Diagnostics of collisionless processes in plasma

F. Skiff

Department of Physics and Astronomy University of Iowa

Workshop on Nonlocal, Collisionless Electron Transport in Plasmas Princeton, August 2-4, 2005

Three examples of phase-space diagnostics

- External harmonic excitation of plasma ion waves.
- Observation of ion phase-space fluctuations.
- Using whistler wave absorption to measure the electron velocity distribution function.















Magnitude contours of $F(\omega/k,v;\omega)$

Plotting data in the particle velocity –phase velocity plane reveals both mode structure and the nature of interactions at the wave-particle resonances. Resonances define straight lines in the plot according to:









Poles in the response function





M1 and C1 are attached to a carriage that moves

along the plasma column axis.















Transmission vs frequency and sign(k_{-})







Conclusions

- Phase-space resolving diagnostics can be performed in several ways.
- There exist kinetic degrees of freedom that are difficult to observe after velocity averaging.
- In addition to LIF for ions, wave absorption on electrons can provide a velocity resolving diagnostic.