

# Progress in modeling the impact of ICRF heating on high-Z impurity transport and turbulence stabilization

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- 1 Ion-Cyclotron Radio-Frequency (ICRF) heating
  - Modeling wave propagation & absorption
- 2 Impact of ICRF heating on the radial high-Z impurity transport
  - Neoclassical:  $T_i$  gradient and poloidal density asymmetries
  - Turbulence: affecting the electron to ion heat flux ratio
- 3 Effects of ICRF-accelerated fast ions on turbulence
  - ITG stabilization and  $T_i$  steepening in AUG discharge
  - Application to ITER
- 4 Validation (outlook)
- 5 Summary

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## Cyclotron Absorption

$$P_{\text{abs}}^{(N)} \propto |E_+ J_{N-1}(k_{\perp}\rho) + e^{i\delta_k} E_- J_{N+1}(k_{\perp}\rho)|^2$$

( $\rho = v_{\perp} \Omega_c$  the Larmor radius;  $\Omega_c = Z_i e B / m_i c$ )

- **lons** – (*spatially localized*) cyclotron absorption at the Doppler-shifted resonance,

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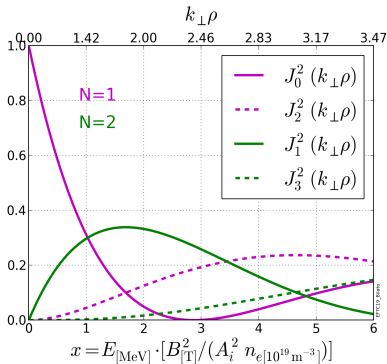
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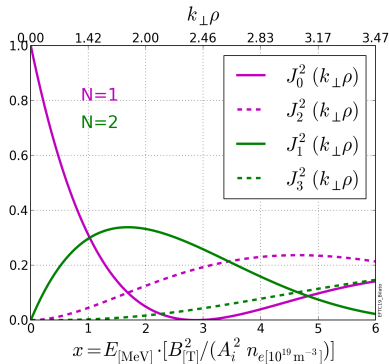
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## ICRF & energetic ions

ICRF heating can generate fast tails up to **MeV** energies (... stepwise).

## 2. ICRF Feature: Increase of the Trapping Fraction of the Resonant Species

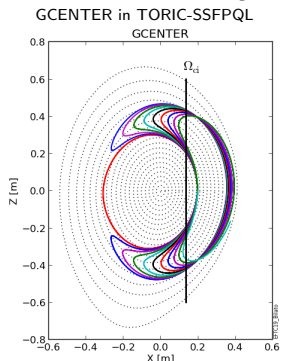


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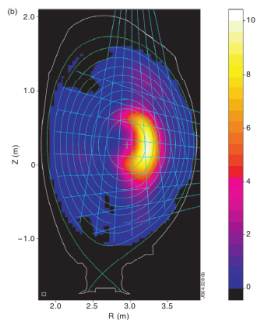


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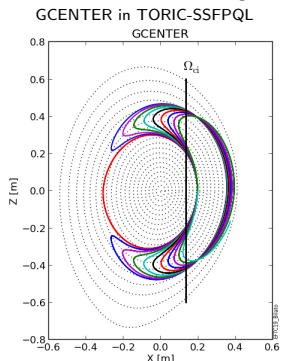


JET:  $\gamma$ -ray imaging (Kiptily, NF 2005)

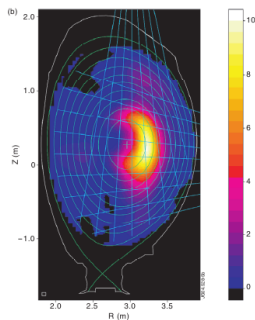


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### Consequences:

Accumulation of trapped ions with their *banana* tips on the  $\Omega_{ic}$  resonance:

- Poloidally asymmetric density of the resonant ions  $\implies$  parallel pressure balance imposes a poloidal electric field pushing ions towards the HFS.

- The critical (crossover) energy,  $E_{\text{crt}}$ , above which the slowing down of energetic particles is mainly on electrons depend on the plasma composition

$$\frac{E_{\text{crt}}}{T_e} \simeq 14.8 A_m \left( \sum_i \frac{Z_i^2 n_i}{A_i n_e} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$A_m = M_m / m_p, \quad q_m = Z_m e$$

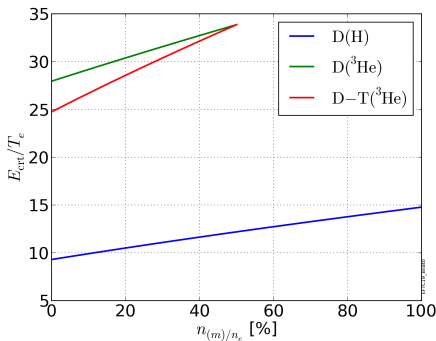
### 3. ICRF Feature: Collisional Electron Heating

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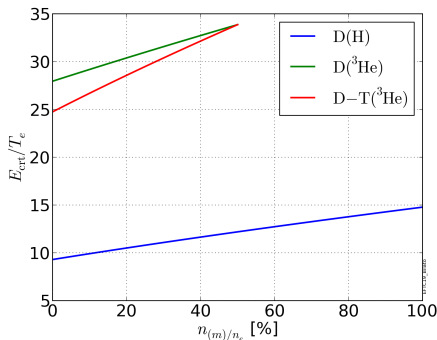


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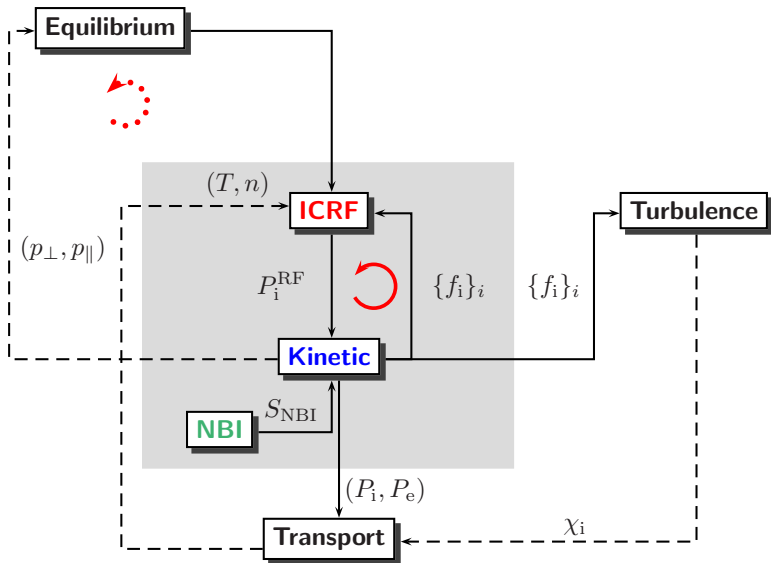
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#### Consequence:

Even when most of the ICRF power is directly absorbed by ions,

- a **significant** fraction of the total absorbed ICRF power is **collisionally** transferred to electrons (higher in the case of H than of  $^3\text{He}$  minority).



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- Antenna model for realistic spectrum of the antenna currents  $\implies$  estimate of the coupling resistance (scan in  $n_\varphi$ ).

## SSFPQL: 2d Solver for the Steady-State Solution

$$\left(\frac{\partial F_i}{\partial t}\right)_{\text{QL}} := \mathcal{Q}_{\text{RF}}(F_i) + \mathcal{C}_{\text{coll}}(F_i) + S_{\text{NBI}} + L_{\text{FIL}} \dots = 0$$

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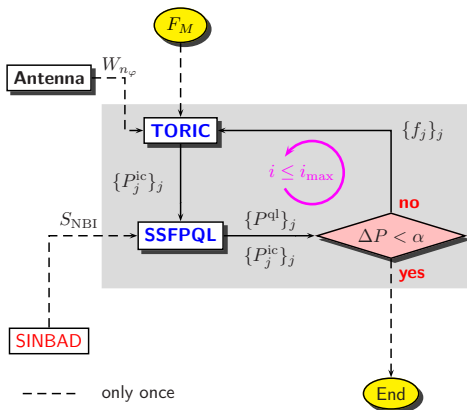
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- Synthetic diagnostics for the neutron rate from fusion reactions, D+D but also with Be, crucial for ITER in the non-activated phase.

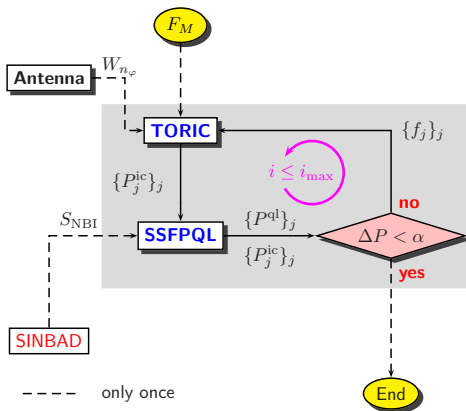
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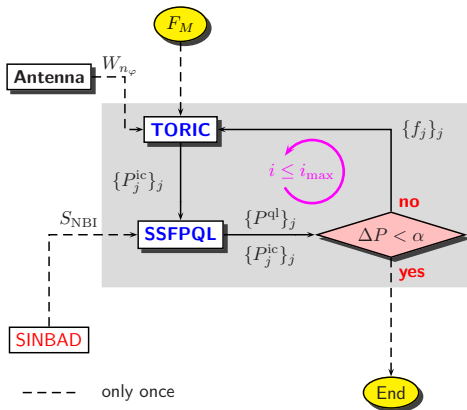
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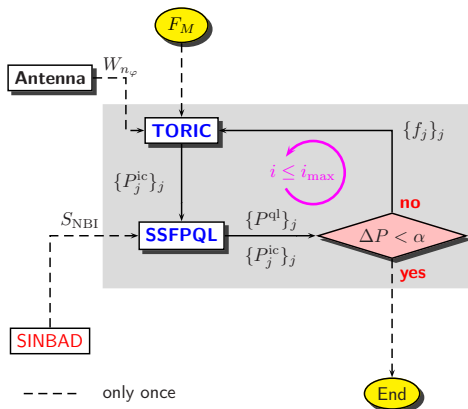
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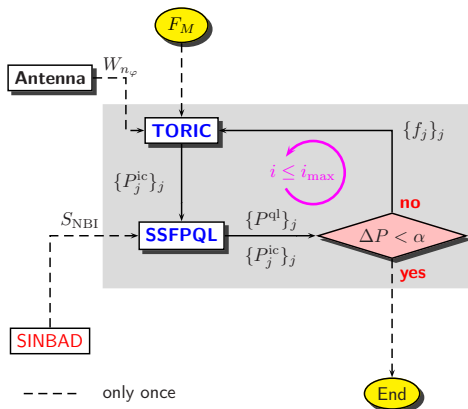


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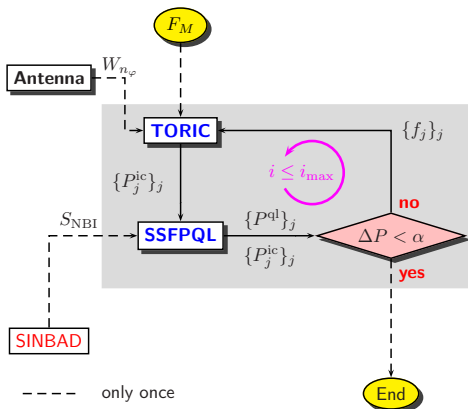




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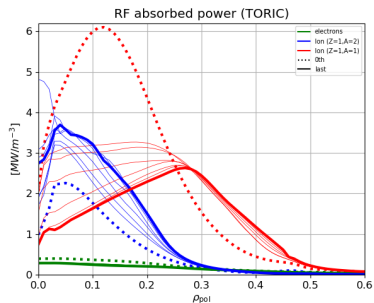
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- Antenna module gives the weight of each toroidal component  $n_\varphi$ .

(5% of H in D plasma and  $P_{\text{icrf}} = 4$  MW)

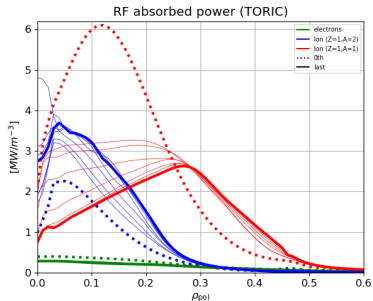
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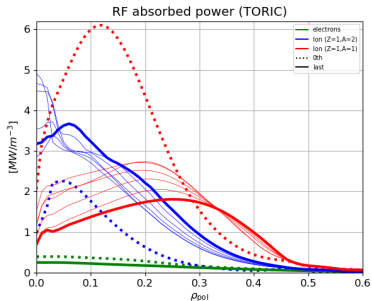
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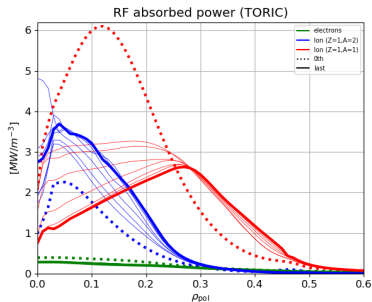


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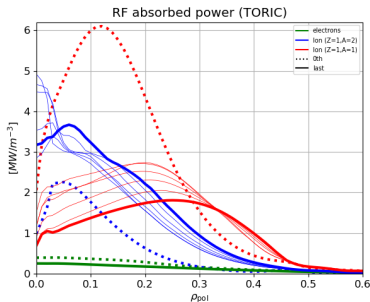


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## Without NBI



## With D-NBI



- ICRF-induced deviations of the dist. fun. from the Maxwellian modify both the radial profile and the amplitude of the ICRF absorbed power.
- NBI species resonating with the waves can substantially modify the distribution function and thus the ICRF absorption pattern.

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- by acting on the neoclassical contribution;
- by influencing *turbulence* which counteracts the inward NC convection.

In the limit of large aspect ratio,  $\epsilon \ll 1$ ,  $B \simeq B_0(1 - \epsilon \cos \vartheta) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$ ;

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- **Ambipolarity** (momentum conservation & quasineutrality):  
 $\Gamma_Z \approx -\Gamma_i/Z$ , the main-ion PS flux is **balanced** by the high-Z radial flux.

(Helander&Sigmar 2002)

## High-Z PS flux

$$\frac{R \langle \mathbf{\Gamma}_Z^{\text{neo}} \cdot \nabla r \rangle}{\langle n_Z \rangle} \approx D_{\text{PS},i} Z \left[ \left( \frac{d \ln p_i}{dr} - \frac{T_Z}{Z T_i} \frac{d \ln p_Z}{dr} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \frac{d \ln T_i}{dr} \right]$$

$$\approx D_{\text{PS},i} Z \left[ -\frac{R}{L_{n_i}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{R}{L_{T_i}} \right] = D_{\text{PS},i} \frac{R}{L_{n_i}} Z \left( -1 + \frac{\eta_i}{2} \right)$$

with:  $D_{\text{PS}} = q_{\text{sf}}^2 \nu_{c,i} \langle \rho_i^{-1} \rangle^{-1}$  **PS diffusion coefficient** of main ions;  
 $L_A = -A^{-1} dA/dr$ , and  $L_A > 0$  when  $A$  peaked in the core;  
 $\langle \mathbf{\Gamma}_Z^{\text{neo}} \cdot \nabla r \rangle > 0$  when the flux points **outwards**;  
 $\langle \dots \rangle$  surface average;  
 terms  $\propto R/L_{T_i}$  are known as **temperature screening** contribution.



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**Null-condition for the PS flux  $\langle \mathbf{\Gamma}_Z^{\text{neo}} \cdot \nabla r \rangle = 0$**

The PS flux is zero when  $\eta_i = L_{n_i}/L_{T_i} = 2$ :  
 $\implies$  temperature more peaked than density.

Collisionality depends on the **local** density: which is the influence of poloidally **inhomogeneous**  $n_Z$  on the PS flux (due to the *large compensations*)?

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## High-Z PS flux in a poloidally inhomogeneous density

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## Rotating plasmas $\delta/\epsilon \gg 1$

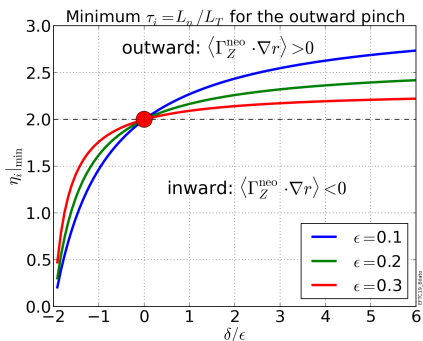
**Centrifugal forces** are particularly strong for high-Z impurities (high masses)  $\implies \delta/\epsilon \gg 1$  ( $\delta/\epsilon \approx A_z M_{\varphi,p}^2 \lesssim 6$  for W in ASDEX-Upgrade (AUG),  $M_{\varphi,p}$  proton Mach number).

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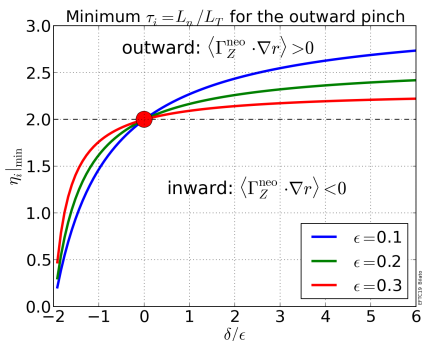
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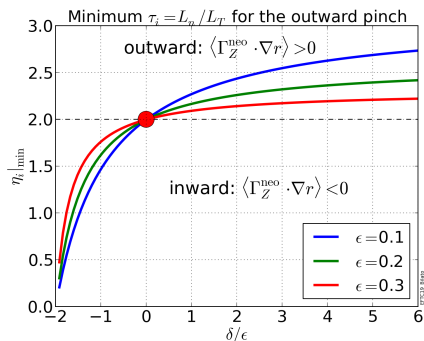


- **Out-In** ( $\delta > 0$ )  $\implies$  **increases**  $\eta_i|_{\text{min}}$ : Collisionality of main ions with high-Z impurity larger on the outboard  $\implies$  outwards main-ion diffusion compensated by an **inward** high-Z diffusion.



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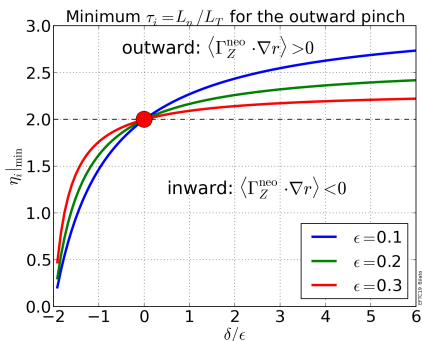
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**In-Out** ( $\delta \lesssim 0$ ) asymmetry of  $n_z$  is preferable to avoid Z accumulation in the plasma core.

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$$\eta \approx \eta_i + \nu_{ic} \eta_{ic}$$

where  $\nu_{ic} = n_{ic}/n_e \ll 1$  is the concentration of the ICRF heated ions.

- $\delta/\epsilon$ : ICRF heating increases the fraction of trapped ion of the resonating species  $\Rightarrow$  outboard accumulation of resonating ions  $\Rightarrow$  parallel pressure balance imposes a poloidal electric field pushing ions towards the HFS  $\Rightarrow$  effective on high-Z impurities.

(Reinke, PPCF 2012; Casson, PPCF 2015)

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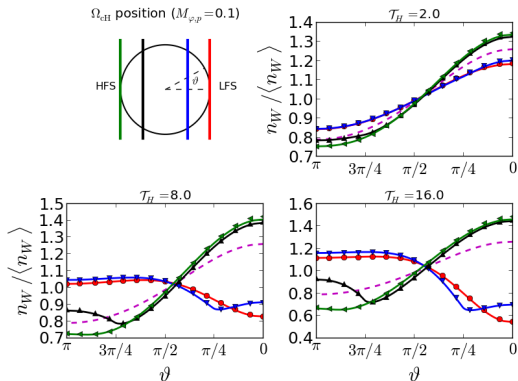
## Impurity Density Variation due to ICRF and Plasma Rotation

$$\ln \left( \frac{n_Z}{n_{Z,\text{LFS}}} \right) \approx -Z_Z \frac{Z_{\text{ic}} T_e}{T_i + Z_{\text{eff}} T_e} \frac{n_{\text{ic}} - n_{\text{ic,LFS}}}{n_e} + \dots (\text{ICRF})$$
$$\frac{m_Z V_\phi^2}{2T_i} \left[ 1 - Z_Z \frac{m_{\text{eff}}}{m_Z} \frac{T_e}{T_i + Z_{\text{eff}} T_e} \right] \left( 1 - \frac{R_{\text{LFS}}^2}{R^2} \right) \dots (\text{Centrifugal})$$

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$$\tau_H = \frac{T_\perp}{T_\parallel} \text{ at the } \Omega_{\text{ch}} \text{ resonance.}$$

(Bilato, NF 2014, NF 2017a)

The ICRF in-out asymmetry has a noticeable effect if the toroidal plasma velocity,  $V_\varphi$ , is not too large,

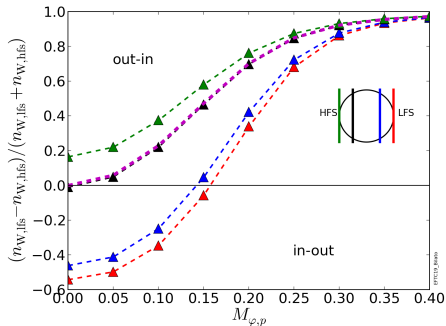
$$V_\varphi < 310 \sqrt{\frac{n_{ic}}{n_e} \frac{Z_Z}{A_Z} \left(1 - \frac{Z_Z}{A_Z}\right)^{-1} T_i [\text{keV}]} \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}} \approx 100 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}}$$
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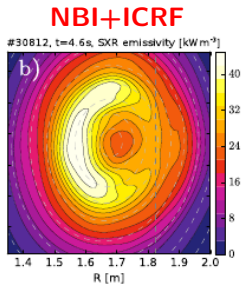
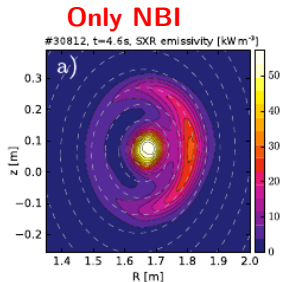
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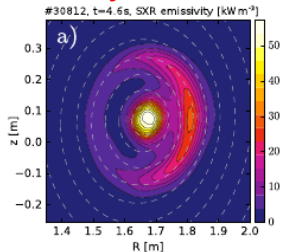


- barely satisfied in NBI-heated medium-size plasmas;
- more easily satisfied in fusion reactor plasmas.

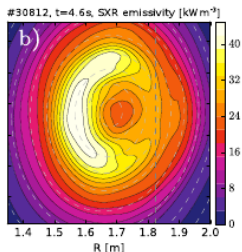
(Bilato, NF 2014, NF 2017a)



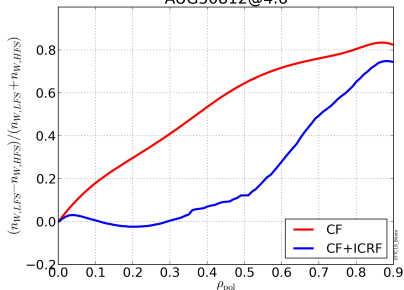
## Only NBI



## NBI+ICRF



AUG30812@4.6



## TORIC-SSFPQL

The simulated poloidal density of the ICRF-heated species is such to *counteract* the centrifugal force acting on the high-Z impurities to avoid high-Z accumulation in the core.

(Odstrcil, PPCF 2018)

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Roughly (e.g.  $v_{\parallel} k_{\parallel}$  is neglected)

## High-Z Impurity Diffusivity

$$\frac{D_{Z,k}^{\text{turb}}}{\rho_s^2 \omega_{Dk}} \propto \int \frac{\hat{\gamma}_k}{\left(\hat{\omega}_k + \tau_Z \mathcal{K}_y \hat{E}_Z\right)^2 + \hat{\gamma}_k^2} e^{-\hat{E}_Z} \sqrt{\hat{E}_Z} d\hat{E}_Z$$

## Main-Ion Heat Conductivity

$$\frac{\chi_{ik}^{\text{turb}}}{\rho_s^2 \omega_{Dk}} \propto \int \frac{\hat{\gamma}_k}{\left(\hat{\omega}_k + \tau_i \mathcal{K}_y \hat{E}_Z\right)^2 + \hat{\gamma}_k^2} \hat{E}_i \left(\hat{E}_i - \frac{3}{2}\right) e^{-\hat{E}_i} \sqrt{\hat{E}_i} d\hat{E}_i$$

with:  $\tau_{\sigma} = T_{\sigma}/(Z_{\sigma} T_e)$ ;  $\hat{E}_{\sigma} = E/T_{\sigma}$ ;

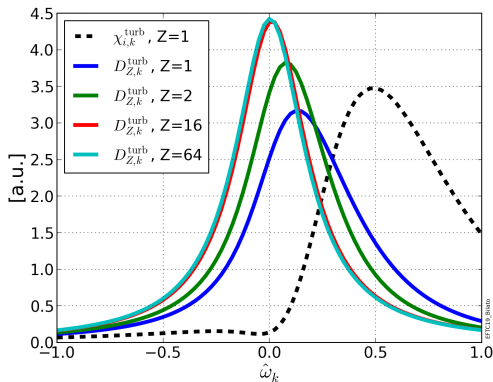
$\omega_{Dk} = k_y \rho_s (c_s/R)$  the fluid perpendicular drift frequency ( $T = T_e$ );

$\mathcal{K}_y = -[\cos \theta + (s\theta - \alpha \sin \theta) \sin \theta]$  the bi-normal curvature ( $s-\alpha$ );

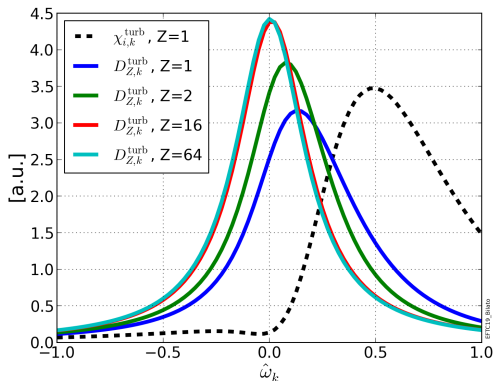
$\hat{\gamma}_k = \gamma_k/\omega_{Dk}$  and  $\hat{\omega}_k = \omega_k/\omega_{Dk}$ : mode-growth rate and frequency.

(Angioni, PoP 2015)

# Low-Frequency Modes Impact More the High-Z Impurity Transport Than the Heat Flux

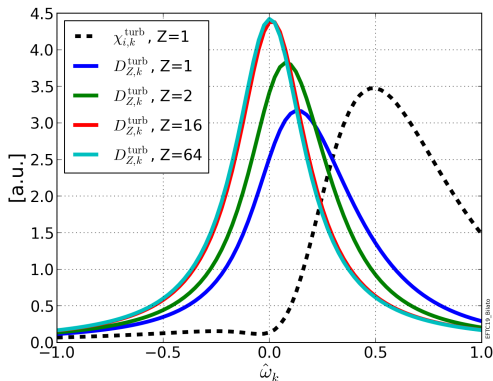


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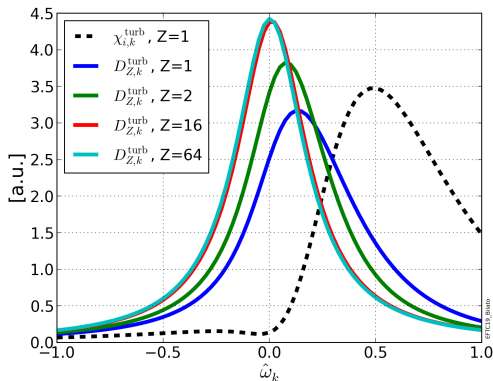
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This  $\hat{\omega}_r$ -separation of the modes resonating in  $D_Z^{turb}$  and in  $\chi_{i,k}$  makes turbulence to counteract neoclassical inward convection without significantly impacting the main-ion heat flux, and thus the energy confinement performances.

## Experimental observations

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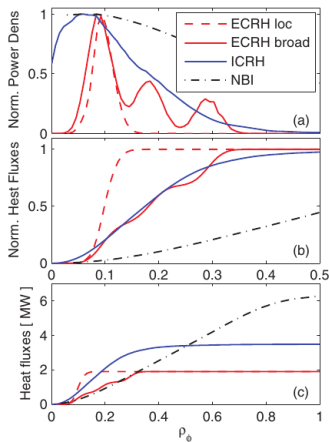


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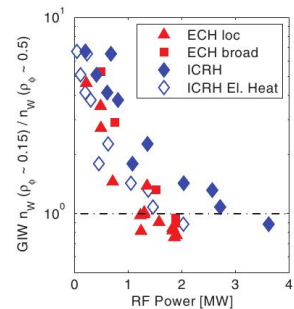
- **Design** the discharges to have similar power deposition profiles of EC and IC;
- **Quantify**  $Q_e/Q_i$  for further modeling.

Design of ASDEX-Upgrade experiments with comparable EC and IC heating profiles: TORBEAM code for EC and TORIC-SSFPQL for IC.  $P_{\text{NBI}} \approx 7.5$  MW.

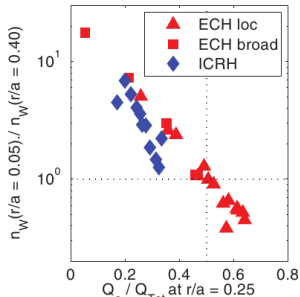


(Angioni, NF 2017a)

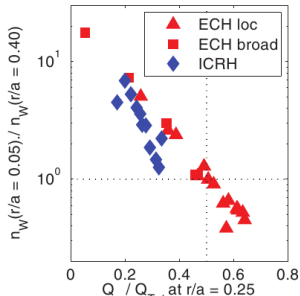
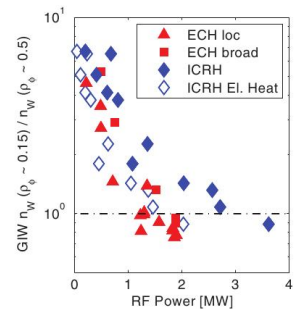
# Selectively Exciting Low-Frequency Modes: Experiments and Theory Insight – Results



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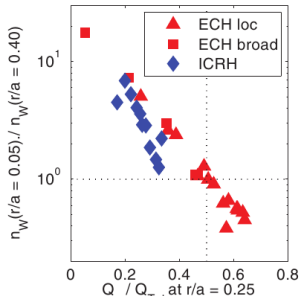
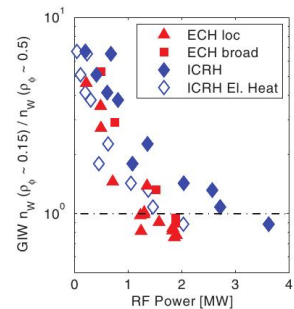


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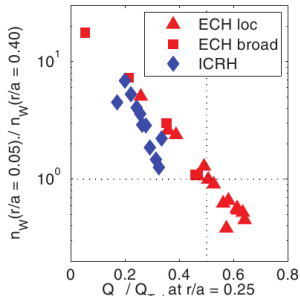
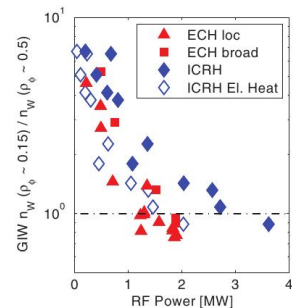
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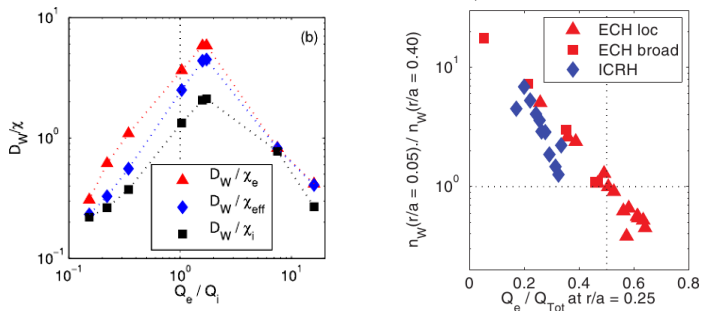
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- The *no-accumulation* state is achieved when  $Q_e/Q_i \approx 1$ .
- At the same  $Q_e/Q_i$ , ICRF heating is more effective, since it acts against the high-Z accumulation **also** by decreasing  $\delta/\epsilon$  and increasing  $\eta_i$  in the NC transp.



Gyrokinetic simulations with GKW code show that both W diffusion and W convection due to turbulence increase when  $Q_e/Q_i \approx 1$ .



Eigenvalues solver of GKW code shows that in the region  $Q_e/Q_i \approx 1$

- Turbulent W–diffusion is dominated by dominant ITG modes;
- Turbulent W–convection is dominated by sub-dominant TEM modes

(Angioni, PoP 2015, NF 2017a, NF 2017b)

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## Stabilizing – Fast ions

### Electrostatic:

- Dilute the thermal ITG drive;
- Resonate with ITG.

### Electromagnetic :

- Geometrically stabilize via Shafranov shift;
- Mediate nonlinear energy transferred to high-frequency modes.

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Approximating the distribution function with a Maxwellian ( $n_f, T_f$ )

## Contribution of a minority species to the growth rate

$$\hat{\gamma}_f \propto n_f \tau_f \int \frac{\hat{\gamma}_k}{\left(\hat{\omega}_k + \tau_f \mathcal{K}_y \hat{E}_f\right)^2 + \hat{\gamma}_k^2} \left[1 + \eta_f \left(\hat{E}_f - \frac{3}{2}\right)\right] e^{-\hat{E}_f} \hat{E}_f^{3/2} d\hat{E}_f$$

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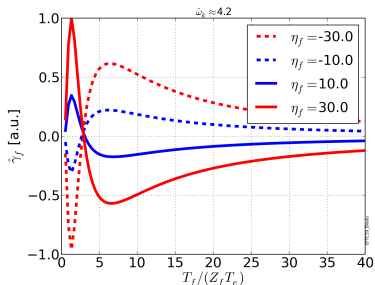
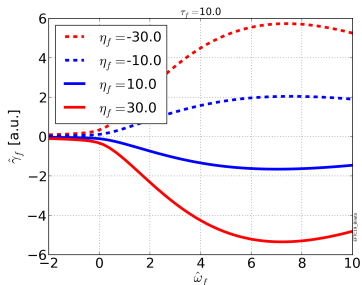
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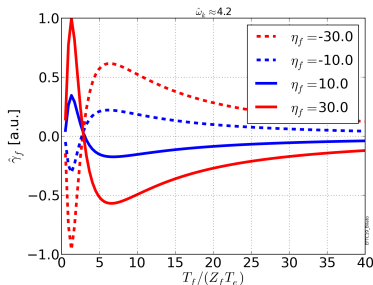
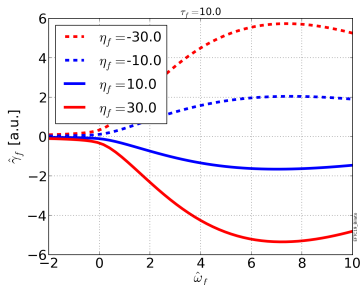
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- Typically  $\eta_{\text{NBI}} \ll 1$  and  $\hat{E}_{f,\text{crt}} \ll 1 \implies$  negligible stabilization

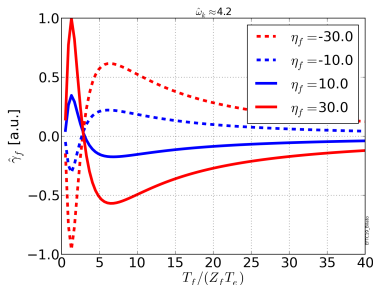
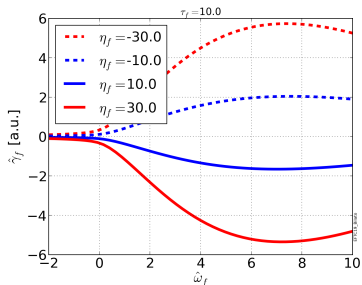
# Electrostatic Stabilization of ITG by Fast-Ions: Predictions of the Quasilinear Model





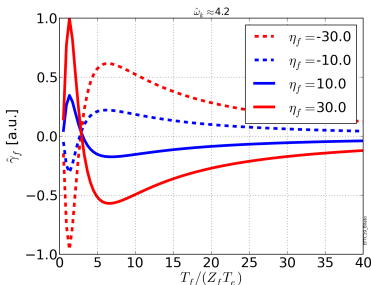
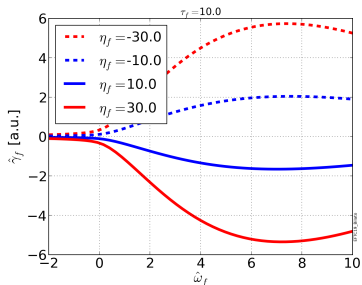
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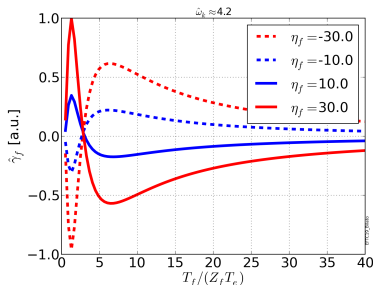
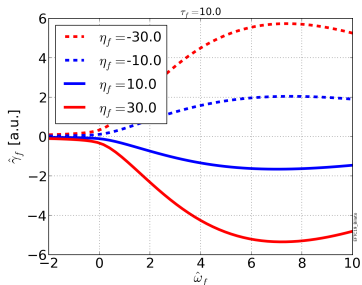
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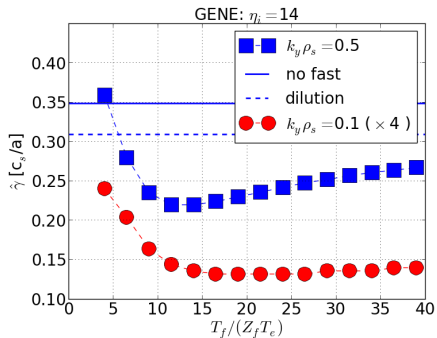
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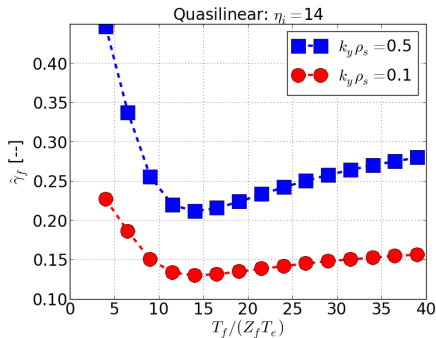
ICRF ( $\eta_f \gg 1$ ) via this mechanism might reduce the turbulent main-ion heat and particle fluxes, without substantially reducing the subdominant TEMs and low- $\omega_r$  ITGs, important for flushing the high-Z ions.

## ITG growth rates

### GENE linear simulations

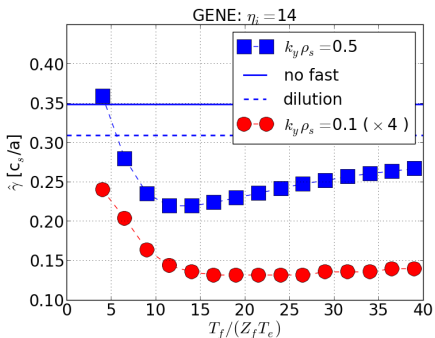


### Rescaled quasilinear expression

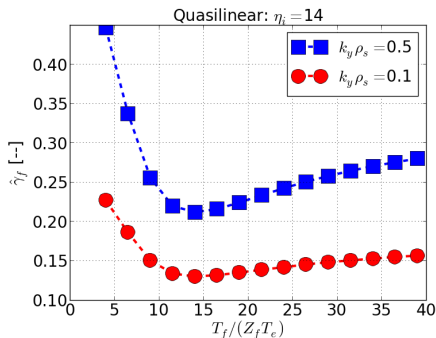


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### Qualitatively:

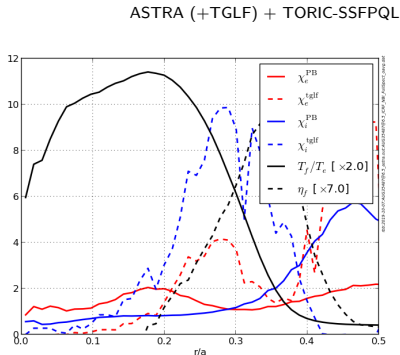
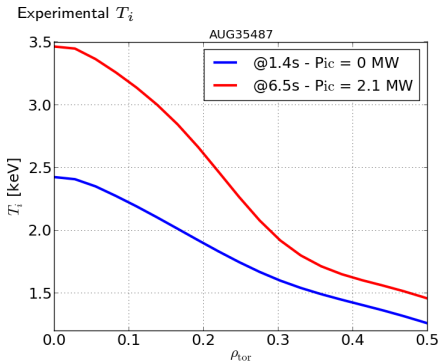
the QL model captures the dependence on  $\eta_f$ ,  $\tau_f$  and  $k_y \rho_i$ , shading light on the role of this resonant mechanism in the linear GENE simulations.

(Di Siena, NF 2018, PoP 2019)



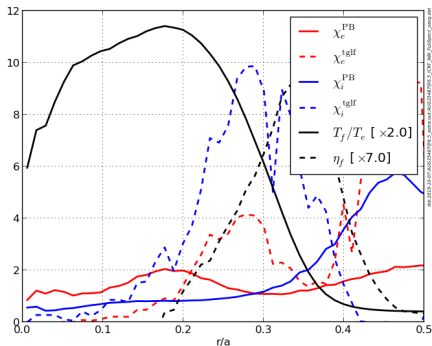
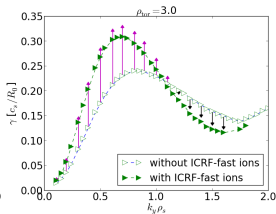
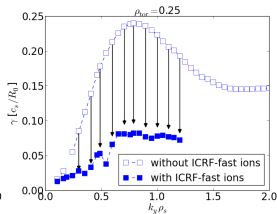
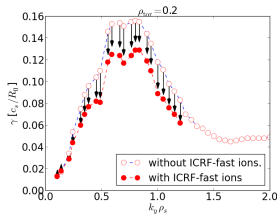
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- ICRF  $^3\text{He}$ -minority in D plasmas: this mechanism can explain 40% of the excess of GENE predictions of  $Q_i$  w.r.t. experimental estimates.  
(Bonanomi, NF 2018)
- ICRF H-minority in D plasmas: recent experiments on AUG shows a steepening of  $T_i$  in correspondence of the region of maximum  $\eta_f$  and  $T_f$ , calculated by TORIC-SSFPQL:

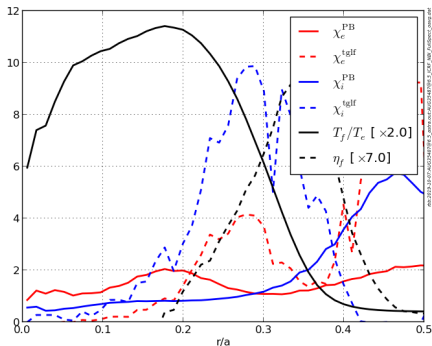
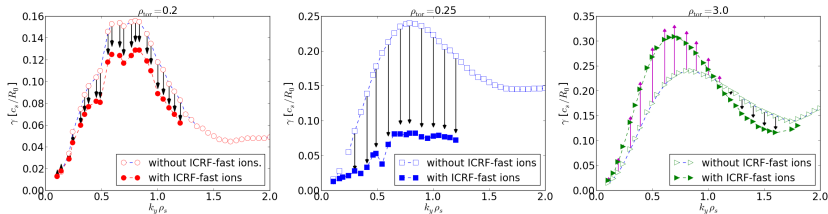


(Fable, PPCF 2013; Staebler NF 2017)

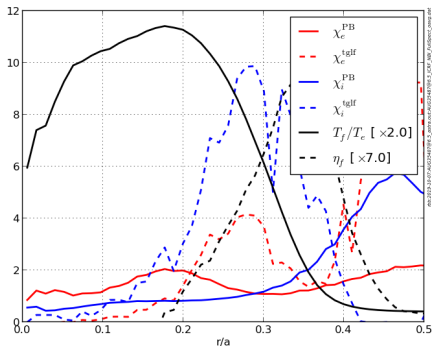
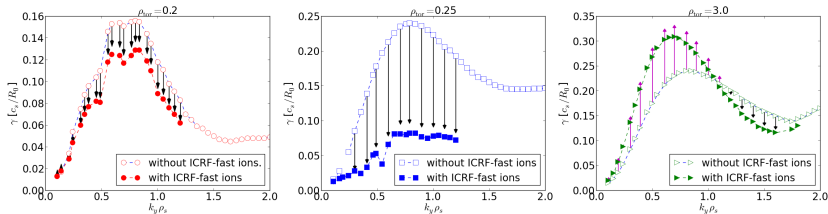




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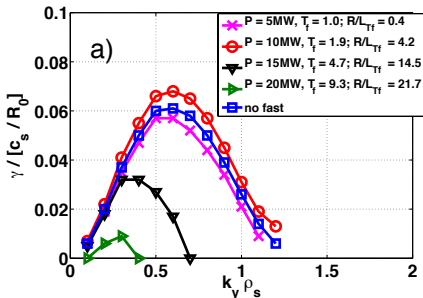


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- *Preliminary* nonlinear global GENE results  $\implies$  reduction of the main ion heat flux,  $Q_i$ .

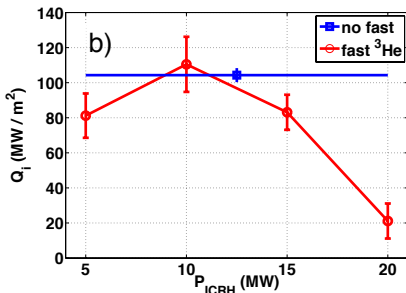
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- $B_0 = 5.2$  Tesla,  $f_{ic} = 51$  MHz, D-T( $^3\text{He}$ ) ICRF scheme: in the **initial phase** ( $T \lesssim 10$  keV)  $\implies$  energetic ICRF- $^3\text{He}$  tails.

Linear growth rate



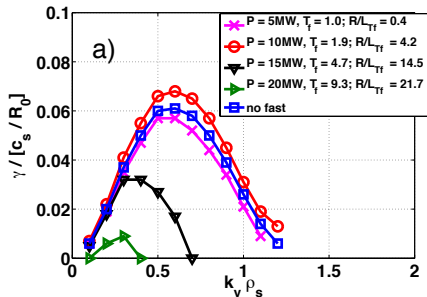
Nonlinear main ion heat flux



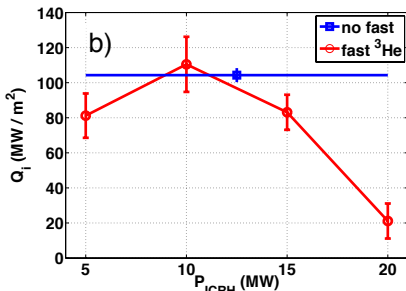


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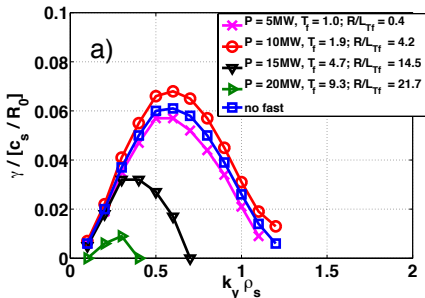
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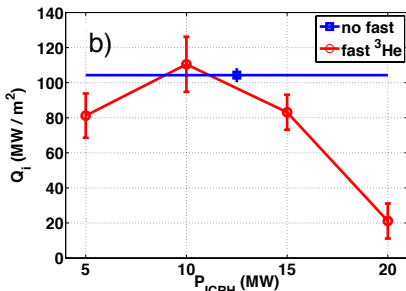
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This stabilization mechanism might help in the **initial phase** of the discharge.

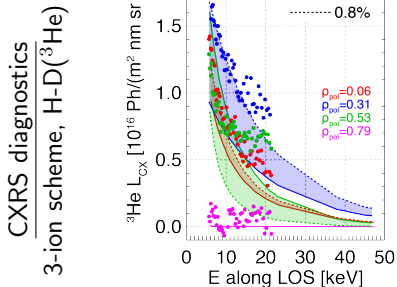
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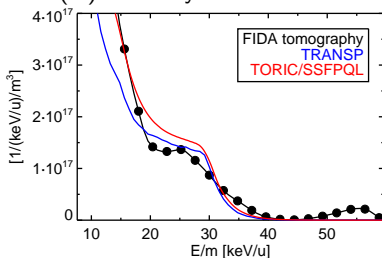
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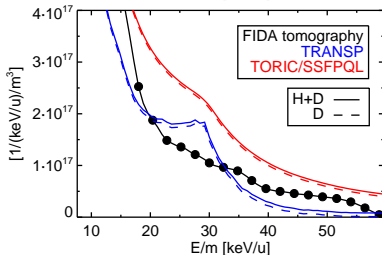
(A. Kappatou, this conference, I.04)

R. Bilato *et al.* – EFTC, Ghent 8.10.2019

## Fast Ion D-alpha diagnostics D(H) minority ICRF scheme



(Pankin, CPC 2004)



(Weiland, NF 2017)

- 1 Ion-Cyclotron Radio-Frequency (ICRF) heating
  - Modeling wave propagation & absorption
- 2 Impact of ICRF heating on the radial high-Z impurity transport
  - Neoclassical:  $T_i$  gradient and poloidal density asymmetries
  - Turbulence: affecting the electron to ion heat flux ratio
- 3 Effects of ICRF-accelerated fast ions on turbulence
  - ITG stabilization and  $T_i$  steepening in AUG discharge
  - Application to ITER
- 4 Validation (outlook)
- 5 Summary

*Interconnecting* simulation tools for

- ① ICRF (here: TORIC-SSFPQL)
- ② Transport (here: ASTRA(+TGLF))
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  - **reducing** the inward *neoclassical* convection through the
    - increase of the temperature screening contribution ( $\eta_i \uparrow$ );
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  - **increasing** turbulent diffusion and convection of high-Z impurities without substantially increase the heat fluxes of the main ions.
- **stabilize ITG turbulence by**
  - **creating** fast ions resonating mainly with ITG modes.  
 $\implies$  In ITER this mechanism might play a beneficial role in the initial phase of the discharge.

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NF = Nuclear Fusion; PPCF = Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion; PoP = Physics of Plasmas; JoP = Journal of Physics: Conference Series; CPC = Computer Physics Communications.