

Energetic particle nonlinear equilibria and transport processes in burning plasmas

M. V. Falessi^{1,2}, F. Zonca^{1,3}, L. Chen^{3,4}, Z. Qiu³, S. Briguglio¹

¹ ENEA, Fusion and Nuclear Safety Department, C. R. Frascati, Via E. Fermi, 45, 00044 Frascati (Roma), Italy

² National Institute for Nuclear Physics, Rome Department, P.le A. Moro, 5, 00185 Roma, Italy

³ Inst. for Fusion Theory and Simulation and Department of Physics Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, China

⁴ Dept. Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697-4575, USA

Lausanne-Varenna workshop
12–16 October 2020, Lausanne



Introduction: motivations

- Predicting the dynamics of a **burning plasma on long time scales**, comparable with the **energy confinement time** or longer, is essential in order to understand next generation fusion experiments, e.g. **ITER**;
- the crucial role of **energetic particles as mediators of cross scale couplings**, see [Zonca et al. 2015b](#); [Chen and Zonca 2016](#), must be properly described;
- a **first-principle-based, self-consistent** approach is crucial;

Introduction: motivations

- Predicting the dynamics of a **burning plasma on long time scales**, comparable with the **energy confinement time** or longer, is essential in order to understand next generation fusion experiments, e.g. **ITER**;
 - the crucial role of **energetic particles as mediators of cross scale couplings**, see [Zonca et al. 2015b](#); [Chen and Zonca 2016](#), must be properly described;
 - a **first-principle-based, self-consistent** approach is crucial;
-
- Extending **gyrokinetic simulations** to these time scales is a **challenging task** from the computational resource point of view, i.e. $\sim 10^{24}$ grid points;
 - simplifying assumptions based on physics understanding and first principles must be introduced leading to the definition of a **reduced model** for the dynamics.

Introduction: purpose statement

We aim at providing **general expressions** describing **plasma transport in the phase space**, particularly **energetic particles**, **on long time scales** and at introducing a framework to solve these equations within different levels of approximation.

By means of this approach it will be possible to:

- describe the physics of **next generation fusion experiments** where **alpha particles** will play a key role;
- characterize **cross-scale** couplings in burning plasmas.

- Introduction;
- Transport equations;
- Zonal state;
- Zonal field structures;
- Summary & Conclusions.

Introduction: multiple scales analysis

- A **multiple scales** approach has been applied to **extend gyrokinetic simulations to long time scales**;
- **macro-scales** characterize radial plasma profiles, i.e. L, τ_T , while **micro-scales** describe “fast” variation of physical quantities, i.e. ρ_L, ω^{-1} ;
- **transport equations** for radial profiles are derived by means of a **systematic separation of scales** between macroscopic equilibrium and fluctuations.
- intermediate spatio-temporal scales are **suppressed**. Is it possible to use the same approach retaining **meso-scales** produced by the dynamics?

Introduction: what are meso-scales?

- **Radial transport** requires the study of **flux surface averaged** equations:

$$\langle \partial_t n \rangle_\psi = - \langle \nabla \cdot (n \mathbf{V}) \rangle_\psi ;$$

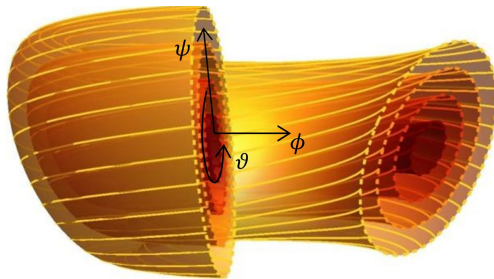


Figure: Courtesy of J. Ball

Introduction: what are meso-scales?

- Radial transport requires the study of flux surface averaged equations:

$$\langle \partial_t n \rangle_\psi = - \langle \nabla \cdot (n \mathbf{V}) \rangle_\psi ;$$

- finite contributions only from non-linear terms with vanishing toroidal and poloidal mode-numbers;
- in principle they have arbitrary radial length-scale.

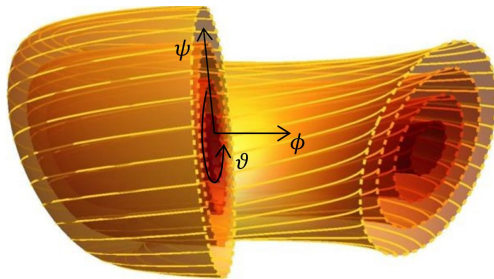
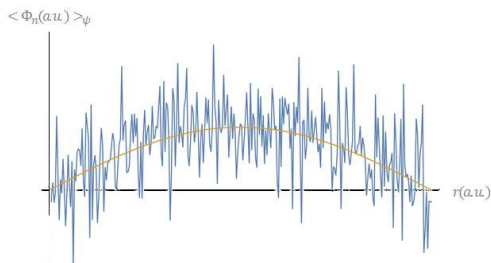


Figure: Courtesy of J. Ball



Introduction: why meso-scales are important?

Meso-scales on ITER ...

- peculiar feature of ITER: interplay of meso-scale structures with micro-scales generated by energetic particles, e.g. $\rho_{LE} \sim (\rho_L L)^{1/2}$;
- unique role of energetic particles, which act as mediators between the micro- and the macro- scales;

Introduction: why meso-scales are important?

Meso-scales on ITER ...

- peculiar feature of ITER: interplay of meso-scale structures with micro-scales generated by energetic particles, e.g. $\rho_{LE} \sim (\rho_L L)^{1/2}$;
- unique role of energetic particles, which act as mediators between the micro- and the macro- scales;

... and DTT (Divertor Tokamak Test facility)

- $T_E/T_i \sim (4\rho^*)^{-1} \Rightarrow \rho_{LE} \sim (\rho_L L)^{1/2}$ with dimensionless parameters close to ITER;
- using minority heating by ICRH and/or NBI, cross-scale couplings should be similar;

Introduction: why meso-scales are important?

Meso-scales on ITER ...

- peculiar feature of ITER: interplay of meso-scale structures with micro-scales generated by energetic particles, e.g. $\rho_{LE} \sim (\rho_L L)^{1/2}$;
- unique role of energetic particles, which act as mediators between the micro- and the macro- scales;

... and DTT (Divertor Tokamak Test facility)

- $T_E/T_i \sim (4\rho^*)^{-1} \Rightarrow \rho_{LE} \sim (\rho_L L)^{1/2}$ with dimensionless parameters close to ITER;
 - using minority heating by ICRH and/or NBI, cross-scale couplings should be similar;
-
- need for transport equations for the mesoscales extending previous analysis;
 - non Maxwellian distribution functions must be taken into account, i.e. phase space transport;
 - meso-scales do not emerge only due to EP physics, e.g. ITBs, L-H transitions;
 - derivation based on the theory of Phase space zonal structures, see Zonca et al. 2015a; Chen and Zonca 2016; Falessi and Zonca 2019;

Introduction: phase space zonal structures

Zonal structures & Zonal field structures

- Mode mode coupling between fluctuating fields can generate toroidal symmetric structures in the density and temperature profiles unaffected by rapid collision-less dissipation, i.e. Landau damping, called zonal structures;
- their counterpart for vector and scalar potentials are called zonal field structures, e.g. $\delta \mathbf{E}_r = -\nabla \psi \partial_\psi \delta \phi(\psi)$.

Phase space zonal structures (PSZS)

- fluctuations collision-less undamped in the phase space are called phase space zonal structures and they importantly regulate turbulence saturation level by scattering instability turbulence to shorter radial wavelength stable domain;
- they are coherent micro/meso-scale radial corrugations of the distribution function Chen and Zonca 2016. They are associated to deviations from the local thermodynamic equilibrium and thus they may enhance collisional transport.

Transport equations: ordering assumptions

- following Hinton and Hazeltine 1976, Frieman and Chen 1982, we describe **slowly evolving equilibria**:
 $\omega^{-1} \partial_t \ln p_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(\delta^2)$;
- The reference magnetic equilibrium is:
 $B_0 = F \nabla \phi + \nabla \phi \times \nabla \psi$;
- We introduce the following gyrokinetic ordering for **fluctuating quantities**:

$$\frac{cE}{Bv_{th}} \sim \frac{|\partial/\partial t|}{|\Omega|} \sim \left| \frac{\delta B}{B} \right| \sim \frac{\nabla_{\parallel}}{\nabla_{\perp}} \sim \frac{k_{\parallel}}{k_{\perp}} \sim \mathcal{O}(\delta).$$

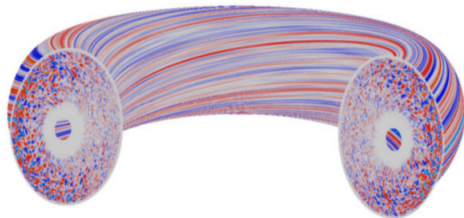


Figure: Courtesy of Y. Xiao et al., PoP 2015.

Transport equations: PSZS equation

- We want to explicitly identify the part of the toroidally symmetric distribution function **unaffected by rapid collisionless dissipation** that is the **PSZS**;
- we start by writing the **nonlinear Gyrokinetic equation**:

$$\partial_t(DF) + \nabla \cdot (D\dot{\mathbf{X}}F) + \partial_{\mathcal{E}}(D\delta\dot{\mathcal{E}}F) = 0$$

- D is the Jacobian of the velocity space and $\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 + \delta\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ is the gyrocenter velocity due to **magnetic equilibrium** and to **fluctuating fields**;

Transport equations: PSZS equation

- We want to explicitly identify the part of the toroidally symmetric distribution function **unaffected by rapid collisionless dissipation** that is the **PSZS**;
- we start by writing the **nonlinear Gyrokinetic equation**:

$$\partial_t (DF) + \nabla \cdot (D\dot{\mathbf{X}}F) + \partial_{\mathcal{E}} (D\delta\dot{\mathcal{E}}F) = 0$$

- D is the Jacobian of the velocity space and $\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 + \delta\dot{\mathbf{X}}$ is the gyrocenter velocity due to **magnetic equilibrium** and to **fluctuating fields**;
- we decompose F as $F = F_0 + \delta F$ where F_0 is the **steady state solution of the lowest order gyrokinetic equation**, i.e.:

$$F_0(\psi, \theta, \mathcal{E}, \mu) = e^{-iQ_z} F_{B0}(\psi, \theta, \mathcal{E}, \mu) = F_{B0}(\psi - \frac{Fv_{\parallel}}{\Omega}, \mathcal{E}, \mu) = F_{B0}(\bar{\psi}(\psi, \theta, \mathcal{E}, \mu), \mathcal{E}, \mu)$$

where we have introduced the **drift/banana center shift operator** e^{iQ_z} with $Q_z \equiv F(v_{\parallel}/\Omega)k_z/(d\psi/dr)$;

- we can calculate $D(\delta\dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \nabla + \delta\dot{\mathcal{E}}\partial_{\mathcal{E}})F_{B0}(\bar{\psi}(\psi, \theta, \mathcal{E}, \mu), \mathcal{E}, \mu) \dots$

Transport equations: PSZS equation

... and re-write the **toroidally symmetric component** of the Gyrokinetic equation:

$$D(\partial_t + \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 \cdot \nabla) \left(F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 + \frac{F}{B_0} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \bar{\psi}} \langle \delta A_{\parallel g} \rangle_z \right) + \\ + D \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z + \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (JD \delta \dot{\theta} \delta F) + \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (JD \delta \dot{\psi} \delta F) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (JD \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F) = 0$$

where $\langle \delta L_g \rangle_z = \hat{I}_0 \left(\delta \phi_z - \frac{v_{\parallel}}{c} \delta A_{\parallel z} \right) + \frac{m}{e} \mu \hat{I}_1 \delta B_{\parallel z}$ and J is the Jacobian of the curvilinear coordinate system;

- this **naturally leads to the definition** of G_z :

$$G_z = F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 + \frac{F}{B_0} \langle \delta A_{\parallel g} \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\psi}} F_0$$

Transport equations: PSZS equation

... and re-write the **toroidally symmetric component of the Gyrokinetic equation**:

$$D(\partial_t + \dot{\mathbf{X}}_0 \cdot \nabla) \left(F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 + \frac{F}{B_0} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \bar{\psi}} \langle \delta A_{\parallel g} \rangle_z \right) + \\ + D \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z + \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (JD \delta \dot{\theta} \delta F) + \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (JD \delta \dot{\psi} \delta F) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (JD \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F) = 0$$

where $\langle \delta L_g \rangle_z = \hat{I}_0 \left(\delta \phi_z - \frac{v_{\parallel}}{c} \delta A_{\parallel z} \right) + \frac{m}{e} \mu \hat{I}_1 \delta B_{\parallel z}$ and J is the Jacobian of the curvilinear coordinate system;

- this **naturally leads to the definition of G_z** :

$$G_z = F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 + \frac{F}{B_0} \langle \delta A_{\parallel g} \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\psi}} F_0$$

- we now apply e^{iQz} and write the governing equation for $G_B = e^{iQz} G_z \dots$

Transport equations: PSZS equation

... we obtain the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t(JDG_B) + \partial_\theta G_B = e^{iQ_z} \Bigg[& -\frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 \partial_t(JD\langle \delta L_g \rangle_z) \\ & - \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (JD\delta\dot{\theta}\delta F) - \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (JD\delta\dot{\psi}\delta F) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (JD\delta\dot{\mathcal{E}}\delta F) \Bigg] \end{aligned}$$

- it can be shown that e^{iQ_z} , up to the required order, **commute with partial derivatives**;

Transport equations: PSZS equation

... we obtain the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t(JD G_B) + \partial_\theta G_B = e^{iQ_z} \left[-\frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 \partial_t(JD \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z) \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (JD \delta \dot{\theta} \delta F) - \frac{1}{J} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (JD \delta \dot{\psi} \delta F) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (JD \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F) \right] \end{aligned}$$

- it can be shown that e^{iQ_z} , up to the required order, **commute with partial derivatives**;
- finally, integrating over θ and introducing the **bounce/transit average** $[\dots] = \tau_b^{-1} \oint \frac{d\ell}{v_{\parallel}} [\dots]$ we obtain:

$$\partial_t \overline{G}_B = -e^{iQ_z} \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_0 \partial_t \overline{\langle \delta L_g \rangle_z} - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \overline{\delta \dot{\psi} \delta F}) - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \overline{\delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F})$$

Transport equations: results

- We can re-write the **low frequency (transport) component** of δf_z in term of only $\delta \bar{G}_B$;
- taking the **time derivative of the surface averaged velocity integral** (see [Falessi 2017](#); [Falessi and Zonca 2019](#)) and neglecting the role of parallel nonlinearity:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi &= \frac{e}{m} \left\langle \left[1 - \overline{(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0)} \overline{(e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0)} \right] \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \partial_t \delta \phi_z \right\rangle_v + \\ &- \frac{1}{V'} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} \left\langle \left\langle V' \overline{(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0)} [c e^{iQ_z} R^2 \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \langle \delta L_g \rangle \delta G] \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi \end{aligned}$$

Transport equations: results

- We can re-write the **low frequency (transport) component** of δf_z in term of only $\delta \bar{G}_B$;
- taking the **time derivative of the surface averaged velocity integral** (see [Falessi 2017](#); [Falessi and Zonca 2019](#)) and neglecting the role of parallel nonlinearity:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi &= \frac{e}{m} \left\langle \left[1 - \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z \hat{I}_0} \right)} \overline{\left(e^{iQ_z \hat{I}_0} \right)} \right] \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \partial_t \delta \phi_z \right\rangle_v + \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{V'} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} \left\langle \left\langle V' \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z \hat{I}_0} \right)} \overline{\left[c e^{iQ_z} R^2 \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \langle \delta L_g \rangle \delta G \right]} \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi \end{aligned}$$

- this equation describes the radial oscillations on **any length-scale** of the density profile in the **absence of collisions and assuming GK ordering**;
- **mesoscales** are spontaneously created by turbulence;
- F_0 is never assumed to be **Maxwellian**.

Transport equations: recap

- the previous derivation can be repeated to describe **energy transport** and, in general, **any transport equation**;
- results known in literature are recovered considering the Maxwellian **special case** and **macroscopic PSZS**;
- in the next slides we will show that this is consistent with effectively **redefining** F_0 including **mesoscales** spontaneously produced by the dynamics;
- a **phase space transport equation** will be derived generalizing the conceptual framework already introduced;
- this is of crucial importance to study **long time scale gyrokinetic or hybrid simulation of EP transport**, where the **non-Maxwellian features** and the role of **wave-particle resonances** is most important;

Transport equations: PSZS equation

$$\partial_t \bar{G}_B = -\overline{e^{iQ_z} \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |\bar{\psi} F_0 \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z} - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (\overline{\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \delta \dot{\psi} \delta F}) - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (\overline{\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F})$$

- this expression can be used to derive any transport equation and it is a generalization of the expression derived in Falessi and Zonca 2019 retaining the effect of parallel non linearity;
- in particular, using the quasi-linear approximation we can derive general transport expressions in arbitrary geometry, see Chen 1999;

Transport equations: PSZS equation

$$\partial_t \bar{G}_B = -\overline{e^{iQ_z} \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |\bar{\psi} F_0 \partial_t \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z} - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} (\overline{\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \delta \psi \delta F}) - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} (\overline{\tau_b e^{iQ_z} \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F})$$

- this expression can be used to derive any transport equation and it is a generalization of the expression derived in Falessi and Zonca 2019 retaining the effect of parallel non linearity;
- in particular, using the quasi-linear approximation we can derive general transport expressions in arbitrary geometry, see Chen 1999;
- this naturally leads to define a reference distribution function F_0 at each instant of time. Going back to the the previous derivation. . . ;

Zonal state: renormalization of F_0

... and rewriting terms such as:

$$\delta \dot{\mathbf{X}}|_z \cdot \nabla \delta F_z = \delta \dot{\mathbf{X}}|_z \cdot \nabla e^{-iQz} (\delta \bar{F}_{Bz} + \delta \tilde{F}_{Bz})$$

- $e^{-iQz} \delta \bar{F}_{Bz}$, analogously to F_0 , is a function of the **constants of motion**;

Zonal state: renormalization of F_0

... and rewriting terms such as:

$$\delta \dot{\mathbf{X}}|_z \cdot \nabla \delta F_z = \delta \dot{\mathbf{X}}|_z \cdot \nabla e^{-iQ_z} (\delta \bar{F}_{Bz} + \delta \tilde{F}_{Bz})$$

- $e^{-iQ_z} \delta \bar{F}_{Bz}$, analogously to F_0 , is a function of the **constants of motion**;
- re-doing the previous derivation, we obtain a newly defined G_z :

$$G_z = F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} |_{\bar{\psi}} F_{0*} + \frac{F}{B_0} \langle \delta A_{\parallel g} \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\psi}} F_{0*}$$

where $F_{0*} = F_0 + e^{-iQ_z} \delta \bar{F}_{Bz}$ is the **renormalized** F_0 ;

- **PSZS** are the macro-/meso- scopic component of F_{0*} . They define a **self-consistent nonlinear equilibrium** in the presence of a finite level of fluctuations;

Zonal state: orbit averaging

- particle motion in the reference magnetic field is characterized by three **integrals of motion**, i.e. $P_\phi, \mu, \mathcal{E}$;
- it follows from previous slides that **PSZS** equation is connected with the **macro-meso- scopic component**, i.e. $[\dots]_S$, **unperturbed orbit-averaged distribution function** (Falessi et al. 2019):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{F_{z0}} + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \overline{(\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \delta F)}_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \overline{(\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F)}_z \right]_S = \overline{\left(\sum_b C_b^g [F, F_b] + \mathcal{S} \right)}_{zS}$$

where $\overline{(\dots)} = \tau_b^{-1} \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta} (\dots) = \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta} e^{iQ_z} (\dots)(\bar{\psi}, \theta)$, with $\tau_b = \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta}$ and $\psi = \bar{\psi} + \delta\tilde{\psi}(\theta)$;

Zonal state: orbit averaging

- particle motion in the reference magnetic field is characterized by three **integrals of motion**, i.e. $P_\phi, \mu, \mathcal{E}$;
- it follows from previous slides that **PSZS** equation is connected with the **macro-meso- scopic component**, i.e. $[\dots]_S$, **unperturbed orbit-averaged distribution function** (Falessi et al. 2019):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{F_{z0}} + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \overline{(\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \delta F)}_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \overline{(\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F)}_z \right]_S = \overline{\left(\sum_b C_b^g [F, F_b] + \mathcal{S} \right)}_{zS}$$

where $\overline{(\dots)} = \tau_b^{-1} \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta} (\dots) = \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta} e^{iQ_z} (\dots)(\bar{\psi}, \theta)$, with $\tau_b = \oint d\theta / \dot{\theta}$ and $\psi = \bar{\psi} + \delta\tilde{\psi}(\theta)$;

- this is equivalent to **bounce/transit averaging** a quantity shifted with the e^{iQ_z} operator;
- this expression describe **transport processes in the phase space** due to **fluctuations** or **collisions** and **sources**;

Zonal state: neighboring nonlinear equilibria

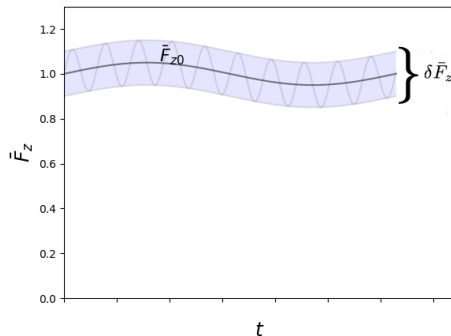
- Having defined PSZS, we can decompose the **toroidally symmetric distribution function**;
- $\overline{F_{z0}}$ describe **macro- & meso-scales**;
- **micro-scales** are accounted by $\delta\overline{F_z}$;

$$F_z = \overline{F_{z0}} + \overline{\delta F_z} + \delta\tilde{F}_z$$

Zonal state: neighboring nonlinear equilibria

- Having defined PSZS, we can decompose the **toroidally symmetric distribution function**;
- $\overline{F_{z0}}$ describe **macro- & meso-scales**;
- **micro-scales** are accounted by $\delta\overline{F_z}$;
- they describe system transitions between **neighboring nonlinear equilibria**, see [Chen and Zonca 2007](#); [Falessi and Zonca 2019](#);
- **nonlinear equilibria**, together with **zonal field structures**, form a **zonal state**, see [Falessi and Zonca 2019](#).

$$F_z = \overline{F_{z0}} + \overline{\delta F_z} + \delta\tilde{F}_z$$



Zonal state: governing equations

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{F_{z0}} + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \delta F} \right)_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F} \right)_z \right]_S = \overline{C_{z0}^g} + [\bar{S}]_S$$

- expanding the collision operator we obtain:

$$\bar{C}_{z0}^g = \overline{C_z^g [\bar{F}_{z0}, \bar{F}_{z0}]} + \left[\overline{C_z^g [\bar{F}_{z0}, \delta F_z]} + \overline{C_z^g [\delta F, \delta F]} \right]_S$$

- first term balance $[\bar{S}]_S$ while the second, in the presence of a **Maxwellian** reference state, describes **neoclassical transport**;
- corrections to neoclassical transport** are given by the first and the third terms;

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \delta \bar{F}_z + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \bar{F}_{z0}} \right)_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \bar{F}_{z0}} \right)_z \right] + \\ & + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \delta F} \right)_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F} \right)_z \right]_F = \overline{C_z^g} - \overline{C_z^g}_{z0} + [\bar{S}]_F \end{aligned}$$

Zonal state: CGL equilibrium

- We have shown how to calculate an evolving renormalized distribution function consistent with the finite level of fluctuations;
- this is connected to the evolution of a macro-/meso- scopic corresponding CGL equilibrium ...

Zonal state: CGL equilibrium

- We have shown how to calculate an **evolving renormalized distribution function consistent with the finite level of fluctuations**;
- this is connected to the evolution of a macro-/meso- scopic **corresponding CGL equilibrium** ...
- following **Cary and Brizard 2009; Brizard and Hahm 2007**, we write every moment of the zonal distribution function using their **push-forward representation**, e.g.:

$$\mathbf{J}_z(r) = e \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu d\alpha d^3\mathbf{X} D \left(T^{-1} \mathbf{v} \right) \delta(\mathbf{X} + \rho - \mathbf{r}) \left[F_0 + \delta F_z - \frac{e}{m} \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} F_0 + \right. \\ \left. - \frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} F_0 \langle \delta L_g \rangle_z \right] + \frac{e^2}{m} \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu d\alpha d^3\mathbf{X} D \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} F_0 \delta \phi_z + \frac{1}{B_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} F_0 \delta L_z \right]$$

- we can substitute F_z for the **PSZS** $\bar{F}_{z0} = [F_0 + e^{-iQ_z} \delta \bar{F}_{Bz}]_S$;
- we obtain, from a **multipole expansion**, an equilibrium that is consistent with an **anisotropic CGL pressure tensor**;

Zonal state: CGL equilibrium

- the current $\mathbf{J}_z$ and the pressure tensor $\mathbf{P}$ satisfy the following **force balance** equation:

$$\sigma \frac{\mathbf{J}_z \times \mathbf{B}}{c} = \nabla P_{\parallel} + (\sigma - 1) \nabla \left(\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \frac{B^2}{4\pi} \nabla_{\perp} \sigma$$

where $\sigma = 1 + \frac{4\pi}{B^2} (P_{\perp} - P_{\parallel})$;

Zonal state: CGL equilibrium

- the current $\mathbf{J}_z$ and the pressure tensor $\mathbf{P}$ satisfy the following **force balance** equation:

$$\sigma \frac{\mathbf{J}_z \times \mathbf{B}}{c} = \nabla P_{\parallel} + (\sigma - 1) \nabla \left(\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \frac{B^2}{4\pi} \nabla_{\perp} \sigma$$

where $\sigma = 1 + \frac{4\pi}{B^2} (P_{\perp} - P_{\parallel})$;

- the **self-consistent modification of** the equilibrium magnetic field **due to PSZS** can be calculated solving this equation, e.g.:

$$\Delta^* \psi + \nabla \ln \sigma \cdot \nabla \psi = -\frac{4\pi R^2}{\sigma} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \frac{\partial G}{\partial \psi}$$

where $G \equiv \sigma F^2/2$ is a flux function;

Zonal state: Example

- **PSZS** have been extracted from an EPM simulation by the **HMGC** hybrid code, i.e. see [Briguglio et al. 1995](#), and more recently by **HYMAGIC**:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{F_{z0}} + \frac{1}{\tau_b} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial P_\phi} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{P}_\phi \delta F} \right)_z + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \left(\overline{\tau_b \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \delta F} \right)_z \right]_S = 0$$

Zonal state: MET project

- Phase space transport has been studied by means of a hierarchy of verified and validated reduced models within the MET EUROfusion Enabling Research Project with F. Zonca as P.I. (see poster 15 on Thursday);
- explicit expression of EP fluxes in PSZS equations have been calculated within the following hierarchy of simplifying assumptions:
 - the zeroth level of simplification consist in the gyrokinetics description of plasma dynamics;
 - the first level of simplification consist in assuming $|\omega| \gg \tau_{NL}^{-1} \sim \gamma_L$;
 - the second and final level of simplification is the Quasilinear model.

Zonal state: recap

- **PSZS** are a possible definition of **nonlinear equilibrium** distribution function;
- together with **zonal field structures** and **residual orbit averaged particle response** they define the **zonal state**;
- this definition is particularly important in collisionless **burning plasmas**, where one cannot always describe transport via evolution of **macroscopic radial profiles** of a **reference Maxwellian**;
- present approach generally applies to **near-integrable Hamiltonian systems**.

Zonal field structures: governing equations

- Computing the zonal state require equations for **zonal field structures**, i.e. **the long lived component** of toroidal symmetric fields;
- assume, for simplicity, that the **zonal state** is characterized predominantly by the scalar potential $\delta\phi_z$;
- we can study its self-consistent evolution in the **absence of symmetry breaking fluctuations**;

Zonal field structures: governing equations

- Computing the zonal state require equations for **zonal field structures**, i.e. the **long lived component** of toroidal symmetric fields;
- assume, for simplicity, that the **zonal state** is characterized predominantly by the scalar potential $\delta\phi_z$;
- we can study its self-consistent evolution in the **absence of symmetry breaking fluctuations**;
- the **scalar potential zonal field structure** is obtained substituting the **orbit averaged distribution function** into the quasi neutrality condition:

$$\sum_s \left\langle \frac{e^2}{m} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \right\rangle_v \delta\phi_z + \sum_s \left\langle e \hat{I}_0 \delta G_z \right\rangle_v = 0$$

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

- We can write the kinetic equation for δG_B :

$$(\partial_t + \omega_b \partial_{\vartheta_c}) \delta G_B = -e^{-iQz} \left[\frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \hat{I}_0 \partial_t \delta \phi_z + NL \right]$$

nonlinear terms, i.e. $(\delta \dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \nabla \delta F + \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \partial_{\mathcal{E}} F)_z$, have been indicated as NL ;

- we have introduced the **action angle variables** ϑ_c such that $\omega_b = \dot{\vartheta}_c$ and ζ_c such that $\dot{\zeta}_c = \bar{\omega}_d$
- ω_b and ω_d are, respectively, the **bounce/transit frequency** and precession drift frequency;

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

- We can write the kinetic equation for δG_B :

$$(\partial_t + \omega_b \partial_{\vartheta_c}) \delta G_B = -e^{-iQ_z} \left[\frac{e}{m} \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \hat{I}_0 \partial_t \delta \phi_z + NL \right]$$

nonlinear terms, i.e. $(\delta \dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \nabla \delta F + \delta \dot{\mathcal{E}} \partial_{\mathcal{E}} F)_z$, have been indicated as NL ;

- we have introduced the **action angle variables** ϑ_c such that $\omega_b = \dot{\vartheta}_c$ and ζ_c such that $\dot{\zeta}_c = \bar{\omega}_d$
- ω_b and ω_d are, respectively, the **bounce/transit frequency** and precession drift frequency;
- introducing the **expansion parameter** $\omega_{NL}/\omega \ll 1$ we can explicitly write the solution $\delta G_B = \sum_l e^{il\vartheta_c} \delta G_{Bl}$;
- substituting the $l = 0$ component into the **flux surface averaged quasi neutrality condition** ...

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

... We obtain the following expression:

$$\sum_s \frac{V'_\psi}{4\pi^2} \frac{e^2}{m_s^2} \left\langle \left\langle \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta\phi_z - e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} \overline{\hat{I}_0 \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta\phi_z} \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi =$$
$$\sum_s \sum_\sigma \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu \tau_B e \frac{i}{\omega} \overline{e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} N L}$$

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

... We obtain the following expression:

$$\sum_s \frac{V'_\psi}{4\pi^2} \frac{e^2}{m_s^2} \left\langle \left\langle \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta \phi_z - e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} \overline{\hat{I}_0 \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta \phi_z} \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi =$$
$$\sum_s \sum_\sigma \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu \tau_B e \frac{i}{\omega} e^{iQ_z} \overline{\hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} N L}$$

- F_0 is an **arbitrary** (renormalized) **anisotropic distribution function**;
- neglecting the non linear term we can study the **polarizability in arbitrary geometry and realistic** F_0 ;

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

... We obtain the following expression:

$$\sum_s \frac{V'_\psi}{4\pi^2} \frac{e^2}{m_s^2} \left\langle \left\langle \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta\phi_z - e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} \overline{\hat{I}_0 \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta\phi_z} \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi =$$
$$\sum_s \sum_\sigma \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu \tau_B e \frac{i}{\omega} \overline{e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} N L}$$

- F_0 is an **arbitrary** (renormalized) **anisotropic distribution function**;
- neglecting the non linear term we can study the **polarizability in arbitrary geometry and realistic F_0** ;
- results known in literature, e.g. **Wang and Hahm 2009; Lu et al. 2019**, are recovered in the proper limits;
- **GAM/EGAM dispersion relations** retaining **finite Larmor radius** and **finite orbit width effects**, see **Qiu, Zonca, and Chen 2010; Qiu, Chen, and Zonca 2008** can be derived;

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi &= \frac{e}{m} \left\langle \left[1 - \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \overline{\left(e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \right] \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \partial_t \delta \phi_z \right\rangle_v + \\ &- \frac{1}{V'_\psi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} \left\langle \left\langle V'_\psi \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \overline{\left[c e^{iQ_z} R^2 \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \langle \delta L_g \rangle \delta G \right]} \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi \end{aligned}$$

- we can verify that the scalar potential zonal field structure governing equation is consistent with the density transport equation;

Zonal field structures: scalar potential

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi &= \frac{e}{m} \left\langle \left[1 - \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \overline{\left(e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \right] \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \partial_t \delta \phi_z \right\rangle_v + \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{V'_\psi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} \left\langle \left\langle V'_\psi \overline{\left(e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \right)} \left[c e^{iQ_z} R^2 \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \langle \delta L_g \rangle \delta G \right] \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi \\ \sum_s \frac{V'_\psi}{4\pi^2} \frac{e^2}{m_s^2} &\left\langle \left\langle \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta \phi_z - e^{-iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 \frac{\partial F_0}{\partial \mathcal{E}} \delta \phi_z \right\rangle_v \right\rangle_\psi = \\ \sum_s \sum_\sigma \int d\mathcal{E} d\mu \tau_B e \frac{i}{\omega} &\overline{e^{iQ_z} \hat{I}_0 e^{iQ_z} N L} \end{aligned}$$

- we can verify that the scalar potential zonal field structure governing equation is **consistent with the density transport equation**;
- in both cases, **on macro-scales we obtain the usual transport equations** while meso-/micro- scopic physics describes polarization effects;
- **collisions and sources** can be readily added;

Summary & Conclusions

- Need of **predictive models** on timescales comparable with magnetic fusion experiments, i.e. **ITER**, properly describing **EP**;
- **extend kinetic simulations** on this time scale is challenging. A possible solution is represented by a **multiple scale** approach and **reduced models**;

$$t_{sim} \sim \tau_E$$

10^{24} grid points!!!

Summary & Conclusions

- Need of **predictive models** on timescales comparable with magnetic fusion experiments, i.e. **ITER**, properly describing **EP**;
- **extend kinetic simulations** on this time scale is challenging. A possible solution is represented by a **multiple scale** approach and **reduced models**;
- we have shown how to describe **meso-scales** and **non-Maxwellian** distribution functions using appropriate **transport equations**. Required to study **EP physics**;

$$t_{sim} \sim \tau_E$$

$$10^{24} \text{ grid points!!!}$$

$$\partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi = \langle \dots \rangle$$

Summary & Conclusions

- Need of **predictive models** on timescales comparable with magnetic fusion experiments, i.e. **ITER**, properly describing **EP**;
- **extend kinetic simulations** on this time scale is challenging. A possible solution is represented by a **multiple scale** approach and **reduced models**;
- we have shown how to describe **meso-scales** and **non-Maxwellian** distribution functions using appropriate **transport equations**. Required to study **EP physics**;
- we have introduced the concept of **zonal state** to describe the evolution of the plasma between **neighboring nonlinear equilibria**;

$$t_{sim} \sim \tau_E$$

$$10^{24} \text{ grid points!!!}$$

$$\partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi = \langle \dots \rangle$$

$$F_z = \overline{F_{z0}} + \delta \bar{F}_z + \delta \tilde{F}_z$$

Summary & Conclusions

- Need of **predictive models** on timescales comparable with magnetic fusion experiments, i.e. **ITER**, properly describing **EP**;
- **extend kinetic simulations** on this time scale is challenging. A possible solution is represented by a **multiple scale** approach and **reduced models**;
- we have shown how to describe **meso-scales** and **non-Maxwellian** distribution functions using appropriate **transport equations**. Required to study **EP physics**;
- we have introduced the concept of **zonal state** to describe the evolution of the plasma between **neighboring nonlinear equilibria**;
- we have introduced a conceptual framework which allow to study **EP phase space transport** over long time scales.

$$t_{sim} \sim \tau_E$$

$$10^{24} \text{ grid points!!!}$$

$$\partial_t \langle \langle \delta f_z \rangle_v \rangle_\psi = \langle \dots \rangle$$

$$F_z = \overline{F_{z0}} + \delta \bar{F}_z + \delta \tilde{F}_z$$



Thank you for your attention.