Progress towards development of long pulse ITER operation trough RF heated H-mode experiments in **EAST and HL-2A**



A. Ekedahl¹, X.Z. Gong², X.Y. Bai³, L. Delpech¹, B.J. Ding², X.R. Duan³, M. Goniche¹, J. Hillairet¹, G.T. Hoang¹, M.H. Li², Y.C. Li², B. Lu³, D. Mazon¹, D. Moreau¹, Y. Peysson¹, J.P. Qian², S.D. Song³, X.M. Song³, G. Urbanczyk¹, B.N. Wan², G.L. Xiao³, M. Xu³, X.D. Yang², L. Zhang², Y.P. Zhang³, W.L. Zhong³, X.L. Zou¹, C. Castaldo⁴, R. Cesario⁴, F. Napoli⁴, A.A. Tuccillo⁴, EAST Team² and HL-2A Team³

¹⁾ CEA, IRFM, F-13108 Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, France.



²⁾ Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hefei 230031, China. ³⁾ Southwestern Institute of Physics, P.O. Box 432, Chengdu 610041, China. ⁴⁾ ENEA, C.R. Frascati, Via E. Fermi 45, 00044 Frascati, Roma, Italy.



LHCD results in EAST for long pulse optimisation

Long pulse, steady state operation ($V_{Loop} = 0$) requires efficient noninductive current drive system, e.g. Lower Hybrid Current Drive (LHCD).

Efficient LH current drive: Optimisation of LH coupling conditions needed.

LHCD results with the PAM in HL-2A

- ✓ Collaboration CEA/IRFM-SWIP on LHCD since 2013.
- ✓ Passive Active Multijunction (PAM) launcher [7] designed by SWIP, assisted by IRFM.
- Four klystrons (3.7 GHz) installed and commissioned as part of the collaboration.

shot 67341/USN W divertor

- ✓ The LHCD systems in EAST (4.6 GHz and 2.45) GHz) [1] are crucial for long pulse, steady state operation.
- ✓ 100 s long H-mode achieved ([2] X Z Gong et al., this conference, paper EX/3-1).
- ✓ Joint experiments on LH coupling and LH current drive carried out in view of optimisation for long pulse operation.
- Experiments supported with modelling with EU codes: ALOHA [3], C3PO/LUKE [4], LH^{star} [5].



- ✓ Fast Electron Bremsstrahlung camera, on loan from IRFM, installed on HL-2A.
- Joint experiments on LH current drive, LH coupling in H-mode, ELM-control [8].



LH coupling and CD efficiency experiments





LH coupling on ELMs and ELM control on HL-2A



Edge density n [m⁻³] x 10¹⁷

Two different LHCD systems: LH coupling needs to be optimised for both simultaneously, i.e. low reflection coefficients (RC) needed.

Non-linear effects can be observed (ponderomotive force). Can decrease LH current drive efficiency at high LHCD power [6]. Control of edge conditions important.

Study of the CD efficiency shows effect of Lithium coating. Highest CD efficiency obtained after several Lithium evaporations [6]. Higher CD efficiency probably due to higher T_e lower and/or lower Z_{eff} .



It=-10000A - Bt=-2.25T - Ip=0.4MA - USN <n > e lin 1.3₁ Lithium Lithium free 3.2 evaporation ∼1.2 Е Lithium aerosols ٧¹ HCD efficiency (10¹⁹A.) 6'0 6'0 10 2'0 8'0 10 -2.8 2.6 2.4 프 0.6 2.2 0.51 10² 10 10⁻¹ Discharge Number - 61800

LHCD modelling for EAST full current drive discharges

Several EAST discharges close to Vloop = 0V have been modelled with C3PO/LUKE [4]. The ALOHA code [3] is used to provide the LH power spectra launched by the antennas.

КC

The current profile and tendency in I_i-variation can be well reproduced

	040	250
4 $n (m-3 1019)$ (a)	240 $(1 > (A/am^2))$	(b)



- $\overline{n_e} (10^{19} m^{-3})$ t(ms)ELM-frequency increases 0.9 MW LHCD coupled in H-ELM-effect depends mode [7]. LHCD power helps on LHCD power and and ELM-amplitude
 - decreases during LHCD.
- plasma density.
- ELM-control effect is synchronized with an increase of the pedestal turbulence, measured by Doppler reflectometry.
- \rightarrow ELM control seems to be strongly correlated to pedestal turbulence enhancement. ([8] G L Xiao et al., this conference, paper EX/7-4).

Recent results: V_{Loop} ~ 0 achieved

trigger and sustain H-mode.





References

[1] M H Li et al., Phys. Plasmas **23** (2016) 102512 [2] X Z Gong et al., this conference, paper EX/3-1 [3] J Hillairet et al., Nucl. Fusion **50** (2010) 125010 [4] Y Peysson et al., EPJ Web Conf. **157** (2017) 03018 [5] R Cesario et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **92** (2004) 175002 [6] M Goniche et al., EPJ Web Conf. 157 (2017) 02007 [7] X Y Bai et al., EPJ Web Conf. 157 (2017) 02001 [8] G L Xiao et al., this conference, paper EX/7-4

Full current drive achieved with 1 MW LHCD ($I_P = 120 \text{ kA}, B_T = 1.3 \text{ T}$).

Summary and outlook

loan from CEA/IRFM, has been installed.

Fairly peaked LH power deposition profile.

- Fruitful collaboration between EU and China over the last couple of years.
- 3.7 GHz LHCD system installed and used successfully in HL-2A: Coupling in H-mode & control of ELMs demonstrated.
- Joint experiments on LH coupling carried out in EAST and HL-2A: 100 s long H-mode achieved in EAST, sustained primarily by LHCD.
- Modelling of EAST and HL-2A results with EU codes: Experimental trends can be well reproduced.
- **Future** joint programme can integrate the preparation of HL-2M operation, in order to support ITER and CFETR.



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