# Topics in Fusion and Plasma Studies 2 (459.667, 3 Credits)

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#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Analytic Model: large aspect ratio, circular cross section small average  $\beta$  but high  $\beta'$  in a small region

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \chi} \left( f \frac{\partial X}{\partial \chi} \right) - gX = 0$$

$$a_0 = \frac{R^2 B_p^2}{JB^2}, \quad a_1 = \frac{1}{JR^2 B_p^2}, \quad c_0 = \frac{\mu_0 p' F}{B^2}, \quad c_1 = \frac{2\mu_0 J p' \kappa_n}{RB_p}$$

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes



- Leading order in the inverse aspect ratio expansion
- Cylindrical values used

$$\chi \to \theta \qquad B \to B_0$$
  

$$R \to R_0 \qquad \frac{dp}{d\psi} \to \frac{1}{rB_{\theta}} \frac{dp}{dr} = \frac{1}{rB_{\theta}} p'$$
  

$$B_p \to B_{\theta}(r) \qquad \kappa_n \to -\frac{\cos\theta}{R_0}$$

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Analytic Model: large aspect ratio, circular cross section small average  $\beta$  but high  $\beta'$  in a small region

$$a_{0} = \frac{R^{2}B_{p}^{2}}{JB^{2}}, \quad a_{1} = \frac{1}{JR^{2}B_{p}^{2}}, \quad c_{0} = \frac{\mu_{0}p'F}{B^{2}}, \quad c_{1} = \frac{2\mu_{0}Jp'\kappa_{n}}{RB_{p}}$$

$$a_{0} = \frac{R_{0}^{2}B_{\theta}^{3}}{B_{0}^{2}r}$$

$$a_{1} = \frac{1}{rB_{\theta}R_{0}^{2}}$$

$$c_{0} \approx \left(\frac{\mu_{0}}{F}\frac{dp}{d\psi}\right)R^{2} \approx \left(\frac{\mu_{0}}{F}\frac{dp}{d\psi}\right)\left(R_{0}^{2} + 2R_{0}r\cos\theta\right)$$

$$c_{1} = -\left(\frac{2\mu_{0}rp'}{R_{0}^{2}B_{\theta}^{3}}\right)\cos\theta$$

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Analytic Model: large aspect ratio, circular cross section small average  $\beta$  but high  $\beta'$  in a small region

$$\hat{\chi} = \frac{1}{R_0 B_\theta} \left[ q'(\theta - \theta_0) + \frac{2\mu_0 r q p'}{R_0 B_\theta^2} (\sin\theta - \sin\theta_0) \right] = \frac{q}{r R_0 B_\theta} \Lambda$$

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Analytic Model: large aspect ratio, circular cross section small average  $\beta$  but high  $\beta'$  in a small region

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \chi} \left[ \left( a_0 \hat{\chi}^2 + a_1 \right) \frac{\partial X}{\partial \chi} \right] + \left( \frac{\partial c_0}{\partial \chi} \hat{\chi} + c_1 \right) X = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ (1 + \Lambda^2) \frac{\partial X}{\partial \theta} \right] + \alpha (\Lambda \sin \theta + \cos \theta) X = 0$$

 $\Lambda(\theta) = s(\theta - \theta_0) - \alpha(\sin\theta - \sin\theta_0)$ 

desired form of the ballooning mode equation for the model equilibrium (*s*, *a*)

$$s = \frac{rq'}{q} \text{ average shear}$$
$$\alpha = -\frac{2\mu_0 r^2 p'}{R_0 B_{\theta}^2} = -\frac{r^2 B_0^2}{R_0^2 B_{\theta}^2} \cdot R_0 \cdot \frac{p'}{B_0^2 / 2\mu_0} = -q^2 R_0 \beta'$$

measure of the pressure gradient

#### Tokamaks

- Ballooning Modes
  - Numerical Solution



- As sufficiently high pressure gradient, the destabilising contribution from the unfavourable curvature region overcomes the shear  $\rightarrow$  unstable
- When the shear increases, the maximum allowable pressure gradient increases.
- Second region of stability: sufficiently large values of the pressure gradient are stabilised even at low values of shear
  - ightarrow possibility of high eta operation

2.0

1.0

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes
 Analytic Solution: Energy Principle

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ (1 + \Lambda^2) \frac{\partial X}{\partial \theta} \right] + \alpha (\Lambda \sin \theta + \cos \theta) X = 0$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\theta \left[ (1 + \Lambda^2) \left( \frac{\partial X}{\partial \theta} \right) - \alpha (\Lambda \sin \theta + \cos \theta) X^2 \right]$$

simple trial function

 $X = \begin{cases} 1 + \cos\theta, & -\pi < \cos\theta < \pi & \theta = 0: \text{ largest } X - \text{ unfavourable} \\ 0, & |\theta| > \pi & \theta = \pi: X = 0 \text{ favourable curvature} \end{cases}$ 

$$W = 1.39s^2 - 2.17s\alpha + \alpha^2 - \alpha + 0.5 \qquad \theta_0 = 0$$

 $s = 0.78\alpha \pm (0.72\alpha - 0.36 - 0.11\alpha^2)^{1/2}$  W = 0 for marginal stability

STABLE

UNSTABLE

#### Tokamaks

- Ballooning Modes
  - Analytic Solution: Energy Principle

Why does the second region of stability exist?

If the modulation neglected, the local shear = the average shear Variational analysis repeated

$$\alpha = \frac{0.5 + 1.39s^2}{1 + 0.83s} \quad \longleftarrow \quad \Lambda \approx s(\theta - \theta_0), \quad \theta_0 = 0$$

Without the pressure-driven modulation, no second region of stability

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#### Tokamaks

- Ballooning Modes Analytic Solution: Energy Principle
  - Full variational solution

$$s = 0.78\alpha \pm (0.72\alpha - 0.36 - 0.11\alpha^2)^{1/2}$$

- Complete ballooning mode perturbation







ballooning mode displacement (perturbed plasma surface) 12

#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Analytic Solution: Energy Principle



#### Tokamaks

Ballooning Modes

Application of the Ballooning Mode Stability Criterion:  $1^{st}$  stability region If one integrates the critical pressure gradient over the entire pressure profile, there is a maximum allowable overall average  $\beta$ .

For stability,  $a \leq Ks$ 

$$-R_0\beta' \le K(rq'/q^3)$$

Multiply by  $r^2$  and integrates over the plasma volume



$$q = q_0(1 + r^3 / r_0^3)$$
 relatively flat profile

 $\beta_t \leq 2\%$  for  $\varepsilon = 1/3$ ,  $q_a = 3$ : somewhat optimistic

### **Stability: One-Dimensional Configurations**

#### The "Straight" Tokamak

• Internal Current-Driven Modes

$$\frac{\delta W_F}{2\pi R_0 / \mu_0} = \int_0^a (f\xi'^2 + g\xi^2) dr$$
$$\frac{\delta W_4}{W_0} = \frac{\xi_0^2}{a^2} \int_0^{r_s} \left[ r\beta' + \frac{r^2}{R_0^2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{q} \right) \left( 3 + \frac{1}{q} \right) \right] r dr$$



Use same trial function as before

- Contributions from both the pressure and parallel current are destabilising  $\rightarrow$  unstable
- Often referred to as the m = 1 internal kink mode. But the mode can also be driven by the pressure gradient, particularly in the high- $\beta$  tokamak regime.
- The nonlinear evolution of the m = 1 internal kink mode, including the effects of dissipation is believed to be an important component in sawtooth oscillations observed in many tokamaks.
- If the energetic particle effect is included, a modified m = 1 mode thought to be responsible for the so-called fishbone oscillations.

#### Tokamaks

- Low-*n* Internal Modes
- setting an upper limit on the toroidal current density on axis
- large aspect ratio, circular cross section,  $\beta_t \sim \varepsilon^2$ ,  $\beta_p \sim 1$

$$\begin{split} & W_c = \int_0^{r_s} \left[ r\beta' + \frac{n^2 r^2}{R_0^2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{nq} \right) \left( 3 + \frac{1}{nq} \right) \right] r dr \\ & \frac{\delta W_F}{W_0} = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n^2} \right) W_c + \frac{1}{n^2} W_t \\ & \frac{2w^2 w^4}{2w^2 w^4} \quad (12) \\ & W \text{ - Numerical results: sensitive to } q \text{ profile near the axis} \\ & \text{ and } q_0 > 1 \text{ required for stability} \\ & Q = \frac{R_0^2}{2w^2} \int_0^{r_s} w^2 Q' dw \end{split}$$

$$\beta_{p} = -\frac{R_{0}^{2}}{n^{2}r_{s}^{2}} \int_{0}^{r_{s}} r^{2}\beta' dr$$

- n >> 1:  $\delta W_F/W_0 \approx W_c$ , identical to that in the straight tokamak, requiring  $nq_0 > 1$ 

- n = 1:  $\delta W_F/W_0 \approx W_t$ , stable in the limit if  $\beta_p \rightarrow 0$  if  $q_0 < 1$ 

- In both cases, increasing  $\beta_p$  is destabilising and instability for  $\beta_p > (13/144)^{1/2} \approx 0.3$ 

#### Tokamaks

- External Modes
- More severe  $\beta_t$  limit than  $n \rightarrow \infty$  internal ballooning modes
- In the regime of the ohmically heated tokamak,  $\beta \sim \varepsilon^2$ , ballooning effects are unimportant on external modes: identical to the straight tokamak
- The new stability limit appears in the high regime  $\beta \sim \varepsilon$ and is associated with toroidal ballooning effects.
- Combination of ballooning and kinking the most unstable modes: driven by a combination of both the pressure gradient and the parallel current, in contrast to  $n \rightarrow \infty$  internal ballooning modes driven solely by the pressure gradient.
- $q_a \neq q_*$  in high  $\beta$  tokamaks in contrast to low  $\beta$  circular system

$$q_* \equiv \frac{aB_0}{R_0\overline{B}_p} = \frac{2\pi a^2 \kappa B_0}{\mu_0 R_0 I_0} = \frac{2AB_0}{\mu_0 R_0 I_0}, \quad q_a = \frac{q_*}{(1-\nu^2)^{1/2}} \left(\frac{1+\kappa^2}{2\kappa}\right)$$

#### Tokamaks

• External Modes

Sharp Boundary Model: surface current model

- Within the plasma  $\mathbf{J} = 0$ , p = const.

- Circular cross section

$$b_{\theta}(\theta) \equiv \frac{B_{\theta}(a,\theta)}{\varepsilon B_{0}} = \frac{1}{q_{*}} \left(\frac{\pi}{2E}\right) [1 - k^{2} \sin^{2}(\theta/2)]^{1/2}$$
$$\frac{\beta_{t} q_{*}^{2}}{\varepsilon} = \left(\frac{\pi k}{4E}\right)^{2} \quad E: \text{ complete elliptic integral of the second kind}$$

If  $k \rightarrow 1$ , equilibrium limit

$$\frac{\beta_{t}}{\varepsilon} \leq \frac{\pi^{2}}{16q_{*}^{2}} \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{q_{*}} \rightarrow \frac{4}{\pi} \left(\frac{\beta_{t}}{\varepsilon}\right)^{1/2}, \quad \varepsilon\beta_{p} \rightarrow \frac{\pi^{2}}{16}$$

#### Tokamaks

External Modes

Sharp Boundary Model: surface current model

- For low  $\beta$ , the ballooning contribution negligible

#### Tokamaks

External Modes

Sharp Boundary Model: surface current model

Stability analysis 
$$\xi(\theta) = \exp(-in\phi) \sum_{m} \xi_{m} \exp(im\theta)$$
$$\frac{\delta W}{n^{2} W_{0}} = \xi \cdot W \cdot \xi$$
$$W = W^{(1)} + \frac{W^{(2)}}{nq_{*}} + \frac{W^{(3)}}{n^{2} q_{*}^{2}}$$
$$2\delta \qquad \pi \left(m - n\right)$$

$$W_{mp}^{(1)} = \frac{2\mathcal{O}_{m-p}}{|m|}, \quad W_{mp}^{(2)} = -\frac{\pi}{2E} \left[ \frac{m}{|m|} + \frac{p}{|p|} \right] G_{mp}$$
$$W_{mp}^{(3)} = \frac{\pi^2}{4E^2} \left[ -\left(1 - \frac{k^2}{2}\right) \delta_{m-p} - \frac{3k^2}{8} (\delta_{m-p-1} + \delta_{p-m-1}) + \sum_{l} |l| G_{lm} G_{lp} \right]$$
$$G_{lm} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} d\theta [1 - k^2 \sin^2(\theta/2)]^{1/2} \cos(l-m)\theta$$

#### • Tokamaks

• External Modes

Sharp Boundary Model: surface current model

- Ballooning instabilities do not in general set limits on  $\beta_t$  or  $I_0$ , but only on the ratio  $\beta_t q_*^2 / \varepsilon$  (plus shape factors).
  - In contrast, external kinks set individual limits on both  $\beta_t/\varepsilon$  and  $q_*$ .
- The system is unstable along the equilibrium boundary for  $q_* < 1.7$ : the kink mode is unstable even though  $q_a = \infty$ 
  - $\rightarrow q_*$  rather than  $q_a$  is the critical parameter.
- External ballooning-kink modes require both a current limit  $q_* > 1$ and a pressure limit  $\beta_t / \varepsilon < 0.21$  for stability: most dangerous ideal MHD instabilities.



structure of pressure-driven kinks



#### Tokamaks

- Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit
- Once an equilibrium is established, the following stability tests are made.
- (1) Mercier stability
- (2) High-*n* ballooning modes
- (3) Low-*n* internal modes
- (4) External ballooning-kink modes
- Helpful in the design of new experiments and in the interpretation and analysis of existing experimental data
- Playing a role in the determination of optimised configurations
- Quantitative predictions for the maximum  $\beta_t$  or  $I_0$  and that can be stably maintained in MHD equilibrium

#### Tokamaks

• Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit Ballooning Mode Studies: first region of stability

#### Sykes limit

$$\beta_{t} = 0.044 \left( \frac{I_{0}}{aB_{0}} \right)$$

$$\varepsilon = a / R_{0}, \quad q_{*} = 2B_{0}A / \mu_{0}R_{0}I_{0}$$

$$\beta_{t} = 0.22 \left( \frac{\varepsilon \kappa}{q_{*}} \right)$$

- The absolute maximum value of  $\beta_t$  depends upon how high  $\kappa$  and how low  $q_*$  can be made.
- One limit is due to Mercier stability, and strong triangularity is required to delay the onset of these modes.
- The other limit is due to external kinks, although not included in the ballooning mode studies.

#### Tokamaks

- Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit
  - Full Stability Studies: against the Mercier criterion, ballooning modes, the n = 1 internal kink, and low-*n* external ballooning-kink modes

Troyon limit

$$\beta_t = 0.028 \left( \frac{I_0}{aB_0} \right)$$
$$\beta_t = 0.14 \left( \frac{\varepsilon \kappa}{q_*} \right)$$

- Optimised profile:  $q_0$  slightly above 1, flat q profile with rapid rise near the plasma surface, broad pressure profile
- n = 1 external ballooning mode sets the most severe  $\beta_t$  limit.
- The value of  $q_0$  must be slightly greater than 1 to satisfy the Mercier criterion and the n = 1 internal kink condition.
- The maximum value of  $\beta_t$  occurs for the lowest allowable value of  $q_*$  which is, in general, a function of  $\kappa$  as set by external kinks.

#### Tokamaks

• Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit Second Region of Stability Studies: bean-shaped cross section



- Indentation  $i \equiv d/2a$  created by adding a pusher coil in the region of indentation
- Difficult to achieve and maintain *i* ~ 0.3 technologically



#### Tokamaks

• Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit Second Region of Stability Studies: bean-shaped cross section





#### Tokamaks

• Numerical Results: The Sykes Limit, the Troyon Limit Second Region of Stability Studies: bean-shaped cross section



Princeton Bean Experiment (PBX)

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes



#### • Tokamaks

- n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes
- Macroscopic motion of the plasma towards the wall
- Directly coupled to toroidicity and noncircularity
- m = 1,  $n = 0 \rightarrow \delta W = 0$  indicating neutral stability
- Plasma treated as a thin current-carrying loop of wire with perfect conductivity embedded in an externally applied vertical field.
- The effects of plasma pressure and the internal magnetic flux neglected
- Objective: to determine the appropriate constraints on the shape

of the vertical field to provide stability against rigid vertical and horizontal displacements



Pure vertical field is neutral by symmetry.

Which is good for stability?

Horizontal

## **Stability: One-Dimensional Configurations**

#### The "Straight" Tokamak

• External Modes (The m = 1 Kruskal-Shafranov Limit)

Considering the m = 1 mode

- Minimising eigenfunction by  $\xi(r) = \xi_a = \text{const}$  (independent of *q* profile)  $\rightarrow$  integral contribution vanished

$$\frac{\delta W_2}{W_0} = \xi_0^2 \left( n - \frac{1}{q_a} \right) \left[ \left( n - \frac{1}{q_a} \right) + \left( n + \frac{1}{q_a} \right) \right] = 2\xi_0^2 \left[ n \left( n - \frac{1}{q_a} \right) \right]$$

Kruskal-Shafranov criterion:

 $q_a > 1$  stability condition for the m = 1 external kink mode for the worst case, n = 1

Imposing an important constraint on tokamak operation: toroidal current upper limit ( $I < I_{KS}$ )

$$I_{KS} \equiv 2\pi a^2 B_0 / \mu_0 R_0 = 5a^2 B_0 / R_0 [MA] \qquad q_a = \frac{aB_0}{\mu_0 R_0 I_{KS} / 2\pi a} = 1$$

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#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes Classical mechanics formulation  $\vec{B}_v = B_v \vec{e}_z$ 

Force acting on plasma:  $\vec{F}(R,Z) = -\nabla \phi$ 

Equilibrium:  $F_R(R_0, Z_0) = F_Z(R_0, Z_0) = 0$ 

Vertical and horizontal stability: Restoring force is opposite to displacement.

 $\partial F_Z(R_0, Z_0) / \partial Z < 0$  $\partial F_R(R_0, Z_0) / \partial R < 0$ 

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes

Classical mechanics formulation



Potential energy:  $\phi(R,Z) = \frac{1}{2}LI^2$   $L(R) = \mu_0 R[\ln(8R/a) - 2]$ Flux linked by plasma:  $\psi(R,Z) = LI - 2\pi \int_0^R B_Z(R',Z)R'dR' = const$ 

Equilibrium: 
$$F_Z = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial Z} = -LI \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} = 0$$
  
 $F_R = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial R} = -LI \frac{\partial I}{\partial R} - \frac{I^2}{2} \frac{dL}{dR} = 0$ 

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes

Constraint: 
$$\psi = const \rightarrow \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z} = L \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} - 2\pi \int_0^R \frac{\partial B_Z(R', Z)}{\partial Z} R' dR'$$
$$= L \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} + 2\pi R B_R = 0 \quad \longleftarrow \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0: \quad \frac{\partial B_Z}{\partial Z} = -\frac{1}{R'} \frac{\partial R' B_R}{\partial R'}$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} = L \frac{\partial I}{\partial R} + I \frac{\partial I}{\partial R} - 2\pi \int_0^R \frac{\partial B_Z(R', Z)}{\partial R} R' dR'$$
$$= L \frac{\partial I}{\partial R} + I \frac{dL}{dR} - 2\pi R B_Z = 0$$

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes

Eliminate  $\partial I/\partial Z$ ,  $\partial I/\partial R$  from force relation:

$$F_{Z} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial Z} = -LI \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} = 2\pi RIB_{R} = 0$$

$$F_{R} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial R} = -LI \frac{\partial I}{\partial R} - \frac{I^{2}}{2} \frac{dL}{dR} = I \left( I \frac{dL}{dR} - 2\pi RB_{Z} \right) - \frac{I^{2}}{2} \frac{dL}{dR} = 0$$

$$B_{Z}(R_{0}, Z_{0}) = \frac{I}{4\pi R_{0}} \frac{dL}{dR_{0}} = \frac{\mu_{0}I}{4\pi R_{0}} \left[ \ln \frac{8R_{0}}{a} - 1 \right]$$

$$\longleftrightarrow \quad B_{v} = \frac{\mu_{0}I}{4\pi R_{0}} \left[ \beta_{p} + \frac{l_{i}}{2} - \frac{3}{2} + \ln \frac{8R_{0}}{a} \right]$$

Shafranov result

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes

Vertical stability

$$F_{Z} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial Z} = -LI \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} = 2\pi RIB_{R} = 0$$
  

$$\frac{\partial F_{Z}}{\partial Z} = 2\pi R \left( B_{R} \frac{\partial I}{\partial Z} + I \frac{\partial B_{R}}{\partial Z} \right) = 2\pi RI \frac{\partial B_{R}}{\partial Z} < 0 \text{ for stability}$$
  

$$\nabla \times \vec{B} = 0: \quad \frac{\partial B_{R}}{\partial Z} = \frac{\partial B_{Z}}{\partial R}$$
  
Define field index  $n(R_{0}, Z_{0}) = -\left(\frac{R}{B_{Z}} \frac{\partial B_{Z}}{\partial R}\right)_{R_{0}, Z_{0}}$   

$$\frac{\partial F_{Z}}{\partial Z} = 2\pi RI \frac{\partial B_{R}}{\partial Z} = 2\pi RI \frac{\partial B_{Z}}{\partial R} = -2\pi RI \cdot n \frac{B_{Z}}{R} = -2\pi I \frac{I}{4\pi R_{0}} \frac{dL}{dR} n < 0: n > 0$$

#### Tokamaks

• n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes

Horizontal stability

$$\frac{\partial F_R}{\partial R} = \frac{I^2}{2R_0} \frac{dL}{dR_0} \left[ n - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{d \ln L}{d \ln R_0} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d \ln(dL/dR_0)}{d \ln R_0} \right] < 0 : n < 3/2$$

$$\ln(8R_0/a) >> 1$$

$$\ln(8R_0/a) >> 1$$

$$(B_V) \rightarrow B_P \rightarrow B_V \rightarrow B_V \rightarrow B_R \qquad B_Z < 0$$

$$(B_V) \rightarrow B_V \rightarrow B_V$$

#### Tokamaks

- n = 0 Axisymmetric Modes
- n = 0 axisymmetric modes can lead to potentially serious instabilities in a tokamak.

- For a circular cross sections a moderate shaping of the vertical field should provide stability.

- For noncircular tokamaks, vertical instabilities produce important limitations on the maximum achievable elongations.

- Even moderate elongations require a conducting wall or a feedback system for vertical stability.

ITER: current design of the invessel coils to stabilize ELMs and the vertical displacement events, shown for a 40° vacuum vessel sector



### References

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- http://burningplasma.org/enews071508.html