

Control of Edge MHD instabilities in JET

M.F.F.Nave

Associação EURATOM/IST, Portugal

T. C. Jones, P. Lomas, C. Ingesson, K. Lawson,
P. Andrew, S.Jachmich, G. Mathews, J. Ongena, G. Saibene, J. Strachan

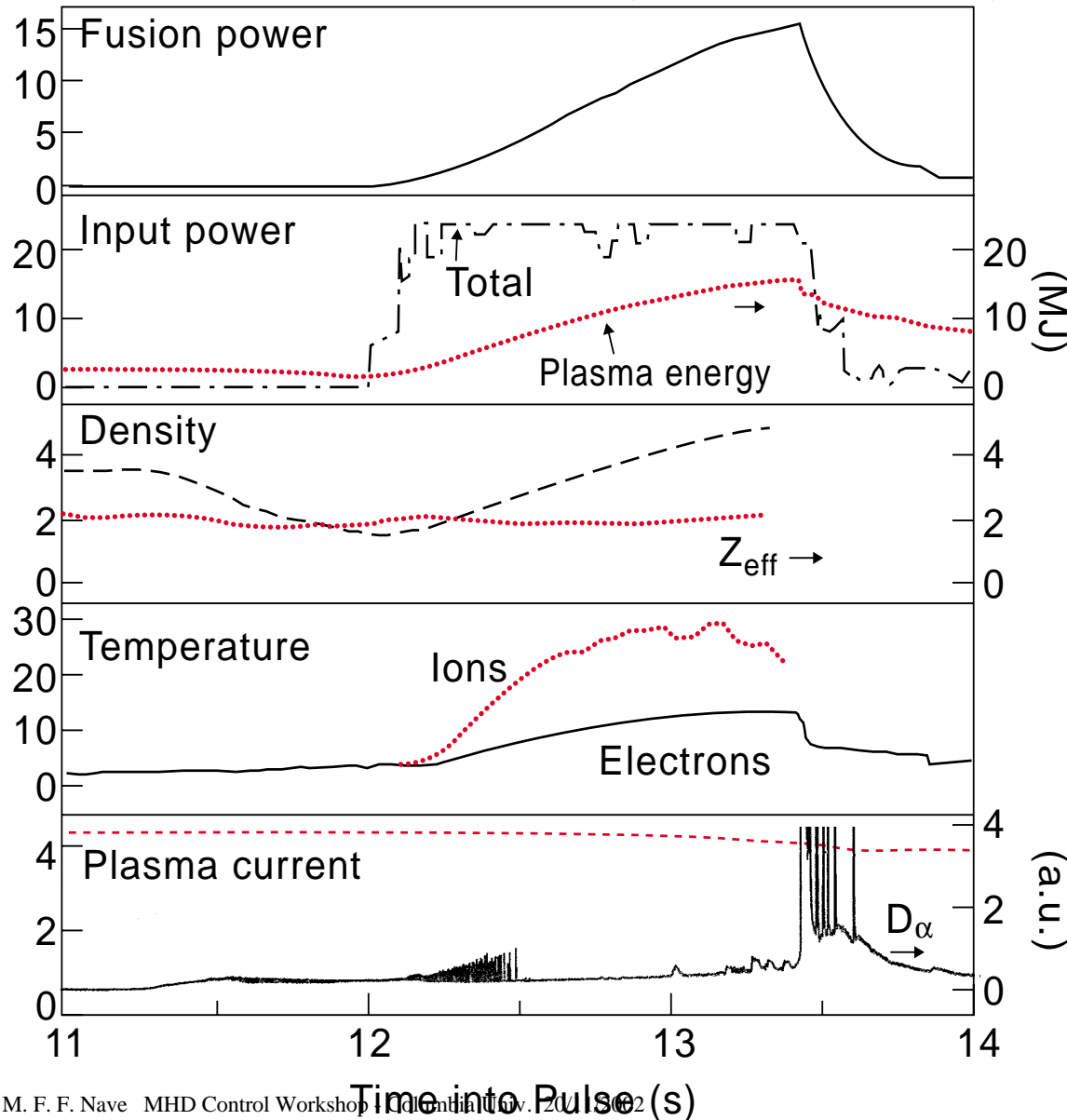
I - Identification and control of the external kink in the ELM-free regime and how this was used in the DTE1 campaign to obtain a record $P_{\text{fus}}=16$ MW

II - Control of the 1st ELM by Impurity seeding

III- ELMs and impurity seeding in recent RI-experiments

16.1MW of D-T Fusion Power

(Pulse No: 42976)

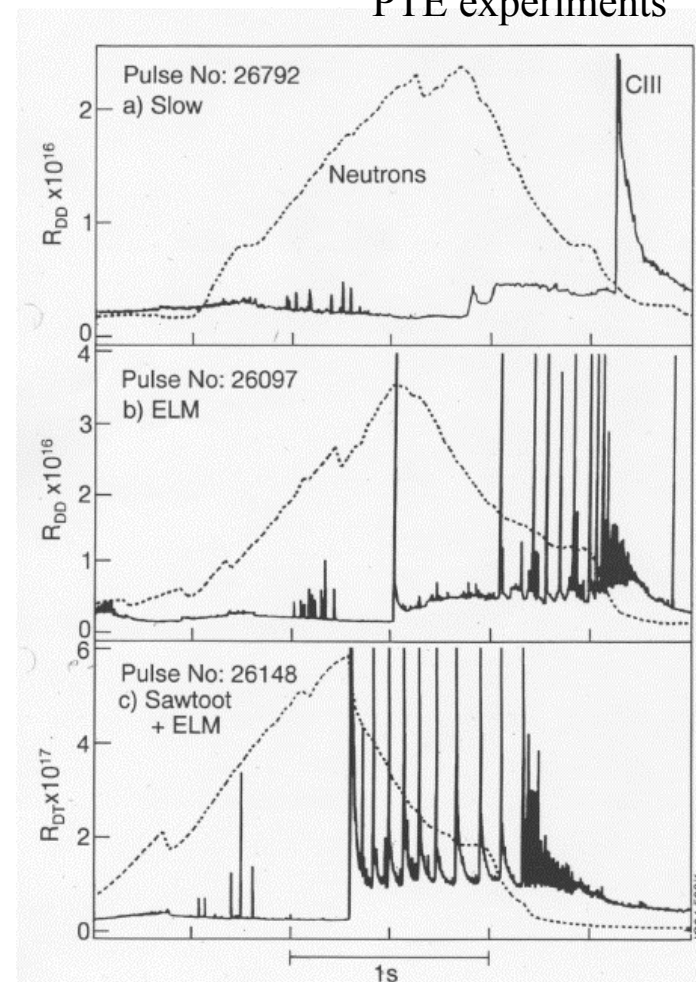
 (4.2 MA, 3.6 T, $\delta \sim 0.35$)

Optimised discharge:

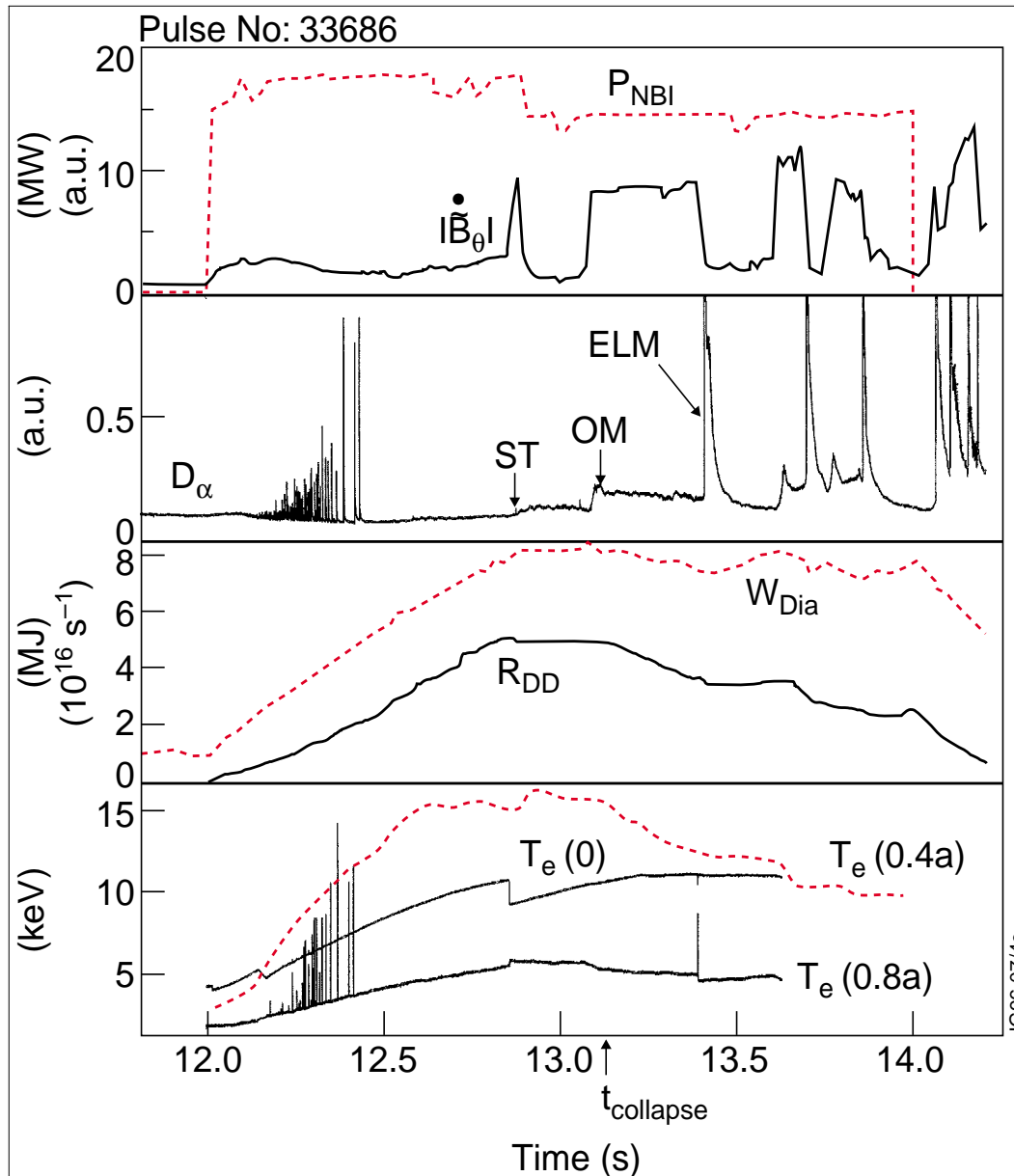
- $W_{\text{dia}}^{\text{max}}$ and $P_{\text{fus}}^{\text{max}}$ increases with the length of the ELM-free period.

PTE experiments

History of JET hot-ion ELM-free H-modes:

- 1991 PTE R_{DD} roll-over associated with Carbon-bloom
- 1992 Shut-down to install Divertor
- 1993-94 ELMy plasmas, had to re-establish ELM-free plasmas
many parameter scans done
counter-injection (not published)
- 1995-96 ELM-free plasmas again
No carbon-bloom, however R_{DD} roll-over still
observed
Discharge optimisation: control of MHD core
and edge modes essential
- 1997 Successful control of external kinks by current ramp-down
DTE1 record fusion power
- 1999 Impurity seeding experiments to control 1st ELM
- 1998-present ELM-free plasmas not considered for ITER because of
fears of large ELMs





How it use to be .

A non-optimised discharge showing a MHD nightmare

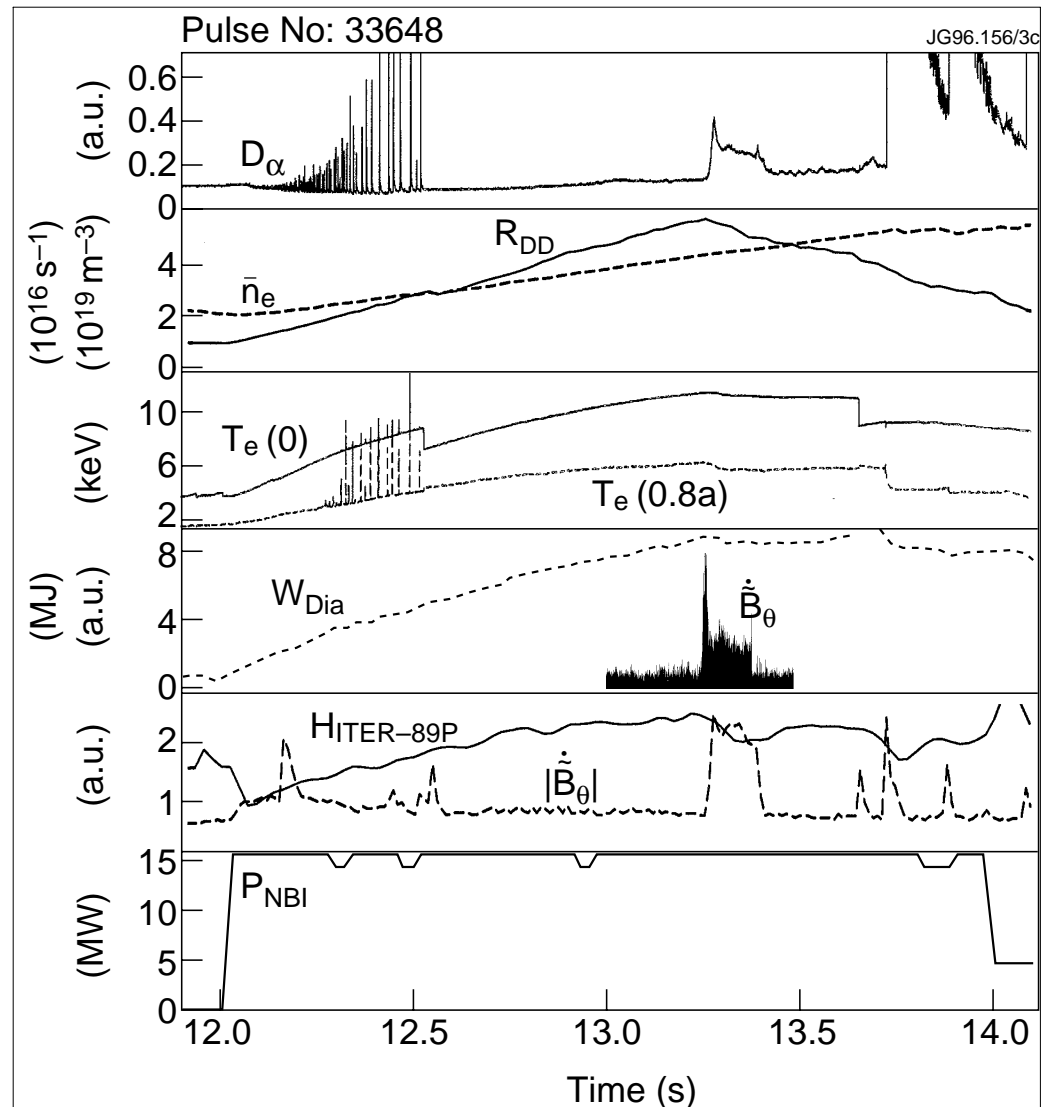
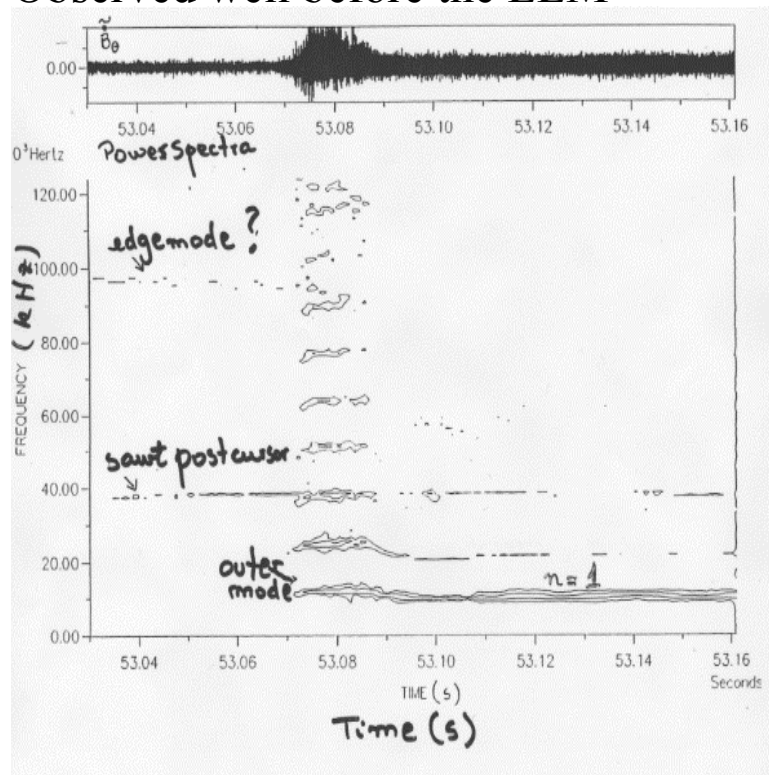
For high performance it was necessary to increase core and edge stability

MHD limitation observed at $\beta_N \sim 1.8$

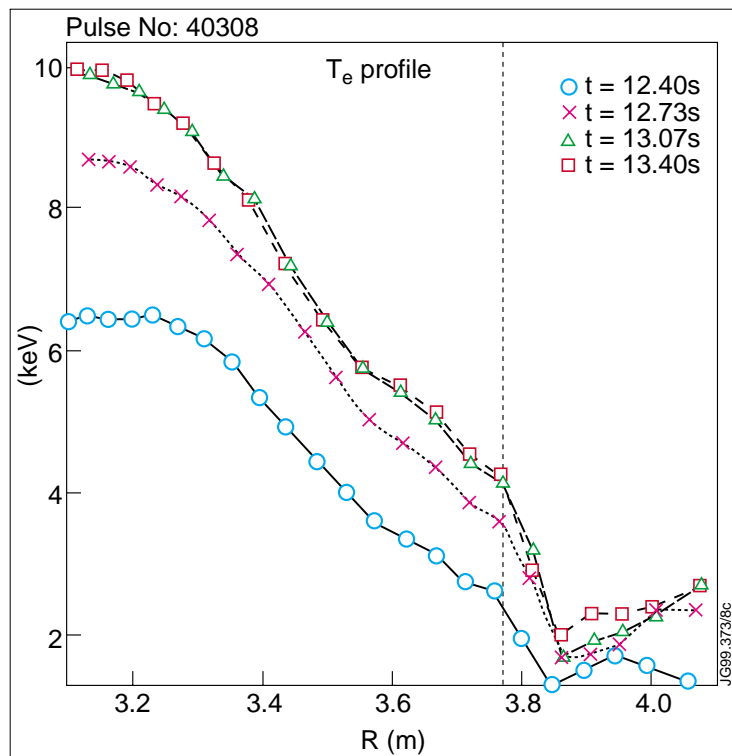
Most serious threat: to
performance:
The Outer Mode

Magnetic identification:
 $n=1$ mode, $f \sim 8-10\text{kHz}$

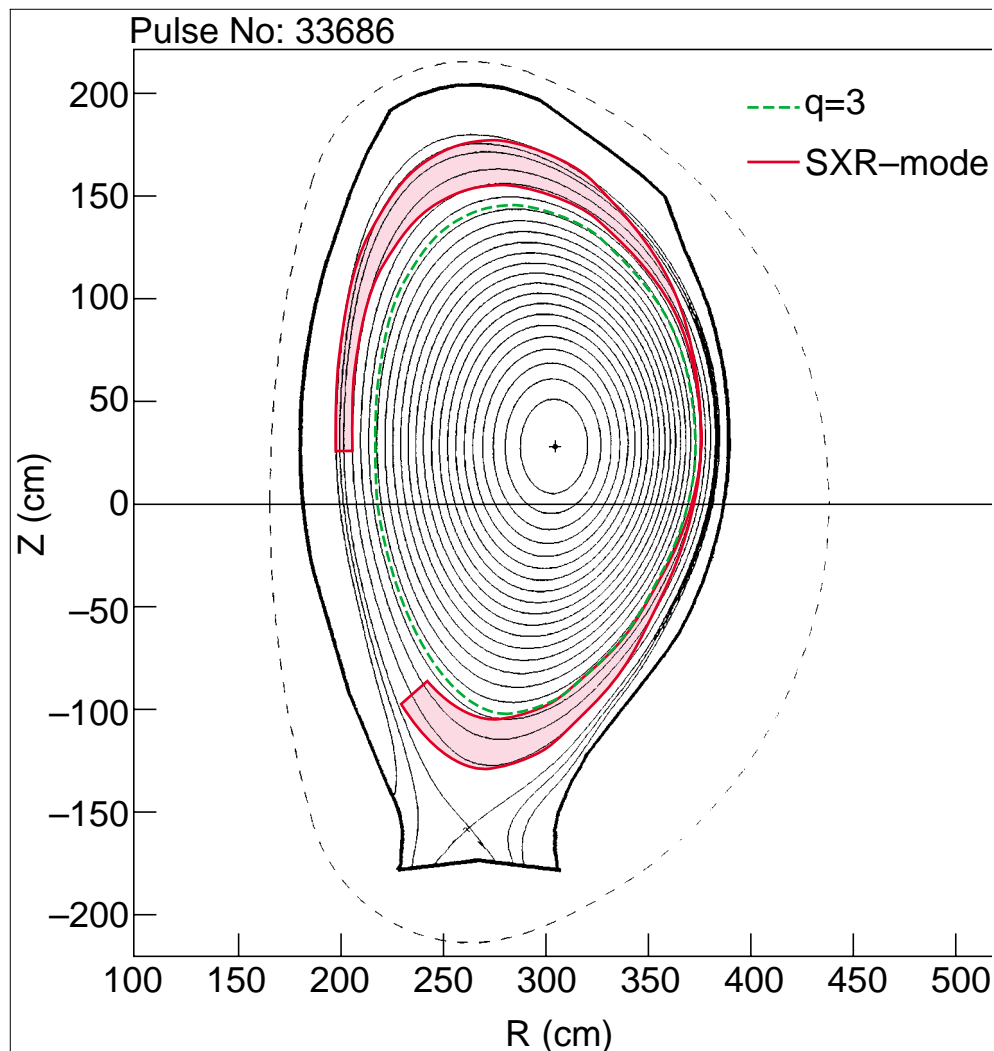
Observed well before the ELM



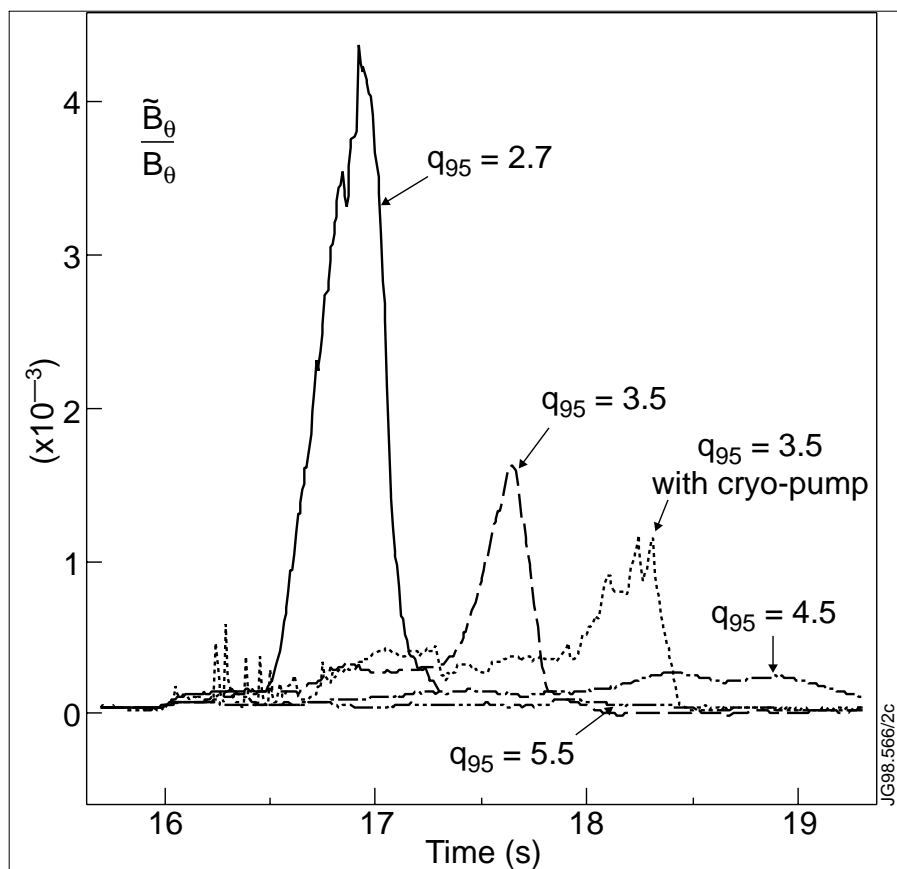
ECE, SXR and reflectometer data shows Outer Mode localised near the edge



Mode inside the H-mode edge confinement barrier.



Bt scan at fixed $I_p=1.6$ MA



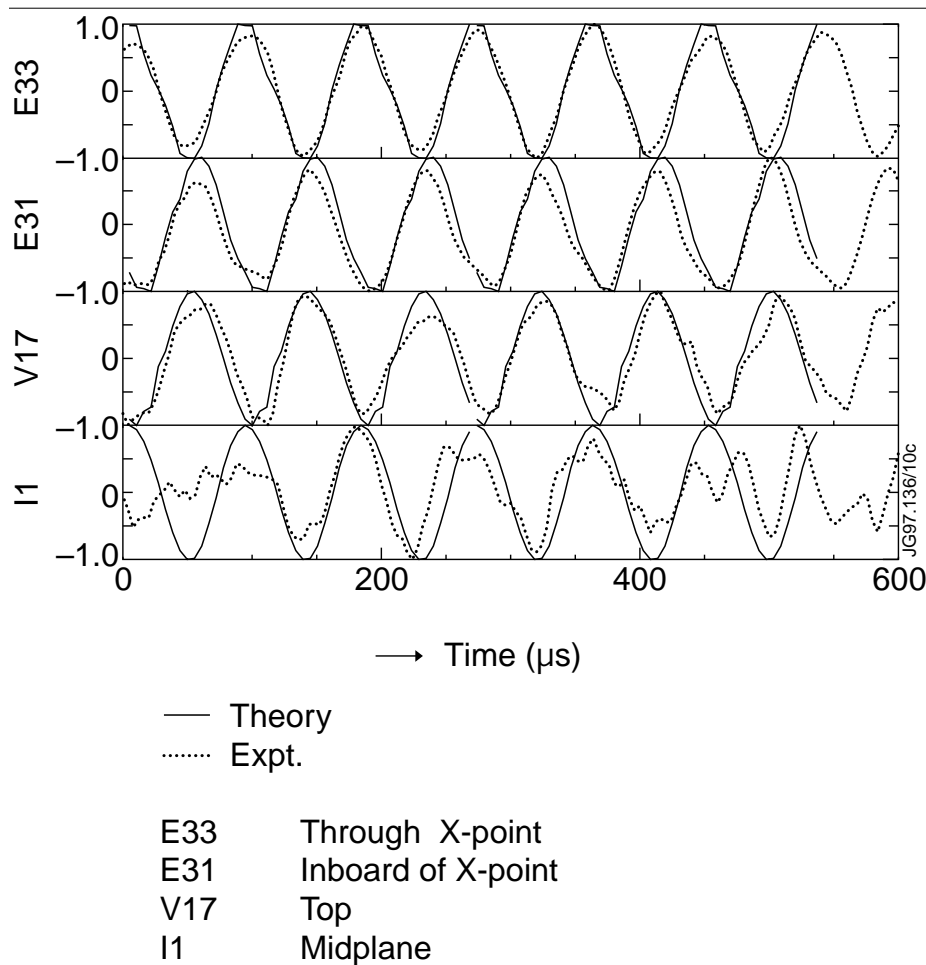
q-scans show that it is better to operate at high q-values

For $q_{95} < 3$ outer mode locks and causes disruption

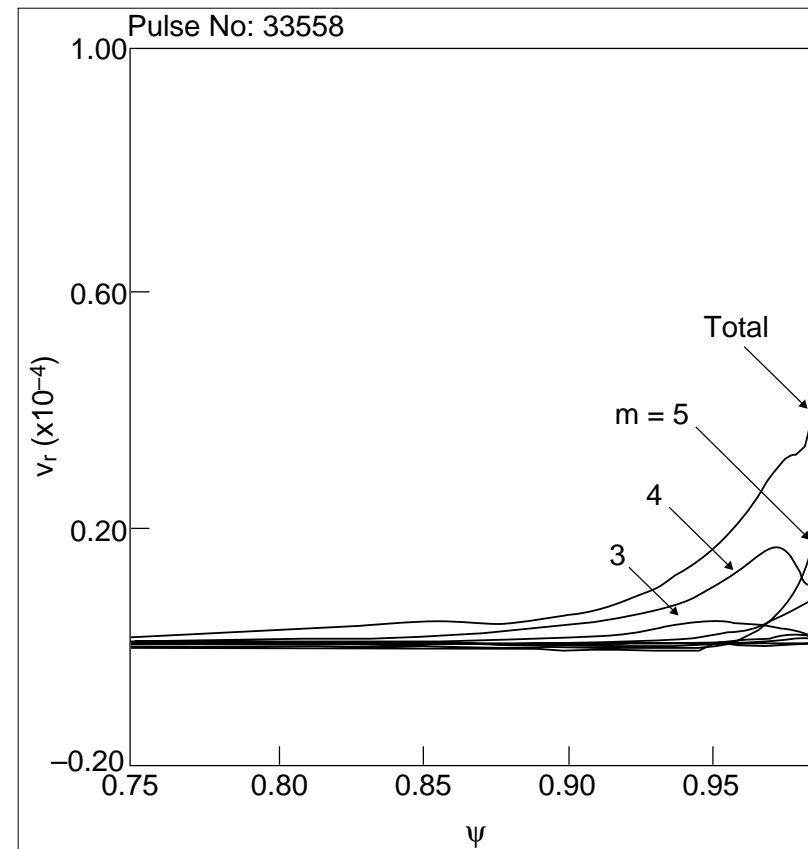
However, even the low amplitude outer-mode at $q_{95} \sim 4.5$ reduces R_{DD}

Identification of outer mode as an External Kink

Comparison of SXR data (dotted line) and predictions (solid line) based on the ideal kink



Mode structure from CASTOR code

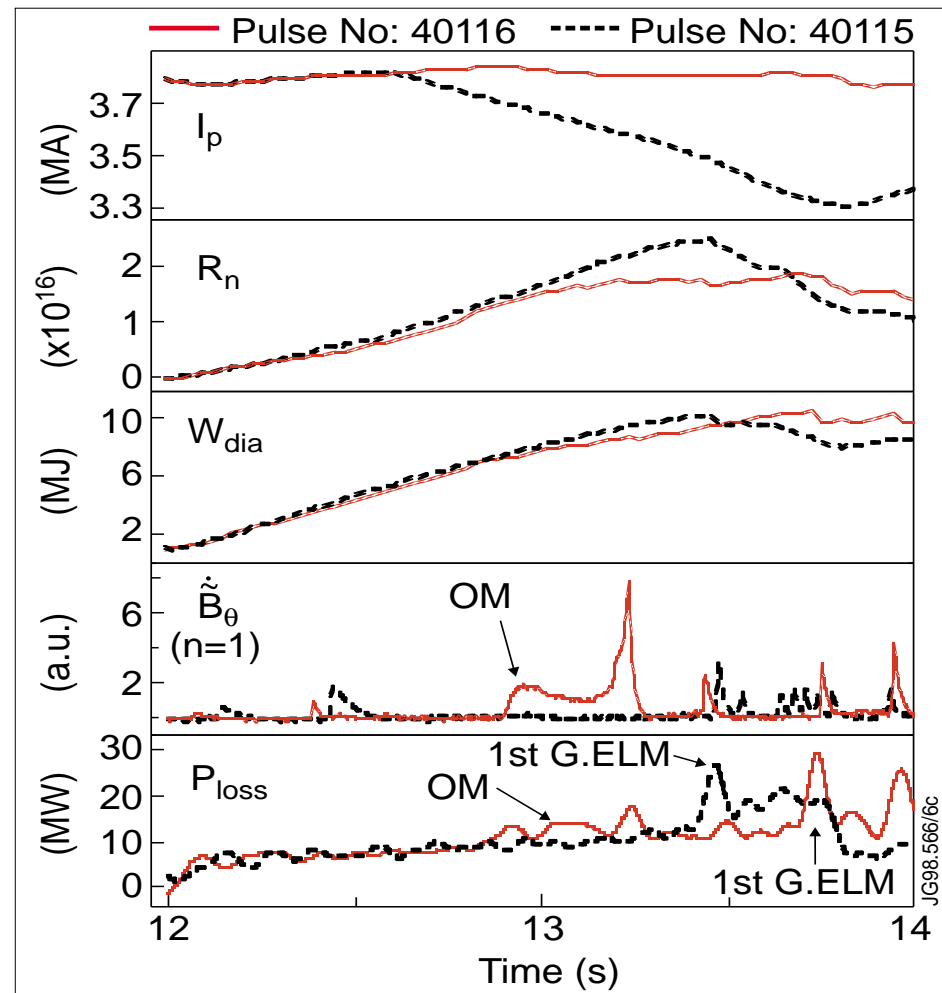


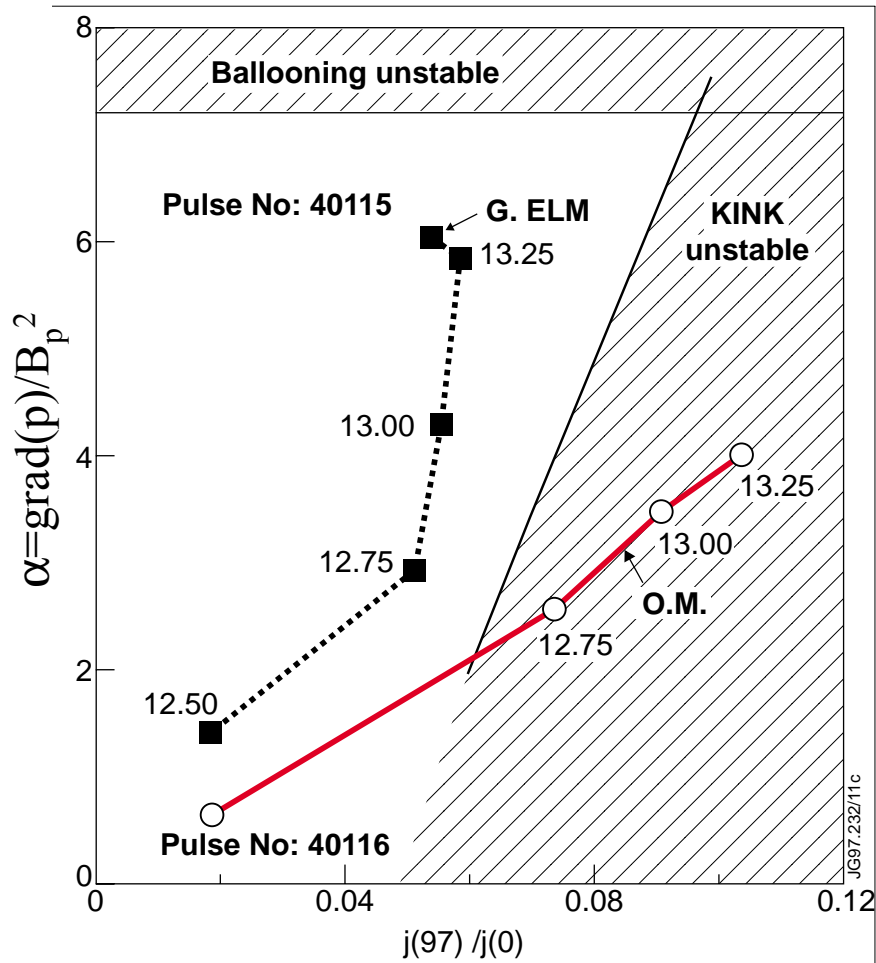
Huysmans et al, NF 1998

Controlling the outer mode by current ramp-down

- ❖ Outer mode delayed
- ❖ R_{DD} limitation delayed by 500 ms
- ❖ Improved R_{DD} by 45%

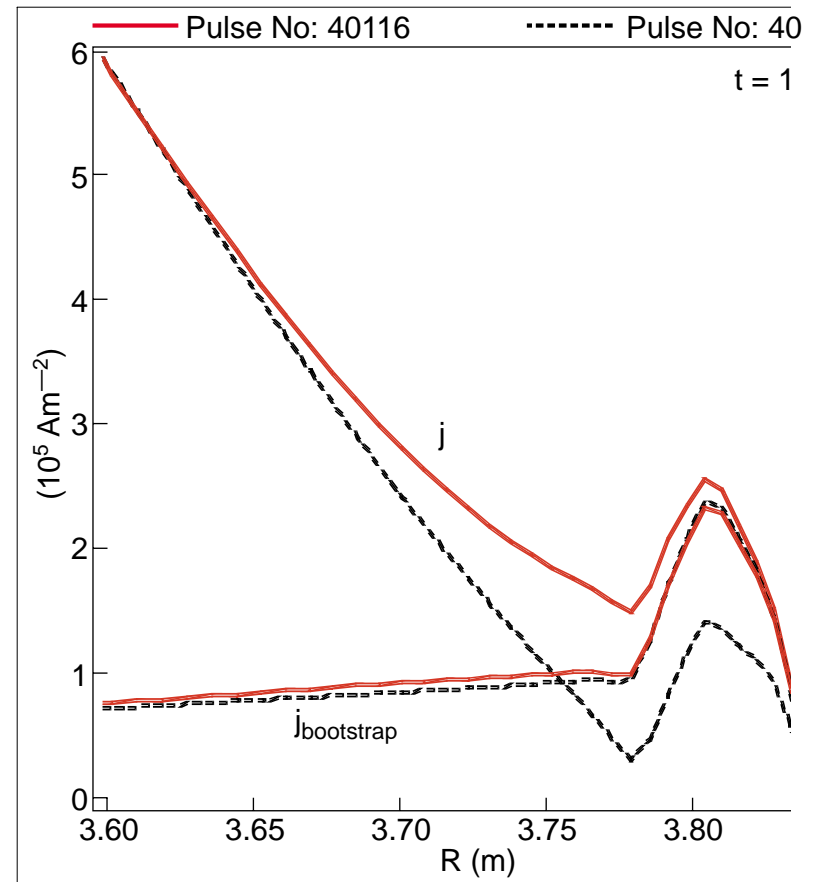
Current ramp-down experiments confirm the identification of the OM as an external kink





CASTOR code calculation

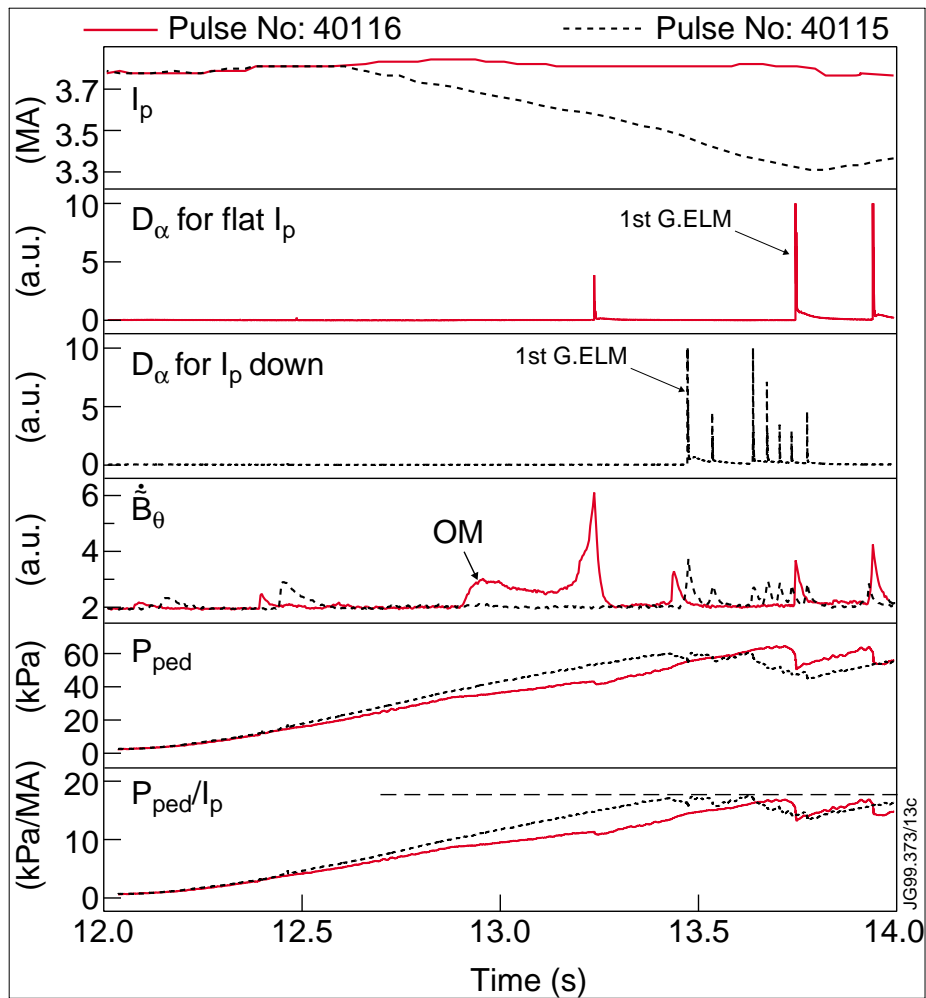
- ❖ Current ramp-down increases stability to external kink modes
- ❖ Ballooning limit reached earlier



JETTO Calculation:

- ❖ Jedge lower
- ❖ Grad(p) not changed
- ❖ Bp decreased by 10%

With Current ramp-down the 1st giant ELM occurs earlier

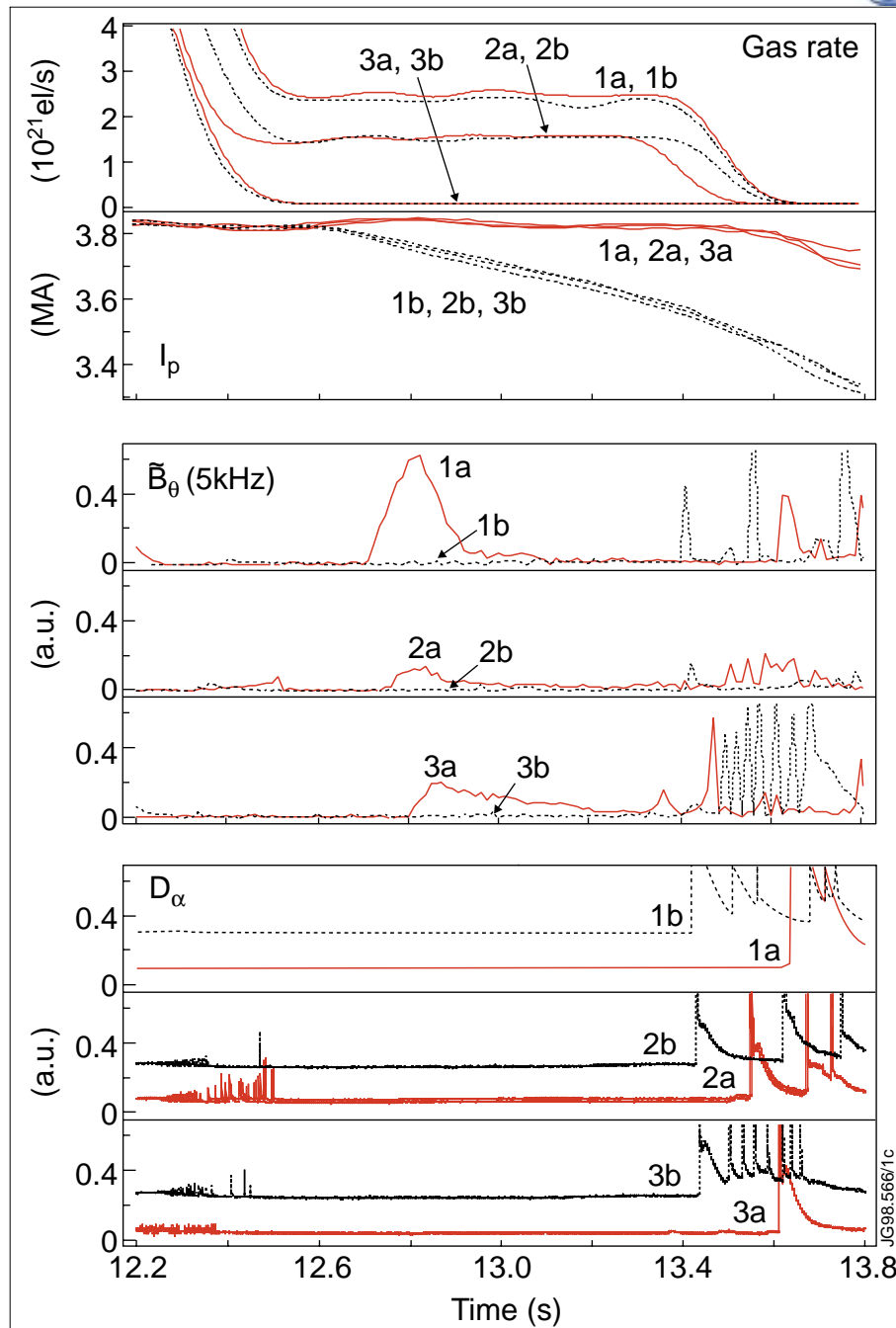


Experiments to separate
gra(p) and j effects

With different gas rates :
No effect on either ELMs or OM

With current ramp-down clear
results always obtained :
OM suppressed
ELM occurs earlier

$di_p/dt = -0.3-0.5$ MA/s



For discharge optimisation with respect to the 1st ELM it is better to increase IP

aligning at fixed B_t for discharges where OM has been suppressed

ELM occurs for crit P_{ped}/I_p

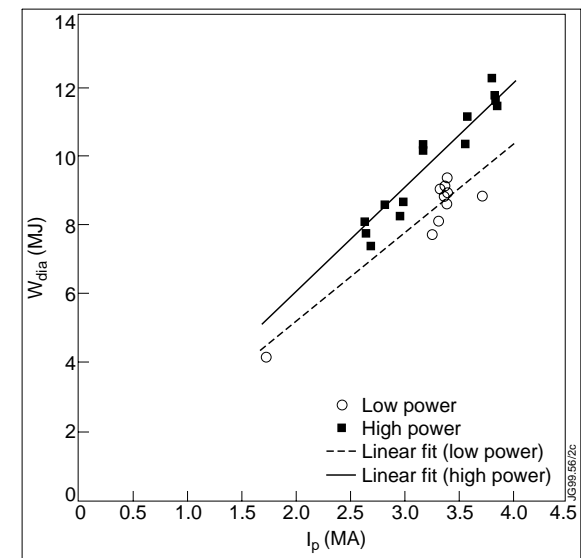
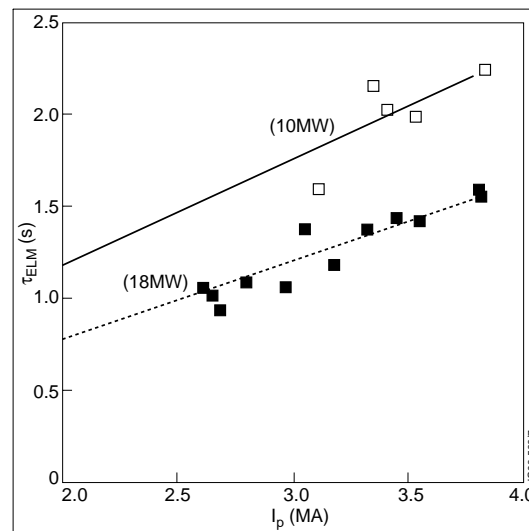
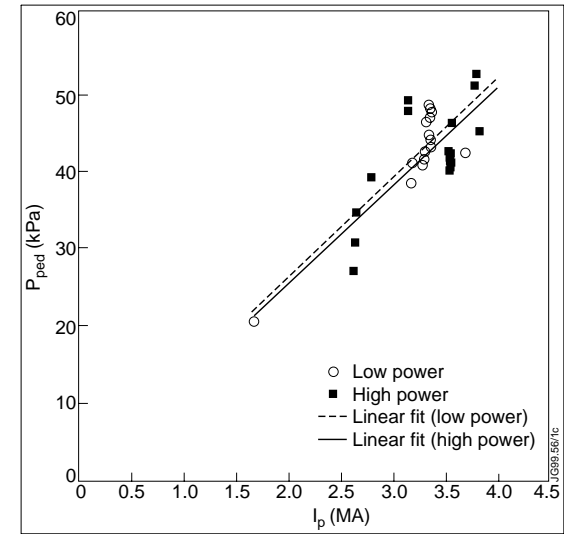
incompatible with ballooning limit if edge barrier width

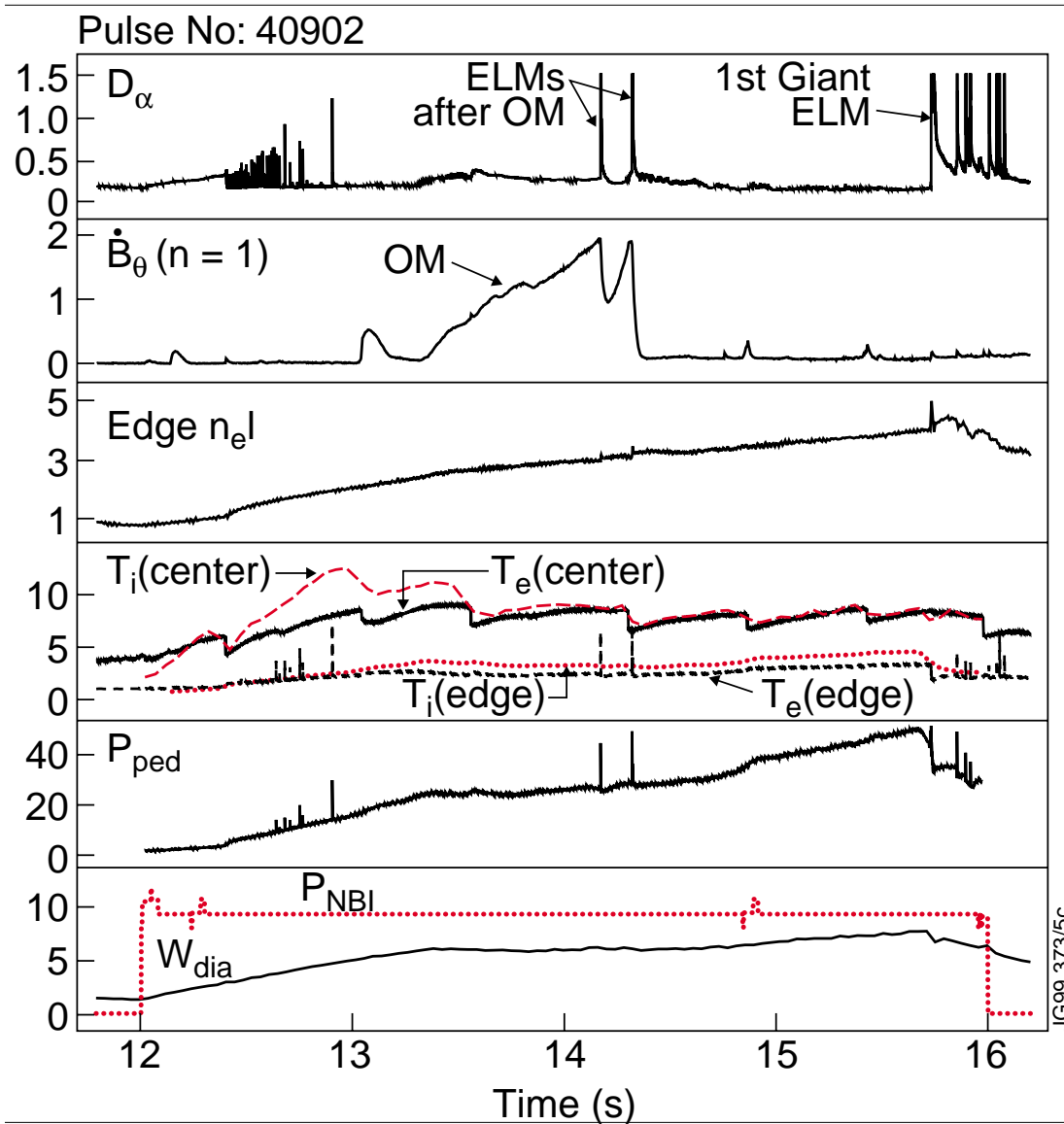
barrier width $\propto I_p^{-1}$

optimised discharges $t_{ELM} \propto I_p$

non-optimised discharges have longer ELM-Free periods

(Nave et al. PPCF 1999)

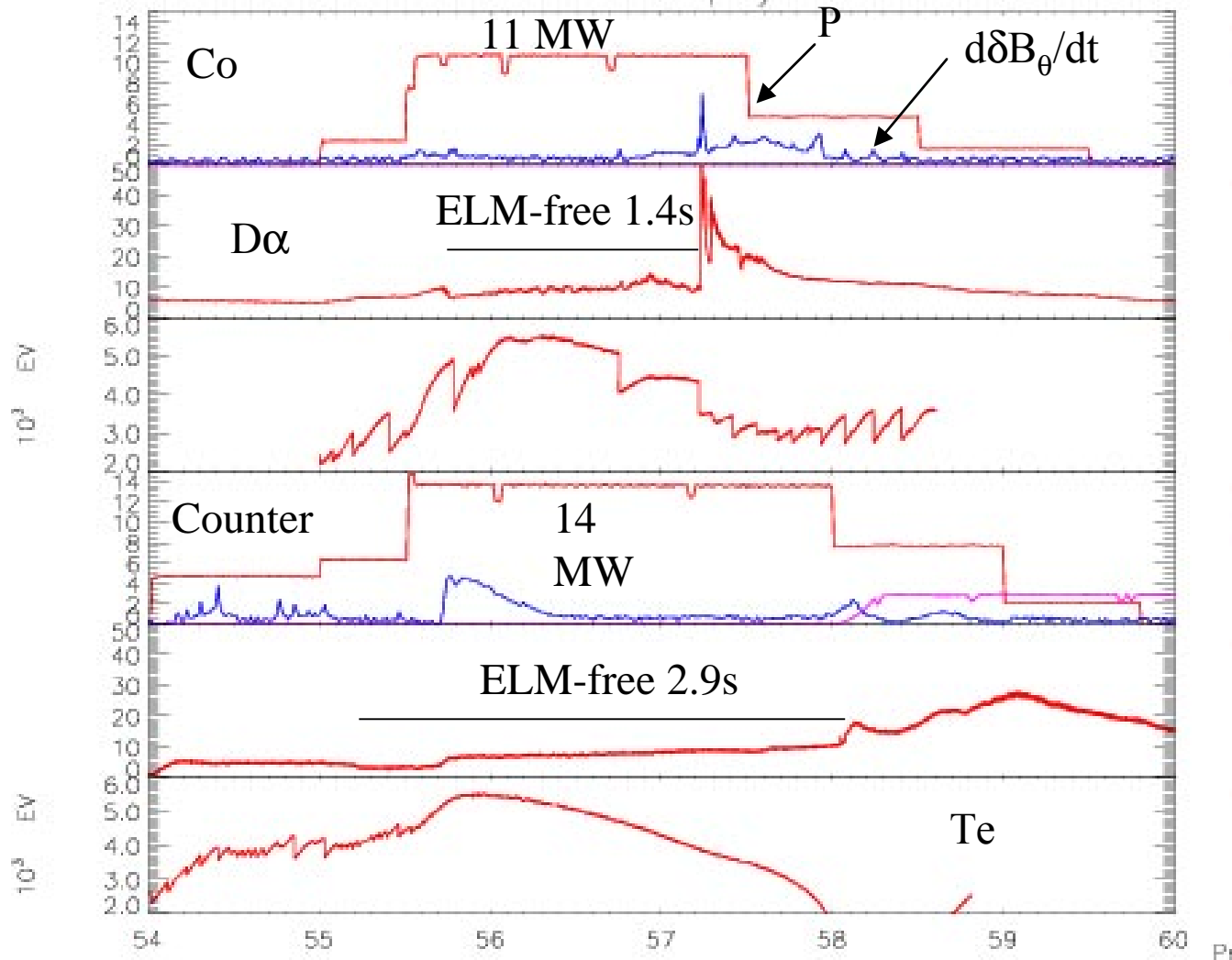




Recipe for a long ELM-free period:

- ❖ Create a continuous External Kink
- ❖ The mode keeps the pressure at the top of the pedestal low, delaying the first large ELM

Continuous Outer-Modes and Longest ELM-free periods observed with Counter-NBI injection



JET Mk I div 1993/94 - unpublished since due to OM performance was very poor

ELM CONTROL BY ENHANCED RADIATION

At JET Impurity injection has been used to control H-mode edge conditions :

LM-free hot-ion H-modes

Argon, Krypton, Xenon

Nave et al, PPCF 1995

LM_y H-mode plasmas

Nitrogen, Neon

.Matthews et al, PPCF 1995

.Matthews et al, NF 1999

Argon, Neon (RI Experiments)

Jachmich et al, EPS 2001/ PPCF 2002\

Rapp et al, IAEA conf. 2002

Optimized Shear

Argon, Krypton, Neon

Reducing the pressure at the top of the pedestal is expected

- to increase stability to ballooning modes (delaying 1st ELM)
- to increase stability to external kinks

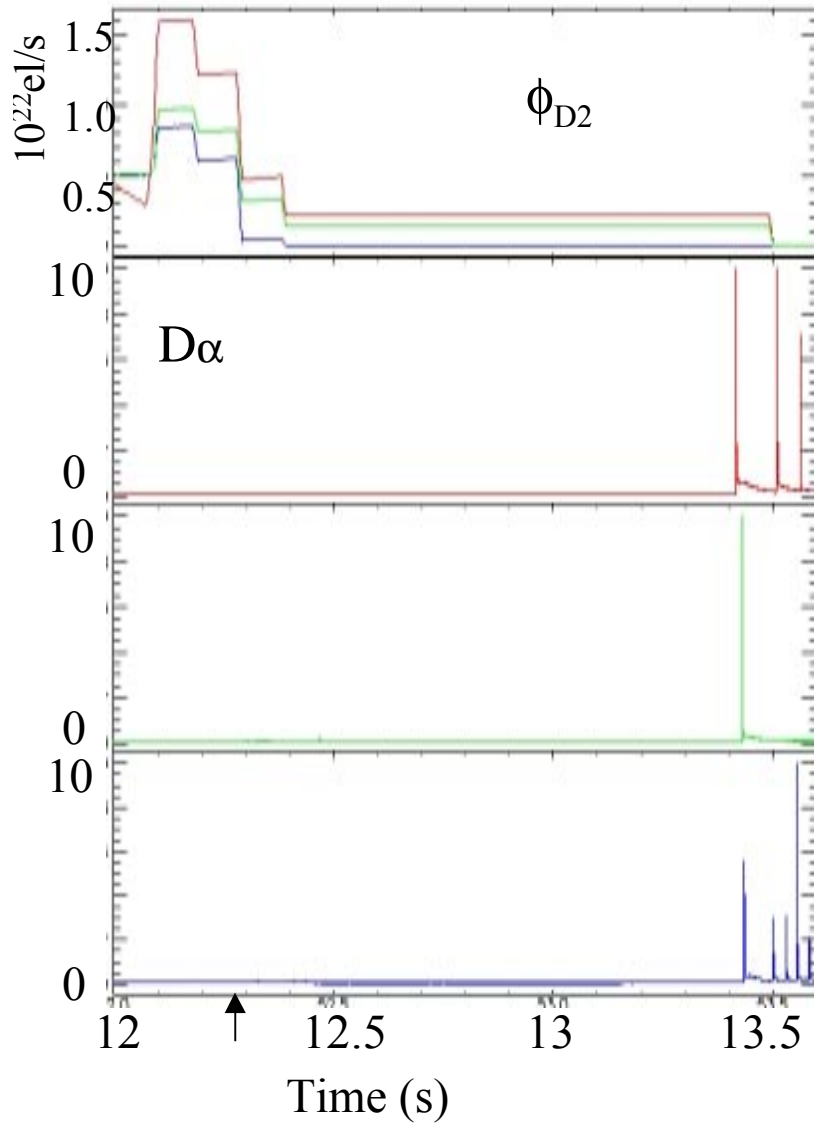
Large T_e values at the top of the H-mode pedestal:

T_e (edge) \sim 2-5 keV

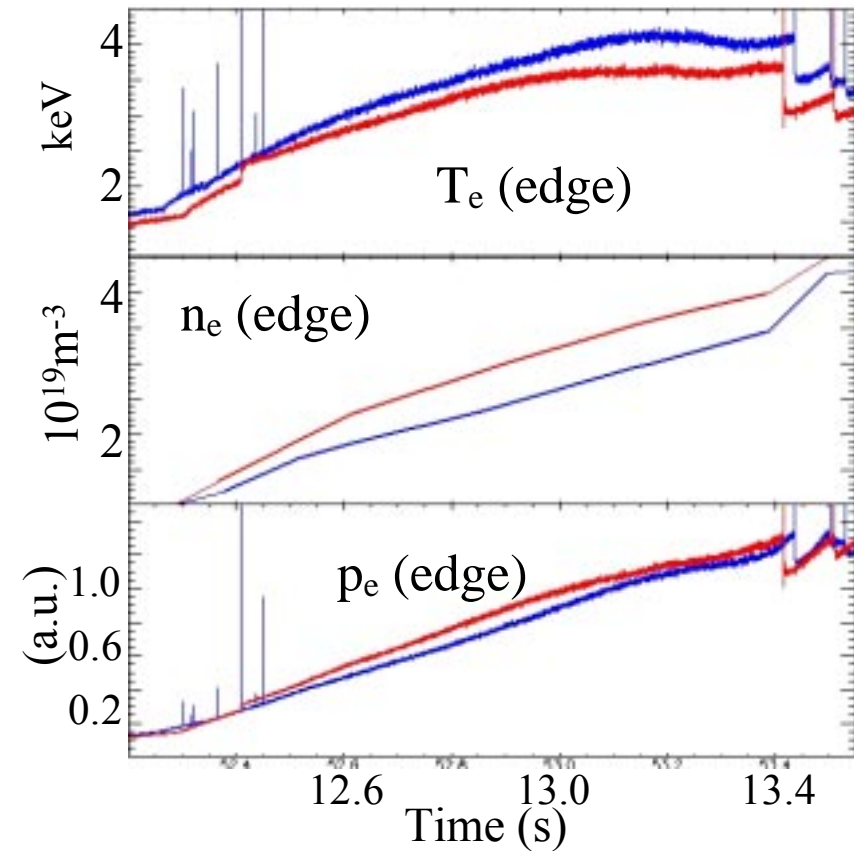
Pressure at the top of the pedestal may be reduced by reducing T_e

- D_2 puff
- An impurity puff

Hot-ion H-modes



Increasing D_2 rate has not delayed the 1st ELM



Experiments with impurity injection

Objective : To limit the edge pressure gradient by controlling the power flowing through the H-mode confinement barrier

Impurities used : Ar, Kr and Xe

Chosen to radiate effectively at values of T_e typical of the top of pedestal ,

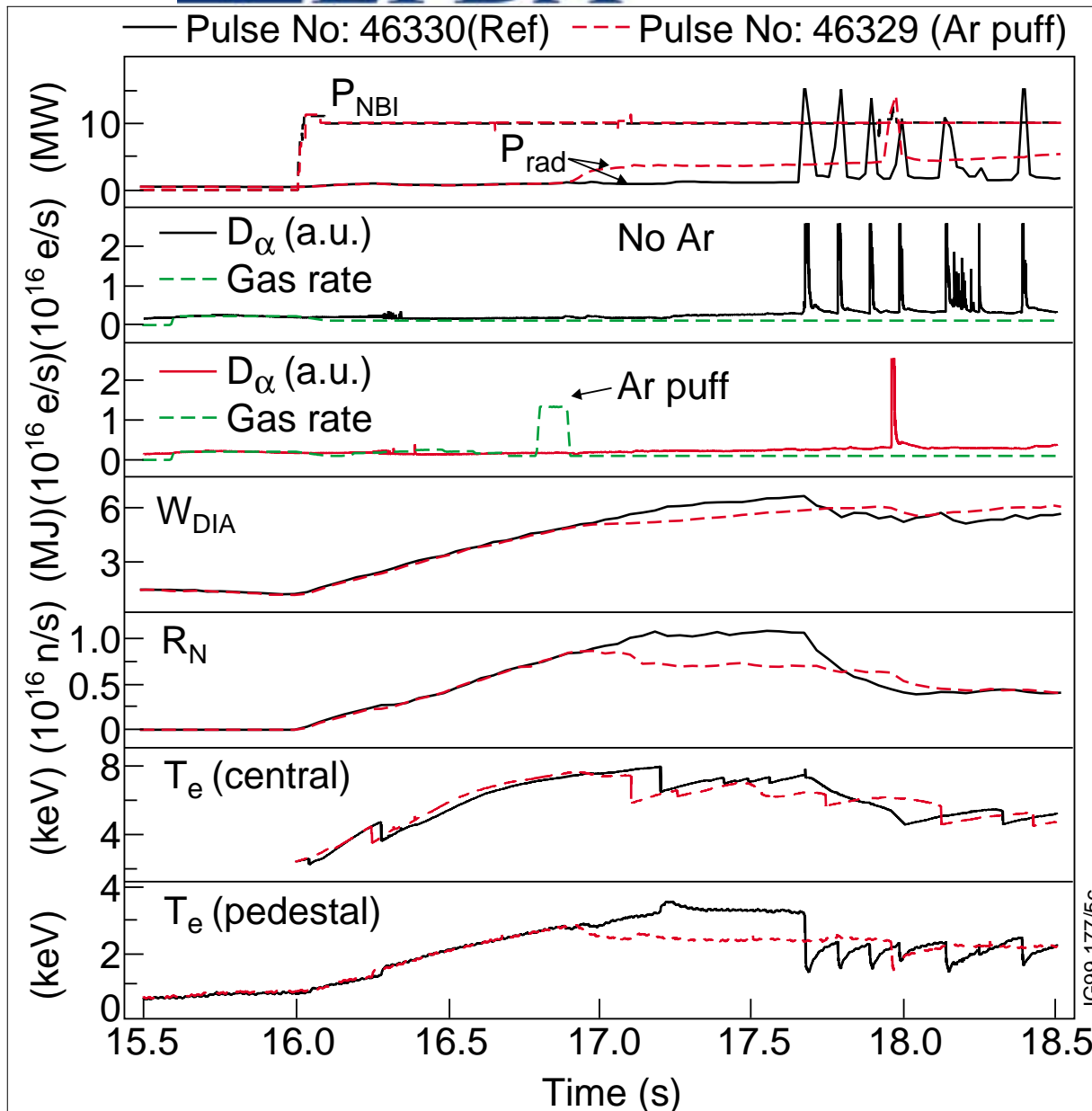
$$T_e \sim 2-5 \text{ keV}$$

Impurity injected from the main chamber (either from top or mid-plane) in short puffs lasting ~ 100 ms.

Experimental set up:

$$P_{\text{NBI}} = 10 \text{ MW}, I_p = 2.5 \text{ MA}, B_t = 2.5-2.8 \text{ T}, \delta \sim 0.37$$

Hot-ion H-modes



- *1st ELM delayed*
- *ELM frequency decreased*
- *Similar observations for Ar, Kr and Xe*

Hot-ion H-modes

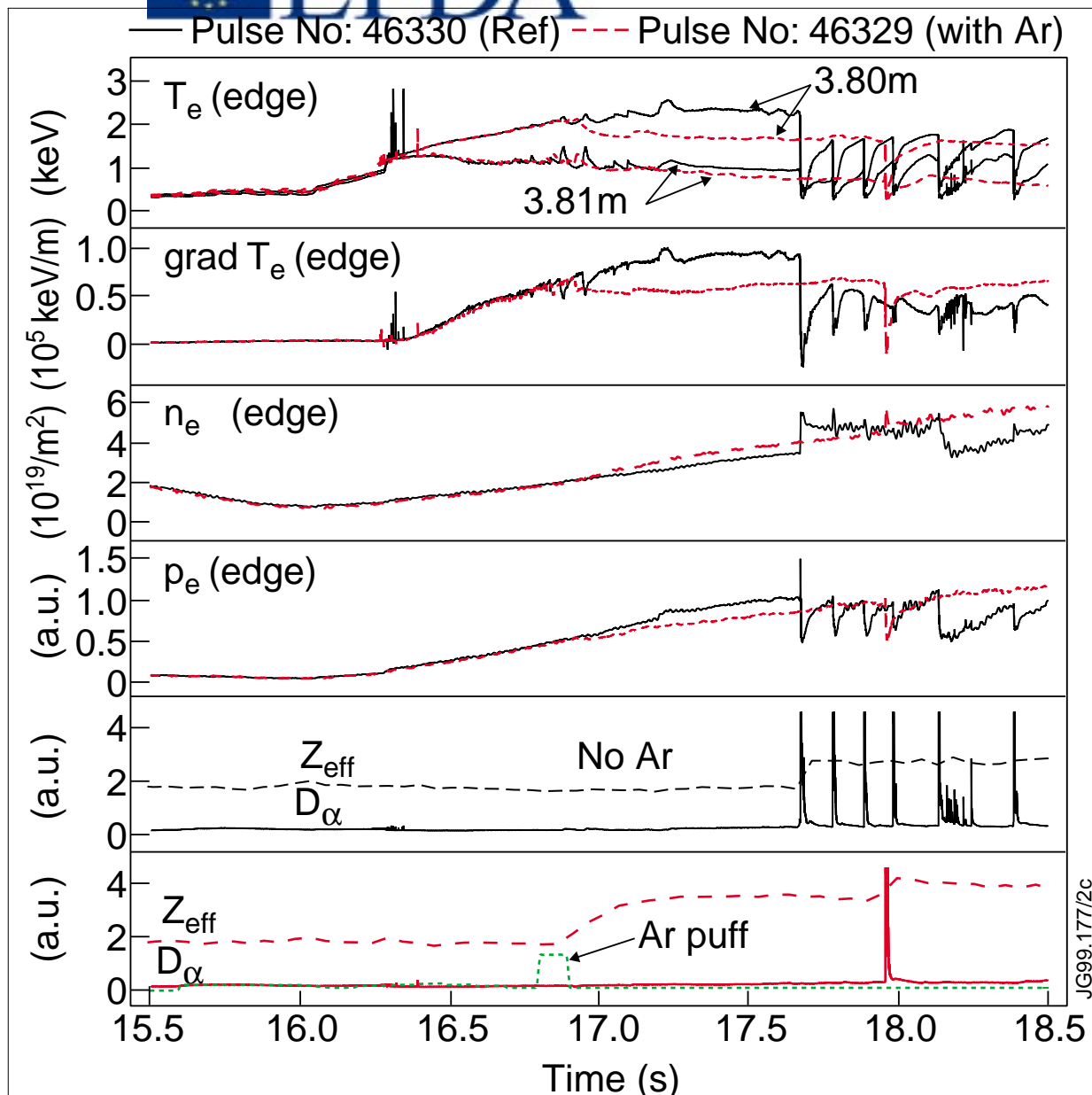
Observations at the edge

With the impurity:

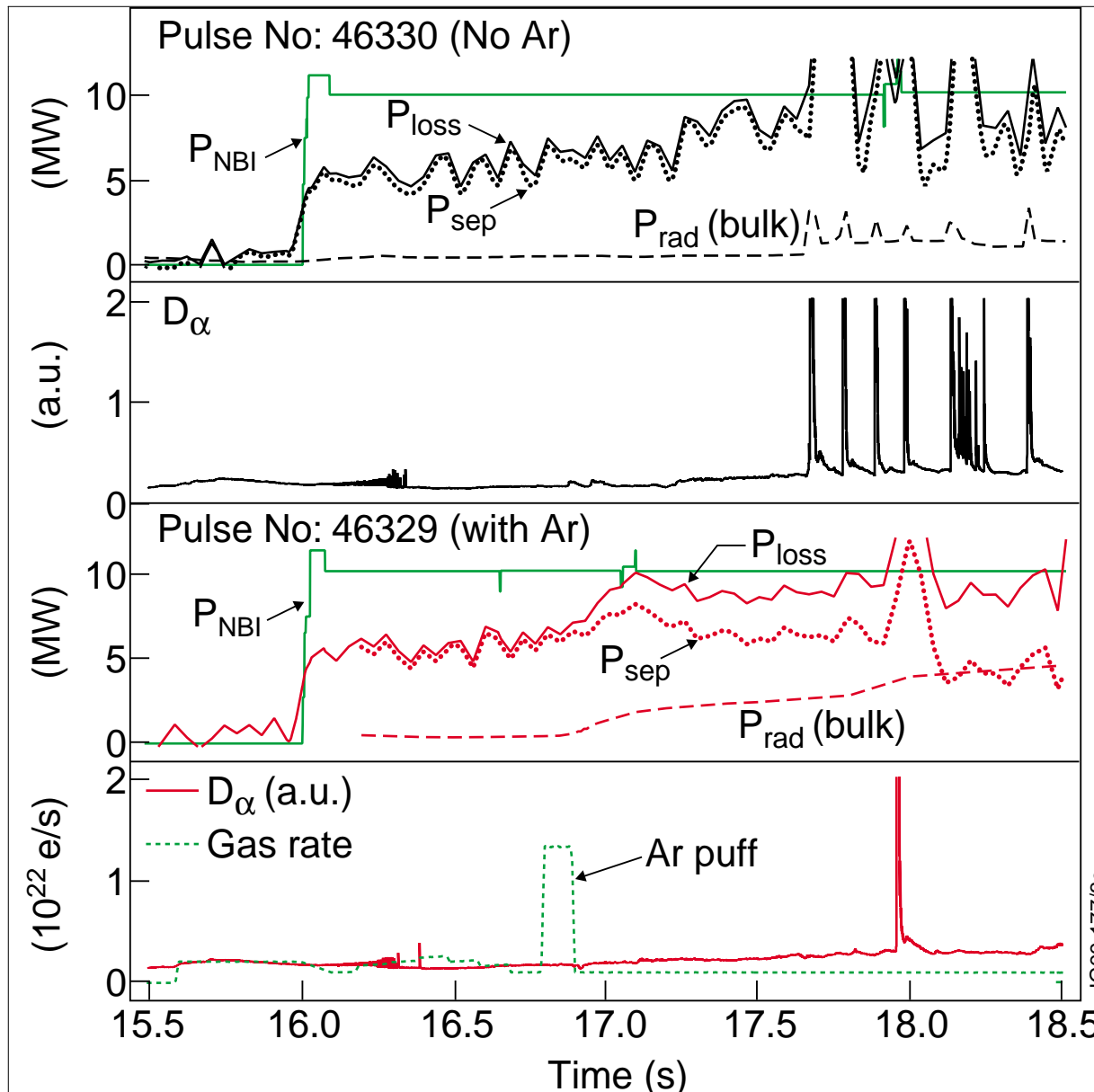
- T_e pedestal decreases,
- ∇T_e (edge) decreases,
- Z_{eff} increases producing a small increase of the edge density.

- *There is a net decrease of p_e*

ELM activity not completely removed since n_e is not controlled



Hot-ion H-modes



Observations at the edge

The power flowing to the H-mode barrier decreases

Power loss:

$$P_{loss} = P_{NBI} - dW_{D\alpha}/dt$$

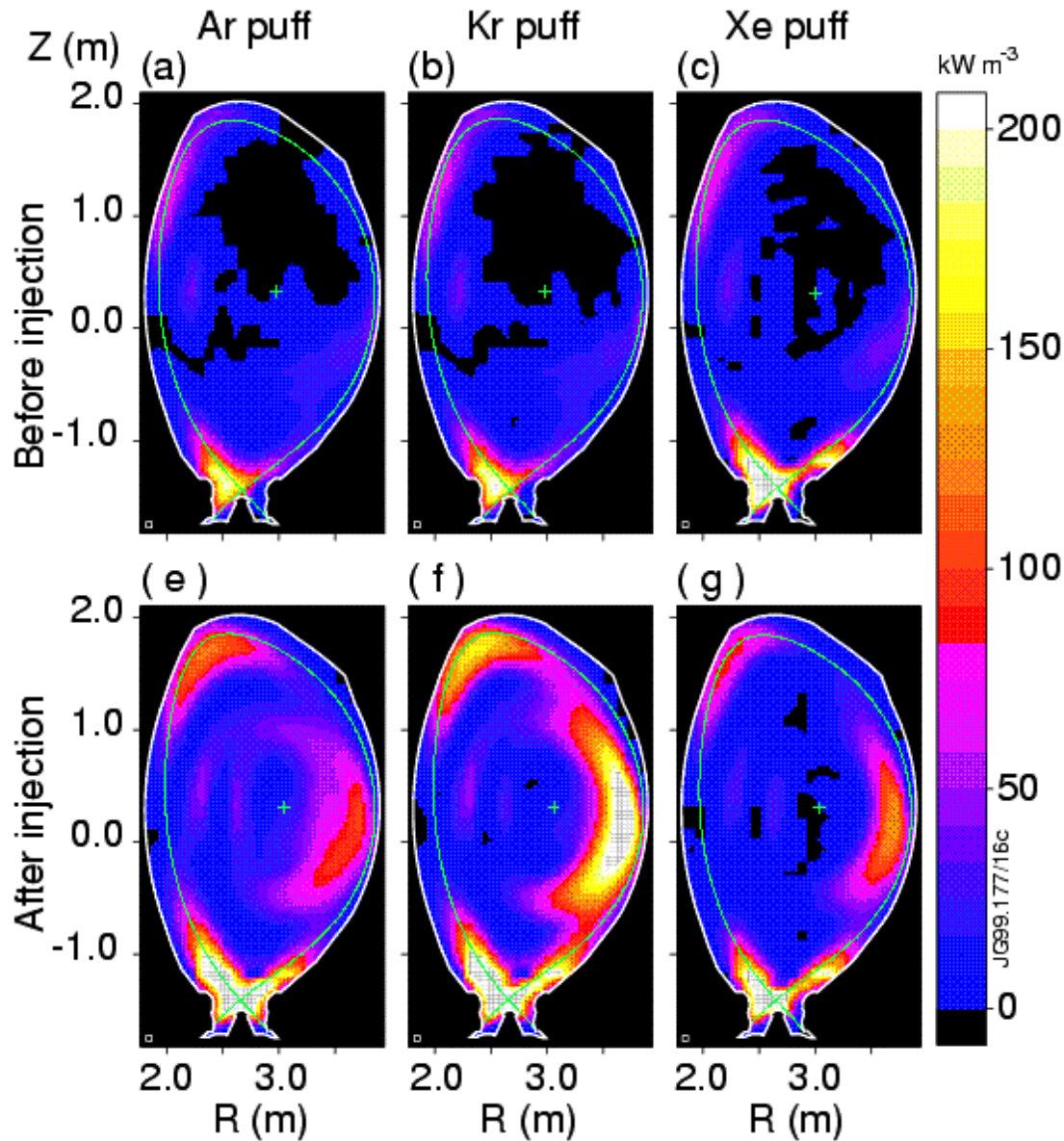
Bulk radiated power:

$$P_{rad} \text{ within the flux surface } \rho=0.95$$

Power flowing through the H-mode barrier:

$$P_{edge} = P_{NBI} - P_{loss}$$

Hot-ion H-modes



Contour plots of P_{rad}

a wide radiating region is observed $r > 0.4$

Largest accumulation with Kr

Recent experiments:

Current ramps

used in Optimised shear to affect ELMs

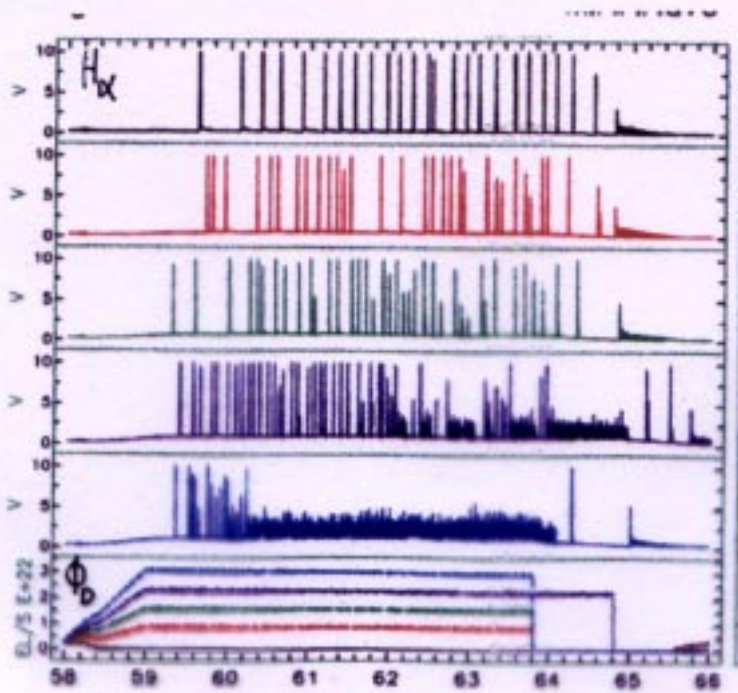
Radiation effect on ELMs

studied in RI experiments

ELM mitigation by impurity seeding is at present an important subject

ELMy H-modes

Gas Scan at fixed triangularity (G.Sabeine N.F.1999)

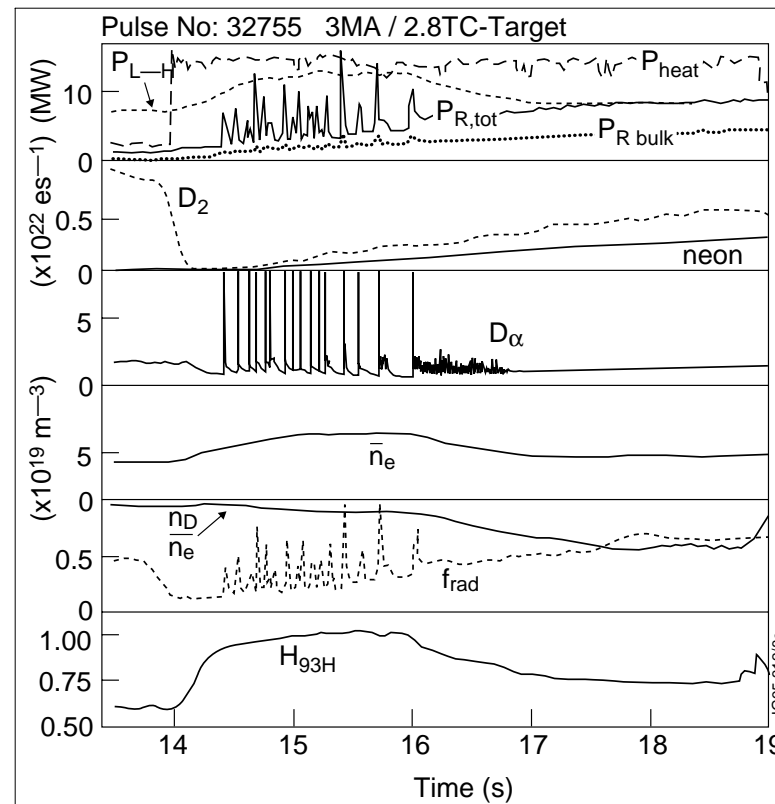


With D_2

f_{ELM} increases with D_2 rate

With large D_2 rate:

Transition to Type III occurs.



Experiments with Ni, Ne and Ar

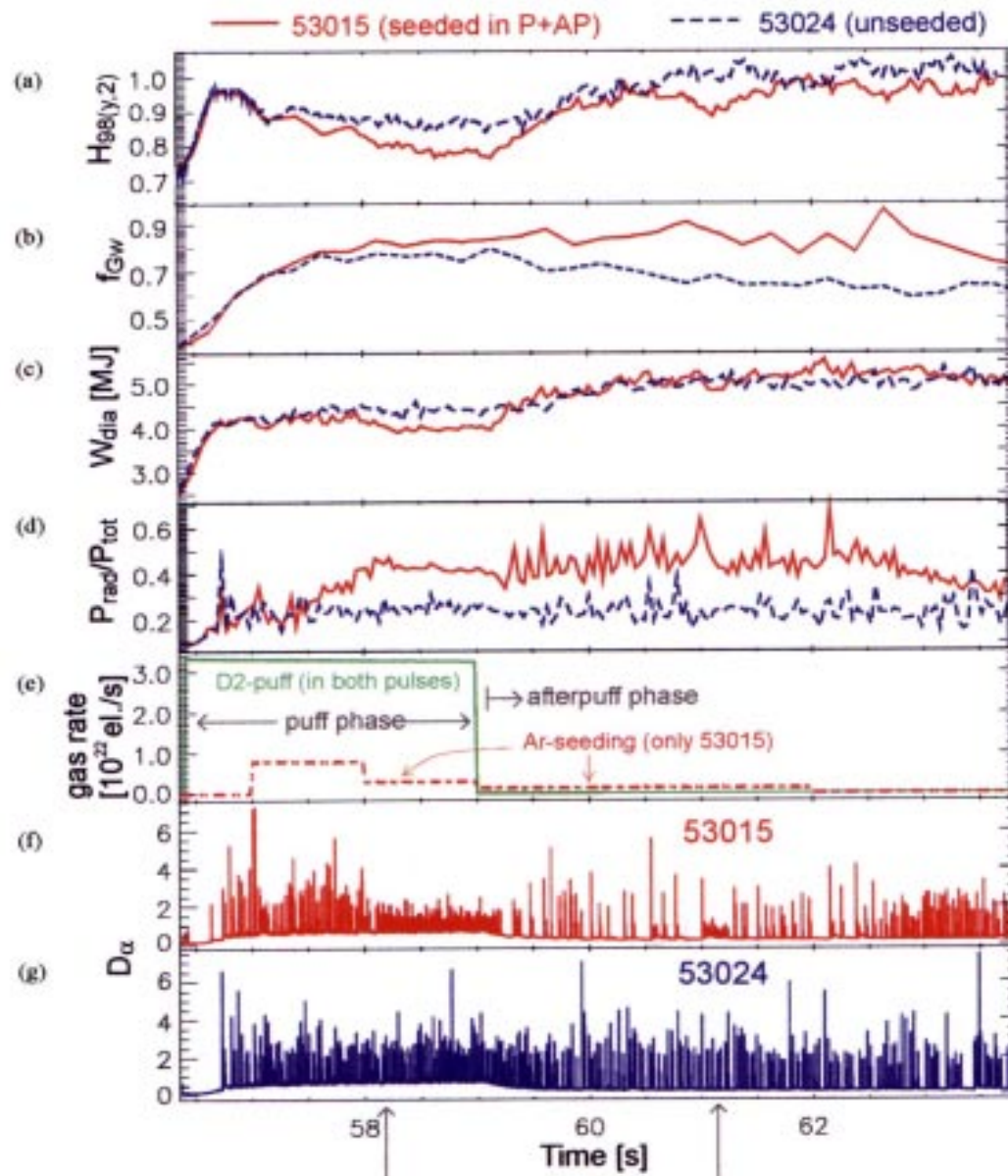
f_{ELM} decreases with Impurity rate/
 P_{rad}/P_{tot}

However, for large impurity
injection

Transition to Type III occurs.

Septum discharge, $\delta \sim 0.2$

ELMy H-modes RI with Ar



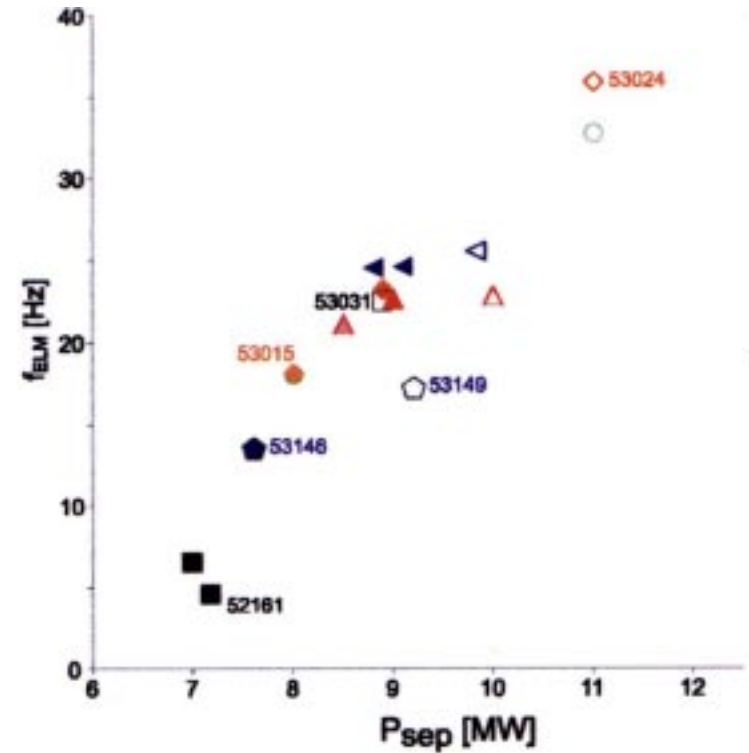
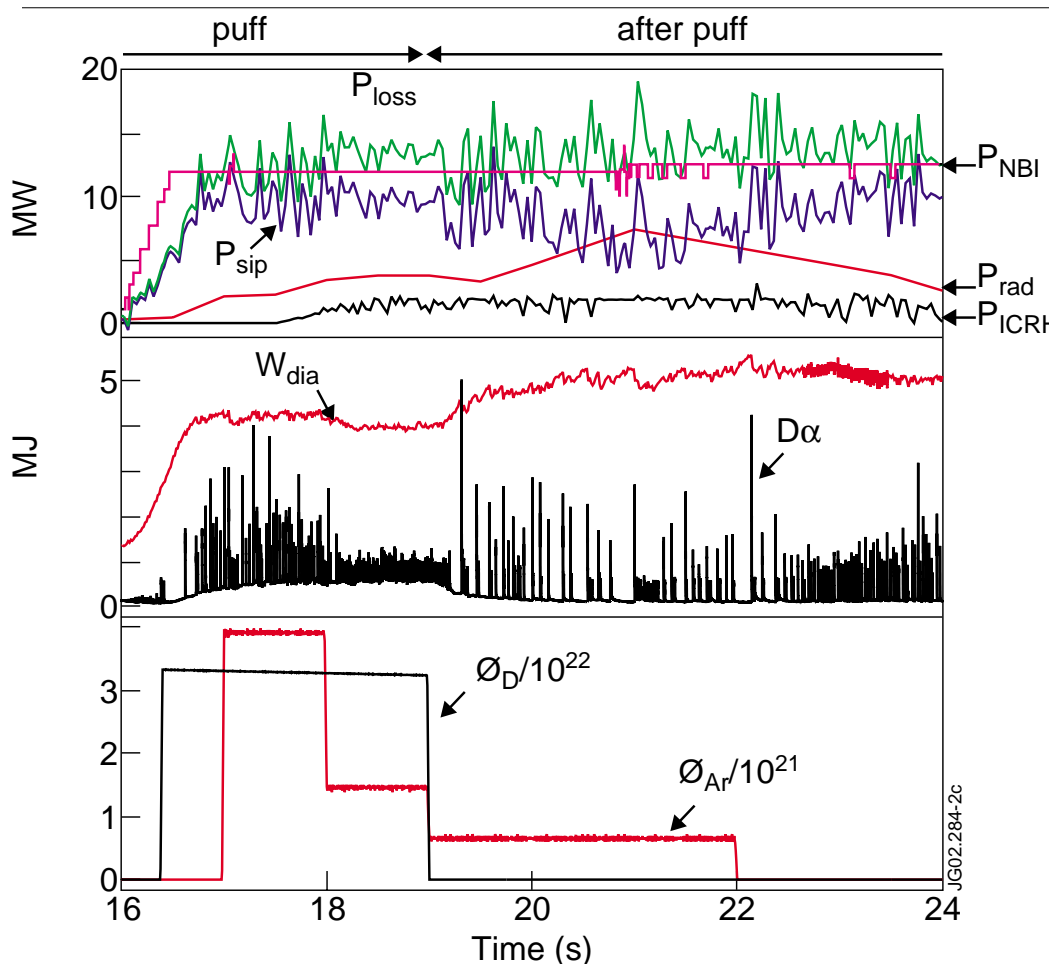
Two Phases:

- Puff phase:
with Ar Type III ELMs
- After-puff phase:
with Ar Type I ELM frequency is reduced

With Argon
 Lower Type I f_{ELM}
 observed with reduced P_{sep}

ELMy H-modes

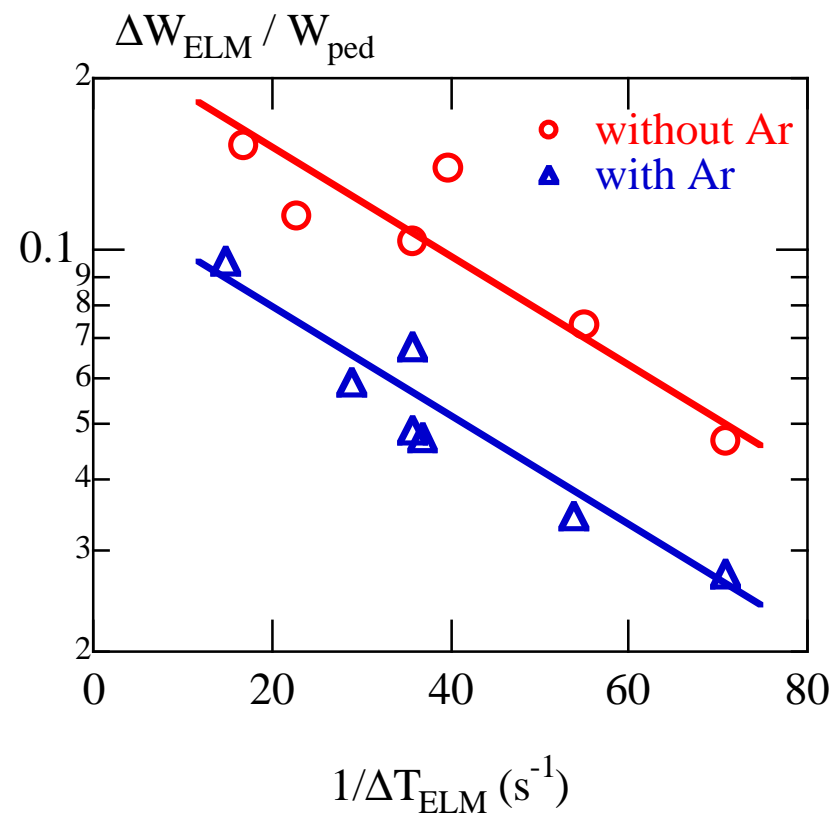
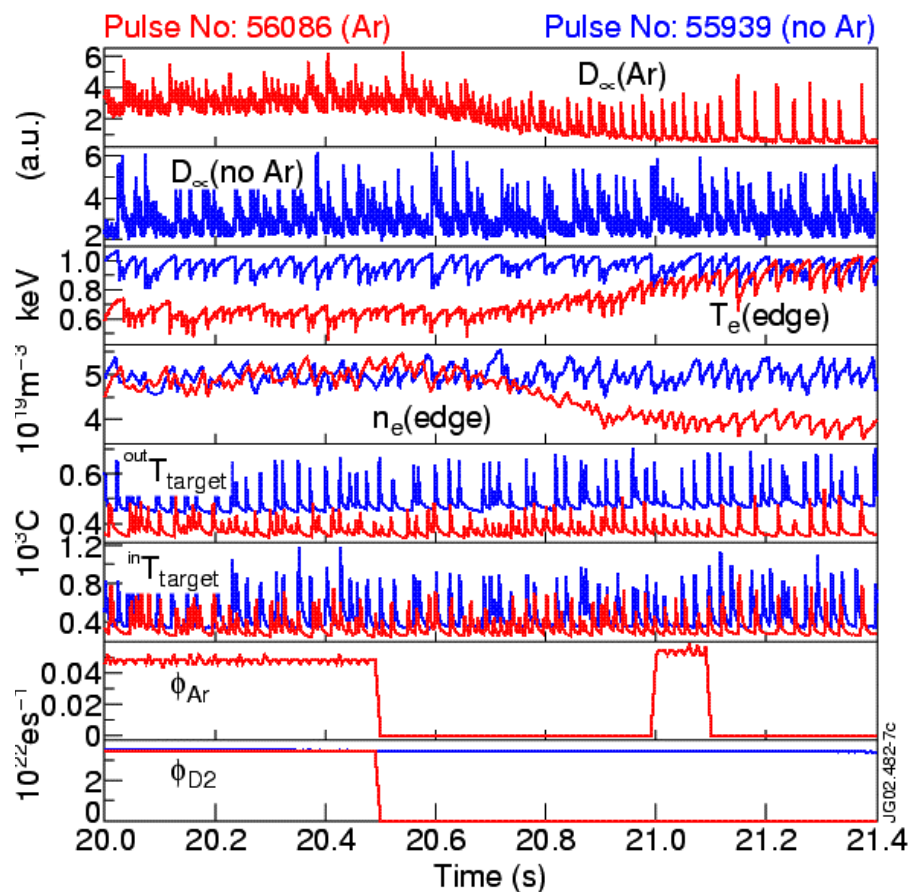
RI with Ar



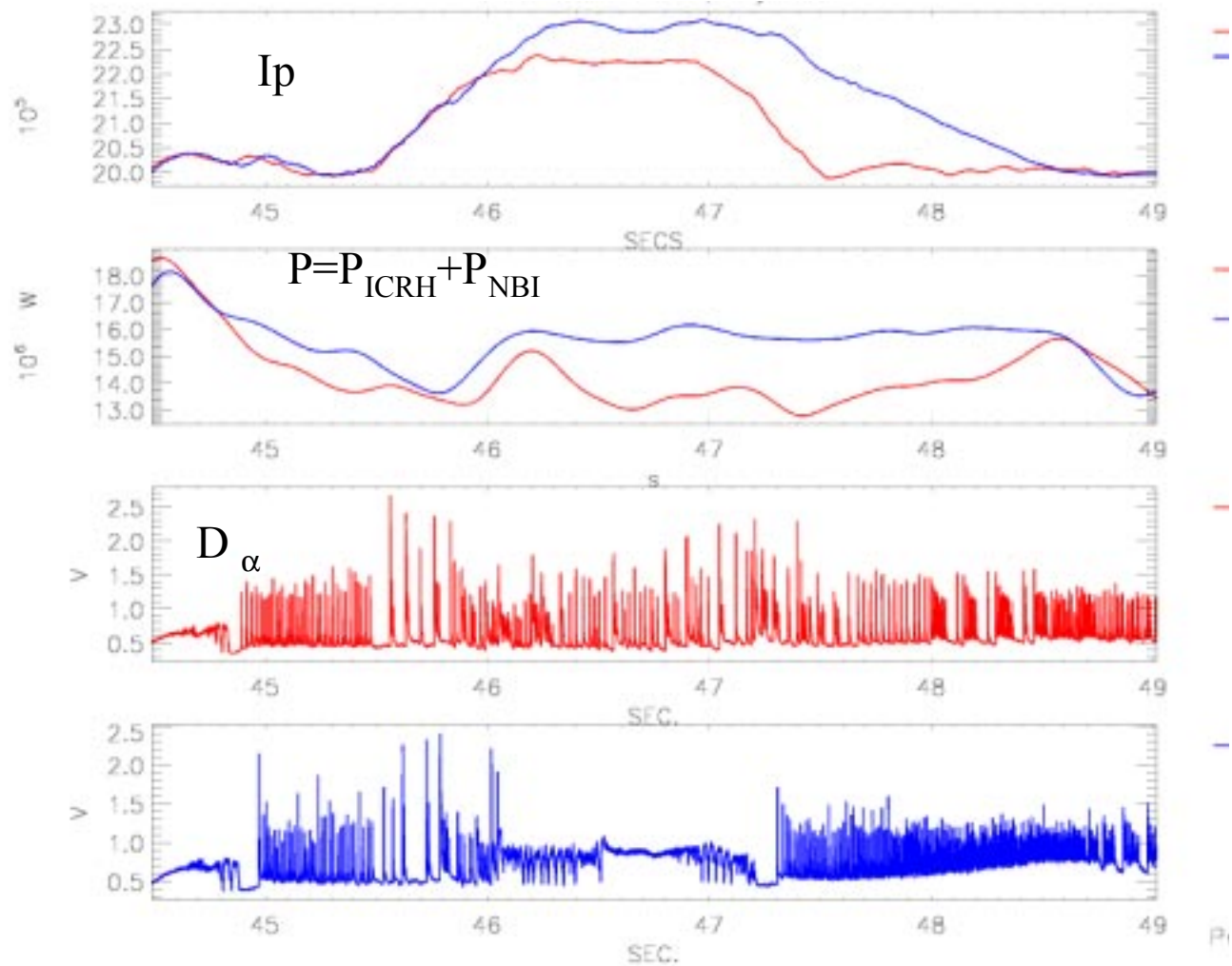
Open symbols: no Ar
 Closed symbols: with Ar

ELM Mitigation with Impurity Seeding

Reduced target surface temperature with Ar
 Pedestal energy is reduced with Ar
 $\Delta W_{\text{ELM}}/W_{\text{PED}}$ is reduced.



In recent JET Optimised Shear discharges current ramps used to attempt to change ELM behaviour by changing discharge trajectory in the α vs j diagram.



Summary

JET ELM-free H-modes are limited by edge MHD instabilities

Stability analysis shows that outer modes and ELMs occur close to both the external kink and the ballooning marginal stability boundaries

Theory indicated several paths to increase stability: $j_{\text{edge}}(\nabla p)$, l_i , q_{edge} , $\alpha(\nabla p, B_p)$, s_{edge}

Experiments- shape scans

B_t and I_p scans

Edge j (current ramp down)

Edge ∇p (cryo-pump/ gas fuelling/ radiation control)

Current ramp-down experiments confirmed identification of outer mode as an external kink, while indicates that giant ELM occurred at the ballooning limit (with $P_{\text{ped}} \propto I_p$)

The different responses of ELMs and outer modes to decreasing I_p suggest that these are independent edge phenomena

Control of one mode should not be in detriment to the control of other types of modes and overall confinement properties

Compromise used in DT: used current ramp-down while working at max I_p

ELM Control by increased radiation

HOT ION H-MODES

- Increased Type I edge stability in ELM-free hot-ion H-modes obtained in discharges where Ar, Kr or Xe were injected into the plasma during the heating phase.

The first giant ELM delayed.

- The edge grad T_e was kept low, by creating a wide radiating region and decreasing the power ducted to the H-mode confinement barrier.

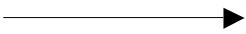
- Since n_e continues to increase, the discharges are still limited by a giant ELM. Further increase in edge stability leading to a steady state regime could be envisaged by control of the edge density

ELMy H-MODES

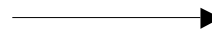
- Impurity injection (Ne, Ni, Ar) has also led to increased type-I ELM stability in ELMy H-mode regimes.

Close co-operation of MHD studies with the High Performance Task Force lead to control of Outmode and helped to obtain 16 MW of fusion power

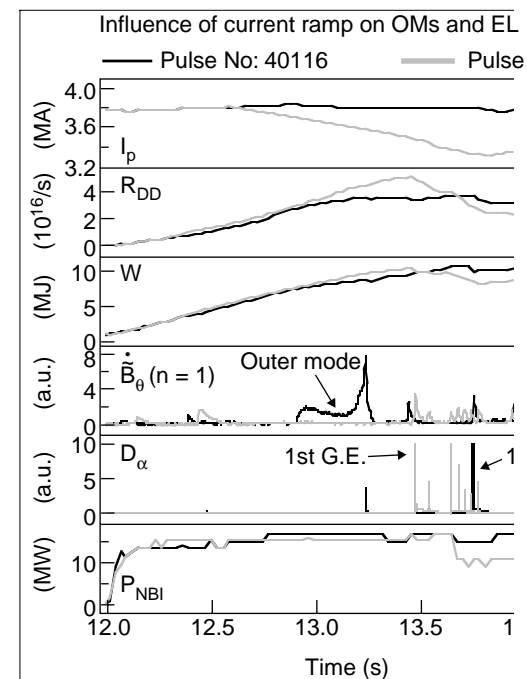
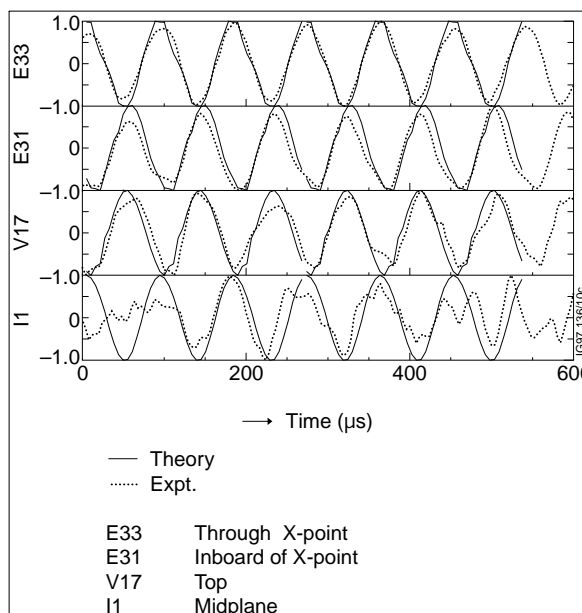
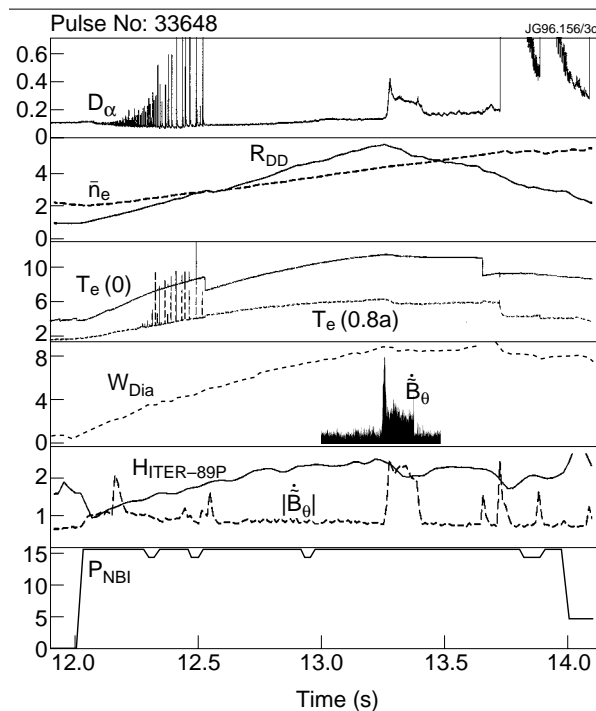
Experiment



Model compared with data
OM identified as External Kink



Experiment
Current ramp-down



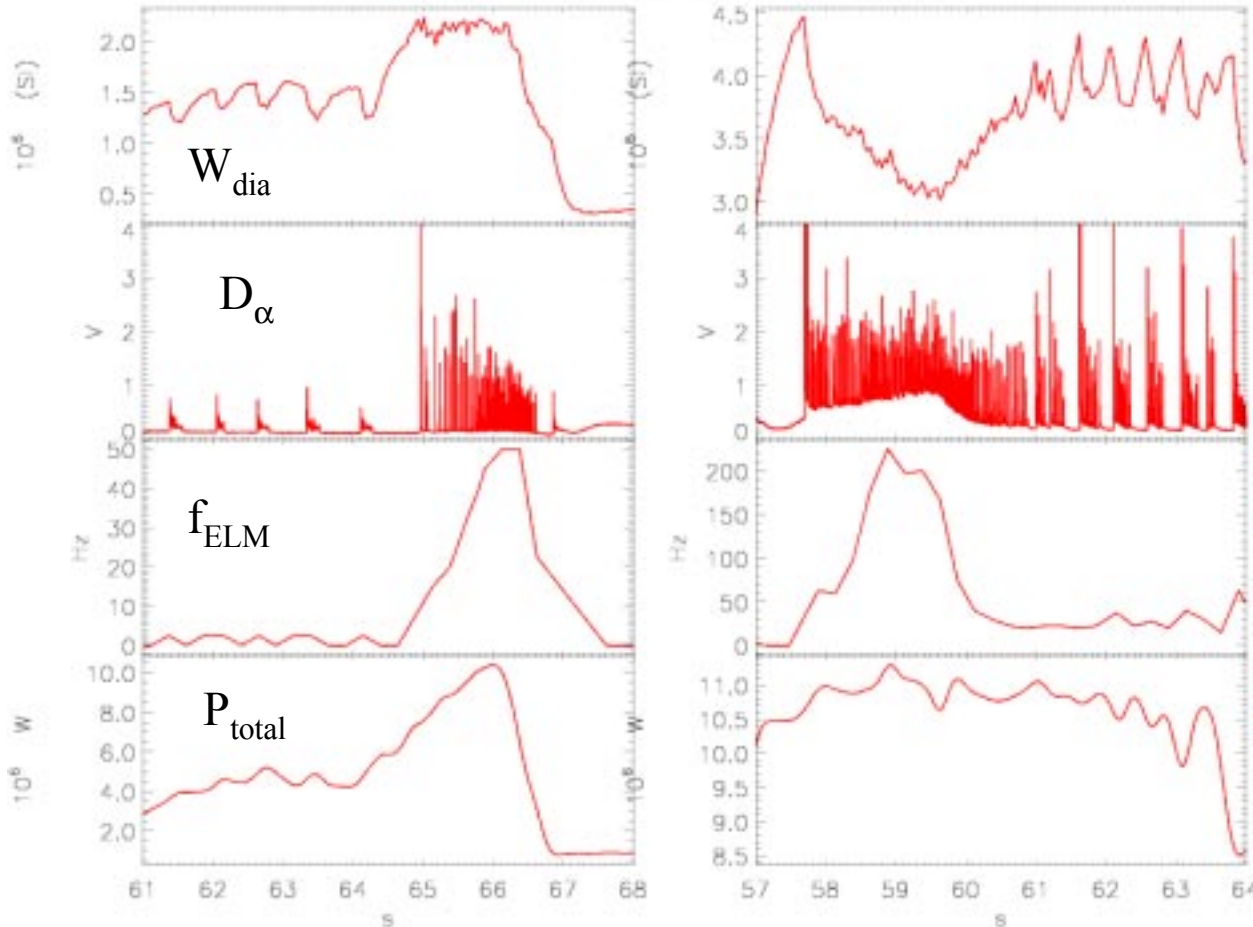
Nave et al NF 97

Huysmans, Hender NF 98

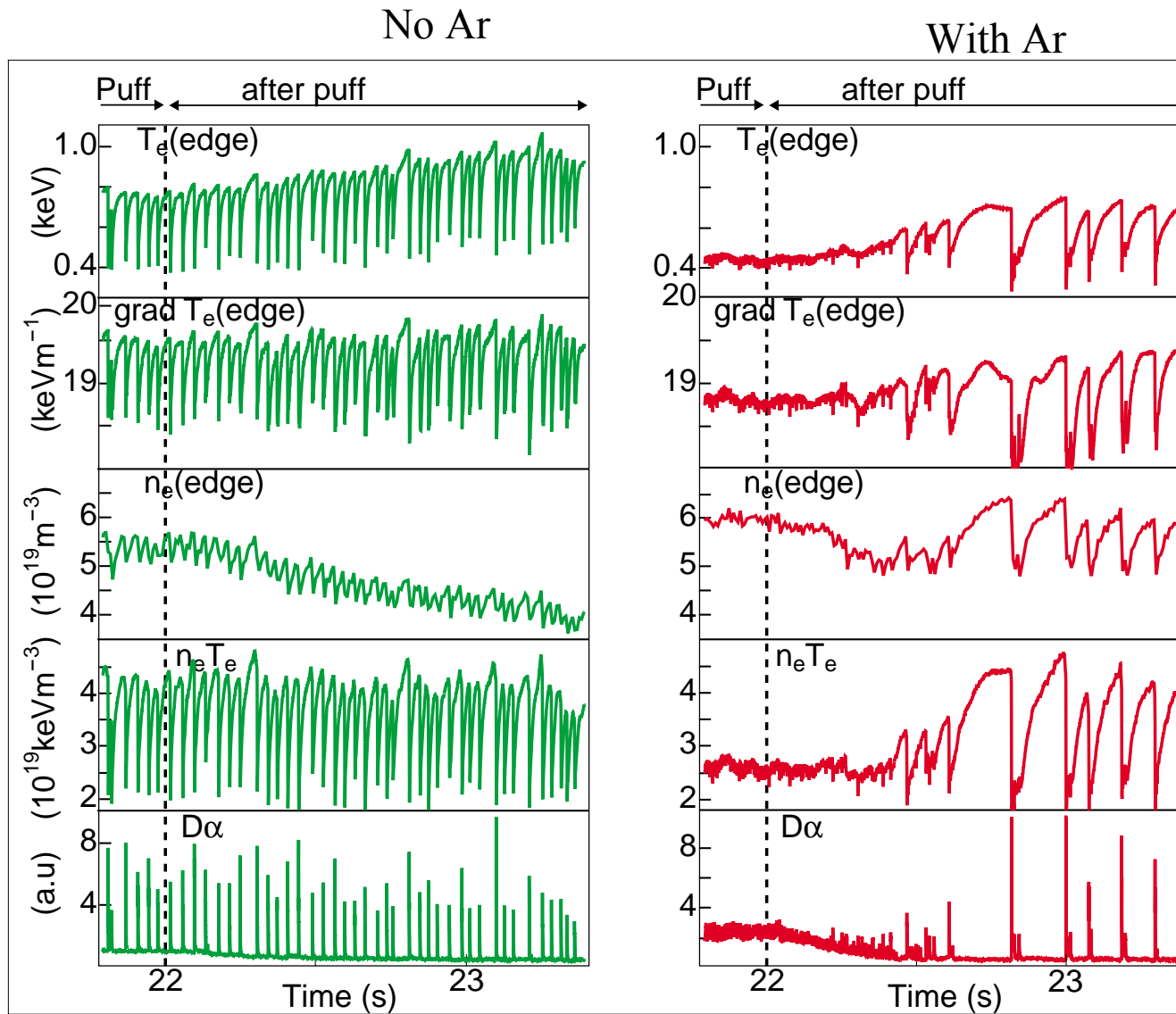
Nave et al NF 99

Non-seeded

With Ar



Low Type I ELM frequency with Ar similar to observations in non-seeded discharges with low input power

MKII-GB, $\delta \sim 0.33$
ELMy H-mod
RI with Ar


MKII-GB, $\delta \sim 0.33$

ELMy H-modes

