

Approximations used in MHD

- $v_0 \ll c$ (non-relativistic approximation)

Comparison between electromagnetic terms in the generalized Ampere's law

$$\mathbf{j} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left(\nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$$

Faraday's law

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = - \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \rightarrow \frac{E_0}{l_0} \sim \frac{B_0}{t_0}$$

$$\frac{B_0}{l_0} \quad \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{E_0}{t_0} \rightarrow \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{E_0}{t_0} \approx \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{1}{t_0} \frac{l_0}{t_0} B_0 = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{l_0^2}{t_0^2} \frac{B_0}{l_0} = \frac{v_0^2}{c^2} \frac{B_0}{l_0} \ll \frac{B_0}{l_0}$$

$$\therefore \frac{B_0}{l_0} \gg \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{E_0}{t_0} \Rightarrow \text{we neglect } \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

=> Propagation of electromagnetic waves (radiation) is not described by MHD.

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \Rightarrow \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j}$$

Ampere's law in MHD

(determine magnetic field from current density)

• $\rho_c \sim 0$ (local charge neutrality)

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho_c}{\epsilon_0} \Rightarrow \frac{E_0}{l_0} \sim \frac{e(n_+ - n_-)}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$n_+ - n_- \sim \frac{\epsilon_0 E_0}{e l_0} \approx \frac{\epsilon_0 \left(\frac{l_0 B}{t_0} \right)}{e l_0} = \frac{\epsilon_0 v_0 B}{e l_0}$$

Condition of local charge neutrality:

$$n_+ - n_- \ll n_+ + n_- \equiv n_{total} \text{ (total number density)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\epsilon_0 v_0 B}{e l_0} \ll n_{total} \longrightarrow 6.7 \times 10^7 \frac{v_0 B}{l_0} \ll n_{total}$$

$$e = 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C (electron charge)}$$

e.g. solar corona: $n_{total} \sim 10^{14} \text{ m}^{-3}$, $v_0 \sim 10^5 \text{ m/s}$, $l_0 \sim 10^7 \text{ m}$, $B \sim 10^{-2} \text{ T}$

$$6.7 \times 10^7 \frac{v_0 B}{l_0} \ll n_{total} \rightarrow 6.7 \times 10^3 \ll 10^{14} \dots \text{ satisfied}$$

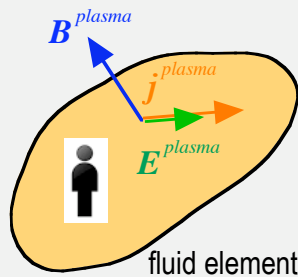
Coulomb's law in MHD $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho_c}{\epsilon_0} \sim 0$

(does NOT determine electric field from charge density => Ohm's law)

Ohm's law

※ rough explanation => more detailed explanation is given in fluid part

Plasma frame



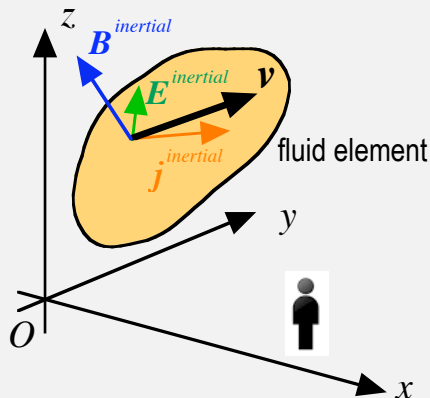
$$\mathbf{E}^{plasma} = \eta \mathbf{j}^{plasma} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \mathbf{j}^{plasma}$$

η ... resistivity (ohm m = kg m³ s⁻³ A⁻²)
 σ ... electric conductivity (ohm⁻¹ m⁻¹ = mho m⁻¹)
 => plasma quantities determined by kinetic approach

Ohm's law in plasma frame

Electric field is parallel to electric current density.

Inertial frame



When the fluid element moves at constant velocity \mathbf{v} in inertial frame, then

$$\mathbf{j}^{inertial} = \mathbf{j}^{plasma} \quad \text{non-relativistic, charge-neutral case}$$

$$\mathbf{E}^{inertial} = \mathbf{E}^{plasma} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}^{plasma} \quad \mathbf{B}^{inertial} = \mathbf{B}^{plasma}$$

So,

$$\mathbf{E}^{inertial} = \eta \mathbf{j}^{inertial} - \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}^{inertial}$$

Ohm's law in inertial frame

(determines electric field from flow velocity & current density)

$$\mathbf{E}_{convective} \equiv -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}^{inertial} \quad \dots \text{transport magnetic field at } \mathbf{v}_\perp$$