Overview of the PEGASUS Non-Solenoidal Startup Research Program

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The $A \sim 1$ PEGASUS ST is Evolving To Become The US Center for Non-Solenoidal Startup

High-stress Ohmic Heating Solenoid 2 m Local Helicity Injectors **Divertor Coils** Α 1.15 - 1.3*R* [m] 0.2 - 0.45 I_p [MA] ≤ 0.25 $B_T[T]$ < 0.15 Δt_{shot} [s] < 0.025

LHI Phase **OH** Phase 0.20 16 [MA] 0.15 12 V_{loop} [V] 0.10 0.05 0.00 20 25 35 15 30 40 Time [ms]



PEGASUS Program:

- Local Helicity Injection (LHI) for Non-Solenoidal ST Startup
- H-mode Physics at Ultralow-A (recently concluded)*
- Access to high $I_N > 10$ and High β_t
- Proposed Facility Enhancements and New Program Directions

* K.E. Thome, Phys. Rev. Lett. **116**, 175001 (2016) M.W. Bongard, IAEA FEC 2016 EX/P4-51 R.J. Fonck, IAEA FEC 2016 OV/5-4 K.E. Thome, Nucl. Fusion **57**, 022018 (2017)





Local Helicity Injection is a Promising Non-Solenoidal Startup Technique



- Edge current extracted from injectors
- Relaxation to tokamak-like state via helicity-conserving instabilities
- Used routinely for startup on PEGASUS

Non-Solenoidal, High $I_p \leq 0.2 \text{ MA} (I_{inj} \leq 8 \text{ kA})$



• Current drive quantified by

$$V_{LHI} \approx \frac{A_{inj}B_{T,inj}}{\Psi}V_{inj}$$





Local Plasma Sources Inject Current Streams that Reconnect to Form Tokamak-like Plasma

Phase: 1 Injectors



Local source: Helical plasma streams Instability: Current driven along streams



Reconnection:

Relaxation to tokamak-like state, current growth



Bias shutdown: High- I_p tokamak





Injector Location in LHI Emphasizes Different CD Mechanisms



Low-Field-Side (LFS) Injection:

• Injectors near outboard midplane



High-Field-Side (HFS) Injection:

Injectors in lower divertor



LFS Injection Dominated by Inductive Current Drive

- Injector location: tradeoff between HI driven and inductively driven current
- Power balance relation:
 - $I_p[V_{LHI} + V_{IR} + V_{IND}] = 0$
- Confinement behavior may be affected by dominant current drive type

• LFS injection maximizes inductive drive, V_{IND}

Radial compression \rightarrow large V_{IND}



 Net induction voltage dominates current drive







• Low $R_{inj} \rightarrow \text{high } V_{LHI}$

$$V_{LHI} = \frac{V_{inj}A_{inj}B_{inj}}{\Psi_{TF}} \sim \frac{1}{R_{inj}}$$

• HFS injection minimizes V_{IND}

 Fully HI-driven system may have different transport properties Static plasma shape \rightarrow low V_{IND}



• HI dominates current drive







Since Last ST Workshop, HFS Divertor Injectors Installed to Study HI-Dominant Regime



- 2 injectors in lower divertor
- $4 \times V_{LHI}$ over LFS injection
- $A_{inj} = 8 \text{ cm}^2$; $V_{inj} \le 1.5 \text{ kV}$; $I_{inj} \le 8 \text{ kA}$ (8–12 MW total power)





Injector Alignment, Local Limiters Critical to PMI Mitigation

Injector Schematic and Field Line Alignment



- Proper alignment:
 - Injector shadowed
 - High voltage standoff in tokamak SOL
- Improper limiter placement:
 - Injector immersed in plasma
 - Cathode spots on injector
- Improper alignment to local field:
 - Arc-back to limiter
- Local limiters, shield plates needed to minimize DIV plate interactions

Fast Visible Imaging











Injected current weakens vacuum B_Z



 $I_p \sim N_{turns} I_{ini}$

Unstable current streams attract, reconnect



 $I_p \gtrsim N_{turns} I_{inj}$

Tokamak-like plasma; rapid I_p growth



 $I_p \gg N_{turns} I_{inj}$





Initial Relaxation to Tokamak State Requires Strong Deformation of Vacuum Field

• Injector geometry sets minimum pitch (B_Z/B_T) for stream clearance



- HFS injection:
 - Lower $R_{inj} \rightarrow \text{more } B_Z$ for clearance
 - Relaxation impeded for fixed B_T , I_{inj}
- Solution: poloidal field shaping
 - B_Z strong in divertor; weak at midplane
 - Increased I_{inj} required at increased B_T

Deformed B_{vac} Aids Relaxation



• Relaxation achieved at full Pegasus B_T



Target I_p of 0.2 MA Without Solenoidal Induction Achieved

- Non-solenoidal $I_p = 0.2$ MA scenarios at full B_T
 - Static plasma geometry
 - Current multiplication ~ $40 \times I_{inj}$
- V_{LHI} increased 4× over LFS injection
 - Access to high I_p with V_{LHI} dominant
 - High V_{LHI} aided by active cathode spot detection
 - First test of HFS injectors with modern technology
- Facilitates studies of LHI confinement
 - Example: $n_e / B_T / I_p$ scalings under present study









• $T_e(R)$ profiles vary with discharge evolution, n_e , shape, and B_T



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D.J. Schlossberg, Rev. Sci. Instrum. 87, 11E403 (2016); UW-Madison PhD Thesis (2016)

Projecting Forward: Dissipation of Helicity is a Main Issue

- Helicity input balanced by resistive dissipation
 - Simplistic global interpretation of helicity balance
 - Plasma resistivity influenced by confinement properties
- Crude estimates of confinement inform operation space, assuming:
 - $P_{in} = V_{LHI} I_p$
 - $\quad Z_{eff} = 1$
 - Fixed plasma geometry, B_T
- Understanding how I_p depends on HI rate is critical to predictive capability







To Date, Maximum Achieved Current Increases with V_{LHI}

- I_p generally increases with V_{eff}
 - Achieved I_p varies with B_T , MHD levels
 - Fixed geometry V_{eff} scans suggest linear scaling
- Predictive understanding requires more detailed knowledge
 - *e.g.* scaling with Z_{eff} , f_{GW} , B_T , plasma geometry, ...
- Electron behavior is a point of emphasis for present work
 - Volume average η
 - Profile effects
 - $T_e, Z_{eff}, J(R), P_{rad}$
 - Radiation losses





Hierarchy of Physics Models Contribute Towards Predictive Understanding of LHI Startup

- 1. Taylor relaxation, helicity conservation
 - Steady-state maximum I_p limits

Taylor Relaxation



Helicity Conservation



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- 2. 0-D power-balance $I_p(t)$
 - V_{LHI} for effective LHI current drive

- 3. 3D Resistive MHD (NIMROD)
 - Physics of LHI current drive mechanism

 $I_p[V_{LHI} + V_{IR} + V_{IND}] = 0$; $I_p \le I_{TL}$

Reconnecting LHI Current Stream



D.J. Battaglia, et al. Nucl. Fusion **51** 073029 (2011) N.W. Eidietis, Ph.D. Thesis, UW-Madison (2007) J. O'Bryan, Ph.D. Thesis, UW-Madison (2014) J. O'Bryan, C.R. Sovinec, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion **56** 064005 (2014)



NIMROD Simulations Indicate Helical Current Stream Reconnection as a Current Drive Mechanism

NIMROD: Early Relaxation Phase in Divertor LHI Geometry

Early Formation Phase





NIMROD Simulation [O'Bryan PhD 2014]



2016 PEGASUS High-speed Imaging Fonck, IAEA FEC 2016 OV/5-4

• Divertor LHI startup shows suggestive commonality between NIMROD simulations and experiment

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O'Bryan et al., Phys. Plasmas **19** 080701 (2012) O'Bryan and Sovinec, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion **56** 064005 (2014)





- LFS injection: MHD bursts and ion heating support presence of outboard stream reconnection
 - Low frequency: 20–80 kHz, n = 1
 - Consistent with line-tied kink instability
- Internal magnetic measurements localize coherent streams in LFS edge
- Suggests any stochastic reconnection region may be localized to edge



Reconnection-driven Ion Heating Gives $T_i > T_e$ During LHI

- Anisoptropic ion heating in injector streams consistent with two-fluid reconnection
 - Channel $T_{i,\perp} > T_e$
 - $T_{i,\perp} \sim V_A^2$ of injected current streams

300

250

200

150 100 50

0

0

10 20

He-II T_i [eV]

Ion heating correlated with high-f MHD fluctuations, not discrete reconnection between helical streams



• $T_i(t)$ correlated with continuous, high frequency activity L

40 50

30

 $V_A^2 \sim I_{ini} V_{inj}^{1/2}$

Suggests considering short wavelength reconnection as another CD mechanism

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M.G. Burke, et al. Nucl. Fusion **57** 076010 (2017)

HFS Injection: Reduction in Large-Scale MHD and Increased *I*_p Indicates More Complex Current Drive Mechanism

- HFS injection: initially similar to LFS
 - Large scale n = 1 at 20–80 kHz
 - Consistent with line-tied kink
- Abrupt MHD transition can occur:
 - Low-f n = 1 activity reduced by over $10 \times$
 - Extremely sensitive to B_T , B_Z , I_p , fueling
- Bifurcation in I_p evolution following transition
 - Current growth continues after transition
 - n_e rises, edge sharpens visibly
 - Preliminary indications of E_R shear at edge via probes
- MHD evolution indicates strong CD mechanism independent of MHD bursts





Long-pulse, Non-inductive HFS LHI Discharges Sustained Without Low-Frequency n = 1 Activity

- Current sustained in reduced MHD regime
 - n = 1 activity suppressed during I_p flattop
 - Pulse length limited by power supplies
- $I_p = 0.1$ MA non-inductive scenario
 - Constant shape
 - Zero measured PF induction







Transition Coincident with Shift of MHD From Low to High Frequency

- Reduction in low-frequency activity presently interpreted as stabilization of kinked injector streams
 - Mechanism of stabilization under investigation
- New high-frequency insertable probes deployed
 - First results indicate high-frequency content near plasma edge
 - High-frequency content unobservable on outboard sensors
- Correlated with additional CD mechanism
 - Link to short λ turbulence?
 - Reconnection on inboard, high-field side (NIMROD)?



\mathbb{R} HFS LHI Provides High-Performance Operation at Extremely Low B_T

- Access to highly-shaped, high β_t plasmas
- HFS LHI: unique operation space
 - Low $I_{TF} \sim 0.6 I_p$
 - $I_N = 5A \frac{I_p}{I_{TF}} > 10 \text{ accessible}$
 - Naturally high κ , low ℓ_i
- Reconnection-driven $T_i > T_e$
- Ramped *B_T* discharges terminate disruptively at ideal no-wall stability limit
 - Consistent with DCON analysis





LHI at $A \sim 1$ Expands the Operating Space for the ST to $\beta_t \sim 1$

 β_{t} (%)

- World record $\beta_t \sim 1$ achieved
 - Facilitated by $A \sim 1$ and LHI
- *A* ~ 1:
 - Naturally high κ
 - High I_N stability limit
- LHI:
 - Strong ion auxiliary heating
 - Edge current drive $\rightarrow \log \ell_i$
- Low ℓ_i at low-*A*: high $\beta_{N,max}$



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Troyon Stability Diagram for Tokamaks, STs

R.J. Fonck, IAEA FEC 2016 OV/5-4

D.J. Schlossberg et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 035001 (2017) J.E. Menard et al., Phys. Plasmas 11, 639 (2004)



LHI Provides Access to Desirable ST Operating Space

- Non-solenoidal sustained plasmas with high- β_t , low ℓ_i , high κ , high I_N , are ST research goal
 - Target operating space of NSTX-U at high performance
 - PEGASUS reaches much of this space, albeit through different mechanisms

ST Target	NSTX, NSTX-U	PEGASUS
High <i>κ</i>	Low A	$A = 1.15 \rightarrow \kappa \approx 2.5$
Low ℓ_i	Bootstrap, Off-axis NBI, RF	LHI edge CD $\rightarrow \ell_i \approx 0.2$
High I _N	High I_p , low A, wall stabilization	Low B_T , $A \sim 1$, no-wall limit
High β_t , β_N	NBI, RF Heating	Reconnection Ion Heating
Non-solenoidal sustainment	Bootstrap, NBI, RF	LHI
Collisionality	Very low	Modest

• LHI facilitates near-term access and stability studies



β_{t} Unique Feature of High- β_{t} LHI Plasmas: Sustained min |B| Region

- High- β_t equilibrium contains large minimum |B| region
 - Up to 47% of plasma volume
 - Well deepens and broadens as β_t increases
 - Persists for several energy confinement times
- Minimum |B| regime arises from 3 major influences
 - $B_p \sim B_T \text{ at } A \sim 1$
 - Hollow J(R)
 - Pressure-driven diamagnetism (although $\beta_p < 1$)
- Potentially favorable for stabilization of drift modes, reduction of stochastic transport
 - Presently under investigation

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D.J. Schlossberg et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 035001 (2017) 26 V



PEGASUS-E: US Non-Solenoidal Development Station

- Compare / contrast / combine reactor-relevant startup techniques
 - LHI, CHI, RF/EBW Heating & CD
 - Goal: guidance for ~1 MA startup on NSTX-U, beyond
- PEGASUS-E (Enhanced)
 - No solenoid magnet
 - Increase $B_T 4 \times : 0.15 \rightarrow 0.6 \text{ T}$
 - Longer pulse
 - Active shape control
 - Kinetic and impurity diagnostics
 - RF Heating & CD (w/ ORNL)
 - Transient, Sustained CHI (w/ Univ. Washington, PPPL)
- Proposals submitted to US DOE
 - Decisions expected late 2017

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High-Stress OH Solenoid 12-turn TF Bundle



Solenoid-free 24-turn TF Bundle





\mathbb{R} LHI Research Activities on PEGASUS-E Will Test Scaling to High B_T

• Physics Issues

- Taylor limit I_p scaling
- Efficiency / confinement scaling
- Relaxation accessibility
- MHD behavior & CD mechanisms
- PMI and impurities
- Advanced injector technology
 - Increased HI drive with high Taylor limit
- Facility Enhancements
 - 24-turn TF rod; power system
 - Programmable $V_{eff}(t)$ control
 - PF coils and power systems
 - X-point, shape control
 - DNB spectroscopy
 - $\tilde{B}(R,t), J(R,t), T_i(R,t), n_e(R,t), n_Z(R,t)$
 - Impurity diagnostics
 - SPRED, VB, bolometry

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Parameter	Pegasus	Pegasus-E
R _{sol} [cm]	4.9	N/A
I _{sol} [kA]	<u>+</u> 24	0
ψ_{sol} (mWb)	40	0
N_{TF}	12	24
$N_{TF} \times I_{TF}$	0.288 MA	1.15 MA
$B_{T,max}$ [T] at $R_0 \sim 0.4$ m	0.15	0.60
Α	1.15	1.22
B _T Flattop [ms]	50	100
TF Conductor Area [cm ²]	13.2	151
Ip Target [MA]	0.2	0.3

Non-circular, High-A_{inj} Helicity Injector Renderings



 $[\]begin{array}{l} High \ A_{inj} = 6 \ cm^2, \\ Low \ w_{inj} = 1.6 \ cm \\ Aperture \end{array}$

Refurbished PBX-M DNB





\mathbb{R} High- B_T of PEGASUS-E Facilitates RF/EBW and CHI Studies

- EBW heating and CD; synergy with HI startup
 - T_e increase for compatibility with non-inductive sustainment (e.g. NBCD)
 - Potential for direct RF startup
 - Initial concept: ~ 400 kW EBW RF, 9 GHz (TBD)
 - ORNL collaboration
- Deploy "simple" CHI systems
 - Flexible, segmented floating anode and cathode structures
 - Transient and/or Sustained CHI
 - Univ. Washington, PPPL collaboration
- LHI CHI RF Experiments
 - Generate significant closed-flux I_p with CHI
 - Compare T_e , n_e , Z_{eff} , J(R), usable I_p
 - Coupling to consequent CD mechanism







Broadening Studies of Non-Solenoidal Startup on PEGASUS and PEGASUS-E

- Local Helicity Injection provides non-solenoidal startup and sustainment
 - Flexible injection geometry balances V_{LHI} and V_{IND} drive, engineering constraints
 - Appears scalable to large scale; open questions on confinement, reconnection dynamics and B_T scaling
- New high-field-side injector systems exploring strong V_{LHI} limit
 - Relaxation to tokamak demonstrated with HFS system
 - I_p up to 0.2 MA with $I_{inj} \le 8$ kA
 - New reduced-MHD regime discovered
 - $I_{p,max}$ scales with helicity injection rate
 - Focus increasing on electron dynamics and I_p scaling
- LHI and $A \sim 1$ enable access to high- I_N , high- β_t regime
 - Stability tests at extreme toroidicity
- PEGASUS-E: Proposed US non-solenoidal R&D facility
 - LHI, RF, CHI startup at $B_T > 0.5 \text{ T}$
 - Projection to NSTX-U and beyond
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BACKUPS





Large-A Injector Design Provides Enhanced Performance, Simplified Geometry

- New large-area injectors:
 - Doubled A_{inj} : 2 cm² \rightarrow 4 cm²
 - Increased I_{inj} : 2 kA \rightarrow 4 kA
 - Compact design to fit in divertor region
 - Modular assembly permits in-vessel maintenance; rapid design iterations
- Resilient design for increased reliability
 - Tungsten electrode
 - Greater active cooling
 - Better protection of insulators









Presently Funded Near-Term LHI Research Activities

.

Science Topics

- Scaling to higher I_p through increased V_{eff}
 - Increased V_{eff} via R_{inj} , A_{inj} , injector shape
 - Increase I_{inj} & Taylor limit to improve inductive $I_p(t)$
 - Programmable V_{eff} (~ V_{loop}) for $I_p(t)$ control
- Confinement during LHI
- Tests of NIMROD, power-balance models
 - Local \tilde{B} measurements and MHD reduction
 - Search for short wavelength reconnection
- Document, evaluate min |B| configuration

Technology Development

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- High-A_{inj}, non-circular LHI injectors
- 32 MVA V_{inj} power system
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- Implications:
 - Understanding LHI mechanisms, scalings
 - Z_{eff} assessment & PMI control
 - Assessment of injector locations

Non-Circular, High-A_{inj} Helicity Injector Renderings





Partial-kinetic Equilibrium Reconstructions of High-Bt Plasmas

Edge location and core pressure constrained by TS profiles









Analytic Formulation of Power Balance Model Elements Allow Partitioning of Energy Flow

* S.P. Hirshman and G.H. Nielson 1986 Phys. Fluids 29 790
O. Mitarai and Y. Takase 2003 Fusion Sci. Technol.
S. Ejima et al 1982 Nucl. Fusion 22 1313
J.A. Romero and JET-EFDA Contributors 2010 Nucl. Fusion 50 115002





Equilibrium-Calibrated Inductance Model Improves Estimates of Non-Solenoidal V_{IND}

- Maintaining radial force balance provides V_{IND}
 - Originally calculated via H-N formulae
- Important to quantify contributions from shape, PF drive in LHI system design
- Model equilibrium database generated to test analytic formulae in realistic magnetic geometries
 - N = 331; 1.15 < A < 8; 1 < κ < 3
 - $\quad 0 < \beta_p < 1; \, 0.2 < \ell_i < 0.75$
- Poor partitioning of V_{IND} between shape, V_{PF} components found
 - However, total flux estimates in better agreement
- Revised V_{IND} model developed
 - Derived new coefficients in H-N formalism via fit to equilibrium database
 - Weak dependence on β_p , ℓ_i introduced





LHI Capabilities Aided Recently-Concluded H-mode Physics Thrust

200

[작] 150 [편]

100

50

15

- Low B_T at A ~ 1 \rightarrow Low P_{IH} and Access to Ohmic H-mode
 - LHI plasmas coupled to OH: highest-performance H-mode discharges
- Key results of campaign:
 - Confirmed L-H power threshold discrepancy as $A \rightarrow 1$
 - First access to, characterization of ELMs at A < 1.3
 - High spatiotemporal measurements across pedestal
 - First measurements of nonlinear I(R) dynamics during single ELMs
 - 3D field application from LHI injectors may alter ELM stability

LFS LHI -> OH H-mode Handoff

Helicity Phase

20

25

30

Time [ms]

Bongard, IAEA FEC 2016 EX/P4-51





FES Transients Workshop Report Cover Bongard, IAEA FEC 2016 EX/P4-51

Multi-Machine PIH / PITPAOR Comparison



Unique H-mode Edge Pedestal Diagnostic Access



ELM Modification by 3D Edge Current **Injection From Helicity Injectors**

- 6

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40

Ohmic H-mode Phase

35



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