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Improved measurements and analysis of the current profile in Tokamak fusion plasmas

Oliver. P. Ford¹ J. Svensson¹, A. Meakins³, E. Solano³, D. C. McDonald³ (Bayesian equilibrium) A. Burckhart¹, J.Howard², M. Reich¹, R.Wolf¹ (IMSE) R. Fischer¹, A. Bock¹, (IDE)

1: Max-Planck Institut für Plasmaphysik, Greifswald/Garching, Germany

2: Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

3: UKAEA Fusion Association, Culham Science Centre, OX14 3DB, UK





Outline

- Introduction
 - Flux surfaces and current profiles
 - Magnetic equilibrium
 - Bayesian analysis
- Bayesian equilibrium
 - Current-tomography
 - Current tomography + Grad-Shafranov
 - L-Mode reconstructions
 - H-Mode results
- Internal measurements
 - Motional Stark effect.
 - Coherence Imaging
 - Imaging MSE
 - Direct j_{ϕ} imaging.
- Integrated Data Analysis
 - Current diffusion
 - Imaging MSE comparison
 - Sawtooth models





Flux Surfaces

- The Tokamak: External toroidal field coils and a large current in the plasma result in a helical magnetic field.







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- Many plasma quantities are functions of ψ , e.g. n_e , T_e .
- Flux surfaces are the basis of our knowledge and used for:
 - Comparing/combining measurements ('mapping')
 - Basis of 1D transport calculations





Flux Surfaces

- The Tokamak: External toroidal field coils and a large current in the plasma result in a helical magnetic field.



- Field lines form surfaces of constant magnetic flux

Poloidal magnetic flux:

$$\psi(R,Z) = \int_{0,0}^{R,Z} B_{\theta}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$

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Current and stability

- The field and current balance the kinetic pressure:

$$j \times B = \nabla P$$





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- The current distribution and resulting field are important for the plasma stability:







Current and stability



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e.g.: When the central q value falls below 1.0, the plasma core periodically suddenly expels particles and energy - known as a 'sawtooth' crash. The crash is a magnetic reconnection event, which occurs far more rapidly than explained by simple theoretical models.

```
...(we'll return to this later)
```





Magnetic Equilibrium

- How do we know **j** and **B**?

Assume: Axisymmetry + Isotropic pressure + No flow Define the 'poloidal current flux' *f*:

$$f(R,Z) = \int^{R,Z} j_{\theta}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$
 $f = RB_{\phi}$





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Kinetic pressure $p(\psi)$ and $f(\psi)$ are constant on flux surfaces. Decompose the force balance into toroidal and poloidal:

> $j \times B = \nabla p$ $j_{\phi} = Rp' + \frac{\mu_0}{R}ff'$





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Also known as the Grad-Shafranov equation:

$$-\frac{1}{R}\frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial Z^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial R}\left(\frac{1}{R}\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial R}\right) = \mu_0 R \frac{\partial p}{\partial \psi} + \frac{\mu_0^2}{R} f \frac{\partial f}{\partial \psi}$$

For very simple $p(\psi)$ and $f(\psi)$ functions, one can solve the Grad-Shafranov equation for given boundary ψ .



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Boundary $\boldsymbol{\psi}$ calculated from magnetic pick-ups around plasma perimeter



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ρ(ψ)

0.5

- Usually only converges for simple p, f functions.
- Difficult to deal with pedestal pressure/current.

120

80

40

0.0

Pressure p(ψ) / kPa



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but....

- Is the converged solution the only solution?

- Are the simplified *p*, *f* profiles over-constrained / under-constrained?

 $_{6\,/\,4\bar{5}}\mbox{Are}$ the data consistent with the assumptions?





- Rigorous framework for dealing with the question:

What can we know about the plasma, given the data we measured?





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What can we know about the plasma, given the data we measured?

We need:

- μ a set of parameters describing the state of the plasma that we want to know.
- D a set of measured data.
- $P(D \mid \mu)$ The likelihood distribution: A model of what data might be measured given a certain set of plasma parameters.





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Typically, a 'forward model' that gives the most likely data $\langle D \rangle = f(\mu)$ and a simple Gaussian distribution of uncertainty from measurement noise:

$$P(D \mid \mu) \propto \exp\left[-(D - f(\mu))^2/2\sigma^2\right]$$





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$$\underbrace{P(\mu \mid D)}_{\text{Posterior - What plasma parameters are probable}}_{\text{given that we measured the data D}} = \frac{P(D \mid \mu)P(\mu)}{P(D)}$$





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What we want is the *posterior* distribution:

Prior - What plasma parameters do we believe are likely







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Any combination of diagnostics: 7/45

 $P(D \mid \mu) = \prod_{i} P(D_i \mid \mu)$

(More explanation and examples available for Q&A)



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Current Tomography

- How do we apply this to current distribution?



Physics Model: grid of axisymmetric current beams.



Forward Model / Likelihood: Simple prediction of magnetic diagnostics with Gaussian likelihood function.



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Prior: Simple regularisation of grid - neighboring current must be similar (first attempt)



Posterior:

<--- Samples of flux surfaces Shows uncertainty and degeneracy

- Very ill-posed problem!



Current Tomography

- How do we apply this to current distribution?



R [m]

Physics Model: grid of axisymmetric current beams.



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Upgrade

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Current Tomography + Equilibrium

- Can we re-introduce the force balance? --> Bayesian Equilibrium

 $j\times B\approx \nabla p$





Current Tomography + Equilibrium

- Can we re-introduce the force balance? --> Bayesian Equilibrium
- Force balance: We observe that the magnetic and pressure forces are approximately equal:

 $j \times B \approx \nabla p$ $P(\text{stable} \mid j_{\phi}, f, p) = exp\left(-\sum_{i,k}^{\mathsf{Sum over current beams}} \left[(j \times B) - \nabla p\right]^2 / 2\sigma^2\right) \text{How good should our equilibrium be?}$





Current Tomography + Equilibrium

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 $P(\text{stable} \mid j_{\phi}, f, p) = exp\left(-\sum_{i,k}^{\prime} \left[(j \times B) - \nabla p\right]^2 / 2\sigma^2\right)$ How good should our equilibrium be?

- Now we can ask the question:

$$P(j_{\phi}, f, p \mid D_m, stable)$$

What space of plasma currents and pressures are consistent with the measurements and are close to equilibrium?





Bayesian Equilibrium

L-Mode plasmas: Low resolution current beam grid, fully explored posterior distribution:



Uncertainty is large in core due to degeneracy: Equilibrium doesn't tell us much Flux surfaces:







Bayesian Equilibrium

L-Mode plasmas: Low resolution current beam grid, fully explored posterior distribution:



Uncertainty is large in core due to degeneracy: Equilibrium doesn't tell us much Flux surfaces:



Samples of integral quantities reveal relations between 'Shafranov Integrals' that are well determined in simple analytical equilibrium solutions:







Bayesian Equilibrium

H-Mode plasmas: Very sharp changes in j and p require high-resolution current beam grid:

Too many parameters to explore the posterior (Monte-Carlo algorithm). Needs:

- More computation power
- Better algorithms





 J_{φ}



Bayesian Equilibrium

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but, maximum posterior can be calculated:





 J_{φ}



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Pedestal Pressure

Flexible p, f profiles show that pedestal pressure can be very accurately measured with magnetic coils.







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Pedestal parallel and perpendicular currents can be separated:



- Very good information on edge current, even from magnetics alone!





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- Rigorous determination of uncertainty
- Too computationally intensive for H-mode
- Need internal measurements!

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E / 1.5 -N

1.0

0.5

0.0

-0.5

-1.0

2.0

2.5

3.0

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R/m

3.5

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Internal Measurements

How can we measure deep inside the plasma?

Magnetic Surfaces Plasma Edge







Magnetic Surfaces

Plasma Edge

Internal Measurements

How can we measure deep inside the plasma? Spectroscopy - observe the light emitted by atoms in the plasma:

e.g. Hydrogen Balmer-α line:





Inject high-energy neutral hydrogen into core of plasma (for heating/fueling) Excitation by ion/electron impact excites the higher energy levels. Spontaneous decay emits photon that can be measured by a spectrometer.



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Magnetic Surfaces

Internal Measurements

How can we measure deep inside the plasma? Spectroscopy - observe the light emitted by atoms in the plasma:

E3

E2

v

hv M

653.5

e.g. Hydrogen Balmer-α line:

n=3

n=2

Intensity

Plasma Edge Neutral Beam Injection 5MW at 60 keV $(3 \times 10^6 \text{ ms}^2)$

Inject high-energy neutral hydrogen into core of plasma (for heating/fueling) Excitation by ion/electron impact excites the higher energy levels. Spontaneous decay emits photon that can be measured by a spectrometer.

656.2

Dα

Wavelength/nm





Motional Stark Effect Polarimetry



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Motional Stark Effect Polarimetry

The atomic energy levels are modified by the local magnetic/electric fields:

- Zeeman splitting (magnetic field)
- Stark splitting (electric field):







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Coherence Imaging























Coherence Imaging

























Multiplet Polarisation Coherence Imaging

Removing the first polariser gives a dependence on the initial polarisation:

 $I \propto 1 + \zeta \cos 2\theta \cos(x)$







Multiplet Polarisation Coherence Imaging

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Multiplet Polarisation Coherence Imaging

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At some specific plate thickness t, the phase of the π wings is 180° from σ . This cancels the 180° from the opposite polarisation, and the patterns add. We add a delay plate with the optimal τ_0 .









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However, we now need to separate spectral contrast ζ from the polariastion angle θ .

add another displacer at 45°. Combined effect adds 2 extra terms:



 $_{\rm 17/45} I \propto 1 + \zeta \cos 2\theta \cos(x) + \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x-y) - \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x+y)$

π





Raw image (without neutral beam)







Raw image (without neutral beam)



Raw image (with neutral beam)



100 200 300 400 x / pixels





Raw image (without neutral beam)



Raw image (with neutral beam)



x / pixels





Imaging Motional Stark Effect results

Raw image (without neutral beam)



Raw image (with neutral beam)







Imaging Motional Stark Effect results

Raw image (without neutral beam)



Raw image (with neutral beam)



Fourier transform

 $I \propto 1 + \zeta \cos 2\theta \cos(x)$ $+ \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x - y)$ $- \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x + y)$







Imaging Motional Stark Effect results

Raw image (without neutral beam)



Raw image (with neutral beam)



Fourier transform

$$I \propto 1 + \frac{\zeta \cos 2\theta}{\zeta \sin 2\theta} \cos(x) + \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x - y) - \zeta \sin 2\theta \cos(x + y)$$







Imaging Motional Stark Effect results

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Imaging Motional Stark Effect results

Raw image (without neutral beam)



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Fourier transform





Demodulated polarisation angle







What does θ tell us about *j*? Maybe we have enough data now to image *j* directly?







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 $\underline{\mathbf{E}} = \underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\mathbf{B}}$









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 $\tan \theta$

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Choose offset to θ , such that $\theta = 0^\circ$ at magnetic axis ($u = v \times \phi$)

$$= \frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\phi} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} + \left[\frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\mathbf{R}}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{r}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} - \frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{r}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} \frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\mathbf{R}}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} \right] \frac{B_R}{B_{\phi}} + \left[\frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\mathbf{Z}}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{r}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} - \frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{r}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} \frac{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\mathbf{Z}}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})}{(\underline{\mathbf{v}} \times \underline{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \underline{\hat{\mathbf{u}}})} \right] \frac{B_Z}{B_{\phi}}$$





55 ک Polarisation f

Imaging Motional Stark Effect results







55 Dolarisation f

Imaging Motional Stark Effect results







50 Polarisation

Imaging Motional Stark Effect results







What does B_z tell us about *j* in the core?







What does B_z tell us about *j* in the core? Large aspect ratio approximation (assume core is a cylinder)



$$\int B \cdot ds = \mu_0 \int j \, dA$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2}\mu_0 jr$$

$$\frac{dB_Z}{dR} = \frac{1}{2}\mu_0 j$$







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More generally elongation is important: [CC.Petty Nucl. Fus. 2002]

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$$\frac{dB_Z}{dR} = \frac{1.7B_0}{R} \left(\frac{d\theta}{dR} - \frac{\theta}{R}\right)$$



$$B_Z \approx \frac{1.7B_0}{R} \theta$$





What does B_z tell us about *j* in the core? Large aspect ratio approximation (assume core is a cylinder)



More generally elongation is important: [CC.Petty Nucl. Fus. 2002]



$$B = \frac{1}{2}\mu_0 jr$$

$$\frac{dB_Z}{dR} = \frac{1}{2}\mu_0 j$$

$$\mu_0 j \approx -\left(1 + \frac{1}{\kappa^2}\right) \frac{dB_Z}{dR}$$





Typically, in core: $R \sim 1.6m$ $\theta < 5^{\circ}$ $d\theta/dR \sim 35^{\circ}m^{-1}$. $d\theta/dR >> (\theta/R)$

To first order, local *j* relates to local derivative of measurement

This is only an approximation! ... but we now understand that $d\theta/dR$ holds the information about *j*. What can we see in $d\theta/dR$ at the axis?





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Central safety factor also requires location of centre:

$$q_0 \approx \frac{2B_\phi}{\mu_0 j_0 R} \approx \frac{2B_\phi^{1m}}{\mu_0 j_0 R_0^2}$$





Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection





Pressure



Safety Factor q

q=1





Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection

What do we see in the IMSE data?

- Sawtooth changes are *very* small - need good statistics.







Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection

- Sawtooth changes are *very* small need good statistics.
- Average over Z near axis









Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection

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Difference from average profile:





1.5

1.0

Invalid

1.60

calibration

1.65

Fusion Frontiers and Interfaces, 2019 Improved measurements and analysis of the current profile in Tokamak Fusion plasmas



Sawteeth - Magnetic Reconnection





Difference from average profile:



Current redistribution: $\Delta i \sim 0.050 \text{ MA m}^{-2}$ $_{22/4}$ easurements every ~3cm (resolution):

1.75

1.80

1.85

R/m

After

crash

1.70

 $\Delta(d\theta/dR) \sim 0.7^{\circ}m^{-1}$ --> $\Delta\theta \pm 0.02^{\circ}$ required for $\Delta R=3cm$



Max-Planck Institut für Plasmaphysik Greifswald / Garching Fusion Frontiers and Interfaces, 2019 Improved measurements and analysis of the current profile in tokamak Fusion plasmas



Outline

- Introduction
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- -Excellent internal measurements.
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- Calibration very difficult to required accuracy.
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New approach to equilibrium at ASDEX Upgrade:

- Grad-Shafranov solver, but with rigorous treatment of errors
- Try to mitigate effect of nonphysical regularisation with as much realistic information as possible:
- Pressure constraints: n_e , T_e , T_i , Z_{eff} , fast-ions (from modeling)
- Geometric information (Inboard/outboard agreement of diagnostics)





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Current Diffusion Equation (CDE):

$$\sigma_{\parallel} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \frac{R_0 J^2}{\mu_0 \rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho} \left(\frac{G_2}{J} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \rho} \right) - \frac{V'}{2\pi \rho} (j_{\rm bs} + j_{\rm cd})$$





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Bootstrap current
Current drive (ECCD, NBI etc)

Provides a weak constraint on j_{φ} from expected evolution from previous time-points.

- i.e. physically realistic (and informative) prior information.







Integrated Data Analysis Equilibrium

Example: Counter-current Electron Cyclotron Current Drive (ECCD)

ECCD drives localised on-axis current

- Not seen by magnetics (small due to low area of centre)
- No effect on pressure profile = not seen by kinetic inputs





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8 5 1.5s, no ECCD 1.5s, no ECCD 2.0s, ECCD 2.0s, ECCD - 2.5s, ECCD 6 2.5s, ECCD - 3.0s, ECCD - 3.0s, ECCD 3.5s, ECCD 3.5s, ECCD #31113 σ4 without current diffusion 2 #31113 0 0 0.2 0.4 0.8 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 0.0 0.6 1.0 0.0 ho_{pol} ρ_{pol}

Regularised GS solution:





Integrated Data Analysis Equilibrium

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Regularised GS solution:



With CDE + Current Drive:





Integrated Equilibrium vs IMSE

- By comparing by IMSE, can see where IDE predicts more physics than the 'standard' GS solver:
- 1) During R-scan
- 2) ECRH switch-off







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Integrated Equilibrium vs IMSE

- By comparing by IMSE, can see where IDE predicts more physics than the 'standard' GS solver:
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However, there is still physics only seen by diagnostic!







Integrated Equilibrium - Sawteeth

- During sawteeth (reconnection), current diffusion not applicable.





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- Include different sawtooth models in equilibrium code and compare IMSE predictions to measurements.
- Kadomtsev: Complete reconnection. $q_0 \rightarrow 1$. Current outside q=1 surface.
- Flat-current model (FCM): Current conserved outside q=1, flat current density inside.






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Current redistribution similar to seen in Δj_{φ} images.

Difference between models requires absolute $j_{\varphi} \sim 0.02 \text{ MA } m^{-2} \rightarrow d\theta/dR \sim 0.01^{\circ} (3 \text{ cm}^{-3})$





Required precision is so high, many other factors become important:





[R. Fischer et. al.]

Integrated Equilibrium vs IMSE - Sawteeth

Required precision is so high, many other factors become important:

Plasma radial electric field:

 $E = v \times B + E_r$

At some locations, ΔE_r during sawtooth dominates measurement:





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Shafranov shift:

Movement of plasma axis with pressure.



28 / 45



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Plasma radial electric field:

 $E = v \times B + E_r$

At some locations, ΔE_r during sawtooth dominates measurement:



Shafranov shift:

Movement of plasma axis with pressure. (including redistribution of fast-ions from neutral beam)

> data 0









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but...

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- This is where we are - 'the state of the art ... science' What next?

IMSE: - Improve calibration systematics,.







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EUROfusion

ASDEX

- Calibration very difficult to required accuracy.
- Need to include in equilibrium
- Excellent tool for practical analysis with available data.
- Current diffusion provides realistic model of missing information when data incomplete.
- Sawtooth models in good agreement with IMSE evolution.
- Still need to converge IDE+IMSE to arrive at an absolute q.





Bayesian Inference

A simple example with electron density:

Physics model:

$$n_e(r) = n_0(1 - r^2)^q$$

Parameters:

$$\mu = (n_0, q)$$

Forward model:

 $f(\mu) = \int n_e dl$







Bayesian Inference

(C) EUROfusion ASDEX Upgrade



 $P(D \mid \mu)$ for 5 line integrals:





0

2

q



40

30

20

10

-10

-20

-30

-40

Z [cm] 0

 $P(D \mid \mu)$ for a single lie integral:





Forward modelling and Bayesian Inference

Minerva framework for Bayesian combined modelling:







^{3.6} R/m



2.0

2.4

2.8

3.2

₃pa_fameters in Tokamaks.



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IMSE + Current Tomography

Put description of AUG coils and some pickups into Minerva so we can now do Current Tomorgraphy and Bayesian Equilibrium for AUG.

For magnetics only, we have the usual tomography situation:





























EUROfusion ASDEX

Coherence Imaging

Some results of neutral Helium flow in the (relatively) cold edge of MAST:

Raw Image:



Helium Flow Velocity:



MAST Mega Amp Spherical Tokamak, CCFE, Culham, UK



MAST is a 'spherical' Tokamak. The torus has a very small major radius compared to it's minor radius, but is still a Tokamak.



*With thanks to Scott Silburn, Durham University / CCFE [S. Silburn et. al. 40th EPS Conf. on plasma phys. 2013]



IMSE - Calibration

Absolute q_0 requires absolute $d\theta/dR$ How can we calibrate θ , (or $d\theta/dR$)?

- Run the same plasma with reversed field --> Reversed pitch angle



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ASDEX



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ASDEX

Upgrade

Plasma moved by 5cm to scan axis position.





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Meeting point well predicted by equilibrium:





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Uncertainties in j/q without internal measurements







Uncertainties in j/q 1 MSE LOS







Uncertainties in j/q 12 IMSE LOS







Status: iMSE fit (2)







Status: iMSE fit (3)



- 36 iMSE channels not conclusive
- 43/45 Note: q0 estimation is the most challenging problem in current profile reconstruction!