

# Impact of neutral atoms on plasma turbulence in the tokamak edge region

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Theory of Fusion Plasmas  
Joint Varenna-Lausanne International Workshop

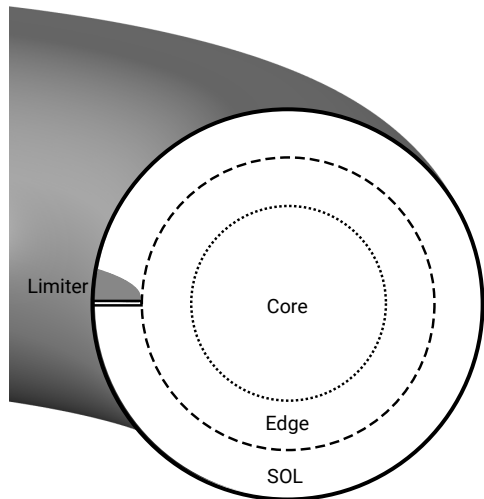
29.08. - 02.09. 2016



**SWISS PLASMA  
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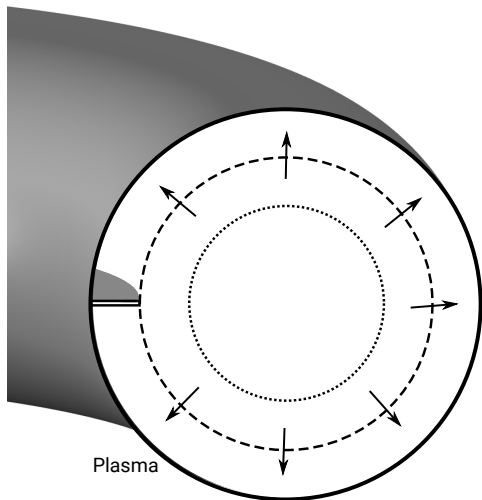
# Physics at the periphery of a fusion plasma

- ▶ Toroidal limiter



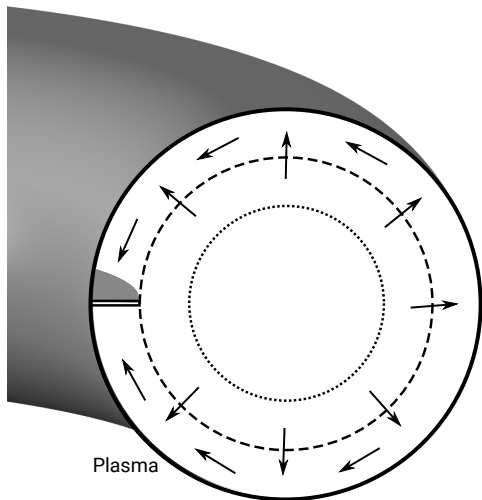
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- ▶ Radial transport due to turbulence



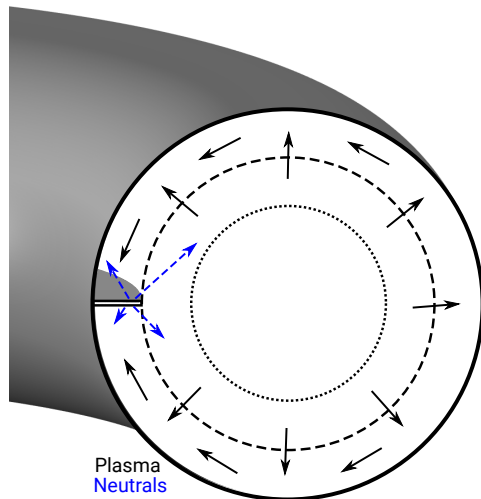
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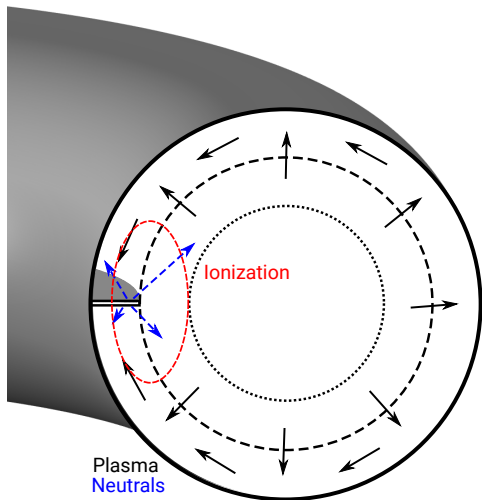
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- ▶ Recombination on the limiter



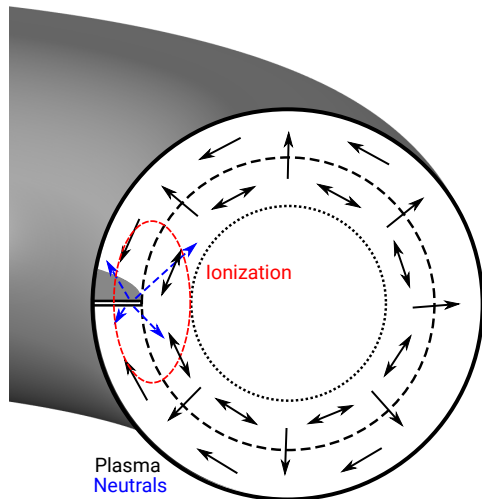
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- ▶ Ionization of neutrals
  - ▶ Density source
  - ▶ Energy sink



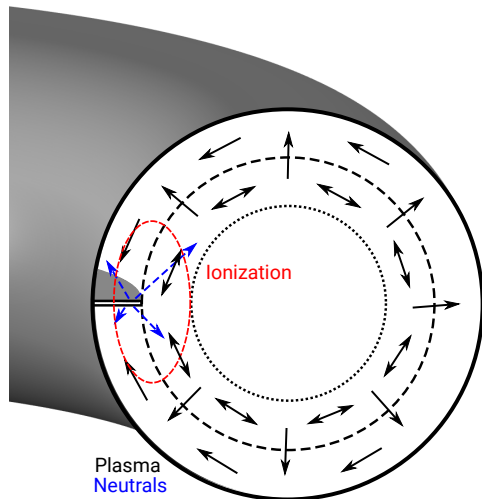
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- ▶ Recycling





# Movie

# The tokamak scrape-off layer (SOL)

- ▶ Heat exhaust
- ▶ Confinement
- ▶ Impurities
- ▶ Fusion ash removal
- ▶ Fueling the plasma (recycling)

1. Modeling the periphery
2. A refined two-point model with neutrals
3. Gas puff fueling simulations

# Modeling the periphery

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- ▶ High plasma collisionality, local Maxwellian

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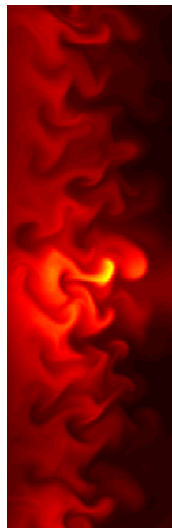
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- ▶ Drift-reduced Braginskii equations  
 $n, \Omega, v_{\parallel e}, v_{\parallel i}, T_e, T_i$

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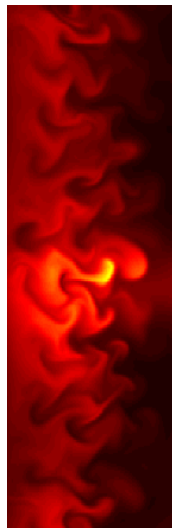
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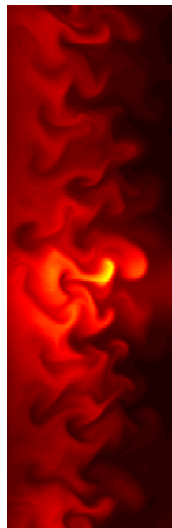
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- ▶ Flux-driven, no separation between equilibrium and fluctuations
- ▶ Kinetic neutral equation
- ▶ Interplay between plasma outflow from the core, turbulent transport, sheath losses, and recycling



# Fluid plasma model and interaction with neutrals

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, n] + \frac{2}{B} [C(\rho_e) - nC(\phi)] - \nabla_{\parallel} (n v_{\parallel e}) + \mathcal{D}_n(n) + S_n + n n v_{iz} - n v_{rec} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\omega}}{\partial t} = -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, \tilde{\omega}] - v_{\parallel i} \nabla_{\parallel} \tilde{\omega} + \frac{B^2}{n} \nabla_{\parallel} j_{\parallel} + \frac{2B}{n} C(\rho) + \mathcal{D}_{\tilde{\omega}}(\tilde{\omega}) - \frac{n n}{n} v_{cx} \tilde{\omega} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_{\parallel e}}{\partial t} = -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, v_{\parallel e}] - v_{\parallel e} \nabla_{\parallel} v_{\parallel e} + \frac{m_i}{m_e} \left( v_{\parallel} \frac{j_{\parallel}}{n} + \nabla_{\parallel} \phi - \frac{1}{n} \nabla_{\parallel} p_e - 0.71 \nabla_{\parallel} T_e \right) + \mathcal{D}_{v_{\parallel e}}(v_{\parallel e}) + \frac{n n}{n} (v_{en} + 2v_{iz})(v_{\parallel n} - v_{\parallel e}) \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_{\parallel i}}{\partial t} = -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, v_{\parallel i}] - v_{\parallel i} \nabla_{\parallel} v_{\parallel i} - \frac{1}{n} \nabla_{\parallel} p + \mathcal{D}_{v_{\parallel i}}(v_{\parallel i}) + \frac{n n}{n} (v_{iz} + v_{cx})(v_{\parallel n} - v_{\parallel i}) \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial T_e}{\partial t} = & -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, T_e] - v_{\parallel e} \nabla_{\parallel} T_e + \frac{4T_e}{3B} \left[ \frac{1}{n} C(\rho_e) + \frac{5}{2} C(T_e) - C(\phi) \right] + \frac{2T_e}{3} \left[ \frac{0.71}{n} \nabla_{\parallel} j_{\parallel} - \nabla_{\parallel} v_{\parallel e} \right] \\ & + \mathcal{D}_{T_e}(T_e) + \mathcal{D}_{T_e}^{\parallel}(T_e) + S_{T_e} + \frac{n n}{n} v_{iz} \left( -\frac{2}{3} E_{iz} - T_e + \frac{m_e}{m_i} v_{\parallel e} (v_{\parallel e} - \frac{4}{3} v_{\parallel n}) \right) + \frac{n n}{n} v_{en} \frac{m_e}{m_i} \frac{2}{3} v_{\parallel e} (v_{\parallel n} - v_{\parallel e}) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial T_i}{\partial t} = & -\rho_*^{-1} [\phi, T_i] - v_{\parallel i} \nabla_{\parallel} T_i + \frac{4T_i}{3B} \left[ \frac{1}{n} C(\rho_e) - \tau \frac{5}{2} C(T_i) - C(\phi) \right] + \frac{2T_i}{3} \left[ (v_{\parallel i} - v_{\parallel e}) \frac{\nabla_{\parallel} n}{n} - \nabla_{\parallel} v_{\parallel e} \right] \\ & + \mathcal{D}_{T_i}(T_i) + \mathcal{D}_{T_i}^{\parallel}(T_i) + S_{T_i} + \frac{n n}{n} (v_{iz} + v_{cx})(T_n - T_i + \frac{1}{3} (v_{\parallel n} - v_{\parallel i})^2) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\nabla_{\perp}^2 \phi = \omega, \quad \rho_* = \rho_s / R, \quad \nabla_{\parallel} f = \mathbf{b}_0 \cdot \nabla f, \quad \tilde{\omega} = \omega + \tau \nabla_{\perp}^2 T_i, \quad p = n(T_e + \tau T_i)$$

+ boundary conditions

+ kinetic neutral equation

# The density equation

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\rho_*^{-1}[\phi, n] + \frac{2}{B} [C(p_e) - nC(\phi)] - \nabla_{\parallel}(nv_{\parallel e}) \quad (7)$$

$$+ S_n + n_n v_{iz} - nv_{rec} + \mathcal{D}_{\perp n}(n)$$

- ▶ ExB drift
- ▶ Curvature terms
- ▶ Parallel advection
- ▶ Plasma source from core
- ▶ Interaction with neutrals
- ▶ Perpendicular diffusion

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- ▶ Interaction with neutrals
- ▶ **Perpendicular diffusion**

# The kinetic model of the neutrals

- ▶ One mono-atomic neutral species
- ▶ Krook operators for ionization, charge-exchange, and recombination
- ▶ C. Wersal and P. Ricci 2015 *Nucl. Fusion* **55** 123014

# The neutral model

$$\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial \vec{X}} = -v_{iz} f_n - v_{cx} (f_n - n_n \Phi_i) + v_{rec} n_i \Phi_i \quad (8)$$

$$v_{iz} = n_e \langle v_e \sigma_{iz}(v_e) \rangle, \quad v_{cx} = n_i \langle v_{rel} \sigma_{cx}(v_{rel}) \rangle$$

$$v_{rec} = n_e \langle v_e \sigma_{rec}(v_e) \rangle, \quad \Phi_i = f_i / n_i$$

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## Boundary conditions

( $v_{\perp}$  in respect to the surface;  $\theta$  between  $\vec{v}$  and normal vector to the surface)

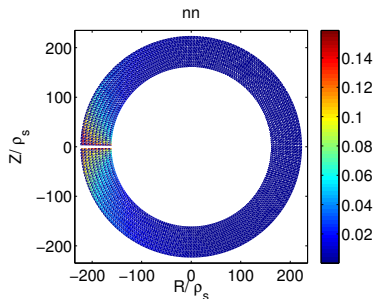
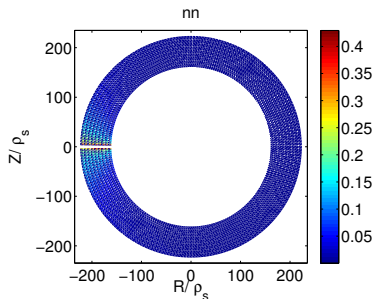
$$\int d\vec{v} v_{\perp} f_n(\vec{X}_w, \vec{v}) + u_{i\perp} n_i = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$f_n(\vec{X}_w, \vec{v}) \propto \cos(\theta) e^{mv^2/2T_w} \quad \text{for } v_{\perp} > 0 \quad (10)$$



# Boundary conditions for the neutrals

- ▶ Partial reflection at the limiters
- ▶ Window averaged particle flux conservation at the outer boundary



- ▶ Gas puffs and neutral background

## Further simplifications

- ▶ Separation of time scales
  - ▶ The neutrals' time of life is typically shorter than the turbulent time scale
  - ▶  $T_e = 20\text{eV}$ ,  $n_0 = 5 \cdot 10^{13}\text{cm}^{-3}$ 
    - $\tau_{\text{neutral losses}} \approx v_{\text{eff}}^{-1} \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-7}\text{s}$
    - $\tau_{\text{turbulence}} \approx \sqrt{R_0 L_p} / c_{s0} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-6}\text{s}$
  - ▶ Assume  $\partial f_n / \partial t \approx 0$

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- ▶ Assume  $\partial f_n / \partial t \approx 0$

- ▶ Plasma anisotropy

- ▶ The plasma elongation along the field lines is much longer than the typical neutral mean free path

- ▶ Assume  $\nabla_{\parallel} f_n \approx 0$

# Solution of neutral eq. with method of characteristics

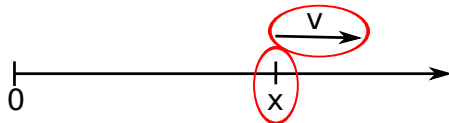
Example in 1D, no recombination,  $v > 0$  and a wall at  $x = 0$

$$v \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x} = v_{cx} n_n \Phi_i - (v_{iz} + v_{cx}) f_n \quad (11)$$

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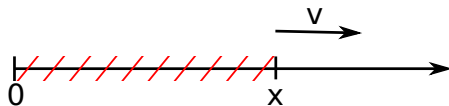
$$f_n(x, v)$$

(12)

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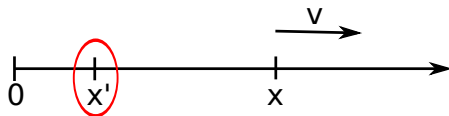


$$f_n(x, v) = \int_0^x dx' \quad (12)$$

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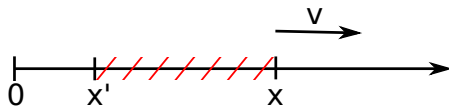


$$f_n(x, v) = \int_0^x dx' \frac{v_{cx}(x') n_n(x') \Phi_i(x', v)}{v} \quad (12)$$

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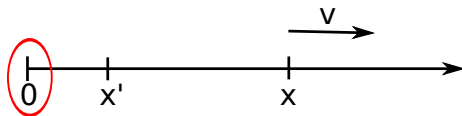
$$f_n(x, v) = \int_0^x dx' \frac{v_{cx}(x') n_n(x') \Phi_i(x', v)}{v} e^{-\frac{1}{v} \int_{x'}^x dx'' (v_{cx}(x'') + v_{iz}(x''))} \quad (12)$$



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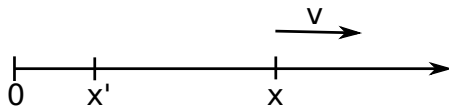


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# An equation for the density distribution

By imposing

$$\int f_n dv = n_n \quad (13)$$

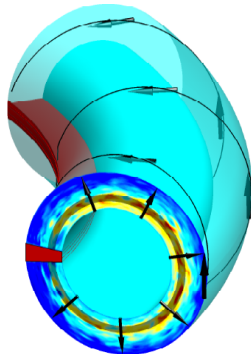
we get a linear integral equation for  $n_n(x)$

$$n_n(x) = \int_0^x dx' n_n(x') \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v_{cx}(x') \Phi_i(x', v)}{v} e^{-\frac{d_{eff} v_{eff}(x-x')}{v}} \quad (14)$$

+ *contribution by  $v < 0$*   
 +  $n_w(x)$

# The GBS code, a tool to simulate SOL turbulence

- ▶ Evolves scalar fields in 3D geometry  
 $n, \Omega, v_{\parallel e}, v_{\parallel i}, T_e, T_i$
- ▶ Kinetic neutral physics
- ▶ Limiter geometry
- ▶ Open and closed field-line region
- ▶ Sources  $S_n$  and  $S_T$  mimic plasma outflow from the core
- ▶ (Divertor geometry)



## Questions that we can address

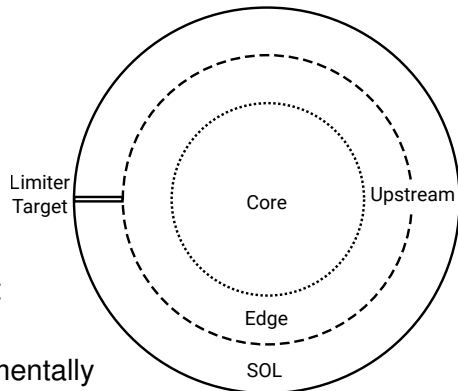
- ▶ How is the temperature at the limiter related to main plasma parameters?
- ▶ How is the plasma fueled?
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SOL width? Heat flux?
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3. Gas puff fueling simulations

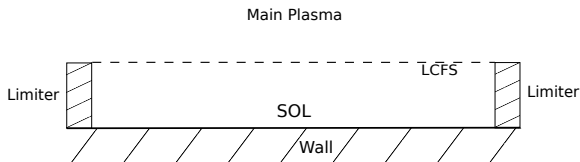
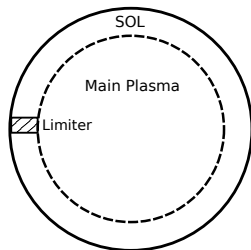
# The two-point model



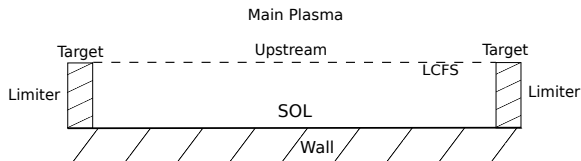
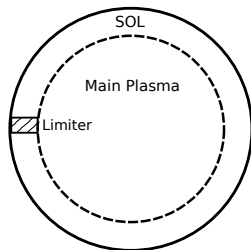
- ▶ Relation between upstream and target plasma properties
- ▶ Widely used experimentally for a quick estimate
- ▶ Derived from 1D model along field lines



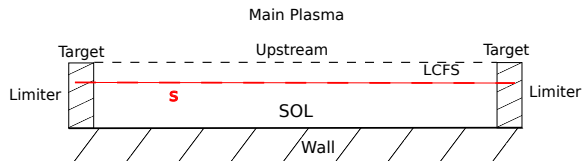
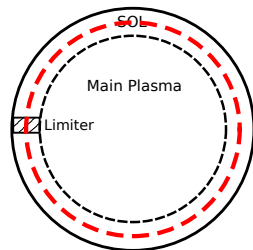
# The SOL unrolled



# The SOL unrolled

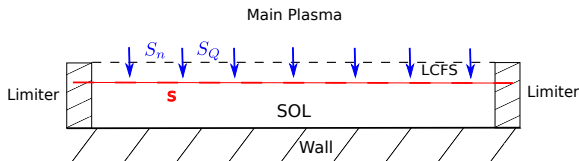
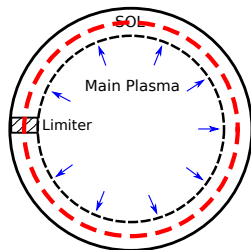


# The SOL unrolled



- ▶ Parallel plasma dynamics projected along poloidal coordinate

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- ▶ Parallel plasma dynamics projected along poloidal coordinate
- ▶ Plasma and energy outflowing from the core are modeled with prescribed  $S_n$  and  $S_Q$

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## Boundary conditions

- ▶ Upstream:  $dT_e/ds = 0$
- ▶ At the limiter:  $Q_L = \gamma_e \Gamma_L T_{eL}$ ,  
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$$S_Q, S_n$$

$$\Downarrow$$

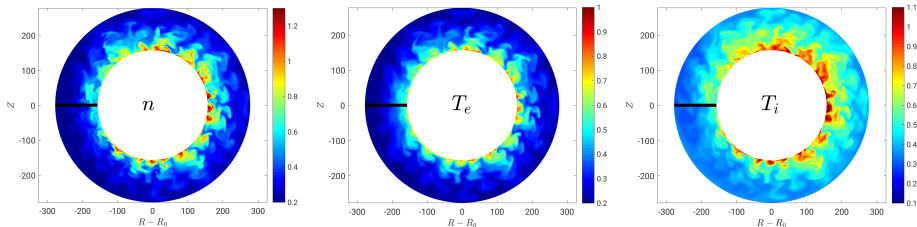
$$\frac{T_{e,u}}{T_{e,t}}$$

## Boundary conditions

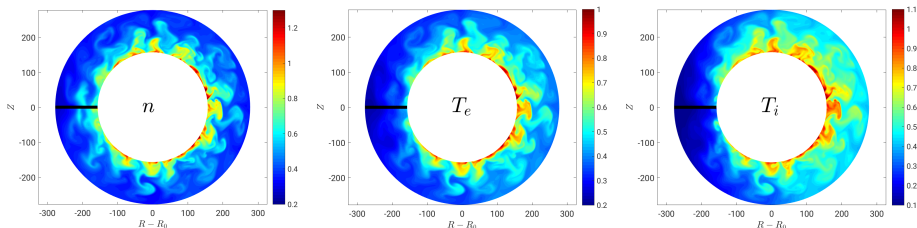
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# Simulations with different densities

$$n_0 = 5 \cdot 10^{12} \text{cm}^{-3}$$

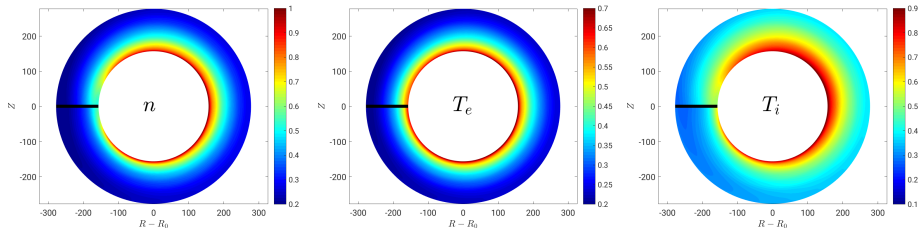


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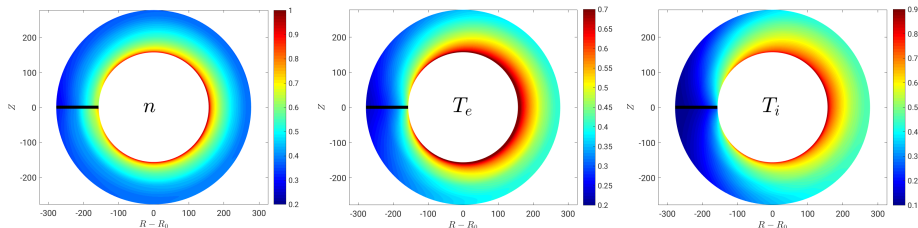


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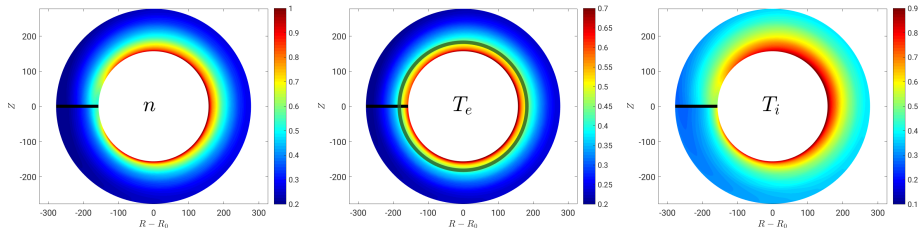


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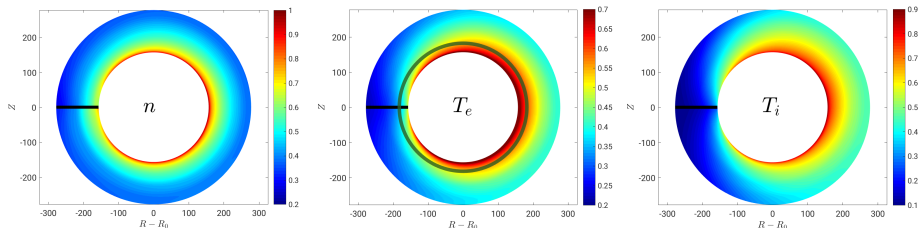


# Simulations with different densities

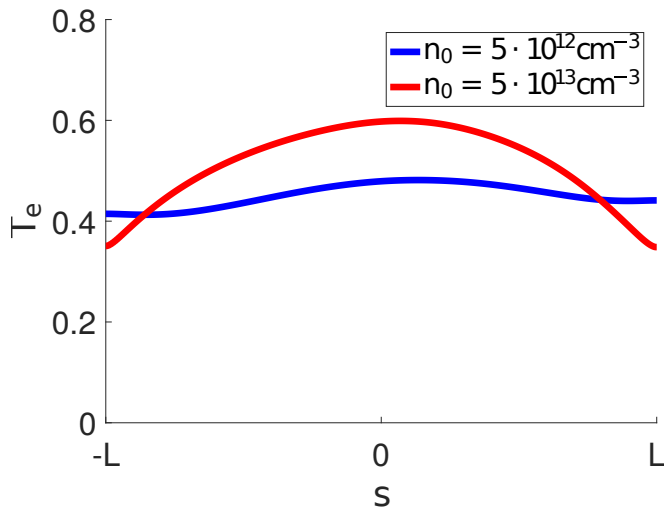
$$n_0 = 5 \cdot 10^{12} \text{cm}^{-3}$$



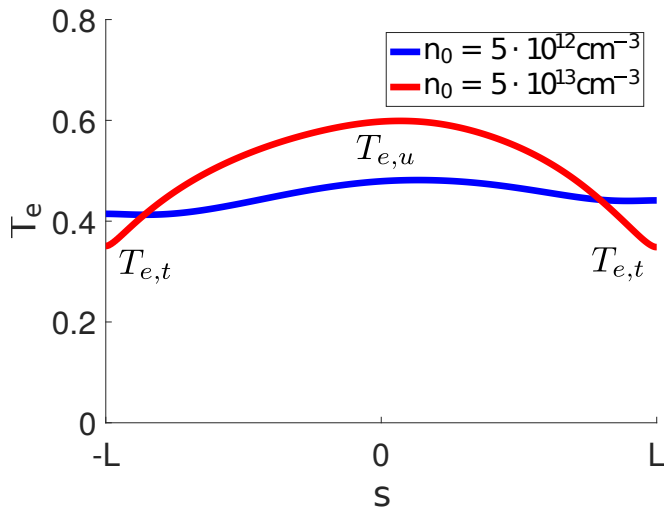
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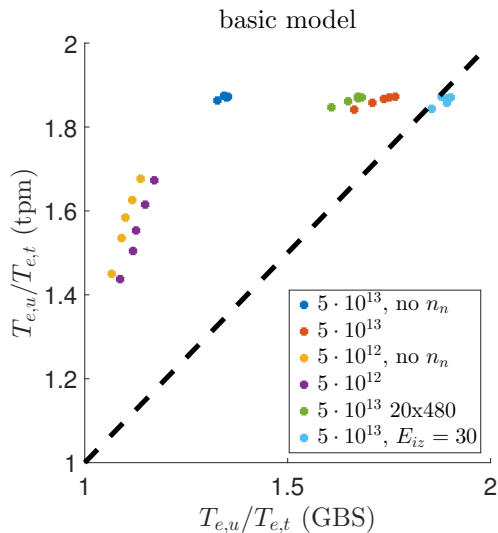
# Poloidal profiles of electron temperature



# Poloidal profiles of electron temperature



# Temperature ratio upstream to target



## A more refined two-point model

- ▶ Obtain an electron heat equation in quasi-steady state

$$\frac{3}{2} T_e \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} + \frac{3}{2} n \frac{\partial T_e}{\partial t} \approx 0 \quad (19)$$

- ▶ Assume  $v_{e,\parallel} \approx v_{i,\parallel}$  and neglect small terms (e.g.,  $\mathcal{D}_{\perp} T_e$ )
- ▶ Combine perpendicular transport terms into  $S_Q$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\parallel} \left( \frac{5}{2} n v_{\parallel} T_e \right) - \chi_{e0} \nabla_{\parallel} \left( T_e^{5/2} \nabla_{\parallel} T_e \right) - v_{\parallel} \nabla_{\parallel} (n T_e) & \quad (20) \\ = \langle S_Q \rangle + S_{\text{neutrals}} \end{aligned}$$

with  $S_{\text{neutrals}} = -n_n v_{iz}(T_e) E_{iz}$  and  $\chi_{e0} = 3/2 \bar{n} \kappa_{e\parallel}$



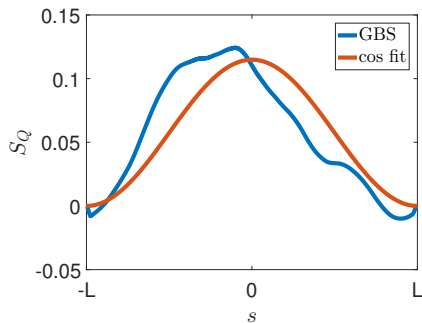
## Further assumptions and relations

- ▶  $v_{\parallel}$  is linear from  $-c_s$  to  $c_s$
- ▶  $c_s = \sqrt{T_{e,t} + T_{i,t}} \approx \sqrt{2T_{e,t}}$
- ▶  $nv_{\parallel} = \int [S_n + n_n v_{iz}(T_e)] ds$
- ▶  $n_n$  is decaying exponentially from limiter with  $\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$

## Three external input quantities

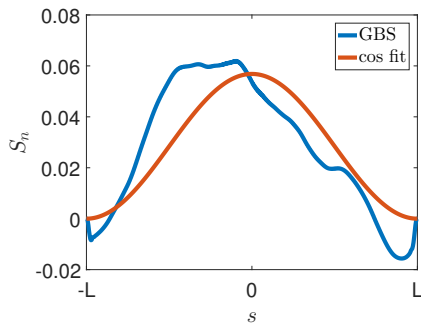
## Three external input quantities

- ▶ Perpendicular heat source,  $S_Q$



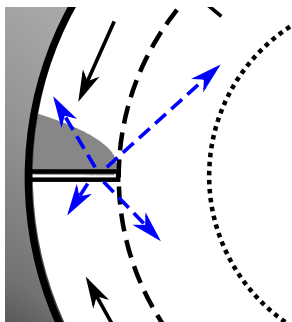
## Three external input quantities

- ▶ Perpendicular heat source,  $S_Q$
- ▶ Perpendicular particle source,  $S_n$



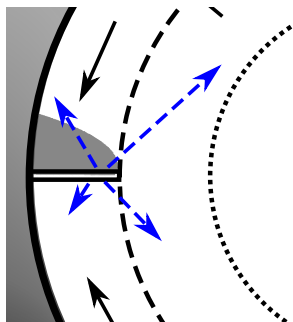
## Three external input quantities

- ▶ Perpendicular heat source,  $S_Q$
- ▶ Perpendicular particle source,  $S_n$
- ▶ Ionization particle source,  $S_{iz}$



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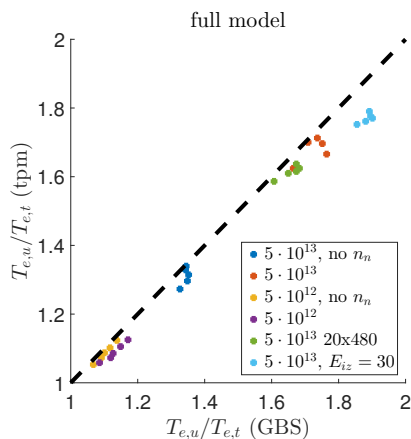
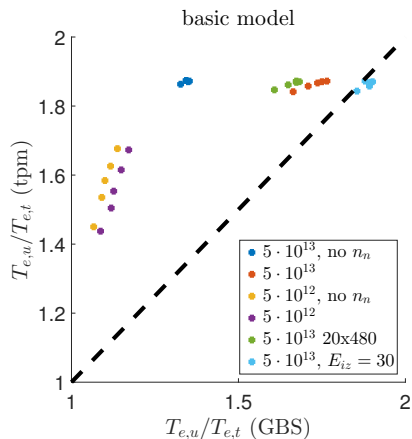


$$S_Q, S_n, S_{iz}$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\frac{T_{e,u}}{T_{e,t}}$$

# Temperature ratio upstream to target



## Questions that we can address

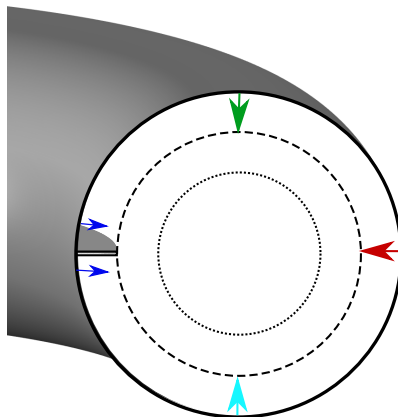
- ▶ How is the temperature at the limiter related to main plasma parameters?
- ▶ How is the plasma fueled?
- ▶ How do neutrals affect plasma turbulence?  
SOL width? Heat flux?
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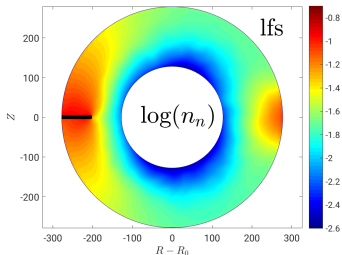
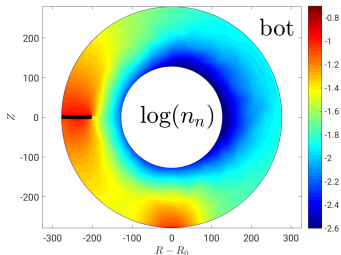
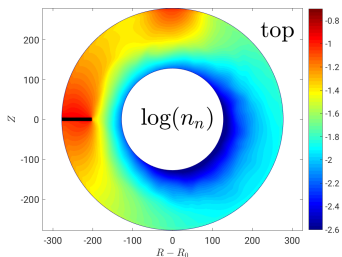
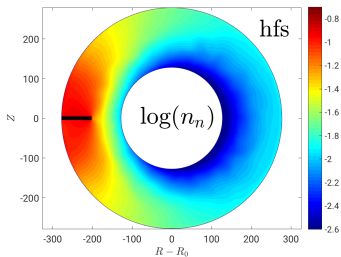
1. Modeling the periphery
2. A refined two-point model with neutrals
3. **Gas puff fueling simulations**

# Gas puff/fueling simulations

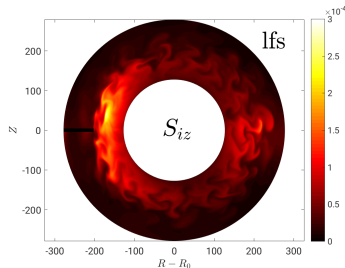
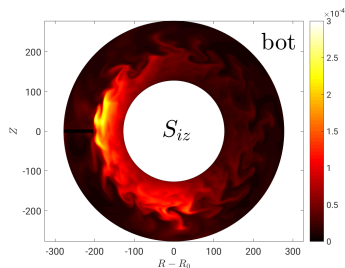
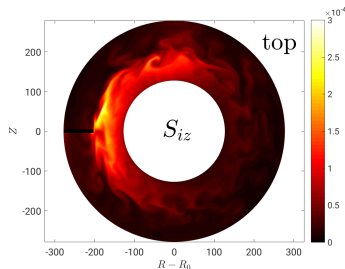
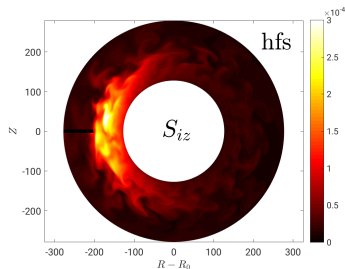
- ▶ Open and closed field lines
- ▶ Various gas puff locations (hfs, bot, lfs, top)
- ▶ Small constant main wall recycling
- ▶  $n_0 = 10^{13} \text{cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T_0 = 20 \text{eV}$ ,  
 $q = 3.87$ ,  $\rho_{*}^{-1} = 500$ ,  
 $a_0 = 200 \rho_s$



# Neutral density

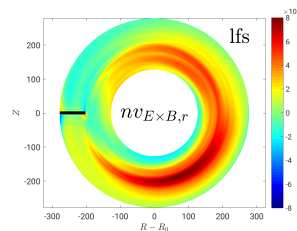
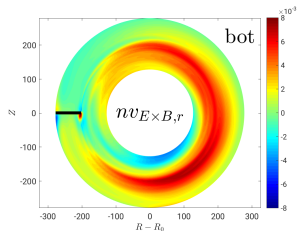
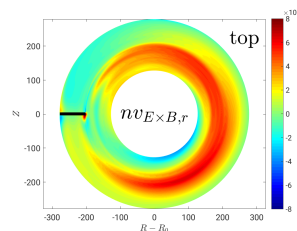
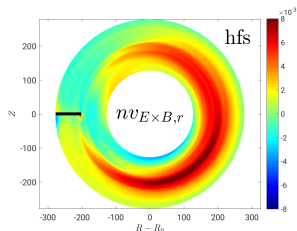


# Ionization



# Radial ExB flow

- ▶ outward/inward flow
- ▶ Ballooning outward transport at the low field side
- ▶ Inward fueling at the high field side
- ▶ Robust feature independent of gas puff location

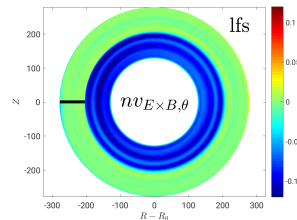
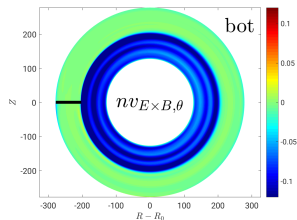
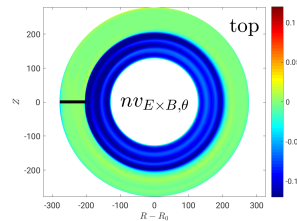
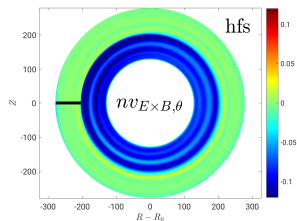


## Questions that we can address

- ▶ How is the temperature at the limiter related to main plasma parameters?
- ▶ How is the plasma fueled?
- ▶ **How do neutrals affect plasma turbulence?**  
SOL width? Heat flux?
- ▶ How do diagnostic gas puffs affect the SOL?

# Poloidal ExB flow

- ▶ Poloidal rotation due to radial electric field
- ▶ Shearing of the turbulent eddies

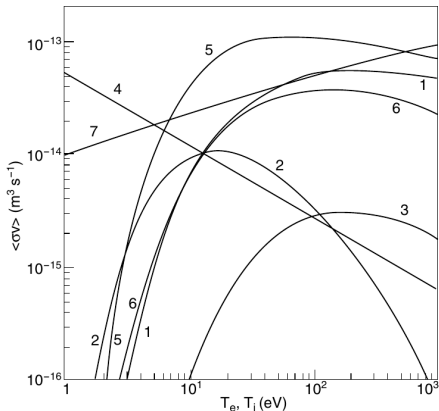


# Conclusions

- ▶ Plasma turbulence at the periphery and interaction with neutrals are crucial issues on the way to fusion electricity
- ▶ GBS is now able to simulate this complex interplay self-consistently
- ▶ Development of a more refined two-point model, in agreement with GBS
- ▶ Initial study of plasma fueling due to ionization and radial flows, and of plasma poloidal rotation.

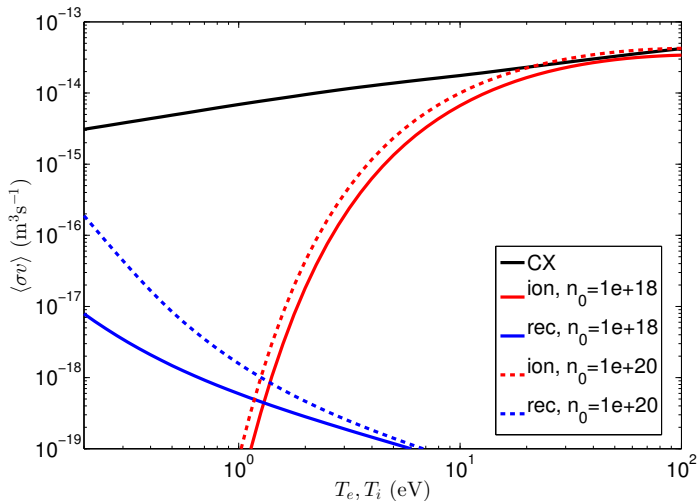


# Reaction rates - Stangeby



**Figure 1.25.** The rate coefficients for atomic and molecular hydrogen [1.23]. The numbered reactions are (1):  $e + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2^+ + 2e$ , (2):  $e + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}^0 + e$ , (3):  $e + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}^0 + \text{H}^+ + 2e$ , (4):  $e + \text{H}_2^+ \rightarrow 2\text{H}^0$ , (5):  $e + \text{H}_2^+ \rightarrow \text{H}^0 + \text{H}^+ + e$ , (6):  $e + \text{H}^0 \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + 2e$ , and charge exchange (7):  $\text{H}^0 + \text{H}^+ \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{H}^0$ .

# Reaction rates - openADAS



# Timescales

$T_0$ (eV)	$n_0$ ( $m^{-3}$ )	$\tau_{turbulence}$ (s)	$\tau_{nnloss}$ (s)	$\lambda_{mfp}$ (m)
1	1e+17	1.0e-05	1.4e-03	2.5e+00
1	1e+18	1.0e-05	1.4e-04	2.5e-01
1	1e+19	1.0e-05	1.4e-05	2.5e-02
1	1e+20	1.0e-05	1.4e-06	2.5e-03
1	1e+21	1.0e-05	1.4e-07	2.5e-04
20	1e+17	2.3e-06	2.6e-04	4.4e-01
20	1e+18	2.3e-06	2.5e-05	4.3e-02
20	1e+19	2.3e-06	2.4e-06	4.1e-03
20	1e+20	2.3e-06	2.2e-07	3.7e-04
20	1e+21	2.3e-06	1.8e-08	3.1e-05
50	1e+17	1.4e-06	1.6e-04	2.8e-01
50	1e+18	1.4e-06	1.6e-05	2.7e-02
50	1e+19	1.4e-06	1.5e-06	2.6e-03
50	1e+20	1.4e-06	1.4e-07	2.4e-04
50	1e+21	1.4e-06	1.2e-08	2.0e-05

# The model in steady state

Steady state,  $\frac{\partial f_n}{\partial t} = 0$ , first approach

- ▶ Valid if  $\tau_{neutral\ losses} < \tau_{turbulence}$
- ▶ e.g.  $T_e = 20\text{eV}$ ,  $n_0 = 5 \cdot 10^{19}\text{m}^{-3}$

$$\tau_{neutral\ losses} \approx v_{eff}^{-1} \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-7}\text{s}$$

$$\tau_{turbulence} \approx \sqrt{R_0 L_p} / c_{s0} \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-6}\text{s}$$

- ▶ Otherwise: time dependent model