

Use of Integrated Models for Neutronic Analysis

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Outline

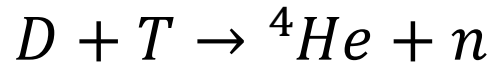
- Neutrons in Fusion
 - Fusion Reactions
 - Tritium Breeding
 - Material Damage
 - Spin Polarized Fusion
- Modeling
- Integration with Plasma Codes
- Integration with Engineering Codes:
 - Fluid, Heat and Mass Transfer analysis
 - Structural Analysis
- Integrated Analysis for ITER at Jet
- Conclusions

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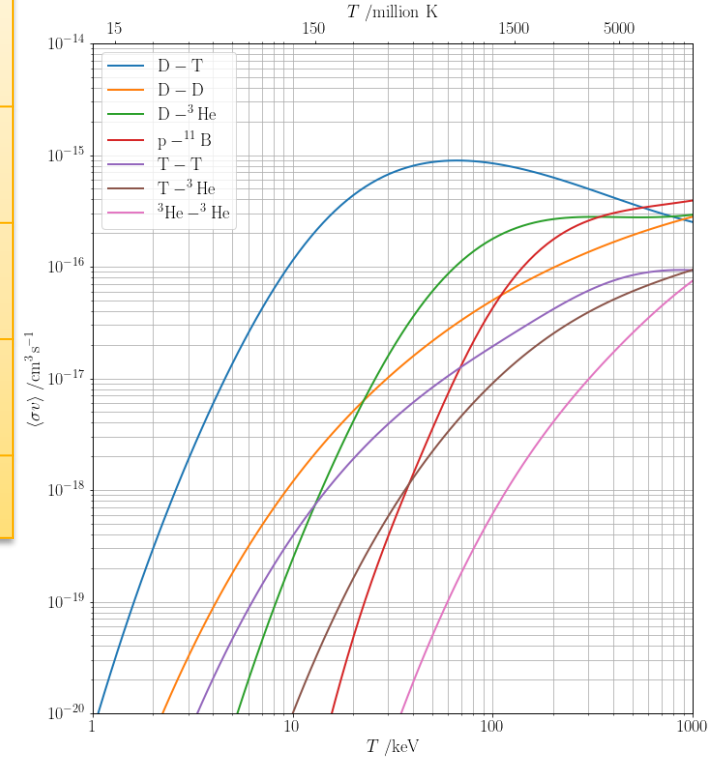
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The D-T fusion reaction is the most achievable

fuel	$\langle\sigma v\rangle/T^2$	penalty/ bonus	inverse reactivity	Lawson criterion	power density [W/m ³ /kPa ²]
${}^2_1\text{D}-{}^3_1\text{T}$	1.24×10^{-24}	1	1	1	34
${}^2_1\text{D}-{}^2_1\text{D}$	1.28×10^{-26}	2	48	30	0.5
${}^2_1\text{D}-{}^3_2\text{He}$	2.24×10^{-26}	2/3	83	16	0.43
$\text{p}+{}^{11}_5\text{B}$	3.01×10^{-27}	1/3	1240	500	0.014



The D-T fusion reaction provides the most power

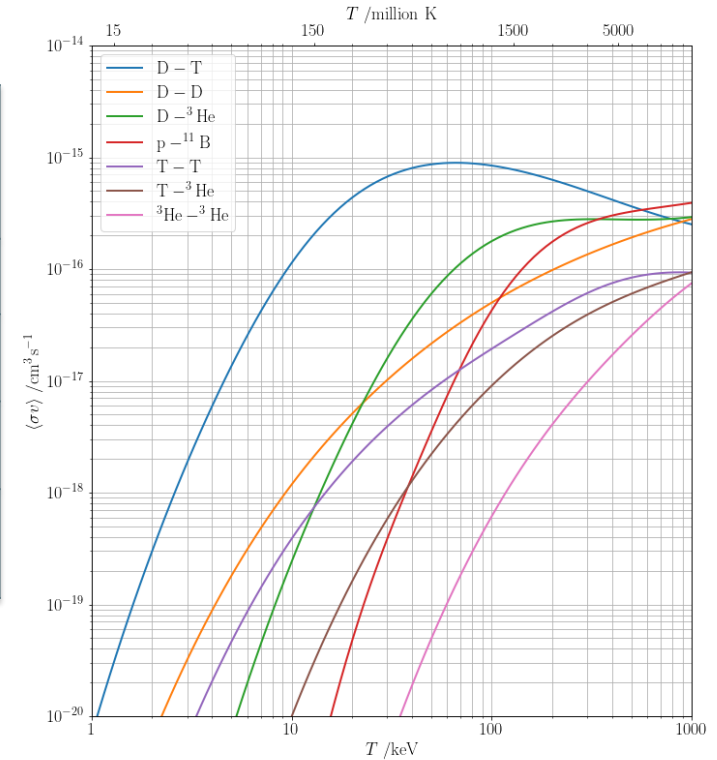


Neutrons in Fusion Reactions

fuel	Z	E_{fus} [MeV]	E_{ch} [MeV]	Portion of Fusion Energy released as neutrons
$^2_1\text{D}-^3_1\text{T}$	1	17.6	3.5	0.80
$^2_1\text{D}-^2_1\text{D}$	1	12.5	4.2	0.66
$^2_1\text{D}-^3_2\text{He}$	2	18.3	18.3	≈ 0.05
$\text{p}^+-^{11}_5\text{B}$	5	8.7	8.7	≈ 0.001



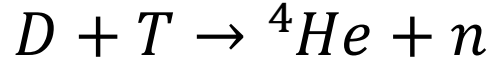
The D-T fusion reaction releases 80% of energy as neutrons



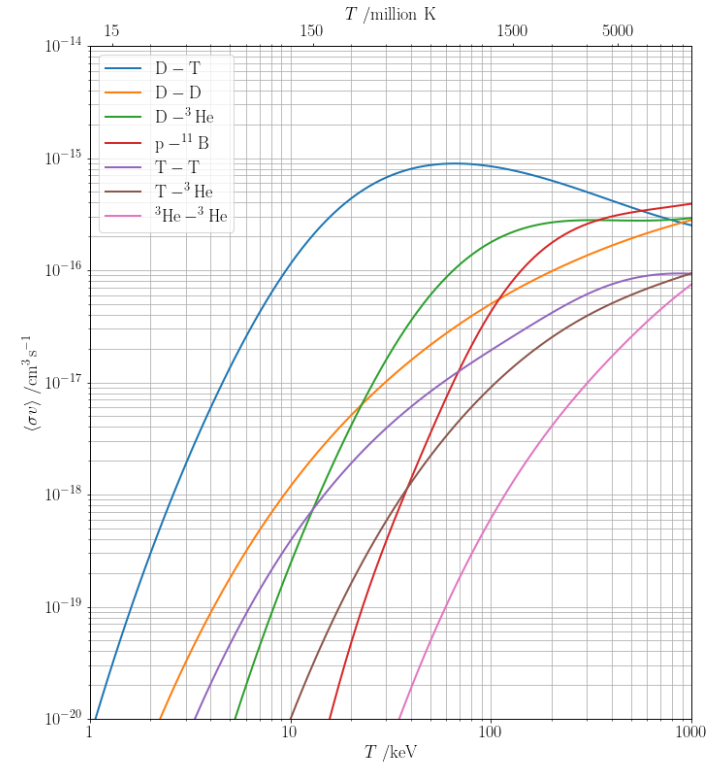
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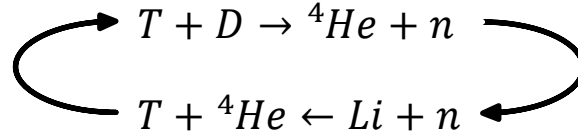
The need for tritium breeding



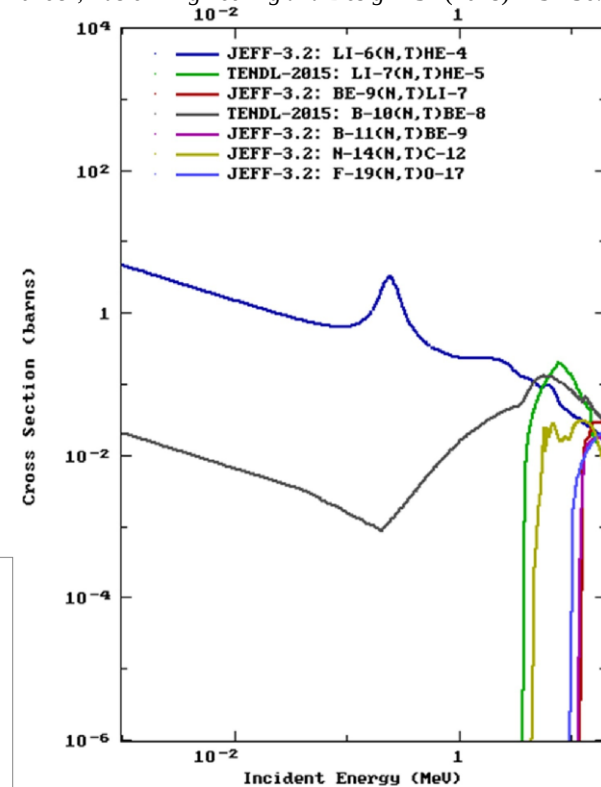
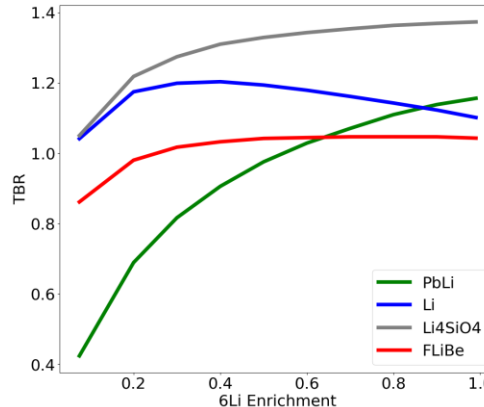
- The D-T fusion reaction is the most achievable
- Tritium decays with a 12.3 year half-life, and therefore has no natural supply
- Small amounts produced by fission reactors can supply short-pulse research devices
- But 55.6 kg T/GW_f-yr is required for sustained operation
- This will require that it use the fusion neutrons to breed its own tritium supply, with a tritium breeding ratio (TBR) > 1



T breeding from Li

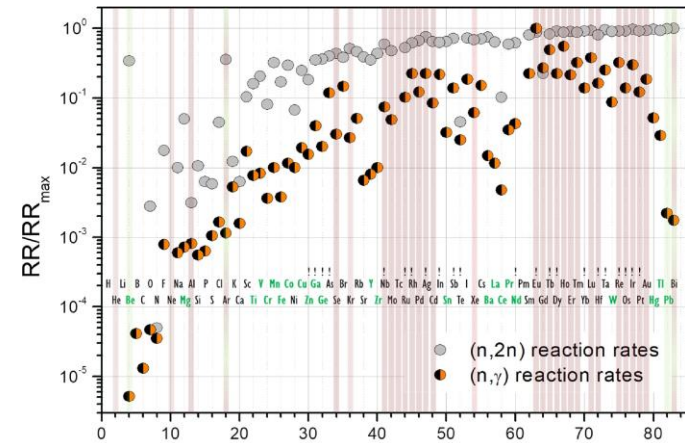


- Fusion neutrons can produce lithium from both naturally occurring isotopes:
 - $n + {}^6\text{Li} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + T + 4.785 \text{ MeV}$
 - Large cross section at thermal energies
 - Exothermic: produces additional energy!
 - $n + {}^7\text{Li} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + T + n' - 2.5 \text{ MeV}$
 - Produces tritium *and* a neutron
- It is advantageous to enrich in ${}^6\text{Li}$ to an extent (typically 40-90%) that depends on the blanket concept and other materials present

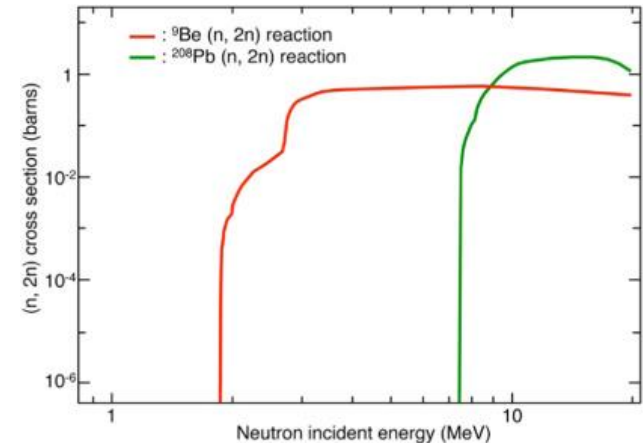


Neutron multipliers

- TBR = 1 is achieved when every fusion neutron produces a triton from lithium
- The multitude of other structures and components necessarily present in a fusion reactor will also absorb neutrons
- This can be compensated for by incorporating neutron multipliers, elements that undergo (n,2n) reactions
- Good multipliers have a high (n,2n) cross section and low total absorption cross section- Be and Pb are primary candidates
- Beryllium is a superior multiplier but has drawbacks (toxicity, supply chain, U impurities)



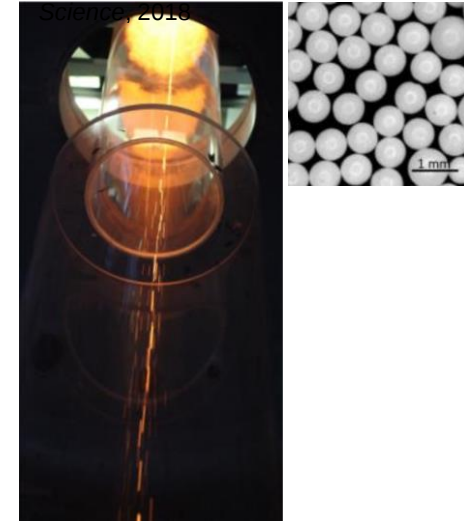
F. Hernandez, *Fusion Engineering and Design* **137** (2018) 243-256.



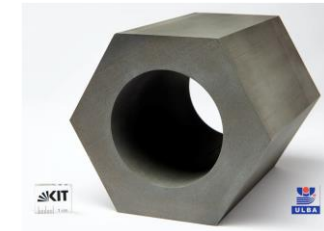
M. Nakamichi, in *Comprehensive Nuclear Materials* 2nd ed (2020).

Candidate breeder/multiplier materials

- Breeders
 - Liquid Metals:
 - Lithium ($T_{\text{melt}} = 180\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 - $\text{Pb}_{84.3}\text{Li}_{15.7}$ ($T_{\text{melt}} = 235\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 - Solids: separate breeder and multiplier
 - Ceramic breeders: Li_2TiO_3 , Li_4SiO_4
 - Others with less favorable absorption/neutron activation possible
 - Multipliers:
 - Be (metal)
 - Beryllide intermetallics: Be_{12}Ti , Be_{12}V , Be_{12}Cr
 - Others with less favorable absorption/neutron activation possible
 - Molten Salts:
 - FLiBe [$2\text{LiF} + \text{BeF}_2$] ($T_{\text{melt}} = 459\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 - FLiNaBe [$\text{LiF} + \text{NaF} + \text{BeF}_2$], ($T_{\text{melt}} = 305\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$)



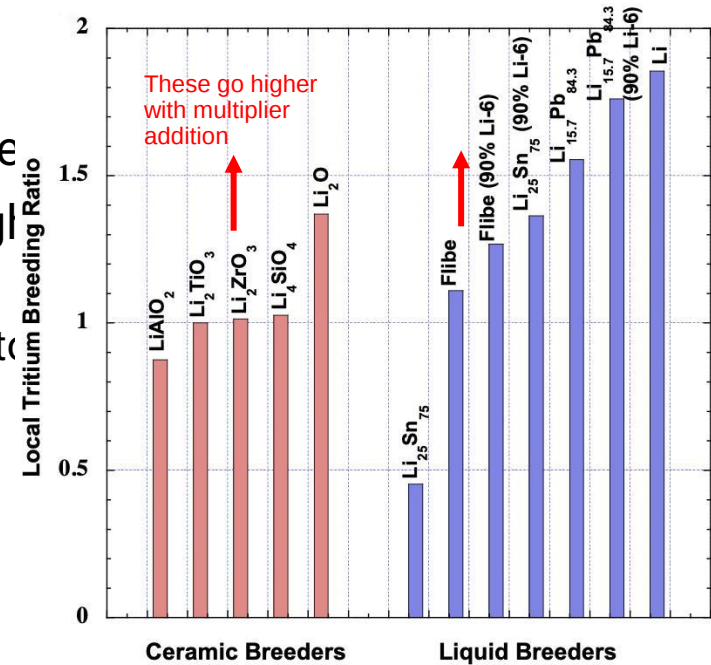
Beryllide intermetallic multipliers



R. Gaisin, *Fusion Engineering and Design* **161** (2020) 111862.

Can we achieve $TBR > 1(+\epsilon)$?

- Clearly yes in idealized configurations
- Whether achievable in a fusion reactor is a question
- Multipliers need to offset neutrons lost through other components and materials,
 - e.g. FW, blanket structure, divertor, pellet injectors, components, diagnostics, etc.



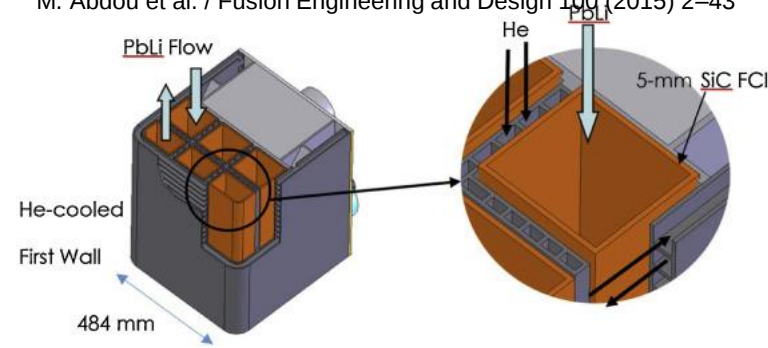
L. El-Guebaly, in "Fusion Energy and Power: Applications, Technologies and Challenges" (2015)

Blanket Concepts

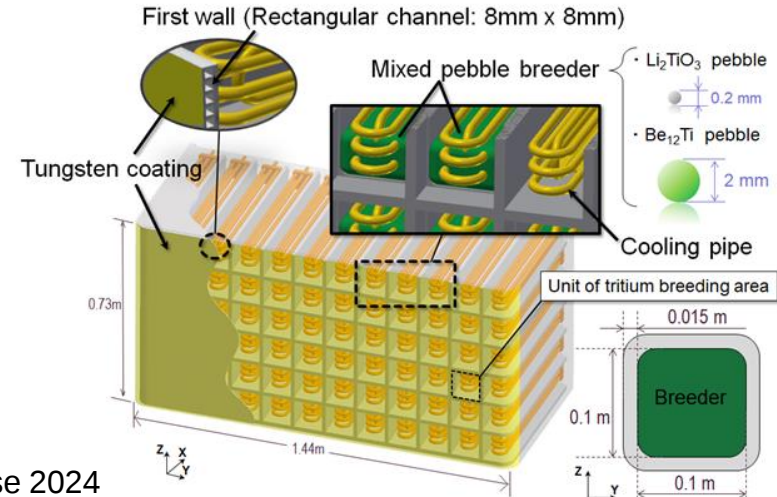
- Blanket concepts pair breeder/multiplier with structural and other materials and coolants based on their compatibility
 - PbLi, solid breeders typically paired with RAFM steel structure and helium or water coolant
 - These are the most studied designs
 - Lithium traditionally paired with vanadium
 - It may help getter impurities (O, H, T) that would otherwise significantly impact vanadium
 - Poor or questionable compatibility with other candidate structural materials
 - Material solution for FLiBe unclear
 - High melt temperature (459 °C) leaves little/no temperature window for operation with RAFM steel (< 550 °C)
 - Corrosion compatibility with all materials a concern

*Paul Humrickhouse 2024

US Design – Dual Cooled Lead Lithium (DCLL)
M. Abdou et al. / Fusion Engineering and Design 100 (2015) 2–43

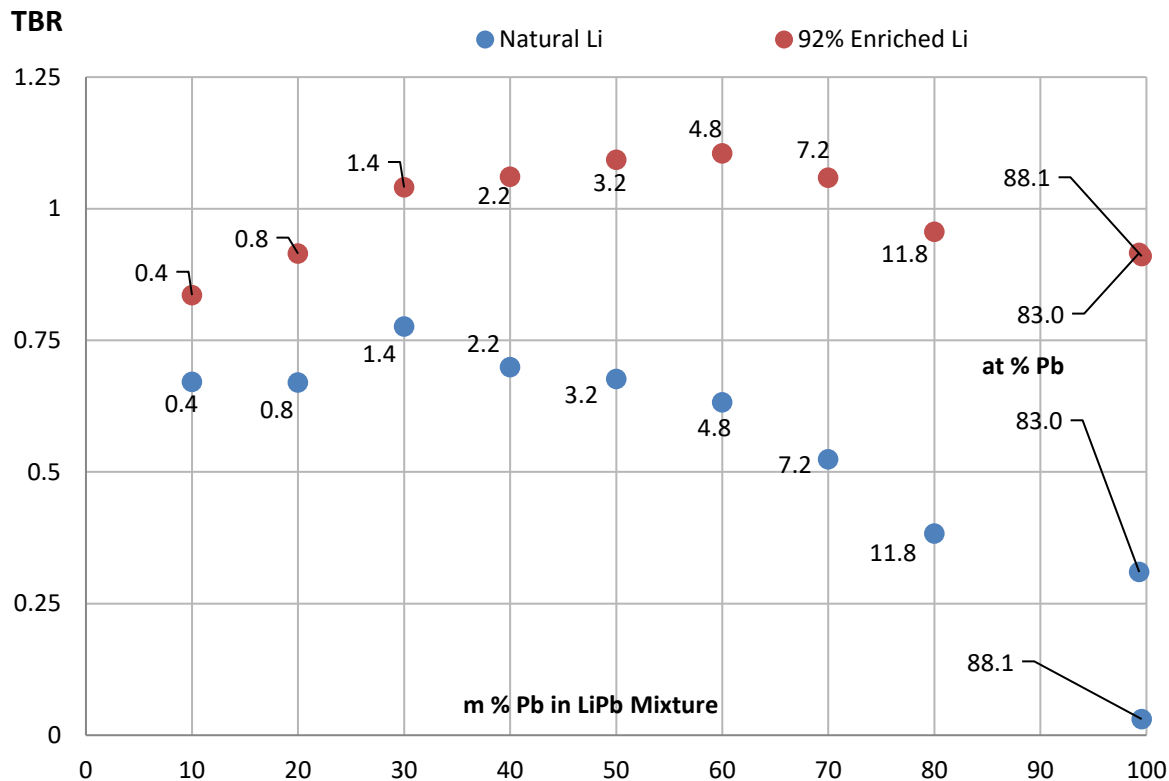


JA DEMO Design – Water Cooled Ceramic Breeder (WCCB)
Y. Someya, 2018 US-JA Workshop



TBR for PPPL Spherical Tokamak Advanced Reactor

STAR 2D model





TBR for PPPL Spherical Tokamak Advanced Reactor

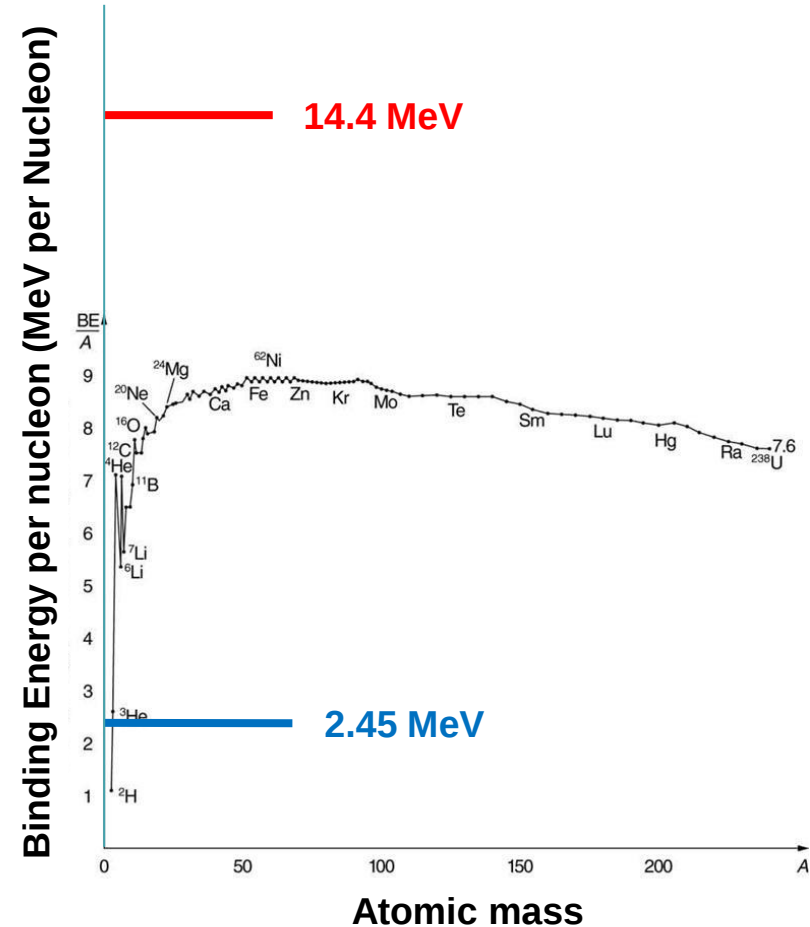
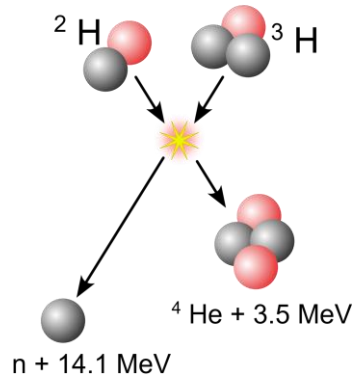
STAR 2D model

Breeder Midplane Thickness cm		Multiplier Midplane Thickness cm			PbLi mixture	TBR	
IB	OB	IB Be	OB Be	OB Pb	at % Li	Natural Li	92% Li ₆
21.9	47.042	0	23.65	0	17	0.269	0.76
21.9	43.81	0	0	0	17	0.31	0.916
21.9	43.81	2.2	0	0	17	0.369	0.502
21.9	43.81	0	2.5	0	17	0.404	0.971
21.9	43.81	2.2	0	0	40	0.502	1.21
21.9	47.042	0	23.65	0	40	0.508	
21.9	81.87	0	0	0	17	0.544	1.08
21.9	87.37	0	0	0	17	0.615	1.239
21.9	43.81	0	0	0	40	0.632	1.105
0	43.81	55.9	0	0	40	0.663	1.1066
21.9	43.81	0	2.5	0	40	0.7	1.203
21.9	81.87	0	3	0	17	0.832	1.326
21.9	81.87	0	3	0.5	17	0.875	1.355
21.9	81.87	0	0	0	100	1.101	
21.9	81.87	0	3	0	40	1.137	1.46
21.9	81.87	0	3	0.5	40	1.177	1.493
21.9	84.87	0	0	0	100	1.257	
21.9	81.87	0	3	0	100	1.312	
21.9	81.87	0	3	0.5	100	1.336	1.186

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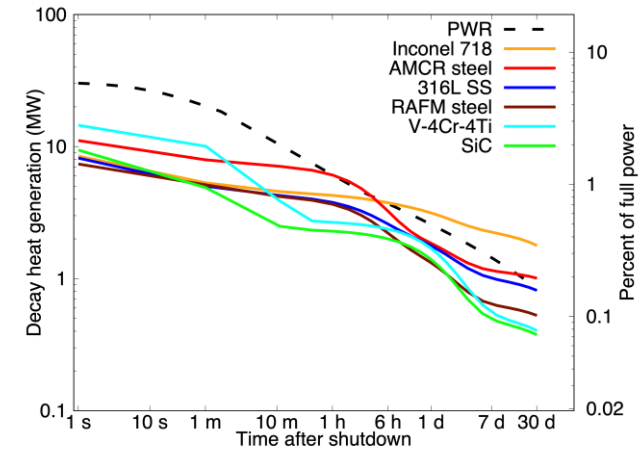
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High Energy Neutrons

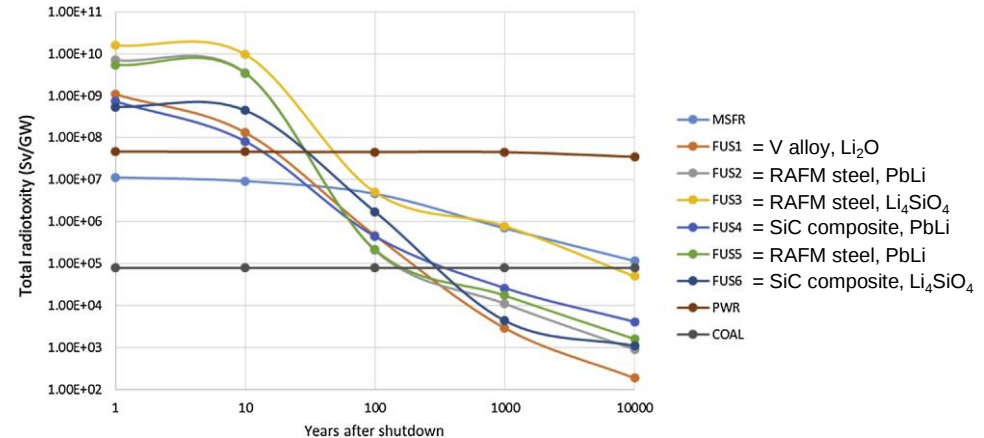


Neutron activation considerations

- When considering other elements in breeder, multiplier, or structural materials, neutron activation is a primary consideration
- All D-T fusion reactors will create significant quantities of radioactive material
- Avoidance of long-lived waste and high decay heat (active cooling) requires *low-activation materials*
 - Many common alloying elements (Ni, Co, Mo, Nb, etc.) need to be avoided



P. W. Humrickhouse, *Fusion Science and Technology* (2024, submitted)
A comparison of total radiotoxicity of PWR, Fusion, and GEN IV reactors



M. Zucchetti, *Fusion Engineering and Design* **136** (2018) 1529-1533.

Structural Materials

- The need to reduce short (decay heat) and long (waste) term activation has driven the development of structural materials for fusion
- Three primary candidates:
 - Reduced-Activation Ferritic/Martensitic (RAFM) Steel
 - Most mature option, likeliest for near-term deployment; examples:
 - F82H (Fe-8Cr-2W-0.2V-0.04Ta)
 - EUROFER-97 (Fe-9Cr-1W-0.2V-0.12Ta)
 - Vanadium Alloys
 - V-4Cr-4Ti
 - Silicon Carbide (SiC) composites

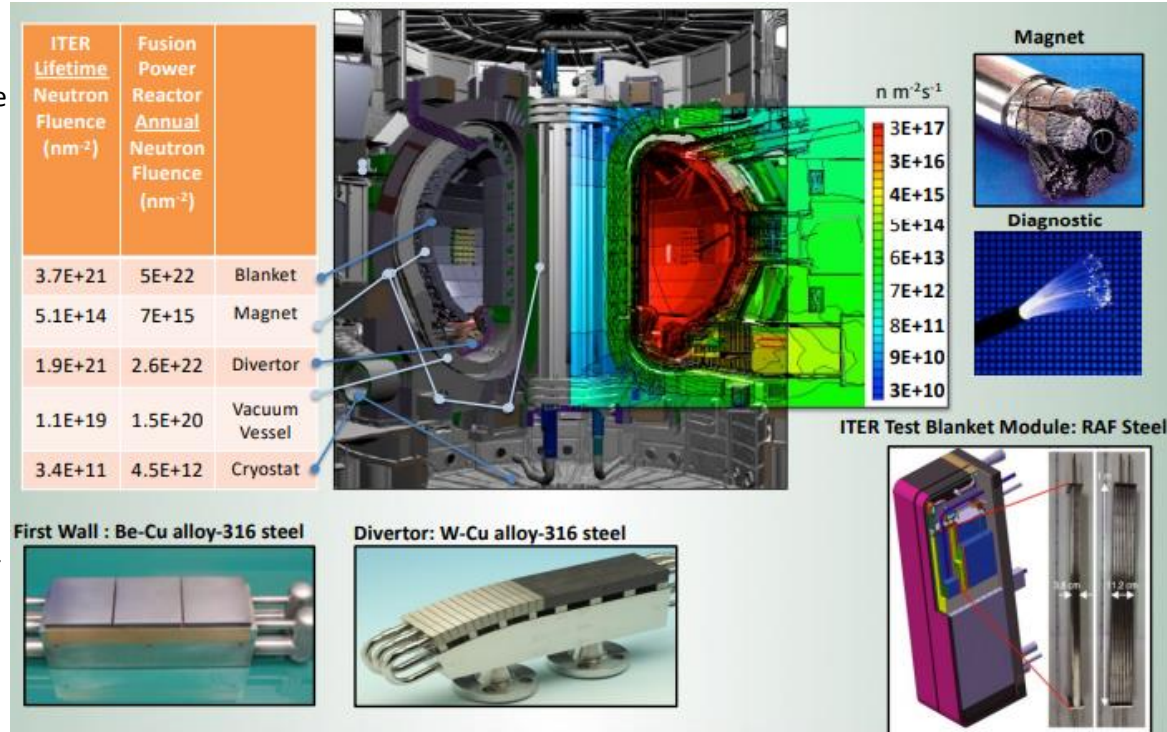
Other materials

- Coolants
 - Solid breeders require a coolant
 - Liquid breeders can in principle also act as a coolant, but have some drawbacks for this purpose
 - High pressure drops due to magnetohydrodynamic forces (liquid metals) or high viscosity (molten salts) at high flow rates
 - Other undesirable properties such as low thermal conductivity in molten salts
 - In both cases, primary coolant candidates are:
 - Helium
 - Water
- Tungsten
 - Tungsten appears in many components in and around the breeding blanket:
 - Plasma facing materials in the divertor
 - Armor on the FW/blanket
 - Conducting shells used to stabilize the plasma
 - Shielding
 - Its effect on breeding may be mixed; it's a strong thermal absorber but can also multiply at high energy*

*B. Sorbom et al., *Fusion Engineering and Design* **100** (2015) 378-405.

Scientific & Technical Challenges for Fusion Materials are Significant

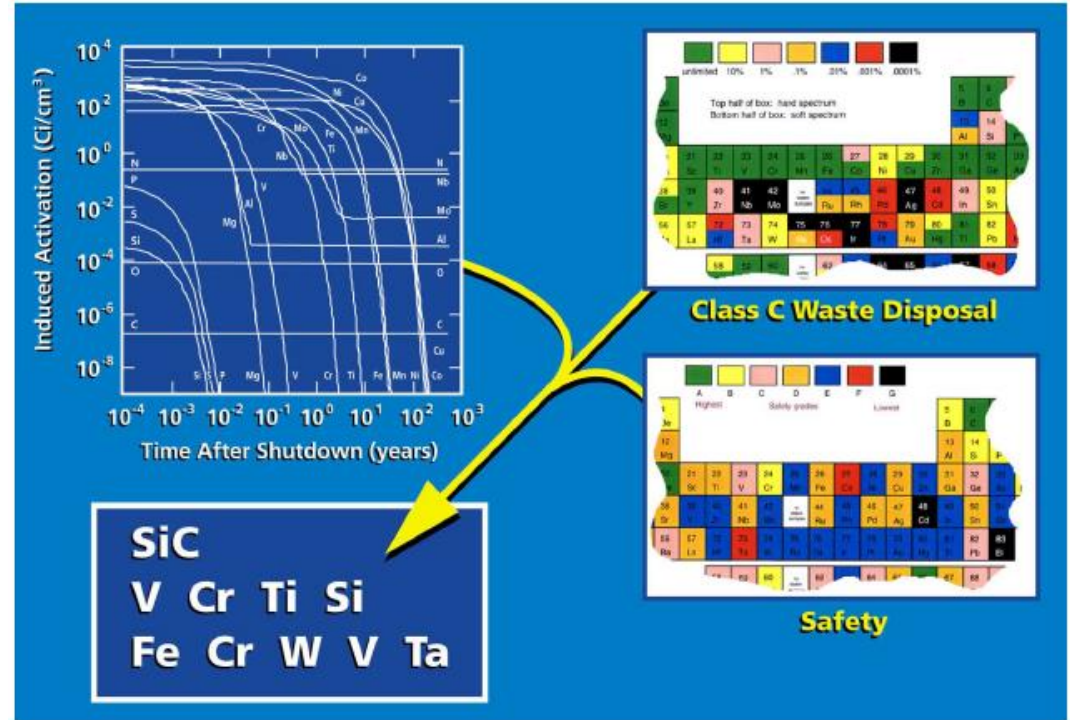
- Future D-T fusion reactors represent a uniquely hostile operating environment:
 - High temperatures
 - Reactive coolants
 - Large time-dependent thermal-mechanical stresses
 - Intense radiation (both plasma and neutrons)
- Materials selection will strongly impact the Technical Viability, Safety, and Economics of future fusion reactors
- Neutron irradiation leads to atomic displacements:
 - Is expressed in terms of displacements per atom – dpa
 - Lifetime exposures are expected to be greater 100 dpa (10 MW-y/m²)
 - Atomic displacements lead to significant microstructural evolution and bulk property degradation
- Higher neutron energy (14.1 Me) results in:
 - Much higher gaseous transmutation (He and H)
 - Different solid transmutations (material system dependent)



* Fusion Material Damage FES perspective G. Shaw 2024

Fusion Materials: Low-induced radioactivity

- Materials strongly impact environmental and safety aspects of fusion
- Many materials are not suitable for various technical:
 - Performance
 - Safety
 - Waste
- Leading candidate materials:
 - RAFM and Advanced Steels
 - SiC composites
 - Tungsten alloys



* Fusion Material Damage FES perspective G. Shaw 2024

Irradiation effects on structural materials

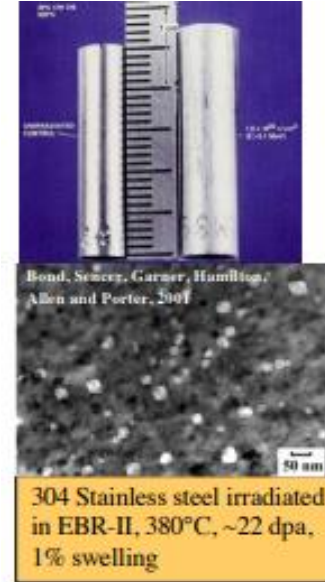
- Exposure to neutrons degrades the mechanical performance of structural materials and impacts the economics and safety of current & future fission power plants:
 - Irradiation hardening and embrittlement/decreased uniform elongation ($< 0.4 \text{ Tm}$)
 - Irradiation ($< 0.45 \text{ Tm}$) and thermal ($> \sim 0.45 \text{ Tm}$) creep
 - Volumetric swelling, dimensional instability & growth ($0.3 - 0.6 \text{ Tm}$)
 - High temperature He embrittlement ($> 0.5 \text{ Tm}$); Specific to fusion & spallation accelerators
- Additional environmental degradation due to corrosive environments (SCC, uniform/shadow corrosion, CRUD)

Variables

- Structural Materials (Fe-based steels, Vanadium and Ni-based alloys, Refractory metals & alloys, SiC) and composition
- Zr alloy cladding
- Initial microstructure (cold-worked, annealed)
- Irradiation temperature
- Chemical environment & thermal mechanical loading
- Neutron flux, fluence and energy spectrum
 - materials test reactor irradiations typically at accelerations of $10^2 - 10^4$

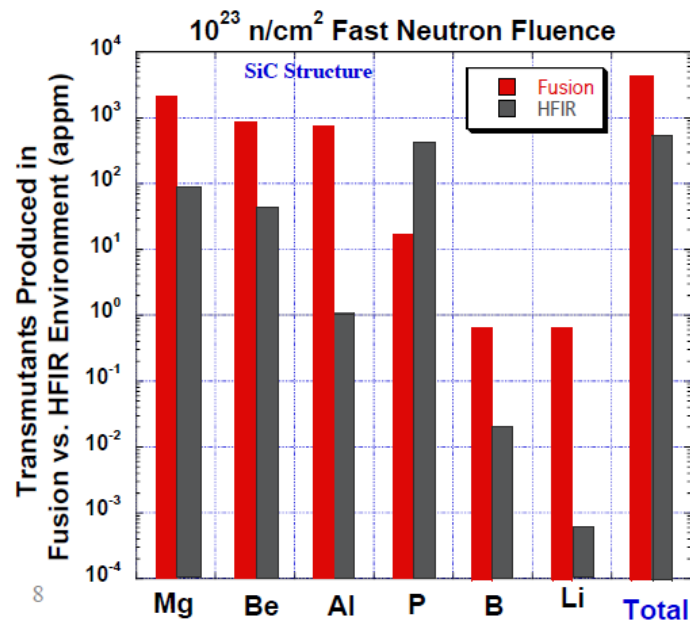
Synergistic Interactions

* Fusion Material Damage FES perspective G. Shaw WANDA 2024



Solid Transmutations

- In addition to the significant gaseous transmutations, some materials such as SiC experience significant solid transmutations in a fusion spectrum
 - Burn-in: Variety of nuclear reactions with different threshold energies ($E_n > 3$ MeV) produce 6 transmutants: Mg (58%), Be (22%), Al (20%), P, B, Li.
 - Also results in non-stoichiometric burn-out
- Consequences are largely unknown, but will likely impose significant effects, especially in combination with gaseous transmutation production
- These are fusion-specific issues which cannot be readily simulated using existing techniques
- **Uncertainties in ND/cross sections at/above 10 MeV**



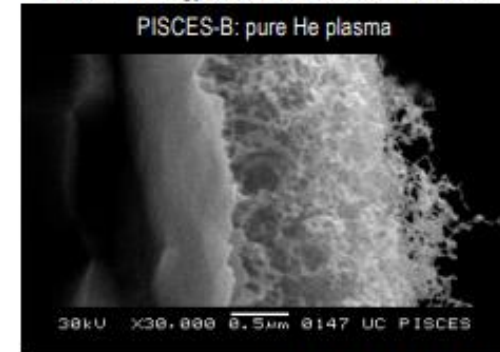
Comparison of solid transmutations in SiC in a Fusion vs thermal fission reactor environment

M. Sawan, Y. Katoh, and L. L. Snead, "Transmutation of Silicon Carbide in Fusion Nuclear Environment," J. Nucl. Mater., 442, 1–3, S370 (2013).

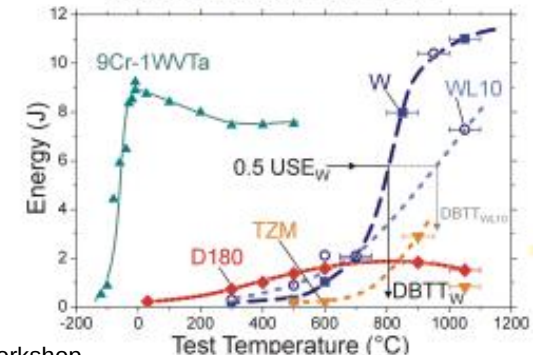
Plasma Facing Components*

- Typical materials considered for PFM include graphite although this list has been modified by considerations
- Tungsten alloys leading candidates as divertor structures due to excellent thermo-physical properties.
- However, critical issues need to be addressed:
 - Creep strength
 - Fracture toughness (DBTT)
 - Microstructural stability (Recrystallization)
 - Low & high cycle fatigue • Oxidation resistance
 - **Effects of neutron irradiation (hardening & embrittlement)**
- Several computational and experimental efforts to improve the performance of tungsten PFCs are ongoing

Baldwin, Nishijima, Doerner, et. al, courtesy of
Center for Energy Research, UCSD, La Jolla, CA

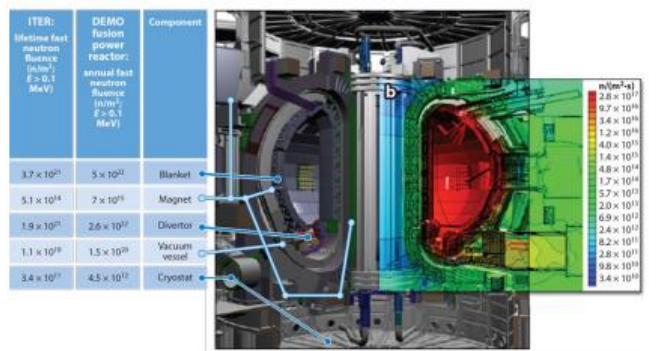


M. Rieth, A. Hoffmann, HHFC, 2008



* Road mapping Plasma Facing Materials For FPP – B. D. Wirth et al. – Presented 2023 Materials Road-mapping workshop

Plasma facing materials and the fusion environment



Zinkle and Snead, Annual Reviews 2014

An eye toward a fusion pilot plant

- 14.1 MeV neutron flux $> 10^{14}$ n/(cm²·s)
- First wall power load: 2 MW/m²
- Divertor: 10-20 MW/m²

C. Bachmann et al., FED, 2015; G. Federici et al., FED 2014

For essentially all ITER components, current materials systems will not survive the anticipated DEMO (or a compact FPP) lifetime.

PFM requirements ultimately require engineered forms of W with mechanistically driven stability.

Steady state heat loads:

up to 20 MWm⁻² in ITER
(lower loads in DEMO)

- recrystallization
- failure of joints

Transient thermal loads:

up to 60 MJm⁻²
(disrupt., ELMs, VDEs)

- cracks
- melting
- dust formation

thermal
loads

plasma
exposure

neutrons

Plasma loads:

- sputtering
- hydrogen retention
- helium induced morphology

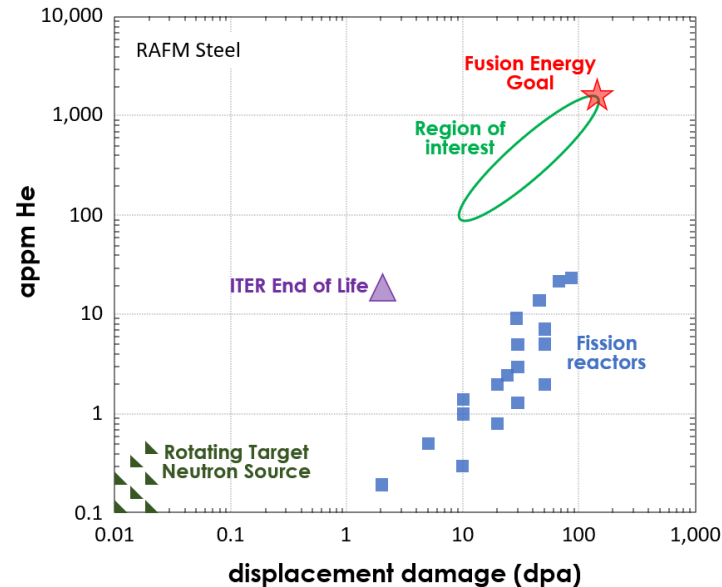
Neutrons:

- up to 14 MeV
- defects
- transmutation

Linke et al., Matter Rad Ext, 2019

Fusion Materials knowledge base

- **Key Point:** Fusion materials development requires both displacement damage and transmutation generation in BULK samples
 - Iron based materials (RAFM steels) are used as a reference material (10 appm He/dpa)
 - Generally, need to reach damage levels greater than 10 dpa/100 appm He to see effects



	1st DEMO Blanket						2nd DEMO Blanket						Adv. DEMO					
Data base need	<20 dpa/200appm He						~50 dpa/500appm He						>100 dpa/1000appm He					
Materials	RAFM	FM-ODS	W	SiC	Be	Li ceramic	RAFM	FM-ODS	W	SiC	Be	Li ceramic	RAFM	FM-ODS	W	SiC	Be	Li ceramic
Irradiation effects																		
Hardening/Embrittlement	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Phase stabilities	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
creep & fatigue	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Volumetric swelling	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
High Temp He&H effects	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

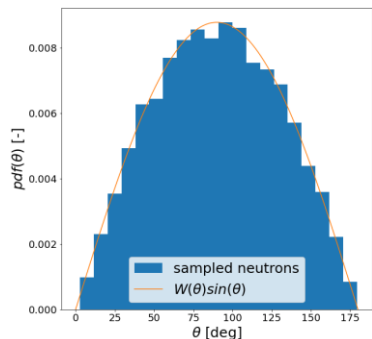
■ Adequate knowledge base exists
■ Partial knowledge base exists
■ No knowledge base

Note: He levels are only for FM steels

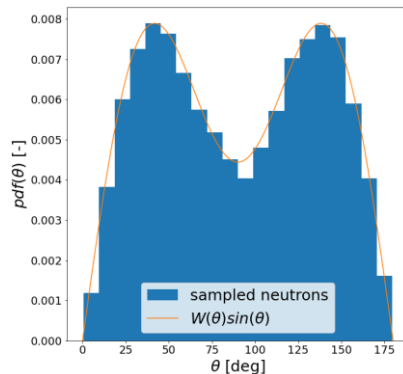
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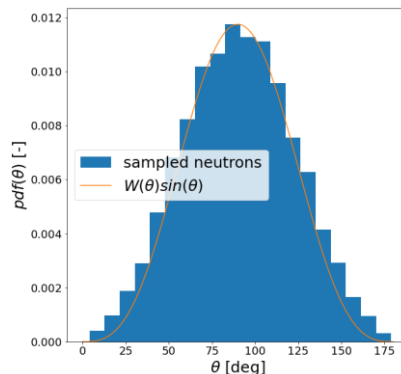
Spin Polarised Fusion



Unpolarized



Parallel



Perpendicular

Distributions of nuclear source relative to magnetic field.

J. Bae et al submitted to NF (2025)

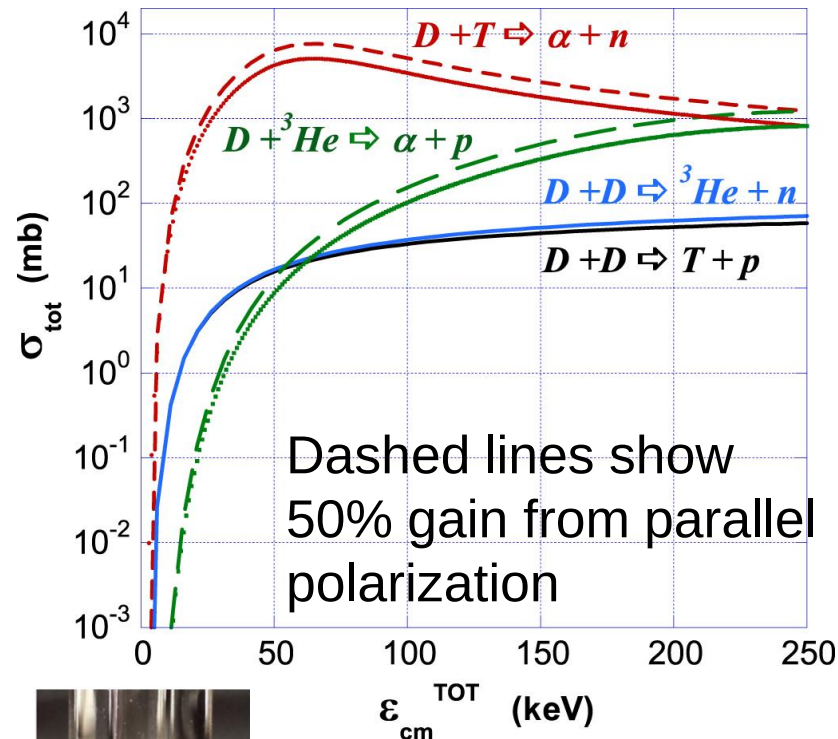
Data from:

M. B. Chadwick, et al. ENDF/B-VII.1

Nuclear Data for Science and Technology.

Nuclear Data Sheets,112(12):2887–2996,

December 2011.



The typical placement of a 2 mm diameter GDP pellet (which appears amber in this photograph) above a Pyrex bead within a 3 mm Inside-Diameter (ID) tube for permeation imaging.

Baylor et al. 2023 Nucl. Fusion 63 076009

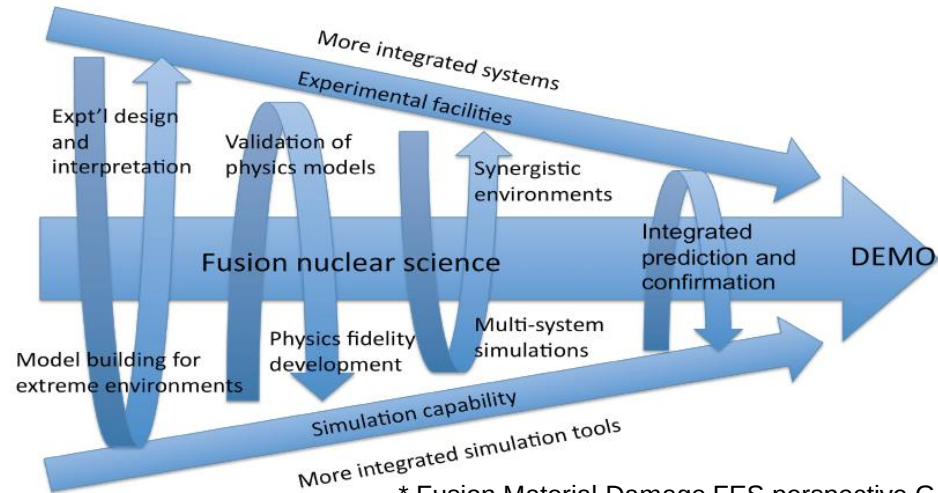
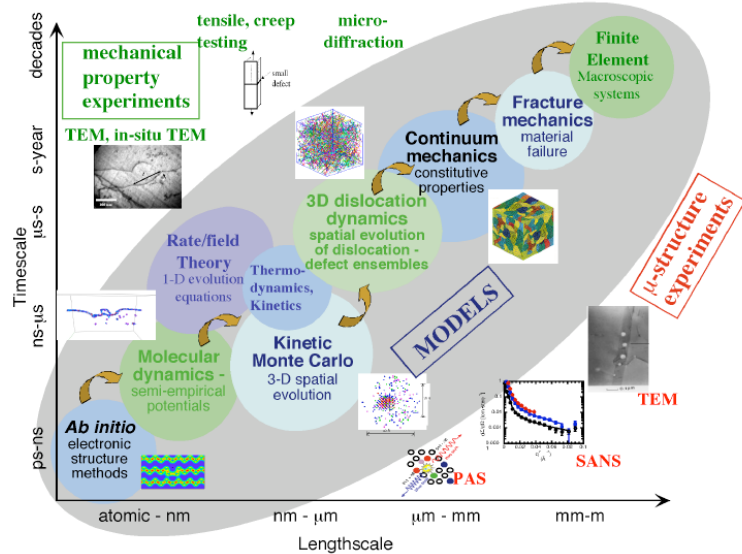
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Fusion Materials theory and modeling

- General premise is to apply complementary modeling, experimental and theoretical techniques at appropriate scales to determine underlying mechanisms
- Given the lack of experimental facilities that fully represented loading environments – data gaps and uncertainties still exists.

- Uncertainties and errors are found – and ideally must be quantified – at every level
- Significant opportunities for examples of computational thermodynamics to tailor improved material properties (advanced ferritic/martensitic alloys, Cu-based alloys, etc.)

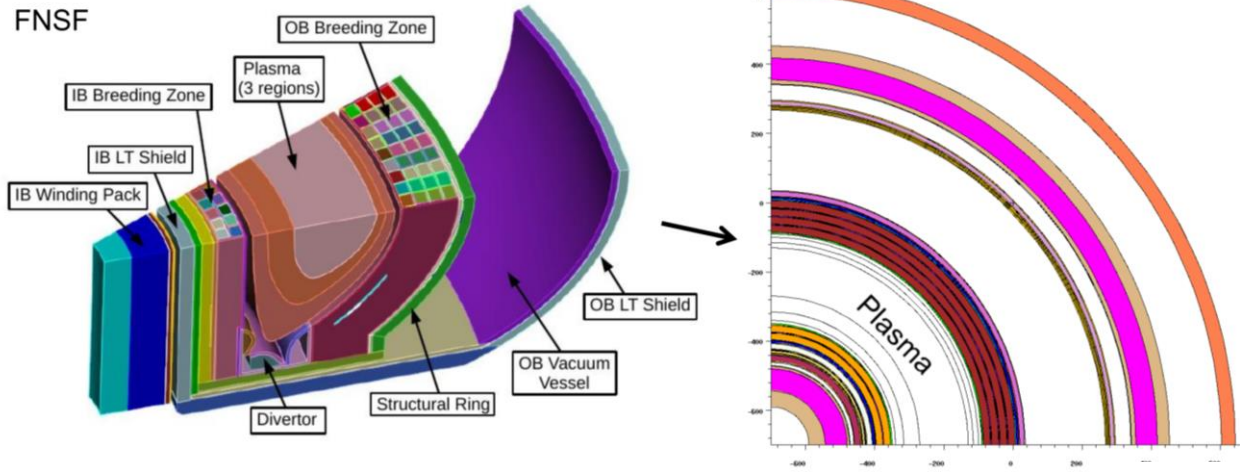


* Fusion Material Damage FES perspective G. Shaw 2024

Verification of Crosssection Libraries

1-D Cylindrical Computational Benchmark Models

1. FNSF- *Fusion Energy Systems Studies Fusion Nuclear Science Facility*
 - **Coolant:** He gas, **structure:** RAFM steel, **blanket:** PbLi, **shielding filler:** WC, borated steel
2. FNSF FLIBE- *FNSF with a $2(\text{LiF})\text{-}1(\text{BeF}_2)$ blanket*
 - **Coolant:** He gas, **structure:** RAFM steel, **blanket:** flibe, **shielding filler:** WC, borated steel
3. ITER- *Early ITER design*
 - **Coolant:** water, **structure:** SS-316, **blanket:** none, **shielding filler:** borated steel

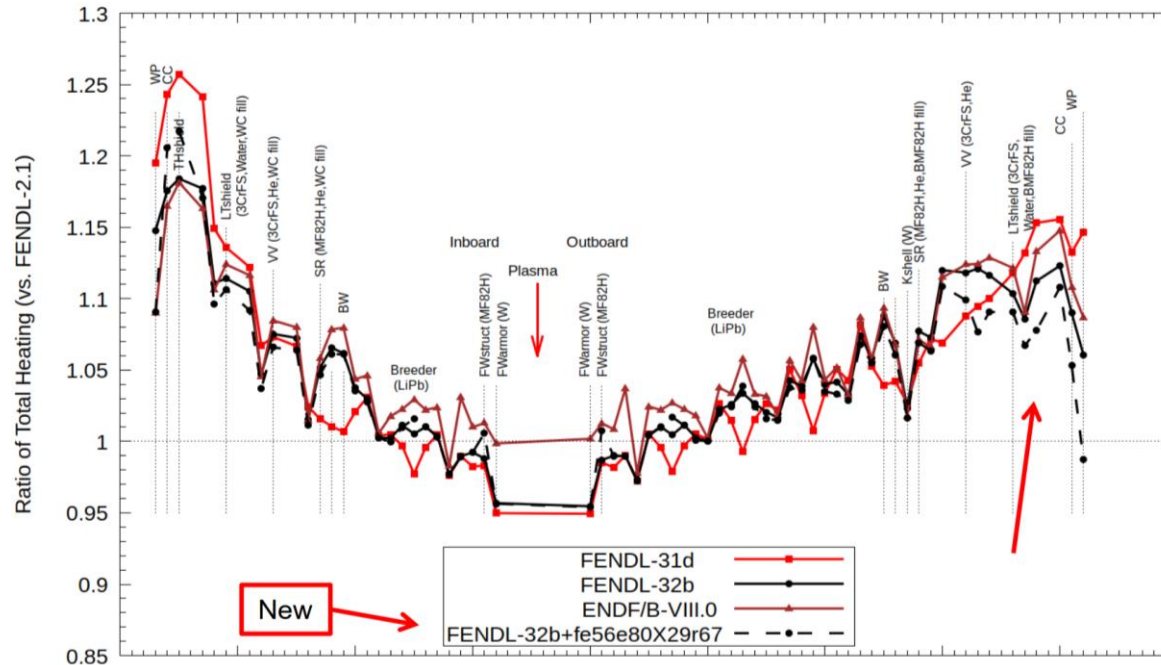


T. Bohm et al. "Initial Neutronics Investigation of a Liquid Metal Plasma Facing Fusion Nuclear Science Facility, *Fusion Science and Technology*, 2019.

T. Bohm 2024

Verification of Crosssection Libraries

Fe-56 Preliminary Results: Total Nuclear Heating FNSF



T. Bohm 2024

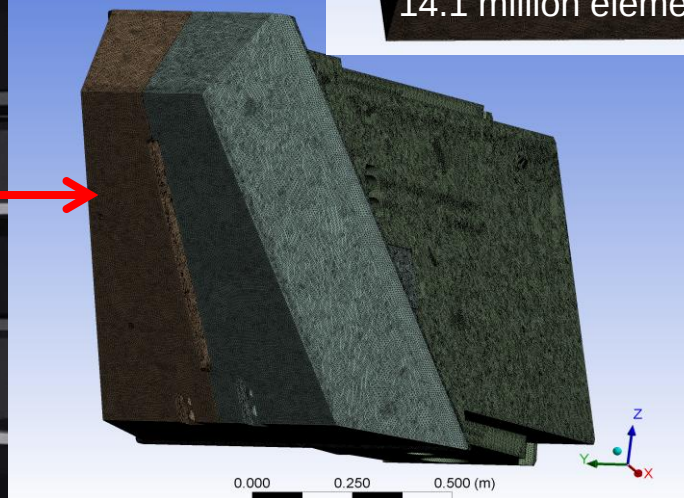
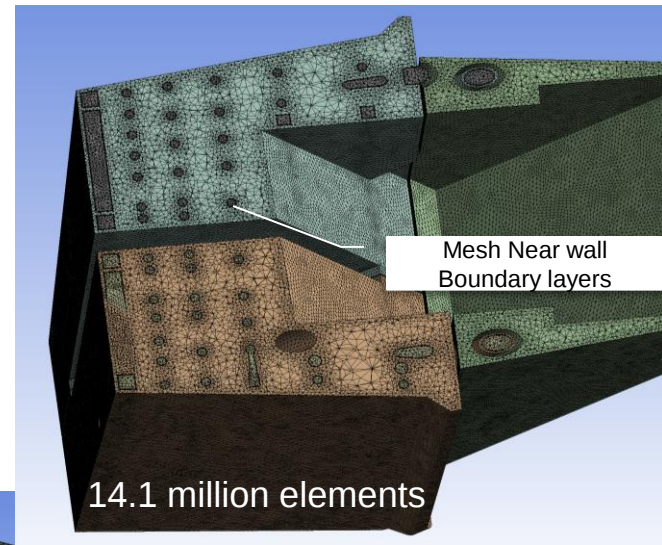
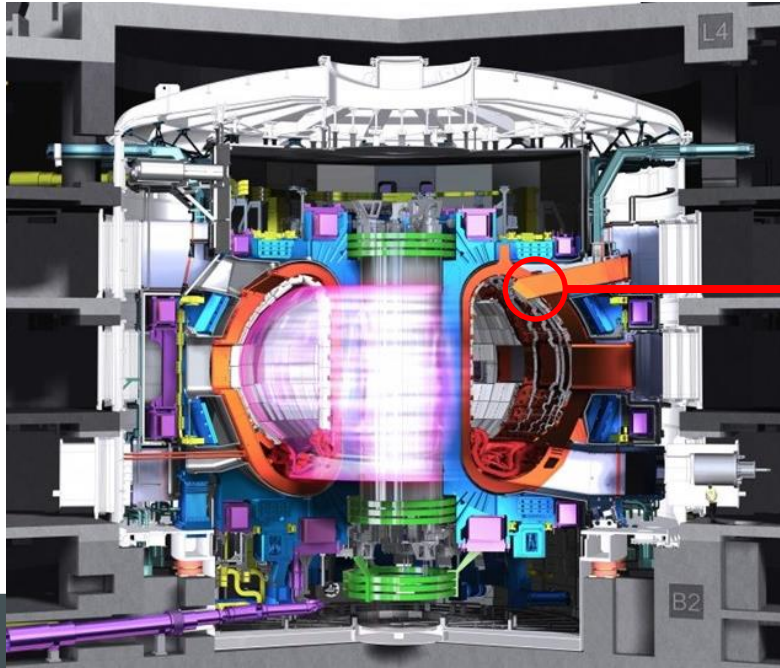
Integrated simulation for Fusion Technology

Engineering and physics systems integration modeling and simulations are required to support the engineering design of an FPP.

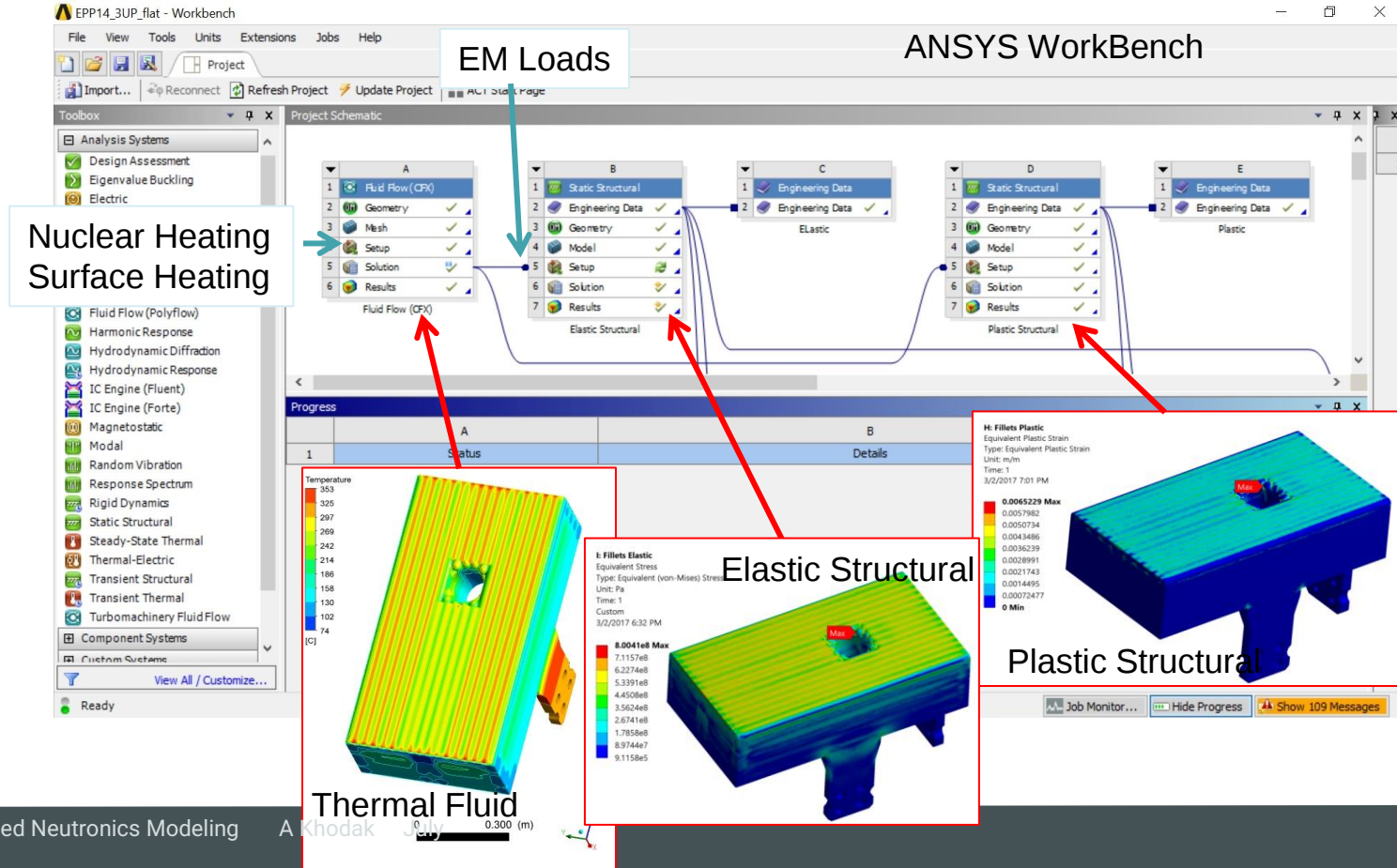
- Physics, system and process models can be combined into comprehensive full device models which will likely contribute to evaluating the operations and maintenance of the pilot plant
- Modeling and simulations incorporating multiple physics and multiscale phenomena with increasing fidelity into simulations to evaluate the refine design options
 - High fidelity simulations will benefit from exascale computing and enable reduced models including via artificial intelligence
- Engineering computer aided design, structural analysis and process and control modeling will provide an important opportunity to optimize the design and integration of the FPP
- Given the lack of prototypic experimental facilities

Multiphysics analysis

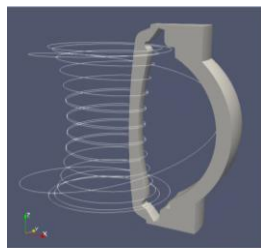
The analysis of many fusion applications such as diagnostic first wall requires integrated Multiphysics analysis



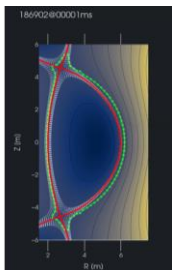
ANSYS allows coupling neutronics results with thermo-fluid and structural analysis



Multi-Physics-Engineering Virtual Prototyping System

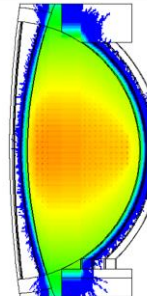
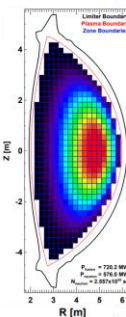
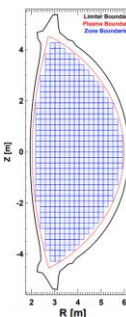


Magnetic field line trace from the blanket surface starting at midplane with the equilibrium used in HEAT



STEP 1

0D System Code PROCESS
2D Equilibrium Optimization ISOLVER
2D Axisymmetric Set-up in MCNP
2D Axisymmetric Set-up for HEAT



Neutron Source from ISOLVER
Interpolated into MCNP

STEP 2

Surface Heating
HEAT, ANSYS

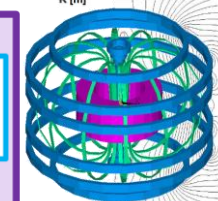
Geometry

3D Magnetic Field
ANSYS

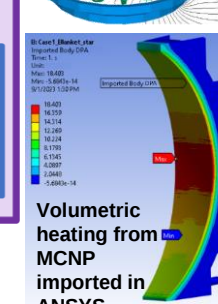
Customized
CFX
3D CFD MHD

MCNP: DPA, TBR
Volumetric Heating

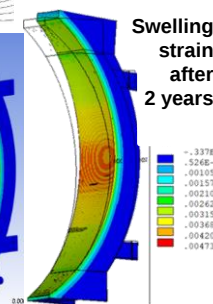
ANSYS
Structural Analysis



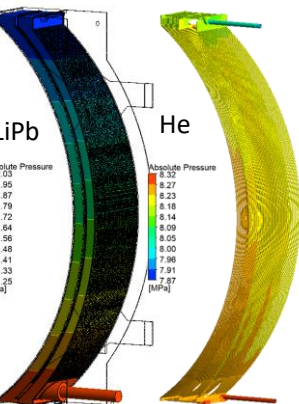
Axisymmetric magnetic field obtained using ISOLVER and PF and TF coils geometry used for 3D interpretation in ANSYS



Volumetric heating from MCNP imported in ANSYS



Swelling strain after 2 years



Absolute pressure in He coolant (left) and Li-Pb (right) fluid zones of the Out-Board blanket

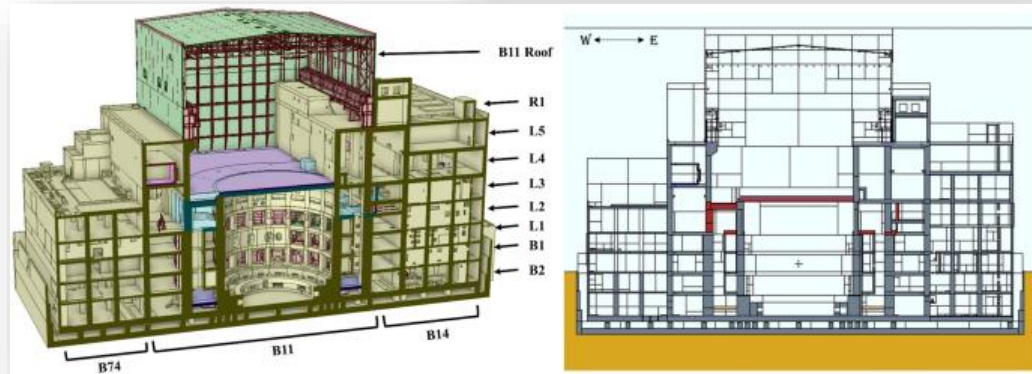
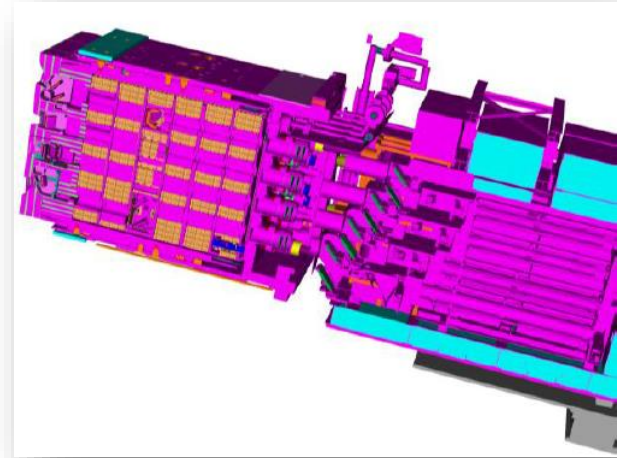
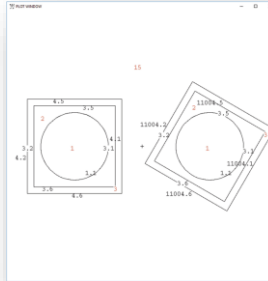
29th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference – October 16-21, 2023 – London, UK:
P8 - 2200 Khodak et al. "Virtual Prototyping System for Design and Optimization of the Tritium Breeding Blankets for Fusion Power Plant"

Khodak et al. FED 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fusengdes.2023.113692>

Radiation Transport Model

Input for radiation transport

- Geometry
- Materials
- Sources
- Irradiation scenario
- Cooling time



*Godsey, Harb, Loughlin Neutronics for Iter Presentation 2025

Tallies

A tally is the accumulation of the nuclear responses from each history at the tally location. Cell based or on a mesh.

Tallies can include:

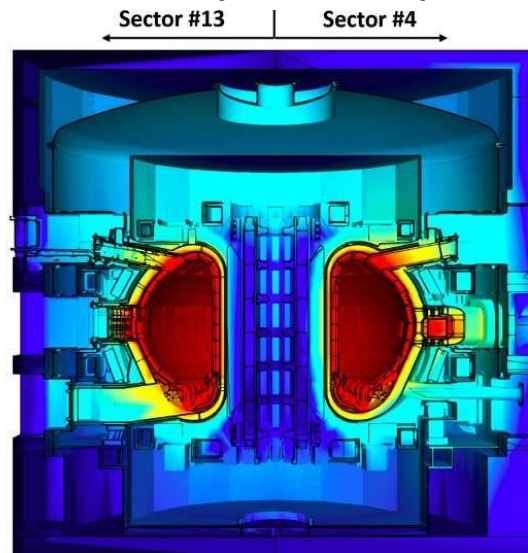
- Neutron flux
- Gamma flux

And depending on the material

- Nuclear heating (n or γ)
- Reaction rates (activation, transmutation))
- Damage
- Biological dose (and other responses)

These can be computed as a function of particle energy and as a function of space.

The errors on the tally are also very important

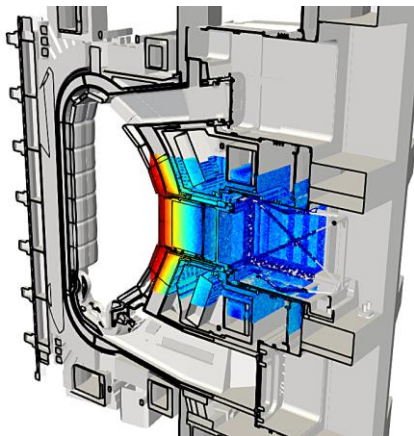


**Godsey, Harb, Loughlin Neutronics for Iter Presentation 2025*

Activation and Shut-down dose rates

Nuclear reactions in a material can render it radio-active. The decay of this radioactive material, with a characteristic half-life and energy, leads to a radiation field that can give rise to decay heat, and dose to equipment or personnel.

When the radio-isotope inventory is determined, a secondary source is created. The transmission of radiation from this source is computed in another phase of the calculation.

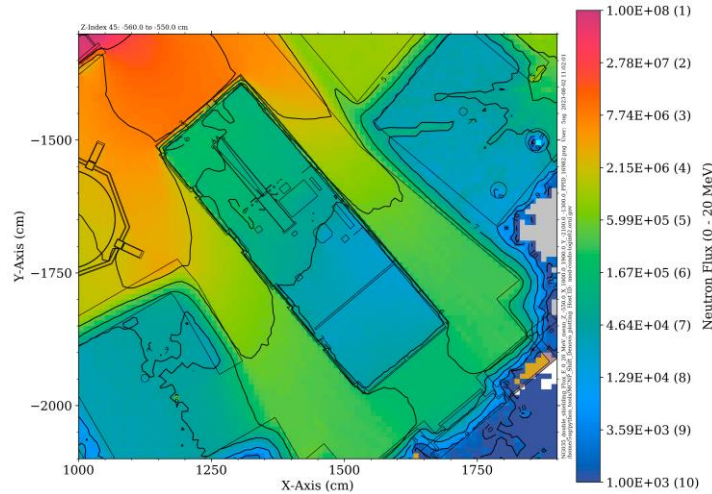


Decay photon source in an ITER
generic equatorial port interspace
(UNED)

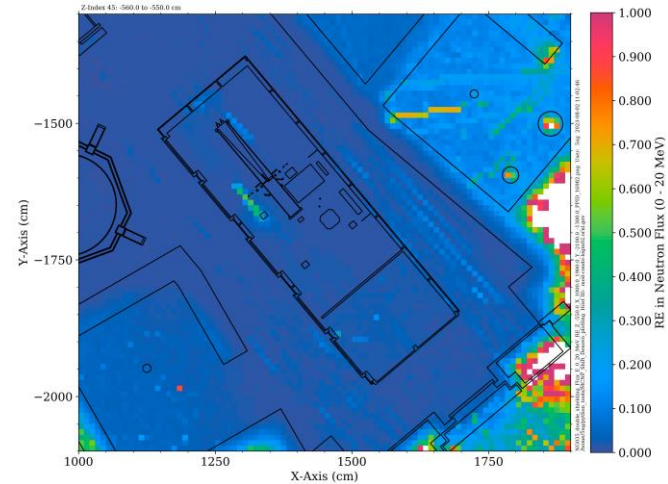
*Godsey, Harb, Loughlin Neutronics for Iter Presentation 2025

Uncertainties

Neutron Flux



RE in Flux (1-sigma)



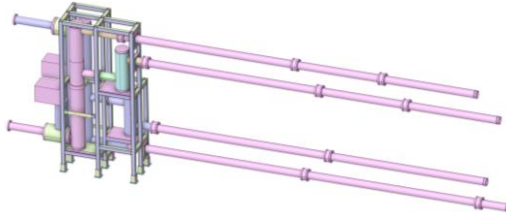
Monte Carlo is a stochastic process.

As you get further from the source the response is lower and the errors are higher (warning: over-simplification)

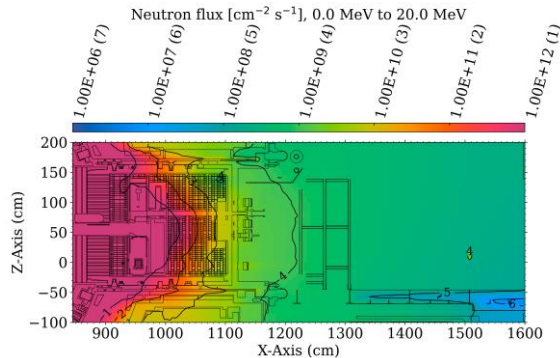
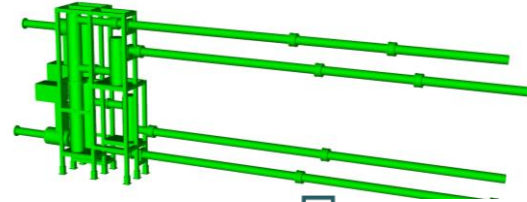
*Godsey, Harb, Loughlin Neutronics for Iter Presentation 2025

ITER Analysis: Model Preparation

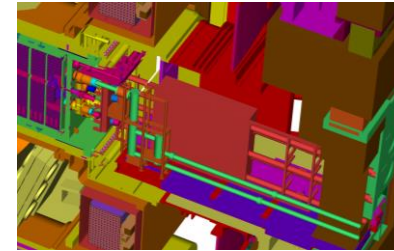
Original CAD in STEP is defeatured



Defeatured CAD converted to MCNP



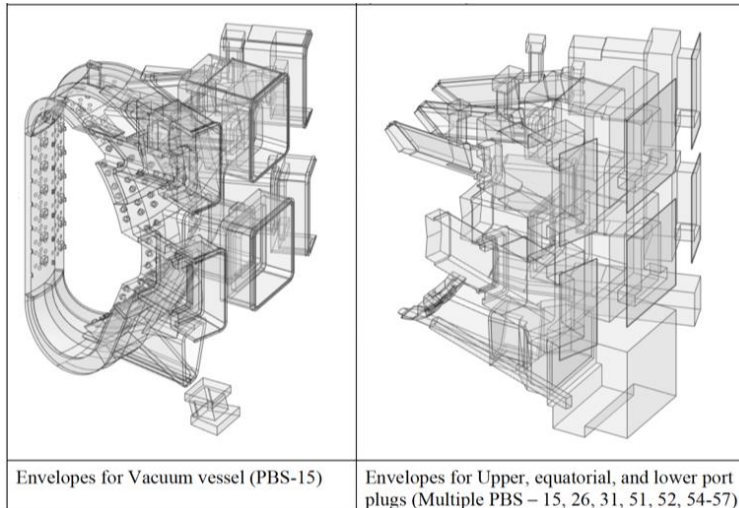
Results from integrated model



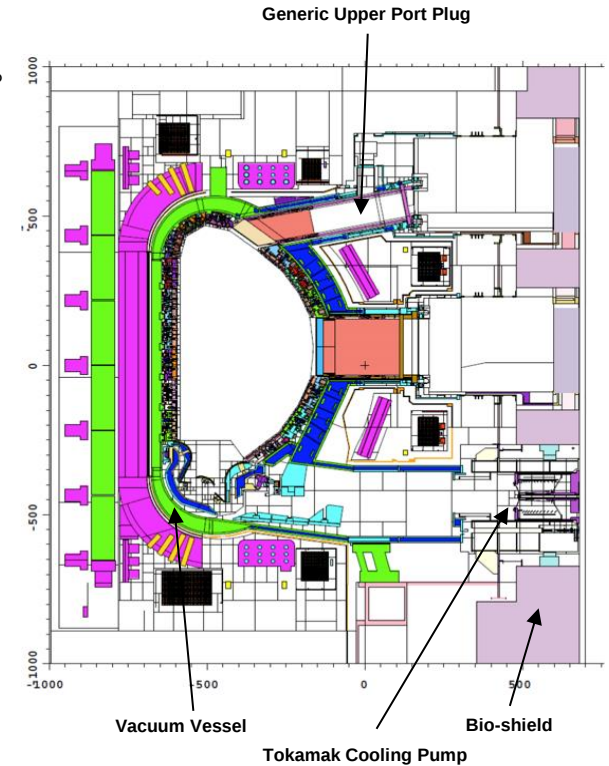
Converted CAD integrated into
ITER reference model

ITER Sector Model

- C-model [1] is a reference MCNP model representing a single ITER sector, spanning 40° toroidally.
- The model is comprised of space reservations, envelopes, that are filled with representative models of the coils, vacuum vessel, blanket, etc.
- Generic envelope fillers can be replaced by a detailed model of the concerned port, ex. UPP#11.
- Useful to assess localized nuclear responses in most ITER ports, excluding NBIs and their neighbors.
- Care must be taken in defining boundary conditions.



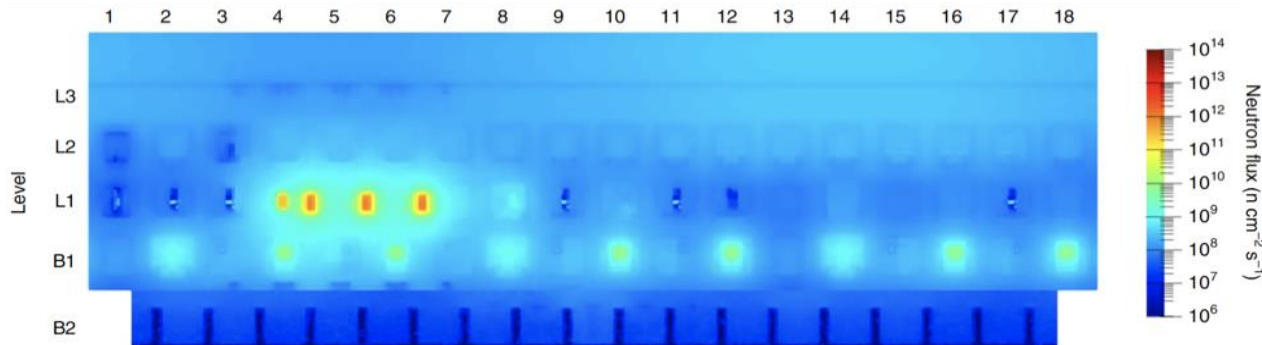
C-Model Envelopes



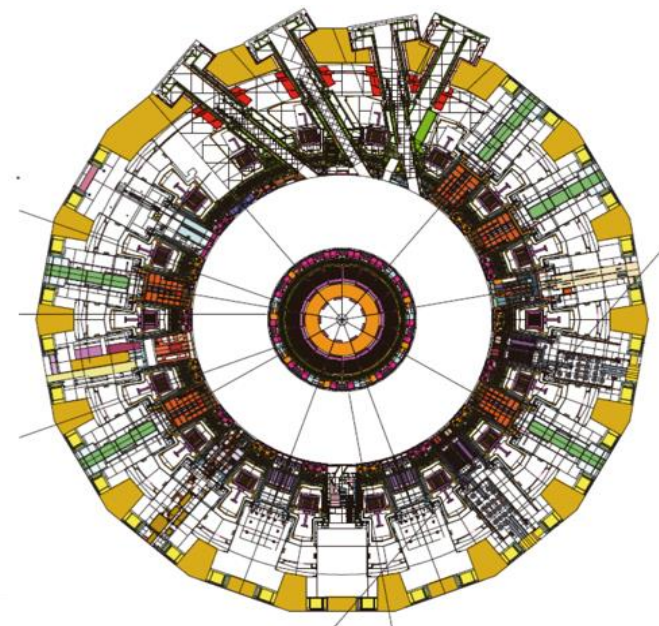
ITER C-Model
[C-model_R181031 model document v1.5, ITER IDM ref. XETSWC, 2019.]

ITER 360° Model

- E-lite is a full 360° MCNP model of ITER tokamak [1].
- A faithful representation of the fusion environment is essential to ensure a high accuracy of the concerned nuclear responses.
- It is important to capture cross-talk between ports.
- The image below shows the neutron flux in the ITER tokamak due to plasma neutrons,
 - C-Model can be used for most ports, except NBIs and their neighbors.
 - Proper port fillers should replace generic ones to capture cross-talk.



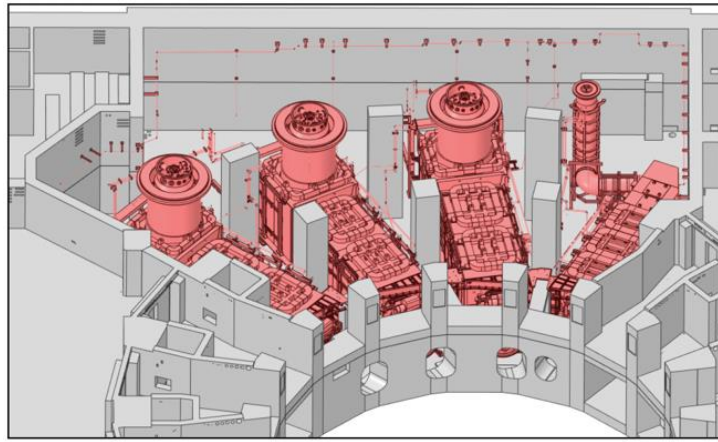
Neutron Flux at the Bio-Shield [5]



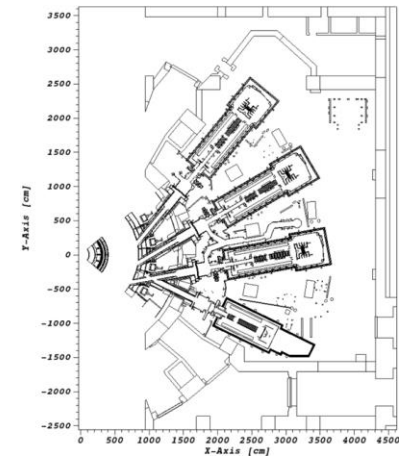
Plot of E-Lite Model at L1

[E-lite 360° MCNP model - Model Report, v1.1, ITER IDM ref. 2RLM3G, 2020]

ITER NBI Cell



CAD Model of the NBI Cell
[NB Cell & HV Deck - MCNP model v1.0, ITER IDM ref. 2SGT5W, 2020]



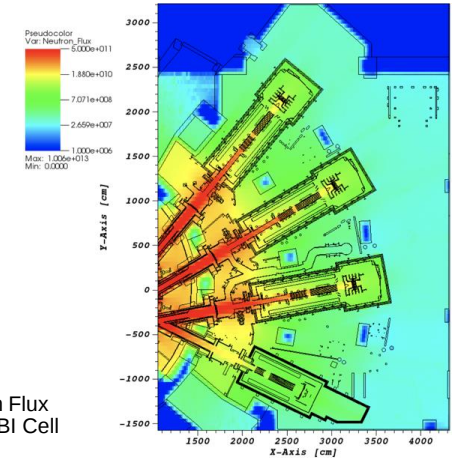
MCNP Model of NBI Cell
[Deliverable 5 - Final report v1.0, ITER IDM ref. Q73NR8, 2015]

The plasma in ITER will be heated through injecting accelerated deuterium atoms.

ITER will have three heating and one diagnostic Neutral Beam Injectors (NBI), residing in the NB cell.

The MCNP model spans 80° toroidally.

Due to the streaming ducts, and penetration of NBI through the bio-shield, neutron flux is high in the NBI cell.

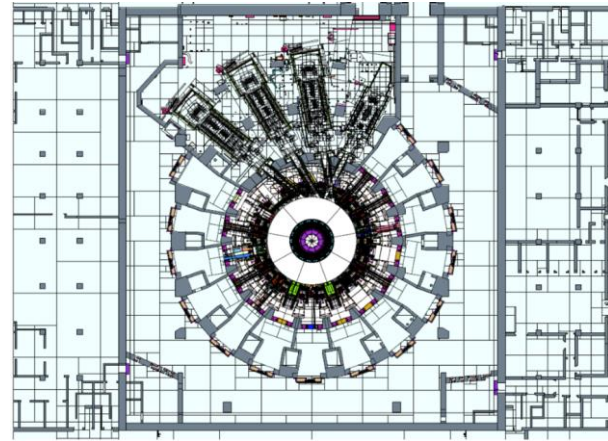


Neutron Flux
in the NBI Cell

ITER Full Model

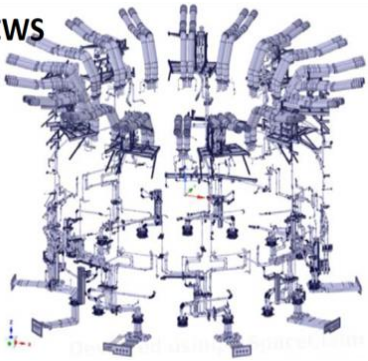
Combines the E-Lite model with the MCNP model of the Tokamak building, the neutral beam cell and the plasma neutron source and the activated water γ -ray source.

It is useful in assessing nuclear responses and for capturing all cross-talk (e.g., NB cell to port cell).

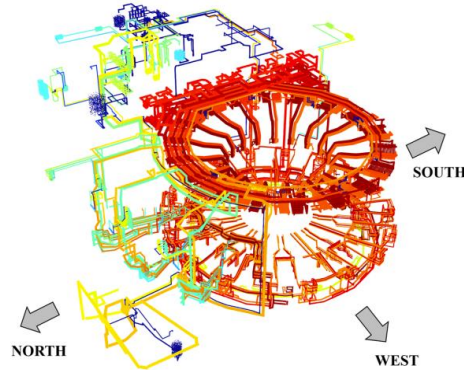


ITER Full Model at L1 [R. Juarez, et al., Nature Energy, 2021]

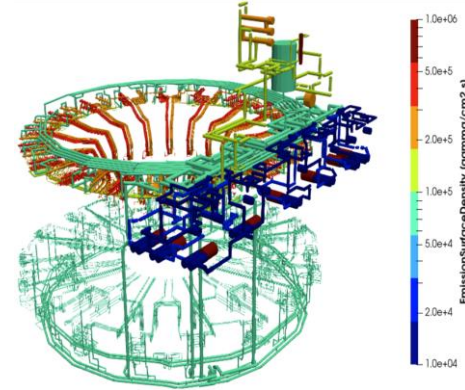
TCWS



CAD Representation of TCWS
[E-lite 360° MCNP model - Model Report, v1.1, ITER IDM ref. 2RLM3G, 2020]



Activated water source



Emission Density from Activated Corrosion Products at EOL
[DDR Maps report per area status N+1, ITER IDM ref. 68VR7F, 2022]

Outline

- Neutrons in Fusion
 - Fusion Reactions
 - Tritium Breeding
 - Material Damage
 - Spin Polarized Fusion
- Modeling
- **Integration with Plasma Codes**
- Integration with Engineering Codes:
 - Fluid, Heat and Mass Transfer analysis
 - Structural Analysis
- Integrated Analysis for ITER at Jet
- Conclusions

Modelling realistic neutron sources and synthetic diagnostics

JET



UK Atomic
Energy
Authority



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

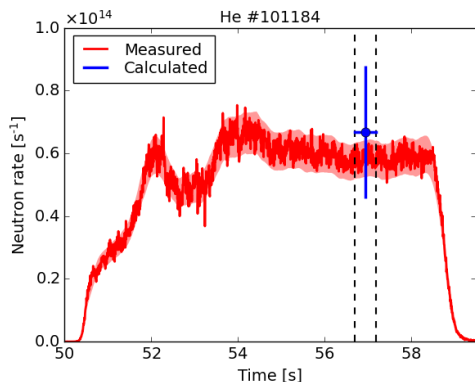
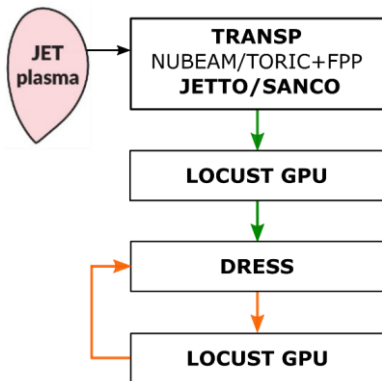
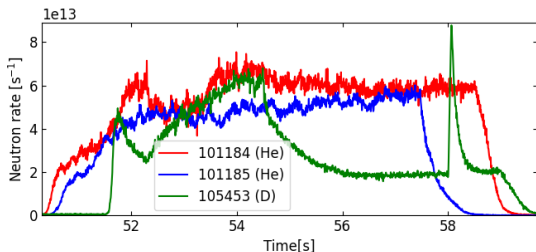


Institut
"Jožef Stefan"
Ljubljana, Slovenija

ITER

JET p+Be fusion experiments analysed with novel integrated modelling workflow (ITER PFPO motivation)

Experiment

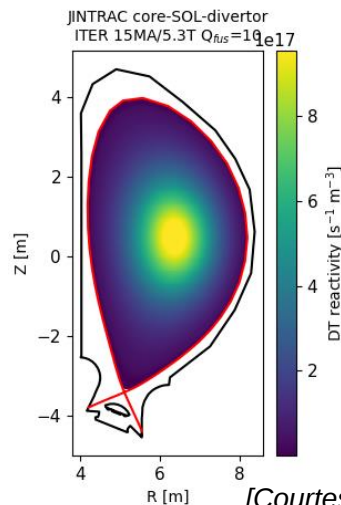


Exp. vs calc.

ITER 15MA/7.5T baseline $Q_{fus}=10$ scenario modelled with JINTRAC core-SOL-divertor coupling & IMAS output $\rightarrow$ being coupled to DRESS (IMASified) and ITER MCNP, standardized and routine

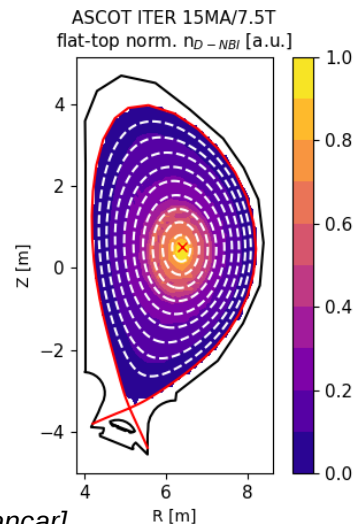
JINTRAC-DRESS-MCNP

Total emissivity



[Courtesy of Z. Stancar]

Fast ion density



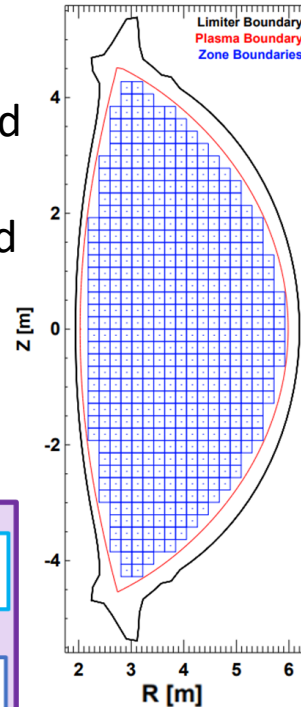
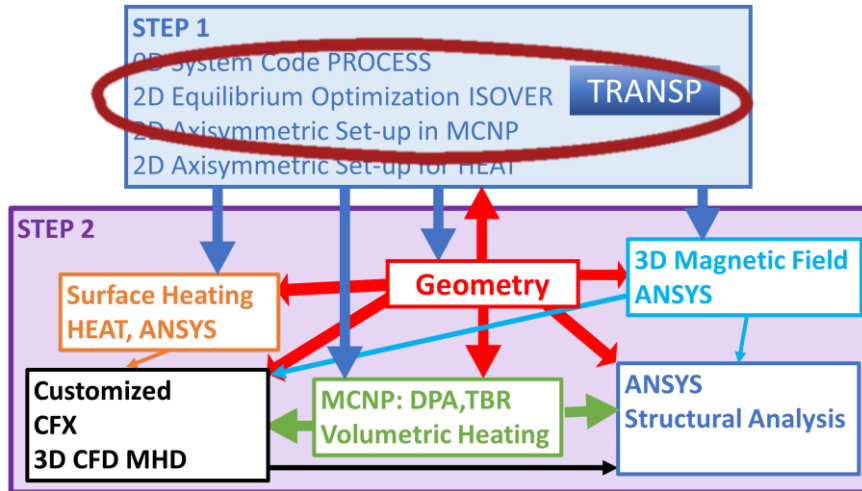
[Ž. Štancar et al 2021 Nucl. Fusion 61 126030]



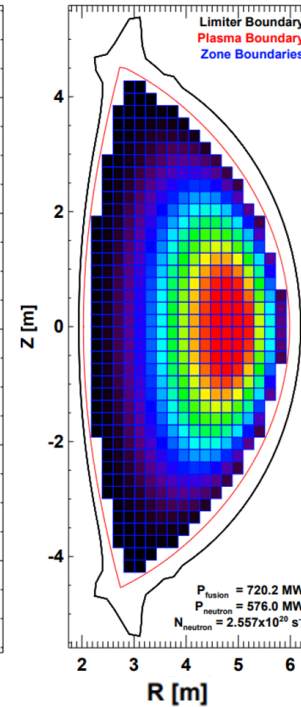
Neutron Source Interpolation for Neutronics Code MCNP



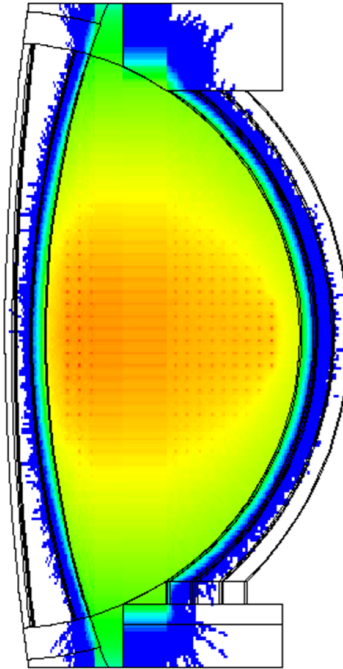
- Automatic spatial NS distribution transfer from ISOLVER to MCNP
- Connection to TRANSP can be achieved in a similar manner
- IMAS interface connection can be used



R,Z grid and plasma zone boundaries defined in iSOLVER



Neutron power density profile mapped onto the R,Z grid for import into MCNP



Relative intensity of neutrons born in MCNP model visualized by plotting neutron flux ($E > 13.99$ MeV)

3D Neutronics Source

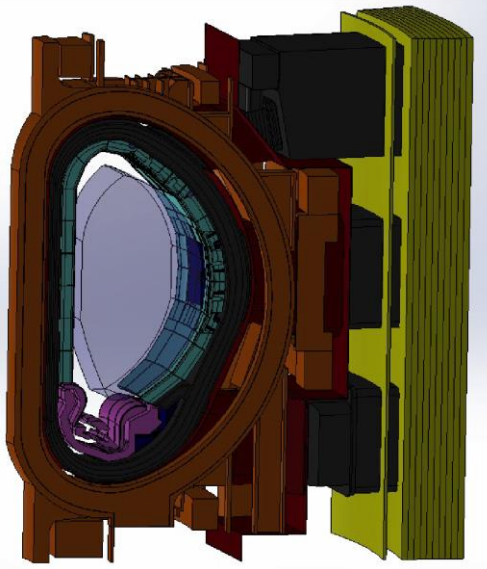


Outline

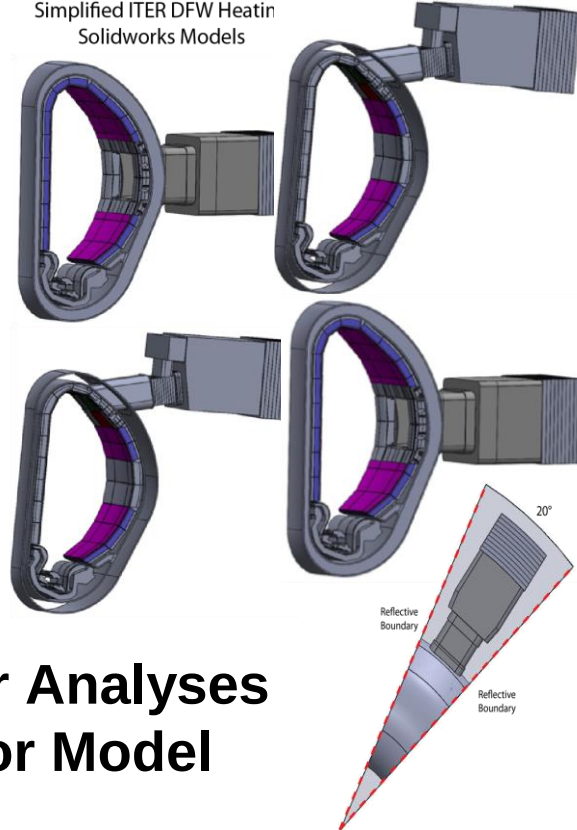
- Neutrons in Fusion
 - Fusion Reactions
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- Integration with Engineering Codes:
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 - Structural Analysis
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Loads – Volumetric Heating

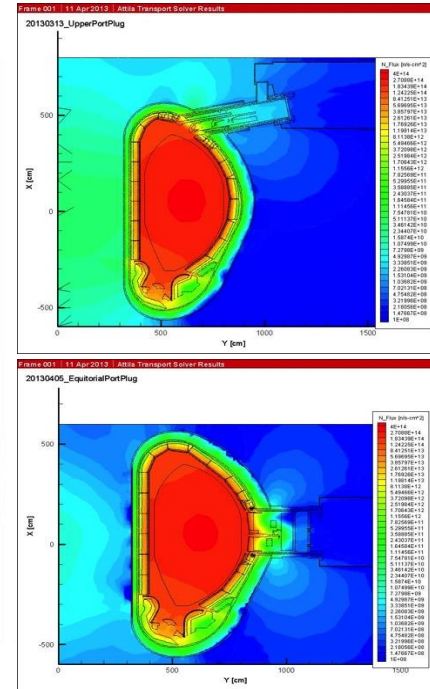
Full ITER Solidworks Model



Simplified ITER DFW Heatin Solidworks Models

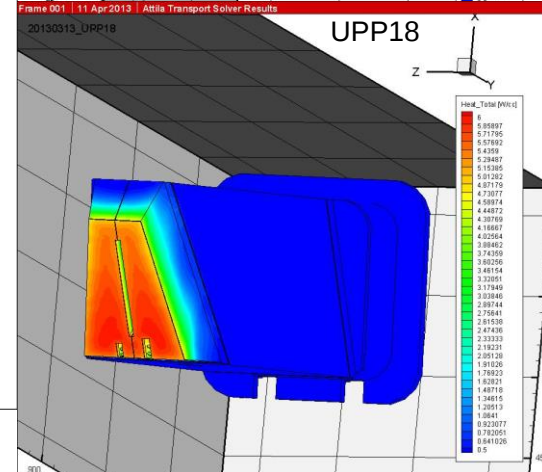
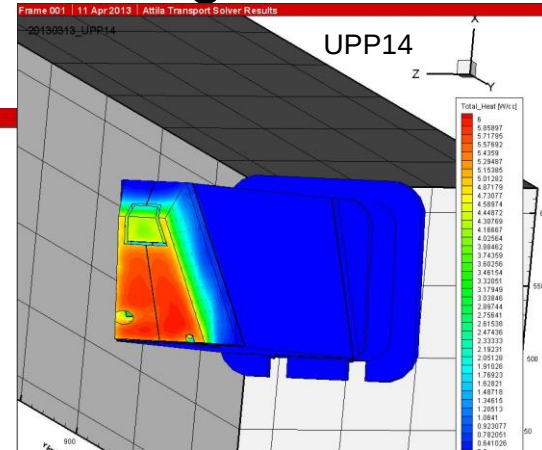
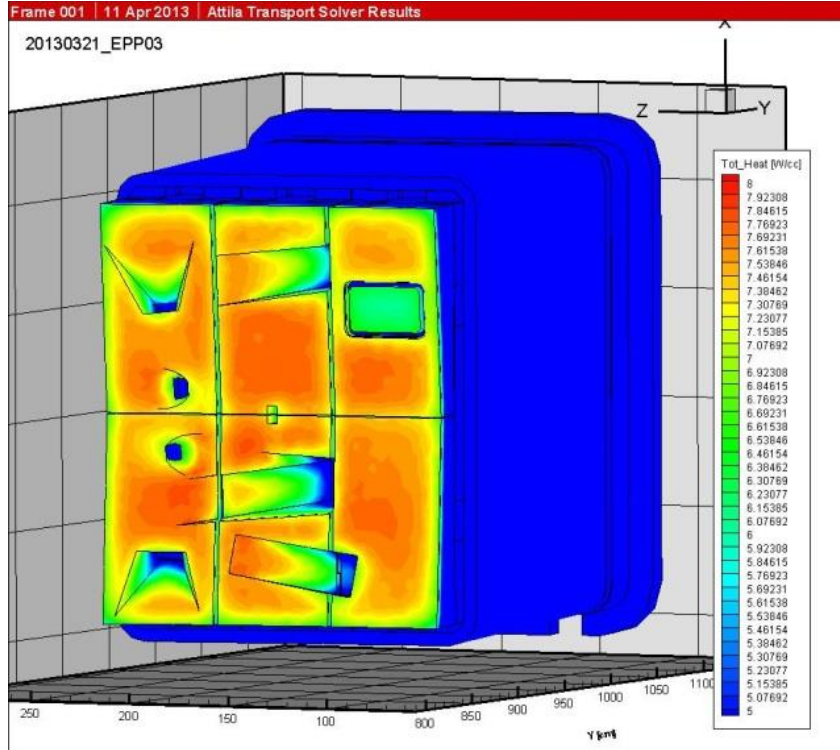


Nuclear Analyses Sector Model

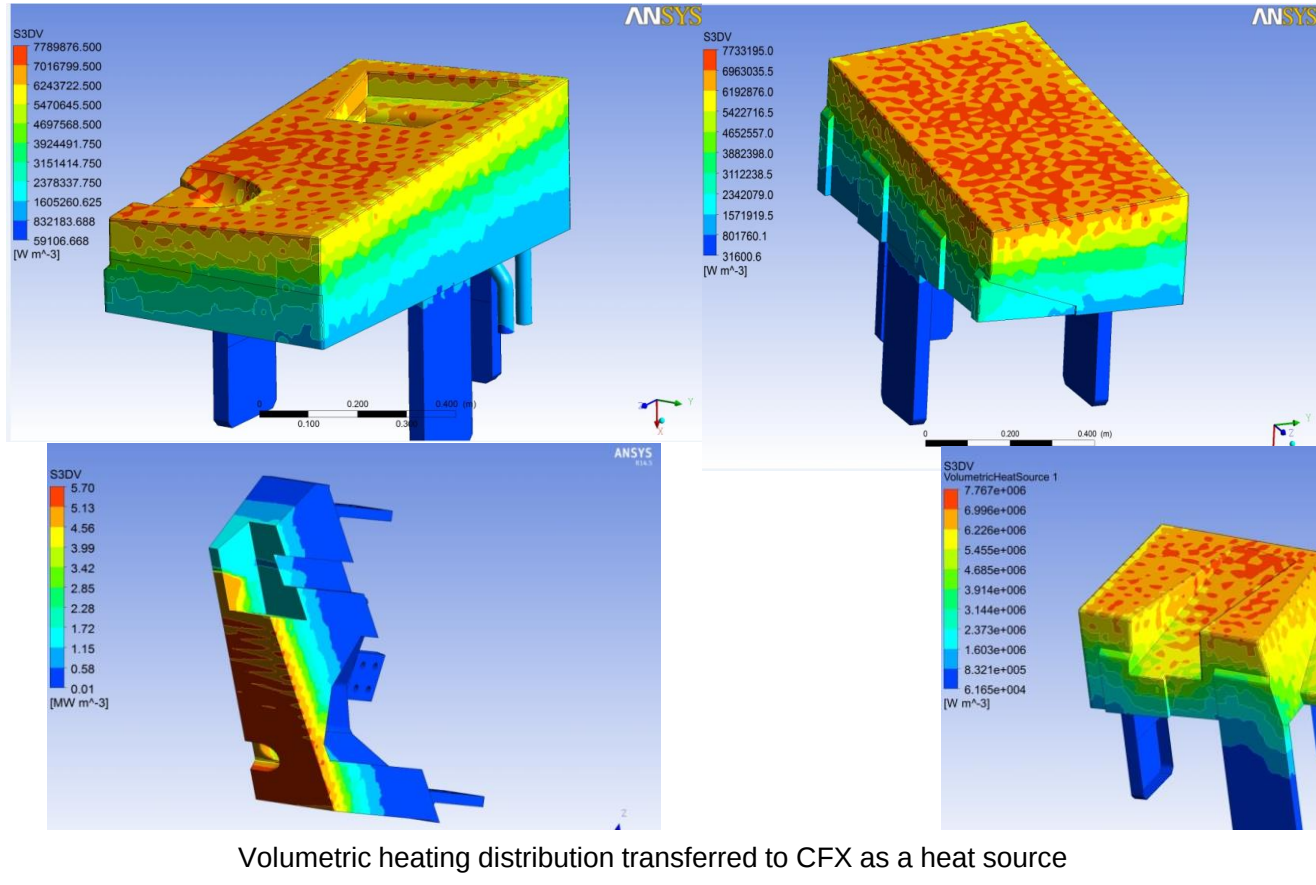


Loads – Volumetric Heating

Nuclear Analysis EPP03



Loads – Volumetric Heating



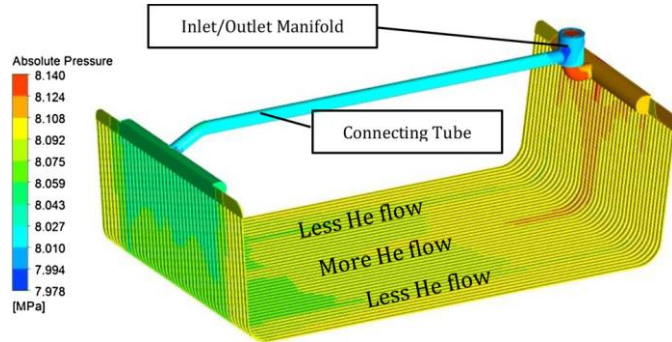
Volumetric heating distribution transferred to CFX as a heat source

PPPL MVP MHD MODEL



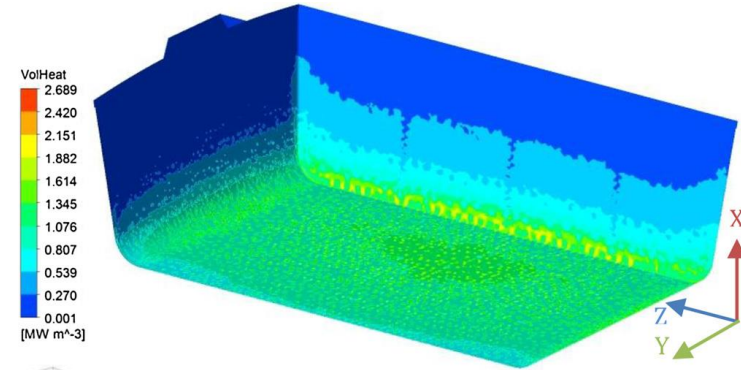
- Customized ANSYS CFX
- Magnetic Vector Potential (MVP) MHD model
- Validated for high Hartmann Numbers

Two Fluid CFD analysis Conjugate Heat Transfer

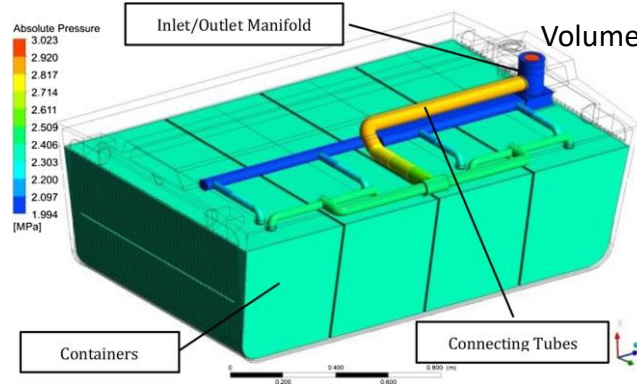


He coolant pressure distribution

Volumetric Loading from Neutronics code



Volumetric heat source imported from Attila.



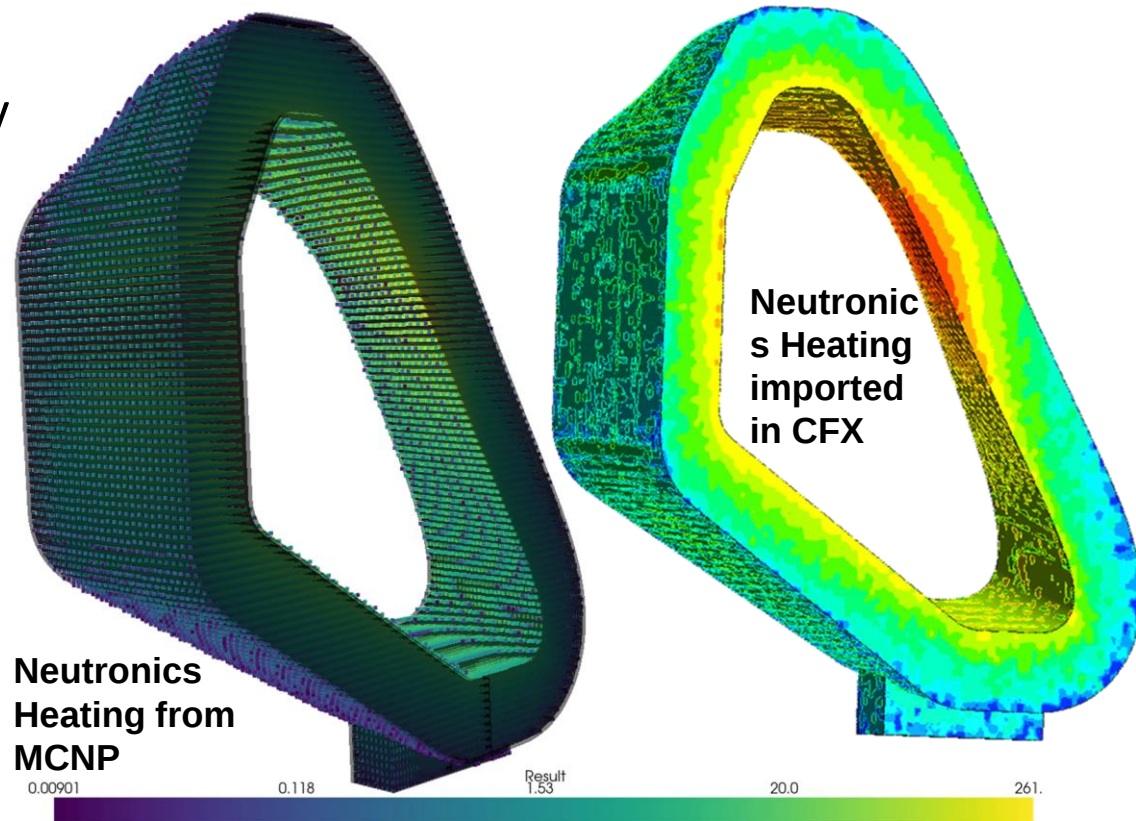
Pressure distribution in Li17PB

Khodak et al. FED 2018

Python scripts used to convert MCNP output to importable mesh tallies



- MCNP Cylindrical Mesh tally was used to acquire the nuclear heating
- Multiplication factor for heating was calculated per unit volume for a 2800MW plasma



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Incorporating irradiation-induced material degradation into ANSYS structural simulations using User Programmable Features (UPF)

- * **A liquid metal blanket is a dominant design option for the next step of fusion devices.** Compared to ITER, the plasma facing and breeding-blanket components of the fusion power plant will suffer intense irradiation by a fluence of 14 MeV neutrons, which leads to the formation of transmutation products and irradiation defects. Structural simulation should incorporate neutron irradiation effect on the physical and mechanical properties for accurate evaluation.
- * **Both mechanical strength and thermal behaviors will be changed**, include:
 - small voids and density change;
 - lattice defects and internal deformation;
 - embrittlement and strength reduction;
 - microcracks and fracture toughness reduction etc.;
- * However, **most present machine design and analysis didn't include nuclear irradiation effect** due to general lack of predictive modeling method.
- * Recently, more and **more studies have been done to measure the material property change and characterize irradiation damage**, like voids density and hardness change of F82H.
- * We developed the technique of **FEM implementation using ANSYS UPF to include irradiation induced material degradation effect in our models**, to simulate and predict structure behavior, strains and stresses.



PAPER • OPEN ACCESS

Irradiation damage concurrent challenges with RAFM and ODS steels for fusion reactor first-wall/blanket: a review

To cite this article: Arunodaya Bhattacharya et al 2022 *J. Phys. Energy* **4** 034003

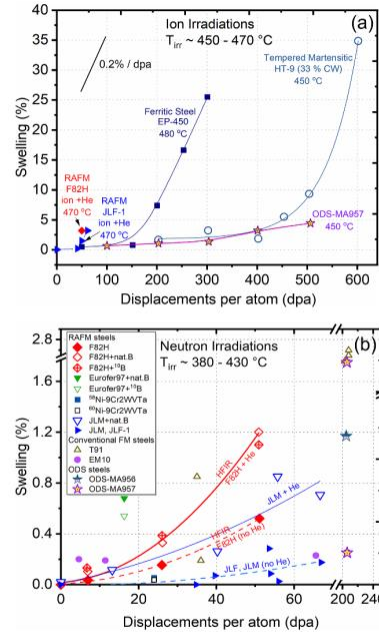


Figure 19. (a) Cavity swelling in ion irradiated and (b) neutron irradiated RAFM, conventional FM and ODS steels. For neutron irradiations, the effect of He on swelling is simulated by B doping and $^{58}\text{Ni}/^{60}\text{Ni}$ isotopic tailoring technique. Data used from [87, 99, 119, 199, 208, 308, 309, 311–317]. Figure (a) reprinted from [309], copyright (2014), with permission from Elsevier.

Radiation effects on stress evolution and dimensional stability of large fusion energy structures

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Hardening effect due to irradiation

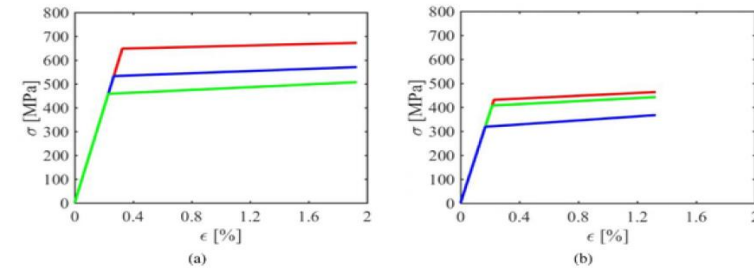


Fig. 10. Stress-strain relationships according to the linear hardening model at BOL (0 dpa, green curve), 45 dpa (blue curve) and 90 dpa (red curve) for (a) 375 °C and (b) 500 °C. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Swelling strain Vs. DPA

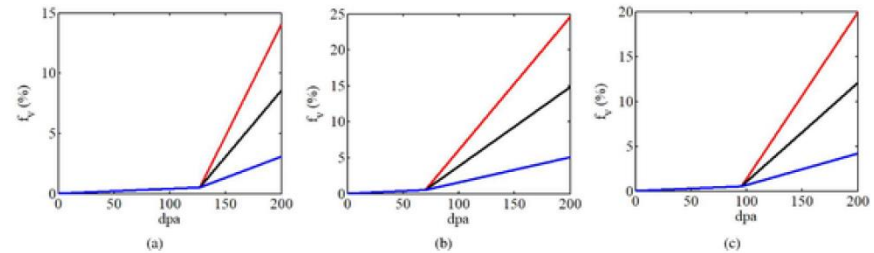


Fig. 11. Void swelling (f_v) as a function of neutron displacement damage dose (ϕ) in dpa at (a) 350 °C, (b) 500 °C, and (c) 600 °C considering worst case (red curve), reference case (black curve which is used in our simulations) and best case (blue curve). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Brief introduction about ANSYS UPF (User Programmable Features)

* ANSYS is a commercial finite element analysis software with integrated modules like EM, thermal, structural, fluid etc. Currently it doesn't support nuclear swelling simulation.

* But ANSYS has an open architecture, allowing users to write their own subroutines in Fortran or C and link them to ANSYS, so that users can add new functions to their own ANSYS. For instance, users can define a new element, a new material behavior, nuclear swelling effect, or a modified failure criterion etc. This is called User Programmable Features (UPF).

* UPFs provide the capabilities like:

----- read data from ANSYS database, either process them or use them for further computation.

----- existing routines for users to specify various types of loads. In our case, we specify “fluence” load to represent neutron flux DPA.

----- modify and monitor existing elements. In our case, we add swelling strain to a structural element.

----- define new material properties: plasticity, creep, swelling law, hyper-elasticity etc. We define our swelling law.

----- define new elements and may adjust nodal orientation matrix.

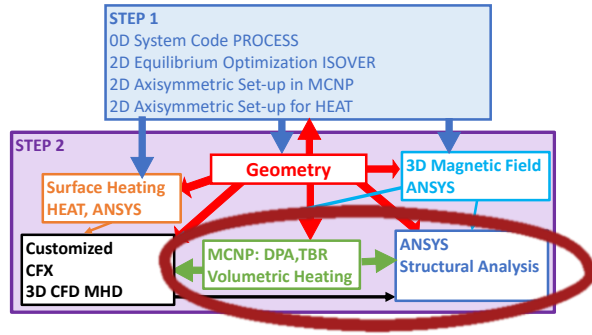
----- create a custom design optimization routine etc.

```
subroutine usersw
(option,elem,intpt,mat,proptb,ncomp,epswel,
x epel,e,nuxy,fluen,dfluen,tem,dtem,tofst,timvll,timvnc,usvr)
integer option,elem,intpt,mat,ncomp
double precision proptb(*),epswel,epel(ncomp),e,nuxy,
x fluen,dfluen,tem,dtem,tofst,timvll,timvnc,usvr(*),
x delswl,eptot(3)
```

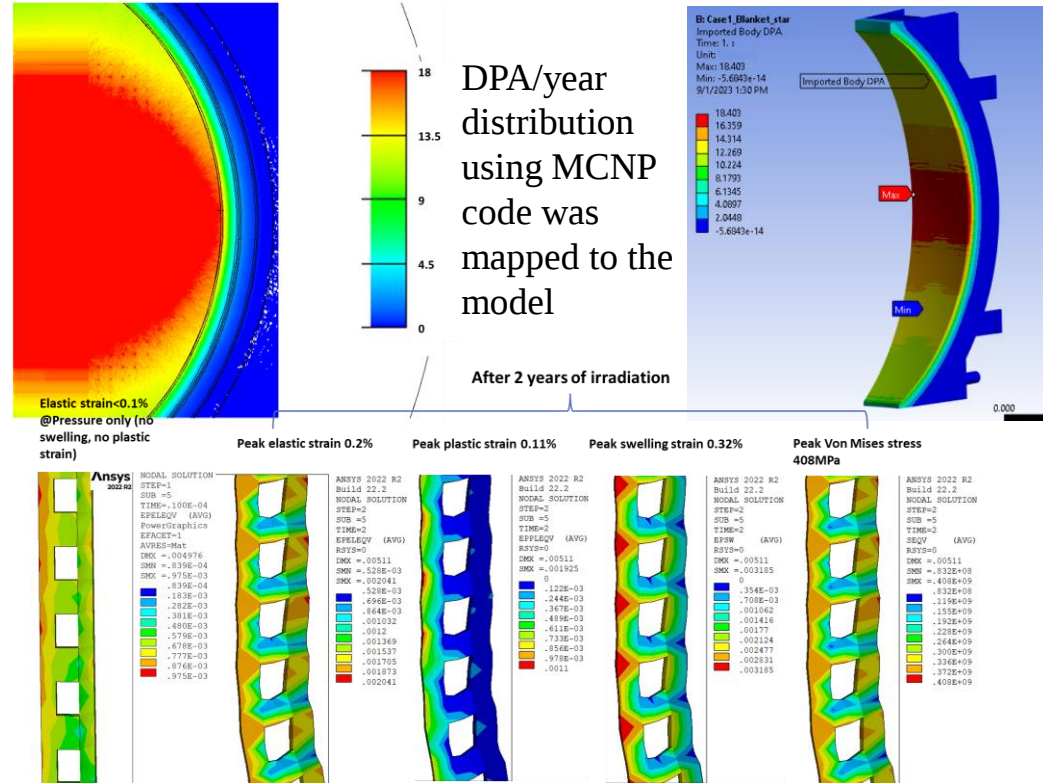
```
if (fluen .le. proptb(68)) then
    delswl = proptb(67)*dfluen
    epswel = epswel + delswl
else
    delswl = proptb(69)*dfluen
    epswel = epswel + delswl
endif
```



Structural Analysis 3D Neutronic Swelling Model



- Neutronics Swelling and Hardening are introduced in ANSYS ADPL using User Defined Functions for Properties
- DPA values are imported from MCNP



After 2 years, close look (500x) at the strains of first wall shows a complex strain-stress state which may initiate microcrack

Outline

- Neutrons in Fusion
 - Fusion Reactions
 - Tritium Breeding
 - Material Damage
 - Spin Polarized Fusion
- Modeling
- Integration with Plasma Codes
- Integration with Engineering Codes:
 - Fluid, Heat and Mass Transfer analysis
 - Structural Analysis
- **Integrated Analysis for ITER at Jet**
- Conclusions

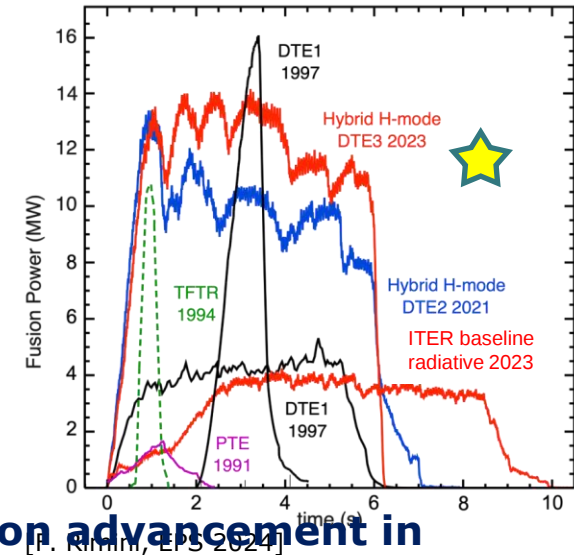
Deuterium-Tritium operations at JET

DT operations in tokamak only at JET & TFTR

- 1991 JET Preliminary Tritium Experiments (PTE)
- 1994-96 TFTR
- 1997 JET DTE1 in CFC wall- P_{fus} 16.1 MW record!
- 2003 Trace Tritium Experiment (TTE)
- 2021 JET DTE2 in Be/W wall
- 2023 JET DTE3 in Be/W wall – E_{fus} 69 MJ

new record! ★

Unique high-performance DT campaigns for nuclear fusion advancement in physics, technology and operations

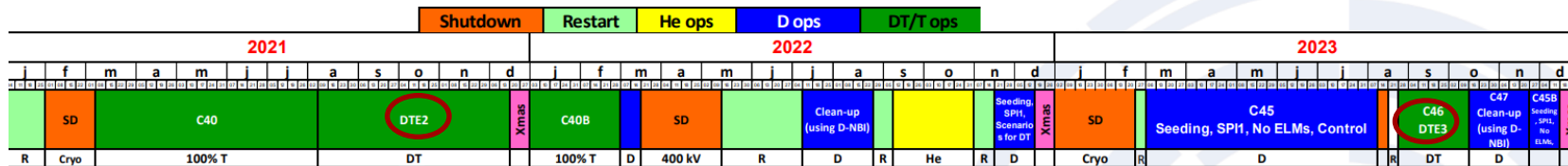


[X. Litaudon et al 2024 Nucl. Fusion 64 112006] [C.F. Maggi et al 2024 Nucl. Fusion 64 112012] [R. Villari et al, Overview submitted to Fus. Eng. and Des.]

* R. Villari 2024

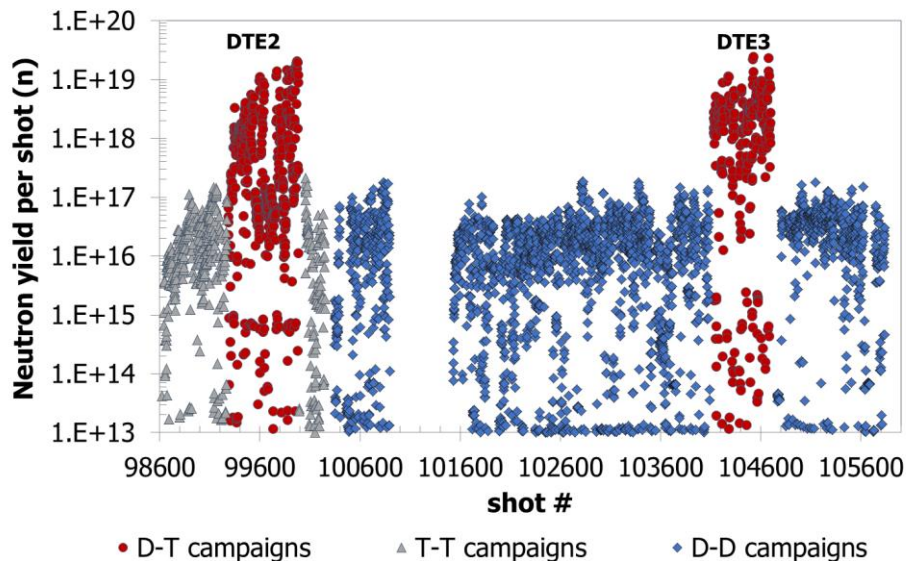


Neutron production at JET 2021-2023



DTE2

DTE3



DTE2 campaign@ 8.48×10^{20} n

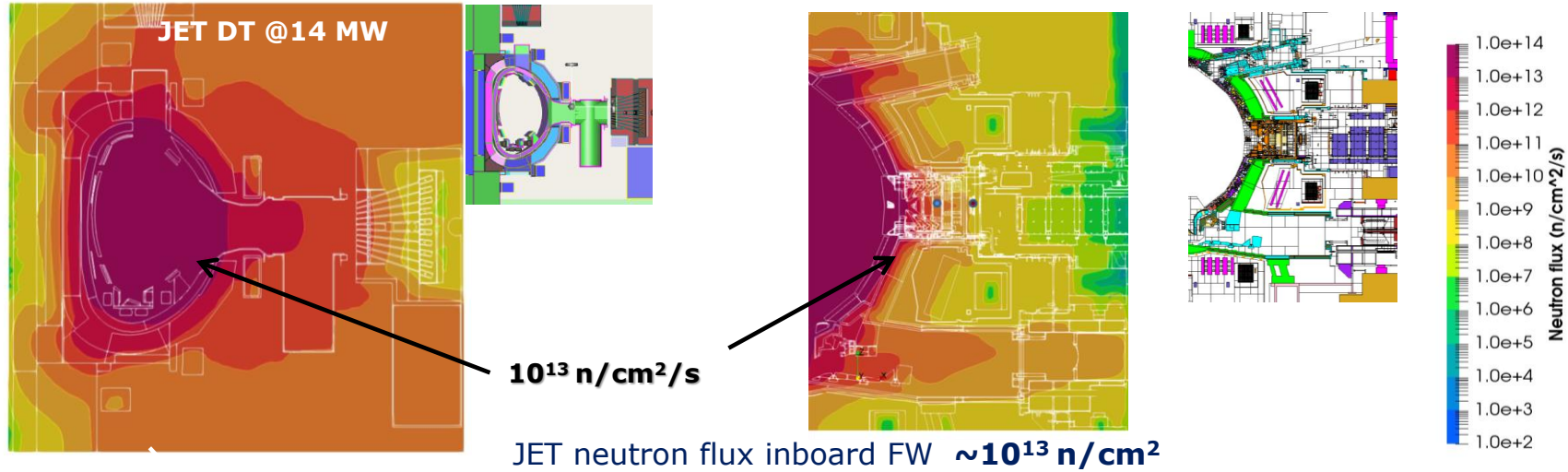
DTE3 campaign@ 7.31×10^{20} n

1.57×10^{21} n!

1.83×10^{21} DT Neutrons over 40 years of operations ... more than 80% in the last DT campaigns!

[R. Villari, SOFT-2024 , “Overview of Deuterium-Tritium nuclear operations at JET“ Plenary-4.1]

Representativeness of JET DT for ITER- Neutron flux



N flux

- $10^{13} \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{s}$ @ rear ITER blanket
- Max $2 \times 10^{13} \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{s}$ @ One order of magnitude less than ITER First Wall

Cumulated JET total neutron fluence max inboard FW $\sim 10^{16} \text{ n/cm}^2$

N fluence

- N fluence 10^{16} n/cm^2 in ITER**
- @rear port plugs at the end of ITER DT-2 ●
 - @middle ITER port plugs-rear blanket at the end of ITER DT-1 ($\sim 1/100$) ●

JET DT relevant for ITER technologies!

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Verification of 14 MeV neutron calibration

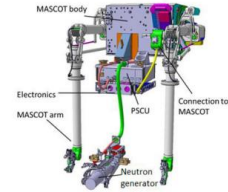
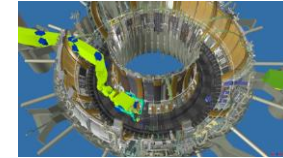
- **Neutron calibration: critical scientific and regulatory importance** → **$\leq \pm 10\%$ target accuracy of ITER**

- **JET Neutron calibration @14 MeV with Neutron Generator (2017)** → **Total uncertainty $\pm 6\%$**

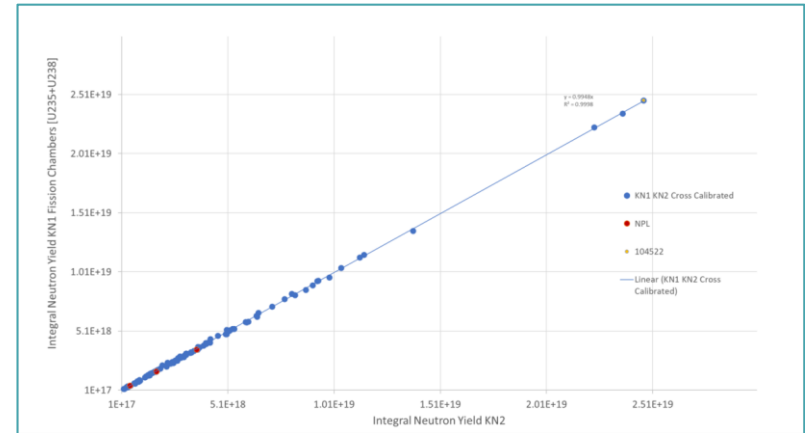
- **JET Neutron DT Plasma calibration (2021-2023)**

- Several high yield shots measured during DTE2-DTE3 → rigorous cross calibration of U235&U238 Fission chambers
- Multiple dosimetry foil measurements → Activation foil system shots show excellent agreement
- Continuous monitoring and cross calibration checks

→ **Total uncertainty $\pm 10\%$** !



[P. Batistoni NF. 58 (2018) 106016]



[Z. Ghani]

- **Successful operation in vessel of NG+ PS + detectors + electronics with RH**
- **Demonstration & verification of the methodology**

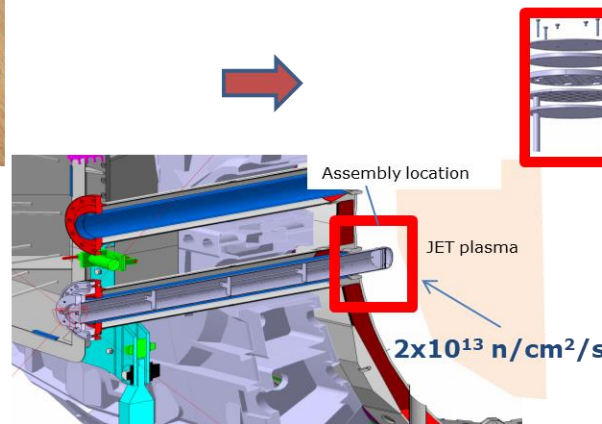
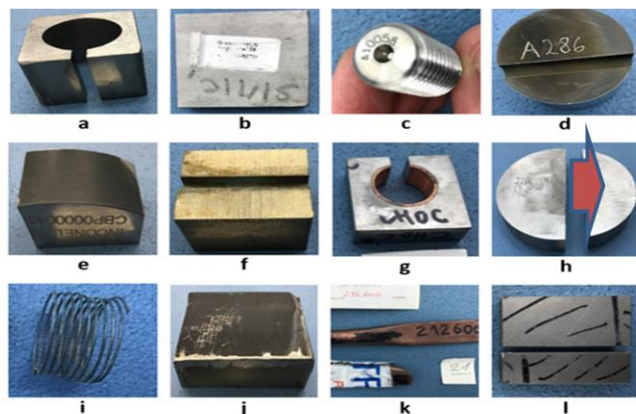
* R. Villari 2024

Activation of real ITER materials

Unique irradiation under 14 MeV neutrons of REAL ITER materials used in the manufacturing of the main tokamak components

- Activation measurements of irradiated ITER material samples and dosimetry foils in DT
- Characterization and data validation for the predictions of ITER materials activation

Long-term
irradiation station assembly (LTIS)



[Packer ,NF (2021) 61 116057]

**MCNP +
FISPACT-II**
calculations to
predict activity in
each ITER sample

**Gamma
spectrometry
techniques**
to identify and
quantify nuclide
activities

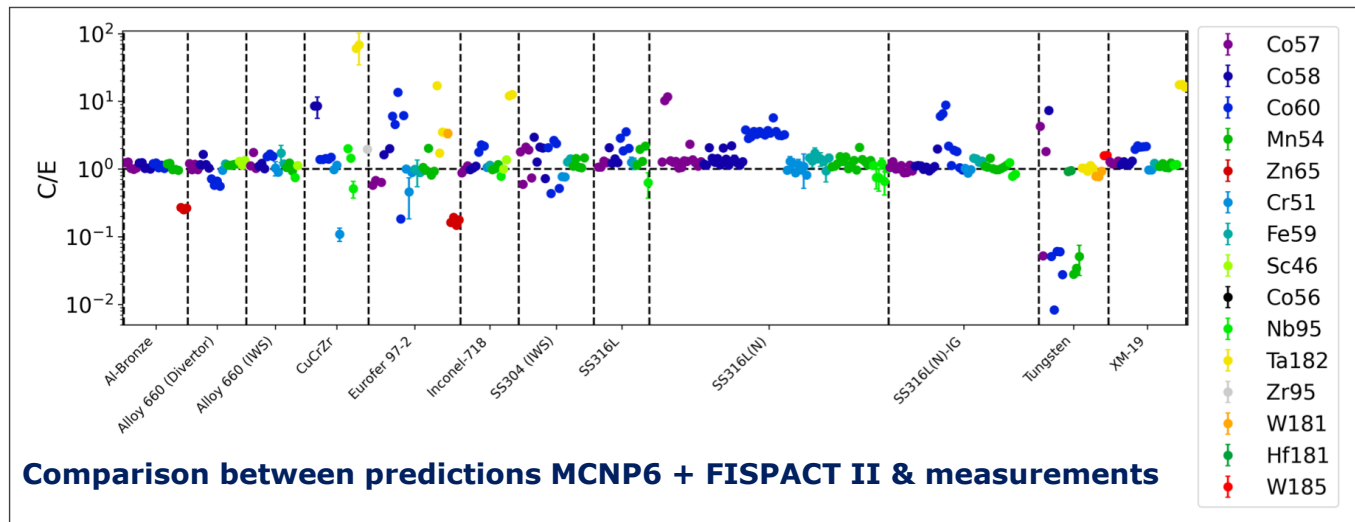
Nb3Sn, SS316L steels from various
manufacturers, SS304B, Alloy 660, Be, W,
CuCrZr, OF-Cu, XM-19, Al bronze, Nb3Sn,
NbTi and EUROFER

* R. Villari 2024

27 ITER materials



Validation of ITER materials neutron induced activation



@DTE2 715 days
of irradiation
 $5 \times 10^{15} \text{ n/cm}^2$

[L. Packer, Nuc. Fus., 64, 2024, 10]

- Demonstrated codes reliability
- Improved gamma measurements techniques
- Evidenced contamination (brass) due to manufacturing & cutting techniques
- Lack of accuracy in elemental composition in material certificates ? ➡ Independent analysis
- Adviced more sensitive measurement techniques (radiometric and mass-based) for long-lived nuclides relevant for waste and decommissioning

DTE3 samples analysis ongoing

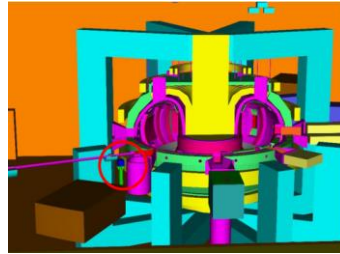
* R. Villari 2024



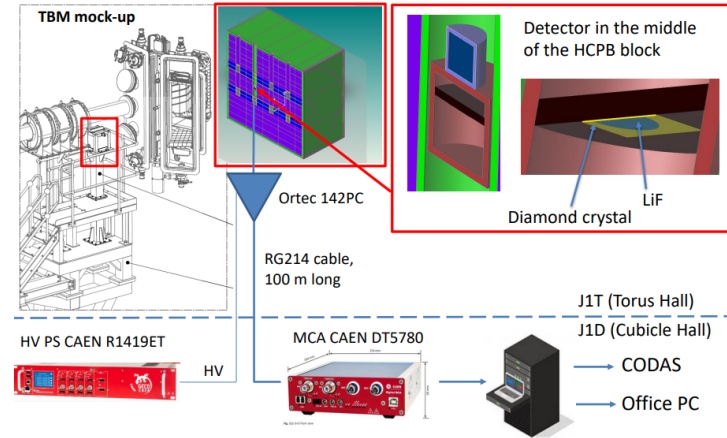
Tritium production in TBM mock-up under DT

Diamond detector for online measurement of tritium production rate in HCPB TBM mock-up

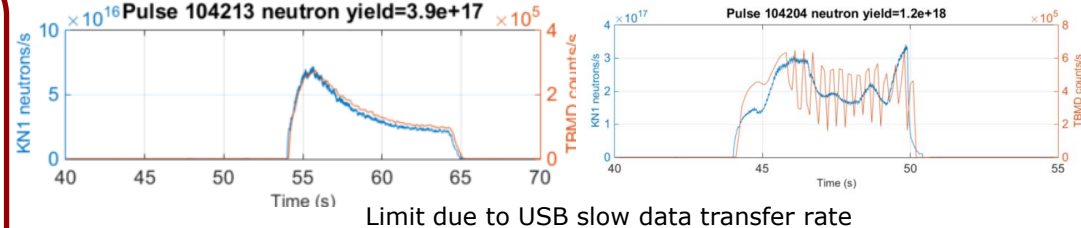
- **Test of detectors**
- **Validation of TBR prediction in tokamak**



Same mock-up used at FNG for HCPB TBM experiment



- **@DTE2 Pile-up/saturation $> 10^{15}$ n/s**
- **@DTE3 Upgrade of measurements chain $\rightarrow$ T production measured up to 4×10^{17} n/s**
- **Measurements issues in high performance & harsh environment $\rightarrow$ lesson learnt on detectors design and operations**
- **Tritium production $C_{MCNP}/E = 0.77$**



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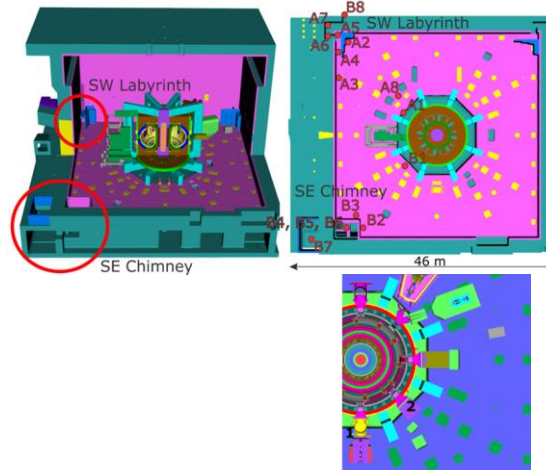
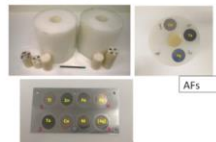
[N. Fomesu, EPJPlus, 139 (2024) 893]



Neutronics benchmark experiments

Neutronics experiments for validating in a real fusion environment the neutronics codes and nuclear data used in ITER nuclear analyses

- **On operation: Neutron fluence**
streaming in penetrations in large /complex volumes
- **Off-operation: Shutdown dose rate (SDDR)**
in maintenance area
- **DD, TT & DTE2-3 benchmarks**
- **23 positions**
- **>40 m from the plasma**
- **8 orders of magnitude variation**



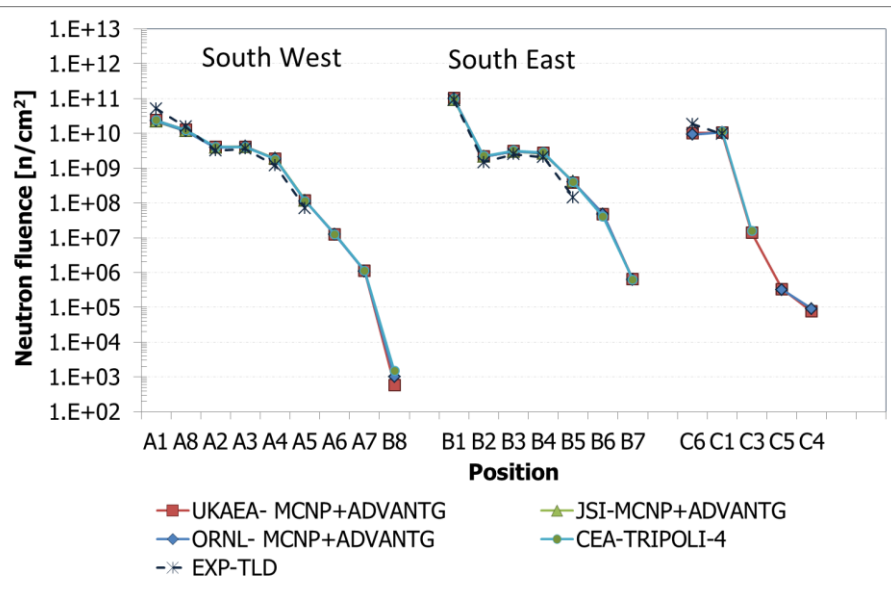
Accurate measurements for quantitative comparison to simulations → Validation

- **Neutron streaming – radiation transport MCNP, ADVANTG, TRIPOLI-4©+ OPEN MC**
- **SDDR - Rad transport+ Activation: Direct 1-Step) ADVANCED D1S, D1SUNED, N1S
Rigorous-2 steps) R2SUNED, R2Smesh, MCR2S, ORNL R2S**

* R. Villari 2024



Neutron Streaming benchmark

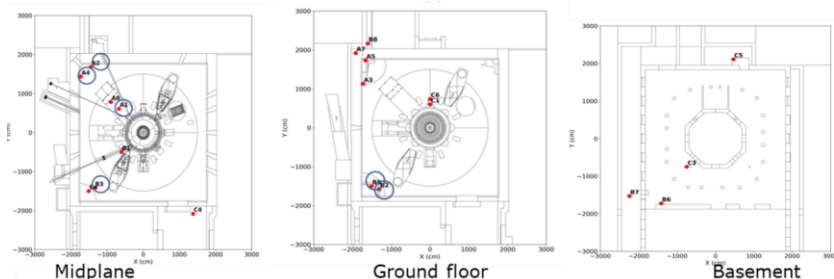
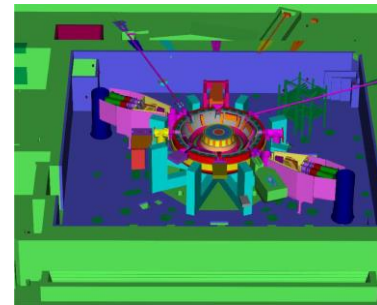


TT experiment

8.50×10^{18} n on 240 days

- 59.3% by T-T reactions
- 40.2% by D-T reactions

- ✓ **C/E 0.4 (A1)- 2.9 (B5)**
- ✓ Increase of the overestimation with the distance from the machine
- ✓ TRIPOLI-MCNP agreement within 7 %



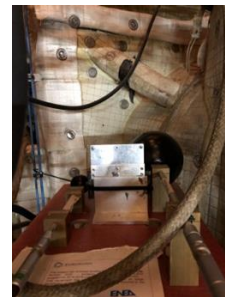
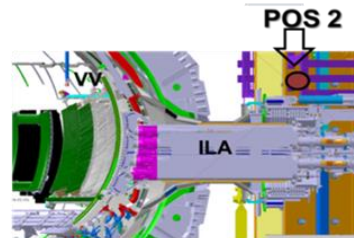
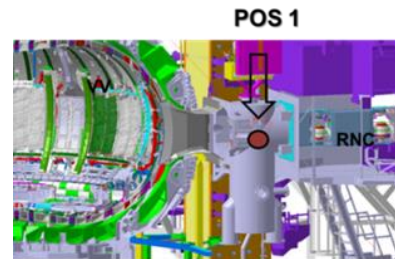
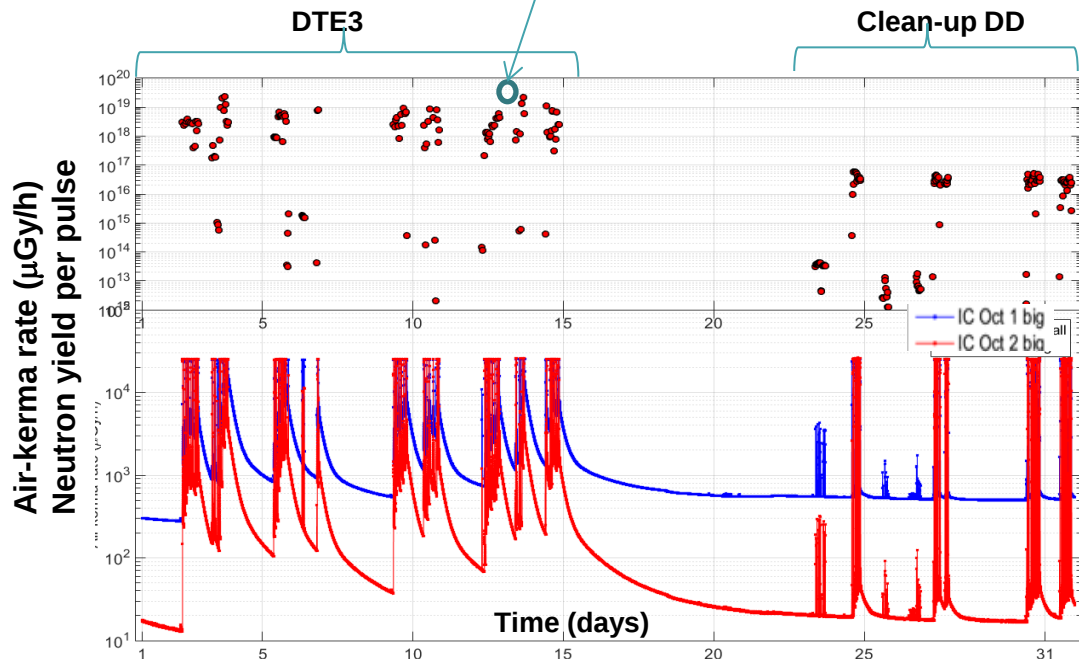
- **Implemented robust techniques for neutron fluence measurements**
- **Demonstrated reliability of the codes for nuclear analysis - general conservative predictions**
- **Key role of accurate modeling & materials description following machine evolution**

* R. Villari 2024



Shutdown Dose Rate Measurements during DT

- Continuous online measurements since 2016- still ongoing
- Full correlation with JET N diagnostics



Range ~ $4\mu\text{Sv/h}$ - 20 mSv/h

SDDR ITER requirements

- < $100\mu\text{Sv/h}$ at 10^6 s after shutdown in Port Interspace
- < $10\mu\text{Sv/h}$ at 1 day after shutdown in Port Cell

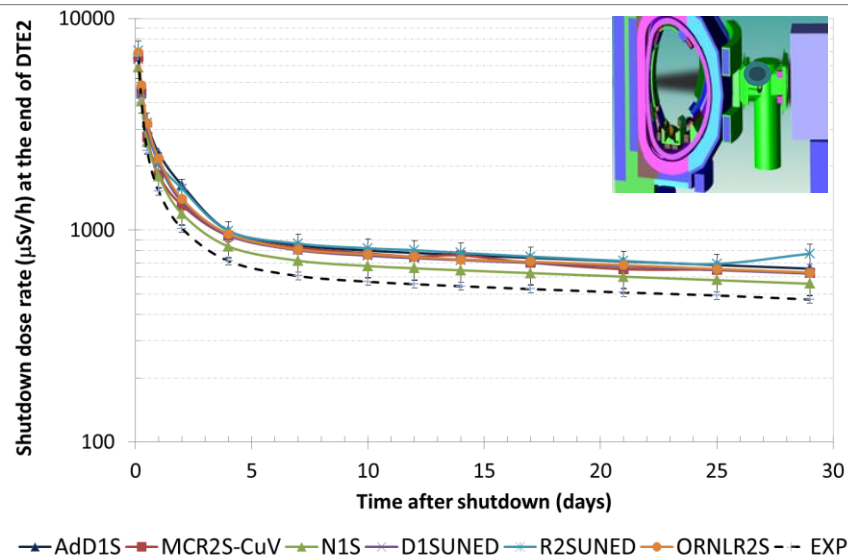


- Unique database of shutdown dose rate measurements in tokamak within relevant ITER range correlated with plasma operations
- Characterization of shutdown dose rate field during operations & decommissioning

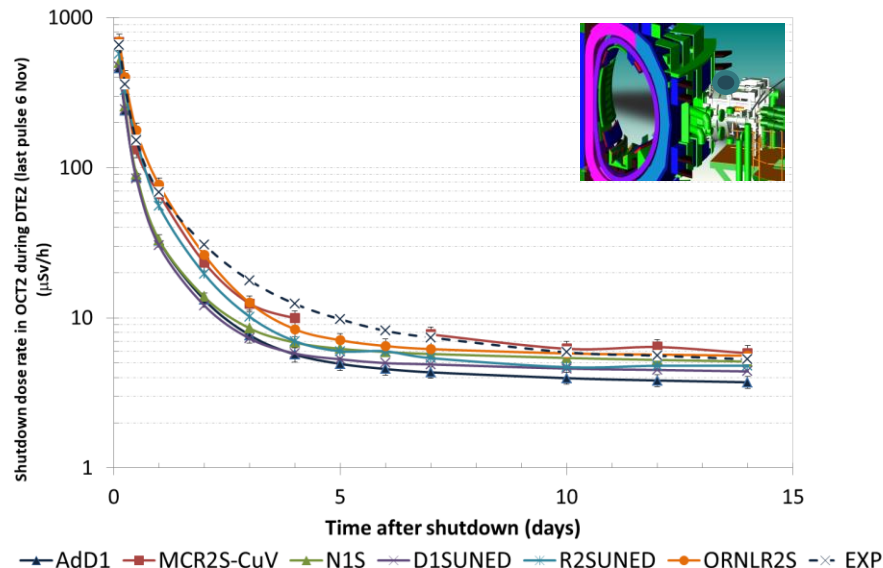
* R. Villari 2024

Validation of Shutdown Dose Rate predictions

POS 1) Side port in OCT 1



POS 2) Top of ITER-like Antenna in OCT 2



- Validation of SDDR tools
- Artifacts in computational tools → code developments and new features
- Key roles of material impurities and machine configuration changes

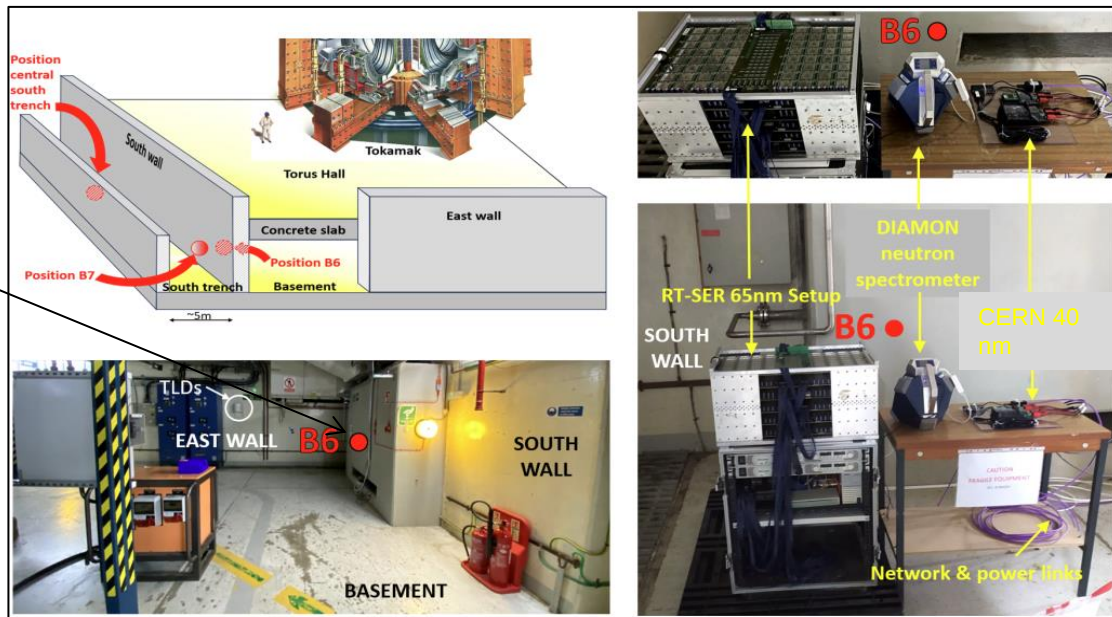
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Neutron induced Single Event Effect (SEE) experiment on electronics

Unique systematic study of SEE effects on electronics in tokamak under DT

$\sim 2 \times 10^5 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{s}$
during DTE3



- RTSER test bench = 384 chips of 8.5 Mbits STM 65 nm SRAM (total 3.2 Gbits)
- CERN test bench = 2 chips of 32 Mbits ISSI 40 nm SRAM (1 with B₄C shield, 1 w/o)



Validation of Single Event Rate Predictions

[M. Dentan, IEEE TNS, NSREC 2024 proc.] * R. Villari 2024

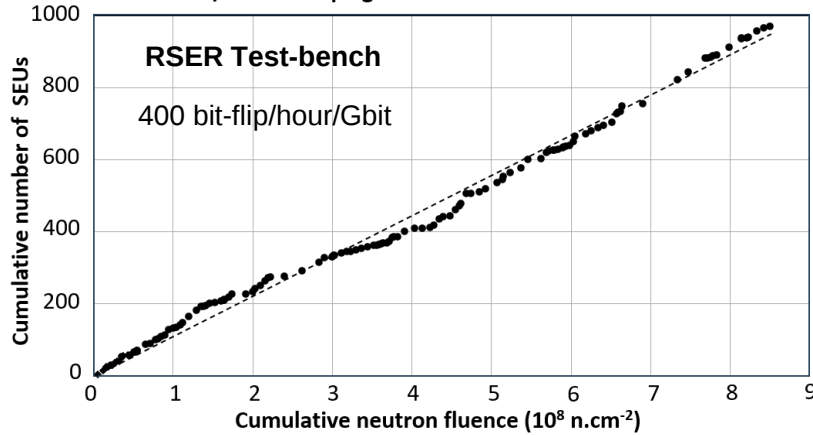


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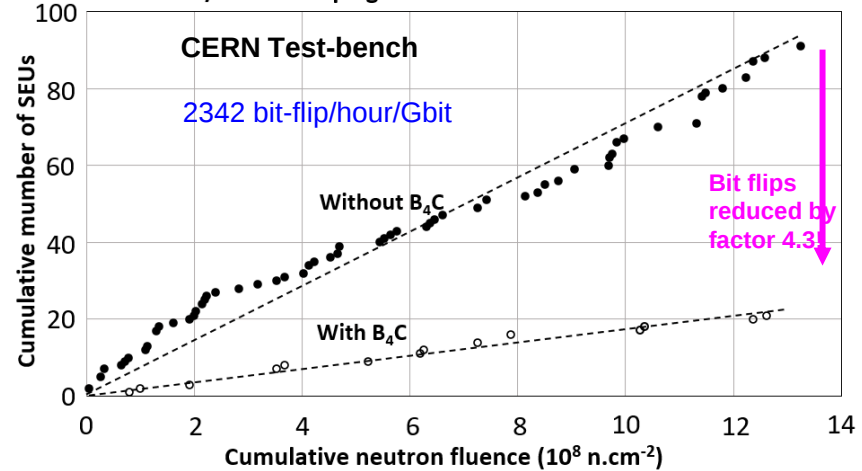


Validation of Single Event Rate predictions in DT & preliminary study of B₄C shield!

JET/DTE-3 campaign - RTSER test bench - Position B6



JET/DTE-3 campaign - CERN test bench - Position B6



Reliability degradation factor $\sim 10^7$

Bit-flips Predictions/Measurements: 0.87 (RTSER) & 1.07 (CERN)

- Validation of methods & models for neutron-induced bit-flips prediction!
- High bit-flip rates and strong reliability degradations in fusion reactors conditions
- Evident reduction of bit-flips with B₄C shield → can be further improved

* R. Villari 2024

[M. Dentan, IEEE TNS, NSREC 2024 proc.]

JET water activation experiment during DTE3

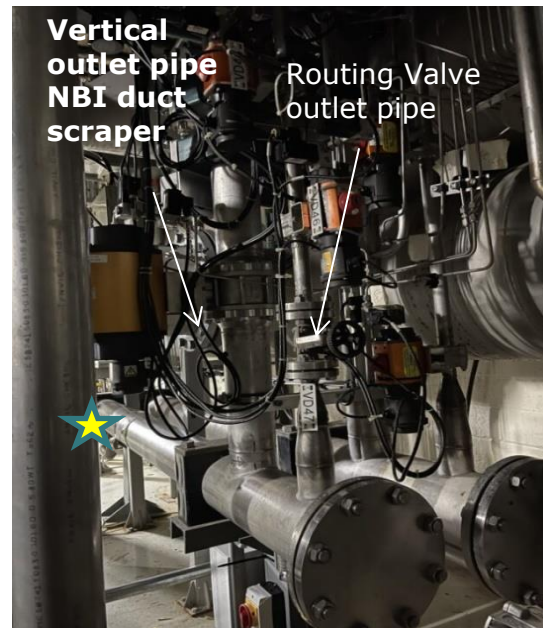
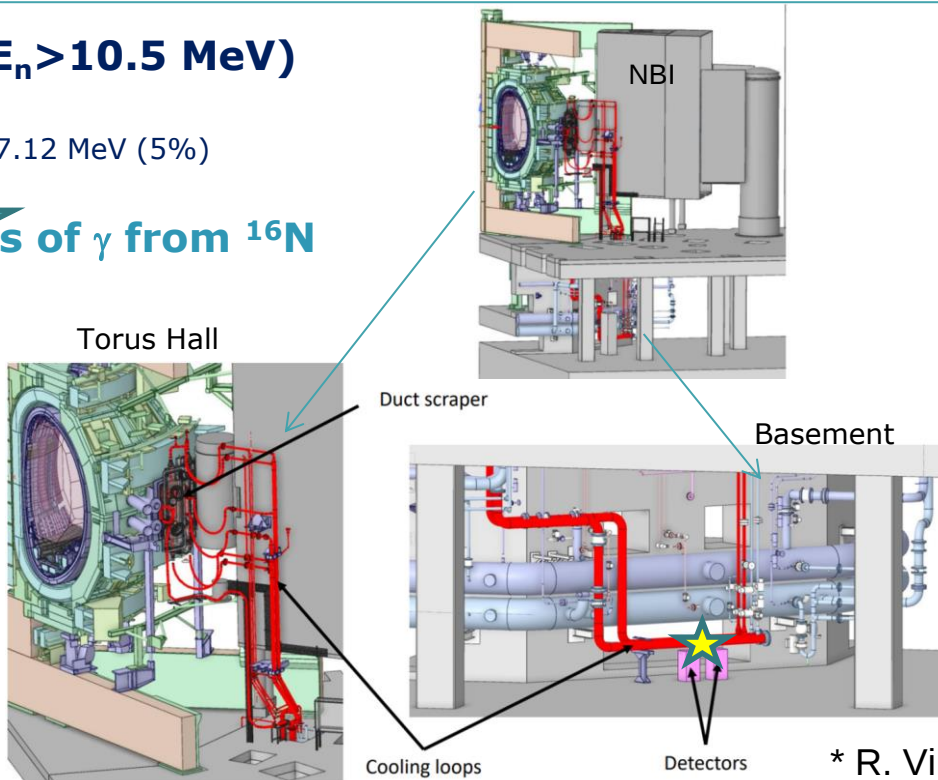
Unique experiment in real tokamak water cooling loop under DT for the validation of water activation predictions in ITER

$^{16}\text{O}(n,p)^{16}\text{N}$ ($E_n > 10.5$ MeV)

$T_{1/2}$ 7.13 s β decay:
 γ 6.13 MeV (69%) & 7.12 MeV (5%)

Measurements of γ from ^{16}N decay

NBI duct scraper cooling loop



Oct 4 Basement Pipe forest

* R. Villari 2024

ENEA

UK Atomic
Energy
Authority

IJS



Activated Corrosion Products tests & studies on CuCrZr

- **APCs represent a critical source of radioactive contamination** → their diffusion inside the cooling systems depends on several mechanisms (advection, erosion, abrasion, convection, deposition, corrosion, dissolution-precipitation, radiation field)
- In the framework of the ACP PrIO task & EEG 'Impact of Activated Corrosion Products on ITER ORE, **analyses and experimental activities are in progress to increase the accuracy of evaluation and modelling of the APCs in fusion**
- **RINA CuCrZr corrosion experiment (corrosion of CuCrZr -> contribute to ^{60}Co and radioactive isotopes generation and spreading)**

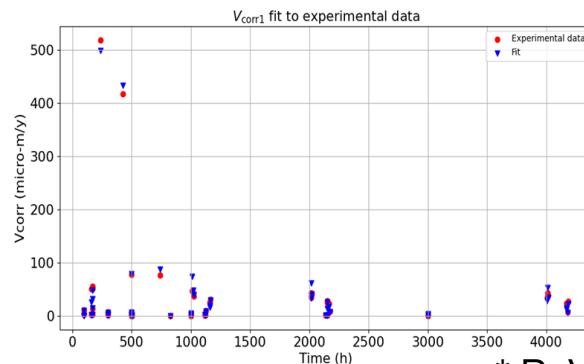


- ITER Baking:
 - 240°C
 - 44 bar
 - $pH_T \sim 7.6$
 - $O_2 \sim 10$ ppb
 - Static water

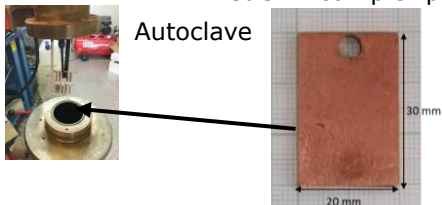


RINA results, jointly with ~ 70 CuCrZr corrosion rate experimental data available in literature have been used to define **a new CuCrZr uniform corrosion semi-empirical law**

Corrosion rates - new corrosion law fitting vs experiments



CuCrZr sample- provided by F4E



Exposure time (h)	Average corrosion rate ($\mu\text{m/y}$)
500	0.7
1000	1.1

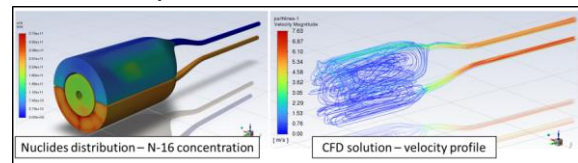
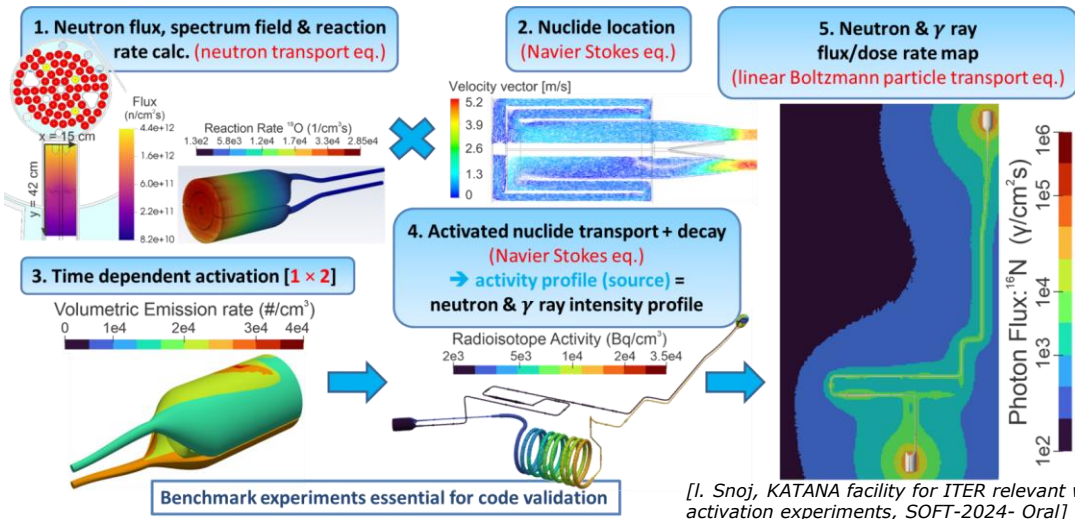
[S. Noce, submitted to FED]

* R. Villari 2024

Fluid activation tools development and experiment for extrapolation to ITER relevant conditions

Different fluid activation codes: FLUNED (UNED), RSTM (F4E), GammaFlow-ActiFlow (UKAEA)) utilise different approaches and underlying CFD codes

Radio Species Transport Model (RSTM)–
Ansys FLUENT® UDS based tool

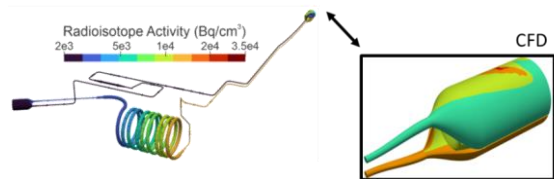


[R. Pampin, et al. FED, vol 203, 2024, 114466]
[E. Masia, et al. submission to FED]



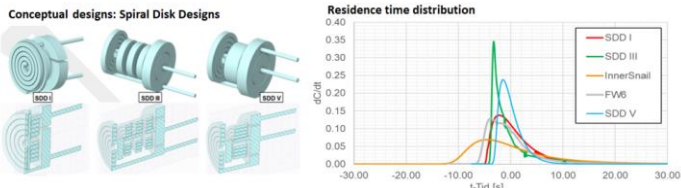
FLUNED- OpenFoam

- > Complex components: FLUNED (CFD methodology)
- > Piping: FLUNED-SL (system level approach, i.e., less detailed)



2025: KATANA loop design & manufacturing with new ITER relevant head

Conceptual design to preserve hydraulic features, residence time, Re & orientation of neutron flux gradients from an ITER First Wall



SDD_I showed a strong resemblance with an ITER FW-Too complex shape

A manufactured based design has been proposed & analysis will be conducted to verify ITER relevancy + compatibility with Radial Piercing port



IJS * R. Villari 2024



Neutron induced Single Event Effect tests on electronics under the same neutron spectra as in ITER - GNeuSIS

GENeuSIS

General
Experimental
Neutron
Systems
Irradiation
Station

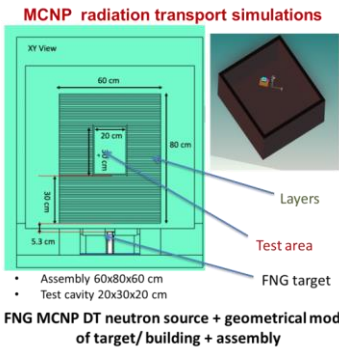
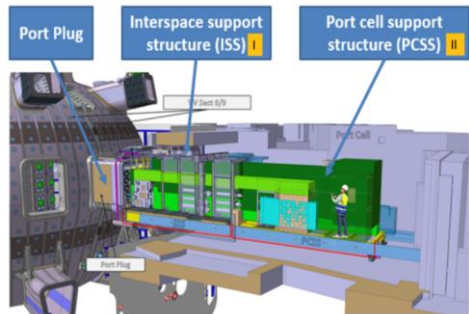
Novel neutron test bed facility for testing diagnostics, electronics and critical ITER components

Materials assembly as moderator in front of 14MeV Neutron Generator (FNG) to replicate the required neutron energy spectra distribution.

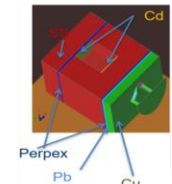
Neutron energy spectra as in ITER Port Cell: unique facility for testing Single Event Effects (SEE) on electronics with ITER-like neutron spectrum



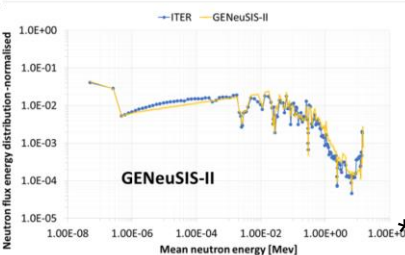
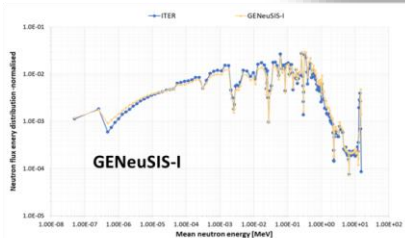
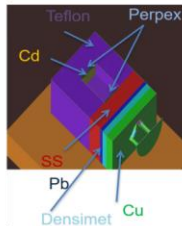
Radiation qualification of safety electronics



Port Interspace (GENeuSIS-I)



Port Cell (GENeuSIS-II)



SEE tests on electronics in PC-like environment

* R. Villari 2024



Outline

- Neutrons in Fusion
 - Fusion Reactions
 - Tritium Breeding
 - Material Damage
 - Spin Polarized Fusion
- Modeling
- Integration with Plasma Codes
- Integration with Engineering Codes:
 - Fluid, Heat and Mass Transfer analysis
 - Structural Analysis
- Integrated Analysis for ITER at Jet
- **Conclusions**

Conclusions

- Integrated Neutronics modeling is a vital part of fusion device designs
- Neutronics Analysis is in the center of Multiphysics Analysis Workflow
- Jet Experiments Provided Important Benchmarks for Integrated Model Validation