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## **Study of turbulence and plasma potential in JIPP T-IIU tokamak**

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**Keywords: Potential, Turbulence, Tokamak, Pellet, Sawtooth**

## Abstract

By a novel use of 500 keV heavy ion beam probe (HIBP), the precise profile of plasma potential, fast changes of plasma potential in case of sawtooth and pellet injection, and the local characteristics of plasma turbulence are observed in a tokamak plasma.

### 1. Plasma turbulence

Compared with the conventional 2-points measurement in HIBP turbulence study, multiple-point measurement up to 13 points is performed. Because of the increase of the measurement points in turbulence study, we got a clear view of propagation of the turbulence in a tokamak plasma. Figure 1 shows correlation coefficient functions of detector signals, proportional to the local densities of various points of measurement (position 10 to 13 in order and about 5 mm separated poloidally each other) near the edge of an ohmically heated tokamak plasma. The correlation of the pair (p.11 and p.10) clearly shows that the main turbulence propagates in the electron-diamagnetic-drift direction and a small component propagates in the ion-diamagnetic-drift direction. The correlation of p.11 and p.12 has the same characteristics of propagation and indicates the consistency of the measurement. The correlation of p.11 and p.13 shows the decay of the correlation with distance and the larger propagation time. As the observation point goes deeper into the ohmic plasma, the component with ion diamagnetic drift direction decays and the observed turbulence propagates only in the electron diamagnetic drift direction. The change of the characteristics of the turbulence along the minor radius was recently found in TFTR using beam emission spectroscopy (BES).<sup>1)</sup> Their result showed the turbulence propagating into the ion diamagnetic direction (ITG-mode) dominates in an inner region of the NBI-heated L-mode plasma. Our result shows the dominance of a pure

electron drift wave in a linear ohmic confinement (LOC) plasmas, where BES measurement is not applicable due to the absence of the strong neutral beam. The negative values of the correlation coefficient functions at zero delay time in Fig. 1 can be considered to be a path integral effect<sup>1)</sup> since the beam velocity is so high compared to the propagation velocity of the turbulence. If we analyze a correlation coefficient function with a careful treatment of the values at zero delay, we may be able to perform the turbulence analysis relatively free from a path integral effect.

## 2. Fast potential change in tokamak plasmas

Although physics of a quasi-steady potential formation in tokamak plasmas are not still well understood, we found a few cases of fast potential changes in tokamak plasmas and put explanations on these phenomena. One case is at a sawtooth crash. A sawtooth oscillation in the center of a tokamak plasma column is characterized by a rapid energy loss from a hot core region. For the first time it is found that a barrier potential (ambipolar potential), which is common in the open-ended plasma device, is formed in the tokamak at a sawtooth crash. During the sawteeth enlarged by the IBW heating, the potential in the center of the plasma shows a sharp rise associated with the decay of ECE temperature as shown in Fig. 2. Its rise only occurs inside the sawtooth inversion layer. Outside the inversion layer, the change is negative. The polarity and magnitude of these changes is consistent with the formation of a barrier potential due to the interaction of hot and cold plasmas at the decay phase of the sawtooth.

A large and fast negative change of a space potential in a tokamak plasma is observed as shown in Fig. 3, when a hydrogen pellet is injected towards the center of a tokamak plasma. Since the analyzer has two-staged optical traps to suppress the effect of UV radiation from the plasma, the intense radiation at a

pellet injection has a negligible effect on a potential measurement of Fig. 3. Accordingly, the principal error in a fast measurement of a space potential by HIBP at a pellet injection, may be due to a fast deflection of the beam due to the change of a profile of plasma current. This error is found to be small from the measurements under different entrance angles of the secondary beams to a parallel-plate analyzer by rotating the analyzer toroidally. The change of the potential may be due to the cooling of hot ions by a cold blob of a pellet. When high-temperature ions hit a cold and very high-density blob, the ions are cooled down and the Larmor radii of the ions get smaller. Then the ions can not go back to the initial magnetic surfaces. This means that the inner part becomes electron-rich and negatively charged by a potential of a few times an ion temperature. This explanation is consistent with the experimental results in terms of polarity and magnitude. It may be very similar to the formation of a negative plasma potential at the plasma surface due to the ion loss to a limiter or divertor plates. In both cases ions can not go back to the initial magnetic surfaces.

### 3. Potential profile

By a novel use of simultaneous fast toroidal and slow poloidal sweeps in the heavy ion beam probe, potential profiles in JIPP T-IIU tokamak plasma are measured at the rate of 120 profiles per second.<sup>2)</sup> So far the plasma potential profiles in other tokamaks have been measured using 10 or 20 discharges on shot-to-shot basis. By this novel method, it becomes possible to perform a detailed study of potential profiles in tokamak plasmas under ohmic, NBI and IBW heating. Main results are a) the depth of a plasma potential at the center increases drastically as an average plasma density and confinement time increase in a linear ohmic confinement (LOC) regime. b) Its depth is a few times the ion temperature and the accurate dependence on the ion temperature is hard to get because the additional heatings always induce a density rise in our plasmas. c)

Different types of a potential profile are observed, one with a large region of positive potential and one without it.

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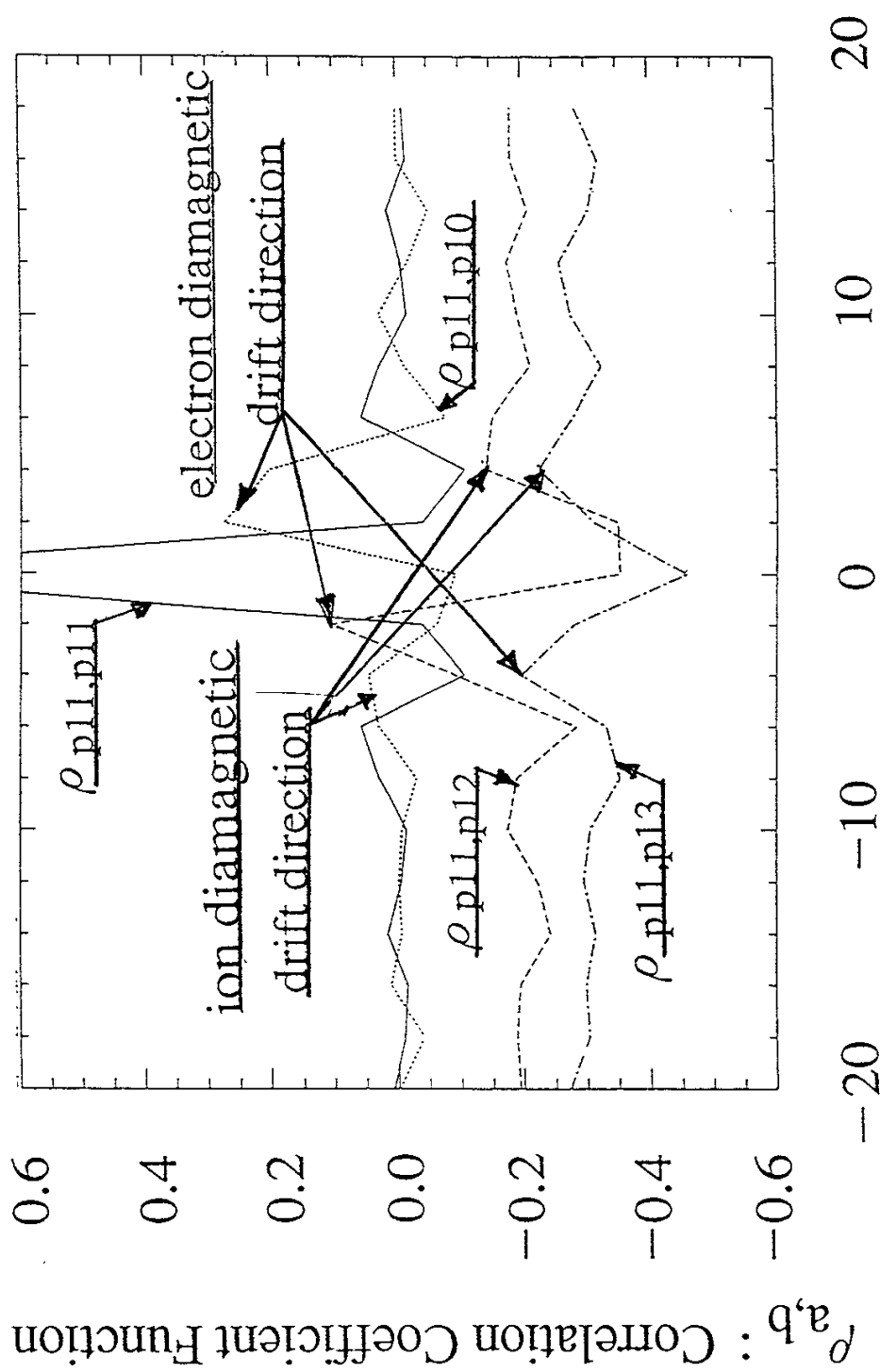
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Fig. 1. Correlation coefficient functions of multiple measurement points in HIBP. The intensities of secondary current, proportional to the local plasma density are analyzed. Points of measurements are located around  $r/a_p = 0.9$ . Poloidal separation is about 2 mm between each point of measurement.

Fig. 2. Typical potential behaviors in IBW heated sawtooth crash inside the sawtooth inversion layer measured by HIBP. The potential is measured by ND (normalized difference of upper and lower detector currents, proportional to the change of plasma potential). The conversion ratio from ND to potential is 1037 V/ND

Fig. 3. ND during the sweep across the plasma. The point of measurement is swept slowly from about the plasma center to the surface. A pellet is injected in this case when the point of measurement is about  $r/a_p = 0.2$ .



Delay Time  $\tau$  ( $\mu\text{s}$ )

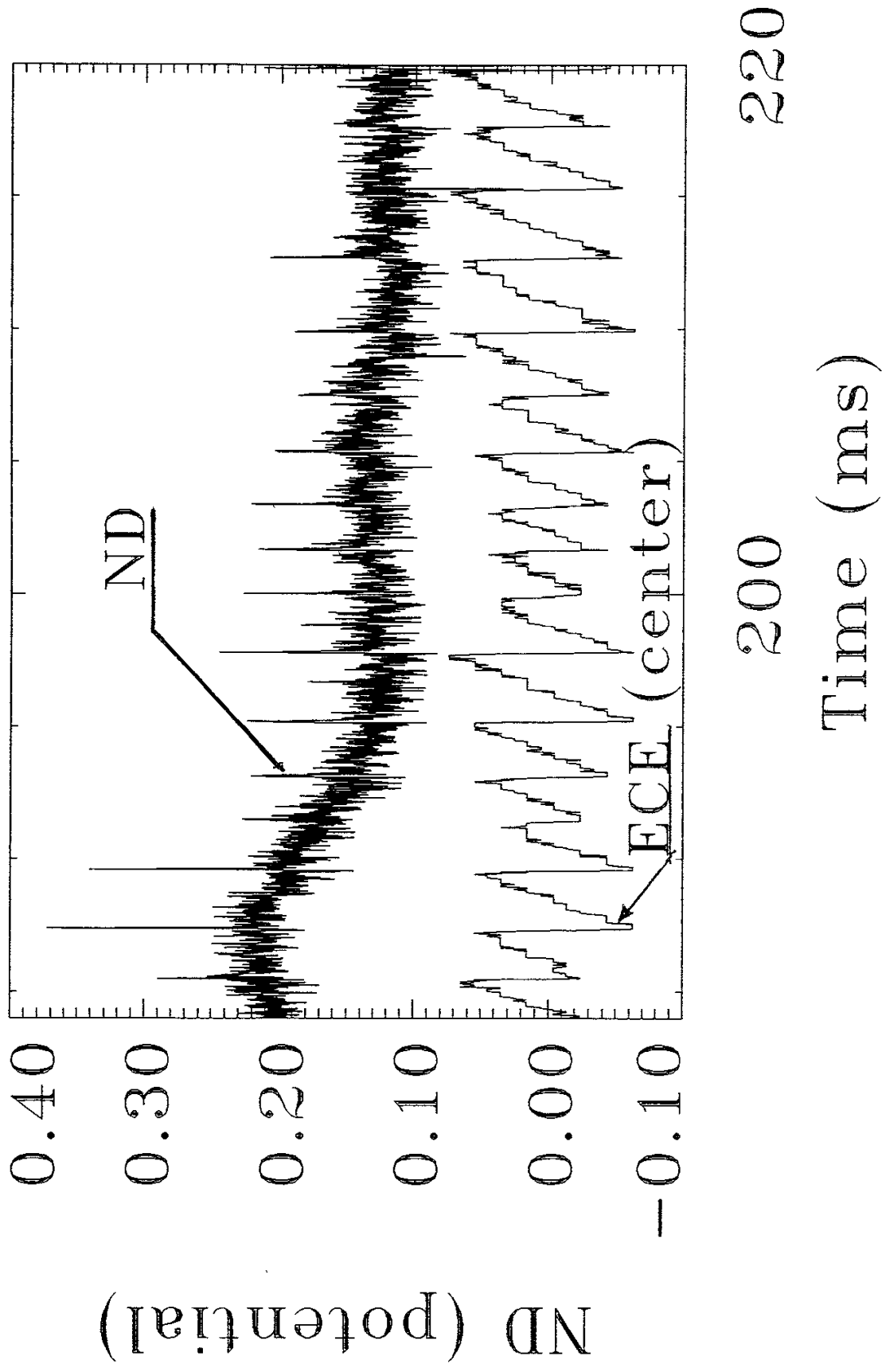


Fig. 2

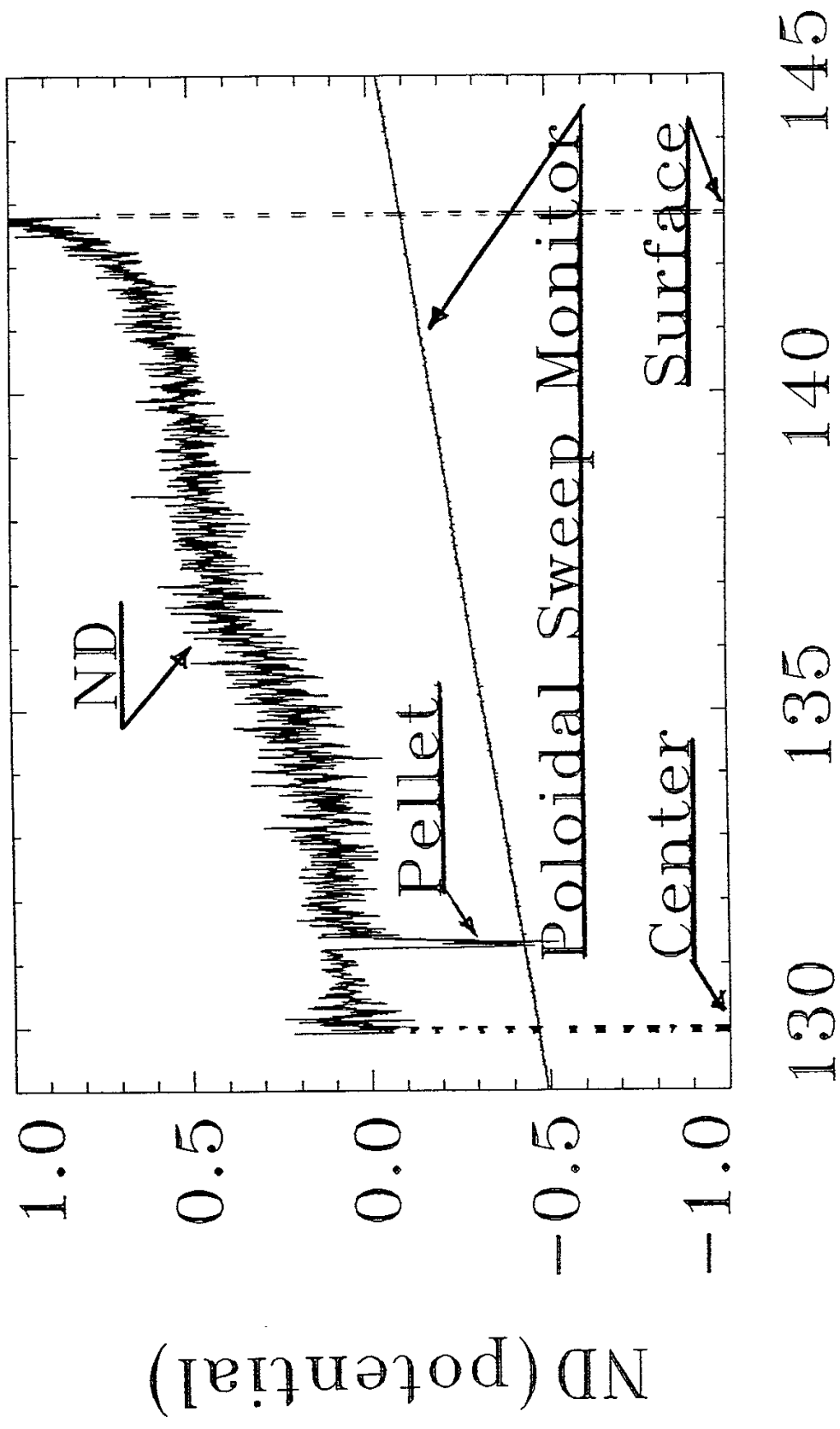


Fig. 3

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