

An Invited Paper  
1996 Meeting of  
Physical Society

## **Discharges in the DIII-D Tokamak<sup>1</sup>** *California 92186-9784*

The promise of enhanced fusion performance in advanced tokamak configurations, such as negative central shear, provides stability to short wavelength modes over a transport barrier with strong pressure peaking. However, stability of the improved confinement which results. Modification of the location of the stability limits in NCS discharges, has led to record performance. Resistive calculations for NCS plasmas show that the beta limit depends on the configuration. Resistive calculations for NCS plasmas in DIII-D reveal a stable tearing mode, with beta limits below the ideal limit. The stability limit is in the negative shear region, and its stability limit depends on discharge shaping. Rotational shear can raise the stability limit of the tearing mode. Discharges with strongly peaked pressure profiles are stable to the tearing mode but near the resistive limit. Core localized bursts of the resistive interchange mode. However, the global nature of the tearing mode precursor all suggest that the disruption arises from coupling of the tearing mode. On the other hand, discharges where the pressure is peaked at the center ( $\beta_N > 4$ ), consistent with both ideal and resistive calculations. Core localized kink modes, driven by the edge pressure gradient and the current gradient, have been achieved in discharges with a relatively low safety factor, which contribute to stability of the resistive interchange mode. Discharges with broad pressure profiles persist in low triangularity, and are stable to the tearing mode. D-T fusion experiments in JET and ITER.

Contract No. DE-AC03-89ER51114.