



Impact of H, D, T and D-T Hydrogenic Isotopes on Detachment in JET ITER-like Wall Low-Confinement Mode Plasmas

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Full author list and affiliations on the next slides

The JET logo is the word "JET" in a large, bold, blue, italicized sans-serif font.

The Aalto University logo features a large, bold, black letter "A" with an exclamation point to its right, and the words "Aalto University" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.



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**See Appendices of F. Romanelli, Proc. 24th IAEA-FEC, San Diego, USA, F. Romanelli, Proc. 25th IAEA-FEC, St. Petersburg, Russia, X. Litaudon, Proc. 25th IAEA-FEC, Kyoto, Japan, E. Joffrin et al., Proc. of the 27th IAEA-FEC 2018, Gandhinagar, India, J. Mailloux, Proc. 28th IAEA-FEC 2020, Nice, France, and C.F. Maggi, Proc. 29th IAEA-FEC 2023, London, UK*

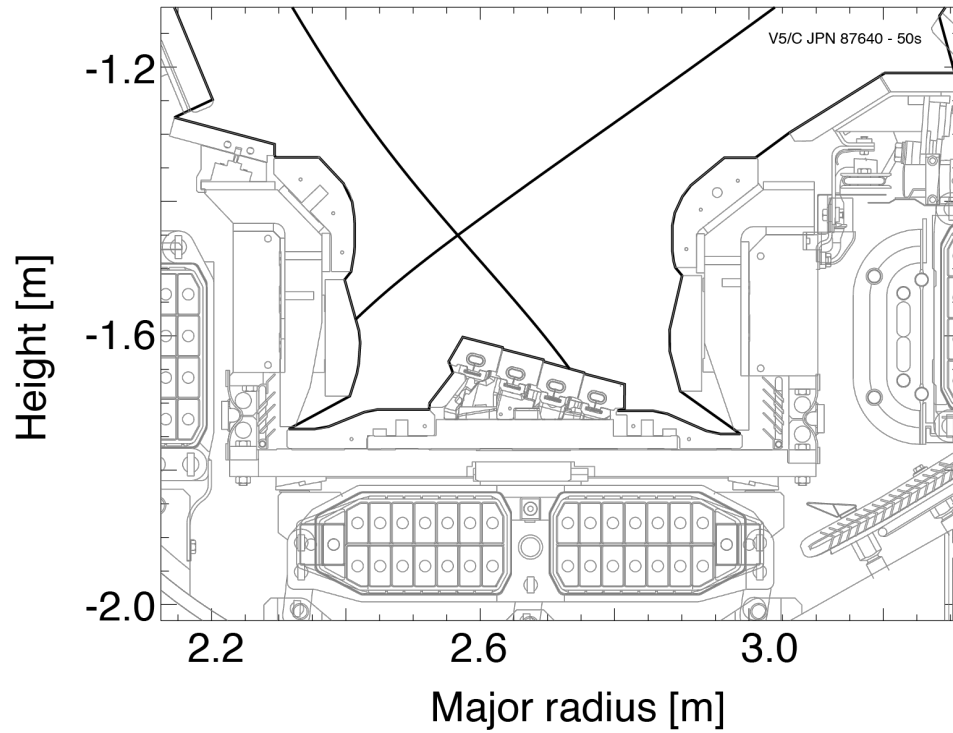


Affiliations

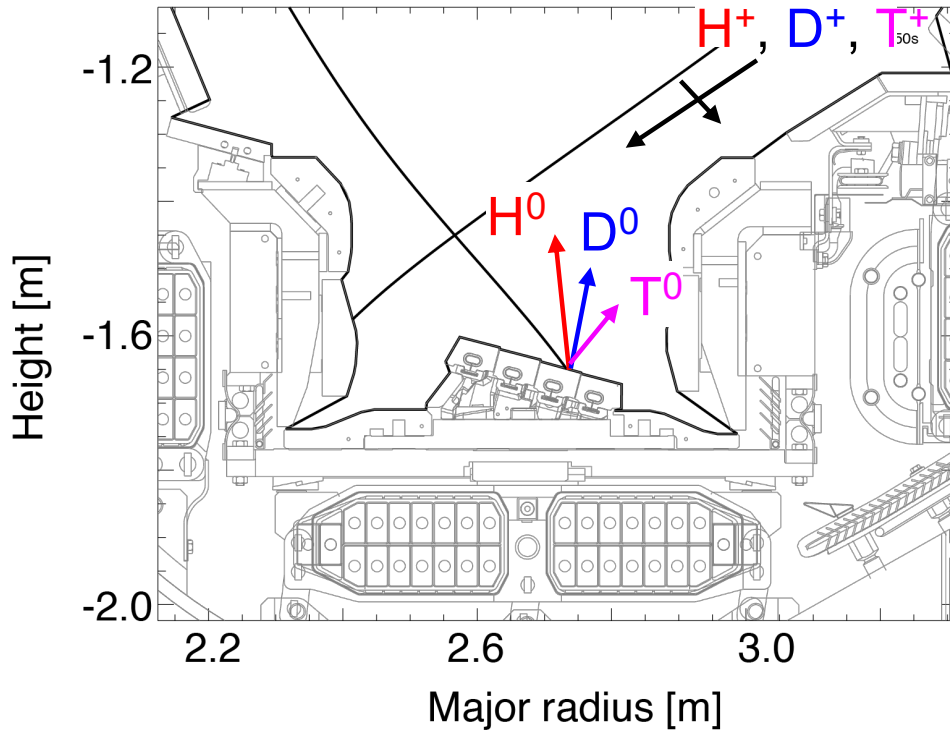


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How significant is the impact of hydrogen isotopes on the divertor conditions and degree of detachment?

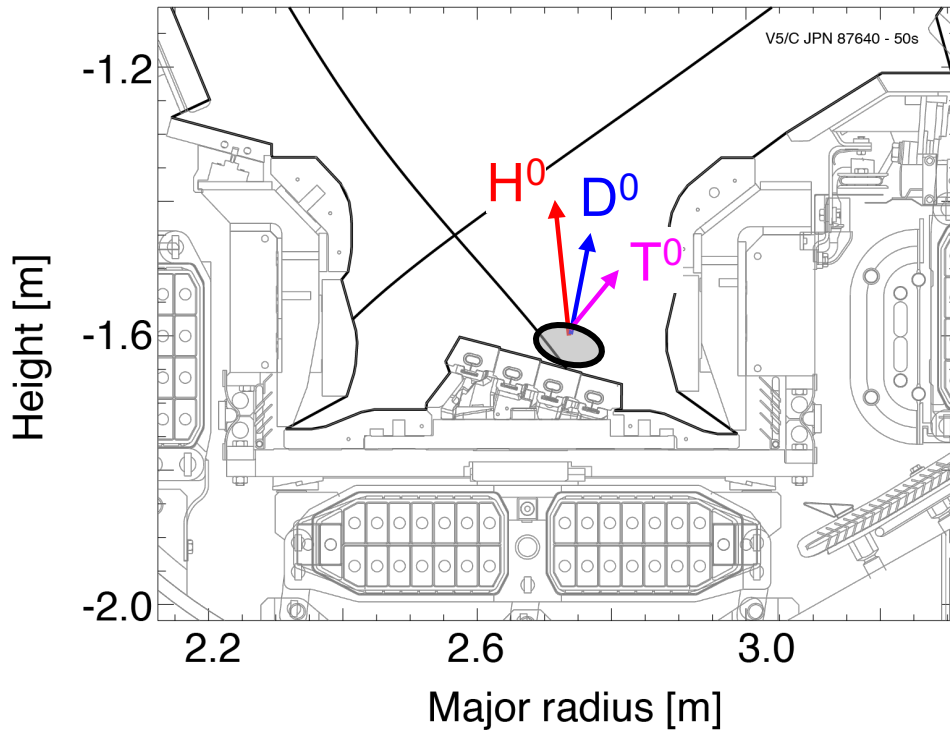


How significant is the impact of hydrogen isotopes on the divertor conditions and degree of detachment?



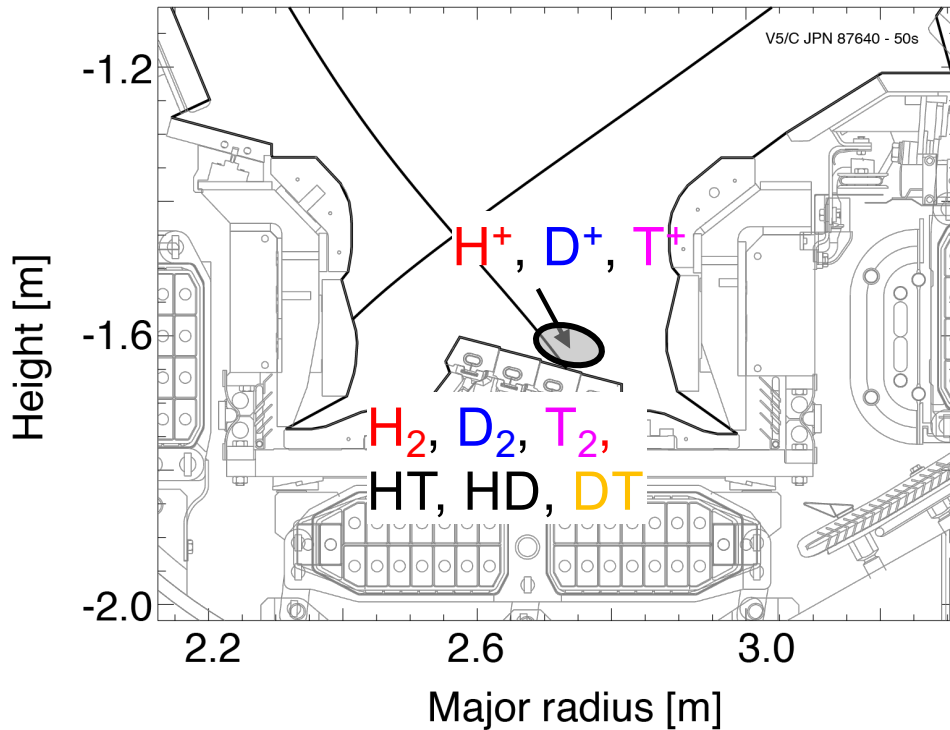
- For the same energy heavier ions are slower
⇒ Widens scrape-off layer ($\propto \sqrt{m_{\text{ion}}}$)
⇒ Reduces veloc. of fast-refl. atoms ($\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{\text{ion}}}$)

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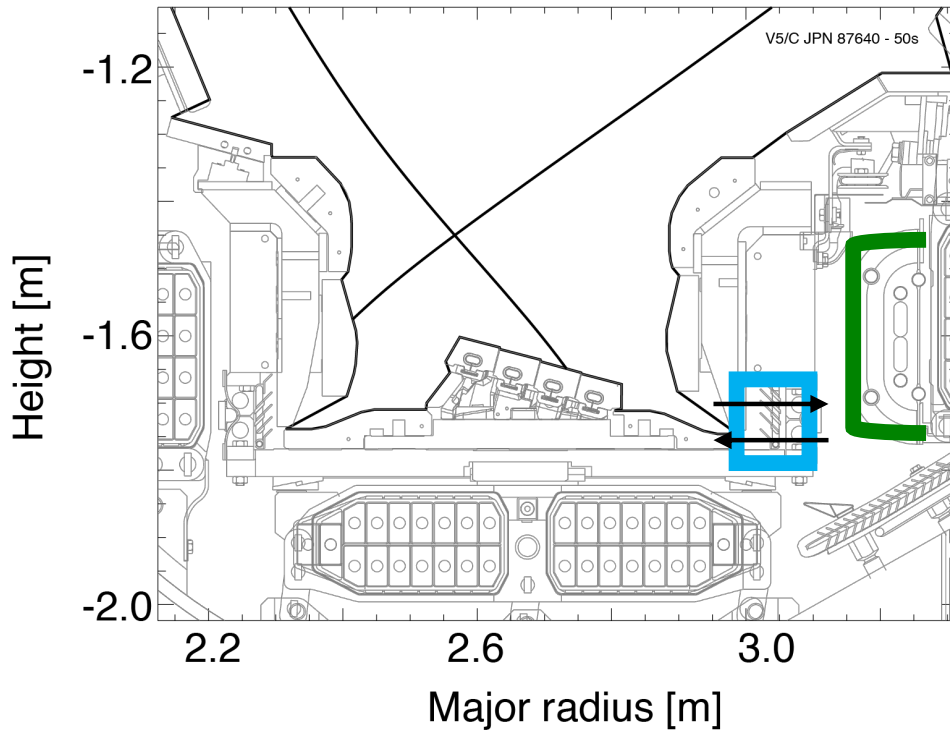
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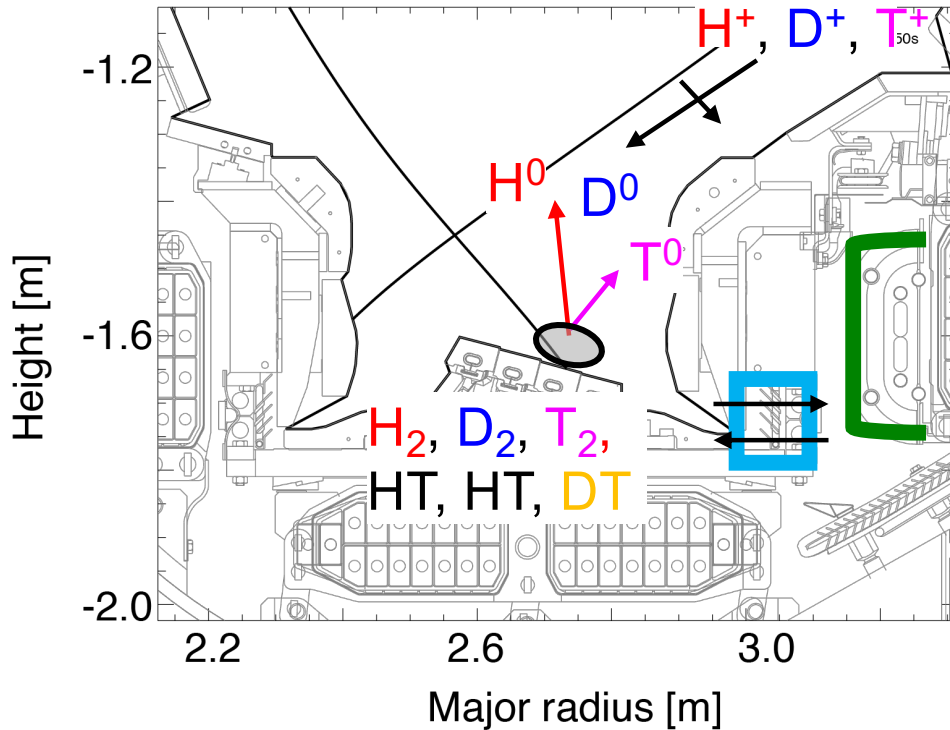
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- Stronger ion-molecular interaction (rates) for heavier species for temperatures < 2 eV

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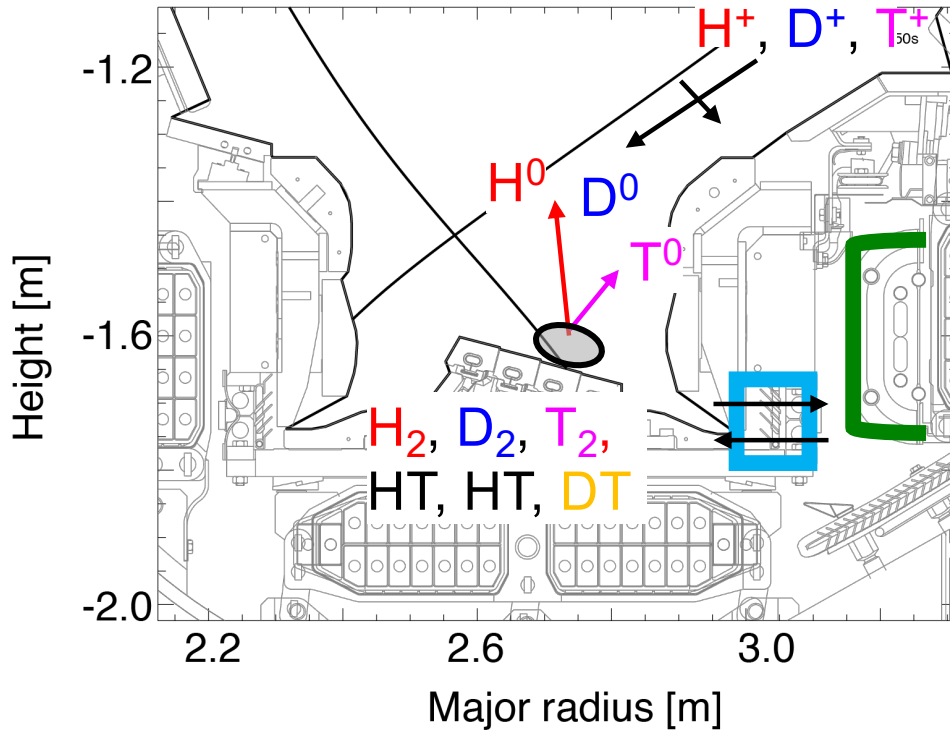
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- Conductance of pump duct: $\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{\text{mol}}}$
- Sticking probab. of cryo. pump: $\propto X * m_{\text{mol}}$

How significant is the impact of hydrogen isotopes on the divertor conditions and degree of detachment?



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- ⇒ Individually, isotope effect $\approx 40\text{-}70\%$ ⇒ combined effect cumulative or offsetting?

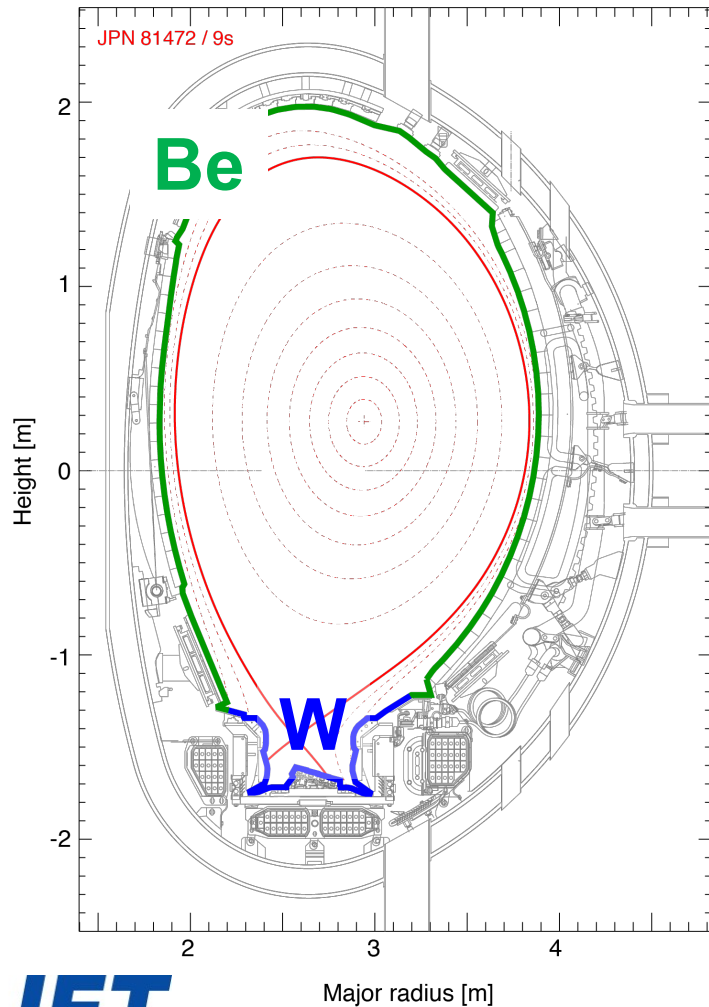
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- For the same energy heavier ions are slower
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- JET-carbon, L-mode, VT: 30% higher density limit for T versus H*

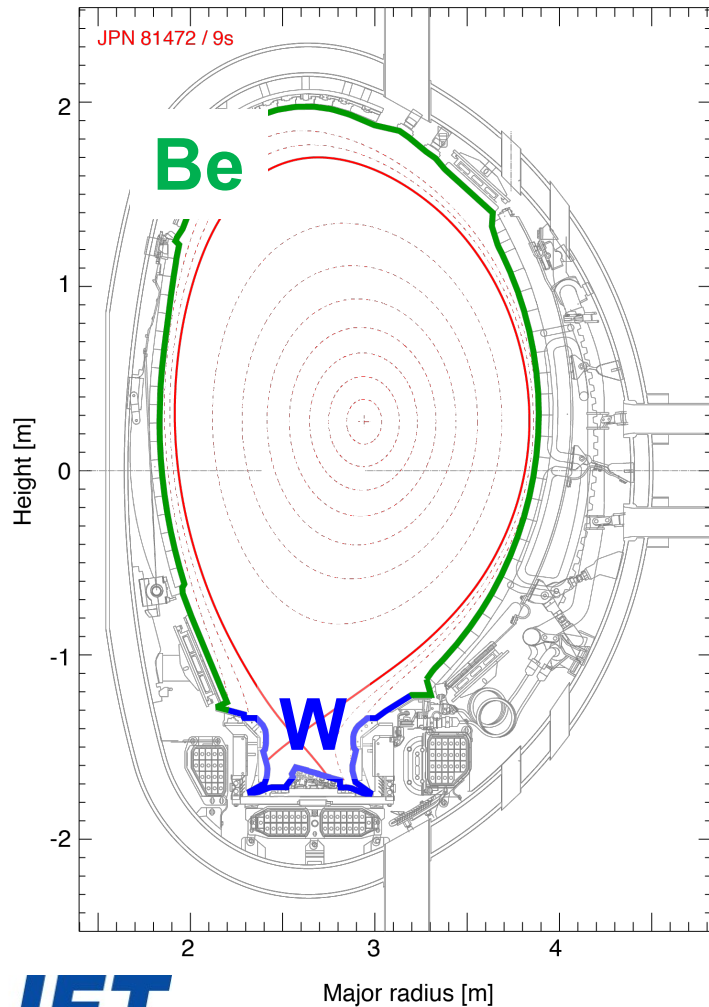
Characterisation of the SOL for detachment physics was performed in JET-ILW H, D, T and DT low-confinement mode plasmas



- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor*

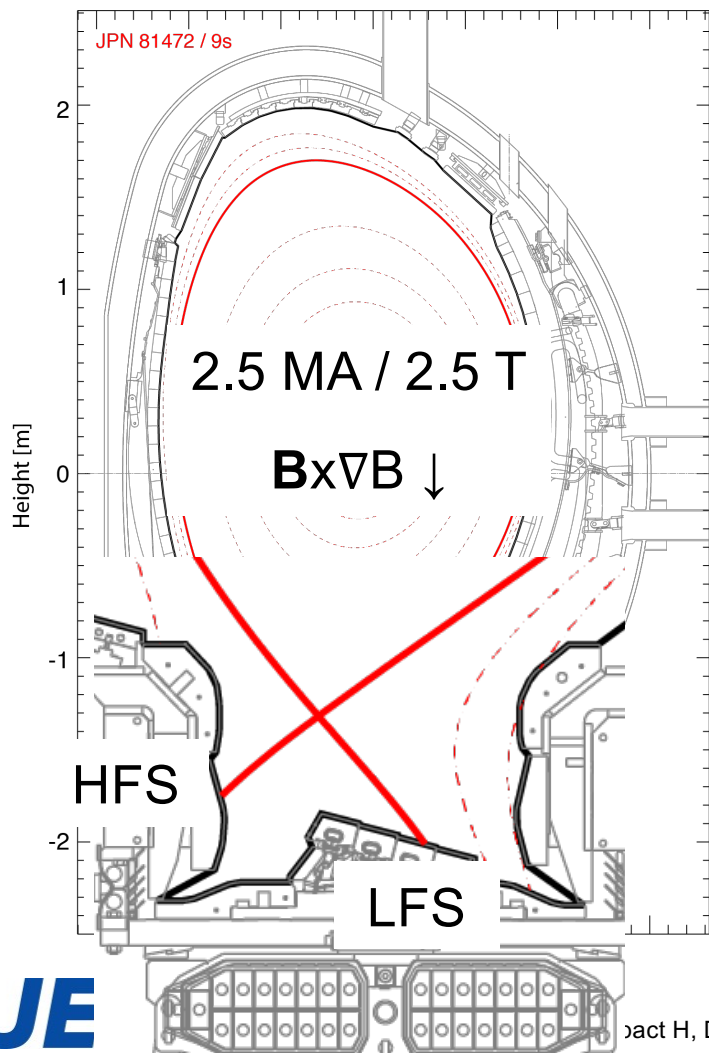
*G.F. Matthews et al., Phys. Scr. 2011

Characterisation of the SOL for detachment physics was performed in JET-ILW H, D, T and DT low-confinement mode plasmas



- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor*
- ⇒ Removed impact of carbon (radiation) on detachment as previously in JET-carbon

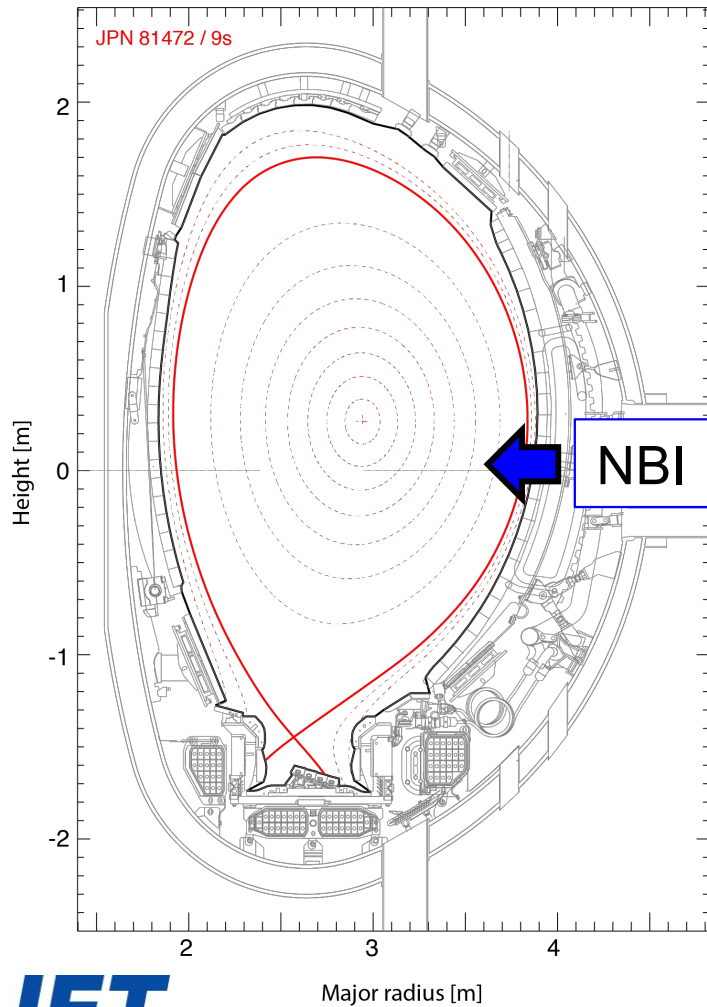
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- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor
 - **Vertical-horizontal configuration**, optimised for diagnostics and edge model validation*
- ⇒ Test physics models to assess uncertainties of predict-first approach

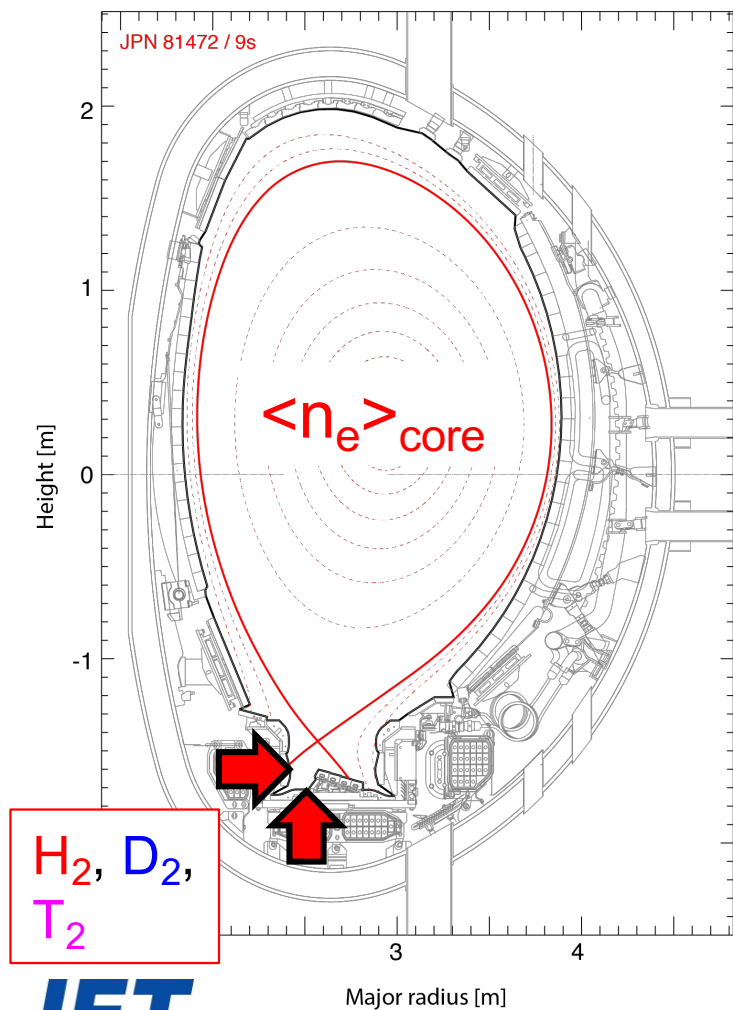
*M. Groth et al., NF 2013

Characterisation of the SOL for detachment physics was performed in JET-ILW H, D, T and DT low-confinement mode plasmas



- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor
- Vertical-horizontal configuration, optimised for diagnostics and edge model validation
- Total heating up to 3 MW: neutral beam 1 MW

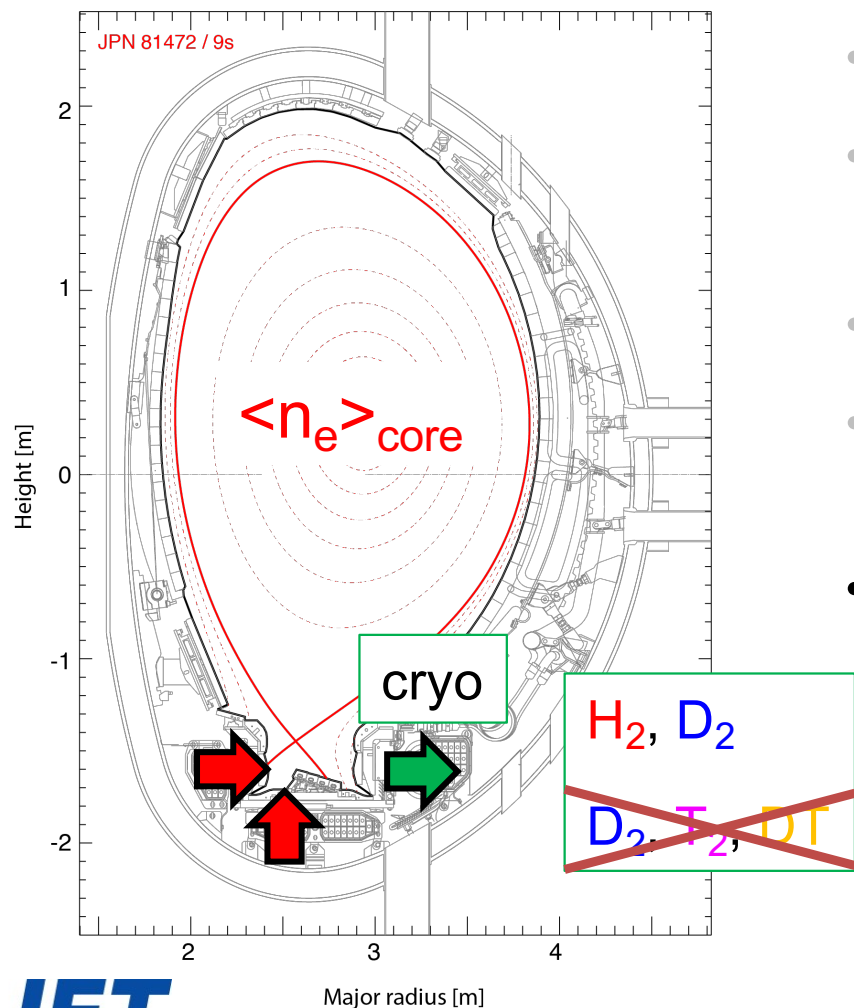
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JET

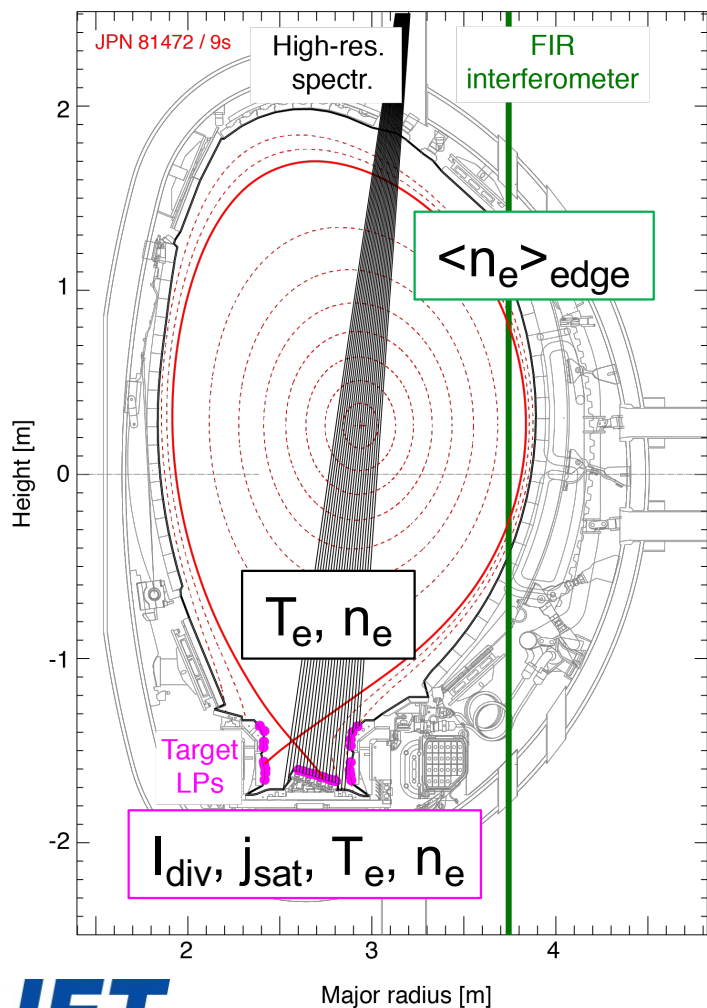
- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor
 - Vertical-horizontal configuration, optimised for diagnostics and edge model validation
 - Total heating up to 3 MW: neutral beam 1 MW
 - **Hydrogenic gas injection** from the divertor to raise core plasma density to density limit
- ⇒ Plasma effective charge state 1.4 \searrow 1.0

Characterisation of the SOL for detachment physics was performed in JET-ILW H, D, T and DT low-confinement mode plasmas



- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor
- Vertical-horizontal configuration, optimised for diagnostics and edge model validation
- Total heating up to 3 MW: neutral beam 1 MW
- Hydrogenic gas injection from the divertor to raise core plasma density to density limit
- Operational constraints on throughput in tritiated plasmas \Rightarrow raised temperature of cryogenic panel from super-critical He to liquid N_2
 \Rightarrow (Divertor) pumped for H_2 and D_2 , and unpumped for D_2 , T_2 and DT

Characterisation of the SOL for detachment physics was performed in JET-ILW H, D, T and DT low-confinement mode plasmas



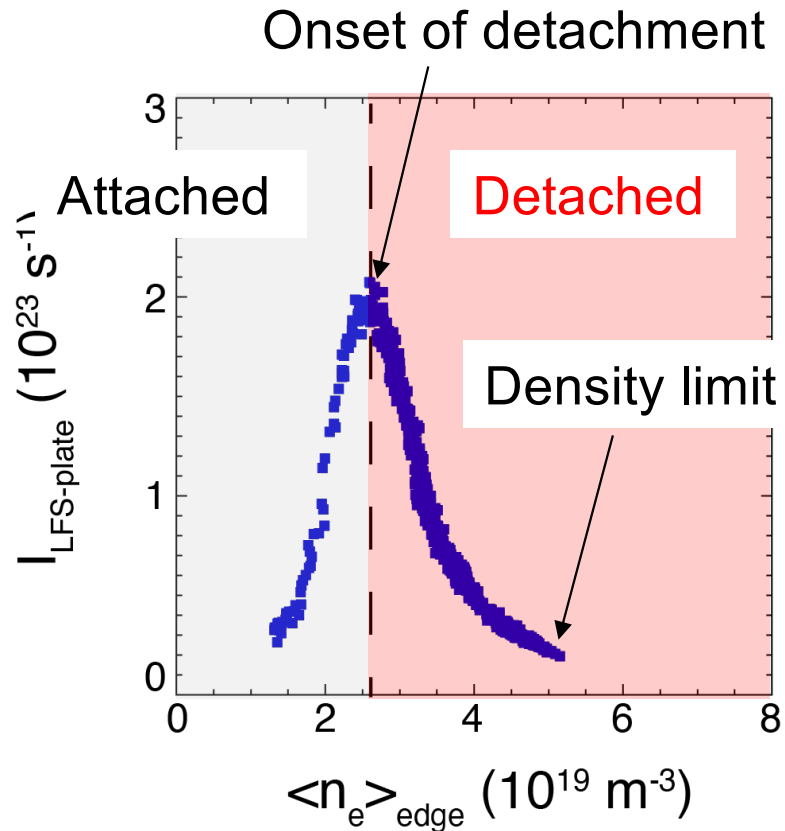
- JET-ILW wall Be main-chamber, W divertor
- Vertical-horizontal configuration, optimised for diagnostics and edge model validation
- Total heating up to 3 MW: neutral beam 1 MW
- Vary core plasma density to density limit by hydrogenic gas injection from the divertor
- Operational constraints on throughput in T and DT: divertor pumped (H_2 , D_2) and unpumped (D_2 , T_2 and DT)
- Ion fluxes from Langmuir probes + spectro. inferred T_e and n_e across LFS divertor (for high-recycling and partially detached conditions*)

Onset of detachment is characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates with increasing core density



LFS

- Density limit = maximum achievable density

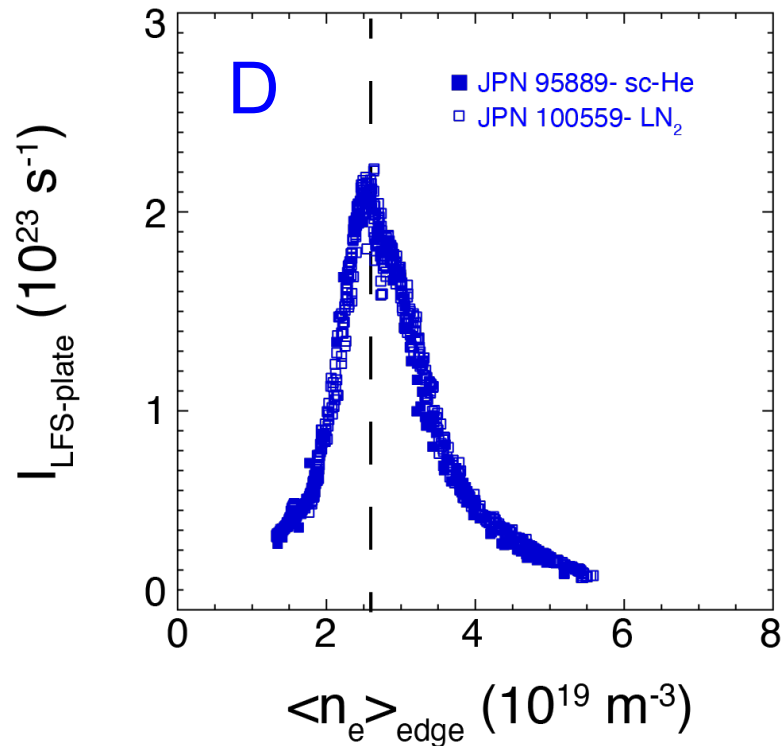


Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in nearly identical detachment characteristics as in the pumped setup*



LFS

- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density

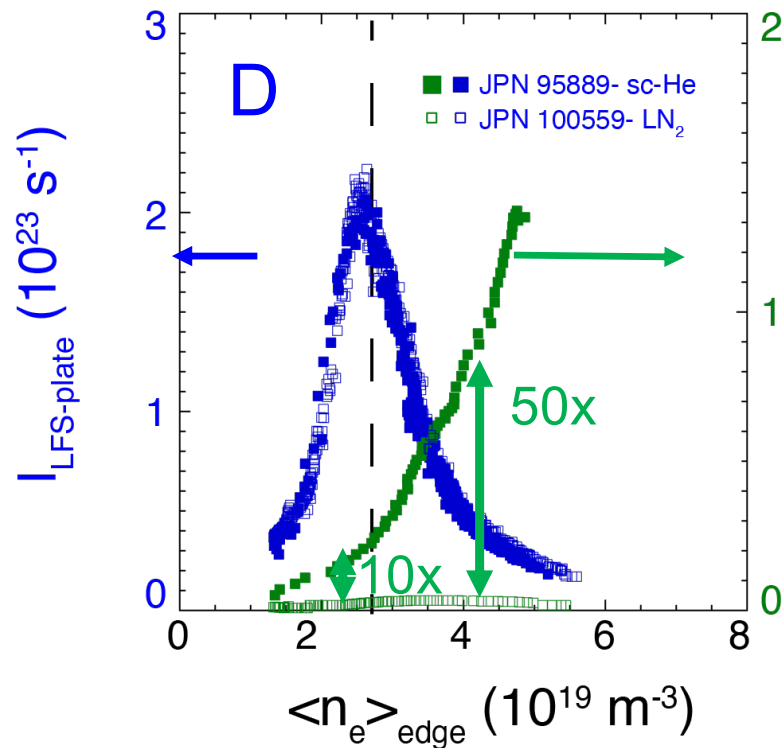


*M. Groth et al., NME 2023

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LFS



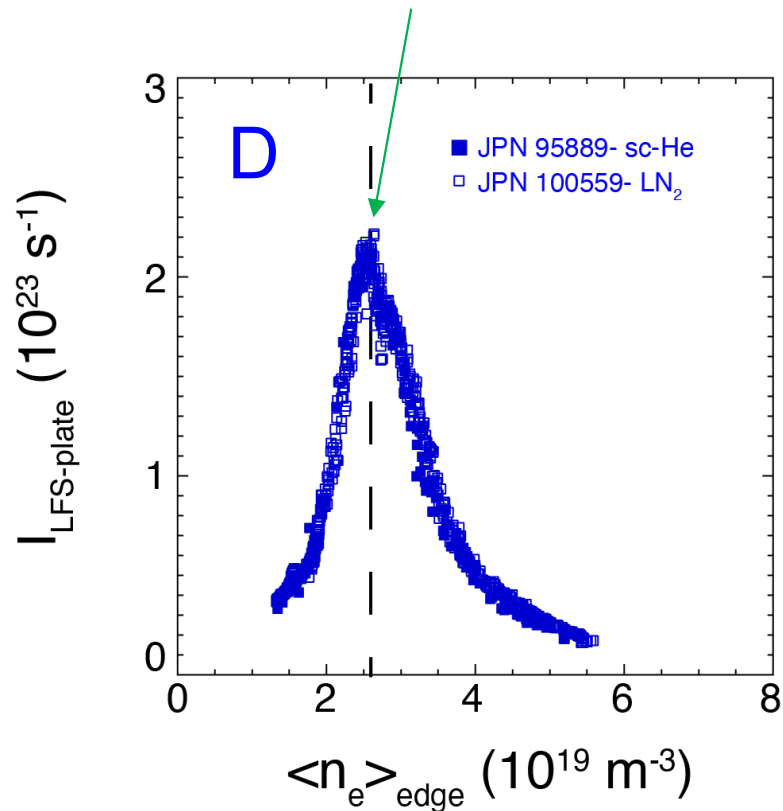
- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- 10-50x reduction in **fuelling rates**
 - \Rightarrow (In particular vert.-horiz. config.) Divertor plasma conditions decoupled from throughput
 - \Rightarrow Core plasma density set by surface recycling, volume recombination and transport

Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in nearly identical detachment characteristics as the pumped setup



LFS

$p_{\text{sub-div}} \approx 0.05 \nearrow 0.2 \text{ Pa}$



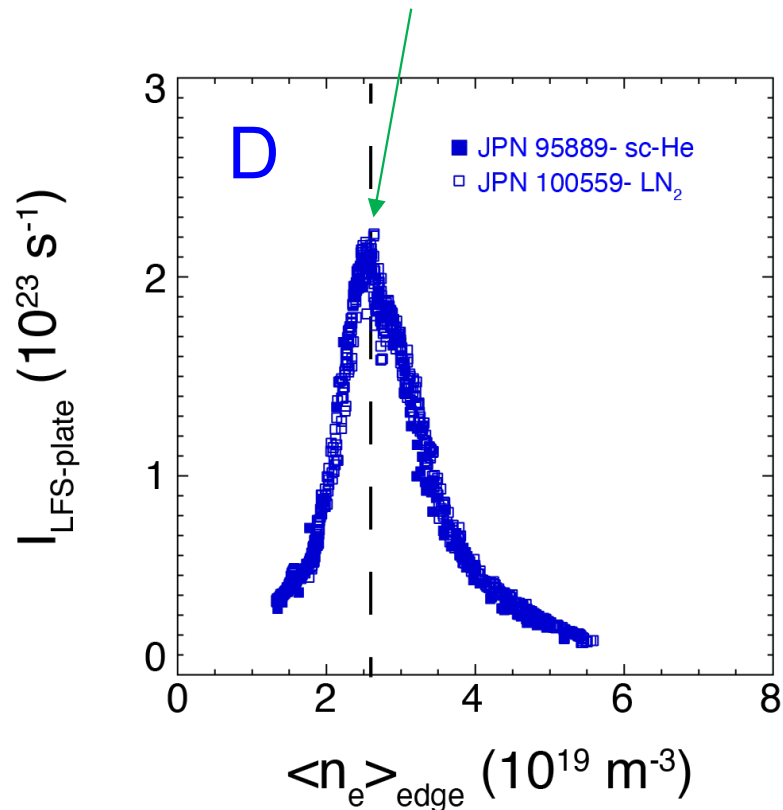
- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- \Rightarrow 10-50x reduction in fuelling rates
- **Sub-divertor pressure** increased 5x
- \Rightarrow Gas flow into and out of sub-divertor, and pumping in sub-divertor do not impact surface recycling

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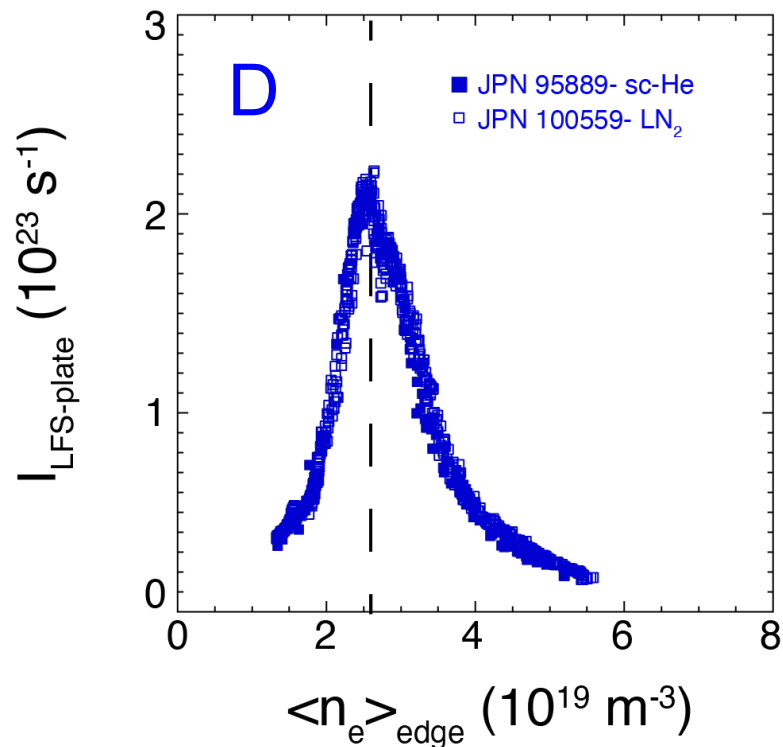


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- **Sub-divertor pressure** increased 5x
- \Rightarrow Gas flow into and out of sub-divertor, and pumping in sub-divertor do not impact surface recycling
- \Rightarrow Removed impact of pump duct conductance and cryogenic pump on divertor conditions wrt. isotopes

Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in nearly identical detachment characteristics as the pumped setup



LFS

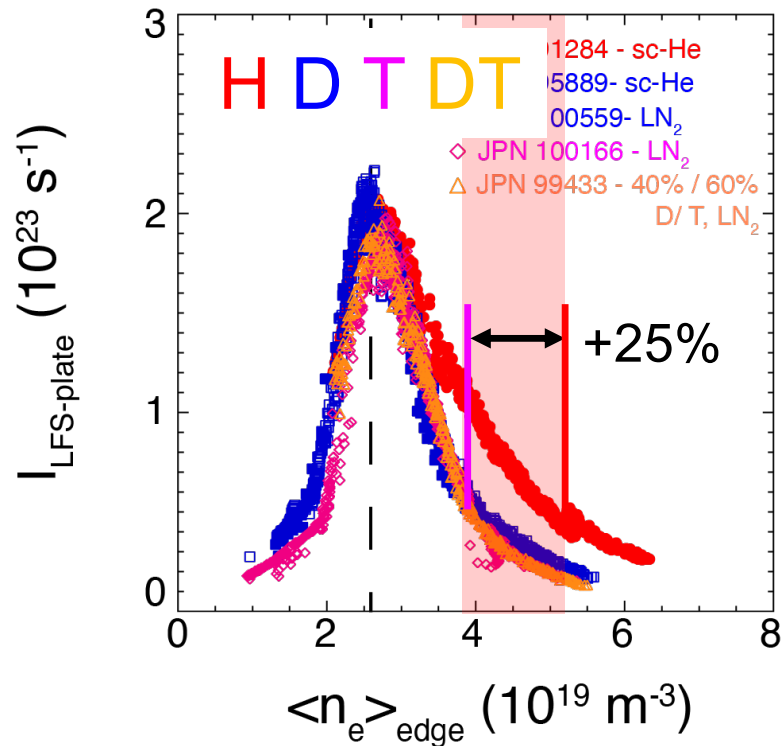


- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- \Rightarrow 10-50x reduction in fuelling rates
- Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in the same detachment characteristics
- Validation of hydrogenic atomic emission ongoing \Rightarrow PSI 2024
- Validation of hydrogenic (deuterium) molecular emission still pending

Deuterium, tritium and 40%-60% deuterium-tritium plasmas were more strongly detached than hydrogen plasmas



LFS



- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
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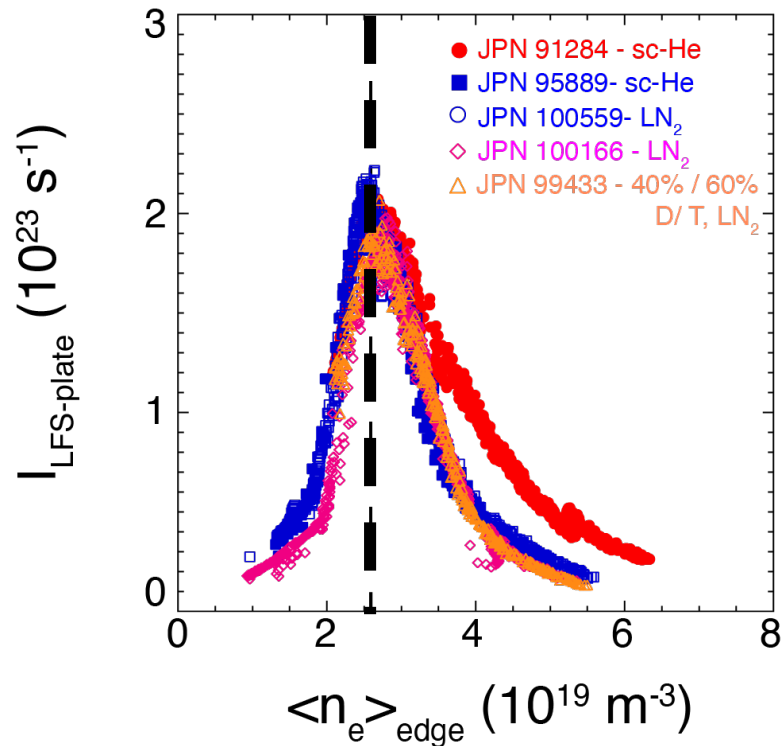
JET-ILW Ohmic H/D: V. Solokha et al., NME 2020



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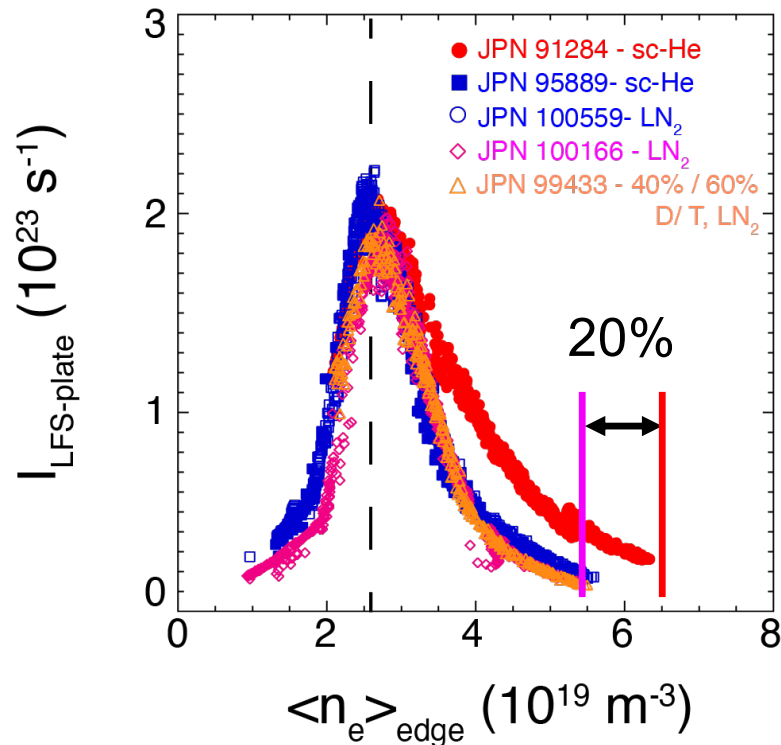


- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in the same detachment characteristics
- Onset of detachment occurred at the same edge plasma density for H, D, T and DT

Deuterium, tritium and 40%-60% deuterium-tritium plasmas were more strongly detached than hydrogen plasmas



LFS

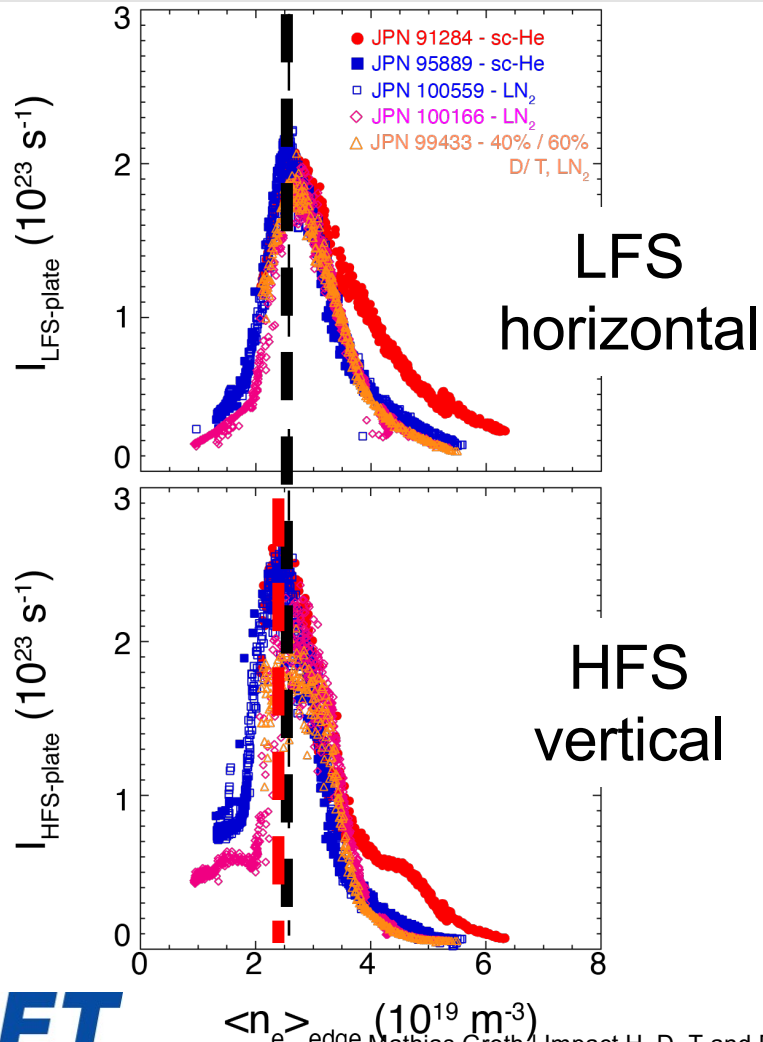


- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in the same detachment characteristics
- Onset of detachment occurred at the same edge plasma density for H, D, T and DT
- Density limit is 20% higher in H than in D, T and DT (consistent with JET-C*, JET-ILW ohmic*)

*C.F. Maggi et al., NF 1999

**V. Solokha et al., NME 2020

Deuterium, tritium and 40%-60% deuterium-tritium plasmas were more strongly detached than hydrogen plasmas

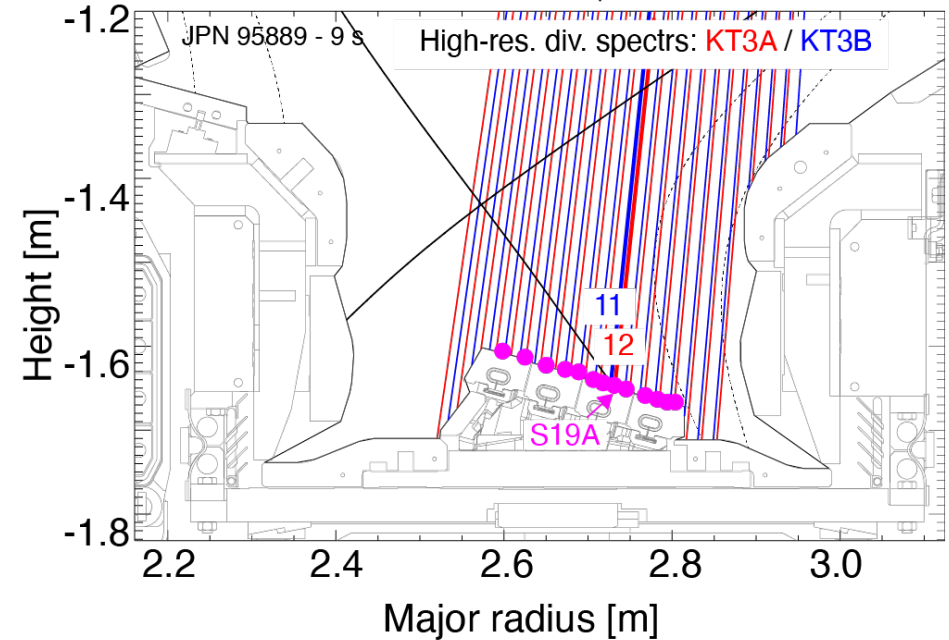
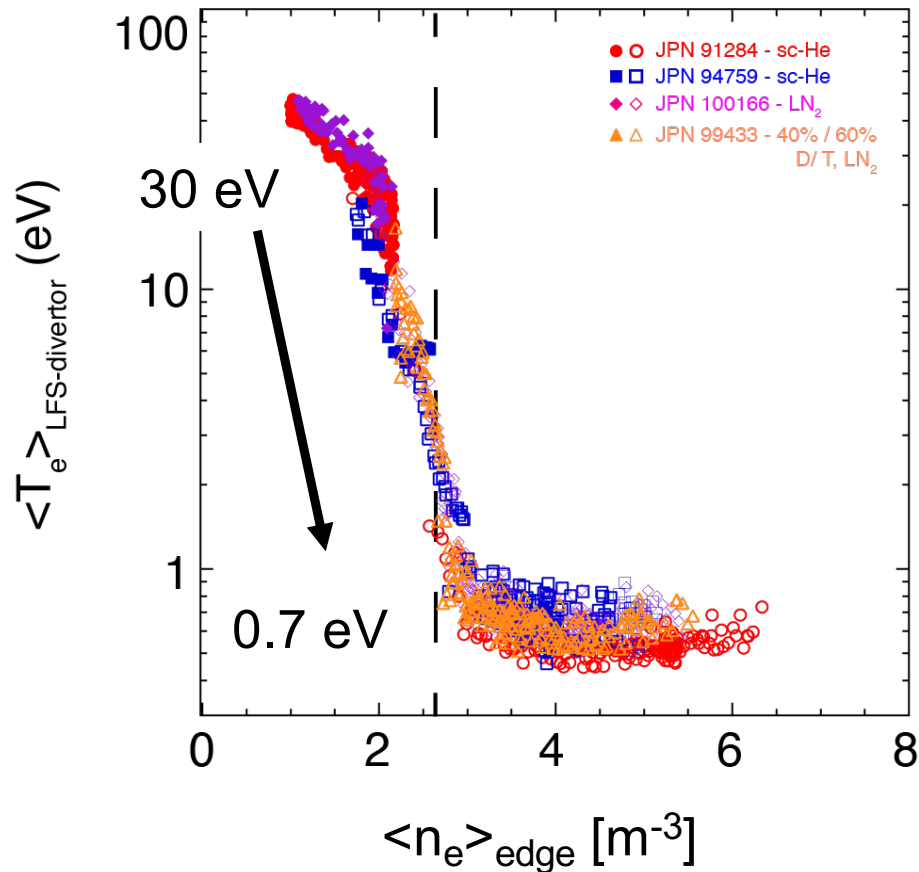


- Onset of detachment characterised by saturation and reduction of ion current to plates \Rightarrow density limit = max. density
- Eliminating divertor cryogenic pumping resulted in the same detachment characteristics
- Onset of detachment occurred at the same edge plasma density for H, D, T and DT
- Density limit is 30% higher in H than in T (consistent with JET-C)
- Onset of detachment occurred within 10% of the same edge density on both the LFS and HFS plates

(Non-linear) reduction of electron temperature at LFS target plate with edge density is independent of the isotope species



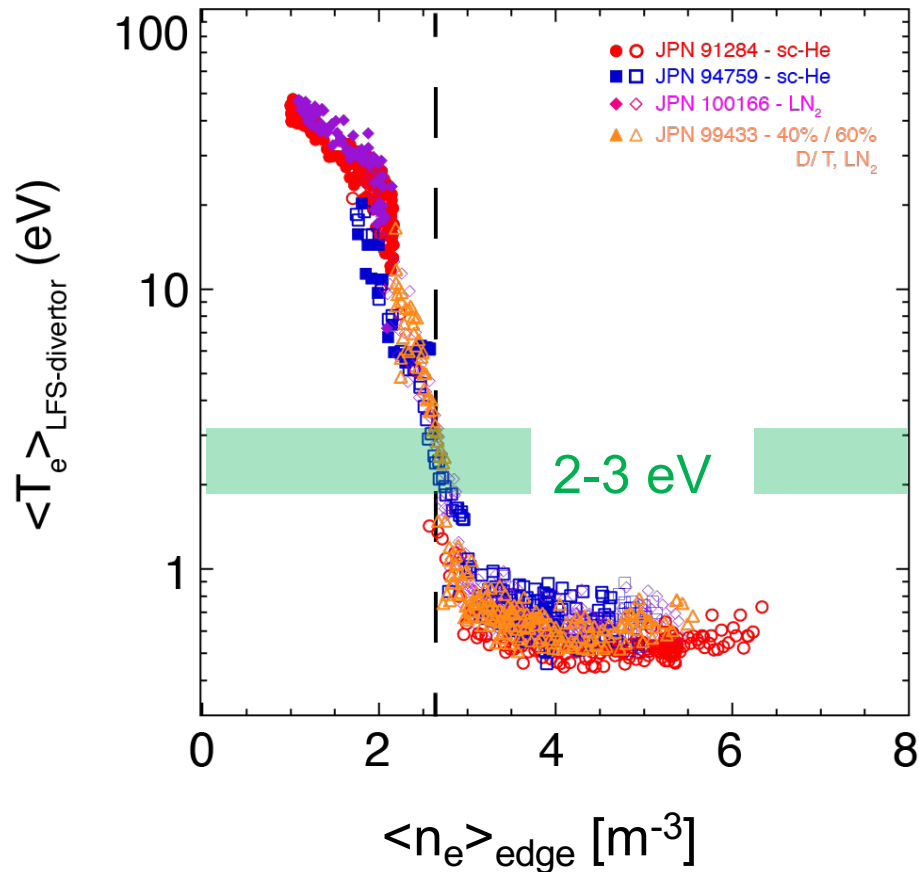
LFS



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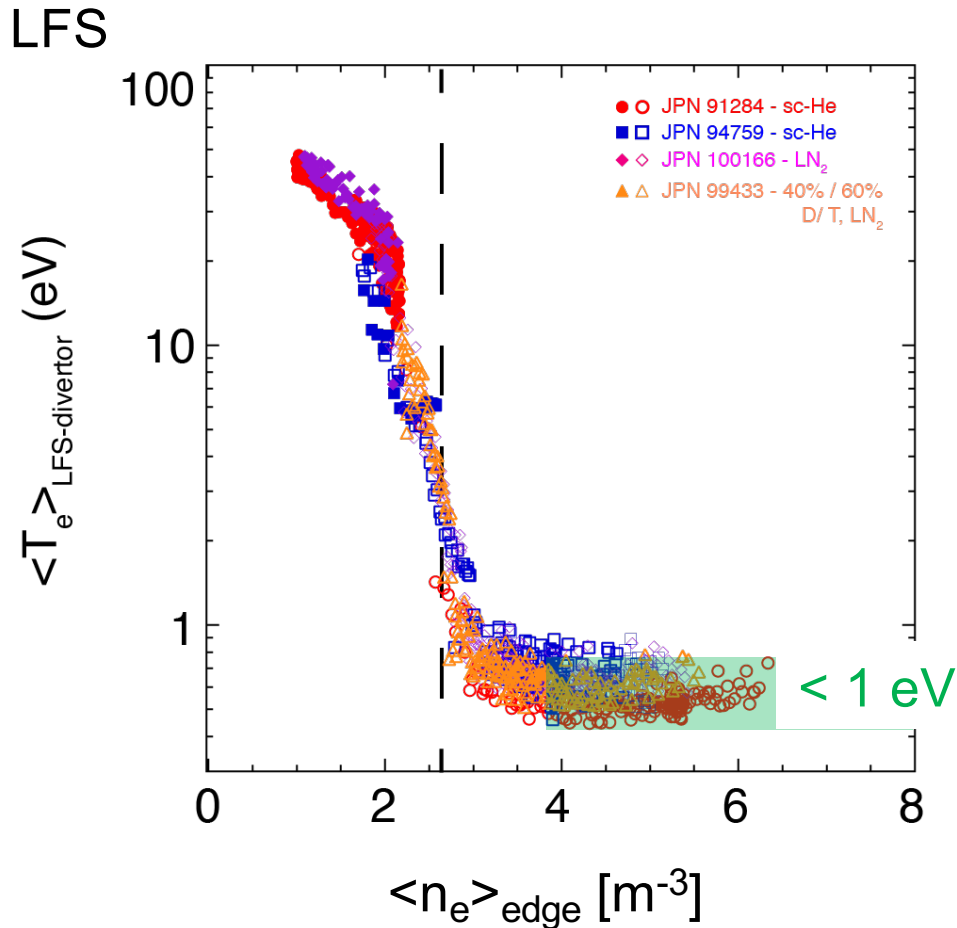
LFS



- Onset of detachment when $T_{e,\text{div}} \approx 2\text{-}3 \text{ eV}$
⇒ onset of ion-molecular interaction*

*R. Janev et al., AM Fusion Edge Plasmas 1995
R. Janev, D. Reiter, JUEL-report 4411, 2018
K. Verhaegh et al., NF 2021, 2023, EX-P2103
J. Karhunen et al., NME 2023

(Non-linear) reduction of electron temperature at LFS target plate with edge density is independent of isotope species



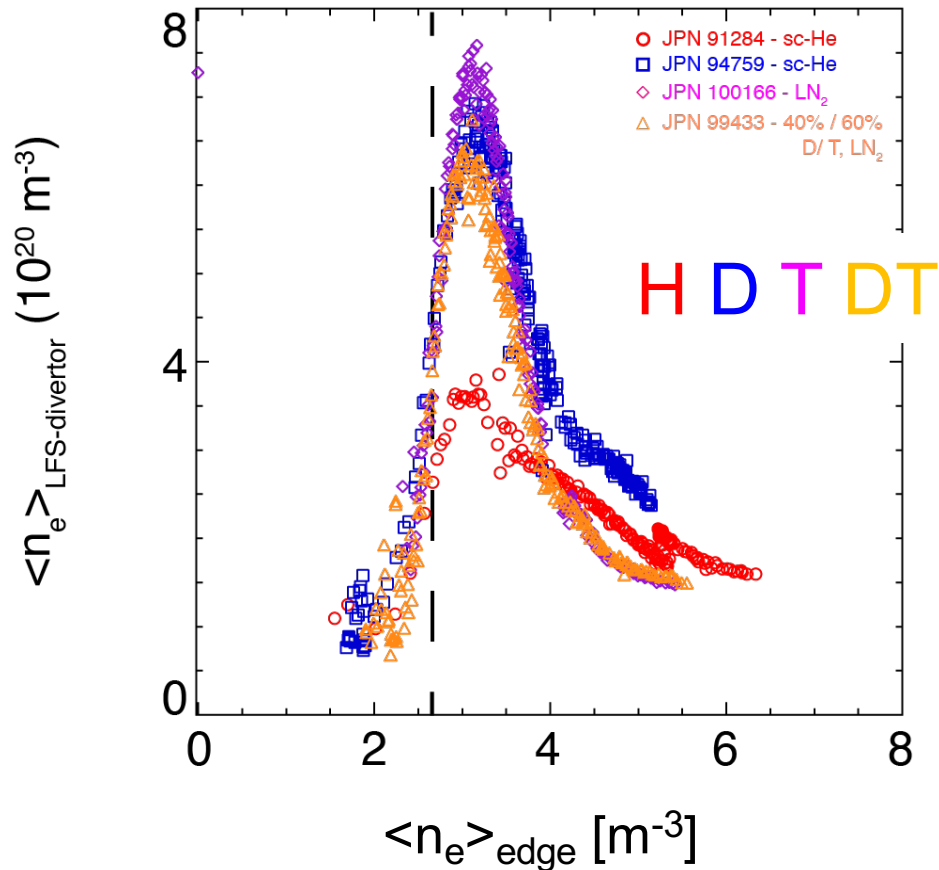
- Onset of detachment when $T_{e,\text{div}} \approx 2\text{-}3$ eV \Rightarrow onset of ion-molecular interaction*
- Above $\langle n_e \rangle_{\text{edge}}$ of $4 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}$, LFS divertor plasma below 1 eV up to X-point*

*J. Karhunen et al., NME 2020

The maximum electron density adjacent to the target plate was measured lower in **H** than in **D**, **T** and **DT** plasmas



LFS



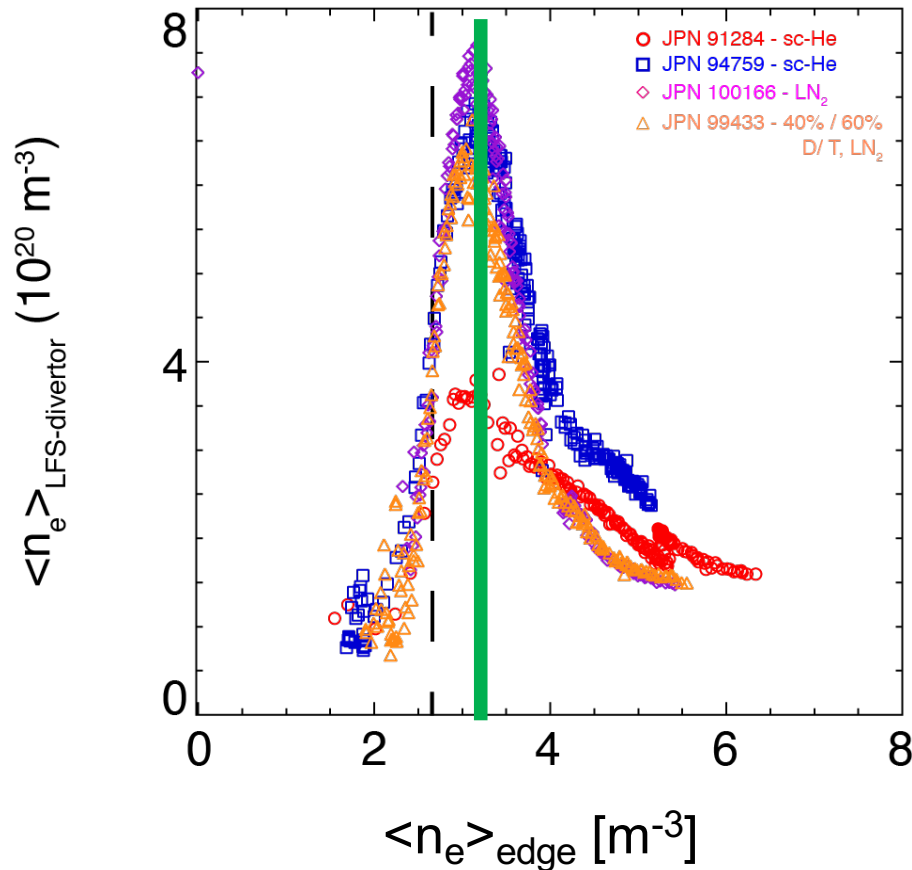
- (Non-linear) reduction of electron temperature at LFS target plate with core density is independent of isotope species

The maximum electron density adjacent to the target plate was measured lower in **H** than in **D**, **T** and **DT** plasmas



LFS

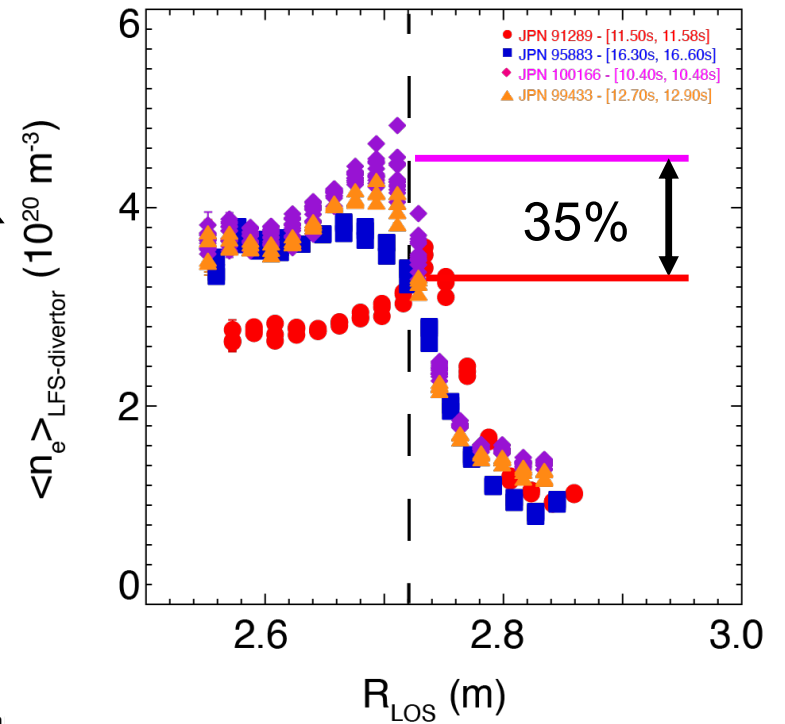
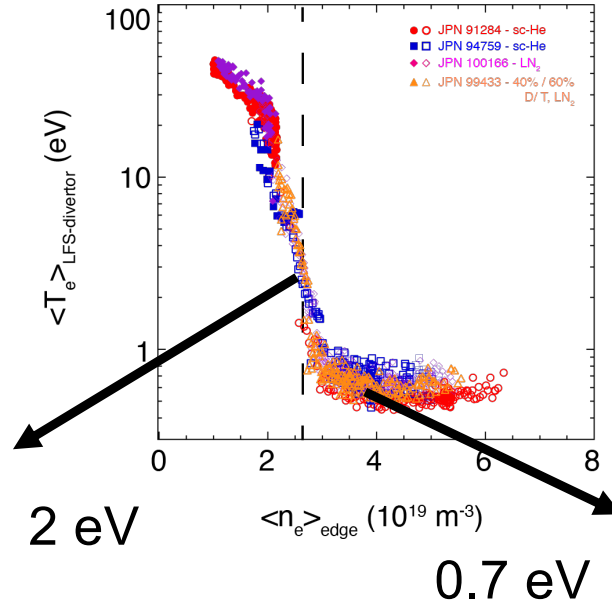
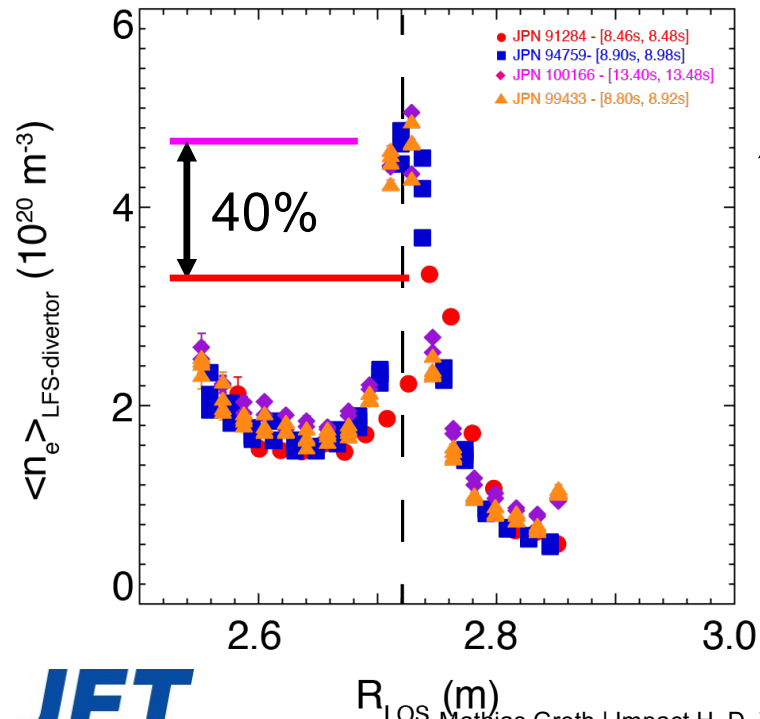
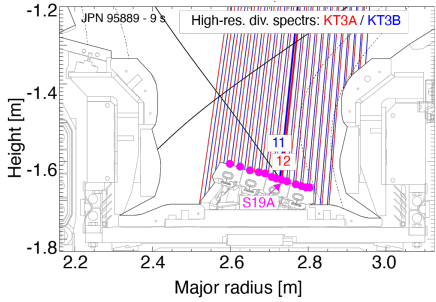
0.7-1.0 eV



- (Non-linear) reduction of electron temperature at LFS target plate with core density is independent of isotope species
- Max. electron density reached when $T_{e,\text{div}} \approx 0.7-1.0 \text{ eV}^*$ (beyond onset of detachment)

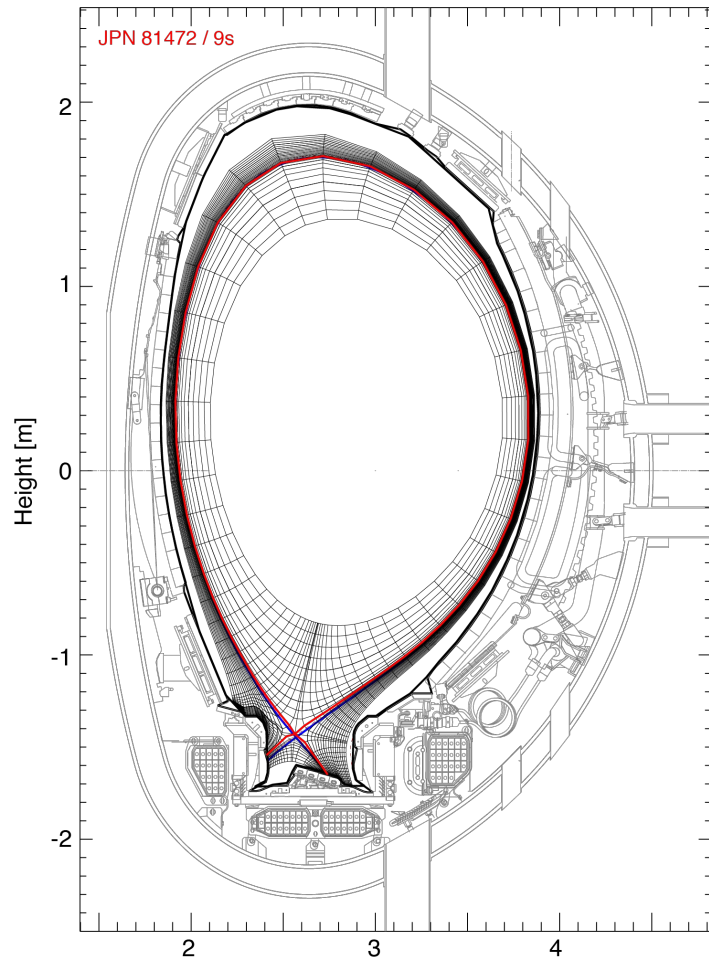
*A.G. Meigs et al., JNM 2013

Using actual $\langle n_e \rangle_{\text{LFS-div}}$ profiles, **H** plasmas are 40% sparser than **T** plasmas \Rightarrow high-density front moves off LFS plate*



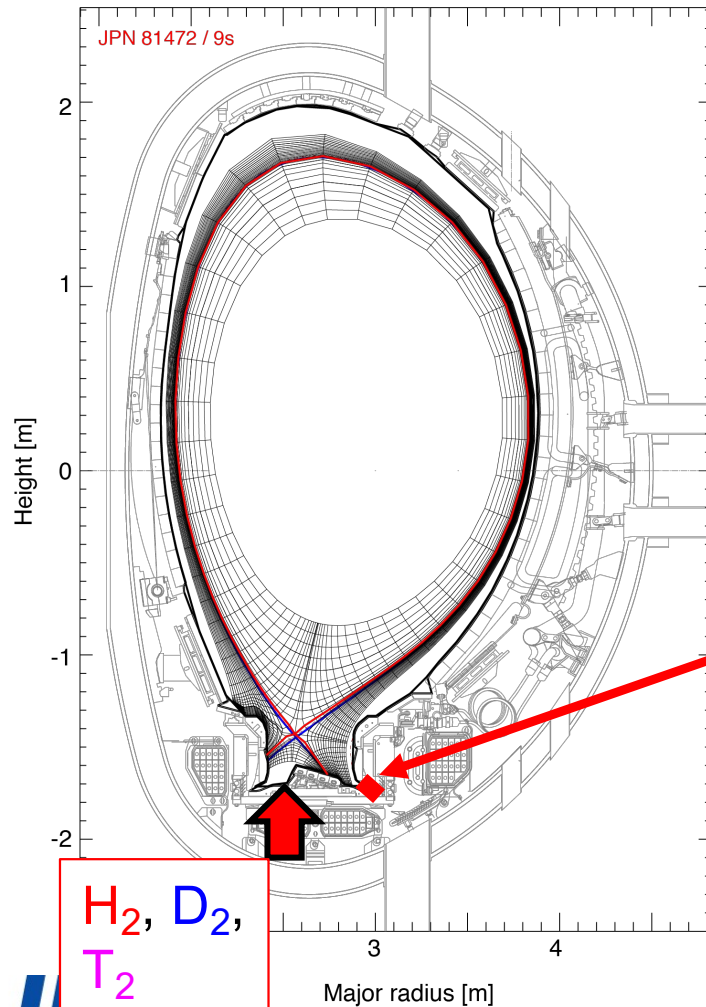
*A.G. Meigs et al., JNM 2013
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EDGE2D-EIRENE was used to simulate the **H**, **D** and **T** L-mode plasmas encompassing both attached and detached conds.



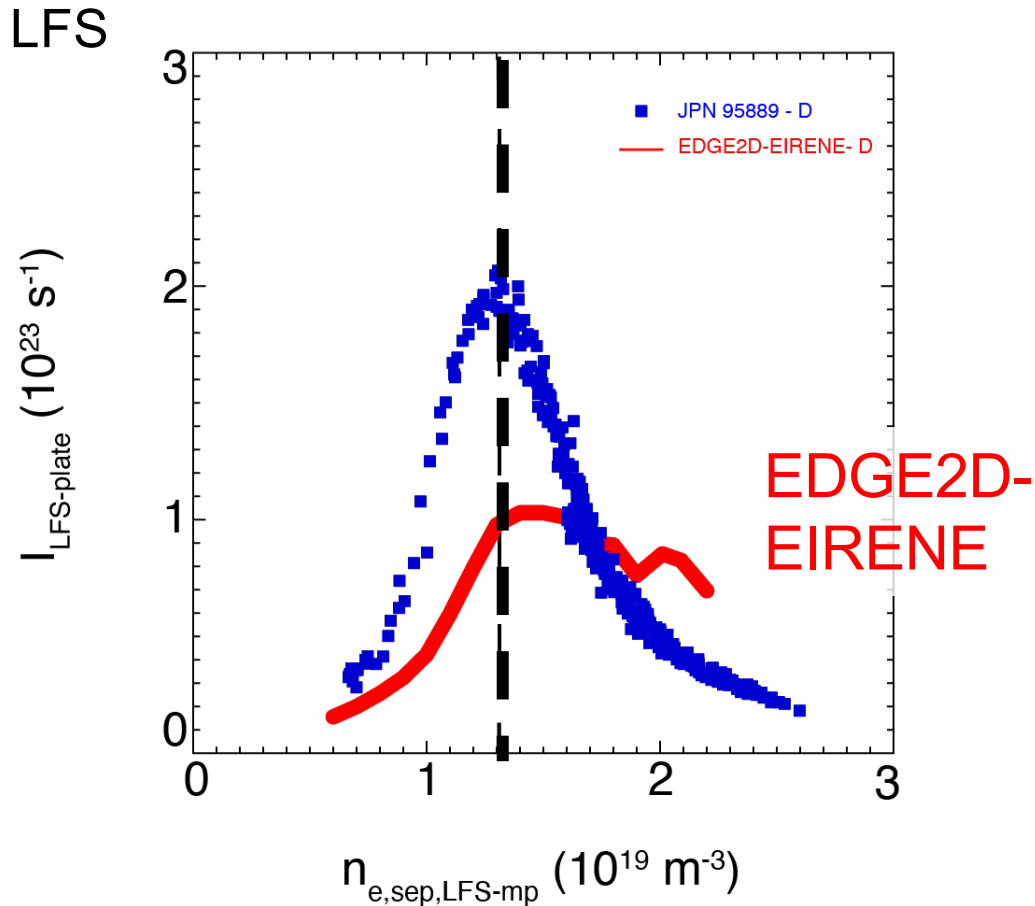
- EDGE2D-EIRENE* is a coupled fluid plasma, neutral Monte-Carlo code package
 - EIRENE**: H_0 , H_2 , H_2^+ (inst. destroyed), $H_2(v \geq 0)$ breakup included through AMJUEL
 - ⇒ Isotope effect included by scaling rates according to relative neutral velocities $\propto 1/\sqrt{m}$
 - Beryllium included as primary impurity species ⇒ negligible impact on plasma solutions
 - Cross-field drifts and currents included, assume user-defined, diffusive-convective radial transport ⇒ kept fixed in density scans

EDGE2D-EIRENE was used to simulate the **H**, **D** and **T** L-mode plasmas encompassing both attached and detached conds.



- EDGE2D-EIRENE is a coupled fluid plasma, Monte-Carlo neutral code package
- **H₂**, **D₂** and **T₂** injection through private flux region
- Sub-divertor excluded, approximated by pump surface in LFS divertor corner of user-defined size and albedo; here: same for **H/H₂**, **D/D₂** and **T/T₂**

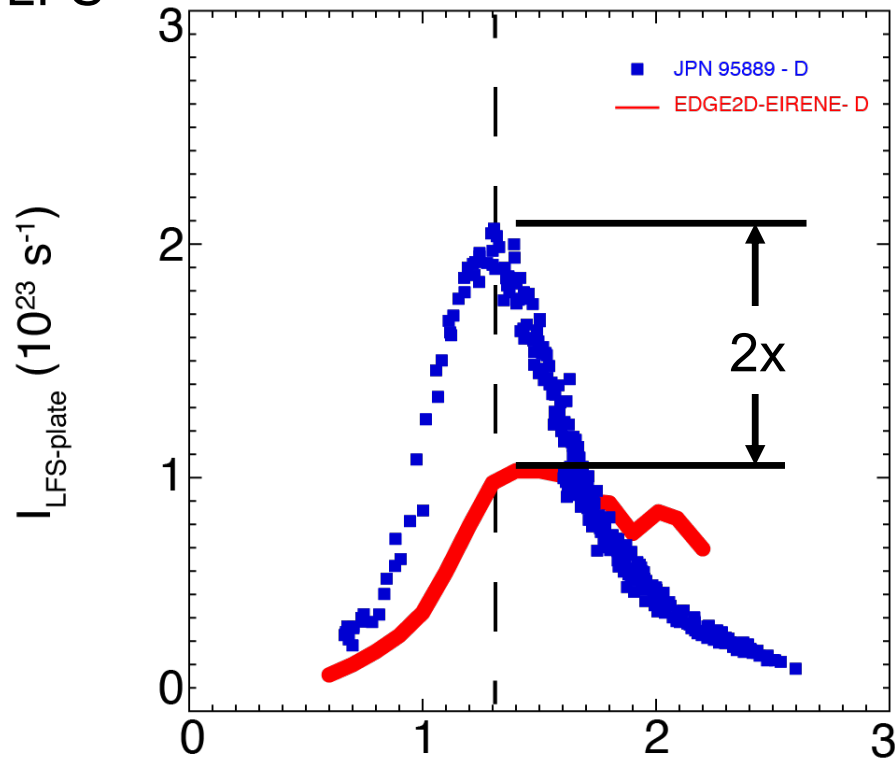
EDGE2D-EIRENE predicts the onset of detachment at same LFS midplane separatrix density as measured



EDGE2D-EIRENE predicts the onset of detachment at same LFS midplane separatrix density as measured



LFS



$n_{e,sep,LFS-mp} (10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}) \leftarrow = 1/2 \langle n_e \rangle_{edge}$

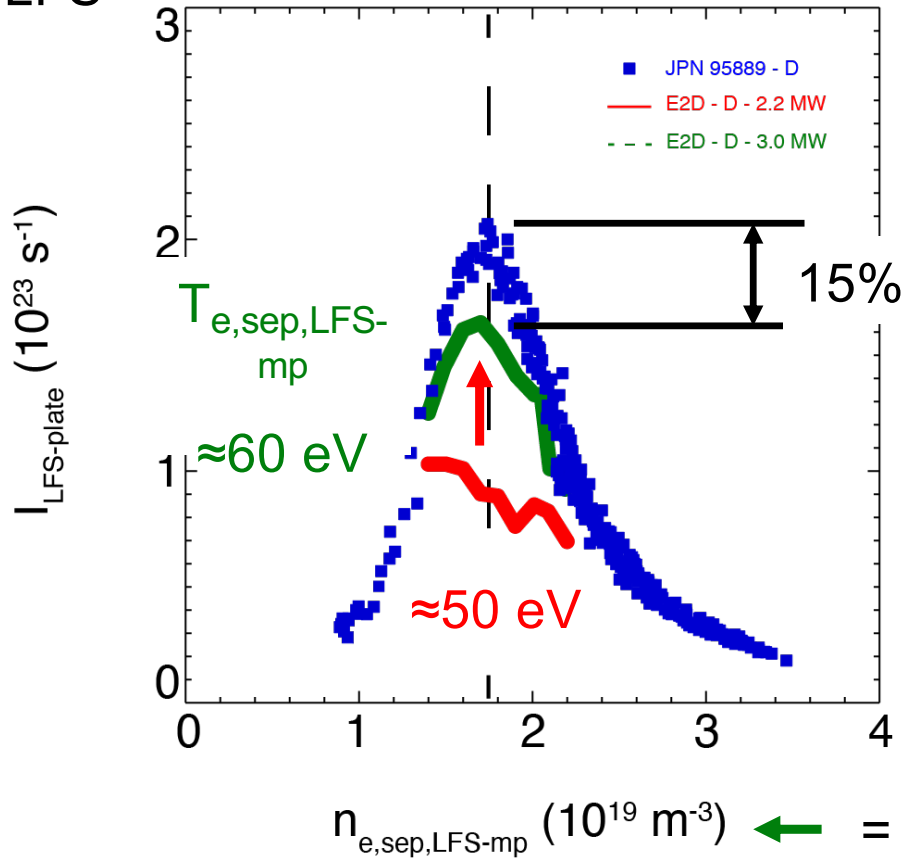
- Using scaling of $n_{e,sep,LFS-mp}$ with $\langle n_e \rangle_{edge}$ for low-recycling conds*: at onset of detachment, the predicted $I_{div,LFS}$ factor 2 lower than measured

*M. Groth et al., JNM 2013

EDGE2D-EIRENE predicts the onset of detachment at same LFS midplane separatrix density as measured

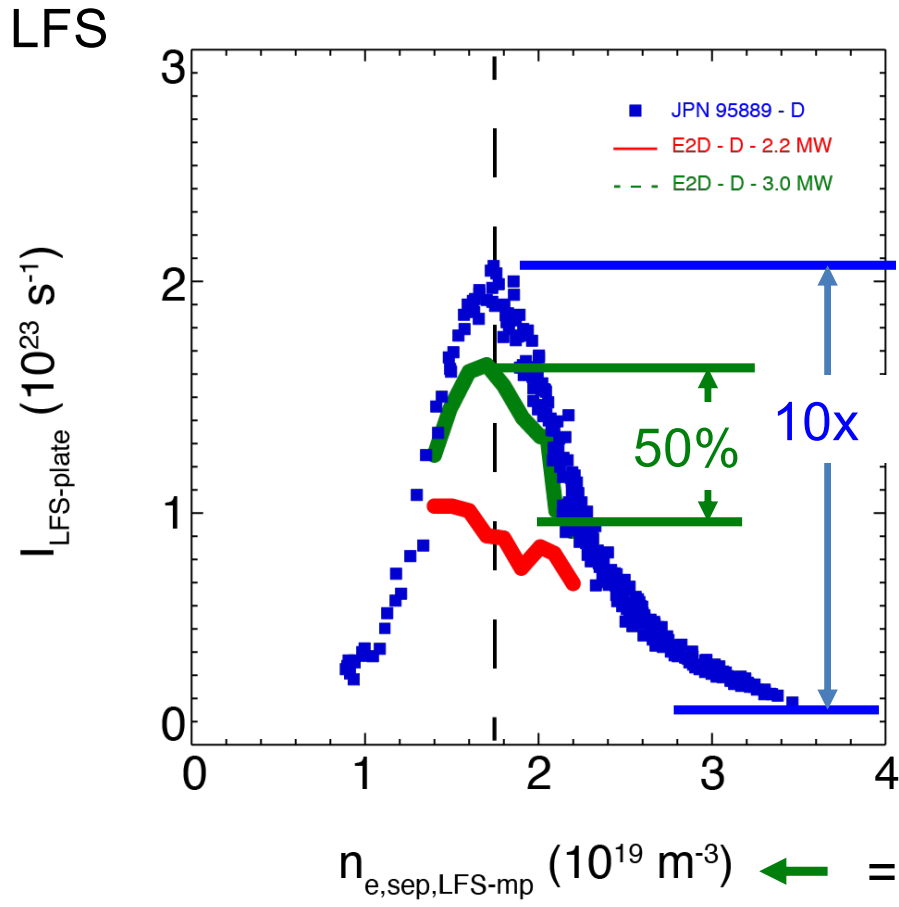


LFS



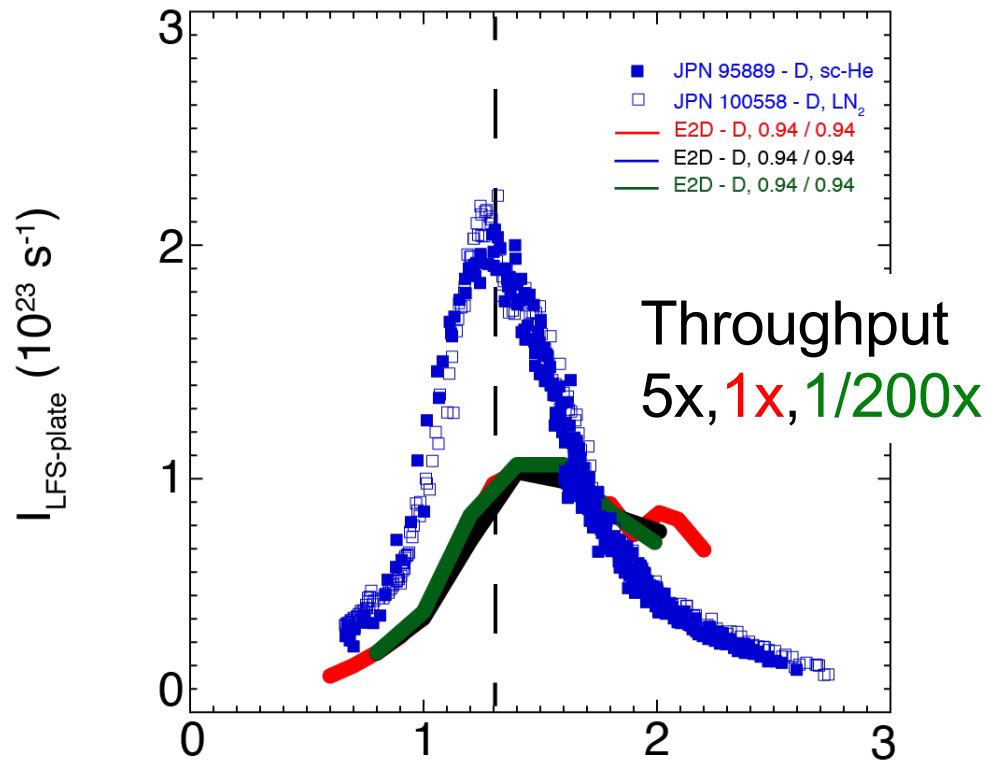
- Using scaling of $n_{e,sep,LFS-mp}$ with $\langle n_e \rangle_{edge}$ for low-recycling conds*: at onset of detachment, the predicted $I_{div,LFS}$ factor 2 lower than measured
- ⇒ Relaxing scaling for high-recycling conds. improves code-experiment agreement for $I_{div,LFS-plate}$

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- Using scaling of $n_{\text{e,sep,LFS-mp}}$ with $\langle n_e \rangle_{\text{edge}}$ for low-recycling conds*: at onset of detachment, the predicted $I_{\text{div,LFS}}$ factor 2 lower than measured
- ⇒ Relaxing scaling for high-recycling conds. improves $I_{\text{div,LFS-plate}}$ agreement
- Strong reduction of $I_{\text{div,LFS}}$ beyond rollover not observed in simulations

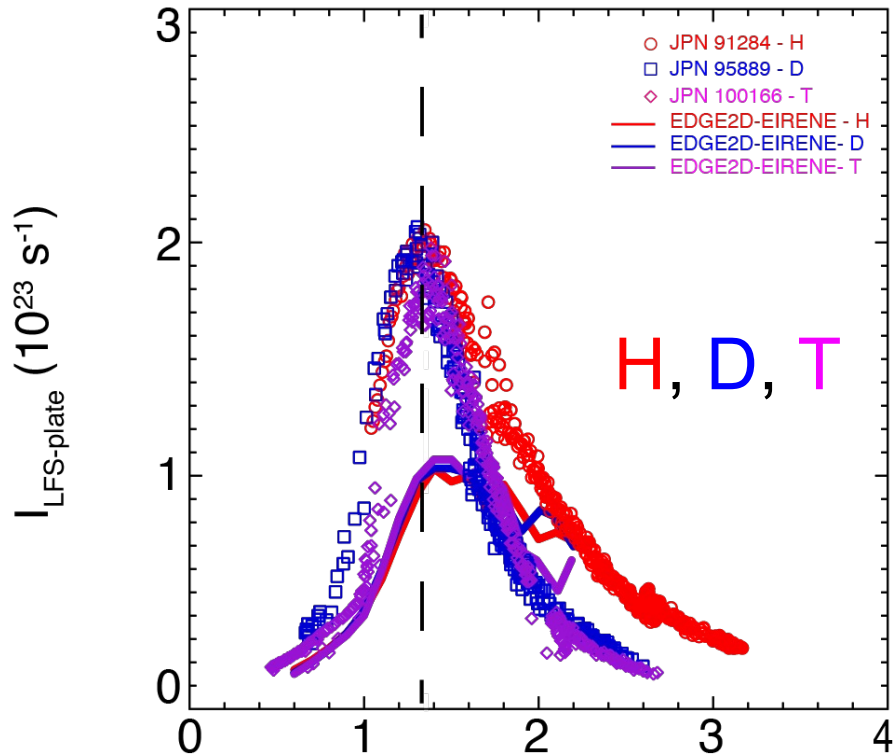
As in experiments, predicted divertor currents are independent of the D₂ throughput



$$n_{e,sep,LFS-mp} (10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}) \leftarrow = 1/2 \langle n_e \rangle_{edge}$$

- Variation of D₂ throughput by three orders of magnitude through pumping (number of pump surfaces, albedo)
 - ⇒ Injection rates can be made consistent with rates in experiments without impacting recycling
 - ⇒ Core plasma density set by recycling, volume recombination and transport

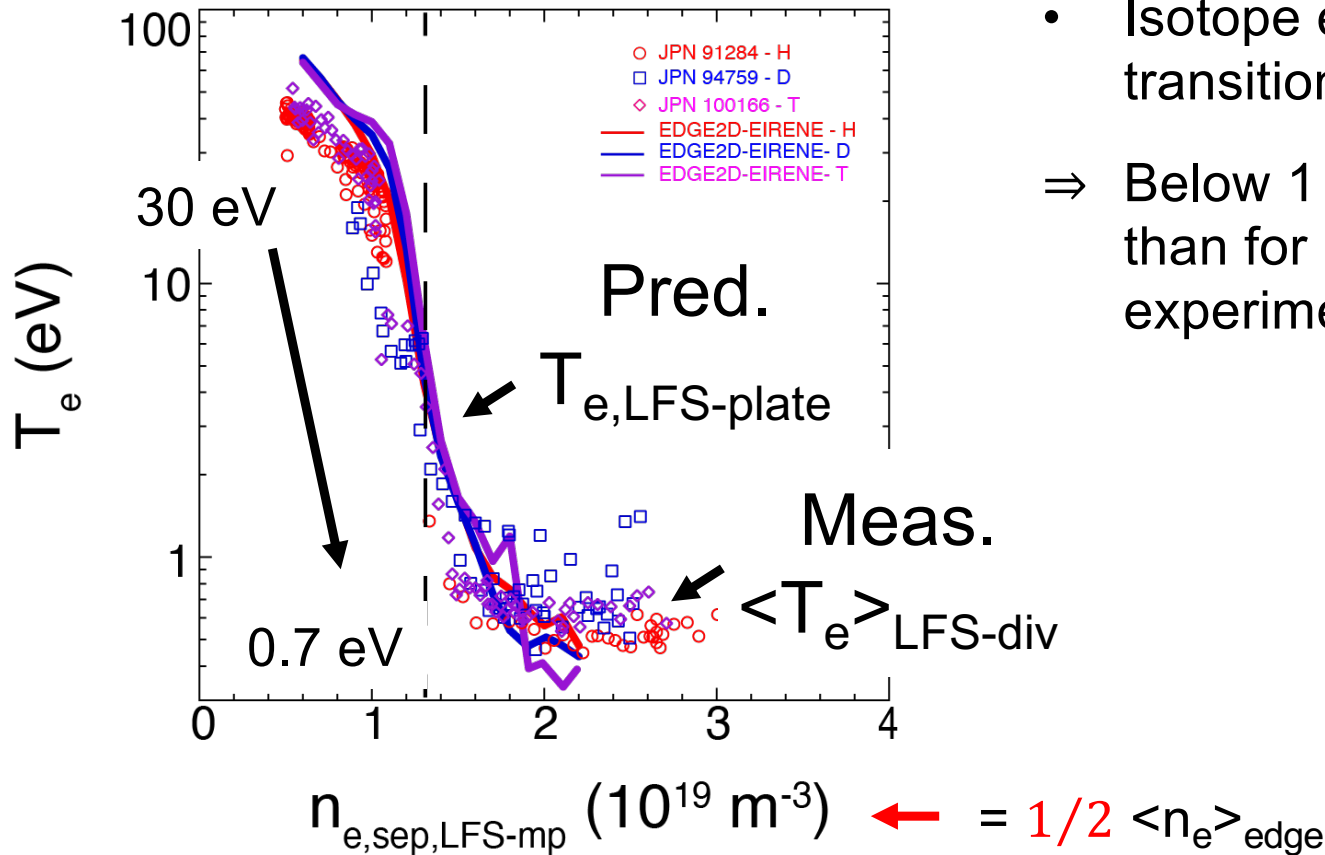
The EDGE2D-EIRENE predicted onset of detachment is independent of the isotope species, as measured



$$n_{e,sep,LFS-mp} (10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}) \leftarrow = 1/2 \langle n_e \rangle_{edge}$$

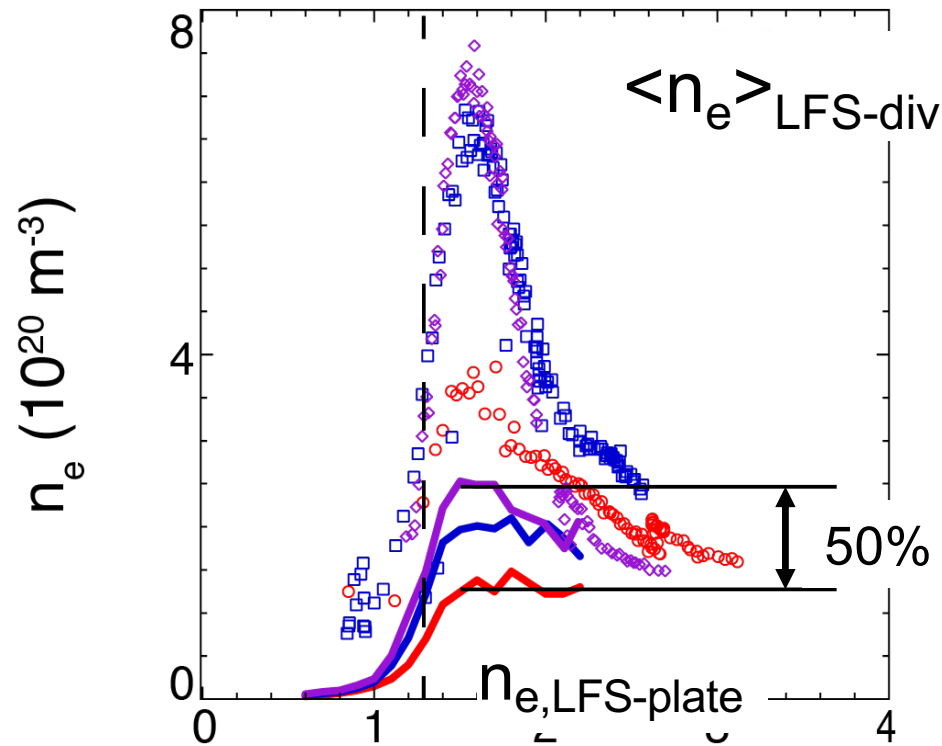
- EDGE2D-EIRENE predicts the onset of detachment at same LFS midplane separatrix density as measured
- Predicted divertor currents are independent of the D2 throughput, consistent with divertor cryogenic pump off case

EDGE2D-EIRENE predicts non-linear reduction of $T_{e,div}$ due to plasma radiation, ionisation and dissociation



- Isotope effect negligible through transition down to $T_{e,div}$ of 1 eV
- ⇒ Below 1 eV, predicted $T_{e,div}$ lower for T than for H and D, unresolved experimentally

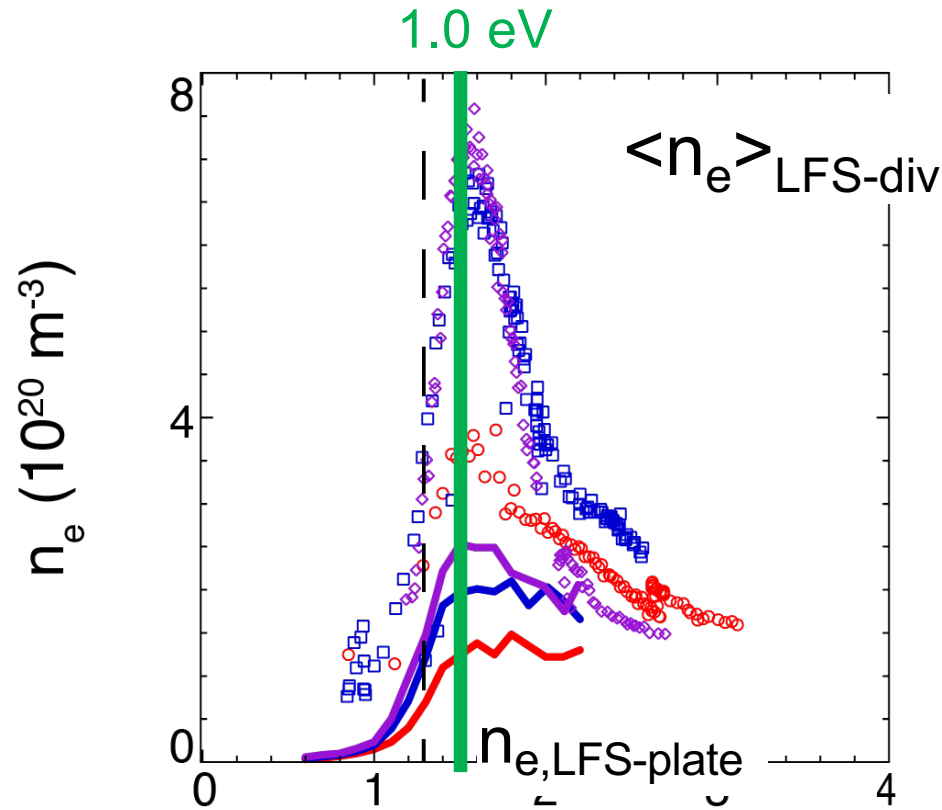
Predicted divertor density is approx. 50% higher in **tritium** than in **hydrogen** plasmas



$n_{e,sep,LFS-mp} (10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}) \leftarrow = 1/2 \langle n_e \rangle_{\text{edge}}$

- Conceptually, for similar recycling flux (I_{div}) and $M_{\text{target}} \approx \text{unity} \Rightarrow n_e \propto \sqrt{m_{\text{ion}}/T_e}$

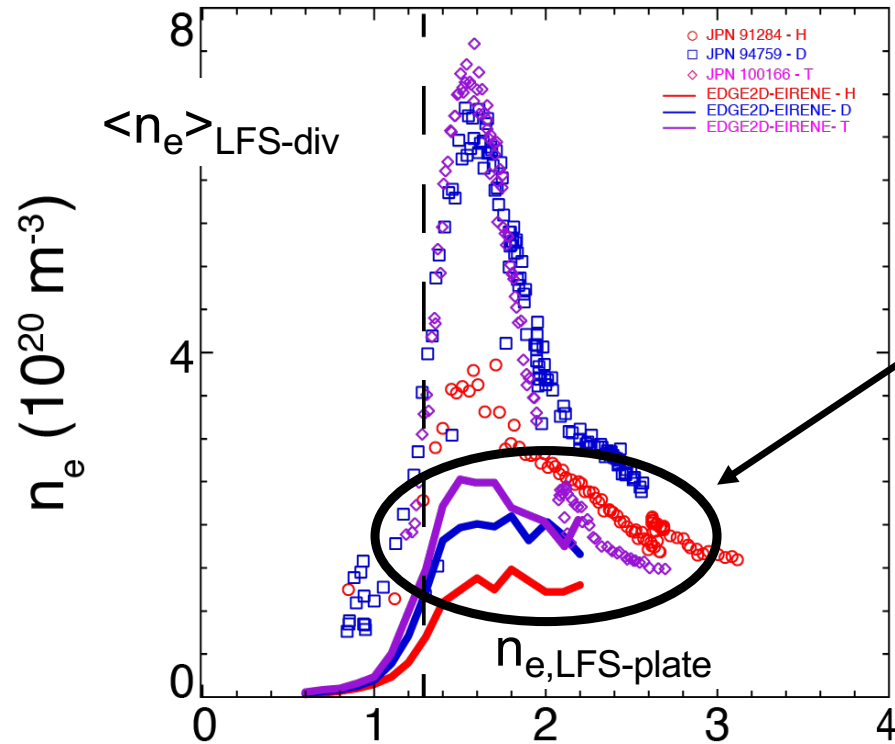
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- Predicted n_e at the plate reaches maximum when $T_{e,\text{div}} \approx 1 \text{ eV}$

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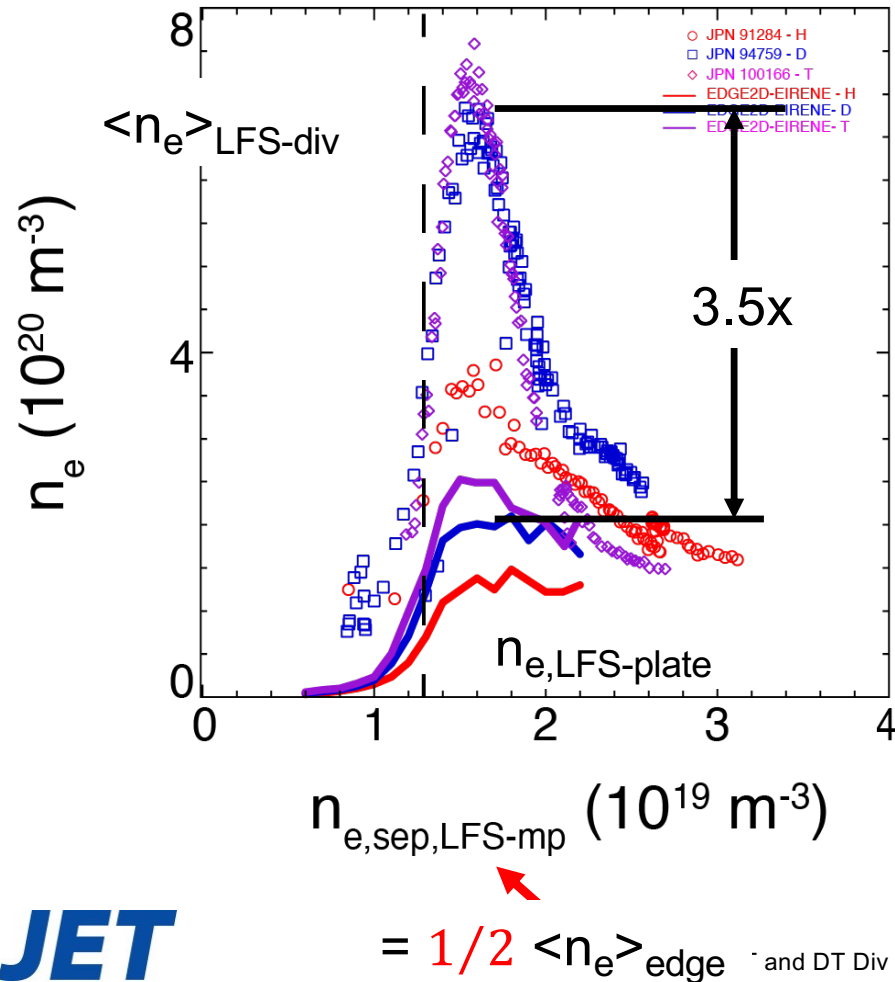


- Predicted n_e at the plate reaches maximum when $T_{e,\text{div}} \approx 1 \text{ eV}$
 - n_e predicted to “build up” at plate, but not to decrease toward density limit
- ⇒ High-density (high-pressure) region does not move poloidally toward LFS X-point region as measured*

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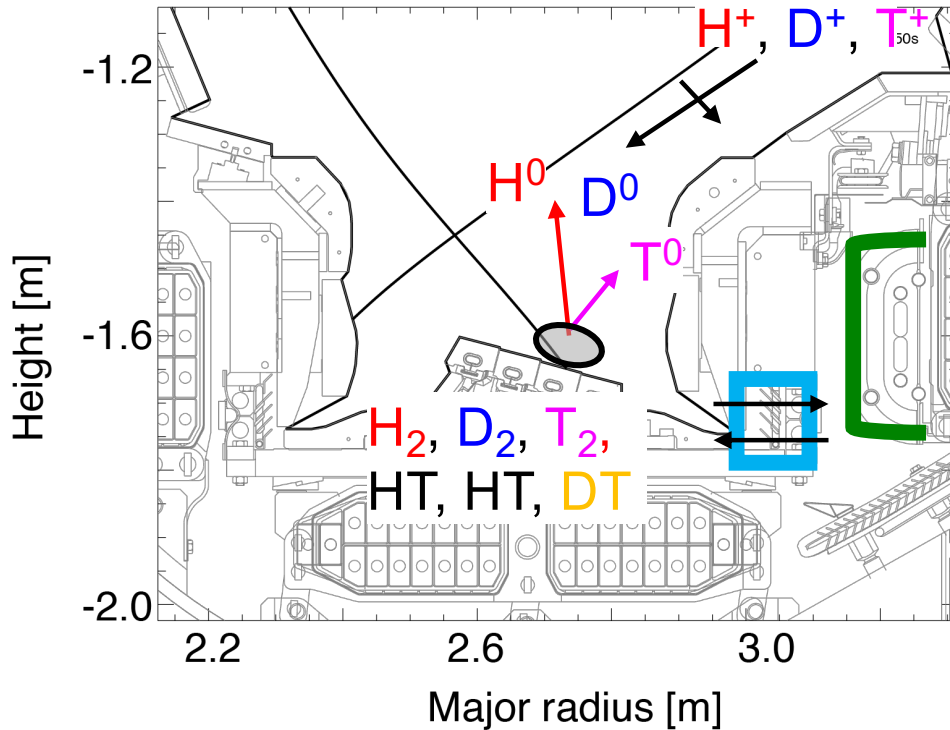
*A.G. Meigs et al., JNM 2013
J. Karhunen et al., PPFC 2021

Predicted divertor densities are 3-4x lower than inferred spectroscopically



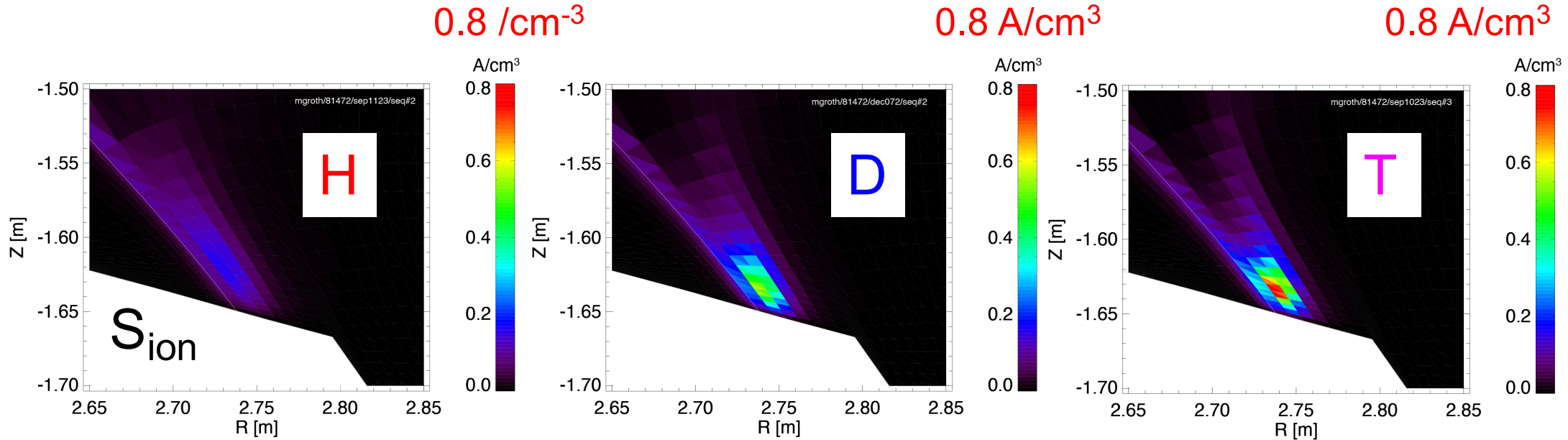
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- ⇒ High-density (high-pressure) region does not move poloidally toward LFS X-point region as measured
- ⇒ Discrepancy can be reduced, but not entirely resolved by assuming higher $n_{e,\text{sep,LFS-mp}}$ (and $T_{e,\text{sep,LFS-mp}}$)
- ⇒ Discrepancy further exacerbated when considering line-integration

How significant is the impact of hydrogen isotopes on the divertor conditions and degree of detachment?

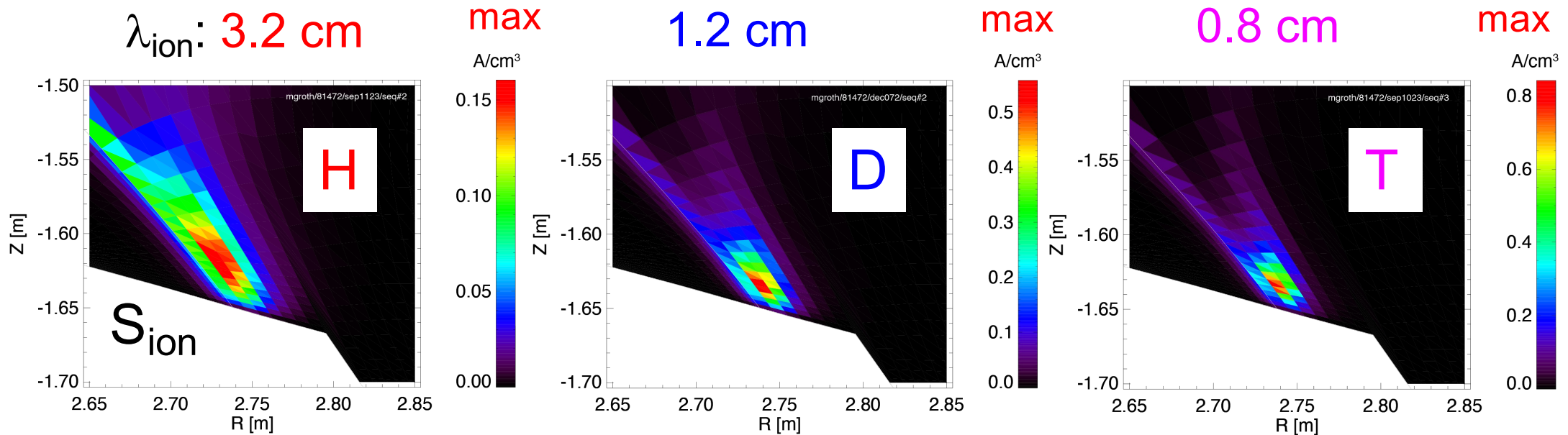


- For the same energy heavier ions are slower
 \Rightarrow **Widens scrape-off layer ($\propto \sqrt{m_{ion}}$)** \Rightarrow see backup
 \Rightarrow **Reduces velocity of fast-reflected atoms ($\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{ion}}$)**
- **Heavier (F-C and CX) atoms have a shorter ionisation mean free path: $\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{atom}}$**
- Stronger ion-molecular interaction (rates) for heavier species for temperatures < 2 eV ???
- ~~• **Conductance of pump duct: $\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{mol}}$**~~
- ~~• **Sticking probab. of cryo. pump: $\propto X * m_{mol}$**~~

For $T_{e,div} \approx 1$ eV, EIRENE predicts the peak ionisation source to be higher for **tritium** than for **deuterium** and **hydrogen**



Predicted ionisation source more spread out poloidally due to approx. 3x longer ionisation mean free path of **H** than **T** atoms



- Velocity of Franck-Condon and charge-exchange atoms $\propto 1/\sqrt{m_{\text{atom}}}$
- Velocity of (fast) reflected ions off the target is 40% higher for **H** than for **T** (25% for **D**), due to the Mach number at sheath entrance \approx unity

Impact of hydrogenic isotopes on the SOL/detachment studied in JET-ILW L-mode plasmas in a vertical-horizontal div. plasma config.



- T, D and DT plasmas are more strongly detached than H plasmas, same detachment onset density, but lower DL \Rightarrow narrower detachment window
 - 40% higher divertor densities and broader SOL density profiles at the LFS midplane for T and DT than for H and D
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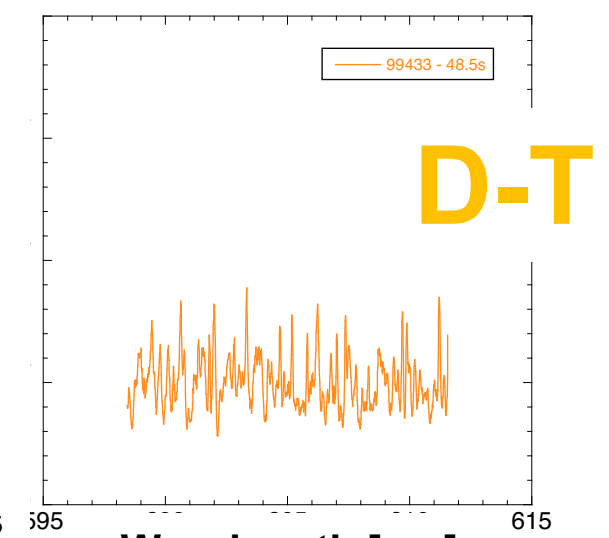
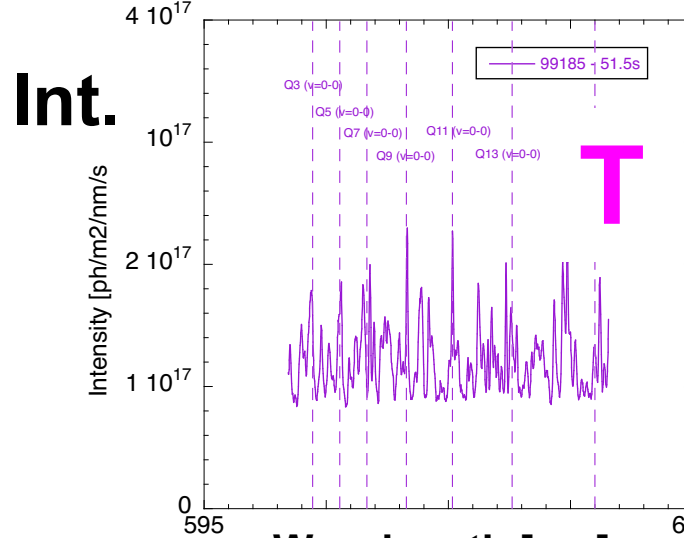
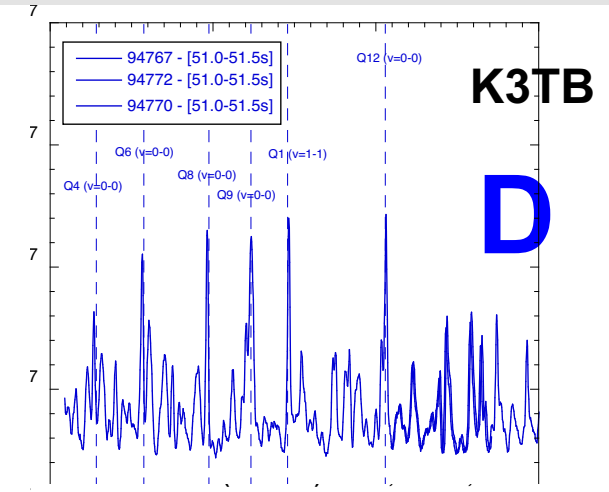
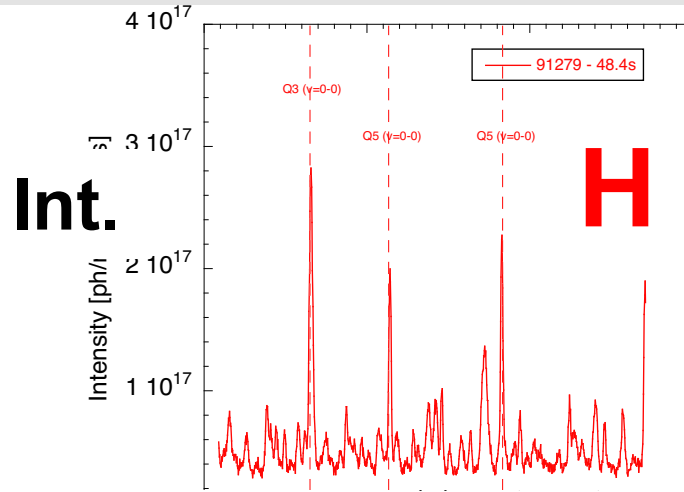
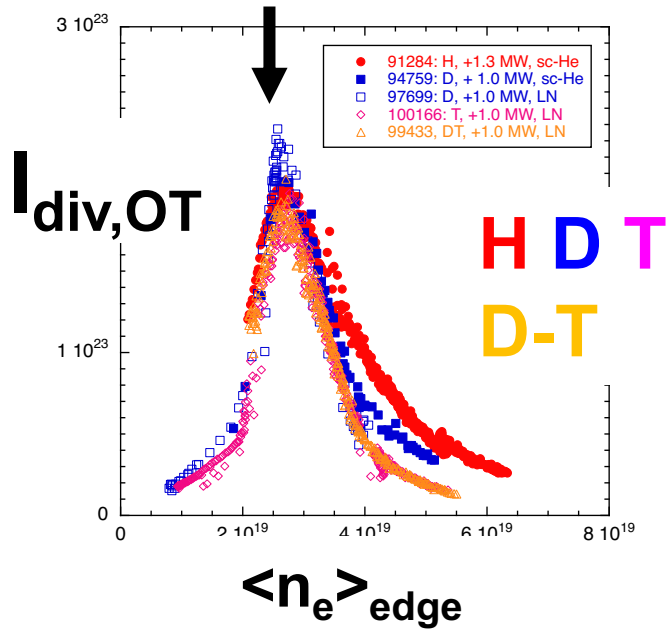
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\Rightarrow Revisit simulations, also for ion-molecular reaction rates^{**}, Ly- α opacity^{***}

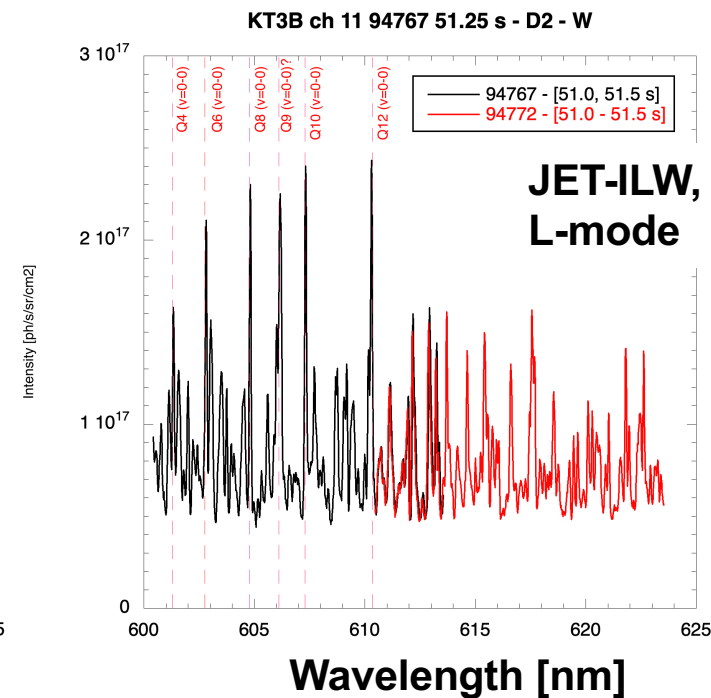
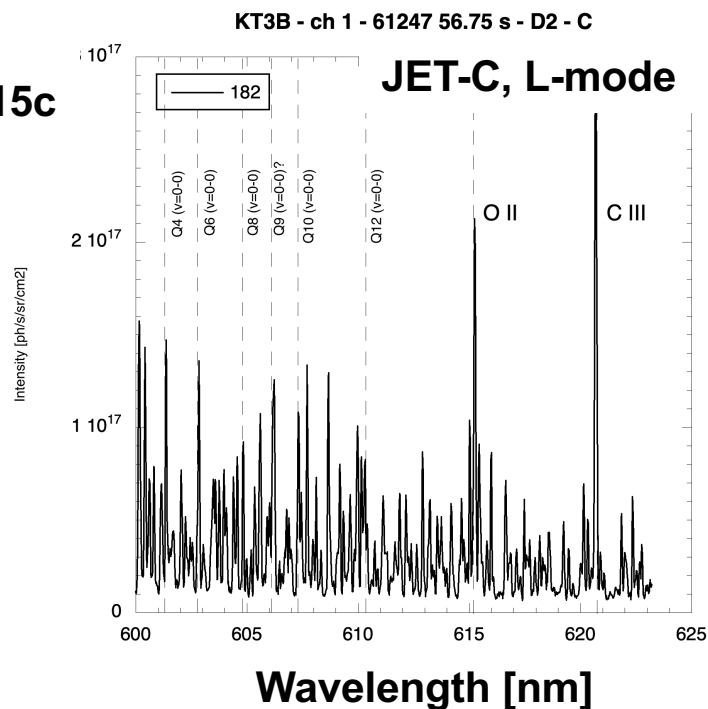
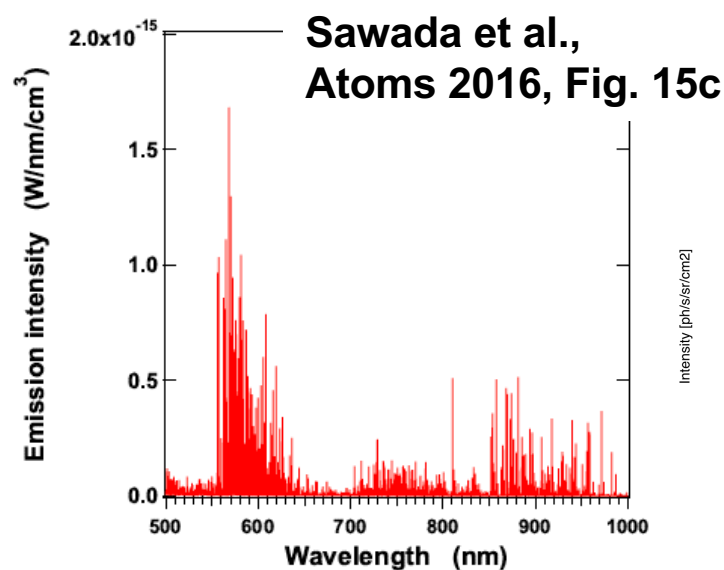
Fulcher band spectra Q band is progressively more compressed for T than for H and D \Rightarrow Ewa Pawelec et al., Tue Nov 29, 2023



- Sergienko et al., JNM 2013 for recycling off W surfaces: high population of the $d^3\Pi_u^-(v=0)$ vibrational level indicating non-Boltzmann vibr. distribution



Prediction of ($H_2 \rightarrow D_2, T_2$) Fulcher band emission: investigate the role of D_2 recycling off tungsten (versus known carbon) surfaces



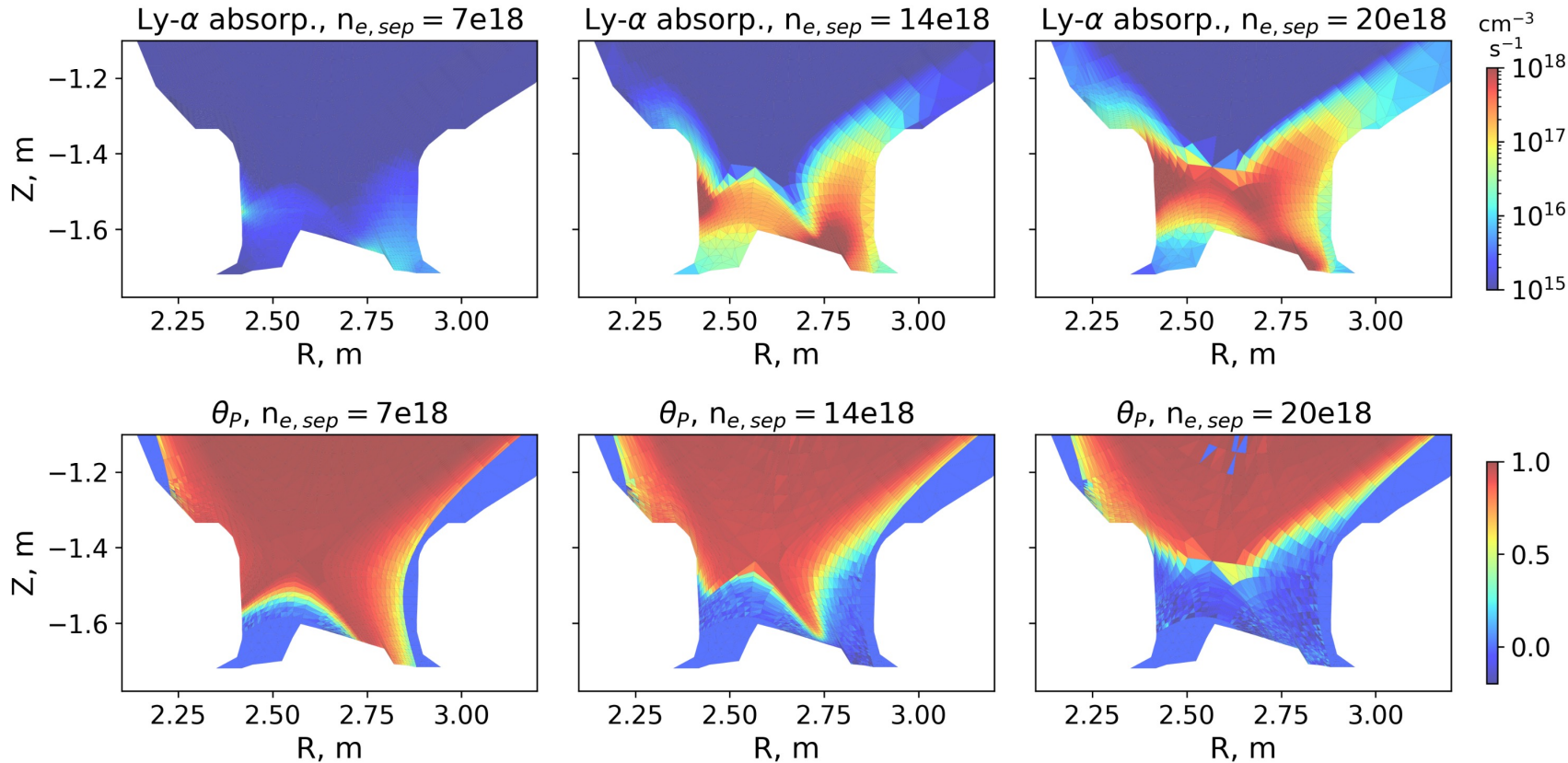
- Validate atomic (Lyman and Balmer series) and molecular (Fulcher) against EIRENE predictions \Rightarrow validate atomic and molecular influxes
- Prediction of ro-vibrational spectrum: surface activation versus volumetric excitation

Standalone EIRENE on EDGE2D-EIRENE background plasma: divertor is Ly- α and Ly- β opaque in high-recyc. and det. conds.



Low-recyc., $T_{e,OSP} \approx 30$ eV High-recyc., $T_{e,OSP} \approx 2$ eV Part. det., $T_{e,OSP} \approx 1$ eV

Ray Chandra et al.,
EPS 2023

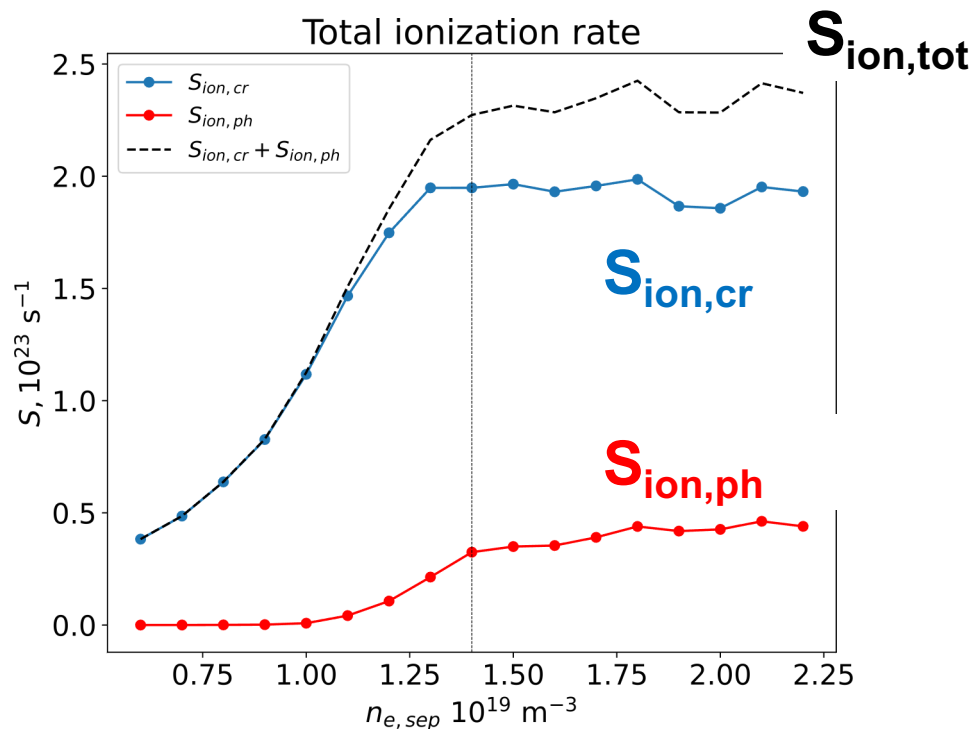


For high-recycling and detached conditions, ionization rate increases ~20% with opacity due to extra D* from line absorption



$$S_{eff} = S_{(1)} + \underbrace{\sum_n \left(C_{(1,n)} - R_{1(n)} \left(F_{(n,1)} + \frac{A_1}{n_e} \right) \right)}_{S_{eff,cr}} + \underbrace{\sum_n \left(\Gamma_{(1,n)} - R_{ext(n)} \left(F_{(n,1)} + \frac{A_1}{n_e} \right) \right)}_{S_{eff,ph}}$$

Ray Chandra et al.,
EPS 2023



- Ly- α transparent in low recycling regime due to insufficient gas density
 - Effect of excess ionization from Ly- α absorption to the plasma ionization balance under investigation
- ⇒ R. Chandra et al., PSI 2024: coupling to plasma solver (plasma \leftrightarrow gas \leftrightarrow photons)

(Further) points of discussion



- Inclusion of surface effects in molecule recycling \Rightarrow full or reduced data from Molecular Dynamics calculations
- \Rightarrow Generally:
- Comparison of energy and angular distributions of recycling H and H₂, and their isotopes/isotopologues, between TRIM and MD
 - Surface binding energy for ion impact energies < 10 eV, for W and C
- For Ly- α , comparison of 0D escape factors, pre-run photon transport (e.g., Hoshino et al., CPP 2016), post-processing CRETIN (Scott, J. Quant. Spec. Rad. Transfer 2001) and non-linear gas-photon transports (e.g., Kotov, Wiesen \rightarrow Chandra et al., PSI 2024)
 - Treatment/separation of D⁺ + D₂ charge exchange and momentum transfer