Edge Pedestal Control in Quiescent H-Mode Discharges in DIII-D Using Co Plus Counter Neutral Beam Injection

by

K.H. Burrell

for

T.H. Osborne,[1] P.B. Snyder,[1] W.P. West,[1] M.S. Chu,[1]
M.E. Fenstermacher,[2] P. Gohil,[1]
W.M. Solomon[3]

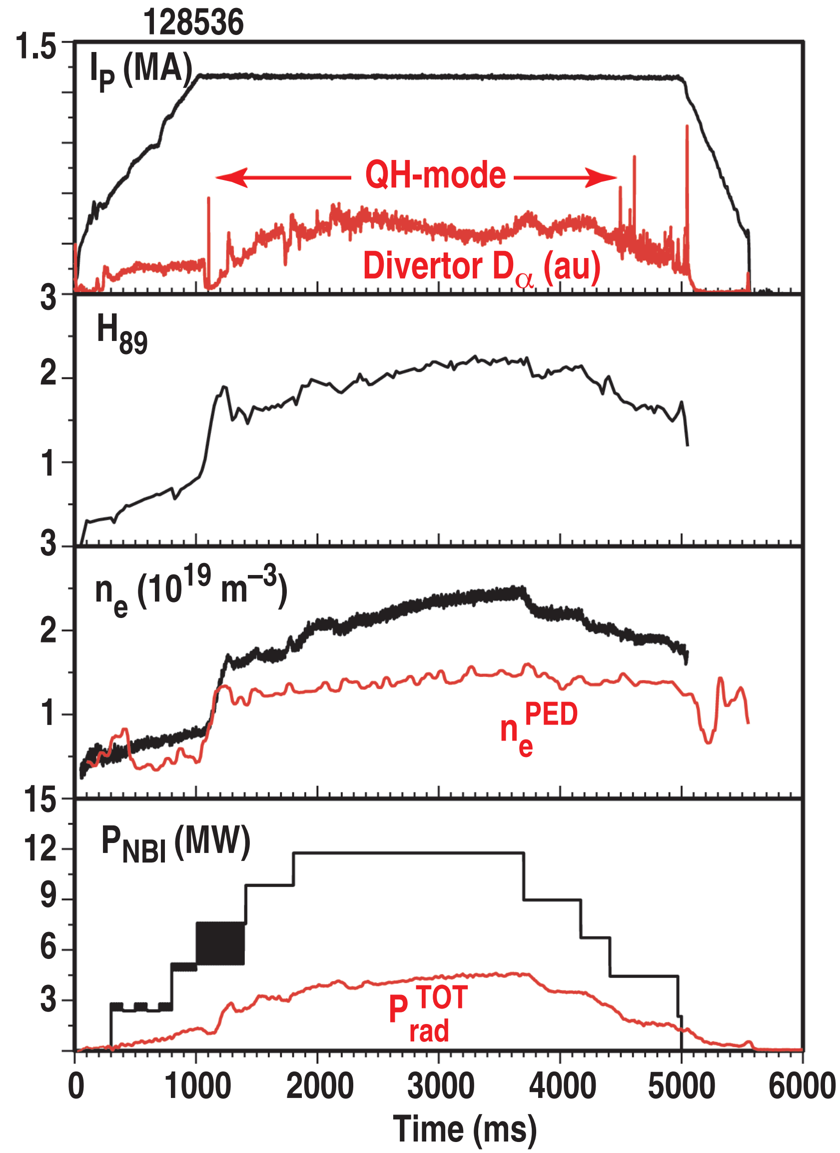
[1]General Atomics, San Diego, California
[2]Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California
[3]Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton, New Jersey

Presented at the
22nd IAEA Fusion Energy Conference
Geneva, Switzerland

October 13–18, 2008

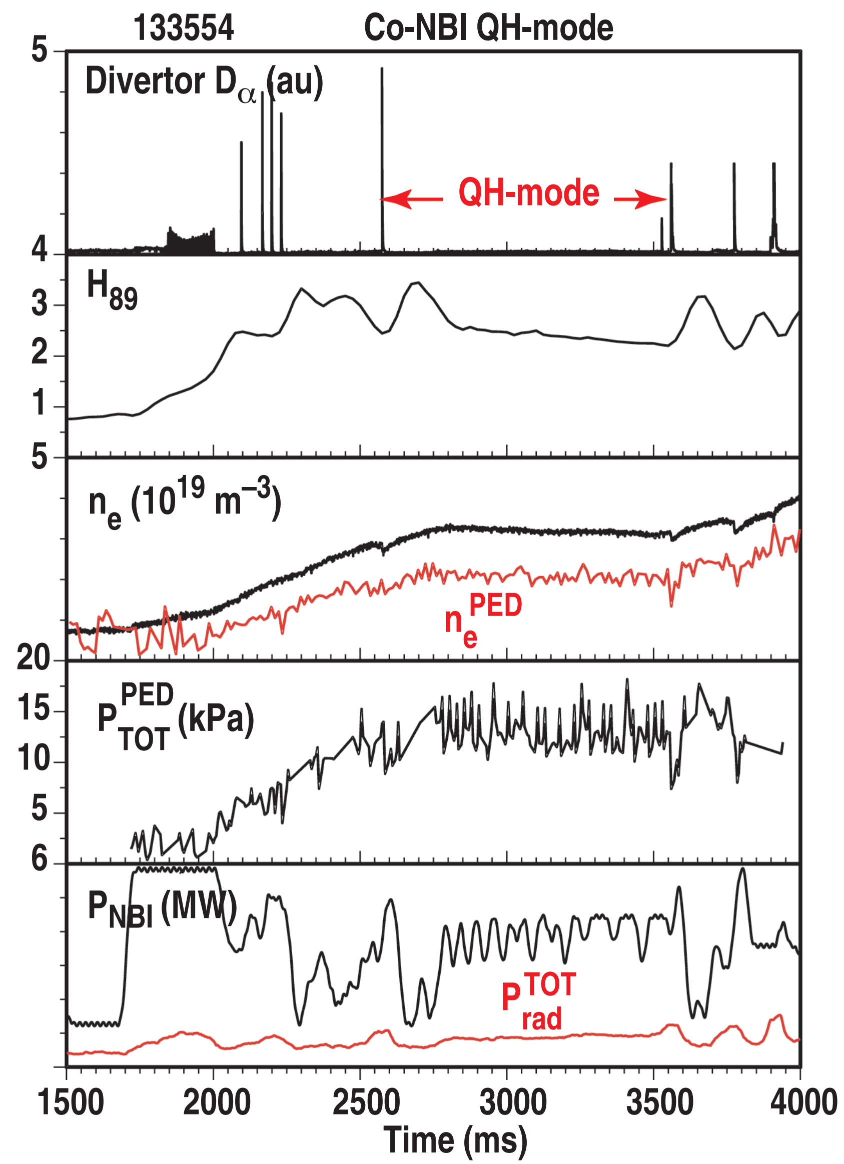
Quiescent H-Modes are the Ideal H-mode Plasmas

- **Quiescent H-modes (QH-mode) exhibit H-mode confinement and operate ELM-free with**
  - Constant density and radiated power
  - Long duration (> 4 s or 30 τ_E) limited only by hardware constraints
- **No ELMs means no pulsed divertor heat loads**
  - Quite important for next step device such as ITER
- **Time-averaged edge particle transport is faster than in ELMing H-mode**
  - Facilitates He ash exhaust
- **QH-mode seen from 3 MW to over 15 MW**
  - Maximum power limited by core beta limit



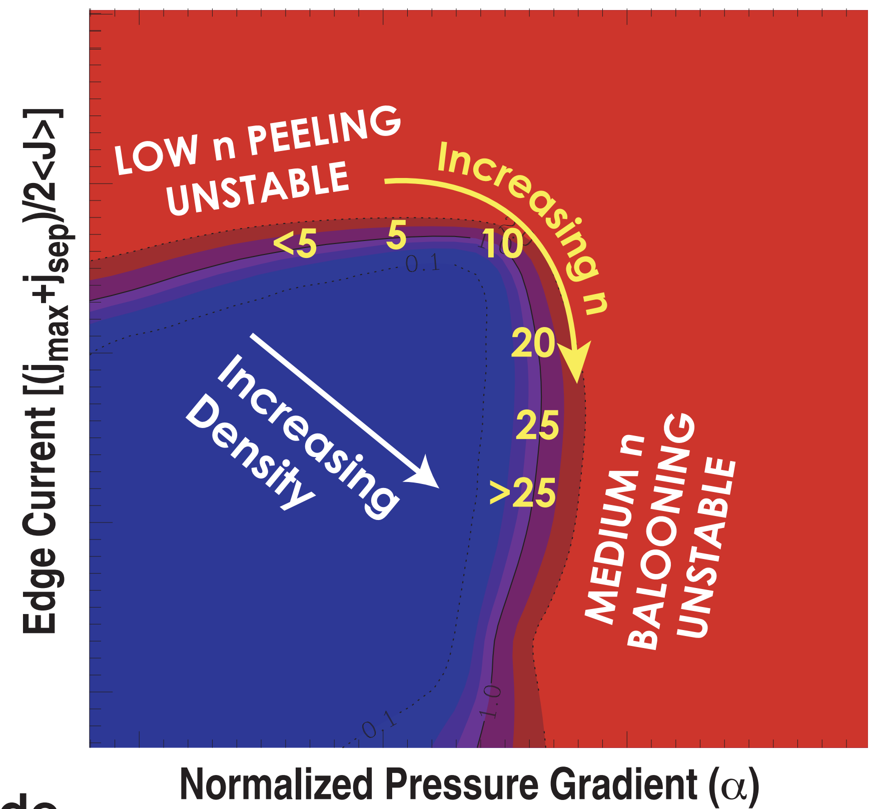
QH-Mode Operation Achieved Over Substantially Broader Parameter Range

- **Achieved QH-mode operation over a continuous torque range, from all counter-injection to near balanced injection**
- **Demonstrated QH-mode operation with all co-injection**
- **Discovered that edge particle transport can be continuously adjusted by varying edge rotation**
  - Achieved maximum pedestal density and pressure possible without ELMs
- **Peeling-ballooning mode stability theory has been used to guide experiments**
  - Theory provides ELM stability limits; shape dependence is quite important
  - Provides basis for theory of edge harmonic oscillation, which controls edge particle transport in QH-mode



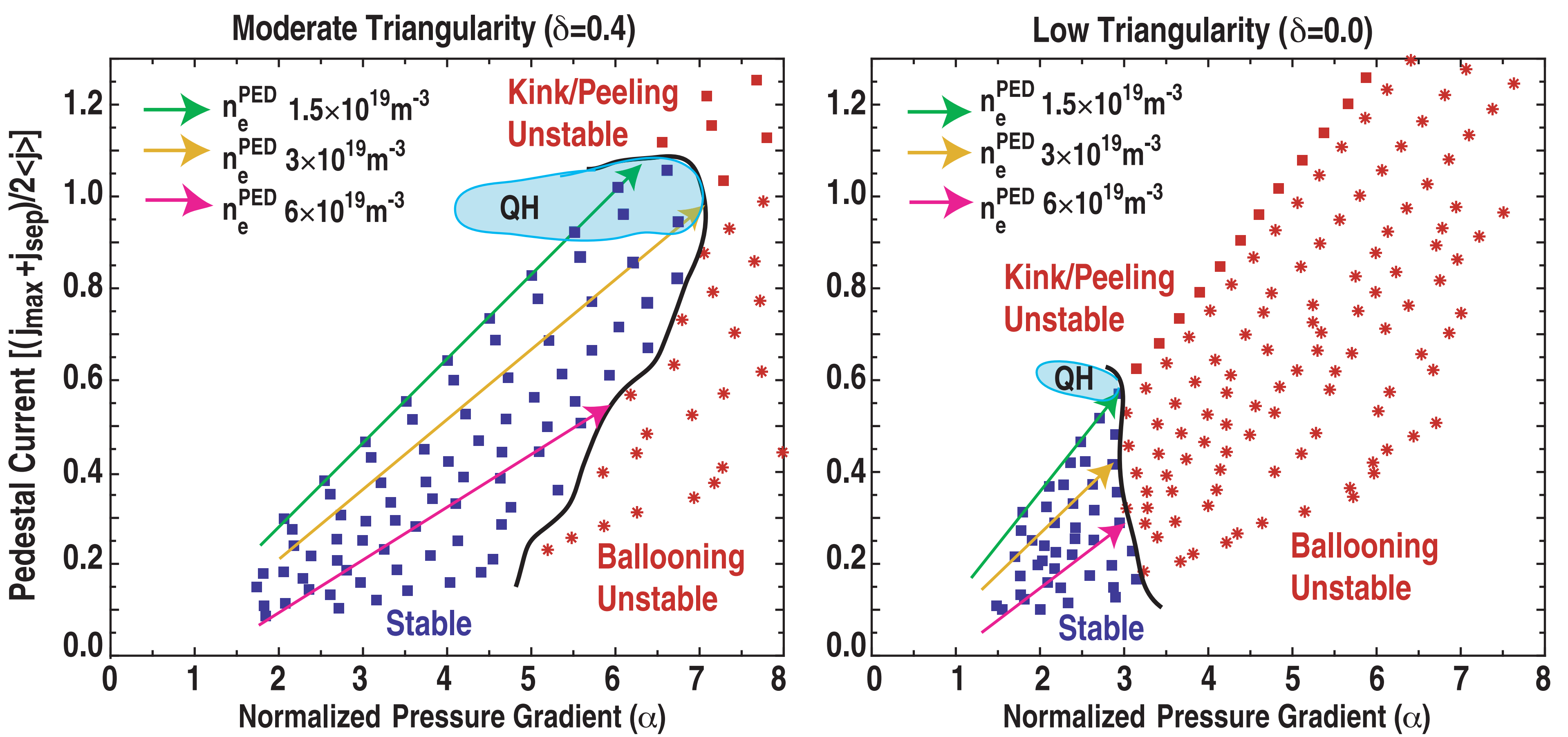
Edge Peeling-Ballooning Mode Stability Theory Guides QH-Mode Experiments

- **Peeling-ballooning mode stability theory is embodied in codes such as ELITE [P.B. Snyder, Phys. Plasmas (2002)]**
- **Modes are driven unstable by edge pressure gradient and by edge current**
  - Simplified, 2 D stability diagram can be plotted using these parameters
- **As density and collisionality increase, most unstable modes move from low toroidal mode number n < 5 on peeling boundary to high n > 25 on ballooning boundary**



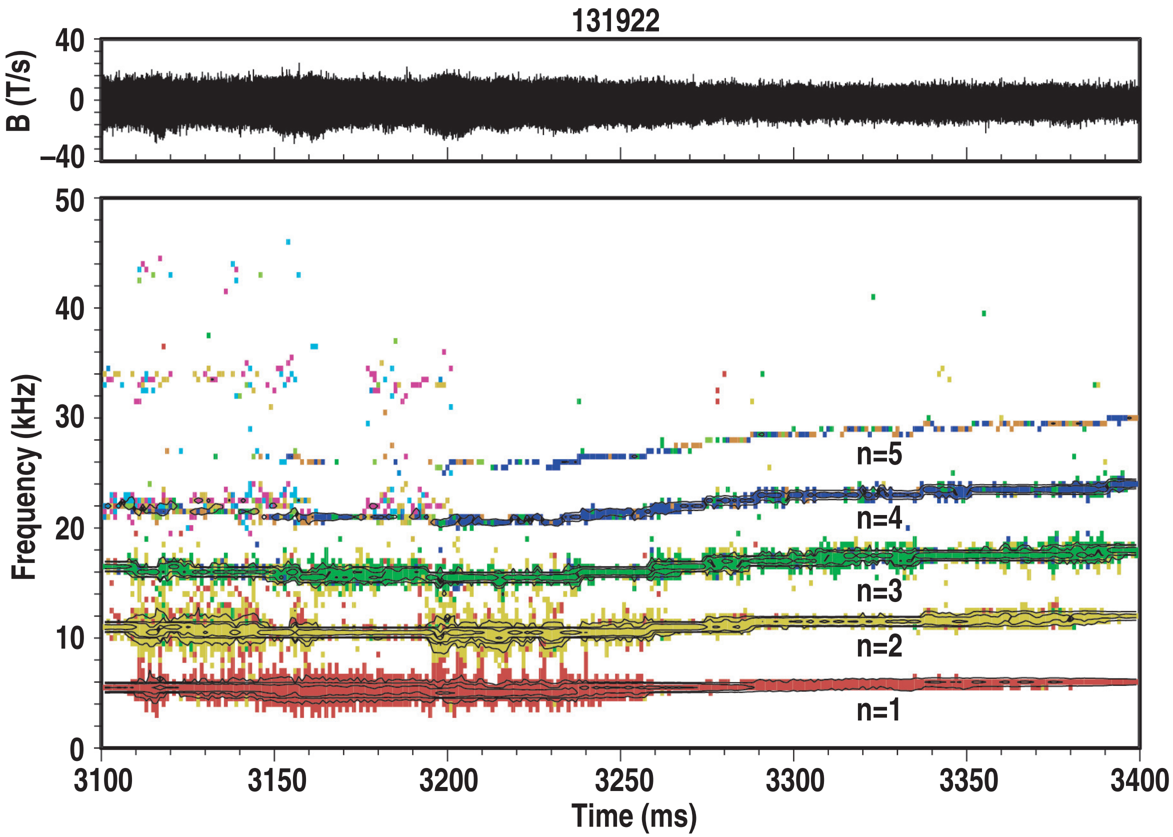
Stable Region is Much Broader in More Highly Shaped (Triangular) Plasmas

- **Experimental results show QH-mode exists along peeling boundary**



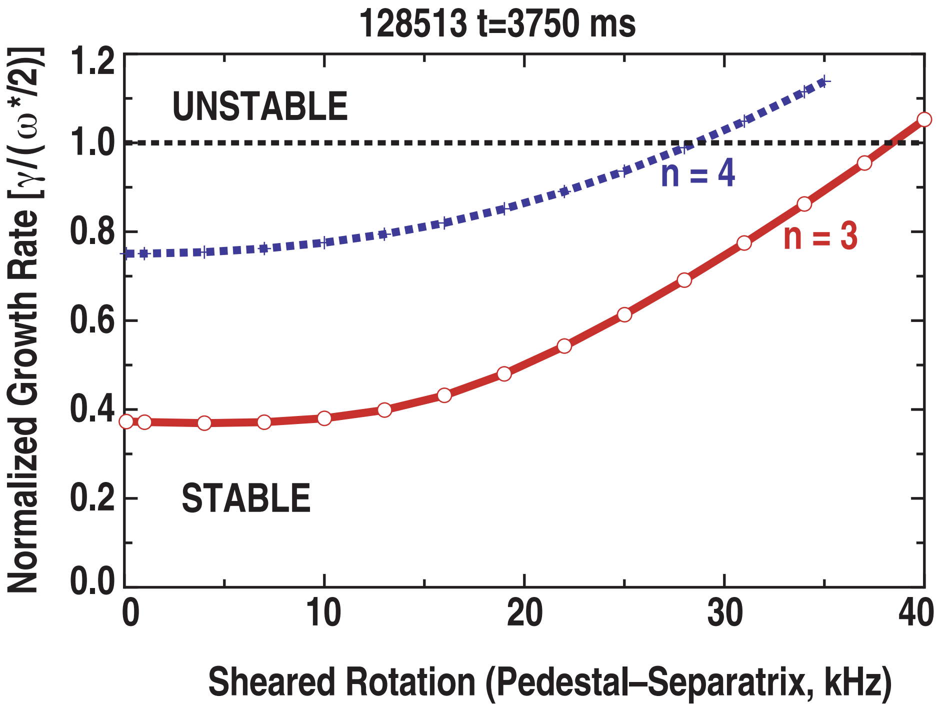
Edge Harmonic Oscillation (EHO) is Key to QH-Mode Operation

- **Edge harmonic oscillation (EHO) is an edge localized, electromagnetic oscillation**
  - Waveform is typically nonsinusoidal with multiple toroidal harmonics n
- **Previous work showed the EHO enhances edge particle transport [K.H. Burrell et al., Phys. Plasmas (2005)]**
- **Edge transport enhancement allows transport equilibrium at edge parameters just below peeling-ballooning mode limit**

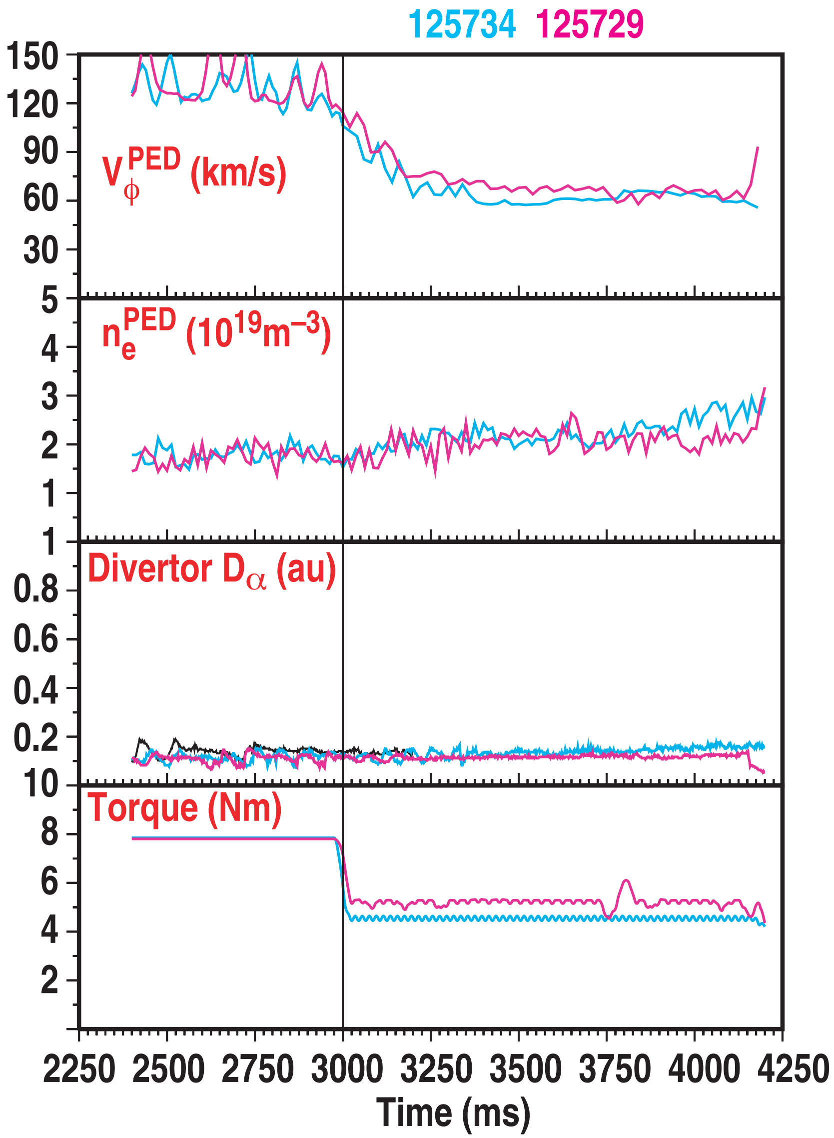


Theory of Edge Harmonic Oscillation Based on Effect of Rotational Shear on Peeling-Ballooning Stability

- Theory posits that EHO is low-n peeling-ballooning mode destabilized by rotational shear just before edge plasma reaches the zero-rotation stability boundary [P.B. Snyder, Nucl. Fusion(2007)]
- At finite amplitude, EHO saturates because mode drags on vessel wall, reducing sheared rotation while enhanced transport also reduces edge pressure gradient, edge bootstrap current, and rotation
- Theory predicts that rotational shear effect is independent of direction of plasma current — QH-mode should be possible with both co and counter injection

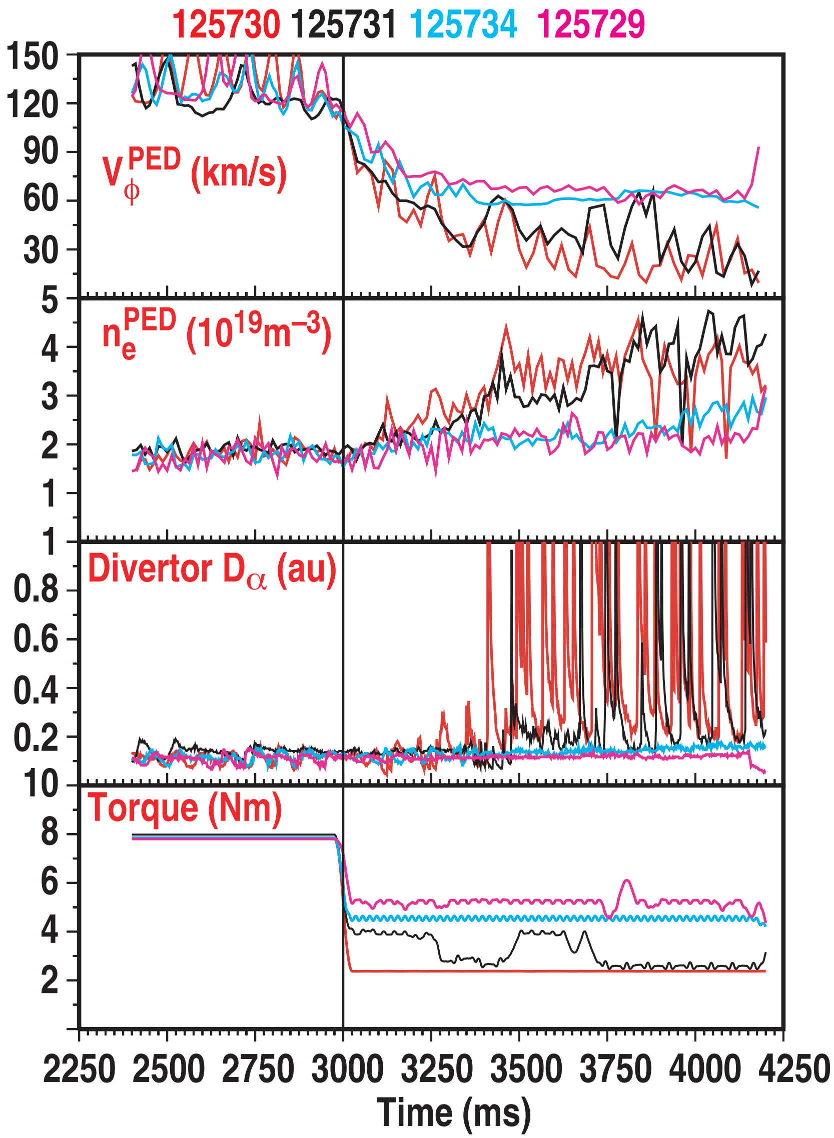


H-Mode Pedestal Density Increases as Net Torque is Reduced at Constant Input Power



- In 2006, DIII-D was equipped with simultaneous co plus counter NBI capability
- QH-mode pedestal density increases as input torque is reduced at constant input power

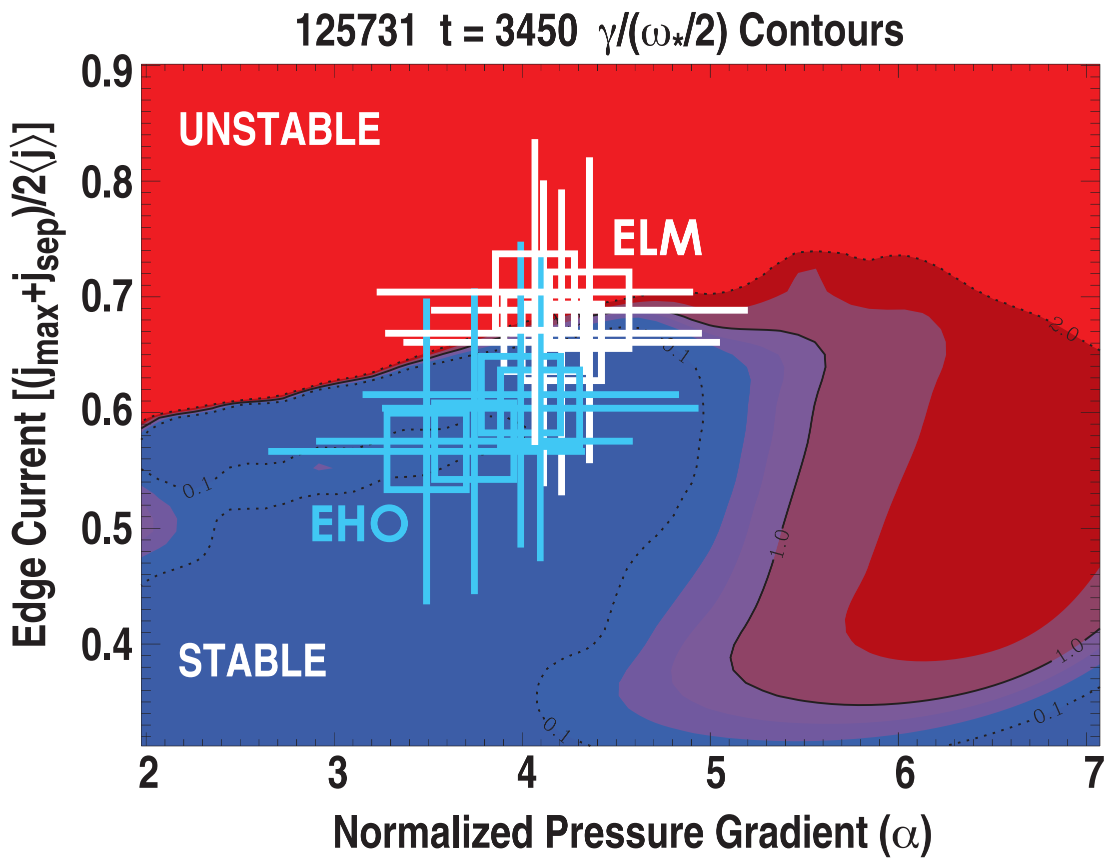
H-Mode Pedestal Density Increases as Net Torque is Reduced at Constant Input Power



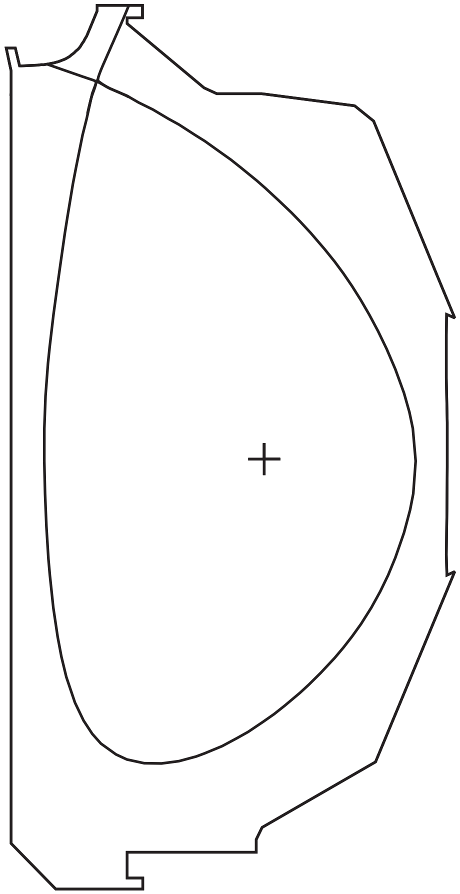
- In 2006, DIII-D was equipped with simultaneous co plus counter NBI capability
- QH-mode pedestal density increases as input torque is reduced at constant input power
- ELMs return at lower rotation and higher density
- Speculation: EHO-induced particle transport changes with changing rotation

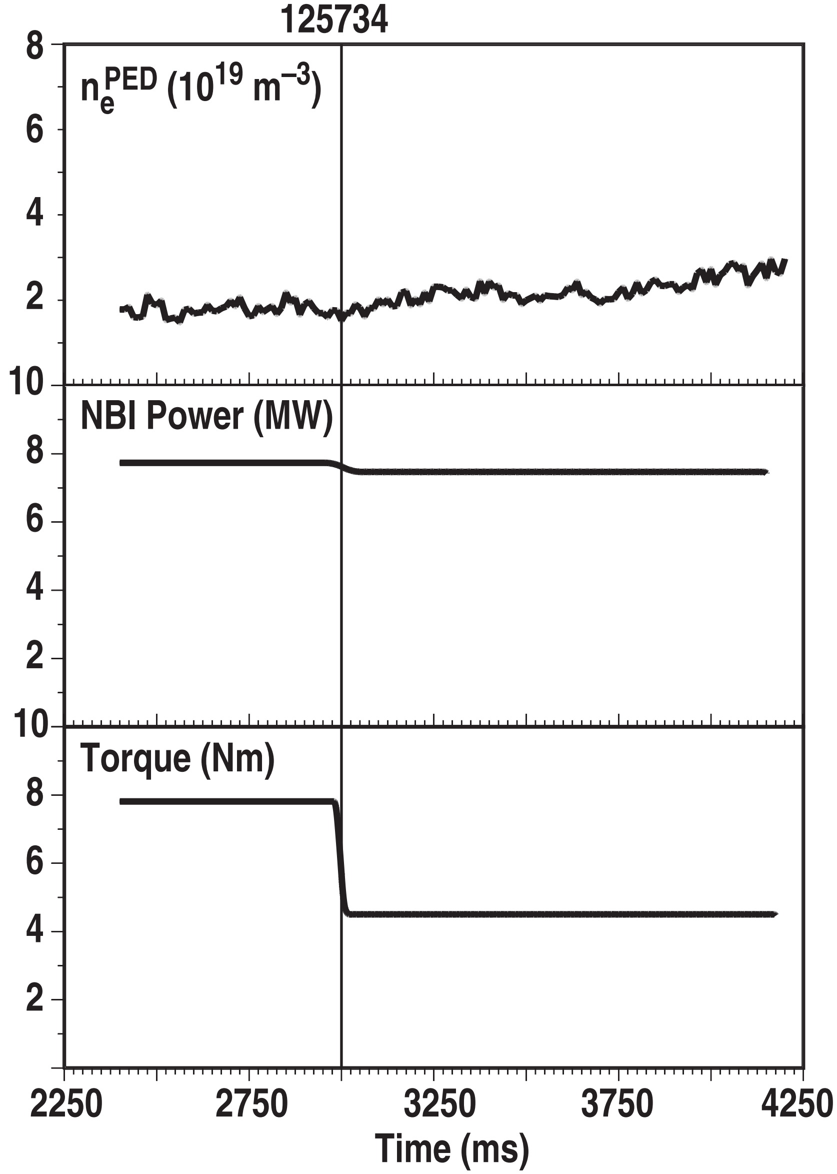
Operating Points of Shots at Various Torques Are Consistent with Edge Peeling-Ballooning Stability Theory

- Stability calculations performed with ELITE code
- QH-mode plasma with EHO operates near but below peeling stability boundary
- ELMing shots are closer to peeling boundary

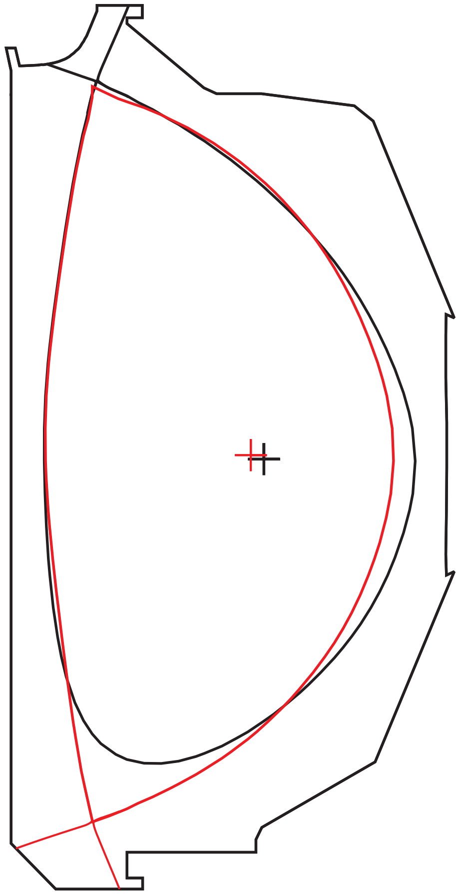


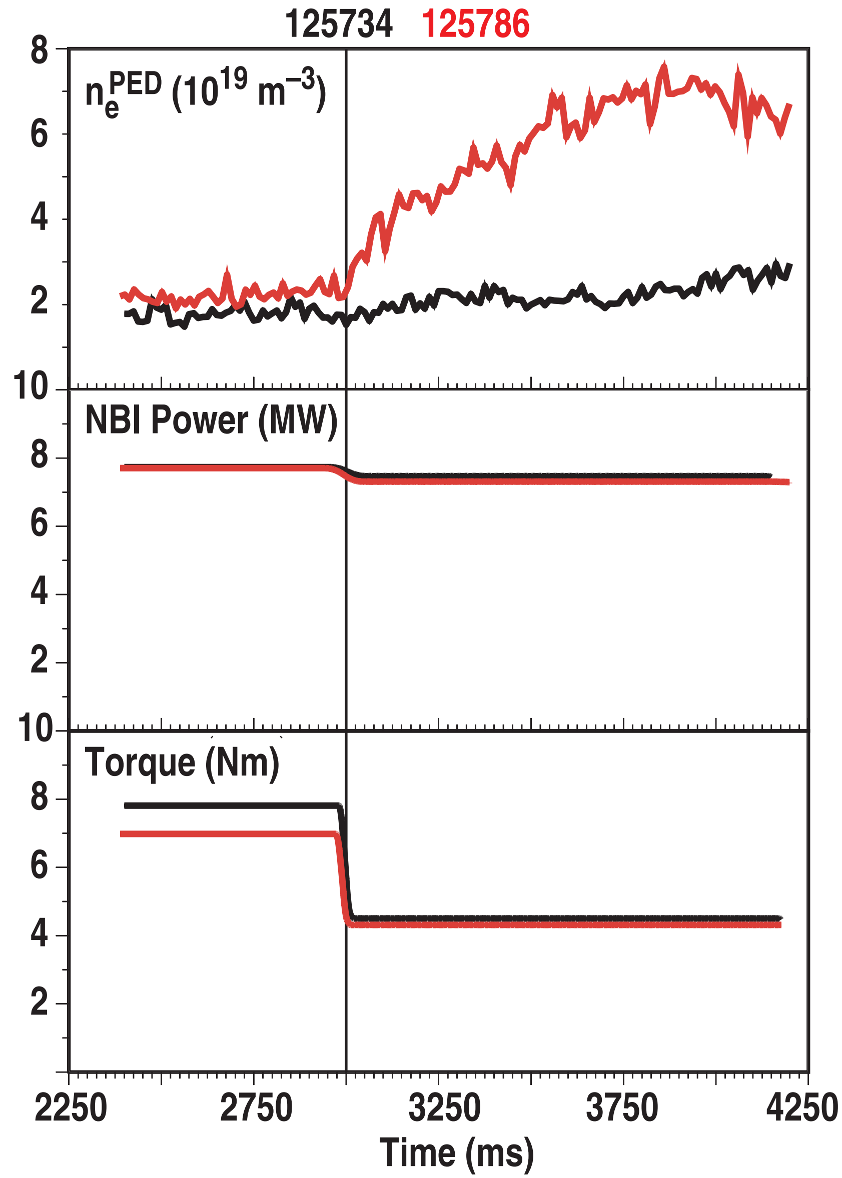
Higher Triangularity Allows QH–Mode Operation At Significantly Higher Pedestal Density





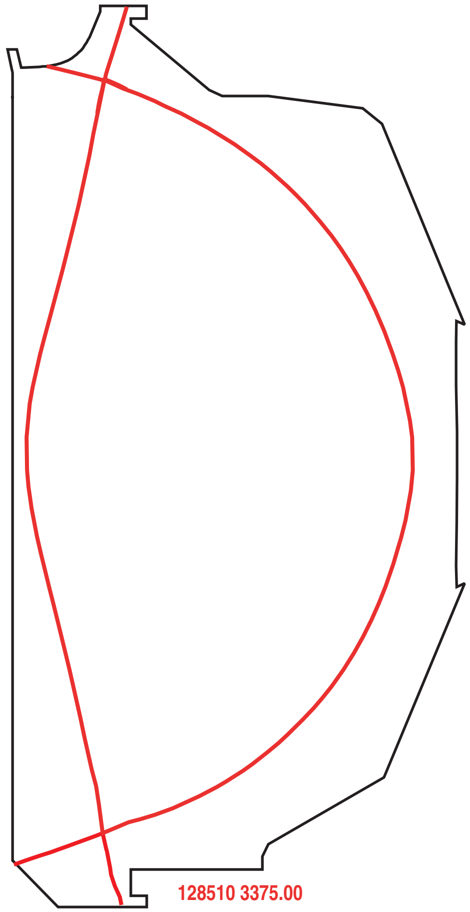
Higher Triangularity Allows QH–Mode Operation At Significantly Higher Pedestal Density

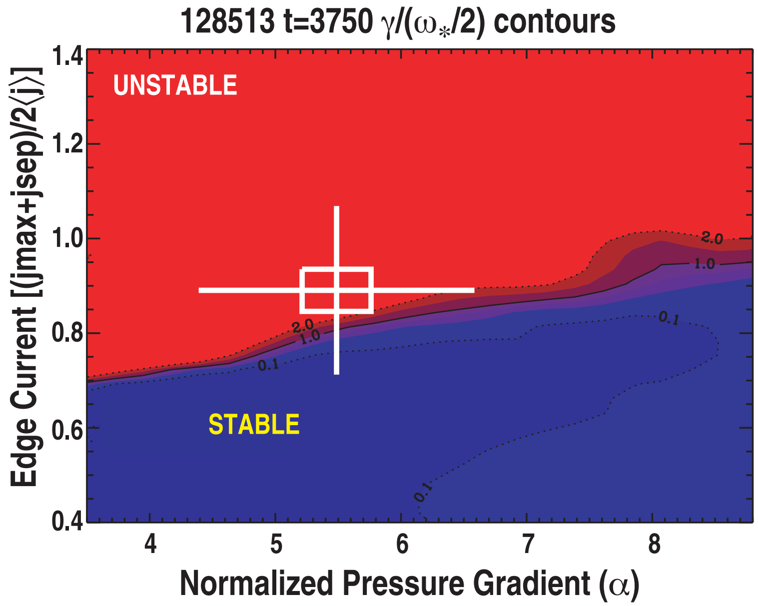




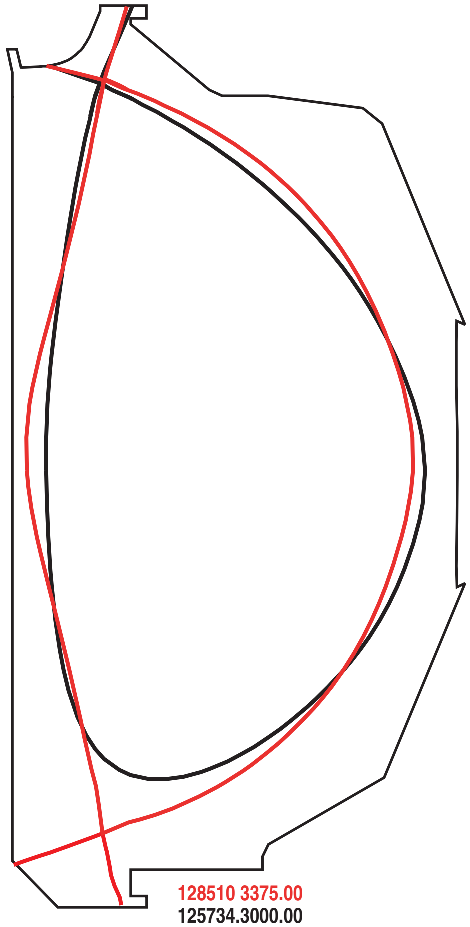
- n_e^{PED} up to 0.5 n_{GW}

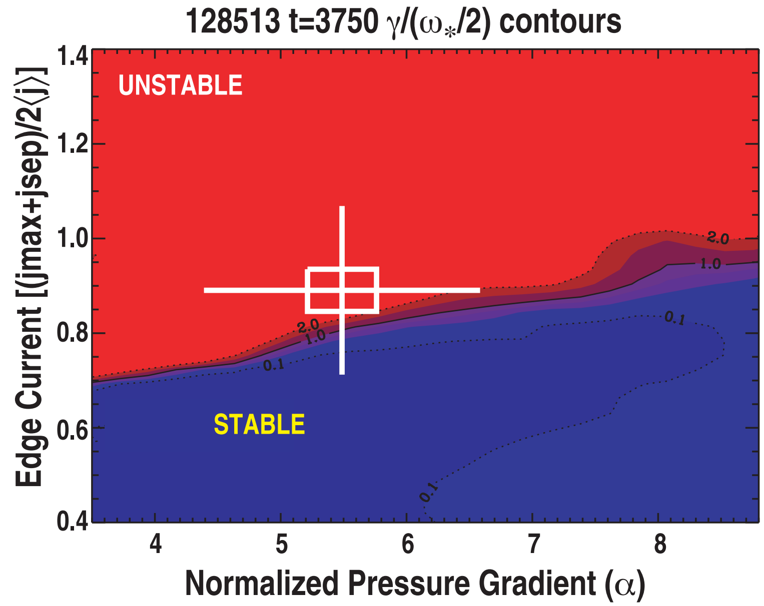
Plasma Shape With Improved Edge Stability Developed for 2007 Campaign



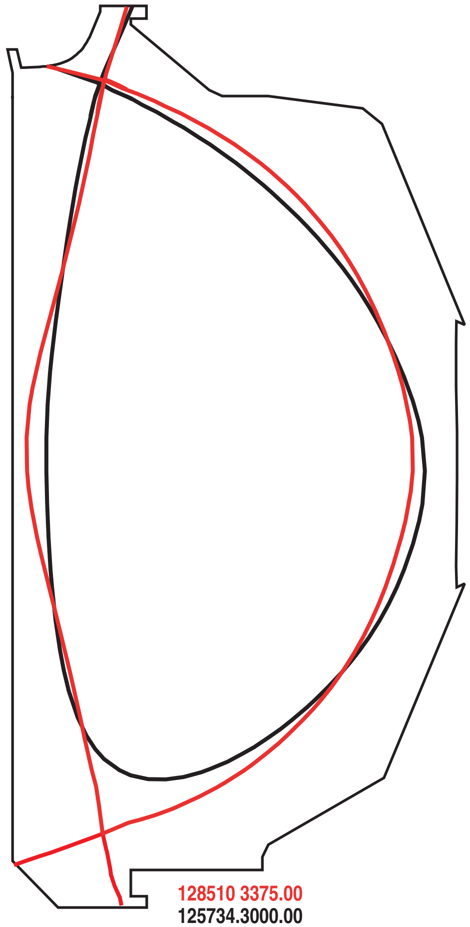


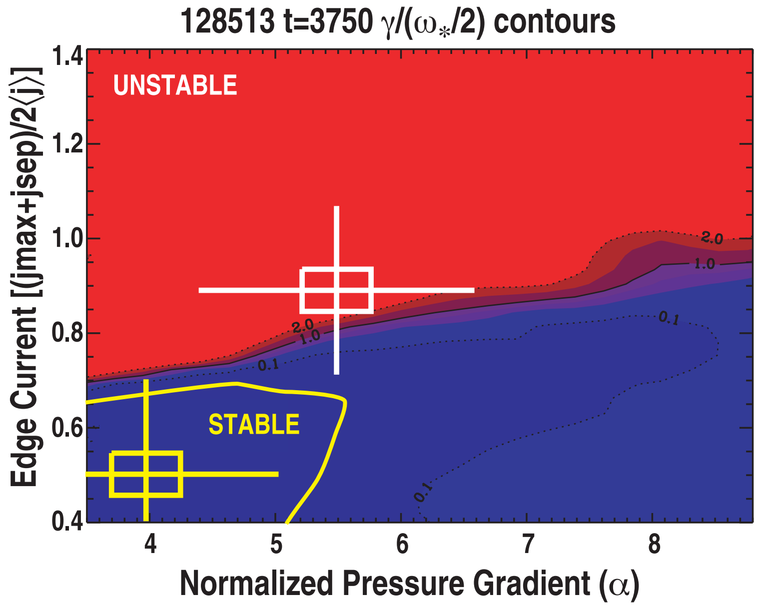
Plasma Shape With Improved Edge Stability Developed for 2007 Campaign



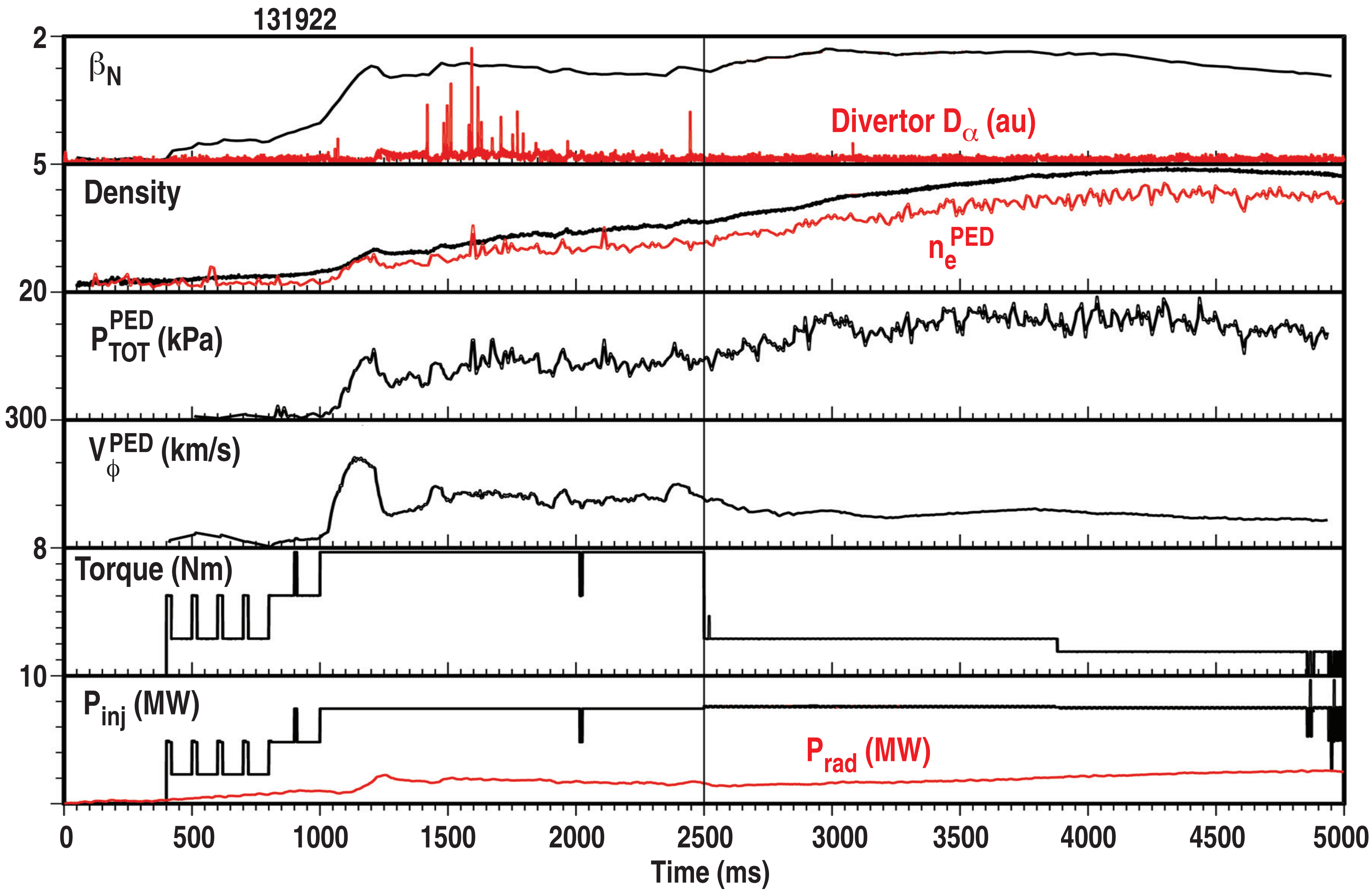


Plasma Shape With Improved Edge Stability Developed for 2007 Campaign



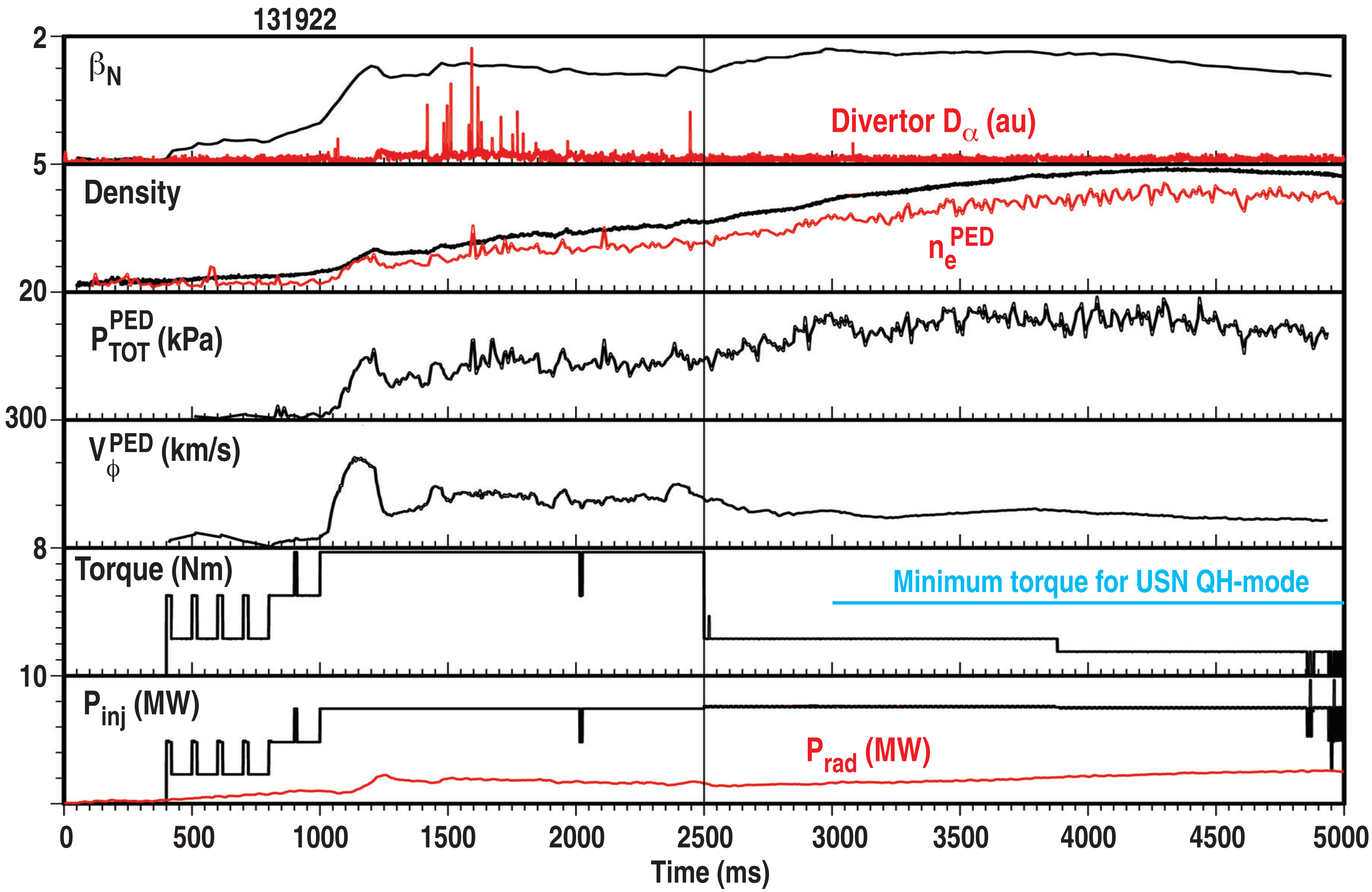


Rotation Control of Density and Improved Shape Allow QH-Mode Operation at Higher Pedestal Pressure and Higher Stored Energy



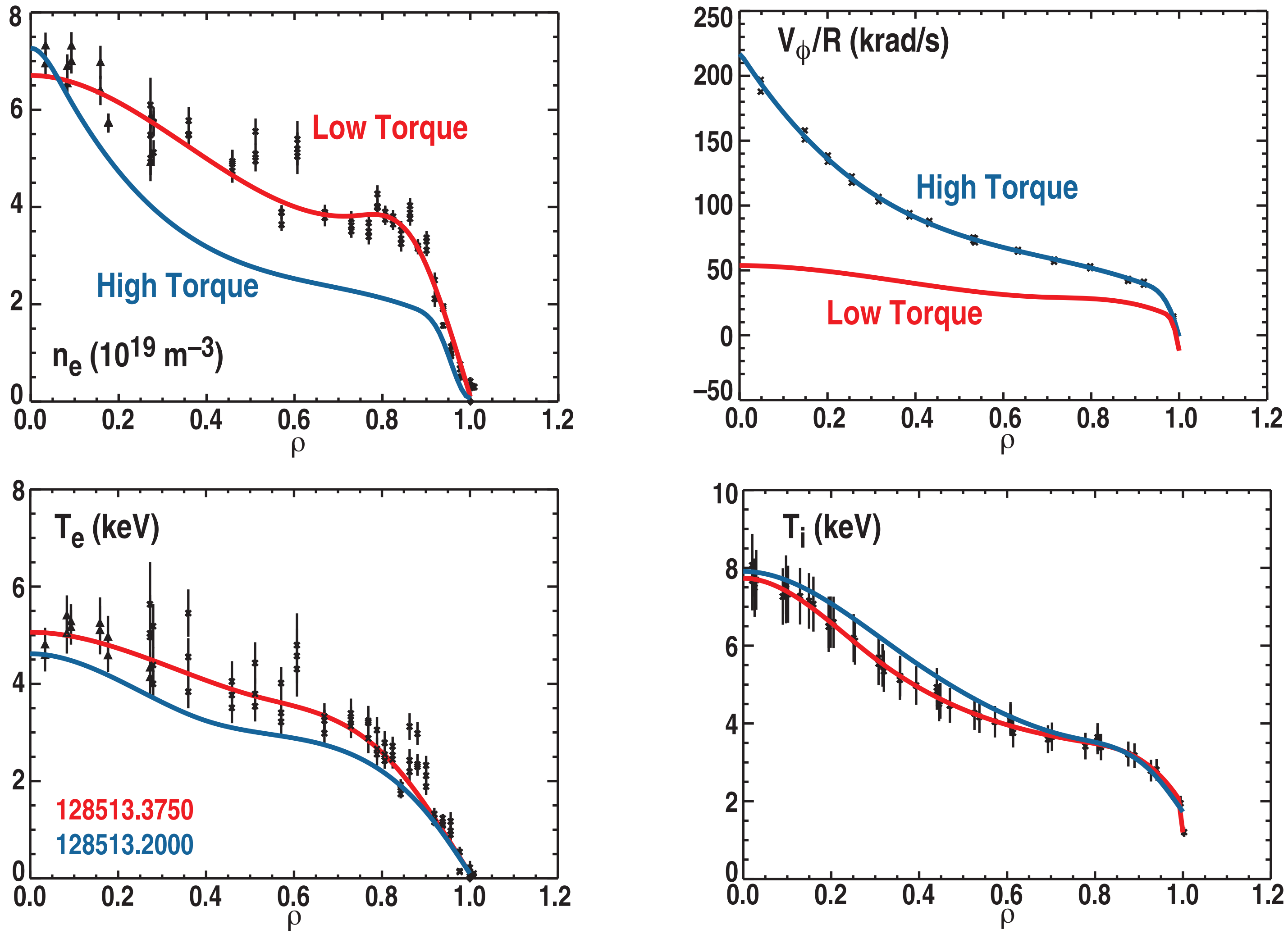
Rotation Control of Density and Improved Shape Allow QH-Mode Operation at Higher Pedestal Pressure and Higher Stored Energy

- Compared to upper single null shape, optimal shape allows QH-mode at factor 2.5 lower input torque

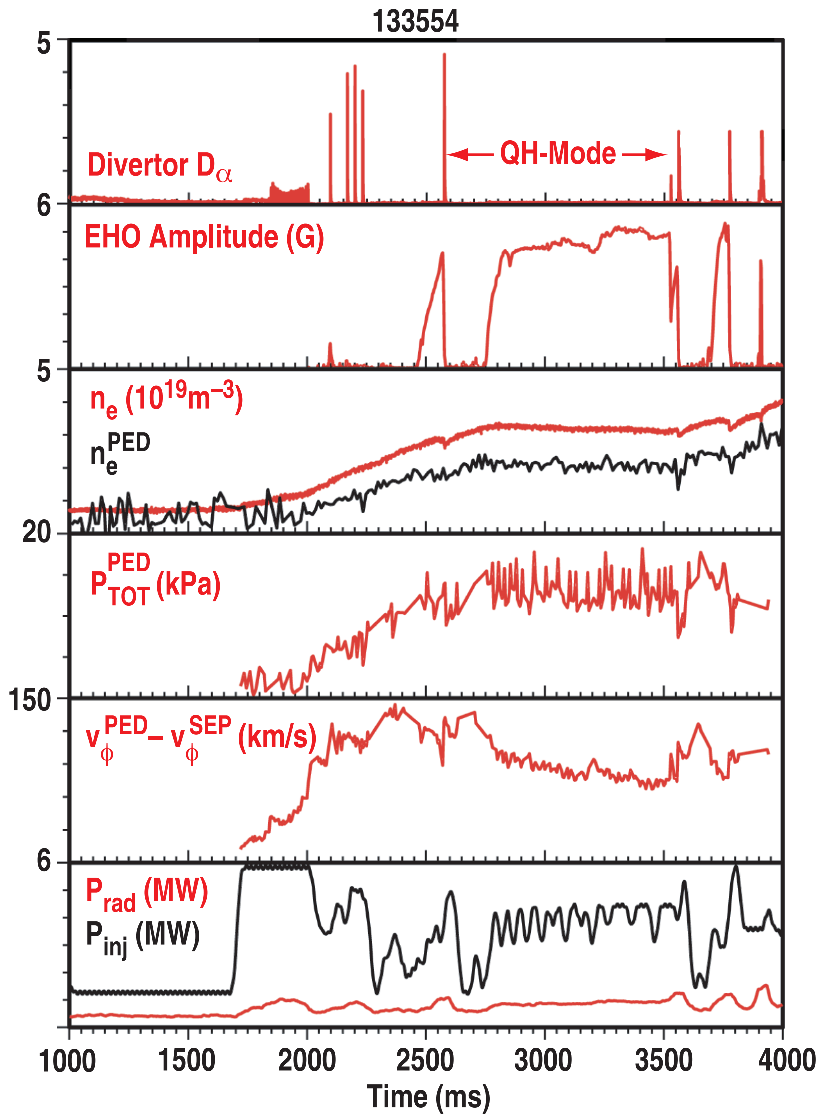


Edge Density Increases as Toroidal Rotation Decreases

- Global stored energy and energy confinement time increase 35% at lower rotation

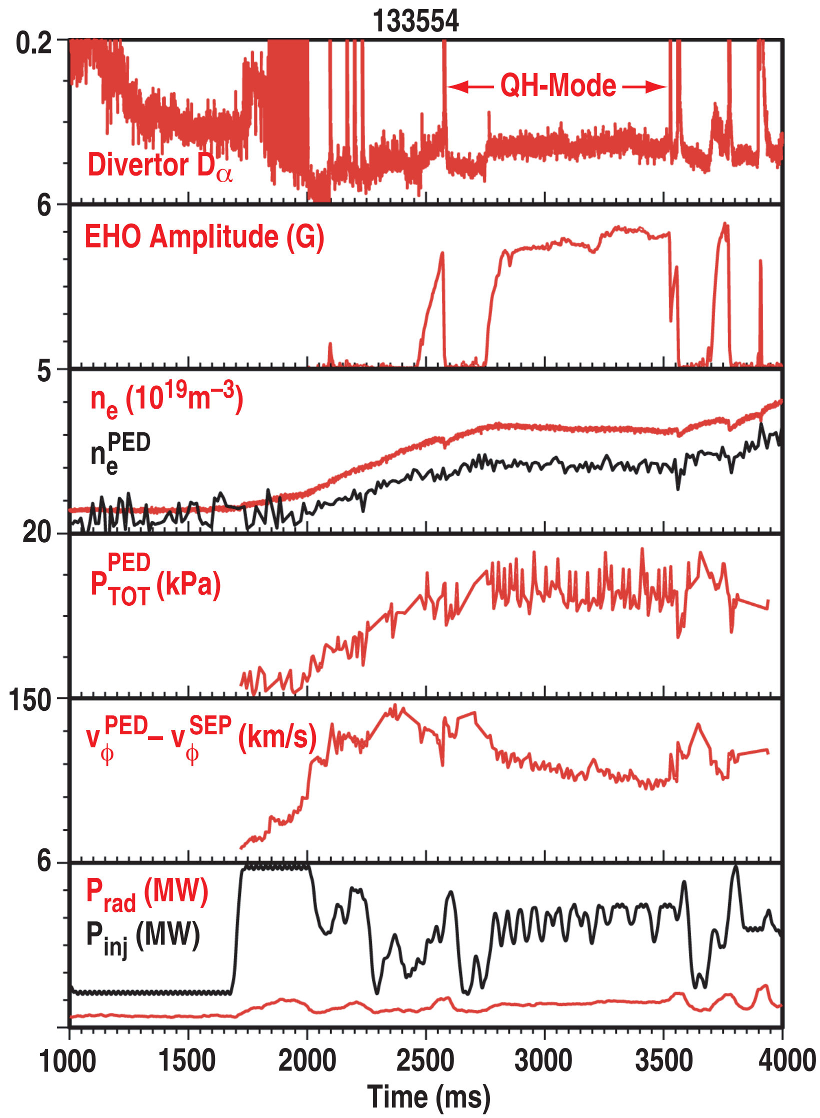


QH-Mode Operation with All Co-Injection Confirms Theoretical Prediction that Co-NBI QH-Mode is Possible



- **QH-mode created with 100% co-injection using**
  - Low target density
  - Feedback control of beam power to regulate stored energy
- **In preliminary experiments, see all usual features of QH-mode for periods up to 1 second long**
  - H-mode edge pedestal
  - Constant density and radiated power
  - EHO providing extra edge particle transport

QH-Mode Operation with All Co-Injection Confirms Theoretical Prediction that Co-NBI QH-Mode is Possible

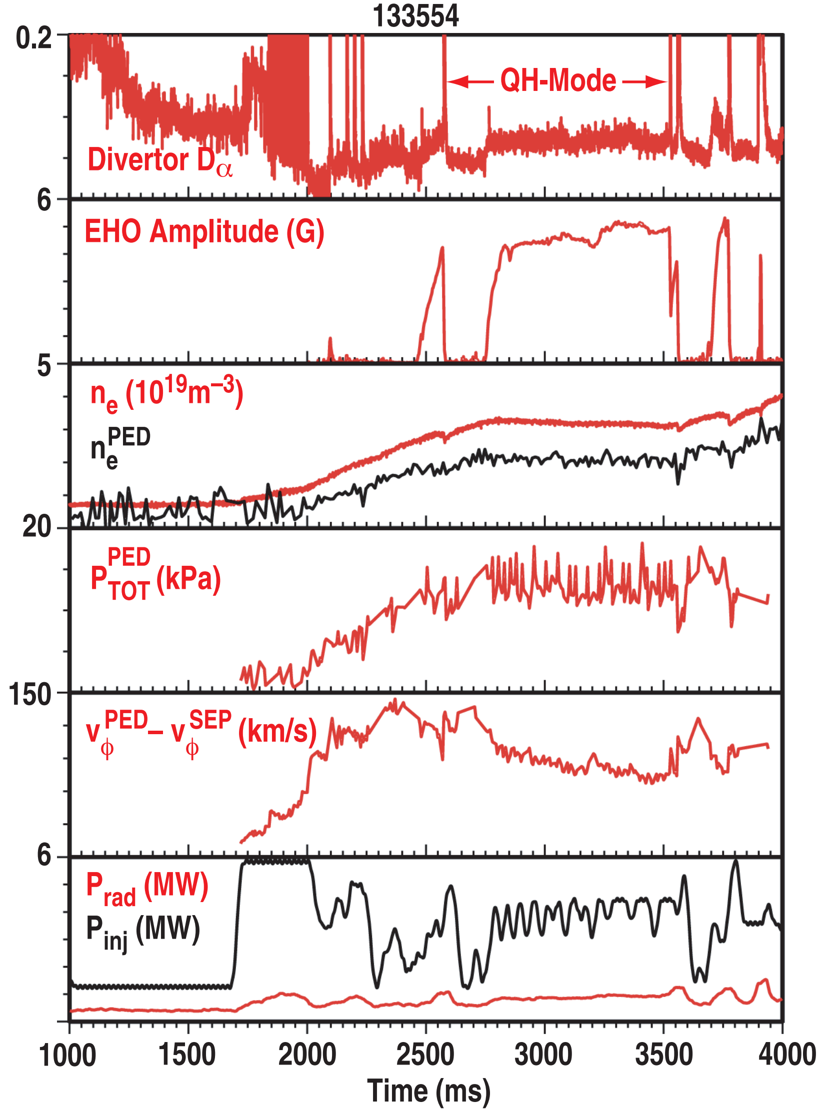


- **QH-mode created with 100% co-injection using**
  - Low target density
  - Feedback control of beam power to regulate stored energy
- **In preliminary experiments, see all usual features of QH-mode for periods up to 1 second long**
  - H-mode edge pedestal
  - Constant density and radiated power
  - EHO providing extra edge particle transport

DIII-D NATIONAL FUSION FACILITY

310-08/KHB/rs

QH-Mode Operation with All Co-Injection Confirms Theoretical Prediction that Co-NBI QH-Mode is Possible

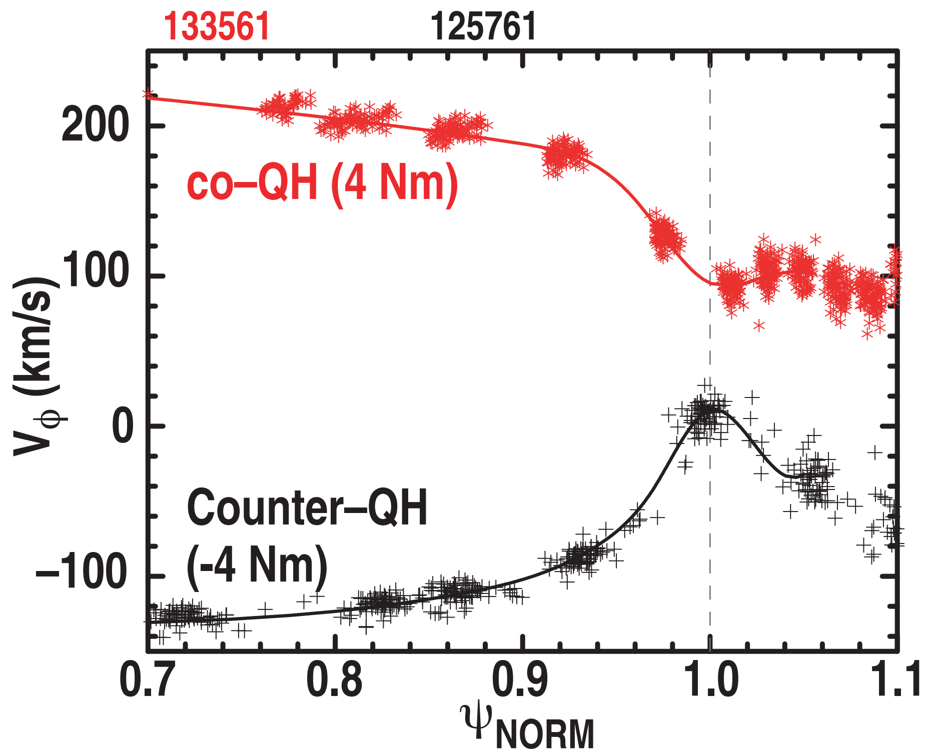


- **QH-mode created with 100% co-injection using**
  - Low target density
  - Feedback control of beam power to regulate stored energy
- **In preliminary experiments, see all usual features of QH-mode for periods up to 1 second long**
  - H-mode edge pedestal
  - Constant density and radiated power
  - EHO providing extra edge particle transport
- **Termination of QH-mode may be due to slow decay of edge rotation shear**
  - Input power and torque are at low end of what has been used in counter-NBI QH-mode

Edge Rotation Shear is Similar in Co-NBI and Counter-NBI QH-Modes at Similar Input Torque

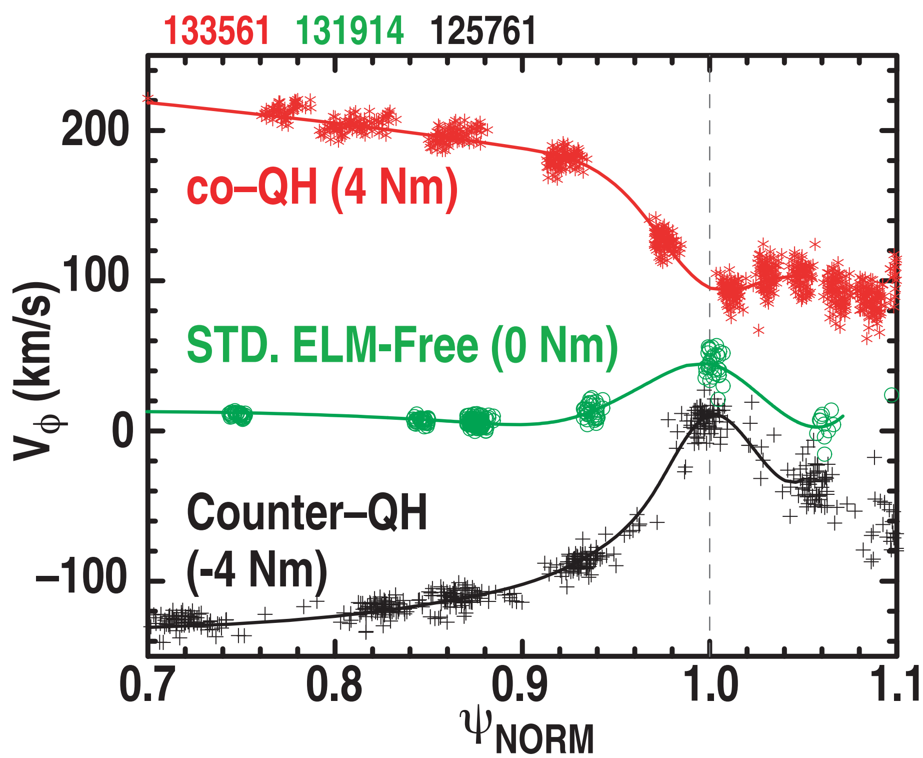
- Theory predicts that magnitude of edge rotation shear is important but sign is not

- Both co-NBI and counter-NBI QH-mode are predicted to exist if magnitude of rotation shear is large enough

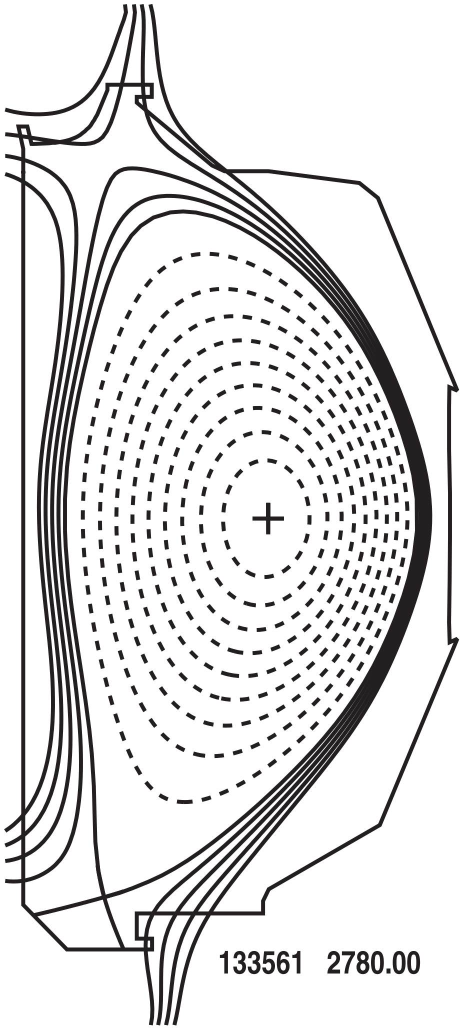


QH-Mode is Lost if Edge Rotation Shear is too Small

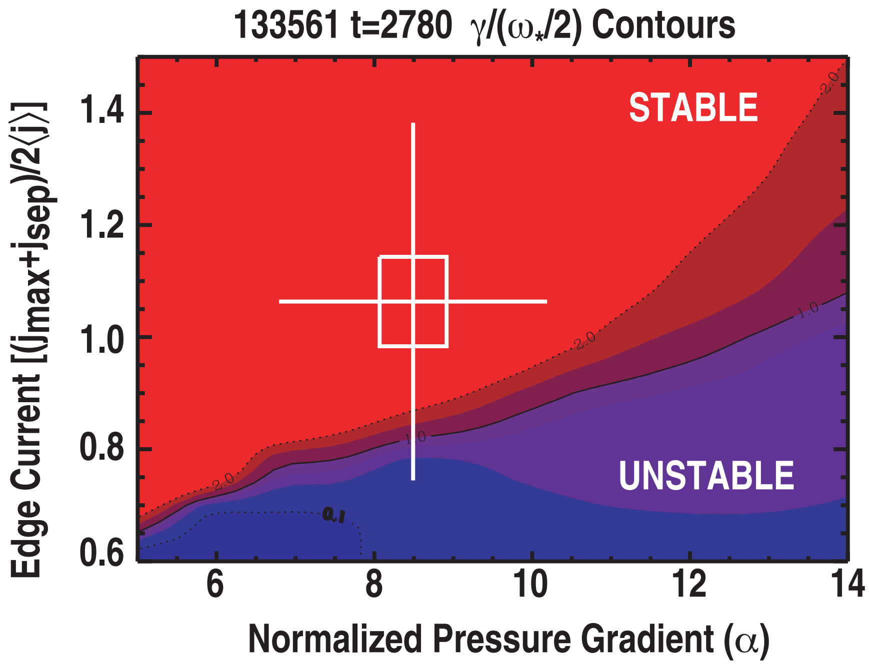
- **Balanced beam injection results in low edge rotation shear**
- **EHO is absent and plasma is standard ELM-free H-mode in shot with low rotation shear**
  - Standard ELM-free has monotonically rising density and radiated power



Peeling-Ballooning Stability Analysis Shows Excellent Edge Stability in Co-NBI QH-Mode Shots



- **Co-NBI QH-mode also operates near peeling stability boundary**



Conclusions

- **Demonstrated QH-mode operation with all co-injection and strong edge co-rotation**
  – Counter-NBI and counter rotation of plasma edge are not essential for QH-mode

- **Achieved QH-mode operation over a continuous torque range, from all counter-injection to near balanced injection**
  – More highly shaped plasmas allow QH-mode operation at lower input torque and lower edge rotation

- **Discovered that EHO-induced transport can be continuously adjusted by varying edge rotation**
  – Allows optimization of H-mode pedestal density and pressure

- **Peeling-ballooning mode theory used to guide experiments**
  – Effect of rotational shear on edge modes provides basis for theory of the EHO
  – Theory predicted existence of co-NBI QH-mode prior to experiments