CONTENTS

Preface xi

1 Introduction **1**
- 1.1 Brief description of spheromaks 1
- 1.2 History and time-line 6

2 Basic Concepts **17**
- 2.1 Vacuum magnetic fields 17
- 2.2 Poloidal and toroidal fields 18
- 2.3 Magnetic stress tensor 20
- 2.4 Beta 24
- 2.5 Magnetic flux and symmetry 24
- 2.6 Poloidal flux 24
- 2.7 Poloidal flux and particle confinement 25
- 2.8 Relation between field, field lines, and flux 26
- 2.9 Safety factor 28
- 2.10 The plasma as a magnetic flux conserver 32
- 2.11 The condition for frozen-in flux 33
- 2.12 Tendency of the plasma to maximize its inductance 35
- 2.13 Cowling's theorem 35

3 Magnetic Helicity **37**
- 3.1 The issue of analyticity in Gauss's and Stokes's theorems 37
- 3.2 Definition of magnetic helicity 39
- 3.3 Helicity, safety factor, and twist of an isolated flux tube 42
- 3.4 Gauge invariance 45
- 3.5 Relative helicity 45
- 3.6 Simply connected volumes v. doubly connected volumes 49
- 3.7 Helicity conservation equation 50
- 3.8 Single species helicity 58
- 3.9 Magnetic reconnection 60
- 3.10 Geometric interpretation of magnetic helicity 61
- 3.11 Magnetic reconnection and helicity conservation 63
- 3.12 Reconnection and dissipation 66

4 Relaxation of an Isolated Configuration to the Taylor State **71**
- 4.1 Introduction 71

4.2 Helicity decay rate v. magnetic energy decay rate 72
4.3 Derivation of the isolated Taylor state 73
4.4 Relationship between helicity, energy, eigenvalue 75
4.5 Cylindrical force-free states 77
4.6 Comparison of minimum energy states in a long cylinder 79
4.7 Spheromaks in spherical geometry 80

5 Relaxation in Driven Configurations 87
5.1 Taylor relaxation in systems with open field lines 87
5.2 Helicity injection 91
5.3 Impedance of the driven force-free configuration 92

6 The MHD Energy Principle, Helicity, and Taylor States 95
6.1 Derivation of the MHD Energy Principle 95
6.2 Relationship of the energy principle to Taylor states 101
6.3 Beta limit 103

7 Survey of Spheromak Formation Schemes 109
7.1 Magnetized coaxial gun 110
7.2 Non-axisymmetric gun method 117
7.3 The inductive method 117
7.4 Z-Theta pinch method 120

8 Classification of Regimes: an Imperfect Analogy to Thermodynamics 123
8.1 Analogy to thermodynamics 123
8.2 Classification of thermodynamic problems 123
8.3 Analogy between lambda and temperature 126
8.4 Strong and weak coupling 128
8.5 Overview of next five chapters 128

9 Analysis of Isolated Cylindrical Spheromaks 129
9.1 Flux, current, magnetic field, helicity and energy 129
9.2 Experimental measurements 135
9.3 Safety factor 136

10 The Role of the Wall 143
10.1 Helicity insulation 143
10.2 Equilibrium 143
10.3 Tilt stability 146

11 Analysis of Driven Spheromaks: Strong Coupling 155
11.1 Force-free equilibria with open field lines 156
11.2 Flux surfaces 162
11.3 Safety factor variation with lambda 167
11.4 Flux amplification 170
11.5 Relative helicity 171
11.6 Relative energy 174
11.7 Gun efficiency 175
11.8 Gun impedance and load line 177

12 Helicity Flow and Dynamos 183
12.1 Downhill flow of helicity 183
12.2 Dynamos and relaxation mechanisms 185
12.3 Observations of dynamo behavior 189
12.4 Deviation from the Taylor state 196
12.5 MHD dynamo, helicity flux, and lambda gradient 199

13 Confinement and Transport in Spheromaks 207
13.1 Overview 207
13.2 Confinement times 209
13.3 Survey of transport mechanisms 209
13.4 Experiments on transport in spheromaks 218
13.5 Anomalous ion heating 222

14 Some Important Practical Issues 227
14.1 Breakdown and Paschen curves 227
14.2 Gas puff valves 232
14.3 Wall desorption and contamination 234
14.4 Impurity line radiation 236
14.5 Refractory electrode materials 239
14.6 Skin effect and the wall as a flux conserver 239
14.7 Inductance budget 240
14.8 Mechanical forces 241
14.9 Noise radiation from pulsed power supplies 241
14.10 Ground loops 242

15 Basic Diagnostics for Spheromaks 243
15.1 Magnetic field and electric current measurement 243
15.2 Equilibrium reconstruction using measurements at the wall 248
15.3 Voltage measurements 248

15.4 Density measurement 249
15.5 Ion temperature measurement 255
15.6 Electron temperature measurement 257
15.7 Impurity radiation measurements 260

16 Applications of Spheromaks 263
16.1 The spheromak as a fusion reactor 263
16.2 Accelerated spheromaks 269
16.3 Tokamak Fuel injection 274
16.4 Helicity injection current drive in tokamaks 275
16.5 Colliding spheromaks to investigate magnetic reconnection 277
16.6 Proposed additional spheromak applications 281

17 Solar and Space Phenomena Related to Spheromaks 283
17.1 Sun-Earth connection viewed as helicity flux/relaxation 291
17.2 A spheromak-like laboratory model of solar prominences 293
17.3 S-shapes 297
17.4 Flux tube bifurcation and breakup 298
17.5 Comparison of magnetic field, field lines, flux tubes 299
17.6 Relaxation and line tying 300
17.7 Prominence simulation experiment 300

References 303
Appendix A: Vector Identities and Operators 315
Appendix B: Bessel Orthogonality Relations 317
Appendix C: Capacitor Banks 321
Appendix D: Selected Formulae 325
Index 333