

Contents

Preface	xvii
1 Introduction	3
1.1 Overall Structure of Plasma Physics and Astrophysics	3
1.2 Introductory Survey	8
1.2.1 Hierarchical Structure of the Universe	8
1.2.2 Structure of Celestial Objects	10
1.2.3 Evolution and Activity of Celestial Objects	11
1.3 Classification of Celestial Objects	13
1.3.1 Three Categories of Celestial Objects	13
1.3.2 Fundamental Processes in Objects in Quasi-Magnetostatic Equilibrium	14
1.3.3 Fundamental Processes in Objects in Quasi-Hydrostatic Equilibrium .	17
1.3.4 Fundamental Processes in Objects in Non-Equilibrium	18
1.4 Typical Examples of Celestial Objects	20
1.4.1 Solar Corona	20
1.4.2 Galactic Disks	24
1.4.3 Active Galactic Nuclei	26
1.4.4 Clusters of Galaxies	29
2 Plasma Physics—Modern Astrophysical Perspectives	41
2.1 General Survey	41
2.1.1 Nonmagnetized Plasma	48
2.1.2 Magnetized Plasma	49
2.2 Nonlinear Physics	53
2.3 Turbulence	59
2.3.1 Onset of Turbulence	61
2.3.2 Nondissipative Fully Developed Turbulence in MHD	64
2.3.3 Fully Developed Dissipative Turbulence	67
2.4 Structure Formation and Plasma Filaments	69
2.4.1 Filaments vs. Continua in Plasmas	71
2.4.2 Filamentary Construct of Two-Dimensional MHD*	75
2.4.2.1 Statistics of Filaments*	77
2.4.3 Filamentary Objects in Three-Dimensional MHD Turbulence*	80
2.5 Relaxation and Dissipation	82
2.5.1 Dissipative Vorticity Equation*	82

2.5.2	Generalized Relaxation Theory*	85
2.5.3	Electron-Positron Proton Plasma*	87
2.5.4	Ideal MHD Structures*	90
2.6	Stochastic Processes	92
2.7	Anomalous Transport	95
2.7.1	Convective Transport	96
2.7.2	Self-Organized Critical Transport	99
2.7.3	Landau-Ginzburg Transport Equations*	102
2.8	General Relativistic Plasma Physics	106
2.8.1	Electromagnetic Waves in a Black Hole Atmosphere	106
2.8.2	General Relativistic MHD	111
2.8.3	Schwarzschild Equilibria*	117
3	Fundamental Processes in Hydrostatic and Magnetostatic Objects	131
3.1	Dynamo	131
3.1.1	Introduction to Dynamo Theory	132
3.1.1.1	Kinematic and Dynamic Dynamo	132
3.1.1.2	Cowling's Theorem	132
3.1.1.3	Parker's (1955) Suggestion	134
3.1.1.4	Turbulent Dynamo	134
3.1.1.5	Dynamo Waves	136
3.1.1.6	Results of Kinetic Dynamo*	139
3.1.1.7	Present Status of Dynamo Theory*	140
3.1.2	Magneotconvection	145
3.1.2.1	Convective Instability	146
3.1.2.2	Thermal (Rayleigh-Bernard) Convection	148
3.1.2.3	Solar Convection	149
3.1.2.4	Incompressible Magnetoconvection	149
3.1.2.5	Compressible Magnetoconvection*	153
3.1.2.6	Formation of Intense Flux Tubes*	154
3.2	Magnetobuoyancy	156
3.2.1	Magnetic Buoyancy	156
3.2.1.1	What is Magnetic Buoyancy?	156
3.2.1.2	Magnetic Buoyancy Instability and Parker Instability	158
3.2.1.3	Instability Condition for Interchange Mode	159
3.2.1.4	Instability Condition for Undular Mode (Parker Instability)	160
3.2.1.5	Ballooning instability	161
3.2.2	Parker Instability	163
3.2.2.1	Critical Wavelength	163
3.2.2.2	Growth Rate and Critical γ	166
3.2.2.3	Nonlinear Evolution of the Parker Instability: Most Unstable Mode	168

3.2.2.4	Condition for Shock Waves Formation and Nonlinear Oscillation*	172
3.2.2.5	Self-Similar Evolution*	174
3.2.2.6	Theory of Nonlinear Parker Instability*	180
3.2.2.7	Physical Interpretation	189
3.2.2.8	Comparison with Rayleigh-Taylor Instability	197
3.2.2.9	Application to Solar Emerging Flux*	199
3.2.2.10	Three Dimensional Effect: Coupling with Interchange Mode	201
3.2.2.11	Emergence of Twisted Flux Tube*	204
3.2.2.12	Effect of Rotation and Shearing Motion*	204
3.3	Magnetic Reconnection	208
3.3.1	Flares as Violent Magnetic Energy Release	210
3.3.1.1	What is a Flare?	210
3.3.1.2	Morphology of Flares	210
3.3.1.3	Models of CME Related Flares*	212
3.3.1.4	Models of Compact Flares	217
3.3.2	Theory of Magnetic Reconnection	222
3.3.2.1	Magnetic Diffusion	223
3.3.2.2	Sweet-Parker Model	223
3.3.2.3	Petschek Model	225
3.3.2.4	Numerical Simulations of Reconnection	227
3.3.2.5	Tearing Instability	228
3.3.2.6	Coalescence Instability and Explosive Reconnection Model .	230
3.3.2.7	Reconnection Driven by Magnetic Buoyancy Instability . .	237
3.3.2.8	Fractal Nature of Current Sheet	242
3.3.3	Yohkoh Observations of Flares*	243
3.3.3.1	LDE (Long Duration Events) Flares*	244
3.3.3.2	Large Scale Arcade Formation*	245
3.3.3.3	Impulsive Flares*	247
3.3.3.4	A Unified Model of Flares*	249
3.3.3.5	Transient Brightenings (Microflares) and X-ray Jets*	252
3.3.3.6	Toward A Further Unified Model of “Flares”*	255
3.3.3.7	Summary and Remaining Questions	257
3.3.4	Collisionless Conductivity*	260
3.3.4.1	Collisionless Plasma and Memory Decay*	260
3.3.4.2	Collisionless Tearing Instability*	263
4	Fundamental Processes in Gravitational Objects	283
4.1	Gravitational Contraction	283
4.1.1	Jeans Instability	283
4.1.2	Gravitational Contraction of Spherical Clouds	286
4.1.2.1	Contraction of Spherical Clouds with Zero Pressure	286

4.1.2.2	Contraction of Spherical Clouds with Finite Pressure	290
4.1.2.3	Present Picture of Star Formation	294
4.1.3	Contraction of Rotating Clouds	298
4.1.3.1	Disk Formation and Runaway Collapse	298
4.1.3.2	Equilibrium Solution of a Rotating Disk	301
4.1.3.3	3D Simulation	303
4.1.4	Contraction of Magnetic Clouds	305
4.1.4.1	Criteria for Collapse of Magnetic Clouds	305
4.1.4.2	Ambipolar Diffusion	307
4.1.4.3	Magnetic Braking	309
4.1.4.4	Quasistatic Contraction	312
4.1.4.5	Dynamical Collapse	314
4.2	Shear Flows	316
4.2.1	Kelvin-Helmholtz Instability	317
4.2.1.1	Growth Rate	319
4.2.1.2	Richardson Number	320
4.2.1.3	Local vs. Nonlocal Analysis	320
4.2.1.4	Rotating Flow: Rayleigh's Criterion	321
4.2.2	Magnetorotational Instability	323
4.2.2.1	Motivation: Need for Anomalous Viscosity in Accretion Disks	323
4.2.2.2	Critical Wavelength and Growth Rate	325
4.2.2.3	Local Linear Stability Analysis for Vertical Magnetic Field .	326
4.2.2.4	Nonlinear Evolution for Vertical Magnetic Field*	327
4.2.3	Magnetic Viscosity in Accretion Disks	329
4.2.3.1	Nonlocal Linear Stability Analysis for General Magnetic Shearing Field	329
4.2.3.2	Alfvén Singularities and Eigenmodes*	332
4.2.3.3	Effect of Resistivity	335
4.2.3.4	Anomalous Resistivity and Magnetic Viscosity*	335
4.2.3.5	3D Numerical Simulation of the Magneto-Rotational Instability*	339
4.2.3.6	Effects of the Parker Instability*	342
4.2.3.7	Effects of Large-Scale Vertical Field*	344
4.2.3.8	Two States of Accretion Disks*	346
4.3	Jet	353
4.3.1	Observations of Astrophysical Jets	354
4.3.1.1	AGN (Active Galactic Nuclei) Jets	354
4.3.1.2	YSO (Young Stellar Objects) jets	357
4.3.1.3	Jets ejected from XRB (X-ray Binaries) and CV (Cataclysmic Variables)	358
4.3.2	Thermally Driven Wind/Jet	360
4.3.3	Magnetically Driven Wind/Jet	363

4.3.3.1	1D Steady Magnetically Driven (Centrifugal) Wind	364
4.3.3.2	2D Steady Magnetically Driven Wind Theory*	369
4.3.4	Nonsteady MHD Jets	374
4.3.4.1	Magnetic Twist Jets Produced by the Interaction between a Rotating Disk and a Poloidal Magnetic Field	376
4.3.4.2	Interaction of Magnetic Twist Jets with Interstellar Clouds*	381
4.3.4.3	Relation to Magnetorotational (Balbus-Hawley) Instability .	382
4.3.4.4	Nonsteady MHD Jets from Thick Disks*	384
4.3.4.5	Interaction between Stellar Magnetosphere and Accretion Disk Magnetic Field*	384
4.3.4.6	Relation to Steady Wind/Jet and Remaining Questions . .	386
4.3.4.7	Three-Dimensional Propagation of MHD Jets*	389
4.3.5	High Energy Particle Acceleration	390
4.3.5.1	γ ray Bursts with Alfvén Waves	390
4.3.5.2	Explosive Magnetic Reconnection in a Disk and Associated Acceleration*	391
5	Cosmological Plasma Astrophysics	412
5.1	Cosmology and the Plasma Epoch	412
5.1.1	Cosmological Constraints and Challenges	413
5.1.2	Observations on Cosmological Magnetic Fields	414
5.2	Intergalactic Plasma	415
5.2.1	Cosmic X-ray Background Radiation	415
5.2.2	Basic Physical Processes of Flux Tube Constriction	418
5.2.3	Magnetically Constricted IGM Plasmas	423
5.2.4	Heating of IGM Plasmas by Magnetic Fields*	424
5.2.5	The Intergalactic Magnetic Dynamo*	426
5.3	On the Origin of Cosmological Magnetic Fields	434
5.3.1	The Fluctuation-Dissipation Theorem and Magnetic Fields*	436
5.3.2	Frequency Spectrum of Magnetic Fields*	439
5.3.3	Collisional Effects*	442
5.3.4	Cosmological Implications	444
5.3.5	Structure Formation	446
5.4	Electroweak Plasmas*	451
5.4.1	Neutrino Fluid and Electron Fluid*	451
5.4.2	Primordial Instability*	452
5.5	Extended Yang-Mills Structures*	455
5.5.1	Introduction to Yang-Mills Vacua*	457
5.5.2	Nontrivial (Non-zero Energy) Vacua*	461
5.5.3	Perturbed Excitations*	463

Sources	466
Epilogue	471
List of References	474
Subject Index	480
Credit	487

