

A Comprehensive Theory Based Transport Model

By

G.M. Staebler¹

for

J.E. Kinsey², R.E. Waltz¹

¹General Atomics, San Diego

²Lehigh University

Presented at the
21st IAEA Fusion Energy Conference
Chengdu, China

October 16–21, 2006



A Comprehensive Theory Based Transport Model

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 quasilinear transport model is a better fit to nonlinear 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 quasilinear transport model

First Principles Theory

Non-Linear gyro-kinetic
turbulence simulations
GYRO (Candy & 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)

Quasilinear 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 ($\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{\perp}, \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{\parallel}$)
- 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

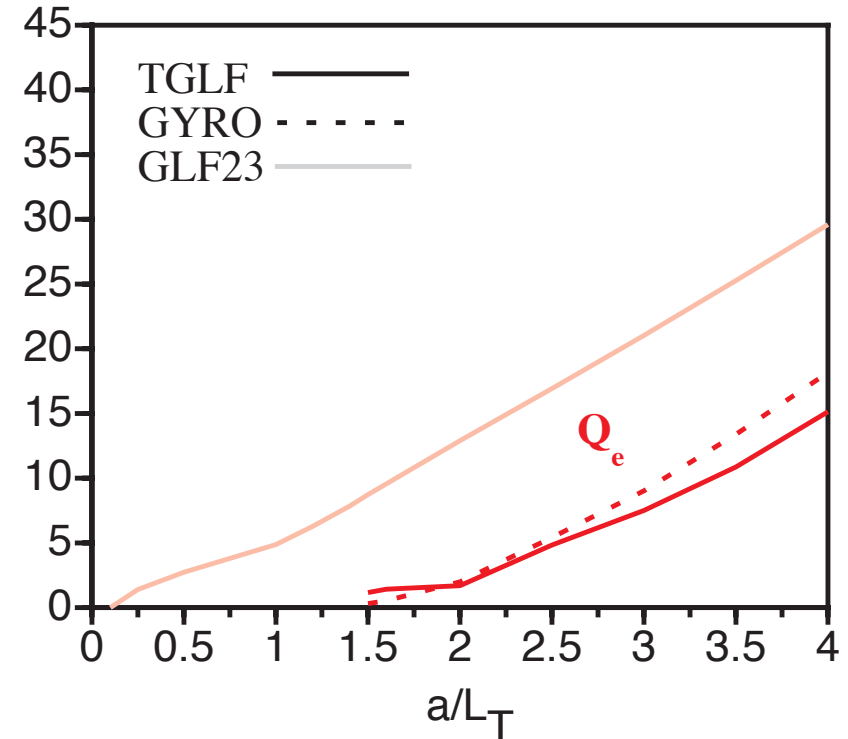
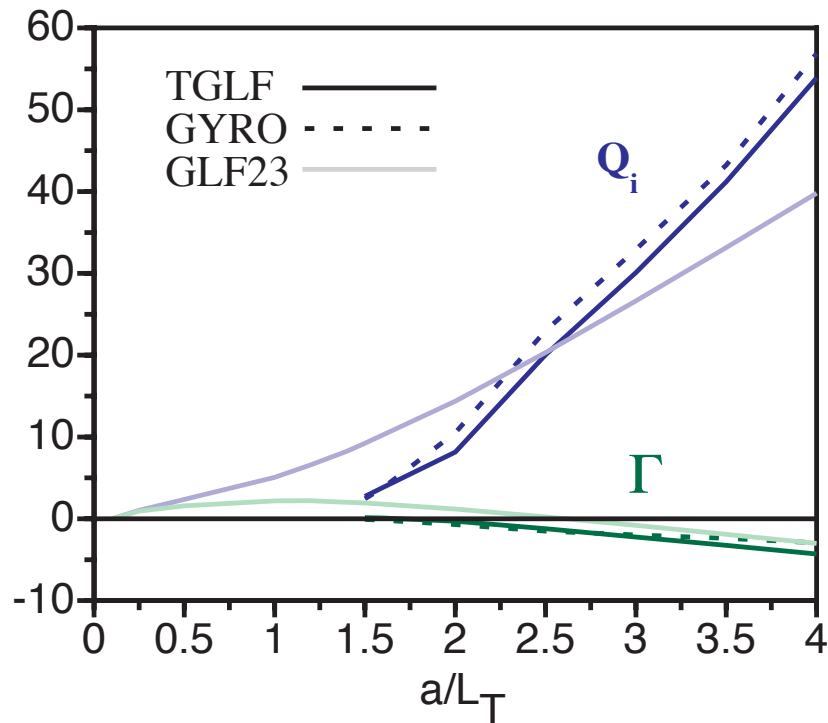
GLF23

- 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

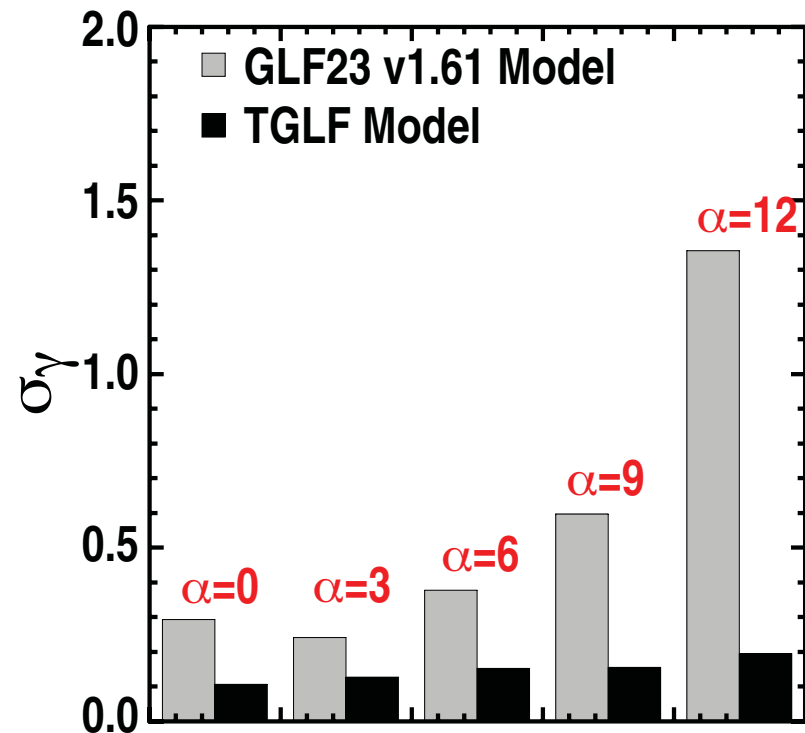


TGLF has a uniformly good accuracy over a wide range of plasma conditions

- Linear stability benchmarks in s-alpha geometry show that TGLF is an accurate approximation to gyrokinetic 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 $1 \leq \hat{s} \leq 7, 3 \leq q \leq 7$

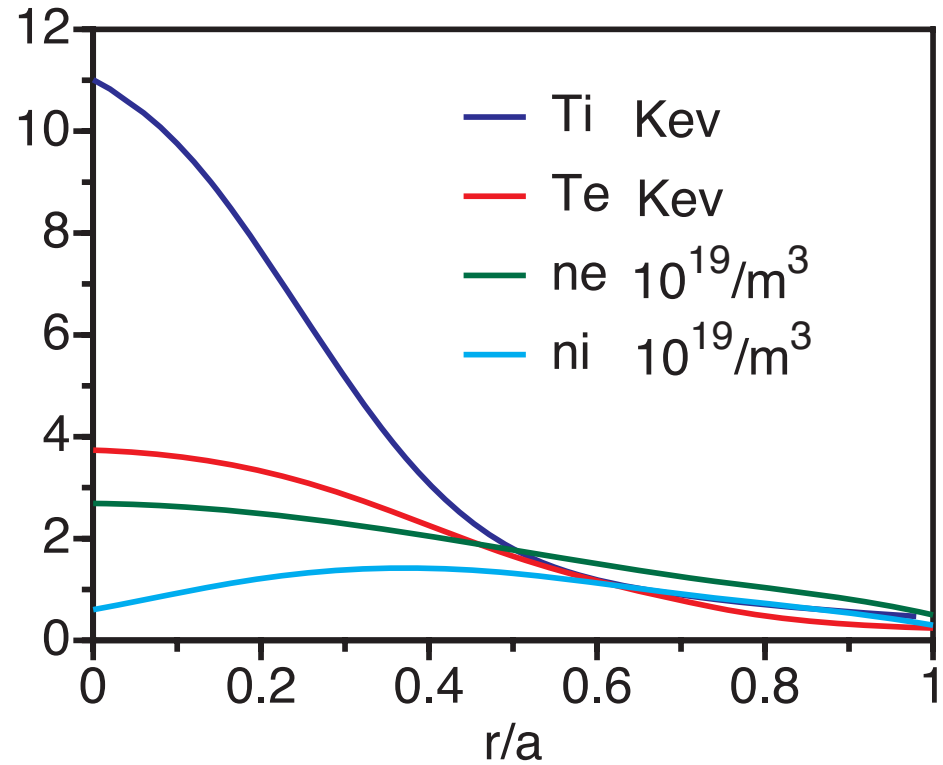
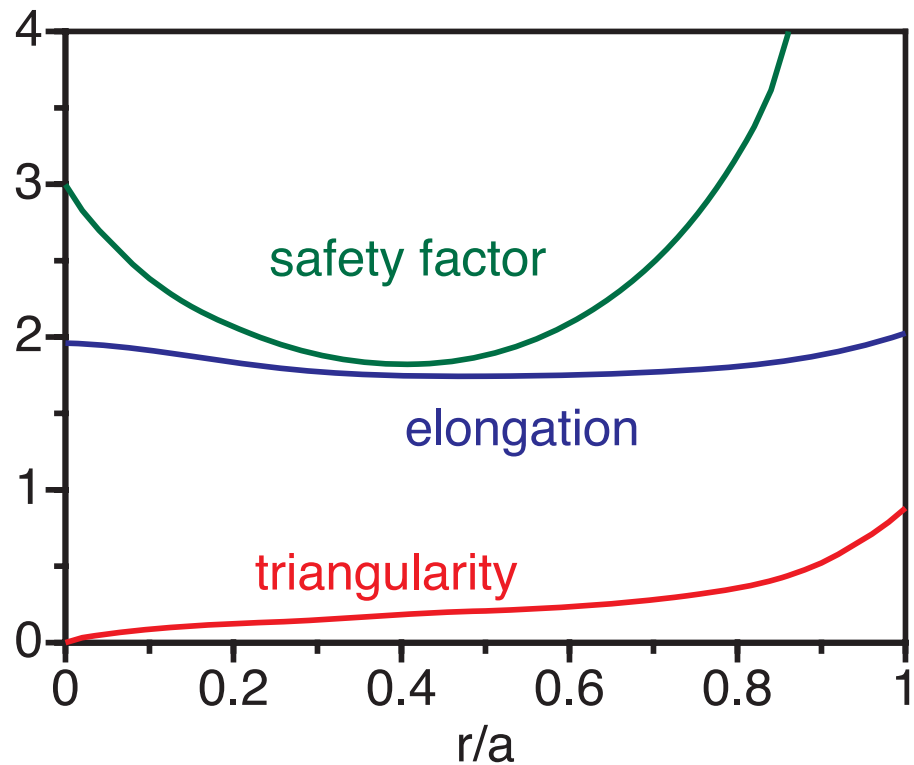


PED = (a/L_{ne} = a/L_{ni} = 3, a/L_{Te} = a/L_{Ti} = 10, T_i/T_e = 1, q = 4, \hat{s} = 3, α = 5, k_y = 0.3, r/a = 0.5, R/a = 3.0)

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.

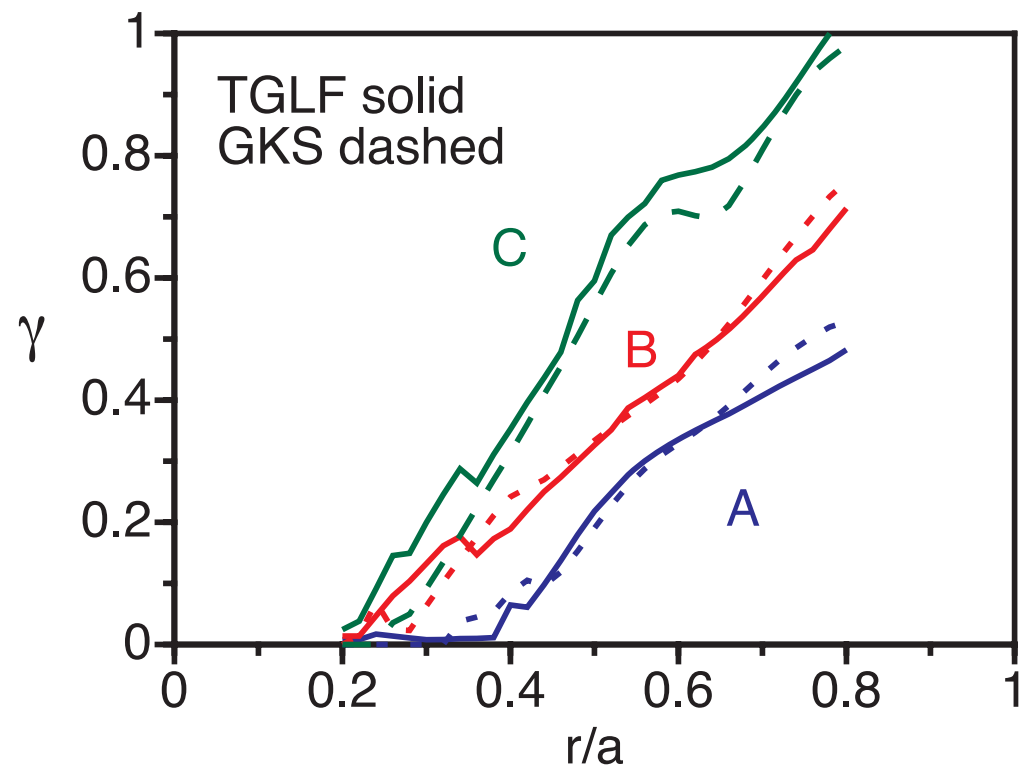
DIII-D NCS discharge 84736 at 1.3 sec



TGLF linear growth rates are accurate for real experimental conditions.

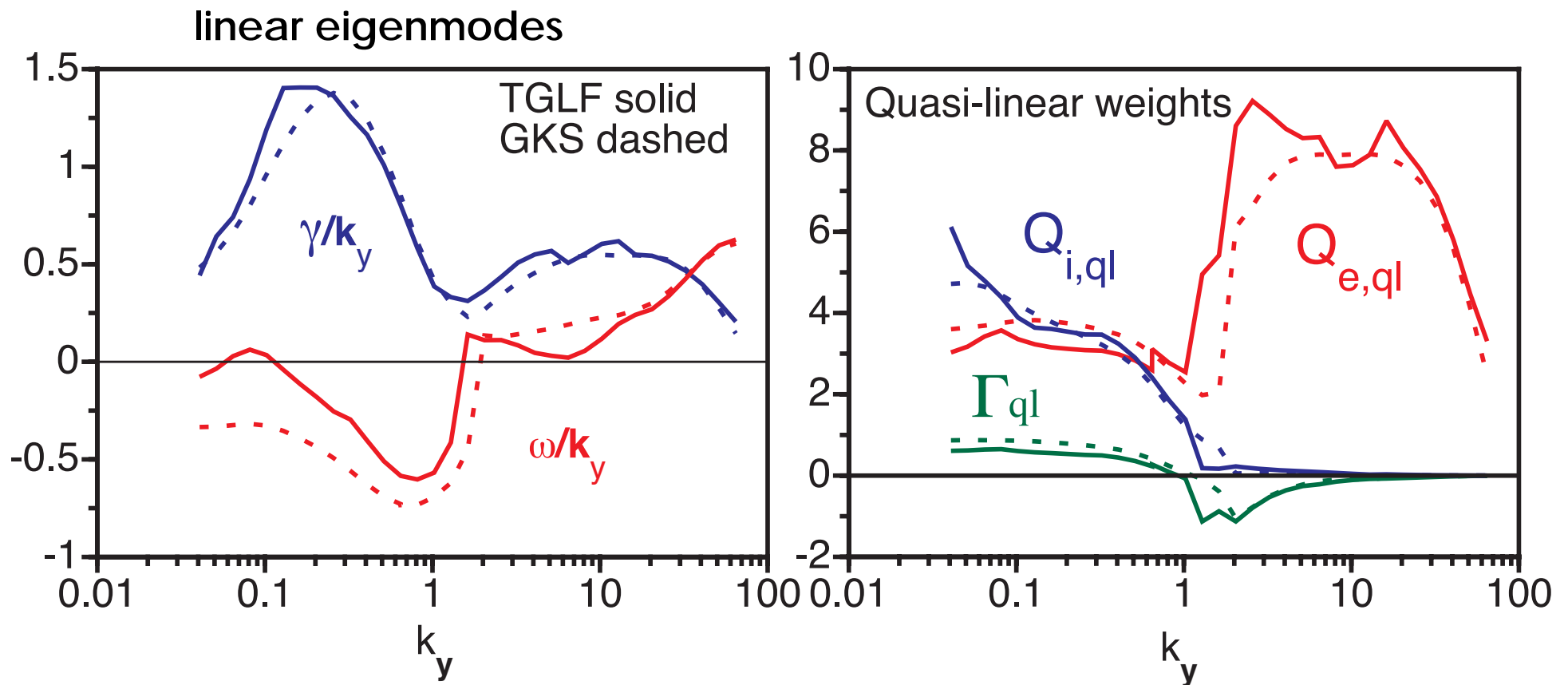
- The radial profile of the normalized linear growth rate for $k_y=0.3$ and three different physics settings is shown.
 - (A) comprehensive physics
 - (B) collisionless, electrostatic
 - (C) s-alpha geometry dilution, collisionless, electrostatic
- The TGLF code was 200X faster than GKS for (C) (2.4sec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

DIII-D NCS discharge 84736 at 1.3sec



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 sec.



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 offset for the whole database of 86 non-linear GYRO turbulence simulations.
 - s-alpha geometry, kinetic electrons and ions
- 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_{Γ}
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" γ_{ZF} and the equilibrium electric field γ_{ExB} is used to obtain an effective net growth rate used in the saturated intensity model. $\bar{\Phi}^2(\bar{\gamma})$

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

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

α_{ZF}	$\beta_{z\gamma}$	β_{zk}	β_{zq}
0.369	0.906	0.420	0.317

α_E
0.35

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. $\bar{\Phi}^2 = \tilde{\Phi}^2 / (\rho_s / a)^2$

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

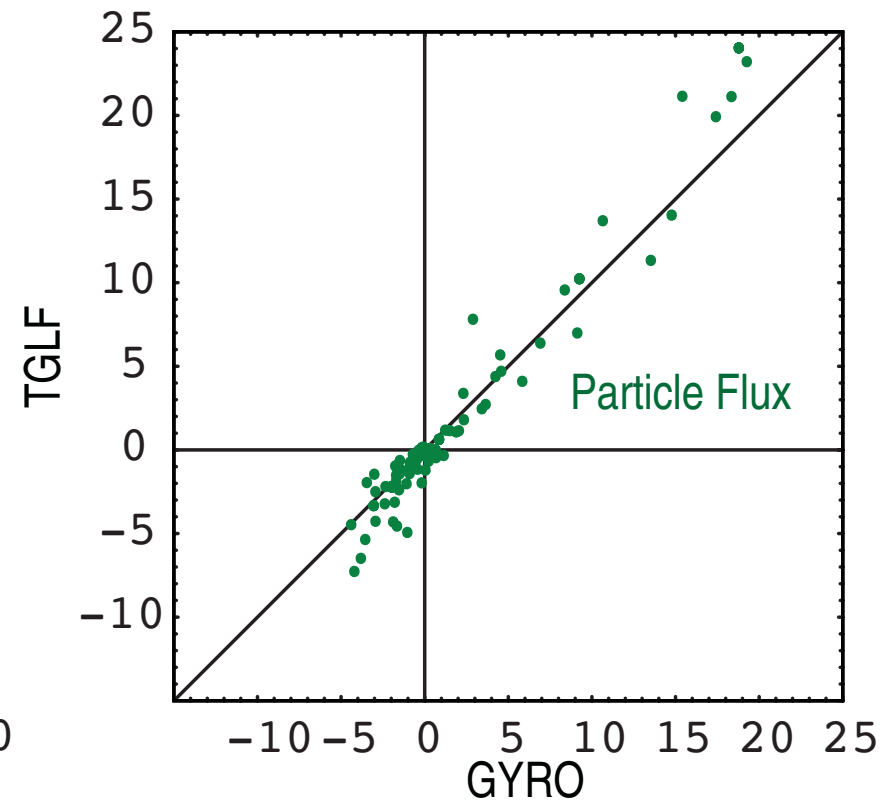
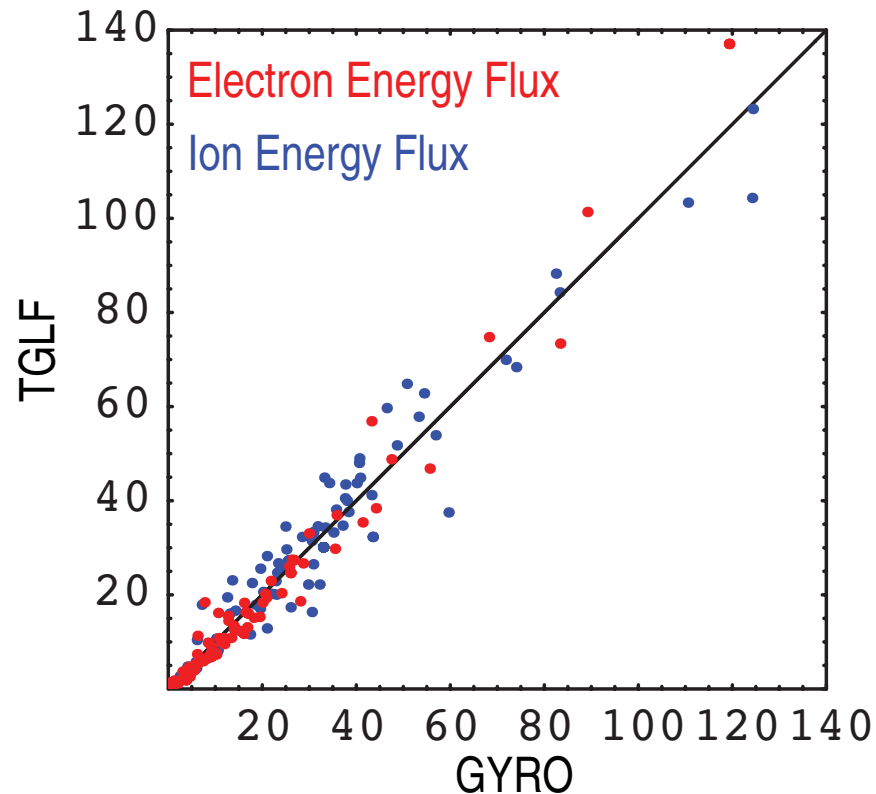
$\bar{\omega}_d = \langle \hat{\omega}_d \rangle / \hat{\omega}_{d0}$ is the wavefunction average of the curvature drift.

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 $\bar{\gamma} \gg 1$

α_γ	β_γ	α_{d0}	α_d	β_d	β_k
0.893	1.98	0.072	2.55	1.94	0.933

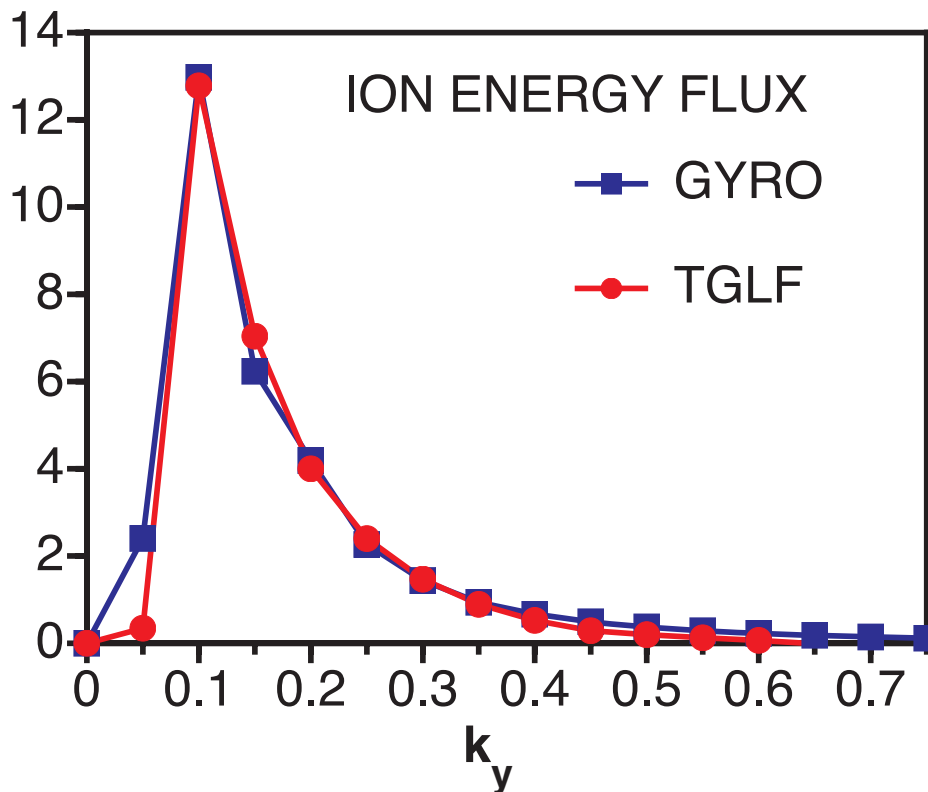
Quasi-linear TGLF fits nonlinear GYRO total fluxes well

- 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 is a much poorer fit: $\sigma_{Q_i} = 42\%$, $\sigma_{Q_e} = 78\%$, $\sigma_{\Gamma} = 78\%$

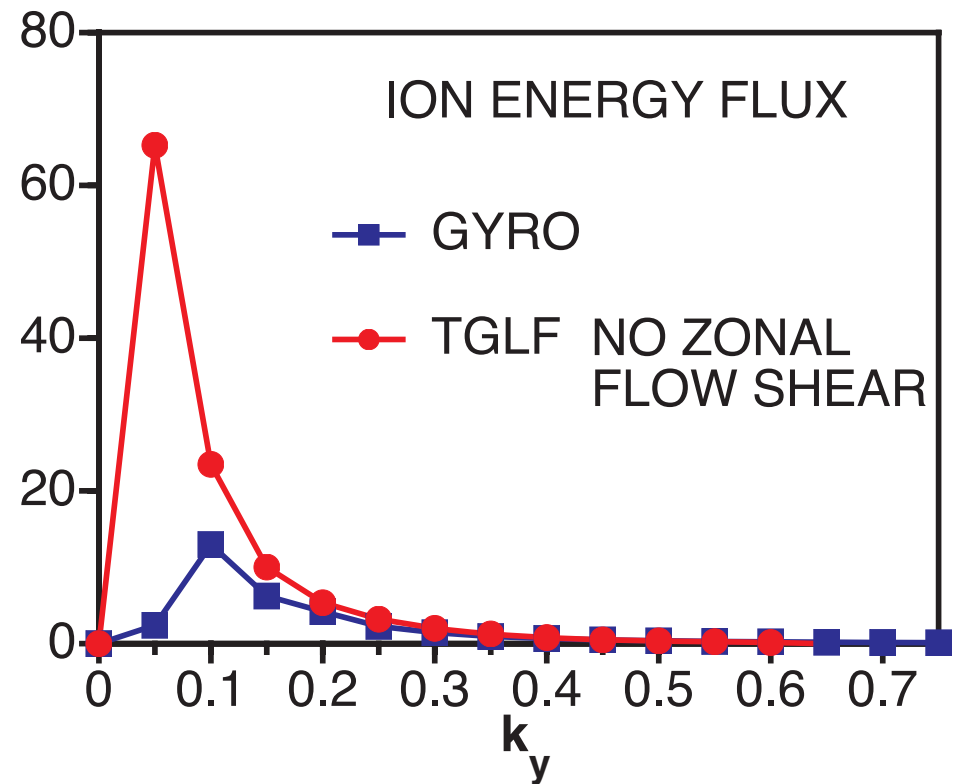


Quasi-linear TGLF fits the GYRO flux spectrum well

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



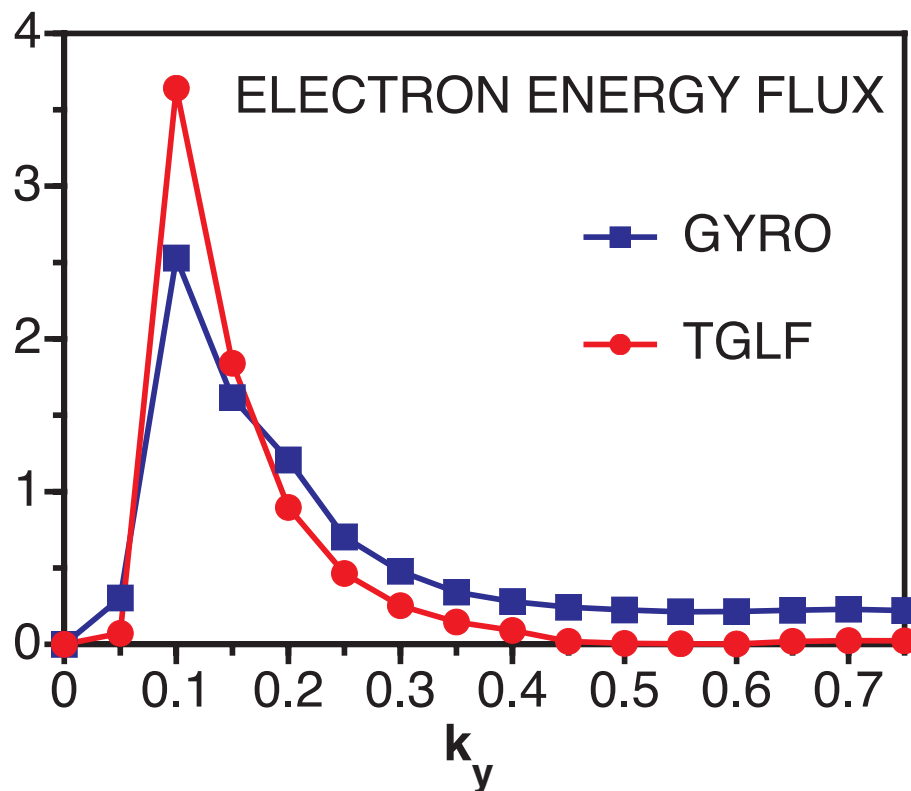
- The lowest k_y modes are suppressed by the “zonal flow” shear model as can be seen below with $\alpha_{ZF}=0$.



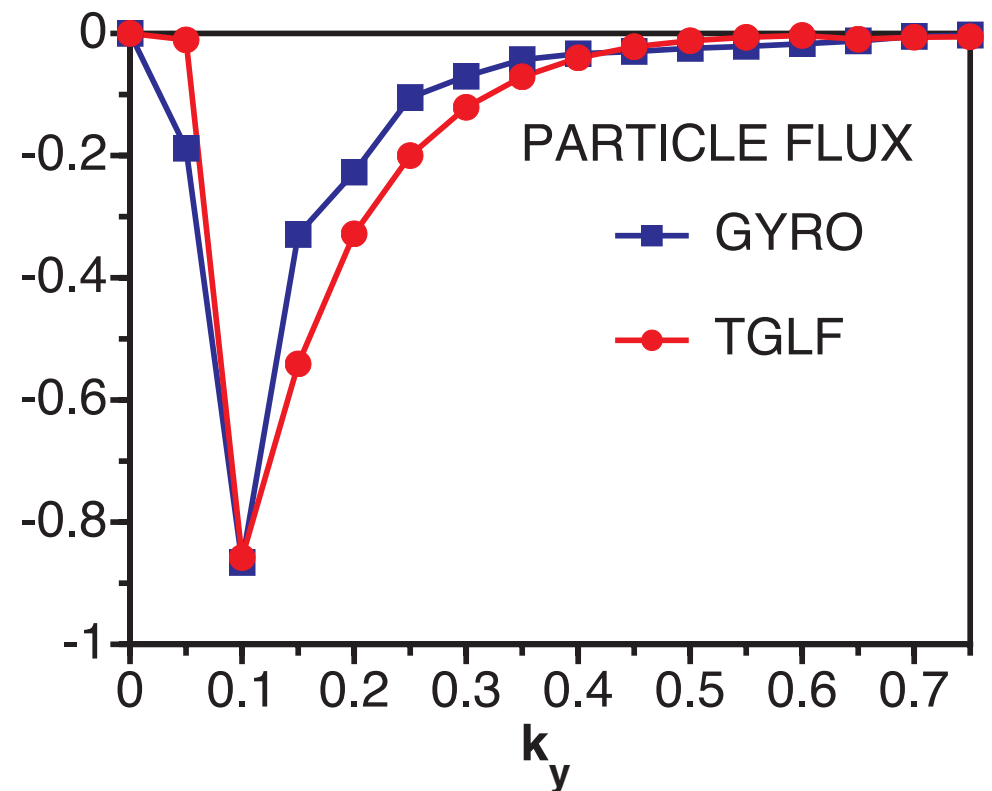
$$\text{STD} = (a/L_{n_e} = a/L_{n_i} = 1, a/L_{T_e} = a/L_{T_i} = 3, T_i/T_e = 1, q = 2, \hat{s} = 1, \alpha = 0, r/a = 0.5, R/a = 3.0)$$

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.



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 nonlinear 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. (Candy & Waltz)

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)