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Spatial-temporal evolution of ion temperature gradient-driven explosive instability near marginal stability boundary in tokamaks.

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One of the most easily exited modes in tokamaks in an ion temperature gradient driven mode which is thought to be responsible for anomalous transport up and below marginal stability boundary [1, 2]. High turbulence level of this mode below marginal stability boundary may be connected with nonlinear explosive instability due to interaction between drift modes with negative and positive energy. This mechanism was proposed in [2] as an explanation of "subcritical turbulence". However usual three-wave interaction theory fails to describe the most interesting case of waves interacting near marginal stability boundary where nonlinear matrix elements tend to infinity. In this case mode energy exchange during nonlinear interaction greatly exceeds "own" energy of modes so they can be considered as "zero" energy waves.

The character of nonlinear wave interaction remains of explosive type in this case but the law of amplitude growth in time changes [3, 4].

In this report we consider spatial-temporal evolution of explosive drift wave instability when all interacting waves can be considered as "zero energy" waves. The conditions of nonlinear saturation due to convective nature of instability have been found. The possibility of nonlinear wave structure formation due to spatial-temporal nonlinear wave interaction of explosive type near marginal stability boundary is shown. Such structures and their interactions may constitute subcritical turbulence and determine transport properties of plasma near the marginal stability boundary.

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