

Isotope identity experiments in JET with ITER-like wall

Friday 14 May 2021 14:00 (17 minutes)

Dimensionless experiments test the invariance of plasma physics to changes in the dimensional plasma parameters, when the canonical dimensionless parameters, such as ρ_{star} , ν_{star} , β , q , ... are conserved [1], [2]. In particular, isotope identity experiments exploit the change in isotope ion mass $A = m_i/m_p$ to obtain plasmas with identical dimensionless profiles in the same tokamak. In order to keep ρ_{star} , ν_{star} , β and q fixed when also varying A , the plasma current, toroidal magnetic field and the density and temperature must scale, respectively, as I_P , $B_T \sim A^{3/4}$, $n \sim A$ and $T \sim \sqrt{A}$ [3]. However, conditions at the plasma boundary, such as influx of neutral particles, may introduce additional physics, potentially invalidating this approach. Moreover, although the isotope mass appears explicitly only in the parameter ρ_{star_i} , changing A in experiment will affect all plasma kinetic profiles, both in the core and edge plasma, therefore achieving an isotope identity is not trivially expected a priori.

An isotope identity pair was first obtained in JET with C wall (JET-C), with Type I ELMy H-modes in H and D [3]. Remarkably, the scaled thermal energy confinement time $\Omega_i \tau_{E,\text{th}} = B \tau_{E,\text{th}}/A$ (with Ω_i the ion cyclotron frequency), scaled ELM frequency, $A f_{\text{ELM}}/B$, and scaled sawtooth frequency, $A f_{\text{saw}}/B$, were all matched, confirming the invariance principle throughout the entire plasma radius despite the different physics processes governing the edge, core confinement and plasma centre regions [3]. We have revisited the isotope identity technique in JET with Be/W ITER-like wall (JET-ILW) with H and D plasmas, both in L-mode and type I ELMy H-mode regimes. Additional aspects are addressed, compared to [3]: i) improved edge kinetic profiles enable careful assessment of profile similarity in the H-mode pedestal region, whose confinement and linear MHD stability is strongly affected by neutrals in JET-ILW [4], [5]; ii) we also seek similarity of the Mach number profile, $M \sim \omega_{\text{tor}} R \sqrt{m_i}/\sqrt{kT_e}$ (toroidal rotation velocity normalized to ion sound speed) and investigate the role of rotation and ExB shear on the heat and particle transport channels, as ExB shear is the relevant parameter for stabilization of Ion Temperature Gradient (ITG) turbulence, which dominates in the core of NBI-heated JET-ILW plasmas.

An L-mode isotope identity pair was obtained in H (1.44MA/1.74T) and D (2.5MA/3.0T) NBI-heated plasmas [6]: the ρ_{star} , ν_{star} , β , q and $T_i/T_e (= 1)$ profiles, as well as the line averaged $Z_{\text{eff}} (= 1.4)$ were all matched in the core confinement region, where the dominant instabilities are ITG modes for both isotopes. The dimensionless thermal energy confinement time, $\Omega_i \tau_{E,\text{th}}$, and the scaled core plasma heat diffusivity, $A \chi_{\text{eff}}/B_T$, are identical in H and D within error bars, indicating lack of isotope mass dependence of the dimensionless L-mode $\tau_{E,\text{th}}$. This result is broadly consistent with the weak, positive isotope scaling of the dimensional $\tau_{E,\text{th}}$ in NBI heated JET-ILW L-modes [7], which originates at the plasma edge, where both particle and heat transport are larger in H than in D [7], [8]. The scaled input power required to obtain the identity, $P_{\text{abs}}/B_T^{5/3}$, is indeed consistent with Bohm-like transport [9]. Predictive flux driven simulations of the H and D identity pair with JETTO-TGLF are in very good agreement with experiment for both isotopes: the stiff core heat transport, typical of JET-ILW NBI heated L-modes, overcomes the local gyro-Bohm scaling of gradient-driven TGLF, explaining the lack of isotope mass dependence in the core confinement region of these plasmas [6]. Although the M -profiles are not matched in H and D (but within 50% from each other), the effect of $E \times B$ shearing on the predicted heat and particle transport channels is found to be negligible for these low β and low momentum input plasmas [6].

In type I ELMy H-modes, an isotope identity pair was obtained in H (H-NBI, 1.0MA/1.0T) and D (D-NBI, 1.7MA/1.7T), with low triangularity (δ) plasma shape. The companion tritium plasma (T-NBI, 2.3MA/2.3T) is planned for the upcoming JET-ILW campaign in tritium. The scaled n_e and T_e profiles were matched in H and D over $\sim 25 \times \tau_{E,\text{th}}$'s - both in the core and pedestal regions (see Figure 1) - as well as the q , $T_i/T_e (= 1)$ profiles and line averaged $Z_{\text{eff}} (= 1.4)$. Matching the scaled ELM frequency ($A f_{\text{ELM}}/B_T = 54 \text{ Hz/T}$) - using f_{ELM} control via feedback on gas injection in the D discharge - was key to achieve similarity of the scaled pedestal density profiles. This is because $n_{e,\text{PED}}$ decreases with increasing f_{ELM} in low δ JET-ILW type I ELMy H-modes [4], where the ELM losses are primarily convective. While the input power required to obtain the isotope identity, $P_{\text{abs}} \sim B_T$, is consistent with gyro-Bohm transport [9], $\Omega_i \tau_{E,\text{th}}$ increases strongly with A , in line with the strong isotope mass scaling derived from the regression of the dimensional energy confinement time of H and D type I ELMy H-modes, $\tau_{E,\text{th}} \sim A^{0.4}$ [7], [10]). The Mach-number profiles are not identical in H and D, but the ExB shear is similar for both isotopes, suggesting the latter as the relevant parameter (and not M) for achieving the identity in ITG dominated H-modes.

In the isotope identity experiments presented here we have sought a match in the ion ρ_{star} , as implicitly assumed in the theory of [1], therefore the electron ρ_{star} profile, $\rho_{\text{star}_e} = (m_e T_e)^{1/2} / (a B_T)$ is not matched. As verified experimentally, this is justified in our case because the plasmas are ITG dominated in the confinement region. On the other hand, in plasmas where electron scale turbulence dominates, matching ρ_{star_e} and not ρ_{star_i} would be required. Thus, care must be taken when using wind tunnel experiments to extrapolate to future experiments [11]. It is doubtful whether this approach would be valid in plasmas where ion –and electron–scale turbulence co-exist with similar strength.

References: [1] Connor J W and Taylor J B 1977 Nucl. Fusion 17 1047; [2] Luce TC et al., 2008 Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 50 043001; [3] Cordey J G et al. 2000 Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 42 A127; [4] Maggi CF et al., 2015 Nucl. Fusion 55 113031; [5] Frassinetti L et al. 2019 Nucl. Fusion 59 076038; [6] Maggi C F et al. 2019 Nucl. Fusion 59 076028; [7] Maggi CF et al., 2018 Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 60 014045; [8] Bonanomi N et al., 2019 Nucl. Fusion 59 126025; [9] Cordey JG et al. 1996 Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 38 A67; [10] Weisen H et al., 2018 IAEA FEC; [11] Garcia J et al., 2019 3rd Asia-Pacific Conference on Plasma Physics

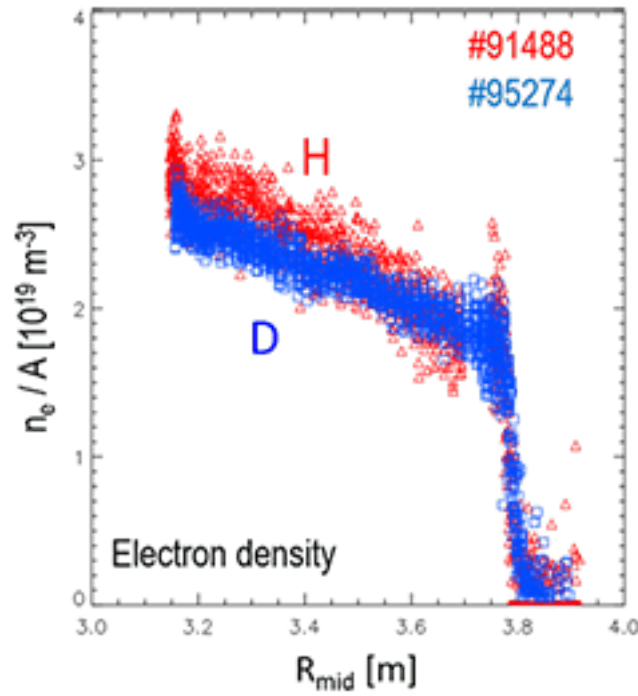


Figure 1: Scalped ELMy averaged profiles n_e/A for the type I ELMy H-mode isotope identity pair in H (1.0MA/1.0T) and D (1.7MA/1.7T).

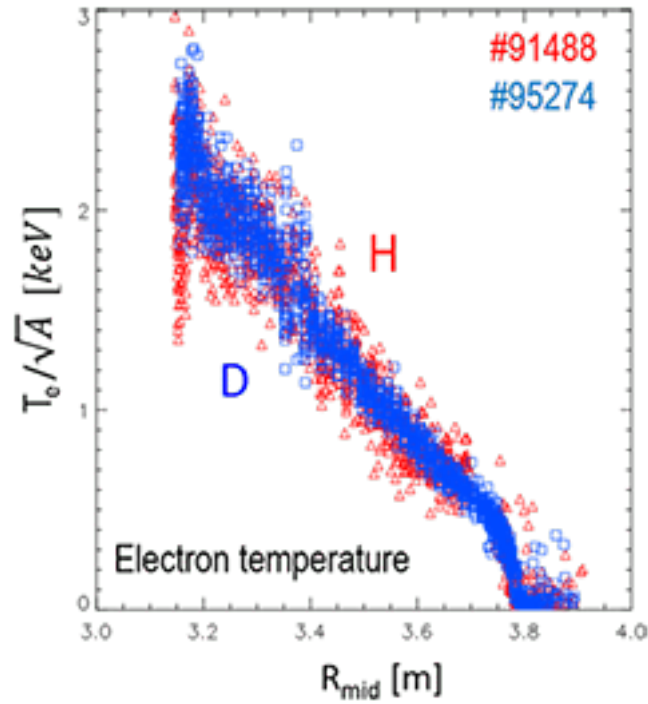


Figure 2: Scaled ELM averaged profiles T_e/\sqrt{A} for the type I ELMy H-mode isotope identity pair in H (1.0MA/1.0T) and D (1.7MA/1.7T).

Acknowledgements. This work has been carried out within the framework of the EUROfusion Consortium and has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 and 2019-2020 under grant agreement No 633053. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission

Country or International Organization

United Kingdom

Affiliation

CCFE

Author: MAGGI, Costanza (CCFE)

Co-authors: WEISEN, Henri (EPFL); CASSON, Francis (UKAEA); AURIEMMA, Fulvio (Consorzio RFX); LORENZINI, Rita (Consorzio RFX, Corso Stati Uniti 4, Padova (Italy)); NORDMAN, Hans (Chalmers University of Technology); Mr DELABIE, Ephrem (ORNL); Dr FLANAGAN, Joanne (UKAEA/CCFE, Culham Science Centre); KEELING, David (CCFE, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, OX14 3DB, UK); Dr KING, Damian (UKAEA); Dr HORVATH, Laszlo (ukaea); MASLOV, Mikhail (UKAEA); Dr MENMUIR, Sheena (Culham Centre for Fusion Energy); SALMI, Antti (VTT); SCHNEIDER, Philip A. (Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik); SIPS, Adrianus (JET Exploitation Unit); TALA, Tuomas (VTT, Association Euratom-Tekes)

Presenter: MAGGI, Costanza (CCFE)

Session Classification: EX/6 Transport and Confinement

Track Classification: Magnetic Fusion Experiments