Overview of EAST Experiments on the Development of High-Performance Steady-State Scenario

B.N. Wan on behalf of
EAST team & collaborators

Email: bnwan@ipp.ac.cn

Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Collaborators

ASIPP

CONSORZIO RFX

NRC KI

NIIEFA

CCFE

iter

IPP

JÜLICH

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM

CEA

OAK RIDGE
National Laboratory

PPPL

GENERAL ATOMICS

F4E

NFRI

JAEA

NIFS

SWIP

Scenario Developments on EAST

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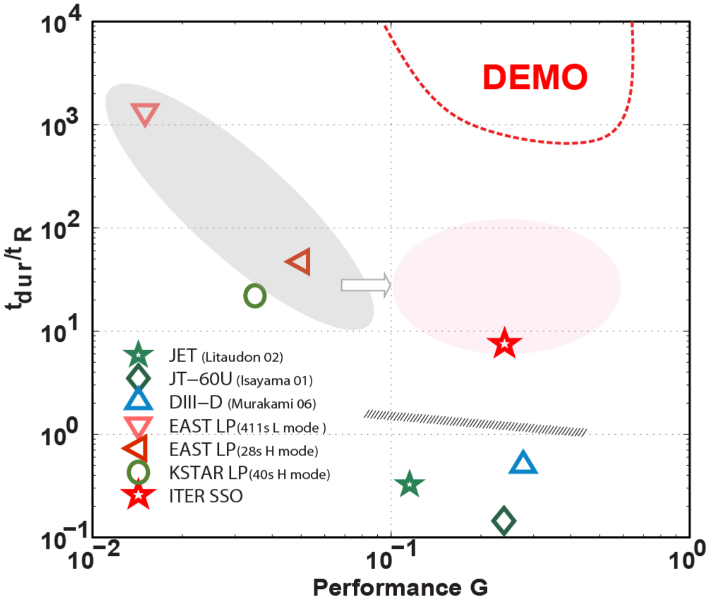
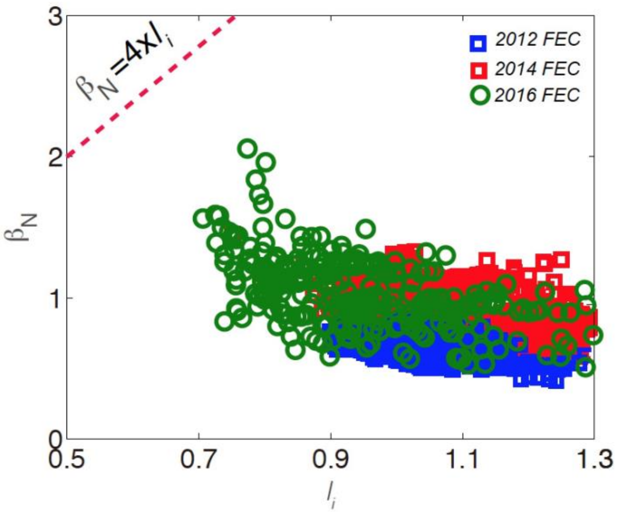
Step I

Improve heating efficiency and develop the SSO-relevant fundamental physics and key diagnostics;

Step II

Develop the SSO high performance plasma scenarios and demonstrate (≥100s) long-pulse H-mode plasmas;





Step III

Optimize the SSO plasma and extend the EAST operation domain towards long-pulse, high beta, high power, high performance regime.

Outline

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- **Introduction**
  - ***Facility upgrade in support of steady-state long-pulse scenarios***
- **Exploration of Steady-State Plasma Operation with ITER-like Tungsten Divertor**
  - ***Scenario development with RF dominated heating***
  - ***Hot spot issues***
- **Progress of Key Physics Issues towards Steady-State Operation Regimes**
  - ***LHCD at high density***
  - ***RMP ELM control***
  - ***Particle/power exhaust control***
  - ***MCM physics at low collisionality***
- **Summary and Future Plans**

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EAST SSO Capabilities

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- LHCD 4+6 MW（2.45/4.6GHz）
  - Fast Electron Source
  - Edge Current Drive /Profile
- ICRH 6+6 MW（25-75MHz）
  - Ion and Electron Heating
  - Central Current Drive
- **ECRH 2(4) MW (140GHz)**
  - **Dominant electron heating**
  - **Steering mirror, j_ϕ tailoring**
- **NBI 4+4 MW（co/counter, 80kV）**
  - **Sufficient power to probe β limit**
  - **Variable rotation/ rot-shear**

- **Elevated capabilities in last two years allow EAST to play a key role for developing advanced SS scenarios**
  - **Fully non-inductive CD, high bootstrap current fraction (f_{bs}).**
  - **Active control of ELM and stationary heat load on divertors**

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Fully non-inductive, high β_P long-pulse H-mode operations

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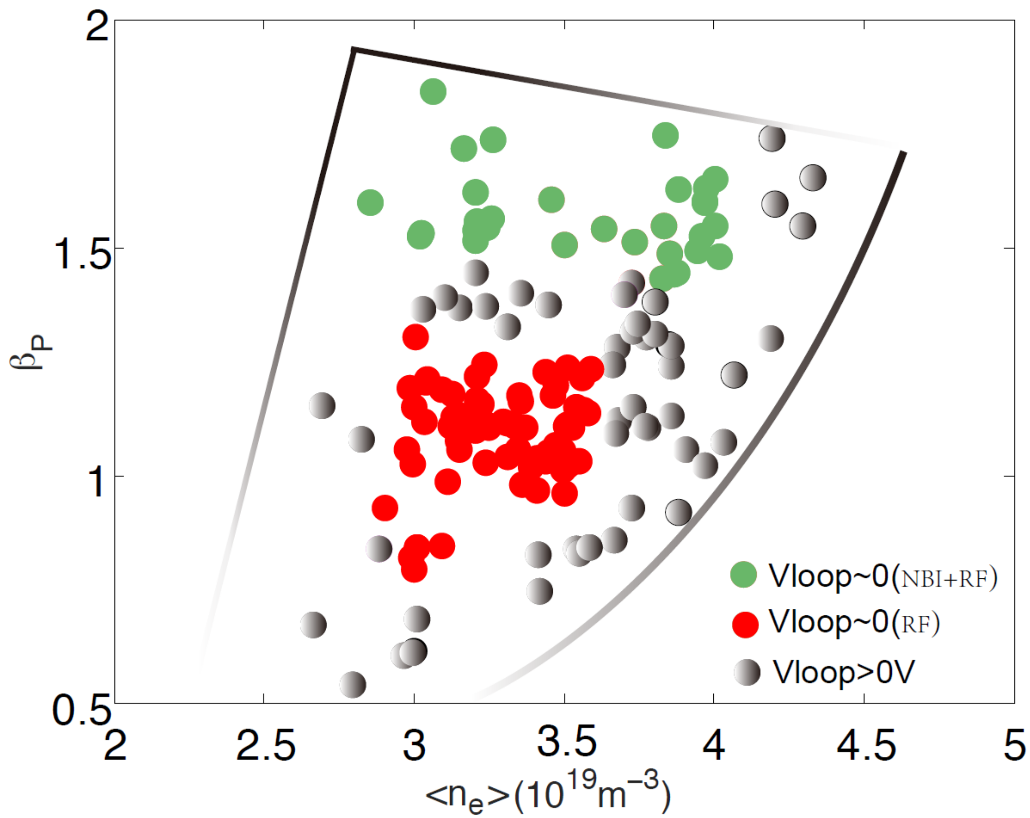
- **The goal is to develop fully non-inductive scenarios**
  - **High LHCD with moderate f_{bs}**
- **Recent EAST results show that**
  - **Zero loop voltage is achieved at moderate density**
  - **Extension for ITER and CFTER**
  - **Optimization of P_{CD}, η_{CD} and f_{bs}**



Scatter plot of EAST β_P versus line-averaged density of low loop voltage plasmas

Minute-scale H-mode operation (>60s)!

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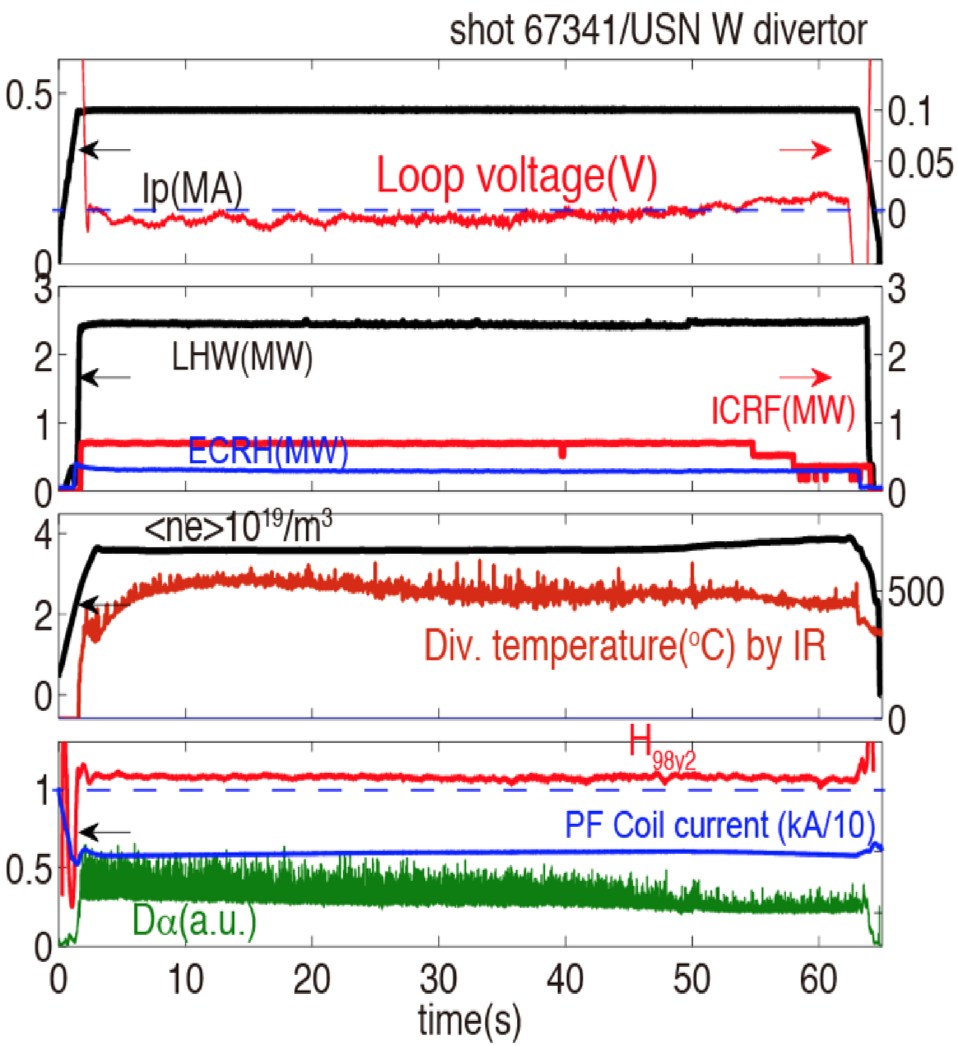

- **Pure RF heating:**
  - $P_{LHW,\ 2.45GHz}$=0.4MW
  - $P_{LHW,\ 4.6GHz}$=2.1MW
  - P_{ICRF}=0.8MW,
  - P_{ECRH}=0.3MW;
- **Good confinement with $H_{98(y2)}$~1.1;**
- **Good control of impurity level- assisted by ELMs and ECRH, and an edge coherent mode;**
- **Inter-ELM divertor heat flux ~3 MW/m^2**

Minute-scale H-mode operation (>60s)!

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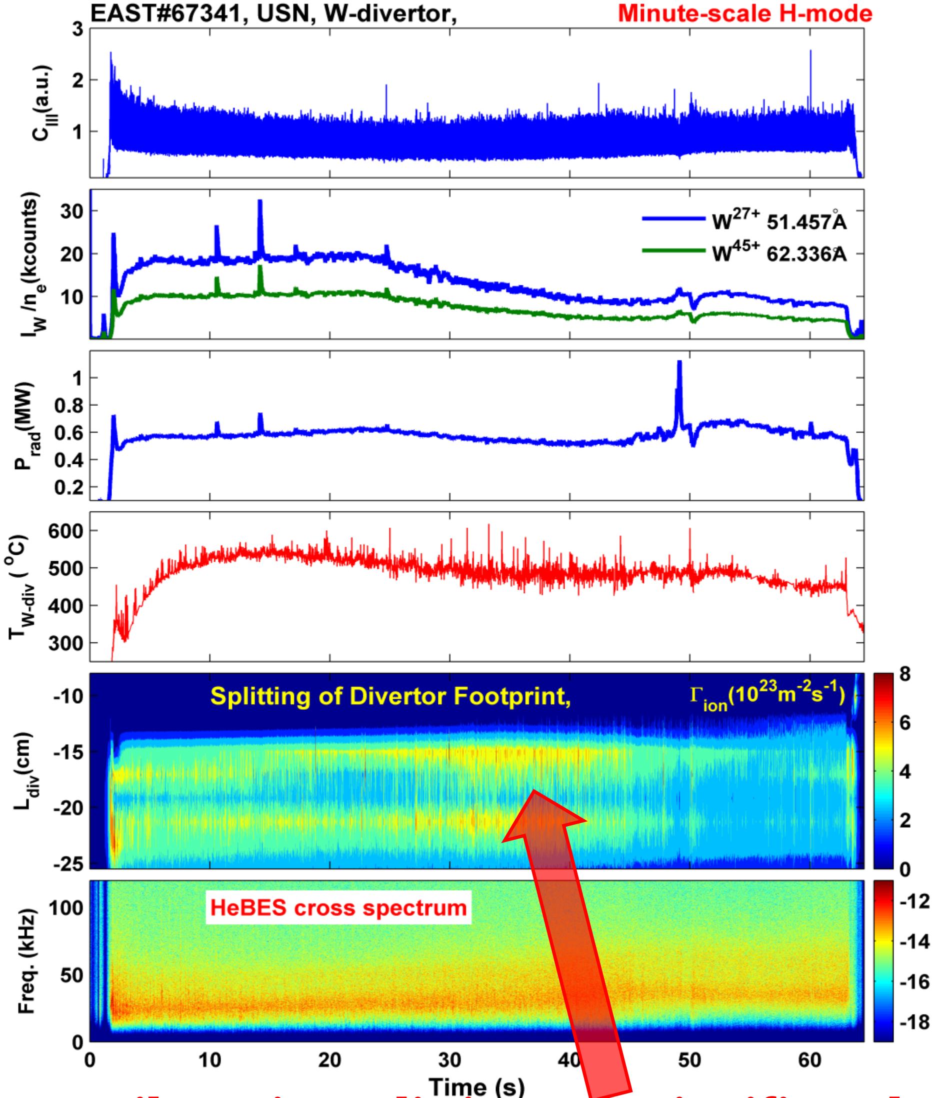

Strike point splitting can significantly reduce peak heat load!

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Core confinement for RF heated long-pulse fully non-inductive H-mode plasmas

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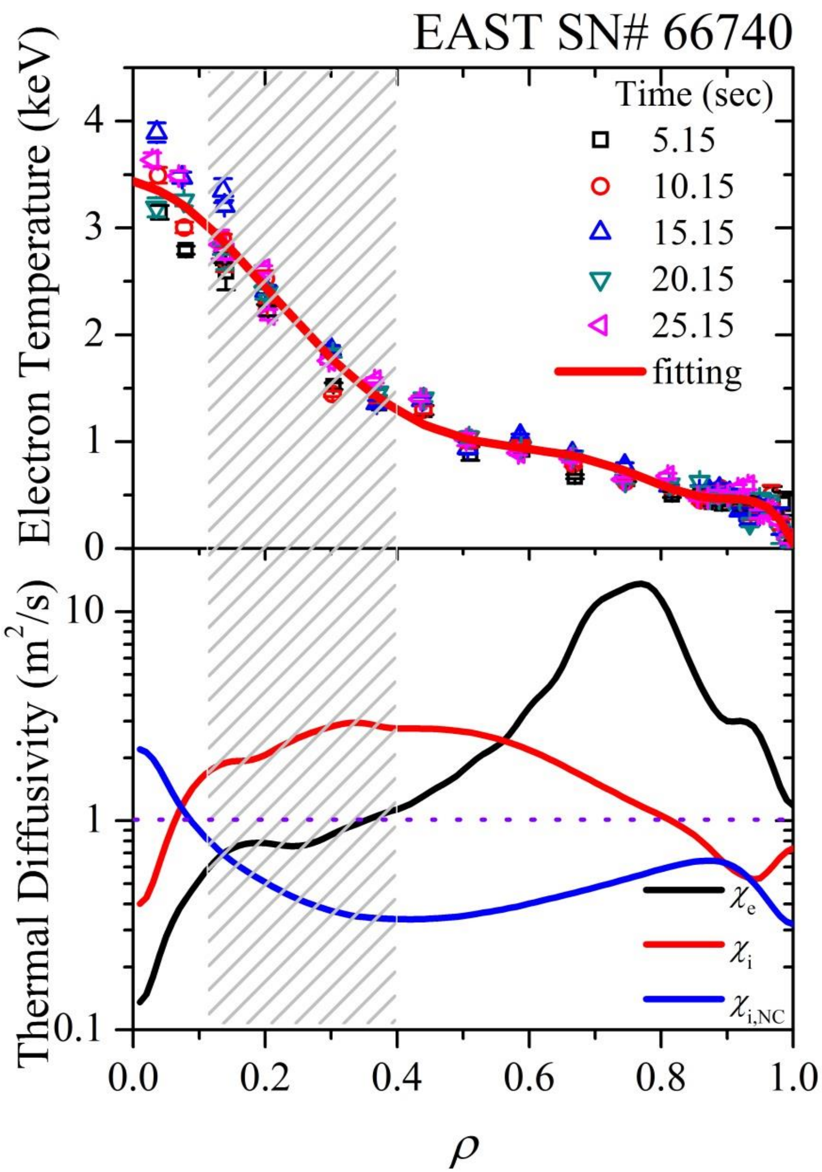

- **Stationary peaked T_e profile was typically maintained in the series of long pulse modes on EAST**
- **Power balance analysis shows the significantly reduced χ_e in plasma core**
- **The core T_e profile meets the ITB criterion [G. Gresset, NF 2002]**
  - **$\rho_{Te}^*(max)=0.02>\rho_{ITB}^*\sim0.014$**
- **The improved confinement was sustained very stably for tens of seconds!**

W transport in RF-dominated ELMy H-mode

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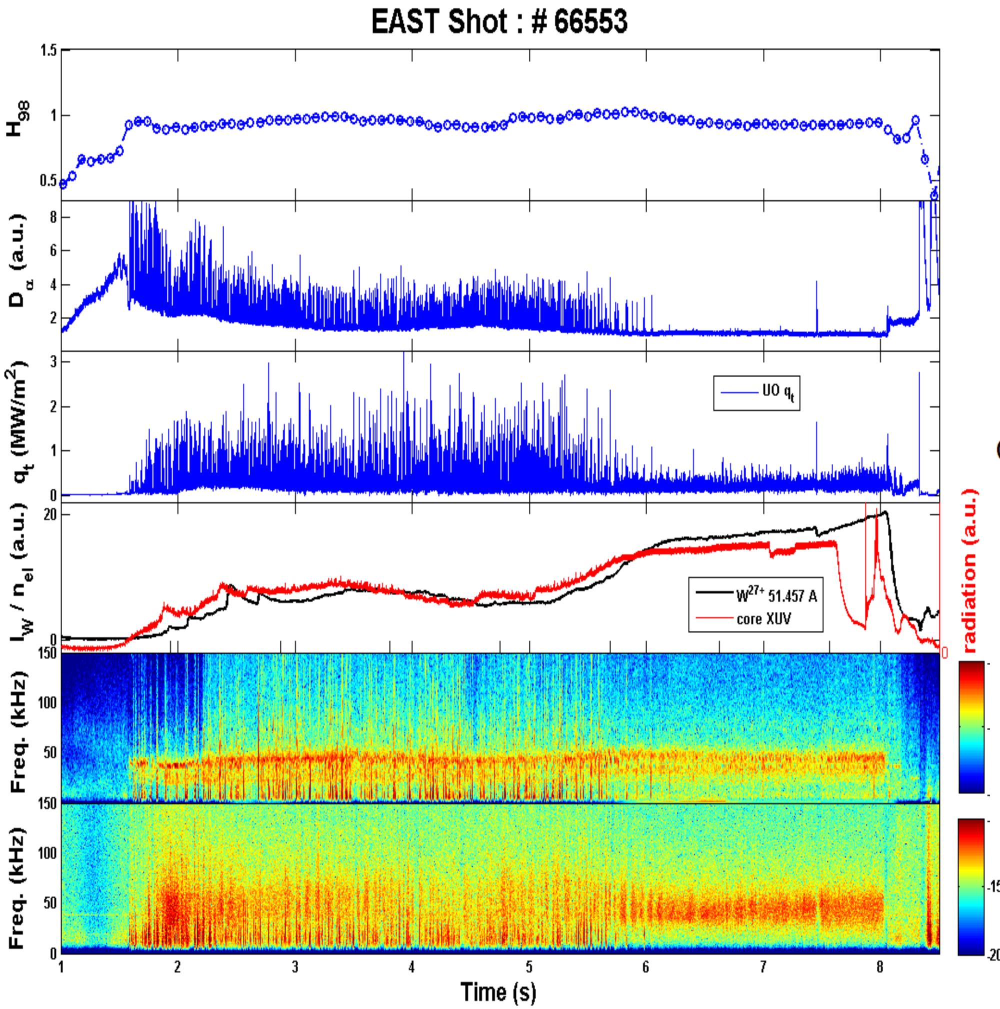
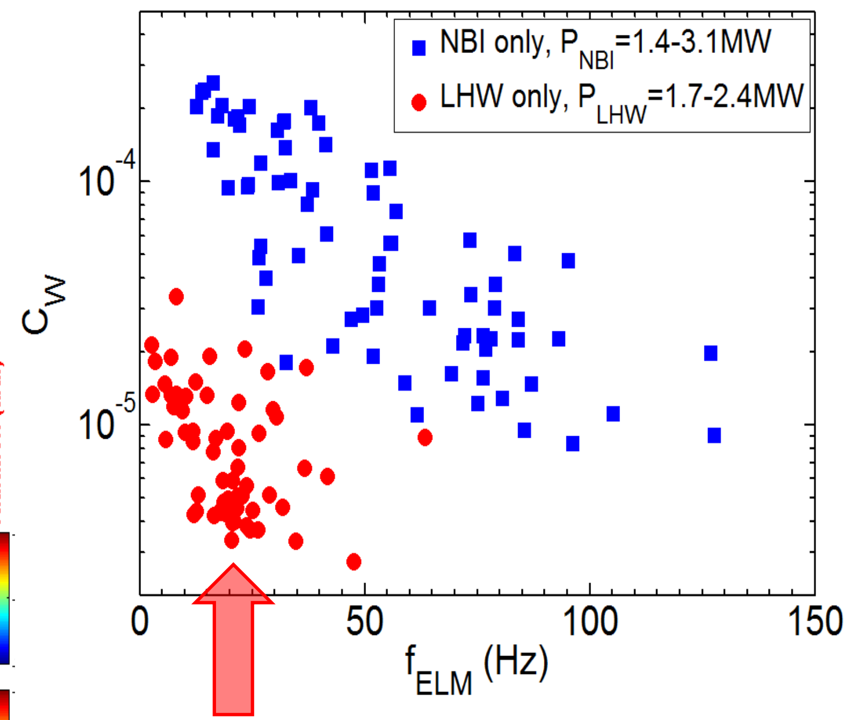
RF heating plays a crucial role in regulating impurity exhaust





LHW

ELM suppression by RMP in long pulse H-mode with W divertor operation!

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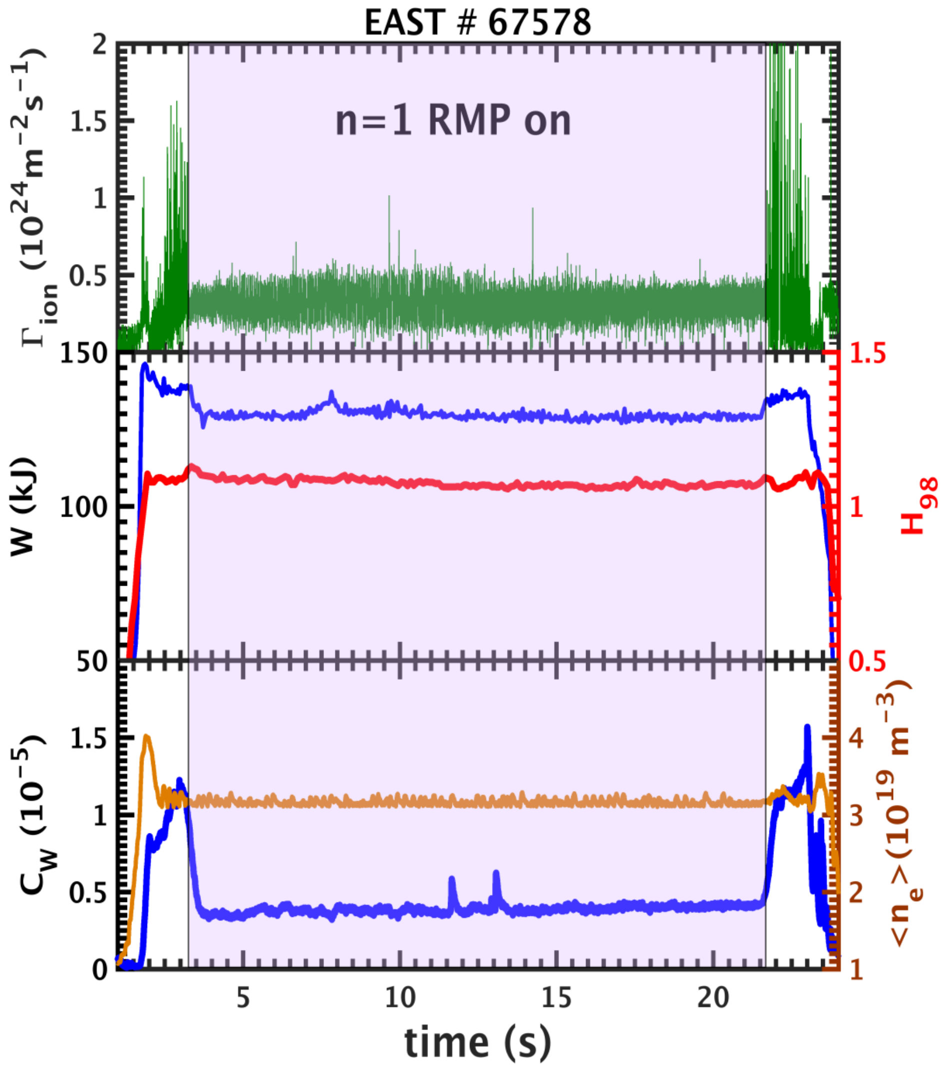

- ELM suppression in long-pulse (~ 20s) operational senario was realized with small effect on plasma performance (H_{98}>1)
- Using n=1 RMP with optimized spectrum
- Clear pump-out effect on W, which is helpful for sustaining long-pulse high-performance
- Compatible with long-pulse RF-heated H-mode plasmas

EX/P7-4; EX/P7-10

Hot spot issue and solutions

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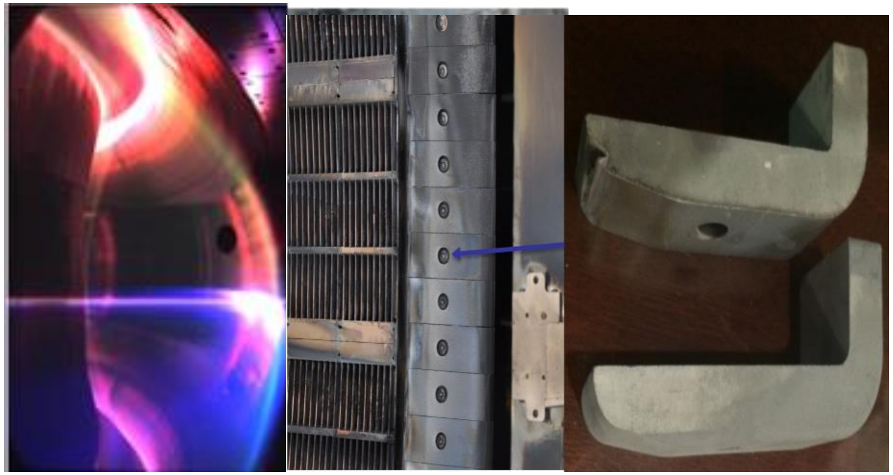
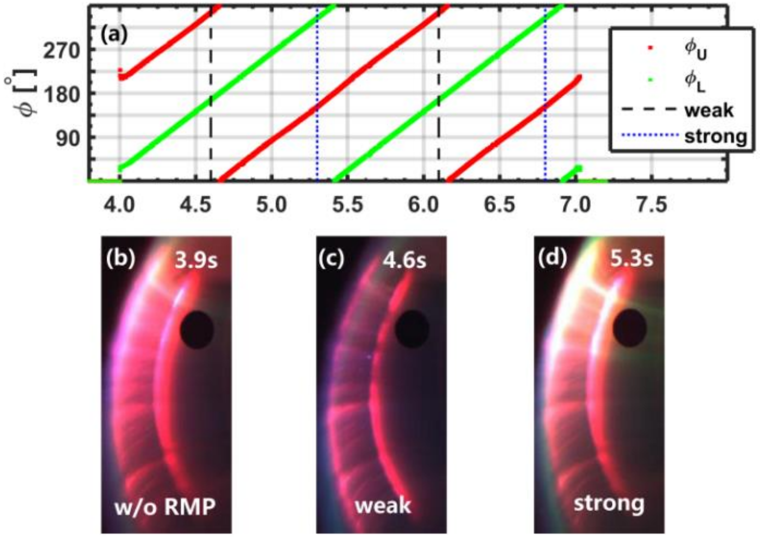
- Strong hot spots observed on the guard limiter of 4.6GHz LHCD antenna: limiting the pulse length due to strong impurity influx and damage to the limiter
- Global parameter scan identified a threshold LHCD power was around 2.5~3.0MW
- Possible mitigation from rotating RMP was observed by tuning the particle flux hitting on the guard limiter
- New guard limiter design was proposed with inclined surface to lessen direct particle deposition on the surface





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Higher CD driving at 4.6GHz

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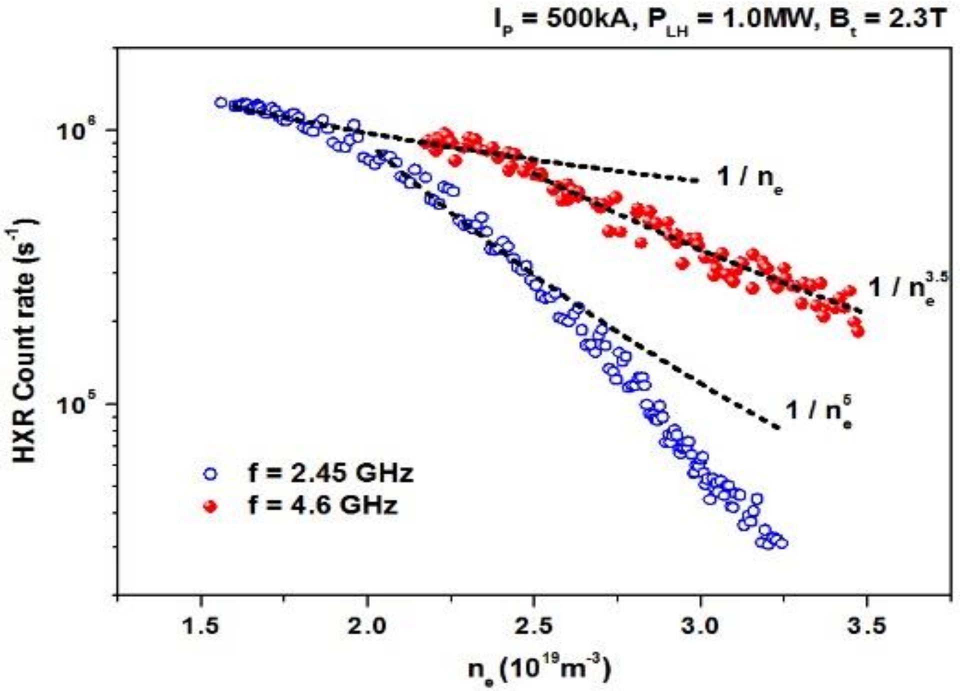

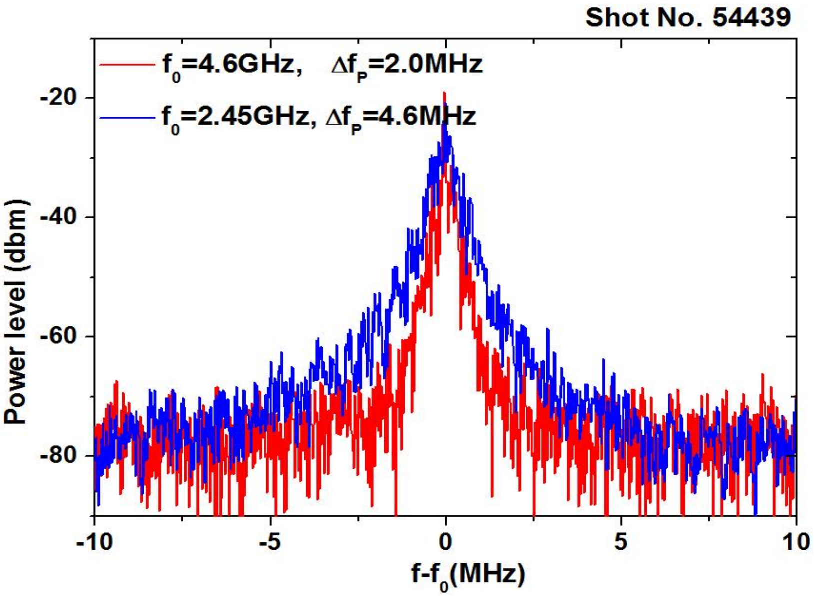

- **HXR measurement suggested higher current drive capability at 4.6GHz than 2.45GHz;**
- **Less parametric instability (PI) behavior with 4.6GHz wave**

EX/P7-5;EX/P7-7

LHCD still effective at high density in H-mode

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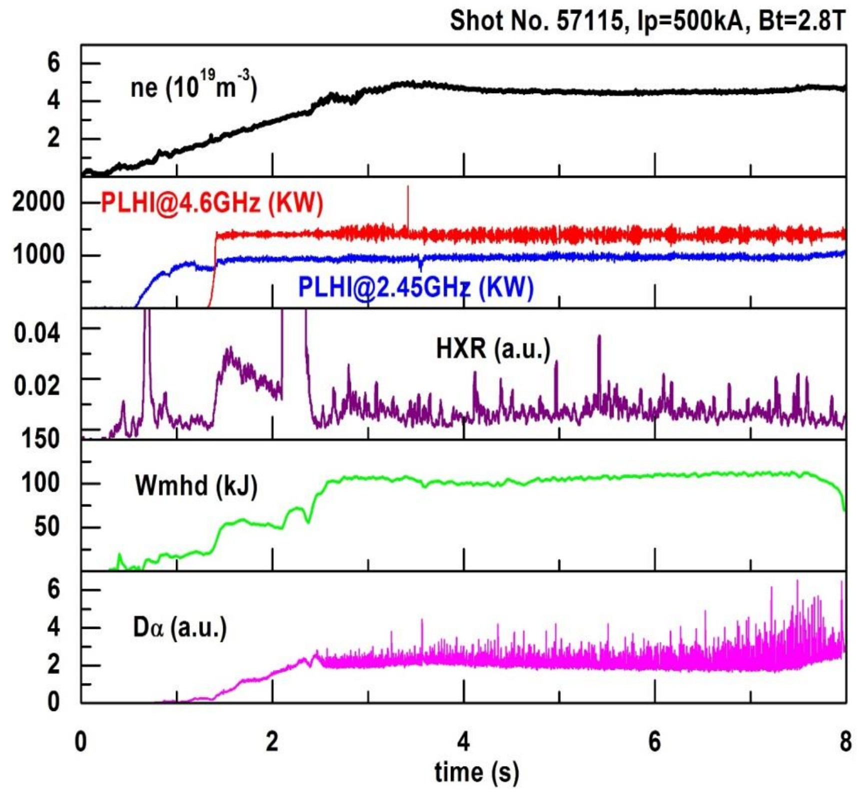

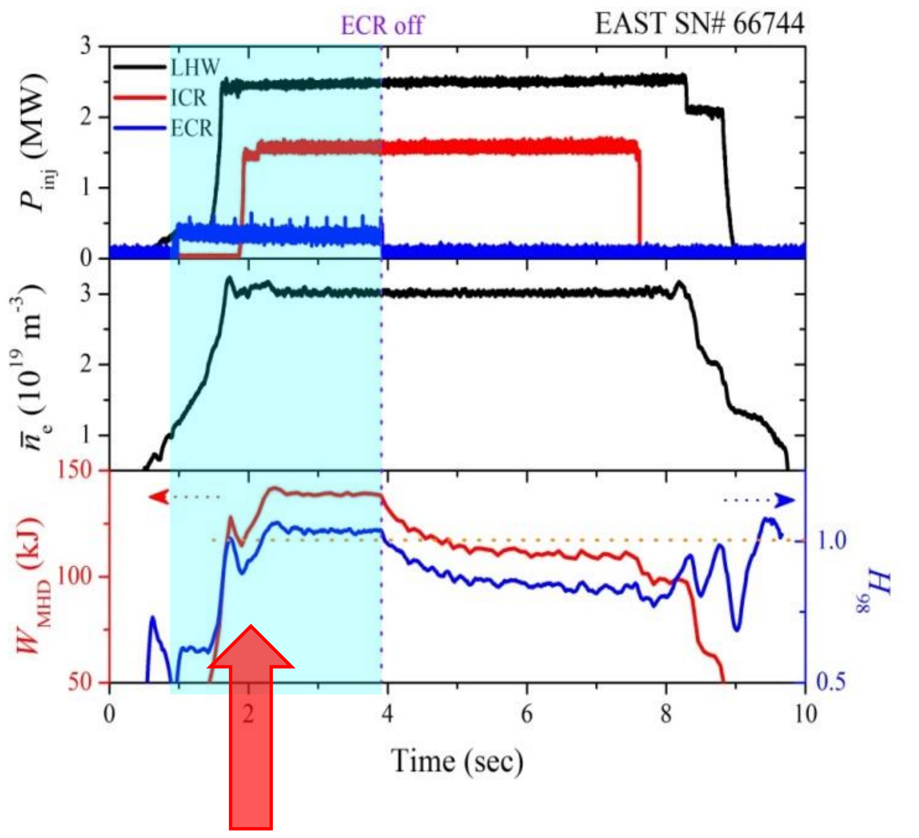

- Even if at n_e~$4.5\times10^{19}m^{-3}$, part of current is still driven by LHW!
- Simulation show that N upshift improves accessibility of LHW at high density.

ECRH plays a crucial role for achieving high-performance H-mode plasmas on EAST

EX/P7-5

Profile control with LH spectrum tuning

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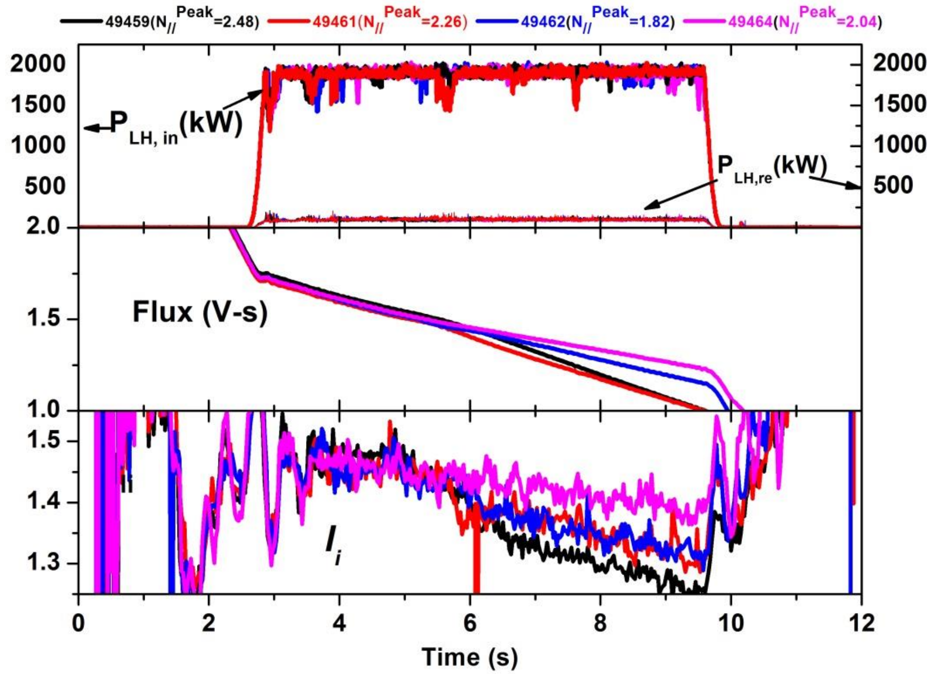
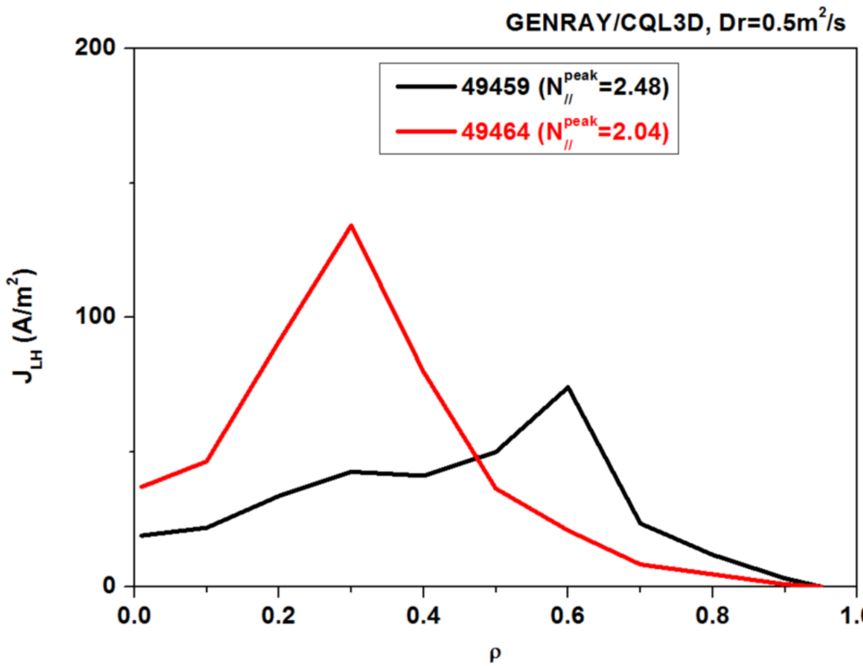


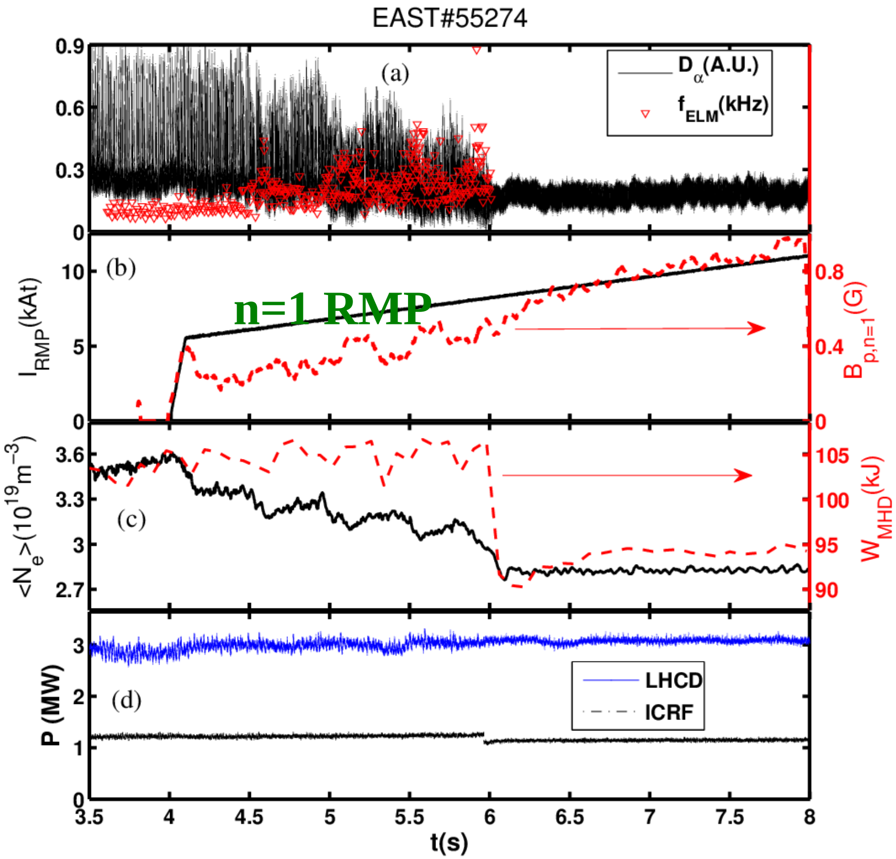


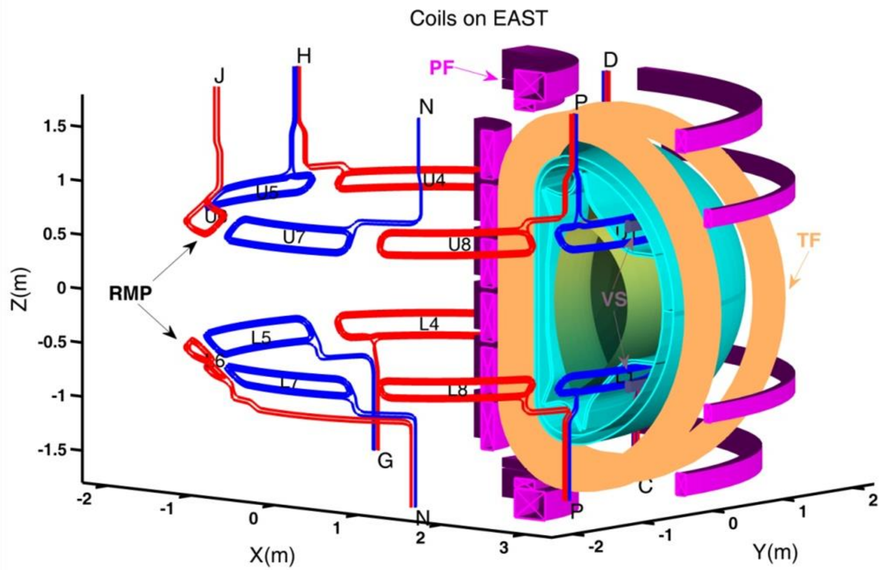
The best CD effect is obtained with $N_{//}^{peak}$=2.04

li in 49464 ($N_{//}^{peak}$=2.04) is the largest, indicating more current is driven in the core region compared to other cases.

- **GENRAY/CQL3D simulation suggest different driven current profiles, qualitatively consistent with the experiments.**

ELM suppression with low *n* RMP





ELM suppression with *n*=1 RMP in slow-rotating RF heated plasmas

[Sun Y. *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 117, 115001 (2016)]

- **Full ELM suppression was accessed using low *n* RMP in low rotating plasma with RF dominant heating in EAST**
  - ✓ 3MW LHCD + 1MW ICRF
  - ✓ *n*=1, 2 RMP
  - ✓ $\Omega_\varphi \sim 0$

EX/P7-4

Nonlinear plasma response observed

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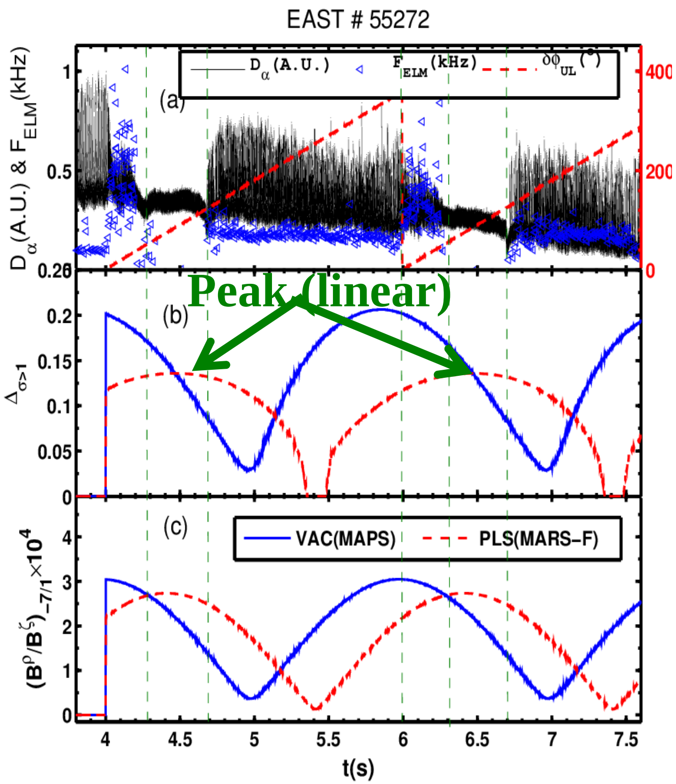

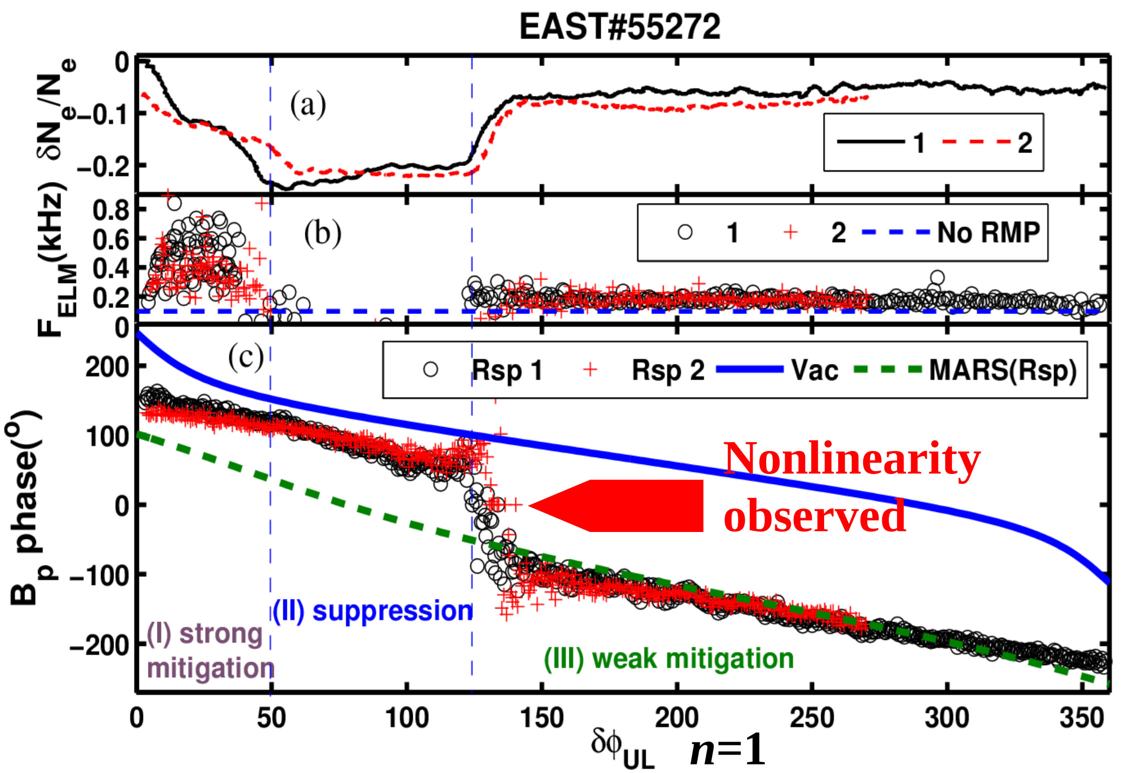

- Linear plasma response determines the best spectrum for ELM suppression.
- Nonlinear plasma response suggests that a critical level of magnetic topological change taking into account plasma response plays a key role in accessing final ELM suppression

Control of 3D divertor footprint

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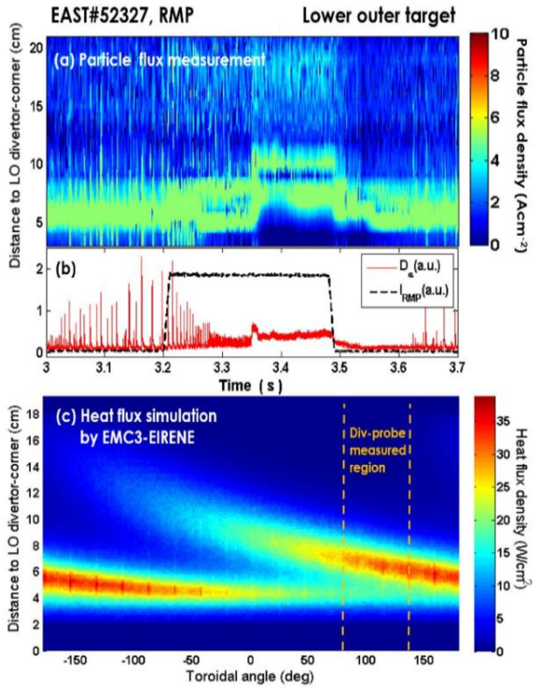
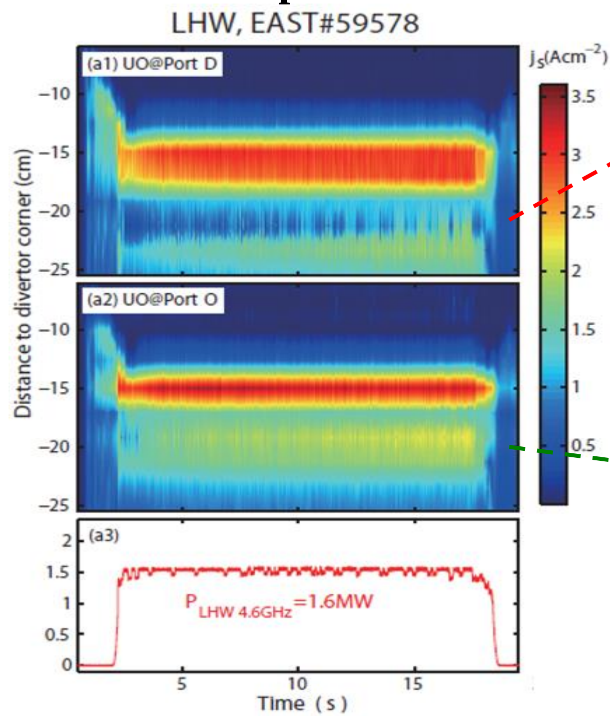
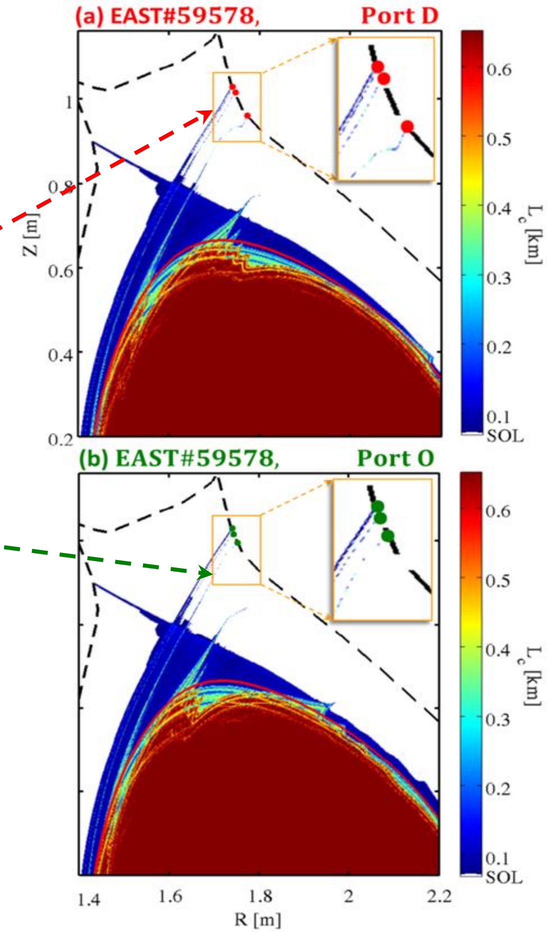
- Both LHW & RMP coils can induce edge topology change → striated magnetic flux lobes → 3D divertor footprints







- The experimental and modeling results of different toroidal locations show good agreement.
- Simulations: EMC3-EIRENE (RMP), field line tracing taking into account helical current filaments in the SOL (LHW).

Allowing further heat flux control using 3D footprint with regulated divertor conditions.

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EX/P7-10; TH/P6-20

Active control of particle exhaust

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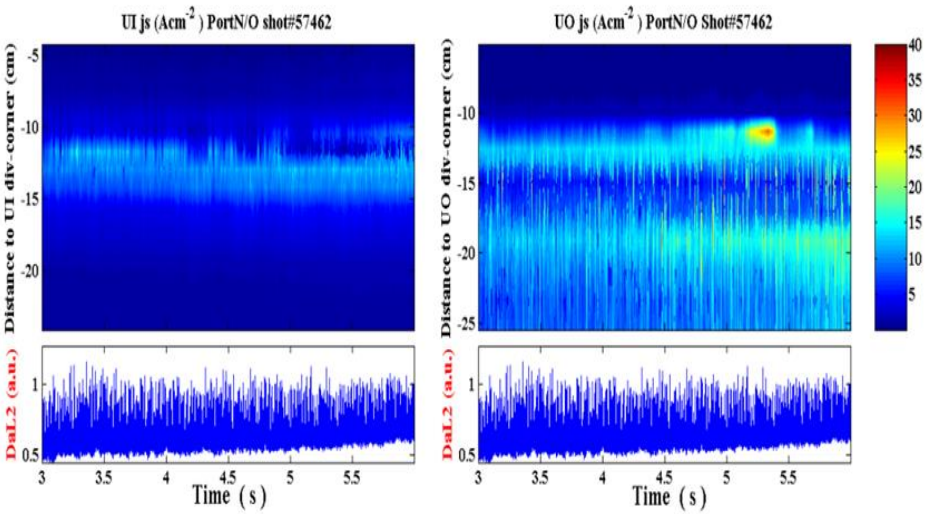
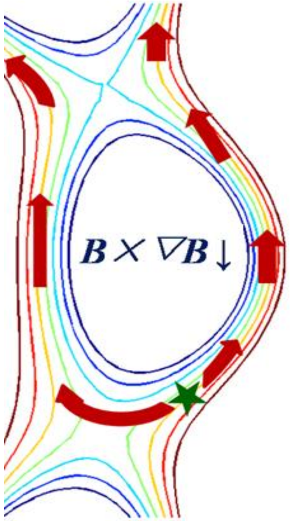
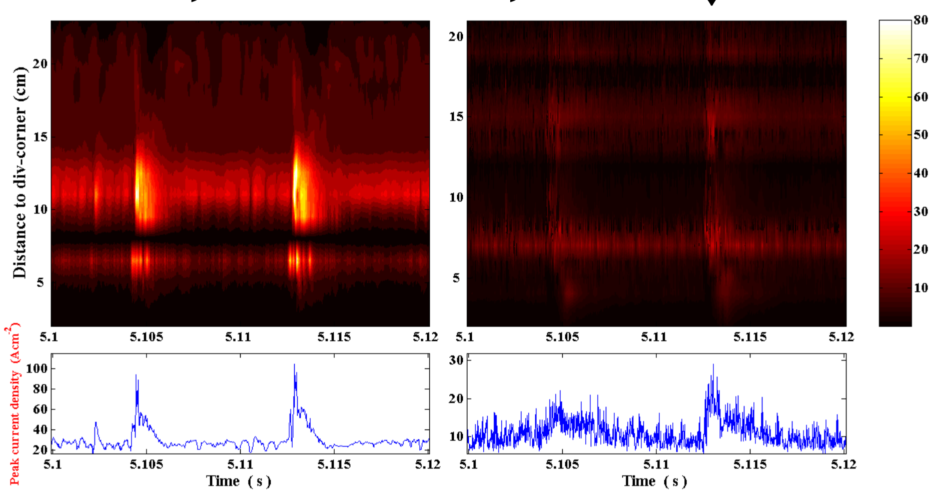
➢USN, W-divertor, Bx∇B↓

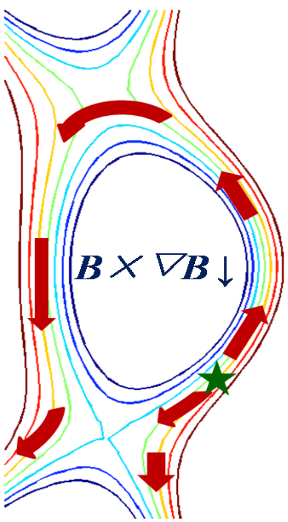


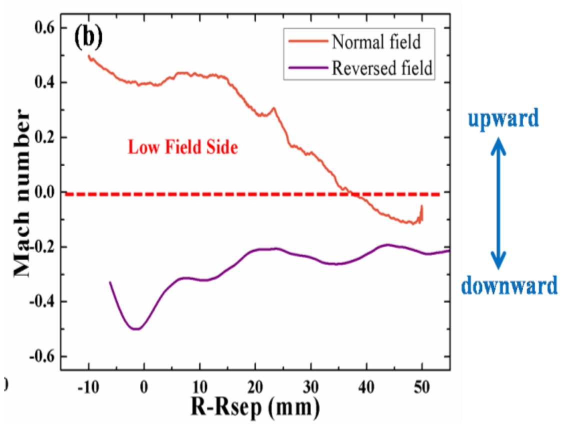


- ELM particle flux favors outer divertor in USN, while favoring inner divertor in LSN.
- A reference for particle exhaust during long-pulse H-mode operation, together with cryo-pumps.
- Consistent with PS flow, as measured by LFS/HFS reciprocating Langmuir probes.
- Compatible with ICRF heating

➢LSN, C-divertor, Bx∇B↓







J. B. Liu et al., NF (2016)

New Stationary Small/No ELM H-Mode Regime at Low Collisionality

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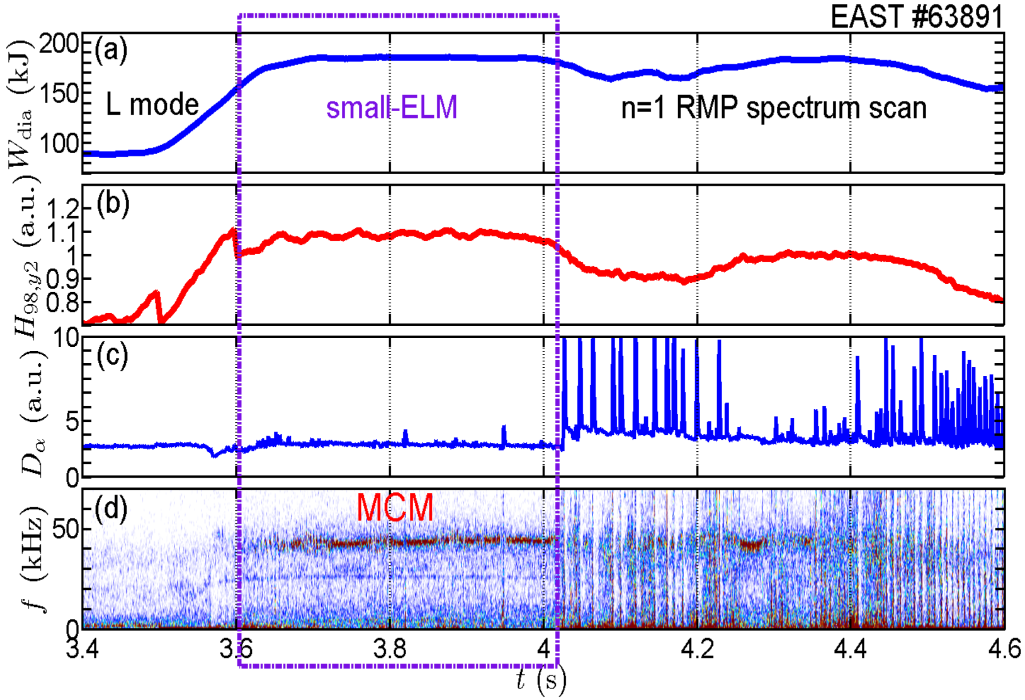

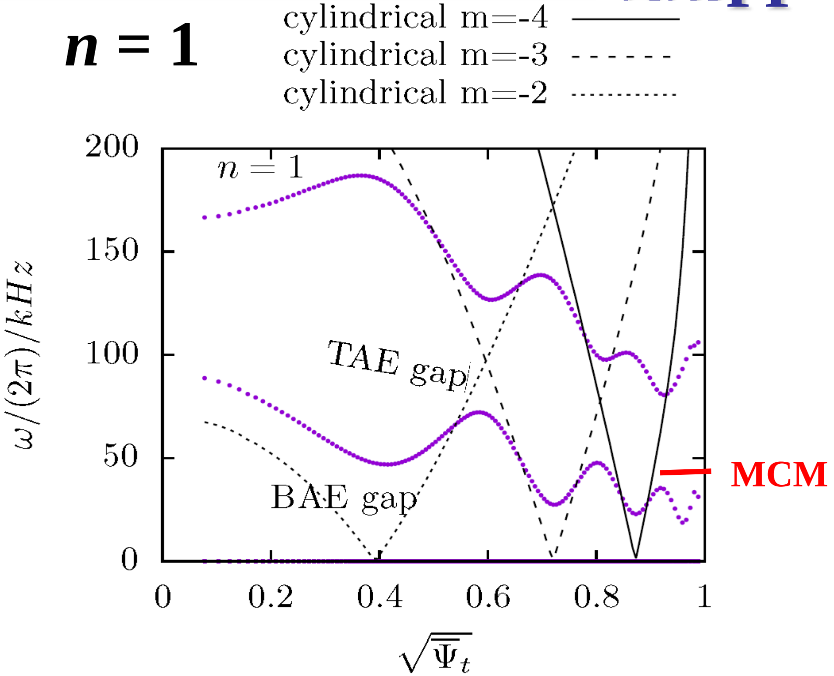

- ➢ A new stationary small/no ELM H-mode at low collisionality ($\nu_e^* < 1$)
- ➢ Good energy confinement, $H_{98(y,2)} \gtrsim 1.1$,
- ➢ A low-*n* (mostly *n*=1 and sometimes *n*=2) electro-Magnetic Coherent Mode (MCM) at 30-60 kHz in the pedestal region.

- MCM frequency appears to be located in the TAE gap near the local trapped-thermal-electron bounce frequency
- Frequency scales linearly with the local Alfvén frequency, indicating the possibility of trapped-electron-driven TAE mode through bounce resonance with trapped thermal electrons.

EX/10-2

ELM pacing with LHCD modulation

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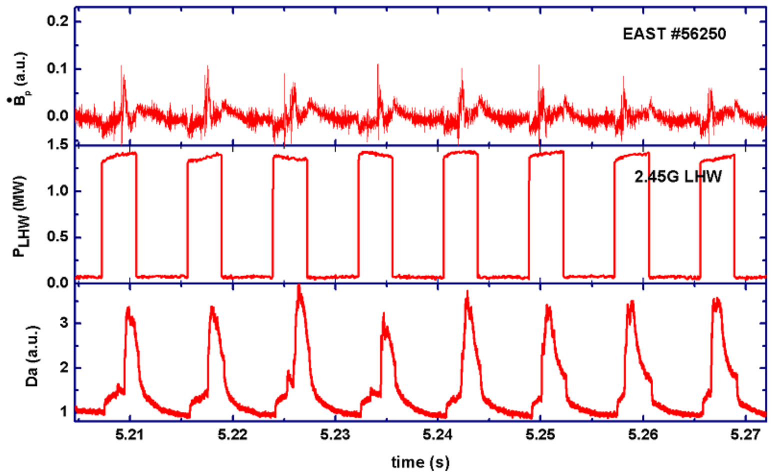
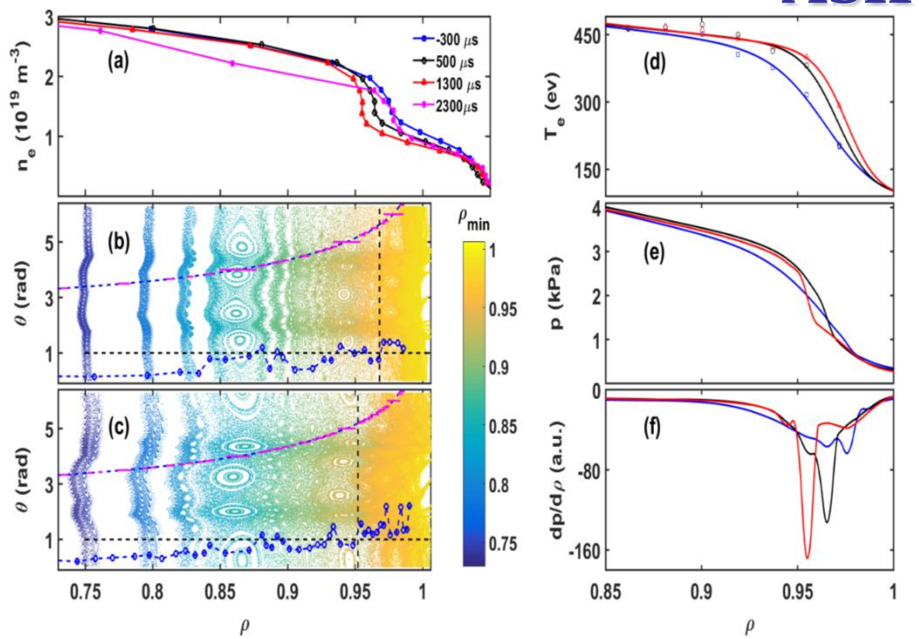
120 Hz, 40% duty cycle



➢ I_p~0.45MA, n_{el}=3.3~ 45%n_{GW}, B_t~2.33 T, $P_{LH\_4.6}$~1.3 MW, P_{NBI_1L}~2.8 MW

➢ 2.45G Modulation: $P_{LH\_2.45}$~1.4 MW, 120 Hz, 40% duty cycle



- ➢ LHCD-induced flattening of density profile near the separatrix and pedestal density pump-out have been observed.
- ➢ Density gradient is steepened near the pedestal top, causing pedestal-pressure-gradient increase that may be responsible for the ELM triggering.
- ➢ Vacuum-field modeling of LHCD-induced 3D magnetic topology change indicates that the flat-density-profile region and its radial width expansion are largely consistent with those of the LHCD-induced edge stochastic magnetic field layer, which may explain the observed density profile change, similar to the effect of RMPs.

EX/10-2

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Summary

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- **Stationary RF-heated long-pulse H-mode operations (>60s !) were achieved on EAST with progress in the *relevant physics* in support of SSO on *tungsten divertor***
  - **Extension of the *SSO towards high β_P regime (up to 1.8)*;**
  - **Achievement of *low-n (1, 2) RMP ELM suppression* in the RF dominant slow-rotating long-pulse H-mode plasma (~20s); Observation of the *first evidence of a nonlinear transition* from mitigation to suppression of the ELMs by using RMPs;**
  - **Extension of the *current drive in high-density domain* (up to $4.5\times10^{19}m^{-3}$) with 4.6 GHz and 2.45GHz LHCD systems together;**
  - ***Regulating heat deposition distribution* and *reducing transient peak heat fluxes* on the divertor and PFCs by applying *3D* magnetic perturbations at the plasma boundary.**
  - **Discovery of *a new stationary ELM-stable H-mode* ($H_{98(y,2)}\gtrsim1.1$, $\upsilon_{e,ped}^{*}<1$) *regime,* which exhibited a *low-n MCM* at the pedestal.**

Future Plans

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Step I

- Improve heating efficiency and develop the SSO-relevant fundamental physics and key diagnostics;

Step II

- Develop the SSO high performance plasma scenarios and demonstrate (≥100s) long-pulse H-mode plasmas;

Step III

- Optimize the SSO plasma and extend the EAST operational domain towards long-pulse, high β, high power, high performance regime.

List of EAST Contributions

ASIPP

- **OV/2-2 B.N. Wan:** Overview of EAST Experiments on the Development of High-Performance Steady-State Scenario
- **EX/4-3 A.M. Garofalo:** Development of High Poloidal β Steady-State Scenario with ITER-Like W Divertor on EAST
- **EX/10-2 G.S. Xu:** ELM Pace-Making and Long-Pulse ELM-Stable H-Mode Operation with LHCD in EAST
- **EX/P7-2 X. Gao:** Key Issues towards Long Pulse High Operation on EAST Tokamak
- **EX/P7-4 Y. Sun:** ELM Suppression Using Resonant Magnetic Perturbation in EAST
- **EX/P7-5 B. J. Ding:** Recent Experimental and Modelling Advances in the Understanding of Lower Hybrid Current Drive in ITER-Relevant Regimes
- **EX/P7-7 B. Lyu:** Experimental Study of Radio-Frequency Driven Spontaneous Rotation for High-Performance Plasmas on EAST
- **EX/P7-8 X.J. Zhang:** Heating and Confinements by the Waves in the Ion Cyclotron Range of Frequencies on EAST
- **EX/P7-10 L. Wang:** Evidence and Modelling of 3D Divertor Footprint Induced by Lower Hybrid Waves on EAST with Tungsten Divertor Operations
- **EX/P7-12 X.D. Zhang:** Fishtail Divertor: A New Divertor Concept on EAST for Active Control of Heat Load on Divertor Plate
- **EX/P7-15 G. Li:** Predictions of the Baseline Operation Scenario in Chinese Fusion Engineering Test Reactor
- **EX/P7-16 W. X. Ding:** Current Transport and Density Fluctuations at L-H Transition on EAST
- **TH/P6-19 T. Y. Xia:** Divertor Heat Flux Simulations in ELMy H-Mode Discharges of EAST and Other Tokamaks
- **TH/P6-20 J. Huang:** EMC3-EIRENE Simulations for the Impact of External Magnetic Perturbations on EAST Edge Plasma
- **FIP/1-1 P. Fu:** Recent Progress of ITER Package in ASIPP
- **FIP/P4-21 Z. Song**: Research and Development Progress of the ITER PF Converter System
- **MPT/1-2Ra G.-N. Luo:** Overview on Decade Development of Plasma-Facing Components at ASIPP

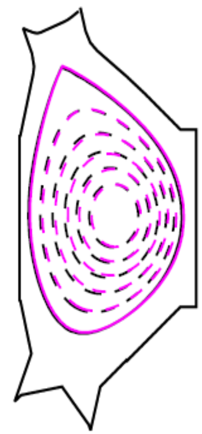
Welcome to the poster session for further discussions!

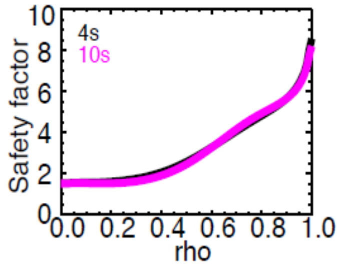
Thank you !

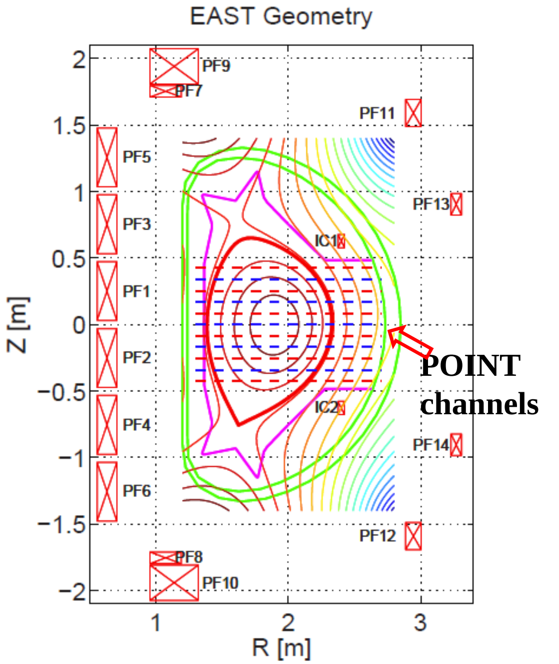
Backup slides

Diagnostics for key profiles

- **Polarimeter Interferometer (POINT): n_e, j_ϕ, q, B_p profiles**
- **Core & edge TS: T_e, n_e**
- **AXUV & Bolometer: radiation**
- **CXRS & XCS: T_i, rotation**
- **SXPHA & ECE: T_e**
- **Reflectometry: pedestal n_e**
- **He-BES: edge n_e, T_e**
- **Recip.-LPs: SOL n_e, T_e, flow**
- **Bremsstrahlung: Z_{eff}**
- **FIDA: $V_{fast\text{-}particle}$**
- **High speed CCD**
- **IR camera: heat flux**
- **Div-LPs: div. particle/heat flux**
- **Total: >70 diagnostics**



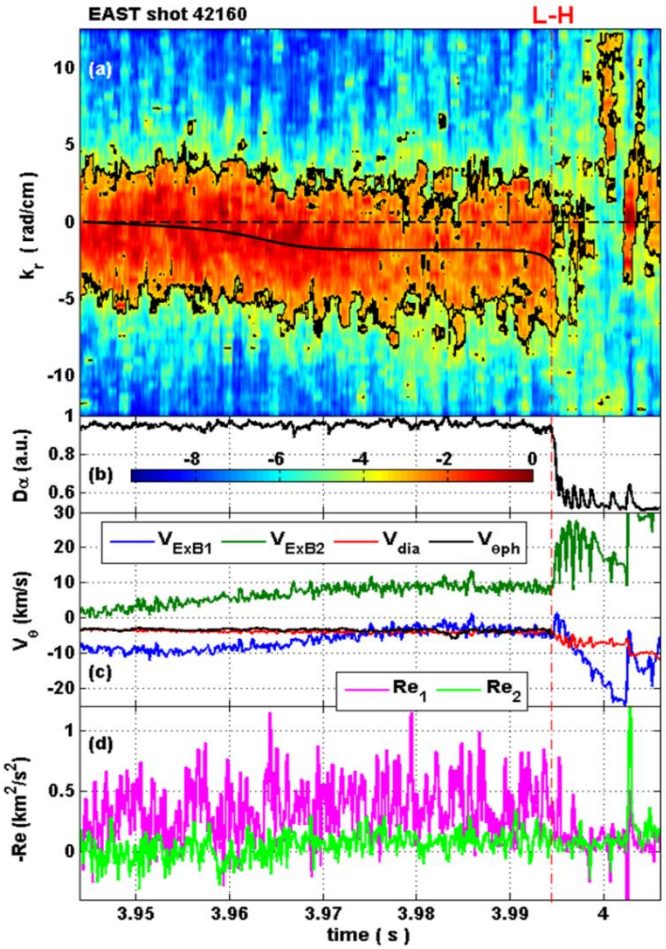




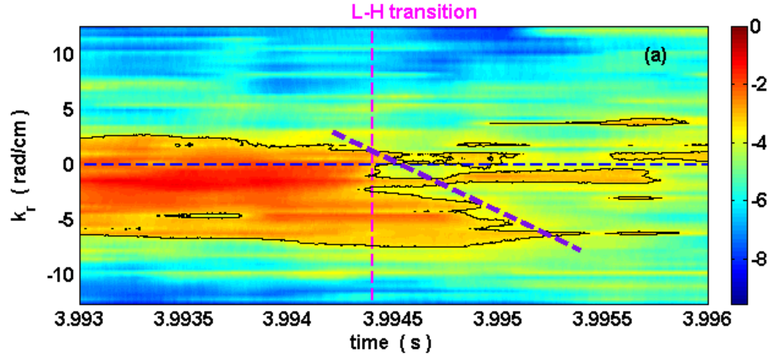
- **Using POINT measurement as constraint, accurate *q* profile were derived**
- **Powerful tools for developing scenarios**

EAST Experiment Shows New L-H Transition Mechanism

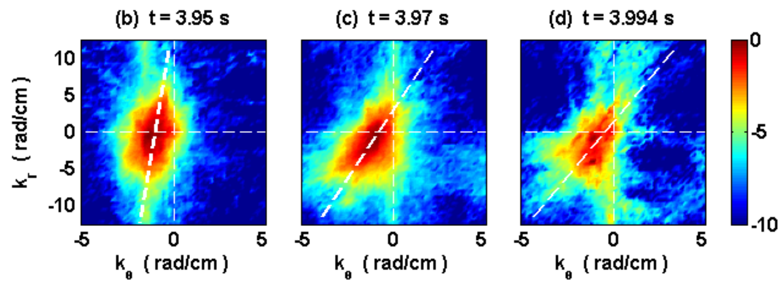
ASIPP



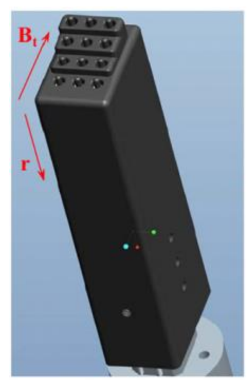
First direct observation of L-H transition mediated by turbulence k_r spectral shift and eddy tilting.



Shift accelerates at the transition, accompanied by turbulence suppression.



Eddy tilt increase as approaching the L-H transition.

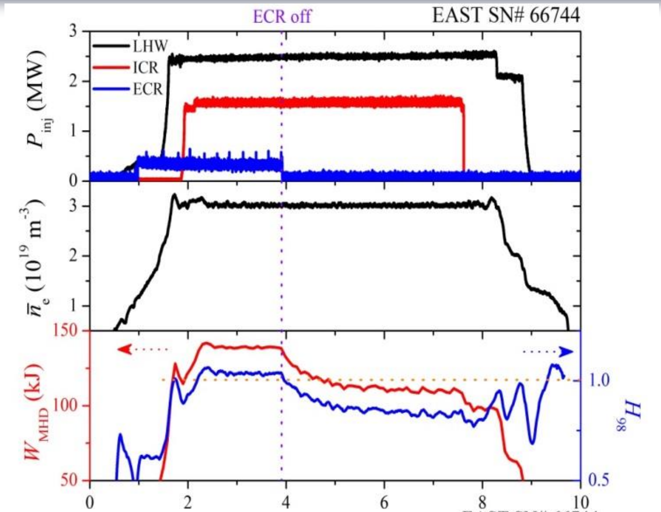


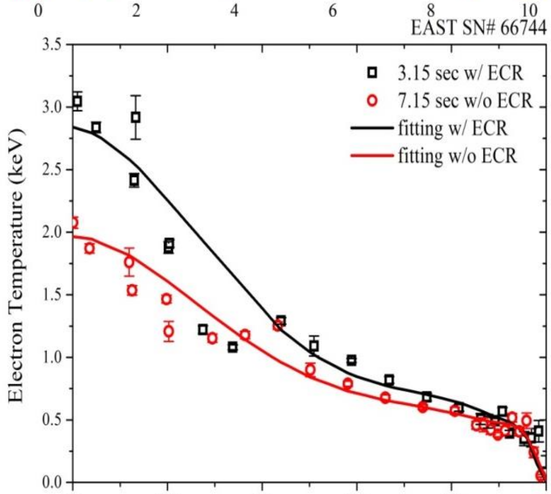
Reciprocating Langmuir probe array

G.S. Xu, PRL 116, 095002 (2016)

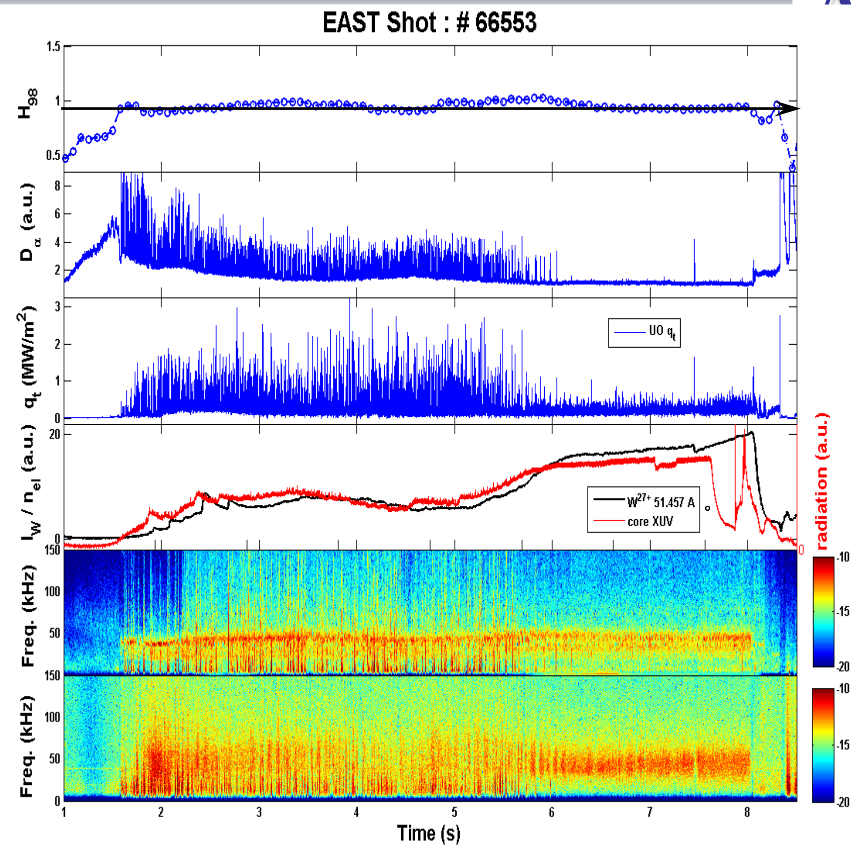
Core confinement improvement and ELM effect for long pulse H-mode operation

ASIPP





Adding additional central heating power i.e. ECR, is critical for keeping high performance

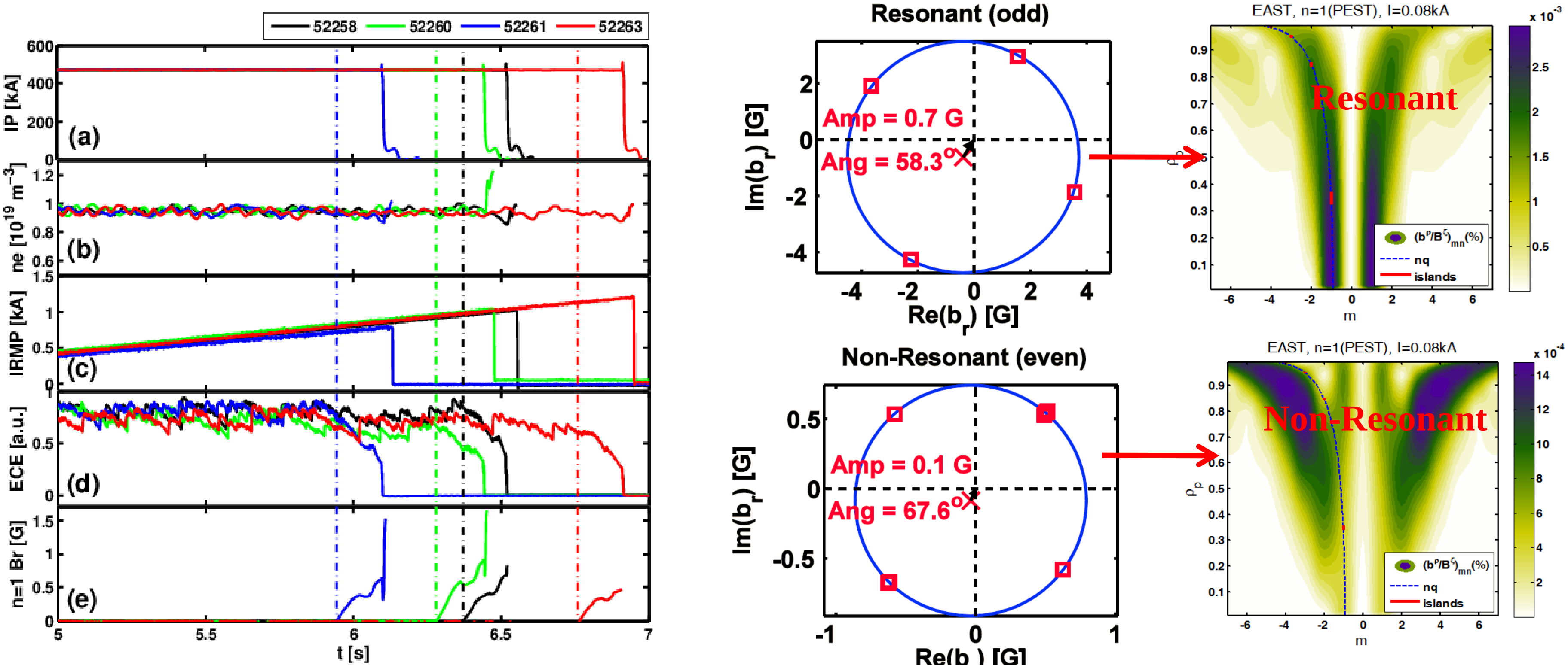


ELM-free H-mode (6.06-8s)
- **High confinement (H_{98} ~ 0.93)**
- **Impurity accumulation and high core radiation**

Small-ELM H-mode (1.6-6.06s)
- **High confinement (H_{98} ~ 0.98)**
- **Lower impurity/radiation level**
- **Suitable for long-pulse H-mode operation**

Low n=1 intrinsic error field measured in EAST

ASIPP



Compass scan [Wang H.H *et al*, Nucl. Fusion 56, 066011(2016)]

- ➢ **The measured n=1 intrinsic error field is of the order $B_{2/1}/B_0$ ~10^{-5}.**
- ➢ **The amplitude depends on the RMP configuration used, which agrees with linear plasma response modeling by MARS-F.**
  - ✓ **Non-Resonant: $B_{2/1}/B_0$ ~0.6x10-5 (better coupling)**
  - ✓ **Resonant: $B_{2/1}/B_0$ ~4.4x10-5**