Two-dimensional Vlasov simulation of magnetic reconnection

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A two-and-half-dimensional and fully electromagnetic Vlasov simulation code is developed in which phase-space distribution functions are defined in five-dimensional position-velocity phase space (x,y,vx,vy,vz). The Vlasov equation in two-dimensional configuration and three-dimensional velocity spaces is solved with a non-oscillatory and conservative scheme, and the full set of Maxwell equations are self-consistently solved based on the stabdard Finite Diference Time Domain (FDTD) method.

The Geospace Environment Modeling (GEM) magnetic reconnection challenge is chosen as a benchmark test of our twodimensional Vlasov code. The result is compared with the past simulation results with Darwin-Vlasov, explicit and implicit particle-in-cell codes. The present simulation with a very-low spatial resolution gives a high growth rate of magnetic flux, which is in agreement with the results of the GEM reconnection challenge.