

Heat Flux Transport in Stochastic Magnetic Fields with Line Tying S.E. KRUGER, Tech-X Corporation, D.D. SCHNACK, SAIC — Understanding the onset and nonlinear dynamics of disruptions is crucial for preventing or mitigating them in next-step devices. Initial-value simulations with the NIMROD code of an ideal-MHD unstable plasma based on DII I-D discharge #87009 allows for detailed studies of the dynamical mechanisms of the disruption and the resultant heat flux distribution on the wall. The ideal mode grows and causes 2/1 magnetic islands as a result of forced reconnection at the two 2/1 surfaces. The mode amplitudes continue to grow until the magnetic islands overlap and the magnetic field is stochastic over a large part of the plasma domain. The rapid stochastization of the field allows the plasma to lose two thirds of its internal energy in approximately 200 microseconds in qualitative agreement with the experiment. The deposition of thermal energy on the wall is localized poloidally and toroidally on the wall due to helically-localized temperature increases and parallel heat flux carrying this increased heat flux to the wall. Understanding the heat flux localization requires a detailed understanding of the three-dimensional field line structure as the plasma undergoes changes in topology. In this work, we focus on visualizing and understanding the changes in topology.