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# UC San Diego

### Theory of Pedestal Microturbulence with RMP-induced Stochasticity<sup>[1]</sup>

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1. Cao, Mingyun, and Patrick H. Diamond. Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion 64, no. 3 (2022): 035016.

#### OUTLINE

- Motivation: the Application of RMP
- Observations : Questions arising from Sims & Expts
- Model Development: A Multi-scale
   Feedback Loop
- Results: Theoretical Predictions & Answers to Questions
  - Conclusion: What We Have Learned & What We Will Do



#### **Motivation: the Application of RMP**





Evans, T. E., et al. *Journal of nuclear materials* 337 (2005): 691-696.
 Schmitz, L., et al. *Nuclear Fusion* 59, no. 12 (2019): 126010.



Suppression of ELM by using RMP<sup>[1]</sup>



RMP raises the L-H transition power threshold [2]

#### **Motivation: the Application of RMP**

• A new trend: A trade-off between good confinement and good power handling.



- A basic question: How does a stochastic magnetic field modify the instability process?
- Origin: Interest in stochastic field transport in the late 1970's <sup>[1,2]</sup>
- Early research: Tearing mode in braided magnetic field <sup>[3]</sup>
- **Point:** Effect of stochastic magnetic field enters as anomalous dissipation by hyperresistivity  $\mu$ . Ohm's law of resistive MHD is revised as

 $E_{\parallel} = \eta J_{\parallel} - \mu \nabla_{\perp}^2 J_{\parallel}$ 

- Unsolved questions:
  - 1. Quasi-neutrality is not maintained at all orders
  - 2. Lack of, or too simple, micro-macro feedback
- 1. A.B. Rechester, and M.N. Rosenbluth, 1977
- 2. B.B. Kadomtsev, O.P. Pogutse, 1979.
- 3. P.K. Kaw, E.J. Valeo, and P.H. Rutherford, 1979.



#### **Questions Arising from Simulations**



1.

- Simulations of resistive ballooning modes in a stochastic magnetic field. <sup>[1]</sup>
- Increased small-scale structures and spatial roughness of the pressure fluctuation profile in stochastic region.
- Stronger suppression of Large-scale fluctuations than small-scale fluctuations.



Beyer, P., Xavier Garbet, and Philippe Ghendrih. *Physics of Plasmas* 5, no. 12 (1998): 4271-4279.

#### **Questions Arising from Experiments**



Rescaled complexity  $C_{JS} \in [-1,1]$  tells the statistics and predictability of a turbulence. E.g., for white noise,  $C_{JS} = 0$ , for logistic map,  $C_{JS} = 1$ .



- Experimental study on the fluctuations with the stochastic magnetic field. <sup>[1]</sup>
- An increase in the bicoherence of the temperature fluctuation → increased nonlinear coupling.
- A reduction in the Jensen-Shannon complexity → turbulence distribution becomes more random. Why?

#### **Possible Answer: A Microturbulence**

- **Constraint:** Quasi-neutrality ( $\nabla \cdot J = 0$ ) at all scales!
- Effect: Introduction of  $\tilde{b}$  leads to parallel current density fluctuations.



• Insights from the classic: Kadomtsev and Pogutse'78<sup>[1]</sup>:



increased smallscale structure & nonlinear coupling?



#### A Multi-scale Feedback Loop



- Our model is supposed to
  - $\blacktriangleright$  maintain  $\nabla \cdot J = 0$  at all scales
- connect micro and macro scales
- $\succ$  be tractable  $\longrightarrow$  resistive interchange mode  $\succ$  be generic
- Formulation:

$$\begin{cases} -(\rho_0/B_0^2)\partial_t \nabla_{\perp}^2 \bar{\varphi} - (\kappa/B_0)\partial_y \bar{p}_1 + \boldsymbol{b_0} \cdot \nabla J_{\parallel} = 0 & \longrightarrow & \nabla \cdot J = 0 \\ \bar{E}_{\parallel} = \eta_{\parallel} \bar{J}_{\parallel} = -\boldsymbol{b_0} \cdot \nabla \bar{\varphi} \\ \partial_t \bar{p}_1 - (\nabla \bar{\varphi} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{z}})/B_0 \cdot \nabla p_0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

• Externally-prescribed (static) magnetic perturbations:

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{b}} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{B}}_{\perp} / B_0 = \sum_{m_1 n_1} \widetilde{\boldsymbol{b}}_{\boldsymbol{k}_1}(x') e^{i(m_1 \theta - n_1 \phi)} \cdot (x' = r - r_{m_1 n_1})$$

• Parallel gradient operator:  $\nabla_{\parallel} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{b}}_{\boldsymbol{0}} \cdot \nabla \longrightarrow \nabla_{\parallel} = \nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{b}}_{\perp} \cdot \nabla_{\perp}$ .



• New character: Microturbulence



• Modified model:

$$\begin{split} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \cdot \nabla\right) \nabla_{\perp}^{2}(\bar{\varphi} + \tilde{\varphi}) &= \frac{\eta S}{\tau_{A}} \nabla_{\parallel} J_{\parallel} - \frac{\kappa B_{0}}{\rho_{0}} \frac{\partial (\bar{p}_{1} + \tilde{p}_{1})}{\partial y} \\ &\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \cdot \nabla\right) (\bar{p}_{1} + \tilde{p}_{1}) - \frac{\nabla (\bar{\varphi} + \tilde{\varphi}) \times \hat{\boldsymbol{z}}}{B_{0}} \cdot \nabla p_{0} = 0, \\ &\eta J_{\parallel} = -\nabla_{\parallel} (\bar{\varphi} + \tilde{\varphi}). \end{split}$$

- **Observation:** A multi-scale problem.
- Technique: Method of averaging

$$\bar{A} = \langle A \rangle = \left\langle \bar{A} + \tilde{A} \right\rangle = \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \right)^2 \iint d\theta d\phi e^{-i(m\theta - n\phi)} A.$$

• Separation of different scales:

$$(1) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} \cdot \nabla \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix} \nabla_{\perp}^{2} \bar{\varphi} = -\frac{s}{\tau_{A}} [\nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)^{2}} \bar{\varphi} + \underbrace{(\nabla_{\perp} \cdot \langle \tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \rangle) \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \bar{\varphi}}_{(a)} + \underbrace{(\nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)} \tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \varphi)}_{(b)} + \underbrace{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \cdot \nabla_{\perp}) \nabla_{\parallel'}^{(0)} \bar{\varphi}}_{(c)}] - \frac{gB_{0}}{\rho_{0}} \frac{\partial \bar{p}_{1}}{\partial y},$$

$$(2) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix} \nabla_{\perp}^{2} \tilde{\varphi} = -\frac{s}{\tau_{A}} [\nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)^{2}} \tilde{\varphi} + \underbrace{(\tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \cdot \nabla_{\perp}) \nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)} \bar{\varphi}}_{(a)} + \underbrace{\nabla_{\parallel}^{(0)} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{b}} \cdot \nabla_{\perp}) \bar{\varphi}}_{(b)}] - \frac{gB_{0}}{\rho_{0}} \frac{\partial \tilde{p}_{1}}{\partial y}, \longrightarrow \text{ Relate } \tilde{\varphi} \text{ to } \tilde{\boldsymbol{b}}$$

$$(3) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \widetilde{\boldsymbol{v}} \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix} \bar{p}_{1} - \frac{\nabla \bar{\varphi} \times \hat{\boldsymbol{z}}}{B_{0}} \cdot \nabla p_{0} = 0, \qquad \text{replaced by} \qquad \text{replaced by} \qquad \text{replaced by} \qquad \text{Very Important!}$$

- Some assumptions/observations:
  - *1.*  $\bar{\varphi}$ : low **k**, slow interchange approximation
  - 2.  $\tilde{\varphi}$ : high  $k_2$ , fast interchange approximation
  - 3. The beat of  $\tilde{\mathbf{b}}$  and  $\bar{\varphi}$  drives  $\tilde{\varphi}$
  - 4.  $\tilde{\varphi}$  reacts on the evolution of  $\bar{\varphi}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \pmb{B_0} = B_{\phi} \widehat{\pmb{\phi}} + B_{\theta}(r) \widehat{\pmb{\theta}}, & \tau_A = a(4\pi\rho_0)^{1/2} / B_0, & S = \tau_R / \tau_A, & \tau_R = 4\pi a^2 / \eta \\ L_p = |(1/p_0)(dp_0/dr)|^{-1}, & L_s = s/Rq, & s = |(r/q)(dq/dr)|, & k_{\theta} = m/r_{mn} \end{array}$ 

A feedback loop

#### Results: $\tilde{v}_r$ phase `locks on' to $b_r$



 $v_T$  is required to saturate the growth of  $\tilde{\varphi}$  on a short time scale

• **Results:** The linear response of  $\tilde{\varphi}$  to  $\tilde{b}_r$  in the limit of  $\gamma_k \ll \nu_T k_{2\theta}^2$  (on the macro time scale)

$$\tilde{\varphi}_{k_2} \approx -i \frac{k_\theta}{L_S} \frac{S}{\tau_A} \sum_l \frac{\psi_{k_2}^l(x_2)}{\Lambda_{k_2}^l - \Lambda_{k_2}} \bar{\varphi}_k(x=0) \int \psi_{k_2}^l \tilde{b}_{r_{(k_2-k)}} dx_2',$$

where  $\psi_{k_2}^l$  is the eigen solution,  $\Lambda_{k_2} = 1/\chi_T \tau_p \tau_\kappa - \nu_T k_{2\theta}^4$ ,  $\Lambda_{k_2}^l = \sqrt{8\nu_T S k_{2\theta}^2 / \tau_A L_s^2 (l+1/2)}$ .

Implication: A non-trivial correlation

$$\langle \tilde{b}_r \tilde{v}_r \rangle = \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\tilde{k}_{\theta} R r_{mn}}{L_{\rm S}^3 B_0} \frac{S}{\tau_{\rm A}} \bar{\varphi}_k(0) \times \int dk_{2\theta} |k_{2\theta}| k_{2\theta} \frac{c^2 Z^2 (k_{\theta} - k_{2\theta}) w_{k_2} o_{k_2}^2}{\Lambda_{k_2}^0 - \Lambda_{k_2}},$$

• **Reminder:** The statistics of the turbulence is affected by  $\tilde{b}$  (Minjun Choi).

#### **Results: the Slow Down of the Large-scale Cell**

• Main equation

$$-\frac{S}{\tau_{A}}\frac{k_{\theta}^{2}}{L_{s}^{2}}\frac{d^{2}}{dk_{x}^{2}}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}) + \gamma_{k}k_{x}^{2}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}) - \frac{\kappa p_{0}}{L_{p}\rho_{0}}\frac{k_{\theta}^{2}}{\gamma_{k}}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}) = \hat{H}_{0}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x})$$

$$turbulent \quad = \left[-\nu_{T}k_{x}^{4}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}) - \frac{\kappa p_{0}\chi_{T}k_{\theta}^{2}}{\rho_{0}L_{p}\gamma_{k}^{2}}k_{x}^{2}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x})\right] - \frac{S}{\tau_{A}}\left[\tilde{b}_{r}\right]^{2}k_{x}^{2}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x})$$

$$damping \quad = \left[-\frac{k_{T}^{2}}{\kappa_{x}^{2}}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}) - \frac{\kappa p_{0}\chi_{T}k_{\theta}^{2}}{\rho_{0}L_{p}\gamma_{k}^{2}}k_{x}^{2}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x})\right] - \frac{S}{\tau_{A}}\left[\tilde{b}_{r}\right]^{2}k_{x}^{2}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x})$$

$$= \hat{H}_{1}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(k_{x}).$$

$$electrostatic \quad = \left[-\left(\frac{S}{\tau_{A}}\right)^{2}\frac{Rk_{\theta}^{2}}{L_{s}^{3}}\hat{\varphi}_{k}(0)\left[i\sqrt{2\pi}\delta^{(1)}(k_{x}) + r_{mn}\sqrt{2\pi}\delta(k_{x})\right]I\right]$$

• The first-order growth rate correction:

$$\gamma_{k}^{(1)} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\varphi}_{k}^{(0)} \hat{H}_{1} \hat{\varphi}_{k}^{(0)} dk_{x}}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\varphi}_{k}^{(0)} \left[ \partial_{\gamma_{k}^{(0)}} \hat{H}_{0} \right] \hat{\varphi}_{k}^{(0)} dk_{x}} = -\frac{5}{6} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}_{T}}_{TBD} \left( \frac{\tau_{p} \tau_{\kappa}}{\tau_{A}^{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} S^{\frac{2}{3}} \tilde{k}_{\theta}^{\frac{2}{3}} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{S}{\tau_{A}} \left| \tilde{b}_{r} \right|^{2} - \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} \frac{\hat{I} S^{\frac{4}{3}} \tilde{k}_{\theta}^{\frac{4}{3}}}{\left( \tau_{p} \tau_{\kappa} \tau_{A}^{4} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} < 0,$$

**Physics?** 

where  $\hat{v}_T = v_T / L_s^2$ ,  $\hat{I} = IRr_{mn} / L_s^3$ ,  $\tilde{k}_{\theta} = k_{\theta} L_s$ .

• **Reminder:** Stronger suppression of large-scale fluctuations. (P. Beyer)

#### **Results: Magnetic Braking Effect**

Focusing on the third term, main equation becomes

$$-\frac{S}{\tau_{\rm A}}\frac{k_{\theta}^2}{L_{\rm S}^2}\frac{d^2}{dk_x^2}\bar{\varphi}_{\boldsymbol{k}} + \left[\frac{S}{\tau_{\rm A}}\left|\tilde{b}_r\right|^2 + \gamma_{\boldsymbol{k}}\right]k_x^2\bar{\varphi}_{\boldsymbol{k}} - \frac{\kappa p_0}{L_{\rm p}\rho_0}\frac{k_{\theta}^2}{\gamma_{\boldsymbol{k}}}\bar{\varphi}_{\boldsymbol{k}} = 0.$$
  
Inertia term  $\rho\partial_t\nabla_{\perp}^2\bar{\varphi}$ 

- Effect: Enhances the plasma inertia and opposes the growth of  $\bar{\varphi} \longrightarrow Magnetic braking effect$ .
- Results:
  - 1. Corrected growth rate of the ground state

$$\gamma_{\boldsymbol{k}}^{(1)} = \frac{\tilde{k}_{\theta}}{S|\tilde{b}_{r}|} \frac{\tau_{A}}{\tau_{p}\tau_{\kappa}} \propto \frac{1}{\left|\tilde{b}_{r}\right|}.$$



$$o_{k_2} \sim \Delta x$$

2. Balancing the third term with the linear term, the critical width of magnetic islands

$$o_{k_2} \sim \left[ \frac{k_{\theta}^2}{k_{2\theta}^2} (\Delta x)^4 \right]^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

 $k_{\theta}$ : large-scale cell  $k_{2\theta}$ : small-scale cells

character of multi-scale system, different with Rutherford's result  $o_{k_2} \sim \Delta x$  <sup>[1]</sup>

1. Rutherford, Paul Harding. *The Physics of Fluids* 16, no. 11 (1973): 1903-1908.

#### **Results: Turbulent Viscosity**

- The last piece: The calculation of the turbulent viscosity  $v_T$
- Strategy: Nonlinear closure theory

$$v_T = \sum_{k_2} \left| \tilde{v}_{k_2} \right|^2 \tau_{k_2} \, .$$

• **Result:** In the limit of  $\nu k_{2\theta}^2 - (1/\tau_p \tau_\kappa)^{1/2} \gg 0$ , the scaling of the turbulent viscosity is

$$\nu_{T} = \left[ \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{Rr_{mn}}{B_{0}^{2}} \frac{\tilde{k}_{\theta}^{2}}{L_{s}^{5}} \left( \frac{S}{\tau_{A}} \right)^{2} \bar{\varphi}_{k}^{2}(0) \int dk_{2\theta} \frac{c^{2} Z^{2} w_{k_{2}} o_{k_{2}}^{2}}{|k_{2\theta}|^{5} \gamma_{k_{2}}^{(0)}} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

• Analysis: Equation (2) can be simplified to

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\varphi}}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\lambda}_{\mathbf{v}} \tilde{\varphi} = \underbrace{\widehat{D}[\tilde{b}_r \bar{\varphi}]}_{drive}. \longrightarrow \text{Langevin equations}$$
$$\nu_T k_{2\theta}^2 - \left(1/\tau_p \tau_\kappa\right)^{1/2} > 0$$



#### **Answers to Questions from Simulations**



- Appearance of small-scale structures and increased spatial roughness with stochastic magnetic field → the generation of the small-scale convective cells;
- Stronger suppression of large-scale fluctuations in the stochastic region → large-scale cell tends to be stabilized by the stochastic magnetic field.



#### **Answers to Questions from Experiments**



 Increased bicoherence in the pedestal turbulence → small-scale convective cells potentially open the possibility of increased nonlinear transfer, by increasing the number of triad interactions.



 Reduced C<sub>JS</sub> of the temperature fluctuation in the ELM suppression phase with RMP → electrostatic turbulence phase 'locks on to the stochastic magnetic field'. In other words, turbulence becomes more `random' because its statistics is now correlated with the stochastic magnetic field.

#### **Conclusion: What We Have Learned**

- $\nabla \cdot J = 0$  is maintained at all scales, which reveals that electrostatic convective cells must be driven by  $\tilde{b}\bar{\phi}$  beat.
- Large scale and small scale are connected. As small-scale convective cells are modulated by large-scale mode, large-scale mode is modified by small-scale cells through turbulent viscosity  $v_T$  and electrostatic scattering.
- Stochastic magnetic field produces a magnetic braking effect, which enhances the plasma inertia and exerts a drag on large-scale mode. This is similar in structure to Rutherford's nonlinear  $J \times B$  forces<sup>1</sup>, but in our case, it's produced by stochastic magnetic perturbations.
- We get a non-trivial  $\langle \tilde{b}_r \tilde{v}_r \rangle$ . The velocity fluctuations  $\tilde{v}$  'lock on' to the magnetic perturbations  $\tilde{b}$ .



#### **Conclusion: What We Have Learned**

• Correlation  $\langle \tilde{b}_r \tilde{v}_r \rangle$  is calculated explicitly:

$$\left< \tilde{b}_r \tilde{v}_r \right> = \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\tilde{k}_\theta R r_{mn}}{L_S^3 B_0} \frac{S}{\tau_A} \bar{\varphi}_k(0) \times \int dk_{2\theta} |k_{2\theta}| k_{2\theta} \frac{c^2 Z^2 (k_\theta - k_{2\theta}) w_{k_2} o_{k_2}^2}{\Lambda_{k_2}^0 - \Lambda_{k_2}}$$

• The increment in the growth rate of the large-scale mode is calculated:

$$\gamma_{\mathbf{k}}^{(1)} = -\frac{5}{6}\hat{\nu} \left(\frac{\tau_p \tau_\kappa}{\tau_A^2}\right)^{1/3} S^{2/3} \tilde{k}_{\theta}^{2/3} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{S}{\tau_A} \left|\tilde{b}_r\right|^2 - \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} \frac{\hat{I}S^{4/3} \tilde{k}_{\theta}^{4/3}}{\left(\tau_p \tau_\kappa \tau_A^4\right)^{1/3}}.$$

As  $\gamma_{k}^{(1)}$  is negative definite, the net effect of  $\tilde{b}$  is to reduce resistive interchange growth.

The criterion when magnetic braking effect becomes significant is given. When the width of magnetic islands satisfies

$$\mathcal{D}_{k_2} \sim \left[\frac{k_{\theta}^2}{k_{2\theta}^2} (\Delta x)^4\right]^{1/4}$$

Unlike Rutherford's result, here we have an extra factor  $(k_{\theta}/k_{2\theta})^2$ , which reflects the multi-scale nature of this problem.

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• The scaling of the turbulent viscosity (or turbulent thermal diffusivity) is calculated:

$$\nu = \left[ \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{Rr_{mn}}{B_0^2} \frac{\tilde{k}_{\theta}^2}{L_s^5} \left( \frac{S}{\tau_A} \right)^2 \bar{\varphi}_k^2(0) \int dk_{2\theta} \frac{c^2 Z^2 w_{k_2} o_{k_2}^2}{|k_{2\theta}|^5 \gamma_{k_2}^{(0)}} \right]$$

#### **Conclusion: What We Will Do**

• Toroidicity effect

In tokamak, the poloidal symmetry is broken by *toroidicity effect*. This fact introduces *poloidal coupling* of a series of harmonics, which results in ballooning mode.

Both twisted slicing mode and ballooning mode can be considered as wave packets <sup>[1,2]</sup>. So twisting slicing mode is a particularly clear realization of ballooning.

Idea: studying resistive ballooning mode in a stochastic magnetic field.

Tool: ballooning mode representation.





• Zonal flow

Zonal flow plays a crucial role in L-H transition. The observed enhancement of the transition power threshold implies that zonal flow screening or collapse could be a possible scenario. Therefore, it is essential to couple zonal flow to current model.

1. Roberts, K. V., and J. B. Taylor. The Physics of Fluids 8, no. 2 (1965): 315-322.

2. Wilson, H. R., P. B. Snyder, et al. *Physics of Plasmas* 9, no. 4 (2002): 1277-1286.



## Thank you