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Scenario Development Research in NSTX Focused on Needs of Next-Step Devices

- Next-step STs are envisioned to provide important engineering and physics knowledge for fusion energy:
 - -ST Fusion Nuclear Science Facility
 - Develop fusion nuclear science.
 - Test nuclear components for Demo
 - Sustain W_{neutron} ~ 0.2-0.4 \rightarrow 1-2MW/m², $\tau_{pulse} = 10^3 \rightarrow 10^6 s$
 - -ST Plasma Material Interface Facility
 - Develop long-pulse PMI solutions for FNSF / Demo.
 - High $P_{heat}^{i}/S \sim 1$ MW/m², high T_{wall} , $\tau_{pulse} \sim 10^{3}$ s
 - Both facilities make use of the compact ST geometry to fulfill their missions.
 - Both are steady state.
- NSTX scenario develop research:
 - Maximize the non-inductive current fraction in high- β plasmas.
 - Study the stability, transport, and overall performance, of plasmas with largely non-inductive current drive.
 - Develop an understanding of the control tools needed to achieve these configurations.







NSTX Designed to Study High-Temperature Toroidal Plasmas at Low Aspect-Ratio



Aspect ratio A	1.27 – 1.6		
Elongation k	1.8 – 3.0		
Triangularity δ	0.3 – 0.85		
Toroidal Field B_{T0}	0.35 – 0.55 T		
Plasma Current I _p	≤1.5 MA		
Pulse Length	≤ 2 sec		
Auxiliary heating:			
NBI (100kV)	7 MW		
RF (30MHz)	6 MW		
Central temperature	1 – 5 keV		
Central density	≤1.2×10 ²⁰ m ⁻³		

Best NSTX Discharges Achieve CTF-level β_N , with Good **Confinement and High Non-Inductive Fraction**



1.4

1.2

β_N

Shaping is Described by the "Shape Parameter" S

- Two important degrees of freedom in axisymmetric plasma boundary shaping.¹
 - Elongation: Increasing elongation increases q, improving the kink stability & increasing bootstrap currents.
 - Triangularity: Increasing the triangularity causes fields lines to spend more time in the *highfield good-curvature* region.
- "Shape Parameter" S encapsulates both effects.

$$S = \frac{q_{95}I_P}{aB_T} \propto \varepsilon \left(1 + \kappa^2\right) f(\kappa, \delta, \varepsilon, ...)$$



[1] E. Lazarus, et al, Phys. Plasmas B 3, 2220 (1991)
[2] E.J. Strait, Phys. Plasmas 1 1415 (1994)
[3] D. Gates, et al, Phys. Plasmas 10, 1659 (2003)
[4] D. Gates, et al, Phys. Plasmas 10, 1659 (2003)

Strong Plasma Shaping is Important For Sustained High-β



Resistive Wall Modes (RWMs) And Error Field Amplification Can Inhibit High-β Operation

- The RWM¹ is a branch of the kink-ballooning instability that occurs in the presence of a resistive wall.
 - Slow growth rates: $\gamma \approx \tau_w$, 10-15 msec in NSTX.
- Onset of an unstable RWM cause:
 - Severe confinement degradation.
 - Disruption.
- RWMs can be stabilized by rotation + dissipation.
 - Exact physics depends on dissipation model, kinetic effects, and is an area of active research.²
- Even stable RWM can cause trouble.
 - Error fields can be amplified by the stable RWM.
 - Resulting plasma response has RWM structure.
 - Plasma-amplified 3-D field leads to rotation braking.
 - Reduced rotation leads to RWM destabilization.

NSTX Solution for Advanced Scenario Experiments

Maintain rapid rotation using neutral beam injection. Use active feedback to control *BOTH* the plasma amplified error field and the RWM.



Distorted Plasma Boundary with an RWM



 ^[1] S. Sabbagh, et al., Nuclear Fusion 46, 635 (2006)
 [2] J. W. Berkery, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett 104, 035003 (2010)

n=1 Mode Control Provided with Internal Sensors and External Midplane Coils



6 ex-vessel midplane control coils?

- Copper stabilizing plates to enable high-β operation.
- 6 ex-vessel midplane coils.
- 48 Internal sensors for nonaxisymmetric fields.
 - 24 B_R for perturbations.
 - 24 B_P for perturbations.
- Use internal sensors to reconstruct an n=1 amplitude (B₁) and phase (θ_1) at each time.

 $B_{RWM}(\phi) = B_1 \cos(\phi - \theta_1)$

- Apply a phase shifted n=1 field.
 - Feedback Gain G
 - Feedback Phase δ

$$B_{F.B.}(\phi) = GB_1 \cos(\phi - \theta_1 - \delta)$$

n=1 Mode Control Enables Reliable Access to Higher β



^[2] S. Sabbagh et al, Nucl. Fusion 50, 025020 (2010)

NSTX

Long-Pulse High- β_N Facilitated by n=1 Control



Why does n=1 control work?

Slow Time-Scale: Use n=1 feedback system to correct the plasma-amplified time varying error fields. This:

- Helps to sustain rotation, which
- Helps maintain good confinement and stability.

Fast Time-Scale: Use n=1 feedback system to stabilize growing resistive wall modes.²

- Phase locked RWM is observed with internal sensors
- Feedback system responds.
- RWM uncouples from the wall, spins-up as a global kink.
- Rotating kink either decays away, or (rarely) converts to a tearing instability.

Lithium Conditioning Provided by Dual Lithium Evaporators

- Two evaporators, separated by ~150° toroidal, deposit solid lithium on graphite PFCs
 - LITER=LIThium EvaporatoR
- Typically deposit 50-300 mg of lithium between discharges.
 - In-situ quartz micro-balance data implies deposited lithium thickness is 5 160 nm on inner divertor plate.
- Need 40-60% more gas with Li conditioning to match density evolution.
- Eliminated the need for both helium GDC between discharges and bi-weekly boronization.
 - Also increases shot-to-shot reproducibility and reliability.



NSTX



[1] H. Kugel Phys. Plasmas 15, 056118 (2008) [2] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009)

Lithium Coating Reduces Deuterium Recycling, Suppresses ELMs, Improves Confinement

No lithium (129239); 260mg lithium (129245)



- Same plasma current and heating power.
- 60% more D₂ injection to maintain the same density.
- ELMs are eliminated.
- Both the total and electron stored energy increase with Li conditioning.
- Both Z_{eff} and radiated power increase with Li conditioning.
 - Elimination of ELMs allows the plasma to accumulate both carbon and metallic impurities.

[1] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009) [2] R. Maingi, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 075001 (2009)

Confinement Improves, and Temperature Profiles Broaden, With Li Conditioning of the PFCs



- Electron stored energy increase due to a broadening of the profiles.
- TRANSP analysis continually reduced transport in the outer part of the plasma as between shot lithium deposition is increased.
- Root cause of confinement improvement with lithium is not understood.
 - lons remain approximately neoclassical.
 - Electron transport in NB-heated H-mode ST plasmas is not understood.

[1] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009), [2] S. Ding, Plasma Phys. Control Fusion 52, 015001 (2010)

ELM-Free H-Mode Leads to Impurity Accumulation

- ELMs are eliminated with lithium conditioning.
 - Modifications to the edge profiles results in modifications to the peeling-ballooning stability boundary.²
- Core radiation grows to unacceptable levels.¹
- Magnitude of apparent metals concentration depends on plasma current.
 - Consistent with sputtering from lost fast-ions being an important impurity source.



[1] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009), [2] R. Maingi, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 075001 (2009),

Radiated Power Rise Can Be Arrested With Triggered ELMs

- Use 3-D field (n=3) pulses to reintroduce ELMs and reduce radiated power.
 - Short duration (~3 msec)
 - Large amplitude (~2.5kA)
 - Eddy current effects are important on this timescale.



- Reliable ELM triggering from 10-70 Hz.
- Arrested the rise in radiated power and $Z_{\rm eff}.$



[1] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009), [2] R. Maingi, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 075001 (2009), [3] J.M. Canik Phys. Rev. Lett 104, 045001 (2010)

Current Profile Analysis Shows That Present Configurations Are Limited to f_{NI}<70%

- Separate calculations of each current profile constituent in NSTX
 - Inductive Currents: Electric field from time derivates of equilibria, and neoclassical resistivity¹
 - Bootstrap Currents: Calculate using either the NCLASS model in TRANSP, or the Sauter model.¹
 - Neutral Beam Currents: Calculate using the NUBEAM module in TRANSP.
- Process repeated for ~80 high- β discharges over a range of parameters.



Liquid Lithium Divertor Plates Have Been Installed in NSTX For Improved Pumping of Hydrogenic Species



[1] H. Kugel et al., Fusion Engineering and Design 84, 1125 (2009)

Back side of plate with heaters and thermocouples installed

LLD to be filled with lithium from the dual LITER evaporator system

Micrograph of semi porous Mo layer (100 µm)

H. Kugel, R. Nygren (SNL), S. O'Dell (PPI), E. Starkman

25-30% Density Reduction Projected at High-δ

Will LLD Pumping Increase the Non-Inductive Fraction? Depends on Impurity Accumulation and Confinement

- Fix plasma boundary and profile shapes from high-elongation, high- β_P discharge 133964 (65% Non-Inductive Current Drive).
- Scale profiles to test various scenarios.
 - For instance, scale down the density profile to simulate the effect of pumping.
- Use the TRANSP code to predict fully evolved current profile.

Summary

- NSTX discharges have achieved long-pulse stationary levels of bootstrap current and β_N appropriate for next-step devices
 - Up to 70% of the current has been driven non-inductively in long-pulse quiescent discharges.
 - Off-axis beam current drive assumed in FNSF/PSIF designs, and included in the NSTX-Upgrade proposal.
- A large number of analysis and operational tools facilitate this:
 - Plasma shaping
 - n=1 mode control
 - Lithium conditioning
 - Current profile analysis
 - Many others...

Confinement Improves, and Temperature Profiles Broaden, With Li Conditioning of the PFCs

- Electron stored energy increase due to a broadening of the profiles.
- TRANSP analysis shows reduced transport in the outer part of the plasma as lithium deposition is increased.
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 - [1] M. Bell et al, Plasma Phys Control Fusion 51, 124054 (2009), [2] S. Ding, Plasma Phys. Control Fusion 52, 015001 (2010) derstood

NSTX ICC – NSTX Advanced Spherical Tokamak (Gerhardt)

M. Bell, B. LeBlanc, S. Ding

Current Profile Analysis Shows That Present Configurations Are Limited to f_{NI}<70%

- Separate calculations of each current profile constituent in NSTX
 - Inductive Currents: Electric field from time derivates of equilibria, and neoclassical resistivity¹

$$\langle J_{OH} \cdot B \rangle = \sigma_{Neo} \langle E \cdot B \rangle$$

Bootstrap Currents: Calculate using either the NCLASS model in TRANSP, or the Sauter model.¹

$$\left\langle J_{BS} \cdot B \right\rangle = \left(RB_{\phi} \right) p_{e} \left[L_{31} \frac{1}{p_{e}} \left(\frac{\partial p_{e}}{\partial \psi} + \frac{\partial p_{i}}{\partial \psi} \right) + L_{32} \frac{1}{T_{e}} \frac{\partial T_{e}}{\partial \psi} + L_{34} \alpha \frac{1 - R_{pe}}{R_{pe}} \frac{1}{T_{i}} \frac{\partial T_{i}}{\partial \psi} \right]$$

Neutral Beam Currents: Calculate using the NUBEAM module in TRANSP.

$$J_{NB} = J_F \left[1 - \frac{Z_F}{Z_{eff}} (1 - G) \right], \quad J_F \text{ is the current density of circulating ions}$$

Process repeated for ~80 high- β discharges over a range of parameters.

NSTX Upgrade Would Be A Major Step Along ST Development Path (next factor of 2 increase in current, field, and power density)

	NSTX	NSTX Upgrade	Plasma-Material Interface Facility	Fusion Nuclear Science Facility
Aspect Ratio = R_0 / a	≥ 1.3	≥ 1.5	≥ 1.7	≥ 1.5
Plasma Current (MA)	1	2	3.5	10
Toroidal Field (T)	0.5	1	2	2.5
P/R, P/S (MW/m,m ²)	10, 0.2*	20, 0.4*	40, 0.7	40-60, 0.8-1.2

* Includes 4MW of high-harmonic fast-wave (HHFW) heating power

ICC – NSTX Advanced Spherical Tokamak (Gerhardt)

Higher Field B_T=1T from new CS + 2nd NBI Would Enable Access to Wide Range of 100% Non-Inductive Scenarios

Shaping is Described by the "Shape Parameter" S

- Freedom in axisymmetric plasma boundary shaping¹
 - Elongation: Increasing elongation increases q, improving the kink stability & increasing bootstrap currents.
 - Triangularity: Increasing the triangularity causes fields lines to spend more time in the *high-field* good-curvature region.
- "Shape Parameter" S encapsulates both effects.

Lithium Coating Reduces Deuterium Recycling, Suppresses ELMs, Improves Confinement

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Broader T_e Profile with Lithium Coating Reduces Both Inductive and Resistive Flux Consumption

- Critical issue for development of low-aspect ratio tokamaks
 - Little space for conventional central solenoid providing inductive current drive

 Reduction occurs despite increase in <Z_{eff}> in ELM-free H-modes after lithium coating

Lithium Concentration in Plasmas Remains Low but Carbon Concentration Rises with Lithium Coating

Lithium Affects ELMs Through Changes in Temperature and Pressure Profile at Edge

• Multiple timeslices mapped into composite profiles using EFIT equilibrium

Shift of Maximum in ∇p_e to Region of Lower Shear with Lithium Stabilizes Kink/Ballooning

- Analysis with PEST and ELITE codes
- Change in recycling affects edge current
- Precursor activity with n = 1 5 observed before ELM onset

Lithium Reduces Deuterium Recycling but Need to Increase Fueling to Avoid Early Locked Modes

- Lower density achievable early in discharges both with and without lithium but likelihood of deleterious locked modes increases
 - Extensive HeGDC, He ohmic- or HHFW-heated plasmas also effective

• Tangentially viewing camera for edge D_{α} emission shows greatly reduced neutral D density across outboard midplane with lithium

NSTX Upgrade will contribute strongly to toroidal plasma science and preparation for a fusion nuclear science (FNS) program

•NSTX:

- Providing foundation for understanding ST physics, performance

•NSTX Upgrade:

- Study high beta plasmas at reduced collisionality
 - Vital for understanding confinement, stability, start-up, sustainment
- -Assess full non-inductive current drive operation
 - Needed for steady-state operating scenarios in ITER and FNS facility
- Prototype solutions for mitigating high heat, particle exhaust
 - Can access world-leading combination of P/R and P/S
 - Needed for testing integration of high-performance fusion core and edge

•NSTX Upgrade contributes strongly to possible next-step STs:

- -ST Fusion Nuclear Science Facility
 - Develop fusion nuclear science, test nuclear components for Demo
 - Sustain W_{neutron} ~ 0.2-0.4 \rightarrow 1-2MW/m², τ_{pulse} = 10³ \rightarrow 10⁶s
- -ST Plasma Material Interface Facility
 - Develop long-pulse PMI solutions for FNSF / Demo (low-A and high-A)
 - Further advance start-up, confinement, sustainment for ST
 - High P_{heat}/S ~1MW/m², high T_{wall}, τ_{pulse} ~ 10³s

Upgrade 2nd NBI injecting at larger R_{tangency} will greatly expand performance and understanding of ST plasmas

- Higher CD efficiency from large R_{TAN}
- Higher NBI current drive from higher P_{NBI}
- Higher β_P , f_{BS} at present $H_{98y2} \le 1.2$ from higher P_{HEAT}
- Large $R_{TAN} \rightarrow$ off-axis CD for maintaining $q_{min} > 1$
- Achieve 100% non-inductive fraction (presently < 70%)
- Optimized $q(\rho)$ for integrated high τ_{E} , β , and f_{NI}

- *q*-shear for transport, MHD, fast-ion physics
- Heating, torque, and rotation profiles
- $-\beta$, including higher β at higher I_P and B_T
- Fast-ion $f(v_{\parallel}, v_{\perp})$ and *AE instabilities
 - 2nd NBI more tangential like next-step STs
- Peak divertor heat flux, SOL width

 q(r) profile variation and control very important for global stability, electron transport, Alfvénic instability behavior

New 2nd NBI

R_{TAN}=110,120,130cm

Present NBI

R_{TAN}=50,60,70cm

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