

an Invited Paper  
1996 Meeting of  
the American Physical Society

## Discharges with Weak or Negative Central Magnetic Shear<sup>1</sup> San Diego, California

[1993 (1996)] improved performance in DIII-D plasmas with weak magnetic shear. This was demonstrated in recent experiments where controlled L-H transitions were achieved with minimal detrimental MHD activity [E.A. Lazarus et al., submitted to *Phys. Fluids*]. In such discharges, the core magnetic shear is reversed by the application of additional heating power, neutral beam injection. These plasmas often undergo a transition to high performance. At the transition time, the location of the minimum safety factor,  $q_{\min}$ . Formation of a high temperature and density profiles, is consistent with suppression of MHD activity. Emission spectroscopy and far infrared scattering measurements indicate that during the transition to high performance, fluctuation levels are reduced. Analysis with the ONETWO and TRANSP transport codes indicates that the transition is consistent with neoclassical theory at or below Chang-Hinton neoclassical. Smaller reductions in  $q_{\min}$  are observed shortly before the plasma would become MHD unstable in the L-mode. In the resulting state, the region exhibiting ion diffusivities at the core is reduced. Analysis to date suggests that the effect of strongly negative vs. positive shear is a significant effect on stability. A comparison of transport in L- (peaked profiles) and H-mode (broadened profiles).

Contract No. DE-AC03-89ER51114.

Authors: G.A. Navratil, R.V. Budny, K.H. Burrell, T.A. Casper, J.C. Frevert, J. Groebner, L.L. Lao, D.C. McCune, M. Murakami, C.C. Petty, R. Pfeiffer, E.J. Strait, R.E. Waltz, and the DIII-D Team.