





Magnetic dust mobilization in FTU.

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Layout of the presentation

- BACKGROUND aspects about magnetic dust in tokamaks;
- EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE;
- EVIDENCE of the presence of dust lifted up prior to the beginning of discharges;
- DISCUSSION on the experimental evidence;
- EVALUATION of the possible impacts of the presence of flying dust prior to the beginning of discharges in tokamaks;
- CONCLUSIONS

Background

Magnetic dust has already been observed in tokamaks (Globus-M ~10 wt%, Textor ~15 wt%, Alcator C-Mod, DIII-D) and in particular in FTU ~30 wt% [1].

To date:

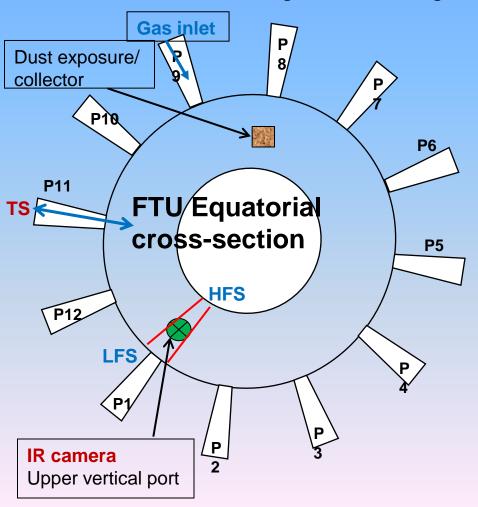
- Dust dynamic has been studied only during plasma discharges
 (exception: in DIII-D they accidently observed, in one occasion, dust
 moving in the vessel 300ms prior to plasma, no clear explanation [2]).
- Dust is believed to be lifted up and mobilized only by plasma drag forces or by severe thermal shocks.
- Nobody takes into account dust presence prior to the formation of a proper plasma discharge.
- Previous hypothesis: possible effects of the presence of dust during the plasma start-up have been proposed by J. Winter [3,4] since 1998.
- [1] M. De Angeli, L. Laguardia, G. Maddaluno, et al., Nucl. Fusion 55 (2015) 123005.
- [2] D.L. Rudakov, A. Litnovsky, et al., Nucl. Fusion 49 (2009) 085022.
- [3] J. Winter, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 40 (1998) 1201.
- [4] J. Winter, Phys. Plasmas 7 (2000) 3862.

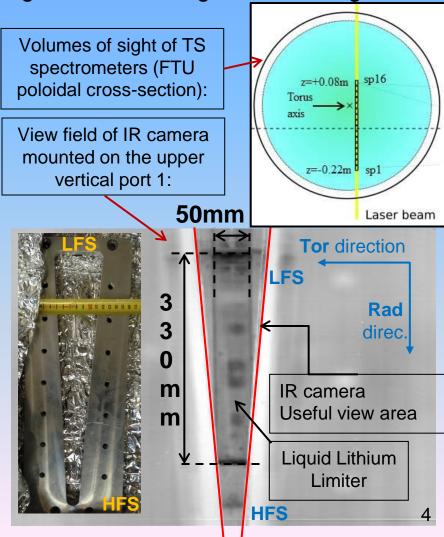
Experimental layout

- TS (Port 11) dust signal acquired during Zero-discharges and with anticipated trigger at -0.5s;
- IR camera (port 1 up) dust images acquired with anticipated trigger at -2s;

Exposure of samples with pre-deposited magnetic dust during zero-discharges;

Dust collection during zero discharges.





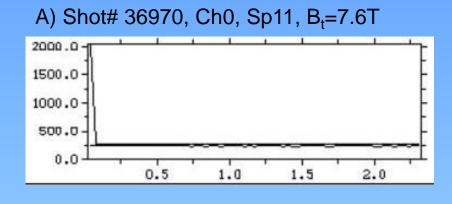
Evidence of the presence of

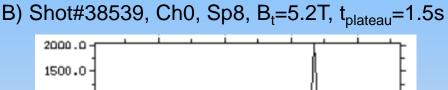
mobilised dust, prior to

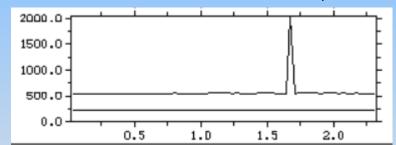
plasma discharges, in FTU

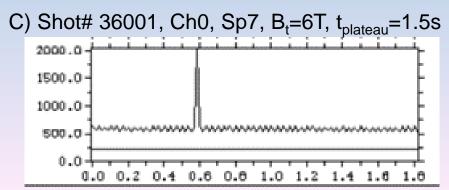
TS spectra acquired during zero-discharges

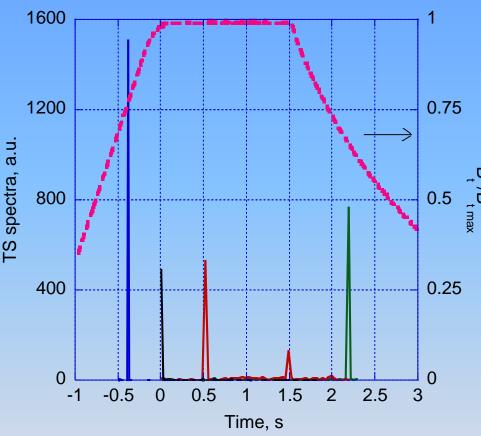
(~20% events found over 597 zero-discharges analysed between 2007 and 2015)









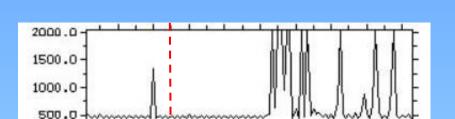


TS spectra showing the presence of dust in Zero-discharges (black, red and green peaks) and prior to plasma discharges (blue peak).

TS spectra, anticipated trigger @ -0.5s

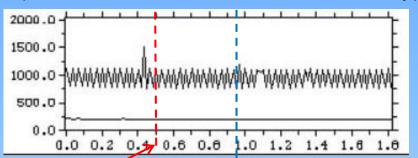
(5 events found over 114 discharges acquired)

A) Shot# 40713 (Soft Stop RE), Ch 0, Sp 4.



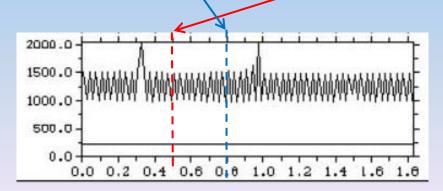
0.2 0.4 0.6 0.6 1.0 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.6

B) Shot# 40737 (disr @0.46s), Ch 0, Sp 8 (see next slide and IR cam. summary).

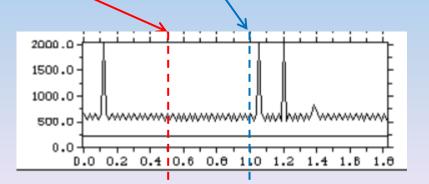


t=0 plasma discharge

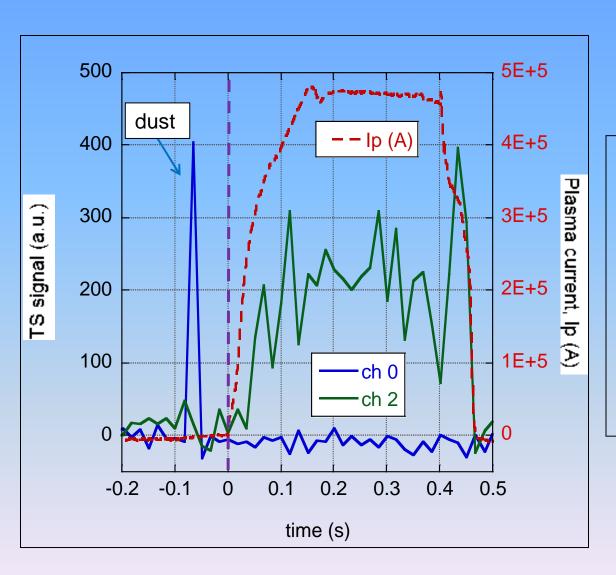
C) Shot# 40780 (disr @0.3s), Ch 0, Sp 6.



D) Shot# 40792 (disr @0.5s), Ch 0, Sp 5.



Example of post-processed TS spectra



bust grain remobilized prior to the beginning of the plasma discharge in shot #40737 (disruption at t = 0:46s), B_t at plateau 4T.

Ch 0: laser wavelenght;

Ch 2: shifted wavelenght (i.e. proportional to plasma density).

Estimated dust density by TS

Experime ntal campaign	# Zero- disc analysed	# Zero- disc with dust	% of Zero- disc with dust	Estimated dust density, cm ⁻³
F07 (1)	3	2	-	-
S08 (1)	3	2	-	-
F08	14	1	7.1%	5.3E-03
S 09	82	13	15.9%	8.2E-03
F09	34	7	20.6%	6.6E-03
S10	16	6	37.5%	2.8E-02
F10 (¹)	7	2	28.6%	1.8E-02
S11	79	27	34.2%	1.9E-02
F11	TS not	available	-	-
S12	18	1	5.6%	2.2E-03
F12	82	12	14.6%	5.9E-03
S 13	TS not	available	-	-
F13	79	24	30.4%	1.6E-02
S14	53	13	24.5%	1.5E-02
F14	27	1	3.7%	1.9E-03
S15	100	12	12%	6.6E-03
F15	TS not	available	-	-
Total:	597	123	20.6%	

Dust density [5]:

$$N_{d} = \frac{N_{grains}}{N_{s}N_{las}V_{TS}} \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

N_{grains}: total dust grains detected;

 N_s : total discharges analysed; N_{las} : laser shots per discharge;

 V_{TS} : TS volume of scattering ≈ 0.3 cm³.

Hypotheses for formula applicability:

i) any dust grain in the scattering volume, during a laser shot, is detected;ii) dust is uniformly present in the whole chamber volume.

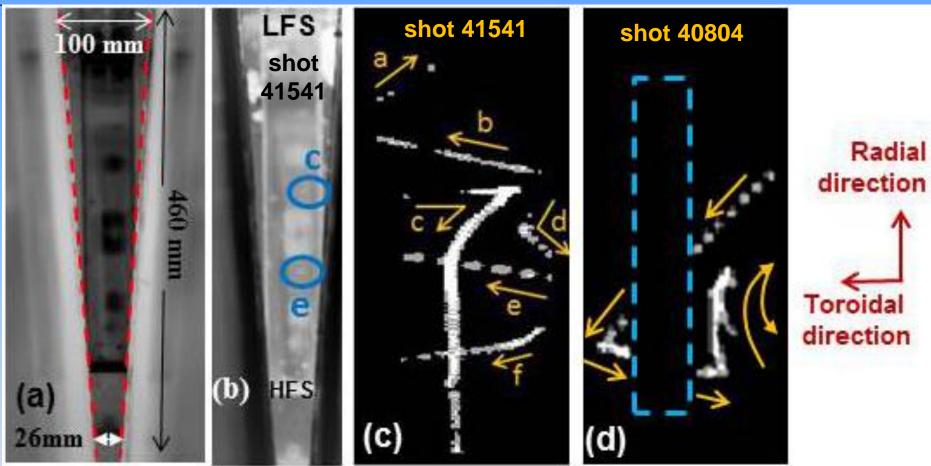
Discharges with TS trigger at t= -0.5 s:

Disch Analysed in 2016	# disch with dust	Estimated dust density, cm ⁻³			
114	5	6.9E-03			

⁽¹⁾ = TS not available for several *Zero*-discharges.

Dust in IR camera images, trigger @ t=-2s

FLIR SC7500 with a **resolution** ~ **1.6 mm/px**.



Examples of dust remobilized *prior to* the beginning of discharges. (a) IR-camera view fled inside FTU torus; (b) raw IR camera frame at t = -804.8 ms of **shot 41541**; (c) processed frames with 6 grains trajectories in **shot 41541**. Camera rate: 604 frames/s; integration time: $643 \mu s$; (d) processed frames showing the **trajectory of a grain entrapped inside the port duct** from t = -840.6 ms to t = -343.8 ms in **shot 40804**.

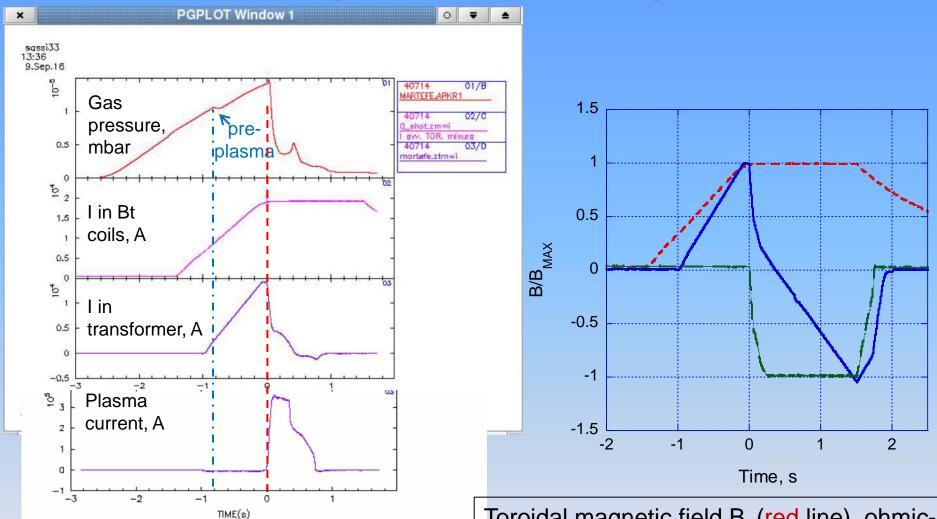
IR camera observation, summary table

Numbers of discharges with dust: 14 over 100 analysed (with and w/o warm LLL inserted):

	•		
∆t dust, ms	B _t , T	2D V _{dust} , m/s	Direction
-877 → -872	1.75	16.4	Т
-21 → +8	~4	36.9	R
-23 → -18	~4	9.05	Т
-3 → +3	~4	10.6	R
-13 → +5	4.7	11.8	R
-26	2.95	32.5	Т
-7 → +22	~4	5.4	Т
-840 → -344	1.8-3.33	N/A	N/A
-1084 → -1066	1.17	0.7	Т
-978 → -968	1.4	<<1	Т
-2	4	-	
- 2→ + 2	5.3	<<1	R
-877→ -606	2.2-3.2	N/A	N/A
-1000→ -572	1.7-3.4	~1	R
	$-877 \rightarrow -872$ $-21 \rightarrow +8$ $-23 \rightarrow -18$ $-3 \rightarrow +3$ $-13 \rightarrow +5$ -26 $-7 \rightarrow +22$ $-840 \rightarrow -344$ $-1084 \rightarrow -1066$ $-978 \rightarrow -968$ -2 $-2 \rightarrow +2$ $-877 \rightarrow -606$	-877 → -872	$-877 \rightarrow -872$ 1.75 16.4 $-21 \rightarrow +8$ ~4 36.9 $-23 \rightarrow -18$ ~4 9.05 $-3 \rightarrow +3$ ~4 10.6 $-13 \rightarrow +5$ 4.7 11.8 -26 2.95 32.5 $-7 \rightarrow +22$ ~4 5.4 $-840 \rightarrow -344$ 1.8-3.33 N/A $-1084 \rightarrow -1066$ 1.17 0.7 $-978 \rightarrow -968$ 1.4 <<1 -2 4 - $-2 \rightarrow +2$ 5.3 <<1 $-877 \rightarrow -606$ 2.2-3.2 N/A

(*) trajectories shown in previous slide.

Magnetic fields timing



Magnetic field evolution diagram, along with plasma current and neutral gas pressure, for discharge #40714 (disrupted).

Toroidal magnetic field B_t (red line), ohmictransformer field B_{trans} (blue line), and vertical field B_v (green line) in a typical FTU plasma discharge. In *Zero*-discharges B_{trans} and B_v are set to zero.

Limiting factors during the investigation

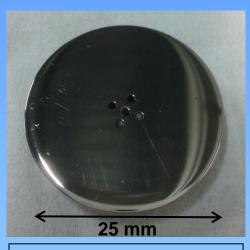
IR camera:

- Focusing: particles out of focus are not detected.
- Thermalized particles: particles at same temperature than the background are not detected.
- Shine by «pre-plasma»: in general, particles are visible after pre-plasma is established (from t~ -1s).
 No particles are visible during pure magnetic discharges (i.e. during
 - zero-discharges).
- Resolution: the resolution of the IR camera (~1.6 mm/pixel) inhibits the detection of small grains.

TS:

- Space: TS acquire signals ONLY if a dust pass through its view volume;
- · Memory limit: for acquisitions with anticipated trigger;
- Sampling frequency: 30Hz for each laser (2 lasers).

Exposure of magnetic dust in Zero-discharge

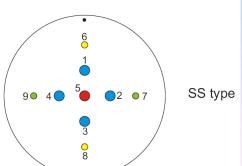


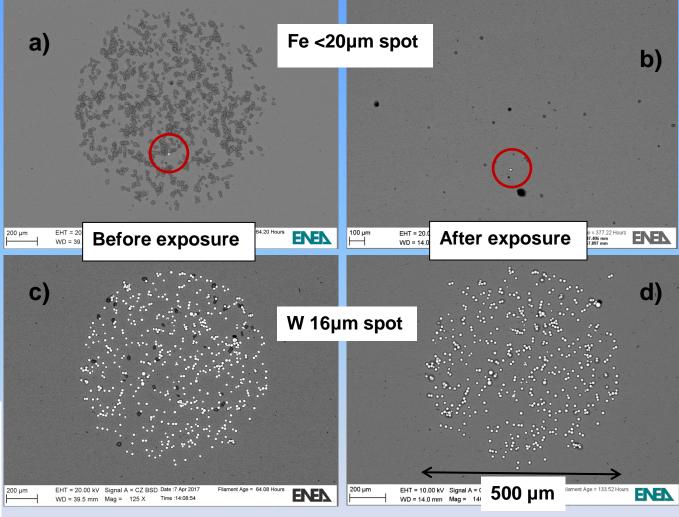
Sample with magnetic dust spots exposed to shots 42176 (Zero) and 42177 (only B_t, B_{trasf}, B_v).

Spots layout

Spots 1-2-3-4: Fe 53 -180 μ m (non spherical) Spot 5 : Mo > 63 μ m (spherical) Spots 6-8 : Fe < 20 μ m (non spherical) Spots 7-9 : W 16 μ m (spherical)

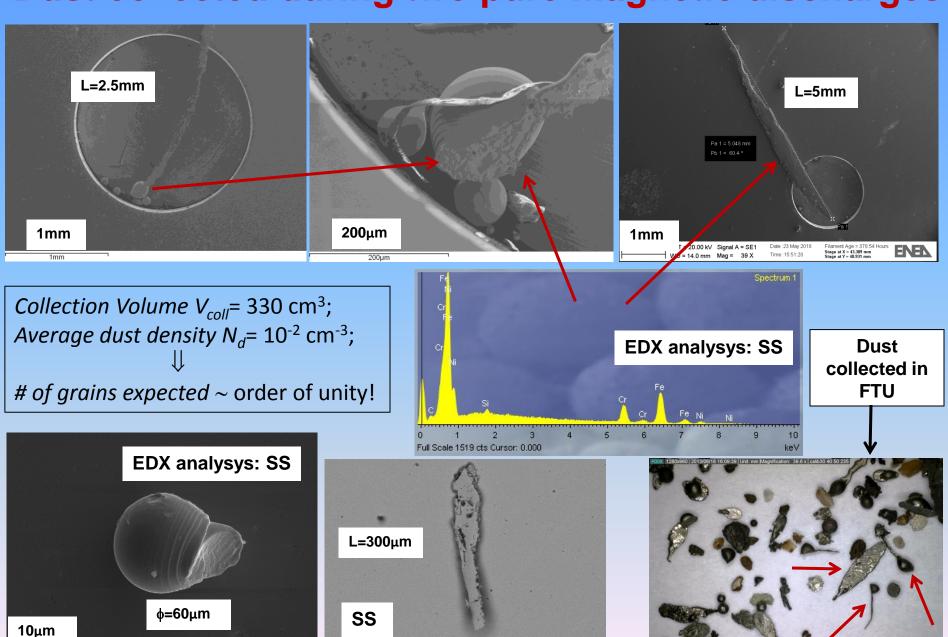
nots 1-2-3-4-5 on the flat bottom of 0.5 mm deep holes: Snots 6-7-8-9 on the sample surface





Electron backscattered images of Fe (dark grains) and W (white grains) spots before (a and c) and after (b and d) exposure.

Dust collected during two pure magnetic discharges



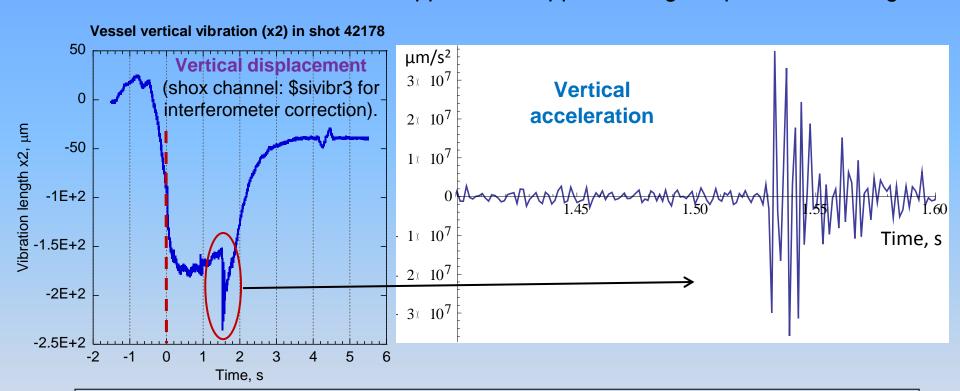
EHT = 20.00 kV Signal A = CZ BSD Date :23 May 2018

EHT = 20.00 kV Signal A = SE1

Discussion on the experimental evidence

Vessel vibration

During discharges, the vessel is subject to vibrations. They may induce dust remobilization. The maximum *vertical* acceleration for regular and disrupted discharges has been evaluated. The worst case appears to happen for regular plasma discharges.



Shot 42178, plasma Ok, B_t=5.3T. Left: vertical vibration displacement (x2); right: magnification between t=1.40-1.60s of the acceleration strength (x2).

The Maximum value of the (vertical) acceleration strength in shot 42178 (Ok discharge) is: ~16 m/s² ~1.5 g m/s² at the END of the discharge!

This example well represent FTU vibrations during plasma discharges.

What could lift up and remove dust before discharge?

- X Gas puffing:
- purified gas filtered by nm size filter; no dust puffed directly into the vessel.
- D₂ gas pressure during pre-fills ~10⁻⁵ mbar ⇒ m.f.p. λ≈10m, molecular regime!
- dust observed by TS during zero-discharges without any gas puffing!

X Electric field induced by coils during B ramp-up (dl/dt ~15kA/s).

- F_E at $E=V_{loop}/L_t\sim 2-3$ V/m (toroidally directed!) << F_{vdW} , not enough to lift up dust (e.g.: $F_{E lift-up}$ 20kV/cm normal directed to lifting up spherical dust with $D_d\sim 100$ µm).
- No B_{transf} during zero-discharges.

X Pre-plasma:

• too weak. No pre-plasma during zero-discharges.

X Vessel vibrations:

• pulsed force of the order of g, i.e. $F_{pulse} \approx F_g < F_{vdW}$ for grains with $D_d < 650 \mu m$. The higher pulse strength is observed at the end of regular plasma discharges.

✓ Magnetic field:

- B field can lift up spherical grains if $F_{\rm B}$ ($\propto D_d^3$) > F_g ($\propto D_d^3$), $F_{\rm vdW}$ ($\propto D_d$); Example: for spherical iron grains at B_t \sim 5T \Rightarrow $F_{\rm B}$ > $F_{\rm vdW}$ for D_d > 70 μ m.
- Trapped particle in <u>BEFORE the beginning of the discharge</u> shows a curved trajectory.
- \Rightarrow Only magnetic field force F_B can mobilize dust before plasma discharges!

Forces strength evaluation for spherical Fe grains

Magnetic force:

$$F_B = \mu \cdot \nabla B$$
, $B = B_r(r,z)\mathbf{e}_r + B_{\varphi}(r)\mathbf{e}_{\varphi} + B_z(r,z)\mathbf{e}_z \Rightarrow$

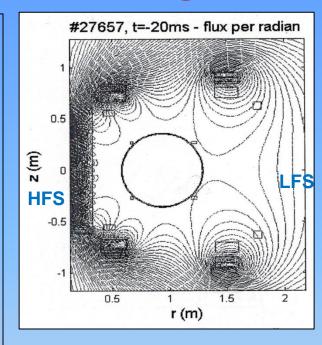
$$F_r = \mu_r \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial r} + \mu_z \frac{\partial B_r}{\partial z} - \mu_\varphi \frac{B_\varphi}{r}$$

$$F_\varphi = \mu_\varphi \frac{B_r}{r} + \mu_r \frac{\partial B_\varphi}{\partial r}$$

$$F_z = \mu_r \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial r} + \mu_z \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial z}$$

 $\mu_r = \mu_{\varphi} = \mu_z \approx \frac{1}{6} \pi D_d^3 M_{s0} \Rightarrow F_B \propto D_d^3$; μ magnetic permeability;

 D_d dust grain diameter; M_{s0} residual magnetisation at 0K.



Adhesion force:

Statistical nature depending on the surface roughness; good approssimated by *van der Waals* formula:

$$F_{vdW} = \frac{A}{12Z_0^2} D_d$$
, A=3.8x10⁻¹⁹J Hamaker constant for Fe, z_0 =0.4nm.

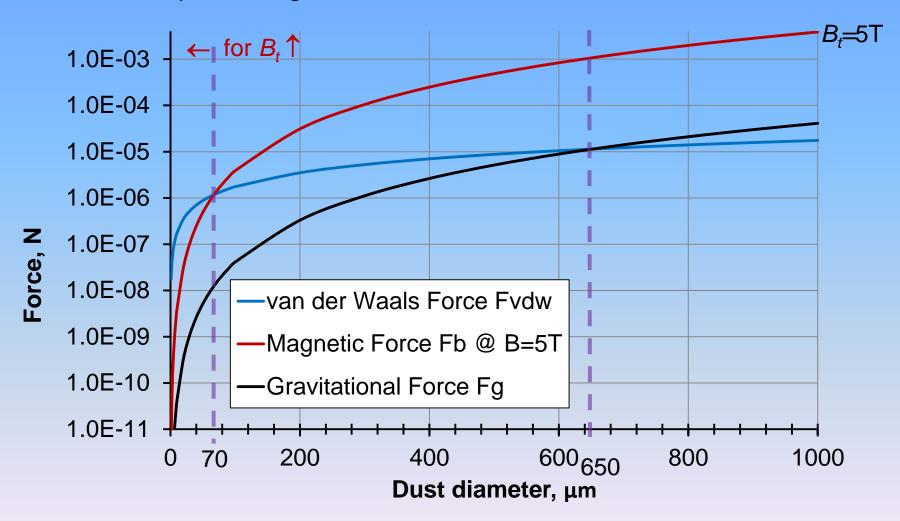
Gravitational force:

 $F_g = m_d g \propto D_d^3$, m_d dust grain mass, g gravitational acceleration.

Example: Fe spherical grain D_d =100 μ m at B_t =5T \Rightarrow F_B = 3.9 μ N; F_{vdW} =1.7 μ N; F_g =4.1 \times 10⁻² μ N

Forces evaluation

 F_g gravitational force; F_{vdW} adhesion force (van der Waals); F_B magnetic force (@ B_t =5T) vs dust diameter for spherical Fe grains:



Impact of remobilized dust,

prior to the beginning of

plasma discharges, on

tokamaks operations

Breakdown phase

Breakdown by *Townsend* model, rearranged in tokamaks geometry applying *Loeb Meek streamer criterion* [6,7], can describe the electron valance process by the following equation:

$$dN_e = (\alpha - \beta)N_e dx \implies N_e = n_0 e^{(\alpha - \beta)x}$$

for uniform coefficients, where α is the primary ionizing collisions coefficient per unit length; β is the attachment collisions coeff., per unit length, on <u>impurity ions or dust</u>.

$$\alpha = Ap_g e^{\left(-Bp_g/E\right)}$$
 and $\beta = N_d \left\langle \sigma_{e,d} v \right\rangle / u_e$

where A,B are experimental coeff.; E is the loop electric field; N_d the dust density.

Example of FTU conditions for a standard discharges:

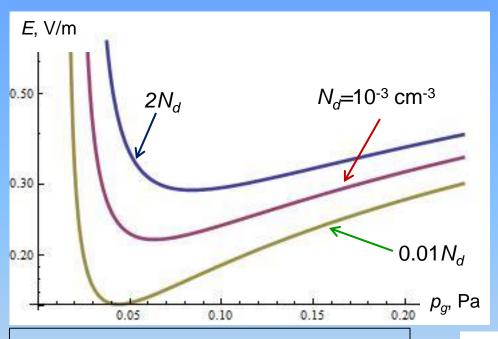
$$D_2$$
 gas at $p_g \approx 10^{-3}$ Pa; $T_g = 300$ K; $N_d \sim 10^{-3}$ cm⁻³, $E \approx 1$ V/m \Rightarrow $A = 1.91$ m⁻¹Pa⁻¹; $B = 25.97$ V m⁻¹Pa⁻¹

we can draw a gas discharge condition diagram.

[6] A. Pedersen, IEEE Transactions on Power Systems **86(2)** (1967) 200.

[7] L.B. Loeb, J.M. Meek, The Mechanism of the Electric Spark Stanford University Press 1941.

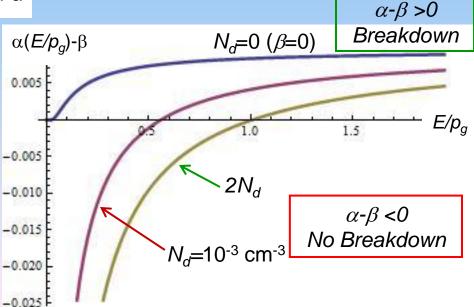
Breakdown phase diagrams



⇒ The presence of dust affects the electron density (depleting numbers of free electrons) leading to a shift in the Paschen's curve!

Plot of the breakdown electric field E vs. p_g (Paschen law), with dust effect, at different dust densities.

Plot of the effective avalanche rate $\alpha(E/p_g)$ - β at different dust densities. The intercept gives the critical E/p_g minimum value for breakdown.



Current ramp-up phase

The physical problem of the transformation from the *avalanche discharge* to the *inductive current rise*, consists in determining the time constant of the transformation, τ_b , and of the corresponding typical value of the current and its scaling with the main parameters of the early discharge state [8]. These parameters depend on the *condition of the avalanche* (Pedersen-Meek condition) and on the *avalanche rate* which is affected by the electron "attachment" rate to dust

$$I_{p<}(t) = I_0 \left(e^{\frac{t}{\tau_b}} - 1\right)$$
 where $\tau_b^{-1} = (\alpha - \beta)u_e$

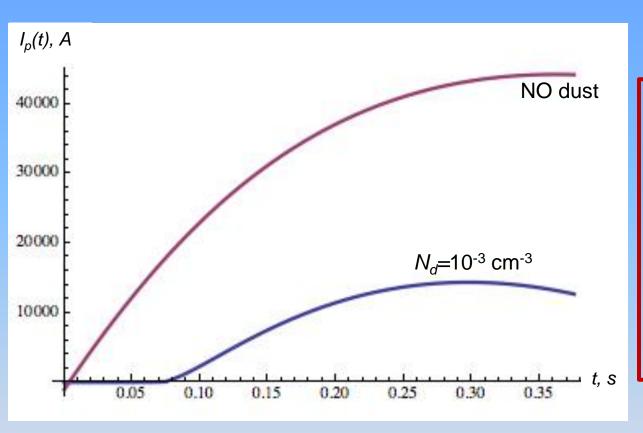
Following the breakdown avalanche stage the relation between the discharge current $I_{p>}(t)$ and the voltage is through a nonlinear resistance and limited by the self-inductance.

$$R = R_0 \left(\frac{T_0}{T}\right)^{3/2} \propto Z_{eff} \Rightarrow \frac{dI_{>}}{dt} = \frac{V}{L} - \frac{R_0}{L} I_{T_0}^{6/5} I_{p>}^{-1/5}$$

Imposing the smooth matching condition between the two I evolution equations and considering that the presence of dust influences the two parameters τ_b and Z_{eff} , a diagram of current evolution at start-up can be drawn.

[8] K. Hirano, Plasma Phys. 16 (1974) 1005.

Current ramp-up phase



- 1. First stage: presence of dust depletes free electrons \Rightarrow delay in start-up (τ_b increase).
- 2. Second stage:

 vaporization of dust \Rightarrow increases plasma

 resistivity $(\eta \propto Z_{eff}) \Rightarrow$ lower I_P at plateau.

Plot of plasma current build-up: I_p evolution through the breakdown phase to the inductive one, with thermally evolving resistance. Blue line: early transition from the Townsend avalanche phase to the inductive one with $V_{loop} = 2.5V$ and $R \cong 0.032\Omega$. Red line: case with no dust.

Dust evaporation at the beginning of Ip plateau

Big grains are not-magnetised, ion drag force too weak⇒No deviation of dust trajectory

Estimation of Fe grains lifetime (in ms) in 3 plasma scenarios (all with B=6T) by means of a model for dust-plasma interactions in strong magnetic fields (λ_{De} , $R_{Le} \ll R_d$) [9]. The model includes thermionic emission, secondary electron emission, electron and ion backscattering:

i- clod scenario: N_e =2 10¹⁹ m⁻³, T_e =0.5keV; *ii*- medium scenario N_e =5 10¹⁹ m⁻³, T_e =1keV; *iii*- hot scenario: N_e =8 10¹⁹ m⁻³, T_e =1.5keV.

Initial grains diameter →	20 μm	50 μm	100μm	200 μm	500 μm	Fe grains lifetime
Cold scenario	0.15	0.46	1.16	3.12	12.6	ms
Medium	0.021	0.061	0.15	0.39	1.51	ms
Hot scenario	0.0067	0.020	0.048	0.12	0.47	ms

Note: assuming a grain speed of 100 m/s, crossing the plasma volume in radial direction (~0.3m), it requires, at least, 3 ms.

 \Rightarrow Increase of N_{Fe} and Z_{eff} leading to plasma power dissipation!!

Dust evaporation at the beginning of the discharge

Fe grain diamiters, µm	N _{Fe} , m ⁻³ (single grain)	Z_{eff} @ N_e =2x 10^{19} m ⁻³ (1 grain)	Z_{eff} @ N_e =8x 10^{19} m ⁻³ (1 grain)
20	9.7x10 ¹³	1.00	1.00
50	1.5x10 ¹⁵	1.05	1.01
100	1.2x10 ¹⁶	1.39	1.10
200	9.7x10 ¹⁶	3.80	1.76
500	1.5x10 ¹⁸	17.6	9.25
1000	1.2x10 ¹⁹	24.5	20.9

Hypotheses:

Dust: 100% of *Fe;*

Dust shape: spherical; FTU Volume V: 2.07m³;

 Z_{Fe} =26 (!)

$$Z_{eff} = \frac{N_e Z_D^2 + N_{Fe} Z_{Fe}^2}{N_e Z_D + N_{Fe} Z_{Fe}}$$

 N_{Fe} is not negligible compared to plasma density, even for the case of single grain !!!

Impact of remobilized dust *prior to* the beginning of plasma discharges: Summary

BREAKDOWN phase:

Shifting of the Paschen's curve \Rightarrow change of gas breakdown conditions.

RAMP-UP phase:

- Depletion of free electrons ⇒ delay in the start-up that could reach few 100s ms.
- Perturbation of plasma resistivity, through an increase of the Z_{eff} , \Rightarrow lower I_p plateau level.

DUST EVAPORATION at first stage of full plasma:

Evaporation of massive dust grains with high Z present in the plasma core upon a full plasma is established \Rightarrow power loss and disruptions.

Conclusions

- Magnetic force ($F_B \propto \nabla B$) is the responsible for (magnetic) dust remobilization *prior to* plasma discharges in FTU;
- The average dust density, evaluated over several experimental campaigns, spans from 2 to 30x10⁻³cm⁻³ with dust size between few 10's μm up to few mm;
- The estimated dust density values are averaged on FTU campaigns, the actual value for a single shot could change dramatically shot-by-shot.
- Dust at start-up can have dramatic effect on plasma start-up phase;

Overall comments:

- FTU is a peculiar machine, nevertheless magnetic dust has been found in several other machines and could be a potential harmful.
- It is difficult prove that discharge inhibition or disruptive events are caused by the presence of magnetic dust, nevertheless the presence of mobilized magnetic dust prior to plasma discharges is a matter of fact!
- In the prospective to <u>use steel components and RAFM¹ materials in ITER</u> and future fusion power plants [10,11], the possible presence of magnetic dust in the device could be an issue. In fact ITER and future plants will be equipped with <u>superconductive coils and will have low loop voltage</u> for plasma breakdown and start-up.
- Good news: Magnetic dust can be easily removed by means of a magnet mounted on a remote harm handling without break the vacuum!

¹ RAFM= Reduced-Activation Ferritic-Martensitic material.

^[10] R.A Pitts, et al., J. Nucl. Mater. 463 (2015) 748.[11] K. Sugiyama, K. Schmid, W. Jacob, Nucl. Mater. Energy 8 (2016) 1.

Thank you for your attention!

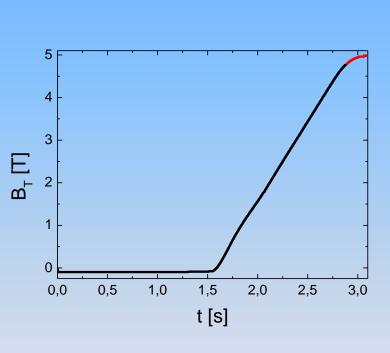
Authors acknowledges F. Ghezzi and G. Grosso for valuable discussion.

Backup slides

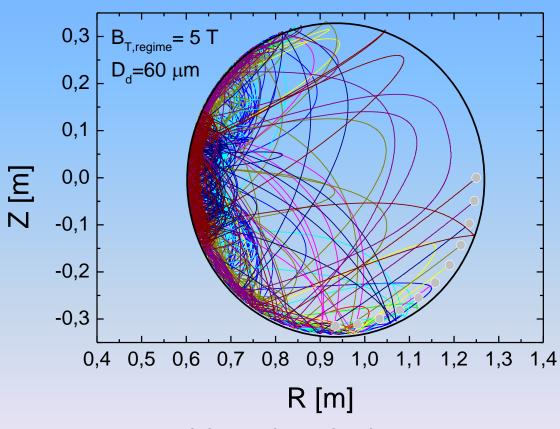
Preliminary examples of magnetic dust dynamic

Fe spherical particles trajectories during a B_t ramp-up from 0 to 5T (hyp: mirror reflections on the walls; no dust adhesion forces included; only B_t present).

- work in progress -



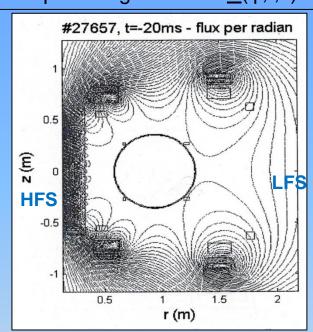
Toroidal field ramp-up timing.



11 particles trajectories in a pure toroidal magnetic field. Poloidal cross-section view.

Magnetic force components F_{φ} vs F_r

FTU poloidal cross section view with multi-pole magnetic field $\underline{B}(\phi,r,z)$ map.

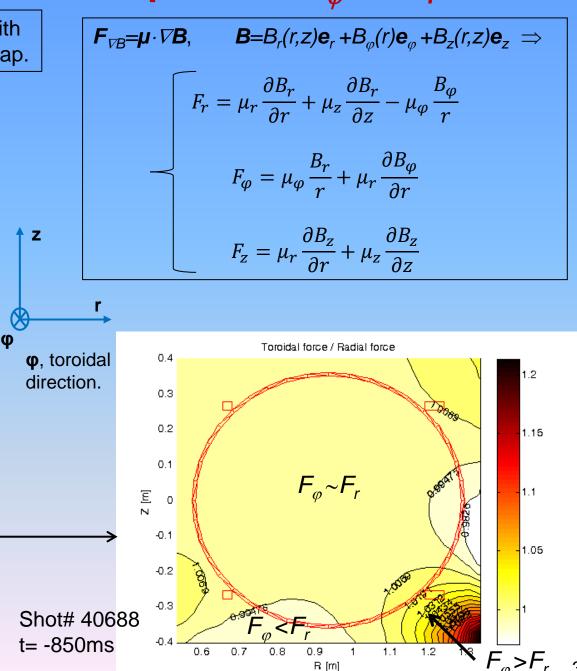


Isolevel diagram of the rate F_{φ}/F_r

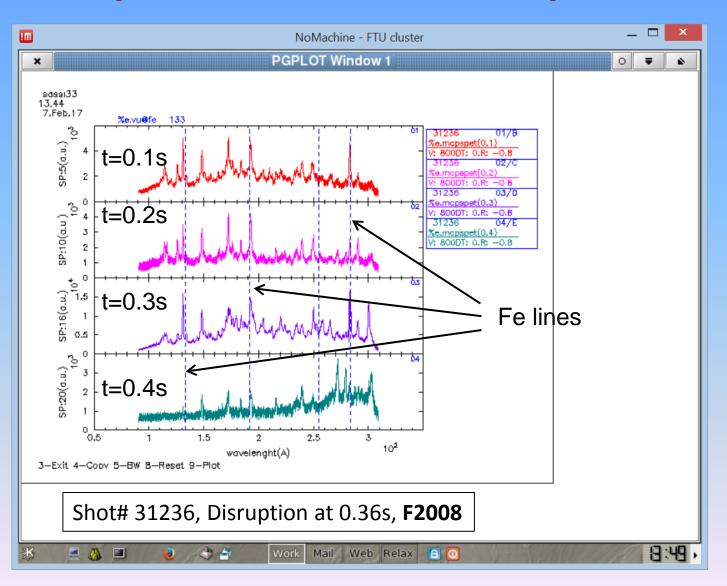
$$\frac{F_{\varphi}}{F_{r}} = \frac{\frac{B_{r}}{r} - \frac{B_{\varphi}}{r}}{\frac{\partial B_{r}}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial B_{r}}{\partial z} - \frac{B_{\varphi}}{r}}$$

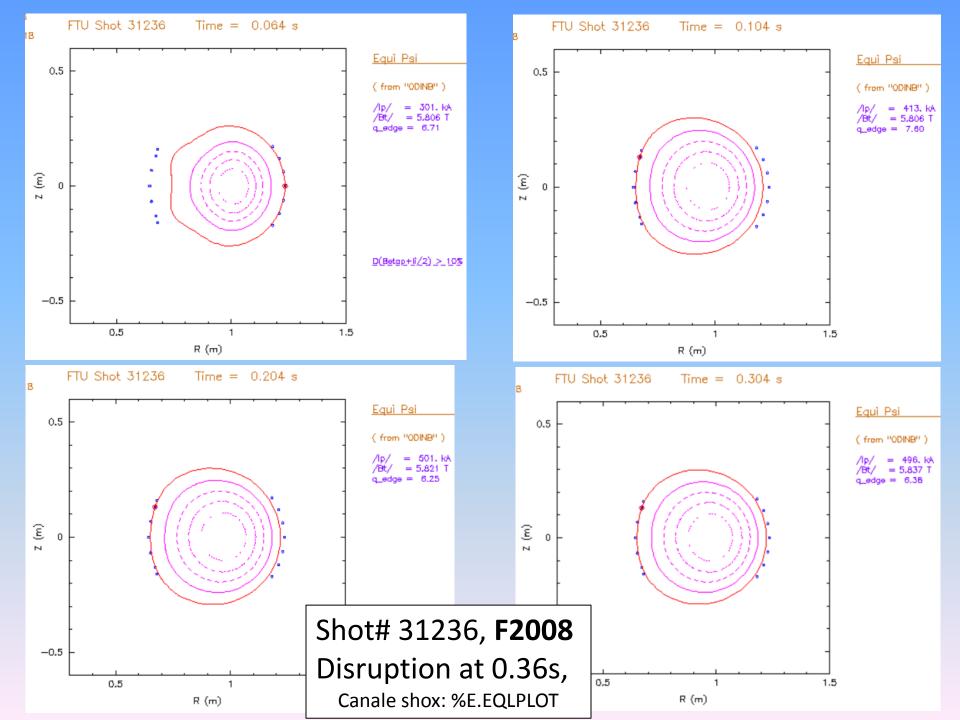
with $\underline{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \equiv \boldsymbol{\mu}_{intrinsic}$ and $B_{\varphi} = \frac{B_{\varphi o} r_o}{r}$.

The two components are of the same order of magniture!!



There are some evidences of disrupted discharges with presence of Fe lines in spectroscopy

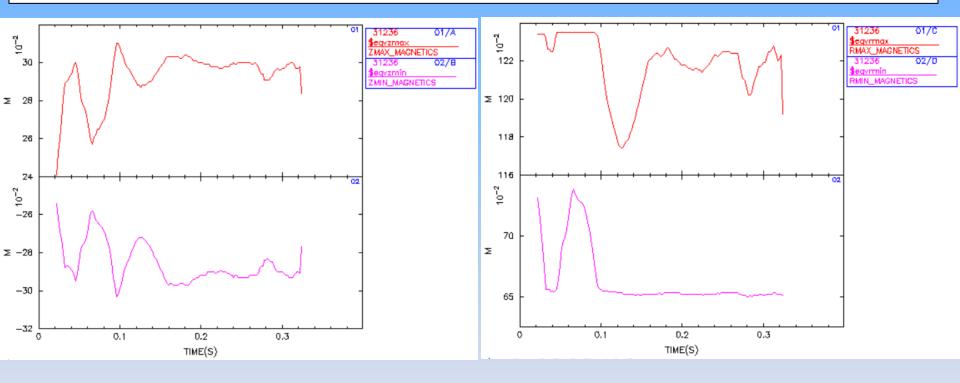




Plasma column position:

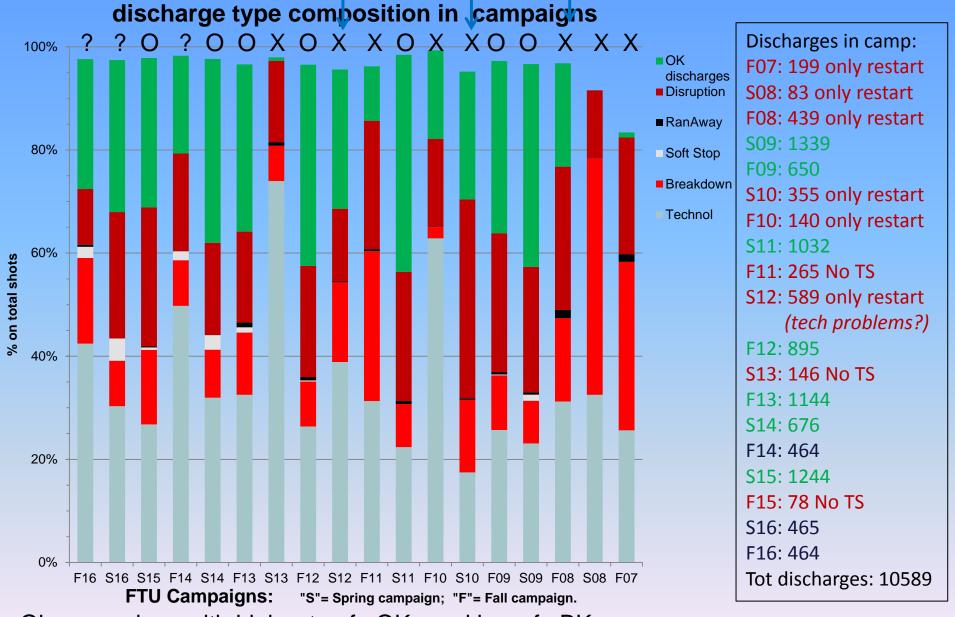
Posizione verticale (\$eqvz)

Posizione orizzontale \$eqvr

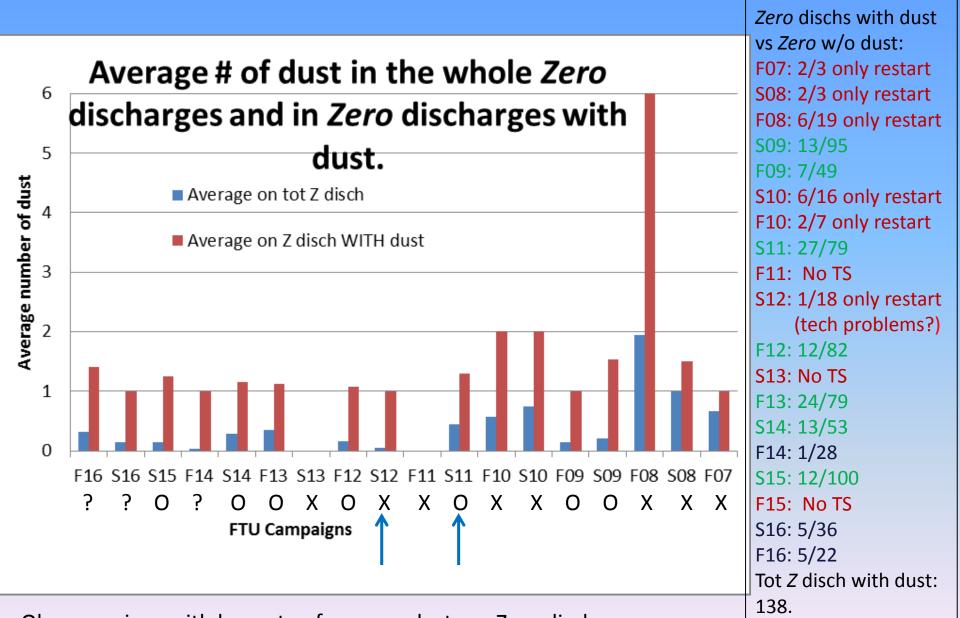


Shot# 31236, **F2008**, Disruption at 0.36s

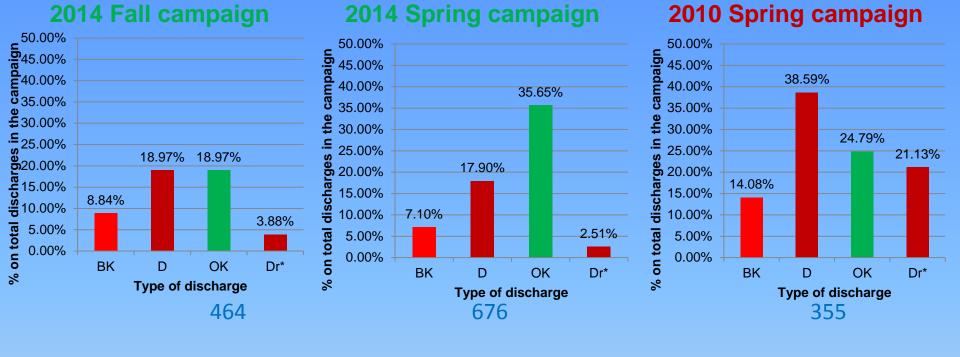
Experimental campaign statistics in FTU



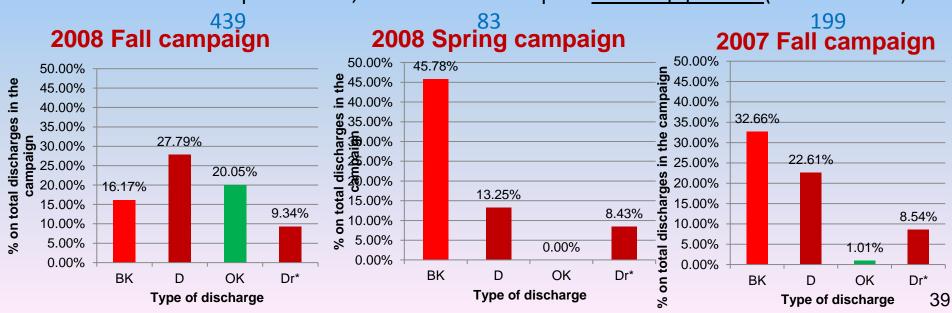
Ok: campaigns with high rate of «OK» and low of «BK»; X: campaigns with low rate of «OK» and/or high of «BK»/»D».

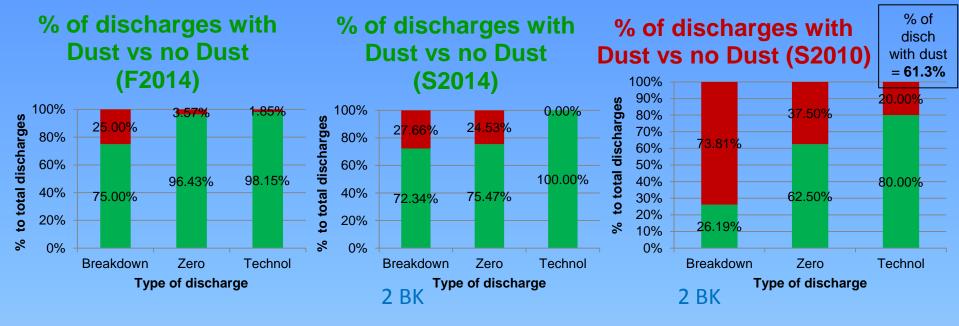


Ok: campaigns with low rate of average dust per Zero discharges; X: opposite.



Blue: Total discharges in the campaigns. Ok: camps with low rate of D and BK dischs Vs OK; D=total # of disrupted dischs; Dr*=dischs disrupted before Ip plateau (t<200-300ms).





Red: dischs with dust; Green: dischs without dust; Blue label: # dischs with dust at t=0.

Ok: camps with low rate of dust in BK, Zero, and T dischs.

