Primordial magnetic field and kinetic theory with Berry curvature

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We consider the generation and evolution of magnetic field in a primordial plasma at temperature $T \leq 1 \text{ MeV}$ in presence of asymmetric neutrino background i.e. the number densities of right-handed and left-handed neutrinos are not same. Semi-classical equations of motion of a charged fermion are derived using the effective low-energy Lagrangian. It is shown that the spin degree of freedom of the charged fermion couples with the neutrino background. Using this kinetic equation we study the collective modes of the plasma. We find that there exist an unstable mode. This instability is closely related with the instability induced by chiral-anomaly in high temperature $T \geq 80 \text{ TeV}$ plasma where right and left-handed electrons are out of equilibrium. We find that at the temperatures below the neutrino decoupling the instability can produce magnetic field of 10 Gauss in the Universe. We discuss cosmological implications of the results.

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I. INTRODUCTION

There has been a considerable interest in studying magnetic field generation in plasmas with a parity violating interaction \cite{11,12}. Such studies can be potentially useful in understanding the primordial origin of the observed inter galactic magnetic fields which is still an open issue (for recent reviews see \cite{11,12}). They can also be useful in understanding the magnetic field generation in a core-collapsing supernovae or a magnetar \cite{9,10}. The earlier parity violating mechanism relied on the assumption that there was an excess of right handed electrons over positrons by some mechanism. In this case one can define the chiral-chemical potentials for right and left handed particles and they are not equal. For such a situation the right-handed current is not conserved due to the Abelian anomaly. This state can be shown to unstable and the instability can generate a hypercharge magnetic field of $10^{22} \text{ G}$. However, at temperature $T < 80 \text{ TeV}$ one can expect right and left handed electrons in equilibrium and the asymmetry is washed out. It was shown in Ref.\cite{4} that in presence of strong magnetic field the left-right asymmetry can be present till temperature $T \sim 10 \text{ MeV}$. Similar mechanism for the magnetic field generation in a core-collapsing supernova was proposed \cite{9,10}. In presence of parity violating interaction, the most general expression for photon polarization tensor $\pi^{ij}$ takes the form \cite{11,12},

$$\pi^{ij} = \pi_L P^{ij}_L + \pi_T P^{ij}_T + \pi_A P^{ij}_A.$$ \hspace{1cm} (1)

$P$ are the projection operators defined as: $P^{ij}_L = k^i k^j / k^2$, $P^{ij}_T = \delta^{ij} - k^i k^j / k^2$ and $P^{ij}_A = i \epsilon^{ijk} k^k / k$ where, $k^i$ is $i$-th component of the propagation vector. The first two terms are parity even and very well studied. The coefficient of the axial projection operator will be zero in a parity even theory. Thus the structure and strength of the third term depends on the parity odd interactions of the theory. In such cases the transverse branch of the dispersion relation can split into two components \cite{12}. One of the branches of the transverse dispersion relation become unstable due to the chiral-imbalance. The instability can be shown to generate magnetic field in the plasma \cite{1,11,12}.

Interestingly a similar scenario can exist in the neutrino sector where neutrino and charged lepton interaction is considered \cite{12}. In this work using the techniques of finite temperature field theory (FTFT) it was shown that the magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) is modified in the presence of neutrino asymmetry. The neutrino asymmetry in the plasma was shown to drive the instability which in turn can generate a magnetic field. Here we would like to note that charged leptons in the plasma were considered in Ref.\cite{17} to be chirally unpolarized. In the low energy regime $m > T$ where, $m$ is the mass of charged leptons the chiral polarization can be washed out as the chirality flip rated due to collisions $\Gamma \sim m^2 / T^2$. There are some other works where in a different context neutrino and charged particle interaction was shown to contribute significantly for the anti-symmetric part of the photon polarization tensor $\Pi_A$ \cite{12,14,15} see also \cite{16} over which we shall comment later.

Recently, there has been an important development in incorporating parity violating effect within a kinetic theory framework \cite{15,23}. In this approach the Vlasov equation was modified by including the Berry-curvature term to account for the chirality of charged particles. This modification makes the kinetic description consistent with the equation of the Abelian anomaly. Moreover, the parity odd correlation function calculated using the modified Vlasov equation is identical with the results...
of the underlying quantum field theory in the next-to-leading order hard dense loop approximation \[20\]. However, the neutrino- charged-fermion interaction was not considered in this work. The advantage that the kinetic theory description offers is that it is much simpler to handle than FTFT and one can have access to a variety of the plasma physics techniques. Keeping this in mind in the present work we derive the Vlasov equation in the presence of neutrino asymmetry. It ought to be noted here that there exist kinetic description of neutrino in a dense medium based upon Bogoliubov-Born-Green-Kirkwood-Yvon (BBGKY) hierarchy \[22\], see also \[23\] or quantum kinetic description \[24\]. Also the modulation of the neutrino flux by plasma waves has been considered in Ref.\[25\]. In the present work we modify the Vlasov equation to incorporate low energy (\(m \geq T\)) interaction between the charged leptons and neutrinos. The neutrino flux is considered to be constant like that \[26\]. If the neutrino background vary with time, this term would modify force equation as \ref{eq:2}. In Refs.\[14]-\[17\], we derive a set of equations describing motion of a charged particle in electromagnetic field and the asymmetric neutrino background. We show that the neutrino background couples with spin of the charged particle. From these equations the modified Vlasov equation can be obtained. It is interesting to note here that modified Vlasov equations with spin dynamics are also considered in the regular plasma literature also in a different context [see for example \[27\]]. The magnetics of a spinning plasma can be extremely richer than the regular plasma \[28\]. We show that the asymmetry in the neutrino background can alter the spin dynamics of the charged particles and which can be responsible for the generation of magnetic field. We discuss the cosmological consequences of our result.

II. THE EQUATIONS OF MOTION AND THE KINETIC THEORY

Lagrangian density for lepton field interacting with background neutrino is given by,

\[
\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left[ i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - \gamma^\mu (f^\mu_L P_L + f^\mu_R P_R) - m \right] \psi \tag{2}
\]

where, \(m\) is mass of the lepton, \(\gamma^\mu = (\gamma^0, \gamma)\) are the Dirac matrices and \(P_{L,R} = \frac{1+\gamma^5}{2}\) are the chiral projection operator with \(\gamma^5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3\). \(f^\mu_{L,R} = (f^\mu_L, f^\mu_R)\) are the neutrino currents and they are regarded as an external macroscopic quantities. An explicit form of \(f^\mu_{L,R}\) can be calculated from effective Lagrangian \[26\]

\[
\mathcal{L}_{eff} = [-\sqrt{2}G_F \sum_\alpha \bar{\nu}_\alpha \gamma^\mu \left( 1 - \gamma^5 \right) \nu_\alpha ] [\bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu (a^\mu_L P_L + a^\mu_R P_R) \Psi] \tag{3}
\]

where, label \(\alpha\) denotes neutrino species \(\alpha = e, \mu, \tau\) and \(G_F = 1.17 \times 10^{-11} M eV^{-2}\) is the Fermi constant. The coefficients \(a^\mu_L\) & \(a^\mu_R\) are given by

\[
a^\mu_L = \delta_{\alpha,e} + \sin^2 \theta_W - 1/2, \quad a^\mu_R = \sin^2 \theta_W \tag{4}
\]

\(, \) with \(\theta_W\) being the Weinberg angle. Next, we assume that \(\nu\bar{\nu}\) form an isotropic background gas. This in turn means that in averaging over the neutrino ensemble, only nonzero quantity will be \(<\bar{\nu}_\alpha \gamma^0 (1 - \gamma^5) \nu_\alpha >= 2(n_{\nu_\alpha} - n_{\bar{\nu}_\alpha})\). Number densities of neutrinos and antineutrinos can be calculated using corresponding Fermi-Dirac distribution function

\[
n_{\nu_\alpha,\bar{\nu}_\alpha} = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{e^{\beta \nu_\alpha (p^\mu + \mu_\alpha)} + 1} \tag{5}
\]

where \(\beta\) is the inverse temperature. Using Eq.\[26\] one obtains

\[
f^\mu_L = 2\sqrt{2}G_F [\Delta n_{\nu_\alpha} + (\sin^2 \theta_W - 1/2) \sum_\alpha \Delta n_{\nu_\alpha}] \tag{6}
\]

\[
f^\mu_R = 2\sqrt{2}G_F \sin^2 \theta_W \sum_\alpha \Delta n_{\nu_\alpha} \tag{7}
\]

Thus the equation of motion obtained from Eq.\[2\] can be written as

\[
\frac{d\bar{\psi}}{dt} = (\mathbf{\alpha} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} \bar{\psi} + \beta m - (f^0_L P_L + f^0_R P_R) \bar{\psi}). \tag{8}
\]

Writing \(\psi = \left( \begin{array}{c} \phi \\ \chi \end{array} \right)\) in the Eq.\[8\] and following the standard procedure, Hamiltonian for the large component of the spinor \[28\] can be obtained as,

\[
\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2m} (\mathbf{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p})(\mathbf{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p}) + \frac{\Delta f^0}{2m} (\mathbf{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{p}) + \frac{f^0}{2} + O(f^2_{L,R}) \tag{9}
\]

where \(f^0 = f^0_L + f^0_R\) and \(\Delta f^0 = f^0_L - f^0_R\). In the above equation, we have neglected terms proportional to \(G_F^2\). In the presence of external electromagnetic field, momentum \(p\) has to be replaced by \(p - eA\). Thus the Hamiltonian for charged fermion in interacting with an external electromagnetic field and background neutrino is given by,

\[
\mathcal{H} = \frac{(p - e\mathbf{A})^2}{2m} - \mathbf{\mu} \cdot B + eA^0 + \Delta f^0 \cdot (\mathbf{\sigma} \cdot (p - e\mathbf{A})) + \frac{f^0}{2} \tag{9}
\]

where, \(\mu = \frac{e}{4\alpha} \mathbf{\sigma}\) is the electron magnetic moment ans \(g\) is the Landé g-factor. The first three terms on the right hand side are well known and very well studied in the literature. The fourth and fifth terms are due to the neutrino background. The last term might contribute to the energy of the system, but it will not enter into the equations of motion as the neutrino background considered to be constant. If the neutrino background vary with space and time, this term will modify force equation as \(\mathbf{F} \propto \nabla f = \nabla \bar{\psi}^\dagger \gamma^\mu \psi.\) This force is called ponderomotive force. Such a scenario was studied in Ref.\[25\], however in their formalism the fourth term was not considered.

In order to find the equation of motion for a charged particle in an electromagnetic field and the neutrino...
background, one can use Eq. 9 and the Heisenberg equation \( \dot{O} = i[\hat{H}, \hat{O}] \) and write:

\[
v = \frac{p - eA}{m} + \frac{\Delta f^0}{2m}\sigma
\]

(10)

where we wrote \( \dot{x} = v \).

\[
\dot{p} = \frac{e}{m}(p - eA)k \nabla A_k + \frac{eg}{m}(s \cdot B) - e
\nabla A^0
\]

(11)

where we have defined \( s = \sigma/2 \) and

\[
\dot{s} = \mu_B (s \times B) - \Delta f^0 (s \times v)
\]

(12)

From the equations 10, 11, 12 we get

\[
\dot{x} = \frac{e}{m}[E + v \times B] + \frac{e\Delta f^0}{2m^2}(s \times B) + \frac{eg}{2m^2} \nabla (s \cdot B)
\]

(13)

Next, if \( n \) is the particle distribution function in the extended phase-space, then the particle conservation implies that the phase space density is conserved along the single particle trajectory i.e., \( \partial_t n + \dot{x} \cdot \nabla_x n + \dot{s} \cdot \nabla_v n = 0 \). Thus with Eqs. 12 and 13

\[
\partial_t n + v \cdot \nabla_x n + \frac{e}{m}(E + v \times B) + \frac{\mu_B}{m} \nabla (s \cdot B)
\]

\[
+ \frac{\mu_B \Delta f^0}{m}(s \times B) \cdot \nabla_v n + [\mu_B (s \times B) - \Delta f^0 (s \times v)] \cdot \nabla_v n = 0
\]

(14)

Here we note that when \( \Delta f^0 = 0 \), Eq. 14 matches with the spin modified kinetic equation of Ref. 27. In order to have a self-consistent set of equations one needs to combine the Eq. 14 with Maxwell’s equations with the current density is given by

\[
j = \sum_i \left[ q_i \int v_n d\nu d\sigma + 3\mu_B i \nabla \times \int s_n d\nu d\sigma \right]
\]

(15)

Here, the sum is over particle species \( i \) with charge \( q_i \). The integral is carried out over the space and velocity and the two spin variables. Second term on the right hand side is representing the magnetization current.

We need to write the Eq. 14 in curved space-time in order to apply it to the early Universe scenario. In the expanding Universe with Friedmann-Robertson-Walker metric with scale factor \( a \), the above equations can retain its flat-space form [30] if we go to the conformal time coordinates defined by \( \eta = \int a^{-1}(t)dt \) with replacements: \( E \rightarrow a^2 E, B \rightarrow a^2 B, j \rightarrow a^3 j \). In this case Maxwell’s equations can be written as:

\[
\nabla \cdot E = \rho
\]

(16)

\[
\partial_\eta B = - \nabla \times E
\]

(17)

\[
\nabla \times B = j + \partial_\eta E
\]

(18)

where, \( \rho \) is the total charge density.

III. LINEAR ANALYSIS AND THE DISPERSION RELATIONS

Next, we study the linear response analysis of Eqs. (14-15). For this one writes the charged particle distribution function as \( n = n_0(x, v) + \delta n(x, v, s) \), where, \( n_0 = \text{and} \delta n \) respectively denote the initial and perturbed parts of the distribution function. Further, we assume that there is no background induced current in the Fourier space can be written as \( j_{k, \omega} = -\pi_{ij} \omega A_{k, \omega} \), where, \( A_{k, \omega} \) is the space part of the four potential \( A_{k, \omega} \). From 13 we get,

\[
\delta n_{\omega, k} = \frac{\epsilon_0}{T} v \cdot A_{\omega, k} - \frac{i\mu_B}{T} k \cdot v(s \times k) \cdot A_{\omega, k} - \frac{\mu_B \Delta f^0}{T} [(s \cdot A_{\omega, k})] k \cdot v - (s \cdot k) A_{\omega, k} \cdot v \]

\[
- \frac{n^0}{\omega - k \cdot v}
\]

(19)

Here we have assumed that the space-time dependence of the perturbations to be \( e^{-i(\omega t - k \cdot x)} \). Substituting equation 15 into 17 we get

\[
\frac{\delta n_{ij, k, \omega}}{n_{ij, k, \omega}} = \frac{e}{4\pi} \int \frac{dv_1 dv_2}{\omega - k \cdot v} \delta(s - 1) \left[ \frac{\epsilon_0}{T} v_1 v_2 - \frac{i\mu_B}{T}(k \cdot v) v_1 (s \times k) \right] \]

\[
- \frac{\mu_B \Delta f^0}{T} \left[ (k \cdot v) v_1 v_2 - (s \cdot k) v_1 v_2 \right] \frac{n^0}{\omega - k \cdot v} - 3i\mu_B \int \frac{dv_1 dv_2}{4\pi} \delta(s - 1)(k \times s) \left[ \frac{\epsilon_0}{T} v_1 v_2 - \frac{i\mu_B}{T}(k \cdot v)(s \times k) \right] \]

\[
- \frac{\mu_B \Delta f^0}{T} (k \cdot v) (s - k) \cdot v \frac{n^0}{\omega - k \cdot v}
\]

(20)

Functions \( \pi_L = P_L ^{ij} \pi_{ij, k, \omega} \), \( \pi_T = P_T ^{ij} \pi_{ij, k, \omega} \), \( p_A = P_A ^{ij} \pi_{ij, k, \omega} \) in Eq. 11 now can be calculated using the above equations together with the definition of the projection operators and they are given below:
The interaction can contribute very significantly to Refs. [15, 17] it was shown that the neutrino-charge lepton waves over the cosmological distances was considered. How-a neutrino gas in presence of finite chemical potential was con-
to the instability found in Ref. [11] for the chiral plasma of charged fermions like in Refs. [1, 11].

In the collision dominated regime i.e. $\nu_e \gg \omega$, $k$ Eq (29) can be written as:

$$\pi_A \approx -\frac{2\omega^2}{mT} \Delta f^0 k. \quad (31)$$

Here we note that our expression of $\pi_A$ has similar form like the one reported in Ref. [14]. In this regime one can write the dispersion relation for the transverse mode

$$\omega_\pm = -\frac{k^2}{2} \pm \frac{2i \omega_\nu^2}{mT} \Delta f^0 k \quad (32)$$

where, $\omega^2 = n_0 \omega^2 / m$ is square of the plasma frequency. We emphasize here that in Refs. [14, 15] photon propagation in a neutrino gas in presence of finite chemical potential was considered. But in these work the role of unstable modes was not analyzed. In Ref. [14] how the dispersion Eq. (24) can influence the rotation of the plane of polarization of electromagnetic waves over the cosmological distances was considered. However, in this work no real charged-leptons were considered. In Refs. [15, 17] it was shown that the neutrino-charge lepton interaction can contribute very significantly to $\pi_A$. Further, we note that the instability occurs in the quasi-stationary regime [13] i.e. $|\omega| \ll k$. Thus by integrating over velocity and keeping only linear terms in $\omega/k$, we get

$$\Pi_L (k, \omega) = O \left( \frac{\omega^2}{k^2} \right) \quad (27)$$

$$\pi_T (k, \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{k^2} \left( \frac{g^2 k^2}{4mT} - i \left( \frac{2\pi m \omega}{T} - \frac{\omega}{k} \right) \right) \quad (28)$$

$$\pi_A (k, \omega) = \frac{\omega^2}{k^2} \left( \frac{g^2 k^2}{4mT} \right) \Delta f^0 k \left[ 1 - i \sqrt{\frac{2\pi m \omega}{T} - \frac{\omega}{k}} \right] \quad (29)$$

In the quasi-stationary limit the dispersion relation for the transverse mode can be written as

$$\omega_\pm = -\frac{k^2}{2} \left( \frac{g^2 k^2}{4mT} \pm \frac{g^2 k^2}{4mT} \Delta f^0 k \right). \quad (30)$$

Here clearly the root $\omega_-$ gives instability if the condition $k < \omega_\nu \Delta f^0$ is satisfied. $k$ dependence of Eq. (30) is similar to the instability found in Ref. [11] for the chiral plasma of massless particle. It should be noted here that in the present work we have not considered the chirally polarized charged fermions like in Refs. [1, 14].

From Eq. (30) one can easily find value of wave vector $k_{\text{max}}$ for which the instability is maximum. Thus we write:

$$k_{\text{max}} \sim \left( \frac{4\omega^2}{3mT} \right) \Delta f^0.$$
formula $T_z = (1 + z)T^0_z$ and $z$ is the red shift. Now $\Delta f^0$ can be estimated to be $\Delta f^0 = \sqrt{2G_F\Delta n_{\nu\ell}}$. By considering the plasma just after the neutrino decoupling at temperature less than 1 MeV and $z \sim 10^9$ one finds $k_{\text{max}}^{-1} \sim 10^4\text{cms}$ with $\zeta_{\nu\ell} = 0.072$. At this instant the horizon size can be estimated to be $H^{-1} \sim 10^{14}\text{cms}$ [31]. One can also estimate strength of the produced magnetic field as follows: When the instability saturates, there are no macroscopic motion. From the spin dynamics equation, magnitude we can write $B \sim \frac{\Delta f^0}{v_{th}}$, where $B = |B|$ and also we have replaced $v$ by the thermal velocity. Using the above estimate $\Delta n_{\nu\ell}$ one can find $B \sim 1.9 \times 10^{-14} (\text{MeV})^2 \sim 10$ Gauss. Similar values of $B$ can be estimated if $B \sim k_{\text{max}}^{-1}A$ and $A \sim T$.

In conclusion we have developed kinetic theory for the spin plasma in the neutrino background. In this formalism the charged particles are not in their chirally-polarized states. The normal modes of the spin modified equation in the neutrino background are shown to give the dispersion relation similar to the chiral-plasma where the charged particles are considered to be massless. It was shown that the asymmetry between densities of right-handed and left-handed neutrinos of the background can induce an axial part in the photon polarization tensor and give rise to unstable modes related with the so called $\alpha-$effect. Further, we have shown that the $\alpha-$effect can exist for both the collisionless and the collision-dominated regimes and it can lead to generation of magnetic field. We have also shown that the length scale associated with the unstable modes ($k_{\text{max}}^{-1} \sim 10^4\text{cms}$) at the time of the neutrino decoupling in the early Universe. We have also estimated the strength of magnetic field generated through above discussed mechanism.

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