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Gregory D. Fleishman • Igor N. Toptygin

# Cosmic Electrodynamics

Electrodynamics and Magnetic  
Hydrodynamics of Cosmic Plasmas



Springer

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# Preface

Astrophysics is a highly important part of the modern vision of the world around us. Over the past century, it has transformed the very foundation and basic philosophical concepts on the fundamental laws of nature controlling the structure and evolution of the Universe. One can recall such fascinating astrophysical discoveries as the expansion of the Universe and more recently the accelerated expansion; dark matter and dark energy and so on. This is why astrophysics is studied in hundreds of universities throughout the world; astrophysical courses are taken by students with highly diverse backgrounds, often concentrating on disciplines lacking a direct connection to astrophysics.

This textbook considers primarily those astrophysical and space plasma phenomena, in which electromagnetic interactions play a primary or at least essential role. This textbook has been written based on graduate and undergraduate courses and seminars on “cosmic electrodynamics,” “magneto-hydrodynamics,” “plasma astrophysics,” and “radiative processes in astrophysics” that the authors have taught to many generations of students at State Polytechnic University (St. Petersburg, Russia) and New Jersey Institute of Technology (Newark, New Jersey, USA), cumulatively, over more than half a century, in conjunction with the authors’ astrophysical studies in the field of theoretical astrophysics, including plasma astrophysics, cosmic rays, solar wind, solar flares, supernova remnants, performed mainly at the above universities, Ioffe Institute (St. Petersburg, Russia), and National Radio Astronomy Observatory (Charlottesville, Virginia, USA). Jointly, we have a long history of teaching these sciences in Russia and the USA, and at some point we felt more and more strongly a deficit of appropriate textbooks to teach our students, which led us to substitute journal papers for use in teaching. We know that many of our colleagues teaching these courses experience similar feelings, so we decided to convert our research and teaching experience to a modern, concise textbook on cosmic electrodynamics and magnetohydrodynamics.

A driver of the textbook writing was, therefore, our willingness to share our teaching experience with our peers and supply them with a textbook representing a core, self-contained reading source, much needed to facilitate delivering undergraduate and graduate courses to students concentrating in

the field of astrophysics, solar/stellar Physics, and space physics. The field of cosmic electrodynamics is exceptionally broad, which implies that there is no hope to describe this science field fully and comprehensively within a single textbook. Therefore, it is highly important to clearly formulate the concept of material selection and the approach to depth of presentation.

First of all, we are going to make the case that modern cosmic electrodynamics is a science dealing with a highly nonlinear, nonstationary, turbulent conducting fluid (plasma) in conditions of strong energy release manifesting itself in fast fluid motions, strong magnetic field amplification, and energetic particle generation. We made an attempt to sort out and include only a “fundamental” theory, although not necessarily the “old” one: in many cases we include relatively recent discoveries and developments if we had a good reason to believe that they are reliable and potentially broadly applicable or science transforming.

Furthermore, in application of the theory we restricted ourselves in most cases to analytical solutions of the specific problems discussed: it is the analytical solutions and order-of-magnitude estimates made with them that develop our understanding of sophisticated natural phenomena. Even though we fully appreciate numerical methods and corresponding results and widely use them in our everyday research, we believe that analytical study (solutions and estimates) is the key in developing students’ physical understanding and intuition, which is needed to create the science vision, to dig up what is hidden behind observations, and, in particular, to set up sophisticated numerical simulations as well as sort out and interpret their results.

The textbook presents fundamental concepts of the science illustrated by numerous examples of astrophysical applications of the theory. In doing so we try to combine classical concepts with their new developments and clearly demarcate what is well established and what is still under debate. We attempt to present the live science and illustrate how apparently complicated phenomena can be addressed and understood both qualitatively and quantitatively using well-known physics principles and equations applied under appropriate approximations and simplifications. For this purpose a limited number of astrophysical examples are considered in greater detail than it might be expected for most textbooks. In many cases we specifically address the points of agreement or disagreement between the theory and astrophysical observations, employing the latest observational data and modern theory.

The textbook delivers the most essential equations, ideas, and models widely used in modern astrophysics (see the chapter titles as a guide) in the order of increasing complexity of the material: it begins with basic concepts and linear processes including linear eigenmodes (Chaps. 1–3), then considers instabilities, weak and strong nonlinearity, and turbulence (Chaps. 4–6), and finally addresses key astrophysical problems of particle acceleration and transport, magnetic field generation, and electromagnetic radiation including self-consistent nonlinear models (Chaps. 7–12). Later chapters extensively use

the material given in earlier chapters. We tried to avoid the opposite cross-referencing of later chapters, but it was not always possible, which once again illustrates that various astrophysical phenomena are tightly connected. Many topics are presented with a full theoretical completeness, although in other cases derivations are truncated or fully omitted depending on the availability of the required theory in complementary reading on the subject (Melrose 1980; Kulsrud 2005; Somov 2006, 2007). For example, the highly important topic of magnetic reconnection is described very briefly, given that it is very well described by Kulsrud (2005) and Somov (2006, 2007).

One of the main focuses of the textbook is detailed application of the theory to astrophysical phenomena. Obviously, we cannot apply all the presented theory to all astrophysical objects and phenomena; thus, we apply some of the theory to some objects/phenomena in such a way to eventually touch upon most (if not all) of the diverse astrophysical objects including stellar interior and atmosphere, solar/stellar flares and winds, interstellar medium, supernova explosions, neutron stars, superbubbles, supernova remnants, pulsar wind nebulae, active galactic nuclei, and gamma-ray burst sources. It may seem that having so many diverse objects implies necessarily that they can be described only superficially given a limited book volume. Nevertheless, this is not the case: many phenomena are presented in all essential detail and a number of cutting-edge examples of comprehensive data analysis and interpretation are given. Complementarily, in most of the cases the derived equations and equation sets are general enough to be immediately used in scientific research work without further consulting original journal papers. This implies that the textbook will be highly useful well beyond the target audience (undergraduate and graduate students)—for active researches in astrophysics, space physics, and, perhaps, geophysics.

To easily learn the textbook, the basic knowledge obtained in general mathematics and physics courses is desirable along with a general astrophysics course. However, understanding of our book does not require any special knowledge beyond that; e.g., the most essential information from plasma physics is given in the textbook itself, although a more specialized and detailed information can be learned from Melrose (1980) and Kulsrud (2005). The book has a long list of recommended bibliography, which can be helpful for both students and researchers as a guideline for deeper study of a topic. The reference list, however, is incomplete: in most cases we included the monographs, textbooks, and review articles, which we actually used in our work on the topic. Not surprisingly, the reader can notice many sources published in Russian, given that this is the main language of both co-authors of the book. Citation of original papers is limited to the cases when we explicitly use the corresponding paper in devising a topic or in case of a few “classical” science-transforming papers. No paper has been ignored intentionally.

Finally, the authors are happy to sincerely thank our colleagues and collaborators V. Abramenko, A. Altyntsev, T. Bastian, M. Bietenholz, A. Bykov, D. Gary, P. Goode, E. Kontar, A. Kuznetsov, V. Melnikov, G. Nita, K. Platonov, J. Stone, A. Tsygan, D. Yakovlev, and V. Yurchishin for their help, highly important discussions, or sharing their observational data, as well as funding agencies NSF, NASA, Russian Ministry of Education and Science, and RFBR, which have partly been supporting our research in the areas closely related to this textbook. We are highly grateful to Professor B. Somov, who reviewed the entire textbook and came up with a number of highly valuable comments, which helped to significantly improve the final manuscript.

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# Contents

Preface . . . . .	v
Notations (Conventions) . . . . .	xix
Acronyms . . . . .	xxi
<b>1 General Information About Cosmic Media and Approaches to Their Analysis</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Terrestrial, Solar, and Astrophysical Plasmas . . . . .	1
1.2 Single-Particle Motion, Drifts, and Adiabatic Invariants . . . . .	8
1.2.1 Particle in Constant Uniform Magnetic and Electric Fields . . . . .	9
1.2.2 Averaging over the Fast Motions: Drifts . . . . .	12
1.2.3 Adiabatic Invariants. The Particle Energy Change in Drift Approximation . . . . .	15
1.3 Kinetic Theory and MHD Approximation . . . . .	17
1.3.1 Microscopic Description of Plasma . . . . .	18
1.3.2 Statistical Representation of Plasmas . . . . .	19
1.3.3 Magnetohydrodynamic Description of Collisional Plasmas . . . . .	22
1.3.4 Ohm's Law in a Partially Ionized Collisional Plasma . . . . .	25
1.3.5 Plasma in a Weak Magnetic Field . . . . .	31
1.3.6 Plasma in a Strong Magnetic Field . . . . .	36
1.3.7 Dissipative Kinetic Coefficients . . . . .	39
1.3.8 Collisionless Plasma . . . . .	41
Problems . . . . .	45
Answers and Solutions . . . . .	47
<b>2 Magnetohydrodynamics of the Cosmic Plasma</b>	<b>53</b>
2.1 Hydrodynamic Equations of the Neutral Gas . . . . .	53
2.1.1 General Properties . . . . .	54
2.2 MHD Equations . . . . .	56
2.2.1 Magnetic Pressure and Magnetic Tensions . . . . .	58
2.2.2 Ideal MHD Equations . . . . .	58
2.2.3 Quiescent Prominence Model . . . . .	59

2.3	Diffusion, Reconnection, and Freezing-in . . . . .	61
2.3.1	Diffusion of the Magnetic Field . . . . .	61
2.3.2	Freezing-in of the Magnetic Field and Magnetic Reconnection . . . . .	62
2.3.3	Stationary Configurations . . . . .	64
2.4	Linear Modes in MHD . . . . .	65
2.4.1	Basic Equations and MHD Dispersion Relation . . . . .	66
2.4.2	Dispersion and Polarization of Linear Modes . . . . .	67
2.4.3	Damping of MHD Waves . . . . .	72
2.5	Solar and Stellar Winds . . . . .	74
2.5.1	Basic Observational Data About the Solar Wind . . . . .	75
2.5.2	Parker's Model of the Solar Corona Expansion . . . . .	77
2.5.3	Magnetic Field in a Cavity Filled by a Stellar Wind . . . . .	83
	Problems . . . . .	86
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	88
<b>3</b>	<b>Plasma Dispersion: Linear Modes in the Plasma</b>	<b>93</b>
3.1	Eigenmodes . . . . .	95
3.1.1	Principal Values and Eigenvectors of the Maxwellian Tensor . . . . .	95
3.1.2	Dispersion Relations for the Eigenmodes of an Anisotropic and Gyrotropic Medium . . . . .	98
3.1.3	Principal Values and Eigenvectors of the Maxwellian Tensor and Their Relation to the Eigenmodes of the Medium . . . . .	99
3.2	Cold Plasma Approximation . . . . .	101
3.2.1	General Case . . . . .	101
3.2.2	Hydrogen Plasma . . . . .	103
3.2.3	Asymptotic Behavior of the Eigenmodes . . . . .	106
3.2.4	Multi-component Plasma . . . . .	108
3.3	Kinetic Approach to Collisionless Plasma . . . . .	112
3.3.1	Dielectric Tensor and Resonant Particles . . . . .	112
3.3.2	Maxwellian Plasma . . . . .	115
3.3.3	Wave Damping in Equilibrium Plasma . . . . .	119
3.3.4	Bernstein Modes . . . . .	121
3.4	Collisional Plasma . . . . .	122
3.4.1	General Case . . . . .	122
3.4.2	High-Frequency Case . . . . .	124
3.4.3	Ion Cyclotron Resonances . . . . .	125
3.4.4	Low-Frequency Case . . . . .	127
	Problems . . . . .	128
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	129

<b>4</b>	<b>Wave–Particle and Wave–Wave Interactions</b>	<b>139</b>
4.1	Two-Stream Instabilities . . . . .	139
4.1.1	Excitation of Plasma Waves by Electron Beams . . . . .	140
4.1.2	Weibel Instability . . . . .	143
4.2	Quasilinear Approximation . . . . .	145
4.2.1	General Treatment . . . . .	145
4.2.2	Saturation of Instabilities due to Wave–Particle Interactions . . . . .	149
4.3	Plasma Nonlinearity and Wave–Wave Interactions . . . . .	150
4.3.1	Three-Wave Interactions and Nonlinear Scattering on Particles . . . . .	151
4.3.2	Wave Turbulence in a Plasma . . . . .	155
	Problems . . . . .	161
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	161
<b>5</b>	<b>Nonlinear MHD Waves and Discontinuities</b>	<b>163</b>
5.1	Simple MHD Waves . . . . .	163
5.1.1	Entropy Simple Waves . . . . .	165
5.1.2	Alfvén Simple Waves . . . . .	166
5.1.3	Fast and Slow Simple Waves . . . . .	167
5.1.4	Turnover of the Simple Wave . . . . .	168
5.2	Dissipation and Dispersion Effects: Solitons . . . . .	169
5.2.1	Burgers Equation . . . . .	170
5.2.2	The Korteweg–de Vries Equation . . . . .	172
5.2.3	KdV Solitons . . . . .	176
5.3	Discontinuities in the Plasma . . . . .	179
5.3.1	Local Properties and Classification . . . . .	179
5.3.2	Magnetic Reconnection . . . . .	182
5.3.3	MHD Discontinuities in IPM . . . . .	185
5.4	MHD Shock Waves . . . . .	186
5.4.1	Local Properties . . . . .	186
5.4.2	The Front Structure of a Shock Wave . . . . .	189
5.4.3	Measurements of Shock Wave Parameters . . . . .	194
5.4.4	Collisionless Shock Waves . . . . .	195
5.4.5	Evolutionarity of Discontinuities . . . . .	197
5.5	Supernova Explosions and Evolution of Its Remnants . . . . .	198
5.5.1	Strong Explosion: Sedov Solution . . . . .	198
5.5.2	Magnetic Field in Strong Explosion Region . . . . .	201
5.5.3	Stages of the Supernova Remnant Shock Evolution . . . . .	204
5.6	Strong Explosion in an Inhomogeneous Medium, Kompaneets Solution, and Superbubble Blowouts . . . . .	208
5.6.1	Point Explosion in a Stratified Atmosphere . . . . .	209
5.6.2	Superbubble Blowout . . . . .	211
	Problems . . . . .	212
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	214

<b>6</b>	<b>Instability of MHD Motion and Astrophysical MHD Turbulence</b>	<b>217</b>
6.1	Gravitational Instability . . . . .	219
6.2	Convective Instability . . . . .	222
6.2.1	Necessary Condition of Convection: Stationary Case . . . . .	222
6.2.2	Convection in a Weakly Compressible Fluid . . . . .	224
6.2.3	Convection in the Laboratory and Astrophysics . . . . .	228
6.3	Instability of Contact Discontinuity with Magnetic Field (Rayleigh–Taylor Instability) . . . . .	231
6.4	Instability of Tangential Discontinuity with Magnetic Field (Kelvin–Helmholtz Instability) . . . . .	235
6.5	Thermal Instability . . . . .	237
6.6	Turbulence and Correlation Tensor Formalism . . . . .	240
6.6.1	Physical Picture of Turbulent Motion . . . . .	240
6.6.2	Averaging of Turbulent Parameters and Correlation Tensors . . . . .	241
6.7	The Theory of Turbulence by Kolmogorov and Obukhov . . . . .	245
6.8	Weak MHD Turbulence in Incompressible Conducting Fluid with Magnetic Field . . . . .	248
6.8.1	Weak MHD Turbulence Below the Diffusive Scale . . . . .	249
6.8.2	Iroshnikov–Kraichnan Model of Weak Alfvénic Turbulence . . . . .	250
6.9	Anisotropic Turbulence: Critically Balanced Cascade . . . . .	252
6.9.1	Developed Incompressible Turbulence . . . . .	253
6.9.2	Weak Anisotropic Alfvénic Turbulence in Incompressible Plasma . . . . .	254
6.9.3	Critically Balanced Cascade . . . . .	255
6.9.4	Turbulence in Unmagnetized Plasma . . . . .	255
6.9.5	Turbulence Below the Viscous Scale . . . . .	256
6.9.6	Turbulence in the Compressible Conducting Fluid . . . . .	257
6.10	Turbulence Composed of Shock Waves and Discontinuities . . . . .	258
6.10.1	Model of Turbulence Formed by Supernova Explosions . . . . .	258
6.10.2	About Interstellar Medium Turbulence . . . . .	263
6.11	Turbulent Magnetic Diffusivity . . . . .	264
	Problems . . . . .	267
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	269
<b>7</b>	<b>Particle Transport in Turbulent Cosmic Media</b>	<b>273</b>
7.1	Free-Streaming Particle Transport . . . . .	273
7.1.1	Time of Flight . . . . .	274
7.1.2	Limiting Alfvén Current . . . . .	274
7.1.3	Return Currents . . . . .	276

7.2 Diffusion of an Admixture in a Steady Plasma . . . . . 279

7.3 Transfer of Admixture in a Turbulent Fluid . . . . . 283

    7.3.1 Perturbation Theory . . . . . 284

    7.3.2 Renormalization of Turbulent Diffusion  
        Coefficients . . . . . 286

7.4 Transport of Fast Particles in a Random Magnetic Field . . . 290

    7.4.1 Derivation of the Kinetic Equation . . . . . 290

    7.4.2 Small-Scale Magnetic Inhomogeneities . . . . . 291

    7.4.3 Particle Diffusion in Coordinate Space . . . . . 295

    7.4.4 Resonant Scattering of Particles by Waves . . . . . 299

7.5 Diffusion in a Strong Magnetic Field with Large-Scale  
Turbulence . . . . . 303

    7.5.1 Longitudinal Particle Diffusion in a Strong  
        Magnetic Field . . . . . 303

    7.5.2 Transverse Particle Diffusion: Wandering  
        of Magnetic Force Lines . . . . . 304

    7.5.3 Kinetic Equation in Guiding Center  
        Approximation . . . . . 306

    7.5.4 Averaging of the Drift Kinetic Equation  
        for the Strong Turbulence . . . . . 308

    7.5.5 Regimes of the Transverse Diffusion . . . . . 313

7.6 Ambipolar Diffusion Stimulated by Energetic Particles . . . . 316

    7.6.1 Ambipolar Diffusion in Steady Regime . . . . . 316

    7.6.2 Ambipolar Diffusion in Impulsive Regime . . . . . 322

Problems . . . . . 324

Answers and Solutions . . . . . 325

**8 Dynamo Mechanism of Large-Scale Magnetic Field  
Generation . . . . . 329**

8.1 Astrophysical Magnetic Fields . . . . . 329

8.2 Dynamo Mechanism and Antidynamo Theorems . . . . . 331

8.3 Examples of Laminar Dynamo . . . . . 335

8.4 Helical Turbulence and Kinetic Helicity . . . . . 337

    8.4.1 Kinetic Helicity Parameter . . . . . 337

    8.4.2 Helical Turbulence in Rotating Bodies . . . . . 339

8.5 Mean Field in a Fluid with Helical Turbulence . . . . . 340

    8.5.1 Approximation of Short Correlation Time . . . . . 340

    8.5.2 Renormalization of Mean Field Equation . . . . . 344

8.6 Large-Scale Magnetic Field Generation . . . . . 347

    8.6.1 Simplified Examples . . . . . 347

    8.6.2 Nonlinear Effects in the Dynamo Theory . . . . . 350

    8.6.3 Generation of Primary Field . . . . . 354

8.7 Magnetic Field Generation in Stars and the Galaxy . . . . . 355

    8.7.1 Dynamo in the Galactic Disk . . . . . 355

8.7.2	Dynamo in Stars . . . . .	357
8.7.3	Generation of Superstrong Magnetic Fields in Neutron Stars . . . . .	358
8.7.4	Solar Magnetism, Cycles, and Activity . . . . .	361
	Problems . . . . .	368
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	368
<b>9</b>	<b>Emission Processes</b>	<b>371</b>
9.1	Emission by a Given Electric Current . . . . .	372
9.1.1	Energy Loss and Electromagnetic Wave Radiation in an Anisotropic Medium . . . . .	372
9.1.2	Emission in Vacuum . . . . .	375
9.1.3	Emission of Electrostatic Modes . . . . .	375
9.1.4	Energy Loss and Electromagnetic Wave Radiation in Plasma with Spatial Dispersion . . . . .	376
9.2	Emission by a Rectilinearly Moving Particle . . . . .	382
9.2.1	Vavilov–Cherenkov Radiation . . . . .	382
9.2.2	Vavilov–Cherenkov Radiation from Solar Chromosphere . . . . .	384
9.2.3	Perturbation Theory for Radiation . . . . .	387
9.2.4	Thomson Scattering . . . . .	393
9.2.5	Inverse Compton Effect . . . . .	395
9.3	Bremsstrahlung . . . . .	400
9.4	Gyro Emission . . . . .	406
9.4.1	Gyrosynchrotron Radiation . . . . .	406
9.4.2	Synchrotron Radiation . . . . .	407
9.4.3	Applications of Synchrotron Radiation . . . . .	414
9.5	Diffusive Synchrotron Radiation . . . . .	416
9.5.1	DSR in Weak Random Field . . . . .	417
9.5.2	DSR in Strong Random Field . . . . .	420
9.5.3	Superposition of Regular and Random Fields . . . . .	424
9.5.4	DSR from Astrophysical Sources . . . . .	425
9.6	Transition Radiation . . . . .	426
9.6.1	General Consideration . . . . .	426
9.6.2	Transition Radiation on Random Density Inhomogeneities . . . . .	428
9.6.3	Resonant Transition Radiation . . . . .	431
9.6.4	RTR in Astrophysics . . . . .	437
	Problems . . . . .	440
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	440
<b>10</b>	<b>Radiation Transfer</b>	<b>445</b>
10.1	Absorption of Radiation and Equation of Radiation Transfer . . . . .	445
10.1.1	Equilibrium Radiation . . . . .	446

10.1.2	Eddington Luminosity . . . . .	447
10.1.3	Stationary Radiation and Amplification . . . . .	449
10.1.4	Einstein Coefficients . . . . .	450
10.1.5	Brightness Temperature . . . . .	454
10.1.6	Transfer of Polarization . . . . .	455
10.2	Gyrosynchrotron Radiation Transfer . . . . .	461
10.2.1	Model Dependencies . . . . .	462
10.2.2	3D Modeling . . . . .	464
10.3	Electron Cyclotron Maser Emission from a Source with Random Inhomogeneities . . . . .	473
10.3.1	Negative Absorption . . . . .	473
10.3.2	Approximate Expressions for the Spatial Growth Rates . . . . .	477
10.3.3	ECM Peak Broadening in a Weak Random Magnetic Field . . . . .	479
10.3.4	Theory of Strong Broadening of the ECM Spectrum . . . . .	482
10.3.5	Local Trap Model . . . . .	485
10.3.6	Spectral Bandwidth of Solar Radio Spikes . . . . .	488
10.4	Nonlinear Processes . . . . .	490
10.4.1	Stimulated Scattering of Transverse Waves on Thermal Ions . . . . .	490
10.4.2	Nonlinear Conversion of Plasma Waves into Transverse Waves . . . . .	492
10.4.3	Coherent Plasma Radiation from Solar Corona . . . . .	497
	Problems . . . . .	506
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	507
<b>11</b>	<b>Particle Acceleration in Astrophysical Media</b>	<b>517</b>
11.1	Regular Change of Particle Energy and Conservation Laws . . . . .	519
11.1.1	Particle Energy Change in Regular Fields . . . . .	519
11.1.2	Particle Energization in a Collapsing Magnetic Trap . . . . .	524
11.1.3	Particle Acceleration by Magnetic Pump . . . . .	525
11.1.4	Particle Energy Change by Regular Medium Motion . . . . .	529
11.2	Particle Acceleration by Stochastic Medium Motion: Fermi Mechanism . . . . .	533
11.2.1	Diffusion in Momentum Space . . . . .	533
11.2.2	Particle Acceleration by Helical Turbulence . . . . .	540
11.2.3	Second-Order Acceleration Effects for Regular Plasma Motions . . . . .	547

11.3	Formation of Accelerated Particle Spectra . . . . .	548
11.3.1	Nonstationary Acceleration in a Uniform System . . .	549
11.3.2	Stationary Fermi Spectra in a Finite Accelerated Region . . . . .	551
11.3.3	Stochastic Acceleration of Electrons in Solar Flares . . . . .	554
11.3.4	Effect of Adiabatic Losses and Acceleration on Transport of Solar Protons . . . . .	556
11.4	Acceleration of Charged Particles by MHD Shock Waves . . .	558
11.4.1	Fast Particle Interaction with Shock Front: Acceleration, Reflection, and Crossing . . . . .	559
11.4.2	Diffusive Particle Acceleration at the Shock Front: Test Particle Approximation . . . . .	562
11.4.3	Nonlinear Modification of the Shock Wave Structure by Accelerated Particles . . . . .	569
11.5	Particle Acceleration by Supersonic Turbulence . . . . .	578
11.5.1	Physical Model and Basic Equations . . . . .	578
11.5.2	Evolution of Particles Accelerated by Strong Turbulence . . . . .	581
11.5.3	Particle Acceleration in Galactic Superbubbles . . . .	582
11.5.4	Particle Acceleration by Strong Turbulence in Solar Flares . . . . .	585
11.5.5	Observational Evidence for Stochastic Particle Acceleration in Solar Flares . . . . .	589
	Problems . . . . .	597
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	599
<b>12</b>	<b>Ultrarelativistic Component of Astrophysical Plasmas</b>	<b>605</b>
12.1	Galactic Cosmic Rays and Supernova Remnants . . . . .	607
12.1.1	Generation of MHD Oscillations by Accelerated Particles Ahead of the Shock Front . . . . .	608
12.1.2	Statement of the Problem . . . . .	609
12.1.3	Accelerated Particle Current Driven by a Weak MHD Wave . . . . .	611
12.1.4	Linear Growth Rate . . . . .	616
12.1.5	Strong Turbulence Regime . . . . .	618
12.1.6	Spatial Distribution of Accelerated Particles Upstream . . . . .	621
12.1.7	On Numerical Simulations of Strong Turbulence Generation at Shocks . . . . .	622
12.1.8	Evidence of Efficient Particle Acceleration at SNRs . . . . .	623
12.2	Neutron Stars and Particle Acceleration in Their Magnetospheres . . . . .	628
12.2.1	Basic Observational Data . . . . .	629



12.2.2	Magnetic Dipole Radiation and Particle Acceleration . . . . .	631
12.2.3	Structure of Pulsar’s Magnetosphere . . . . .	635
12.2.4	Emission of Hard Quanta and Generation of Electron–Positron Plasma in Pulsar’s Magnetosphere . . . . .	640
12.3	Pulsar Wind Nebulae . . . . .	643
12.3.1	Simplified MHD Flow Model . . . . .	644
12.3.2	Downstream Particle Distribution and PWN Broadband Spectrum . . . . .	647
12.3.3	DSR Model of PWN Spectrum . . . . .	649
12.4	Some Remarks on Other Relativistic Sources . . . . .	650
	Problems . . . . .	654
	Answers and Solutions . . . . .	655
	<b>References</b>	<b>657</b>
	<b>Author Index</b>	<b>681</b>
	<b>Subject Index</b>	<b>689</b>



## Notations (Conventions)

$c_s$	Sound speed
$v_A$	Alfvén velocity
$e$	Elementary charge; charge of the electron
$m_a$	Mass of the particle (of sort $a$ )
$\chi$	Coefficient of heat conductivity
$\kappa$	Coefficient of thermal diffusivity; diffusion coefficient of accelerated particles
$R$	Reynolds number
$Ra$	Rayleigh number
$Pr$	Prandtl number
$Pe = uL/\kappa$	Péclet number
$R_\odot$	Radius of solar photosphere
$c$	Speed of light
$h$	Planck constant
$m_e$	Mass of the electron
$k_B$	Boltzman constant
$\omega$	Cyclic frequency
$\omega_B (\omega_{Bi})$	Gyrofrequency (cyclotron frequency) of a particle (of sort $i$ )
$\mathbf{r}$	Radius-vector of a particle
$t$	Time
$\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{U}$	Velocities
$f, F$	Distribution functions
$\mathbf{F}, \mathcal{F}$	Forces
$T$	Temperature
$\rho$	Mass density or charge density
$\rho_e$	Charge density (if interfere with the mass density $\rho$ )
$\sigma$	Electric conductivity or effective cross-section (typically, with subscripts)
$\eta$	Dynamic viscosity
$\nu = \eta/\rho$	Kinematic viscosity
$\nu_m$	Collisional magnetic diffusivity (magnetic viscosity)
$\nu^{\text{eff}} \parallel, \perp$	Effective magnetic diffusivities (viscosities)

$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}$	Dot product
$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}$	Cross product
$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}$	Curl
$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}$	Divergence
$\nabla f \equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{r}}$	Gradient
$\mathbf{B}, \mathcal{B}, \mathbf{b}$	Magnetic field
$\mathcal{R} = 1.49 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}$	Sun to Earth distance (1 AU)
$\mathbf{E}, \mathcal{E}, \mathbf{E}$	Electric field
Physical units in equations are given in [], e.g., [erg]	
$P_{\alpha\beta}$	Tensor of the momentum flux density
$\Pi_{\alpha\beta}$	Viscous tension tensor
$\ln \Lambda_C$	Coulomb logarithm
O-mode	Electromagnetic ordinary mode
X-mode	Electromagnetic (fast) extraordinary mode
Z-mode	Electromagnetic (slow) extraordinary mode

## Acronyms

AR	Active region
AU	Astronomical unit; $1 \text{ AU} = 1.49 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}$
BGK	Bhatnagar–Gross–Krook
CMB	Cosmic microwave background
CME	Coronal mass ejection
CR	Cosmic ray
DM	Dispersion measure
DSR	Diffusive synchrotron radiation
EM	Emission measure
Eq	Equation
FASR	Frequency agile solar radiotelescope (project)
FFF	Force Free Field
GRB	Gamma-ray burst
GS	Gyrosynchrotron
GSR	Gyrosynchrotron radiation
GUI	Graphical user interface
HD	Hydrodynamics
HXR	Hard X-ray
IPM	Interplanetary medium
ISM	Interstellar medium
LCP	Left circular polarization
lhs	Left hand side
MDI	Michelson Doppler Imager
MERLIN	Multi-element radio-linked interferometer network
mfp	Mean free path
MHD	Magnetohydrodynamics
MRI	Magneto-rotational instability
NLFFF	NonLinear force free field
NoRH	Nobeyama radioheliograph
NoRP	Nobeyama radio polarimeters
NST	New solar telescope (Big Bear Solar Observatory, California, USA)

OVSA	Owens Valley Solar Array (Owens Valley Radio Observatory, California, USA)
PIC	Particle-in-cell
PWN	Pulsar wind nebula
RCP	Right circular polarization
rhs	Right hand side
RM	Rotation measure
rms	Root mean square
RHESSI	Reuven Ramaty high energy solar spectroscopic imager
RTR	Resonant transition radiation
SEP	Solar energetic particle(s)
sfu	Solar flux unit
SHH	Soft-hard-harder
SHS	Soft-hard-soft
SN	Supernova
SNR	Supernova remnant
SOHO	Solar and heliospheric observatory
SSRT	Siberian solar radio telescope
SST	Solar sub-THz telescope (Andes, Argentina)
STR	Stochastic theory of radiation
SXR	Soft X-ray
SXT	Soft X-ray telescope
TRACE	Transition region and coronal explorer is a mission of the Stanford-Lockheed institute for space research, and part of the NASA small Explorer program
UT	Universal time
VCR	Vavilov-Cherenkov radiation
WR	Wolf-Rayet (star)