



# Disruption Physics Studies at JET

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**with thanks to: P. de Vries, A. Huber, M. Lehnen, C. Reux**

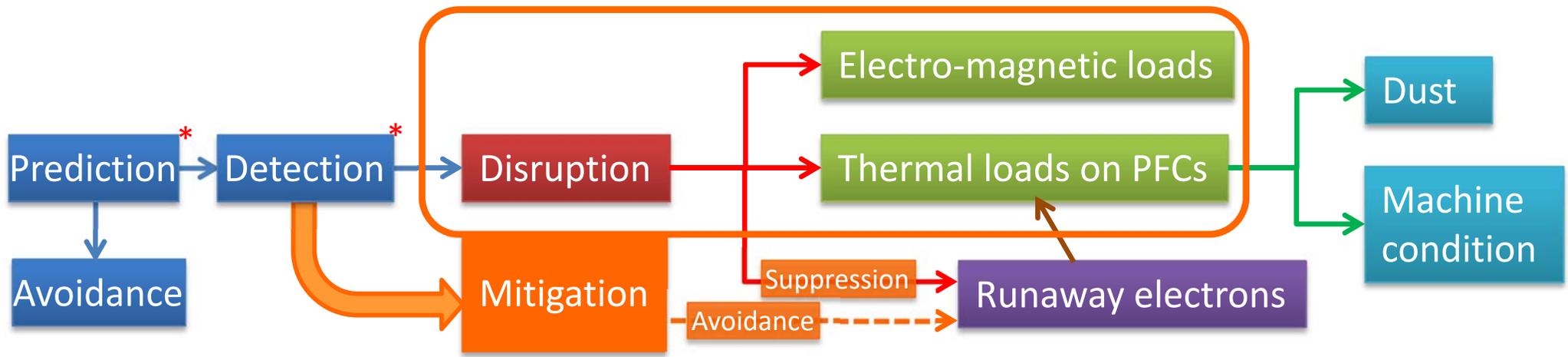
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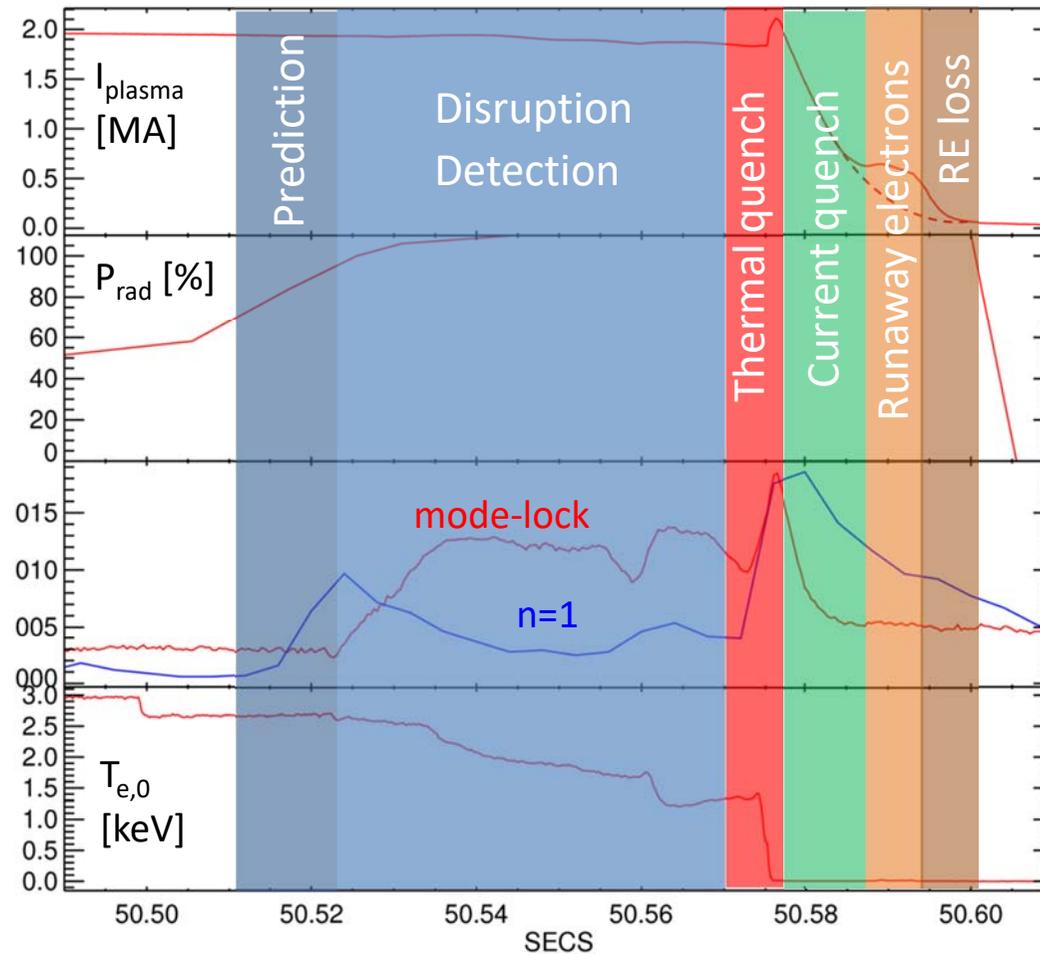


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# Disruption – time sequence



Impurity driven radiation limit disruption



\* See talks by J. Vega and F. Volpe



1) JET and its disruption mitigation system

2) Disruption characteristics in an all-metal wall

3) Mitigation of

- electro-magnetic loads
- thermal loads
- toroidal radiation asymmetries

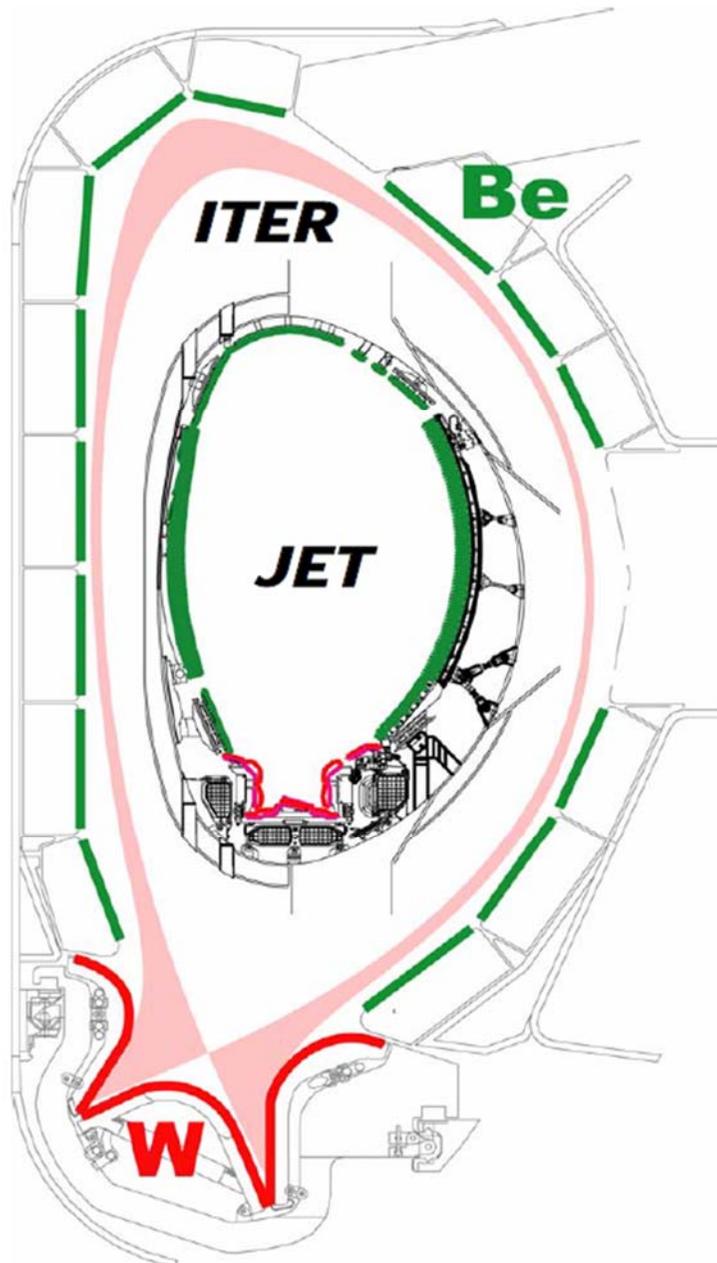
4) Runaway electrons:

- production
- avoidance
- suppression

5) Summary



# 1) JET and its Disruption Mitigation System



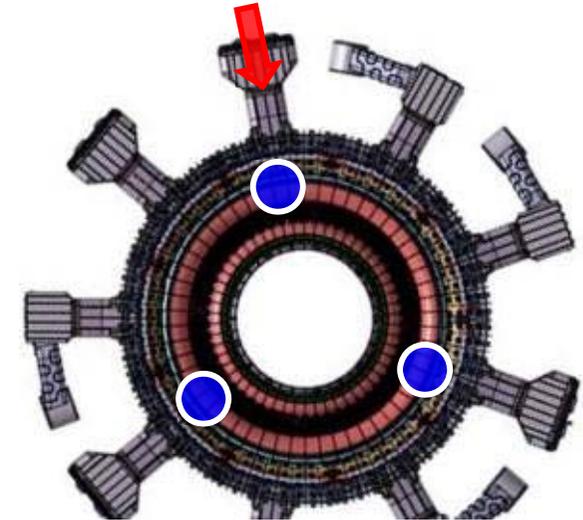
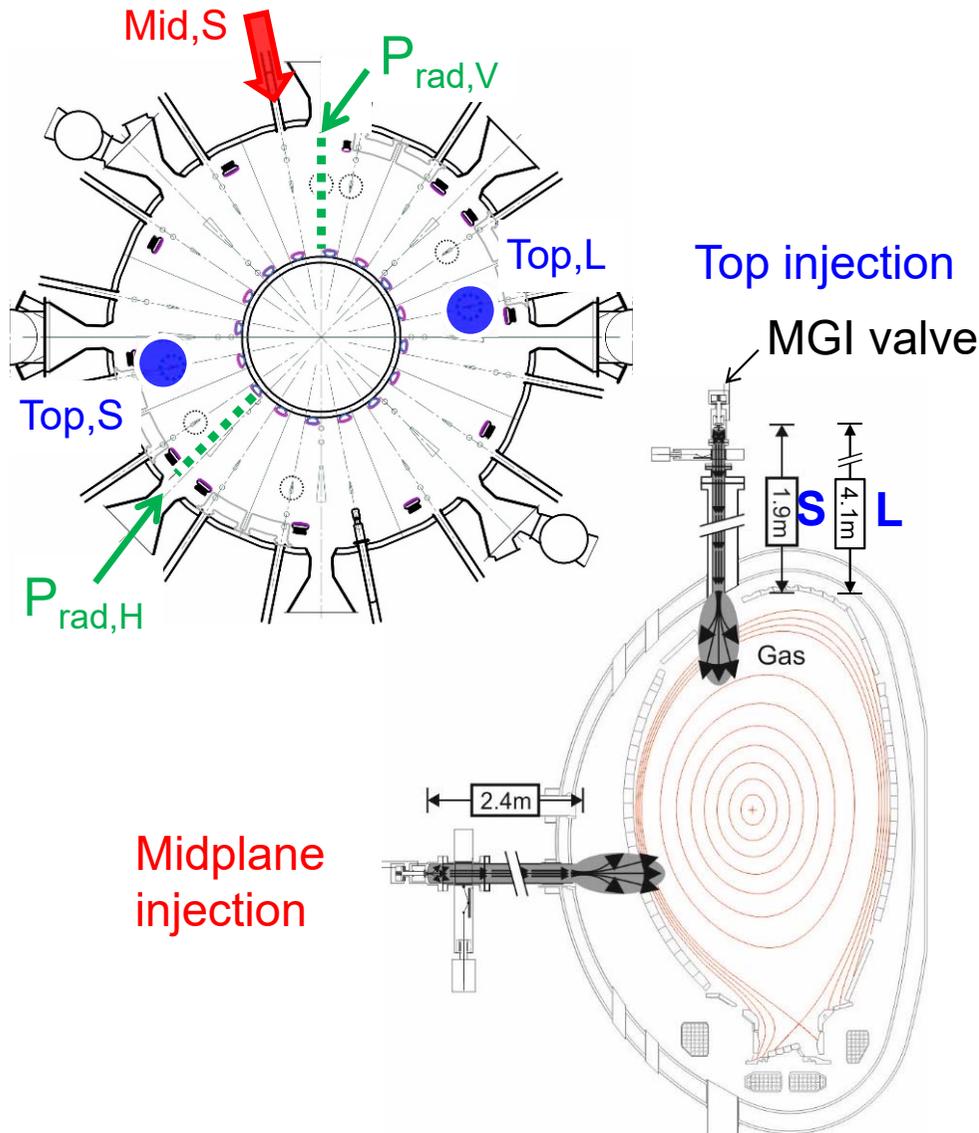
- JET operates since 2011 with an all-metal wall = ITER-like Wall (ILW)
- Due to melting of PFCs and large vessel forces, use of Massive Gas Injection (MGI) is mandatory

	JET	ITER	
R/a [m/m]	2.89/0.94	6.2/2.0	x2
$A_{div}$ [m <sup>2</sup> ]	~1	~3-4	x3
$I_{plasma}$ [MA]	4-4.5	15	x3.3
$B_T$ [T]	3.7	5.2	x1.4
Forces [t]	~700 (unmitigated)	??	x10?
$W_{th}$ [MJ]	~10	~350	x35
$W_{mag}$ [MJ]	~40	~400	x10

# ITER-like disruption mitigation system at JET

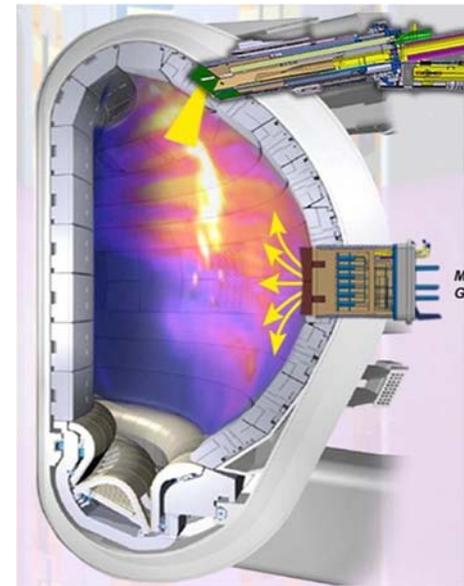


**JET**



Location of injectors

*S. Maruyama, IEEE 2015*



Upper Port ●

Equatorial Port ←

Injectors with (MGI) + SPI

**JET**



## 2) Disruption characteristics in an all-metal wall



## Carbon Wall → Beryllium/Tungsten PFC:

- less intrinsic impurities and higher plasma temperatures
  - ☹ lower radiated energy during disruption
  - ☹ slower current decay
  - ☹ larger halo currents and disruption forces
  - ☹ plasma energy less mitigated and melting of PFC more likely
  - ☹ “hot” VDEs more likely
  - 😊 runaway electrons less likely
- lower wall recycling
  - 😊 higher density limit
  - ☹ seeding of error field modes more possible
  - 😊 Non-Sustained Breakdowns after disruption less likely
- disruption cause has changed
  - ☹ higher disruptivity due to smaller operational H-mode window

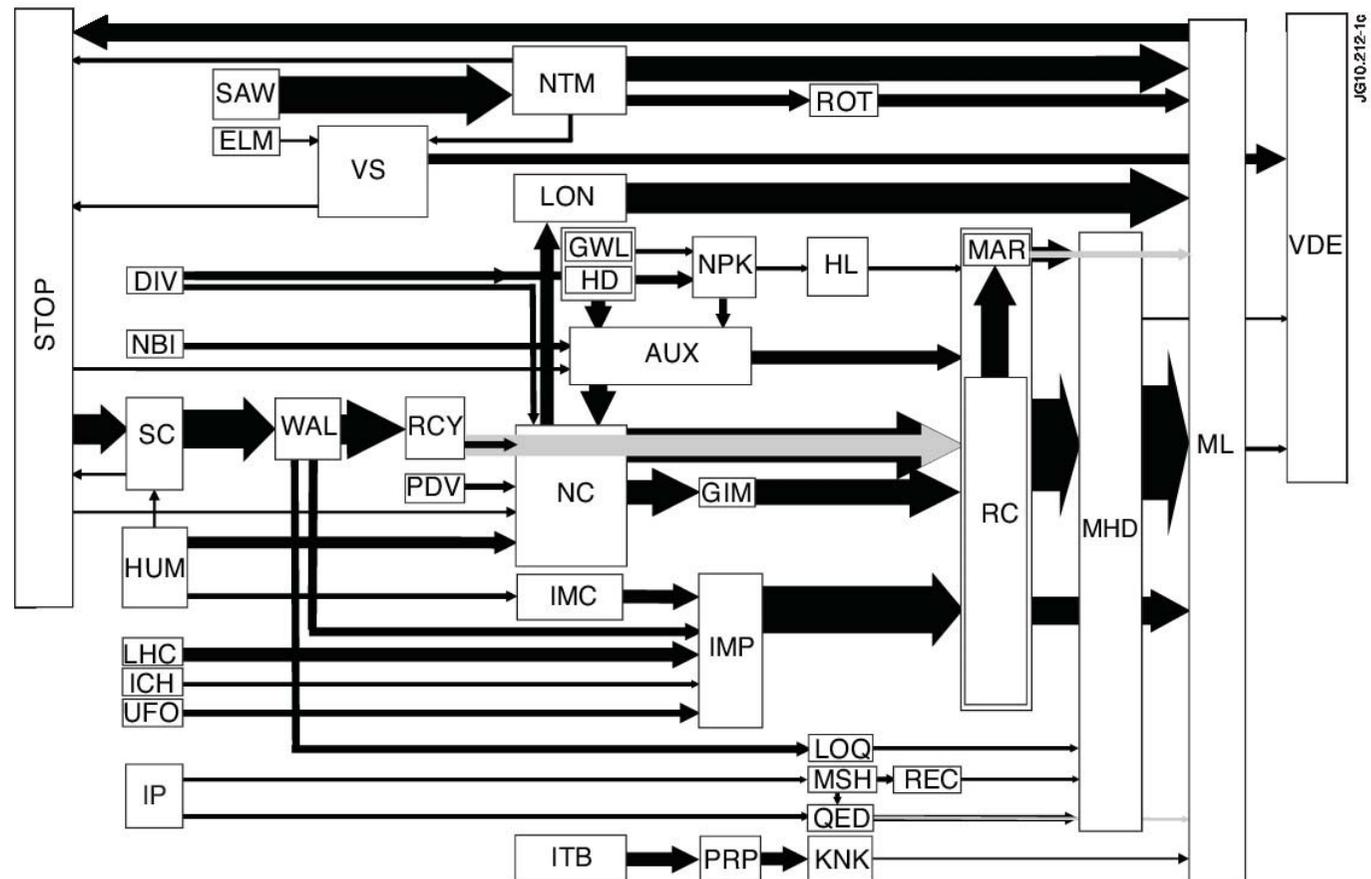
# Disruption causes – Carbon wall



## Main causes:

- NTM and low density error field modes
- Greenwald limit disruptions
- Switch-off of auxiliary power at high density (HD->AUX)
- Most disruptions end with a clearly detectable mode lock. **But** this is not the original cause!
- End stage statistics: edge radiation instabilities=52%, error field modes=10%, NTMs=7%, VDEs=4%, low q=2.5%

NC = Density Control problem  
 IMC = Impurity Control problem  
 IMP = Influx of Impurities  
 RC = Radiative Collapse  
 ML = Mode Lock  
 VDE = Vertical Displ. Event



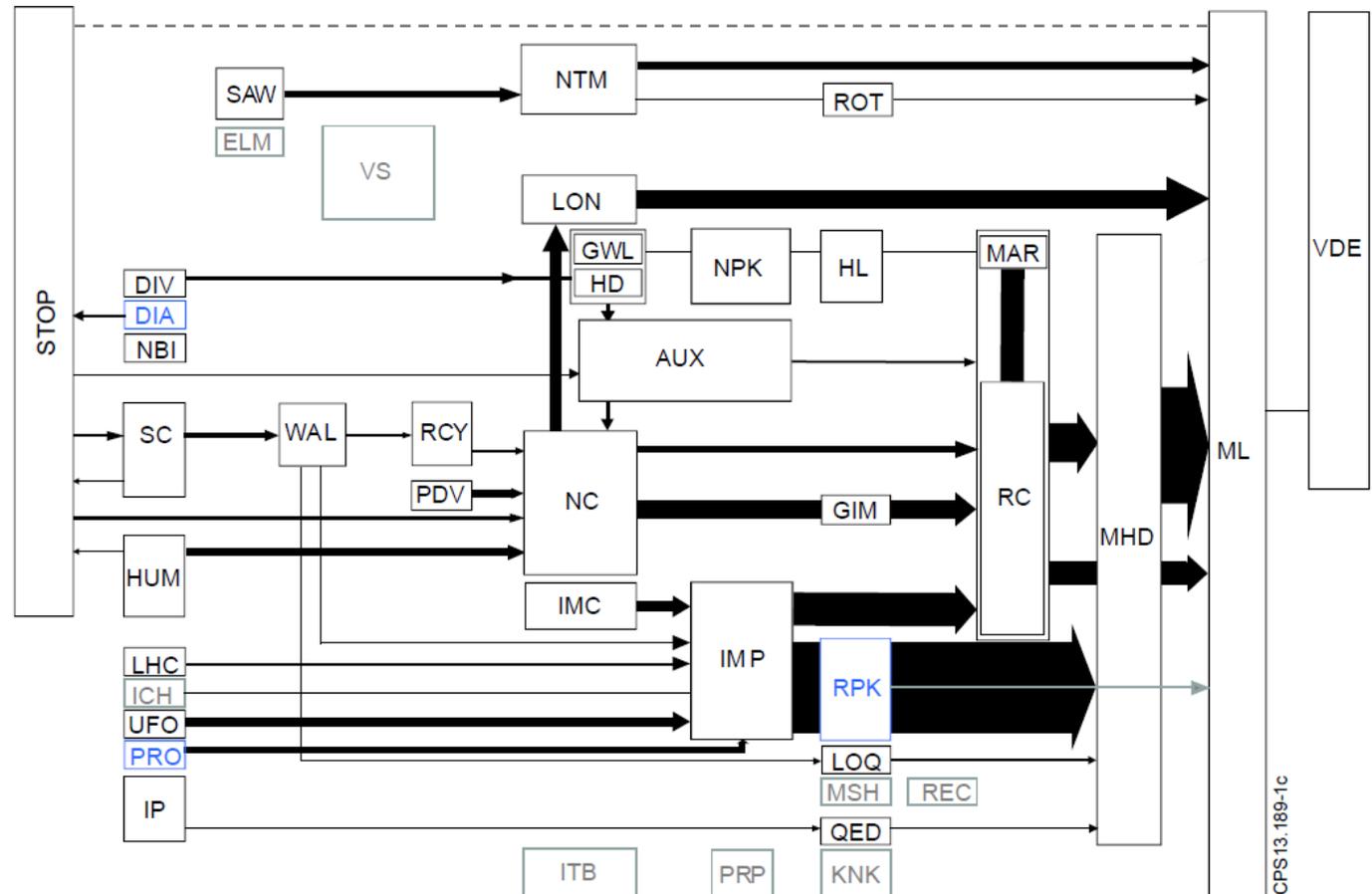
# Disruption causes – ITER-like wall



## Changes to causes of unintentional disruptions:

- 😊 VS issues nearly absent due to improved VS-control (after upgrade)
- 😊 No disruptions caused by ITB or reversed shear: no such experiments
- 😊 Less disruptions follow SC⇒WAL⇒RCY due to better density control when close to wall
- 😞 IMP or impurity related disruptions have increased (W-divertor): new RPK
- 😞 Impurity control more difficult
- 😞 More disruptions due to UFOs (Be-melting and W-coating)
- 😞 More disruptions due to low density error field modes

NC = Density Control problem  
 IMC = Impurity Control problem  
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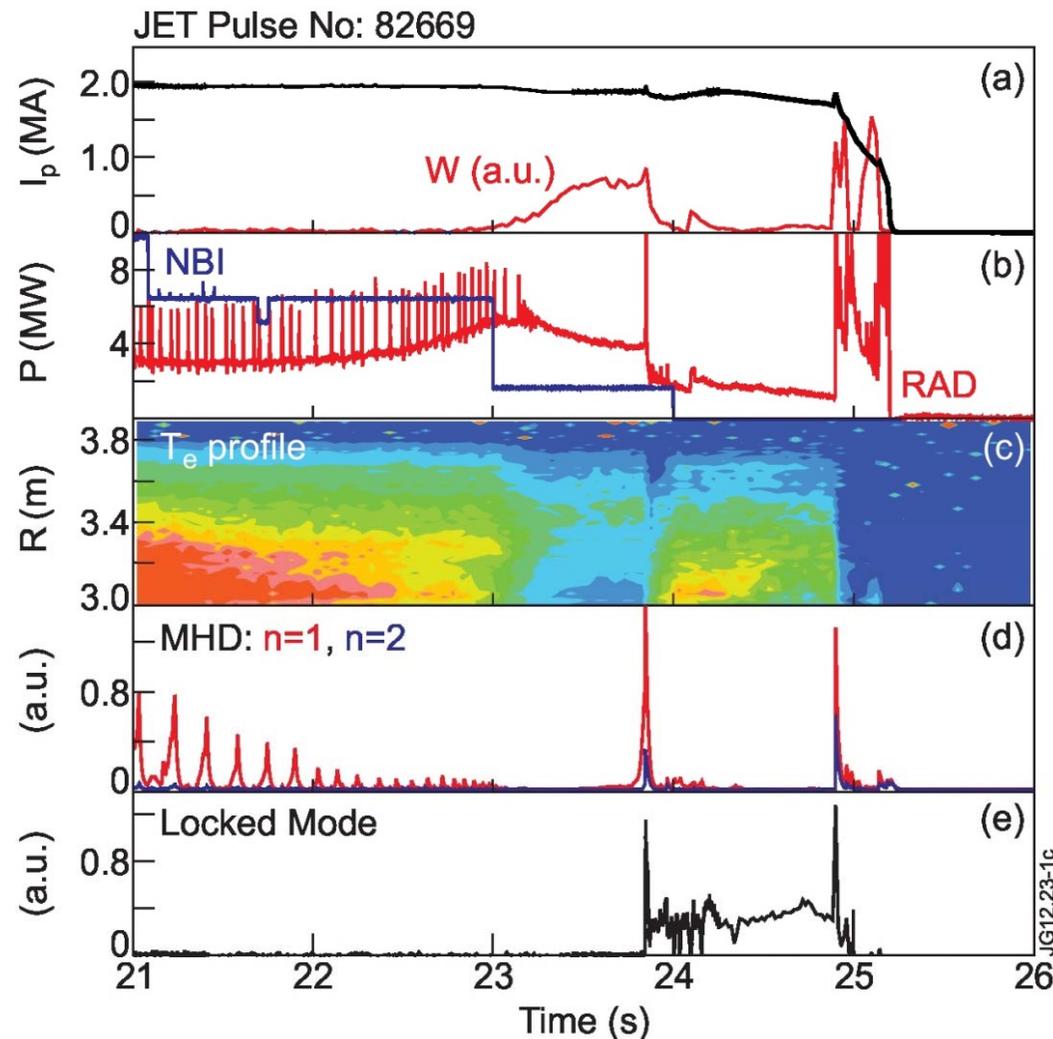
# Disruption cause in ILW - example



## Radiation increase (RPK):

- Either *slow*, i.e. on transport time scales => accumulation of tungsten (W)
- Or *fast* (~30% of all cases) => likely fast influx of material
- Not a problem during main heating phase. But radiation remains high in the termination/H-mode exit phase

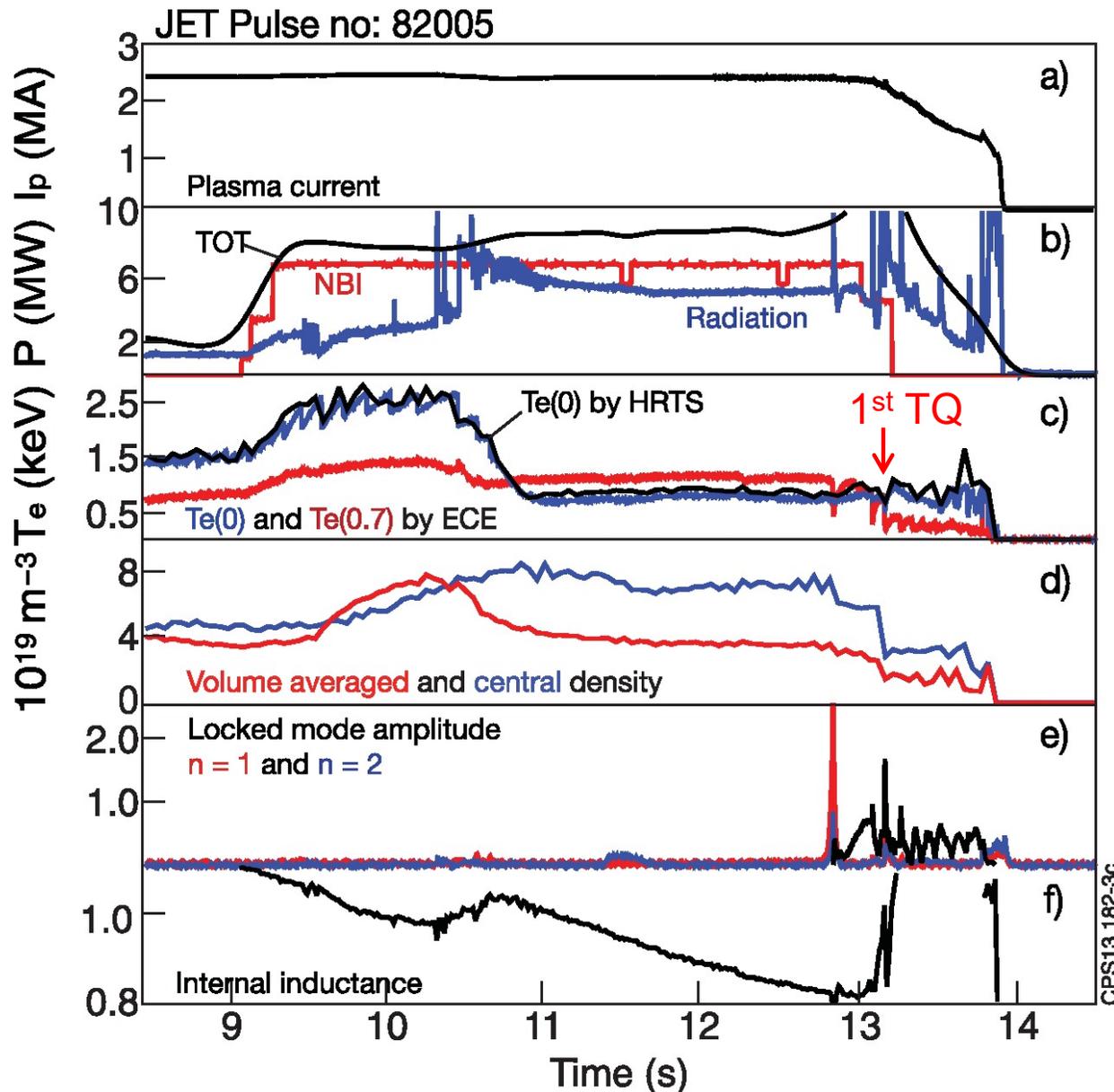
Example of slow increase:



# Disruption cause in ILW – example of fast imp.



Fast increase of radiation (due to sudden strong impurity influx?):



Sudden jump of radiation @10.5sec, but Prad remains below Ptot!

Te-profile becomes hollow and Sawteeth disappear.

Strong density peaking, but well below Greenwald density  
Strong loss of thermal energy

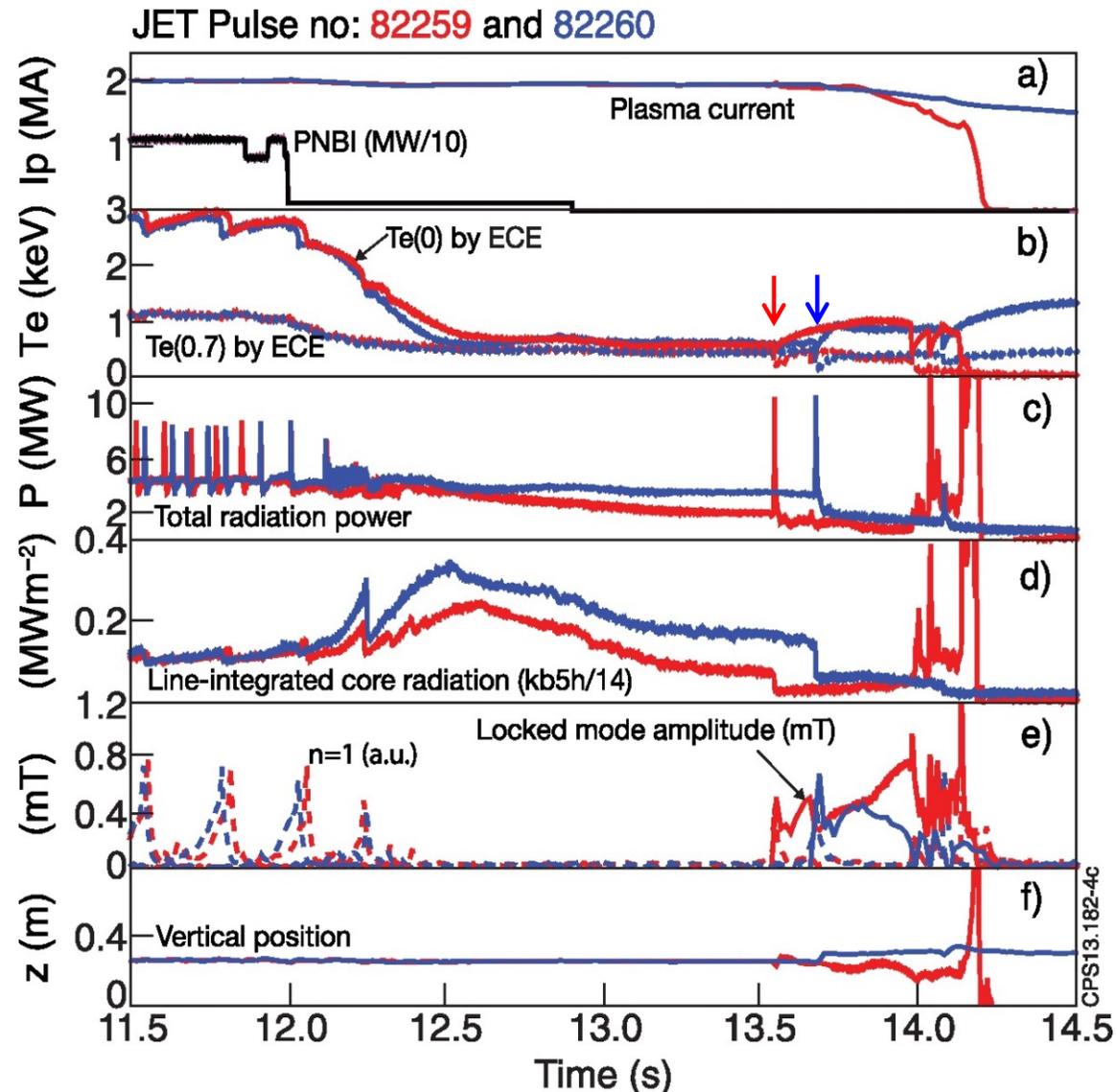
MHD-activity result in mode locking

$n_e$  and  $T_e$  settle, but  $I_i$  and  $q(r)$  keep changing

# Recovery after minor disruptions



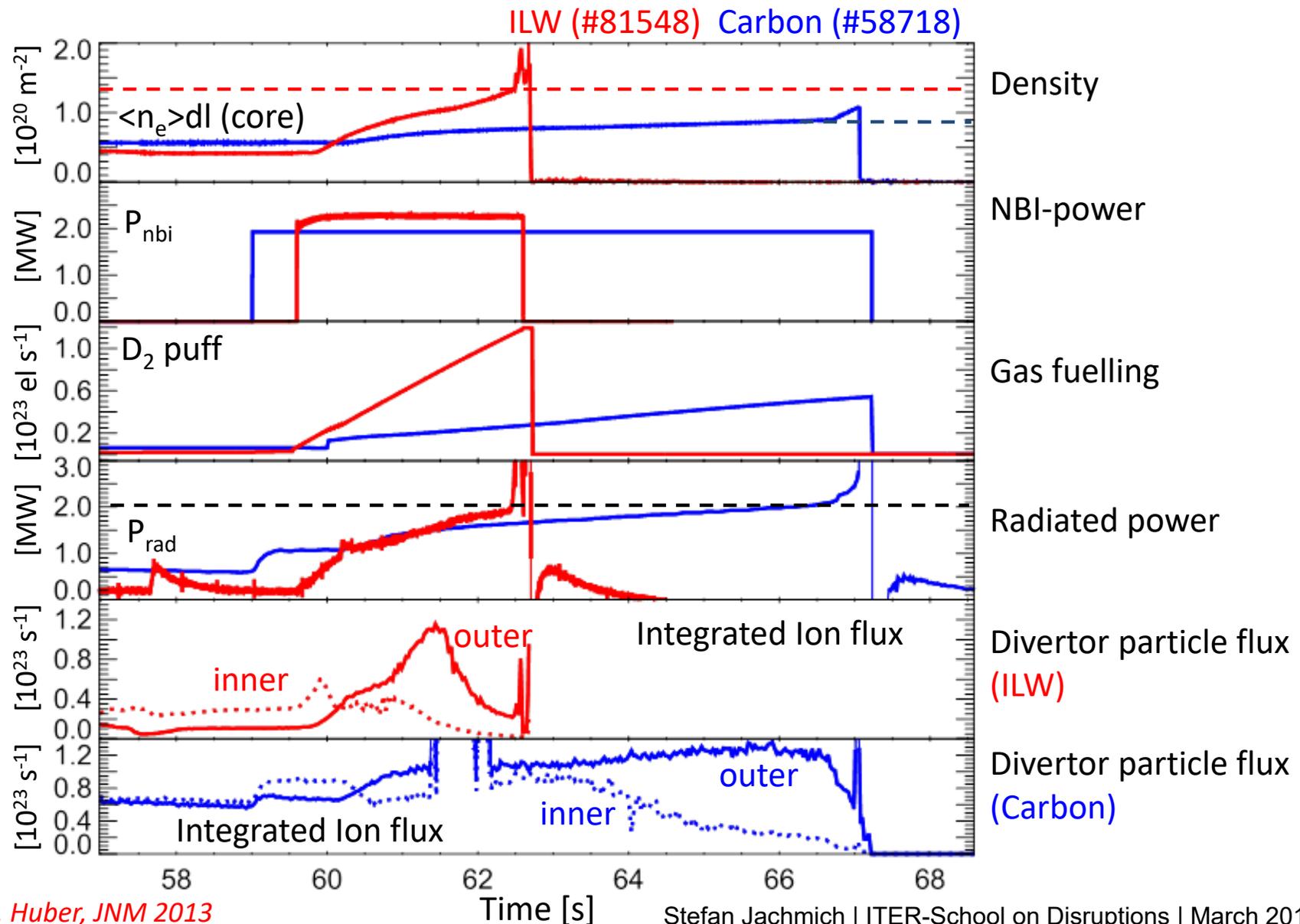
- Similar problems do not always result in a real disruption despite a thermal quench takes place
  - Radiation decreases → W ejected from core by quench →  $T_e$  increases
  - Disruptivity is determined by the post thermal quench stability



# Operational space: density limit

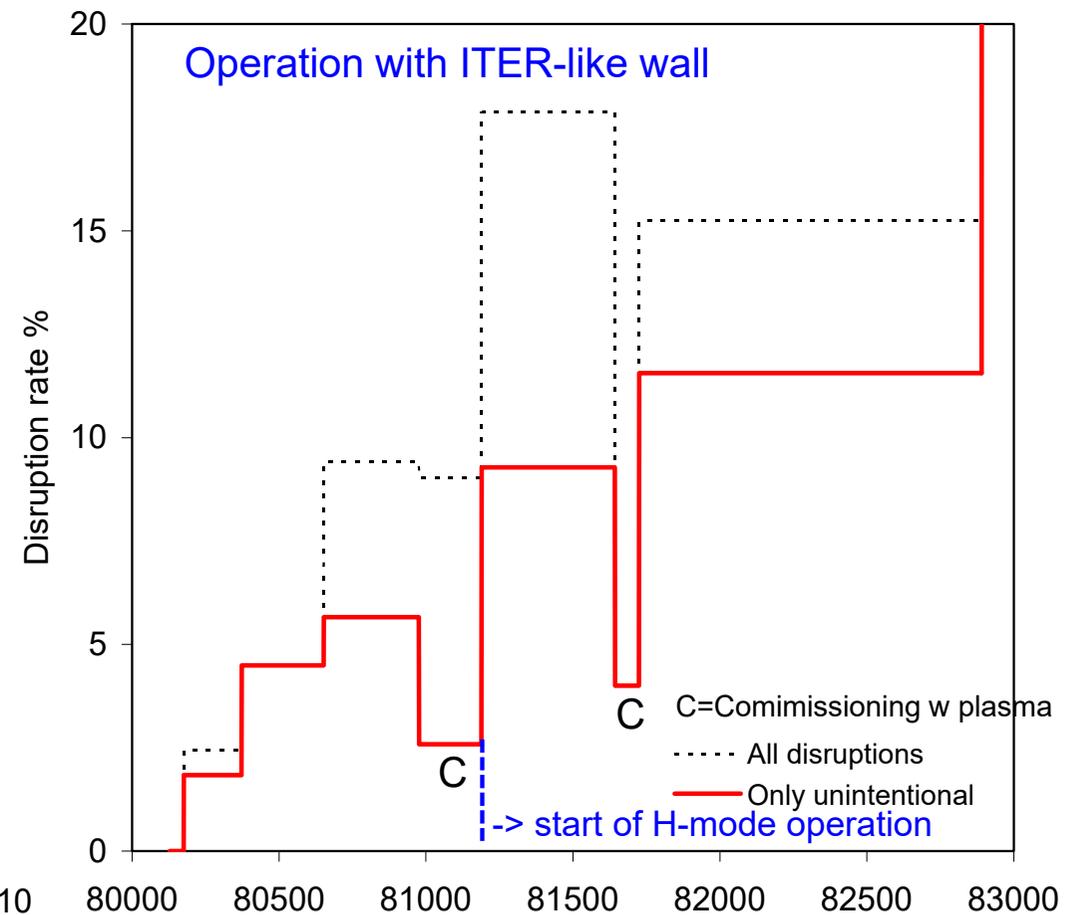
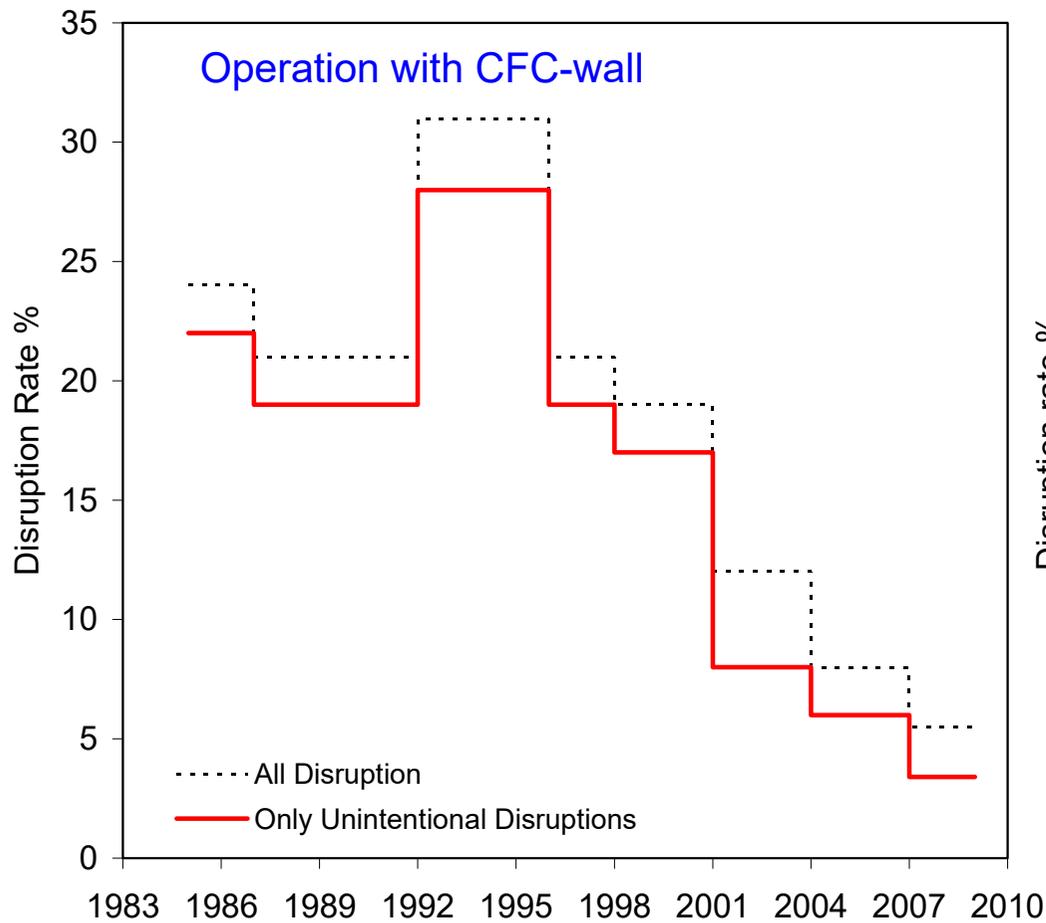


- Density limit is higher (~400%) in ILW than in Carbon-wall
- Increased gas consumption in ILW
- At same density, more radiation losses in C than in ILW.





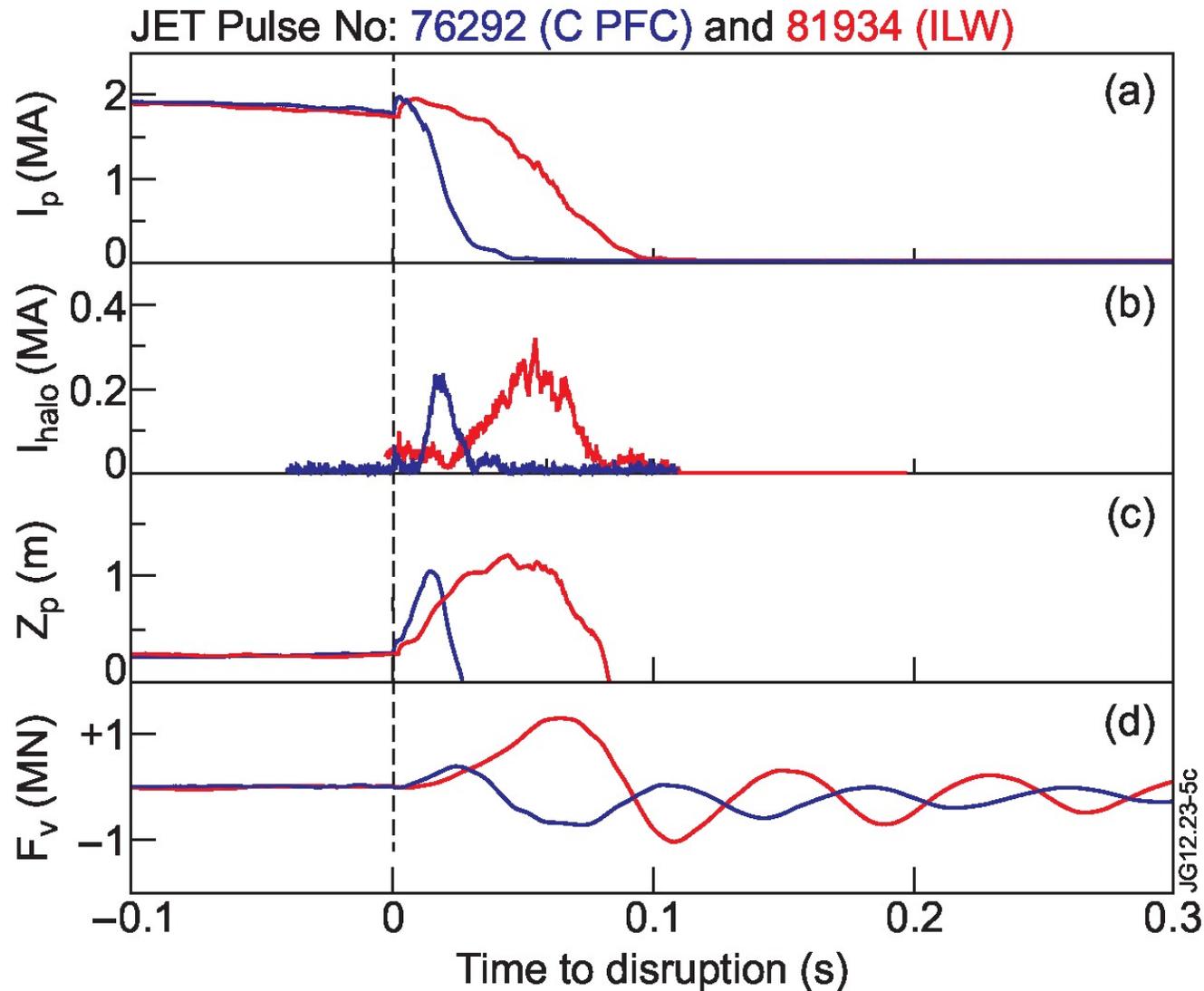
- JET disruption rate has decreased over the last decade prior ILW-installation
- ILW affected density and impurity control leading to new disruption causes
- Presently disruption rate ~20%, but can reach 50-60% in high performance pulses



# Disruption forces: Carbon vs ILW



- Longer current quench results in larger halo currents and increase of swing and reaction force of the vessel.



Longer current quench duration

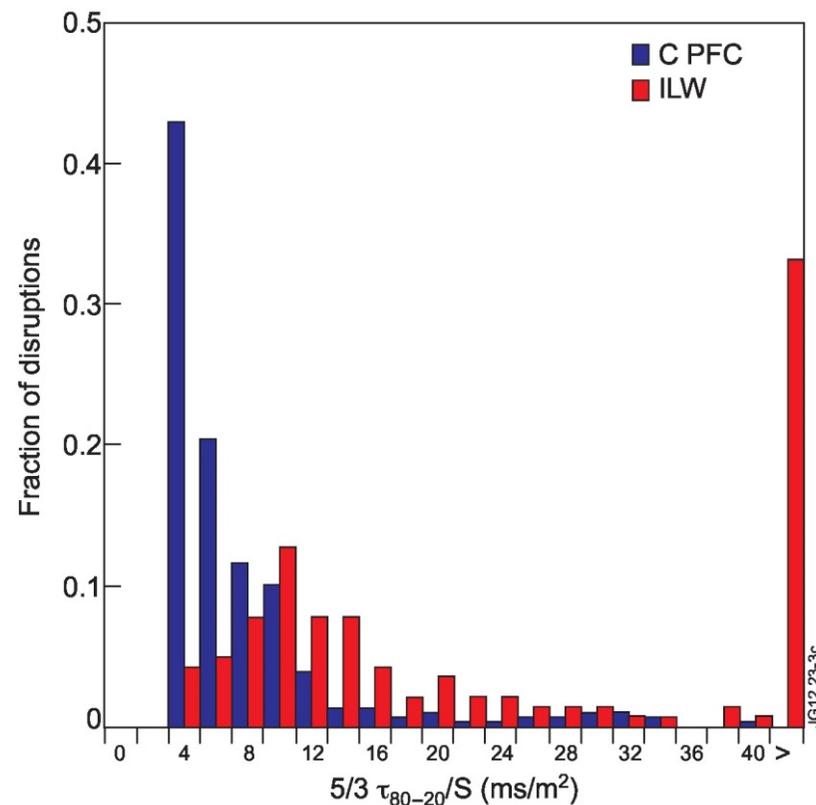
Slightly higher halo current and longer duration of impulse

Larger and longer plasma excursion ( $\Rightarrow$  melting)

Much larger swing ( $F_v$ )



- Higher post-thermal quench temperatures with ILW thus longer current quench times ( $L/R$  time  $\propto Z_{\text{eff}}^{-1} \langle T_e \rangle^{3/2}$ )
- ☹ Large fraction of total energy can be conducted to PFCs
- ☹ Higher vessel reaction forces.
- 😊 Lower induced electric fields reduce risks of runaway electron generation



*M. Lehnen, JNM 2013*



## Vertical force:

- Combination of electro-magnetic loads arising from halo currents and eddy currents.
- **Halo currents**  $\propto \tau_{CQ}$ : due to VDE, flow through conducting structures and plasmas.
- **Eddy currents**  $\propto 1/\tau_{CQ}$ : induced in structures due to fast change of  $I_{\text{plasma}}$ .

$$F_v = F_{\text{halo}} + F_{\text{eddy}} \propto f I_p^2$$

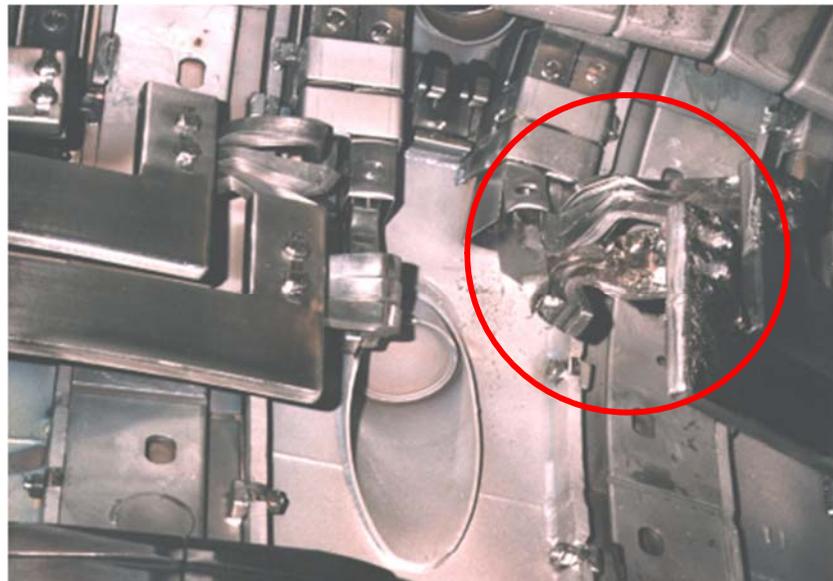
( $f$  depends mainly on plasma shape (elongation) and minor radius)

- Control current quench time to minimise electro-magnetic loads on first wall and vessel.

## Sideway forces:

- Due to halo current asymmetries  $\propto I_p B_T$

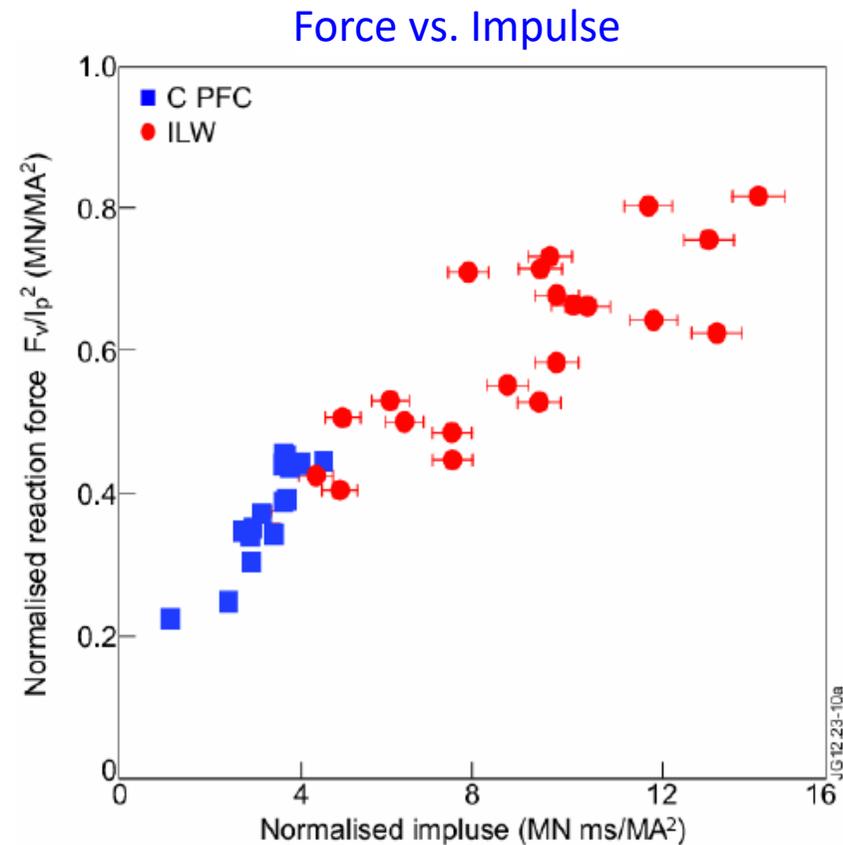
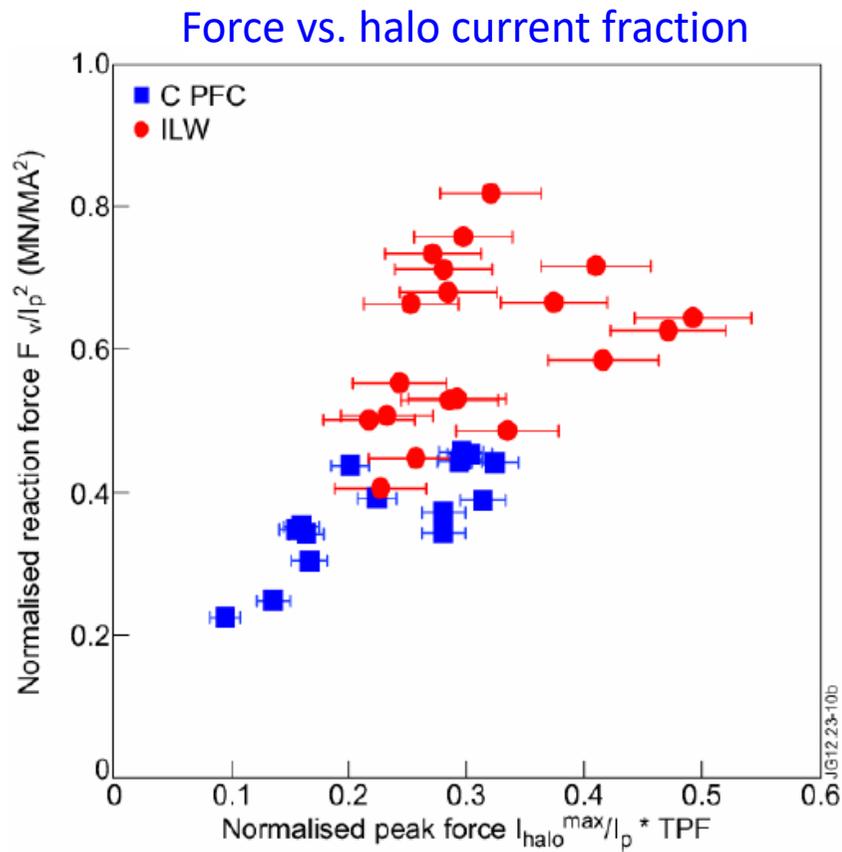
## Damage due to halo currents:



# Scaling of reaction force



- For same halo current fractions: large range of  $F_v$
- $F_v$  scales with time integrated halo force (impulse)

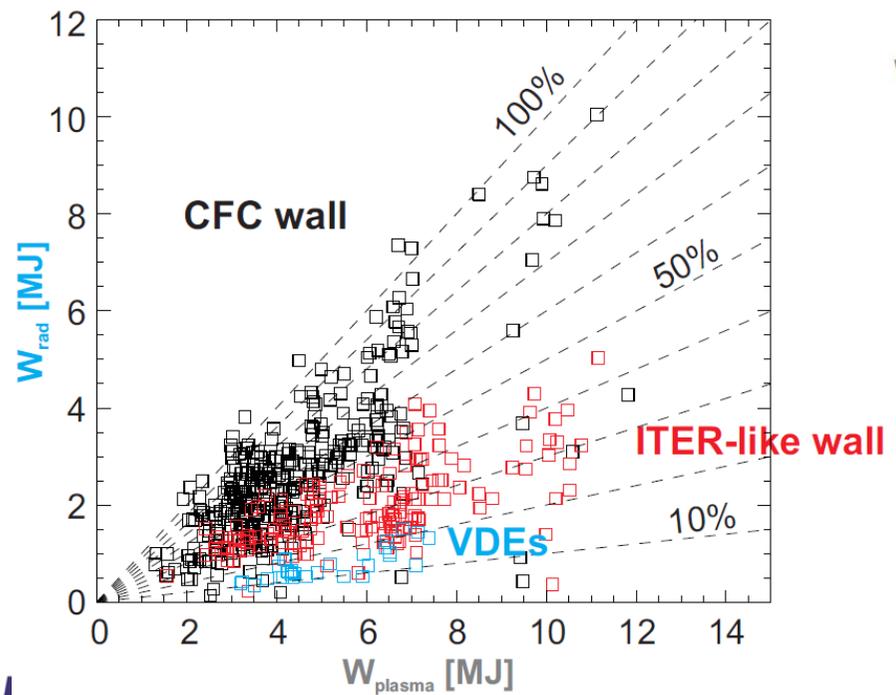
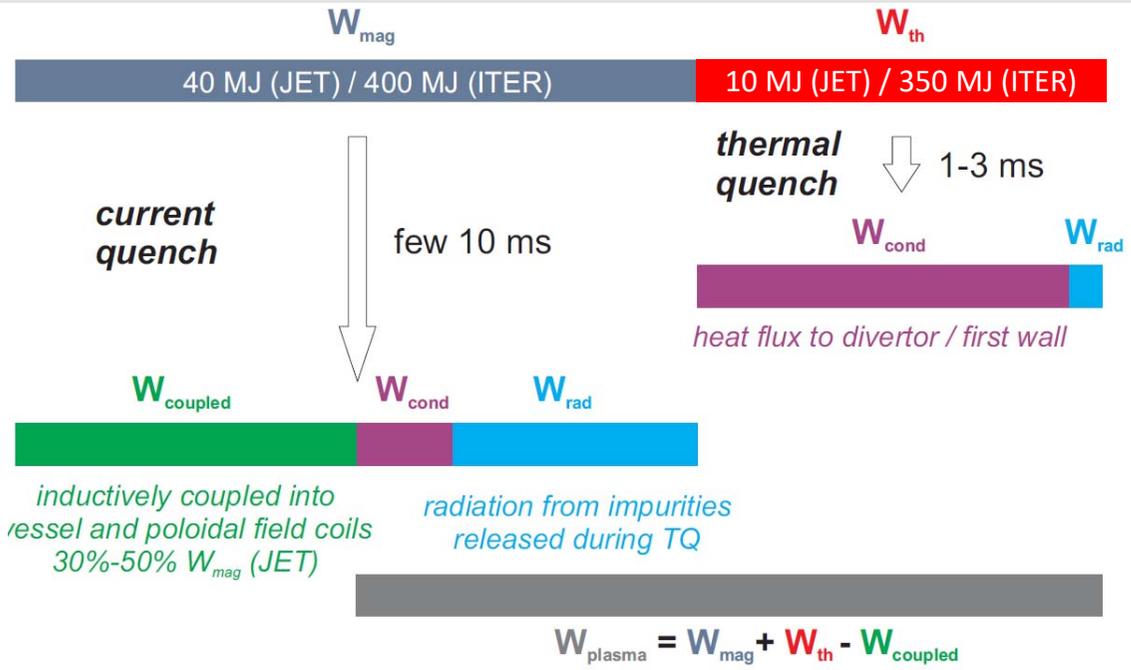


*P. de Vries, PoP 2014*

# Thermal loads: energy balance



During a disruption,  
magnetic and thermal energy  
need to be dissipated

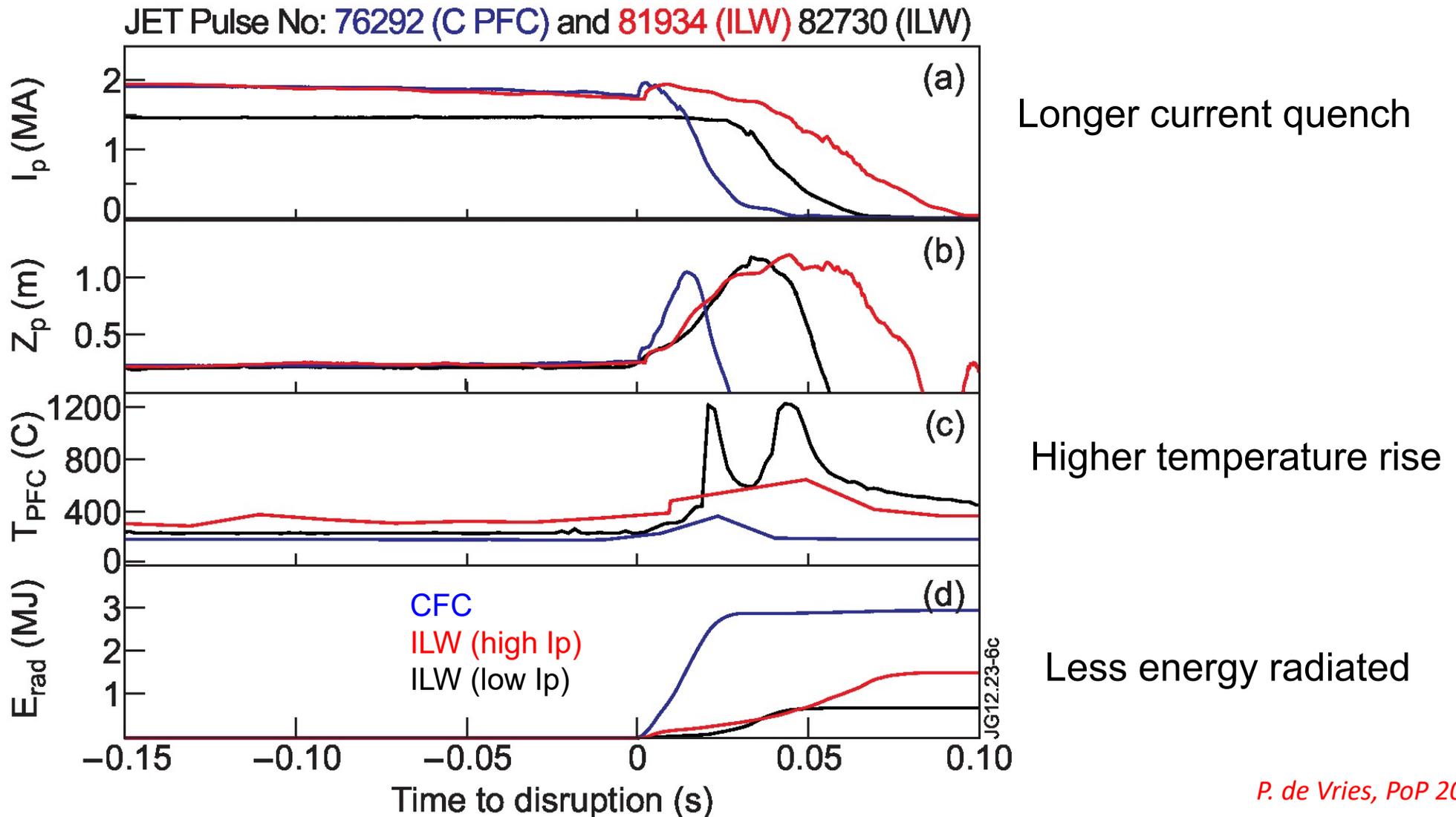


In ILW only maximum 50% of  
plasma energy is radiated

M. Lehnen, JNM 2013



- Slower current quench in ILW: reduces power load
- Radiated energy much less: **more energy conducted to PFCs!**

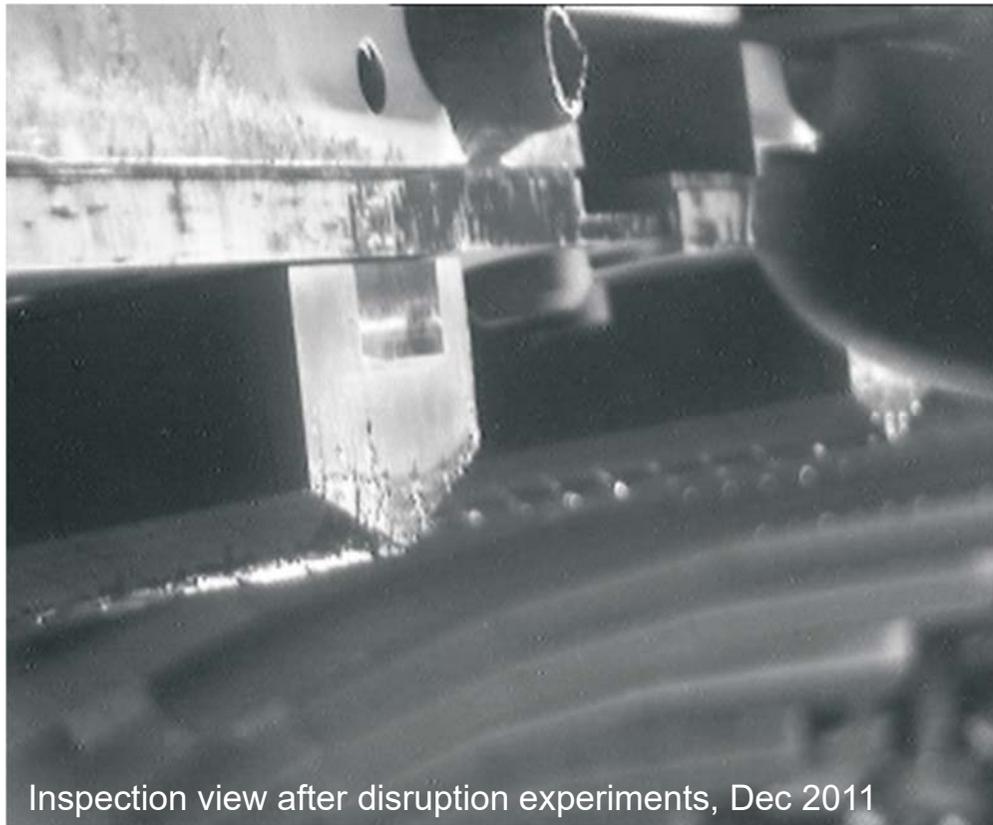


*P. de Vries, PoP 2014*

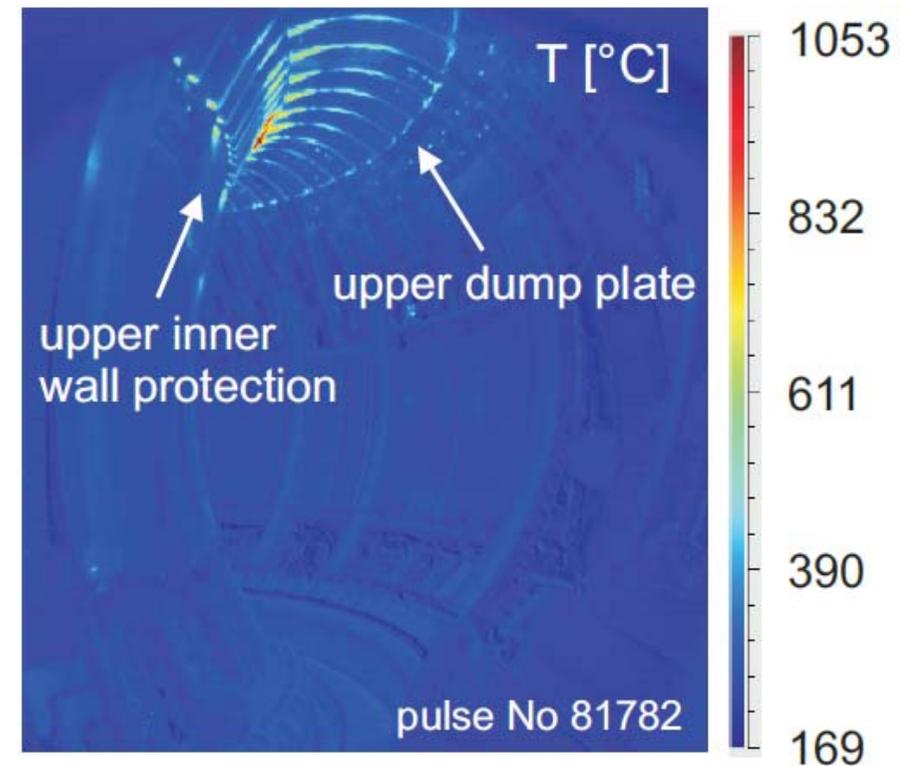


- Large fraction of total energy is conducted to first wall
- Melting of Beryllium already after pure VDE at low  $I_p$  ( $E_{\text{mag}}=6\text{MJ}$ )

Melting at Upper dump plate:



IR-camera picture:





- H-mode operation more restrictive (minimum fuelling, RF to avoid W-accumulation)
- Certain scenarios more difficult to achieve (e.g. ITBs)
- Disruption root cause has changed => mitigation strategy revised
- Disruption forces and thermal loads increased

**=> need for routine disruption mitigation**



## 3) Disruption Mitigation



At JET disruption mitigation strategy has changed:

➤ Carbon:

- Mode lock detected: fast ramp down of plasma current, switch off aux. heating
- reduce vessel forces by reducing elongation
- minimise deconditioning by stopping gas

➤ ILW:

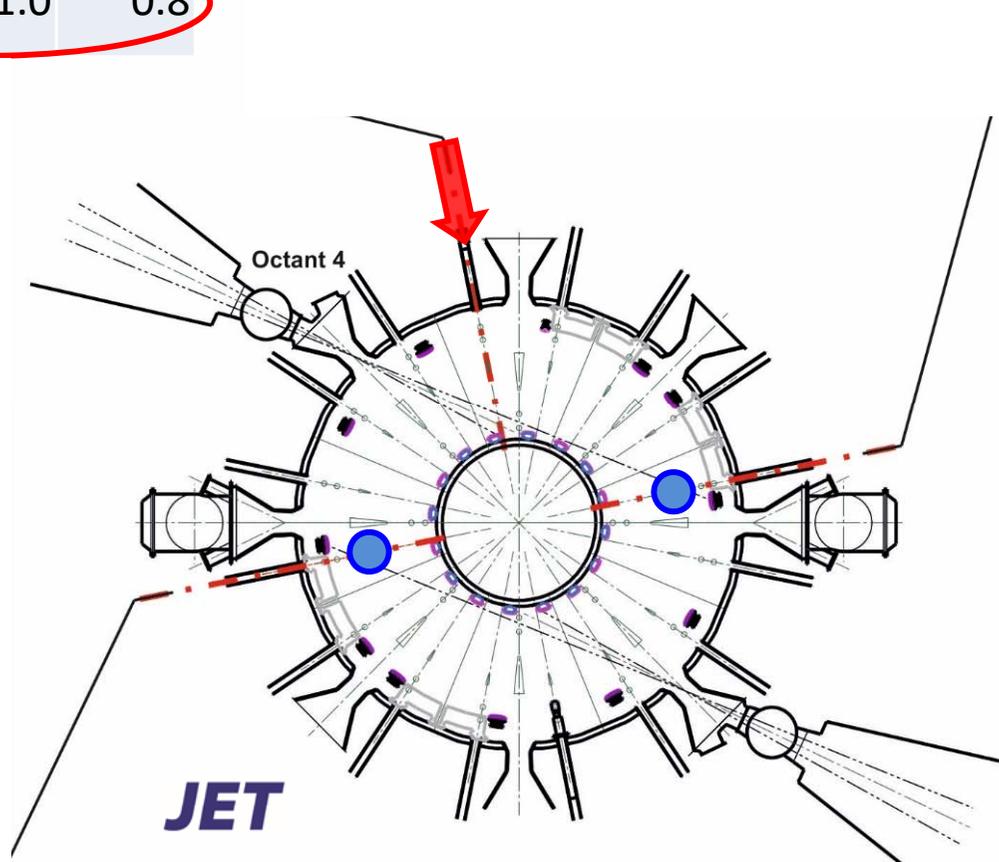
- Prevent plasma from touching wall (=> keep elongation?)
- Avoid radiation limit (=> keep ICRF-heating on?)
- Keep plasma spinning (=> neutral beam on?)
- Inject massive gas to increase radiation during TQ and to lower CQ time

# ITER-like disruption mitigation system at JET



- 2 Vertical and 1 Equatorial MGI

	TOP,L	MID	TOP,S
Vol [litr]	0.65	0.975	0.35
$p_{inj}$ [MPa]	3.6	5.0	5.0
Gas (D <sub>2</sub> ) [barL]	~10	~45	~17
Tube length [m]	4.1	2.4	1.9
Orifice [mm]	10	30	30
ToF [ms] (D <sub>2</sub> +10%Ar)	~1.8	~1.0	0.8



# Characteristics of valves



- Onset of TQ occurs, when cold MGI-gas pulse reaches  $q=2$ <sup>1,2</sup>
- Longer tube causes delayed start of TQ and slower rise of radiation
- No significant difference in vessel force  $F_v$  and radiated energy fraction  $f_{rad}$

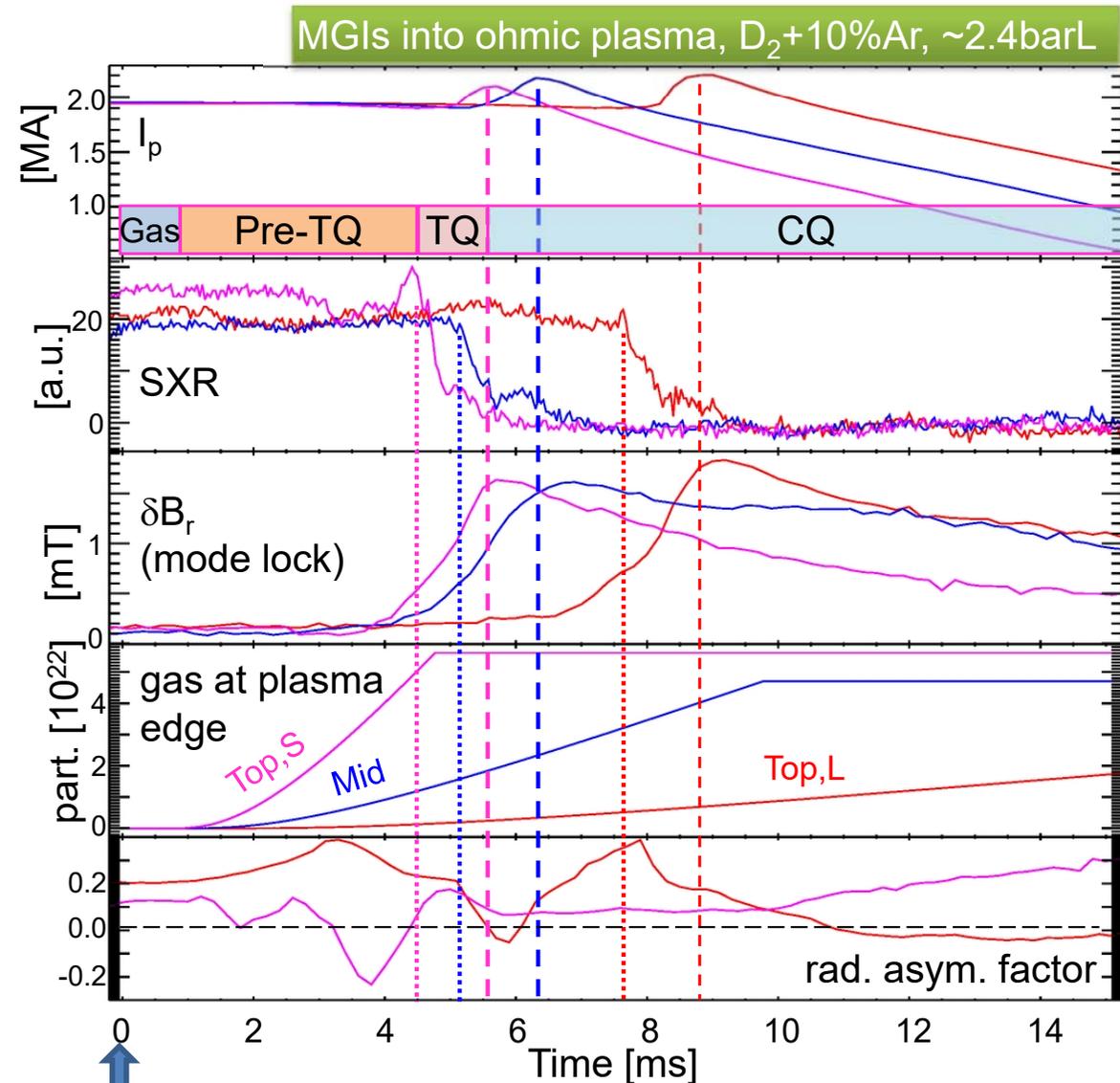
	DMV1 Top,L	DMV2 Mid,S	DMV3 Top,S
dt(pre) [ms]	5.3	4.0	3.7
dt(TQ) [ms]	2.0	1.0	1.2
dt(CQ) [ms]	19	20	17
$F_v/I_p^2$ [t/MA <sup>2</sup> ]	27	23	26
frad,tot [%]	74	76	71
frad [%] (preVDE)	47	52	62

TQ: thermal quench

CQ: current quench

Radiation asymmetry:

$$\xi = \frac{P_{rad,V} - P_{rad,H}}{P_{rad,V} + P_{rad,H}}$$



Valves open

<sup>1</sup> E. Hollmann, NF'05

<sup>2</sup> S. Bozhenkov, PPCF'08

# MGI-experiments a mimic for real disruptions?

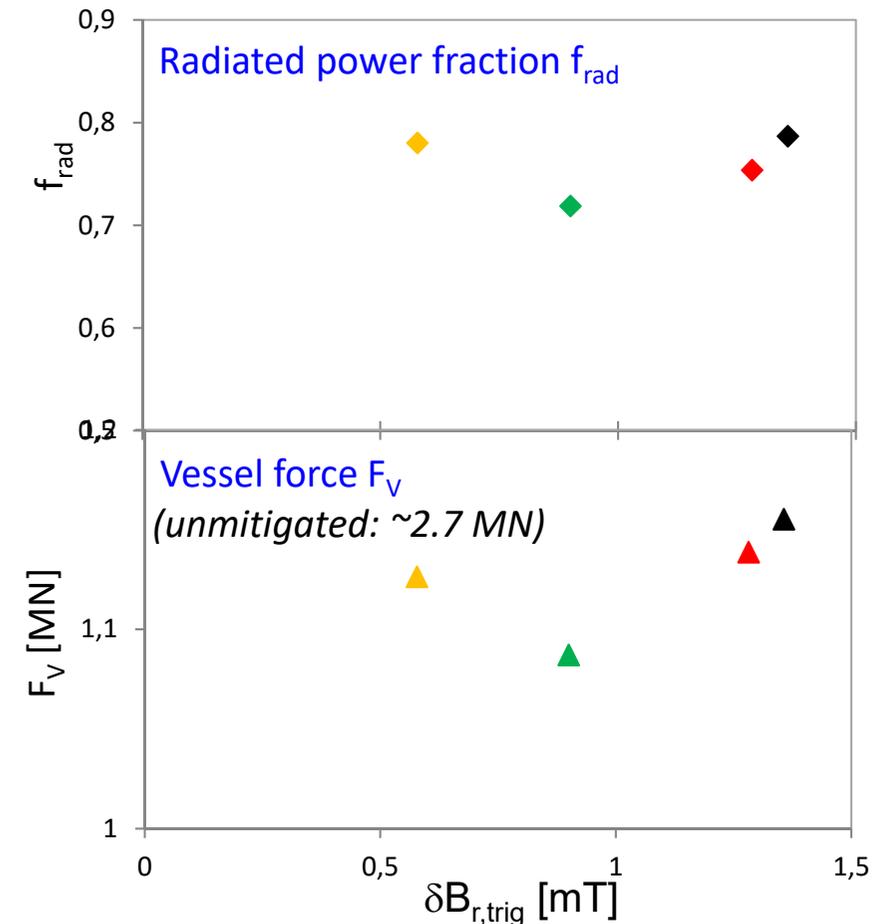
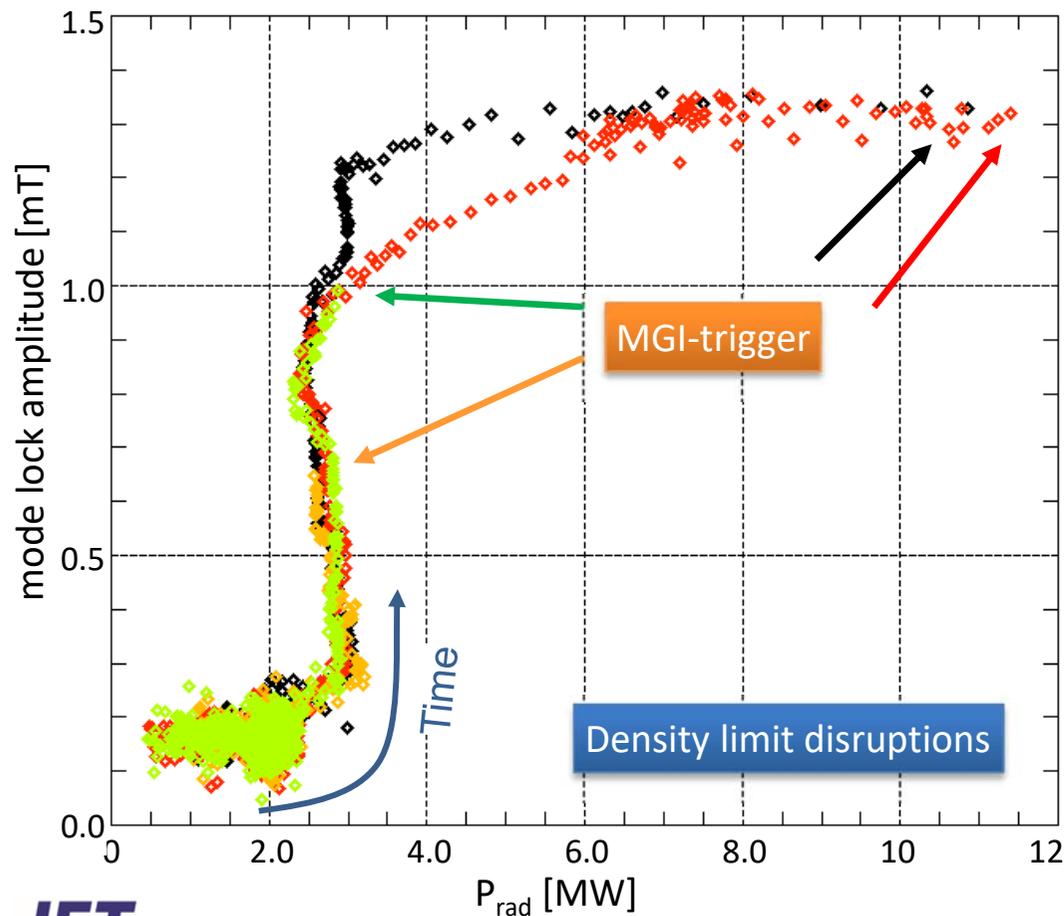


## MGI-experiments:

- Injection into stable plasma, where no mode exists, to test various injection settings in reproducible plasma conditions

## Density limit disruptions:

- DMV-gas was injected during different phases of ongoing disruption
- Presence of  $n=1$  mode has little effect on assimilation of impurities
- Small variation of  $f_{\text{rad}}$  and  $F_{\text{V}}$ . MGI-disruptions can be used to study mitigation efficiency



# ITER-issues on disruption mitigation (excerpts)<sup>1</sup>

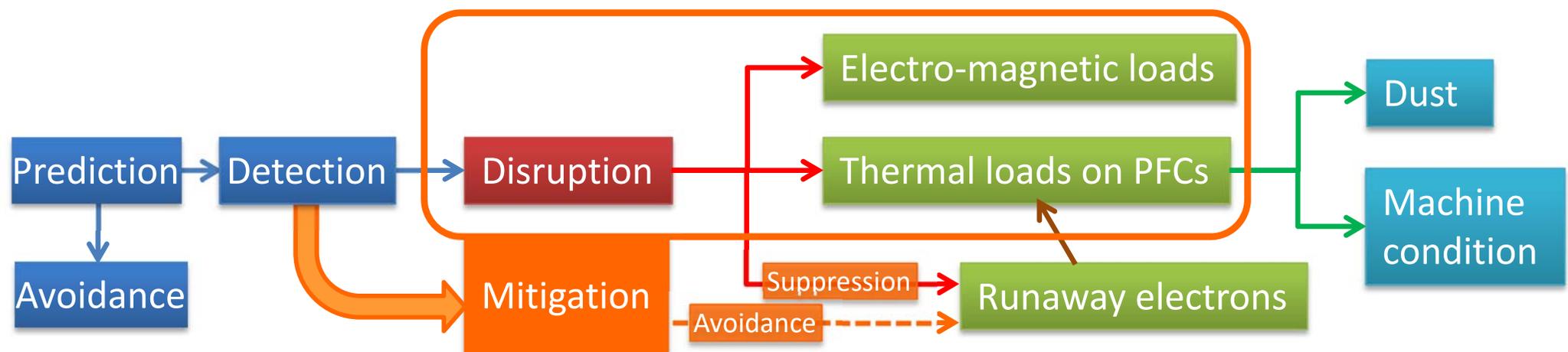


## Assessment of thermal and EM load mitigation scenarios:

- Heat load mitigation requires  $E_{\text{rad}}/E_{\text{th}} > 90\%$ : How much gas?
- Control current quench time to minimise electro-magn. loads on first wall and vessel.
- Avoid generation of runaway electrons.
- Compare efficiency of massive gas injection from top with midplane injection.
- Dual injection with 2 top massive gas injectors and with add. midplane MGI.

## Investigation and mitigation of toroidal asymmetries:

- Radiation asymmetries due to presence of MHD can lead to unacceptable heat loads.
- Determine radiation asymmetries.
- Reduce radiation asymmetries by optimising timing and amount of multiple MGIs.





## 3a) Mitigation of electromagnetic loads

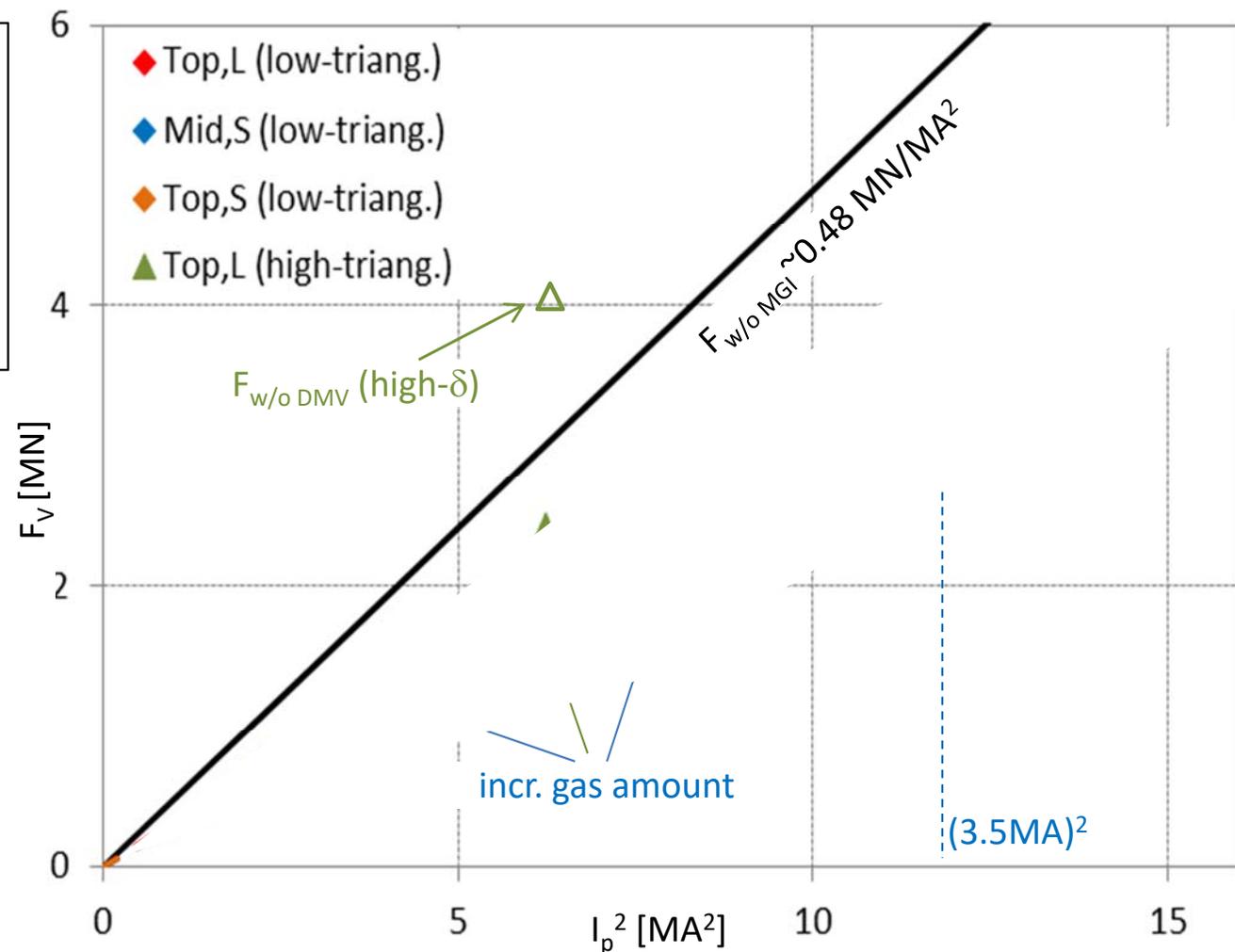
# Vessel force mitigation



- Same gas amount injected from a given valve at different plasma currents.
- $F_{w/o\ MGI}$ : expected vessel force determined from unmitigated VDEs.
- Dynamic vessel forces are reduced by about 33% (MGI-topL) and 40% (MGI-mid).
- Injection location has no influence on force mitigation.
- No reduction in mitigation efficiency has been observed at high plasma current.

MGI (Top,L):  $1.7 \cdot 10^{22}$  Ar  
MGI (Mid,S):  $5.9 \cdot 10^{22}$  Ar  
MGI (Top,S):  $3.5 \cdot 10^{20}$  Ar  
Scaling based on constant  
MGI-gas amount.

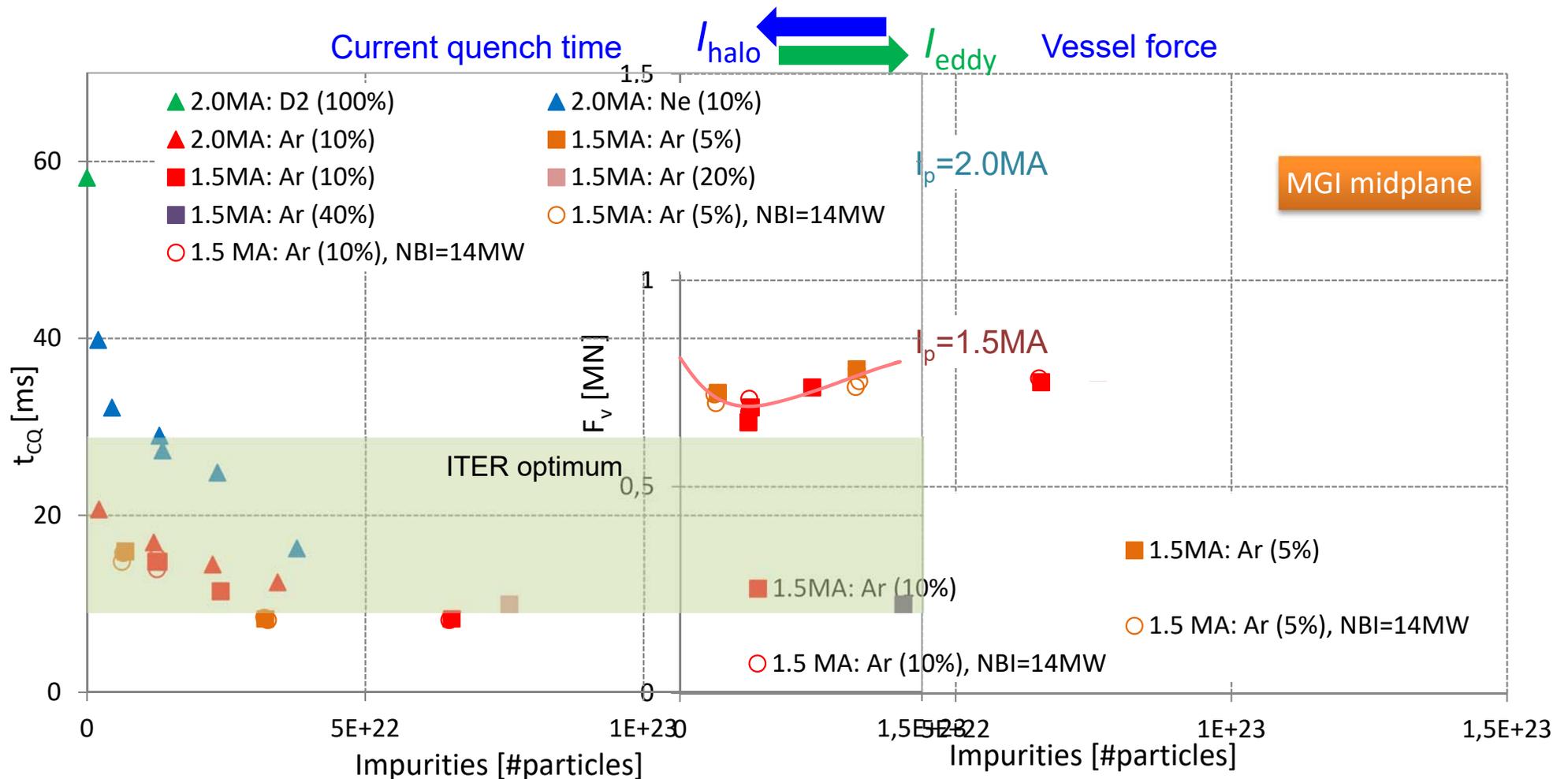
**Note:** no signs of runaway electrons up to explored plasma current of 3.5 MA.



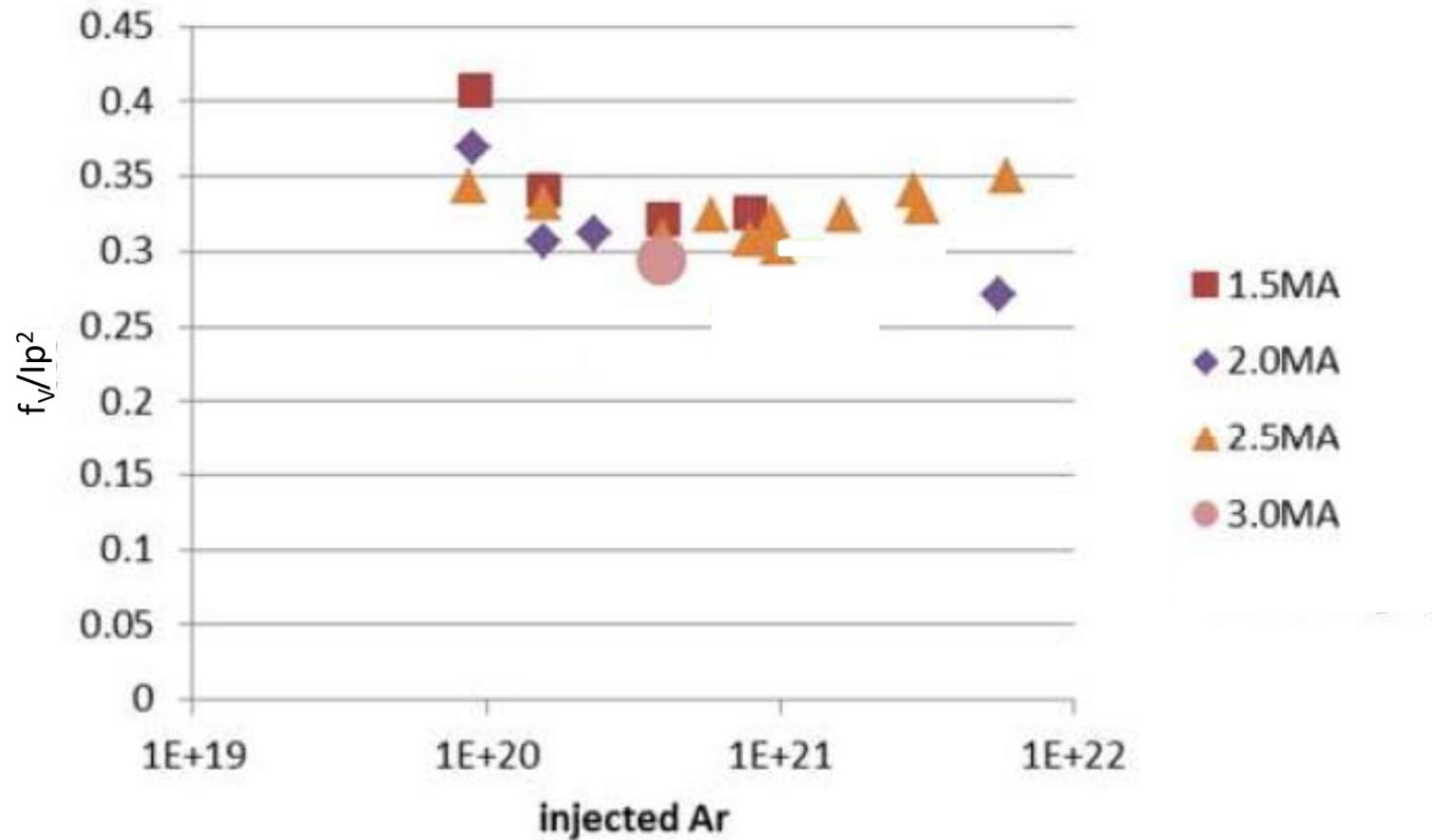
# Optimising electromagnetic load reduction



- Scan of impurity injection at 1.5MA/1.5T and 2.0MA/2.0T
- Higher Ar-injection does not lead to further reduction of vessel forces.
- Data suggest minimum of vessel force at low gas amount (balanced impulse from halo and eddy currents?).



# Electromagnetic load reduction: Top,S inj.





## 3b) Thermal load mitigation

# Efficiency of energy radiation



- Radiated energy fraction  $f_{\text{rad}}$  does not further increase with increasing MGI-impurities.
- Similar maximum  $f_{\text{rad}}$  for Top,S- and Mid-MGI.
- Top,S reaches saturation with less impurities (->more efficient?)
- However, required minimum injection might depend on thermal energy.
- **Caveat:** uncertainty in radiated energy due to toroidal asymmetries and potential diagnostic limitations

Radiated energy fraction:

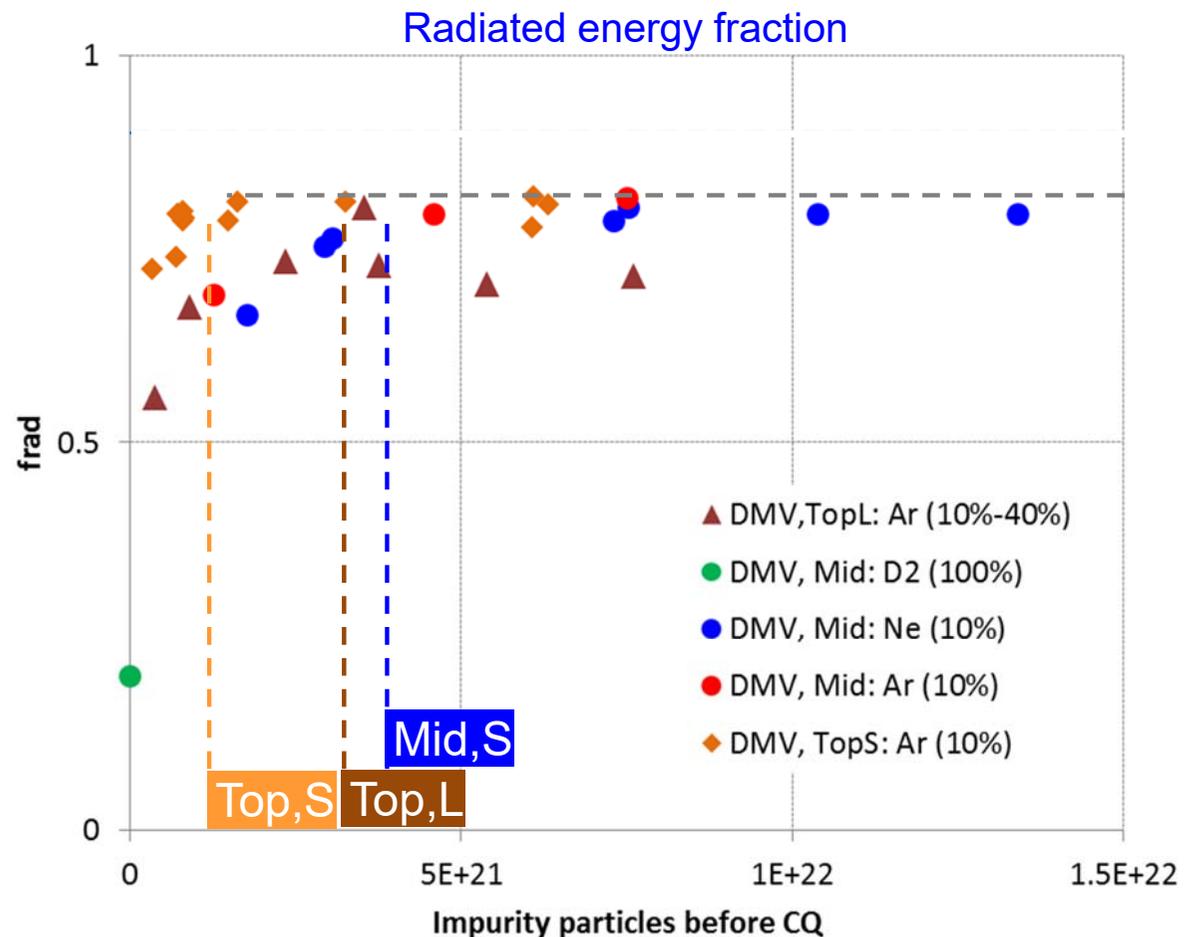
$$f_{\text{rad}} = \frac{W_{\text{rad}}}{W_{\text{mag}} + W_{\text{thermal}} - W_{\text{coupled}}}$$

$W_{\text{rad}}$ : radiated energy during discr.

$W_{\text{mag}}$ : magnetic energy

$W_{\text{thermal}}$ : thermal plasma energy

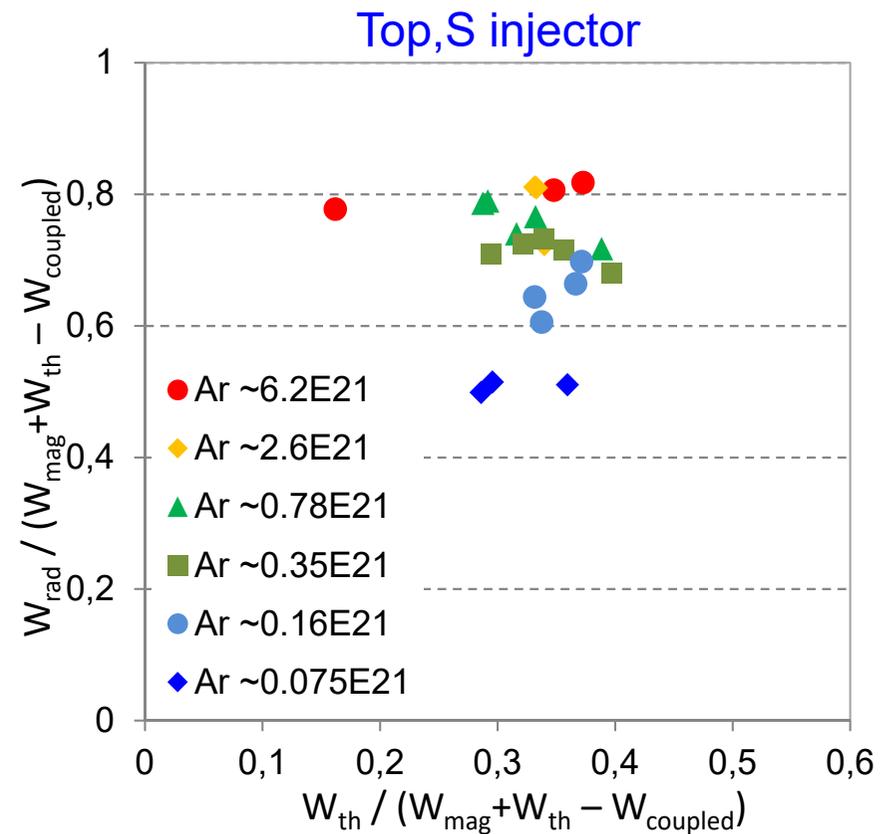
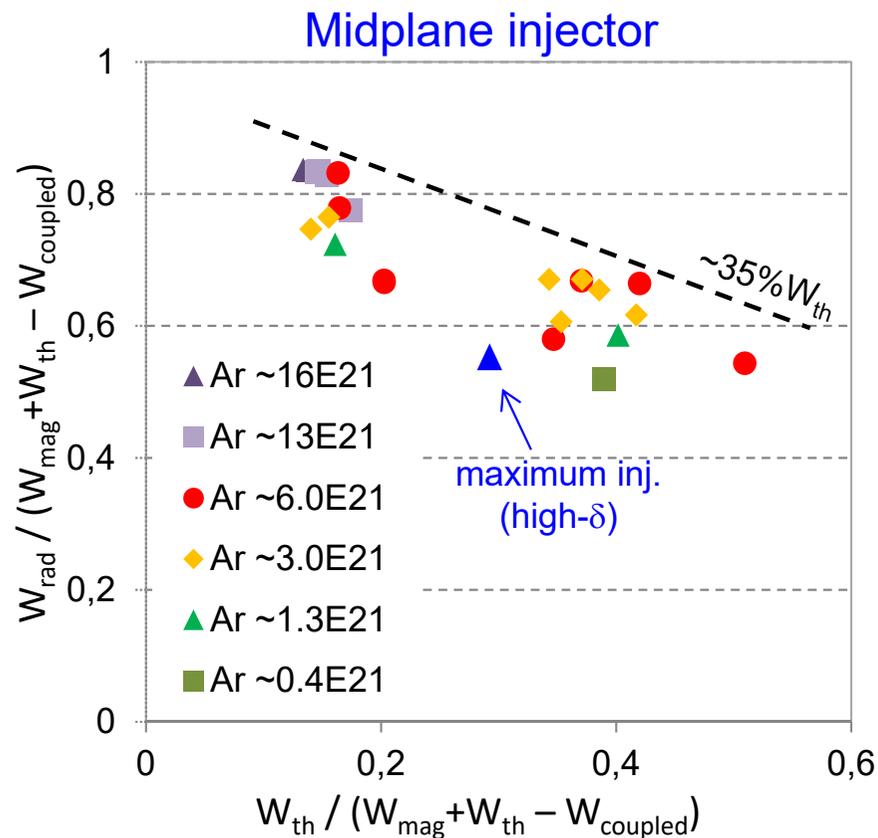
$W_{\text{coupled}}$ : energy dissipated into vessel and PF-coils



# Mitigation efficiency for high thermal energy



- Initial experiments with MGI (Top,L) showed degradation of efficiency towards higher thermal energy
- At high thermal fraction: higher radiated fraction achieved with MGI from top (short tube)
- Influence of injector location on  $f_{\text{rad}}$  at high  $f_{\text{th}}$  cannot be excluded

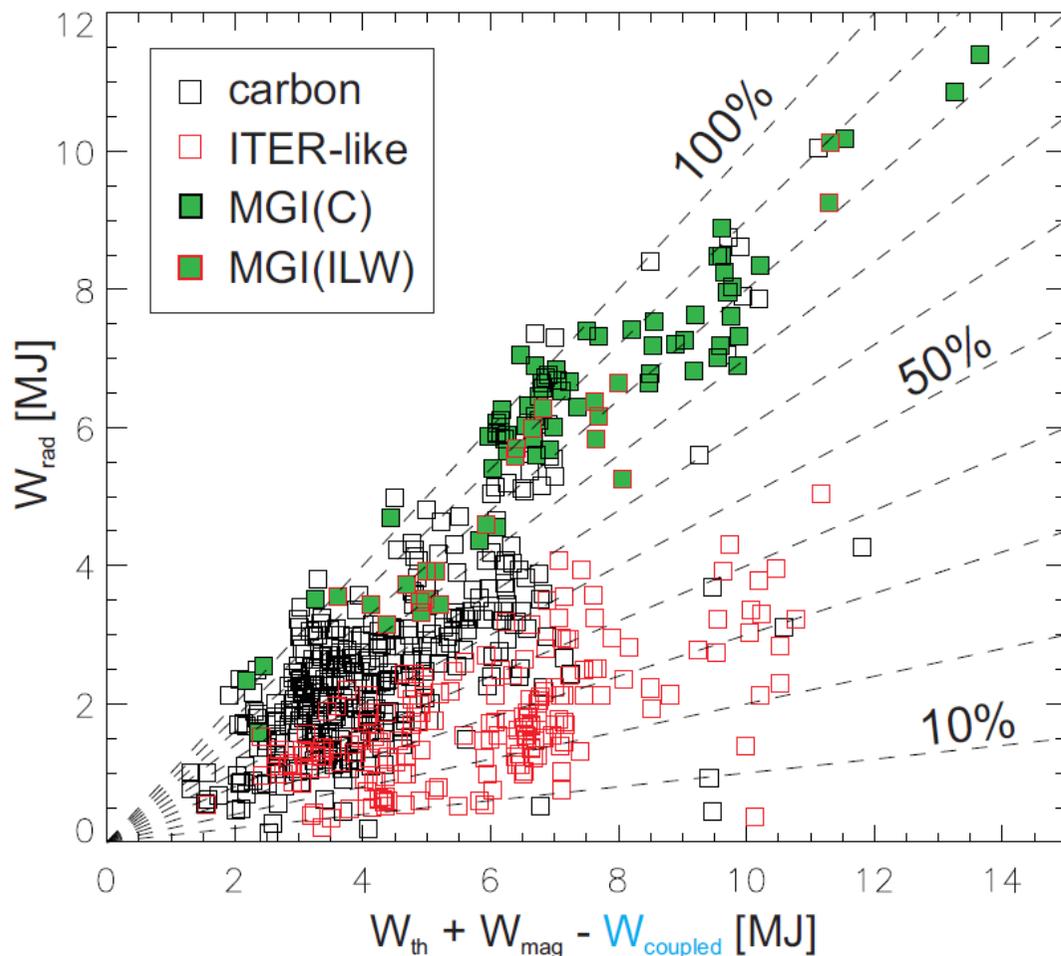


# Disruption mitigation in routine operation

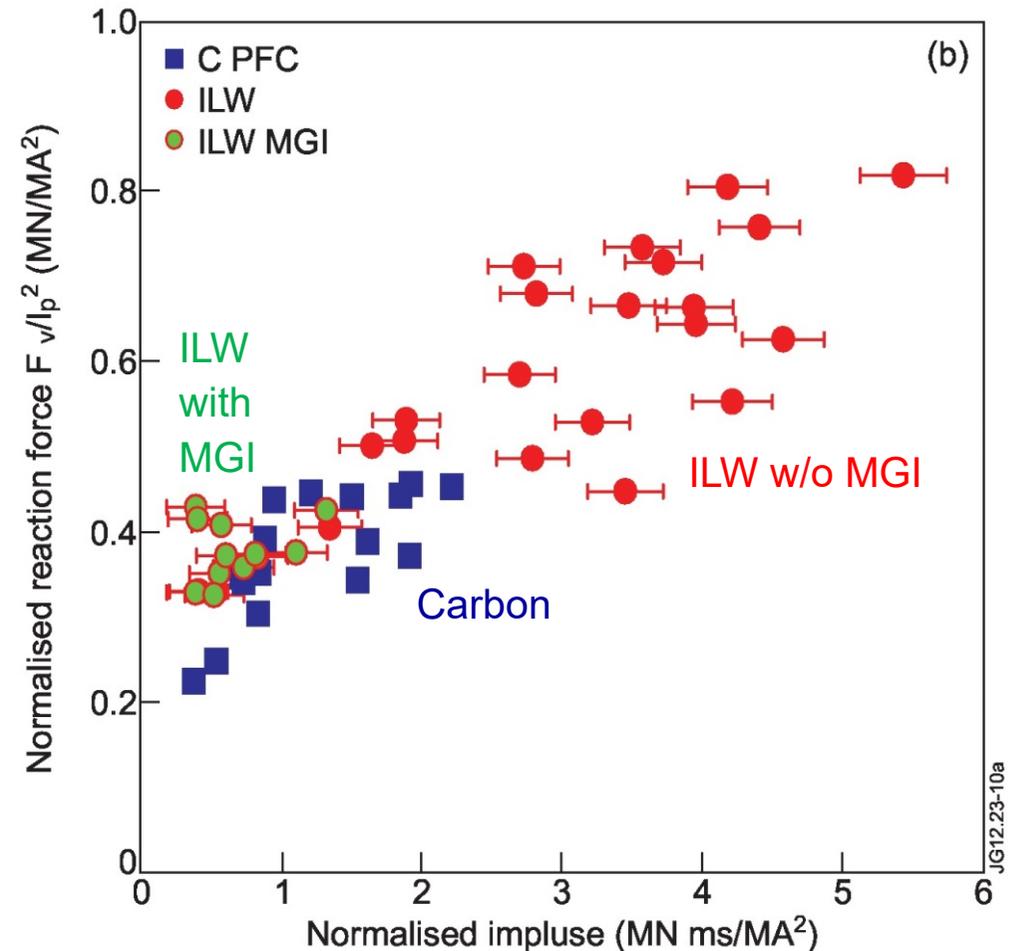


- Massive gas injection (MGI) in ILW recovers radiation fraction back to 70-100%
- Shortening of current quench time reduces and hence reaction force

Radiated energy



Vessel force





## 3c) Toroidal radiation asymmetries

# Toroidal radiation asymmetries

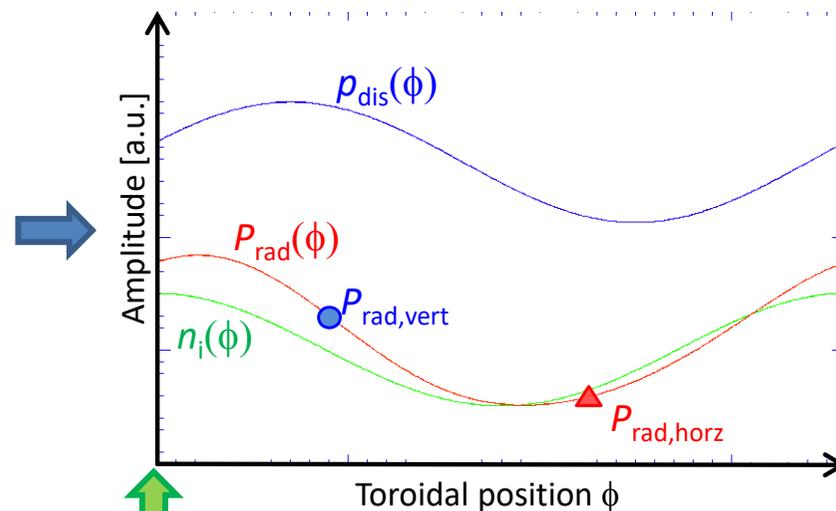
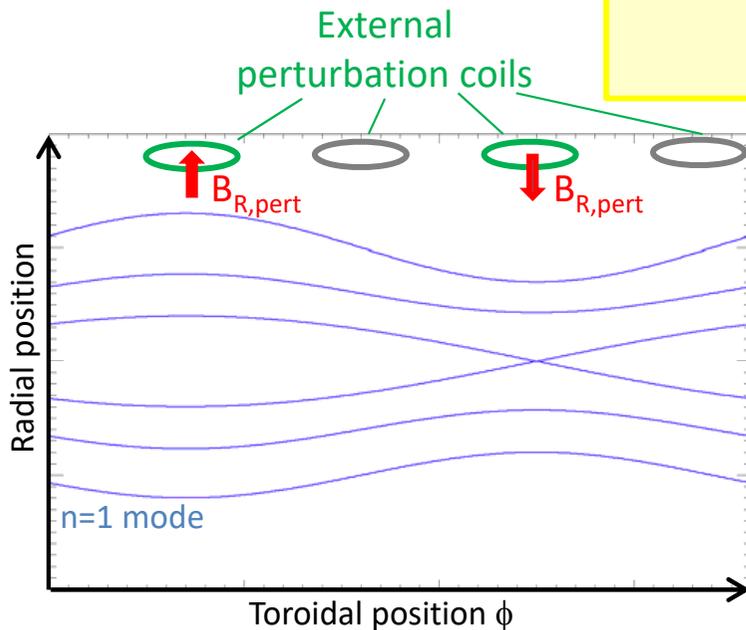


- ITER: about 80% of stored energy might be lost in TQ
- Localised injection into n=1 mode during TQ cause large radiation asymmetry
- High toroidal peaking factor in radiation might lead to local heat load beyond melt limit

$$TPF = \max(P_{rad}(\phi)) / \langle P_{rad}(\phi) \rangle$$

- External magnetic field perturbations were applied to seed n=1 modes
- Phase of n=1 mode can be varied by changing coil polarities
- MGI fired into existing n=1 mode

Interpretative model: Impurity density:  $n_i(\phi) = n_{i,0} \exp(-(\phi - \phi_{inj})^2 / \lambda_n^2)$   
 Radiation distribution:  $p_{dis}(\phi) = 1 + \Delta p \cos(\phi_{n=1} - \Delta\phi_{n=1} - \phi)$   
 Radiated power:  $P_{rad}(\phi) = \langle P_{rad} \rangle p(\phi) n_i(\phi)$  – = free fit parameter

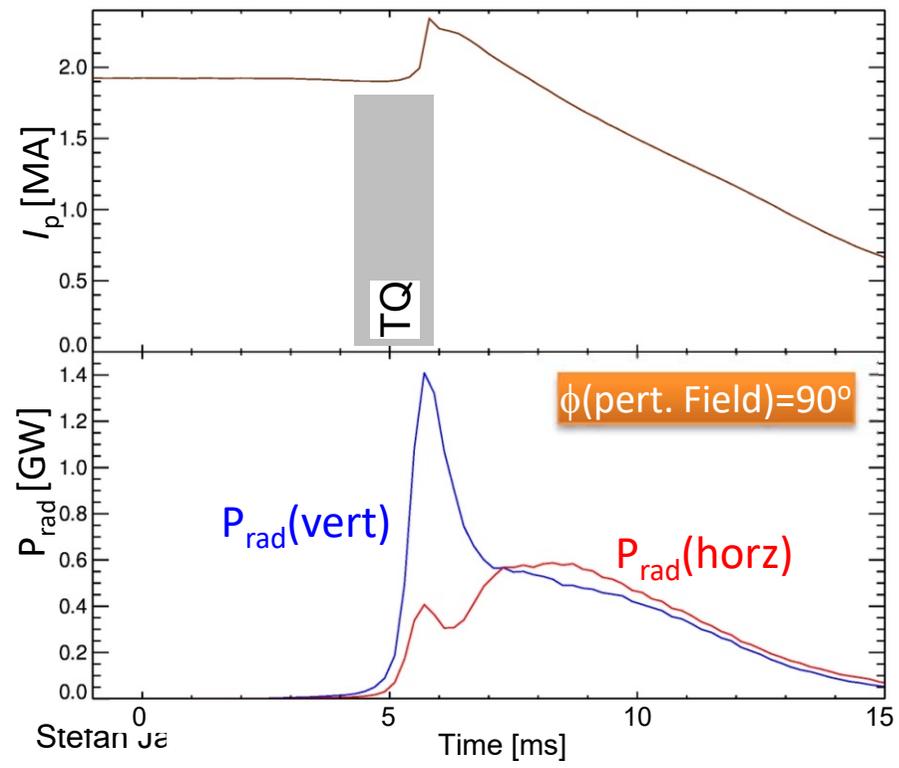
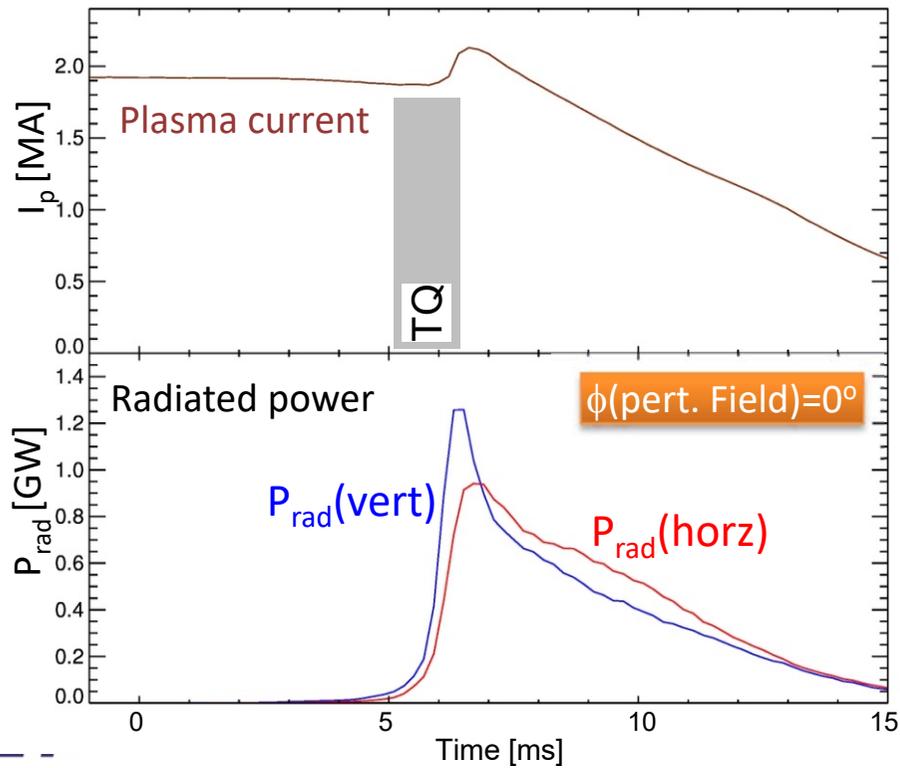
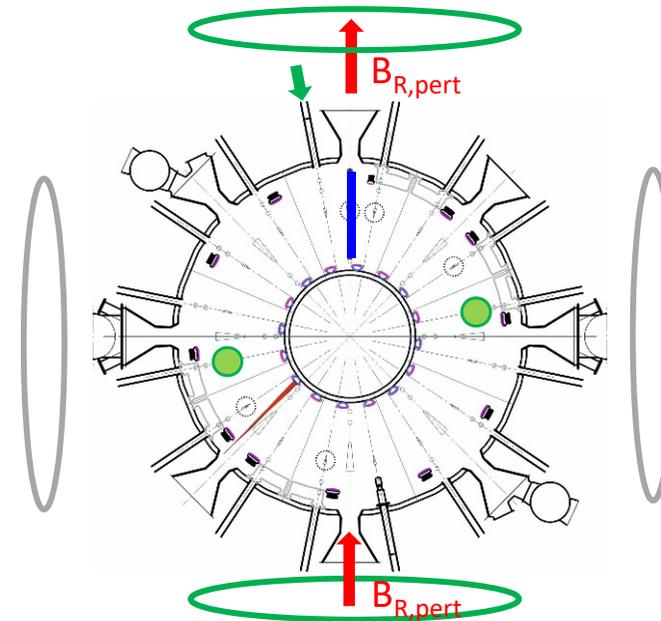
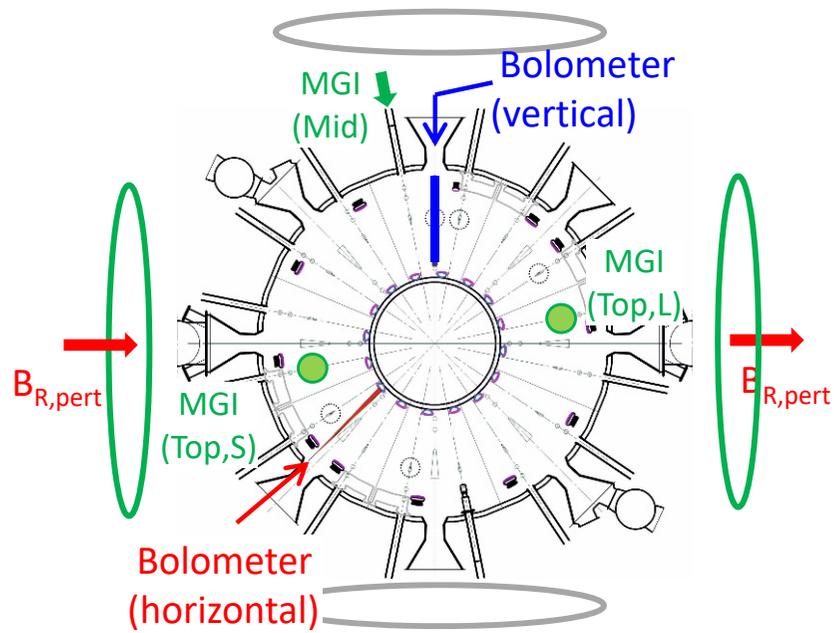


$$\xi = \frac{P_{rad,vert} - P_{rad,horz}}{P_{rad,vert} + P_{rad,horz}}$$

TPF( $\phi_{n=1}$ )

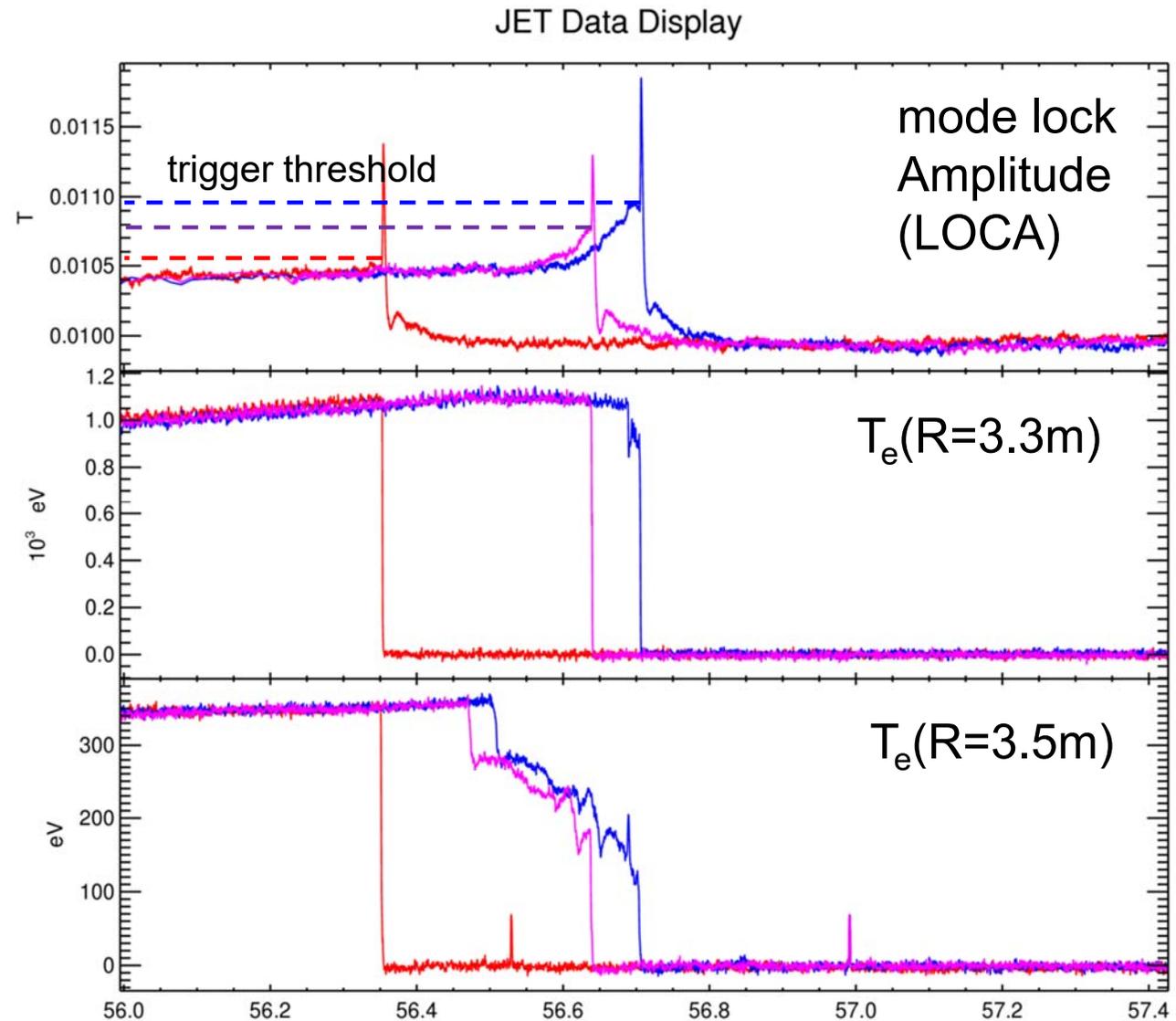
M. Lehnen et al, NF2015

# n=1 phase variation





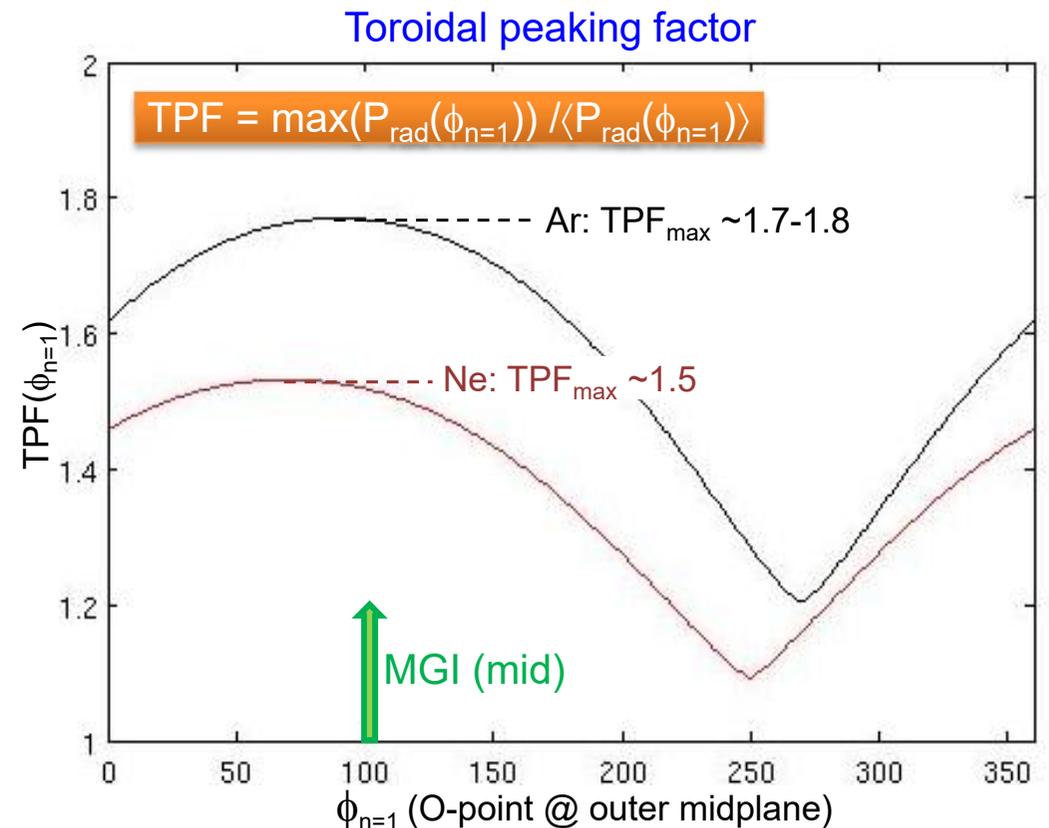
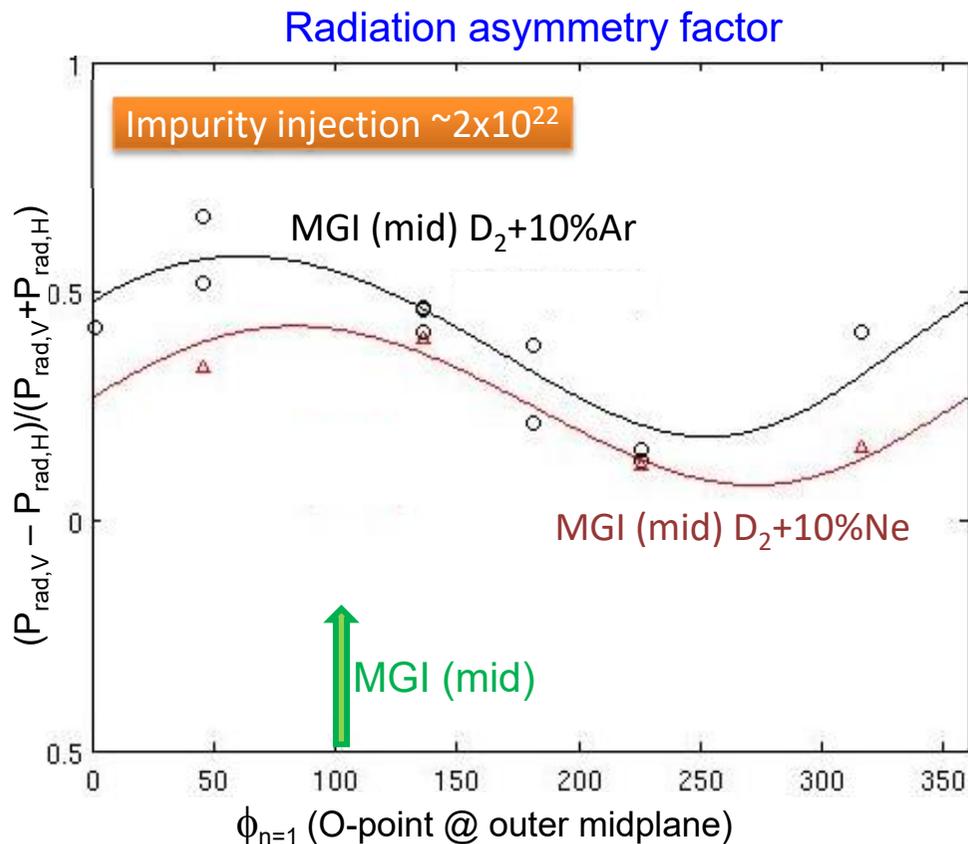
- trigger on real time mode-lock signal (LOCA)
- **optimal** MGI timing is:
  - not **too early** (no fixed  $n=1$  mode phase)
  - not **too late** (core confinement degradation)



# Toroidal peaking factor



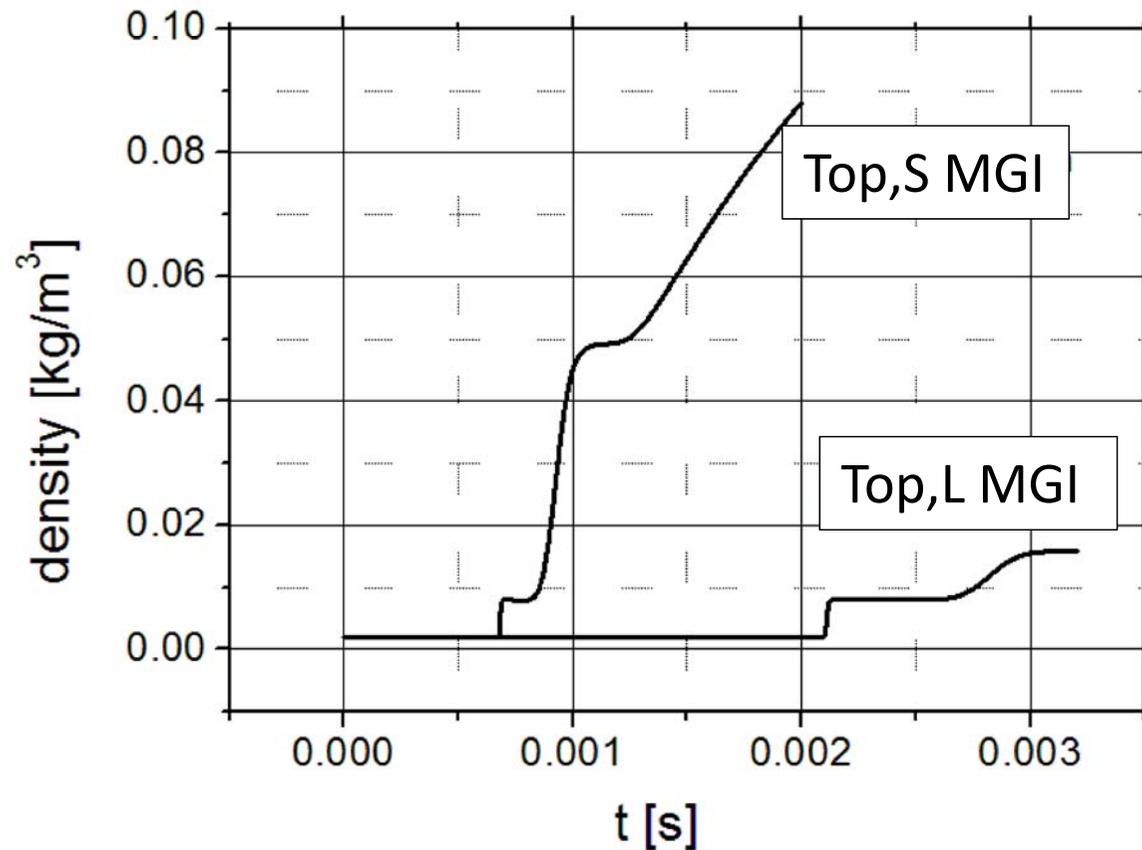
- Radiation asymmetry factor smaller for Ne
- Data of phase variation are fitted with model assuming  $\cos(\phi)$ -dependence for radiation and toroidal Gaussian impurity distribution
- TPF is higher for injections into the O-point.
- TPF for Argon higher, probably due to smaller toroidal distribution of impurities



# Synchronous MGI injections



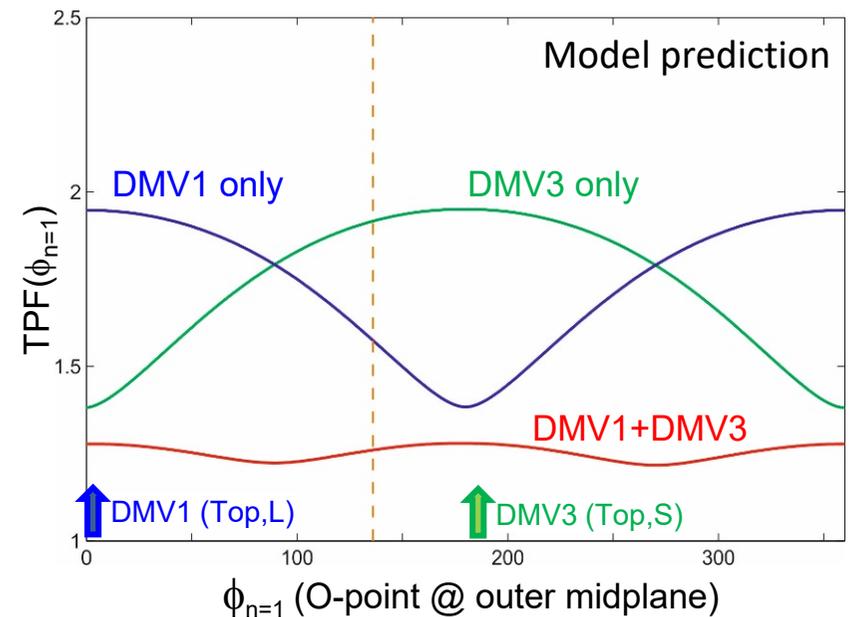
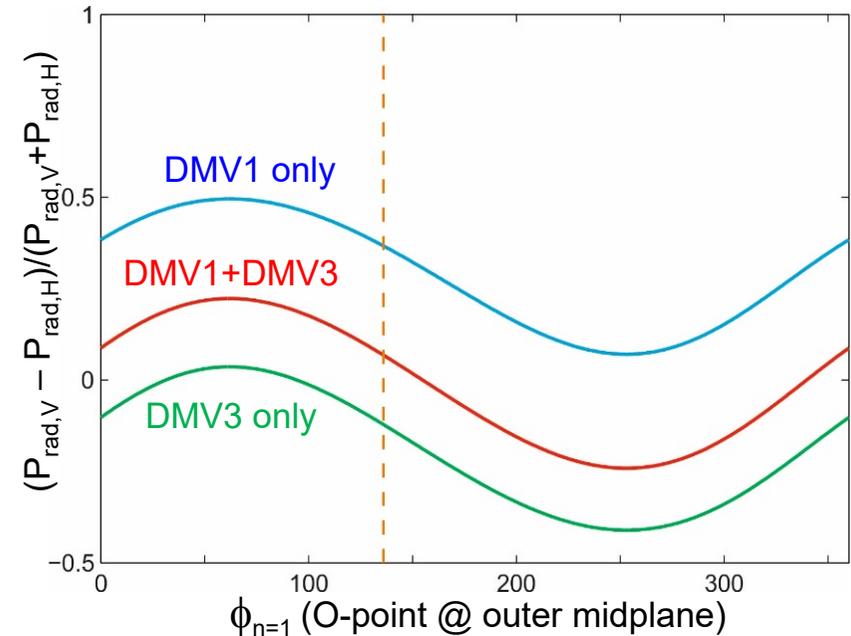
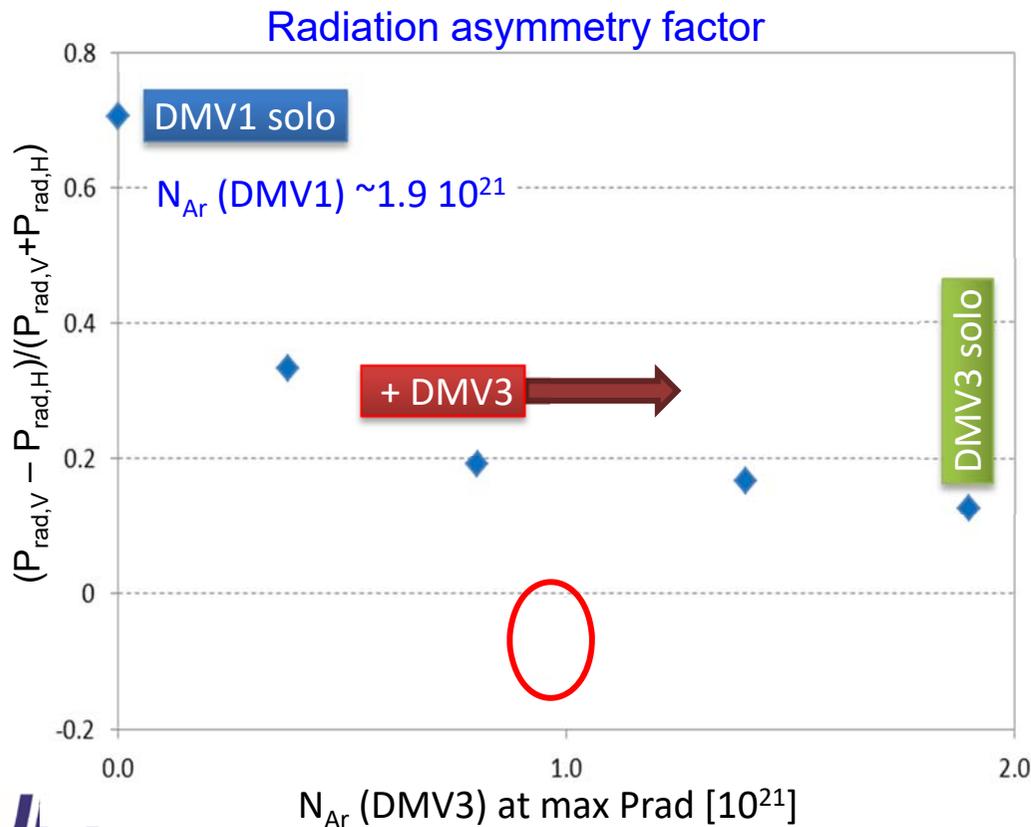
- use mode-lock signal to trigger MGI
- BUT: gas delivery differs for Mid,S, Top,S and Top,L MGI
- use time delay based on individual time from injection to CQ for each MGI
- modify gas pressure in MGI for equal injected amount of impurities at CQ  
→ symmetric injection?



# Radiation asymmetry in dual injections



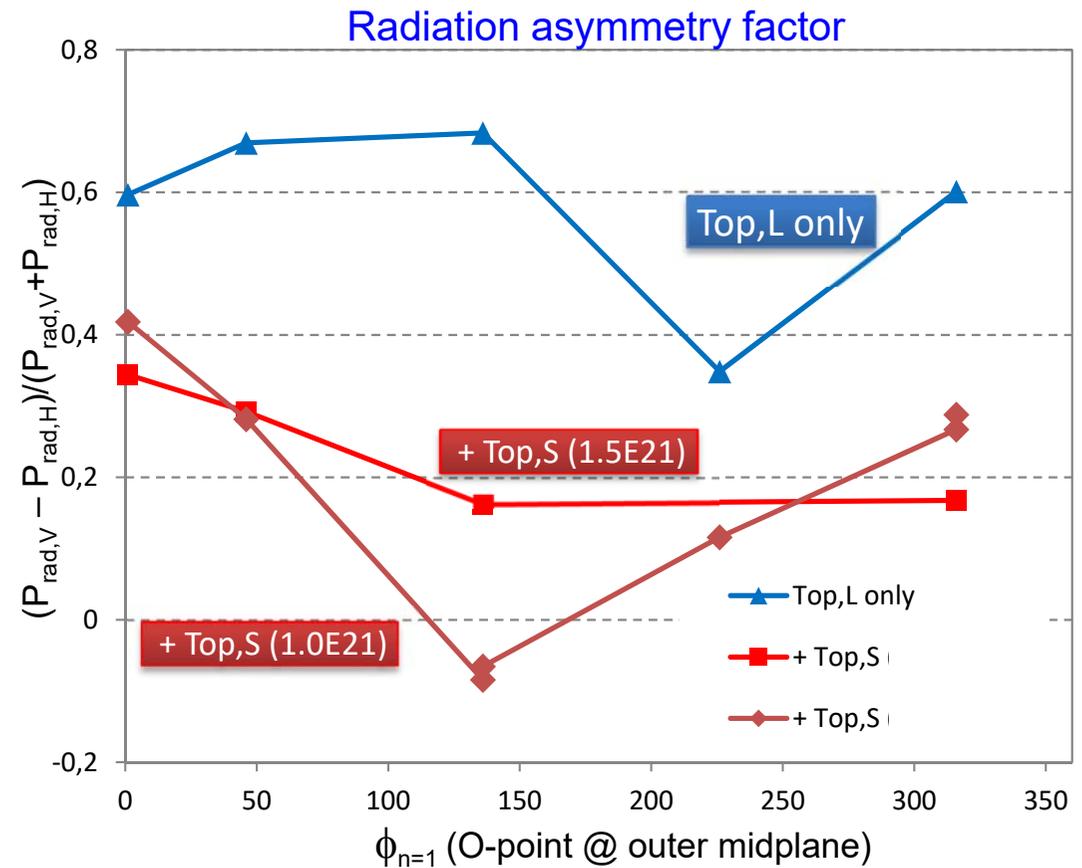
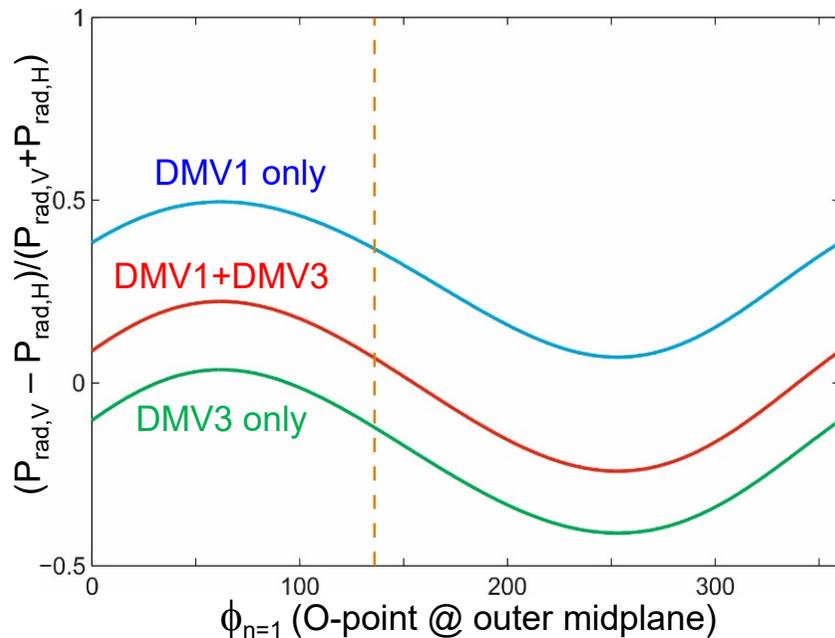
- Gas amount and timing of DMV1 and DMV3 (Top-injectors) has been varied to control total amount of particles at time of radiation peak.
- Injecting additional gas from opposite site reduces asymmetry factor down to 10%.
- Asymmetry factor reverses when  $N_{\text{rad,peak}}(\text{DMV3}) \sim 10^{21}$ .



# Radiation asymmetry for dual injection



- Toroidal profile of rad. asym. fact. for dual injection smaller than for single inj.
- Reduction very sensitive to gas amount from second MGI



S. Jachmich, EPS2016



## 4) Runaway electrons: Production, Avoidance, Suppression

# Runaway existence domain



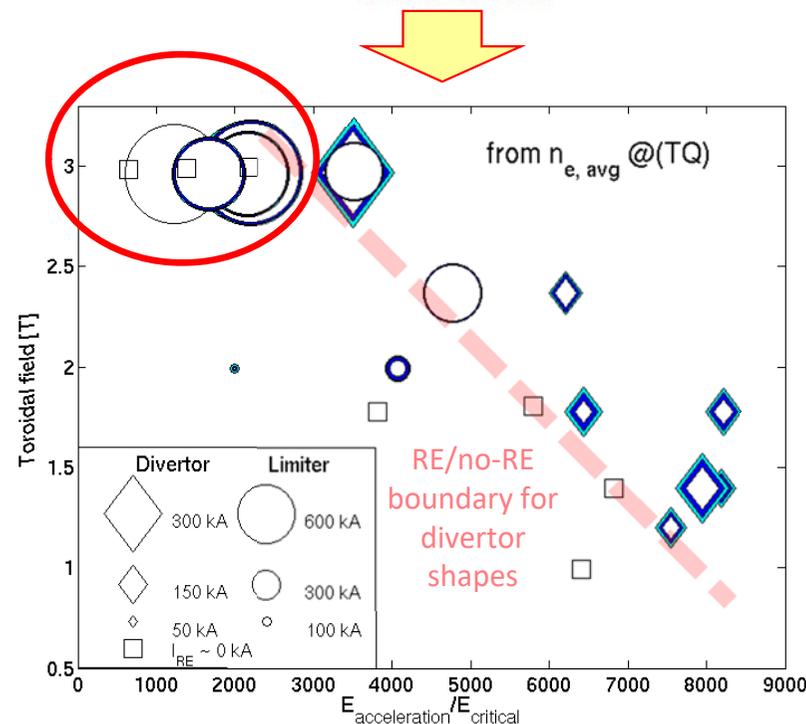
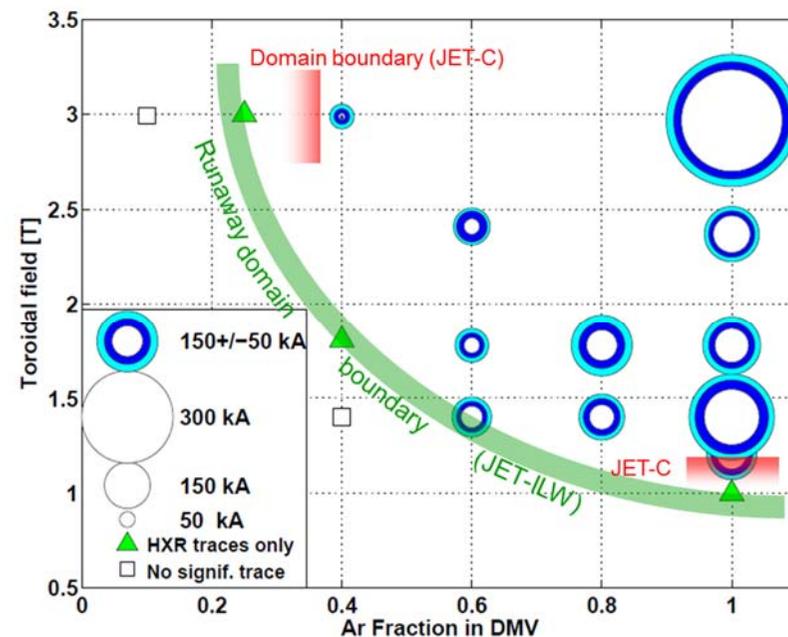
- RE generation using D<sub>2</sub>+Ar MGI to determine the operational domain
- Domain boundary (entry points) similar between JET-C and JET-ILW
- Known runaway generation dependencies:

- Accelerating electric field  $E_a$
- Critical electric field (Dreicer and avalanche mechanisms)  $E_c =$

$$\frac{n_e e^3 \ln \Lambda}{4\pi \epsilon^2 m_e c^2}$$

- Toroidal field  $B_t$
- With divertor pulses: clear domain in  $(E_a/E_c, B_t)$  space
- At equal  $E_a/E_c$ , limiter pulses generate higher runaway currents

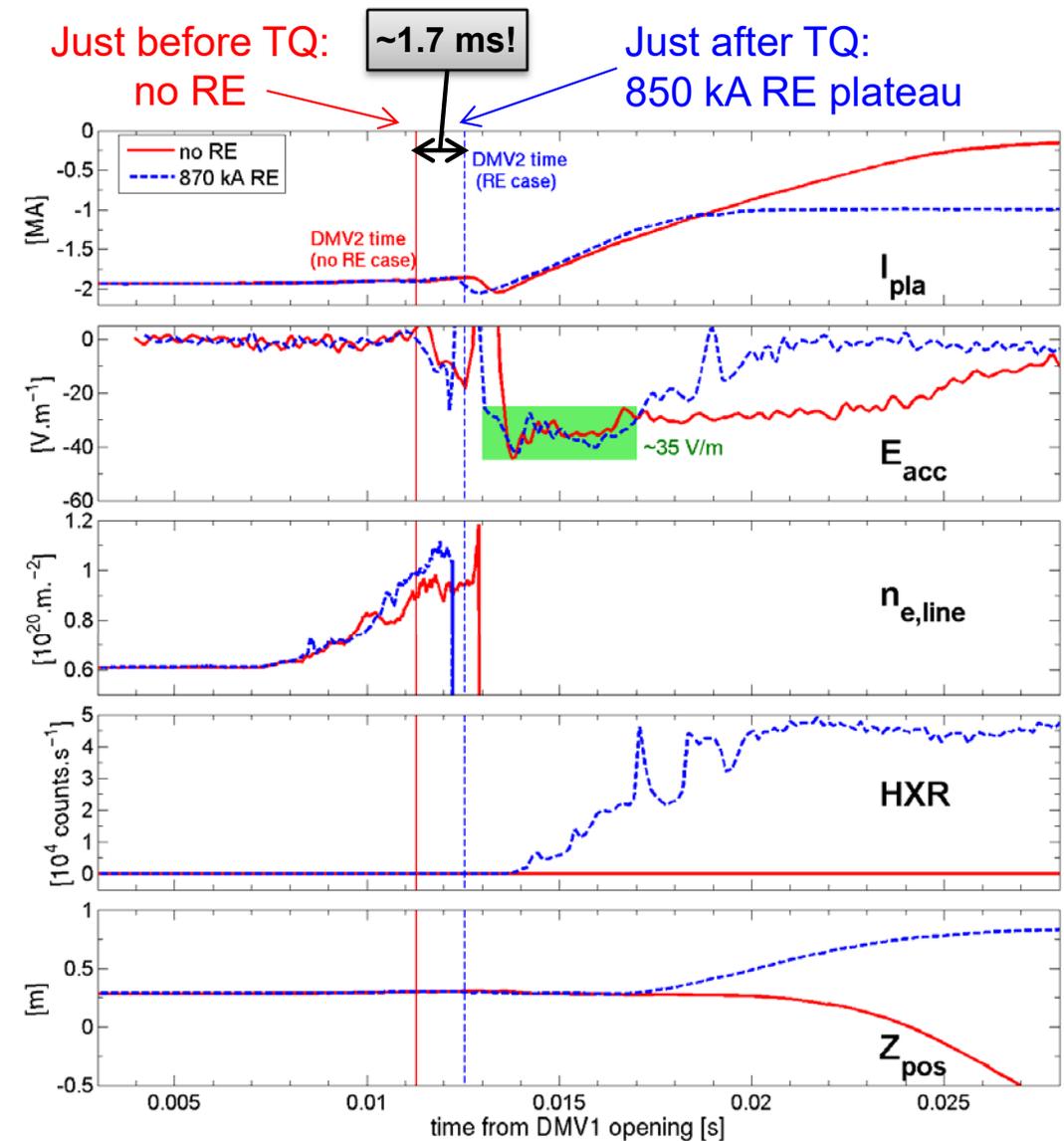
Strong dependence of RE generation on vertical stability



# Runaway suppression before TQ



- Scenario: trigger runaway beam with DMV1 low pressure (1.7 bar.l) 100% Argon → ~0.7 MA 50 ms
- Mitigation attempts: fire DMV2 high pressure D<sub>2</sub> at different times Result:
  - No runaways when DMV2 gas arrives before the thermal quench
  - Fully unmitigated runaway beam when DMV2 gas arrives after thermal quench
- $di_p/dt$ , accelerating electric field  $E_a$  almost identical during early CQ
- Density rise before TQ very similar
- DMV2 gas mixing regime very different if the D<sub>2</sub> front arrives before or after TQ

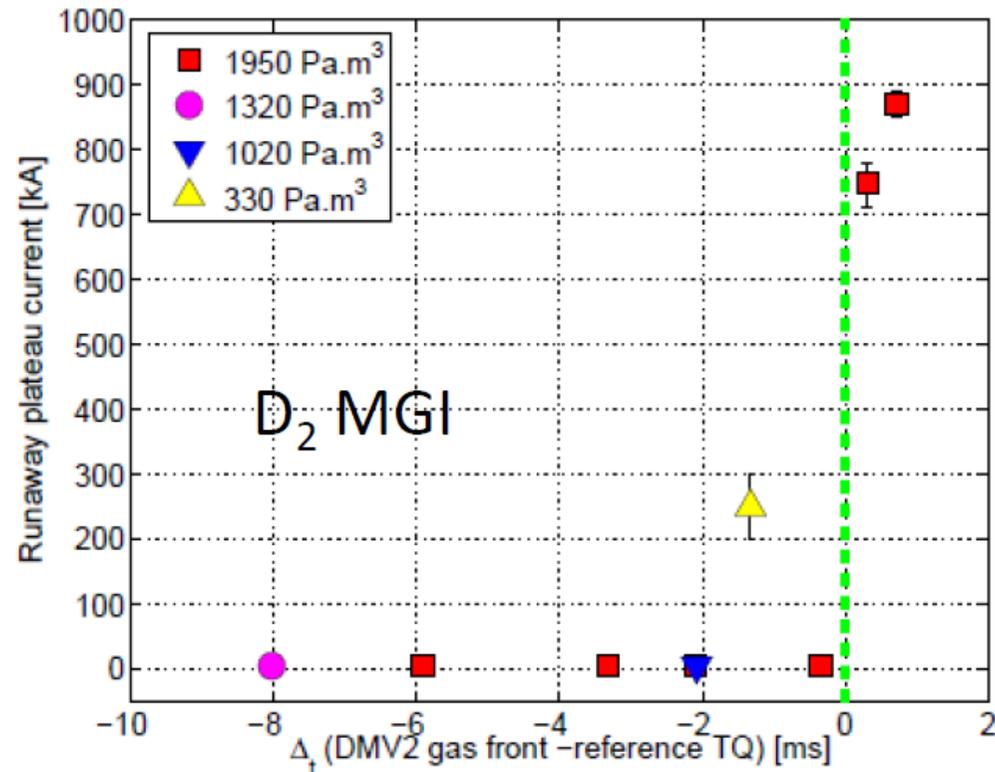


Suppression of an incoming runaway beam feasible if done before TQ

# Runaway suppression during TQ



- DMV2 timing varied with respect to DMV1-initialised disruption
- Minimum amount of gas required to achieve avoidance

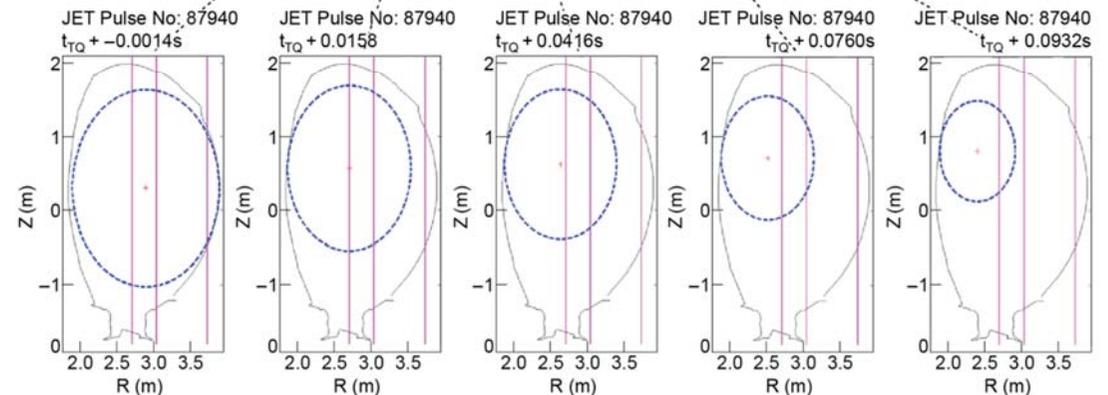
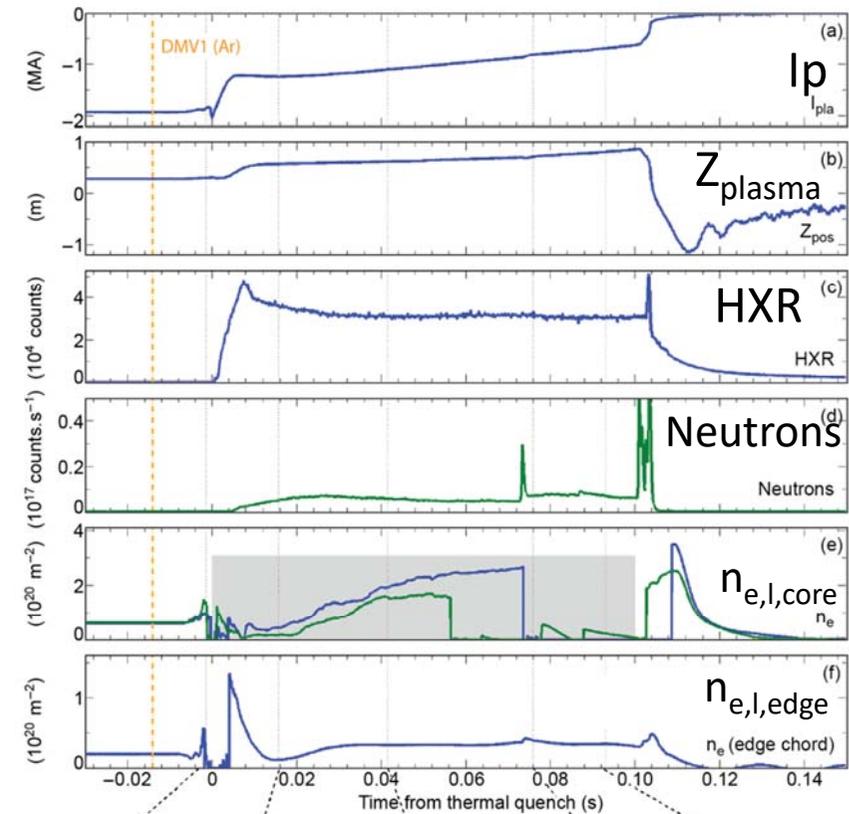


Sharp transition from complete prevention of RE-generation to full developed runaway beam

# Runaway beam studies



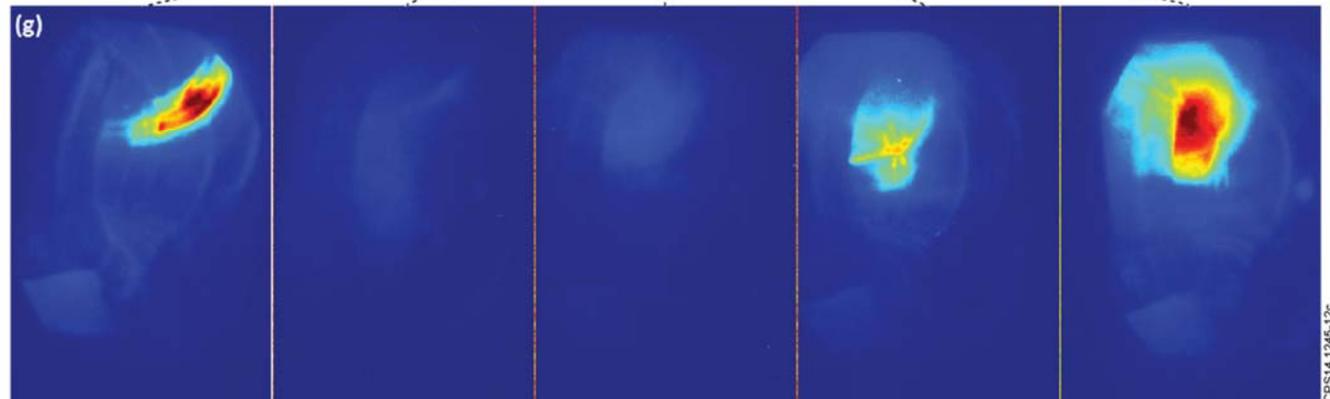
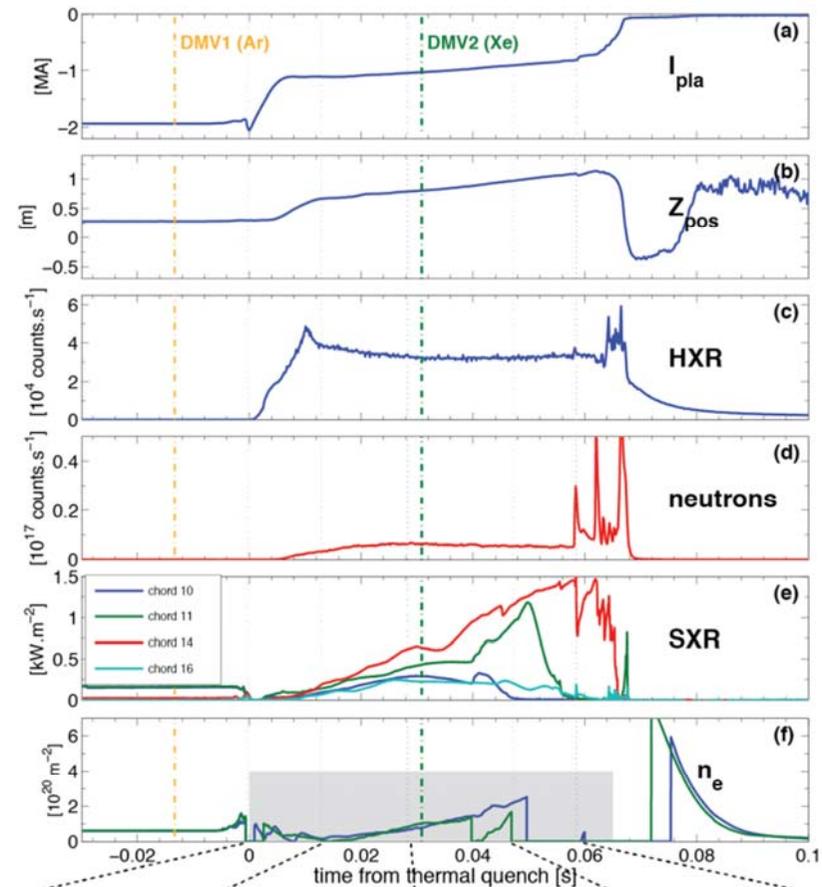
- Runaway beam created using pure argon massive gas injection at low pressure in Top,L-MGI.
  - Up to 100 ms duration with slow current decay.
- Main feature: cold background plasma in and around the beam volume
- Steadily increasing density during the beam phase until final collapse
- Not only in the confined beam region



# Runaway beam suppression after TQ



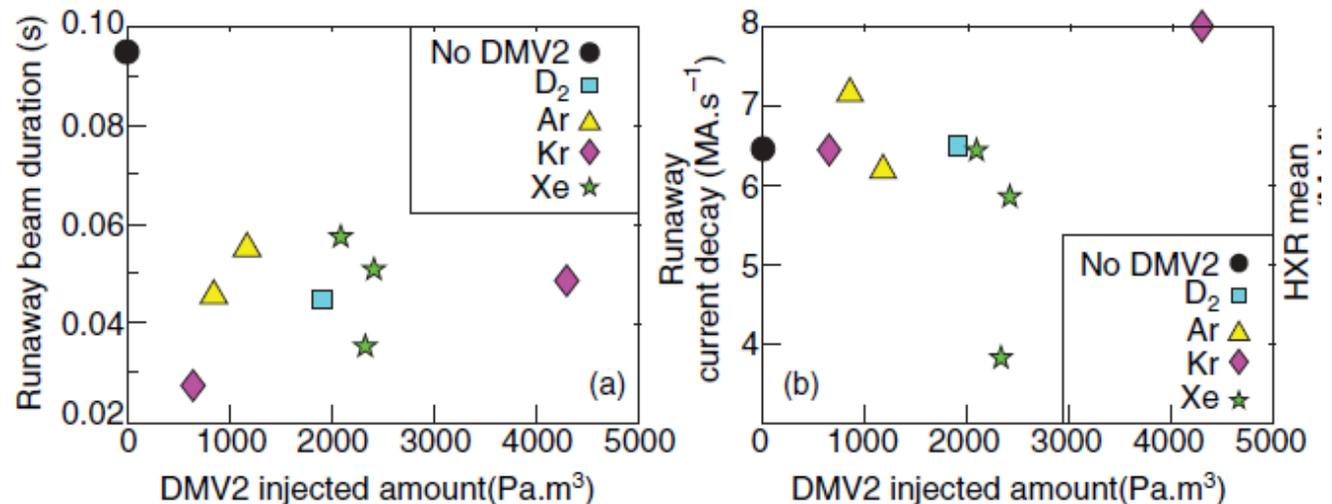
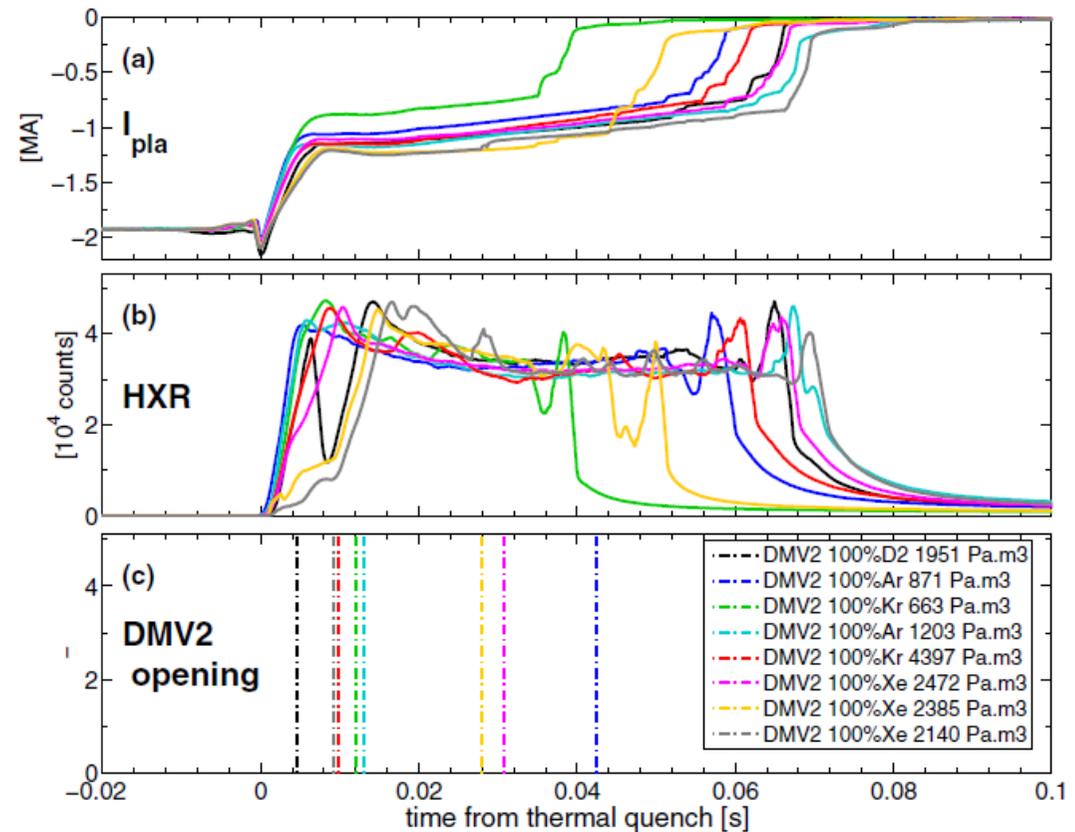
- RE beam recipe:
  - Triggered by pure Ar injection
  - Second injection (killer) during the beam phase
  - From  $\sim 870 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{m}^3$  Argon to  $2500 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{m}^3$  Xe and  $4400 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{m}^3$  Kr.
- No effect on runaway current, HXR, neutrons, SXR, background density
- Only indication that something happened: visible camera



# Runaway beam suppression after TQ - results



- **Aim:** mitigate fully accelerated RE beam
- Trigger RE-beam as before with Ar-MGI
- Fire DMV2 (mid-MGI) with Ar, Kr or Xe at maximum pressure at various times during RE-beam
- **Result:** no mitigation observed!

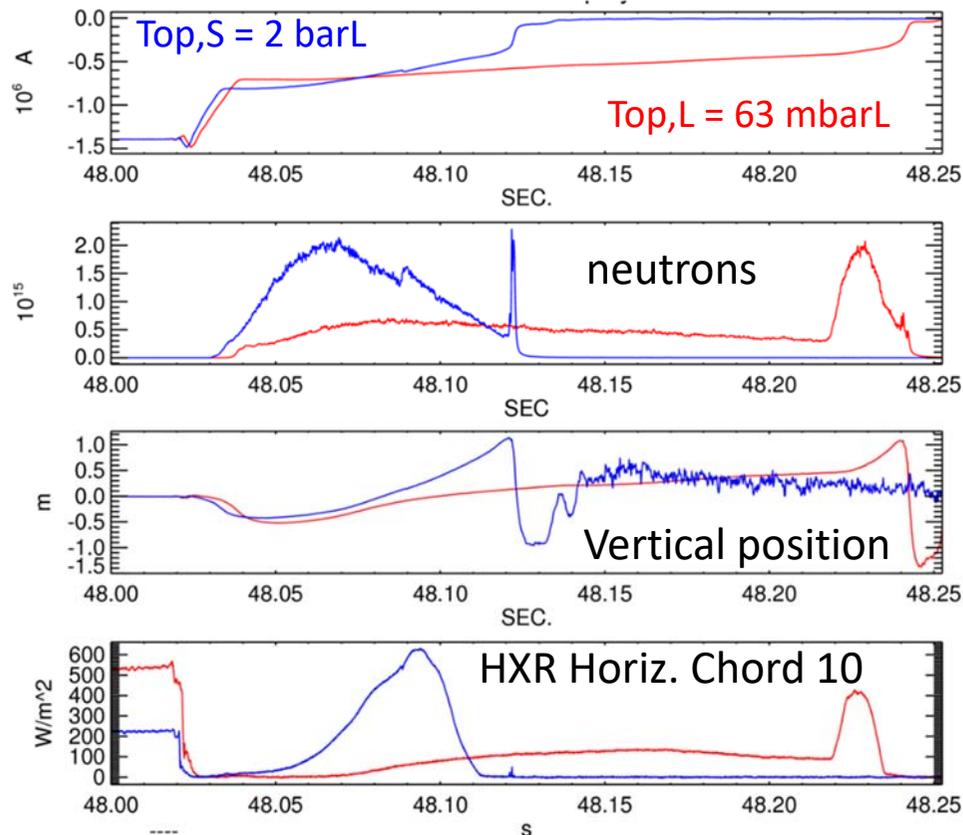


# RE-beam suppr. after TQ: Outlook



## Possible explanations for failed mitigation:

- Geometry effect (RE-beam drifts upwards away from midplane-MGI):
  - still didn't work with Top-MGI!
- DMV1 gas pressure and cold background plasma impeding DMV2 gas mixing:
  - triggered beam with very low Ar-injection:



C. Reux et al, to be published

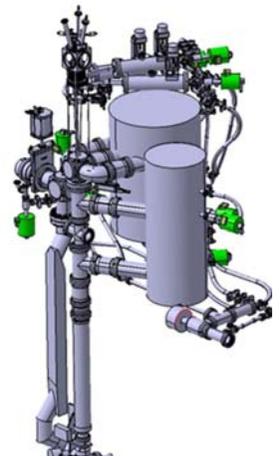
## Other techniques:

- Improved beam control: "Let them die"
- Shattered pellet injection system (SPI): to be operating in JET 2018 (IO/ORNL/EF)

## Preliminary Results!

- Longest post-disruptive runaway beam at JET-ILW with Top,S MGI (190 ms!)
- Much less gas injected to trigger the beam: possibly different generation conditions or runaway energies?
- Possible signs of enhanced mitigation with a second puff (DMV2 later in the beam phase)
- Role of the background plasma? Or RE energy ?

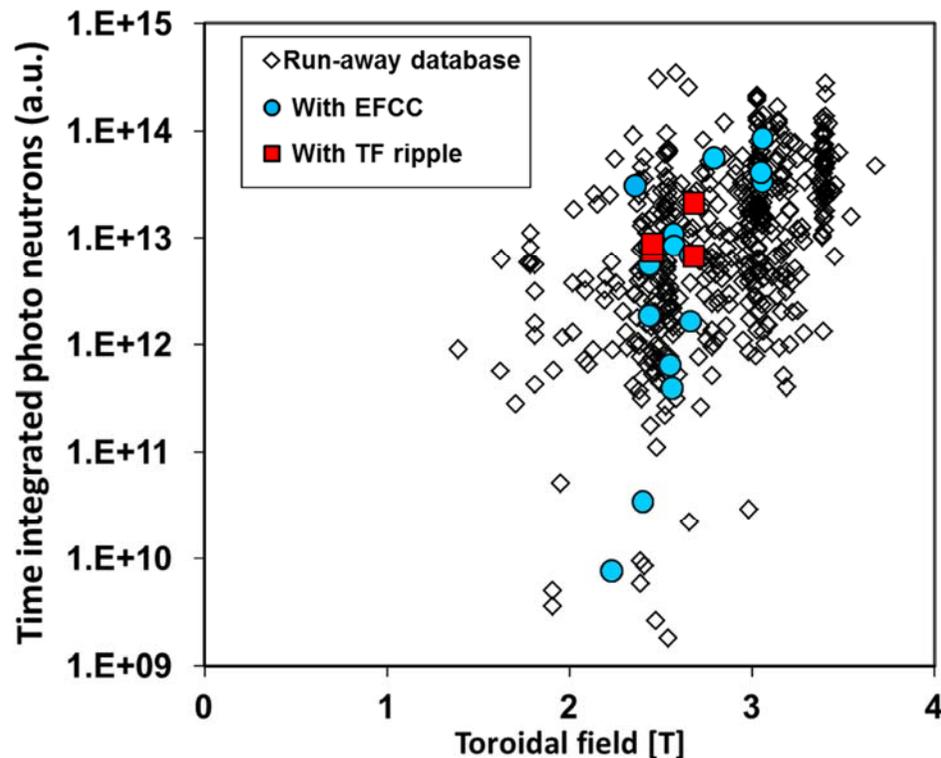
SPI at JET:





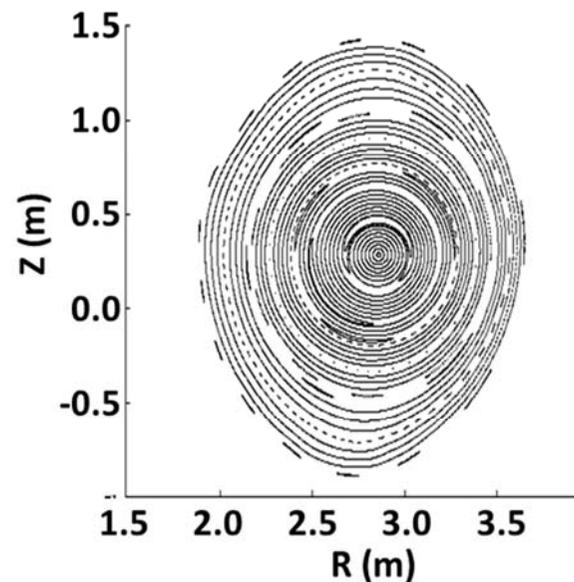
➤ In JET magnetic perturbations are inefficient in mitigating run-aways:

- EFCC and TF-ripple do not lead to a reduction of RE population in JET
- Modelling of relativistic (5-20MeV) electron particle motion predicts no stochastization of trajectories at maximum EFCC-currents.

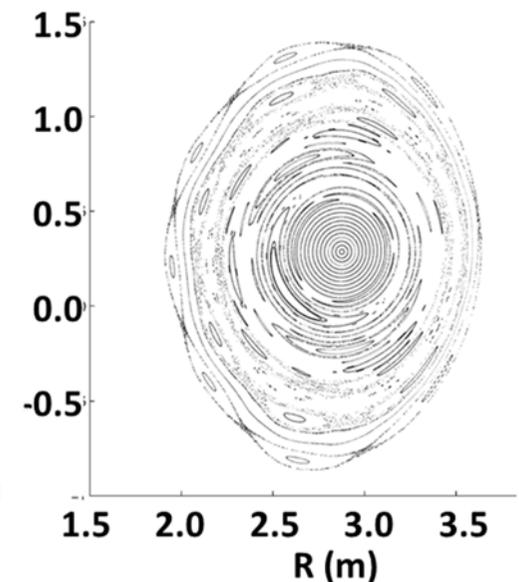


V. Riccardo, PPCF 2009

EFCC-current=48kAt:



96kAt:

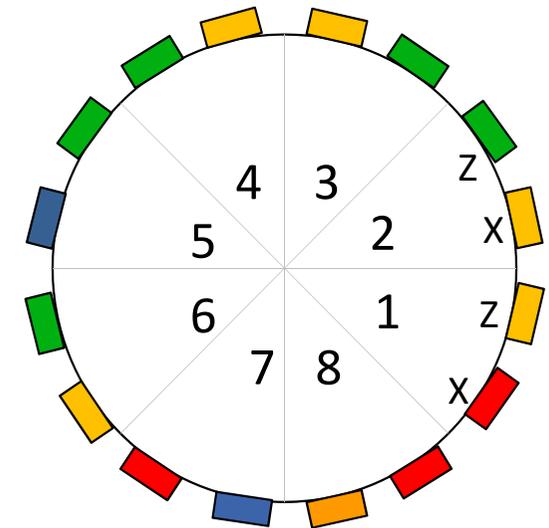
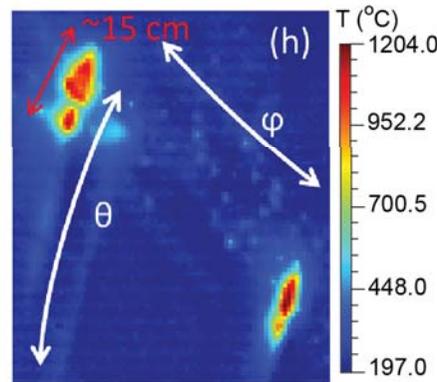
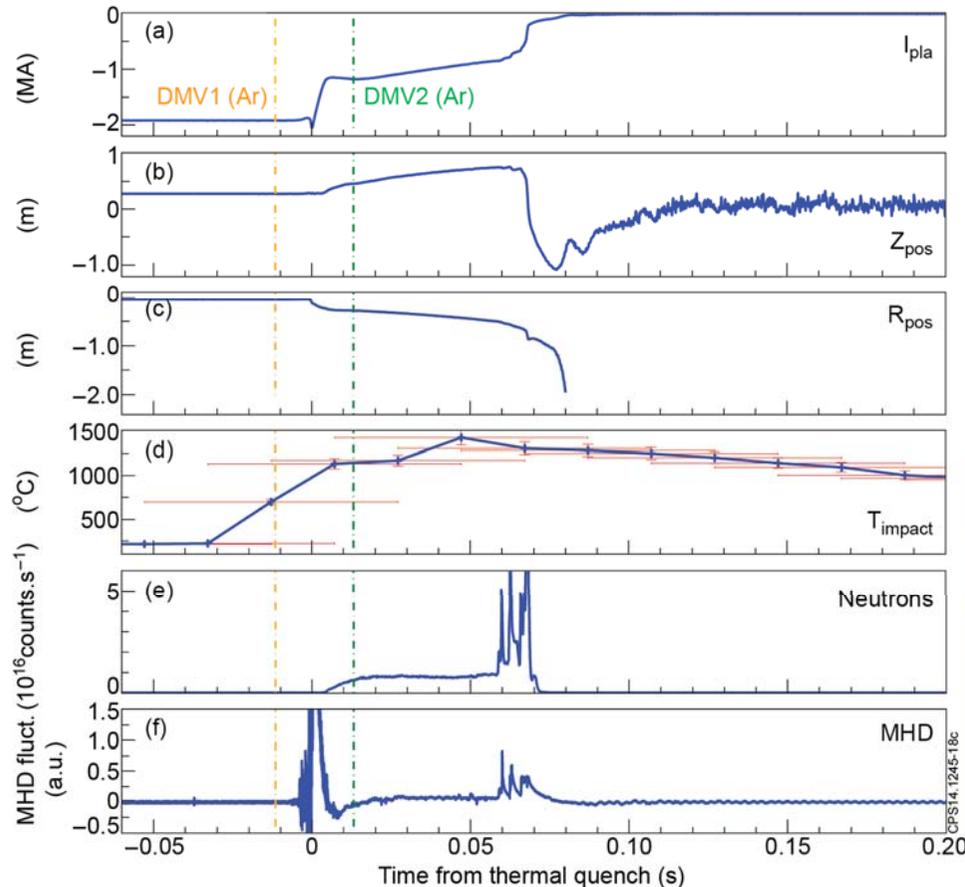


R. Paprok, PPCF 2016

# Runaway electron impact on first wall



- Most of impacts: upper part of inner wall (>melting temperature)
- Important features:
  - Tile heating starts before the final collapse
  - Toroidal asymmetrical impacts: misalignment tolerances? or MHD instabilities?



	Significant melting
	Traces of melting
	Surface alteration only
	No damage

*C. Reux et al, NF15*



## 5) Summary



- Enhanced impurity influx (tungsten) has effected root causes for disruptions and lead to higher disruption rate
- Lower wall recycling increased operational space (density limit)
- Absence of intrinsic radiator such as Carbon reduced radiated energy during disruption prolonged current quench times.
- This results in higher disruption forces and thermal loads, which could be mitigated by massive gas injection
- Less likely appearance of runaway electrons in unintentional disruptions



## Assessment of thermal and EM load mitigation scenarios:

### ➤ **Electromagnetic load mitigation:**

- No change in disruption mitigation efficiency of EM-loads has been observed for different poloidal injection location.
- Optimum injection rate for disruption force mitigation at JET is  $\sim 1.5 \cdot 10^{22}$  impurity particles.
- No difference of mitigation efficiency between Argon and Neon.

### ➤ **Heat load mitigation:**

- Radiated power fraction saturates a certain level. Our data indicate a level of around 85% (for Ar and Ne).
- At JET minimum required impurity particles before CQ:  $\sim 10^{21}$ .

## Investigation and mitigation of toroidal asymmetries:

- Toroidal peaking factors up to 1.7 have been determined for single MGI.
- Optimised dual injection can reduced radiation asymmetry factor. This might result in toroidal peaking factors down to 1.2.

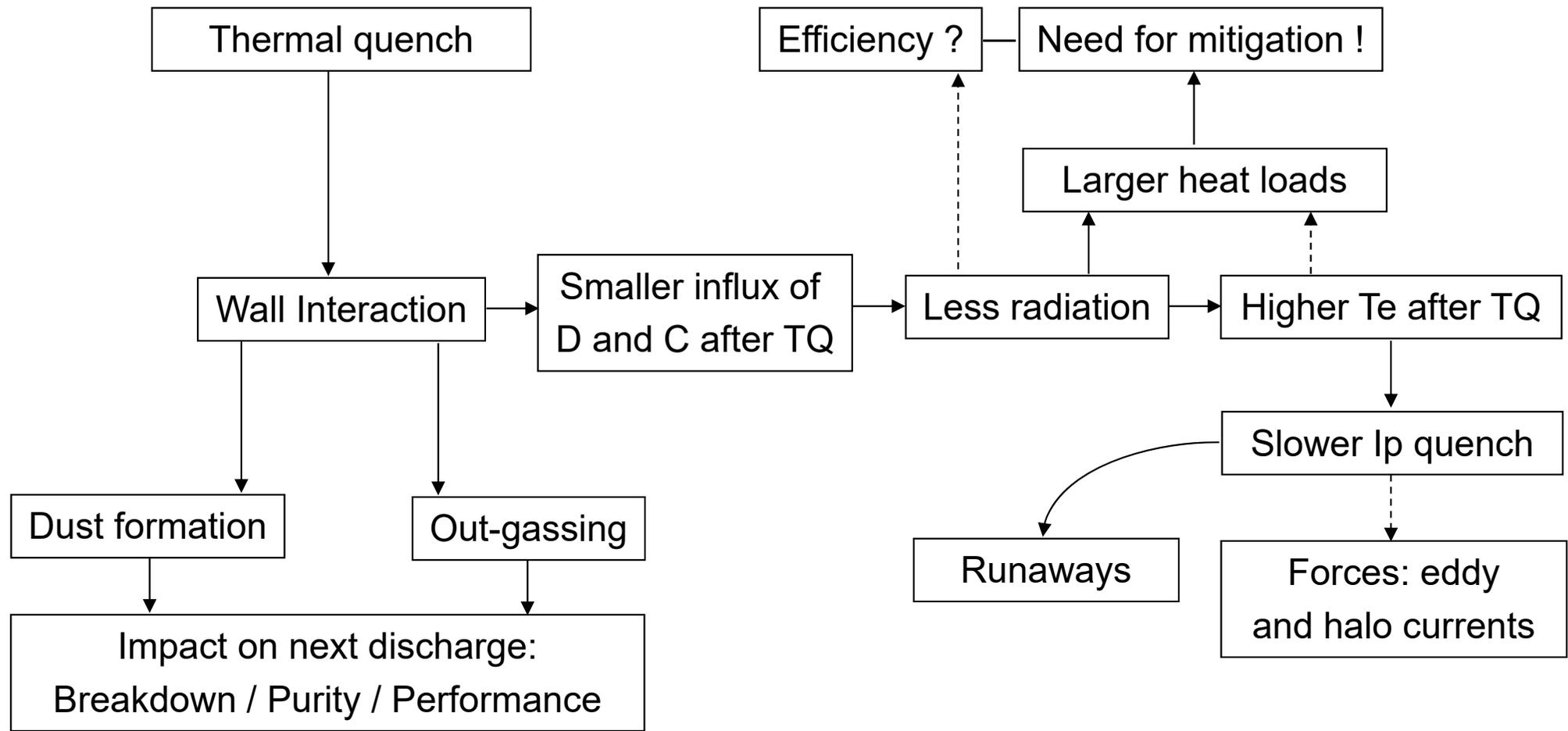


- Runaway generation depends on vertical stability
- Mitigation is possible if enough D2 is injected before TQ (primary suppression?, better mixing?)
- Mitigation was unsuccessful if done on the already developed RE beam (Kr, Xe up to 4.3kPa m<sup>3</sup>)
  - Possible explanations: background plasma, gas plume geometry, neutral pressure
- Beam termination leads to toroidal asymmetrical impacts on wall and melting of Beryllium tiles



Thank you

# Disruptions with an all-metal wall

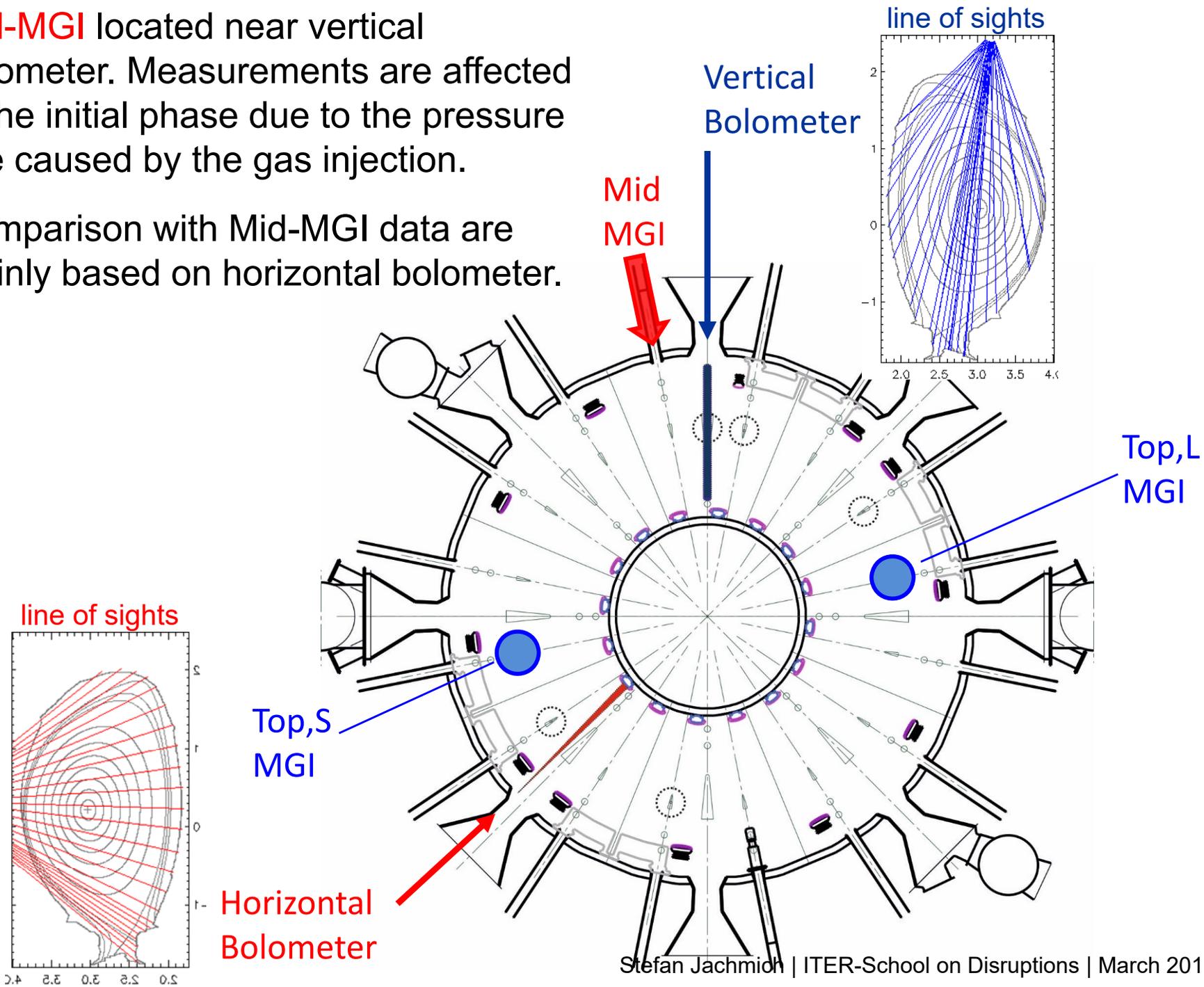


*P. de Vries, JET Science Seminar 2012*

# Diagnostic setup



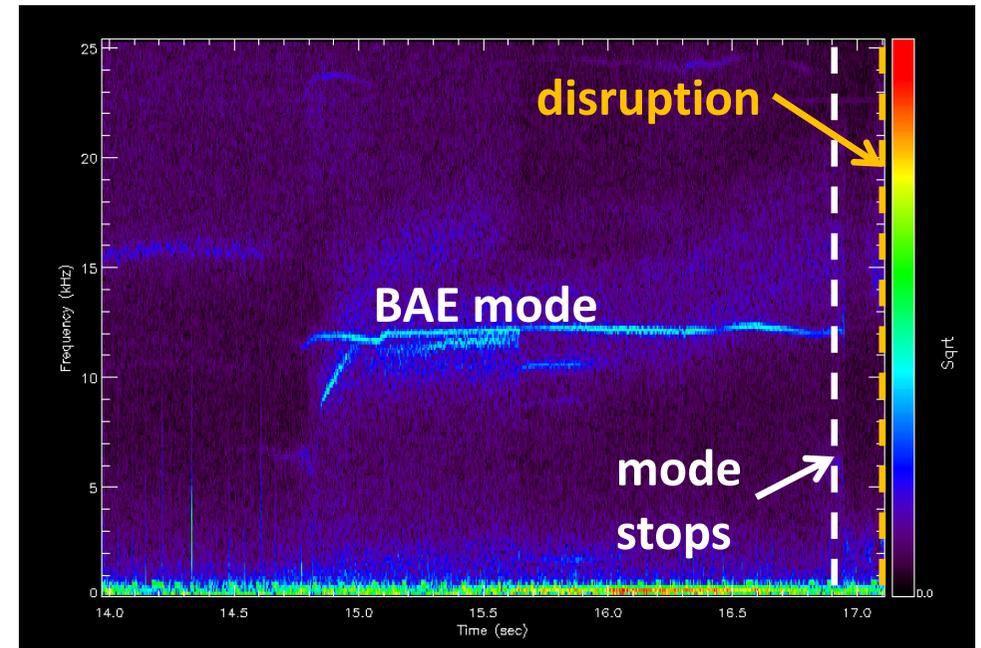
- **Mid-MGI** located near vertical bolometer. Measurements are affected in the initial phase due to the pressure rise caused by the gas injection.
- Comparison with Mid-MGI data are mainly based on horizontal bolometer.



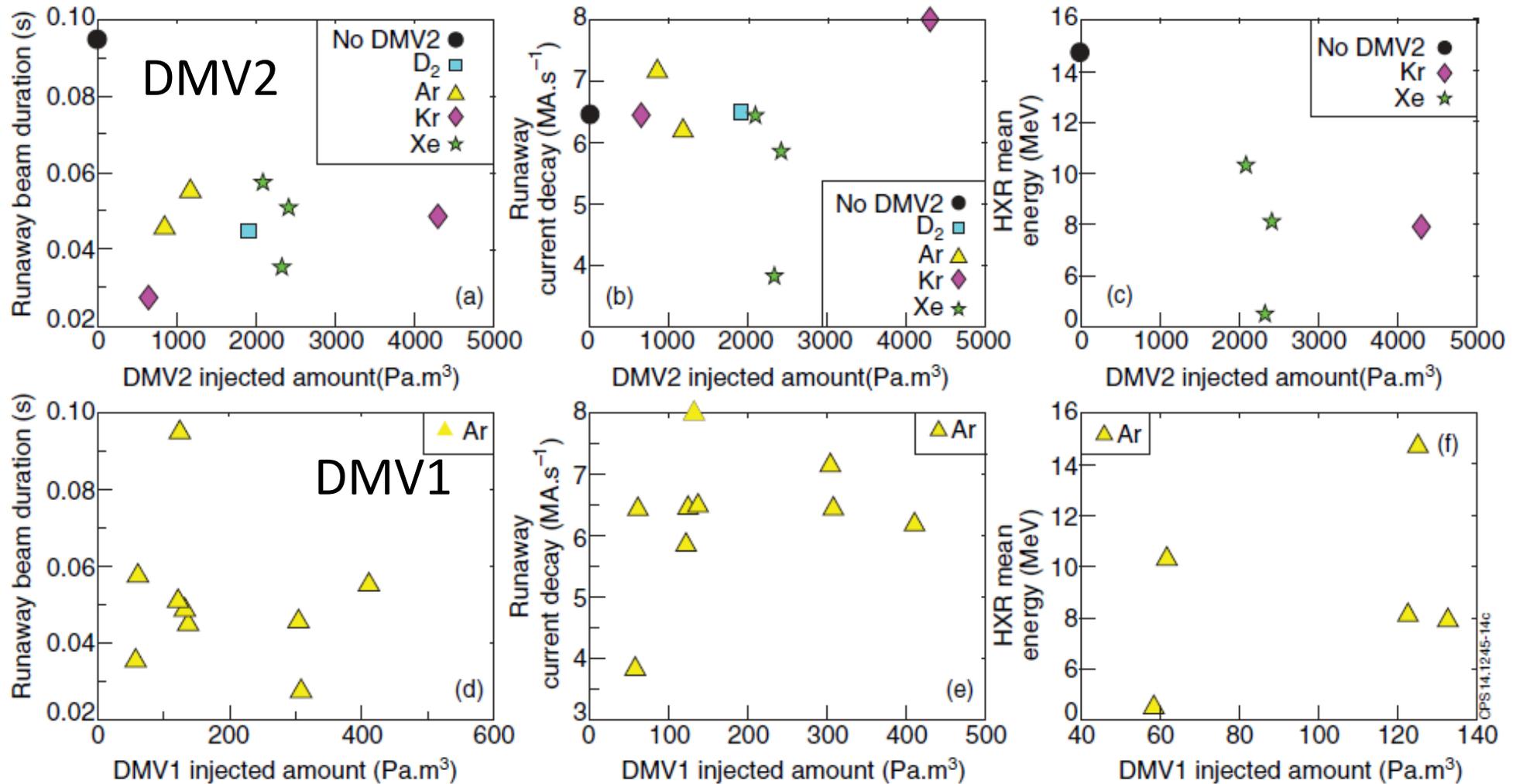
# Indicators for optimal MGI triggering



- external perturbation field fixes Beta-induced Alfvén Eigenmode (BAE) at 12kHz
- n=1 mode lock causes  $T_e$  drop  
→ BAE mode stops
- $t_{\text{BAE mode stop}} < t_{\text{disruption}}$
- if n=1 island grows too much core plasma degrades from target condition  
→ visible in ECE profile



# Runaway beam suppression after TQ



- No correlation between the DMV1/DMV2 injection scenario and the beam features (duration, slope, energy)

