Benchmark of an electromagnetic gyrokinetic simulation code
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Abstract - We introduce a benchmark of an electromagnetic gyrokinetic model, dFEFI. dFEFI solves the gyrokinetic equation, closing the system with the Poisson and induction equations. We here present a comparison of linear properties with those done by GS2. We examine the nonlinear turbulence with different box-sizes of L⊥/Lc. For the lower L⊥/Lc, the turbulence exhibits so bursty that higher standard deviation is estimated. The probability distribution function (PDF) analysis indicates that the bursty behavior can be related to the electron heat transport.

I. INTRODUCTION

Achievement of magnetized fusion plasma reactors requires a good confinement. However, observed anomalous transport prevents from the successful fusion reaction. Anomalous transport is believed to originate from some excitation of micro- or macro-instabilities. To solve these issues, numerical simulation of the plasma turbulent transport is now put on a main program on the achievement of ITER and DEMO scenario.

Some of recent focus on the anomalous transport put on the shortfall problem [1,2,3], i.e. the mismatch of ion/electron heat diffusivity of various simulations, in comparison with experiments; even those obtained from the various simulation codes do not match with each other.

We here present a benchmark of the electromagnetic gyrokinetic simulation code, involving electron and ion species, dFEFI [4]. dFEFI is the delta-f version of a gyrokinetic model advancing a distribution function f for both electrons and ions. dFEFI applies Hamada coordinate with a shifted metric, and fixed boundary condition on the radial coordinates, apart from other flux-tube local simulation codes. There is a claim that the turbulence simulation on the periodic boundary arises a mode with radially zero-wavenumber. The mode is really a fake in physics [5]. Therefore, validation of the nonlinear turbulence with the fixed boundary can be alternative to deal with the shortfall problem. Furthermore, existing simulations omit perpendicular simulation boxes in order to save the computational resources. However, due to the constraint of the periodicity on the toroidal direction, the omission causes incorrect wave coupling and thus leads to premature of the estimation of turbulence transport. Therefore, correct simulation box is necessary for the accurate comparison. In addition, the radial propagation of the geodesic acoustic mode (GAM) [6], driven by the Reynolds stress of the turbulence, enhancing the turbulence spreading [7,8], can introduces a non-local effects on the turbulence transport. Once GAM is excited and starts to propagate toward the boundary, periodic boundary will make propagation coming back from the opposite side, while the fixed boundary can shrink the propagation (or may reflect on the boundary). The behavior of the propagation will differ between the two kinds of boundaries. Thus, the fixed boundary local simulations have a potential to better assessment, since we correctly treat GAM nonlocal dynamics.

So far we have successfully reproduced the cyclone-base parameter benchmark, in comparison with other numerical simulations, GS2 [9]. We will focus on the basic results on the dFEFI calculation compared with other simulation codes.

The reminder of this paper is organized as follows. In Sec II, we introduce the model of dFEFI and the main features briefly. In Sec III, we examine the cyclone-base parameter on dFEFI. Here, we introduce linear and nonlinear dynamics of ITG turbulence. In Sec IV, we introduce a test on the box-size problem, i.e. the aspect ratio of the radial direction to the nominal. In Sec. V, we summarize this paper and remark on the local simulations.

II. DESCRIPTION OF DFEFI

dFEFI calculates a basic set of the delta-f gyrokinetic equation together with the Poisson and induction equations, as follows:

\[
\frac{\partial g}{\partial t} + c_0 \left[ (J_0 \psi_v), h + f_0 \right]_{\psi_v} - \frac{mz^2 + nB}{2e} K(h) + \frac{B^2}{mb} [H_0, h] = 0
\]

(1)

\[
\sum_{sp} \int dW \left[ eJ_0 g + e^2 \frac{F^m}{T} (J_0^2 - 1) \phi \right] = 0
\]

(2)

\[
\nabla \cdot A_i + \sum_{sp} \frac{4\pi}{c} \int dW \left[ ezJ_0 g - e^2 \frac{F^m}{c} J_0^2 A_i \right] = 0
\]

(3)

where the inductive response, non-adiabatic response, and gyrokinetic potential are, respectively,
The profile is fixed as a parameter $L_{Ti}$, $L_{Te}$, $L_n$, and $F^M$. The Poisson Bracket is defined as

$$[f,g]_{ab} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^a} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x^b} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^b} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x^a},$$

with $a$ and $b$ denoting two of the phase coordinates. The zero-th order Hamiltonian and the Maxwellian are given by

$$H_0 = m \frac{z^2}{2} + wB,$$

$$F^M = n(2\pi T / m)^{3/2} \exp(-H_0 / T)$$

Here, $m$, $e$, $n$, $T$ are the species background parameters of mass, charges, density and temperatures, respectively. $z$ is parallel velocity and $w$ is magnetic moment.

dFEFI applies Hamada coordinates with field-aligned[5]. Suppose the coordinate $(V, \theta, \zeta)$, where $V$ is the volume labeling of the radial direction, $\theta$ is the poloidal direction, and $\zeta$ is the toroidal direction. The Jacobian is unity, i.e.

$$g^{-1/2} = \nabla V \times \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \zeta = 1.$$
Here we replace the coordinate into field-aligned coordinates \((V, \vartheta, \xi)\), where \(\vartheta\) is the magnetic field direction and \(x\) is the nominal direction. The periodic condition can be written as
\[
\begin{align*}
  f(V, \vartheta + 2\pi, \xi - 2\pi q) &= f(V, \vartheta, \xi), \\
  f(V, \vartheta + 2\pi) &= f(V, \vartheta).
\end{align*}
\] (8)

Next, we rescale the coordinates, \((x, y, s)\) defined by
\[
\begin{align*}
  x &= (V - V_0)/V', \\
  y &= -\xi V' / L', \\
  s &= L'.
\end{align*}
\]
where \(x\) is the radial labeling with regard to volumes, \(y\) is the perpendicular direction and \(s\) is the toroidal direction. In a local computation, the necessary geometrical information is reduced to the following quantities:
\[
\begin{align*}
  \hat{\beta}(s) &= \frac{L_y}{L_x}, \\
  \hat{\beta}(s) &= \frac{B_0}{B}, \\
  K^{(x,y)}(s) &= \frac{B_0 L_y}{L_x} B \cdot \nabla \log B^2 \times \nabla \{x,y\}.
\end{align*}
\] (6)

We still keep field-aligned coordinates,
\[
B \cdot \nabla y_k = B \cdot \nabla y - \alpha_k B \cdot \nabla x = 0
\] (8)

Thus, \(g_{k,y}=0\) is identically satisfied.

III. BENCHMARK OF ITG TURBULENCE WITH CYCLONE BASE PARAMETER

We here introduce the simulation results on the ion-temperature-gradient (ITG) driven turbulence with cyclone-base parameters [9]. Poloidal section is assumed to be circular. The macro parameters are \(a/R = 0.184, L'/R = 0.145, T_e/T_i = 1.0, q = 1.4\), \(\hat{s} = (r q' / q) = 0.78\).

\[\hat{\beta} = (4 \pi p_e / B^2)(q R / L_x^2) = 10^{-3}, r_0 = 0.5 a_0;\] the system is essentially electromagnetic, but very low beta. Grid numbers are \((N_x, N_y, N_s, N_w) = (128, 128, 32, 16)\).

For box size, we set \(L_x/L_y = 4.0\), which is relevant to the core plasma physics. We estimate \(L_x\) is comparable to the contour of \(|e\phi/T_i|\) at \(t = 1000.0(L_{\text{perp}}/c_s)\).

\[\begin{align*}
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.1 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.08 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.06 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.04 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.02 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= 0.00 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= -0.02 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= -0.04 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= -0.06 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= -0.08 \\
  \left| e\phi/T_i \right| &= -0.1 \\
\end{align*}\]

\[\begin{align*}
  \left| y_k \right| &= \alpha_k(x) \\
  g_{k,y} &= g_{k,y} - \alpha_k g_{k,x}.
\end{align*}\] (7)

Fig.4: Contour pictures of \(|e\phi/T_i|^2\) on space of \((x, y)\). Up to \(t = 300\), modes are linear, while at \(t = 400\), nonlinear evolution of modes appear.
typical perpendicular characteristic length, \( L_{\perp} \). That is also comparable to the characteristic length of the density gradient, \( L_{\perp} \sim (\frac{d \ln n}{dr})^{-1} \).

For the box size in \( y \)-direction, physically relevant parameter would be \( L_y \sim 2\pi r_0/q \sim 4L_x \).

In simulation, we take minimum \( k_y \rho_s = 0.025 \), which determines \( y \)-domain size in \( \rho_s \) unit. Here, \( L_y = 2\pi \rho_s/0.025 \) and thus \( L_x \sim 4L_y \). Profile gradients are given by \( R/L_n = 2.2 \), \( R/L_{Ti} = 6.9 \), and \( R/L_{Te} = 6.9 \).

We used Helios supercomputer with 32 nodes, taking 30,000 steps \( (t \sim 60 \text{ (cs/L)}) \) for \( \Delta t = 0.002 \) for 24 hours machine time. Parallelization is applied on \( x \), \( s \), and \( z \) discretization.

Fig. 2 shows plots of the linear growth rates of the each modes, as a function of \( k_y \rho_s \). As a comparison, we also plot the linear growth rate obtained from a flux-tube code (GS2) with radial periodic boundary condition. Qualitatively dFEFI reproduces a similar peak of modes with \( k_y \rho_s = 0.3 \), to that of GS2. Quantitatively, in higher wave number modes \( (k_y \rho_s > 0.3) \), the growth rate of GS2 exhibits higher, while in the lower wave number modes \( (k_y \rho_s < 0.3) \), dFEFI exhibits higher growth rates.

Fig. 3 shows plots of the real frequencies of modes, as a function of \( k_y \rho_s \). The real frequencies estimated by dFEFI matche with those estimated by GS2. The frequency goes negative, i.e. corresponding to the accordance with ion diamagnetic frequency. This indicates that the growing mode is related to ion-temperature-gradient (ITG) mode.

Fig. 4 shows a contour of the electric potential \(|e\phi/T_i|^2\) for the case of linear \( (t=100) \) through nonlinear \( (t=400) \) phases, with each interval of 100 \( (L/c_s) \). Up to \( t \sim 300 \), systems are linear; radially coherent modes grow.

Fig. 5 shows a time evolution of the ion heat diffusivity \( \chi_i \) in the nonlinear saturation phase. Turbulence saturates after \( t=300 \) \( (c_s/L_{\perp}) \). Averaged turbulence level is \( \chi_i \sim 1.7(L_n/\rho_i c_s) \). The result is consistent with the benchmark of other gyrokinetic simulations [10].

Figs. 6 show plots of the power spectra of the potential and density fluctuations at linear and nonlinear phase. At \( t=300 \) \( (c_s/L_{\perp}) \), in the linear phase, peak is observed at \( k_y \rho_i = 0.3 \) where is also the peak of linear growth rate in Fig. 2. At \( t=400 \) \( (c_s/L_{\perp}) \), in the nonlinear phase, the peak of the mode shifts lower wave number, indicating the inverse cascade, which is generally seen in the fluid dynamics.

IV. DYNAMICS OF THE BOX-SIZE PROBLEM

In this section, we investigate the dynamics of turbulence. We here take physically irrelevant parameters for the cyclone-base parameter. Particularly, box-size dependency, \( L_y/L_x \) will relate to...
the physics of the periodicity of toroidal and poloidal direction. As is discussed in Ref. [11], for the box size of x-direction $L_x \sim L_x$, the box size of y-direction in physics must be $L_y \sim 2\pi R/q$. For the cyclone-base parameter above, we estimate $L_y \sim 4L_x$. However, some existing benchmarks undergo with $L_y \sim L_x$ for the purpose of shortcut of computational time.

Once we take the shortcut of periodicity, such as $L_y \sim L_x$, this cause to take each 4 toroidal mode number $n = 0, 4, 8, \ldots$ They have expected that the different results may cause in the electromagnetic physics related to the parallel dynamics, such as kinetic Alfven waves.

Fig. 7 is the comparison of the temporal evolution of the fluctuations of turbulence for different box-sizes. We set the same parameters, but for $L_y/L_x$. We estimate the average level of the turbulence in the nonlinear phase (sampling $t=400-1000$). As listed in Table 1, results are $|\epsilon_T|_2^2 = 6.17 \pm 1.18, 5.96 \pm 1.81$.
and 7.00 ±4.69, for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4, 2, \) and 1, respectively, as listed in Table 1. For ion heat flux, \( Q_i \), it is 1.74 ± 0.471, 1.77 ± 0.551, and 1.67 ± 0.665 for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4, 2, \) and 1, respectively. For electron heat flux, \( Q_e \), it is 0.579 ± 0.175, 0.599 ± 0.201, and 0.530 ± 0.243 for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4, 2, \) and 1, respectively. \( \Gamma \) is 0.119 ± 0.0442, 0.118 ± 0.0464, and 0.101 ± 0.059 for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4, 2, \) and 1, respectively. We here notice that for every cases of the nonlinear quantities, the standard deviation (s.d.) increases as the aspect ratio \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x \) decreases.

The results indicate that as we shrink \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x \), the average turbulence level does not change. At least the difference is within the deviation. However the the standard deviation increases in higher \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x \). In other words, if we cut computational cost to reduce the box size, the dynamics behaves differently in bursts. Furthermore we examine the probability distribution function (PDF) of the electron/ion heat fluxes and ion particle fluxes, shown in Fig. 8. Seen in Fig. 8 (b), PDF of ion heat flux \( Q_i(x) \) tends to be along with Gaussian, but not for \( x/\sigma_i < 3 \). Instead we find some bumps on \( x/\sigma_i < 4 \). Nevertheless, the tendency for various box-sizes is mostly constant. For electron heat flux \( Q_e(x) \), in Fig. 8(c), PDF on \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 1 \) shows very high probability of strong heat flux exhibiting intermittency or bursts, on the other hand, the case for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4 \) has not significant difference from the Gaussian curve. We also see that the PDF of particle flux for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4 \) differs from that for \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 1 \). We speculate that the difference originate from the electron dynamics, instead ions.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have presented the basic set of benchmark of the ITG turbulence with DIII-D cyclone-base parameters. dFEFI is the delta-f version of a gyrokinetic model solving both electrons and ions distribution functions. dFEFI applies Hamada coordinate, field-aligned coordinates and shifted metric. Particularly, dFEFI applies the fixed boundary condition in radial direction. This will eliminate streamer-like modes, which are physically incorrect. Also we can treat a correct GAM dynamics without circulation of the mode propagation. Comparison goes with the periodic flux-tube code GS2.

Using the cyclone-base parameter, we examined the main properties of ITG turbulence in the core plasmas with a circular poloidal section. We observed the growth rates of modes with a peak at \( k_r\phi = 0.3 \) and the mode frequency in the ion diamagnetic direction. dFEFI exhibits consistent growth rates of ITG turbulence.

We also examined the dependency of \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x \), i.e. validity of eliminating modes in the ITG turbulence. Results indicate that not significant difference in the average level, while the standard deviation increases as \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x \) decreases.

We estimate the PDFs of turbulent fluctuation of ion and electron heat fluxes and particle flux. The electron heat flux behaves more bursty in the case of \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 1 \) than that in the case of \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 4 \). That can be a proof that the deviation of the bursty behavior of the case \( \text{L}_y/\text{L}_x = 1 \).

We will be focusing on application of this work for the validation of the poloidal section in experimental tokamaks. This simulation work will shed lights on the effects of nonlocal effects of GAM to the turbulence, especially significant in the edge plasmas. Also the treatment of the fixed boundary enables us to treatment of the finite radial electric field profiles as background. The electromagnetic code with fixed boundary can also extend to the studies of turbulence in pedestal region with high \( \beta \). We will focus on these issues in future work.

**NOMENCLATURE**

\( a = \) minor radius  
\( A_\parallel = \) parallel component of the magnetic vector potential  
\( \alpha_k = \) quantity of the shifted metric  
\( B = \) magnetic field  
\( B_0 = \) magnetic field along with toroidal direction
\( b_s = \) unit length of magnetic field along with magnetic field line
\( \hat{\beta} = \) normalized beta
\( c = \) light speed
\( c_s = \) sound velocity
\( \chi_i = \) ion heat diffusivity
\( e = \) electron charge
\( \phi = \) electrostatic potential
\( f_i = \) ion distribution function
\( f_e = \) electron distribution function
\( f_0 = \) driving force given by the gradients
\( F_M = \) Maxwellian distribution function
\( g = \) inductive response
\( \Gamma = \) particle flux
\( H_0 = \) zero-th order Hamiltonian
\( h = \) non-adiabatic response
\( g_{ij} = \) geometric factor
\( J_0 = \) zero-th order Bessel function
\( k_y = \) wave number in y-direction
\( K^{[x,y]} = \) curvature operator
\( L_x = \) box-size of the simulation in x-direction
\( L_y = \) box-size of the simulation in y-direction
\( L_\parallel = \) characteristic length in parallel direction (= 2\( \pi qR \)).
\( L_\perp = \) characteristic length of the profile variation
\( m = \) mass
\( n = \) background density
\( N_x, N_y, N_s, N_z, N_w = \) grid numbers of (x,y,s,z,w) direction
\( p_e = \) electron pressure
\( \psi_e = \) gyrokinetic potential
\( q = \) safety factor
\( Q_e = \) electron heat flux
\( Q_i = \) ion heat flux
\( \rho_s = \) ion Lamor radius
\( R = \) major radius
\( s = \) parallel direction along with magnetic field line
\( \hat{s} = \) magnetic field shear
\( \sigma = \) standard deviation of the flux along with radial volume direction
\( t = \) time unit
\( T_e, T_i = \) electron/ion temperatures
\( w = \) magnetic moment
\( x = \) radial direction, in Hamada coordinates
\( y = \) perpendicular direction in Hamada coordinates
\( y_k = \) shifted perpendicular coordinates
\( z = \) parallel velocity

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