## Approximate analytical solution of the nonlinear Boltzmann equation with an electron-electron interaction

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The nonlinear Boltzmannn equation in which electron-electron interactions are taken into account and in the presence of an electric field is solved by an iterative strongly convergent procedure starting from the linearized solution. The numerical calculations are interpolated so as to have an explicit analytical Fokker-Planck equation whose steady-state solution is of the kind of a Chapman-Cowling-Davydov expression. The analytical solution is useful to treat the long time tails of the distribution function which would demand 10<sup>7</sup> years of calculation by a Monte Carlo method.

In the case of spatial uniformity, the electron probability density  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}, t) = f(\mathbf{v}, t)$  is governed by the nonlinear Boltzmann equation in which the electron-electron interactions are taken into account:<sup>1,2</sup>

. . .

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = \int d^2 \Omega \left\{ \sum_i \left[ \int d^3 \mathbf{V}'_i F_i(\mathbf{V}'_i, t) f(\mathbf{v}', t) \frac{|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{V}'_i|^3}{|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{V}'_i|^3} v_{ai}(|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{V}'_i|, \mu_s) - \int d^3 \mathbf{V}_i F_i(\mathbf{V}_i, t) f(\mathbf{v}, t) v_{ai}(|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{V}_i|, \mu_s) \right] \right\} + \int d^2 \Omega \left\{ \int d^3 \mathbf{v}'_* f(\mathbf{v}'_*, t) f(\mathbf{v}', t) \frac{|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}'_*|^3}{|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}'_*|^3} v_e(|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}'_*|, \mu_s) - \int d^3 \mathbf{v}_* f(\mathbf{v}_*, t) f(\mathbf{v}, t) v_e(|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_*|, \mu_s) \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where t denotes time,  $\mathbf{a} = e\mathbf{E}/m$  the electron acceleration due to the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}'$  and  $\mathbf{V}'_i$  are the velocities of the electron and the atom of the *i*th species, respectively, immediately before a scattering event such that the corresponding velocities after collision are  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{V}_i$  at a scattering angle  $\theta_s$  with  $\mu_s = \cos\theta_s$ ,  $d^2\Omega = \sin\theta_s d\theta_s d\varphi_s$ , where  $\varphi_s$  is the azimuthal scattering angle,  $F_i(\mathbf{V}_i, t)$  the distribution function of the *i*th species of scattering atoms,  $v_{ai}$  and  $v_e$  the *i*th species atom-electron and electron-electron differential collision frequencies, respectively.

Equation (1) is rigorously valid when  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}, t)$  does not depend on  $\mathbf{r}$ . Its linear part (in f) is still valid in the form of Eq. (1) even when  $f(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}, t)$  depends on  $\mathbf{r}$  provided  $F_i(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{V}_i, t) = F_i(\mathbf{V}_i, t)$  is  $\mathbf{r}$  independent as can be proved by integrating the complete Boltzmann equation over  $\mathbf{r}$ . The nonlinear part of Eq. (1) (given by the last two terms of the collision integral) is an acceptable approximation upon integration over  $\mathbf{r}$  when its contribution is modest compared to that of the linear part as can be seen by the density-gradient expansion.<sup>3</sup>

Except in the trivial case of equilibrium, for which  $f(\mathbf{v}) \propto \exp(-mv^2/2kT)$ , no exact solutions are known for Eq. (1). There are numerical solutions, for instance, obtained by the Monte Carlo method. These solutions are very useful in many cases but not when the long time tail of  $f(\mathbf{v},t)$  is of interest. For example, the  $1/\omega$  flicker noise for electrons has been measured down to  $\omega_{\min} = (1 \text{ month})^{-1}$ . Taking into account that the flight time of electrons in semiconductors is  $\approx 10^{-13}$  s one should calculate the trajectories of  $30 \times 86400/10^{-13} \approx 2.6 \times 10^{19}$  free flights, demanding a time of  $\approx 10^7$  years if using a modern supercomputer.

Approximate solutions are obtainable by the reduction of Eq. (1) to a Fokker-Planck equation. Chandrasekar<sup>4</sup> obtained it for the isotropic component  $f_0$  of f and then he solved it numerically. Spitzer and collaborators<sup>5,6</sup> have extended this calculation by retaining the first two components of the Legendre expansion

$$f(\mathbf{v},t) = f_0(v,t) + \mu f_1(v,t) , \qquad (2)$$

where  $\mu = \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{v} / Ev$ . Then Rosenbluth and collaborators<sup>7</sup> further developed Spitzer's method in the case of an inverse-square force in the collision operator which generates logarithmic divergences at small scattering angles. To suppress the divergences they introduce a natural cutoff where the relative kinetic energy of the particles is approximated by  $\frac{3}{2}kT$ . They say that "it would probably not be justified in any event to consider the argument of  $\ln D$  as better determined than this." Actually, this approximation is acceptable for  $v^2 > \langle v^2 \rangle$  but not for  $v^2 \ll \langle v^2 \rangle$  which is an important speed interval for the study of the flicker noise.

The complicated expressions appearing in this method are to be solved numerically and no explicit analytical solution is obtained. This method is therefore unable of producing the long time tail of  $f(\mathbf{v}, t)$ .

Rosenbluth's method<sup>7</sup> has been simplified and improved by Gurevich<sup>8</sup> and by Kagan and Lyagushchenko<sup>9</sup> who introduce both the atom and electron temperatures (*T* and  $T_e$ , respectively) in the Coulomb logarithm. However, Gurevich<sup>8</sup> restricts his treatment to a small degree of ionization and to assumed Maxwellian distributions. This second point is criticized by Kagan and Lyagushchenko<sup>9</sup> who find an approximate expression for  $f_0(v)$  in the steady-state case. No time dependence is considered in Refs. 8 and 9 and experimental values for  $T_e$  are used in Ref. 9 in order to obtain tractable results.

Neither of the above approximations are used in our new method consisting of the use of Eq. (2) and of an iterative procedure for the nonlinear electron-electron interaction. In spite of our heavy use of the computer, we succeed to obtain an explicit approximate expression for the Fokker-Planck equation and its solution in the steady-state case by analytical interpolation of the partial numerical results.

For the electron-atom interactions we use the Davydov approximation,<sup>10</sup> i.e.,  $F(\mathbf{V},t) = \delta^3(\mathbf{V})$  and the substitu-

tion of  $f_0$  for

$$\overline{f}_0 = f_0 + (kT/mv)(\partial f_0/\partial v) . \tag{3}$$

Multiplying the resulting equation by the *j*th Legendre polynomial  $(P_0=1 \text{ and } P_1=\mu)$  and integrating over  $\mu$  gives<sup>1</sup>

$$\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial t} + \frac{a}{3v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} (v^2 f_1) = B_0 .$$
(4)

$$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial t} + a \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} = B_1 , \qquad (5)$$

where

$$B_{j} = \sum_{i} \int d^{2} \Omega \{ f_{j}(v',t)(v'/v)^{3} v_{ai}(v',\mu_{s}) P_{j}(\mu_{s}) - f_{j}(v,t) v_{ai}(v,\mu_{s}) \}$$
  
+  $\frac{4Ne^{4}}{m^{2}} \int d^{2} \Omega_{c} (1-\mu_{c})^{-2} \left\{ \int d^{3}v'_{*} |\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}'_{*}|^{-3} f_{0}(v'_{*},t) f_{j}(v',t) P_{j}(\mu_{s}) - \int d^{3}v_{*} |\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}_{*}|^{-3} f_{0}(v_{*},t) f_{j}(v,t) \right\},$  (6)

 $\mu_s$  being the scattering angle in the laboratory system.

To obtain Eq. (6) we have used the physical consideration that the number of electrons scattered inside an elementary solid angle is the same in any reference system, i.e.,  $v_e d^2 \Omega = v_{ec} d^2 \Omega_c$  in which the subscript *c* denotes the center-of-mass system and  $v_{ec}$  is given by the Rutherford formula<sup>11</sup> (in Gauss system)

$$v_{ec} = \frac{4Ne^4}{m^2 |\mathbf{v}_c' - \mathbf{v}_{\star c}'|^3 (1 - \mu_c)^2} , \qquad (7)$$

where N is the free-electron concentration and  $\mu_c = \cos\theta_c$ the cosine of the scattering angle  $\theta_c$  in the center-of-mass system. Moreover, we have also used the obvious relation  $|\mathbf{v}'-\mathbf{v}'_{\star}| = |\mathbf{v}'_c - \mathbf{v}'_{\star c}|$  representing the nonrelativistic invariance of the relative velocities.

We approximated  $f(\mathbf{v}_{\star},t) \simeq f_0(\mathbf{v}_{\star},t)$  in Eq. (6) since  $\mu f(\mathbf{v}_{\star},t)$  is much smaller than  $f_0$  for free electrons in gases and semiconductors when  $E < E_{in}$ , where  $E_{in}$  is the electric field value at which the inelastic collisions begin to be appreciable compared to the elastic ones. Obviously we cannot neglect  $f_1(v,t)$  in Eq. (6) because  $f_1$  appears as a factor and is not added to the leading term  $f_0(v,t)$ .

For  $E < E_{in}$  and electron-atom scattering it is<sup>12</sup>

$$v' - v \simeq v(1 - \mu_s) m / M_i , \qquad (8)$$

where m and  $M_i$  are the masses of the electron and of the *i*th species atoms, respectively, so that the following first-order expansion is sufficient:

$$v'^{3}f_{j}(v',t)v_{ai}(v',\mu_{s}) \simeq v^{3}f_{j}(v,t)v_{ai}(v,\mu_{s}) + \frac{m}{M_{i}}v(1-\mu_{s})\frac{\partial}{\partial v}[v^{3}f_{j}(v,t)v_{ai}(v,\mu_{s})].$$
<sup>(9)</sup>

(11)

The scatterings between free electrons are always elastic (to within the soft radiated photons which, on the average, are compensated by the absorbed soft photons) but the recoil of the collided electrons can be large. However, because of Eq. (7), the scatterings with small  $\theta_c$ (hence with  $\mu_c = \cos\theta_c \simeq 1$ ) are much more effective. They imply small speed variations so that

$$f_j(v',t) \simeq f_j(v,t) + (v'-v)\frac{\partial}{\partial v}f_j(v,t) .$$
 (10)

Substituting Eqs. (9) and (10) in Eq. (6) gives

$$B_0 \simeq \sum_i \frac{m}{M_i} \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} [v^3 \overline{f}_0(v,t) v_{ami}(v)] + A(v) \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \overline{f}_0(v,t) ,$$

where

$$v_{ami} = \int d^2 \Omega (1 - \mu_s) v_{ai}(v, \mu_s)$$
<sup>(12)</sup>

is the collision frequency for momentum transfer for electrons with atoms and ions. Moreover,

$$A(v) = \frac{4Ne^4}{m^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{v}'_* \int d^2 \Omega_c (1-\mu_c)^{-2} \\ \times \frac{v'-v}{|\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}'_*|^3} f_0(v'_*,t) .$$
(13)

For j=1 the second term on the rhs of Eq. (9) can be neglected (usual approximation) since the first term does not cancel. We get

$$\boldsymbol{B}_{1} \simeq -\left[\sum_{i} \boldsymbol{v}_{ami} + \langle \boldsymbol{v}_{em} \rangle\right] \boldsymbol{f}_{1}(\boldsymbol{v}, t) , \qquad (14)$$

where the average value of the electron-electron collision frequency  $v_{em}$  for momentum transfer turns out to be

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_{em} \rangle = \frac{4Ne^4}{m^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{v}_* \int d^2 \Omega_c (1-\mu_c)^{-2} |\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}_*|^3 \times f_0(v_*,t)(1-\mu_s) .$$
(15)

As usual we put  $\partial f_1 / \partial t = 0$  in Eq. (5) so that it becomes, by the use of Eq. (14),

$$a\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} = -\left[\langle v_{em} \rangle + \sum v_{ami}\right] f_1(v,t) . \tag{16}$$

Substituting Eq. (11) in Eq. (4) gives

$$\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial t} - \frac{a^2}{3v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ v^2 \left[ \langle v_{em} \rangle + \sum v_{ami} \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} \right] \\ = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left[ v^3 \overline{f}_0 \sum \frac{m}{M_i} v_{ami} \right] + A \frac{\partial \overline{f}_0}{\partial v} . \quad (17)$$

The unknown function  $f_0$  appears in A and  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  and is the cause of the nonlinearities in Eqs. (11) and (14). The physical idea to eliminate these nonlinearities is to replace  $f_0$  in Eqs. (13) and (15) for its solution  $f'_0$  in the linear case, then solve again the system of Eqs. (4) and (5) finding a second-order solution  $f''_0$  which is used to recompute Eqs. (13) and (15). Finally we check, that A and  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  are slightly changed by the new  $f''_0$ . In other words we use an iterative procedure and verify that it strongly converges so that the second step is already sufficient.

In order to obtain this iterative procedure, we recall the definition of the cosine of the scattering angle  $\theta_c$ :

$$\mu_{c} = (\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}_{\star}') \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\star}) |\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}_{\star}'|^{-1} |\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\star}|^{-1} , \qquad (18)$$

where  $\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}'_{\star})$  and  $\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}_{\star})$  are the velocities in the

center-of-mass system immediately before and after a collision, respectively.

The 13 scalar quantities  $\mu_c$  and the components of  $\mathbf{v}', \mathbf{v}'_*, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}_*$  are related by Eq. (18) and by other four scalar equations, one for the kinetic-energy conservation  $v'^2 + v'^2_* = v^2 + \mathbf{v}^2_*$  and three for the components of the momentum  $v'_i + v'_{*i} = v_i + v_{*i}$  with i = 1, 2, 3.

Solving numerically the system of equations by standard mathematical routines and by the software package *Mathematica* we get

$$v'_{y} = v'_{y}(\mathbf{v}'_{\star}, v'_{x}, v, \mu, \varphi, \mu_{c}) ,$$

$$v'_{z} = v'_{z}(\mathbf{v}'_{\star}, v'_{x}, v, \mu, \varphi, \mu_{c}) ,$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{\star} = \mathbf{v}_{\star}(\mathbf{v}'_{\star}, v'_{x}, v, \mu, \varphi, \mu_{c}) .$$
(19)

The integrands of Eqs. (13) and (15) do not depend on the azimuthal angle  $\varphi_c$  (in the center-of-mass system) so that we have  $\int d^2 \Omega_c = -2\pi \int d\mu_c$ . The integrals (13) and (15) seem to be performed only on four variables  $\mathbf{v}'_*, \mathbf{v}'_x$ . Consequently, A(v) and  $v_{em}$  should be expressed as parametrically dependent on  $\mathbf{v} = (v, \mu, \varphi)$  and  $v'_x$ , which are the remaining four independent variables. In order to have a parametric dependence only on  $|\mathbf{v}|$ , we integrate Eqs. (13) and (15) on the additional variables  $\mu, \varphi, v'_x$ . We get for A(v)

$$A(v) = \frac{4Ne^4}{m^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{v}'_* f_0(v'_*,t) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dv'_x f_0(v'_x,t) \int_{-1}^{1} \frac{1}{2} d\mu \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_{-1}^{\mu_{\rm CM}} d\mu_c (1-\mu_c)^{-2} \frac{v'(\mathbf{v}'_*,v'_x,v,\mu,\varphi,\mu_c)-v}{|\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{v}'_*,v'_x,v,\mu,\varphi,\mu_c)-\mathbf{v}'_*|^3}$$
(20)

A(v) is numerically computed for every v by means of the Monte Carlo method for a sevenfold integral, after having put Eq. (20) in an adimensional form with respect to the velocities  $\mathbf{v}'_*, \mathbf{v}'_x, \mathbf{v}$ . The extra integrations on  $v'_x, \mu, \varphi$  appearing on Eq. (20) are the counterpart of the physical fact that the scattering is characterized by two internal variables, namely, the impact parameter and an intrinsic angle. Note again that the values chosen for the dependent variables  $v'_*, v'_x, \mu, \varphi, \mu_c$  are not completely arbitrary but must constitute a scattering compatible subset, i.e., they have to be able to generate corresponding values for  $v'_{y}, v'_{z}, v_{*x}, v_{*y}, v_{*z}$  obeying to the momentum and energy conservation. Notice also the integration over  $\mu_c$ with the well-known logarithmic divergence at small scattering angles, which is usually limited by introducing a natural cutoff for  $\theta_c \simeq \theta_{c \min}$ , corresponding to a maximum for  $\mu_c \simeq \mu_{\rm CM}$ .

For the sake of simplicity we consider tentatively the most simple and rough method of introducing the cutoff, i.e., the Conwell-Weisskopf collision model we have studied in a preceding paper.<sup>2</sup> In that paper we limited to the case of slightly ionized helium and we derived a simple formula for  $\mu_{CM}(v)$  based on the well-known Conwell-

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Weisskopf expression for electron-ion interaction<sup>2</sup>  $v=NZ^2e^4[m^2v^3(1-\mu_s)^2]^{-1}$ . Since now the Rutherford formula (7) has to be used instead, we see that  $v^3$  corresponds to  $\frac{1}{4}|\mathbf{v}'-\mathbf{v}'_*|^3$  and the formula for  $\mu_{\rm CM}(v)$ , in the case of Si of our interest, can be extended in a straightforward way to

$$\mu_{\rm CM} = \frac{4^{-4/3}C|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}'_{\star}|^4 - 1}{4^{-4/3}C|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}'_{\star}|^4 + 1} , \qquad (21)$$

where C is a constant<sup>2</sup> given by

$$C = 10^{-13} (2.23N^{-0.775} - 1.5 \times 10^{-14}) , \qquad (22)$$

v being measured in cm/s and N in cm<sup>-3</sup>.

We now express Eq. (15) in a similar way. To compute the integrals (13) and (15) in a parallel way, it is better to have the integration for (15) over the same variables as in Eq. (20). We use the relation

$$d^{3}\mathbf{v}_{*} = d^{3}\mathbf{v}_{*}'|\mathbf{v}'-\mathbf{v}_{*}'|^{3}|\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}_{*}'|^{-3}$$

(valid for elastic collisions) in Eq. (15). Taking into account that for particles with the same mass undergoing elastic collisions it is  $|\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}'_*| = |\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_*|$  we get

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_{em} \rangle = \frac{2Ne^4}{m^2} \int d^3 \mathbf{v}'_* \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dv'_x f_0(v'_x, t) \int_{-1}^{1} d\mu \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\varphi \int_{-1}^{\mu_{\rm CM}} d\mu_c f_0[v_*(\mathbf{v}'_*, v'_x, v, \mu, \varphi, \mu_c), t] (1-\mu_c)^{-2} \\ \times \frac{1-\mathbf{v}'_* \cdot \mathbf{v}(v'v)^{-1}}{|\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v}'_*|^3} , \qquad (23)$$

where  $v_*$  in  $f_0(v_*, t)$  now has to be expressed as function of the eight variables assumed as independent.

We use for  $f_0(v'_*,t)$  the solution of the linearized problem. We treat here the most important case which is the asymptotic or time-independent problem where  $f_0$  is given by the Chapman-Cowling-Davydov expression.<sup>10,13,2</sup> By this  $f_0$  we numerically get the value of  $\langle v_{em} \rangle \langle v_r \rangle$  and  $A(v_r)$  as functions of the reduced speed

$$v_r = v / \langle v^2 \rangle^{1/2}$$

$$\langle v_{em} \rangle (v_r) = (2.178 \times 10^{13} N^*) / (0.2523 v_r + 0.0909)^2$$
 (24)  
and

$$A(v_r) = (1.2102 \times 10^{14} N^*) / v_r^2 , \qquad (25)$$

where  $N^*$  is a reduced density measured in units of  $10^{15}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>.

Because of Eq. (25) (valid in a wide  $v_r$  range) the last term of Eq. (17) may be written as  $A(v)\partial \overline{f}_0/\partial v = v^{-2}\partial [v^2 A(v)\overline{f}_0]/\partial v$  so that Eq. (17) acquires the more simple final form [in which Eq. (3) has been used]

$$\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left\{ v^2 \left[ \frac{a^2}{3} \left[ \langle v_{em} \rangle + \sum v_{ami} \right]^{-1} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} + \left[ f_0 + \frac{kT}{mv} \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} \right] \left[ A(v) + mv \sum v_{ami} / M_i \right] \right\} \right\},$$

where  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  and A(v) have been calculated in the steady-state case  $\partial f_0 / \partial t = 0$ .

When  $\partial f_0 / \partial t = 0$  the quantity inside the curly bracket must be a null constant since it vanishes for  $v \rightarrow 0$ . Consequently, we get

$$\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial v} \left[ \frac{kT}{m} + \frac{a^2}{3v_{eq}^2} \right] + v f_0 = 0 , \qquad (27)$$

where

$$\mathbf{v}_{eq}^{2} = \left[ \langle \mathbf{v}_{em} \rangle + \sum \mathbf{v}_{ami} \right] \left[ v^{-1} \mathbf{A} (v) + m \sum \frac{\mathbf{v}_{ami}}{M_{i}} \right], \quad (28)$$

with A(v) given by Eq. (25).

The solution of Eq. (27) is

$$f_0(v) \propto \exp \int_0^v -\frac{mv \, dv}{kT + ma^2 (3v_{eq}^2)^{-1}} , \qquad (29)$$

which is a kind of Chapman-Cowling-Davydov equation.

We calculate the second-order approximation of  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$ and  $A(v_r)$  by Eq. (29). We have found that  $\langle v_{em} \rangle_2$ differs slightly from the value  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  of the first approximation and is

$$\langle v_{em} \rangle_2 = \frac{1.9315 \times 10^{13}}{(0.1671v_r + 0.1055)^2} .$$
 (30)

Similarly the second-order approximation  $A_2$  slightly differs from the first-order approximation A and is

$$A_2 = (1.54 \times 10^{14} N^*) / v_r^2 . \tag{31}$$

We have therefore verified that our iterative procedure converges very rapidly so that already the second step is sufficient.

The explicit solution of Eq. (26) when  $\partial f_0 / \partial t = 0$  is given by Eq. (29). We clearly see the effect of the

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electron-electron interactions in 
$$v_{eq}$$
 [given by Eq. (28)],  
which is the geometrical average of two factors. The first  
factor is simply the sum of the electron-ion, electron-  
neutral, and electron-electron interactions. The electron  
contribution in the second factor is larger since  $v^{-1}A(v)$   
is practically equal to  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  for  $v_r \simeq \langle v_r^2 \rangle^{1/2}$  [as can be  
seen from Eqs. (30) and (31)] but the second term inside  
this second factor is strongly reduced by the ratio  $m/M_i$ .  
When the electron concentration is comparable with  
those of the ions and of the neutral molecules, it is  
 $\langle v_{em} \rangle \simeq \sum v_{ami}$  but  $v^{-1}A(v) \gg m \sum v_{ami}/M_i$ . Conse-  
quently, Eqs. (28) and (29) are very different in the linear  
case (in which the electron-electron interactions are  
neglected) and in the nonlinear case (electron-electron in-  
teractions included). In spite of this  $\langle v_{em} \rangle_2 \simeq \langle v_{em} \rangle$  and  
 $A(v) \simeq A_2(v)$ . The insensitivity of  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  and  $A(v)$  from  
the shape of a normalized  $f_0(v)$  implies an independence  
of  $f_0(v,t)$  since at any given time  $t$  an  $f_0(v,t)$  has a par-  
ticular shape that could be that of a steady-state  $f_0(v)$ . It  
follows that Eqs. (30) and (31) may be used even in Eq.  
(26) with  $\partial f_0 / \partial t \neq 0$ . Obviously a slightly better approxi-  
mation should be obtained by  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  and  $A(v)$  calculated  
by the linearized time-dependent solution.

Concluding, the explicit analytical Fokker-Planck equation is given by Eq. (26) with  $\langle v_{em} \rangle$  and A is given by Eqs. (30) and (31), respectively. This has been achieved by the use of modern symbolic and numerical software tools. The analytical equation (26) is very useful for the study of the long time tails of  $f_0$  as demanded for the electric noise and, in particular, for that having a spectral power density inversely proportional to the angular frequency  $\omega$ .

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