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An eigenvalue analysis of damping in optical thin plasmas

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In this work, the behavior of magnetohydrodynamic waves in optically thin plasmas considering dissipative processes, thermal and magnetic diffusion, a given ionization, and the heating and cooling functions are investigated for several particular cases. A numerical eigenvalues analysis of the dimensionless secular equations according to various cases is performed for the entire set of MHD equations.

Keywords: Thin optical plasmas; magnetosonic waves; Alfvén waves; thermal waves; magnetic diffusion; astrophysical plasmas.

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1. Introduction

In recent years analytical as well as numerical tools for working out nonlinear partial differential equation and, in particular, those governing general fluids have been enormously improved. Nonetheless the linear problem resulting from analyzing these equations remains to be very important for many reasons:

- The associated eigenvalue problem describes the behavior of magnetohydrodynamic waves (MHD) and other waves, for example, thermal and radiation waves.
- Understanding the behavior of linear waves allows to understand many physical aspects of nonlinear problems like the onset of the turbulence as well as its closed relation with it [1–5].
- The linear approach is closely related to the problem of stability of different flows and gas structures in different physical fields such as in astrophysical problems: planetary atmospheres, Earth's oceans, stellar interiors [3,6,7] stellar atmospheres (*e.g.*, the solar atmosphere), interstellar medium, and intracluster media [8,9].

However, the present work is limited to the analysis of some aspects of MHD wave propagation in optically thin plasmas of interest in astrophysics. Extensive efforts have been put into practice for the solar atmosphere [10–24] and the interstellar and intracluster media [14,25–27].

We consider several aspects in the Alfvén wave damping analysis and in the magnetosonic wave analysis and the associated eigenvalue problem for optically thin plasmas, as will be seen and discussed at the present work.

In Sec. 2, the set of MHD equations is linearized, leading to two independent cases where each matrix generates a dispersion relation whose roots for the case of Alfvén waves are a complex equation.

In Sec. 3, for the linear approximation both modes are studied for the thermal and magneto-acoustic cases. They are damped by thermal conduction, viscosity and the influence of the cooling-heating function. The complex eigen-equation is both described in the case where only one dissipative process is considered and where only the magnetic diffusion term $\tilde{\nu}_m$ is present.

In Sec. 4, the energy equation is used without any dissipative terms but preserving the effects of the heat/loss given its importance in astrophysical and laboratory plasma applications.

Finally, in Sec. 5, the kinetic coefficients in a magnetic field, for the case of a recombining hydrogen plasma are discussed.

2. General set of magnetohydrodynamic equations

If dissipative effects are accounted for a recombining gas, for an optically thin and heat conducting plasma, the well known basic MHD equations can be written as [16,20,25,28]

$$\frac{\partial H_k}{\partial x_k} = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial H_i}{\partial t} = -\epsilon_{ijk} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (v_j H_k - v_k H_j) + \frac{c^2}{4\pi\sigma} \frac{\partial^2 H_i}{\partial x_k^2}, \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho v_i)}{\partial x_i} = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{d\xi}{dt} + X(\rho, T, \xi) = 0, \quad (4)$$

$$\rho \frac{dv_i}{dt} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left(H_i H_k - \frac{1}{2} H^2 \delta_{ik} \right) + \frac{\partial \sigma'_{ik}}{\partial x_k}, \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho T \frac{ds}{dt} = & -\rho L(\rho, T, \xi) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\kappa_{ik} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_k} \right) \\ & + \frac{c^2}{16\pi^2 \sigma} \left[-\epsilon_{jki} \frac{\partial H_j}{\partial x_k} \right]^2 + \sigma'_{ik} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and

$$p = \frac{N_0 k_B}{\mu(\xi)} \rho T, \quad (7)$$

where H_i and v_i are the i -th components of the magnetic field and velocity, respectively. ϵ_{jki} is the permutation symbol δ_{ik} is Kronecker delta symbol, c the light speed and ρ , p , T , ξ , c_v , N_0 , k_B and $\mu(\xi)$ are mass density, pressure, temperature, ionization degree, specific heat at constant volume, the Avogadro number, the Boltzmann constant and the mean molecular weight of the gas, respectively.

$X(\rho, T, \xi)$ is the net ionization rate and $L(\rho, T, \xi)$ is the heat-loss function defined as energy losses minus energy gains per unit mass and time, which can be written as $L(\rho, T, \xi) = L(\rho, T, \xi)_{\text{output}} - L(\rho, T, \xi)_{\text{input}}$.

Additionally, κ_{ik} and σ_{ik} are the thermal conduction and the viscous stress tensor, respectively.

The thermal conduction coefficient κ_{ik} is generally weakly dependent on density but strongly dependent on temperature [19, 29–31].

Strictly speaking the induction equation becomes rather complicated, in particular, the electrical conductivity σ is also a tensor, however, for sake of simplicity and taking into account that $\sigma_{\parallel}/\sigma_{\perp} = 1.96$, this quantity will be assumed as a scalar of magnitude σ and the induction equation will be assumed in the simplified form given by Eq. (2) [30].

This set of equations reduces to the known MHD equations [16] when the heat/loss term is neglected.

3. Eigenvalue analysis of the type of magneto hydrodynamic waves

For an inert plasma, if all dissipative processes are neglected, Eqs. (1), (3) and (7) hold and Eqs. (2)-(6) simplify, *i.e* the set of ideal MHD equations can be written as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H} = 0, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{H}), \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p - \frac{1}{4\pi\rho} \mathbf{H} \times \text{curl}(\mathbf{H}), \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla s = 0. \quad (12)$$

For small disturbances superposed to an steady flow with velocity \mathbf{V}_0 , magnetic field \mathbf{H}_0 , pressure p_0 and mass density ρ_0 [16, 32]

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{V}_0 + \mathbf{v}', \quad \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_0 + \mathbf{h}, \quad p = p_0 + p', \quad \rho = \rho_0 + \rho',$$

where \mathbf{v}' , \mathbf{h} , p' and ρ' are functions of (x, y, z, t) . Therefore, Eqs. (9)-(12), up to the first order, become

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{h} = 0, \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{h}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{H}_0) - \nabla \times (\mathbf{V}_0 \times \mathbf{h}) = 0, \quad (14)$$

$$\frac{\partial p'}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \nabla p' + \rho_0 u_0^2 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}' = 0, \quad (15)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}'}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}' + \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p' + \frac{1}{4\pi\rho_0} \mathbf{H}_0 \times \text{curl}(\mathbf{h}), \quad (16)$$

where $\rho' = p'/u_0^2 + (\partial\rho/\partial s)_p s'$ and $u_0^2 = (\partial p/\partial\rho)_s$ is the square of the adiabatic sound speed, and

$$\frac{\partial s'}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \nabla s' = 0. \quad (17)$$

By Fourier analysis one can write the space and time dependence of the perturbed variables as $\sim \exp[i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)]$. Equations (13)-(16) reduce to

$$\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{h} = 0, \quad (18)$$

$$-\omega \mathbf{h} - \mathbf{k} \times (\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{H}_0) - \mathbf{k} \times (\mathbf{V}_0 \times \mathbf{h}) = 0, \quad (19)$$

$$(\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega) p' + \rho_0 u_0^2 \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}' = 0, \quad (20)$$

$$(\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega) \mathbf{v}' + \frac{1}{\rho_0} p' \mathbf{k} + \frac{1}{4\pi\rho_0} \mathbf{H}_0 \times (\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{h}) = 0, \quad (21)$$

and

$$(\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega) s' = 0. \quad (22)$$

Equation (18) implies that \mathbf{h} is perpendicular to \mathbf{k} , therefore, from Eq. (21) if $p' = 0$, Eqs. (20) and (22) reduce to

$$(\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega) = 0, \quad s' \neq 0, \quad \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{v}' \neq 0. \quad (23)$$

Without loss of generality, \mathbf{V}_0 and \mathbf{H}_0 are assumed to be on the x - y plane. The above relations define an entropy vortex wave which is carried along with the flow and is independent of other linear modes which correspond to the solutions

$$(\mathbf{V}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega) \neq 0, \quad s' = 0, \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}' = 0. \quad (24)$$

These modes are defined by the eigenequations

$$\begin{pmatrix} u - V_x & H_x \\ \frac{H_x}{4\pi\rho} & u \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_z \\ v_z \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad (25)$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} u - V_y & -H_y & H_x \\ \frac{H_x}{4\pi\rho} & 0 & u \\ -\frac{H_y}{4\pi\rho} & (u - V_x) - \frac{u_0^2}{u - V_x} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_y \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad (26)$$

where $u = \omega/k$ is the *phase velocity*. Herein after, the subindex zero indicating equilibrium values will be omitted, except for the adiabatic sound speed u_0 . \mathbf{k} is taken here to be along the x -axis.

In the particular case of a plasma initially at rest, the compatibility conditions for the Eqs. (25) and (26) become

$$u^2 = \frac{H_x^2}{4\pi\rho}, \quad (27)$$

and

$$u^4 - \left(\frac{H^2}{4\pi\rho} + v_0^2 \right) u^2 + \frac{H_x^2}{4\pi\rho} v_0^2 = 0. \quad (28)$$

As it is well known, Eqs. (25) and (27) define the Alfvén modes, and Eqs. (26) and (28) define the fast and slow magnetosonic modes (Alfvén suggested the existence of hydro-magnetic waves in 1942) [16, 32].

In the general case of a plasma flowing with an initial constant velocity \mathbf{V}_0 the dispersion relations are modified accordingly but the nature of the wave modes remains.

In conclusion, as far as the linear approximation concerns, there are three kind of waves in a plasma flow, and which are independent each other:

- The entropy-vortex modes.
- The Alfvén modes.
- The magnetosonic waves.

The entropy entropy-vortex modes were worked out in [31, 33].

4. Dissipative processes in magneto hydrodynamic waves with a given ionization and heat/loss effects

For a plasma with a given ionization and taking into account dissipative and heat/loss effects, the linearization of Eqs. (1)-(7) give, as in the ideal case, two sets of equations independent from each other, that is [34]

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega + i\frac{c^2 k^2}{4\pi\sigma} & H_x k \\ \frac{H_x k}{4\pi\rho} & \omega + i\frac{\eta k^2}{\rho} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_z \\ v_z \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad (29)$$

where c is the light velocity, σ is the conductivity coefficient, and η is the kinematic viscosity.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega(-i\omega + \Omega) & 0 & (iu_0^2\rho\omega + \Gamma)k & 0 \\ 0 & \omega + i\frac{c^2 k^2}{4\pi\sigma} & -kH_y & kH_x \\ -k & -\frac{H_y k}{4\pi} & \rho\omega + i\left(\frac{4\eta}{3} + \zeta\right)k^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{H_x k}{4\pi} & 0 & \rho\omega + i\eta k^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p' \\ h_y \\ v_x \\ v_y \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad (30)$$

where γ is the ratio of specific heats c_p/c_v , κ is the thermal conductivity, ζ is the bulk (second) viscosity, and Ω and Γ are given by

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{c_v} \left(\frac{\kappa k^2}{\rho} + L_T \right),$$

$$\Gamma = \rho(\gamma - 1) \left[\rho L_\rho - T \left(\frac{\kappa k^2}{\rho} + L_T \right) \right], \quad (31)$$

with the derivatives of the heat-loss function $L_\rho = \partial L / \partial \rho$, and $L_T = \partial L / \partial T$.

We should notice that the coefficients of viscosity appearing into the viscous stress tensor, are tensors due to the anisotropy introduced by the magnetic field, in this case the ratio between the parallel and perpendicular kinematic viscosity becomes $\eta_{\parallel}/\eta_{\perp} \approx 1.98$ [19], therefore, the kinematic viscosity as well as the bulk viscosity can be assumed as

scalars of magnitude η and ζ , respectively, in Eqs. (29) and (30).

Additionally, the strong anisotropy inherent in the thermal conduction tensor κ_{ij} ($\eta_{\perp}/\eta_{\parallel} \approx 10^{-12}$) has been taken into account assuming the heat flux vector to be

$$\mathbf{q} = - \left(\kappa_{\parallel} \frac{\partial T}{\partial s_{\parallel}} \mathbf{n}_{\parallel} + \kappa_{\perp} \frac{\partial T}{\partial s_{\perp}} \mathbf{n}_{\perp} \right), \quad (32)$$

where \mathbf{n}_{\parallel} and \mathbf{n}_{\perp} are unit vectors along and perpendicular to \mathbf{H}_0 , respectively.

Therefore,

$$\kappa = [\kappa_{\parallel} \cos^2 \theta + \kappa_{\perp} \sin^2 \theta], \quad (33)$$

where $\theta = \cos^{-1}(H_x/H_0)$.

In dimensionless form Eq. (30) can be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 + i(\tilde{\kappa}\tilde{k}^2 + \tilde{L}_T) & 0 & -1 + i\gamma^{-1}(\tilde{L}_\rho - \tilde{L}_T - \tilde{\kappa}\tilde{k}^2)\tilde{k} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + i\tilde{\nu}_m\tilde{k}^2 & -\sin(\theta)\tilde{k} & \cos(\theta)\tilde{k} \\ -\beta^2\tilde{k} & -\sin(\theta)\tilde{k} & 1 + i\left(\frac{4}{3}\tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b\right)\tilde{k}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta)\tilde{k} & 0 & 1 + i\tilde{\nu}\tilde{k}^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{p}' \\ \tilde{h}_y \\ \tilde{v}_x \\ \tilde{v}_y \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (34)$$

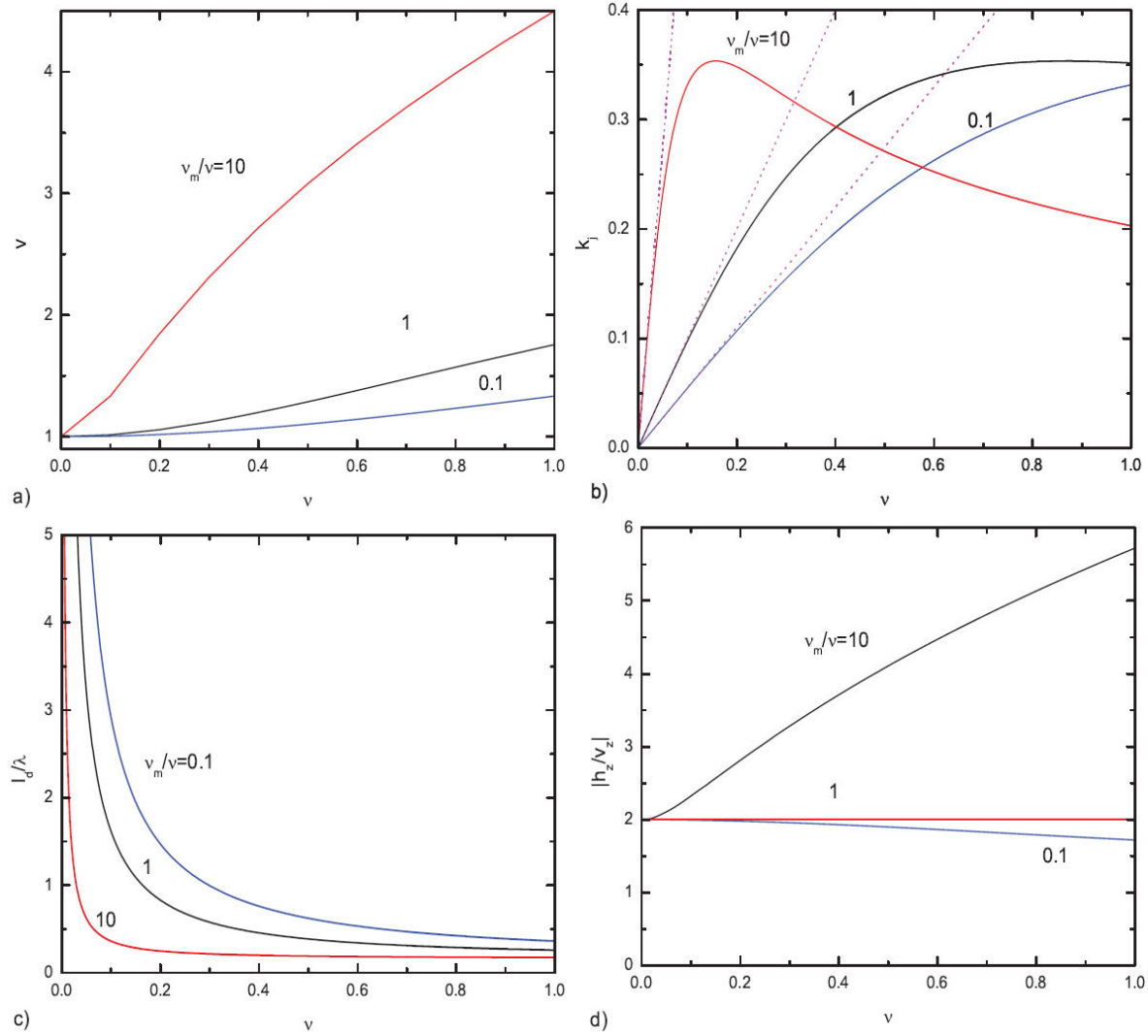


FIGURE 1. The velocity modes (v) a), the damping coefficient (k_i) b), the damping per unit wave length ($l_d/\lambda = k_r/2\pi k_i$) c), and the ratio $|h_z/v_z\sqrt{\pi\rho}|$ d) have been plotted in Fig. 1 as functions of $\tilde{\nu}$ for three different values of the ratio ν_m/ν ($= 0.1$ blue line, 1 black line and 10 red line)

where

$$\tilde{\kappa} = \frac{\kappa_{\parallel}\omega}{\rho c_v a^2} \left[\cos^2(\theta) + \frac{\kappa_{\perp}}{\kappa_{\parallel}} \sin^2(\theta) \right], \quad (35)$$

and $\tilde{k} = ak/\omega$, $a = H_0/\sqrt{4\pi\rho}$, $\tilde{L}_T = L_T/c_v\omega$, $\tilde{L}_\rho = \rho L_\rho/c_v T\omega$, $\tilde{\nu} = \omega\eta/\rho a^2$, $\tilde{\nu}_b = \omega\zeta/\rho a^2$, $\tilde{\nu}_m = \omega c^2/4\pi\sigma a^2$, $\beta = u_0/a$, $\tilde{p} = p/\rho u_0^2$, $\tilde{h}_y = h_y/H_0$, $\tilde{v}_x = v_x/a$, and $\tilde{v}_y = v_y/a$.

4.1. Numerical results for the Alfvén wave damping

The corresponding dimensionless secular equation of the system of equations (29) becomes equal to

$$\tilde{\nu}\tilde{\nu}_m\tilde{k}^4 + [1 - i(\tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_m)]\tilde{k}^2 - 1 = 0, \quad (36)$$

where $\tilde{\nu} = \omega\eta/\rho a^2$, $\tilde{\nu}_m = \omega c^2/4\pi\sigma a^2$, $\tilde{k} = a_x k/\omega$ and $a_x = |H_x|/\sqrt{4\pi\rho}$.

The roots of Eq. (36) are complex, that is, $\tilde{k} = \tilde{k}_r + i\tilde{k}_i$ where \tilde{k}_r and \tilde{k}_i are real quantities.

Due to the fact that $\tilde{\nu}$ as well as $\tilde{\nu}_m$ ($\approx \bar{l}/\lambda \ll 1$, where \bar{l} is the mean free path and λ the Alfvén wave length [16], the quartic term of Eq. (36) can be neglected and the resulting quadratic equation has the solution sought.

$$\tilde{k}_i \approx \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_m). \quad (37)$$

Because the disturbance has been taken in the form $\sim \exp(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - i\omega t)$, therefore $k_i = \omega\tilde{k}_i/a_x$ becomes the absorption coefficient.

One must remark that the expression 37 holds as far as the damping per wave length is very small. This expression is obtained by [16] in a different way.

Strictly speaking if both coefficients $\tilde{\nu}$ and $\tilde{\nu}_m$ are different from zero, Eq. (36) has two roots for \tilde{k}^2 , however only one of the roots fulfils the condition $\tilde{k}_i \ll 1$ for which the present approximation holds.

For this physical meaningful mode, the velocities (v), the damping coefficient (k_i), the damping per unit wave length ($l_d/\lambda = k_r/2\pi k_i$) and the ratio $|h_z/v_z\sqrt{\pi\rho}|$ have been plotted in Fig. 1 as functions of $\tilde{\nu}$ for three different values of the ratio ν_m/ν ($= 0.1$ blue line, 1 black line and 10 red line).

Additionally, for the (k_i), the damping per unit wave length, the Landau approximation for (37) has been plotted (3 pointed lines in Fig. 1b)).

4.2. Numerical results for the magnetosonic and thermal waves

The condition of compatibility of the system of Eqs. (34) can be written as

$$(a_{0r} + i a_{0i}) \tilde{k}^8 + (a_{1r} + i a_{1i}) \tilde{k}^6 + (a_{2r} + i a_{2i}) \tilde{k}^4 + (a_{3r} + i a_{3i}) \tilde{k}^2 + 1 + i \tilde{L}_T = 0, \quad (38)$$

the coefficients a_{kl} are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} a_{0r} &= \tilde{\kappa} \tilde{\nu} \tilde{\nu}_m \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b \right), \\ a_{0i} &= \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} \tilde{\kappa} \tilde{\nu} \tilde{\nu}_m, \\ a_{1r} &= \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} \tilde{\kappa} (\tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_m) + \tilde{\kappa} \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \cos^2(\theta) \right) + \tilde{\nu}_b \cos^2(\theta) \right] + \tilde{\nu} \tilde{\nu}_m \left[\beta^2 + \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b \right) \tilde{L}_T \right], \\ a_{1i} &= \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} \left[\tilde{\kappa} \cos^2(\theta) + \tilde{\nu} \tilde{\nu}_m (\tilde{L}_T - \tilde{L}_\rho) \right] - \tilde{\kappa} \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu}_m \right) + \tilde{\nu}_b \tilde{\nu}_m \right] - \tilde{\nu} \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b \right) \tilde{\nu}_m, \\ a_{2r} &= \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} (\tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_m) (\tilde{L}_T - \tilde{L}_\rho) - \tilde{\kappa} \left(\frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \tilde{\nu}_m \right) + \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \cos^2(\theta) \right) + \tilde{\nu}_b \cos^2(\theta) \right] \tilde{L}_T \\ &\quad - \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu}_m \right) + \tilde{\nu}_b \tilde{\nu}_m \right] + \beta^2 \cos^2(\theta), \\ a_{2i} &= \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} \left[(\tilde{L}_T - \tilde{L}_\rho) \cos^2(\theta) - \tilde{\kappa} \right] - \tilde{\kappa} - \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(\frac{4}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu}_m \right) + \tilde{\nu}_m \tilde{\nu}_b \right] \tilde{L}_T \\ &\quad - \left[\tilde{\nu} \left(\beta^2 + 1 + \frac{1}{3} \cos^2(\theta) \right) + \tilde{\nu}_b \cos^2(\theta) + \beta^2 \tilde{\nu}_m \right], \\ a_{3r} &= - \left[\left(\frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \tilde{\nu}_m \right) \tilde{L}_T + 1 + \beta^2 \right], \end{aligned}$$

and

$$a_{3i} = \beta^2 \gamma^{-1} (\tilde{L}_\rho - \tilde{L}_T) + \tilde{\kappa} - \tilde{L}_T + \frac{7}{3} \tilde{\nu} + \tilde{\nu}_b + \tilde{\nu}_m. \quad (39)$$

Generally speaking, the parameters defining the coefficients of the fourth order polynomial in \tilde{k}^2 (38) depend on two thermodynamic quantities, say, ρ and T and two quantities defining the magnetic field, *i.e.* H and θ . Therefore, these parameters define the corresponding four wave modes resulting from the Eq. (38).

The square root $\pm \tilde{k}$ represents two waves propagating in opposite directions each other. The angle ranges between $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$, but the ranges for ρ , T and H where the dispersion relation (38) holds is rather wide.

Therefore, here only a few asymptotic cases will be discussed and the solution of the full polynomial (38) will serve only for specific applications.

If all dissipative mechanisms as well as the heat/input effects are neglected and $\theta \neq \pi/2$, the dispersion relation reduces to a quadratic polynomial for \tilde{k}^2 (28) corresponding to

the undamped fast and slow magnetosonic waves (mw) [16] but when $\theta = \pi/2$ only the fast magnetosonic mode remains.

If the only dissipative process taken into account is the thermal conductivity and $\theta \neq \pi/2$, Eq. (38) reduces to a cubic polynomial the roots of which correspond to two damped magnetosonic waves sw and a thermal wave Thw .

When $\theta = 0$ a root becomes $\tilde{k} = 1$ for which $\tilde{p}' = 0$ and $\tilde{v}_x = 0$, corresponding to an undamped Alfvén wave Aw with values of $|\tilde{h}_y/\tilde{v}_y| = 1$.

The other two roots with $\tilde{k} \neq 1$ are a damped magnetosonic wave sw and an over damped thermal wave Thw for which $p = |\rho \omega v_x/k|$, all of which are plotted in Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, the phase velocity a), the damping coefficient b) and the damping per unit wave length c) are plotted for three different values of $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), 1 (blue lines), 2 (green lines) as function of κ_0 .

Note that the maximum damping of the magnetosonic wave (red mw line, occurs at the same value of κ_0 at which the maximum damping of the thermal wave occurs for the three β Thw values in Fig. 2b) [10, 12].

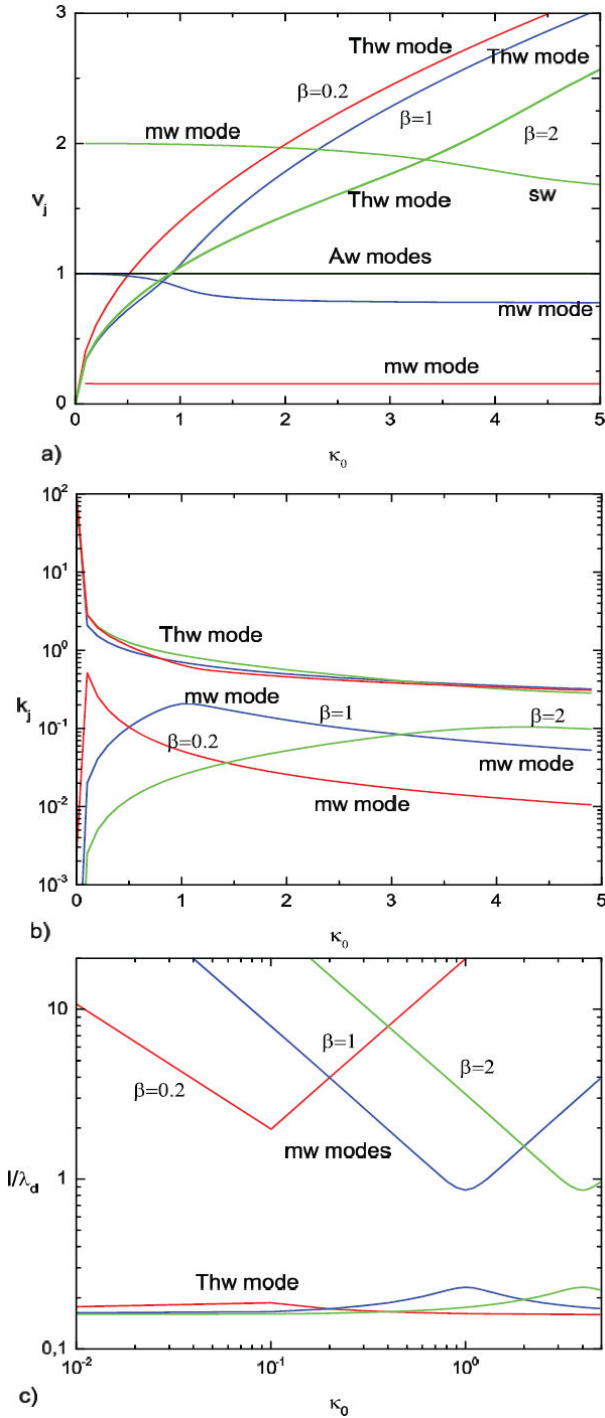


FIGURE 2. For the $\theta \neq \pi/2$ case the phase velocity a) is plotted for three different values of $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), 1 (blue lines), 2 (green lines) are shown in the case of a thermal mode *Thw* and the *sw* mode, also the undamped Alfvén mode *Aw* is the solid black line for the three cases. The damping coefficient b) and the damping per unit wave length c) are plotted for three different values of $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), 1 (blue lines), 2 (green lines).

If $\theta = \pi/2$ the dispersion equation reduces to a quadratic equation, one root becomes a damped thermal wave and the another one a damped magnetosonic wave for which $\tilde{v}_y = 0$, $|\tilde{h}_y/\tilde{v}_x| = |\tilde{k}|$, and $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x| = \beta^2|(1 - \tilde{k}^2)/\tilde{k}|$, see Fig. 3 where

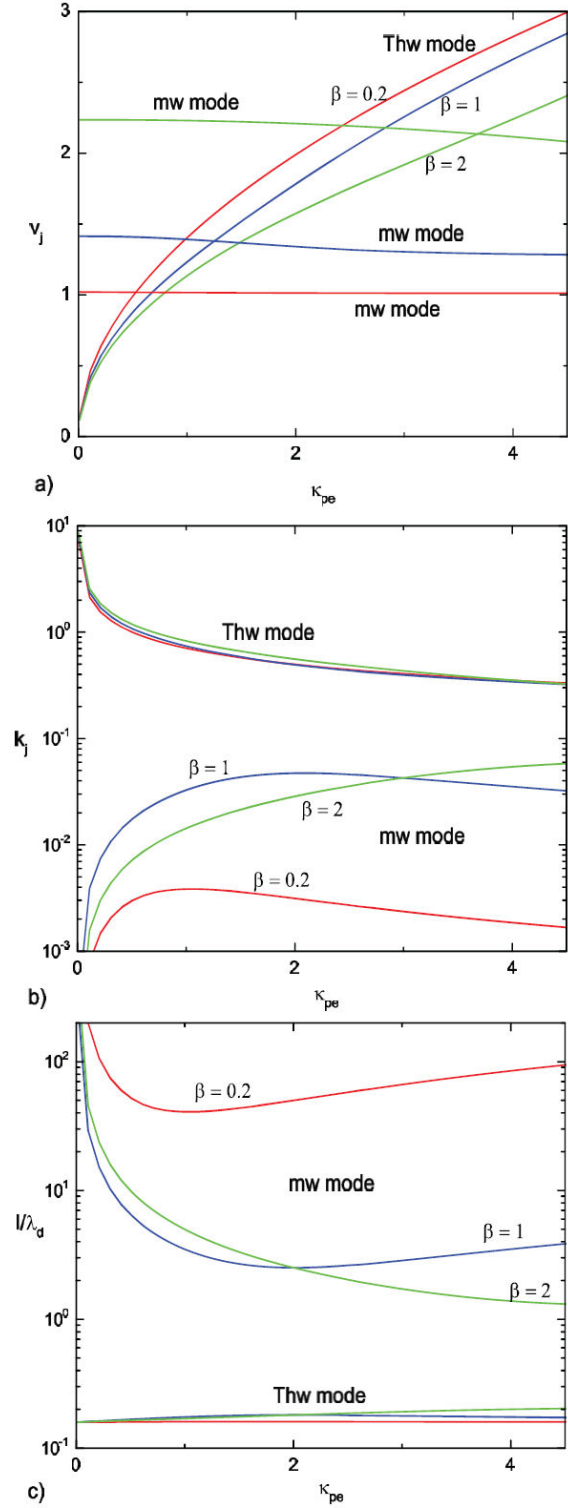


FIGURE 3. For the dispersion Eq. (38) using the thermal conductivity with $\theta = \pi/2$, the two wave modes *mw* and *Thw* are plotted for $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$ (green lines). In this figure however, the wave parameters have been plotted as function of $\tilde{\kappa}_{\perp} = (\kappa_{\perp}\omega/\rho c_v a^2)$ instead of $\tilde{\kappa}_{\parallel}$.

the above two wave modes are plotted for $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$ (green lines) for both *mw* and *Thw* modes.

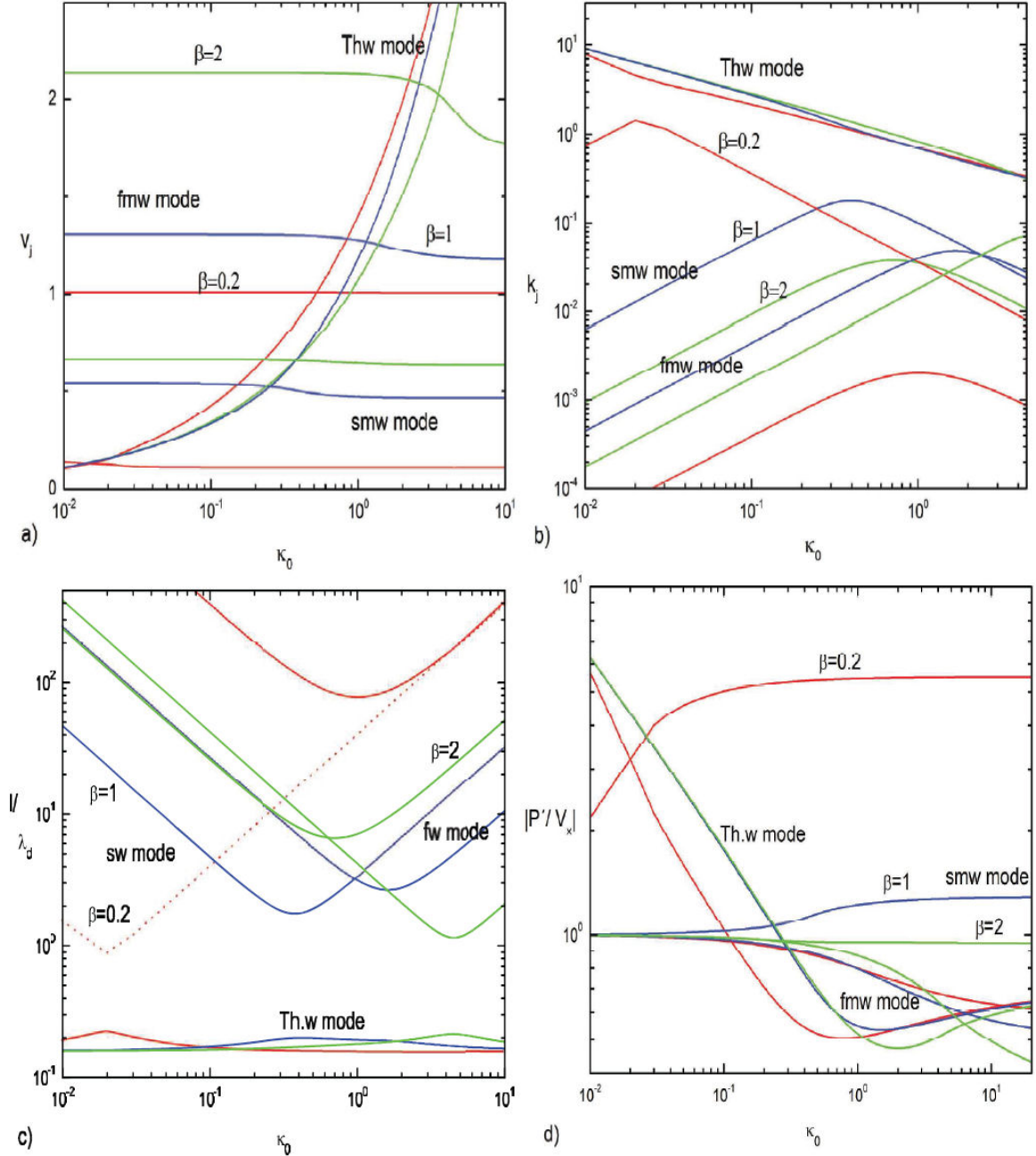


FIGURE 4. Solution for the dispersion Eq. (38) using the thermal conductivity with $\theta = \pi/4$. a) Here the phase velocity, b) the damping coefficient, c) the damping per unit wavelength and d) the amplitude $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x|$, are plotted for the two slow and fast *mw* modes, and the thermal *Thw* mode with $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), and $\beta = 2$ (green lines), it can be observed a small jump in the phase velocity a) for the case of $\beta = 1$, which is reflected also in the amplitude d).

Here one must emphasize that in the figures above the wave parameters have been plotted as function of $\tilde{\kappa}_\perp = (\kappa_\perp \omega / \rho c_v a^2)$ instead of $\tilde{\kappa}_\parallel$, *i.e.* the scales involved here are quite different (by a factor of the order of 10^{12}) from those involved in Fig. 2.

For an angle $\theta \neq 0$ and $\theta \neq \pi/2$ there are three modes, one thermal and two magnetosonic waves (the fast and slow) modes, for which the amplitudes are related by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \frac{\tilde{h}_y}{\tilde{v}_y} \right| &= \frac{1}{|\tilde{k} \cos(\theta)|}, \\
 \left| \frac{\tilde{v}_x}{\tilde{v}_y} \right| &= \frac{1}{|\tilde{k}^2 [\sin(\theta) - \cos(\theta)] \cos(\theta)|}, \\
 \left| \frac{\tilde{p}}{\tilde{v}_y} \right| &= \left| \frac{1 + \gamma^{-1} \tilde{\kappa} \tilde{k}^3}{1 + \tilde{\kappa} \tilde{k}^2} \right| \left| \frac{\tilde{v}_x}{\tilde{v}_y} \right|,
 \end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

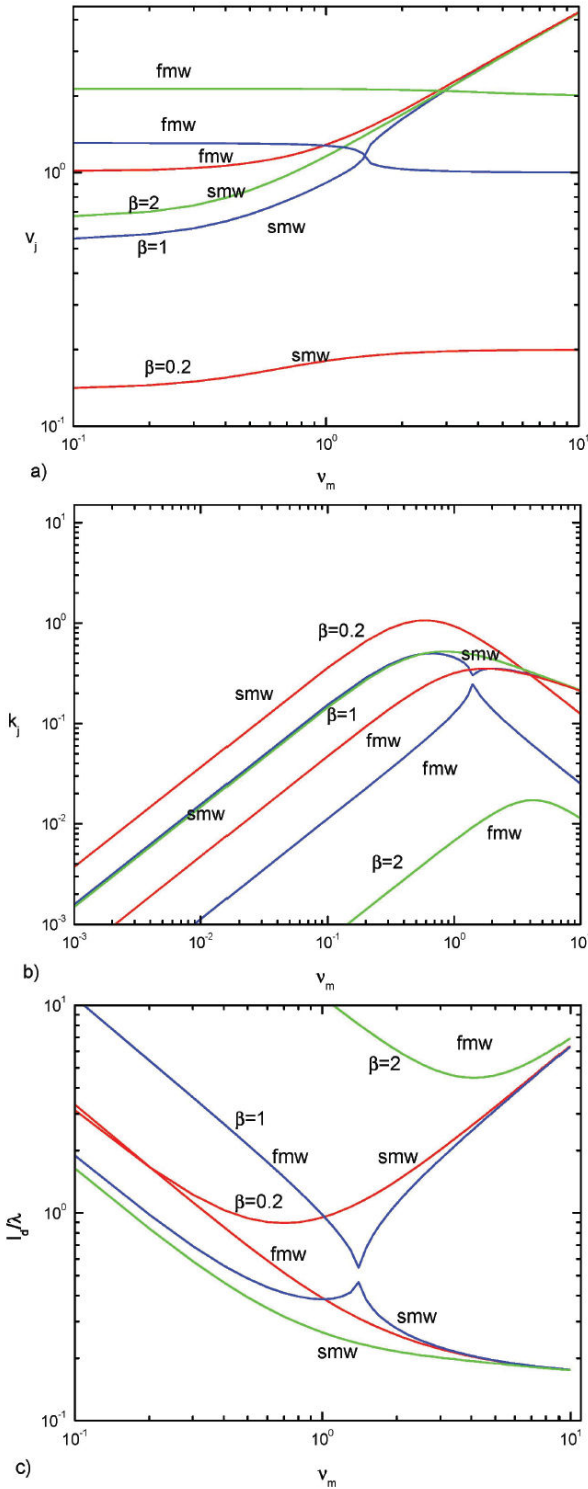


FIGURE 5. a) The phase velocity, b) the damping coefficient, and c) the damping per unit wavelength for the magnetosonic fast and slow modes are plotted for $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$ (green lines), for the dispersion Eq. (38) as function of the magnetic diffusivity with $\theta = \pi/4$, for $\beta = 1$ (blue line), a crossing of slow and fast magnetosonic modes is observed.

Figure 4 corresponds to an angle $\theta = \pi/4$ and the same values of β , i.e. $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$

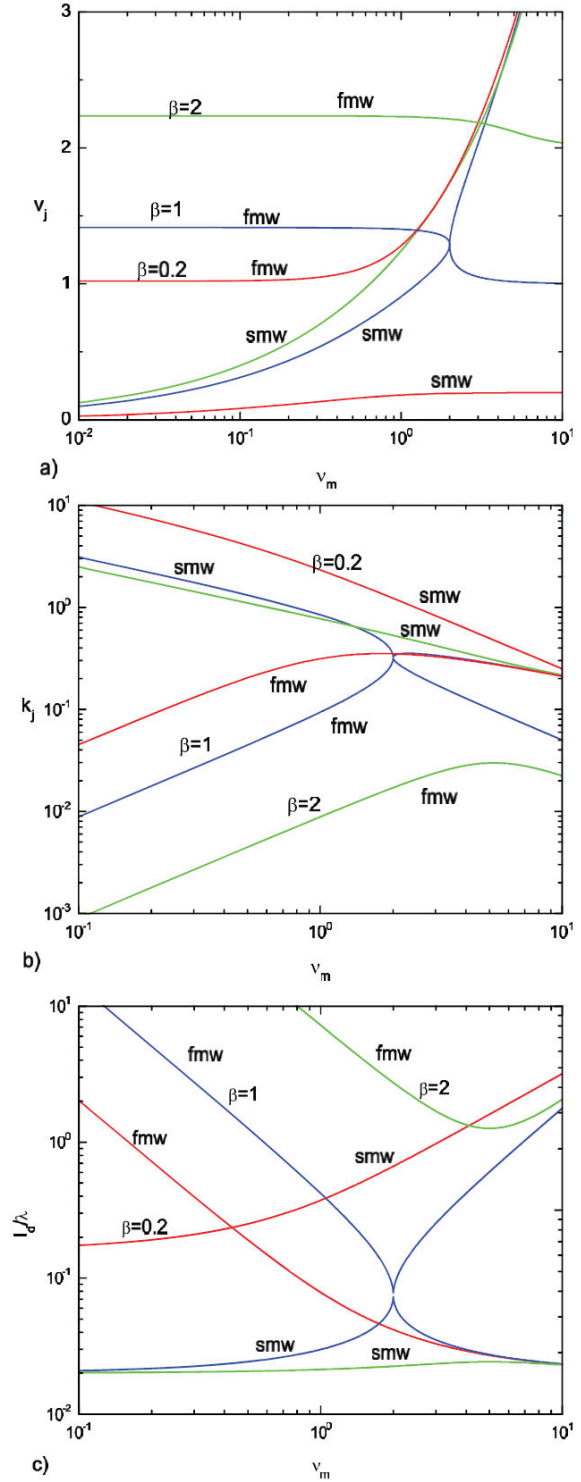


FIGURE 6. a) The phase velocity, b) the damping coefficient, and c) the damping per unit wavelength for the magnetosonic fast and slow modes are plotted for $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$ (green lines), for the dispersion Eq. (38) as function of the magnetic diffusivity with $\theta = \pi/2$, for $\beta = 1$ (blue line), a crossing of slow and fast magnetosonic modes is observed.

(green lines). It can be observed a small jump in the phase velocity Fig. 4a) for the case of $\beta = 1$, which is reflected also in the amplitude Fig. 4d).

For this particular value of $\theta = \pi/4$, $\tilde{h}_y = \tilde{v}_y = 0$, and $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x| = |(1 + \gamma^{-1}\tilde{\kappa}\tilde{k}^3)/(1 + \tilde{\kappa}\tilde{k}^2)|$.

The thermal waves show a minimum of $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x|$ at the value of $\tilde{\kappa}_0$ at which the maximum damping per unit wave length l_d/λ occurs.

The magnetosonic wave showing its minimum of l_d/λ at lower value of $\tilde{\kappa}_0$ presents an increasing value of $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x|$ when $\tilde{\kappa}_0$ increases, but the magnetosonic wave with its minimum occurring at a larger value of $\tilde{\kappa}_0$ has a decreasing ratio $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x|$ when $\tilde{\kappa}_0$ increases.

If only the magnetic diffusion ($\tilde{\nu}_m$) is accounted for, there should be no thermal waves because only the magnetic terms are considered. In this case the dispersion Eq. (38) reduces to a quadratic equation for \tilde{k}^2 for which $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x| = 1$. Furthermore, for $\theta = 0$, a root becomes $\tilde{k} = 1/\beta^2$, i.e. an undamped mode for which $h_y = 0$ and $v_y = 0$, and the other root becomes $\tilde{k} = \sqrt{i/(i + \tilde{\nu}_m)}$.

Figures 5 and 6 show the results for $\theta = \pi/4$ and $\pi/2$ respectively, and three different values of $\beta = 0.2$ (red lines), $\beta = 1$ (blue lines), $\beta = 2$ (green lines). The the amplitude in these cases is $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x| = 1$.

When the magnetic energy density is of the order or larger than the kinetic energy in the wave $\beta \leq 1$, there is no crossing of slow and fast modes, but mode crossing occurs when $\beta = 1$, see Figs. 5a) and 6a) for two examples.

The damping coefficient for the slow mode is a decreasing function of $\tilde{\nu}_m$ ($\sim \omega$) but that for the fast mode shows a maximum at a value of $\tilde{\nu}_m$ depending on the value of β (Figs. 5b) and 6b)) and for the damping per wavelength there is a corresponding minimum (Figs. 5c) and 6c)). This minimum occurs at the mode crossing point when $\beta = 1$.

Furthermore, for $\theta = \pi/2$, $\tilde{v}_y = 0$ and $|\tilde{h}_y/\tilde{v}_x| = |\tilde{k}/(1 + i\tilde{\nu}_m\tilde{k}^2)|$.

The case when only thermal conduction and heat/loss effects are accounted for in the equations, but neglecting the viscosities and the magnetic diffusion as well as the above asymptotic cases, but neglecting the anisotropy effects of the thermal conduction coefficient, have been analyzed in a previous work [12].

4.3. Numerical analysis of the effect of the heat/loss function in the magnetosonic modes

The case when in the energy equation the dissipative terms are neglected but the effects of the heat/loss are considered deserves further analysis, because this particular case is of great importance in many astrophysical as well as laboratory plasma.

In this case the Eq. (38) reduces to a quadratic equation in \tilde{k}^2 (if $\theta \neq \pi/2$) corresponding to two magnetosonic waves modified by the heat loss input.

For $\theta = 0$ one root becomes $\tilde{k} = 1$ corresponding to an undamped Alfvén wave for which $|\tilde{h}_y/\tilde{v}_y| = 1$ and the other root corresponding to the magnetosonic wave becomes $\tilde{k} = \sqrt{\gamma(i - \tilde{L}_T) / [i\gamma - (\tilde{L}_T - \tilde{L}\rho)]}$.

For $\theta = \pi/2$, this is the only one root, but in this case, the magnetosonic wave has $\tilde{v}_y = 0$.

As a first approximation, the heat/loss function can be parameterized by the form

$$L(\rho, T) = \rho\phi_i(T) - C_0\rho^{a-1}\left(\frac{T}{T_i}\right)^b, \quad (41)$$

$\phi_i(T)$ being the piece-wise function $\phi_i(T) = \Lambda_i (T/T_i)^\eta$, where T_i and η are parameters depending on the interval of temperature under consideration (see Table I, [22]).

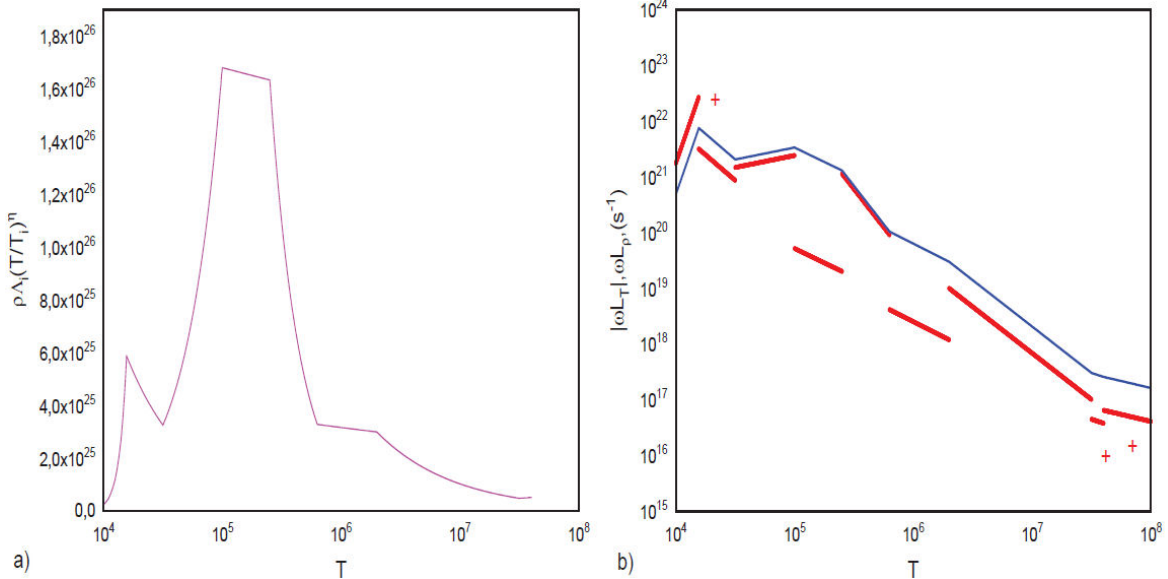


FIGURE 7. For gases with solar abundances (a completely ionized gas ($\xi = 1$) and a particle density $n = \rho N_0 \mu = 1$) the cooling function $\phi_i(T)$ has been plotted as a function of temperature in a) in magenta color, the derivatives $|\omega\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T)|$ (red thick line) and $\omega\tilde{L}_\rho(\rho, T)$ (blue thin line) as function of T have been plotted in b) for a constant heating per unit volume (case 1).

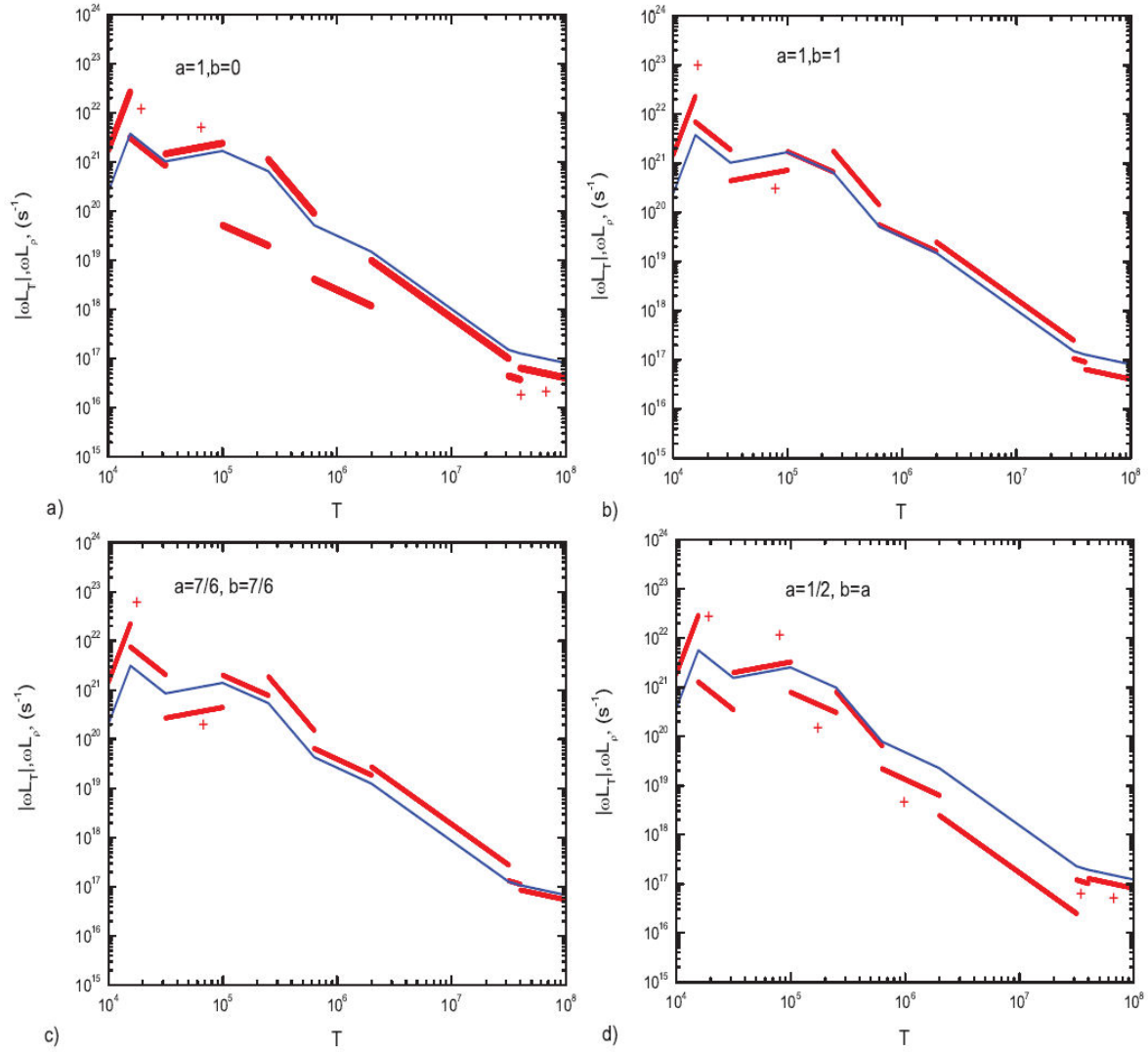


FIGURE 8. The heat/loss function derivatives $|\omega\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T)|$ (red thick line) and $\omega\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T)$ (blue thin line) as function of T , that correspond to cases (2) to (5) are shown in a) to d) for a completely ionized gas ($\xi = 1$) and a particle density $n(\rho N_0/\mu) = 1$.

Additionally, the parameters C_0 , a and b depend on the heating processes considered. In particular:

1. For a constant per unit volume heating $a = 0$ and $b = 0$.
2. For a constant per unit mass heating $a = 1$ and $b = 0$.
3. Heating by coronal current dissipation $a = 1$ and $b = 1$.
4. Heating by Alfvén mode/mode conversion $a = b = 7/6$.
5. Heating by Alfvén mode/anomalous conduction damping $a = 1/2$ and $b = -a$.

See for instance [18, 22] and references therein.

From Eq. (41) it follows that

$$\tilde{L}_\rho(\rho, T) = \frac{(2-a)}{\eta-b} \tilde{L}_T, \quad (42)$$

$$\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T) = (\eta-b) \left(\frac{\rho \Lambda_i}{T_i c_v \omega} \right) \left(\frac{T}{T_i} \right)^{\eta-1}. \quad (43)$$

The cooling function $\phi_i(T)$ has been plotted as a function of temperature in Fig. 7a) in magenta color.

The derivatives $|\omega\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T)|$ (red thick line) and $\omega\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T)$ (blue thin line) as function of T have been plotted in Fig. 7b) for a constant heating per unit volume (case 1), for a completely ionized gas ($\xi = 1$) and a particle density $n = \rho N_0/\mu = 1$.

The intervals of temperature where $\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T) > 0$ are indicated with the red label +, elsewhere $\tilde{L}_T(\rho, T) < 0$.

The plots corresponding to the cases (2) to (5) also are shown: Fig. 8a) for a constant per unit mass heating,

Fig. 8b) shows the heating by coronal current dissipation, Fig. 8c) plots the heating by Alfvén mode/mode conversion, the heating by Alfvén mode/anomalous conduction damping is shown in Fig. 8d).

Due to the fact that the cooling term in Eq. (41) as well as its derivatives with respect to temperature and density are $\sim \rho$, for other densities, the corresponding values simply must be multiplied by the factor n .

5. Kinetic coefficients for a Hydrogen ionization plasma

At this Section the kinetic/dissipation coefficients in a magnetic field, for the case of a recombining hydrogen plasma will be quoted out and briefly discussed.

According [16,19,30,35,36], for a hydrogen gas with ionization ξ the two electric conductivity tensors are respectively given by

$$\sigma_{\perp} = 6.97 \times 10^7 \frac{T^{3/2}}{\ln \Lambda}, \quad (44)$$

and

$$\sigma_{\parallel} = 1.96 \sigma_{\perp};$$

The thermal conduction coefficients are expressed as

$$\kappa_{\parallel} = 2.50 \times 10^3 (1 - \xi) T^{1/2} + 1.84 \times 10^{-5} \frac{\xi T^{5/2}}{\ln \Lambda}, \quad (45)$$

and

$$\kappa_{\perp} = 1.48 \times 10^{-17} \frac{\xi^2 n^2}{H^2 T^{1/2}}, \quad (46)$$

Finally, the kinematic viscosity coefficient is given by

$$\eta = 2.21 \times 10^{-15} \frac{T^{5/2}}{\ln \Lambda}, \quad (47)$$

and the kinematic viscosity is expressed as [35]

$$\nu = \frac{\eta}{\rho}. \quad (48)$$

The logarithmic coefficients $\ln \Lambda$ are for temperatures $T < 4.2 \times 10^5$ K

$$\ln \Lambda = 23.24 + \ln \left(\frac{(10^{-4} T)^3}{n \xi} \right)^{1/2}$$

or when the temperature $T > 4.2 \times 10^5$ K

$$\ln \Lambda = 29.71 + \ln \left(\frac{10^{-6} T}{(n \xi)^{1/2}} \right).$$

On the other hand and as a first approximation, the total dissipative coefficient for magnetosonic waves can be written as

$$\gamma_d \approx \frac{4}{3} \nu + (\gamma - 1) \chi + \nu_m, \quad (49)$$

where $\chi = \kappa / \rho c_p$ is the thermometric conductivity and ν_m the magnetic diffusion [35–37].

Note that in the present approximation $\nu(T)$, $\nu_m(T)$, and $\chi(n, T, \xi)$ explicitly depend on the particular form of the rate function $X(n, T, \xi)$ and the wave frequency [25,37,38]. In Ref. [38] the problem of reacting gases and the bulk viscosity has been discussed to some extent.

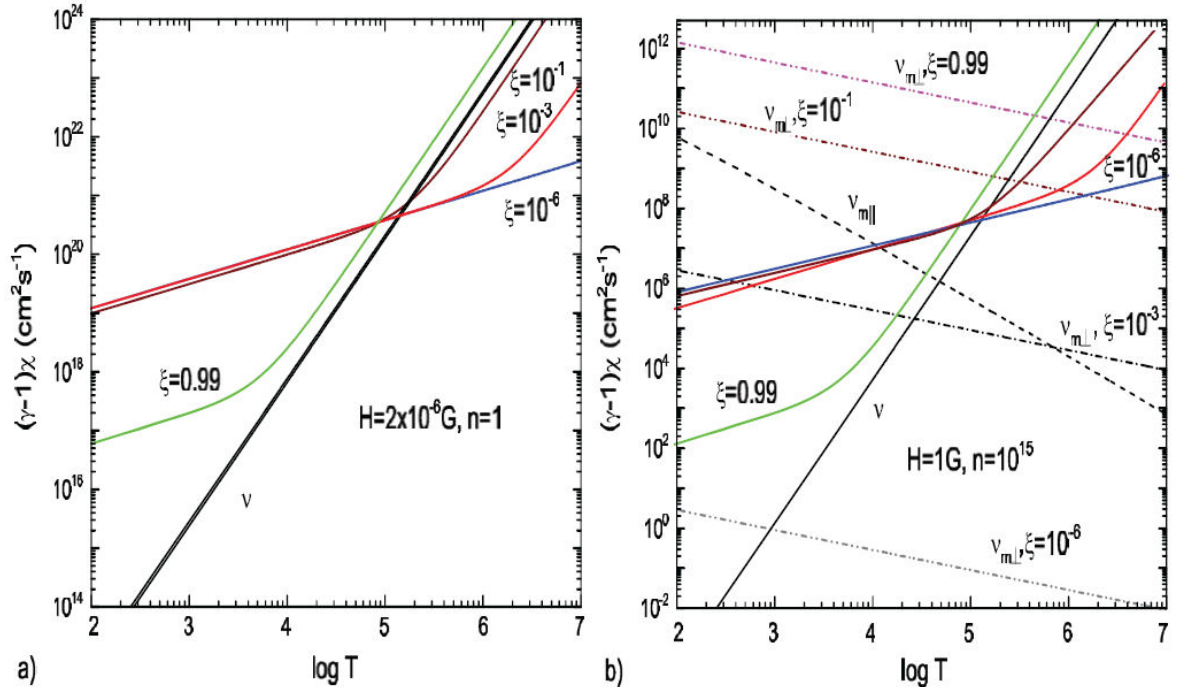


FIGURE 9. In a) (without magnetic diffusion) and b) (with ν_m), the quantities $4\nu/3$ (black solid line) and $(\gamma - 1)\chi$ have been plotted as functions on temperature for four values of the ionization $\xi = 10^{-6}$ (blue colour), 10^{-3} (red colour), 10^{-1} (brown colour), and 0,99 (green colour).

In Fig. 9a) the quantities $4\nu/3$ (black solid line) and $(\gamma - 1)\chi$ have been plotted as functions on temperature for $n = 1$ and four values of the ionization $\xi = 10^{-6}$ (blue colour), 10^{-3} (red colour), 10^{-1} (brown colour), and 0.99 (green colour).

Note that $\chi \sim n^2$, therefore, the effect of increasing (decreasing) the density is to increase (decrease) the respective values of χ . The value of $\nu_m \ll 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in the range of T under consideration has not been plotted.

However, ν_m parallel and perpendicular to the magnetic field can become of the order or greater than of $(4/3)\nu$ and $(\gamma - 1)\chi$ for high densities ($n \geq 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) and strong magnetic fields $H \geq 1 \text{ G}$, for instance, in the solar low atmosphere and photosphere.

For context, in Fig. 9b) all dissipation coefficients are shown for $H = 1 \text{ G}$ and $n = 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3}$; from where it is apparent that the magnetic dissipation parallel (ν_m) as well as perpendicular ($\nu_{m\perp}$) to the magnetic field becomes dominant in range of temperatures depending on the particular values of the ionization degree as well as the particle density.

In Fig. 9b) the quantities $4\nu/3$ (black solid line) and $(\gamma - 1)\chi$ have been plotted as functions on temperature for $n = 1$ and four values of the ionization $\xi = 10^{-6}$ (blue colour), 10^{-3} (red colour), 10^{-1} (brown colour), and 0.99 (green colour).

The perpendicular magnetic diffusion ($\nu_{m\perp}$) is plotted in Fig. 9b) for four values of the ionization $\xi = 10^{-6}$ (gray point line), 10^{-3} (black point line), 10^{-1} (brown point line), and 0.99 (magenta point line). The parallel magnetic diffusion ($\nu_{m\parallel}$) is also plotted in Fig. 9b) (dash black line).

6. Conclusions

The present work was aimed at investigating the behavior and propagation of MHD waves in optically thin plasmas, with ionization and dissipative effects. The results are summarized in four sections.

In Sec. 2, the set of MHD equations was linearized, leading to two independent cases where each matrix generates a dispersion relation whose roots for the case of Alfvén waves are a complex equation.

In Sec. 3, for the linear approximation it was observed that both, thermal and magneto-acoustic modes are damped by the thermal conduction, viscosity and the influence of the cooling-heating function. The complex eigen-equation was described with some detail, and several asymptotic cases of the full polynomial solutions were discussed (38):

- The case when the only dissipative process taken into account is the thermal conductivity was discussed for several values of θ in Eq. (38). We found eigenvalues corresponding to two damped magnetosonic waves, and a thermal wave. We also found a small jump in the phase velocity for magnetosonic modes for the case of $\beta = 1$ which is reflected also in the amplitude.
- In the case with only the magnetic diffusion term ($\tilde{\nu}_m$), the dispersion Eq. (38) reduces to a quadratic equation for \tilde{k}^2 for which $|\tilde{p}/\tilde{v}_x| = 1$ and lacks the thermal mode. It was found that if the magnetic energy density is of the order or larger than the kinetic energy in the wave for $\beta = 1$, a crossing of slow and fast magnetosonic modes was observed.

In Sec. 4, in the energy equation the dissipative terms were neglected, but the effects of the heat/loss were accounted, because of its great importance in many astrophysical as well as laboratory plasma applications. In this case the Eq. (38) reduces to a quadratic equation in \tilde{k}^2 corresponding to two magnetosonic waves modified by the heat loss input. We described in this section five heating processes for a thin optical plasma.

Finally, in Sec. 5, the kinetic coefficients in a magnetic field, for the case of a recombining hydrogen plasma were briefly discussed. It was found that the magnetic dissipation parallel (ν_m) as well as perpendicular ($\nu_{m\perp}$) to the magnetic field become dominant in a range of temperatures depending on the particular values of the ionization degree ξ as well as the particle density n .

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He always will be remembered as a devoted researcher, a teacher of several generations of Venezuelan physicists, and a unique friend.

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