

Induced Scattering of Strong Electromagnetic Waves in Pair Plasmas

2026/1/28

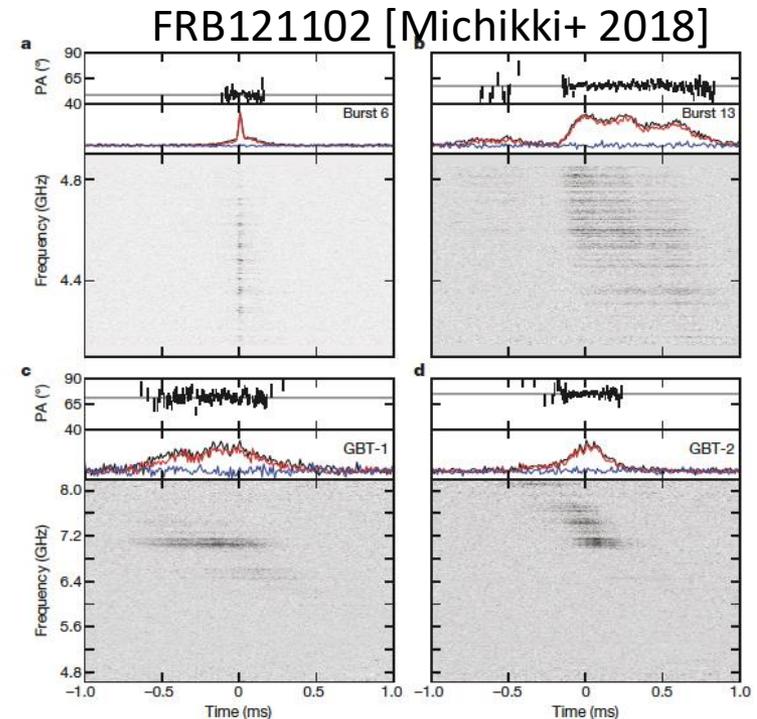
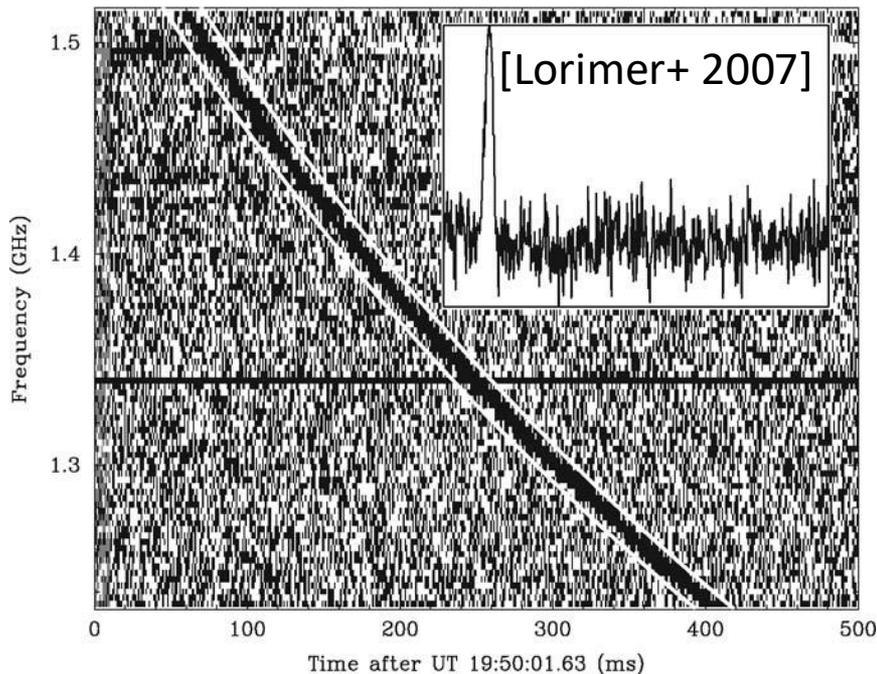
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Fast Radio Bursts (FRB)

- ✓ Millisecond-duration, extremely bright radio pulses (Lorimer+ 2007)
- ✓ High brightness temperature ($\sim 10^{35} K$) \rightarrow coherent emission
- ✓ Some FRBs are known to repeat, and repeating FRBs often show high linear polarization (e.g., Michikki+ 2018)
- ✓ **Magnetar origin?** (Bochenek+2020; CHIME/FRB Collaboration+ 2020)

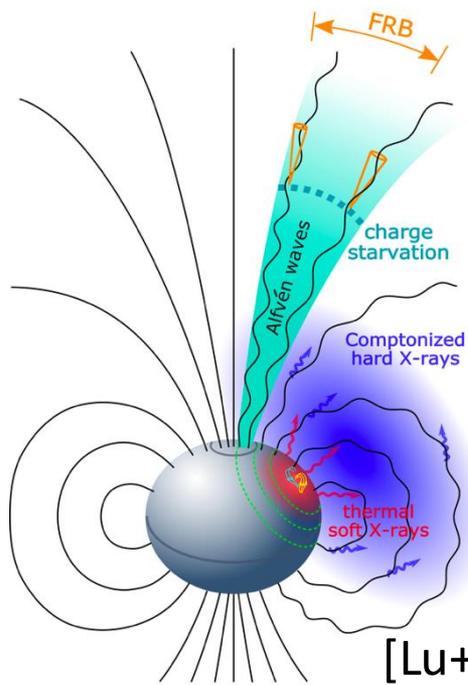


FRB Emission Model

Where is the emission region: Magnetosphere or Wind?

Magnetospheric (Pulsar-like) Model

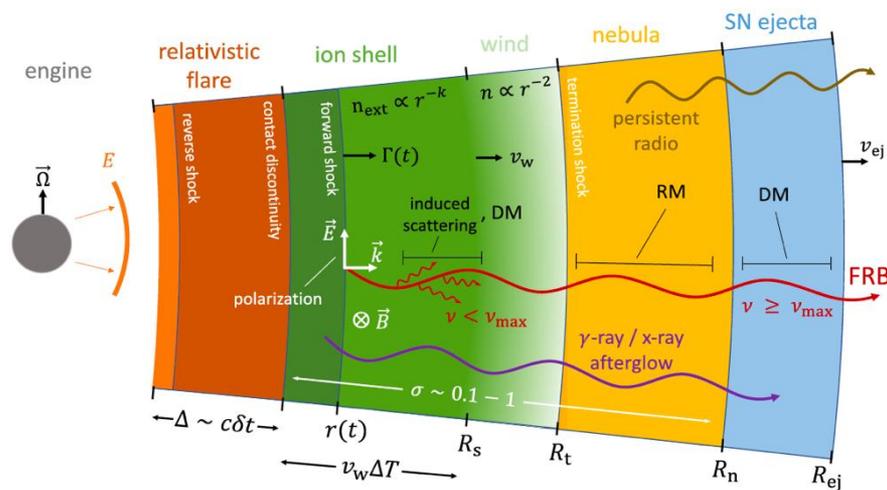
Coherent curvature radiation from charge bunches



[Lu+ 2020]

Far-away (GRB-like) model

Synchrotron maser instability in relativistic shocks



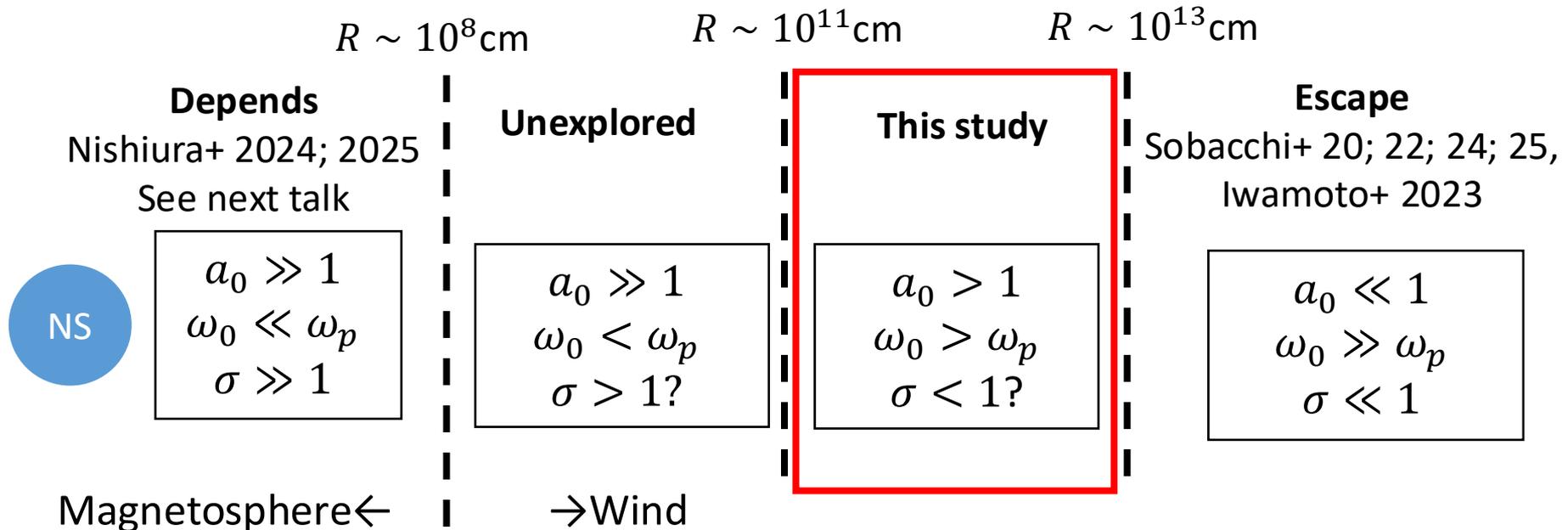
[Metzger+ 2019]

FRB Propagation

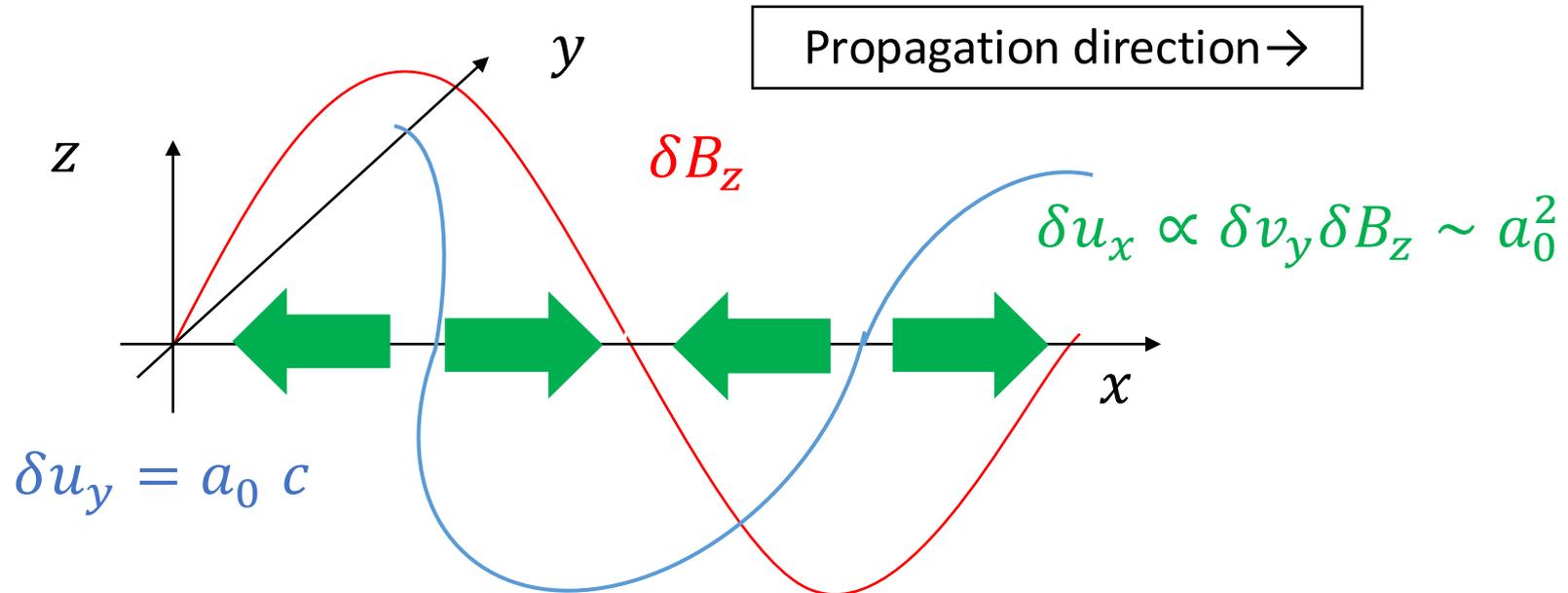
- ✓ FRBs are strong (Luan & Goldreich 2014):

$$a_0 = \frac{eE_0}{m_e c \omega_0} > 1 \text{ for } R \lesssim 10^{13} \text{ cm}$$

- ✓ Such strong waves are subject to induced scattering
→ **constrains the emission region**
- ✓ This study focuses on $10^{11} \text{ cm} \lesssim R \lesssim 10^{13} \text{ cm}$



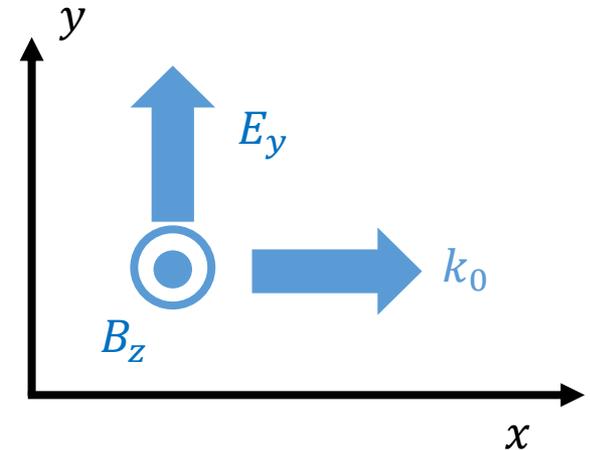
Wave Nonlinearity



- ✓ Conservation of transverse canonical momentum $\rightarrow \delta u_y = a_0 c$
- ✓ Nonlinear Lorentz force $\propto \delta v_y \delta B_z \sim a_0^2$
 - \rightarrow longitudinal motion becomes dominant for $a_0 > 1$
 - \rightarrow strongly coupled with plasmas
- ✓ No analytic steady-state solution exists for $a_0 > 1$

Assumptions

- ✓ Unmagnetized, cold electron-positron fluid
- ✓ Linearly polarized, monochromatic plane wave
- ✓ All physical quantities are expressed as a function of $\phi_0 = k_0 x - \omega_0 t$



$$\frac{\alpha^2 a_0^2}{\gamma_g^2} \left(\frac{dy}{d\phi_0} \right)^2 = \frac{(1-y^2)(1-y^2+q)}{(1-y^2+q/2)^2}$$

$$\frac{\alpha a_0}{\gamma_g} \frac{2E(m) - (1-m)K(m)}{2\sqrt{m}} = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\gamma = 1 + \frac{\alpha a_0^2}{2} (1-y^2)$$

$$u_x = \frac{\alpha \beta_g a_0^2}{2} (1-y^2)$$

$$u_y = \pm a_0 \int y d\phi_0$$

Where

$$y = \frac{E_y}{E_0}, a_0 = \frac{eE_0}{mc\omega_0}, \alpha = \frac{\omega_0^2 - c^2 k_0^2}{2\omega_{pe}^2}$$

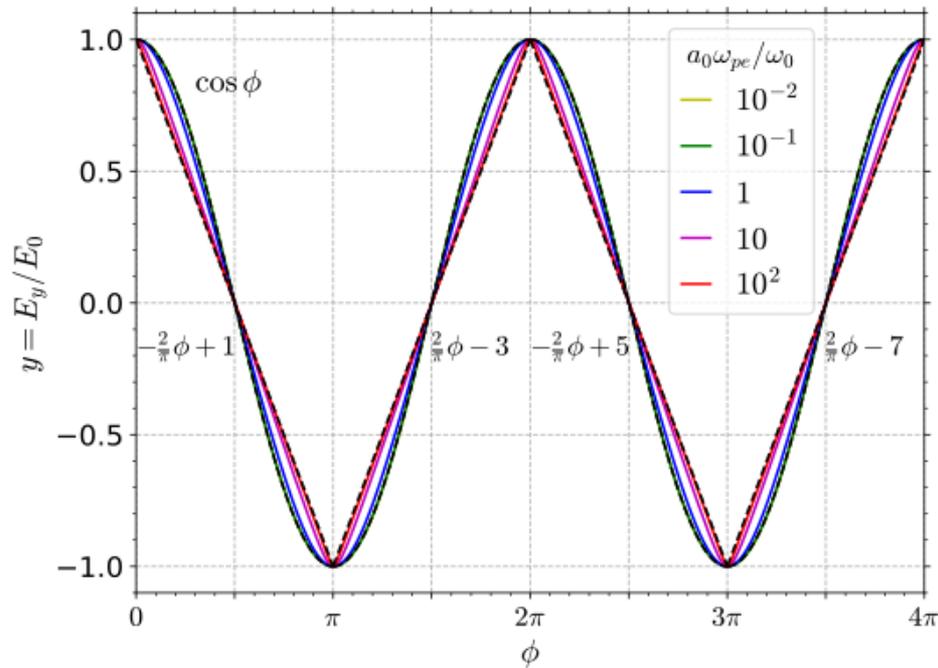
$$\beta_g = \frac{ck_0}{\omega_0}, \gamma_g = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_g^2}}$$

$$q = \frac{8\omega_{pe}^2 \gamma_g^4}{\omega_0^2 a_0^2}, m = \frac{1}{1+q}$$

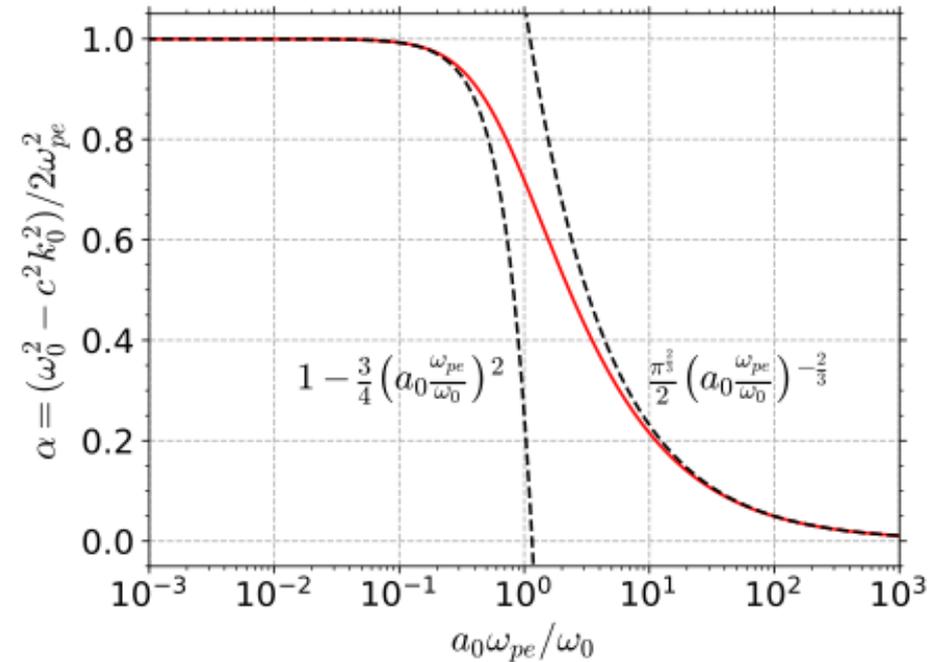
K & *E*: Incomplete elliptic integral of the first/second kind

Parameter Dependence

Wave form



Dispersion relation



- ✓ Well-characterized by $\frac{a_0\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0}$ rather than a_0
- ✓ $\frac{a_0\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \ll 1 \rightarrow$ linear solution even if $a_0 > 1$

Linear Analysis of Stimulated Scattering

- ✓ In unmagnetized pair plasmas, linearly polarized EM waves are subject to Induced Compton Scattering (ICS)
- ✓ ICS can be interpreted as a classical plasma instability
- ✓ For $a_0 \ll 1$, the linear growth rate is (Ghosh+ 2022; Iwamoto+ 2023):

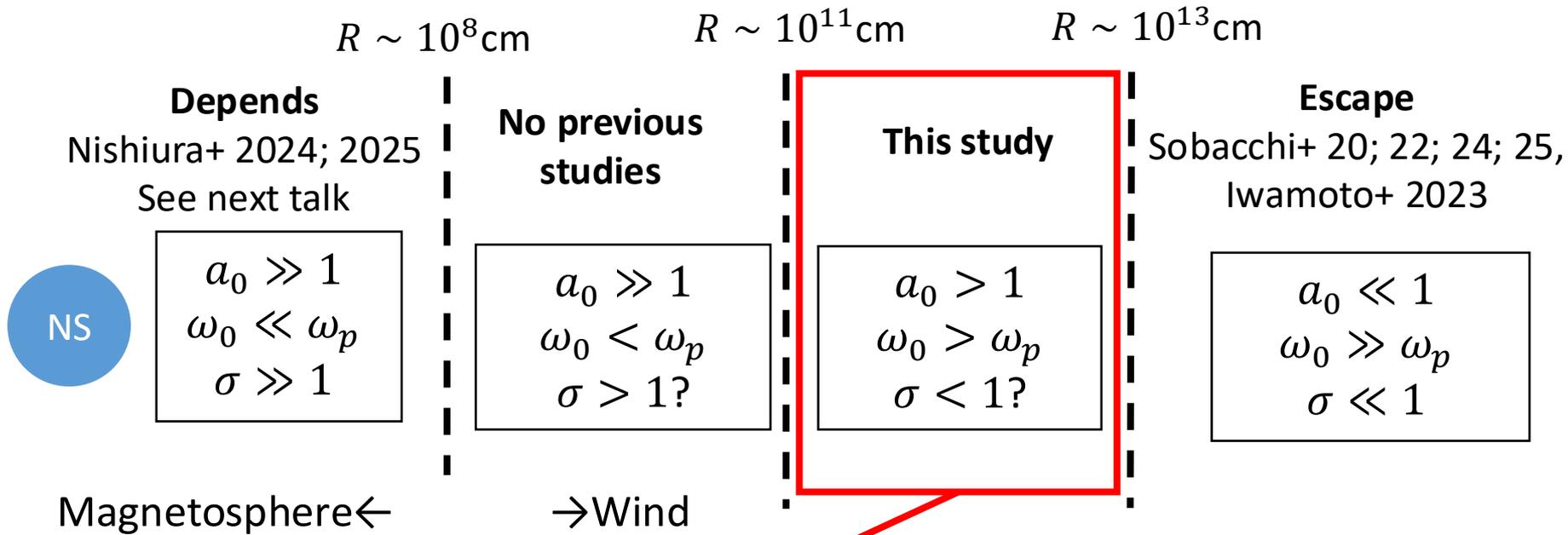
$$\frac{\Gamma_{max}^{ICS}}{\omega_0} \sim \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8e}} \frac{1}{\beta_{th0}^2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^2, & \beta_{th0} \gg \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}}, & \beta_{th0} \ll \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \end{cases}$$

→ characterized by $\frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0}$ rather than



Can be extrapolated to the regime $a_0 > 1$ as long as $\frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \ll 1$?

Application to FRB Propagation

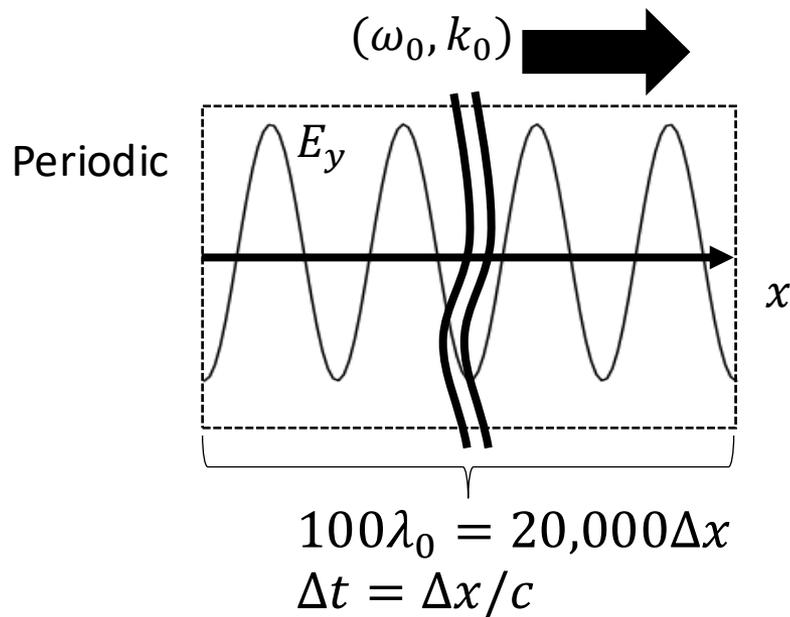


$$a_0 \sim 2 \left(\frac{10^{13} \text{cm}}{R} \right), \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \sim 10^{-3} \left(\frac{10^{13} \text{cm}}{R} \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \sim 2 \times 10^{-3} \left(\frac{10^{13} \text{cm}}{R} \right)^2 \ll 1 \text{ (Beloborodov 2020)}$$

→ linear regime?

Numerical Settings

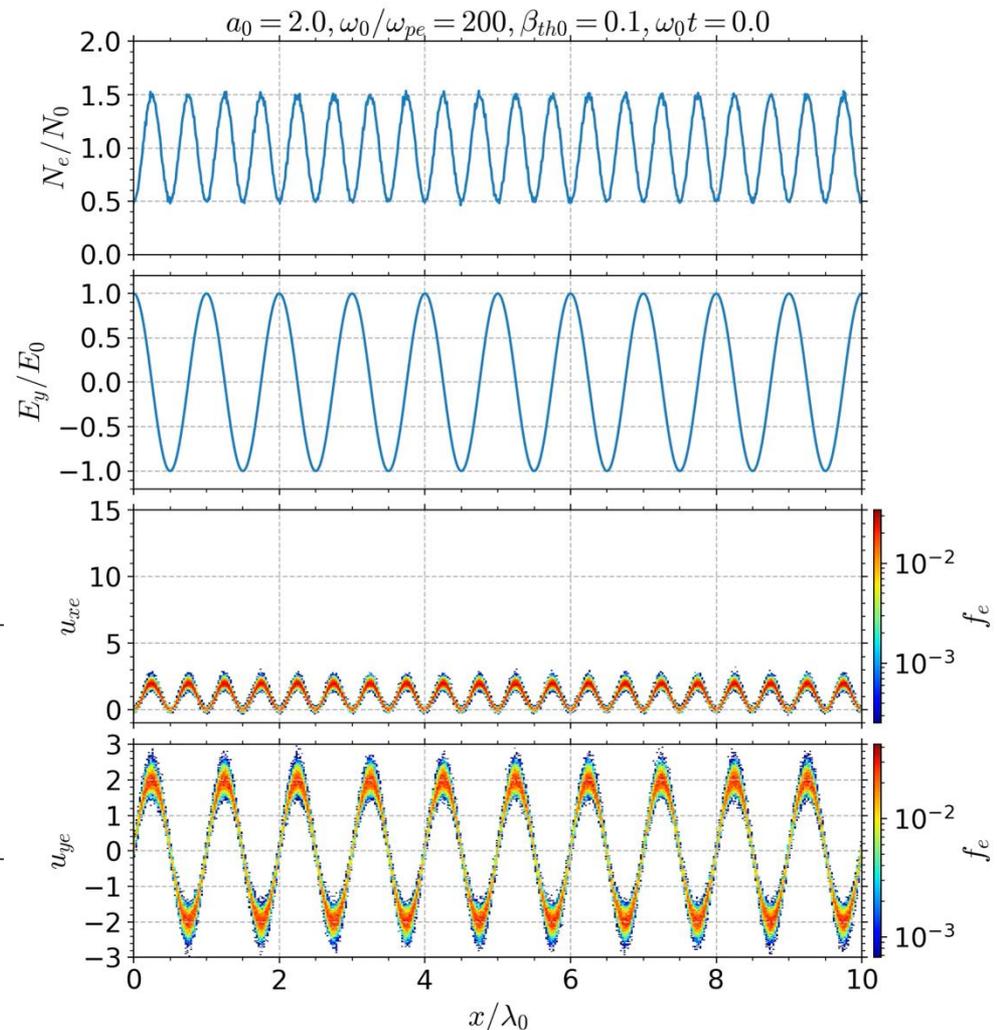
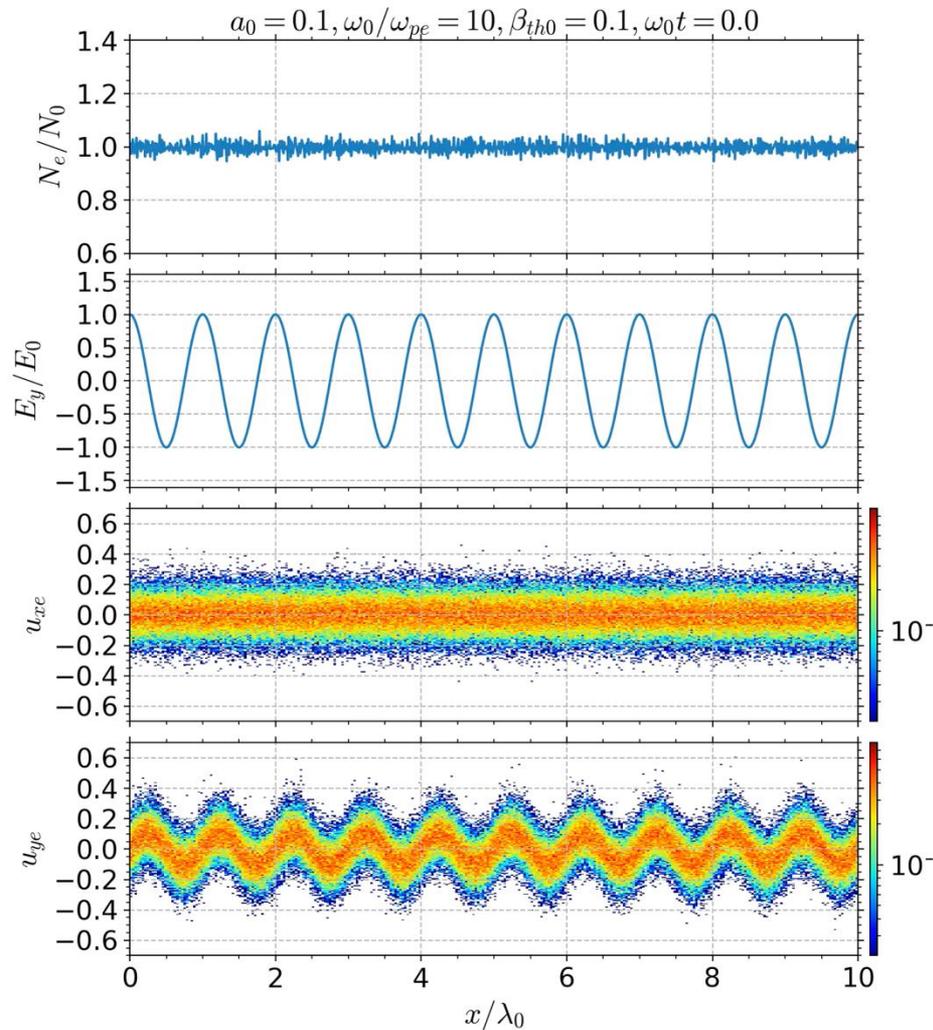


Parameters

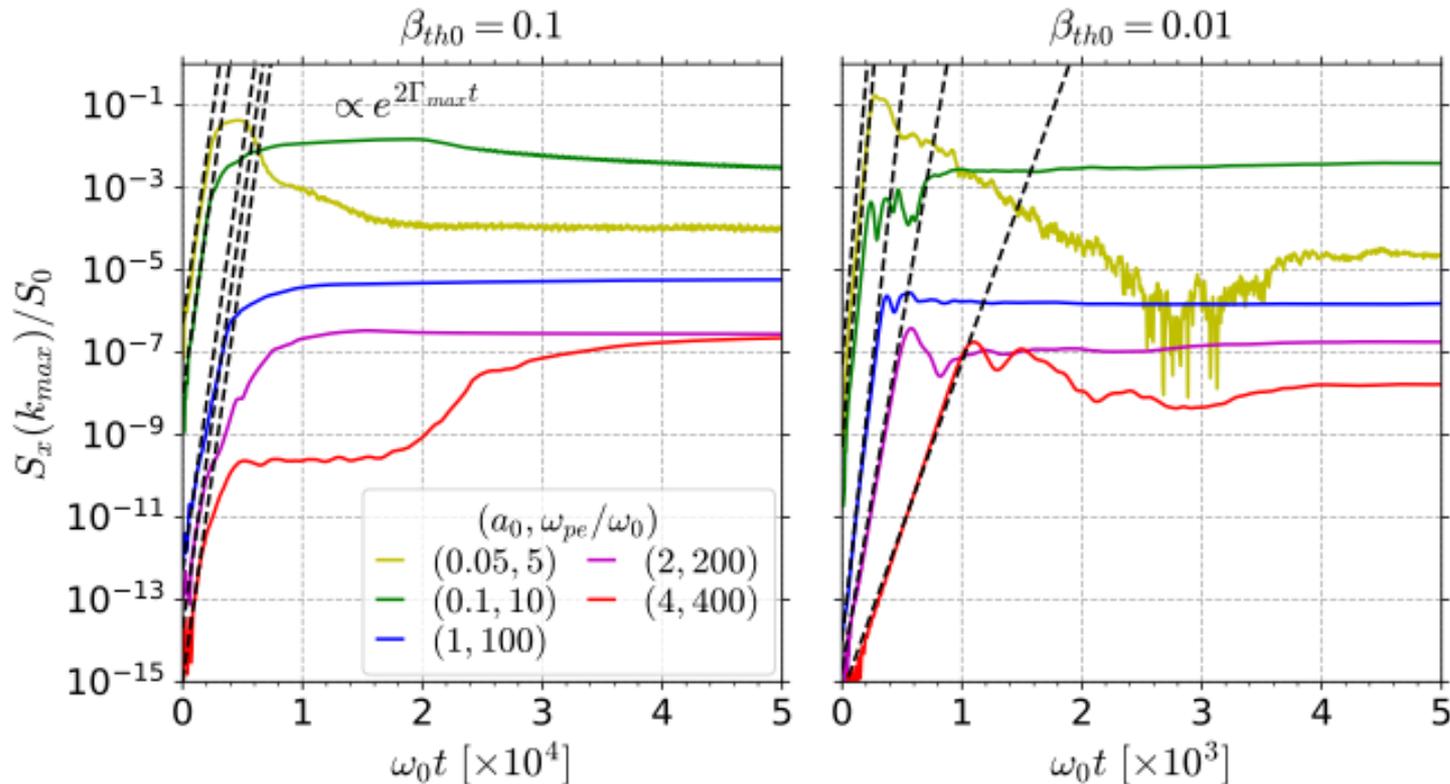
$$\left(a_0, \frac{\omega_0}{\omega_{pe}}\right) = (0.05, 5), (0.1, 10), (1, 100),$$
$$(2, 200), (4, 400)$$
$$\left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} = 0.01 \text{ is fixed}\right)$$
$$\beta_{th0} = 0.1, 0.01$$

- ✓ Simulation code: Wuming (open source PIC code; Matsumoto+ 2024)
- ✓ One-dimensional systems (only induced Compton scattering works)
- ✓ k_0 is determined by dispersion relation
- ✓ Thermal velocity β_{th0} is defined in the proper (Eckart) frame

Simulation Results

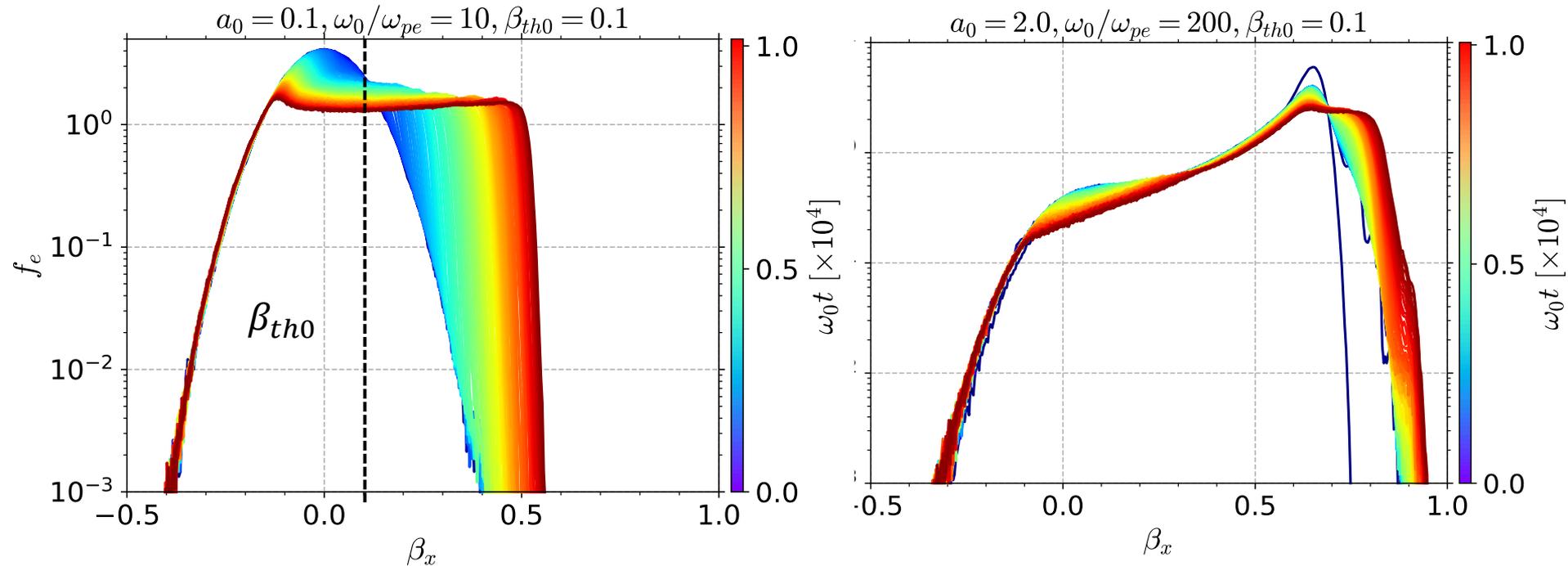


Linear Growth Rate



- ✓ FRB: $\omega_0 \delta t_{pulse} \sim (1\text{GHz}/\gamma_{wind}) \times (1\text{ms} \cdot \gamma_{wind}) = 10^6$
 \rightarrow sufficiently longer than simulation time $\omega_0 t_{max} = 2 \times 10^4$
 \rightarrow ICS operates
- ✓ Linear growth rates depend on both $\frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0}$ and a_0
 \rightarrow Lorentz boost

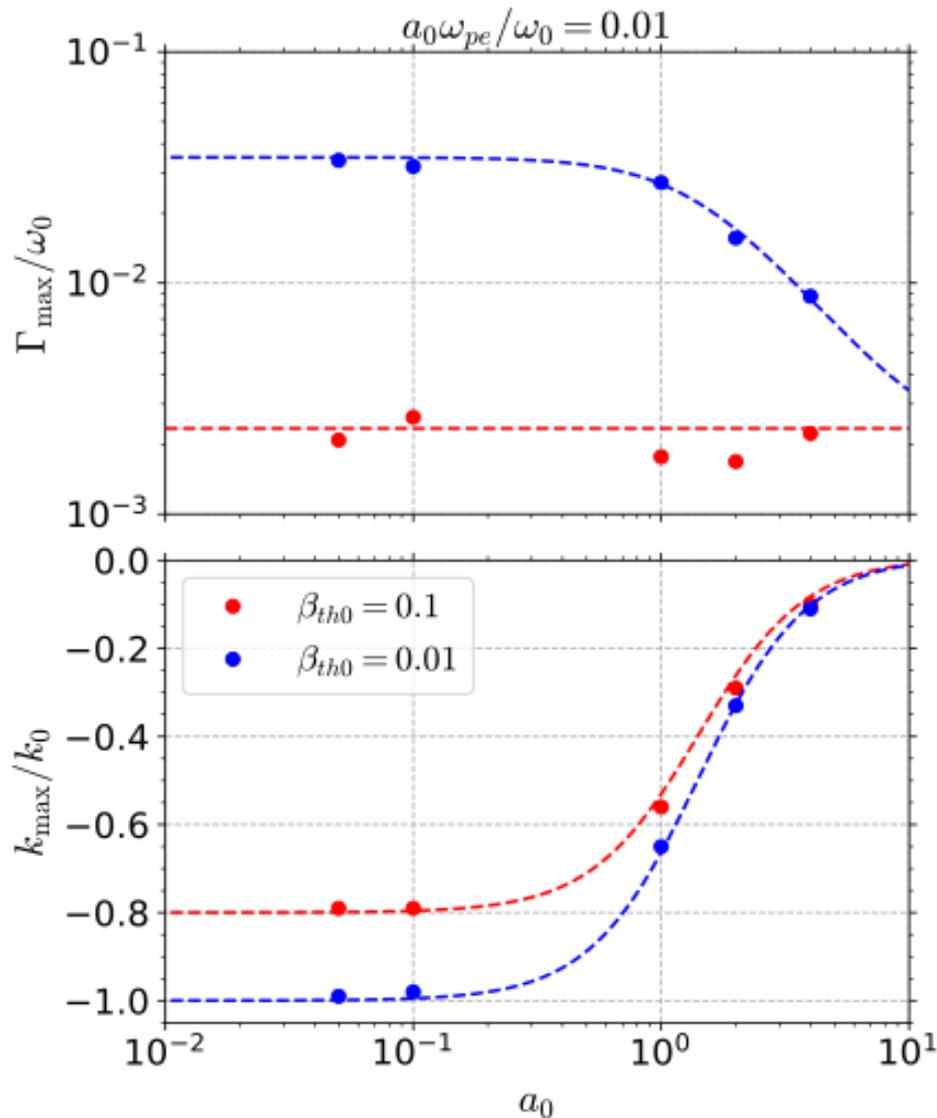
Particle Velocity Distribution



- ✓ Incident EM waves induce a longitudinal plasma drift for $a_0 > 1$
- ✓ ICS operates in the frame where the longitudinal drift vanishes?
- ✓ The drift velocity is

$$v_D = \frac{\langle u_x \rangle}{\langle \gamma \rangle} \sim \frac{a_0^2}{4 + a_0^2} c$$

Growth Rate in Simulation Frame

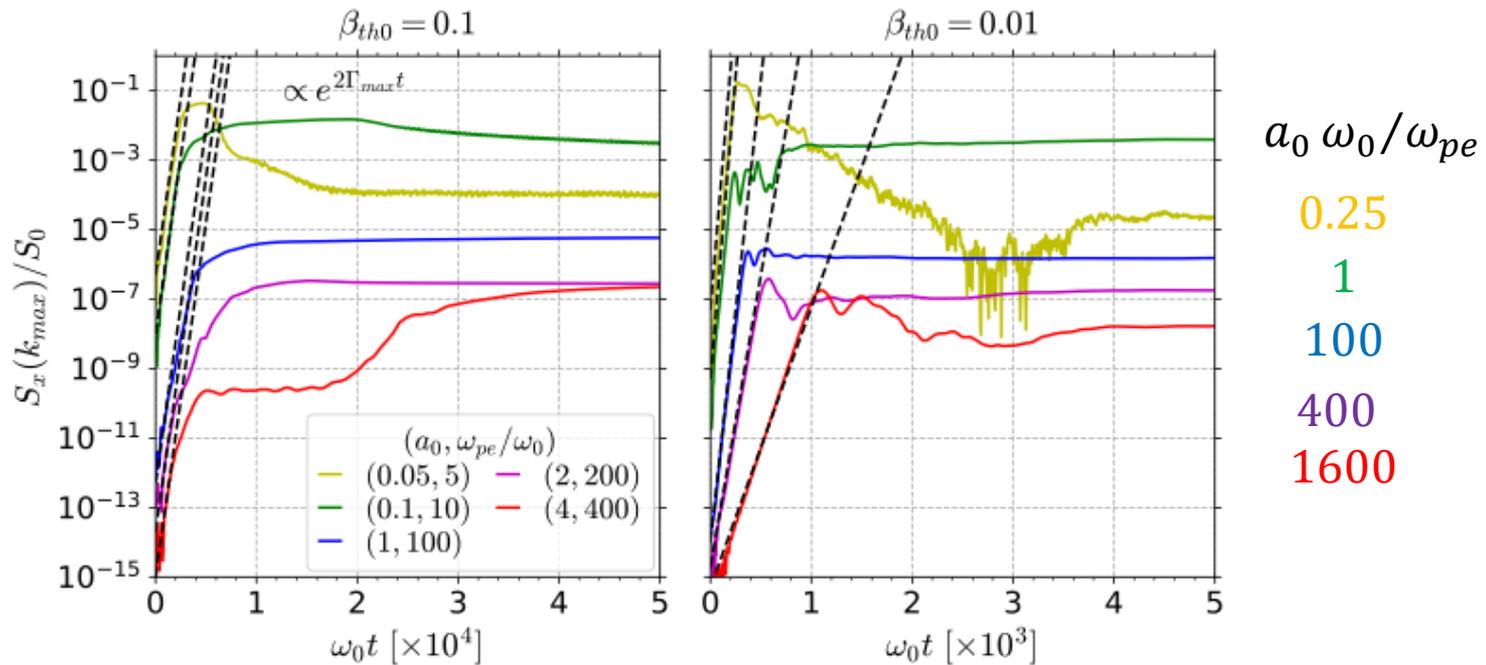


$$\frac{\Gamma_{max}}{\omega_0} \sim \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8e}} \frac{1}{\beta_{th0}^2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^2 \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \gamma_D^{-\frac{4}{3}} \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{k_{max}}{k_0} \sim \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{\gamma_D^2} \\ -\frac{1 - 2\beta_{th0}}{\gamma_D^2} \end{cases}$$

- ✓ a_0 dependence results from Lorentz boost
- ✓ Linear treatment is valid in the frame where the longitudinal drift vanishes

Saturation Levels of Fastest-Growing Modes



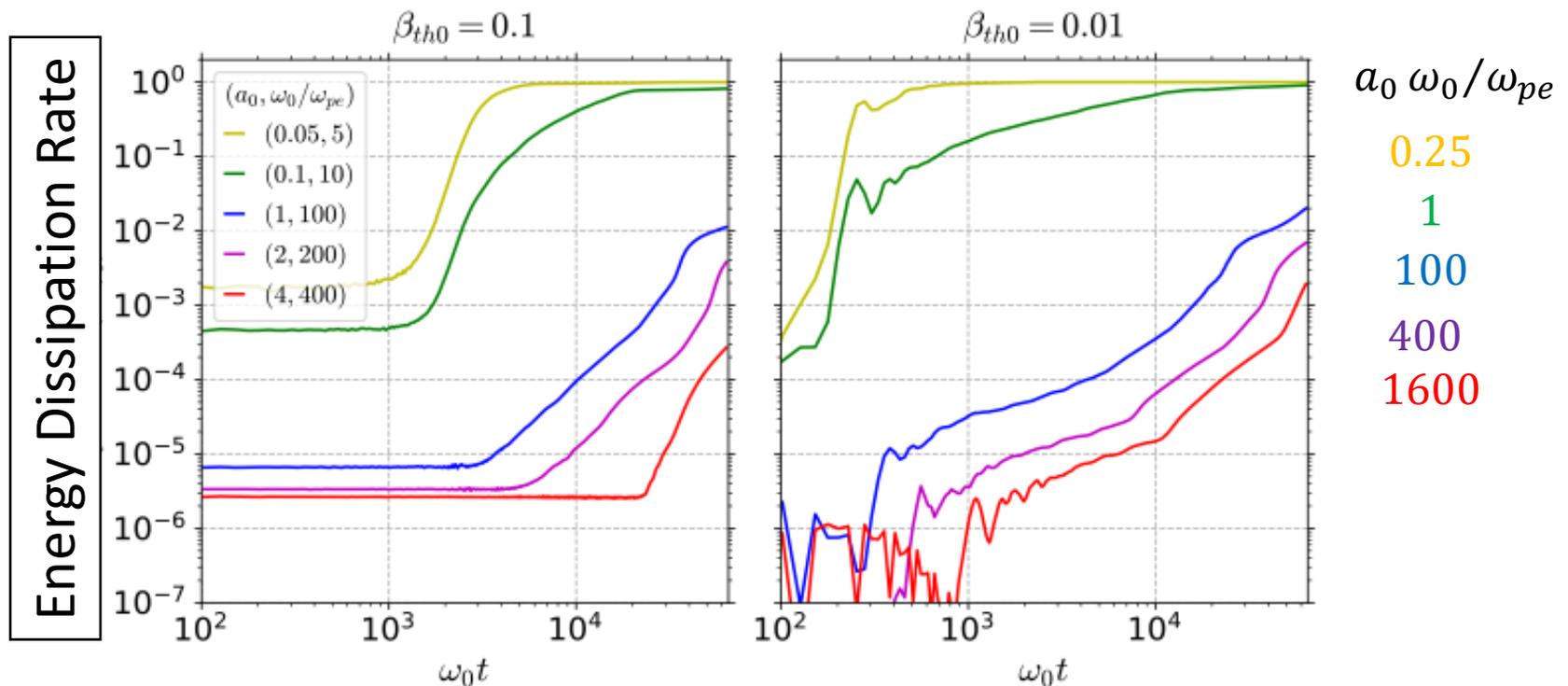
Saturation level depends on

$$\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}} = \sqrt{\frac{E_0^2 / 4\pi}{n_0 m c^2}}$$

→ Incident wave energy is dominant for $\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}} \gg 1$

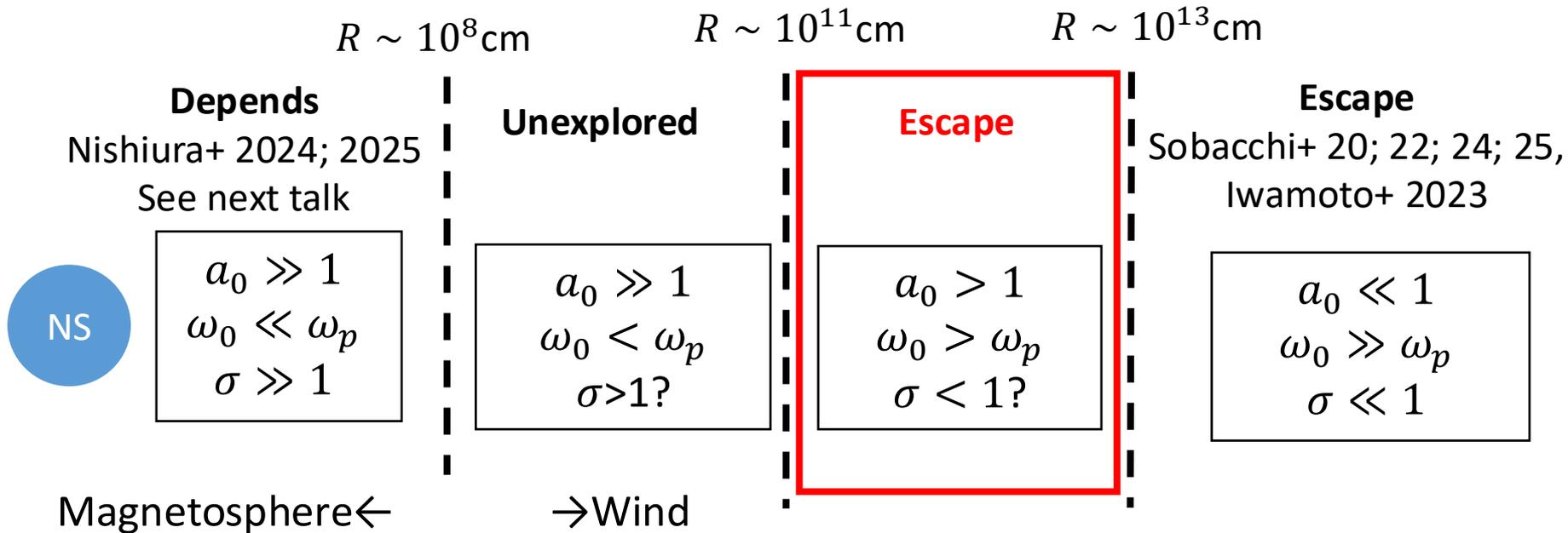
→ Scattering is less effective

Effect on FRB Propagation



- ✓ Incident wave energy is gradually dissipated into plasmas
- ✓ $\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}} = 1600 \rightarrow$ Energy loss is limited to 1% at $\omega_0 \delta t_{pulse} \sim 10^6$
- ✓ FRB: $\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}} \sim 2 \times 10^3 \rightarrow$ ICS becomes negligible

Summary



FRB propagation is controlled by $\frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0}$ & $\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}}$

- ✓ $\frac{a_0 \omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \ll 1 \rightarrow$ linear treatment is valid even for $a_0 > 1$
- ✓ $\frac{a_0 \omega_0}{\omega_{pe}} \gg 1 \rightarrow$ wave energy \gg plasma energy

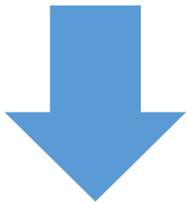
\rightarrow ICS is negligible

Back up

Growth Rate in Simulation frame

Proper frame

$$\frac{\Gamma'_{max}}{\omega'_0} \sim \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8e}} \frac{1}{\beta_{th0}^2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega'_0} \right)^2 \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega'_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \end{cases} \quad \frac{k'_{max}}{k'_0} \sim \begin{cases} -1 \\ -(1 - 2\beta_{th0}) \end{cases}$$



$$\Gamma'_{max} \sim \langle \gamma \rangle \Gamma_{max}, \omega'_0 \sim \frac{\omega_0}{\langle \gamma \rangle}, k'_0 \sim \frac{k_0}{\langle \gamma \rangle}, \langle \gamma \rangle \sim \sqrt{1 + \frac{a_0^4}{16}}$$

Simulation frame

$$\frac{\Gamma_{max}}{\omega_0} \sim \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{8e}} \frac{1}{\beta_{th0}^2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^2 \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(a_0 \frac{\omega_{pe}}{\omega_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{1}{\langle \gamma \rangle^{\frac{4}{3}}} \end{cases} \quad \frac{k_{max}}{k_0} \sim \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{\langle \gamma \rangle^2} \\ -\frac{1 - 2\beta_{th0}}{\langle \gamma \rangle^2} \end{cases}$$

EM Waves

