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Measurements of poloidal rotation velocity using cross-correlation spectroscopy in the H-1 heliac

M. G. Shats,^{a)} H. Punzmann, H. Xia, and W. M. Solomon
The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

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A correlation spectroscopy diagnostic [M.G. Shats and J. Howard, *Fusion Eng. Des.* **34–35**, 271 (1997)] measures fluctuation spectra and local fluctuation intensities in a radiation-dominated plasma, such as the low-temperature plasma in the H-1 heliac ($T_e < 50$ eV, $n_e < 2 \times 10^{18}$ m⁻³). When the fluctuation coherence lengths in the poloidal and radial directions are shorter than the plasma radius, the cross-correlation function of the two crossed-sightline fluctuating intensities contains information about the fluctuations amplitude and their phase in the intersection volume. The optical setup on the H-1 heliac uses two nearly orthogonal views to image 20 optical fibers arranged into two linear arrays in the plasma poloidal cross section. A matrix of 10×10 cross-correlation functions is then analyzed to determine the poloidal phase velocity of the fluctuations, poloidal and radial correlation lengths, and the radial profiles of the fluctuations intensity. The results on the poloidal propagation velocity measured using the cross-correlation technique (time delay of the cross-correlation functions) are compared with the poloidal velocity measured using poloidally separated probes in the plasma. Both velocities are found to be in good agreement and also agree well with the $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$ drift velocity in this plasma. © 2003 American Institute of Physics. [DOI: 10.1063/1.1537032]

The radial electric-field E_r , measurements are crucial for understanding plasma transport and confinement.¹ Such measurements are difficult whether one uses the heavy ion-beam probe technique to measure the electrostatic plasma potential or the charge-exchange spectroscopy to derive E_r using the zero-order radial force balance. In the latter case, the accuracy in the E_r estimate depends on the quality of the data on the ion pressure gradients, and the ion flow velocities. In the presence of turbulence, the $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$ drift velocity often dominates the fluctuation propagation velocity in the lab frame. By measuring the poloidal velocity of the turbulence it is possible in some cases to reliably estimate E_r .

In this article, the results on the poloidal rotation velocity measured using the cross-correlation analysis of the two-view, ten-channel visible spectroscopy diagnostic on the H-1 toroidal heliac are presented. The cross-correlation technique has been used for the turbulence characterization using different diagnostics, such as the correlation electron cyclotron emission (ECE),² beam emission spectroscopy,³ soft x-ray signal analysis,⁴ correlation spectroscopy,⁵ etc. The technique relies on the ensemble averaging of the uncorrelated fluctuations. Recently, an extended version of the method has been proposed⁶ which uses four lines of sight lying in two parallel planes. Such an extension allows another dimension (e.g., toroidal) in the turbulence characterization to be introduced.

Now we discuss the principles of the cross-correlation technique with regard to the turbulence propagation using the cell model terminology, as in Ref. 6. The plasma volume consists of square (or cubic) cells such that the light intensity

fluctuations are completely correlated inside each cell and the correlation decreases as a function of the distance between the cells. In the model,⁶ it is assumed that the cross-correlation between fluctuations originating from any two different cells is zero, or, in other words, the correlation length is of the order of the viewing chord diameter. This is not the case in the H-1 heliac, where turbulence is often dominated by large coherent structures.⁵ Figure 1(a) shows three viewing chords in the plasma poloidal cross section. Solid lines represent the heliac flux surfaces and squares along each of the viewing chords correspond to the local cells. The fluctuating intensity of light collected along vertical and horizontal chords is a sum of the local fluctuating intensities $\tilde{\varepsilon}_i(t)$ and $\tilde{\sigma}_i(t)$: $\tilde{I}_1 = \sum_i \tilde{\varepsilon}_i$ and $\tilde{I}_2 = \sum_j \tilde{\sigma}_j$. The cross-correlation function between two chord-average intensities is determined as

$$\langle \tilde{I}_1 \tilde{I}_2 \rangle = \sum_{i,j} \langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle = \langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \tilde{\sigma}_k \rangle + \sum_{i \neq j} \langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle. \quad (1)$$

When the turbulence correlation length l_c is of the order of the distance between the cells, the correlation (1) is determined only by the cross-correlation $\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \tilde{\sigma}_k \rangle$ from the cell representing the intersection between two viewing chords. Here, by the cross correlation we mean the cross-correlation function, $CF(\tau)$, determined as

$$CF(\tau) = \langle \tilde{\varepsilon}(t) \tilde{\sigma}(t+\tau) \rangle = \frac{\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}(t) \tilde{\sigma}(t+\tau) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}(t) \rangle^2 \langle \tilde{\sigma}(t+\tau) \rangle^2}}, \quad (2)$$

where the time lag τ between the signals $\tilde{\varepsilon}_i(t)$ and $\tilde{\sigma}_i(t)$. If fluctuating signals are dominated by coherent oscillations, usually coexisting with the broadband turbulence, and this is the case in the described experiments, the cross-correlation

^{a)}Electronic mail: michael.shats@anu.edu.au

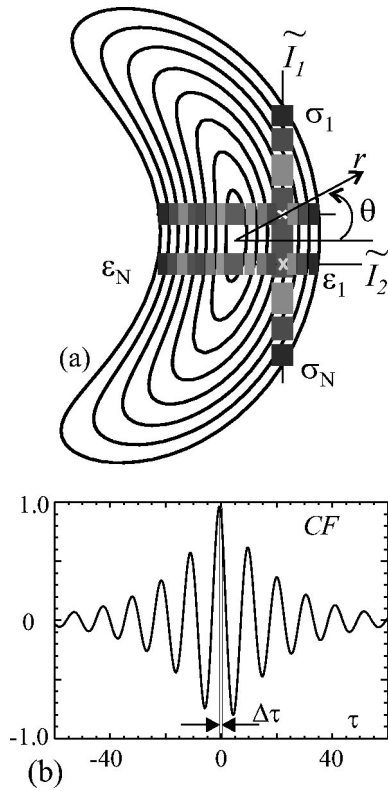


FIG. 1. (a) Schematic of the collection geometry and (b) an example of the cross-correlation function.

function will look like a decaying periodic function of the time delay τ , depicted in Fig. 1(b). This function has a maximum at $\tau = \Delta\tau$ and its amplitude is $CF(\tau = \Delta\tau) \leq 1$. When $\tilde{\varepsilon}_i(t) = \tilde{\sigma}_i(t)$, the time delay $\Delta\tau = 0$ and $CF(\tau = 0) = 1$. The maximum of the cross-correlation function for two cells separated radially by Δr and poloidally by $\Delta\theta$ (where θ is the poloidal angle) will be less than unity for any finite radial l_{rad} , and poloidal l_{θ} , correlation lengths in the plasma

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}[\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle] &= CF(\Delta r, \Delta\theta, \tau = \Delta\tau) \\ &< \exp\left\{-\left|\frac{\Delta r}{l_{\text{rad}}}\right| - \left|\frac{\Delta\theta}{l_{\theta}}\right|\right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Modeling shows that in the case of the propagating turbulence, when $\Delta\tau_{kk} \neq \Delta\tau_{ij}$, and for long but finite correlation lengths, $l_{\theta} \sim 2r$ and $l_{\text{rad}} \sim 0.5r$ (where r is the plasma radius), $\text{Max}[\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \tilde{\sigma}_k \rangle] > \text{Max}[\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle]_{i \neq j}$, and the maximum of the cross-correlation function of the chord-averaged intensities Eq. (1) coincides in time with the maximum of the cross-correlation function originating from the intersection volume: $\Delta\tau(\langle \tilde{I}_1 \tilde{I}_2 \rangle) \approx \Delta\tau(\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \tilde{\sigma}_k \rangle)$. An example of such a computation is shown in Fig. 2, where the individual contributions $\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle$ [Fig. 2(a)] are summed to model the finite correlation length effect $\Sigma\langle \tilde{\varepsilon}_i \tilde{\sigma}_j \rangle$ [Fig. 2(b)].

Thus, even if the turbulence correlation lengths in the plasma are long (e.g., of the order of the plasma radius), it is possible to determine the local fluctuation phase and the phase velocity. If we choose a pair of chord-average signals [e.g., \tilde{I}_1 and \tilde{I}_2 as shown in Fig. 1(a)] characterized by the intersection point (r_0, θ_0) and whose CF has maximum at $\tau = \Delta\tau_0$ and another pair characterized by (r_0, θ_1) and τ

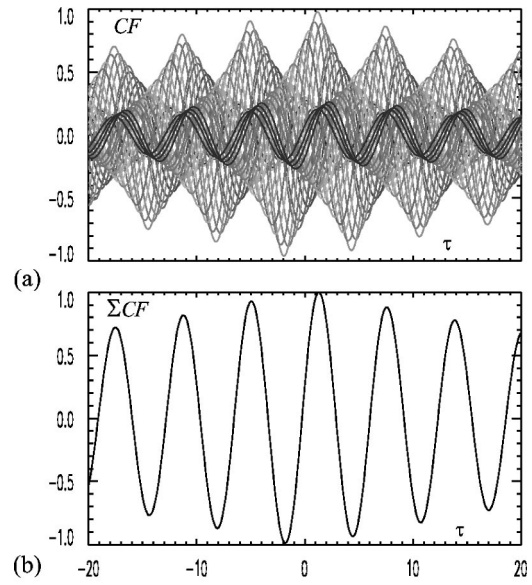


FIG. 2. (a) Cross-correlation functions originating from 34 poloidally separated cells around the chord intersection cell C_0 are time-delayed proportionally to the distance away from C_0 and (b) the normalized sum of these cross-correlation functions. The poloidal correlation length in the model equals to two plasma radii.

$= \Delta\tau_1$, then we associate a time delay $d\tau = \Delta\tau_1 - \Delta\tau_0$ with the propagation velocity in the poloidal direction. Below, we discuss the implementation of this idea in the H-1 stellarator.

Experiments have been performed in the H-1 helical axis stellarator⁷ having a major radius of $R_0 = 1.0$ m and a minor plasma radius of less than 0.2 m. In the experiments discussed here, H-1 was operated at low-magnetic fields (< 0.2 T) with the current-free plasma produced by the pulsed radio-frequency (rf) power of less than 100 kW at 7 MHz. Plasma conditions were as follows (for more details see, e.g., Ref. 8): the electron density of the argon discharges is $n_e = (0.5 - 1.0) \times 10^{18} \text{ m}^{-3}$, the electron temperature $T_e = (5 - 40)$ eV and the ion temperature is $T_i = (20 - 60)$ eV. In these radiation-dominated discharges strong fluctuations in the electrostatic potential, electron temperature, and density are observed. The poloidal propagation velocity of these fluctuations is estimated using the cross-correlation spectroscopy diagnostic and results are compared with the measurements of the poloidal velocity from the electrostatic probes.

The optical setup is similar to that described in Ref. 9 but the light is collected from two orthogonal views ten chords in each as shown in Fig. 3. Chords represent images in the plasma of the 2×10 -channel optical fiber arrays. These arrays (10×1 mm core diameter fibers) are imaged in the plasma using two camera zoom lenses ($f = 35 - 105$ mm). The geometry in Fig. 3 corresponds to $f = 70$ mm that results in the magnifications of $m_y = 13.8$ and $m_x = 9.6$ in the vertical (in fact, tangential to the flux surface) and horizontal views correspondingly. The grid produced by the two views of lines of sight has a cell with sides of approximately $\Delta r_{\text{rad}} = 16.5$ mm and $\Delta r_{\text{pol}} = 15.9$ mm in the radial and poloidal directions correspondingly. Cross-correlation functions (CCF) are computed as

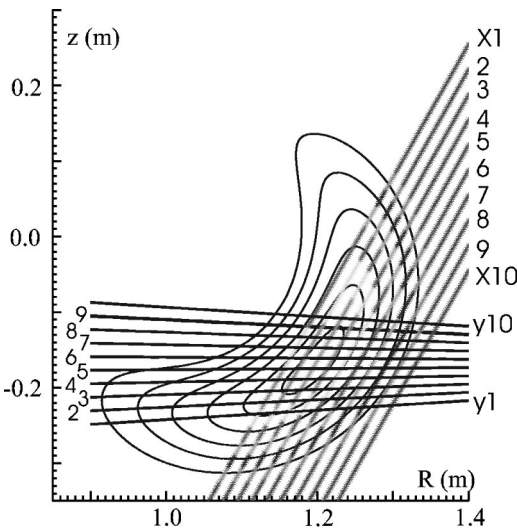


FIG. 3. Viewing chords geometry in the H-1 heliac.

$$CCF(x_i, y_j, \tau) = \langle \tilde{I}(x_i, t) \tilde{I}(y_j, t + \tau) \rangle / \{ \sqrt{\langle \tilde{I}(x_i, t)^2 \rangle \langle \tilde{I}(y_j, t + \tau)^2 \rangle} \}, \quad (4)$$

where the time lag τ between the signals x_i and y_j is in the range $\tau = (-T/2, T/2)$ and T is the analyzed time interval. For the results presented in the article, signals are digitized at the rate of 2 MHz and T is typically $T = 10$ ms. CCFs are computed for intersecting “vertical” and “horizontal” chords to produce a matrix of $10 \times 10 = 100$ CCFs, 20 000 elements in each.

Figure 4 shows a frequency power spectrum of the chord-average line radiation at $\lambda = 488$ nm (ArII) measured along the horizontal chord y_4 , $S_{y_4}(f) = \sqrt{P_{y_4}^*(f) P_{y_4}(f)}$, [Fig. 4(a)] and the cross-power spectrum between chords x_7 and y_4 , $S_{x_7 y_4}(f) = P_{x_7}^*(f) P_{y_4}(f)$, [Fig. 4 (b)]. Here, P_{y_n} denotes the Fourier transform of the signal y_n and asterisk de-

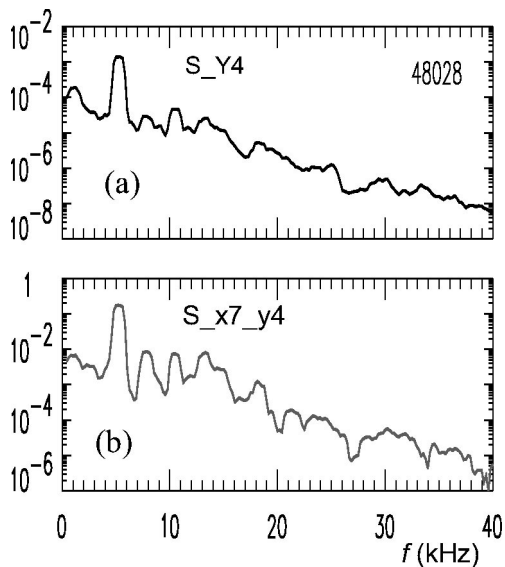


FIG. 4. Frequency spectra of the (a) fluctuations in the spectral line intensity collected along the horizontal chord y_4 and (b) the cross-power spectrum of the signals x_7 and y_4 .

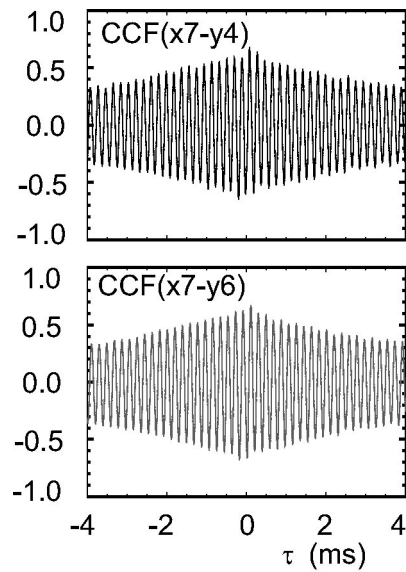


FIG. 5. Cross-correlation functions between signals (a) x_7 - y_4 and (b) x_7 - y_6 .

notes the complex conjugate. As it has been previously observed using probes, the fluctuation spectra show both the broadband exponentially decaying turbulence and several coherent modes in the range of $f = 3 - 20$ kHz.

Figure 5 shows CCFs computed using two poloidally separated signals y_4 and y_6 “crossed” with the mid radius vertical chord signal x_7 . Since the signal spectra are dominated by a strong coherent mode at the frequency of about 6 kHz (seen in Fig. 4) the cross-correlation functions are relatively slow-decaying sinusoidal functions. The correlation time is typically about 6 ms. Nevertheless, a well-defined maximum of the CCF is always observed. A time delay at which the CCFs are peaked is nonzero and it is used here to estimate the propagation velocity of the fluctuations. The delay between the two maxima of the CCFs shown in Fig. 5 is between 1 and 30 μ s. Figure 6 shows the delay between the CCFs maxima as a function of the separation Δy between the horizontal chords y_4 to y_7 cross-correlated with x_5 . The time delay is a linear function of Δy for the

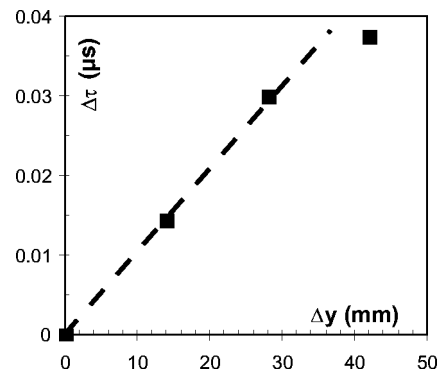


FIG. 6. Time delay $\Delta\tau$ between maxima of the pairs of the cross-correlation functions as a function of the poloidal separation Δy between horizontal viewing chords. The following pairs were used: $CCF(x_5-y_4)$ - $CCF(x_5-y_5)$, $CCF(x_5-y_5)$ - $CCF(x_5-y_6)$, $CCF(x_5-y_4)$ - $CCF(x_5-y_6)$, $CCF(x_5-y_5)$ - $CCF(x_5-y_7)$, $CCF(x_5-y_4)$ - $CCF(x_5-y_7)$.

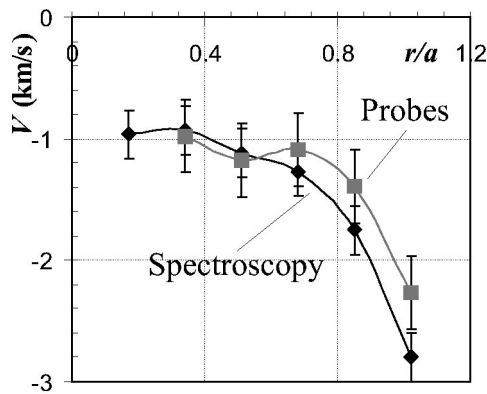


FIG. 7. Radial profiles of the turbulence poloidal propagation velocity as measured using probes (squares) and derived from the time delay spectroscopic technique (diamonds).

pairs of CCF separated by up to two chords, such as $CCF(x_5-y_4)-CCF(x_5-y_5)$, $CCF(x_5-y_5)-CCF(x_5-y_6)$, $CCF(x_5-y_4)-CCF(x_5-y_6)$, $CCF(x_5-y_5)-CCF(x_5-y_7)$. However, for larger poloidal separation, e.g., $CCF(x_5-y_4)-CCF(x_5-y_7)$, $\Delta\tau$ deviates from the straight line, probably because the x_5-y_4 and x_5-y_7 intersection points do not lie on the same flux surface.

The poloidal propagation velocity of the electrostatic potential fluctuations has also been measured using the floating potentials from two poloidally separated probes ($\Delta y = 3.5$ mm). The phase between them $\Delta\phi$ is computed in the frequency domain and the poloidal wave number is computed as $k_{\text{pol}}(\omega) = \Delta\phi(\omega)/\Delta y$.⁸ The poloidal propagation velocity derived from the probes is determined as $V = \omega/k_{\text{pol}}$ and it agrees with the measured $\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$ drift velocity, $V_E = E_r/B_T$ to within 10%.

Figure 7 shows the comparison between the poloidal propagation velocities of the fluctuations as determined using the cross-correlation analysis of the line intensities ($V_{\text{pol}} = \Delta y/\Delta\tau$) and the probes. The radial profile of the velocity from the cross-correlation technique is obtained by measuring the time delays between the maxima of the $CCF(x_4-y_4-y_6), \dots, CCF(x_9-y_4-y_6)$. A reasonable agreement between the two poloidal velocities is observed over a wide radial region.

Summarizing, it has been demonstrated that using a relatively simple experimental setup a good estimate of the plasma poloidal rotation velocity has been obtained from the chord-average spectroscopic measurements of the line emission. This technique has also been used to derive the poloidal rotation velocities in the electron cyclotron resonance heated (ECRH) plasma at higher-magnetic field ($B = 0.5$ T). In this case, the broadband turbulence dominates the turbulence spectra. The time-delay analysis has produced a plausible estimate of the poloidal drift velocity, though the time resolution has not always been sufficient due to the higher velocities observed in the ECRH plasma. A higher digitization rate (up to 4–6 MHz) is necessary to improve the resolution of the method.

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