

Tridimensional Thermonuclear Instability in Subignited Plasmas and on the Surface of the Pulsars

A. Cardinali¹ and B. Coppi²

¹ENEA, Frascati, Italy and ²MIT, USA

Tridimensional modes involving an increase of the electron temperature can be excited as a result of alpha-particle heating in subignited D-T fusion burning plasmas when a nearly time-independent external source of heating is applied. The analyzed modes [1] are shown to emerge from an axisymmetric toroidal configurations and are radially localized around rational magnetic surfaces corresponding to $q(r=r_0)=m_0/n_0$ where m_0 and n_0 are the relevant poloidal and toroidal mode numbers. The radial width of the mode is of the order of the thermal scale distance. The mode has a rather severe damping rate, that has to be overcome by the relevant heating rate. Thus the temperature range to be considered is that where the D-T plasma reactivity undergoes a relatively large increase as a function of temperature. This kind of theory has been applied to the plasmas that are envisioned to be associated with surface of pulsar and be subjects to (spatially) inhomogeneous thermonuclear burning. Sponsored in part by the U.S. DOE.

[1] B. Coppi, *et al. Nucl. Fus.*, **55** 053011 (2015).