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A Numerical Study of the Tokamak Edge Fluid Equations

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy
in Nuclear Engineering

by

Marcus Steven Day

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The thesis of Marcus Steven Day is approved.

Russell Caflisch

Farrokh Najmabadi

Gerald C. Pomraning

Xiaolin Zhong

Robert W. Conn, Committee Chair

University of California, Los Angeles
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To my wife and my parents...

Contents

List of Figures

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Some old adage says that you can learn the most when "sure-fire" methods refuse to work as advertized. I certainly faced more of that than I ever intended, and then the ensuing self-doubts as I tried to understand why. Throughout though, my wife Michele gave me the confidence and the reasons to challenge the frustration. My parents seeded and constantly reinforced my desire for quality and purpose; I hope their influence makes it through to this paper. Barry Merriman was my teacher, my conscience, my friend, and maybe the only one who really knows how hard we tried to get everything to work out pretty. Dean Robert Conn laid out a work environment consisting always of both freedom and support. Professor Farrokh Najmabadi provided thoughtful input, and defended my work throughout the years to ensure steady funding. Adrian Lenardic, my grad-school roommate introduced me to, and is a critical part of, a circle of eternal companions too numerous to list—my most fond and fun memories of graduate school will always involve this group, and the relaxing weekends we spent together. In addition to being a true friend, Neil Morley has always provided advice, dicussusion, questions and answers involving every aspect of Unix, graphics, LaTeX, Fortran, fluids, physics and math. The administrative staff at UCLA, including Haya Leiner, Charlotte Carter, Richard Kruse and Concha Soto helped to resolve all those funny little problems that arise along the way. In all, I will surely miss the environment of the UCLA campus that I came to know as home. I leave hoping that I have contributed in some way to UCLA's atmosphere of fun, unity and scientific purpose.

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VITA

December 12,1965	Born, Richmond, CA
1988	B.S. Nuclear Engineering
	UC Berkeley
1992	M.S. Applied Plasma Physics
	& Fusion Engineering
	UC Los Angeles
1988-1995	Graduate Student Researcher
	(supported by DOE Research Grant)
1994	Married a beautiful Italian girl
	who moved my life into a dream

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. *ITER Divertor Modeling, Experimental Simulations and Advanced Materials Studies at UCLA; Results from the PPPL Linear Plasma Simulator*, Talk given by Lothar Schmitz at the Tech. Mtg & Wkshp on ITER Divertor Phys., Garching, Germany, Fefruary 21-25, 1995
2. *FMS: A Tool for Fluid Modeling of Plasmas*, APS Division of Plasma Physics Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 7-11, 1994
3. *Tokamak Edge Plasma Modeling and Code Development Issues*, presentation to the LLNL, Livermore, CA, October 14, 1994
4. *Discretization Issues for Highly Anisotropic Fluids*, APS Division of Plasma Physics Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 1-5, 1993
5. *Modeling of the Plasma Edge in Fusion Tokamaks*, Master's Thesis, 1992
6. *A Second Generation Code for Modeling Tokamak Edge Plasmas*, M. Day, B. Merriman, F. Najmabadi and R. W. Conn, Journal of Nuclear Materials, 196-198 (1992) 785-788

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PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - continued

7. *Applications of a Non-Orthogonal Edge Fluid Code for the ITER divertor*, APS Division of Plasma Physics Conference, Seattle, WA, November 16-20, 1992

8. *A Second Generation Code for Modeling Tokamak Edge Plasmas*, Tenth PSI Conference, Monterey, CA, March 30 - April 3, 1992

9. *Fully Implicit Fluid Plasma Simulation with a Generalized Flow Solver*, AGU Chapman Conference on Micro and Meso Scale Phenomena in Space Plasmas (funded by the American Geophysical Union), Kauai, HI, February 17-22, 1992

10. *Status of UCLA Edge Modeling*, Tokamak Edge Modeling Workshop, Livermore, CA, January 14-16, 1992

11. *Plasma/Neutral Fluid Simulations on a Non-Orthogonal Finite Volume Mesh*, APS Division of Plasma Physics Conference, Tampa, FL, November 4-8, 1991

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

A Numerical Study of the Tokamak Edge Fluid Equations

by

Marcus Steven Day

Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering

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Professor Robert W. Conn, Chair

A detailed fluid model is developed to describe the plasma in the regime found at the periphery of a tokamak fusion device. The model is geared particularly to investigating volume power dispersion methods recently proposed for high-power fusion reactor plasmas, and is evaluated in one and two dimensions for comparisons with data from the gas-target experiments at the PISCES-A facility at UCLA. Our model provides rather good agreement with experimental data, but requires excessive computational resources due to the low-order numerical discretizations employed to handle plasma convection. Development of the model is carefully documented, with emphasis on physical interpretation of *ad hoc* extensions commonly employed in the edge modeling community. The resulting equations are written in the two-dimensional poloidal plane of a tokamak in coordinates that align with the local projection of the magnetic field. There are a number of unique characteristics that require specialized numerical treatment for solution of this system, including strong directional anisotropy, stiff nonlinear coupling of the source terms,

and detailed internal structure that requires fine grid resolution.

We solve the strongly nonlinear coupled set of modeling equations using a fully-implicit time evolution to steady state via Newton-Raphson iterations at each adaptively chosen time step. A very general damping strategy is implemented, along with standard convergence acceleration methods, such as mesh sequencing. The linear systems for each Newton iteration are solved via the BiCGSTAB conjugate gradient-based algorithm, which is preconditioned with line-by-line grid sweeps. Our fully-implicit discretization limits the class of available solution techniques to first order classical and exponential (streamline-weighted) dissipation. Because of this, and the profiles computed, excessive resolution requirements often preclude spatially converged steady solutions to our model description.

As a significant, but somewhat tangent project, we investigated a novel technique for treating the strongly anisotropic dissipation using a numerical grid not aligned to the principal diffusion axes, despite alignment of the underlying coordinates of the model. We rigorously demonstrate that no discrete algorithm can exist for consistently approximating such a scenario unless the grid is (nearly) aligned. The strength of this condition is a function of both the anisotropy and the rotation angle of the principal axes of dissipation. The results underscore the essential 1D nature of the fluid transport in the poloidal plane of the tokamak edge, while the big-picture results underscore the influence of numerical computing limitations on the development and understanding of edge plasma models.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Nuclear fusion offers one particularly attractive energy source to be harnessed for long-term national production of electricity. But a myriad of technological issues stand in the way of its viable commercial implementation. At the root of the problem, a burning fusion plasma must operate at temperatures in excess of 250 million degrees! When this plasma comes into contact with a confining material vessel, the surface is subject to huge particle and energy fluxes, which erode and heat all the plasma facing components. The exhaust region in a tokamak reactor must accommodate the intense power and particle loads from a burning plasma, while minimizing the flow of impurity ions from the surfaces to the core region. Robust and versatile solutions for this difficult problem have yet to be verified, primarily due to the lack of high-powered simulation experiments. Experimental equipment is often prohibitively expensive, so much of the preliminary concept evaluation and design will have to be carried out via computer simulation.

In this work, we explore computer models of the exhaust region in a tokamak where plasma comes in contact with material surfaces. We develop a precise set of modeling equations, and then proceed to solve them for a number of different scenarios, with the intention of evaluating specific design concepts. Our objective has been to study the gas-target scenario, a promising concept where tokamak exhaust would be diverted into a remote handling chamber that is filled with neutral gas. If the concept is successful, a large fraction of the plasma energy will be uniformly dispersed over a the wall of the divertor chamber via atomic radiation processes.

The gas-target concept relies heavily on the interaction of the charged plasma fluid that exhausts from the core, with neutral and impurity species puffed in through the boundary. The relevant atomic processes include ionization, charge exchange and recombination. The modeling equations for this system involve highly anisotropic diffusion, temperature dependent sources and intricate two-dimensional domain configurations. A large portion of this work has been devoted towards developing sufficiently general numerical methods to deal with such complexities, and a significant portion of this dissertation describes both the detailed model and the solution techniques under development.

In Chapter 2, we provide a short review of the tokamak configuration, followed by a summary of processes that are important to the edge plasma region. There, we define the necessary terminology and motivate developing our advanced modeling and numerical computing machinery. In Chapter 3, a literature review is presented, both to describe previous works in this area and to highlight some of the shortcomings. We then attempt to address these shortcomings in later sections. A specific set of modeling equations is formulated subsequently in Chapter 4 for the special plasma of the tokamak edge. We show how this model is to be interpreted with respect to standard Newtonian mechanics, and that our results appear to disagree with other models that have been published. Numerical computing tools, designed specifically for this problem, are then detailed in Chapter 5. We motivate our unique numerical treatment for strongly anisotropic dissipation, and in Chapter 6, proceed to demonstrate its usefulness and limitations. In Chapter 7, our resulting model and solution techniques are applied to standard benchmark scenarios and in Chapter 8, to one and two dimensional descriptions of simple plasma configurations. The model is found to be in fairly good agreement, though indicates that the model is still missing some key ingredients. A list of conclusions from the work follows in Chapter 9, along with a list of suggested follow-on efforts and unresolved issues.

The text of the dissertation body is then followed by a number of smaller Appendices. Appendix A specifies the fundamental theoretical model from which we derive some of our transport coefficients. In Appendix B, we detail the formulation of the source term expressions employed in the model. In Appendix C, we describe a particularly difficult issue encountered in the numerical modeling of the plasma heat transport equation, stripping away all other processes for simplicity. This difficulty 'hides' itself in underresolved plasma simulations to give poor initial convergence results. Appendix D contains details involved in computing the rate of numerical convergence for the computer code that implements the numerical schemes described as part of the thesis, while Appendix E gives an example model specification file used to match experimental data on the PISCES-A facility. The purpose is to convey clearly the actual model implemented, while demonstrating simultaneously the power of our software design philosophy.

While this research is motivated by the need to find solutions to this tokamak edge problem, we end up often with a focus on the numerical and theoretical issues that arise during the modeling process. In fact, we have identified a universal limitation on available techniques to approximate numerically the strongly anisotropic plasma dissipations. We implemented a particularly useful coding technique that eases incorporation of our complex models. Then, through cursory applications of our methods, we found that our models predict fairly accurately, the one-dimensional behavior of the gas-target experiments in the PISCES-A facility at UCLA. When trying to extend the model to two dimensions we quickly ran into computer hardware limitations, and thus obtained only minimal results. The gas-target regime, in general, was found to contain internal features that are beyond reasonable numerical resolution capabilities, even in one dimension. Perhaps most importantly though, we found that future understanding of the detached plasma state is wholly dependent on quantum improvements to present numerical solution capabilities, above and beyond that presented in this work.

1.1 Summary of Results

1. Physical models were assembled to produce precise equations for the tokamak edge plasma. Our results differ significantly from a number of similar models that have been published in the literature. A simple picture is given to assure that our model is consistent with fundamental Newtonian dynamics, and to outline a process for adding new physical processes to the equation set.

2. To a good approximation, the edge plasma obeys strongly anisotropic fluid conservation equations. Numerical solutions proceed typically on a numerical grid that is aligned with the anisotropy. But there are many practical reasons why this situation is not optimal. A generalized criteria is developed for

whether strongly anisotropic flows can be consistently discretized along mesh coordinates skewed to the anisotropy, and an optimal finite difference stencil is presented. The conditions allowing misaligned discretizations are satisfied only near divertor X-points; we discuss this situation in detail.

3. A representative edge model was constructed to illustrate the gross influence of key edge plasma transport parameters. Simple pictures are given that quantitatively explain the results of a number of parameter variation studies. The most dominating effect seems to arise from methods used to artificially limit the electron conductive heat flux. Such "flux limiters" typically restrict heat fluxes to within physical limits; however our experiments indicate that the accepted algebraic form is unduly sensitive to undetermined parameters. There has been recent work to extend these models; implications are discussed.

4. A steady detached plasma, produced in the UCLA PISCES-A facility, was modeled in one and two dimensions. The one-dimensional model consists of fluid equations for the background Hydrogen plasma (ions and electrons) in addition to the reaction-diffusion equations for atomic and molecular Hydrogen. The problem was posed along the central axis of the cylindrical plasma device. Preliminary results are presented for the extension of this model to include the radial dimension. The problem is difficult to model due to the small system size with respect to collision mean free paths, and the inefficiencies of the underlying numerical schemes used to solve the modeling equations.

5. To carry out the research described in this dissertation, a flexible programming model was developed that allows easy incorporation of complex physics modules in a programming-language-independent way. We implemented this model via a Fortran prototype computer code, FMS2D (Fluid Modeling System in Two Dimensions)[1]. We present details of the code, in terms of the major algorithm selections and an example model specification.

[1]It is customary to "personalize" computer codes of such magnitude with a catchy name before it is passed on to future researchers. However, we will show that algorithms in the code suffer from serious efficiency issues. The code will certainly be rewritten before it can be useful for routine two-dimensional production modeling runs.

Chapter 2

Background

In a fusion reactor, light atoms (usually the isotopes of hydrogen, namely deuterium and tritium) are heated to high enough temperatures that there is a sufficient rate of fusion. For many fuels, this process changes the total mass of the particles involved, and releases a large amount of energy equivalent to the mass discrepancy (according to the Einstein formula, $E = mc^2$ where m = mass change during the reaction, and c is the speed of light). The energy is carried by the kinetic energy by the products of the reaction. For deuterium and tritium, the products are generally helium and neutrons. The helium is retained in the mixture to heat the remaining fuel, while the neutrons are removed, and used to drive a standard heat conversion cycle. The following lists the most promising nuclear reactions for a first generation fusion power reactor [1]:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{d} + \mathrm{t} &= \alpha + \mathrm{n} + 17.56\ \mathrm{MeV} \\
\mathrm{d} + \mathrm{d} &= \mathrm{t} + \mathrm{H} + 4.03\ \mathrm{MeV} \\
\mathrm{d} + \mathrm{d} &= {}^{3}\mathrm{He} + \mathrm{n} + 3.27\ \mathrm{MeV} \\
\mathrm{d} + {}^{3}\mathrm{He} &= \alpha + \mathrm{H} + 18.30\ \mathrm{MeV}
\end{aligned}$$

The numbers on the product sides are the amount of energy released per reaction. In a mixture at any temperature, all of these reactions will occur to some extent, but they are dominated by thermalizing coulomb elastic and inelastic col-

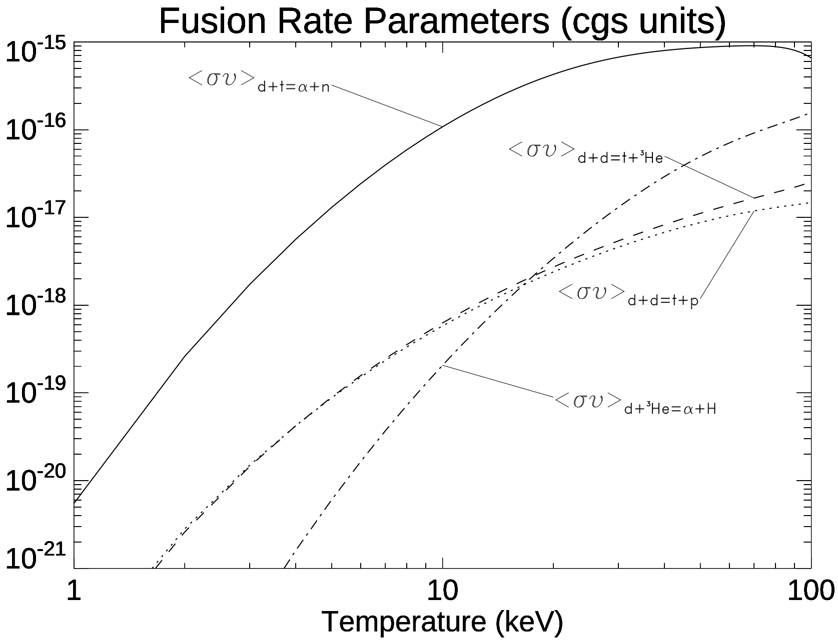

Figure 2.1. Fusion reaction rate parameters. Constructed from the fit table, 2C2, of the reference.

lisions. With increasing temperature however, the coulomb interaction rate falls off sharply, while the fusion rates increase. The energy emitted from the fusion reactions eventually becomes a significant fraction of that required to heat and maintain the system. The condition, 'break-even', where the fusion energy exceeds the energy input into the system, is a minimum step in achieving an economical power producing facility[2]. Figure 2.1[1] shows the fusion rate parameters[1] for the four candidate reactions as a function of temperature. Fusion rates are very low for temperatures below about 1 keV (1 keV≈10,000,000C°); loosely speaking, break-even is expected at temperatures near 15 keV. Development of fusion-based electricity generating devices centers around producing a method to contain and heat the reacting mixtures to the extremely high temperatures where fusion rates

[1]The fusion rate per unit volume is proportional to the particle densities of the reactants. The plotted rate parameter is the constant of this proportionality.

become large enough to produce net power.

The confinement properties of charged particles in a magnetic field suggest one method of containing the burning fusion fuel. When heated to these extreme conditions, electrons are stripped from the fuel atoms, and the mixture becomes a plasma. Charged particles of a plasma are known to be confined, via the Lorentz force, to helical orbits about a strong magnetic field. However, since there will be no applied force *along* the field line, motion of the particles in that direction will not be not impeded. One can build a sufficiently long, straight system (greater than 1 km), or the magnetic field that confines the charged particles can be bent into a closed configuration. Examples of plasma devices that employ these closed magnetic structures are tokamaks, stellarators and reverse-field pinches[3]. The work here is primarily concerned with the tokamak geometry, the leading design concept, where the confining magnetic field is shaped into a doughnut-like configuration using large external magnetic coils.

In a tokamak, there is a strong magnetic field in the toroidal direction (the long way around the doughnut), along which a large plasma electric current is driven. This toroidal current induces a poloidal (the short way around) magnetic field, and results in a corkscrew or helical total magnetic field structure. The helixes of the tokamak do not, in general, meet on themselves each time around the torus. Rather, with successive toroidal passes they ergodically trace out tubes that are (nearly) circular in the poloidal plane, as illustrated in Figure 2.2 (it turns out that elongated D-shaped cross sections may provide better confinement properties for a tokamak plasma; cf. [4] for further discussion on this matter). A tokamak configuration is a collection of many such surfaces, nested one inside the other,

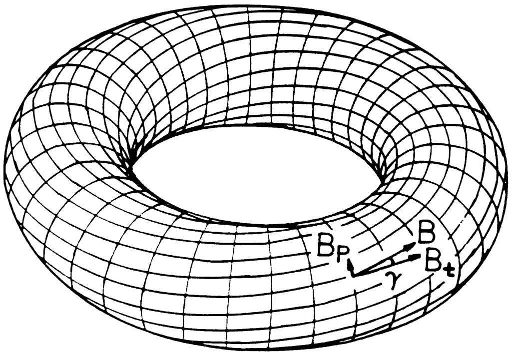

Figure 2.2. Ergodic surfaces in a toroidal geometry. Note that the magnetic field lines run primarily in the toroidal direction. The twist in the structure is such that a cut through minor axis (the short way around the doughnut) will trace a circular outline of the surfaces.

with successive outward levels surrounding a larger number of magnetic field lines, or equivalently, a greater magnetic *flux*. An expansion force arises from the closed field lines and will tend to drive the configuration unstable (i.e. to straighten the field lines), so that a third, vertical, field is necessary. These vertical field lines are constructed to bow toward the tokamak major axis, providing a potential energy minimum to prevent vertical *and* radial shifts of the tokamak plasma/field structure.

Since plasma motion is impeded across the lines of magnetic force, the magnetic surfaces form a rather convenient natural coordinate system in which to formulate the physical transport properties of the system[5]. The surfaces are those of constant magnetic flux, or *flux surfaces*, and the specialized orthogonal magnetic coordinates are aligned locally along the gradient vector of the magnetic flux surfaces and parallel to the magnetic field lines[2].

[2]The third vector vector in this 3D orthogonal coordinate system, the "drift direction", is mutually orthogonal to the first two coordinates

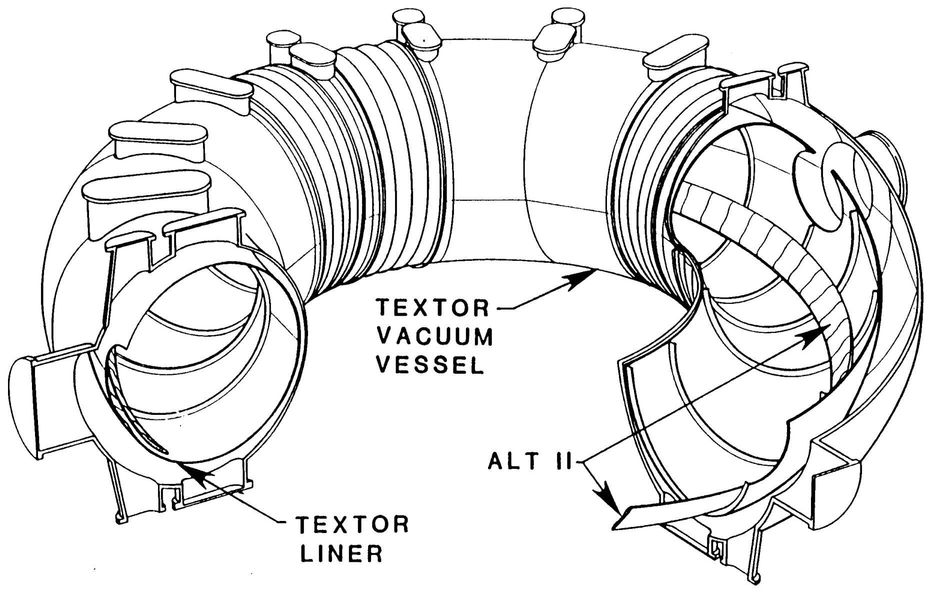

Figure 2.3. Typical toroidal plasma vessel to contain the doughnut-shaped magnetic field structure, shown here in the poloidal plane. Note the irregularly shaped Plasma Facing Components (PFCs) along the inner lining of the vessel.

2.1 The Edge Plasma

The core plasma of a tokamak envelops a set of nested magnetic flux surfaces as described earlier. But for a number of practical reasons, components inside the reactor vessel designed to receive the boundary plasmas are not generally aligned with these flux surfaces (a typical toroidal plasma vessel is pictured in Figure 2.3). The shape discrepancies give rise to a set of field lines that terminate on the walls and internal structures of the vessel, and thus trace out *open flux surfaces.* In contrast to the core particles moving on closed surfaces, those in the edge come in direct contact with structures along the vessel wall, i.e. the plasma facing components (PFCs). Outward flow (exhaust) of the confined plasma to the open surfaces results from collisional and turbulent diffusion[6] processes. The *edge plasma* (also, the boundary or scrape-off-layer [SOL] plasma) is the zone of transition between

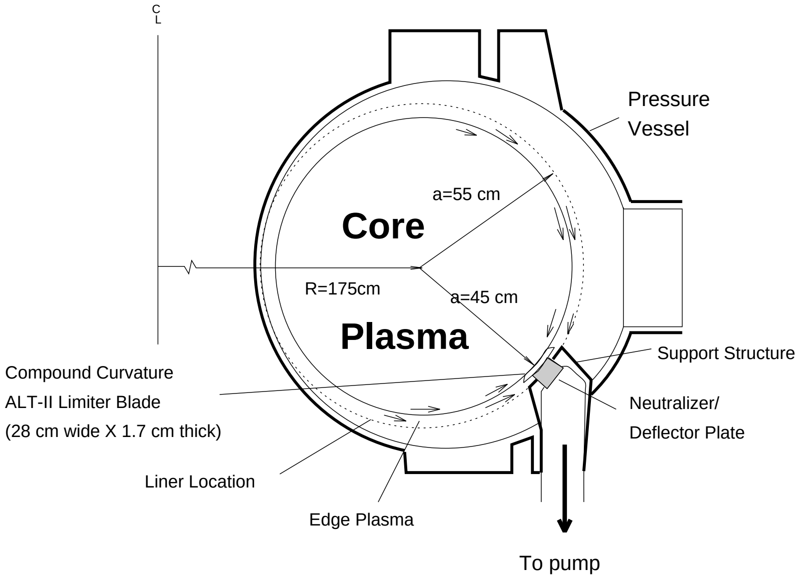

Figure 2.4. Typical limited plasma configuration. The pressure vessel pictured is toroidally symmetric, as is the ALT-II limiter blade. In this plane, particles flow primarily in the direction of the arrows, and into the scoops containing neutralizer plates and pumping ducts.

the confined closed surface region, to the open flux surface boundaries. Particles and energy diffusing from the core will erode PFCs and produce sputtered impurities that contaminate the plasma. Control of the particle and power flux through the edge to the material surfaces of PFCs is a critical design issue for high power fusion devices, such as ITER, and is fundamental to the ultimate success of a burning plasma in any fusion reactor[7].

In a tokamak, two types of systems have been employed with success to control the exhaust flows in the edge. A *limiter* is an object placed in the path of the flowing boundary plasma to impede direct access to material surfaces "downstream", while a *divertor* reroutes the flow of the plasma by altering the shape of the confining magnetic field. Figure 2.4 displays schematically a typical limiter configuration in the poloidal plane. Note that in the edge, the bulk flow of plasma is along the magnetic field. In the plane shown, the magnetic field direction has a small component tracing out the projection of the flux surface. In the poloidal plane, flow along the field line appears to lay along the projected flux surface, as indicated by the arrows in the figure. A limiter "blade" is often used used to scrape off boundary plasma before it can reach more sensitive PFCs lined along the the inside edge of the vessel. The ALT-II limiter(c.f. [8]), for example, also utilizes a pump behind the scrape-off blade to exhaust some of the recycled and sputtered gas created near the blade's leading edge. This particular experiment was designed to show that helium can be exhausted from a fusion plasma, and to control generated impurities from streaming back towards the core plasma. Limiters may take on a variety of geometries, from fully toroidal belt-type limiters[9, 10] to local limiters placed for protection around sensitive equipment, to the more intricate shaping of the ALT-II blades.

A typical magnetic divertor configuration is shown in Figure 2.5. A divertor uses shaped magnetic topologies, instead of a physical component, to scrape off the edge region of a tokamak plasma and direct it to a remote region where the plasma-materials interaction takes place. In the remote chamber, increased impurity, neutral and plasma densities can be tolerated without as seriously degrading the quality of the core plasma. A wider array of schemes are thus available to reduce the intense particle and heat fluxes. With a magnetically diverted plasma, the increased flexibility in flux-reducing schemes are available at the cost of creating and maintaining the complex magnetic field structure. This additional cost may be substantial or prohibitive.

Although these two designs have served low power experiments well, the peak

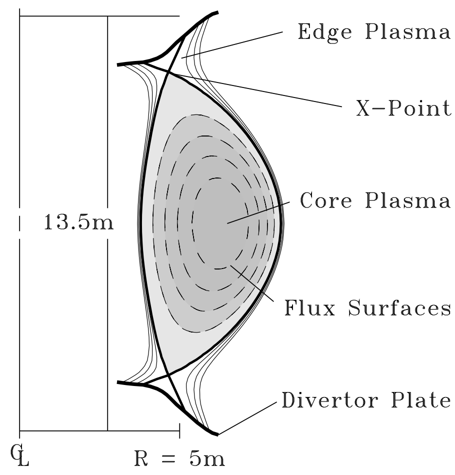

Figure 2.5. Typical diverted plasma configuration. ITER flux surface data provided by B. Lee, 11/93. Note that there are open and closed flux surfaces, and the the divertor plates are usually designed to accept the open flux surfaces at a grazing angle. It should also be pointed out that field lines intercept the plane of this figure nearly perpendicular; the plate to field pitch angle is usually of the order of 1 degree

heat loads for the next generation of tokamak experiments, such as ITER, will be considerably higher. The nominal power during burn for ITER is 1.5 GW and 20% of this power is carried in the form of the helium ions (alpha particles). It is expected that 80% of this 300MW is intercepted by the divertor. For a typical power decay length the resultant power flux to the target plates would be roughly 35 MW m^{-2}[11]. Aggressively engineered heat panels can presently accept fluxes on the order of only 5-8 MW m^{-2} in steady state. Simple procedures for merely terminating the plasma on divertor or limiter target surfaces appear not to be adequate because the effective "wetted area" of the plates will be too small to lead to acceptably low heat fluxes.

The above requirements have led to consideration of various *volume energy dissipation* schemes, such as the gas-target, radiative and volume recombination divertor scenarios. In all these cases, a large fraction of the power into the divertor region would be distributed uniformly over the divertor walls by atomic radiation processes. But such regimes remain largely uncharacterized because they are difficult to achieve in the low-power experimental devices available today. Computational tools will fill this gap, helping to provide an understanding of the stability and accessibility of these regimes.

2.2 Tokamak Edge Plasma Processes

Important physical processes occurring in the edge plasma of a tokamak device are detailed below. From this list, we extract a fundamental set to include in our model, but also see how our approximations fit in with the bigger picture. Details are given regarding the transport of plasma, neutrals, and impurities, as well as how the plasma-facing surfaces are affected. Also included is a summary of diagnostic techniques so we can touch base with the experimentally measured quantities.

2.2.1 Plasma Transport in the SOL

- The advection of plasma particles is limited to only one direction because they are bound to the local magnetic field by the Lorentz force. However, collisions combined with turbulent convection may move a particle from one field line to the next, and lead to macroscopic cross-field transport[12, 13]. The time scale for cross field transport is typically much longer than parallel advection times, but the domain length in the parallel direction is a great deal longer. As a result, the edge problem is indeed two-dimensional. These strongly anisotropic flow characteristics lead to significant numerical difficulties[14], which will be discussed in subsequent sections.

- The electrons in a plasma possess far greater mobility along the field lines[15] than across. As a result, they would tend to leave the plasma along any open field lines much faster than the ions. However, an electric sheath potential is set up automatically to retard electrons, and enhance the flow of ions, to preserve overall charge neutrality[16], net current. This parallel electric field, referred to as the sheath/presheath structure, extends from the material walls some distance into the plasma, and dramatically influences the transport throughout the edge region.

- The presence of gradients in magnetic and electric fields lead to distortions in the gyro orbits of particles about the field lines[17]. When averaged over a large number of particles, these distortions appear as apparent cross field drift flows, primarily within the flux surfaces. Drift flows will significantly affect the edge profiles (c.f. [18]), and may be manipulated directly or indirectly via externally controllable parameters, such as electrical biasing of the SOL (c.f. [19]).

- Turbulent fluctuations in the edge quantities[20], driven by profile gradients[21] and velocity shearing[22], lead to outward transport not easily modeled by the fundamental fluid conservation equations. This anomalous (i.e. phenomenological) transport is modeled heuristically[23]—typically including terms for radial diffusion and an inward "pinch" advection[24]. The models are not well established or validated, but have been necessary to match experimental results, as classical theory grossly under-predicts the observed cross-field transport[25, 26].

2.2.2 Neutral Gas Transport

- Neutral particles are introduced into the edges of plasma devices as a result of plasma neutralization and recycling, thermal desorption, and direct gas puffing or volume recombination—a primary source being the the material walls of the vacuum vessel. Because neutral particles are not influenced by the shape of the magnetic field, vessel geometries can play a key role in determining neutral profiles. And because volumetric ionization sources strongly impact the plasma profiles, the vessel geometry can in turn have large effects on the plasma.

- Recombination and inelastic collision events generally produce plasma and neutrals in an excited state. Line radiation is then emitted as the atoms relax to ground state, and the radiation is transported through the edge region to the PFCs. The plasma additionally emits Bremsstrahlung and cyclotron radiation due to collisions and confinement by the magnetic field. As a whole, the radiation generally aids to diffuse the intense power loads to in-vessel components, and therefore should be included as a volumetric energy sink to the edge plasma.

- Neutrals are actively pumped from the plasma devices. In steady state, the neutral pumping rate balances the total flow of particles from the core region, in addition to those neutrals introduced through puffing and wall desorption. Neutrals introduced into the system diffuse into the plasma and become ionized via collisions with energetic electrons. Likewise, the plasma particles may recombine, either in the volume or at the material surface. *Recycling* is the balance of these phenomena, and may play an important role in the redistribution of exhaust heat flux in the edge.

2.2.3 Impurity Transport

- Impurities may be introduced into the edge region via sputtering from the in-vessel components or by chemical reactivity between Hydrogen and the wall material. If the emitted impurities are electrically charged, they will be accelerated back toward the surface by the sheath potential, and may cause additional sputtering. For some wall materials (such as Carbon and Tungsten), self-sputtering may become a runaway process under the proper conditions[27]. For most cases, sputtering or chemical reactivity leads to a neutral impurity atom or molecule reaching the plasma, where it is subsequently ionized and participates in the recycling process.

- If the impurities escape the sheath potential, they too will become involved in the recycling and radiation processes. Most often, the impurity species radiate energy a great deal more efficiently than the background hydrogen species[28] (e.g. via Bremsstrahlung radiation), and represent a very effective power redistribution process. However, if the impurities are transported into the core region, this increased radiation will tend to extinguish the burning plasma[2, 29]. Impurities can reach the core by charge exchange, diffusion, entrainment (if the bulk plasma flow is inward) and anomalous "inward pinch" convection processes.

2.2.4 Surface Processes

- Material surfaces in contact with the plasma act as neutralizer plates for the exiting charged species[30]. Ions and electrons recombine at the surface to form neutral gas molecules which then diffuse back into the plasma volume from the surface. In the bulk edge plasma, the molecules may be dissociated into neutral atoms, and therefore contribute to volumetric sources of both neutrals and ions, enhancing local particle recycling. This process plays an key role in providing a volumetric source of plasma in front on divertor strike points that lowers plasma temperatures near the target plates.

- Secondary (and tertiary) electron emission from the plasma-facing surface may be caused by electron, photon or ion impact, and will tend to modify the sheath potential[31, 32] by altering the effective number of charge carriers to the wall. Neutral collisions in the sheath will also modify the sheath potential by impeding direct flows, and providing ionization sources. These complex effects remain to be effectively modeled, or even parameterized for application in fluid models.

- Sputtering yields may be complicated by chemical sputtering and radiation enhanced sublimation[33] in lower temperature plasmas (e.g. divertors, SOL plasma near limiters, etc). The effect is of particular concern for Carbon-based PFCs, where the sputtered yield includes chemical processes and yields a myriad of hydrocarbon species that radiate and dissociate throughout the system[34].

2.2.5 Other Processes

- In most tokamaks, the edge is truly three-dimensional in nature (i.e. the toroidal coordinate may not be reasonably ignored), due to toroidal asymmetries in the PFCs or magnetic field. Examples include the presence at discrete toroidal locations of neutral pumping ducts, diagnostic and beam ports, antennae, bundle divertors, and bumper limiters. Additionally, imperfections in the magnetic coil set may result in toroidal field ripple and uncertain separatrix and field null locations.

- Transient effects are observed under typical experimental conditions. While operating tokamaks in H-mode[35], edge localized modes[36] (ELMs) occur frequently, providing transient fluxes of particles and heat across the core/edge interface. ELMs account for a majority of the transport during

H-mode operations on DIII-D[37].

- Oscillatory fluctuations of plasma density and electric potential in the edge indicate the presence of electrostatic turbulence and the possibility of convection cells in the poloidal plane[38]. The cells have been observed on CCT[6] and TEXTOR[39], and appear to account for a large fraction of the overall particle transport. The presence of these cells requires the existence of pressure-driven convective radial flow not present in current theories of anomalous transport.

2.2.6 Experimental Data

A key aspect of modeling plasma systems is direct comparisons to experimentally observed data. It is instructive to list the types of measurements currently available. There are several tokamak devices in operation world wide that are used in the study of plasma exhaust systems. A partial list includes ASDEX[40] (Garching, FRG), DIII-D[41] (San Diego,CA), JET[42, 43] (Culham, UK), TFTR[44] (Princeton, NJ), TEXTOR[45, 46] (Julich, FRG), TEXT[47, 48] (UT, TX), TdeV[49] (Varenne, Canada), CCT[6] (UCLA, CA), ALCATOR C-MOD[50] (MIT) and others. Additionally, there are smaller, specialized plasma devices used to simulate parts of a tokamak plasma under more controlled (and less expensive) conditions, such as PISCES[51] (UCLA, CA). Data is retrieved as follows:

- Langmuir probes obtain average and fluctuating electric potential, electron density and temperature profiles as a function of space and time.

- Lithium beams measure density profiles–usually deeper into the plasma than standard Langmuir probes.

- Mach probes are used to measure plasma velocity profiles.
- CCD cameras measure the D_α and H_α light emitted by inelastic electron scattering with neutral hydrogen.
- Impurity spectroscopy is used to measure impurity concentrations and can provide ion temperature profiles and plasma flow velocities.
- Bolometric panels placed on the vessel wall permit determination of frequency-integrated power deposition rates.
- IR TV determines power deposition on strike point locations.
- Pressure gauges measure the background neutral gas density.
- Miscellaneous devices monitor impurity concentrations.
- Ragowski coil systems and Mirnov loops measure the magnetic background and fluctuating fields–allowing, for example, real-time corrections to the detailed shape of the confining field in a divertor channel.
- Thermocouples, photo-diodes, tile current gauges as well as other miscellaneous devices are employed to measure the non-plasma conditions that will help determine vessel interactions with the plasma.

Experimental data in the edge is generally available at only a small number of locations in the tokamak. Most of these measurement techniques require significant interpretation to arrive at two dimensional profiles for the edge plasma state properties. In fact, interpretation of diagnostic measurements is probably the largest area of research in the fusion program. As a result, benchmarking a two-dimensional predictive computer model is a difficult task at best—the uncertainties in the models are at least as great as many of the uncertainties in the data. Regardless, we aim to reproduce gross features of the edge plasmas, such as density, temperature and flow profiles. To this end, earlier efforts in the area, to be described in the next section, have been reasonably successful, and provide inspiration and direction for our efforts.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

Present models of the edge plasma contain a wide range of sophistication, depending strongly on their implementation. Accordingly, no attempt will be made here to survey the vast number of independent modeling techniques and efforts. We will instead try to point to methods that have been successfully applied to the SOL for our purposes, and relay the general context of their application. A general review of the present state of research in this field is available in References [52] and [53]. We emphasize arbitrarily the specific modeling efforts that have had particular influence over the solution techniques we have chosen to implement.

3.1 Specific Problem Definition

First, however, it is a good idea to be very specific about the problem we are interested in solving. Computational solutions of the nonlinear transport equations are sought for the fluid regime of plasma (these equations will be presented in detail in Chapter 4). The tokamak poloidal plane (cf. Figure 2.4) is the two dimensional domain of interest, and we limit the analysis to regions where magnetohydrodynamic (collective) effects are negligible (see the following note). Further, the detailed surface effects described in earlier sections are neglected for the most part except as they influence boundary conditions to our simplified system. Similarly, drift flows, turbulent fluctuations and time dependence are ignored. The core plasma is external, fixed information and an electrostatic sheath is assumed to exist at all non-parallel (to the magnetic field) interfaces between plasma and material. The goal is to understand the behavior of the complex edge plasma, as a separate entity, in terms of the influence of geometry and various physical processes internal to the edge plasma fluid. Models of this genre have been proposed to provide guidance to the ITER design team for selection of divertor concepts, and have been applied with some success to the data measured on all current tokamak experiments.

Collective Effects

A significant feature of plasma is *collective behavior*, where mutual electric and magnetic fields created by the perturbation of a small part of the system, have significant effects on the overall system. The feature gives rise to a rich variety of electromagnetic wave propagation characteristics, but also to great difficulty in formulating a tractable model of a plasma system that is physically realistic. Additionally, it is unclear at this time, which of the vast extant wave propagation/excitation modes are predominantly responsible for the particle and energy transport. The time-dependent collective behavior phenomena (i.e. electromagnetic wave propagation) is generally ignored in edge plasma modeling efforts, mostly because they present far too great a computational burden at this time.

3.2 Fluid Model Validity

Since the model to be employed is based on the "fluid approximation", some comments seem appropriate regarding its validity for tokamak edge plasmas. Formally, a fluid model is valid if the mean free path for randomizing collisions is somewhat less than the scale lengths characterizing the profile gradients or the overall system size. For a plasma, the mean free path parallel to the magnetic field is approximately τv_{th}[12] (v_{th} is the thermal velocity, $v_{th} = \sqrt{kT/2m}$, and τ is the mean time between collisions). In MKS units (T in eV), the parallel mean free path between collisions for ions and electrons, λ^e_{mfp} and λ^i_{mfp} respectively, are then

$$\lambda^e_{mfp} = 3.44 \cdot 10^3 \frac{T_e^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\ln \Lambda} \sqrt{\frac{kT_e}{2m_e}} \qquad \lambda^i_{mfp} = 2.08 \cdot 10^5 \frac{T_i^{\frac{3}{2}}}{Z^4 \sqrt{m/m_p} \ln \Lambda} \sqrt{\frac{kT_i}{2m}}$$

(all the variables have their usual definitions[54]) The particle masses cancel from these formula, and for singly charged ions, the mean free path is approximately the same for either species ($\lambda^e_{mfp} \sim \lambda^i_{mfp} \sim \lambda_{mfp}$).

"Mild" edge plasmas have density and temperature, (n, T), on the order of ($10^{20}\mathrm{m}^{-3}$, 20 eV), while "high-power" plasmas occur with corresponding values, ($10^{19}\mathrm{m}^{-3}$, 200 eV). Thus

$$\lambda^{\text{low T}}_{mfp} \sim .034\mathrm{m} \qquad \lambda^{\text{high T}}_{mfp} \sim 34\mathrm{m}$$

For comparison, a typical field line connecting the core to the divertor target for ITER, say, has length on the order of $2\pi R q \sim 160$m (where R is the tokamak major radius and q is the field rotational transform). In either case, it would seem that there are only marginally enough collisions to warrant fluid approximations. However, processes near the material surfaces lead to strong energy sinks, and subsequently to local regions of short temperature gradient scale lengths. It happens that in typical tokamak plasmas, this electron temperature drop is often steep enough to invalidate fluid models. Under these conditions, heat flow is dominated by *non-local* transport[1] (i.e. energy flows into a region from locations having significantly different equilibrium characteristics). Some caution therefore should be exercised when interpreting fluid results in this region of the modeled domain.

Perpendicular to the magnetic field, where anomalous transport (primarily diffusive) is assumed to dominate flows, the corresponding λ_{mfp} is D/v_{th} ($D(\sim \chi \sim \eta)$ is the (anomalous) cross field particle diffusivity, on the order of 1 m^2/s, χ the anomalous heat diffusivity and η the anomalous viscosity). The perpendicular λ_{mfp} is on the order of 10^{-6} m, and well within the range of fluid validity.

When the fluid model is strictly invalid over a significant portion of the domain to be modeled, there exists a hierarchy of alternative levels of approximation. If the system is collisional enough to thermally equilibrate, but the particles traverse the system before they can communicate parallel and perpendicular energies, then the equations of magneto*gyro*dynamics[55], which maintain an anisotropic hydrostatic pressure tensor, may apply. If the parallel transport is fast enough that particles move through scale lengths even before establishing thermal equilibrium along the field line, then a gyro-kinetic[56] approach is more appropriate. Finally, if the system is small or structured enough that particles cannot complete uninterrupted orbits about the local magnetic field, a particle approach[57] is the only practical alternative. Computationally, the major distinction between the various levels of approximation is the amount of information to be stored; fluids require thermodynamic quantities to be stored at sparse locations, while particle models

[1] This phenomena leads to so-called *flux-limited diffusion* models. We discuss some features of this type of model in later sections

essentially require the position and velocity of each member in the system. The fluid approximations therefore allow a much greater range external information to be incorporated, such as detailed geometry, at the expense of losing detailed information about the individual particle distribution.

The same type of hierarchy exists for modeling the transport of neutral particles. The coarsest level of approximation is the single group diffusion model, employing all the standard diffusion approximations[58] (no self-collisions, frequent background collisions, short mean free path). If the neutrals are in a regime where there are enough neutral-neutral collisions to establish thermal equilibrium, then the full navier-Stokes equations of gas dynamics are required. If there is little communication between neutral particles of various energies, a multi-group approach may be more appropriate[59]. If most of the neutrals travel through the system before they can establish a thermal equilibrium, even within their group, or if a large number of neutral species exist that need to be tracked, a Monte Carlo approach (c.f. [60]) (with a fixed background) is often employed. Some of the divertor concepts under current investigation (notably, the ultra-high recycling gaseous divertor [61]) operate in regimes where neutral-neutral collisions are dominant, but also where charge-exchanged neutrals may penetrate fully through the plasma. Here, all the above models fail on at least one count, and efforts then seek to uncover trends in the data that will be useful in predicting the behavior of the more complex system.

3.3 Literature Survey

With the above limitations at hand, we now describe the plasma models commonly used in studies of the edge plasma, which stem from the pioneering research of Grad[62]. Grad's contribution was a reformulation, for charged species, of the Chapman-Enskog statistical thermodynamics[63] originally applied only to neutral particles. Grad's transport coefficients were numerically evaluated by Braginskii[64] for the case of one charged ion species, and one electron species; the resulting conservation set are commonly referred to as the *Braginskii equations* in the edge modeling community. The *modified* Braginskii equations are formed by replacing the classical transport of plasma perpendicular to the magnetic field with arbitrary anomalous transport. The modified Braginskii equations are combined with a separate model for the neutral species and form a coupled set of nonlinear partial differential equations to be solved self-consistently.

The steady modified Braginskii equations, which will be presented in § 4, are quite complex, have no general analytic solutions, and must be solved numerically. Moreover, for a tractable numerical problem, the full set of modified Braginskii equations must be simplified in one and two dimensional analyses by invoking some judgment about the importance of the various edge effects. Often the number, and types, of these effects that can be successfully included in a solution technique, becomes a measure of a code's usefulness to the general community. As such, we concentrate here on the solution algorithms employed in the codes used by the various groups, pointing only to a *typical* example of the complexity achievable as a rough figure of merit. In doing so, we underscore that the purpose of our work is to improve the analysis tools available for the community, so that the community can contribute to improving the models. We outline three significant one-dimensional fluid models before comparing the present status of two-dimensional efforts.

One-dimensional models are often used for scoping studies (i.e. to determine the influence of various aspects of a model). A classic example was introduced by Harrison, et. al.[65, 66] to investigate recycling physics in the INTOR[67] reactor concept. In that study, transport is modeled only *along* the open magnetic field lines of the SOL, in "flux-tubes" between the magnetic flux surfaces. Radial transport of plasma affects only upstream power and particle flux boundary conditions. Recycled neutral particles are allowed to escape the system only if they traverse the plasma between the target strike point and an adjacent neutral pump throat. The neutrals are emitted with a cosine distribution from a grazing-incidence divertor strike plate so that a significant fraction are initially pointing toward the pump. By carefully accounting for duct and field line shapes, Harrison, et. al. were able to quantify how recycling and scrape-off lengths influenced overall plasma temperatures and heat flux to the divertor plates—ultimately leading to estimates of divertor material lifetimes as a function of particle exhaust rates. Such one-dimensional estimates guide later, more detailed investigations.

The state-of-the-art one dimensional fluid model was developed by Campbell[68], and is employed in the NEWT-1D code to model the SOL of the DIII-D tokamak and certain scenarios of the proposed ITER divertor. In the NEWT-1D code[2] Hydrogen plasma is modeled with the Braginskii set along the magnetic field. Radial transport is modeled as a volumetric sinks along the field, and drift flows are neglected entirely. The flux tube geometry of Harrison, et. al.[65] is used, but only

[2]The NEWT-1D code is apparently the outgrowth of research carried out by Knoll towards his doctoral dissertation[69]

to model the flux tube adjacent to the separatrix. Impurities (e.g. Argon, Beryllium etc.) are included in the system via corresponding continuity and momentum equations, under the assumption of thermal equilibrium with the hydrogen ions. Campbell uses a damped Newton algorithm (c.f [70]) to find the steady state solution to the large set of nonlinear algebraic equations arising from discretizing the fluid equations with a standard finite volume method[71]. Even in one dimension, the internal profiles of these plasma require excessive resolution, often preventing numerical convergence of the solution.

The primary goal of Campbell's work is to arrive at global estimates for the puffing/pumping rates and entrainment characteristics, and to estimate whether significant power reduction through recycling-related radiation would lead to core directed convection (i.e. *flow reversal*) of the hydrogen plasma (flow reversal would likely lead to contamination of the core plasma). Campbell's results thus far have shown that the power flux on the divertor target may indeed be reduced by puffing a large amount of neutral gas into the system near the target, attaining the so-called "gas-target" plasma regime[72]. However, if the gas is Hydrogen to avoid intentional contamination of the plasma, the puffing process tends always to lead to flow reversal. More recently, Campbell examined the introduction of Argon, Neon and Beryllium impurities to attain the benefit of the heavier elements' stronger atomic radiation rates and reduce the gas puffing requirements. Most of the solution profiles computed thus far again show the strong reversal features unless a large amount of impurities are introduced, which may contaminate the core plasma. At the levels that Campbell demonstrated necessary to significantly reduce the heat loads and temperatures at the divertor plate, the impurity species begin to affect the transport of the background plasma, invalidating the approximations used (cf. [73]) used in the underlying models.

Campbell's early 1D results were confirmed independently by Merriman, et.al.[74] in simple extensions to a model that successfully characterized high recycling regimes in the PISCES experiment[75]. Merriman et. al. have pointed out that the more demanding edge plasma conditions of ITER lead to small scale internal features that defy numerical resolution for the computational resources typically available. We discuss this point in Chapter 8. The fine-scale features are expected to persist in two-dimensional models. Merriman et. al. are presently implementing more accurate numerical techniques, and a more complete description of the neutral momentum transport to alleviate this problem. The issue of achievable accuracy under the more extreme divertor scenarios is critical in two spatial dimensions, where resolution is considerably more prohibitive than in one dimension. The work presented by Merriman et.al. has been the testbed for the dimension-independent components of the physics and numerical algorithm development of the present work.

The primary two-dimensional fluid edge plasma model in use today was developed by Braams[76], and is implemented in the code, b2. Features of b2 (in its most widely distributed form) include orthogonal curvilinear meshes, multiple ion species, diffusive cross field transport, and an "analytic" form for the neutral transport. The discretization is based on the SIMPLE method of Patanker[71], modified to allow compressibility. The allowable grids follow the multiply connected poloidal magnetic flux surfaces[77], possibly extending a small distance into the core region. More recent modifications include two-dimensional equations for the electric potential, the drift motion, a fluid neutral model that includes momentum effects[78], and a crude radiation transport module[79]. The newer version of the code is named b2.5. A still newer version, b3 is forthcoming, and will include self-consistent fluid neutral transport[80]. The b2/2.5 code is routinely used to analyze tokamak edge plasmas in the high-collisionality regime, and has successfully modeled flow reversal and impurity transport. The number of groups in the fusion community actively using the b2 code in their own research is overwhelming, and indicates that improvements to the usability, applicability or robustness of the algorithms would be gratefully received by a large established user base.

Success of the b2/2.5 model has encouraged development of a large number of similar efforts, each aimed at improving particular numerical or physical aspects of the code.

- EPIC, by Vold et. al.[18], implemented the b2 discretization, but generalized the allowable domain geometry by "stepping" the orthogonal grid to approximate misaligned boundaries. EPIC also approximated the electric field and drift flow component of velocity before such work was implemented in b2 and NEWEDGE–discussed below. In the reference, Vold, et.al. demonstrated strong effects of domain geometry and predicted equally strong influence of the electric potential in providing fluid drifts that alter the plasma solution.

- LEDGE[81] implemented a fully implicit time-stepping algorithm to solve the b2/2.5 equations more efficiently and robustly. The matrix-free Krylov-subspace iteration algorithm implemented in LEDGE allows the fully implicit inclusion of the electric field and drift flows, in addition to time accurate simulations. Fully implicit solution procedures dramatically improve the stability of time-marching algorithms[82]—this is discussed briefly in Chapter 9 as a possible fix to some of the numerical problems we experienced on a day-to-day basis in obtaining results for this dissertation.

- NEWEDGE[69] implemented a damped Newton's method to the set of equations that result from a mixed discretization containing terms from the Patanker scheme, as well as central and upwind contributions (all of them are first order convergent). More recently, the code was upgraded to include various impurity transport models akin to the that employed by Campbell. NEWEDGE runs efficiently on the CRAY vector computers and is robust enough to allow inclusion of a large number of additional transport equations. Knoll, et al.[83] have explored the two dimensional behavior of Argon, Beryllium and Neon injected edge plasmas also studied by Campbell. A significant limitation of NEWEDGE is that the Newton algorithm requires the storage and inversion of a large Jacobian matrix. The upper ceiling on problem size is set by the available memory of the computer. Knoll has, however, implemented a wide variety of efficiency-improving modifications to the standard Newton algorithm to greatly speed the solution on moderate sized problems[84]. Also, in contrast to the Krylov iteration methods, a wide variety of preconditioning methods are available.

- NEWEDGE-MG[85] implemented the damped Newton's method of NEWEDGE for only the coarsest allowable domain mesh. A simplified Multi-Grid approach[86] is then used to resolve the computation without forming or solving a Jacobian matrix, allowing a order of magnitude increase in resolution. Homotopy is used in nonlinear continuation from mild to difficult plasma regimes. Significantly though, the method requires a great deal of problem-specific fine tuning of the solution procedure. Because the various levels within the multigrid algorithm are solved only partially, the method is prone to divergence on strongly coupled plasmas. Also, the simplified implementation of multi-grid techniques prohibits accurate solutions on anything other than rectangular grids.

- UEDGE[87] is a recent project to concentrate the US modeling efforts. In UEDGE, the b2 discretization can currently be solved via the matrix-free Krylov time marching of LEDGE or the damped Newton's method of NEWEDGE. This large code is maintained and upgraded regularly for public access on the NERSC CRAY supercomputers. UEDGE is used as a test bed for new physics modules, such as a nonlocal electron heat flux[88, 89], and the coupling to one-dimensional core models, as well as for more routine analysis of experimental data on the D-III-D tokamak experiment[90]. The code provides a good central repository for proven schemes because the new design is geared around modularity of the important algorithmic steps. UEDGE presently implements the majority of the the physics modules and efficiency improvements developed for NEWEDGE.

- There are also a number of independent efforts to couple the semi-implicit algorithm of b2.5 to the DEGAS[60] and EIRENE[91] Monte-Carlo neutral transport codes (c.f. [92]). Complete Monte-Carlo particle trajectories are computed after a fixed number semi-implicit time steps of the b2.5 code, and the process is iterated to self-consistent steady state. While generally accepted as the most accurate of available schemes, this external coupling approach is computationally very expensive and prone to temporal divergence—particularly when used in cases with high neutral particle densities, as expected in the ITER gas divertor concept. The methods have been applied with limited success to more mild plasma conditions, as reported in Ref. [93]. This too is an area of active research.

There are a number of alternative edge fluid codes available that are not built on the b2/2.5 discretization. Gerhauser, et. al.[94] use a code, SOLXY, to model the SOL of the TEXTOR experiment, a limited plasma. While the code assumes rectangular geometry, great emphasis was placed on the analysis of the coupling of $E \times B$ flows. A model was proposed therein for the viscous coupling of the drift velocity in the core plasma to the parallel flow at the limiter surface. However, a recent paper[95] casts some doubt on part of the detailed treatment of the boundary condition in SOLXY (and NEWEDGE). SOLXY is one of the two primary edge fluid modeling codes extensively used within the European community (the other is b2).

In the PLANET code[96], Petravic has implemented a standard alternating direction implicit scheme (ADI) to semi-implicitly advance the *modified* Braginskii equations in time to second order accuracy. Petravic has used PLANET to investigate a wide range of physical phenomena including drift flows[97] and ultra-high recycling divertors[98].

Ueda[99] reports a Particle-In-Cell (PIC) discretization that, in principle, is not limited to orthogonal coordinate systems. In the reference, the model has been applied to the DIII-D tokamak and employs the *modified* Braginskii equation set without electric potential or drift flow effects. Ueda has demonstrated the functionality of the PIC method for edge plasma, but has not yet applied the scheme to grids that do not align with the poloidal flux surfaces.

Vesey[100] presented a finite element (FE) approach to modeling the SOL. Vesey employed the streamline-upwind Petrov-Galerkin (SU/PG) method[101] to treat advection dominated flows while in a generalized geometry setting. A fully implicit Newton algorithm, similar to that employed in NEWEDGE, is used to solve the resulting nonlinear set of nonlinear algebraic equations. This FE implementation allows arbitrary trapezoidal domain decompositions, and therefore nonorthogonal domains of solution. Vesey has presented initial solutions that indicate accurate boundary treatments will result in significant dependence of plasma parameters on target plate angles. While Vold, et. al.[18], and Knoll[102] propose various "fixes" to an inherently orthogonal discretization, Vesey's FE implementation is not at all so restricted. Expansion of the work to reactor relevant plasmas is forthcoming.

Kuprat[103] employs a moving finite-element (MFE) [104] method to automatically refine regions of the domain that lack resolution. The scheme employs triangular elements, general connectivity, and uses a Riemannian metric to generate a modified Dulauney triangulation tailored for highly anisotropic edge plasma flow. Further, "graph-massage" is used to insert or delete nodes to maintain a constant resolution accuracy when measured on the solution manifold in the Riemannian units. Further work in this area will be necessary before benchmark plasmas can be modeled, however the scheme shows a great deal of promise in providing a general way to maximize solution accuracy given a fixed number of nodes (from memory limits, say). This appears to be the only current work utilizing dynamically adaptive gridding methods.

Traditionally have been four annual meetings held on a national level, where researchers in the area of edge physics and modeling present periodic summaries of the status of their work: "Plasma-Surface Interactions in Controlled Fusion Devices", the "Sherwood Conference on Plasma Theory and Applications" and the "Tokamak Edge Modelling Workshop", and the somewhat more broad annual meeting of the American Physical Society, Division of Plasma Physics.

Presently, the major impetus for further development in this area has been the uncertainties surrounding the ITER divertor design, and its impact over the entire ITER device[7]. The nonlinearities of plasma fluid equations are exacerbated in the ITER parameter regime—so much so, in fact, that the simple equation solvers present all the presently available codes routinely fail to find solutions in many of the interesting design ranges. In the fusion community, there is thus a large demand for improved numerical techniques, both in accuracy and solution method robustness, to enable further probing of new divertor plasma operating regimes.

Conclusions

Though the above summary surely neglects a few important efforts worldwide; the message is that there appears to be a great many *independent* efforts devoted toward investigating the tokamak edge divertor problem. It is valid to ask whether an additional effort is likely to make a significant contribution.

There are a few common threads to the research described above that should not be duplicated once again. The first regards the discretizations; relatively little effort has been devoted to the discretization of the modeling equations, despite their rather unique and complex structure (e.g. *strongly* anisotropic diffusion). Some effort should be devoted toward studying the various resulting implications. A second common thread is that there has been no attempt to develop a computer modeling code that is accessible to a wide variety of physicists and engineers, in the sense of modern distributable analysis codes. Most codes listed in the previous section, and in the review references cited at the beginning of the chapter, were developed as a single part of one student's doctoral dissertation, and subsequently extended over some years of research. The situation give rise to specialized codes not generally intended for the research community at large; this seems a great waste of effort. Finally, there has been considerable variation in the actual equations used to represent the fluid plasma edge, even under identical problem descriptions.

The present studies were aimed at these three issues issues, rather than at the development of a particular model or solution technique.

Chapter 4

Fluid Plasma Equations

In this chapter, we attempt to remedy a problem that exists in the tokamak edge modeling community regarding determination of the 'correct' equations that express energy and momentum transport. As an example, the plasma fluid heat equation (to be derived) is written

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p\right) + \nabla\cdot\left(\frac{5}{2}p\vec{u} + \vec{q}\right) = \mathbf{\Pi} : \nabla\vec{u} + \vec{u}\cdot\nabla p + \frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2 S_n - \vec{u}\cdot\vec{S}_p + S_E$$

where the terms have their usual definitions—the S terms are sources of particles momentum and energy due to non-Coulomb processes, $\mathbf{\Pi}$ is the viscous stress tensor, p is the scalar pressure, $\vec{q}$ is the heat flux and $\vec{u}$ is the velocity. This equation, and its total-energy equivalent, appears in many references, such as References [61, 18, 76, 93, 69, 100, 105] as the basis for predictive tokamak edge plasma computations. Most often, this equation will appear in coordinate-dependent form, expressed in terms of the poloidal and radial components in the poloidal plane.

In some cases found in the references, one or more of the last three terms appears in a slightly modified form or is dropped from the equation entirely, while in other cases, some of the coordinate transformation terms appear to be missing. In fact, most of the discrepancies between our work and that of those cited result from application of additional uncited or unexplained physical constraints. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a complete derivation of the applicable equations, including a description of the assumptions that are involved in the process. A general principle is then offered to use in inserting new ‘anomalous’ processes in an unambiguous way. In § 4.6, we discuss a more subtle point in resolving various models.

We begin this chapter by developing the conservation equations for a standard Newtonian fluid with volumetric sources. We use the insight gained along the way to ascribe physical significance to the various terms arising from the kinetic approach to deriving the fluid equations. We obtain the complete set of equations used for plasma and neutral transport, appropriately transformed into the poloidal plane.

4.1 Newtonian Kinematics

In order to identify the precise physical significance of the various source terms appearing in the edge plasma fluid equation set, we can relate them to those appearing in Newton's laws of motion. Note however, that most textbooks on elementary fluid dynamics ignore the case with volumetric fluid sources. The extension for the fundamental equations is trivial, but will lead to not-so-trivial modifications for derived conservation laws, such as the often-used pressure (or, heat) equation.

In the following, assume we have a small blob of fluid, Ω_t with surface, $\partial\Omega_t$ moving in time at the prevailing fluid velocity, $\vec{u}$. We would like to write the conservation laws for this blob (i.e. the expressions for conservation of mass, momentum and total energy).

"First Principles" for our system:

1. The mass of the blob will change in response to a volumetric mass source rate. The volume of the blob is defined by its surface, which moves at the prevailing velocity.

2. The total linear momentum of the blob will change in response to applied forces, as well as to any internal momentum generation.

3. The total energy increases due to work done by the external system on the blob and by internal heat generation. Energy is lost via conduction through its surface.

These statements are relevant only in the frame moving with the mass, i.e. Newtonian kinematics are valid only in a Lagrangian coordinate system. Mathematical representation of these expressions will involve the fluid velocity and spatial gradients, which we can only obtain in the Eulerian (fixed) frame. The rate of change of the fundamental quantities while moving with the fluid, measured in fixed coordinates, is expressed via the *convective derivative*, $D/Dt = \partial/\partial t + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla$. The operator $\mathrm{d}/\mathrm{d}t$ conversely, measures the rate of change measured in the moving frame.

A well known result in fluid dynamics is "Reynold's Transport Theorem"[106] (or the convection theorem[107]), which expresses the rate of change of a scalar or vector quantity, f, associated with a fluid blob as its surface moves through space with velocity $\vec{u}$,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \int_{\Omega_t} f dV = \int_{\Omega_t} \left(\frac{Df}{Dt} + f \nabla \cdot \vec{u} \right) dV$$

dV is a differential parcel of the small blob volume such that $\int_{\Omega_t} dV = \Omega_t$. The time rate of change of f in Ω_t should be equal to its volumetric source rate.

In terms of the mass density, ρ, the first principle above can be expressed as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\int_{\Omega_t} \rho dV = \int_{\Omega_t} S_m dV,$$

where the mass of the blob is $m = \int_{\Omega_t} \rho dV$ and S_m is the volumetric mass source rate. Applying Reynold's Transport theorem,

$$\int_{\Omega_t} \left(\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho\nabla\cdot\vec{u}\right) dV = \int_{\Omega_t} S_m dV$$

And since this must hold for any volume, the integrands will be equal if appropriate smoothness conditions apply[1], yielding

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = S_m$$

By expanding the convective derivative, the left hand side can be written in *conservation form*,

$$\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial t} + \nabla\cdot\rho\vec{u} = S_m \tag{4.1}$$

This and the previous equation represent alternative differential forms of the equation of *continuity* for the case where volumetric mass sources are present.

The total linear momentum in the i-direction is computed as the integral of the momentum density, ρu_i, over the volume of the blob. Principle 2 can therefore be expressed as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\int_{\Omega_t} \rho u_i dV = \int_{\Omega_t} \rho f_i dV + \int_{\partial\Omega_t} P_{ij} dS_j + \int_{\Omega_t} S_{pi} dV \tag{4.2}$$

[1]For Reynold's transport theorem to hold, the transported quantity must be C^1 differentiable[107]. Also, $\partial\Omega_t$ is to be an orientable union of *regular* surfaces, as defined by Kellogg[108]

where dS_j is the j-component of the outward pointing normal to a differential section of the blob boundary, $\partial\Omega_t$. P_{ij} is the stress tensor, f_i is the i-component of an external force, $\vec{F}$, and S_{pi} is the i-component of the volumetric generation rate of momentum, $\vec{S}_p$. Note that force may be exerted on the blob both by a stress acting on its surface and by a body force.

The momentum source term, $\vec{S}_p$, deserves special comment. In the tokamak edge plasma, $\vec{S}_p$ arises typically from atomic processes, such as charge exchange, which deposit a local parcel of momentum in the fluid. The processes do not contribute necessarily to a corresponding change in the *bulk* momentum density. The component of $\vec{S}_p$ that does act as a body force, will appear in the momentum balance formally analogous to the other body forces, such as gravity or electric field, and will lead to a component of the energy source that looks formally identical to the other "work"-related energy source terms. These effects will be captured self-consistently with an appropriate kinetic collision term in Boltzmann-type analyses, as discussed in the next section (an example is the frictional force and heating terms, in the Braginskii equations, that are due to collisional Coulomb interactions between ions and electrons). For now, it suffices to think of $\vec{S}_p$ as an *unspecified* momentum source which may or may not contain a component which acts on the fluid as a body force.

Proceeding, the divergence theorem can be used to convert the surface integral in Equation 4.2 to a volume integral. Noting again that the expression must hold for all parts of the volume, the integral signs can be removed formally. Switching to vector notation

$$\frac{D\rho\vec{u}}{Dt} + \rho\vec{u}\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = \rho\vec{F} + \nabla\cdot\mathbf{P} + \vec{S}_p$$

Expanding the convective derivative, this can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \rho \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{P}) = \rho \vec{F} + \vec{S}_p \tag{4.3}$$

These are equivalent differential forms to express *conservation of momentum.*

Finally, the total energy of the blob per unit mass, E, for a simple fluid is (to an additive constant) composed of kinetic and internal components, $E = \frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2 + e$. This quantity will increase due to work done on the blob on by external system via surface and body forces. Additionally, the total energy will increase due to any volumetric heat generation, S_E (which, again, may contain contributions in the form of work done by a body-type force). Subtracting out the integrated heat flux, $\vec{q}$, that passes through the surface, the time rate of change of total energy contained in the blob is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\int_{\Omega_t} \rho E dV = \int_{\Omega_t} \rho \mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{u} dV + \int_{\partial\Omega_t} P_{ij} u_j dS_j + \int_{\Omega_t} S_E dV - \int_{\partial\Omega_t} q_j dS_j$$

in accordance with our third fundamental principle. As before, the surface integrals may be transformed via the divergence theorem, and the integral signs removed formally, to give

$$\frac{D\rho E}{Dt} + \rho E \nabla \cdot \vec{u} + \nabla \cdot \vec{q} = \rho \vec{F} \cdot \vec{u} + \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{P}) + S_E$$

or

$$\frac{\partial \rho E}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho E \vec{u} + \vec{q} - \vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{P}) = \rho \vec{F} \cdot \vec{u} + S_E \tag{4.4}$$

The last two equations are alternate forms of the differential expression of *conservation of energy.*

With the above equations, we therefore identify S_m to be the volumetric mass production rate, as seen by a volume of fluid moving with the prevailing velocity. $\vec{S}_p$

and S_E are respectively the volumetric momentum and energy production rates. In the edge plasma, $S_m = mS_n$, where m is the total mass of an ion-electron pair, and S_n is the net volumetric production rate of ion-electron pairs due to ionization and recombination processes. $\vec{S}_p$ consists of any momentum brought into the system during the creation of the ion-electron pairs, along with net momentum transferred in or out of the ion channel via charge exchange. Finally, S_E consists of any direct energy loss or gain due to the atomic processes, along with a gain of any energy brought in with the creation of new ion-electron pairs (i.e. if the new particles are brought in with a nonzero average velocity or temperature). Due to the complex nature of the atomic processes, the majority of these source terms are evaluated empirically, using data compiled from a great many experiments and tabulated into numerical tables.

4.1.1 Pressure/Heat Equation

In practice, the force terms arising in the momentum and energy equations are difficult to obtain explicitly. The electric field is affected by non-ambipolar currents in the plasma, and therefore may become part of the unknown state vector. We can simplify the energy equation, using continuity and momentum conservation to eliminate the "work" term. As a side-effect, the kinetic energy term will be eliminated from the time derivative, and the resulting equation will be for the evolution of the *internal* energy density. We carry out this procedure explicitly by adding the momentum equation scaled by $-u_i$, and the continuity equation scaled by $+\frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2$ to the total energy equation. Referring to the convective forms of

Equations 4.1 and 4.3, one can easily verify that

$$\frac{D\rho e}{Dt} + e\rho\nabla \cdot \vec{u} + \nabla \cdot \vec{q} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2 S_m - \vec{S}_p \cdot \vec{u} + S_E + \mathbf{P} : \nabla\vec{u} \tag{4.5}$$

provided use is made of the following three identities

$$\frac{1}{2}u_i^2\frac{D\rho}{Dt} - u_i\frac{D\left(\rho u_i\right)}{Dt} = -\frac{D\left(\frac{1}{2}\rho u_i^2\right)}{Dt}; \qquad e = E - \frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{P}) - \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P} : \nabla\vec{u}$$

Note that the last identity follows only if the stress tensor is symmetric. There has been some confusion in the literature related to this point which is discussed in the the final section of this chapter. In the above fluid heat equation, e is the specific internal energy. Equation 4.5 is the so-called pressure, or heat equation. A key feature is the inclusion of the mass and momentum source rates, which appear from the algebraic manipulations that removed the kinetic energy from the left hand side.

We proceed to evaluate the same set of equations from the point of view of kinetic theory. The end result will be quantitatively similar to the above conservation set, Equations 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4, so we should be able to determine exactly the physical nature of the source terms that arise.

4.2 Moment Approach to Fluid Equations

As a first approximation, the neutral and impurity processes mentioned earlier will play a negligible role on the transport characteristics of the background plasma. In this case, the stress tensor, heat flux, volumetric friction forces and viscous energy dissipation terms can be evaluated by accounting only for the interactions between each of the plasma species and between the plasma and ambient magnetic field. However, even in this approximation, the actual evaluation of the collisional transport terms is a tedious calculation. The procedure involves computing velocity moments of the Coulomb collision integral, and was first carried out for a rarefied plasma by S. I. Braginskii[64] using the expansion techniques that Chapman and Cowling[63] applied to neutral gases. Recently, the Braginskii analysis was extended by Helander, et. al.[80] to additionally include transport effects due to charge exchange with a background neutral gas. Ionization and recombination have not yet been included consistently in the transport calculations, and so are presently added to the existing model via *ad hoc* source terms.

Here, we sketch the starting point for the calculations, review the published results, and then discuss the primary assumptions invoked throughout the derivation. A simplified set of modeling equations is presented subsequently that accounts, at some level, for the neglected source terms and violated physics. We use the above Newtonian kinematical arguments to guide us in adding the applicable source terms to the derived plasma conservation set so that we may implement correctly a given physical model of the atomic physics processes.

Proceeding, the "*stosszahlansatz*" used by Boltzmann (cf. [109]), is that the states of any two molecules in our system can be de-correlated statistically. This allows one to write an expression for the time rate of change of $f(\vec{x}, \vec{u}, t)$, the probability density for any molecule in the system to have its the state lay within the region $[\vec{x} + d^3x] \times [\vec{v} + d^3\vec{v}]$ in phase space at time t in terms of known forces. Here, the relevant forces are quasistatic electromagnetic fields; the appropriate kinetic equation is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \vec{v} + \frac{q}{m}\left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c}\vec{v} \times \vec{B}\right] \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{v}} = C$$

where C, the collision integral, represents the probability rate density that particles will enter that state in phase space, including simple scattering and all other sources. Because the acceleration (or force) is divergence-free, this equation can be written in conservation form

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \vec{v} f + \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{v}} \cdot \frac{q}{m} \left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right] f = C$$

Next, velocity-space moments of this kinetic equation are taken to obtain moment conservation equations analogous to those derived in the preceding section[2].

The lowest order velocity moment, $\int d^3\vec{v}$, is most simply computed using the conservative form of the kinetic equation. We define $n = \int d^3\vec{v} f$ (the particle density) and $n\vec{u} = \int d^3\vec{v}\vec{v} f$ (the particle flux, $\vec{u}$ the fluid velocity) to help simplify the equation

$$\int d^3\vec{v} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \vec{v} f + \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{v}} \cdot \frac{q}{m} \left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right] f = C \right)$$

Since $f(v \to \infty) \Rightarrow 0$ (i.e. there is zero probability that any particles exist at the extreme values of velocity) and $\int d^3\vec{v}\, \partial/\partial\vec{v} \cdot q/m \left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c}\vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right] f = 0$ by the divergence theorem, the last two terms on the left hand side vanish, and our definitions give

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot n\vec{u} = \int d^3\vec{v} C \tag{4.6}$$

For constant mass, this would be the conservative form of our continuity equation, Equation 4.1, if we identify

$$S_m = m \int d^3\vec{v} C$$

[2]Evaluation of the transport coefficients is a complex issue not presented here; there are ample references on the matter, including the seminal paper by Braginskii[64].

m is the mass of the individual particles described by the distribution function, f.

We can similarly calculate the momentum and energy moments of the kinetic equation in conservative form. But first, to simplify the notation, we will identify the "random" component of velocity, $\vec{v}\,' = \vec{u} - \vec{v}$, such that $\int d^3\vec{v}\,'\vec{v}\,' f = 0$, $d\vec{v} = d\vec{v}\,'$. Additionally, the heat flux, $\vec{q}$, scalar pressure, p, total pressure tensor, $\mathbf{P}$, and viscous stress tensor, $\mathbf{\Pi}$, are defined as follows

$$\vec{q} = \int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \frac{\vec{v}\,'^2}{2} \vec{v}\,' f$$
$$p = \int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \frac{\vec{v}\,'^2}{3} f = \int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \frac{(\vec{v} - \vec{u})^2}{3} f$$
$$\mathbf{P} = -\int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \vec{v}\,'\vec{v}\,' f = -p\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{\Pi}$$
$$\mathbf{\Pi} = -\int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \left[\vec{v}\,'\vec{v}\,' - \frac{\vec{v}\,'^2}{3}\mathbf{I}\right] f$$

where $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity tensor. Note that the sign convention used here for the total pressure (stress tensor) is opposite to that quoted in the NRL Formulary, but is instead consistent with the bulk of literature in mathematical fluid dynamics. Proceeding, the first moment, $\int d^3\vec{v} m\vec{v}$, of the kinetic equation will lead to the differential form of the equation for conservation of momentum. The time derivative term

$$\int d^3\vec{v} m\vec{v} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int d^3\vec{v} m\vec{v} = \frac{\partial (mn\vec{u})}{\partial t}$$

by virtue of the independence of t and $\vec{v}$, the definition of $\vec{u}$, and that f is zero at the limits of integration. The spatial gradient term is rewritten in terms of the flow and random velocity components, the integrated variable is changed from $d^3\vec{v}$ to $d^3\vec{v}\,'$, and the result is simplified via substitution of the definitions for $\mathbf{P}$ and $\vec{u}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\int d^3\vec{v} m\vec{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \vec{v} f &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \int d^3\vec{v} m\vec{v}\vec{v} f = \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{x}} \cdot \int d^3\vec{v}\,' m \left(\vec{u}\vec{u} + 2\vec{u}\vec{v}\,' + \vec{v}\,'\vec{v}\,'\right) \\ &= \nabla \cdot \left(mn\vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{P}\right)\end{aligned}$$

The final step is allowed because the flow velocity, $\vec{u}$, is independent of the random velocity, $\vec{v}\,'$, so it can be pulled from under the integral. The acceleration term is simplified as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int d^3\vec{v}m\vec{v}\frac{\partial}{\partial\vec{v}}\cdot\frac{q}{m}\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]f \\
&\quad=\int d^3\vec{v}\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial\vec{v}}\cdot m\vec{v}\frac{q}{m}\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]f-\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial\vec{v}}\cdot m\vec{v}\right]\cdot\frac{q}{m}\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]f\right) \\
&\quad=-q\int d^3\vec{v}\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]f=-nq\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{u}\times\vec{B}\right]
\end{aligned}$$

Where the identity, $\partial/\partial\vec{v}\cdot\vec{v}=\mathbf{I}$, has been observed. Combining terms, we obtain for the momentum balance

$$\frac{\partial\left(mn\vec{u}\right)}{\partial t}+\nabla\cdot\left(mn\vec{u}\vec{u}-\mathbf{P}\right)=nq\left[\vec{E}+\frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]+\int d^3\vec{v}m\vec{v}C \tag{4.7}$$

and therefore, owing to Equation 4.3

$$\vec{S}_p=\int d^3\vec{v}m\vec{v}C$$

In a similar fashion, the time derivative term of the energy moment equation is

$$\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}=\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}f=\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int d^3\vec{v}\,'\frac{m}{2}\left[\left(\vec{v}\,'+\vec{u}\right)\cdot\left(\vec{v}\,'+\vec{u}\right)\right]f$$

After changing the variable of integration to $\vec{v}\,'$, and expanding the dot product,

$$\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}=\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}f=\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\int d^3\vec{v}\,'\frac{m}{2}\left[\frac{m\vec{v}\,'^2}{2}f+m\vec{v}\,'\cdot\vec{u}f+\frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2\right]$$

The first term is essentially the time derivative the scalar pressure, p. The second integral vanishes identically, while the third is just the time rate of change of the bulk kinetic energy, $\frac{1}{2}nm\vec{u}^2$. Thus

$$\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}=\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p+\frac{1}{2}nm\vec{u}^2\right)$$

Similarly, the velocity in the *spatial* derivative term is split into its bulk flow and random components. Using the definition for scalar pressure and manipulations similar those used in the continuity and momentum equations, the spatial derivative term of the energy moment of the kinetic equation can be expressed as

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}\frac{\partial}{\partial\vec{x}}\cdot\vec{v}f \\
&\quad= \int d^3\vec{v}\,'\frac{1}{2}m\left[\vec{u}^2 + 2\vec{u}\cdot\vec{v}\,' + \vec{v}\,'^2\right]\nabla\cdot\left[\left(\vec{u}+\vec{v}\,'\right)f\right] \\
&\quad= \nabla\cdot\int d^3\vec{v}\,'m\left[\frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2\vec{u}f + \frac{1}{2}\vec{u}^2\vec{v}\,'f + \vec{u}\cdot\vec{v}\,'\vec{u}f + \vec{u}\cdot\vec{v}\,'\vec{v}\,'f + \frac{1}{2}\vec{v}\,'^2\vec{u}f + \frac{1}{2}\vec{v}\,'^2\vec{v}\,'f\right] \\
&\quad= \nabla\cdot\left(\frac{1}{2}mn\vec{u}^2\vec{u} - \vec{u}\cdot\mathbf{P} + \frac{3}{2}p\vec{u} + \vec{q}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

The initial manipulation and subsequent dropping of the first and third terms that come from expanding the vector products, are due to the integration over velocity space. Finally, noting that $\vec{u}\cdot\vec{u}\times\vec{B} = 0$, the acceleration term is simplified

$$\int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}}{2}\frac{\partial}{\partial\vec{v}}\cdot\frac{q}{m}\left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c}\vec{v}\times\vec{B}\right]f = -nq\vec{E}\cdot\vec{u}$$

Putting the terms together, the energy moment of the kinetic equation is

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}mn\vec{u}^2\right) + \\
&\qquad \nabla\cdot\left[\left(\frac{3}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}nm\vec{u}^2\right)\vec{u} + \vec{q} - \vec{u}\cdot\mathbf{P}\right] = nq\vec{E}\cdot\vec{u} + \int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}C
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.8}
$$

Now, since the Lorentz force is orthogonal to the velocity, and therefore does no work on our fluid, we can compare directly these results to those of the generalized derivation presented earlier, Equation 4.4. Specifically, we identify the total energy source rate

$$S_E = \int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}C$$

provided $\rho E = \frac{3}{2}p$. We obtain the heat equation here in the same way as before, by adding $\frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2$ times the continuity equation, and $-\vec{u}\cdot$ with the momentum balance, Equations 4.6 and 4.7 respectively, to the total energy, Equation 4.9:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p\right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{3}{2}p\vec{u} + \vec{q}\right) \tag{4.9}$$
$$= \mathbf{P} : \nabla\vec{u} + \frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}\int d^3\vec{v}C - \vec{u}\cdot\int d^3\vec{v}m\vec{v}C + \int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}C$$

The heat equation obtained from kinetic theory agrees with the one we derived from "first principles". Our interpretation of the source terms arising from the kinetic analyses are therefore consistent with the picture developed from Newtonian kinematics. In particular, the heat equation should include explicit continuity and momentum sources, if they exist, analogous to those appearing in Equation 4.5. Further, the energy source, S_E, will contain all forms of energy brought into the system by our atomic processes, including *both* kinetic and internal energy a new particle may bring in upon creation. The "extra" terms in the heat equation arise from algebraic manipulations done to remove the kinetic energy and work terms from the balance. A final, slightly modified form of Equation 4.10, appears more often in the literature, and is obtained by splitting out the scalar pressure and viscous stress. If, additionally, the source functions are written in the simpler notation, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p\right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{5}{2}p\vec{u} + \vec{q}\right) = \mathbf{\Pi} : \nabla\vec{u} + \vec{u}\cdot\nabla p + \frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2 S_n - \vec{u}\cdot\vec{S}_p + S_E \tag{4.10}$$

4.3 The Braginskii Equations

In a plasma, we may assume that the dominant collisions occurring are due to the Coulomb electrostatic force, and that the plasma is relaxing to a drifting Maxwellian velocity distribution. Applying these assumptions, one can evaluate the integrals in Equation 4.10. The procedure is a bit tedious, but was carried out by Braginskii[64].

The Braginskii expressions are valid formally under the following conditions:

1. One species of singly charged ions and one group of electrons occupy the system. There are no volumetric particle or energy sources, and the only momentum imparted to the system is via the electric and Lorentz forces,

2. The distribution functions change slowly with respect to the the Coulomb collision rate,

3. The parallel scale lengths of profile inhomogeneities are much longer than the collisional mean free path,

4. The perpendicular scale length is much longer than perpendicular diffusion step sizes,

5. The Coulomb logarithm is large, or equivalently, "hard" collisions resulting in $> 90°$collisions are rare,

6. The electron gyro-radius is much longer than the Debye length,

7. The flow and stress distortions on the distribution functions are small, which is assured usually if the flow velocity, $\|\vec{u}\| \leq v_{th}/3$, where v_{th} is the thermal velocity, and

8. Anomalous transport is negligible

Unfortunately, the conditions listed above for validity of the Braginskii equations are almost always violated in tokamak edge plasmas to some extent. Typically then, an *ad hoc* model, if one exists, replaces the terms in the equations that are known to have problems. Computationally tractable simplifications are often proposed to model the edge plasma phenomena, and are then evaluated numerically for comparison to experiment. The following is a list of the most significant of the violations. In the next section, the resulting simplified model is subsequently presented.

- There is a strong influence by neutral and impurity particles in the system. These particles will contribute source terms to each of the three conserved quantities, in addition to influencing the plasma transport coefficients. The form of the new source terms can be guided by the physical insight gained from comparing the kinetic and Newtonian derivations.

- Time dependence of our system is herein ignored for numerical tractability, and we search "directly" for steady state solution profiles (time scales do however influence solution methods used for the numerical system of equations that represent discrete forms of the flow laws).

- The parallel scale lengths often are substantially longer than the local collision mean free path. For the heat equation, this condition leads ultimately to heat transport not well modeled by the small number of terms retained in the Laguerre expansion. In practice, the Braginskii form, which was derived under assumptions to the contrary, often leads to computed heat fluxes that violate causality by being greater than what can be carried physically by the underlying particles of the system. The subject is explored in further depth within results-oriented sections of this dissertation.

- The condition of small bulk flow velocity is always violated at the locations where the plasma contacts a material surface. There, an electrostatic "Bohm" sheath is formed automatically to preserve plasma quasineutrality. The situation is summarized elsewhere, and it suffices to mention that the fluid equations can be suitably altered to simulate such a boundary, in terms of its influence on the bulk plasma.

- Finally, laboratory plasmas are almost always dominated by anomalous transport processes. Modification of the fluid equations for this situation was proposed by Vold, et. al.[18]. In the present work, a greatly reduced set of equations has been employed.

The results of the Braginskii analysis are summarized in Appendix A, and appear in the standard reference NRL Plasma Formulary[54]. The analysis neglects collisions with neutral particles, and needs to be extended for our use based on results of the previous sections. For direct comparison, Equations 4.6, 4.7 and 4.10 are rewritten in terms of the convective derivative, explicit Coulomb source terms, and any remaining unspecified sources.

$$\frac{Dn}{Dt} + n\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = S_n \tag{4.11}$$

$$mn\frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \nabla\cdot\mathbf{\Pi} + nq\left[\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c}\vec{u}\times\vec{B}\right] + \vec{R} + \vec{S}_p - m\vec{u}S_n \tag{4.12}$$

$$\frac{3}{2}n\frac{DkT}{Dt} + p\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = -\nabla\cdot\vec{q} + \mathbf{\Pi}:\nabla\vec{u} + Q + \left(\frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2 - \frac{3}{2}kT\right)S_n - \vec{u}\cdot\vec{S}_p + S_E \tag{4.13}$$

In our notation, $\mathbf{\Pi} = -\mathbf{P}$ of Braginskii. The particle, momentum and energy source terms on the right hand sides of these equations are due usually to plasma collisions with neutral particles and impurity species. Notice that the form of these terms is not obvious without the analysis of the preceding sections.

4.4 Simplifying Assumptions

The full Braginskii model is posed in three spatial dimensions and contains at least 10 independent variables for three velocity components, density and temperature (if $p = nkT$ is applied) for both of the two charged species present. For more than one species of ions, the NRL equations would need to be replaced by a more general (and larger) set. Additionally, important effects, such as recycling and charge exchange depend critically on background neutral gases. In fact the neutrals are themselves strongly affected by these interaction processes, and need to be included consistently with their own set of conservation equations (Reference [18] provides discussion on this point). As a result, the complete set of classical modeling equations, which contains all these processes is quite large and complex.

In this section, we give a list of assumptions that are used to strip down the full Braginskii model to arrive at a simpler set of equations. The result is representative of typical coupled edge fluid models to date. To these equations, we need to add the appropriate neutral processes in accordance with the intuition developed in the preceding sections. We note that this entire process certainly is not unique by any means. The key challenge in tokamak edge fluid plasma modeling has been to select a model for the situation that is sufficiently accessible for analysis, yet reproduces experimentally measured results to a satisfactory extent.

Parallel Braginskii Equations and Anomalous Fluxes

The basic experimental observation for edge plasmas is that the Braginskii model of transport in the both radial and diamagnetic directions under-predicts the outward heat and mass fluxes observed in existing plasma devices. Typically, the radial particle and heat fluxes are replaced by empirical relations incorporating experimental observation or theoretical expressions based on turbulent diffusion due to various microinstabilities. Most of these can be expressed in the following form[76, 110]

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma_{\perp i} &= n^i v_\perp - D_\perp \nabla_\perp n^i - D_\perp^{T^e} \frac{n^i}{n^e} \nabla_\perp T^e \\
\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{\Pi}_{\parallel\perp} &= m^i n^i v_\parallel v_{\perp v} - m^i n^i \eta_\perp^{ei} \nabla_\perp v_\parallel \\
q_{e\perp} &= v_{\perp T^e} n^e T^e - \chi_\perp^e n^e \nabla_\perp \left(kT^e\right) - \chi_\perp^{en} T^e \nabla_\perp n^e \\
q_{i\perp} &= v_{\perp T^i} n^i T^i - \chi_\perp^i n^i \nabla_\perp \left(kT^i\right) - \chi_\perp^{in} T^i \nabla_\perp n^i
\end{aligned} \tag{4.14}$$

We found no significant experimental or theoretical base for the anomalous momentum flux; it is merely postulated in Reference [76], presumably by analogy with the other expressions. In the usual edge modeling process, various components of the Braginskii equations are replaced with subsets of the Equations 4.14. It should be clear that such a process is rather arbitrary, but some guidelines do apply.

We apply the general principle that if the anomalous process is presupposed to "act" like the underlying physical process, then by definition, one should be careful to carry its effects through the full set of equations.[3] Strictly speaking, for example, if an anomalous radial *advection* of particles, $v_\perp$, is posited, then there should be a

[3] Note that this rule has more philosophical implications—that our goal is to model the system by mimicking known fluid processes preferentially over arbitrary empirical data fits, etc. The approach is defensible, but not absolute.

corresponding convection of heat, $v_\perp nkT$, and momentum flux, $mn\vec{u}v_\perp$. Further, that velocity will contribute to the viscous stress tensor in the way in which we would expect convection to act. On the other hand, if the assumption is that the bulk radial velocity is due to some other process, say Fick's law particle diffusion (scaling as the radial density gradient), the process may enter a bit differently. In the diffusion case, momentum and energy are transported with the particles as before, but no momentum is imparted by radial gradients of this velocity, by assumption. Diffusive particle transport will *not* contribute to the Braginskii viscous stress tensor. The work term in the energy balance for this latter case, $(\vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{P})$, is computed with the *total* velocity (including diffusive components) acting on the stress tensor, which has no effects from the diffusion velocity. This is rather a subtle issue, but gives rise to a number of difficulties in sorting out experimental observations[93, 110, 111]. See § 4.6 for a detailed resolution of this issue.

We take the following subset of all possible anomalous transport models (assuming $n^e = n^i = n$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma_{\perp i} &= nv_\perp - D_\perp \nabla_\perp n \\
\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{\Pi}_{\|\perp} &= \mathbf{r} \cdot \nabla \cdot \left(m^i n \vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{\Pi}^a \right) \\
q_{e\perp} &= \frac{5}{2} v_\perp n T^e - \chi_\perp^e n \nabla_\perp \left(kT^e\right) - \vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{\Pi}^{ae} \\
q_{i\perp} &= \frac{5}{2} v_\perp n T^i - \chi_\perp^i n \nabla_\perp \left(kT^i\right) - \vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{\Pi}^{ai}
\end{aligned}$$

This model implies that there is an anomalous convection speed, $v_\perp$, and an anomalous diffusive flux of particles driven by the gradient in n. There is likewise a diffusive component of energy, driven by the radial temperature gradient. The anomalous convection leads to terms in the stress tensor, while both lead to viscous heating.

In the Braginskii stress tensor, we take the strong magnetic field case, where the gyro-viscosities and perpendicular viscosities are negligible compared to the parallel term, η_0 (see [112] for a more careful treatment). In some models, an anomalous radial viscous flux, of the form $m^i n\nu_\perp \nabla_\perp v_\|$, is added to the parallel momentum equation. It happens that the value used typically for $\nu_\perp$ leads to viscous transport of the order the gyro-viscous terms. Presumably, the flux was added to simplify the numerical schemes employed, but we ignore the perpendicular effects completely. The resulting form for the viscous stress tensor is

$$\mathbf{\Pi} = \Pi_{ss}\mathbf{bb} + \Pi_{rr}\left(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{bb}\right)$$

where $\mathbf{b}$ is the unit vector in the direction of the magnetic field, and $\mathbf{I}$ is the identity tensor.

Flux Limited Parallel Thermal Diffusion

The heat flux vector is simplified, at least formally, by retaining only the parallel term in the classical description, i.e. the Spitzer[15] conductivity. However, it is often necessary to limit the conducted heat flux artificially because the Spitzer form leads to values greater than what can be carried by the fundamental particles of the system. The root of the breakdown lays in the inadequate description of the local state via the truncated Laguerre expansion in the kinetic analysis outlined above. The artificial limiting of the parallel diffusive flux typically takes the form

$$\kappa_\|^e \Rightarrow \frac{\kappa_\|^e}{\left(1 + \left|\frac{\kappa_\|^e \nabla_\| kT^e}{\alpha_e v_{\rm th} nkT^e}\right|\right)}$$

and is routinely used in the present calculations. Here α_e is an arbitrary constant parameter. The effect of this artificial limiting is discussed in later sections. We found computed results to be quite sensitive to this aspect of the model, marking it as a good candidate for further exploration.

Total Momentum Equation

To simplify the system, we apply the external constraint that the advective flow velocity for the electrons is everywhere identical to that of the ions (i.e. that frictional and electric field forces are negligible). The plasma approximation[17] is also invoked, equating the electron and ion particle densities. These assumptions preclude plasma currents and self-generated electrostatic electric fields, as discussed in Reference [18]. The significance of the neglected effects arising has been verified both experimentally and computationally (see Reference [93] for a summary of the present status of related experiments and computational physics investigations). But we arbitrarily ignore plasma currents because they have not been indicated as essential for establishing or enhancing the volumetric power dispersion regimes under study.

The foregoing assumptions reduce our system from 10 plasma unknowns to just 4, for the plasma density, parallel velocity, and ion and electron temperature. But the plasma velocity must satisfy both the electron and ion momentum equations which are much simpler when added together:

$$\frac{\partial\left(\left[m^i+m^e\right]n\vec{u}\right)}{\partial t}+\nabla\cdot\left(\left[m^i+m^e\right]n\vec{u}\vec{u}-\left[\mathbf{\Pi}^i+\mathbf{\Pi}^e\right]\right)+\nabla\left(p^i+p^e\right)=\vec{S}_p^i+\vec{S}_p^e$$

Since the mass of the electrons is very much smaller than that of the ions, $m^i + m^e \approx m^i$ (for Hydrogen $m^i/m^e > 10^3$). From the above arguments, the classical viscous stress tensor has only terms in $\eta_0 \sim nkT\tau$. Since $\tau \sim T^{5/2}\sqrt{m}$, $\eta_0^i/\eta_0^e \approx \left(T^i/T^e\right)^{5/2}\sqrt{m^i/m^e}$, the electron viscosity is comparable to the ion viscosity when

$T^e/T^i \approx (m^i/m^e)^{1/5} \approx 4.5$, and therefore not generally negligible. The simplified equation for the sum of ion and electron momentum now reads

$$\frac{\partial\left(m^i n\vec{u}\right)}{\partial t} + \nabla\cdot\left(m^i n\vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{\Pi}\right) + \nabla p = \vec{S}_p$$

where $\mathbf{\Pi} = \mathbf{\Pi}^i + \mathbf{\Pi}^e$, $\vec{S}_p = \vec{S}_p^i + \vec{S}_p^e$, and $p = p^i + p^e$. There is no electron-to-ion momentum transfer terms left in the total momentum equation. Heating from ions to electrons is now

$$Q_{ei} = -Q_{ie} = -\frac{3m^e n}{m^i}\frac{k}{\tau_e}\left(T^e - T^i\right)$$

The flux-limited electron heat flux, $\vec{q}_e$, is computed as described above, while the ion heat flux is just the classical parallel expression, $\vec{q}_i = -\kappa_{\|}^i \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\left(kT^i\right)$ (where $\mathbf{b}$ is the unit vector along the magnetic field).

We have now defined explicitly the standard model for fluid *plasma* transport for tokamak edge plasma. In Appendix B, we detail the source terms necessary to couple the plasma to the background neutral particles (one specific model of the processes anyway). All that remains is to collect up these assumptions into the model equations, and transform these magnetic-field-oriented expressions into the natural coordinates of our discretization.

Resulting Equations

Collecting all the approximations, we can now write out explicitly the model equations for transport in a tokamak edge. These include a diffusion equation for atomic Hydrogen plus the Braginskii equations, simplified and augmented with anomalous radial transport and source terms (also, the electron mass was considered small compared that of the ions).

Thermal neutral gas diffusion:

$$\frac{\partial n_0}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-D_0 \nabla n_0) = -S_n \tag{4.15}$$

Plasma continuity

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (n\vec{u}) = S_n \tag{4.16}$$

Total momentum

$$\frac{\partial (m^i n\vec{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left(m^i n\vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{\Pi}\right) + \nabla \left(p^i + p^e\right) = \vec{S}_p \tag{4.17}$$

Electron heat equation

$$\frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial p^e}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{5}{2}p^e\vec{u} + \vec{q}_e\right) = S_E^e + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla p^e \tag{4.18}$$

Ion heat equation

$$\frac{3}{2}\frac{\partial p^i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{5}{2}p^i\vec{u} + \vec{q}_i\right) = \mathbf{\Pi}^i : \nabla\vec{u} + \frac{1}{2}m^i\vec{u}^2 S_n - \vec{u} \cdot \vec{S}_p^i + S_E^i + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla p^i \tag{4.19}$$

Source Terms

$$\begin{aligned}
S_n &= nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} - nn\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} \\
\vec{S}_p &= m^i\vec{u}_0 nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} + m^i\left(\vec{u}_0 - \vec{u}\right) nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{cx}} \\
&\quad - m^i\vec{u}nn\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} \\
S_E^e &= -\epsilon^{\mathrm{eii}}\, nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} - \frac{3}{2}kT^e nn\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} - \frac{3m^e n}{m^i}\frac{k}{\tau_e}\left(T^e - T^i\right) \\
S_E^i &= \left(5\mathrm{eV} + \frac{1}{2}m^i\vec{u}_0^2\right) nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} \\
&\quad - \left(\frac{1}{2}m^i\vec{u}^2 + \frac{3}{2}kT^i\right) nn\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} + \frac{3m^e n}{m^i}\frac{k}{\tau_e}\left(T^e - T^i\right)
\end{aligned}$$

4.5 Poloidal Plane Projection

Next, we write down these equations in terms of the parallel and transverse components of the derivatives and velocities. As above, we define the unit vectors in the parallel and radial direction, $\mathbf{b}$ and $\mathbf{r}$ respectively. Also, the unit vector in the flux surface parallel to the poloidal plane is $\mathbf{x}$ (note that $\mathbf{r}$ is $\perp$ to $\mathbf{x}$). The parallel component of the divergence is $\partial/\partial s = \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla$. We define the projection factor, $\mathcal{P}$, so that $\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla = \mathcal{P}\mathbf{x}\cdot\nabla$. Note that because the parallel direction changes with respect to the poloidal coordinate frame, the divergence and gradient operators will lead to terms involving $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b}$ and $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}$. Since they are arbitrary spatial functions of the geometry at hand, they must be retained in the equations for generality (note that for fixed projection, as in many test problems, $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} = \nabla\cdot\mathbf{r} = 0$). The term, $\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b}$ is easily computable by noting that $\nabla\cdot\vec{B} = \nabla\cdot|\vec{B}|\mathbf{b} = 0$, so that

$$\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} = \frac{\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla|\vec{B}|}{|\vec{B}|} = \frac{\mathcal{P}}{|\vec{B}|}\frac{\partial|\vec{B}|}{\partial x} \tag{4.20}$$

For any vector, the transformation gives $\vec{a} = a_{\|}\mathbf{b} + a_{\perp}\mathbf{r}$, we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla\cdot\vec{a} &= \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla a_{\|} + \mathbf{r}\cdot\nabla a_{\perp} + a_{\|}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + a_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r} \\
&= \mathcal{P}\mathbf{x}\cdot\nabla a_{\|} + \mathbf{r}\cdot\nabla a_{\perp} + a_{\|}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + a_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}
\end{aligned}$$

Common implementations of the finite volume approach (cf. [69]) are written for a constant transformation projection, $\mathcal{P}$, and capture correctly the coordinate effects in the first two terms. The latter two terms represent an effective flux lost from a coordinate due to the changing orientation with respect to the fixed volume walls.

The velocity, $\vec{u}$ is written in terms of the total anomalous radial velocity, $v_{\perp}$, the part that “acts” like convection, $V_{\perp}$ (as discussed above), and other usually diffusive contribution, v_D

$$\vec{u} = v_{\|}\mathbf{b} + v_{\perp}\mathbf{r} = v_{\|}\mathbf{b} + (V_{\perp} + v_D)\,\mathbf{r}$$

In the momentum equation, we encounter the product $\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot(\rho\vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{\Pi})$. In the strong magnetic field limit,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot\mathbf{\Pi} &= \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot\left[(\Pi_{ss} - \Pi_{rr})\,\mathbf{bb} + \mathbf{I}\,\Pi_{rr}\right] \\
&= (\Pi_{ss} - \Pi_{rr})\,\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\Pi_{ss}
\end{aligned}$$

The relevant stress components are

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_{ss} &= 2\eta_0\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial s} - \eta_0\frac{2}{3}\nabla\cdot\vec{u} \\
\Pi_{rr} &= 2\eta_0\frac{\partial v_{\perp}}{\partial r} - \eta_0\frac{2}{3}\nabla\cdot\vec{u}
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting these relations into the expression we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot\mathbf{\Pi} &= \frac{2}{3}\frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left[\eta_0\left(2\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial r}\right) - \eta_0\left(v_{\|}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + V_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}\right)\right] \\
&\quad +2\eta_0\left(\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial r}\right)\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain for the convective term, $\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot(\rho\vec{u}\vec{u})$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot(\rho\vec{u}\vec{u}) &= \mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot\left(\rho v_{\|}^2\mathbf{bb} + \rho v_{\|}v_{\perp}\,(\mathbf{br} + \mathbf{rb}) + \rho v_{\perp}^2\mathbf{rr}\right) \\
&= \frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left(\rho v_{\|}^2\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(\rho v_{\|}v_{\perp}\right) + \rho v_{\|}^2\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + \rho v_{\|}v_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}
\end{aligned}$$

Combining these expressions,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\cdot(\rho\vec{u}\vec{u} - \mathbf{\Pi}) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left(\rho v_{\|}^2\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(\rho v_{\|}v_{\perp}\right) - \frac{2}{3}\frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left[\eta_0\left(2\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial r}\right)\right] \\
&+ \left[\rho v_{\|}^2 - 2\eta_0\left(\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial r}\right)\right]\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + \rho v_{\|}v_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r} \\
&- \frac{2}{3}\frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left[\eta_0\left(v_{\|}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b} + V_{\perp}\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}\right)\right]
\end{aligned}$$

Final Model Equations

Combining all the model and geometry information of this section (in addition to a couple of Appendices), we can finally write the model equations to be solved in FMS2D. The set is written in terms of gradients in the poloidal plane, and includes the effects of a spatially varying transformation to parallel coordinates. One species of neutrals (atomic Hydrogen) is included—more neutral species are input in an analogous way (see the PISCES model for an example where molecular Hydrogen was added).

Atomic Hydrogen (thermalized with ions):

$$\frac{\partial n_0}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(-D_0 \frac{\partial n_0}{\partial x}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(-D_0 \frac{\partial n_0}{\partial y}\right) = n^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} - n n_0 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} \tag{4.21}$$

Plasma Density (continuity):

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \mathcal{P}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(n v_{\|}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(n v_{\perp}\right) \\ &\qquad = n n_0 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{eii}} - n^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{rec}} - n v_{\|} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} - n v_{\perp} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} \end{aligned} \tag{4.22}$$

Parallel Momentum (total):

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\rho v_{\|}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left[\rho v_{\|} v_{\perp} - \eta_{\perp}\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial y}\right] \\ &\quad \mathcal{P}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left[\rho v_{\|}^2 + p - \frac{2}{3}\eta_0\left(2\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial y}\right) - \frac{2}{3}\eta_0\left(v_{\|}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} + V_{\perp}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{r}\right)\right] \\ &= \; -\rho v_{\|}\left(n n_0 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{cx}} + n^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle^{\mathrm{rec}}\right) \\ &\qquad - \left[\rho v_{\|}^2 + p - 2\eta_0\left(\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_{\|}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial V_{\perp}}{\partial y}\right)\right]\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} - \rho v_{\|} v_{\perp} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{r} \end{aligned} \tag{4.23}$$

Electron Heat:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p^e\right)+\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{5}{2}p^e v_\parallel-\mathcal{P}\kappa_\parallel^e\frac{\partial kT^e}{\partial x}\right)+\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(\frac{5}{2}p^e v_\perp-\kappa_\perp^e\frac{\partial kT^e}{\partial y}\right) \tag{4.24}$$
$$\begin{aligned} =\ & -nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\rm eii}\epsilon_e^{\rm eii}-n^2\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\rm rec}\frac{3}{2}kT^e-\frac{3m^e n}{m^i}\frac{k}{\tau_e}\left(T^e-T^i\right)\\ & -\left(\frac{5}{2}p^e v_\parallel-\mathcal{P}\kappa_\parallel^e\frac{\partial kT^e}{\partial x}\right)\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b}-\left(\frac{5}{2}p^e v_\perp-\kappa_\perp^e\frac{\partial kT^e}{\partial y}\right)\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}\\ & +\mathcal{P}v_\parallel\frac{\partial p^e}{\partial x}+v_\perp\frac{\partial p^e}{\partial y}\end{aligned}$$

Ion Heat:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p^i\right)+\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left[\frac{5}{2}p^i v_\parallel-\mathcal{P}\kappa_\parallel^i\frac{\partial kT^i}{\partial x}+\frac{2}{3}v_\parallel\eta_0\left(2\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_\parallel}{\partial x}-\frac{\partial V_\perp}{\partial r}\right)\right]\\ & \qquad +\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left[\frac{5}{2}p^i v_\perp-\kappa_\perp^i\frac{\partial kT^i}{\partial y}+\frac{2}{3}v_\perp\eta_0\left(2\frac{\partial V_\perp}{\partial y}-\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_\parallel}{\partial x}\right)\right]\\ =\ & nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\rm eii}\left(\frac{1}{2}m^i\vec{u}^2+5{\rm eV}\right)-n^2\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\rm rec}\frac{3}{2}kT^i\\ & +nn_0\langle\sigma v\rangle^{\rm cx}m^i\vec{u}^2-\frac{3m^e n}{m^i}\frac{k}{\tau_e}\left(T^e-T^i\right)\\ & \qquad -\left[\frac{5}{2}p^i v_\parallel-\mathcal{P}\kappa_\parallel^i\frac{\partial kT^i}{\partial x}+\frac{2}{3}v_\parallel\eta_0\left(2\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_\parallel}{\partial x}-\frac{\partial V_\perp}{\partial y}\right)\right]\nabla\cdot\mathbf{b}\\ & \qquad -\left[\frac{5}{2}p^i v_\perp-\kappa_\perp^i\frac{\partial kT^i}{\partial y}+\frac{2}{3}v_\perp\eta_0\left(2\frac{\partial V_\perp}{\partial y}-\mathcal{P}\frac{\partial v_\parallel}{\partial x}\right)\right]\nabla\cdot\mathbf{r}\\ & +\mathcal{P}v_\parallel\frac{\partial p^i}{\partial x}+v_\perp\frac{\partial p^i}{\partial y}\end{aligned} \tag{4.25}$$

Pressure and Mass Density:

$$p=p^i+p^e \qquad p^e=nkT^e \qquad p^i=nkT^i \qquad \rho=m^i n \tag{4.26}$$

4.6 Inconsistencies and Anomalous Transport

- In this section we resolve a well-documented inconsistency with the plasma modeling equations in the presence of anomalous transport.

As pointed out in Appendix B of M. Baelmans' doctoral dissertation[93], the equations for conservation of energy can be derived by computing the velocity integral of the kinetic equation weighted against $\frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2$, obtaining Equation 4.9

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\left(\frac{3}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}mn\vec{u}^2\right) + \\ \nabla \cdot \left[\left(\frac{3}{2}p + \frac{1}{2}nm\vec{u}^2\right)\vec{u} + \vec{q} - \vec{u}\cdot\mathbf{P}\right] = nq\vec{E}\cdot\vec{u} + \int d^3\vec{v}\frac{m\vec{v}^2}{2}C$$

or against $\frac{1}{2}m\left(\vec{v}-\vec{u}\right)^2$ obtaining the form appearing in the Braginskii analysis,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{3}{2}n\frac{DkT}{Dt} &+ p\nabla\cdot\vec{u} = -\nabla\cdot\vec{q} + \mathbf{\Pi} : \nabla\vec{u} + Q \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{2}m\vec{u}^2 - \frac{3}{2}kT\right)S_n - \vec{u}\cdot\vec{S}_p + S_E\end{aligned}$$

In earlier sections, we showed that the continuity and momentum equations can be used to convert between the two. But when anomalous fluxes are inserted into the equations in favor of the classical expressions, the two energy equation forms are no longer equivalent. It was concluded that there is an arbitrary choice regarding which of the two results are more correct (see References [110, 111] for similar examples).

The resolution of this issue lies in the way that the anomalous transport is assigned. The validity of the manipulations performed to compare the two energy equations is predicated on whether the Braginskii momentum equations are satisfied identically. However, a typical edge model assumes that the radial velocity is determined by particle diffusion

$$v_\perp\mathbf{r} = -\frac{D_\perp}{n}\nabla_\perp n \tag{4.27}$$

which surely is not consistent with the Braginskii set. Arbitarily assuming a form for one of the dependent variables over-specifies the system, and will give either singular or consistent equations. On the other hand, is seems perfectly valid to discard one of the Braginskii equations in favor of an anomalous expression, provided the modeler is aware that in doing so, he/she has rendered the self-consistent picture of the Braginskii model invalid.

Another example is the one-dimensional model presented for the PISCES-A modeling in Chapter 8, which is predicated on the assumption that the state profiles are described via a set of self-similar Bessel function profiles. To reconcile this assumption with the classical fluid picture, a source term is added to the continuity equation of the form

$$-n\frac{D_\perp}{\lambda_\perp^2}$$

with similar expressions added to the momentum and energy equations. If we want to specify that the radial velocity given by the Expression 4.27, does satisfy classical conservation of momentum and *total* energy, we are free to likewise adjust the source term, $\vec{S}_p$, in the heat equation appropriately to ensure this condition.

The issues boil down to the more philosophical question about the real intention of modeling experimental plasma devices—to match data and predict results, or to understand the process in terms of known fluid behavior. In this sense, it would be perfectly valid to add arbitrary processes into the model wherever necessary to suit data-fitting purposes, without carrying the term throughout out the model "self-consistently". However, in doing so, we loose the aid of our intuition in extending the model to unexplored new systems.

Ultimately, the way to reconcile these two treatments is to compute them both and compare the results obtained. In the typical example of added anomalous radial velocity, it turns out that the two derived energy equations differ by exactly the $\vec{F} \cdot \vec{u}$ work required to sustain the assumed velocity against radial pressure and viscous forces. The force is included in the total energy equation implicitly, while it is absent by default from the heat equation. With this information, we can reconcile completely the expressions employed in the References [76, 81] (the substitution is carried out rather mysteriously via substitution of the electron momentum balance into the ion and electron total energy equations). The neglected cooling term in question is approximately

$$v_\perp \nabla_\perp p = \frac{D_\perp}{n} \nabla_\perp n \nabla_\perp p$$

Inserting typical tokamak parameters, $\nabla_\perp n \approx n/L_n$, $\nabla_\perp T \approx T/L_T, L_T \approx L_n/2 \approx$ 5cm, and $n, T, D_\perp \approx 10^{20}, 50, 10^4$. The radial pressure gradient is then $\approx 10^3 erg/cm^3$, so the cooling is on the order of .1MW/m^3, and fortunately thus make no *practical* difference in the computations, despite the confusion! For simplicity then, we have dropped this discrepancy term from our heat equation, 4.26.

4.7 Conclusions

We have derived a set of transport equations rigorously which are to be used for modeling the edge plasma in tokamak divertor-related experiments (see Equations 4.5). This set assumes that one group of background atomic Hydrogen neutral gas resides in the domain of interest, along with one species each of electrons and singly charged ions. The atomic Hydrogen is modeled with the OGITE[18] approximation, where the fluid has equilibrated everywhere with the ions. The plasma equations are constructed based on the 10 equation Braginskii model[64], except that auxiliary conditions are specified on the radial fluxes of particles, momentum and energy (see Equations 4.15), in accordance with standard edge modeling practice. Additionally, we assume quasineutrality, and ignore fluid drifts and plasma currents to simplify the physical model for analysis.

The result of the analysis is a set of 4 equations for the plasma velocity, total parallel momentum, electron and ion temperatures (Equations 4.16 – 4.19). These four are coupled to the diffusing background neutral species via particle, momentum and energy exchange terms that were outlined carefully in Appendix B.

The reduced set of equations five equations are written out by component for the two-dimensional poloidal plane to be modeled, and are written out as Equations 4.23 – 4.26. This process illustrates that additional terms arise due to the expansion of the parallel coordinate system in projecting to the poloidal plane.

Chapter 5

General Description of FMS2D

The computer can help us to understand various aspects of the tokamak edge plasma, but only if we design and implement sufficiently general and efficient techniques to obtain numerical solutions of our models. As part of the research, we have designed and implemented the FMS2D (Fluid modeling system in two dimensions) computer program with exceptionally general design criteria:

- We require the ability to specify and solve diverse models;
- We should be able to alter the models without undue difficulty;
- To the extent possible, our model specification should be devoid of artifacts relating to the specific numerical scheme or programming language used to implement the model.

Current indicators show that understanding the fluid behavior of the tokamak plasma edge, especially in the divertor regions, will be critical to successful design of future plasma devices. The above criteria were designed to enhance the usefulness of the code for follow-on research on tokamak edge-related plasmas. Implementation is outlined in the subsequent section.

Before proceeding however, note that practical experience with the code on complex applications has brought about modifications in the detailed implementation strategy of the solution methods. As of this writing, the present organizational structure is in use by at least four researchers over a wide range of application. Several fundamental changes have already been incorporated giving rise to the form to be described herein. With continued success, we expect the number of users, and thus practical experiences to increase over the coming years. Logically, the next change to FMS2D should be to improve overall computational efficiency.

5.1 Design Philosophy of FMS2D

Fluid models of plasma can be quite complex, particularly those that include the self-consistent effects of neutral particles. The plasma models contain anisotropic state dependent diffusivities and source functions from tabulated data. Neutral particles often exist in regimes where fluid model validity is questionable at best. Models describing the plasma and neutral transport are thus under intense scrutiny in the fusion community; new augmentation or modifications are proposed at nearly every fusion-related physics conference or workshop. A computer code for study of the edge plasma research must be able to handle a diverse set of fluid models.

To facilitate such diversity, we designed FMS2D using an exceptionally modular approach. The starting point was to recognize that the models of our interest (by definition) are expressible as vector fluid conservation laws. We developed a language in which to easily express complex coupled conservation law models. We implemented general techniques to discretize these equations, and then algorithms to solve the resulting discrete equation systems. The initial incarnation of this effort was carried out in Fortran, and without particular regard to computational efficiency.

5.1.1 The Model Specification

The code is designed to accept a system of time dependent fluid–type equations in two spatial dimensions. We are careful to include sufficient generality to cover cases of immediate interest for tokamak edge modeling, as well as likely future extensions. Typical examples of the equations encountered consist of a diffusion model for the neutral density coupled to the modified Braginskii fluid equations for plasma density (as detailed in earlier sections). The range of boundary conditions includes specified value (i.e. Dirichlet), specified flux, specified normal derivatives (i.e. Neumann), and specified (possibly nonlinear) relations between unknowns (interdependent Robbin-type; such as that occurring at Bohm sheaths).

To accommodate these and other expected forms, we chose a numerical scheme accepting an arbitrary system of equations of the form

$$\frac{\partial C(\vec{x},t,\vec{s})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_c - \nabla \cdot (D \cdot \nabla s) = S \tag{5.1}$$

with boundary conditions specified in the form

$$G(\vec{x},t,\vec{s},\nabla\vec{s}) = 0$$

where $\vec{s} = [s_1, \ldots, s_n]$ is the state vector of unknowns, C is the concentration of some physically conserved property, $\vec{x}$ is the spatial coordinate and D is the diffusivity tensor (e.g. $\vec{s} = [n_H, n, v, T_i, T_e]$ in the Asdex model, Chapter 7, while $\vec{s} = [n_{H_2}, n_H, n, v, T_e]$ in the PISCES model, see Chapter 8). The flux term, $\vec{\Gamma}_c$, includes convection and other nonlinear or coupling fluxes not explicitly expressible in diffusion form (see the comment section regarding computation of artificial dissipation). S is the volumetric source rate of C. $\vec{\Gamma}_c$, D and S generally are functions of the state, position, time and state gradient.

In FMS2D, a FORTRAN77 compliant[1] source code subroutine serves as the interface to pass the complete model, consisting of C, $\vec{\Gamma}$, D and S, for a given $\vec{s}$, $\nabla\vec{s}$, $\vec{x}$ and t (in the implementation, we found it more convenient to express the diffusivity as a diffusive flux; internal parts of the code then unravel D as required). This implies, for example, that complete replacement of the physical model requires only the generation of one new interface file. Moreover, we have provided a number of debugging and variation control implementation tools are to ease this part of the specification. Appendix E gives an example one such specification file, the PISCES model—this complex example was chosen because it demonstrates the power of such abstractions. Details of the auxiliary tools available will not be given here. It suffices to point out that once the model has been expressed in this fashion, facilities exist to parse the source code into any language/format that is ultimately convenient (an X-Window interface for model input and debugging is clearly possible, for example).

5.1.2 Computational Domains

In addition to model definition, a two-dimensional domain must be specified on which FMS2D is to compute a steady state solution. The issue is a bit more complicated than a cursory glance may indicate. The Scrape-Off-Layer (SOL)

[1] One design selection, apparent in Appendix E, was to violate the deplorable six character naming convention and case insensitivity enforced by the FORTRAN77 standard. The additional freedom drastically improves the readability of the source code, and thus is supported by nearly every modern FORTRAN77 compiler.

and edge of a tokamak are defined and illustrated in the introductory chapter of this document to include the outer periphery of the tokamak plasma *and* a layer into the core. In the most general case then, our domain should include regions both inside and outside the closed magnetic flux surface structures. And since the medium we wish to investigate is highly anisotropic with respect to these surfaces, a discretization of the modeling equations will be aligned to this complex field structure (a significant portion of the work presented in this thesis pertains to proving that this must be so). As a result, our total domain of interest is often *multiply connected*.

A typical domain is shown in Figure 6.2 of Chapter 6. Again, it is noted that *toroidal* symmetry is assumed so that the 3D geometry of this region is obtained by rotating the plane "the long way around a doughnut". In Chapter 7, we use a simpler edge plasma domain, that we will invoke as a subset of the full problem when convenient for benchmarking the code and studying our plasma model. For simplicity, this region excludes a core-like portion from the computation, but includes all the other necessary boundaries. This logically square domain is a great deal easier to deal with; it provides a fair testbed to analyze the physical coupling processes, yet admits profile solutions that are easier to plot and understand. Another simplified domain is illustrated with the cylindrical PISCES geometry (as shown in Figure 8.8 of Chapter 8). PISCES is designed to operate under plasma conditions similar to those expected in a true divertor, but the simple geometry eases understanding of the physical processes involved without the complicating effects of difficult geometries and intricate magnetic field shaping.

5.2 Discretization of the General Equation

Given the general model specification, we are free to develop any suitable discretization of the individual terms that is convenient and useful. In Chapter 6, we look in detail at various methods to discretize the anisotropic diffusion. The discretization of convective fluxes and volumetric source terms are detailed below. We also discuss how to handle the time derivative and numerical boundary conditions. The prescriptions supplied herein, like the models presented later, are merely example applications of the FMS2D methodology, and are quite easily interchangeable within the structure of FMS2D (in most cases, via modification or replacement of a single FORTRAN subroutine).

5.2.1 Convection Discretization

The numerical operator employed in FMS2D for convective transport consists of two parts, a central-type difference and then a subsequent addition of artificial dissipation required for monotonicity. The former is performed in terms of a finite-volume techniques, while the latter is more appropriately handled with finite differences, as discussed in the section regarding discretization of anisotropic dissipation physics.

The convection flux term, $\nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_c$, in the general conservation equation can be integrated over a small discrete volume in the usual finite volume method for arbitrary cell shape and orientation,

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_c \, dV = \oint_{\partial\Omega} \vec{\Gamma}_c \cdot dA \approx \sum_i F^i_{jc} \cdot dA^i_j \tag{5.2}$$

where F^i_{jc} is the ith component of the flux through the jth wall of the finite volume. Thus, the volume integral of the divergence of the convective flux can be computed as the sum of convective fluxes through each wall.

The convective fluxes are computed at the center of each wall of the finite volumes. For this, state values at the walls are linearly interpolated from neighboring nodes on either side of each wall. The wall state values are passed to the model interface file where the user routine forms the two orthogonal components of the local convective flux and passes them back to a control volume operator routine. The control volume operator routine then proceeds to form the inner product of the wall fluxes with the corresponding directed cell wall area vectors to determine the total flux divergence via Equation 5.2.

A couple of points are worth noting:

1. For edge problems, the model terms are most easily expressed in terms of the locally flux-aligned coordinate system. However, the coordinates of the discrete nodes in the 2D space are more easily dealt with in cartesian or cylindrical geometry. In FMS2D, we chose to follow this mixed specification by storing grid point locations in either cartesian or cylindrical coordinates. Numerical gradients (required at cell walls, for example) are computed in the grid coordinates, and then transformed using the local magnetic field geometry. The resulting flux-surface-based gradients are passed into the model specification routine for the use in forming the physical conservation law terms. This step requires that the transformation from lab coordinates to poloidal coordinates be 'smooth'. The transformation cannot be smooth near the X-point of a diverted tokamak or when the underlying mesh is too coarse. This issue is elaborated on in the section regarding anisotropic diffusion.

2. The error generated in approximating the wall state value with a linear in-

terpolation will scale as the square of the local mesh spacing (i.e. linear interpolation is second order accurate). Likewise, the error committed in approximating convective fluxes with these interpolated states has leading error of the same scaling. Therefore, the flux divergence computed from Equation 5.2 can easily be shown to scale *linearly* with the local mesh spacing, i.e. the flux divergence will be computed to first order accuracy.

3. The error committed in adding simple artificial dissipation is well-known to also scale linearly with the mesh spacing. Any higher order convective flux calculation will be dominated by the error term of the artificial diffusion; more accurate schemes than that above would not be worth the additional effort.

4. The classification of "convective fluxes" and "source terms" is somewhat arbitrary in our setting. Notice, for example, that the pressure term in the momentum balance equation can appear as a pressure gradient source term, or a divergence of momentum density in the fluxes. To simplify instructions for the users of FMS2D, we needed to ensure that either specification was treated equivalently in the numerics. In general then, the convective fluxes can depend on gradients as well as state values at the cell wall. However, a linear interpolation can only represent a gradient with first order accuracy unless the wall is midway between neighboring cells. The divergence of such quantities on an irregular mesh will be zero order accurate, and therefore will *not*, in general, be convergent with resolution!

With regard to final point above, we have partially resolved the problem by computing state gradients at the wall with a *quadratic* polynomial interpolation.

For a rectangular grid, this involves three nodal values, and can thus be constructed without increasing the overall stencil size. For a non-rectangular grid, quadratic interpolation is unduly complex; it seems better to clearly specify to users that convective fluxes cannot contain terms involving state gradients.

In all of our rectangular exemplary cases, the three nodes surrounding a wall are in line, and a convenient formula for the quadratically interpolated state gradient is generated by differentiating the Newton formula:

$$y(x) = y[x_1] + y[x_2,x_1](x - x_1) + y[x_3,x_2,x_1](x - x_1)(x - x_2)$$

$$y[x_i] = y_i$$

$$y\left[x_i,x_j\right] = \left(y_i - y_j\right) / \left(x_i - x_j\right)$$

$$y\left[x_i,x_j,x_k\right] = \left(y\left[x_i,x_j\right] - y\left[x_j,x_k\right]\right) / (x_i - x_k)$$

The gradient computed from this formula is then transformed per the above discussion, and passed to the model interface file, along with the wall states; the resulting convective fluxes are treated as usual.

5.2.2 Characteristic Speeds and Artificial Dissipation

The maximum characteristic velocity, a, determines the amount of numerical flux required to ensure non-oscillatory solution profiles. The actual relation is easy to derive heuristically. And since the FMS2D code is written to accept a generalized set of conservation laws, we also provide general method of computing the appropriate a values.

For the special case of a uniform cartesian grid, our discretization scheme reduces to centered finite differences. It is well-known that centered differences generate nonphysical extrema in the presence of the anticipated physics (strong advection), and require a corrective stabilization technique. There are several general candidates: slope limiters, upwind differencing, and artificial diffusion; all of which can be applied in our general setting. Initially, we incorporated a streamline–weighted artificial diffusion, as it is the most robust and simple option. It has the drawback of a rather low accuracy, so that we will need to replace this rudimentary advection method with a more appropriate scheme in the final stages of development. Prior to conclusion of the present work however, we attempted to use a modified form of the high-order family of methods employed by Jameson (cf. [113]). The methods use third-order profile interpolants unless a discontinuous solution is detected, where a first-order scheme is then used. In our implementation, the switch changing the method from third to first order needed to be 'smooth' so that the Jacobian matrix remain well-behaved. However, our limited experimentation never resulted in a satisfactory switch that was general enough for the general edge problem. We opted therefore to rely on the lower order results for discussions.

The general form of the first-order accurate artificial dissipation term can be extracted from the 1D advection equation (for constant positive velocity, a)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial (au)}{\partial x} \tag{5.3}$$

Because there is no physical diffusion in this ideal case, the 1D flux of u on a discrete grid towards node i, $\vec{\Gamma}_{i-\frac{1}{2}} = au_{i-1}$. On the other side of point i, $\vec{\Gamma}_{i+\frac{1}{2}} = au_i$. From Equation 5.3, the time rate of change of u is the divergence of these fluxes, or (for uniform grid spacing, Δ_x)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta_x} \tag{5.4}$$

This expression is the standard, first order accurate upwind difference approximation to the first order convection operator. The expression is to be compared to the second order accurate central difference, $\partial u/\partial t = (u_{i-1} - u_{i+1})/(2\,\Delta_x)$. Our finite volume treatment of convective fluxes outlined earlier reduces to the latter form in the case of a uniformly spaced mesh and constant speed.

It is well-known that Equation 5.4 produces a stable oscillation-free solution to the convection equation, and that central schemes do not (not without significant modifications). To obtain Equation 5.4 from our central scheme, we add

$$a\frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta_x} - a\frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\,\Delta_x} = -\left(\frac{a\Delta_x}{2}\right)\frac{u_{i-1} - 2u_i + u_{i+1}}{(\Delta_x)^2} \approx -D_A \nabla^2 u$$

Here, we recognized the difference operator that approximates the second derivative with respect to x. Since the term to add has a diffusion-like form, it generally is called artificial diffusion, where D_A is the artificial diffusion coefficient. It is important to note that D_A is proportional Δ_x, so that the purely numerical flux from D_A diminishes as the grid is refined. Also note that the required artificial diffusivity scales linearly with the characteristic information propagation velocity of the system.

The above derivation is rather heuristic; more rigorous proofs abound in the literature on basic numerical schemes. Two important results arise from the rigorous derivations: the truncation error of this scheme decreases as the first power of the mesh spacing, Δ_x, and the errors are diffusive in nature. The latter result is beneficial as it implies that underresolution of fine-scale physical convection phenomena will not lead to numerically generated oscillations in solution profiles. Unfortunately, we'll see in later sections that the former leads to excessive grid resolution requirements. However, the scheme is robust, well understood and has been useful in developing the FMS2D code logic and understanding the plasma edge system.

To apply the scheme for a given model, we need to choose the speed, a, greater than any information propagation speed. In order to identify the required directions and speeds, the (linearized) conservation equations should be transformed to eliminate cross-dependent fluxes (i.e. to produce a set of scalar equations such as Equation 5.3). The procedure is well documented in the literature (see e.g. [114]) and amounts to computing the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the flux Jacobian obtained by linearizing the flux operator with respect to the conserved quantities. Once transformed, the equations describe linearly independent advection along the eigenvectors, each with velocity equal to the corresponding eigenvalue. Thus, $a \geq \lambda_i$, where λ_i are the eigenvalues of the flux jacobian.

As a simple practical example, we consider 1D convection of two species of particles sharing the same momentum and density, but having distinct temperatures. Here, the states are $u = (n, v, T_e, T_i)$, our conserved quantities are $C = \left(n, Mnv, \frac{3}{2}nT_e, \frac{3}{2}nT_i\right)$, and our fluxes are $F = \left(nv, Mnv^2 + p, \frac{5}{2}nT_e v, \frac{5}{2}nT_i v\right)$, where $p = n(Te + Ti)$. The linearized flux Jacobian is:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/M & 0 & 0 \\ -Mv^2 & 2v & 2/3 & 2/3 \\ -5T_e v/2 & 5T_e/2M & 5v/3 & 0 \\ -5T_i v/2 & 5T_i/2M & 0 & 5v/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues of this matrix are:

$$\vec{\lambda} = \left(5v/3, v, \frac{4v}{3} + \sqrt{\frac{15p/n + Mv^2}{9M}}, \frac{4v}{3} - \sqrt{\frac{15p/n + Mv^2}{9M}}\right) \tag{5.5}$$

If the convection flow is everywhere subsonic, our maximum characteristic velocity (a in D_A above) is

$$a = \frac{4v}{3} + \sqrt{\frac{15p/n + Mv^2}{9M}}$$

$a = 5v/3$ otherwise. In this case, 1D pressure and advection waves are allowed to travel only along the x axis. In a 2D case, the characteristic directions are generally skewed from the coordinate and/or mesh axis. Whether aligned or misaligned, we shall apply the artificial dissipation using the optimal anisotropic diffusion operator developed elsewhere in this document.

It is important to recognize from Equation 5.5 that our dissipation apparently allows for acoustic propagations as well as convection. Often, upwind-type schemes (see e.g. the schemes described in Refs. [71] and [115]) are based only on *convection*. If care is not taken to include sound wave propagation, numerical oscillations may creep back into the solution despite using the strong first-order dissipation. This rather subtle point could be neglected in some cases, but is vitally damaging in others. We discuss the conditions for this, along with examples, in Chapter 8.

Also note that diffusion terms are omitted from the above analysis. The characteristic propagation velocity for diffusional transport is infinite (i.e. the eigenvalues of the flux Jacobian matrix are complex), and so too would be our numerical diffusion. Fortunately, the diffusion operator cannot itself generate internal numerical oscillations (see discussions elsewhere in this document regarding the so-called *maximum principal*). It is sufficient to include only the non-diffusive flux terms in the characteristic analysis.

Finally, note that the above analysis could be automated. As part of the user-model interface, the FMS2D user supplies conserved quantities and convective fluxes formed using the current state values. In principal, the resulting flux vector could be numerically linearized to form the flux Jacobian and eigenvalues could be numerically extracted as required. One might suggest this as a way to completely isolate the physics model specification from the numerical solution algorithms. However, the linearization and eigenvalue decomposition algorithms are computationally expensive, especially given the frequency they would be required and the accuracy of the the method. Fortunately, the analytic procedure above has only to be carried out once per system, and that could be accomplished using modern symbolic manipulation software packages.

5.2.3 Source Terms

The source terms can be integrated to second order over the cells by accounting only for the linear variation of the unknown state quantities. This can be accomplished simply be multiplying the source term evaluated with the state quantities at the center of each cell, with the respective cell's volume.

The source term plays a dominant role in the dynamics of the edge plasma, particularly in the high, and ultra-high recycling regimes. We therefore experimented with various higher accuracy methods to treat the nonlinear sources separately, e.g. 1–100 point Gaussian quadrature methods. We found that any more than single point integrations were inconsequential to the results obtained. Presumably, any benefit we gained by integrating the sources more accurately was swamped by the the large errors of the low-order convection operator described above. Additional testing of the source term discretization should follow implementation of higher order convection operators.

5.2.4 Numerical Boundary Conditions

Boundary conditions for our system are expressed as

$$G\left(\vec{s}, \nabla s, \vec{x}, t\right) = 0, \vec{x} \in \partial\Omega$$

where $\partial\Omega$ is the boundary of the computational domain, and $\vec{s}$ is the state. For the tokamak edge fluid models, these equations are nonlinear, and couple the various conserved quantities. Consider a Hydrogen plasma in contact with material surfaces. Here, Bohm sheath conditions apply such that $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{n} = C_s = \sqrt{k(T_e + T_i)/M}$ ($\vec{n}$ is the outward normal vector). The electron power flux to the surface is expressed in terms of a sheath transmission factor, δ, times the convected internal energy

$$P = \delta k T_e J_{sat}^{+},$$
$$\delta \cong 2/(1-\gamma_e) + \left(\frac{1}{2} M C_s^{\prime 2} + kT_i + e\left[kT_e \frac{1}{2} \ln\left(\frac{M/2\pi m}{1 + T_i/T_e}\right)\right]\right)(1 - R_{iE}) \cong 7$$

for a pure Hydrogen plasma, where J_{sat} is the current of exiting plasma particles, γ_e is the secondary electron coefficient, and R_{iE} is the ion energy reflection fraction. Moreover, some quantities may be completely outward flowing at a boundary. In such cases, an explicit boundary condition is inappropriate, yet a boundary node may need to be present for other conserved quantities in the system. Numerical implications of both these features are discussed.

Since the steady state physical boundary equations contain no explicit relaxation parameter, the conditions must be satisfied at each time step. Such *instantaneous* application leads to numerical problems owing to two distinct phenomena. First, the nonlinear equations may be too difficult to solve without continuation or relaxation methods. Second, internal conservation for diffusion dominated systems leads to oscillatory internal profiles during system relaxation. Both problems are remedied by evolving the boundary condition equations with a pseudo time relaxation.

To illustrate, consider linear diffusion with a fixed boundary and flat initial conditions displaced from the solution. We wish to evolve the system to steady state using time relaxation of the internal profile. However, the initial time step is often considerably smaller than the characteristic diffusion time. Boundary conditions are satisfied exactly (without time relaxation), and the discrete cell next to the boundary will see a diffusion flux due to the the resulting gradient at the boundary. Since the time step is too small to allow diffusional transport, an opposing gradient will be set up internally to counter the boundary flux. Oscillating internal values are subsequently required to minimize net fluxes into each discrete cell. As the system evolves, the internal extrema will be diffused from the system, but strongly coupled plasma profiles will often evolve subsequently to conditions where the Newton algorithm can no longer solve the nonlinear equation for the next time step.

To remedy the situation, we evolve the boundary conditions according to a user-specified characteristic relaxation time, from the initial condition to a final time-independent steady value. The equation of interest is

$$\frac{dG}{dt} = -\frac{G(t)}{\tau_{BC}}$$

which becomes $G = 0$ in steady state. A backward Euler time discretization is applied, giving (after manipulations to cast the expression in terms of a residual function appropriate for our nonlinear solution routine)

$$R^{k+1} = G^{k+1} - G^{k}\left(\frac{\tau_{BC}}{dt + \tau_{BC}}\right)$$

where superscripts refer to discrete time level. An appropriate τ_{BC} is closely related to physical diffusion times and the exact form of the boundary condition. In FMS2D, τ_{BC} is therefore specified by the user for each of the states and independently along each of the boundary segments.

The outflow condition can be expressed in terms of an equation for the boundary node if we provide a consistent extrapolation expression of the internal profile.

Numerically, interior accuracy is maintained if such extrapolations are carried out to one order below that of the numerical scheme applied to the internal nodes. For our purposes, second order accuracy will suffice, so we use linear extrapolation, i. e.

$$G^k = s_{BC}^k - \left[s_2^k + \frac{s_1^k - s_2^k}{x_1^k - x_2^k}(x_{BC} - x_2) \right]$$

at time k, where BC, 1, 2 refer to values on the boundary, and one and two nodes into the domain, respectively. Here, x_A is the *distance* to the boundary node from point A. This expression is inserted into the discretized time relaxation given above, from the solver's point of view, the outflow boundaries are treated uniformly with the rest of the equations.

Corner points exist so that every internal node looks identical in logical space. No conservation equation exists for the corner point, and it straddles physically two boundaries that may have different associated boundary conditions. We chose to use a simple planar extrapolation to compute the corner point state values, and have not seen any negative repercussion from the choice.

5.2.5 Time evolution

In these early stages of code development, we sought only steady solutions to the general equation, Equation 5.1. But strong nonlinearities often prevented iterative nonlinear solution approaches from converging–our implementation of the Newton-Raphson technique is discussed in a subsequent section. In the literature, a successful method relies on 'parameter continuation'. For our system of conservation laws, a quite natural continuation parameter is pseudo-time, so-called because we are disinterested in the details of the solution profiles as they evolve toward a steady equilibrium.

In FMS2D, the backward Euler method is the implemented time marching scheme;

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} \sim \frac{C^{k+1} - C^k}{\Delta t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}^{k+1} + \nabla \cdot \left[\mathbf{D^{k+1}} \cdot \nabla(\mathbf{s^{k+1}})\right] + S^{k+1}, \tag{5.6}$$

where superscripts denote time level, and $k+1$ is at a time Δt past the time at k. This equation is nonlinear, and becomes easier to solve as Δt approaches zero (where $\mathbf{s}^{k+1} = \mathbf{s}^k$). The easier equations are solved (using methods detailed in the following section), marching the profiles from initial guesses to steady state consistent solutions.

Near the completion of this work, we began to suspect that the foregoing method may not be appropriate for strongly coupled systems, because the nonlinear solver must evolve all states at a large time step. This may lead to non-physical damping of mode propagations that are necessary to keep the solution physical. In practice, we found with this adaptive time stepping, plasmas with significant internal structure evolving naturally to non-physical states. Often, the time stepping subsequently failed. Additional research is required here to determine if time-accuate solution methods would behave more appropriately.

5.2.6 Equation Solvers

The time and space discretized fluid equations, along with the discretized boundary conditions, form a nonlinear system of N equations, where N is the total number of unknowns—the number of states per cell ($n_0, n, u_\|$, and T, for example) times the number of grid cells—typically as large as $10,000$. These equations can be written as

$$R(\mathbf{s}) = 0. \tag{5.7}$$

This system may be strongly nonlinear, due to state dependent transport coefficients and source terms, for example. To solve the system, we use the multi-dimensional Newton's method [116]. Apparently, this method was first applied to the tokamak edge plasma problem by Knoll[69]. In this approach, starting from a present best guess, $\mathbf{s}_0$, we look for a small correction $\delta\mathbf{s}$ that solves

$$R(\mathbf{s}_0 + \delta\mathbf{s}) = 0. \tag{5.8}$$

By linearizing this equation, $R(\mathbf{s}_0 + \delta\mathbf{s}) \approx R(\mathbf{s}_0) + \delta\mathbf{s} \cdot J$, the correction can be obtained from

$$\delta\mathbf{s} \cdot J = -R(\mathbf{s}_0), \tag{5.9}$$

where $J(\mathbf{s}_0)$ is the "Jacobian matrix" of the nonlinear system. The linear system solution process is discussed in a later section.

Even if the linear problems can be solved adequately, Newton's method is often still unable to find a solution to the equilibrium equations directly. The initial guess may be too far from the equilibrium or the linearization used to derive the method may be a poor approximation to the full nonlinear problem. We guard against divergent Newton steps by damping undesirably large values (i.e. $\delta\mathbf{s} \rightarrow \lambda\delta\mathbf{s}$, where $\lambda \leq 1$). Our initial implementation was that of [117], but we found serious convergence problems when trying to solve difficult plasmas in the ITER parameter regime. These difficulties have not been reported in the literature. We therefore do not rule out that our implementation faithfully adhered to the specifications. In the most recent incarnation of the FMS2D code, the damping factor, λ, is set to alternatively unity, and then modified as follows:

$$\lambda = MIN\left(\lambda, \left|\frac{f_{max} s_i^{scale}}{ds_i}\right|\right) \tag{5.10}$$

where i runs over all unknowns, ds_i is the full Newton update for the ith component of the unknown state vector, s_i^{scale} is a characteristic scale value for each state, and f_{max} is a fixed number. The scale quantities are specified (also via the user interface file) functions of the local state, gradient, position and time. If, as is typical, s_i^{scale} is simply the local value of the state, Equation 5.10 just ensures that each value of the updated state will not differ from previous values by more than a factor of λ (and positive definite quantities, such as temperature and density will not be allowed to acquire negative values). This is not adequate, however for velocity components which will, in general, cross zero, and may coincidently take on small values. Since Equation 5.10 depends on state dependent scales, we can choose that the scale of the velocity components to vary as the local sound speed. In practice, we dynamically set the velocity scale function to

$$s_u^{scale} = MAX(\{u\} + f_u C_s)$$

where $f \sim 0.3$, and C_s is the local sound speed.

In addition to the above criterion, it seemed prudent to enforce that each state be limited ultimately to never leave a user-specified range. The following is therefore also applied:

$$if\ \left(s_i - \lambda ds_i < s_i^{min}\right)\ then\, \lambda = \frac{s_i - s_i^{min}}{ds_i}$$
$$if\ \left(s_i - \lambda ds_i > s_i^{max}\right)\ then\, \lambda = \frac{s_i - s_i^{max}}{ds_i}$$

In practice, if the latter criteria were met so as to reduce the damping parameter, the Newton iteration procedure often ceases to converge. The reason is that the linearized equation may admit solution update vectors that continue to point out of the "box" specified by $[s_i^{min}, s_i^{max}]$. The Newton iteration process then 'beats against the box walls' indefinitely. In FMS2D, this situation will eventually be flagged as a unconverged termination of the Newton solver.

The foregoing damping procedure, combined with the adaptive time evolution procedure has resulted in a marginally robust set of nonlinear solution tools, that have performed satisfactorily on *most* problems of interest. We find rather poor performance when applied to very difficult plasmas, such as those in the volume-recombination or gas-target regimes.

5.3 Linear System Construction/Solution

Repetitive construction of the $N \times N$ Jacobian system and its solution dominates the computational effort required to solve our set of nonlinear equations (here N = *number of grid points (M)* $\times$ *number of unknowns (K)*). Practical solutions are obtained only by minimizing the storage requirements and optimizing the solution process for these linear systems. We detail the storage and linear solution schemes available in the FMS2D code, because both have a very significant impact on the maximum accuracy and speed for which a given plasma model can ultimately be computed. We find that the Jacobian matrix must be stored in a sparse format, and that an approximation to the matrix must also be systematically constructed, decomposed and stored in order to carry out efficient linear solution techniques.

The values stored as entries in the Jacobian have significant physical interpretation. An entry quantifies the degree of influence one unknown has over another in the domain, i.e. Jacobian rows are the set of linearized stencil entries about each node in the system. Knowing that we have constructed a *local* discretization of the conservation partial differential equations, we have determined in advance that many of these elements are zero by design. In fact, owing to the 9-point stencil we have incorporated, there are, at most, $9K$ nonzero entries per row. Since this is considerably less than the total number of positions in the $N \times N$ matrix, we can drastically reduce the storage requirements of our code.

A logically rectangular 2D domain is arbitrarily divided into cells. We arbitrarily number these cells via a single index starting in the "lower-left corner", and proceeding left-to-right first, then bottom-to-top. Indexing within the Jacobian is further chosen to vary fastest on the individual states at each node. If there are five states in the system of interest, the first five rows of the Jacobian will specify the linearized discretization stencil for these five states at the node in the lower left corner of the grid (grid-major ordering–see figure 5.3). Locations of the nonzero entries in the Jacobian matrix are depicted graphically in Figure 5.3 (ignoring boundary nodes). The nonzero entries can be stored in a rectangular array that is $N \times 9K$ provided we carry along an integer pointer array of the same size to select the column occupied by each nonzero element. Storing and manipulating even these reduced matrices accounts for a majority of the memory requirements of FMS2D (limiting run sizes to $(M, K) \leq (10^4, 10))$.

Sparse linear solution algorithms are abundant in the literature, and are the subject of intense active research. However, many ready-made state-of-the-art routines are available from, e.g. netlib[118], such as those included in the *SLAP*[119], *SPARSEPAK*[120], *LAPACK*[121] and *ITPACK*[122] packages. We made heavy use of both of these public domain packages early in the development of FMS2D, but ultimately created routines that were tailored for our specific needs, as described below.

Sparse methods are generally of two types: optimized Gaussian elimination, and Krylov iteration techniques. The standard Gaussian elimination algorithm is detailed in any introductory matrix algebra textbook (cf. [123]). With proper precautions, the method is very general and robust. However, it is also prohibitively slow and memory intensive. The forward substitution phase of the solution process produces a dense lower triangular matrix (where all elements must be stored), while the entire process requires approximately $2N^3/3$ arithmetic operations. Thus, doubling a 2D grid would lead to 64 times the computational work.

More useful Gaussian elimination-based solvers apply various element reordering algorithms to minimize the bandwidth about the diagonal of the Jacobian matrix[124, 125]. This in turn minimizes the degree of fill-in encountered during the forward decomposition phase of the standard Gaussian elimination procedure. Minimizing the fill-in leads to less arithmetic operations (by a factor of N^2/W^2, where W is the full band width[126]), and reduced storage requirements. The main drawback to these schemes for 2D PDE's is that the minimum achievable bandwidth scales like the width of the grid, ($\sim \sqrt{N}$). Here the computational work to solve the linear systems will scale as $\mathcal{O}N^2$, and for large systems, is beyond current hardware capabilities. Note however that for 1D problems (and for preconditioning to be described later), the grid width is unity, and banded-GE becomes quite efficient (banded-GE is presently used in most 1D edge plasma fluid codes).

Krylov-based methods appear to be much more attractive for large systems of linear equations arising from 2D conservation PDE's. The general idea is to cast the linear matrix equation into the form of a functional minimization. Any linear system, $Ax = b$ can be written as a quadratic functional, $\phi(x)$, defined by

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Ax - x^T b$$

where $b \in \mathcal{R}^N$ and $A \in \mathcal{R}^{N\times N}$. The minimum value of ϕ (if one exists) is $-b^T A^{-1}b/2$, achieved by setting $x = A^{-1}b$. Minimizing ϕ and solving $Ax = b$ are equivalent problems.

Why would we want to cast our linear equations into a form that looks harder to solve? The minimum of this functional can be found geometrically by sliding down the gradient of the surface in the $N-$dimensional subspace of the quadratic functional. The gradient is spatially dependent, so if we move some distance towards the solution, and then recalculate a new gradient direction, the procedure makes up an iterative technique that leads to the solution of our linear system. In a Conjugate Gradient (CG) method, the iterations are constructed via a simple three-term recurrence[2], which is most effective if the level sets of $\phi(x)$ are nearly circular in the *Krylov* subspace. The relevant parameter, $\kappa =$ condition number, is a measure of the ellipticity of these surfaces.

The method is optimal for elliptic problems, where $\kappa \approx 1$. A preconditioner can always be applied to transform the original general (non-elliptic) problem into one more suitable. An optimal preconditioner is constructed by approximating the original linear system with one much easier to solve, say $Kx = b$. for convection/diffusion problems in 2D, a reasonable K operator approximates A as the sum of 1D "slices". A set if block tridiagonal linear systems result which are easily solved using banded-GE techniques. Other possibilities involve partial decomposition of the matrix into Choelesky or LU type pieces (see any standard introductory

[2]For an excellent review of how this is done, the reader is referred to [127].

matrix analysis course textbooks), or even just simple Jacobi iterations.

For completeness, the BiCGSTAB algorithm is outlined below, as implemented in FMS2D. Here K_1 is a left preconditioner, K_2 is a right preconditioner, $K = K_1K_2$ so that the modified linear system being solved is $\left(K_1^{-1}AK_2^{-1}\right)(K_2x) = K_1^{-1}b$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
&r_0 = b - Ax_0, \bar{r}_0 = r_0 \\
&\rho_0 = \alpha = \omega_0 = 1, \\
&v_0 = p_0 = 0, \\
&\quad \rho_i = \bar{r}_0 r_{i-1}; \beta = (\rho_i/\rho_{i-1})(\alpha/\omega_{i-1}) \\
&\quad y = K^{-1}p_i; v_i = Ay, \\
&\quad \alpha = \rho_i/(\bar{r}_0 v_i); \\
&\quad s = r_{i-1} - \alpha v_i; \\
&\quad z = K^{-1}s; t = Az; \\
&\quad \omega_i = \left(K_1^{-1}t\right)\left(K_1^{-1}s\right) / \left(\left(K_1^{-1}t\right)\left(K_1^{-1}t\right)\right); \\
&\quad x_i = x_{i-1} + \alpha y + \omega_i z; \\
&\quad r_i = s - \omega_i t
\end{aligned}
$$

In typical applications, we set K_1 to the line-by-line sweep, once along each of the two coordinates, and set K_2 to just the identity matrix.

Matrix Scaling

Numerical accuracy and speed of the solution process is strongly governed by how well J is computed, and how well the algebraic system is iteratively solved. In our case, the un-scaled modified Braginskii set given earlier consists of variables that range in magnitude from 10^{-3} to 10^{20}. Elements of the residual vector can also have arbitrary magnitudes that depend entirely on the discretization technique.

The most general way to optimize the condition of the linear systems is to employ both row *and* column scaling before solution. Column scaling effectively equalizes the influence of the various states, according to a user specified normalization. The row scaling is carried out subsequently, by simply re-scaling each row to unity. The algebraic system solved then becomes

$$\delta \mathbf{s} \cdot J_{\mathrm{new}} = -R_{\mathrm{new}}$$

where $J_{\mathrm{new}} = \mathbf{R}\left(\mathbf{C}\left(J\right)\right)$, and $R_{\mathrm{new}} = \mathbf{R}\left(\mathbf{C}\left(R\right)\right)$. The scaling process is general, and equivalent in some sense, to non-dimensionalizing the equation set. The practical difference is that the user need not be concerned with scaling the input equations (which may be quite complex) or converting the results to useful quantities upon output from the code. There is however, a certain degree of flexibility in choosing the column scaling matrix that ultimately has a very large impact on the solution efficiency of the Newton algorithm. In fact, poor choice may itself cause the Newton iterations to diverge in the more strongly coupled plasma scenarios.

5.4 Detecting Convergence

The convergence tests applied to the nonlinear solution algorithm must not only be designed to detect a reasonable completion of the calculation but also when an iteration cycle gets “hung up” (as occurs near local minima on the solution manifold) and also when equations in the system are solved identically at the outset, so that further residual reduction is not possible. Additionally, we found it convenient to recognize when the iterations fail to make reasonable progress after some fixed number of iterations.

Convergence at a particular time step is obtained when any of the following three events occurs for each of the unknowns:

1. the Newton update, dx_i is small compared to a typical scale value of the

state, $\langle x \rangle_i$, or

2. the Newton update, is considerably smaller than the largest update in the present iteration cycle, dx_i^{max}, or

3. the residual has been significantly reduced from its maximum, r_i^{max}.

The scale values are returned as part of the model interface file, and therefore can depend dynamically on the state, state gradient, position and time (this scale value is also used to column-scale the Jacobian matrix). A vector of maximum values for the nodal residuals and iteration updates is maintained for the current iteration cycle to make these comparisons. The pseudo-code form of the test is as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\text{do } i = 1{,}N \\
&\quad if\ [\quad (r_i > f_1\, r_i^{max}) \\
&\quad\ \cap (dx_i > f_2\, dx_i^{max}) \\
&\quad\ \cap\ (dx_i > f_3 \langle x \rangle_i)]\ \ then\ \text{not converged}
\end{aligned}
$$

A flag is set, $converged\ =\ .TRUE.$, prior to entering this loop, and is reset if the condition is true for any component.

We also want to stop the iterations if the iteration number, $k > k_{max}$ the maximum allowable, or if

$$
\begin{aligned}
&if\quad k = k_{check} \\
&\quad \text{do } i = 1{,}N \\
&\qquad if\ [\,(r_i > f_4\, r_i^{max}) \cap (dx_i > f_5 \langle x \rangle_i)\,]\quad then\ \text{stop iteration}
\end{aligned}
$$

This enforces that the iterations will be terminated if progress towards solution is too slow. f_i, k_{max} and k_{check} are arbitrary parameters, and the iteration is stopped if either of the these or the first set of situations are detected. For all calculations presented in this thesis, the values used were $f_1 = f_2 = f_3 = 10^{-6}, f_4 = f_5 = .125, k_{max} = 8$ and $k_{check} = 4$. No studies were performed to determine the relation these values had to the efficiency of the computations.

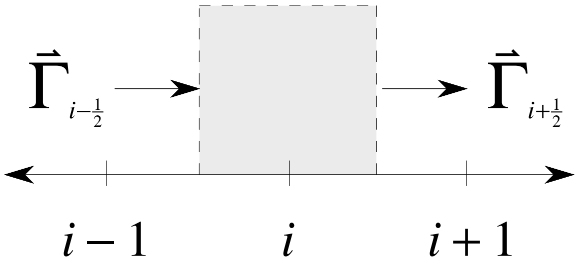

Figure 5.1. Advection on a discrete 1D grid

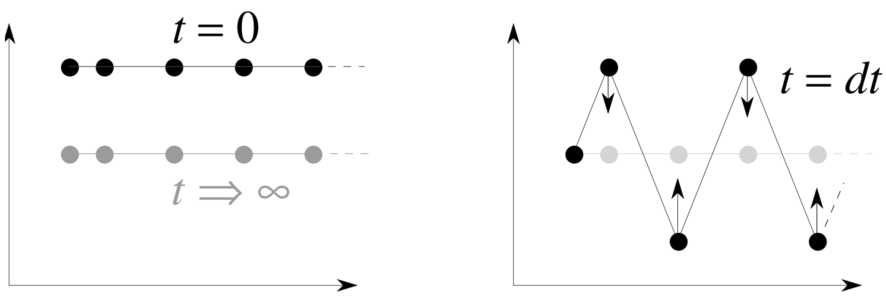

Figure 5.2. Transient profile oscillations due to boundary conditions

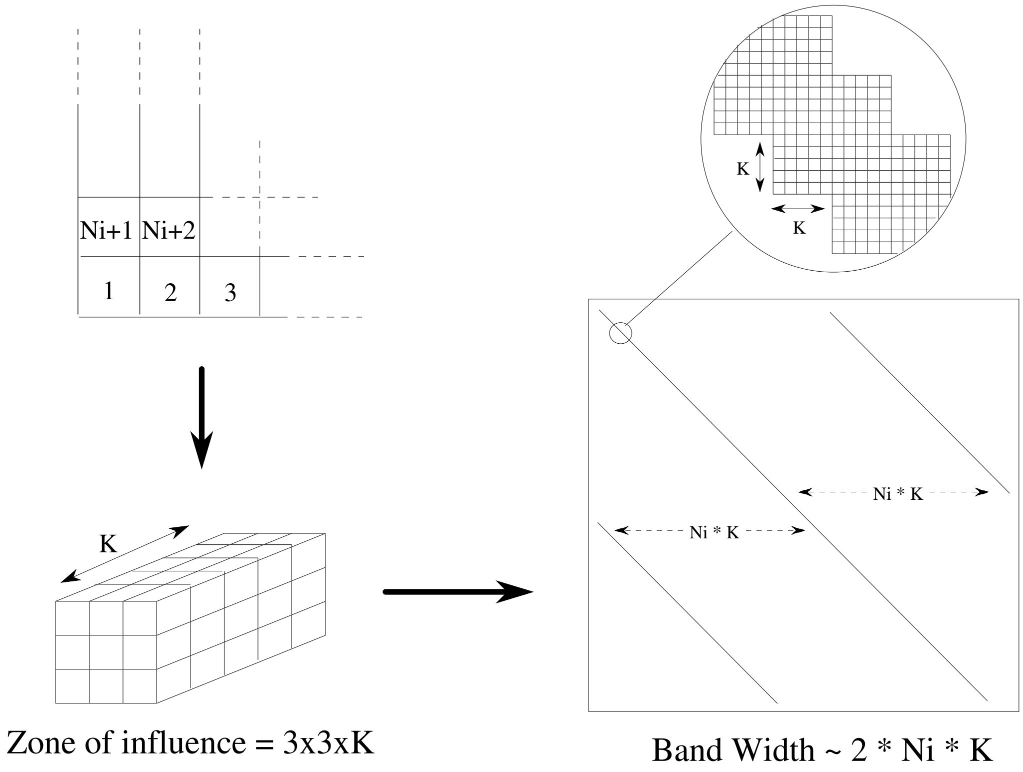

Figure 5.3. Local stencil and element numbering leading a to sparse Jacobian matrix. The picture depicts the locations of nonzero entries in the matrix.

Chapter 6

Anisotropic Dissipation

The behavior of numerical methods in the solution of diffusion problems is quite well understood in one space dimension, and even in two dimensions, provided the diffusivity tensor is isotropic. However, in our 2D application, diffusion flux along the poloidal flux surface (e.g. parallel electron heat conduction) can be orders of magnitude stronger than its cross field counterpart. Discretizing the resulting anisotropic diffusion flux can often lead to unexpected, non-physical results.

The numerical difficulties associated with anisotropic dissipation have been noted in many scientific fields. Applications include analysis of X-ray and MRI scans of bone tissue[128], edge and velocity field detection for the analysis of heart motion[129], determination of the principal stress axis orientations in composite material formation[130], earth mantle convection models[131, 132], polymer forming processes[133] and anisotropic mixing-length theories for fluid calculations involving turbulent eddies[134, 135]. In recent applications, researchers also apply anisotropic dissipation along flow streamlines to stabilize otherwise unphysically oscillatory numerical schemes(c.f. [136, 137]).

In order to discuss the problem, we make a couple of definitions. Consider the steady diffusion equation:

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{D} \cdot \nabla u) = 0 \tag{6.1}$$

$\mathbf{D}$ is the diffusivity tensor, and u is the diffused quantity. We can write the differential operator of Eq. 6.1 in an arbitrary curvilinear coordinate system:

$$\frac{1}{h_x h_y}\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}\left(D_{ij}\frac{h_x h_y}{h_i}\frac{\partial u}{\partial x_j}\right) = 0, \;\; i,j \in \{x,y\}$$

The tensor elements, D_{ij}, here are with respect to the x, y-coordinate system, and h_i are the corresponding metric coefficients. We are concerned primarily with elliptic operators such that there exists a rotation transformation that annihilates the off-diagonal diffusion terms, D_{ij}, where $i \neq j$ (see Figure 6.1). Often the physical diffusion properties of a system are most easily expressed in this rotated coordinate frame.

$$\begin{aligned} &\{x,y\} \Rightarrow \{s,r\} \ni \\ &\nabla \cdot (D \cdot \nabla u) = \frac{\partial}{\partial s}\left(D_{ss}\frac{\partial u}{\partial s}\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(D_{rr}\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}\right) = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{6.2}$$

Under these conditions, the diffusion operator is separable into two 1D-like problems (due to the lack of cross-diffusion). Numerical discretizations of this type of operator consists of simple extensions of the standard one-dimensional diffusion differences extensively studied in most introductory books on numerical analysis (c.f. [82]). Such a transformation is possible in models of the tokamak edge, and in fact is used exclusively in modern edge plasma fluid calculations. Here, numerical grids are generated to follow the principal axes of diffusion (i.e. along the poloidal flux surfaces), and the diffusive flux divergence is computed as a simple linear sum of the two contributing terms in Equation 6.2.

However, in view of the complex magnetic field structure and intricate bounding vessel designs of a tokamak edge, it is not always convenient to construct such numerical grids. We have motivation to investigate the feasibility of a more general scheme. In particular, we want that the scheme allow discrete cells to follow the shapes of bounding structures, which often are *not* aligned with the principal axes.

In the following chapter, we develop these techniques. We begin by describing important limitations of existing methods, and then give an example that demonstrates some pitfalls of a naively designed solution to the problem. After studying the pitfalls, a general solution becomes self-evident, and results in an optimized stencil for misaligned dissipation. We explore the limitations of this new stencil for extreme test cases, and then in situations closer to that expected in a tokamak edge plasma.

6.1 Motivation to Generalize for Edge Plasma

In previous computational edge modeling efforts, the same poloidal flux surface coordinates used to describe the physical model of the system, were also used to guide the location of the discrete domain sub-volumes. See Figure 6.2 for an example of one such grid, based on the flux surfaces of the single-null configuration of the current ITER design. As noted earlier, the choice clearly seems to be the most convenient because the edge plasma has distinct physical behavior along each of the two coordinates (i.e. the principal axes of diffusion lay along the poloidal coordinates). Unfortunately however, the poloidal flux surface direction rarely aligns with the bounding vessel in experimental and fusion grade reactors. Rather, the flux surfaces intersect such structures at grazing angles ($\leq 10°$) to minimize engineering difficulties caused by heat and particle fluxes (compare the "lower legs" of the left plot in Figure 6.2 with the target regions of Figure 2.5). Despite that the vessel geometry often has minimal direct impact on the magnetized plasma species, the neutral particles in the edge move independent of the field, and are emitted from the shaped vessel walls. The plasma/neutral coupling gives rise to an indirect geometry dependence of the charged species that has a *significant* impact over resulting plasma profiles. See [18, 100] for initial studies of this effect.

Poloidal flux surface gridding is problematic additionally near the X-point (see Figure 2.5), where the coordinates become singular and the computational domains become multiply connected. Multiply connected computational domains lose the inherent efficiency and simplicity associated with structured grids. They require complex mapping procedures and intricate techniques for marching through the system—making basic tasks, such as linear solutions and visualizing results much more complicated, and in this case inhibiting the use of more modern techniques.

Finally, we note that a great many numerical schemes exist for handling multidimensional convection problems (c.f. Reference [138] for a review, and Reference [139] for example applications). We will demonstrate later in the work, that such 'higher-order' convection schemes are indeed necessary in the fluid edge problem, yet few are easily extensible to complex multiply connected problem domains. Therefore, both to overcome practical complexity as well as fundamental limitations of present discretization schemes available for the tokamak edge fluid problem, we investigated methods for highly anisotropic dissipation that do not require an aligned computational mesh.

For simplicity, we construct a model problem wherein dissipation acts only along one of two locally orthogonal (curvilinear) coordinates ($\hat{r}$ and $\hat{s}$, where $\hat{s} = \vec{B}/\|\vec{B}\|$, and dissipation is solely along $\hat{s}$). Extension to anisotropic diffusion in multiple directions is straight forward, and will be included where appropriate for later applications.

We make the following definitions and assumptions. The orientation angle, θ, of the anisotropy field is specified as a function of x and y (the fundamental spatial coordinates, usually cartesian or cylindrical), measured counter-clockwise from the positive x-axis. x and y are specified with ξ and η (the grid coordinates), see Figure 6.3. The grid is fixed in time, and may be irregular, nonorthogonal, and/or not aligned with the poloidal flux surfaces. It is assumed that the grid varies smoothly in space so that grid transformation relations are smoothly differentiable[1]. We proceed to derive an optimization principal that will guide the development, and define the applicability range, of our new misaligned diffusion operator.

6.2 A Simple System with Problems

Note first, however, that a great deal of guidance can be obtained without the general machinery. To motivate a more complete analysis, we take $(\hat{r}, \hat{s}) := (\xi, \eta)$, the orientation angle, $\theta = 0$, $D_{\xi\xi} = 1$, and $D_{\eta\eta} = 0$. Here, the Equation 6.1 takes a rather simple form, namely

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} = 0 \tag{6.3}$$

Using standard numerical techniques, the domain is split into finite trapezoidal zones, and the conserved states are monitored at the centers of these cells. We denote u^* the set of values of u at the (equal spaced) mesh locations. The discrete

[1] Rigorously, "smooth" grid spacings change by somewhat less than factors of two over the width of the stencil. This requirement is especially important in maintaining accuracy levels in profiles with significant structure, and can be relaxed in regions of smooth behavior. Finite element schemes do not have this requirement because adjacent regions are never "sampled", but they have their own pitfalls and requirements. The reader is referred to [14] for a short review.

operator Υ will operate on u^* consistent with Equation 6.3. A minimum practical set of neighbors in two dimensions that allows direct communication of information from all directions includes eight surrounding nodes. If we expect the numerical and differential operators to possess identical symmetries across the coordinate axes, the difference stencil approximating Equation 6.3 must be of the form:

$$\Upsilon\left(u^*_{\xi,\eta}\right) = \frac{\partial^2 u^*_{\xi,\eta}}{\partial \xi^2} = \frac{\partial^2 u^*_{\xi,\eta}}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 u^*_{\xi,\eta}}{\partial \hat{s}^2}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} a & -2a & a \\ b & -2b & b \\ a & -2a & a \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} u_{\xi-1,\eta+1} & u_{\xi,\eta+1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta+1} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta} & u_{\xi,\eta} & u_{\xi+1,\eta} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta-1} & u_{\xi,\eta-1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

where a and b are free (positive) parameters, but are scaled to create an operator consistent with Equation 6.3. The discrete state matrix above is formed at all internal nodes, (ξ, η) ($u_{\xi,\eta}$ is the value of the discrete state function, u^*, at the $(x_{\xi,\eta}, y_{\xi,\eta})$ specified by (ξ, η)) and the matrix operation is the scalar product function, $A : B = A_{ij}B_{ij}$.

In this very simple system, we find that any values for (a, b) other than $(0, 1)$ lead to results that violate The Maximum Principle (see [140] for example). The Maximum Principle states that profiles that obey elliptic differential equations will have extrema only on the boundary. Unwise choices of (a, b) lead to internal oscillations that satisfy the difference equations, but violate the dissipation physics being modeled.

For example, if we construct the operator, Υ, by centrally differencing a bilinear profile, as suggested in [14], a simple analysis for a uniform mesh yields $(a, b) = (\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2})$. This discretization was applied to the Dirichlet case, where the boundary conditions had discontinuities along the sides parallel to the anisotropy—the two boundary values are set arbitrarily to .55 and 1. The exact internal solution is a plane, $u^* = x$, because there is no y-directed diffusivity to communicate the $y = 0$ or $y = 1$ boundary information into the domain. Along the boundaries, $u^* = .55$ if $x < .5$, and $u^* = 1$ if $x \geq .5$. The solution to this discrete system using the bilinear stencil is shown as the left plot in Figure 6.4. We obtain a more suitable discretization setting $(a, b) = (0, 1)$. The resulting profile is shown on the right of the figure, and produces the exact (i.e. nonoscillatory) solution. The disparity in results for two convergent schemes indicates the importance of proper diffusion scheme design.

6.3 General Stencil Anaysis

That the bilinear stencil produces internal oscillations is not a surprise if one studies the individual stencil elements. Since negative weight is given to some of the neighboring cells in the stencil, there will always be the possibility that an internal state value will not have a value between the extrema of its surrounding neighbors (i.e. potentially violate The Maximum Principle). Oscillations are particularly likely if the boundary conditions contain a discontinuity.

We set out then to design a difference scheme without such negative external stencil elements, and begin with a few additional required definitions. For the moment we retain the simplicity of a uniform mesh $(x, y) := (\xi, \eta)$, though we accommodate a (constant) direction, $\theta \neq 0$ of rotation of the principal diffusion axes from the x-coordinate. We also define $D_{ss} := D$, and $D_{rr} := d$ $(\leq D)$, respectively the diffusivities along the *major* and *minor* principal axes. The diffusivity tensor, $\mathbf{D}$, is rotated from the field-aligned coordinates to (x, y), following the rules for rank-2 tensors:

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{bmatrix} D & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix}_{sr} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{xy} \\ D_{xy} & D_{yy} \end{bmatrix}_{xy} = \begin{bmatrix} D\cos^2\theta + d\sin^2\theta & (D-d)\sin\theta\cos\theta \\ (D-d)\sin\theta\cos\theta & D\sin^2\theta + d\cos^2\theta \end{bmatrix}_{xy}$$

Note that for elliptic (i.e. *positive definite*) problems, $Eu := Au_{xx} + 2Bu_{xy} + Cu_{yy}$,

$$B^2 \leq AC. \tag{6.4}$$

(An operator is positive definite if it has all positive eigenvalues). We seek a *positive-type*[141] scheme

$$\Upsilon\left(u^*_{\xi,\eta}\right) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{nw} & a_n & a_{ne} \\ a_w & a_c & a_e \\ a_{sw} & a_s & a_{se} \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} u_{\xi-1,\eta+1} & u_{\xi,\eta+1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta+1} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta} & u_{\xi,\eta} & u_{\xi+1,\eta} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta-1} & u_{\xi,\eta-1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

such that the *external* stencil elements, $a_{nw}, a_n, a_{ne}, a_w, a_e, a_{sw}, a_s, a_{se}$ all have a sign opposite to that of the *central* stencil element, a_c. If such a scheme exists, then the numerical approximation to the elliptic operator will obey a discrete form of The Maximum Principal obeyed by the continuum elliptic operator. Local minima and maxima will not be allowed to exist in solution profiles within the grid length of the discrete stencil. On scales larger than the stencil, the continuum Maximum Principal holds, so that a global Maximum Principal will exist that precludes the non-physical, oscillatory solution profiles to the discrete equation, $\Upsilon = 0$. We present the following proposition:

> **Proposition:** Suppose $\Upsilon(u^*)$ is a *positive-type* approximation to the elliptic equation, $Eu := Au_{xx} + 2Bu_{xy} + Cu_{yy}$, and is represented by the above definition for the central and internal coefficients a_i on a uniform grid in x and y. Then the discrete form of Equation 6.4 holds. In fact, $B \leq \min(A, C)$.

To prove this proposition, we realize that the difference approximating the Laplacian must be symmetric about the x and y axes,

$$\Upsilon(x) = \Upsilon(-x), \quad , \Upsilon(y) = \Upsilon(-y)$$

This reduces the possible number of entries so that the operator must have the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & d \\ c & b & a \end{bmatrix} : \begin{bmatrix} u_{\xi-1,\eta+1} & u_{\xi,\eta+1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta+1} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta} & u_{\xi,\eta} & u_{\xi+1,\eta} \\ u_{\xi-1,\eta-1} & u_{\xi,\eta-1} & u_{\xi+1,\eta-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Further, the operator must satisfy

$$\Upsilon\left(x^2\right) = 2A$$

$$\Upsilon(xy) = 2B$$

$$\Upsilon\left(y^2\right) = 2C$$

where

$$A = D\cos^2\theta + d\,\sin^2\theta$$

$$B = (D-d)\,\sin\theta\,\cos\theta$$

$$C = D\sin^2\theta + d\,\cos^2\theta$$

Using that the mesh is has $\Delta x = \Delta y = 1$ evaluate Υ at the origin for the 3 profiles to obtain

$$2A = 2(a+b+c)$$

$$2B = 2(c-a)$$

$$2C = 2(a+b+c)$$

Now, since all stencil elements a, b, c, d must be positive, $c - a$ *must* be less than $c + a$, and is certainly less than $a + b + c$ if b is any positive constant. The proposition follows.

It is useful to determine what these conditions imply, with respect to the allowable anisotropy. Applying the proposition to the definition of A, B, C, we find

$$(D-d)\,\sin\theta\,\cos\theta \leq D\cos^2\theta + d\sin^2\theta$$

$$(D-d)\,\sin\theta\,\cos\theta \leq D\sin^2\theta + d\cos^2\theta$$

or, defining the ratio, $r = d/D \leq 1$ (remember that $d \leq D$) and rearranging,

$$\begin{aligned} r_{max} &\geq \frac{(\sin\theta - \cos\theta)}{(\sin\theta + \cos\theta)}\cot\theta, \text{and} \\ r_{max} &\geq \frac{(\cos\theta - \sin\theta)}{(\cos\theta + \sin\theta)}\tan\theta \end{aligned} \tag{6.5}$$

In order that both constraints, Equation 6.5, be satisfied, the diffusivity ratio, r, must lay within the shaded zone of Figure 6.5, which extends to $r = 1$ (isotropic dissipation). Notice that along grid directions, any ratio can be accommodated, as $r = 0$ approaches a one-dimensional problem in aligned coordinates. The most restrictive case occurs when the principal directions cut between the grid points, where the maximum dissipation ratio is approximately 5.8:1.

The results of the analysis are that in order to retain a 9-point *positive-type* numerical scheme when discretizing anisotropic dissipation arbitrarily oriented to the discrete grid, we cannot have principal diffusivities with a ratio of greater that about 5.8:1. In fact, the following shows that there will be a finite maximum representable anisotropy ratio no matter how large the discrete stencil, unless the anisotropy is aligned in one of the directions of the discrete grid:

> **General Discrete Anisotropic Dissipation:** Assume a local perturbation from equilibrium in a anisotropically diffusing medium. The potential energy of this disturbance is to be dissipated along the *principal* dissipation axes. Since a discrete diffusing system can only dissipate perturbations along the *mesh* directions, profile adjustment must affect both components of the gradient when the mesh is not aligned. However, the split of energy transport, forced by the orientation of the numerical grid, does not generally agree with the ratio of physical diffusivities. In general then, there will be an imbalance of potential energy with the available channels for dissipation, leading to residual energy in the system at steady state (in the form of internal maxima that violate the continuum Maximum Principle).

For our application, this is a rather bleak state of affairs; we must either align our grid to the anisotropy (which was shown earlier to fail some basic modeling requirements), or enlarge the stencil size to increase to number of directions available for alignment. The latter is suggestion not practical; numerical solution of the plasma models on five and nine point grids already consume the presently available computer CPU and memory limits.

In the next section, we design an alternative diffusion operator that aligns optimally with the discrete grid whenever possible. And despite that in some regions the resulting grid may be misaligned, we find the resulting operator quite useful for arbitrarily oriented anisotropic dissipation, even for diffusivity ratios of the order 1000:1, and greater. As a side note, we point out that the technique is useful for applying the first order streamwise artificial dissipation used to stabilize the convection terms in our model. Application of the artificial dissipation is covered separately elsewhere.

6.4 Fixed Constant Misaligned Diffusion

To develop a stencil-optimizing procedure, we continue with the assumption that the principal dissipation axes, (s, r), are rotated a fixed angle, θ, from the (x, y) system. Here, the diffusion equation is written

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{D} \cdot \nabla u) = D_{xx}\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2D_{xy}\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + D_{yy}\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0 \tag{6.6}$$

Applying the lessons learned in the previous section, the two second derivatives are discretized with the following operators:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \tag{6.7}$$

The mixed derivative may in general, be written as the following linear combination:

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{c_1}{2}\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{c_2}{2}\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{6.8}$$

where $c_1 + c_2 = 1$.

Since the mesh directions may also be constructed diagonally, we compute c_1 and c_2 to give the correct limiting results for each of the four grid directions $(\theta = 0, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{4}$. Using simple trigonometric relations, the results are:

$$\Upsilon(u^*) = \left(D\cos^2\theta + d\sin^2\theta\right)\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \left(D\sin^2\theta + d\cos^2\theta\right)\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$+2\left(D-d\right)\sin\theta\cos\theta\left(\frac{\cos^2\left(\theta-\frac{\pi}{4}\right)}{2}\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{\sin^2\left(\theta-\frac{\pi}{4}\right)}{2}\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

As required, this combination reduces to the central aligned *positive-type* stencils such as:

$$\Upsilon\left(u^{*}\right)=\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

when $\theta = n\frac{\pi}{4}$, $n = 1, 5, 9\ldots$ (and the intuitive extension for $\theta = n\frac{\pi}{4}$, $n = 3, 7, 11\ldots$)

To test the foregoing, we use a setup similar to the one used before. Since we designed the scheme to give the "correct" stencil when $\theta = 0$ and $\frac{\pi}{2}$ there is no need to test these cases (see previous sections for such results). The anisotropy is instead set skew to the mesh at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{8}$ and $\frac{\pi}{4}$ (and the boundary values are adjusted, as illustrated in the figure). Results are shown in Figure 6.6. Note that, as advertised, the directions that align with the mesh give a nodally exact solution, while those in between show the characteristic oscillations that result from negative external stencil weight values. Also note that $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{8}$ is the *worst* direction possible—the oscillations have maximum amplitude when the anisotropy cuts between representable directions. Finally note that these two, along with the $\frac{\pi}{2}$ case from the previous experiment, span the entire range of (constant) angles possible.

For comparison, we repeated the experiment using the simpler cross difference expression (in place of the complex term in brackets of the third term in (6.4)):

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{1}{4}\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

obtained by setting $c_1 = c_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ (and thereby precluding angle dependence), and also by switching the two mixed differences in the full expression (effectively giving the "worst" consistent, second order mixed difference). Because the rotating stencil ideas are employed, the discontinuity on the boundary does not lead to point-to-point oscillations. However, the lack of optimization leads to less than ideal results for the $-\frac{\pi}{4}$ cases, as shown in Figure 6.7. Note that both give comparable results. The corresponding $-\frac{\pi}{8}$ cases are shown in Figure 6.8. Interestingly, both give results that are comparable to those of the optimized stencil for the same case.

Finally, we notice that if we require a *positive-type* scheme, and the physical dissipation is unidirectional (diffusivity given by the scalar, D), then our derived constraints, Equation 6.5, give that an *artificial anisotropic dissipation* of magnitude $d = rD$ must be added to the system. The plot on the left in Figure 6.9 shows the standard result at $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{8}$ exhibiting the characteristic oscillations. The figure on the right shows the result when the minimal transverse diffusion is added. Note that all the solutions presented at $-\frac{\pi}{8}$ exhibit excessive smearing of the interface; adding artificial cross diffusion keeps the operator positive, preventing internal extrema, but at the cost of even further smearing of the solution. Based on these results, there seems little hope that the operator will fulfill our goals. In the next section, however, we present results to the contrary. We'll see that this section focused on the worse case ($\theta = n\frac{\pi}{8}, n = 1, 3 \ldots$), and that the scheme gives quite acceptable results for general $\theta = \theta(x, y)$.

6.5 Error Analysis for Rotating Stencil

It is informative to compute the order of convergence of this scheme using standard Taylor-series analysis methods. Here, we write the state values at neighboring points in the stencil as an expansion about the central point:

$$
\begin{aligned}
u_{i,j} &= f_1 u_{0,0} + f_2 \Delta_x u_x + f_3 \Delta_y u_y + \frac{\Delta_x^2}{2} u_{xx} + f_4 \frac{\Delta_x \Delta_y}{2} u_{xy} + f_5 \frac{\Delta_y^2}{2} u_{yy} \\
&+ f_7 \frac{\Delta_x^3}{6} u_{xxx} + f_8 \frac{\Delta_x^2 \Delta_y}{6} u_{xxy} + f_9 \frac{\Delta_x \Delta_y^2}{6} u_{xyy} + f_{10} \frac{\Delta_x^3}{6} u_{yyy} \\
&+ f_{11} \frac{\Delta_x^4}{24} u_{xxxx} + f_{12} \frac{\Delta_x^3 \Delta_y}{24} u_{xxxy} + f_{13} \frac{\Delta_x^2 \Delta_y^2}{24} u_{xxyy} + f_{14} \frac{\Delta_x \Delta_y^3}{24} u_{xyyy} + f_{15} \frac{\Delta_y^4}{24} u_{yyyy}
\end{aligned}
$$

The coefficients, f_k, are given in the following table for the column i, and row j (the centroid lays at (row,column)$=(0,0)$):

i,j	f_1	f_2	f_3	f_4	f_5	f_6	f_7	f_8	f_9	f_{10}	f_{11}	f_{12}	f_{13}	f_{14}	f_{15}
$-1,-1$	$+1$	-1	-1	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	-1	-1	-1	-1	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$
$-1,0$	$+1$	-1	0	$+1$	0	0	-1	0	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	0
$-1,+1$	$+1$	-1	$+1$	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$
$0,-1$	$+1$	0	-1	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	$+1$
$0,0$	$+1$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$0,+1$	$+1$	0	$+1$	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	0	$+1$
$+1,-1$	$+1$	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$	-1	$+1$
$+1,0$	$+1$	$+1$	0	$+1$	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	$+1$	0	0	0	0
$+1,+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$	$+1$

From this table, we deduce the following:

$$
u_{xy} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x \Delta_y} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & +2 & -1 \\ +1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Delta_x^2}{12} u_{xxxy} - \frac{\Delta_x \Delta_y}{12} u_{xxyy} - \frac{\Delta_y^2}{12} u_{xyyy}
$$

$$
u_{xy} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x \Delta_y} \begin{bmatrix} -1 & +1 & 0 \\ +1 & -2 & +1 \\ 0 & +1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Delta_x^2}{12} u_{xxxy} + \frac{\Delta_x \Delta_y}{12} u_{xxyy} - \frac{\Delta_y^2}{12} u_{xyyy}
$$

$$
u_{xx} = \frac{1}{\Delta_x^2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ +1 & -2 & +1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Delta_x^2}{12} u_{xxxx}
$$

$$u_{yy} = \frac{1}{\Delta_y^2}\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Delta_y^2}{12}u_{yyyy}$$

These expressions are inserted into Equation 6.4, and after a bit of tedious algebra, we obtain (for constant $\mathbf{D}$)

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{D} \cdot \nabla u) &= 0 = \Upsilon(u^*) \\ & -\frac{1}{24}\Delta_x\Delta_y (D-d)\, u_{xxyy}\sin^2 2\theta \\ & -\frac{1}{24}\ \Delta_x^2\ \left[2\left(D\cos^2\theta + d\sin^2\theta\right)u_{xxxx} + (D-d)\sin 2\theta u_{xxxy}\right] \\ & -\frac{1}{24}\ \Delta_y^2\ \left[2\left(D\sin^2\theta + d\cos^2\theta\right)u_{yyyy} + (D-d)\sin 2\theta u_{xyyy}\right] \end{aligned} \tag{6.9}$$

There are several things to note about the behavior of the error term in Equation 6.10. When $d = 0, D = 1$ and $\theta = 0$, we recover the the error expression given above for $\partial^2 u/\partial x^2$. Also note that the leading error term scales as Δ_x, i.e. the method is first order accurate unless $\theta = n\frac{\pi}{2}$, $n = 0, 1, 2\dots$ (anisotropy along the grid), in which case it is second order accurate, as expected. If $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$, the error term is first order in both grid directions, but if $\Delta_x = \Delta_y$, then the method is second order in the diagonal mesh spacing, $\Delta_x\sqrt{2}$. Finally, we note that if the diffusion is isotropic (i.e. $d = D$) then the second order error scales as the *fourth* derivative of the solution, and is therefore quite small in magnitude for most physical profiles.

6.6 Convergence Order Verification

With these limitations at hand, we proceed to evaluate the quality of the convergence when just part of the domain contains anisotropy that is not representable on a discrete grid. We expect this situation when the orientation is specified as a general function in space. First, qualitative results are shown, then rigorous numerical accuracy is checked, and found to agree with the derivation.

We look first at extreme, realistic scenarios, where profiles often may not be fully resolved. We model these scenarios by setting the axis of anisotropy to trace out quarter-circles about the origin, through a domain, $[0,1]^2$, so that all angles are sampled. Essential (i.e. Dirichlet) boundary conditions are specified along the unit square, and the discretized diffusion equation is solved in steady state. Unresolved solution profiles are simulated as discontinuities in the zeroth and first derivative along the boundary of our domain. We can identify this particular setup as one to approximate the singly connected gridding of an X-point region in a tokamak plasma (see Figure 6.10), where the discontinuities represent strong radial gradients in the temperature profiles near the separatrix of a diverted tokamak plasma. The two extreme cases will help to give us an indication of how the scheme will perform in realistic cases.

Along the back and end of our unit box, ($y = \eta = 1$), and ($x = \xi = 1$), we fix u to unity. Along the front ($y = \eta = 0$), and start ($x = \xi = 0$), we connect boundary values at the first two walls and linearly or discontinuously bring the BC values toward 0.5 at the front corner. We assume a constant, unit-valued parallel diffusivity and the exact solutions are quarter circle contours of constant u. The optimized stencil treats the boundary exactly, since the anisotropy is orthogonal to the walls.

The results for a coarse mesh (12x12) are plotted in Figure 6.11. Qualitatively, boundary irregularities are propagated into the domain with considerable integrity, especially in view of the coarse mesh (or, lack or resolution). Internal representation of the boundary discontinuities is oscillatory, but is well contained within three grid points of the position of the exact solution, regardless of resolution (these cases were run to 321x321, though results are omitted–the coarse results are easier to analyze). We take this as a good indication of the capabilities of the our discretization—the discontinuous profiles represent the most extreme circumstances we expect to encounter.

We proceed to compute numerically the convergence order throughout the domain for this spatially dependent anisotropy. If the result is everywhere greater than one, the method is said to be converging to the continuum solution of the associated partial differential equation The order of convergence is found from a set of discrete solutions via:

$$\text{ConvergenceOrder} = \frac{\log\left(\frac{u_3^* - u_2^*}{u_2^* - u_1^*}\right)}{\log(2)} \tag{6.10}$$

where u_n^* is the solution to the discrete form of equation(6.1) on a uniform grid level, n. Each successive level in the sequence of grids is formed by equally subdividing the coarser level (i.e. the finer grid is partially coincident with the coarser grid, and the order is computed wherever the three grids coincide).

We must use smooth profiles for these calculations, to ensure that the higher order derivatives in 6.10 exist. Instead of the discontinuous profiles used above, we fix the boundary conditions to e^r, $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$, where $x = (i-1)/(N_i-1)$, $y = (j-1)/(N_j-1)$. The steady solution on square grids, $N_i(= N_j) = (11, 21, 41, 81, 161)$, and we compute the convergence using sets of 3 grids, (e.g. 41x41, 81x81 and 161x161). Only results on the 41x41 grid are shown. (Note the convergence analysis is invalid at the boundary, as the exact solution is always obtained–the order at those points is arbitrarily set to zero in the plots). The convergence order is computed for $D = 1$ and $d = (0, 0.2, 0.8, 1.0)$, and shown in Figure 6.12. Since we refine both in x and y, we expect from Equation 6.10 to obtain second order convergence. The accuracy order is plotted over all the mesh points, and in all cases averages very close to 2, as expected. The strange spikes and undulations in the surfaces are not yet understood, and may merely be the results of finite precision arithmetic used in the graphics package to compute Equation 6.10.

6.7 X-Point Simulation

In the previous section, we have found our discretization to be second order convergent on general anisotropy orientations, regardless of the diffusivity ratios– a result not expected after the cursory analysis of fixed anisotropy directions. But before proposing that this method be used in a full tokamak edge modeling code, we present a final diffusion test contrived to simulate the X-point region of a diverted tokamak plasma (see Figure 6.13). Typically, this problem would be discretized along the field using *aligned* meshes (such as the one in Figure 6.2) to minimize non-physical cross dissipation generated by the numerics. We try our new misalignment capabilities to alternatively solve the anisotropic diffusion problem on a cartesian, equal-spaced grid. We then judge the usefulness of our scheme in this situation by comparing the computed results to known solutions.

We are free to construct any representative problem for illustrative purposes. But notice that for purely anisotropic dissipation, if a flux surface line connects two points along the boundary having the same value, the solution profile will be constant along that line. The quality can easily be judged by comparing solution profile contours with the underlying flux surfaces.

We work on the unit square, and set the dissipation orientation angle to trace out a simulated X-point by following levels sets of a hyperbolic paraboloid (see Figure 6.14). Linear Dirichlet conditions are set so that each field line is to have its own value. A contour plot of our solution should agree with the imposed field lines.

Qualitatively, the scheme performs well over most the domain, as evidenced by the closely similar line shapes of the two plots. However, near the separatrix at the X-point, the field lines change direction abruptly, so that the $(s, r) \Rightarrow (x, y)$ transformation is not smooth enough for our discretization to be consistent. As a result, the profile is smeared near the X-point, and there is non-physical communication across the separatrix. Figure 6.15 shows the resulting order of convergence. Several interesting features are apparent. The order of convergence in the zone of rapid field direction change is close to one, down from the value of two most everywhere else. Also, the errors seem to propagate along the field separatrix, reducing order there too. It appears that convergence order reductions can be propagated along the primary axes if there is significant corresponding diffusion. Also, the spikes in this order computation are not yet understood. Likely, they are due to a spurious cancellation of higher order derivatives of the solution function. In that case the leading error terms may be missing in those areas, and the spikes result from machine precision limitations.

The smearing across the X-point is of concern to us. Without maintaining the integrity of anisotropic character of our equations, the scheme will not be usual in edge fluid computations. However, at the X-point in a tokamak the magnetic field line is purely toroidal. In the poloidal plane, flow there may be stochastic(e.g. [142]) and may be describable by isotropic diffusion[143]. In fact, the magnetic field *pitch* $(=\frac{B_x}{B})$ is a spatially varying function, ranging in value from $\frac{B_x}{B}=0$ at the X-point to values near $\frac{B_x}{B}=0.1$ at the horizontal midplane of the tokamak[2]. See Figure 6.16 for a schematic picture of this geometry.

We simulate this additional effect by contriving a *pitch* function, $\frac{B_x}{B}=r_X/r_M$, where r_X is the distance in the poloidal plane to the X-point, and r_M is a scale distance, to the horizontal midplane, for example. The resulting diffusivity tensor is

$$\begin{bmatrix} D\frac{B_p}{B_T}+d\frac{B_D}{B_T} & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix}_{sr} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{xy} \\ D_{yx} & D_{yy} \end{bmatrix}_{xy}$$

When $\frac{B_x}{B}=0$, the diffusion is isotropic $(D_{ss}=D_{rr})$. We set $D=1$ and $d=.01$ for this test problem. Note that this process provides a physical mechanism to communicate diffusive information across the X-point, but is not the rigorous result that one obtains by carrying our the correct coordinate tranformation. In adding this feature however, we lose the simple contour line approach to checking our solution. We therefore can only show that the scheme produces a convergent result with the correct qualitative features. Notice that the convergence order near the X-point (and along the separatrices) is significantly higher with this addition. This is expected; the first attempt lost accuracy trying to discretize a rapidly changing anisotropy. The new version approaches isotropy when the direction begins to change too rapidly. Notice also that the mysterious spikes remain because the form of $\frac{B_x}{B}$ is such as to not effect the profiles in these regions.

[2]The actual magnetic field structure used in a typical tokamak edge plasma calculation is obtained from MHD field reconstruction codes based on experimental or design data from the magnetic coils

6.8 General Grids

For completeness, our optimized operator, 6.4 is expanded to accommodate nonuniform and/or nonorthogonal gridding. We can then satisfy all the minimum requirements set forth at the beginning of this chapter.

The transformation equations result directly from application of the chain rule to (6.1). Formally (here subscripts denote differentiation),

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \xi_x \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} + \eta_x \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial y} = \xi_y \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} + \eta_y \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \tag{6.11}$$

while the inverse transformation equations are,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} = x_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} = x_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$$

and if $J = x_\xi y_\eta - x_\eta y_\xi$, these may may be combined to give,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \xi_x = y_\eta / J & jx = -y_\xi / J \\ \xi_y = -x_\eta / J & jy = x_\xi / J \end{array}$$

Putting these into (6.11), we get the following operators,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial x} &= \frac{y_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{y_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \\
\frac{\partial}{\partial y} &= -\frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} + \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \\
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{y_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{y_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{y_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right) - \frac{y_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{y_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{y_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right) \\
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} &= -\frac{y_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right) + \frac{y_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right) \\
\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} &= \frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right) - \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} - \frac{x_\xi}{J}\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{6.12}$$

The diffusion equation (6.1), is then rewritten in terms of operations on ξ and η:

$$\frac{1}{J^2}\left[y_\eta^2 D_{xx} + x_\eta^2 D_{yy} - 2x_\eta y_\eta D_{xy}\right]\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi^2} \tag{6.13}$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
+ \quad & \frac{1}{J^2}\left[y_\xi^2 D_{xx} + x_\xi^2 D_{yy} - 2x_\xi y_\xi D_{xy}\right]\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \eta^2} \\
- \quad & 2\frac{1}{J^2}\left[y_\xi y_\eta D_{xx} + x_\xi x_\eta D_{yy} - \left(x_\eta y_\xi + x_\xi y_\eta\right) D_{xy}\right]\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \xi \partial \eta} \\
+ \quad & \frac{1}{J}\left[y_\eta\left(\frac{\partial D_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D_{xy}}{\partial y}\right) - x_\eta\left(\frac{\partial D_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D_{xy}}{\partial x}\right)\right. \\
& + D_{xx}\left[y_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{y_\eta}{J}\right) - y_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{y_\eta}{J}\right)\right] + D_{yy}\left[x_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\right) - x_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\right)\right] \\
& \left. + 2D_{xy}\left[y_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\right) - y_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\eta}{J}\right)\right]\right]\frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} \\
+ \quad & \frac{1}{J}\left[x_\xi\left(\frac{\partial D_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial D_{xy}}{\partial x}\right) - y_\xi\left(\frac{\partial D_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial D_{xy}}{\partial y}\right)\right. \\
& + D_{xx}\left[y_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{y_\xi}{J}\right) - y_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{y_\xi}{J}\right)\right] + D_{yy}\left[x_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\xi}{J}\right) - x_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\xi}{J}\right)\right] \\
& \left. + 2D_{xy}\left[y_\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi}\left(\frac{x_\xi}{J}\right) - y_\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\left(\frac{x_\xi}{J}\right)\right]\right]\frac{\partial u}{\partial \eta}
\end{aligned}
$$

Here, $D_{xx} = D\cos^2\theta + d\sin^2\theta$, $D_{yy} = D\sin^2\theta + d\cos^2\theta$, and $D_{xx} = (D-d)\cos\theta\sin\theta$. For a fixed mesh, all derivatives of the grid locations and field orientation with respect to ξ, η are constant. To evaluate the above coefficients, the first derivative with respect to ξ, η are centrally approximated, while the second derivatives are approximated via Equation 6.4.

Equation 6.13 has been programmed into the FMS code, and used to generate the plasma-related results of this thesis document. Aside from the alignment procedures, the transformations carried out are standard, and subject to the usual restrictions (e.g. smooth and continuously differentiable).

6.9 Conclusions

To summarize, we require a rotating stencil to handle discontinuous boundary conditions. A rotating stencil is constructed by transforming the diffusion equation into the grid coordinates, and then combining the allowable grid discretizations, or stencils. Consistency with the differential operator places constraints on how these grid stencils are to be combined, but we are afforded one free parameter, which we optimize to suit our purposes. Our optimality condition is operator alignment, when possible. Based on this, we developed a scheme for discretizing misaligned anisotropic diffusion that reproduces expected 1D-like results when the dissipation is aligned with any of the available mesh directions. However, we found inconsistent discretizations when the operator doesn't align, if the physical major-to-minor diffusivity ratio is greater than about 5.8 : 1.

Despite the formal inconsistency for misaligned grids, the scheme performs very well for generally oriented strongly anisotropic dissipation. To verify applicability to our tokamak edge problem, we contrived a pseudo X-point problem and analyzed the resulting profiles, both qualitatively and numerically for good convergence characteristics. The scheme passes all minimum qualifications for providing a useful discretization of the strongly anisotropic dissipation physics of a tokamak edge fluid plasma problem, including allowing misalignment of the numerical grid with respect to the principal axes of diffusion. This property has been verified in particular for the case of computing profiles across a magnetic X-point *without* using multiply connected gridding structures.

The drawbacks to using this scheme are that it is very expensive to compute, and that the fast changes in magnetic field direction cannot be captured in the small number of sample points. In the following chapters on exercising the code, we use a simple version of this algorithm and aligned grid.

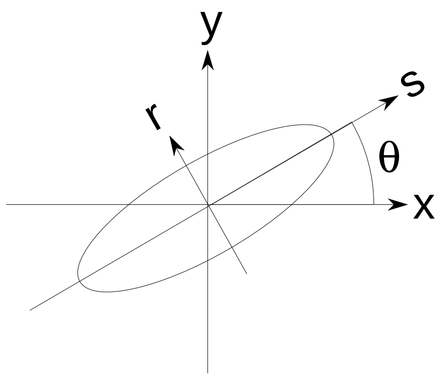

Figure 6.1. The principal axes of diffusion in an elliptic problem are generally rotated from the reference coordinate axes. The physical model is often much simpler when expressed in the coordinates of the principal axes.

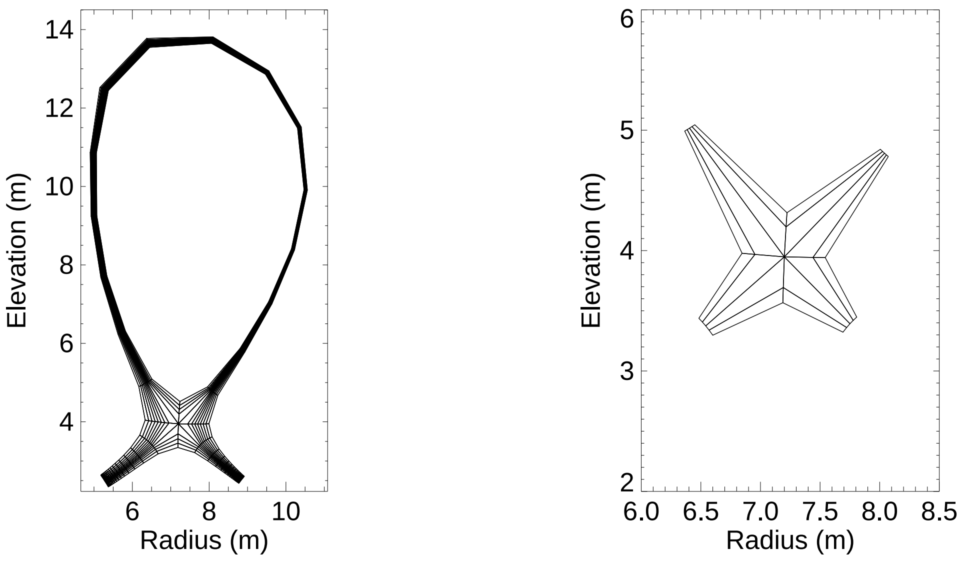

Figure 6.2. Example flux-surface-aligned grid for the single null configuration of the ITER reactor design. The figure on the right is a detail of the grid near the X-point, showing the local non-orthogonality and increased number of neighbor nodes for cells in this region.

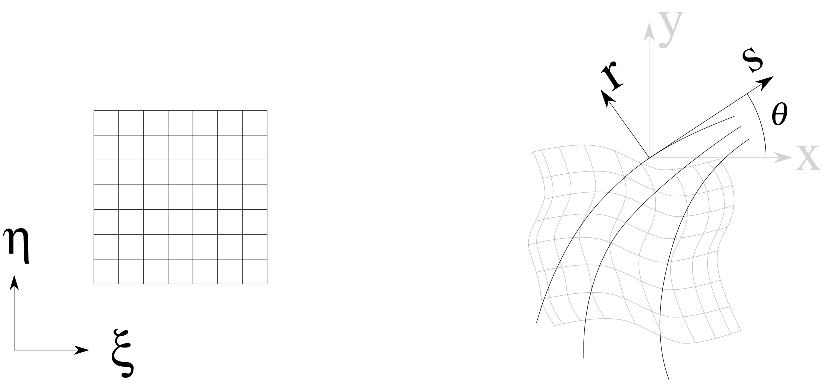

Figure 6.3. Coordinates used for dissipation stencil analysis. The field (specified by "$\hat{s}$") is spatially varying and given with respect to the absolute coordinates (x, y). The computational grid point locations are also given with respect to (x, y), and indexed with (ξ, η).

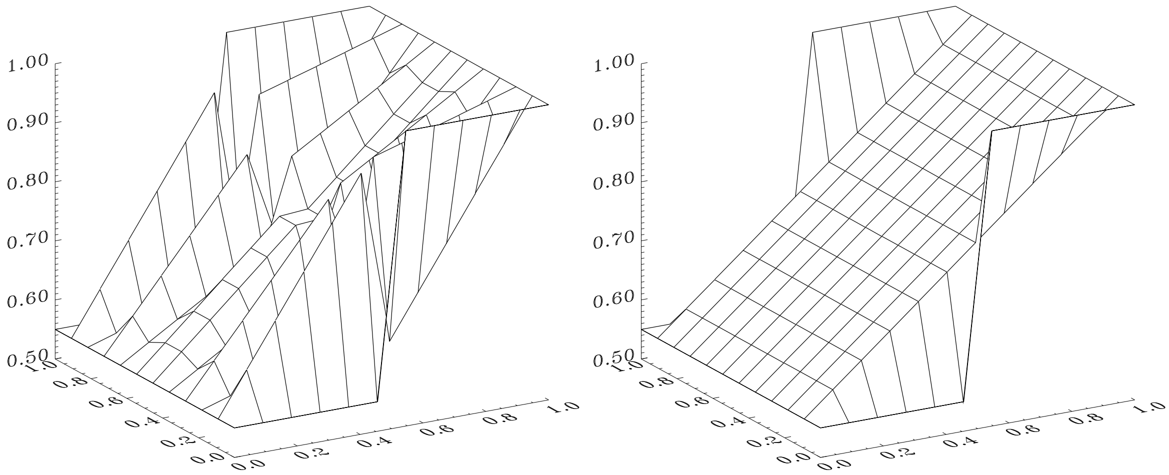

Figure 6.4. Oscillatory dissipation discretization on the left, constructed from bilinear interpolations of the state quantity. The discretization is convergent and consistent with the diffusion operator, but not accurate. The exact solution is reproduced with the simple operator that avoids negative stencil elements.

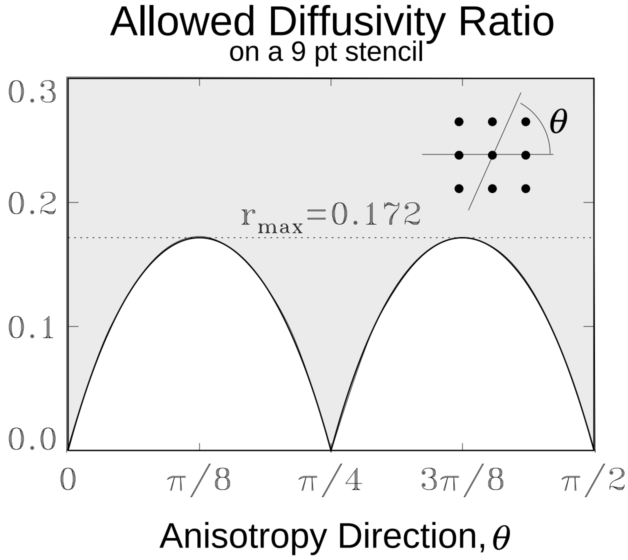

Figure 6.5. Maximum allowable ratio of principal diffusivities based on requiring that the numerical operator on a 9-point stencil remain of *positive-type*. Note that along grid directions, any ratio can be accommodated, and that the most restrictive case occurs when the principal directions cut between the grid points.

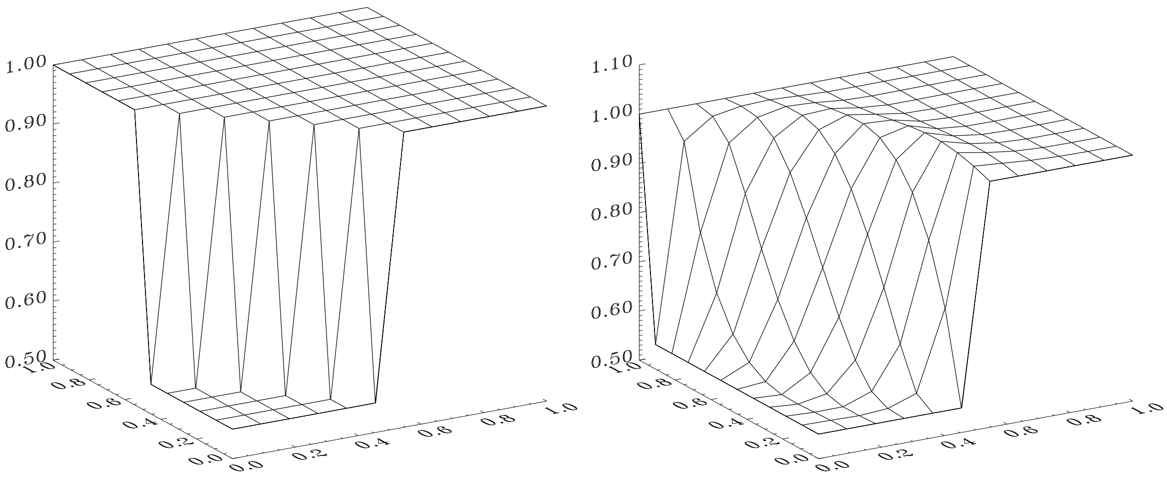

Figure 6.6. An improved operator for anisotropic dissipation at $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{4}$ (on the left), and $-\frac{\pi}{8}$ (on the right). The $\frac{\pi}{4}$ case is nodally exact, $\frac{\pi}{8}$ is the worst case possible, and exhibits the expected oscillations.

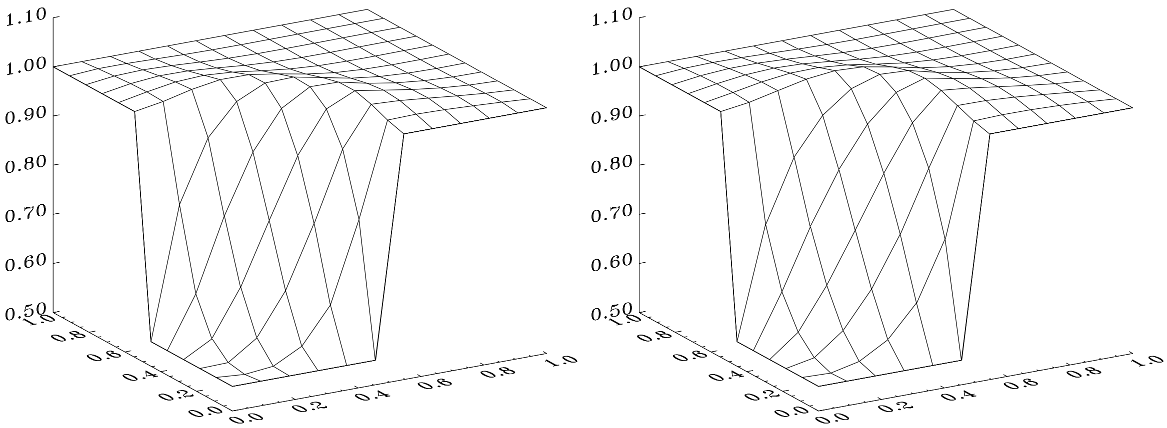

Figure 6.7. Alternative rotating stencil results at $-\frac{\pi}{4}$. The plot on the left results from the angle independent stencil, while the plot on the right uses the operator from Equation 6.4, but with the two cross derivative stencils switched.

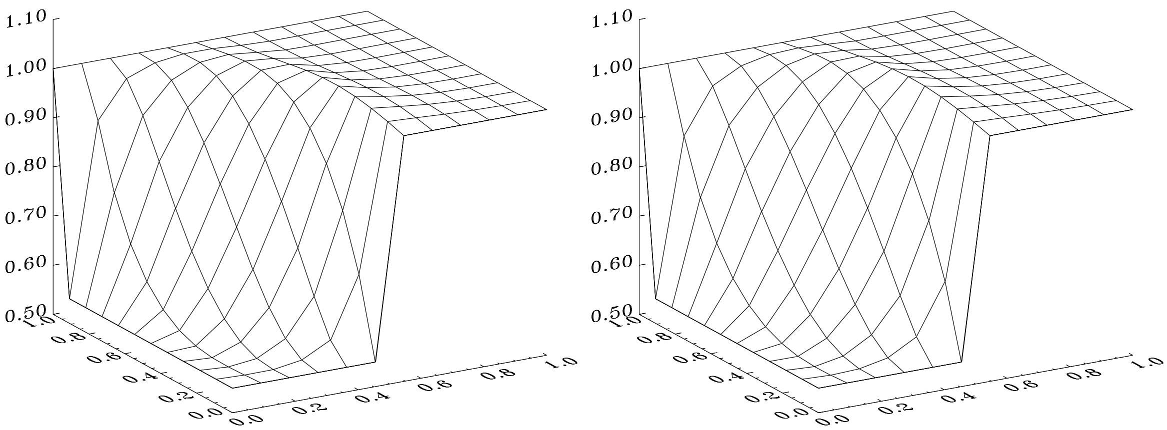

Figure 6.8. Alternative rotating stencil results at $-\frac{\pi}{8}$. The plot on the left results from the angle independent stencil, while the plot on the right uses the operator from Equation 6.4, but with the two cross derivative stencils switched.

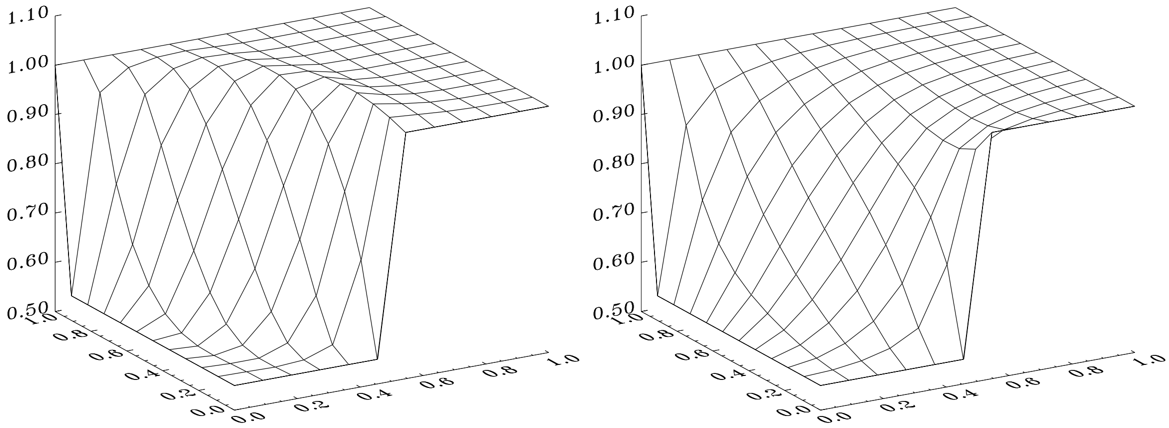

Figure 6.9. Adding artificial anisotropic dissipation at $-\frac{\pi}{8}$ to stabilize the difference operator. The transverse dissipation $d = rD$ (r from Equation 6.5) is required to keep the operator of *positive-type*, but does not diminish with resolution.

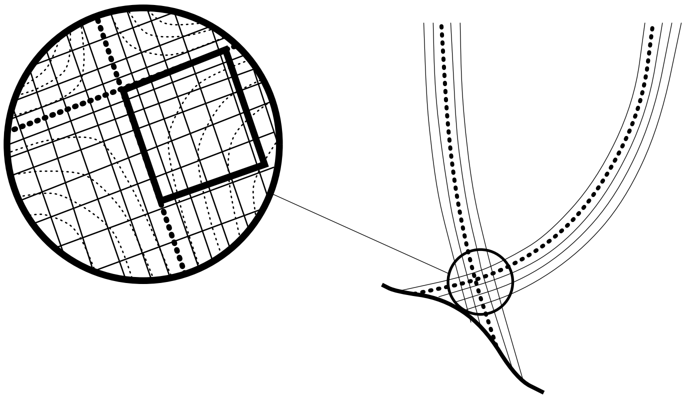

Figure 6.10. Region of X-point test problem, where flux surfaces (dotted lines) are skew to the grid. The test region is the box outlined in the figure inset.

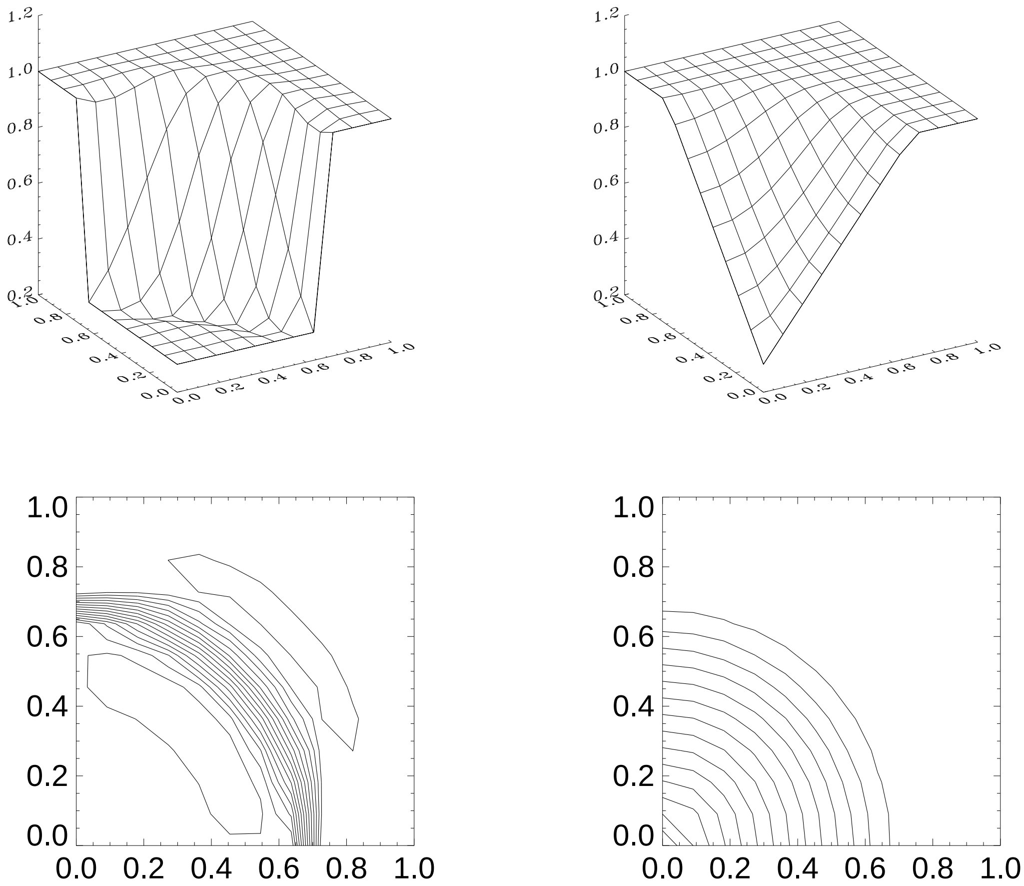

Figure 6.11. Computed solutions to the circular model using the optimized stencil. The left figures show results with the discontinuous boundary conditions that represent steep profile gradients along the separatrix. The right figures show the model of more mild profiles (or, equivalently, more resolution).

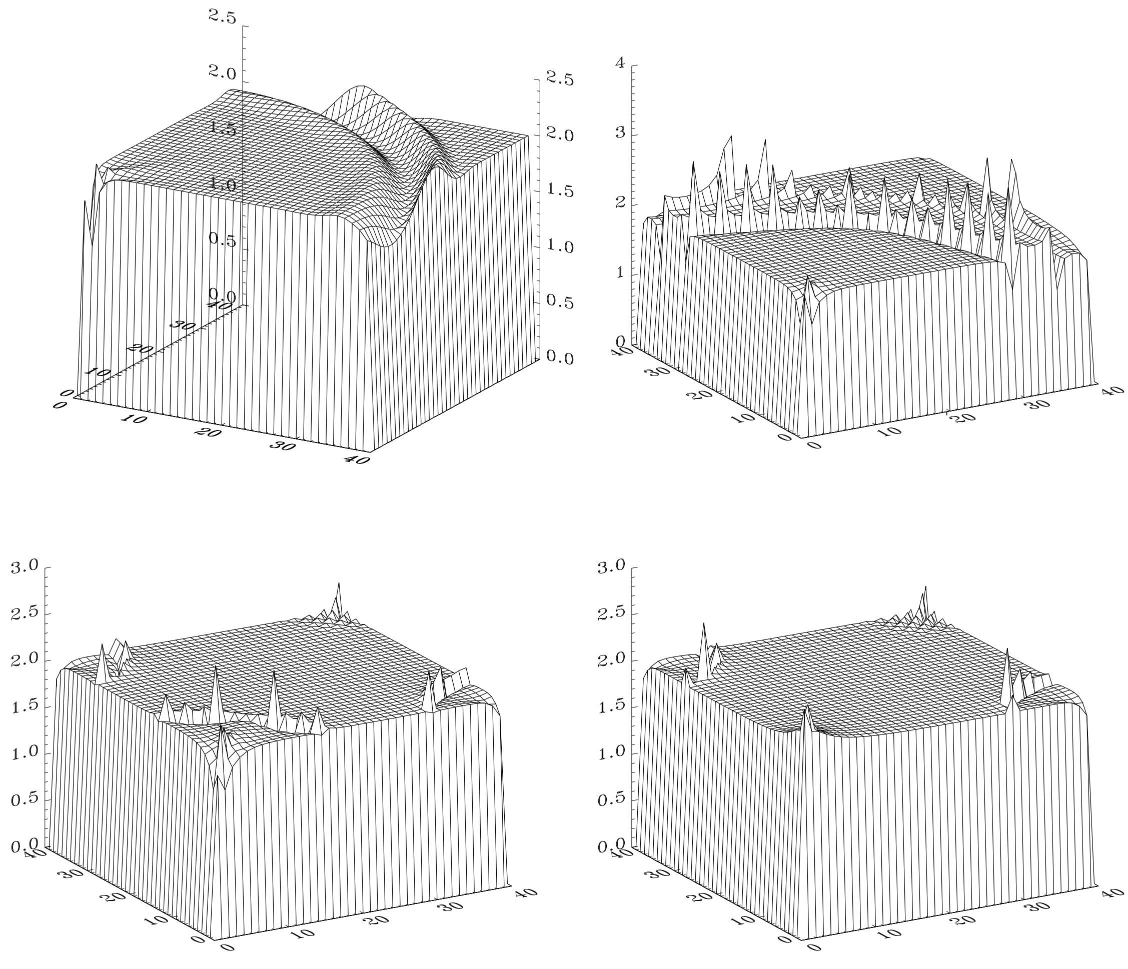

Figure 6.12. Numerical convergence order computed from 161x161 solutions using (clockwise from upper left $d = 0.0, 0.2, 1.0, 0.8$). Since each step resolves equally on Δ_x and Δ_y we expect (and obtain) a second order convergence rate. Note that the spurious spikes in the domain are probably due to finite precision of the graphics package used to compute the rate.