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Impact of asymmetries on transport in tokamak plasmas

(flux driven gyrokinetic simulations)

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Basics & critical issues of transport in tokamak plasmas

- Transport & confinement
- Transverse drifts & gyrokinetic framework

Impact of large scale asymmetries on core impurity transport

- Poloidal asymmetries: experimental evidence & issues
- Turbulence-driven asymmetry... & anisotropy
- Impact on collisional impurity transport

Impact of asymmetric boundary layer on edge turbulence

- Modelling the unconfined "Scrape-Off Layer"
- The tail & the dog...

Cea Fusion & confinement



Fusion viability (self-heating) \rightarrow Lawson criterion $n_i \tau_E > F(T)$

- Governed by reaction rate $\langle \sigma v \rangle$
- Depends on temperature T only
- Minimal at $T \approx 26 \text{ keV}$





Energy confinement time:

$$\tau_{\rm E} = \frac{{\rm Energy\ Content}}{{\rm Lost\ Power}}$$

Magnetic confinement:

- Aim = maximizing τ_{E} (≈ 5 s)
- n_i ≈ 10²⁰m⁻³ constrained my macroscopic instabilities

Cea Tokamaks: confinement & transport



Tokamak

- Helical magnetic field lines on nested toroidal surfaces ψ=cst
- Constant **j**, P on magnetic surfaces ($\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla P \leftrightarrow \mathbf{Geostrophic balance}$)



Cea Tokamaks: confinement & transport



Tokamak

- Helical magnetic field lines on nested toroidal surfaces ψ=cst
- Constant **j**, P on magnetic surfaces ($\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla P \leftrightarrow \mathbf{Geostrophic balance}$)
- Intrinsic in/out asymmetry B(r,θ)∞R⁻¹ ⇒ passing & trapped orbits



3 motion invariants + 3 periodic directions \Rightarrow confinement

- If axisymmetry: $P_{\phi} = -e\psi + mRv_{\phi}$
- If steady E and B fields: \mathcal{E}

If collisionless: $\mu = \mathcal{E}_{\perp} / B$

- → Broken by Turbulence
- \rightarrow Broken by Collisions

 \Rightarrow Transport

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Scale separation: gyro-average = average over fast time scale

 $\partial_t \log B \sim \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \log B \ll \omega_c \implies \frac{\rho_s}{R} \sim \frac{mv_{\parallel}}{\rho RR} \sim \frac{mv_{\perp}}{\rho RR} \ll 1$

 $\left\{egin{array}{ll} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_G + ilde{\mathbf{v}} \ \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_G + ilde{\mathbf{B}} & ext{with} \ \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}_G + ilde{\mathbf{E}} \end{array}
ight.$ $\langle \tilde{\mathbf{y}} \rangle \doteq \oint \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_c}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{y}} = 0$ $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}/\mathbf{B}_G \ll 1$

Perturbation theory – Solving at leading orders in $\epsilon = \rho_s / R \ll 1$ $\rho_* = \rho_i / a << 1$

Adiabatic limit framework: Magnetic field evolves slowly with respect to ω_{ci} and ρ_s

 $\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{e_s}{m_s} \left\{ \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{x}(t), t) + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}(t), t) \right\}$

Particle trajectories: adiabatic limit





Scale separation: gyro-motion + drifts

IRfm

 ho_s

 \mathbf{X}_G

х

□ Fast motion \rightarrow cyclotron motion ($\mathbf{B}_{G} \approx \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{x}_{G})$):

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{e}{m}\tilde{\mathbf{v}}\times\mathbf{B}_G \longrightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{v}} = \frac{e}{m}\boldsymbol{\rho}_s\times\mathbf{B}_G \doteq \mathbf{v}_c$$

 $\square Slow motion \rightarrow transverse drifts:$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}_{G}}{\mathrm{d}t} & = & \frac{e}{m} \left\{ \mathbf{E}_{G} + \mathbf{v}_{G} \times \mathbf{B}_{G} \neq \langle \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \rangle \right\} & \text{with } \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \simeq (\rho_{s} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}_{G} \\ & & \\ & & \\ \mathbf{E}_{G} = \left\langle \mathrm{e}^{\boldsymbol{\rho}_{s} \cdot \nabla} \right\rangle \mathbf{E} \\ & &$$

Projection on \perp **plane**:



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Ce2 Physics of Curvature & ∇B Drifts



□ Return currents:

parallel electron current (Pfirsch-Schlüter)

polarization ion current



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Cea Physics of Electric Drift





- • analogous to stream function in neutral fluid dynamics
- At leading order, particles move at $\phi = C^{st}$ (if $\partial_t \phi = 0 \& B = C^{st}$)

$$\mathrm{d}_t \mathbf{x}_\perp = \mathbf{v}_E$$

(y, x) are canonically conjugated for the Hamiltonian $H = \phi/B$



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Cea Turbulence: interchange instability

Pressure gradient + Field line curvature \Rightarrow **instabilities** \Rightarrow **micro-turbulence**

- Interchange: instability if $\nabla p.\nabla B > 0$
- Fluctuations of E & B fields



Stable/unstable coupling through // current



Tokamak plasma turbulence

- Ballooned: in/out asymmetry
- Anisotropic turbulence (quasi-2D): $k_{//} qR \sim k_{\perp} \rho_i < 1$

Time scale:

$$v_{coll} \approx 10^3 << \omega_{turb} \approx 10^5 << \omega_{ci} \approx 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Governs heat (& particle, momentum) transport (effective diffusivity $\approx 1 m^2/s$) Fluctuations of electric potential GYSELA [Grandgirard CPC 2016]





Core plasma weakly collisional ($\lambda_{mfp} \sim 10^4 \text{ m}$) Trapped electron turbulence **Kinetic description** mandatory Fluid assumes long wavelength $k_{\perp}\rho_s \ll 1$ [Littlejohn PoF 1981; Brizard-Hahm RMP 2007; Tronko-Brizard PoP 2015] From 6D kinetics to 5D gyrokinetics via phase space reduction 83 Particle \rightarrow Gyro-center Vlasov $f(\mathbf{x}, v_{//}, \mu, \varphi_c, t) \rightarrow Gyrokinetic equation f_G(\mathbf{x}_G, v_{G//}, \mu, t)$ $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v}_{G\perp} + \mathbf{v}_{G\parallel}) \cdot \nabla \bar{f} + \frac{dv_{G\parallel}}{dt} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{G\parallel}} = C(\bar{f}) + S$ Particle Maxwell's eqs involve PARTICLE density & current Requires non-trivial link between f & f_G Guiding-center **Quasi-neutrality** $n_e(x,t) = \sum_i Z_i n_i(x,t)$ $\int d^3v f_{Ge} = \int d^3v J f_{Gi} + n_{pol}$ Gyro-radius $\simeq n_{eq,s} \rho_s^2 \nabla_\perp^2 \left(\frac{e_s \phi}{T_s} \right)$

Adequate framework: gyrokinetics

Cea Motivations: impurities





- Dilution at low Z
- Radiation at large Z (tungsten)
- ⇒ Synergy turbulent/collisional transport: role of poloidal asymmetries?



Motivations: impurities & edge

- Understanding / predicting / controlling impurity transport
 - Dilution at low Z
 - Radiation at large Z (tungsten)
- \Rightarrow Synergy turbulent/collisional transport: role of poloidal asymmetries?
 - Large edge fluctuations in all tokamaks







Cea Motivations: impurities & edge

- Understanding / predicting / controlling impurity transport
 - Dilution at low Z
 - Radiation at large Z (tungsten)
- ⇒ Synergy turbulent/collisional transport: role of poloidal asymmetries?
- Large edge fluctuations in all tokamaks
 - Local gyrokinetic models fail...
 - ... unless invoking large error bars [Holland PoP 2011, Goerler PoP 2014, Waltz APS 2017]
- \Rightarrow Role of asym. flows in unconfined region?
- ⇒ Role of turbulence spreading core→edge and/or SOL→edge?

[Mattor-Diamond PoP 1994, Garbet NF 1994]









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Asymmetries: experimental evidence

Faster edge poloidal rotation of turb. at outer equatorial plane than on top

Cannot be explained by B inhomogeneity $v_{E\theta} \sim \partial_r \langle \phi \rangle / B(r,\theta)$



Open issues:

- Possible origin: turbulence-driven?
- Impact on impurity transport?

[Vermare, PoP 2018]

Asymmetry & impurity transport

Convective cells can lead to density asymmetry through adiabatic (Boltzmann) response of trace impurities (charge Z):



Cea Convective Cells (CC)



Convective cells: large scale ($m=\pm 1$) axisymmetric (n=0) modes of electric potential *at intermediate to low frequencies* ($\omega \ll \omega_{GAM} \sim c_s/R$)

 $\phi = \sum \phi_{m,n} \exp\{i(m\theta + n\varphi)\} \longrightarrow \phi_{CC} = \phi_{CC0}(r,t) \sin(\theta + \theta_{CC})$





Cea Drives & damping of convective cells



Turbulence \rightarrow ZFs,GAMs&low freq. Convective Cells $(m \neq 0, n \neq 0)$ (0,0) $(m=0\pm 1,0)$ $(m=\pm 1,0)$

Conservation of Potential Vorticity $\Omega = \phi - \langle \phi \rangle - \rho_i^2 \nabla_\perp^2 \phi$ (at constant density n)

Neglecting // dynamics and B-inhomogeneity

$$\partial_t \Omega + \mathbf{v}_E \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} \Omega = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \partial_t \langle v_{E\theta} \rangle = \langle v_{Er} \Omega \rangle = - \nabla_r \langle \tilde{v}_{Er} \tilde{v}_{E\theta} \rangle$$

Zonal Flows PV flux Reynolds' force

[Taylor 1915, McIntyre "Festival book" 2013]

Tokamak plasmas: // dynamics + vertical drift (B inhomogeneity)

$$\begin{array}{c} (\partial_t + v_{\parallel} \nabla_{\parallel} + \mathbf{v}_D \cdot \nabla)\Omega = -\mathbf{v}_E \cdot \nabla\Omega \\ \downarrow \\ \text{Landau damping} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{compression} \end{array} \\ \mathbf{v}_D \cdot \nabla \sim v_{D0} \left(\sin \theta \, \partial_r + \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \, \partial_\theta \right) \\ \Rightarrow \text{poloidal coupling} \end{array}$$

Drives & damping of convective cells

Matrix form for (m,n)=(0±1,0) components of gyro-averaged potential $\bar{h} = e \mathcal{J} \phi$

$$\frac{N_{\text{eq}}}{T_{\text{eq}}} \begin{pmatrix} E_a & -iE_c & E_d \\ iE_c & E_b & -iE_c \\ E_d & iE_c & E_a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{h}_{-1,\Omega} \\ \bar{h}_{0,\Omega} \\ \bar{h}_{1,\Omega} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\Omega} \begin{pmatrix} S_{1,0} + i(S_{0,-1} - S_{2,-1} - S_{2,1}) \\ -iS' - S_{1,-1} + S_{1,1} + 2iS_{2,0} \\ -S_{1,0} + i(S_{0,1} - S_{2,-1} - S_{2,1}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear operator (Time evol. + advection) Convective Cells & ZF

Nonlinear source terms (turbulence)

[Donnel PPCF 2019(a)]

$$\begin{split} E_{a} &= 1 + \tau + L_{0}(\Omega) - L_{2}(\Omega) \\ E_{b} &= \langle 1 - \mathcal{J}^{2} \rangle_{\nu} + 2L_{2}(\Omega) \\ E_{c} &= L_{1}(\Omega) \\ E_{d} &= -L_{2}(\Omega), \\ L_{j}(\Omega) &= \left\langle \frac{\Omega^{2-j}\Omega_{D}^{j}}{\Omega_{+}\Omega_{-} + 2\Omega_{D}^{2}} \mathcal{J}^{2} \right\rangle_{\nu} \end{split} \qquad \begin{aligned} S' &= \int \mathcal{J}[\tilde{v}_{E} \cdot \nabla \tilde{g}]_{0,\Omega} \mathrm{d}^{3}\nu \\ \sim \text{Symmetric Reynolds' stress} \\ S_{j,M} &= \int \frac{\Omega^{2-j}\Omega_{D}^{j}}{\Omega_{+}\Omega_{-} + 2\Omega_{D}^{2}} \mathcal{J}[\tilde{v}_{E} \cdot \nabla \tilde{g}]_{M,\Omega} \mathrm{d}^{3}\nu \\ \sim \text{Ballooned Reynolds' stress} \end{aligned}$$

// and v_D dynamics

Cea Phase dynamics of Convective Cells



Ceal Impurity transport weakly affected by CC

GYSELA simulation with Tungsten

D+W (Z=40),
$$\rho_*=1/190$$
, trace limit ($\alpha = \frac{Z^2 N_Z}{N_i} \approx 10^{-3}$)
no torque injection, isotropic heat Source

Poloidal asymmetry of $n_Z \dots$

Parametrized by $\delta \& \Delta$:





Recovering neoclassical impur. Flux



Convective Cells NOT sufficient to account for Experimental flow asymmetry GYSELA asymmetry of n₇ **Generalization**: same analysis for non-adiabatic part g of $f = \left(1 - \frac{e\phi}{T}\right) f_{eq} + g$ $(\partial_t + v_{\parallel} \nabla_{\parallel})g_{m,0} + [\mathbf{v}_D \cdot \nabla g]_{m,0} = \frac{f_{eq}}{T_{eq}} \partial_t (e\phi_{m,0}) - [\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_E \cdot \nabla \tilde{g}]_{m,0}$ $\Gamma_{\rm Z}$ theoretical: $\partial_{\theta}(p_{\parallel z} - p_{\perp z})$ & $\partial_{\theta}p_{\perp z}$ \Rightarrow Poloidal asymmetry possible contributions essential even without Convective Cells -0.5 Governs asymmetric pressure -1.0 anisotropy (CGL pressure tensor) Effective contribution to impurity -1.5 Γ_7 GYSELA flux (in ITER relevant low -2.0 collisionality regime) -2 5 Consistent with GYSELA results [Donnel PPCF 2019(b)] 0

r/a

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Cea Modelling the SOL region in GYSELA



SOL = Scrape-Off Layer:

- Region where magnetic surfaces are open
- Field lines intercept the wall \Rightarrow parallel boundary condition governed by different electron-ion mobility $\Rightarrow \phi = T_e \Lambda/e$ (Bohm criterion)



Cea E_r well at separatrix





poloidal asymmetry of fluctuations (caveat: still not at steady state)

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1.04

Cea Recovering density fluctuation increase

Highly resolved fast-swept reflectometry measurement of density fluctuation profile in Tore Supra (#45511) [Clairet RSI 2011]

Mimic exp. conditions in simulation: $I T_e \neq T_i$, n_e , q, s, v_* , S_{heat} , 75% ρ^* Synthetic diagnostic $\theta = 0 \pm 4^{\circ}$



Cea Core-edge-SOL interplay is key!



- Inclusion of asymmetric SOL-like boundary condition is key: No SOL \Leftrightarrow No fluctuation increase at the edge
 - → Beach effect** reveals insufficient
 - ** Conservation of generalized vorticity $\Omega \rightarrow \text{beach effect}$ Long wavelength approx.: $\Omega \sim n\nabla_{\perp}^2 \phi \Rightarrow \nabla_{\perp}^2 \phi \uparrow$ when $n \downarrow$ (edge)



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[Mattor-Diamond PoP 1994; Gürcan NF 2013]

Cea Edge instability & turbulence spreading

- Initially: weak / No turbulence at the edge
- Then: instability develops at separatrix (Kelvin-Helmholtz in this case)
 - \Rightarrow Complex spreading pattern mostly inward

[Kadomtsev 1965; Garbet NF 1994; Hahm PoP 2005]

Final state: edge & core turb. meet \rightarrow spreading in & out 3.0 instab. starts inside LCFS junction edge & core turbulences 2.5 SOL becomes unstable [% 2.0 uj] ðn / n 1.5 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 $\theta = 0^{\circ}$ Normalised radius p

Cea Poloidal entrainment & spreading

Drift & limiter → poloidal asymmetry (+ K-H instability in certain regimes)
 Symmetric & asymmetric poloidal flows → advection of fluctuations
 Transport of turbulent intensity (~ fluctuation entropy) into marginally stable edge:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial_{t}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{v}_{E,\theta}}{\partial_{\theta}}\right) [nl] + \nabla \cdot \Gamma = \text{Inj-Diss.}$$

$$\Gamma(r, \theta, t) \equiv \langle \mathbf{v}nl \rangle = \left\langle \int \mathbf{v}_{E \times B, r} \frac{\tilde{f}^{2}}{F_{M}} \right\rangle$$
Time t₁
Time t₂
Time t₃
Radial flux of turbulent intensity $\Gamma(r, \theta, t) - \Gamma(r, \theta, t_{0})$
red \equiv outwards blue \equiv inwards

Cea Conclusions



■ Core confinement & performance → Gyrokinetic modelling

- Dominant drift wave instabilities
- **Complemented by reduced models** (large fluctuations & gradients; edge / SOL)

■ Impurity contamination → **Turbulence-driven asymmetries**

- Source = turbulent "Reynolds' stress" + ballooning or \perp flow compression
- Asymmetric flows are only part of the (not the whole) story
- General theory for pressure asymmetry & anisotropy \rightarrow consistent with GYSELA impurity flux ++ likely important to predict ITER W transport

Wall heat $flux \rightarrow SOL$ asymmetry (limiter configuration – simplified modelling)

- Critical to recover experimental increase of $\delta n/n$ at the edge
- Poloidal entrainment + inward/outward spreading are keys





Back-up slides

Cea Prediciting phase of Convective Cells

Polarity (cos vs sin) of Convective Cells changes with time scale:

- Intermediate freq. $\Omega \leq \Omega_D \rightarrow \frac{\phi_{1,\Omega}}{B_{eq}} = -\frac{\phi_{-1,\Omega}}{B_{eq}} = -K_r \rho_i \frac{\Pi_{RS,0}(\Omega)}{(1+\tau) \frac{v_T}{R_0}}$ \Rightarrow up-down (sin θ) asymmetry Main drive = transverse compressibility of the flow
- $\begin{array}{l} \blacksquare \text{ Low freq. } \Omega \leq \Omega_D K \rho_i \rightarrow \frac{\phi_{1,\Omega}}{B_{eq}} = \frac{\phi_{-1,\Omega}}{B_{eq}} = -iK_r^2 \rho_i^2 f_{bal} \frac{\Pi_{RS,0}(\Omega)}{(1+\tau)\Omega} \\ \Rightarrow \text{ in-out (\cos \theta) asymmetry} & Main drive = ballooned character of Reynolds' stress} \\ \end{array}$

GYSELA simulation:Polarity of Convective Cells changes from up-down
to in-out when turbulence develops

 \Rightarrow Qualitatively consistent with theoretical predictions

Cea Prediciting level of Convective Cells



Fourier decomposition:		$\phi = \sum \phi_{m,n} \exp\{i(m\theta + n\varphi)\}$	
Turbulence \rightarrow	ZFs,	GAMs and	low freq. Convective Cells
(m≠0,n≠0)	(0,0)	(m=0±1,0)	(m=±1,0)

Assuming Lorentzian spectrum of turbulence ($\Delta \omega = 0.1 v_{Ti}/R_0$)

 \Rightarrow Generation of Convective Cells can be estimated

[Donnel PPCF 2019(a)]



Ceal Asymmetric pressure anisotropy



Turbulence also
 found to generate
 asymmetric pressure
 anisotropy p_{//}≠p_⊥

($p_{//} - p_{\perp}$) much larger than predicted by neoclassical theory...





... which in turn drives additional transverse current:

$$\mathbf{j}_{dia} = \frac{\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{\nabla} p_{\perp}}{B^2} + (p_{\parallel} - p_{\perp}) \left(\frac{\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{\nabla} B}{B^3} + \frac{\mathbf{\nabla} \times \mathbf{B}}{B^2} \right|_{\perp} \right)$$

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Cea Ballooning ensured despite mean poloidal flow

