

Nonlinear dynamics of zonal flows and geodesic acoustic modes in ITER

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Turbulence develops in tokamak plasmas, due to the gradients of the density and temperature profiles. Zonal, i.e. axisymmetric, flows take part in the nonlinear saturation of turbulence. Two kinds of zonal flows exist: zero frequency zonal flows (ZFZF) [1], and finite frequency geodesic acoustic modes (GAM) [2]. GAMs can also be driven by energetic particles (EP) due to inverse Landau damping, taking the name of EP-driven GAMs (EGAM). In this paper, we investigate the dynamics of zonal flows in the absence and in the presence of EPs with the gyrokinetic particle-in-cell code ORB5 [3]. The ITER pre-fusion-power-operation plasma scenario [4] is considered for these numerical simulations. The nonlinear interaction of EPs and EGAMs is investigated. We observe the EP redistribution in phase space, once the EGAM has reached saturation. The corresponding amplitude of EGAMs is estimated for this ITER experimental regime.

References

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