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ABSTRACT

Experiments are presented which demonstrate the conservation of certain integrals of motion during Hamiltonian chaos where the conservation of some of the integrals has been broken by the overlap of resonances. Experimentally, conservation laws are demonstrated through the observation of restrictions on transport, in phase space, of chaotic trajectories. Transport of plasma ions during stochastic motion in an electrostatic wave is followed by means of laser induced fluoresence on metastable "test particles" produced by optical pumping.

Chaos, in classical Hamiltonian systems, is a reversible process. However, it is also true that intrinsic stochasticity may resemble a classical stochastic process under certain circumstances.[1] In plasma wave-particle interactions, phase decorrelation between a particle and a wave frequently results in very similar particle energy gains (in the plasma frame) whether the decorrelation is brought about by an intrinsic or extrinsic (e.g. collosional) process. This similarity is even closer if an average is taken over an ensemble of particle initial conditions. Nevertheless, intrinsic stochasticity can be distinguished by a threshold, by a fast timescale, and by details in the particle distribution function.[2] In addition, a Hamiltonian description of wave particle interaction generally contains symmetries (conservation laws) which would not be present for a competing classically stochastic process. However, because of the inevitable self-consistent effects of chaotic particles on the plasma waves, it is not evident a-priori that the Hamiltonian picture of single particle motion should correctly predict the wave induced transport above the stochasticity threshold. This letter presents measurements of ion motion in phase space, during stochastic interaction with an electrostatic wave, which suggest the conservation of three integrals of the motion. Of the six integrals which exist for low wave amplitudes, three are no longer conserved when the wave amplitude is sufficient for "resonance overlap".

The Hamiltonian of specific interest to the interaction of a magnetized particle with an electrostatic wave has been given by Smith and Kaufman[3]

$$H = 1/2mP_z^2 + P_\phi\Omega + e\Phi_0\cos(k_zZ + k_\perp R - k_\perp\rho\sin(\phi+\Theta)) \qquad (1)$$

where, in contrast to reference 3, we are considering a cylindrical wave. The definition of variables is the same as in ref. 3 with the addition of the

cylindrical variables $R = \sqrt{(X^2 + Y^2)}$ and $\theta = \mathrm{Tan}^{-1}[X/Y]$ to replace the cartesian coordinates X, Y of the guiding center. This is a canonical transformation between the old variables (Y, $m\Omega X$) and the new variables (θ, $1/2m\Omega R^2$).

Immediately it can be seen that H itself is a constant of the motion because $\partial H/\partial t = 0$. This means that the particle energy is constant in a frame of reference moving with the wave along the magnetic field (Eq. 1 is expressed in this frame). In addition, it is evident that $\partial H/\partial\phi = \partial H/\partial\Theta$. This is because the waveform is circularly symmetric. The particle angular momentum about the wave-axis $1/2m\Omega(R^2-\rho^2)$ is therefor conserved (Note: $P_\phi = 1/2m\Omega\rho^2$). So long as $\rho \ll R$, i.e. the Larmor radius is small compared to the radial coordinate of the guiding center, then R will be constant during the motion. From the canonical equation for θ,

$$\partial\theta/\partial t = (k_\perp/k_{||})\ (1/m\Omega R)\partial P_z/\partial t \qquad (2)$$

we see that, in the same limit (R constant), motion of the guiding center in the θ direction is linked to acceleration along the magnetic field. Stated otherwise, the symmetries of the wave-particle Hamiltonian will restrict (for $\rho \ll R$) motion of the particle guiding center to the E x B = θ direction, and link this motion to changes in the parallel momentum.

Integration of the dynamical equations which follow from the Hamiltonian (Eq. 1) indicates the conservation laws clearly. Figure 1 shows results from this integration. The three pairs of frames in Fig. 1 are Poincaré section plots (see Ref. 3) demonstrating the behaviour of particle orbits both below [a),c),e)] and above [b),d),f)] the threshold for stochastic motion. Below threshold, subsequent intersections of particle orbits with the plane of

section are very close to the initial conditions and indicate regular motion. In Fig. 1c) a series of particles have been started along a vertical chord (in real space) which is normal to B. This is done for the purpose of comparison with the experiment. The circle indicates the symmetry axis of the wave fields.

Conservation of H during chaotic motion is illustrated in Fig. 1b. The arc $1/2m\ P_z^2 + 1/2\ m\Omega^2\rho^2$ corresponds to the particle kinetic energy in the wave frame. A finite width is observed to this arc because of the contribution of the potential energy of the wave. An important consequence of the conservation of H is that, in the lab frame, chaos will change P_z primarily in the direction of wave travel provided that the particle initial perpendicular velocity is less than the wave parallel phase velocity. In the velocity plane, particle motion is restricted to lie on arcs centered on the wave parallel phase velocity.

For a group of particles with the initial conditions shown in Fig. 1c), conservation of R (angular momentum) results in the formation of a ring in physical space. We note that for particles off the wave axis, if the wave-particle interaction causes ρ to increase, R increases only slightly. The link between guiding center motion in the $\hat{E} \times \hat{B} = \hat{\theta}$ direction and parallel acceleration implied by equation (2) is shown in Fig. 1f). Note that in Fig. 1, we plot the particle position (ψ, r) which differs slightly from the guiding center position (θ, R), but is what we measure experimentally. Each of the three conservation laws of the wave particle Hamiltonian has the effect of constraining the phase-space excursion of particles even during chaotic motion.

Experimental observation of wave-particle interactions, of the type described above, are performed in the LMP Q-machine using barium plasma and capacitively coupled electrostatic ion cyclotron waves.[4] The plasma is a 475 cm length, 5cm diameter cylinder in a uniform magnetic field $B \leq .3T$. Temperatures of $T_e \sim T_i \sim .15eV$ and densities of $n_e \sim 10^9 cm^{-3}$ are typical. Low density barium Q-plasmas are ideal for studies of collisionless plasma physics because the ionic spectrum permits extensive use of laser induced fluoresence diagnostics on the ions with visible radiation.[5]

The experimental set-up and ionic transitions used are shown in Fig. 2. Laser induced fluoresence yields a measure of the ion velocity distribution function, along the laser beam, which is resolved in space and time.[6] The distribution function parallel to the magnetic field is measured by introducing the laser beam through a fine mesh at the end plate. Because barium ions have long lived (~1 sec) metastable states, "test particles" can be created by selective optical pumping. An ion in a metastable state (C in Fig. 2 a)), though it has the same charge and mass, is easily distinguished because it will fluoresce on different transitions than will an ion in the ground state. The creation of metastable test particles by optical pumping provides a way to follow ion trajectories in phase space.[7] For these experiments, a pulse laser is used to quickly (~10 nsec) create metastable particles along a vertical chord at a given axial position, and a cw laser beam on a movable carriage is used to detect test particles as a function of position, time, and velocity (Fig. 2b).

Propagating electrostatic ion cyclotron waves are launched from insulated capacitor plate antennae.[4] The dispersion relation is measured with probes as well as through laser measurements of the linear perturbation of the ion distribution function.[8] Stochastic heating of plasma ions is observed when

the wave amplitude is sufficient to exceed the stochasticity threshold.[3] In earlier experiments, measurements were made of the ion velocity distribution functions perpendicular to the magnetic field.[2]

Measurement of the ion distribution function in barium plasma (Fig. 3) indicate the threshold of Smith and Kaufman for accelerations of plasma ions parallel to the magnetic field.[4] Broadening of the perpendicular distribution functions is seen at a slightly lower wave amplitude. In Fig. 3 b there is evidence for the conservation of the first of the three integrals mentioned above; the particle energy in the wave frame (H). Parallel to B, particles are accelerated primarily in the direction of wave travel (-z). Furthermore, particle acceleration along arcs in velocity space centered on the wave parallel phase velocity (~1.8 x 10^5 cm/sec) is consistent with the range of energies observed in Fig. 3b) ($\varepsilon < 4.5$ eV).

Information on the spatial excursions of particles is necessary in order to test the conservation of R. Using a pulsed dye laser to create an off-axis vertical chord of test particles, the distribution of subsequent particle positions is investigated with a cw search laser. The volume interrogated by the search laser, defined by the intersection of the search beam and the viewing volume of the detector telescope, is scanned along a horizontal chord which passes through the plasma symmetry axis (which is also the wave symmetry axis). Figure 4 shows the results from such a scan both below and above the stochasticity threshold. Below threshold, particles move along the straight field lines. The large-dash curve in Fig. 4 is the plasma electron density profile. Short dashes are used on the same figure to indicate the excess metastable density profile at a distance of 27 cm (sensitivity x10) produced by the pump laser in the presence of a low amplitude wave. At a wave amplitude which exceeds the threshold for

angular momentum.

Finally, the excursions of the guiding centers in the θ direction should be linked to changes in parallel velocity. Thus, a change in θ of π radians should be correlated with a change in P_z given approximately by:

$$\Delta P_z = (k_{||}/k_{\perp})\, m\Omega R\pi.$$

A nearly linear relationship is seen in Fig. 1f) which agrees with this formula. Experimentally, this correlation is most easily seen through changes in the time of flight of test particles as they move between the pump and search laser beams. Although the motion is chaotic, the parallel velocity is not unbounded and, given the net Δ Pz for a particle, the change in time of flight can be approximated by:

$$\Delta t \sim \Delta Z/V_D - \Delta Z/(V_D + 1/2\Delta P_z/m)$$

where V_D is the nominal parallel drift of the Q-plasma.[5] Using $\Delta\theta=\pi$, one obtains $\Delta t \sim 20\mu$ sec. Figure 5 shows two time-of-flight spectra at diametrically opposed points on the horizontal chord. Those which remain at $\Psi\sim0$ have a longer time of flight, on the average, than those which have been transported to $\Psi\sim\pi$. The peaks of these spectra are separated by the 20 μsec predicted above.

Each of the three measurements presented above argue for the conservation of H, R and P_z -$(k_{||}/k_{\perp})m\Omega R\theta$ respectively. Despite the broadening of the distribution function which results from exceeding the stochasticity threshold, the individual particle motions continue to observe the basic symmetries of the wave-particle interaction Hamiltonian. Chaos during

wave-particle interaction is seen to produce rapid, though constrained, transport of particles in coordinate space as well as in velocity space.

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Figure captions:

Fig. 1 Calculated ion motion for wave amplitude below a),c),e) and above b)d)f) threshold. Poincaré sections are shown in momentum space a) b) configuration space c), d), and mixed e), f). ψ is the azimuthal angle subtended by the particle about the wave symmetry axis, it differs slightly from the guiding center coordinate θ. Mass, length and time are normalized to m, $k_{\|}^{-1}$ and Ω^{-1}.

Fig. 2 Experimental configuration

a) fluorescence may be performed on the ground state (transition A_1 - B_1) and on the metastable (transition C - B2). The former maybe used to populate the metastable, the latter to detect it. The wavelengths in Å are : λ_1 = 4934, λ_2 = 6497, λ_3 = 5854, λ_4 = 4554.

b) A pump beam is used to create metastable test particles and a search beam, on a movable carriage, is used to detect them.

Fig. 3 Ion distribution functions as a function of wave amplitude.

a) perpendicular to the magnetic field (B).

b) parallel to B. 1.5 A corresponds to $k_{\|}^2 e\Phi/m\,\Omega^2 \sim .2$.

Fig. 4 Density profiles on a horizontal chord. Large dash indicates electron density. Test particle density (x10) is given by small dash (below threshold) and solid curve (above threshold).

Fig. 5 Time of flight spectra (ensemble average) at R=1.5 cm and ψ=0 (solid curve) $\psi=\pi$ (dashed curve).

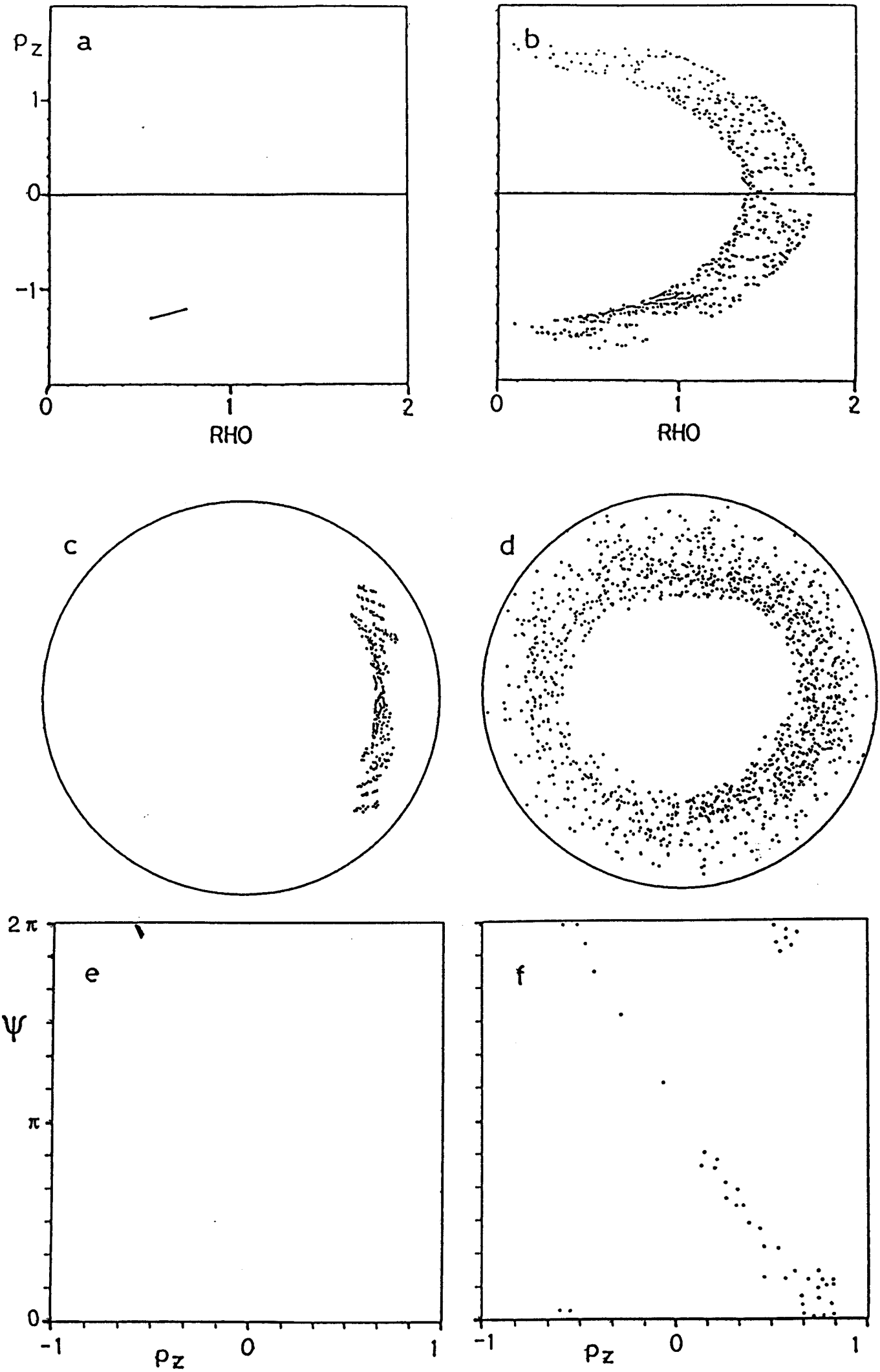


FIG. 1

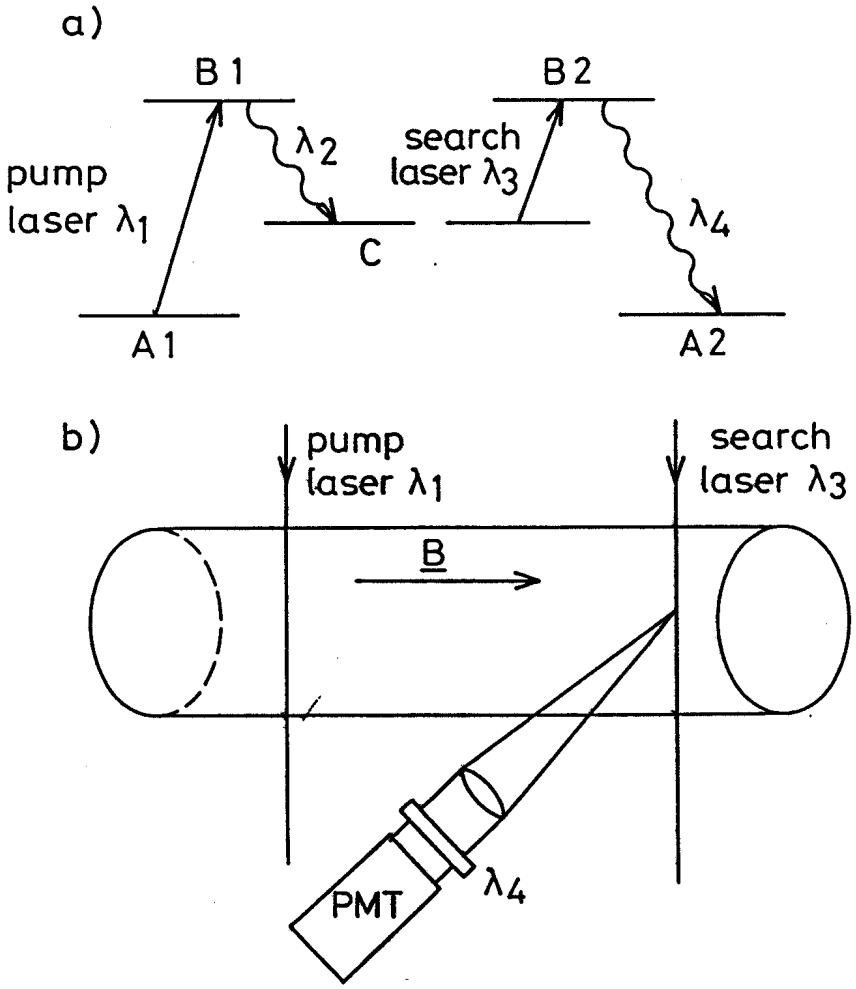
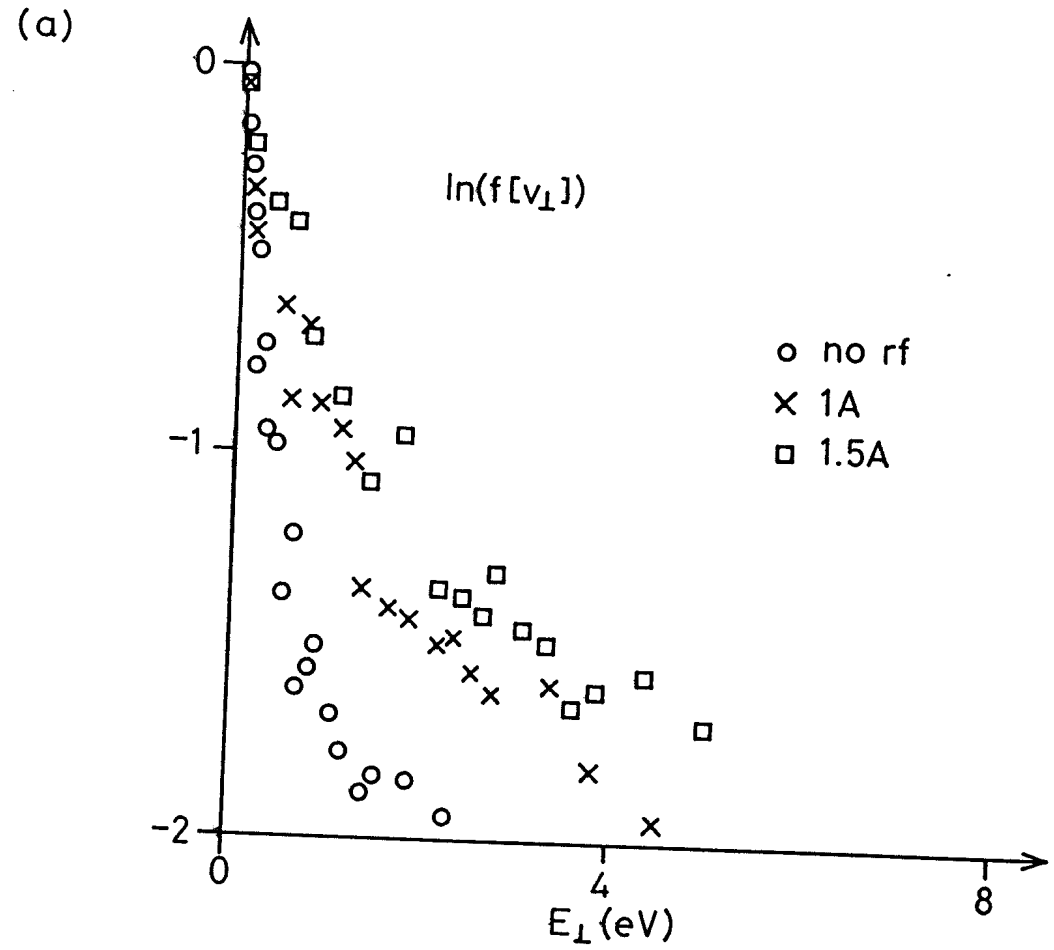

a)
B 1
B 2
pump
laser λ1
λ2
search
laser λ3
λ4
C
A 1
A 2
b)
pump
laser λ1
search
laser λ3
B
PMT
λ4

FIG. 2



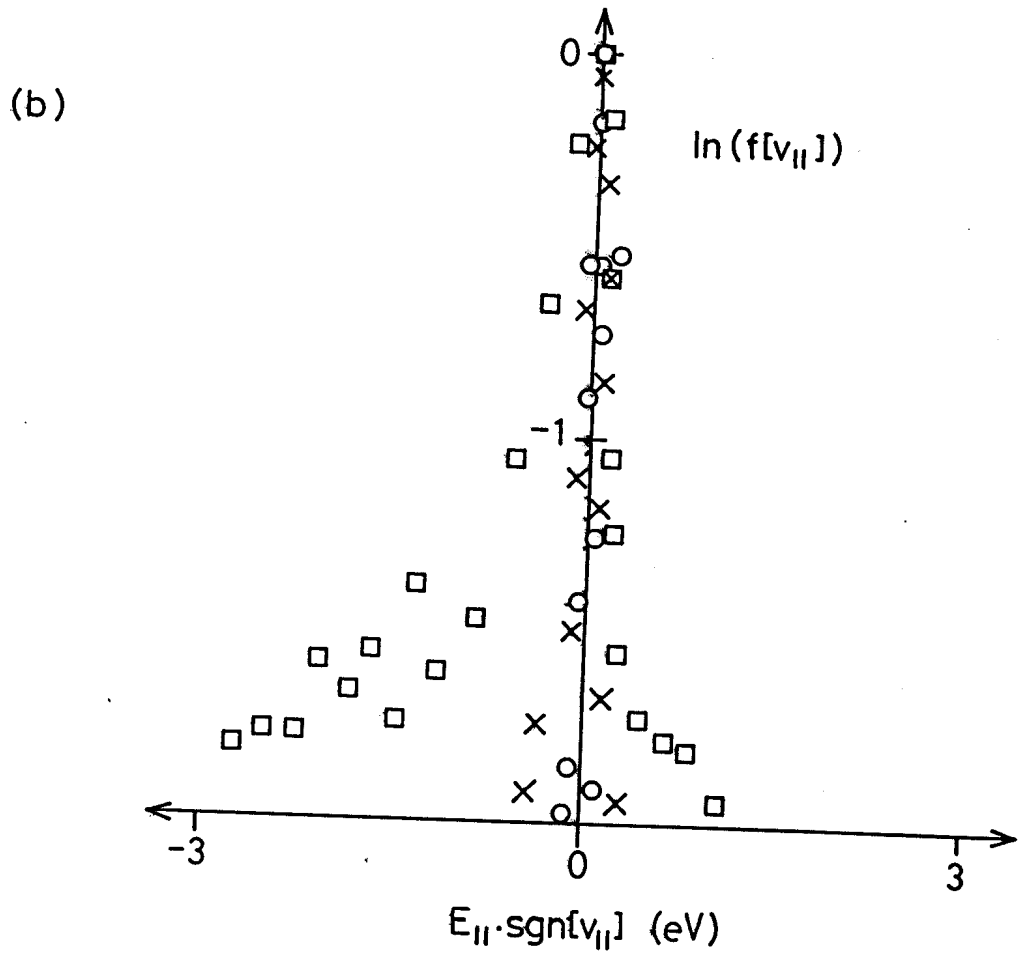


FIG. 3

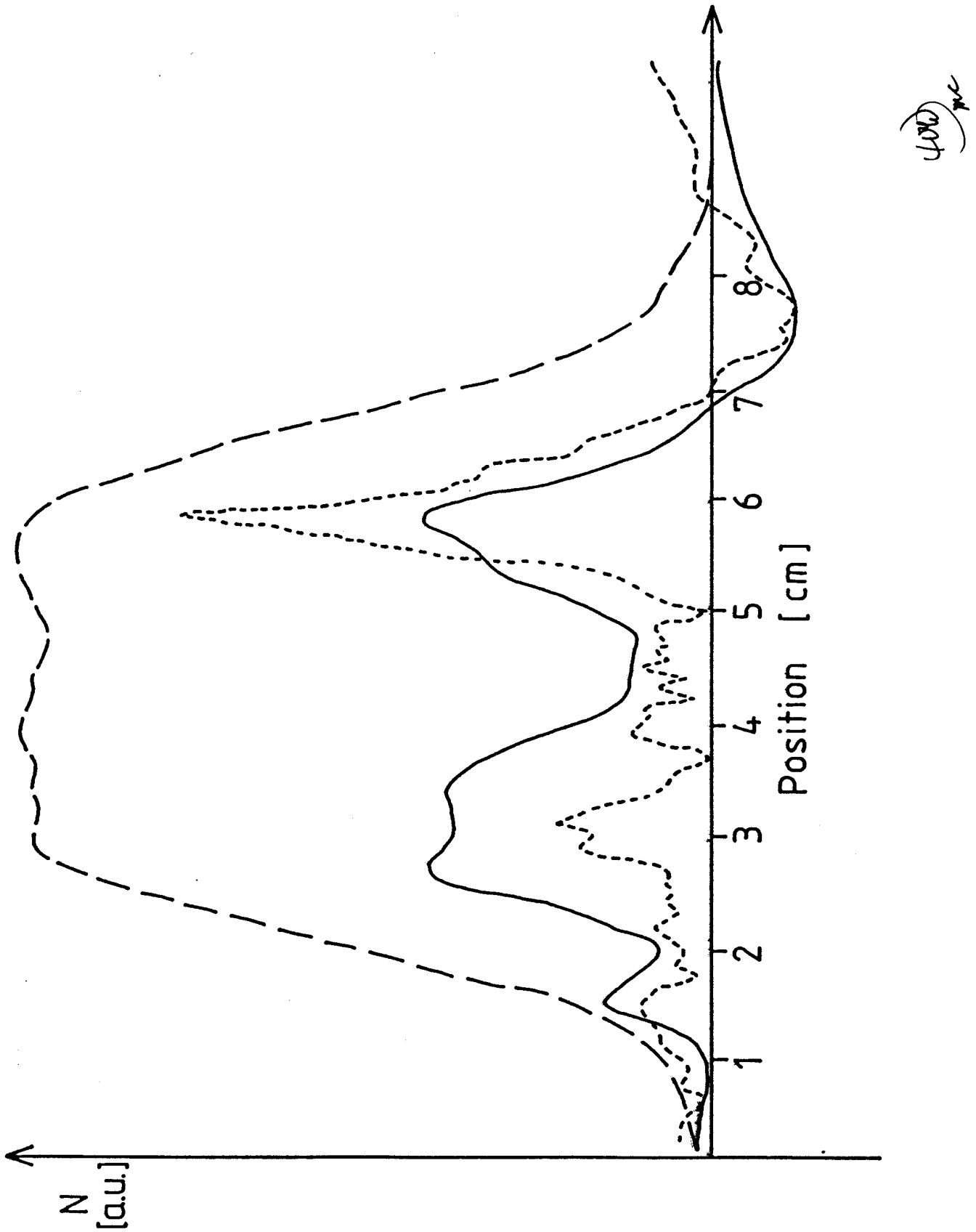


FIG. 4

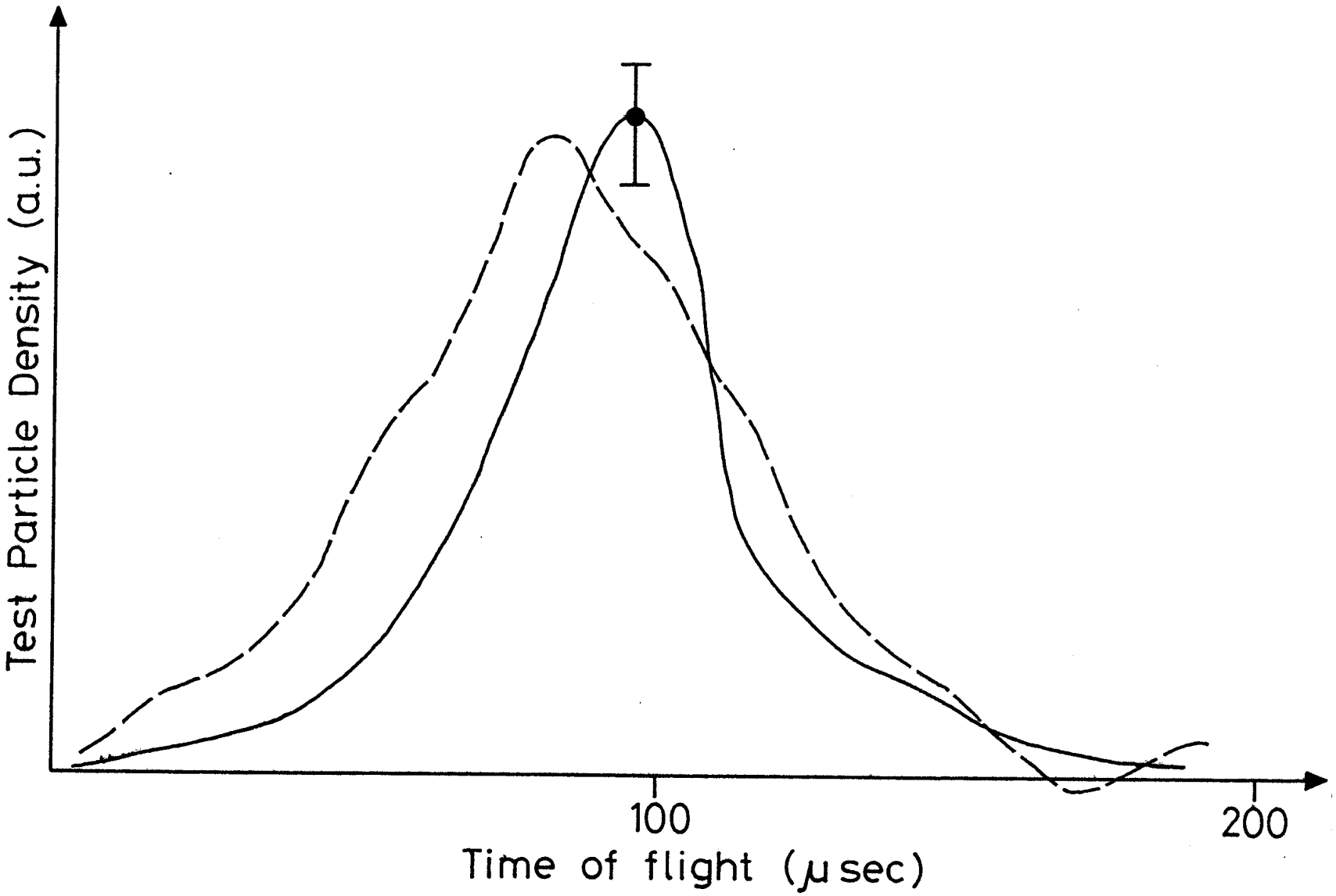


FIG. 5