

**Electric Field Profile as the Order Parameter  
for the Edge Plasma:  
From L→H Transition to Density Limit**

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Royal Society Meeting '22

This research was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, under Award Number DEFG02-04ER54738.

Or

**How the Birth and DEATH of Shear Layers**

**Determines Confinement Transitions**

**→ Transport Physics of Density Limit**

Or

**Old  $L \rightarrow H$  Wine in New Bottles**

# Collaborators:

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(NF 2021, PoP 2018, PPCF 2021, NF – in preparation)

Experiments: Ting Long, Rui Ke, and J-TEXT and SWIP Teams

Rongjie Hong, G. Tynan and HL-2A Teams

(NF 2021, NF 2018, NF – submitted 2022)

## Acknowledge:

M. Greenwald, C. Hidalgo, A. Garofalo,

G. McKee, Z. Yan, C. Holland, P. Manz, N. Fedorczak,

L. Schmitz, H.J. Sun

# Outline

- 40 years of H-mode → the Lessons
- ‘Phases’ and Transitions of the Edge plasma →  $V_E'$  as Order Parameter
- OV of Density Limit Phenomenology (L-mode)
- Reality: Some Recent Experiments
- Theory: L → DL-Back Transition Model, Power Scaling Physics (K-D returns!)
- The H-mode Density Limit – Thoughts
- Conclusion

# 40 Years of H-mode - Lessons

- Saved MFE from Goldston scaling

Also:

- 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
- Need for transport regulation, not transport elimination

# Phases and Transitions of the Edge Plasma

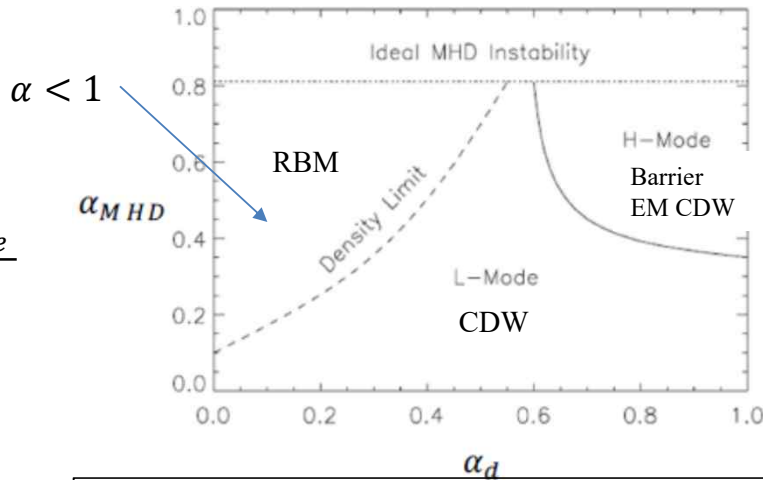
# Preview: A Developing Story

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

1-mode per regime

(Drake and Rogers, PRL, 1998)

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



- $\alpha_{MHD} = -\frac{Rq^2 d\beta}{dr} \rightarrow \nabla P$  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  $\beta$ ?**

(Hajjar et al., PoP, 2018)

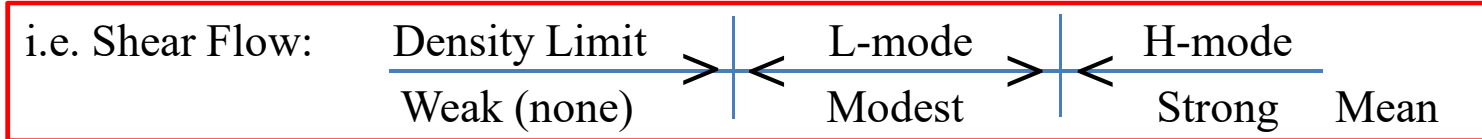
State	Electrons	Turbulence Regulation
Base State - L-mode	Adiabatic or Collisionless $\alpha > 1$ Weak damping	Secondary modes (ZFs and GAMs)
H-mode	Irrelevant	Mean ExB shear $\nabla p_i/n$
Degraded particle confinement (Density Limit)	Hydrodynamic $\alpha < 1$	None - ZF collapse due weak production

→ I-mode

Secondary modes and states of particle confinement

- 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”!?



# 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

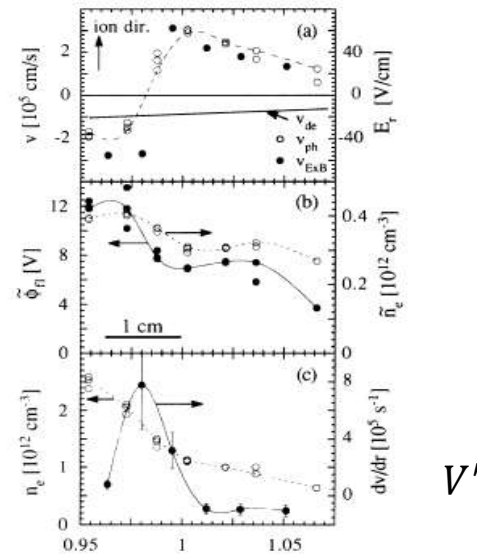
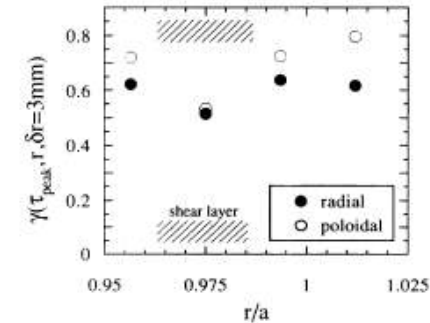


FIG. 1. Radial profiles for a discharge with  $B_0 = 2$  T, plasma current of 200 kA, and chord-averaged density of  $n_{\text{chord}} = 2 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . (a) Phase velocity of the fluctuations  $v_{\text{ph}}$  (closed circles),  $v_{E \times B}$  plasma rotation (open circles), and drift velocity  $v_{\text{dr}}$ . (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



Peak correlation

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.

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

n.b. not H-mode!

➔ Role of Shear Layer in L → DL ?

# 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, ...

# A Brief History of Density Limits → Conventional Wisdom

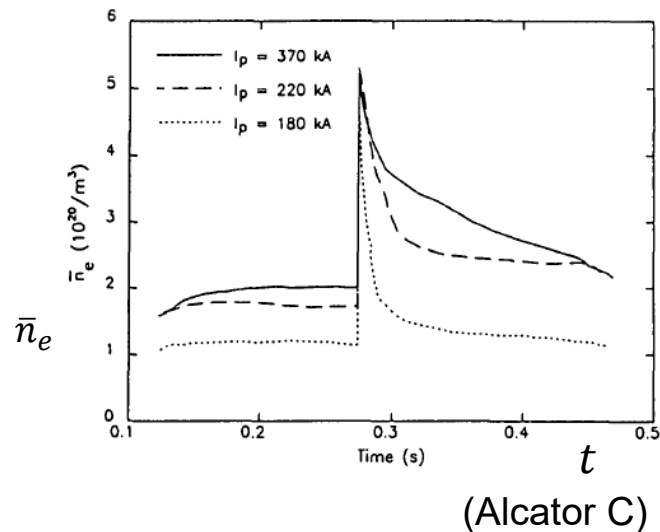
- High density → edge cooling (transport?!)
- Cooling edge → MARFE (Multi-faceted Axisymmetric Radiation from the Edge) by Earl Marmor and Steve Wolfe

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...

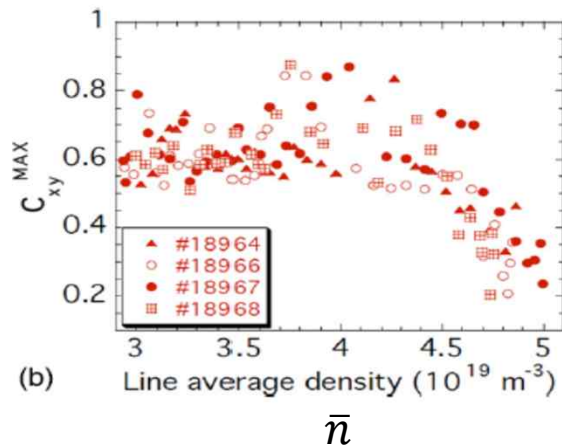
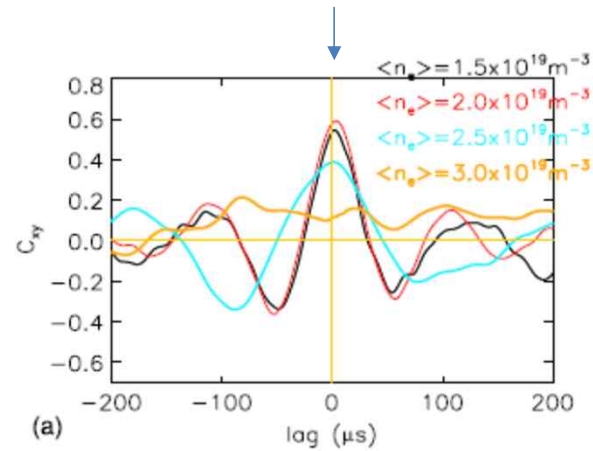
- Argue: Edge Particle Transport is fundamental
  - ‘Disruptive’ scenarios secondary outcome, largely consequence of edge cooling, following fueling vs. increased particle transport
  - $\bar{n}_g$  reflects fundamental limit imposed by particle transport
- An Important Experiment (Greenwald, et. al. ‘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?!

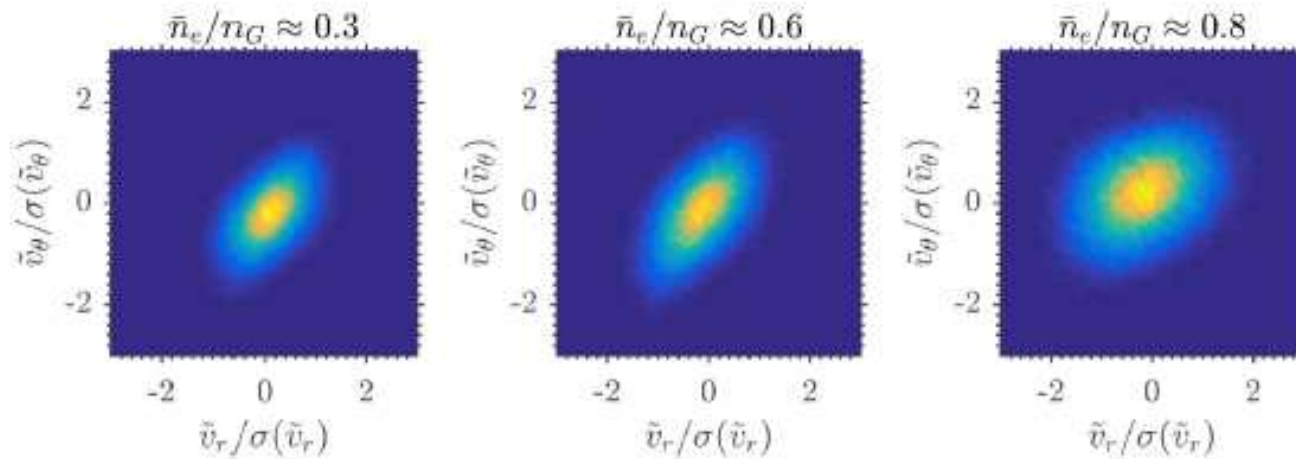


**Yes !**

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

# 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,  $\bar{n} \rightarrow n_G$
- $r - r_{sep} = -1\sigma$
- 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  $n \rightarrow n_g$

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

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

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

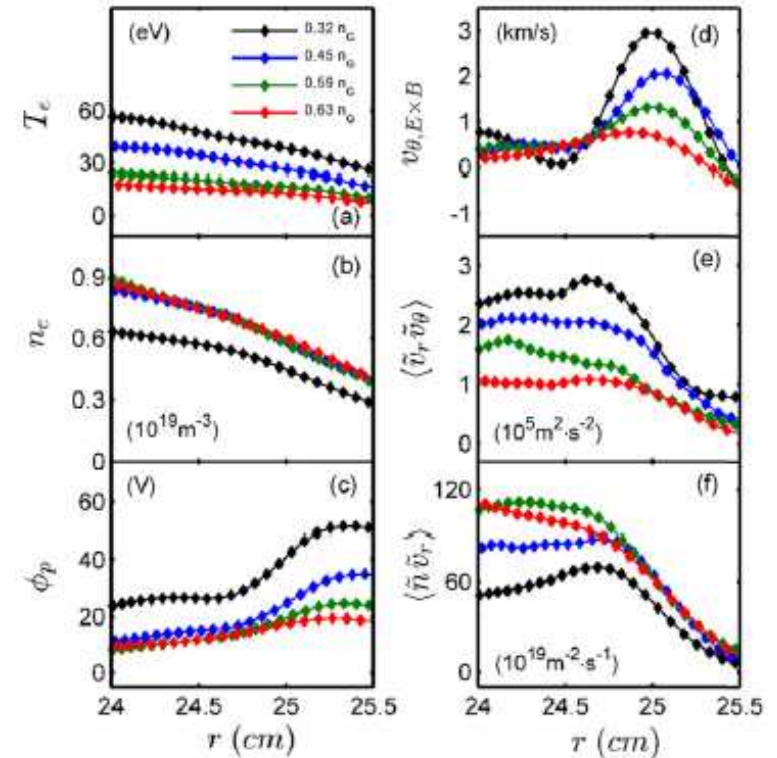
# J-TEXT – Ohmic

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

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

- Principal Diagnostics: Langmuir Probes

- Shear layer collapses as  $n/n_G$  increases
- Turbulence particle flux increases
- Reynolds force decays
- Velocity fluctuation PdF  $\rightarrow$  symmetry





# Mean-Turbulence Couplings

- In standard CDW model:

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

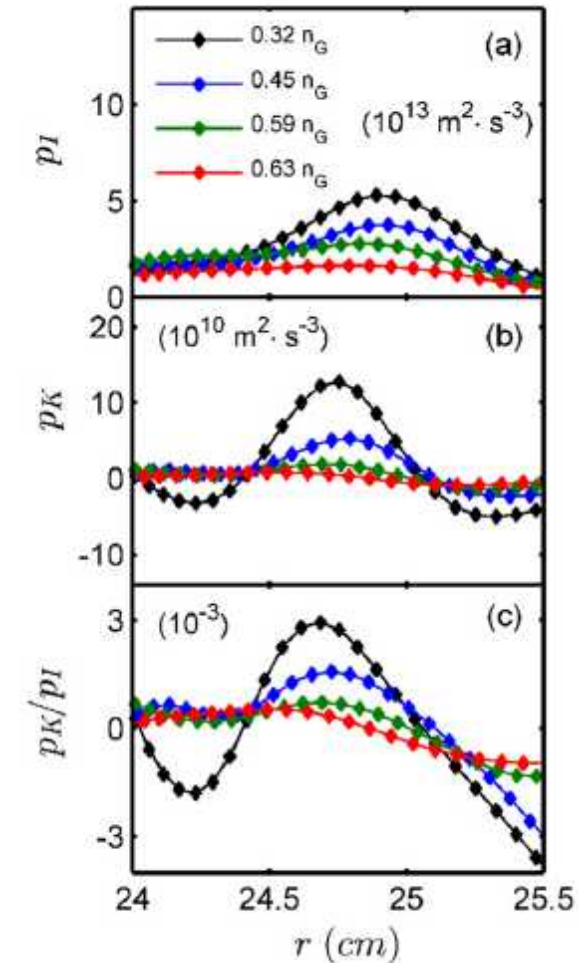
$$\delta n = \tilde{n}/n_0$$

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

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

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

Diagram annotations for the equation above:  
- "Triplet" with an arrow pointing to  $\langle v_r \varepsilon \rangle$   
- "Production" with an arrow pointing to  $P_I$

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

Diagram annotation for the equation above:  
- "Spreading" with an arrow pointing to  $\langle v_r \varepsilon \rangle$

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

$$P_S = -\partial_r \langle \tilde{v}_r \varepsilon_I \rangle = -\partial_r \langle \tilde{v}_r \tilde{n}^2 c_s^2 \rangle / 2n^2 \rightarrow \text{Turbulence Spreading Power}$$

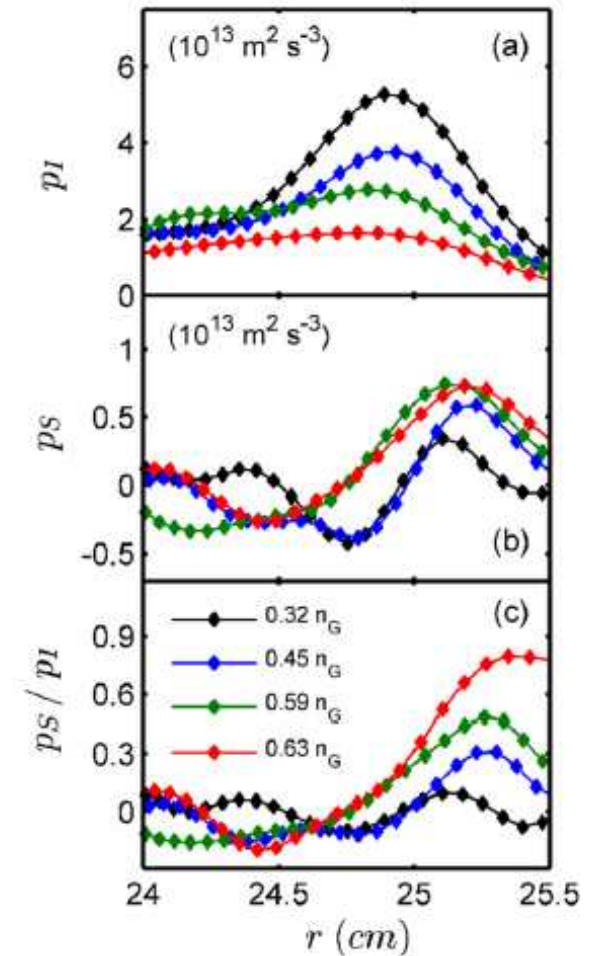
# Fate of the Energy, Cont'd

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

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

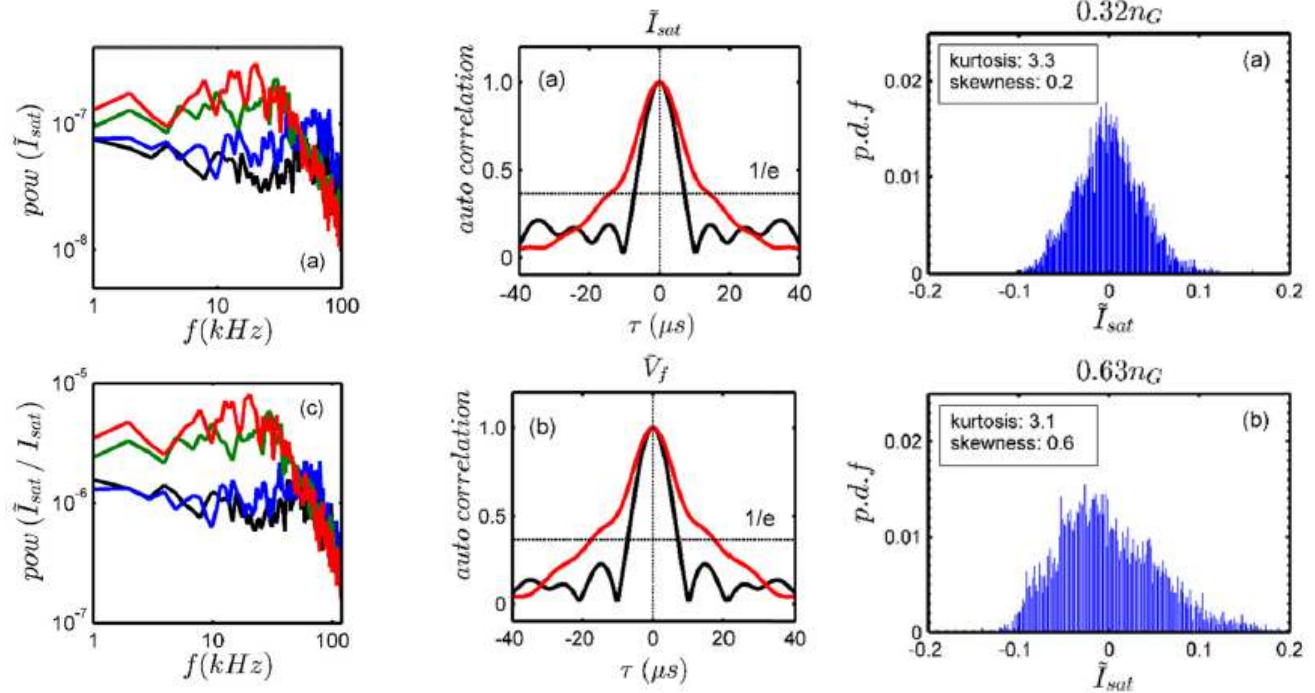
$\approx$  constant

Energy diverted from shear layer to spreading at L→DL



# Characteristics of Spreading

- Low frequency content of  $\tilde{I}_{sat}/I_{sat}$  increases
  - $\tilde{I}_{sat}$  autocorrelation time increases
- Pdf  $\tilde{I}_{sat}$  develops positive skewness as  $n/n_G$  increases



# Characteristics of Spreading, Cont'd

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

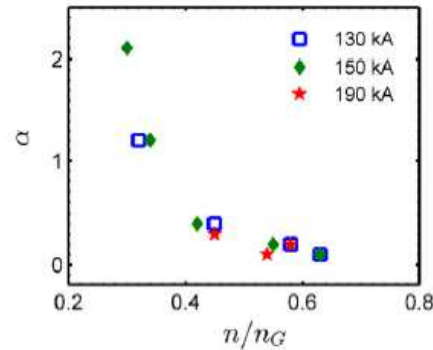
N.B. “The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”

- 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

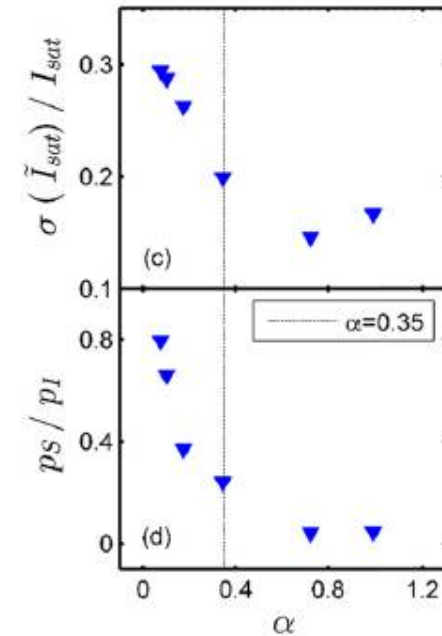
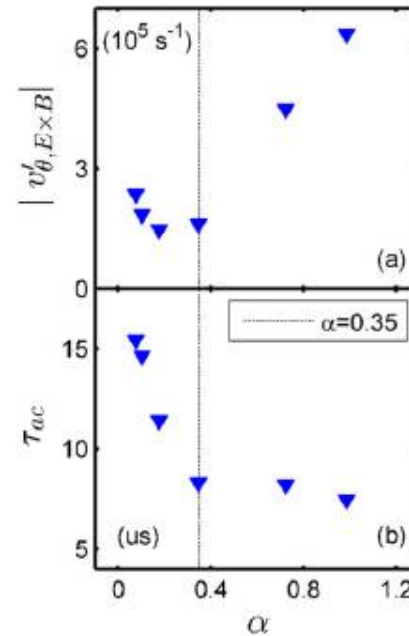


- $V_E'$  rises with  $\alpha \uparrow$


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

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

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

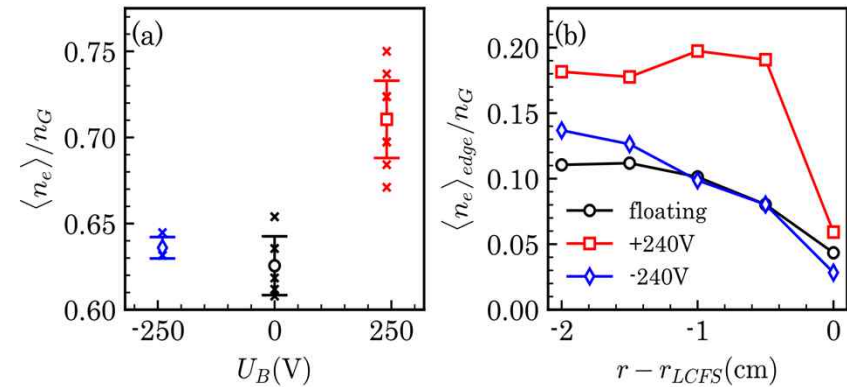


# The Obvious Question

- Can driving the shear layer sustain high densities, where  $L \rightarrow DL$ , otherwise ?
- “Driving”  bias electrode – here (J-TEXT)  
power scan  $\rightarrow$  Theory (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

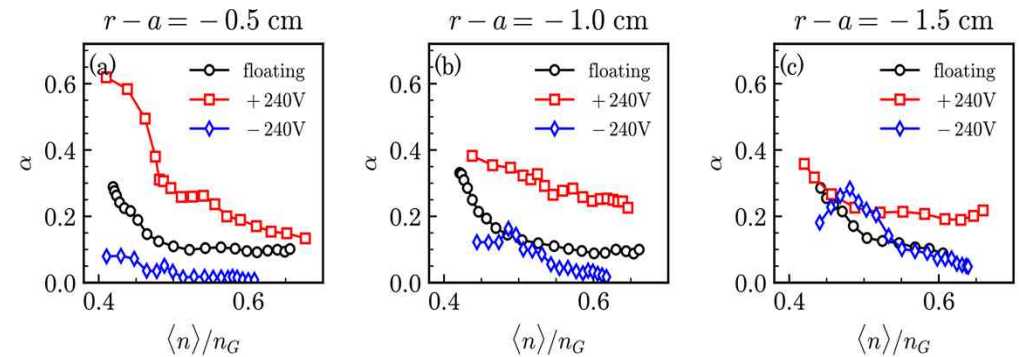
# The Answer – Looks Promising!

- 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

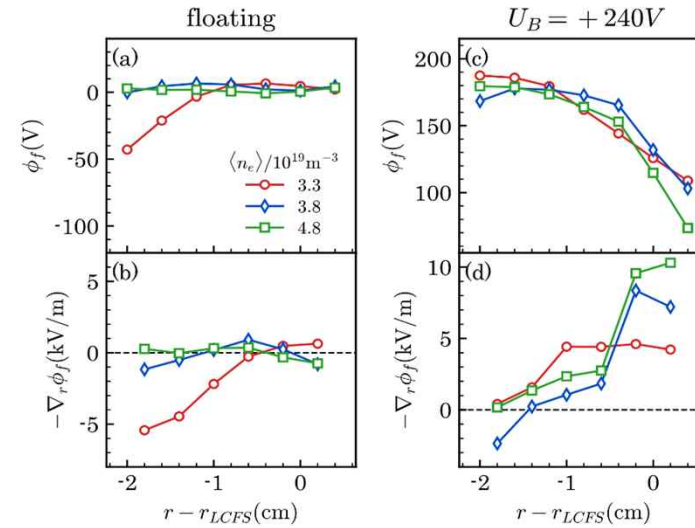
- Key parameter?
  - $\alpha$  systematically higher with +bias
  - $\alpha \sim T^2 / n$



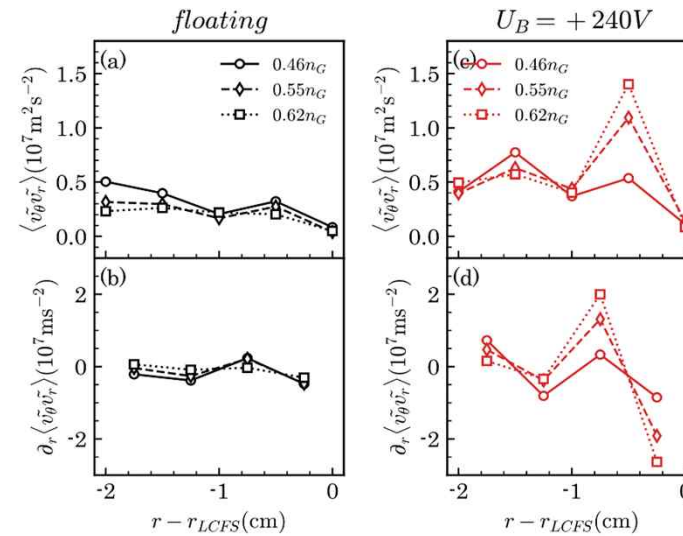


# The Physics

- Edge Shear Layer produced for +bias

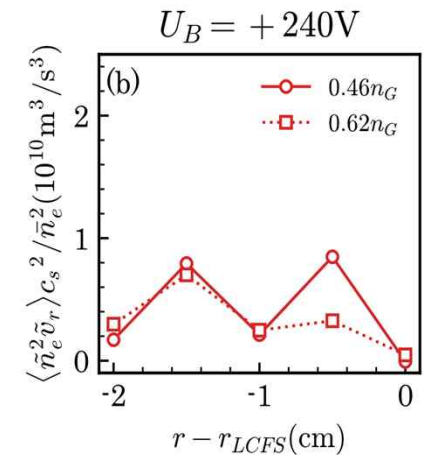
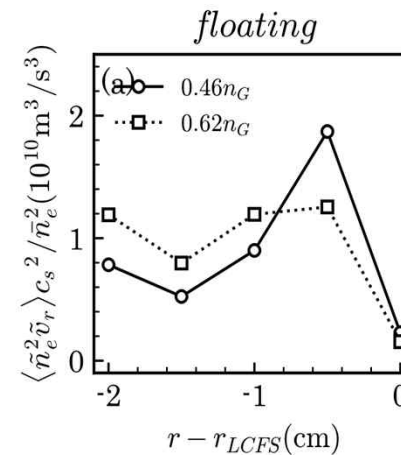
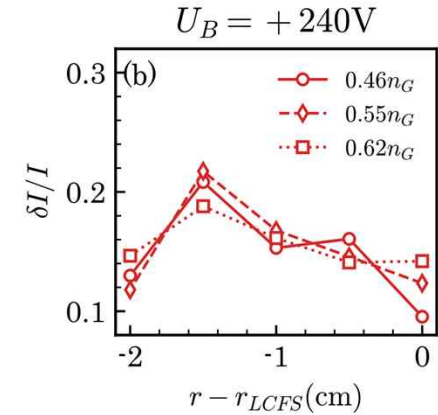
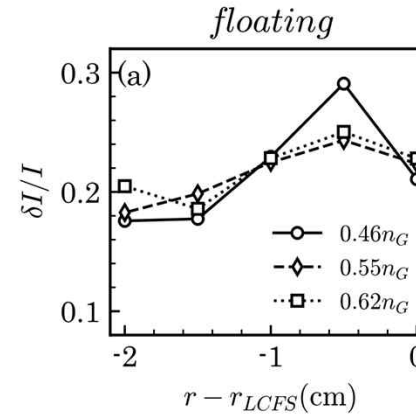


- Reynolds stress, force increase for +bias



# The Physics, Cont'd

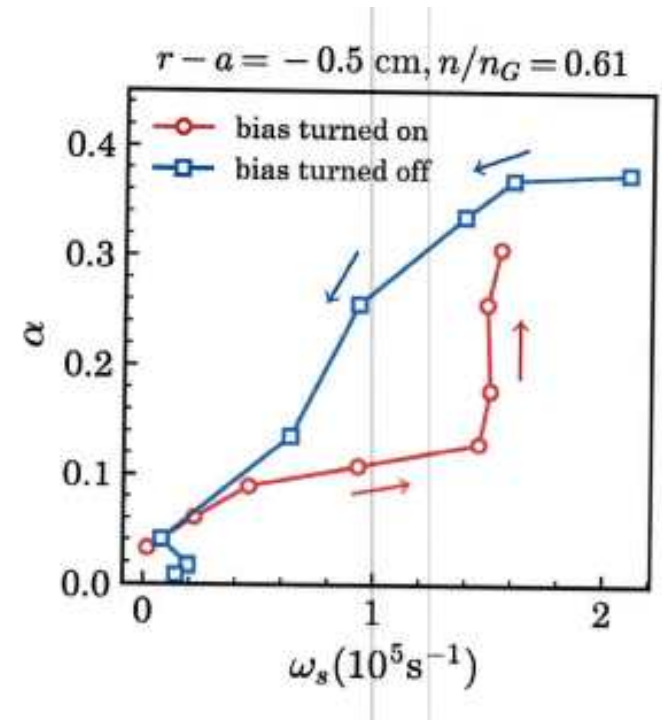
- $\delta I / I$  ( $\rightarrow \tilde{n}/n$ ) fluctuations sharply reduced by +bias



- Turbulence spreading quenched by +bias

# Key Parameter?

- $\alpha$  VS  $\omega_{shear}$  exhibits hysteresis loop during bias switch on,off
- 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  $\downarrow$



# 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**

# 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



## 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



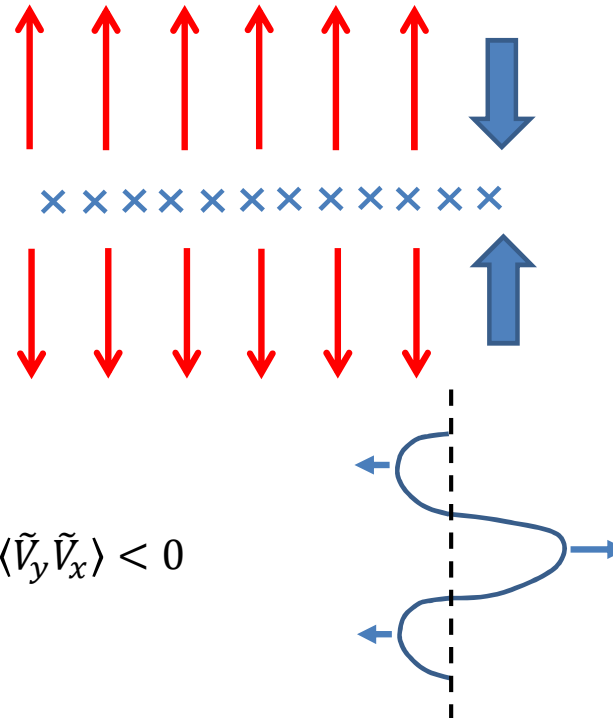
$$\omega_k = -\beta k_x / k_\perp^2 : (\text{Rossby})$$

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

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

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

Propagation  $\leftrightarrow$  Stress



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

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

- $\omega_r = \left[ \frac{|\omega_{*e}| \hat{a}}{2k_{\perp}^2 \rho_s^2} \right]^{1/2} \rightarrow$  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



# Desperately Seeking Greenwald

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

## 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

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

emission from 'drift-mode' interaction
production

- Production ↔ beat drive
- Response (neoclassical)

neoclassical response

- Rosenbluth-Hinton '97 et seq

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 #

## 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!?

## Screening in the Plateau Regime!? (Relevant)

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

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

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

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

# 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

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

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

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

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

High  $B_\theta$  enhances ZF coupling

N.B.:  $I_p$  enhances modulational growth

High  $B_\theta$  enhances noise

\*

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

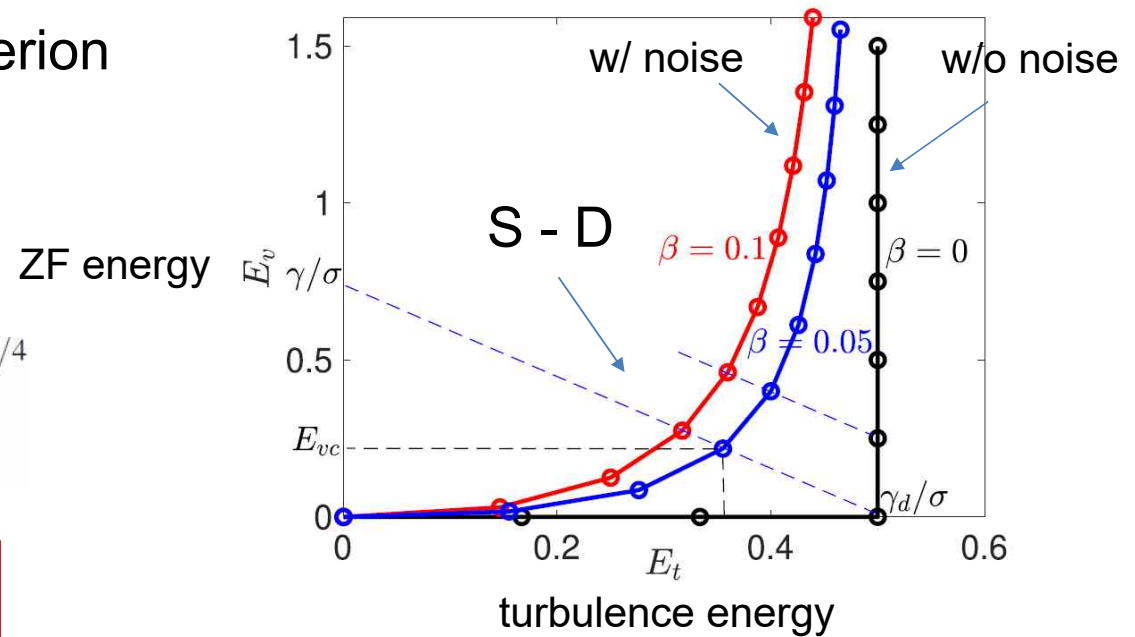
# Criterion for Shear Layer Collapse

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

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

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

→ 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. in preparation)

- Scaling is an old story, keeps returning

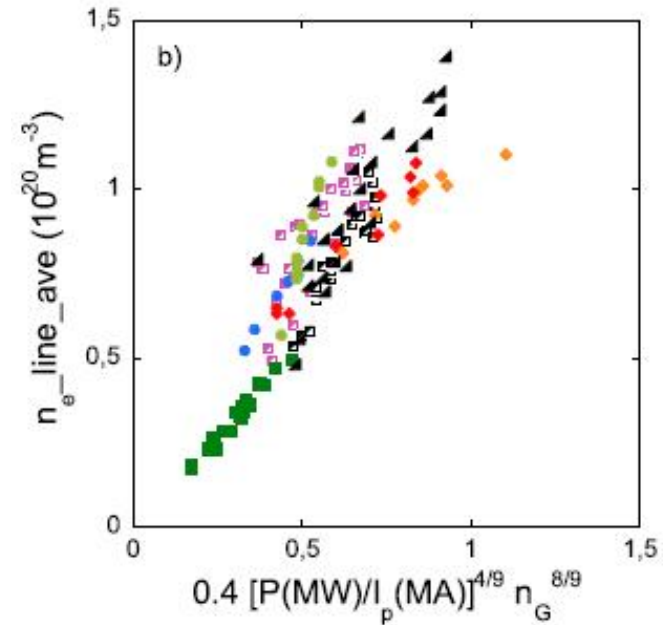
- Zanca (2019) fits  $\rightarrow \bar{n} \sim P^{+4/9}$



- Ricci + Simulations...

- $Q_i|_{\text{bndry}}$  will drive shear layer  $\rightarrow$  familiar from LH mechanism

- $P_{\text{scahg}}$   $\leftrightarrow$  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  $\varepsilon, V_{ZF}, n, T_i$
- Run Model in 'L-mode'
- Coeffs derived for ITG

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

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

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

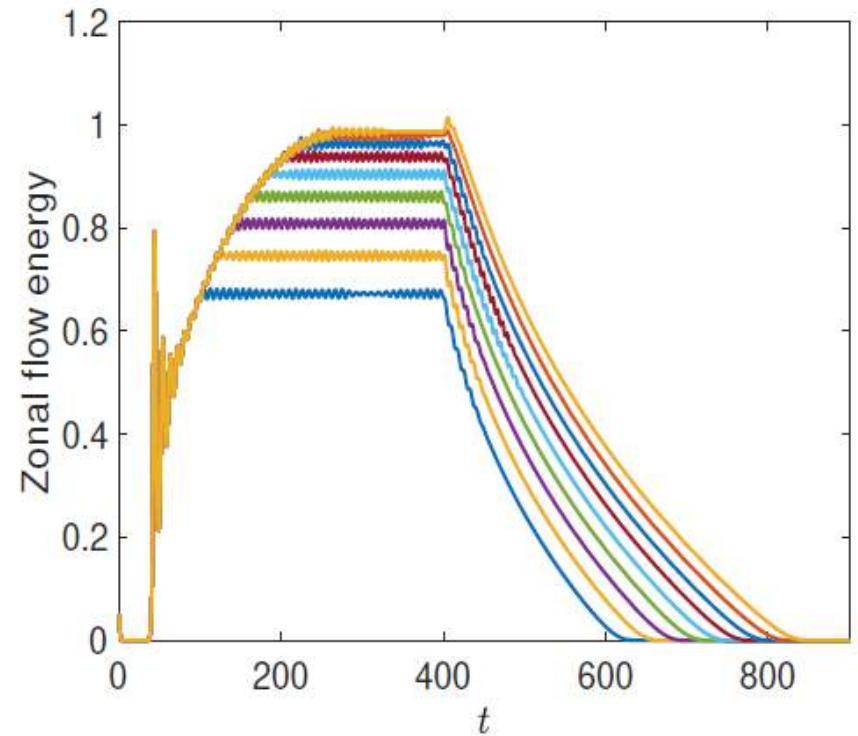
$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -d_1 \frac{\varepsilon n}{1 + d_2 \mathcal{V}^2} - d_3 n + S$$

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

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

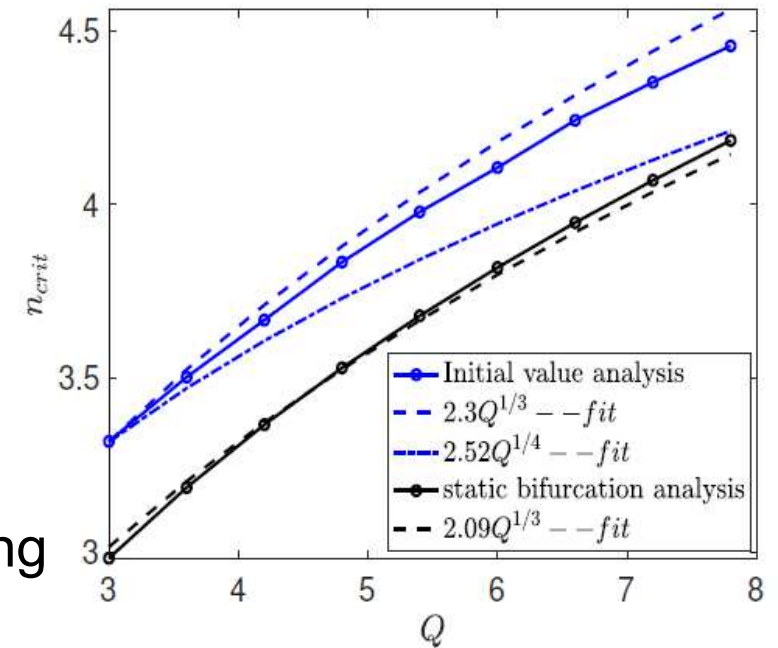
## L → DL Studies

- Look for shear layer collapse
- $Q$  ramp-up in L-mode, followed by  $S$  ramp-up
- Oscillations → predator-prey
- $n$  for ZF collapse increases with  $Q$
- ➔ •  $Q$  scaling  $n_{at}$



# Power Scaling

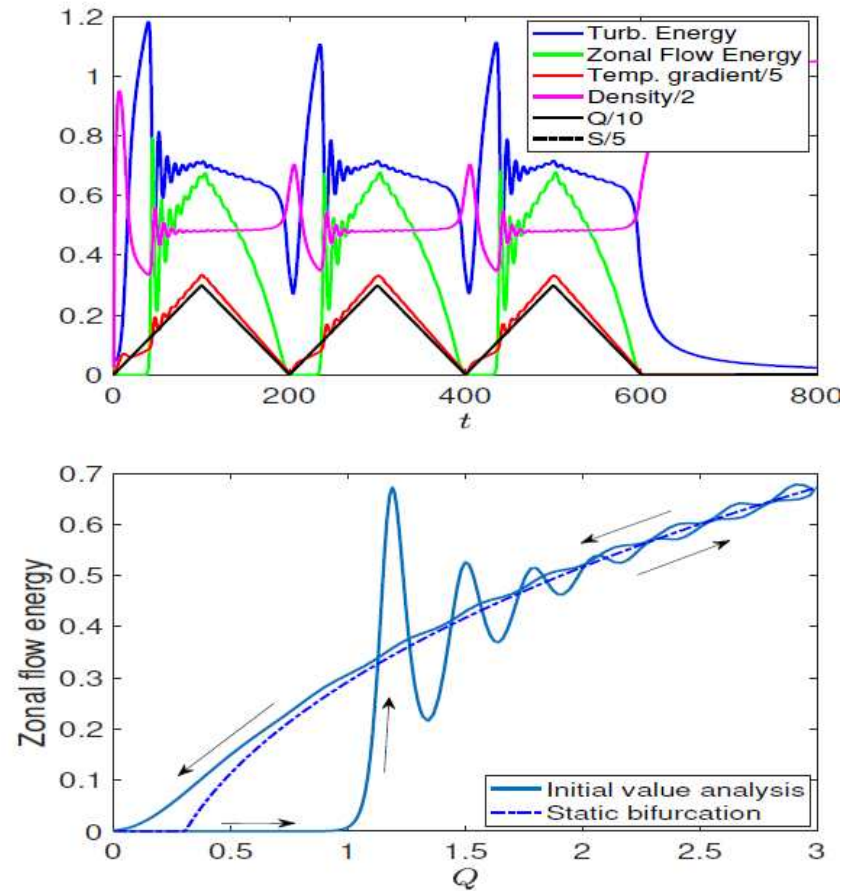
- $n_{\text{crit}} \sim Q^{1/3}$
- Distinct from Zanca, but close
- In K-D, with neoclassical screening  $n_{\text{crit}} \sim I_p$
- Physics is  $\gamma(\nabla T)$  vs ZF damping
- Shear layer physics seems to imply power scaling



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

- Hysteresis ! in  $\varepsilon_{ZF}$  vs  $Q$
- Expected, given 2 states transport
- Recall J-TEXT....
- Physics prediction.... beyond scaling
- Is there torque scaling of density limit, i.e.

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



## From L-DL to H-DL

- H-mode density limit is back transition H→L at high density, usually followed by progression to  $n_G$
- Key issue !      N.B. Gentle “pump-and-puff” (Mahdavi) has beat Greenwald
- Candidates
  - AUG:  $\alpha_{MHD}$  at separatrix (Eich, Manz)
  - Goldston, Brown: Conduction broadens SOL, reduces  $V_E'$  → instability & inward spreading hypothesized
- Experiments needed!  
c.f. Dog + Tail problem !?

# 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
- Hysteresis evident in L-DL dynamics

# 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  $n_{at}$  ( $Q$ ) ?
  - Neg. Tri. ?

**Thank You !**



Supported by U.S. Dept. of  
Energy under Award Number  
DE-FG02-04ER54738