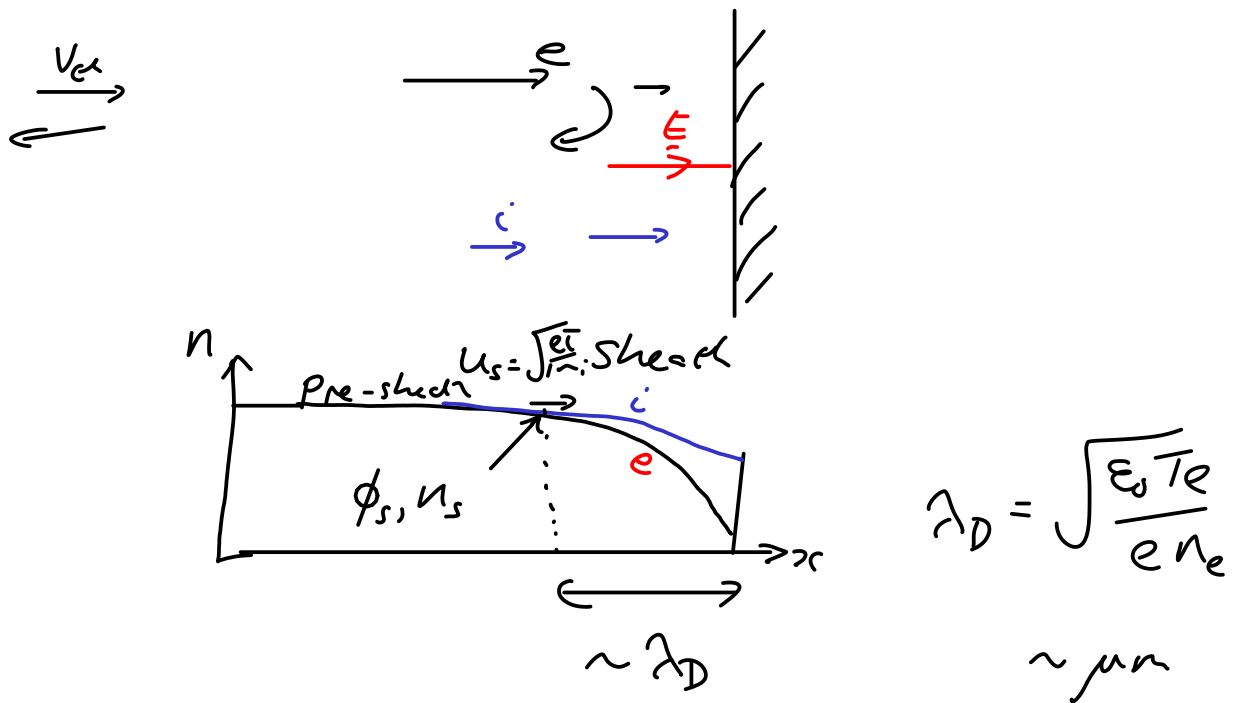


# Bohm sheath

## Contents

- Derive Bohm sheath condition
- Cold ions (thermal velocity  $\ll$  drift)
- Unmagnetised, collisionless sheath



$$\nabla \cdot \underline{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{e(n_i - n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\underline{E} = -\nabla\phi \quad -\frac{d^2\phi}{dx^2} = \frac{e(n_i - n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

Electrons

$$\underline{E} + \cancel{v_e \times \underline{B}} = -\frac{\nabla p_e}{en} + \cancel{\frac{m_e}{en} \frac{dn}{dt}}$$

*Unmagnetised*

*steady state*  
*Small  $m_e$*

$$T_e \sim \text{constant} \quad p_e = e n_e T_e$$

$$-\frac{d\phi}{dx} = -\frac{T_e}{n} \frac{dn_e}{dx}$$

$$\int \frac{d\phi}{dx} dx = \int \frac{T_e}{n} dn = T_e \ln(n)$$

$$n_e = n_s e^{(\phi - \phi_s)/T_e}$$

Boltzmann  
relation

Ion density

$$m_i n_i \left( \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + \underline{u}_i \cdot \nabla u_i \right) = -\nabla p_i - \nabla \cdot \Pi + en(\underline{E} + \underline{u} \times \underline{B})$$

Cold ions  
thermal speed  $\ll$  drift speed

$$m_i n_i u_i \frac{du_i}{dx} = -en_i \frac{d\phi}{dx}$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} (u_i^2) \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{2} m_i u_i^2 + e\phi \right) = 0$$

constant

$$\frac{1}{2} m_i u_s^2 + e\phi_s = \frac{1}{2} m_i u_i^2 + e\phi$$

$$u_i = u_s \sqrt{1 - \frac{e(\phi - \phi_s)}{u_s^2 m_i}}$$

$$\frac{\partial n_i}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (n_i u_i) \quad \frac{d}{dx} (n_i u_i) = 0$$

$$n_i = n_s \left( 1 - \frac{ze(\phi - \phi_s)}{u_s^2 m_i} \right)^{-1/2}$$

↓
← Boltzmann

$$-\frac{d^2 \phi}{dx^2} = \frac{e(n_i - n_e)}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$= en_s \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{ze}{u_s^2 m_i} (\phi - \phi_s) \right)^{-1/2} - e^{(\phi - \phi_s)/T_e} \right]$$

Normalise

$$\Phi = -\frac{(\phi - \phi_s)}{T_e} \quad y = \frac{\sqrt{2} x}{\lambda_D}$$

$$k = \frac{m_i u_i^2}{zeT_e}$$

$$2 \frac{d^2 \Phi}{dy^2} = e^{-\Phi} + \left( 1 + \frac{\Phi}{k} \right)^{-1/2}$$

$\times \frac{d\Phi}{dy}$ , integrate in  $y$

$$\left(\frac{d\bar{\Phi}}{dy}\right)^2 = \underline{e^{-\bar{\Phi}}} - 1 + 2k \left[ \left(1 + \frac{\bar{\Phi}}{k}\right)^{1/2} - 1 \right]$$

$$\geq 0 \quad \text{for all } y$$

expand for small  $\bar{\Phi}$  (near sheath entrance)

$$\left(\frac{d\bar{\Phi}}{dy}\right)^2 \approx \left(1 - \bar{\Phi} + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\Phi}^2 - \dots\right) - 1$$

$$+ 2k \left[ \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\bar{\Phi}}{k} - \frac{1}{8}\frac{\bar{\Phi}^2}{k^2} + \dots\right) - 1 \right]$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2}\bar{\Phi}^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2k}\right) + O(\bar{\Phi}^3) + \dots$$

$$\geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \underline{\underline{k \geq \frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$\frac{m_i u_i^2}{2eT_e} \geq \frac{1}{2} \quad u_s \geq \underline{\underline{\sqrt{\frac{eT_e}{m_i}}}}$$

Bohm criterion at sheath