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Advances in Global MHD Mode Stabilization Research on NSTX

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22nd IAEA Fusion Energy Conference
October 13 - 18, 2008
Geneva, Switzerland

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Research advances to understanding mode stabilization physics and reliably maintaining the high beta plasmas

- Motivation
  - Maintenance of high β_N with sufficient physics understanding allows confident extrapolation to ITER and CTF

CTF: $\beta_N = 3.8 – 5.9$ ($W_L = 1\text{-}2\ \mathrm{MW/m^2}$)   ST-DEMO: $\beta_N \sim 7.5$

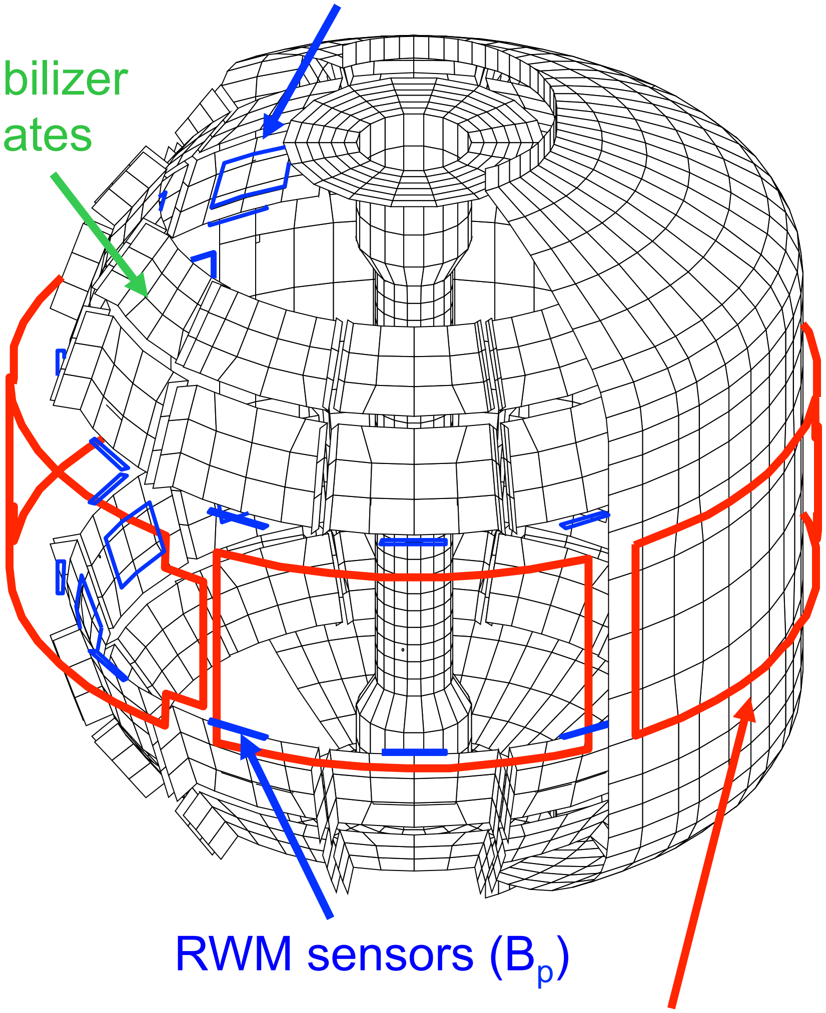
- Both at, or above ideal no-wall β-limit; deleterious effects at ~ ½ $\beta_N^{no\text{-}wall}$

- high β_N accelerates neutron fluence goal - takes 20 years at $W_L = 1\ \mathrm{MW/m^2}$)

- Outline
  - Active control of beta amplified n = 1 fields / global instabilities
  - Mode dynamics and evolution during active control
  - Control performance compared to theory, connection to ITER
  - Kinetic effects on resistive wall mode (RWM) stabilization
  - Non-axisymmetric field influence on plasma rotation profile

NSTX equipped for passive and active RWM control

- Stabilizer plates for kink mode stabilization
- External midplane control coils closely coupled to vacuum vessel
- Varied sensor combinations used for feedback
  - 24 upper/lower B_p: (B_{pu}, B_{pl})
  - 24 upper/lower B_r: (B_{ru}, B_{rl})



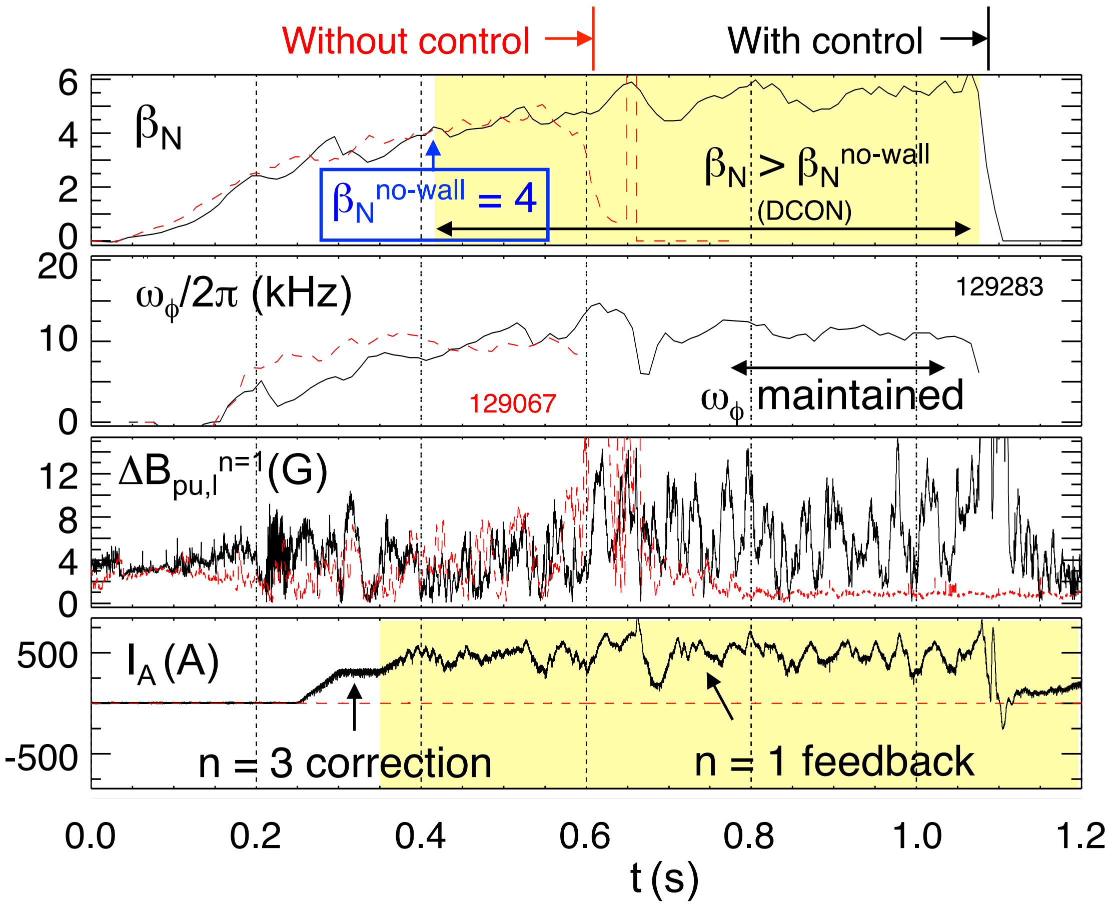
RWM sensors (B_r)

Stabilizer plates

RWM sensors (B_p)

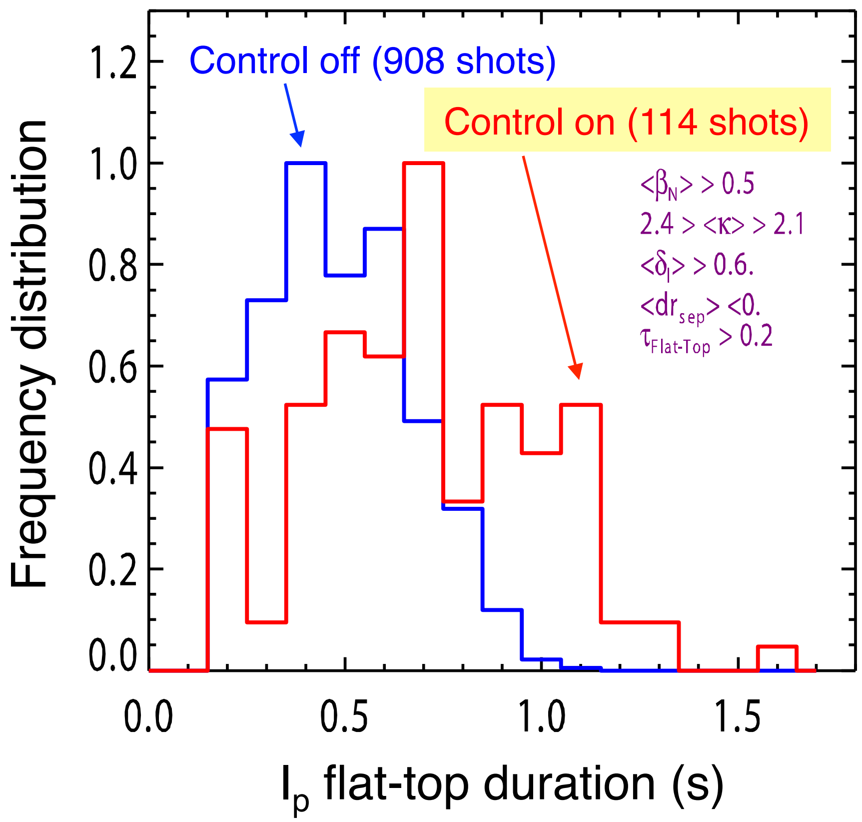
RWM active stabilization coils

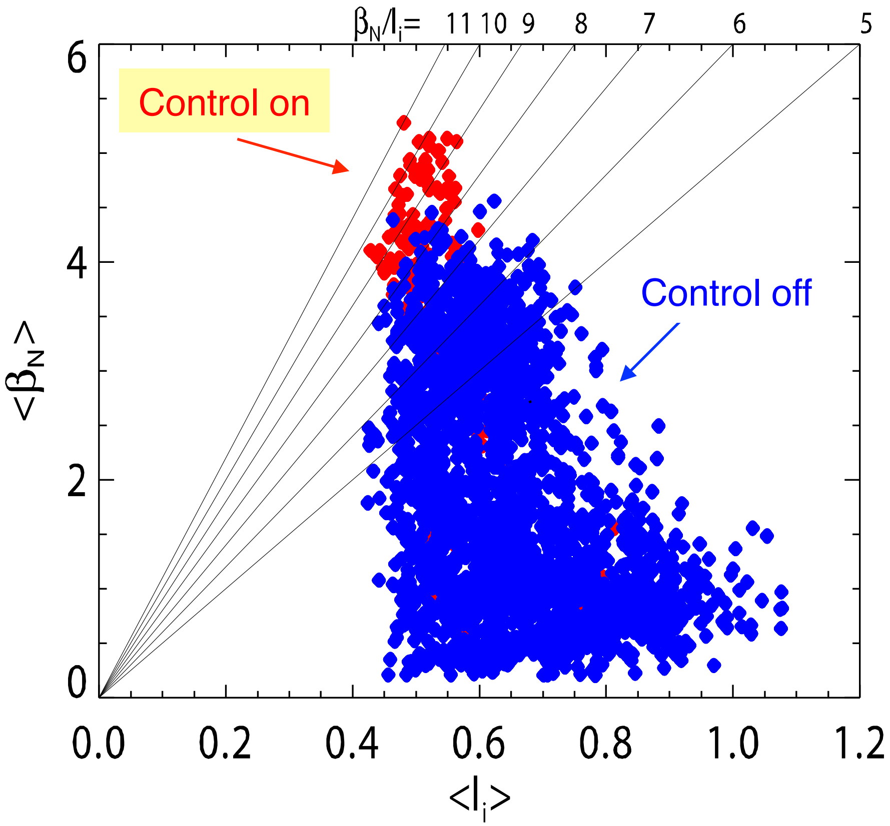
Active RWM control and error field correction maintain high β_N plasma



- n = 1 active, n = 3 DC control
  - n = 1 response ~ 1 ms < $1/\gamma_{RWM}$
  - $\beta_N/\beta_N^{no\text{-}wall} = 1.5$ reached
  - best maintains ω_ϕ
- NSTX record pulse lengths
  - limited by magnet systems
  - n > 0 control first used as standard tool in 2008
- Without control, plasma more susceptible to RWM growth, even at high ω_ϕ
  - Disruption at $\omega_\phi/2\pi$ ~ 8kHz near q = 2
  - More than a factor of 2 higher than marginal ω_ϕ with n = 3 magnetic braking

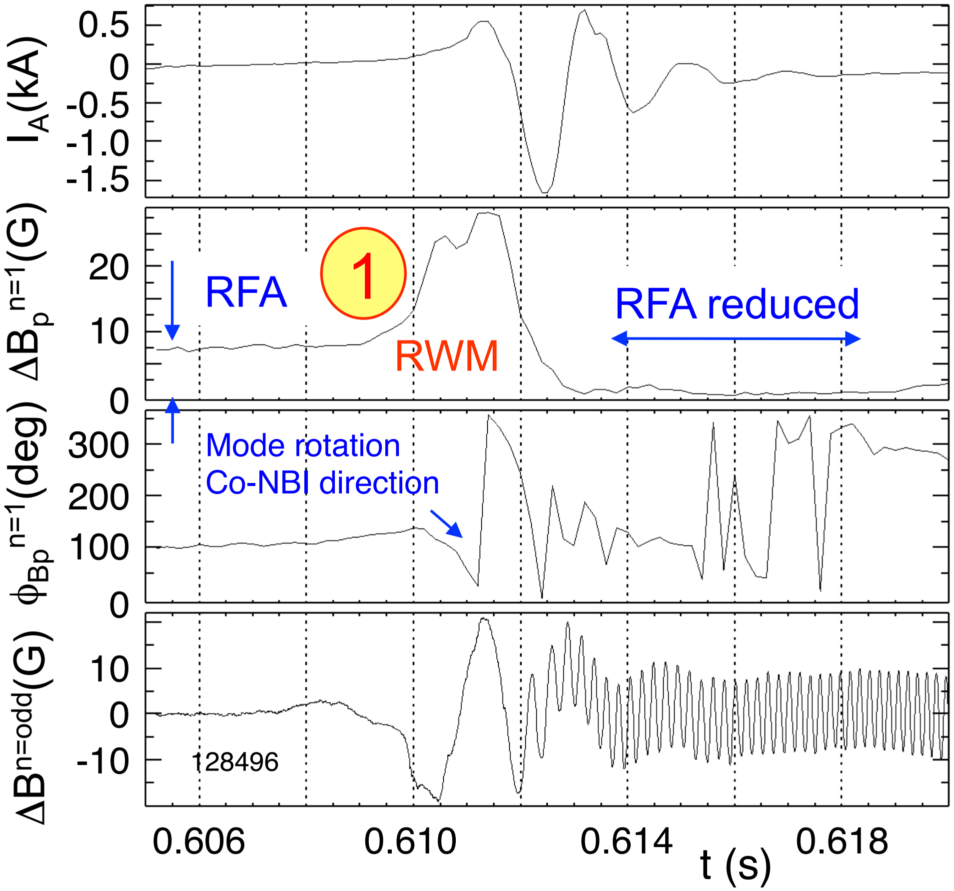
Probability of long pulse and $\langle\beta_N\rangle_{pulse}$ increases significantly with active RWM control and error field correction





- Standard H-mode operation shown
  - I_p flat-top duration > 0.2s (> 60 RWM growth times)
- Control allows $\langle\beta_N\rangle_{pulse} > 4$
  - β_N averaged over I_p flat-top

During n=1 feedback control, unstable RWM evolves into rotating global kink



① RWM grows and begins to rotate

- ❑ With control off, plasma disrupts at this point
- ❑ With control on, mode converts to global kink, RWM amplitude dies away
- ❑ Resonant field amplification (RFA) reduced

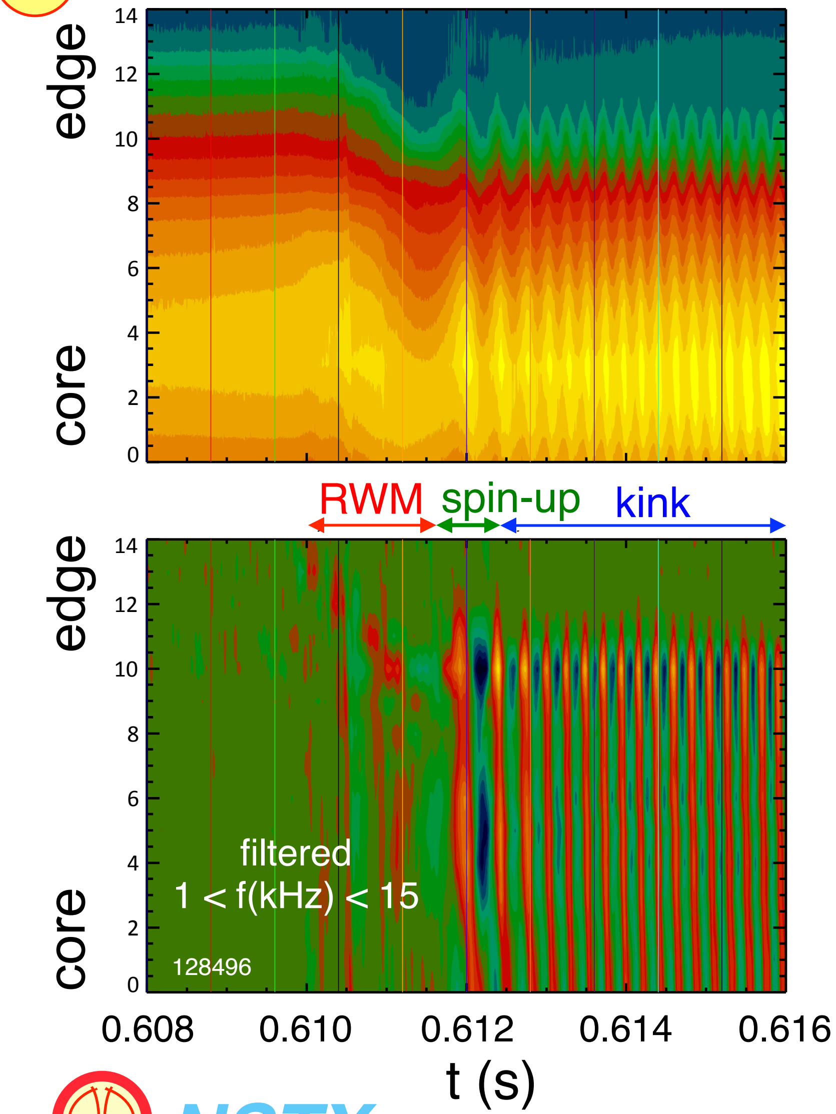
❑ Conversion from RWM to rotating kink occurs on τ_w timescale

❑ Kink either damps away, or saturates

- ❑ Tearing mode can appear during saturated kink

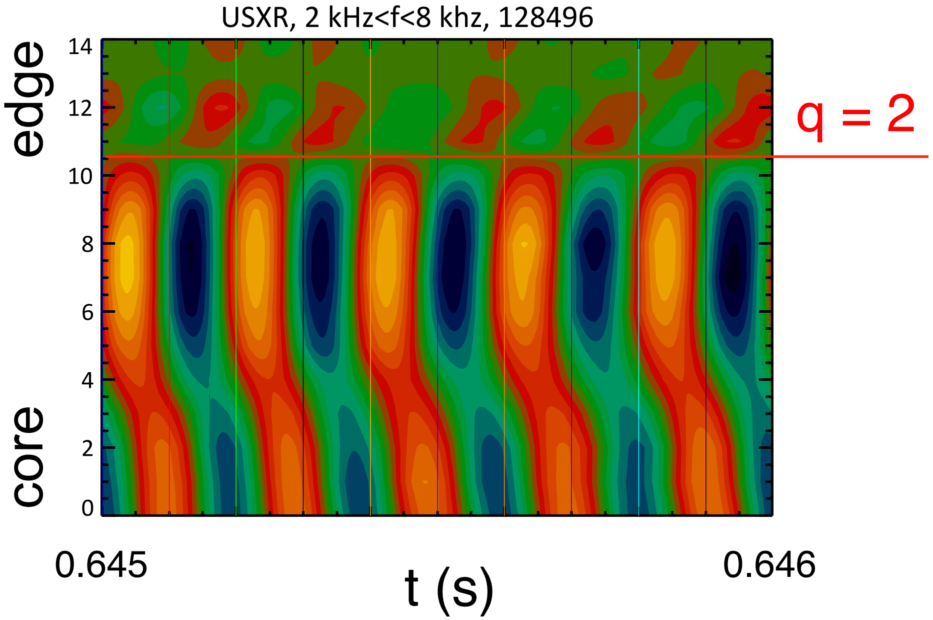
Soft X-ray emission shows transition from RWM to global kink

① Transition from RWM to kink



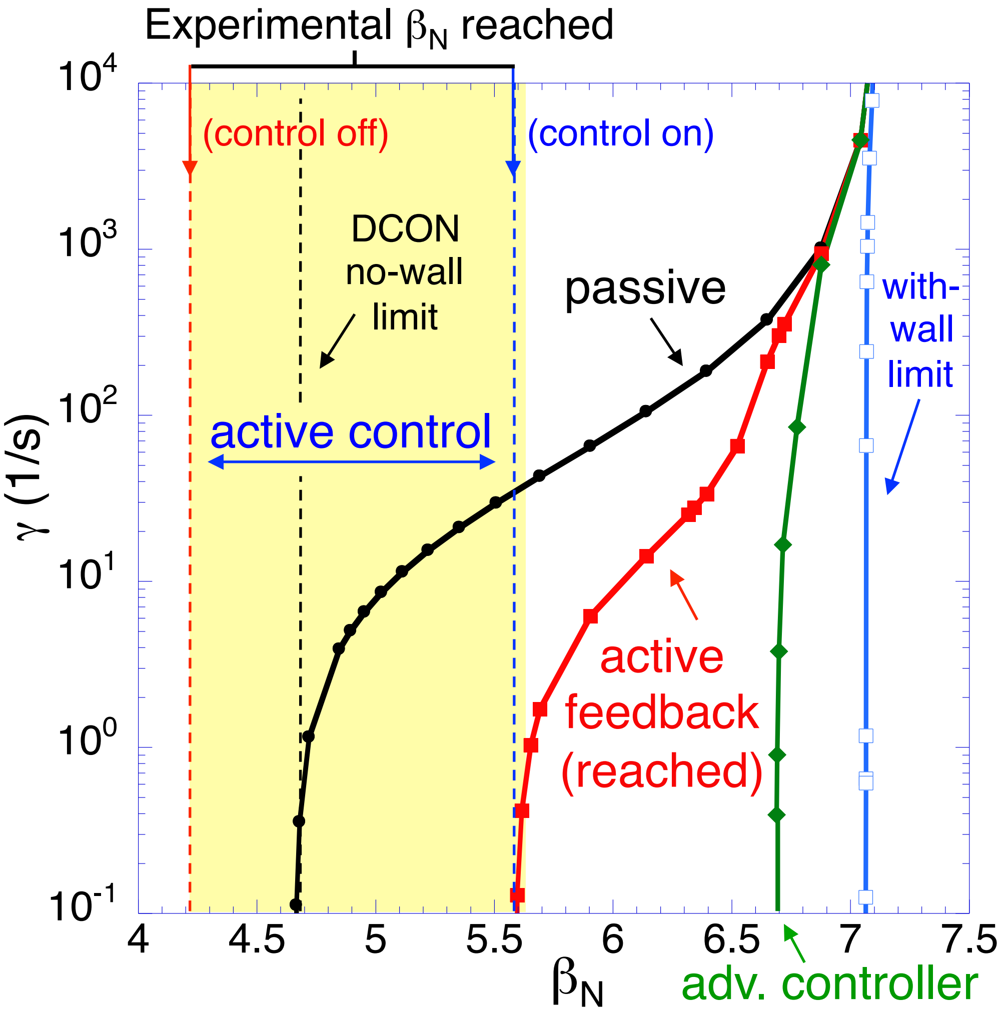
② Tearing mode appears during kink

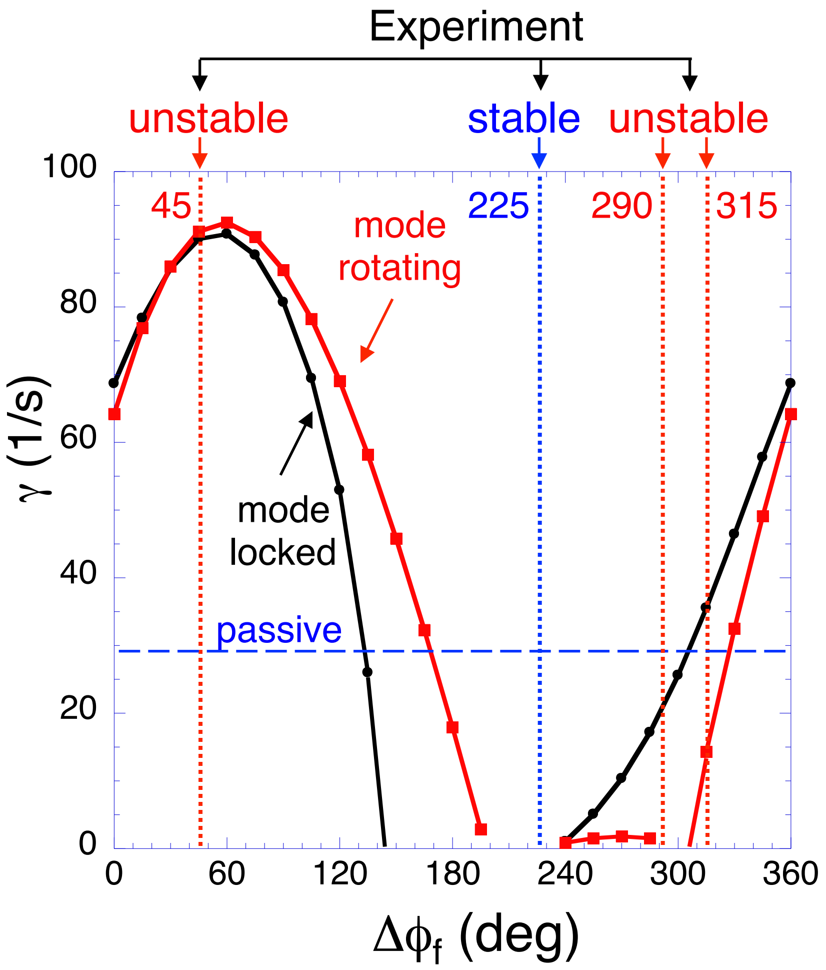
RWM onset time + 35 ms



- ❑ Initial transition from RWM to saturated kink
- ❑ Tearing mode appears after 10 RWM growth times and stabilizes

Experimental RWM control performance consistent with theory



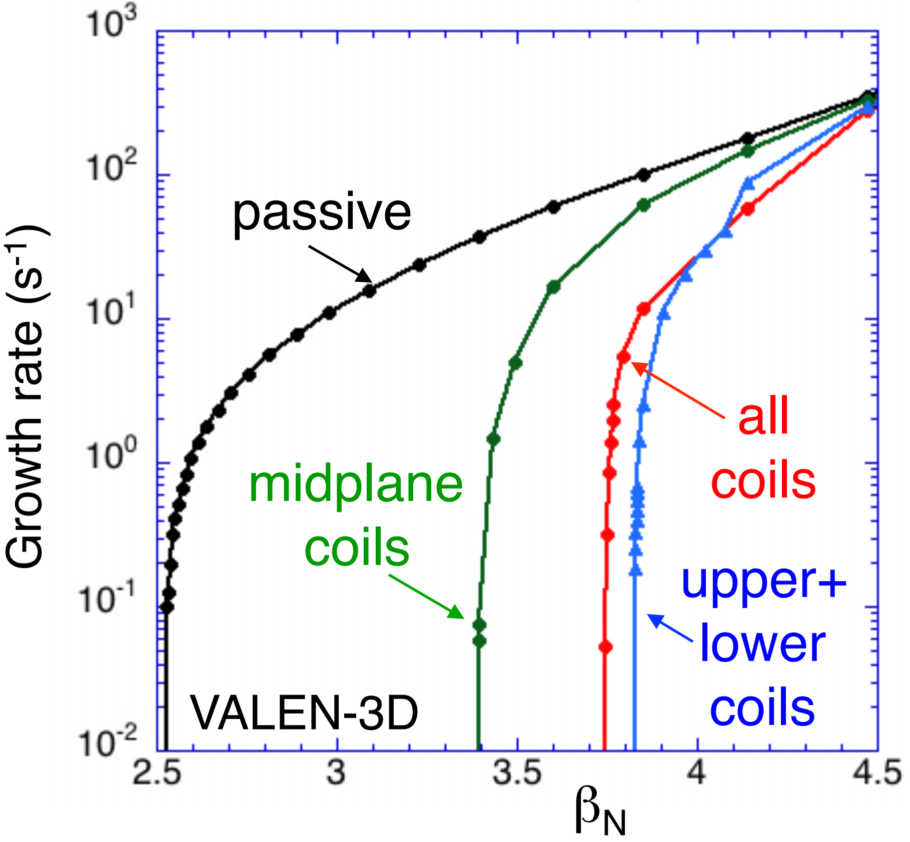


- ❑ VALEN code with realistic sensor geometry, plasmas with reduced V_ϕ

- ❑ Feedback phase scan shows superior settings
  - ❑ Agreement between theoretical and experimental feedback behavior

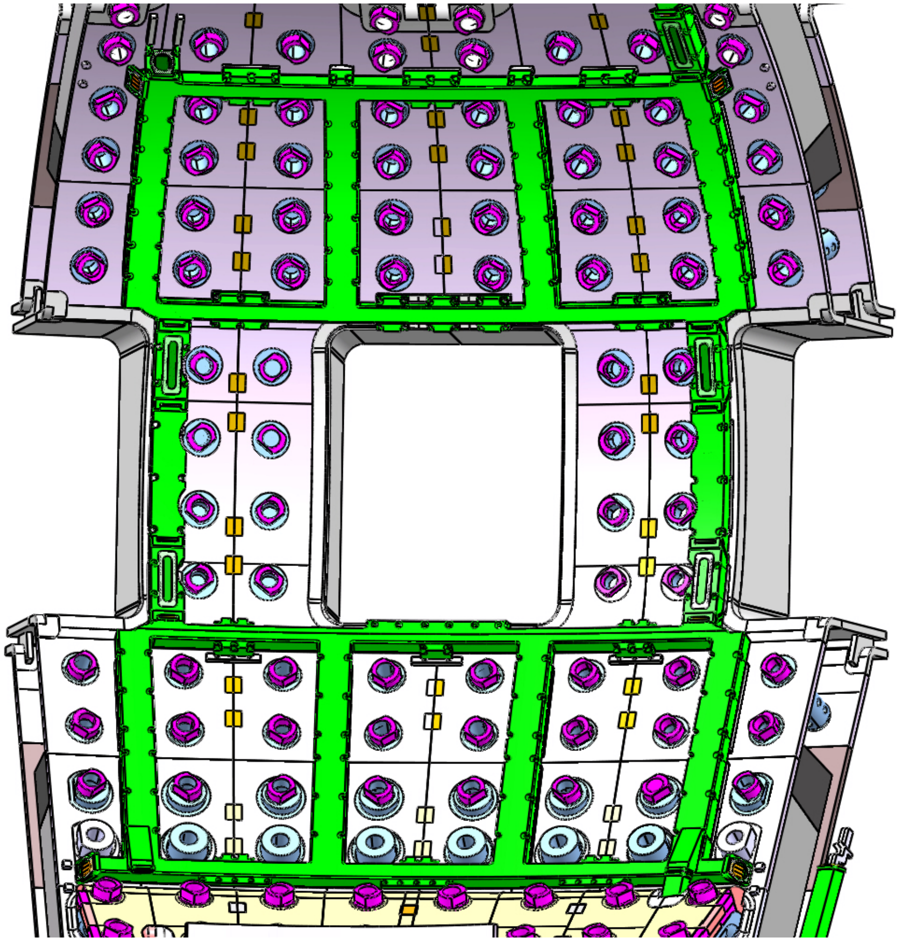
Significant β_N increase expected by internal coil proposed for ITER

ITER VAC02 stabilization performance



- ☐ 50% increase in β_N for RWM stability

ITER VAC02 design (40° sector)



3 toroidal arrays, 9 coils each

Modification of Ideal Stability by Kinetic theory (MISK code) investigated to explain experimental stability

- Simple critical ω_ϕ threshold stability models or loss of torque balance do not describe experimental marginal stability

Sontag, et al., Nucl. Fusion **47** (2007) 1005.

- Kinetic modification to ideal MHD growth rate
  - Trapped and circulating ions, trapped electrons
  - Alfven dissipation at rational surfaces

$$\gamma\tau_w = -\frac{\delta W_\infty + \delta W_K}{\delta W_b + \delta W_K}$$

Hu and Betti, Phys. Rev. Lett **93** (2004) 105002.

- Stability depends on
  - Integrated ω_ϕ profile: resonances in δW_K (e.g. ion precession drift)
  - Particle collisionality

ω_ϕ profile (enters through ExB frequency)

$$\omega_E = \omega_\phi^D - \omega_{*i}^D - \frac{v_\theta^D}{2\pi R}\frac{B_\phi}{B_\theta}$$

Trapped ion component of δW_K (plasma integral)

$$\delta W_K \propto \int \left[\frac{\omega_{*N} + \left(\hat{\varepsilon} - {}^{3}\!/_{2}\right)\omega_{*T} + \omega_E - \omega - i\gamma}{\langle\omega_D\rangle + l\omega_b - i\nu_{eff} + \omega_E - \omega - i\gamma}\right]\hat{\varepsilon}^{\frac{5}{2}} e^{-\hat{\varepsilon}}\, d\hat{\varepsilon}$$

← Energy integral

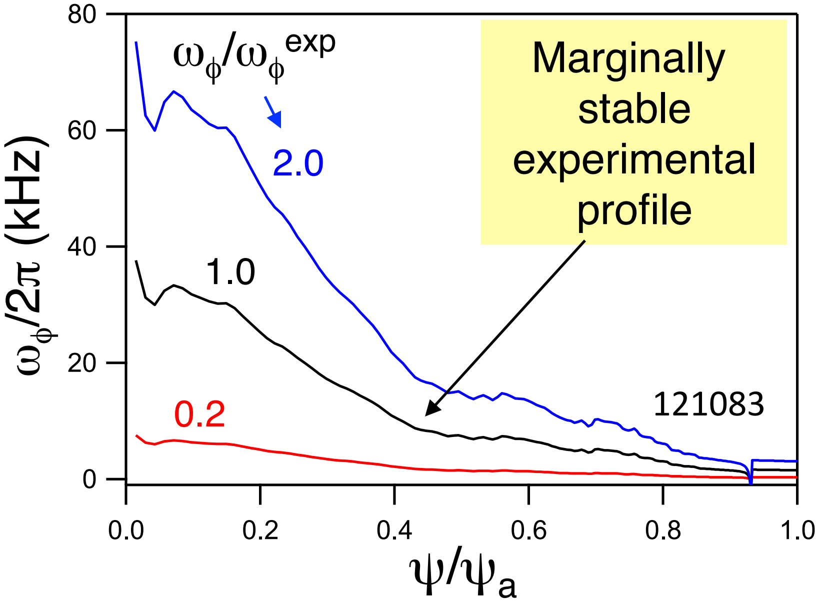
precession drift

bounce

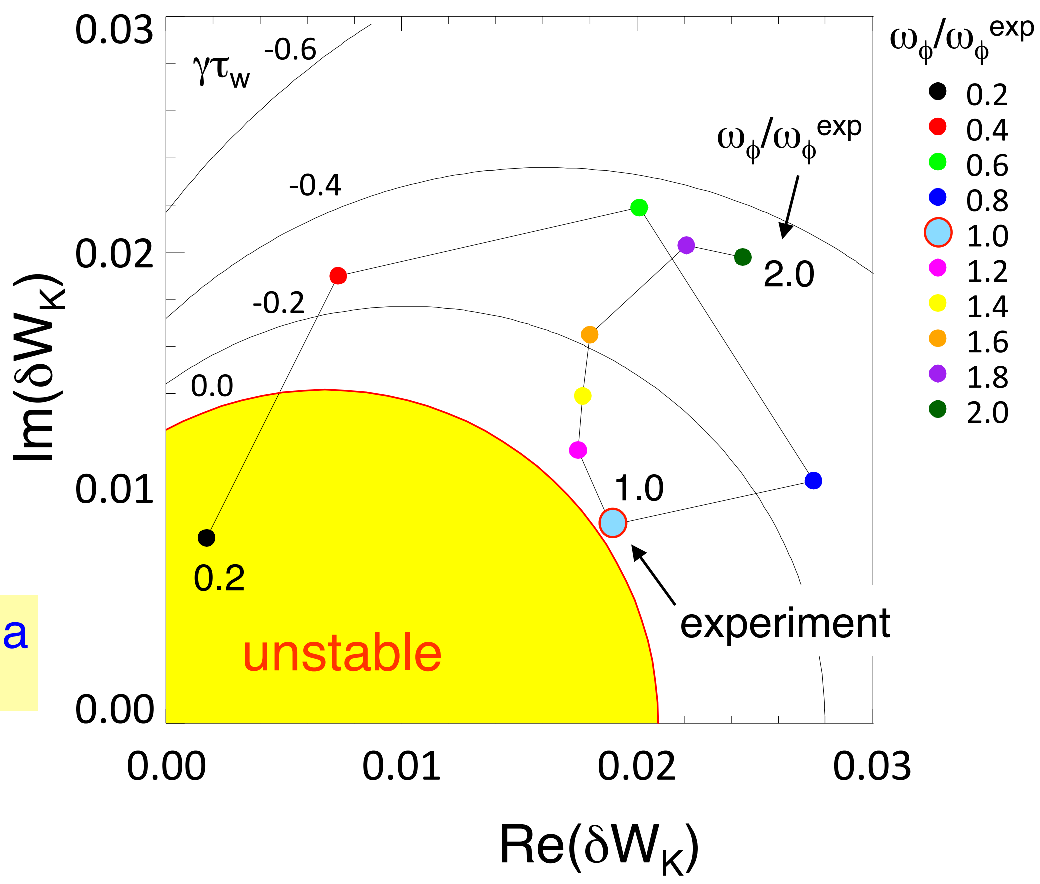
collisionality

Kinetic modifications show decrease in RWM stability at relatively high V_ϕ – consistent with experiment

Theoretical variation of ω_ϕ



RWM stability vs. V_ϕ (contours of $\gamma\tau_w$)

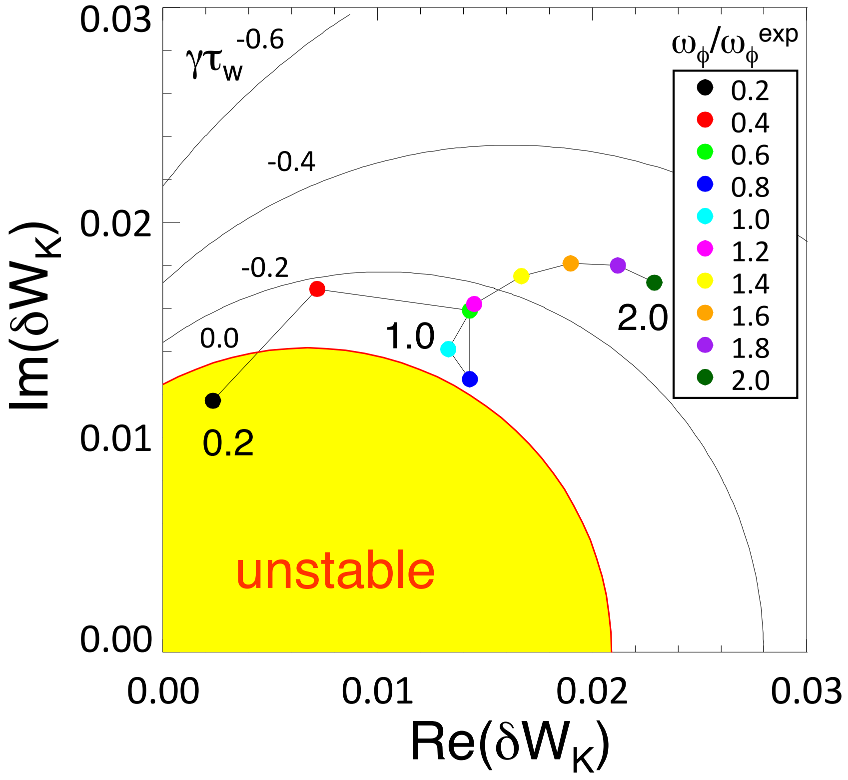


- ❑ Marginal stable experimental plasma reconstruction, rotation profile ω_ϕ^{exp}
- ❑ Variation of ω_ϕ away from marginal profile increases stability
- ❑ Unstable region at low ω_ϕ

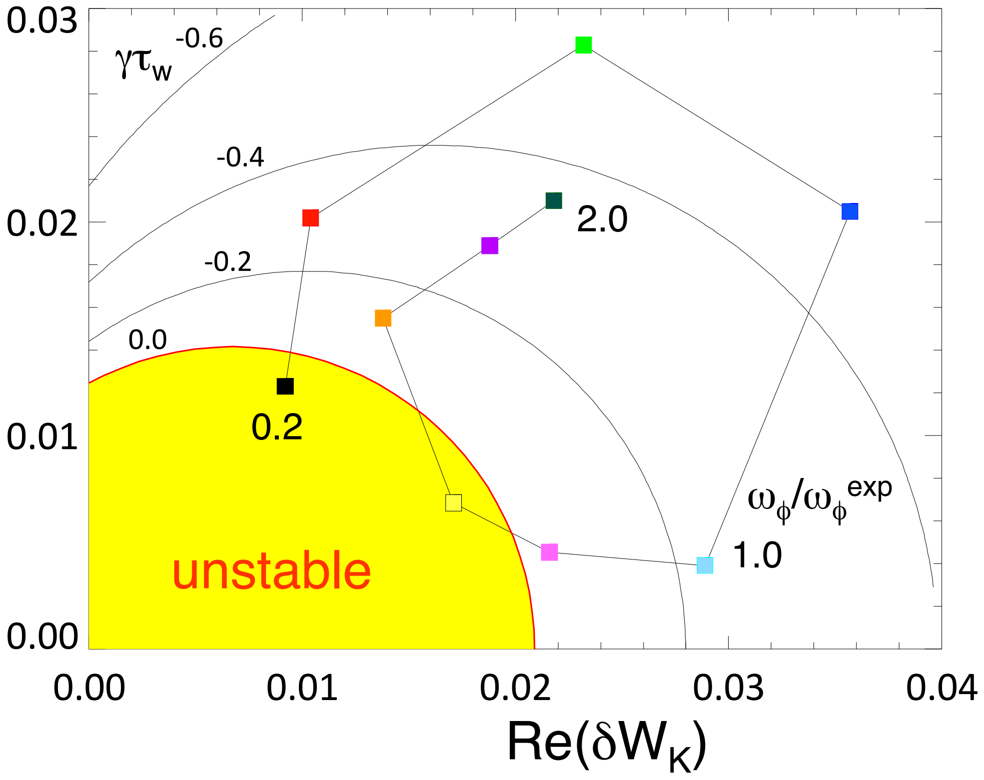
NSTX

Kinetic model shows overall increase in stability as collisionality decreases

Increased collisionality (x6)

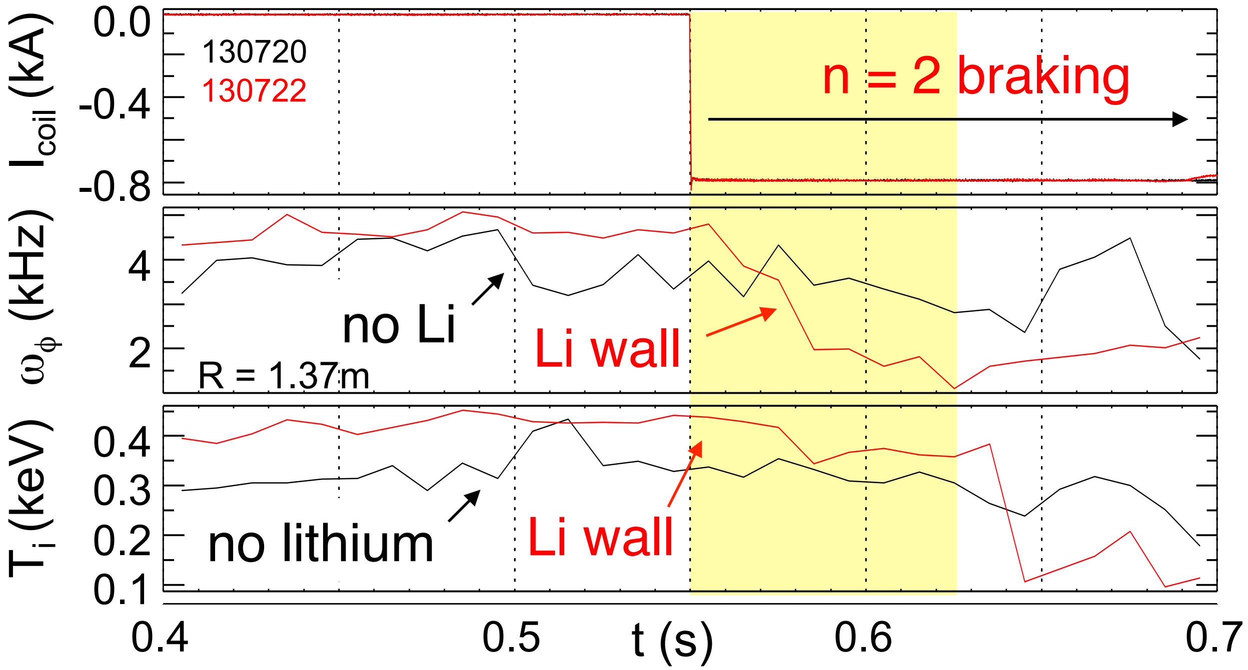


Reduced collisionality (x1/6)

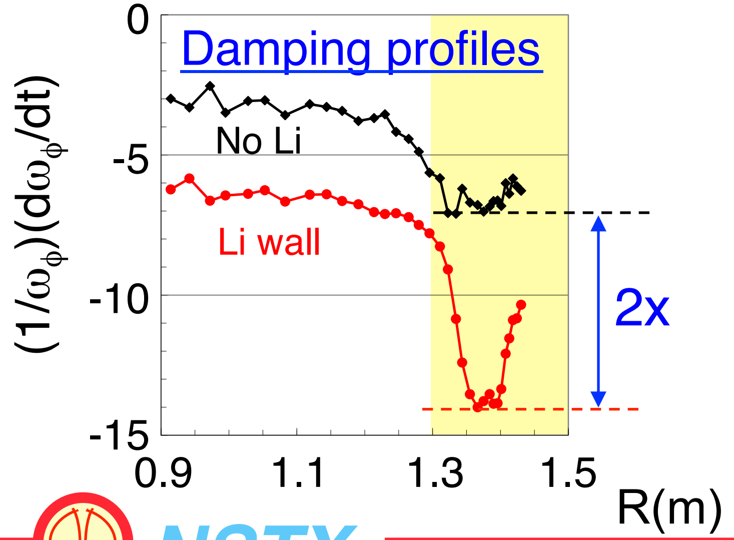


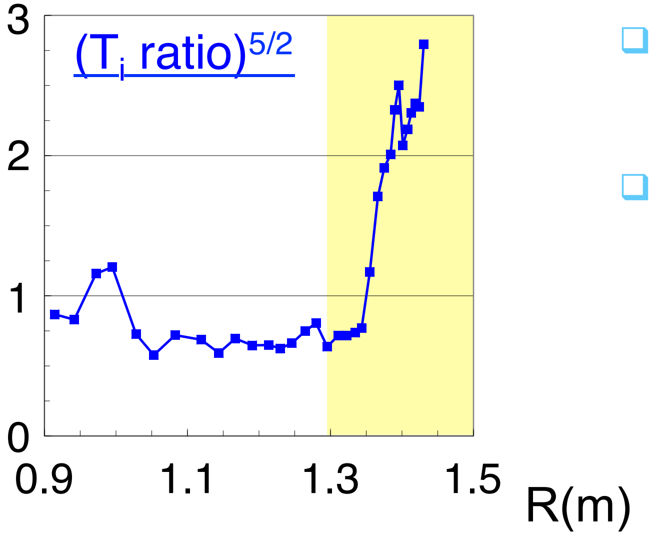
- Vary ν by varying T, n at constant β
- Simpler stability dependence on ω_ϕ at increased ν
- Increased stability at $\omega_\phi/\omega_\phi^{exp} \sim 1$
- Unstable band in ω_ϕ at increased ω_ϕ

Stronger non-resonant braking at increased T_i



- Examine T_i dependence of neoclassical toroidal viscosity (NTV)
- Li wall conditioning produces higher T_i in region of high rotation damping
- Expect stronger NTV torque at higher T_i ($-d\omega_\phi/dt \sim T_i^{5/2}\,\omega_\phi$)
  - At braking onset, T_i ratio$^{5/2}$ = $(0.45/0.34)^{5/2} \sim 2$
  - Consistent with measured $d\omega_\phi/dt$ in region of strongest damping





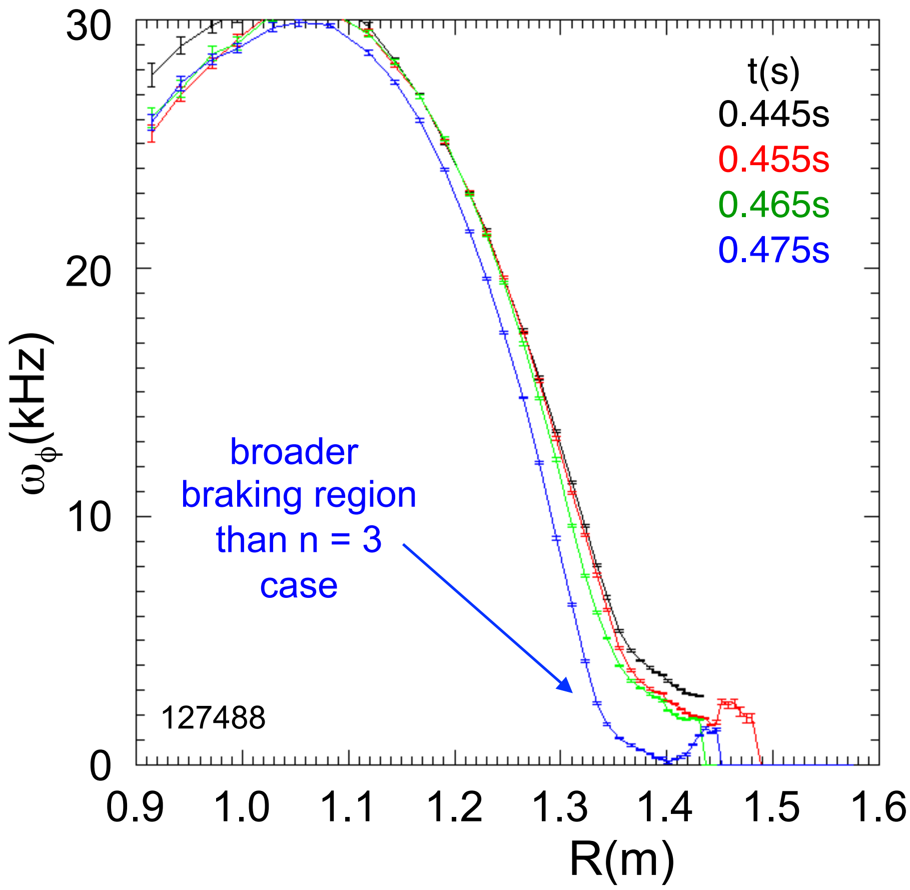
Advances in global mode feedback control, kinetic stabilization physics and magnetic braking research

- Active n = 1 control, DC n = 3 error field correction maintain high β_N plasma over ideal $\beta_N^{\text{no-wall}}$ limit for long pulse
  - Growing RWM converts to kink that stabilizes; can yield tearing mode
- Control performance compares well to theory
  - Significant β_N increase expected for ITER with proposed internal coil
- Kinetic modifications to ideal stability can reproduce behavior of observed RWM marginal stability vs. V_ϕ
  - Simple critical rotation threshold models for RWM stability inadequate
- Non-resonant V_ϕ braking observed due to n = 2 applied field
  - Braking magnitude increases with increased T_i

Backup slides

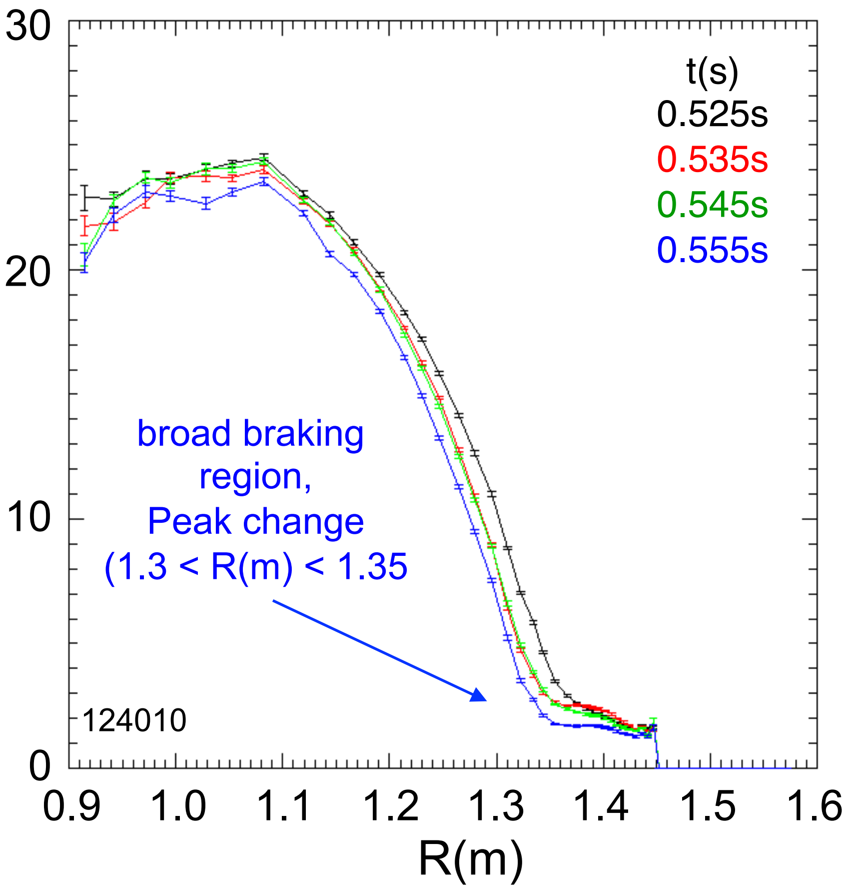
Non-resonant rotation braking produced using n = 2 field

Rotation evolution during n = 2 braking



broader braking region than n = 3 case

Rotation evolution during n = 3 braking



broad braking region, Peak change (1.3 < R(m) < 1.35

- n = 2 has broader braking profile than n = 3 field (from field spectrum)