

# Waves in plasmas

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Saskia Mordijck

# What are Waves?

## Regular waves in water



Waves are a **periodic perturbation** that transfers **energy** can be described in some circumstances by a **linear approximation**.

Waves occur around us. One example is the surface waves in the ocean

<http://hema.ipfw.edu/Geopics/Framesrc/Water/waves.html>

# What are Waves?

Regular waves in water



Waves that crash onto shore



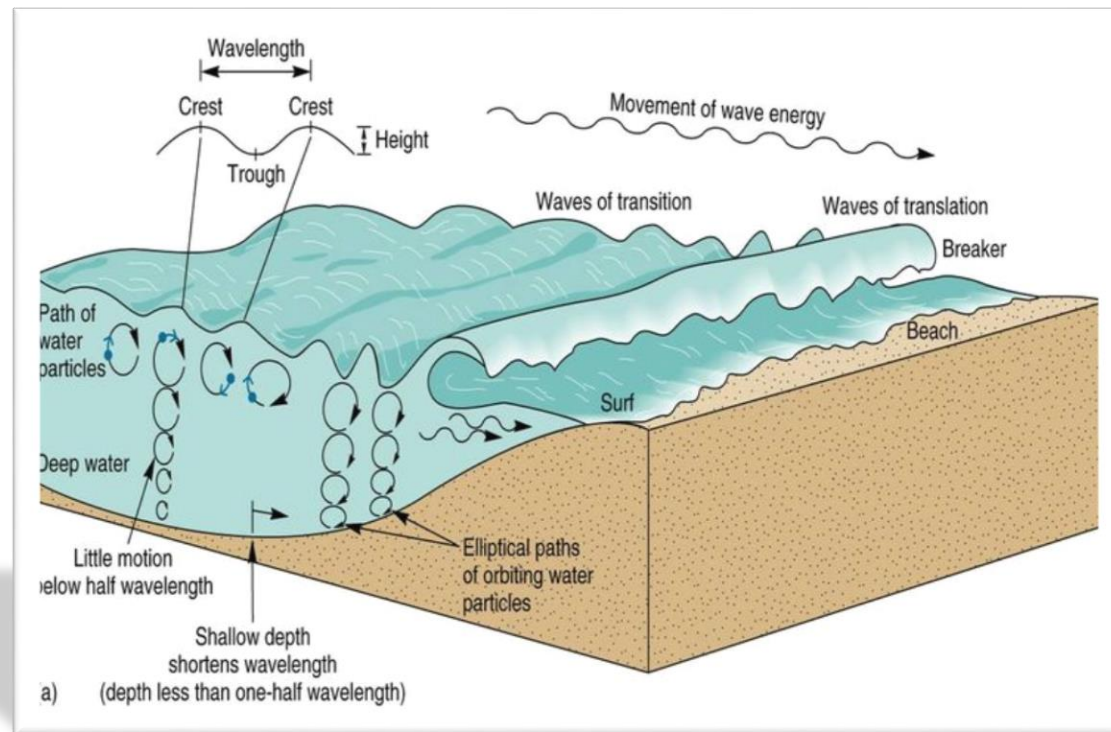
<http://hema.ipfw.edu/Geop>

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/seagrantscholars/2016/01/26/waves/>

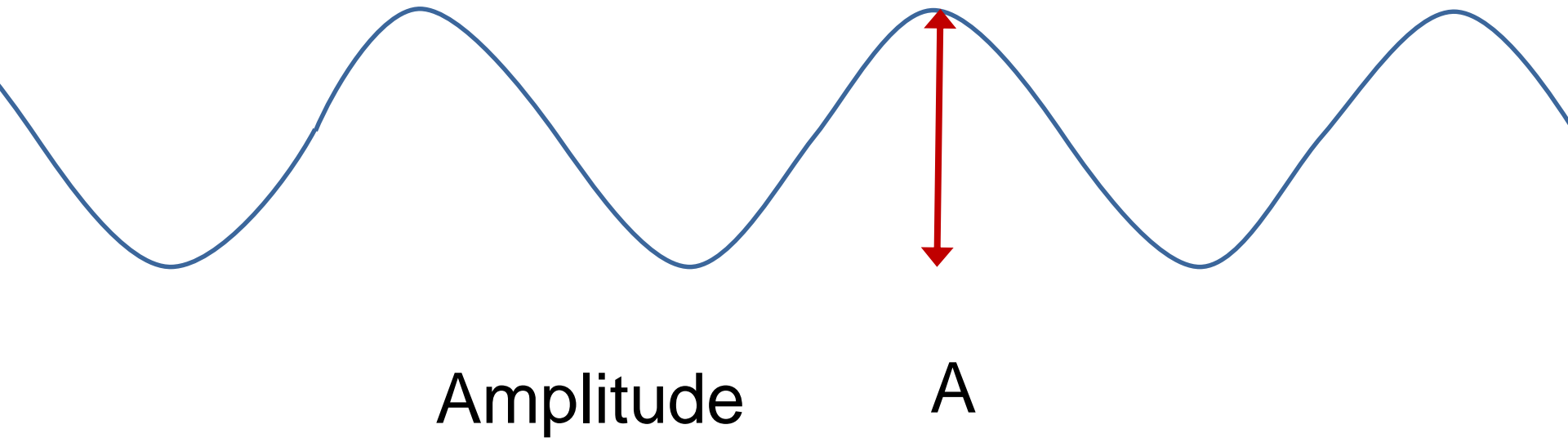
# What are Waves?

The wave characteristics can change based on its surroundings

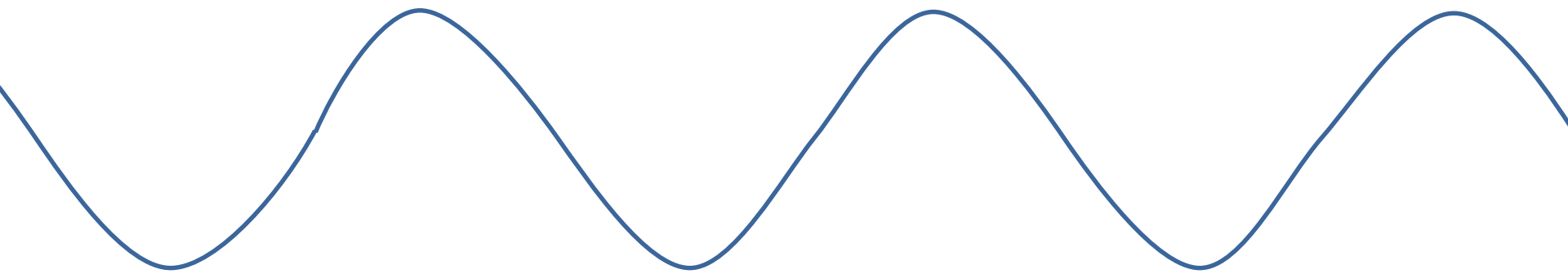
We use the **dispersion relationship** to describe the relation between the wavelength and the frequency of the wave.



# How do we describe waves mathematically



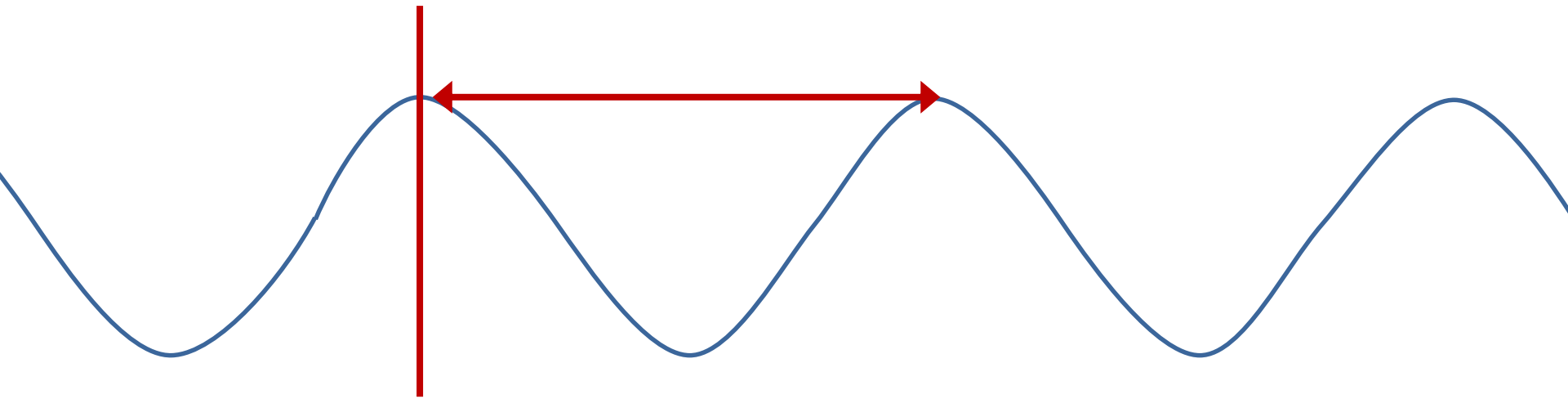
# How do we describe waves mathematically



Wavelength  $\lambda$

Wavenumber  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$

# How do we describe waves mathematically



Wave number  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$

Angular frequency  $\omega = 2\pi/T = 2\pi f$

Phase velocity  $v_p = \omega/k$

# Summary of waves in plasmas

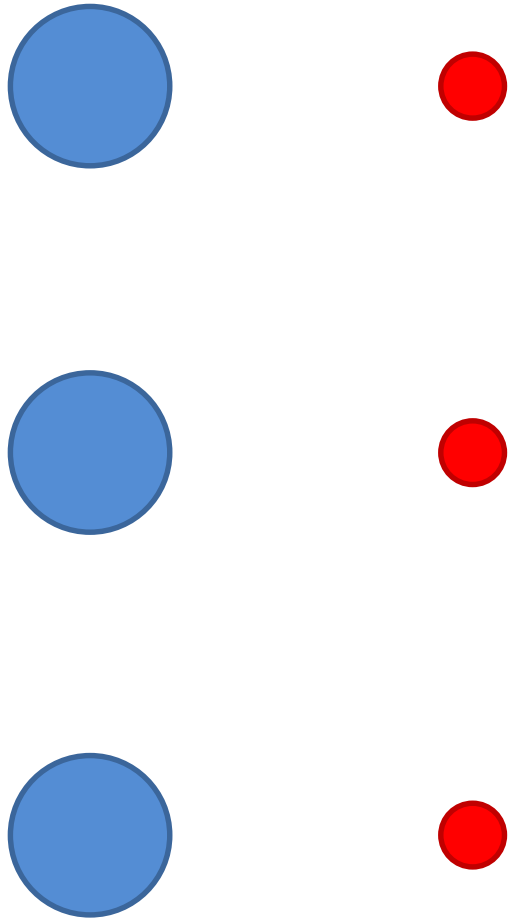
- Plasma wave (no B-field necessary) in a cold plasma
  - Ions are stationary
- Wave-particle interaction
- Plasma wave in non-cold plasma
- MHD waves (B-field)
  - Perpendicular to the B-field
  - Parallel to the B-field



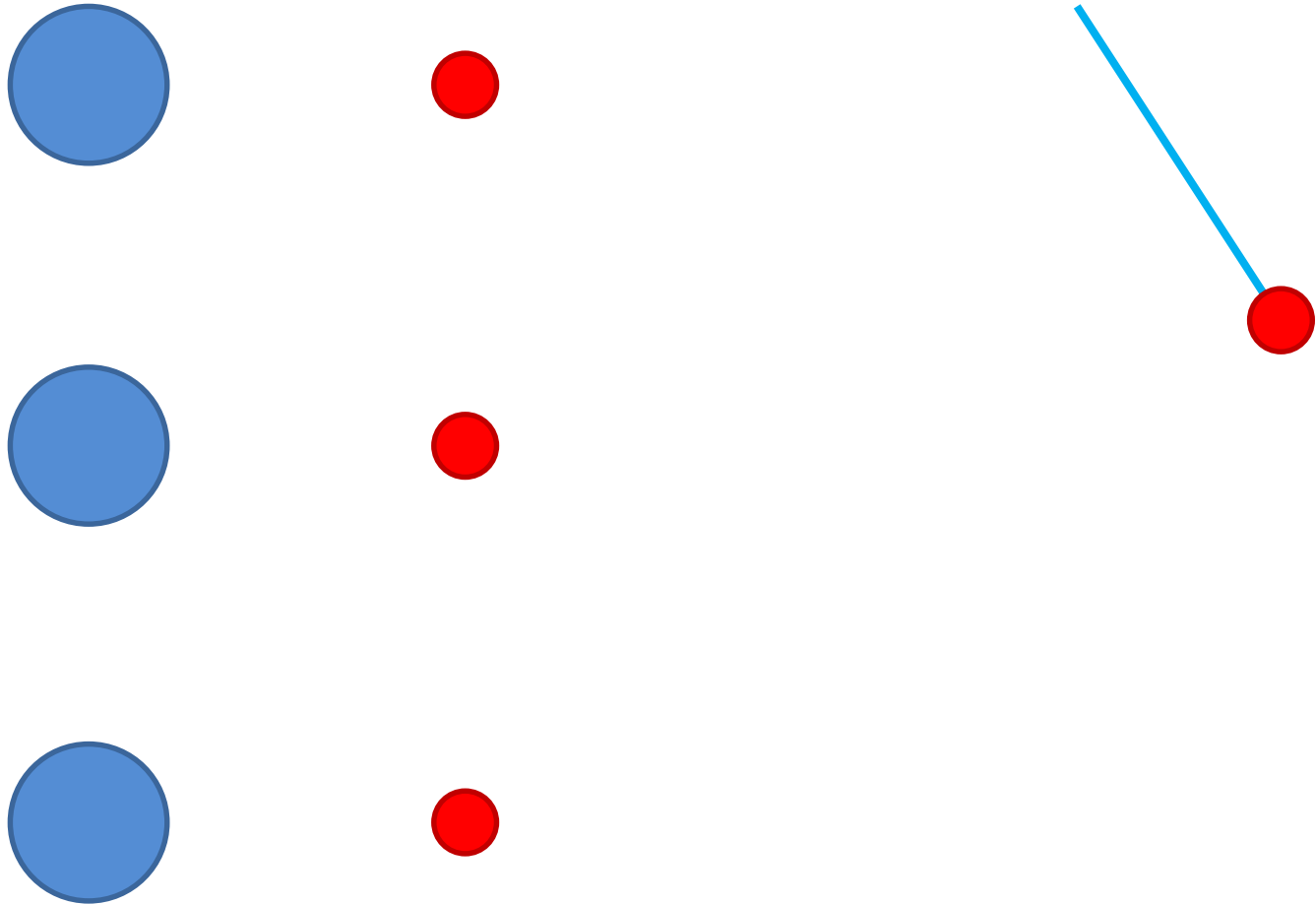
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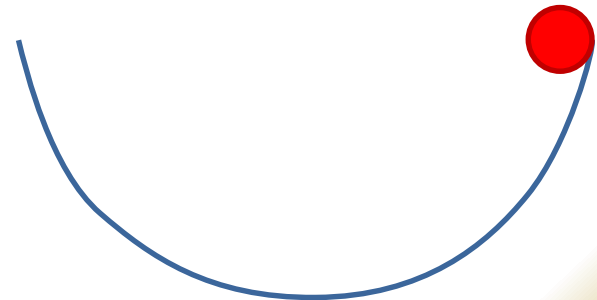
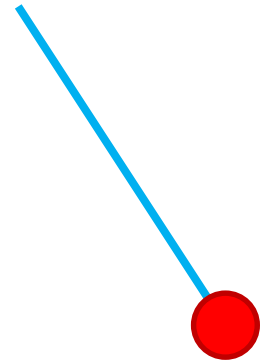
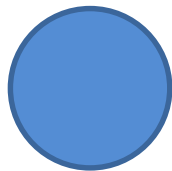
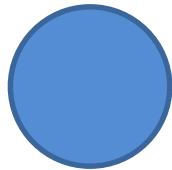
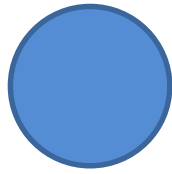
# The plasma wave in a cold plasma



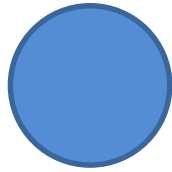
# The plasma wave : Similar to pendulum motion



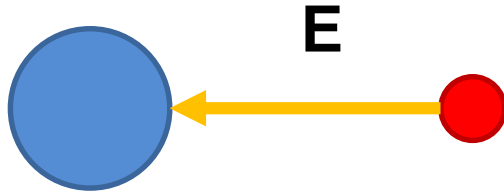
# The plasma wave : Similar to ball stuck in a valley



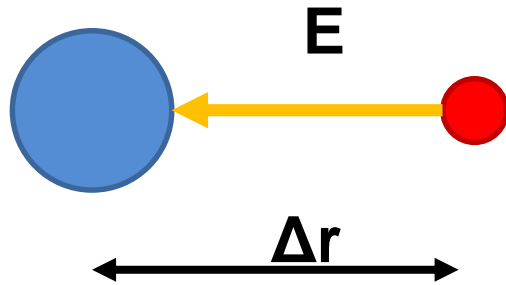
# The plasma wave: Starting from force balance



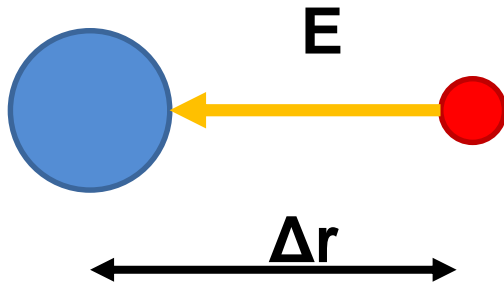
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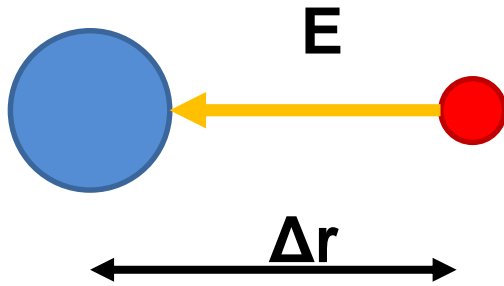
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$$m_e \frac{dv}{dt} = -eE$$



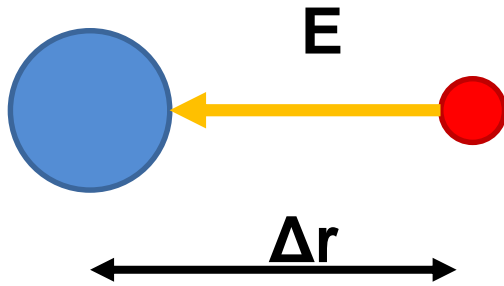
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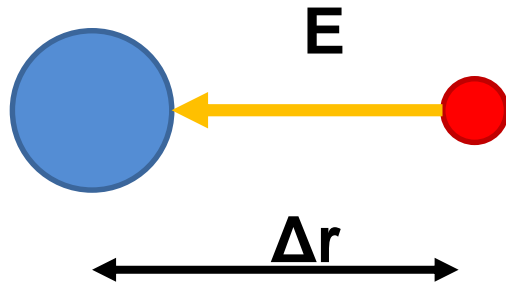


$$m_e \frac{dv}{dt} = -eE$$

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$$\frac{d^2r}{dt^2} = -\frac{e^2 n_e}{m_e} \frac{1}{\Delta r^2}$$

# The plasma wave: Derivation similar to the pendulum principle



Simple Harmonic Oscillator:

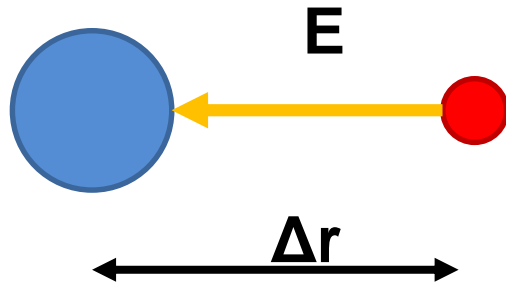
$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = -\omega r$$

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# The plasma wave: Derivation similar to the pendulum principle



Simple Harmonic Oscillator:

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = -\omega r$$

If we assume that  $\Delta r$  is close to 1 then:

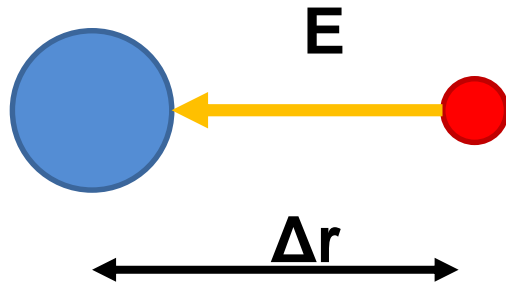
$$\frac{1}{\Delta r^2} \sim \Delta r$$

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# The plasma wave: Plasma frequency



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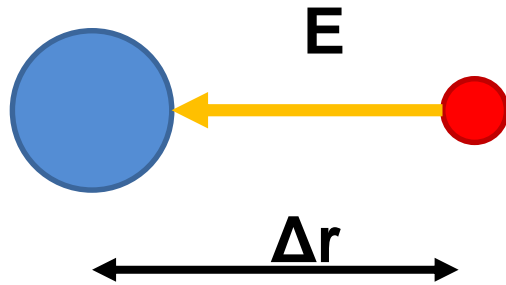
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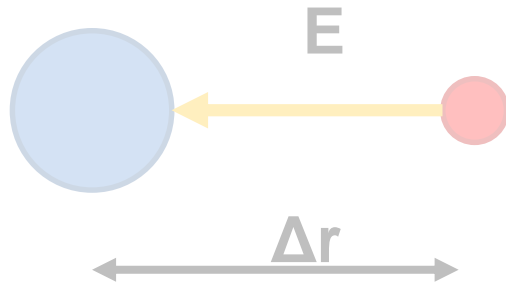
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$$\omega_p \sim \frac{n_e e^2}{m_e}$$

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**Hand-wavy derivation at best that can not capture more complex physics of a non-cold plasma**

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# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma



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Equation of motion

$$nm \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) = n \left( q \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B} \right)$$

# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma

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Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (n\mathbf{v}) = 0$$

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Starting point: Unmagnetized, Cold plasma

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$$n = n_0 + \tilde{n} \quad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_0 + \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \quad \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}_0 + \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \quad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

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Linearize and loose second order

$$n_0 m \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\partial t} + \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \nabla \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \right) = n_0 \left( q\tilde{\mathbf{E}} + \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{c} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \right)$$

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# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{n}}{\partial t} = -n_0 \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial r}$$

Equation of motion

$$m \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} = q \tilde{E}$$

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Maxwell equations linearized

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q \tilde{n} \quad \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = 0 \quad \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \tilde{\mathbf{J}} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{J}} = q n_0 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

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Use Fourier decomposition:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \exp(i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega t))$$

# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

Continuity equation

$$-i\omega\tilde{n} = -n_0 i\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

Equation of motion

$$-i\omega m\tilde{\mathbf{v}} = q\tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

Maxwell equations linearized

$$i\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q\tilde{n} \quad i\mathbf{k} \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{1}{c} i\omega\tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

$$i\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = 0 \quad i\mathbf{k} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \tilde{\mathbf{J}} - \frac{i\omega}{c} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{J}} = qn_0\tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

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Equation of motion

Maxwell equations linearized

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi n_0 q^2}{m}$$

$$i\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q\tilde{n}$$

Electro-Magnetic waves

$$i\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = 0$$

$$\cancel{k(\mathbf{k} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}})} - k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \underbrace{\frac{4\pi n_0 q^2}{mc^2}}_{\frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2}} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

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# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$-k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$-k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \quad \rightarrow \quad k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2}$$

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# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$-k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}\right)$$

Dispersion relationship

$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 + c^2 k^2$$

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Dispersion relationship

$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 + c^2 k^2$$

Plasma frequency

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi n_0 q^2}{m}$$

# More complete picture of plasma wave in a cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$-k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad k^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \left(1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega^2}\right)$$

Dispersion relationship

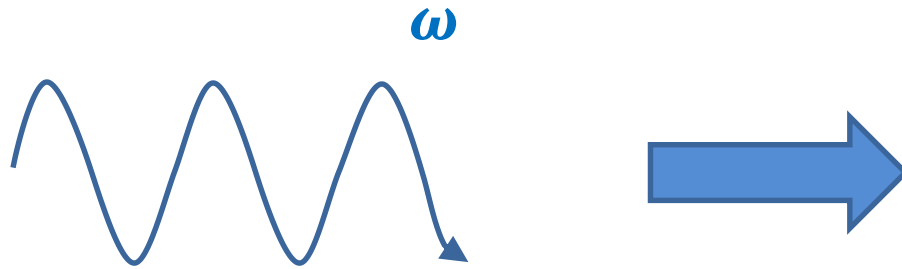
$$\omega^2 = \omega_p^2 + c^2 k^2$$

Plasma frequency

$$\omega_p^2 = \frac{4\pi n_0 q^2}{m}$$

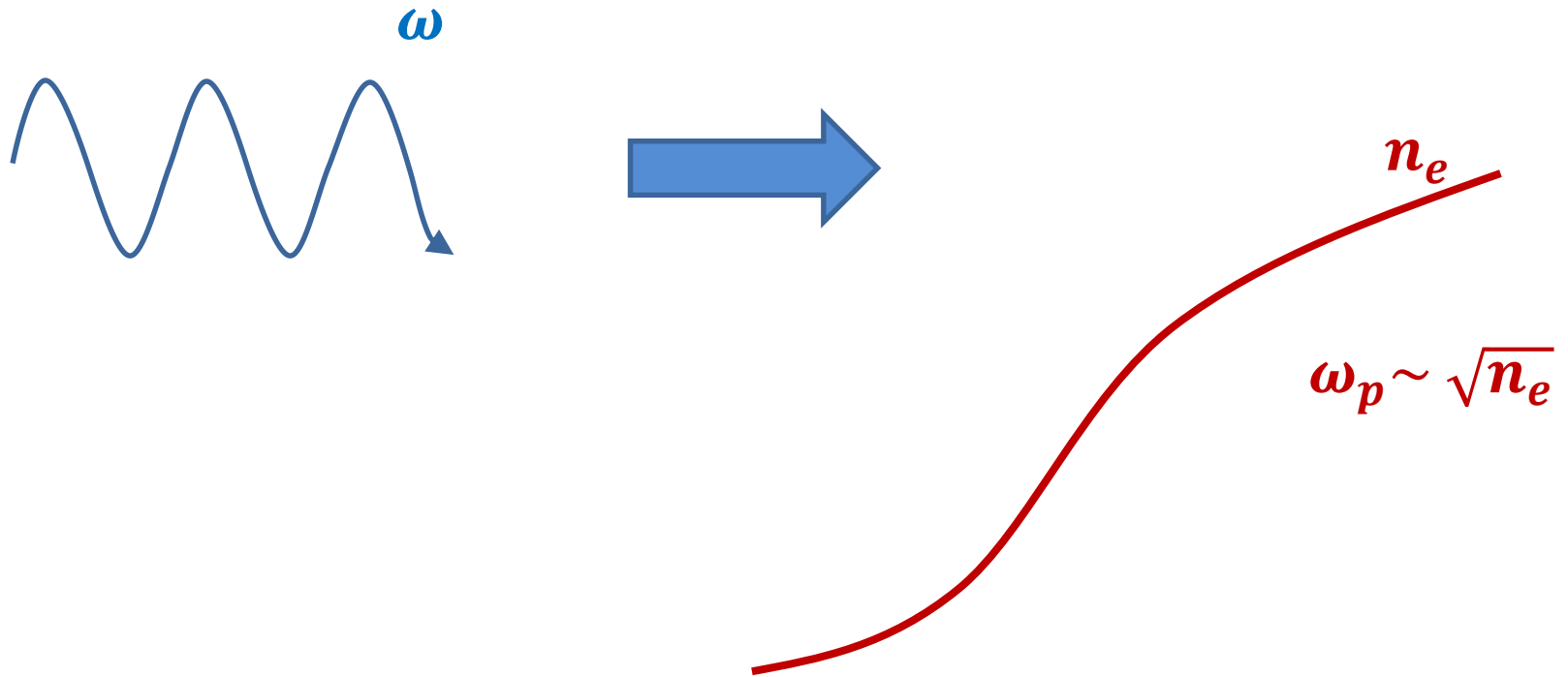
This can be used to measure density

# Density cut-off: waves to probe density

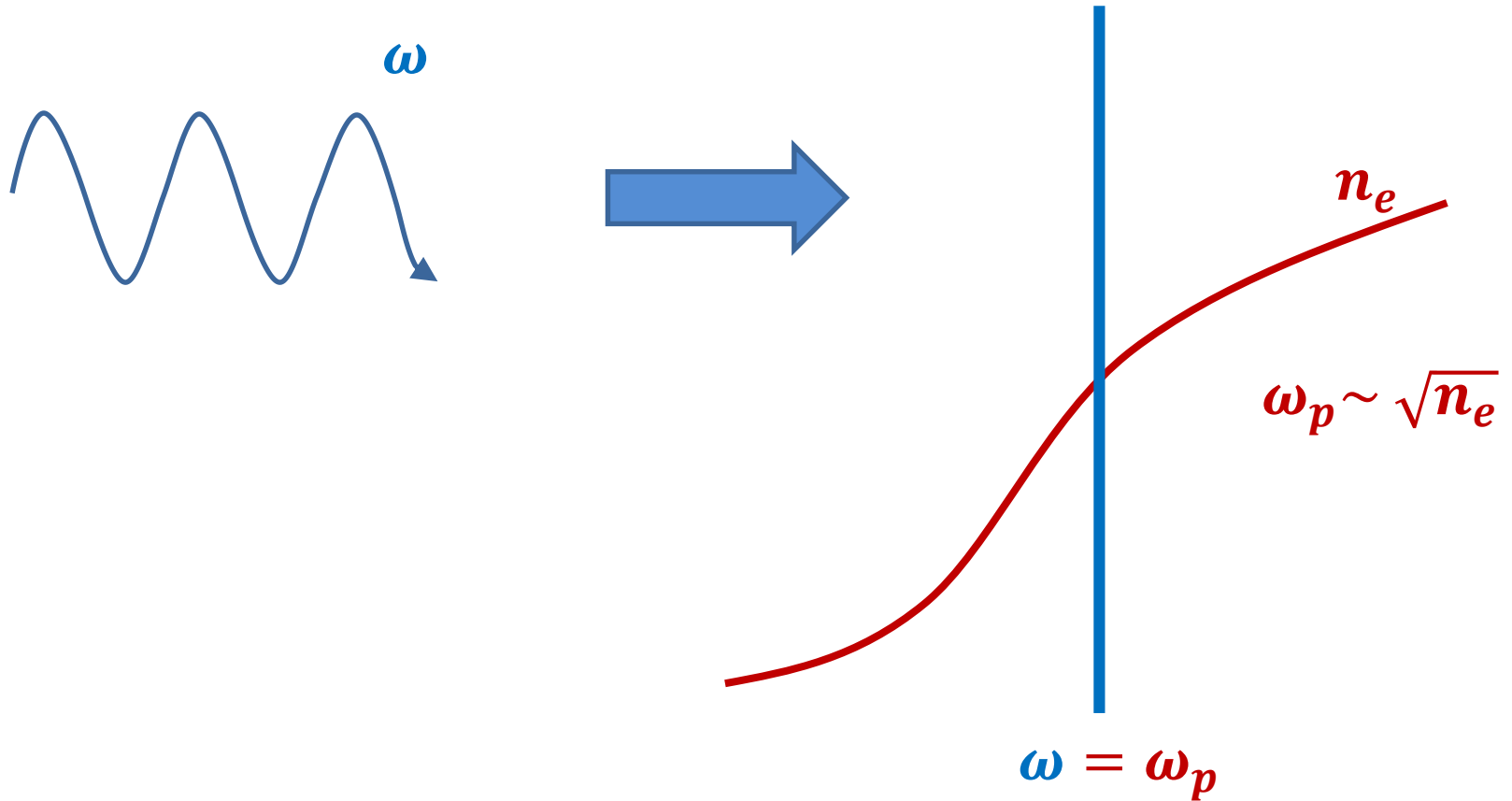




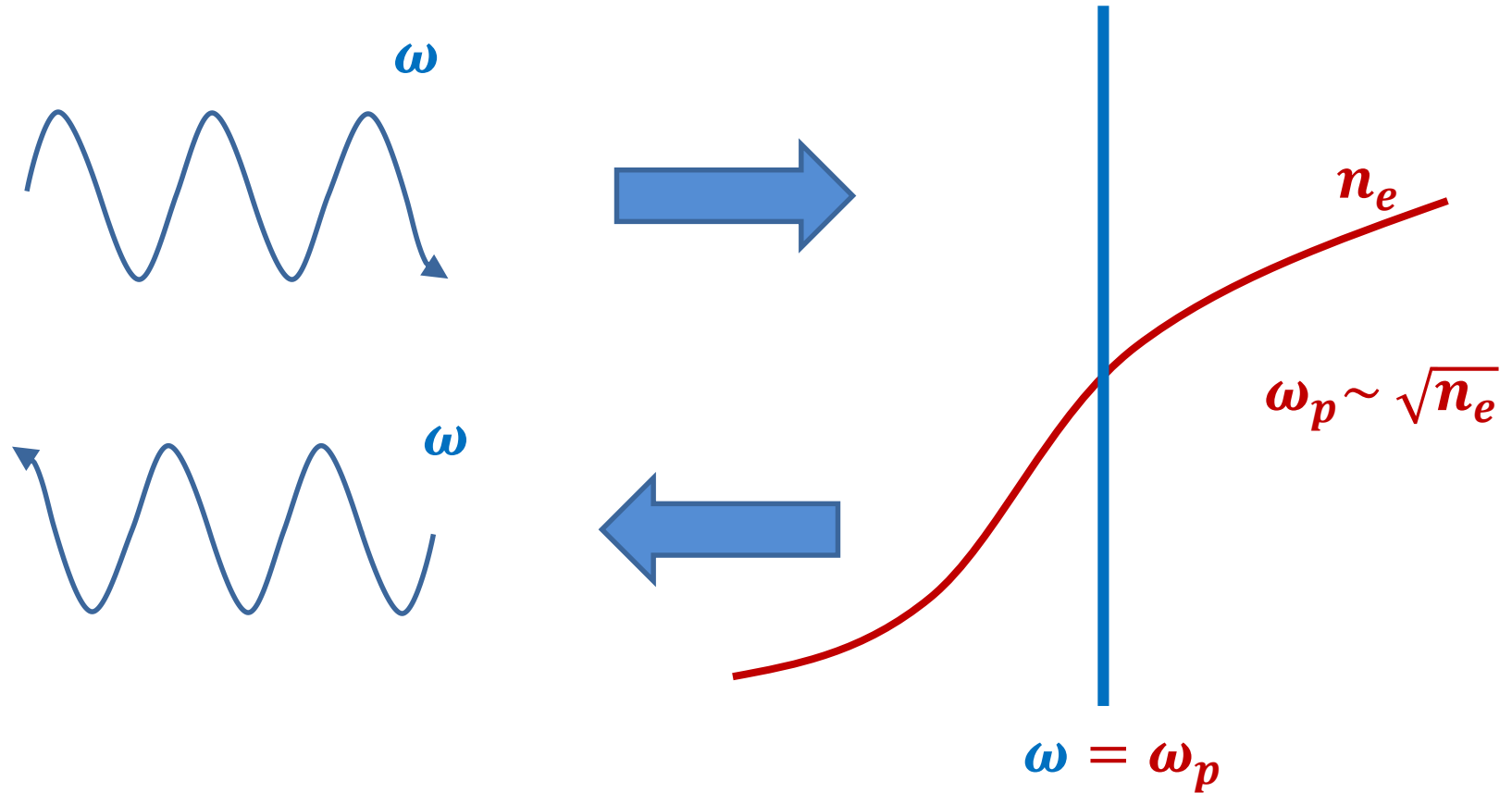
# Density cut-off: waves to probe density



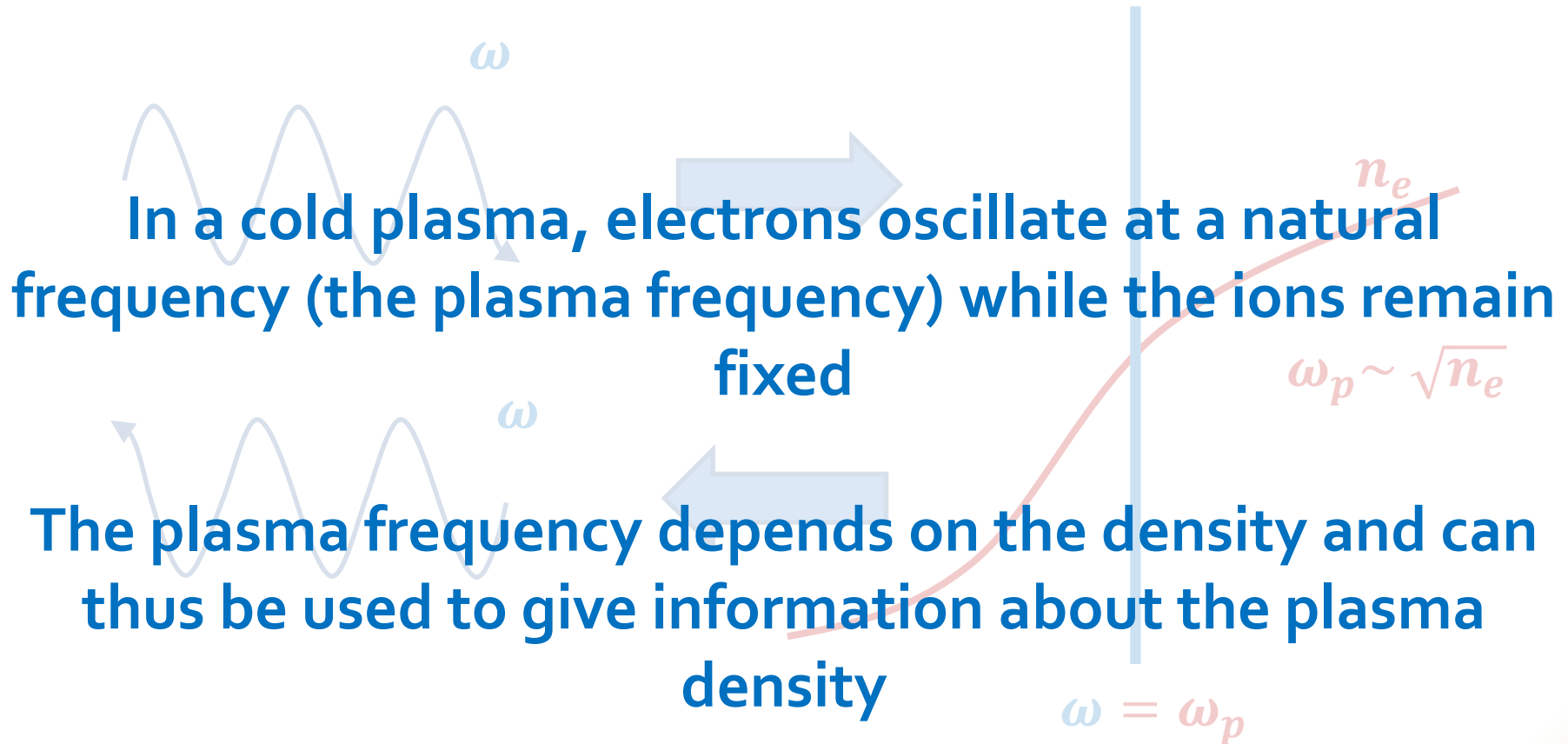
# Density cut-off: waves to probe density



# Density cut-off: waves to probe density



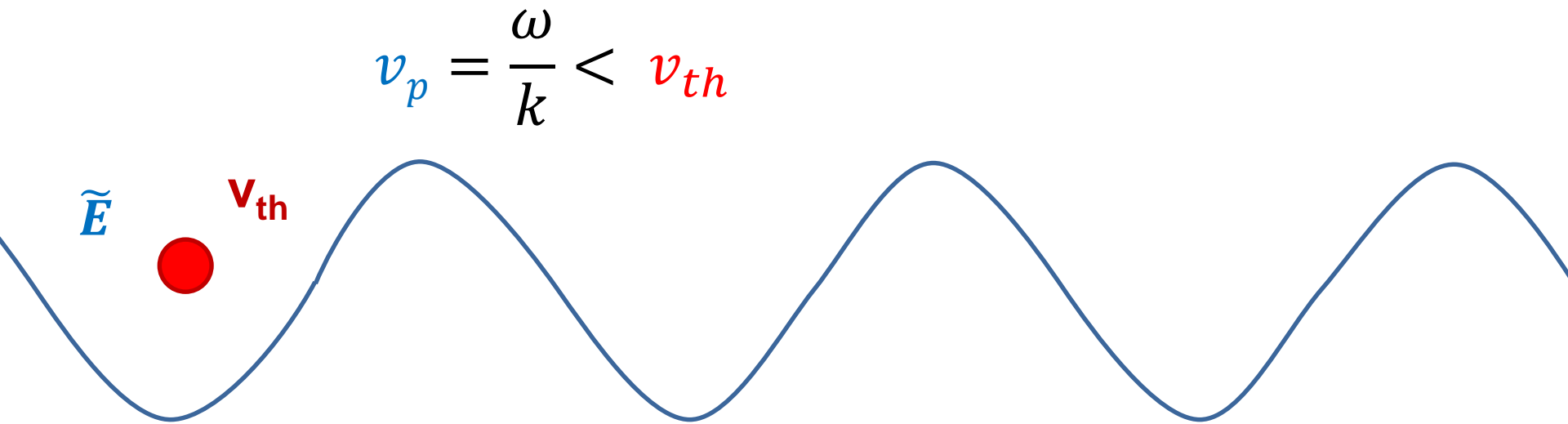
# Summary of the plasma wave



# Summary of waves in plasmas

- Plasma wave (no B-field necessary) in a cold plasma
  - Ions are stationary
- **Wave-particle interaction**
- Plasma wave in non-cold plasma
- MHD waves (B-field)
  - Perpendicular to the B-field
  - Parallel to the B-field

# Interaction of waves and particles : no interaction

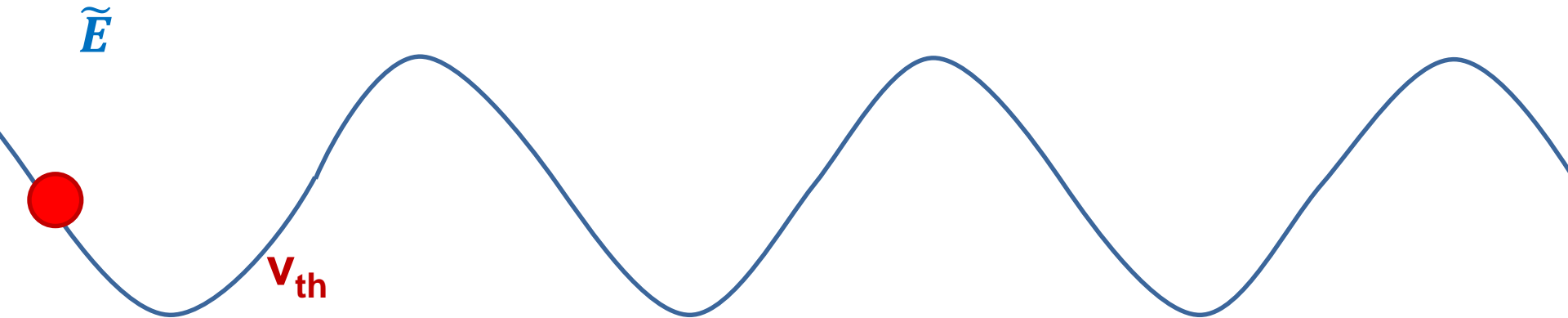


Particle is too fast to see the Electric field

$$-k^2 \tilde{E} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{E}$$

# Interaction of waves and particles : trapped particle

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} > v_{th}$$



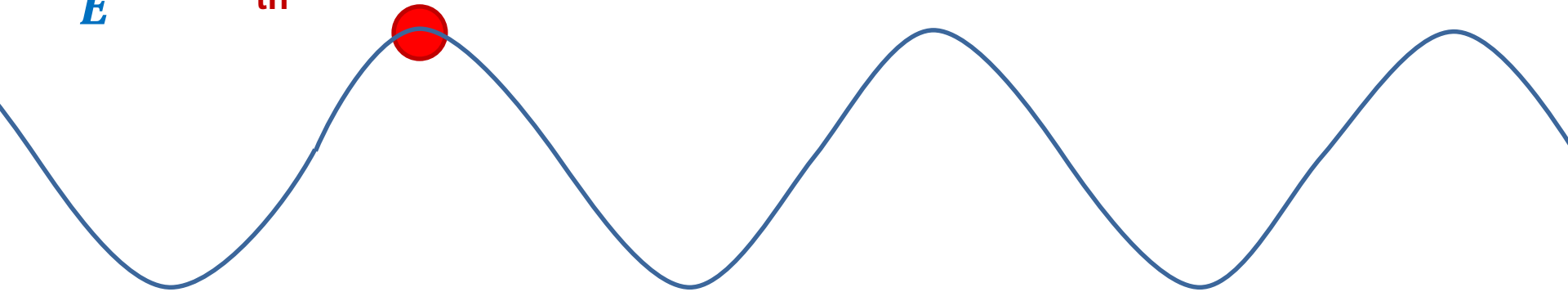
Particle is too slow and gets trapped

$$-k^2 \tilde{E} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{E}$$

# Interaction of waves and particles : resonance

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} \sim v_{th}$$

$\tilde{E}$   $v_{th}$



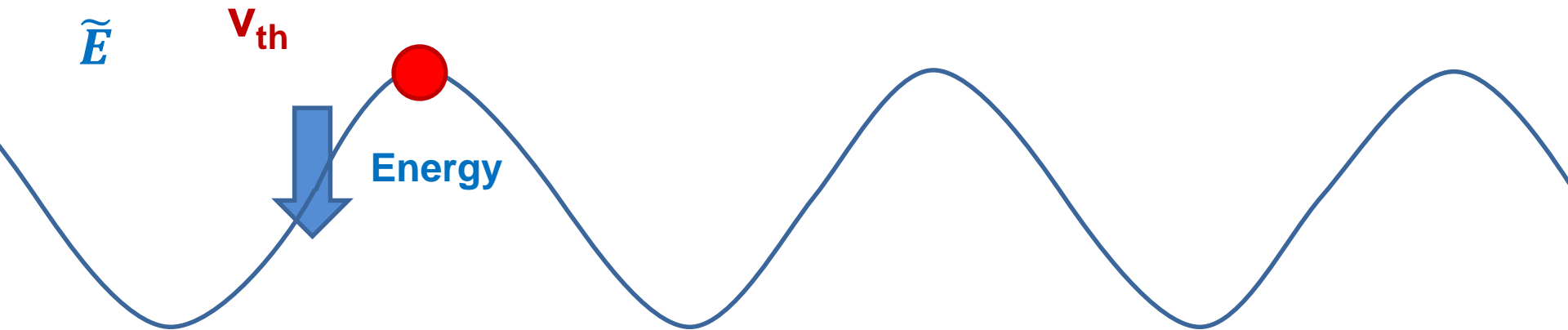
Particle has the right speed  
and gets accelerated by the electric field

$$-k^2 \tilde{E} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{E}$$



# Interaction of waves and particles : resonant particles can give energy to the wave

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} \sim v_{th}$$

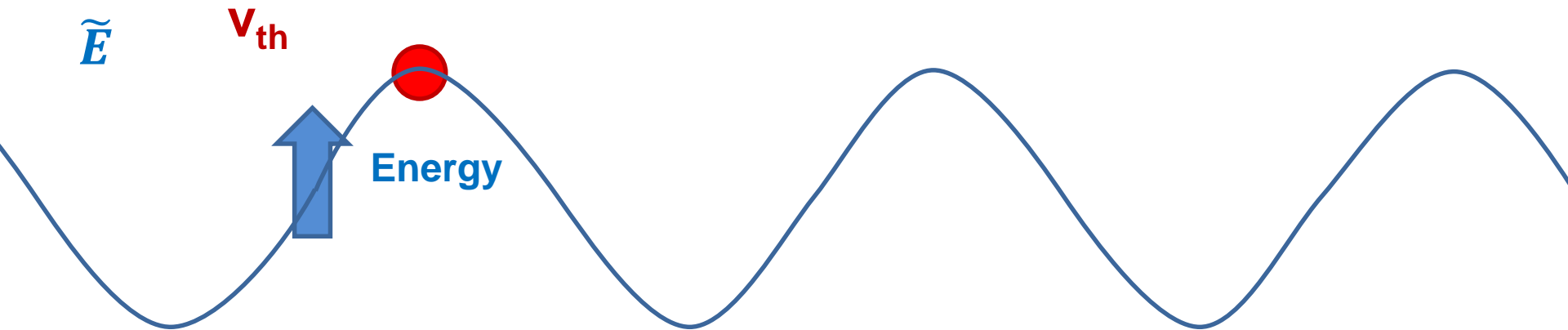


Particle has the right speed  
and gets accelerated by the electric field

$$-k^2 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

# Interaction of waves and particles : the wave can also give energy to the particles

$$v_p = \frac{\omega}{k} \sim v_{th}$$

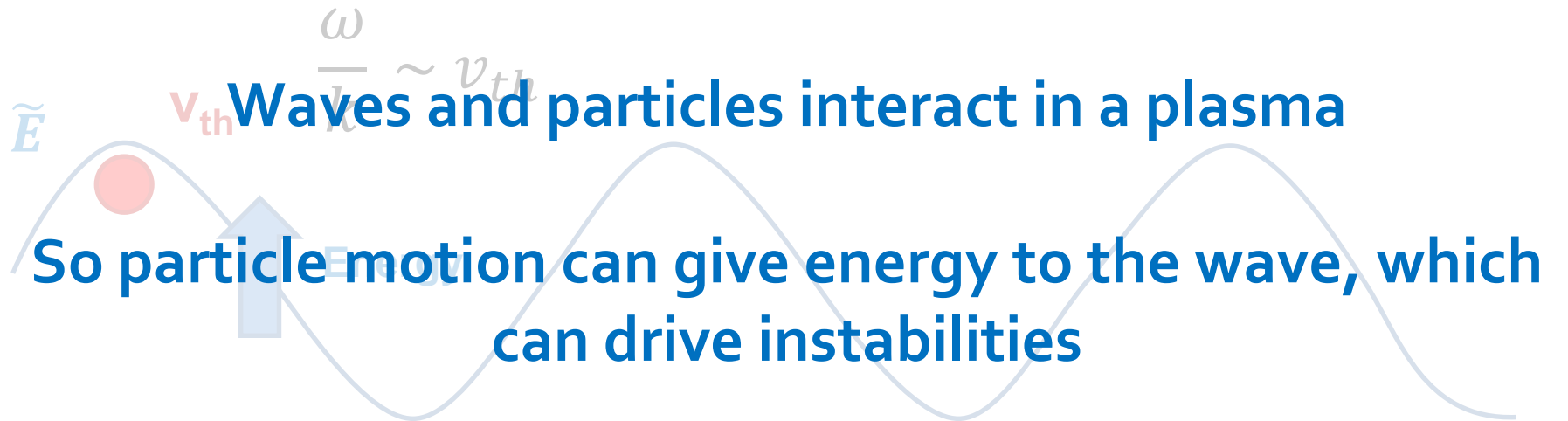


Particle has the right speed  
and gets accelerated by the electric field

$$-k^2 \tilde{E} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{E}$$

# Summary wave particle interaction

$\tilde{E}$   $v_{th}$   $\frac{\omega}{k} \sim v_{th}$  **Waves and particles interact in a plasma**



**So particle motion can give energy to the wave, which can drive instabilities**

**On the other hand, waves can be used to give energy to particles (see next talk)**

Particle has the right speed and gets accelerated by the electric field

$$-k^2 \tilde{E} = \frac{\omega_p^2}{c^2} \tilde{E} - \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{E}$$

# Summary of waves in plasmas

- Plasma wave (no B-field necessary) in a cold plasma
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# Plasma wave in a non-cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{n}}{\partial t} = -n_0 \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial r}$$

Equation of motion

$$m \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} = q \tilde{E}$$

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Isothermal

$$\tilde{p} = \tilde{n}T$$

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Isothermal

$$\tilde{p} = \tilde{n}T$$

Maxwell equations linearized

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q \tilde{n}$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \tilde{\mathbf{J}} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}} = q n_0 \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

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$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q\tilde{n} \quad \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = 0 \quad \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \tilde{\mathbf{J}} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}} = qn_0\tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

Use Fourier decomposition:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}} \exp(i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega t))$$



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$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{n_0 q}{m} \nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + \frac{n_0 \nabla^2 \tilde{p}}{n_0 m}$$

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$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{4\pi n_0 q^2 \tilde{n}}{m} + \frac{T \nabla^2 \tilde{n}}{m}$$

Equation of motion

$$m \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} = q \tilde{\mathbf{E}} + \frac{\nabla \tilde{p}}{n_0}$$

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$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q \tilde{n}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial t^2} = -\omega_p^2 \tilde{n} + v_{th}^2 \nabla^2 \tilde{n}$$

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$$\tilde{p} = \tilde{n} T$$

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = 4\pi q \tilde{n}$$

Plasma oscillation

Thermalization

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial t^2} = -\omega_p^2 \tilde{n} + v_{th}^2 \nabla^2 \tilde{n}$$



# Plasma wave in a non-cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$\omega \gg \omega_p$$



Plasma oscillations are too fast to be screened

$$\omega \ll \omega_p$$



Plasma response is trying to screen test charge

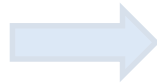
Plasma oscillation

Thermalization

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# Plasma wave in a non-cold plasma: linearized equations in 1D

$$\omega \gg \omega_p$$



Plasma oscillations are too fast to be screened

Including a non-zero temperature changes the dispersion relationship

$$\omega \ll \omega_p$$



Plasma response is trying to screen test charge

Now particles can be screened, depending on the frequency of the wave with respect to the plasma wave frequency

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{n}}{\partial t^2} = -\omega_p^2 \tilde{n} + v_{th}^2 \nabla^2 \tilde{n}$$



Plasma oscillation

Thermalization



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# Simple MHD waves : B-field is included

	$\nabla \cdot v = 0$	$\nabla \cdot v \neq 0$
$k = k\hat{x}$	Shear Alfvén	Acoustic
$k = k\hat{z}$		Magnetosonic

Parallel propagation

Perpendicular propagation

# The shear Alfvén wave

Wave propagation in direction of magnetic field and incompressible

Assumption:  $\mathbf{k} = k\hat{\mathbf{z}}$        $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$

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$$\nabla \cdot \left( \rho_0 \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\partial t} = \nabla \left( \tilde{p} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \frac{\nabla \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{4\pi} \right)$$

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$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 \left( \tilde{p} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \frac{\nabla \nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{4\pi}$$

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$$\tilde{p} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{8\pi} = 0$$

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Wave propagation in direction of magnetic field and incompressible

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Linearized equations in 1D:

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The wave is the result of Magnetic tension:

$$\frac{B/4\pi}{\rho_0/B} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{tension-in-line} \\ \text{mass-per-line} \end{array}$$

It is a little bit like 'plucking':  $B_0 \perp \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$

# The Acoustic wave

Wave propagation in direction of magnetic field and compressible

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Linearized equations (and jumping a few steps):

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} B_0 \tilde{B} / 4\pi + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} B_0 \tilde{B} / 4\pi \qquad \frac{\partial \tilde{B}_z}{\partial t} = \frac{B_0 \partial \tilde{v}}{\partial z} - \frac{B_0 \partial \tilde{v}}{\partial z}$$

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Link pressure to density and use continuity equation + math:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\rho}}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\gamma p_0}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\rho}}{\partial z^2}$$

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# The Magnetosonic wave (or compressible Alfvén wave)

Wave propagation perpendicular to the magnetic field and compressible

Assumption:  $\mathbf{k} = k\hat{\mathbf{x}}$        $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \neq 0$

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$$\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\mathbf{B}_0}{\rho_0} \cdot \nabla \tilde{\mathbf{v}}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}/\rho}{dt} = 0 \quad \tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \frac{\mathbf{B}_0 \tilde{\rho}}{\rho_0}$$

# The Magnetosonic wave (or compressible Alfvén wave)

Wave propagation perpendicular to the magnetic field and compressible

Assumption:  $\mathbf{k} = k\hat{\mathbf{x}}$        $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \neq 0$

Linearized equations (and jumping a few steps):

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla \left( \tilde{p} + \frac{\tilde{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \frac{\mathbf{B}_0}{\rho_0} \cdot \frac{\nabla \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{4\pi}$$

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Thermal

Magnetic

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla (\tilde{p}_T + \tilde{p}_B)$$

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Magnetic

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$$\frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\rho}}{\partial t^2} = \left( \frac{\overbrace{\gamma \rho_0}^{c_s^2}}{\rho_0} + \frac{\overbrace{B_0^2}^{v_A^2}}{4\pi \rho_0} \right) \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\rho}}{\partial z^2}$$

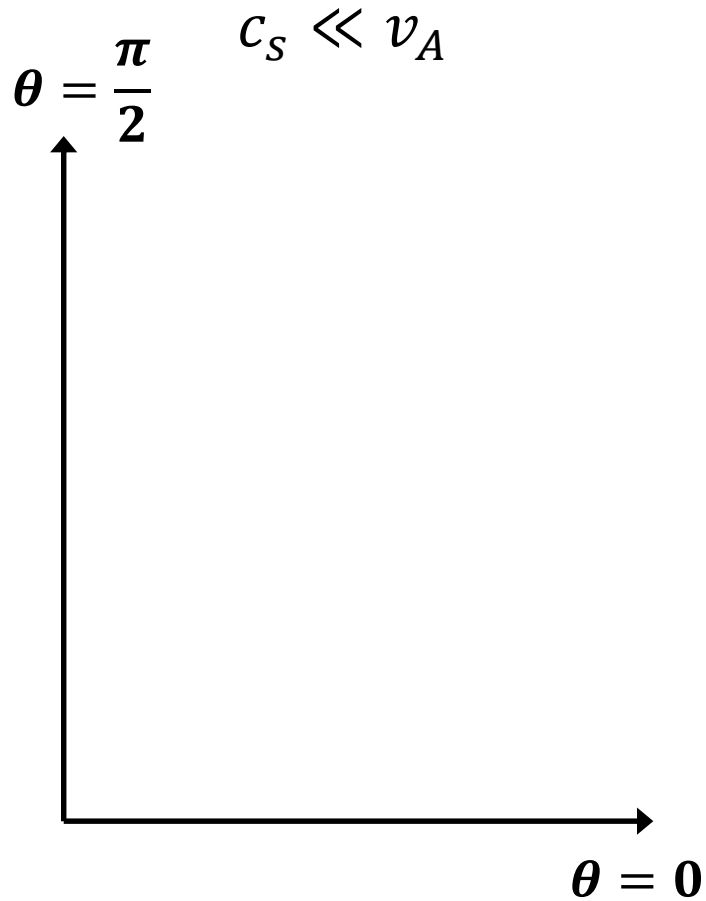
# Simple MHD waves : B-field is included

	$\nabla \cdot v = 0$	$\nabla \cdot v \neq 0$
$k = k\hat{x}$	Shear Alfvén	Acoustic
$k = k\hat{z}$		Magnetosonic

Parallel propagation

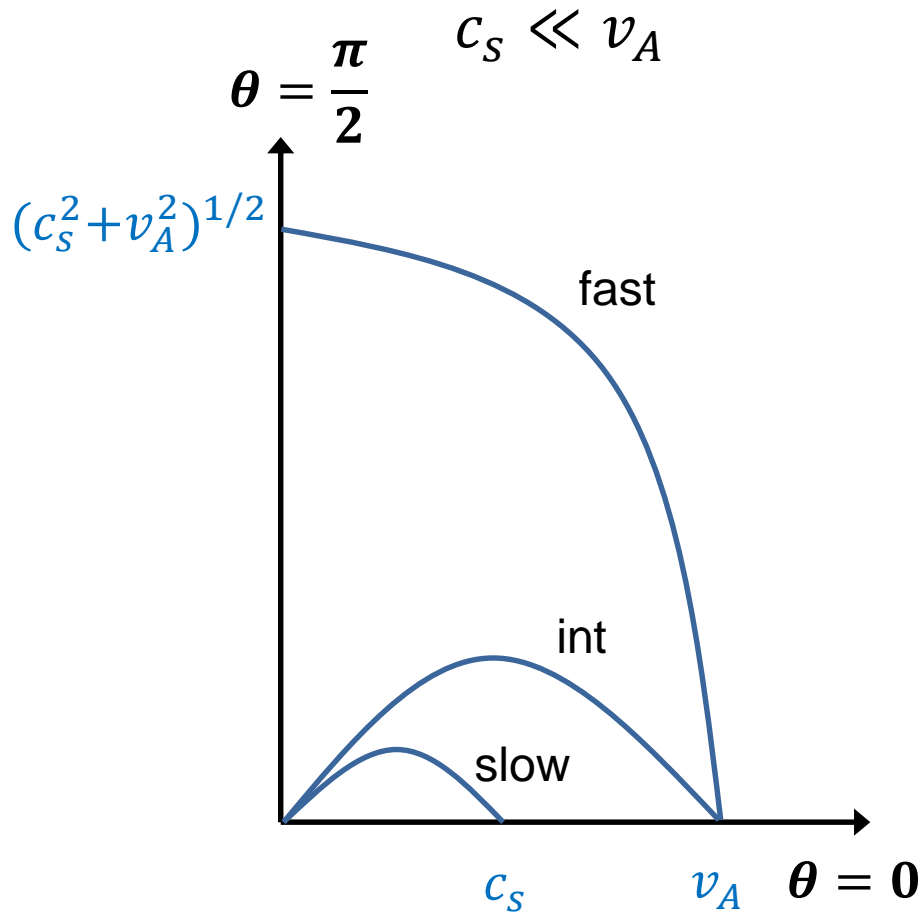
Perpendicular propagation

# MHD waves a summary

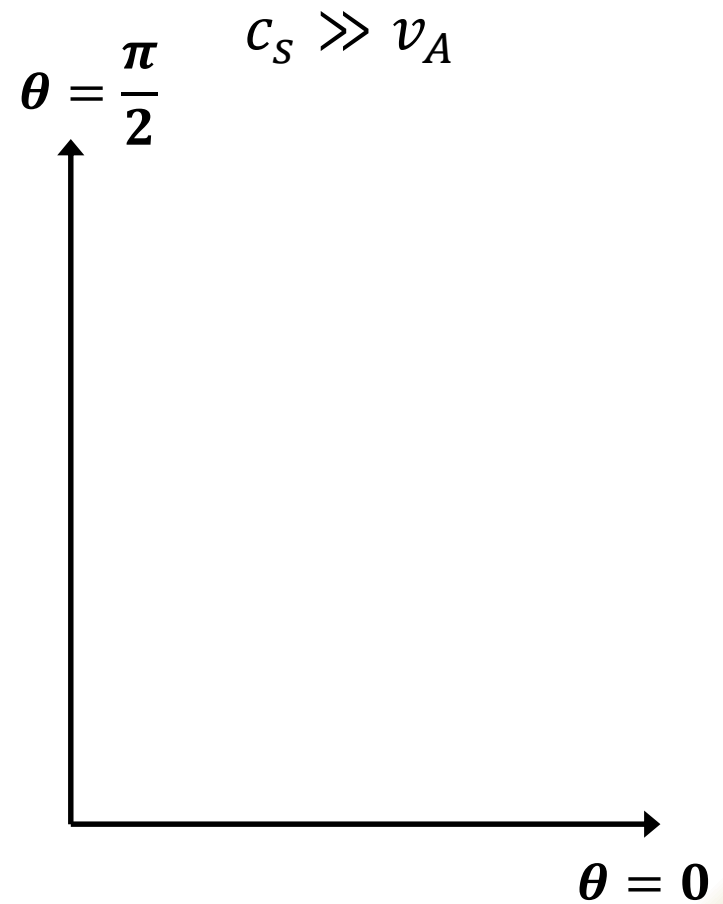
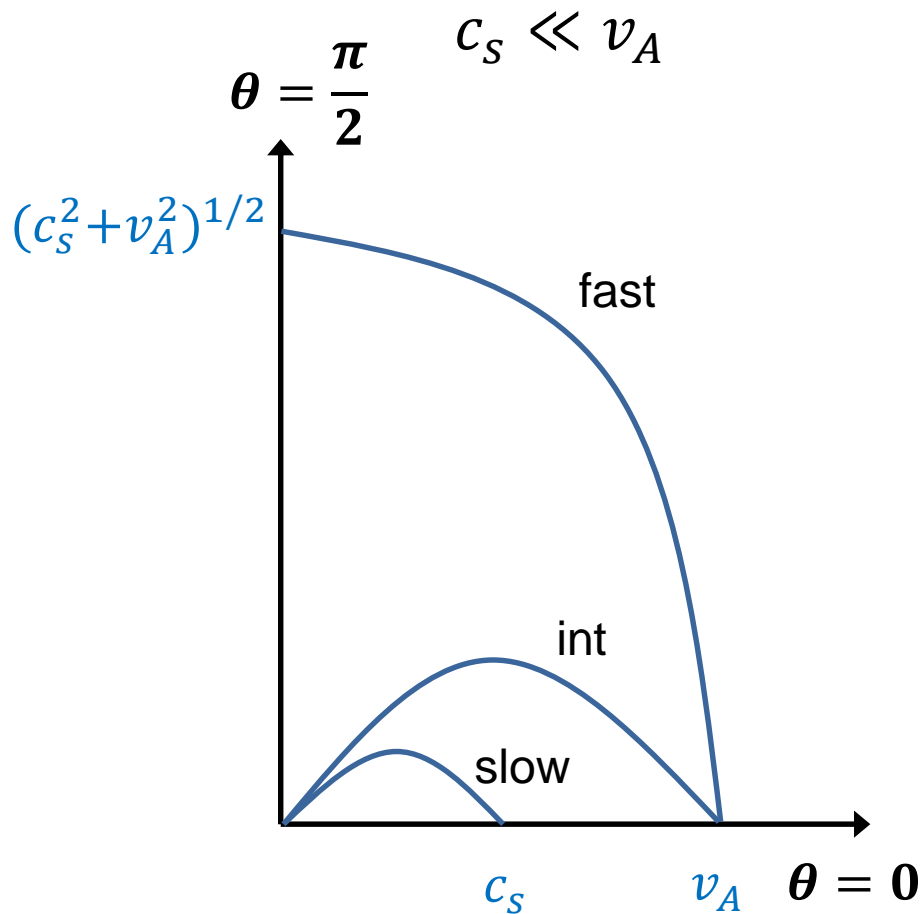




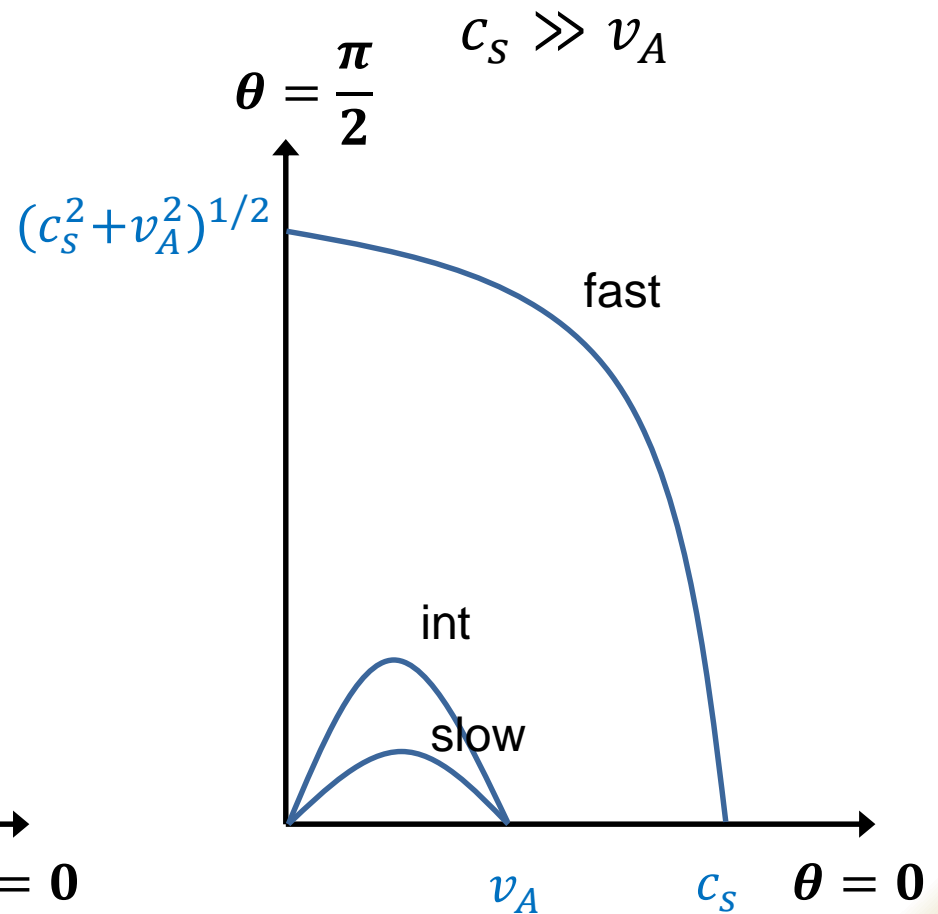
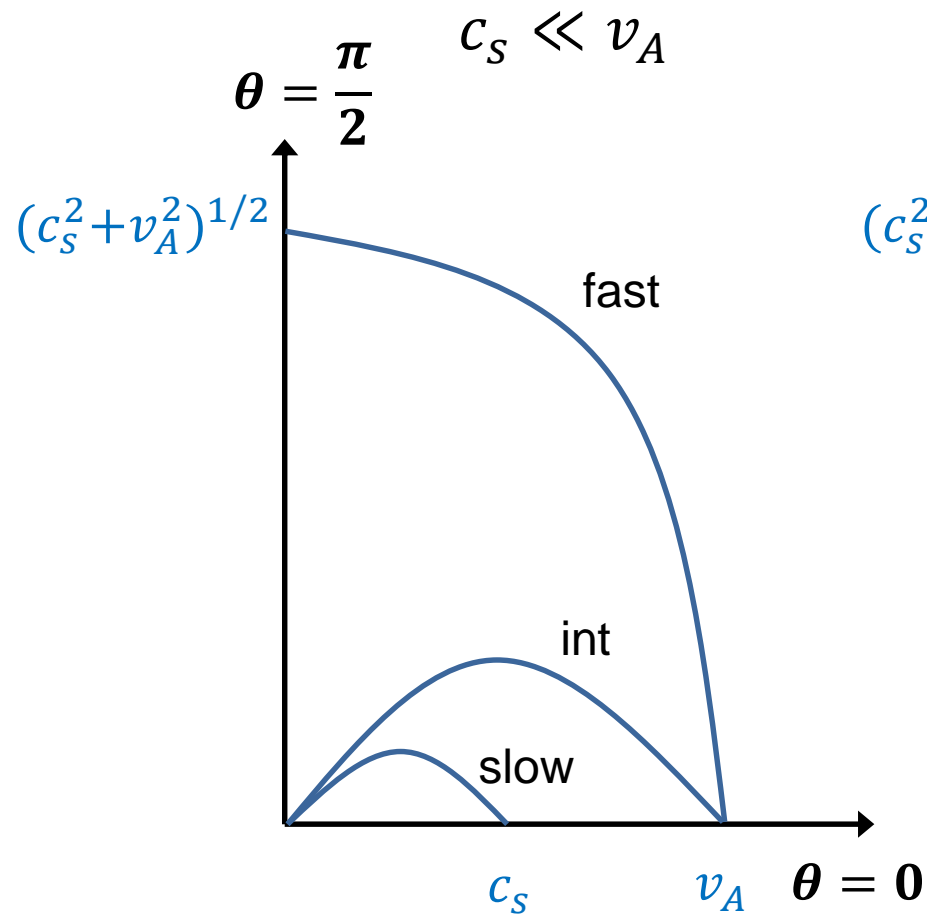
# MHD waves a summary



# MHD waves a summary



# MHD waves a summary



# Summary of waves in plasmas

- Langmuir wave
  - Electron and Ions are cold
  - Electrons are not cold
  - Use as a diagnostic
- Waves can exchanges energy with particles and vice-versa
- MHD waves
  - Shear Alfven wave
  - Acoustic Wave
  - Magnetosonic Wave