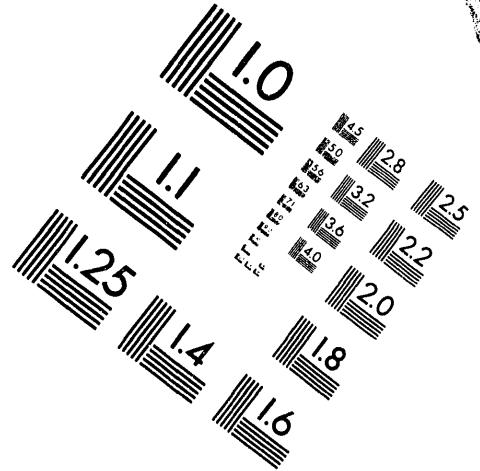
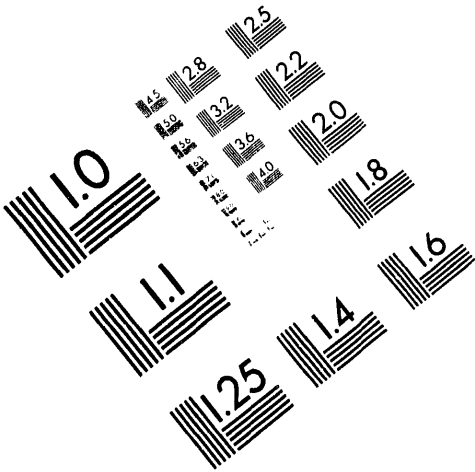




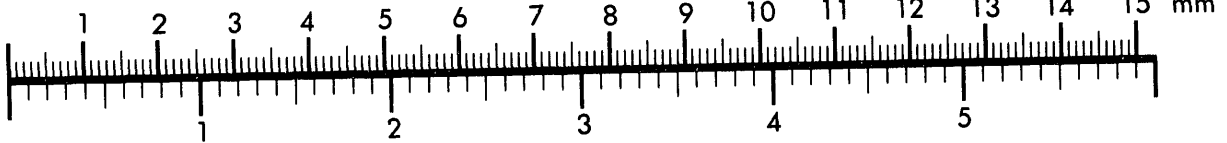
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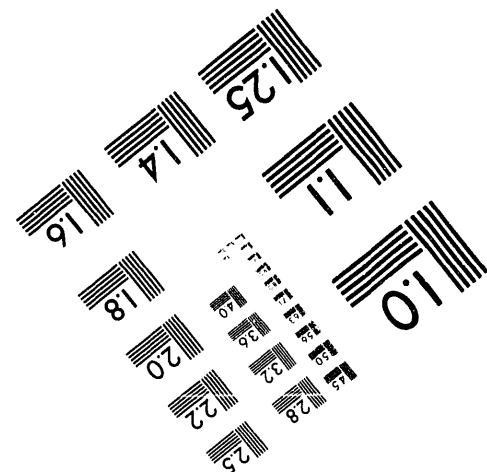
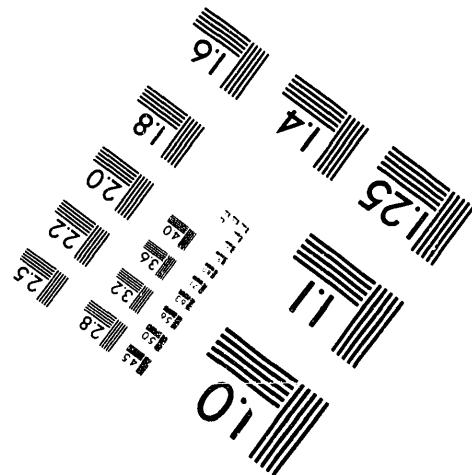
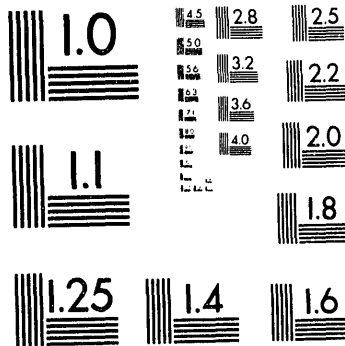
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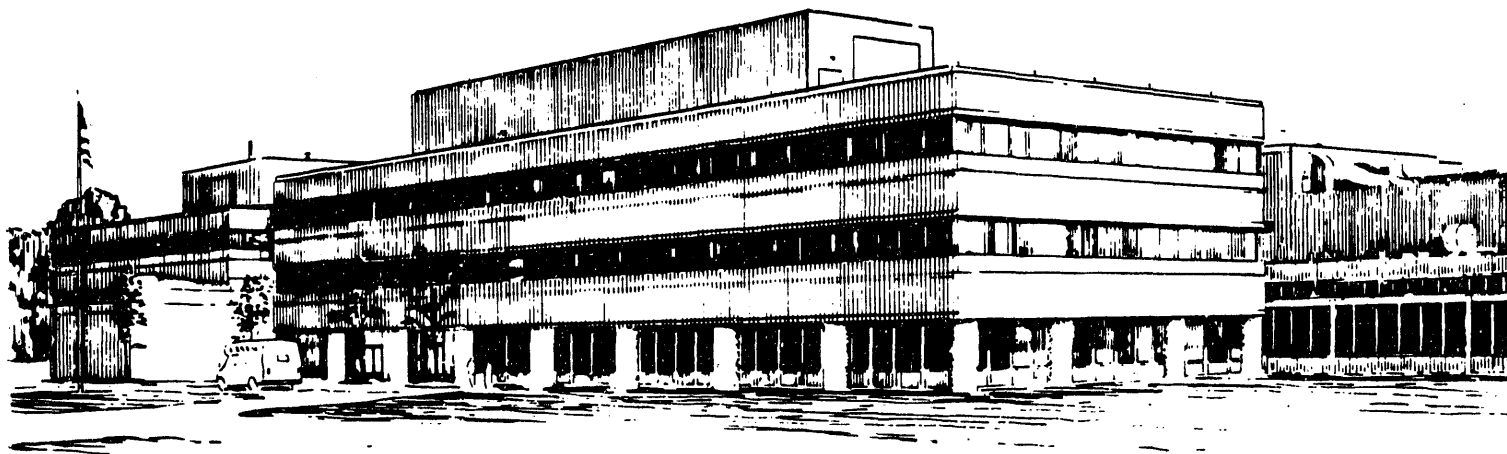
GYROKINETIC SIMULATION OF ION TEMPERATURE GRADIENT DRIVEN  
TURBULENCE IN 3D TOROIDAL GEOMETRY

BY

S.E. PARKER, W.W. LEE AND R.A. SANTORO

MAY, 1993

**PPPL** PRINCETON  
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# Gyrokinetic Simulation of Ion Temperature Gradient Driven Turbulence in 3D Toroidal Geometry

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## Abstract

Results from a fully nonlinear three dimensional toroidal electrostatic gyrokinetic simulation of the ion temperature gradient instability are presented. The model has fully gyro-averaged ion dynamics, including trapped particles, and adiabatic electrons. Simulations of large tokamak plasma volumes are made possible due to recent advances in  $\delta f$  methods and massively parallel computing. Linearly, a coherent ballooning eigenmode is observed, where the mode is radially elongated. In the turbulent steady-state, the spectrum peaks around  $k_{\theta}\rho_s \sim 0.1 - 0.2$  and  $k_r\rho_s \sim 0$ , with the ballooning structure reduced, but still prevalent.

# 1 Introduction

Recent advances in both nonlinear  $\delta f$  methods for gyrokinetic simulation [1, 2], and massively parallel supercomputing now make it possible to simulate a sizable fraction of a tokamak plasma using realistic physical parameters. As a first step in utilizing these advances, a three dimensional electrostatic toroidal gyrokinetic simulation has been developed. Here, the code is used to investigate the nonlinear evolution of the ion temperature gradient (ITG) driven instability and the associated turbulence and transport. The ITG mode has long been considered a plausible candidate to explain the anomalous ion heat transport above neoclassical values in tokamak plasmas [3, 4].

In these simulations, the ions are fully gyrokinetic, including trapped particles. The electrons are treated as adiabatic which permits a moderate size timestep (simulations with kinetic electrons are feasible, but the timestep would need to be smaller by the factor  $v_{te}/v_{ti}$ ). The simulation is efficiently running on massively parallel supercomputers (currently the CM-200 and CM-5) which allows simulations of relatively large systems (e.g.,  $a \gtrsim 100\rho_i$  minor radius,  $\Delta x \approx \rho_i$ ). Typical runs up to this point have ranged from one to *eight million particles* and grid cells usually with one to two particles per grid cell, and with a cpu time of 2-3 microseconds per particle per timestep on a full 64K processor CM200. Fine grid resolution is needed in the toroidal direction because the mode structure is the helical (elongated along the the magnetic field lines i.e.,  $k_{\parallel} \ll k_{\perp}$ ), resulting in a smaller number of particles per grid cell relative to conventional slab simulations.

In the initial phase of the run, we observe a clean linear growth of the most unstable toroidal harmonic and the associated 2D eigenmode in  $(r, \theta)$  with a ballooning type structure where the mode is radially elongated. [Fig. 1 (a) and (b)]. In the steady-state, both long and short perpendicular wavelengths are enhanced with the spectrum peaking at  $k_r \rho_s \sim 0$  and  $k_{\theta} \rho_s \sim 0.1 - 0.2$ , and the ballooning structure reduced, but still prevalent [Fig. 1 (d) and (e)]. Broad scale (i.e., many modes are present) turbulence with fluctuation levels of  $e|\phi_k|/T \lesssim 1\%$  is observed. The parameters and more details will be given in Sec. 3, where it will be shown that the  $k_r$  and  $k_{\theta}$  spectrum (Fig. 3) show

very similar features as the the recent beam emission spectroscopy (BES) fluctuation measurements on TFTR [5].

## 2 Model Equations

Starting with the electrostatic gyrokinetic equations with a nonuniform equilibrium B-field [6], we write  $f(\mathbf{z}, t) = f_0(\mathbf{z}) + \delta f(\mathbf{z}, t)$ , where  $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{R}, v_{\parallel}, \mu)$ ; and expand  $\dot{\mathbf{z}}$  into its equilibrium and perturbed parts:  $\dot{\mathbf{z}} = \dot{\mathbf{z}}^0 + \dot{\mathbf{z}}^1$ .  $f_0(\mathbf{z})$  is a Maxwellian and satisfies:  $\dot{\mathbf{z}}^0 \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{z}} f_0(\mathbf{z}) = 0$ . The equation for the perturbed ion distribution function  $\delta f$  is then [1]

$$\partial_t \delta f + \dot{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{z}} \delta f = -\dot{\mathbf{z}}^1 \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{z}} f_0. \quad (1)$$

where the magnetic moment  $\mu$  is time independent and the other equilibrium and perturbed phase space variables are evolved using

$$\left( \dot{\mathbf{R}}^0, v_{\parallel}^0 \right) = \left( -v_{\parallel} \hat{\mathbf{b}}^* + \frac{\mu}{B} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \times \nabla B, \hat{\mathbf{b}}^* \cdot \mu \nabla B \right), \quad (2)$$

$$\left( \dot{\mathbf{R}}^1, v_{\parallel}^1 \right) = \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{b}}}{B} \times \nabla \bar{\phi}, -\hat{\mathbf{b}}^* \cdot \nabla \bar{\phi} \right), \quad (3)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{b}}^* \equiv \hat{\mathbf{b}} + \frac{v_{\parallel}}{B} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \times \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla \hat{\mathbf{b}}$ ,  $\bar{\phi}$  is the gyro-averaged electrostatic potential, and dimensionless gyrokinetic units are used  $R/\rho_s \rightarrow R$ ,  $v_{\parallel}/c_s \rightarrow v_{\parallel}$ ,  $e\bar{\phi}/T_e \rightarrow \bar{\phi}$ ,  $\Omega_i t \rightarrow t$ ,  $B/B_0 \rightarrow B$ ,  $B_0$  is a reference value of B,  $\mu = (v_{\perp}/c_s)^2/(2B/B_0)$ ,  $\Omega_i = eB_0/(m_i c)$ ,  $c_s = \sqrt{T_e/m_i}$ , and  $\rho_s = c_s/\Omega_i$ .

The particles follow their full nonlinear trajectories,  $\delta f$  is represented by  $B\delta f(\mathbf{z}, t) = \sum_i w_i \delta(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}_i)$ , and particle weight  $w_i$  is then evolved using [1]

$$\dot{w}_i = -(1 - w_i) \left[ \dot{\mathbf{z}}^1 \cdot \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{z}} f_0}{f_0} \right]_{\mathbf{z}=\mathbf{z}_i, t} \quad (4)$$

Electromagnetic equations have been formulated [1], but not yet implemented in the code. Equations (2)-(3) are similar to those of Hahm's [6], and accurate to the same order but, we have assumed  $B^* = B$  for numerical efficiency. As usual, finite size particles are used in the configuration space. The electrons are assumed adiabatic

( $\delta n_e = n_0 e \phi / T_e$ ). A square cross-section is used which is suitable for spectral solution of the field equation. The coordinates  $(x, y, \psi)$  in terms of the usual toroidal coordinates  $(r, \theta, \psi)$  are: ( $x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta, \psi$ ). Using these coordinates, assuming  $(k_{\parallel}/k_{\perp})(B_{\theta}/B_{\psi}) \ll 1$  where  $B_{\theta}$  and  $B_{\psi}$  are the poloidal and toroidal components of  $\mathbf{B}$ , one can transform the electrostatic field equation [7] to obtain:

$$\tau[1 - \Gamma_0(\mathbf{k}_{\perp}^2/T_i/T_e)]\phi(\mathbf{k}_{\perp}, \psi) = \delta \bar{n}_i(\mathbf{k}_{\perp}, \psi) - \phi(\mathbf{k}_{\perp}, \psi), \quad (5)$$

where  $\delta \bar{n}_i = (\bar{n}_i - n_0)/n_0$ ,  $\bar{n}_i$  is the gyro-averaged ion density,  $\mathbf{k}_{\perp} = (k_x \rho_s, k_y \rho_s)$  and higher order terms have been neglected.  $\rho_s$  is assumed constant in Eq. (5). For the radial boundary condition we set  $\delta \bar{n}_i$  to zero for  $r \geq (a - 4\rho_s)$  within the square cross-section. The magnetic field is fixed and specified using  $B_{\psi} = B_0 R_0/R$ ,  $B_{\theta} = r B_{\psi}/(R_0 q(r))$ , and  $q(r) = q_0 + \Delta q (r/a)^2$ . Initial equilibrium density and temperature profiles are used such that  $L_n^{-1} \equiv |\nabla n|/n$  and  $L_T^{-1} \equiv |\nabla T|/T$  have a radial variation proportional to  $\text{sech}^2[(r - r_0)/l]$ , where  $r_0$  and  $l$  as well as the peak normalized gradients  $L_n^{-1}(r_0)$  and  $L_T^{-1}(r_0)$  are all specified parameters. For the results presented, the particles are loaded homogeneously and the variation in the profile appears only in the right hand side of Eq. (4).

### 3 Simulation Results

The results shown here are for a run using the following numerical parameters: 1 million particles, a 128x128x64 grid in  $(x, y, \psi)$ , with a perpendicular grid cell size  $\Delta x = \Delta y = \rho_s$ , and a time step of  $\Delta t c_s / L_T = 0.45$ . The physical parameters are:  $\epsilon_T \equiv L_T(r_0)/R_0 = 0.075$ ,  $1/L_n(r_0) = 0$ ,  $T_i = T_e$ ,  $a = 64\rho_s$ , and  $R_0 = 892\rho_s$ ,  $q_0 = 1.25$ ,  $\Delta q = 3$ ,  $l = 20\rho_s$ ,  $r_0 = \frac{1}{2}a$  is the location of maximum temperature gradient (see Sec. 2),  $q(r_0) = 2$ ,  $\hat{s} \equiv \frac{r}{q} \frac{dq}{dr} = 0.75$  at  $r_0$ . The local parameters at  $r = r_0$  are similar to the TFTR perturbed supershot experiment [8], except for the aspect ratio. As mentioned above Figures 1(a) and (b) are the poloidal and toroidal slices of the potential in the linear phase. Figure 1(c) shows the relative amplitude of the various  $(m, n)$  modes in the



linear phase at the  $q(r = \frac{1}{2}a) = 2$  flux surface for  $\phi = \sum_{m,n} \phi_{mn} \exp(-im\theta - in\psi)$ . One dominant toroidal harmonic is present ( $n = 4$ ) with a dominant poloidal harmonic ( $m = 8, k_\theta = m/r_0 = 0.25$ ) plus a few lower amplitude sidebands to produce the ballooning envelope. Figures 1(a)-(e) are snapshots taken just before the saturation of the dominant mode.

The measured real frequency is  $\omega_r = -0.06c_s/L_T$  and the growth rate is  $\gamma = 0.03c_s/L_T$ . The closest analytic theory for toroidal ITG modes in terms of the assumed ordering is the slab branch in the long wavelength limit[4] with  $\omega \sim \omega_{ti} \sim \epsilon_T^{1/2} \omega_{*Ti}$ ,  $k_\theta \rho_i \sim \epsilon_T^{1/2}$ ,  $\Delta\theta \sim \epsilon_T^{-1/4}$ , where  $\Delta\theta$  is the mode width in the extended poloidal angle; and the approximate dispersion relation given by

$$\omega = \frac{v_{ti}}{qR_0} (7\sqrt{\pi})^{1/5} [(qk_\theta \rho_s)^2 \hat{s}/\epsilon_T]^{(2/5)} e^{i7\pi/10}, \quad (6)$$

which gives  $\omega_r = -0.05c_s/L_T$  and  $\gamma = 0.07c_s/L_T$ . Comparisons with more detailed eigenmode calculations of Rewoldt and Tang [3] show agreement is within 15% in terms of real frequency, growth rate, and mode structure [9]. This dominant eigenmode grows linearly and saturates at a level of  $e|\phi(r = r_0, \theta = 0, n = 4)|/T_e = 0.03$ , which is in the range of the mixing length level  $1/(k_\perp L_T) = 0.06$ , where we used  $L_T$  since  $1/L_n = 0$  and  $k_\perp \approx k_\theta$ . The local shearless slab mode coupling calculation of Lee and Tang [10] predicts a saturation level  $e/T_e |\phi(x)| = \sqrt{3} |\omega + i\gamma|/k_\perp^2 \approx 0.03$ , which is in agreement with the toroidal simulation result. This may be due to the fact that the radially elongated mode structure is not strongly localized by the magnetic shear. Toroidal effects on the mode coupling calculation will be investigated in the future. At saturation,  $\chi_i = 1.6\rho_s^2 c_s/L_T$  taken at  $r = r_0$ , then drops and comes to a steady-state value of  $\chi_i = 0.2\rho_s^2 c_s/L_T$ , for comparison  $\gamma/k_\perp^2 = 0.5\rho_s^2 c_s/L_T$ , again using  $k_\perp \approx k_\theta$ .

Figures 1(d)-(f) are the corresponding plots during the nonlinear saturated steady-state. These snapshots were taken at a time  $300L_T/c_s$  after the saturation of the fastest growing mode. Figures 1(c) and (f) show that the poloidal and toroidal harmonics ( $m, n$ ) have appreciable activity for the linear phase and the nonlinear state, respectively. After the system settles down to a steady-state, the activity is at a lower ( $m, n$ ) than

the  $(m, n)$  associated with the most unstable mode. We also note that the peak of activity lies on the  $m = qn$  line as expected. Figures 2(a) and (b) are the  $k_\theta$  and  $k_r$  spectrum taken at the turbulent steady-state. These measurements were made over the half annular region of  $\theta \in [-\pi/2, +\pi/2]$ ,  $r \in [\frac{1}{4}a, \frac{3}{4}a]$  and  $\psi \in [-\pi, \pi]$ . The region has approximately a  $32\rho_s$  ( $= a/2$ ) radial width and a  $100\rho_s$  ( $= \pi a/2$ ) poloidal length. Figure 2(a) shows  $S(k_\theta) \equiv \sum_{n, k_r} |\phi(k_r, k_\theta, n)|^2$ , and Fig. 2(b) shows  $S(k_r) \equiv \sum_{n, k_\theta} |\phi(k_r, k_\theta, n)|^2$ . These diagnostics are an attempt at mimicking the recent BES measurements on TFTR [5]. The spectrum shows similar features as the experimental measurements in that the  $k_r$  spectrum peaks at zero and  $k_\theta$  spectrum peaks in the range of  $k_\theta \rho_s \sim 0.1-0.2$ . These properties of the spectrum have so far been found to be fairly insensitive to the choice of simulation parameters. One notable difference between the numerical result and the experimental measurement is that the width in the  $k_r$  spectrum is broader in the simulation. One possible explanation is the small minor radius of the simulation causes more localization of the modes radially, hence artificially broadening the  $k_r$  spectrum. This will be tested in the future, as the size of the simulations can be increased.

Figure 3(a) shows the initial temperature profile (solid line) and the flattened profile in the quasi-steady state (dashed line). The dashed line is measured at a time  $750L_T/c$ , past the saturation of the most unstable mode, at which time the center temperature has dropped by 8%. We use the term quasi-steady-state because the profile continues to relax due to diffusion, but on a much slower timescale than the initial transients and the ensuing fluctuations. Figure 3(b) shows the radial variation in  $\chi_i$ , which appears fairly flat, except towards the edge where  $\chi_i$  goes to zero because the ion density fluctuations are set to zero in the simulation for  $r \geq (a - 4\rho_i)$ . Simulations with larger volumes will probably be needed to compare with the experimentally observed trends in the  $\chi_i(r)$  profile. The peak (and overall) level is approximately  $\chi_i \approx 0.2\rho_s^2 c_s / L_T$  [Fig. 3(b)]. We have also run a case with the same parameters *except* for using a finite  $L_n$ , such that  $\eta_i = L_T/L_n = 2.3$ , the purpose being to see the effect of running closer to marginal stability and compare with the unperturbed supershot parameters [8]. In  $\eta_i = 2.3$  case, the steady-state  $\chi_i$  is reduced to approximately  $0.06\rho_s^2 c_s / L_T$ .

Though, not identical parameters (e.g.,  $T_e/T_i$  is held fixed for both simulation cases), and simplified physics it is interesting to compare the simulation results to the thermal diffusivity in gyro-Bohm units for the perturbation experiment on TFTR [8], where for both the perturbed and unperturbed case  $\chi_i \approx 0.3\rho_s^2 c_s/L_T$ . In comparison, the simulation shows a considerable reduction in the gyro-Bohm coefficient for the case closer to marginal stability ( $\eta_i = 2.3$ ). This discrepancy may be in part due simplified physics model. Effects that have been found to play an important role in linear calculations, but are not in our nonlinear model include trapped electrons, collisions, energetic ions, and impurities [11, 12, 13]. Also, collisions have been shown to have a significant effect on the steady-state fluxes in nonlinear gyrokinetic simulations [10].

To gain some insight of the scaling trends of ITG driven transport, one can examine the invariance properties [14] of the governing equations. In the gyrofluid limit, the scaling can be written as [10]

$$\chi_i \propto (k_\perp \rho_s)^{-p} (\rho_s/L_T)(cT/eB), \quad (7)$$

using  $k_\parallel \approx 1/qR$  and  $L_T/R = \text{const}$ . Although the quasilinear theory gives  $p = 5/3$  [10], in general, the exponent  $p$  does not have a unique solution (because of the insufficient number of allowable transformations). Nevertheless, this scaling indicates that, if  $k_\perp \rho_s$  spectrum in the turbulent steady state remains unchanged for different sizes of minor radius,  $a$ , the magnitude of  $\chi_i$  should remain constant, which would give gyro-Bohm scaling. However, preliminary indications from larger simulations show that  $\chi_i$  increases with system size. Thus, the scaling is not entirely gyro-Bohm. Furthermore, the simulation has a minor radius which is 5-10 times smaller, in comparison with the TFTR experiments [5, 8], and has a wider  $k_r$  spectrum and a smaller  $\chi_i$ . This is a signature of non-gyro-Bohm scaling and the trend is consistent with Eq. (7).

## 4 Discussion

Results from a three dimensional toroidal electrostatic gyrokinetic simulation were presented. A coherent ballooning eigenmode is observed in the initial linear phase. This

dominant mode first saturates, then a turbulent steady-state develops, in which the  $k_r$  and  $k_\theta$  spectrums show similar features as the recent BES measurements on TFTR. We have demonstrated the feasibility of using large scale gyrokinetic simulations to study the nonlinear evolution of kinetic microinstabilities. Current whole tokamak simulations are limited to minor radii of 100-200 $\rho_s$ . In the future, teraflop scale massively parallel supercomputers will allow simulations with a minor radius in the range of 400 $\rho_s$ , which is typical of the size of present day tokamaks. Such simulations can serve as a useful tool for better understanding of tokamak turbulence. In the interim, it may also be possible to simulate a reduced volume such as an annulus or flux tube. However, using smaller domains typically require more assumptions to be made about the underlying mode structure and/or turbulence. Global kinetic simulations such as these presented here should help identify, as well as, verify such simplified models. Future work will include adding a more detailed kinetic electron model (including the trapped fraction), electromagnetic perturbations, and collisional effects.

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## Figures

Figure 1: Plots of the electrostatic potential during the linear phase and nonlinearly saturated steady-state. (a) poloidal cross-section during the linear phase, (b) toroidal cross-section during the linear phase, (c) excited toroidal and poloidal harmonics during the linear phase, the size of the circle indicates amplitude of the potential, measurement is made at the  $q = 2$  surface; (d)-(f) are the same diagnostics, taken during the saturated steady-state.

Figure 2: Wavelength fluctuation spectrum for  $k_\theta$  and  $k_r$ . (a) Fluctuation amplitude vs.  $k_\theta$ , and (b) fluctuation amplitude vs.  $k_r$ .  $k_r$  and  $k_\theta$  are in units of  $\rho_s^{-1}$ , and  $S$  is in arbitrary units.

Figure 3: Radial temperature profile and heat diffusivity. (a) Temperature vs. radius, initial equilibrium is the solid line, dashed line is the steady-state; (b) heat diffusivity  $\chi_i$  vs. radius at steady-state, the solid line is  $\chi_i$  calculated using initial equilibrium and the dashed line is calculated using the evolved equilibrium.

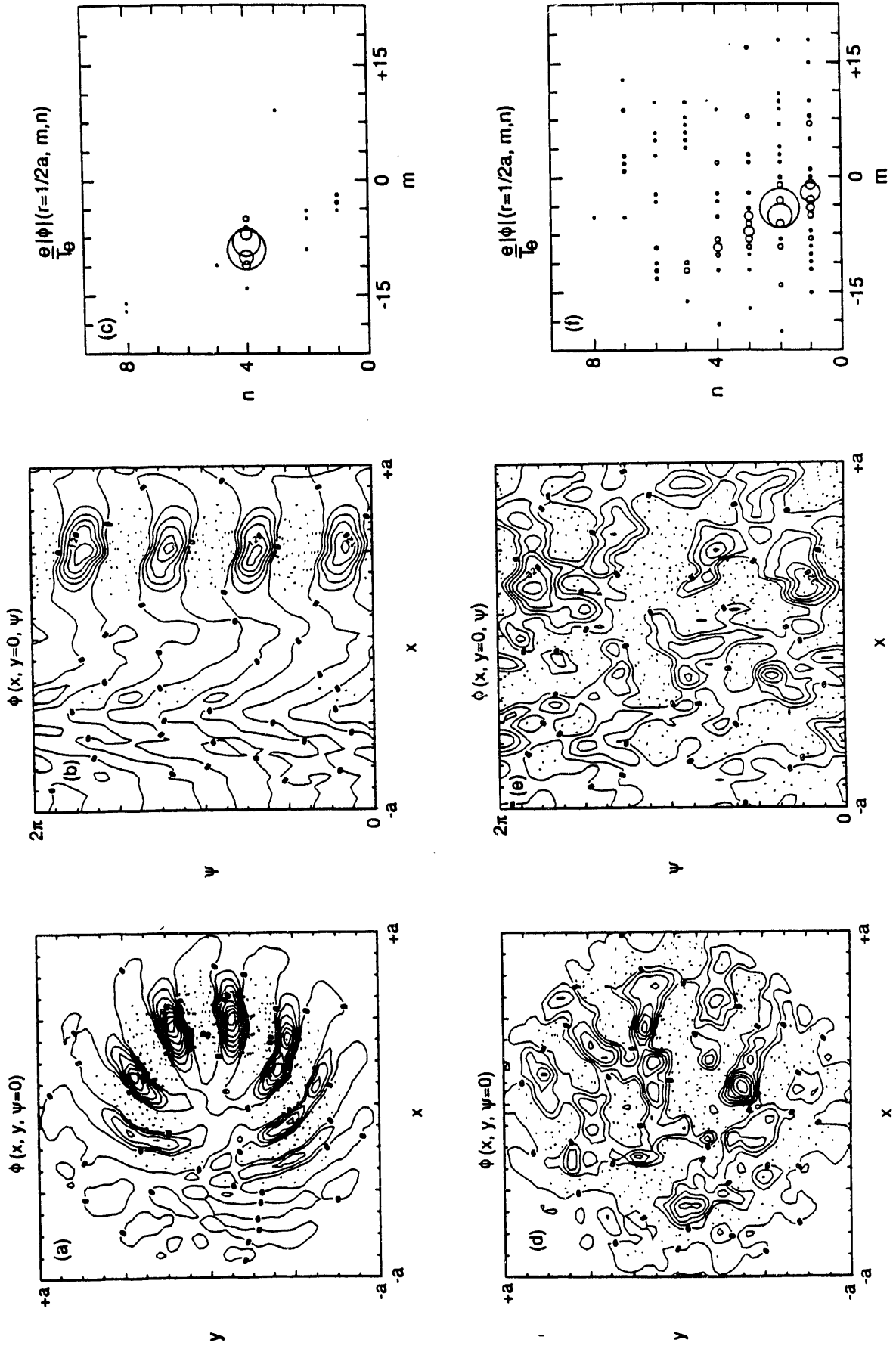


Fig. 1 (a)-(f)

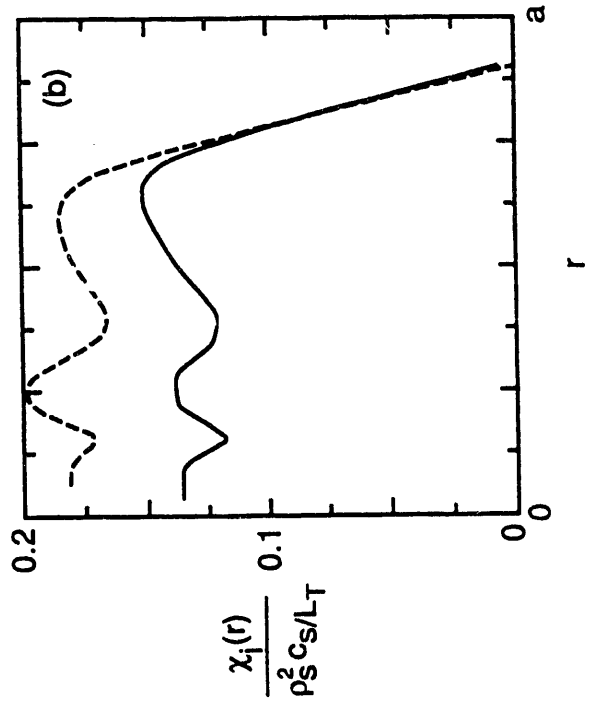
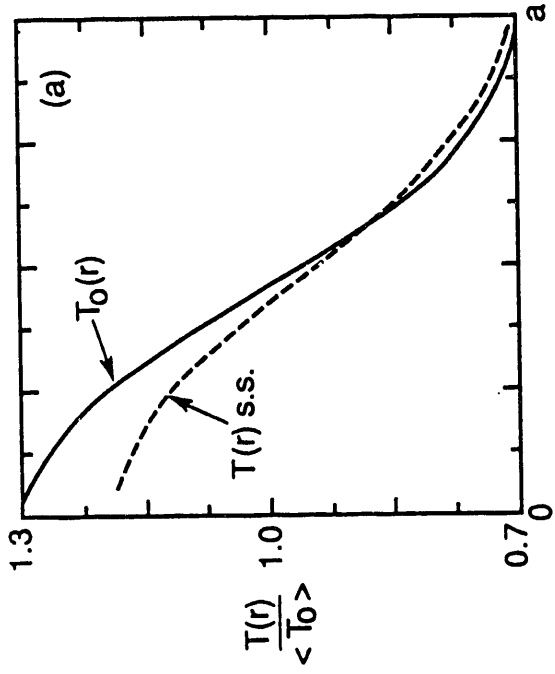


Fig. 3 (a) and (b)

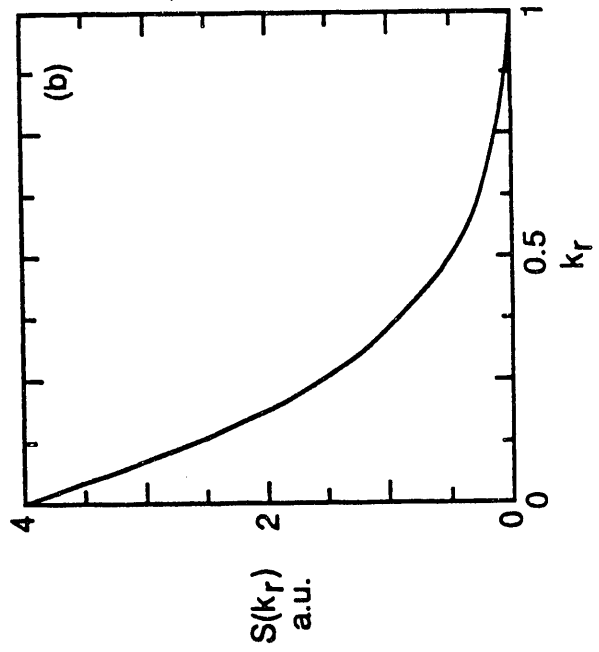
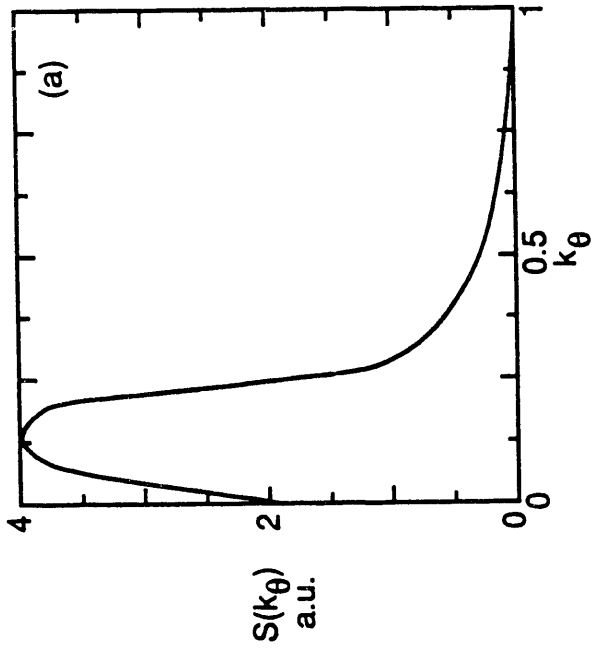


Fig. 2 (a) and (b)



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