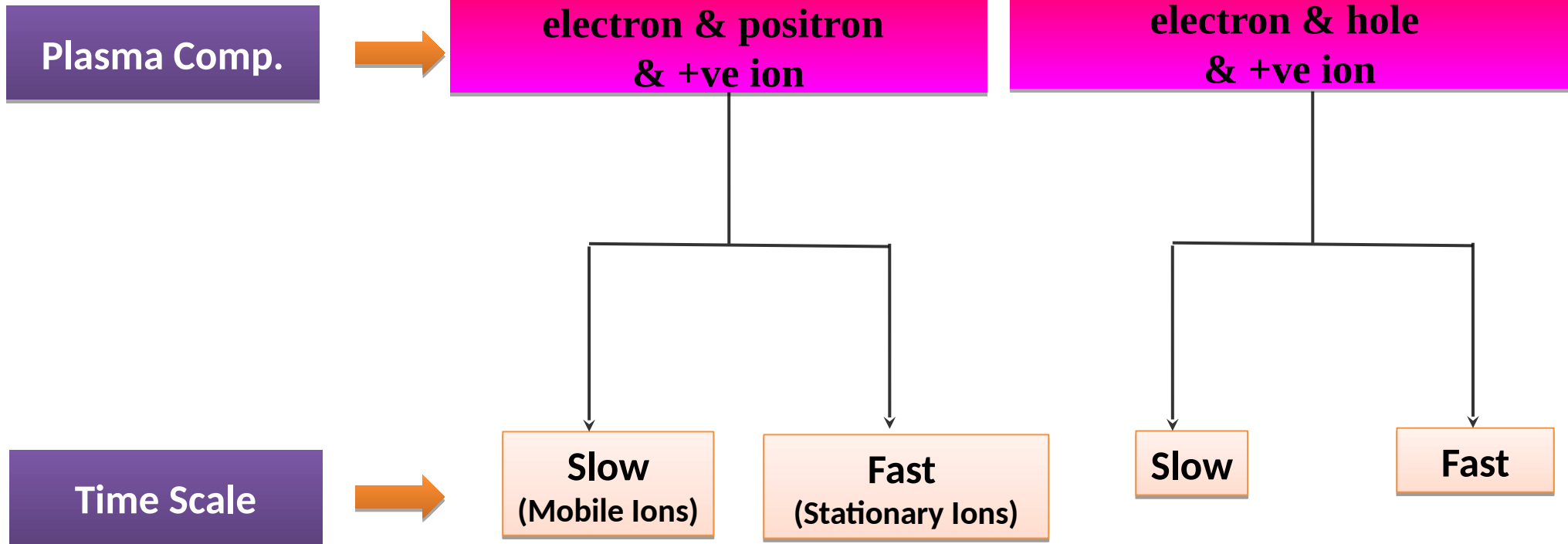
Slow  
(Mobile Dust)

Fast  
(Stationary Dust)

Slow

Fast

# Quantum plasma



# Forces in plasma

- Inertial force
- Electric force
- Magnetic force
- Pressure gradient force
- Collisional force
- Drag force
- Coriolis force
- Ponderomotive force
- Viscosity
- Tunneling force
- Exchange-correlation force
- Gravitational force
- Thermophoretic force
- Radiation pressure force
- Diffusion force
- **15 Forces**

# Inertial Force

- 17th Century: Isaac Newton introduced the concept of inertia in his first law of motion, laying the groundwork for understanding inertial forces.
- Early 20th Century: Inertial forces were recognized as key factors in the behavior of high-speed particles, contributing to early plasma studies.
- 1930s: The development of magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) highlighted the importance of inertial forces in plasma dynamics.
- 1960s: Advances in space exploration and nuclear fusion research emphasized the role of inertial forces in plasma confinement and stability.



# Inertial Force

- **Definition:** Inertial force is the force required to change the motion of a mass, crucial in understanding plasma behavior.
- Equation: Force = mass  $\times$  acceleration, where inertia is the resistance to acceleration.
- **Plasma Confinement:** Inertial forces help contain plasma in magnetic and inertial confinement fusion devices.
- **Wave Propagation:** Inertial forces affect the propagation of waves in plasma, essential for communication and diagnostics.
- **Instability Analysis:** Understanding inertial forces aids in analyzing and mitigating plasma instabilities.

# Inertial Force

- To understand how dark matter is proven to exist, we need to examine the discrepancies between observed gravitational effects and the amount of visible matter in the universe.
- Newton's second law
- Newton's law of gravitation
- The speed of the Sun's rotation around the center of the galaxy: 220 km/s.
- Radius of the Sun's orbit around the center of the galaxy: about 30,000 light-years (approximately  $9.5 \times 10^{16}$  km)

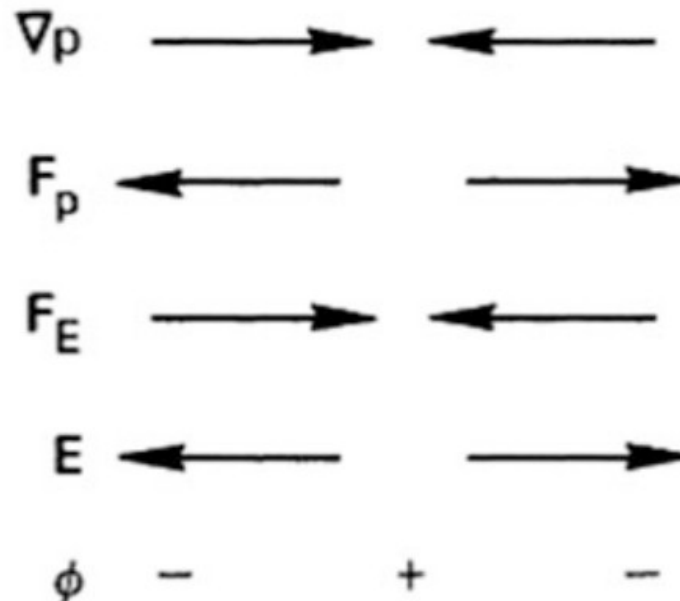
**Prove it in the H.W.**

# Pressure Gradient Force

- Definition:** A difference in pressure inside a plasma creates the pressure gradient force, which moves particles from high-pressure regions to low-pressure regions.



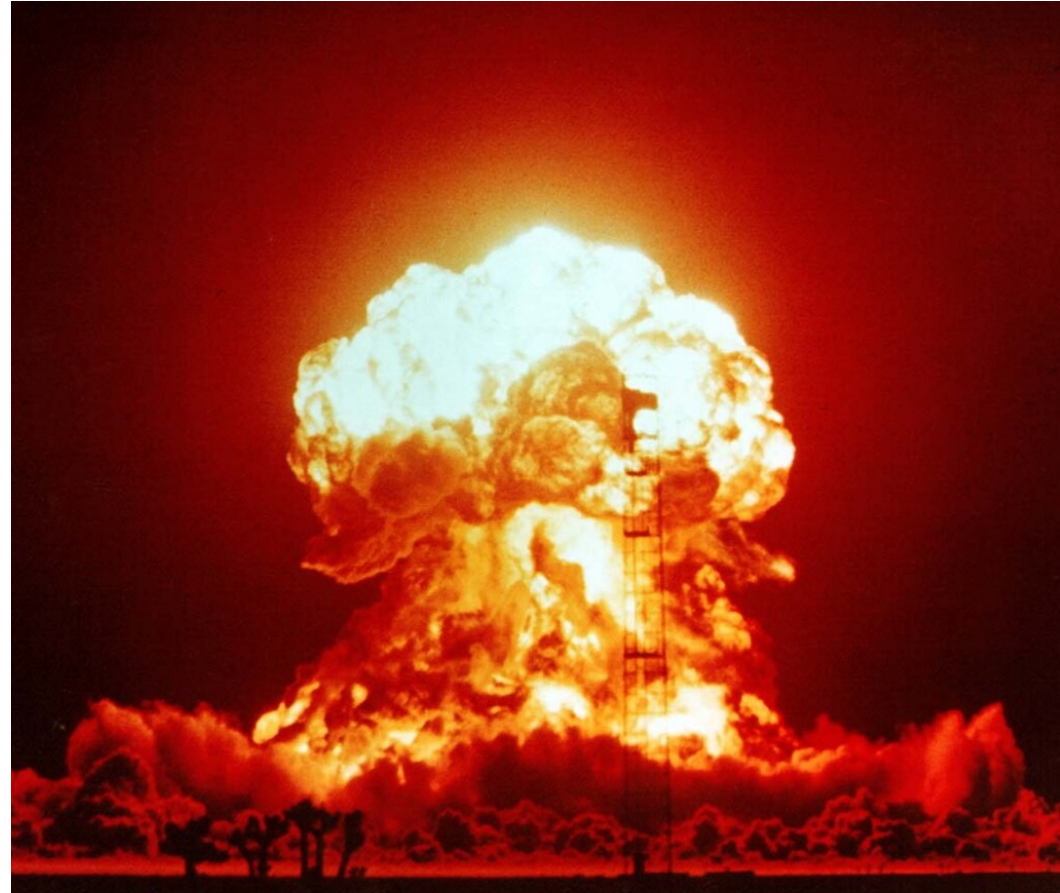
$$\mathbf{F}_{pg} = -\nabla P$$



# Pressure Gradient Force

## Equilibrium and Stability:

- **Force Balance:** Pressure gradient force balances other forces (e.g., magnetic tension, inertial forces) in plasma, maintaining equilibrium.
- **Stability Analysis:** Helps in understanding instabilities such as the Rayleigh-Taylor instability.

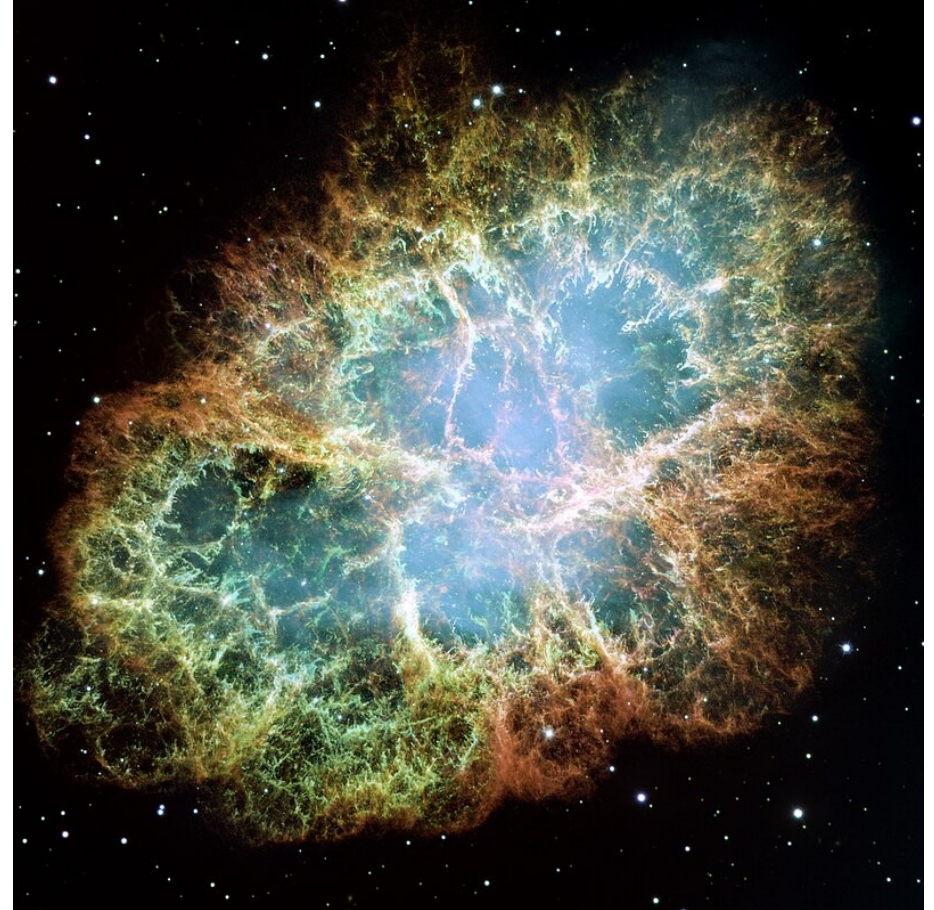


When the lighter fluid  
is pushing the heavier  
fluid

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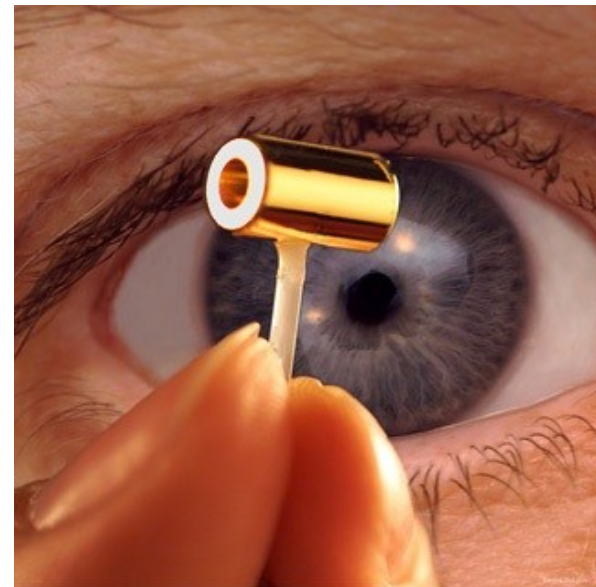
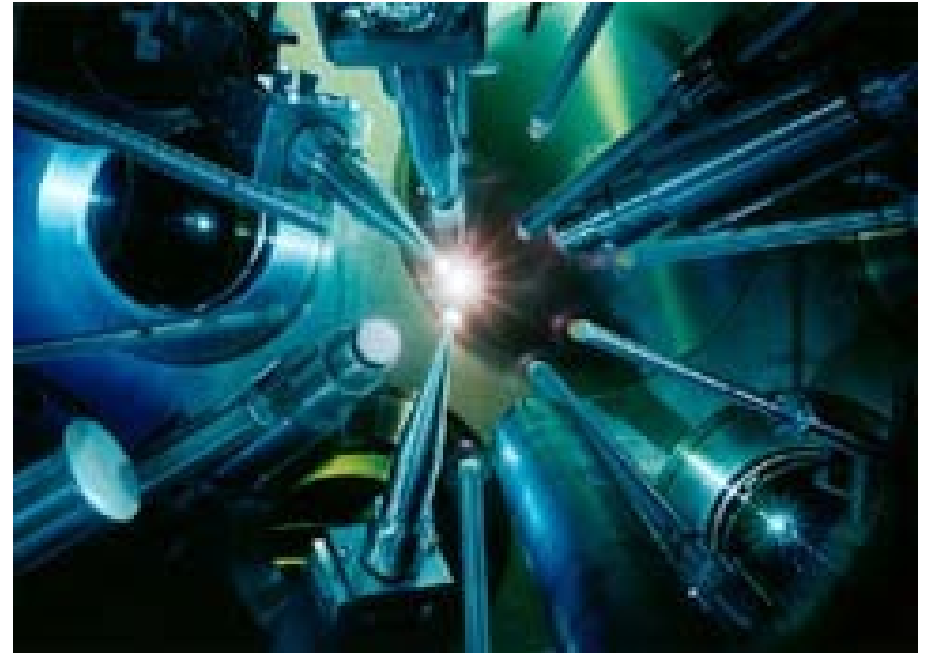


When the lighter fluid  
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# Pressure Gradient Force

## Plasma Confinement:

- **Magnetic Confinement:** Pressure gradients are crucial in maintaining the equilibrium of confined plasma, influencing the shape and stability of the confinement.
- **Inertial Confinement:** In ICF, pressure gradients drive the implosion of the fuel pellet.



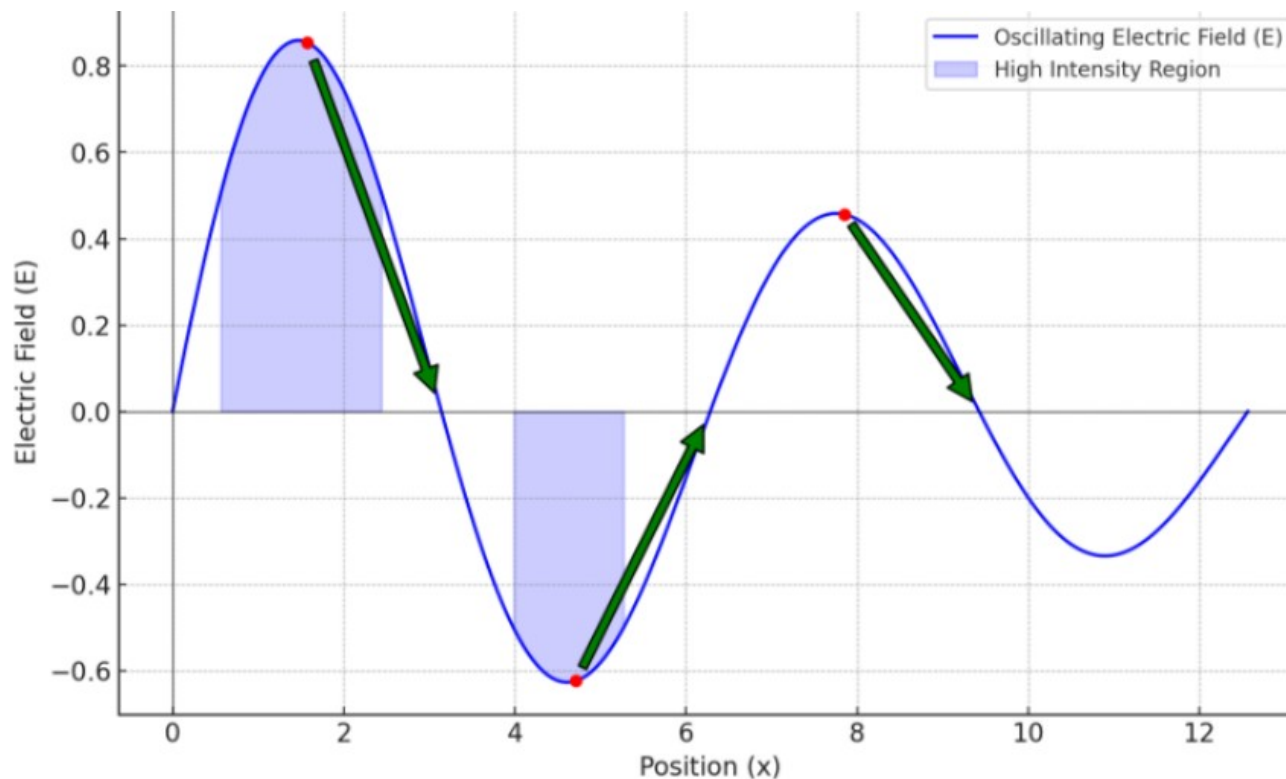
# Ponderomotive Force

## Basic Principle of Ponderomotive Force

- When charged particles are placed in an oscillating electromagnetic field, they experience rapidly changing forces.
- The ponderomotive force is the time-averaged effect of these oscillations, resulting in a net force.
- This net force pushes particles away from regions of higher field intensity.

# Ponderomotive Force

**Definition:** The ponderomotive force is a nonlinear force experienced by a charged particle in an oscillating electromagnetic field (like laser or RF field). This force pushes the particle toward lower field strengths.





# Ponderomotive Force

$$\mathbf{F}_p = -\frac{q^2}{4m\omega^2} \nabla E^2$$

$q$ : Charge of the particle

$m$ : Mass of the particle

$\omega$ : Angular frequency of the oscillating field

$E$ : Electric field strength

# Ponderomotive Force

## Applications: Particle Acceleration

- Overview: Particle accelerators are used to speed up charged particles to high velocities for various applications, including scientific research and medical treatments.
- Ponderomotive Force: Pushes particles along selected directions to accelerate.
- Focuses particle beams and reduces beam divergence, enhancing accelerator efficiency.

# Collisional Force

- **Definition:** Collisional force in plasma physics refers to the interactions between charged particles (ions and electrons) that result in momentum transfer and energy dissipation.
- **Types of Collisions:**
- Elastic Collisions are interactions between particles where the total kinetic energy and momentum are conserved.
- Characteristics: No loss of kinetic energy & Particles merely change direction and possibly speed, but the total kinetic energy remains the same.

# Collisional Force

- **Types of Collisions:**
- Inelastic Collisions transform part of the colliding particles' kinetic energy into internal energy, excitation, or ionization.
- Importance: Inelastic collisions play a crucial role in energy transfer, ionization processes, and plasma dynamics.
- Collision Frequency: Number of collisions per unit time.
- **Inverse of Collision Frequency = Collision time-scale**
- Mean Free Path: Average distance a particle travels between collisions.

# Collisional Force

$$\nu_{ei} = \frac{4\sqrt{2\pi}}{3} \frac{n_i e^4 \ln \Lambda}{(4\pi\epsilon_0)^2 m_e^{1/2} (k_B T_e)^{3/2}}$$

- Collisions in space, laboratory, stars....??
- Density increase --> collision frequency --> collision time
- Temperature increase --> collision frequency --> collision time
- We have a time-scale to compare but with what???

1.  $\lambda_D \ll L$ .
2.  $N_D \gg \gg 1$ .
3.  $\omega\tau > 1$ .

# Collisional Force

## Importance of Collisional Force in plasma

- Plasma Confinement & Impurity Control
- Diagnostics: Techniques like Langmuir probes measure collisional parameters.
- Space Plasmas: Observations of space plasmas provide insights into natural collisional processes such as solar wind interaction with planets.
- Collisions play a significant role in energy transport within stars.
- Interstellar Medium: Collisional interactions affect the dynamics and chemistry of the interstellar medium.

# Comparison Between Forces

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \cancel{m n} \frac{du}{dt} & ; & \frac{q n E}{m n} & ; & \frac{\nabla P}{m n} \\
 \\ 
 \frac{v}{c} & ; & \frac{q \phi}{m L} & ; & \frac{k_B T}{L m v} \\
 \\ 
 | & ; & \frac{q \phi}{m L} \frac{\tau}{v} & ; & \frac{k_B T}{m} \frac{\tau}{L v} \\
 \\ 
 | & ; & \frac{e \phi}{m} \frac{L}{v^2} & ; & \frac{v_+^2}{v^2}
 \end{array}$$

For cold plasma  $v_+ \ll v_{th}$

$$v_+ \gg v$$

$$\frac{e \phi}{k_B T m} \gg \frac{v^2}{v_+^2 k_B T e}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{F}{m} &= \frac{q E}{m} \\
 L a &= \frac{e E L}{m} \\
 v^2 &= \frac{e \phi}{m}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Comparison Between Forces

- Boltzmann relation for electrons

$$mn \left[ \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_z \right] = qnE_z - \frac{\partial p}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} = \frac{q}{m} E_z - \frac{\gamma KT}{mn} \frac{\partial n}{\partial z} \quad \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi \\ m \rightarrow 0 \quad q = -e \end{array}$$

$$qE_z = e \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\gamma KT_e}{n} \frac{\partial n}{\partial z}$$

$$n = n_0 \exp(e\phi / KT_e)$$



# Comparison Between Forces

- **Cold plasma**

*Approximation:* Ignore thermal motion of particles

$$\text{'Cold Plasma'} \quad \nabla p = 0 \quad (e.g. \ T \simeq 0)$$

$$m_e N_e \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_e}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u}_e \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_e \right] = -\nabla p_e + q_e N_e (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u}_e \times \mathbf{B})$$

Generally requires wave phase velocity  $\gg v_{\text{thermal}}$

**Prove it in the H.W.**

# Summary

## Terminology

## Concept

- Plasma components
  - Time scale
  - Forces in plasma
  - Inertial force
  - Pressure gradient force
  - Ponderomotive force
  - Collisional force
  - Collision frequency and Collision time-scale
  - Comparison between forces
- ?????
  - ?????
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