Anisotropy and Feedthrough in Magneto-Rayleigh-Taylor Instabilities

MATTHEW WEIS, IAN RITTERSDORF, YUE YING LAU, PENG ZHANG, RONALD GILGENBACH, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, JACOB ZIER, Naval Research Laboratory — The magneto-Rayleigh-Taylor instability (MRT) in a finite slab is studied analytically using the ideal MHD model. The slab may be accelerated by an arbitrary combination of magnetic pressure and fluid pressure, thus allowing an arbitrary degree of anisotropy intrinsic to the acceleration mechanism [1]. The magnetic field in different regions may assume arbitrary magnitude and direction tangential to the interface. In general, MRT retains robust growth if it exists. However, feedthrough may be substantially reduced if there are magnetic fields on both sides of the slab, and if the MRT mode invokes bending of the magnetic field lines. The analytically tractable eigenmode solutions allow an evaluation of the temporal evolution of MRT from random initial surface roughness.


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