## Discovery Fusion Energy Science using a Superconducting Laboratory Magnetosphere



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#### Outline

- Linking space science and laboratory toroidal confinement
- LDX: steady state, high temperature, low power (< 25 kW)
- Discovering a new regime: turbulent self-organization
- Opportunities at higher density, higher power, and larger size









### Tom Intrator: Phaedrus-B -T ICRF and Alfvén Waves

8000

NUCLEAR FUSION, Vol.29, No.3 (1989)

#### MEASUREMENTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES IN PHAEDRUS-B: BENCH-MARK TEST OF ANTENA WAVE FIELD CALCULATIONS

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Phys. Plasmas 2 (6), June 1995

#### Alfvén wave current drive in the Phaedrus-T tokamak\*

T. Intrator,<sup>†</sup> P. Probert, S. Wukitch, M. Vukovic, D. Brouchous, D. Diebold, R. Breun, M. Doczy, D. Edgell, A. Elfimov, N. Hershkowitz, M. Kishinevsky, C. Litwin, P. Moroz, P. Nonn, and G. Winz

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# 1958: Fusion and Space Research launch the rapid expansion of Plasma Physics





July 29, 1958 President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 which established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(NASA: \$6.6 B annual funding in 1958)

September 1-13, 1958 Second International Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (Geneva) marked declassification and was attended by 5,000 delegates with 2,150 papers.

(Fusion: \$0.19 B annual funding in 1958)

#### Both Space and Lab Scientists study Magnetic Confinement...

- Strongly magnetized  $\rho^* \sim 10^{-5}$
- Energetic particles
- Transport across boundary layers
- Fueling the plasma torus
- Multiple ions, H<sup>+</sup>, He<sup>+</sup>, O<sup>+</sup>, ...
- Magnetic reconnection

#### ... but dipole geometry is different from tokamaks

Convection and flux-tube mixing drive profiles characterized by Lagrangian invariants

 $n \sim B/L$  and  $T_{\perp} \sim B$ ,  $T_{\parallel} \sim 1/L^2$ , or  $T \sim (B/L)^{2/3}$ 

- $\rightarrow$  Equilibria with invariant profiles are stable at β ~ 1
- Geometry strongly influences Alfvén waves, whistlers, and wave-particle resonances



#### Research Goal of Laboratory Magnetosphere is to Link Space Physics ⇔ Laboratory Confinement Physics

- Space geometry in lab helps test fundamental magnetic confinement physics
  - Simple axisymmetric geometry, steady-state, with omnigeneous orbits
  - Very high plasma pressure,  $\beta > 100\%$ , no field-aligned currents (FAC), without toroidal field
  - Interchange and entropy modes (E · B ≈ 0, *not* kink, tearing, ballooning, or drift-gradient modes.)
  - Foundational tests of bounce-averaged gyrokinetics with similar trapped / passing dynamics
  - Turbulent self-organization, "canonical" profiles, inward pinch can cause plasma energization

#### Lab studies in space geometry helps test fundamental space science & technology

- Controlled experiments in relevant magnetic geometry
- Injection of waves (ECH, "chorus", Alfvén, and ion-cyclotron waves), currents, and particles/ plasmoids gives control over plasma properties, transients, and behavior
- "Whole plasma" access for unparalleled imaging and diagnostic measurement
- Small dipole magnet within a large vacuum chamber → very large plasma at low cost

### Laboratory Magnetospheres: Facilities for Space-Relevant Physics Experiments



#### LDX (MIT) Largest Size

#### RT-1 (U Tokyo) Highest Power and β

CTX (Columbia) Easiest to Operate







## LDX Diagnostics



## Key Result: Discovery of a New Regime

- Turbulence self-organizes centrally-peaked profiles
  - **Space weather**: <u>externally-driven</u> fluctuations drive plasma to "canonical" profiles
  - Lab plasmas: *internally-driven* fluctuations drive plasma to "canonical" profiles
  - In a magnetospheric configuration, self-organization leads to centrally-peaked profiles Inward transport ⇒ heats and compresses plasma

Outward transport  $\Rightarrow$  **cools and expands** plasma

"Canonical" profiles are stationary, with  $\eta \approx 2/3$ ,  $\delta(PV^{\gamma}) \approx 0$ 

- Interchange and entropy modes,  $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \approx 0$ , dominate low-frequency mixing
  - Plasma torus stable at β ~ 1, no magnetic shear, no FAC, closed field lines, similar trappedpassing particle dynamics, and strong compressibility ω\* ~ ω<sub>κ</sub> ~ ρ\*<sup>2</sup> ω<sub>ci</sub>
  - Fast-particle interchange (PRL 1995, POP 2002, PRL 2005, POP 2006)
  - Centrifugal interchange (*PRL* 2005, *POP* 2005)
  - Pressure-driven interchange-entropy modes and inverse cascade (POP 2009, PRL 2010)

### *New Regime*: High β, Turbulent Self-Organized, Steady-State

- 20 kW injected electron cyclotron waves
- Density proportional to injected power
- Plasma energy proportional to power
- Peak plasma density 10<sup>12</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Strong mass confinement effect: He ~ 2 × D
- Plasma energy 250 J (3 kA ring current)
- Peak  $\beta \sim 40\%$  (100% achieved in RT-1)
- Classical fast particles  $\langle E_h \rangle \sim 54 \text{ keV}$
- Peak  $\langle T_e \rangle > 0.5$  keV (thermal) but  $T_i \sim 0$

#### Sustained, dynamic, steady state ....

- Matt Davis (2014): Electron pressure naturally approach "canonical" profile shape determined magnetic flux-tube volume, δV.
- Alex Boxer (2011): Density evolves at rates predicted by bounce-averaged gyrokinetic theory.



#### Measuring the Plasma Pressure from the Plasma Ring Current



Matt Davis, et al., "Pressure profiles of plasma confined in the field of a magnetic dipole," to appear in PPCF, (2014).

#### Measuring the Plasma Pressure from the Plasma Ring Current

$$\mathbf{J}_{\perp} = \frac{\mathbf{B} \times \nabla P_{\perp}}{B^2} + \frac{\mathbf{B} \times \kappa}{B^2} (P_{||} - P_{\perp})$$



**3 kA** 

#### Reconstruction Results in Very Good Accuracy of Pressure Profile



## "Canonical" Profile: $\delta(PV^{\gamma}) \approx 0$

Reconstruction combining Magnetics and X-Ray Spectroscopy **Z.U** Levitated (100805046) (T<sub>e</sub> > 0.5 keV (thermal) with < 3.5% Trapped Electrons 54 keV 1.5  $\lambda \Lambda d \| / \lambda \lambda$ 1.0 Supported (100805045) ( $T_e \approx 0$  with >75% Trapped Electrons 94 keV) 0.5 0.0└─ 0.6 0.8 1.2 1.0 1.4 1.6 Radius [m]

Matt Davis, et al., "Pressure profiles of plasma confined in the field of a magnetic dipole," to appear in PPCF, (2014).

Measurement of Density Profile and Turbulent Electric Field Gives Quantitative Verification of Bounce-Averaged Gyrokinetic Pinch



### **Quantitative Verification of Inward Turbulent Pinch**

Thomas Birmingham, "Convection Electric Fields and the Diffusion of Trapped Magnetospheric Radiation," JGR, 74, (1969). Alex Boxer, et al., "Turbulent inward pinch of plasma confined by a levitated dipole magnet," Nature Phys 6, (2010).



### Heating or Gas Modulation Demonstrates **Robust** Inward Pinch & **Natural** "Canonical" Profile

- **Density increases with power** ( $T \sim \text{constant}$ ). Density **profile shape is unchanged** near ( $n\delta V$ ) ~ constant.
- Gas source moves radially outward while central density increases.



Kesner, et al., "Stationary density profiles in the Levitated Dipole Experiment: Toward Fusion without Tritium Fuel," PPCF, (2010).

Laboratory measurements, explained with theory and simulation, have Changed the way we think about toroidal confinement

#### Sustained plasma pressure equal to the local magnetic pressure (β ~ 1)

Garnier, POP (1999); Krasheninnikov, Catto, Hazeltine, PRL (1999); Simakov, Catto, Hastie, POP (2000a,b); Catto, POP (2001); Kesner, NF (2001); Guazzotto, Freidberg, POP (2007)

#### Interchange and entropy modes dominate plasma dynamics

Kesner, POP (2000); Kesner, Hastie, POP (2002); Ricci, Rogers, Dorland, PRL (2006); Ricci, POP (2006); Kouznetsov, Friedberg POP (2007a)

Turbulent self-organization maintains steep plasma profiles and approach state of minimum entropy production

Tonge, Dawson, POP (2003); Pastukov, JETP Lett (2005); Pastukov, Plasma Phys Rep (2005); Garbet, POP (2005); Kouznetsov, POP (2007b); Kobayashi, PRL (2009); Kobayashi, Rogers, Dorland, PRL (2010); Kesner, POP (2011) Kobayashi, Rogers, Dorland, PRL (2010) Gyrokinetic (GS2) simulations show turbulence drives particles or heat to maintain uniform entropy density



Profile Parameter,  $\eta = d\ln T/d\ln n$ Profile Parameter,  $\eta = d\ln T/d\ln n$ 

### More Discoveries at Higher Density and Ion Temperature

- **Space science:** high density, hot ions, and very large size
  - High density ( $\omega_{pe} >> \omega_{ce}$ ) trapping of whistler waves: "killer electrons" created by inward transport of particles and waves. <u>What is the character of trapped whistlers in a laboratory magnetosphere?</u>
  - High density (c/Lω<sub>pi</sub> << 1) Alfvén waves, resonances, and dynamics at high beta. <u>How does Alfvén</u> wave dynamics change turbulent mixing and energetic particle confinement?
  - Ring current T<sub>e</sub> ~ T<sub>i</sub> ~ 10 200 keV give FLR and ion drift-orbit bifurcation. <u>How does interchange/</u> <u>flux-tube mixing change with space-relevant finite ion temperature?</u>
- Fusion science: high density and hot ions
  - Does a thermal,  $T_i \sim T_e$ , plasma self-organize?
  - How does FLR, ion mass/isotope, and ion pressure modify the turbulent spectrum?
  - Do electromagnetic and Alfvén wave effects change stability at  $\beta \sim 1$ ?
  - Does high power drive zonal flows and create transport barriers in a dipole plasma torus?
  - Does bounce-averaged gryokinetics correctly predict particle and energy confinement times?

### More Discoveries at Higher Density and Ion Temperature

#### Next-step discoveries are significant...

- Magnetospheric Alfvén wave dynamics at high plasma β, <u>requiring shorter ion skin depth</u>
- FLR and isotope effects in bounce-averaged gyrokinetics and turbulent self-organization, <u>requiring ion heating</u>
- <u>Critical plasma physics linking space science and</u> <u>toroidal confinement</u>

	rcury	(10th Anniversary	( of MESSENGER)	)
Agnetosheath	Bow shock Magnetopause current sheet Auroral 63- 10 R <sub>E</sub>	Earth E Open-closed field boundary E Radiation belts and ring current Radiation solution current S-12 RE 5 RE	Lobe Lobe Lobe Lobe Lobe Lobe Lobe Lobe	iter
Jupiter				
$00R_J$				
).00001		Current Sheet		
opagating rén Waves				

	Mercury	Earth	Jupiter
Size	$2R_H$	$10R_E$	$100R_J$
Density $(c/\omega_{pi}L)$	0.1	0.003	0.00001
New Physics	$(V_A/L) \sim \omega_{ci}$	Alfvén Resonances	Propagating Alfvén Waves

### Alfvén Wave Excitation and Spectroscopy will be Possible in LDX at Higher Density

- Alfvén Wave Spectroscopy and Resonances
- Toroidal-Poloidal Polarization Coupling
- Alfvén Wave interactions with Radiation Belt Particles
- Ion Cyclotron Resonance and FLR



Example: 200 kHz m = 2 Polar Launcher

### 25 kW $\rightarrow$ 1 MW with RF Power Already Installed for LDX

Next step LDX experiments will increase plasma density (×10) for <u>Alfvén wave studies</u> and produce peak  $T_i \sim 0.5$  keV for <u>turbulent transport studies</u>.

(Nov 2010) MIT-PSFC set into place a modern Thales TSW2500 short-wave transmitter and transmission line components received from General Atomics.



1 MW HF: 3.9 MHz – 26.1 MHz

## Axisymmetric Heating 5 MHz Deuterium ICRF (1 $\Omega$ Loading)



Jaeger, et al., Comp Phys Comm, 40, 33-64, (1986)

## Beyond LDX → Larger Size

With 250 kW of absorbed power, LDX is expected to demonstrate steady-state toroidal confinement at

 $\beta \sim 1$ ,  $T_i \sim T_e \sim 0.5$  keV,  $n \sim 10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup>

If turbulent self-organization persists and confinement is maintained at large size, ...

We could build the world's largest magnetically-confined plasma at NASA's Space Power Facility (SPF) at Sandusky, OH

Fundamental plasma physics and space technology

Exploration of burning plasma physics in 30 minute Q > 1 pulses

#### **Space Power Facility (SPF)**

Plum Brook Facility at Sandusky World's Largest Vacuum Vessel (Nuclear Ready) Bigger than the ITER Cryostat Scale: LDX to 15 MA - 4 m diameter floating ring and 30 m plasma

37 m

30 m

We can build the largest plasma on Earth!

### **2014 Experiments:** Transient Injection and Harnessing the Turbulent Dynamo

#### Darren Garnier:

Transient flux-tube dynamics with Li injection: **\*3** *density rise*, plasma torus evolution, ...

Interest from new partners from space physics community: radiation belt physics (HANE, space weather), multi-point diagnostic "swarms", ...

• Max Roberts: (APS-DPP 2014 Invited Talk)

Turbulence regulation with controlled current extraction

The first laboratory observation of magnetospheric "dynamo"...

About 20 mW extracted from the CTX Laboratory Magnetosphere!



### Laboratory Magnetospheres are Unique Opportunities for Controlled Plasma Science Experiments

- Laboratory magnetospheres are facilities for conducting controlled tests of spaceweather models in relevant magnetic geometry and for exploring magnetospheric phenomena by controlling the injection of heat, particles, and perturbations
- Laboratory magnetospheres are also facilities for conducting controlled tests of fusion-confinement models in a steady-state plasma torus by controlling the injection of heat, particles, and perturbations
- Higher-power and larger laboratory magnetospheres will increase plasma density, particle energy, and intensity of "artificial radiation belt", and allow new controlled tests of complex Alfvén wave interactions in the magnetosphere.
- Very large plasmas can be produced in the laboratory, continuously, with low power and great flexibility.
- Outlook: We can build/operate the largest laboratory plasma on Earth

### High β, Steady State, Self-Organized, Very-Large Plasma Torus



## **Back-Up Slides**

- Inward particle pinch was first observed in the laboratory by Jim Strachan and colleagues at the PLT device. <u>But, in tokamaks, the inward pinch is accompanied</u> <u>with enhanced plasma energy loss.</u>
- Plasma confined in a dipole is described with space-weather codes, but a levitated dipole has no FAC/ionospheric coupling. Mixing occurs on the drift time, p<sup>\*2</sup> ω<sub>ci</sub>, <u>regulated by ion inertial currents.</u>
- Double-catalyzed ("tritium suppressed") D-D(<sup>3</sup>He) fusion <u>requires particle</u> <u>confinement less than energy confinement.</u> This may be possible with a levitated dipole, allowing a transformational change in availability, safety, and cost of fusion energy.

Turbulent Pinch is a Fundamental Process found in Toroidal Magnetic Systems Including Tokamaks and Planetary Magnetospheres (but, different...)



Levitated Dipole Experiment (LDX)

1.2 MA Superconducting Ring Steady-State25 kW ECRH1 MW ICRF (unused) **Princeton Large Torus (PLT)** 

17 MA Copper Toroid 1 sec pulses 750 kW Ohmic 75 kW LHCD 2.5 MW NBI & 5 MW ICRF

### A (Historic) Density Rise Experiment on PLT





Inward Turbulent Pinch "is necessary to model the experimental results" of peaked density from edge gas source

## A (Historic) Density Rise Experiment on PLT

Jim Strachan, et al., Nuc. Fusion (1982)



but gas puff intensifies turbulence and Outward Ion Energy Flux accompanies Inward Turbulent Particle Pinch

### **Comparing Inward Pinch Velocities on PLT and LDX**

Strachen, et al., Nuc. Fusion (1982) Boxer, et al., Nature-Physics (2010)

#### **Princeton Large Torus (PLT)**

#### Levitated Dipole Experiment (LDX)

Inward Pinch is 10 × Larger in LDX than PLT

Inward Pinch is 10-100 × Neoclassical



### Comparing Low-Frequency Interchange-Drift Stability

 $k_{\parallel} \neq 0$ 

#### **Tokamak Stability**

X. Garbet / C. R. Physique 7 (2006) 573-583



 $k_{||} = 0$ 

#### **Dipole Stability**

J. Kesner, Phys Plasmas 7, 3837 (2000)



#### INNER MAGNETOSPHERIC MODELING WITH THE RICE CONVECTION MODEL

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#### Semi-collisional Plasmasphere and Ring Current

TABLE I

Comparison of equations of ideal MHD with those used in the RCM

Ideal MHD	RCM
$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0$ $(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla)(\rho \vec{v}) = \vec{j} \times \vec{B} - \nabla P$ $(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla)(P\rho^{-5/3}) = 0$ $\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ $\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{j}$	$\begin{aligned} (\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v}_k(\lambda_k, \vec{x}, t) \cdot \nabla)\eta_k &= S(\eta_k) - L(\eta_k) \\ \vec{j}_k \times \vec{B} &= \nabla P_k \\ P &= \frac{2}{3} \sum_k \eta_k  \lambda_k  V^{-5/3}, \lambda_k = constant \\ \text{Part of the magnetic field model.} \\ \text{Included in magnetic field, but } \vec{j} \neq \sum_k \vec{j}_k. \end{aligned}$
$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$ $\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B} = 0$	Included implicitly in mapping. $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$ and $\vec{E}_{\perp} + \vec{v}_k \times \vec{B} = \frac{\nabla W(\lambda k, \vec{x}, t)}{q_k}$

For each species and invariant energy  $\lambda$ ,  $\eta$  is conserved along a drift path. Specific Entropy  $pV^{\gamma} = \frac{2}{3}\sum |\lambda_s| \eta_s$ 



Space Science Reviews **107**: 175–196, 2003. © 2003 Kluwer Academic Publishers. Printed in the Netherlands.



### "Canonical" Profiles of Magnetized Plasma

- Low frequency fluctuations in strongly magnetized plasma,  $\omega_d \sim \omega \ll \omega_b \ll \omega_c$ , conserve energy or Lagrangian invariants of the flow.
- Turbulent mixing across flux tube volumes "self organizes" magnetized plasma to canonical profiles, which are stationary when  $\delta(nV) \approx 0$  and  $\delta(PV^{Y}) \approx 0$ .
- Space (*i.e.* Dipole) geometry:
  - Birmingham, J. Geophysical Res., 1969
  - Harel, Wolf, et al., J. Geophys. Res., 1981
  - Kobayashi, Rogers, and Dorland, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 2010
  - Kesner, et al., Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion, 2010; Kesner, et al., Phys. Plasmas, 2011.
- Tokamak geometry:
  - Coppi, Comments Plasma Phys. Controll. Fus., 1980
  - > Yankov, JETP Lett., 1994 and Isichenko, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 1995
  - Baker and Rosenbluth, Phys. Plasmas, 1998; Baker, Phys. Plasmas, 2002
  - Garbet, et al., Phys. Plasmas, 2005

#### Bounce-Averaged Turbulent Mixing in Laboratory Magnetosphere

For isentropic mixing and when the *low-frequency turbulent spectrum* is sufficiently broad to drift-resonate ( $\omega \sim m\omega_d$ ) with all particles, independent of energy and pitch-angle, then

#### Diffusion of flux-tube particle number, $n\delta V$ , ...

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial(\bar{n}\delta V)}{\partial t} &= \langle S \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} D_{\psi} \frac{\partial(\bar{n}\delta V)}{\partial \psi} \\ &= \langle S \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} \left[ \underbrace{D_{\psi}\delta V}_{} \frac{\partial\bar{n}}{\partial \psi} + \bar{n} \underbrace{D_{\psi} \frac{\partial\delta V}{\partial \psi}}_{} \right] \\ & \text{Diffusion} \end{split}$$

Diffusion of Energy/Entropy, **PδV**<sup>γ</sup>, ...

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{P}\delta V^{\gamma})}{\partial t} = \langle H \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} D_{\psi} \frac{\partial(\bar{P}\delta V^{\gamma})}{\partial \psi}$$

### Turbulent Pinch in a Levitated Dipole may Make Possible Tritium Suppressed Fusion

- Sheffield, Zinkle, Sawan (2002-06)
- No tritium breeding blankets
- No 14 MeV neutrons
- No structural materials problem
- Requires  $\tau_p/\tau_E < 1$
- Requires 35 keV
- Requires 10 fold confinement improvement
- Requires stronger, higher-field superconducting magnets

 $(N, P\delta V)$  ~ constant implies peaked density and pressure profiles (if  $\gamma > 1$ )



Adiabatic mixing implies core parameters determined by edge & compressibility:

 $\tau_{\rm e}/\tau_{\rm p} \sim (4\gamma - 3)C_{\rm v}^{\gamma - 1} > 50$ 

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### Dipole Proof of Performance Scaled from LDX to fit in NASA's SPF



Fusion Gain - Magnet Stress - Quench Safety Parameter - Alpha Confinement