Fully predictive modelling of H-L transition in ITER and present day tokamaks

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Outline:

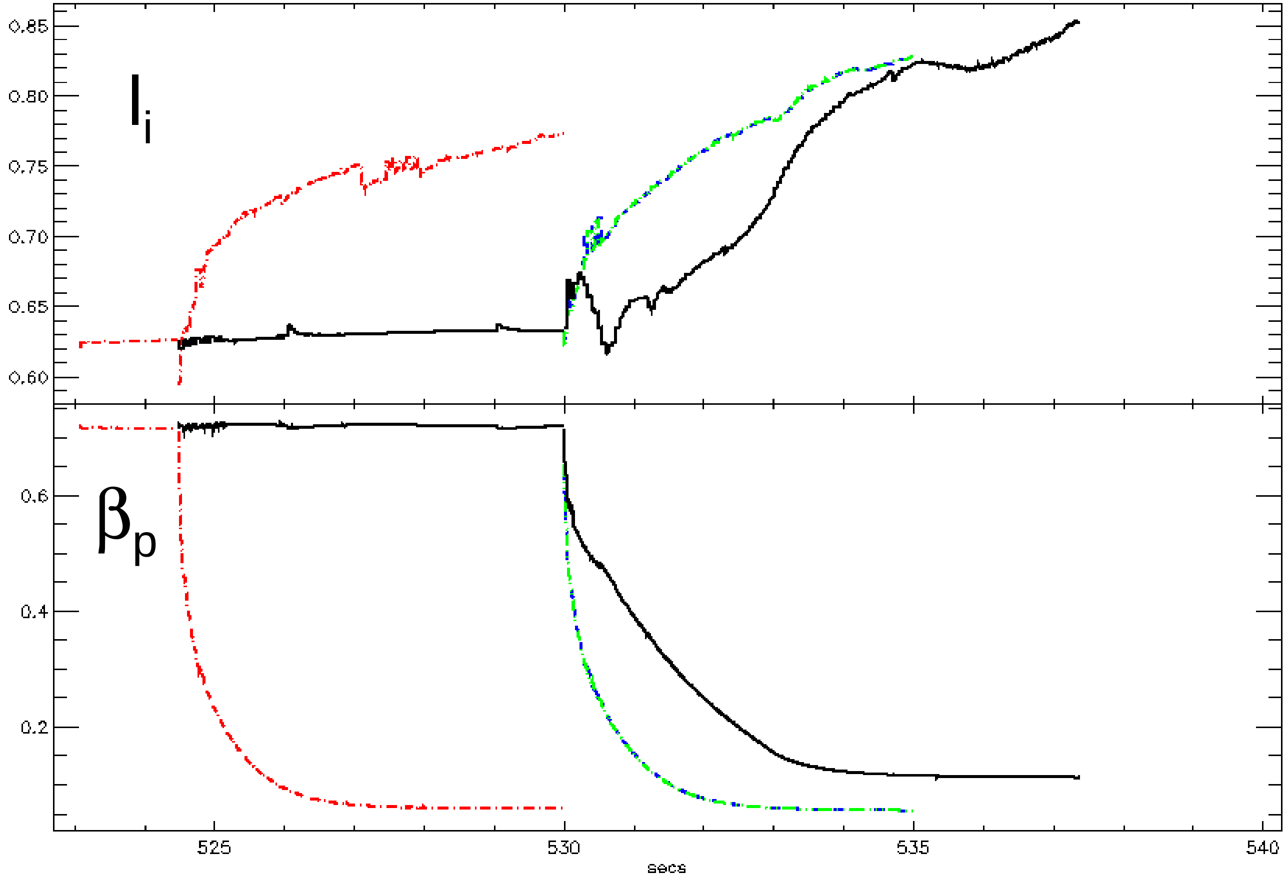
• Modelling of H-L transition in ITER – why it is important?

•Models for L-H and H-L transition, type-III ELMs and pass to and from high performance;

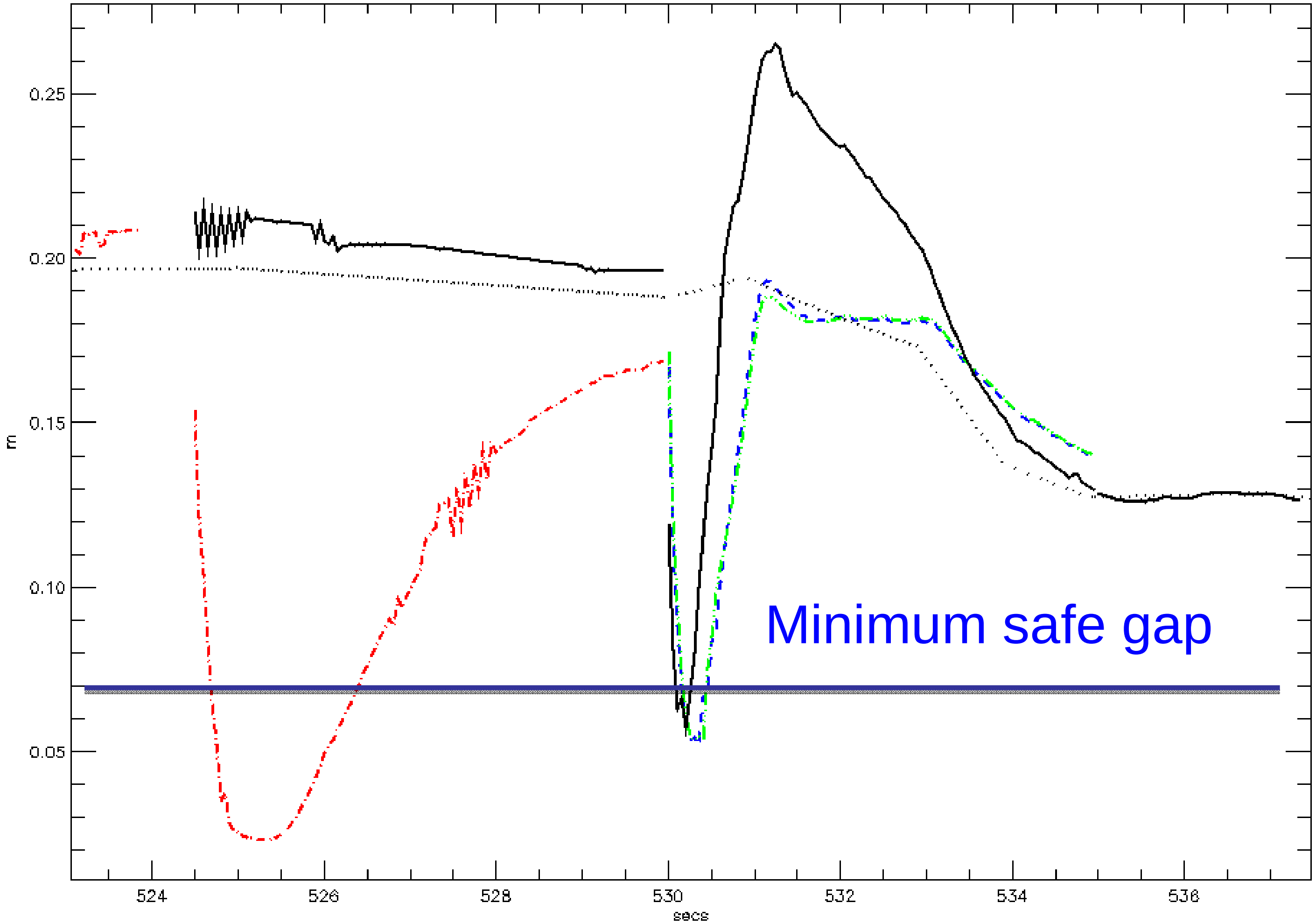
• Role of impurities;

• Summary.

l_i (top) and β_p (bottom) time evolution following "expected" fast (blue/green), slow (black) and "unexpected" fast H-L transition (red)



Inner gap time evolution following ”expected” fast (blue/green), slow (black) and “unexpected” fast (red) H-L transition with reference gap evolution plotted as black dotted curve



Two models for L-H and H-L transitions were used in simulations- “global” and ”local” models;

- In *“global approach”* the code compares total heat flux through the selected magnetic surface (either top-of-barrier or deeper inside, for code stability) with most recent parametric fits for L-H transition power threshold from Martin et al. J. Phys 2008 (including an atomic mass dependency):

$$P_{L-H} = 0.0488 \cdot n_{e,20}^{0.717} \cdot B_t^{0.803} \cdot S^{0.941} \cdot (M/2)^{-1}$$

- In *“local approach”* the code compares electron temperature at the selected magnetic surface (normally on top-of-barrier or anticipated top-of-barrier) with the “local” parametric fits for the electron temperature at L-H transition (from *E. Righi et al, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion **42** (2000) A199–A204*):

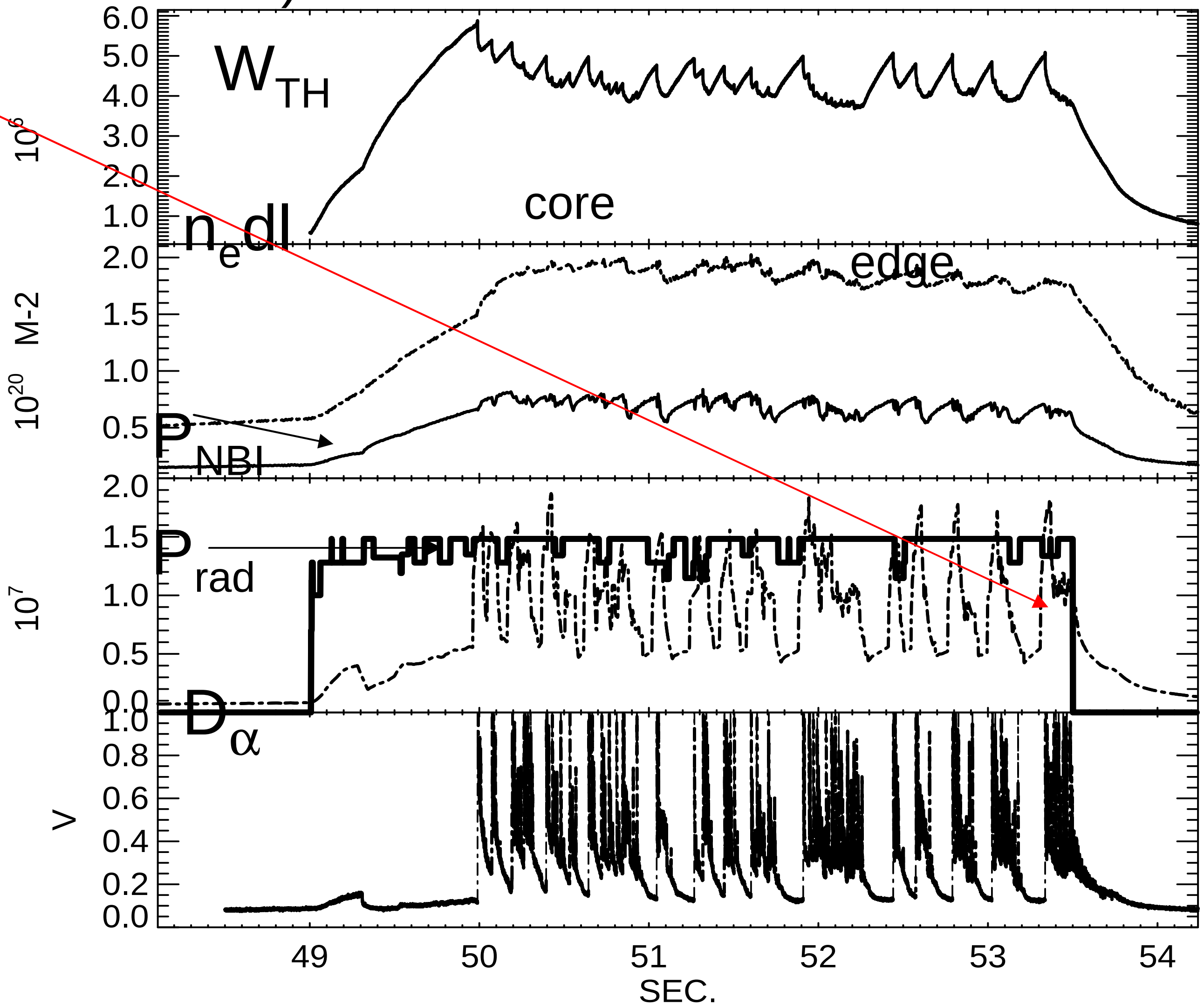
$$T_{crit,keV} = 0.39 n_{e,20}^{-0.64} B^{1.69} M^{-0.14} q_{95}^{-0.86}$$

Transport models for L-H and H-L transition

After either comparing the heat flux Q with the power threshold P_{LH} in "global" approach or $T_{e,top}$ with the critical temperature in "local" approach transport within edge barrier is modified in 3 possible ways:

- ✓ Plasma stays in L-mode if $Q < P_{LH}$ or $T_{e,top} < T_{e,crit}$;
- ✓ Plasma enters H-mode with type-III ELMs if $P_{LH} < Q < \gamma * P_{LH}$, $1.5 > \gamma > 1$ or $T_{e,crit} < T_{e,top} < \zeta T_{e,crit}$, $\zeta < 2–4$.
- ✓Transport within edge barrier is reduced to neo-classical level between ELMs.
- ✓Type-III ELMs are similar to type-I ELMs (with Gaussian increase in edge transport coefficients) but with lower value of critical pressure gradient $\alpha_{cr\text{-}III} < 1$;
- ✓ Plasma enters H-mode with type-I ELMs if $Q > \gamma * P_{LH}$ or $T_{e,top} > \zeta T_{e,crit}$ with type-I ELMs having higher value of critical pressure gradient $\alpha_{cr\text{-}I} \sim 1.8$

A typical JET H-mode plasma with composite ELMs and fast H-L transition, which is used as a template in our simulations (note a significant increase in *line radiation* after each ELM).



"Non-local" model for L-H and H-L transition:

$$\frac{P_{loss}(0.8)}{P_{Martin08}} < 1 \quad \Rightarrow \text{L-mode}$$

$$1 < \frac{P_{loss}(0.8)}{P_{Martin08}} < A_{III-I} \quad \Rightarrow \text{type-III H-mode}$$

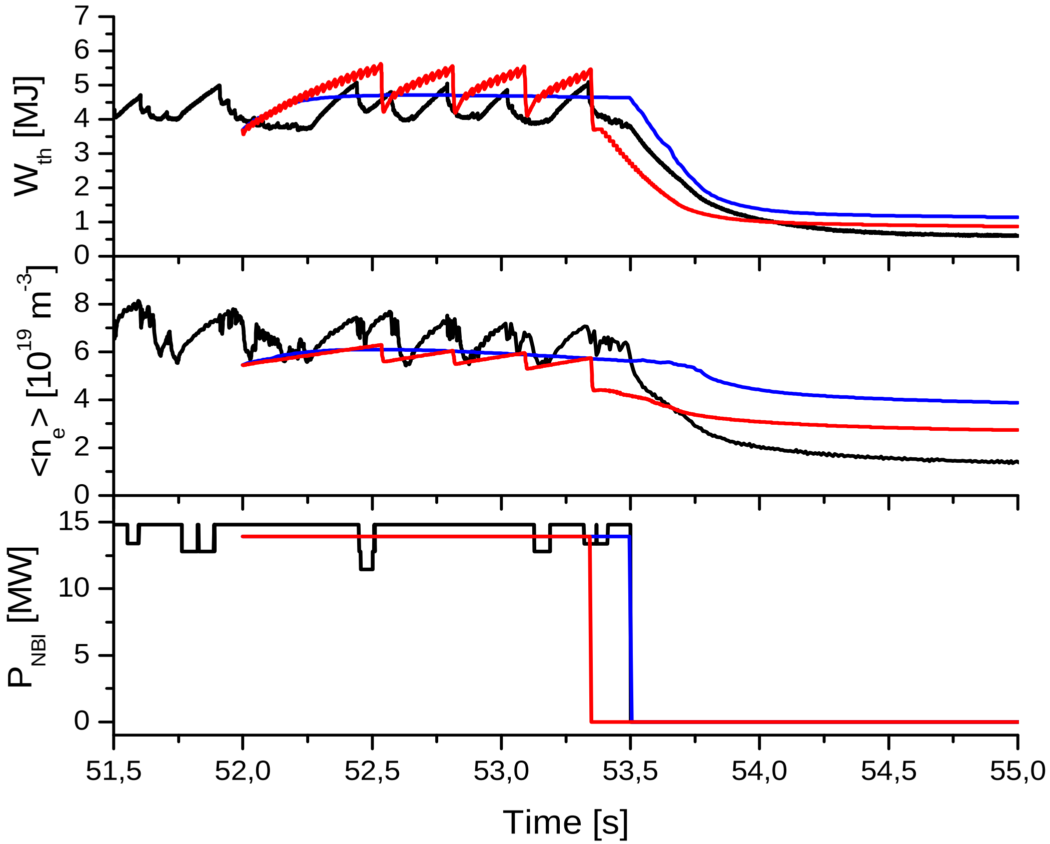
$$A_{III-I} < \frac{P_{loss}(0.8)}{P_{Martin08}} \quad \Rightarrow \text{type-I H-mode}$$

$$P_{Martin08} = 0.0488 n_{e,20}^{\;0.717} B^{0.803} S^{0.941}$$

Martin PPCF (2008)

$P_{loss}(0.8)$ loss power at ρ=0.8

- **JET #72207: preliminary data**
- **Continuous ELM model**
- **Discrete ELM model**

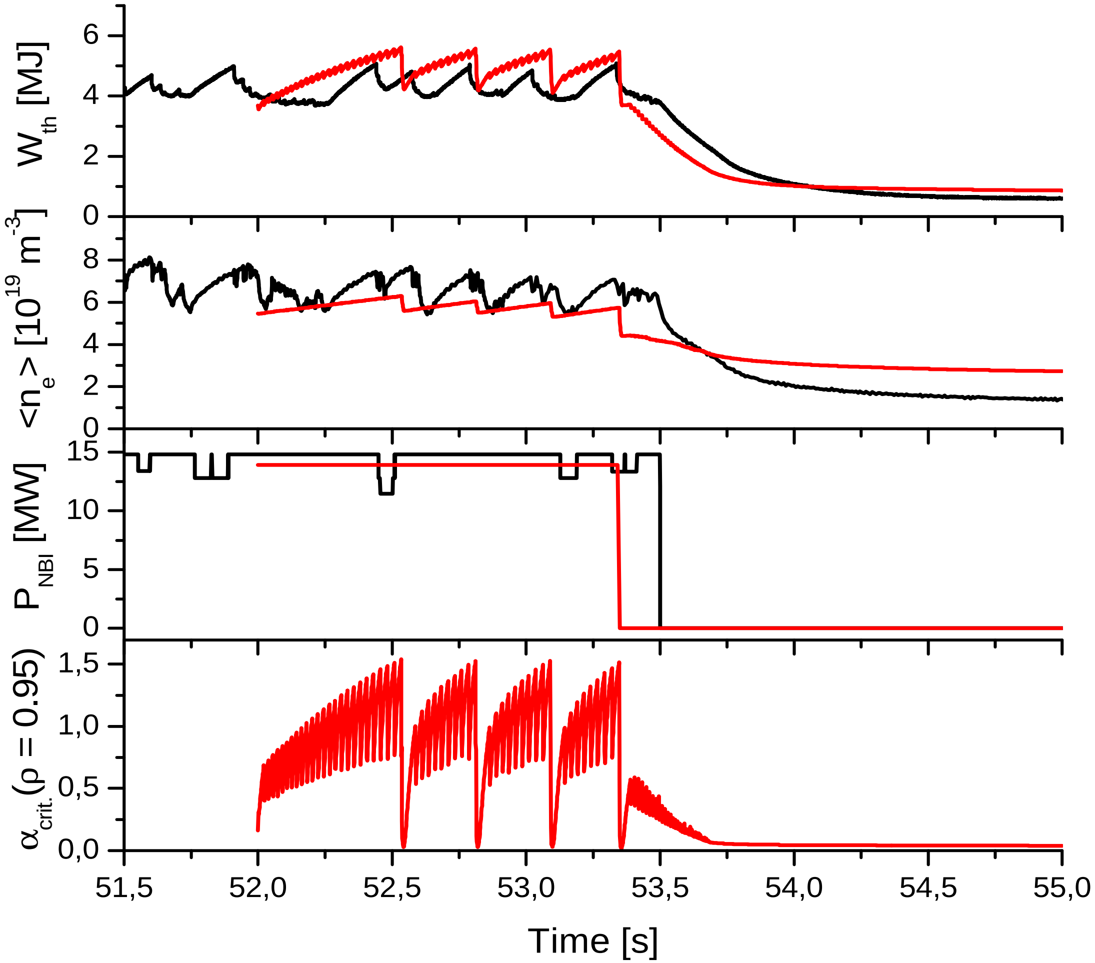


"Non-local" model (2)

- Non-local model scan can be tuned to give the temporal evolution in W_{th} qualitatively in line with experiment;
- Density trend is not so well reproduced
- Discrete ELM model undergoes a series of repetitive I-L-III-I-L-III-I transitions caused by energy lost at crash, which are not usually observed in experiment

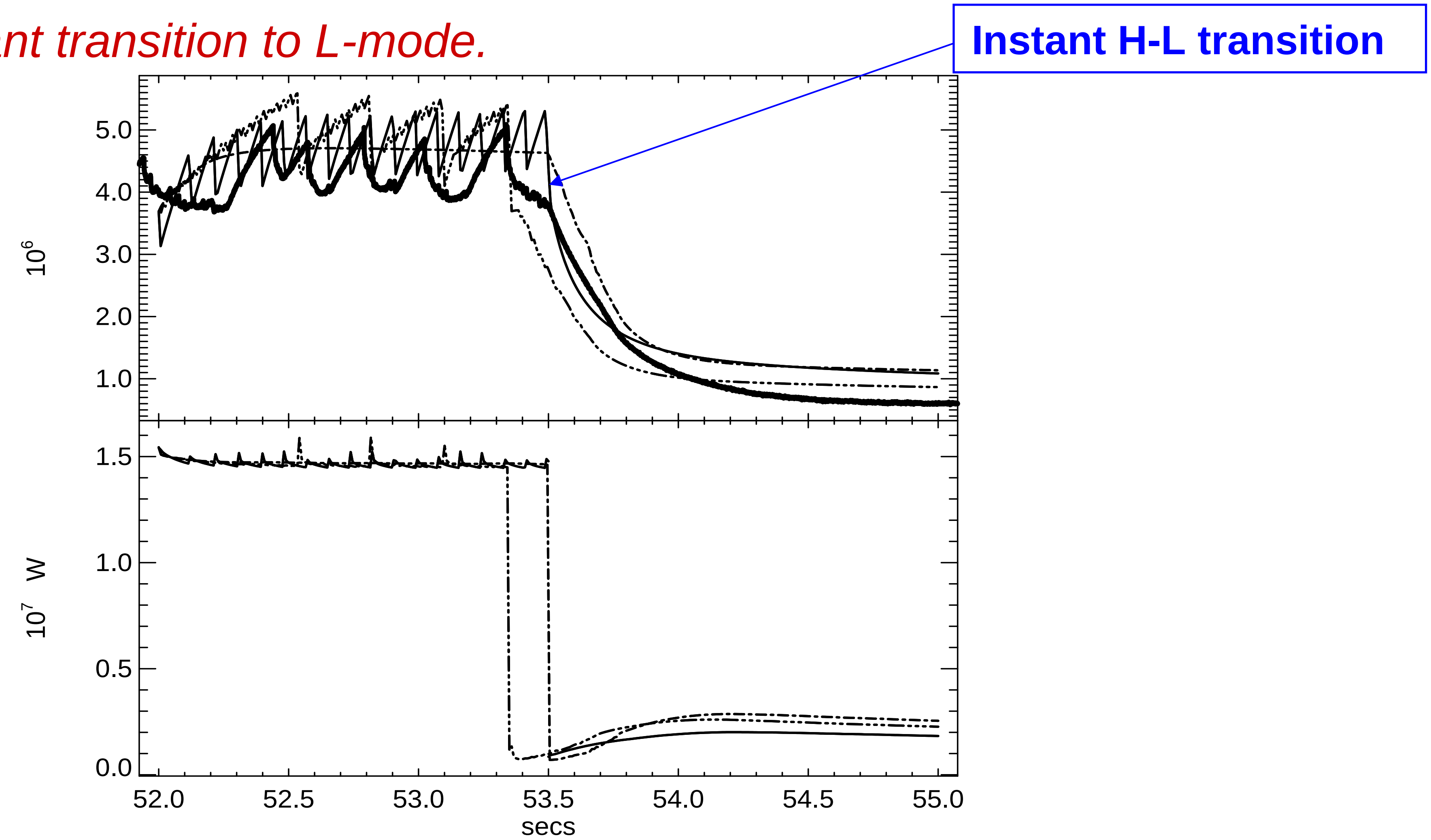
•JET #72207: preliminary data

•Discrete ELM model



"Non-local" model (3)

It is important to stress that description of H-L transition, which includes transition to type-III ELMs, matches experimental observation much better than instant transition to L-mode.



"Local" model for L-H and H-L transition:

$$\frac{T_e(0.9)}{T_{crit}} < 1 \quad \Rightarrow \text{L-mode}$$

$$1 < \frac{T_e(0.9)}{T_{crit}} < B_{III-I} \quad \Rightarrow \text{type-III H-mode}$$

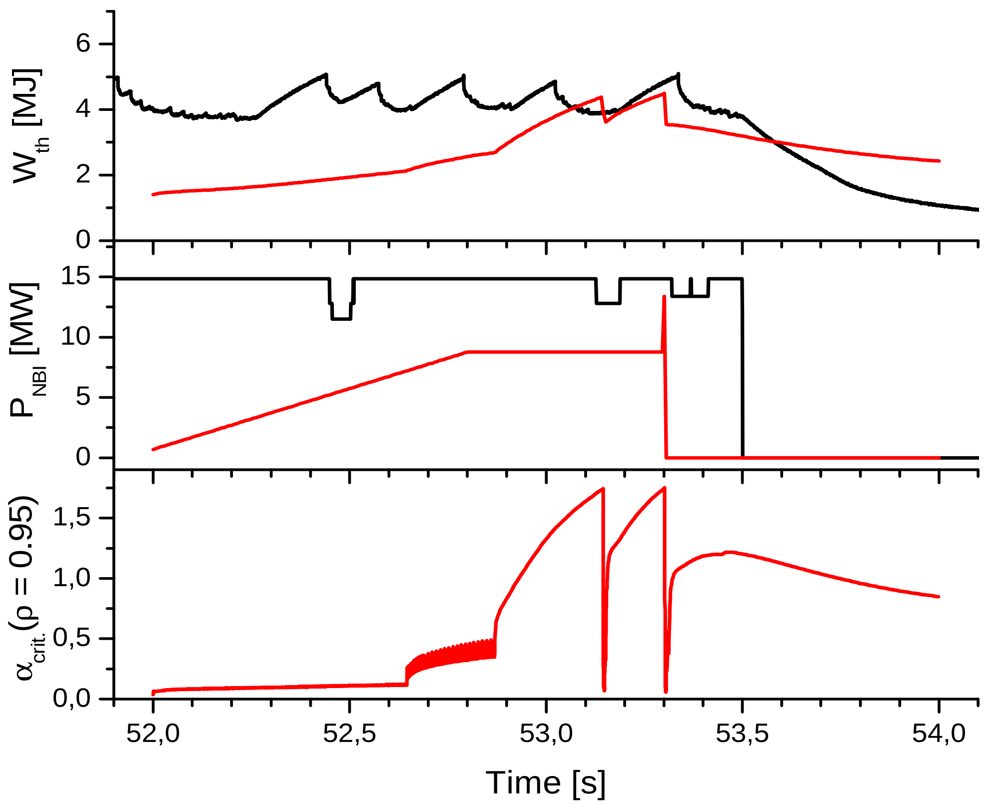
$$B_{III-I} < \frac{T_e(0.9)}{T_{crit}} \quad \Rightarrow \text{type-I H-mode}$$

$$T_{crit,keV} = 0.39 n_{e,20}^{-0.64} B^{1.69} M^{-0.14} q_{95}^{-0.86}$$

Righi PPCF (2000)

JET #72207: preliminary data

Local model



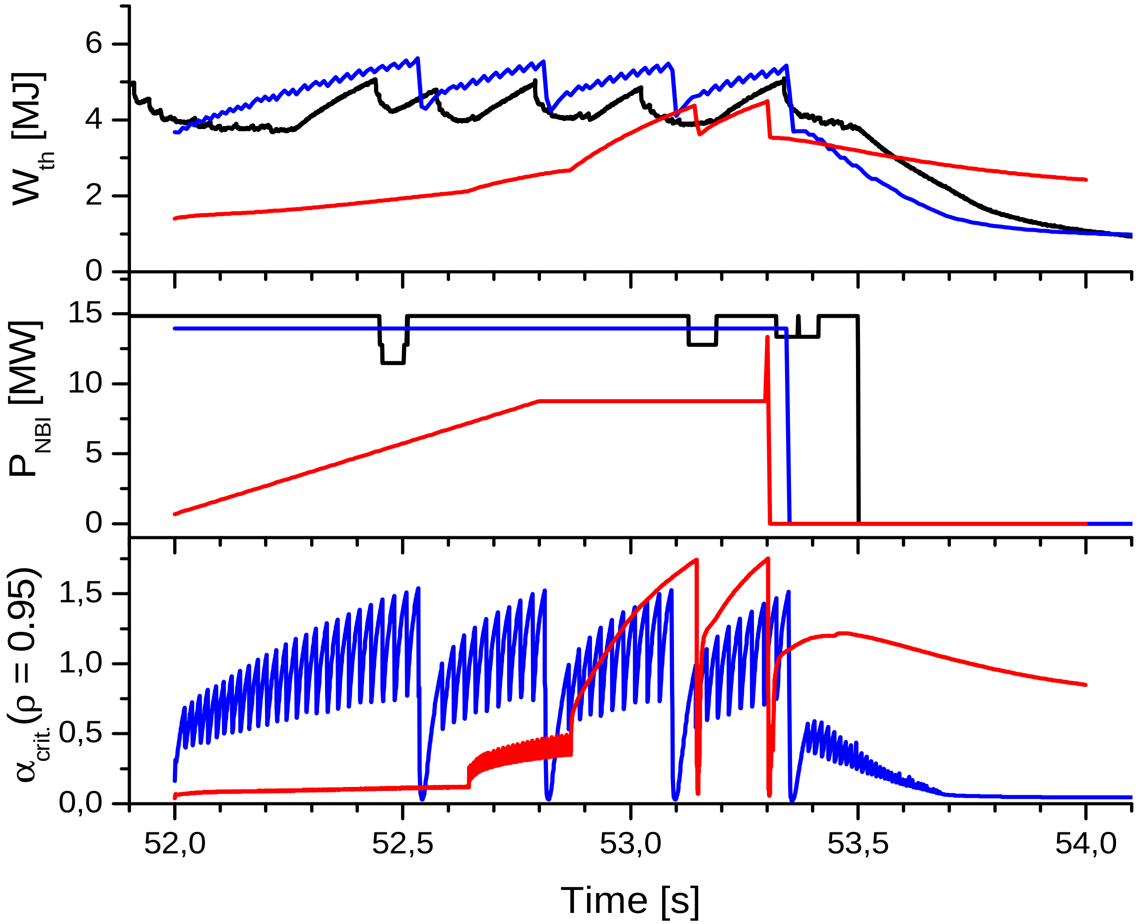
Comparison between "Global" and "Local" model

- Local model avoids non-physical dithering transitions of the non-local model
- Reasonably good description of the L-H transition
- Fails to describe the fast fall in energy and density during H-L transition
- Possible ways to improve model include:
  - *Fine tuning of heat and particle transport within barrier;*
  - *Include radiation;*
- No validated multi-machine local model exists!

JET #72207: preliminary data

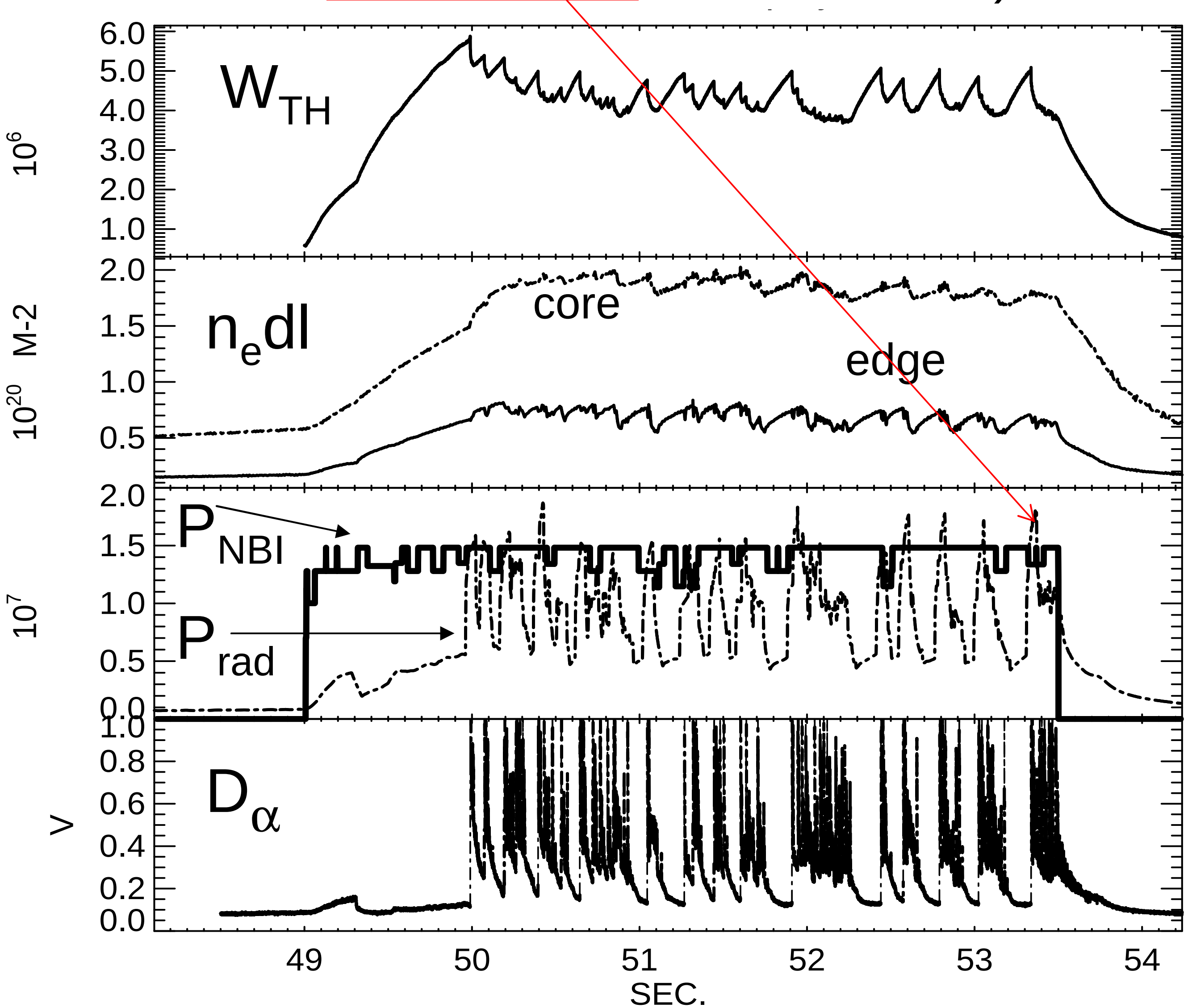
Local model

Non-local model



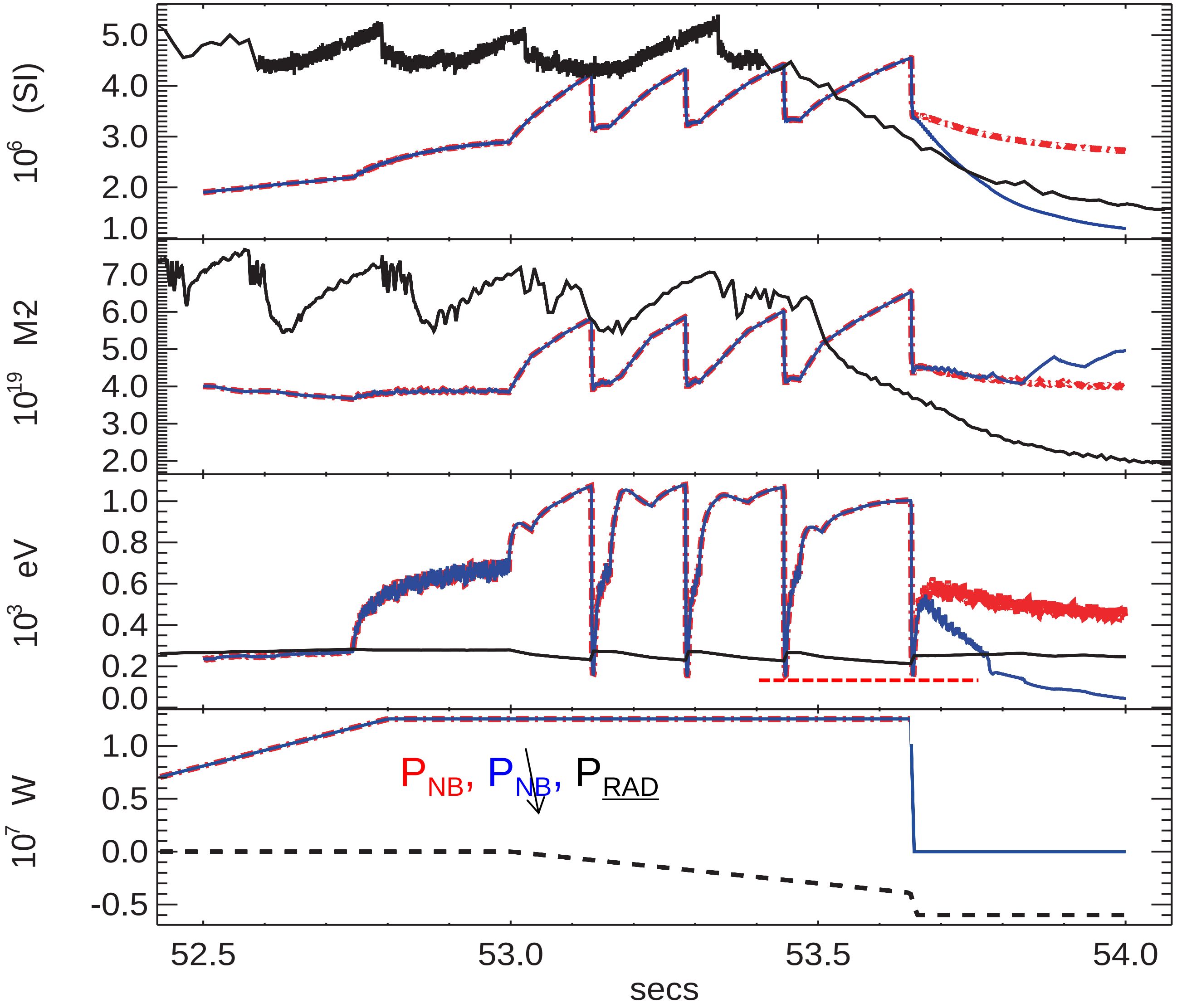
Role of radiation (1)

(note a significant increase in *line radiation* after each ELM).



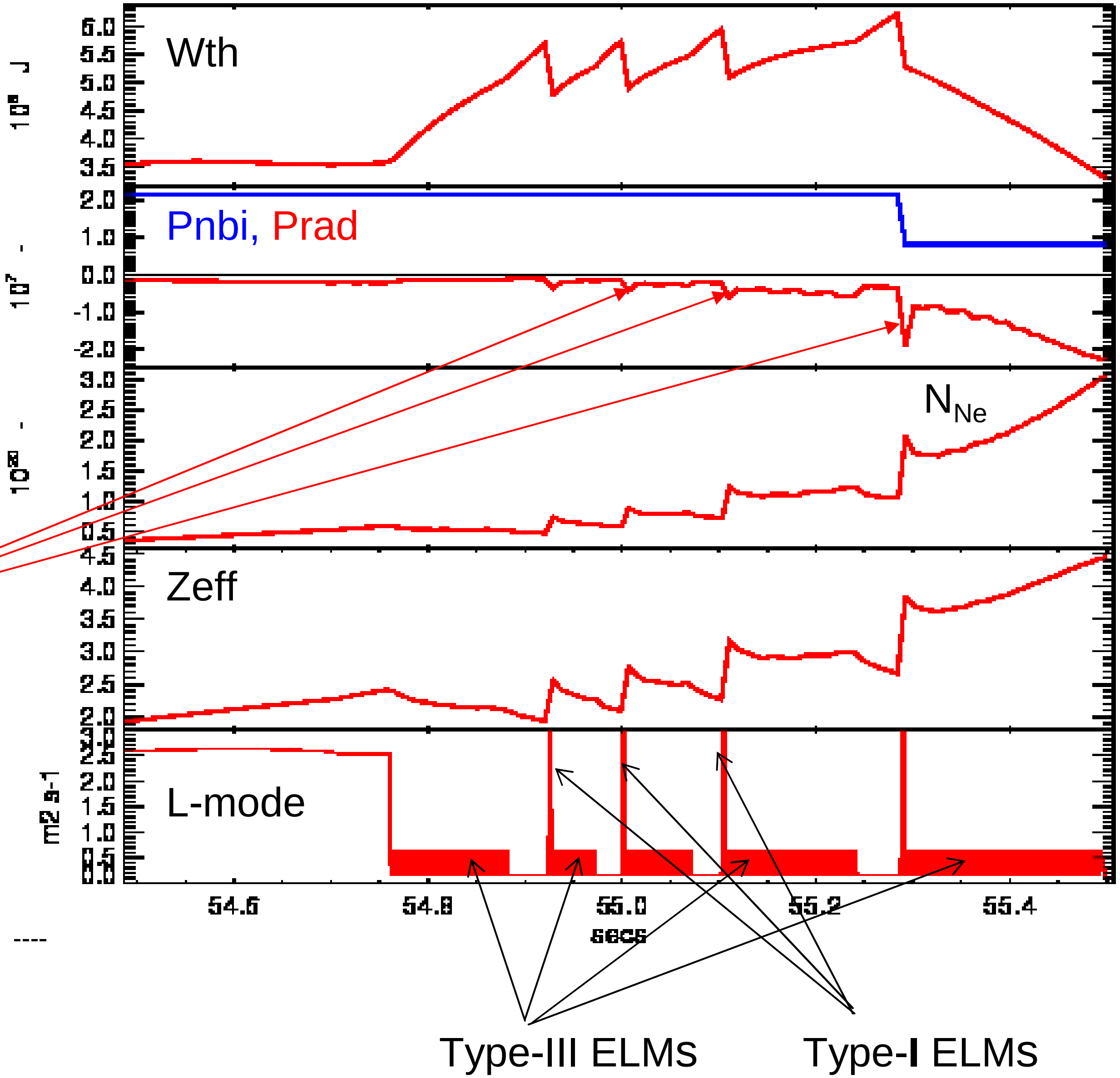
Role of radiation (2)

- Adding some impurity radiation after big ELM crash helps to bring plasma to a long type-III period even with local H-L transition model;
- We could conclude that local model for L-H-L transition has a potential to describe plasma dynamics close to one observed in experiment;
- Only systematic modelling of experimental data can improve predictive modelling of L-H-L transitions;



Role of radiation (3)

- Recent example of self-consistent predictive modelling of impurity redistribution on top of main ion density and ion and electron temperature simulation;
- Note significant temporary rise in line radiation following each type-I ELM (as observed in experiments)



Summary and unresolved issues

- ✓ *Global model describes better H-L transition but fails to reproduce L-H transition due to persistence of strong dithering;*
- ✓ *On the other hand, local model reproduces the dynamics of L-H transition reasonably well but fails to reproduce fast H-L transition;*
- ✓ *Impurity radiation might play an important role inthe dynamict of H-L transition;*
- ✓ *Systematic comparison with experimental results are needed before applying either model to ITER.*