

**How the Birth and Death of Shear Layers Determines  
Confinement Evolution:  
From the L→H Transition to the Density Limit**

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See: “How the Birth ... to the Density Limit”

in Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. ~ January 2023

by P.D., Rameswar Singh, Ting Long, Rongjie Hong, Rui Ke,

Zheng Yan, Mingyun Cao, George Tynan

→ OV of Work and Related 2018→Present

→ Combines Experiment and Theory

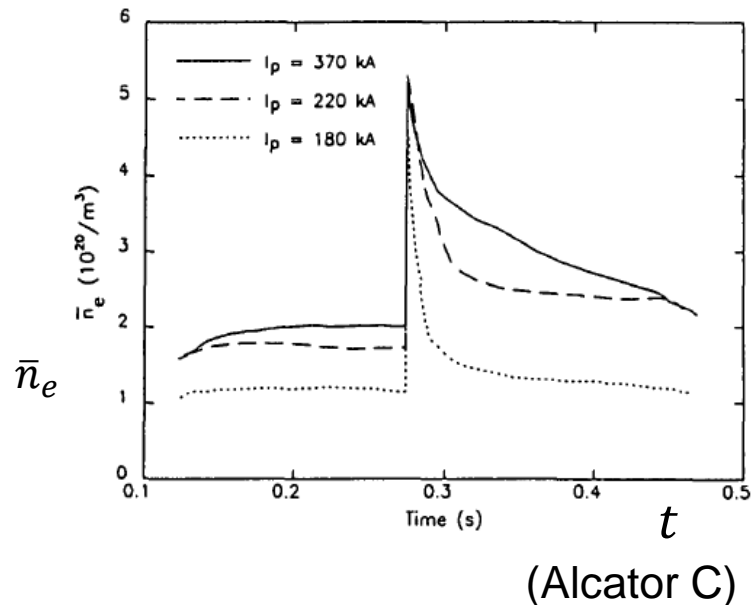
# 40 Years of H-mode – Lessons (1982 →)

- Saved MFE from Goldston scaling
- Introduced transport barrier, bifurcation → state ‘phases’ and transitions
- Role of flow profile in confinement (BDT ’90)
- Dynamical feedback loops → Predator-Prey cycles, Zonal flows, etc.  
(PD+’94,05; K-D ’03)
- Consequences of marked transport reduction
  - Strong interest in turbulent pedestal states
- Applications elsewhere → Density Limit

# Phases and Transitions of the Edge Plasma and Density Limit Phenomenology

N.B. Fusion power gain  $\sim n^2 \rightarrow$  Reactors: high density

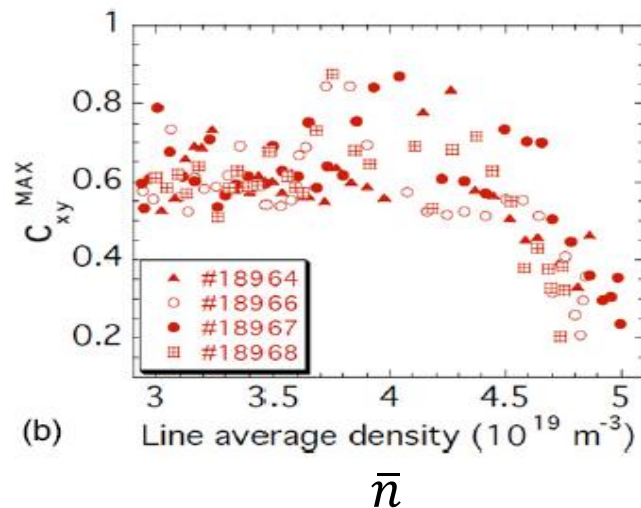
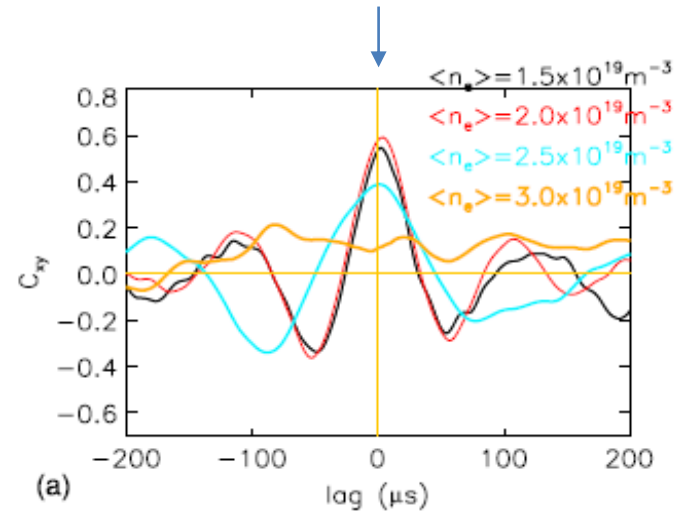
- Conventional Wisdom: Radiation + MHD (Rebut → Gates...)
- Argue: Edge Particle Transport is fundamental
  - ‘Disruptive’ scenarios secondary outcome, largely consequence of edge cooling, following fueling vs. increased particle transport
  - $\bar{n}_g$  reflects fundamental limit imposed by particle transport
- An Important Experiment (Greenwald, et. al. ‘88)



- Density decays without disruption after shallow pellet injection
- $\bar{n}$  asymptote scales with  $I_p$
- Density limit enforced by transport-induced relaxation
- Relaxation rate not studied
- Fluctuations?

# Toward Microphysics: Recent Experiments - 1

(Y. Xu et al., NF, 2011)



## LRC vs $\bar{n}$

- Decrease in maximum correlation value of LRC (i.e. **ZF strength**) as line averaged density  $\bar{n}$  increases at the edge ( $r/a=0.95$ ) in both TEXTOR and TJ-II.
- The reduction in LRC due to increasing density is also accompanied by a reduction in edge mean radial electric field (**Relation to ZFs**).

Is density limit related to edge shear decay?!

↓  
**Yes !**

See also: Pedrosa '07, Hidalgo '08 ...

Reynolds work (Flow production) drops as  $n \rightarrow n_g$  (Hong+ '18)

# **An In-depth Look at New Experiments**

Ting Long, P.D. et. al. 2021 NF

Rui Ke, P.D., T. Long et. al. 2022 NF

# J-TEXT – Ohmic

- $B_T \sim 1.6 - 2.2 T$       $\frac{n}{n_G} \sim 0.7$       $n_G \sim 6.4 \rightarrow 9.3 \times 10^{19} m^{-3}$

- $I_p \sim 130 - 190 kA$       $\bar{n} \sim 2.0 - 5.3 \times 10^{19} m^{-3}$

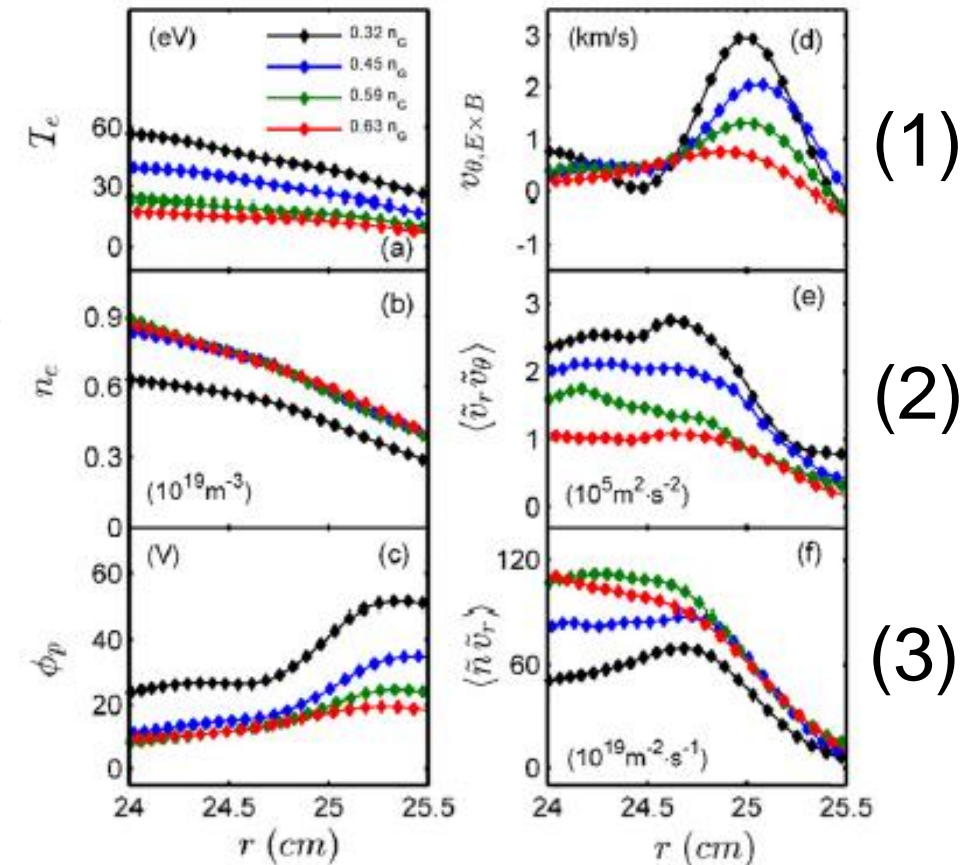
- Principal Diagnostics: Langmuir Probes

- Shear layer collapses as  $n/n_G$  increases (1)

- Turbulence particle flux increases (2)

- Reynolds force decays (3)

- Velocity fluctuation PdF  $\rightarrow$  symmetry





# Mean-Turbulence Couplings

- In standard CDW model:

Production  $\equiv$  Input from  $\nabla n$

$$\delta n = \tilde{n}/n_0$$

$$P_I = -c_S^2 \langle \tilde{V}_r \delta n \rangle \left( \frac{1}{n_0} \frac{\partial \langle n \rangle}{\partial r} \right)$$

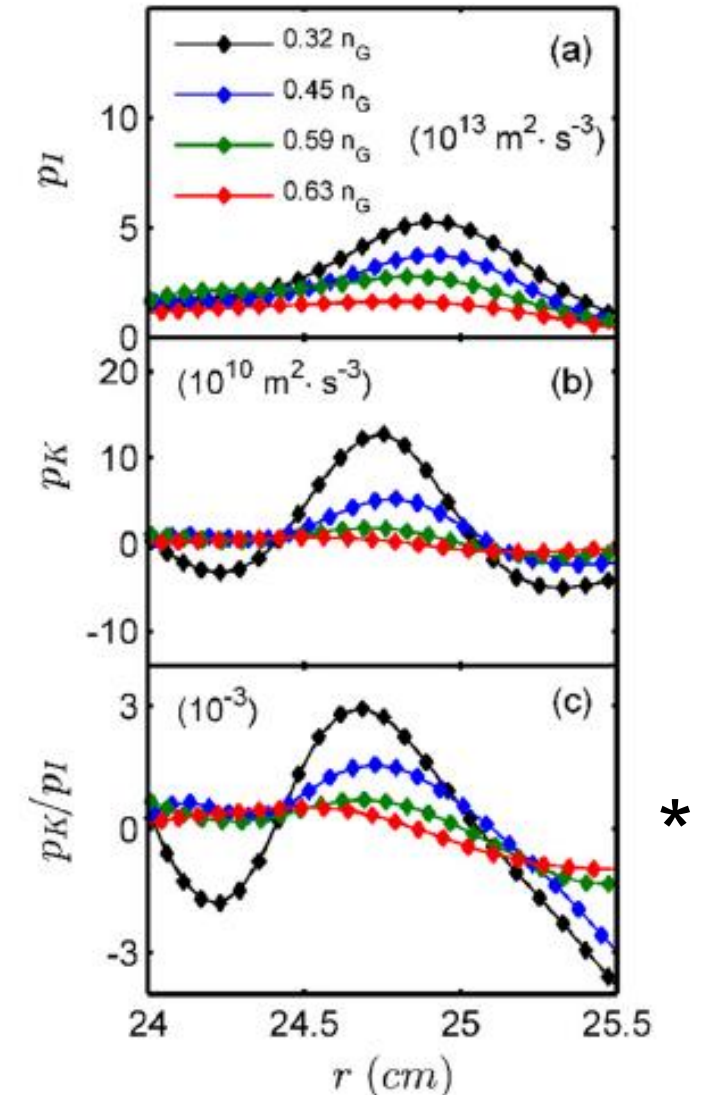
Reynolds Power  $\equiv$  Coupling to Zonal Flow

$$P_K = -\langle \tilde{V}_r \tilde{V}_\theta \rangle \langle V_E \rangle'$$

– Reynolds power drops as  $n/n_G$  rises (see Hong+, '18)

–  $P_K/P_I$  drops as  $n/n_G$  rises \*

➔ Fate of the Energy ?



# Fate of the Energy ?

- Turbulence Energy Budget

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \langle v_r \varepsilon \rangle = P_I - \text{Dissipation}$$

Triplet
Production

Spreading

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_k + \varepsilon_I \quad \varepsilon_I = \frac{c_S^2}{2} \langle (\tilde{n}/n_0)^2 \rangle$$

- Then  $P_S \rightarrow$  Power coupled to fluctuation energy flux  $\rightarrow$  Turbulence spreading

$$P_S = -\partial_r \langle \tilde{v}_r \varepsilon_I \rangle = -\partial_r \langle \tilde{v}_r \tilde{n}^2 c_S^2 \rangle / 2n^2$$

$\rightarrow$  Turbulence Spreading Power

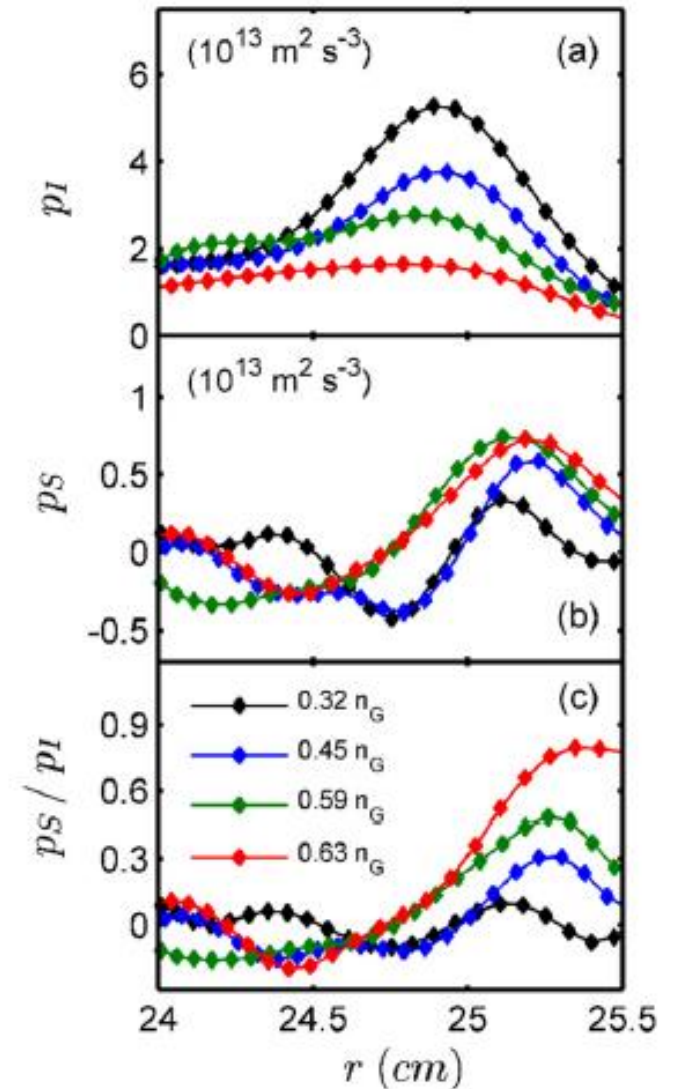
# Fate of the Energy, Cont'd

- Turbulence Spreading !
  - Reynolds power drops
  - $P_S$  increases; transitions  $P_S < 0$  to  $P_S > 0$
- Where does the shear layer energy go?

$$(P_k/P_I)_{peak} \times (P_S/P_I)_{peak} \sim 0.3, 0.5, 0.4, 0.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ as } n/n_G \uparrow$$

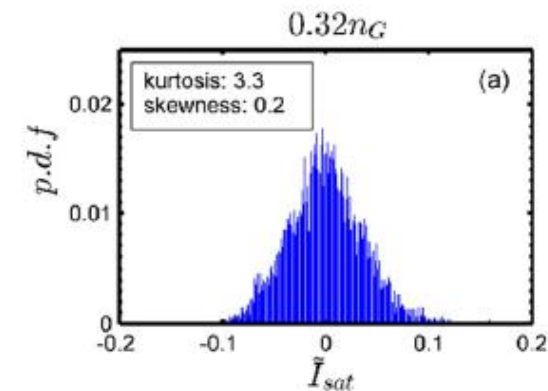
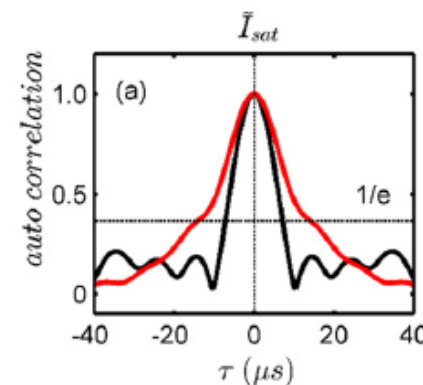
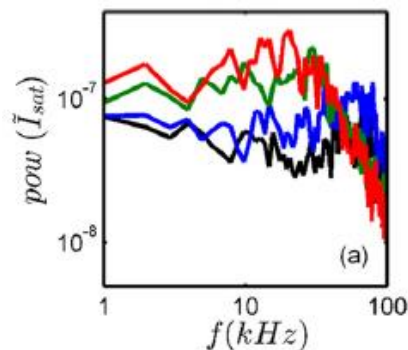
$\approx$  constant

Energy diverted from shear layer to spreading at  $L \rightarrow DL$

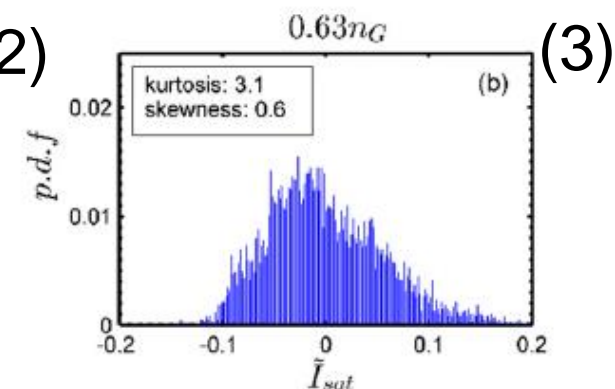
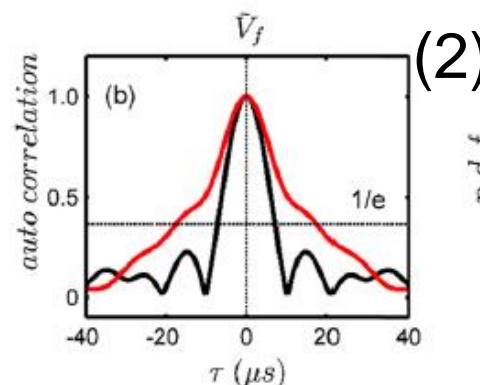
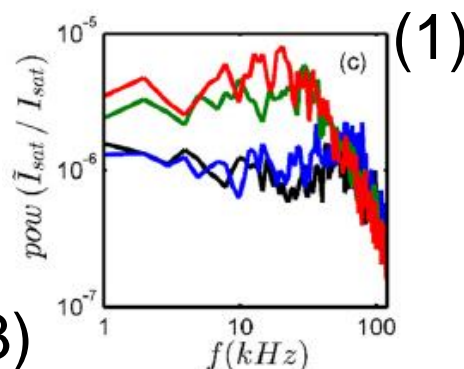


# Characteristics of Spreading

- Low frequency content of  $\tilde{I}_{sat}/I_{sat}$  increases (1)



- $\tilde{I}_{sat}$  autocorrelation time increases (2)



- Pdf  $\tilde{I}_{sat}$  develops positive skewness as  $n/n_G$  increases (3)

See also T. Long; AAPPS-DPP '22 for  $\tilde{n}$  skewness  $\leftrightarrow$  spreading correlation

# Characteristics of Spreading, Cont'd

- Enhanced turbulent particle transport events accompany L→DL back transition
- Events are quasi-coherent density fluctuations. Diffusive model of spreading  
dubious
- Localized over-turning events, small avalanches, “blobs”, ...

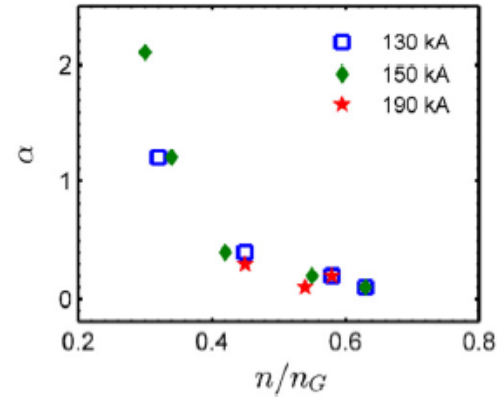
N.B. “The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”

- Ludwig Wittgenstein

# Is there a key parameter? – Adiabaticity!

- Adiabaticity  $\alpha = k_{\parallel}^2 V_{the}^2 / \omega \nu$

$\alpha$  drops  $< 1$  as  $n/n_G$  increases

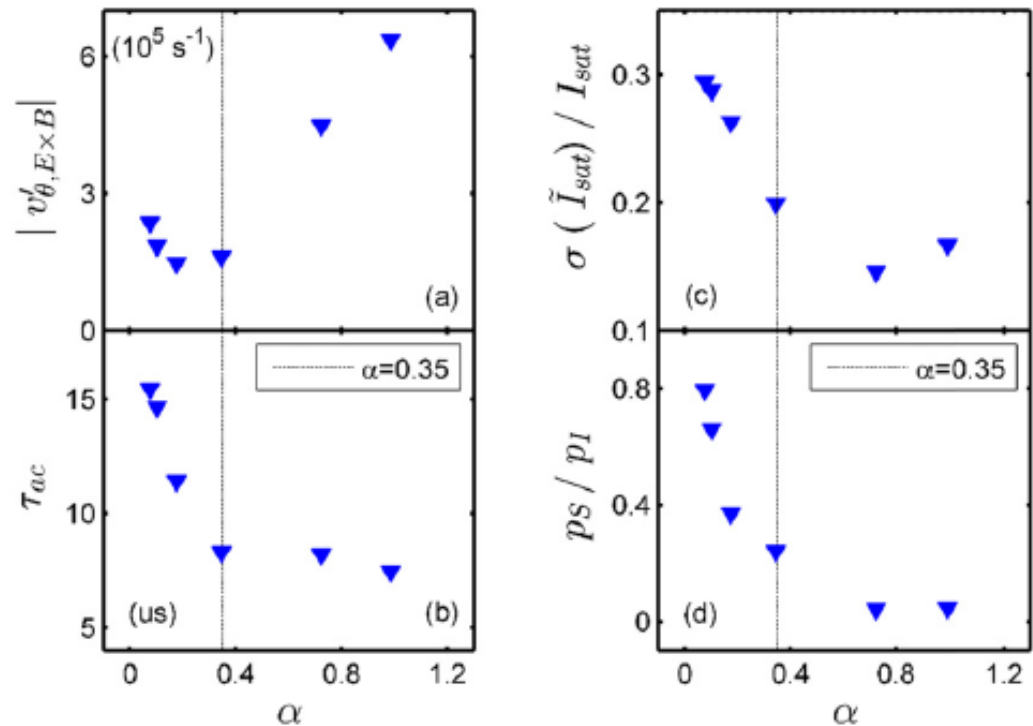


- $V'_E$  rises with  $\alpha \uparrow$

$\tau_{ac}$  decreases with  $\alpha \uparrow$

$\sigma(\tilde{I})/I$  decreases with  $\alpha \uparrow$

$P_S/P_I$  decreases with  $\alpha \uparrow$

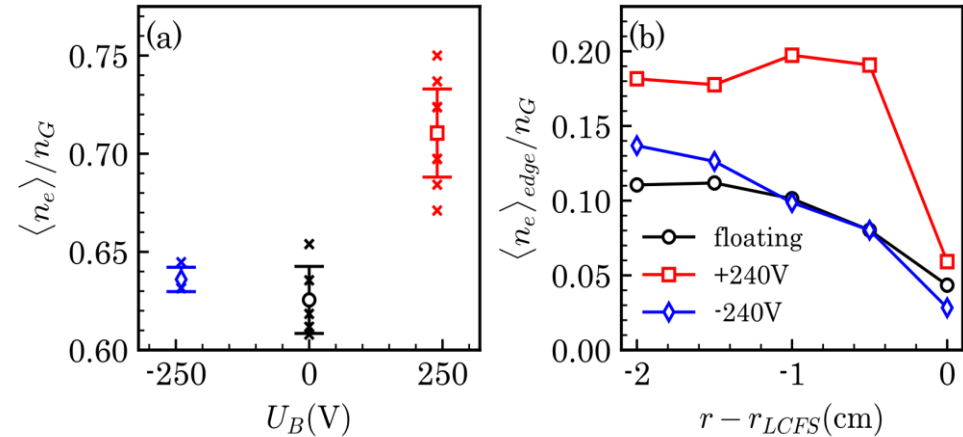


# The Obvious Question

- Can driving the shear layer sustain high densities, where  $L \rightarrow DL$ , otherwise ?
- “Driving”  $\rightarrow$  bias electrode – here (J-TEXT) (c.f. Singh, P.D.)
- Long history of bias-driven shear layers in  $L \rightarrow H$  saga – R.J. Taylor, et. seq.
- Recent: Shesterikov, Xu et. al. 2013 - Textor
- Electrode  $\rightarrow J_r \rightarrow V_\theta \rightarrow V'_E$  etc.
- New Here?
  - High Density
  - Gas Puffing  $\rightarrow$  push on DL
  - Analysis

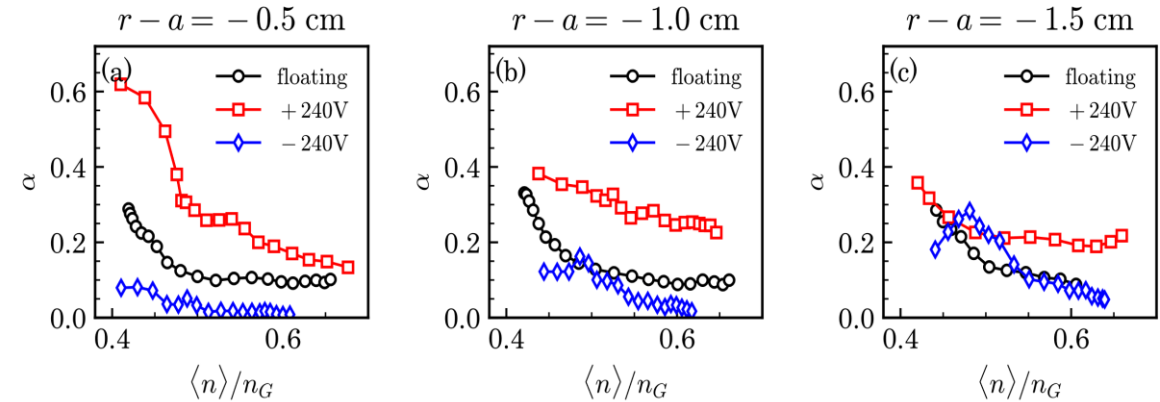
# The Answer – Looks Promising!

- Edge density doubled for +240V bias
- $\bar{n}_{\text{max,bias}} > \bar{n}_{\text{max,float}}$
- Note:  $\bar{n}_{\text{max,float}} \sim 0.7n_G$



Experiment limited by graphite probe sputtering

- Key parameter?
  - $\alpha$  systematically higher with +bias
  - $\alpha \sim T^2/n$ 
    - ← Reduced transport → higher T

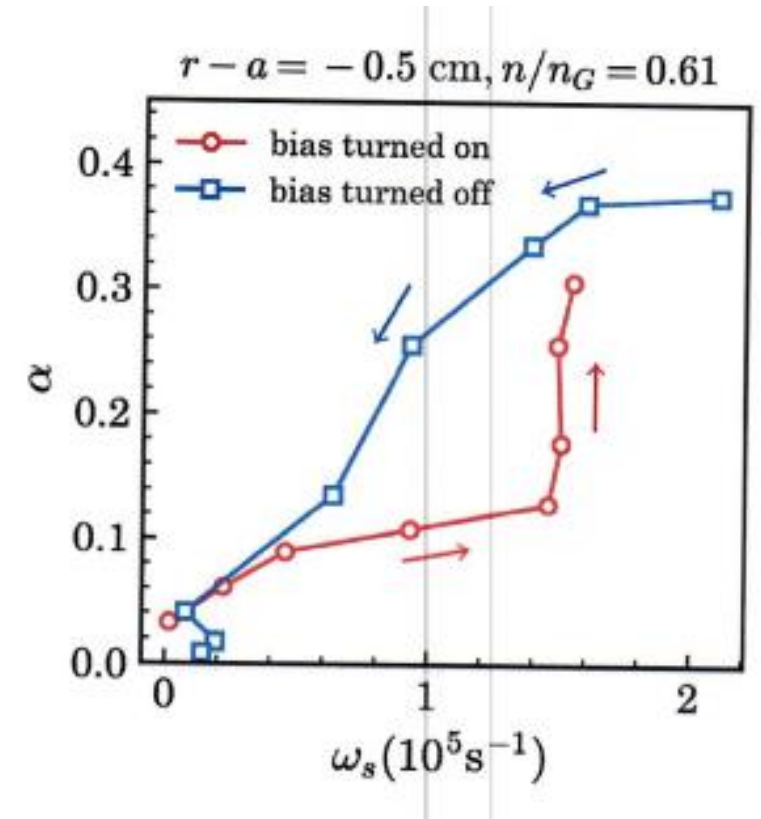


- Turbulence spreading quenched by positive bias



# Key Parameter vs Control Parameters

- $\alpha$  vs  $\omega_{shear}$  exhibits hysteresis loop
- Cntr clockwise rotation  $\rightarrow \omega_{shear}$  'leads'  $\alpha$
- Is  $\alpha$  unique 'key parameter'?
- For drift waves,  $\alpha \sim T^2/n$ 
  - $\rightarrow$  shear  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  turbulence  $\downarrow \rightarrow$  heat transport  $\downarrow$
  - $\rightarrow \alpha$  increases
- Is  $\omega_{shear}$  the control parameter?



# Theory:

## Desperately Seeking Greenwald

- How  $\alpha > 1 \rightarrow \alpha < 1$  – Back-Transition Mechanism
- Origin of Current Scaling
- Dimensionless Parameter?

N.B. :

- Zonal flow collapse as  $\alpha > 1 \rightarrow \alpha < 1$  well understood via wave energy-momentum flux connection (Hajjar, PD, Malkov 2018)
- See also Numata +, Ghantous +, Camargo + simulations

# What of the Current Scaling?

- Obvious question: How does shear layer collapse scenario connect to Greenwald scaling  $\bar{n} \sim I_p$ ?
- Key physics: shear/zonal flow response to drive is 'screened' by neoclassical dielectric

i.e.  $-\epsilon_{neo} = 1 + 4\pi\rho c^2 / B_\theta^2$

–  $\rho_\theta$  as screening length

– effective ZF inertia lower for larger  $I_p$

N.B.: Points to ZF response as key to stellarator.

# Current Scaling, cont'd

- Shear flow drive:

incoherent emission }  
 }  
 S → polarization NL

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \left\langle \left( \frac{e\phi}{T} \right)^2 \right\rangle_{ZF} \right] \approx \frac{\sum_k |S_{k,q}|^2 \tau_{c_{k,q}}}{|\epsilon_{neo}(q)|^2}$$

emission from 'drift-mode' interaction  
 ↓  
 production  
 ↓  
 neoclassical response

- Production ↔ beat drive
- Response (neoclassical)

- Rosenbluth-Hinton '97 et seq (extended)

Increasing  $I_p$  decreases  $\rho_\theta$  and off-sets weaker ZF drive

$$\left( \frac{e\hat{\phi}}{T} \right)_{ZF} \approx \int \frac{S_{k,q}}{\left( 1 + 1.16 \frac{(q(r))^2}{\epsilon^{1/2}} \right) q_r^2 \rho_i^2} dt$$

classical                      neo                      zonal wave #

# Revisiting Feedback in Reduced Model (c.f. Singh, P.D. PPCF '21)

- How combine noise, neoclassical dielectric and feedback dynamics? → back to Predator-Prey...

Limiting reduction  
of complex ZF,  
corrugation  
evolution

$$\frac{\partial E_t}{\partial t} = \gamma E_t - \overset{\text{shear}}{\sigma E_v E_t} - \overset{\text{satn.}}{\eta E_t^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial E_v}{\partial t} = \overset{\text{modulation growth}}{\sigma E_t E_v} - \overset{\text{damping}}{\gamma_d E_v} + \overset{\text{nonlinear noise model}}{\beta E_t^2}$$

$$\sigma \sim \epsilon_{neo}^{-1} \sim B_\theta^2 \sim I_p^2$$

$$\beta \sim \epsilon_{neo}^{-2} \sim B_\theta^4 \sim I_p^4$$

High  $B_\theta$  enhances ZF coupling

N.B.:  $I_p$  enhances modulational growth

High  $B_\theta$  enhances “noise” for Z.F.

\*

Re: Developments:

- Zonal flow and turbulence always co-exist \*
- Zonal flow energy increases with current
- Turbulence energy never reaches ‘old’ modulation threshold
- Zonal cross-correlation import TBD

cf: extends P.D. et. al. '94; Kim, PD '03

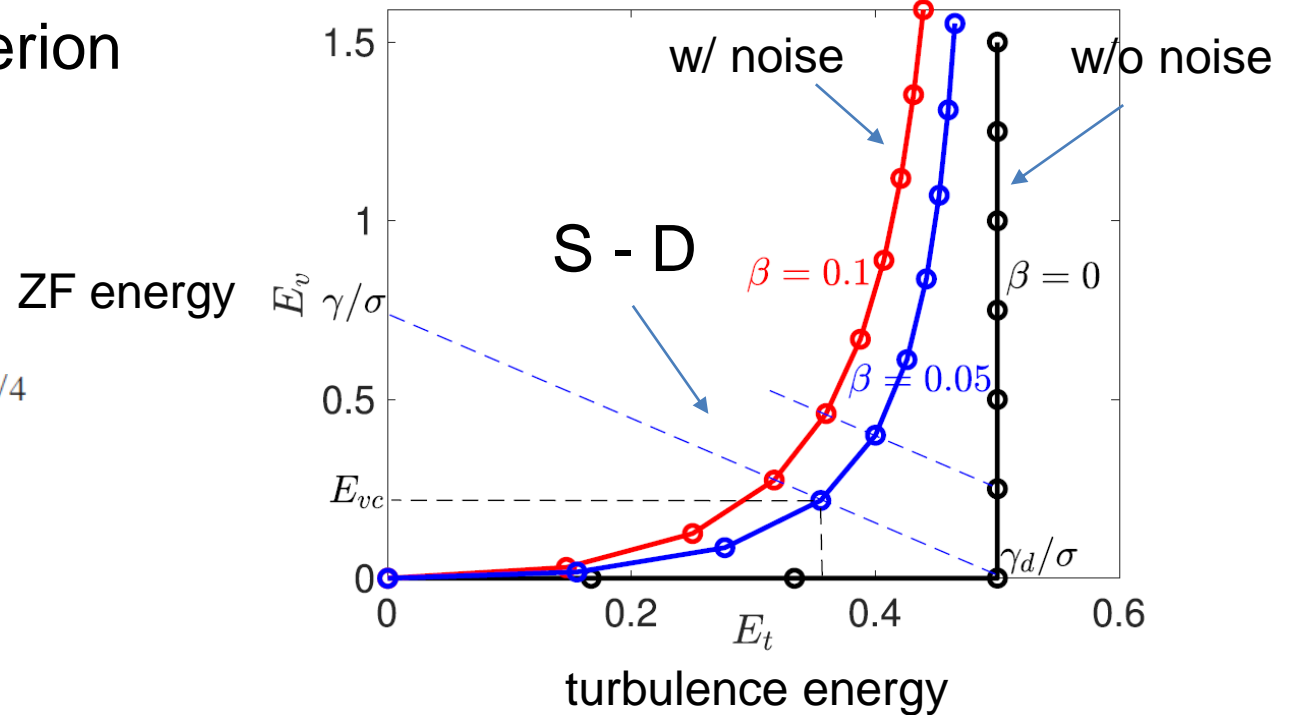
# Criterion for Shear Layer Collapse

- For collapse limit, criterion without noise is good approximation to with noise
- Derive shear layer persistence criterion

$$\frac{\rho_s}{(\rho_\theta L_n)^{\frac{1}{2}}} > \text{crit.}$$

$$\text{crit.} = \left[ \frac{\eta}{\Omega_i} \frac{\gamma_d}{2k_x^2 \rho_s^2 \Theta \Omega_i^2} \frac{\hat{\alpha}}{q_\perp^2 \rho_s^2} \frac{(1 + q_\perp^2 \rho_s^2)^3}{q_y^2 \rho_s^2} \right]^{1/4}$$

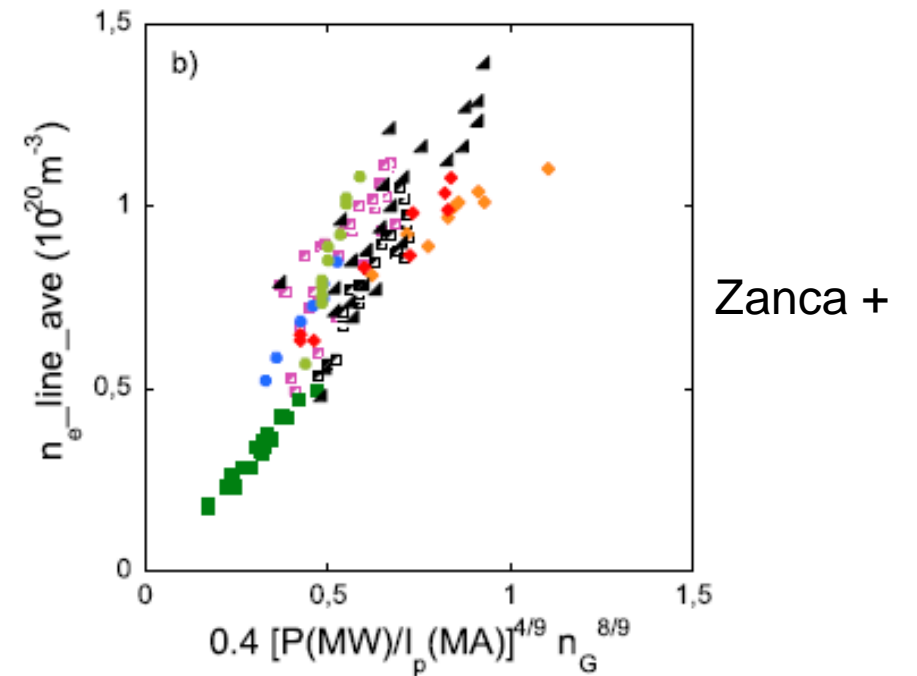
→ Dimensionless parameter  $\frac{\rho_s}{(\rho_\theta L_n)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$



Larger  $B_\theta$  enhances persistence of ZF

# Power Scaling and Physics of L-mode Density Limit (Singh, P.D. PPCF 2022)

- Power Scaling is an old story, keeps returning
- Zanca (2019) fits  $\rightarrow \bar{n} \sim P^{1/4}$   
↑
- Ricci + Simulations...
- $Q_{i|bndry}$  will drive shear layer  $\rightarrow$  LH mechanism
- $P_{scaling} \leftrightarrow$  shear layer physics?



# Expanded Kim-Diamond Model

- KD '03 – useful model of L→H dynamics
- See also Miki, P.D. et al '12, et. seq.
- Evolve  $\varepsilon, V_{ZF}, n, T_i$

↔

- Treats mean and zonal shearing
- Separates density and temperature contributions to  $P_i$
- Heat and particle sources

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial t} = \frac{a_1 \gamma(N, T) \varepsilon}{1 + a_3 \mathcal{V}^2} - a_2 \varepsilon^2 - \frac{a_4 v_z^2 \varepsilon}{1 + b_2 \mathcal{V}^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial v_z^2}{\partial t} = \frac{b_1 \varepsilon v_z^2}{1 + b_2 \mathcal{V}^2} - b_3 n v_z^2 + b_4 \varepsilon^2$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = -c_1 \frac{\varepsilon T}{1 + c_2 \mathcal{V}^2} - c_3 T + Q$$

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -d_1 \frac{\varepsilon n}{1 + d_2 \mathcal{V}^2} - d_3 n + S$$

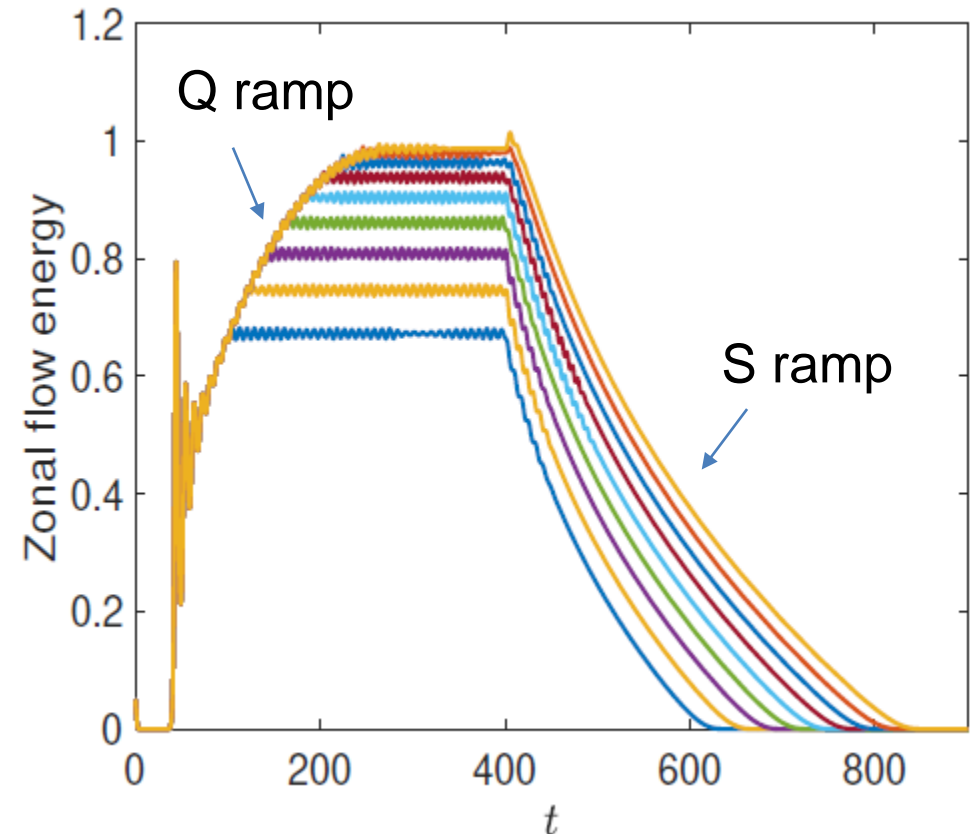
$$V_E' = -\rho_i v_{thi} L_n^{-1} (L_n^{-1} + L_T^{-1})$$

$$\mathcal{V} \equiv \frac{V_E' a}{\sigma^* v_{thi}} = -\frac{n_0}{n} \mathcal{N} \left( \frac{n_0}{n} \mathcal{N} + \frac{T_0}{T} \mathcal{T} \right)$$



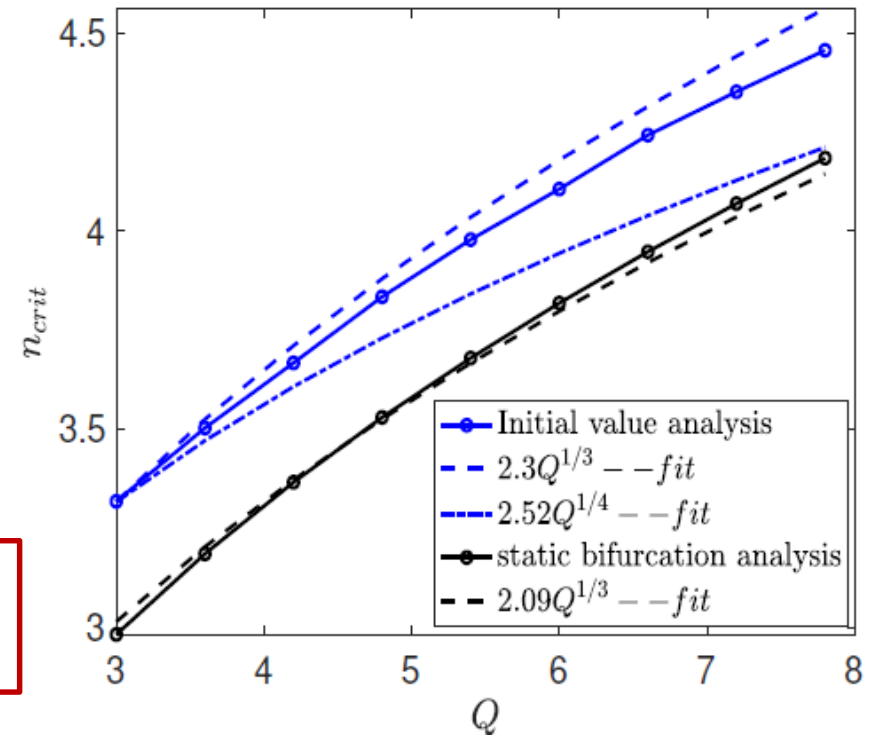
# L → DL Studies: Shear Layer Physics ↔ Power Scaling

- Look for shear layer collapse
- $Q$  ramp-up to L-mode, followed by  $S$  ramp-up
- Oscillations → predator-prey
- $n$  for ZF collapse increases with  $S$
- $Q$  scaling  $n_{\text{crit}}$  emerges



# Power Scaling

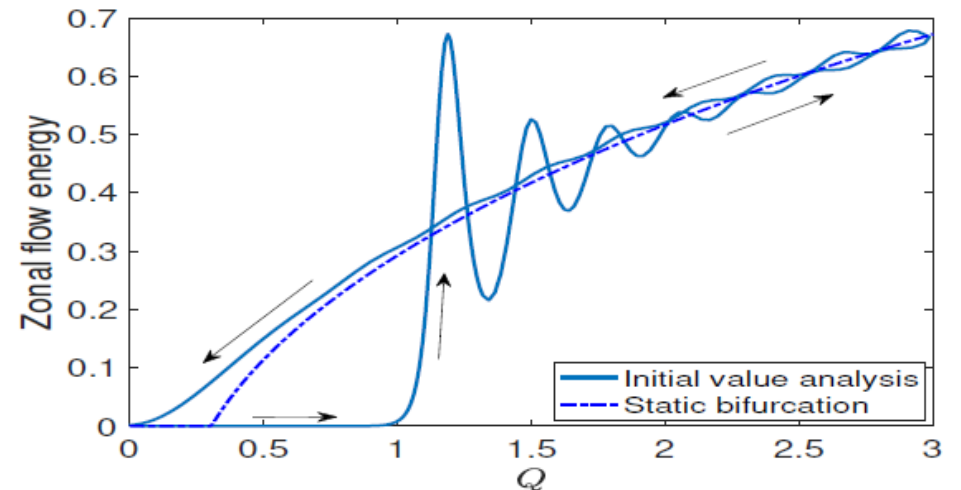
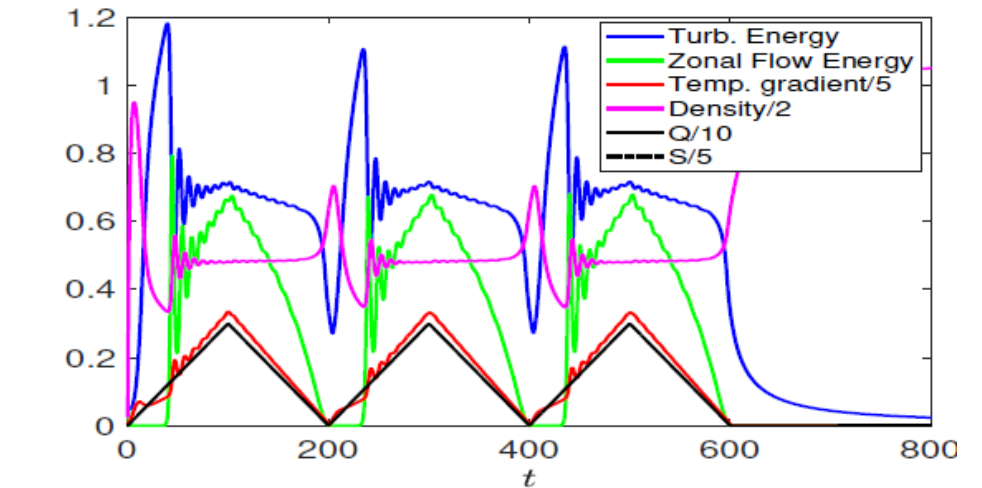
- $n_{crit} \sim Q^{1/3}$
- Distinct from Zanca, but close (model)
- In K-D, with neoclassical screening  $n_{crit} \sim I_p$
- Physics is  $\gamma(\nabla T)$  vs ZF damping
- Shear layer drive underpins power scaling



# If it Flux Like a Duck... (M.N. Rosenbluth, after F. Wagner)

- Hysteresis ! in  $\varepsilon_{ZF}$  vs  $Q$  → Critical slowing down effect
- Expected, given 2 states transport
- Not familiar bistability !
- Physics prediction... beyond scaling
- Is there torque scaling of density limit, i.e.

$$\nabla P/n \text{ vs } B_{\theta} V_{\phi} ?$$



# From L-DL to H-DL

- H-mode density limit is back transition  $H \rightarrow L$  at high density, usually followed by progression to  $n_{\text{Greenwald}}$
- Key issue ! N.B. gentle “pump-and-puff” (Mahdavi) has beat Greenwald  $\leftrightarrow$  strong shear layer...
- Candidates

– AUG:  $\alpha_{MHD}$  at separatrix (Eich, Manz)

$$\lambda: v_D * \begin{cases} \tau_T \\ \tau_{\text{cond}} \end{cases}$$

– Goldston, Brown: Conduction broadens SOL, reduces  $V_E' \rightarrow$

So – instability calculated & inward spreading hypothesized

$$\gamma = c_s / (\lambda R)^{1/2} - \phi / \lambda^2$$

- Experiments needed!

c.f. Dog + Tail ?  $\rightarrow$  track inward spreading ?!

# Conclusions: $V'_E$ as Edge Order Parameter

- Density limits as back-transition phenomena;  $V'_E$  physics crucial
  - L-DL mechanism:
    - Shear layer collapse
    - Strong turbulence spreading
  - $\alpha$  is key parameter, but not only
  - Scalings of L-DL merge from zonal flow physics
    - $I_p$  scaling  $\rightarrow$  neo dielectric
    - $P$  scaling  $\rightarrow$  Reynolds stress, radial force balance
  - Novel hysteresis evident in L-DL dynamics
  - $H \rightarrow DL$  back transition triggers unclear
- $\leftrightarrow$  Lessons from  $L \rightarrow H$  transition broadly applicable !

**Thank You !**

**Back-Up**

# Preview: A Developing Story

## From Linear Zoology to Self-Regulation and its Breakdown

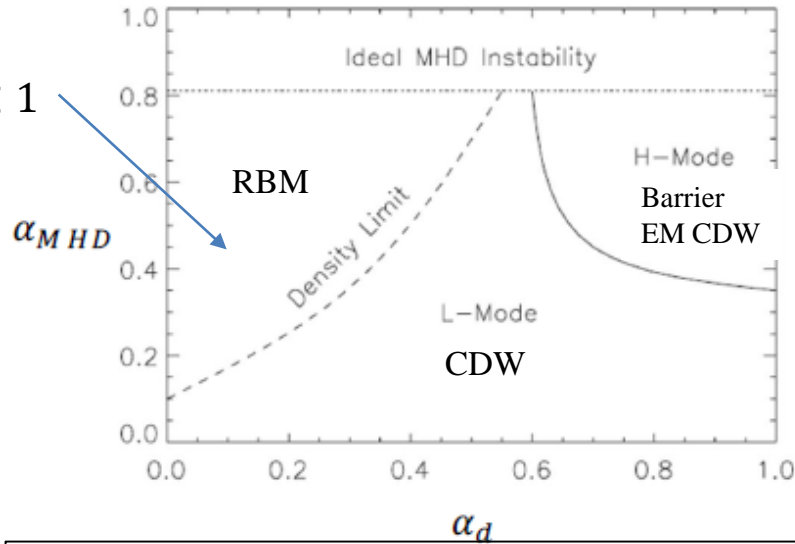
1-mode per regime

(Drake and Rogers, PRL, 1998)

(Hajjar et al., PoP, 2018)

$$\alpha = \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 V_{the}^2}{\omega \nu}$$

$\alpha < 1$



State	Electrons	Turbulence Regulation
Base State - L-mode	Adiabatic or Collisionless $\alpha > 1$ Weak damping	Secondary modes (ZFs and GAMs)
H-mode	Irrelevant	Mean ExB shear $\nabla p_i/n$
Degraded particle confinement (Density Limit)	Hydrodynamic $\alpha < 1$ or damped	None - ZF collapse due weak production

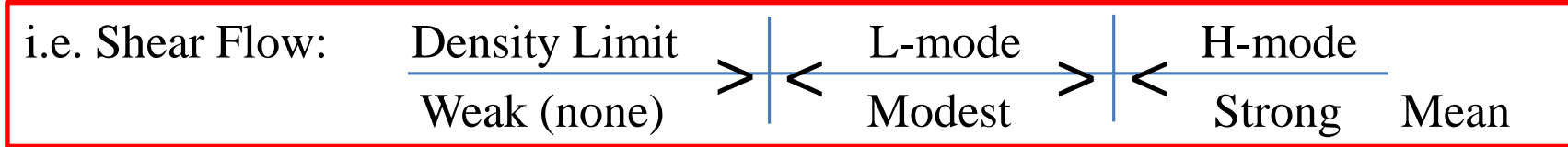
→ I-mode

Secondary modes and states of particle confinement

- $\alpha_{MHD} = -\frac{Rq^2 d\beta}{dr} \rightarrow \nabla P$  and **ballooning drive** to explain the phenomenon of density limit.
- Invokes yet another linear instability of RBM.
- **What about density limit phenomenon in plasmas with a low  $\beta$ ?**

L-mode: Turbulence is *regulated* by shear flows, but not suppressed.  
H-mode: *Mean ExB* shear  $\leftrightarrow \nabla p_i$  suppresses turbulence and transport.  
Density Limit: High levels of turbulence and particle transport, as shear flows collapse.

Unified Picture →



Edge shear – as – order parameter

L → DL as a “back-transition”!?



# A Brief History of Density Limits

## → Conventional Wisdom

- High density → edge cooling (transport?!)
- Cooling edge → MARFE (Multi-faceted Axisymmetric Radiation from the Edge) by Earl Marmor and Steve Wolfe

MARFE = Radiative Condensation Instability in Strong  $B_0$

after G. Field '64, via J.F. Drake '87 : Anisotropic conduction is key

- MARFE → Contract J-profile → Tearing, Island ... → Disruption  
after: Rebut, Hugon '84, ... , Gates ...
- But: more than macroscopics going on...

# Shear Layer in L-mode?

- Shear layer impacts/regulates edge turbulence even in Ohmic/L-mode, enhanced in H-mode
- Ritz, et. al. 1990

$v_{ph}$  - closed

$v_{pl}$  - open

density

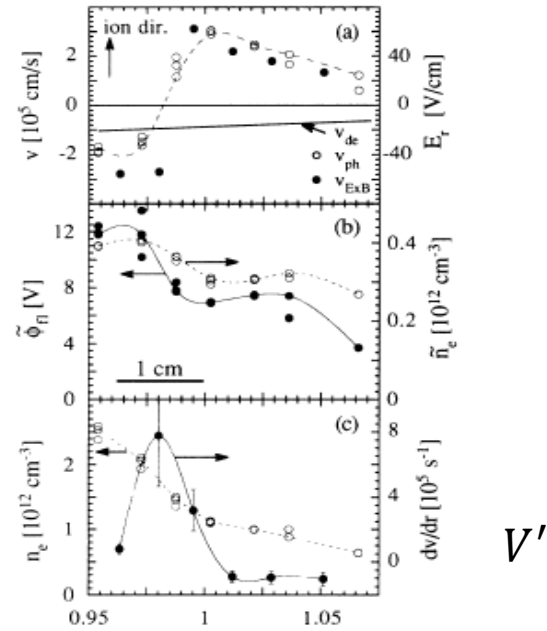


FIG. 1. Radial profiles for a discharge with  $B_e = 2$  T, plasma current of 200 kA, and chord-averaged density of  $n_{chord} = 2 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . (a) Phase velocity of the fluctuations  $v_{ph}$  (closed circles),  $v_{E \times B}$  plasma rotation (open circles), and drift velocity  $v_{dr}$ . (b) Density and floating potential fluctuations. (c) Density and velocity shear. The statistical error for individual shots is of order the symbol size and shot-to-shot reproducibility is given by the individual symbols. The systematic error in the plasma position is 0.5 cm or  $r/a \approx 0.02$ .

Shear layer

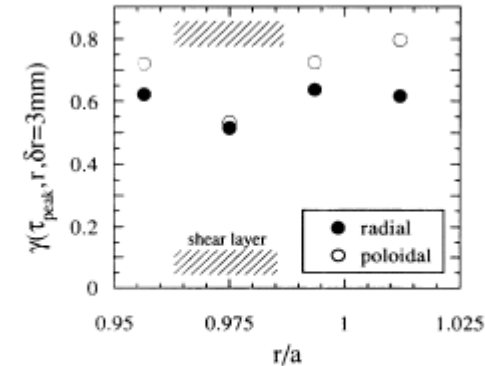


FIG. 3. Peak values of the normalized two-point correlation function for poloidally and radially separated probes with fixed separations of  $\delta r = 3$  mm.

Peak correlation

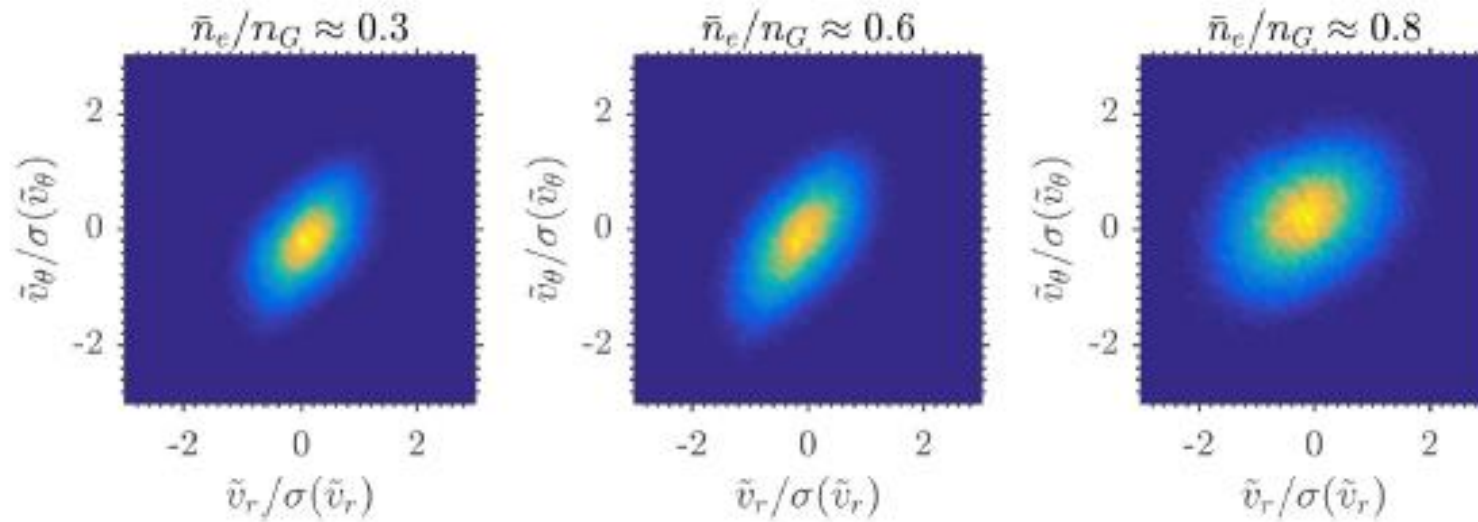
Title: “Evidence for Confinement Improvement by Velocity Shear Suppression of Edge Turbulence”

n.b. not H-mode!

➔ Role of Shear Layer in L → DL ?

# Fluctuation + $n/n_G$ scan, R. Hong et. al. (NF 2018)

Distribution  
Fluctuating  
Velocities



- Joint pdf of  $\tilde{V}_r, \tilde{V}_\theta$  for 3 densities,  $\bar{n} \rightarrow n_G$
- $r - r_{sep} = -1cm$
- Note:

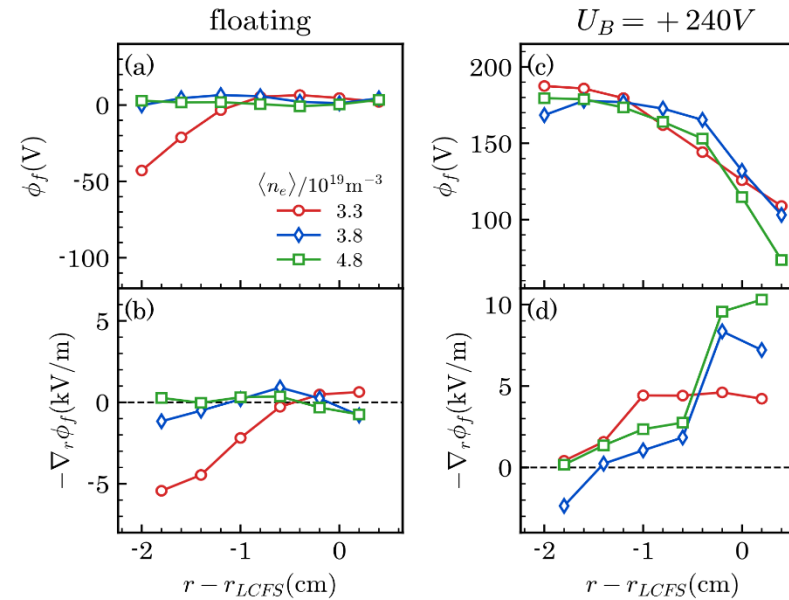


- Tilt lost, symmetry restored as  $\bar{n} \rightarrow \bar{n}_g$
- Consistent with drop in  $P_{Re}$  observed

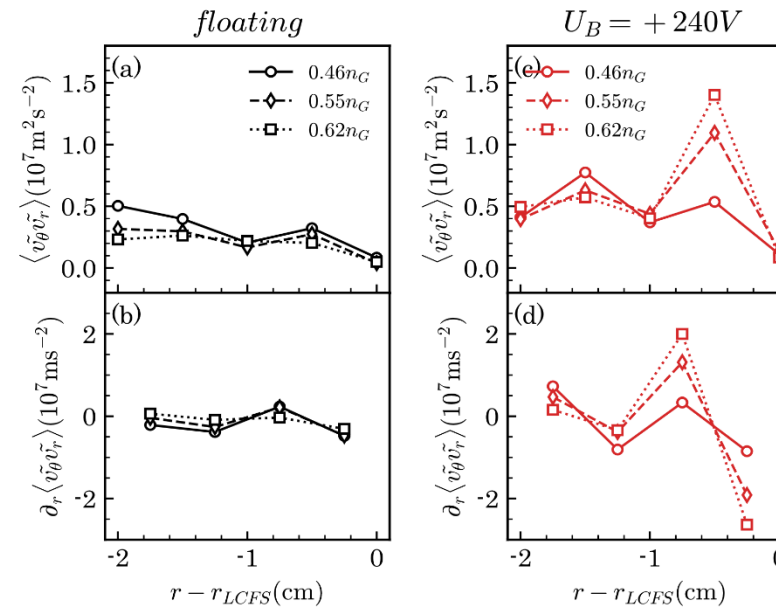
→ Weakened shear flow  
production by Reynolds stress  
as  $n \rightarrow n_g$

# The Physics

- Edge Shear Layer produced for +bias

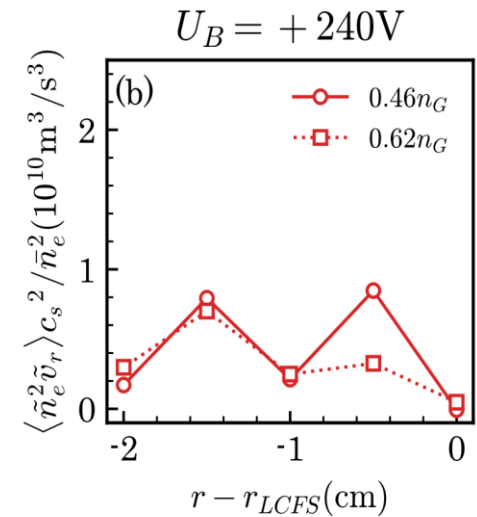
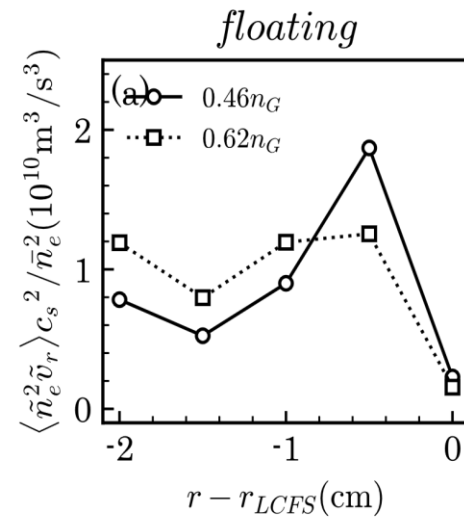
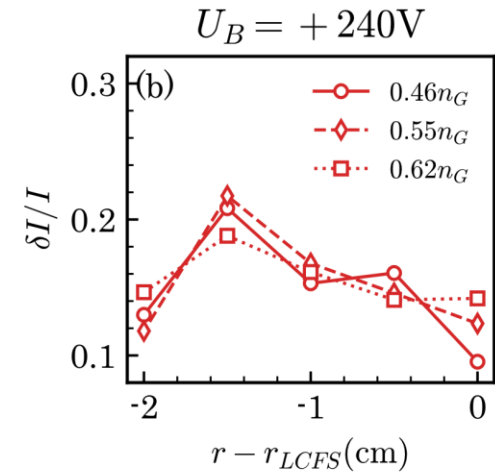
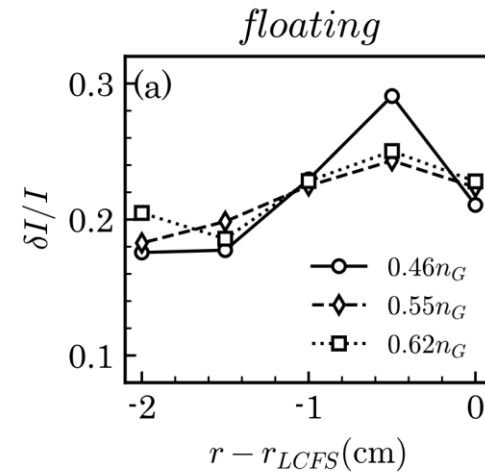


- Reynolds stress, force increase for +bias



# The Physics

- $\delta I/I$  ( $\rightarrow \tilde{n}/n$ ) fluctuations sharply reduced by +bias

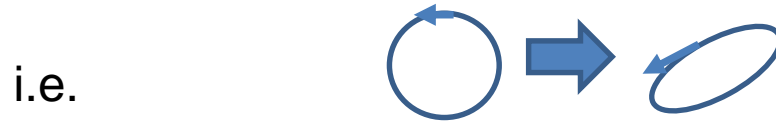


- Turbulence spreading quenched by +bias

# Step Back: Zonal Flows Ubiquitous! Why?

- Direct proportionality of wave group velocity and wave energy density flux to Reynolds stress  $\leftrightarrow$  spectral correlation  $\langle k_x k_y \rangle$

Causality  $\leftrightarrow$  Eddy Tilting



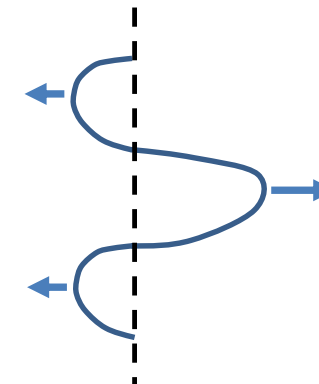
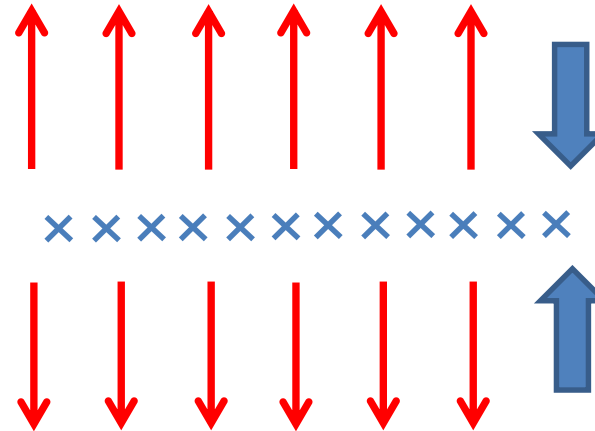
$$\omega_k = -\beta k_x / k_{\perp}^2 : (\text{Rossby})$$

$$\rightarrow V_{g,y} = 2\beta k_x k_y / (k_{\perp}^2)^2$$

$$\rightarrow \langle \tilde{V}_y \tilde{V}_x \rangle = -\sum_k k_x k_y |\phi_k|^2$$

$$\text{So: } V_g > 0 (\beta > 0) \leftrightarrow k_x k_y > 0 \rightarrow \langle \tilde{V}_y \tilde{V}_x \rangle < 0$$

Propagation  $\leftrightarrow$  Stress



- Outgoing waves generate a flow convergence!  $\rightarrow$  Shear layer spin-up

## But NOT for hydro convective cells: (i.e. $\alpha < 1$ )

- $\omega_r = \left[ \frac{|\omega_{*e}| \hat{\alpha}}{2k_{\perp}^2 \rho_S^2} \right]^{1/2} \rightarrow$  for convective cell of H-W (enveloped damped)
- $V_{gr} = -\frac{2k_r \rho_S^2}{k_{\perp}^2 \rho_S^2} \omega_r \quad \leftarrow ?? \rightarrow \quad \langle \tilde{V}_r \tilde{V}_{\theta} \rangle = -\langle k_r k_{\theta} \rangle;$  direct link broken!

$\rightarrow$  Energy flux NOT simply proportional to Momentum flux  $\rightarrow$



$\rightarrow$  Eddy tilting ( $\langle k_r k_{\theta} \rangle$ ) does not arise as direct consequence of causality

$\rightarrow$  ZF generation not 'natural' outcome in hydro regime!

$\rightarrow$  Physical picture of shear flow collapse emerges, as change in branching ratio of vorticity flux to particle flux as  $\alpha$  drops

# Simulations !?

- Extensive studies of Hasegawa-Wakatani system for  $k_{\parallel}^2 V_{the}^2 / \omega \nu < 1, > 1$  regimes.
  - i.e. Numata, et al '07
  - Gamargo, et al '95
  - Ghantous and Gurcan '15
  - + many others
- All note weakening or collapse of ordered shear flow in hydrodynamic regime ( $k_{\parallel}^2 V_{the}^2 / \omega \nu < 1$ ), which resembles 2D fluid/vortex turbulence – i.e.  $\alpha < 1$
- Physics of collapse left un-addressed, as adiabatic regime ( $k_{\parallel}^2 V_{the}^2 \omega / \nu$ ) dynamics of primary interest – ZFs
- Shear Layer Collapse  $\leftrightarrow \alpha < 1$  Generic





# Screening in the Plateau Regime!? (Relevant)

## N.B. Ions!

$$\left(\frac{\phi_k(\infty)}{\phi_k(0)}\right)^{ZF} = \frac{\epsilon^2/q(r)^2}{(\epsilon/q(r))^2 + L} \approx \frac{\epsilon^2/q(r)^2}{L} = \frac{1}{L} \left(\frac{B_\theta}{B_T}\right)^2$$

$$L = \frac{3}{2} \int_0^{1-\epsilon} d\lambda \frac{\int d\theta}{2\pi} h^2 \rho \approx 1 - \frac{4}{3\pi} (2\epsilon)^{3/2}$$

- Favorable  $I_p$  scaling of time asymptotic RH response persists in plateau regime. Robust trend.
- Compare to Banana ( $L = 1$ );

$$\left(\frac{\phi_k(\infty)}{\phi_k(0)}\right)^{ZF} = \left(\frac{B_\theta}{B_T}\right)^2 \quad \text{Current scaling but smaller ratio}$$

# Speculations

- Is H-DL due turbulent degradation of  $V'_E$  in pedestal? Mechanism?
- Can external means (NTV?) be used to enhance edge density?
- Collisionless regimes? -  $\nabla_n$  TEM
- D-L-H triple point, ala' phase transitions?
- New states:
  - Fusion power + L-mode  $n_{\text{crit}}(Q)$  ?
  - Neg. Tri. ?

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# A Look at Density Limit Phenomenology

## → Greenwald Limit

$$\bar{n} = \bar{n}_G \sim I_p / \pi a^2$$

→ Line averaged

→ Critical to ITER, CFETR, FPP, ...

# Coming Attractions

- Re-visit bias experiment with tungsten probe +
- Slow bias ramp  $\uparrow \downarrow \rightarrow$  causality, hysteresis
- $I_p$  ramp down (M. Greenwald)
- Theory

# **Some Theoretical Matters**

## Current Scaling, cont'd

$$(\tilde{V}'_E)_Z \approx \frac{S_{k,q}}{\left[ \rho_i^2 + 1.6 \epsilon_T^{\frac{3}{2}} \rho_{\theta i}^2 \right]} \sim P \frac{\left( \frac{e\phi}{T} \right)^2}{\rho_{\theta i}^2} \sim B_\theta^2 P \left( \frac{e\phi}{T} \right)_{DW}^2$$

production factor

Production  $\leftrightarrow \tau_c$

- Higher current strengthens ZF shear, for fixed drive
- Can “prop-up” shear layer vs weaker production
- Collisionality? – Edge of interest!?