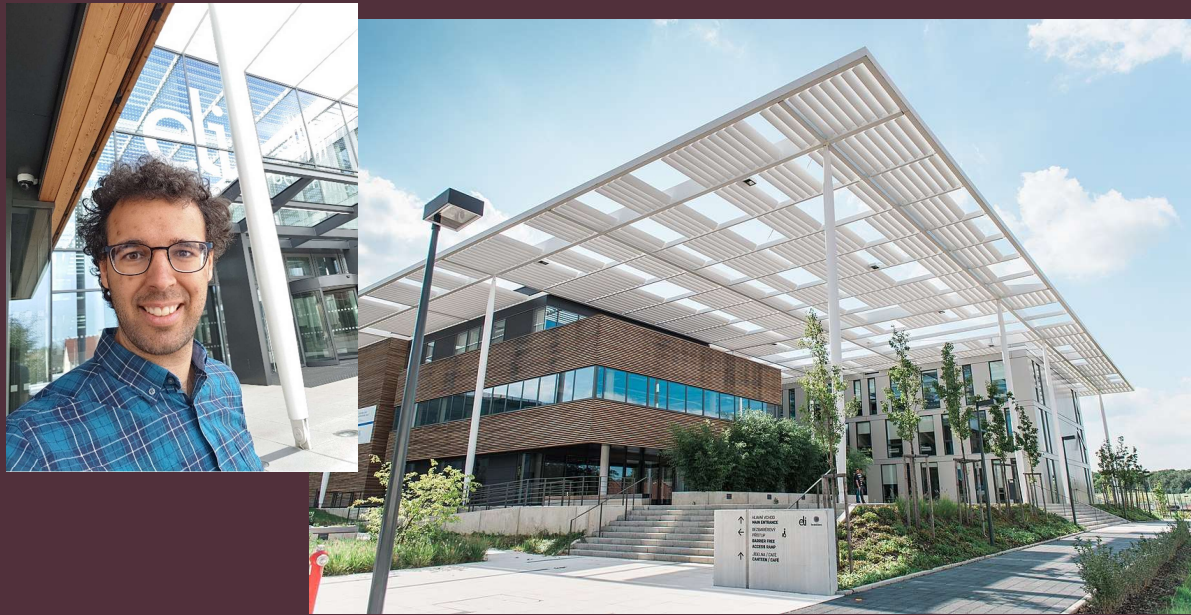


# *CURRENT CONSERVING THEORY OF COLLISIONAL RELATIVISTIC PLASMAS*

Martin Formanek PhD

[martin.formanek@eli-beams.eu](mailto:martin.formanek@eli-beams.eu)



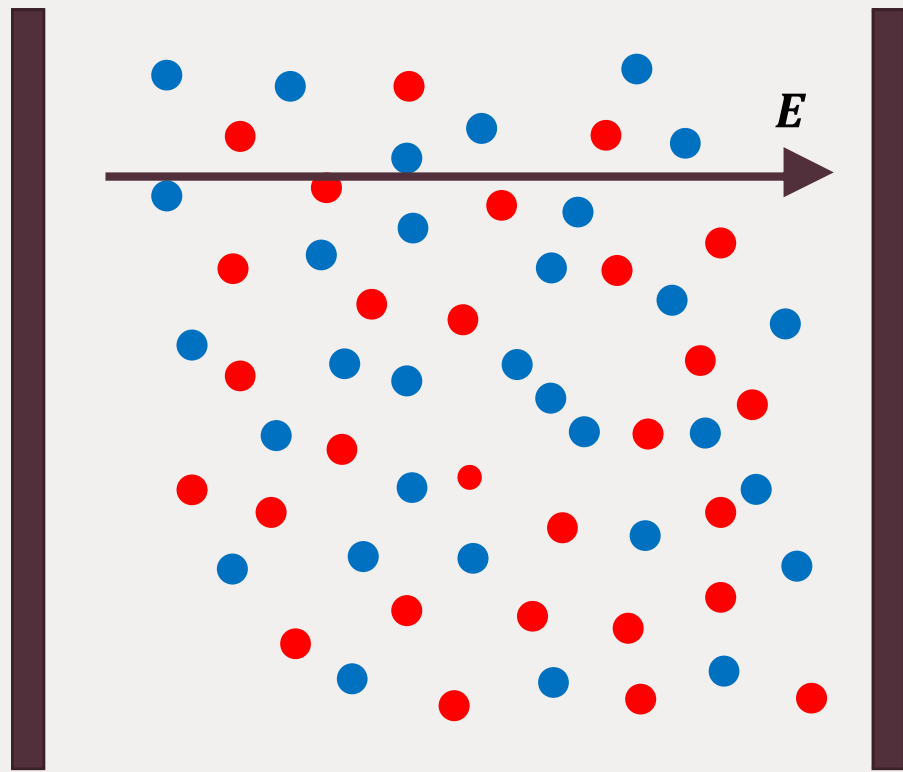
ELI Beamlines,  
Prague (Dolní Břežany), Czech Republic



Margaret Island Symposium 2022 on  
Vacuum Structure, Particles, and Plasmas

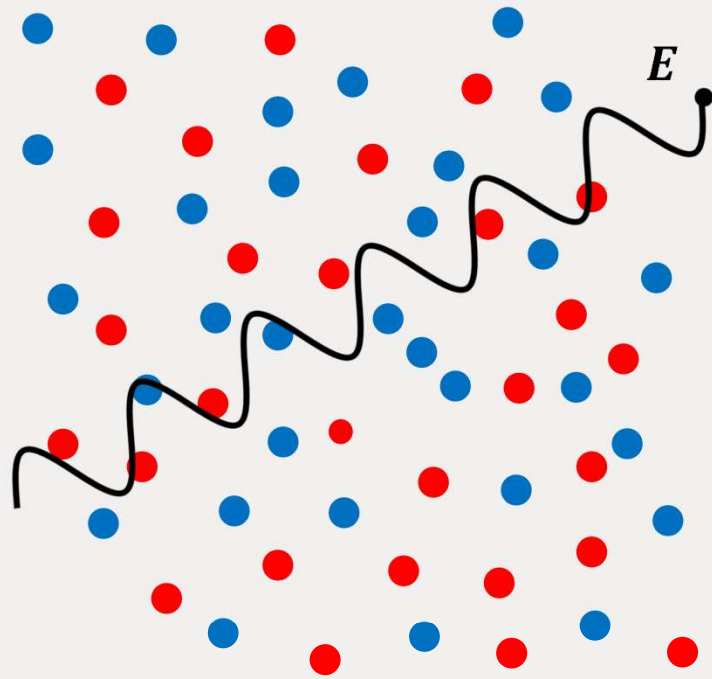
*May 17th, 2022*

# Linear nonequilibrium response to time dependent fields



Electron-positron plasma  
example

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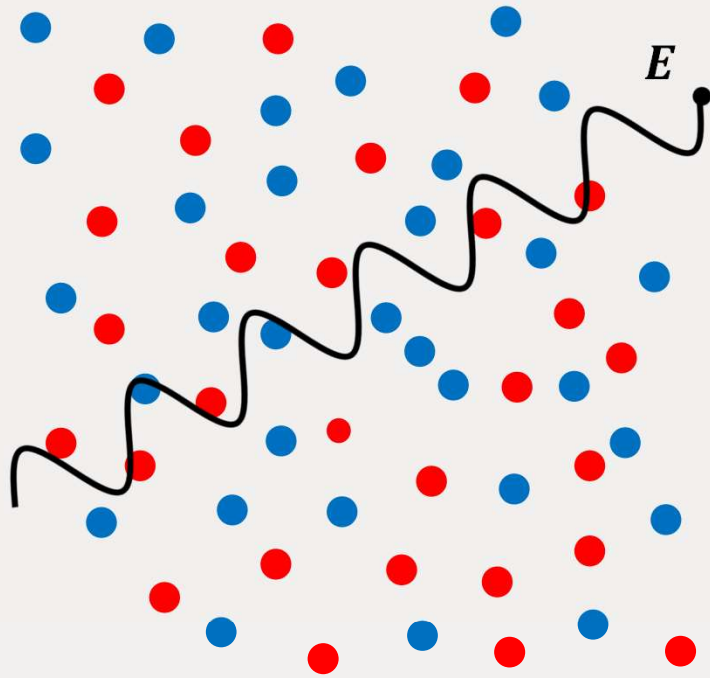


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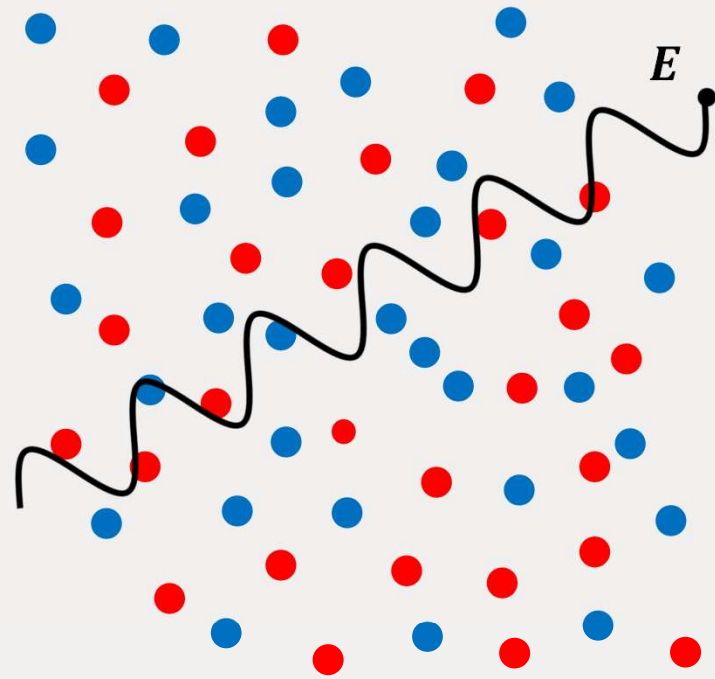
Boltzmann equation for the distribution function  $f(x, p)$

$$p \cdot \partial f(x, p) + \underbrace{qF^{\mu\nu} p_\nu \frac{\partial f(x, p)}{\partial p^\mu}}_{\text{Vlasov force term}} = \underbrace{C[f(x, p)]}_{\text{Collisions}}$$



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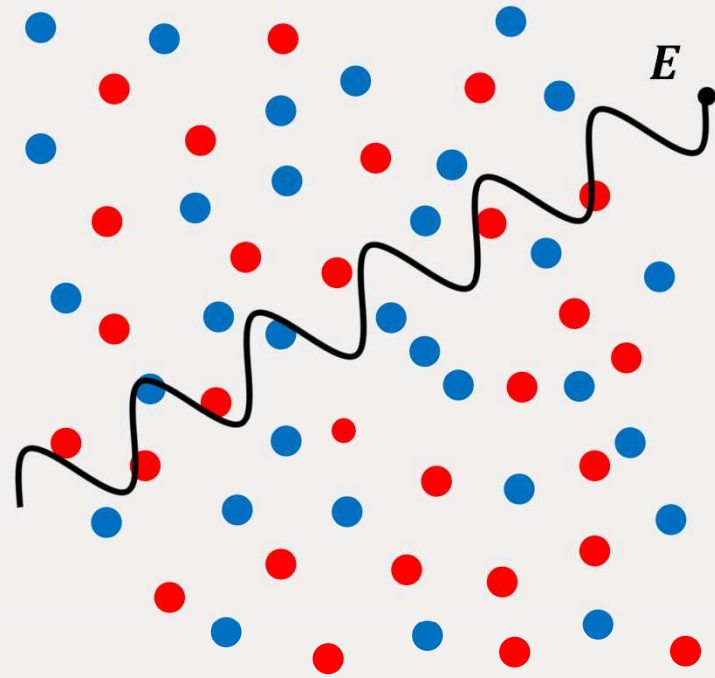
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Linear response:

$$f(x, p) = f_{eq}(p) + \delta f(x, p) \quad f_{eq}(p) = \frac{1}{\exp(p \cdot u/T) + 1}$$

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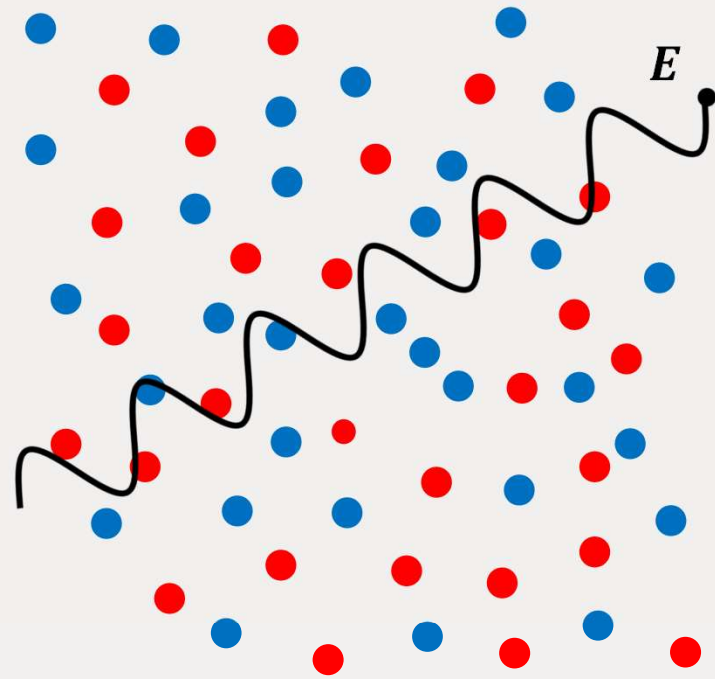
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$$j_{ind}^\mu(x) = 2q \int (dp) p^\mu f(x, p)$$

$$(dp) = \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} 4\pi \delta(p^2 - m^2)$$

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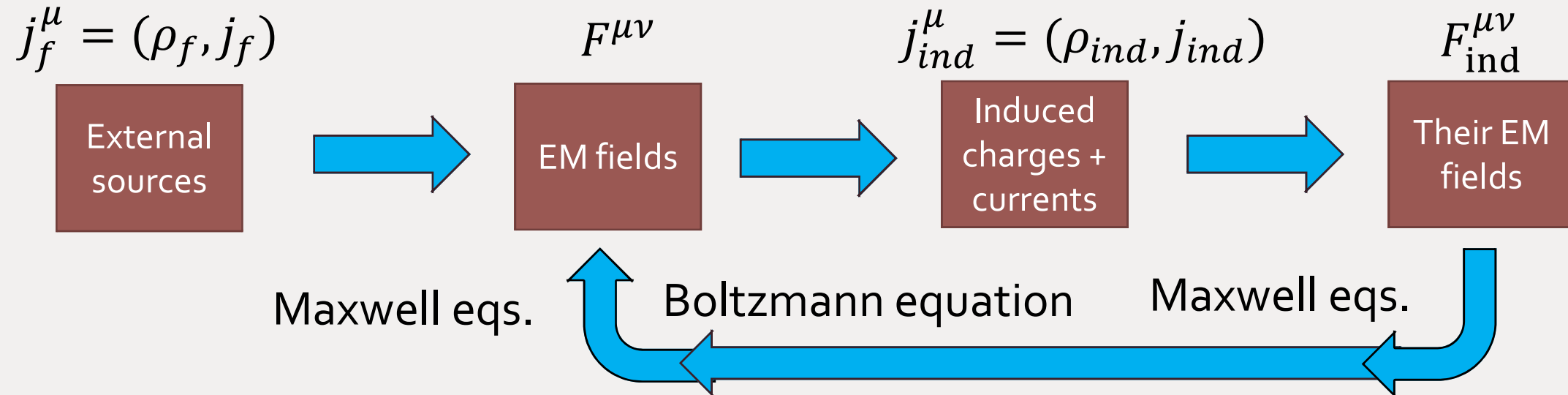
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Two component plasma

$$j^\mu(x) = 2q \int (dp) p^\mu [f_+(x, p) - f_-(x, p)]$$

But induced charges also generate fields!

Perturbative approach (often implicitly assumed in literature on this topic)



Works only if the EM fields of induced charges and currents are much smaller than the fields producing the induced charges and currents in the medium!

Can we do better?



## Self consistent solution in Fourier space

$$x^\mu = (t, \mathbf{x}) \Rightarrow k^\mu = (\omega, \mathbf{k})$$

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Solution for components  $\tilde{\phi}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}$  where  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}} = \tilde{A}_\parallel \mathbf{k} + \tilde{\mathbf{A}}_\perp$ :

$$\tilde{\phi}(k) = \frac{\tilde{\rho}_f(k)}{(k^2 - \omega^2)(\Pi_L(k)/\omega^2 - 1)}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_\perp(k) = \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{j}}_{\perp,f}(k)}{k^2 - \omega^2 - \Pi_T(k)}$$

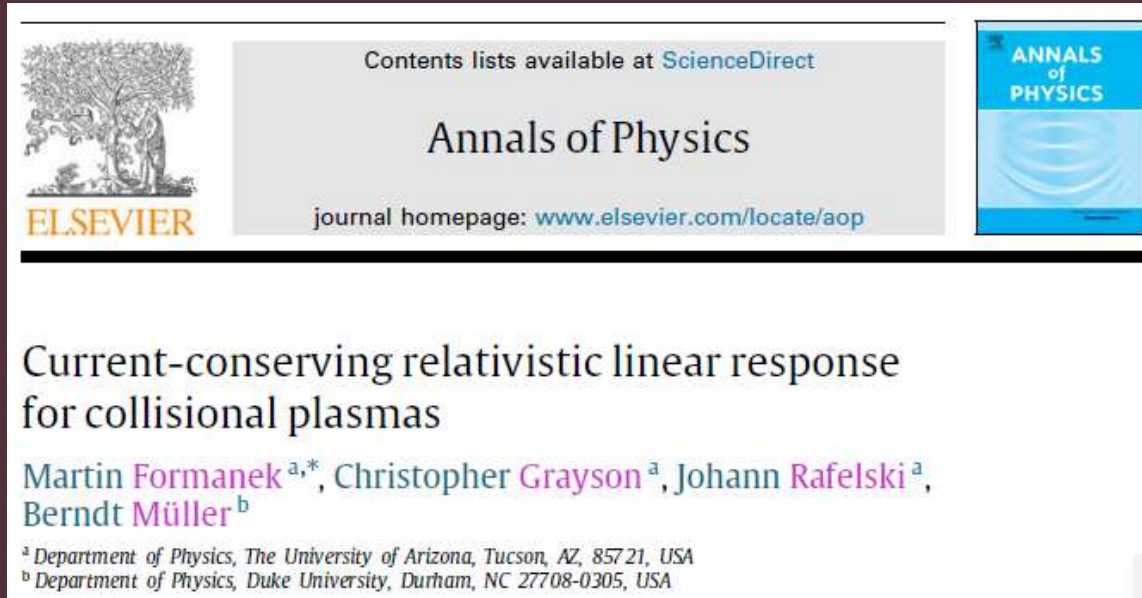
$$\tilde{A}_\parallel(k) = \frac{\omega}{|\mathbf{k}|} \tilde{\phi}(k)$$

Depends only on external charges / currents and polarization tensor properties

$\Pi_T$  and  $\Pi_L$  - transverse and longitudinal projections of  $\Pi_\nu^\mu$  ([Weldon, PRD 26 \(1982\) 1394](#))

# Product of remote collaboration

Annals of Physics 434, 168605 (2021):



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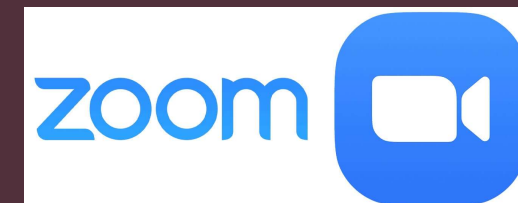
Current-conserving relativistic linear response for collisional plasmas

Martin Formanek<sup>a,\*</sup>, Christopher Grayson<sup>a</sup>, Johann Rafelski<sup>a</sup>, Berndt Müller<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Physics, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 85721, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0305, USA



Important "sponsor" I should mention:



# Collision term

In general complicated (Groot, Leeuwen, Weert, *Relativistic kinetic theory*, 1980)

$$C[f, f] = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{p_1^0} \frac{d^3 p'}{p'^0} \frac{d^3 p'_1}{p'_1{}^0} (f' f'_1 - f f_1) W(p', p'_1 | p, p_1) .$$

Transition rate

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Transition rate

Simplest model-relaxation time approximation (RTA) (Anderson, Witting, *Physica* 74 (1974) 466)

$$C[f(x, p)] = (p^\mu u_\mu) \kappa [f_{\text{eq}}(p) - f(x, p)] \quad \kappa = 1/\text{relaxation rate}$$

Does not conserve 4-current  $\partial_\mu j_{\text{ind}}^\mu \neq 0!$  Better (BGK) (Bhatnagar, Gross, Krook, *Phys. Rev.* 94 (1954) 511)



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$$C[f(x, p)] = (p^\mu u_\mu) \kappa \left[ f_{\text{eq}}(p) \frac{n(x)}{n_{\text{eq}}} - f(x, p) \right]$$

Designed explicitly to conserve current:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} n(x) &= 2 \int (dp) (p \cdot u) f(x, p) \\ n_{\text{eq}} &= 2 \int (dp) (p \cdot u) f_{\text{eq}}(p) \end{aligned} \right\} 2 \int (dp) (p \cdot u) C[f(x, p)] = 2 \int (dp) (p \cdot u) \left[ f_{\text{eq}}(p) \frac{n(x)}{n_{\text{eq}}} - f(x, p) \right] = 0$$

Doesn't conserve energy and momentum!

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu 2 \int (dp) p^\mu p^\nu f(x, p) \neq 0$$

But can be fixed too by adding more terms as shown very recently ([Rocha, Denicol, Noronha, PRL 127 \(2021\) 042301](#)) For particle-antiparticle plasma  $T^{\mu\nu}$  conserved ([Grayson, Formanek, Rafelski, Muller \(2022\) arXiv: 2204.14186](#))

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \left( 2 \int (dp) p^\mu p^\nu (f_-(x, p) + f_+(x, p)) \right) = 0$$

Because the equilibrium distribution doesn't depend on position and the position dependent perturbation changes sign with charge.

$$\delta f_\pm(x, p) = \pm q \delta f(x, p)$$

Assuring cancelation of this contribution.

Altogether we are solving Boltzmann equation:

$$p \cdot \partial f(x, p) + qF^{\mu\nu} p_\nu \frac{\partial f(x, p)}{\partial p^\mu} = (p^\mu u_\mu) \kappa \left[ f_{\text{eq}}(p) \frac{n(x)}{n_{\text{eq}}} - f(x, p) \right]$$

In the plasma rest frame:  $p^\mu u_\mu = m\gamma$

In the linear order in perturbations:  $f(x, p) = f_{\text{eq}}(p) + \delta f(x, p)$

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Without collision term solved for QGP in [Blaizot, Iancu, Phys. Rep. 359 \(2002\) 355](#); [Satow, PRD 90 \(2014\)](#)

[034018](#) method of characteristics PDR  $\rightarrow$  ODR along trajectories  $m \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} = p^\mu$ .

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**Our method** – Fourier transformation  $\partial_\mu \rightarrow -ik_\mu$

$$-i(p \cdot k) \widetilde{\delta f}(k, p) + q\widetilde{F}^{\mu\nu} p_\nu \frac{\partial f_{\text{eq}}(p)}{\partial p^\mu} = (p \cdot u) \kappa \left[ \frac{f_{\text{eq}}(p)}{n_{\text{eq}}} \widetilde{\delta n}(k) - \widetilde{\delta f}(k, p) \right]$$

# Our solution (main result)

We want Fourier transformed current! In the linear order algebraic equation for  $\widetilde{\delta f}(k, p)$  which can be solved.

4-current: 
$$\tilde{j}_{\text{ind}}^{\mu}(k) = 2q \int (dp) p^{\mu} [\widetilde{f}_{+}(k, p) - \widetilde{f}_{-}(k, p)] = 4q \int (dp) p^{\mu} \widetilde{\delta f}(k, p)$$

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Where:

$$Q^{\mu}(k) = -\frac{4qik}{n_{\text{eq}}} \int (dp) \frac{(p \cdot u) f_{\text{eq}}(p)}{p \cdot k + i(p \cdot u)\kappa} p^{\mu} \quad R_{\nu}^{\mu}(k) = -4q^2 \int (dp) f'_{\text{eq}}(p) \frac{(u \cdot k) p^{\mu} p_{\nu} - (k \cdot p) p^{\mu} u_{\nu}}{p \cdot k + i(p \cdot u)\kappa}$$

$$Q(k) = -\frac{2ik}{n_{\text{eq}}} \int (dp) \frac{(p \cdot u)^2 f_{\text{eq}}(p)}{p \cdot k + i(p \cdot u)\kappa} \quad H_{\nu}(k) = -2q \int (dp) (p \cdot u) f'_{\text{eq}}(p) \frac{(u \cdot k) p_{\nu} - (k \cdot p) u_{\nu}}{p \cdot k + i(p \cdot u)\kappa}$$



# Properties:

Gauge invariance: 
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \tilde{j}_{\text{ind}}^{\prime\mu} &= \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} \tilde{A}^{\prime\nu} = \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} (\tilde{A}^{\nu} - ik^{\nu} \tilde{\chi}), \\ \tilde{j}_{\text{ind}}^{\mu} &= \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} \tilde{A}^{\nu} \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} k^{\nu} = 0$$

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$$k_{\mu} \tilde{j}^{\mu} = 0 = k_{\mu} \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} \tilde{A}^{\nu}, \quad \Rightarrow \quad k_{\mu} \Pi_{\nu}^{\mu} = 0,$$

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## Electron positron plasma application

All the integrals can be calculated in ultra-relativistic limit – massless particles. Only two

Independent components:

$$\Pi_T(k) = \frac{m_D^2 \omega}{4|\mathbf{k}|} \left( \frac{\omega'^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2} \Lambda - \Lambda - \frac{2\omega'}{|\mathbf{k}|} \right)$$

Where:

$$\omega' = \omega + i\kappa \quad \Lambda = \ln \frac{\omega' + |\mathbf{k}|}{\omega' - |\mathbf{k}|}$$

Debye mass:

$$\Pi_L(k) = \frac{m_D^2 \omega^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\omega'}{2|\mathbf{k}|} \Lambda \right) \frac{2|\mathbf{k}|}{2|\mathbf{k}| - i\kappa\Lambda}$$

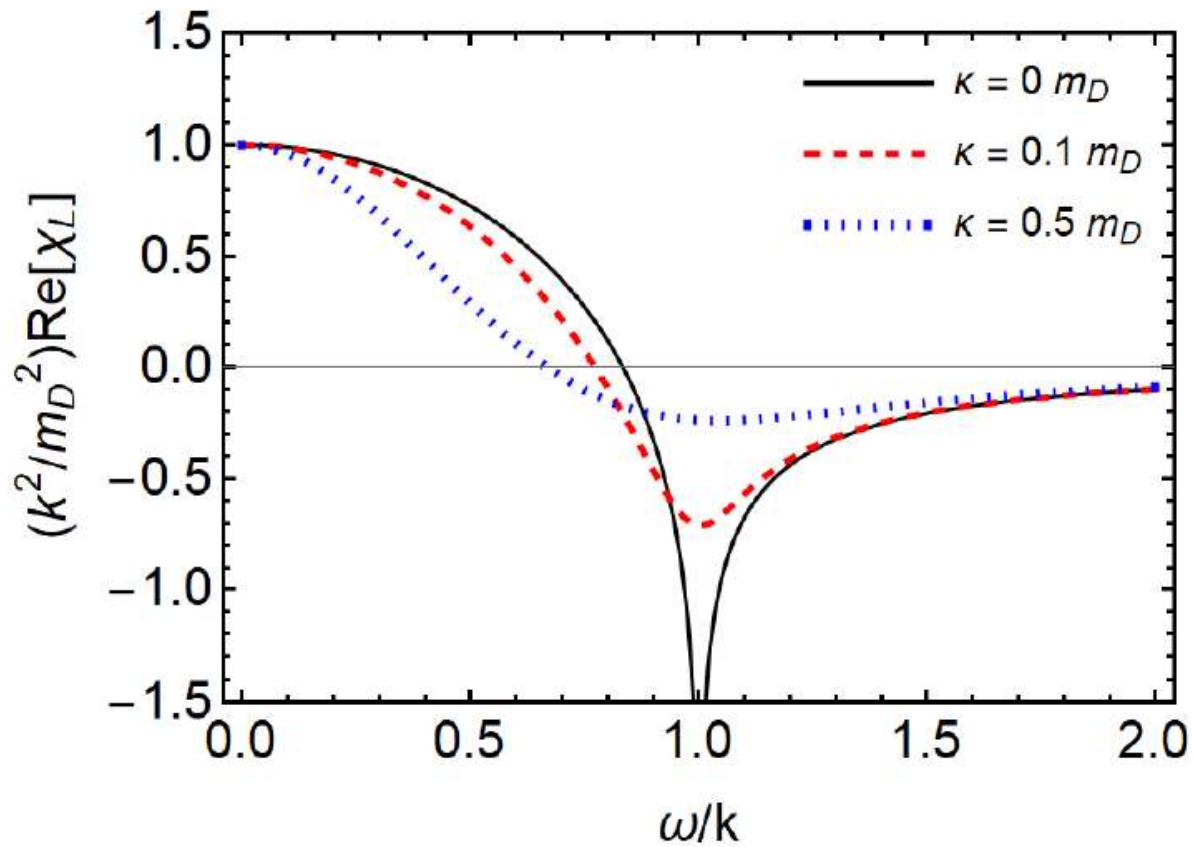
$$m_D^2 = -\frac{2q^2}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\infty} |\mathbf{p}|^2 d|\mathbf{p}| f'_{eq}(|\mathbf{p}|) = \frac{q^2 T^2}{3}$$

Reduces to standard result [Weldon, PRD 26 \(1982\) 1394](#) in the limit  $\kappa \rightarrow 0$

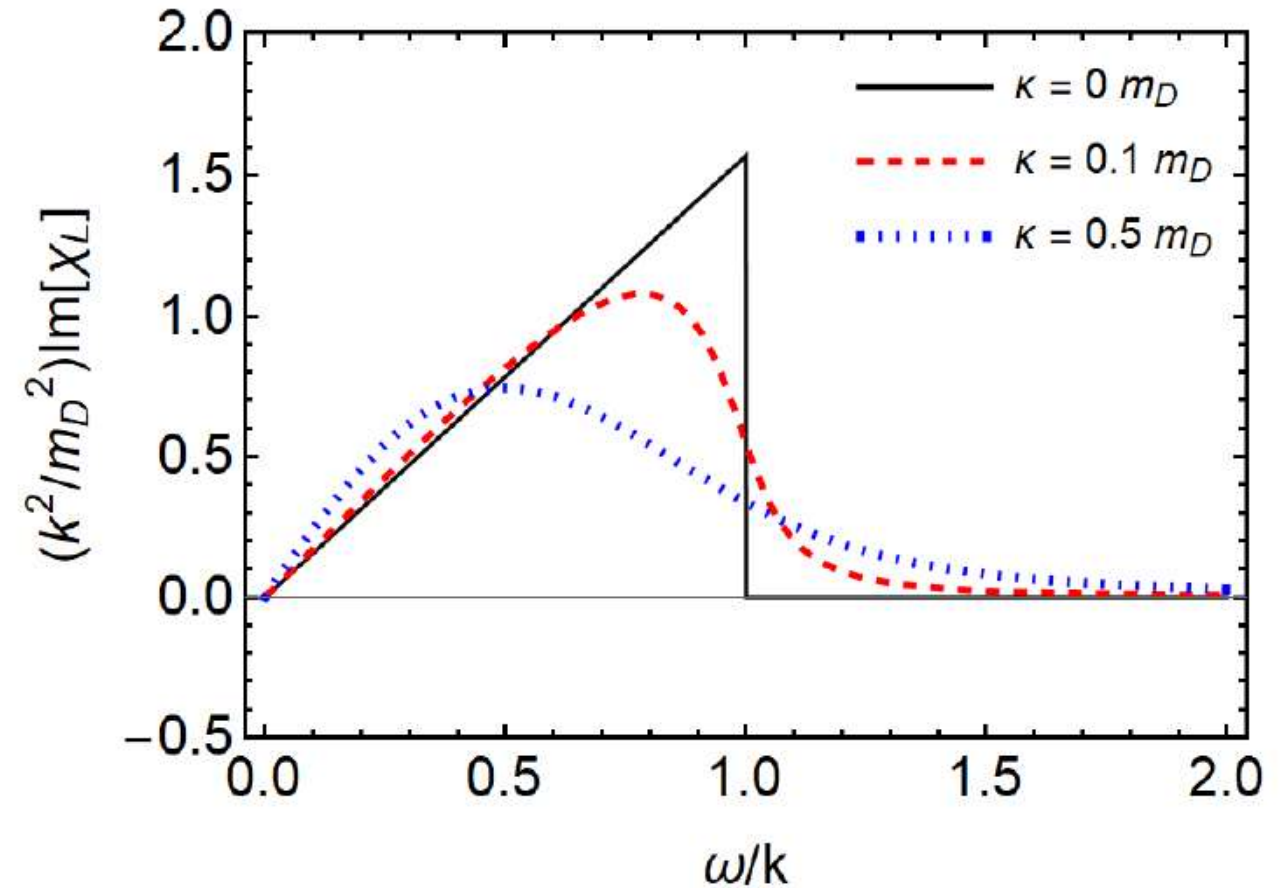
# Susceptibility

$$\chi_L = \Pi_L / \omega^2$$

$$\mathbf{D}_L = \varepsilon_0(1 + \chi_L)\mathbf{E}_L$$



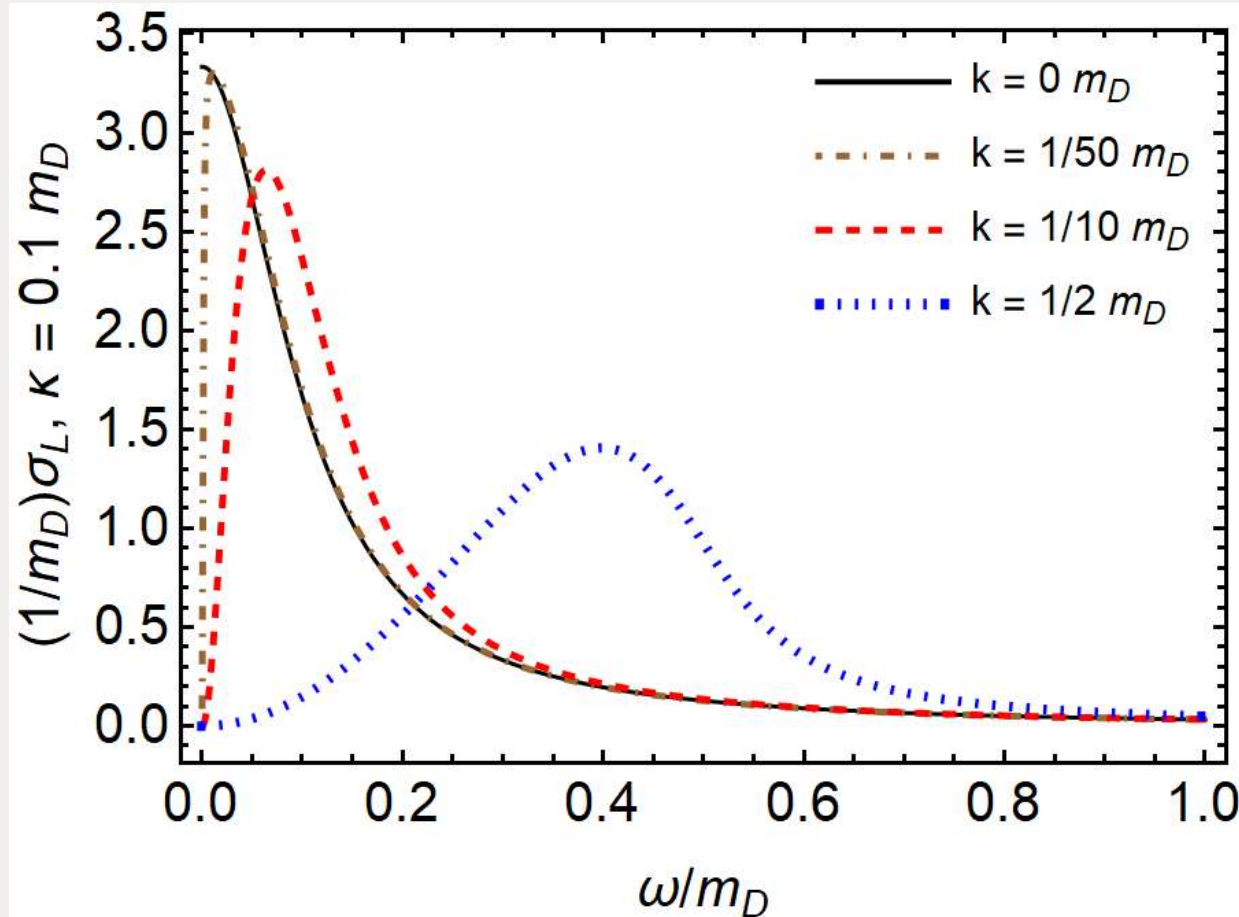
Real part



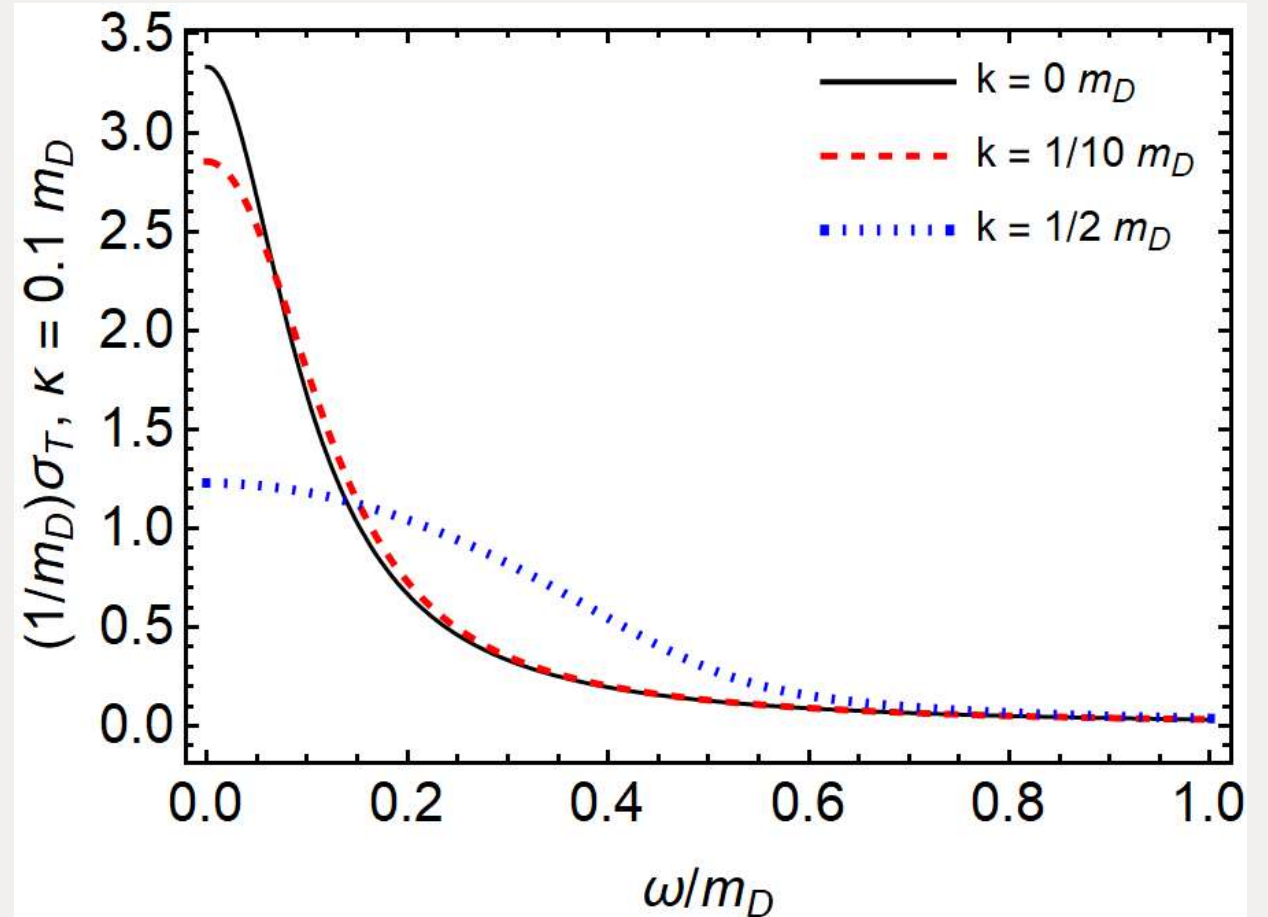
Imaginary part

For  $\kappa = 0$  we reproduce [Weldon, PRD 26 \(1982\) 1394](#)

# Conductivity $\sigma_{T/L} = -i\omega\Pi_{T/L}$



Real part of longitudinal conductivity



Real part of transversal conductivity

Discontinuity at  $k = 0$  comes from infinite extent of plasma ([Baranger, 1989](#))

# Dispersion relations - $\omega(\mathbf{k})$

$$\underbrace{[(k \cdot u)^2 + \mu_0 \Pi_L(k)]}_{\text{Longitudinal modes}} \underbrace{[k^2 + \mu_0 \Pi_T(k)]}_{\text{Transverse modes}} = 0$$

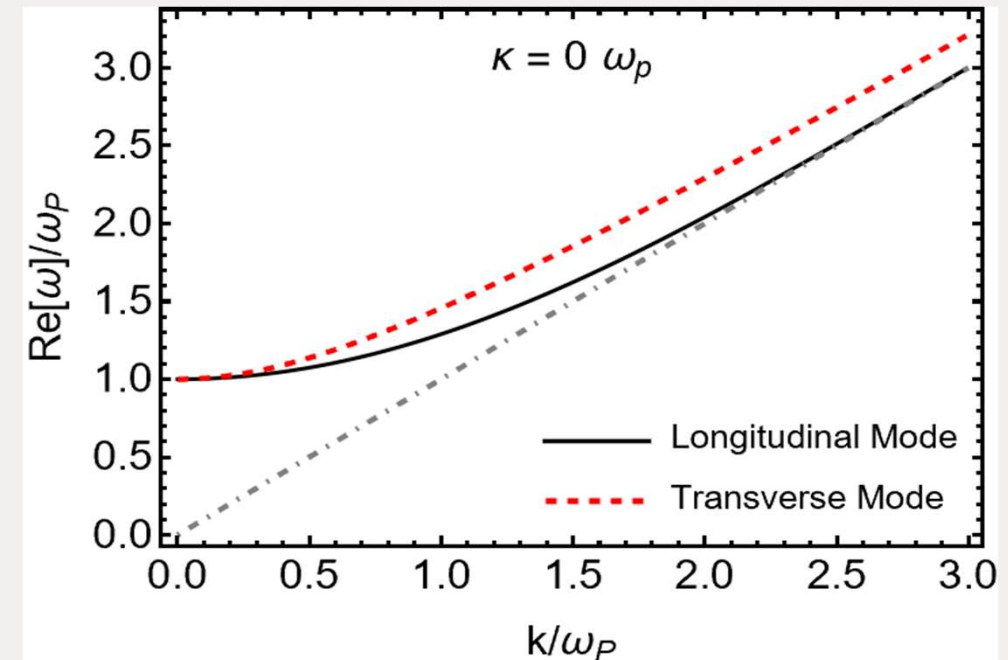
For  $|\mathbf{k}| \rightarrow 0$  we have for both L,T:

$$\omega_{\pm} = -\frac{i\kappa}{2} \pm \sqrt{\omega_p^2 - \frac{\kappa^2}{4}}$$

Modified plasma frequency  $\omega_p = \frac{1}{3} m_D^2$

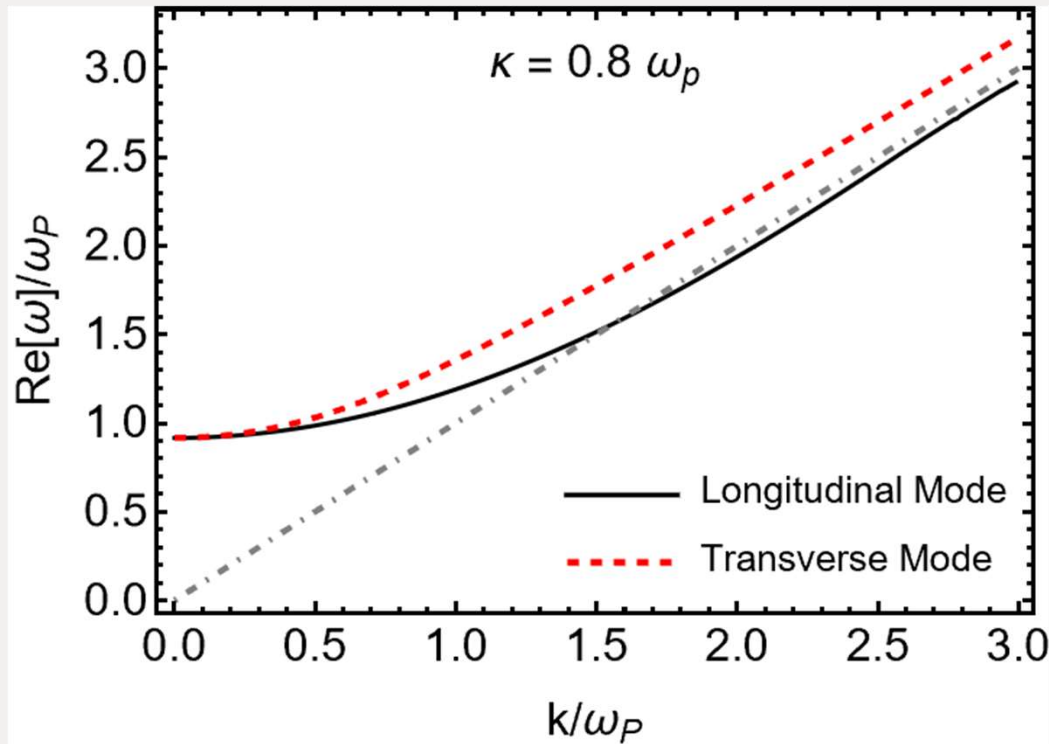
- $\kappa \ll \omega_p$  weakly damped case
- $\kappa > 2\omega_p$  overdamped case

$$\kappa = 0, |\mathbf{k}| \neq 0$$

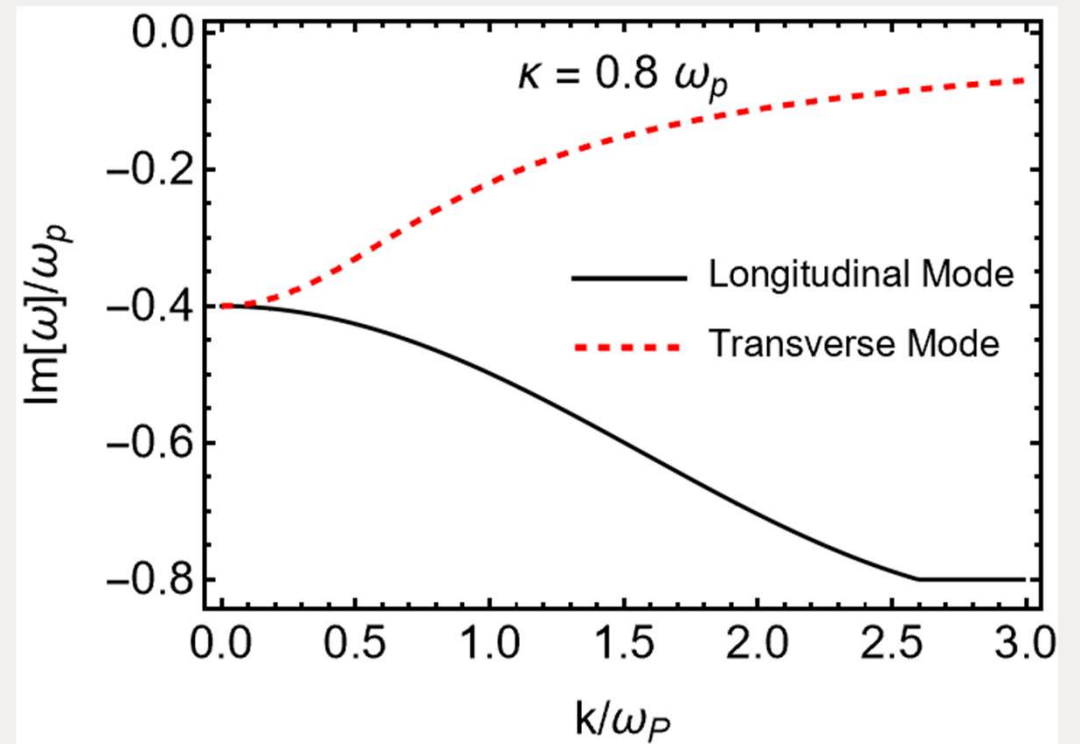




$$|\mathbf{k}| \neq 0, \kappa \neq 0$$



Real part



Imaginary part

See also results of [Carrington, Fugleberg, Pickering, Thoma, Can. J. Phys. 82 \(2004\) 671](#); [B. Schenke, M. Strickland, C. Greiner, M.H. Thoma, Phys. Rev. D 73 \(2006\) 125004](#)

# Summary:

- Manifestly Lorentz covariant formulation of the plasma perturbation
- Including a collision term which preserves 4-current and energy momentum tensor
- Polarization tensor manifestly gauge invariant
- The results reduce to Weldon in the limit  $\kappa \rightarrow 0$

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- Including a collision term which preserves 4-current and energy momentum tensor
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# Outlook:

- Generalization to laser light interaction with matter
- application to QGP in heavy ion collisions (following talk by [Chris M. Grayson](#))
- Early universe  $e^-e^+$  plasma (talk tomorrow by [Cheng-Tao Yang](#))
- Finite physical systems
- Generalization for multicomponent plasma

Thank you for your attention!



Happy birthday Prof.  
Rafelski!



2014 - today