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Multi-scale and Multi-physics simulations using the Multi-fluid Plasma Model

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UMass Dartmouth April 25th, 2017



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Plasma

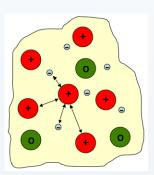
2 Multi-Fluid Plasma Model

- Advantages
- Limits of the model
- Solution Numerics: Blended Finite Element Method
 - Discontinuous Galerkin for ion/neutrals
 - Continuous Galerkin for electrons/fields
 - Initial tests

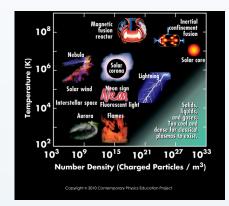




Plasma is a quasineutral gas of charged and neutral particles which exhibits collective behavior.



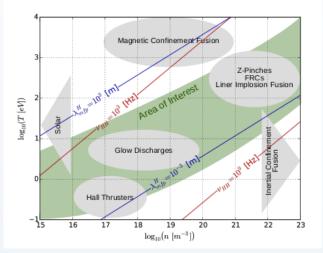
Credit: particleincell.com



• "99% of matter in the universe is in the state of plasma"



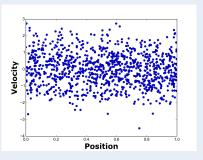




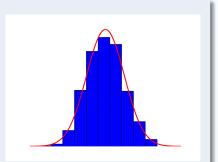
Sean Miller, PhD dissertation, University of Washington (2016)







- 3-Dimensions + 3-Velocities
- Evolve the particles position and velocity
- e.g. Particle-In-Cell models



- Ensemble average of particles distribution, $f_s(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, t)$
- Evolve the distribution function
- e.g. Vlasov-Maxwell models





• The Boltzmann eqn:

$$\frac{\partial f_s}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \frac{q_s}{m_s} \left(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = \left. \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial t} \right|_c$$

• Take the 0^{th} , 1^{st} , 2^{nd} moments of the Boltzmann Eqn.

$$m_{s}\int\mathbf{v}^{n}\frac{\partial f_{s}}{\partial t}d\mathbf{v}+m_{s}\int\mathbf{v}^{n+1}\cdot\frac{\partial f_{s}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}d\mathbf{v}+q_{s}\int\mathbf{v}^{n}\left(\mathbf{E}+\mathbf{v}\times\mathbf{B}\right)\cdot\frac{\partial f_{s}}{\partial \mathbf{v}}d\mathbf{v}=m_{s}\int\mathbf{v}^{n}\left.\frac{\partial f_{s}}{\partial t}\right|_{c}d\mathbf{v}$$

- Each moment of the Boltzmann eqn gives an equation for the moment variable, and introduces the next higher moment variable
- This process can go on indefinitely



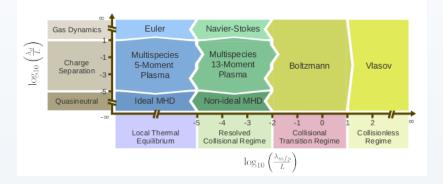
$$\frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_s \mathbf{u}_s) = \left. \frac{\partial \rho_s}{\partial t} \right|_{\Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_s \mathbf{u}_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left(\rho_s \mathbf{u}_s \mathbf{u}_s + p_s \mathbf{I} + \Pi_s \right) = \frac{\rho_s q_s}{m_s} \left(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u}_s \times \mathbf{B} \right) - \sum_{s*} \mathbf{R}_{s,s*} + \left. \frac{\partial \rho_s \mathbf{u}_s}{\partial t} \right|_{\Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon_s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left(\left(\left(\varepsilon_s + p_s \right) \mathbf{I} + \Pi_s \right) \cdot \mathbf{u}_s + \mathbf{h}_s \right) = \frac{\rho_s q_s}{m_s} \mathbf{u}_s \cdot \mathbf{E} + \sum_{s*} Q_{s,s*} + \left. \frac{\partial \varepsilon_s}{\partial t} \right|_{\Gamma}$$

- System is truncated by relating higher moment variables to the lower ones
- The fluids are coupled to each other and to the electromagnetic fields through Maxwell's equations and interaction source terms.





Sean Miller, PhD dissertation, University of Washington (2016)

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IDEAL MHD MODEL IS VALID WHEN:

- High collisionality, $\tau_{ii}/\tau \ll 1$
- Small Larmor radius, $r_{Li}/L \ll 1$

• Low Resistivity,
$$\left(\frac{m_e}{m_i}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{r_{Li}}{L}\right)^2 \frac{\tau}{\tau_{ii}} \ll 1$$

MULTI-FLUID PLASMA MODEL

- Less computationally expensive than kinetic models
- Multi-fluid effects become relevant at small spacial and temporal scales
- Finite electron mass and speed-of-light effects are included
- There is charge separation is modeled
- Displacement current effects are resolved in the MFPM





$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{S}$$

- The source Jacobian $\frac{\partial \mathbf{S}}{\partial \mathbf{Q}}$ has imaginary eigenvalues
- The equation system has dispersive sources
- The dispersion is physical (may be difficult to distinguish from numerical dispersion)
- This dispersion is due to plasma waves that result from ion and electron plasma interactions with electromagnetic fields
- <u>An ideal numerical method for the MFPM should</u>:
 - be high-order accurate
 - capture shocks

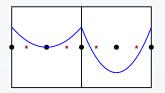
- couple the flux and the sources
- not impose strict time-step

Srinivasan et al, CCP 10 (2011)



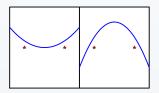


• Solution to the electron and EM fields is smooth and does not shock



- Continuous Galerkin
- Electron fluid and EM fields

$$\mathbf{Q} = \sum_{i} \mathbf{q}_{i} \mathbf{v}_{i}$$



- Discontinuous Galerkin
- Multiple ion and neutral fluids

$$\mathbf{Q} = \sum_i \mathbf{c}_i v_i$$



• For this implementation the balance law form is cast as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}}}{\partial \mathbf{Q}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{S} + \kappa \nabla^2 \mathbf{Q}_d$$

• Lagrange polynomials are used for basis functions, v_r

$$\int_{\Omega} v_r \frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} dV = \mathcal{L}_r(\mathbf{Q}) = \int_{\Omega} v_r \mathbf{S} dV - \int_{\Omega} v_r \frac{\partial \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}}}{\partial \mathbf{Q}} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} dV + \kappa \int_{\Omega} v_r \nabla^2 \mathbf{Q}_d dV$$

• θ -method time integration

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{Q}^n) = \overleftarrow{\mathbf{M}} \frac{\mathbf{Q}^{n+1} - \mathbf{Q}^n}{dt} - \theta \mathcal{L}_r(\mathbf{Q}^{n+1}) - (1 - \theta) \mathcal{L}_r(\mathbf{Q}^n) = 0$$

• $\theta = 0.5$ is used for 2^{nd} order accuracy

$$\overleftrightarrow{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{Q}^n) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}(\mathbf{Q}^n)}{\partial \mathbf{Q}^n}, \quad \overleftrightarrow{\mathbf{J}}(\mathbf{Q}^n) \Delta \mathbf{Q} = -\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{Q}^n), \quad \mathbf{Q}^{n+1} = \mathbf{Q}^n + \Delta \mathbf{Q}$$

Reddy, An Introduction to the Finite Element Method (2006)





$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{S}$$

- Legendre polynomials are used for basis functions, v_p
- The hyperbolic equation is multiplied by the basis function,

$$\int_{\Omega} v_p \frac{\partial \mathbf{Q}}{\partial t} dV = \mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{Q}) = \int_{\Omega} v_p \mathbf{S} dV - \oint_{\partial \Omega} v_p \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}} \cdot d\mathbf{A} + \int_{\Omega} \overleftarrow{\mathbf{F}} \cdot \nabla v_p dV$$

- Explicit Runge-Kutta time integration
- $CFL = c\Delta t / \Delta x \le 1/(2p-1)$, p is the polynomial order

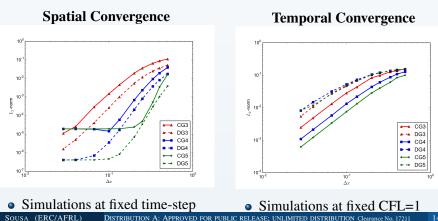
$$\mathbf{Q}^* = \mathbf{Q}^n + \Delta t \mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{Q}^n),$$
$$\mathbf{Q}^{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{Q}^* + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{Q}^n + \frac{1}{2}\Delta t \mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{Q}^*)$$







$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0, \qquad Q(x,0) = e^{-10(x-8)^2}, \qquad ||\Delta Q||_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{Q} - Q_i)^2}$$

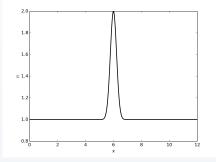


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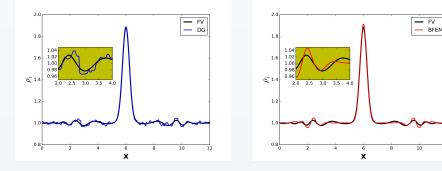
- 1D soliton is a two-fluid plasma problem
- The solution is smooth, therefore artificial dissipation can be small
- The simulation uses 512 second-order elements
- $B_z = 1.0, T_e = T_i = 0.01,$ $\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{u}_e = \mathbf{0}$
- $n_e = n_i = 1.0 + e^{-10(x-6)^2}$

Baboolal, Math. and Comp. Sim. 55 (2001)



 \checkmark DG and BFEM comparison with a solution \checkmark

$$\frac{m_i}{m_e} = 1836, \frac{c}{c_{si}} = 1000\sqrt{2}, \text{ FV 5000 cells}$$



• DG Solution is very dispersive

• BFEM is less dissipative than the converged solution



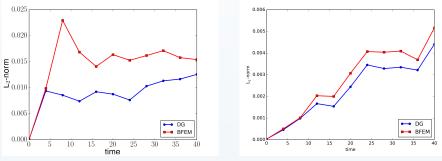


case	m_i/m_e	c/c_{si}	DG time(s)	BFEM time (s)	BFEM cost over DG
1	25	$10/\sqrt{2}$	0.32	37.7	+11681%
2	100	$10/\sqrt{2}$	1.28	37.7	+2845%
3	500	$10/\sqrt{2}$	6.82	37.7	+452.8%
4	1000	$10/\sqrt{2}$	12.4	38.2	+208.1%
5	1836	$10/\sqrt{2}$	23.5	40.4	+71.91%
6	3672	$10/\sqrt{2}$	47.2	39.2	-16.95%
7	3672	$100/\sqrt{2}$	520	265	-49.04%
8	3672	$1000/\sqrt{2}$	5274	2735	-48.14%

- Per time-step explicit DG is faster than BFEM, but it requires many more time-steps
- BFEM is more efficient only when time-step are considerably larger than explicit DG







 $m_i/m_e = 1836 \qquad \qquad m_i/m_e = 1$

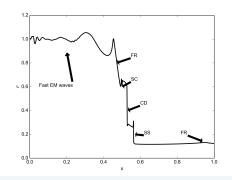
- The BFEM seems to be less accurate than the DG implementation ($\sim 50\%)$
- When the mass ratio is one, the two methods have the same level of accuracy
- The discrepancy is due to the fact that the semi-implicit BFEM does not resolve the plasma frequency in this problem





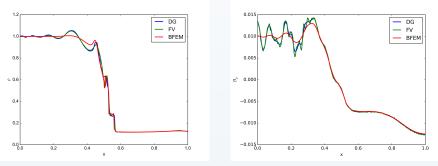
- Fast rarefaction wave (FR), a slow compound wave (SC), a contact discontinuity (CD), a slow shock (SS), and another fast rarefaction wave (FR)
- The problem exhibits limits of MHD and multi-fluid behavior by changing the Larmor radius, r_L
 - MHD: $r_L \rightarrow 0$
 - Multi-fluid: $r_L \sim L$

Brio and Wu, JCP 75 (1988)





• $t=0.05/\omega_{ci}$, $c/c_{si}=110$, $m_i/m_e=1836$



mass density

Magnetic field (y-comp.)

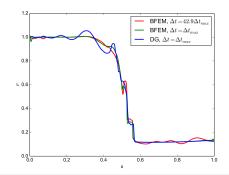
- The main features of the problem are captured by all three methods
- BFEM does not properly resolve the fast electromagnetic waves which require accurately resolving the electron dynamics





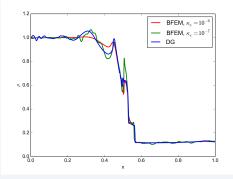
$$\Delta t_{max} = \min\left(\frac{\Delta x}{c_{se}}, \frac{\Delta x}{c_{si}}, \frac{\Delta x}{c}, \frac{0.1}{\omega_{ce}}, \frac{0.1}{\omega_{ci}}, \frac{0.1}{\omega_{pe}}, \frac{0.1}{\omega_{pi}}\right)$$

- Δt_{max} corresponds to the maximum value allowed for explicit methods based on the CFL condition
- $\Delta t = 42.9 \Delta t_{max}$ is the maximum time step allowed by the BFEM due to ion dynamics



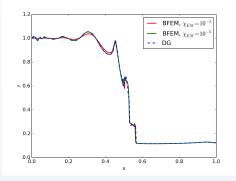


- Varying the artificial dissipation on the electron fluid, κ_e
- Wave-like behavior of the problem is better resolved
- Amplitude of the compound wave increases
- Right fast rarefaction wave is not visible





- Varying the artificial dissipation on the EM-field, κ_{EM}
- There is better agreement with the DG solution
- This reinforces the point that the wave-like behavior arises from the interaction of the electron fluid with the electromagnetic fields







- The blended finite element method (BFEM) is presented
 - $\bullet\,$ DG spatial discretization with explicit Runge-Kutta $(i^+,\,n)$
 - CG spatial discretization with implicit Crank-Nicolson (e⁻, fileds)
 - DG captures shocks and discontinuities
 - CG is efficient and robust for smooth solutions
- Physics-based decomposition of the algorithm yields numerical solutions that resolve the desired timescales
- DG method takes less computational time to advance the solution by one time-step, however Δt is much smaller than that of the BFEM
- Computational cost savings using the BFEM will only occur for relatively large implicit time-steps compared to explicit time-steps

Sousa and Shumlak, JCP 326 (2016) 56-75









- Modeling each particle velocity and position is not practical.
- Instead an average is performed to give a statistical description.
- Calculate the number of particles per unit volume having approximately the velocity **v** near the position **x** and at time *t*, distribution function $f(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t})$

$$\rho_s = m_s \int f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}$$

$$\rho_s \mathbf{u}_s = m_s \int \mathbf{v} f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbb{P}_s = \mathbf{P}_s = m_s \int \mathbf{w} \mathbf{w} f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}, \quad p_s = \frac{1}{3} m_s \int w^2 f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbf{H}_s = m_s \int \mathbf{w} \mathbf{w} \mathbf{w} f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}, \quad \mathbf{h}_s = \frac{1}{2} m_s \int w^2 \mathbf{w} f_s(\mathbf{v}) d\mathbf{v}$$

$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}_s$$

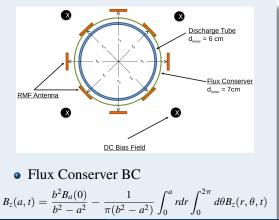




- straight conducting wall Compact toroid, no central column external agneti · Simple geometry and B-field configuration surface High power density (high plasma beta) Highly movable O-poin internal magnetic X-point surface geometric axis L_sin(ot) Field Reversed Rotating Magnetic Configuration (FRC) Field B · A Rotating Magnetic Field (RMF) is used to form the ERC · Strong magnetization of the electrons to the RMF produces a current To conserve the total flux the B-field at the center reverses Senaratrix Incos(ot) 1 - Formation of high density FRC 2 - Acceleration of the FRC by I orentz force 3 - FRC expands, converting thermal energy to directed energy Advantages:
 - Electrodeless and the plasmoid propellant is magnetically isolated from the walls
 - Propellant is completely uncoupled from the driving and confining fields
 - · High plasma temperatures and densities significantly reduce ionization losses



- The formation of FRC using a rotating magnetic field (RMF)
- $\omega_{ci} < \omega < \omega_{ce}$
- $\nu_{ei} \ll \omega_{ce}$



• RMF BC

 $I_{RMF} = I_t \cos(\omega t + \phi)$ $I_t = I_o(1 - e^{-t/\tau})$

•
$$\phi_{A,B} = 0, \, \phi_{E,F} = \pi$$

•
$$\phi_{C,D} = \pi/2, \ \phi_{G,H} = -\pi/2$$

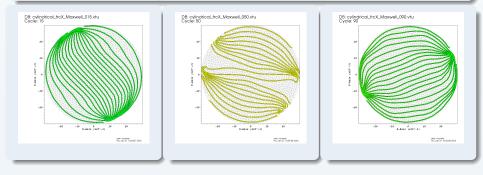
• Bias Field is constant at t=0s







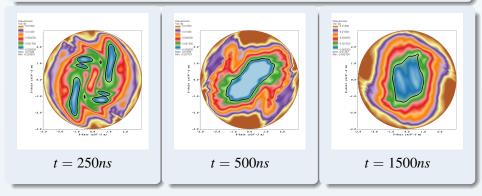
- Initialization: B_{ω} =90G, B_z =50G, ω =5MHz
- Solve Maxwell's eqns. with divergence constraints







- Initialization: $T_i=T_e=30$ eV, $n_i=n_e=10^{19}$ m⁻³, $m_i/m_e=1836$
- Solve Multi-Fluid eqns.
- B_z is plotted





Neutral-Plasma Model

- Interaction of multi-fluid plasma with gas dynamics neutral fluid
 - electron-impact ionization

$$e^- + n
ightarrow i^+ + 2e^- - \phi_{ion}$$

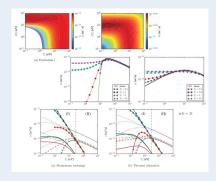
- radiative recombination
 - $e^- + i^+
 ightarrow n + h
 u$
- resonant charge exchange

$$i^+ + n \rightarrow n + i^+$$

Meier and Shumlak, PoP 19 072508 (2012)

Collisional-Radiative Model

• Excitation/De-excitation rates



Le and Cambier, PoP 22 093512 (2015)



