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Confinement study on the reactor relevant high beta LHD plasmas

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Buck ground



Progress of achievement of max. beta in helical devices

<β>=5%; A targeted value of LHD project from the design phase # For an economical fusion reactor, <β>~5% is necessary.
Mainly by increasing the heating capabilities and optimizing configurations, heating efficiency of NBI.

Last exp. campaign in LHD, the 5.0% beta plasma is obtained.

Analysis of the plasma properties like the beta dependence up to the reactor relevant high beta regimes become possible.

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Characteristics of LHD high beta plasmas with β ~5%

Effects of global MHD instability (low-n,m modes) on LHD high beta plasmas Through comparison between achieved pressure gradients and linear MHD numerical analyses

Confinement properties of LHD high beta plasmas Through comparison between experimentally obtained thermal conductivities and some theoretically predictions

Recent results of ext. of operational β range in LHD

<\beta>=4.5% up to last IAEA conf.(2006) Quasi-steady (only gas-puffing and parallel NBI); < β >=4.8%; Increase //NBI power (~1.8MW up; tot.13.8MW) Transient (pellet inj.); < β >=5.0%; Improve heating efficiency of \perp NBI(6.9MW)

due to Suppression of Shafranov shift by pellet and //NBI modulation



Transient (pellet inj.) high-β dischrage I



Shafranov shift is suppressed by pellet and //NBI power modulation $\Delta R_{ax}/a_{eff} \sim 0.4 \Rightarrow -0$ Increasing heating efficiency of $\perp NBI(6.9MW)$ $\Rightarrow <\beta_{dia} \geq 5.0\%$



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Transient (pellet inj.) high-β dischrage II



Characteristics of MHD stability in LHD high β conf.



 $A_p = 6.2, p \sim (1 - \rho^2)(1 - \rho^8)$

In high beta regime, magnetic hill still exists in peripheral region => **Peripheral MHD** instabilities (pressure driven) are *important* in high beta regime.

Low order rational surface m<=3

m/n=2/1,3/2, 1/1(2/2, 3/3),3/4,2/3



Quasi-steady high-β dischrage <β>=4.8 %

- # No disruptive high beta plasma is maintained during more than $80\tau_{\rm E}$
- # Large shafranov shift $\Delta/a_p \sim 40\%$
- # Low-n,m MHD activities
 - No observation of core resonant modes.
- Only resonating mode with peripheral surf. (m/n = 2/3 and 1/1) appear
- # Global confinement property is almost same with ISS95 scaling.



No large β flattening enough to affect a global confinement

Small flattening and asymmetric structures are observed

S (Reinolds#) dependence of MHD mode

=>



Saturation of peripheral MHD mode strongly depends on S parameter. By a simple model,

$$w \sim \sqrt{\widetilde{b}_{\theta}/B_{t}}$$

S dependence of w is close to that predicted by linear theory of resistive interchange mode (w $\propto \beta^{1/6}S^{-1/3}$).

Commonly observed modes in LHD high beta operation

resistive (interchange) modes

Comparison between peripheral pressure gradient and the prediction of linear MHD stability analysis



Rotaional Transfo

A_p~6.3(γ=1.22)

1.5

Observed kinetic beta gradients and a contour of growth rate of low-n ideal MHD mode

No strong reduction of gradients

The gradients are averaged for $\Delta \rho = 0.1$.

 $\delta/a_{p} \sim 3\%$ (Ideal) $\sim 5\% (S=10^{6})$ consistent with exp. $1.0 \qquad -5\% (S=10^{6})$ consistent with exp. $0.5 \qquad S=10^{6} \qquad Calc. by FAR3D$ $0.0 \qquad \xi(m/n=1/1) \qquad 0.9 \qquad 1.0$

Radial structure of low-n ideal and resitive MHD mode

In $<\beta_{dia}> \sim 4\%$ plasmas, the global MHD mode is predicted unstable, but its radial mode width is narrow (~5% of $a_p/$ growth rate $\gamma/\omega_A \sim 10^{-2}$)

even in the mode is even in the mode is expected linearly unstable, when the mode width is narrow, the effect on the confinement is quite small

No fatal effect of "global" mode on the helical plasma?

Helcal coil of LHD consists of 3 layers. By changing the current ratio in the 3 layers, plasma aspect ratio, mag.shear and mag. hill hight are controlled.



High aspect configuration (a special config.) has low magnetic shear and high magnetic hill in LHD => Interchange mode is more unstable



The magnetic shear of high aspect. conf. is much smaller than that of midium aspect. conf., and κ_n in both aspect ratio is almost same at the m/n=1/1 rational surface.

m/n = 1/1 mode in high aspect config. (low shear/high hill)



A collapse occurs in a high aspect plasma Before the collapse occurs, stability condition of global MHD mode is strongly violated.

m/n = 1/1 mode in high aspect config. (low shear/high hill)



A collapse occurs in a high aspect plasma Before the collapse occurs, stability condition of global MHD mode is strongly violated. Mode width is much important for the effect on confinement! Dependence of the global confinement on the beta value



However, the enhancement factors are gradually reduced as beta increases.

Beta dependence of peripheral local transport

 $\chi_{GRB} \propto \beta^{0} v_{p*}^{0} \rho_{*}^{1} \chi_{B}$ $100 \qquad \chi_{eff} \chi_{GRB} @\rho=0.9 \qquad (1 \sim 1) \qquad (1 \sim 1)$

Normalized thermal conductivity by GB (Gyro-reduced Bohm) model (Global property of GB is quite similar with ISS95) χ/χ^{GRB} in peripheral region increases with β in more than 1%.

χ dependence on β is similar with a prediction based on MHD (resistive interchange mode) driven turbulence.

$$\chi_{GMTe} \propto \beta^1 v_{p*}^{0.67} \rho_*^{0.33} \chi_B$$

proposed by Carreras et al. (PoF B1 (1989))

 # Resistive interchange (g-) mode is always unstable in the peripheral region of LHD finite beta.

=> high m,n MHD modes would affect

Other possibilities:

Not important !!

Invasion of stochastic region with beta is predicted # Configuration effect as proposed in ISS04 scaling See P2-043 by Y.Suzuki See P2-049 by H.Funaba

Effect of resistive interchange mode on peripheral transport

Thermal conductivity based on resistive interchange (g) mode turbulence (induced through the magnetic field diffusion)

 $\chi_{e} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{\hat{S}}{R_{0}q} \frac{Today's \ Model}{V_{T} \frac{\mu_{0}}{\eta} \gamma_{(m)}^{(0)} (W_{(m)}^{(0)})^{4} \Lambda^{4/3}}.$

Λ; Renormalization factor γ; Linear growth rate W; mode width of g-mode

refs. B.A.Carrears et al. Phys.Fluids 30, 1388 (1987) B.A.Carreras et al. Phys.Fluids B1, 1011 (1989)

Normalized thermal conductivity by g-mode turbulence model is constant in a high beta regime with $\beta > 1\%$.

[ref] H.Funaba et al, Fusion Sci. Tech. to be publised in 2006, Proc. in 15th Int. Stell. WS in Madrid (2005).



Collateral evidence

Density fluctuation amplitude with relatively long wavelength increases with $\boldsymbol{\beta}$



Beta dependence of the density fluctuation amplitude with relatively long wavelength, $\lambda > \sim 30 \text{mm}(\text{m} < 100)$

Sight line passes the relatively peripheral region

Inflection point of thermal conductivity looks synchronized with that of the density fluctuation amplitude with relative long wave length

Effect of g- mode turbulence on confinement of reactor



LHD high beta plasmas are obtained under low mag. field operations. Then S is reduced as beta increases.

=> The prediction of large value of χ in high beta regimes.

In a reactor, B_0 and n_e are larger by 10 times, and $v_{Te}a_{eff}$ is by 15~20 times than LHD high beta operations. => S would be larger by 300-400 times. => $\chi \sim 1m^2/s$ (Not negligible but not large)¹⁸

Summary

LHD transiently achieved the 5% beta and the 4.8 % beta in quasi-steady

Improving the heating efficiency of ⊥NBI due to the suppression of the Shafranov shift In addition to the increment of the //NBI power and the optimization of the

configuration.

No observation of disruptive phenomena in LHD high beta discharges would result from the radial localization of the predicted global MHD modes

Through comparison between achieved pressure gradients and linear MHD numerical analyses in 2 different configurations

Degradation of peripheral local transport with beta is observed.
 But for a fusion reactor, that would not be strong obstacle.
 The above degradation is is fairly consistent with an anomalous transport model based on a g-mode turbulence (GMT) model. For the fusion reactor, GMT would not be strong obstacle because it is significantly reduced in the high magnetic Reynolds number comparatively with a reactor.

Options



See P2-043 by Y.Suzuki

Collateral evidence 1

Peripheral transport properties in another configuration



$$\chi_{GRB} \propto \beta^0 v_{p^*}^{\ \ 0} \rho_*^{\ 1} \chi_B,$$

 $\chi_{ISS95} \propto \beta^{0.16} v_{p^*}^{\ \ 0.04} \rho_*^{\ 0.71} \chi_B,$
 $\chi_{GMTe} \propto \beta^1 v_{p^*}^{\ \ 0.67} \rho_*^{\ \ 0.33} \chi_B$

GMT (g-mode turbulence) model is more consistent with experimental thermal conductivity in a high beta range than GB (Gyro-reduced Bohm) model.

(The dispersion of data in a high aspect config. is fairly large.)

Normalized thermal conductivity by GB model and GMT model



Why is the predicted χ_{GMTe} (χ induced by g-mode turbulence) of a high aspect (A_p =8.3) plasma much large??



Beta dependence of plasma parameter and geometric facter determining χ_{GMTe}

Peripheral Rd β /d ρ both in A_p=8.3 and 6.3 are almost same.

 $=> p_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 8.3 < p_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 6.3 \\ => T_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 8.3 < T_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 6.3 \text{ if } n_e \\ \text{ is same.} (\text{Reason not clear}) \\ => S_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 8.3 > S_{@\rho=0.9} \text{ in } A_p = 6.3 \\ \text{Peripheral S in } A_p = 8.3 \text{ is smaller by } \sim 10 \\ \text{times than } A_p = 6.3. \\ \end{tabular}$

Geometric factor of g-mode turbulence model (G_{GMTe}); G_{GMTe} in A_p =8.3 is larger by 2~2.5 times than A_p =6.3.

 G_{GMTe} ; 2~2.5=> χ_{GMTe} ; 2~2.5 S; ~1/10=> χ_{GMTe} ; ~4.5

=> χ_{GMTe}; ~10 times larger



 B_{av0} and V_{p0} are based on a vacuum calculation.

 $<\beta_{kin}>; \text{ based on the } T_{e} \text{ and } n_{e} \text{ profile measurements} \\ Z_{eff}=1 \text{ and } T_{i}=T_{e} \text{ are assumed.} \\ (When Z_{eff}=2.5, <\beta_{kin}>~3.6\%(\beta_{perp}~2.45), <\beta_{beam}>_{perp}~0.75\%, <\beta_{beam}>_{ara}~0.75\%) \\ <\beta_{beam}>; \text{ based on the calculation} \\ \text{ with Monte Carlo technique and the steady state Fokker-Plank solution.} 25 \\ \end{cases}$

Loss particle ratio based on HINT data

 $R_{ax}^{V}=3.6m, A_{p}=5.8$



Summary

- # By improving the heating efficiency of ⊥NBI due to the suppression of the Shafranov shift and the NBI power modulation, in addition to the increment of the parallel NBI power, LHD transiently achieved the 5% beta value.
- # According to the numerical analysis of the g-mode for a typical high beta discharge, the radial mode width is quite narrow, $\Delta/a_p \sim 5\%$. This fact supports that we have never observed disruptive phenomena in the LHD high beta discharges because the predicted MHD instabilities are quite localized.
- # According to the transport properties on beta, the gradual degradation of the local transport with beta comparing with GB (Gyro-Bohm) model is observed. The above degradation is is fairly consistent with an anomalous transport model based on a g-mode turbulence (GMT) model.
- # For the fusion reactor, the anomalous transport based on the GMT is still important, but it would not be strong obstacle for the production of the high performance plasmas because it is significantly reduced in the high magnetic Reynolds number comparatively with a reactor.

他の配位での検証は?

Helcal coil of LHD consists of 3 layers. By changing the curennt ratio in the 3 layers, plasma aspect ratio, mag.shear and mag. hill hight are controlled.



High aspect configuration has low magnetic shear and high magnetic hill in LHD



垂直NBIの高ベータ領域拡大への寄与



Discussion I What is a good index for the limitation of the operational regime in stellarator/heliotron?



Though the observed pressure gradients are in nonlinear saturation phases, a linear MHD theory could be a reference for more complicated non-linear analyses, and/or a criterion for a reactor design.

Peripheral region: the maxima of the achieved pressure gradients are less than $\gamma_{\text{low-n}}/\omega_A = 10^{-2}$. **Core region;** the maxima of the achieved pressure gradients saturate against the contour of $\gamma_{\text{low-n}}/\omega_A = 1.5 \times 10^{-2}$ in the range of $<\beta_{\text{dia}} > = 1 \sim 1.8\%$.

Roughly speaking, $\gamma_{low-n}/\omega_A = 1 \sim 1.5 \times 10^{-2}$ is considered a good index to determine the condition that the global ideal MHD instability limits the LHD operational regime.

For further verification, we need to extend the above comparative analyses between the experimental results and the theoretical prediction based on a linear theory to a wide range of magnetic configurations in LHD!!



Predicted magnetic field structure by HINT and observed pressure profile in a high beta LHD discharge with $R_{ax}^{V}=3.6m$, $B_{0}=0.5T$ and $<\beta_{dia}>\sim2.9\%$.





(%)

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1985

1990

Though some flattening and asymmetric structures are observed in the T_e profile, they are not large enough to affect a global confinement.

Long sustainment of 4 % plasma # Shafranov shift $D/a_{eff} \sim 0.25$ # Low-*n*,*m* activities - No observation of core resonant modes. - m/n = 2/3 and 1/2 modes (peripheral resonant surfaces, Resonances are *located outside* $\rho \sim 0.9$) appear (< 4 %), but behave intermittently with increasing beta.

Mercier criterion $D_{I} < 0.2 @ \iota = 1/\rho \sim 0.9$



S (Reinolds#) dependence of MHD mode



Saturation of peripheral MHD mode strongly depends on S parameter. If w ~ $(\mathbf{b}_{\theta}/\mathbf{B}_{t})^{1/2}$, S dependence of w is close to that predicted by linear theory of resistive interchange mode (w $\propto \beta^{1/6}S^{-1/3}$). **Commonly observed modes in LHD**

=> resistive (interchange) modes



Summary (Cont.)

- 4. In higher aspect config. with lower magnetic shear and higher magnetic hill compared with high- β config., a minor collapse occurs. Before the collapse occurs, stability condition of ideal global MHD mode is strongly violated. The predicted mode width and growth rate are $\delta/a_p=15\sim25\%$ and $\gamma/\omega_A\sim0.5\sim1x10^{-2}$. The observed magnetic fluctuation is not rotating. It is observed more easily as S is larger. The above facts suggest that the observed modes in the collapse is the ideal interchange mode.
- 5. From Aabove results suggest a possibility that the ideal low-m,n MHD instability with large mode width affects the large effect of on the confinement in heliotron devices.
- 6. Both the observed modes in high beta plasmas and in a minor collapse can be suppressed by using the external resonant field. However, the mechanism has not been clear. The non-linear calculation of the MHD instability in wide range of S is necessary taking static error fields into account.



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Progress of achievement of max. beta in helical devices

For an economical fusion reactor, achievement and sustainment of high beta plasma (β ~5%) is necessary.

In order to predict the behavior of reactor plasma with β ~5%, we need the extension of the operational beta regime, and the analysis of the properties of the high beta plasmas like the beta dependence.

The $\langle\beta\rangle=5\%$ is a targeted value in the LHD projects from the design phase. We have made big effort aimed at achieving $\langle\beta\rangle=5\%$ by increasing the heating capabilities and optimizing the operational conditions like configurations and so on.

The achieved beta value is increasing yearly, and last exp. campaign of LHD we transiently had the 5.0% beta plasma.

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Characteristics of MHD stability in LHD high beta conf.



Summary

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- # According to the numerical analysis of the g-mode for a typical high beta discharge, the radial mode width is quite narrow, $\Delta/a_p \sim 5\%$. This fact supports that we have never observed disruptive phenomena in the LHD high beta discharges because the predicted MHD instabilities are quite localized.
- # According to the transport properties on beta, the gradual degradation of the local transport with beta comparing with GB (Gyro-Bohm) model is observed. The above degradation is is fairly consistent with an anomalous transport model based on a g-mode turbulence (GMT) model.
- # For the fusion reactor, the anomalous transport based on the GMT is still important, but it would not be strong obstacle for the production of the high performance plasmas because it is significantly reduced in the high magnetic Reynolds number comparatively with a reactor.

Minor collapse due to m/n = 1/1 mode in high aspect config.



A collapse occurs in a high aspect plasma with low magnetic shear and high magnetic hill. Before the collapse occurs, stability condition of **global ideal** MHD mode is **strongly violated**. *Mode width is much important for the effect on confinement*.



Quasi-steady high-β dischrage <β>=4.8 %

No disruptive high beta plasma is maintained during more than 80τ_E
Large shafranov shift Δ/a_p ~ 40%
Low-n,m MHD activities

No observation of core resonant modes.
Only resonating mode with peripheral surf. (m/n = 2/3 and 1/1) appear

Global confinement property is almost same with ISS95 scaling.



No large β flattening enough to affect a global confinement

Small flattening and asymmetric structures are 42 observed

Transient (pellet inj.) high-β dischrage



- # Just after pel. inj. for ~10 τ_E , high beta plasma, < β_{dia} >=5.0% is transiently achieved.
- # Shafranov shift is suppressed by pellet and //NBI power modulation $\Delta R_{ax}/a_{eff} \sim 0.4 \Rightarrow -0$ Increasing heating efficiency of $\perp NBI(6.9MW)$ $\Rightarrow <\beta_{dia} \geq 5.0\%$

