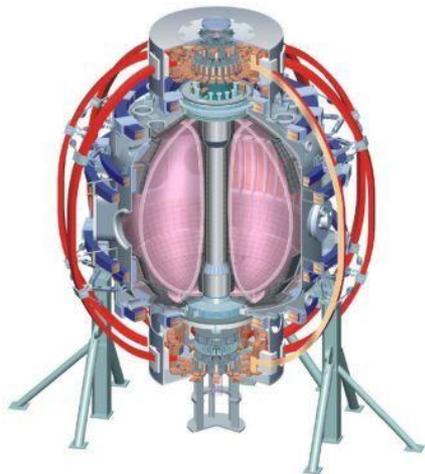


NSTX FY2011-12 Research Program Overview

J. Menard, PPPL
For the NSTX Research Team

NSTX FY2011-12 Research Forum
Plenary Session
Tuesday March 15, 2011



College W&M
Colorado Sch Mines
Columbia U
CompX
General Atomics
INEL
Johns Hopkins U
LANL
LLNL
Lodestar
MIT
Nova Photonics
New York U
Old Dominion U
ORNL
PPPL
PSI
Princeton U
Purdue U
SNL
Think Tank, Inc.
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UCSD
U Colorado
U Illinois
U Maryland
U Rochester
U Washington
U Wisconsin

Culham Sci Ctr
U St. Andrews
York U
Chubu U
Fukui U
Hiroshima U
Hyogo U
Kyoto U
Kyushu U
Kyushu Tokai U
NIFS
Niigata U
U Tokyo
JAEA
Hebrew U
Ioffe Inst
RRC Kurchatov Inst
TRINITY
KBSI
KAIST
POSTECH
ASIPP
ENEA, Frascati
CEA, Cadarache
IPP, Jülich
IPP, Garching
ASCR, Czech Rep
U Quebec

Outline

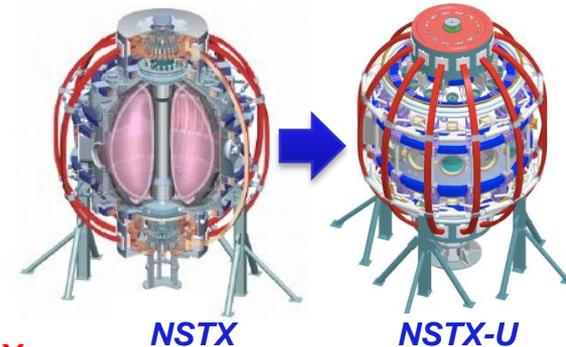
- NSTX Mission
- Organization
- Prioritization
- Run Time Guidance
- FY10 Highlights → FY11-12 Milestones and Priorities
- Forum Action Items for TSGs, Run Coordination

Forum web site: <http://nstx-forum-2011.pppl.gov>

NSTX Mission Elements

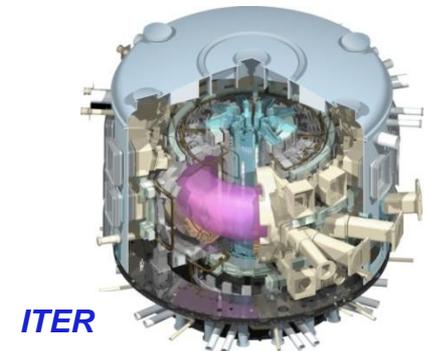
- **Understand/exploit unique ST parameters**

- High heat flux for novel divertor and PMI studies
- Low A , I_i and high β , κ , v_{fast}/v_A for stability, transport
- Role of NSTX Upgrade:
 - Prototype methods to mitigate very high heat/particle flux
 - Study high beta plasmas at reduced collisionality
 - Access full non-inductive operation for FNSF applications



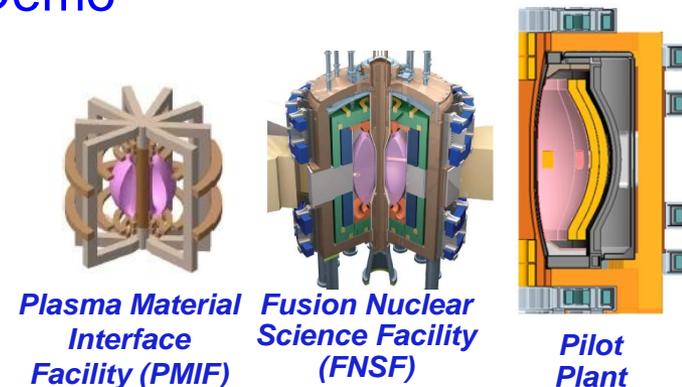
- **Extend understanding of tokamak / ITER**

- Develop predictive capability for ITER/FNSF/Demo



- **Establish attractive ST operation**

- Utilize ST to close key gaps to Demo
- Advance ST as fusion power source



NSTX Topical Science Groups (TSGs) for FY11-12

- TSG responsibilities:
 - Assist program in formulation of milestones and priorities
 - Present research plans to PAC
 - Organize Research Forum by soliciting and prioritizing experimental proposals
 - Coordinate & review experimental proposals from TSG during run

• **New TSG for FY11-12** 

	Run coordinator	Deputy run coordinator	
	S. Sabbagh*	M. Bell	
TSG	Leader - experiment	Deputy - experiment	Leader - theory and modelling
Boundary Physics	V. Soukhanovskii*	A. Diallo	D. Stotler
Lithium Research	C. Skinner	M. Jaworski	D. Stotler
Transport and Turbulence	Y. Ren	H. Yuh*	G. Hammett
Macroscopic Stability	J.-K. Park	J. Berkery*	R. Betti
High-harmonic Fast Wave, Energetic Particles	G. Taylor	M. Podestà	N. Gorelenkov
Solenoid-free Start-up	R. Raman*	D. Mueller	S. Jardin
Advanced Scenarios and Control	S. Gerhardt	M. Bell	E. Kolemen
ITER Urgent Needs, Cross-cutting, Enabling	J. Menard	R. Maingi*	A. Boozer*

* indicates collaborator

ITER/CC TSG will address urgent and cross-cutting research needs for ITER and for NSTX

- For ITER: Understand transport, turbulence, stability response to 3D fields – informs decision on in-vessel coils in ITER
 - NSTX has new capabilities to address this: BES, ME-SXR, 2nd SPA
 - Research cross-cuts transport, boundary, macro-stability TSGs
 - ITER/CC TSG will coordinate research supporting ITER milestone R11-4
- Consider ITER urgent needs identified directly from IO, and other unique contributions NSTX can provide to ITER
 - ITER/CC TSG can/will forward proposals to other TSGs as needed
- For NSTX and NSTX Upgrade:
 - Assess methods and coordinate experiments for particle and impurity control for NSTX and Upgrade
 - FY11-12 goal: assess combinations of impurity control techniques
 - Support and coordinate cryo-pumping calculations for Upgrade
 - Coordinate ELM research (have coherent program, avoid overlap – R. Maingi)
- **Dominant theme of TSG is particle and impurity control**

Some programmatic considerations for XP prioritization

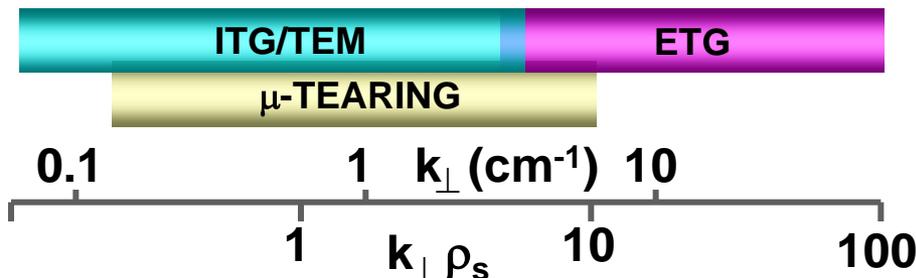
(in approximate priority order)

- Viability of proposal given available NSTX capabilities
- OFES Joint Research Milestones
- NSTX Research Milestones
 - Annual milestones + other ST high priority research
 - NSTX-Upgrade design needs – expected high priority:
 - Particle and impurity control for long-pulse
 - Heat flux mitigation strategies – high flux expansion, detachment
 - Upgrade diagnostic & facility design (high-k, cryo-pumps, LLD-2, NCC, ...)
 - Disruption diagnosis, characterization, forces, preliminary mitigation
- ITPA – especially where NSTX is lead/prominent experiment
- Experiments leading to high-profile publications/presentations:
 - PRL, Science, Nature / Invited talks: IAEA, APS, EPS, Sherwood, ...
- Career development: PhD thesis, post-doctoral research
- Any good idea generated during run – potential ‘break-thru’?

TSGs should solicit/develop XPs to support early FY2011-12 operation, obtain data for design of post-Upgrade systems

- Support and prepare for early FY2011-12 operations:
 - Assess performance of new Mo tiles – impurity influx, thermal response, melting
 - Incremental introduction of Li for wall conditioning, small ELM scenario access
 - Early HHFW operations to assess coupling/heating with minimal lithium
- Data for design of post-Upgrade systems during outage:
 - Boundary Physics, Lithium Research
 - LiTER evaporation extrapolation to 5s pulses, choice of PFCs, cryo-pumping and next-gen LLD design, divertor diagnostics, fueling requirements and systems,
 - Transport and Turbulence
 - Design of new high-k system, other turbulence diagnostics
 - Solenoid-free start-up
 - CHI capacitor bank and voltage snubbing upgrades, new diagnostics
 - Waves and Energetic Particles
 - Assess 6 or 8 strap antenna, CAE and/or EHO antenna, EP diagnostics (SSNPA?)
 - Macroscopic Stability
 - RWM/EF control, NCC for RWM/RMP/TM/EFC/NTV/TAE/EHO, disruption mitigation
 - Advanced Scenarios and Control
 - rt-rotation, rt-MSE, control algorithms for J profile, particle and power handling

NSTX is addressing multi-scale transport issues critical to future devices – ITER and next step STs



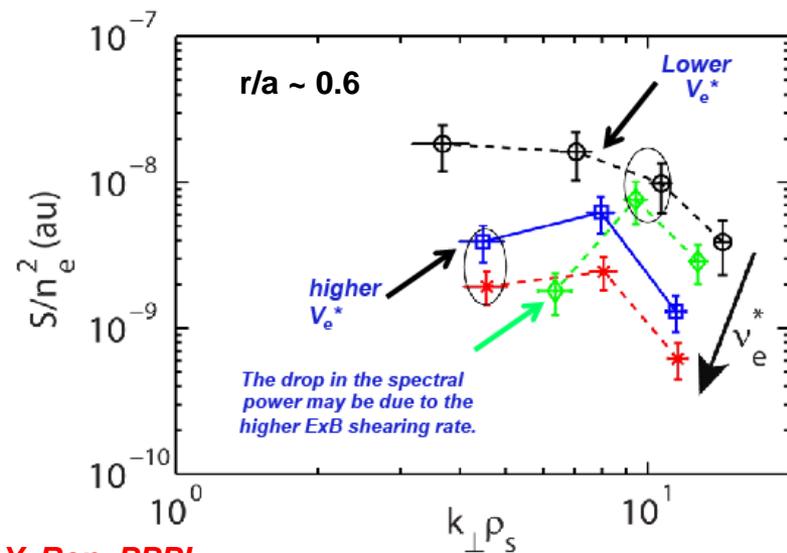
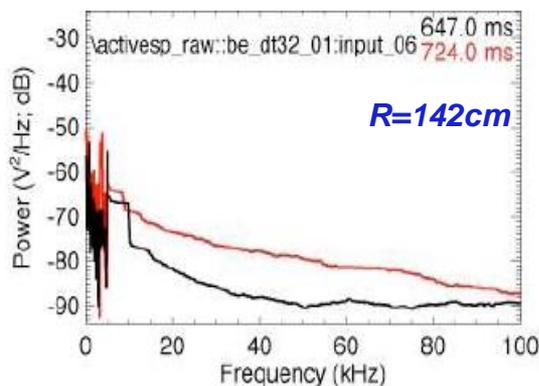
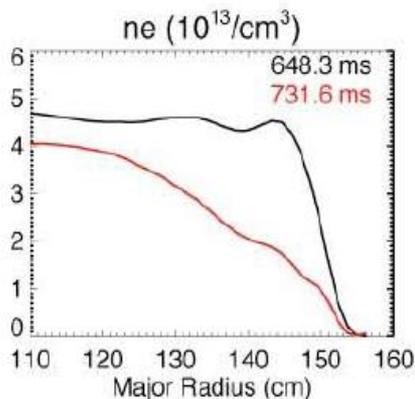
Low-k BES → (Beam Emission Spectroscopy)

← **High-k Tangential Scattering**

• High radial resolution for electron-gyro-radius scale turbulence ($f \leq 3\text{MHz}$)

- Low-k fluctuations decrease after transition to H-Mode
- Fluctuations increase after $H \rightarrow L$ back-transition

- New high-k scattering measurements show fluctuation levels increase at lower v^*



- BES also contributing to energetic particle research

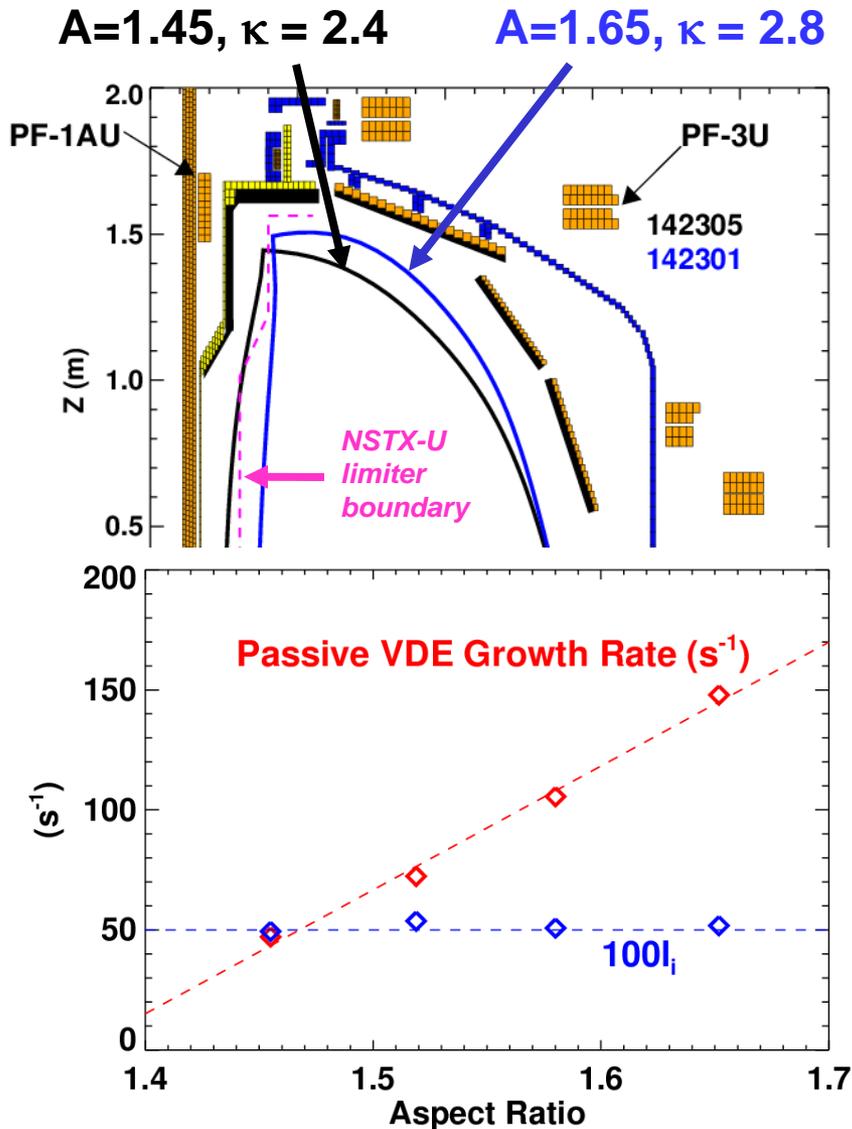
• D. Smith, U. Wisconsin

• Y. Ren, PPPL

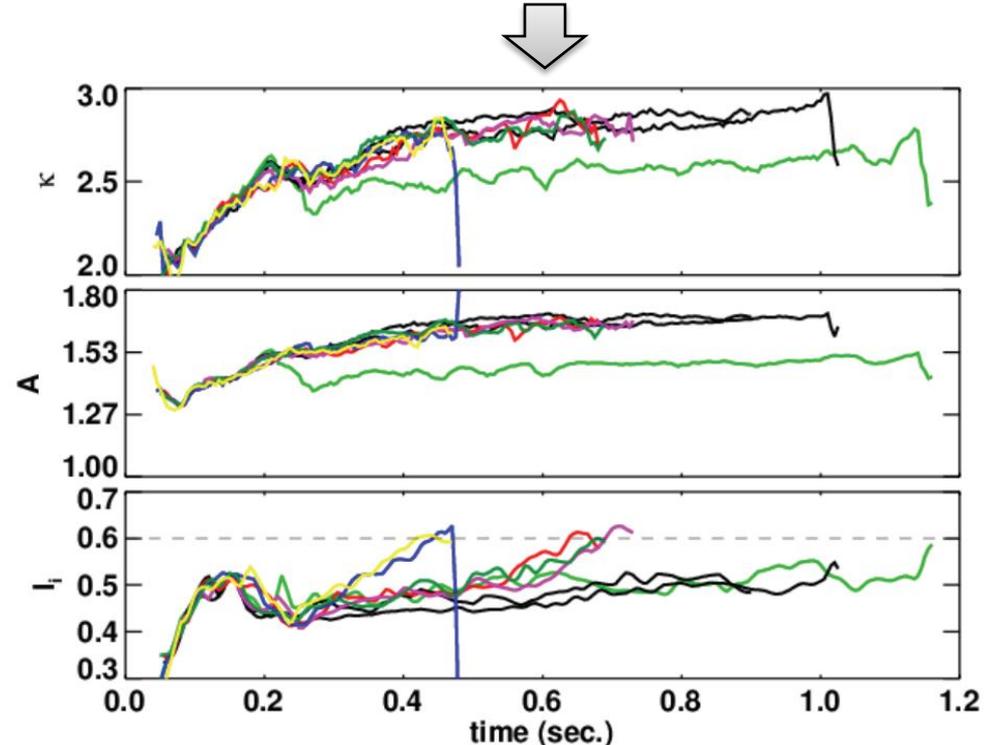
Transport Milestone R(11-1): Measure fluctuations responsible for turbulent electron, ion, and impurity transport

- High-k scattering measurements have identified ETG
- Low-k fluctuations (micro-tearing, ITG/TEM) and fast-ion-driven modes, e.g. GAE, may also contribute to e-transport.
- Low-k fluctuations may also contribute significantly to momentum, ion thermal, and particle/impurity transport
 - Turbulence and *AE radial eigenfunctions will be measured with BES
 - Turbulence will also be measured w/ reflectometer, interferometer, GPI
- The k spectrum of the turbulence will be measured and correlated with energy diffusivities inferred from power balance
- Particle/impurity transport expts will use gas puffs, density measurements, low-to-high-k δn measurements, edge SXR

NSTX has begun to explore stability impact of higher aspect ratio and elongation in preparation for Upgrade, next-steps



- Successfully operated at $\beta_N > 4$ for several τ_{CR} at Upgrade A and κ
- Found $I_i \leq 0.6$ required to avoid VDE at higher A with present $n=0$ control



• S. Gerhardt, E. Kolemen - PPPL

Stability/Control Milestone R(11-2): Assess ST stability dependence on aspect ratio and boundary shaping

- Next-step ST designs commonly assume increased elongation ($\kappa = 3-3.5$) and aspect ratio $A=1.6-1.7$
 - Typical NSTX values: $\kappa=2.4-2.8$, $A=1.4-1.5$
 - Increased A and higher κ are projected to increase the growth rates of the $n=0$ vertical instability and $n=1$ RWM
- NSTX scenarios will be extended to plasma geometries much closer to those of the Upgrade and next-steps
- The maximum elongation, l_i , and sustainable β_N will be determined and optimized versus aspect ratio and elongation
- Comparisons to theory (MISK and VALEN for RWM) will be made, and the viability of present and new control techniques will be tested, and possible improvements identified

Obtained complete data-set for divertor heat flux width scaling to aid projections to ITER (FY2010 JRT*) and Upgrade

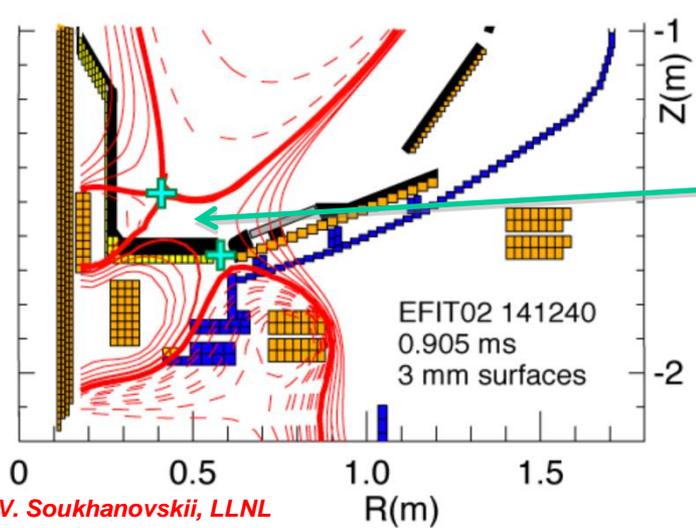
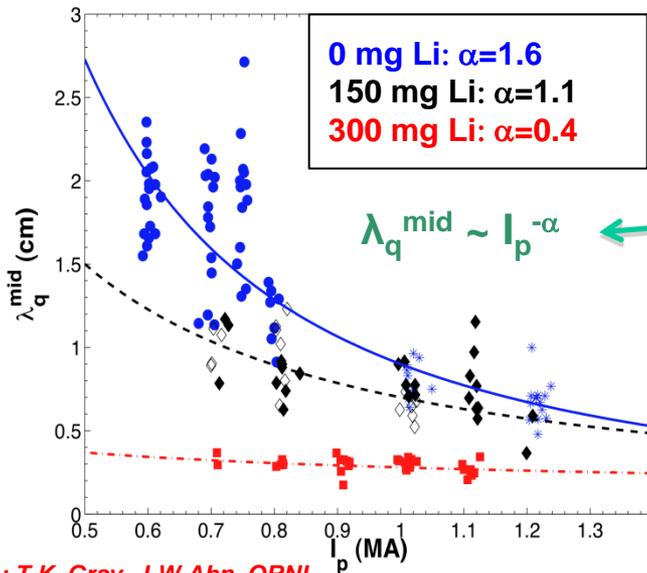
*Joint Research Target (3 U.S. Facilities)

- Divertor heat flux width, magnetically mapped to the midplane, shows a strong decrease as I_p is increased
 - Potentially major implications for ITER
 - NSTX: λ_q^{mid} further decreases with Li

→ NSTX Upgrade with conventional divertor (LSN, flux expansion of 10-15) projects to very high peak heat flux up to 30-45MW/m²

- Divertor heat flux inversely proportional to flux expansion over a factor of five
- Snowflake → high flux expansion 40–60, larger divertor volume and radiation

→ U/D balanced snowflake divertor projects to acceptable heat flux < 10MW/m² in Upgrade at highest expected $I_p = 2MA$, $P_{AUX}=15MW$

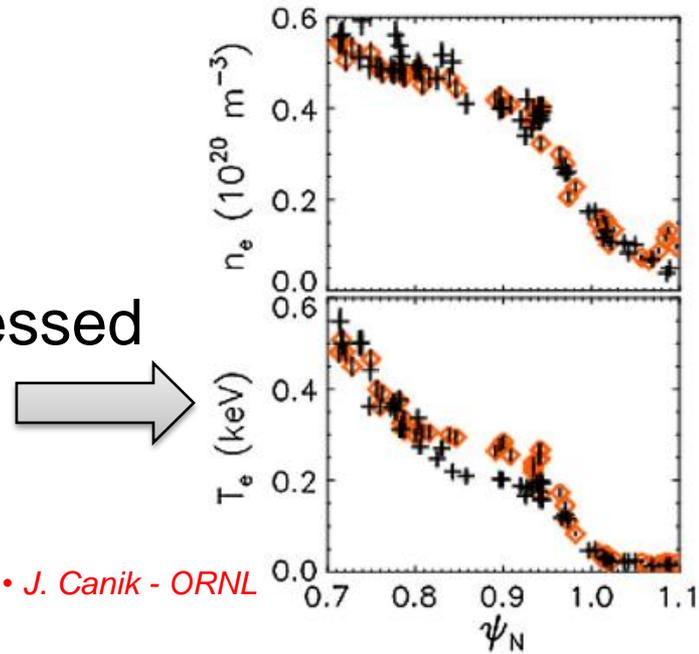


Boundary Physics Milestone R(11-3): Assess very high flux expansion divertor operation

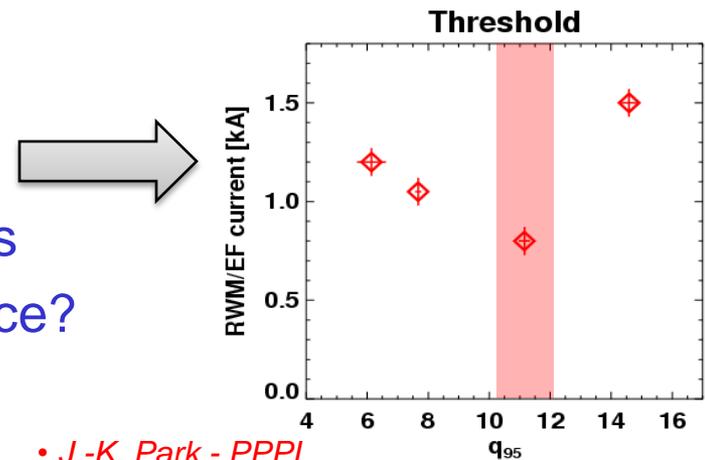
- The exploration of high flux expansion divertors for mitigation of high power exhaust is important for
 - NSTX Upgrade, ST/AT fusion nuclear science facilities, Pilot, Demo
- High flux expansion “snowflake” divertor will be assessed:
 - Magnetic controllability – especially up/down-balanced snowflake
 - Divertor heat flux handling and power accountability
 - Pumping with lithium coatings
 - Impurity production
 - Trends versus global parameters
- Potential benefits of combining high flux expansion with gas-seeded radiation will also be explored

NSTX provides a unique environment to better understand the H-mode pedestal response to 3D fields for ELM control

- ELMs stabilized by Li coatings
 - Edge density, pressure gradients reduced
- ELMs triggered by 3D fields, not suppressed
 - Small density change during n=3 3D fields
 - T_e and pedestal pressure increase \rightarrow ELM



- Optimal $q_{95} \sim 11$ for ELM triggering
 - Vacuum Chirikov > 1 width ~ 0.3 for all cases
 - What is underlying physics of this dependence?



ITER/cross-cutting Milestone R(11-4): H-mode pedestal transport, turbulence, and stability response to 3D fields

- The use of three-dimensional (3D) magnetic fields is proposed to control the H-mode pedestal to suppress ELMs in ITER
 - However, the mechanisms for particle and thermal transport modification by 3D fields are not understood
- Study possible mechanisms for modifying transport:
 - zonal flow damping
 - stochastic-field-induced ExB convective transport
 - island shielding reduction as $\omega_{e-\perp} = \omega_e^* + \omega_{\text{ExB}} \rightarrow 0$ (XGC0)
 - banana diffusion or ripple loss
- Measure pedestal turbulence trends vs. applied 3D field
 - BES, high-k scattering, gas-puff imaging
 - Independent control of n=1,2,3 applied 3D fields - 2nd SPA (ARRA)
- Measure pedestal profile response, edge particle transport
 - Improved Thomson scattering, impurity injection, edge SXR

NSTX is a world leader in investigating pumping capability & plasma effects of Li - including Liquid Lithium Divertor (LLD)



LLD Impact on Plasma Performance:

- LLD did not increase D pumping beyond that achieved with LiTER
 - Assessing if LLD provides more sustained pumping than LiTER
 - Data indicates C present on LLD, which may have impacted pumping performance
- Operating w/ strike-point on LLD may decrease core C content
 - Strongest effect observed when plasma heats LLD surface above Li melting temperature
 - Interpretation complicated by ELMs in lower- δ shape

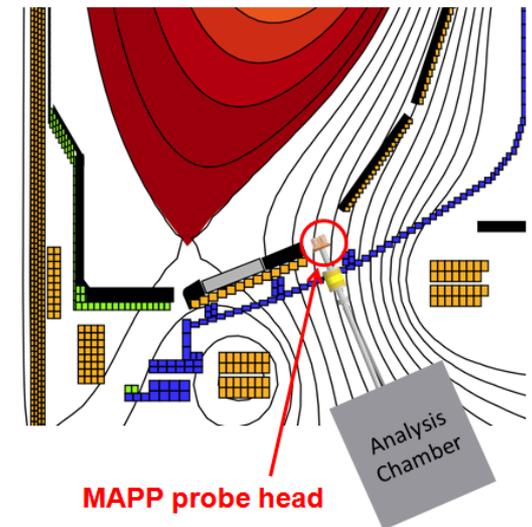
- 4 LLD plates formed ~20cm wide annulus in lower outboard divertor
 - Heatable surface of porous molybdenum (Mo)
 - Loaded with Li by LiTER evaporation from above

- **No evidence of Mo in plasma except from large ELMs, disruptions**
- **Chemistry of Li on C and LLD critical, complex, and under-diagnosed**

Lithium Milestone R(12-1): Investigate relationship between lithium-conditioned surface composition & plasma behavior

- With very chemically active elements such as lithium, prompt surface analysis is required to characterize the lithiated surface conditions during a plasma discharge
- In support of prompt surface analysis, an in-situ materials analysis particle probe (MAPP) will be installed on NSTX
 - MAPP probe will enable the exposure of various samples to the SOL plasma followed by ex-vessel but in-vacuo surface analysis **within minutes** of plasma exposure using state of the art tools
- Li experiments will utilize MAPP to study:
 - Reactions between evaporated Li and plasma facing materials, residual gases
 - Correlations between the surface composition and plasma behavior, comparisons to lab experiments and modeling
 - Characterizations of fueling efficiency, recycling

• J-P Allain, Purdue

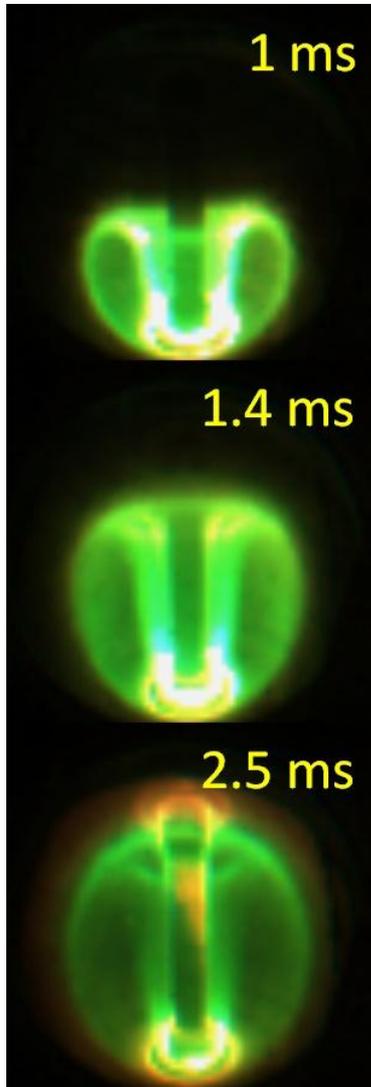


Scenarios/MHD Milestone R(12-3): Assess access to reduced density and collisionality in high-performance scenarios

- The high performance scenarios targeted in NSTX Upgrade and next-step STs are based on operating at lower Greenwald density and lower v^* than routinely accessed in NSTX.
- Strong D pumping via Li has been observed, **but additional gas fueling is typically required to avoid plasma disruption** during the current ramp and/or in the early flat-top and high- β phase
- Goal: characterize and avoid the underlying causes responsible for disruption at reduced density, including:
 - Loss of access to H-mode, locked-modes, β limits, double tearing, ...
- Possible methods for stability improvement include:
 - Changes in current ramp-rate (I_i and $q(r)$ evolution), H-mode timing
 - Shape evolution, heating/beta evolution and control
 - Improved fueling control, and varied pumping

Coaxial Helicity Injection (CHI) has produced substantial current, and demonstrated significant ohmic flux savings

Time after CHI starts



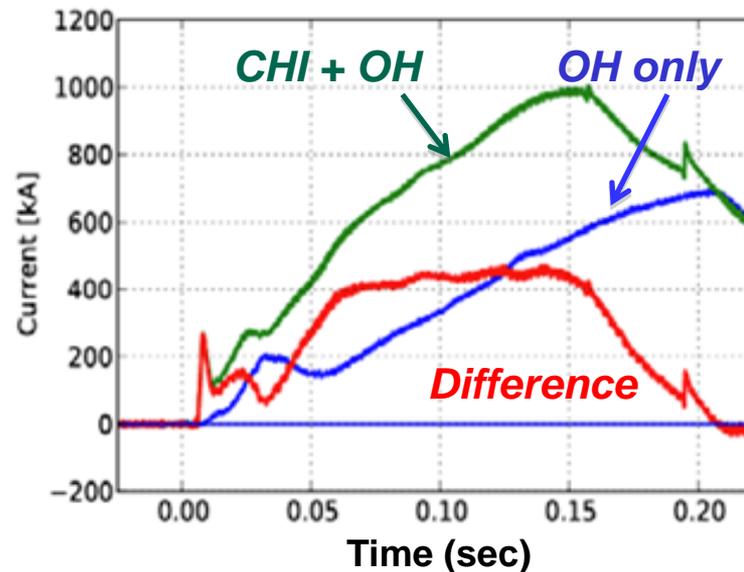
- **Impurity Control Success**

- Elimination of arcs in absorber region at top of vacuum vessel
- Conditioning of lower divertor
 - **Inboard Mo tiles could aid CHI**

- **CHI synergy with OH extended in 2010 run:**

- Generated 1MA using 40% less flux than induction-only case
- Low internal inductance ($I_i \approx 0.35$), and high elongation
- Suitable for advanced scenarios

- **Also obtained new record 370 kA peak current by CHI alone**



IAEA: R. Raman, B.A. Nelson U Washington

Plasma Start-up Milestone R(12-2): Assess confinement, heating, and ramp-up of CHI start-up plasmas

- CHI initiated plasmas have been successfully coupled to induction and NBI-heated H-mode.
 - While these results are favorable, **the confinement properties of CHI start-up plasmas have not been characterized.**
 - CHI-initiated plasma equilibrium, confinement, and stability information is needed for projecting to Upgrade, next-steps
- HHFW and NBI heating of low-current ohmic targets was demonstrated in 2008 and 2010
- HHFW and early NBI heating will be used to:
 - Heat CHI → OH discharges to assess confinement/heating vs. non-CHI
 - Heat and drive current progressively earlier in target plasma to assess non-inductive sustainment

Waves and Energetic Particle Research for FY2011-2012

- Understand, develop high-harmonic fast-wave for heating, CD
2010: HHFW generated 60% NICD at low $I_p \sim 300\text{kA}$ with $P_{RF}=1.4\text{MW}$
 - Utilize antenna upgrade as tool for start-up, ramp-up, sustainment of advanced scenarios - e.g. HHFW heating of CHI+OH and CHI plasmas
 - Overcome/avoid problem of Li-compounds/dust on antenna
 - Improve resilience to edge transients (ELMs), understand edge power losses (surface waves, PDI) and NBI fast-ion interactions
 - Use HHFW as tool in NBI H-modes
- Develop predictive capability for fast-ion transport by *AE
2009-10: TAE-Avalanche induced neutron rate drop modeled successfully using NOVA and ORBIT codes
 - Extend *AE avalanche results obtained in L-mode to H-mode scenarios/profiles (BES + improved reflectometry + tangential FIDA)
 - Compare measured to predicted fast-ion transport – M3D-K validation in support of ITER, NSTX Upgrade, next-steps

Forum action items for TSG leaders, proposers, run coordination

- ✓ Actively solicit input from the entire team – experimentalists, modelers, and theorists – to develop an extensive but goal-relevant list of ideas and proposals
- Organize, listen, question proposal presentation and plans
- Develop a prioritized XP idea lists based on run-time guidance for use in planning FY2011-12 run
- Determine XMP topics and XMP run-time required to support high-priority XPs (see run-time guidance for initial XMP list)
- Forum summary session:
 - (Deputy) TSG leaders: Present brief summary of key experiments, full list of run time requested and allocated, ID any issues/problems, and provide prioritized lists of experiments
 - Run coordinator: Recap capabilities/milestones/run-time guidance, summarize # XPs and run-days requested, sketch out initial ops and first run-month, ID which XMPs/XPs need to be reviewed first

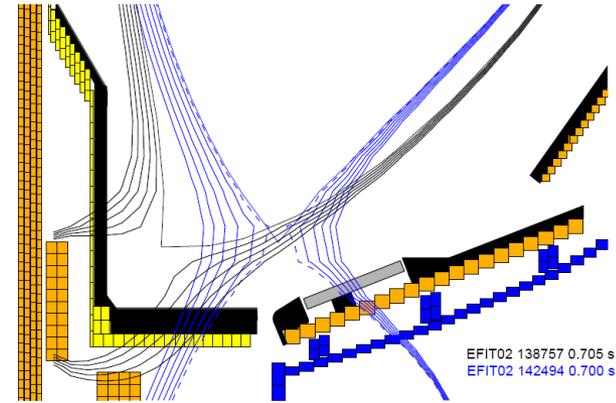
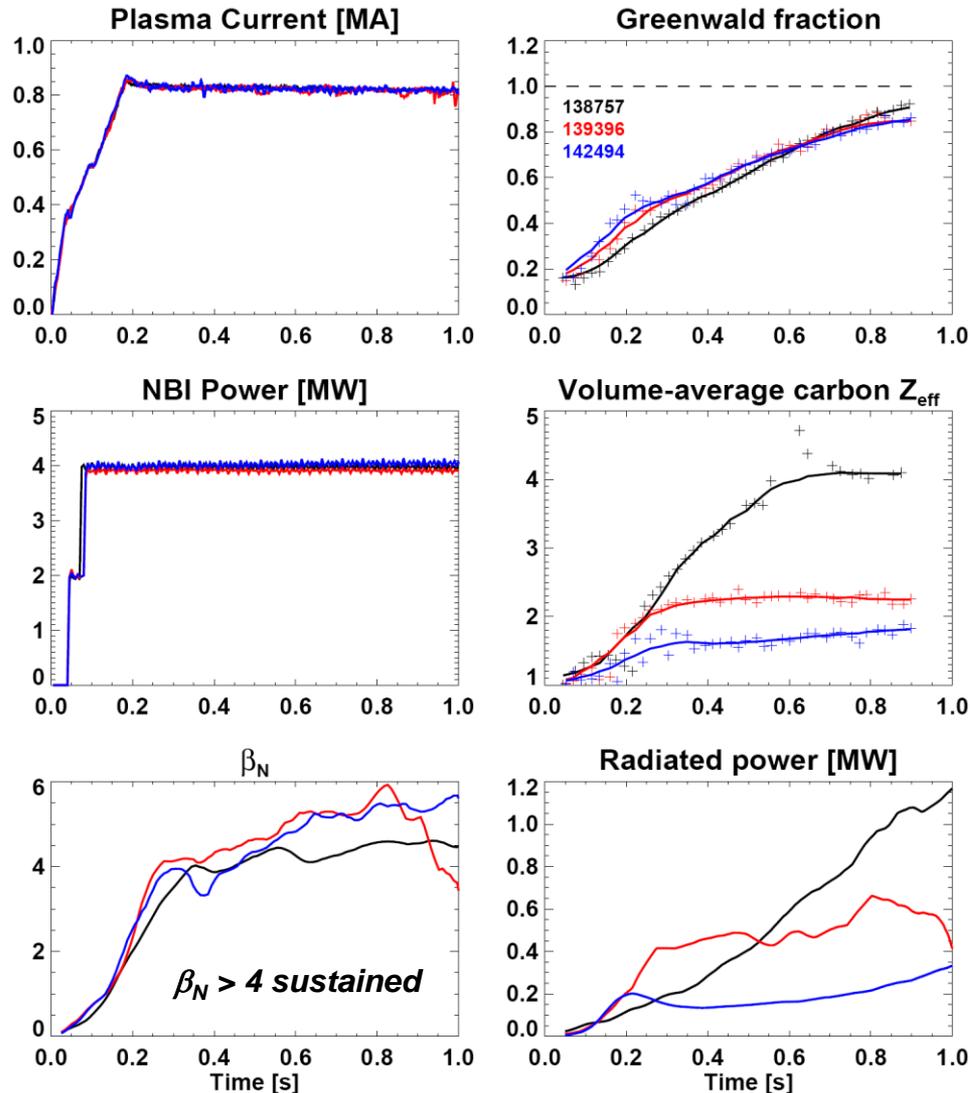
Backup

FY2011-12 NSTX research milestones

(base and incremental)

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Expt. Run Weeks:	15 w/ ARRA	4	10
1) <u>Transport & Turbulence</u>		R11-1 BES, High-k Measure fluctuations responsible for turbulent electron, ion, impurity transport	
2) <u>Macroscopic Stability</u> Assess sustainable beta and disruptivity near and above the ideal no-wall limit		R11-2 2nd SPA, RWM state-space control Assess ST stability dependence on aspect ratio and boundary shaping (with ASC TSG)	IR12-1 <i>Real-time rotation, 2nd SPA, RWM state-space control, HHFW</i> Investigate magnetic braking physics and toroidal rotation control at low v^* (with ASC TSG)
3) <u>Boundary/Lithium Physics</u> Assess H-mode characteristics as a function of collisionality and lithium conditioning		R11-3 Snowflake, MPTS, Lithium Assess very high flux expansion divertor operation (with ASC TSG)	R12-1 MAPP, BES, High-k, Lithium Assess relationship between lithium-conditioned surface composition and plasma behavior
4) <u>Wave-Particle Interaction</u> Characterize HHFW heating, CD, and ramp-up in deuterium H-mode			IR12-2 <i>Tangential FIDA, BES, reflectometer</i> Assess predictive capability of mode-induced fast-ion transport
5) <u>Solenoid-free start-up, ramp-up</u>			R12-2 CHI, NBI, HHFW Assess confinement, heating, and ramp-up of CHI start-up plasmas (with WPI/HHFW TSG)
6) <u>Advanced Scenarios & Control</u>			R12-3 SGL, Lithium, HHFW Assess access to reduced density and v^* in high-performance scenarios (with MS, BP TSGs)
7) <u>ITER urgent needs, cross-cutting</u>		R11-4 BES, High-k, 2nd SPA H-mode pedestal transport, turbulence, and stability response to 3D fields (cross-cutting with T&T, BP, MS)	
Joint Research Targets (3 US facilities): Understanding of divertor heat flux, transport in scrape-off layer		FY11 JRT MPTS, MSE-LIF Characterize H-mode pedestal structure	FY12 JRT BES, High-k Understand core transport and enhance predictive capability

Operation with outer strike-point on Mo LLD (coated with Li) compatible with achievement of high-performance plasmas



◀ **Strike-point (SP) on inner divertor**

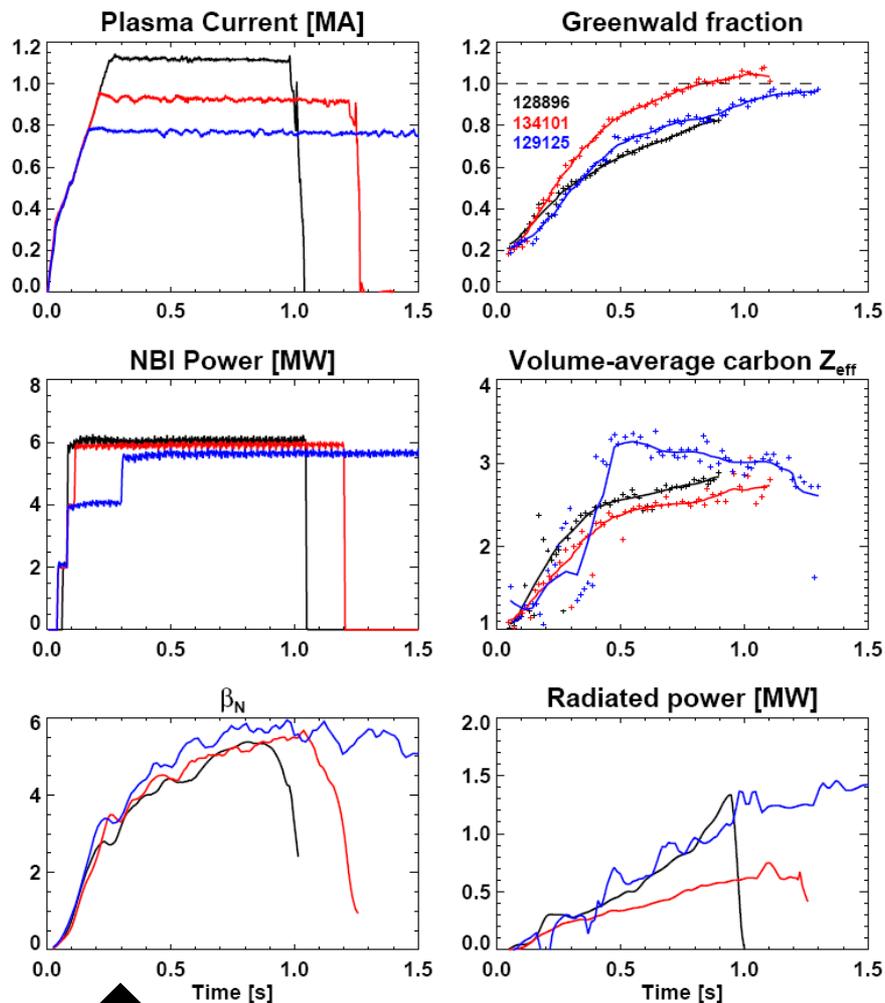
- Carbon $Z_{\text{eff}} = 3-4$ typical of LiTER ELM-free H-mode

◀ **SP on LLD – $T_{\text{LLD}} < T_{\text{Li-melt}}$**

◀ **SP on LLD – $T_{\text{LLD}} > T_{\text{Li-melt}}$ (+ other differences)**

- **Shots have different fueling, LiTER conditions, ELM characteristics:**
 - No ELMs, **no** → **small**, **small** → **larger**
- **LSN with SP on LLD reduces δ , κ , q**
 - Reduces ELM and global stability
- **Yet, can achieve high β_N , low Z_{eff} , P_{rad}**
 - Would like to revisit operation on LLD in FY11
 - Supports consideration of inboard Mo tiles

ELMy H-mode combined with modest Li-wall conditioning can provide sufficient particle control for initial Upgrade ops



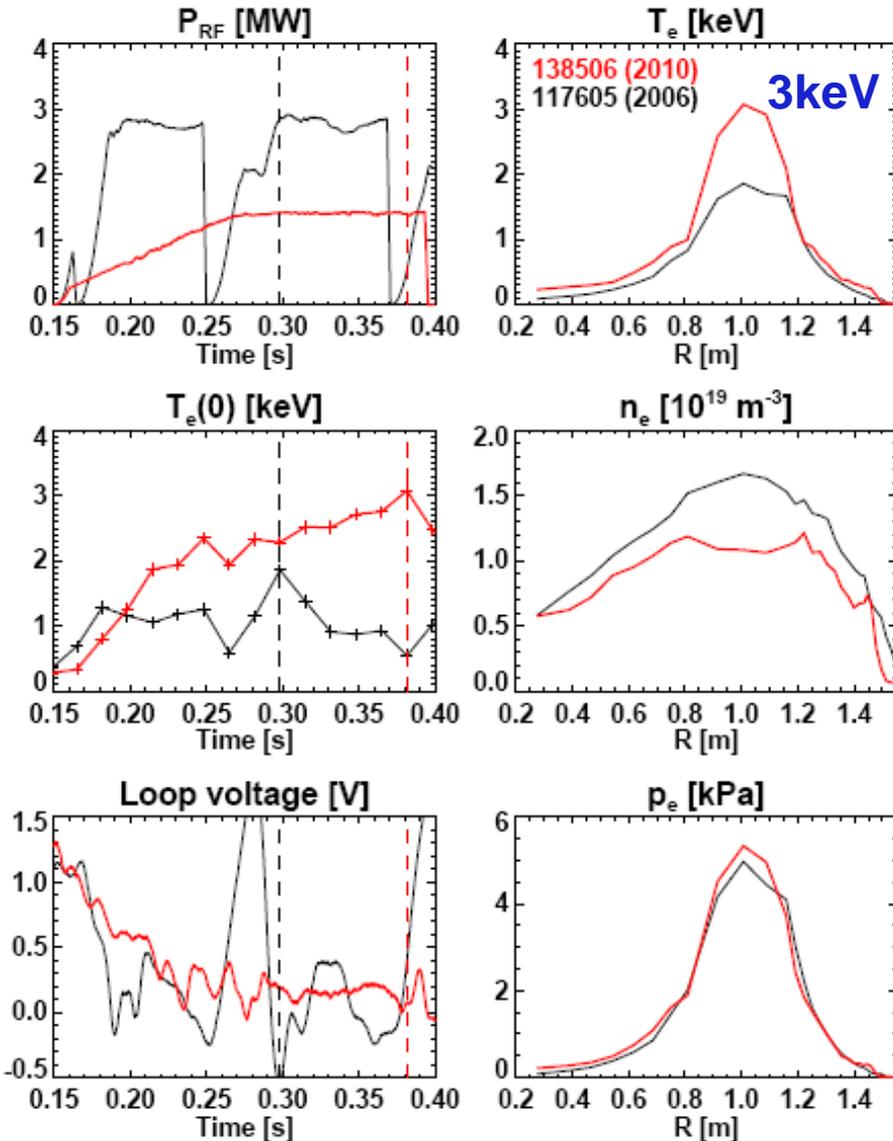
$\beta_N = 5-6$ sustained for ~ 1 s – ready to assess stability at longer pulse-lengths in Upgrade

- ◀ NSTX long-pulse plasmas with ELMs approach density flat-top by $t \sim 1$ s with $n_e / n_{\text{Greenwald}} \rightarrow 1$
 - Modeling indicates $n_e / n_{\text{Greenwald}} = 0.7-0.9$ likely required for 100% NICD
- ◀ Carbon $Z_{\text{eff}} = 2.5-3$ acceptable, and will attempt to reduce further in FY11-12 research
- ◀ Radiated power $< 25\%$ of NBI power, which is acceptable

Improved D pumping required to access $n_e / n_{\text{Greenwald}} < 1$ operating scenarios – will be part of longer-term Upgrade research program

Progress in sustaining HHFW heating and current drive at low $I_p \sim 300\text{kA}$

(Use low I_p ohmic target to prototype heating solenoid-free start-up plasma)



High $T_e(0) \sim 3\text{keV}$ with only 1.4MW

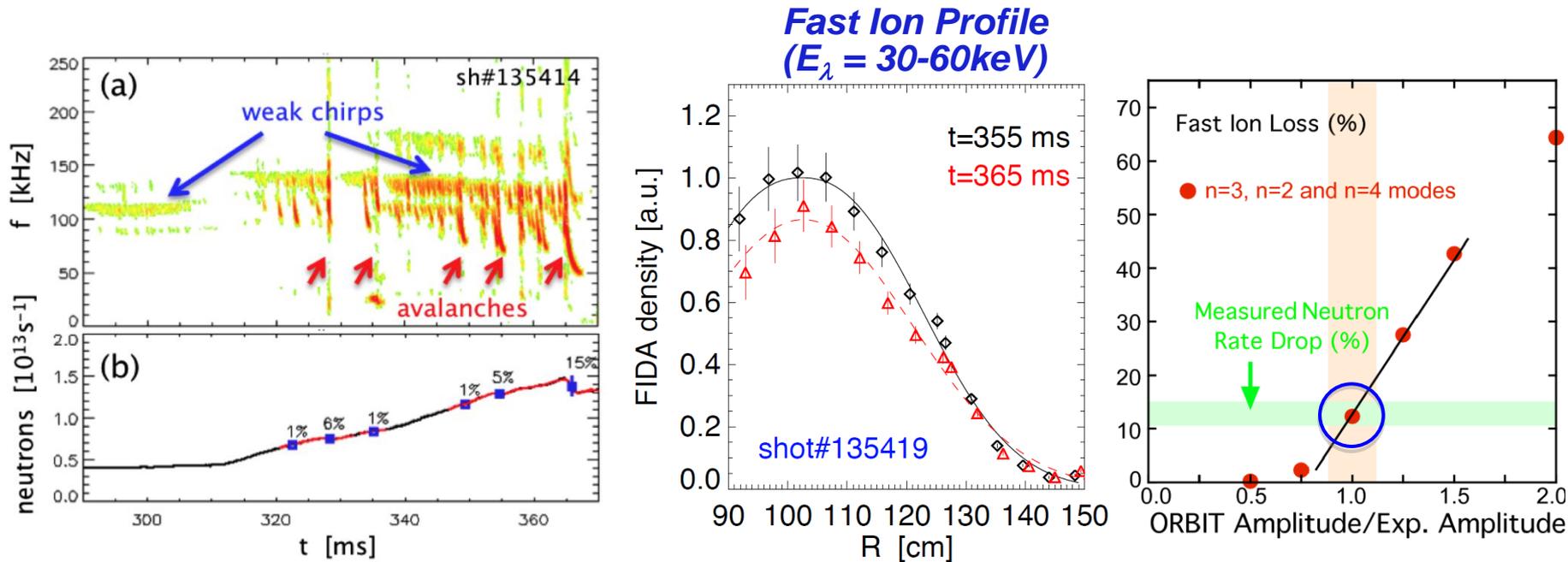
- Previous best at low $I_p \sim 250\text{kA}$ was $\sim 1.5\text{keV}$ at twice the power

- P_{RF} and high T_e sustained longer
 - But, max power was limited in FY2010 by arcing attributed to Li dust formation near/on antenna

- Non-inductive fraction 60-70% sustained (25-30% RF, 35-40% BS)
 - FY11: Will re-try for $\sim 100\%$ non-inductive at $P_{RF} = 3-4\text{MW}$

Pressure profiles are similar in both cases - profile stiffness?

TAE-Avalanche induced neutron rate drop modeled successfully using NOVA and ORBIT codes



- Toroidal Alfvén Eigenmode (TAE) avalanches in NBI-heated plasmas associated with transient reductions in DD neutron rate - “sea” of TAEs expected in ITER and future STs
- Change in beam-ion profile measured with Fast-ion D-alpha (FIDA)
- Modeled using NOVA and ORBIT codes
 - Mode structure obtained by comparing NOVA calculations with reflectometer data
 - Fast ion dynamics in the presence of TAEs calculated by guiding-center code ORBIT

IAEA: E. Fredrickson

IAEA: M. Podestà UCI

IAEA: G-Y. Fu