Surface wave analysis with plasma resonance

HOJO Hitoshi, SHIMAMURA Akihiro, UCHIDA Naoto, YASAKA Yasuyoshi1 and MASE Atsushi2

Plasma Research Center, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba 305-8577, Japan
1Faculty of Engineering, Kobe University, Kobe 657-8501, Japan
2Art, Science and Technology Center for Cooperative Research, Kyushu University, Kasuga 816-8580, Japan

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Surface waves are studied in axially non-uniform cylindrical cold plasma with a linear density profile. The real frequency, damping rate, and eigenfunction for the transverse magnetic mode in pure surface waves are obtained for collisional plasmas, where the plasma resonance is taken into account. It is shown that the eigenfunction peaks at the position of the plasma resonance layer.

**Keywords:** surface wave, transverse magnetic mode, plasma resonance, non-uniform processing plasma

Surface waves have attracted much interest in the context of heating and diagnostics for processing plasmas. The surface waves discussed by Ghanashev et al. [1-3] are based on a simple uniform plasma model; however, strictly speaking, the plasma is non-uniform.

In this paper, we study surface waves in cold cylindrical plasmas having a non-uniform axial density profile. In this case, we encounter the problem of plasma resonance [4,5]; that is, the wave equation becomes singular at the layer where the wave frequency \( \omega \) is equal to the electron plasma frequency \( \omega_p \) when there are no collisions. Here, we solve the dispersion relation and eigenfunction for the transverse magnetic (TM) modes of surface waves, taking into account this plasma resonance.

Our starting point is Maxwell’s equations for electromagnetic wave fields \( \mathbf{E} \) and \( \mathbf{B} \) given by

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{B} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E},
\]

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\varepsilon \mathbf{E}) = c^2 \nabla \times \mathbf{B},
\]

where \( \varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \), and \( \varepsilon_0 \) and \( \mu_0 \) are the permittivity and permeability of free space, respectively, and \( c \) is the speed of light. If we assume an \( \exp(-i\omega t) \) dependence for \( \mathbf{E} \) and \( \mathbf{B} \), we obtain from eqs. (1) and (2),

\[
(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - k_0^2 \varepsilon \mathbf{E} = 0.
\]

where \( k_0 = \omega/c \). We assume here that \( \varepsilon \) is radially uniform and is a function of \( z \) only. In this case, eq.(3) is divided into the following two equations:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{E}_z - \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + k_0^2 \varepsilon \right) \mathbf{E}_z = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathbf{E}_r = \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + k_0^2 \varepsilon \right) \mathbf{E}_r = 0.
\]

In this case we assume that a radially uniform plasma is contained in a metal chamber having radius \( a \). We also assume an axial model shown in Fig. 1. The metal plate corresponding to the slot antenna is located at \( z = -h \), quartz of \( \varepsilon_1 = 4 \) exists for \( -h < z < 0 \), the plasma density increases linearly for \( 0 < z < d \), and the density is uniform with \( N_0 \) for \( z > d \). When we assume a separable wave form as, for \( E_r \) and \( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}_z \),

\[
E_r(r, \theta, z) = \psi(r, \theta)F(z),
\]

\[
\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}_z(r, \theta, z) = \psi(r, \theta)G(z),
\]

and furthermore, if we assume that \( \psi \) satisfies

\[
\left( \nabla_z^2 + \lambda^2 \right) \psi(r, \theta) = 0,
\]

we obtain coupled equations for \( F \) and \( G \) as

\[
\frac{\lambda^2}{\partial z^2} F + \left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + k_0^2 \varepsilon(z) \right] G = 0,
\]

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ \frac{\lambda^2}{\partial z^2} - k_0^2 \varepsilon(z) \right] F = 0.
\]

The solution of eq.(8) is given by

\[
\psi(r, \theta) = J_m(\lambda r \varepsilon_1) \left[ c_1 \cos(m\theta) + c_2 \sin(m\theta) \right],
\]

where \( J_m \) is the Bessel function of the first kind, \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) are

\[
\text{Fig. 1 Model with a non-uniform density profile.}
\]
the integration constants, and \( m \) is an integer. From the boundary condition that \( E_\theta = E_z = 0 \) at \( r = a \), that is, \( J_m(\lambda a) = 0 \), we obtain
\[
\lambda = j_{mn}/a, \tag{12}
\]
where \( j_{mn} \) is the \( n \)-th root of \( J_m(x) = 0 \).

We next consider the solutions of eqs.\((9)\) and \((10)\).

From the boundary conditions in which \( E_\theta = E_z = 0 \) at \( z = -h \), and \( E_z = 0 \) at \( z = \infty \), we obtain, for \(-h < z < 0\),
\[
F = \alpha_0 \cosh[p_1(z + h)], \tag{13}
\]
\[
G = -dF/dz = -\alpha_0 p_1 \sinh[p_1(z + h)], \tag{14}
\]
\((k_0^2 < \lambda^2)\) and for \( z > d \),
\[
F = \alpha_\delta \exp(-p_\delta z), \tag{15}
\]
\[
G = -dF/dz = p_\delta \alpha_\delta \exp(-p_\delta z), \tag{16}
\]
where \( p_\delta = (\lambda^2 - k_0^2 \epsilon_1)^{1/2} \), \( \epsilon_1 = 4 \), \( \epsilon_\delta = 1 - (\alpha_\delta \omega/\omega)^2 \), and \( \alpha_\delta \omega = (e^2 N_0/\epsilon_0^2 m)^{1/2} \). For \( 0 < z < d \), where the plasma is non-uniform, we can obtain an equation for \( G \) as
\[
\frac{d^2G}{dz^2} + \frac{\lambda^2 - k_0^2 \epsilon_1}{\epsilon_\delta} \frac{dG}{dz} - \left( \lambda^2 - k_0^2 \epsilon_1 \right) G = 0, \tag{17}
\]
where \( \epsilon_\delta(z) = 1 - (\alpha_\delta \omega/\omega)^2(z/d) \). For \( \lambda^2 \gg |k_0^2 \epsilon_1| \), which is justified for low-density plasmas, eq.\((17)\) is reduced approximately to
\[
\frac{d^2G}{dz^2} + \frac{1}{\epsilon_\delta} \frac{dG}{dz} - \lambda^2 G = 0, \tag{18}
\]
where the plasma resonance takes place at the zero \( z_0 = d(\omega/\alpha_\delta \omega)^2 \) of \( \epsilon_\delta(z) = 0 \). The solution of eq.\((18)\) is then given by
\[
G = \alpha_\delta I_0[\lambda(z - z_0)] + \alpha_\delta K_0[\lambda(z - z_0)], \tag{19}
\]
\[
F = -\frac{1}{\lambda^2} G, \tag{20}
\]
where \( I_0 \) and \( K_0 \) are the modified Bessel function of the first and second kinds, respectively. The dispersion relation and three coefficients among \( \alpha_\delta \) \((J = 0 - 3)\) are determined based on the continuity conditions of \( \varepsilon(z)F(z) \) and \( G(z) \) at two interfaces \( z = 0 \) and \( d \); i.e.,
\[
\begin{align*}
\left[ \varepsilon F \right]_{z=0} &= \left[ \varepsilon F \right]_{z=0}, \\
\left[ G \right]_{z=0} &= \left[ G \right]_{z=0}. \tag{21}
\end{align*}
\]

We here introduce collisions between plasma and neutral particles to avoid the singularity of \( F \) and \( G \) at \( z = z_0 \), that is, we replace \( \omega^2 \) by \( \omega(\omega + iv) \) in \( \varepsilon_\delta \) and \( \varepsilon_\delta \). We thus obtain a complex dispersion equation of TM surface modes as
\[
\frac{I_0(\lambda z_0) - t_1 I_1(\lambda z_0)}{K_0(\lambda z_0) + t_1 K_1(\lambda z_0)} = \frac{I_0(\lambda z_0) + t_1 I_1(\lambda z_0)}{K_0(\lambda z_0) - t_1 K_1(\lambda z_0)}, \tag{22}
\]
where \( z_0 = \lambda a = z_0 \), \( z_0 = \lambda a = z_0 \), \( z_0 = \omega a (\omega + iv)/\omega \), and
\[
t_1 = \frac{\alpha_\delta}{\lambda} \tanh \left( p_1 h \right), \quad t_2 = -\frac{\alpha_\delta}{\lambda}. \tag{23}
\]

In Fig.2, we show the real frequency and damping rate of the TM surface mode as a function of \( (\alpha_\delta \omega/a)^2 \), where \( h/\lambda \)
in 0.2, \( d/a = 0.3 \), and \( (m,n) = (8,1) \) and we assume \( \varepsilon \), less than \( 0.01N_0/N_\alpha \), \( N_\alpha \) being the density at \( (\alpha \omega/a)^2 \) \( = 50 \). In Fig.3, we also show the eigenfunction \( (G) \) of the surface mode for \( (\alpha \omega/a)^2 \) \( = 50 \), where the other parameters are the same as those in Fig.2. We can find that the eigenfunction of the surface mode becomes peaked at the position \( z_0 \) of the plasma resonance satisfying \( \omega = \omega_0 \) \( \) (\( \nu = 0 \)). We also find that the profile of \( [G] \) is quite similar to that of \( [G] \) shown in Fig.2 in the plasma region, but \( F \) is discontinuous at \( z = 0 \) based on eq.\((21)\).

Finally, we note that we can obtain a finite damping rate due to phase mixing effects caused by the plasma resonance even for collision-free \( (\nu = 0 \) plasmas). This problem is analogous to that of shear Alfven resonance \( [6] \). The analysis for the case of \( \nu = 0 \) will be discussed elsewhere.

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