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"Snowflake" divertor in NSTX

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NSTX Boundary Physics TSG Review
Princeton, NJ
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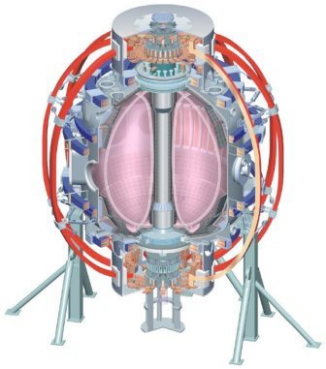
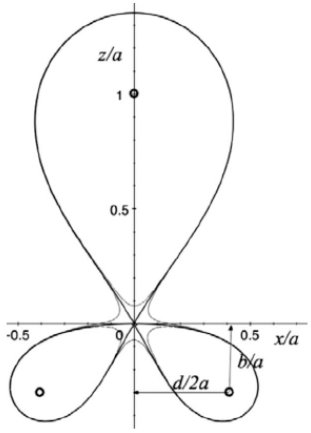
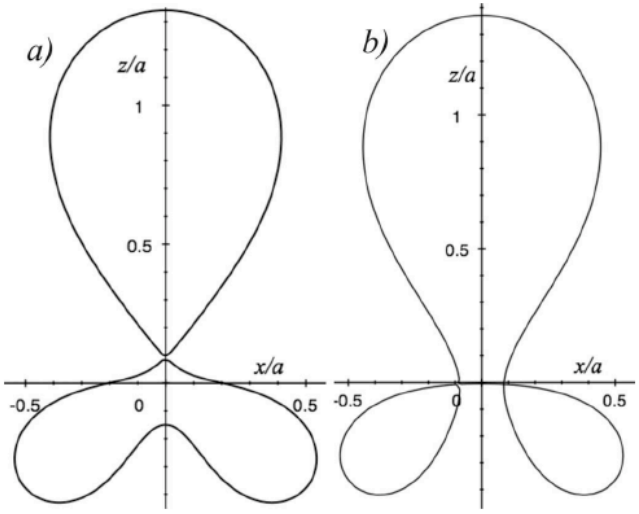


"Snowflake" divertor configuration: theory predicts numerous edge physics benefits

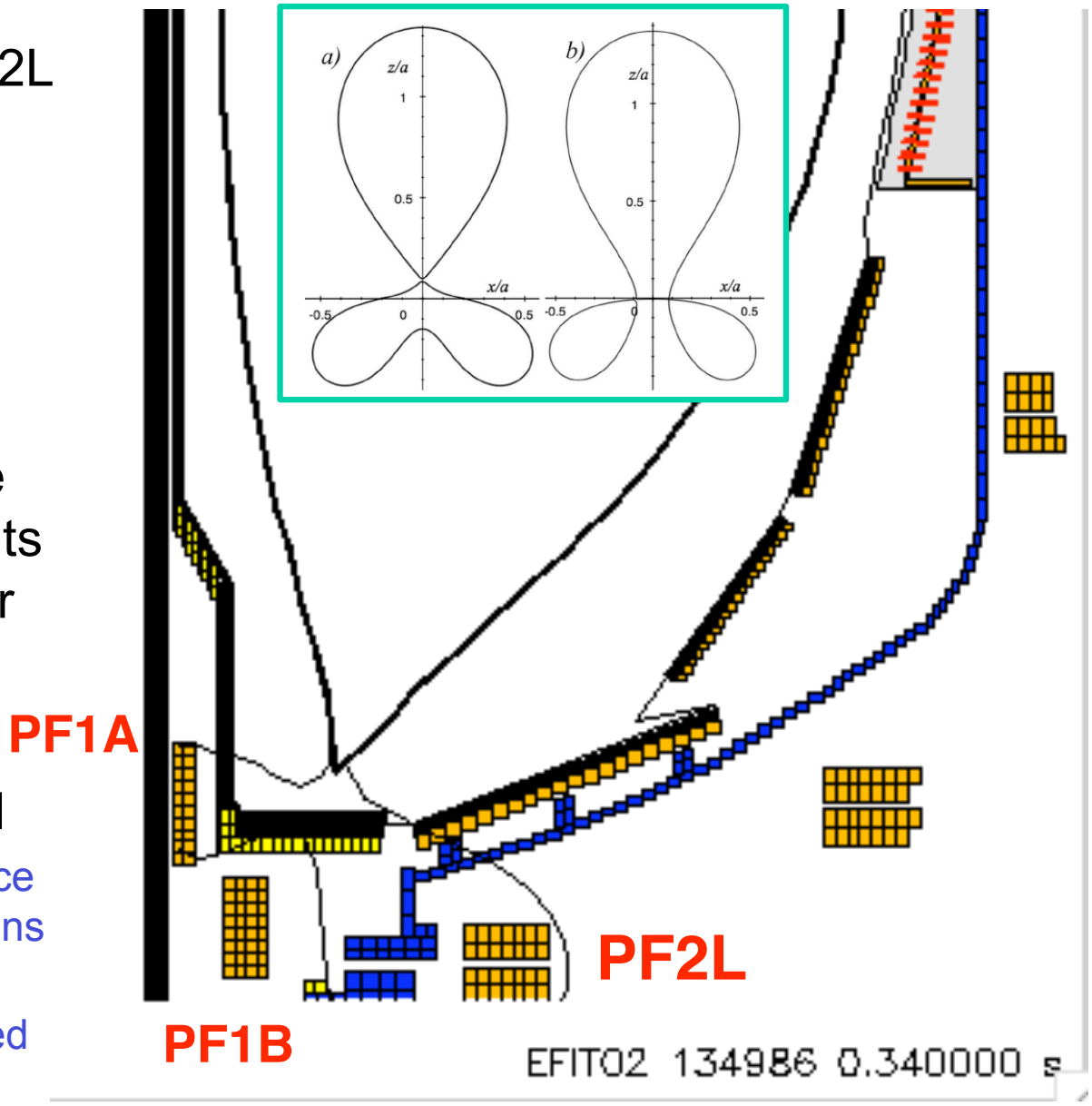
- "Snowflake" divertor (SFD) configuration proposed and theoretically studied by D. D. Ryutov (LLNL) (Phys. Plasmas 14, 064502 (2007); Phys. Plasmas, **15, 092501 (2008),** paper IC/P4-8 at IAEA FEC 2008)
- SFD obtained by creating a second-order poloidal null
- Two cases – SFD-plus and SFD-minus
- Predicted properties
  - Large flux expansion (B_p/B small)
    - Divertor peak heat flux reduction
  - Magnetic shear control
    - Flux tube squeezing – barrier for turbulence
    - Possibility of ELM control





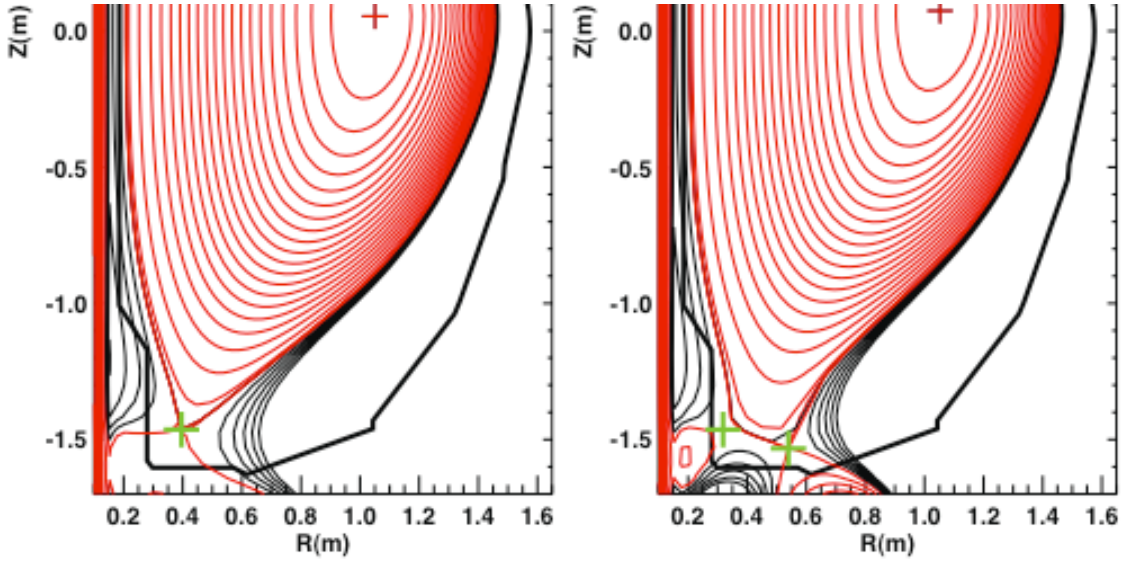
Implementation of SFD in NSTX

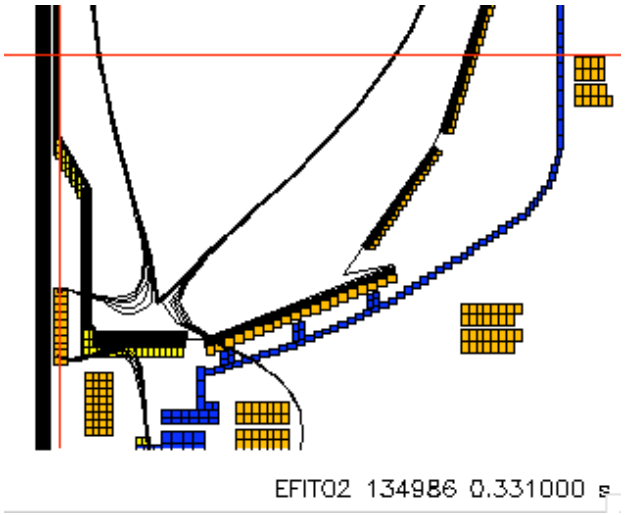
- Two coils PF1A and PF2L
- Coil PF1B is not useful unless its current is reversed – not trivial
- Initially, do not use any control algorithms – use pre-programmed currents to collect data for further ISOLVER modeling
- Two paths are identified
  - Use fiducial shot, introduce pre-programmed deviations
  - Use shot from XP 904, introduce pre-programmed deviations

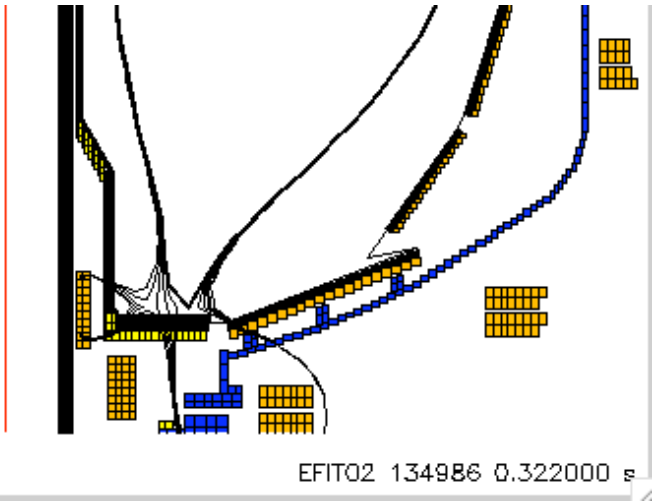


SFD has been transiently achieved in NSTX

- Used ISOLVER code to model equilibria
- NSTX divertor coils PF1A, PF1B, PF2L used with realistic currents
- Challenge is to demonstrate steady-state configuration

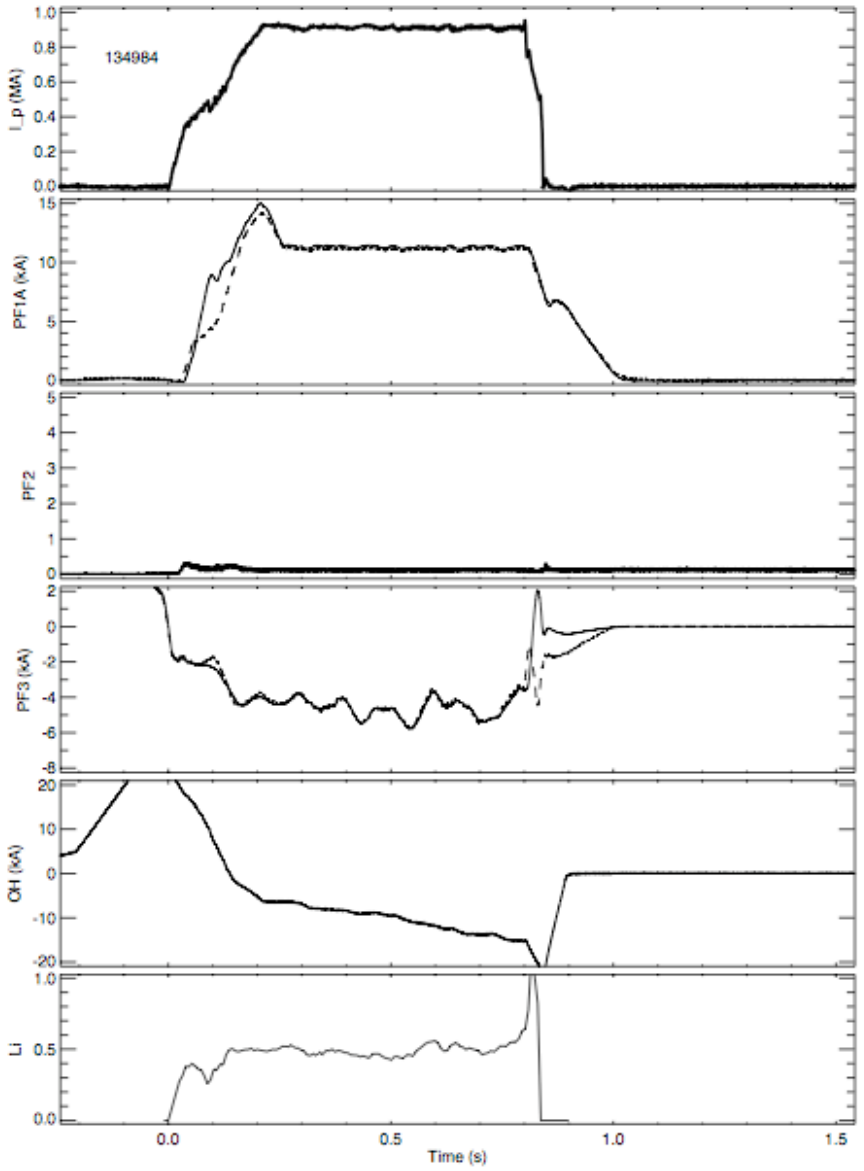


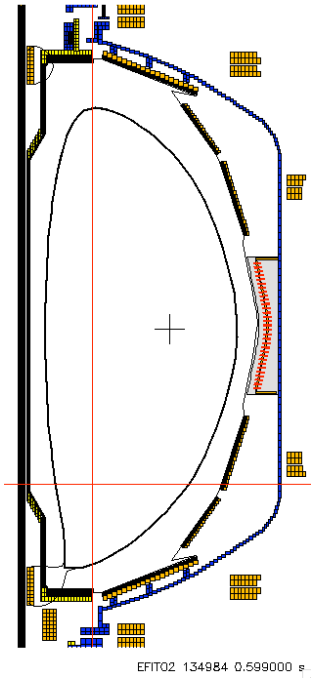




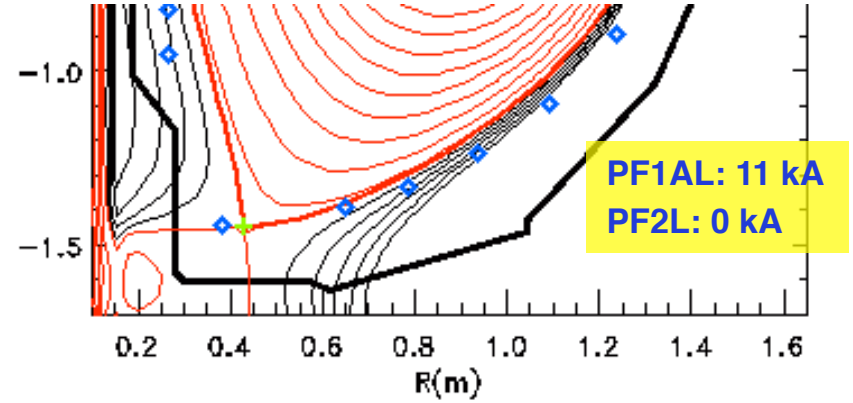
Scenario 1: Start from PF1A fiducial, add PF2L

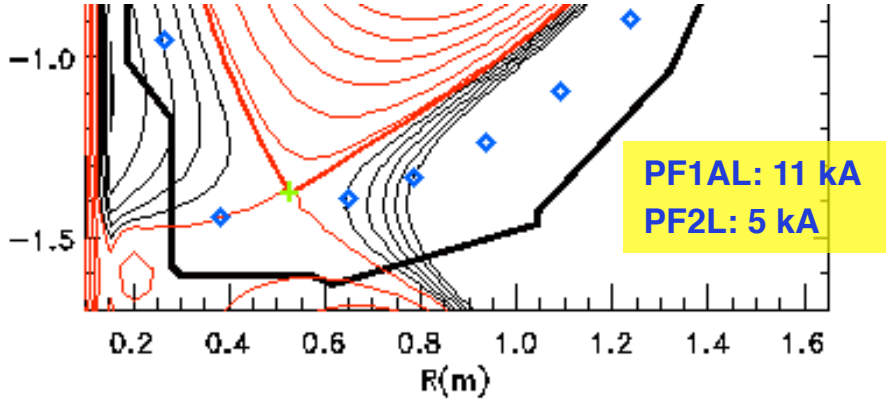
- Fiducial coil currents in flattop:
  - PF1A (L, U) – 11 kA
  - PF2 (L, U) – 0 kA
  - PF3 (L, U) – 4-5 kA
- Start ramping up PF2L at 0.23-0.25 s, and bring it to 3-6 kA in increments of 1 kA on a shot-to-shot basis
- May need to adjust PF1AL within 5-15 kA

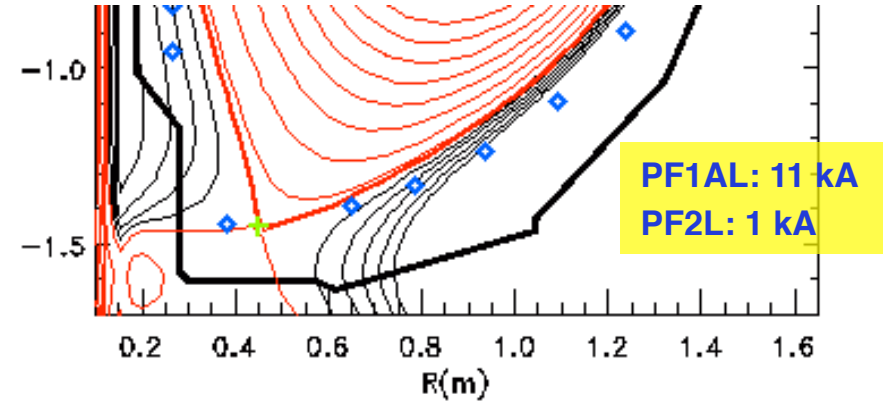


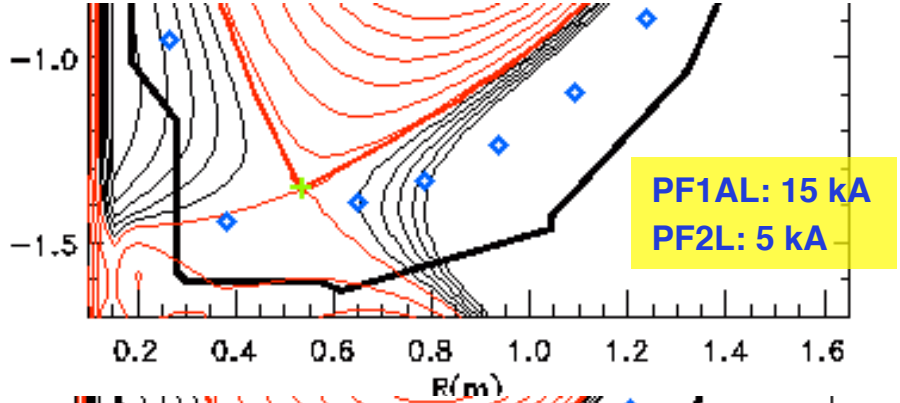


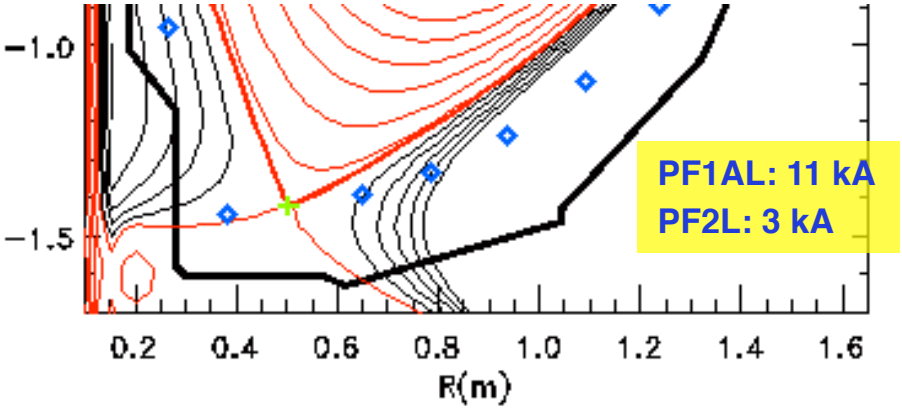
ISOLVER modeling shows configuration trends when PF2L is introduced

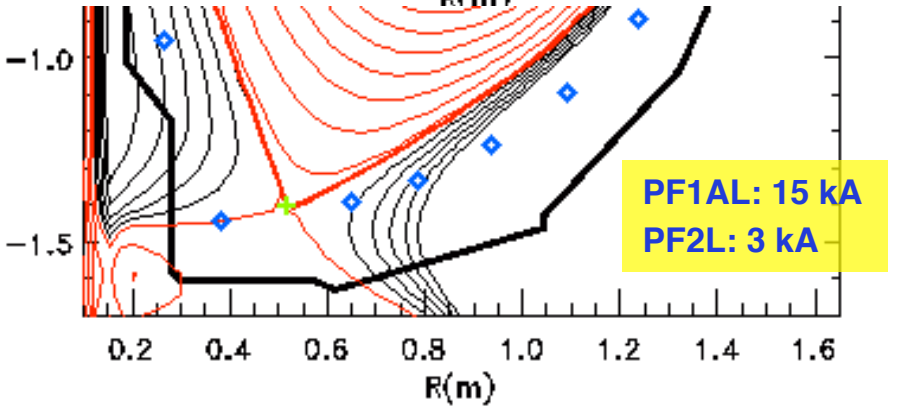






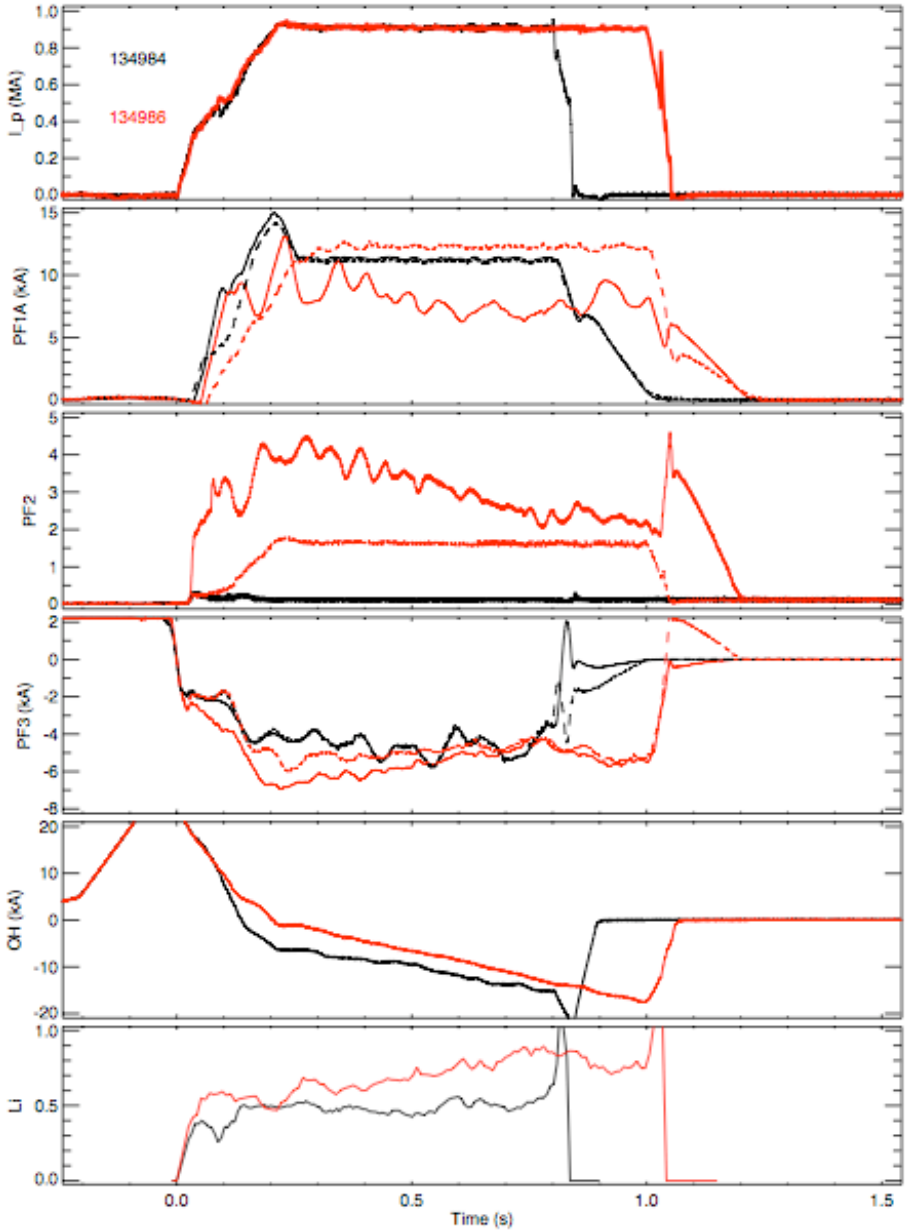




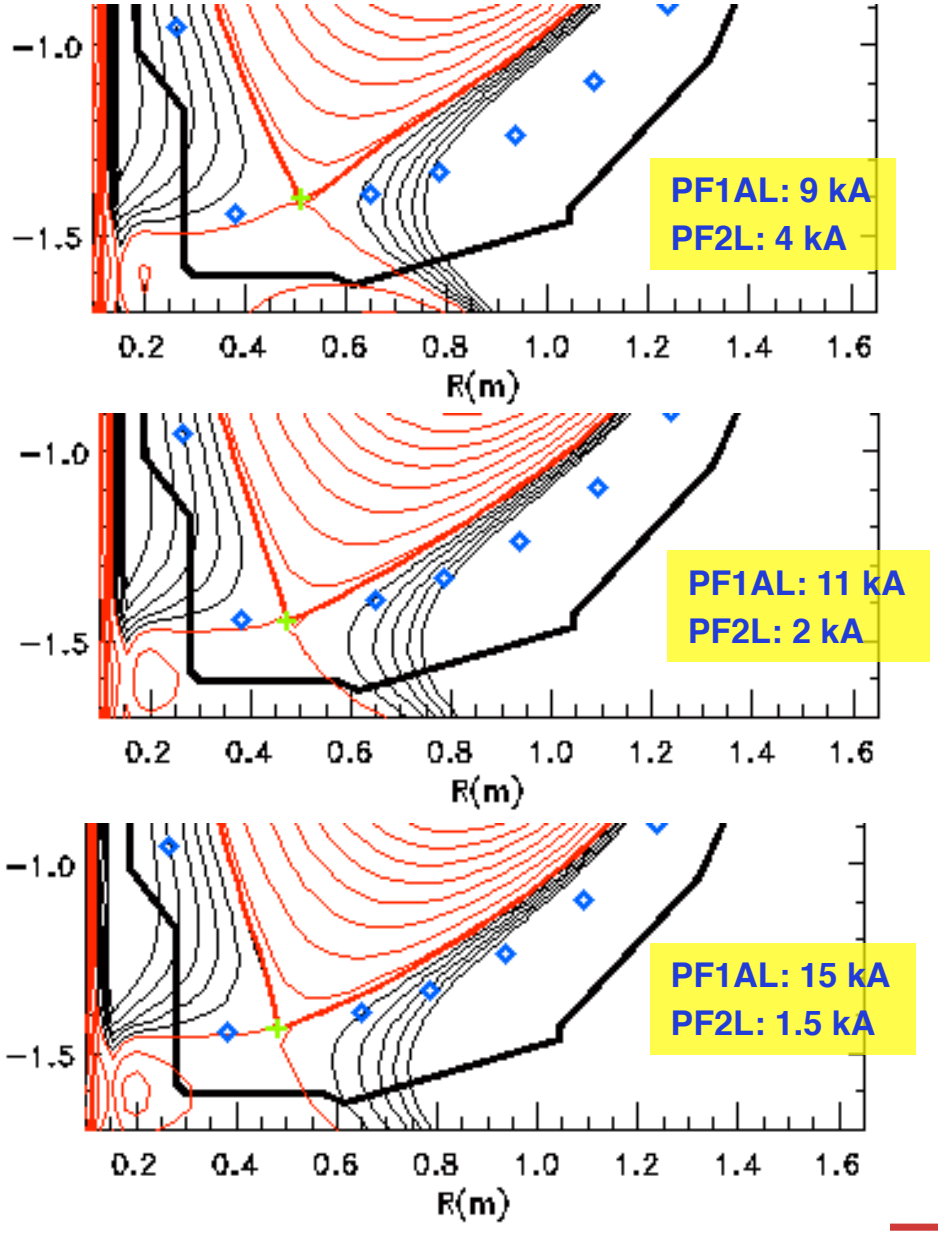


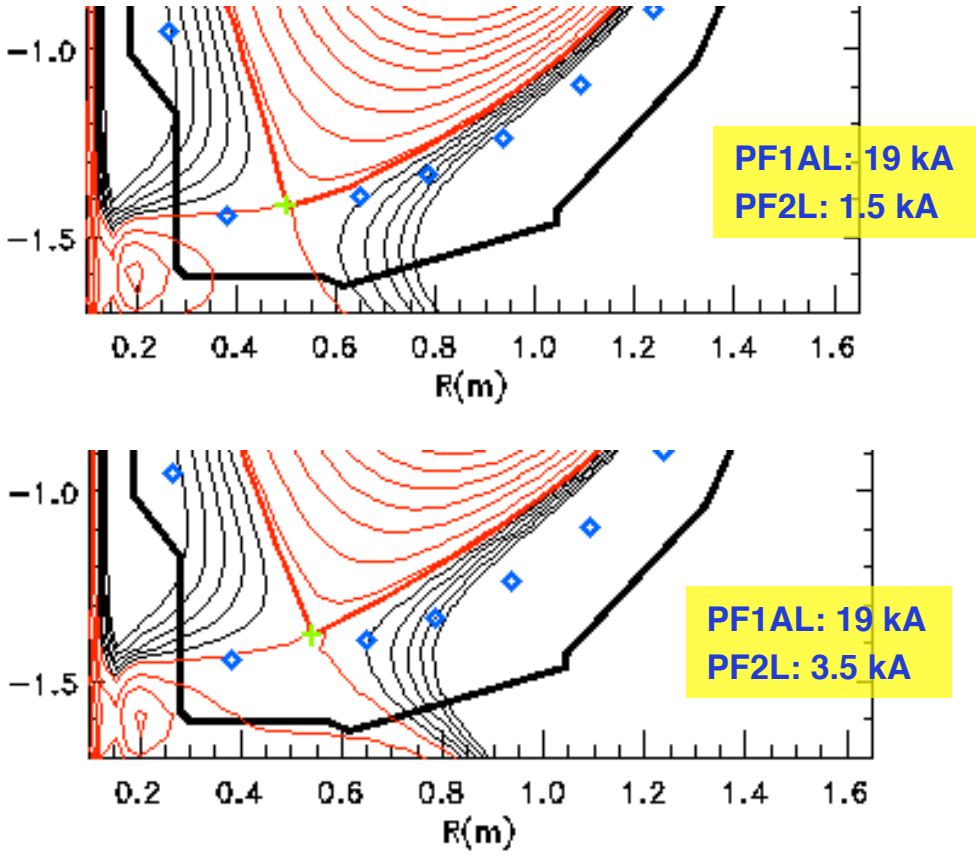
Scenario 2: Start from a shot from XP 904 (Kolemen)

- Fiducial coil currents in black, XP 904 shot in red
- XP 904 coil currents (in flattop):
  - PF1A L – 7-9 kA
  - PF2 L – 2-4 kA
  - PF3 (L, U) – 4-6 kA
- Reproduce the shot
- Adjust PF1A and PF2L currents in 1 kA increments to bring two lower X-points closer



ISOLVER modeling shows configuration trend when both PF1A and PF2L coild currents are adjusted





SFD experimental effort on NSTX

- NSTX divertor diagnostic set is particularly suited to characterizing SFD
  - Measure divertor heat and particle fluxes (IR cameras, Da, LPs), impurity profiles, sources, radiation (bolometers, spectroscopy)
  - Measure divertor turbulence characteristics and flux tube squeezing (Ricky's fast tangential divertor camera, midplane GPI)
- Potential to demonstrate coupling between theory and experiment
- Plan for FY 2009
  - Start experiments with pre-programmed coil currents
  - Obtain initial characterization
  - Produce initial UEDGE modeling to guide future experiments
- Plan for FY 2010
  - Run SFD experiments with PCS control
  - Characterize control and stability of SFD configuration
  - Obtain full transport and turbulence evaluation of several configurations

Run plan for ½ day in FY 2009

- Start with scenario 2, adjust currents to obtain SFD
  - PF1A range 0.009 -0.022 (in terms of I_{PF1A}/I_p)
  - PF2L range 0.002-0.008
  - Lower δ = 0.55-0.6, κ=2.1-2.3, drsep ~ -0.005-0.01
  - I_p=0.8-0.9 MA, P_{NBI}=4-6 MW, moderate lithium (< 10 mg/min) if necessary
  - Use PCS for GAPIN, GAPOUT control
- If necessary, can start from a fiducial (scenario 1)
- Obtain a “reference” discharge with “standard” divertor configuration to compare