

Abstract Submitted  
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**The 3/2 Magnetic Island and Its Effect on the Central Tokamak Region**<sup>1</sup> M.S. CHU, V.S. CHAN, M. CHOI, L.L. LAO, P.A. POLITZER, H.E. ST. JOHN, A.D. TURNBULL, GA, D.P. BRENNAN, MIT — In the hybrid discharge scenario in DIII-D, the central plasma evolves into a quasi-steady state without sawtooth. The central safety factor ( $q$ ) is pegged close to 1 and correlates with the development of a rotating 3/2 magnetic island [1]. The causal relationship between the 3/2 island and the non-sawtoothed discharge is investigated. Equilibria modeling the discharge with different central  $q$  are analyzed using the PEST-III stability code. The 3/2 island is found to develop a 2/2 side-band with increasing amplitude as the central  $q$  approaches 1. This near resonant Alfvén wave propagates with enhanced phase speed relative to the background plasma. With sufficient phase speed, the 2/2 side-band could drive currents which impede the further decrease in  $q$  to trigger the sawtooth. The central 2/2 side-band does not lead to appreciable enhanced trapping of the plasma; but does modify the trajectory of the trapped particles and lead to additional transport.

[1] P.A. Politzer, et al., 32nd EPS Conf. on Plasma Physics, Tarragona, Spain (2005).

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M.S. Chu

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