

Contents

Introduction	1
1. Finite Element Methods for the Discretization of Differential Eigenvalue Problems	7
1.1 A Classical Model Problem	7
1.1.1 Exact Problem	7
1.1.2 Approximate Problem	9
1.1.3 Questions on Numerical Stability	11
1.2 A Non-Standard Model Problem	12
1.2.1 Exact Problem	12
1.2.2 Conforming “Polluting” Approximations	15
1.2.3 “Non-Polluting” Conforming Approximation	18
1.2.4 Non-Conforming Approximation	20
1.3 Spectral Stability	23
1.3.1 General Considerations	23
1.3.2 Stability Conditions	25
1.3.3 Order of Convergence	26
1.4 Finite Elements of Order p	27
1.4.1 Discontinuous Finite Elements S_p^0	27
1.4.2 Continuous Finite Elements S_p^1 (Lagrange Elements)	28
1.4.3 C^1 -Finite Elements S_p^2 (Hermite Elements)	30
1.4.4 Application to the Model Problems	31
1.4.5 Non-Conforming Lagrange Elements	31
1.4.6 Non-Conforming Hermite Elements with Collocation	32
1.5 Some Comments	33
2. The Ideal MHD Model	34
2.1 Basic Equations	34
2.2 Static Equilibrium	35
2.3 Linearized MHD Equations	36
2.4 Variational Formulation	38
2.5 Stability Considerations	40
2.6 Mechanical Analogan	40
3. Cylindrical Geometry	42
3.1 MHD Equations in Cylindrical Geometry	42

3.1.1 The AGV and Hain-Lüst Equations	42
3.1.2 Continuous Spectrum	45
3.1.3 An Analytic Solution	46
3.2 Six Test Cases	48
3.2.1 Test Case A: Homogeneous Currentless Plasma Cylinder	48
3.2.2 Test Case B: Continuous Spectrum	49
3.2.3 Test Case C: Particular Free Boundary Mode	50
3.2.4 Test Case D: Unstable Region for $k = -0.2, m = 1$	51
3.2.5 Test Case E: Unstable Region for $k = -0.2, m = 2$	52
3.2.6 Test Case F: Internal Kink Mode	53
3.3 Approximations	54
3.3.1 Conforming Finite Elements	54
3.3.2 Non-Conforming Finite Elements	55
3.4 Polluting Finite Elements	56
3.4.1 Hat Function Elements	56
3.4.2 Application to Test Case A	57
3.5 Conforming Non-Polluting Finite Elements	59
3.5.1 Linear Elements	59
3.5.2 Quadratic Elements	61
3.5.3 Third-Order Lagrange Elements	62
3.5.4 Cubic Hermite Elements	63
3.6 Non-Conforming Non-Polluting Elements	64
3.6.1 Linear Elements	64
3.6.2 Quadratic Elements	65
3.6.3 Lagrange Cubic Elements	65
3.6.4 Hermite Cubic Elements with Collocation	67
3.7 Applications and Comparison Studies (with M.-A. Sécretan)	67
3.7.1 Application to Test Case A	69
3.7.2 Application to Test Case B	69
3.7.3 Application to Test Case C	71
3.7.4 Application to Test Case F	75
3.8 Discussion and Conclusion	77
4. Two-Dimensional Finite Elements Applied to Cylindrical Geometry	79
4.1 Conforming Finite Elements	79
4.1.1 Conforming Triangular Finite Elements	80
4.1.2 Conforming Lowest-Order Quadrangular Finite Elements	81
4.2 Non-Conforming, Finite Hybrid Elements	84
4.2.1 Finite Hybrid Elements Formulation	84
4.2.2 Lowest-Order Finite Hybrid Elements	86
4.2.3 Application to the Test Cases	87
4.2.4 Explanation of the Spectral Shift	88
4.2.5 Convergence Properties	91
4.3 Discussion	91

5. ERATO: Application to Toroidal Geometry	92
5.1 Static Equilibrium	92
5.1.1 Grad–Schlüter–Shafranov Equation	92
5.1.2 Weak Formulation	95
5.2 Mapping of (σ, θ) into (ψ, χ) Coordinates in Ω_p	97
5.3 Variational Formulation of the Potential and Kinetic Energies	98
5.4 Variational Formulation of the Vacuum Energy	102
5.5 Finite Hybrid Elements	107
5.6 Extraction of the Rapid Angular Variation	108
5.7 Calculation of β -Limits (with F. Troyon)	111
6. HERA: Application to Helical Geometry (Peter Merkel, IPP Garching)	118
6.1 Equilibrium	118
6.2 Variational Formulation of the Stability Problem	121
6.3 Applications	125
6.3.1 Straight Heliac	125
6.3.2 Straight Heliotron Equilibria	129
6.3.3 Large- k Ballooning Modes	130
6.3.4 Conclusion	133
7. Similar Problems	134
7.1 Similar Problems in Plasma Physics	134
7.1.1 Resistive Spectrum in a Cylinder	134
7.1.2 Non-Linear Plasma Wave Equation (with M. C. Festeau-Barrioz)	135
7.1.3 Alfvén and ICRF Heating in a Tokamak (with K. Appert, T. Hellsten, J. Vaclavik, and L. Villard)	136
7.2 Similar Problems in Other Domains	137
7.2.1 Stability of a Compressible Gas in a Rotating Cylinder	137
7.2.2 Normal Modes in the Oceans	140
Appendices	142
A: Variational Formulation of the Ballooning Mode Criterion	142
B: Sparse Matrix Techniques to Solve $Ax = \lambda Bx$ in ERATO	145
B.1 The Problem	145
B.2 Two Numberings of the Components	146
B.3 Resolution for Numbering (D1)	147
B.4 Resolution for Numbering (D2)	148
B.5 Higher Order Finite Elements	150
C: Organization of ERATO	151
D: Listing of ERATO 3 (with R. Iacono)	154
References	171
Subject Index	179