

Macroscopic Stability Research for 2009-13

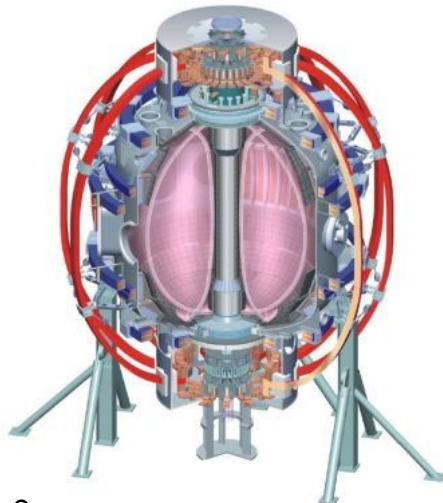
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For the NSTX Research Team

NSTX 5 Year Plan Review for 2009-13
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
July 28-30, 2008

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IPP, Garching
ASCR, Czech Rep
U Quebec

Understanding what profiles and control systems are needed for burning plasmas must occur before such devices

- FESAC US ST mission:

- *Develop compact, high β , burning plasma capability for fusion energy*

CTF: $\beta_N = 3.8 - 5.9$ ($W_L = 1-2$ MW/m²)

ST-DEMO: $\beta_N \sim 7.5$

- Both at, or above ideal no-wall β -limit; deleterious effects at $\sim \frac{1}{2} \beta_N^{no-wall}$
- high β_N accelerates neutron fluence goal - takes 20 years at $W_L = 1$ MW/m²)

- Stability Goal (in one sentence)

- Demonstrate reliable maintenance of high β_N with sufficient physics understanding to extrapolate to next-step devices

- Knowledge base needed to bridge to these devices

- Demonstration = Control (of modes and plasma profiles):

- Need to determine what control is needed *before* CTF (for greatest simplicity)

- Understanding = Vary parameters (+operate closer to burning plasma levels):

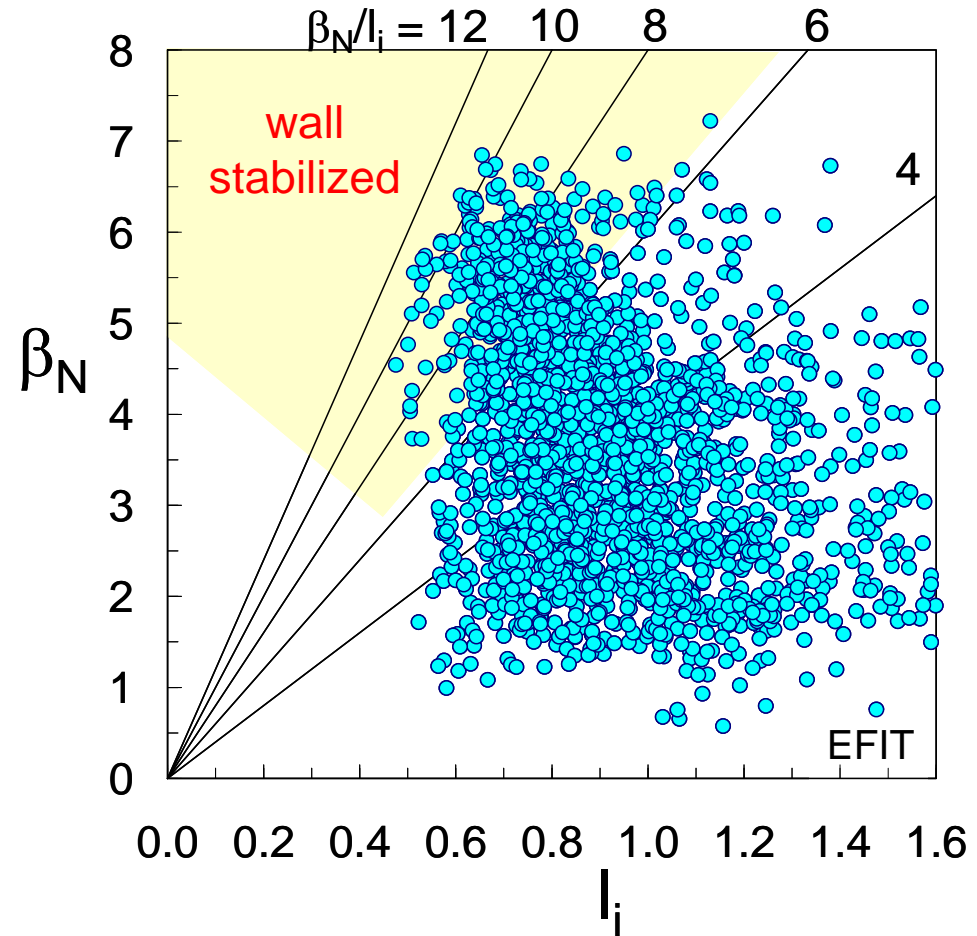
- Collisionality: influences V_ϕ damping
- Shaping:
- Plasma rotation level, profile:
- q level, profile:



***All influence β -limiting modes:
Kink/ballooning, RWM, NTM***

Advanced tokamak operation demonstrated in a mega-Ampere class spherical torus

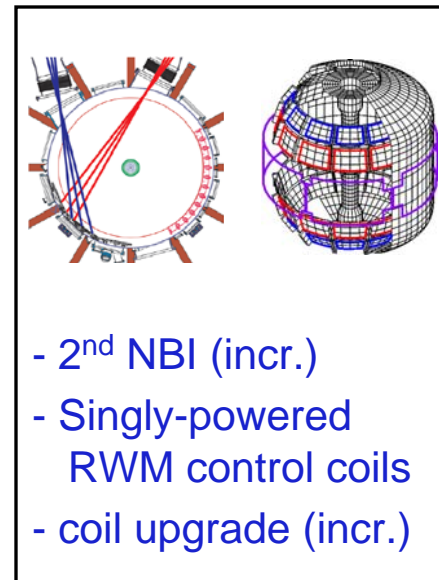
- High β operational space
 - Ultra-high $\beta_t = 39\%$, near unity in core
 - Broad current and pressure profiles
 - $\beta_N > 7$, $\beta_N/I_i > 11$
 - Wall-stabilized, $\beta_N/\beta_N^{\text{no-wall}} > 50\%$ at highest β_N
- Future research moves to develop predictive capability and control for *steady-state operation near with-wall β limit*
 - Extrapolate to next step device with high confidence



S.A. Sabbagh, et al., *Nucl. Fusion* **46**, 635 (2006).

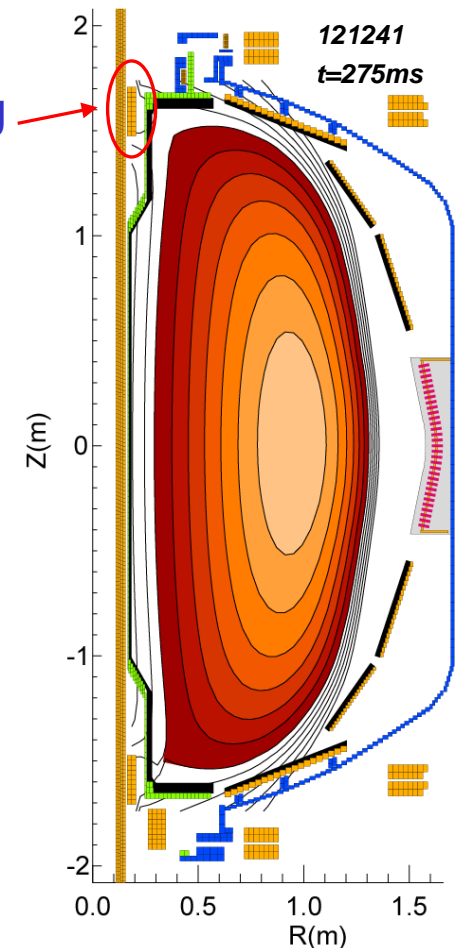
Development of device hardware empowers fundamental stability understanding for robust extrapolation to next-step STs

- Operate at parameters closer to burning plasma (e.g. low v_i) →
 - High plasma shaping ($\kappa \sim 3$), low I_i operation
 - Vertical stability, kink/ballooning stability, coupling to passive stabilizers
 - Resistive wall mode (RWM) stabilization
 - Understand physics of passive mode stabilization vs. V_ϕ at reduced v_i
 - Non-axisymmetric field-induced viscosity
 - Non-resonant and resonant, due to 3-D fields and modes at reduced v_i
- Control modes and profiles, understand key physics
 - Dynamic error field correction (DEFC)
 - Demonstrate sustained V_ϕ with reduced resonant field amplification, under V_ϕ profile control
 - Resistive wall mode control
 - Increase reliability of active control, investigate multi-mode RWM physics under V_ϕ , q control
 - Tearing mode / NTM
 - Stabilization physics at low A , mode locking physics under V_ϕ , q control
 - Plasma rotation control
 - Sources (2nd NBI, magnetic spin-up) and sink (non-resonant magnetic braking)
 - Mode-induced disruption physics and prediction/avoidance



Plasma equilibrium goal to access and maintain stable high β_N at high shaping

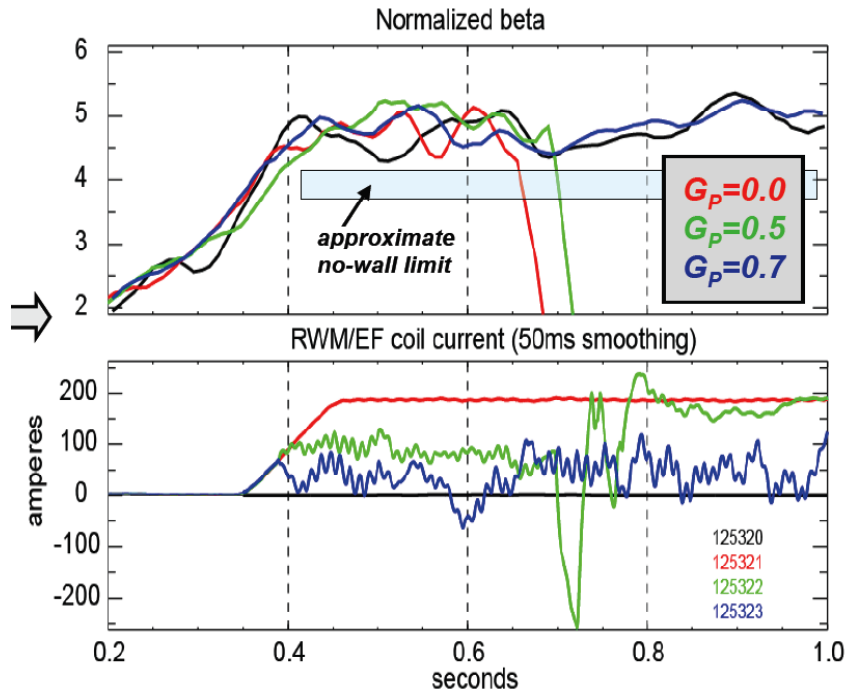
- Progress
 - Central coil PF1A modified (2005) to allow high shaping
 - Sustained $\kappa < 2.7$, $\delta < 0.8$; transient $\kappa = 3$ with record shaping factor, $S_l \equiv q_{95}(I_p/aB_t) = 41$
 - Note: Present CTF design has $\kappa = 3.07$, lower S_l
 - Highest κ and S_l plasmas reached $\beta_N \sim 6$ in 2008
- Plan summary 2009-2011
 - Assess/utilize β feedback control using real-time EFIT and NBI power to avoid fast kink/ballooning disruptions
 - Conduct experiments/analysis to extend high S_l plasmas into wall-stabilized, high $\beta_N > 6$ operating space
- Plan summary 2012-2013
 - Real-time MSE for evaluation of q in real-time EFIT
 - Utilize/analyze β feedback using stability models; q profile control with 2nd NBI (incremental)
 - Study ST-CTF target shapes (increased A) at low v_i with favorable profiles, determine sensitivity to variations in I_p , δ



D.A. Gates, et al., *Nucl. Fusion* **47**, 1376 (2007).

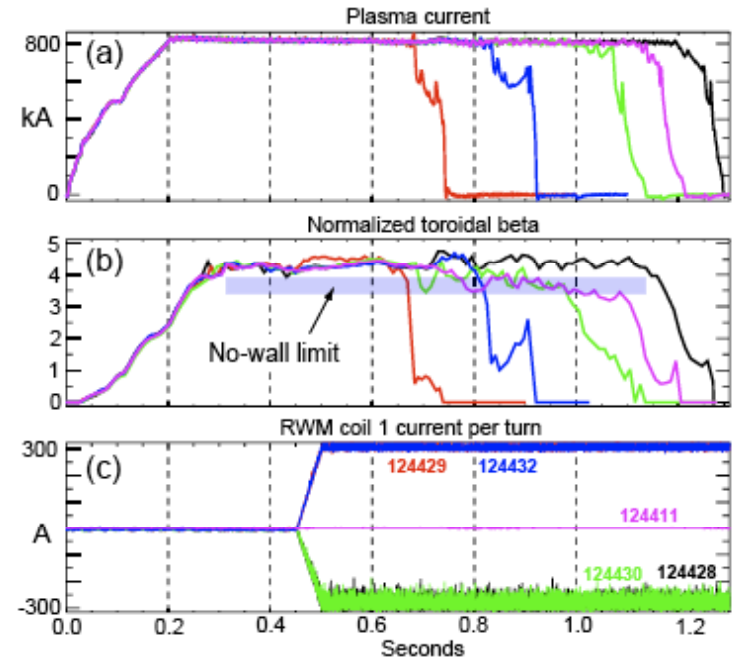
Dynamic Error Field Correction used to increase pulse length

Feedback System Trained for n=1 DEFC



- Apply preprogrammed $n = 1$ fields
- Adjust feedback gain, phase, so that feedback cancels those currents
- then remove $n=1$ EF source to correct intrinsic error fields

Important to Correct $n > 1$ Error Fields



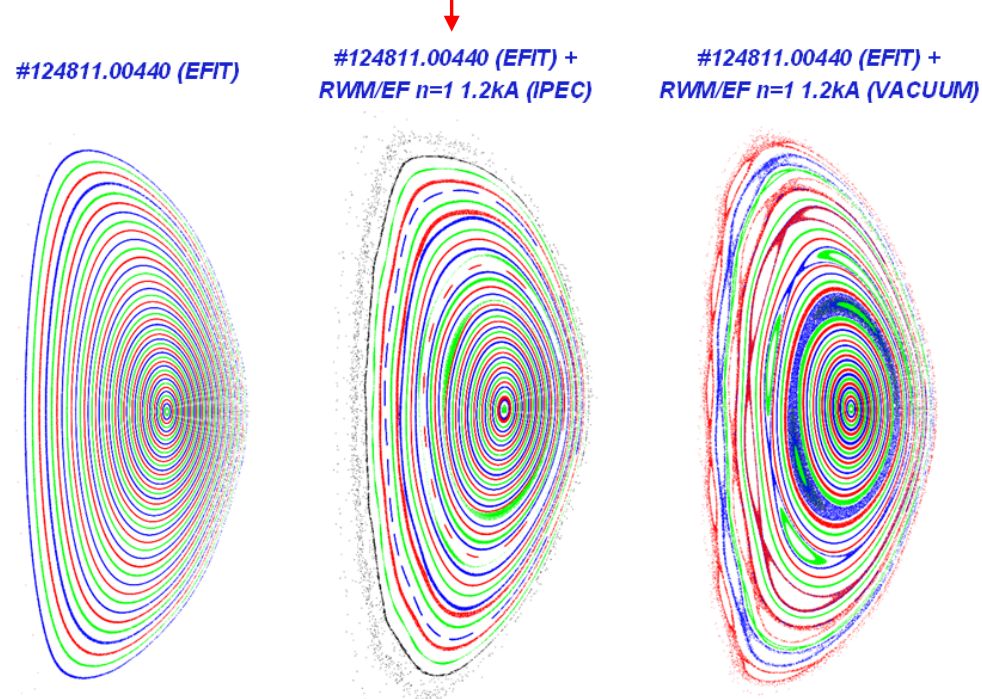
- Pre-programmed $n = 3$ fields, two phases
- Asymmetric response in rotation, pulse length
 - $n = 3$ intrinsic error field present (PF5, TF most likely causes)
- $n = 2$ error fields found to be less important

Goal to make resonant and non-resonant DEFC effective over large range of plasma conditions

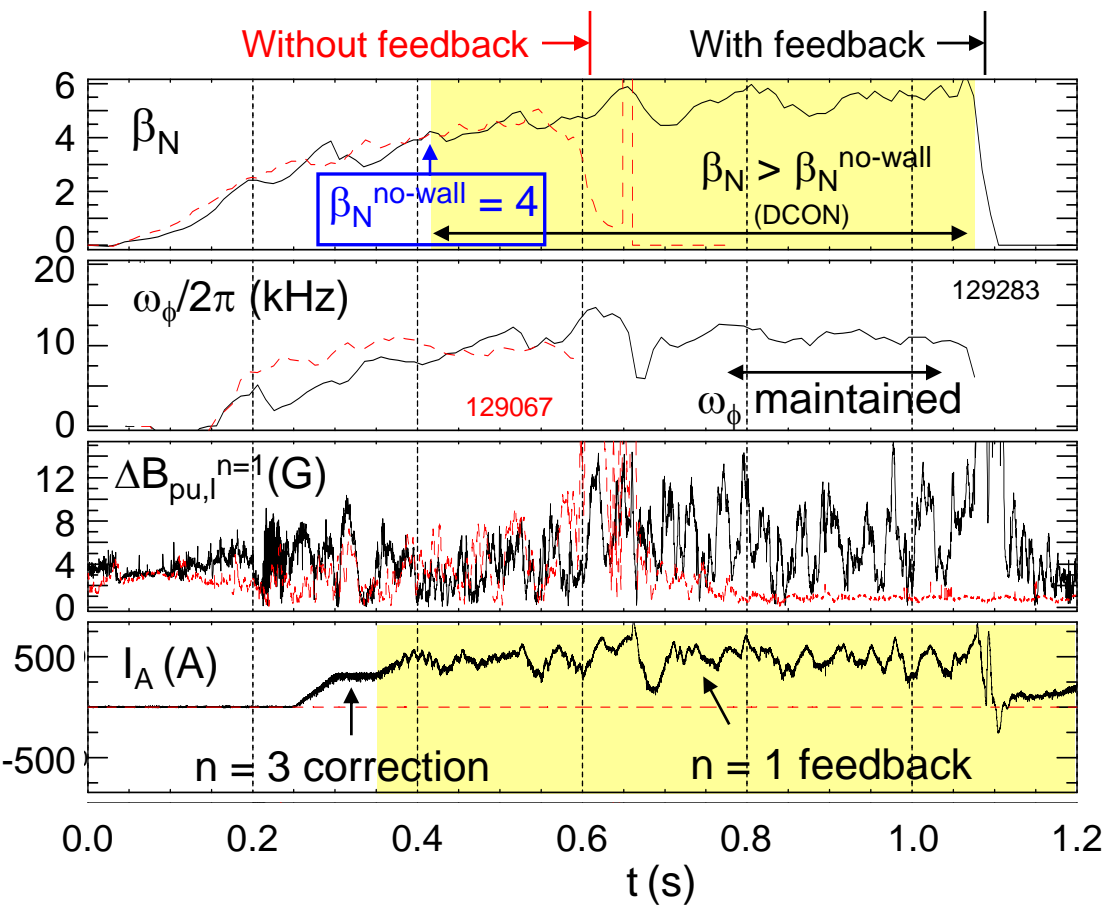
- FY2009-10
 - Optimize DEFC control with expanded sensor arrays
 - Plasma response using IPEC
 - Test real-time $n=3$ correction ($\propto I_{PF5}$)
 - Develop tensor-pressure equilibria with IPEC
- FY2011-2012
 - Modify IPEC to allow magnetic islands. Compare to experiments involving interaction of 3-D applied fields and NTMs.
- FY2012-2013
 - Study EF thresholds at $B_T < 1T$, assess intrinsic error fields at higher B_T , I_p
 - Utilize 2nd SPA power supply for greater DEFC spectrum flexibility
 - Utilizing upgraded RWM coil geometry and IPEC modeling, optimize DEFC poloidal mode spectrum for best V_{ϕ} . Implement appropriate control system upgrades as required.

Ideal Perturbed Equilibrium Code (IPEC)

J.-K. Park, et al., Phys. Plasmas **14**, 052110 (2007).



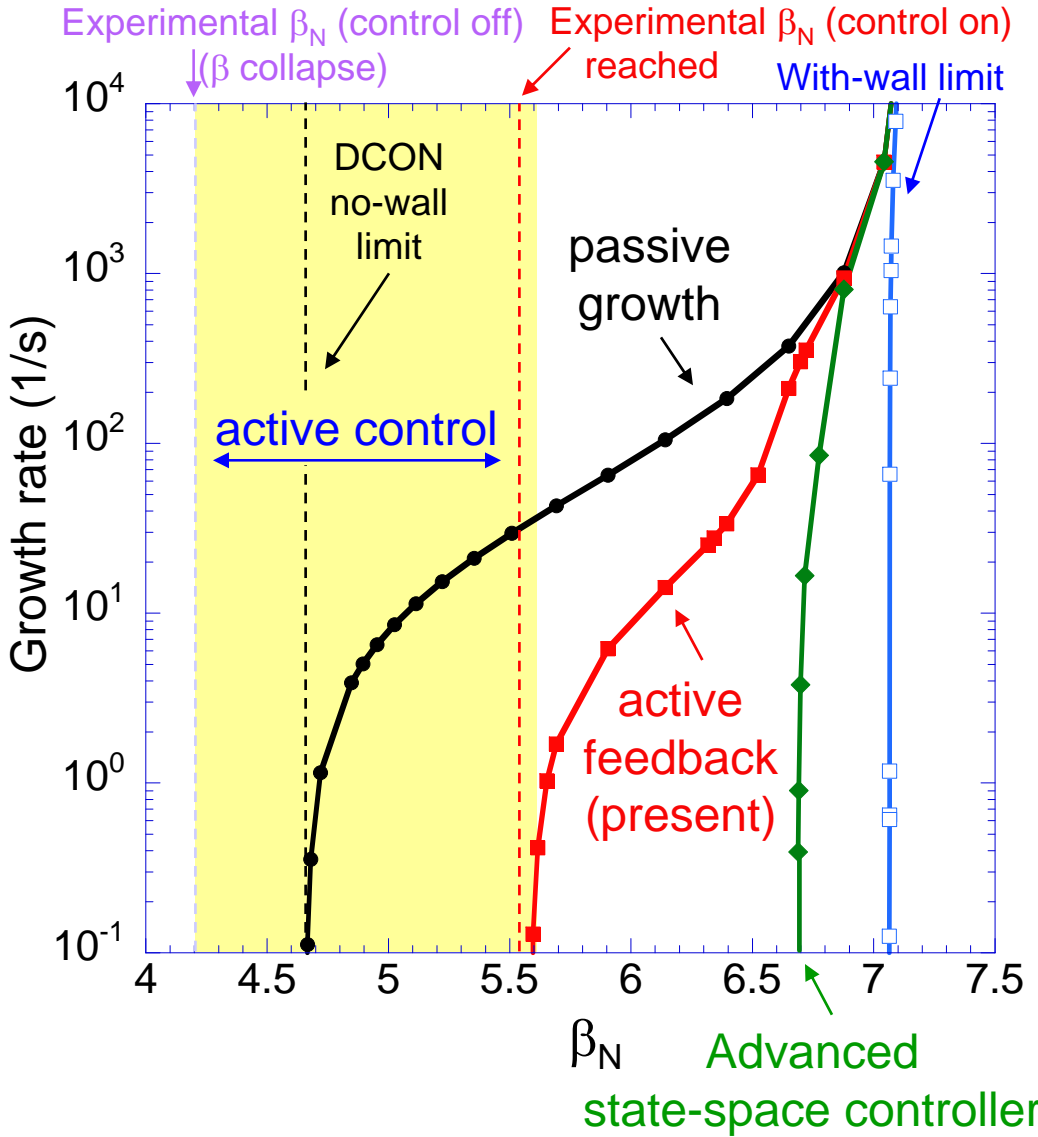
Active RWM control and error field correction maintain high β_N plasma



- NSTX record pulse lengths
 - Up to 1.8s (shown previously)
- $n = 1$ active control
 - Upper/lower B_p sensors
 - Favorable B_r feedback settings found in 2008
 - Fast response ~ 1 ms
- $n = 3$ DC field correction
 - best maintains ω_ϕ
 - but - RWMs observed w/o feedback at high ω_ϕ
- $n = 1$ feedback now being used as tool in many XPs
 - > 200 shots in 2008 with active feedback in 10 XPs
- Present goal to increase reliability, performance
 - Feedback success $\sim 74\%$
 - RWM more likely when NTM stabilized (e.g. by lithium)
 - Poloidal deformation of mode
 - Considering system upgrades

VALEN code reproduces experimental RWM feedback performance

- Model simulates experiments
 - Actual RWM sensors locations
 - Compensation of control field
 - Experimental equilibrium reconstruction (including MSE data)
 - Proportional gain
 - Low V_ϕ results shown
- Advanced control may greatly improve performance
 - Advanced state-space controller may stabilize $\beta_N/\beta_N^{wall} < 95\%$ (benefit to ITER, next-step ST)
 - Plan to test offline 2009-10; implement for initial RWM control testing 2010-11

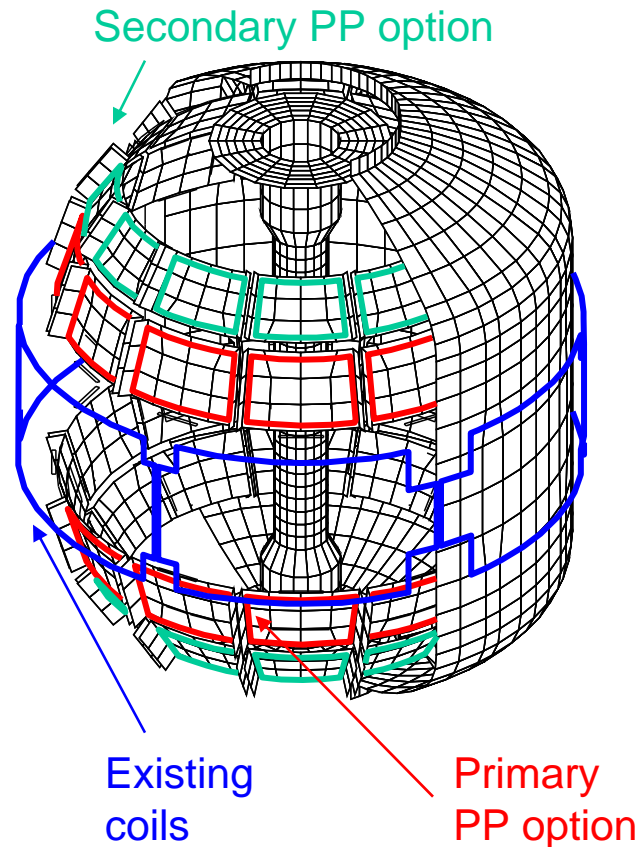


Design work for upgraded non-axisymmetric control capabilities has begun

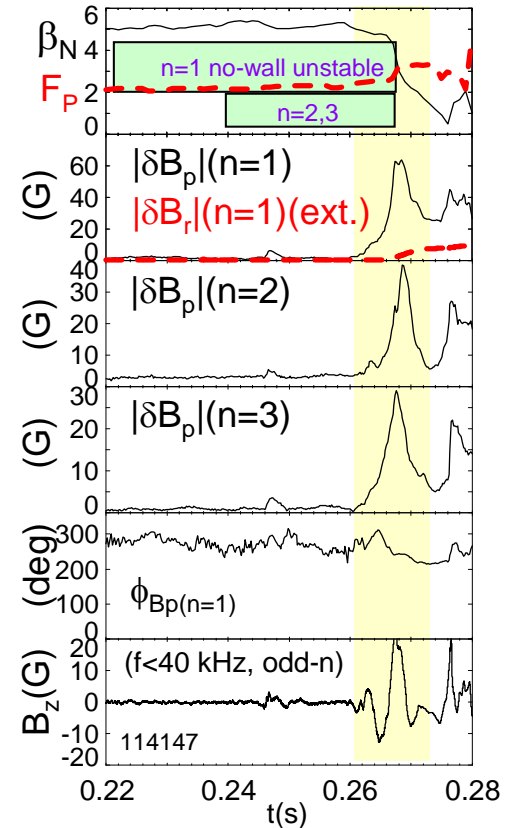
Capabilities

- Non-axisymmetric control coil (NCC) – at least four applications
 - RWM stabilization ($n > 1$, higher β_N)
 - DEFC with greater field correction capability
 - ELM control ($n = 6$)
 - $n > 1$ propagation, increased V_ϕ control)
 - Similar to proposed ITER coil design
 - **In incremental budget**
- Addition of 2nd SPA power supply unit for simultaneous $n > 1$ fields
- Non-magnetic RWM sensors; advanced RWM active feedback control algorithms
- Alteration of stabilizing plate connections

Proposed Internal
Non-axisymmetric Control Coil
(NCC)
(initial designs - 12 coils toroidally)



RWM with $n > 1$ RWM
observed



(Sabbagh, et al., Nucl. Fusion **46**, 635 (2006).)

Significant progress planned for RWM control research

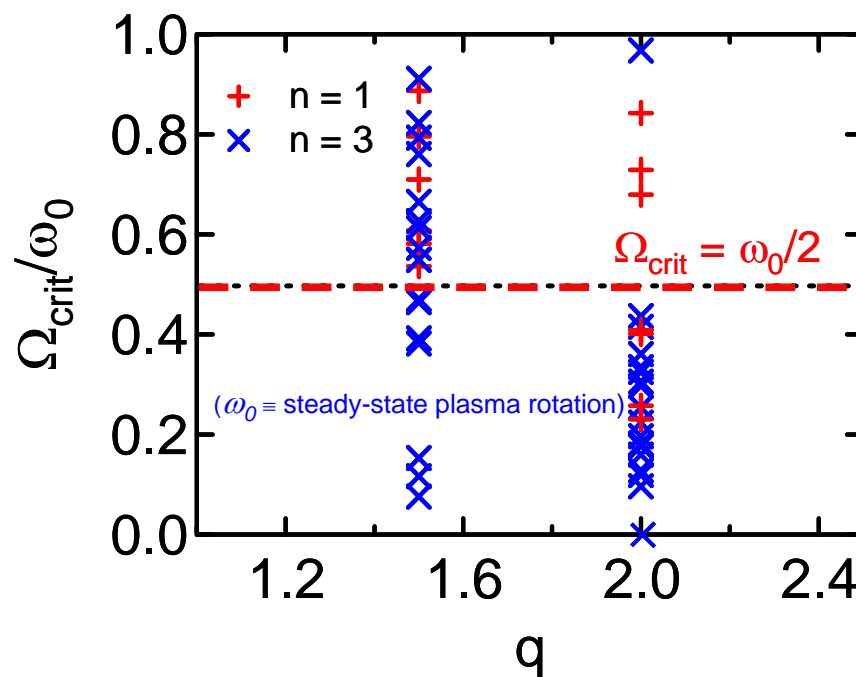
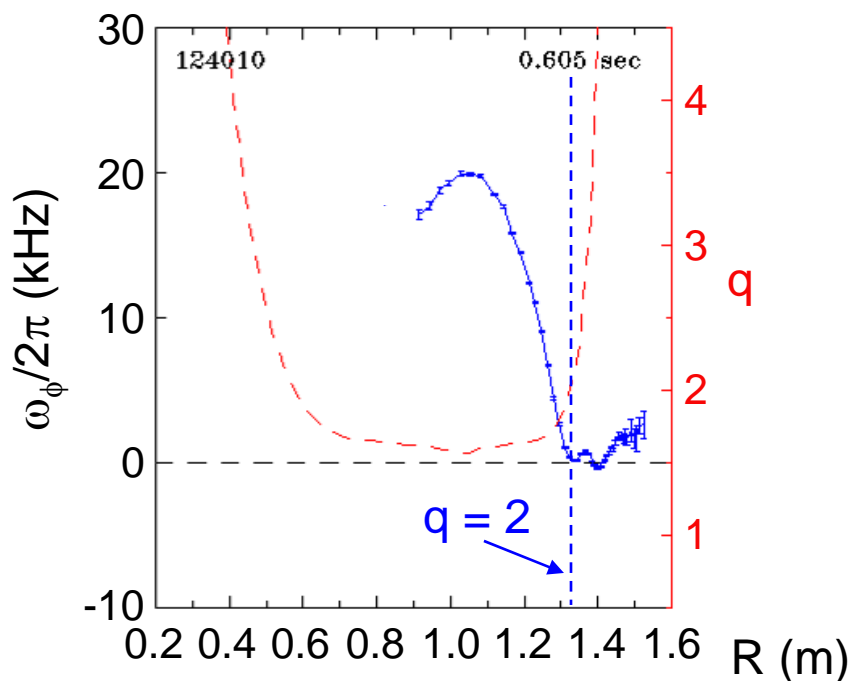
(i) Active feedback control

- Plan summary 2009-2011
 - Continue use of RWM feedback control as standard tool – build performance statistics
 - Investigate underlying active control physics
 - Continue feedback control parameter optimizations/analysis, using all RWM sensors
 - Determine effectiveness over range of V_ϕ profiles and levels, ν_i level
 - Test advanced state-space active stabilization algorithms offline; implement and perform initial tests for RWM control
 - Determine the role of plasma response during RWM control using IPEC
 - Investigate multiple modes in stabilization, implement methods of decreasing possibility of RWM poloidal deformation
 - Multi-mode VALEN code completed (running NSTX, DIII-D, HBT-EP tests now)
 - Design high- n control coil (NCC); determine need for passive plate modifications
- Plan summary 2012-2013
 - Assess RWM control at reduced ν_i with center stack upgrade; during V_ϕ profile control
 - Analyze initial non-magnetic (SXR) RWM sensor data
 - compare to magnetic sensors; evaluate future use in RWM feedback
 - Implement 2nd switching power amplifier (SPA) to allow independent control of all 6 midplane RWM coils
 - Implement NCC and begin to use for RWM stabilization; $n > 1$ RWM, multi-mode study during $n = 1$ stabilization; compare to theory (incremental)
 - Examine greater range of V_ϕ and q profiles with 2nd NBI, greater non-resonant braking flexibility using 2nd SPA; NCC (incremental)

Non-resonant magnetic braking allows V_ϕ modification to probe RWM “critical rotation” and stabilization physics

- Scalar plasma rotation at $q = 2$ inadequate to describe stability
 - Marginal stability $\beta_N > \beta_N^{\text{no-wall}}$, $\omega_\phi^{q=2} = 0$

- Ω_{crit} doesn't follow simple $\omega_0/2$ rotation bifurcation relation
A.C. Sontag, et al., NF 47 (2007) 1005.



- Slowest rotation profiles produced in NSTX are at DIII-D balanced-NBI levels
- Ion collisionality profile variation appears to alter experimental Ω_{crit} profile

Kinetic modification of ideal MHD stability theory investigated to explain experiment

- Ideal MHD RWM growth rate formulation
- Kinetic modifications
 - Trapped and circulating ions
 - Trapped electrons
 - Alfvén dissipation at rational surfaces
- Stability depends on
 - Integrated Ω_ϕ profile: resonances in δW_K (e.g. ion precession, diamag. drift)
 - Particle collisionality

$$\gamma\tau_w = -\frac{\delta W_\infty + \delta W_K}{\delta W_b + \delta W_K}$$

Hu and Betti, Phys. Rev. Lett **93**, 105002 (2004).

Ω_ϕ profile (enters through ExB frequency)

$$\omega_E = \Omega_\phi^D - \omega_{*i}^D - \frac{v_\theta^D}{2\pi R} \frac{B_\phi}{B_\theta}$$

Trapped ion component of δW_K (plasma integral)

$$\delta W_K^{ti} = \int_0^{\Psi_a} d\Psi \left(\frac{p_s}{1 + \frac{T_e}{T_i}} \right) \left(2\sqrt{\pi} \frac{r}{v} \right) \sum_{l=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{B_0/B_{max}}^{B_0/B_{min}} d\Lambda \left(\frac{\hat{\tau}_b}{2} \right) \times \int_0^\infty \left[\frac{\omega_{*N} + (\hat{\epsilon} - \frac{3}{2})\omega_{*T} + \omega_E - \omega}{\langle \omega_D \rangle + l\omega_b - i\nu_{eff} + \omega_E - \omega} \right] \hat{\epsilon}^{5/2} e^{-\hat{\epsilon}} d\hat{\epsilon} \times \left| \left\langle \left(2 - 3\frac{\Lambda}{B_0/B} \right) (\kappa \cdot \xi_\perp) - \left(\frac{\Lambda}{B_0/B} \right) (\nabla \cdot \xi_\perp) \right\rangle \right|^2$$

← Pitch angle integral

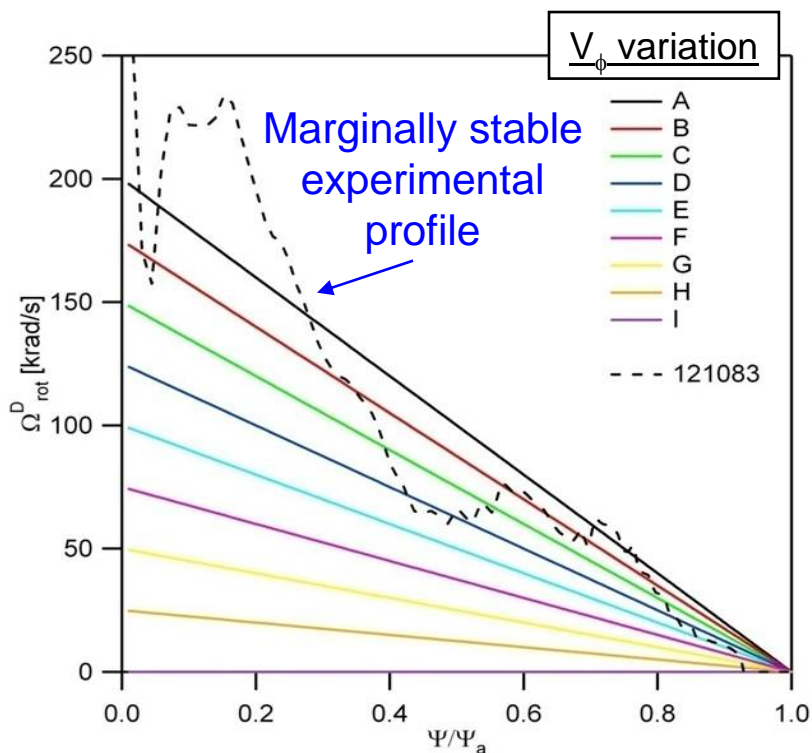
← Energy integral

← Mode geometry

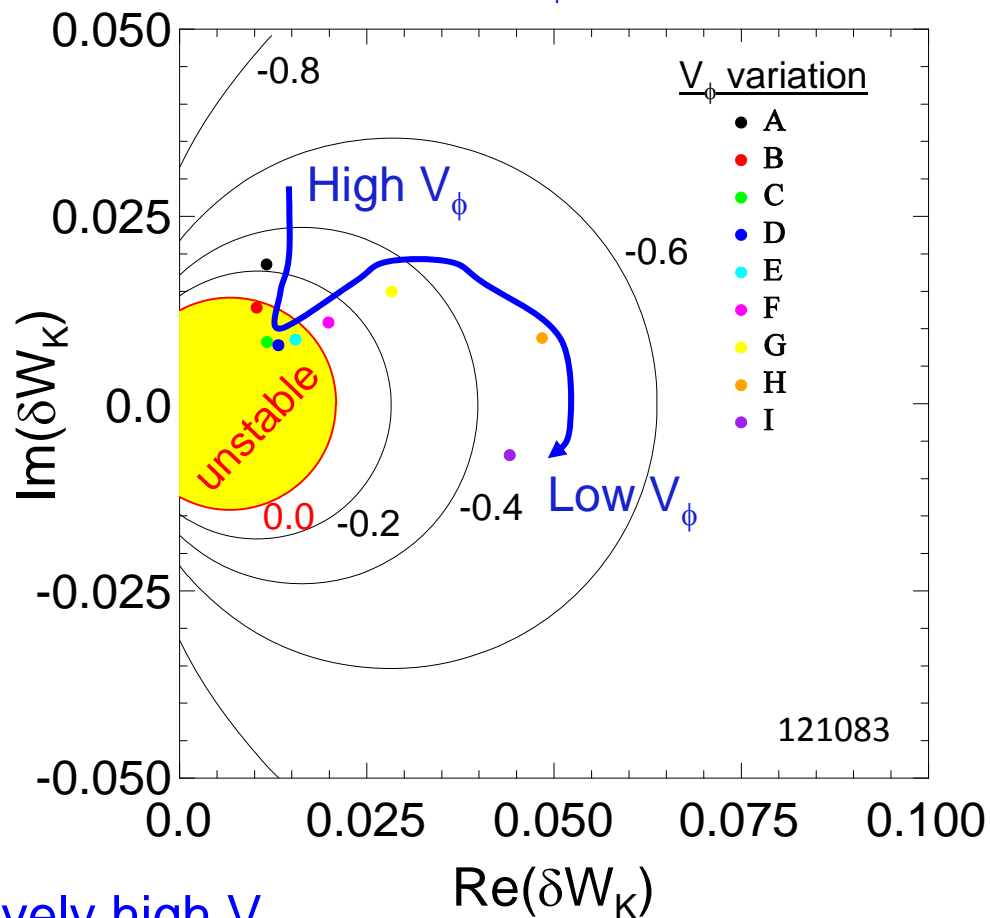
collisionality

Kinetic modifications show RWM unstable region at relatively high V_ϕ - in agreement with experiment

Theoretical variation of V_ϕ



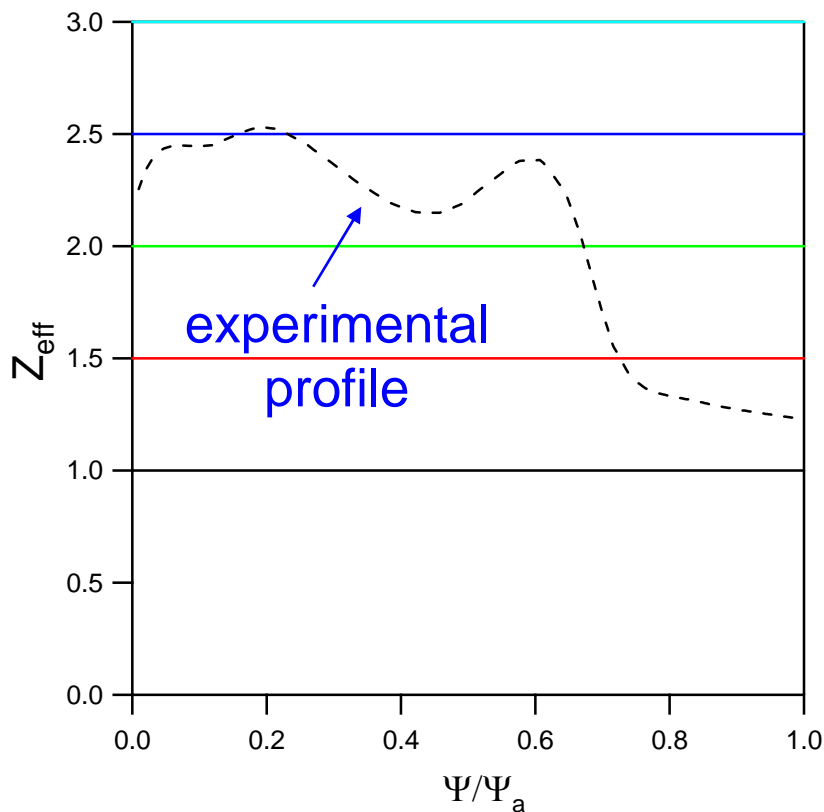
RWM stability vs. V_ϕ (contours of $\gamma\tau_w$)



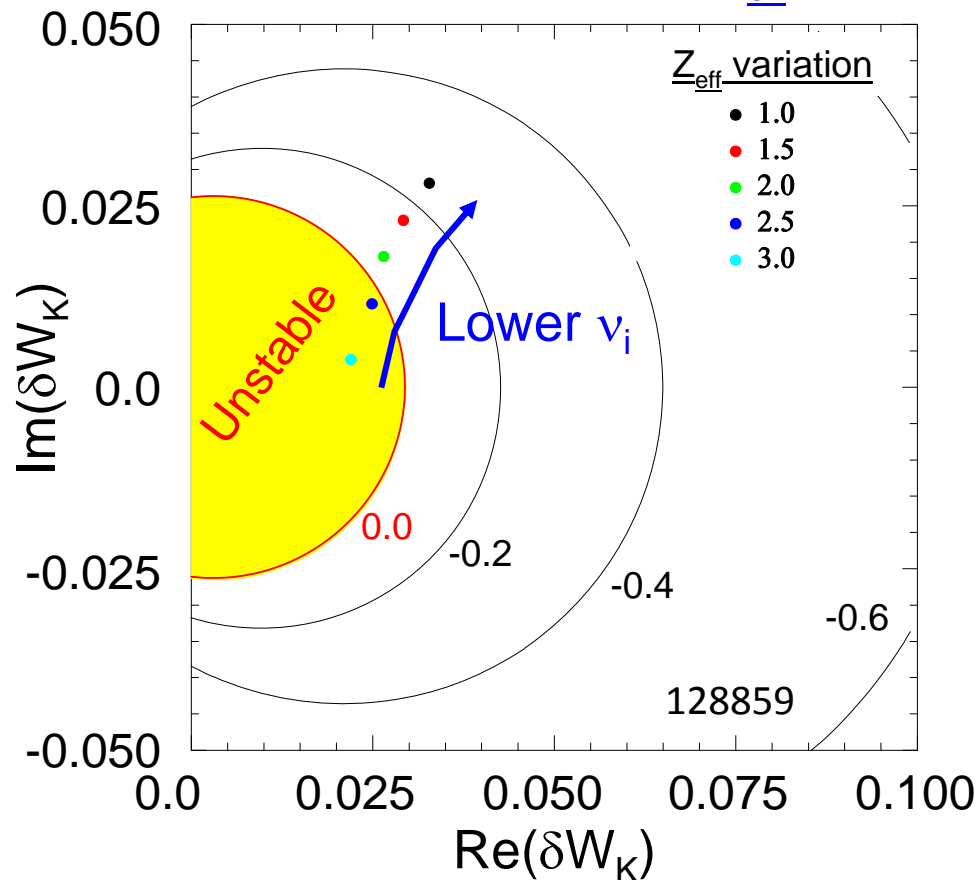
- Marginal stability crossed at relatively high V_ϕ
 - in experiment and theory
 - far greater than thought needed for robust stability in terms of ω_A at $q = 2$

Kinetic stability model shows increase in stability as ion collisionality decreases – under investigation

XP Marginal Z_{eff} ; theoretical variation



RWM stability vs. Z_{eff}



- Opposite to results of models using only viscous dissipation
- Determine best theory model by comparing to recent experiments with Li evaporation; further reduced ν_i with upgraded center stack

Significant progress planned for RWM stabilization research

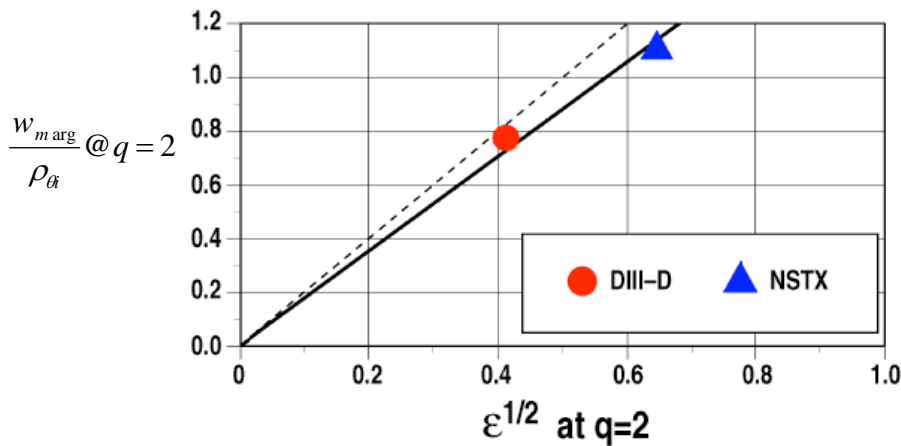
(ii) Passive stabilization physics

- Plan summary 2009-2011
 - Determine RWM stabilization requirements for broader range of V_ϕ profiles and v_i allowed by lithium evaporation, liquid lithium divertor
 - Test stability theories against marginal V_ϕ profile database, new parameter scans (2009 milestone)
 - Continue analysis using kinetic δW – Hu-Betti-Manickam code
 - Compare to latest MARS-K implementation (full kinetic effects modeled - Y. Liu)
 - Determine/implement stabilization improvements by altering passive plate electrical reconnections
- Plan summary 2012-2013
 - Examine passive stabilization in low v_i plasmas created at higher T_i from higher B_t and I_p
 - Examine RWM stabilization during V_ϕ profile feedback control
 - Determine a reliable physics model to confidently predict RWM stabilization as a function of rotation and ion collisionality
 - Test stabilization physics model for greater range of V_ϕ profiles with 2nd NBI, greater non-resonant braking flexibility using 2nd SPA unit; with new NCC (incremental)

Recent experiments and analysis have studied NTM stabilization physics of high- β NSTX plasmas

2/1 Marginal island width for stabilization

Polarization Threshold Implies $w_{m \text{ arg}} \propto \sqrt{\varepsilon \rho_{\theta i}}$

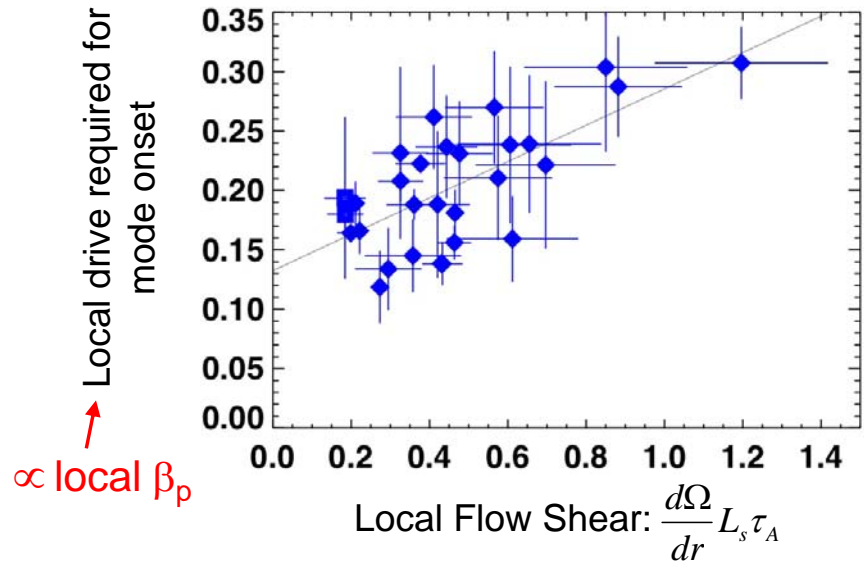


- Trend confirms physics of polarization current model
- Expand to additional machines (JET, AUG), and achieve more cases

Collaboration between R.J. La Haye (GA), S. P. Gerhardt (PPPL), R. Buttery (JET), and M. Marschek (AUG)

2/1 onset threshold vs. V_{ϕ} shear

Local Mode Drive: $\mu_0 \langle \vec{J} \cdot \vec{B} \rangle_e L_q / \langle B_{\theta} \rangle$



- Flow shear variation achieved by different NB injection and $n = 3$ braking.
- Similar trends observed in co-/counter mix experiments in DIII-D
- Trend likely due to dependence of Δ' on local flow shear

Establish predictive physics understanding of NTMs

- 2009-2011: Compete Characterization of NTM Onset, Small Island Physics, Restabilization
 - Characterize the role of V_ϕ and the ideal kink limit on NTM onset thresholds
 - Characterize triggering events, including sawtooth triggered 3/2 modes and “triggerless” NTMs with $q_{\min} > 1$
 - Finish characterization of the marginal island width for 2/1 and 3/2 modes, including comparisons to conventional aspect ratio devices
 - Understand details of how Li conditioning and DEFC assist in stabilizing 2/1 modes
- 2009-2011: Establish a program of relevant NTM modeling
 - Implement PEST-III calculations of Δ' for realistic NSTX equilibria, including the effects of nearby rational surfaces
 - Utilize initial value codes like NIMROD for more sophisticated treatment of transport near the island or rotation shear effects on mode coupling and island eigenfunction.
- 2012-2013: Develop scenarios that mitigate/eliminate deleterious NTM activity
 - Quantify the benefits of $q_{\min} > 2$ operation, and the role of higher order (3/1, 5/2) modes in this case
 - Utilize increased toroidal field (new center stack) to scale $\rho_{\theta i}$ in single device
 - Utilize 2nd beamline for current profile control, possibly allowing Δ' stabilization of NTMs even with $q_{\min} < 2$

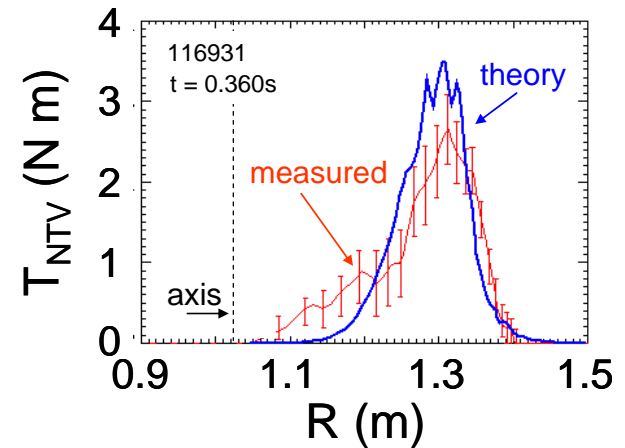
Collaborations are an essential element of research plan (GA, AUG, JET, U. of Tulsa,...)

Non-axisymmetric field-induced neoclassical toroidal viscosity (NTV) important for low collisionality ST-CTF, low rotation ITER plasmas

- Significant interest in plasma viscosity by non-axisymmetric fields
 - Physics understanding needed to minimize rotation damping from ELM mitigation fields, modes (ITER, etc.)
 - NTV investigations on DIII-D, JET, C-MOD, MAST, etc. following quantitative agreement on NSTX
- Expand present studies on NSTX
 - Examine larger field spectrum
 - Improve inclusion of plasma response using IPEC
 - Consider expansions of NTV theory
 - Saturation due to E_r at reduced ion collisionality, multiple trapping states, matching theory through collisionality regimes
 - Examine NTV from magnetic islands
 - Stronger dependence on $\delta B/B$
 - Compare to kinetic modeling (e.g. using GTC-Neo upgrade (W. Wang))

Measured $d(I\Omega_p)/dt$ profile and theoretical NTV torque ($n = 3$ field) in NSTX

W. Zhu, et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **96**, 225002 (2006).



Dominant NTV Force for NSTX collisionality...

$$\left\langle \hat{e}_t \cdot \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\Pi} \right\rangle_{(1/\nu)} = B_t R \left\langle \frac{1}{B_t} \right\rangle \left\langle \frac{1}{R^2} \right\rangle \frac{\lambda_{1i} P_i}{\pi^{3/2} v_i} \varepsilon^{3/2} (\Omega_\phi - \Omega_{NC}) I_\lambda$$

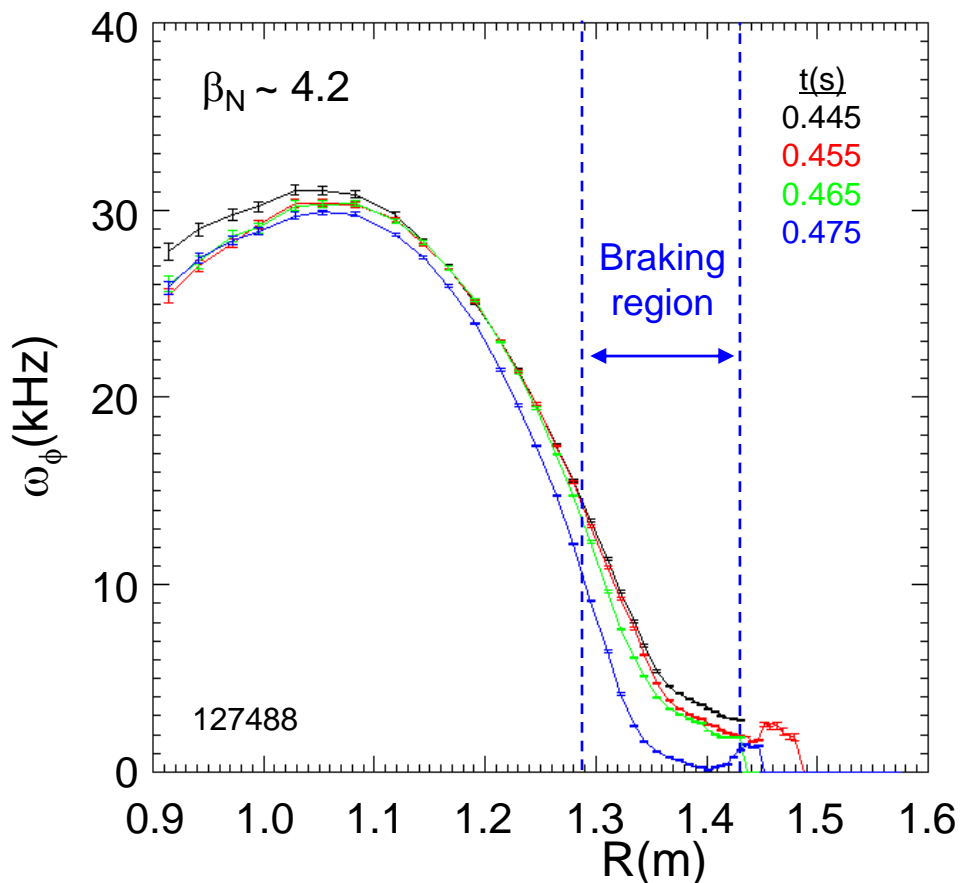
...expected to saturate at lower v_i

$$\frac{1}{v_i} \Rightarrow \frac{v_i}{(v_i^2 + \omega_E^2)}$$

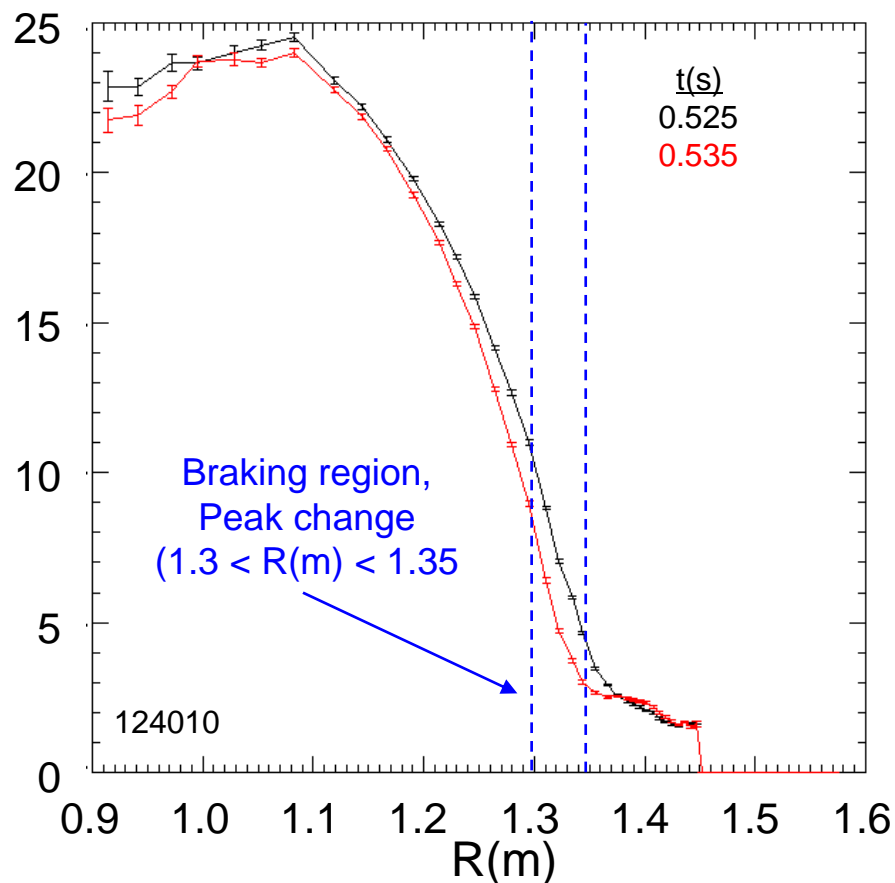
Can verify at order of magnitude lower v_i with center stack upgrade

Clear non-resonant braking observed in recent $n = 2$ applied field experiments – broader braking profile at lower n

Rotation evolution during $n = 2$ braking



Rotation evolution during $n = 3$ braking



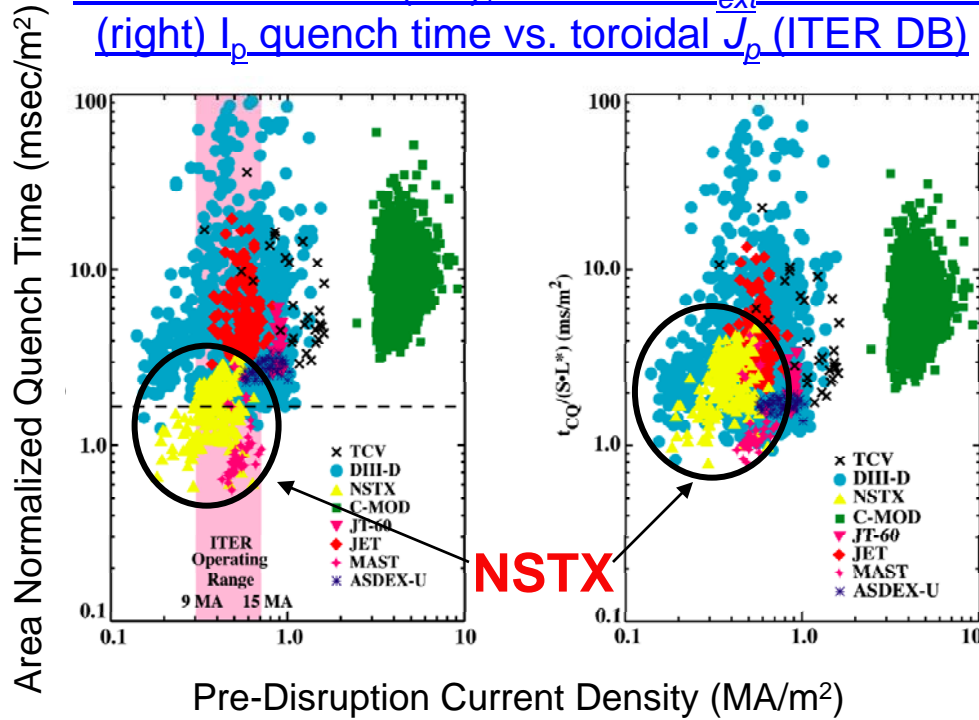
- $n = 2$ configuration has strong $n = 4$, but essentially no (resonant) $n = 1$ component
- Recent experiment shows stronger braking with Li evaporation

Develop understanding of field-induced plasma viscosity with application to V_ϕ profile control

- Plan summary 2009-2011
 - Continue testing viscosity theory from resonant /non-resonant fields
 - Examine key dependences; alter ν_i using lithium evaporation, LLD
 - joint experiments with other devices (MAST 2008)
 - Improved plasma internal field response using IPEC; influence of magnetic islands
 - Expand analysis to further test theory
 - Saturation due to E_r at reduced ν_i , multiple trapping states, etc.
 - Time-evolved kinetic computations using GTC-Neo; examine saturation at low ν_i
 - Determine range of radial placement of torque possible with NCC design
 - Begin real-time V_ϕ control using CHERS measurements, present NBI as source and $n=3$ NTV as sink of plasma toroidal momentum
 - Examine effect on modes; initial control of flow shear near for NTM studies
- Plan summary 2012-2013
 - Utilize reduced ν_i plasmas using new center stack to controllably access $1/\nu$ and lower collisionality regimes of NTV theory
 - Use 2nd beam line to vary torque profile at fixed power; include in real-time V_ϕ control
 - Apply greater variation of radial profile of braking torque (for V_ϕ control; test theory)
 - Use 2nd SPA power supply unit; add NCC when available ($n \leq 6$) (incremental)
 - Consider momentum input with NCC via non-resonant NTV (proposal)

NSTX Disruption Studies Contribute to ITER, Aim to Predict Disruption Characteristics & Onset For Future Large STs

Area-normalized (left), Area and L_{ext} -normalized (right) I_p quench time vs. toroidal J_p (ITER DB)

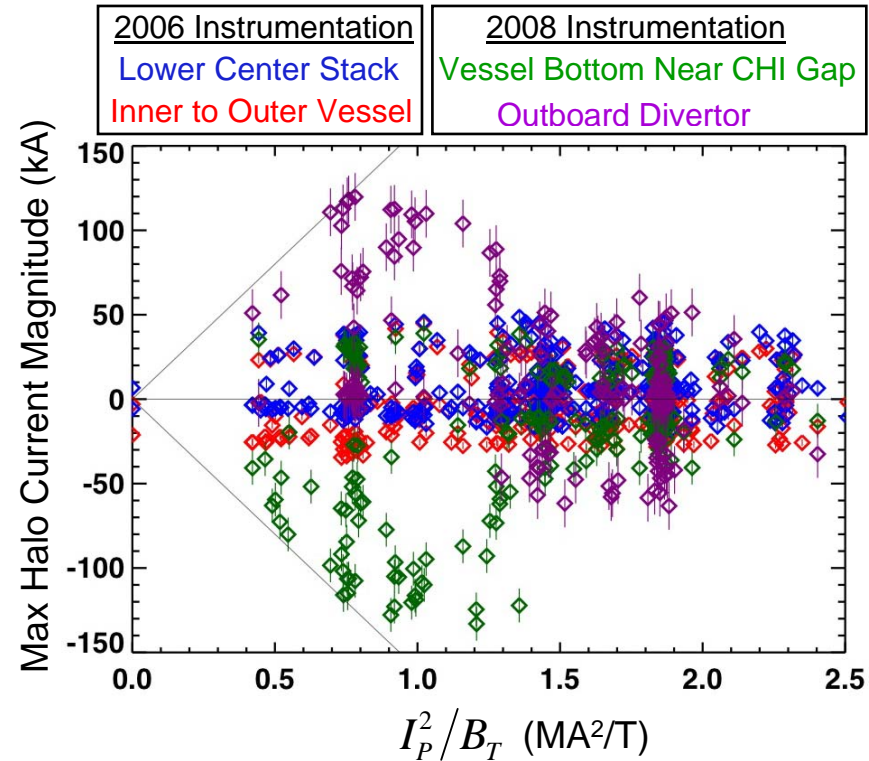


- Fastest NSTX disruption quench times of 0.4 ms/m², compared to ITER recommended minimum of 1.7 msec/m².
- Reduced inductance at high- κ , low-A explains difference

$$\frac{\tau_{L/R}}{S} = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi\eta} \left[\ln\left(\frac{8}{\sqrt{\kappa\epsilon}}\right) - \frac{7}{4} \right]$$

Expand these Results For a Complete Characterization of Disruption Dynamics, Including Prediction Methods.

Halo Current Magnitudes and Scaling



- New instrumentation in 2008 yields significant upward revision of halo current fractions (now up to 20%)
 - reveals scaling with I_p and B_T .
 - Mitigating effect: Largest currents for deliberate VDEs
- Toroidal peaking reduced at large halo current fraction.

Understand the Causes and Consequences of Disruptions for Next-step STs and ITER

- 2009-2012: Complete halo current characterization
 - Install arrays of instrumented tiles in outboard divertor, measure currents into LLD trays (2009-10)
 - Utilize CS upgrade to instrument inboard divertor tiles (2011)
 - Understand the halo current paths, toroidal peaking physics, and driving mechanisms, in order to make predictions for future ST plasmas
- 2009-2011: Complete thermal quench characterization
 - Determine the fraction of stored energy lost in the thermal quench, compared to that in the pre-disruption phase, over a variety of plasmas and disruptions
 - Utilize fast IR thermography to understand time-scale and spatial distribution of the thermal quench heat flux
 - Predict the impulsive heat loading constraints on future ST PFCs
- 2010-2013: Learn to predict and prevent disruptions
 - Develop real-time diagnostics useful for predicting impending disruptions for relevant ST equilibria and instabilities
 - Test predictive algorithms, to determine the simplest, most robust prediction methods
 - Use in conjunction with stability models and mode control systems developed

Experiments in 2008 part of continuing contribution to ITER high priority MHD research

- ELM Mitigation

- Attempted ELM mitigation with non-axisymmetric field from single row of midplane coils
 - Several field configs. with Chirikov parameter > 1
 - ELM frequency/duration changed, not fully mitigated
 - ELMs mitigated by Li evaporation / triggered by applied field

Suggested by

← USBPO,
ITER
Org.

- Neoclassical Toroidal Viscosity (NTV) Study

- Following quantitative agreement on NSTX to best determine impact of non-axisymmetric fields from RMP fields on ITER V_ϕ
 - Braking with $n = \text{even}$ fields confirm non-resonant effect
 - Stronger NTV damping with Li evaporation (v_{ip} or T_i variation?)

← USBPO,
ITER
Org.

- RWM stabilization

- Active feedback system latency artificially increased to simulate the effect of greater time delays due to ITER blanket
- Experiment to simulate impartial toroidal coverage of control coils
 - Feedback failed for several phase settings (physics reason TBD)

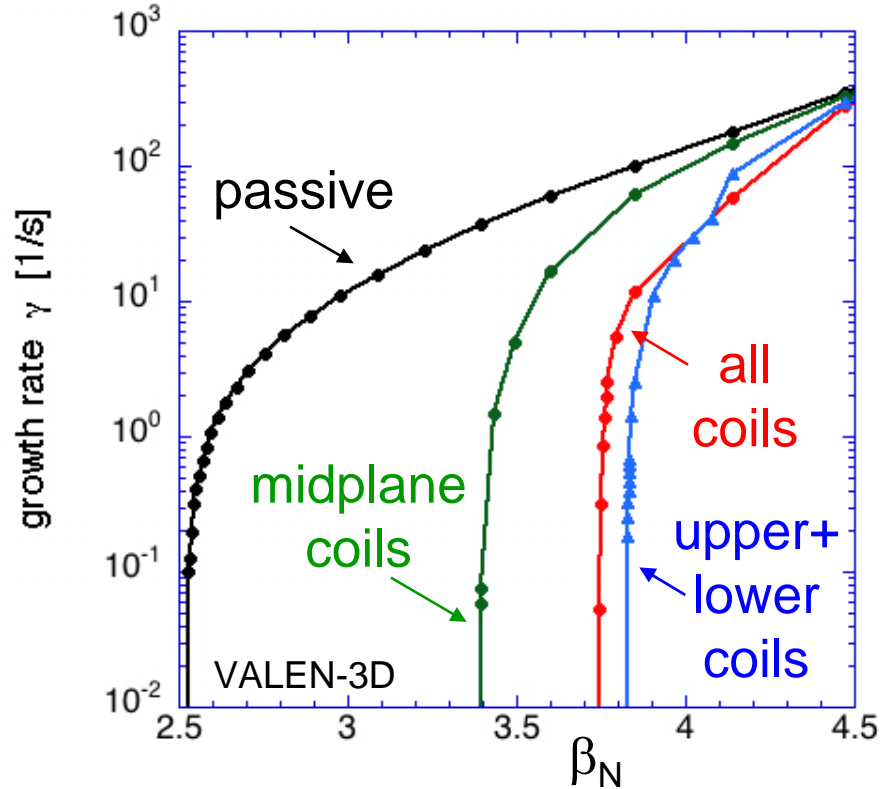
← NSTX
PAC

← ITER
Org.

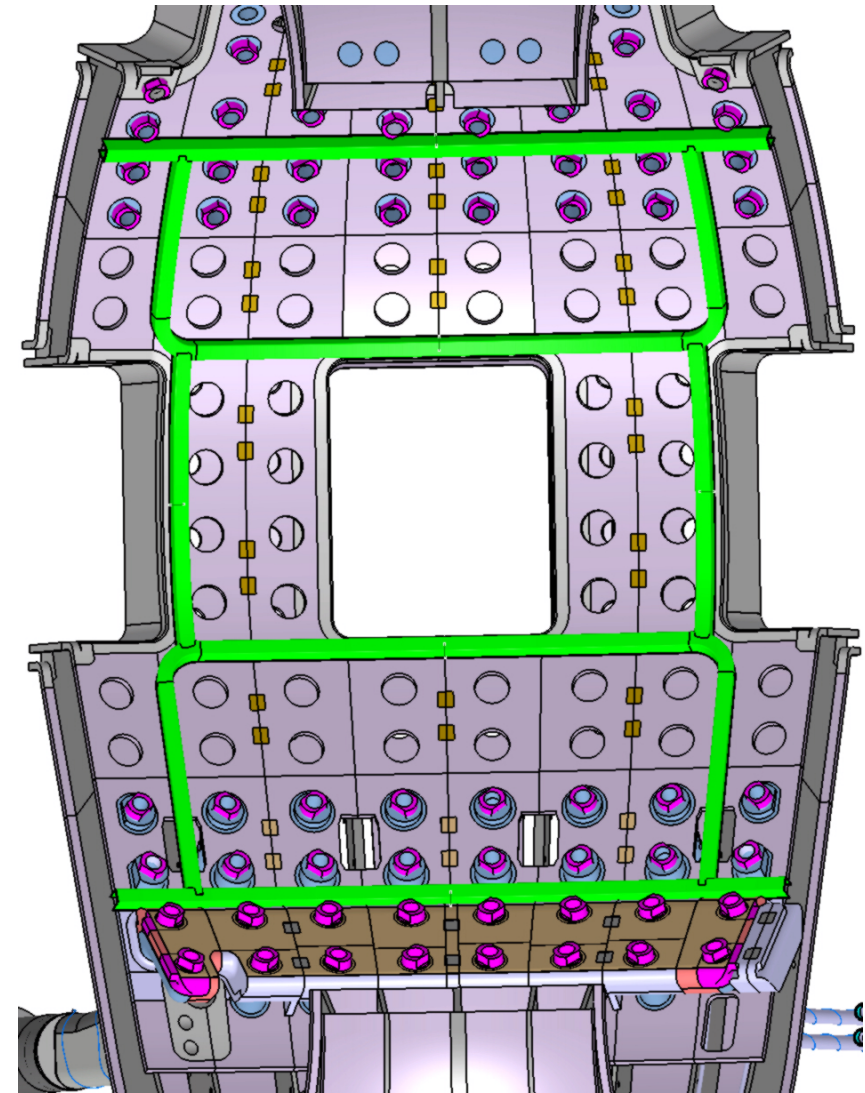
ITER support experiments/analysis to continue in 2009-13

VALEN RWM control models validated on NSTX predict significant β_N increase with proposed ITER internal coil

ITER VAC02 stabilization performance



- 3 toroidal arrays, 9 coils each
- ELM, VS, RWM applications
 - Endorsed by ITER STAC
- Configuration similar to proposed NCC coil upgrade for NSTX



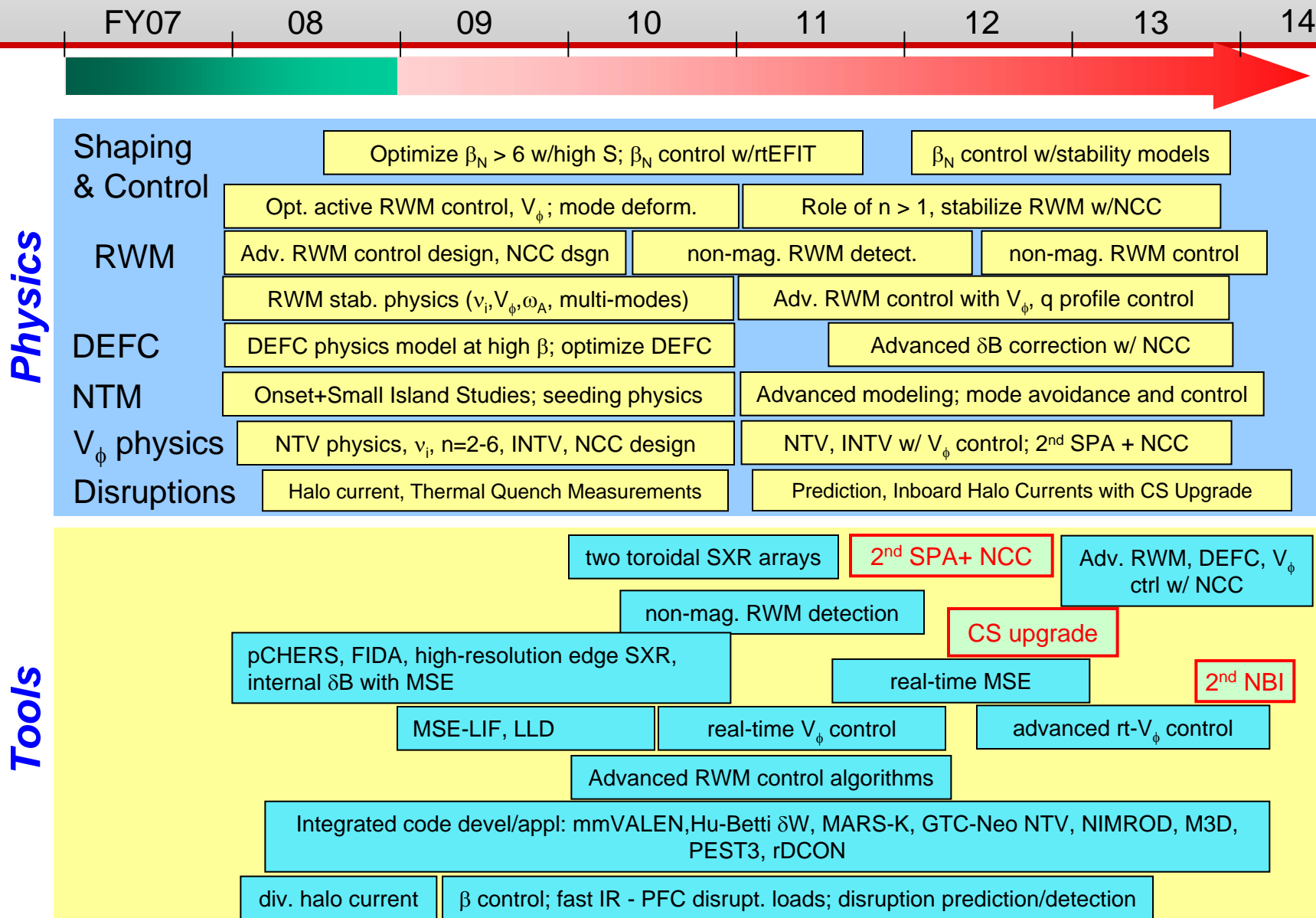
ITER VAC02 design

40° sector

U.S. leads the world in high β ST research and is in position to bridge the gap to next-step STs

- Macroscopic stability research direction
 - Transition from establishing high beta operation to reliably and predictably sustaining and controlling it – required for next step device
- Research provides critical understanding for tokamaks
 - Stability physics understanding applicable to tokamaks including ITER, leveraged by unique low- A , and high β operational regime
 - Specific ITER support tasks
- NSTX provides access to best diagnosed high beta plasmas
 - 2009-2011: allows significant advances in scientific understanding of ST physics toward next-steps, supports ITER, and advances fundamental science
 - 2012-2013: allows demonstration/understanding of reliable stabilization/profile control at lower collisionality – performance basis for next-step STs

Macroscopic Stability Research Timeline (2008-2013)



V1.1