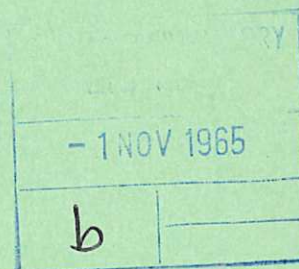
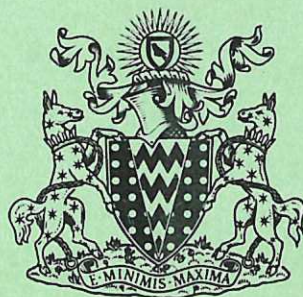


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United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

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Preprint

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1965

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NEGATIVE V'' ON A GENERAL MAGNETIC AXIS

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(Submitted for publication in Physics of Fluids)

A B S T R A C T

A general expression is derived for the value of V'' on a magnetic axis of arbitrary shape. This generalises the result obtained by Lenard for a straight magnetic axis but also indicates a fundamental difference between the general problem and that with a straight axis.

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August, 1965. (C/18 MEA)

Superior hydromagnetic plasma stability properties have been attributed^(1,2) to vacuum magnetic fields in which $V'' = \frac{d^2V}{dF^2} < 0$, where $V(\psi)$ is the volume enclosed by a magnetic surface $\psi = \text{constant}$ which encloses longitudinal flux $F(\psi)$.

Of particular interest is the value of V'' on the magnetic axis itself, and recently Lenard⁽²⁾ gave a general formula for $V''(0)$ in terms of the shape of the flux surfaces about a straight magnetic axis. This note describes the analogous expression for $V''(0)$ on a magnetic axis of arbitrary shape.

Our calculation of $V''(0)$ follows closely the work of Mercier⁽³⁾ on the determination of hydromagnetic equilibria in which the flux surfaces are expanded in powers of the distance ρ from the magnetic axis, $\psi = \rho^2 \psi_2 + \rho^3 \psi_3 + \dots$. Indeed our work is concerned with the limiting case of Mercier's, but it is simpler and more illuminating to derive V'' directly for a vacuum field than to use the general theory of equilibria. If the axis is straight then $V''(0)$ can be expressed in terms of the lowest order flux function ψ_2 only, but if the axis has a non-zero curvature then we find that $V''(0)$ can no longer be defined solely in terms of ψ_2 but involves also a knowledge of ψ_3 .

We consider a magnetic field $\underline{B} = \nabla \phi$ where

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0 \quad \dots (1)$$

possessing a magnetic axis and a set of toroidal magnetic surfaces, $\psi = \text{constant}$, defined by

$$\underline{B} \cdot \nabla \psi = \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \psi = 0 \quad \dots (2)$$

If $\underline{X}(\zeta)$ is a point a distance ζ along the axis, then a general point can be defined as

$$\underline{R} = \underline{X}(\zeta) + \underline{n}(\zeta) \rho \cos \theta + \underline{b}(\zeta) \rho \sin \theta \quad \dots (3)$$

Where \underline{n} and \underline{b} are the unit normal and bi-normal. A point in the neighbourhood of the axis can thus be described by coordinates (ρ, θ, ζ) . However, (ρ, θ, ζ) are not orthogonal and it is often convenient to employ the orthogonal set (ρ, θ_0, ζ) where θ_0 is defined by

$$\theta_0 = \theta + \int \frac{d\zeta}{T}$$

and $T(\zeta)$ is the torsion of the axis. Then the line element is

$$dR^2 = d\rho^2 + \rho^2 d\theta_0^2 + (1 - \epsilon \rho \cos \theta)^2 d\zeta^2 \quad \dots (4)$$

where ϵ^{-1} is the radius of curvature.

We now expand φ and ψ as

$$\varphi = \sum \rho^n \varphi_n (\theta, \zeta) \quad \dots (5)$$

$$\psi = \sum \rho^n \psi_n (\theta, \zeta) \quad \dots (6)$$

where, because $\rho = 0$ is the magnetic axis,

$$\varphi_0 = \varphi_0 (\zeta), \varphi_1 = 0, \psi_0 = \psi_1 = 0.$$

The requirement of analyticity at $\rho = 0$ means that ψ_2 can be written in the form

$$\psi_2 = a + b \cos 2u, \quad \dots (7)$$

where $u = \theta - \frac{d}{2}$. The functions $a(\zeta)$ and $b(\zeta)$ are periodic functions of ζ with period L , the length of the axis, and the phase factor $d(\zeta)$ is a function which changes by an integral multiple of 4π when ζ increases by L .

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_3 &= p \cos u + q \sin u + r \cos 3u + s \sin 3u \\ \varphi_2 &= A + B \cos 2u + C \sin 2u \\ \varphi_3 &= P \cos u + Q \sin u + R \cos 3u + S \sin 3u \end{aligned} \quad \dots (8)$$

where $p = p(\zeta)$ etc.

We now substitute the expansions (5) and (6) into equations (1) and (2) and equate coefficients of ρ^m . In the lowest significant order equations (1) and (2) are satisfied if

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \frac{(a^2 - b^2)'}{8x} \\ B &= \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)' \frac{a^2}{4x} \\ C &= \frac{Dbx}{2a} \\ \varphi_0' &= -x. \end{aligned} \quad \dots (9)$$

where

$$x = (a^2 - b^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}, D = \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{d'}{2}\right) \quad \dots (10)$$

and the prime denotes derivative with respect to ζ . The functions $a(\zeta)$, $b(\zeta)$ and $d(\zeta)$ which define the flux surfaces to lowest order can therefore be chosen arbitrarily and the corresponding potential is then determined. In calculating V'' about a straight axis only these lowest order quantities are needed, but to calculate V'' about a general axis, one needs to determine also the corresponding quantities in next order.

To third order in ρ , equation (2) yields four relations

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(6A + 4B) + q(4C + Dx) + 6Br + 6Cs + P(6a + 4b) + 6bR - p'x - 2\epsilon xa'\mu - \epsilon xb'\mu - 2\epsilon xDb\lambda &= 0 \\
 p(4C - Dx) + q(6A - 4B) - 6Cr + 6Bs + Q(6a - 4b) + 6bS - q'x - 2\epsilon xa'\lambda + \epsilon xb'\lambda - 2\epsilon xDb\mu &= 0 \\
 2Bp - 2Cq + 6Ar + 3Dxs + 2bP + 6aR - r'x - \epsilon xb'\mu + 2\epsilon xDb\lambda &= 0 \\
 2Cp + 2Bq - 3xDr + 6As + 2bQ + 6aS - s'x - \epsilon xb'\lambda - 2\epsilon xDb\mu &= 0
 \end{aligned} \dots (11)$$

where $\mu = \cos \frac{d}{2}$ and $\lambda = \sin \frac{d}{2}$. To third order in ρ , equation (1) provides two further relations,

$$\begin{aligned}
 8P - 6\epsilon A\mu - 2\epsilon B\mu - 2\epsilon C\lambda - (\epsilon\mu x)' + \epsilon xD\lambda &= 0 \\
 8Q - 6\epsilon A\lambda + 2\epsilon B\lambda - 2\epsilon C\mu - (\epsilon\lambda x)' - \epsilon xD\mu &= 0
 \end{aligned} \dots (12)$$

The set of equations (11) and (12) thus gives six relations between the eight third order quantities p, q, r, s, P, Q, R, S , so that only two arbitrary functions are involved in the specification of the third order terms. Consequently, whereas all the functions a, b, d which are needed to specify ψ_2 can be selected arbitrarily only two of the four functions defining ψ_3 can be so chosen. The degree of arbitrariness in ψ_3 is illustrated by the following. If we were to eliminate P, Q, R, S from equations (11) - (12) we would get two equations which could be put in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha' &= L_1(\alpha, \beta, r, s) + \epsilon Q_1 \\
 \beta' &= L_2(\alpha, \beta, r, s) + \epsilon Q_2
 \end{aligned} \dots (13)$$

where $\alpha = (ap - br)$, $\beta = (aq - bs)$ and L_1, L_2 are linear in α, β, r, s . Consequently it is in general possible to write $p(\zeta), q(\zeta), r(\zeta), s(\zeta)$ as linear combinations of $\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'$ where $\alpha(\zeta)$ and $\beta(\zeta)$ are two arbitrary functions.

With these preliminaries we are now in a position to calculate V'' . The flux through a surface $\psi = \text{constant}$ is given by

$$F(\psi) = \int_0^{2\pi} du \int_0^{\rho(\psi)} d\rho (1 - \epsilon\rho \cos \theta)^{-1} \rho \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \zeta} \dots (14)$$

and the volume enclosed by $\psi = \text{constant}$ is

$$V(\psi) = \int_0^L d\zeta \int_0^{2\pi} du \int_0^{\rho(\psi)} d\rho \rho (1 - \epsilon\rho \cos \theta) \dots (15)$$

where $\rho(\psi)$ is obtained by inverting the expansion (6) to give

$$\rho = \psi^{\frac{1}{2}} R_1 + \psi R_2 + \dots \dots (16)$$

where

$$R_1^2 = \frac{1}{\psi_2} \quad \text{and} \quad R_2 = \frac{-\psi_3}{2(\psi_2)^2} .$$

Using these series expansions and equation (9) we eventually obtain for V'' the expression.

$$V''(0) = \frac{1}{\pi} \oint d\zeta \left\{ L_0 + \varepsilon L_1 + \varepsilon^2 L_2 \right\} \quad \dots (17)$$

where

$$L_0 = \frac{-1}{4x^7} \left[(a^2 - b^2) (a'^2 - b'^2) a - (a^2 - b^2)' [2a'(a^2 + b^2) - 4abb'] \right] + \frac{D^2 b^2}{ax^3} \quad \dots (18)$$

$$L_1 = \frac{1}{x^5} \left[(a-b) (2a-b) \mu p + (a+b) (2a+b) \lambda q - 3br\mu (a-b) - 3bs\lambda (a+b) \right] \quad \dots (19)$$

$$L_2 = -\frac{1}{2x^3} \left[(a-b) \mu^2 + (a+b) \lambda^2 \right] . \quad \dots (20)$$

It should be noted that equation (17) is an exact result not merely the first few terms in an expression in powers of ε . The expression for L_1 is equivalent to that given by Lenard for the straight axis and our result reduces to his in the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and $T \rightarrow \infty$.

When $\varepsilon = 0$, V'' is determined by the second order quantities $a(\zeta)$, $b(\zeta)$, $d(\zeta)$ only, but if $\varepsilon \neq 0$ it depends also on the third order terms and so involves two extra functions which are independent of $a(\zeta)$, $b(\zeta)$, $d(\zeta)$. It is impossible, therefore, to deduce the value of V'' for a system with non-zero curvature merely from its value for the corresponding straight system. In particular, the determination of a form for ψ_2 which generates a negative value for V'' in a straight system does not guarantee that the same ψ_2 will generate V'' in a toroidal system, even one of small curvature, unless the ψ_3 contribution is made sufficiently small. Equally, it is possible to select ψ_3 so that the curved system has a negative V'' even though the straight one does not.

A particularly simple case which has non zero curvature is the helically invariant system in which the functions a , b , d , p , q are all independent of ζ . In this case it is convenient to leave r , s as the independent quantities in ψ_3 . One then finds

$$V'' = \frac{b^2}{T^2 ax^3} - \frac{3\epsilon b}{x^5} \left[\mu (a-b) r + \lambda (a+b) s \right] + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{4x^5} \left[\mu^2 (a-b) (4a^2 - 5ab + 3b^2) + \lambda^2 (a+b) (4a^2 + 5ab + 3b^2) \right] \quad \dots (21)$$

and we note in particular that if the lowest order flux surfaces are circular ($b = 0$) then $V'' > 0$. This expression has been used by the present authors in a survey of the V'' properties of helically invariant field⁽⁴⁾.

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