



**The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



1856-28

2007 Summer College on Plasma Physics

30 July - 24 August, 2007

**White Light
Parametric Instabilities in Plasmas.**

Silva O. Louís
*Instituto Superior Técnico
Centro de Física de Plasmas
Av. Rovisco Pais
1049-001 LISBON
PORTUGAL*

White Light Parametric Instabilities in Plasmas

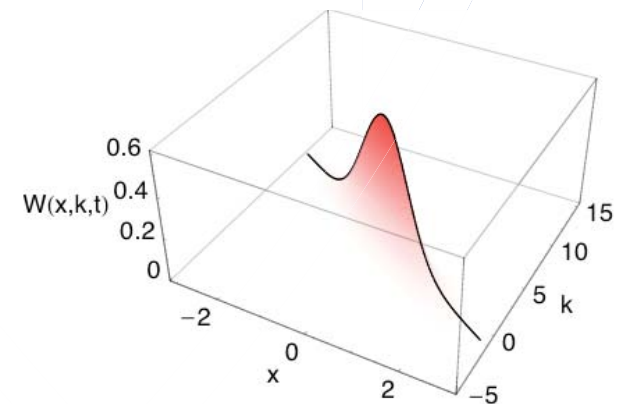


Luís O. Silva

J. Santos, B. Brandão, R. Bingham*

GoLP/Centro de Física dos Plasmas
Instituto Superior Técnico
Lisboa, Portugal

*Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK



Outline



- ◎ Why “White Light”? Why “Parametric Instabilities”?
- ◎ Plan to describe statistical properties of light for arbitrary bandwidths + coupling with plasma - connection with quantum mechanics
 - * The Wigner distribution
 - * Generalization of the Wigner-Moyal formalism to describe broadband radiation processes
- ◎ White light effects on Stimulated Raman Scattering (coupling with electron plasma waves)
 - * Dependence of growth rates on bandwidth
- ◎ Future directions and summary

Parametric instabilities



- ◎ Class of nonlinear oscillations

- ★ exponential growth or decay of the oscillations
- ★ an oscillator equation in which a parameter has an explicit periodic oscillation/modulation
- ★ e.g. pendulum with externally driven oscillating suspension point

$$\partial_t^2 \xi + \omega_p^2 (1 + \epsilon \cos(\omega_0 t)) \xi = 0$$

Mathieu equation

- ◎ Common in many plasma physics scenarios (e.g. ultra intense radiation in plasmas)

- Stimulated Raman Scattering
- ★ electrons oscillate in transverse field of pump light wave such that $v_{\perp} = e\mathbf{E}_L/m\omega_0$
 - ★ small density oscillation δn associated with electron plasma wave originates transverse current $\delta\mathbf{J}_{\perp} = -e\mathbf{v}_L\delta n$
 - ★ if wavenumbers/frequencies are properly matched transverse current generates scattered wave
 - ★ beating of scattered wave with pump light wave increases radiation pressure @ plasma frequency and further enhances density perturbation

Parametric instabilities in plasmas

one example: stimulated Raman Scattering



$$\partial_t^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) - c^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{r}}^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_p^2(\mathbf{r}, t) \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$

normalized vector potential
of electromagnetic field

$$\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{e\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{m_e c^2}$$

transverse current in
the plasma

$$a_0 = 0.86 \lambda_0 (\mu m) \sqrt{\frac{I}{10^{18} \text{W/cm}^2}}$$

plasma response

$$cd_t \mathbf{p} = e(c\nabla\phi - \partial_t \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{v} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \quad d_t = \partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_q + \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \quad \text{longitudinal}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_q = c\mathbf{a} \quad \text{transverse}$$

$$m_e \partial_t \mathbf{v}_q = -e\mathbf{E}$$

in the linear limit $|a| \ll 1$

$$d_t \tilde{\mathbf{p}} = e\nabla\tilde{\phi} - m_e [(\mathbf{v}_q \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}_q + c\mathbf{v}_q \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{a})]$$

$$d_t \tilde{\mathbf{p}} = e\nabla\tilde{\phi} - m_e c^2 \nabla(a^2/2) \quad \text{ponderomotive force} \quad \text{+ continuity equation}$$

$\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}_0 + \tilde{\mathbf{a}}$ linearization + Fourier transform of r,t \Rightarrow dispersion relation

White light and parametric instabilities



◎ White Light = Intense radiation with large bandwidth

◎ in astrophysics



◎ nonlinear incoherent optics



◎ laser plasma accelerators - short laser pulses



◎ Inertial Confinement Fusion



◎ Bandwidth effects on parametric instabilities

G. E. Vekshtein, G. M. Zaslavsky, Sov. Phys. Dokl. 12, 34 (1967)
G. M. Zaslavsky, V. S. Zakharov, Sov. Phys. Tech. Phys. 12, 7 (1967)
E. Valeo, C. Oberman, Phys. Rev. Lett. 30, 1035 (1973)
J. J. Thomson, W. L. Kruer, S. E. Bodner, J. S. DeGroot, Phys. Fluids 17, 849 (1974)

M. Mitchel, M. Segev, Nature 387, 880 (1997)
D. N. Christodoulies et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 78, 646 (1997)
H. Buljan et al, Phys. Rev. E 68, 036607 (2003)
D. A. Anderson et al, Phys. Rev. E 70, 026603 (2004)

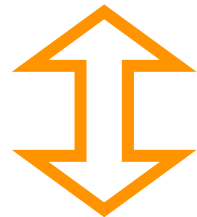
◎ Random Phase Approximation (incoherent light) vs Fixed Phase (monochromatic light)

Plan to build a theoretical framework capable of describing white light parametric instabilities



Nonlinear full wave equation for
e.m. waves in plasma

[Klein-Gordon like field]



Generalized Wigner-Moyal formalism

Statistical description of
electromagnetic waves

[set of kinetic equations for Wigner functions]



Coupling with plasma
through ponderomotive force

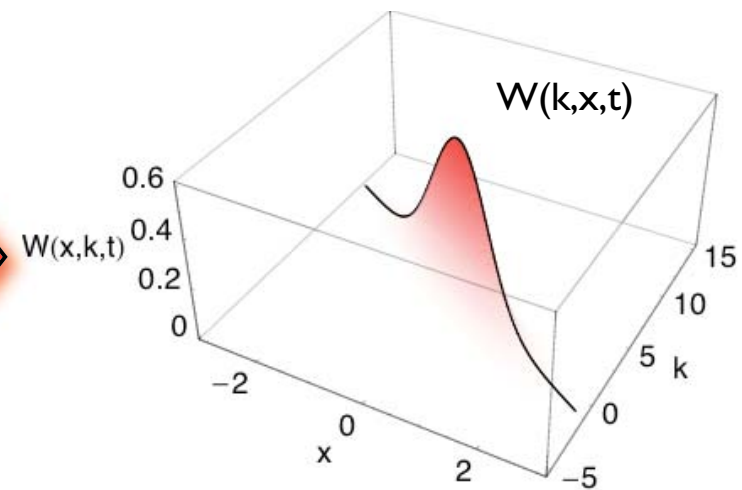
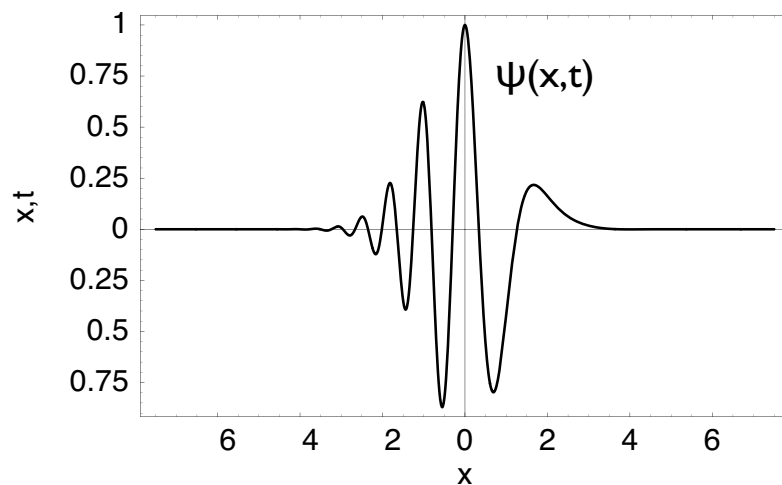
[electron plasma waves, ion acoustic waves]

Generalized dispersion relation for white light
parametric instabilities in plasmas

Inspiration from Quantum Mechanics



In the 1930's Wigner proposed a statistical representation of Quantum Mechanics formally equivalent to Schrödinger equation



- © Fields are represented by distribution of quasi-particles: Wigner distribution
 - * Quasi-particles described by k (momentum) and r (position)
 - * Dynamics described by transport equations

Main properties of Wigner distribution

$$W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\mathbf{s} \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{s}) \psi(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s}/2, t) \cdot \psi(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{s}/2, t)^*$$

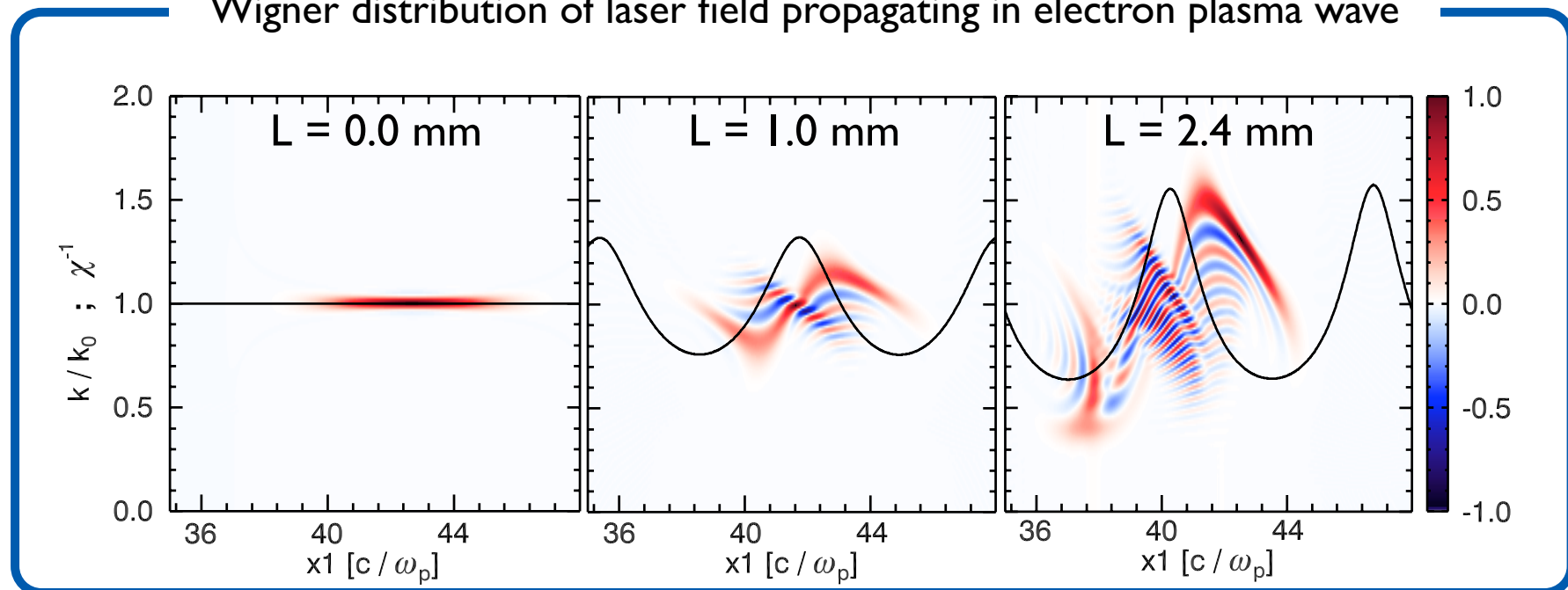
Wigner distribution

Spectrum of autocorrelation function

$$|\psi(\mathbf{k})|^2 = \int d\mathbf{r} W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$|\psi(\mathbf{r})|^2 = \int d\mathbf{k} W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)$$

Wigner distribution of laser field propagating in electron plasma wave



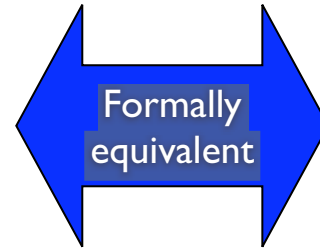
Schrödinger vs Klein-Gordon



Schrödinger Equation:

$$2i\omega_{p0}\partial_t\tilde{\phi} = -c^2\vec{\nabla}_r^2\tilde{\phi} + \tilde{\omega}_p^2\tilde{\phi}$$

Valid on the paraxial wave approximation for e.m. waves



Wigner-Moyal Equation:

$$\partial_t W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) = 2\omega_k(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)\hat{S}^{cl}W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$\hat{S}^{cl} = \sin\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\overleftarrow{\nabla}_r \cdot \overrightarrow{\nabla}_k - \overleftarrow{\nabla}_k \cdot \overrightarrow{\nabla}_r\right)\right]$$

Local dispersion relation for e.m. waves in plasma

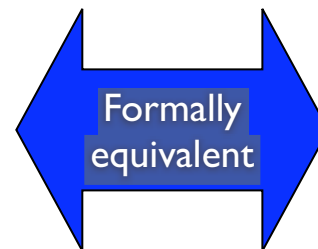
Schrödinger, single mode problem

Full wave equation for normalized vector potential of e.m. wave:

$$\partial_t^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) - c^2 \nabla_r^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_p^2(\mathbf{r}, t) \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$

Nonlinear variable mass term

2nd order in time



Generalized set of Wigner-Moyal equations

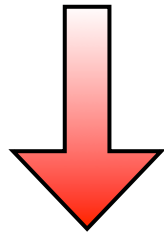
Klein-Gordon, two mode problem

Generalized Wigner-Moyal Equations I



Wave Equation

$$\partial_t^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) - c^2 \nabla_{\mathbf{r}}^2 \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) + [\omega_{p0}^2 + \tilde{\omega}_p^2(\mathbf{r}, t)] \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$



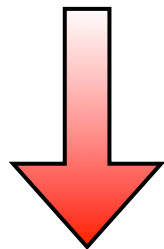
Feshbach-Villars
prescription¹

$$\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \phi + \chi$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) + i \frac{\partial_t \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\omega_{p0}} \right], \quad \chi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t) - i \frac{\partial_t \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\omega_{p0}} \right]$$

Two first order
equations in time

$$\begin{cases} i\partial_t \phi = -\frac{c^2 \vec{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2}{2\omega_{p0}} (\phi + \chi) + \frac{\tilde{\omega}_p^2}{2\omega_{p0}} (\phi + \chi) + \omega_{p0} \phi \\ i\partial_t \chi = \frac{c^2 \vec{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2}{2\omega_{p0}} (\phi + \chi) - \frac{\tilde{\omega}_p^2}{2\omega_{p0}} (\phi + \chi) - \omega_{p0} \chi \end{cases}$$



$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} \phi \\ \chi \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix equation for Ψ

$$i\partial_t \Psi = \frac{(\tau_3 + i\tau_2)}{2\omega_{p0}} \left(-c^2 \vec{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2 + \tilde{\omega}_p^2 \right) \Psi + \omega_{p0} \tau_3 \Psi$$

τ_i are the Pauli matrices

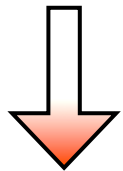
¹ H. Feshbach, F.Villars, Rev. Mod. Phys. 30, 24 (1958).

Generalized Wigner-Moyal Equations II



Wigner Transform

$$W_{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \right)^3 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{y} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{y}} \mathbf{f}^* \left(\mathbf{r} + \frac{\mathbf{y}}{2} \right) \cdot \mathbf{g} \left(\mathbf{r} - \frac{\mathbf{y}}{2} \right)$$

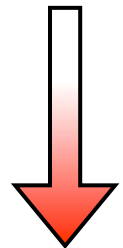


Wigner Matrix

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} W_{\phi \cdot \phi} & -W_{\phi \cdot \chi}^* \\ W_{\phi \cdot \chi} & -W_{\chi \cdot \chi} \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} W_0 &= W_{\phi \cdot \phi} - W_{\chi \cdot \chi} & W_1 &= 2\text{Im} [W_{\phi \cdot \chi}] \\ W_2 &= 2\text{Re} [W_{\phi \cdot \chi}] & W_3 &= W_{\phi \cdot \phi} + W_{\chi \cdot \chi} \end{aligned}$$

Transport Equations

$$\partial_t W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) + (\hat{D} - \hat{S}) \frac{1}{2} \{ \tau_3 + i\tau_2, W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t) \} + i \left[\mathcal{H}_0(\hat{\mathbf{k}}) + \hat{C} \right] \frac{1}{2} [(\tau_3 + i\tau_2), W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)] + i\omega_{p0} [\tau_3, W(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{r}, t)] = 0$$



Operators

$$\hat{S} = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_p^2(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\omega_{p0}} \sin \left(\frac{1}{2} \overleftarrow{\partial}_{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\mathbf{k}} \right), \quad \hat{C} = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_p^2(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\omega_{p0}} \cos \left(\frac{1}{2} \overleftarrow{\partial}_{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\mathbf{k}} \right), \quad \hat{D} = \frac{c^2}{\omega_{p0}} \mathbf{k} \cdot \overrightarrow{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}$$

Generalized Wigner-Moyal Equations

$$\partial_t W_0 + (\hat{D} - \hat{S}) (W_2 + W_3) = 0$$

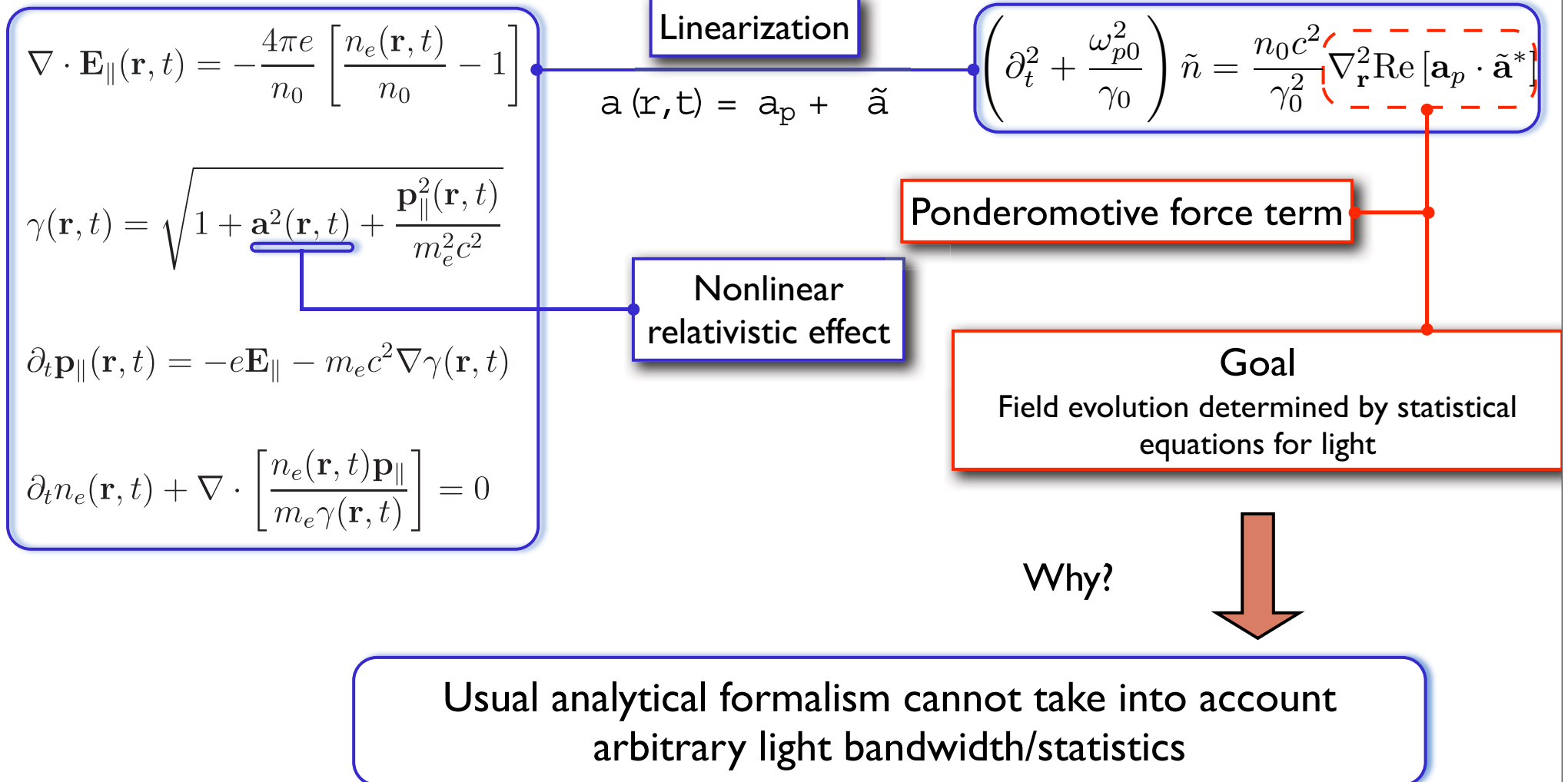
$$\partial_t W_1 - \left[\frac{c^2}{\omega_{p0}} \left(\mathbf{k}^2 - \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2}{4} \right) + \hat{C} \right] (W_2 + W_3) - \frac{2}{\omega_{p0}} W_2 = 0$$

$$\partial_t W_2 - (\hat{D} - \hat{S}) W_0 + \left[\frac{c^2}{\omega_{p0}} \left(\mathbf{k}^2 - \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2}{4} \right) + \hat{C} \right] W_1 + \frac{2}{\omega_{p0}} W_1 = 0$$

$$\partial_t W_3 + (\hat{D} - \hat{S}) W_0 - \left[\frac{c^2}{\omega_{p0}} \left(\mathbf{k}^2 - \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}_{\mathbf{r}}^2}{4} \right) + \hat{C} \right] W_1 = 0$$

Statistical Description of Light

Coupling with electron plasma waves



Perturbation theory for photon kinetics



$$W_{\phi \cdot \phi} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{\gamma_0} \omega_{k0}(\mathbf{k})}{\omega_{p0}} \right)^2 \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_{\phi \cdot \phi}$$

$$W_{\phi \cdot \chi} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{\gamma_0 \omega_{k0}^2(\mathbf{k})}{\omega_{p0}^2} \right) \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_{\phi \cdot \chi}$$

$$W_{\chi \cdot \chi} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{\sqrt{\gamma_0} \omega_{k0}(\mathbf{k})}{\omega_{p0}} \right)^2 \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_{\chi \cdot \chi}$$

Incident pump light \equiv 0-order

$$W_0 = \frac{\sqrt{\gamma_0} \omega_{k0}(\mathbf{k})}{\omega_{p0}} \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_0$$

$$W_1 = \delta \tilde{W}_1$$

$$W_2 = -\frac{\gamma_0 \mathbf{k}^2 c^2}{2\omega_{p0}^2} \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_2$$

$$W_3 = \frac{[\omega_{p0}^2 + \omega_{k0}^2(\mathbf{k})] \gamma_0}{2\omega_{p0}^2} \rho_0(\mathbf{k}) + \delta \tilde{W}_3$$

\mathcal{F}

$$\mathcal{F} \text{Re}[\mathbf{a}_p \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{a}}^*] = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_p^2(\omega_L, \mathbf{k}_L)}{4\gamma_0^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{k} \left[\frac{\rho_0(\mathbf{k} + \frac{\mathbf{k}_L}{2})}{D^-(\mathbf{k})} + \frac{\rho_0(\mathbf{k} - \frac{\mathbf{k}_L}{2})}{D^+(\mathbf{k})} \right]$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_p^2(\omega_L, \mathbf{k}_L) = \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0} \left[\frac{\mathbf{k}_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right] \mathcal{F} \text{Re}[\mathbf{a}_p \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{a}}^*]$$

Generalized dispersion relation I*



$$1 = \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{4\gamma_0^3} \left[\frac{\mathbf{k}_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right] \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d\mathbf{k} \left[\frac{\rho_0 \left(\mathbf{k} + \frac{\mathbf{k}_L}{2} \right)}{D^-(\mathbf{k})} + \frac{\rho_0 \left(\mathbf{k} - \frac{\mathbf{k}_L}{2} \right)}{D^+(\mathbf{k})} \right]$$

Arbitrary distribution of photons

$$D^\pm = \omega_L^2 \mp 2 \left[\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_L \omega_{k0} \left(\mathbf{k} \mp \frac{\mathbf{k}_L}{2} \right) \right]$$

Incident Monochromatic Light

with wavenumber k_0

$$\rho_0(\mathbf{k}) = a_0^2 \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0)$$

$$1 = \frac{a_0^2 \omega_{p0}^2}{4\gamma_0^3} \left[\frac{\mathbf{k}_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right] \left[\frac{1}{\omega_L^2 + 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - \mathbf{k}_L^2 c^2} + \frac{1}{\omega_L^2 - 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - \mathbf{k}_L^2 c^2} \right]$$

Identical to
Kruer, The physics of laser plasmas interactions (1988)

*J. P. Santos, L. O. Silva, R. Blingham, Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 235001 (2007)

Generalized dispersion relation II



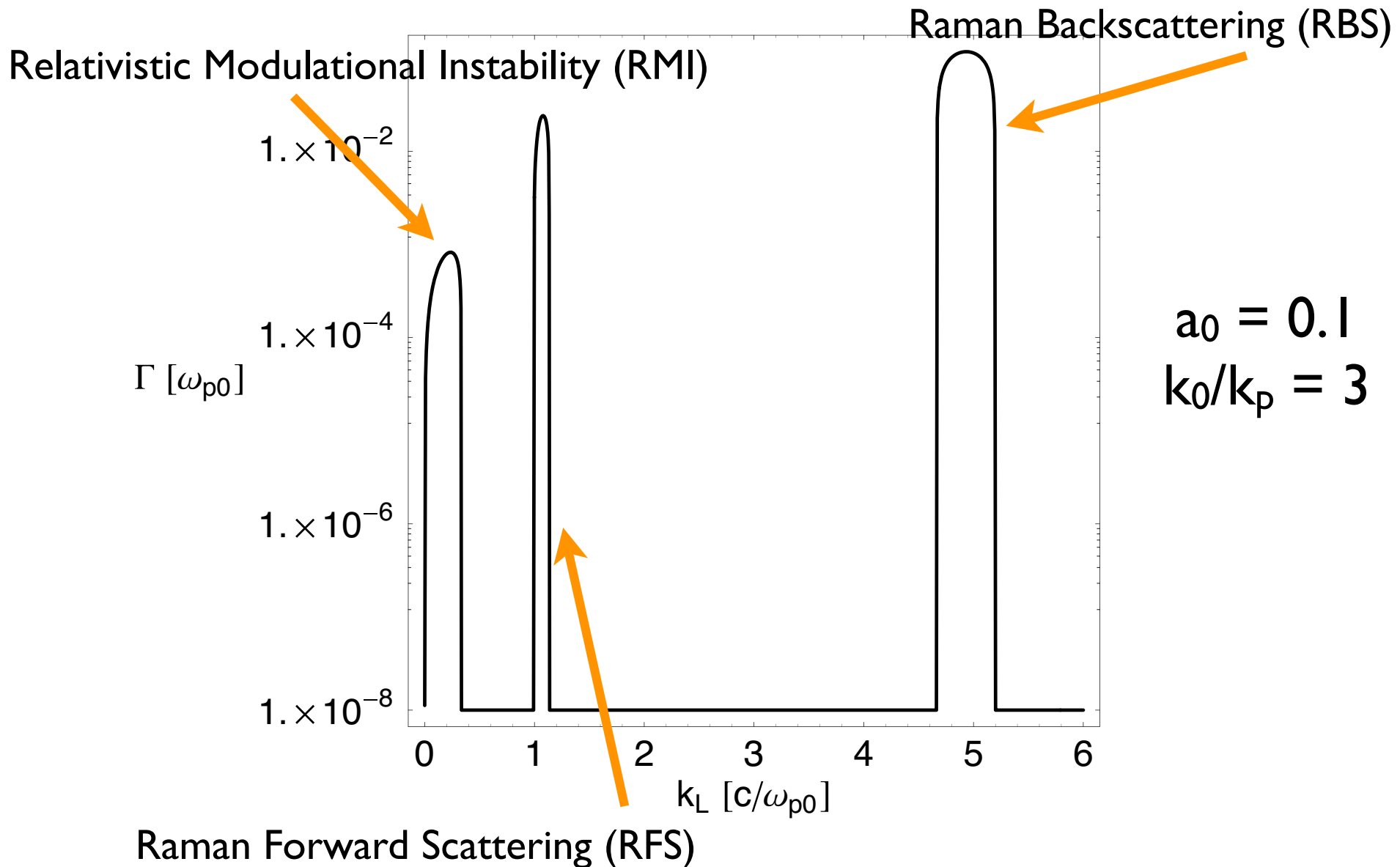
$$= \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{4\gamma_0^3} \left[\frac{k_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right] \int dk \rho_0(k) \left[\frac{1}{\omega_L^2 + 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - k_L^2 c^2} + \frac{1}{\omega_L^2 - 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - k_L^2 c^2} \right]$$

Weighted average of plane wave plasma response

Incident Monochromatic Light
with wavenumber k_0

$$l = \frac{a_0^2 \omega_{p0}^2}{4\gamma_0^3} \left[\frac{k_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right] \left[\frac{1}{\omega_L^2 + 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - k_L^2 c^2} + \frac{1}{\omega_L^2 - 2(\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}_L c^2 - \omega_0 \omega_L) - k_L^2 c^2} \right]$$

Standard monochromatic pump results

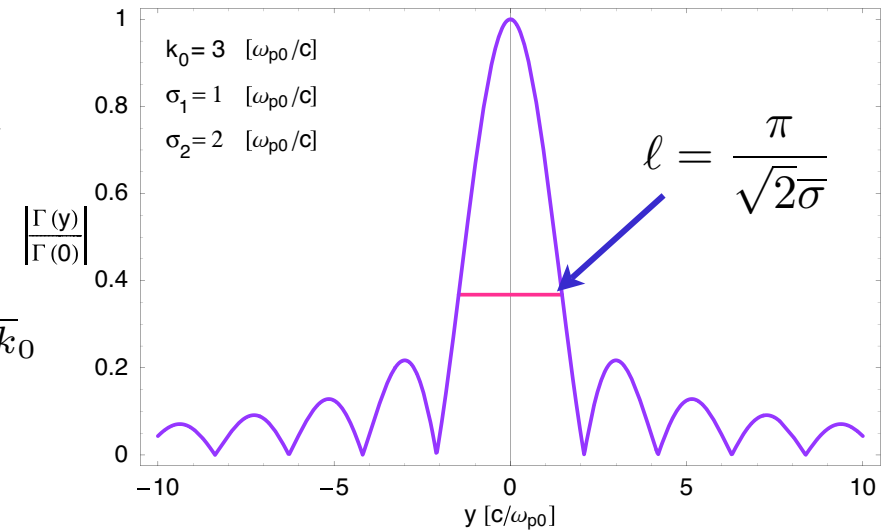


Statistics of white light



Incident light with stochastic phase $\Psi(x)$, described by autocorrelation function

$$\Gamma(y) = \left\langle e^{-i\psi(x+\frac{y}{2})+i\psi(x-\frac{y}{2})} \right\rangle = \frac{a_0^2 \sin y\bar{\sigma}}{y\bar{\sigma}} e^{-iy\bar{k}_0}$$

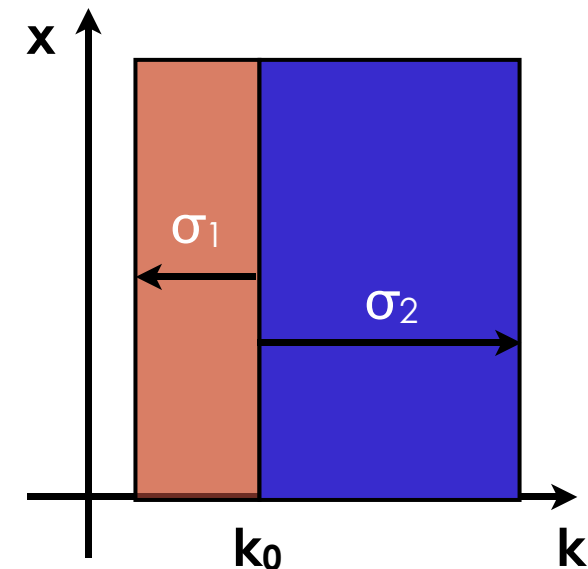


The corresponding zero-order Wigner distribution is a waterbag distribution function:

$$\rho_0(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{a_0^2}{\sigma_1 + \sigma_2} [\Theta(k - k_0 + \sigma_1) - \Theta(k - k_0 - \sigma_2)]$$

$$\bar{\sigma} = \frac{\sigma_1 + \sigma_2}{2}$$

$$\bar{k}_0 = k_0 + \frac{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1}{2}$$



Analytical results I

For a waterbag distribution function, analytical dispersion relation can be calculated

$$1 = \frac{a_0^2 \omega_{p0}^2}{4\gamma_0^3} \frac{1}{c^2 k_L (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)} \left[\frac{k_L^2 c^2}{\omega_L^2 - \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}} - 1 \right]$$

$$\left[\frac{2ck_L \omega_L}{\sqrt{Q_0}} (\operatorname{arctanh} b^+ + \operatorname{arctanh} b^-) + \frac{k_L^2 c^2}{k_L^2 c^2 - \omega_L^2} \log \left(\frac{D_1^- D_2^+}{D_1^+ D_2^-} \right) \right]$$

Term contributing for instability

$$b^\pm = \frac{2\sqrt{Q_0} [c(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2) + \omega_{01} - \omega_{02}]}{\frac{Q_0}{\omega_L + ck_L} - \frac{(\omega_L + ck_L)Q^\pm}{c^2 k_L^2}}$$

$$\omega_{0i} = \sqrt{[k_0 + (-1)^i \sigma_i]^2 c^2 + \frac{\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0}}$$

$$D_i^\pm = \omega_L^2 \mp 2 [(k_0 + (-1)^i \sigma_i) k_L c^2 - \omega_{0i} \omega_L] - k_L^2 c^2$$

$$Q^\pm = [D_1^\pm + (ck_L - \omega_L)(\omega_L - 2\omega_{01})] [D_2^\pm + (ck_L - \omega_L)(\omega_L - 2\omega_{02})] \quad Q^0 = (k_L^2 c^2 - \omega_L^2) \left(k_L^2 c^2 - \omega_L^2 + \frac{4\omega_{p0}^2}{\gamma_0} \right)$$

Analytical results II



Asymmetric waterbag

RFS

$$\Gamma_{\text{RFS}} = \frac{a_0}{2\sqrt{2}\gamma_0^2 \sqrt{(k_0 - \sigma_1)(k_0 + \sigma_2)}}$$

$$k_L = \omega_{p0}/c\sqrt{\gamma_0}$$

$$\omega_L = \omega_{p0}/\sqrt{\gamma_0} + \delta$$

RBS

$$\Gamma_{\text{RBS}} = \frac{\pi a_0^2}{8\gamma_0^{5/2}} \frac{k_0 + \sigma_2}{\sigma_1 + \sigma_2} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{a_0^2}{8\gamma_0^{5/2}} \frac{k_0 + \sigma_2}{(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)^2}}$$

$$k_L = 2(k_0 + \sigma_2) - \omega_{p0}/c\sqrt{\gamma_0}$$

$$\omega_L = \omega_{p0}/\sqrt{\gamma_0} + \delta$$

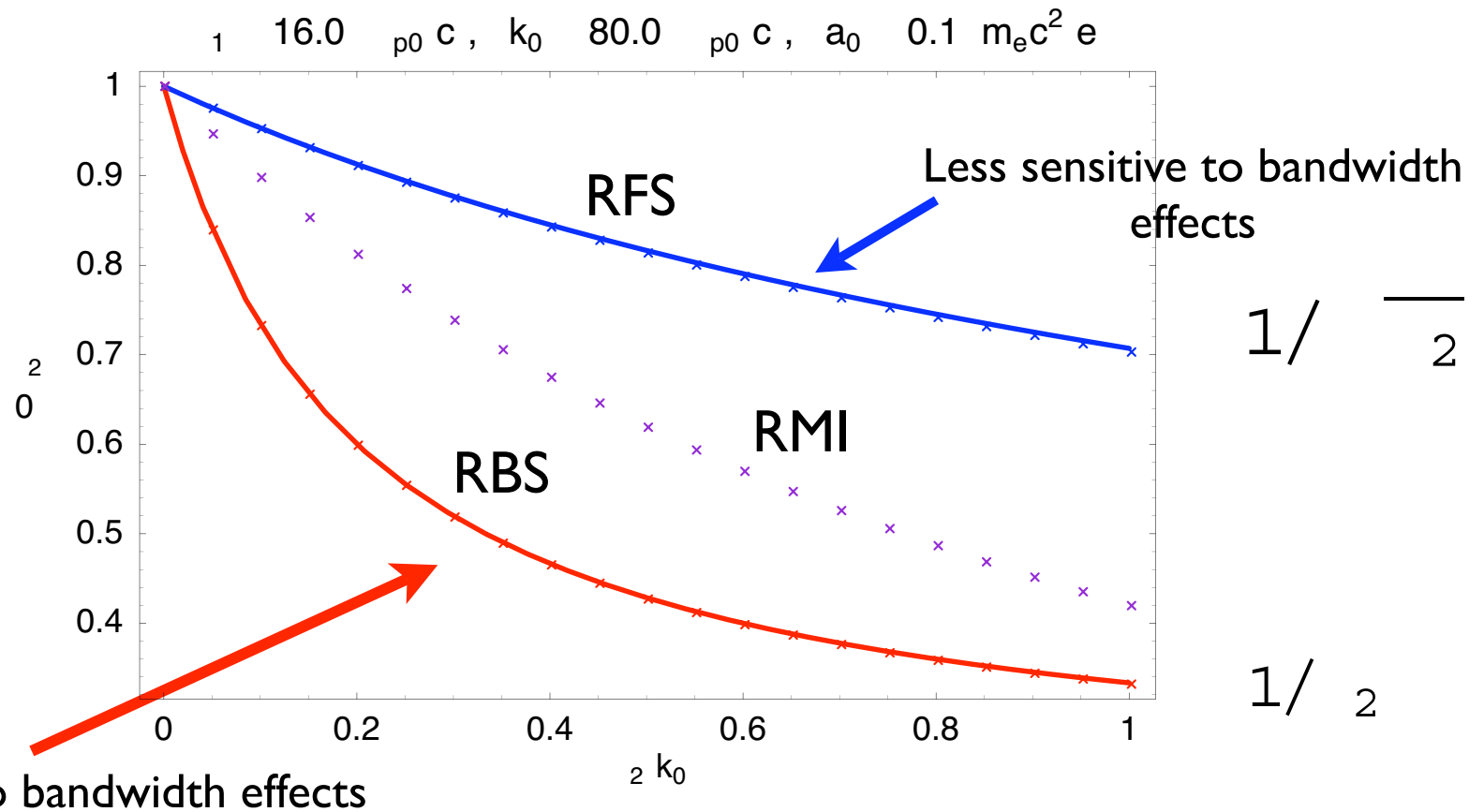
For Lorentzian, similar dependences with bandwidth

Comparison between different instability regimes I



Asymmetric waterbag

× Numerical solution
- Theory

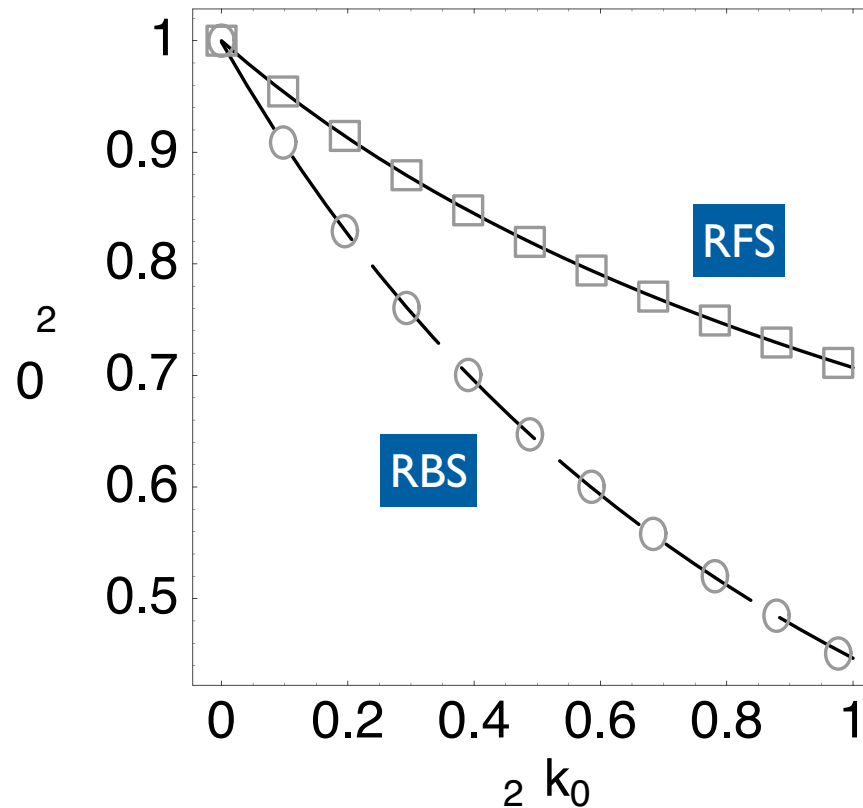


Comparison between different instability regimes II

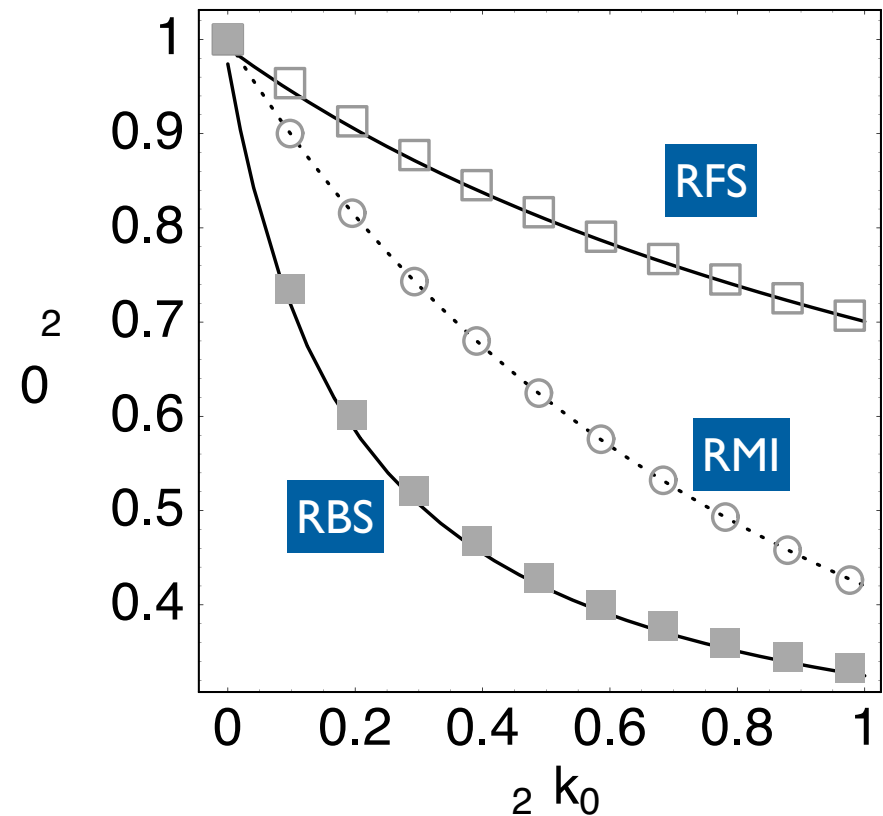


Asymmetric waterbag

$a_0 = 3$



$a_0 = 0.1$

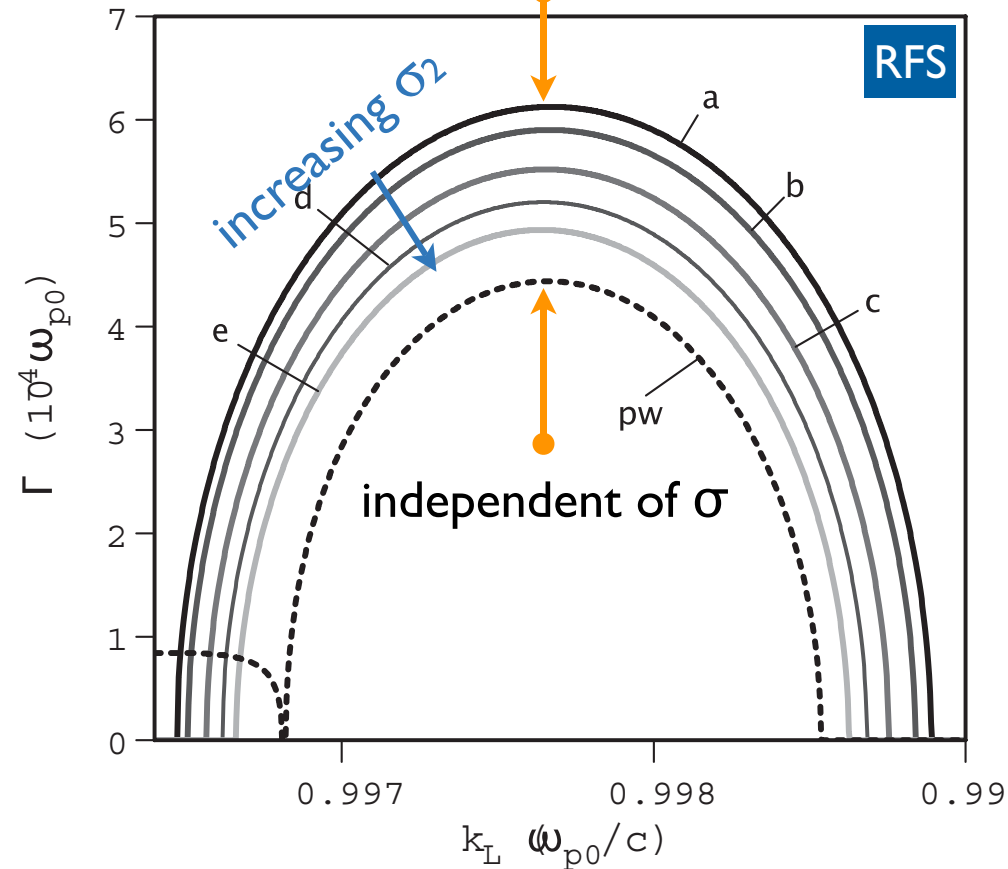
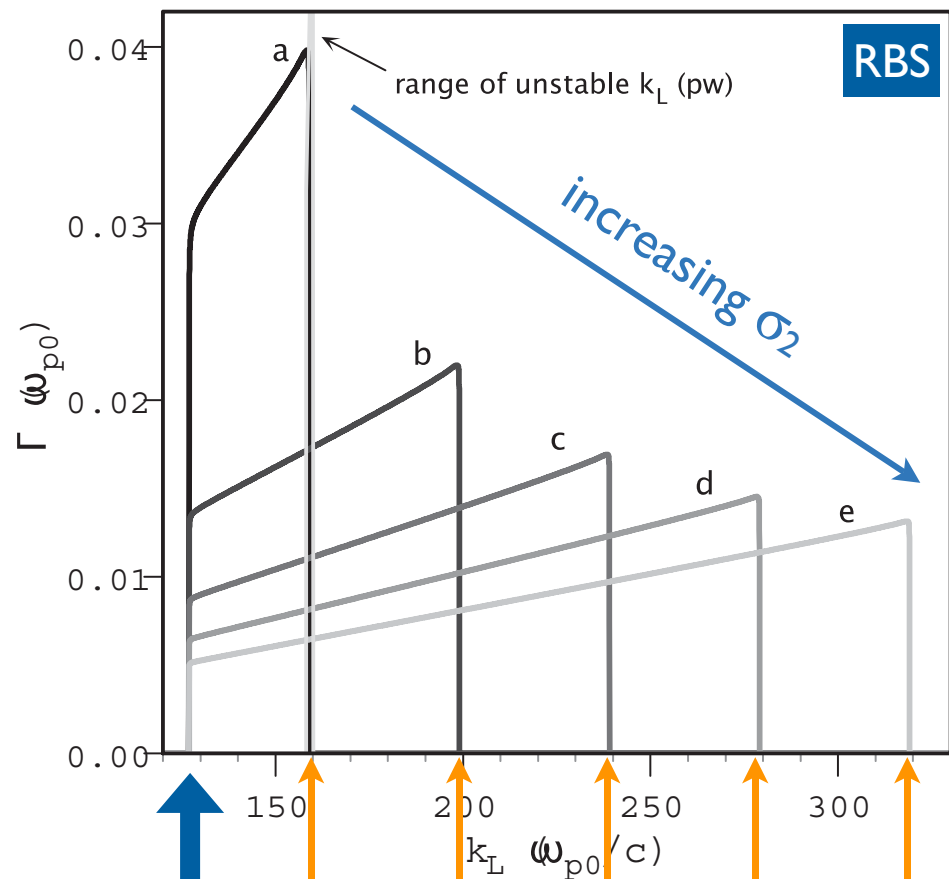


$k_0 = 80 ; \sigma_1 = 16$

Range of unstable wavenumbers

Asymmetric waterbag

$$k_L \approx 1/\sqrt{\gamma_0}$$



$$k_L \approx 2(k_0 - \sigma_1) - 1/\sqrt{\gamma_0}$$

independent of σ_2

$$k_L \approx 2(k_0 + \sigma_2) - 1/\sqrt{\gamma_0}$$

$$a_0 = 0.1; k_0 = 80; \sigma_1 = 16$$

Self-focusing or transverse modulation instability - monochromatic beam -



The generalized dispersion relation (valid for all scattering angles) is employed

Incident Monochromatic Light

with wavenumber k_0

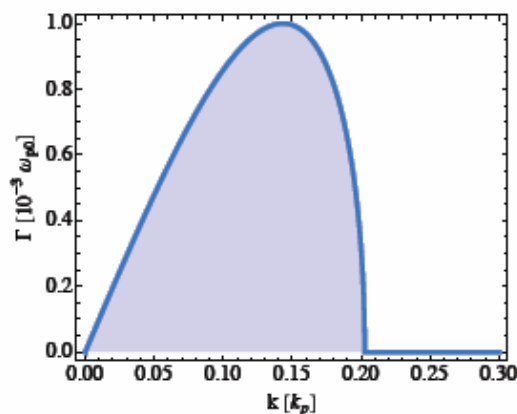
$$\rho_0(\mathbf{k}) = a_0^2 \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_0)$$

self-focusing

$$\mathbf{k}_L \cdot \mathbf{k}_0 = 0$$

Dispersion relation for monochromatic self-focusing instability

$$-2\alpha (\omega_L^2 - \mathbf{k}_L^2) (1 - \gamma_0 (\omega_L^2 - \mathbf{k}_L^2)) + (\omega_L^2 \gamma_0 - 1) \left((\omega_L^2 - \mathbf{k}_L^2)^2 - 4\omega_0^2 \omega_L^2 \right) = 0$$



$$\alpha = 2a_0^2 / \gamma_0^3$$

$$\gamma_0 (\mathbf{k}_L - \omega_L^2) \ll 1$$

$$\omega_L^2 \gamma_0 \ll 1$$

long wavelengths

underdense plasma

$$-2\alpha (\omega_L^2 - \mathbf{k}_L^2) - (\omega_L^2 - \mathbf{k}_L^2)^2 + 4\omega_0^2 \omega_L^2 = 0$$

Identical to
C. E. Max et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 33, 209 (1974)

Transverse modulation instability broadband dispersion relation



Incident Light

propagation direction is x
with transverse spread in wavenumbers along k_z

$$\rho(\mathbf{k}) = a_0^2 \delta(k_x - k_0) \delta(k_y) f(k_z)$$

$$\omega_0^2 = k_0^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma_0}$$

$$1 = -\alpha \left(\frac{k_L^2 \gamma_0}{\omega_L^2 \gamma_0 - 1} - 1 \right) \int dk_z f(k_z) \left(\frac{1}{D_{\perp}^+} + \frac{1}{D_{\perp}^-} \right)$$

$$D_{\perp}^{\pm} = (\mathbf{k}_L^2 - \omega_L^2) \mp 2\omega_L \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + k_z^2} \pm 2k_L k_z$$

$$\gamma_0 (\mathbf{k}_L - \omega_L^2) \ll 1$$

long wavelengths

$$\omega_L^2 \gamma_0 \ll 1$$

underdense plasma

$$k_z^2 \ll \omega_0^2$$

“small” transverse spread

$$1 = \alpha \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} \int dk_z f(k_z) \left(\frac{1}{d_1 + d_2 + (k_z - d_3)^2} + \frac{1}{d_1 - d_2 + (k_z - d_3)^2} \right)$$

$$d_1 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} \left(2\omega_L \omega_0 - \frac{k_L^2 \omega_0}{\omega_L} \right) \quad d_2 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} (\mathbf{k}_L^2 - \omega_L^2) \quad d_3 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} k_L$$

Transverse modulation instability broadband dispersion relation - waterbag



Waterbag distribution in k_z (width = $2 k_{z0}$)

$$f(k_z) = \frac{1}{2k_{z0}} (\Theta(k_z + k_{z0}) - \Theta(k_z - k_{z0}))$$

$$1 = \frac{\alpha}{2k_{z0}} \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} \left(\frac{1}{d_+} \left(\arctan \frac{d_3 + k_{z0}}{d_+} - \arctan \frac{d_3 - k_{z0}}{d_+} \right) + \frac{1}{d_-} \left(\arctan \frac{d_3 + k_{z0}}{d_-} - \arctan \frac{d_3 - k_{z0}}{d_-} \right) \right)$$

$$d_1 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} \left(2\omega_L \omega_0 - \frac{k_L^2 \omega_0}{\omega_L} \right) \quad d_2 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} (k_L^2 - \omega_L^2) \quad d_3 = \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_L} k_L \quad \begin{aligned} d_+ &= \sqrt{d_1 + d_2} \\ d_- &= \sqrt{d_1 - d_2} \end{aligned}$$

- ◎ Generalized Wigner-Moyal statistical theory for photons formally equivalent to full nonlinear wave equation for e.m. waves (no paraxial wave approximation)
- ◎ Generalized dispersion relation for coupling with electron plasma waves for light with arbitrary statistics (valid for all angles, all intensities)
- ◎ White Light Effects
 - * Growth rates for Raman Forward Scattering and Relativistic Modulational Instability can increase with increasing bandwidth
 - * Range of unstable wavenumbers increases with increasing bandwidth for Raman Forward/Backscattering
 - * Strong qualitative variations due to merging of Raman Forward Scattering and Raman Backscattering when bandwidth increases

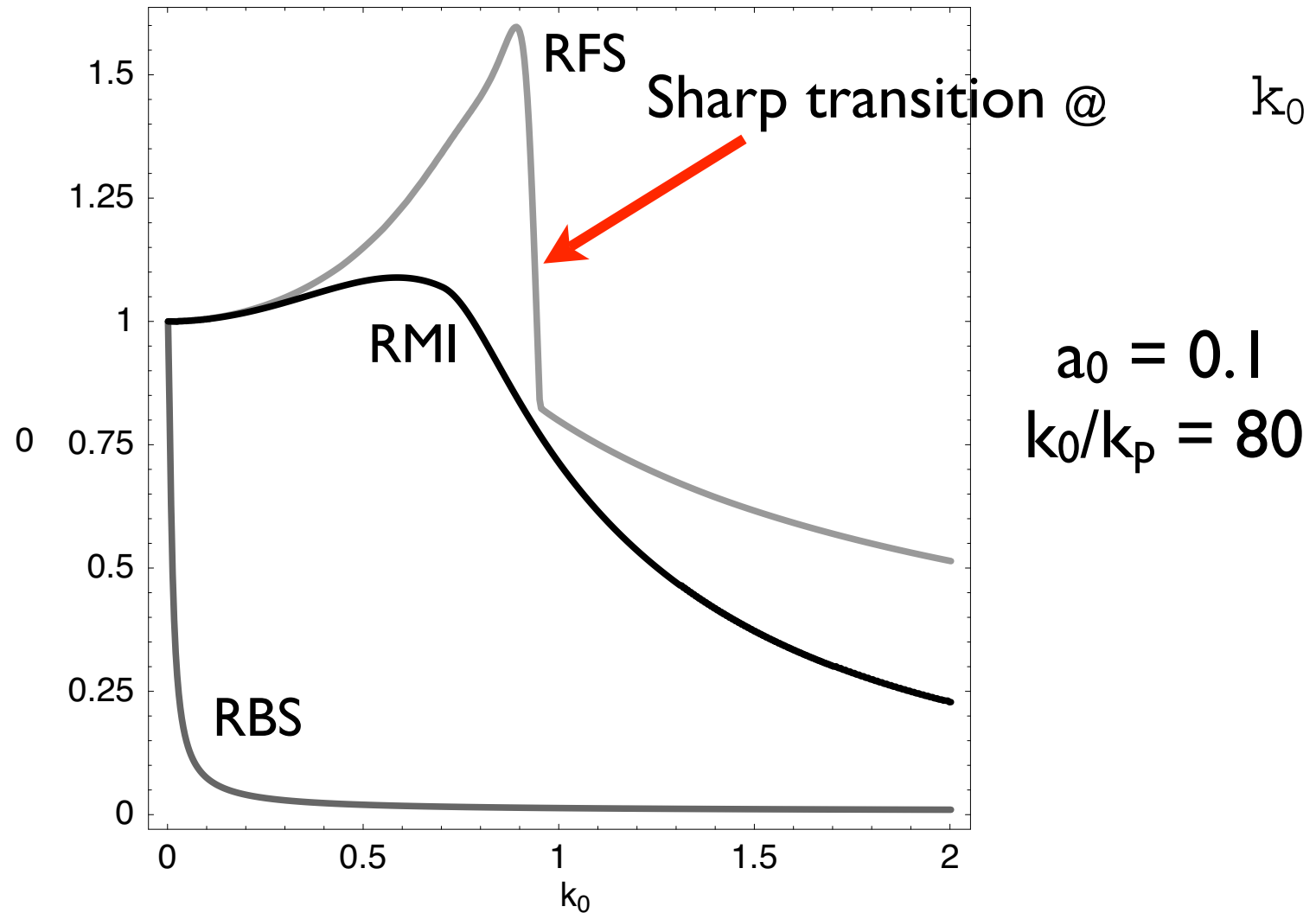
Future directions



- ⊙ Multidimensional analysis of coupling with electron dynamics (e.g. transverse modulation instability - relativistic effects)
- ⊙ Generalize formalism to describe coupling with ion acoustic waves (Stimulated Brillouin Scattering)
- ⊙ Describe fluctuations of the plasma via Wigner-Moyal equation with the goal of including zero-order statistics of plasma fluctuations
- ⊙ Identify absolute vs convective nature of the instabilities derived from the generalized dispersion relation
- ⊙ Spatial-temporal theory
- ⊙ Comparison with particle-in-cell simulations and experiments

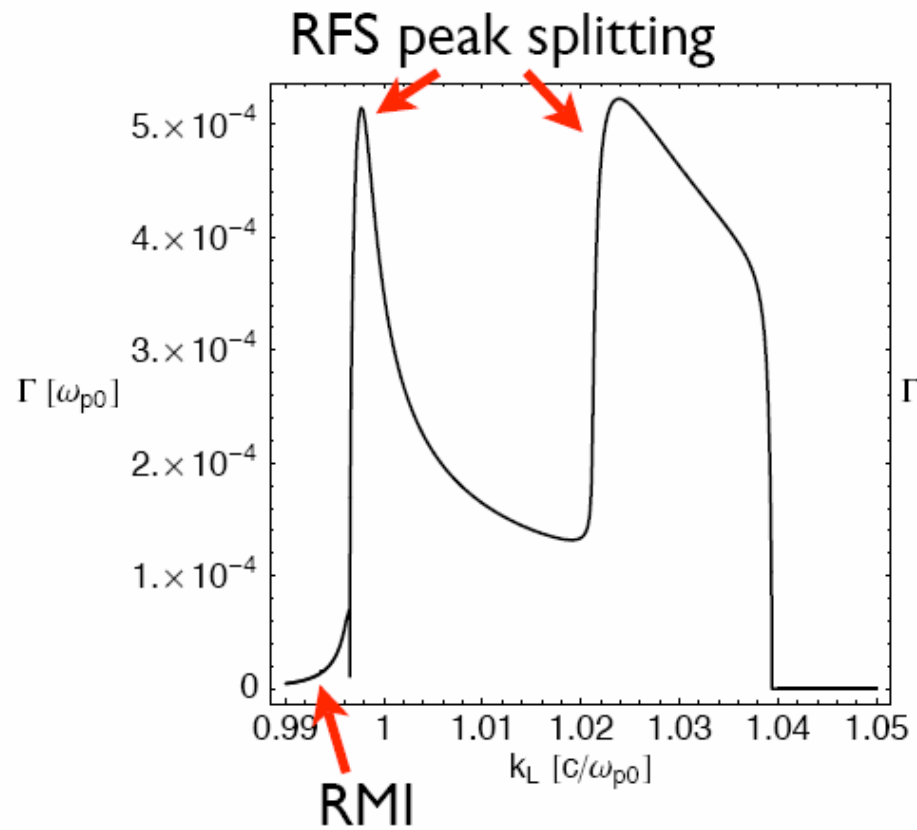
Growth rate goes up with increasing bandwidth

Symmetric waterbag

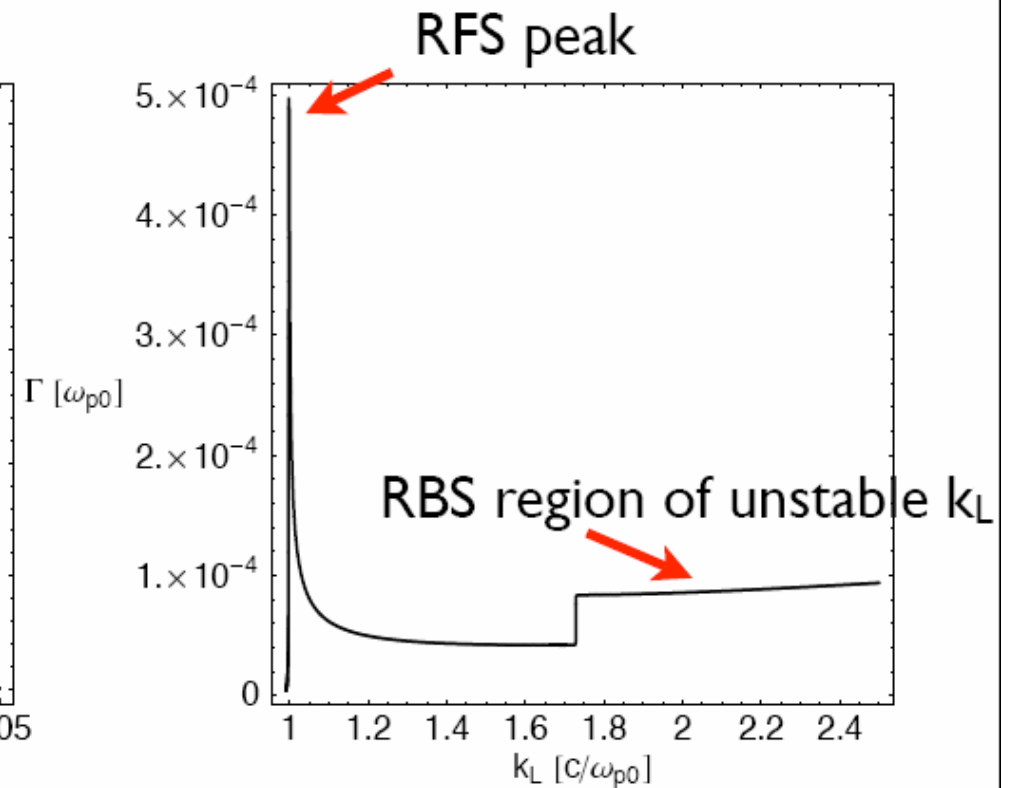


RFS peak splitting and merging with RBS

$$a_0 = 0.1 \quad k_0/k_p = 80$$



$$\sigma < k_0$$



$$\sigma > k_0$$

Range of unstable k_L in RBS increases with bandwidth $\approx [2(k_0 - \sigma), 2(k_0 + \sigma)]$