

Turbulence and Transport Suppression Scaling with Flow Shear on the Large Plasma Device

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Continuous control over azimuthal flow and shear in the edge of the Large Plasma Device (LAPD) [W. Gekelman, *et. al*, Rev. Sci. Instr. **62**, 2875 (1991)] has been achieved using a biasable limiter. This flow control has allowed a careful study of the effect of flow shear on pressure-gradient-driven turbulence and transport in LAPD. The combination of externally-controllable shear in a turbulent plasma along with the detailed spatial diagnostic capabilities on LAPD makes the experiment a useful testbed for verification and comparison to various shear suppression models. Power-law fits are made to the density and radial velocity fluctuation amplitude, particle flux, relative crossphase between density and velocity fluctuations and radial correlation length in both weak and strong shearing regimes. Model comparisons with experimental results are mixed; some models make favorable predictions for certain quantities but not others. Overall, the combination of scattered predictions and experimental results suggest that shear suppression may be turbulence-type dependent.

I. INTRODUCTION

Suppression of turbulence and transport by flow shear has been observed on a multitude of different magnetized plasma experiments¹⁻³. While the necessity of cross-field flow shear has been generally accepted for the successful high confinement operation of current and future fusion devices, the exact physical mechanisms connecting increased flow shear to the suppression of turbulence and transport is not fully understood. Having a quantitative grasp as to how turbulence and confinement levels scale with flow shear as well as the ability to make predictions as to what mechanisms will dominate in various scenarios is vital for extrapolation to larger future machines such as ITER^{4,5}. The primary goal of this paper is to provide a detailed experimental dataset for comparison and validation of various models which make predictions as to the relative magnitude of suppression for various turbulent quantities. A further goal is to provide insight into the physical mechanisms actually at work in such suppression observations.

Control of poloidal or azimuthal flow shear in a turbulent plasma has been previously achieved in a number of toroidal devices using biased electrodes in order to create cross-field flow through the generation of cross-field current^{6,7}. In particular, biasing experiments conducted on TEXTOR⁸⁻¹⁰ have yielded results that have been compared to shear suppression models for both density fluctuation amplitude and particle flux showing promising comparisons. Using a recent dataset on LAPD¹¹ where a detailed scan of sheared flow in a turbulent, linear field line plasma was made using a biased limiter, we hope to extend such shear suppression model verification studies. The recent data set demonstrated the suppression and modification of a number of turbulent quantities with increased shearing rate including cross-field particle flux, density and radial $E \times B$ velocity fluctuations, the relative crossphase between said fluctuations, and radial correlation length. Moreover, the scan included data points in both the weak and strong shearing regime, as defined by the ratio of shearing rate to inverse autocorrelation time providing the ability for comparison to models which make separate predictions for each regime.

Models based on radial decorrelation of turbulent structures by shear are prominent. Shear suppression models based on the spatial decorrelation of turbulent structures have been the most common approach to describing both the physical mechanism underlying suppression as well as for making scaling predictions⁵. The basic premise underlying these models is

the effect of shearing to break apart or shrink turbulent eddies and consequently decrease both fluctuation amplitude and transport step size. Variation in the model predictions arise from differences in shearing regime, source of turbulent drive (i.e. Ion Temperature Gradient, Interchange Drive or Pressure-Gradient Drive), as well as consideration of passive versus dynamic scalars. Recently, other approaches to explaining shear suppression have been made including the enhancement of coupling to damped eigenmodes by sheared flow¹² and by nonlinear shifts in the wavenumber spectrum of the turbulence by shearing (Staebler, APS 2012). However, this paper will focus on the varying decorrelation models which include scaling predictions.

This paper presents experimental fits of density fluctuation amplitude, radial velocity fluctuation amplitude, particle flux, crossphase, diffusivity and radial correlation length as functions of flow shear and compares them to a number of model predictions for this shear suppression. No one model predicts how all the quantities scale though some models do make favorable comparisons for some quantities, but unfavorable comparisons to others. The fits generally show a stronger decrease in turbulent fluctuations than crossphase as a contributor to reduction of particle flux. Fits to the suppression of measured radial diffusion—which incorporates the changes in density gradient—compare well to numerical simulation predictions. The ability to make favorable predictions for some quantities while not other perhaps suggests a dependence on turbulent conditions for determining shear suppression and call for specific calculations for LAPD plasmas to be made.

The remainder of this paper will first look at the various models of shear suppression in Section II, then move on to a brief review of the limiter biased rotation studies on LAPD in Section III. In Section IV, the approach for model fitting of the experimental data is discussed and the results of these fits are presented in Section V. Finally a discussion of how these fits compare to analytic and simulation model predictions is given in Section VI.

II. MODELS OF SHEAR SUPPRESSION

Two of the earliest of decorrelation models were developed by Biglari, Diamond, Terry¹³ (hereafter BDT) and Shaing¹⁴. The BDT theory presents a generalized analysis of the transport of any passive scalar in a mean sheared flow in the strong-shear regime with constant drive gradient. The BDT model predicts that normalized fluctuation amplitude

scales directly with shear to the $-2/3$ power as in,

$$\frac{\langle |\tilde{\xi}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\tilde{\xi}|^2 \rangle_{\gamma_s=0}} \sim (\gamma_s \tau_{ac})^{-2/3} \quad (1)$$

where η can be any quantity such as density or temperature. Conversely, the Shaing model predicts a scaling of the form,

$$\frac{\langle |\tilde{\xi}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\tilde{\xi}|^2 \rangle_{\gamma_s=0}} \sim 1 - \alpha (\gamma_s \tau_{ac})^2 \quad (2)$$

for fluctuation amplitude for the weak shear regime, where α is a constant containing mode number information. An attempt to incorporate the BDT and Shaing models was made by Zhang and Mahajan^{15,16} by expanding the model to incorporate the self-consistent modification of the diffusion and spectrum through fluctuation changes by the flow shear (allowing for a distinction between weak and strong turbulence regimes in the shearing model). The resulting model shows correspondence to the Shaing model in the weak shearing regime while the BDT model is recovered in the strong shearing regime but only for the case where diffusion is unchanged by fluctuation amplitude changes. Furthermore, they extend the model to incorporate the effect of changes in gradient length, showing that shear suppression of fluctuation amplitude is enhanced by a steeper equilibrium gradient.

Work by Ware and Terry^{17,18} made predictions for the effect of shearing on particle transport specifically in a resistive pressure-gradient driven turbulence state. Their work predicted a decrease in flux as a $\Gamma_p \sim 1 - \gamma_s^2$ model in the weak shear limit as well as predicting a decrease in the cosine of the crossphase between density and radial velocity fluctuations also of the form $1 - \omega_s^2$. They, too, incorporated the modification of the pressure gradient formulating an expression for shearing suppression of radial particle diffusivity of the form,

$$\frac{D}{D(\gamma_s=0)} \sim 1 - \beta (\gamma_s)^2 \quad (3)$$

where β is a constant containing the linear growth rate and radial mode width.

Further work by Terry, Newman and Ware¹⁹ examined the modification of flux in the strong shearing regime for a non-mode-specific turbulence system, prediction a direct scaling of $\Gamma_p \sim \gamma_s^{-4}$ overall, with fluctuation amplitude reductions contributing one power while crossphase reduction contributed three powers, suggesting both a strong dependence of flux on shear as well as an implication that the crossphase can be the dominant flux suppression

mechanism rather than the fluctuation amplitude. However, Kim and Diamond²⁰ recast the decorrelation model to include resonance absorption between the shear flow and fluctuations overall suggesting a much weaker dependence of flux on shear, $\Gamma_p \sim \gamma_s^{-1}$, and even weaker dependence of crossphase, $\cos(\theta_{nv_r}) \sim \gamma_s^{-1/6}$, while fluctuations decreased as $|\tilde{n}|^2 \sim \gamma_s^{-5/3}$. Additional work²¹ added the effect of treating the fluctuating flows dynamically in an interchange driven turbulent plasma which allowed for a prediction for the decrease in fluctuating radial velocity as a function of shear scaling as $|\tilde{v}_r|^2 \sim \gamma_s^{-3}$ in weak shear, and $|\tilde{v}_r|^2 \sim \gamma_s^{-4}$ in strong shearing.

Most recently, Leconte et al²² found different scalings for flux, fluctuations and crossphase in the strong shear regime depending on relative shearing strength relative to a characteristic time and shearing spatial gradient relative to the inhomogeneity gradient. Work by Newton and Kim has utilized numerical simulations to determine shearing scalings in a generic model^{23,24}.

III. SHEAR SUPPRESSION EXPERIMENTS ON LAPD

The Large Plasma Device²⁵ (LAPD) is a 17m long, ~ 60 cm diameter cylindrical plasma produced by a barium-oxide coated nickel cathode. In the experiments reported here, a plasma of density $\sim 2 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and peak temperature of 8eV is produced in a uniform solenoidal magnetic field of 1000G. All measurements reported here were collected using Langmuir probes recording floating potential, V_f , or saturated current, I_{sat} . Azimuthal electric field fluctuations, \tilde{E}_θ , are found by taking the simultaneous difference in two V_f signals separated a small azimuthal distance apart. Turbulent particle flux $\Gamma \propto \langle \tilde{n}_e \tilde{E}_\theta \rangle$ is determined through correlating density fluctuations with \tilde{E}_θ where it is assumed that E_θ produces radial $E \times B$ flow. The relative crossphase between fluctuation time-series is determined through the cross-spectrum of the quantities. That is,

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{\langle Q(f, r) \rangle_{f,r}}{\langle C(f, r) \rangle_{f,r}} \quad (4)$$

where Q and C are the imaginary and real parts of the cross-spectrum, calculated from the FFT of the two time-series in question as in,

$$G(f, r) = 2\hat{x}(f, r)^* \hat{y}(f, r) \quad (5)$$

where the cross-spectrum is first averaged over frequencies to power-weight the crossphase signal, and then averaged radially, before the phase is determined. Finally, steady-state azimuthal flow, V_θ is determined through the radial derivative of plasma potential profiles measured using a swept-Langmuir probe technique again assuming only $E \times B$ flow. Then, shearing rate is taken as $\gamma_s = d/dr(V_\theta)$.

A large annular aluminum limiter was installed in LAPD to provide a parallel boundary condition for the edge plasma and is biased relative to the cathode of the plasma source to control plasma potential and cross-field flow using a capacitor bank that supplies discrete levels of voltage up to 250V. A more detailed description of the biasing procedure for this experiment can be found in Schaffner et al¹¹.

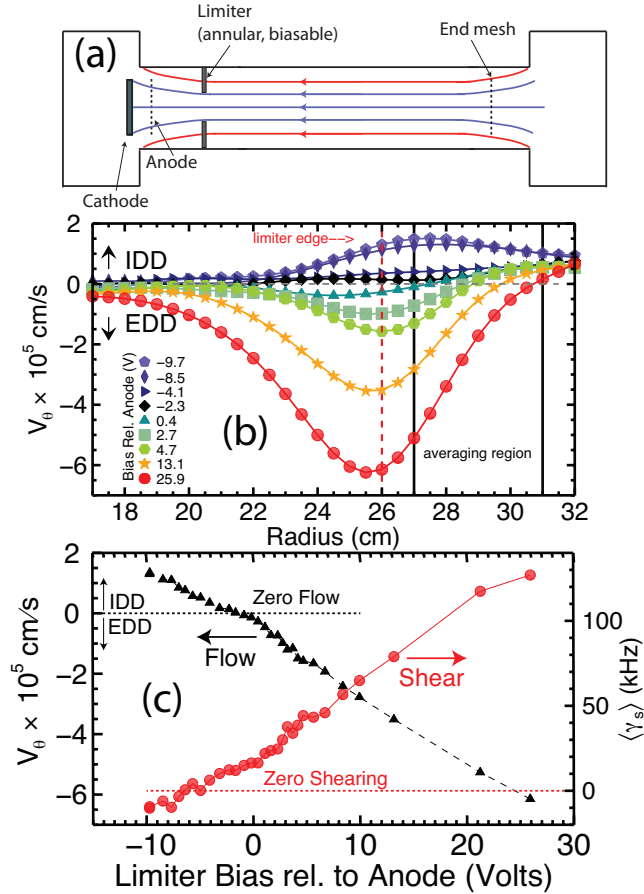


FIG. 1. (a) Diagram of the LAPD device showing annular limiter. (b) Velocity profiles using plasma potential from swept measurements. (c) Flow at the limiter edge (black, triangles) and mean shearing rate, averaged over $27 < r < 31$ cm (red, circles).

A recent experiment on the LAPD demonstrated the ability to achieve continuous control

of steady-state azimuthal flow and flow shear through the use of these biasable limiters. The spontaneous flow in the ion diamagnetic drift direction was first nullified and then reversed into the electron diamagnetic drift direction as bias was increased. This resulted in a continuous scan of flow shear states up to a shearing rate, γ_s , of about five times the turbulent inverse autocorrelation time τ_{ac}^{-1} as measured in the unsheared state. Measurements of radial particle flux, density profiles and fluctuation amplitude showed suppression of all three quantities as a function of normalized sheared flow. Figure 2 shows the experimental results for measurements of density fluctuation amplitude, ExB or radial velocity amplitude and crossphase as functions of normalized shearing rates. The shearing rates achieved span two regimes: a weak-shear regime where $\gamma_s \tau_{ac} < 1$ and a strong-shear regime where $\gamma_s \tau_{ac} > 1$. The blue solid lines correspond to the best fits for the strong-shear cases while the green are the best fits for the blue. Similar plots for particle flux and diffusivity are shown in Fig. 3.

Measurements of the steady-state correlation length were also taken for a scan of biases using a two-probe correlation plane technique. A reference probe collecting I_{cmrsat} is located at an axial position at the far end of the machine and placed at a single radial position. A second I_{cmrsat} collecting probe situated at an axial point closer to the cathode at is scanned in a rectangular grid around the projected reference point. The axial variation of the fluctuations is assumed to be low as the turbulent structures are filamentary in nature. The cross-correlation function of these two saturated current time-series is calculated for a delay time τ as

$$C(x, y, \tau) = \langle I_{ref}(x, y, t) I_{mot}(x, y, t + \tau) \rangle. \quad (6)$$

At $\tau = 0$, the function $C(x, y)$ shows the radial and axial extend of the fluctuation correlations giving a quantitative scale to the turbulence—that is, the smaller the correlation length, the more the plasma turbulence tends to decorrelate the fluctuations as shown in the inset of Fig. 4(a) which shows the normalized correlation function $C(x, y)/C_{max}$ for an unbiased state, a minimum shear state, and a high bias state with a reference point located at 29.5cm, right in the middle of the shear layer. The black curve represents the contour line where $C(x, y)/C_{max} = 0.5$. Thus, the radial correlation length, Δr_c is defined as the width of the black curve that goes through the reference point. This value is plotted in Fig. 4 as a function of shearing rate for various bias states, normalized to the maximum radial correlation calculated for all biases.

Finally, some parameter regimes for the shearing and density gradient length scales are

presented in Fig. 5. The shearing scale length is calculated as in $L_\gamma = |\nabla \ln(v_{E \times B})|^{-1}$. This value is compared to the density gradient scale length, $L_n = |\nabla \ln n|^{-1}$ for each bias and mapped to a normalized shearing value. This plot shows that for the all of the strong shearing regime, and nearly half of the weak shearing regime, $L_n > L_\gamma$. The reverse is true only for the weakest shearing points. This quantity L_γ/L_n can be utilized in asymptotic limits similar to the γ_s/τ_{ac}^{-1} ratio for models²².

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SCALING

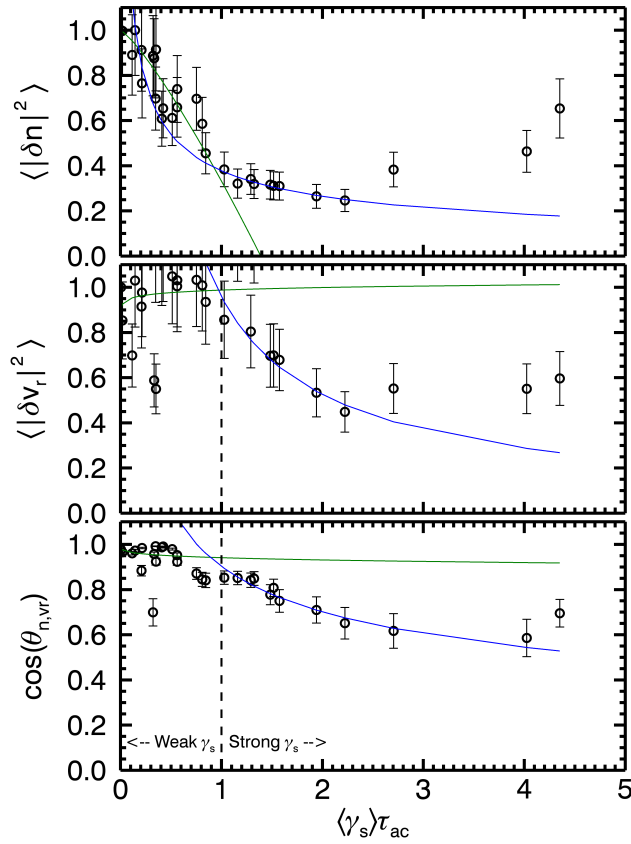


FIG. 2. Scaling of (a) density fluctuation amplitude, (b) radial velocity fluctuation amplitude, and (c) relative crossphase between density and radial velocity fluctuations. Density and velocity fluctuation are each normalized to the value at minimum shear. The green curves correspond to $1 - \gamma_s^\nu$ fits of the weak shear regime with $\nu = 0.501$ for flux and $\nu = 0.418$ for D. The blue curves correspond to γ_s^ν fits with $\nu = -1.719$ for flux and $\nu = -1.646$ for D.

The various experimentally measured quantities as functions of normalized shearing rate

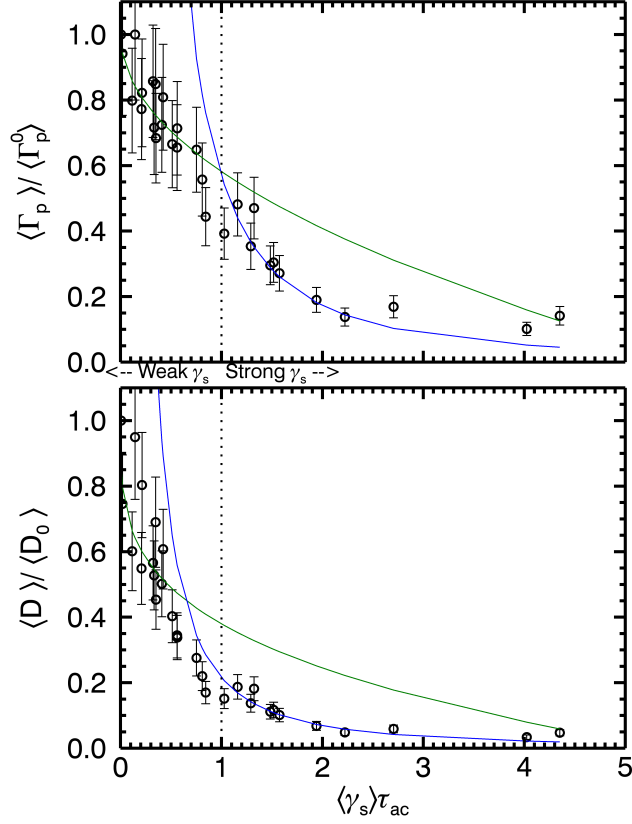


FIG. 3. Scaling of (a) radial particle flux and (b) diffusion coefficient each normalized to the value at minimum shear, $\Gamma_p^0 = 1.7 \times 10^{16} \text{cm}^{-2}$ and $D_0 = 36.7 \text{m}^2/\text{s}$. The green curves correspond to $1 - \gamma_s^\nu$ fits of the weak shear regime with $\nu = 0.501$ for flux and $\nu = 0.418$ for D. The blue curves correspond to γ_s^ν fits with $\nu = -1.719$ for flux and $\nu = -1.646$ for D.

TABLE I. Power-law fits for $|\tilde{n}^2|$ scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim 1 - C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} < 1$	1.228	1.091	0.0642
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} < 1$	-0.116	0.1791	0.0094
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} > 1$	-0.512	0.0024	0.0003

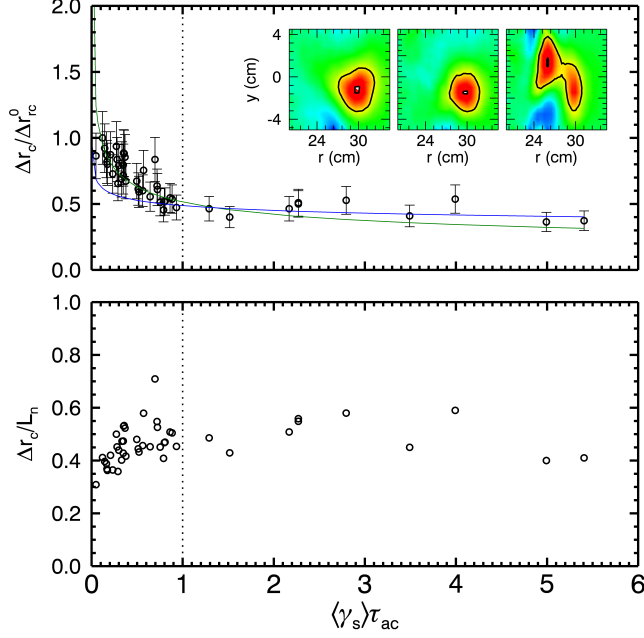


FIG. 4. (a)Radial correlation length normalized to maximum correlation length versus normalized shearing rate with correlation planes of unbiased, zero shear, and high bias states in the inset. (b)Ratio of radial correlation length to density gradient scale length.

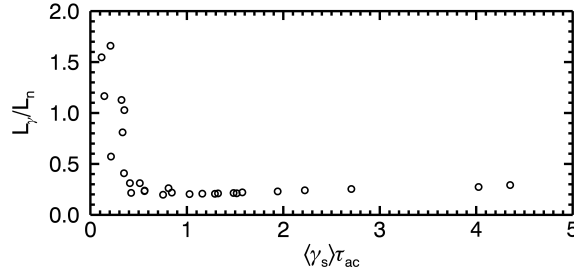


FIG. 5. Ratio of shearing length scale to density gradient length scale versus normalized shearing in the radial region of 27 to 31cm.

TABLE II. Power-law fits for $|\hat{v}_r^2|$ scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	0.016	0.2121	0.0117
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} > 1$	-0.866	0.0037	0.0005

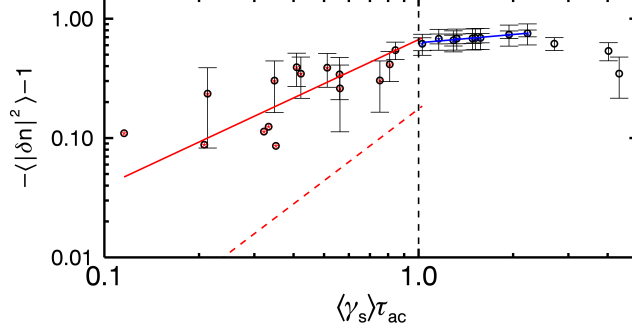


FIG. 6. Log-Log plot of $-(\text{density fluctuation amplitude})^{-1}$ versus shearing with fit function for weak shear in solid red, Shearing scaling of 2 indicated by dashed red line. Blue line is fit for strong shearing

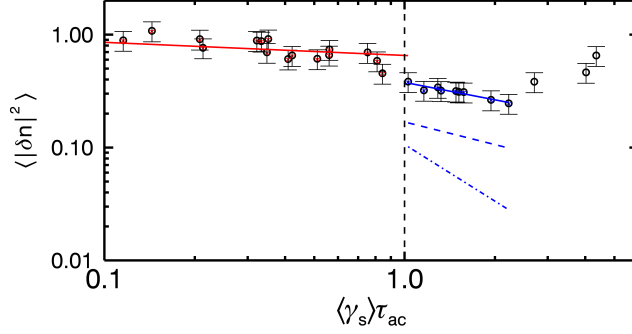


FIG. 7. Log-Log plot of density fluctuation amplitude versus shearing with fit function for strong shear in solid blue, BDT scaling of $-2/3$ indicated by dashed blue line and Kim and Diamond scaling of $-5/3$ indicated by steeper dashed-dotted line.

TABLE III. Power-law fits for Γ_p scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim 1 - C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} < 1$	0.501	0.332	0.0189
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} < 1$	-0.111	0.146	0.0077
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s \tau_{ac} > 1$	-1.719	62.49	5.2000

TABLE IV. Power-law fits for $\cos(\theta_{nv_r})$ scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim 1 - C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	0.226	6.1140	0.3320
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	-0.020	0.0369	0.0019
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} > 1$	-0.365	0.0023	0.0003

were fit to a power law in two ways reflecting in order to make comparisons to models of the form $1 - \gamma_s^\nu$ and those of γ_s^ν . For the first model type, the measured quantity, y , was normalized to the value at zero shear, then transformed as $-(1 - y)$. Then, taking the logarithm of both sides, a linear fit was made for points in the weak shear and in the strong shear separately. The resulting slope of the fit is taken as the power ν . For the second type of model, no transformation of the quantity y to $-(1 - y)$ is made before the logarithm and fitting are taken. For a complete comparison to the wide range of model predictions made, fits were made for density fluctuation amplitude, radial particle flux, density-radial velocity fluctuation crossphase, radial velocity (ExB) fluctuation amplitude, radial correlation length, and experimental diffusivity ($\Gamma/\nabla n$). The best fits are summarized in Table I- VI for each model type and for both weak and strong shear. The χ^2 and χ^2/ndf is also indicated in the tables. Error bars of $\pm 20\%$ for each quantity are shown on the plots and used in the fits, reflecting a statistical error from the number of shots used to average the quantity ($\sigma \sim 1/\sqrt{nshots}$). For weak shear fits, all points less than the weak shear cutoff $\gamma_s\tau_{ac}|1$ are used in the fit. For strong shear, all but the last three points are used. The last points appear to be most strongly modified by a coherent mode that develops in the highest shear and flow cases and is thought to be a break from the scaling observed in the strong shear regime. For quantities determined by summing of spectral components, including density and velocity fluctuations, flux and diffusivity, the frequency band used here was 350Hz to 100kHz.

TABLE V. Power-law fits for $D = \Gamma_p/\nabla n$ scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim 1 - C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	0.418	1.4710	0.0817
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	-0.217	0.4200	0.0221
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} > 1$	-1.646	0.0187	0.0021

TABLE VI. Power-law fits for Δr_c scaling with shear for frequencies in 350Hz to 100kHz. Model form refers to how the shearing relates to the quantity in question, with C a constant and ν the power exponent.

Model form	γ_s regime	ν	χ^2	χ^2/ndf
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} < 1$	-0.290	5.8730	0.1630
$\sim C\gamma_s^\nu$	$\gamma_s\tau_{ac} > 1$	-0.113	3.7040	0.3370

V. RESULTS

The best fits for scaling of density fluctuation amplitude is shown in Table I. For the weak shear, the direct scaling model has a slightly better χ^2 then the $1 - \gamma$ model. Both fits suggest a slightly weaker dependance on shearing with $\nu = 1.228 < 2$ for the $1 - \gamma$ model, and $\nu = -0.116 < -2/3$ for the direct shearing model. In the strong shear regime, a best fit of $\nu = -0.512$ is not unreasonably far from predictions of $\nu = -2/3$ as made by BDT for example.

Particle flux scaling in Table III shows a much weaker scaling for weak shear then predicted by $1 - \gamma$ models with $\nu = 0.501 < 2$. Meanwhile for strong shear, the direct scaling fit of $\nu = -1.719$ suggest stronger scaling then predicted by Kim and Diamond in the passive scalar model²⁰, but less than that predicted by Terry¹⁹ and by Kim and Diamond in the dynamic model²¹. Diffusivity in Table V shows a similar weak shear scaling for $1 - \gamma$ models with $\nu = 0.418$ while for strong direct scaling a similar fit of $\nu = -1.646$ is found. Since $D = \Gamma_p/\nabla n$, this suggest that the effect of changing gradient tends to decrease the strength of scaling. Numerically, the direct scaling strong shear fit of $\nu = -1.646$ is close to the prediction made by Newton and Kim²⁴ of $\nu = -1.75$ for evolved turbulence with a finite

correlation time.

Cosine of the the crossphase scaling in Table IV again shows much weaker scaling in the weak shear regime with $\nu = 0.226 \ll 2$. Direct scaling fits in the strong shearing regime are more consistent with weak scaling as predicted by Kim and Diamond^{20,21}, $\nu = -0.365 \sim -1/6$ compared to the strong scaling predicted by Terry¹⁹, $\nu = -0.365 \ll -3$.

A prediction for the scaling of radial velocity fluctuation amplitude is only made by Kim and Diamond²¹ in the dynamically evolved case. Fits however for both weak and strong shear suggest a much weaker scaling than predicted. The weak shear fit actually shows a slight increase in fluctuation amplitude rather than a $\nu = -3$ scaling while in the strong shear regime a fit of $\nu = -0.866 \ll -4$ is found.

Finally, a fit to radial correlation length is made and compared to the only explicit prediction made by BDT¹³. Neither the weak shear fit of $\nu = -0.290$ nor the strong shear of $\nu = -0.113$ is unreasonably far from the predicted value of $\nu = -1/3$, however, there is evidence that the steady-state radial correlation length is effected less by the shearing rate and more by the overall density gradient scale length. In Figure 4(b) the radial correlation is shown scaled to an interpolated function of density gradient scale length resulting in a nearly constant value. This suggest that while shearing may indirectly be responsible for decreasing radial correlation rate through increased density confinement, scaling fits cannot be directly compared.

VI. DISCUSSION

While the large variation in shearing suppression scaling fits for upwards of six turbulent quantities makes very careful verification difficult, there are a number of conclusions that can be drawn from this analysis. First both analytic predictions and the experimental results from this dataset show a distinct difference in scaling between the weak and low shear regimes. Moreover, the fits in the weak shear regime generally compare more favorably to values made by the direct scaling γ_s^ν model form then to the $1 - \gamma_s^\nu$ form as the closest fit to the frequently predicted $1 - \gamma_s^2$ curve comes from the density fluctuation amplitude scaling while fits for flux, crossphase, diffusivity are all much less than 2. These results also shed some light on the mechanisms involved in the reduction of flux due to shearing showing density fluctuation amplitude reduction being a more significant contributor compared to

crossphase change. The fits show a much more favorable comparison to weak crossphase scaling predictions than to strong, and while density amplitude scaling are generally weaker than predicted, they are closer to the prediction than the crossphase counterparts. Comparison of velocity fluctuation to prediction suggest that the dynamic modeling of the flow may not be as important in LAPD plasmas. Finally, as indicated by the wide range of predictions, the scaling of shear suppression may be dependent on the nature of the turbulence at hand. Many of the turbulence models are mode specific such as pressure-gradient turbulence for the Terry, Ware models or Rotational interchange for the later Kim, Diamond models. However, neither model fits the LAPD results very well which itself is likely a combination of pressure-gradient and rotational interchange turbulence. For future model development and comparison to these results, it may be worthwhile to make predictions based on specific LAPD type turbulence.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The results of this paper present power-law fits of experimental measurements of density fluctuations, radial velocity fluctuations, particle flux, crossphase, diffusivity and radial correlation length as a function of both weak and strong shearing as found on the LAPD. These results are compared to the myriad of models for prediction of shear suppression which are based on the physical idea of shear decorrelation of turbulent eddies. While some of the model predictions approach the experimentally measured values, most are only capable of being close to only one or two of the predicted quantities while generally far off on others. The process of developing these analytic shear suppression models often must necessarily make assumptions about the type of turbulence involved (such as pressure-gradient driven turbulence or rotational interchange driven turbulence) when it is likely that experimentally many types of free-energy is available (as on the LAPD where both drift waves and rotational interchange modes may be present). Simulation work which can incorporate more complex turbulent environment, then, could in this vein have some promise for better matching to experiment as well as analytical endeavors to develop a shear suppression model specifically for LAPD plasma.

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