

# Directing TGLF saturation rule development with machine learning tools

by  
**Tom Neiser**

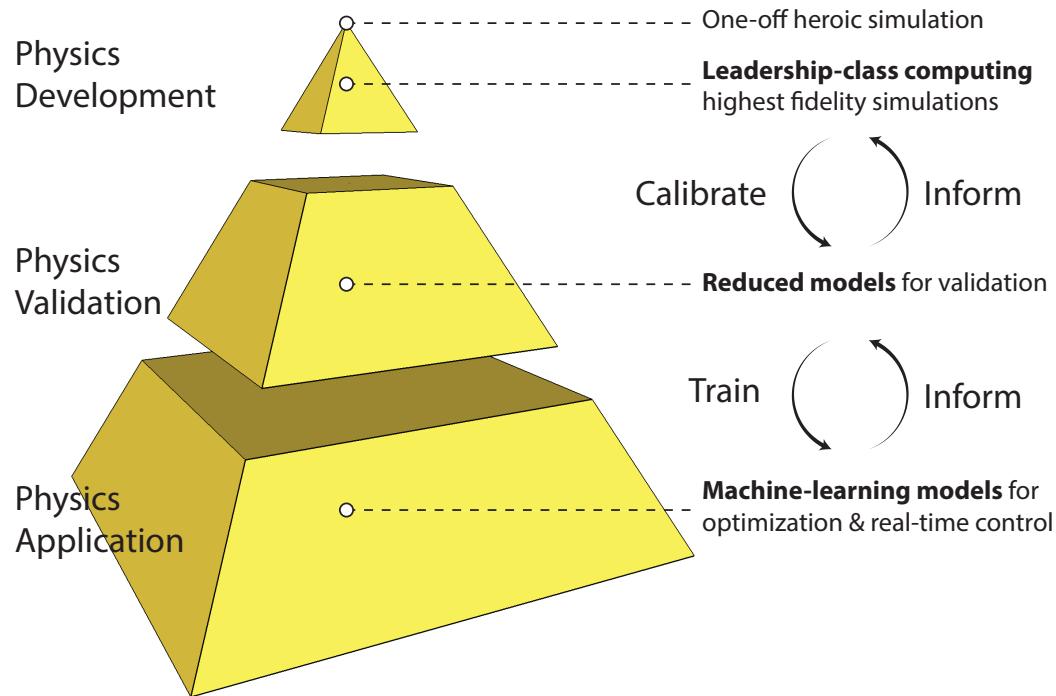
with  
**Adam Eubanks,**  
**Orso Meneghini,**  
**Sterling Smith,**  
**Gary Staebler,**  
**Jeff Candy**

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# Reduced models are important for present and future devices

- TGLF is a quasi-linear model of transport driven by gyrokinetic turbulence
- TGLF is never fit to experiment so that it can be used to test gyrokinetic theory over large datasets and predict plasma profiles
- DIII-D has a large database (DB) of plasma discharges that can be used for **big data validation**



[courtesy O. Meneghini]

# TGLF employs three saturation rules: SAT0, SAT1 and SAT2

The **TGLF** [1] heat flux is given by

$$Q = \frac{3}{2} \sum_{\hat{k}_y} p c_s \left[ \frac{\text{Re}(i \hat{k}_y \tilde{\Phi}^* \tilde{p}_T)}{\sum_a \tilde{V}_a^* \tilde{V}_a} \right] \bar{V}^2$$

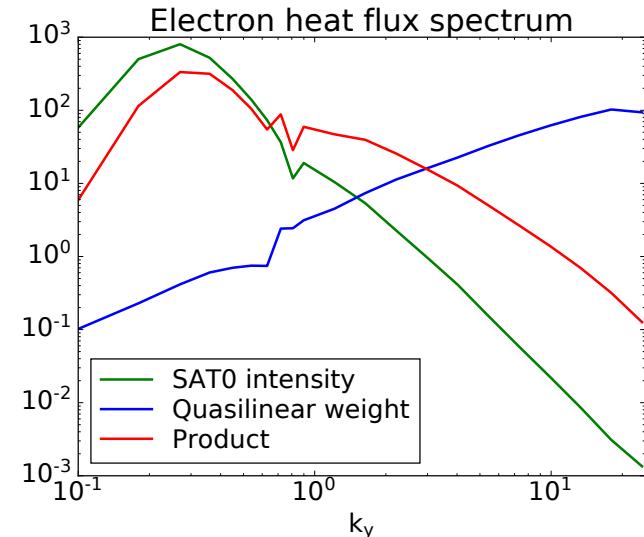
quasilinear weight      intensity

## SAT0:

The intensity for SAT0 is given by

$$\bar{V}^2 = C_{\text{norm}} \left( \frac{\rho_s \hat{\omega}_{d,0}}{a \hat{k}_y^2} \right)^2 \left( 1 + \frac{T_e}{T_i} \right)^2 \left( \bar{\gamma}_{\text{net}}^{C_1} + C_2 \bar{\gamma}_{\text{net}} \right) \frac{1}{\hat{k}_y^{C_3}}$$

where the free parameters are calibrated by first-principles gyrokinetic simulations using GYRO [2].



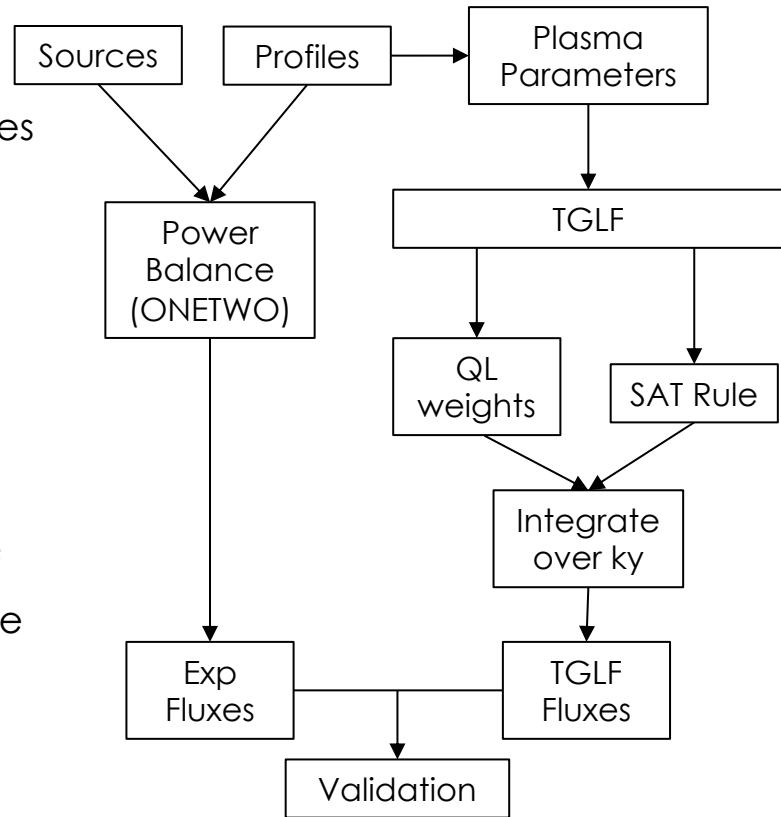
[1] G. M. Staebler, J. E. Kinsey, and R. E. Waltz, Phys. Plasmas **14**, 055909 (2007)

[2] J. Candy and R. W. Waltz, J. Comput. Phys. **186**, 545 (2003)

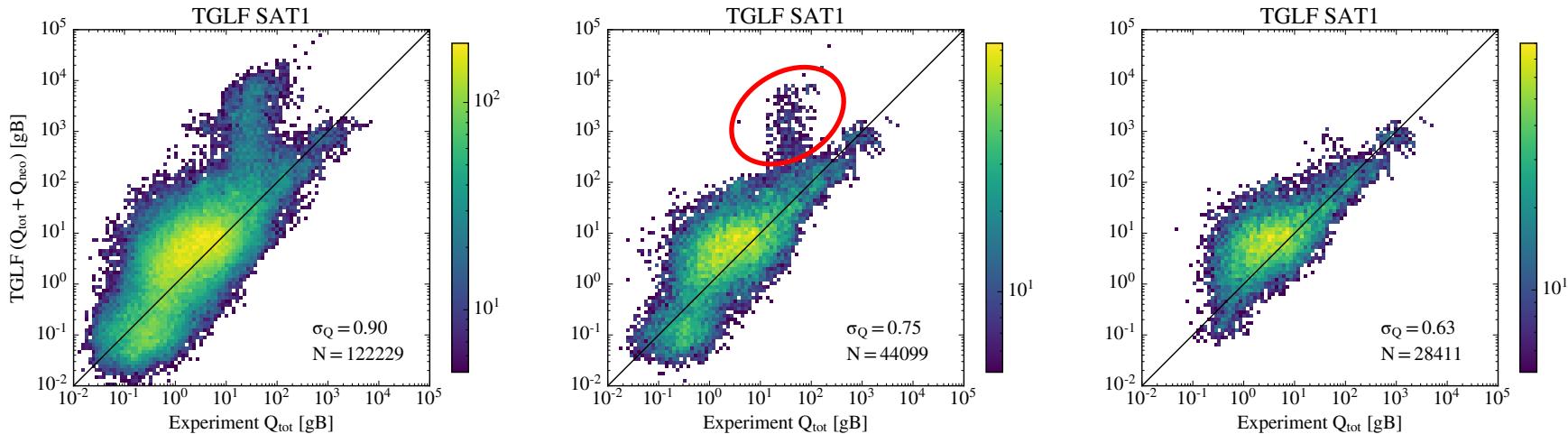
# Goal: Big data validation of TGLF saturation rules

- **Built large experimental database:**
  - 2500 randomly selected DIII-D plasma discharges
  - 9 radial locations: [0.1, 0.2, ..., 0.9]
  - 9 time slices: [2000, 2100, ..., 2800]
  - Leveraged automated workflows within OMFIT
- **Built large TGLF database:**
  - Used nominal experimental inputs
  - Translated SAT0, SAT1 and SAT2 to python and vectorized with Tensorflow to check for merit of recalibrating free parameters with GK database
  - Defined error:

$$\sigma_Q \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\sum_Q (\log_{10} Q_{\text{model}} - \log_{10} Q_{\text{exp}})^2}{\sum_Q (\log_{10} Q_{\text{exp}})^2}}$$

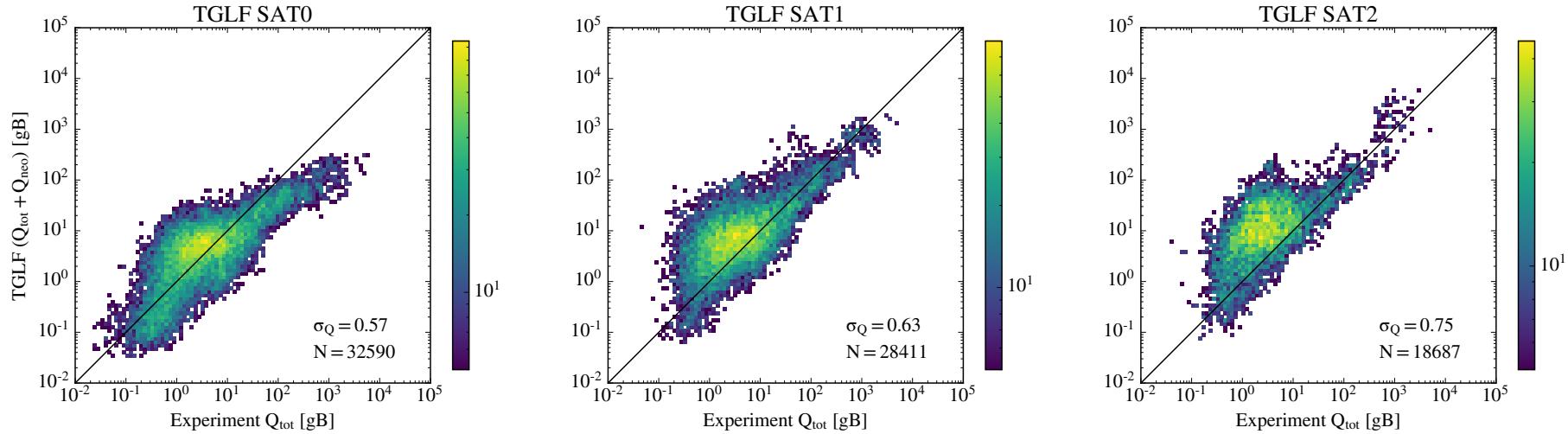


# Filter: Identify and remove cases where TGLF does not apply



- Removed cases with experimental or TGLF  $Q_{e,i} < 0$ , and negative temperature gradients  $\omega_{T_{e,i}} \equiv -\frac{d \ln T_{e,i}}{dr} < 0$ , and large negative density gradients  $\omega_{n_{e,i}} \equiv -\frac{d \ln n_{e,i}}{dr} < -1$  (left plot)
- No cases with missing toroidal rotation data or MHD activity by NTMs (middle plot)
- No cases with KBMs ( $\frac{Q_{EM}}{Q_{ES}} > 0.01$  at  $\rho \geq 0.8$ ), marginally unstable ITG modes or more than 3 zeroes in the quasi-linear weight spectrum (right plot)

# Summary: SAT0, SAT1 and SAT2 were successfully validated



- SAT1 and SAT2 match experiment better than SAT0 at high fluxes (near-edge)
- SAT1 and SAT2 overpredict population of intermediate value fluxes (core)
- Could be due to too sensitive KBM threshold or profile uncertainty (see next slide)

# Highlight: SAT1 does well when $\frac{Q_{EM}}{Q_{ES}} < 0.01$

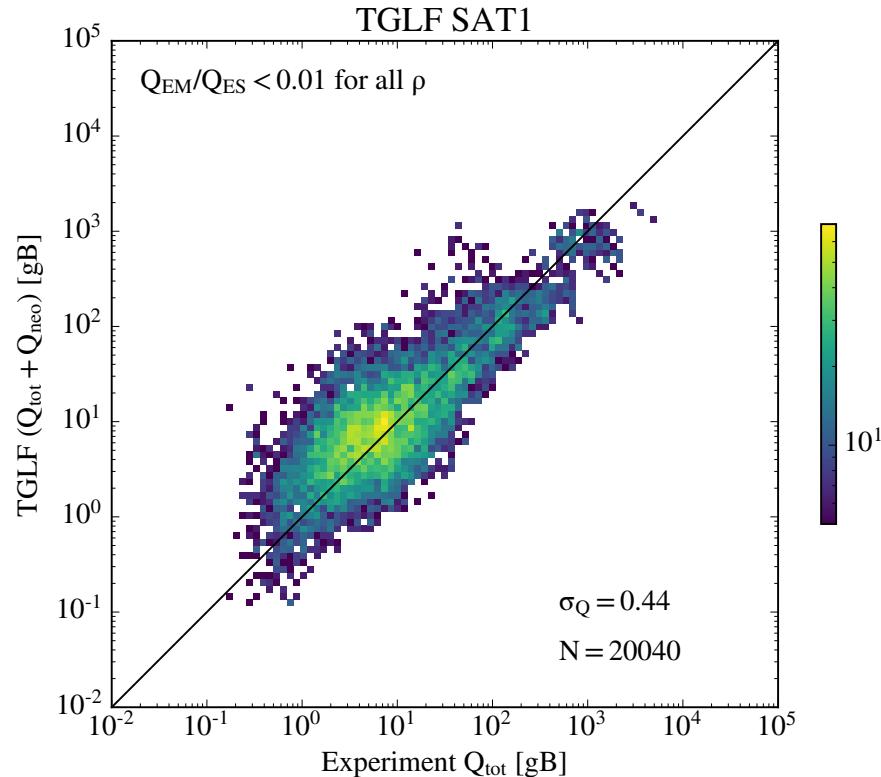
- KBMs were previously filtered out only in the near-edge region such that

$$\frac{Q_{EM}}{Q_{ES}} < 0.01 \text{ for } \rho \geq 0.8$$

- Remarkable agreement between SAT1 and experiment is found when KBM filter is extended such that

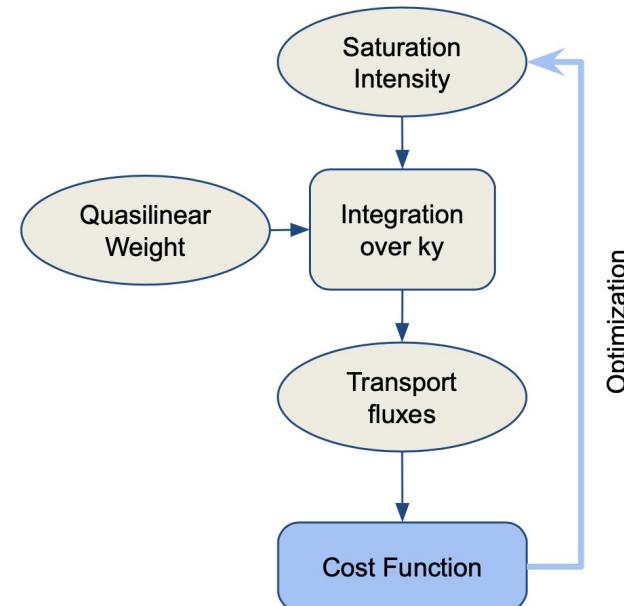
$$\frac{Q_{EM}}{Q_{ES}} < 0.01 \text{ for all } \rho$$

- Want to determine if this is due to profile uncertainties and/or too sensitive KBM threshold in TGLF, or some other missing physics (Dimits shift)



# Goal: Help direct model development with ML tools

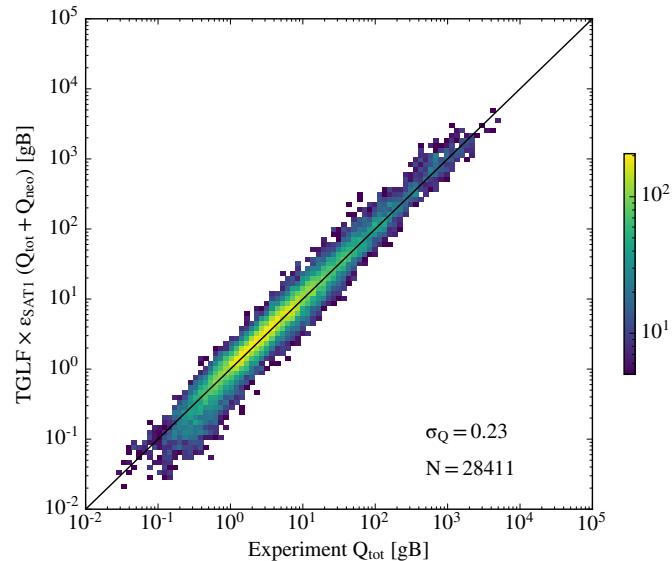
- Multiply SAT1 with an “error factor”  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  that can be expressed as a function of plasma parameters
- A suitable functional form for  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  is a power law
- We calculate  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  with Tensorflow:
  - a. Start from random  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  values
  - b. Compute NN fluxes
  - c. Compare NN fluxes to experimental fluxes
  - d. Update  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  to reduce error



[A. Eubanks et al., APS DPP, 2020]

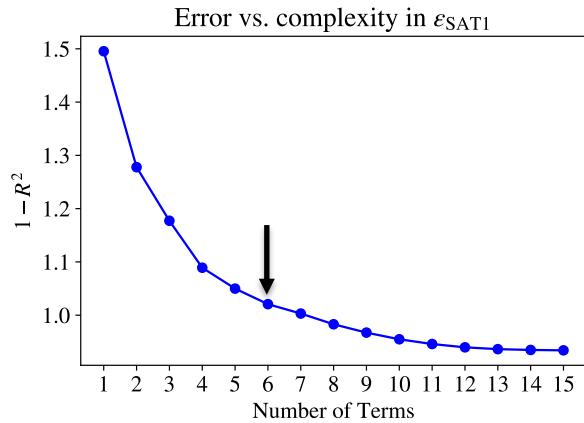
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# Analytic expression for error factor in terms of plasma parameters is found with symbolic regression

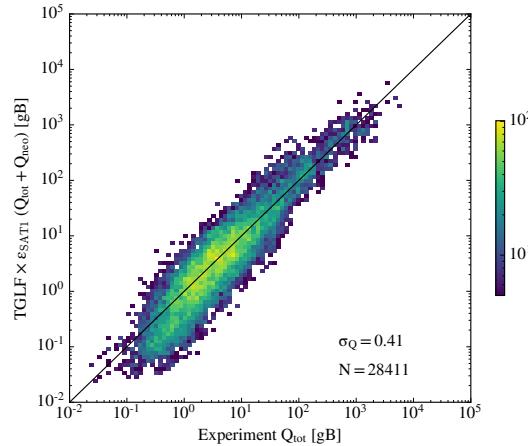
- Want to balance accuracy with complexity:



$$\epsilon_{\text{SAT1}} \propto \frac{(1-a/L_{n_e})^{0.70} q^{0.94} (\nu_{ei} + \epsilon_0)^{0.51}}{(1-a/L_{n_i})^{1.70} (-a/L_{T_e})^{0.56} (p' + \epsilon_0)^{1.14}}$$
$$\epsilon_0 = 10^{-3}$$

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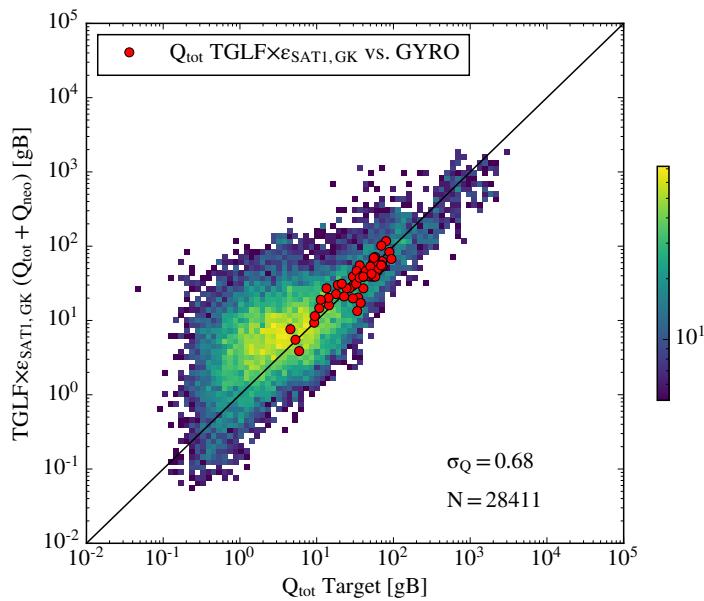
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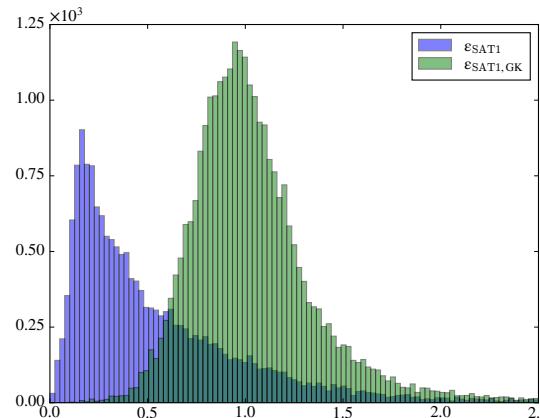
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- Next:** Want to identify theoretical mechanism explaining  $\epsilon_{SAT1}$  parameter dependence (e.g. thresholds of KBM/ITG/TEM turbulence)
- Recommend scans in  $p'$ ,  $\nu_{ei}$ ,  $d\nu_{ExB}/dr$  to add to CGRYO database

# Using plasma params scanned in existing GYRO DB, an error factor can also be found for TGLF vs GK DB



$$\epsilon_{\text{SAT1},\text{GK}} \propto \frac{(1-a/L_{n_e})^{0.45}(T_i/T_e)^{0.31}}{(-a/L_{T_e})^{0.18}(-a/L_{T_i})^{0.56}\kappa^{0.82}\delta^{0.01}q^{0.30}q'^{0.25}}$$



- $\text{TGLF} \times \epsilon_{\text{SAT1},\text{GK}}$  shows only minor difference to TGLF SAT1 validation
- Difference between SAT1 and experiment could be due to profile uncertainty, too sensitive thresholds for turbulent heat flux in TGLF, and limited GK coverage at lower fluxes

# Summary: Validated TGLF SAT rules and found avenues for further saturation rule development

- SAT1 and SAT2 match experiment better than SAT0 at high fluxes (near-edge), and overpredict population of fluxes closer to core (correlated with  $Q_{EM}/Q_{ES} > 0.01$ )
- This could be due to profile uncertainty in experiments, too sensitive thresholds for turbulent heat flux in TGLF, and limited GK DB coverage

## Next steps:

- Quantify sensitivity of TGLF to profile uncertainties (run TGLF with varied input parameters)
- Study thresholds for turbulent fluxes (run TGLF with varied  $a/L_{T_{e,i}}$ ,  $a/L_{n_{e,i}}$ )
- Want to validate quasi-linear weights, namely the other factor in the heat flux calculation (run linear CGYRO simulations over sample of DB)

# Epilogue

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