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Formation of impurity transport barrier in LHD plasmas with hollow density profile

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In the Large Helical Device (LHD), the n_e profile can exhibit a peaked, flat or hollow shape. For the purpose of heavy impurity control, it is important to investigate the effect of n_e profile on the impurity transport. Radial emissions profiles of Fe^{16+} through Fe^{23+} ions have been simultaneously measured in the Fe L_α array. The total iron density ($N_{\text{Fe}}(\rho)$) profile is then calculated for peaked and hollow n_e profiles with $R_{\text{ax}}=3.6$ m and $B_t=2.75$ T. When the n_e profile is peaked (hollow), the N_{Fe} also exhibits a peaked (hollow) profile. The $N_{\text{Fe}}(\rho=0)$ at the peaked n_e profile is at least one order of magnitude higher than that at the hollow n_e profile over a wide n_e range. The result strongly suggests the iron transport in the plasma core is entirely different between the two cases.

A one-dimensional impurity transport code is employed to simulate the time-dependent iron density profile. Minimization process of the error between measurement and simulation determines the transport coefficients. The convective velocity (V) is assumed to be proportional to the ion charge q . The iron transport is analyzed without assumption on the radial structure of transport coefficients because the Fe L_α transitions are distributed in a wide radial range.

The diffusion coefficient (D) profile is very similar between peaked and hollow n_e profiles, while the D gradually increases toward the plasma edge from the center. On the other hand, the profile of V averaged among Fe^{16+} through Fe^{23+} , is entirely different. In the peaked n_e profile, the V is inward and increases from the center to the edge. This indicates the impurity accumulation easily occurs with a peaked n_e profile. In the hollow n_e profile, an outward V is obviously observed inside $\rho=0.8$. Near the edge the V changes from outward to inward where the n_e gradient changes the sign from positive to negative. Due to this quick change in the V profile, the iron ions are pushed back outwards and concentrated near the edge. An impurity transport barrier is thus formed. As a result the large difference in the $n_{\text{Fe}}(\rho=0)$ in the two cases can be well explained.

Since hollow n_e profiles are usually observed in high-temperature and low-collision plasmas with high NBI power input, the present result demonstrates that the control of heavy impurities is possible in LHD by controlling the n_e profile.

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