

Guiding Center Dynamics

M. Stephanov

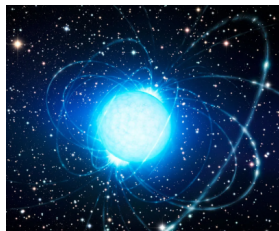


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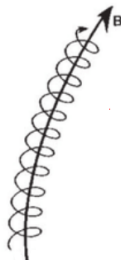
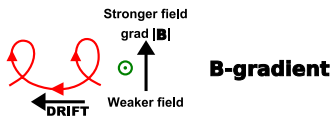
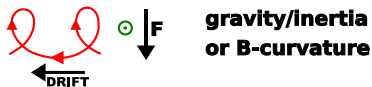
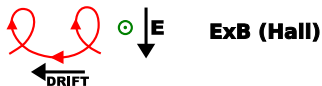
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Charge in magnetic field – guiding center approximation

- Matter in magnetic fields – many important contexts and applications.
- Scale separation: fast gyro motion, slower guiding center motion
- Effective theory of this slower motion is a very useful tool
- Simple case $\mathbf{B} = \text{const}$ and $\mathbf{E} \parallel \mathbf{B}$: guiding center moves along a magnetic field line — 1+1d motion.
- But what if $\mathbf{E} \not\parallel \mathbf{B}$ and/or $\mathbf{B} \neq \text{const}$?



Drift



- Important problem, e.g., for thermonuclear plasma confinement.

Guiding-center approximation

- In (special) relativistic context, averaging over fast gyromotion, Vandervoort '60 finds a rather long and non-covariant formula:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\mathbf{R}}_{\perp} = & \frac{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{B(1 - E_{\perp}^2/B^2)} \times \left\{ - \left(1 - \frac{E_{\perp}^2}{B^2} \right) c\mathbf{E} \right. \\ & + \frac{M_r c}{\gamma e} \nabla \left[B \left(1 - \frac{E_{\perp}^2}{B^2} \right)^{1/2} \right] + \frac{m_0 c \gamma}{e} \left(v_{\parallel} \frac{d\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{dt} + \frac{d\mathbf{u}_E}{dt} \right) \\ & \left. + \frac{v_{\parallel} E_{\parallel}}{c} \mathbf{u}_E + \frac{M_r}{\gamma e} \frac{\mathbf{u}_E}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[B \left(1 - \frac{E_{\perp}^2}{B^2} \right)^{1/2} \right] \right\} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)\end{aligned}$$

$\epsilon = a/L$ (orbit radius over characteristic length of B variation).

- We shall begin by rederiving this formula using simpler and manifestly Lorentz (and general coordinate) covariant formalism.

$E \parallel B$ frame

- The motion is simplest in a (family of) frame(s) where $E \parallel B$.

In such a frame we define $B_* \equiv |\mathbf{B}|$ and $E_* \equiv \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}/|\mathbf{B}|$.

B_* and E_* are invariants of the EM field.

more

- Cyclotron radius $a = p_{\perp}/B_*$.

Treat both a/L and E_*/B_* as small.

- Upon averaging over p_{\perp} only $\mathbf{p} \parallel \mathbf{B}$ remains, i.e., $\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$.

- Effectively 1 + 1d motion. With effective mass

$$\tilde{m}^2 = m^2 + p_{\perp}^2 \equiv m^2 + JB_*$$

where $J = ap_{\perp} = p_{\perp}^2/B_*$ – adiabatic invariant.

In quantum case $J = \hbar(2n + 1 + gs_z)$.

Covariant description – action principle

- Boost \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{E} fields separately back to Lab frame:

$$F_{\mu\nu} = B_{\mu\nu} + E_{\mu\nu}. \text{ Then } \mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{B} = 0 \text{ becomes } B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu = 0.$$

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- Consider Lagrangian with additional constraint $B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu = 0$:

$$L = -\dot{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{A}) + \frac{\alpha}{2}(p^2 - \tilde{m}^2) + \lambda_\mu B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu.$$

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- EOMs:

$$\dot{x}^\mu = \alpha p^\mu + \lambda_\alpha B^{\alpha\mu} \equiv \alpha p^\mu + v_D^\mu,$$

$$\dot{p}_\mu = F_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^\nu + \frac{\alpha}{2} J \partial_\mu B_* - \lambda_\alpha p_\beta \partial_\mu B^{\alpha\beta},$$

and two constraints: $p^2 - \tilde{m}^2 = 0$, $B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu = 0$.

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and two constraints: $p^2 - \tilde{m}^2 = 0$, $B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu = 0$.

- Substitute \dot{x} into eq. for \dot{p} , use $B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu = 0$ and obtain:

$$v_D^\mu = \alpha B_*^{-2} \left((p \cdot \partial) B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu + \frac{J}{2} B^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu B_* \right).$$

Manifestly GR covariant drift formula

$$v_D^\mu = \alpha B_*^{-2} \left(\underbrace{(p \cdot \nabla) B^{\mu\nu} p_\nu}_{\substack{B\text{-curvature,} \\ \text{gravity/inertia}}} + \underbrace{\frac{J}{2} B^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\nu B_*}_{\text{gradient drift}} \right).$$

written in components contains all of this

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{R}}_\perp = & \frac{\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{B(1 - E_\perp^2/B^2)} \times \left\{ - \left(1 - \frac{E_\perp^2}{B^2} \right) c\mathbf{E} \right. \\ & + \frac{M_r c}{\gamma e} \nabla \left[B \left(1 - \frac{E_\perp^2}{B^2} \right)^{1/2} \right] + \frac{m_0 c \gamma}{e} \left(v_\parallel \frac{d\hat{\mathbf{e}}_1}{dt} + \frac{d\mathbf{u}_E}{dt} \right) \\ & \left. + \frac{v_\parallel E_\parallel}{c} \mathbf{u}_E + \frac{M_r}{\gamma e} \frac{\mathbf{u}_E}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[B \left(1 - \frac{E_\perp^2}{B^2} \right)^{1/2} \right] \right\} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \end{aligned}$$

but also gravity effects.

Manifestly general coordinate covariant and much shorter.

Guiding center kinetic theory

$$\mathcal{L}[f] \equiv \dot{x} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \dot{p} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial p} = \mathcal{C}[f],$$

$$\dot{x}^\mu = \alpha p^\mu + \lambda_\alpha B^{\alpha\mu} \equiv \alpha p^\mu + v_D^\mu,$$

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The invariant phase volume is $W d^4 p$, where

$$W = \underbrace{\theta(p_0) \delta(p^2 - \tilde{m}^2)}_{\text{mass shell}} \underbrace{\delta^2(\Delta_\nu^\mu p^\nu)}_{\mathbf{p} \parallel \mathbf{B}} \underbrace{\frac{B_*}{2\pi^2 \alpha}}_{\text{LL density}} \left(1 + \frac{p_\mu \partial_\nu B^{\mu\nu}}{B_*^2} \right).$$

$\Delta_\nu^\mu \equiv B_*^{-2} B^{\mu\alpha} B_{\nu\alpha}$ — projector onto $\perp \mathbf{B}$ plane (in $\mathbf{E} \parallel \mathbf{B}$ frame).

The phase space has only one momentum direction: $\mathbf{p} \parallel \mathbf{B}$.

B -field line curvature correction is important.

more

$T^{\mu\nu}$

Ideal hydrodynamics

- To lowest non-trivial order in a/L and E_*/B_* :

$$\partial_\mu \tilde{N}^\mu = 0 \quad \text{— charge conservation,}$$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\nu^\lambda \partial_\mu T^\mu_\lambda = E_{\nu\lambda} \tilde{N}^\lambda \quad \text{— 1+1 energy-momentum conservation.}$$

where $\tilde{\Delta}_\nu^\mu = \delta_\nu^\mu - \Delta_\nu^\mu$ projector onto 1+1 $\mathbf{E} \parallel \mathbf{B}$ space.

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- Constitutive equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{N}^\mu &= n u^\mu, \\ T^{\mu\nu} &= \underbrace{(\epsilon + P) u^\mu u^\nu - P \tilde{\Delta}^{\mu\nu}}_{\tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} - 1+1\text{d tensor}} - P_\perp \Delta^{\mu\nu}, \end{aligned}$$

and $\Delta_\nu^\mu(x) u^\nu(x) = 0$ — i.e., fluid rest frame is an $\mathbf{E} \parallel \mathbf{B}$ frame.

- The flow is (locally) 1+1-dimensional (along \mathbf{B}).

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- The flow is (locally) 1+1-dimensional (along \mathbf{B}).
- But there is transverse pressure P_\perp (due to gyromotion).

[more](#)

Full EM current

The full (unprojected) divergence of the full T_{ν}^{μ} :

$$\partial_{\mu} T_{\nu}^{\mu} = F_{\nu\mu} J^{\mu}, \quad \text{with} \quad J^{\mu} \equiv N^{\mu} + \partial_{\lambda} M^{\lambda\mu}.$$

Transport current $N^{\mu} = \tilde{N}^{\mu} + N_{\text{D}}^{\mu}$ contains “longitudinal” ($\parallel u$) + “drift”

$$N_{\text{D}}^{\mu} \equiv \int_p W v_{\text{D}}^{\mu} f = B_*^{-2} (\tilde{T}_{\nu}^{\lambda} \partial_{\lambda} B^{\mu\nu} - M B^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\nu} B_*).$$

currents. The “magnetization current” is $\partial_{\lambda} M^{\lambda\mu}$, where

$$M^{\lambda\mu} = M B^{\lambda\mu} / B_*$$

is the magnetization density due to the fast transverse gyro motion.

The drift and the magnetization currents conspire to make the 3+1 energy-momentum conservation equations linearly dependent, reducible to 1+1 (projected) equations.

Constitutive relations

Can be obtained in three different ways, with the same result:

$$n = \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu}, \quad \epsilon = T \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} + \mu \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} - P, \quad P_{\perp} = P - B_* \frac{\partial P}{\partial B_*}.$$

➊ Directly from kinetic theory in terms of f_{eq} :

$$\{n, \epsilon, P, P_{\perp}\} = \frac{B_*}{2\pi} \int \frac{dp_z}{2\pi} f_{\text{eq}}(\beta u \cdot p - \alpha) \left\{ 1, p_0, \frac{p_z^2}{p_0}, \underbrace{\frac{JB_*}{2p_0}}_{JB_* = p_{\perp}^2} \right\}.$$

Pressure depends on f_{eq} . Relations between P , n , ϵ , P_{\perp} do not.

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• By applying the 2nd law of thermodynamics.

• From the partition function $\ln Z = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} P(\mu, T, B_*)$ in external gauge field and metric backgrounds.

Beyond kinetic theory

- With u^μ defined via $B_{\mu\nu}u^\nu = 0$ and $\tilde{\Delta}^\mu_\lambda T^\lambda_\nu u^\nu = \epsilon u^\mu$ (1+1 projected Landau condition), the constitutive relations

$$\tilde{N}^\mu = nu^\mu,$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu - P\tilde{\Delta}^{\mu\nu} - P_\perp\Delta^{\mu\nu},$$

$$n = \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu}, \quad \epsilon = T \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} + \mu \frac{\partial P}{\partial \mu} - P, \quad P_\perp = P - B_* \frac{\partial P}{\partial B_*},$$

are the most general covariant relations at zeroth order in derivatives satisfying second law constraints.

- Thus, such hydrodynamic description would also apply to strongly coupled QGP (as found in, e.g., Hattori et al '22).
- The condition $B_{\mu\nu}u^\nu = 0$ eliminates non-hydro modes relaxing fast: $\Gamma_\perp = \sigma B^2 / (\epsilon + P)$ – flow \perp to B generates ohmic heat.

Conclusions and outlook

- Action principle with a momentum constraint offers a simple and manifestly covariant derivation of the guiding-center dynamics.
- This approach leads to a number of new results such as the manifestly covariant expression for v_D , invariant phase space volume W , covariant kinetic theory and hydrodynamics.
- More work is needed to incorporate collisions and dissipation.
- Did not consider feedback of the particles onto the EM fields. But we found the full EM current (longitudinal, drift and magnetization) – a crucial ingredient for MHD simulations.

More

Properties of the $\mathbf{E} \parallel \mathbf{B}$ frame(s)

Frame velocity u^μ is an eigenvector: $(F^{\mu\lambda}F_{\lambda\nu})u^\nu = E_*^2 u^\mu$.

In such a frame $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$.

\mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} are invariant under boosts along \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} .

$$2(B_*^2 - E_*^2) = F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{and} \quad -4E_*B_* = F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}.$$

Unique decomposition $F_{\mu\nu} = E_{\mu\nu} + B_{\mu\nu}$, where

$$B_{\mu\nu} = \frac{F_{\mu\nu} - \epsilon_* \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}}{1 + \epsilon_*^2}, \quad E_{\mu\nu} = \epsilon_* \frac{\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} + \epsilon_* F_{\mu\nu}}{1 + \epsilon_*^2}, \quad \epsilon_* = E_*/B_*.$$

such that $B_{\mu\nu}u^\nu = 0$, $E^{\mu\nu}B_{\lambda\nu} = 0$, $B^{\mu\nu}B_{\mu\nu} = 2B_*^2$, $E^{\mu\nu}E_{\mu\nu} = -2E_*^2$.

For $u = \gamma(1, 0, 0, v)$, $E_{0z} = E_*$ and $B_{xy} = -B_*$.

[back](#)

Invariant phase-space volume

Invariant phase-space volume = flux of the state density current

$$J^M = (\dot{x}^\mu, \dot{p}_\nu)W,$$

in phase space through a given equal-time surface:

$$d^7\Gamma = J^M d^7\Sigma_M = (n \cdot \dot{x})W d^3x d^4p.$$

Solving conservation equation $\partial_M J^M = 0$ we find

$$W = \frac{B_* + B_*^{-1} p_\mu \partial_\nu B^{\mu\nu}}{2\pi^2 \alpha} \theta(p_0) \delta(p^2 - \tilde{m}^2) \delta^2(\Delta^{\mu\nu} p_\nu).$$

$\Delta_\nu^\mu = B_*^{-2} B^{\mu\alpha} B_{\nu\alpha}$ – projector onto the plane orthogonal to B .

The overall (quantum) coefficient is fixed by Landau-level degeneracy.

back

From kinetic theory to hydrodynamics

Using conservation of charge and energy/momentum in collisions:

$$\int_p W\{1, p_\nu\} \mathcal{L}[f] = \{\partial_\mu N^\mu, \partial_\mu \tilde{T}^\mu_\nu - F_\nu\} = 0.$$

where current, energy-momentum and force density:

$$\{N^\mu, \tilde{T}^\mu_\nu, F_\nu\} = \int_p W\{\dot{x}^\mu, \dot{x}^\mu p_\nu, \dot{p}_\nu\} f.$$

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Using [equations of motion](#), to leading order:

$$\tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} = \int_p W \alpha p^\mu p^\nu f,$$

$$F_\nu = F_{\nu\lambda} N^\lambda - M \partial_\nu B_*, \quad M \equiv - \int_p W \frac{\alpha J}{2} f.$$

Charge transport current

“Transport” current $N^\mu = \tilde{N}^\mu + N_D^\mu$ consists of “longitudinal”

$$\tilde{N}^\mu \equiv \int_p W \alpha p^\mu f,$$

and “drift” components (higher order in a/L , due to ∂s)

$$N_D^\mu \equiv \int_p W v_D^\mu f = B_*^{-2} (\tilde{T}_\nu^\lambda \partial_\lambda B^{\mu\nu} - M B^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu B_*).$$

N_D is parametrically negligible in current conservation equation.

Hence $\partial \cdot \tilde{N} = 0$ to leading order.

Stress tensor

But N_D is *not* negligible in energy-momentum (non-)conservation (because leading term $B_{\nu\lambda}\tilde{N}^\lambda = 0$).

We can rewrite

$$\partial_\mu \tilde{T}^\mu_\nu = F_{\nu\lambda} N^\lambda - M \partial_\nu B_*$$

in the final form (1+1 projected equations)

$$\tilde{\Delta}^\lambda_\nu \partial_\mu T^\mu_\lambda = E_{\nu\lambda} \tilde{N}^\lambda$$

if we define full stress tensor as

$$T^{\mu\nu} \equiv \tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} + T^\mu_\perp{}^\nu, \quad \text{where} \quad T^\mu_\perp{}^\nu = M B_* \Delta^\mu_\nu.$$

Since

$$T^\mu_\perp{}^\nu \equiv \int_p W \alpha \overline{p^\mu_\perp p^\nu_\perp} f.$$

this is the contribution to pressure from the fast transverse gyro motion.