Progress on Long-pulse Steady-state High Performance Plasma on EAST

by

J. Huang^{1*}

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Acknowledgement

Open Test Bench

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Great Progresses on EAST Benefit from Broad Domestic and Wide International Collaborations!



- Progress of EAST in support of ITER and CFETR
- Key issues in long-pulse and steady-state regime
- Future plans and summary





Progress of EAST in support of ITER and CFETR

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A Steady-state Tokamak Research Aims at Efficient Low Cost Fusion Reactors for a Sufficiently Long Duration

- Steady state operation requires fully noninductive current $I_P = I_{CS} (\rightarrow 0) + I_{BS} + I_{AUX}$
- High self-driven current requires high β_P
- High fusion power requires high pressure β_T
- Long pulse operation requires good particle control and heat flux exhaust



ITER aims at Q≥5 long-pulse (~3000s) and steady-state operation (SSO)



Demonstration of 1056-second Steady-state Plasma with Full Metal Wall on EAST





• Fully non-inductive plasma with improved confinement

- H_{89} ~1.3, total injected energy ~ 1.73 GJ
- $f_{RFCD}{\sim}70\%,\,f_{BS}{\sim}30\%,\,V_{loop}{\sim}0$ with feedback control by LHW
- Enhanced power exhaust with new water-cooled W lower divertor
- Lower recycling control with real-time wall conditioning
- Good control of plasma equilibrium and position over long time scales



Y. Song, Sci. Adv., in press, 2022

Record Duration of 310-second H-mode Plasma Achieved with Tungsten Divertor on EAST



Robust iso-flux control with SP to W-divertor



J. Huang, 64th APS, post-invited talk, 2022

Strategies to Establish the Scientific Basis for Long-pulse **Operation in Support of ITER and CFETR**

S1: Enhance H/CD efficiency & relevant fundamental physics understanding and key diagnostics

S2: Demonstrate long-pulse (≥100s) H-mode plasmas and develop fully non-inductive high-β scenarios

S3: Extend EAST operation regime to demonstrate steady-state high performance plasmas and deliver relevant physics for ITER and CFETR



- Integrated solutions of highperformance LPO
 - High confinement and bootstrap current fraction
 - High RF current drive at high density
 - Core-edge integration
- On time scale of particle and heat balance
 - Particle recycling
 - ELM mitigation and active control
 - Divertor heat exhaust



Demonstrate capabilities of engineering and technical issues for LPO on EAST



- Integrated solutions of highperformance LPO
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Progress of EAST in support of ITER and CFETR

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- Enhanced technical capabilities
- Demonstrate1056s fully noninductive plasma
- Achieve 310s steady-state high-performance plasma

Future plans and summary



Hardware Upgrades Support Long-pulse SSO Research





Hardware Upgrades Support Long-pulse SSO Research



- Rearrangement of ports
- Improved coupling efficiency and injected power
- Guard limiter heat flux capability improvement



Rearrangements to Enhance H&CD Capability



ICRF: B port \rightarrow N port

- 2.45GHz LHCD: N Port \rightarrow B Port
- \rightarrow To reduce interference of H&CD systems



See M. Li's talk on Nov 16, this meeting

Rearrangements to Enhance H&CD Capability



ICRF: B port \rightarrow N port

- 2.45GHz LHCD: N Port \rightarrow B Port
- \rightarrow To reduce interference of H&CD systems
- NBI: F port (ctr-lp) \rightarrow D port (co-lp)

 \rightarrow To reduce prompt loss for improve heating efficiency





J. Huang, NF 2020

See J. Wang's talk on Nov 16, this meeting



Improve Coupling and H&CD Efficiency

- Available 4 Gyrotrons up to 4MW
- \rightarrow Flexible j(r) control and e-heating



ICRF with decreased k_{||}
 → Improve coupling and heating efficiency





See M. Li's talk on Nov 16, this meeting

2.45GHz LHW: FAM→PAM antenna
 → Improve long-distance coupling



ASIPP

Hardware Upgrades Support Long-pulse SSO Research

- Improved heat flux and particle exhaust capability for lower divertor
- Higher spatial and temporal resolution for diagnostics



- Rearrangement of ports
- Improved coupling efficiency and injected power
- Guard limiter heat flux capability improvement



Full Metal Wall with Lower Divertor using W/Cu



- A new lower water-cooled tungsten divertor installed
 - ¾ with the monoblock structure
 - ¼ with the flat-type structure
- Enhanced particle/heat flux load and removal capability
 - More closed geometry with larger slot to increase flow conductance ~36%
 - Increase steady-state heat exhaust to 10MW/m²



Hardware Upgrades Support Long-pulse SSO Research



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Advanced Pumping and Wall Conditioning Technologies



- Improved particle exhaust with larger pumping speed and capacity
- Enhanced fueling efficiency using stable SMBI and DOME puffing
- Effective wall conditioning by intensive lithium coating and real-time control



Hardware Upgrades Support Long-pulse SSO Research





PF-coil Power Supply for EAST LPO and Contribution to ITER

15 kA quench protection



→ EAST

- High availability for long pulse operation
 - 15kA, 200 MVA/1800 s
 - Fault rate less than 0.1%
- High reliability for system protection
 - 100% fault protection
- Fast respond/high stability for plasma control
 - 100% fault protection0.1 ms for voltage source converter
 - 10 ms for current source 4-quadrant converter

See Z. Huang's & Y. Huang's talks on Nov 16, this meeting

PF-coil Power Supply for EAST LPO and Contribution to ITER

15 kA quench protection



→ ITER

See Z. Huang's & Y. Huang's talks on Nov 16, this meeting

- New design for coil power supply
 - 55kA/160MVA converter module for more feasibility
 - Series connection to reduce reactive power for grid compatibility
 - External bypass for more reliability

R&D of ±55kA/160MVA converter system

- Integrated design for better current balance
- Control and protection strategy for reliability and availability
- 120 kA steady-state and 450 kA pulse current test facility

\rightarrow EAST

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±55kA/160MVA converter



Outline

Progress of EAST in support of ITER and CFETR

Key issues in long-pulse and steady-state regime

- Enhanced technical capabilities
- Demonstrate1056s fully noninductive plasma
 - 1. Fully non-inductive current
 - 2. Power and particle handling
 - 3. Performance with plasma stability
 - 4. Stable plasma control
- Achieve 310s steady-state high-performance plasma

Future plans and summary



Improved CD Efficiency due to High T_e and Synergy Effect of ECCD and LHCD



• Fully non-inductive CD with $f_{RF} \sim 70\%$ and $f_{BS} \sim 30\%$ at $\beta_P \sim 1.5$

- Monotonic current profile with q(0)>1
- ECCD is on-axis and LHCD deposits at ρ <0.4 due to good accessibility



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 - Synergy factor as $F_{syn} = \Delta I / I_{EC} \sim 1.64$, due to velocity space diffusions between ECCD and LHCD



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https://www.iter.org/newsline/-/3740

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 - Synergy factor as $F_{syn} = \Delta I / I_{EC} \sim 1.64$, due to velocity space diffusions between ECCD and LHCD
- Similar CD proportion as shown in ITER 10MA Q≥5 SSO with f_{RF} ~66%, f_{BS} ~34% at β_{P} ~1.0



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New Water-cooled W Lower Divertor Significantly Enhanced Particle and Power Exhaust



- Constant plasma density sustained by SMBI fueling
- Global recycling ~0.95-0.97 with real-time lithium injection
- Lower surface temperature on W-PFCs keeps 300-500°C
- Temperature on flat-type div. lower than that on monoblock div.



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Saturated m/n=1/1 Mode Sustained High T_e Plasma with Improved Confinement







- ETG turbulence can be reduced by m/n=1/1 mode
 - 1/1 mode can generate negative current
- Increase q(0)>1 with sawtooth free, helping to form weak magnetic shear
- The self-regulation system to sustain SS LPO
 - The interplay among negative current, kink mode, turbulence
 Li, PRL 2022



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Key Issues in Plasma Control for EAST LPO



It is necessary to control plasma equilibrium and position over long time scales



Roust Plasma Control Succeeded in Long Pulse Time Scale



Shape control

- Good accuracy shape control with Gap <2mm, X-point(R,Z): <3/5mm
 - PEFIT+ISO-FLUX control and new vertical control
 - Magnetic measurement using new fiber optic current sensors
 - Low zero drift integrator with linear drift deduction algorithm in PCS
- Vloop control for fully non-inductive CD
 - Using 4.6GHz LHW with optimized PID controller in PCS



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Future plans and summary



EAST/DIII-D Partnership: Sharing of Resources Accelerates Progress of Long-pulse High-performance Operation

Joint EAST/DIII-D Task Force Development of High B_P Scenario Leaded by A.M. Garofalo, X. Gong



Long-Pulse Initiative: Extend Advancing Physics Understanding on DIII-D to True Steady-State on EAST



Fully Non-inductive High-β_P Scenarios Extension to High Density Regime with Good Confinement



Joint EAST/DIII-D Task Force Development of High β_P Scenario Leaded by A.M. Garofalo, X. Gong



Long-Pulse Initiative: Extend Advancing Physics Understanding on DIII-D to True Steady-State on EAST



See A.M. Garofalo's talk on Nov 15, this meeting

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Experiments Show Improved Confinement when Extending to High β_P Regime



 High energy confinement at high β_p and high density.



- Dominant electron heating
 - T_e-ITB
 - Flat q-profile with q(0)>1.0
 - zero torque, low rotation



Reduced Transport in Electron Energy Channel Consistent with T_e-ITB Formation



- Electron transport reduced in ρ <0.4
 - Consistent with improved confinement



Gong, NF 2021 Qian, POP 2021

- Linear analysis by TGLF
 - TEM modes dominate at ITB
 - ETG modes dominate outside ITB



Transport Modeling Points to Strong Effect of Shafranov Shift



- Energy transport insensitive to E×B shear flow
 - Electrostatic TGLF-SATO, with fixed experimental n_e

Qian, POP 2021 Kotschenreuther, IAEA 2020 Huang, PPCF 2020 Wu, NF 2019



Transport Modeling Points to Strong Effect of Shafranov Shift



- Energy transport insensitive to E×B shear flow
 Electrostatic TGLF-SATO, with fixed experimental n_e
- Electron turbulent energy fluxes decreases with high β_p
 - Consistent with turbulence measurements

Qian, POP 2021 Kotschenreuther, IAEA 2020 Huang, PPCF 2020 Wu, NF 2019



Transport Modeling Points to Strong Effect of Shafranov Shift



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Qian, POP 2021 Kotschenreuther, IAEA 2020 Huang, PPCF 2020 Wu, NF 2019

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• High Shafranov shift (α -stabilization) helps to improve energy confinement

- Shafranov shift ~ $\beta_P \sim \alpha \sim d\beta_P/dr$
- As α increases, unstable eigenfunction becomes narrower in θ



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Future plans and summary





LHCD efficiency drops faster than 1/n_e





LHCD efficiency drops faster than 1/n_e

Parametric Instability (PI) growth rate increased with the density





- LHCD efficiency drops faster than 1/n_e
- Higher LHW frequency has higher CD efficiency
 - PI growth rate smaller with higher LH source frequency





- LHCD efficiency drops faster than 1/n_e
- Higher LHW frequency has higher CD efficiency
- Lower recycling allows higher CD efficiency
 - Lower edge neutral density improve accessibility
 - Higher temperature reduce PI intensity



New Antenna with Decreased k₁₁ Improves ICRF Coupling and Heating Efficiency



High Density Regime Helps to Improve Bootstrap Current Fraction

 $I_{steady-state} = I_{BS} + I_{AUX}$



• Fully non-inductive high- β_P scenarios extension to high density regime – High- β_P generates more f_{BS}



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Lower Density Gradient for Small ELMs on EAST



- Natural small ELMs in high β_P plasma
 - Low n_e gradient and wide pedestal beneficial for small ELMs
- Consistent with BOUT++ nonlinear simulations
 - Expansion of PBM boundary \rightarrow small ELMs
 - Pedestal staying in unstable region \rightarrow large ELMs

Xu, PRL 2019 Yang, NF 2020 Lin, PLA 2022



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Well Controlled High Z Impurity in High B_P Plasma



Well Controlled High Z Impurity in High B_P Plasma

- Small ELMs and high density (n_e/n_G~0.8) reduced W-sputtering
- Avoid high Z impurity accumulation by onaxis ECH
 - W in good control within low level ($C_w \sim 0.3 \times 10^{-5}$)





Modeling Shows Strong Diffusion of TEM in the Central Region Prevents W to Accumulate



- W modeling by QuaLiKiz and NEO
- TEM turbulence dominates
- W density peaking factor driven by the sum of neoclassical and turbulent transport lower than that of electron
 - Strong turbulence diffusion inside ρ <0.45



Long-pulse Plasma Terminated with Increasing Tungsten



60

 Hot spots at local regime of lower divertor, due to leading edge



Long-pulse Plasma Terminated with Increasing Tungsten



- Hot spots at local regime of lower divertor, due to leading edge
- Sputtering and erosion from RF-antenna and guard limiter, also impact on plasma performance

200



time(s)



110143/110479/110488

250



A Compatible Core and Edge Integration by Radiative **Divertor Feedback Control**

Control parameters	Actuator
Total radiation (P _{rad, total})	LFS and divertor neon seeding
Divertor particle flux (j _{sat})	Divertor neon seeding LFS D2 fueling by SMBI
Div. electron temperature (T _{et})	Divertor neon/argon seeding
Div. target temperature (T _{t, peak})	Divertor neon seeding
Div. electron temperature + X-point radiation (T _{et} + P _{rad, X-point})	Divertor neon seeding



- Radiative divertor feedback with a mixture of 50% neon and 50% D2 using Prad.total
- Peak heat flux reduced by 20-30% (IR)
- Confinement maintained H₉₈>1.2



6

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- **Core:** High $\beta_P \sim 2.5 / \beta_N \sim 2.0$ with $H_{98y2} > 1.2$, $f_{Gr} \sim 0.8$, $q_{95} \sim 6.7$
- Pedestal: ELM controlled by RMP n=1
- Divertor: Radiation and splitting



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Wang, NF 2022

- Active detachment control using divertor T_{et}
 feedback for long pulse
- H_{98y2}~1, good core-edge integration





Progress of EAST in support of ITER and CFETR

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Future plans and summary



Challenges and Future Plans

- Need to develop innovative physics understanding & approaches towards ITER&CFETR SS LPO:
 - Handle particle and heat load, materials erosion, elimination of damaging with long pulse
 - Solve divertor/SOL, pedestal, confinement & transport and its trade-off with H&CD



Summary

- Significant progress has been made in long-pulse SSO on EAST
 - Demonstration of a 1056s time scale fully non-inductive plasma
 - Record of duration~310s H-mode plasma (β_P ~2.5, f_{bs}~50%, H_{98(y2)}>1.3) achieved
 - Extension of higher β_P at high density operation scenario with full metal wall
- Advances on the key issues essential for long pulse SSO, providing supports to ITER and CFETR steady state operation
 - Improved confinement with stability, broad j(r), Shafranov shift, e-ITB, high efficiency of H&CD at high density, active controls of radiative divertor, small ELM, plasma control, etc.
 - W accumulation is prevented by TEM when using on-axis ECH
- Near-term plan with upgrade of inner components and augmented H&CD systems
 - 400-1000s long-pulse H-mode operation with >50% bootstrap current fraction
 - Demonstrate SSO with **extended fusion performance** at 15-20 MW power injection >100 s

Thank You For Your Attention Your Suggestions and Comments Will Be Appreciated

