

# Waves and Turbulence

by S.J. Diem with cited contributions

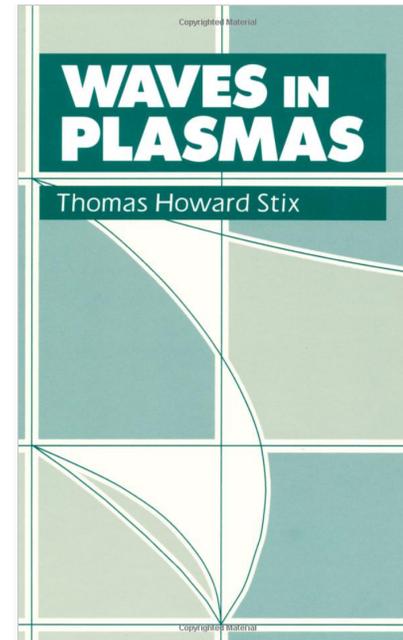
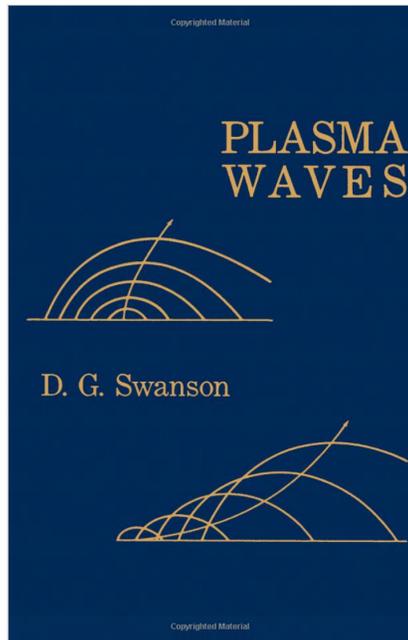
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# Waves References

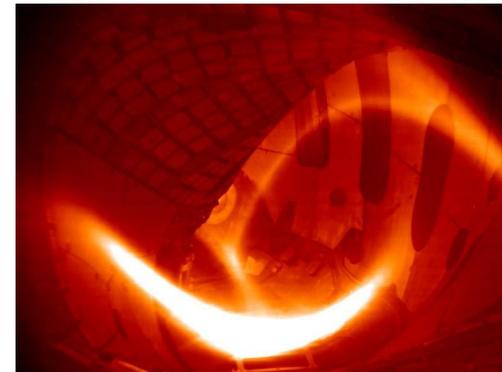


# Plasmas support wide variety of wave phenomena

- Waves found naturally in plasmas
  - Instabilities, fluctuations, wave-induced transport
- Waves can deliver energy-momentum in plasma
  - Heating, current drive, particle acceleration
  - Mode stabilization, plasma confinement,  $\alpha$ -channeling
- Waves can be used in plasma diagnostics
  - Interferometry, reflectometry, Faraday rotation, Thomson scattering



Photo of aurora: Senior Airman Joshua Strang



First W7-X plasma, IPP, Greifswald

## Plasmas support wide variety of wave phenomena

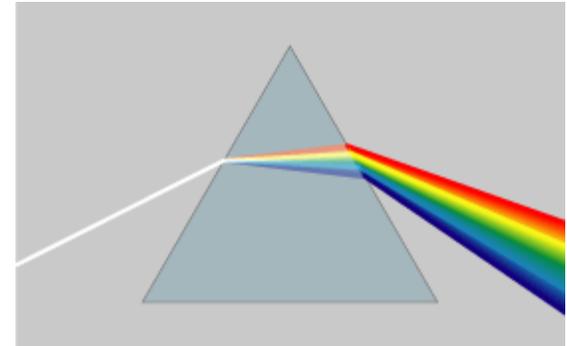
- How do we describe waves in plasmas?
- What can the dispersion relation tell us?
- Examples of waves and what we can do with them

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- **How do we describe waves in plasmas?**
- What can the dispersion relation tell us?
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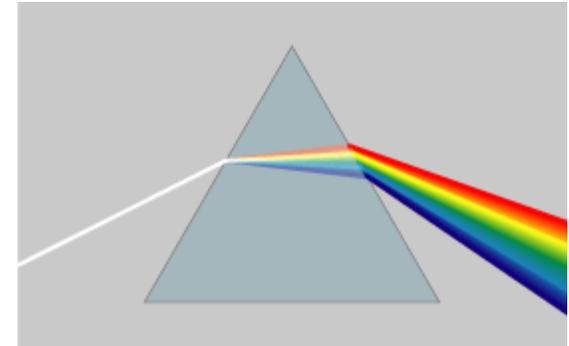
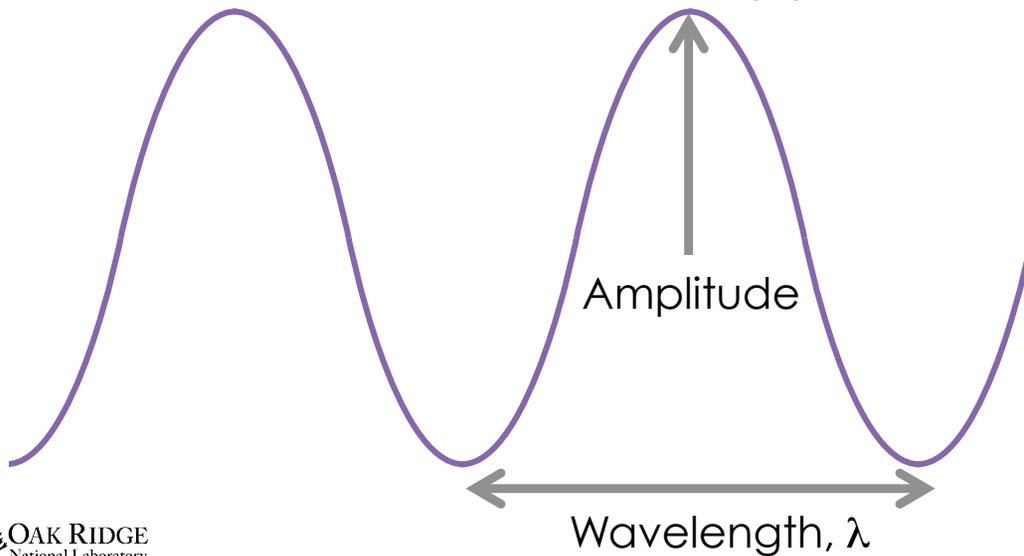
## How are waves in plasmas described?

- Wave characteristics can change based on surroundings
- Dispersion relation describes relationship between wavelength and frequency of wave,  $\omega(k)$



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Wavenumber:  $\mathbf{k}=2\pi/\lambda$

Angular frequency:  $\omega=2\pi f$

Phase velocity:  $\mathbf{v}_p=\omega/k$

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- Process to derive cold plasma dispersion relation:
  - Step 1:** Determine assumptions
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## Step 1: Assumptions

- Plasma is homogenous in space
- Uniform background magnetic field (no gradients or curvature), anisotropic
- Cold, infinite plasma
  - $T_e = T_i = 0$  : motionless without waves, zero gyroradius, no thermal effects

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Step 2: Fourier analyze Maxwell's equations, obtain wave equation

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{j} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \qquad \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \qquad \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

Propagation of EM waves in all physical media for all frequency ranges are governed by Maxwell's equations

## Step 2: Fourier analyze Maxwell's equations, obtain wave equation

Ampere's law

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{j} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

Faraday's law of induction

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Ampere's law

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \underbrace{\mu_0 \vec{j}}_{\text{Plasma current}} + \underbrace{\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}}_{\text{Vacuum displacement}} = \underbrace{\mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}}_{\text{D = electric displacement, accounts for the effects of free and bound charges in materials}}$$

Plasma current

Vacuum displacement

D = electric displacement, accounts for the effects of free and bound charges in materials

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Dielectric tensor – will be derived shortly...  
**Contains all of the plasma response**

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Apply Fourier analysis in space and time:  $\vec{E}, \vec{B} \approx \exp(i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - i\omega t)$

Ampere's law

$$i\vec{k} \times \vec{B} = -i\omega\mu_0\epsilon_0 \vec{K} \cdot \vec{E}$$

Faraday's law of induction

$$i\vec{k} \times \vec{E} = i\omega\vec{B}$$

## Step 2: Fourier analyze Maxwell's equations, obtain wave equation

Ampere's law

$$\vec{k} \times \vec{B} + \omega \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$

Faraday's law of induction

$$\frac{1}{\omega} \vec{k} \times \vec{E} = \vec{B}$$

Simplify using:  $\frac{1}{c^2} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0$

Index of refraction:  $\vec{n} = \frac{c \vec{k}}{\omega}$

$$\vec{n} \times \vec{n} \times \vec{E} + \vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$

For  $\mathbf{K} = 1$ , get vacuum waves

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**Contains all of the plasma physics**

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**Contains all of the plasma physics**

Use the above to relate the electric field to the dielectric tensor and plasma current:

$$\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\vec{K} \cdot \vec{E}) = \mu_0 \vec{j} + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

Fourier analyze  $\longrightarrow$

$$\vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = \vec{E} + \frac{i}{\omega \epsilon_0} \vec{j}$$

Step 3: Dielectric tensor  $\vec{n} \times \vec{n} \times \vec{E} + \vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$

$$\vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = \vec{E} + \frac{i}{\omega \epsilon_0} \vec{j}$$

We know how to describe current carried by a charge:

$$\vec{j} = \sum_s n_s q_s \vec{v}_s$$

Use single particle equation of motion to find velocity:

$$n_s m_s \frac{d\vec{v}_s}{dt} = n_s q_s (\vec{E} + \vec{v}_s \times \vec{B})$$

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Use the following assumptions to solve for velocity components:

Apply Fourier analysis in space and time:  $f(\vec{r}, t) = f \exp(i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - i\omega t)$

Linearize equations  $f = f_0 + f_1 + \dots$  and  $f_0 \gg f_1$

Choose:  $\vec{B} = B_0 \hat{z}$  and  $\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 = E_x \hat{x} + E_z \hat{z}$

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Solve equations of motion to get  $v(E)$

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$$v_x = \frac{q}{\omega m} \frac{iE_x - \frac{\Omega_c}{\omega} E_y}{1 - \frac{\Omega_c^2}{\omega^2}}$$

$$v_y = \frac{q}{\omega m} \frac{iE_y + \frac{\Omega_c}{\omega} E_x}{1 - \frac{\Omega_c^2}{\omega^2}}$$

$$v_z = \frac{iq}{\omega m} E_z$$

Where cyclotron frequency defined as:

$$\Omega_c = \frac{qB_0}{m}$$

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Goes to infinity as wave frequency approaches cyclotron frequency

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Unaffected by background magnetic field

Step 3: Dielectric tensor  $\vec{n} \times \vec{n} \times \vec{E} + \vec{\bar{K}} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$

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Take these expressions for velocity, put back into dielectric tensor:

$$\vec{j} = \sum_s n_s q_s \vec{v}_s$$

$$\vec{\bar{K}} \cdot \vec{E} = \vec{E} + \frac{i}{\omega \epsilon_0} \vec{j}$$


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$$v_z = \frac{iq}{\omega m} E_z$$

$$\vec{j} = \sum_s n_s q_s \vec{v}_s$$



$$\vec{\bar{K}} \cdot \vec{E} = \vec{E} + \frac{i}{\omega \epsilon_0} \vec{j}$$

$$\vec{\bar{K}} \cdot \vec{E} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{11} & K_{12} & K_{13} \\ K_{21} & K_{22} & K_{23} \\ K_{31} & K_{32} & K_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \\ E_z \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 3: Dielectric tensor  $\vec{n} \times \vec{n} \times \vec{E} + \overline{\overline{K}} \cdot E = 0$

$$\overline{\overline{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} S & -iD & 0 \\ iD & S & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & P \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S = 1 - \sum_s \frac{\omega_{ps}^2}{\omega^2 - \Omega_{cs}^2}$$

$$D = \sum_s \frac{\Omega_{cs} \omega_{ps}^2}{\omega(\omega^2 - \Omega_{cs}^2)}$$

$$P = 1 - \sum_s \frac{\omega_{ps}^2}{\omega^2}$$

$$\omega_{ps}^2 = \frac{q^2 n}{\epsilon_0 m}$$

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Let  $\theta$  be the angle between  $B_0$  and  $\mathbf{n}$

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$$\vec{n} \times \vec{n} \times \vec{E} + \vec{K} \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} S - n^2 \cos^2 \theta & -iD & n^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta \\ iD & S - n^2 & 0 \\ n^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta & 0 & P - n^2 \sin^2 \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \\ E_z \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

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For non-trivial solutions:

$$\det[ ] = 0$$

Will give the dispersion relation to relate  $n(\omega)$  or  $\omega(k)$  or  $\omega(k, \theta)$

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Can write the solution in the convenient Appleton-Hartree Form:

$$\tan^2 \theta = \frac{-P(n^2 - R)(n^2 - L)}{(Sn^2 - RL)(n^2 - P)} \quad R = S + D = 1 - \sum_s \frac{\omega_{ps}^2}{\omega \left( \omega + \frac{q_s}{|q_s|} \Omega_{cs} \right)}$$

$$L = S - D = 1 - \sum_s \frac{\omega_{ps}^2}{\omega \left( \omega - \frac{q_s}{|q_s|} \Omega_{cs} \right)}$$

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## Plasmas support wide variety of wave phenomena

- How do we describe waves in plasmas?
- **What can the dispersion relation tell us?**
- Examples of waves and what we can do with them

Dispersion relation contains lots of information

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General condition for **resonance** occurs for:  $n^2 \rightarrow \infty$   $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

$$\tan^2 \theta = -P / S \quad \text{Waves resonate with particle motion}$$

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General condition for **resonance** occurs for:  $n^2 \rightarrow \infty$   $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

$$\tan^2 \theta = -P / S \quad \text{Waves resonate with particle motion}$$

General condition for **cutoff** occurs for:  $n \rightarrow 0$   $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$

$$PRL = 0 \quad \text{Waves will not propagate}$$

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## Waves in cold plasma dispersion relation

- Propagation parallel to  $B_0$ ,  $\theta = 0$ 
  - $P=0$ , plasma oscillations
  - $n^2 = R$
  - $n^2 = L$
- Propagation perpendicular to  $B_0$ ,  $\theta = \pi/2$ 
  - $n^2=P$
  - $n^2=RL/S$

$$\tan^2 \theta = \frac{-P(n^2 - R)(n^2 - L)}{(Sn^2 - RL)(n^2 - P)}$$

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## Whistler waves

- Assumptions:
  - Wave propagates along magnetic field:  $\theta = 0$
  - Look at root of dispersion relation:  $n^2 = R$
  - Consider frequency range:  $\Omega_{ci} \ll \omega \ll \Omega_{ce} \sim \omega_{pe}$

$$n^2 = R = 1 - \sum_s \frac{\omega_{ps}^2}{\omega \left( \omega + \frac{q_s}{|q_s|} \Omega_{cs} \right)}$$

$$n^2 = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pe}^2}{\omega (\omega - \Omega_{ce})} - \frac{\omega_{pi}^2}{\omega (\omega + \Omega_{ci})}$$

## Whistler waves

- Assumptions:

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  - Wave propagates along magnetic field:  $\theta = 0$
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  - Consider frequency range:  $\Omega_{ci} \ll \omega \ll \Omega_{ce} \sim \omega_{pe}$

$$n^2 \approx \frac{\omega_{pe}^2}{\omega \Omega_{ce}}$$

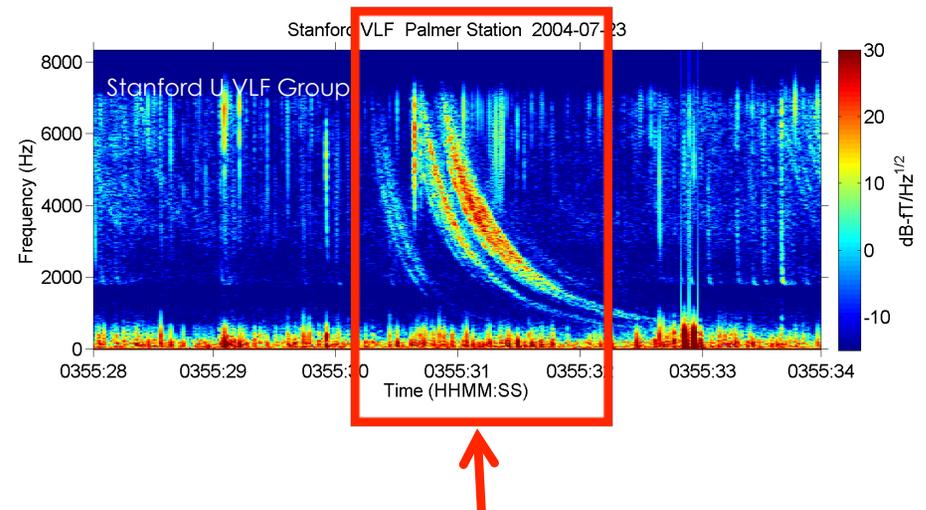
$$v_p = \frac{c}{n} = c \sqrt{\frac{\omega \Omega_{ce}}{\omega_{pe}^2}} \quad \text{Phase velocity}$$

$$v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk} = \frac{2kc^2\Omega_{ce}}{\omega_{pe}^2} = 2v_p \quad \text{Group velocity}$$

$v_p, v_g \propto \omega$  High frequencies to propagate faster along B

# Whistler waves found in magnetosphere

- Originally observed by radio/telephone operators in WWI/II
- Lightning strikes excite broad range of radio frequency waves in magnetosphere
- Some whistlers born at strike site, propagate along earth's dipole field
- Because of dispersion, higher frequency waves go faster than lower frequency

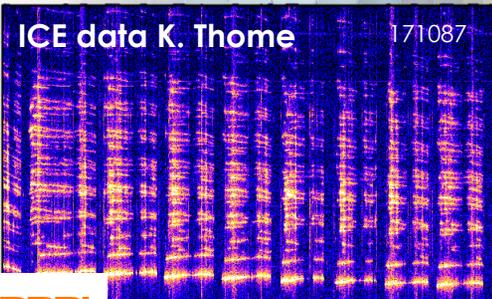
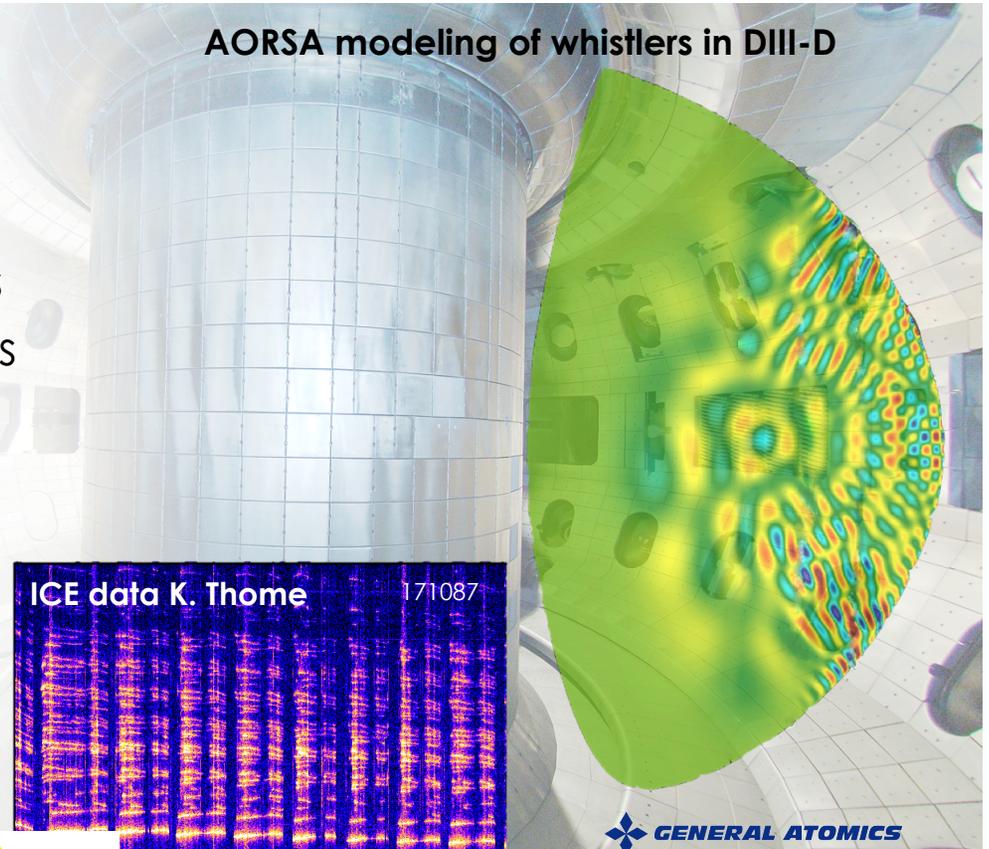


Whistlers heard as a descending tone

# Whistler waves observed in tokamaks

- Runaway electrons provide driving energy for whistler waves
  - Increasing B suppresses whistlers
  - Decreasing B enhances whistlers
- Observed more whistlers with increased intensity in measured hard x-rays
  - Dispersion relationship suggests electron energy  $\sim 10\text{-}15$  MeV

AORSA modeling of whistlers in DIII-D



K. Thome RSI (2018)

GENERAL ATOMICS  
D. Spong PRL (2018)

## Waves in cold plasma dispersion relation

- Propagation parallel to  $B_0$ ,  $\theta = 0$ 
  - $P=0$ , plasma oscillations
  - $n^2 = R$
  - $n^2 = L$
- **Propagation perpendicular to  $B_0$ ,  $\theta = \pi/2$** 
  - **$n^2=P$**
  - **$n^2=RL/S$**

$$\tan^2 \theta = \frac{-P(n^2 - R)(n^2 - L)}{(Sn^2 - RL)(n^2 - P)}$$

## Electron cyclotron range of frequency waves provide heating and drive current

- Consider electron cyclotron (EC) frequency range, there are two solutions to cold plasma dispersion relation:

- Ordinary mode (O-mode):

- E is parallel to B
- Independent of B
- Depends on  $n_e$

$$n_{\perp}^2(\omega) = P = 1 - \frac{\omega_{pe}^2}{\omega^2}$$

- Extraordinary mode (X-mode):

- E is perpendicular to B
- Depends on B,  $n_e$

$$n_{\perp}^2(\omega) = \frac{RL}{S}$$

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Cutoff when  $\omega = \omega_{pe}$

- Extraordinary mode (X-mode):

- E is perpendicular to B
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$$n_{\perp}^2(\omega) = \frac{RL}{S}$$

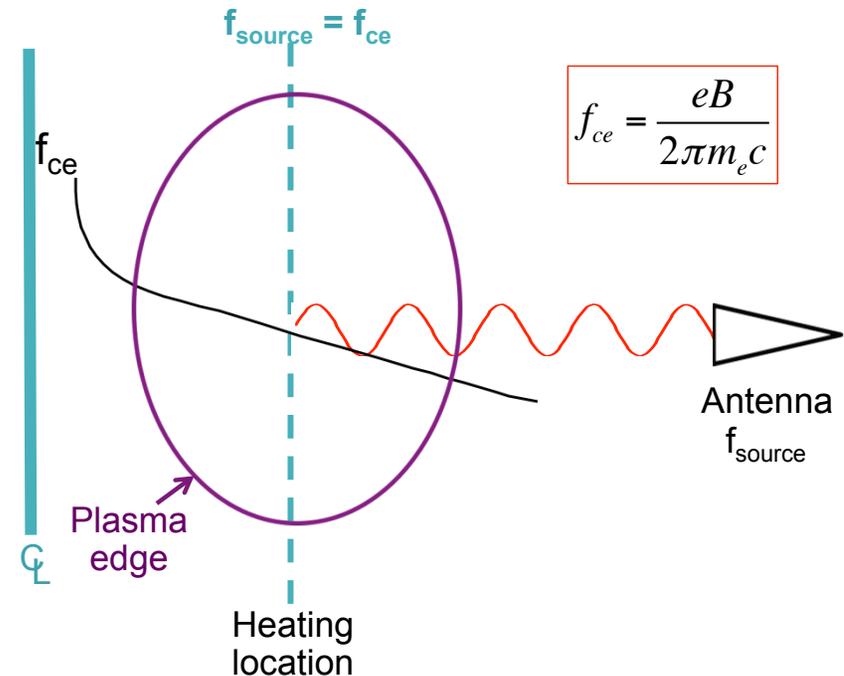
Cutoff when  $R=0$  or  $L=0$   
"R and L cutoffs"

Resonant when  $S=0$   
"Upper Hybrid Resonance"

# How can O-modes and X-modes have resonances?

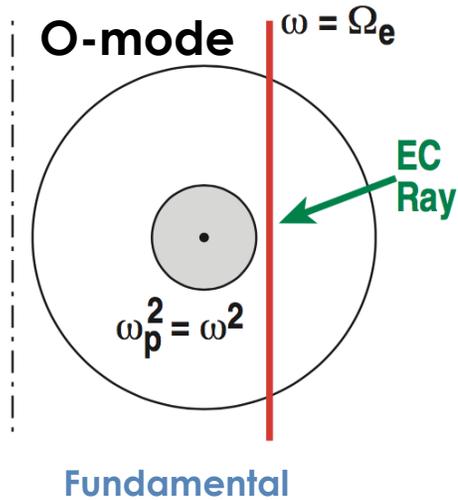
- Hot plasma dispersion relation has resonances
  - O-mode resonant at  $\Omega_C$ , X-mode resonant at  $n\Omega_C$
  - Same cutoffs as cold plasma dispersion relations

- Launched RF waves absorbed near cyclotron resonance
  - Tuned to either electron or ion cyclotron motion
  - RF source frequency can be chosen to heat precise radius
  - For tokamaks,  $B_t \propto 1/R$

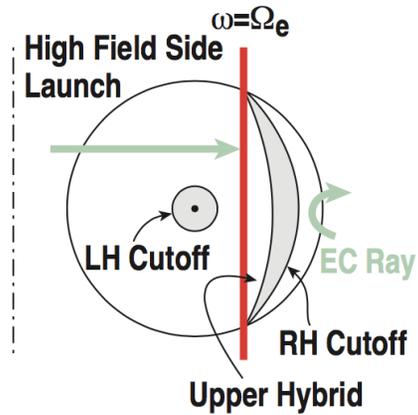


# EC waves provide localized heating/current drive

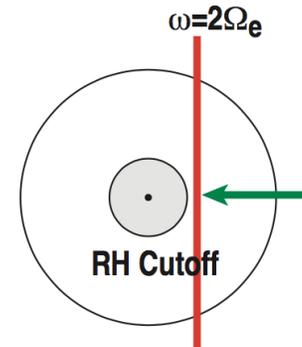
- Can provide:
  - Electron heating
  - Current profile control, sustainment
  - Control of MHD activity



## X-mode



## Fundamental

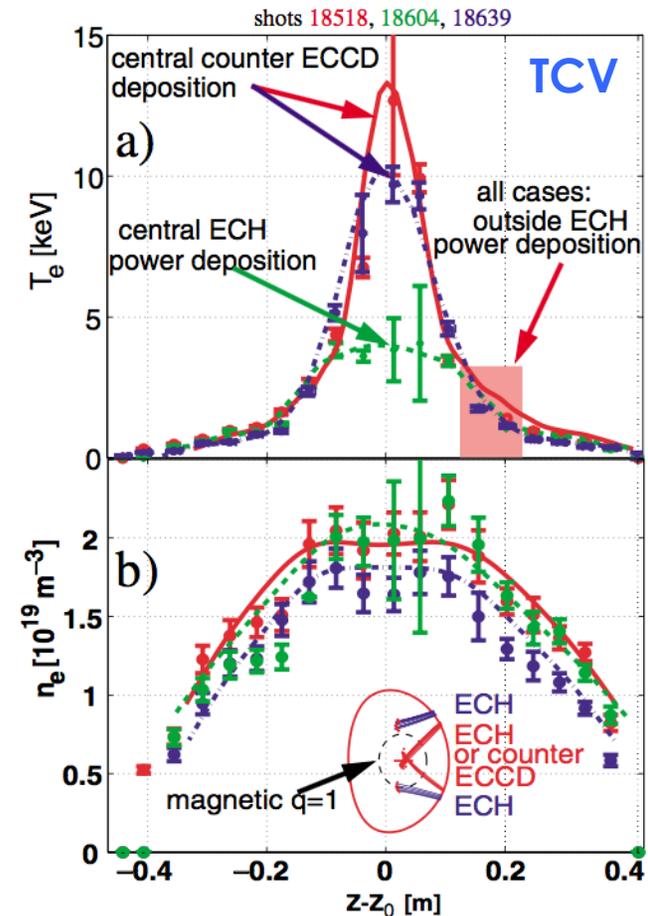


## Second Harmonic

R. Prater PoP (2003)

# EC waves provide localized heating/current drive

- Many examples of ECH/ECCD in tokamaks and other confinement devices
  - Large scale, high performance devices depend on waves for heating
- ECH/ECCD can provide current profile tailoring in TCV
  - Improve central electron energy confinement
  - Stabilize MHD modes

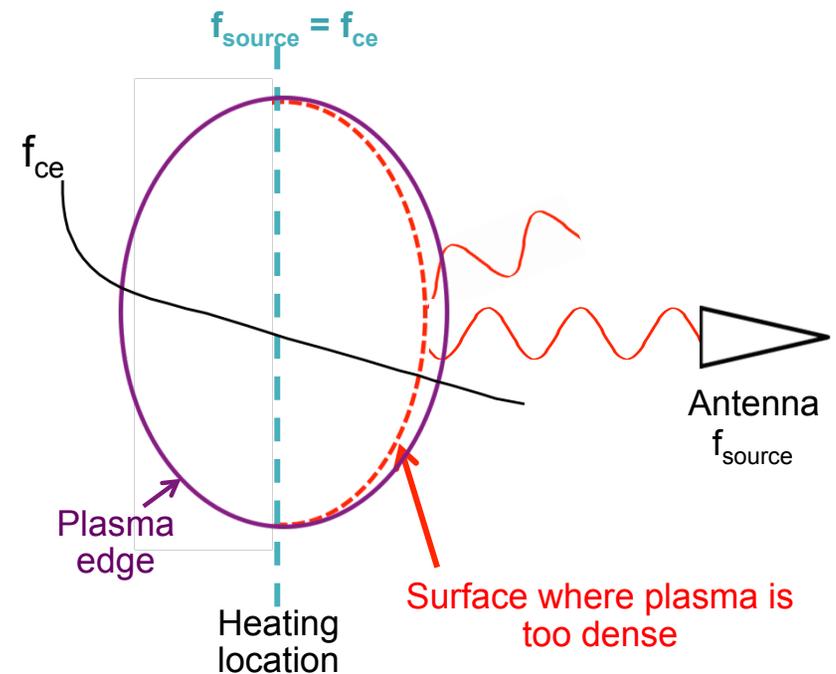


# Electron cyclotron wave injection provides plasma heating and current drive – in certain conditions

- If plasma is too dense, O-mode & X-mode reflected near plasma edge
  - Happens in spherical tokamaks and stellarators

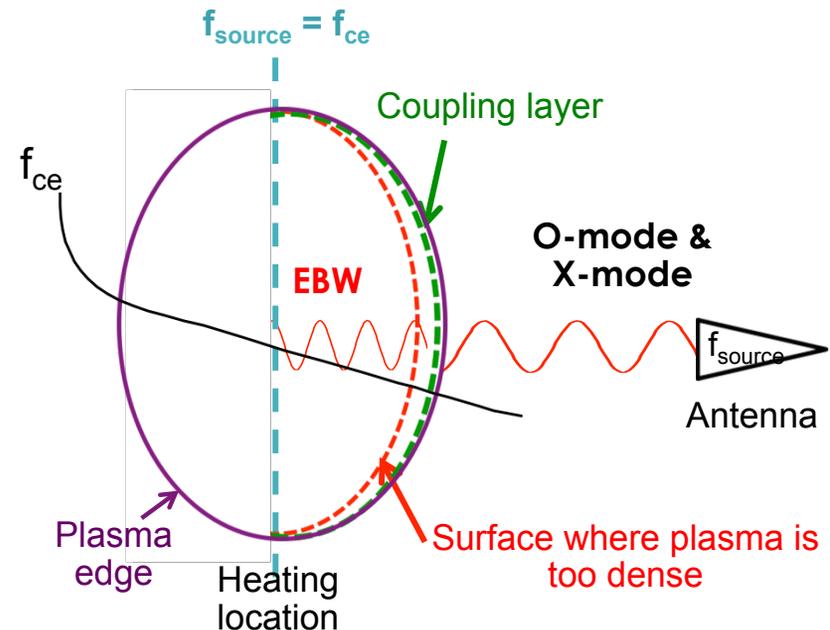
$$\omega_{\text{source}} > \omega_{\text{pe}}$$

- **Alternative heating method required**



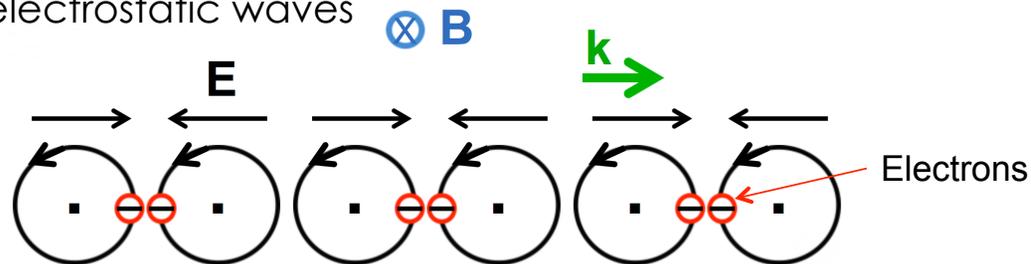
## Electron Bernstein waves can travel in high density plasmas

- Electron Bernstein Waves (EBW) can only travel inside the plasma
  - Wave moves due to coherent motion of charged particles
- Can only couple to EBW by launching O- or X-modes



# Electron Bernstein waves can propagate in overdense plasmas

- Electron Bernstein waves (EBW) are hot plasma waves:
  - Perpendicularly propagating,  $k_{\parallel}=0$
  - Do not experience a density cutoff in the plasma
  - Longitudinal, electrostatic waves



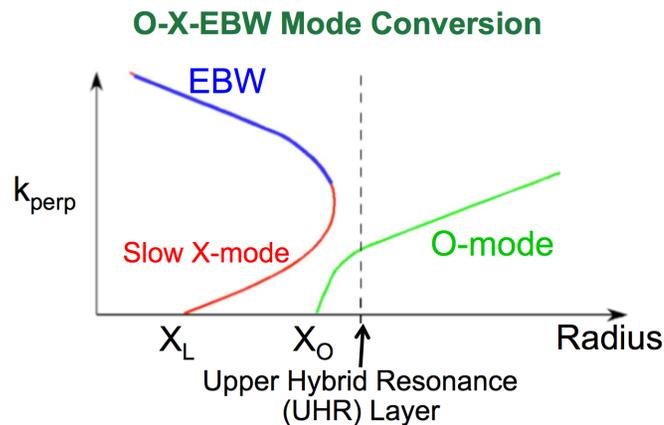
- Cannot propagate in vacuum  $\rightarrow$  must launch O- or X-mode to mode couple to EBW

$$1 - 2 \sum_s \frac{4\pi n_s m_s c^2}{\lambda B_0^2} \left[ \sum_s e^{-\lambda} I_n(\lambda) \frac{n^2}{\left(\frac{\omega}{\Omega}\right)^2 - n^2} \right] = 0 \quad \text{Where: } \lambda = \frac{k_{\perp}^2 k T_{\perp}}{m \Omega^2}$$

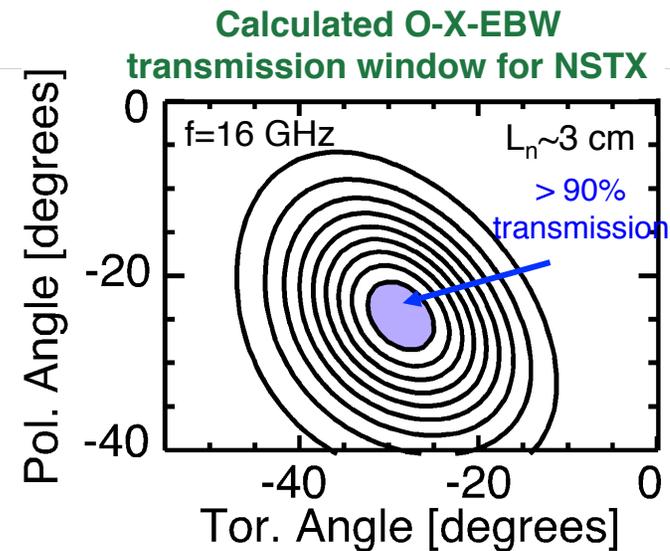
- As wave frequency approaches EC harmonic,  $\omega = n\Omega_C$ , wave is strongly absorbed

# EM waves can couple to EBW at conversion layer before reflection at density cutoff

- EBW coupling efficiency depends on plasma parameters at conversion layer:
  - Density gradient
  - Magnetic field pitch
- Requires oblique launch of O-mode

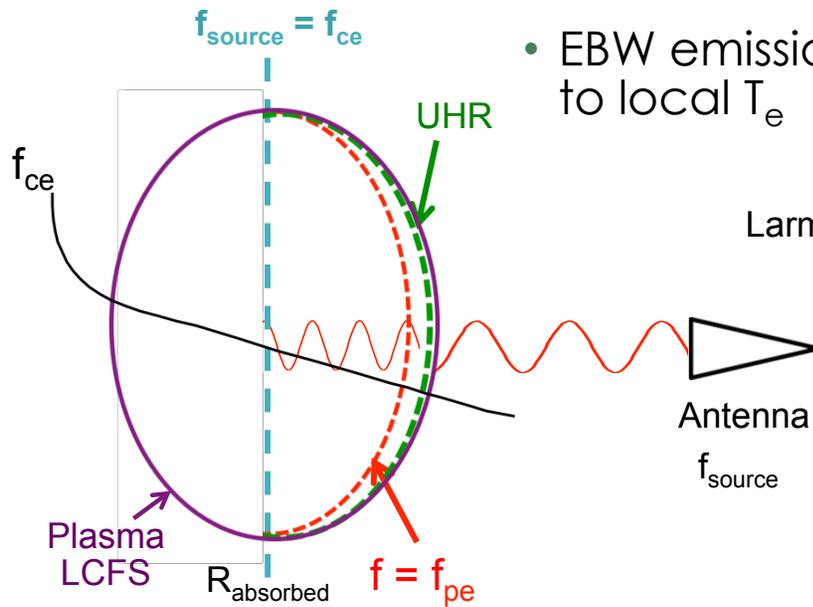


$$\omega_{UHR} = \sqrt{\omega_{pe}^2 + \Omega_{ce}^2}$$



Fuchs (1995), Ram (1996)

# EBW emission can be used to measure temperature



- EBW emission at blackbody levels, proportional to local  $T_e$

Larmor formula: 
$$I_{\omega} = \frac{\omega^2 k_B T_{\text{rad}}}{8\pi^3 c^2}$$

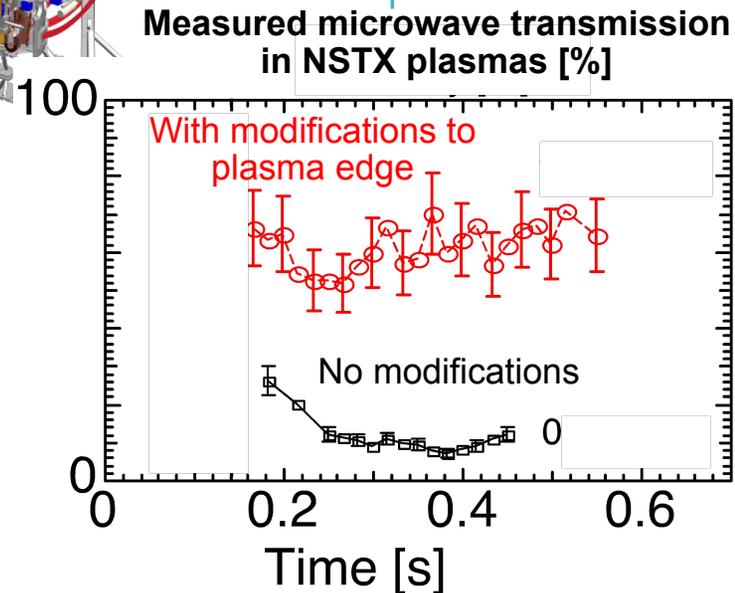
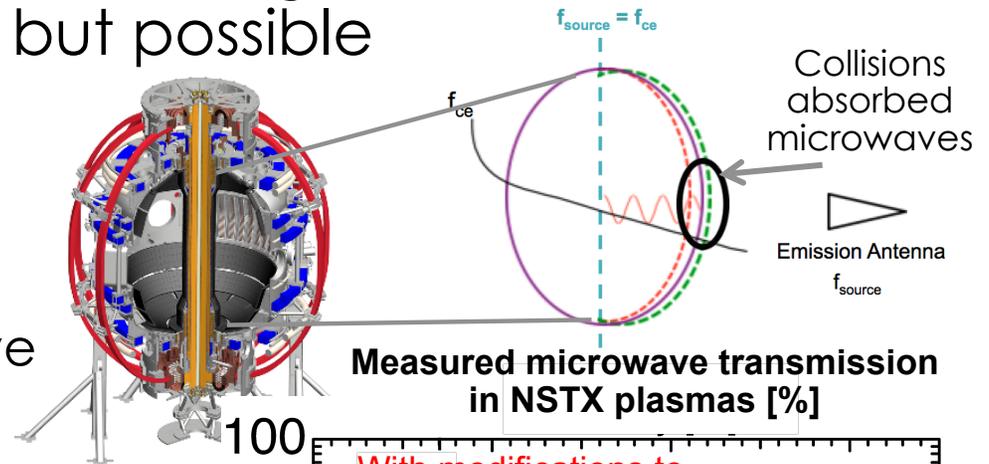
$$\text{Transmission} = \frac{T_{\text{rad}}(\text{EBE})}{T_e(\text{Thomson})}$$

- Physics of O-X-EBW injection and EBW-X-O emission are symmetric, assuming no parasitic effects
- Measured  $T_{\text{rad}} = \text{local } T_e$  provided EBW-X-O conversion efficiency known:

$f_{ce} \sim 1/R \rightarrow \text{radial localization}$

# Coupling microwave power into high density fusion plasmas can be difficult – but possible

- Plasma naturally emits microwaves from cyclotron resonance location
- Assumed physics of microwave emission from high density plasmas same as launching
  - Measurements on NSTX didn't agree with predictions
  - Plasma edge had too many collisions, absorbed microwaves
- **Unexpected results present opportunities**



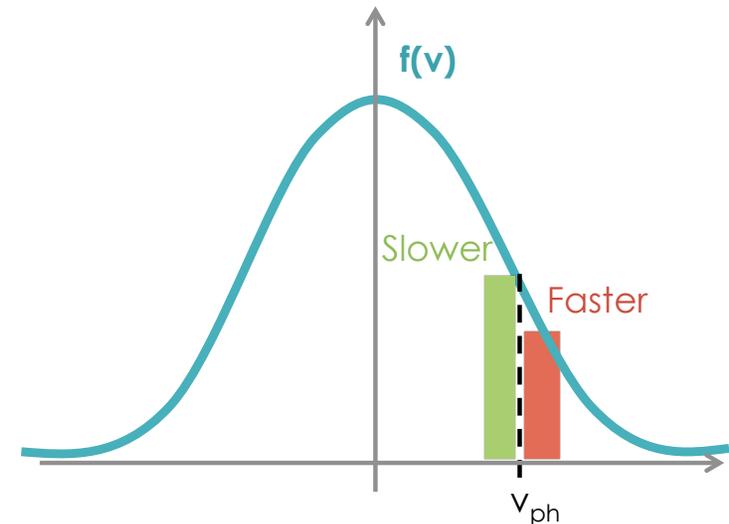
## Waves in cold plasma dispersion relation

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  - **$n^2 = R$**
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- Propagation perpendicular to  $B_0$ ,  $\theta = \pi/2$ 
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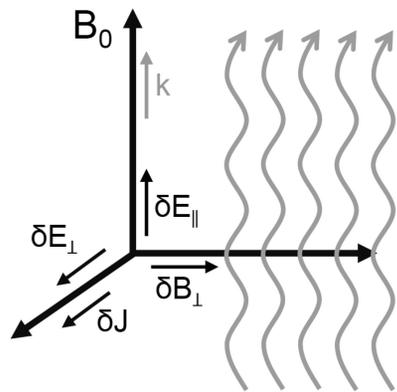
# Interactions of waves and particles

- Collisionless damping allows energy exchange between plasma and EM waves
- Particles with speed comparable to  $v_{ph}$  speed can resonate
- Particles with speed slightly slower than  $v_{ph}$  will be accelerated, take energy from wave
- Particles with speed slightly faster than  $v_{ph}$  will decelerate, give energy to wave



# Low frequency MHD waves - Alfvén waves

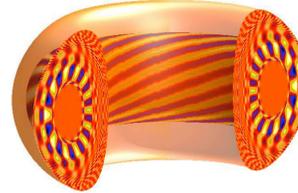
- Very low frequency waves ( $\omega \ll \Omega_{CI}$ ), EM waves
- MHD wave where ions oscillate in response to a restoring force provided by an effective tension on the magnetic field lines
  - Linearize MHD equations to obtain shear Alfvén
  - EM waves that propagate along magnetic field lines



$$\omega = k_{\parallel} v_A$$

$$v_A = \frac{B}{\sqrt{\mu_0 n_i m_i}}$$

Toroidicity Induced Alfvén Eigenmode (TAE)



$$\omega_{TAE} \sim \frac{v_A}{2R} \left( \frac{n}{m + 1/2} \right) \propto \frac{B}{\sqrt{n_e}}$$

Reversed Shear Alfvén Eigenmode (RSAE)

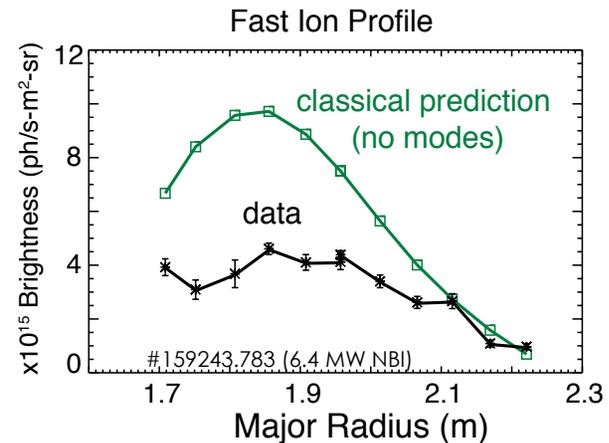
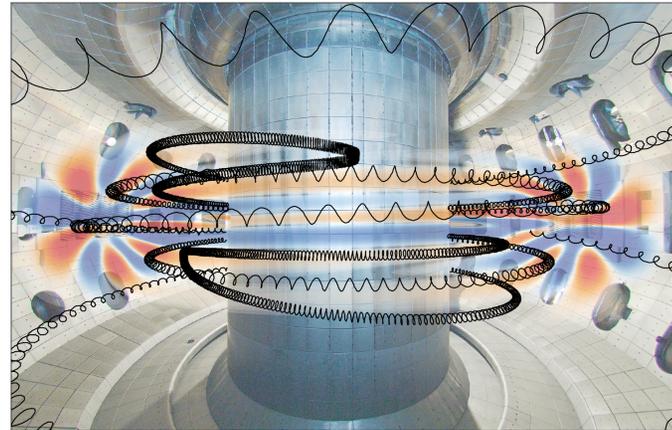


$$\omega_{RSAE} \sim \frac{v_A}{R} \left( \frac{m - nq_{min}}{q_{min}} \right) \propto \frac{1}{q_{min}} \frac{B}{\sqrt{n_e}}$$

# Alfvén eigenmodes (AE) can cause fast-ion transport

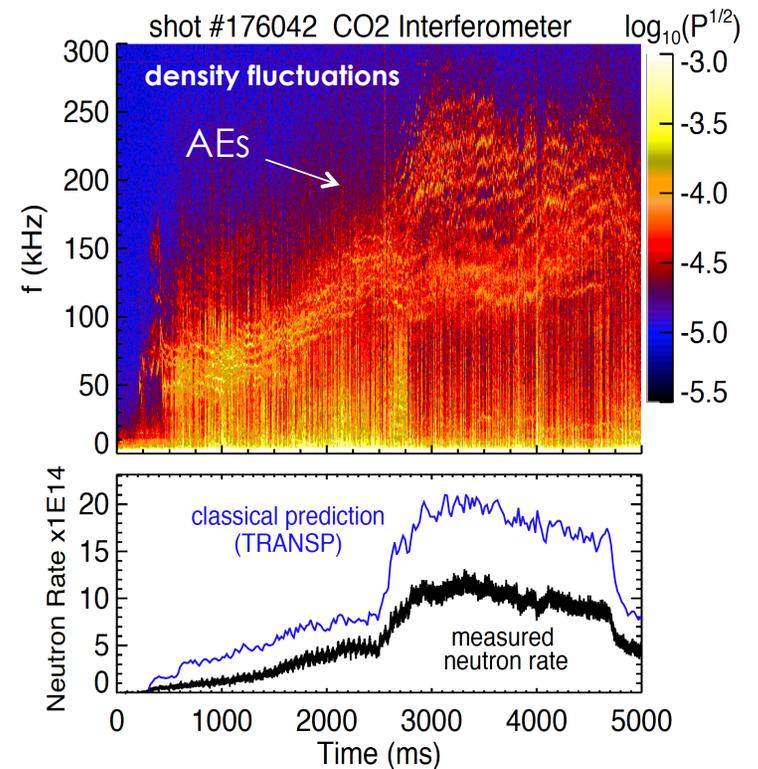
- Fast ions created through NBI, ion cyclotron resonance heating, or fusion reactions
- AEs are MHD instabilities driven by wave particle interactions
- In DIII-D, high beam power can drive strong AE activity, causing fast-ion profile to flatten

[Heidbrink et al., PRL 99, 245002 (2007)]



# Fast-ion transport can reduce fusion performance and lead to losses that damage fusion reactor walls

- AEs cause transport that can:
  - Reduce absorbed beam heating power
  - Reduce current drive
  - Reduce achievable  $\beta_N$  (fusion power  $\propto (\beta_N)^2$ )
  - Cause fast ion losses that damage walls
- A 'sea' of AEs are predicted to be unstable in ITER
- Important questions:
  - When is transport significant?
  - What can we do to control AE transport



[Heidbrink, PPCF 56 (2014)]

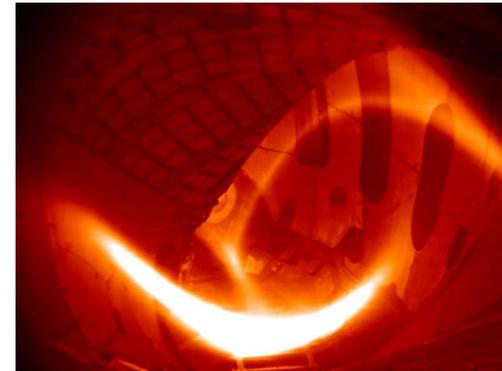
[Holcomb, PoP 22 (2015)]

## Plasmas support wide variety of wave phenomena

- Waves found naturally in plasmas
  - Described by dispersion relation
- Waves can deliver energy-momentum in plasma
- Waves can be used in plasma diagnostics
- Waves can drive turbulence...



Photo of aurora: Senior Airman Joshua Strang



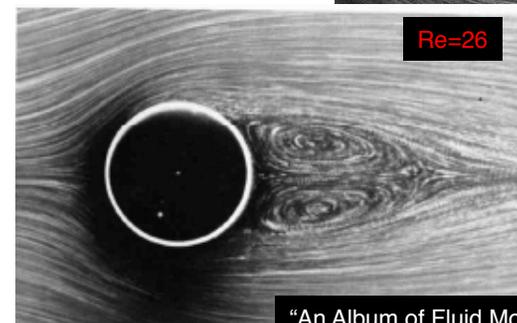
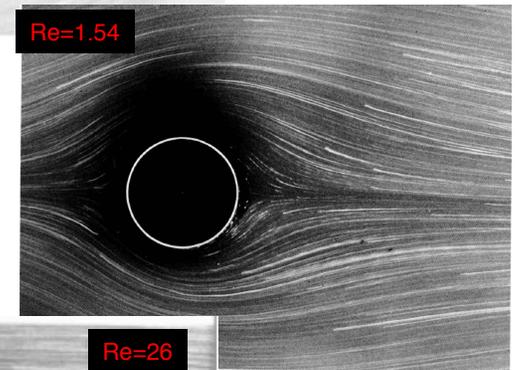
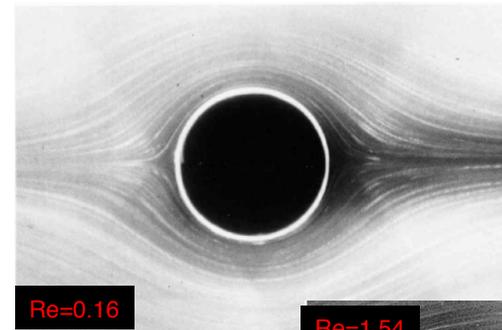
First W7-X plasma, IPP, Greifswald

## Turbulence – References

- See previous lectures by Saskia Mordjick and Troy Carter - <http://suli.pppl.gov>
- Greg Hammett has a lot of great introductory material to fusion, tokamaks, drift waves, ITG turbulence, gyrokinetics, etc... ([w3.pppl.gov/~hammett](http://w3.pppl.gov/~hammett))
- Greg Hammett & Walter Guttenfelder gave five 90 minute lectures on turbulence at the 2018 Graduate Summer School ([gss.pppl.gov](http://gss.pppl.gov))
- Transport & Turbulence reviews:
  - Liewer, Nuclear Fusion (1985)
  - Wootton, Phys. Fluids B (1990)
  - Carreras, IEEE Trans. Plasma Science (1997)
  - Wolf, PPCF (2003)
  - Tynan, PPCF (2009)
  - ITER Physics Basis (IPB), Nuclear Fusion (1999)
  - Progress in ITER Physics Basis (PIPb), Nuclear Fusion (2007)

## What is turbulence?

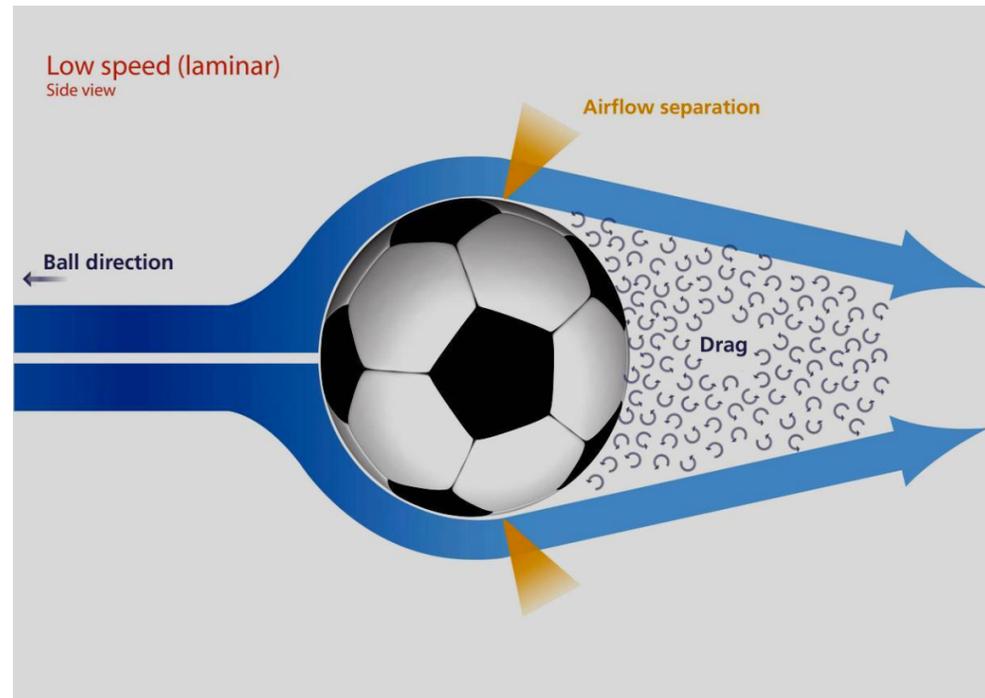
- Turbulence is fluid motion characterized by chaotic changes in pressure and flow velocity
  - Irregular: treated statistically
  - Diffusive: available supply of energy accelerates mixing of fluids
- Turbulence spans wide range of spatial and temporal scales
- Turbulence is not a property of the *fluid*, it's a feature of the *flow*
- Examples of turbulence?



"An Album of Fluid Motion", M. Van Dyke (1982)

## Turbulence effects soccer ball performance - low speed

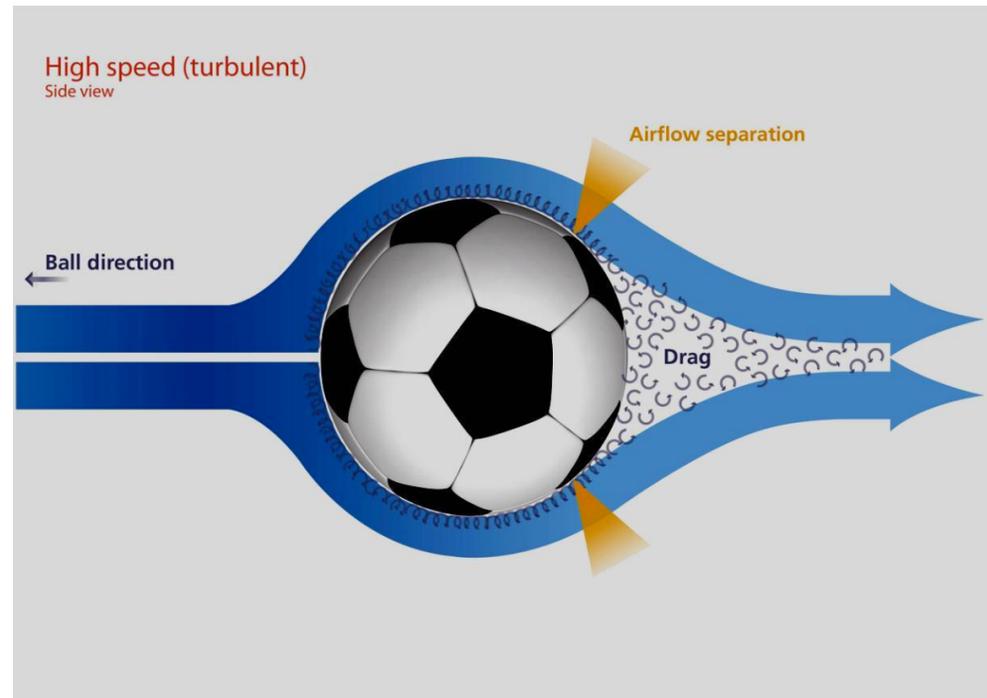
- At low speeds, laminar airflow regime
- Boundary layer separates early
- Large wake created with high drag on ball



Reference: A.L. Kiratidis & D.B. Leinweber, European Journal of Physics, Vol. 39, #3 (2018)

## Turbulence effects soccer ball performance - high speed

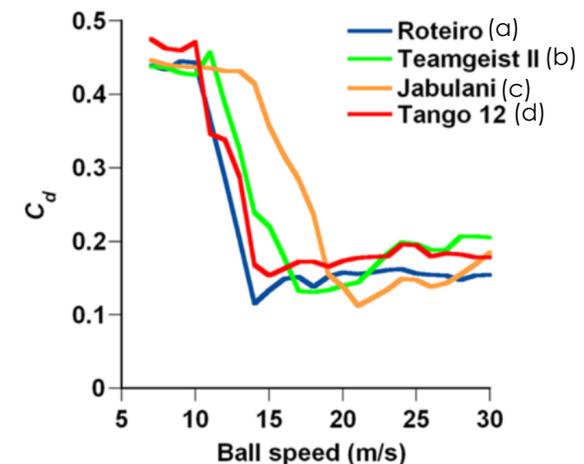
- At high speeds, turbulent airflow regime
- Boundary layer separates late
- Smaller wake created, lower drag on ball



Reference: A.L. Kiratidis & D.B. Leinweber, European Journal of Physics, Vol. 39, #3 (2018)

## Parameter modifications can affect turbulence

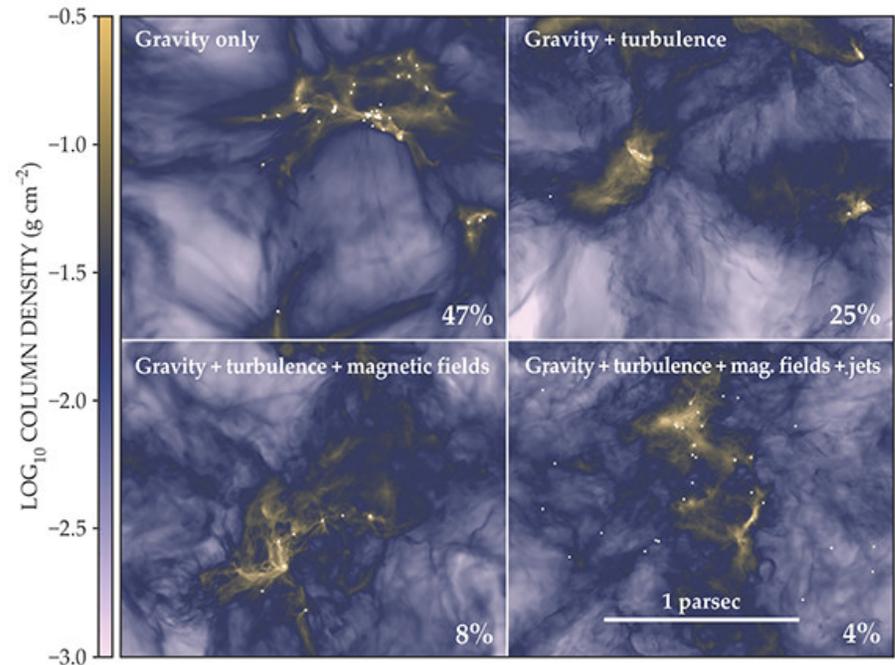
- Rougher surfaced soccer balls lead to more predictable flight
  - Affects speed at which flow transitions from laminar to turbulent around ball
- What this tells us about turbulence:
  - Turbulence can dramatically effect outcomes/performance
  - Not accounting for turbulence can lead to unexpected behaviors
  - Can find knobs to “tune” turbulence to take advantage of it



T. Asai & K. Seo SpringerPlus (2013)

## Turbulence affects star formation

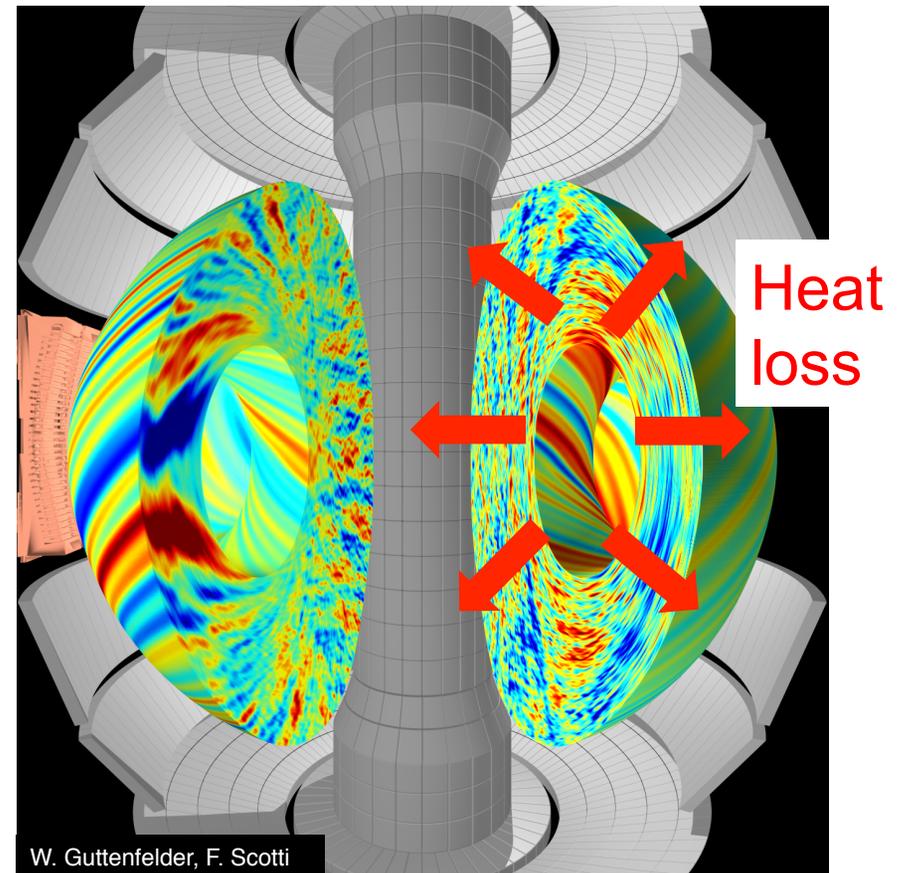
- Turbulence kicks around gas, making it harder for gravity to collapse clouds
- Turbulence is supersonic, experiences shocks/strong local compressions necessary to seed gravitational collapse
- Kick-starts star formation in localized regions of the cloud



Published in: Christoph Federrath; *Physics Today* 71, 38-42 (2018)  
DOI: 10.1063/PT.3.3947  
Copyright © 2018 American Institute of Physics

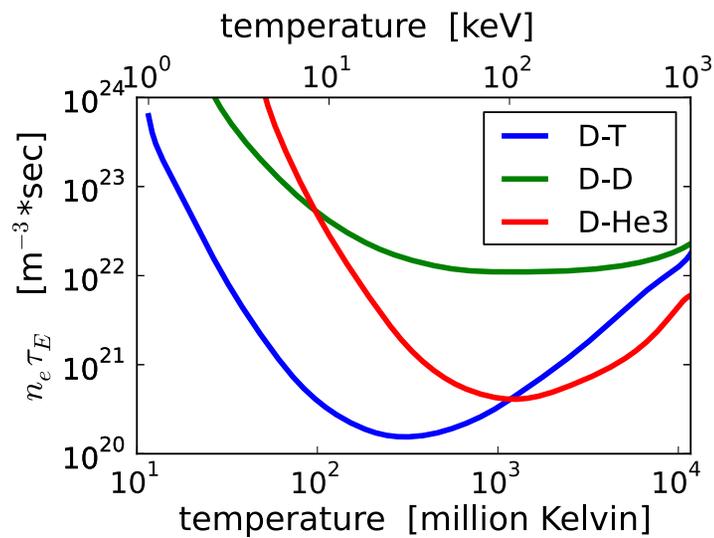
## Sufficient energy confinement in magnetic fusion energy devices to reach ignition

- Sustained fusion reactions require enough particles (**density**) that are energetic enough (**temperature**) and collide often enough (**confinement time**)
- Confinement is not perfect, devices can leak heat at a significant rate



## Triple product, Lawson criterion, determines ignition

- Require power losses < input power
  - Depends on density, temperature, confinement time



Temperature = 150 Million C

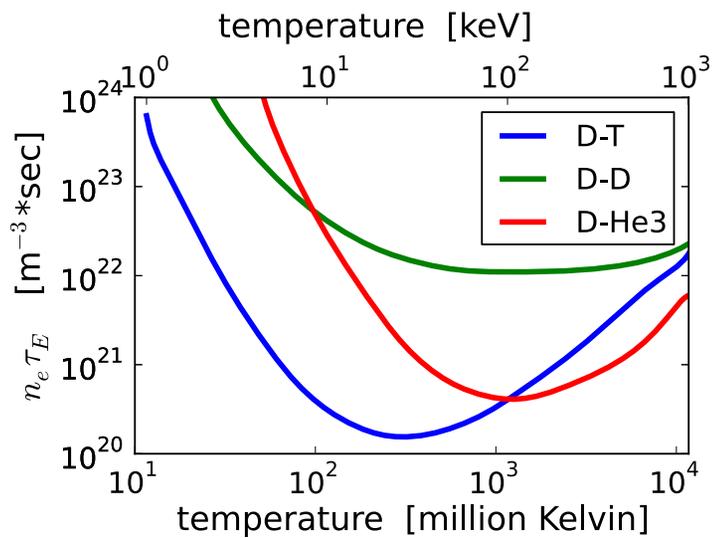
Pressures = 2-4 atm

Need  $\tau_E = 1-2$  s

$$\tau_{C, collisions} \sim \frac{1}{D_{collisions}} \sim 100 \text{ s}$$

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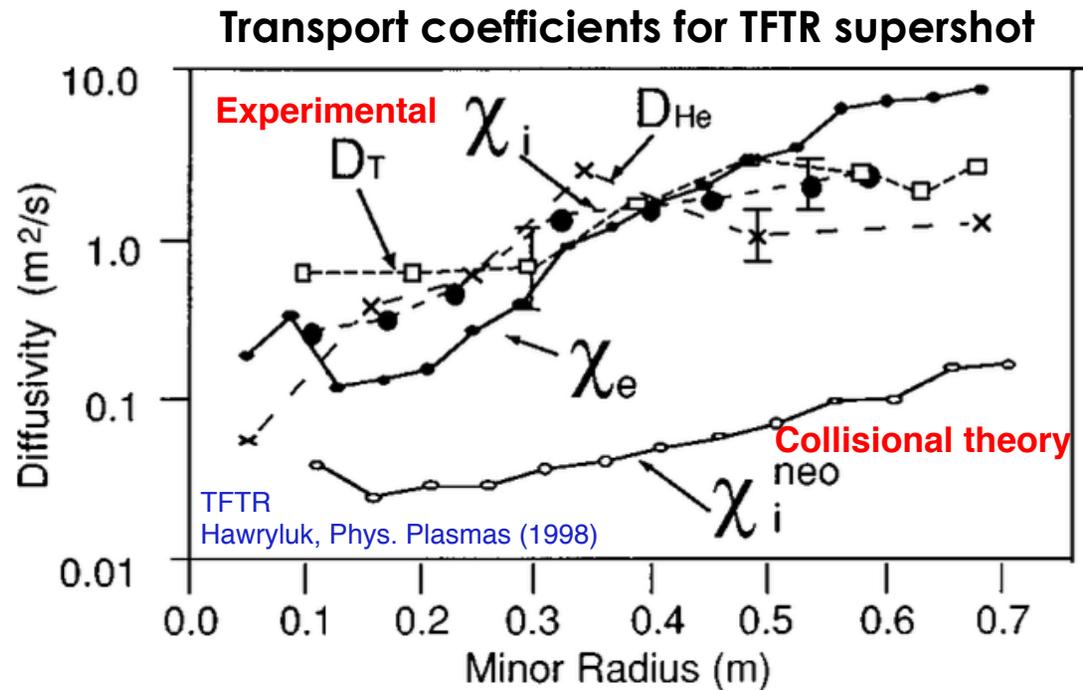
$$\tau_{C, experimental} \sim 0.1 \text{ s}$$

# Inferred experimental transport larger than classical theory – extra “anomalous” contribution

- Turbulent diffusion coefficient orders of magnitude larger than collisional (neo-classical) diffusion

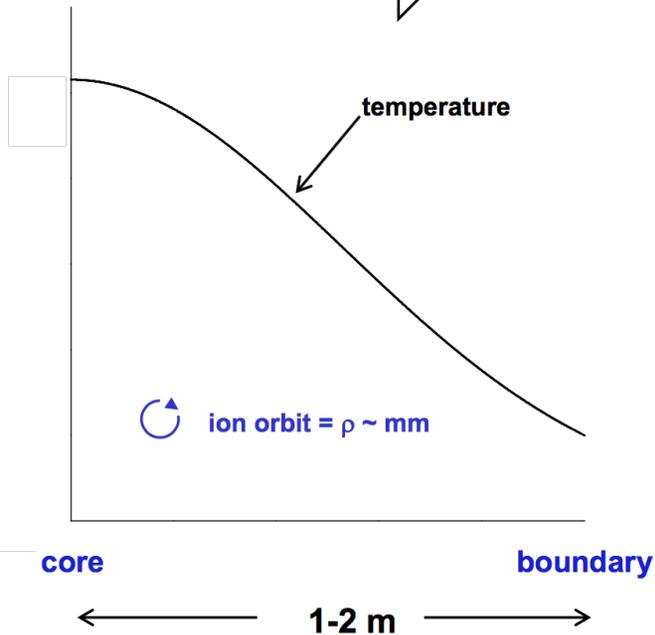
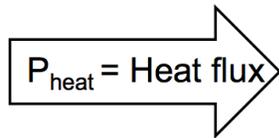
$$\text{confinement time} \sim \frac{1}{D}$$

- Results in lower than expected energy confinement



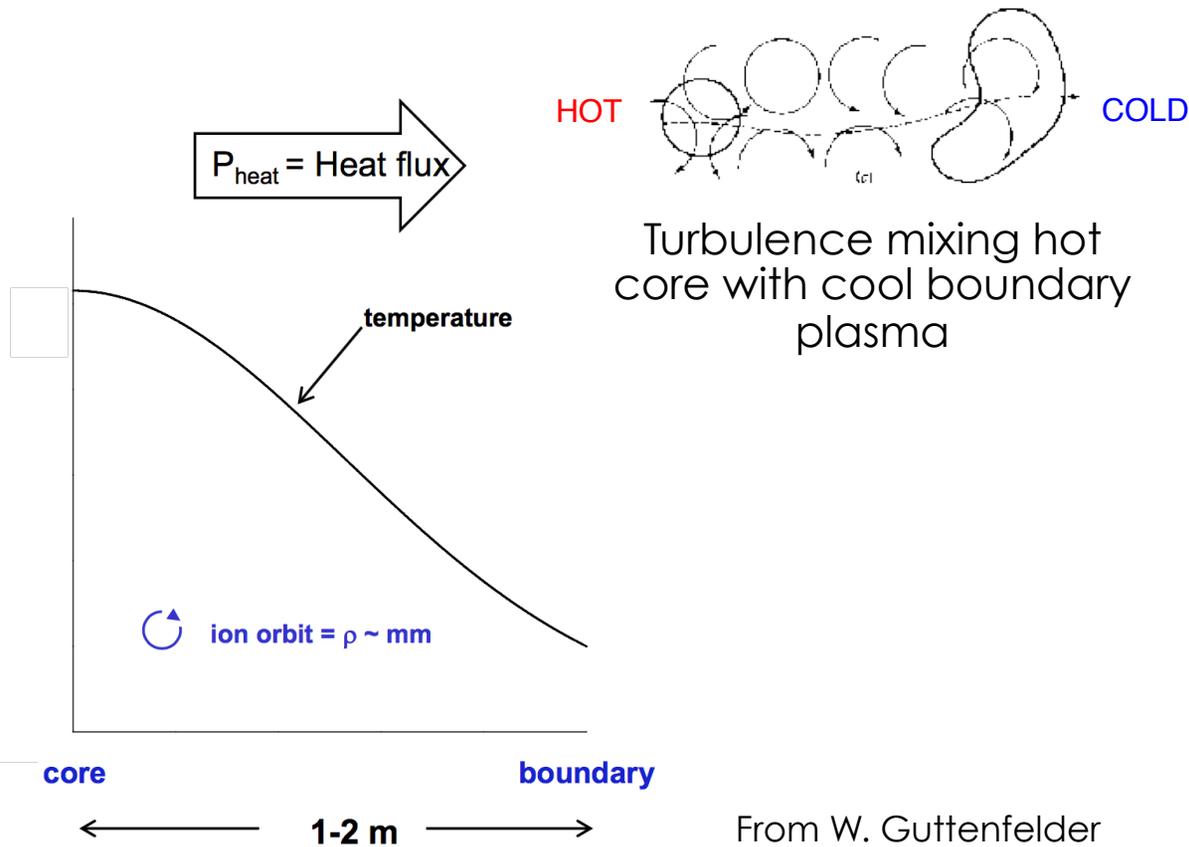
# Diffusion by collisions will try to relax gradients

$$\tau_{C, collisions} \sim \frac{1}{D_{collisions}} \sim 100 \text{ s}$$



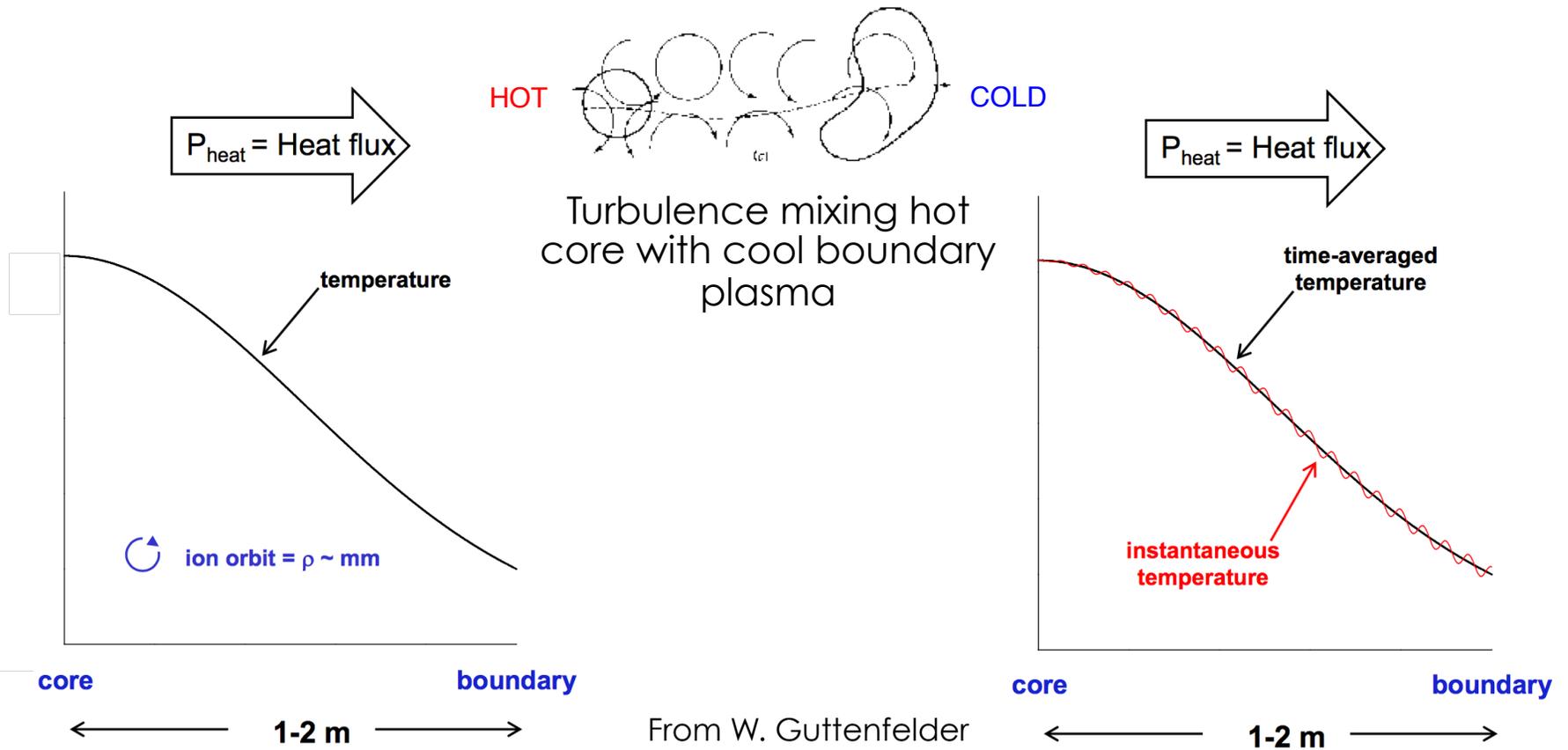
From W. Guttenfelder

Increasing gradients eventually cause small scale instability -> turbulence



From W. Guttenfelder

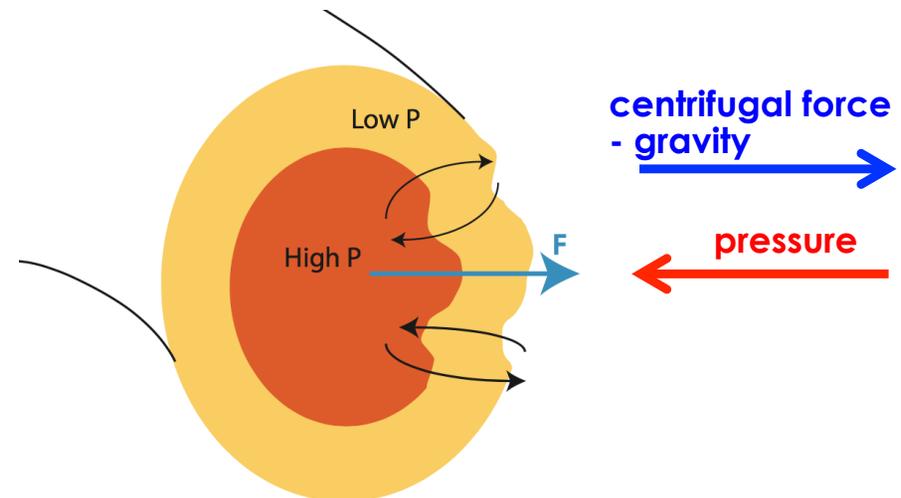
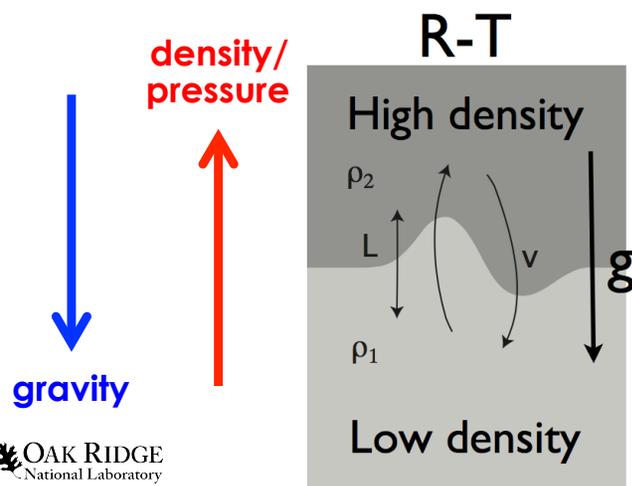
Increasing gradients eventually cause small scale instability -> turbulence



From W. Guttenfelder

# Instabilities and turbulence driven by thermal energy gradients

- Perturbations that mix hot core plasma and cold edge plasma can release free energy
- Interchange drive is important (analogous to Rayleigh-Taylor)
- Effective gravity provided by magnetic field gradient/curvature

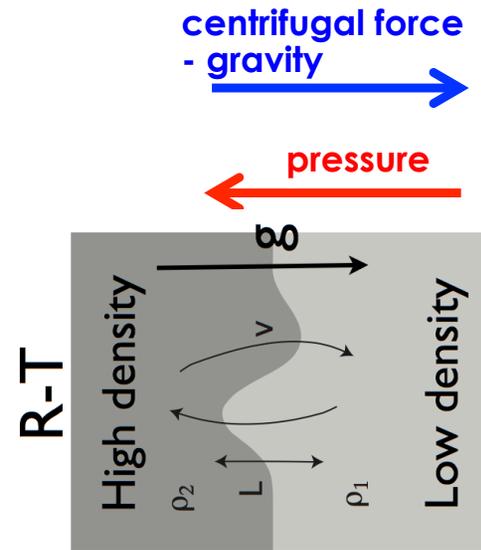
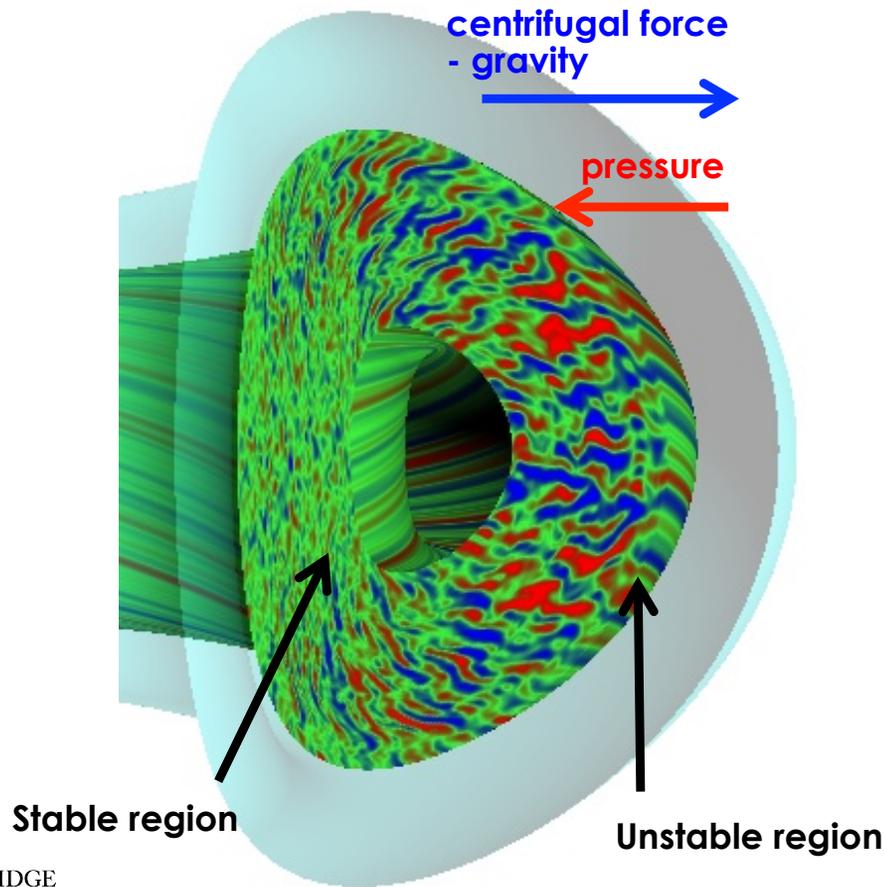


# Simulation of turbulence in a tokamak

**Code: GYRO**

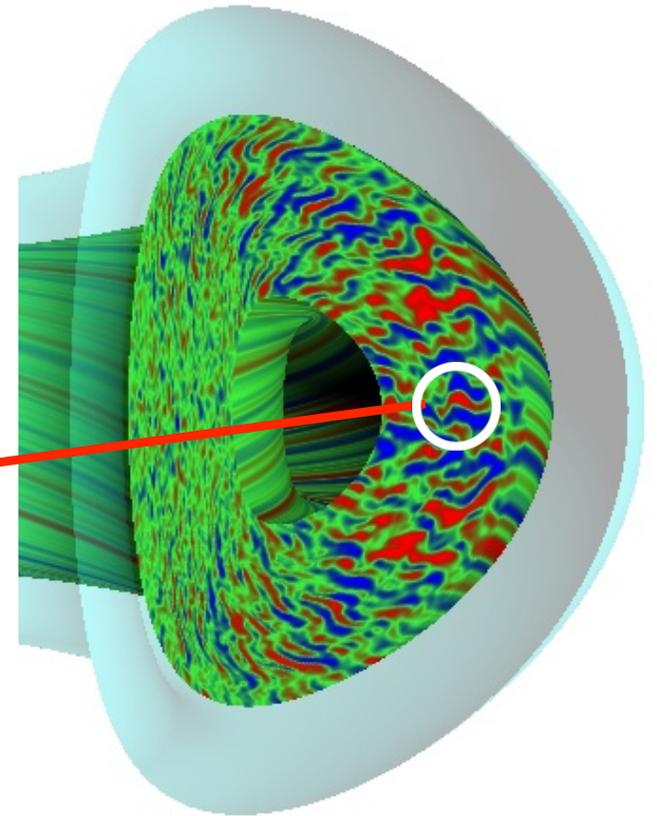
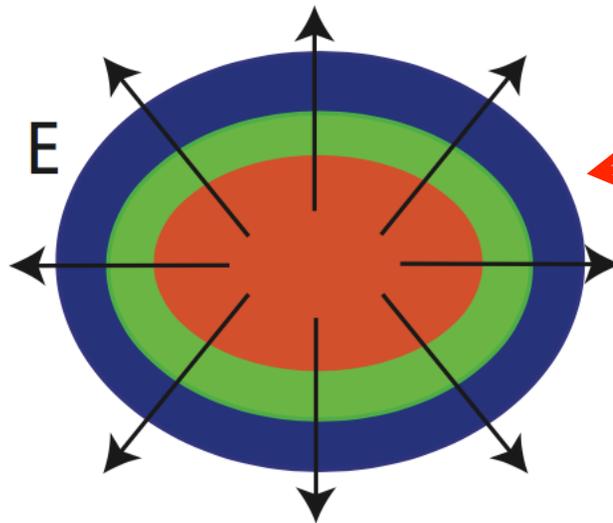
**Authors: Jeff Candy and Ron Waltz**

# Inertial force in toroidal field acts like an effective gravity



## Turbulent transport by 'eddies'

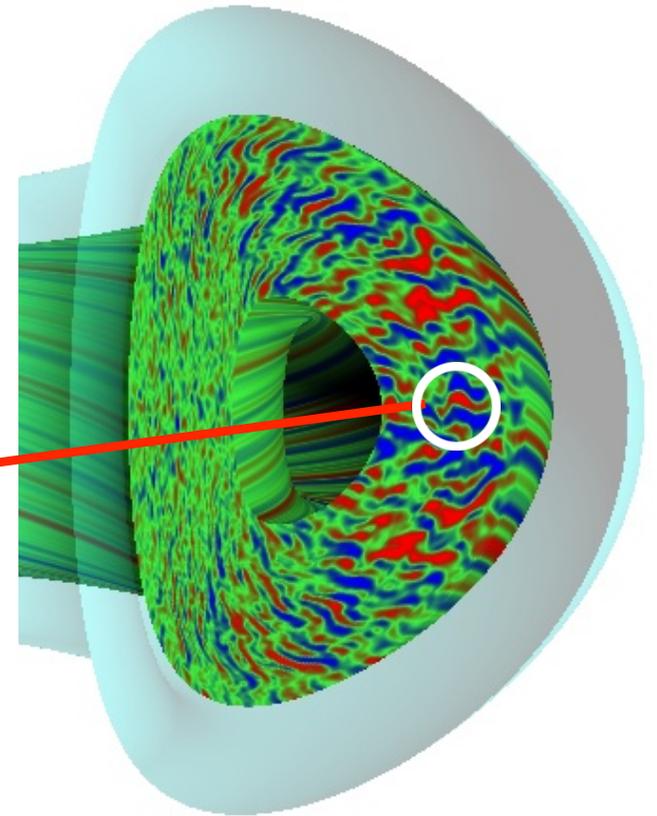
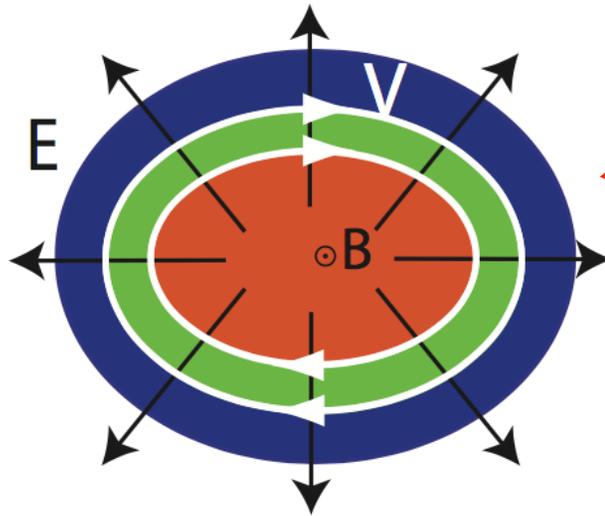
- GYRO simulation shows electrostatic potential
- Contours of potential are contours of  $E \times B$  flow



<https://w3.pppl.gov/~hammett/viz/viz.html>

## Turbulent transport by 'eddies'

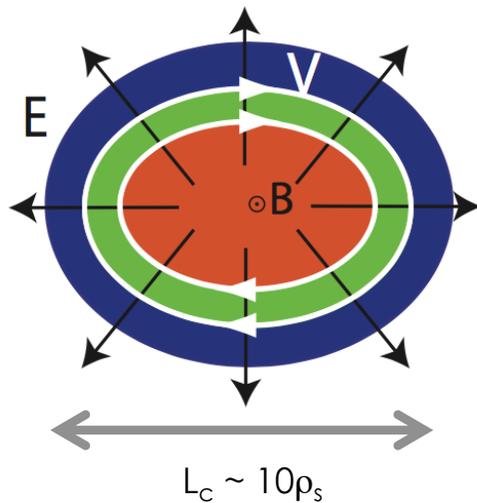
- Contours of potential are contours of  $E \times B$  flow
- Eddies create E-field, combined with B-field results in circulation



<https://w3.pppl.gov/~hammett/viz/viz.html>

# Diffusion increases as temperature increases, limits temperature gradients

- Turbulent diffusion is a random walk by eddy de-correlation



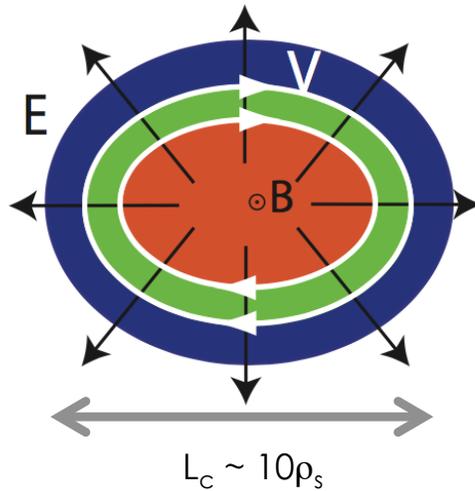
$$D \sim \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{\Delta t} \sim \frac{L_c^2}{\tau_c}$$

← Eddy size  
 ← Eddy "turnover" time

$$\tau_c \sim \frac{L_c}{v} \qquad v \sim \frac{E}{B} \sim \frac{\phi}{L_c} \frac{1}{B}$$

$$D \sim \frac{\phi}{B} \sim \frac{T}{B}$$

Diffusion increases as temperature increases, limits temperature gradients



$$D \sim \frac{\phi}{B} \sim \frac{T}{B}$$

$$D_{classical} \sim \rho^2 v \sim T^{-1/2} \quad \text{Classical diffusion}$$

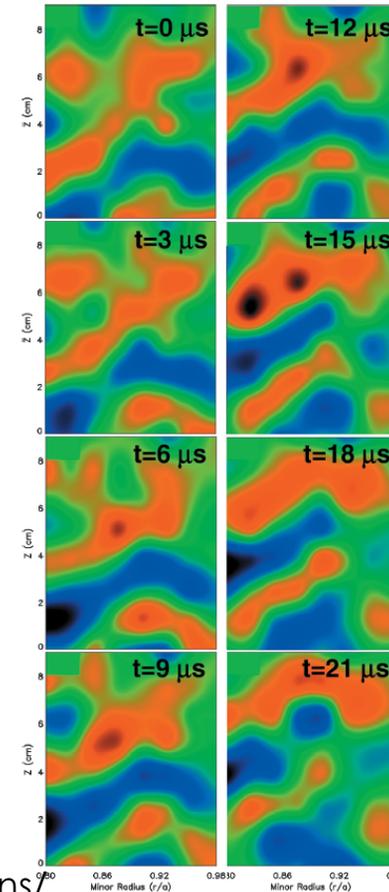
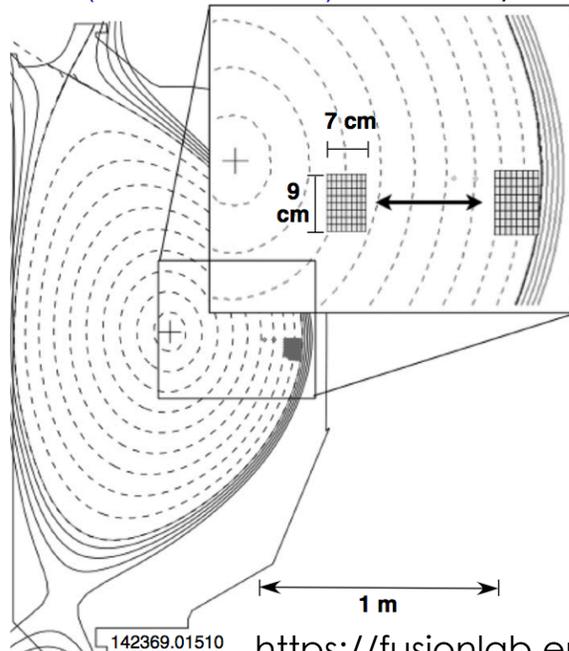
$$\left( v \sim T^{-3/2} \right)$$

- Collisional (classical) diffusion weaker as plasma gets hotter
  - As T increases (more heating power), confinement degrades
  - Opposite turbulent transport
- Controlling **size** and **correlation time** of eddies controls confinement

# Turbulence is observed in magnetically confined plasmas

- Beam Emission Spectroscopy (BES) provides 2D image of turbulence in tokamaks

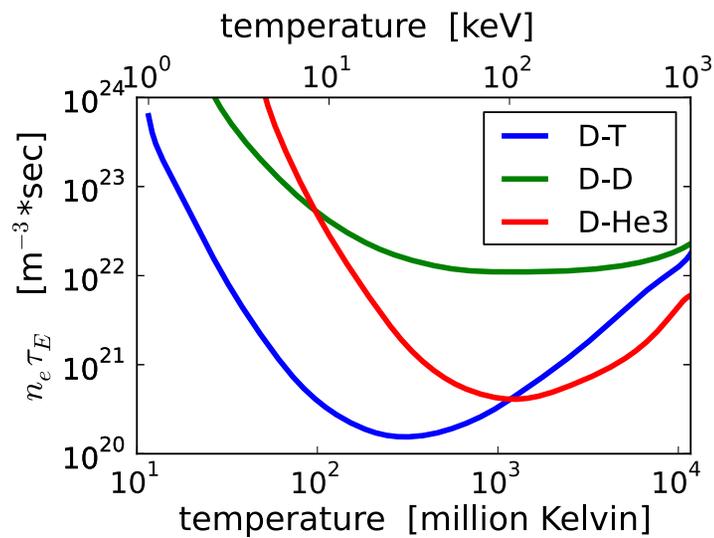
DIII-D tokamak (General Atomics) University of Wisconsin



Measured density fluctuations

# Turbulence determines confinement, ignition in tokamaks

- Triple product, Lawson criterion, determines ignition
  - Power losses < input power depends on density, temperature, confinement time



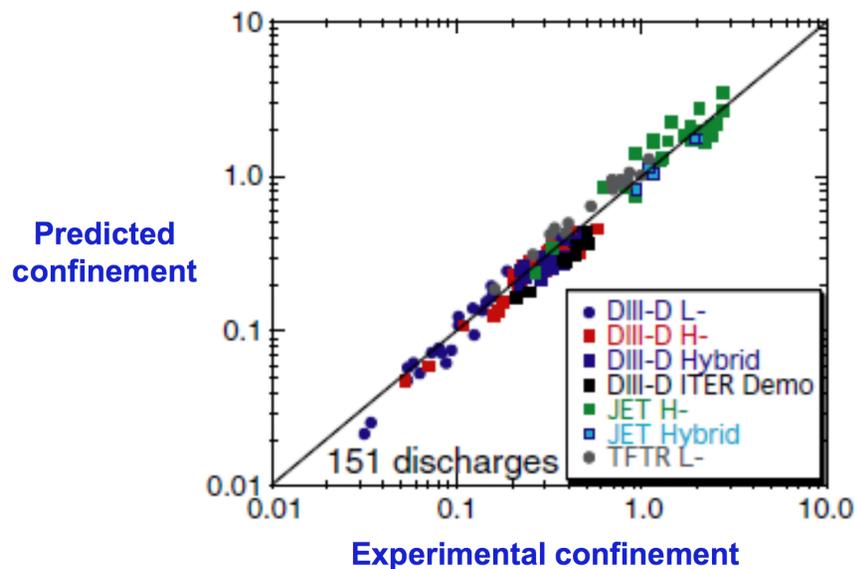
$$\tau_{C, collisions} \sim \frac{1}{D_{collisions}} \sim 100 \text{ s}$$

$$\tau_{C, experimental} \sim 0.1 \text{ s}$$

$$\tau_{C, turbulence} \sim \frac{1}{D_{turbulenc}} \sim 0.1 \text{ s}$$

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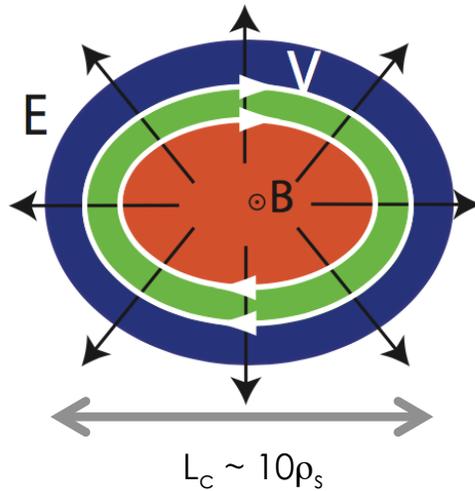
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Kinsey, 2010

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Classical diffusion

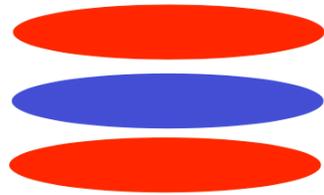
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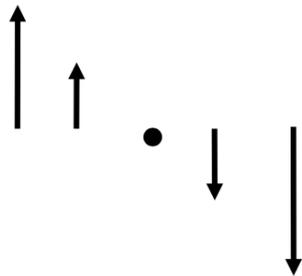
# By changing background flow, can tilt and break eddies

Most Dangerous Eddies:  
Transport long distances  
In bad curvature direction



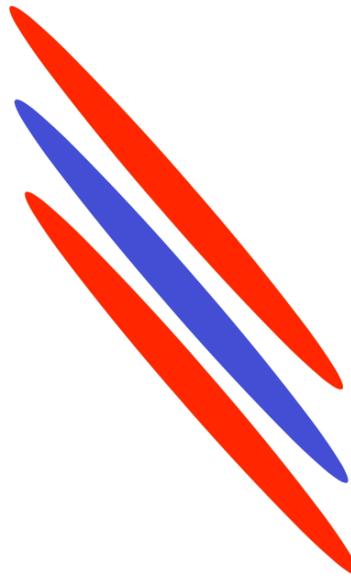
+

Sheared Flows

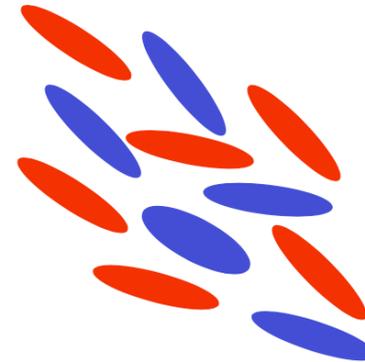


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Sheared Eddies  
Less effective



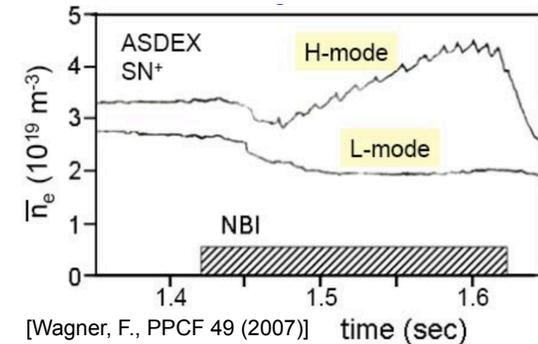
Eventually break up



Biglari, Diamond, Terry (Phys. Fluids 1990),  
Carreras, Waltz, Hahn, Kolmogorov, et al.

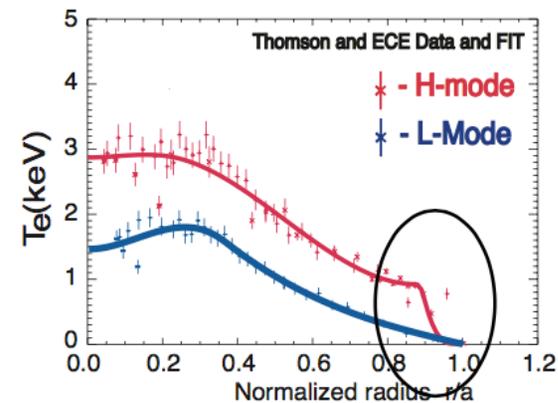
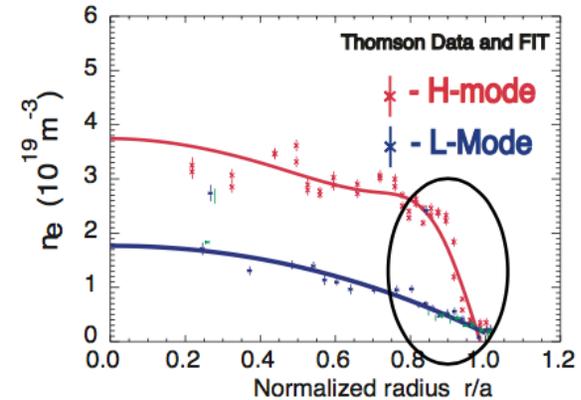
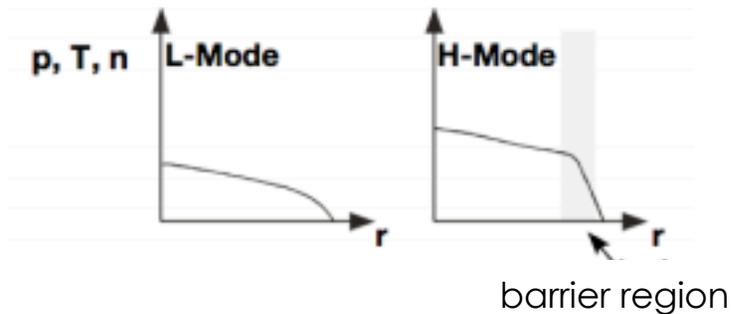
## Plasma can self organize into a 'high' confinement state

- As input power increased further, spontaneous transition to "high" confinement regime discovered in 1982



# Plasma can self organize into a 'high' confinement state

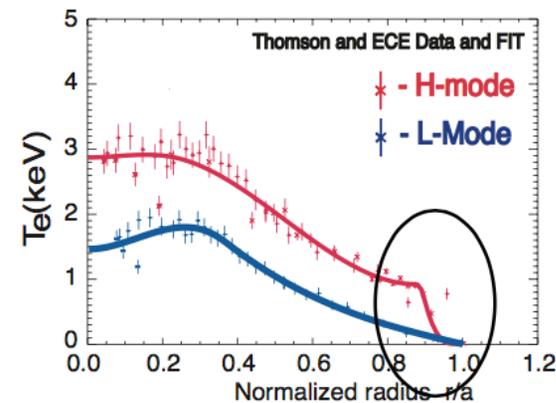
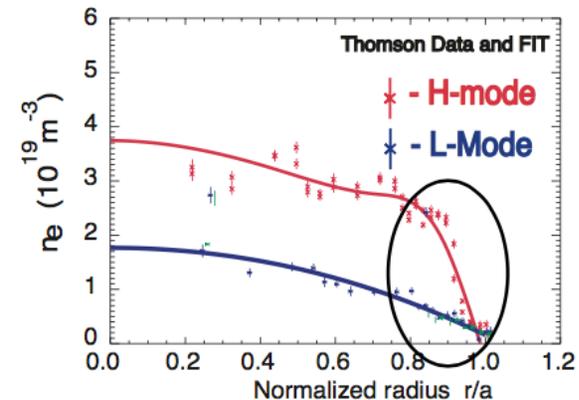
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- Insulated transport barrier in edge formed
  - Steepened gradients



Data from DIII-D

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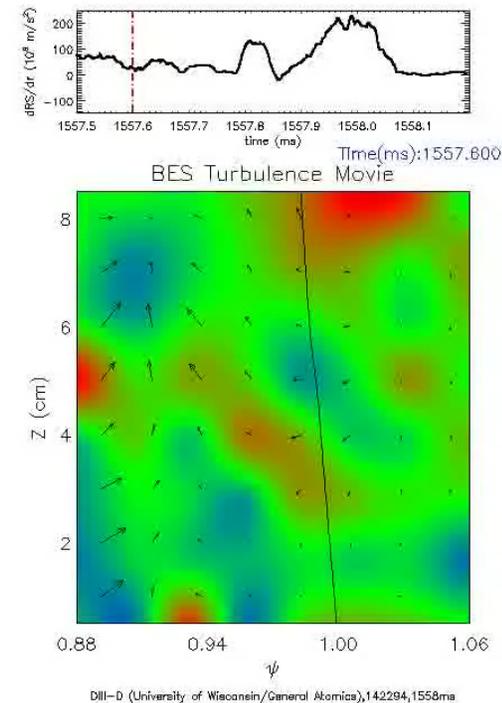
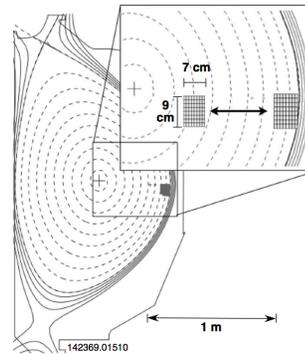
- As input power increased further, spontaneous transition to "high" confinement regime discovered in 1982
- Insulated transport barrier in edge formed
  - Steepened gradients
- Transport barrier forms by suppression of turbulence
  - Strong, localized cross-field flow (rotation) observed in barrier region



Data from DIII-D

# BES measurements show fast turbulence and flow response during L-H transition

- Increase heat, increase turbulence
- Energy transferred from turbulence to poloidal flow
- Turbulence suppressed, triggering transition



Measured density fluctuations

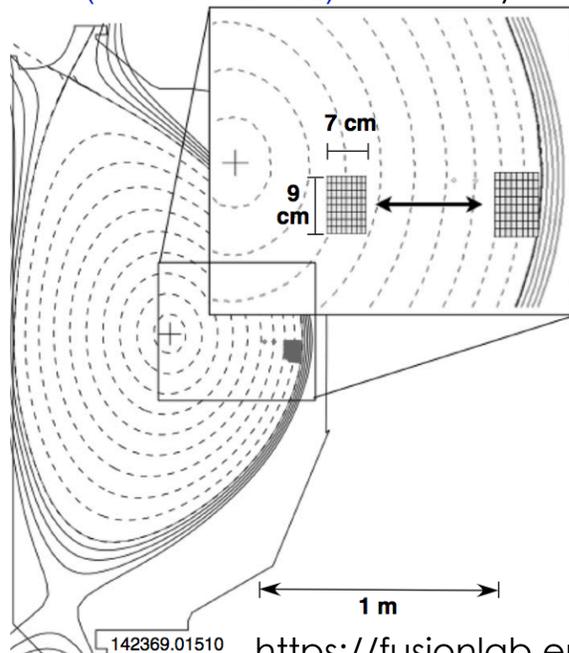
DIII-D tokamak (General Atomics) University of Wisconsin  
<https://fusionlab.ep.wisc.edu/publications/>

Z.Yan, et al PRL 112 (2014)

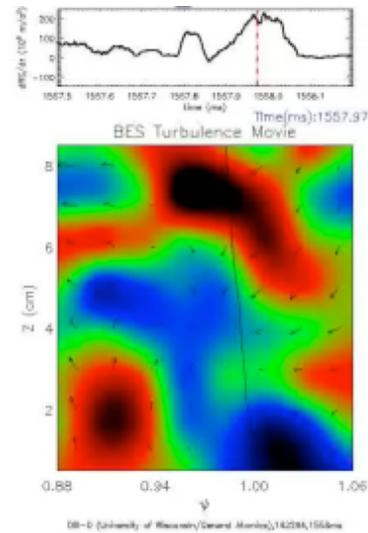
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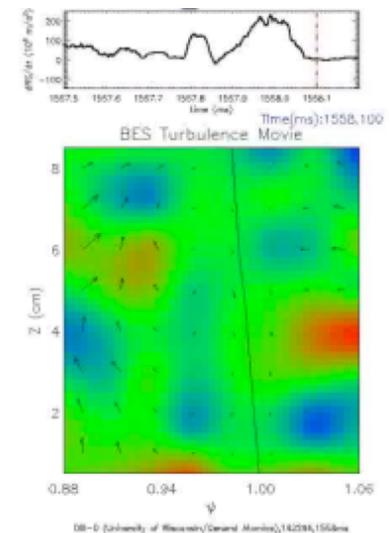
DIII-D tokamak (General Atomics) University of Wisconsin



Measured density fluctuations



Before L-H transition

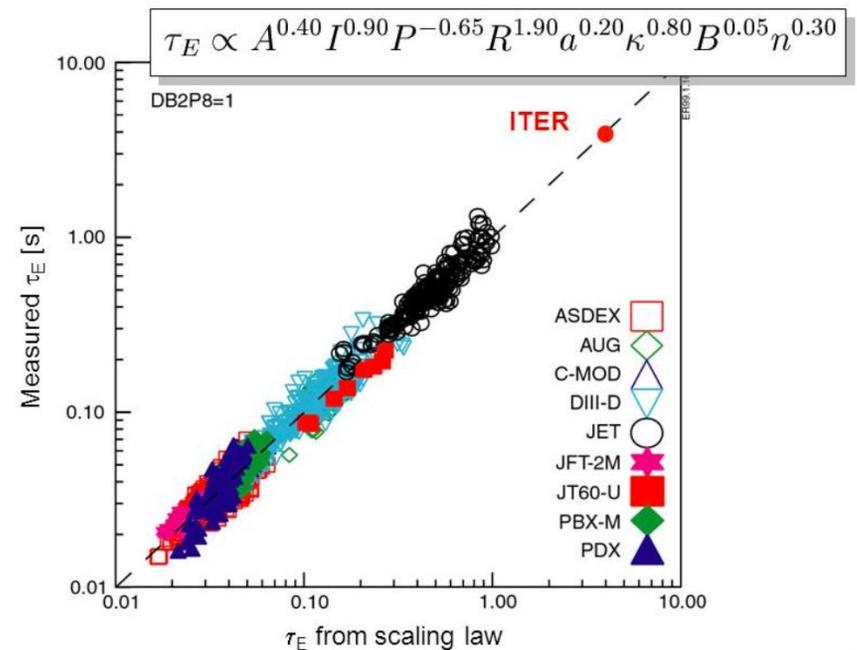


After L-H transition

Z. Yan, et al PRL 112 (2014)

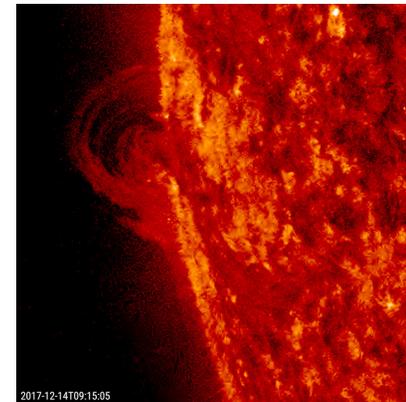
H-mode has been fundamental to progress in fusion, but still poorly understood

- Important advances in understanding changes in turbulence and turbulent transport in H-mode, but a lot of work remains
  - Mechanism for H-mode trigger?
  - What determines height of “pedestal”?
  - What sets transport in H-mode?....
- Rely on projections using empirical transport scaling laws

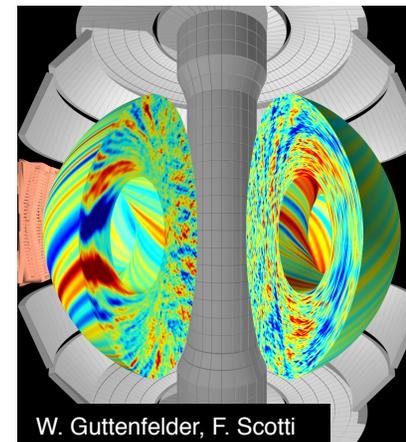


## Concepts of turbulence to remember

- Turbulence is fluid motion characterized by chaotic changes in pressure and flow velocity
- Turbulence is a critical element in determining performance and size of fusion plasmas
  - Turbulence causes transport larger than collisional transport
  - Sheared flow can help reduce heat loss



<https://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery>



## Plasmas support wide variety of wave phenomena

- Waves found naturally in plasmas
  - Described by dispersion relation
- Waves can deliver energy-momentum in plasma
- Waves can be used in plasma diagnostics
- Waves can drive turbulence...



Photo of aurora: Senior Airman Joshua Strang



First W7-X plasma, IPP, Greifswald