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# Original article

# Solitary kinetic Alfvén waves in nonextensive electron-positron-ion plasma



# M.K. Ahmed \*, O.P. Sah

Department of Physics, Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon 783380, Assam, India

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### ABSTRACT

In low but finite  $\beta$  (thermal to magnetic pressure ratio) collisionless nonextensive electron-positron-ion plasma, we have derived linear dispersion relation of kinetic Alfvén waves (KAWs) and have also investigated solitary KAWs through Sagdeev pseudopotential approach in small amplitude limit. Linear analysis of KAWs shows a decrease in frequency of the wave with increase in each of the parameters, viz. r (equilibrium positron-to-ion density ratio),  $\alpha$  (electron-to-positron temperature ratio) and q (nonextensive parameter). Nonlinear analysis of KAWs reveals that the nonextensive plasma model considered here supports only compressive solitary waves at sub-Alfvénic speeds. The effects of q, r,  $\alpha$  and  $\alpha$  (soliton parallel velocity) on the characteristic properties of solitary KAWs are depicted in graphical plots. The results of our present investigation may have relevance to the understanding of low-frequency electromagnetic noises/localized fluctuations in strongly magnetized electron-positron-ion plasmas having nonextensive electrons and positrons.

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# 1. Introduction

It is widely believed that electron-positron plasmas form the major constituents of several astrophysical situations such as the early universe ([Rees,1983; Sadiq et al., 2014](#page-5-0)), active galactic nuclei ([Miller and Witta, 1987](#page-5-0)), pulsar magnetosphere [\(Michel, 1991\)](#page-5-0), solar atmosphere [\(Tandberg-Hansen and Emslie, 1988; Kozlovsky](#page-5-0) [et al.,2004](#page-5-0)) etc. However, most of the astrophysical plasmas usually contain ions, in addition to the electrons and positrons forming electron-positron-ion (e-p-i) plasmas. For instance, outflows of electron-positron plasma from pulsars, when enters into interstellar cold low density electron-ion plasmas, forms two temperature e-p-i plasmas. Similarly, in many astrophysical contexts such as interstellar medium, positrons are created due to the interactions of cosmic ray nuclei with interstellar atoms thereby forming the  $e-p-i$  plasmas. In laboratories,  $e-p-i$  plasmas can be created ([Surko](#page-5-0) [and Murphy, 1990; Greaves and Surko, 1995\)](#page-5-0) by injecting

⇑ Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [mnzur127@gmail.com](mailto:mnzur127@gmail.com) (M.K. Ahmed). Peer review under responsibility of King Saud University.



positrons into tokamak plasmas. During the last few decades, a great deal of work has been done on linear and nonlinear behavior of unmagnetized as well as magnetized e-p-i plasmas to understand the basic properties of waves excited there and to explain different aspects of astrophysical environments. Among these, investigations of nonlinear structures of kinetic Alfvén waves (KAWs) in e-p-i plasmas have also drawn much attention of several authors ([Kakati and Goswami, 1998, 2000; Mahmood et al., 2005;](#page-5-0) [Sah, 2010; Akbari-Moghanjoughi, 2011; Dubinov et al., 2012;](#page-5-0) [Adnan et al., 2016](#page-5-0)). KAWs are basically dispersive Alfvén waves and can be excited in plasmas for  $Q \ll \beta \ll 1$  ( $\beta$  is the thermal to magnetic pressure ratio; Q is the electron-to-ion mass ratio) when shear Alfvén waves, modified by perpendicular wave length effects, propagate obliquely to the direction of ambient magnetic field. The dispersive character of KAWs when balanced with nonlinear steepening may lead to the formation of nonlinear structures like solitons and double layers. Investigations of nonlinear structures of dispersive Alfvén waves in plasmas are important because they can play a significant role in explaining electromagnetic fluctuations, particle energization process and solitary structures observed in space, astrophysical and laboratory plasmas ([Jafelice](#page-5-0) [and Opher, 1987](#page-5-0); [Stasiewicz et al., 2000](#page-5-0)). This type of study has got rich support from space based satellite observations ([Wahlund et al., 1994; Louran et al., 1994](#page-5-0)) which have revealed strong electromagnetic solitary like structures having possible interpretations of being dip or hump-type solitary KAWs.

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<span id="page-1-0"></span>In their study of solitary KAWs in Maxwellian e-p-i plasma, [Kakati and Goswami \(1998\)](#page-5-0) reported the existence of two types of compressive solitary waves whose existence regions were determined by the positron densities and other plasma parameters. In the same plasma model, they also predicted the existence of small amplitude kinetic Alfvén compressive double layers (DLs) at sub-Alfvénic speeds and rarefactive double layers in sub and super-Alfvénic regions ([Kakati and Goswami, 2000\)](#page-5-0). Later, [Sah \(2010\)](#page-5-0) extended this study by including finite ion temperature effect and reported the existence of compressive solitons and double layers both at sub and super-Alfvénic speeds. In all these investigations, electrons and positrons were assumed to follow Maxwellian distributions. Recently, [Adnan et al. \(2016\)](#page-5-0) has reported the existence of small amplitude sub-Alfvénic compressive solitary KAWs in superthermal e-p-i plasma. However, in most of the astrophysical plasmas, the velocity distributions of energetic particles are not purely Maxwellian. The deviation from the Maxwellian distribution can be attributed to the fact that the high energy plasma particles interact via long-range Coulomb forces together with the gravitational effect. It has been suggested that such high energetic particles can be modeled more effectively by nonextensive q-distribution ([Silva et al., 1998; Lima et al., 2000;](#page-5-0) [Ferdousi et al., 2015](#page-5-0)) which is based on non-additive  $q$  entropic measure ([Tsallis, 1988\)](#page-5-0). A number of articles have been published recently dealing with different nonlinear wave modes in nonextensive electron-ion plasmas [\(Tribeche et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2011;](#page-5-0) [Ahmed and Sah, 2014; Saha and Chatterjee, 2015; Saha et al.,](#page-5-0) [2015\)](#page-5-0) as well as e-p-i plasmas ([El-Awady and Moslem, 2011; El-](#page-5-0)[Tantawy et al., 2012; Ferdousi et al., 2015\)](#page-5-0). To the best of our knowledge, no study has yet been reported on nonlinear structures of KAWs in nonextensive e-p-i plasmas.

In this paper we, therefore, wish to extend the kinetic Alfvén wave problem in three component e-p-i plasma whose constituents are extensive ion fluid, and nonextensive electrons and positrons. It is to be noted that if the ion temperature becomes comparable to electron/positron temperature, Landau damping becomes appreciable and fluid dynamics will be broken down. Moreover, for large electron-to-ion temperature ratio the ion nonextensive parameter has the little effect ([Liu et al., 2009\)](#page-5-0). Hence, in the present work, the ions are treated as the fluid to get rid of Landau damping effect; and electrons, positrons are treated as nonextensive, obeying q-distribution to include long range interactions. The result of this investigation, therefore, may be relevant to long-range interaction systems such as interstellar and astrophysical plasmas. Our investigation shows that the plasma system considered here can support only sub-Alfvénic compressive kinetic Alfvén solitons whose amplitude and width decrease with increasing nonextensive parameter  $(q)$ . This is quite different from the behavior of kinetic Alfvén solitons in superthermal e-p-i plasma [\(Adnan et al., 2016](#page-5-0)) where both amplitude and width of solitary KAWs increase with the rise of superthermal parameter kappa  $(\kappa)$ .

### 2. Linear dispersion relation of KAWs

We consider three-component magnetized collisionless plasma comprising of inertial ions, warm electrons and positrons obeying q-nonextensive distributions. The direction of ambient magnetic field is supposed to be along Z-axis i.e.  $\mathbf{B}_{o} = B_{o} \mathbf{e}_{z}$ . The highly magnetized electrons and positrons of negligible inertia are assumed to flow along the direction of ambient magnetic field ([Kalita and](#page-5-0) [Bhatta, 1997\)](#page-5-0). For time scales of the order of inverse of ion cyclotron frequency, electrons and positrons have time to relax into distributions ([Sheerin and Ong, 1979\)](#page-5-0) which we consider to be qnonextensive along Z-axis. In order to model the effects of electrons' nonextensivity, we refer to the following one dimensional q-distribution function ([Silva et al., 1998; Liu et al., 2011\)](#page-5-0)

$$
f(v_z, \psi) = C_q \bigg\{ 1 - (q-1) \bigg[ \frac{m_e v_z^2}{2T_e} - \frac{e\psi}{T_e} \bigg] \bigg\}^{\frac{1}{q-1}} \tag{1}
$$

The constant of normalization is

$$
C_q = \begin{cases} n_{eo} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{1-q})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{1-q})} \sqrt{\frac{m_e(1-q)}{2\pi T_e}}, & \text{for } -1 < q < 1\\ n_{eo} \left(\frac{q+1}{2}\right) \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{q-1}+\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{q-1})} \sqrt{\frac{m_e(q-1)}{2\pi T_e}}, & \text{for } q > 1 \end{cases}
$$
(2)

where the parameter  $q$  stands for the strength of electrons' nonextensivity,  $m_e$  is the mass of an electron,  $T_e$  ( $n_{eo}$ ) is the temperature (equilibrium density) of electrons,  $v<sub>z</sub>$  is the electron parallel velocity,  $-e$  is the electronic charge,  $\psi$  is the electrostatic potential and  $\Gamma$ is the standard gamma function. It is to be noted that for  $q < -1$ , the distribution function given by Eq. (1) becomes unnormalizable and in the extensive limiting case  $(q\rightarrow1)$ , it reduces to the well-known Maxwell-Boltzmann velocity distribution. The distribution function  $(Eq. (1))$  exhibits a thermal cut off on the maximum value that can be allowed for the velocity of the particles for  $q > 1$  and is given by

$$
v_{\text{max}} = \sqrt{\frac{2T_e}{m_e(q-1)} - \frac{2e\psi}{m_e}}
$$
(3)

Hence, the limits of integration of  $f(v_z, \psi)$  over the velocity space should be from  $-\infty$  to $+\infty$  for  $-1 < q < 1$  and  $-v_{max}$  to  $+v_{\text{max}}$  for  $q > 1$ . However, the integration yields the same result in either of these cases ([Liu et al., 2011](#page-5-0)).

$$
n_e(\psi) = n_{eo} \left[ 1 + (q-1) \frac{e\psi}{T_e} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-1} + \frac{1}{2}} \tag{4}
$$

In the same way, we can model nonextensive positrons by the following distribution function

$$
n_p(\psi) = n_{po} \left[ 1 - (q-1) \frac{e\psi}{T_p} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-1} + \frac{1}{2}} \tag{5}
$$

where  $n_{po}$  is equilibrium positron density.

The equation of state of an ideal gas of electrons at thermal pressure P and temperature  $T_e$  in the nonextensive kinetic theory ([Liu et al., 2011](#page-5-0)) is obtained as

$$
P = \frac{2}{3q - 1} n_{eo} T_e = n_{eo} T_{eff}
$$
 (6)

where  $T_{\text{eff}} = \frac{2}{3q-1} T_e$  is the effective temperature for nonextensive electrons.

In the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$ , the effective temperature reduces to the thermal temperature for the Maxwellian distribution.The effective temperature will change with the values of  $T_e$  on keeping q constant. From Eq. (6), we find that  $q > 1/3$ . Hence, the range of q values greater than  $1/3$  will be used in our subsequent analysis.

The ratio between the effective plasma thermal pressure and magnetic pressure is  $\beta_{\text{eff}} = \beta T_{\text{eff}} / T_e$  ( $\beta = \frac{2\mu_0 n_{\text{io}} T_e}{B_o^2}$ ;  $n_{\text{io}}$  being equilibrium ion density). We assume that  $\beta_{\text{eff}}$  and hence  $\beta$  is small but<br>much alarger than the electron to ion mass ratio io much larger than the electron-to-ion mass ratio i.e.  $m_e/m_i \ll \beta_{\text{eff}} \ll 1$ . Under low  $\beta$  plasma assumption, the compressive component of the magnetic field perturbations,  $B_{1z}$  can be ignored. This fact leads us to use two potential fields ([Kadomtsev, 1965](#page-5-0)) to represent the electric field as

$$
E_x = -\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x}, \quad E_z = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \tag{7}
$$

This allows that only shear perturbations in the magnetic field are present which are expressed as  $B_z = B_0$  (constant),  $B_x = 0$ .

The set of equations governing the dynamics of KAWs ([Yu and](#page-5-0) [Shukla, 1978\)](#page-5-0) for small but finite  $\beta$  ( $m_e/m_i \ll \beta_{\text{eff}} \ll 1$ ) e-p-i plasma are as follows

$$
\frac{\partial n_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(n_i \nu_x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(n_i \nu_z) = 0
$$
\n(8)

$$
\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_x \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} = -\frac{e}{m_i} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}
$$
(9)

$$
v_x = -\frac{m_i}{eB_0^2} \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x \partial t}
$$
 (10)

where  $v_x$  is the polarization drift velocity for ions along X- direction. For current density in the Z-direction, Faraday's law and Ampere's law together give

$$
\frac{\partial^4}{\partial z^2 \partial x^2} (\varphi - \psi) = \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial t} j_z \tag{11}
$$

Contributions to parallel current density  $j<sub>z</sub>$  come from electrons, positrons and ions. Thus, by making use of continuity equations for electrons and positrons, we get

$$
\frac{\partial j_z}{\partial z} = e \frac{\partial n_e}{\partial t} - e \frac{\partial n_p}{\partial t} + e \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (n_i v_z)
$$
(12)

Quasi-neutrality condition reads

$$
n_i + n_p = n_e \tag{13}
$$

Number densities of electrons and positrons are given by Eqs. [\(4\) and \(5\)](#page-1-0).

Linearizing Eqs  $(4)$ ,  $(5)$  and  $(8)$ – $(13)$  and assuming that all the perturbed physical quantities vary as  $e^{i(k_x x + k_z z - \omega t)}$ , one can form a matrix equation about amplitude vectors of perturbed electric fields, in which coefficient matrix involves wave frequency  $\omega$  and wave vector  $(k_x, 0, k_z)$ . The dispersion relation is then obtained by letting the determinant of the coefficient matrix equal to zero. Thus,we get the following dispersion relation for our nonextensive e-p-i plasma model

$$
\left(1 - \frac{\omega^2}{k_z^2 v_A^2}\right) \left[1 - (r + r\alpha + 1)\left(\frac{q+1}{2}\right) \frac{\omega^2}{C_s^2 k_z^2}\right] = \frac{\omega^2 k_x^2}{\Omega^2 k_z^2}
$$
(14)

where  $r(=n_{po}/n_{io})$  is the equilibrium positron-to-ion density ratio,  $\alpha(=T_e/T_p)$  is the elctron-to-positron temperature ratio,  $v_A\left[ = \left(\frac{B_o^2}{m_i n_{io} \mu_o}\right) \right]$  $\left[=\left(\frac{B_0^2}{m_i n_{io} \mu_o}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]$  is the Alfvén speed,  $C_s\left[\frac{T_e}{m_i}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}\right]$  is the ion acoustic speed and  $\Omega (= eB_0/m_i)$  is the ion cyclotron frequency.

In the absence of positrons ( $r = 0$ ), the dispersion relation (Eq. (14)) reduces to that obtained by [Liu et al. \(2011\)](#page-5-0). On the other hand, in the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$  and  $r = 0$ , this dispersion relation can be reduced to that well-known form obtained by [Hasegawa \(1977\).](#page-5-0) Eq. (14) shows the coupling of Alfvén wave with ion acoustic wave. However, these modes decouple for low  $\beta$  plasma and the dispersion relation of KAWs becomes

$$
\omega^2 = k_z^2 v_A^2 [1 + k_x^2 \rho_{\text{ms}}^2]
$$
\n(15)

where  $\rho_{\text{ms}}^2 = \frac{2}{(q+1)(r+r\alpha+1)}\rho_i^2$ ;  $\rho_i = C_s/\Omega$  is the equivalent ion gyroradius.

The dispersion relation of KAWs in Maxwellian e-p-i plasma ([Shukla et al., 2004\)](#page-5-0) can be recovered from Eq. (15) in the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$ . Eq. (15) indicates that for its oblique propagation to the direction of ambient magnetic field, Alfvén wave becomes dispersive due to finite ion gyroradius effect  $(\rho_i)$ .<br>In order to see how the frequency of KAV

In order to see how the frequency of KAWs varies with positron density and nonextensive parameter, we have plotted parallel phase velocity of KAWs against r and q while keeping  $k_xv_A/\Omega$  as constant [\(Fig. 1\)](#page-3-0). The values of other parameters are indicated in each of the panels of [Fig. 1](#page-3-0). It is evident from the panels of [Fig. 1](#page-3-0) that the frequency of KAWs decreases with increase in positron density  $(r)$ , nonextensive parameter  $(q)$  and electron temperture  $(\alpha)$ . The reduction of frequency of KAWs due the presence of posi-tron compoent ([Fig. 1](#page-3-0)(a)) in  $e$ -*i* magnetoplasma agrees to the prediction of [Shukla et al.\(2004\).](#page-5-0)We also find from [Fig. 1](#page-3-0) that frequency of KAWs is greater (for  $q < 1$ ) or less (for  $q > 1$ ) than that in usual Maxwellian ( $q \rightarrow 1$ ) plasma.

#### 3. Derivation of Sagdeev potential in small amplitude limit

In order to obtain one dimensional time-stationary planar solutions, we define moving co-ordinate by  $\eta = K_x x + K_z z - Mt$ , where  $M = V/C<sub>s</sub>$  is the Mach number, V is the speed of nonlinear structures and  $K_x$ ,  $K_z$  are direction cosines related by  $K_x^2 + K_z^2 = 1$ . Further, on normalizing time to inverse of ion cyclotron frequency $\Omega^{-1}$ , components of velocities to ion-acoustic speed  $C_s$ , space coordinates to equivalent ion gyroradius  $(C_s/\Omega)$ , electric potentials to  $T_e/e$  and particle densities to their respective equilibrium values, we get from Eqs.  $(4)$ ,  $(5)$  and  $(8)$ – $(13)$ 

$$
n_e = [1 + (q-1)\psi]^{\frac{1}{q-1} + \frac{1}{2}} \tag{16}
$$

$$
n_p = [1 - \alpha(q-1)\psi]^{\frac{1}{q-1} + \frac{1}{2}} \tag{17}
$$

$$
-M\partial_{\eta}n_{i} + K_{x}\partial_{\eta}(n_{i}\nu_{x}) + K_{z}\partial_{\eta}(n_{i}\nu_{z}) = 0
$$
\n(18)

$$
-M\partial_{\eta}v_z + K_xv_x\partial_{\eta}v_z + K_zv_z\partial_{\eta}v_z = -K_z\partial_{\eta}\psi
$$
\n(19)

$$
\nu_x = K_x M \partial_\eta^2 \varphi \tag{20}
$$

$$
2K_z^2 K_x^2 \partial_{\eta}^4(\varphi - \psi) = \beta M [M \partial_{\eta}^2 n_i - K_z \partial_{\eta}^2(n_i \nu_z)] \tag{21}
$$

$$
n_i = (r+1)n_e - rn_p \tag{22}
$$

Integrating Eqs. (18) and (19), we get

$$
K_x \nu_x + K_z \nu_z = M \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right) \tag{23}
$$

$$
Mv_z = K_z H \tag{24}
$$

where

H = 
$$
\frac{2}{\alpha(3q-1)} \left[ \alpha(r+1) \left( (1 + (q-1)\psi)^{\frac{3q-1}{2(q-1)}} - 1 \right) + r \left( (1 - \alpha(q-1)\psi)^{\frac{3q-1}{2(q-1)}} - 1 \right) \right]
$$
(25)

Eq.  $(20)$  along with Eqs.  $(23)$  and  $(24)$  gives

$$
K_x^2 \partial_\eta^2 \varphi = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) - \frac{K_z^2}{M^2} \mathbf{H}
$$
 (26)

Integrating Eq. (21) twice, we get after substitution of Eq. (24)

$$
2K_z^2 K_x^2 \partial_\eta^2 (\varphi - \psi) = \beta [M^2 (n-1) - K_z^2 n H]
$$
 (27)

In deriving Eqs. (23)–(27), we have replaced  $n_i$  by n and use the boundary condtions  $v_x = v_z = \partial_n n = 0$  and  $n = 1$  at  $|\eta| = \infty$  for localized solutions to determine the constants of integrations.

Subtracting Eq.  $(27)$  from Eq.  $(26)$ , we get

$$
\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \eta^2} = \frac{1}{K_x^2} (1 - \frac{1}{n}) - \frac{a}{K_x^2} (n - 1) - \frac{\beta}{2K_x^2} (\frac{1}{a} - n)H \equiv F(\psi)
$$
(28)

where  $a = M_A^2/K_z^2$  is a function of speed and angle of propagation of nonlinear KAWs,  $M_A = V/v_A$  is the speed of nonlinear structures in units of Alfvén speed. Eq.  $(28)$  can be put to the form

(a) (b) Fig. 1. Plots of  $\omega/k_z v_A$  against r (panel 'a') and q (panel 'b') depicting the effects of q and  $\alpha$  respectively for constant  $k_x v_A/\Omega$ . The values of other parameters are indicated in

each figure.

$$
\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \eta^2} = -\frac{\partial V(\psi)}{\partial \psi} = F(\psi)
$$
\n(29)

Eq. (29) looks like the equation of motion of a classical particle moving in a potential well  $V(\psi)$  which is often refered to as pseudopotential or Sagdeev potential [\(Sagdeev, 1966\)](#page-5-0) and is obtained by

$$
V(\psi) = -\int_0^{\psi} F(\psi) d\psi \tag{30}
$$

The integral (Eq. (30)) can not simply have an analytical solution. So, we go for small amplitude limit to obtain the expression for pseudopotential. Expanding Sagdeev potential near  $\psi \approx 0$  and retaining terms up to order  $\psi^3$ , we get

$$
V(\psi \approx 0) = -(A\psi^2 + B\psi^3 + \cdots \cdots)
$$
\n(31)

where

$$
A = \frac{1}{4K_x^2}(1-a)\left[ (q+1)(r+r\alpha+1) - \frac{\beta}{a} \right]
$$
 (32)

$$
B = \frac{q+1}{12K_x^2} \left[ (r + r\alpha + 1) \left( \left( 3 - \frac{1}{a} \right) \frac{\beta}{2} - (q+1)(r + r\alpha + 1) \right) + \frac{(3-q)(1-a)}{2} (r - r\alpha^2 + 1) \right]
$$
(33)

The Eq. (29) can now be simplified to the form

$$
\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{d\psi}{d\eta}\right)^2 - A\psi^2 - B\psi^3 = 0\tag{34}
$$

#### 4. Results and discussion

In order to obtain solitary wave solution in the small amplitude limit, we impose the boundary condition  $V(\psi) = 0$  at  $\psi = \psi_{max}(\psi_{max})$ is the soliton amplitude) in the Eq.  $(31)$  to obtain

$$
A = -B\psi_{\text{max}} \tag{35}
$$

Using this result in Eq. (34) and then integrating it, we obtain soliton solution of the form

$$
\psi = \psi_{\text{max}} \text{sech}^2 \left[ \left( \frac{A}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \eta \right] \tag{36}
$$

provided that  $A > 0$ . The condition that  $A > 0$  leads to the following pair of inequalities which need to be satisfied separately.

$$
a < 1 \& a > \frac{\beta}{(q+1)(r+r\alpha+1)}
$$
\n(37)

Or

$$
a > 1 \& a < \frac{\beta}{(q+1)(r+r\alpha+1)}
$$
 (38)

The inequalities (37) and (38) lead to the following condition if we consider the fact that  $q > 1/3$  and  $\beta \ll 1$ 

$$
\frac{\beta}{(q+1)(r+r\alpha+1)} < a < 1\tag{39}
$$

which suggests that only sub-Alfvénic  $(a < 1)$  solitary KAWs can exist in the nonextensive e-p-i plasma model under consideration. On the other hand, the nature of solitary KAWs is determined solely by the sign of B i.e. positive (negative) values of B yield rarefactive (compressive) solitons.

In order to identify the nature of solitary KAWs, we have surface plotted *B* against soliton parallel velocity  $(a)$  and nonextensive paramter  $(q)$  for different values of other plasma parameters based on the inequality given by (39) [\(Fig. 2](#page-4-0)). It is evident from each of the panels of [Fig. 2](#page-4-0) that only compressive  $(B < 0)$  type of solitary KAWs can exist in the nonextensive  $e$ - $p$ -i plasma model considered here. The result that the existence of sub-Alfvénic compressive solitons in our nonextensive e-p-i plasma model agrees to that reported in [\(Adnan et al., 2016; Kakati and Goswami, 1998\)](#page-5-0) but differs from [\(Sah, 2010](#page-5-0)) which showed the existence of both sub and super-Alfvénic compressive solitons in Maxwellian e-p-i plasma.

The shapes of sub-Alfvénic compressive solitary KAWs incorpo-rating effects of various plasma parameters are shown in [Fig. 3](#page-4-0). It is observed from the panel (a) of  $Fig. 3$  that both amplitude and width of solitary KAWs decrease with increase in nonextensive parameter  $(a)$ .

However, it has been reported in ([Adnan et al., 2016](#page-5-0)) that both amplitude and width of solitary KAWs increase with the rise of superthermality parameter  $(\kappa)$ . It is seen from panels (b) and (c) of [Fig. 3](#page-4-0) that amplitude as well as width of solitary KAWs decreases with the rise of positron concentration  $(r)$  and electron temperature  $(\alpha)$ . We find from the panel (d) of [Fig. 3](#page-4-0) that solitary KAWs broaden with corresponding decrease of amplitudes as they propagate with increasing sub-Alfvénic speeds.

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

Fig. 2. Surface plots of B against a and q indicating the nature of solitary KAWs for different values of  $r = 0.5$  (red surface),  $r = 1$  (green surface),  $r = 1.5$  (blue surface) [panel (a)]; and  $\alpha = 0.5$  (red surface),  $\alpha = 1.5$  (green surface),  $\alpha = 2$  (blue surface) [panel (b)]. The values of other parameters are as indicated in each panel.



Fig. 3. Potential profiles of solitary KAWs for different values of (a) q, (b) r, (c)  $\alpha$  and (d) a. The values of other parameters are as indicated in each panel.

# <span id="page-5-0"></span>5. Conclusions

Following q-nonextensive distributions for electrons and positrons in low but finite  $\beta$  collisionless e-p-i plasma, we have derived linear dispersion relation of KAWs and have also investigated small amplitude solitary KAWs through Sagdeev pseudopotential approach. Linear analysis of KAWs shows that the frequency of the wave decreases with increase in each of the parameters  $r$ ,  $q$ and  $\alpha$ . Moreover, frequency of KAWs is found to be greater (for  $q$  < 1) or less (for  $q > 1$ ) than that in usual Maxwellian ( $q \rightarrow 1$ ) plasma. Nonlinear analysis of KAWs shows the existence of sub-Alfvénic compressive solitary waves in the nonextensive e-p-i plasma system under consideration. Amplitudes of solitary KAWs are found to be decreased on increasing  $r$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $q$ . Moreover, solitary KAWs broaden with corresponding decrease of amplitudes as they propagate with increasing sub-Alfvénic speeds. Considering the wide relevance of KAWs in space, astrophysical and other plasma environments (Sah, 2010), the results of the present theoretical investigations might be useful in understanding the formation of low frequency electromagnetic noises/small amplitude localized fluctuations in such regions dominated by magnetized e-p-i plasmas having nonextensive electrons and positrons.

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