

# Quantum Effects on Rayleigh-Taylor instability of a plasma-vacuum

G. A. Hoshoudy<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, South Valley University, Kena 83523, Egypt

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Girls at Muhayel, King Khalid University, Muhayel 504, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

g\_hoshoudy@yahoo.com

## Abstract

The hydrodynamic instability of unmagnetized quantum plasma layer supported by magnetized vacuum layer is investigated. The plasma is considered as incompressible, inviscid and has exponentially varying density. The relation between square normalized growth rate and square normalized wave number is obtained and analyzed. The results are shown that, the interface is more stability in the presence of quantum effect beside the magnetic field effect.

**Keywords:** Rayleigh-Taylor instability, quantum plasma, vacuum magnetic.

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# 1. Introduction

The field of quantum plasmas has been introduced since long ago. Klimontovich and Silin [1] derived a general kinetic equation for quantum plasmas and studied the dispersion properties of electromagnetic waves. Some other developments of that time include the equilibrium theory of quantum plasmas using a procedure similar to Feynman's methods in field theory [2], dielectric formulation of quantum statistics in random phase approximation [3]; and the self consistent field approach to many-electron problem [4]. For non-equilibrium homogenous systems, kinetic equations have been derived by Balescu [5]. Guernsey [6] used an approach originally developed by Bogoliubov to present a unified theory of equilibrium and non-equilibrium quantum plasmas. Pines [7] studied the dynamics of quantum plasmas with particular attention to the relationship between individual particle and collective behavior. A general theory of electromagnetic properties of the electron gas in a quantizing magnetic field was also developed treating the electrons quantum mechanically [8-9]. Quantum plasmas have received much attention during the last decade due to variety of reasons. The main reason for this interest is the manifold applications of quantum plasmas from nanoscience [10] to astrophysics [11].

In magnetic fusion research interface problem arise naturally the form the requirement that thermonuclear plasma be confined and isolated from the outside world by a vacuum magnetic field. The plasma-vacuum interface problem in magneto-hydrodynamics was presented by Goedbloed [12]. The Rayleigh-Taylor instability (RTI) of plasma-vacuum boundary with the aid of

an ideal one-fluid Hall model corresponding to the limit of a large ion Larmor radius was studied Velikovich [13]. The stability of gravitational compressible surface modes of a plasma-vacuum interface is studied by Grattojn et al. [14] and by Alejandro et al. [15].

In the last years, the hydrodynamic instability on the interface between a vacuum and quantum plasma has attracted much attention because of wide applications in many areas such as laser physics, plasma spectroscopy, plasma technology, and surface science [16-18]. For example, plasma and vacuum technologies are used in the microelectronics, communications, biomedical and other modern manufacturing industries. Vacuum plasma processing is already a well-proven and widely-used technique for etching and surface modification in the electronics industry. It is being increasingly used by the aerospace, automotive, medical, military and packaging industries for cleaning and surface engineering of plastics, rubbers and natural fibers as well as for replacing CFCs for cleaning metal components, polypropylene automotive components such as car bumpers, door mirror housings and dash board components are plasma treated before painting. The instability of quantum plasma-vacuum interface is studied of many different models[19-23]. The vacuum- quantum plasma composed of electron, including the effects of a quantum statistical Fermi electron temperature and the system is acted upon by an electromagnetic field ( $(E_x, E_y, B_z)$  TM-model) is studied by Lazar et al. [19]. In this model the initial values for electric and magnetic field were vanished ( $E_0=B_0=0$ , Electrostatic model). The same model is considered by Mohamed [20], but in his model the initial value of

magnetic field was taken account ( $\vec{B}_0 = B_0 \vec{e}_y$ , transverse magnetic field). The pervious model under the effect of electromagnetic field ( $(B_x, B_y, E_z)$ , TE-model) is studied by Mohamed and Abdel Aziz [21]. The instability of the interface between a quantum magneto-plasma composed of electrons and positrons, and vacuum are studied by Misra et al. [22]. In this study the external magnetic field lies in the  $x - z$  plane making an angle  $\theta$  with the  $z$  axis. A quantum surface mode at a plasma-vacuum interface with uniform magnetic field is studied in quantum electron-hole semiconductor plasma by Misra. [23]. In the above studies [19-23] the systems had a small-amplitude perturbation, where some terms (higher orders derivatives) of the linearized equations are deleted

In this paper, the classical RTI model in refs. (12, 13) will be again studied in quantum plasmas. the surface of discontinuity ( $z=0$ ) has considered between infinitely conducting plasma in the half-space  $z < 0$  and a vacuum in the other half-space  $z > 0$ , that has been permeated by a uniform horizontal magnetic field ( $\vec{B}_0 = B_0 \vec{e}_x$ ). Here, we use a system of Cartesian coordinates, where  $z$ -axis in the vertical direction. A gravitational acceleration  $\vec{g} = (0, 0, g)$  directed from the plasma towards the vacuum. In this analysis the perturbation will be superabundant (high-speed), such that the system can not return to the initial case, thus all the terms, which will rise in the linearized equations, will be considered.

## 2. Governing equations and linear perturbations

For incompressible quantum plasma as a fluid of electrons and immobile ions the relevant equations may be written as (see refs. 19 -26)

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{U} \cdot \vec{\nabla}\right) \rho \vec{U} = -\vec{\nabla} P + \rho \vec{g} + \vec{Q}, \quad (1)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{U} = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{U} \cdot \vec{\nabla}\right) \rho = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + u_y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\right) \eta = u_z|_{z_0}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\vec{U}(u_x, u_y, u_z)$  is the velocity,  $\rho$  is the density,  $p$  thermal pressure,  $\vec{g}$  is the gravitational acceleration. Quantum effects ( $\vec{Q}$ ) in equation (1) is represented by Bohm Potential (see refs. 25, 26).  $\eta$  is the displacement which is a function of  $x, y$  and  $t$ .

Now, if we wish to study quantum plasma-vacuum system with an interface need to supplement Eqs. (1)-(4) with the equations describing the vacuum magnetic field  $\vec{B}$ :

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0, \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = 0. \quad (5)$$

These equations are all that is left from Maxwell's equations when the displacement current is negligible. So that  $\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \phi$  may be obtained as the gradient of a scalar  $\phi$  which satisfies the equations

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0, \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi = 0. \quad (6)$$

The dynamic boundary condition across the interface of plasma-vacuum is:

$$\langle P_s \rangle = \langle \frac{B^2}{\mu} \rangle, \quad (7)$$

the brackets  $\langle \rangle$  is the jump across the interface and  $\mu$  is magnetic permeability.

The condition on the magnetic field at the interface with a perfect conductor is

$$\vec{n} \cdot \vec{B} = \vec{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \varphi = 0, \quad (8)$$

where  $\vec{n}$  is the unit vector which is the outward normal to the surface. This

vector is defined by  $f = z - \eta(x, y, t, z_0)$ . According to nonlinear Fourier

perturbation and elaborated by Callebaut, where every physical quantity (say

$X$ ) can be expanded in a series  $\varepsilon$ :

$$X = X_0 + \varepsilon X_1 + \varepsilon^2 X_2 + \varepsilon^3 X_3 + \dots \quad (9)$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is the amplitude of the first order term at all times,  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \exp(i\omega t)$  and

$\varepsilon_0$  is its amplitude at  $t = 0$  and  $\omega = -i\sigma$  is the frequency of perturbations or the

rate at which the system departs from equilibrium the initial state (Plasma

frequency). Then, the linearized equations of quantum plasma layer (by Eqs.

(1)- (4)) may be written as

$$\rho_0 \omega \vec{U}_1 = -\vec{\nabla} P_1 + \rho_1 \vec{g} + \vec{Q}_1, \quad (10)$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{U}_1 = 0, \quad (11)$$

$$\omega \rho_1 + (\vec{U}_1 \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \rho_0 = 0, \quad (12)$$

$$\omega \eta_1 = u_{z1} \Big|_{z=0}, \quad (13)$$

where  $\vec{Q}_1$  is given in Eq. 7 in ref [25].

Now, where  $\vec{U}_1 = (u_{x1}, u_{y1}, u_{z1})$ ,  $\vec{g} = (0, 0, g)$ ,  $\vec{Q}_1 = (Q_{x1}, Q_{y1}, Q_{z1})$ ,  $\vec{\nabla} = (\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z})$

and the fluid is arranged in horizontal strata, then  $\rho_0$  is a function of the

vertical coordinate (  $z$  ) only (  $\rho_0 = \rho_0(z)$  ). So, the system of equations (10)-(13)

can be put as:

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{x1} = -\frac{\partial p_1}{\partial x} + Q_{x1}, \quad (14)$$

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{y1} = -\frac{\partial p_1}{\partial y} + Q_{y1}, \quad (15)$$

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{z1} = -\frac{\partial p_1}{\partial z} + \rho_1 g + Q_{z1}, \quad (16)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_{x1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u_{y1}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_{z1}}{\partial z} = 0, \quad (17)$$

$$\omega \rho_1 + \left( \frac{d\rho_0(z)}{dz} \right) u_{z1} = 0, \quad (18)$$

$$\omega \eta_1 = u_{z1} \Big|_{z=0} \quad (19)$$

where  $Q_{x1}$ ,  $Q_{y1}$  and  $Q_{z1}$  are given in Eqs. (13)- (15) in Hoshoudy.

Now, we put

$$X_1(x, y, z) = X_1(z) \cos \psi \text{ for } X_1 \text{ equal to } u_{z1}, P_1 \text{ and } \rho_1, \quad (20)$$

$$X_1(x, y, z) = X_1(z) \sin \psi \text{ for } X_1 \text{ equal to } u_{x1} \text{ and } u_{y1}, \quad (21)$$

where  $\psi = k_x x + k_y y$ ,  $k_x$  and  $k_y$  are constants.

Using the expressions (20) and (21) in the system of Eqs. (14)-(19), we have

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{x1}(z) \sin(\psi) = k_x p_1(z) \sin(\psi) + \bar{Q}_{x1}, \quad (22)$$

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{y1}(z) \sin(\psi) = k_y p_1(z) \sin(\psi) + \bar{Q}_{y1}, \quad (23)$$

$$\rho_0 \omega u_{z1}(z) \cos(\psi) = -\frac{dp_1(z)}{dz} \cos(\psi) + \rho_1(z) g \cos(\psi) + \bar{Q}_{z1}, \quad (24)$$

$$k_x u_{x1}(z) + k_y u_{y1}(z) + \frac{du_{z1}(z)}{dz} = 0, \quad (25)$$

$$\rho_1(z) = -\frac{1}{\omega} u_{z1}(z) \frac{d\rho_0}{dz}, \quad (26)$$

$$\omega \eta_1 = u_{z1} \Big|_{z=0}, \quad (27)$$

where  $\bar{Q}_{x1}$ ,  $\bar{Q}_{y1}$  and  $\bar{Q}_{z1}$  are given in Eqs. (22)- (24), respectively, in ref. [25].

Eliminating some of the variables from the system of Eqs. (22)-(27), we have

$$\left[ \rho_0 \omega^2 + k^2 A \right] \frac{d^2 u_{z1}}{dz^2} + \left[ \omega^2 \left( \frac{d\rho_0}{dz} \right) + k^2 B \right] \frac{du_{z1}}{dz} - k^2 \left[ \rho_0 \omega^2 + (C + g) \frac{d\rho_0}{dz} \right] u_{z1} = 0, \quad (28)$$

where  $A, B$  and  $C$  are given in Eq (27), in ref. [12].

For the vacuum case, the linear equations may be written as follows:  $\nabla^2 \phi_1 = 0$

$$, \quad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\nabla} \phi_1 = 0. \quad (29)$$

Now, if we put  $\phi_1(x, y, z) = \phi_1(z) \sin \psi$ , then Eq. (29) takes the form

$$\left[ \frac{d^2}{dz^2} - k^2 \right] \phi_1(z) = 0. \quad (30)$$

The linear case of Eqs. (7) and (8), respectively, takes the form:

$$P_1 + \eta_1 \frac{dP(0)}{dz} = \frac{B_0 B_{x1}}{\mu}, \quad \frac{dP(0)}{dz} = \rho_0(z) g, \quad (31)$$

$$\vec{n}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_1 + \vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{B}_0 = 0, \quad \vec{n}_0 = \vec{e}_z \text{ and } \vec{n}_1 = -\frac{\partial \eta_1}{\partial x} \vec{e}_x - \frac{\partial \eta_1}{\partial y} \vec{e}_y. \quad (32)$$

Now, we will introduce the solutions for the two regions, where plasma layer supported by vacuum layer that has been permeated by a uniform magnetic

field in the  $x$ -direction ( $\vec{B}_0 = B_0 \vec{e}_x$ ). Plasma region (Region (I)) through the range  $z < 0$ , while the vacuum region (Region (II)) through the range  $0 < z$ .

Region (I) ( $-\infty < z < 0$ ):

Her, we consider the density distribution is given by  $\rho_0(z) = \rho_0(0) \exp(z/L_D)$ ,



where  $\rho_0(0)$  and  $L_D$  are constants, so Eq. (28) becomes

$$(\omega^2 + \omega_q^2) \frac{d^2 u_{z1}(z)}{dz^2} + \frac{1}{L_D} (\omega^2 + \omega_q^2) \frac{du_{z1}(z)}{dz} - k^2 \left\{ (\omega^2 + \omega_q^2) + \frac{g}{L_D} \right\} u_{z1}(z) = 0, \quad (33)$$

$$\omega_q^2 = \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{4L_D^2 m_e m_i}, \hbar \text{ is the Plank's constant, } m_i \text{ the ion mass and } m_e \text{ is the}$$

electron mass.

The solution of last equation in this region will be as following:

$$u_{z1}(z) = a \exp(q_1 z), \quad q_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{L_D} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{L_D^2} + 4k^2 \left( 1 + \frac{g}{L_D(\omega^2 + \omega_q^2)} \right)} \right\}, \quad (34)$$

if we select  $a=1$ , we will find that:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{x1}(x, y, z) &= -\frac{k_x}{k^2} q_1 \exp(q_1 z) \sin \psi, \\ u_{y1}(x, y, z) &= -\frac{k_y}{k_x} u_{x1}(x, y, z), \\ u_{z1}(x, y, z) &= \exp(q_1 z) \cos \psi, \\ \rho_1(x, y, z) &= -\frac{\rho_0(z)}{\omega L_D} \exp(q_1 z) \cos \psi, \\ P_1(x, y, z) &= -\rho_0(z) \left\{ \frac{\omega q_1}{k^2} \exp(q_1 z) + \frac{\sigma_q^2}{\sigma k^2} (L_D(q_1^2 - k^2) + q_1) \right\} \cos \psi, \\ \eta_1(x, y, z) &= \frac{1}{\omega} \cos \psi. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Region (II) ( $0 < z < \infty$ ):

The solution of Eq. (30) in this region is  $\phi_1(z) = b \exp(-kz)$ , and then

$$\phi_1(x, y, z) = \left\{ b \exp(-kz) \right\} \sin \psi. \text{ So, } B_{z1}(x, y, z) = \left\{ -b k \exp(-kz) \right\} \sin \psi. \quad (36)$$

Using the condition (32) we find  $b_1 = \frac{B_0 k_x}{k\omega}$ , then we find

$$\begin{aligned}
B_{x1}(x, y, z) &= \left\{ \frac{B_0 k_x^2}{k\omega} \exp(-kz) \right\} \cos \psi, \\
B_{y1}(x, y, z) &= \left\{ \frac{B_0 k_x k_y}{k\omega} \exp(-kz) \right\} \cos \psi, \\
B_{z1}(x, y, z) &= \left\{ -\frac{B_0 k_x}{\omega} \exp(-kz) \right\} \sin \psi.
\end{aligned}$$

(37) Now, using the results (35) and (37) in the condition (31), then the dispersion relation for our problem (unmagnetized quantum plasma layer has been supported by uniform magnetized vacuum layer) given by

$$\omega^2 - \frac{k^2}{q_1} \left\{ g - \frac{B_0^2 k_x^2}{k\mu\rho_0(0)} - \frac{\sigma_q^2}{k^2} (L_D(q_1^2 - k^2) + q_1) \right\} = 0. \quad (38)$$

If we ignore the quantum effect, then the dispersion relation (38) becomes

$$\omega^4 + \frac{1}{L_D} \left\{ \frac{B_0^2 k_x^2}{k\mu\rho_0(0)} \right\} \omega^2 - k^2 \left\{ g - \frac{B_0^2 k_x^2}{k\mu\rho_0(0)} \right\}^2 = 0, \quad (39)$$

while, if we ignore both quantum and magnetic field effects, we have the Rayleigh-Taylor instability mode that is given by the classical expression

$$\omega = (k g)^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ see Eq. (1) ref. (12)}$$

Now, we define the following dimensionless quantities

$$\omega^{*2} = \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{pe}^2}, \quad \omega_q^{*2} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4L_D^4 m_e m_i \omega_{pe}^2}, \quad g^* = \frac{g}{\omega_{pe}^2 L_D}, \quad k^{*2} = k^2 L_D^2, \quad \omega_m^{*2} = \frac{B_0^2 k_x^2}{\mu\rho_0(0) \omega_{pe}^2}.$$

Then the dispersion relation (38) becomes

$$\omega^{*2} - \frac{k^{*2}}{q_1^*} \left\{ g^* - \frac{\omega_m^{*2}}{k^*} - \frac{\omega_q^{*2}}{k^{*2}} (q_1^{*2} - k^{*2} + q_1^*) \right\} = 0, \quad (40)$$

$$q_1^* = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 - \sqrt{1 + 4k^{*2} \left( 1 + \frac{g^*}{\omega^{*2} + \omega_q^{*2}} \right)} \right\}. \quad (41)$$

From Eq. (40) it is not feasible to obtain analytically the value of  $\omega^*$  for the sets

of parameters ( $\omega_q^*$ ,  $\omega_m^*$ ). So, the dimensionless dispersion relation (40) has been solved numerically for different values of the physical parameters involved. Numerical calculations are presented in Fig. 1. There the square normalized growth rate  $\omega^{*2}$  is plotted against the square normalized wave number  $k^{*2}$ . Fig.1 shows the role of quantum term  $\omega_q^*$  ( $= 1, 2$ ) and magnetic field  $\omega_m^*$  ( $= 1, 2$ ) for a quantum plasma-vacuum model, where the magnitudes of square normalized growth rate is less than its counterpart in the case of quantum term only or magnetic field only.

Finally, we have presented the analytical results of the Rayleigh-Taylor instability of quantum plasma with vacuum interface, the dispersion relation is derived as a function of the physical parameters of the system considered in Eq. (40). The numerical calculations are shown that the system was more stability in the presence of both quantum term and horizontal magnetic field. This stabilizing, that happens in the presence of both quantum term and horizontal magnetic field. This discrepancy highlights a stabilizing role due to the presence of quantum term and horizontal magnetic field on Rayleigh-Taylor instability problem (quantum plasma-vacuum), increasing the dissipation of any disturbance, thus providing an increased stability.

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## Figuers Coptions

Fig.1. The square normalized growth rate  $\omega^{*2}$  against the square normalized wave number  $k^{*2}$  with the parameters  $\omega_q^* = \omega_m^* = 1$ ,  $h^* = 1$  and  $g^* = 10$ .

Fig. 1

