

Characterization of core and edge turbulence in L- and H-mode Alcator C-Mod plasmas

N.P.Basse, E.M.Edlund, C.L.Fiore, M.J.Greenwald, A.E.Hubbard, J.W.Hughes,
J.H.Irby, G.J.Kramer¹, L.Lin, Y.Lin, A.G.Lynn², E.S.Marmor, D.R.Mikkelsen¹,
D.Mossessian, P.E.Phillips², M.Porkolab, J.E.Rice, J.A.Snipes, J.L.Terry, S.M.Wolfe,
S.J.Wukitch, K.Zhurovich

*Plasma Science and Fusion Center
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MA-02139 Cambridge
USA*

¹*Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
NJ-08543 Princeton
USA*

²*University of Texas at Austin
TX-78712 Austin
USA*

Turbulent transport associated with low (L-) and high (H-) mode confinement in fusion plasmas remains enigmatic. In the present talk we will address that challenge by studying fluctuations in the electron density of Alcator C-Mod plasmas using reflectometry [1] and phase-contrast imaging (PCI) [2]. These measurements will in turn be correlated with magnetic, D_α and electron temperature fluctuations.

Recently, two high frequency (132 and 140 GHz) O-mode reflectometer channels became operational in C-Mod [3]. The corresponding densities are $2.2 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and $2.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$. We use these channels to study turbulence associated with H-L-mode backtransitions, the so-called enhanced neutron (EN-) modes. Here, the density decays from the outside inward, allowing us to study fluctuations progressively towards the plasma core. Correlating the reflectometry measurements with the PCI line-integrated vertical chords provides valuable information on spatially localized density fluctuations.

The PCI diagnostic has been upgraded from 12 to 32 channels, leading to increased coverage in (R, k_R) -space; the digitization rate is 10 MHz. We show some initial results from the upgraded diagnostic, focusing on high frequency turbulence seen during both edge localized mode (ELM-) free and enhanced D_α H-mode operation.

References

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