

"Where is the edge in toroidal plasmas ?"
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It is believed that by definition the plasma edge is the separatrix which separates the confinement zone from the convection dominated plasma periphery. Another belief is that the H-mode has a miraculous "edge transport barrier" providing a steep temperature pedestal in front of the last closed magnetic surface.

The DIII-D experiments with Resonant Magnetic Perturbations undermine both of these beliefs. Instead, the interpretation of these experiments suggests that the top of the edge electron temperature pedestal, rather than the separatrix, represents the end of the electron confinement zone, i.e. the edge for the electron temperature. On the other hand, the edge for the ion temperature and plasma density seems to be situated at the separatrix (or behind it).