



NUMERICAL CALCULATION OF THE NEOCLASSICAL ELECTRON DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION IN AN AXISYMMETRIC TORUS

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- Introduction and Motivation
- Analytic Model
- Computational Methods
 - Expansions and Algorithm
 - Convergence Studies
- Initial Results
- □ Conclusion

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Neoclassical tearing mode (NTMs)

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- Density, temperature, pressure, etc. tend to equilibrate across an island width
- Difference in current at O-point and X-point can drive island growth
 - Without these gradients, there can be no bootstrap current within the island
 - Bootstrap current at the X-point can drive island growth
- Large islands allow hot, dense plasma near core to be transported outward, reducing confinement
- Modifications to magnetic topology can result in macroscopic instability and disruption





Images taken from <u>The</u> <u>Theory of Toroidally Confined</u> <u>Plasmas</u> by R. White, 2006

NTM stability modeling

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- $\hfill\square$ NTM stability place a severe limit on maximum β
- NTMs incorporate a lot of physics
 - Cause: <u>Neoclassical</u> kinetic theory
 - Effect: <u>MHD</u> destabilization
 - Requires a <u>hybrid</u> model
- High-fidelity simulations required for prediction, control, avoidance, and understanding of NTMs
 - Especially important for ITER operation, where very few disruptions can be tolerated

Framework for hybrid solver

What's needed

Solve the drift kinetic equation in a general, **3D**, toroidal geometry for the ion and electron perturbed distribution functions in parameter regimes relevant to ITER and reactors and couple to an MHD solver

Current work

Solve the drift kinetic equation in a 2D, large aspect ratio tokamak for the neoclassical, electron perturbed distribution function

Introduction and Motivation

□ Analytic Model¹

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¹ Ramos, J.J. 2010. Phys. Plasmas. 17, 082502.

Electron DKE

$$\frac{\partial \bar{f}_e}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{f}_e}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \dot{v}_{\parallel} \frac{\partial \bar{f}_e}{\partial v_{\parallel}} + \dot{v}_{\perp} \frac{\partial \bar{f}_e}{\partial v_{\perp}} = \langle C_{ee}[f_e, f_e] + C_{ei}[f_e, f_i] \rangle$$

Derived from average of Fokker-Planck equation over gyromotion

- Determines form of $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$, \dot{v}_{\parallel} , and \dot{v}_{\perp}
- Collision operators taken in their <u>linearized Landau</u> form
- Two expansion parameters for high-temperature fusion plasmas

 $\delta \sim \rho_i / L \ll 1$

$$\nu_* \sim L/\lambda_{\rm mfp} \sim \delta$$

□ Four common subsidiary parameters

$$m_e/m_i \sim \delta^2$$
 $\delta_e \sim \rho_e/L \sim \delta^2$ $u_e/v_{the} \sim \delta^2$ $f_{NMe}/f_{Me} \sim \delta^2$

- $\,\square\,$ Equations maintained to third order in δ
 - Scale at which collisional dynamics first become important
 - Terms of order $\delta_e
 u_*$ will be kept, but δ_e^2 dropped
 - Equivalent to neoclassical electron banana regime

Stationary, Axisymmetric Equilibrium

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 \square Nested flux surfaces labeled by $\,\psi=\psi_{PF}/2\pi$

 $\Box \text{ Fields: } \mathbf{B} = \nabla \psi \times \nabla \zeta + RB_{\zeta} \nabla \zeta$

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{V_{loop}}{2\pi}\nabla\zeta$$

□ Lowest-order fluid equations result in

$$n = n(\psi)$$
 $T_s = T_s(\psi)$ $\phi = \phi(\psi)$

 $RB_{\zeta} = I(\psi) \qquad \mathbf{u}_s = U_s(\psi)\mathbf{B} + R^2 \left[\frac{d\phi}{d\psi} + \frac{1}{e_s n}\frac{dP_s}{d\psi}\right]\nabla\zeta$

Resulting DKE

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□ Given these assumptions, it is convenient to write

$$\bar{f}_e = f_{Me} + (g_{e,0} + g_{e,1} \cos \chi) f_{Me} + h_e$$

where $g_{e,0}$ and $g_{e,1}$ have analytic forms

 \Box Then, the DKE for h_e can be reduced to

$$v_{\parallel}(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \theta) \frac{\partial h_e}{\partial \theta} - C_e[h_e] = S_e v_{\parallel}$$

where $v_{\parallel}(\psi, \theta, v, \lambda) = \pm v \left[1 - \lambda B(\psi, \theta) / B_{max}(\psi)\right]^{1/2}$

$$\lambda(\psi,\theta,\chi) = \sin^2 \chi B_{max}(\psi) / B(\psi,\theta)$$

Source Term

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Source contains Ohmic drive, interaction with ion flow, and pressure and temperature gradient bootstrap drive

$$S_{e} = \left\{ \frac{eV_{loop}I}{2\pi T_{e}BR^{2}} + \nu_{e} \left(U_{i}B + \frac{I}{enB} \frac{dP}{d\psi} \right) \frac{v_{the}}{v_{thi}^{2}v} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\nu_{e}m_{e}I}{eBT_{e}} \frac{dT_{e}}{d\psi} \frac{v_{the}}{v} \left[2\varphi \left(\frac{v}{v_{the}} \right) - 10\xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{the}} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2}\varphi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) - \frac{5v_{the}^{2}}{2v_{thi}^{2}} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) \right] \right\} f_{Me}$$

Solubility Condition

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Standard solution method for neoclassical theory

$$h_e = \varsigma(v_{\parallel})H(1-\lambda)K_e(\psi, v, \lambda) + h_e^{(3)}$$

$$h^{odd}$$

$$\Box \text{ DKE becomes } v_{\parallel}(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \theta) \frac{\partial h_e^{(3)}}{\partial \theta} - C_e[h^{odd}] = S_e v_{\parallel}$$

□ Solubility condition:

$$\oint_{\psi,v,\lambda} \frac{dl}{v_{\parallel}} C_e[h^{odd}] = -\oint_{\psi,v,\lambda} dl S_e$$

 Contour integrals taken along one poloidal turn of magnetic field line

Integral over Collision Operator

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$$\begin{split} \oint_{\psi,v,\lambda} \frac{dl}{v_{\parallel}} C_e[h^{odd}] &= \frac{2\nu_D}{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \left(\eta_1 \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} K_e \right) \\ &+ \nu_e \eta_2 v_{the}^3 \left[\frac{1}{v^3} \frac{d}{dv} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{the}} \right) \left[v \frac{d}{dv} + \frac{v^2}{v_{the}^2} \right] \\ + \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) \left[v \frac{d}{dv} + \frac{m_e v^2}{m_i v_{thi}^2} \right] \end{array} \right\} + \frac{4\pi f_{Me}}{nv} \right] K_e \\ &- \frac{\nu_e v_{the}}{nv} f_{Me} \int_0^{2\pi} JB \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Phi d\theta \\ &+ \frac{\nu_e v}{nv_{the}} f_{Me} \frac{d^2}{dv^2} \int_0^{2\pi} JB \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Psi d\theta \end{split}$$

where

$$\eta_1(\psi,\lambda) = B_{max} \int_0^{2\pi} J \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} d\theta$$
$$\eta_2(\psi,\lambda) = \int_0^{2\pi} J B \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} d\theta$$

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Expansions

 Expand Rosenbluth Potentials in Legendre and Fourier series

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi(\psi, \cos\chi, \theta, v) \\ \Psi(\psi, \cos\chi, \theta, v) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{m=0}^{M} \sum_{l=1, odd}^{2L-1} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_{l,m}(\psi, v) \\ \Psi_{l,m}(\psi, v) \end{pmatrix} P_{l}(\cos\chi) \cos m\theta$$

□ Then expand K_e , $\Phi_{l,m}$, and $\Psi_{l,m}$ in finite elements in v and λ , as necessary

$$K_{e}(\psi, v, \lambda) = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=0}^{J} K_{i,j}(\psi) \varphi_{i}(v) \varphi_{j}(\lambda)$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi_{l,m}(v) \\ \Psi_{l,m}(v) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_{i,l,m} \\ \Psi_{i,l,m} \end{pmatrix} \varphi_{i}(v)$$

Expanded Form

$$\begin{split} \sum_{i=0}^{N} \sum_{j=0}^{J} \left\{ 2v^{2} \nu_{D} \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left(\eta_{1} \lambda \frac{d\varphi_{j}(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \right) K_{i,j} \varphi_{i}(v) \\ &+ \nu_{e} \eta_{2} v_{the}^{3} \left[\frac{d}{dv} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{the}} \right) \left[v \frac{d\varphi_{i}(v)}{dv} + \frac{v^{2}}{v_{the}^{2}} \varphi_{i}(v) \right] \\ &+ \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) \left[v \frac{d\varphi_{i}(v)}{dv} + \frac{m_{e}v^{2}}{w_{the}^{2}} \varphi_{i}(v) \right] \end{array} \right\} + \frac{4\pi v^{2}}{n} f_{Me} \varphi_{i}(v) \\ &- \frac{\nu_{e} v_{the} v^{2}}{n} f_{Me} \sum_{m=0}^{M} \sum_{l=1,odd}^{2L-1} a_{l,m} \Phi_{i,l,m} \phi_{i}(v) \\ &- \frac{\nu_{e} v^{4}}{n v_{the}} f_{Me} \sum_{m=0}^{M} \sum_{l=1,odd}^{2L-1} a_{l,m} \Psi_{i,l,m} \frac{d^{2} \phi_{i}(v)}{dv^{2}} \right\} = -v^{3} \oint_{\psi,v,\lambda} dlS_{e} \\ &\left[\frac{d}{dv} \left(v^{2} \frac{d\varphi_{i}(v)}{dv} \right) - l(l+1)\varphi_{i}(v) \right] \left(\begin{array}{c} \Phi_{i,l,m} \\ \Psi_{i,l,m} \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} v^{2} \varphi_{i}(v) \sum_{j=0}^{J} D_{j,l,m} K_{i,j} \\ v^{2} \Phi_{i,l,m} \varphi_{i}(v) \end{array} \right) \\ &a_{l,m} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta JB \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{-1/2} P_{l} \left(\left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{1/2} \right) \varphi_{j}(\lambda) \frac{B}{B_{max}} \left[1 - \lambda \frac{B}{B_{max}} \right]^{-1/2} \end{split}$$

Galerkin Method

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 Take the inner product of the previous equations with each finite element

0

i-2

- Use linear tent functions:
- Only overlap with their two nearest neighbors and themselves
- $\hfill\square$ DKE becomes tridiagonal in both v and λ
- □ Rosenbluth Potential eqs. are tridiagonal in v and dense in λ



i+1

i+2

i-1

Block Tridiagonal Algorithm

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 \square Since all equations are tridiagonal in v , we rewrite the coupled set as a block tridiagonal matrix eq.

 $\mathbf{A}_i \cdot \mathbf{U}_{i+1} - \mathbf{B}_i \cdot \mathbf{U}_i + \mathbf{C}_i \cdot \mathbf{U}_{i-1} = \mathbf{D}_i$

- \Box Size of each block matrix is $(J + 2L(M + 1))^2$
- Given appropriate boundary conditions, there exists a straightforward algorithm to solve for U
- \Box Computation time required is O($N(J + 2L(M + 1))^3$)

Boundary Conditions

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\square For v

- $\square \quad K_e(0,\lambda) = 0 \qquad \qquad K_e(``\infty'' = v_{max},\lambda) = 0$
- $\Phi_{l,m}(0) = 0 \qquad \frac{d\Phi_{l,m}}{dv}(v_{max}) = -(l+1)\frac{\Phi_{l,m}(v_{max})}{v_{max}}$

$$\Psi_{l,m}(0) = 0 \qquad \frac{d\Psi_{l,m}}{dv}(v_{max}) = -(l-1)\frac{\Psi_{l,m}(v_{max})}{v_{max}}$$

 \square For λ

 \square $K_e(v,0)$ must be regular

$$\bullet \quad K_e(v,1) = 0$$

 $\square \frac{\partial K_e}{\partial \lambda}(v,1) = 0 \text{ requires boundary layer (future work)}$

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Convergence (1)



Convergence (2)



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Example Distribution Functions

Ohmic Drive

Density-Gradient Drive



Calculating Current

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 \square Need part of distribution function that is odd wrt $v_{||}$

 $\bar{f}_{NMe}^{odd} = \varsigma(v_{\parallel})H(1-\lambda)K_{e} - v_{\parallel} \left[\frac{m_{e}U_{e}B}{T_{e}} + \frac{m_{e}I}{2eBT_{e}}\left(\frac{m_{e}v^{2}}{T_{e}} - 5\right)\frac{dT_{e}}{d\psi}\right]f_{Me}$ $\square \text{ Requiring } \int d^{3}\mathbf{v}v_{\parallel}\bar{f}_{NMe}^{odd} = 0 \text{, we find that}$ $U_{e}(\psi) = \frac{2\pi}{nB_{max}}\int_{0}^{\infty}dvv^{3}\int_{0}^{1}d\lambda K_{e}(\psi, v, \lambda)$ $\square \text{ Then we use } j_{\parallel} = (U_{i} - U_{e})B + \frac{I}{B}\frac{dP}{d\psi}$

Ohmic Drive Conductivity

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- $\Box \text{ On-axis: } \sigma_{\parallel} = \sigma_{Spitzer} \approx 1.96 \sigma_{\perp}$ $\sigma_{\perp} = \frac{e^2 n}{m_e \nu_{Brag}}$
- Trapped particles carry no current
 - To lowest order, expect conductivity to decrease linearly with the trapped particle fraction

$$f_t = 1 - \frac{3}{4} \left\langle \frac{B^2}{B_{max}^2} \right\rangle \int_0^1 \frac{\lambda d\lambda}{\left\langle \sqrt{1 - \lambda B / B_{max}} \right\rangle}$$

□ Sauter analytic fit¹

$$\frac{\sigma_{neo}}{\sigma_{\perp}} \approx 1.96 \left(1 - 1.36f_t + 0.59f_t^2 - 0.23f_t^3\right)$$
¹ Sauter, O et al. (1999) Phys. Plasmas: 6,7.



Density-Gradient Bootstrap Current

- $\Box \text{ Expect zero current} \\ \text{for } f_t = 0$
 - To lowest order, current should decrease linearly with trapped particle fraction
- □ Sauter Analytic fit

$$\left\langle j_{\parallel}B\right\rangle = -I\mathcal{L}_{31}\frac{dP}{d\psi}$$

 $\mathcal{L}_{31} = 1.7f_t - 0.95f_t^2 + 0.15f_t^3 + 0.1f_t^4$



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Summary

- A code has been written to solve for the component of the non-Maxwellian electron distribution function necessary to compute the current in an axisymmetric toroidal plasma
- Code demonstrates good convergence
- Ohmic and density-gradient sources have been benchmarked against the Sauter analytic fits for a large-aspect ratio expansion equilbrium

Future Work

Short Term

- Complete implementation of temperature-gradient driven source
- Generalize geometry to use solution from Grad-Shafronov solver
- Benchmark against NEO and NCLASS
- Implement simple (i.e., lowest-order) ion code
- Couple with MHD code (e.g., M3D-C1)
- Long Term
 - Generalize to 3D Geometry
 - Develop ion theory to appropriate ordering
 - Implement fully 3D, coupled ion-electron code
 - Couple with MHD code (e.g., M3D-C1)
 - Perform NTM and sawtooth studies

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Coefficient functions

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Reference frame of the macroscopic flow $\Box \left| \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{u}_e - \mathbf{u}_{De} + v_{\parallel} \mathbf{b} + \frac{v_{\perp}^2}{2} \nabla \times \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}}{\Omega_{ce}} \right) + \left(v_{\parallel}^2 - \frac{v_{\perp}^2}{2} \right) \frac{\mathbf{b} \times \kappa}{\Omega_{ce}} \right|$ $\Box \left| \dot{v}_{\parallel} = \frac{\mathbf{b} \cdot (\nabla \cdot P_{e}^{CGL} - \mathbf{F}_{e}^{coll})}{m_{e}n} - v_{\parallel} \mathbf{b} \cdot [(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla)(\mathbf{u}_{e} - \mathbf{u}_{De})] \right|$ $-\frac{v_{\perp}^2}{2}\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\ln B+\frac{v_{\parallel}v_{\perp}^2}{2}\nabla\cdot\left(\frac{\mathbf{b}\times\kappa}{\Omega_{\perp}}\right)$ $\Box \left| \dot{v}_{\perp} = \frac{v_{\perp}}{2} \left\{ \mathbf{b} \cdot \left[(\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla) (\mathbf{u}_{e} - \mathbf{u}_{De}) \right] - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}_{e} - \mathbf{u}_{De}) \right| \right\}$ $+v_{\parallel}\mathbf{b}\cdot\nabla\ln B - v_{\parallel}^{2}\nabla\cdot\left(\frac{\mathbf{b}\times\kappa}{\Omega_{ce}}\right)$ 1

where
$$\mathbf{u}_{De} = \frac{1}{m_e n \Omega_{ce}} [\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla p_{e\perp} + (p_{e\parallel} - p_{e\perp})(\mathbf{b} \times \kappa)]$$

 $\mathbf{b} \cdot (\nabla \cdot P_e^{CGL}) = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla p_{e\parallel} - (p_{e\parallel} - p_{e\perp})\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \ln B$ $\kappa = (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{b}$

Electron – Electron Collision Operator

$$C_{ee}[f_{e}, f_{e}] = C_{ee}[f_{Me}, f_{NMe}] + C_{ee}[f_{NMe}, f_{Me}]$$

$$C_{ee}[f_{Me}, f_{NMe}] = \frac{\nu_{e}v_{the}}{n} f_{Me}(v) \left\{ 4\pi v_{the}^{2} f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v}) - \Phi[f_{NMe}](\mathbf{v}) + \frac{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}}{v_{the}^{2}} : \frac{\partial^{2}\Psi[f_{NMe}](\mathbf{v})}{\partial\mathbf{v}\partial\mathbf{v}} \right\}$$

$$C_{ee}[f_{NMe}, f_{Me}] = \frac{\nu_{e}v_{the}^{3}}{v^{3}} \left\{ \left[\varphi\left(\frac{v}{v_{the}}\right) - \xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{the}}\right) \right] \mathcal{L}[f_{NMe}](\mathbf{v}) + \frac{v^{2}}{\partial\mathbf{v}} \xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{the}}\right) f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v}) \right] \right\}$$

$$+ \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial\mathbf{v}} \left[\xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{the}}\right) \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v})}{\partial\mathbf{v}} + \frac{v^{2}}{v_{the}^{2}} \xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{the}}\right) f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v}) \right] \right\}$$

Electron-Ion Collision Operator

$$C_{ei}[f_e, f_i] = C_{ei}[f_{Mi}, f_{NMe}] + C_{ei}[f_i, f_{Me}]$$

$$C_{ei}[f_{NMe}, f_{Mi}] = \frac{\nu_e v_{the}^3}{v^3} \left\{ \left[\varphi\left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right) - \xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right) \right] \mathcal{L}[f_{NMe}](\mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{v}} \left[\xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right) \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v})}{\partial \mathbf{v}} + \frac{m_e v^2}{m_i v_{thi}^2} \xi\left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right) f_{NMe}(\mathbf{v}) \right] \right\}$$

$$C_{ei}[f_{Me}, f_i] = \nu_e v_{the} f_{Me}(v) \left[\left(\frac{T_e}{T_i} - 1 \right) \frac{4\pi v_{thi}^2}{n} f_{Mi}(v) + \frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{u}_i - \mathbf{u}_e)}{v_{thi}^2 v} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) + \frac{m_e}{m_i} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i} - 1 \right) \frac{v}{v_{thi}^2} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}} \right) \right]$$

Gyro-average of the collision operators

 \square Maxwellian-test part of C_{ei} has analytic solution

$$C_{ei}[f_{Me}, f_i]\rangle(v, \chi) = \mathcal{D}_{e,0}(v) + \mathcal{D}_{e,1}(v)\cos\chi$$

where
$$\mathcal{D}_{e,0}(v) = \nu_e v_{the} f_{Me} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i} - 1\right) \left[\frac{4\pi v_{thi}^2}{n} f_{Mi} - \frac{v}{v_{the}^2} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right)\right]$$

 $\mathcal{D}_{e,1}(v) = \nu_e f_{Me} \frac{v_{the} j_{\parallel}}{v_{thi}^2 en} \xi \left(\frac{v}{v_{thi}}\right)$

□ And the remainder is simple

 $\langle C_{ee}[f_{Me}, f_{NMe}] + C_{ee}[f_{NMe}, f_{Me}] + C_{ei}[f_{NMe}, f_{Mi}] \rangle = C_e[\bar{f}_{NMe}](v, \chi)$

Or $\langle C_e[f] \rangle = C_e[\bar{f}]$