Millimeter-Wave Reflectometry on NSTX

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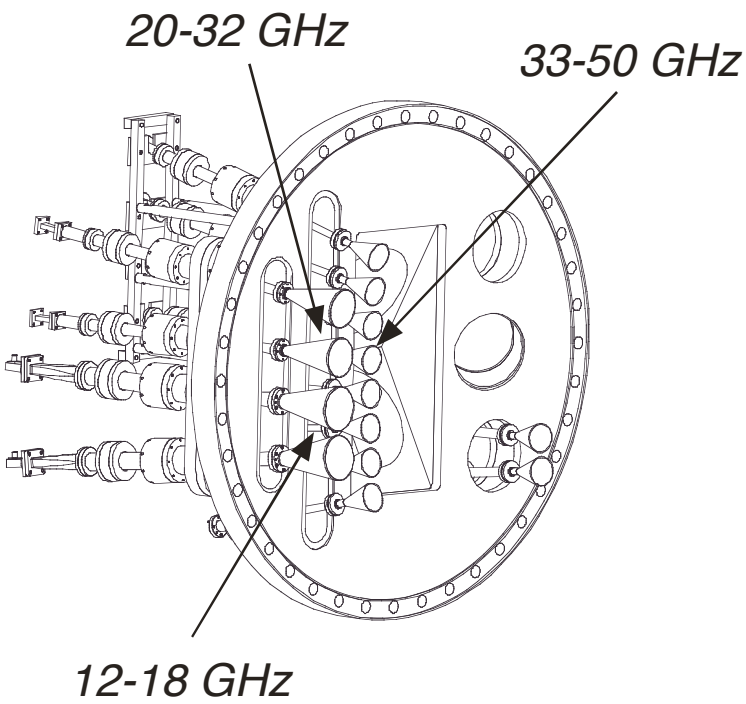
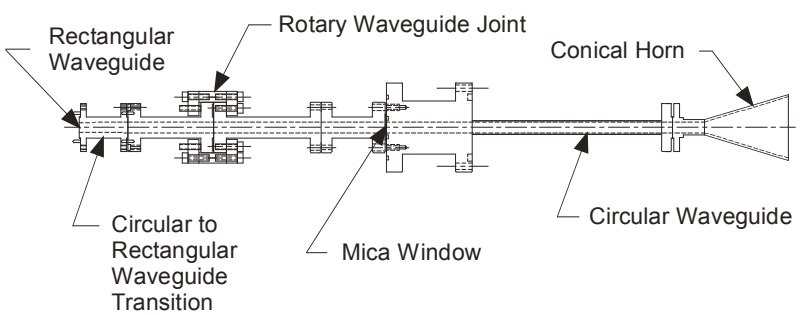
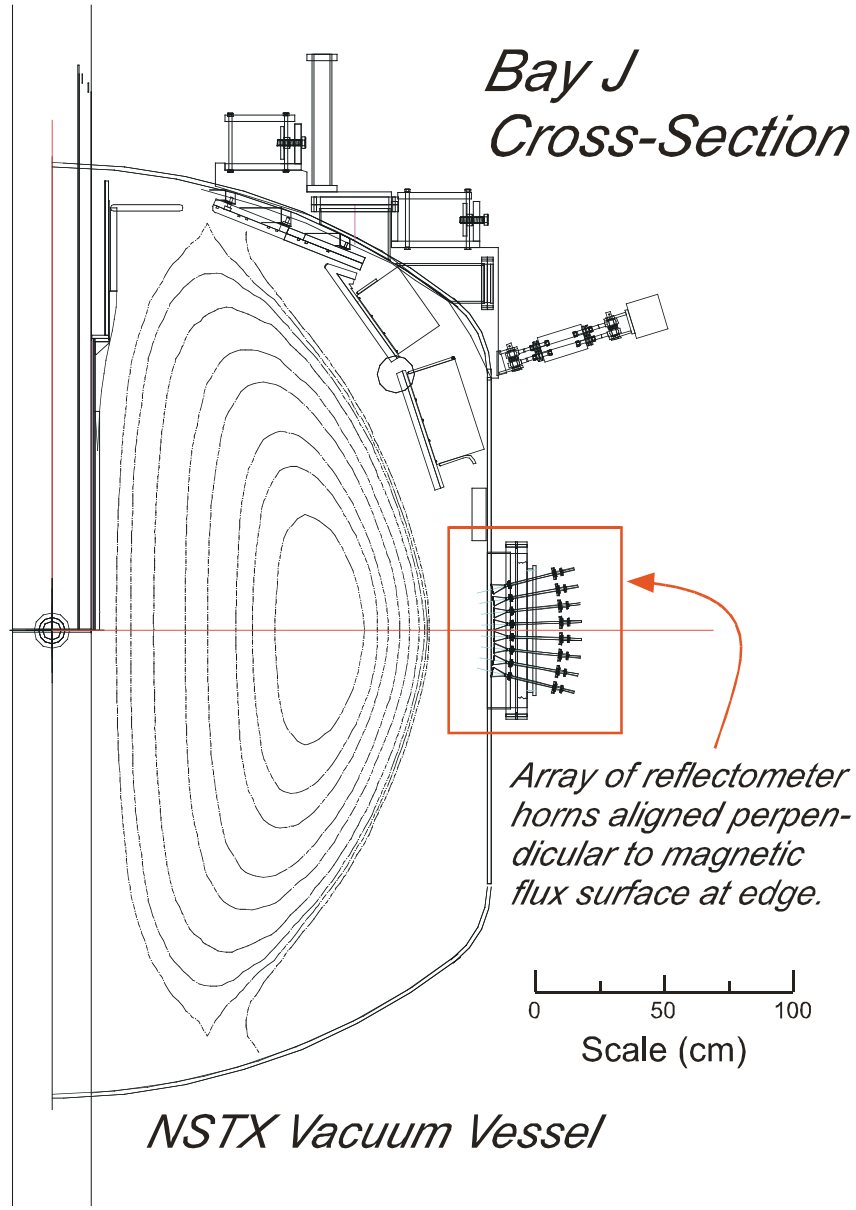
MM-Wave Reflectometery on NSTX: Goals and Contents

- Measurements of density profile and fluctuation quantities in region overlapping plasma edge and core.
  - Sensitive, local measurements with high bandwidth and excellent temporal coverage.
  - Density profiles, turbulent correlation length, fluctuation levels, magnetic field strength, Alfven eigenmodes, etc.
  - Magnetic pitch angle (spring 2003), RF waves (proposed), etc.
- FM-CW (frequency-modulated continuous-wave) profile reflectometry.
  - Fast profile measurements for ELMy H-mode discharges.
- Fluctuation measurements.
  - Fixed frequency quadrature systems, 3 simultaneous channels.
  - Turbulence at L-H transition and during H-mode, ELMs, CAEs.
- Correlation reflectometry.
  - Turbulence radial correlation lengths.
  - Magnetic field strength measurements (dual mode operation).

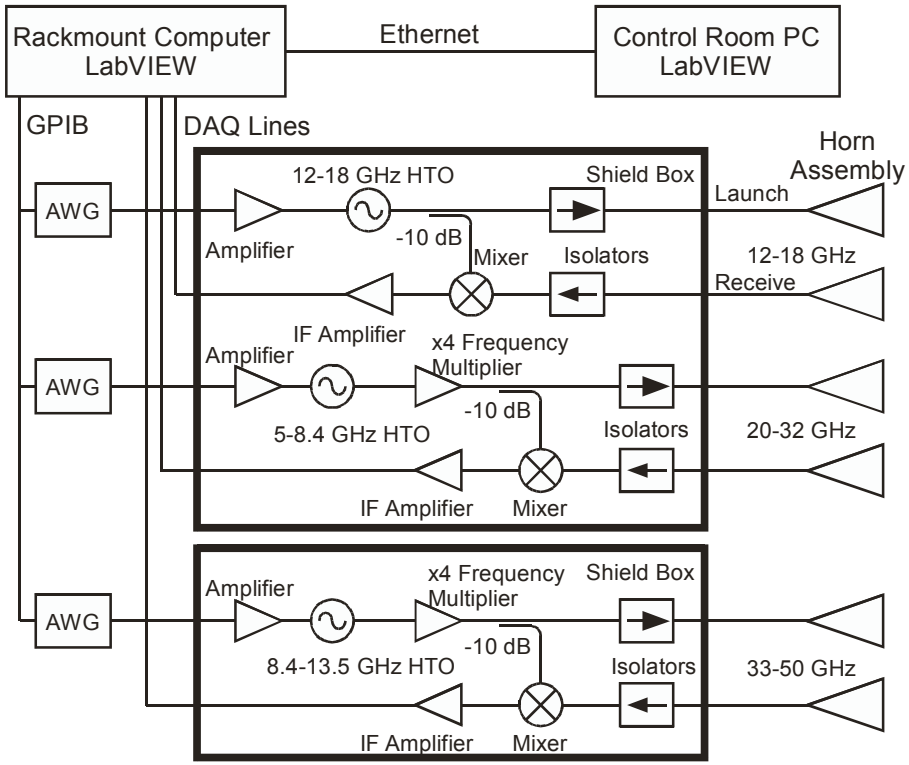
Location of Reflectometer Diagnostics on Bay J

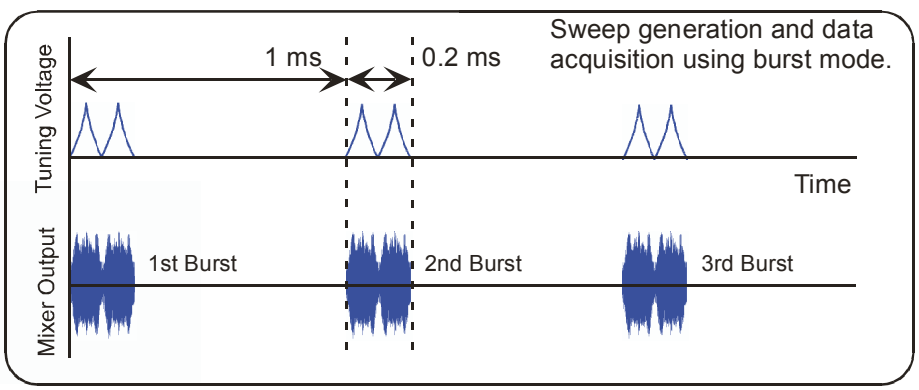






Diagnostic System for Profile Analysis





FMCW System

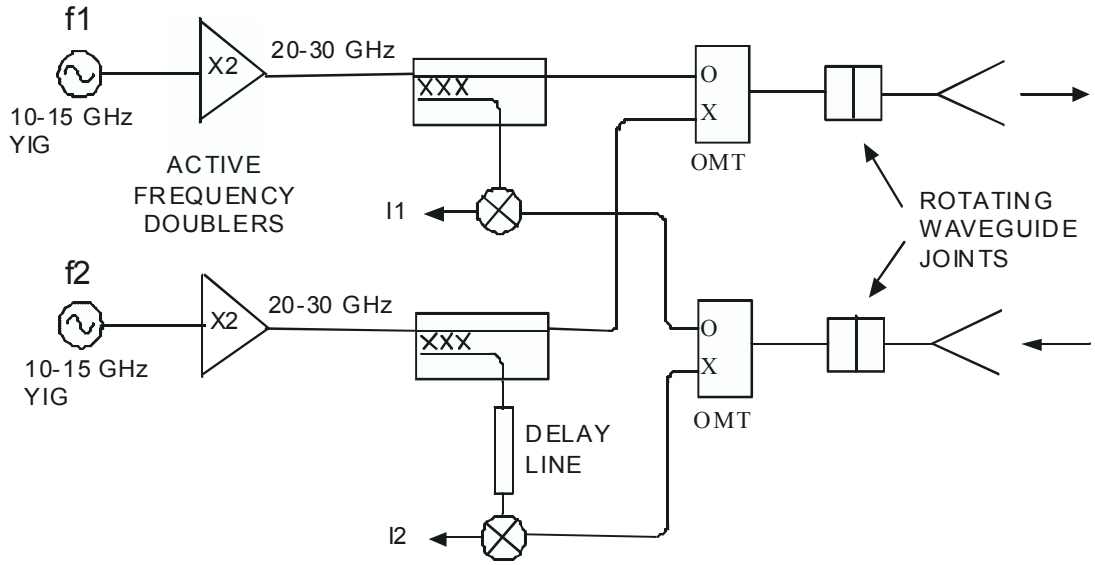
- 12-50 GHz coverage (1.8×10^{12} to 3.1×10^{13} cm^{-3}).
- Maximum repetition rate of 100 s/sweep (818 total profiles).
- Using spline fit to Thomson edge profile below $n_e=9\times10^{11}$ cm^{-3}.
- Typical discrepancy of less than 2 cm between reflectometry and Thomson scattering profiles. Edge modeling and systematic uncertainties.

Fixed-Frequency System

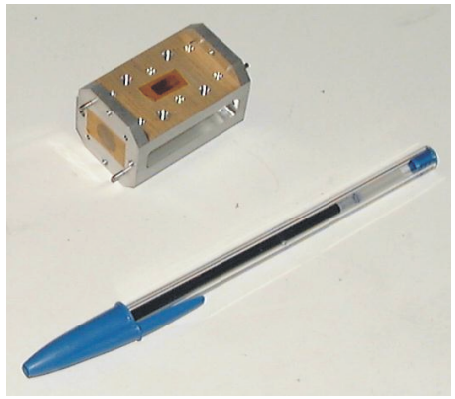
- 12-18, 28.2, 50 GHz. Density coverage of $1.8\text{-}4.0\times10^{12}$, 9.9×10^{12}, and 3.1×10^{13} cm^{-3}.
- Dedicated 50 GHz system.
- Three channel simultaneous measurements at 10 MHz.

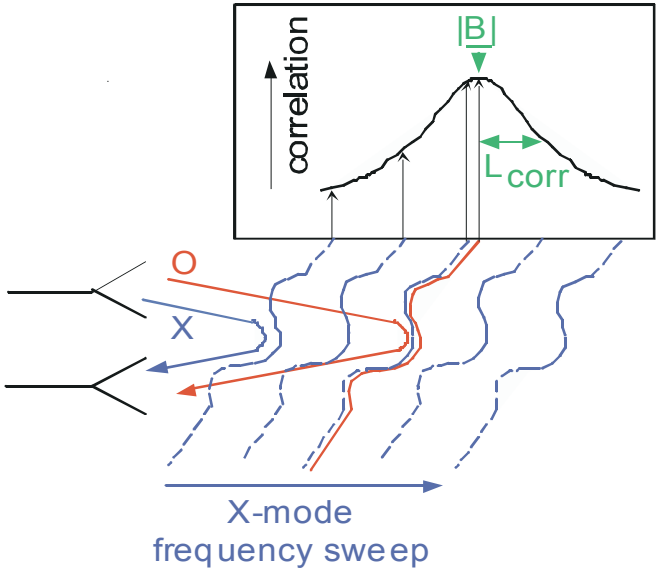
Dual Mode Correlation Reflectometer Circuit Diagram

- 20-30 GHz homodyne system
- f1 fixed, f2 slowly swept
- f1, f2 combined in circular w/g via ortho mode transducer (OMT)
- Circuit implemented mainly with high frequency coaxial cable/devices. Transition to w/g at OMTs.
- Cutoff densities n_e ▯ 0.5 ▯ 1.0 ▯ 10^{13} cm^{-3} probed
- Cutoff positions in the range R/a ▯ 0.85 - 0.95



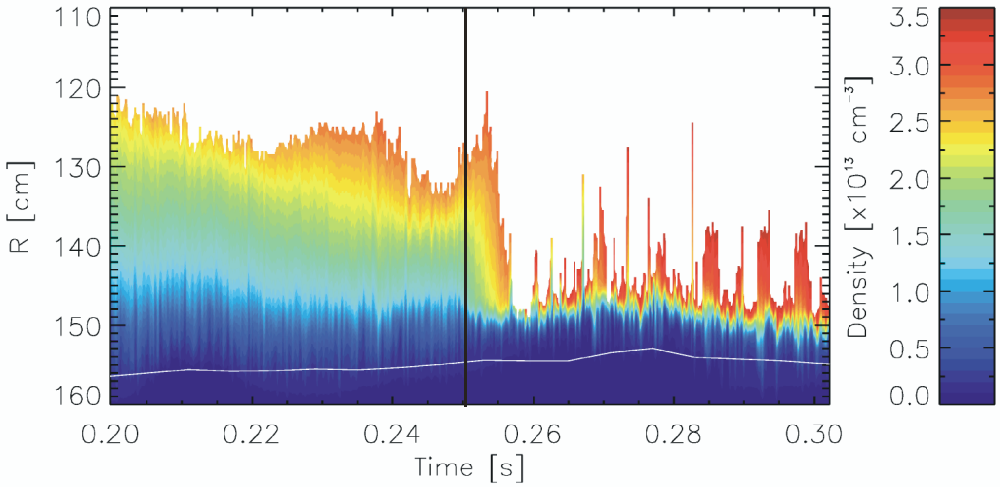
20-30 GHz OMT



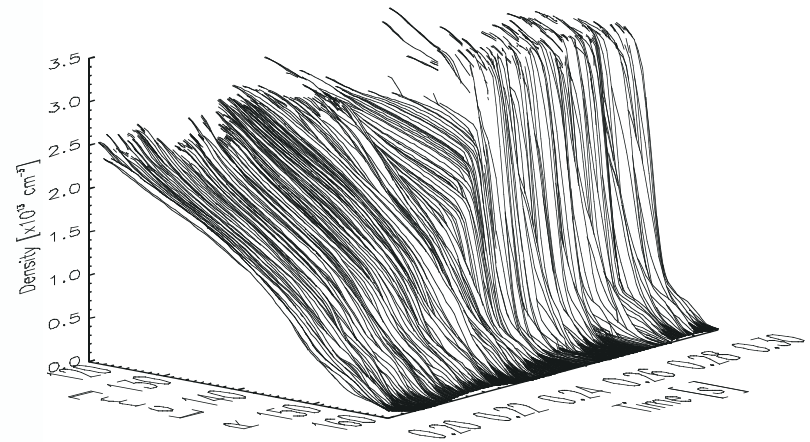


NB-Heated Discharge: L- to H-Mode Transition (Shot 108470)

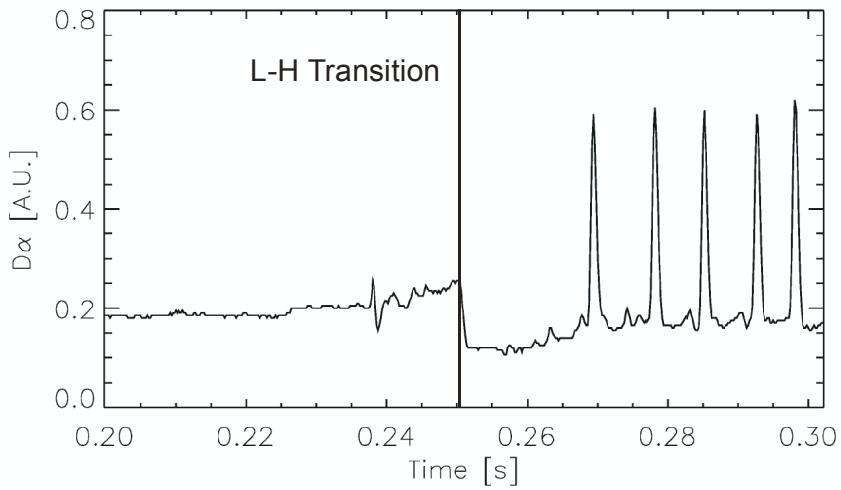
Shot 108470, Density Profile Contour Plot

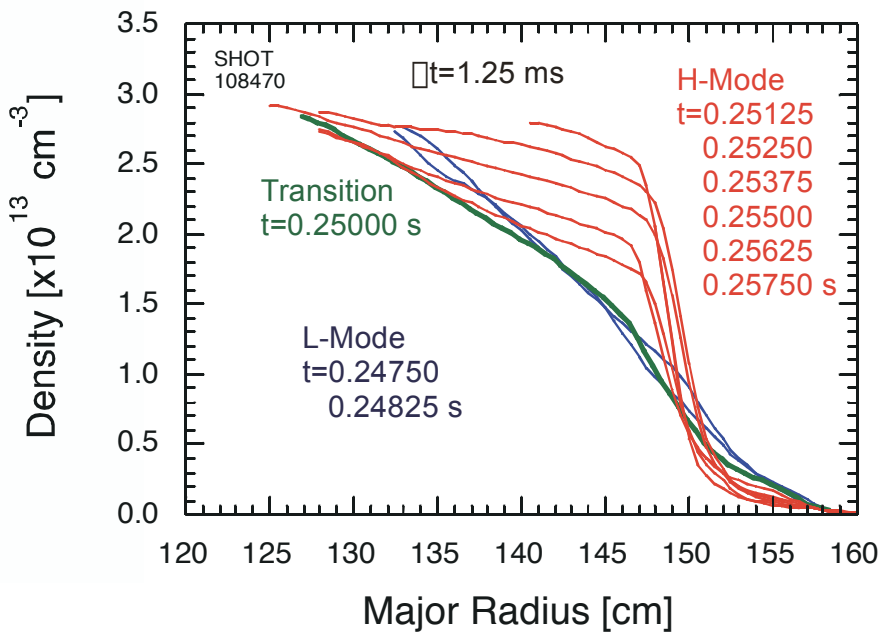


Density Profile Surface Plot (t=0.200-0.300 s)



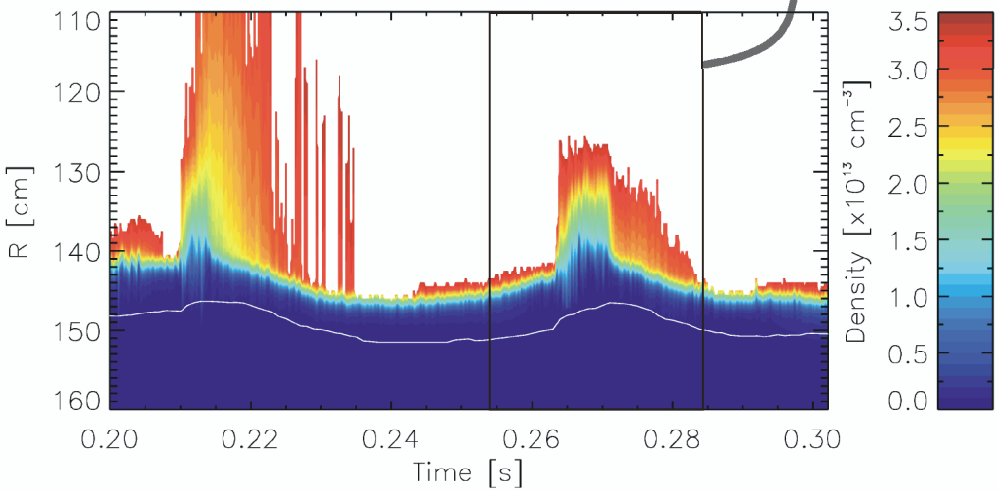
Shot 108470, Bay C Dα Intensity (Lower Divertor)



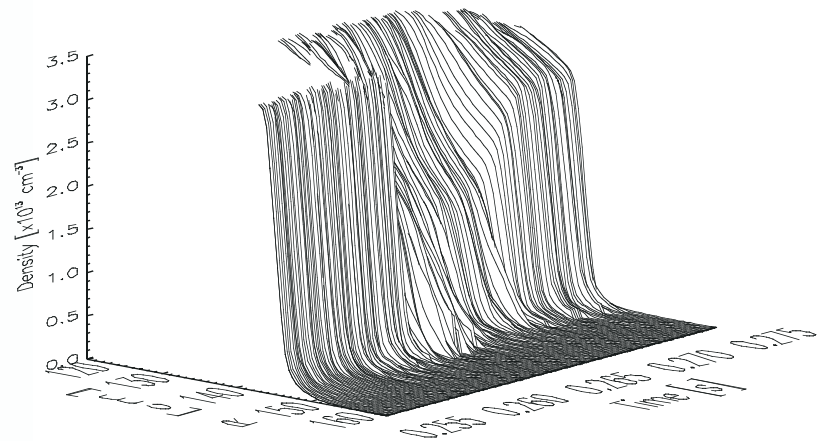


NB-Heated Discharge: H-Mode, Giant ELMs (Shot 108487)

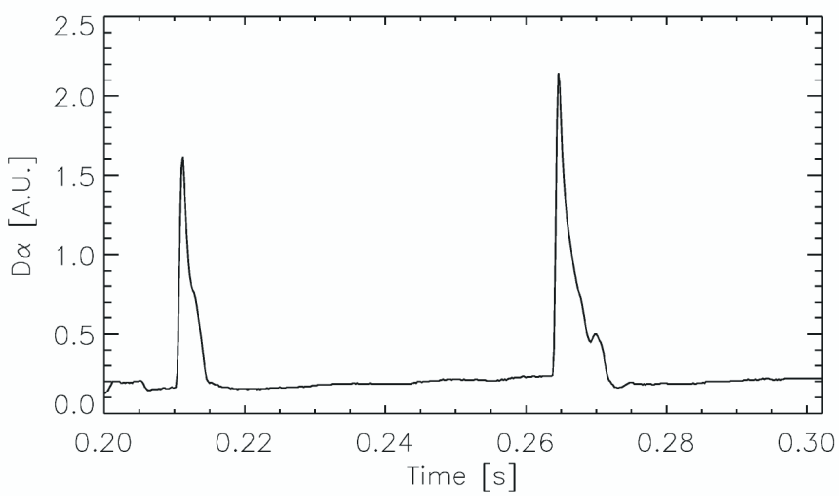
Shot 108487, Density Profile Contour Plot



Density Profile Surface Plot (t=0.255-0.275 s)

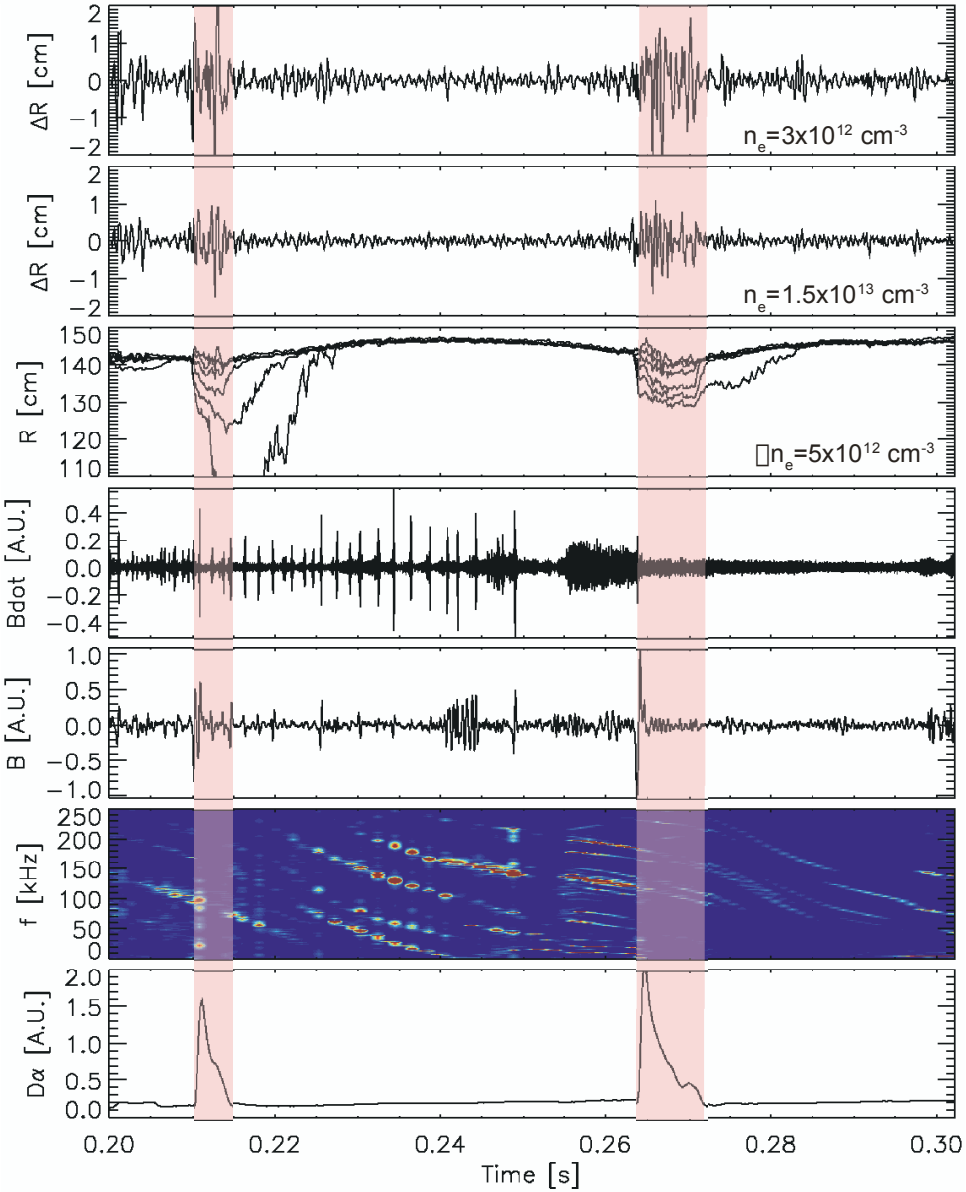


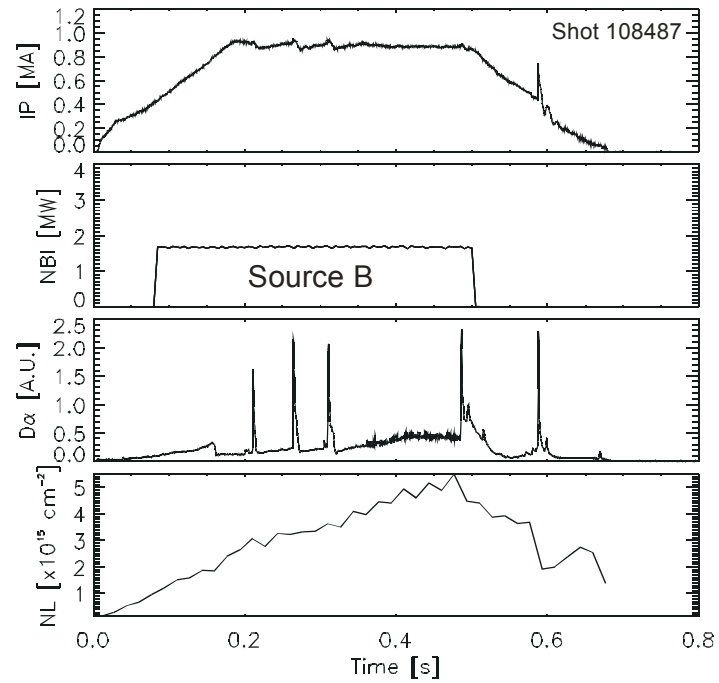
Shot 108487, Bay C D□ Intensity (Lower Divertor)



- Density contour tracks with LCFS from EFIT01.
- Rapid changes (fluctuations) in density profile with onset of ELMs. □t=100 □s not fast enough to catch evolution.
- Fast profile changes seen without corresponding D□ signature.

Giant ELMs/Density and Magnetic Fluctuations

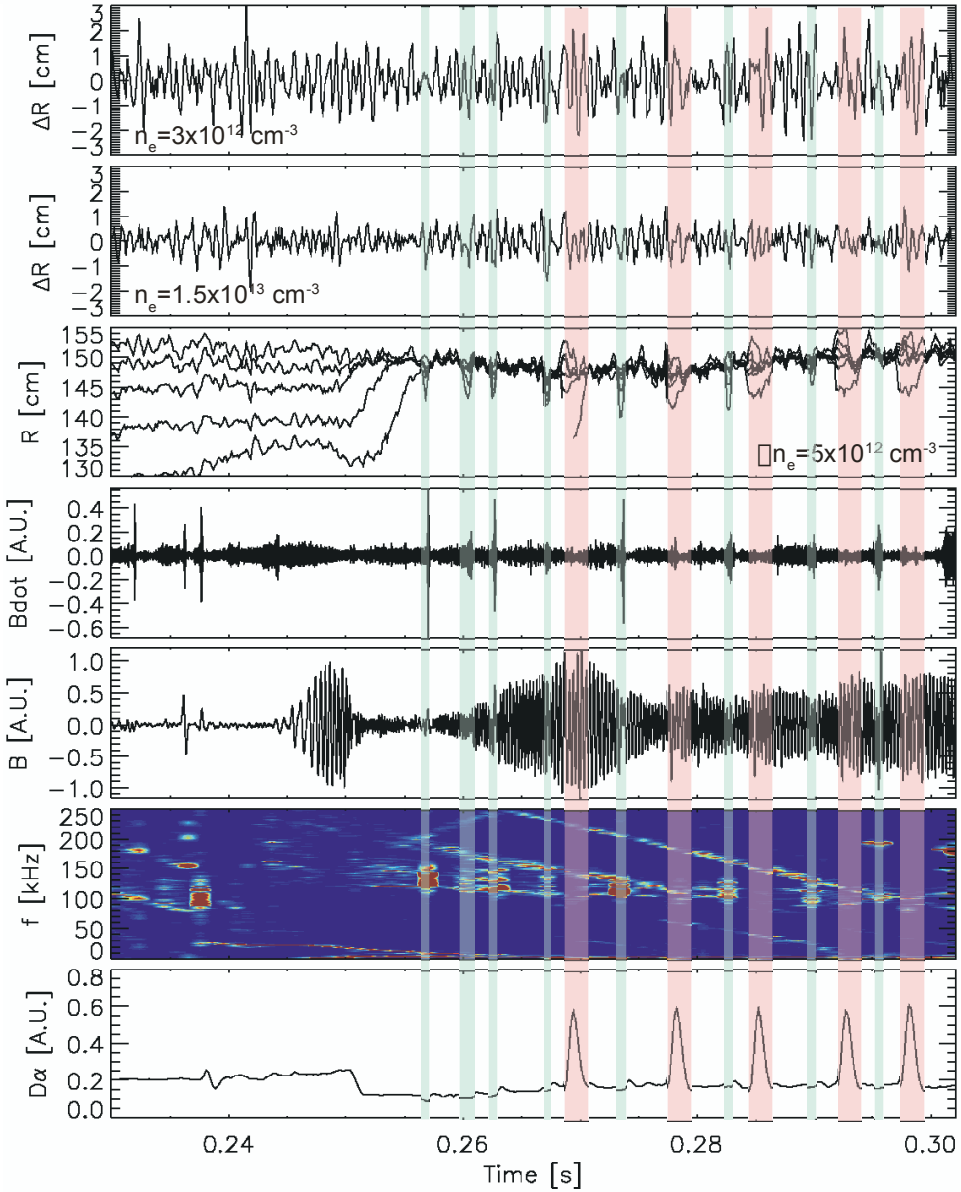


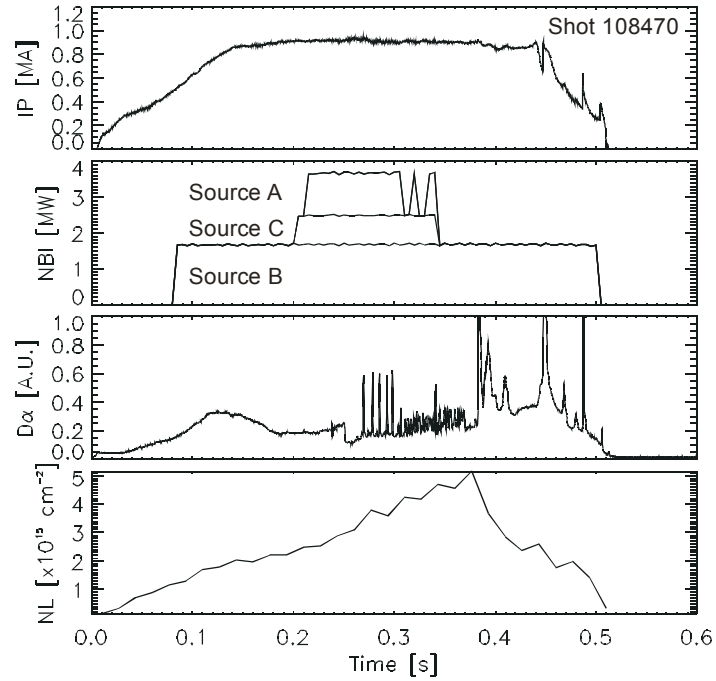


□R=R-R_{mean}, R=density contour.

Increased density oscillations and slow magnetic signal correlated with density profile change. Both precede D□ burst.

L-H Transition/Moderate ELMs/Magnetic Signature



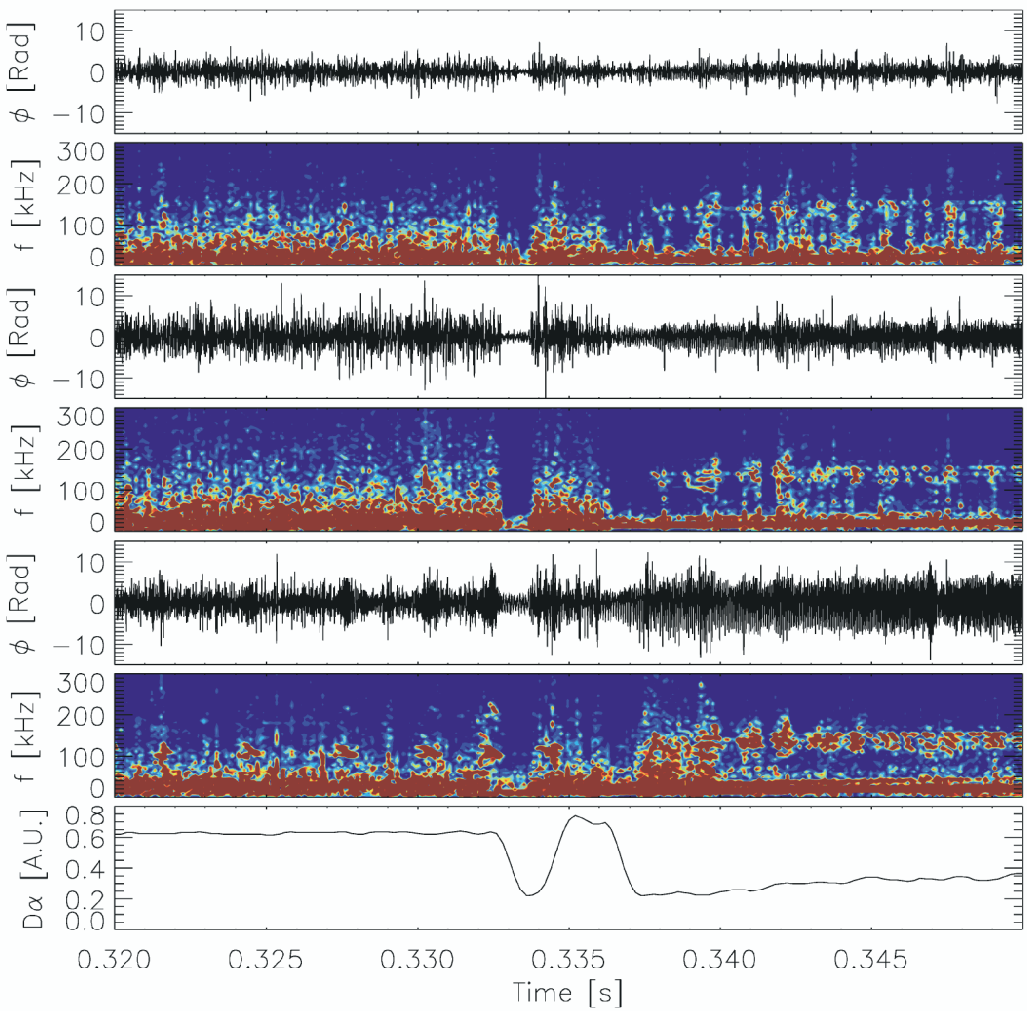


ΔR oscillations are larger and more prevalent. ELM precursor oscillations unclear.

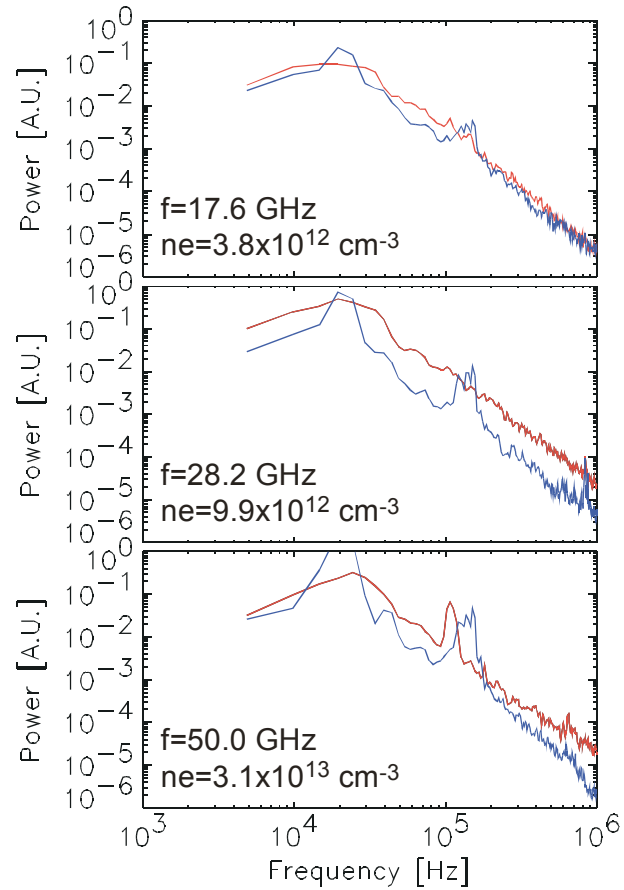
Very fast density changes (no Dα signature) associated with high frequency (100-150 kHz) magnetic oscillations.

Turbulence Suppression/Fluctuations at L-H Transition

Fluctuation Component of Reflectometer Phase and Spectrogram at L-H Transition



Power Spectrum of Phase

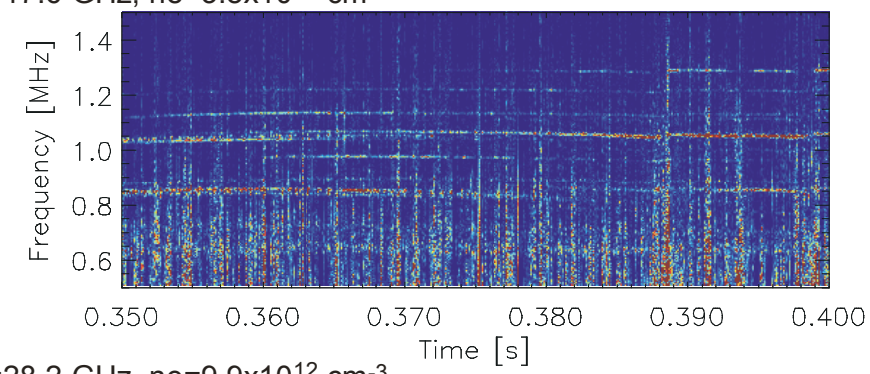


L-Mode: 0.325-0.330 s
H-Mode: 0.340-0.345 s

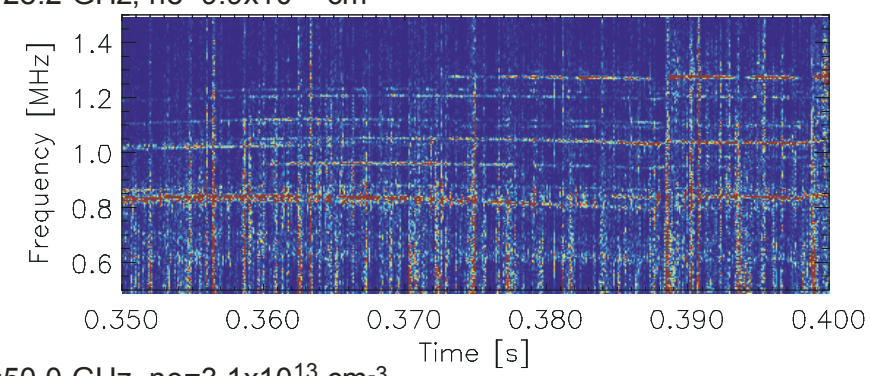
Fluctuation Measurements: Compressional Alfven Eigenmodes

Shot 108824, Reflectometer Phase Spectrograms

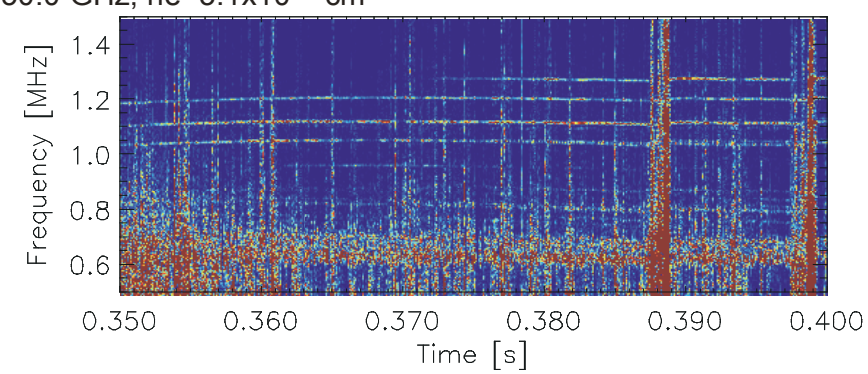
f=17.6 GHz, ne=3.8x10^{12} cm^{-3}

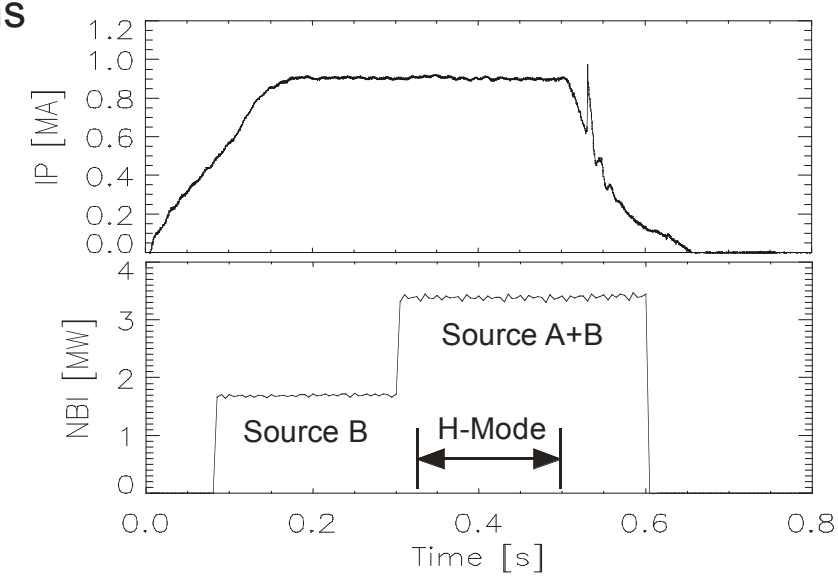


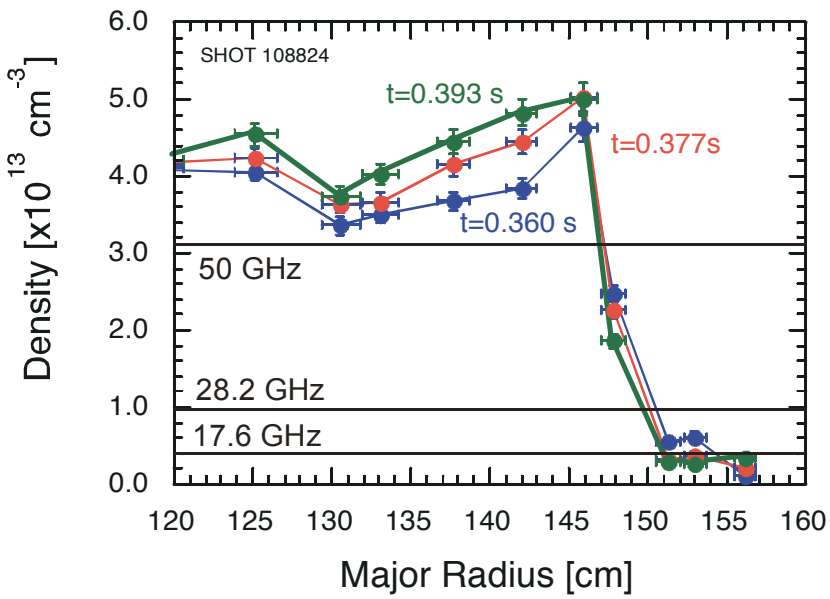
f=28.2 GHz, ne=9.9x10^{12} cm^{-3}



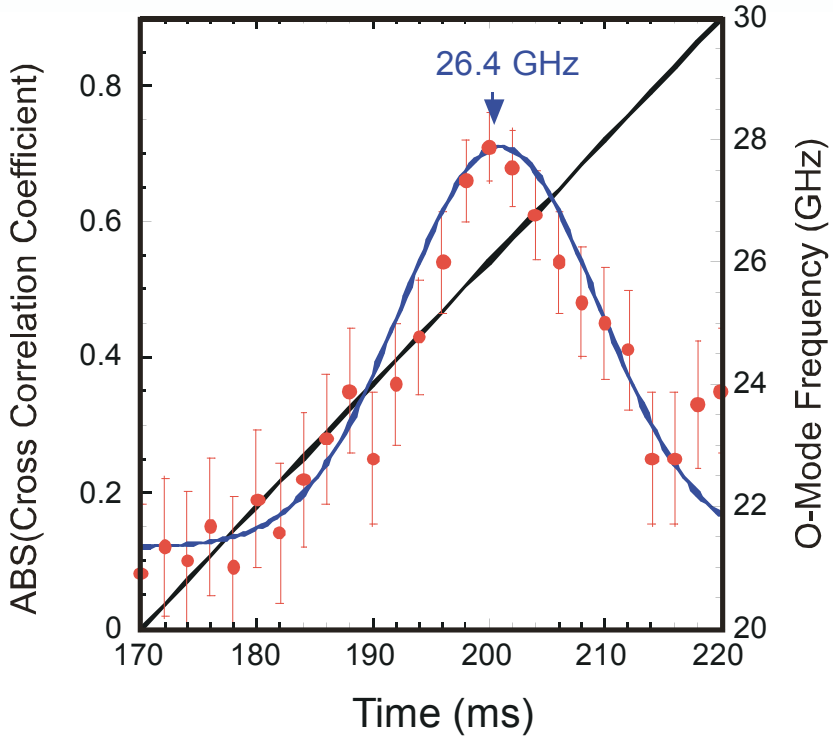
f=50.0 GHz, ne=3.1x10^{13} cm^{-3}



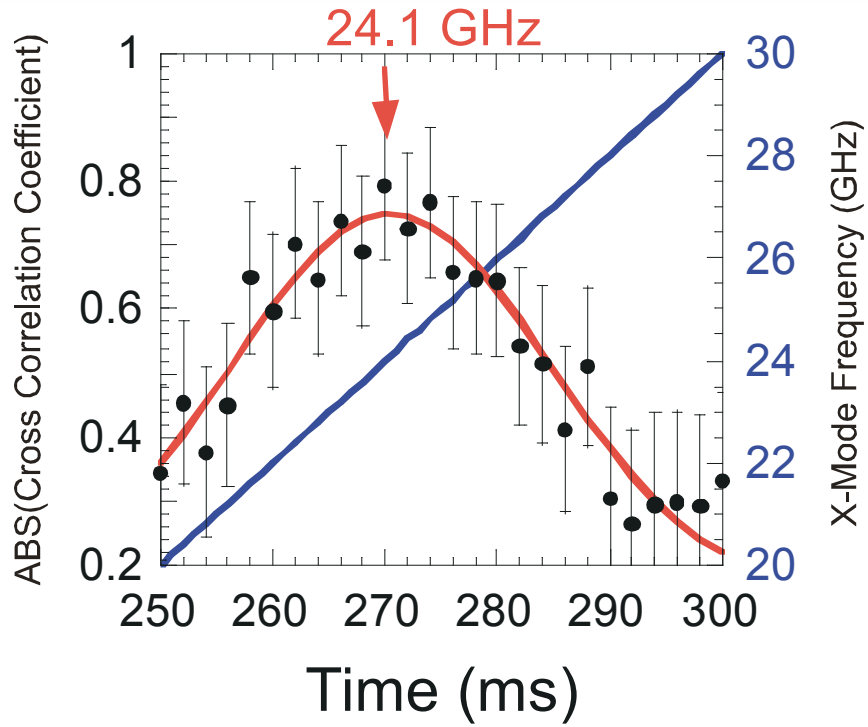




Results from O- and X-Mode Swept Configurations



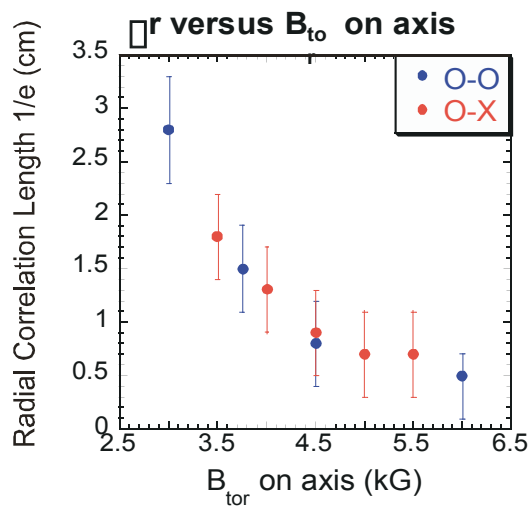
- f_x = 30 GHz
- f_o swept 20-30 GHz
- Gaussian fit gives $f_{o,pk}$ = 26.4 ± 0.15 GHz
- X-mode cutoff location R = 147 cm
- 1D full wave model gives |B| = 2.5 ± 0.15 kG at R =147 cm
- EFIT gives |B| 2.6 kG at this radius



- f_o = 20 GHz
- f_x swept 20-30 GHz
- Gaussian fit gives $f_{x,pk}$ = 24.1 ± 0.15 GHz
- O-mode cutoff location R = 151 cm
- 1D full wave model gives |B| = 3.0 ± 0.14 kG at R =151 cm
- EFIT gives |B| 3.0 kG at this radius

Radial Correlation Length Measurements

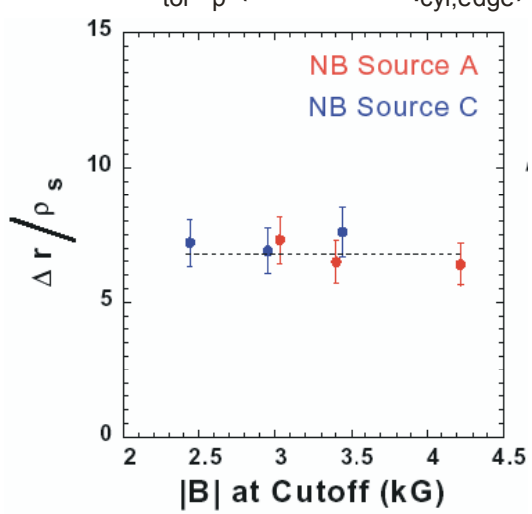
- O-X correlation lengths similar in value and appear to show same trend with B_{tor} as O-O under similar conditions



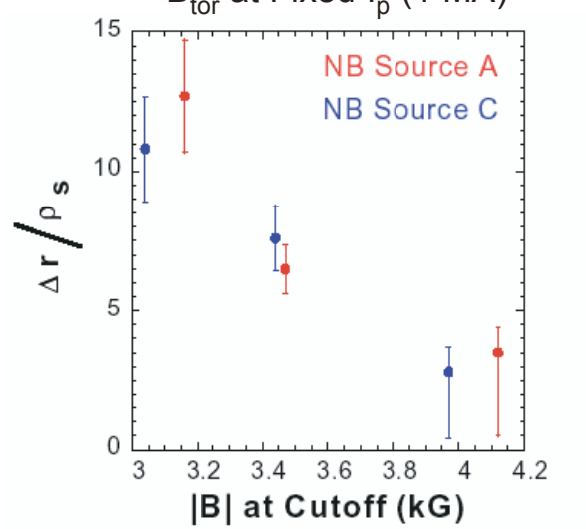
- NBI heated L-mode plasmas
- Cutoff layers (30 GHz) 4-8 cm inside LCFS
- L_n varies from □6 to 16 cm
- Fluctuation frequencies 20 - 500 kHz correlated

$$\rho_s \equiv \frac{c_s}{\omega_{ci}}$$

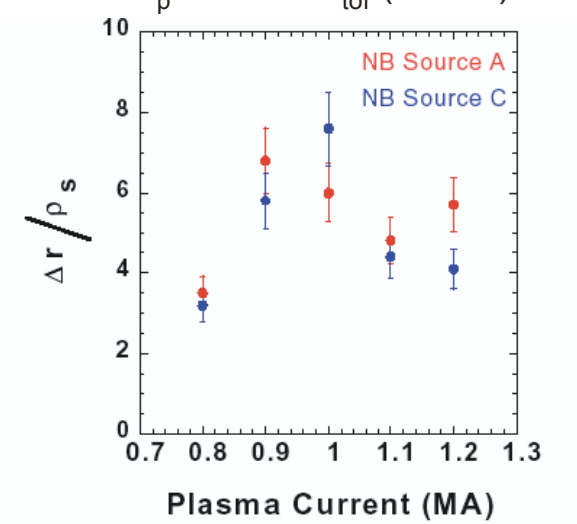
Fixed B_{tor}/I_p (Constant $q_{cyl,edge}$)



B_{tor} at Fixed I_p (1 MA)



I_p at Fixed B_{tor} (4.5 kG)



Status of MM-Wave Reflectometry Systems

- Fast FMCW, three channel quadrature, and radial correlation reflectometers available.
- Plan to have between-shot analysis for profile data, however this will depend on processor availability. Also, above systems will not be available simultaneously.
- Work is underway to decrease sweep times for and increase the frequency band for FMCW and correlation reflectometers. LabVIEW control of diagnostic and data acquisition.
- Measurement location is dependent on density profile shape. Flat profiles with steep edge or ears will mean that measurements will be mainly in edge.

Planned and Proposed Future Work

- Profile measurements up to 5×10^{13} cm^{-3} via higher frequency operation (up to 65 GHz)? Higher sweep rate (up to 100 kHz).
- Improve accuracy of profile measurements. Below 1.8×10^{12} cm^{-3}, use of in-vessel 4-18 GHz quad-ridged EBW antenna.
- Dedicated hardware for fixed-frequency measurements. Further analysis of CAEs, H-mode and ELM precursors, turbulence, etc. Simultaneous profile and fluctuation measurements.
- Radial correlation reflectometry for correlation length and |B| measurements. Broader profile coverage, faster time response.
- Measurement of magnetic field pitch angle. Planned for spring 2003.
- Measurement of RF waves (proposed). Look at directionality due to antenna phasing, radial wave number.