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FPIC Study of the n=1 Toroidal Mode in FRC Plasmas

FRANCESCO CECCHERINI, SEAN DETTRICK , DAN BARNES , LAURA GALEOTTI, TriAlpha Energy, Rancho Santa Margarita, TAE TEAM — The near term goal of TAE's experiments is to sustain through the use of neutral beam heating and edge biasing an advanced beam-driven FRC for many milliseconds, i.e., well beyond the growth times of common instabilities. Here we apply FPIC, a quasineutral hybrid code with fully kinetic ions, to study the growth rate of the n=1 mode and related kinetic effects versus different equilibrium parameters in configurations of interest for upcoming TAE's experiments. In particular we address how the n=1 growth rate scales versus S^*/E and E . The mode strength is computed taking into account a full 3D mode decomposition of the FRC separating the physically distinct contributions, namely tilt, radial shift and interchange modes and we study the role of each one of them.

Francesco Ceccherini
TriAlpha Energy, Rancho Santa Margarita

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