



Contribution ID: 225

Type: Oral Presentation

EX/5-3: Observation of GAM Induced by Energetic Electrons and NL Interactions among GAM, BAEs and Tearing Modes on the HL-2A Tokamak

Thursday, 11 October 2012 12:05 (20 minutes)

The very low-frequency (LF) Alfvénic and acoustic fluctuations, such as beta-induced Alfvén eigenmode (BAE), and geodesic acoustic mode (GAM), are presently of considerable interest in the present-day fusion and future burning plasmas. The low-frequency waves can significantly affect the plasma performance, and induce the particle losses and reduce the plasma self-heating. These LF instabilities can play a key role in turbulence and anomalous transport regulation, especially, while there is significant fraction of high energy particles in plasma. They can be used as energy channels to transfer the fusion-born-alpha-particle energy to the thermonuclear plasma, i.e. GAM/BAE channeling.

The energetic-electron and magnetic-island induced BAEs had been observed and investigated on HL-2A in the previous works. In the present paper, we will present our further works about the LF Alfvénic and acoustic modes, and it is reported that the first experimental results are associated with the GAM induced by energetic-electrons (termed eGAM) in HL-2A Ohmic plasma. The energetic-electrons are generated by parallel electric fields during magnetic reconnection associated with tearing mode (TM). The energy spectra, which detected by Cadmium-telluride (CdTe) scintillators, indicate that the energetic electrons redistribute during strong TM. The magnetic fluctuation spectrogram indicates that the eGAM is always accompanied by TM and BAEs. The eGAM is not observed in the absence of strong TM and BAEs, and its mode frequency always complies with $f_{\text{GAM}} = f_{\text{BAE2}} - f_{\text{TM}}$, $f_{\text{GAM}} = f_{\text{BAE1}} + f_{\text{TM}}$ as well as $f_{\text{GAM}} = (f_{\text{BAE1}} + f_{\text{BAE2}})/2$. The eGAM localizes in the core plasma, i.e. in the vicinity of $q=2$ surface where the ion Landau damping γ_i is larger than the edge due to $\gamma_i \propto \exp(-q^2)$, and is very different from that excited by the drift-wave turbulence in the edge plasma. The analysis indicated that the eGAM is provided with the magnetic components, whose intensities depend on the poloidal angles, and its mode numbers are $|m/n|=2/0$ which are consistent with the theoretical prediction. The new findings give a deep insight into the underlying physics mechanism for the excitation of the LF Alfvénic/acoustic fluctuation and zonal flows (ZFs).

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Session Classification: Waves & Energetic Particles

Track Classification: EXW - Magnetic Confinement Experiments: Wave-plasma interactions; current drive; heating; energetic particles