

# Nonlinear Coupling of Kinetic Alfvén Waves and Ion Acoustic Waves in the inner Heliosphere

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## Key Points:

- Numerical simulations of modified Zakharov System of Equations satisfied by kinetic Alfvén waves and ion acoustic waves
- Formation of magnetic coherent structures and turbulent spectra
- Flattening of the particle distribution function showing the plasma heating

**Abstract**

We study the nonlinear coupling of kinetic Alfvén waves with ion acoustic waves applicable to the Earth’s radiation belt and near-Sun streamer belt solar wind using dynamical equations in the form of modified Zakharov systems. Numerical simulations show the formation of magnetic field filamentary structures associated with density humps and dips which become turbulent at later times, redistributing the energy to higher wavenumbers. The magnetic power spectra exhibit an inertial range Kolmogorov-like spectral index value of  $-5/3$  for  $k_{\perp}\rho_i < 1$ , followed by a steeper dissipation range spectra with indices  $\sim -3$  for the radiation belt case and  $\sim -4$  for the near-Sun streamer belt solar wind case, here  $k_{\perp}$  and  $\rho_i$  represent the wavevector component perpendicular to the background magnetic field and the ion gyroradius, respectively. Applying quasilinear theory in terms of the Fokker-Planck equation in the region of wavenumber turbulent spectra, we find the particle distribution function flattening in the superthermal tail population which is the signature of particle energization and plasma heating.

**1 Introduction**

One of the outstanding problems in solar physics is the heating of the solar corona up to million Kelvin (K), much greater than the Sun’s inner surfaces, photosphere ( $\approx 5700$  K) and chromosphere ( $\approx 50,000$  K) allowing the direction of energy flow opposite to the temperature gradient unlike the usual modes of energy transportation via convection, conduction and radiation. In the Earth’s magnetosphere also the transfer of energy stored in the magnetotail into the low altitudes of the Earth’s atmosphere remains unresolved. The magnetic reconnection and wave-heating models (Fisk, 2003; McComas et al., 2007; Velli et al., 2015) are broadly accepted mechanisms for energy conversion in space and the magnetospheric plasmas. Many theoretical studies have shown that in a magnetized plasma environment, Alfvén waves can heat the plasma via wave dissipation (Del Zanna & Velli, 2002; Escande et al., 2019) and accelerate the solar wind through the action of wave pressure (Alazraki & Couturier, 1971; Suzuki & Inutsuka, 2006). These theories are supported by many spacecraft observations showing various signatures of Alfvénic perturbations in the photosphere (Song & Vasyliūnas, 2011) and chromosphere of the Sun (Grant et al., 2018), solar coronal regions (Sharma Pyakurel et al., 2018; Kasper et al., 2021) and solar wind flowing at various regions of the heliosphere (C. C. Chaston et al., 2000, 2005; Raghav & Kule, 2018; Kasper et al., 2021; D’Amicis, Bruno, et al., 2021; D’Amicis, Perrone, et al., 2021). These observations not only corroborate the existence of Alfvén waves but also quantify their energy contributions to the coronal heating problem and solar wind acceleration (McComas et al., 2007; Chae et al., 2021), bridging theoretical predictions with empirical evidence.

The magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) Alfvén waves become dispersive when the transverse spatial length scale (wavelength) is comparable to the electron inertial scale (Goertz & Boswell, 1979) or the ion gyroradius (Stéfant, 1970; Hasegawa, 1976). Dispersive Alfvén waves can be classified into two categories, kinetic and inertial depending on specific local plasma properties (N. Shukla et al., 2009; Rai et al., 2017; Barik et al., 2021). If the electron thermal speed is greater than the local Alfvén speed ( $v_A$ ), the wave is kinetic that is valid in hot plasma having  $\beta_e \gg m_e/m_i$ , where  $\beta_e (= 8\pi n_e T_e/B_0^2)$  is the ratio of the electron thermal pressure to the magnetic pressure,  $m_e$  ( $m_i$ ) is the mass of electron (ion),  $n_e$  is the electron density,  $T_e$  is the electron temperature,  $B_0$  is the background (ambient) plasma magnetic field. If the electron thermal speed is less than  $v_A$ , the wave is inertial which is valid for cold plasma having  $\beta_e \ll m_e/m_i$ . These two kinds of dispersive Alfvén waves are commonly known as kinetic Alfvén waves (KAWs) that can be differentiated by high  $\beta$  and low  $\beta$ . They retain some basic properties of MHD Alfvén waves such as currents along the magnetic field lines and quasi-parallel group velocity. However, the ions no longer follow the ambient magnetic field lines but the electrons follow it due to the smaller gyroradius when the wave dynamics are faster than the ion or-

66 bital motions (Hasegawa, 1976; Johnson & Cheng, 1997; Hollweg, 1999). These unmatched  
 67 motions between electrons and ions develop charge separation generating a parallel elec-  
 68 tric field that can heat plasma particles along the ambient magnetic field lines (Tsiklauri,  
 69 2006; Cheng et al., 2016).

The existence of KAWs can be identified by measuring the ratio of electric and mag-  
 netic field fluctuations perpendicular to the background magnetic field ( $\delta E_{\perp}/\delta B_{\perp}$ ), cal-  
 culated from the spectra of satellite observations and comparing it with the theoretical  
 predictions (L. Chen et al., 2021). For long wavelength shear Alfvén waves, this ratio  
 is  $v_A$ . By analyzing the Parker Solar Probe (PSP) spacecraft data during its first near-  
 Sun encounter, Malaspina et al. (2022) showed that the ratio is greater than  $v_A$  for low  
 frequency  $\approx 1$  Hz, matching with the theoretical prediction calculated by Stasiewicz et  
 al. (2000) by combining the dispersion relation and polarisation properties of KAWs in  
 the low frequency limit ( $\omega \ll \omega_{ci}$ ) as

$$\frac{|\delta E_{\perp}|}{|\delta B_{\perp}|} = \frac{v_A (1 + k_{\perp}^2 \rho_i^2)}{\sqrt{1 + k_{\perp}^2 (\rho_s^2 + \rho_i^2)}}, \quad (1)$$

70 where  $\omega$  is the frequency of the pump KAW,  $\omega_{ci}$  is the ion gyro-frequency,  $\rho_i = v_{ti}/\omega_{ci}$   
 71 is the ion gyroradius,  $v_{ti} (= \sqrt{\gamma_i k_B T_i / m_i})$  is the thermal speed of ion,  $\rho_s = v_{te}/\omega_{ci}$  is  
 72 the proton gyroradius,  $v_{te} (= \sqrt{\gamma_e k_B T_e / m_e})$  is the thermal speed of electron,  $\gamma_e (\gamma_i)$  is  
 73 the ratio of specific heats ( $c_p/c_v$ ) for electrons (ions), and  $k_{\perp}$  represents the wavevec-  
 74 tor component perpendicular to the background magnetic field direction. At frequen-  
 75 cies,  $\omega > \omega_{ci}$ , the discrepancies between the theoretical and observational values of  $\delta E_{\perp}/\delta B_{\perp}$   
 76 arise which may be due to the observations reaching the noise level of the instruments  
 77 and as well as non inclusion of the additional terms like  $(1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)$  in the theory (Salem  
 78 et al., 2012).

79 Numerous observational studies from Polar, Cluster, Viking, Freja and Fast Au-  
 80 roral SnapshoT (FAST) spacecraft have provided compelling evidence for the prevalence  
 81 of KAWs in various regions of the Earth’s magnetosphere (Johnson et al., 2001; C. Chas-  
 82 ston et al., 2005; Dai, 2009; Duan et al., 2012, 2016). Van Allen Probes measurements  
 83 have revealed the existence of KAWs in the inner magnetosphere (C. Chaston et al., 2015,  
 84 2018), predominantly because of the injections from the magnetotail (Ripoll et al., 2020).  
 85 Near the Earth’s plasma sheet regions, KAWs are excited at the onset of substorm events,  
 86 resulting from gradients in particle number density and magnetic field strength (Duan  
 87 et al., 2012). The fluctuating fields of KAWs can have frequencies of  $\approx 0.2 - 20$  Hz in  
 88 the spacecraft frame (C. Chaston et al., 2012) while the shear Alfvén waves (for which  
 89 kinetic effects are negligible) can have frequencies  $\approx 15 - 50$  mHz (Keiling et al., 2005;  
 90 Zhang et al., 2022). Earlier observations of KAWs mostly occurred in the solar wind at  
 91 1 AU within a frequency range slightly beyond or less than ten times the ion gyro-frequency.  
 92 Most recently, the PSP has reached 0.0485 AU distance from the Sun’s centre as of Septem-  
 93 ber 27, 2023 (Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 2023), providing  
 94 us to test whether solar wind electromagnetic fluctuations exhibit KAW properties at  
 95 frequencies extending well beyond the ion gyro-frequency range. To investigate the pres-  
 96 ence of higher frequency whistler modes, the ratio of the magnetic field fluctuations along  
 97 the ambient magnetic field ( $\delta B_{\parallel}$ ) to the fluctuations of the total magnetic field ( $\delta B$ ) were  
 98 evaluated from the observational spectra, as a function of frequency (Shaikh & Zank, 2009;  
 99 C. C. Chaston et al., 2009). It confirmed the dominance of KAWs at 1 AU over whistler  
 100 mode below the gyroscale (Bale et al., 2005; Sahraoui et al., 2010). In the near-Sun so-  
 101 lar wind, Malaspina et al. (2022) calculated this ratio by analyzing the PSP spacecraft  
 102 data and found that at low frequency, the ratio is small, then increases until the frequency  
 103 where the Alfvén waves become dispersive, then remains constant below 1. All these char-  
 104 acteristics support the presence of KAW fluctuations in the near-Sun solar wind. Because  
 105 of the KAW fluctuations, the turbulent energy is dissipated spatially inhomogeneous to  
 106 heat the plasma. This evidence can be used as a model to study how the KAW turbu-  
 107 lence fits into the macroscopic scales such as solar wind, particle acceleration and ener-

gization of the plasma through dissipation. Several theoretical models, such as phase mixing (Heyvaerts & Priest, 1983), turbulent cascade (Matthaeus et al., 1999) and resonant absorption (Goossens et al., 2011) have been proposed to understand the dissipation mechanism in the solar wind. Although there is no generally agreed mechanism due to variations in dissipation rates, length scales and the physics involved.

The solar corona is categorized into inner, middle and outer regions, each with distinct magnetic field lines and plasma dynamics. The inner corona features closed magnetic fields and plasma  $\beta < 1$ , transitioning to open fields and higher  $\beta$  values in the middle region. The PSP provides us adequate data to analyze the plasma properties in sub-Alfvénic and super-Alfvénic flows covering many solar regions of low, intermediate and high  $\beta$  plasmas (Larosa, 2021; Zhao, Zank, Telloni, et al., 2022). Inhomogeneities within the inner corona suggest that pure Alfvén modes cannot propagate effectively, leading to alternative dissipation mechanisms like phase mixing and resonance. KAWs are considered a key heating mechanism, though their efficiency and interaction details are not fully understood, partly due to observational challenges in determining KAWs' spatial structures. The Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) Mission data analysis reveals KAWs' perpendicular wavelengths are about 2.4 times the ion gyroradius (Liu et al., 2023). Some studies (Lysak et al., 1980; C. Chaston et al., 2004; Shen & Knudsen, 2020) suggested that it is difficult to produce particles with gyroradius larger than the perpendicular wavelength ( $\lambda_{\perp}$ ) of the waves. This condition sets the maximum proton perpendicular energy as  $\lesssim eB_0\lambda_{\perp}^2/2m_p$ , resulting it to be 5.76 times the proton perpendicular thermal energy in coherent structures with KAWs. Through stochastic heating, the plasma particles can attain more energy than as given by this restriction (Lysak et al., 1980; C. Chaston et al., 2004; Shen & Knudsen, 2020).

Previous studies, including observations by PSP and Solar Orbiter, have unveiled a broad power spectrum in turbulent solar wind fluctuations, spanning timescales from several hours down to approximately 0.01 seconds in spacecraft reference frames (Alexandrova et al., 2013; Telloni et al., 2021; Šafránková et al., 2023). Using MHD turbulence theory reveals that magnetic field spectra in the inertial range is predominantly oriented perpendicular to the mean magnetic field direction (Bale et al., 2005; L. Chen et al., 2011). Specifically, the spectral index at 1 AU approaches  $\approx -5/3$  in the inertial range, gradually steepening to spectral indices between  $-2$  and  $-4$  at smaller kinetic scales (Alexandrova et al., 2009; L. Chen et al., 2013; L. Chen & Zonca, 2016). Similar trends of  $-5/3$  in the inertial range and much steeper at the kinetic scale were also reported from PSP observations (C. H. K. Chen et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2021; Šafránková et al., 2023; Lotz et al., 2023). In the dissipation range, Šafránková et al. (2023) found a spectral index of  $-4.8$  at the closest approach (0.12 AU) to the Sun then becoming flatter as it moves away, approaching it  $\approx -3$  at around 0.4 AU. From 0.4 AU to 1 AU, the spectral indices remain approximately constant ( $-5/3$  at inertial and  $\approx -3$  at dissipation range).

Our present work focuses on the nonlinear interactions of KAWs and ion acoustic waves applicable for an arbitrary  $\beta$  plasma (both  $\beta < 1$  and  $\beta > 1$ ) by taking the non-adiabatic response of the background density in the presence of nonlinear ponderomotive force. For this purpose, we have derived the model equations in the form of generalized Zakharov equations, called here as modified Zakharov System of Equations (modified ZSEs). The equations were solved numerically to understand the solar wind turbulence near the Earth and the Sun. The numerical simulation results showed coherent magnetic filamentary structures of KAWs associated with density humps and dips becoming turbulent as time evolves indicating the redistribution of energy among the higher wavenumbers. Many authors (P. K. Shukla et al., 2004; H. Singh & Sharma, 2006; Kumar et al., 2009; Yadav & Sharma, 2014; H. D. Singh & Jatav, 2019) have studied the wave turbulence generated because of the interaction of KAWs and ion acoustic waves by taking the adiabatic and non-adiabatic response of the background density. However, all these studies were limited only to low  $\beta < 1$ . Recently, I. Singh et al. (2022) and

161 Dewan et al. (2022) studied the magnetic turbulence applicable for arbitrary  $\beta$  plasma  
 162 when the pump KAWs interact with low magnetosonic waves (I. Singh et al., 2022) and  
 163 high-frequency oblique whistler waves (Dewan et al., 2022) to understand the role of plasma  
 164  $\beta$  in the laboratory and astrophysical plasmas. Although they have used the model ap-  
 165 plicable to all the ranges of plasma  $\beta$ , they have considered high  $\beta \sim 100$  for the sake  
 166 of illustration only without applying it to any real laboratory or space plasma environ-  
 167 ments. Moreover, these studies were limited to the situations where KAW frequency is  
 168 much less than the ion cyclotron frequency. In this paper, we have considered the cou-  
 169 pling of pump KAWs and ion acoustic waves (and rederived the model equations when  
 170 KAW frequency is not necessarily less than ion cyclotron frequency) for  $\beta \approx 0.0041$  and  
 171  $\beta \approx 6.940$  applicable for near the Earth radiation belt and near-Sun streamer belt so-  
 172 lar wind, respectively. The framework of the present paper is organized as follows: the  
 173 model equations in the form of modified ZSEs are derived in section 2, the numerical sim-  
 174 ulation results are presented in section 3, the particle heating as evident from the super  
 175 thermal tail expansion of the distribution function is examined in section 4, finally, sec-  
 176 tion 5 summarizes the overall results of the present investigation.

## 177 2 Model Equations

### 178 2.1 Dynamics of Pump KAW

We consider a collisionless, non-relativistic two-fluid (electrons and protons as ions)  
 magnetoplasma having a uniform background magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}_0 = (0, 0, B_0)$  and the  
 electric field  $\mathbf{E} = \delta\mathbf{E}$ , where  $\delta\mathbf{E}$  is the fluctuating component. In our geometry, the  $z$ -direction  
 is parallel to  $\mathbf{B}_0$  and the pump KAW propagates in the  $x$ - $z$  plane such that the wavevec-  
 tor  $\mathbf{k}_0 = k_{0x}\hat{x} + k_{0z}\hat{z}$ , where all the wave variations are in the  $x$ - $z$  plane, i.e.,  $(\partial/\partial x, 0, \partial/\partial z)$ ,  
 except the induced magnetic field perturbations in the  $y$ -direction ( $\delta B_y$ ). The direc-  
 tions along and across  $\mathbf{B}_0$  are denoted as parallel and perpendicular directions respec-  
 tively. The linearized continuity and momentum equations are

$$\frac{\partial \delta n_s}{\partial t} + n_{0s} \nabla \cdot \delta \mathbf{v}_s \approx 0 \quad (2)$$

and

$$m_s \frac{\partial \delta \mathbf{v}_s}{\partial t} \approx q_s \delta \mathbf{E} + \frac{q_s}{c} (\delta \mathbf{v}_s \times \mathbf{B}_0) - \frac{\gamma_s k_B T_s}{n_{0s}} \nabla \delta n_s \quad (3)$$

179 respectively, where  $s$  indicates the species of the particles: electrons (e) and ions (i),  $m_s$ ,  
 180  $q_s$ ,  $T_s$ ,  $n_{0s}$  represent the mass, charge, temperature and average density of the species  
 181  $s$  respectively;  $c$  is the speed of light,  $\delta n_s$  is the fluctuation in number density,  $\delta \mathbf{v}_s$  is the  
 182 bulk velocity ( $\mathbf{v} = \delta \mathbf{v}_s$ , with no mean flow velocity),  $\gamma_s$  is the ratio of specific heats ( $c_p/c_v$ )  
 183 and  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant. Additionally, we assume quasineutrality condition:  
 184  $n_{0e} \simeq n_{0i} \simeq n_0$  and  $\delta n_e \simeq \delta n_i \simeq \delta n$  in both equilibrium and perturbed state, the  
 185 isothermal condition:  $\gamma_e = \gamma_i = 1$  and small perturbations:  $\delta n_s/n_{0s} \ll 1$  and  $\delta B_y/B_0$   
 186  $\ll 1$ . It may be mentioned here that in deriving the linearized equations we have neglected  
 187 the nonlinear term  $(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}$  in the convective derivative  $(\partial/\partial t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)$ , valid for weak dis-  
 188 persion to avoid the vector nonlinearity (Sadiq et al., 2018a). Even if it is not for weak  
 189 dispersion, the convective term can be neglected for the perpendicular motion (Kaur &  
 190 Saini, 2016; Sadiq et al., 2018a; M. Singh et al., 2021).

From equation (3), assuming all the first order fluctuations to be of the form of  $\delta f = \delta f e^{i(k_{0x}x + k_{0z}z - \omega t)}$ , where  $\omega$  is the frequency of the pump KAW, we can separate the elec-  
 tron and ion velocity components, respectively, as

$$\delta v_{ex} = \frac{1}{\omega_{ce}^2 - \omega^2} \frac{e}{m_e} \left( i\omega \delta E_x + \omega_{ce} \delta E_y + i\omega \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{n_{0e}} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial x} \right), \quad (4)$$

$$\delta v_{ey} = \frac{e \delta E_y}{\omega_{ce}^2 - \omega^2} \frac{i\omega}{m_e} - \frac{e}{m_e} \frac{\omega_{ce}}{\omega_{ce}^2 - \omega^2} \left( \delta E_x + \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{n_{0e}} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial x} \right), \quad (5)$$

$$\delta v_{ez} = \frac{e\delta E_z}{m_e} \frac{1}{i\omega} + \frac{1}{i\omega} \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{n_0 m_e} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial z}, \quad (6)$$

$$\delta v_{ix} = \frac{e}{m_i} \frac{1}{\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2} \left( \omega_{ci} \delta E_y - i\omega \left( \delta E_x - \frac{\gamma_i k_B T_i}{n_0 e} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial x} \right) \right), \quad (7)$$

$$\delta v_{iy} = -\frac{e}{m_i} \frac{\omega_{ci}}{\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2} \left( i \frac{\omega \delta E_y}{\omega_{ci}} + \delta E_x - \frac{\gamma_i k_B T_i}{n_0 e} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial x} \right) \quad (8)$$

and

$$\delta v_{iz} = -\frac{e\delta E_z}{m_i} \frac{1}{i\omega} + \frac{1}{i\omega} \frac{\gamma_i k_B T_i}{n_0 m_i} \frac{\partial \delta n}{\partial z}, \quad (9)$$

191 where  $\omega_{ce} = eB_0/m_e c$  is the electron cyclotron frequency and  $\omega_{ci} = eB_0/m_i c$  is the  
192 ion cyclotron frequency.

The electron and ion continuity equations can be respectively written as

$$\frac{\partial \delta n_e}{\partial t} + n_0 \left( \frac{\partial \delta v_{ex}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \delta v_{ez}}{\partial z} \right) = 0, \quad (10)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial \delta n_i}{\partial t} + n_0 \frac{\partial \delta v_{ix}}{\partial x} = 0. \quad (11)$$

193 In writing equation (11), we neglected the parallel ion motion because of the larger mass  
194 and Larmor radius, its motion spends much of the time in the perpendicular direction.

From equation (10), neglecting the perpendicular electron motion due to its small polarization drift velocity because of small mass and Larmor radius, we get

$$\delta n_e = \frac{n_0 k_{0z}}{\omega} \delta v_{ez}, \quad (12)$$

and substituting it into equation (6) we get

$$\delta v_{ez} = \frac{e\delta E_z}{i\omega m_e} + \left( \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{m_e} \right) \frac{k_{0z}^2}{\omega^2} \delta v_{ez}. \quad (13)$$

Using the dispersion relation of shear Alfvén wave  $v_A = \omega/k_{0z}$ , the ion acoustic speed  $c_s = \sqrt{k_B(\gamma_e T_e + \gamma_i T_i)/m_i}$  with the isothermal conditions,  $\gamma_e = \gamma_i$  and  $T_e = T_i$ , and denoting plasma  $\beta$  as  $(c_s^2/2v_A^2)$ , the above equation (13) becomes

$$\frac{m_e}{m_i} \delta v_{ez} = \frac{e\delta E_z}{i\omega m_i} + 2\beta \delta v_{ez}. \quad (14)$$

195 In equation (14), if we consider only for plasma  $\beta \gg (m_e/m_i)$ , the left-hand side rep-  
196 resenting the electron inertial term can be neglected. Since our study is based on any  
197 arbitrary  $\beta$  we will retain this term.

Using the Faraday's law

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \quad (15)$$

and taking  $y$ - component and differentiating w.r.t.  $t'$ , we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial t^2} = c \frac{\partial^2 (\delta E_z)}{\partial t \partial x} - c \frac{\partial^2 (\delta E_x)}{\partial t \partial z}. \quad (16)$$

To obtain the dynamical equation satisfied by the transverse perturbed magnetic fields of the pump KAWs, first, we will express the perpendicular and parallel perturbed electric fields  $\delta E_x$  and  $\delta E_z$  respectively in terms of  $\delta B_y$ . Subtracting electron and ion continuity equations, and using the quasineutrality condition, we get the conservation law of current density as

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0, \quad (17)$$

198 where the current density  $\mathbf{J} = en_0(\delta\mathbf{v}_i - \delta\mathbf{v}_e)$ .

In velocity components form the above equation can be written as

$$en_0 \left( \frac{\partial(\delta v_{ix})}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial(\delta v_{ex})}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial(\delta v_{ez})}{\partial z} \right) = 0. \quad (18)$$

Substituting the expressions for  $\delta v_{ex}$ ,  $\delta v_{ez}$  and  $\delta v_{ix}$  given by the equations (4), (6) and (7), and using  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow (-i\omega)$ , the above equation is transformed to

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta E_x)}{\partial t \partial x} = -\frac{\partial(\delta E_y)}{\partial x} \omega_{ci} + (\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2) \frac{m_i}{e} \frac{\partial(\delta v_{ez})}{\partial z}. \quad (19)$$

We can write the Ampere's law as

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}, \quad (20)$$

199 here we have neglected the displacement current because of the low frequency assumption,  
 200  $\omega \ll \omega_{pe}$ , where  $\omega_{pe}$  is the electron plasma frequency expressed as  $\sqrt{4\pi n_0 e^2/m_e}$ .  
 201 In such a situation, the phase velocity of the wave is much smaller than the speed of light.  
 202 If we assume the characteristic time and the length scales as  $\tau$  and  $l$  respectively, then  
 203  $\partial/\partial t \sim \tau^{-1}$ ,  $\nabla \sim l^{-1}$  and phase velocity  $v_{ph} \sim l/\tau$ . Again, Faraday's law gives the  
 204 scaling  $\frac{E}{B} \sim \frac{v_{ph}}{c}$ . Now, comparing the magnitudes of the displacement current and the  
 205 left-hand side of equation (20), we get  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{E}/\partial t}{c \nabla \times \mathbf{B}} \sim \frac{\mathbf{E}/\tau}{c \mathbf{B}/l} \sim \frac{v_{ph}^2}{c^2} \ll 1$  as  $v_{ph} \ll c$ .

Taking the  $z$ -component of equation (20) and differentiating it w.r.t. ' $t$ ', we get

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \frac{\partial J_z}{\partial t}. \quad (21)$$

Here, the parallel component of the current density is entirely carried by the electron's motion i.e.,  $J_z = -en_e \delta v_{ez}$ . Substituting the expression for  $J_z$  along with  $n_e = n_0 + \delta n$ , we get

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x} = \frac{\omega_{pe}^2}{c} \left( 1 + \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \right) \left( \delta E_z + \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{en_0} \frac{\partial(\delta n)}{\partial z} \right). \quad (22)$$

The parallel component of the electric field can be written from equation (22) as

$$\delta E_z = \frac{c}{\omega_{pe}^2} \frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x} \left( 1 - \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \right) - \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{en_0} \frac{\partial(\delta n)}{\partial z}. \quad (23)$$

This expression for  $\delta E_z$  can be used to find out  $\delta v_{ez}/\partial z$  from equation (6) to get

$$\frac{\partial(\delta v_{ez})}{\partial z} = \frac{ec}{i\omega} \frac{1}{\omega_{pe}^2 m_e} \frac{\partial^3(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x \partial z} \left( 1 - \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \right). \quad (24)$$

Putting equation (24) into equation (19), we get

$$\frac{\partial(\delta E_x)}{\partial t} = -\omega_{ci} \delta E_y - \frac{m_i c (\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2)}{m_e \omega_{pe}^2} \frac{\partial(\delta B_y)}{\partial z} \left( 1 - \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \right). \quad (25)$$

The  $z$ -component of Faraday's law (15) is given as

$$\delta E_y = (\omega/c k_{0x}) \delta B_z. \quad (26)$$

In the case of low frequency  $\omega \ll \omega_{ci}$  and low plasma  $\beta$  approximation, the compressive component of the magnetic field perturbation ( $\delta B_z$ ) will play no significant contribution, i.e., we can take  $\delta B_z = 0$  (Howes et al., 2006; Schekochihin et al., 2009; Cramer,

2011). However, for arbitrarily finite  $\beta$  consideration, the parallel component of the magnetic field perturbation should be taken into account and can be calculated from the pressure balance equation  $\nabla (k_B T \delta n_e + \delta B_z^2 / 8\pi) = 0$ . This gives  $\delta B_z / B_0 = -\beta \delta n_e / 2n_0$  which indicates a strong anti-correlation between the magnetic and thermal pressures. It is used to examine the density and magnetic field fluctuations observed in the inertial range of the magnetic field turbulence spectra (Burlaga et al., 1990; Roberts, 1990; Bavassano et al., 2004). Furthermore, by using the continuity equation (2) and Ampere's law (20) we get

$$\delta B_z = -\frac{\beta \omega_{ce} c^2 k_{0x}}{2 \omega_{pe}^2 \omega} \frac{\partial (\delta B_y)}{\partial z}. \quad (27)$$

Substituting equations (26) and (27) into equation (25) and differentiating once w.r.t.  $'t'$  we get

$$\frac{\partial^2 (\delta E_x)}{\partial t \partial z} = \frac{\omega_{ci} \beta B_0}{8\pi n_0} \frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial z^2} - \frac{v_A^2}{c \omega_{ci}^2} (\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2) \frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial z^2} \left(1 - \frac{\delta n_s}{n_0}\right). \quad (28)$$

Differentiating  $J_z$  w.r.t.  $'t'$  we get

$$\frac{\partial J_z}{\partial t} = n_e e \left( \frac{e \delta E_z}{m_e} + \frac{\gamma_e k_B T_e}{n_e m_e} \frac{\partial \delta n_e}{\partial z} \right). \quad (29)$$

By calculating  $J_z$  from Ampere's law (20) and substituting it into equation (29) we get

$$\frac{\partial (\delta E_z)}{\partial t} = \frac{\lambda_e^2}{c} \frac{\partial^3 (\delta B_y)}{\partial t^2 \partial x} - \frac{v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2}{c} \frac{\partial^3 (\delta B_y)}{\partial x \partial z^2} \quad (30)$$

206 where  $\lambda_e = c/\omega_{pe}$  is the electron inertial length.

Differentiating equation (30) w.r.t.  $'x'$  and substituting it to equation (16) along with equation (28), we get the following dynamical equation

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial t^2} - \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^4 (\delta B_y)}{\partial t^2 \partial x^2} + v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^4 (\delta B_y)}{\partial x^2 \partial z^2} + \frac{B_0 c \beta \omega_{ci}}{8\pi n_0 e} \frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial z^2} \\ & - v_A^2 \left( \frac{\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \right) \frac{\partial^2 (\delta B_y)}{\partial z^2} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

By performing the Fourier transform in the linear part of equation (31), we get the linear dispersion relation of KAWs as

$$\frac{\omega^2}{k_{0z}^2} = v_A^2 \left( \frac{1 + k_{0x}^2 \rho_i^2 + (\beta/2)}{1 + \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 + \lambda_i^2 k_{0z}^2} \right). \quad (32)$$

207 If we neglect the effect of the finite beta correction, the above dispersion relation of KAWs  
 208 can be transformed for  $m_e/m_i \ll \beta \ll 1$  as  $\omega^2 = v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 (1 + k_{0x}^2 \rho_i^2)$  (P. K. Shukla &  
 209 Stenflo, 2005) in the limit of  $\lambda_e k_{0x} \ll 1$  and  $\lambda_i k_{0z} \ll 1$ .

The dynamical equation (31) is satisfied by the magnetic field perturbations of pump KAWs. One of the possible solutions of equation (31) is a plane wave (linearly polarised) having base frequency  $\omega$ , modulated by a slowly varying envelope  $\delta \tilde{B}_y$  which is expressed as

$$\delta B_y = \delta \tilde{B}_y(x, z, t) e^{i(k_{0x}x + k_{0z}z - \omega t)} \quad (33)$$

210 where  $\delta \tilde{B}_y(x, z, t)$  is the inhomogeneous amplitude of the transverse pump KAW mag-  
 211 netic field slowly varying in space in comparison to the exponential part  $e^{i(k_{0x}x + k_{0z}z - \omega t)}$ .

212 Substituting equation (33) into (31) we get the envelope equation of the KAWs as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2i\omega (1 + \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2) \frac{\partial (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial t} + 2i (k_{0x} \lambda_e^2 k_{0z}^2 v_{te}^2 - k_{0x} \lambda_e^2 \omega^2) \frac{\partial (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x} \\
 & + (v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0z}^2 - \lambda_e^2 \omega^2) \frac{\partial^2 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x^2} + \left[ k_{0z} v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 + \frac{c B_0 \beta \omega_{ci}}{8\pi n_0 e} + v_A^2 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2} \right) \right] \frac{\partial^2 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial z^2} \\
 & + 2ik_{0z} \left[ v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 + v_A^2 \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2} \right) + \frac{c B_0 \beta \omega_{ci}}{8\pi n_0 e} \right] \frac{\partial (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial z} + 4\lambda_e^2 k_{0x} \omega \frac{\partial^2 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial t \partial x} \\
 & - 2i\omega \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^3 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial t \partial x^2} - 2ik_{0z} v_{te}^2 \frac{\partial^3 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x^2 \partial z} - v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^4 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x^2 \partial z^2} - 2ik_{0x} v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^3 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x \partial z^2} \\
 & + 4k_{0x} k_{0z} v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 \frac{\partial^2 (\delta \tilde{B}_y)}{\partial x \partial z} + v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 \frac{\delta n}{n_0} \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2} \right) \delta \tilde{B}_y = 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

213

## 2.2 Ion Acoustic Wave Dynamics

In a spatially varying wave propagation, a nonlinear force known as ponderomotive force is generated. The ponderomotive force is a time averaged force that acts on charged particles in a nonuniform electromagnetic field. Within a nonuniform, inhomogeneous plasma medium, the combined influence of the ponderomotive force and Joule heating generated from plasma currents, can induce modifications to the plasma density (P. Shukla et al., 1999). In both laboratory and space plasma environments, large amplitude KAWs lead to fluctuations in plasma density, manifesting as humps and dips aligned with the field (Gekelman, 1999; P. Shukla & Stenflo, 2000a, 2000b). These studies focused on the fluctuations of particle density under the adiabatic approximation, wherein the density changes slowly over time relative to density fluctuations. Here, we are considering non-adiabatic variations of particle density under the influence of ponderomotive force represented by the ion acoustic wave dynamics. Let us consider ion acoustic waves propagating along the  $z$ -direction  $\mathbf{k} = k_{0z} \hat{z}$  with magnetic field  $\mathbf{B} = B_0 \hat{z} + \delta B_y \hat{y}$ . The linearized continuity and momentum equations are given respectively as

$$\frac{\partial (\delta n_s)}{\partial t} + n_{0s} \frac{\partial (\delta v_{sz})}{\partial z} = 0 \tag{35}$$

and

$$m_s \left( \frac{\partial (\delta \mathbf{v}_s)}{\partial t} + \delta v_{sz} \frac{\partial (\delta \mathbf{v}_s)}{\partial z} \right) = q_s \left( \delta \mathbf{E} + \frac{\delta \mathbf{v}_s \times (B_0 \hat{z} + \delta B_y \hat{y})}{c} \right) - \frac{k_B T_s}{n_{0s}} \frac{\partial (\delta n_s)}{\partial z} \hat{z}. \tag{36}$$

Here, only the first-order linearisation in the continuity equation is used, but both the first-order and second-order linearisations are used in the momentum equation. The second-order linearisation is used to obtain the dynamics of the ion acoustic wave due to the ponderomotive effects of the pump KAWs. The ponderomotive force term is

$$\mathbf{F}_s = \frac{q_s}{c} (\delta \mathbf{v}_s \times \delta B_y \hat{y}) - m_s \delta v_{sz} \frac{\partial (\delta \mathbf{v}_s)}{\partial z}, \tag{37}$$

where the first term is the Lorentz force and the second term is the convective term. The parallel velocity components satisfy the following equation

$$m_s \frac{\partial (\delta v_{sz})}{\partial t} = q_s \delta E_z - \frac{k_B T_s}{n_{0s}} \frac{\partial (\delta n_s)}{\partial z} + F_{sz}, \tag{38}$$

where  $F_{sz} = \frac{q_s}{c} (\delta v_{sx} \delta B_y) - m_s \delta v_{sz} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \delta v_{sz}$  is the parallel component of the ponderomotive force due to the pump KAW. Here, it should be mentioned that the parallel ponderomotive force is dominant over the other perpendicular components. By assuming the massless electrons, we can find out the parallel component of the electric field as

$$\delta E_z = -\frac{1}{e} \frac{k_B T_e}{n_{0e}} \frac{\partial (\delta n_e)}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{e} F_{ez}. \tag{39}$$

Imposing the quasi-neutrality condition, i.e.,  $n_{0i} = n_{0e} \equiv n_0$  and  $\delta n_i = \delta n_e \equiv \delta n$ , the continuity equation (35) implies that  $\delta v_{iz} = \delta v_{ez}$ , hereafter we denote this variable as  $\delta v_z$ . Substituting equation (39) in equation (36), we get

$$\frac{\partial(\delta v_z)}{\partial t} = -\frac{c_s^2}{n_0} \frac{\partial(\delta n)}{\partial z} + \left( \frac{F_{iz} + F_{ez}}{m_i} \right). \quad (40)$$

Differentiating equation (35) w.r.t. 't', we get

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta n)}{\partial t^2} + n_0 \frac{\partial^2(\delta v_z)}{\partial t \partial z} = 0. \quad (41)$$

Substituting equation (40) into equation (41), we get the equation for density fluctuations due to the ponderomotive force of the pump KAW as

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta n)}{\partial t^2} + n_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ -\frac{c_s^2}{n_0} \frac{\partial(\delta n)}{\partial z} + \frac{F_{iz} + F_{ez}}{m_i} \right] = 0. \quad (42)$$

We rewrite equation (42) as

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2(\delta n)}{\partial t^2} - c_s^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \frac{\delta n}{n_0} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{F_{iz} + F_{ez}}{m_i} \right) \quad (43)$$

Similarly, we can write the equation for  $\delta v_z$  as

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - c_s^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) \delta v_z = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (F_{iz} + F_{ez}). \quad (44)$$

We see that the wave equation (44) involves the time derivative of the ponderomotive forcing term due to the pump KAWs instead of the spatial derivative that appears in the density fluctuation equation (43). Let us evaluate the parallel components of this forcing term by substituting the velocity components of pump KAWs as given in equations (4), (6), (7) and (9) and averaging the Lorentz and the convective terms over the pump KAW time period of  $2\pi/\omega$  (P. Shukla & Stenflo, 2000b).

$$\begin{aligned} F_z &= F_{ez} + F_{iz} \\ &\simeq -\frac{e^2}{4\omega^2 m_e} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} |\delta E_z|^2 + \frac{e^2}{4m_i (\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} |\delta E_x|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{e^2}{4m_i (\omega_{ci}^2 - \omega^2)} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} |\delta E_y|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

Now, let us evaluate the expressions for the perturbed electric fields to be substituted in equation (45). From equation (23), we get

$$\delta E_z = \frac{c\omega k_{0x}}{\omega_{pe}^2} \delta B_y. \quad (46)$$

From equation (26) and (27) we get,

$$\delta E_y = \frac{\beta}{2} (ik_{0z}) \frac{c\omega_{ce}}{\omega_{pe}^2} \delta B_y. \quad (47)$$

Using equations (26) and (27) in equation (25), we get

$$\delta E_x = \frac{\lambda_e k_{0z} \omega_{ce} \omega_{ci}}{\omega \omega_{pe}} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2} \right) - \frac{\beta}{2} \right] \delta B_y. \quad (48)$$

Substituting equation (45) into equation (44) along with equations (46), (47) and (48) and taking the magnetic field perturbations ( $\delta B_y$ ) as a plane wave modulated by a slowly

varying envelope  $\delta\tilde{B}_y$  as previously defined in equation (33), we get

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - c_s^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}\right) \delta n = -\frac{e^2 n_0}{4m_e m_i} \frac{c^2 k_{0x}^2}{\omega_{pe}^4} \left[ \frac{[(1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2) - \beta]^2}{\lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 (1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)} - \frac{m_i k_{0z}^2}{m_e k_{0x}^2} \frac{\beta^2}{(1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)} \right] \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} |\delta\tilde{B}_y|^2. \quad (49)$$

Normalizing the pump KAW dynamical equation (34) and the ion acoustic wave equation (49), we get the following set of equations

$$\begin{aligned} & i \frac{\partial(\delta B_y)}{\partial t} + i \frac{\partial(\delta B_y)}{\partial x} + c_1 \frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial x^2} + c_2 \frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial z^2} + i \frac{\partial(\delta B_y)}{\partial z} + c_3 \frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x} - ic_4 \frac{\partial^3(\delta B_y)}{\partial t \partial x^2} \\ & - ic_5 \frac{\partial^3(\delta B_y)}{\partial x^2 \partial z} - c_6 \frac{\partial^4(\delta B_y)}{\partial x^2 \partial z^2} - ic_7 \frac{\partial^3(\delta B_y)}{\partial x \partial z^2} + c_8 \frac{\partial^2(\delta B_y)}{\partial x \partial z} + (1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)(\delta n)(\delta B_y) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial^2(\delta n)}{\partial t^2} - c_9 \frac{\partial^2(\delta n)}{\partial z^2} = -\frac{\partial^2(|\delta B_y|^2)}{\partial z^2}. \quad (51)$$

214 Here, we have denoted  $\delta\tilde{B}_y$  as  $\delta B_y$  by removing the mark  $\sim$  placed on top of  $\delta B_y$  for the  
215 sake of writing.

216 The dimensionless parameters appeared above are:  $c_1 = \frac{v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0z}^2 - \lambda_e^2 \omega^2}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 x_n^2}$ ,  
217  $c_2 = \frac{v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 + c_{B_0} \beta \omega_{ci} / 8\pi n_0 e + v_A^2 (1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 z_n^2}$ ,  $c_3 = \frac{4\lambda_e^2 \omega k_{0x}}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 t_n x_n}$ ,  $c_4 = \frac{2\lambda_e^2 \omega}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 t_n x_n^2}$ ,  $c_5 =$   
218  $\frac{2k_{0z} v_{te} \lambda_e^2}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 x_n^2 z_n}$ ,  
219  $c_6 = \frac{v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 x_n^2 z_n^2}$ ,  $c_7 = \frac{2k_{0x} v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 x_n z_n^2}$ ,  $c_8 = \frac{4k_{0x} k_{0z} v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2 x_n z_n}$ , and  $c_9 = \frac{c_s^2 t_n^2}{z_n^2}$ .

220 The normalising parameters are:  $t_n = \frac{2\omega(1 + \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2)}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2}$ ,  
221  $x_n = \frac{2(v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0z}^2 k_{0x} - k_{0x} \lambda_e^2 \omega^2)}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2}$ ,  $z_n = \frac{2k_{0z} \left[ v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 + \frac{c_{B_0} \beta \omega_{ci}}{8\pi n_0 e} + v_A^2 \left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_{ci}^2}\right) \right]}{v_A^2 k_{0z}^2}$ ,  $n_n = n_0$

222 and

223  $B_n = \left( \frac{z_n^2 n_n m_i \omega_{pe}^4}{M t_n^2 \omega^2 c^2 k_{0x}^2} \right)^{1/2}$ , where  $M$  is a dimensionless parameter given by  
224  $M = \frac{n_0 e^2}{4m_e \omega^2} \left[ \frac{(1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2 - \beta)^2}{\lambda_e^2 k_{0x}^2 (1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2)} - \frac{m_i k_{0z}^2}{m_e k_{0x}^2} \frac{\beta^2}{1 - \omega^2/\omega_{ci}^2} \right]$ .

### 225 3 Numerical Simulation

226 The equations (50) and (51) constitute modified ZSEs describing the nonlinear cou-  
227 pling between pump KAWs (dispersive) and ion acoustic waves (approximately non-dispersive).  
228 In the adiabatic limit, this system of equations becomes modified Nonlinear Schrodinger  
229 Equation (NLSE) with the substitution of density perturbation as  $\delta n \propto |\delta B_y|^2$ . We per-  
230 formed a numerical simulation of the modified ZSEs using the pseudo-spectral method  
231 where the spatial derivatives can be calculated using orthogonal functions such as Fourier  
232 integrals, Chebyshev polynomials etc. In our simulation, we used the Fourier integrals  
233 evaluated using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), thereby converting the space derivatives  
234 into the wavenumber domain by multiplication of the spectrum with  $ik$  where  $k$  is the  
235 wavenumber. The inverse Fourier Transform gives the exact space derivative up to the  
236 Nyquist frequency. The spatial integration was carried out at  $2^7 \times 2^7$  grid points with  
237 a periodic domain of dimensions  $L_x = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha_x}$  and  $L_z = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha_z}$ , where  $\alpha_x$  and  $\alpha_z$  represent  
238 the perturbation wavenumbers in the  $x$  and  $z$  directions normalized by  $x_n^{-1}$  and  $z_n^{-1}$  re-  
239 spectively. The temporal first derivative was evaluated in Fourier space using Newton's  
240 forward difference with a step size of  $dt = 5 \times 10^{-5}$  and then the leap-frog time step  
241 method and predictor-corrector method. Such difference approximations to differential

242 equations are accurate when the wavenumbers are low enough. As the wavenumbers in-  
 243 crease, the linear terms dominate the nonlinear terms in the differential equation, hence  
 244 reducing the accuracy. To circumvent this, we modified the linear terms in the leap-frog  
 245 step using the ideas of Fornberg and Witham (Fornberg & Whitham, 1978). On the  
 246 other hand, if we calculate the nonlinear terms directly in Fourier space it leads to the  
 247 convolution involving  $N^2$  operations for quadratic nonlinearity, where  $N$  is the number  
 248 of grid points. In case of higher nonlinearity, the situation gets even worse involving more  
 249 operations. To overcome this problem, instead of evaluating the nonlinear terms in Fourier  
 250 space directly, we transformed the involved variables back to real space and evaluated  
 251 the nonlinearity in real space and then in Fourier space. With this procedure the num-  
 252 ber of operations involved in quadratic nonlinearity is reduced to  $N \log N$ , yielding fast  
 253 computational speed.

We first developed an algorithm to solve 2D-cubic NLSE and compared the results with other available results. The NLSE is an important and well-known model of non-linear phenomena in fluids and plasmas. To test the numerical code, we set the benchmark of the algorithm by calculating the conservation of the plasmon number given by

$$P = \frac{1}{L_x} \frac{1}{L_z} \int_0^{L_x} \int_0^{L_z} |\delta B_y|^2 dx dz = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\delta B_{yk}|^2 dk_x dk_z = \sum_k |\delta B_{yk}|^2,$$

which is conserved up to the accuracy of  $10^{-6}$ . The same code was modified for the modified ZSEs of our problem which is nonintegrable. On the other hand, the discrete Fourier transform of a periodic function introduces the so called aliasing error at each time step simulated with finite grid resolution when the nonlinear interactions are not fully resolved in the fixed computational grids. In the quadratic nonlinear term, the aliasing errors occur when the addition of the wave numbers  $(k_1 + k_2)$  exceeds the Nyquist sampling criterion, i.e.,  $(k_1 + k_2) > N$  where  $k_1, k_2 \in [-\frac{N}{2} + 1, \frac{N}{2}]$ ,  $N$  is the number of equidistant discrete points in spatial directions. In our simulation, we used a phase shift dealiasing scheme which is described here briefly for the sake of completeness. In evaluating the nonlinear term  $(f_j g_j)$  of variables  $f$  and  $g$  at grid points  $j = 0, 1, \dots, (N-1)$ , the dealiasing operation is performed by taking the Fourier transform at the shifted grid points. The variables  $f$  and  $g$  at real space are represented as (Yin et al., 2005; Sinhababu & Ayyalasomayaajula, 2021)

$$f_j^s = \sum_{|k| \leq \frac{N}{2}} \hat{f} e^{i(x_j + \Delta)}, \quad (52)$$

$$g_j^s = \sum_{|k| \leq \frac{N}{2}} \hat{g} e^{i(x_j + \Delta)}, \quad (53)$$

where  $x_j$  is the collocation points and the superscript  $s$  denotes the variables in the shifted grids. The next step is the multiplication of these variables in the shifted grid as

$$\mathcal{NL}_j^s = f_j^s \cdot g_j^s. \quad (54)$$

Fourier transform of the nonlinear terms at the shifted grids is obtained as

$$\widehat{\mathcal{NL}}^s = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \mathcal{NL}_j^s e^{-i(x_j + \Delta)}. \quad (55)$$

It can be expressed as (Patterson Jr & Orszag, 1971; Canuto et al., 2007; Kopriva, 2009)

$$\widehat{\mathcal{NL}}^s = \sum_{p+q=k} \hat{f}_p \hat{g}_q + e^{\pm iN\Delta} \left( \sum_{p+q=k \pm N} \hat{f}_p \hat{g}_q \right). \quad (56)$$

Taking  $\Delta = \pi/N$ , the nonlinear terms free from aliasing error are obtained as (Canuto et al., 2007)

$$\widehat{\mathcal{NL}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \widehat{\mathcal{NL}}^s + \sum_{p+q=k} \hat{f}_p \hat{g}_q \right). \quad (57)$$

Since the linear evolution in the differential equation is exactly integrable, a plane wave solution is a possible solution. We used a uniform plane pump KAW of fixed amplitudes superimposed by a sinusoidal periodic perturbation as the initial condition of the simulation as

$$\delta B_y(x, z, t = 0) = \delta B_{y0}[1 + \epsilon \cos(\alpha_x x)] \times [1 + \epsilon \cos(\alpha_z z)], \quad (58)$$

254 where  $\epsilon$  represents the magnitude of the perturbation and  $\delta B_{y0}$  is the amplitude of the  
 255 pump KAW. Although the magnetic waves in astrophysical plasmas are more complicated,  
 256 they can be represented as the sum of the sinusoidal wave components.

The initial condition of the density perturbation was taken as

$$\delta n = |\delta B_y|^2. \quad (59)$$

257 The modified ZSEs (50) and (51) were simulated for two different regions based on  
 258 the plasma  $\beta$  values (a) the Earth's radiation belt ( $\beta < 1$ ) and (b) near-Sun streamer  
 259 belt solar wind ( $\beta > 1$ ) at distance of  $\approx 0.13$  AU to 0.25 AU from the surface of the  
 260 Sun. In the simulation, we used  $\delta B_{y0} = 1$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.1$ , and  $\alpha_x = \alpha_y = 0.01$ . The plasma  
 261 parameters chosen for the radiation belt are (Cattell et al., 2008; Goyal et al., 2018):  $B_0 \approx$   
 262  $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$  G,  $n_0 \approx 5.0$  cm $^{-3}$ ,  $T_e \approx 6.0 \times 10^6$  K and  $T_i \approx 1.1 \times 10^8$  K. Employing these  
 263 values, the other parameters are calculated as  $\beta \approx 4.16 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $w_{ce} \approx 8.8 \times 10^4$  s $^{-1}$ ,  
 264  $w_{ci} \approx 47.9$  s $^{-1}$ ,  $\omega_{pe} \approx 1.261 \times 10^5$  s $^{-1}$  and  $\lambda_e \approx 2.37 \times 10^5$  cm. We used  $\omega/\omega_{ci} =$   
 265 0.02 for a finite frequency and  $k_{0x}\lambda_e = 0.2$ . Accordingly, we calculated other param-  
 266 eters and the normalizing parameters corresponding to the radiation belt, which are tab-  
 267 ulated in the table 1.

268 The plasma parameters chosen for the near-Sun streamer belt solar wind were taken  
 269 from the fourth orbit of the PSP when it reaches around 28 – 54 solar radii (C. Chen  
 270 et al., 2021; Liewer et al., 2023) are:  $B_0 \approx 5.0 \times 10^{-4}$  G,  $n_0 \approx 10^3$  cm $^{-3}$  and  $T_e \approx$   
 271  $5.0 \times 10^5$  K. Employing these values, the other parameters are calculated as  $\beta \approx 6.94$ ,  
 272  $w_{ce} \approx 8.79 \times 10^3$  s $^{-1}$ ,  $w_{ci} \approx 4.79$  s $^{-1}$ ,  $\omega_{pe} \approx 1.78 \times 10^6$  s $^{-1}$  and  $\lambda_e \approx 1.68 \times 10^4$  cm.  
 273 We used  $\omega/\omega_{ci} = 0.02$  for a finite frequency and  $k_{0x}\lambda_e = 0.2$ . Accordingly, we calcu-  
 274 lated other parameters and the normalizing parameters corresponding to the near-Sun  
 275 streamer belt solar wind, which are tabulated in the table 1.

276 We analyze here the numerical results of the modified ZSEs applicable to the Earth's  
 277 radiation belt. First, the magnetic field intensity profiles of KAWs in the form of gener-  
 278 ation of filaments are shown in figure 1 at six different instants of normalized times ( $t =$   
 279 0.5, 13, 18, 44, 75, and 95). It is evident from the figure that the magnetic field intensi-  
 280 ties are localized in space with periodic patterns initially and with the evolution of time,  
 281 it changes to quasiperiodic and chaotic structures. The nonlinear ponderomotive force  
 282 exerted by the pump KAW induces the background density variations, leading to changes  
 283 in the phase velocity of KAWs. The changes in the phase velocity result in the spatial  
 284 localization of KAWs in the  $x-z$  plane. In astrophysical plasma, the process of mag-  
 285 netic coherent (localized) structures generation of waves is the same as that of laser beam  
 286 filamentation in laboratory plasma. When a high-power laser beam propagates through  
 287 plasma, the associated ponderomotive force modifies the plasma density, thereby vary-  
 288 ing the refractive index of the medium. In this way, the medium acts as a converging lens,  
 289 producing a focused laser beam. In a similar way, when KAWs propagate through as-  
 290 trophysical plasma, the parallel ponderomotive force acting on the plasma will produce  
 291 variations in the density resulting in varying phase velocity. This will generate spatial  
 292 localization of KAWs having coherent structures. As time evolves, the perturbations as-  
 293 sociated with the pump KAWs take the magnetic energy leading to the collapse of the  
 294 magnetic coherent structures. However, due to the nonlinear interactions of magnetic  
 295 field and density, these collapsed structures try to regroup as time advances. These struc-  
 296 tures become more intense and chaotic with the advancement of time, reaching the high-

est amplitude as well as more chaotic distribution at  $t = 95$  shown in figure 1(f). Beyond this time, we cannot see any significant changes in the magnetic field intensity profiles as the modulational instability saturates. It means at  $t = 95$ , the system reaches a quasi steady state. Although the evolution of the magnetic field coherent structures is dependent on the initial conditions and the nonlinearities involved, once the quasi steady state is reached, the system is no more dependent on these conditions. The transverse scale size of the localized magnetic filaments at  $t = 0.5, 13$  and  $18$ , as shown in figure 1(a)-(c) are of the order of ion gyroradius or ion inertial length which is the energy injection scale, whereas it is electron gyroradius or electron inertial length for  $t = 44, 78$  and  $95$  as shown in figure 1(d)-(f) which is the energy dissipation scale. In the collapse magnetic structures or density gradient regions, large parallel electric fields are generated that can accelerate the electrons along the direction of the background magnetic field (Génot et al., 2000; Tsiklauri, 2012). At sufficiently large fluctuations in the parallel fields and the current densities, the electrons can be trapped in between the wave packets (filaments) (Gershman et al., 2017). As the waves propagate, their kinetic energy is converted to particle energy, the process that can be considered as a magnetic analog of Landau damping. If the size of the wave packets is smaller than the ion acoustic gyroradius  $\rho_i$ , the ion motion decouples from the electron motion. From the fluctuating magnetic intensity profiles, we found that in the early stages of magnetic field evolution, the size of the transverse filaments is of the order of the ion gyroradius ( $\approx 6\rho_i \approx 10^4$  km) at half of the intensity peak as also observed by Lion et al. (2016) and Passot et al. (2014). As the system evolves, these elementary structures undergo a transverse collapse, significantly reducing their size to less than the characteristic length scale  $\rho_i$ . When the size of the filaments reaches the kinetic scale comparable to the short perpendicular wavelength of KAWs, the energization of plasma particles can happen through wave-particle energy exchange.

Figure 2 depicts density fluctuations along  $z$ -direction at different times applicable for the Earth's radiation belt corresponding to figure 1. Before the turbulent state, density cavitons (humps) are formed [figure 2(a)-(d)]. Because of the ponderomotive force, the magnetic field is trapped in the regions of density cavities producing magnetic coherent structures. However, as the perturbation associated with the pump KAW takes the magnetic energy, the magnetic coherent structures tend to collapse. Due to the nonlinear interactions of magnetic field and density, these collapsed structures try to regroup as time advances. Therefore, we can see only density cavitons (humps) and no density depletions till  $t = 44$  (figure 2(d)) before the turbulent state was set. In figure 2(e) we can see small density depletions at  $z \approx \pm 300$  where the system starts to be in a chaotic state. In figure 2(f) when the system reaches the quasi steady turbulent state, many density humps and depletions are observed. One can study the phenomenon of turbulence by examining the cascading of energy and the process of density cavitation through ZSEs as suggested by Doolen et al. (1985). They suggested that Langmuir waves are localized when the wave packets are trapped in density cavities. Also, Sharma et al. (1996) studied the Langmuir turbulence by energy cascades and cavitation process.

It is worth mentioning here that ion acoustic waves generate solitons with density humps in electron-ion plasma (Davidson, 2012). In electron-positron-ion plasma, the amplitudes of the ion acoustic waves will be reduced, producing density dips depending on the strength of the positron concentrations (Popel et al., 1995). A similar method of producing density humps and dips was also reported in the case of KAWs. Many decades ago, Hasegawa and Mima (1976) predicted that density humps would be produced when KAWs propagate in electron-ion plasma at sub-Alfvénic regime. In the super-Alfvénic regime, the KAWs produce density dips in electron-positron-ion plasma (Saleem & Mahmood, 2003). Similar results were also obtained by studying the nonlinear KAWs in dusty plasma (Yinhua et al., 2000) and quantum magnetoplasma (Sadiq et al., 2018b). However, all these studies did not consider the coupling of ion acoustic waves with KAWs when the effect of ion inertia in parallel motion is taken into account.

351 In order to analyse the evolution of the magnetic field in Fourier modes, we plot-  
 352 ted  $|\delta B_{yk}|$  as a function of  $t$  (figure 3) across three distinct modes: Mode A ( $k_x = 1$ ,  
 353  $k_z = 0$ ), Mode B ( $k_x = 2$ ,  $k_z = 0$ ) and Mode C ( $k_x = 3$ ,  $k_z = 0$ ) where  $k_x$  and  $k_z$  are  
 354 wavenumbers of KAWs generated by the interaction of pump KAWs (having wavenum-  
 355 bers  $k_{0x}$  and  $k_{0z}$ ) and ion acoustic waves propagating in an inhomogeneous plasma medium.  
 356 It is observed from the figure that the major participants in the energy sharing process  
 357 are mostly confined to low wavenumber modes. Mode A has the maximum share of en-  
 358 ergy at initial time, but it decays with time sharing its energy with other higher modes  
 359 B and C showing an oscillatory evolution.

360 To study the distribution of magnetic energy across various wavenumbers, we plot-  
 361 ted  $|\delta B_{yk}|^2$  against  $k_x(k_\perp)$  represented by figure 4. At  $t = 0.5$ , only a single wave mode  
 362 exists, but higher harmonics are generated at later times. Initially, magnetic energy is  
 363 concentrated in low wavenumber modes, but it becomes distributed across higher wavenum-  
 364 ber modes as time progresses. Further, to understand more about the turbulent behaviour  
 365 of the magnetic field in radiation belt plasma, we have studied the fluctuating magnetic  
 366 field spectrum  $|\delta B_{yk}|^2$  versus  $k_\perp$  (averaged over  $k_\parallel$ ) plotted at  $t = 95$  (figure 5) when  
 367 the turbulence has reached the quasi steady state. It is evident that for scales larger than  
 368 ion inertial length ( $k_\perp \rho_i < 1$ ) known as inertial range created by energy conserving spec-  
 369 tral cascade (Smith et al., 2006), the fluctuating magnetic spectrum approaches the Kol-  
 370 mogorov scaling with a spectral index of  $-5/3$  (i.e.,  $|\delta B_{yk}|^2 \propto k_\perp^{-5/3}$ ). In the inertial  
 371 regime, fluid dynamics can still be used to study the interactions between fluctuations.  
 372 In many solar and magnetospheric plasmas, the Kolmogorov spectral index of  $-5/3$  (Borovsky,  
 373 2012; Shaikh & Zank, 2009; Xu et al., 2023) as well as the Iroshnikov-Kraichnan spec-  
 374 tral index of  $-3/2$  (Smith et al., 2006; Podesta, 2011; Zhao, Zank, Adhikari, et al., 2022)  
 375 have been reported. Beyond this range, steepening in the magnetic field power spectrum  
 376 occurs as such individual particle effects and thermal heating take over (Leamon et al.,  
 377 1998; Smith et al., 2006; Alexandrova et al., 2008; Lion et al., 2016) which is regarded  
 378 as dissipation range. From the power spectrum (figure 5) we can see that the first spec-  
 379 tral break appeared at  $k_\perp \rho_i \approx 0.76$  which corresponds to the transition from the in-  
 380 ertial range (ion scale) to the kinetic range (electron scale). For  $k_\perp \rho_i > 0.76$  the spec-  
 381 tral index is much steeper which is  $\sim -3$ . By analyzing Van Allen Probes observations,  
 382 Moya et al. (2015) reported magnetic frequency power spectral indices of  $-1.1$  to  $-1.7$   
 383 for frequency  $\gtrsim 2$  Hz (inertial range) and  $-4$  to  $-5$  for frequency  $\lesssim 2$  Hz (sub kinetic  
 384 scale) that are consistent with weak KAW turbulence. Some authors (Markovskii et al.,  
 385 2006; Bruno & Trenchi, 2014; Lion et al., 2016) have also reported varying spectral in-  
 386 dices between  $-1$  and  $-4$ , depending on turbulent fluctuations. The steepening of the  
 387 spectral index is an indication that the transfer of energy from a larger scale (lower fre-  
 388 quency) to a smaller scale (higher frequency) happens. This may be considered as one  
 389 reason to accelerate the plasma particles, thereby increasing the plasma temperature.  
 390 As the plasma particles take away some of the energy of the fluctuations, it leads to the  
 391 energization of the plasma which could be the main reason for the steeper spectrum. The  
 392 physical process involving the transition from inertial to dissipation range at ion-kinetic  
 393 scales is still an ongoing inquiry (Bowen et al., 2020; Matteini et al., 2020; Terres & Li,  
 394 2022).

395 We have also performed the numerical simulation of the modified ZSEs for  $\beta >$   
 396 1, applicable for the parameters in the near-Sun streamer belt solar wind. The essen-  
 397 tial plasma and simulation parameters are given in the table 1. The same trends of mag-  
 398 netic filament formation, regrouping and collapsing at later times happened. Since, it  
 399 has almost the same characteristics as that of the radiation belt corresponding to  $\beta <$   
 400 1, instead of showing all the graphical results and analyzing it in detail, we are show-  
 401 ing here the fluctuating magnetic field power spectrum plotted at  $t = 76$  when the quasi-  
 402 steady state is reached (figure 6) and reporting few basic differences from the two regions.  
 403 In the case of near-Sun streamer belt solar wind, there is an increase in total magnetic  
 404 power fluctuations and spectral break wavenumber ( $k_\perp \rho_i \approx 1$ ) with a more steep spec-

405 tral index of  $-4$  in the dissipation range (figure 6) in comparison to the  $-3$  of the ra-  
 406 diation belt region. In order to understand the spectral properties of the magnetic field  
 407 fluctuations in the inner heliosphere, many researchers (Šafránková et al., 2023; Lotz et  
 408 al., 2023), carried out a statistical study on PSP and Solar Orbiter data at various dis-  
 409 tances from the Sun. Šafránková et al. (2023) found the inertial range spectral index of  
 410  $-3/2$  at the closest approach (0.12 AU) to the Sun, then becoming steeper as it moves  
 411 away, reaching  $-5/3$  at around 0.4 AU. A similar trend of transition from  $-3/2$  to  $-5/3$   
 412 when the solar wind passes from 0.17 AU to 0.60 AU was also investigated by C. H. K. Chen  
 413 et al. (2020). By analysing the PSP magnetic field observations Zhao, Zank, Telloni, et  
 414 al. (2022) reported a  $-5/3$  spectral index in the inertial region. In the dissipation range,  
 415 it was  $-4.8$  at the closest approach to the Sun then becoming more flat as it moves away,  
 416 approaching it to  $\approx -3$  at around 0.4 AU (Šafránková et al., 2023). From 0.4 AU to 1  
 417 AU, the spectral indices remain approximately constant ( $-5/3$  at inertial and  $\approx -3$  at  
 418 dissipation range). Lotz et al. (2023) found the inertial range spectral index varying be-  
 419 tween  $-1.45$  to  $-1.65$  and the dissipation range spectral index varying between  $-4$  at  
 420 0.1 AU to  $-3$  at 0.7 AU. The steepening of the spectral index as the PSP moves towards  
 421 the Sun can be attributed to the enhanced power of the turbulence with decreasing ra-  
 422 dial distance from the Sun (Smith et al., 2006; Bruno & Trenchi, 2014; Huang et al., 2021).  
 423 The increase of magnetic power fluctuations and spectral break wavenumber towards the  
 424 Sun is expected (Lotz et al., 2023).

425 Many authors (Velli, 2003; Wu et al., 2016; Malara et al., 2019; Nättilä & Beloborodov,  
 426 2022) proposed that dissipation of Alfvén waves leading to turbulent energy cascade in  
 427 high wavenumbers may be responsible for heating the astrophysical plasmas. They cal-  
 428 culated the energy flux density in the coronal loops and found it to be consistent with  
 429 the observational results. However, the physical mechanism behind this turbulent en-  
 430 ergy cascade has not been satisfactorily explained till now. The transverse collapse of  
 431 KAWs via magnetic filaments may be considered as one of the reasons to explain Kol-  
 432 mogorov turbulence and dissipation range heating. To sufficiently heat the solar corona  
 433 by small-scale bursts such as solar flares, Hudson (1991) and others (Tu & Marsch, 2001;  
 434 Simnett, 2005) found that the energy spectral index has to be much steeper than  $-2$ .  
 435 Such kind of steep spectral index has also been pointed out in the quiet-Sun and active  
 436 regions by analyzing the observational data from many spacecraft such as *Yohkoh* with  
 437 SXT, *SOHO* and *TRACE* (Phillips, 2000; Aschwanden & Parnell, 2002; Domingo, 2002).  
 438 It should be mentioned here that our present KAW model is valid for  $k_{\perp}\rho_i \lesssim 1$  because  
 439 of the low frequency condition  $\omega < \omega_{ci}$ . For  $k_{\perp}\rho_i \gg 1$ , the waves at electron scales  
 440 lead to Landau damping via wave particle interactions (Gary & Nishimura, 2004; Sahraoui  
 441 et al., 2009; Bian et al., 2010). In this region, whistler mode  $\omega > \omega_{ci}$  may be more rel-  
 442 evant. However, the origin of fluctuating turbulent spectra at small scales has not been  
 443 properly resolved despite many studies suggesting it due to different wave modes such  
 444 as whistler waves, ion cyclotron waves, Alfvén cyclotron waves, KAWs, magnetosonic waves,  
 445 ion acoustic waves or interactions among these waves (Dwivedi et al., 2012; Boldyrev et  
 446 al., 2013; L. Chen et al., 2013; López et al., 2017). Therefore, our present model of KAW  
 447 dynamics coupled with density perturbations generated by ion acoustic waves due to the  
 448 parallel ponderomotive force leading to the transverse collapse of the magnetic coher-  
 449 ent structures may be one of the candidates to explain the physical process of turbulence  
 450 and the particle heating in various astrophysical plasmas.

## 451 4 Particle Heating

When turbulent KAW amplitudes exceed a certain threshold, the proton motion perpendicular to the background magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}_0$  becomes chaotic (Johnson & Cheng, 2001; C. Chaston et al., 2004; Fiksel et al., 2009). The protons then interact stochastically with the time-varying electrostatic potential and proton energy can be reasonably approximated by a random walk. If a single proton performs a random walk in en-

ergy, it can gain or lose energy with the same probability during a time  $\Delta t$ . However, if the number of thermal protons (initially having isotropic Maxwellian distribution in velocity) is large, then they will gain more energy leading to stochastic proton heating (Hoppock et al., 2018). Using phenomenological arguments, the proton heating rates for low  $\beta$  plasma ( $\beta \ll 1$ ) and high  $\beta$  plasma ( $\beta \sim 1-30$ ) were calculated at  $k_{\perp}\rho_i \sim 1$  by Chandran et al. (2010) and Hoppock et al. (2018) respectively. The repetitive interactions of charged particles with the collapsed magnetic structures can heat the particles via the second-order Fermi acceleration mechanism as explained by Ichimaru and Yaki-  
menko (1973), Fuchs et al. (1985) and Rozmus et al. (1987). The continuous interactions of particles with wave packets can be modelled within the Quasi-Linear Theory using the Fokker-Planck diffusion equation (Fuchs et al., 1985; Rozmus et al., 1987) given by

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \left( D(v) \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \right), \quad (60)$$

where  $D(v)$  and  $f(t, v)$  are the diffusion coefficient and velocity distribution function respectively and the diffusion coefficient (Fuchs et al., 1985; Rozmus et al., 1987) is given as

$$D(v) = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{Q}{m_i} \right)^2 l_A \int dk |\delta E_k|^2 \delta(\omega - kv) = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{Q}{m_i} \right)^2 l_A \frac{1}{|v|} |\delta E_k|_{k=\omega/v}^2. \quad (61)$$

Here,  $Q$  is the ionic charge and  $l_A$  is the periodicity length. From equation (30) we can find out the parallel component of the perturbed electric field in Fourier space as

$$\delta E_{zk} = \left[ \frac{\lambda_e^2 \omega k_{0x}}{c} - \frac{v_{te}^2 \lambda_e^2 k_{0x} k_{0z}^2}{c\omega} \right] \delta B_{yk}. \quad (62)$$

452 The value of  $|\delta E_{zk}|$  for continuously changing  $k$  ( $k_{\min} \leq k \leq k_{\max}$ ) where  $k_{\max}$  and  
453  $k_{\min}$  denote the wavenumbers at the boundaries of the fluctuating field region can be de-  
454 termined by examining the overall shape of the Fourier spectrum of the magnetic field  
455 by using the approximation  $|\delta E_{zk}| = |\delta E_{zk_{\min}}| [|k_{\min}/k|]^{\eta/2}$ . Here,  $\eta$  represents the spec-  
456 tral index of the power spectrum.

In normalised form equation (60) can be written as

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \left( D(u) \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \right), \quad (63)$$

where the velocity is normalized by the thermal velocity of ions,  $v_{thi} = \sqrt{k_B T_i / m_i}$ ,  $D(v)$  by  $D(v_0)$ , and  $f(t, v)$  by  $f(0, 0)$ . We used the scale time  $\tau = (v_{thi})^2 / D(v_0)$ , where  $D(v_0)$  is given by

$$D(v_0) = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{Q}{m_i} \right)^2 l_A \frac{|\delta E_{k_{\min}}|^2}{v_{k_{\min}}}. \quad (64)$$

457 How the particle distribution function evolves in the presence of stochastic heating has  
458 remained unanswered (Chandran et al., 2010; Hoppock et al., 2018). However, we can  
459 neglect the time dependence of the distribution function when it reaches a constant value  
460 if the observation time ( $t_{obs}$ ) is much greater than the characteristic time ( $t_d$ ) taken to  
461 generate the ponderomotive nonlinearity to set up which is of the order of  $r_0/c_s$ , where  
462  $r_0$  is the transverse scale size of the filament of KAWs and  $c_s$  is the ion sound speed. Un-  
463 der this assumption, the particle distribution function is of the form of  $f(v) \propto v^{2+\eta}$  (Sharma  
464 & Kumar, 2010) where  $\eta$  has the negative spectral slope. In our case  $\eta \approx -3$  and  $-4$   
465 in the dissipation range of the Earth's radiation belt and near-Sun streamer belt solar  
466 wind regions, that gives  $f(v) \propto v^{-1}$  and  $f(v) \propto v^{-2}$  respectively. The distribution func-  
467 tion is sensitive to the spectral index that leads to the formation of thermal tail of the  
468 energetic particles in the astrophysical plasma. To solve equation (63) numerically, we  
469 used a Maxwellian distribution function as the initial condition and plotted the distri-  
470 bution function with velocity at different scaled times  $\tau$  ( $\tau = 0$  and  $\tau = 30$ ) and spec-  
471 tral indices ( $-5/3$  and  $-3$ ) as shown in figure 7. We have chosen  $\tau = 30$  in such a way

472 that at this scaled time  $t_{obs} \gg t_d$ , the wave spectrum reaches a quasistationary state.  
 473 From figure 7, it is observed that the fluctuating fields accelerate the particles, hence pop-  
 474 ulating the superthermal tail. The extension of the superthermal tail is dependent on  
 475 the fluctuating fields and the spectral indices.

## 476 5 Conclusion

477 We have numerically analyzed the modified ZSEs governing the coupled dynam-  
 478 ics of KAWs and ion acoustic waves applicable to low  $\beta < 1$ , the Earth's radiation belt  
 479 plasma and high  $\beta > 1$ , near-Sun streamer belt solar wind plasma. The simulations demon-  
 480 strated the generations of magnetic field filaments or coherent structures due to the den-  
 481 sity variations produced by the ponderomotive force exerted by the pump KAWs. These  
 482 magnetic filaments exhibit an initial periodic pattern that evolves into quasi-periodic and  
 483 chaotic structures over time. The analysis of the magnetic field power spectra reveals  
 484 a Kolmogorov-like inertial range with a spectral index of  $-5/3$  for scales larger than the  
 485 ion inertial length, followed by a steeper dissipation range with spectral indices of ap-  
 486 proximately  $-3$  for the radiation belt plasma and  $-4$  for the near-Sun streamer belt so-  
 487 lar wind plasma. In the case of near-Sun streamer belt solar wind, there is an increase  
 488 in total magnetic power fluctuations and spectral break wavenumber  $k_{\perp} \rho_i \approx 1$ , in com-  
 489 parison to spectral break wavenumber  $k_{\perp} \rho_i \approx 0.76$  in the radiation belt region. The  
 490 steepening of the spectrum in the dissipation range indicates the transfer of energy from  
 491 larger to smaller scales, potentially leading to particle energization and heating. Using  
 492 the quasilinear theory represented by the Fokker-Planck equation and correlating it with  
 493 the magnetic fluctuation power spectra, we obtained the particle distribution function.  
 494 We found the extension of the superthermal tail indicating the particle energization that  
 495 depends on the fluctuating fields and the spectral indices. We studied the following two  
 496 phenomena independently: (i) generation of turbulence and (ii) heating produced by the  
 497 wave particle interaction due to turbulence. However, it has to be studied self consis-  
 498 tently by accounting for the energy gained by the particles in terms of damping of the  
 499 pump KAW energy. It can be achieved by including a Landau damping term to the pump  
 500 KAW dynamics as the viscous term is included in the hydrodynamic fluid equation. More-  
 501 over, for plasma  $\beta > 1$ , the kinetic effects of Landau damping play a vital role in the  
 502 wave particle interaction. Although Landau damping is a purely kinetic phenomenon,  
 503 there is a way to consider it within the fluid theory as suggested for the first time by Dangelo  
 504 et al. (1979) to describe its effects on the fast solar wind streams. According to this model  
 505 a dissipative term of the shape of  $\mu \nabla^2 v$ , where  $\mu$  is the damping coefficient, has to be  
 506 included in the momentum equation. The damping coefficient can be chosen in such a  
 507 way that it matches the experimentally verified features of kinetic Landau damping. This  
 508 is the limitation of the present work which we are planning to incorporate in our future  
 509 work.

## 510 6 Data Availability Statement

511 The Fortran code to solve the modified ZSEs equations (50) and (51) is available  
 512 in Github: <https://github.com/hemam12/Pseudo-Spectral-Method> and preserved in  
 513 a repository in Zenodo along with the output data files generated after compiling the  
 514 code and the MATLAB script files used to plot the figures: [https://doi.org/10.5281/  
 515 zenodo.11096895](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11096895).

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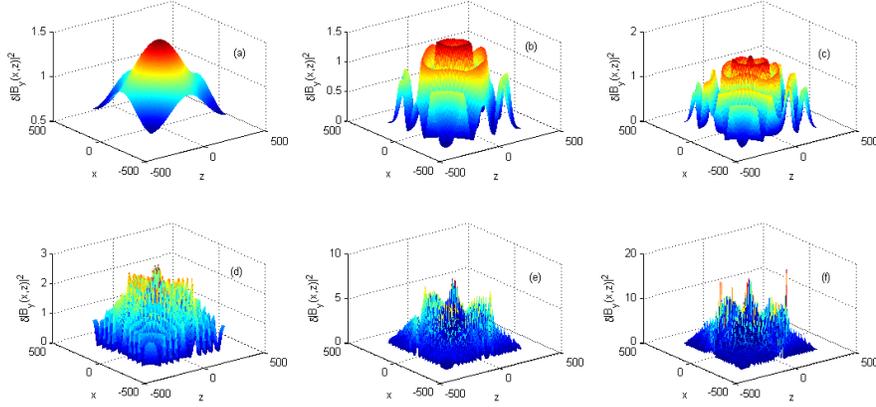
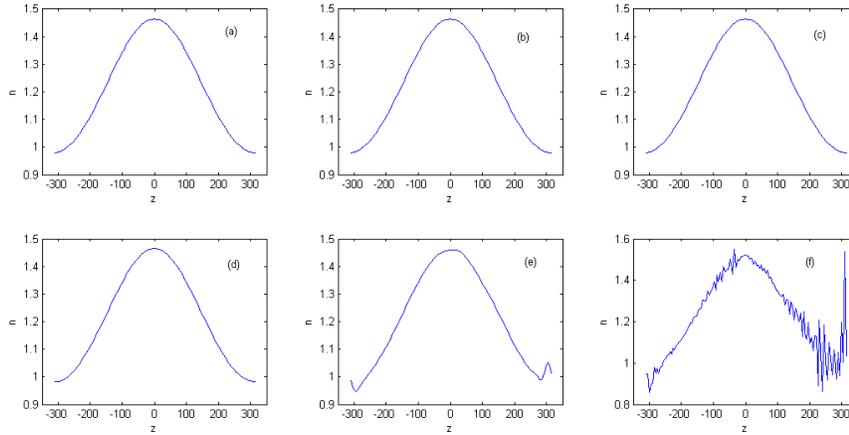
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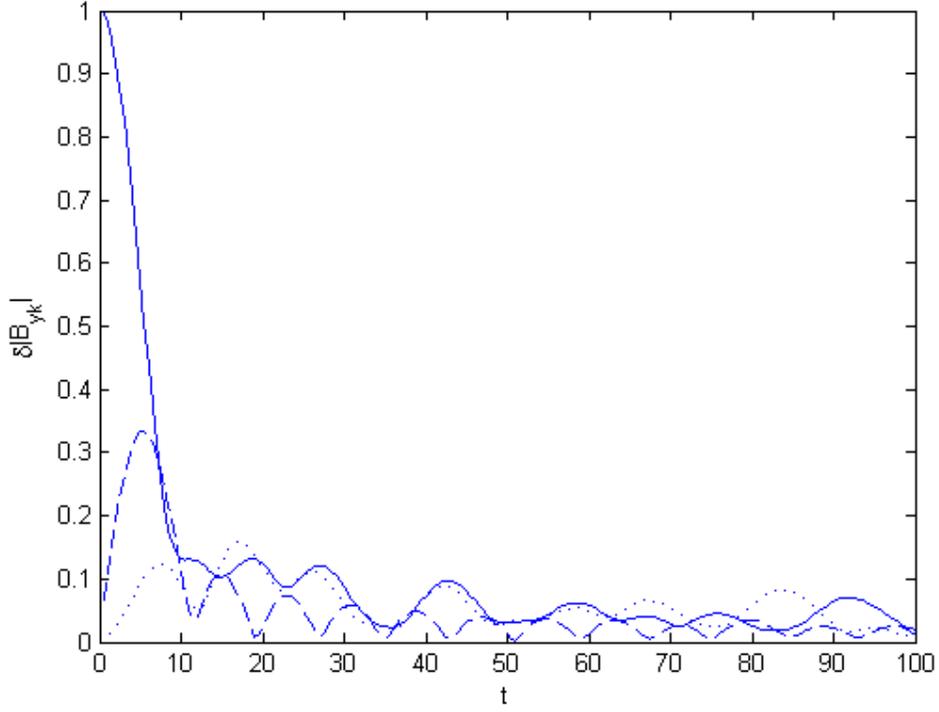
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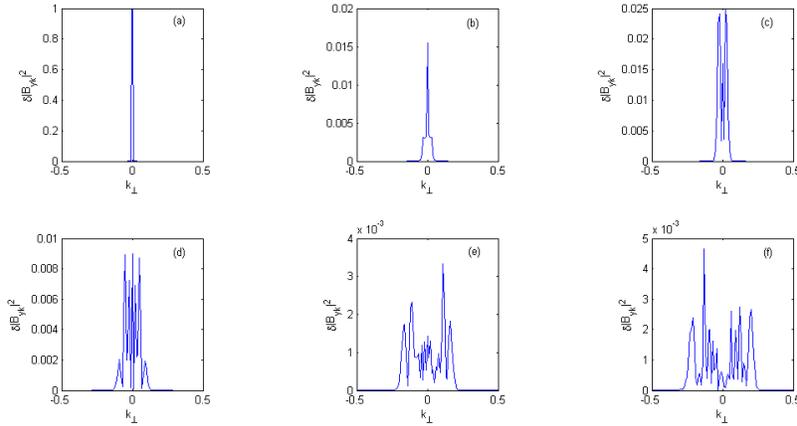
**Table 1.** Simulation Parameters for Radiation Belt and near-Sun Streamer Belt Solar wind

	Radiation Belt	Streamer Belt		Radiation Belt	Streamer Belt
$\rho_i$	$2.04 \times 10^6$ cm	$1.34 \times 10^6$ cm	$c_1$	0.93436342	0.00049027
$\rho_s$	$6.5 \times 10^5$ cm	$1.90 \times 10^6$ cm	$c_2$	0.19143023	0.00048930
$v_A$	$4.877 \times 10^8$ cm/s	$3.45 \times 10^6$ cm/s	$c_3$	0.14374822	0.00007543
$c_s$	$9.785 \times 10^7$ cm/s	$6.42 \times 10^6$ cm/s	$c_4$	0.13431308	0.00000004
$v_{te}$	$1.349 \times 10^9$ cm/s	$3.89 \times 10^8$ cm/s	$c_5$	0.81813534	0.00000096
$k_{0z}$	$2.005 \times 10^{-9}$ cm $^{-1}$	$5.99 \times 10^{-8}$ cm $^{-1}$	$c_6$	0.15661584	0.00000000
$k_{0x}$	$8.416 \times 10^{-7}$ cm $^{-1}$	$1.19 \times 10^{-5}$ cm $^{-1}$	$c_7$	0.16761769	0.00000096
$x_n$	$6.359 \times 10^5$ cm	$8.57 \times 10^7$ cm	$c_8$	0.87560720	0.00195724
$z_n$	$1.302 \times 10^9$ cm	$1.71 \times 10^{10}$ cm	$c_9$	0.02451409	0.00000310
$t_n$	2.084 s	4.67 s			
$B_n$	$4.013 \times 10^{-2}$ G	$1.286 \times 10^{-2}$ G			

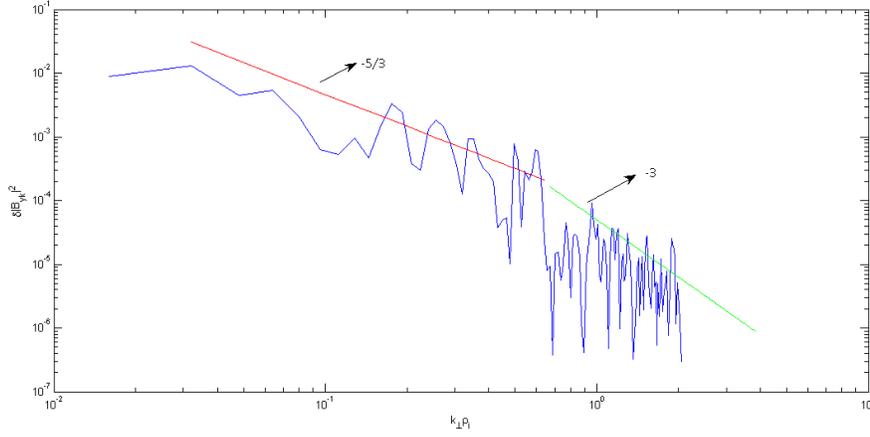

**Figure 1.** Snapshots of fluctuating magnetic field intensity profiles of KAWs at (a)  $t = 0.5$ , (b)  $t = 13$ , (c)  $t = 18$ , (d)  $t = 44$ , (e)  $t = 75$  and (f)  $t = 95$ .

**Figure 2.** Density fluctuations along  $z$ -direction at different times applicable for the Earth's radiation belt: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) corresponds to the density fluctuations at time  $t = 0.5, 13, 18, 44, 75$ , and  $95$  respectively.



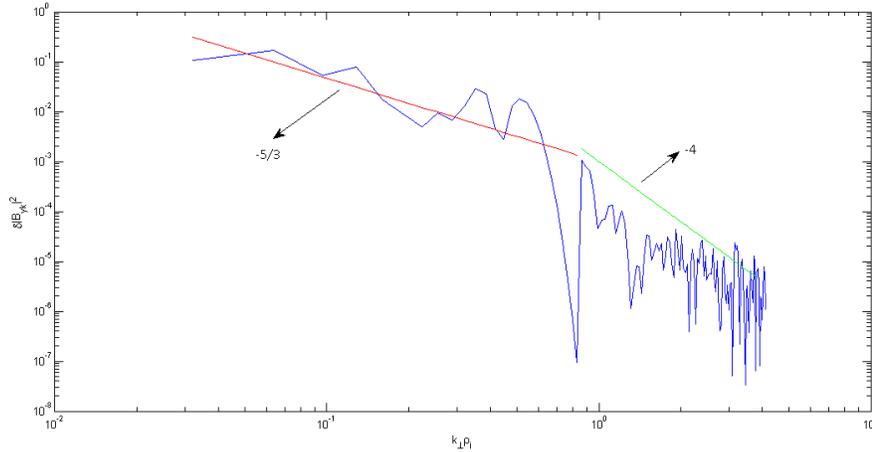
**Figure 3.** Evolution of the magnetic field in Fourier mode across three distinct modes: Mode A (solid line with  $k_x = 1$ ,  $k_z = 0$ ), Mode B (dashed line with  $k_x = 2$ ,  $k_z = 0$ ) and Mode C (dotted line with  $k_x = 3$ ,  $k_z = 0$ ).



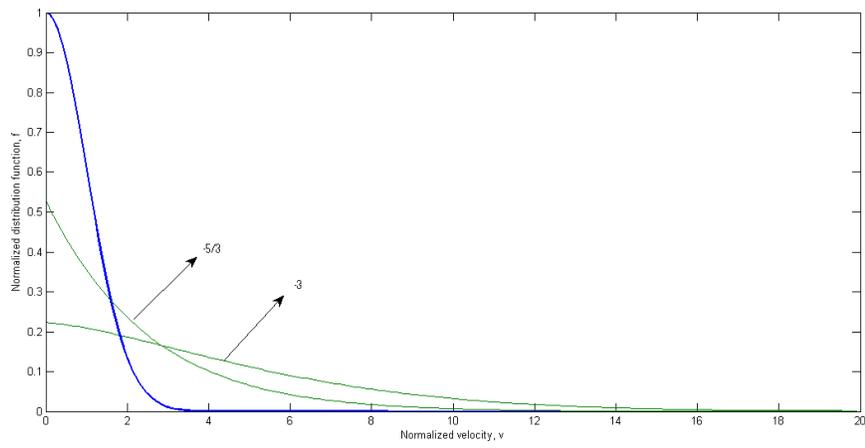
**Figure 4.** Distribution of magnetic energy across various wavenumbers at six different times: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) with  $t = 0.5, 13, 18, 44, 75$  and  $95$  respectively. Initially, at  $t = 0.5$  only a single wave mode exists, but higher harmonics are generated at later times.



**Figure 5.** The fluctuating magnetic power spectrum  $|\delta B_{yk}|^2$  versus  $k_{\perp}\rho_i$  plotted at  $t = 95$  for the Earth's radiation belt plasma,  $\beta < 1$ .



**Figure 6.** The fluctuating magnetic power spectrum  $|\delta B_{yk}|^2$  versus  $k_{\perp}\rho_i$  plotted at  $t = 76$  for near-Sun streamer belt solar wind plasma,  $\beta > 1$ .



**Figure 7.** Normalized particle distribution function at scaled times  $\tau = 0$  (blue) and  $\tau = 30$  for spectral indices  $-5/3$  and  $-3$  showing the development of a superthermal tail due to stochastic heating by fluctuating fields.

Fig1.

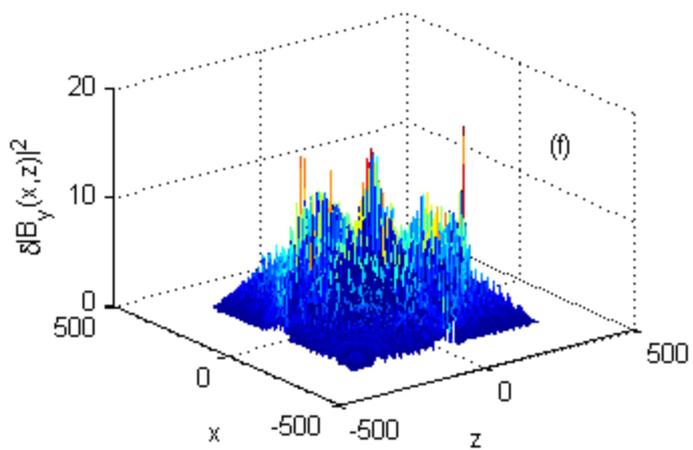
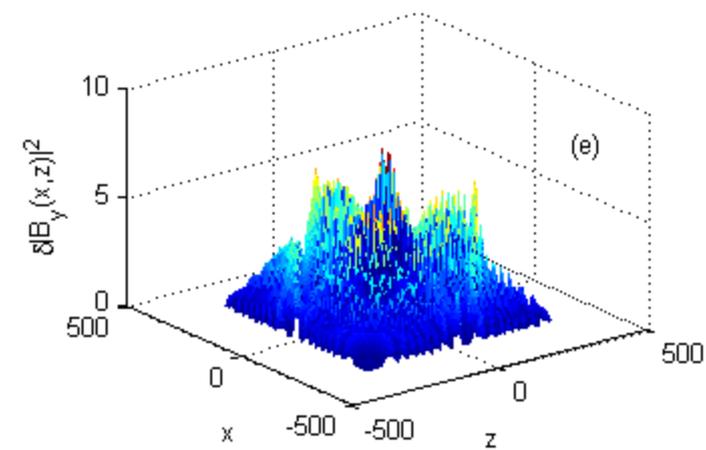
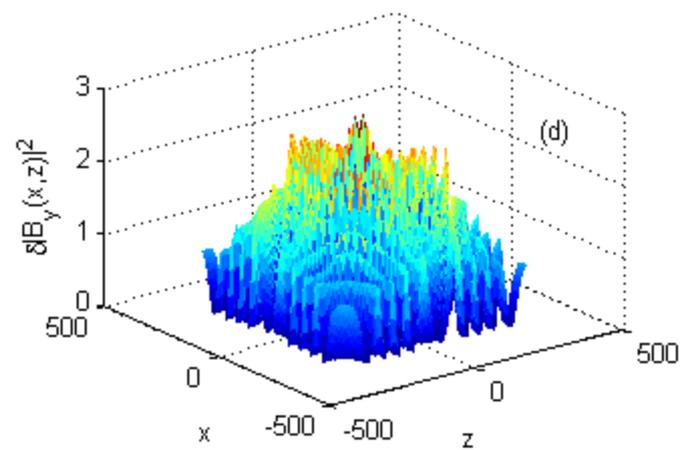
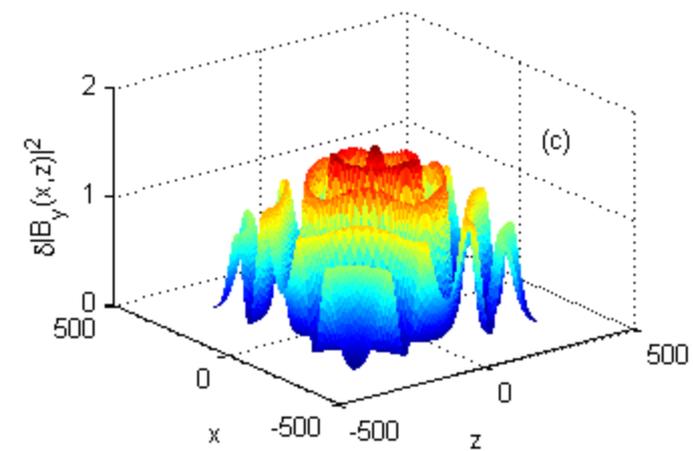
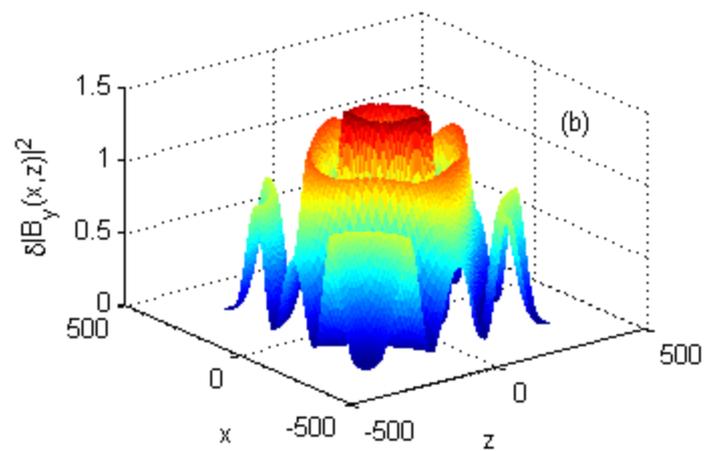
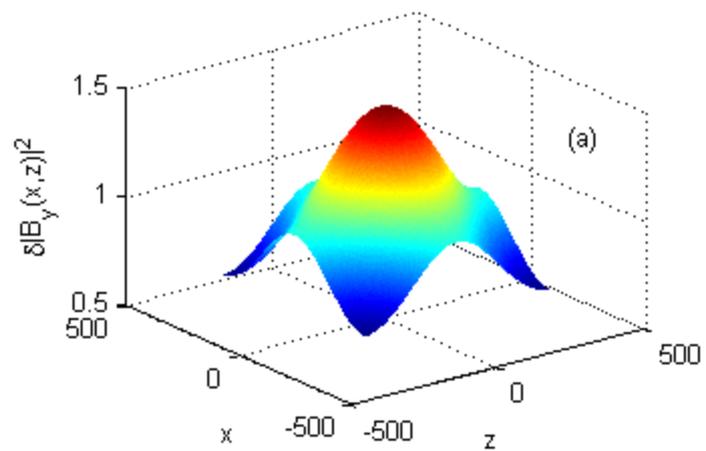


Fig2.

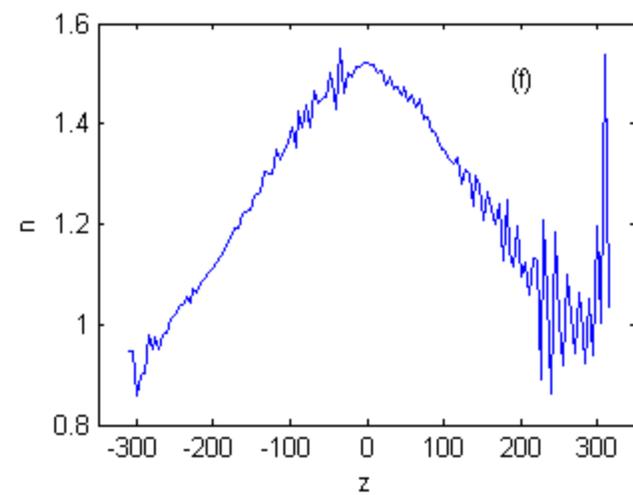
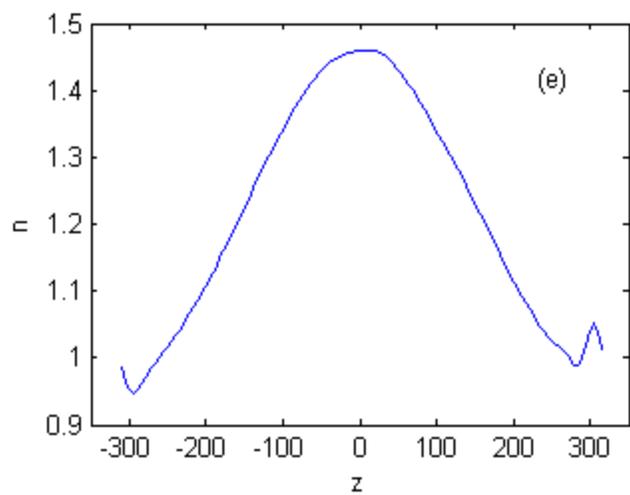
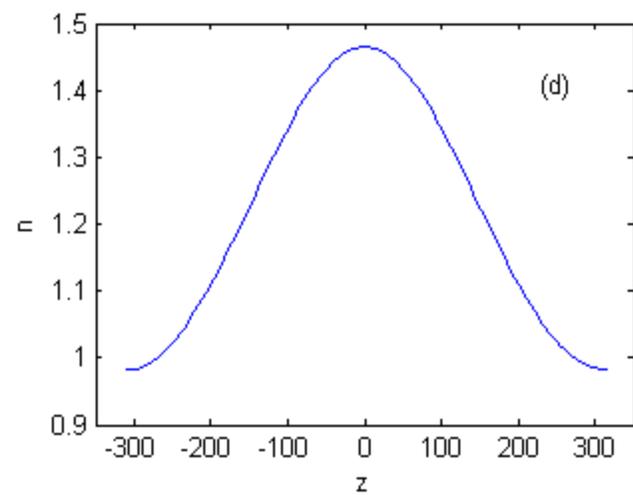
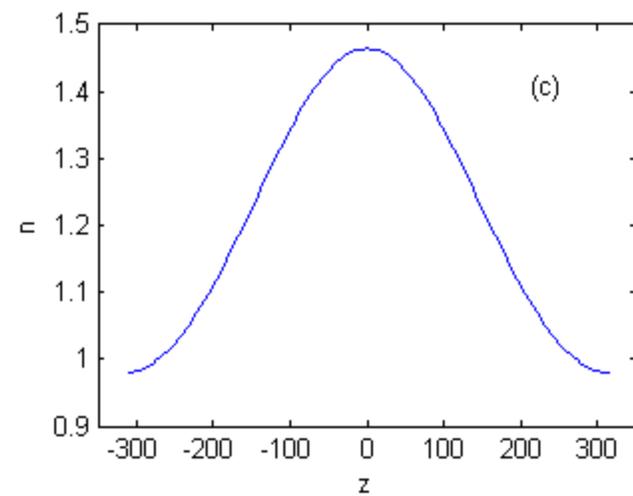
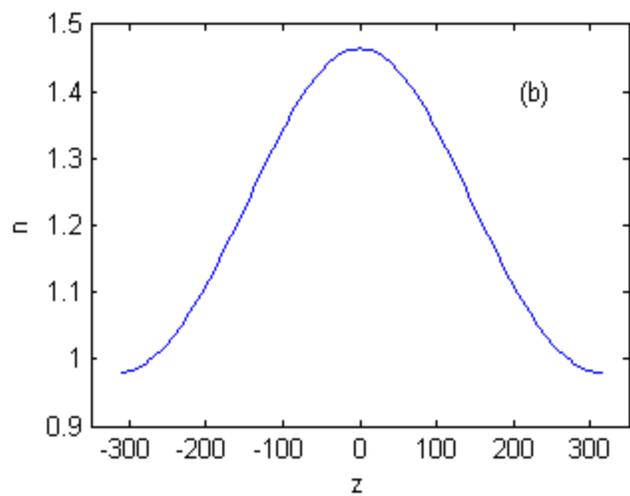
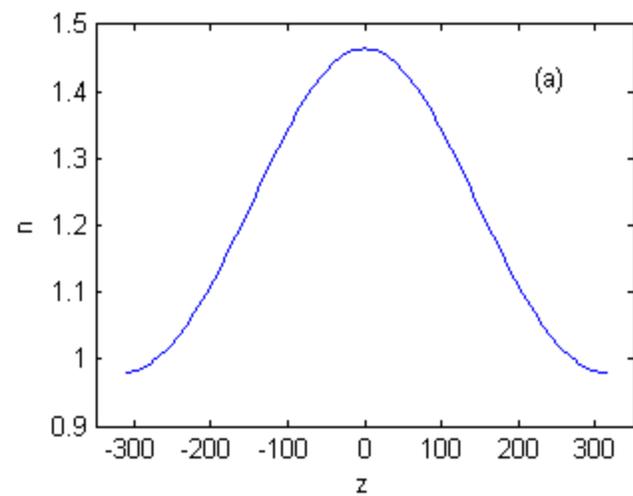


Fig3.

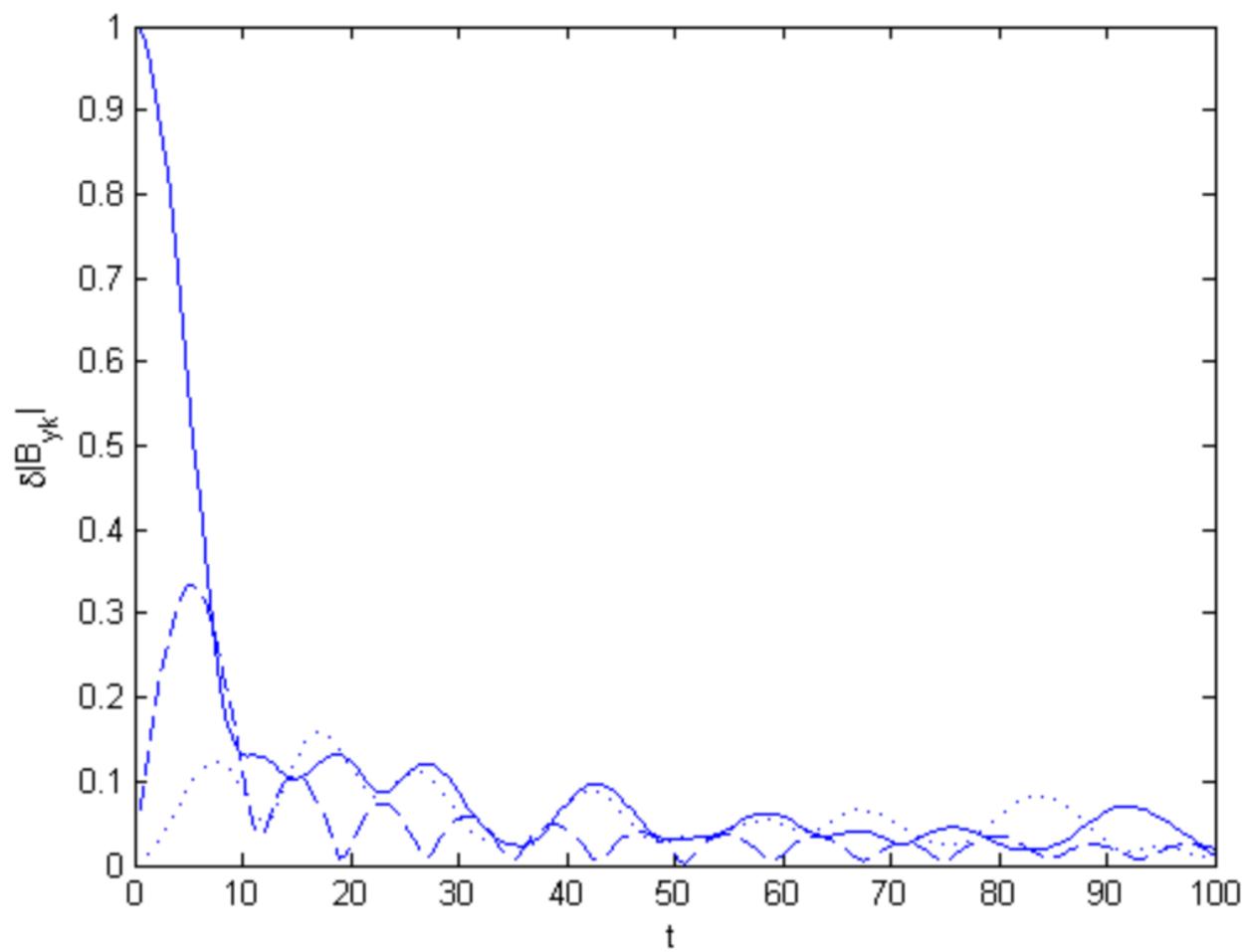


Fig4.

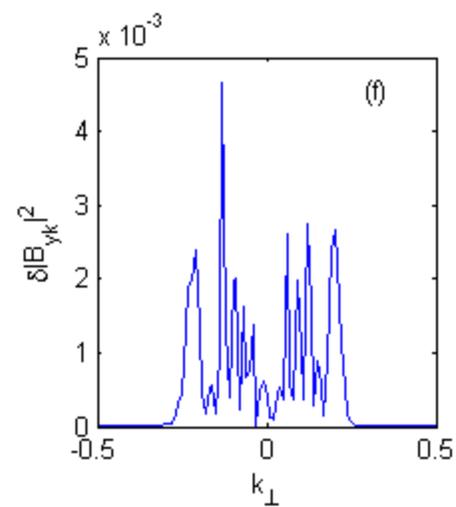
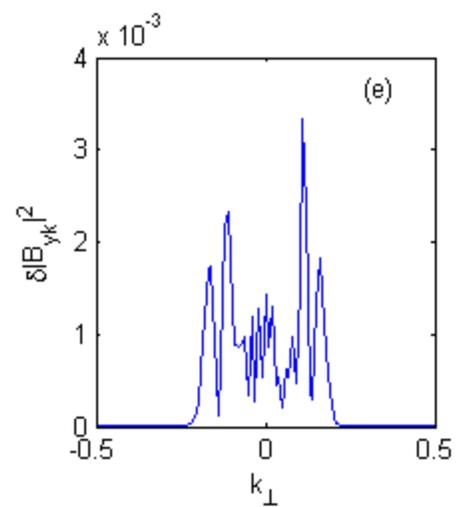
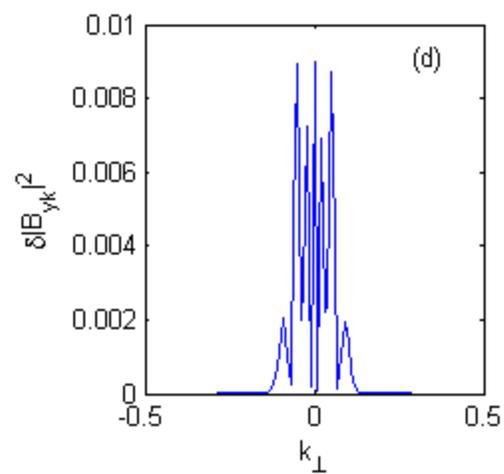
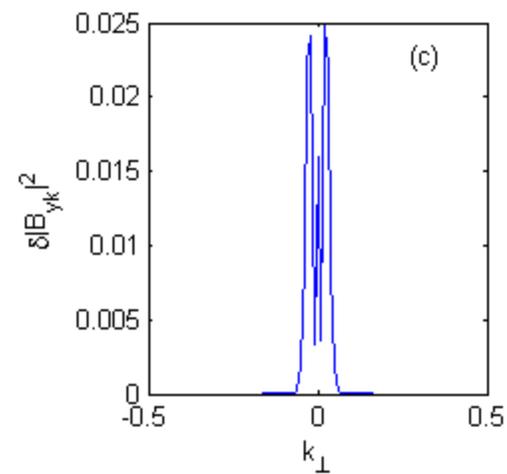
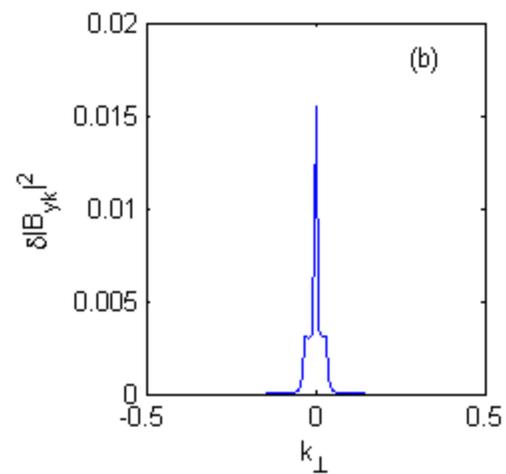
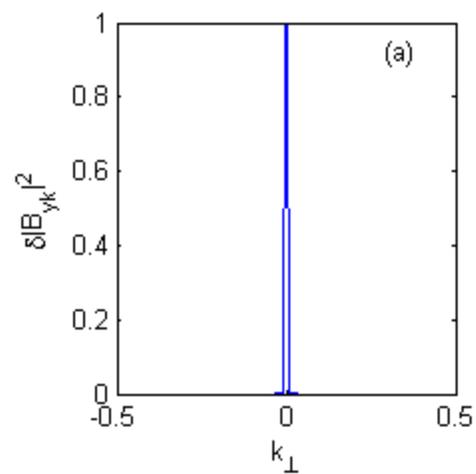


Fig5.

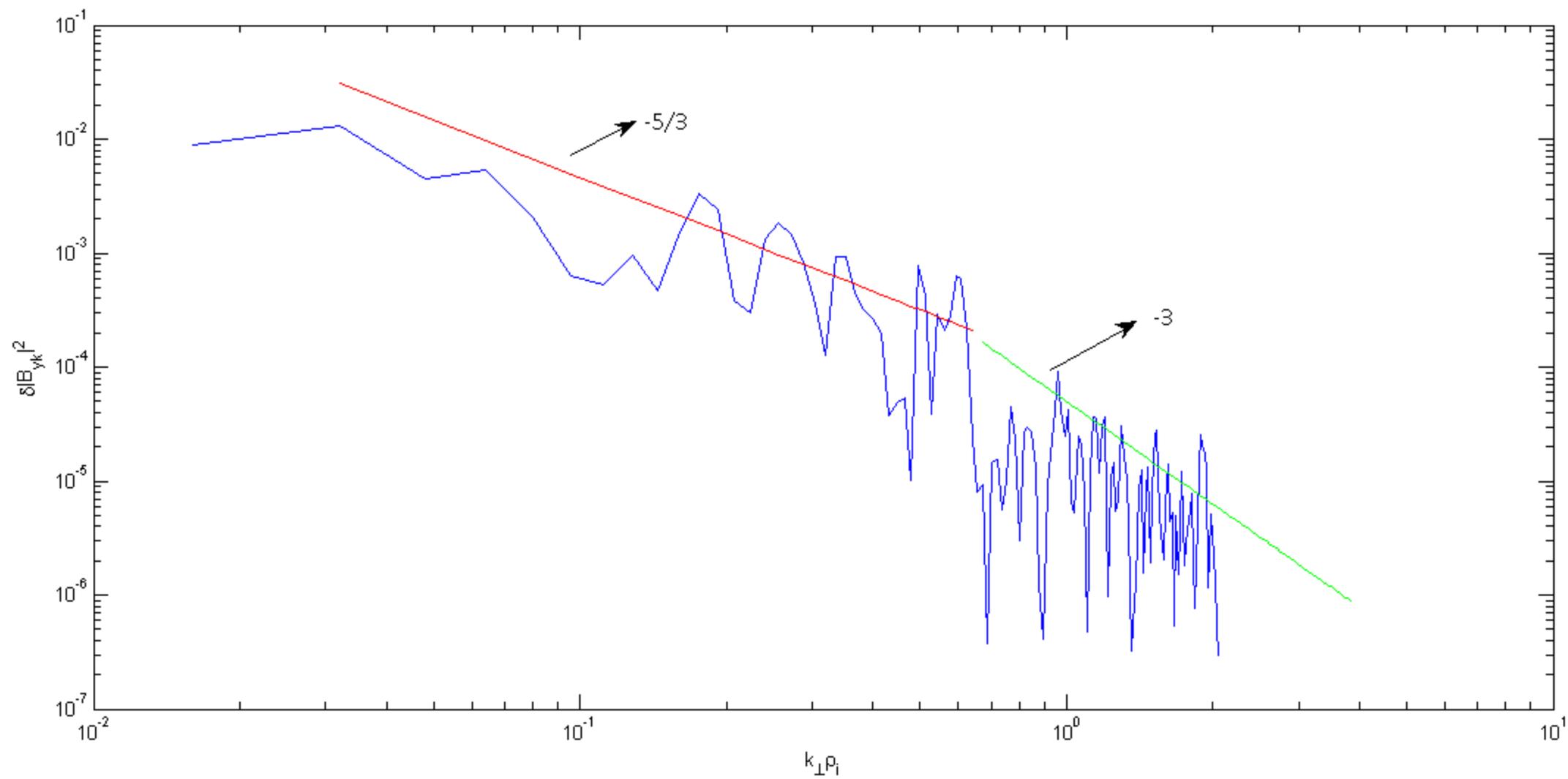


Fig6.

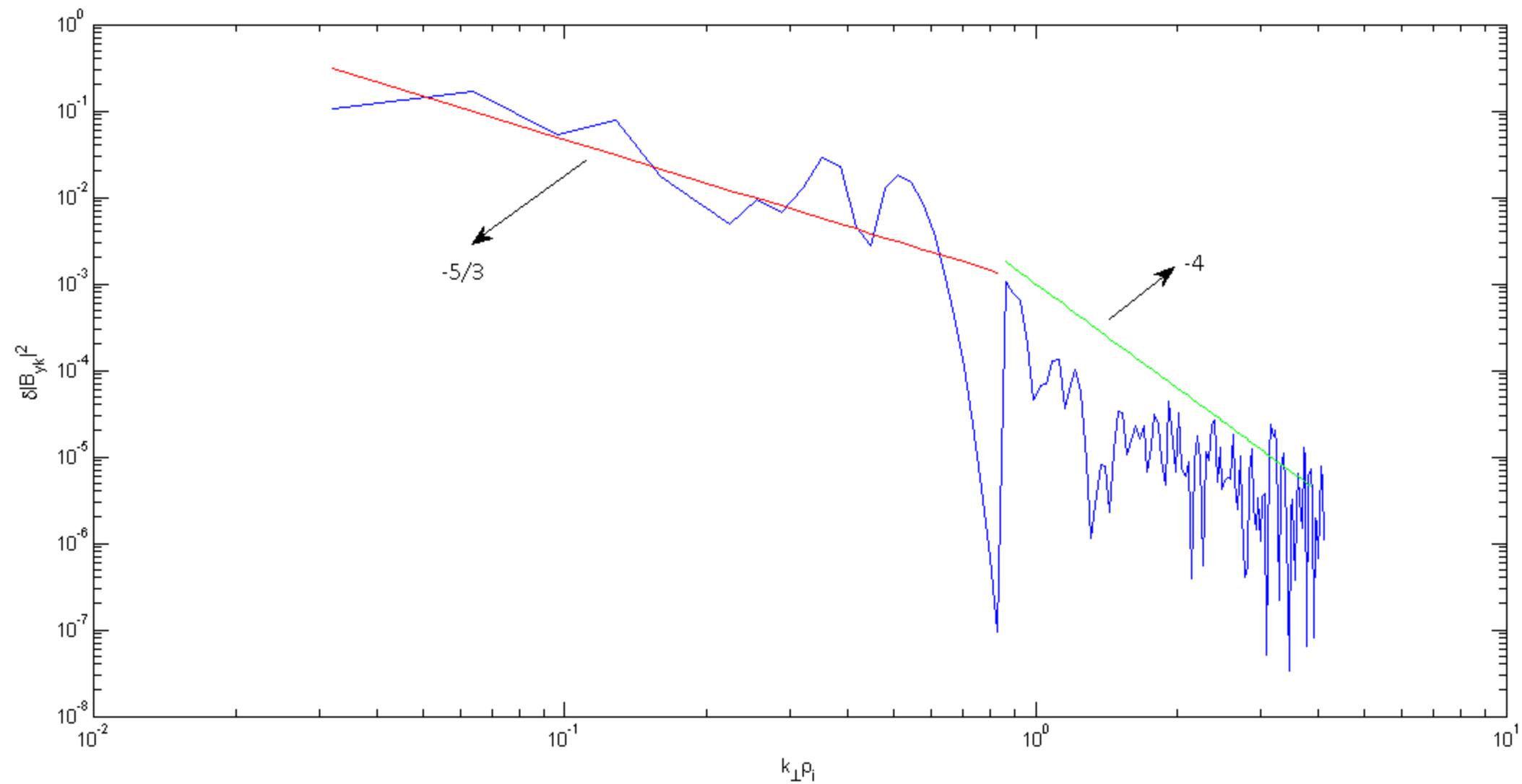


Fig7.

