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[] Theory [X] Experiment

Geodesic Acoustic Mode Structure in DIII-D^{*}, G. Wang, W.A. Peebles, T.L. Rhodes, J.C. Hillesheim, E.J. Doyle, L. Schmitz, L. Zeng, UCLA; M.E. Austin, U. Texas; Z. Yan, G.R. McKee, U. Wisc.; R. Nazikian, C.C. Petty, K.H. Burrell, S. Smith, GA; and M.J. Lanctot, LLNL - Geodesic Acoustic Modes (GAMs) are coherent flows induced by plasma turbulence that in turn affect the turbulence and turbulent transport. Recently, in a neutral beam and electron cyclotron heated L-mode plasma in the DIII-D tokamak, strong GAM oscillations have been observed in electron temperature fluctuations (\tilde{T}_{a}) in addition to the often-observed GAM density fluctuations. The mode frequency is constant over a radial range $(\Delta \rho \sim 0.2)$, as expected of an eigenmode, with two different frequencies observed depending upon radius. At the location where one frequency transits to another, both modes exist, as detected in \tilde{T}_{e} . GAM oscillations in density and $E \times B$ flow peak at far edge (at $\rho \sim 0.9$) and have similar profile shapes. In contrast, the GAM oscillations in \tilde{T}_e peak much deeper into plasma (at $\rho \sim 0.7$). Interestingly, after the auxiliary heating power is turned off for $t \ge 100$ ms, the eigenmode feature evolves into a continuum, i.e., mode frequencies vary with radius. This detailed observation of GAM properties may provide challenges for existing theories for the understanding of GAMs and plasma turbulence.

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