

1	Introduction	1
2	Basic kinematic concepts	10
2.1	Magnetic flux and magnetic helicity	10
2.2	Conservation of magnetic topology	14
2.3	Conditions for magnetic reconnection	17
2.4	Conservation of magnetic helicity in reconnection	21
3	Current sheets	29
3.1	Resistive MHD	30
3.1.1	The MHD equations	30
3.1.2	Equilibrium and linear modes	32
3.1.3	Conservation laws	37
3.1.4	Reduced MHD models	38
3.2	Resistive current sheets	43
3.2.1	Current-sheet formation	43
3.2.2	Basic properties of resistive current sheets	52
3.2.3	Refined theory of the current-sheet structure	55
3.3	Driven current-sheet reconnection	59
3.3.1	Syrovatskii's theory of current sheets	60
3.3.2	Dynamic structure of Y-points	66
3.3.3	Scaling laws of stationary current-sheet reconnection	69
3.3.4	Petschek's slow-shock model	75
4	Resistive instabilities	81
4.1	The resistive tearing mode	82
4.1.1	Linear tearing instability	85
4.1.2	Small-amplitude nonlinear behavior	88
4.1.3	Saturation of the tearing mode	91
4.1.4	Effect of dynamic resistivity	95
4.1.5	Neoclassical tearing mode	96
4.2	The double tearing mode	99
4.3	The resistive kink mode	103
4.3.1	Resistive kink instability	104
4.3.2	Small-amplitude nonlinear evolution	106
4.3.3	Final state of the resistive kink mode	112
4.4	Coalescence instability	114
4.5	Pressure-driven instabilities	118
4.5.1	Interchange and ballooning modes	118
4.5.2	Nonlinear evolution of pressure-driven modes	125
4.5.3	Finite pressure effects on tearing modes	128
4.6	Shear flow instability	129