Geodesic Acoustic Mode Measurements in DIII-D

J.C. HILLESHEIM, W.A. PEEBLES, T.A. CARTER, T.L. RHODES, L. SCHMITZ, UCLA, DIII-D TEAM — Geodesic acoustic modes (GAMs) are nonlinearly driven, axisymmetric \( (m = 0, n = 0) \) \( E \times B \) flows, which may play an important role in establishing the saturated level of turbulence in tokamaks. Doppler backscattering (DBS) measures the flow of turbulent structures and the level of intermediate-\( k \) \( (k_\perp \rho_s \sim 1 - 4) \) density fluctuations. Measurements have been made with multichannel DBS systems at toroidal locations separated by 180°. Both linear characteristics of the mode and its nonlinear interactions have been studied. Observations include cases where the GAM exists as a persistent mesoscale structure, coherent over \( \sim 1/3 \) of the minor radius; measurements in repeat shots indicate a poloidal dependence of the GAM’s radial wavenumber; and bicoherence analysis between the toroidally separated DBS systems has revealed a relationship between the GAM and low frequency zonal flows.

\(^1\)Supported by the US Department of Energy under DE-FG02-08ER54984, DE-FG03-01ER54615, and DE-FC02-04ER54698.

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Date submitted: 19 Jul 2010

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