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Fusion Research in Ioffe Institute

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Overview of activity of the Plasma Physics Division at the Ioffe Institute in support of fusion program is presented. Experiments on LHCD (100kW, 2.5GHz) at the Globus-M tokamak ($R=0.36\text{m}$, $a=0.24\text{m}$, $B_{\text{tor}}=0.4\text{T}$, $I_{\text{pl}}=200\text{kA}$) with poloidally oriented grill resulted in RF driven current of up to 40 kA, in agreement with the theory predictions. At the FT-2 tokamak ($R=0.56\text{m}$, $a=0.08\text{m}$, $B_{\text{tor}}=2.3\text{T}$, $I_{\text{pl}}=30\text{kA}$) experiments with traditional toroidally oriented grill revealed no dependence of LHCD density limit on H/D ratio in spite of 3 times different LH resonance densities. Microwave Doppler Reflectometry (DR) at the Globus-M, and DR and Heavy Ion Beam Probe measurements at the tokamak TUMAN-3M ($R=0.53\text{m}$, $a=0.24\text{m}$, $B_{\text{tor}}=1.0\text{T}$, $I_{\text{pl}}=190\text{kA}$) demonstrated GAM suppression at the L-H transition. Observations at the FT-2 using Doppler Enhanced Scattering showed that GAM amplitude is anti-correlated both spatially and temporally with electron thermal diffusivity. For the first time turbulence amplitude modulation at GAM frequency was found both experimentally and in global gyrokinetic modeling. A model of L-H transition is proposed based on this effect. The loss mechanisms of energetic ions (EI) were investigated in the NBI experiments on Globus-M and TUMAN-3M: orbit losses, sawtooth triggered redistribution of EIs and Alfvénic mode excitation. Non-conservation of adiabatic invariant of EI in small aspect ratio configuration was found numerically to play a role in EI losses. Empirical scaling of 2.5 MeV DD neutron rate for the two devices shows strong dependence on toroidal field ($B_{\text{tor}})^{1.29}$ and plasma current ($I_{\text{pl}})^{1.34}$; this justifies B_{tor} and I_{pl} increase by a factor of 2.5 in proposed upgrade of Globus-M. Bursts of ~1MHz Alfvénic type oscillations correlating with sawtooth crashes were observed in OH at the TUMAN-3M. Possibility of low threshold parametric excitation of Bernstein and upper hybrid waves trapped in drift-wave eddies resulting in anomalous absorption in ECRH experiments in toroidal plasmas was discovered theoretically. A novel method of radial correlation Doppler reflectometry is shown to be capable of measuring the turbulence wave-number spectrum in realistic 2D geometry. Progress in design and fabrication of three diagnostics for ITER developed in Ioffe institute is reported: Neutral Particle Analysis, Divertor Thomson Scattering and Gamma Spectroscopy.

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