

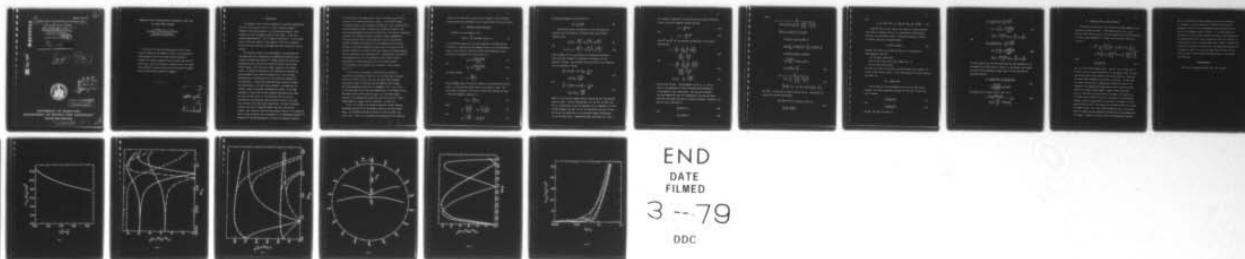
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PARAMETRIC DECAY OF EXTRAORDINARY ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES INTO TW--ETC(U)
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PARAMETRIC DECAY OF EXTRAORDINARY ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES INTO
TWO UPPER HYBRID PLASMONS

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The effects of self-generated magnetic field in laser produced plasmas on the parametric decay of an extraordinary electromagnetic wave into two upper hybrid plasmons is examined for arbitrary magnetic field intensity and arbitrary ratio $k/k_{0-sub 0}$. Due to the presence of magnetic field, the linear Landau damping is greatly reduced and the spectrum of unstable modes is significantly modified for $k\lambda_D > 0.2$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A dc magnetic field of several megaGauss is generated spontaneously near the critical density layer of a laser irradiated plasma.¹⁻⁴ Because of the plasma expansion, the self-generated magnetic field spreads out to the underdense regions of the plasma. It has been measured experimentally⁵⁻⁷ and in computer simulations.⁸ In the present paper we study the effects of this magnetic field on the parametric decay of the laser light into two plasma waves near the quarter critical density.

The nonlinear process of an electromagnetic wave decaying into two plasma waves in a homogeneous and unmagnetized plasma was first studied by Goldman⁹ and Jackson.¹⁰ Goldman analyzed the process by examining the Green function for Poisson's equation when the pump induced energy of the particles is small compared to the thermal energy. He showed the existence of the instability by keeping the pump wavenumber finite since the dominant part of the nonlinear susceptibility is proportional to it, and found the threshold for the instability. Jackson used linearized Vlasov equation allowing the pump intensity to be well above threshold. He showed that the system is stable in the dipole approximation; however, if the pump wavenumber is finite then the most unstable perturbations are those for which the wave vector of the decay wave lies in the plane determined by the propagation and polarization vectors of the pump wave and bisects the right angle between them. He found a threshold condition one order of magnitude higher than that calculated by Goldman. More recently, there has been renewed interest in the parametric decay of laser radiation into two plasmons in an inhomogeneous plasma.¹¹⁻¹⁴ Rosenbluth¹¹ used WKB approximation to derive the threshold condition

for the growth of the decay waves in order to overcome the convective loss out of the three-wave resonance region. Lee and Kaw¹² showed the absolute nature of this parametric instability. Liu and Rosenbluth¹³ used an alternative method to analyze the instability instead of the usual WKB approximation and found the growth rate, the absolute instability condition, the threshold condition imposed by plasma inhomogeneity, and the saturation level of the plasma waves due to pump depletion. Schuss¹⁴ considered the problem of an electromagnetic wave obliquely incident on the density gradient and found that the threshold of the absolute instability decreases as the angle between the density gradient and the propagation vector approaches 90°. Experimentally, the decay of electromagnetic wave into two plasmons has been observed through measurements of plasma emissions at the three-halves harmonic of the incident laser frequency from the quarter critical density layer.¹⁵⁻¹⁷

In this work we investigate further the linear instability properties by including the effects of the self-generated dc magnetic field on the decay of laser light into two upper hybrid plasmons. These effects might be relevant since the magnetic field changes the plasma dispersive properties, for instance, if the wave vectors of the decay waves are in the plane perpendicular to the magnetic field the growth rate is finite even for $k\lambda_D \approx 1$, λ_D is the Debye length, contrary to the unmagnetized plasma where the decay waves are heavily Landau damped for $k\lambda_D > 0.2$ and the instability is turned off.

In Sec. II, we derive the system of nonlinear coupled equations describing the decay of an extraordinary mode into two upper hybrid waves. The dispersion relation is solved to find the growth rate, in Sec. III. In Sec. IV, we present the conclusions and the numerical

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results on the variation of growth rate with magnetic field intensity, pump and decay wave wavenumbers, and the angle between these wave vectors.

II. NONLINEAR COUPLED EQUATIONS

Consider an electromagnetic wave

$$\vec{E}_0(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\vec{E}_0}{2} [\exp(i\vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{x} - i\omega_0 t) + \text{c.c.}] \quad (1)$$

in a magnetized plasma with the uniform magnetic field B_0^0 along the z-direction. Assuming the electromagnetic pump to be an extraordinary mode, we find electron oscillations along and perpendicular to the direction of propagation with velocities to be

$$V_{0x} = -i \frac{e}{m} \frac{\omega_0 E_{0x} - i\Omega_e E_{0y}}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega_e^2} \quad (2)$$

and

$$V_{0y} = -i \frac{e}{m} \frac{\omega_0 E_{0y} + i\Omega_e E_{0x}}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega_e^2}, \quad (3)$$

and number density

$$n_0 = \frac{n_0^0 \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{v}_0}{\omega_0} \quad (4)$$

where $\Omega_e = eB_0^0/mc$, n_0^0 is the particle density of the unperturbed electron fluid, e is the electron charge, and c is the speed of light. The electrostatic component of the electric field can be written in terms of the electromagnetic component as

$$E_{0x} = - \frac{\epsilon_{xy}}{\epsilon_{xx}} E_{0y} \quad (5)$$

where

$$\epsilon_{xx} = \frac{\omega_0^2 - \omega_{uh}^2}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega_e^2}, \quad \epsilon_{xy} = i \frac{\Omega_e}{\omega_0} \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_0^2 - \Omega_e^2}, \quad (6)$$

and

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi n_0^0 e^2}{m}, \quad \omega_{uh}^2 = \omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2. \quad (7)$$

The pump wave magnetic field is given by

$$\vec{B}_0 = \frac{c}{\omega_0} \vec{k}_0 \times \vec{E}_0. \quad (8)$$

The perturbed density fluctuations for the decay waves are obtained from the equation of continuity which, after Fourier analysis, gives

$$n \equiv n(\vec{k}, \omega) = \frac{n_0 \vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}}{\omega} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n_- \vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}_0}{\omega} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n_0 \vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}_-}{\omega} \quad (9)$$

and

$$n_- \equiv n_-(\vec{k}_-, \omega_-) = \frac{n_0 \vec{k}_- \cdot \vec{v}_-}{\omega_-} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n \vec{k}_- \cdot \vec{v}_0^*}{\omega_-} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n_0 \vec{k}_- \cdot \vec{v}}{\omega_-} \quad (10)$$

where $\vec{k}_- = \vec{k} - \vec{k}_0$ and $\omega_- = \omega - \omega_0$ according to the resonance conditions.

The anti-Stokes component is considered off-resonant for this parametric process. The perturbed velocities $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{v}_-$ are calculated from the equations of motion

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{v}_0 \cdot \nabla \vec{v} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{v}_- \cdot \nabla \vec{v}_0 = - \frac{T}{mn_0} \nabla n \\ - \frac{e}{m} \vec{E} - \vec{v} \times \vec{\Omega}_e - \frac{e \vec{v}_- \times \vec{B}_0}{2mc} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \vec{v}_-}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{v}_0^* \cdot \nabla \vec{v} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{v}_- \cdot \nabla \vec{v}_0^* = - \frac{T}{mn_0} \nabla n_- \\ - \frac{e}{m} \vec{E}_- - \vec{v}_- \times \vec{\Omega}_e - \frac{e \vec{v} \times \vec{B}_0}{2mc} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where T is the electron thermal energy, and $\vec{E}$ and $\vec{E}_-$ are the perturbed electric fields. Fourier analyzing Eqs. (11) and (12) for $(\vec{k}, \omega)$ and $(\vec{k}_-, \omega_-)$, respectively, we get the equations for the components of $\vec{v}$ and $\vec{v}_-$ which together with Eqs. (2)-(4) are substituted into Eqs. (9) and (10) to get the expressions for the perturbed density oscillations for the two decay waves. Substituting these expressions for n and n_-

into Poisson's equations for the perturbed electrostatic potentials ϕ and ϕ_- we get the system of coupled equations

$$\epsilon \phi = - \frac{4\pi e}{k^2} n^{NL} \quad (13)$$

and

$$\epsilon_- \phi_- = - \frac{4\pi e}{k_-^2} n_-^{NL} \quad (14)$$

where n^{NL} and n_-^{NL} are the nonlinear contributions to the density perturbations,

$$\epsilon = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pi}^2}{\omega^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2 - \Omega_e^2} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{k^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2} \frac{k_{\parallel}^2}{k^2} - \frac{k_{\perp}^2 v_e^2}{\omega^2 - \Omega_e^2} - \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_e^2}{\omega^2} \quad (15)$$

and

$$\epsilon_- = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pi}^2}{\omega_-^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2} \frac{k_{\perp}^2}{k_-^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_-^2} \frac{k_{\parallel}^2}{k_-^2} - \frac{k_{\perp}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2} - \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2}, \quad (16)$$

$$v_e^2 = \frac{T}{m}, \quad \omega_{pi}^2 = \frac{4\pi n_0 e^2}{M}, \quad (17)$$

and M is the ion mass. The wavenumbers $k_{\parallel}$ and $k_{\perp}$, $k_{\parallel}$ and $k_{\perp}$ refer to the components of $\vec{k}$ and $\vec{k}_-$ parallel and perpendicular to the magnetic field, respectively. The ions are considered cold and unmagnetized since the frequencies of the pump and decay waves are much larger than the ion cyclotron frequency. Equations (13) and (14) can be rewritten as

$$\epsilon \phi = (\alpha_{\perp}' + \alpha_{\parallel}') \phi_- \quad (18)$$

and

$$\epsilon_- \phi_- = (\alpha_{\perp}'' + \alpha_{\parallel}'') \phi \quad (19)$$

where

$$\alpha_I' = \frac{\omega_p^2}{2k^2 \omega (\omega^2 - \Omega_e^2) (\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2)} \left(1 - \frac{k_{-1}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2} - \frac{k_{-11}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2} \right) \left\{ \vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}_0 [(\omega \omega_- + \Omega_e^2) \vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_{-1} + (\omega^2 - \Omega_e^2) k_{-1}^2] \right. \\ + \omega \omega_- \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_{-1} - i \Omega_e (2\omega + \omega_-) \vec{k} \times \vec{k}_- \cdot \hat{z} \\ + \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{v}_0 \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0} (\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2) \vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_{-1} - i \frac{\Omega_e}{\omega_0} (\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2) \vec{k} \times \vec{k}_- \cdot \hat{z} \right) \\ + i \Omega_e \vec{v}_0 \times \vec{k} \cdot \hat{z} (\omega \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{k}_{-1} - i \Omega_e \vec{k} \times \vec{k}_- \cdot \hat{z}) \\ + \frac{ie}{m} \frac{\vec{k}_0 \times \vec{E}_0 \cdot \hat{z}}{\omega_0} [i \Omega_e (\omega + \omega_-) \vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{k}_{-1} \\ \left. + (\omega \omega_- + \Omega_e^2) \vec{k} \times \vec{k}_- \cdot \hat{z} \right] \Big\} , \quad (20)$$

$$\alpha_{II}'' = \frac{\omega_p^2}{2k^2 \omega^2 \omega_-} \left(1 - \frac{k_{-1}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2 - \Omega_e^2} - \frac{k_{-11}^2 v_e^2}{\omega_-^2} \right) \left\{ \vec{k} \cdot \vec{v}_0 \left(\vec{k}_{11} \cdot \vec{k}_{-11} - \frac{\omega}{\omega_-} k_{-11}^2 \right) + \vec{k}_0 \cdot \vec{v}_0 \frac{\omega_-}{\omega_0} \vec{k}_{11} \cdot \vec{k}_{-11} \right\} , \quad (21)$$

and $\hat{z} = \vec{z}/z$. α_I'' and α_{II}'' are obtained from α_I' and α_{II}' , respectively, by making the following interchanges

$$\alpha_I'' = \alpha_I' [(\vec{k}, \omega) \leftrightarrow (\vec{k}_-, \omega_-), (\vec{k}_0, \omega_0) \leftrightarrow (-\vec{k}_0, -\omega_0), \\ (\vec{v}_0, \vec{E}_0) \leftrightarrow (\vec{v}_0^*, \vec{E}_0^*)] \quad (22)$$

and

$$\alpha''_{||} = \alpha'_{||} [(\vec{k}, \omega) \leftrightarrow (\vec{k}_-, \omega_-), (\vec{k}_0, \omega_0) \leftrightarrow (-\vec{k}_0, -\omega_0), \vec{v}_0 \leftrightarrow \vec{v}_0^*] . \quad (23)$$

Equations (18) and (19) comprise the system of coupled equations describing the parametric decay of an extraordinary electromagnetic wave into two electrostatic waves. The general dispersion relation is obtained from them, straightforwardly,

$$\epsilon \epsilon_- = (\alpha'_I + \alpha'_{||}) (\alpha''_I + \alpha''_{||}) . \quad (24)$$

Equation (24) allows us to study the decay of an extraordinary electromagnetic wave into

- (i) two upper hybrid waves,
- (ii) an upper hybrid and a lower hybrid wave, or
- (iii) two lower hybrid waves.

The decay (i) occurs at the quarter critical density while channel (ii) at the critical density layer. In the present paper we restrict ourselves to channel (i).

III. GROWTH RATE

For the decay of an electromagnetic wave into two upper hybrid plasmons, the linear dispersion relations (15) and (16), in the limit $k_{||} \ll k$, become

$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k^2 v_e^2 \quad (25)$$

and

$$\omega_-^2 = \omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k_-^2 v_e^2 , \quad (26)$$

and Eqs. (18) and (19) reduce to

$$\begin{aligned}
[\omega^2 - (\omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k^2 v_e^2)] \phi = & \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{k_y v_0 \omega_p^2}{\omega_-} \right. \\
& \times \left(1 + \frac{\omega_-}{\omega} \frac{k_-^2}{k^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{k_0 v_0 \omega_p^2 \Omega_e \omega}{\omega_0^2 \omega_- k^2} \\
& \times \left[\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}_- + \frac{\omega_0 (\omega + \omega_0)}{\omega^2} k_x k_{-x} + \frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega \omega_-} k_y k_{-y} \right] \left. \right\} \phi_-
\end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
[\omega_-^2 - (\omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k_-^2 v_e^2)] \phi_- = & \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{k_y v_0^* \omega_p^2}{\omega} \right. \\
& \times \left(1 + \frac{\omega_-}{\omega} \frac{k_-^2}{k^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{k_0 v_0^* \omega_p^2 \Omega_e \omega_-}{\omega_0^2 \omega k_-} \\
& \times \left[\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}_- - \frac{\omega_0 (\omega_- - \omega_0)}{\omega^2} k_x k_{-x} + \frac{\omega_0^2}{\omega \omega_-} k_y k_{-y} \right] \left. \right\} \phi .
\end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

If we set $\Omega_e = 0$ in Eqs. (27) and (28) we get the same equations as Liu and Rosenbluth in their limit $L \rightarrow \infty$ where L is the density scale length. For laser fusion parameters, $\Omega_e / \omega_p < 1$, Eqs. (27) and (28) give the dispersion relation

$$\begin{aligned}
& [\omega^2 - (\omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k^2 v_e^2)] [\omega_-^2 - (\omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k_-^2 v_e^2)] \\
& = \frac{1}{4} \frac{k_y^2 |v_0|^2 \omega_p^2}{\omega^2 \omega_-^2 k^2 k_-^2} (\omega_- k^2 + \omega k_-^2)^2 .
\end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

The growth rate is found, from Eq. (29), to be

$$\gamma = \frac{k_y |v_0| |2\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}_0 - k_0^2|}{4kk_- \left[1 + \frac{2\Omega_e^2}{\omega_p^2} + (k^2 + k_-^2) \lambda_D^2 \right]^{1/2}} . \quad (30)$$

IV. NUMERICAL RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The growth rate decreases slowly with the increasing magnetic field intensity, as seen from Fig. 1. The maximum growth rate is $\gamma_{\max} = \frac{1}{4} k_0 |v_0|$ which holds for $\Omega_e = 0$, result that agrees with Liu and Rosenbluth. The linear Landau damping for the upper hybrid waves with finite $k_{\parallel}$ is given by

$$\gamma_L = \frac{\pi^{1/2}}{2} \frac{1}{k_{\parallel}^2 \lambda_D^2} \frac{\omega_p^2 + k_{\perp}^2 v_e^2}{k_{\parallel} v_e} \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} k_{\perp}^2 \rho_e^2 \right) \exp \left(- \frac{\omega_k^2}{k_{\parallel}^2 v_e^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} k_{\perp}^2 \rho_e^2 \left[\exp \left(- \frac{(\omega_k - \Omega_e)^2}{k_{\parallel}^2 v_e^2} \right) + \exp \left(- \frac{(\omega_k + \Omega_e)^2}{k_{\parallel}^2 v_e^2} \right) \right] \right\} \quad (31)$$

where

$$\omega_k^2 = \omega_p^2 + \Omega_e^2 + k_{\perp}^2 v_e^2 \quad (32)$$

and ρ_e is the electron Larmor radius. From Eq. (31) we infer that if $\vec{k}$ and $\vec{k}_{\perp}$ are in the plane perpendicular to the magnetic field the upper hybrid decay waves cannot resonate with the electrons and, therefore, the linear Landau damping rate vanishes in this case. It means that the growth rate spectrum is significantly modified for $k\lambda_D > 0.2$ as compared to the unmagnetized plasma where we would expect the decay waves to be strongly Landau damped. Figure 2 shows the growth rate as a function of $k\lambda_D$ for various pump powers. The growth rate is finite for all values of $k\lambda_D$ due to the absence of collisionless damping, except for $k = k_0/2\cos\phi$ for $\cos\phi > 0$ when it vanishes, ϕ is the angle between $\vec{k}_0$ and $\vec{k}$. The growth rate is always positive for $\cos\phi \leq 0$. According to Fig. 1, for laser fusion parameters, $\Omega_e \ll \omega_p$, the growth rates for magnetized and unmagnetized plasmas have the same magnitude for $k\lambda_D \leq 0.2$. However, for $k\lambda_D > 0.2$ they are substantially different

due to the inclusion of Landau damping, as can be seen from Fig. 3. For instance, for laser powers up to 10^{12} W/cm^2 the growth rate vanishes for $k\lambda_D > 0.23$ for an unmagnetized plasma process but it is finite if the magnetic field is present. It is also possible to see from Fig. 2 that as $\cos\phi$ increases the values of $k\lambda_D$ decrease for the maximum growth rate. This is better seen from Fig. 4 where ϕ is plotted versus $k\lambda_D$ for a constant growth rate. Figure 5 exhibits the variation of the growth rate with $\cos\phi$. The growth rate vanishes for $\cos\phi = k_0/2k$ if $k_0 < 2k$. For $k_0 > 2k$ the growth rate is finite for all values of $\cos\phi$. Figure 6 shows the proportionality of the growth rate with $k_0\lambda_D$.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

- Fig. 1 Variation of the growth rate $\gamma\lambda_D/|v_0|$ with the electron cyclotron frequency for $k_0\lambda_D=0.05$ (0.32 keV), $k\lambda_D=0.002$, and $\cos\phi=0.0$.
- Fig. 2 Growth rate $\gamma\lambda_D/|v_0|$ expressed as a function of $k\lambda_D$ for $k_0\lambda_D=0.05$, $\Omega_e^2/\omega_p^2=0.01$, $\cos\phi=0.0$ (---), 0.6 (—), -0.6 (-O-O-), 0.9 (-·-·-), and -0.9 (-O-O-).
- Fig. 3 Variation of the growth rate γ/ω_p with $k\lambda_D$ for $k_0\lambda_D=0.1$ (1.275 keV), $\Omega_e^2/\omega_p^2=0.01$, for the following pump powers: (i) $|v_0|/v_e=1.17$ (10^{15} W/cm²), $\cos\phi=0.6$ (-·-·-), -0.6 (-O-O-); (ii) $|v_0|/v_e=3.80$ (10^{16} W/cm²), $\cos\phi=0.6$ (—), -0.6 (-●-●-). The growth rates follow curves (-·-·-) for unmagnetized plasma.
- Fig. 4 Variation of $k\lambda_D$ with ϕ (angle between $\vec{k}_0$ and $\vec{k}$) for a constant growth rate $\gamma\lambda_D/|v_0|$ where $k_0\lambda_D=0.05$ and $\Omega_e^2/\omega_p^2=0.01$.
- Fig. 5 The growth rate $\gamma\lambda_D/|v_0|$ expressed as a function of $\cos\phi$ for $k_0\lambda_D=0.05$, $\Omega_e^2/\omega_p^2=0.01$ and $k\lambda_D=0.03$ (-O-O-), 0.15 (—).
- Fig. 6 Variation of $\gamma\lambda_D/|v_0|$ with $k_0\lambda_D$ for $\Omega_e^2/\omega_p^2=0.01$ in the following cases: (i) $k\lambda_D=0.03$, $\cos\phi=0.0$ (---), 0.7 (-O-O-), -0.7 (—); (ii) $k\lambda_D=0.15$, $\cos\phi=0.0$ (-·-·-).

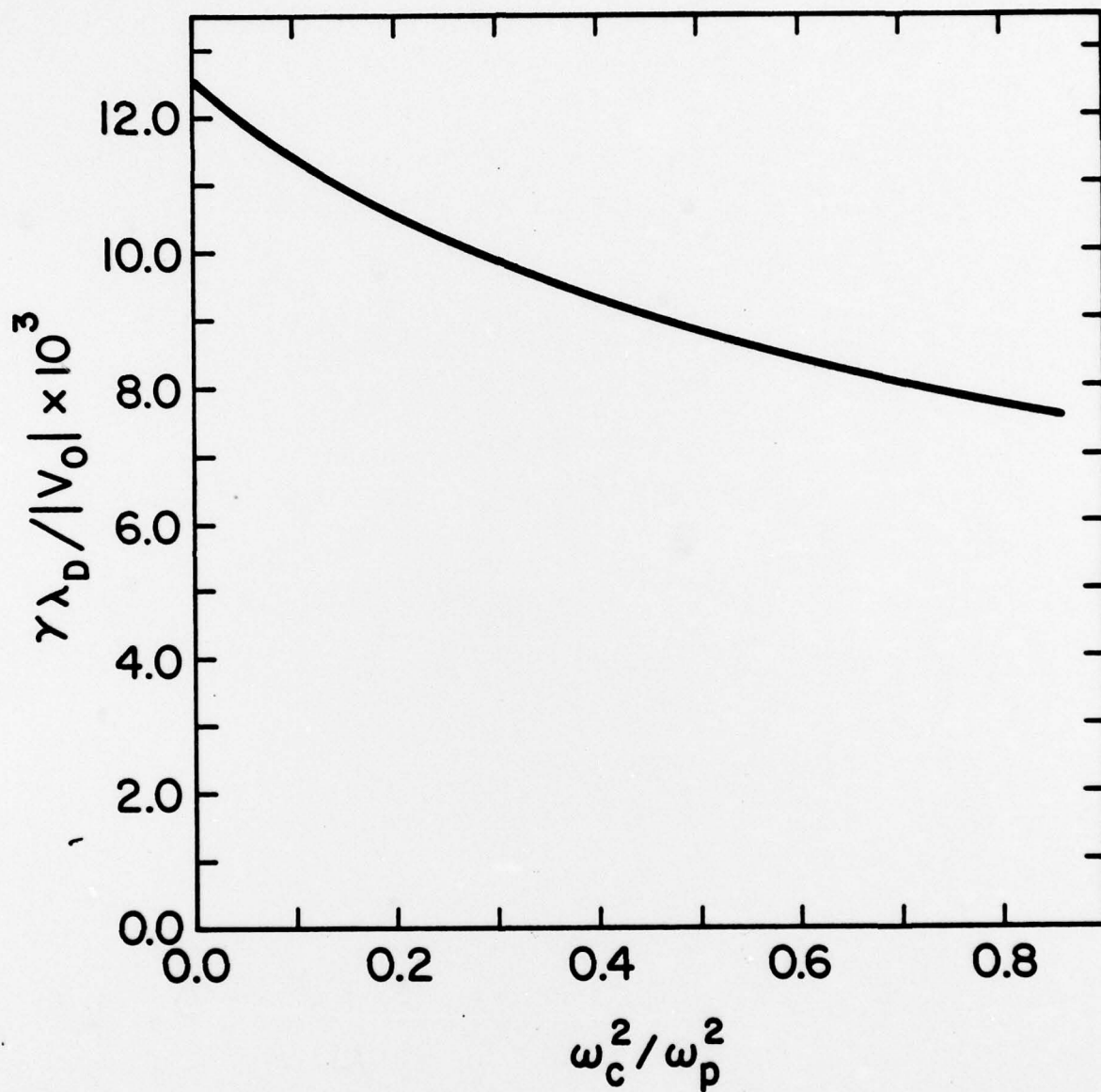


Fig. 1

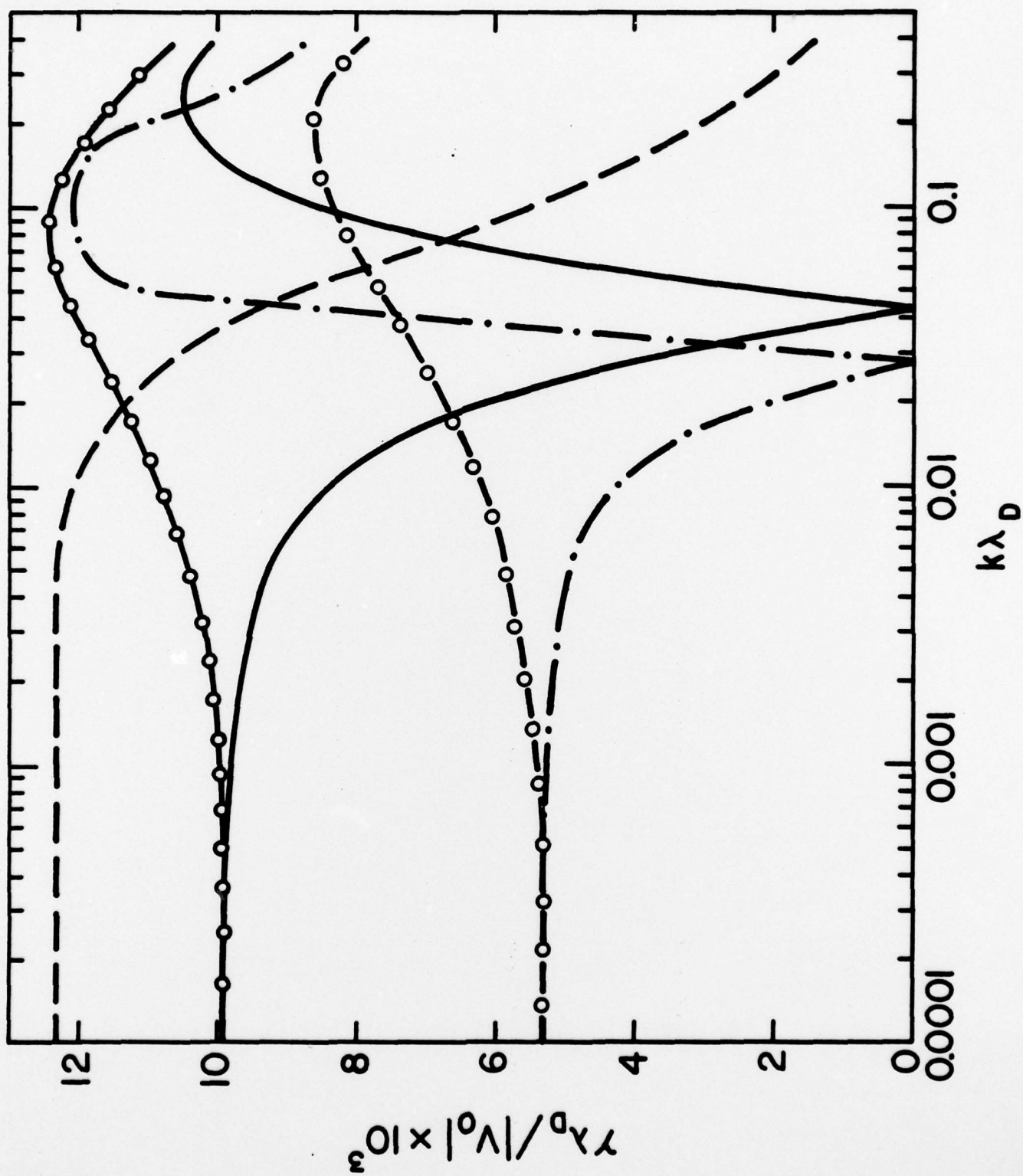


Fig. 2

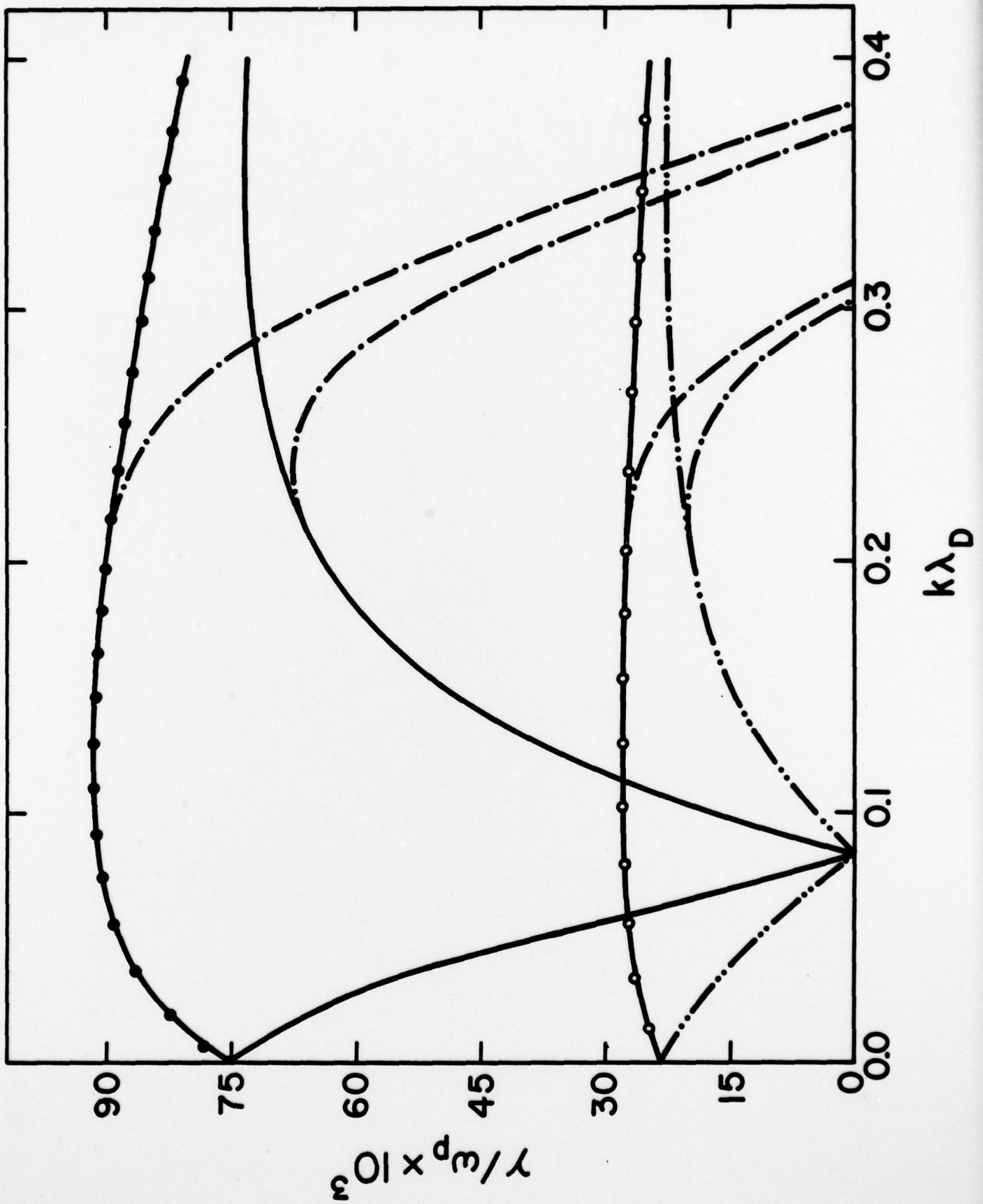


Fig. 3

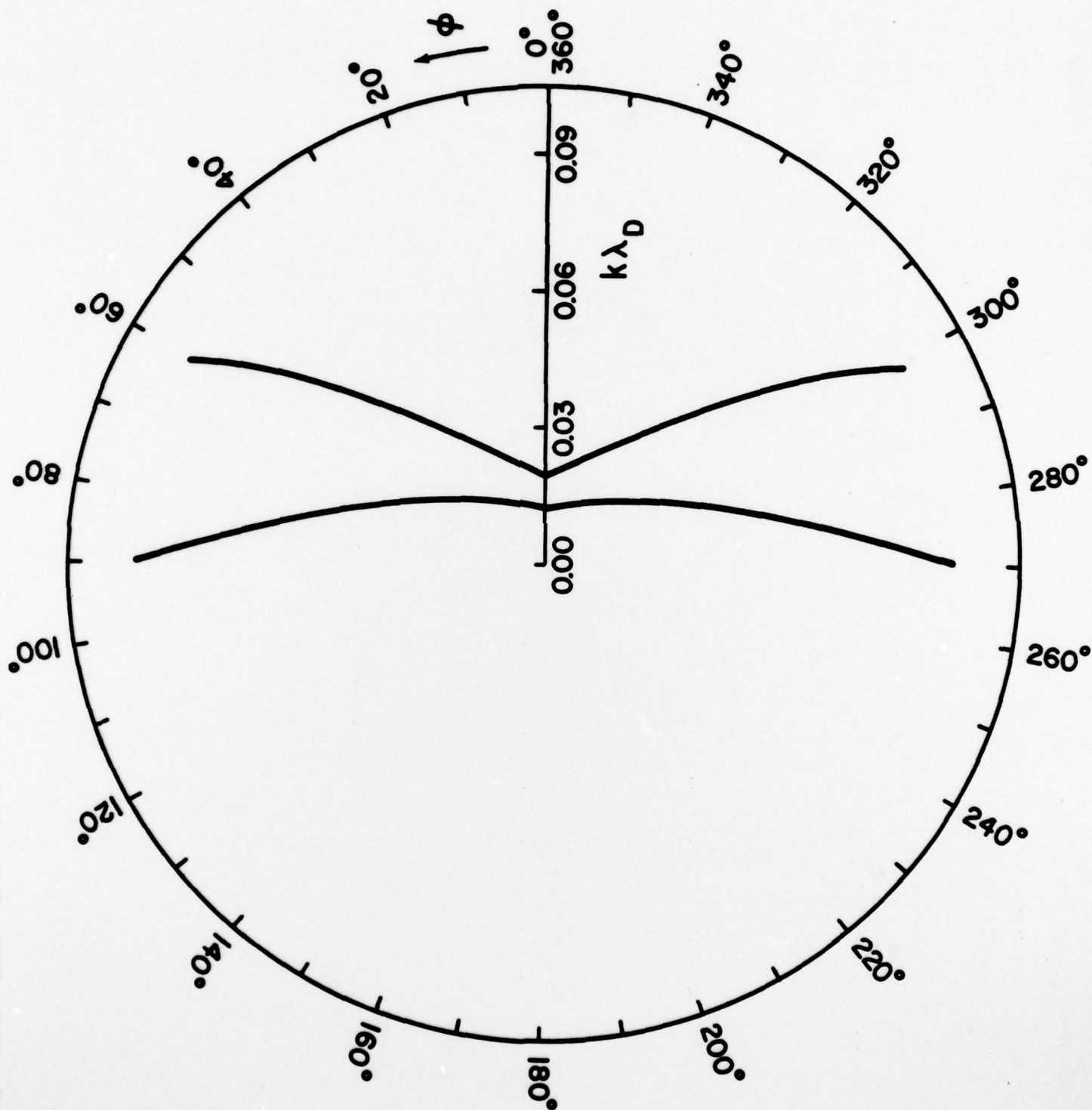


Fig. 4

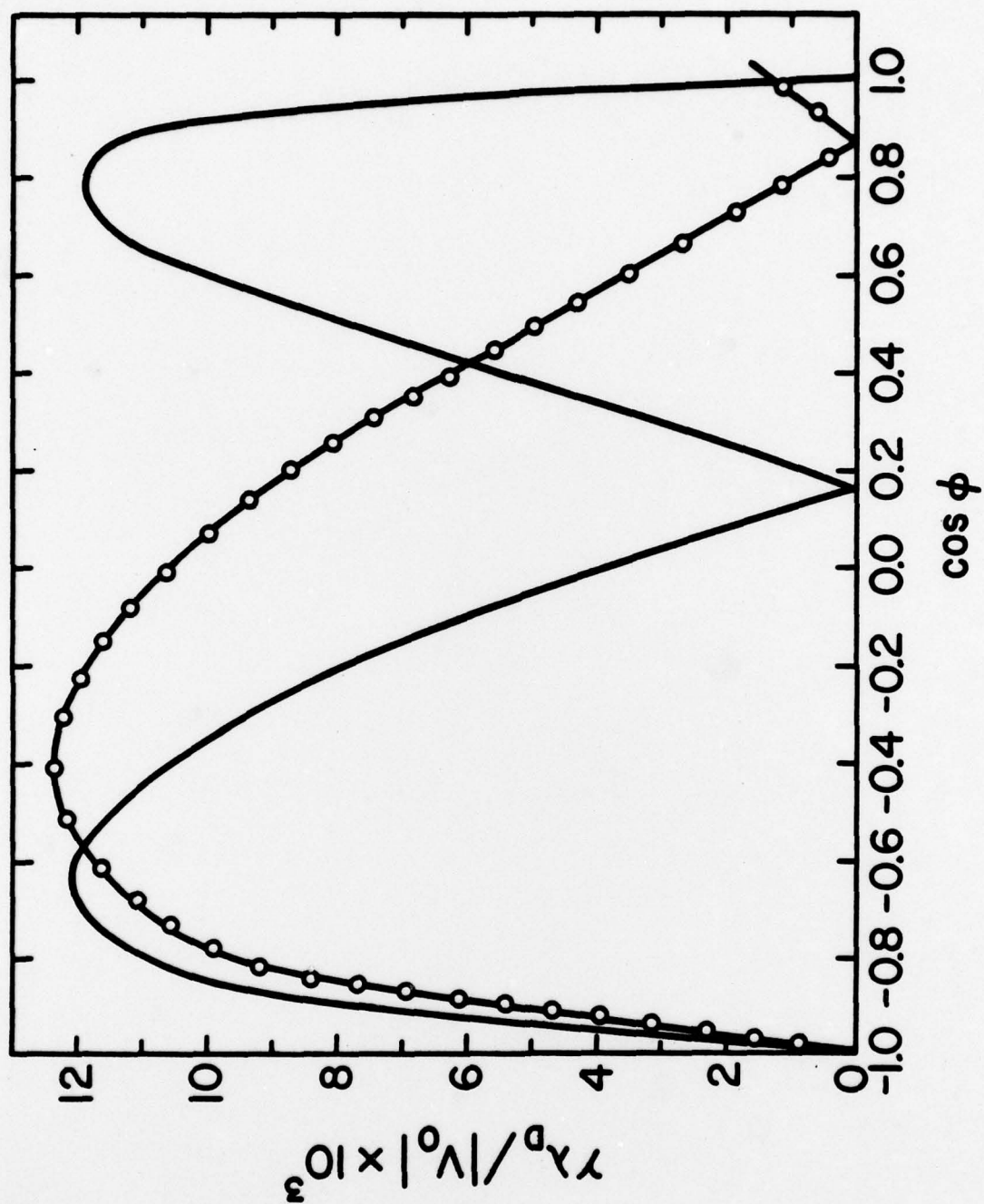


Fig. 5

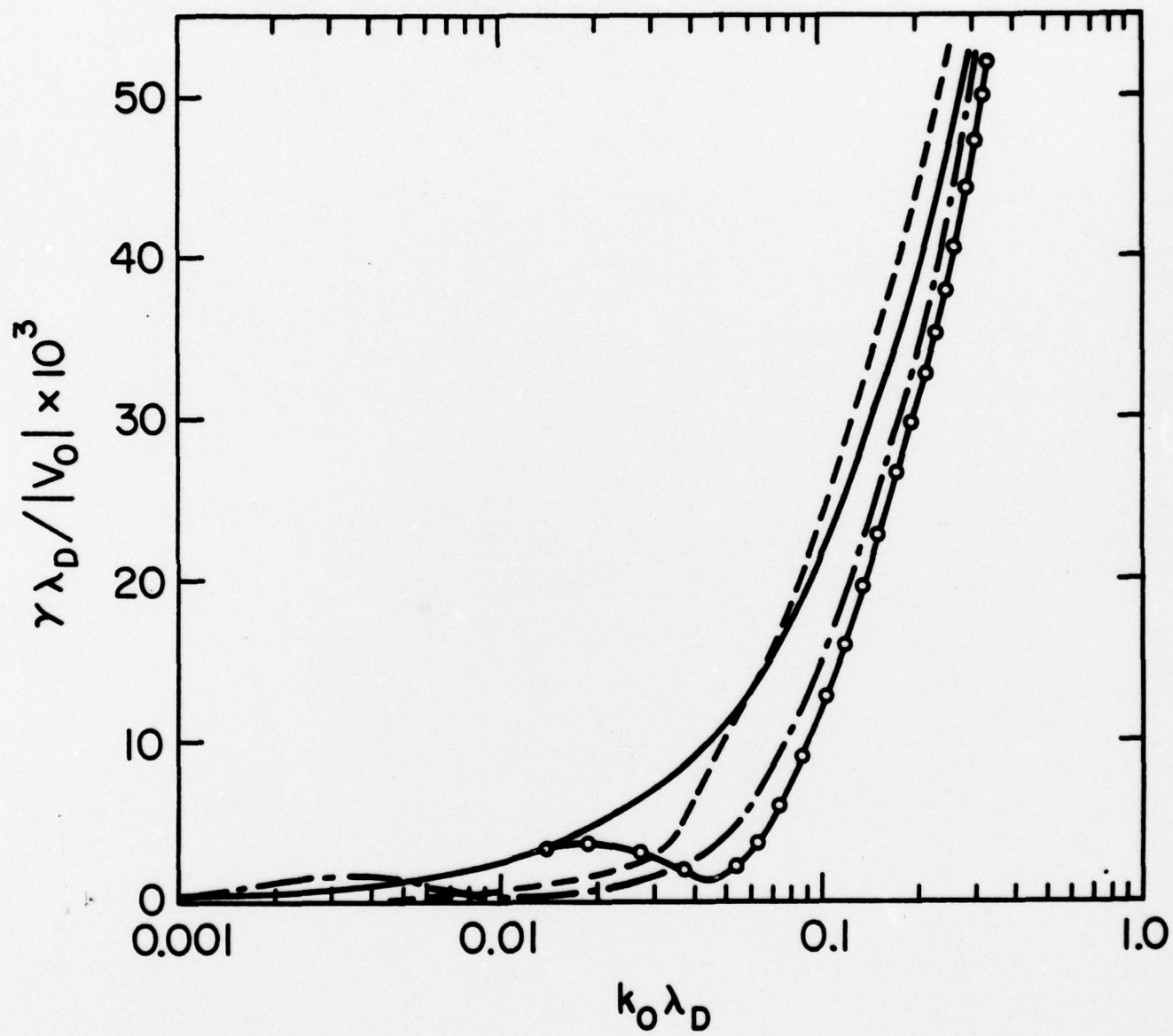


Fig. 6