Requirements for Alignment of Electron Cyclotron Current Drive for Neoclassical Tearing Mode Stabilization in ITER

R.J. La Haye, J.R. Ferron, D.A. Humphreys, T.C. Luce,
C.C. Petty, R. Prater, E.J. Strait, and A.S. Welander

General Atomics, P.O. Box 85608, San Diego, California 92186-5608 USA
e-mail: lahaye@fusion.gat.com

Abstract

ITER relies on electron cyclotron stabilization of neoclassical tearing mode islands. The large size and low torque applied in ITER make for slow plasma rotation and susceptibility to island locking by the resistive wall; locking is likely to lead to a loss of the high confinement H-mode, a beta collapse, and possibly disruption. "Front" steering, with narrower electron cyclotron current drive, has resolved the issue in "remote" steering of being too broad and ineffective. However, narrower current drive places demands on alignment of the current drive on the rational surface being stabilized. DIII-D alignment techniques, with and without (preemptive) an island are reviewed. The results are used to check models for the effect of misalignment and are then applied to ITER. Criteria for accuracy of alignment as a function of injected power and for the necessary time response of the controller are presented.