29:293 Homework #5

Reading: Suggested: Review GB Chapter 6, Sec 6.6–6.7
and GB Chapter 8 for midterm examination

Due at the beginning of class, Thursday, March 7, 2013.

1. Consider the problem of the counter-streaming Cauchy distribution,

$$F_0(v_z) = \frac{C}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{C^2 + (v_z - V)^2} + \frac{1}{C^2 + (v_z + V)^2} \right].$$

Sketch the Nyquist diagrams for mapping the $\gamma = 0$ contour in the complex p-plane onto the complex D-plane for the following cases:

   (a) $C > V$.

   (b) $C = V$.

   (c) $C < V$.

2. A plasma consists of a Maxwellian distribution of ions at temperature T_i and electrons at temperature T_e. The average velocity of the ions is zero and the electrons are drifting with an average velocity U_e.

   (a) Make an appropriate modification of the derivation for the ion acoustic instability involving the plasma dispersion function to take into account the drifting electrons.

   (b) Using the low-phase velocity approximation for the electrons and the high-phase velocity approximation for the ions, obtain an approximate expression for the real frequency of the ion acoustic mode. You may assume that $k\lambda_{De} \ll 1$.

   (c) Show that the growth rate is approximately

$$\frac{\gamma}{\omega} = -\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8}} \left[\sqrt{\frac{m_e}{m_i}} \left(1 - \frac{U_e}{C_i} \right) + \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i} \right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{T_e}{2T_i} \right) \right]$$

   where the ion acoustic speed is given by

$$C_i = \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{m_i}}$$

   (d) Show that the instability condition for the current-driven ion acoustic mode is

$$|U_e| > C_i \left[1 + \sqrt{\frac{m_i}{m_e}} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i} \right)^{3/2} \exp\left(-\frac{T_e}{2T_i} \right) \right]$$

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