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**Core Turbulence Evolution and Characteristics During
Negative Central Shear Discharges in DIII-D,¹**

C.L. RETTIG, E.J. DOYLE, T.L. RHODES, W.A. PEEBLES, University of California, Los Angeles, K.H. BURRELL, C.M. GREENFIELD, General Atomics, R.J. FONCK, University of Wisconsin, B.W. RICE, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, E.A. LAZARUS, Oak Ridge National Laboratory — Reduced core density turbulence has been observed during record performance plasma discharges with negative central magnetic shear (NCS). In direct comparison between H-mode and NCS discharges, the fluctuations are considerably weaker in discharges with NCS. The core poloidal magnetic field is more strongly sheared with NCS, so a turbulence suppression criteria including effects of sheared poloidal magnetic field and radial electric field is consistent with experimental observations. NCS discharges with reduced core fluctuations were also produced with an L-mode edge and enhanced confinement. In many discharges, a transition to the enhanced confinement regime was observed, accompanied by reduced core fluctuations which exhibited a “bursting” nature, as suggested by recent theory. Data from numerous discharges will be presented along with suggestions for important profile variables.

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