

A field theory approach to plasma self-organization

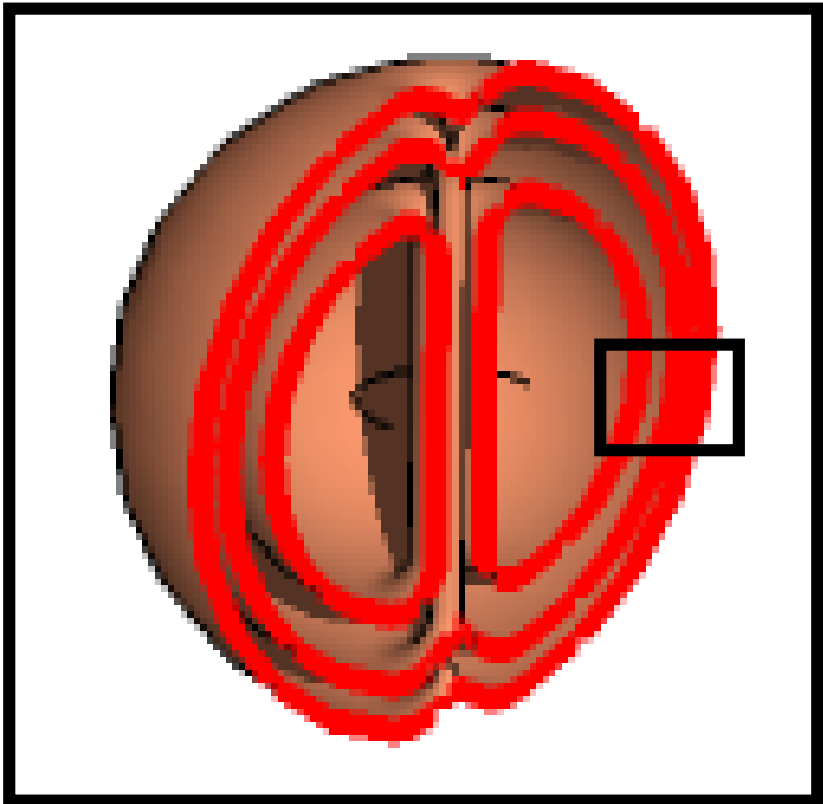
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University of Washington

CT configuration from self-organization

Spontaneous formation of new configuration subj. to constraint, init. conditions, to reduce or maximize energy.



e.g. Magnetostatic single fluid [Taylor, Woltjer, etc.];
Flowing two-fluid [Steinhauer, Ishida, etc.]
Flowing neutral fluid [Moffat, etc.]

Strength No need for detailed dynamics;
Can predict final state from initial & boundary conditions.

Q: Open configurations ? pressure, density , temperature gradients ? L-H transition ? kinetic regime ? magnetic dynamo ? dynamic collimation and stability ? relativity ?

A: (partial) Can transform plasma physics to a generalized form of Maxwell's equations, valid in all regimes. Maybe simpler to solve full system in this frame of reference ? In physics, often, a suitable transformation simplifies analysis.

Demonstrate

The equations of motion can be expressed as Generalized Maxwell Equations

Wanted the simplest, most general expression for plasmas.

Helicity evolution valid in kinetic regimes, relativistic regimes too

Wanted to see if helicity conservation, plasma self-organization, relaxation valid in/across regimes beyond fluid regime.

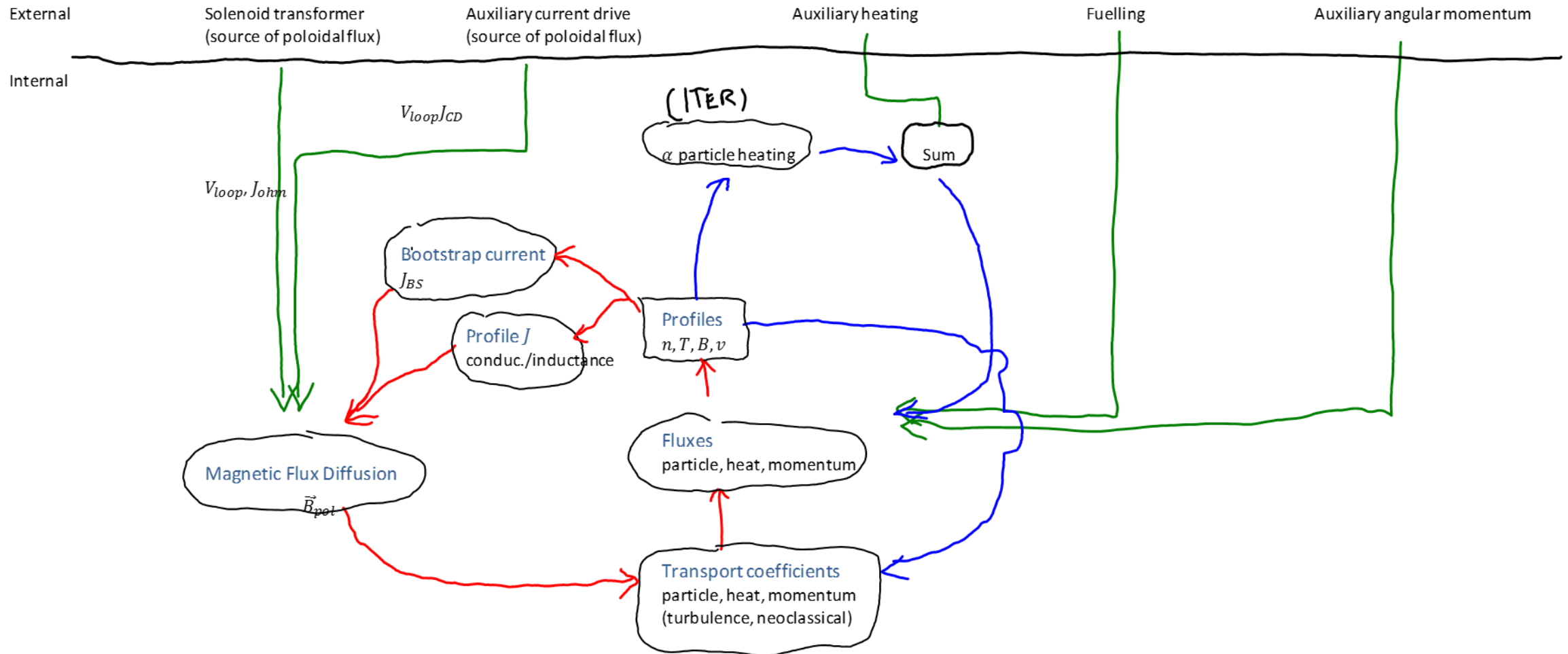
Criterion for helicity conservation vs energy conservation

Wanted to have a general criterion for when/where helicity is conserved

Helicity conversion from one form to another

Conversion of magnetic helicity to flows and vice-versa

Ingredients for magnetic confinement fusion concepts



Define relative canonical helicity $K_{\sigma rel} = \int \vec{P}_{\sigma-} \cdot \vec{\Omega}_{\sigma+} dV$

e.g.

Can. momentum

Can. vorticity

Relative

Also becomes

$$\vec{P}_{\sigma} = m_{\sigma} \vec{u}_{\sigma} + q_{\sigma} \vec{A}$$

$$\vec{\Omega}_{\sigma} = \nabla \times \vec{P}_{\sigma}$$

$$\vec{X}_{\pm} = \vec{X} \pm \vec{X}_{ref}$$

$$K_{\sigma} = m_{\sigma}^2 K_{kin\sigma} + m_{\sigma} q_{\sigma} K_{crs\sigma} + q_{\sigma}^2 K_{mag}$$

$$\int \vec{u}_{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\omega}_{\sigma} dV$$

kinetic helicity

$$2 \int \vec{u}_{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B} dV$$

cross helicity

$$\int \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} dV$$

magnetic helicity

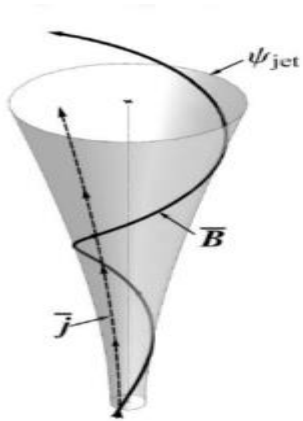
eqs. of motion

$$\frac{dK_{erel}}{dt} = -\frac{dK_{irel}}{dt} = -2 \int \vec{R} \cdot \vec{\Omega} dV + 2 \int_{S_{sep}} (h_i - h_e) \vec{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S} + \dots$$

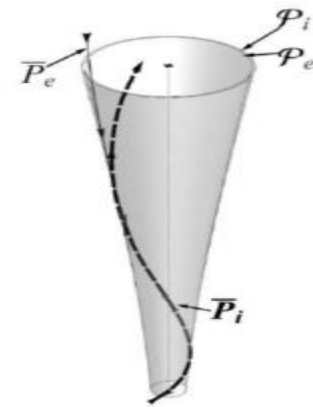
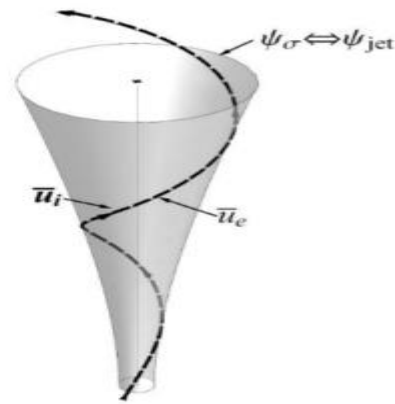
(1)

$$q_{\sigma} \phi + \frac{1}{2} m_{\sigma} u_{\sigma}^2 + \frac{P_{\sigma}}{n_{\sigma}}$$

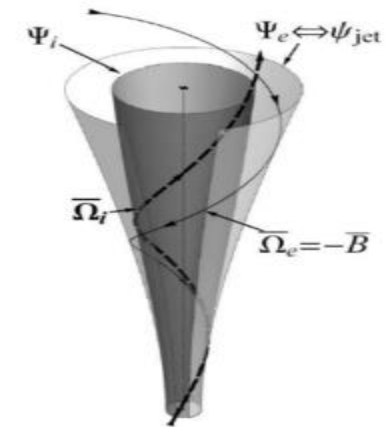
enthalpy



magnetic flux tube



canonical flux tube



Define relative canonical helicity $K_{\sigma rel} = \int \vec{P}_{\sigma-} \cdot \vec{\Omega}_{\sigma+} dV$

e.g.

Can. momentum

$$\vec{P}_{\sigma} = m_{\sigma} \vec{u}_{\sigma} + q_{\sigma} \vec{A}$$

Can. vorticity

$$\vec{\Omega}_{\sigma} = \nabla \times \vec{P}_{\sigma}$$

Relati

$$\vec{X}_{\pm} = \vec{X} \pm \vec{X}_{ref}$$

Also b

Note:
 $\nabla \cdot \vec{\Omega} = 0$

$$K_{\sigma} = m_{\sigma}^2 K_{kin\sigma} + m_{\sigma} q_{\sigma} K_{crs\sigma} + q_{\sigma}^2 K_{mag}$$

$$\int \vec{u}_{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\omega}_{\sigma} dV$$

kinetic helicity

$$2 \int \vec{u}_{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B} dV$$

cross helicity

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magnetic helicity

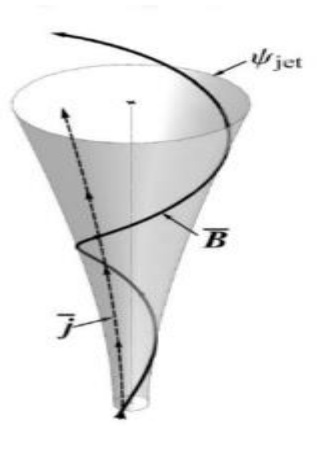
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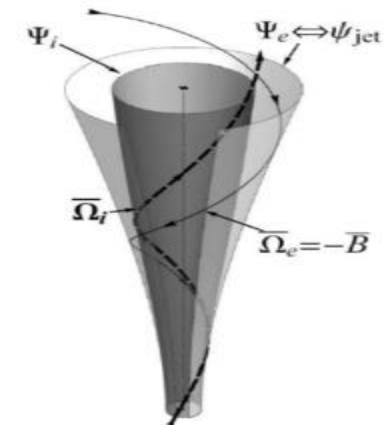
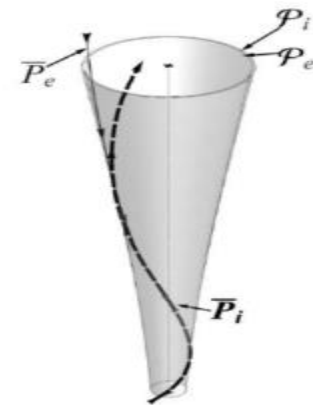
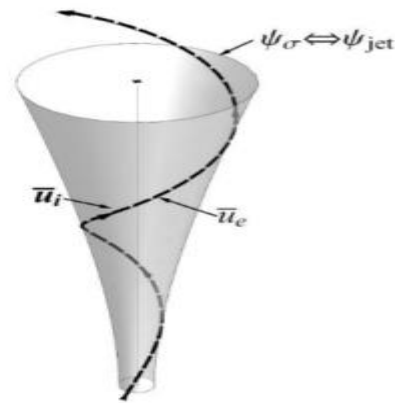
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$$q_{\sigma} \phi + \frac{1}{2} m_{\sigma} u_{\sigma}^2 + \frac{P_{\sigma}}{n_{\sigma}}$$

enthalpy

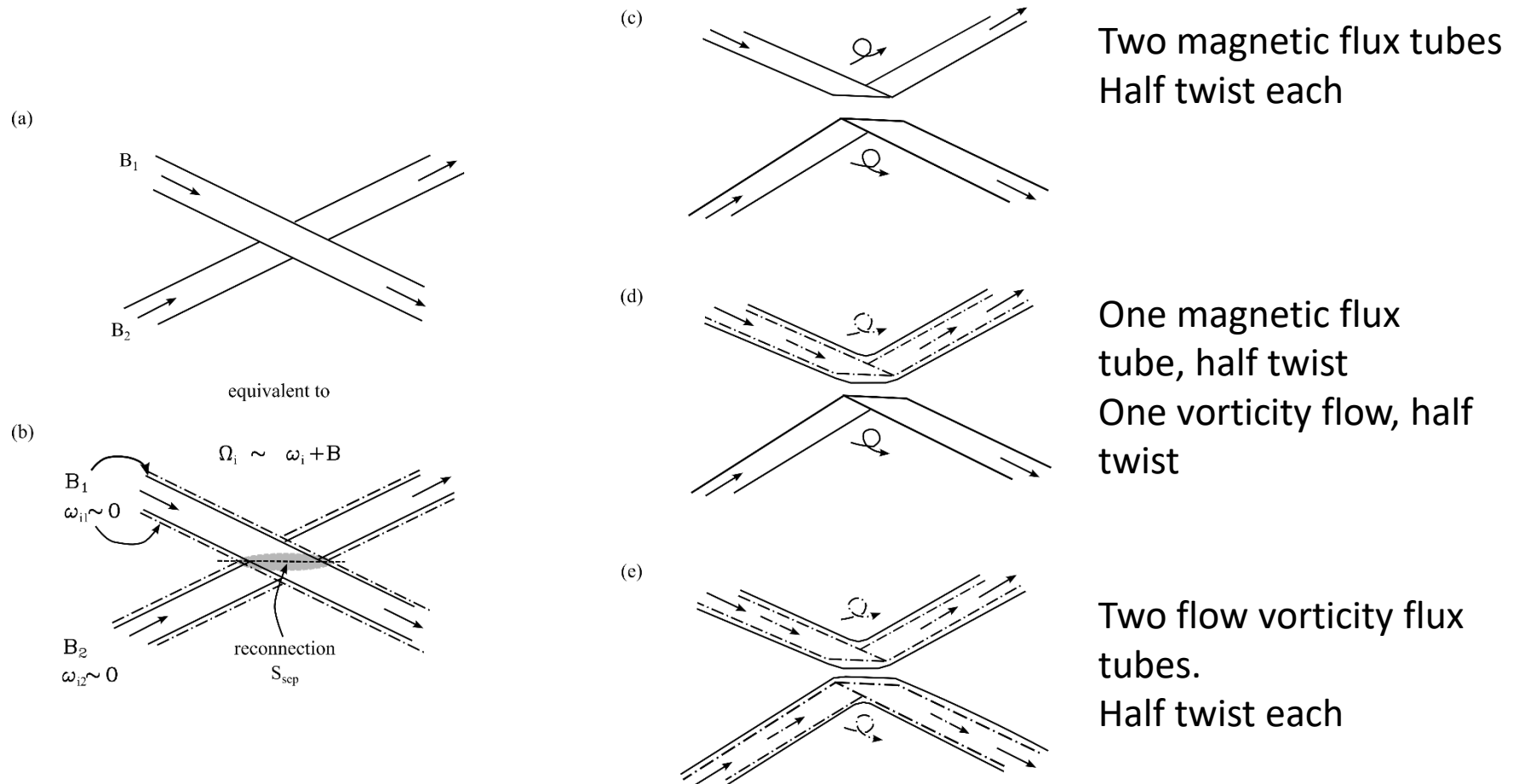


magnetic flux tube

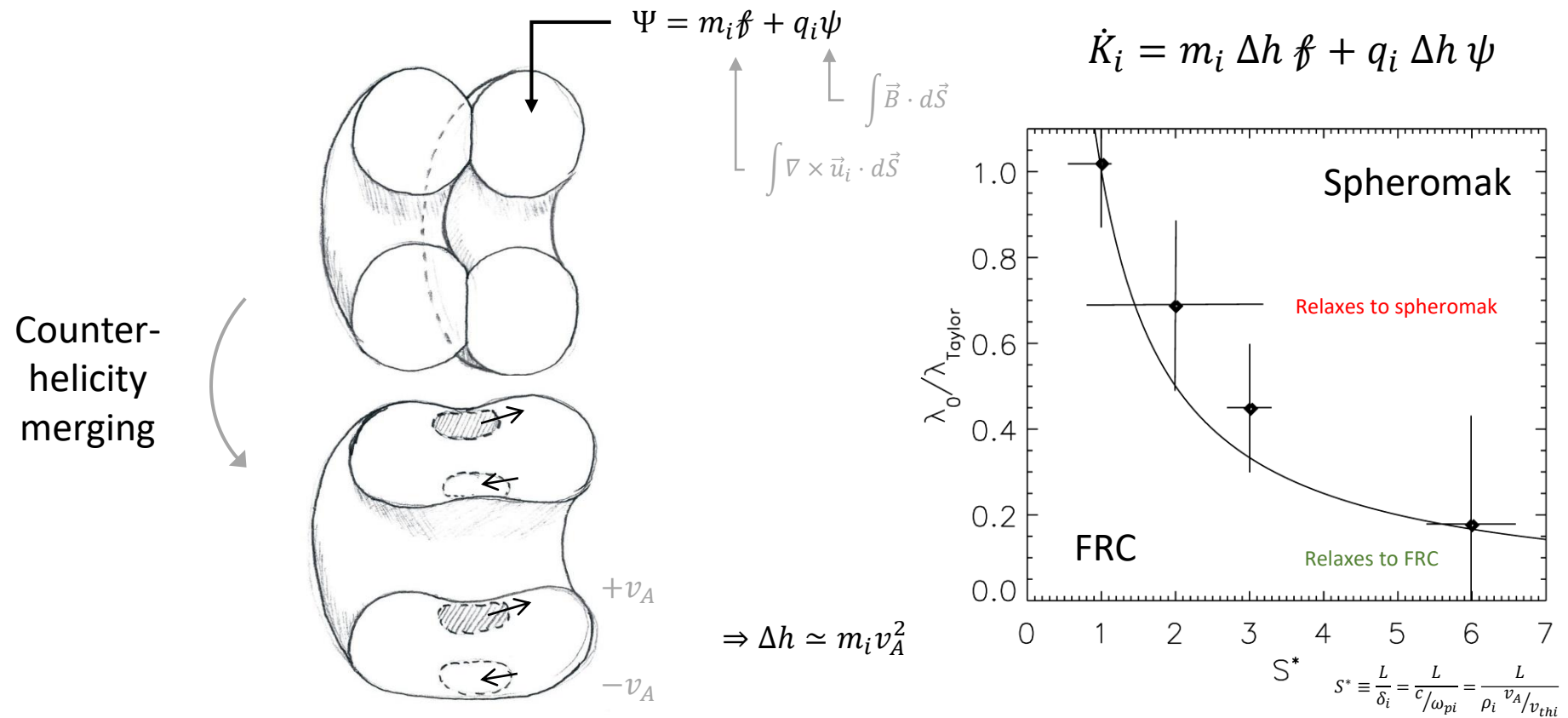


canonical flux tube

Reconnection of two flux tubes with three possible results



The model explains why bifurcation in CT formation depends on $1/S^*$.



Ratio of canon. helicity injection into vortex tube or magnetic flux tube is $\frac{K_i^{\mathcal{F}}}{K_i^{\psi}} \sim \frac{1}{S^*}$

Maxwell's Eqs.

$$\square A_\mu = -\mu_0 j_\mu$$

Particle {q; m}

$$\vec{x}(t)$$

$$\vec{v}(t)$$

Electrodynamics

$$\frac{d(\gamma m \vec{v})}{dt} = \vec{F}$$

Kinetic

$$f_\sigma(\vec{x}, \vec{v}, t)$$

Stat. Mech.

$$\frac{df_\sigma}{dt} = C$$

Multi-fluid

$$n_\sigma(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\vec{u}_\sigma(\vec{x}, t)$$

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Fluid eqs.
of motion
x 2

MHD

$$n(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\vec{U}(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\vec{x}, t)$$

Single fluid eq.
of motion
+
Ohm's law
 $\vec{E} + \vec{U} \times \vec{B} = \dots$

System configuration
 $\vec{B}(\vec{x}), \vec{u}(\vec{x})$
(quasi static evolution)

Canonical Helicity p.o.v

$$K_\sigma = K_{kin} + K_{cross} + K_{mag}$$

$$\frac{dK_\sigma}{dt} = \dots$$

Multi-fluid

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{P}_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \rho_\sigma \vec{u}_\sigma + \rho_{c\sigma} \vec{A} \\ h_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \rho c^2 + \frac{1}{2} \rho_\sigma u_\sigma^2 + \rho_c \phi + \rho \phi_g + \mathcal{P}_\sigma \\ \vec{R}_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \vec{R}' + \vec{P}_{\sigma fluid} \nabla \cdot \vec{u}_\sigma + \mathcal{L}_{\sigma fluid} \frac{\nabla n}{n} \end{array} \right.$$

Eqs. of motion (canonical form)

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} - \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega} = -\nabla h - \vec{R}$$

no-work conserv. non-cons.

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{\vec{\Sigma} + \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega} = \vec{R}}$$

Canonical "electric field" (force-field)

$$\vec{\Sigma} \equiv -\nabla h - \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t}$$

$\int \dots dV$

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Note:

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Kinetic

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \vec{P}_{\sigma kin} \equiv f \vec{P}_{part} = f m_\sigma \vec{v} + f q_\sigma \vec{A} \\ h_{\sigma kin} \equiv f h_{part} = \dots \\ \vec{R}_{\sigma kin} \equiv -\vec{P}_{part} C + \nabla_v (f \vec{a} \vec{P}_{part}) + \mathcal{L}_{part} \nabla f \end{array} \right.$$

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Canonical "electric field" (force-field)

$$\vec{\Sigma} \equiv -\nabla h - \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t}$$

(2)

Is there a more fundamental p.o.v. ?

Where does the canonical form of the equation of motion come from ?
The first two canonical Maxwell's eqs give us a clue:

Canonical Gauss' law (no monopole) $\nabla \cdot \vec{\Omega} = 0$

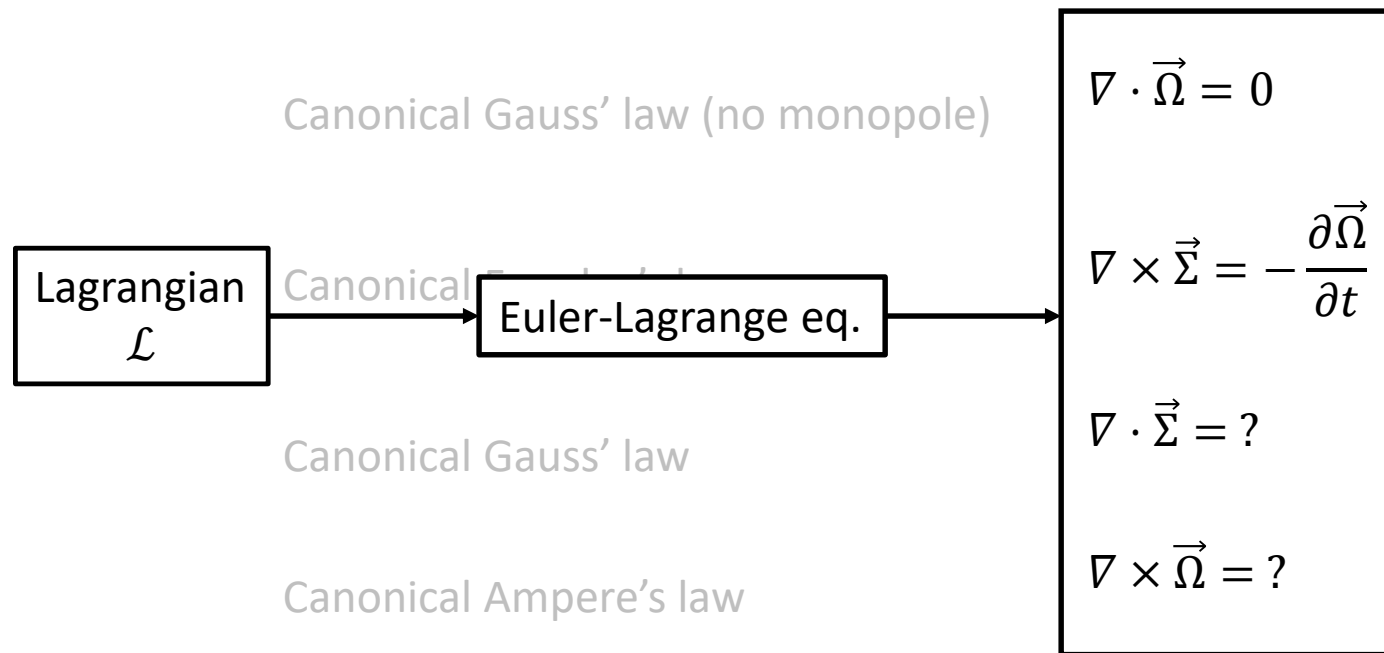
Canonical Faraday's law $\nabla \times \vec{\Sigma} = -\frac{\partial \vec{\Omega}}{\partial t}$

Canonical Gauss' law $\nabla \cdot \vec{\Sigma} = ?$

Canonical Ampere's law $\nabla \times \vec{\Omega} = ?$

Is there a more fundamental p.o.v. ?

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Define a new Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_\sigma \equiv \underbrace{\mathbb{J}^\mu \mathbb{P}_\mu}_{\text{Coupling interaction between "sources" } \mathbb{J}^\mu \text{ and "field" } \mathbb{P}_\mu} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{4\mu_\sigma} \mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu} \mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Coupling interaction between "field" } \mathbb{P}_\mu \text{ components (its derivatives)}} + \mathcal{L}_{EinsteinHilbert}$$

Coupling interaction between "sources" \mathbb{J}^μ and "field" \mathbb{P}_μ

Coupling interaction between "field" \mathbb{P}_μ components (its derivatives)

Canon. four-current

$$\mathbb{J}^\mu \equiv \mathbb{Q} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial t} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{Q}c \\ \vec{\mathbb{J}} = \mathbb{Q}\vec{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

Canon. four-field

$$\mathbb{P}_\mu \equiv \left[\frac{h}{c}, \vec{P} \right] \leftarrow$$

Canon. charge density (switch)

$$\mathbb{Q} \equiv \epsilon_\sigma \nabla \cdot [\vec{R}_\sigma - \vec{v}_\sigma \times \vec{\Omega}_\sigma]$$

Canon. field tensor

$$\mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu} \equiv \partial_\mu \mathbb{P}_\nu - \partial_\nu \mathbb{P}_\mu$$

Particle

$$\vec{P}_{par} \equiv \gamma m \vec{v} + q \vec{A}$$

$$h_{par} \equiv \gamma m c^2 + q \phi$$

Kinetic

$$\vec{P}_{kin} \equiv f \vec{P}_{par}$$

$$h_{kin} \equiv f h_{par}$$

Multi-fluid

$$\vec{P}_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \int \vec{P}_{\sigma kin} d\vec{v}_\sigma$$

$$h_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \int h_{\sigma kin} d\vec{v}_\sigma$$

In flat space ...

$$\mathcal{L} \equiv \underbrace{\varrho \vec{v} \cdot \vec{P} - \varrho h}_{\text{Balance between generalized kinetic energy and potential energy (enthalpy)}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu}}_{\text{Balance between generalized "electrical" energy (canon. forces) and "magnetic" energy (canon. vorticity)}}$$

Particle

$$\vec{P}_{par} \equiv \gamma m \vec{v} + q \vec{A}$$

$$h_{par} \equiv \gamma m c^2 + q \phi$$

Kinetic

$$\vec{P}_{kin} \equiv f \vec{P}_{par}$$

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Multi-fluid

$$\vec{P}_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \int \vec{P}_{\sigma kin} d\vec{v}_{\sigma}$$

$$h_{\sigma fluid} \equiv \int h_{\sigma kin} d\vec{v}_{\sigma}$$

$$\mathcal{L} \equiv \underbrace{q \vec{v} \cdot \vec{P} - q h}_{\text{particle part}} + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu}$$

e.g. particle in e.m. field

$$\mathcal{L}_{part} = -\frac{1}{\gamma} m c^2 + q \vec{v} \cdot \vec{A} - q \phi$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{\Sigma} &= -\nabla h - \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} \\ &= -q_\sigma \nabla \phi - q_\sigma \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} + \dots \\ &= q_\sigma \vec{E} + \dots\end{aligned}$$

Particle	$\vec{\Sigma} = q_\sigma \vec{E} + \vec{\Sigma}'$	$\vec{\Omega} = q_\sigma \vec{B} + \vec{\Omega}'$
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Kinetic	$\vec{\Sigma} = f_\sigma q_\sigma \vec{E} + \Sigma'$	$\vec{\Omega} = f_\sigma q_\sigma \vec{B} + \vec{\Omega}'$
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Fluid	$\vec{\Sigma} = \rho_\sigma \vec{E} + \vec{\Sigma}'$	$\vec{\Omega} = \rho_\sigma \vec{B} + \vec{\Omega}'$
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$$\mathcal{L} \equiv \mathfrak{q} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{P} - \mathfrak{q} h + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu}}_{\text{Field}}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 E^2 - \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}}_{\mathcal{L}_{Maxwell}} + \underbrace{2q \left[\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{\Sigma}' - \frac{\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\Omega}'}{\mu} \right]}_{\mathcal{L}_{e.m.-m}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma'^2 - \frac{\Omega'^2}{2\mu}}_{\mathcal{L}_{m-m}}$$

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$$\mathcal{L} \equiv \underbrace{\mathcal{Q} \vec{v} \cdot \vec{P} - \mathcal{Q} h}_{\mathcal{L}_{Maxwell}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu}}_{\text{Field}} + 2q \underbrace{\left[\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{\Sigma}' - \frac{\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\Omega}'}{\mu} \right]}_{\mathcal{L}_{e.m.-m}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma'^2 - \frac{\Omega'^2}{2\mu}}_{\mathcal{L}_{m-m}}$$

Just a reformulation of existing Lagrangians.

New Lagrangians that represent the collective coupling between kinetic distributions, & e.m. fields, between kinetic distributions themselves, and relativistic distributions

Eq. of motion

Insert \mathcal{L} into Euler-Lagrange equation for space coordinates \vec{x} :

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\mathcal{Q} [\vec{\Sigma} + \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega}] = -\nabla \left[\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu} \right]}_{\equiv \vec{R}}$$

Dissipative forces:

Incomplete conversion between canon. “electrical”/“kinetic” energy and canon. “magnetic”/“potential” energy (canon. vorticity).

Single particle:

$$\vec{R}^{par} \simeq 0 \text{ (classical)}$$

$$\vec{R}^{par} \neq 0 \text{ (relativistic)}$$

Kinetic:

$$\vec{R}_\sigma^{kin} \equiv (\vec{v}_\sigma \cdot \vec{p}_\sigma^{par} - h_\sigma^{par}) \nabla f_\sigma - \vec{p}_\sigma^{par} \frac{df_\sigma}{dt}$$

Fluid:

$$\vec{R}_\sigma^{flu} \equiv \vec{R}_{\sigma\alpha} + \vec{R}_{\sigma\sigma} + \vec{R}_{\sigma c} + \vec{R}_{\sigma n}$$

Canon. Maxwell equations

Insert \mathcal{L} into Euler-Lagrange equation for four-field \mathbb{P}_μ (with Lorenz gauge):

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{D_\mu \mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu} = -\mu_\sigma \mathbb{J}^\nu}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \partial_\mu \partial^\mu \mathbb{P}^\nu = -\mu_\sigma \mathbb{J}^\nu$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \vec{\Sigma} = \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\epsilon} \\ \nabla \times \vec{\Omega} = \mu \mathcal{Q} \vec{v} + \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial \vec{\Sigma}}{\partial t} \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \square h = -\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\epsilon} \\ \square \vec{P} = -\mu \mathcal{Q} \vec{v} \end{cases}$$

(also gives a canonical Poynting flux equation for $\vec{\Sigma} \times \vec{\Omega}$)

d'Alembert wave operator

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eq. of motion !

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d'Alembert wave operator

Hamiltonian, energy evolution

Perform Legendre transformation of \mathcal{L}

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mathcal{H} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \Sigma^2} + \underbrace{\frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu} + \mathcal{Q} h}}$$

Sum of energy density of the plasma field and the source enthalpy (if any)

Equivalent derivation of eq. of motion $\mathcal{Q}[\vec{\Sigma}_\sigma + \vec{v}_\sigma \times \vec{\Omega}_\sigma] = -\vec{R}_\sigma$, by inserting \mathcal{H} into Hamilton's third equation:

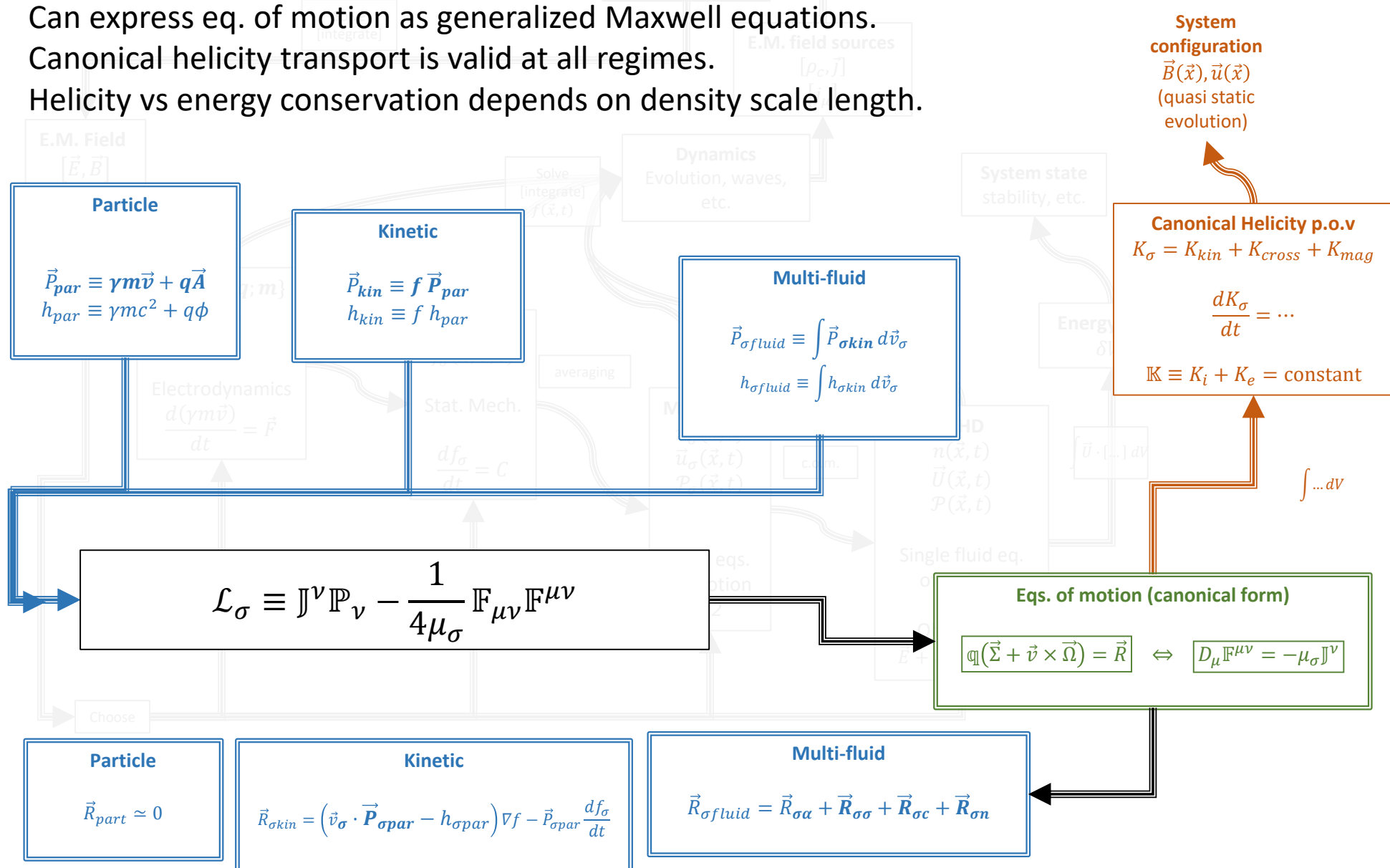
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial q_i} = -\dot{p}_i \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{P} = -\nabla \mathcal{H}$$

Using the Poynting theorem for $\vec{\Sigma}, \vec{\Omega}$ in the Hamilton equation $\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t}$ gives energy evolution equation

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dH_\sigma}{dt} = \int \mathcal{Q} \frac{\partial h_\sigma}{\partial t} dV - \int \mathcal{Q} \vec{\Sigma}_\sigma \cdot \vec{v}_\sigma dV - \int \frac{\vec{\Sigma}_\sigma \times \vec{\Omega}_\sigma}{\mu_\sigma} \cdot d\vec{S} + \int \mathcal{H}_\sigma \vec{u}_\sigma \cdot d\vec{S} \quad (3)$$

Therefore

Can express eq. of motion as generalized Maxwell equations.
 Canonical helicity transport is valid at all regimes.
 Helicity vs energy conservation depends on density scale length.



Change of (species) helicity vs change in energy ?

Take the ratio of evolution equations (Eq. 1)/(Eq. 3).

e.g. isolated, fixed, non-conservative forces

$$\frac{\Delta K_\sigma / K_{\sigma 0}}{\Delta H_\sigma / H_{\sigma 0}} = 2 \frac{\int \vec{R}_\sigma \cdot \vec{\Omega}_\sigma dV}{\int \vec{R}_\sigma \cdot \vec{v}_\sigma dV} \frac{H_{\sigma 0}}{K_{\sigma 0}} \simeq 2 \frac{\Omega_\sigma H_{\sigma 0}}{v_\sigma K_{\sigma 0}} \sim \frac{\rho_\sigma H_{\sigma 0}}{L_s K_{\sigma 0}}$$

Density scale length:

shallow \Rightarrow species helicity changes little

steep \Rightarrow species helicity changes a lot

MST experiment:

$$H_{e0} \sim W_{mag} \sim 50 \text{ kJ}$$

$$\Omega_e \sim \rho_{ce} B \sim 0.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$n_e \sim 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

$$B_{tor} \sim 0.12 \text{ T}$$

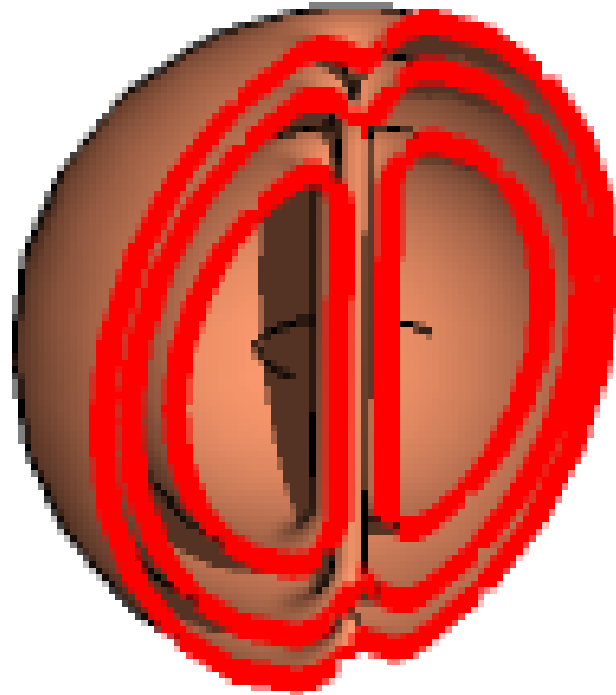
$$T_e \sim 300 \text{ eV}$$

$$K_{e0} \sim 23 \text{ mWb}^2$$

\Rightarrow magnetic energy is dissipated 33 times more than magnetic helicity in an isolated, purely dissipative, magnetically dominated system.

$$1/L_s \equiv 2(1/L_{circ} + 1/r_L)$$

Helicity conversion at the edge of plasmas where density gradients are steep

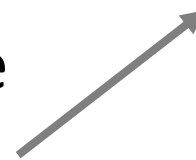


Density scale length:

shallow \Rightarrow species helicity changes little

steep \Rightarrow species helicity changes a lot

L-H transition as helicity-constrained relaxation ? use kinetic form of canon. Maxwell's eq. ? in spheromak ?



First, examine helicity transport in cyl. geom.

Generalization of $\nabla n \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \Rightarrow \nabla h_\sigma \cdot \vec{\Omega}_\sigma = 0$

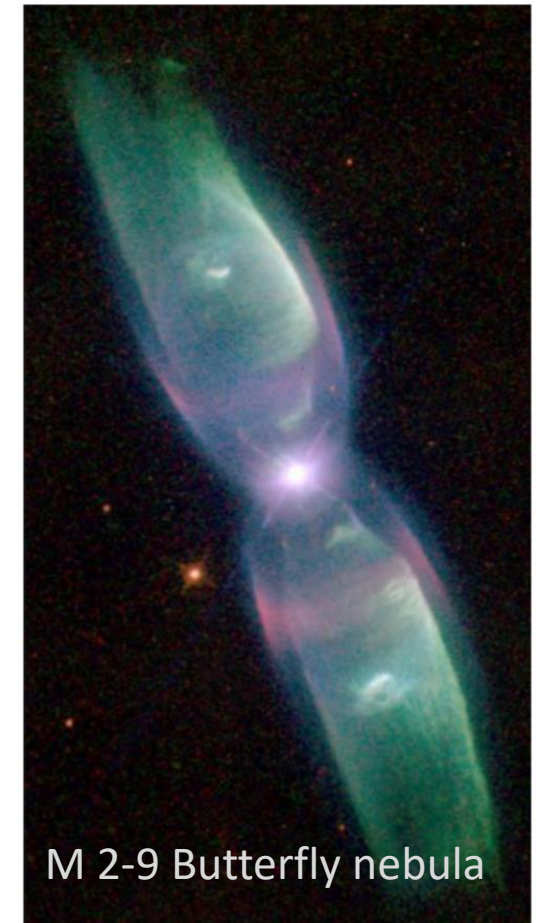
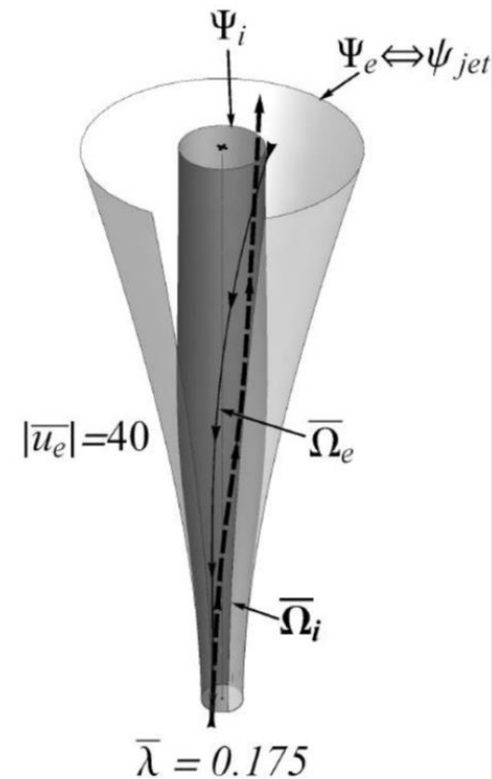
Dot steady-state $\vec{\Sigma}_\sigma + \vec{v}_\sigma \times \vec{\Omega}_\sigma \simeq 0$ with $\vec{\Omega}_\sigma$

Generalized induction equation for $\vec{\Omega}_\sigma$

Take curl of $\vec{\Sigma}_\sigma + \vec{v}_\sigma \times \vec{\Omega}_\sigma \simeq 0$

So plasma motion \Leftrightarrow canonical flux tube motion in many regimes beyond magnetostatic.

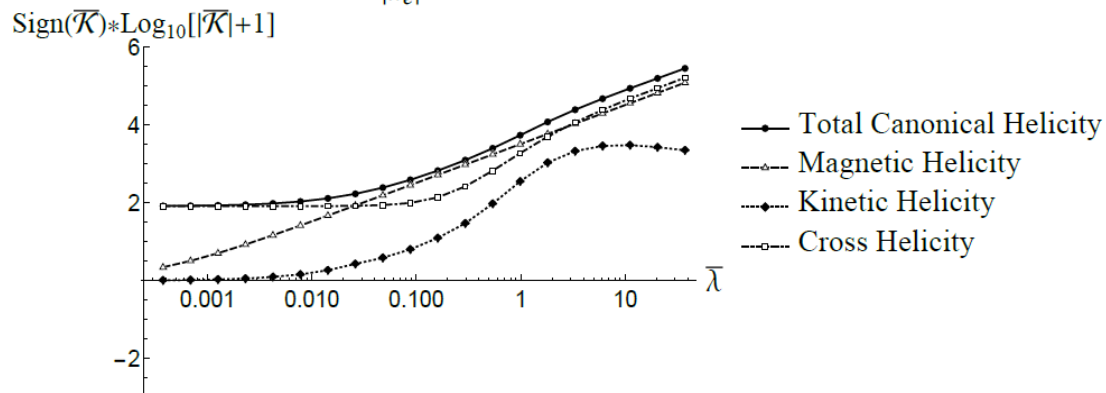
Diffuse Core Current



M 2-9 Butterfly nebula

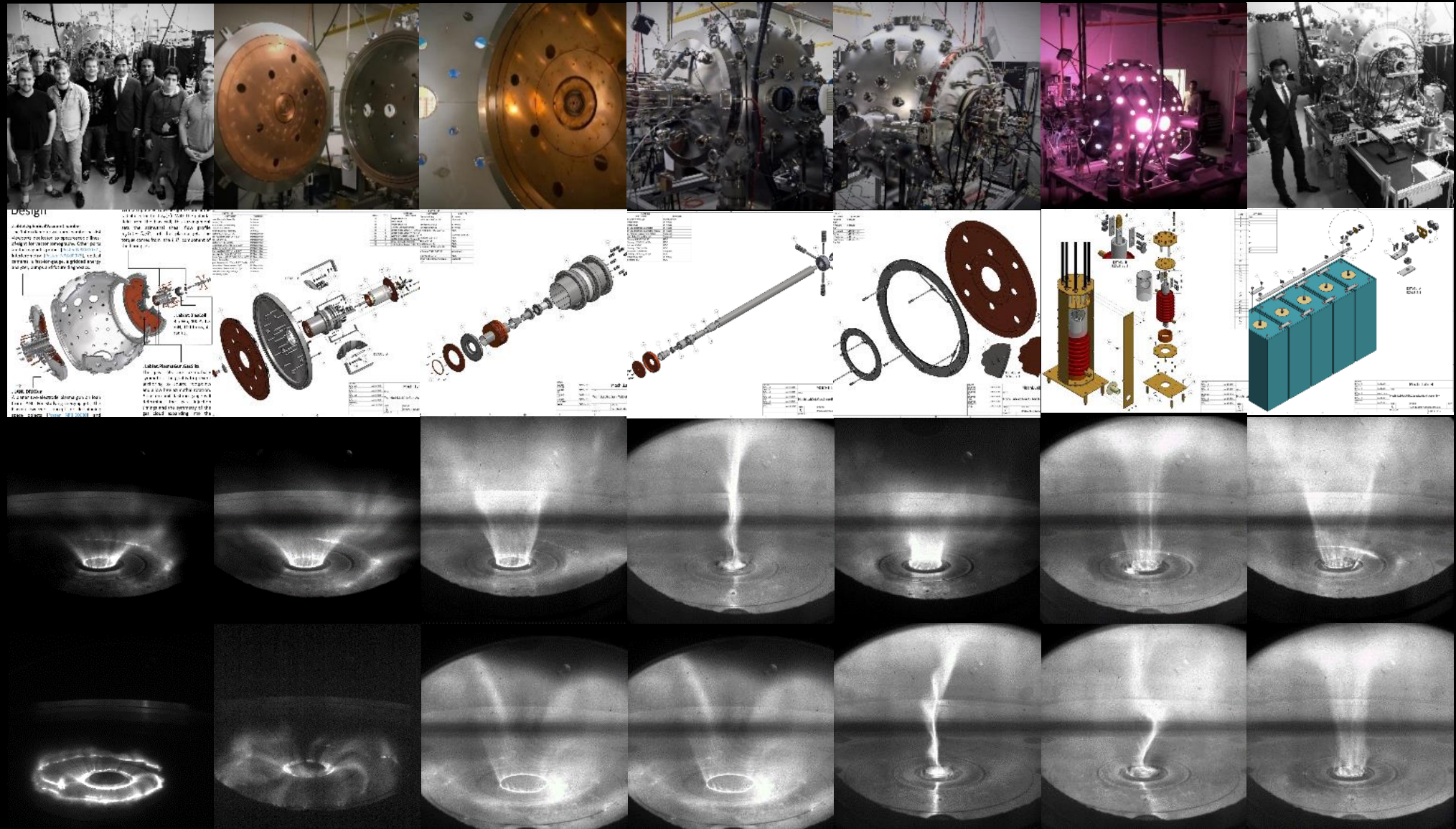
(f) Core + Skin Current

$|u_e|=4$



Mochi experiment just became operational

Designed to study interaction between flows and magnetic fields



End

Energy equation

Insert \mathcal{L} into Euler-Lagrange equation for time t :

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mathbb{1} \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial \vec{P}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{1}{2} \epsilon \mathbb{E}^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2\mu} \right]}$$

If the “plasma field” has a time dependence, energy changes.

