

# A Theory-Based Transport Model with Comprehensive Physics

by  
G.M. Staebler<sup>1</sup>

with  
J.E. Kinsey,<sup>1</sup> R.E. Waltz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> General Atomics, San Diego, CA

<sup>2</sup> Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

Presented at  
48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Division of Plasma Physics  
American Physical Society  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

October 30 – November 3, 2006



# A Theory-Based Transport Model with Comprehensive Physics

- Comprehensive physics: shaped magnetic geometry, electron-ion collisions, fully electromagnetic, dynamic electrons, ions and impurity ions
- Theory-based: model fit to first principles gyro-kinetic theory

# A More Accurate Transport Model With Comprehensive Physics Was Needed

- The GLF23 transport model (Waltz, Staebler et.al.,1997) has been used successfully worldwide to predict core temperature profiles in tokamaks
- A new transport model has been developed using the same methodology as GLF23: the Trapped Gyro-Landau Fluid (TGLF) model
  - TGLF has particularly improved the treatment of trapped particles compared to GLF23
  - TGLF includes the physics missing from GLF23
- The TGLF linear stability code is being used for fast analysis of experiments
  - Growth rates agree very well with gyro-kinetic linear stability codes
  - 100x faster for linear stability analysis of experimental discharges
- The TGLF quasi-linear transport model is a better fit to non-linear gyro-kinetic turbulence simulations than GLF23
  - 86 non-linear turbulence simulations over a wide range of parameters were used for the TGLF intensity model fit

# Anatomy of a Quasi-Linear Transport Model

## First Principles Theory

Non-Linear gyro-kinetic  
turbulence simulations  
GYRO (Candy and Waltz)

Linear gyro-kinetic  
stability calculations  
GKS (Kotschenruther)

Model for the saturated  
intensity of the turbulence  
constructed from the linear  
eigenmodes (growth rate,  
wavenumbers, etc)

Model to compute approximate  
linear eigenmodes.  
Trapped Gyro-Landau Fluid (TGLF)

Quasi-linear weight evaluated  
using linear eigenmodes

Dimensional factor

$$\text{Particle flux: } \Gamma_e = \sum_{k_\theta} n_e \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{m_i}} \tilde{\Phi}_{\text{Model}}^2 \frac{\text{Re} \langle ik_\theta \rho_s \tilde{\Phi}^* \tilde{n}_e \rangle}{\langle \tilde{\Phi}^* \tilde{\Phi} \rangle}$$

Similar models for electron and ion energy fluxes

# TGLF is a Major Upgrade from GLF23

## TGLF

- TIM, ITG, TEM, ETG modes from a single set of equations
- Exact FLR integrals keep accuracy for high-k i.e.  $k_{\theta}\rho_i > 1$
- Adaptive Hermite basis function solution method valid for the same range as the GK equations
- All trapped fractions
- Shaped geometry (Miller model)
- Fully electromagnetic ( $\tilde{B}_{\perp}, \tilde{B}_{\parallel}$ )
- New electron-ion collision model fit to pitch angle scattering
- Transport model fit to 86 GYRO runs with kinetic electrons
- 15 moment equations per species
- 10-30 times slower than GLF23

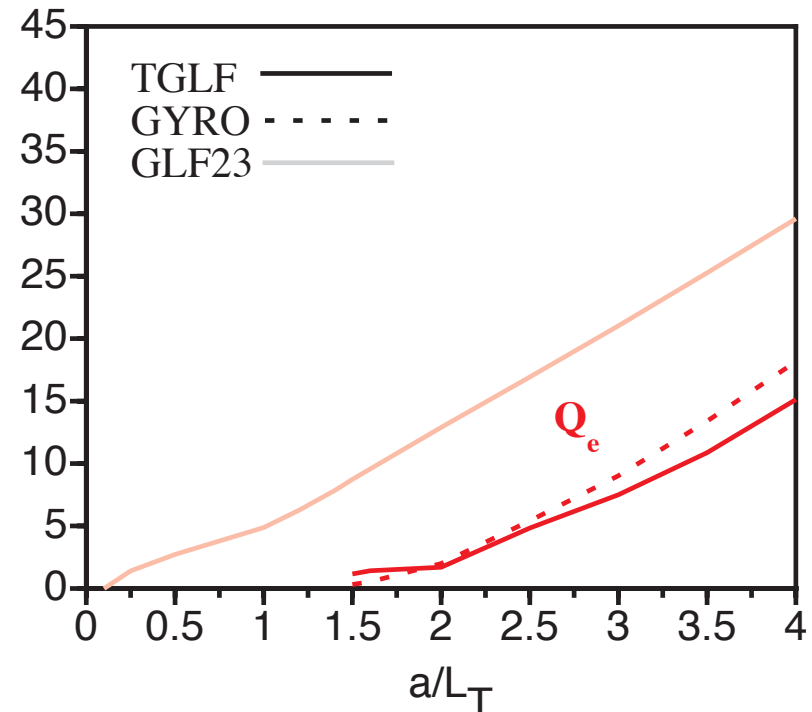
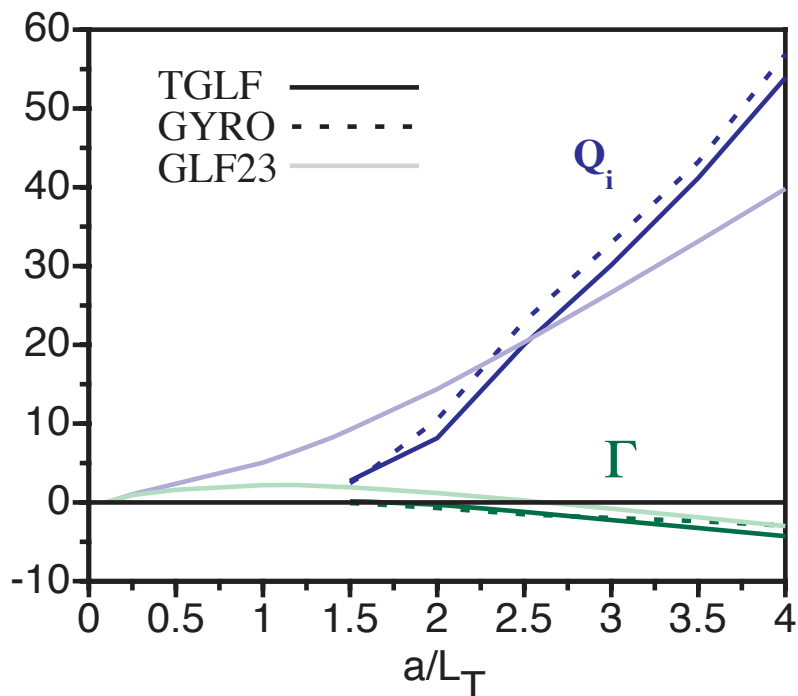
## GLF23

- Different equations for low-k (ITG, TEM) and high-k (ETG)
- FLR integrals used Pade approximation valid for low-k
- Parameterized single Gaussian trial wavefunction valid for a limited range of conditions
- Small trapped fraction required.
- Shifted circle (s-alpha) geometry
- Normally run electrostatic
- Inaccurate electron-ion collision model only for low-k equations
- Transport model fit to a few GLF non-linear turbulence runs
- 4 moment equations per species
- Fast enough for 1997 computers!

# The New TGLF Transport Model is a More Accurate Fit to Gyro-Kinetic Turbulence Than GLF23

- TGLF fits GYRO well for all three channels
- GLF23 electron energy flux is systematically high
- GLF23 with trapped electrons misses critical temperature gradient
- GLF23 was fit to this same scan with **adiabatic electrons**

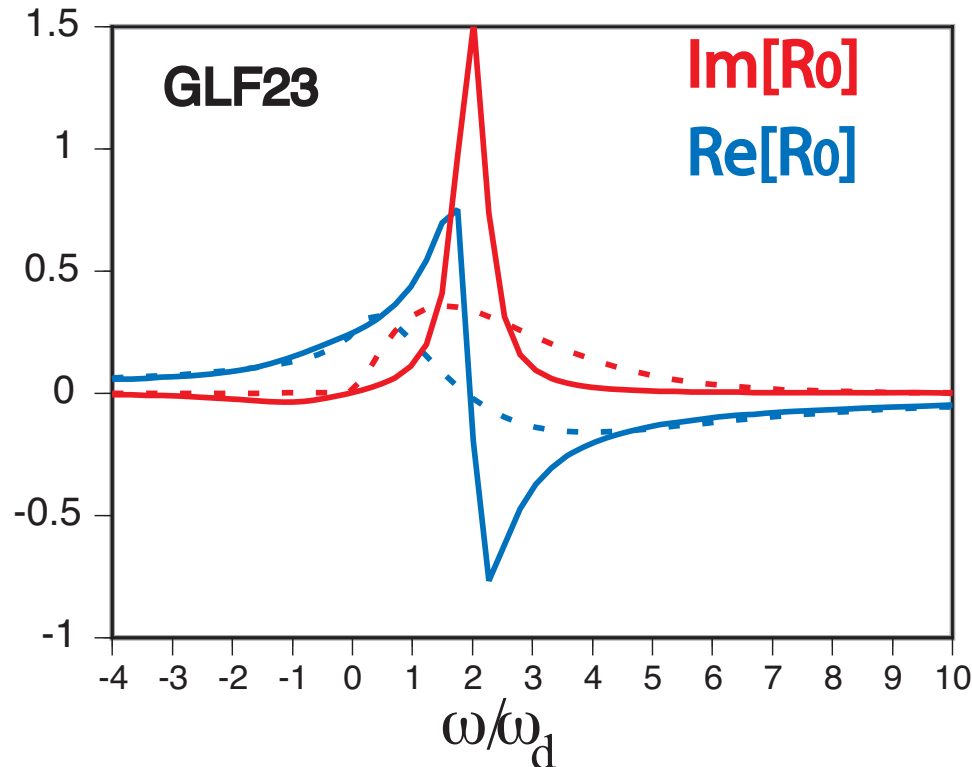
## Temperature gradient scan with trapped electrons



# GLF23 has an Inaccurate Trapped Electron Model

- The 2-moment GLF23 trapped electron model is a poor fit to the kinetic trapped density response function

GLF23 (solid) and kinetic (dashed)  
trapped density response for 25% trapped fraction

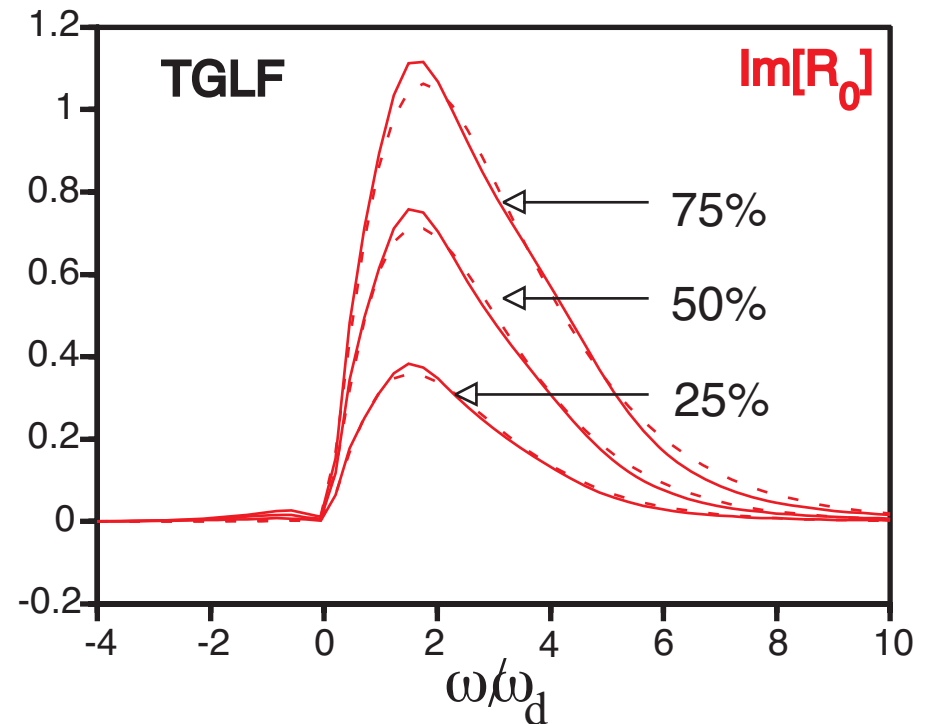
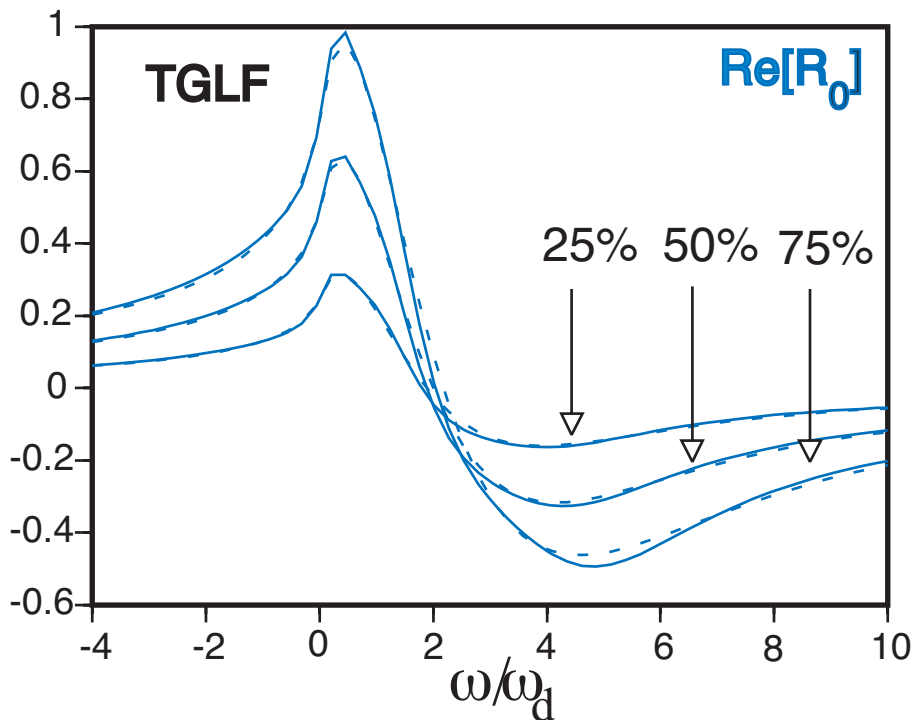


$$\tilde{N}^t = -\frac{e\tilde{\phi}}{T} \left( R_0 + \frac{\omega^*}{\omega_d} R_1 + \eta \frac{\omega^*}{\omega_d} R_2 \right)$$

# The TGLF Trapped Electron Model is Very Accurate

- The 3-moment TGLF trapped electron model is an excellent fit to the kinetic trapped density response function

TGLF (solid) and kinetic (dashed) trapped density response for 25%, 50%, 75% trapped fraction



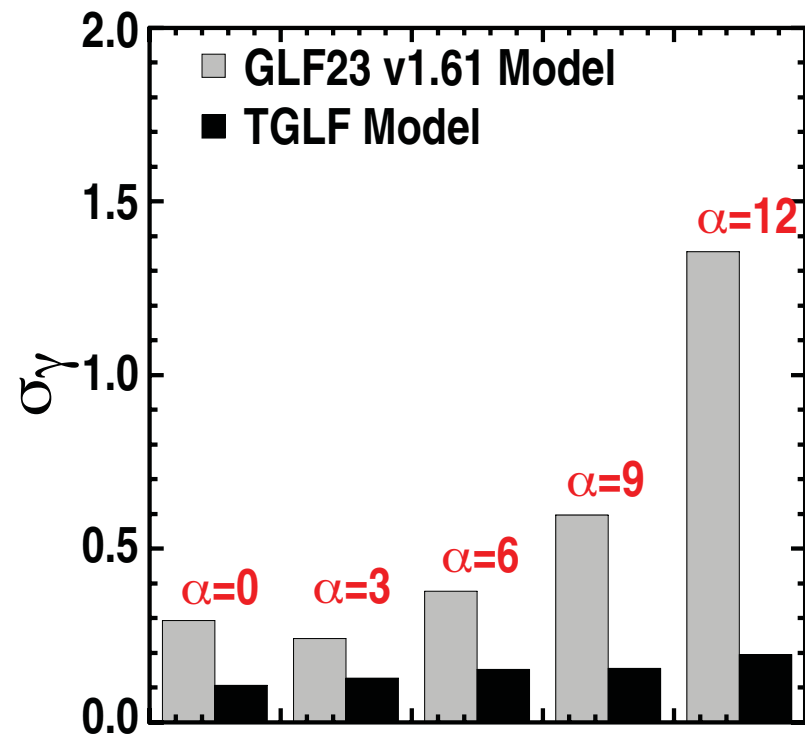


# TGLF Has a Uniformly Good Accuracy Over a Wide Range of Plasma Conditions

- Linear stability benchmarks in s-alpha geometry show that TGLF is an accurate approximation to gyro-kinetic calculations with GKS
- The average fractional deviation for the TGLF growth rate is 11.4% for the whole database of 1800 GKS runs

$$\sigma_\gamma = \sqrt{\sum_i (\gamma_i^{\text{TGLF}} - \gamma_i^{\text{GKS}})^2} / \sqrt{\sum_i (\gamma_i^{\text{GKS}})^2}$$

Each bar is the fractional deviation for a set of 80 pts varying shear and safety factor about the PED point over the range  $1 \leq \hat{s} \leq 7, 3 \leq q \leq 7$

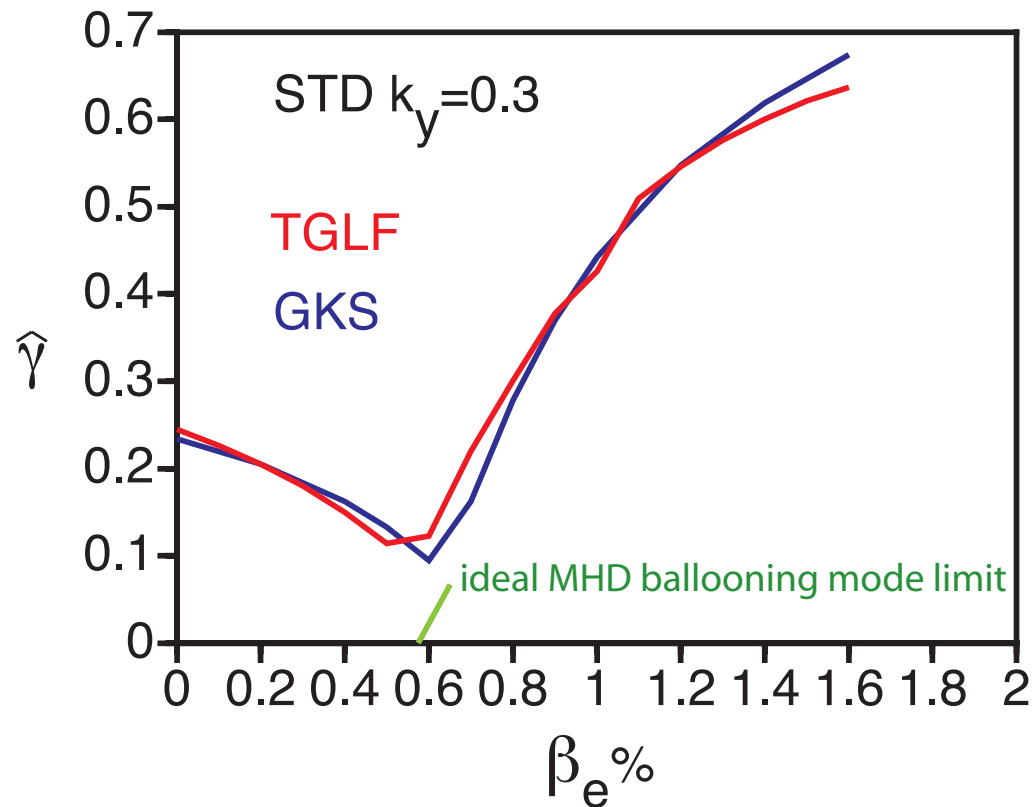


PED = (a/L<sub>ne</sub> = a/L<sub>ni</sub> = 3, a/L<sub>Te</sub> = a/L<sub>Ti</sub> = 10, T<sub>i</sub>/T<sub>e</sub> = 1, q = 4,  $\hat{s}$  = 3,  $\alpha$  = 5, k<sub>y</sub> = 0.3, r/a = 0.5, R/a = 3.0)

# Electromagnetic fluctuations give correct kinetic ballooning mode threshold

TGLF kinetic ballooning mode growth rates agree very well with GKS

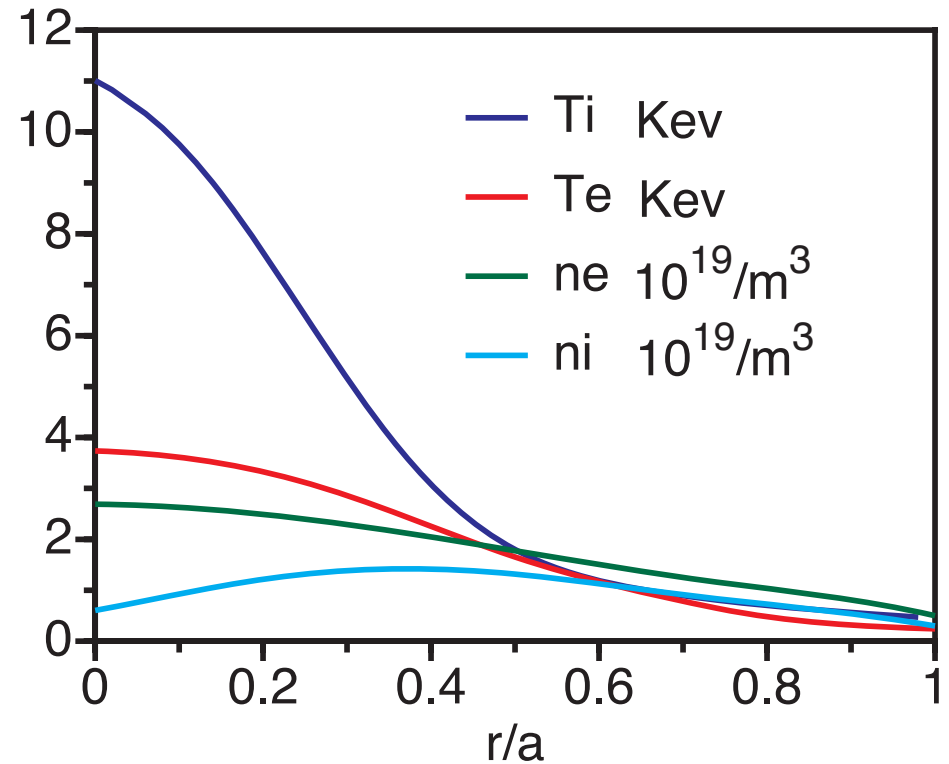
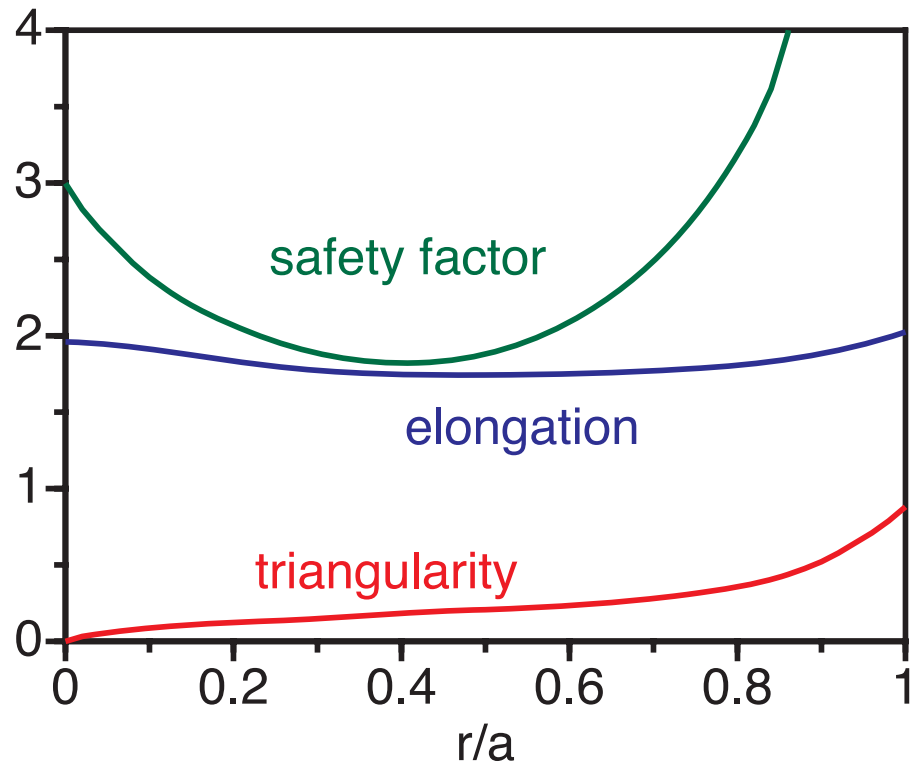
S-alpha geometry with only perpendicular magnetic fluctuations



# TGLF is Now Being Used for Linear Stability Analysis of Experimental Data

- As an illustration of the accuracy of TGLF with comprehensive physics an analysis of a DIII-D NCS discharge will be made
- The geometry and plasma profiles are shown below
  - L. Lao et al. Phys. Plasmas 3 (1996) 1951

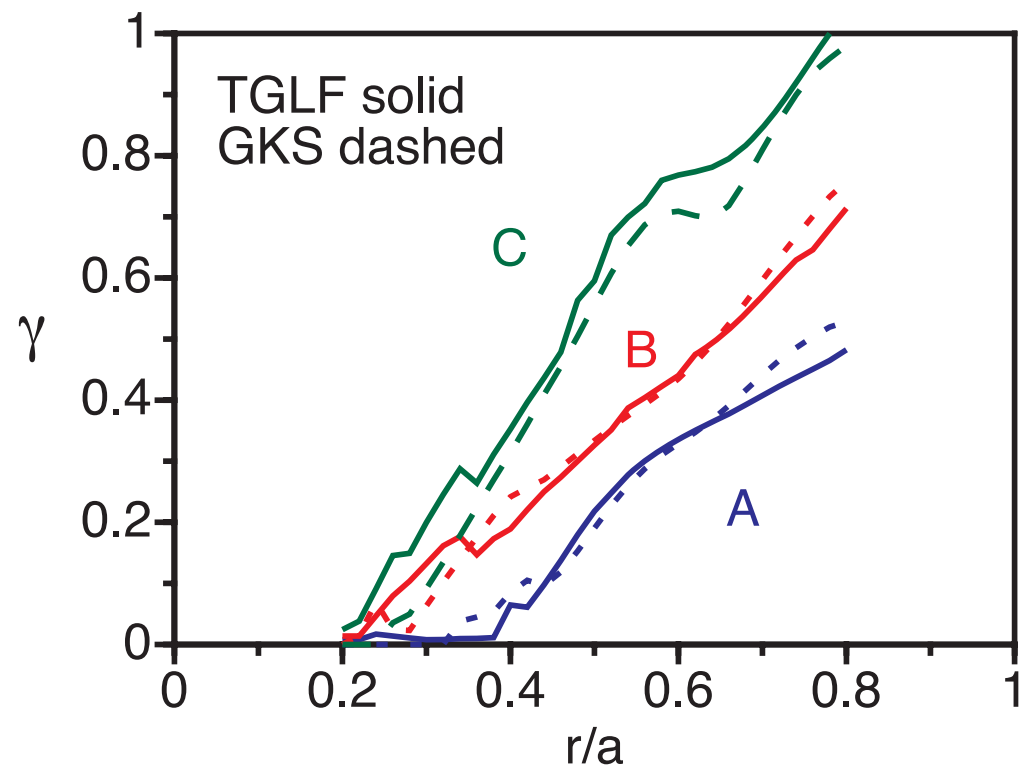
DIII-D NCS discharge 84736 at 1.3 s



# TGLF Linear Growth Rates Are Accurate for Real Experimental Conditions

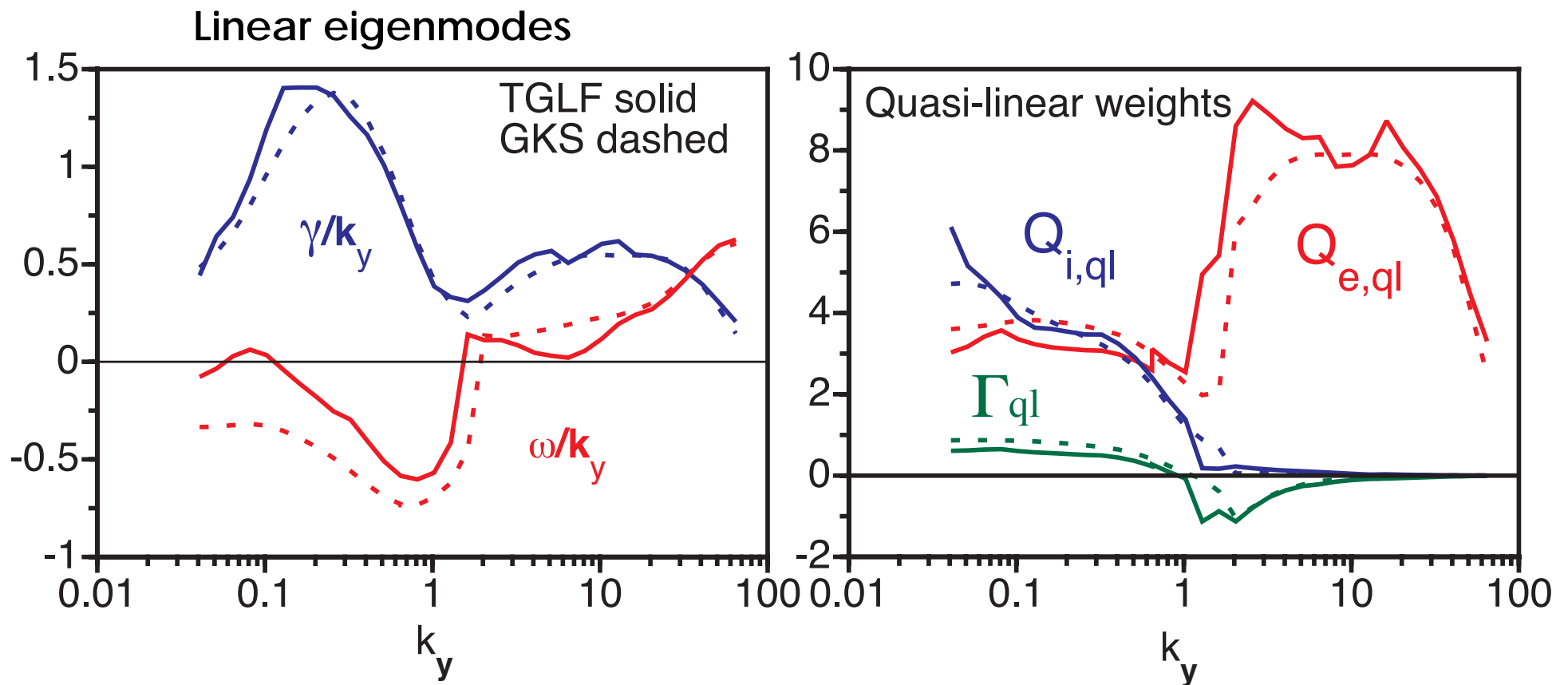
- The radial profile of the normalized linear growth rate for  $k_y = 0.3$  and three different physics settings is shown
  - (A) comprehensive physics
  - (B) collisionless, electrostatic
  - (C) s-alpha geometry dilution, collisionless, electrostatic
- The TGLF code was 200x faster than GKS for (C) (2.4 s vs 8.9 min on a 3 GHz CPU)

DIII-D NCS discharge 84736 at 1.3s



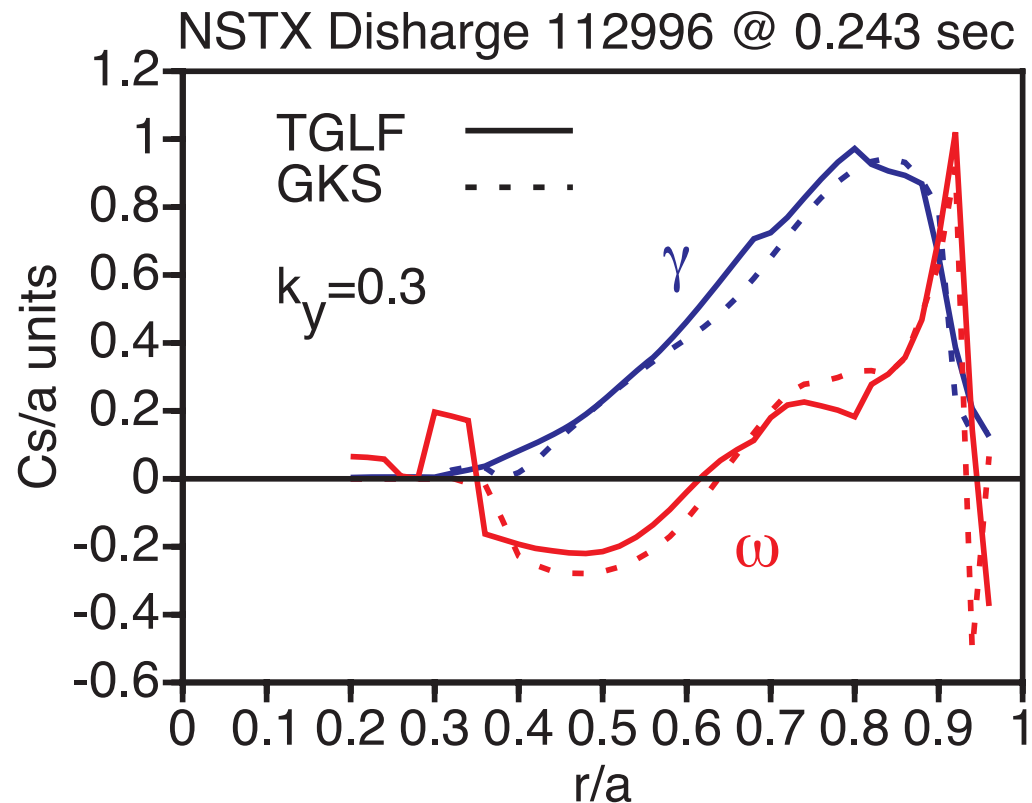
# The Full Spectrum of Drift Wave Eigenmodes Can Be Computed With TGLF

- k-spectrum with comprehensive physics at  $r/a=0.7$  for DIII-D NCS discharge 84736 at 1.3 s



# TGLF Works for Low Aspect Ratio

- The good agreement between TGLF and GKS is maintained for the low aspect ratio spherical torus NSTX
- The NSTX data was measured and analyzed by Dan Stutman (Johns Hopkins), Stan Kaye, Ben LeBlanc and Ron Bell (PPPL)



# TGLF Flux Model is Fit to a Large Database of NonLinear Gyro-kinetic Turbulence Simulations

The normalized TGLF fluxes are given by

$$\hat{Q}_i = c_{Q_i} \bar{\Phi}^2 Q_{i,ql} \quad \hat{Q}_e = c_{Q_e} \bar{\Phi}^2 Q_{e,ql} \quad \hat{\Gamma} = c_{\Gamma} \bar{\Phi}^2 \Gamma_{ql}$$

- The coefficients are chosen to give zero off-set for the whole database of 86 non-linear GYRO turbulence simulations
  - s-alpha geometry, kinetic electrons and ions, collisionless, electrostatic
- The coefficients would all be the same if the ratios of the fluxes were exactly the quasi-linear ratios

$c_{Q_i}$	$c_{Q_e}$	$c_{\Gamma}$
30.0	32.4	36.6

# A Model for the Zonal Flow Shear is Included to Fit the Spectrum of the Turbulence

- A model for the reduction of the growth rate by the ExB shear due to "zonal flows"  $\gamma_{ZF}$  and the equilibrium electric field  $\gamma_{ExB}$  is used to obtain an effective net growth rate used in the saturated intensity model.  $\bar{\Phi}^2(\bar{\gamma})$

$$\bar{\gamma} = \text{Max}\left[\left(\hat{\gamma} - \alpha_E \hat{\gamma}_{ExB} - \alpha_{ZF} \hat{\gamma}_{ZF}\right) / \hat{\omega}_{d0}, 0\right] \quad \text{where} \quad \hat{\omega}_{d0} = k_y (a/R)$$

$$\text{and} \quad \hat{\gamma}_{ZF} = \hat{\omega}_{d0} \left( \text{Max}\left[\hat{\gamma} - \alpha_E \hat{\gamma}_{ExB}, 0\right] / \hat{\omega}_{d0} \right)^{\beta_{z\gamma}} / \left( k_y^{\beta_{zk}} q^{\beta_{zq}} \right)$$

$\alpha_{ZF}$	$\beta_{z\gamma}$	$\beta_{zk}$	$\beta_{zq}$
<b>0.369</b>	<b>0.906</b>	<b>0.420</b>	<b>0.317</b>

$\alpha_E$
<b>0.35</b>



# A Local Model for the Saturated Intensity is Sufficient for a Good Fit

The model for the saturated intensity of the potential fluctuations is local in both  $k_y$  and space.  $\bar{\Phi}^2 = \tilde{\Phi}^2 / (\rho_s / a)^2$

$$\bar{\Phi}^2 = \Delta_{ky} \frac{\hat{\omega}_{d0}^2}{k_y^4} \Lambda \quad \Lambda = \frac{\bar{\gamma}^{\beta_\gamma} \left[ \alpha_{d0} + (\alpha_d \text{Max}[\bar{\omega}_d, 0])^{\beta_d} \right]}{\left[ 1 + (\alpha_\gamma \bar{\gamma})^{\beta_\gamma} \right] \left[ 1 + (\alpha_d |\bar{\omega}_d|)^{\beta_d} \right] k_y^{\beta_k}}$$

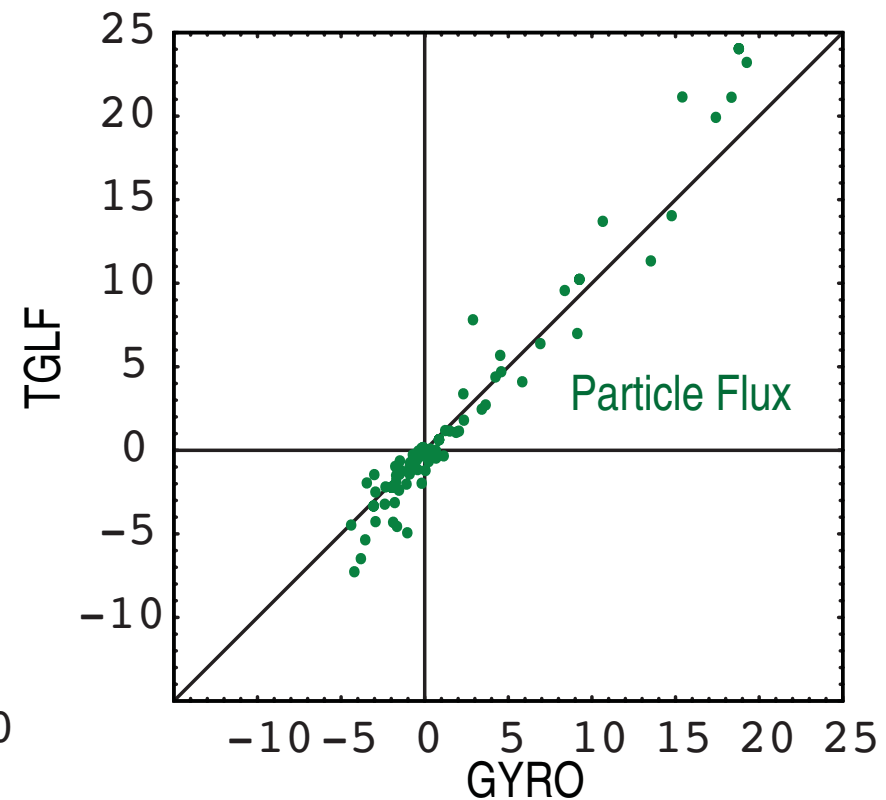
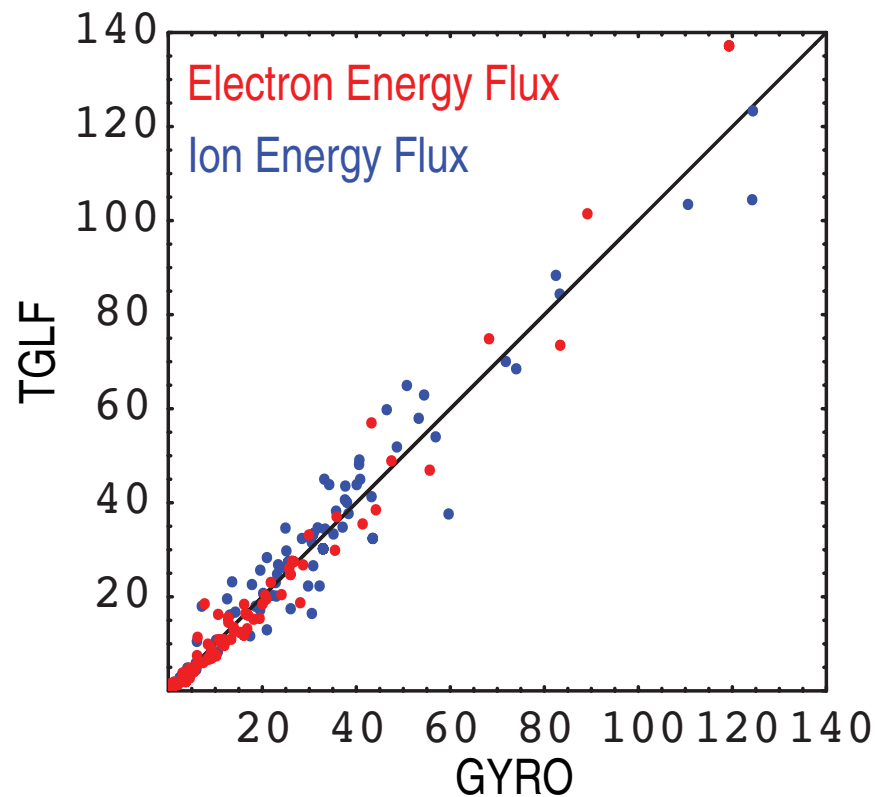
$\bar{\omega}_d = \langle \hat{\omega}_d \rangle / \hat{\omega}_{d0}$  is the wavefunction average of the curvature drift.

The intensity model has the weak turbulence limit:  $\bar{\Phi}^2 \propto \bar{\gamma}^2$  for  $\bar{\gamma} \ll 1$  and the strong turbulence limit:  $\bar{\Phi}^2 \propto \hat{\omega}_{d0}^2$  for  $\bar{\gamma} \gg 1$

$\alpha_\gamma$	$\beta_\gamma$	$\alpha_{d0}$	$\alpha_d$	$\beta_d$	$\beta_k$
0.893	1.98	0.072	2.55	1.94	0.933

# Quasi-Linear TGLF Fits Non-Linear GYRO Total Fluxes Well

- The total fluxes for TGLF fit the database of 86 GYRO runs with fractional deviations of :  $\sigma_{Q_i} = 16\%$ ,  $\sigma_{Q_e} = 15\%$ ,  $\sigma_{\Gamma} = 28\%$

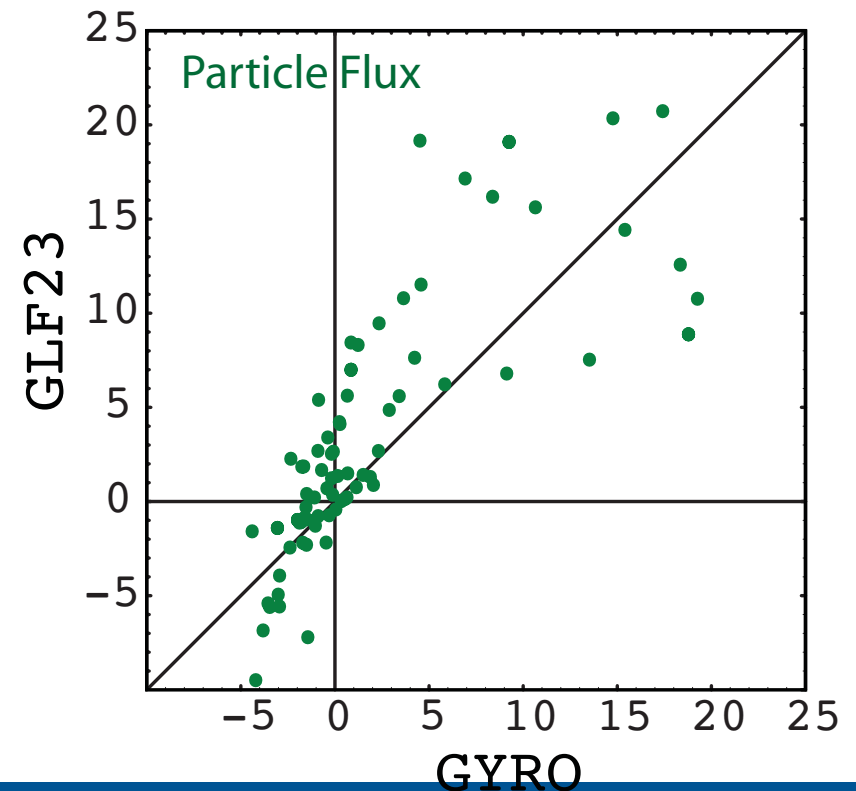
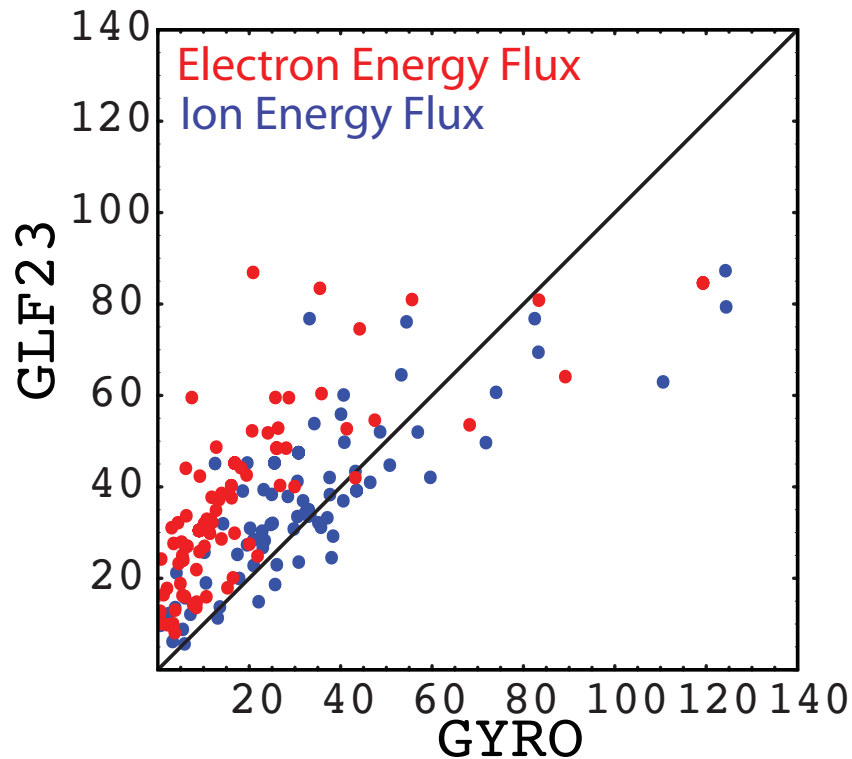


# GLF23 Fluxes Are a Poor Fit to GYRO

- The fractional deviation between GLF23 and GYRO for the 86 cases is

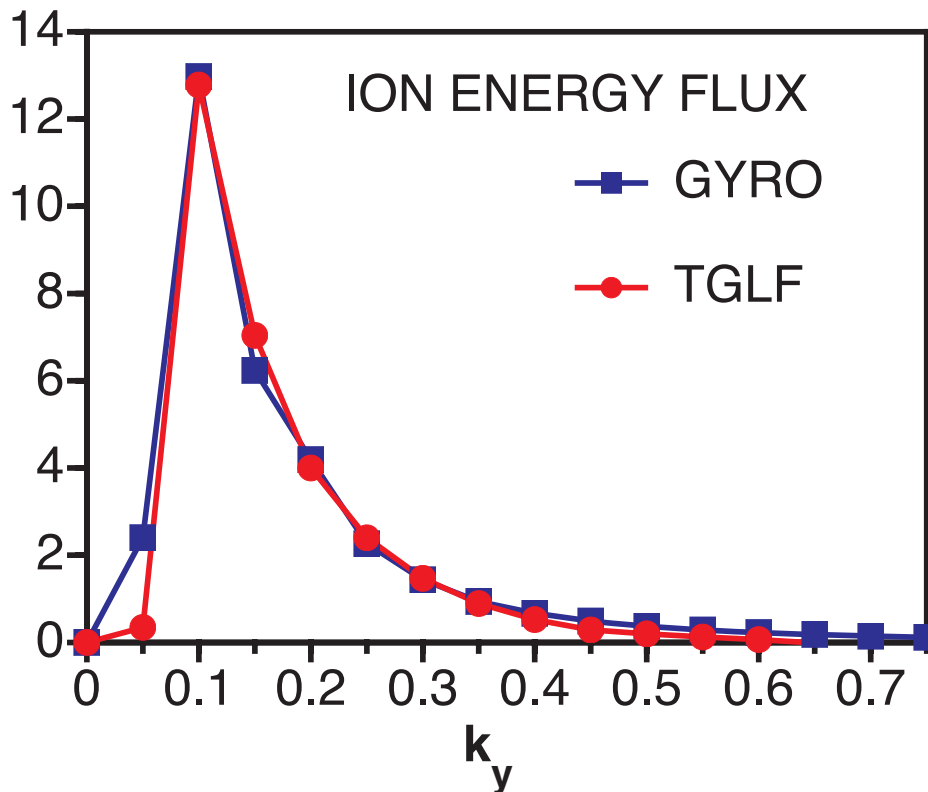
$$\sigma_{Q_i} = 42\%, \quad \sigma_{Q_e} = 78\%, \quad \sigma_{\Gamma} = 78\%,$$

- GLF23 is systematically high, especially for the electron energy flux

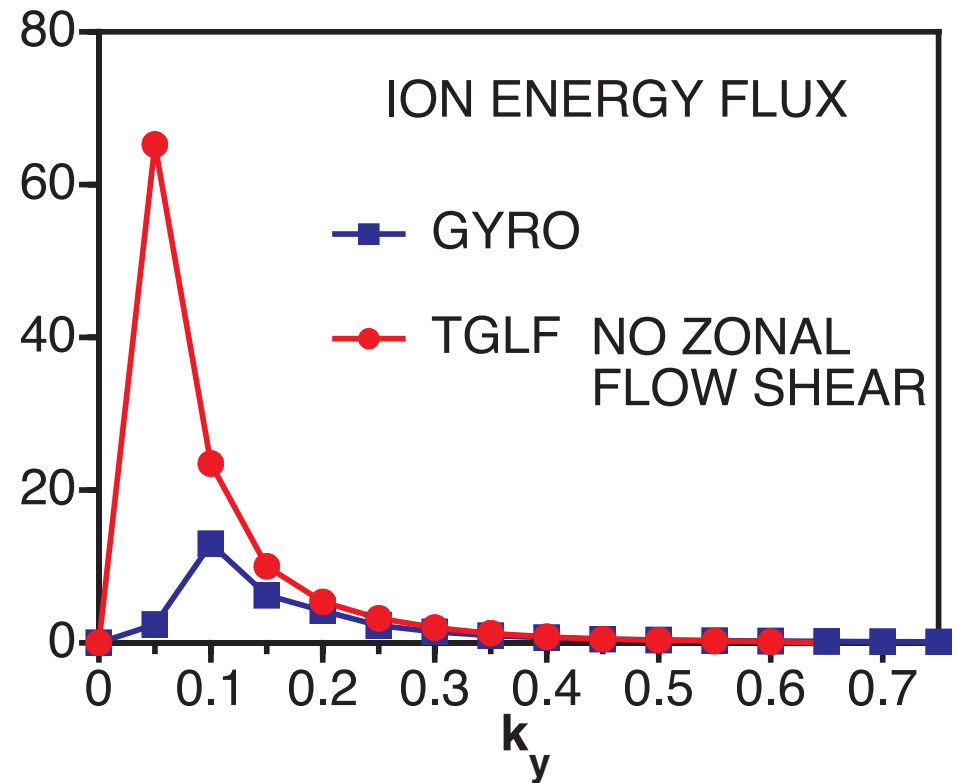


# Quasi-linear TGLF Fits the GYRO Flux Spectrum Well

- The detailed shape of the ion energy flux spectrum is well fit by the TGLF model



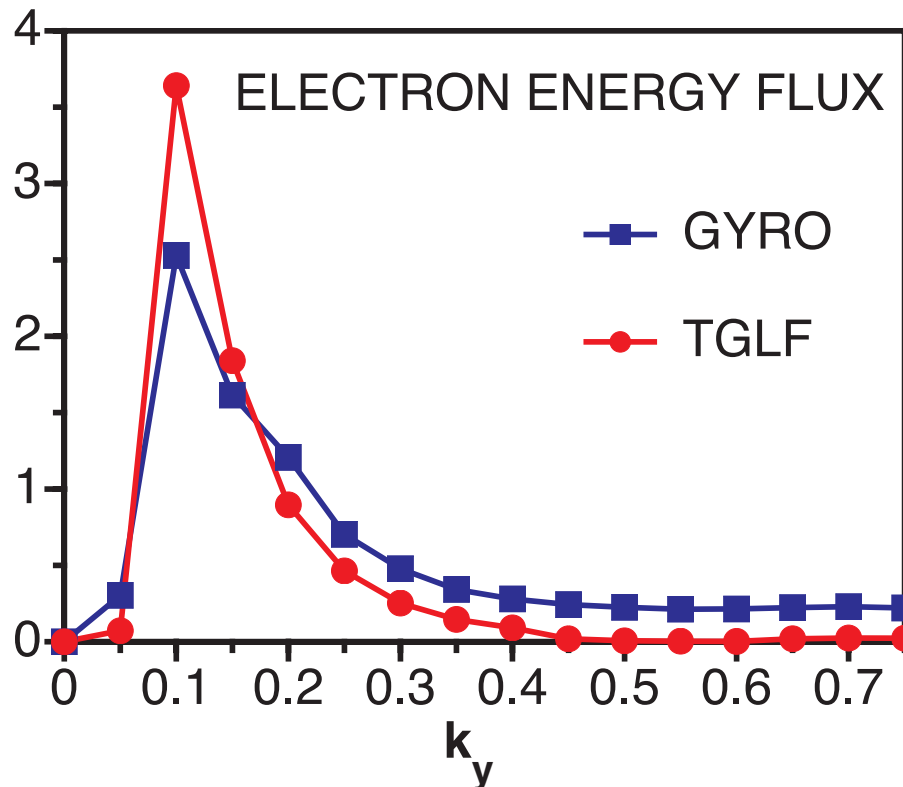
- The lowest  $k_y$  modes are suppressed by the “zonal flow” shear model as can be seen below with  $\alpha_{ZF} = 0$



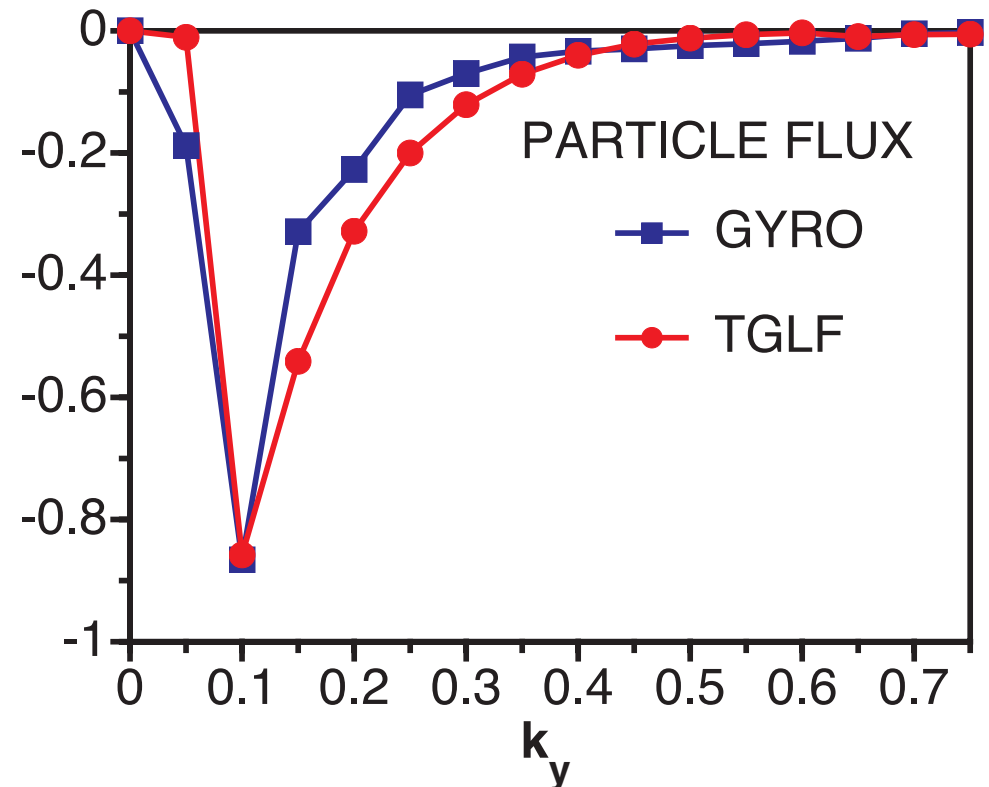
$$\text{STD} = (a/L_{n_e} = a/L_{n_i} = 1, a/L_{T_e} = a/L_{T_i} = 3, T_i/T_e = 1, q = 2, \hat{s} = 1, \alpha = 0, r/a = 0.5, R/a = 3.0)$$

# Spectral Fits Are Good for All Channels

- The electron energy flux spectrum is generally fit about as well as the ion energy flux spectrum

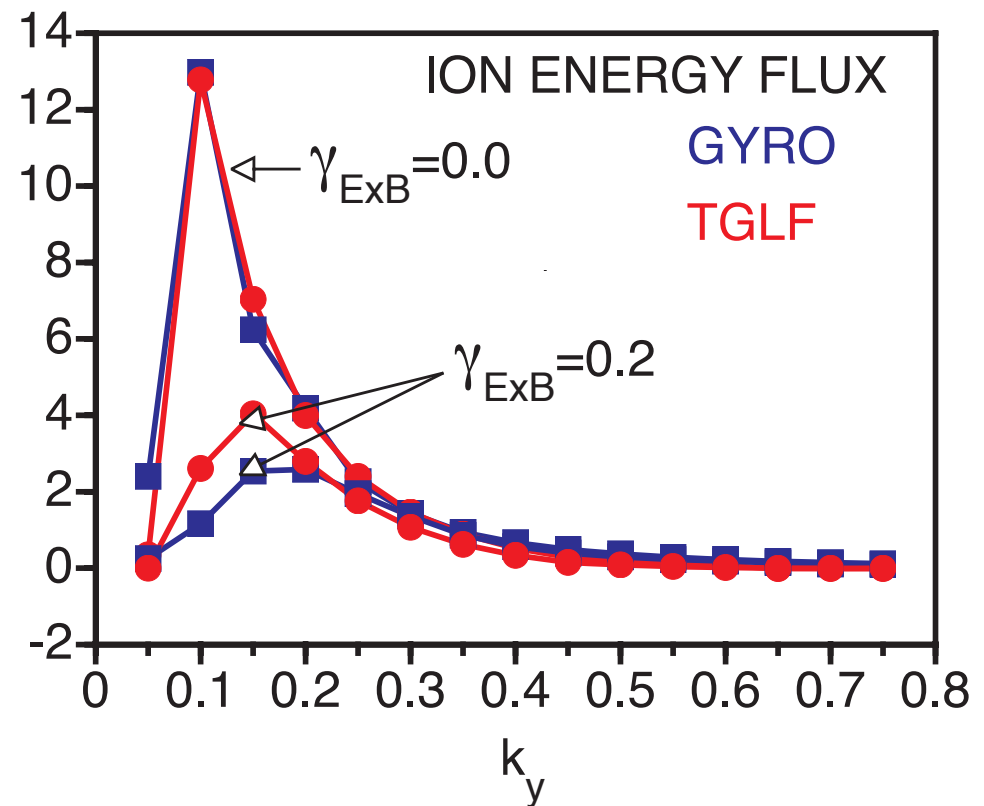
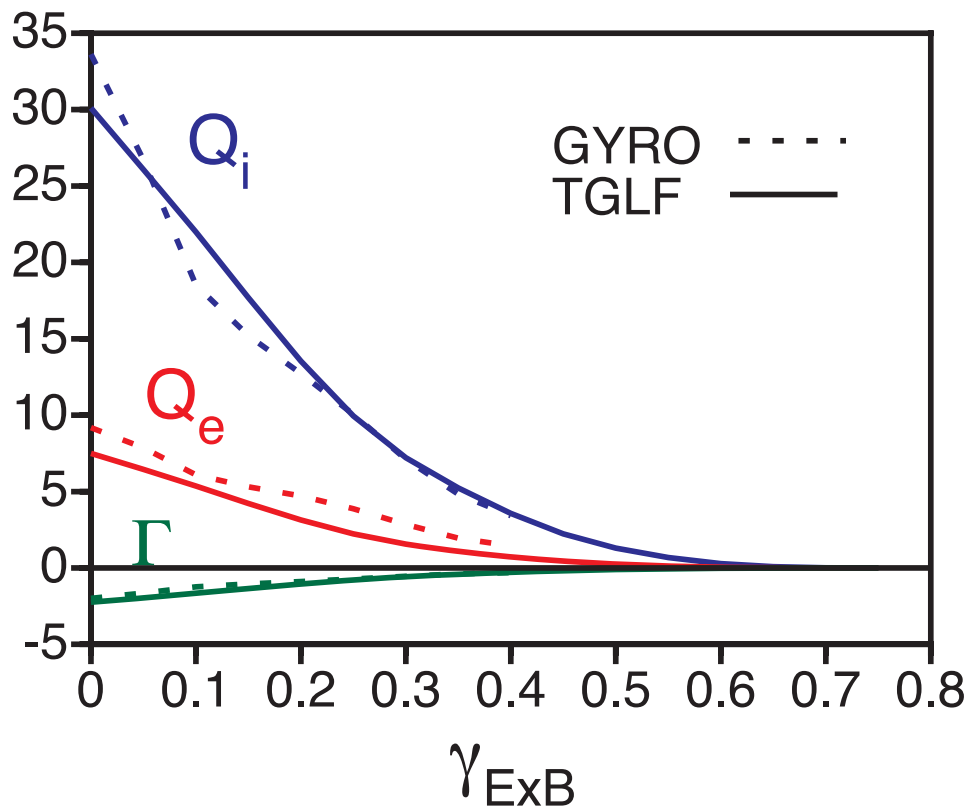


- The particle flux spectrum is best fit when the particle flux is not close to zero



# ExB Shear Quench Rule Agrees With GYRO

- The linear subtraction of the ExB shear from the growth rate is a good model of the reduction in total flux
- Even the change in the flux spectrum is fairly well fit



# TGLF is an Accurate Model of Gyro-Kinetic Theory

- A new Trapped Gyro-Landau Fluid (TGLF) system of equations has been developed that yields a fast, accurate approximation to the linear eigenmodes of gyro-kinetic driftwave instabilities with comprehensive physics
  - A TGLF eigenmode code is available for stability analysis of experimental discharges
- A quasi-linear transport model using TGLF eigenmodes and a local model for the saturated fluctuation intensity achieves an excellent fit to a large database of non-linear gyro-kinetic turbulence simulations using the GYRO code
  - Extension of the intensity model to high-k ETG modes will use the latest coupled ITG/TEM-ETG GYRO simulations. (Waltz and Candy)

# Will TGLF Predict the Transport in Experiments?

- **Transport predictions of the TGLF transport model will be tested in conventional tokamaks, low aspect ratio spherical tori and the near separatrix region.**
  - This will be a true test of the first principles gyro-kinetic theory foundation of the TGLF model
  - Prediction of the pedestal width in H-mode is a high priority
  - Prediction of transport in ITER
- **Planned extensions of TGLF include:**
  - General geometry from numerical MHD equilibrium instead of the Miller model which is needed for the pedestal
  - Intensity models that include mode coupling (non-local in wavenumber) and turbulence spreading (non-local in space)
  - Inclusion of equilibrium parallel and ExB velocity shear in the linear eigenmodes (beyond the quench rule)