

# Introduction to Nuclear Fusion

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# Tokamak equilibrium

# Tokamak Equilibrium

$$\nabla p = \vec{J} \times \vec{B}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

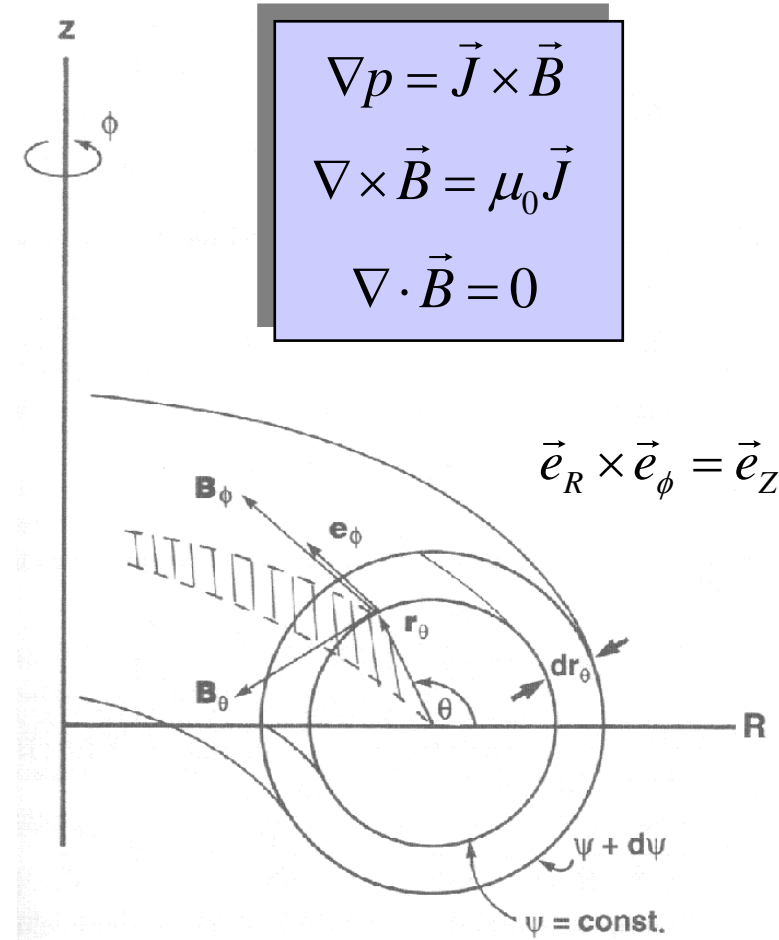
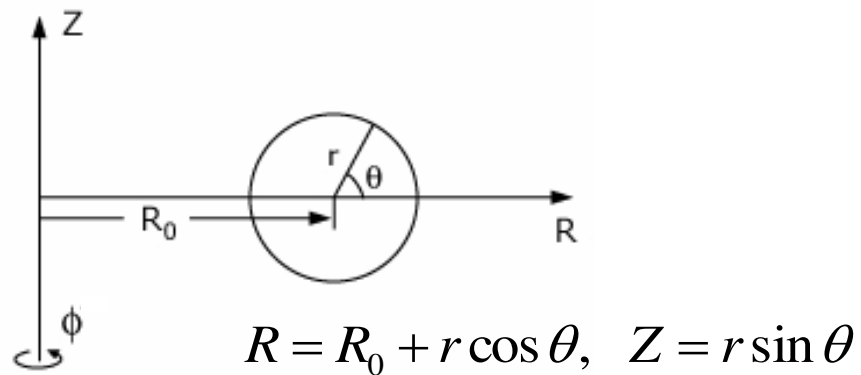
- Consider the axisymmetric torus, the simplest, multi-dimensional configuration
- We shall derive the Grad–Shafranov equation for axisymmetric equilibria.
- This provides a complete description of toroidal equilibrium:  
radial pressure balance, toroidal force balance,  
 $\beta$  limits,  $q$ -profiles, etc.

# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

$$\Delta^* \psi = -\mu_0 R^2 \frac{dp}{d\psi} - F \frac{dF}{d\psi}$$

- Nonlinear
- Partial differential equation
- Grad and Rubin (1958), Shafranov (1960)
- Toroidal axisymmetric  $\partial/\partial\phi = 0$



# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

Sequence of solution of the MHD equilibrium equations

1. The  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
2. Ampere's law:  $\mu_0 \mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$
3. The momentum equation:  $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla p$

$$\vec{J} \times \vec{B} = \nabla p$$

$$\nabla p = (\vec{J}_\phi + \vec{J}_p) \times (\vec{B}_\phi + \vec{B}_p)$$

$$\nabla p = \vec{J} \times \vec{B}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- Momentum equation  $\vec{J} \times \vec{B} = \nabla p$

$$\nabla p = (\vec{J}_\phi + \vec{J}_p) \times (\vec{B}_\phi + \vec{B}_p)$$

- aim: to express each term with  $\psi$  and  $F$   $\psi = \frac{\Psi_p}{2\pi}, F = \frac{\mu_0 I_p}{2\pi}$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{B}_p = -\frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi$$

$$\mu_0 \vec{J}_p = \nabla \times \vec{B}_\phi \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{J}_p = -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F, \quad \vec{B}_\phi = \frac{F}{R} \vec{e}_\phi$$

$$\mu_0 \vec{J}_\phi = (\nabla \times \vec{B})_\phi \quad \longrightarrow \quad \vec{J}_\phi = -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \Delta^* \psi \vec{e}_\phi$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

- The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- The  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}$  Equation

In cylindrical coordinates for toroidal axisymmetric fields ( $\partial/\partial\phi=0$ )

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial(RB_R)}{\partial R} + \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial B_Z}{\partial Z} = 0$$

$$\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \psi = 0$$

Magnetic flux  
surface

$$B_R \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} + B_Z \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z} = 0$$

$$B_R = -\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z}, \quad B_Z = \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}$$

$\psi$ : Stream function  
for the poloidal  
magnetic field

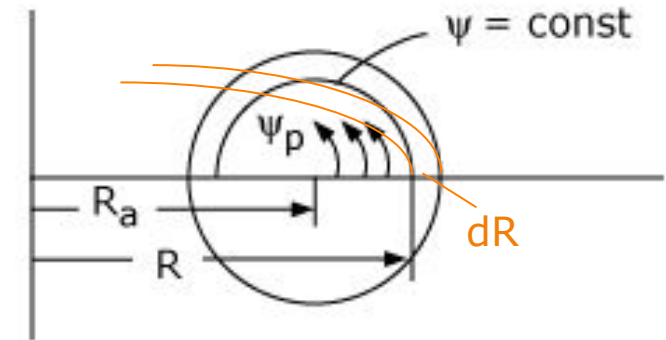
# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- The stream function  $\psi$  is closely related to the poloidal flux in the plasma.

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_p &= \oint \vec{B}_p \cdot d\vec{A} \\ &= \int B_z(R, Z=0) R d\phi dR \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{R_a}^R R dR B_z(R, Z=0) \\ &= \int_{R_a}^R 2\pi R \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} dR \quad \leftarrow B_z = \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} \\ &= 2\pi [\psi(R, 0) - \psi(R_a, 0)] = 2\pi \psi\end{aligned}$$

Poloidal flux on axis is zero





# Tokamak Equilibrium

- The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- The  $\nabla \cdot \vec{B}$  Equation

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial(RB_R)}{\partial R} + \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial B_Z}{\partial Z} = 0$$

$$\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \psi = 0 \quad B_R \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} + B_Z \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z} = 0$$

Magnetic flux surface

$$B_R = -\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z}, \quad B_Z = \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}$$

$$\vec{B} = B_\phi \vec{e}_\phi + \vec{B}_p$$

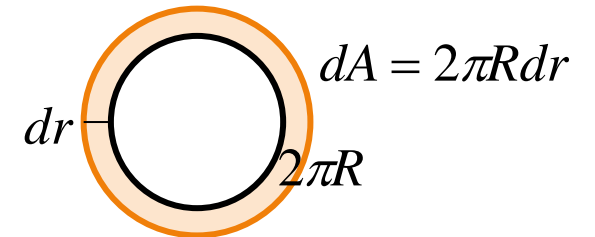
$$2\pi d\psi = 2\pi(\psi + d\psi) - 2\pi\psi = \int_{A+\delta A} \vec{B}_p \cdot d\vec{A} - \int_A \vec{B}_p \cdot d\vec{A} = \int_{\delta A} \vec{B}_p \cdot d\vec{A} \approx B_p 2\pi R dr$$

$$RB_p = \frac{d\psi}{dr} = |\nabla \psi|$$

$$\vec{B}_p = -\frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi$$

$\psi$ : Stream function for the poloidal magnetic field

$$2\pi\psi = \psi_p = \oint \vec{B}_p \cdot d\vec{A}$$



# Tokamak Equilibrium

- The Grad-Shafranov Equation**

- Ampere's law (poloidal component)

$$\mu_0 \vec{J}_p = \nabla \times \vec{B}_\phi$$

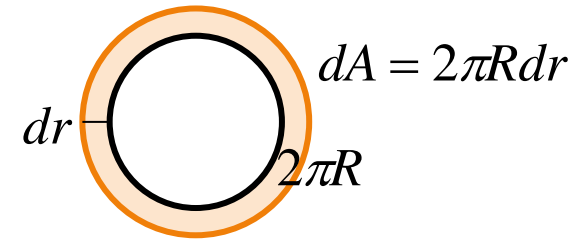
$$\int_{\delta A} \nabla \times \vec{B}_\phi \cdot d\vec{A} = \oint \vec{B}_\phi \cdot d\vec{l} = 2\pi d(RB_\phi) = 2\pi d\psi \frac{\partial(RB_\phi)}{\partial\psi}$$

$$2\pi d\psi \frac{\partial(RB_\phi)}{\partial\psi} = \mu_0 J_p 2\pi R dr$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial(RB_\phi)}{\partial\psi} = \frac{\mu_0 J_p R}{(d\psi / dr)} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial\psi} \quad \leftarrow F(\psi) \equiv RB_\phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu_0 J_p R = \frac{\partial F}{\partial\psi} \frac{d\psi}{dr} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial\psi} |\nabla\psi| = \frac{\partial F}{\partial r} = |\nabla F(\psi)|$$

$$J_p = \frac{|\nabla F|}{\mu_0 R} \quad \vec{J}_p = -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F, \quad B_\phi = \frac{F}{R}$$



$$\int_{\delta A} \mu_0 \vec{J}_p \cdot d\vec{A} = \mu_0 J_p 2\pi R dr$$

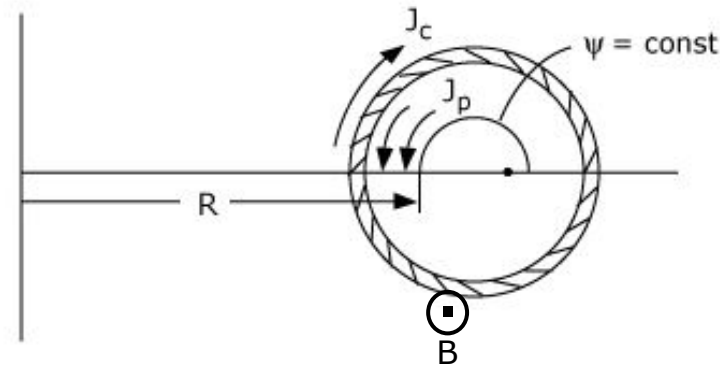
# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- Interpretation of  $F(\psi)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_p &= \int \vec{J}_p \cdot d\vec{A} \\
 &= \int J_z(R, Z=0) R d\phi dR \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^R R dR J_z(R, Z=0) \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^R R dR \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R B_\phi) \\
 &= \int_0^R 2\pi R \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \frac{\partial F}{\partial R} dR \\
 &= 2\pi [F(R, 0) - F(0, 0)] / \mu_0 \quad R=0 \rightarrow F(\psi) = 0 \\
 &= 2\pi F(\psi) / \mu_0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\leftarrow J_z = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial}{\partial R} (R B_\phi), \quad F(\psi) \equiv R B_\phi$$



$I_p(\psi)$  is the total poloidal current and the toroidal field coil currents passing through the circle  $\psi(R, 0) = \text{const}$ .

# Tokamak Equilibrium

- **The Grad-Shafranov Equation**
  - Ampere's law (toroidal component)

$$\mu_0 \vec{J} = \nabla \times \vec{B}$$

$$J_\phi = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left( \frac{\partial B_R}{\partial Z} - \frac{\partial B_Z}{\partial R} \right) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left( -\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left( \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} \right) \right)$$

$$\equiv -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \Delta^* \psi \quad \leftarrow B_R = -\frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial Z}, \quad B_Z = \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R}$$

$$\Delta^* \psi \equiv R \frac{\partial}{\partial R} \left( \frac{1}{R} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial R} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial Z^2} \quad \text{elliptic operator}$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

- Momentum equation  $\vec{J} \times \vec{B} = \nabla p$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla p &= (\vec{J}_\phi + \vec{J}_p) \times (\vec{B}_\phi + \vec{B}_p) \\ &= \left( \vec{J}_\phi - \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F \right) \times \left( \vec{B}_\phi - \frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi \right) \\ &= -\vec{J}_\phi \times \left( \frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi \right) - \left( \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F \right) \times \vec{B}_\phi \\ &= -\frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi (\vec{J}_\phi \cdot \nabla \psi) + \nabla \psi \left( \vec{J}_\phi \cdot \frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \right) + \vec{B}_\phi \times \left( \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F \right) \\ &= \frac{\vec{J}_\phi}{R} \nabla \psi + \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi (\vec{B}_\phi \cdot \nabla F) - \nabla F \left( \vec{B}_\phi \cdot \frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \right) \\ &= \frac{J_\phi}{R} \nabla \psi - \frac{B_\phi}{\mu_0 R} \nabla F \end{aligned}$$

Symmetry

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J}_p &= -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F \\ \vec{B}_p &= -\frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi \\ B_\phi &= \frac{F(\psi)}{R} \\ J_\phi &= -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \Delta^* \psi \end{aligned}$$

←  $A \times (B \times C) = B(A \cdot C) - C(A \cdot B)$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

- **The Grad-Shafranov Equation**

- Momentum equation  $\vec{J} \times \vec{B} = \nabla p$

$$\nabla p = (\vec{J}_\phi + \vec{J}_p) \times (\vec{B}_\phi + \vec{B}_p) = \frac{J_\phi}{R} \nabla \psi - \frac{B_\phi}{\mu_0 R} \nabla F$$

$$\begin{aligned} J_\phi &= R \frac{\nabla p}{\nabla \psi} + \frac{B_\phi}{\mu_0} \frac{\nabla F}{\nabla \psi} \\ &= R \frac{dp}{d\psi} + \frac{B_\phi}{\mu_0} \frac{dF}{d\psi} \\ &= R \frac{dp}{d\psi} + \frac{F(\psi)}{\mu_0 R} \frac{dF}{d\psi} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \Delta^* \psi \end{aligned}$$

Symmetry

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{J}_p &= -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla F \\ \vec{B}_p &= -\frac{1}{R} \vec{e}_\phi \times \nabla \psi \\ B_\phi &= \frac{F(\psi)}{R} \\ J_\phi &= -\frac{1}{\mu_0 R} \Delta^* \psi \end{aligned}$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • The Grad-Shafranov Equation

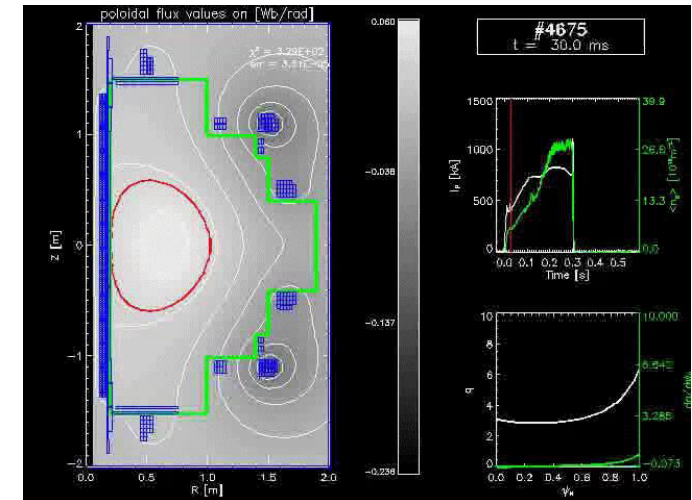
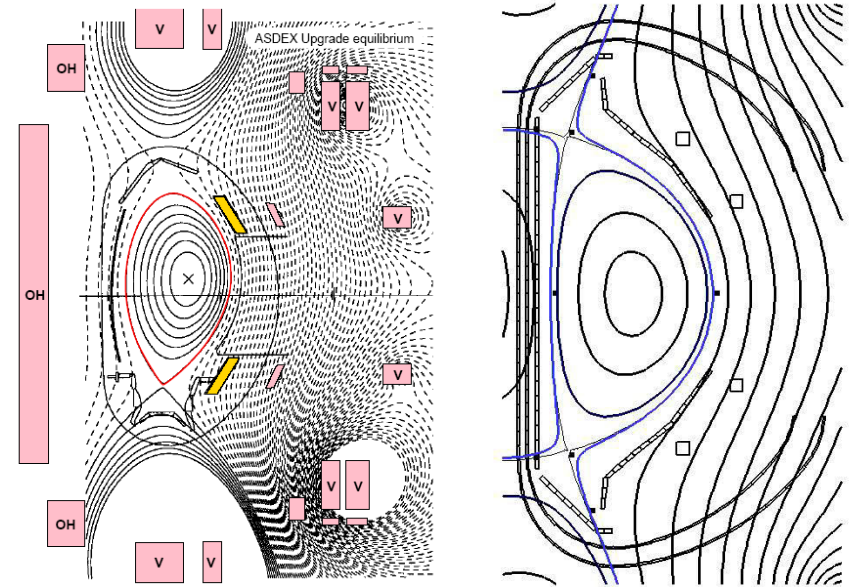
$$\Delta^* \psi = -\mu_0 R^2 \frac{dp}{d\psi} - F \frac{dF}{d\psi}$$

↑  
 $\mathbf{J}_\phi \times \mathbf{B}_p$ :  
 strength  
 of  $\mathbf{B}_p$

↑  
 $\nabla p$ :  
 plasma load  
 on a magnetic  
 flux surface

↑  
 $\mathbf{J}_p \times \mathbf{B}_\phi$ :  
 strength  
 of  $\mathbf{B}_\phi$

- BCs: provided by the transformer-induced poloidal magnetic field outside the plasma
- In practice, the G-S equation is solved numerically to find the geometrical location of the magnetic surfaces and the radial distribution of the axial current density in a way that is consistent with the experimentally measured pressure profiles ( $p$ ) and the externally applied field ( $F$ ).



# Force balance in a tokamak

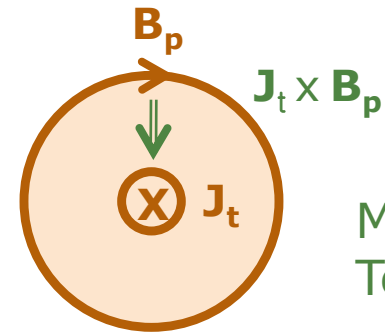
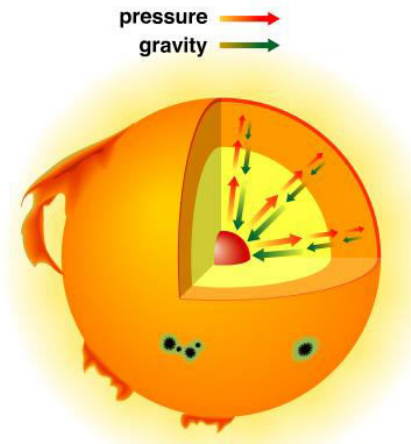
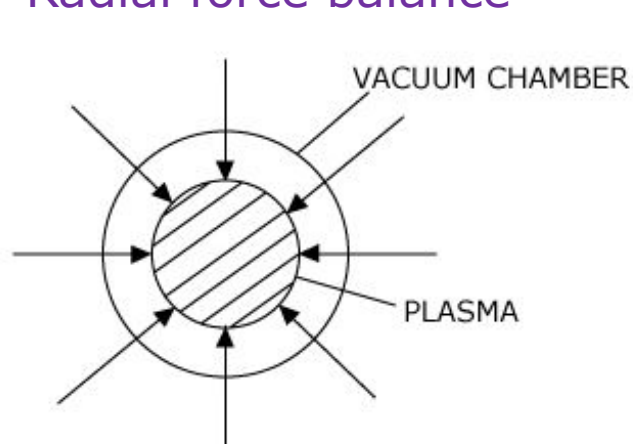




# Tokamak Equilibrium

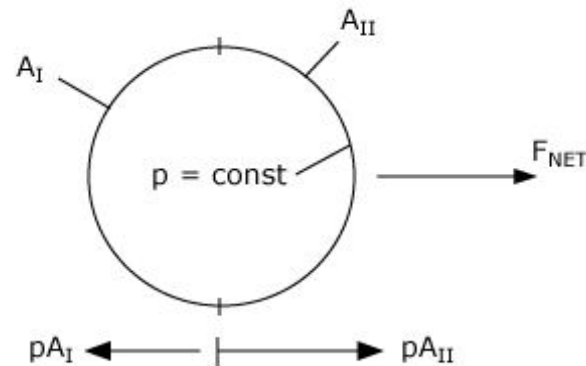
- **Basic Forces Acting on Tokamak Plasmas**

- Radial force balance



Magnetic pressure,  
Tension force

- Toroidal force balance: Tire tube force

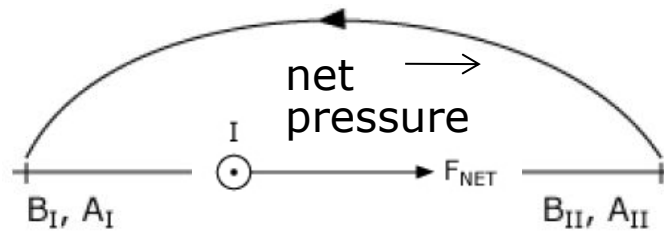
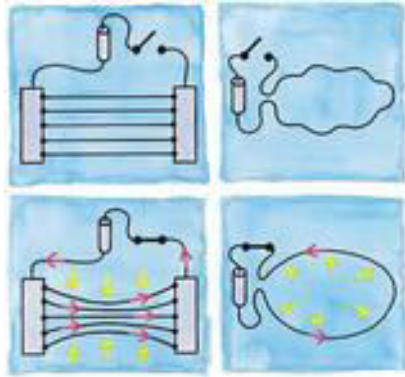


$$F_{NET} \sim -e_R (pA_I - pA_{II})$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

## • Basic Forces Acting on Tokamak Plasmas

- Toroidal force balance: Hoop force



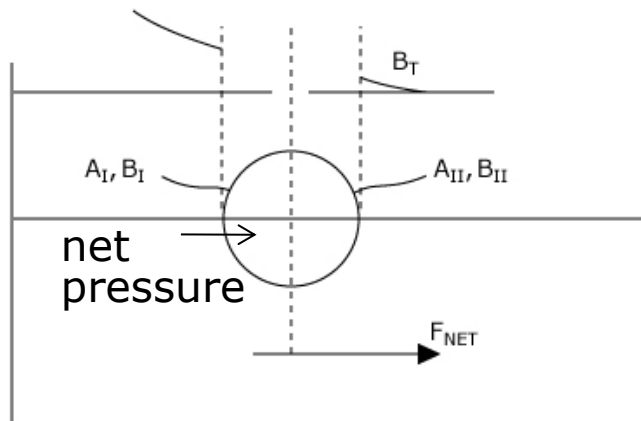
$$F_{NET} \sim e_R (B_I^2 A_I - B_{II}^2 A_{II}) / 2\mu_0$$

$$\phi_I = \phi_{II}$$

$$B_I > B_{II}, \quad A_I < A_{II}$$

$$B_I^2 A_I > B_{II}^2 A_{II}$$

- Toroidal force balance: 1/R force



$$B_I > B_{II}, \quad A_I < A_{II}$$

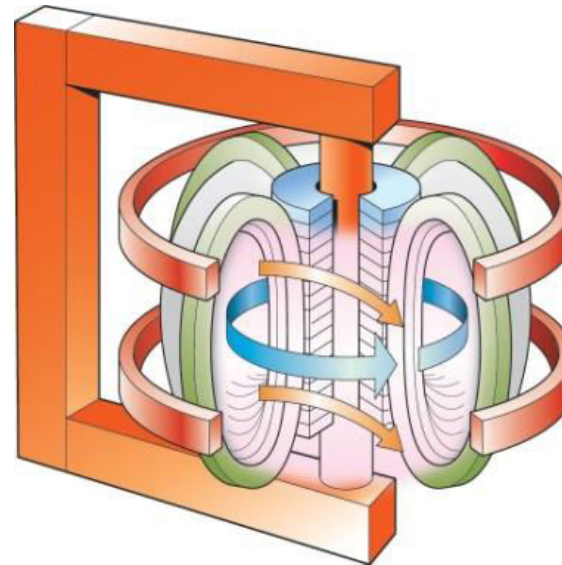
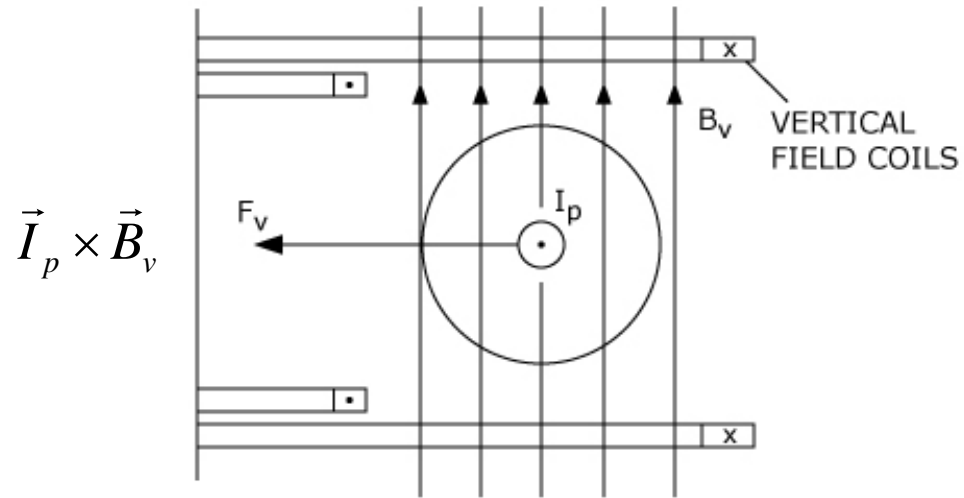
$$B_I^2 A_I > B_{II}^2 A_{II}$$

$$F_{NET} \sim e_R (B_I^2 A_I - B_{II}^2 A_{II}) / 2\mu_0 = 2\pi^2 a^2 \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0}$$

# Tokamak Equilibrium

- **Basic Forces Acting on Tokamak Plasmas**

- External coils required to provide the force balance



$$F_v = BIL = 2\pi R_0 I_p B_v$$

$$B_\phi > B_\theta > B_v$$

**How about vertical movement?**

# References

*Lesch, Astrophysics, IPP Summer School (2008)*