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Impurity Flow, Turbulence, and Behavior of the Edge Plasma of NSTX

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Abstract

Studies of plasma dynamics, impurity flow, and edge turbulent fluctuations and plasma behavior have been done on NSTX in a variety of regimes and configurations. These include L- and H-mode plasmas in double null and lower single null divertor configurations. A fast camera running at 1000 frames/sec with a fisheye lens and filter wheel (CI, CIII, D_{α} and LiI filters) images the entire plasma. Images show very clear dynamics and phenomena on the plasma surfaces when using a CIII filter. Moving helical patterns ("flows") are seen in the visible emissions on the outboard and inboard (near center stack) surfaces of the plasma. Gas puff imaging (GPI) using an ultrafast camera (100,000 and 250,000 frames/sec) shows turbulent fluctuation structures at the outer plasma edge, and a reflectometer is used to study turbulence in the edge of H-modes. An edge rotation diagnostic (ERD) shows the edge electric field becoming more negative about 10 to 20 ms prior to the L-H transition in Ohmic H-modes.

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NSTX Explores Low Aspect Ratio (R/a≥1.27) Physics Regime



(D) 🔊	VSTX ——		
Enabling Capabilities:			
 350° C bakeout of graphite tiles 			
 Regular boronization (~3 weeks) 			
 Helium Glow between discharges 			
 Center stack gas injection 			
 Error field reduction 			
Parameters Achieved:			
Major Radius	0.85m		
Minor Radius	Radius 0.67m		
Plasma Current	1.5MA		
Toroidal Field	0.6T		
Heating and Current Drive			
NBI (100keV)	7 MW		
RF (30MHz)	6 MW		

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Outline



- Ohmic H-modes
 - E_r and plasma velocity changes 10-20 ms before L-H; agreement on several diagnostics
- Fish Eye View of Plasma shows macro-dynamics
- GPI shows turbulence as fast moving blobs
- L-H mode transitions
- ELMs in Ohmic and NBI heated plasmas
 - GPI shows fast blobs move radially outward



Fish Eye View of Full Plasma - shows macro-dynamics



• Fast Camera - Fisheye view showing activity near centerstack — Normally run at 1000 frames/sec • Fisheye view inside NSTX with no plasma

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Plasma Showing Result of Interaction with Wall / Divertor during a Kink Mode





Perturbation Showing Tubes Swirling Down from Upper Divertor



Fast Camera Image . Used CIII Filter for Viewing.

Frame Rate = 1000/sec

Relative Intensity vs Time. Two Different Profiles A & B Intenity Increases at each Tube. Used CIII Filter for Viewing.



Lithium "flow" along field line after Li pellet ablation



H-mode Showing Early-time to L-H to Large ELM to Quiescent (1)



ornl

H-mode Showing Quiescent → External Kink → Small Torus at EOS: (CIII filter)





Highest Normalized β ($\beta_N \sim 35\%$) Shot: Perturbed by an External Kink Mode



Results for Ohmic H-mode Scoping Study



- One-half run day mini-scans in B_t and I_p
 - Some OH-H-modes randomly on other days
- H-modes at 600 to 900 kA, 3.0 to 4.5 kG TF

- Short H-mode at $I_p = 600 \text{ kA}$, $B_t = 3 \text{ kG}$

- OH H-modes obtained for 1st time ever on NSTX last run
 - Most readily obtained after hot boronization
 - Alternating helium conditioning shots seem to help
 - Obtained both double null (DN) and lower single null (LSN) divertor
 - Most short duration, some with ELMs and some ELM-free
- Peaked Central n_e
 - ELMy: Small high frequency ELMs (?) keep ears from developing
 - ELM-free: have ears, but edge peak lower than central n_e
- No turbulence measurements made in core of OH H-mode
- Some edge reflectometer fluctuation data; Some GPI, no L-H



PLOSS for NBI and OH Hmodes



Comparison of Density Profiles of NBI and OH H-modes

Ohmic H-modes have low centrally peaked densities

 Explore edge and core turbulence simultaneously
 Target plasma for early NBI and combined ITB and ETB



OHH-mode with Dithers (DND)



ELM-Free OHH-mode (LSN)



OTI

Edge measurements (ERD) in Ohmic H-modes show E_r and V_p change prior to L-H transition



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C VI Emissivity and Toroidal Velocity at Plasma Edge





Edge Er and Probe Ion Saturation Current vs. Time



Langmuir Probes

- 0 -1 **Tile Langmuir** Probes
- Flush mounted single probes
- Total of 22 probes, 6 top and 6 bottom divertors
 - Remainder along centerstack
- Have data for vast majority of shots
- Virtually no signal from centerstack probes when plasma is diverted
- Some I_{sat}, T_e, n_e data in Tree



Determination of T_e from Probe Data



Electron Density Fluctuations from FIReTIP Show Increased Intensity 10 to > 35 msec before L-H Transition



Shot number	L/H transition and	Start time of	Duration of
	data status	fluctuation	fluctuation
		increase(ahead of	increase
		H transition)	
111292	Clear	20 msec	10 msec
111307	Clear	25 msec	10msec
111570	Clear	20 msec	8 msec
111571	Not clear		
111696	Not cl ear		
111697	Not clear		
111416	Clear	10 msec	10 msec
111821	Not clear		
111822	Not clear		
111832	Weak H-mode		
111834	Weak H-mode	30 msec	30 msec
111826	Weak H-mode		
113348	Weak H-mode		
113350*	Clear	18 msec	3 msec
113354	Clear	35 msec	1 msec
113356	Not clear		
113361	Clear	(1) 60 msec	(1) 10 msec
		(2) 4 msec	(2) 1 msec

•The FIReTIP electron density fluctuation and its spectrum at one of core channel (Rt=85 cm) and the edge channel (Rt=150cm). There is a time period of fluctuation increase about 18 msec ahead of the H-mode transition which is within the time scale of radial electric field formation (Fig xx) starting point and it last about 3 msec.



GPI Hardware and Orientation

- Looks at D_{α} or HeI light from gas puff $I \propto n_o n_e f(n_e, T_e)$
- View \approx along B field line to see 2-D structure \perp B
- Image coupled to camera with 800 x 1000 fiber bundle



GPI Fast Chords for OHH-mode Study



Location of radial and poloidal views for Fast chordal data



Fast Chord Data Showing Increased Turbulence at an H-L (back) Transition of an OHH-mode



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Fast Chord Data Showing <u>decreased</u> Turbulence at an <u>L-H</u> Transition of an OHH-mode



Fast Chord Data Showing <u>decreased</u> Turbulence at an <u>L-H</u> Transition of an OHH-mode





Fast Chord Data Showing <u>decreased</u> Turbulence at an <u>L-H</u> Transition of an OHH-mode



GPI Data

()) NSTX ——

PSI-5 Camera (300 frames/shot):

• \leq 250,000 frames/sec with 64 x 64 pixels per frame

Fast Chords (13 channels/shot):

• 2 cm spots into PM tubes with 200 kHz bandwidth





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Just Before L-H Transition Images

113735 @ 4 μ sec/frame (D_a light)



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VSTX ——

Just Before L-H Fast Chord Data



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Medium ELM Images #2

#113484 @ 4 μ sec/frame (D_{α} light)



orni

NSTX —

Activity Near Inner Wall During an ELM (160 ms)



Summary of L-H Transition Data

- Transition from turbulent L-mode to quiescent H-mode usually occurs within $\leq 50 \ \mu$ sec
- Apparently no new spatial structure or motion during the transition time the edge turbulence just "turns-off"
- Often the main L-H transition is preceded by \approx 1-5 msec of intermittent quiescent (H-mode-like) periods
- The H-L transition usually looks like a high-m instability which evolves into a blob-like radial structure

