Toward Resonant Propulsion

A Wave-Based Approach to Anti-Gravity and Plasma Thrust

By Louis D. Lockett, Sr.
Creative Technologist | Citizen Scientist
Originator of the Acoustic Gravitic Theory
Host of the *Gravitic Alchemy* Platform

📧 louis@graviticalchemy.com
🌐 www.graviticalchemy.com
📣 TikTok: @GraviticAlchemy
📣 X: @GraviticAlchemy

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Louis D. Lockett, Sr. is a Creative Technologist and Citizen Scientist pioneering a wave-based model of gravity and propulsion. His work under the Gravitic Alchemy brand explores resonance, plasma dynamics, and acoustic field theory as foundations for a new class of energy and motion.

Abstract

This paper introduces a unified propulsion framework that challenges conventional models by combining wave-based anti-gravity and plasma-integrated thrust mechanisms. Grounded in plasma cosmology, magnetohydrodynamics (MHD), and the acoustic Bjerknes force, the approach posits that both gravitational behavior and spacecraft propulsion can be reinterpreted as resonance-based interactions within a pervasive plasma medium. Rejecting Einsteinian spacetime curvature and particle-based gravity, this model instead builds on the foundational insights of Hannes Alfvén, Irving Langmuir, and Vilhelm Bjerknes.

By viewing space as a structured medium composed primarily of plasma—interstellar, interplanetary, and circumgalactic—this theory reframes gravity not as attraction, but as a net force arising from oscillating pressure gradients. These gradients are generated by solar-originating ELF, ULF, and magnetosonic waves that interact with conductive plasma cavities such as planetary magnetospheres, ionospheres, and atmospheric shells. Within Earth's atmosphere, similar gradients manifest via atmospheric infrasound, aligning with the acoustic models of gravity.

In the proposed model, anti-gravity is not the negation of gravity, but the ability to neutralize wave-based pressure forces through destructive interference and phase manipulation. Propulsion is achieved not by combustion or mass expulsion, but by tapping into ambient energy fields—acoustic, electric, and magnetic—and using them to generate directional thrust. Within Earth's atmosphere, this occurs through electrohydrodynamic (EHD) interactions, and beyond the atmosphere, through MHD wave interaction with solar plasma streams.

This theoretical framework offers an energy-efficient pathway to interplanetary travel, reducing the need for chemical propellant and enabling potentially routine Earth-Moon transit. Furthermore, it lays the foundation for scalable propulsion technologies that could operate in resonance with the natural wave structure of space itself, potentially opening avenues for longer-duration and higher-velocity missions across the solar system and beyond.

🔹 Background & Scientific Lineage

The scientific underpinnings of this propulsion model trace back to four foundational thinkers who fundamentally reshaped our understanding of matter, energy, and cosmic structure: **Eugene Parker**, **Hannes Alfvén**, **Irving Langmuir**, and **Vilhelm Bjerknes**. Their combined contributions to heliophysics, plasma dynamics, oscillatory systems, and fluid-based force interactions have laid the groundwork for a unified field perspective—one that reframes both gravity and propulsion not as isolated phenomena, but as emergent behaviors of wave-medium interactions within structured plasma environments.

🔸 Eugene Parker (1927–2022)

Eugene Parker revolutionized our understanding of space environments by predicting the existence of the **solar wind** — a continuous stream of charged particles and plasma ejected from the Sun's corona. In the mid-20th century, Parker proposed that the Sun's outer atmosphere could not remain static and must instead expand outward into interplanetary space. His theory, initially met with skepticism, was later confirmed by direct satellite measurements, giving rise to the field of **heliophysics**.

Parker's work established the Sun as not merely a source of light and heat, but as a **driver of dynamic plasma flows** that permeate the entire solar system. These outward-flowing particles—accompanied by embedded magnetic fields and wave structures—create a vast and interactive medium through which planetary bodies move and resonate. Without Parker's insights, the very existence of the **interplanetary medium**, the **heliosphere**, and the dynamic plasma context for wave propagation would remain obscured.

In the context of this theory, Parker's solar wind becomes the carrier wave—a plasma conveyor—through which **magnetosonic, Alfvén, ELF, and ULF waves** propagate. It is the breath of the Sun, so to speak, that animates the stage on which gravitational and propulsive wave interactions play out. Parker did not merely predict a phenomenon; he uncovered the **substrate of motion**, the very fabric upon which spacefaring propulsion and gravitational phenomena become possible.

🔸 Hannes Alfvén (1908–1995)

A pioneer of plasma physics and Nobel Laureate, Alfvén introduced the field of **magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)** — the study of electrically conductive fluids interacting with magnetic fields. He demonstrated that space is not a vacuum but a highly structured, electrically active plasma medium capable of carrying currents, waves, and magnetic structures across vast distances. His theories provided the framework for understanding **Birkeland currents**, **solar plasma propagation**, and **magnetospheric dynamics**, fundamentally changing how we model astrophysical systems (Alfvén, 1942).

Alfvén's rejection of "frozen-in" magnetic field lines in favor of dynamic wave-particle interactions remains central to this model, particularly in explaining the behavior of planetary orbits as stable resonant structures within a fluctuating electromagnetic plasma. His insight that plasmas can support **Alfvén waves** — low-frequency oscillations along magnetic field lines — directly informs the wave-based propulsion and gravitic mechanisms discussed here.

🔸 Irving Langmuir (1881–1957)

Langmuir, an American chemist and physicist, discovered **plasma oscillations** — now known as **Langmuir waves** — which describe high-frequency electron density fluctuations within an ionized gas.

These oscillations play a pivotal role in the energy dynamics of both laboratory and astrophysical plasmas. Langmuir's work revealed that plasma is not inert but rather a **coherent medium** capable of amplifying or damping waves, storing electrical potential, and forming structured regions based on electron and ion behavior.

In the context of propulsion, Langmuir waves can modulate charge density and electric field distribution, making them ideal for interacting with ambient interplanetary plasma to generate directional thrust — especially in the absence of fuel. Their natural tendency to form standing or propagating oscillations within bounded regions (such as between a spacecraft and its plasma wake) offers novel possibilities for **wave-coupled thrust mechanisms**.

- **Vilhelm Bjerknes (1862–1951)**

Although primarily known for meteorology and fluid dynamics, Bjerknes formulated the principle now known as the **Bjerknes force**, which describes the mutual attraction or repulsion of pulsating bodies within an oscillating fluid. When applied to the astrophysical scale — and plasma considered as a quasi-fluid — this force provides a compelling analog for **gravitational behavior**. Instead of relying on abstract spacetime curvature, this model interprets gravity as a pressure-gradient phenomenon arising from **impedance mismatches** in oscillating media.

In this light, gravitational attraction becomes a form of **acoustic resonance**: celestial bodies immersed in wave-active plasma fields behave like bubbles responding to solar-generated infrasound and MHD waves. Their motion and stability are dictated by **phase relationships** and **resonant coupling**, not by mass alone.

Taken together, the pioneering insights of Alfvén, Langmuir, Bjerknes, and Parker converge into a cohesive reinterpretation of the universe—not as an inert void punctuated by masses, but as a living medium animated by waves, currents, and oscillatory pressure fields. Parker's revelation of the solar wind unveiled the plasma-rich environment in which all planetary motion occurs, providing the very medium through which Alfvén waves, Langmuir oscillations, and Bjerknes-like forces propagate. This lineage of thought dispels the need for spacetime curvature or gravity as an innate attractive force. Instead, it sets the stage for a dynamic model in which gravity and thrust emerge from resonance, phase interactions, and pressure gradients in a structured plasma continuum. What follows is the practical synthesis of these principles into a unified theory of motion—one that governs both the falling of an apple and the flight of a spacecraft.

🔹 Theory Summary

This unified theory proposes that both gravitational force and directional propulsion are emergent behaviors produced by oscillatory wave interactions within and around plasma structures. Instead of treating gravity as a fundamental force or curvature of spacetime, this model reframes it as a pressure-based resonance phenomenon arising from standing wave patterns in a conductive medium. Propulsion, in turn, is achieved by directly manipulating those wave fields—either through resonance, phase cancellation, or directed energy interaction.

1. Gravity as a Bjerknes-Type Acoustic Pressure Field

In this model, **gravity is not attraction** but **wave-induced compression**. The downward force we attribute to gravity on Earth emerges from oscillatory pressure gradients—specifically **infrasound and ultra-low-frequency (ULF) waves**—that move through the atmosphere as part of a naturally sustained acoustic field. Solid objects, due to their higher impedance relative to the surrounding air, resist displacement in this oscillating field. This mismatch causes a net directional force, analogous to the **Secondary Bjerknes force** between oscillating cavities in a liquid.

- **Key mechanism**: An object in a pressure wave field experiences greater force on the side of incoming wavefronts if it cannot displace with the surrounding medium. This asymmetry results in a net "push" toward the region of lower impedance. On Earth, that means *downward*.
- **No need for mass-based curvature**: The interaction arises not from mass attracting mass, but from energy density gradients created by wave interference.

In the space environment, the same principle applies—but the wave interactions occur in a **plasma medium**. Here, **planetary magnetospheres, ionospheres, and atmospheric shells** serve as bounded cavities or “bubbles” resonating with solar-generated **ELF, ULF, and magnetosonic waves**. These layers behave much like fluid-filled chambers in a sonochemical system, with planets phase-locking to nodal pressure zones formed by standing waves in the solar plasma flow.

- **Orbital positioning**: Each planet maintains its path and distance from the Sun not due to inertial momentum balanced against attraction, but because it resonates within a stable region of pressure and wave amplitude, held in place by alternating constructive and destructive interference patterns.
- **Vertical force**: The same standing wave interactions that generate orbital stability also induce *directional forces* along the wave propagation axis, contributing to phenomena such as axial rotation and even tidal locking.

2. Wave-Based Thrust (Plasma-Integrated)

Where gravity emerges from passive interaction with standing waves, **propulsion** is achieved by actively altering that interaction—either by generating waves of specific phase or by redirecting ambient plasma oscillations.

- **In Atmosphere (EHD Propulsion)**: Within Earth's air-filled shell, **Electrohydrodynamic (EHD) systems** can generate thrust by moving ions across a high-voltage field, creating an "ionic wind." This form of propulsion is nearly silent, involves no moving parts, and is highly efficient in low-speed or hovering applications.

- **In Space (MHD Wave Interaction)**: Beyond the atmosphere, **Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) accelerators** can interact with solar plasma directly, using externally generated magnetic fields to shape and accelerate ambient ions. By coupling with **Langmuir oscillations** or **magnetosonic waves**, spacecraft can induce controlled flow reactions within the interplanetary medium, effectively "pushing off" the solar plasma much like a surfer riding a wave.

- **Wave-Phase Control**: An advanced form of propulsion could involve generating **phase-inverted waves** that locally cancel ambient pressure gradients. This destructive interference would effectively create a "null zone" of gravity—allowing the vehicle to levitate, ascend, or redirect its position by momentarily suspending the local pressure-based forces acting on it.

3. Supplementary Thrust Systems

For long-range travel and inertial correction, conventional **ion drives** or electric propulsion may be integrated. These systems are well-suited for maintaining trajectory once the vehicle is beyond the influence of planetary infrasound or atmospheric impedance. However, in this model, they serve as **secondary systems**, with the primary thrust derived from environmental wave manipulation.

Summary of Theoretical Framework

This propulsion model reframes gravity as the byproduct of wave-induced pressure gradients within atmospheric and plasma media, not mass-based attraction. Objects immersed in these oscillating fields experience directional forces due to impedance mismatches, a mechanism analogous to the Bjerknes force observed in fluid dynamics. In Earth's atmosphere, this takes the form of infrasound-based gravitation. In space, planetary "bubbles" — magnetospheres, ionospheres, and atmospheric shells — resonate with solar ELF, ULF, and magnetosonic waves to maintain orbital stability.

Thrust is generated by deliberately interacting with these ambient wave systems. Within the atmosphere, ionic propulsion systems exploit electrohydrodynamic flow. Beyond the atmosphere, magnetohydrodynamic accelerators and Langmuir-coupled fields tap into the solar plasma stream to produce directed force. More advanced techniques involve phase manipulation to cancel or reshape local wave gradients, effectively enabling anti-gravitational lift and directional movement through resonance rather than combustion.

🔹 Application: Lunar Transport

The most immediate and transformative application of this wave-based propulsion framework lies in **routine lunar transport**. Current chemical-based rocketry is energy-intensive, infrastructure-heavy, and cost-prohibitive for sustained travel between the Earth and the Moon. By contrast, a propulsion system that manipulates ambient wave fields and interacts with naturally available plasma resources can reduce the need for heavy fuel loads, complex launch stages, or large ground facilities.

Anti-Gravity Through Phase Cancellation

Near Earth's surface, gravity manifests as a downward acoustic pressure gradient, driven by atmospheric infrasound and ULF waves. By generating a **phase-inverted pressure wave**—precisely tuned to cancel or dampen the local field—a vehicle can achieve **net neutral buoyancy**, or even upward thrust, without burning fuel. This phase-cancellation approach acts like **a wave-based flotation device**, allowing the craft to "detach" from the field anchoring it to the planet.

Once this threshold is reached, only minimal energy is required to sustain ascent and trajectory.

Transitioning Through Atmospheric Shell

As the vehicle ascends, it passes through several conductive layers: the **troposphere**, **stratosphere**, **ionosphere**, and into the **magnetosphere**. Each of these layers can be treated as a **resonant medium**, capable of sustaining and reflecting waveforms. By shifting operational frequency and output, the vehicle can remain in phase with the surrounding pressure landscape—essentially "surfing" from one shell to the next.

- **Key transition strategy**: Adjust waveform emission to match local plasma density and field strength, enabling continuous lift and stabilization without mechanical control surfaces or combustion stages.

Plasma Coupling for Space Transit

Once beyond the atmospheric boundary, the vehicle engages the **plasma propulsion system**. Utilizing either **MHD wave accelerators** or **Langmuir-coupled electrodes**, it taps into the solar wind—a stream of plasma extending from the Sun through the interplanetary medium. This allows for **thrust without propellant**, using ambient plasma as both the medium and momentum source.

- **Directional control**: Achieved via modulated magnetic fields and wave interference patterns, enabling push-pull control akin to electromagnetic sail dynamics.

- **Mid-course correction**: Supplementary ion thrusters may still be used, though they become optional rather than essential.

Energy and Cost Efficiency

Where traditional Moon missions may cost **hundreds of millions to billions of dollars** due to staging, propellant, and recovery, a resonant propulsion vehicle would draw its energy primarily from **electrical input**, requiring only onboard generation or stored capacity:

- **Power draw**: Estimated in the **kilowatt to megawatt range**, depending on thrust profile and payload mass.

- **Operational cost**: Reduced to **hundreds to thousands of dollars per trip**, assuming standard energy rates and system reusability.

Moreover, the absence of chemical propellants reduces vehicle weight, increases launch frequency, and minimizes environmental impact.

Infrastructure Implications

Because launch does not rely on explosive combustion, **urban proximity becomes feasible**. Vertical launch from electromagnetic cradles or wave-phase pads could be located within industrial zones or lunar colonies without the blast radius or acoustic shock associated with rockets. This opens the door to:

- **Lunar cargo shuttles**

- **Return capsules for lunar soil or helium-3**

- **Reusable lander-transit vehicles**

- **Emergency extraction pods for off-world personnel**

Summary of Lunar Transport Application
By leveraging the pressure gradients of Earth's atmosphere and the plasma-rich environment of interplanetary space, this wave-based propulsion model enables fuel-minimal transport between Earth and the Moon. Through in-phase lift within atmospheric layers and wave-guided plasma thrust in space, a vehicle can ascend, stabilize, and travel without reliance on staged combustion or propellant mass. This reduces energy consumption, vehicle complexity, and mission cost—making routine lunar transit economically viable and environmentally sustainable. With this system, the Moon becomes not a distant frontier, but a reachable station.

Conclusion

The combined legacy of Eugene Parker, Hannes Alfvén, Irving Langmuir, and Vilhelm Bjerknes offers a powerful alternative to the prevailing models of gravity, propulsion, and cosmic structure. Rather than envisioning space as an empty void governed by abstract curvature or mass attraction, this framework treats the universe as a structured medium filled with plasma, permeated by waves, and shaped by the principles of resonance, impedance, and phase dynamics.

Parker revealed that the Sun continuously fills space with a stream of plasma—the solar wind—providing the energetic medium through which all planetary and spacecraft interactions unfold. Alfvén demonstrated that this medium supports large-scale electromagnetic wave propagation, especially Alfvén waves, which follow magnetic flux lines and induce planetary magnetic fields, rotation, and auroral dynamics. Langmuir's discoveries show that plasmas can oscillate and self-regulate charge distributions, creating dynamic environments ripe for engineered thrust. And Bjerknes introduced the concept that oscillating bodies within a fluid experience net forces—insights now scaled to the interplanetary level, where planets and vehicles alike become resonant cavities in a vast pressure-driven field.

Together, these principles reframe gravity not as a fundamental force but as an emergent effect—an acoustic and electromagnetic pressure gradient produced by planetary interaction with structured wave fields. Spacecraft designed to manipulate these fields through resonance, phase control, or electromagnetic coupling can generate directional movement, counteract gravitational compression, and traverse interplanetary distances with minimal energy input.

This is not speculative metaphysics—it is a model grounded in well-documented plasma behavior, wave physics, and fluid dynamics. It points toward experimental pathways using high-voltage wave generators, ionospheric resonant cavities, and magnetohydrodynamic propulsion systems already within technological reach. Lunar transport becomes only the first step. What lies beyond is a future where motion through space is not bought with fuel, but with frequency; not constrained by mass, but liberated by medium; not throttled by gravity, but harmonized by wave.

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