The effects of rotation, electric field, and recycling neutrals on determining the edge pedestal density profile

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The edge density profile is calculated from the continuity and momentum balance equations, using experimental electric field and rotation velocities and a calculated recycling neutral source, to evaluate the relative importance of these quantities in determining the observed structure of the edge density profile in a DIII-D [J. Luxon, Nucl. Fusion 42, 614 (2002)] high-confinement mode discharge. © 2010 American Institute of Physics. [doi:10.1063/1.3431092]

I. INTRODUCTION

In high-confinement H-mode plasmas, the edge density profile is observed to exhibit a “pedestal”; i.e., there is a steep gradient in the density profile starting just inside the separatrix and extending a short distance inward (the pedestal “width”) until a plateau density is reached (the pedestal “height”). Understanding the structure (pedestal height and width) has long been an active area of plasma physics research (Ref. 1 reviews early work), at least in part because core transport calculations indicate that central densities and temperatures depend on the edge pedestal values.

The limiting values of the pedestal pressure at which edge-localized mode (ELM) instabilities occur are generally understood to be determined by magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) stability limits due to ballooning modes and peeling modes, in which large bootstrap currents driven by the steep pressure gradients play a role. However, the question remains of what causes these steep gradients to be formed before the MHD constraints are reached. The fact that the observed pedestal width is comparable to the mean-free-path for penetration of recycling neutrals has led to the development of models that can explain some observed edge pedestal phenomena. Other explanations of the formation of steep gradients have been based on a sharp reduction in the ionization source rate of ion species \( j \) in the presence of other ion species \( k \) which interact collisionally (with a sum over \( k \) implied). Subsequently the formalism is reduced to two species: a main ion species and an impurity species.

The particle continuity equation for main ion species \( j \) is

\[
\nabla \cdot \Gamma_j = \nabla \cdot n_j V_j = S_j - \frac{\partial n_j}{\partial t},
\]

where \( S_j = n_e(r, \theta) n_e(r, \theta) (\sigma v)_\text{i} = n_e(r, \theta) v_{\text{i}}(r, \theta) \) is the ionization source rate of ion species \( j \) and \( n_{e0} \) is the local concentration of neutrals of species \( j \). These neutrals include neutral atom recycling from the plasma chamber wall and those deposited by neutral beam injection (for which the ionization rate needs to be expanded to include also the charge-exchange rate). The source for impurity ions is more complex.

The time-dependent momentum balance equation for ion species \( j \) is

\[
\nabla \cdot (n_j m_j V_j V_j) + \nabla p_j + \nabla \cdot \tau_j
\]

\[= n_j e_j (V_j \times B) + n_j e_j E + F_j + M_j - n_j m_j v_{\text{el}}^j V_j - \frac{\partial (n_j m_j V_j)}{\partial t},
\]

where \( p_j \) is the pressure, \( \tau_j \) represents the viscous momentum flux, \( E \) represents the electric field, \( F_j = -n_j m_j v_{\text{el}}^j (V_j - V_\text{e}) \) represents the interspecies collisional friction, \( M_j \) represents the external momentum input rate (e.g., due to neutral beams), the next-to-last term represents the momentum loss rate due to elastic scattering and charge exchange with neutrals of all ion species \( k \), and as usual \( (n_j, m_j, e_j, V_j) \) denote particle density, mass, charge, and velocity of species \( j \).

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The toroidal and radial components of the momentum balance equation for ion species \( j \) can be written as
\[ n_j m_j \left( \nu_{j\ell} + \nu_{j\delta} \right) V_{\phi j} - \nu_{j\ell} V_{\delta j} \left( E \phi + n_j e E \phi + n_j e B_\theta \theta V_{\phi j} + M_{\delta j} \right) = n_j e E \phi + n_j e B_\theta \theta V_{\phi j} + M_{\delta j} \]  

(3)

and

\[ V_{\phi j} = \frac{1}{B_\theta} \left( E_r + V_{\delta j} B_\theta - \frac{1}{n_j e} \frac{\partial p_j}{\partial r} \right), \]

(4)

where \( \nu_{j\ell} \) is the toroidal angular momentum transfer frequency due to viscosity, inertial forces, atomic physics reactions with neutral atoms, and other “anomalous” processes (justification for representing these processes in this form is discussed in Ref. 11). \( E \phi \) is the induced electromagnetic field, \( M_B \) is the rate of toroidal momentum deposition due to neutral beams or other sources, and the other symbols have their usual meaning. In general, the subscript \( k \) represents a sum over other ion species, but in this paper we consider only a single other species (i.e., an “ion-impurity” deuterium plasma with an “average charge state” carbon impurity).

Using Eq. (4) to eliminate the toroidal velocities for both species, Eq. (3) may be rewritten

\[ V_{\phi j} = \left[ \frac{m_j \nu_{j\ell} \nu_{j\delta}}{\left( e_j B_\theta \right)^2} - \frac{1}{e_j} \frac{\nu_{j\ell}}{\nu_{j\delta}} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{p_j} \frac{\partial p_j}{\partial r} - e_j \frac{\nu_{j\ell}}{e_j \nu_{j\delta}} \left( \frac{1}{p_k} \frac{\partial p_k}{\partial r} \right) \right] \]

(5)

for the main ions, where

\[ V_{\phi j} = \frac{1}{e_j B_\theta} \left( - e_j E \phi + \frac{M_{\delta j}}{n_j} \right) + \frac{m_j \nu_{j\ell}}{B_\theta} \left( E_r + V_{\delta j} B_\theta \right) + \frac{m_j \nu_{j\ell} B_\theta}{B_\theta} (V_{\phi j} - V_{\phi k}), \]

(6a)

Using the above momentum balance relations to eliminate only the main toroidal velocity leads to a similar result, but with

\[ V_{\phi j} = \left[ \frac{- M_{\delta j} - n_j e E \phi + n_j m_j (\nu_{j\ell} + \nu_{j\delta}) f_{\theta} V_{\delta j} + E_r B_\theta}{n_j e B_\theta} \right] \]

(6b)

where \( f_{\theta} = B_\theta / B_\phi \).

Defining an effective main ion diffusion coefficient for convenience of notation

\[ D_j = \frac{m_j T_j \nu_{j\ell}}{\left( e_j B_\theta \right)^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{\nu_{j\ell}}{\nu_{j\delta}} \right] \]

(7)

Equation (5) can be rearranged to define an algorithm,

\[ - \frac{1}{p_j} \frac{\partial p_j}{\partial r} = \frac{V_{\phi j} - V_{\phi j}^{\text{pinch}}}{D_j}, \]

(8)

that can be integrated to solve for the ion density \( (n_j = p_j / k T_j) \) profile in the edge pedestal in terms of the measured rotation velocities and electric field, which enter \( V_{\phi j}^{\text{pinch}} \), and the recycling neutral source which is used in the continuity Eq. (1) to solve for the radial ion velocity \( V_{\phi j} \).

III. EXPERIMENTAL DATA

An ELMing H-mode, lower single null DIII-D discharge (No. 98889: \( I = 1.2 \) MA, \( B = 2.0 \) T, \( P_{\text{ni}} = 3.1 \) MW, \( n = 4 \times 10^{19} / \text{m}^3 \)) that is being analyzed in some detail for the H-mode edge pedestal benchmarking activity \(^{12}\) was selected. Data were averaged over the same subinterval (80%-99%) between ELMs for several successive ELMs in order to minimize the effect of random errors, and the data set is identified as “4500.” Fits of the measured electron density and electron and ion temperature profiles are shown in Fig. 1. Fits of the measured carbon poloidal and toroidal rotation velocities are shown in Fig. 2. The measurements and data analysis are discussed in detail for the density and temperatures in Ref. 13 and for the rotation velocities in Ref. 14.

![Fig. 1. (Color online) Experimental density and temperatures.](image)
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clinging was calculated using a two-dimensional (2D) model of the edge region and divertor.

We use the measured carbon toroidal rotation velocity as input in solving the toroidal momentum balance equations backward to infer the local momentum transport frequencies from the toroidal angular momentum equation. Equation (3) for each species can readily be rearranged to yield (for the two-ion-species model) a requirement on the composite angular momentum transport frequency for all mechanisms (classical and anomalous viscosity, inertial, atomic physics, etc.) that must be satisfied in order to produce the measured rotation velocities

$$v_{dj} = v_{jk} \left[ \frac{n_j e_j e_d^A + e_j B_d \Delta \Gamma_j + M_{dj}}{n_j m_j v_{jk} V_{dj}} - \left( 1 - \frac{V_{dj}}{V_{dk}} \right) \right]$$

(and a similar expression with the $j$ and $k$ subscripts interchanged). All quantities on the right except the rotation velocities readily can be determined from measurements and solving the continuity equation. Thus, if the toroidal rotation velocities for both ion species are also measured, the momentum transfer frequencies for both species can be determined from Eq. (9) (plus the same equation with $j$ and $k$ interchanged).

An immediate problem is encountered because the deuterium rotation velocities are not measured. To get around this problem, we use a perturbation analysis of the above toroidal momentum balance equations for a two-species (deuterium $j$, carbon impurity $k$) plasma to first obtain an estimate of the difference in the deuterium and carbon toroidal velocities. This difference can be added to the measured carbon velocity to obtain a deuterium toroidal velocity. The measured carbon velocity and the so-constructed deuterium velocity can then be used to solve the toroidal momentum balance equations “backward” for the experimental angular momentum transfer frequencies (arising from all processes including anomalous ones) that are required in order for the toroidal momentum balance equations to yield the two “experimental” toroidal velocities.

First, the toroidal momentum balance Eq. (3) for the two species are added to eliminate the friction terms and used to define an effective momentum transfer frequency

$$v_{dj}^{\text{eff}} = \frac{n_j m_j v_{dj} + n_k m_k v_{dk} (n_j e_j e_d^A + e_j B_d \Delta \Gamma_j + M_{dj}) + (n_k e_k e_d^A + e_k B_d \Delta \Gamma_k + M_{dk}) - \{n_j m_j v_{dj} (V_{dj} - V_{dk})\}}{(n_j m_j + n_k m_k) V_{dk}}.$$

The $\{\}$ term involving the difference in toroidal velocities is set to zero to obtain a zeroth order approximation of the effective momentum transport frequency $v_{dj}^{\text{eff}}$

$$v_{dj}^{\text{eff}} = \frac{n_j m_j v_{dj} + n_k m_k v_{dk} (n_j e_j e_d^A + e_j B_d \Delta \Gamma_j + M_{dj}) + (n_k e_k e_d^A + e_k B_d \Delta \Gamma_k + M_{dk})}{(n_j m_j + n_k m_k) V_{dk}}.$$

In the limit of vanishing impurity concentration, Eq. (11) would approach the deuterium momentum transfer frequency, which motivates its use as the zero order approximation for the deuterium momentum transfer frequency. Using this expression, along with the measured carbon toroidal velocity $V_{dk}^{\text{exp}}$ in Eq. (3) for the deuterium, $j$ species yields a zeroth order approximation for the deuterium-carbon velocity difference

$$V_{dj}^{\text{exp}} = \frac{n_j e_j e_d^A + e_j B_d \Delta \Gamma_j + M_{dj}}{n_j m_j V_{dj}^{\text{exp}}}.$$

The deuterium momentum transfer frequency is then calculated from the definition of Eq. (11) using $v_{dj}^{\text{eff}} = v_{dj}^{\text{0}}$, which yields $V_{dj}^{\text{exp}} = V_{dk}^{\text{0}}$.

The experimentally inferred deuterium and carbon momentum transfer frequencies are shown in Fig. 3. Also shown is the deuterium-carbon collision frequency $v_{jk}$. The calculated $V_{dj}$ for deuterium is very similar to the carbon toroidal rotation velocity, as shown in Fig. 2. Note that the inferred momentum transfer rate due to viscosity, atomic physics, and

FIG. 2. (Color online) Experimental and calculated rotation velocities.
other processes, $\nu_{ij}$, is larger than the interspecies collisional momentum exchange rate in the edge pedestal. The charge-exchange momentum transfer rate for deuterium was calculated and is orders of magnitude smaller than the inferred momentum transfer rate.

The experimental radial electric field is shown in Fig. 4. This quantity is determined from Eq. (4) using the measured carbon rotation velocities and pressure profile.

The deuterium poloidal rotation velocity was calculated from poloidal momentum balance\textsuperscript{15}

\begin{equation}
\left(\frac{q v_{thj}}{R} + v_{jk} + v_{atom j}\right) V_{thj} - v_{jk} V_{thk} = -e j B \frac{v_{thj}}{m_j} - v_{thj} q R \frac{K_j T_j L_{T_j}^{-1}}{e_j B^2} + v_{thj} E_r
\end{equation}

using the experimental carbon rotation velocity for $V_{thk}$. Here $K'$ is a ratio of Hirshman–Sigmar coefficients defined in Ref. \textsuperscript{15}, $n_{thj} = n_j m_j v_{thj} q R f_j (v_{thj}^2)$, with $f_j = e^{-3/2} v_{thj}^2 / [1 + e^{-3/2} v_{thj}^2]$, being an interpolation formula connecting the collisional result $f_j = 1 / v_{thj}^2$ to the strongly rotating banana and plateau regime results, and with $v_{thj} = v_{thj} q R / v_{thj}$.

IV. PINCH VELOCITY AND DENSITY PROFILE

The radial pinch velocities calculated from Eqs. (6), using experimental and calculated rotation velocities and electric field, and the experimental radial particle velocity, determined from solving the continuity equation using the neutral beam and recycling sources, are shown in Fig. 5. The recycling neutral flux was calculated with the GTEGE integrated modeling code\textsuperscript{16} using a 2D neutral transport calculation coupled to a two-point divertor model and a core particle and power balance benchmarked against experimental measurements of line average density, average temperature, temperature and density at the separatrix, etc.

Only the carbon rotation velocities are measured. The deuterium toroidal rotation velocity can be calculated as discussed above. Numerical evaluation using the parameters of this DIII-D shot indicates that the difference in deuterium and carbon toroidal rotation velocities given by Eq. (12) is in fact small compared to the measured carbon toroidal rotation velocity, confirming the validity of the perturbation analysis approach.

Determination of the deuterium poloidal rotation velocity is more uncertain. Calculations using different theoretical models\textsuperscript{15} yield values that are significantly different from each other and significantly different from the measured carbon poloidal rotation velocities. We use the momentum balance calculation of poloidal velocity given by Eq. (14) to relate the poloidal deuterium rotation velocity to the measured poloidal carbon rotation velocity, but recognize that this model does not take into account viscously driven torques\textsuperscript{17} in the edge plasma due to scrape-off layer (SOL) flows nor other poorly understood phenomena thought to affect rotation in the plasma edge.

The pinch velocities evaluated from Eq. (6) are determined primarily by the radial electric field and rotation velocity terms, with the beam momentum input and the induced toroidal electric field having a much smaller effect.
With reference to Eq. (8), it is clear that the effect of the rotation velocities and electric field, acting through \( V_{\text{pinch}} \), is much larger than the effect of neutral recycling, acting through \( V_{rj} \), in determining the density profile.

The electron density profiles calculated by integrating Eq. (8) and using the data shown in these figures are shown in Fig. 6. Relatively small differences in \( V_{\text{pinch}} \) result in significant differences in the calculated density profile. Also shown is the experimental electron density profile measured with Thomson scattering. The calculated density profile exhibits a pedestal structure with about the same height and width as found with the Thomson scattering measurements.

The differences in the detail shape of the calculated and Thomson density profiles are attributed to the uncertainty (discussed above) in the calculated deuterium poloidal rotation profile used to evaluate the pinch velocity from Eq. (6).

These results confirm earlier results, but now use improved methods for processing the experimental data. More systematic models for interpreting the radial angular momentum transport frequency from measured rotation velocities, an improved theoretical model for the calculation of the deuterium poloidal velocity, and a more accurate numerical integration of Eq. (8) to calculate the density profile. Nevertheless, uncertainties remain both in the analysis and in the input data employed.

The ability to calculate the recycling neutral ionization source that is used in the continuity equation to determine the physical radial deuterium flux \( V_{rj} \), is always questionable, primarily because of the uncertainty in determining the recycling neutral source. We model the neutral transport in two dimensions and normalize the calculated recycling source at the divertor plate to yield the measured line average density, but we do not treat the poloidal asymmetry in recycling neutral source in detail. However, as indicated by Fig. 5, the uncertainties in the determination of the actual particle flux \( V_{rj} \) are not as important as the uncertainties in determining the pinch velocity \( V_{\text{pinch}} \).

For the parameters of this shot, the largest contribution to \( V_{\text{pinch}} \) is the deuterium poloidal rotation velocity, which must be calculated as described above. This model does not take into account any viscous torque transfer from the SOL into the plasma edge that may be present. Taking the difference in the measured carbon poloidal rotation velocity and the calculated deuterium poloidal rotation velocity as a crude measure of the uncertainty in the latter would lead to an estimate of uncertainties larger than the differences in the calculated and measured electron density profiles in Fig. 6.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Momentum and particle balance have been used to calculate the density profile in the edge pedestal, utilizing measured temperatures, rotation velocities, and electric fields, and taking into account the effect of recycling neutrals. A perturbation analysis, based on the difference in carbon and deuterium poloidal velocities being small compared to the measured carbon toroidal velocity, is employed. The effect of the rotation velocities and the radial electric field dominates the effect of the recycling neutral ionization in the calculation of the edge density profile, which was in agreement with the experimental density profile measured by Thomson scattering.

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