



Theory and Modeling Needs For Improved Kinetic Treatments of High-Beta Pressure Limits

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Pressure-driven kink / tearing are strong physics constraints on maximum fusion performance



- Modes grow rapidly above kink limit: $-\gamma \sim 1-10\%$ of τ_A^{-1} where $\tau_A \sim 1\mu s$
- Superconducting "ideal wall" can increase stable β_N up to factor of 2
- Real wall resistive \rightarrow slow-growing "resistive wall mode" (RWM)
 - $-\gamma \tau_{wall} \sim 1 \rightarrow$
 - ms instead of μ s time-scales
- RWM can be stabilized with:
 - kinetic effects (rotation, dissipation)
 - active feedback control

Here we focus on ideal-wall mode (IWM) and TM triggering



Background

- Characteristic growth rates, frequencies of RWM and IWM RWM: $\gamma \tau_{wall} \sim 1$ and $\omega \tau_{wall} < 1$
 - IWM: $\gamma \tau_A \sim 1-10\%$ ($\gamma \tau_{wall} >> 1$) and $\omega \tau_A \sim \Omega_{\phi} \tau_A$ (1-30%) ($\omega \tau_{wall} >> 1$)
- Kinetic effects important for RWM
 - Publications: Berkery, et al. PRL 104 (2010) 035003, Sabbagh, et al., NF 50 (2010) 025020, etc...
- Rotation + kinetic effects beginning to be explored for IWM Such effects generally higher-order than fluid terms (∇p , J_{II}, $|\delta B|^2$, wall)

Calculations for NSTX indicate both rotation and kinetic effects can modify IWM limits and tearing triggering

- High toroidal rotation generated by co-injected NBI in NSTX
 - Fast core rotation: Ω_{ϕ} / ω_{sound} up to ~1, Ω_{ϕ} / ω_{Alfven} ~ up to 0.1-0.3
- Fluid/kinetic pressure is dominant instability drive in high- β ST plasmas



MARS-K: self-consistent linear resistive MHD including toroidal rotation and drift-kinetic effects

• Perturbed single-fluid linear MHD:

Y.Q. Liu, et al., Phys. Plasmas 15, 112503 2008

$$(\gamma + in\Omega)\xi = \mathbf{v} + (\xi \cdot \nabla\Omega)R^2\nabla\phi$$

 $\rho(\gamma + in\Omega)\mathbf{v} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{p} + \nabla \times \mathbf{Q} \times \mathbf{B} + \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{Q}$

 $-\rho \big[2\Omega \nabla Z \times \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \Omega) R^2 \nabla \phi \big] - \nabla \cdot (\rho \boldsymbol{\xi}) R^2 \Omega^2 \nabla Z \times \nabla \phi$

 $(\gamma + in\Omega)\mathbf{Q} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) + (\mathbf{Q} \cdot \nabla\Omega)R^2 \nabla \phi - \nabla \times (\eta \mathbf{j})$ $(\gamma + in\Omega)p = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla P - \Gamma P \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \qquad \mathbf{j} = \nabla \times \mathbf{Q}$

- Rotation and rotation shear effects:
- Mode-particle resonance operator:

• Drift-kinetic effects in perturbed anisotropic pressure p:

 $\mathbf{p} = p_{\parallel} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} + p_{\perp} (\mathbf{I} - \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}})$ $p_{\parallel} e^{-i\omega t + in\phi} = \sum_{e,i} \int d\Gamma M v_{\parallel}^{2} f_{L}^{1}$ $p_{\perp} e^{-i\omega t + in\phi} = \sum_{e,i} \int d\Gamma \frac{1}{2} M v_{\perp}^{2} f_{L}^{1}$ $f_{L}^{1} = -f_{\epsilon}^{0} \epsilon_{k} e^{-i\omega t + in\phi} \sum_{m,l,u} X_{m}^{u} H_{ml}^{u} \lambda_{ml} e^{-in\tilde{\phi}(t) + im\langle \dot{\chi} \rangle t + il\omega_{b} t}$ $H_{L} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_{k}} [M v_{\parallel}^{2} \vec{\kappa} \cdot \xi_{\perp} + \mu(Q_{L\parallel} + \nabla B \cdot \xi_{\perp})]$ Diamagnetic $h_{L} = \frac{n[\omega_{*N} + (\hat{\epsilon}_{k} - 3/2)\omega_{*T} + \omega_{E}] - \omega}{n(\langle \omega_{d} \rangle + \omega_{E}) + [\alpha(m + nq) + l]\omega_{b} - i\nu_{eff} - \omega}$ Precession ExB Transit and bounce Collisions

Fast ions: analytic slowing-down f(v) model – isotropic or anisotropic
 This work —

• Include toroidal flow only: $v_{\phi} = R\Omega_{\phi}(\psi)$ and $\omega_{E} = \omega_{E}(\psi)$

NSTX-U

Real part of complex energy functional provides equation for growth-rate useful for understanding instability sources





Equilibrium force balance model including toroidal rotation

Force balance for species s:
$$\vec{J}_s \times \vec{B} = \nabla p_s + \rho_s \vec{v}_s \cdot \nabla \vec{v}_s + Z_s en_s \nabla \Phi$$

Assume: $T_s = T_s(\psi)$ $v_{\phi s} = R\Omega_{\phi s}$ $\Omega_{\phi s} = \Omega_{\phi s}(\psi)$ B• above \rightarrow $n_s(\psi, R) = N_s(\psi) \exp\left(\frac{m_s \Omega_{\phi s}^2 (R^2 - R_{axis}^2)}{2k_B T_s} - \frac{Z_s e \Phi(\psi, \theta)}{k_B T_s}\right)$

Exact multi-species solution requires iteration to enforce quasi-neutrality \rightarrow simplify \rightarrow intrinsically quasi-neutral if all n_s have same exponential dependence. This approximate solution assumes main ions dominate centrifugal potential.

$$\vec{J} \times \vec{B} = \sum_{s} \nabla(n_{s}T_{s}(\psi)) + \sum_{s} m_{s}n_{s}\Omega_{\phi s}^{2}\nabla\left(\frac{R^{2}}{2}\right) \qquad 0 = \sum_{s} N_{s}(\psi)Z_{s}$$
$$n_{s}(\psi, R) = N_{s}(\psi) \exp\left(U(\psi)\left(\frac{R^{2}}{R_{axis}^{2}} - 1\right)\right) \qquad U(\psi) = \frac{P_{\Omega}(\psi)}{P_{K}(\psi)}$$
$$P_{\Omega}(\psi) = \frac{\sum_{s} N_{s}(\psi)m_{s}\Omega_{\phi s}^{2}R_{axis}^{2}}{2} \qquad P_{K}(\psi) = \sum_{s} N_{s}(\psi)T_{s}(\psi)$$



Grad-Shafranov Equation (GSE) including toroidal rotation

Total force balance:
$$\rho \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} \approx -\rho \Omega_{\phi}^2 \nabla R^2 / 2 = \left(\frac{J_{\phi}}{R} - \frac{FF'}{\mu_0 R^2}\right) \nabla \psi - \nabla p$$

 $\vec{B} = \nabla \psi \times \nabla \phi + F \nabla \phi$
Rotation-modified
GSE: $\frac{J_{\phi}}{R} = \frac{FF'}{\mu_0 R^2} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial \psi}\Big|_R \qquad \rho \Omega_{\phi}^2 R = \frac{\partial p}{\partial R}\Big|_{\psi}$
 $p(\psi, R) = P_{\rm K}(\psi) \exp\left(U(\psi)\left(\frac{R^2}{R_{\rm axis}^2} - 1\right)\right)$

LRDFIT reconstructions with rotation determine 3 flux functions:

- $U(\psi)$ based on fitting electron density profile asymmetry (not C⁶⁺ rotation data)
- $P_{K}(\psi)$ and FF'(ψ) full kinetic reconstruction \rightarrow fit to magnetics, iso-T_e, MSE with E_r corrections, thermal pressure between r/a = 0.6-1.

NSTX-U

Study 2 classes of IWM-unstable plasmas spanning low to high β_N

- Low β_N limit ~3.5, often saturated/long-lived mode
 - $-q_{min} \sim 2-3$
 - -Common in early phase of current flat-top
 - –Higher fraction of beam pressure, momentum (lower n_e)
- Intermediate β_N limit ~ 5
 - $-q_{min} \sim 1.2-1.5$
 - Typical good-performance H-mode, $H_{98} \sim 0.8$ -1.2



Impact of including rotation on q, P_K , P_Ω

- Black rotation included (from fit to n_e profile asymmetry)
- Red rotation set to 0 in reconstruction



Reconstructed core $q(\rho)$ lower with rotation included

Reconstructed core $P_{K}(\rho)$ slightly lower w/ rotation included

Reconstructed core $P_{\Omega}(\rho)$ comparable to measured thermal ion rotation pressure (they should be similar)



Reconstructions imply significant fast-ion profile broadening

- Black: reconstruction with rotation included (n_e asymmetry)
- Blue: measured thermal

Reconstructed core fast ion

 $P_{\kappa}(\rho)$ significantly lower than

TRANSP calculation

• Red: recons. minus thermal, Orange: TRANSP (no FI diffusion)



Reconstructed fast ion $P_{\Omega}(\rho)$ significantly broader, lower than TRANSP calculation

$$U(\psi) = \frac{P_{\Omega}(\psi)}{P_{K}(\psi)}$$
$$\exp\left(U(\psi)\left(\frac{R^{2}}{R_{axis}^{2}} - 1\right)\right)$$

NOTE: there is substantial uncertainty in P_{Ω} near the magnetic axis since U is indeterminate there, i.e. U could be much larger or smaller w/o impacting the density asymmetry fit



Profiles after fast-ion density profile broadening

- Black: reconstruction with rotation included (n_e asymmetry)
- Blue: measured thermal, Red: recons. minus thermal
- Orange: TRANSP with FI density profile broadening (post-facto)



(III)NSTX-U

Because fast ion density is low, the impact of fast-ions on total toroidal rotation f_{ϕ} is weaker than impact on P_{O}

Implication: fast-ion redistribution or loss likely more important for pressure than rotation

Low β_N limit ~ 3.5: Saturated f=15-30kHz n=1 mode common during early I_P flat-top phase





Kinetic profiles used in analysis



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Predicted stability evolution using MARS-K compared to experiment



Fast ion broadening has significant impact on predicted stability



With fast-ion redistribution

Without broadening, predicted marginally stable β_{N} would be much lower than experiment

And predicted frequency would be higher than observed

Observed mode initial γ consistent with kink/MARS-K



SXR data also consistent with kink/MARS-K at onset



- MARS-K IWM kink eigenfunction largest amplitude for r/a = 0.5-0.8
- Simple/smooth emission profile $\varepsilon_0(\psi)$ can reproduce line-integrated SXR
- ...and can reproduce line-integrated SXR fluctuation amplitude profile
- ...and has same kink-like structure vs. time and SXR chord position
 - Although the "slope" of the simulated eigenfunction is shallower than measured... rotation or fast-ion effect?
- Later in time, SXR better fit to 2/1 TM (not shown)

Intermediate β_N limit ~ 5: Small f=30kHz continuous n=1 mode precedes larger 20-25kHz n=1 bursts



NSTX-U

Kinetic profiles used in analysis



• But, expect weaker rotational destabilization since M_{s-D} similar, q lower $\delta \hat{W}_{rot} \sim \delta W_{\nabla p} \Rightarrow v_{\phi} \sim v_{th-ion}/\sqrt{q}$

Kinetic IWM β_N limit consistent with experiment, fluid calculation under-predicts experimental limit



Measured IWM real frequency more consistent with kinetic model than fluid model





IWM energy analysis near marginal stability elucidates trends from growth-rate scans

• Fast-ions in $Re(\delta W_k)$ = dominant destabilization in both shots

Balanced against field-line bending + compression + vacuum stabilization

- Shot 138065 has larger destabilization from fast-ions & rotation – Consistent w/ larger 55% reduction in $\beta_N = 7-8 \rightarrow 3.5$ (vs. 5.5 \rightarrow 4.2 or 25%)
- Kelvin-Helmholtz-like $\delta W_{d\Omega}$ and δK_2 are dominant δW_{rot} terms

- Rotational Coriolis and centrifugal effects weaker





Some theory needs for tearing triggering by IWM, or due to proximity to IWM marginal stability (1)

- Hybrid fluid + drift-kinetic MHD → predicts IWM marginal stability, growth rate, real frequency, eigenfunction
- But when do IWMs lead to disruption, and/or trigger TMs?
- For few cases studied thus far, tearing triggered after kink/IWM onset when $f_{kink-IWM}$ closer to $f_{ExB\ at\ q=2}$
 - Hypothesis: Require frequency match, sufficient drive + time
 - ω match influenced by rotation shear, thermal / fast-ion ω^{*}
- Implications for IWM \rightarrow TM calculations
 - Spontaneous tearing mode calculations likely require modified Δ' and Γ' to include rotation/rotation shear, fast ions
 - $\hfill \label{eq:star}$ Know from Gerhardt's 2/1 NTM work rotation shear likely important for Δ'
 - Forced reconnection triggering of TM likely requires non-linear treatment including differential ω , shielding effects

NSTX-U

Some theory needs for tearing triggering by IWM, or due to proximity to IWM marginal stability (2)

• Example non-linear forced reconnection model: Hegna, Callen, and LaHaye Phys. Plasmas, Vol. 6, No. 1, January 1999

$$E(t) = E_0 \left(\frac{t}{\tau_G}\right)^{\alpha} e^{i\omega t} \quad \frac{\partial \psi_x}{\partial t} = \frac{e^{i\omega t}}{\tau_{sp}} \frac{[2mE(t)]^{3/2}}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \qquad \Phi = B_{\zeta} \rho_0^2 / L_s$$

$$\psi_x(t) \approx \frac{t}{\tau_{sp}} \frac{[2mE(t)]^{3/2}}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \frac{1}{1+3\alpha/2} \{1 - i\omega t C_0 + \cdots\} \qquad \psi_x(t) \approx \frac{e^{i\omega t}}{i\omega \tau_{sp}} \frac{[2mE(t)]^{3/2}}{\sqrt{\Phi}} \left[1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\omega t}\right)\right]$$

$$\omega t \ll 1 \qquad \omega t > 1$$

$$1/\omega \tau_{sp} \text{ shielding from differential rotation}$$

Can models like this (or more sophisticated) be used:
 To estimate "fast" evolution, amplitude of driven seed island
 Link to MRE to understand stabilization, growth/saturation?



 $I = a^2 R / a' a$

Some theory needs related to fast-ion distribution function representation / modeling (1)

- MARS-K has both isotropic and anisotropic (NBI-like) representations for fast-ion distribution function
 - Anisotropic model sometimes leads to singular eigenfunctions and/or different mode characteristics
 - -Isotropic model much better behaved... but why?
 - Possible numerical / implementation issues
 - Also likely that fast ions could be more isotropic than TRANSP classical slowing down model due to velocity-space redistribution (?)

–Need better constraint on pitch angle \rightarrow FIDA data will help





Some theory needs related to fast-ion distribution function representation / modeling (2)

- Generalized GS equation including beams developed by E. Belova (PoP 2003): $0 = -\nabla p_p + (\mathbf{J} - \mathbf{J}_b) \times \mathbf{B},$ $\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B},$ $0 = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_b,$ $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \phi \times \nabla \psi + h \nabla \phi,$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$ $R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left(\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial Z^2} = -R^2 p'_p - HH' - GH' + RJ_{\phi,b}$
- Need to extend the above model to include rotation
- Equilibrium reconstructions may need to include multiple F_0 bases to accurately capture FI effects Investigate constraints by FIDA and other FI diagnostics



Summary

- Hybrid fluid + drift-kinetic MHD model significantly improves predictive capability for linear IWM stability –Rotation, fast-ion, kinetic effects can strongly modify IWM
- Accurate reconstructions of fast-ion redistribution by other modes very important for understanding IWM
 - Need improved models of fast-ions in reconstructions and low-n stability codes to understand IWM and related MHD
 Need to include rotation for self-consistency
- Tearing mode triggering by IWM (or near limits) will need improvements in models:
 - –Rotation, rotation shear, fast-ion effects on Δ' and MRE

– NL / forced reconnection with differential ω and shielding