

Tearing modes

Contents

- Magnetic field diffusion
- Tearing Stability Index
- Rutherford equation

$$\underline{\underline{E}} + \underline{u} \times \underline{B} = \eta \underline{j} \quad \eta \text{ resistivity } \Omega m$$

$$\frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \underline{E} = \nabla \times (\underline{u} \times \underline{B}) - \underline{\underline{\nabla \times (\eta \underline{j})}}$$

$$\nabla \times (\nabla \times \underline{A}) = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \underline{A}) - \nabla^2 \underline{A}$$

if $\eta = \text{const}$ $\nabla \cdot \underline{j} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} &= \nabla \times (\underline{u} \times \underline{B}) - \nabla \times \left(\eta \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \underline{B} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \left[\nabla(\nabla \cdot \underline{B}) - \nabla^2 \underline{B} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\underline{u} \times \underline{B}) + \underline{\underline{\frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \nabla^2 \underline{B}}} \quad \left(\frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \right) \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

Diffusion equation

Collisional plasma

→ Spitzer resistivity

$$\eta \approx 5.2 \times 10^{-5} \frac{Z^2 \ln \Lambda}{(T_e / \text{eV})^{3/2}} \quad \Omega m$$

$$T_e \sim 1 \text{ keV} \quad \ln \Lambda \sim 15 \quad z \sim 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \eta \sim 10^{-8} \Omega_m \quad \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \sim 2 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$$

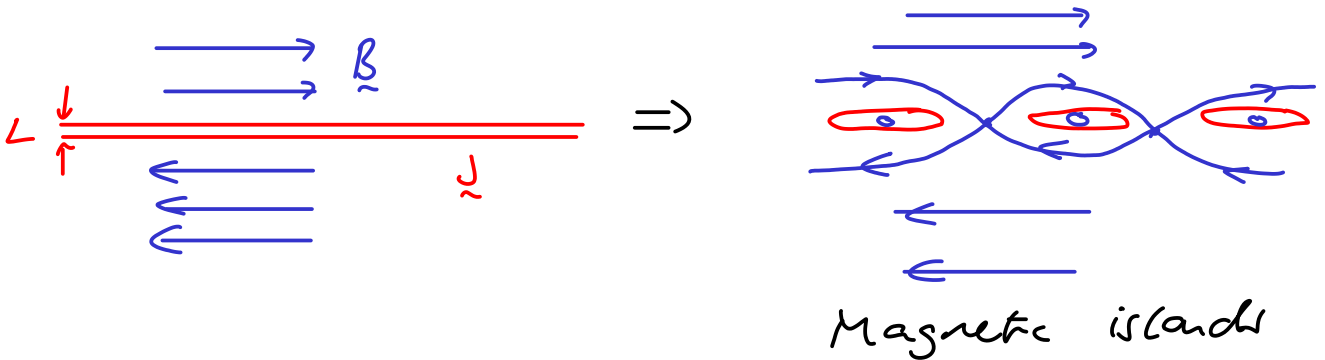
$$\nabla^2 \sim \frac{1}{L^2} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \sim \frac{1}{\tau}$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \sim \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \frac{1}{L^2} \quad \tau = \frac{L^2 \mu_0}{\eta}$$

Thin layer $L \sim 1 \text{ mm} \quad \tau \sim 50 \mu\text{s}$

$L \sim 1 \text{ m} \quad \tau \sim 50 \text{ s}$

Eg. Slab reconnection



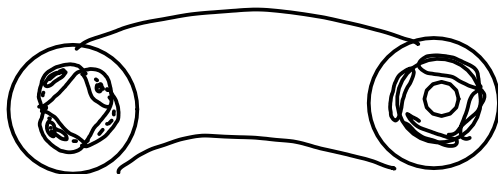
Cylindrical tearing mode equation

$$\delta J_{\sim \phi} = \frac{dJ_{\sim \phi}}{dr} \quad \delta \psi = 0$$

$$\beta_0 [1 - q^n/m]$$

Singularities at $q = m/n$

\Rightarrow can get tearing modes at $q = m/n$ surfaces



$$q = 2/1$$

$$3/2$$

\Rightarrow degrade confinement

Tearing Stability Index

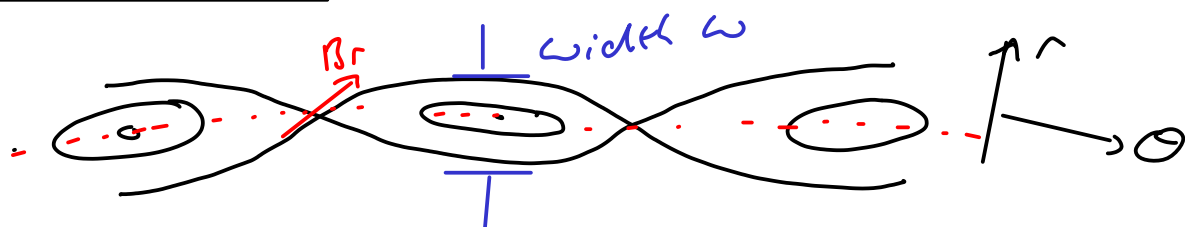
$$\Delta' = \left[\left[\frac{1}{\delta\gamma} \frac{\partial \delta\gamma}{\partial r} \right] \right] \text{ jump across island}$$

\sim current δj on surface

$\sim \delta W$

unstable if $\Delta' > 0$

Rutherford equation (1973)



$$\frac{\partial \delta B_r}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \nabla^2 \delta B_r \approx \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \frac{\partial^2 \delta B_r}{\partial r^2}$$

$$\delta B_r = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \delta\gamma}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\delta\gamma \sim \delta\hat{\gamma}(r) e^{i(n\theta - \omega t)}$$

$$\delta B_r \approx -\frac{in}{r} \delta\gamma$$

$$\int_{-w/2}^{+w/2} \frac{\partial \delta B_r}{\partial t} dr \approx \int_{-w/2}^{+w/2} \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \frac{\partial^2 \delta B_r}{\partial r^2} dr$$

$$\approx \omega \frac{\partial \delta B_r}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \left[\frac{\partial \delta B_r}{\partial r} \right]_{-w/2}^{+w/2}$$

$$\delta B_r \propto \omega^2$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \left[\frac{1}{\delta\gamma} \frac{\partial \delta\gamma}{\partial r} \right]_{-w/2}^{+w/2} = \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} \Delta'$$

$$\Delta' > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d\omega}{dt} > 0$$