# Calculation of Vertical Stability in an Inverse Aspect-Ratio Expanded Tokamak Plasma Equilibrium

Richard Fitzpatrick<sup>a</sup>

Institute for Fusion Studies, Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712

## I. PLASMA EQUILIBRIUM

All lengths are normalized to the major radius of the plasma magnetic axis,  $R_0$ . All magnetic field-strengths are normalized to the toroidal field-strength at the magnetic axis,  $B_0$ . All current densities are normalized to  $B_0/(\mu_0 R_0)$ . All plasma pressures are normalized to  $B_0^2/\mu_0$ .

Let R,  $\phi$ , Z be right-handed cylindrical coordinates whose Jacobian is

$$(\nabla R \times \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla Z)^{-1} = R. \tag{1}$$

Note that  $|\nabla \phi| = 1/R$ .

Let  $r, \theta, \phi$  be right-handed flux-coordinates whose Jacobian is

$$\mathcal{J}(r,\theta) \equiv (\nabla r \times \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \phi)^{-1} \equiv R \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial R}{\partial r} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \theta} \right) = r R^2.$$
 (2)

Note that r = r(R, Z) and  $\theta = \theta(R, Z)$ . The magnetic axis corresponds to r = 0. The inboard mid-plane corresponds to  $\theta = 0$ .

Consider an axisymmetric tokamak equilibrium whose magnetic field takes the form

$$\mathbf{B}(r,\theta) = f(r) \,\nabla\phi \times \nabla r + g(r) \,\nabla\phi = f \,\nabla(\phi - q \,\theta) \times \nabla r,\tag{3}$$

where

$$q(r) = \frac{r g}{f} \tag{4}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> rfitzp@utexas.edu

is the safety-factor (i.e., the inverse of the rotational transform). Note that  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla r = 0$ , which implies that r is a magnetic flux-surface label. We require g = 1 on the magnetic axis in order to ensure that the normalized toroidal magnetic field-strength at the axis is unity.

It is easily demonstrated that

$$B^r = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla r = 0, \tag{5}$$

$$B^{\theta} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \theta = \frac{f}{r R^2},\tag{6}$$

$$B^{\phi} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \phi = \frac{g}{R^2},\tag{7}$$

$$B_r = \mathcal{J} \nabla \theta \times \nabla \phi \cdot \mathbf{B} = -r f \nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta, \tag{8}$$

$$B_{\theta} = \mathcal{J} \nabla \phi \times \nabla r \cdot \mathbf{B} = r f |\nabla r|^2, \tag{9}$$

$$B_{\phi} = \mathcal{J} \nabla r \times \nabla \theta \cdot \mathbf{B} = g. \tag{10}$$

The Maxwell equation (neglecting the displacement current, because the plasma velocity perturbations due to axisymmetric modes are far smaller than the velocity of light in vacuum)  $\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \text{ yields}$ 

$$\mathcal{J}J^r = \frac{\partial B_\phi}{\partial \theta} = 0,\tag{11}$$

$$\mathcal{J}J^{\theta} = -\frac{\partial B_{\phi}}{\partial r} = -g',\tag{12}$$

$$\mathcal{J}J^{\phi} = \frac{\partial B_{\theta}}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial B_{r}}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r f |\nabla r|^{2} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (r f \nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta), \qquad (13)$$

where **J** is the equilibrium current density,  $' \equiv d/dr$ , and use has been made of Eqs. (8)–(10). Equilibrium force balance requires that

$$\nabla P = \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B},\tag{14}$$

where P(r) is the equilibrium scalar plasma pressure. Here, for the sake of simplicity, we have neglected the small centrifugal modifications to force balance due to subsonic plasma rotation. It follows that

$$P' = \mathcal{J}(J^{\theta} B^{\phi} - J^{\phi} B^{\theta}) = -g' \frac{g}{R^2} - \frac{f}{r R^2} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r f |\nabla r|^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (r f \nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta) \right], \quad (15)$$

where use has been made of Eqs. (5)–(7), and (11)–(13). The other two components of Eq. (14) are identically zero.

Equation (15) yields the inverse Grad-Shafranov equation,

$$\frac{f}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(rf|\nabla r|^2) + \frac{f}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(rf\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta) + gg' + R^2P' = 0.$$
 (16)

It follows from Eqs. (4), (13), and (16) that

$$\mathcal{J}J^{\phi} = -q\,g' - \frac{r\,R^2\,P'}{f}.\tag{17}$$

It is clear from Eqs. (12) and (17) that g' = P' = 0 in the current-free "vacuum" region surrounding the plasma. We shall also assume that g' = P' = 0 at the plasma-vacuum interface, so as to ensure that the equilibrium plasma current density is zero at the interface.

#### II. AXISYMMETRIC PLASMA PERTURBATION

#### A. Derivation of Axisymmetric Ideal-MHD P.D.E.s

Let us assume that all perturbed quantities are independent of the toroidal angle,  $\phi$ . The perturbed plasma equilibrium satisfies the marginally-stable ideal-MHD equations

$$\mathbf{b} = \nabla \times (\boldsymbol{\xi} \times \mathbf{B}),\tag{18}$$

$$\nabla p = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{b},\tag{19}$$

$$\mathbf{j} = \nabla \times \mathbf{b},\tag{20}$$

$$p = -\boldsymbol{\xi} \cdot \nabla P,\tag{21}$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\xi}(r,\theta)$  is the plasma displacement,  $\mathbf{b}(r,\theta)$  the perturbed magnetic field,  $\mathbf{j}(r,\theta)$  the perturbed current density, and  $p(r,\theta)$  the perturbed scalar pressure.

Now,

$$(\boldsymbol{\xi} \times \mathbf{B})_{\theta} = \mathcal{J}(\xi^{\phi} B^r - \xi^r B^{\phi}) = -\mathcal{J} B^{\phi} \xi^r, \tag{22}$$

$$(\boldsymbol{\xi} \times \mathbf{B})_{\phi} = \mathcal{J}(\boldsymbol{\xi}^{T} B^{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\xi}^{\theta} B^{T}) = \mathcal{J} B^{\theta} \boldsymbol{\xi}^{T}, \tag{23}$$

where use has been made of the fact that  $B^r = J^r = 0$ . [See Eqs. (5) and (11).] Combining Eqs. (18) and (23), we obtain

$$\mathcal{J}b^r = \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} \left( \mathcal{J}B^\theta \xi^r \right). \tag{24}$$

Thus, Eqs. (2), (4), (6), and (7) give

$$r R^2 b^r = \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta},\tag{25}$$

where

$$y(r,\theta) = f \, \xi^r. \tag{26}$$

The constraint  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$ , which follows from Eq. (18), immediately yields

$$r R^2 b^{\theta} = -\frac{\partial y}{\partial r}. (27)$$

According to Eq. (21),

$$p = -P' \nabla r \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi} = -P' \xi^r. \tag{28}$$

So, the perturbed force balance equation, (19), yields

$$-\frac{\partial \left(P'\xi^r\right)}{\partial r} = (\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B})_r + (\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{b})_r, \tag{29}$$

$$-\frac{\partial \left(P' \, \boldsymbol{\xi}^{\, r}\right)}{\partial \theta} = (\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B})_{\theta} + (\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{b})_{\theta},\tag{30}$$

$$0 = (\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B})_{\phi} + (\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{b})_{\phi}, \tag{31}$$

giving

$$-\frac{\partial \left(P'\xi^{r}\right)}{\partial r} = r R^{2} \left(j^{\theta} B^{\phi} - j^{\phi} B^{\theta}\right) + r R^{2} \left(J^{\theta} b^{\phi} - J^{\phi} b^{\theta}\right), \tag{32}$$

$$-\frac{\partial (P'\xi^r)}{\partial \theta} = r R^2 (j^{\phi} B^r - j^r B^{\phi}) + r R^2 (J^{\phi} b^r - J^r b^{\phi}), \tag{33}$$

$$0 = r R^{2} (j^{r} B^{\theta} - j^{\theta} B^{r}) + r R^{2} (J^{r} b^{\theta} - J^{\theta} b^{r}),$$
(34)

where use has been made of Eq. (2). Thus, according to Eqs. (5)–(7), (11), (12), and (17),

$$-\frac{\partial \left(P'\xi^{r}\right)}{\partial r} = f\left(qj^{\theta} - j^{\phi}\right) - g'b^{\phi} + \left(qg' + \frac{rR^{2}P'}{f}\right)b^{\theta},\tag{35}$$

$$-\frac{\partial \left(P'\xi^{r}\right)}{\partial \theta} = -rgj^{r} - \left(qg' + \frac{rR^{2}P'}{f}\right)b^{r},\tag{36}$$

$$0 = f j^r + g' b^r. (37)$$

It follows from Eqs. (25) and (37) that

$$r R^2 j^r = -\alpha_g \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta}, \tag{38}$$

where

$$\alpha_g(r) = \frac{g'}{f}. (39)$$

Note that Eq. (36) is trivially satisfied. Hence, of the three components of the perturbed force balance equation, only Eq. (35) remains to be solved.

Equation (20) yields

$$r R^2 j^r = \frac{\partial b_\phi}{\partial \theta},\tag{40}$$

$$r R^2 j^{\theta} = -\frac{\partial b_{\phi}}{\partial r},\tag{41}$$

$$r R^2 j^{\phi} = \frac{\partial b_{\theta}}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial b_r}{\partial \theta}, \tag{42}$$

where use has been made of Eq. (2). It follows from Eqs. (38), (40), and (41) that

$$b_{\phi} = -\alpha_{g} y, \tag{43}$$

$$r R^2 j^{\theta} = \frac{\partial(\alpha_g y)}{\partial r}.$$
 (44)

Note that  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j} = 0$ , in accordance with Eq. (20).

Now,

$$\mathbf{b} = b_r \, \nabla r + b_\theta \, \nabla \theta + b_\phi \, \nabla \phi, \tag{45}$$

SO

$$b^{r} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla r = |\nabla r|^{2} b_{r} + (\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta) b_{\theta}, \tag{46}$$

$$b^{\theta} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \theta = (\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta) \, b_r + |\nabla \theta|^2 \, b_{\theta}, \tag{47}$$

$$b^{\phi} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \phi = \frac{b_{\phi}}{R^2}.$$
 (48)

Equations (2), (46), and (47) can be rearranged to give

$$b_r = \left(\frac{1}{|\nabla r|^2}\right) b^r - \left(\frac{\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2}\right) b_\theta, \tag{49}$$

$$b^{\theta} = \left(\frac{\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2}\right) b^r + \left(\frac{1}{r^2 R^2 |\nabla r|^2}\right) b_{\theta}. \tag{50}$$

Let

$$z = |\nabla r|^2 r \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} + r \nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta}.$$
 (51)

Equations (25), (27), (43), (49) and (50) yield

$$b_r = \frac{1}{r |\nabla r|^2 R^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} z, \tag{52}$$

$$b_{\theta} = -z,\tag{53}$$

$$b^{\phi} = -\frac{\alpha_g}{R^2} y. \tag{54}$$

Equations (42), (52), and (53) give

$$r R^2 j^{\phi} = -\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ \frac{1}{r |\nabla r|^2 R^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} z \right].$$
 (55)

It follows from Eqs. (26), (27), (35), (44), (54), and (55) that

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{P'}{f} y \right) = \frac{f q}{r R^2} \frac{\partial (\alpha_g y)}{\partial r} + \frac{f}{r R^2} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} + \frac{f}{r R^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ \frac{1}{r |\nabla r|^2 R^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} z \right] + \frac{g' \alpha_g}{R^2} y - \left( q g' + \frac{r R^2 P'}{f} \right) \frac{1}{r R^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r}.$$
 (56)

Hence,

$$-\left[\left(\alpha_{p}\,\alpha_{f}+r\,\alpha_{p}^{\prime}\right)R^{2}+q\,r\,\alpha_{g}^{\prime}+r^{2}\,\alpha_{g}^{2}\right]y=r\,\frac{\partial z}{\partial r}+\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}\left[\frac{1}{|\nabla r|^{2}\,R^{2}}\,\frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta}+\frac{r\,\nabla r\cdot\nabla\theta}{|\nabla r|^{2}}\,z\right],\quad(57)$$

where

$$\alpha_p(r) = \frac{r P'}{f^2},\tag{58}$$

$$\alpha_f(r) = \frac{r^2}{f} \frac{d}{dr} \left(\frac{f}{r}\right). \tag{59}$$

Finally, Eqs. (51) and (57) yield the axisymmetric ideal-MHD p.d.e.s:

$$r\frac{\partial y}{\partial r} = \frac{z}{|\nabla r|^2} - \frac{r\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta},\tag{60}$$

$$r\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} = -\left[ (\alpha_p \,\alpha_f + r \,\alpha_p')R^2 + q \,r \,\alpha_g' + r^2 \,\alpha_g^2 \right] y - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{1}{|\nabla r|^2 R^2} \,\frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{r \,\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} \,z \right). \tag{61}$$

#### B. Properties of Axisymmetric Ideal-MHD P.D.E.s

The previous two equations can be combined to give

$$r\frac{\partial(z\,y^*)}{\partial r} = \frac{|z|^2}{|\nabla r|^2} - \frac{\partial y^*}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{r\,\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} \, z \right) - \left[ (\alpha_p\,\alpha_f + r\,\alpha_p')R^2 + q\,r\,\alpha_g' + r^2\,\alpha_g^2 \right] |y|^2 - y^* \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{1}{|\nabla r|^2 \, R^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right) - y^* \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{r\,\nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} \, z \right). \tag{62}$$

Hence,

$$r \frac{d}{dr} \left( \oint z \, y^* \, \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \right) = \oint \left[ \frac{|z|^2}{|\nabla r|^2} - \left[ (\alpha_p \, \alpha_f + r \, \alpha_p') R^2 + q \, r \, \alpha_g' + r^2 \, \alpha_g^2 \right] |y|^2 \right.$$

$$\left. + \frac{1}{|\nabla r|^2 \, R^2} \, \left| \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right|^2 \right] \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}, \tag{63}$$

which implies that  $\oint z y^* d\theta/2\pi$  is a real quantity, and also that

$$r\frac{d}{dr}\left[\oint (z\,y^* - y^*\,z)\,\frac{d\theta}{2\pi}\right] = 0. \tag{64}$$

#### C. Derivation of the Axisymmetric Ideal-MHD O.D.E.s

Let

$$y(r,\theta) = \sum_{m} y_m(r) e^{im\theta}, \qquad (65)$$

$$z(r,\theta) = \sum_{m} z_m(r) e^{i m \theta}.$$
 (66)

Equations (60) and (61) yield the axisymmetric ideal-MHD o.d.e.s:

$$r \frac{dy_m}{dr} = \sum_{m'} \left( A_m^{m'} z_{m'} + B_m^{m'} y_{m'} \right), \tag{67}$$

$$r \frac{dz_m}{dr} = \sum_{m'} \left( C_m^{m'} z_{m'} + D_m^{m'} y_{m'} \right), \tag{68}$$

where

$$A_m^{m'} = c_m^{m'}, (69)$$

$$B_m^{m'} = -m' f_m^{m'}, (70)$$

$$C_m^{m'} = -m f_m^{m'}, (71)$$

$$D_m^{m'} = -(\alpha_f \, \alpha_p + r \, \alpha_p') \, a_m^{m'} - (q \, r \, \alpha_g' + r^2 \, \alpha_g^2) \, \delta_m^{m'} + m \, m' \, b_m^{m'}, \tag{72}$$

where

$$a_m^{m'}(r) = \oint R^2 \exp\left[-i(m - m')\theta\right] \frac{d\theta}{2\pi},\tag{73}$$

$$b_m^{m'}(r) = \oint |\nabla r|^{-2} R^{-2} \exp[-i(m - m')\theta] \frac{d\theta}{2\pi},$$
 (74)

$$c_m^{m'}(r) = \oint |\nabla r|^{-2} \exp[-i(m - m')\theta] \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}, \tag{75}$$

$$f_m^{m'}(r) = \oint \frac{\mathrm{i} \, r \, \nabla r \cdot \nabla \theta}{|\nabla r|^2} \, \exp[-\mathrm{i} \, (m - m') \, \theta] \, \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}. \tag{76}$$

#### D. Properties of Axisymmetric Ideal-MHD O.D.E.s

Note that  $a_{m'}^m = a_m^{m'*}, \ b_{m'}^m = b_m^{m'*}, \ c_{m'}^m = c_m^{m'*}, \ \text{and} \ f_{m'}^m = -f_m^{m'*}, \ \text{which implies that}$ 

$$A_{m'}^{m} = A_{m'}^{m*}, (77)$$

$$B_{m'}^{m} = -C_{m'}^{m*}, (78)$$

$$C_{m'}^{\,m} = -B_{m'}^{\,m\,*},\tag{79}$$

$$D_{m'}^m = D_{m'}^{m*}. (80)$$

It follows from Eqs. (67), (68), and (77)–(80) that

$$r \frac{d}{dr} \left( \sum_{m} z_{m} y_{m}^{*} \right) = \sum_{m,m'} \left( z_{m}^{*} A_{m}^{m'} z_{m'} + y_{m}^{*} D_{m}^{m'} y_{m'} \right), \tag{81}$$

$$r \frac{d}{dr} \left[ \sum_{m} (z_m y_m^* - y_m z_m^*) \right] = 0.$$
 (82)

### E. Toroidal Electromagnetic Torque

The net toroidal electromagnetic torque exerted on the plasma lying within the magnetic flux-surface whose label is r is

$$T_{\phi}(r) = \oint \oint r R^2 b_{\phi} b^r d\theta d\phi. \tag{83}$$

It follows from Eqs. (25) and (43) that

$$T_{\phi}(r) = -\pi \alpha_g \oint \left( y^* \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} + y \frac{\partial y^*}{\partial \theta} \right) d\theta = -\pi \alpha_g \oint \frac{\partial |y|^2}{\partial \theta} d\theta = 0.$$
 (84)

We conclude that an axisymmetric perturbation is incapable of exerting a net toroidal electromagnetic torque on the plasma.

## F. Perturbed Plasma Potential Energy

The perturbed plasma potential energy in the region of the plasma lying within the magnetic flux-surface whose label is r is

$$\delta W_p = \frac{1}{2} \oint \oint r R^2 \xi^{r*} (-\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \xi^r P') d\theta d\phi.$$
 (85)

However,

$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{b} - \xi^r P' = B^{\theta} b_{\theta} + B^{\phi} b_{\phi} - \xi^r P' = -\frac{f}{r R^2} \left( z + q \alpha_g y + \alpha_p R^2 \right), \tag{86}$$

where use has been made of Eqs. (4)–(7), (26), (43), (53), and (58). Hence, we obtain

$$\delta W_p(r) = \frac{1}{2} \oint \int y^* \left[ z + (q \,\alpha_g + \alpha_p \, R^2) \, y \right] d\theta \, d\phi = \pi^2 \sum_m y_m^* \, \chi_m, \tag{87}$$

where

$$\chi_m(r) = z_m + q \,\alpha_g \,y_m + \alpha_p \sum_{m'} a_m^{m'} \,y_{m'}. \tag{88}$$

#### III. INVERSE ASPECT-RATIO EXPANDED TOKAMAK EQUILIBRIUM

## A. Equilibrium Magnetic Flux-Surfaces

Let us assume that the inverse aspect-ratio of the plasma,  $\epsilon$ , is such that  $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$ . Let  $r = \epsilon \hat{r}$ ,  $\nabla = \epsilon^{-1} \hat{\nabla}$ , and  $' \to \epsilon^{-1}$ . Suppose that the loci of the equilibrium magnetic flux-surfaces can be written in the parametric form:

$$R(\hat{r},\omega) = 1 - \epsilon \,\hat{r} \,\cos\omega + \epsilon^2 \sum_{j>0} H_j(\hat{r}) \,\cos[(j-1)\,\omega] + \epsilon^2 \sum_{j>1} V_j(\hat{r}) \,\sin[(j-1)\,\omega]$$

$$+ \epsilon^3 \,L(\hat{r}) \,\cos\omega, \qquad (89)$$

$$Z(\hat{r},\omega) = \epsilon \,\hat{r} \,\sin\omega + \epsilon^2 \sum_{j>1} H_j(\hat{r}) \,\sin[(j-1)\,\omega] - \epsilon^2 \sum_{j>1} V_j(\hat{r}) \,\cos[(j-1)\,\omega]$$

$$- \epsilon^3 \,L(\hat{r}) \,\sin\omega, \qquad (90)$$

where j is a positive integer. Here,  $H_1(\hat{r})$  controls the relative horizontal locations of the fluxsurface centroids,  $H_2(\hat{r})$  and  $V_2(\hat{r})$  control the magnitudes and vertical tilts of the flux-surface ellipticities,  $H_3(\hat{r})$  and  $V_3(\hat{r})$  control the magnitudes and vertical tilts of the flux-surface triangularities, et cetera, whereas  $L(\hat{r})$  is a flux-surface re-labelling parameter. Moreover,  $\omega(R,Z)$  is a poloidal angle that is distinct from  $\theta$ . Note that  $V_1$  does not appear in Eq. (90) because such a factor merely gives rise to a rigid vertical shift of the plasma that can be eliminated by a suitable choice of the origin of the flux-coordinate system.

Let

$$J(\hat{r},\omega) = \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \hat{r}} - \frac{\partial R}{\partial \hat{r}} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \omega} \right)$$
(91)

be the Jacobian of the  $\hat{r}$ ,  $\omega$  coordinate system. We can transform to the  $\hat{r}$ ,  $\theta$  coordinate system by writing

$$\theta(\hat{r},\omega) = 2\pi \int_0^\omega \frac{J(\hat{r},\tilde{\omega})}{R(\hat{r},\tilde{\omega})} d\tilde{\omega} / \oint \frac{J(\hat{r},\omega)}{R(\hat{r},\omega)} d\omega, \tag{92}$$

$$\hat{r} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint \frac{J(\hat{r}, \omega)}{R(\hat{r}, \omega)} d\omega. \tag{93}$$

This transformation ensures that

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \omega} = \frac{J}{\hat{r}R},\tag{94}$$

and, hence, that

$$\mathcal{J} \equiv \frac{R}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \hat{r}} - \frac{\partial R}{\partial \hat{r}} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \hat{r}} \right) = \epsilon R J \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \theta} = r R^2, \tag{95}$$

in accordance with Eq. (2).

#### B. Metric Elements

We can determine the metric elements of the flux-coordinate system by combining Eqs. (89)–(93). Evaluating the elements up to  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$ , but retaining  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$  contributions to terms that are independent of  $\omega$ , we obtain,

$$L(\hat{r}) = \frac{\hat{r}^3}{8} - \frac{\hat{r} H_1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>1} (j-1) \frac{H_j^2}{\hat{r}} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>1} (j-1) \frac{V_j^2}{\hat{r}}, \qquad (96)$$

$$\theta = \omega + \epsilon \, \hat{r} \sin \omega - \epsilon \sum_{j>0} \frac{1}{j} \left[ H_j' - (j-1) \frac{H_j}{\hat{r}} \right] \sin(j\omega)$$

$$+ \epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ V_j' - (j-1) \frac{V_j}{\hat{r}} \right] \cos(j\omega), \qquad (97)$$

$$|\hat{\nabla}\hat{r}|^2 = 1 + 2\epsilon \sum_{j>0} H_j' \cos(j\theta) + 2\epsilon \sum_{j>1} V_j' \sin(j\theta)$$

$$+ \epsilon^2 \left( \frac{3\hat{r}^2}{4} - H_1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>0} \left[ H_j'^2 + (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>1} \left[ V_j'^2 + (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \right), \qquad (98)$$

$$\hat{\nabla}\hat{r} \cdot \hat{\nabla}\theta = \epsilon \sin \theta - \epsilon \sum_{j>0} \frac{1}{j} \left[ H_j'' + \frac{H_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \sin(j\theta)$$

$$+ \epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ V_j'' + \frac{V_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \cos(j\theta), \qquad (99)$$

$$R^2 = 1 - 2\epsilon \, \hat{r} \cos \theta - \epsilon^2 \left( \frac{\hat{r}^2}{2} - \hat{r} H_1' - 2H_1 \right). \qquad (100)$$

Here,  $' \equiv d/d\hat{r}$ . Moreover, we have made use of the fact that  $V_j \propto H_j$ , for j > 1, because  $V_j$  and  $H_j$  satisfy the identical differential equations, (106) and (107).

#### C. Expansion of Grad-Shafranov Equation

Let us write

$$f(\hat{r}) = \epsilon \frac{\hat{r} g}{q},\tag{101}$$

$$g(\hat{r}) = 1 + \epsilon^2 g_2(\hat{r}) + \epsilon^4 g_4(\hat{r}),$$
 (102)

$$P'(\hat{r}) = \epsilon^2 p_2'(\hat{r}),\tag{103}$$

where q,  $g_2$ ,  $g_4$ , and  $p_2$  are all  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . Here, the safety-factor,  $q(\hat{r})$ , and the second-order plasma pressure gradient,  $p'_2(\hat{r})$ , are the two free flux-surface functions that characterize the plasma equilibrium.

Expanding the Grad-Shafranov equation, (16), order by order in the small parameter  $\epsilon$ , making use of Eqs. (98)–(103), we obtain

$$g_2' = -p_2' - \frac{\hat{r}}{q^2} (2 - s), \tag{104}$$

$$H_1'' = -(3 - 2s) \frac{H_1'}{\hat{r}} - 1 + \frac{2p_2'q^2}{\hat{r}}, \tag{105}$$

$$H_j'' = -(3-2s)\frac{H_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1)\frac{H_j}{\hat{r}^2}$$
 for  $j > 1$ , (106)

$$V_j'' = -(3 - 2s) \frac{V_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j}{\hat{r}^2} \quad \text{for } j > 1,$$
(107)

$$g_4' = g_2 \left[ p_2' - \frac{\hat{r}}{q^2} (2 - s) \right] - \frac{\hat{r}}{q} \Sigma + p_2' \left( \frac{\hat{r}^2}{2} + \frac{\hat{r}^2}{q^2} - 2H_1 - 3\hat{r} H_1' \right), \tag{108}$$

where  $s = \hat{r} q'/q$ ,

$$\Sigma = \frac{1}{q} \left( \frac{3\hat{r}^2}{2} - 2\hat{r}H_1' + S_2 \right) - \frac{2-s}{q} \left( -\frac{3\hat{r}^2}{4} + \frac{\hat{r}^2}{q^2} + H_1 + S_1 \right), \tag{109}$$

$$S_1(\hat{r}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>0} \left[ 3H_j^{\prime 2} - (j^2 - 1)\frac{H_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j>1} \left[ 3V_j^{\prime 2} - (j^2 - 1)\frac{V_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right], \tag{110}$$

$$S_2(\hat{r}) = \sum_{j>0} \left[ H_j'^2 + 2(j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j' H_j}{\hat{r}} - (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right]$$

$$+\sum_{j>1} \left[ V_j^{\prime 2} + 2(j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j^{\prime} V_j}{\hat{r}} - (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j^2}{\hat{r}^2} \right]. \tag{111}$$

Note that the relative horizontal shift of magnetic flux-surfaces,  $H_1$ , otherwise known as the Shafranov shift, is driven by toroidicity [the second term on the right-hand side of Eq. (105)], and plasma pressure gradients (the third term). All of the other shaping terms (i.e., the  $H_j$ , for j > 1, and the  $V_j$ ) are driven by axisymmetric currents flowing in external magnetic field-coils.

Finally, it follows from Eqs. (39), (58), (59), and (101)–(103) that

$$\alpha_p(\hat{r}) = \frac{p_2' \, q^2}{\hat{r}} \left( 1 - 2 \, \epsilon^2 \, g_2 \right), \tag{112}$$

$$\alpha_g(\hat{r}) = \frac{q}{\hat{r}} \left( g_2' - \epsilon^2 g_2 g_2' + \epsilon^2 g_4' \right), \tag{113}$$

$$\alpha_f(\hat{r}) = -s + \epsilon^2 \,\hat{r} \,g_2'. \tag{114}$$

Finally, it follows from Eqs. (99) and (105)–(107) that

$$\hat{\nabla}\hat{r} \cdot \hat{\nabla}\theta = 2 \epsilon \left[ 1 - \frac{p_2' q^2}{\hat{r}} + (1 - s) \frac{H_1'}{\hat{r}} \right] \sin \theta$$

$$- 2 \epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1 - s) \frac{H_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \sin(j \theta)$$

$$+ 2 \epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1 - s) \frac{V_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \cos(j \theta). \tag{115}$$

#### D. Calculation of Coupling Coefficients

Equations (98) and (109) yield

$$|\hat{\nabla}\hat{r}|^{-2} = 1 - 2\epsilon \sum_{j>0} H_j' \cos(j\theta) - 2\epsilon \sum_{j>0} V_j' \sin(j\theta) + \epsilon^2 \left( -\frac{3\hat{r}^2}{4} + H_1 + S_1 \right), \quad (116)$$

Equation (100) gives

$$R^{-2} = 1 + 2\epsilon \hat{r} \cos \theta + \epsilon^2 \left( \frac{5\hat{r}^2}{2} - \hat{r} H_1' - 2H_1 \right). \tag{117}$$

The previous two equations imply that

$$|\hat{\nabla}\hat{r}|^{-2} R^{-2} = 1 + 2 \epsilon \hat{r} \cos \theta - 2 \epsilon \sum_{j>0} H'_j \cos(j \theta) - 2 \epsilon \sum_{j>1} V'_j \sin(j \theta)$$

$$+ \epsilon^2 \left( \frac{7 \,\hat{r}^2}{4} - H_1 - 3 \,\hat{r} \, H_1' + S_1 \right). \tag{118}$$

Finally, Eqs. (115) and (116) give

$$\hat{\nabla}\hat{r} \cdot \hat{\nabla}\theta \, |\hat{\nabla}\hat{r}|^{-2} = 2\,\epsilon \left[ 1 - \frac{p_2'\,q^2}{\hat{r}} + (1-s)\frac{H_1'}{\hat{r}} \right] \sin\theta$$

$$- 2\,\epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1-s)\frac{H_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1)\frac{H_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \sin(j\,\theta)$$

$$+ 2\,\epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1-s)\frac{V_j'}{\hat{r}} + (j^2 - 1)\frac{V_j}{\hat{r}^2} \right] \cos(j\,\theta), \tag{119}$$

where use has been made of the fact that  $V'_j \propto H'_j$  for j > 1.

It follows from Eqs. (73)–(76), (100), (116), (118), and (119) that

$$a_m^{m'} = \delta_m^{m'} - \epsilon \,\hat{r} \left( \delta_{m'-m-1} + \delta_{m'-m+1} \right) - \epsilon^2 \left( \frac{\hat{r}^2}{2} - \hat{r} \,H_1' - 2 \,H_1 \right) \delta_m^{m'}, \tag{120}$$

$$b_{m}^{m'} = \delta_{m}^{m'} + \epsilon \, \hat{r} \left( \delta_{m'-m-1} + \delta_{m'-m+1} \right) - \epsilon \sum_{j>0} H'_{j} \left( \delta_{m'-m-j} + \delta_{m'-m+j} \right)$$

$$-\epsilon \sum_{j>1} i V_j' \left(\delta_{m'-m-j} - \delta_{m'-m+j}\right) + \epsilon^2 \left(\frac{7\,\hat{r}^2}{4} - H_1 - 3\,\hat{r}\,H_1' + S_1\right) \delta_m^{m'},\tag{121}$$

$$c_{m}^{m'} = \delta_{m}^{m'} - \epsilon \sum_{j>0} H'_{j} \left( \delta_{m'-m-j} + \delta_{m'-m+j} \right) - \epsilon \sum_{j>1} i V'_{j} \left( \delta_{m'-m-j} - \delta_{m'-m+j} \right)$$

$$+ \epsilon^{2} \left( -\frac{3 \hat{r}^{2}}{4} + H_{1} + S_{1} \right) \delta_{m}^{m'},$$

$$(122)$$

$$f_m^{m'} = -\epsilon \left[ \hat{r} - p_2' q^2 + (1 - s) H_1' \right] \left( \delta_{m'-m-1} - \delta_{m'-m+1} \right)$$

$$+ \epsilon \sum_{j>1} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1 - s) H_j' + (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j}{\hat{r}} \right] \left( \delta_{m'-m-j} - \delta_{m'-m+j} \right)$$

$$+ \epsilon \sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{j} \left[ -(1 - s) V_j' + (j^2 - 1) \frac{V_j}{\hat{r}} \right] \left( \delta_{m'-m-j} + \delta_{m'-m+j} \right).$$

$$(123)$$

If we write

$$\alpha_g = \alpha_q^{(0)} + \epsilon^2 \, \alpha_q^{(2)},\tag{124}$$

$$\alpha_p = \alpha_n^{(0)} + \epsilon^2 \, \alpha_n^{(2)},\tag{125}$$

$$\alpha_f = \alpha_f^{(0)} + \epsilon^2 \, \alpha_f^{(2)},\tag{126}$$

$$a_m^{m'} = 1 + \epsilon \, a_m^{m'(1)} + \epsilon^2 \, a_m^{m'(2)},$$
 (127)

$$b_m^{m'} = 1 + \epsilon b_m^{m'(1)} + \epsilon^2 b_m^{m'(2)}, \tag{128}$$

$$D_m^{m'} = D_m^{m'(0)} + \epsilon D_m^{m'(1)} + \epsilon^2 D_m^{m'(2)}$$
(129)

then it follows from Eq. (72) that

$$D_m^{m(0)} = -\alpha_f^{(0)} \alpha_p^{(0)} - \hat{r} \alpha_p^{\prime(0)} - q \hat{r} \alpha_q^{\prime(0)} + m^2, \tag{130}$$

$$D_m^{m'(1)} = -\left[\alpha_f^{(0)} \,\alpha_p^{(0)} + \hat{r} \,\alpha_p^{\prime(0)}\right] a_m^{m'(1)} + m \, m' \, b_m^{m'(1)},\tag{131}$$

$$D_m^{m(2)} = -\left[\alpha_f^{(0)} \alpha_p^{(0)} + \hat{r} \alpha_p^{\prime(0)}\right] a_m^{m'(2)} - \alpha_f^{(0)} \alpha_p^{(2)} - \alpha_f^{(2)} \alpha_p^{(0)} - \hat{r} \alpha_p^{\prime(2)} - q \,\hat{r} \alpha_g^{\prime(2)} - \hat{r}^2 \left[\alpha_q^{(0)}\right]^2 + m^2 b_m^{m(2)}.$$

$$(132)$$

It follows that

$$A_m^m(\hat{r}) = 1 + \epsilon^2 \left( -\frac{3\,\hat{r}^2}{4} + H_1 + S_1 \right),\tag{133}$$

$$A_m^{m\pm 1}(\hat{r}) = -\epsilon H_1',\tag{134}$$

$$A_m^{m \pm j}(\hat{r}) = -\epsilon \left( H_i' \pm i V_i' \right), \tag{135}$$

$$B_m^m(\hat{r}) = 0, \tag{136}$$

$$B_m^{m\pm 1}(\hat{r}) = \pm \epsilon (m \pm 1) \left[ \hat{r} - p_2' q^2 + (1 - s) H_1' \right], \tag{137}$$

$$B_m^{m \pm j}(\hat{r}) = \pm \epsilon \frac{m \pm j}{j} \left[ (1 - s) \left( H_j' \pm i V_j' \right) - (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j \pm i V_j}{\hat{r}} \right], \tag{138}$$

$$C_m^m(\hat{r}) = 0, \tag{139}$$

$$C_m^{m\pm 1}(\hat{r}) = \pm \epsilon \, m \left[ \hat{r} - p_2' \, q^2 + (1-s) \, H_1' \right], \tag{140}$$

$$C_m^{m \pm j}(\hat{r}) = \pm \epsilon \frac{m}{j} \left[ (1 - s) \left( H_j' \pm i V_j' \right) - (j^2 - 1) \frac{H_j \pm i V_j}{\hat{r}} \right], \tag{141}$$

$$D_{m}^{m}(\hat{r}) = m^{2} + q \,\hat{r} \,\frac{d}{d\hat{r}} \left(\frac{2-s}{q}\right) + \epsilon^{2} \,m^{2} \left(\frac{7\,\hat{r}^{2}}{4} - H_{1} - 3\,\hat{r} \,H'_{1} + S_{1}\right)$$

$$+ \epsilon^{2} \left\{-\hat{r}^{2} \,\frac{(2-s)^{2}}{q^{2}} - \hat{r} \,\frac{d}{d\hat{r}}(\hat{r} \,p'_{2}) - 2\,\hat{r} \,p'(2-s) + q\,\hat{r} \,\frac{d\Sigma}{d\hat{r}} + 2\,\hat{r} \,p'_{2}(1-q^{2}) \right.$$

$$+ 2\,\hat{r} \,p'_{2} \left(-1 + \frac{3\,p'_{2}\,q^{2}}{\hat{r}}\right) + 2\,H'_{1}\,q^{2} \left[\frac{d}{d\hat{r}}(\hat{r} \,p'_{2}) + 4\,(s-1)\,p'_{2}\right] \right\},$$

$$(142)$$

$$D_m^{m\pm 1}(\hat{r}) = \epsilon \left[ (\hat{r} \, p_2')' - (2 - s) \, p_2' \right] q^2 + \epsilon \, m \, (m \pm 1) \, (\hat{r} - H_1'), \tag{143}$$

$$D_m^{m \pm j}(\hat{r}) = -\epsilon \, m \, (m \pm j) \, (H_j' \pm i \, V_j'). \tag{144}$$