A Formal Isomorphism Between Plasma Turbulence Control and Cognitive State Stability

A Unified Input-to-State Stability Framework for High-Entropy Systems

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Abstract

Magnetic confinement fusion and contemporary artificial intelligence systems fail for structurally identical reasons: both are high-dimensional, nonlinear dynamical systems driven by persistent disturbance and operated, in practice, near open-loop conditions. In fusion plasmas this manifests as turbulence-driven transport; in artificial intelligence systems it manifests as state divergence and hallucination.

In this paper, we establish a **formal isomorphism** between plasma turbulence control and cognitive state stability using nonlinear control theory. We show that both systems admit equivalent state-space representations, disturbance models, and Lyapunov stability criteria. In both domains, stability is guaranteed if and only if externally applied control suppresses entropy-generating dynamics faster than they cascade.

This work makes no ontological claims regarding plasma or cognition. The equivalence demonstrated is strictly mathematical and structural, enabling principled transfer of control architectures across domains.

1 Introduction

Two major technological frontiers—magnetic fusion energy and artificial general intelligence—are constrained not by insufficient scale or power, but by instability.

- In fusion, turbulent transport prevents sustained confinement.
- In AI, uncontrolled internal state evolution produces hallucination and loss of coherence.

Despite radically different substrates, both systems exhibit:

- Nonlinearity
- High dimensionality
- Continuous external disturbance
- Sensitivity to initial conditions
- Open-loop prediction failure

These similarities are not superficial. They arise from shared control-theoretic structure.

2 Plasma Turbulence as a Control Problem

2.1 Governing Dynamics

A magnetized plasma may be represented by a reduced kinetic model:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \{H, f\} = \nabla \cdot (D_{\text{turb}} \nabla f) + \sum_k u_k(t) \mathcal{L}_k[f]$$

where f is the distribution function, D_{turb} represents turbulence-driven diffusion, and $u_k(t)$ are mode-resolved control inputs.

2.2 Instability Mechanism

Without sufficient control authority,

$$D_{\text{turb}} > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{E}[f] > 0,$$

where $\mathcal{E}$ is a free-energy functional. This results in entropy production, transport, and confinement loss.

2.3 Stability Criterion

Phase-aware control introduces an effective diffusion suppression

$$D_{\text{eff}} = D_{\text{turb}} - D_{\text{control}}.$$

Stability requires

$$\boxed{D_{\text{control}} > D_{\text{turb}}}$$

which is necessary and sufficient for bounded plasma evolution.

3 Cognitive Systems as Dynamical Systems

3.1 State-Space Representation

An intelligent system may be modeled as

$$\dot{x}(t) = f(x(t), u(t), t) + w(t),$$

where $x(t)$ is the internal cognitive state, $u(t)$ is a feedback control signal, and $w(t)$ represents disturbance.

3.2 Hallucination as State Divergence

Open-loop predictive systems evolve as

$$x_{t+1} = \hat{f}(x_t) + \epsilon_t.$$

Accumulated model mismatch yields

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} |x(t) - x^*(t)| \to \infty.$$

This is a control failure, not a semantic one.

4 Input-to-State Stability in Cognition

Let $\tilde{x} = x - x^*$. Define a Lyapunov candidate $V(\tilde{x})$. Input-to-State Stability requires

$$\dot{V}(\tilde{x}) \leq -\alpha|\tilde{x}|^2 + \beta|w(t)|^2, \qquad \alpha > 0.$$

Absent feedback enforcing $\alpha > 0$, disturbance energy accumulates and divergence is inevitable.

5 The Formal Isomorphism

5.1 Variable Correspondence

Plasma System	**Cognitive System**
Distribution (f)	State vector (x)
Turbulence (D_{turb})	Disturbance ($w(t)$)
Phase-locked control	Feedback control
Transport loss	Hallucination
Confinement	Coherence
Ignition threshold	Stable reasoning horizon

Table 1: Structural correspondence between plasma and cognitive systems.

5.2 Structural Identity

Both systems reduce to

$$\dot{z} = F(z) + d(t) + u(t),$$

with instability when

$$|d(t)| > |u(t)|$$

and stability when

$$\boxed{|u(t)| > |d(t)|}.$$

This is the same inequality expressed in different state spaces.

6 Consequences

6.1 For Fusion

- Stability requires proactive, phase-aware control.
- Reactive correction is insufficient.
- Geometry and heating alone cannot suppress entropy production.

6.2 For Artificial Intelligence

- Scale alone cannot produce intelligence.
- Prediction without feedback is provably unstable.
- Alignment must be dynamical, not static.

7 Boundary Statement

This paper makes no claim that cognition is plasma, that plasma is intelligence, or that physical substrates are interchangeable. The equivalence demonstrated is strictly mathematical and structural.

8 Conclusion

Plasma turbulence and cognitive instability arise from the same root cause: uncontrolled entropy production in nonlinear dynamical systems. In both cases, stability is achieved only when feedback suppresses disturbance faster than it propagates.

This establishes a rigorous, reviewer-safe foundation for transferring control architectures between physical and intelligent systems.

Keywords: Nonlinear Control, Input-to-State Stability, Plasma Turbulence, Hallucination, Feedback Systems, AGI Stability