## DIII-D Research to Address Key Challenges for ITER and Fusion Energy

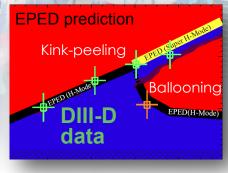
by R.J. Buttery

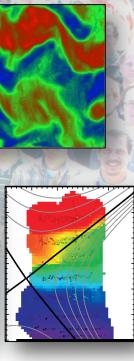
Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> IAEA Fusion Energy Conference St Petersburg, Russia

October 2014









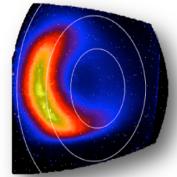


## DIII-D Focus is on Developing the Required Solutions for Fusion Energy Through Improved Scientific Understanding

- Addressing Critical Design and Research Issues for ITER
- Achieving High Performance in Future Burning Plasmas
- Expanding the Frontier toward Fusion Energy

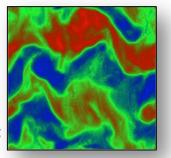
Science → Better Solutions and Confident Projection

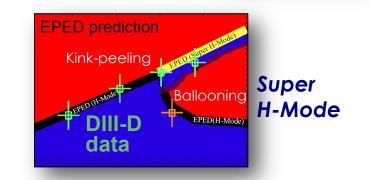




Pitch angle runaway dissipation

Turbulent Transport in burn relevant conditions





# Addressing Critical Design and Research Issues for ITER

- ELMs, Disruptions, Test Blanket,

Non-nuclear operation



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#### RMP-ELM Suppression Requires a Validated Physics Theory To Provide Confidence for ITER

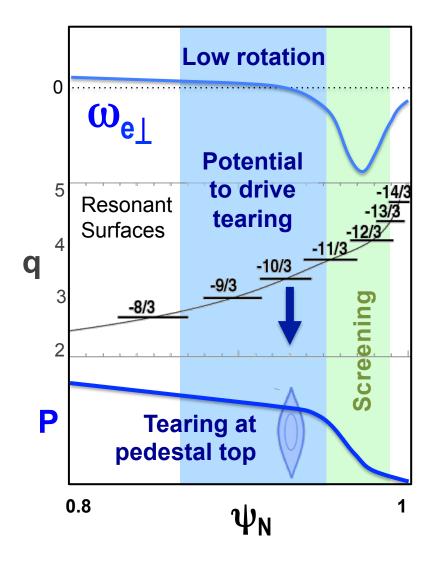
 Hypothesis: 3D fields drive tearing at pedestal top to restrict its width

 $\rightarrow$  Prevents ELM instability

- Requires co-alignment of
  - Low  $\omega_{e\perp}$  rotation region
  - Tearing-resonant surfaces

Nazikian/Wade

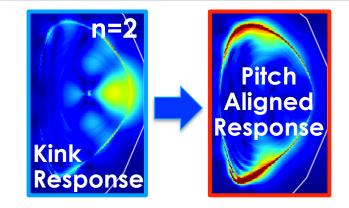
- ...at the pedestal top







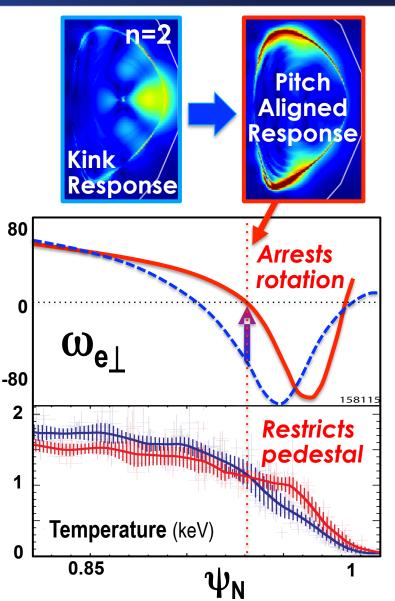
- Vary n=2 field structure from kink to pitch-aligned resonance
  - Two distinct ideal MHD plasma modes
  - Ramp from exciting one to the other







- Vary n=2 field structure from kink to pitch-aligned resonance
- Penetration of pitch-aligned field
  - $-\omega_{e|}$   $\rightarrow$ 0 at pedestal top
  - Pedestal width narrows
  - Transition to ELM suppression



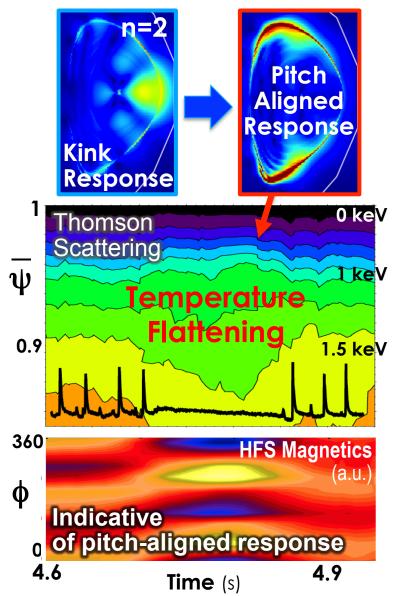




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  - Flattens pedestal temperature

Nazikian/Wade

 Non-linear growth of pitch aligned response



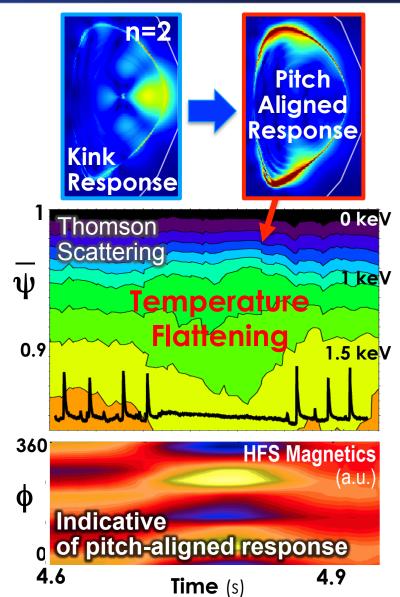


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  - Flattens pedestal temperature
  - Non-linear growth of pitch aligned response
- Validates 2-fluid MHD predictions of island formation & overlap (M3D-C1)

Nazikian/Wade

 Increased confidence in predictions for ITER

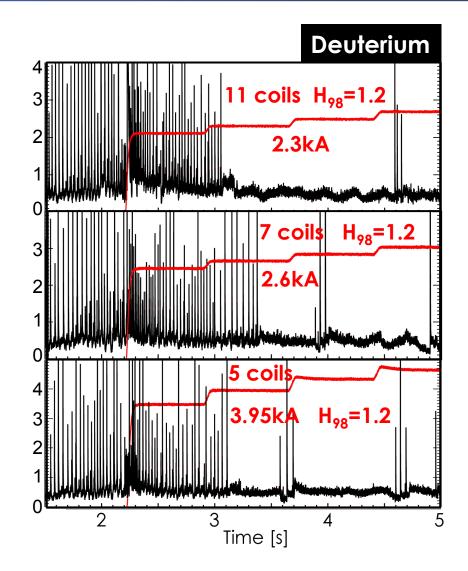




#### ELM Suppression is Robust to Loss of Coils and Helium Operation

- ELM suppression maintained as coils reduced from 12 to 5 →
  - Good H factor maintained
- Current required for suppression is similar in most cases
  - 30% less n=3 power
  - n=2 and n=4 fields increase as n=3 field reduced
- ELM suppression also effective in Helium plasmas
  - Relevant torque & e<sup>-</sup> heating

✓ Affirms ITER's Research Plan

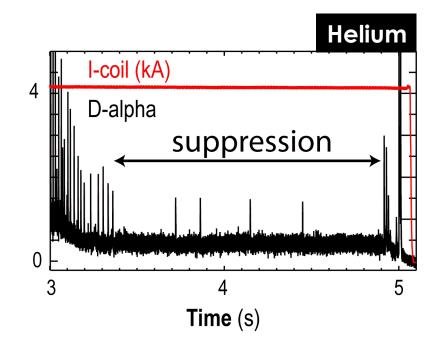




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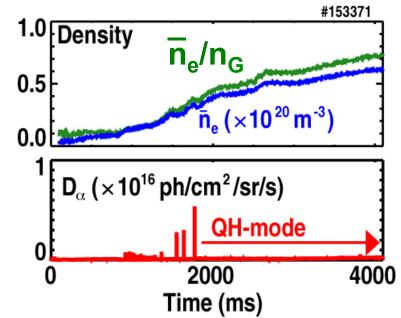
... in collaboration with ITER

## ELM-stable QH Mode Shown Compatible with ITER Greenwald Density and Good Impurity Flushing

#### QH mode relies on an Edge Harmonic Oscillation to regulate the edge

- Compatible with high gas injection ->
  - Greenwald density fractions over 70% achieved
  - Accessed by raising triangularity as predicted by EPED model
- Edge Harmonic Oscillation found to provide good impurity control

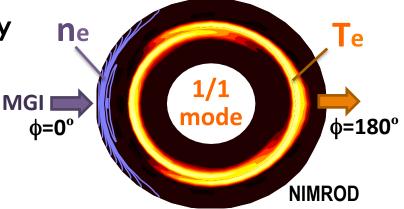
✓ Improved confidence of QH mode access in ITER





### Massive Gas Injection Experiments Consistent with NIMROD Predictions of Modest Disruption Radiation Asymmetry

- NIMROD predicts radiation asymmetry governed by n=1 mode
  - Mode redistributes radiation away from MGI port
- Confirmed by DIII-D data
  - Initial mode 180° away from MGI

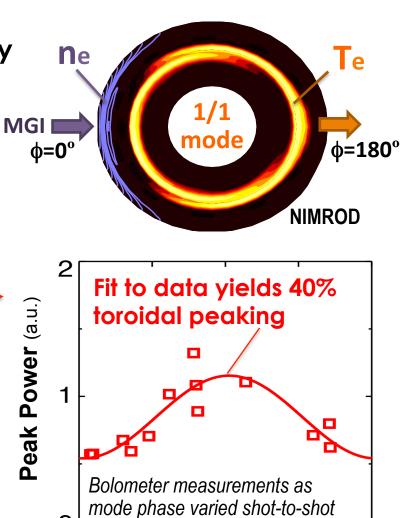




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  - Mode redistributes radiation away from MGI port
- Confirmed by DIII-D data
  - Initial mode 180° away from MGI
  - Can control mode with 3D field to rotate past bolometer in steps
    - Yields modest 40% peaking
  - Matches NIMROD prediction of 40% peaking
  - Modest toroidal radiation asymmetries predicted in ITER





180

n=1 phase (deg)

360

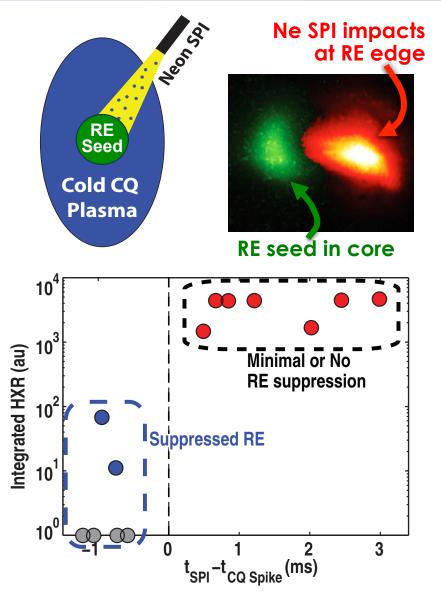
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## DIII-D Developed Promising Runaway Electron Mitigation Solution for ITER

- Injection of Ne Shattered Pellets into early CQ may provide viable path to suppress runaway growth
- RE current dissipation explained by RE-ion pitch angle scattering
  - Higher Z more effective at RE dissipation

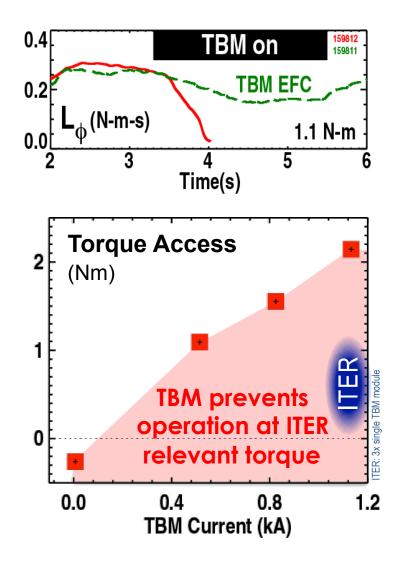
 First demonstration of potential solution for ITER





# Correction of ITER Test Blanket Module Fields Enables Low Torque and High $\beta$ Operation

 Test Blanket Module simulation coil lead to disruptions in low torque baseline



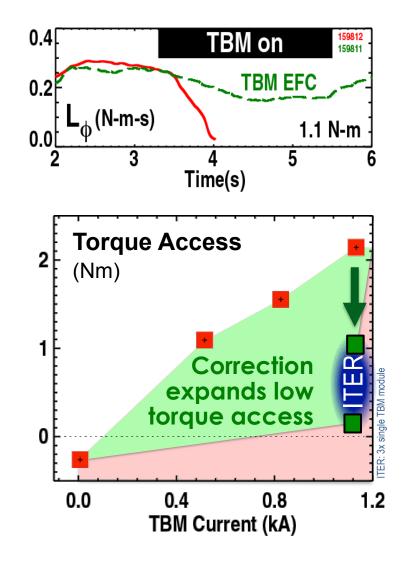


#### ...in collaboration with ITER

# Correction of ITER Test Blanket Module Fields Enables Low Torque and High $\beta$ Operation

- Test Blanket Module simulation coil lead to disruptions in low torque baseline
- Correction fields prevent disruption
  - Restores low torque window of operation for ITER
  - Also recovers performance at high β, reducing local heat loads by 80%

#### ITER Test Blanket Module tolerable with good error field correction





#### ...in collaboration with ITER

# Achieving High Performance in Future Burning Plasmas

 Predictive understanding of optimization and control in relevant conditions

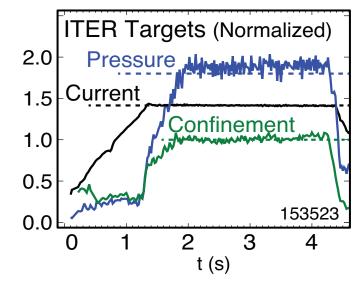


## Unique DIII-D Capabilities Advance Baseline Scenario Toward ITER-Relevant Conditions

- Baseline targets achieved in stationary conditions (> $2\tau_R$ ) with relevant sources
  - Dominant electron heating
  - Low torque
  - Reduced core fueling

#### • Avoid tearing instability:

- Error field correction
- Pedestal/ELM regulation
- Maintain differential rotation



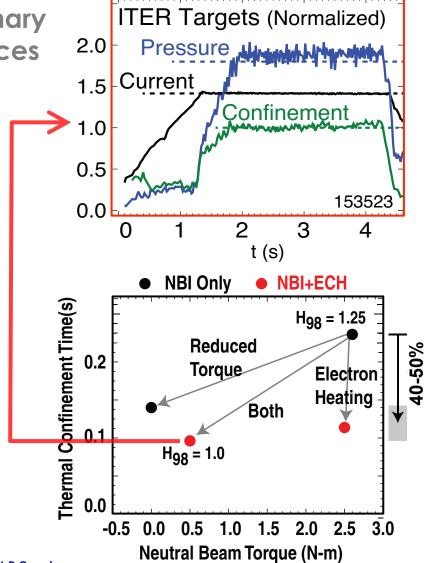




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  - Low torque
  - Reduced core fueling
- Avoid tearing instability:
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  - Pedestal/ELM regulation
  - Maintain differential rotation
- Integration of ITER requirements leads to reduced confinement

Luce, Paz-Soldan



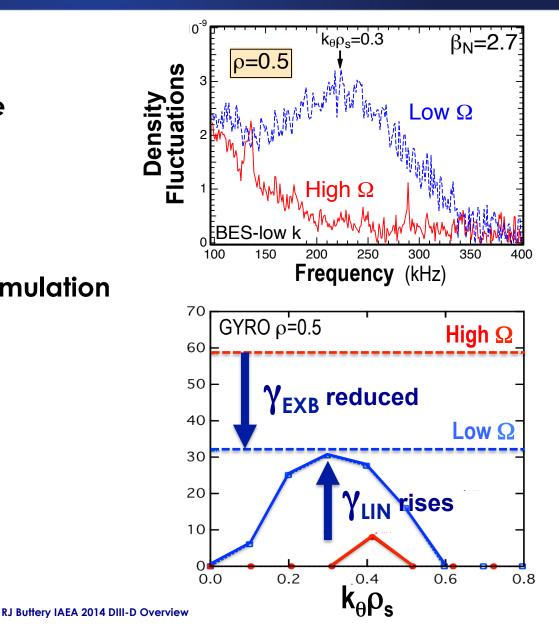


#### Confinement Reduction at Low Torque Consistent with Turbulence Rise and Transport Models

 Large rise in turbulence with lower rotation

#### Interpreted by GYRO simulation

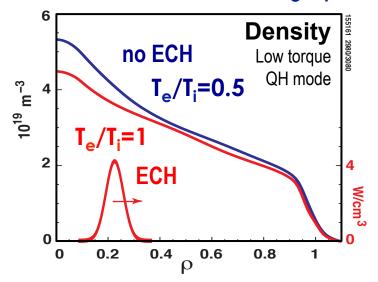
- Reduction in ExB flow shear stabilization
- Increase in linear growth rates





## At Low Torque Electron Heating Induces Density Flattening Consistent with Increased Trapped Electron Modes

 Density flattening observed when ECH raises T<sub>e</sub>/T<sub>i</sub>

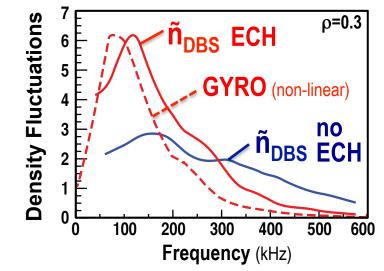


GYRO: Raising T<sub>e</sub>/T<sub>i</sub> lowers critical density gradient for TEM leading to increased turbulence

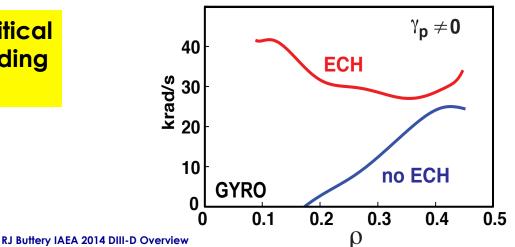
US National Campaign with CMOD NSTXU participation



• Explained by rise in turbulence



Increased TEM growth in core

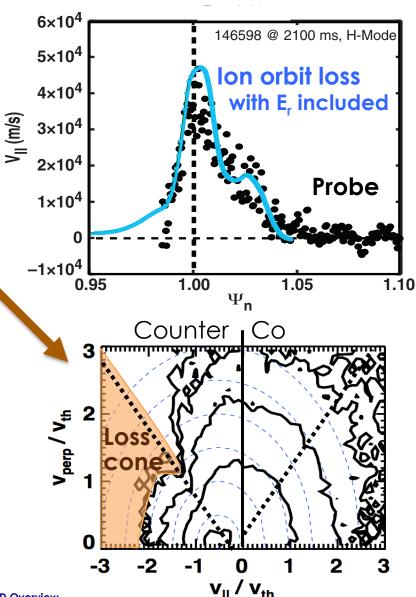


## Ion Orbit Loss Models Capture Intrinsic Plasma Rotation Behavior

## Rotation critical to transport and stability projection

- Simple model matches → probe measurements
  - Also replicated by XGC0 code
  - Empty loss cone shifts velocity in co-I<sub>P</sub> direction
  - Probe measurements confirmed by main ion CER
- Core rotation found to correlate with edge rotation
- Expected to generate similar local edge flow velocity in ITER





#### Upgraded 3D Magnetics Reveal Sensitivities and Differences in MHD Models of 3D Plasmas

- Linear ideal MHD broadly captures 3D response
  - M3D-C1 reveals sensitivities to edge conductivity
- Non-linear VMEC overpredicts response
  - Discrepancies being investigated

Plasma response to n=1 fields (Y) 9 pilot  $\int_{0}^{6} \int_{0}^{6} \int_{0}^{6} VMEC + VMEC + PEC + P$ 

New magnetics helping refine and develop physics models of plasma response to 3D fields



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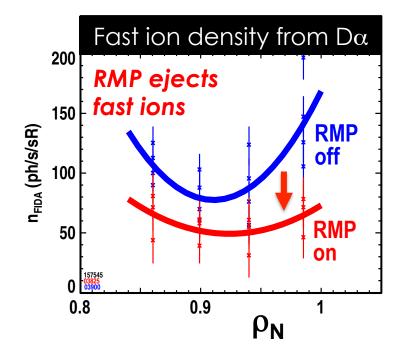


US joint theory and experiment initiative

#### 3D Fields for RMP-ELM Suppression Lead to Significant Energetic Particle Losses

#### Notches in n=3 field show RMP ejects edge fast ions

- ELM suppression maintained



Leads to increased divertor heat load in model and experiment

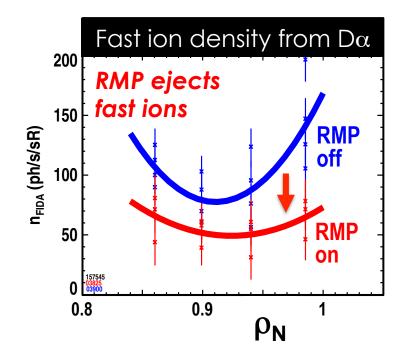




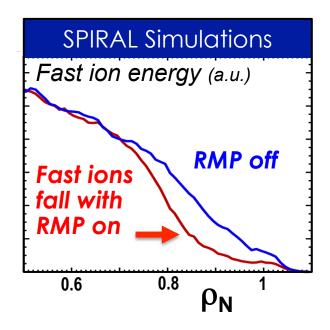
RJ Buttery IAEA 2014 DIII-D Overview

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 Consistent with SPIRAL+M3D-C1 full orbit predictions



Leads to increased divertor heat load in model and experiment



# Expanding the Frontier to Fusion Energy

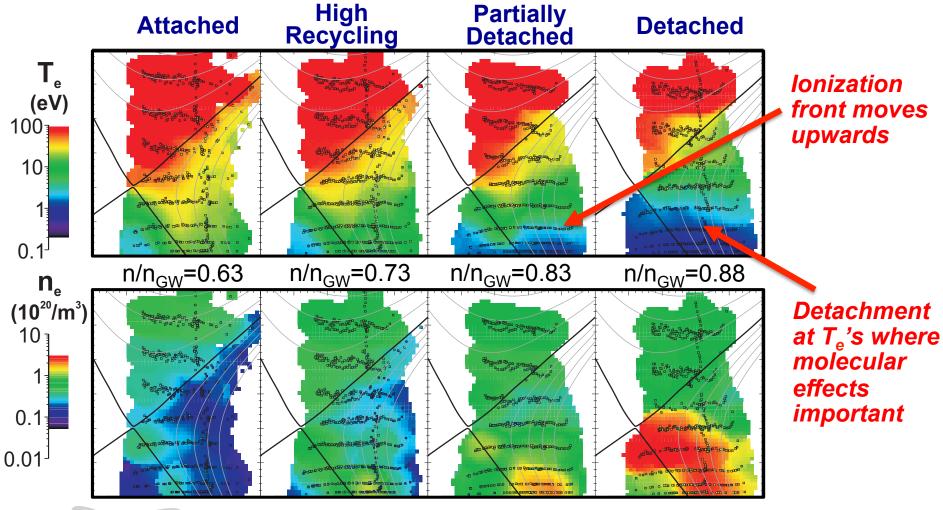
# Future fusion devices require better solutions for core and boundary



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#### Sub-eV 2D Divertor Thomson Scattering Measurements Reveal Dynamics of Divertor Detachment

DIII-D focusing on the physics of an improved detached divertor





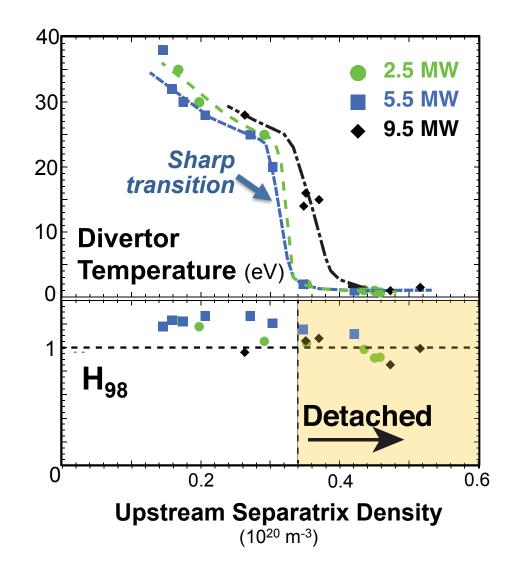
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#### Sub-eV 2D Divertor Thomson Scattering Measurements Reveal Dynamics of Divertor Detachment

- Transition to detachment in a narrow density range
  - Nearly independent of heating power
- Detachment onset has a weak effect on H<sub>98</sub>

Good performance can be maintained while detached





# Detachment Studies Reveal Radiation Shortfall in Simulation Models

Previous modeling captured attached plasma conditions well

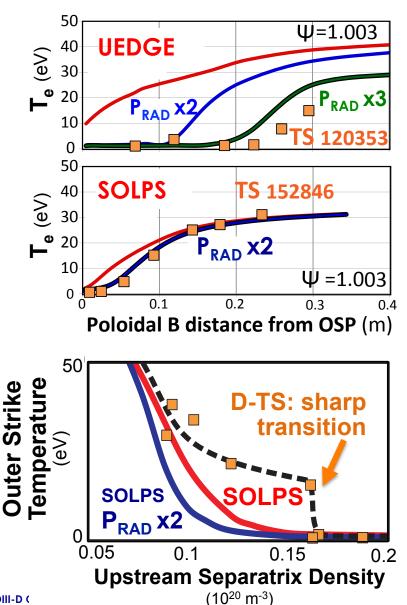
#### Detachment:

- Both models over-predict T<sub>e</sub> and under-predict P<sub>RAD</sub>
- Increasing P<sub>RAD</sub> to measured levels enables T<sub>e</sub> match
  - Over-predicts line radiation

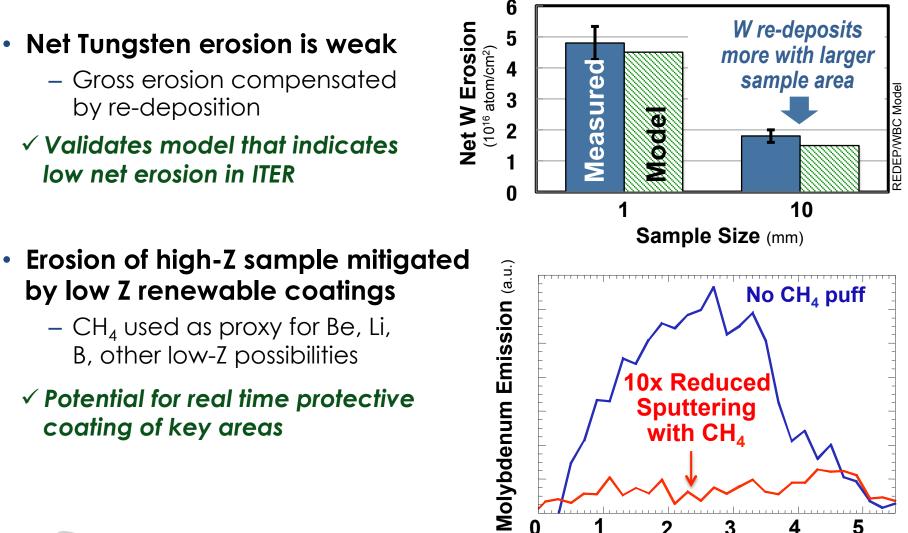
# Hard to capture sharp transition to detachment

Better cold, molecular and atomic species models required





## High-Z *in-situ* Materials Studies Show Promising Results for Future Devices





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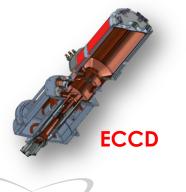
In collaboration with materials facilities

Time (s)

# DIII-D Utilizing Flexible Heating and Current Drive Systems to Develop Path to High $\beta$ Steady State

- Potential solutions from peaked to broad current profiles
  - From efficient on-axis current drive to high bootstrap current

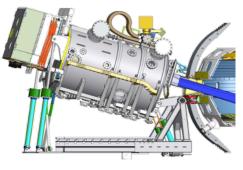
Regime	Strength	Challenge
High l <sub>i</sub>	$\beta_N$ =5 without RWM	Sustainment; Tearing
Hybrid	High confinement	Current evolution
<b>High q<sub>min</sub></b>	$\beta_N$ =5 potential; Low disruptivity	Fast ion transport

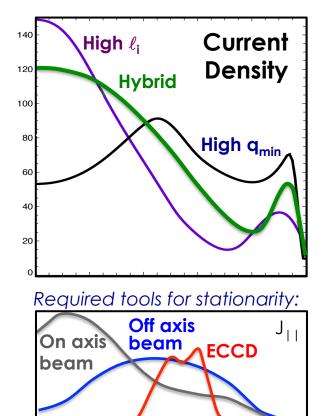


NATIONAL FUSION FACILITY SAN DIEGO

30

Off axis beam



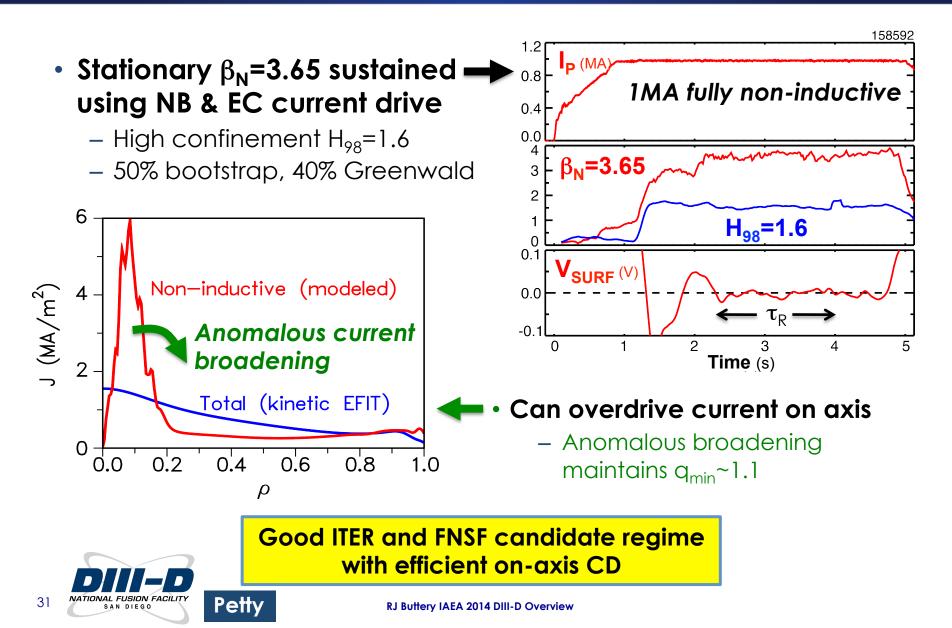


Normalized radius

Ω

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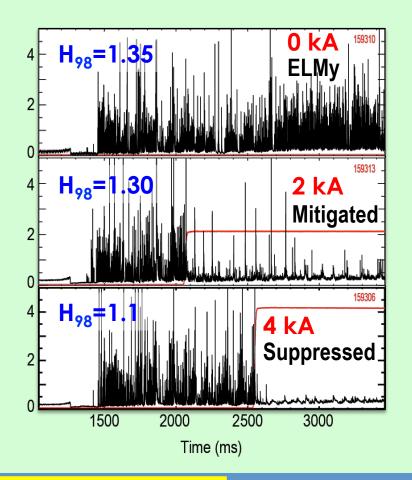
#### Steady-State "Hybrid" Scenario Established with 1 Mega-Amp Fully Non-inductive Current



# Steady-State "Hybrid" Scenario Established at High $\beta_N$ with 1 Mega-Amp Fully Non-inductive Current

#### **Breaking news**

- n=3 RMP ELM suppression established in SS hybrid
  - But reduced confinement in full suppression case
- Trade-off to be optimized between 2 and 4 kA

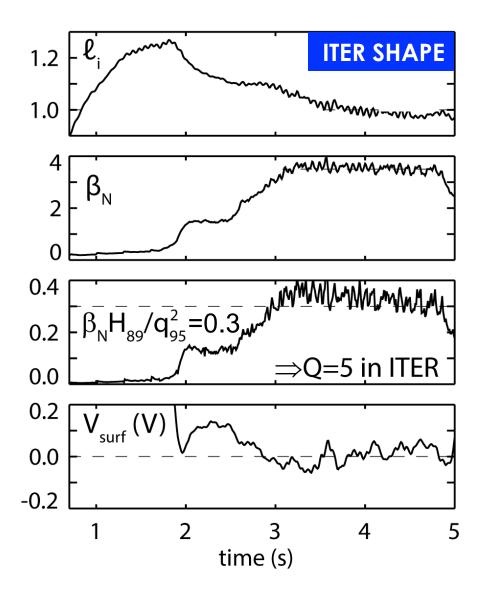


Good ITER and FNSF candidate regime with efficient on-axis CD



## High *l<sub>i</sub>* Plasmas Demonstrate Excellent Performance

- More peaked current raises performance further
  - H&CD tools 'freeze in' stable profiles
- ITER Q<sub>equiv</sub>=5 performance → demonstrated in SN plasmas
- Promising for ITER steady state with day 1 H&CD systems

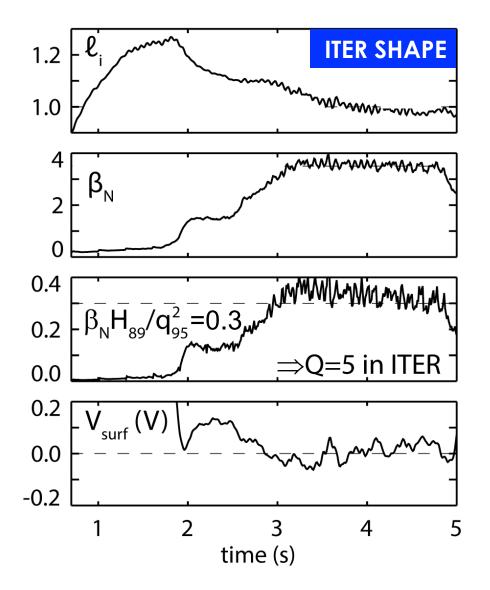




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- Promising for ITER steady state with day 1 H&CD systems
- Extended to  $\beta_N$ =5.3 in double null configuration
  - H<sub>98</sub>= 1.8 and 80% bootstrap

#### Future fusion reactor option





#### High q<sub>min</sub> Path: High Bootstrap Fully Non-inductive Scenario Developed for Long Pulse Operation

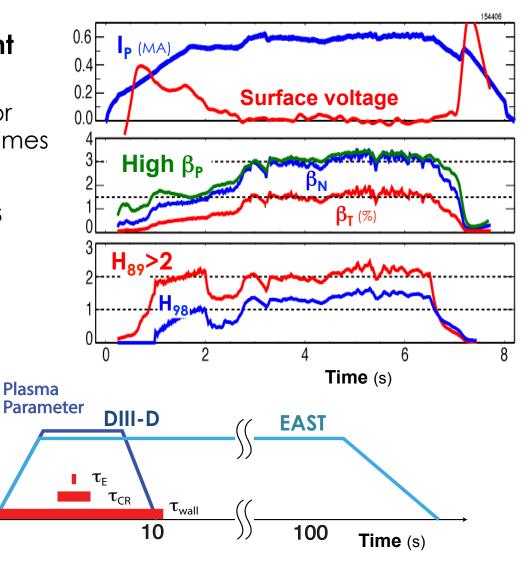
- Reduced torque and current ramp rate to match EAST
  - 80% bootstrap sustained for two current redistribution times

Garofalo, Gong

 ρ=0.7 transport barrier gives good fast ion confinement

Fully non-inductive target for EAST

NAL FUSION F



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#### Joint initiative with EAST

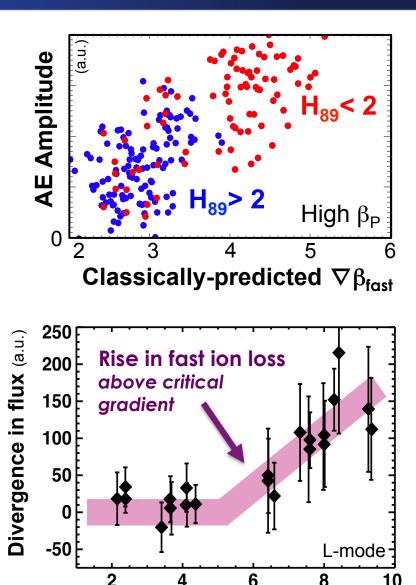
## Higher Performance in High q<sub>min</sub> Encounters Enhanced Fast Ion Transport due to Alfvén Eigenmodes

 Confinement decrease at high q<sub>min</sub> with rising Alfvén activity

- Rises in fast ion loss consistent with critical gradient model
  - Hypothesis: due to overlapping wave-particle resonances

Heidbrink, Bass, Todo

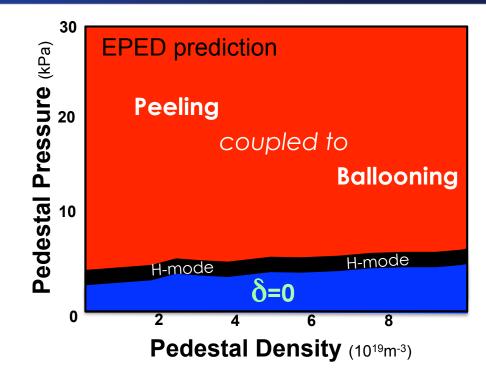
→ Reduce central  $\nabla \beta_{\text{fast}}$  through increased off-axis NBI & ECH



P<sub>NBI</sub>(MW)

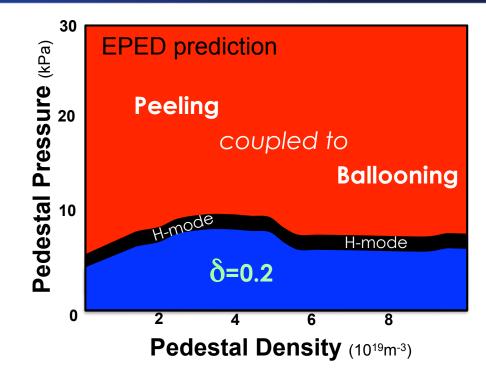


- Strong shaping decouples peeling from ballooning mode
  - Opens valley in pedestal stability



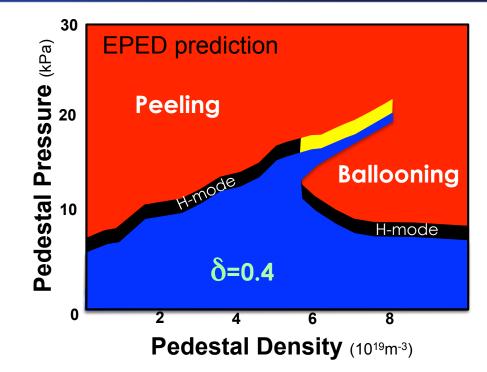


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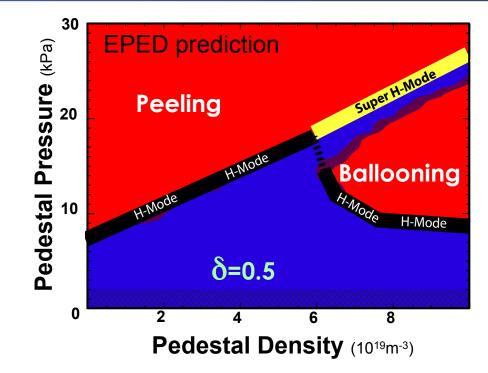


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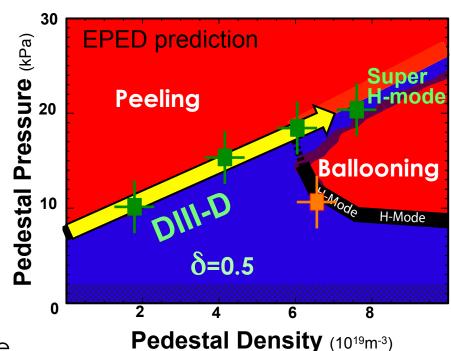
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### Super H-Mode discovered

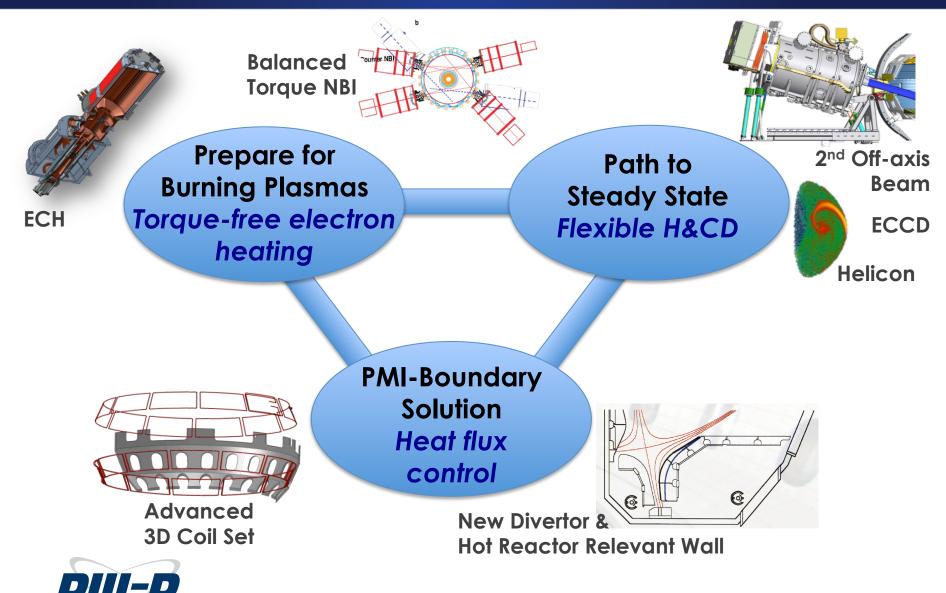
- EHO provided benign saturation mechanism to navigate valley
- Record  $\beta_N$ =3.1 with quiescent edge

### EPED predicts Super H-mode possible in ITER





## DIII-D Future Exploitation Focuses on Three Key Challenges for Fusion Energy



## DIII-D is Addressing Key Challenges for ITER and Fusion Energy

### Improved physics basis for critical ITER needs

 ELM control, disruption mitigation, validated test blanket and non-nuclear plans

- Enhanced predictive understanding of performance defining physics and control for burning plasmas
  - Turbulence, rotation, energetic particles, 3D response and viable operating scenarios
- Characterized high performance core and edge solutions for steady state operation
  - Divertor detachment and high  $\beta$  core

### Increased confidence in high performance in ITER and informs decisions on future fusion devices



### **DIII-D Collaborators Around the World**



#### U.S. Labs

LBNL (Berkeley, CA) LLNL (Livermore, CA) NASA Ames (Mtn View, CA) NREL (Golden, CO) ORNL (Oak Ridge, TN) PPPL (Princeton, NJ) SNL (Sandia, CA, NM)

#### U.S. Industries

ALITRON (Solana Beach, CA) Calabazas Creek (San Mateo, CA) CompX (Del Mar, CA) CPI (Palo Alto, CA) FAR-TECH, Inc. (San Diego) General Atomics (San Diego) Lightcraft Technologies (Bennington, VT) Lodestar (Boulder, CO) National Instruments (Austin, TX) Tech-X (Boulder, CO)



#### **North American Universities**

Auburn U. (Auburn, AL) Columbia U. (New York, NY) College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA) Courant Institute (NY) Georgia Tech (Atlanta, GA) Lehigh (Bethlehem, PA) MIT (Cambridge, MA) ORAU (Oak Ridge, TN) ORISE (Oak Ridge, TN) Palomar College (San Marcos,CA) Purdue U. (W. Lafavette, IN) U. Arizona (Tuscon, AZ) UCB (Berkelev, CA) UC Davis (Davis, CA) UCI (Irvine, CA) UCLA (Los Angeles, CA) UCSD (San Diego, CA) CIPS, U. Colorado (Boulder) U. Marvland (College Park, MD) U. Rochester (NY) U. Texas (Austin, TX) U. Toronto (Toronto, Canada) U. Tulsa (Tulsa, OK) U. Wisconsin (Madison, WI) West Virginia U. (Morgantown, WV) Yeshiva U. (New York, NY)

#### Europe

CCFE (Culham, United Kingdom) CEA (Cadarache, France) CFN-IST (Lisbon, Portugal) CIEMAT (Madrid, Spain) CRPP-EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland) D-TacQ Solutions (Scotland) **DIFFER** (Nieuwegein, Netherlands) ENEA (Frascati, Italv) ENEA Consorzio RFX (Padua, Italy) ENEA Consorzio CREATE (Naples, Italy) EURATOM-FOM (Utrecht, Netherlands) EURATOM-Tekes, Aalto U. (Helsinki, Finland) Fusion for Energy (Barcelona, Spain) FZ-Julich (Germanv) HH U. of Dusseldorf (Germany) IFP-CNdR (Italy) IPP, AS CR, EURATOM/IPP, Prague ITER (Cadarache, France) JET EFDA (Culham, United Kingdom) Max Planck-IPP (Garching, Greifswald) U. of Helsinki (Finland) U. Padova (Padua, Italy) U. Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland) U. of York (York, United Kingdom) VTT (Finland)

#### Russia

D.V. Efremov Institute (St. Petersburg, Russia) RCC Kurchatov Institute (Moscow)

#### Asia

ASIPP (Hefei, China) IPR (Gandhinagar, India) JAEA (Naka, Japan) KAIST (Daejeon, S. Korea) Kyoto University (Japan) KBSI-NFRI (Daejeon, S. Korea) NIFS (Toki, Gifu-ken, Japan) Pohang U. (S. Korea) Seoul Nat. U. (S. Korea) SWIP (Chengdu, China) Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

#### Australia

Australia National U. (Canberra)

# **Reserve Slides**

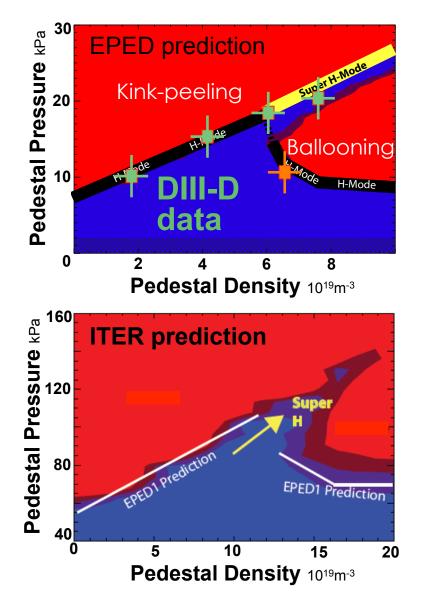


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## First Principles EPED Physics Model Predicted Path to Access "Super H-Mode" with Doubled Pedestal Pressure

- Strong shaping decouples kinkpeeling from ballooning mode
  - Opens valley in pedestal stability
- Super H-Mode discovered in DIII-D
  - Raise density to navigate valley
  - EHO provides benign saturation of pedestal pressure
  - $H_{98} = 1.4 \beta_N = 3.1$

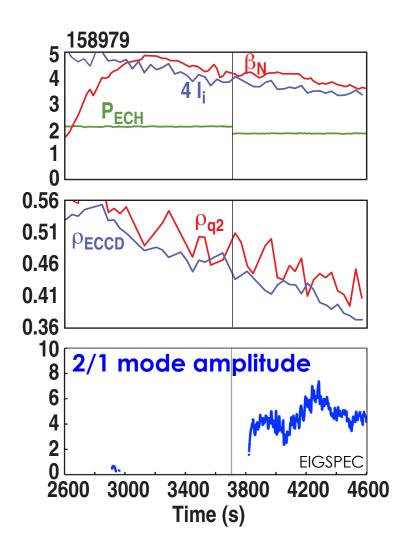
### ✓ Validates model predicting ITER → able to access Super-H mode





# Real Time ECCD NTM Control Enables Access to $\beta_N$ =5 Double Null High $l_i$ Scenario

- Pre-emptive ECCD mode tracking prevents appearance of NTM
  - Real time MSE, T-S and deposition calculation
- H<sub>98</sub>= 1.8 and 80% bootstrap
- Also applied in high q<sub>min</sub> and ITER baseline scenarios
- Real time localized ECCD an effective NTM control tool
- High li an exciting alternative for a fusion reactor





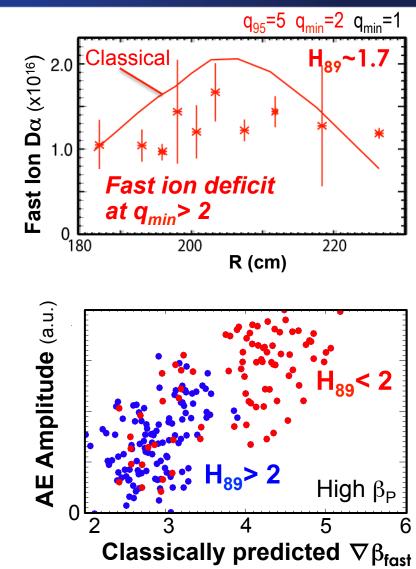
# Higher $\beta_T$ in High $q_{min}$ Encounters Enhanced Fast Ion Transport due to Alfvén Eigenmodes

# Experiments at higher $\beta_T$ and high $\boldsymbol{q}_{\textit{min}}$ show reduced confinement

- Observe deficit in fast ions over classical predictions
  - Correlated with increase in Alfvén activity
- High  $\beta_P$  plasmas reveal AE amplitude rises with  $\nabla \beta_{fast}$

### Path to improved performance:

- Off-axis NBI & ECH to reduce reduce central  $\nabla \beta_{\text{fast}}$  and optimize thermal transport
- Improve pedestal



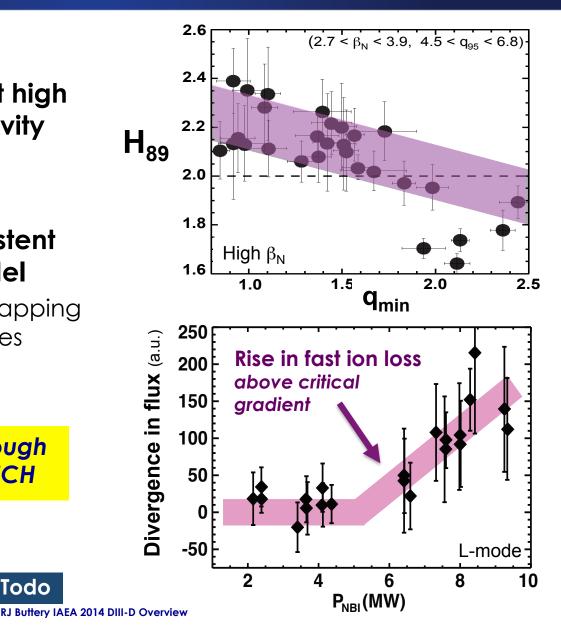


# Higher $\beta_T$ in High $q_{min}$ Encounters Enhanced Fast Ion Transport due to Alfvén Eigenmodes

 Confinement decrease at high q<sub>min</sub> with rising Alfvén activity

- Rises in fast ion loss consistent with critical gradient model
  - Hypothesis: due to overlapping wave-particle resonances

→ Reduce central ∇β<sub>fast</sub> through increased off-axis NBI & ECH



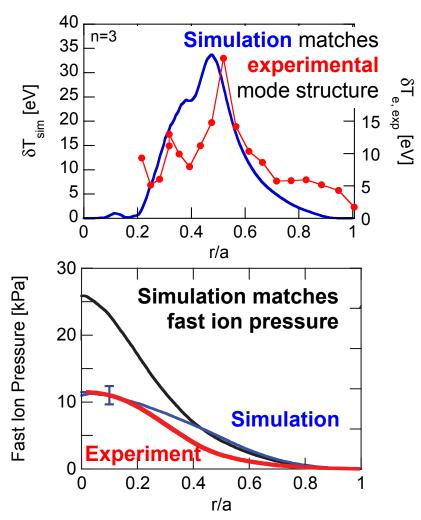
Heidbrink, Bass, Todo

# Recent Data Identifies Critical Gradient Model of Alfven Eigenmode (AE) Induced Fast Ion Transport

- Power scan reveals saturation in EP density above threshold
  - Due to overlapping wave-particle resonances in AT plasmas
- Divergence of flux rises
  above a critical gradient
  Simplifies ED prediction
  - Simplifies EP prediction
- Data also validates fully non-linear AE-EP simulations

 Basis for fully predictive EP simulation

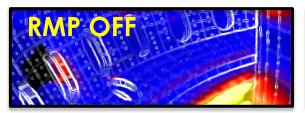




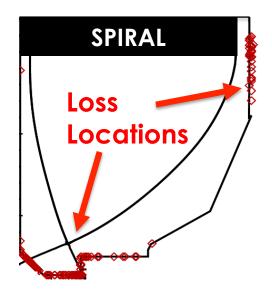
## 3D Fields for RMP-ELM Suppression Lead to Significant Energetic Particle Losses

### Notches in n=3 field show RMP ejects edge fast ions

- ELM suppression maintained
- Consistent with SPIRAL+M3D-C1 full orbit predictions
- Leads to increased divertor heat loads in simulation and experiment



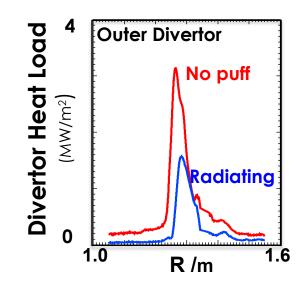


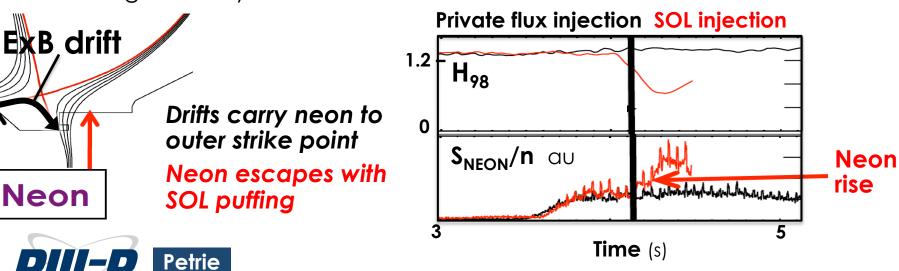




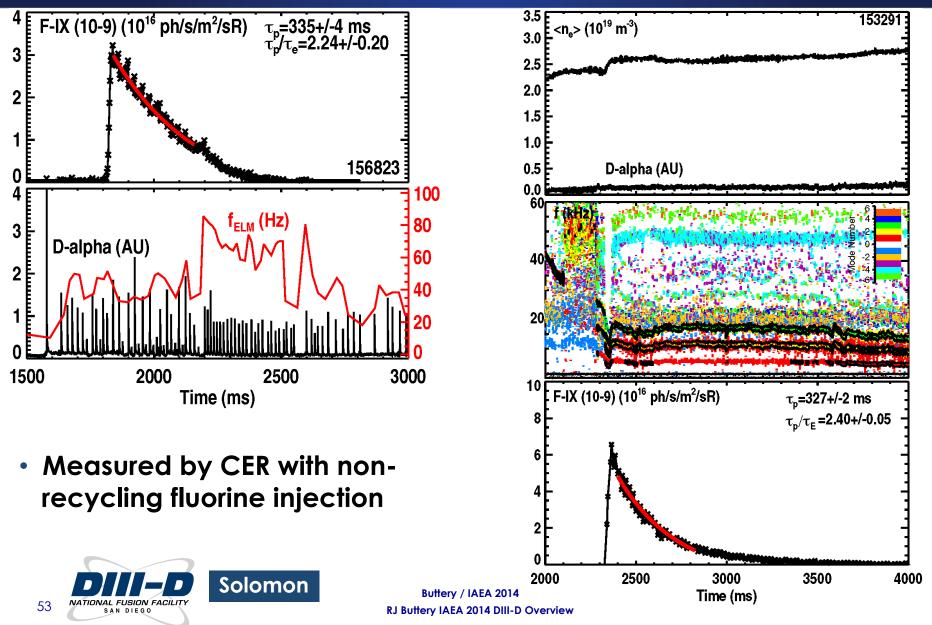
# **Techniques for Integrated Core-Edge Solutions Developed**

- Combine radiative divertor with high performance steady state core
  - Good performance maintained with  $\beta_N = 3.0$ ,  $H_{98} = 1.3$  throughout
  - Divertor heat flux reduced by x2
- ExB drift important in optimizing divertor radiation and core dilution
  - Neon injection required in private flux region away from ion Bx∇B

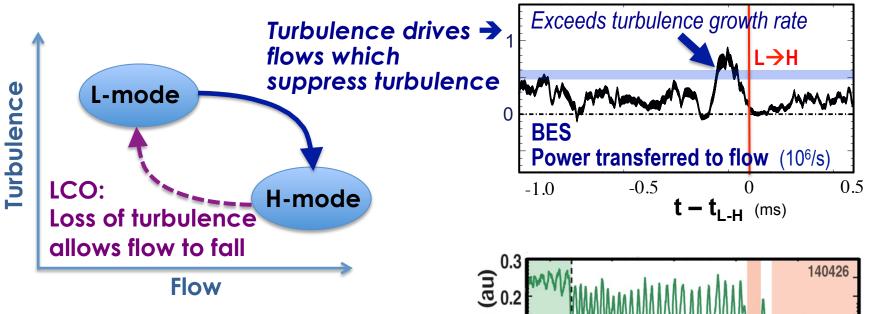




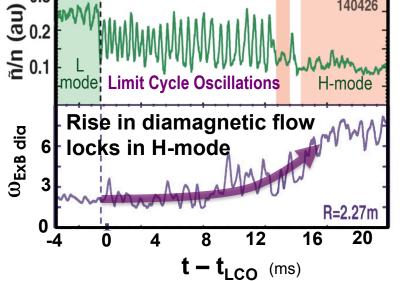
# EHO in QH-mode Provides Same Impurity Exhaust as 40Hz ELMs



# H Mode Access: Measurements Confirm Turbulence and Ion Diamagnetic Flows Play Key Role



 Limit cycle discharges show → ion diamagnetic flows required to lock in H-mode transition

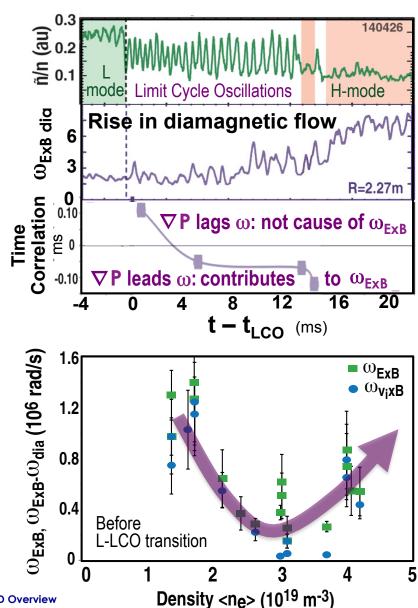




# H Mode Access: Measurements Confirm Role of Ion Diamagnetic Flow in L-H Transition

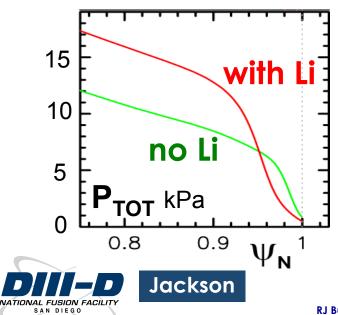
- Limit Cycle discharge provides laboratory to test L-H physics
  - Turbulence induced flow insufficient to sustain H mode
  - H-mode locked in by rise in ion diamagnetic flow
- Measured L-mode seed flow shear consistent with upturn in L-H threshold
  - Promising foundation for physics based L-H prediction

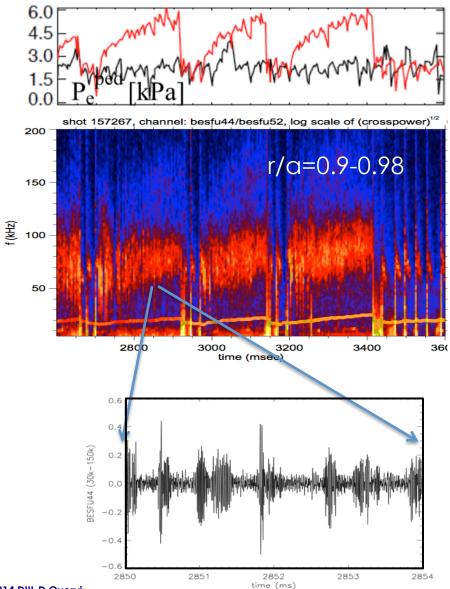




# Lithium Injection Causes Bifurcation to Larger Pedestal With Enhanced Edge Fluctuations

- Lithium leads to sustainment of an edge fluctuation
  - No core C impurity rise
- Doubles pedestal width and height
  - H<sub>98</sub> increased 60%
  - ELMs delayed



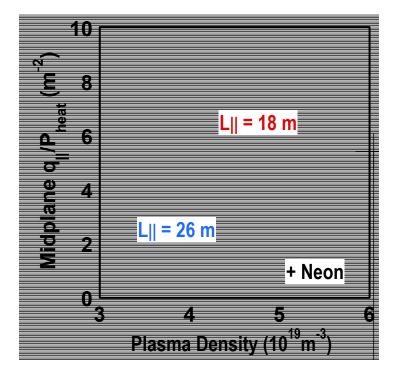


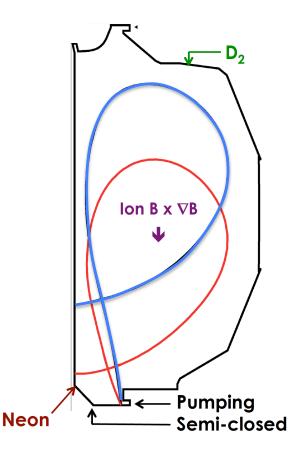
RJ Buttery IAEA 2014 DIII-D Overview

## Experiments Confirm Reduced Heat Flux with Increased Connection Length

### Increased divertor volumetric losses

- Despite decreased flux expansion
- Consistent with modeling



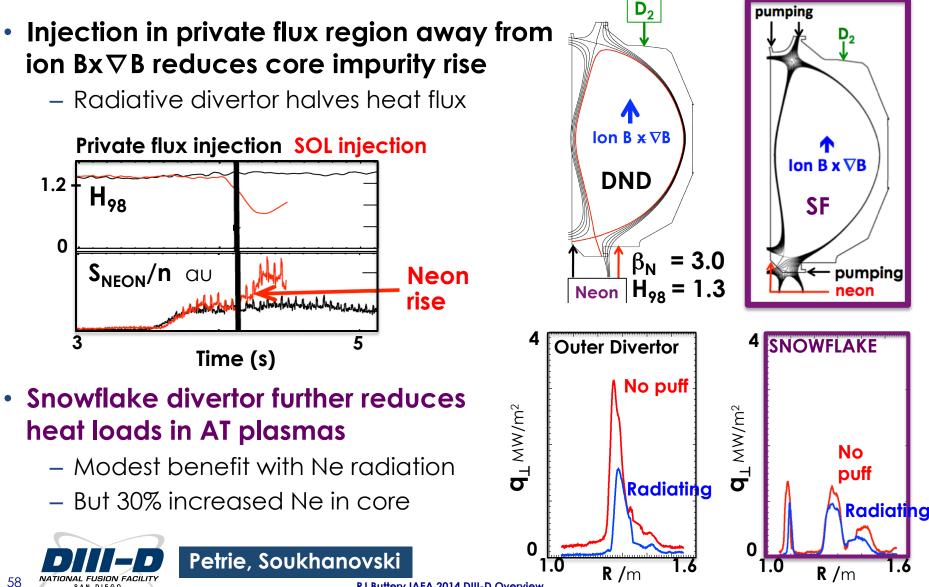


Divertor leg geometry an important aspect of divertor optimization



RJ Buttery IAEA 2014 DIII-D Overview

# **Techniques for Integrated Core-Edge Solutions Developed**



**RJ Butterv IAEA 2014 DIII-D Overview** 

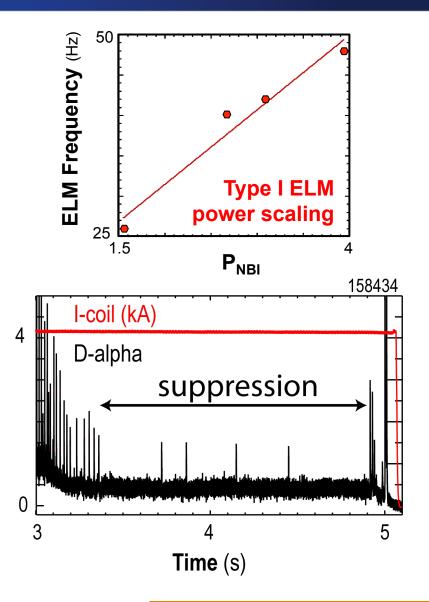
## RMP ELM Suppression in Helium Plasmas Validates ITER Research Plan

- Helium plasmas subject to type I ELMs
- Suppression in Helium in ITER-relevant conditions
  - Relevant torque & rotation
  - Dominant electron heating

Nazikian/Wade

– Close to L-H margin

 Commissioning of ELM suppression in Helium on ITER





### ...in collaboration with ITER