

Challenges for Fusion Theory

S. C. Cowley^{1,2}

¹*CCFE, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3DB, UK*

²*Department of Physics, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BZ, UK*

Turbulence, beta limits and technology limits have driven fusion research to larger and larger size machines. Smaller, cheaper and simpler reactors are certainly preferable — and they require improvements in plasma performance. There is clear evidence for improved confinement regimes — but still no predictive theory. Reduced turbulence, while desirable, often results in explosive instability — but not inevitably. I will discuss the physics of these challenges.