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#### Joint ICTP/IAEA Workshop on Atomic and Molecular Data for Fusion

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WHAT - Can we tend the fire?

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## **Can we tend the fire?**

Three lectures course on plasma surface interaction and edge physics

## I Introduction: WHAT happens in a fusion plasma near the walls

## **Detlev Reiter**

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## Mankind learning to tend a fire, again....





Fire from processes in atomic shell



Chemical process:  $C_xH_y....+O_2+... \rightarrow CO_z + H_2O+...$ 

100.000 years later....



Nuclear process: d + t  $\rightarrow$  He + n The Energy source of the sun and the stars in the universe is: Nuclear Fusion

The vision of nuclear fusion research:

## A miniatur star in a solid container

Fusion Reactor: T=100 Mill. degrees



 $d + t \rightarrow He + n$ 

The Sun: T=15 Mill. degrees in the center



 $p + p \rightarrow d$ ,  $d + p \rightarrow He_3$ ,  $He_3 + He_3 \rightarrow He_4 + p + p$ , Reaction time  $1/(n_p < \sigma v >_{fus}) = t_{fus}$  approx. 10<sup>9</sup> years

## What these lectures are NOT about:



From Robert Zemeckis movie: "Back to the future II"

# The correct way: a magnetic bottle Here: the JET Tokamak

JP2001-367



## **Euratom 26 Fusion Associations** Joint construction of JET (1978)



#### **FZ Jülich:**

### in Germany fusion research is organized in the Helmholtz Association

#### Germany

Helmholtz Association DFG / Universities

#### Europe

Trilateral Euregio Cluster (B, NI, Jül) EURATOM Association EFDA (JET, Technol.) F4E (ITER)

### World

IEA Implementing Agreement "Plasma-Wall Interaction" (J, USA, Canada) ITPA International Expert Groups



# Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz (1821-1894)



1847: precise formulation of the law of conservation of energy
1881: inclusion of chemical processes, "free energy", "internal energy"

Problem: what is the source of energy of the sun? how old is the sun? how old is the earth at highest?

1854: Theory of Contraction (together with: Lord Kelvin)
The energy radiated by the sun is provided by contraction of the sun (and the stars), freeing the graviational energy, i.e. accounted for in a purely mechanical concept
→ Age of the planet earth: ~ 10 Mill. Years (at highest)

Ca. 1925: Sir Arthur Eddington :

Nuclear Fusion as energy source of the sun and the stars (E=m c<sup>2</sup>)

Ca. 1935: Hans Bethe und Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker: final resolution of the nuclear fusion processes in the sun ("Bethe- Weizsäcker cycle")

(age of sun and earth: 4-5 billion years well possible)



Figure 3.6.3 Rutherford demonstrating deuterium fusion at the Royal Institution, 1934. The Metropolitan-Vickers transformer is to the extreme right of the apparatus. Reproduced by kind permission of Sir Mark Oliphant from his book *Rutherford: Recollections of the Cambridge Days* (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1972)

# 1933: Oliphant und Rutherford fuse Deuteron atoms, discovery of tritium

L. Spitzer "A proposed stellarator" AEC Report No. NYO-993 (PM-S-1) 1951 US Fusions-Projekt: "Matterhorn"

51 Lyman Spitzer Inve

Inventing the stellarator

Known in those days:

- Only magnetic fields can confine the flame (Lasers did not yet exist)
- It has to be a toroidal configuration (H. Poincare, ~1880)
- The B-field has to be helical
- then: → "only a stellarator is possible"





 -1968 : all expectations have been frustrated. All experiments have been gigantic (and costly) failures (Instabilities, sensitivity to small field errors,...) The final end of nuclear fusion research?
 No: a few small experiments in the USSR have shown surprising successes: Tokamaks



Compare: Moore's Law mirco processors

## Outline of course:

Introduction: Fusion Research & Plasma-Wall Interaction

- I.) WHAT : basic plasma-wall interaction processes
- II.) HOW : ...can we make the application work?  $\rightarrow$  ITER
- III.) WHY : understanding the edge plasma, A&M processes





## **Role of Edge Plasma Science**

**Early days** of magnetic fusion (sometimes still today?):

Hope that a fusion plasma would not be strongly influenced by boundary:

"The edge region takes care of itself".

Single goal: optimize fusion plasma performance

#### Now:

man made fusion plasmas are now powerful enough to be dangerous for the integrity of the container:

The edge region does NOT take care of itself. It requires significant attention!

The ITER lifetime, performance and availability will not only be influenced, it will be controlled by the edge region





**Role of Edge Plasma Science, cont.** 

The layman's response to the idea:

"A miniature star (100 Mill degrees) in a solid container":

THIS MUST BE IMPOSSIBLE !

It turned out unfortunately (early 1990<sup>th</sup>):

# THE LAYMAN IS RIGHT ! Almost...



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# Can we hope that magnetic confinement core plasma physics progress will mitigate plasma-surface problems ?



# TEC

driven by buoyancy (i.e. gravity) Candle, under mircogravity



dim burn, at best)

## Only Diffusion (no convection)

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## Magnetic Fusion: how to produce convection? DIVERTOR





Increase convection → increase plasma surface interaction Forschungszentrum Jülich



## L. Spitzer "A proposed stellarator", US Fusionsprojekt: "Matterhorn" AEC Report No. NYO-993 (PM-S-1) 1951



Original report has two figures !



Spitzer

To remove wall Released plasma Impurities already from the plasma boundary, by a "magnetic exhaust"

The "Divertor"

## JET (Joint European Torus) : Ø 8.5 m, 2.5 m high, 3.4 T, 7 MA, 1 min



Key area for plasma wall interaction

### **Extrapolation:** present experiments $\Rightarrow$ **ITER**

Core: plasma similarity: present experiments are "wind tunnel experiments" for ITER



#### Extrapolation of core plasma confinement to ITER



## **Relative importance of plasma flow forces over chemistry and PWI** | Plasma Core

 $div(nv_{\parallel})+div(nv_{\perp})=$  ionization/recombination/charge exchange



## Core

(collisional +turbulent) cross field flow,  $D_{\perp} \ V_{\perp}$ 

(advanced plasma scenario development)

(empirical) ion transport scaling from spectroscopy on surface released impurities (interpretation, line shape modelling):

Spectroscopy : nZ\* CR Model :  $nZ^* \rightarrow nZ$ Transport Model : nZ  $\rightarrow$  D<sub>⊥</sub>, V<sub>⊥</sub>



# Relative importance of plasma flow forces over chemistry and PWI II edge region $\rightarrow$ III divertor

 $div(nv_{\parallel})+div(nv_{\perp})=$  ionization/recombination/charge exchange



## **Extrapolation:** present experiments $\Rightarrow$ **ITER**

Axis

Core: plasma similarity: present experiments are "wind tunnel experiments" for ITER

Edge: Computational plasma edge modelling (lecture III)







## **Edge/divertor science**



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**Plasma-wall interaction in fusion devices** 

Impinging plasma and impurity particles

- erosion of wall elements
   ⇒ lifetime of wall elements is reduced
- eroded wall particles can penetrate into core plasma
   ⇒ dilution and radiation cooling of core plasma
- re-deposition of eroded particles

⇒ tritium retention in deposited layers (retained T has to be limited to 350g due to safety rule in ITER)

Erosion, transport and redeposition of impurities is a crucial (show stopping ?) issue in fusion research

## **Control of plasma-wall interaction: the limiter concept**

**Limiter:** 

power and particles.

A material piece protruding from the main

wall intercept the closed field lines to extract





## Control of plasma-wall interaction: the divertor concept



### magnetic flux surfaces separatrix (LCFS) edge region scrape-of layer first wall plasma core separatrix (LCFS) X-point divertor region baffle vertical divertor private flux target plate region separatrix strike point pump

**JET divertor** 

## **Divertor:**

A separate chamber in the vacuum vessel to which particles and energy are directed

# Next 2 slides: JUMPING AHEAD see again 3<sup>rd</sup> lecture

Consequences for ITER design (B2-EIRENE): shift towards higher divertor gas pressure to maintain a given peak heat flux (Kotov et al., CPP, July 2006)

#### ITER divertor engineering parameter: target heat flux vs. divertor gas pressure



P<sub>PFR</sub>: average neutral pressure in Private Flux Region

• 1996 (ITER physics basis1999)

- 2003, neutral neutral collisions
- ....+ molecular kinetics (D<sub>2</sub>(v)+D<sup>+</sup>, MAR)
- 2005, + photon opacity



ITER design review 2007-2009: "Dome" re-design now ongoing

## Compare: re-entry problems e.g. Space shuttle)





## Basic Processes Induced in Materials by Plasma Particle Impact



Energy dissipation by elastic (with atoms) and ineleastic (with electrons) collisions

(10<sup>-13</sup> sec, range 10<sup>-7</sup> m, 200 eV D<sup>+</sup>)

Elastic collisons: Creation of vacancies and interstitials

elastic collisions

(energy transfer > threshold energy for damage)

**Diffusion of vacancies and interstitials** 

voids, dislocations, swelling, radiation, embrittlement

Sputtering of surface atoms

(energy transfer > surface binding energy)

**Transmutation** 

formation of nuclear reaction products (including H isotopes and He)

The 14 MeV fusion neutrons heat an external material (for energy conversion) and they breed Tritium in the blanket.

### **Unfortunately:**

14 MeV fusion neutrons also produce volumetric radiation damage, and change and deteriorate the material properties

heat conductivity	lattice defects scattering of phonons
swelling	void formation, gas bubbles agglomeration of vacancies and helium
ductility	neutron and helium induced embrittlement densification of dislocation network, agglomeration of helium bubbles on grain boundaries
composition	transmutation products
Science of irradiated materials (not further discussed here)	
#### **Basic PSI Processes**

- I.) Sublimation
- **II.)** Physical sputtering
- III.) Chemical erosion
- **IV.)** Radiation Enhanced Sublimation (RES)
- V.) Backscattering

#### Only briefly discussed here:

- VI.) Retention (hydrogen isotopes)
- VII.) Desorption/Adsorption
- **VIII.) Blistering**
- IX.) Secondary electron emission



#### Springer, 2005



## I.) Sublimation

## **Power exhaust steady state heat loads**

Plasma input : Q (W/m<sup>2</sup>)



Armor material: thickness d with thermal conductivity  $\lambda$ 



## **Power exhaust transient heat loads (1)**

In transient events, like disruptions or ELMs, part of the plasma stored energy is deposited in very short pulses to the walls

example: type I Elms in ITER:

W <sub>thermal</sub> (Plasma)	350 MJ
energy loss during ELM	2-6 %
Energy per ELM	$\sim 20~MJ~$ (~30 hand grenades at 150g TNT each)
deposition time	~ 0.2 ms
deposition area	~10 m <sup>2</sup>
$\rightarrow$ power density	10 GW/m2

## transient heat loads (2)

In transient events the energy must be absorbed by the heat capacity (inertial cooling)

$$T(t) = P^* (2 / \pi \lambda \rho c)^{0.5} * t^{0.5}$$

temperature power conductivity density heat capacity

t = 0.25 ms  $\rightarrow$  Ts<sub>max</sub> = 6000 C Penetration depth: 0.15 mm Sublimation threshold: 2200 C

#### **Graphite Target will sublimate quickly**

With duration of 0.2 ms and area 10 m<sup>2</sup> the maximal energy per ELM in ITER must limited to < 1-2 % of stored energy to avoid material loss by sublimation

Metals will melt leading to loss of melt layer by MHD effects in melt layer

**Type I ELM operation critical for ITER** 

## **Material Behaviour under Extreme Power Loads**



## **Effects of interaction**

**FOR METALS:** Splashing Formation of droplets Formation of dust FOR CARBON: *Above a certain power load (threshold) emission of debris occurs = BRITTLE DESTRUCTION* 

## **MELTING observed commonly in present machines**



Beryllium antenna screen at JET  $T_m(Be) = 1278 \ ^{\circ}C$ 



Limiter from FTU TZM coated with 2 mm VPS Tungsten



TEXTOR: Melting of 170 mm B4C coating on copper

#### ASIDE: The **TEXTOR PWI Test Facility** with air lock a tool (user facility) for PWI research

#### Air locks for PWI components

- < 15 cm diameter (enlargement foreseen)</li>
- external heating (up to 1800K) or cooling (down to RT)
- radial movement (+- 5 cm around LCFS)
- rotatable
- electrical biasing of limiters
- exchange time for samples <1/2 day
- local gas injection systems

#### **Comprehensive diagnostics**

- overview spectroscopy (UV-VIS-IR)
- 2D imaging (Dα, Cll etc.),
- high resolution spectroscopy
- laser-induced fluorescence
- 2D thermography, thermocouples
- colorimetry
- laser desorption/ablation
- edge diagnostics for ne, Te (Langmuir probes and atomic beams)

#### **TEXTOR PWI Test Facility**



Presently used in cooperation with Japan (TEXTOR-IEA), VR, IPPWL, Slovenia, Universities,....

## Inside the TEXTOR Tokamak @ FZ-Jülich



#### **Focus on Plasma Surface interaction research**





#### Plasma parameters at the TEXTOR PWI Test Facility:

**Exceeds ITER particle and heat fluxes** 





# II.) Physical sputtering

### **II.) Physical sputtering**

Mechanism: energy transfer from projectile to solid atom at surface



Impinging projectile ion initiates collision cascade inside the solid  $\Rightarrow$  energy transfer to surface solid atom which is released

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Collision cascades: different regimes



**Single collision:** light ions at low energies, atomic motion stopped after few collisions, binary collision approximation (BCA) valid

Linear cascade: collisions only between fast particles and atoms at rest, BCA

Thermal spike: dense cascade, collisions between fast particles important

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Simulation of collision cascades: example "linear cascade" regime

Monte Carlo simulation, Binary Collision Approximation



5 typical cascades of 3 keV Ar<sup>+</sup> ions into graphite



- O Vacancies
- Interstitials
- + Phonons

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

In general: definition of erosion yield Y

**Erosion yield Y:** 

average number of eroded target atoms per incident projectile

Impinging flux of projectiles :
$$\Gamma_{in} = \frac{number of incoming projectiles}{area \times time}$$
Emitting flux of eroded particles : $\Gamma_{ero} = \frac{number of eroded particles}{area \times time}$ Erosion yield Y : $Y = \frac{\Gamma_{ero}}{\Gamma_{in}}$ 

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Main features of physical sputtering

- Occurs for all combinations of projectile substrate
- Existence of threshold energy  $E_{th}$ . If  $E_{in} < E_{th}$ :  $Y_{sputter} = 0$
- Sputter yield Y<sub>sputter</sub> depends on energy and angle of incoming projectile
- Sputter yield  $Y_{sputter}$  depends on projectile material combination. Maximal energy transfer factor  $\gamma = 4 M_1 M_2 / (M_1 + M_2)^2$
- No significant dependence of Y<sub>sputter</sub> on surface temperature
- Sputtered species: atoms or small clusters of substrate particles

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Typical dependence of sputter yield Y on incident energy of projectile



 $E_{in} < E_{th}$ : Y = 0. Increasing  $E_{in} \Rightarrow$  Y increases until maximum. Further increase of  $E_{in} \Rightarrow$  Y decreases (collision cascade penetrates deeper into solid).

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Typical dependence of sputter yield Y on incident angle of projectile



Y first increases with increasing  $\alpha_{in}$  (with grazing incidence more energy is deposited near surface). After reaching maximum  $\Rightarrow$  Y decreases (reflection).

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Energy distribution of sputtered particles



In many cases:

sputtered particles have Thompson distributed energy

 $N(E) \propto E/(E + E_S)^3$ 

E<sub>S</sub>: sublimation energy

Most probable energy  $E = E_S/2$ 

Deviations from Thompson distribution for light ion bombardment and/or nonnormal incidence

## **II.) Physical sputtering**

Angle distribution of sputtered particles



In many cases: **sputtered particles have cosine distribution** Deviations: for light ions and non-normal incidence



## Total erosion Yield of Graphite, Be and W by D impact



For beryllium and tungsten theoretical and experimental curves overlap.

Carbon shows additional erosion, not dependent on impact energy.

**CHEMICAL EROSION** 

## **III.) Chemical erosion**

## **III.)** Chemical erosion

Mechanism: formation of molecules from projectiles and solid atoms



Impinging deuterium penetrates into graphite and forms hydrocarbon molecule after thermalisation ⇒ molecule "diffuses" through porosity to surface of the solid and desorbs

## **III.)** Chemical erosion

Main features of chemical erosion

- Occurs only for special combinations of projectile substrate (most important: hydrogen on graphite, oxygen on graphite)
- No (or very low) threshold energy
- Strong dependence of erosion yield  $Y_{\rm chem}$  on surface temperature  $T_{\rm surf}$
- Dependence of erosion yield Y<sub>chem</sub> on hydrogen content in solid
- Synergetic effects caused by energetic ions
- Sputtered species: molecules formed from projectile and substrate atoms

## **III.)** Chemical erosion

Fusion research: Importance of chemical erosion of carbon-based materials

Main disadvantage of carbon-based materials:

- chemical erosion due to hydrogen & its isotopes even at lowest plasma T<sub>e</sub>
- in a fusion reactor: tritium (T) as fuel  $\Rightarrow$  erosion of  $C_x T_y$  molecules
  - $\Rightarrow$  re-deposition of C<sub>x</sub>T<sub>y</sub> molecules leads to formation of T-containing layers. Amount of permitted radioactive T limited to 350g in ITER
  - ⇒ removal of T-containing layers necessary after having reached 350g

#### **Advantages of carbon-based materials:**

- no melting even under extremely high power loads (in ITER: 10 MW/m<sup>2</sup>)
- high sublimation temperature (~3800°C)
  - ⇒ therefore carbon-based materials are foreseen to use at areas of high power loads in ITER (divertor plates)

### III.) Chemical erosion of carbon-based materials

Dependence of chemical erosion yield on surface temperature  $T_{surf}$ 



## III.) Chemical erosion of carbon-based materials

Flux dependence of chemical erosion yield



#### **III.)** Chemical erosion of carbon-based materials

Chemical erosion yield in dependence on properties of carbon material



## III.) Chemical erosion of carbon-based materials

Energy and angle distribution of eroded particles



# IV.) Radiation Enhanced Sublimation (RES)

**IV.)** Radiation Enhanced Sublimation (RES)

Erosion yield from beam experiments in dependence on surface temperatures



5 keV Ar<sup>+</sup> on graphite

## IV.) Radiation Enhanced Sublimation (RES)



surface and sublimes

- During diffusion of C interstitials to surface: probability of recombination with vacancies or stable defects ( $\Rightarrow$  annihilation of interstitial)
- Density of vacancies increases with increasing ion flux  $\Rightarrow$  flux dependence of RES
- So far RES not clearly seen in tokamak experiments (not yet clarified)

## V.) Backscattering

#### V.) Backscattering

Reflection of impinging particles at the surface



- In most cases: reflected particles are neutrals
- Reflection coefficient depends on:
  - mass of projectile and target
  - energy and angle of incident particles
## V.) Backscattering

Dependency of reflection coefficient on incident energy



V.) Backscattering

Dependency of reflection coefficient on incident angle

Monte Carlo simulation (BCA): C on C, E<sub>in</sub> = 100 eV



## V.) Backscattering

Energy and angle distribution of reflected particles

**Reasonable assumptions:** 

- Energy: exponential decrease for reflected particles if incoming particle energy is Maxwell-distributed
- Angle: cosine distribution for reflected particles if isotropic bombardment

# further important Plasma-Wall Interaction Processes

# VI.) Retention

Hydrogen retention in graphite and co-deposited layers

Licensing: in-vessel tritium inventory in ITER limited to 350g

Four retention mechanisms have been identified:

- Build-up of a saturated surface layer during hydrogen implantation
- Chemisorption on grain boundaries and inner porosity surfaces
- Intergranular diffusion and trapping at temperatures > 1000K
- Co-deposition of hydrogen with carbon

**Based on experimental data:** 

 Co-deposition is expected to be most important mechanism for long-term tritium retention in ITER



## **VII.)** Adsorption/Desorption

Definition of the processes

Adsorption: binding of particles or molecules to a solid surface (adsorption from residual gas  $O_2$ ,  $H_2O$ , CO ...or from impurities segregated at surface at elevated temperatures) physisorption: binding due to van der Waals forces ( $E_B < 0.5eV$ ) chemisorption: binding via exchange/sharing of electrons ( $E_B \sim eV$ )

**Desorption:** adsorbed species leave the surface and return into gas phase  $\Rightarrow$  impurity release process

Ion-induced desorption most important desorption process for fusion.

# **VIII.)** Blistering

## Trapping of gas atoms in bubbles of high pressure

## **Example: blistering in tungsten**



**Pressure in bubble too high**  $\Rightarrow$  **repetitive exfoliation of micron-thick flakes** 

## **IX.) Secondary Electron Emission**

Mechanisms of secondary electron emission

- reflection of electrons which impinge the surface, mostly elastic scattering
- true electron-induced secondary electron emission from the solid
- ion-induced electron emission

#### Why important in fusion research?

Secondary electron emission coefficient influences the the sheath potential in front of target surface exposed to plasma (later in these lectures ...)

#### **Detailed book-keeping of PWI processes (and local transport)**

## The Impurity Transport Code ERO: see also: lecture III



#### Plasma wall interaction is unavoidable and necessary for particle and energy exhaust

#### WHAT happens:

Low Z materials are favourable since higher concentrations can be tolerated in the plasma due to lower radiation losses but the erosion of low Z materials is stronger. A compromise between impurity release and acceptable impurity concentration must be found, which is connected by impurity transport.

**Graphite** has large advantages for off- normal heat loads in ELMS and disruptions, since it does not melt, but the disadvantage of high erosion and which can lead to large fuel retention by co-deposition

High Z metals have much lower erosion and show much lower hydrogen retention but metal walls can suffer from melt layer loss in off normal heat loads.

Next lecture: HOW can we make ITER work despite these issues