Plasma-Surface Interactions

Effects of impurities in Tokamak

- Radiative power loss : line radiation
- Fuel dilution
- Radiation barrier : difficult to heat plasmas initially
- Disruptions : via edge cooling

Sheath phenomena in Tokamak

- Plasma sheath
- Scrape-off layer

Impurity-related processes

- Recycling
- Atomic and molecular processes
- Desorption : Wall conditioning
- Sputtering
- Arcing
- Evaporation



Basic Concepts of Plasma Sheaths : sheath formation

• Plasma sheath : the non-neutral potential region between the plasma and the wall caused by the balanced flow of particles with different mobility such as electrons and ions.



High electron mobility --> negative potential buildup



- High energy ion bombardment
- Electrons are retarded
- Ambipolar diffusion established

Basic Concepts of Plasma Sheaths : presheath formation

• Presheath : a transition layer between the neutral plasma and the non-neutral sheath in order to maintain the continuity of ion flux, giving rise to an ion velocity at the plasma-sheath edge known as the Bohm velocity u_B .



Bohm Sheath Criterion



Bohm velocity-->sound speed

Presheath and Sheath Potentials

• Potential drop across the presheath accelerating the ions to the Bohm velocity where Φ_p is the plasma potential with respect to the sheath-presheath potential. $\frac{1}{2}m_iu_B^2 = e\Phi_p$ • Substituting for the Bohm velocity: $\Phi_p = \frac{T_e + T_i}{2}$: plasma potential

• Density at the sheath edge to that in the plasma from Boltzmann relation

$$n_{o} = n_{b} e^{-e\Phi_{p}/T_{e}} \approx 0.61 n_{b}$$

Sheath potential at a floating wall from the ambipolar diffusion condition

$$\Gamma_{i} = n_{o}u_{B} = \Gamma_{e} = \frac{1}{4}n_{o}exp^{e\Phi_{w}/T_{e}}\overline{v}_{e}$$
where the mean electron velocity, $\overline{v}_{e} = (8T_{e}/\pi m_{e})^{1/2}$

Solving for the wall potential Φ_w ,

$$e \Phi_w = -\frac{T_e}{2} \ln \left[\frac{m_i / m_e}{2\pi (1 + T_i / T_e)} \right]$$
 wall
potential

 $e \Phi_{w} = -\frac{T_{e}}{2} \ln \left| \frac{(1 - \delta^{2})m_{i} / m_{e}}{2\pi (1 + T_{i} / T_{e})} \right|$

including secondary electron emission effects

total secondary emission coefficient, δ

Plasma Ion Energy at the Surface



Scrape-Off Layer: radial distribution In steady-state, particle balance gives $\frac{d}{dr} \left[D_{\perp} \frac{dn}{dr} \right] = \frac{nc_s}{L_c}$ $n(r) = n(a) \exp[-(r-a)/\lambda_n]$ $\lambda_n = \left[\frac{D_{\perp}L_c}{c_s} \right]^{1/2}$ with scrape-off thickness, or e-folding length, for density Similarly, electron heat balance gives $T_e(r) = T_e(a) \exp[-(r-a)/\lambda_T]$ $1 + \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_{Te}} = \frac{\delta}{5/2 + \chi_{\perp}\lambda_n/D_{\perp}\lambda_{Te}} \qquad \qquad \lambda_n \\ \lambda_{Te} \end{cases} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} D_{\perp} \\ \chi_{\perp} \\ \lambda_{Te} \end{array} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Cross field} \\ \text{diffusion coefficient} \\ \text{Cross field} \\ \end{array}$ where thermal diffusivity Wall Limiter

B

Confined plasma

Last closed flux surface

Scrape-Off Layer : global balance



Parallel Transport outside the LCFS

Isothermal fluid model

For steady-state, inviscid, isothermal, 1-D flow, particle and momentum conservation gives

$$\frac{d}{dz}(nv) = S \qquad nmv\frac{dv}{dz} = -\frac{dp}{dz} - mvS$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{dM}{dz} = \frac{S}{nc_s}\frac{1+M^2}{1-M^2} \qquad M = v/c_s \quad \text{Mach number}$$

$$\frac{d}{dz}(p+nmv^2) = 0 \quad \text{so that} \qquad \frac{n(M)}{n(0)} = \frac{1}{1+M^2}$$
density at stagnation point

Plasma potential by considering Boltzmann distribution of electron density

$$n(M) = n(0) \frac{1}{1 + M^2} = n(0) \exp(e\Phi(M) / T_e)$$

$$\longrightarrow \Phi(M) = -\frac{T_e}{e} \ln(1 + M^2)$$

Flow velocity is difficult to calculate and there is little experimental information

Recycling

Recycling : each plasma goes to the divertor target plate or limiter and returns to the plasma many times during the discharge



Recycling: backscattered ion energy distribution

• Backscattered particles 1.0 $H \rightarrow C$ Normal are predominantly neutral incidence • Average energy depends 0.8 on $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{E}}/\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{n}}$ \600 eV 0.6 Intensity (normalized) 150 eV Hydrogen diffusion in solids 0.4 2 keV - exothermic : trap - endothermic :escape 0.2 50 eV Rate coeff. of thermal desorption Rate coeff. of entering trap $\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x^2} - k_{st} C(C_{T0} - C_t) + k_t C_t + S(x)$ $\frac{\partial C_t(x,t)}{\partial t} = k_{st} C(C_{T0} - C_t) - k_t C_t$ 0.6 0.8 0.2 0.4Relative energy E/E_0 b.c. $D\frac{\partial C}{\partial r} = k_r C(0)^2$

Plasma-Surface Interacting Processes

- Atomic and molecular processes
- Desorption : Wall conditioning
- Sputtering
- Arcing
- Evaporation

Atomic and Molecular Processes

Atomic reactions

- excitation
- ionization
- charge exchange $H^+ + H --> H + H^+$
- Molecular reactions
 - dissociation

- dissociative ionization
- molecular ionization
- dissociative recombination $H_2^+ + e^- H + H$

 $H + e --> H^* + e$ $H + e --> H^+ + 2e$ $H^+ + H > H + H^+$

 $\begin{array}{l} H_2 + e \dashrightarrow H + H + e \\ H_2 + e \dashrightarrow H^+ + H + 2e \\ H_2^+ + e \dashrightarrow H^+ + H^+ + 2e \\ H_2^+ + e \dashrightarrow H_2^+ + 2e \\ H_2^- + e \dashrightarrow H_2^+ + 2e \\ n \qquad H_2^+ + e \dashrightarrow H + H \end{array}$

Atomic and Molecular Processes

- Relative reaction rates depend on plasma temperature and density
- Rate coefficients for hydrogen atoms and molecules



Atomic and Molecular Processes



• Ionization and charge exchange influence the transport of recycling species and impurity species • Charge exchange dominant hydrogen processes : random walk diffusion • Ionization dominant impurity ions are multiply ionized • Dominant charge states of the impurity determined by electron temperature, electron density, and residual time • Photon efficiency • ion influx with absolute radiation

• average energy loss per ionization

Inverse photon efficiency

Impurity Ion Temperature

Calculated temperature of some typical impurity ion species as a function of background plasma temperature



Charge State Distribution of Impurity Ion Species



Oxygen ionization state distribution in coronal equilibrium

Adsorption and Desorption

- Adsorbed atoms: hydrogen, carbon monoxide, water, etc
 - weakly bound physical adsorption : ~ 0.3eV
 - strongly bound chemical adsorption : ~ 3eV

• Desorbed by incident ions, neutrals, electrons and photons

- electron and photon processes : electronic, weak
- ions and neutrals : by momentum transfer, strong cross section σ up to 10^{-18} m², yield $Y = \sigma cJ \exp(-J\sigma t)$ surface concentration

• Desorption can lead to

- Incident ion flux density
- impurity accumulation in the plasma
- lack of density control when plasma species desorbed

need wall conditioning

Energy Dependency of Desorption Cross Section



Wall Conditioning

- Baking the vacuum vessel, typically to 200-350°C
- Discharge cleaning
 - surface cleaned by particle bombardment in discharges
 - glow discharges: effective and simple, combined with RF operating at lower pressure of 0.1Pa
 - pulsed discharges: tokamak ohmic discharge w/o TF
 - ECR discharges: resonance location can be varied
 - enhanced cleaning with hot vessel with less readsorption
 - light ions such as hydrogen(with chemical action) and helium(remove oxygen and hydrogen with carbon walls) are used to avoid sputtering
- Gettering: wall covered with a metal film by evaporation
- Carbonization and boronization: covering wall with low Z
- Wider operating range up to higher densities w/o excessive radiation
- High density and low temperature decrease sputtering yields
 not applicable for reactor

Gettering with Thin Metallic Film Wall covered with a clean metal film by evaporation •remove unwanted impurity species : fresh layers of chemically active metals react with active gases such as O₂, CO, H₂, and CO₂ binding them tightly to the surface

• reduce outgassing : sequential deposition bury the adsorbed gases

Materials for gettering

- high chemical reactivity and high vapor pressures at modest temperatures, typically 1500-2000 °K : **titanium**, chromium
- beryllium : good getter, low atomic number, but high toxicity

Disadvantages

- should cover at least 30% of the vacuum vessel surface
- quick saturation and need getter between shots
- film flakes with the size of $10-100 \mu m$: random impurity injection

Carbonization and Boronization

Cover the tokamak wall with low Z non-metallic films(C & B) to minimize the release of high Z impurities

Carbonization

• gaseous carbon compound(CH_4) --> glow discharges --> deposit a thin layer of amorphous carbon on the wall (optimum temp. 300°C)

- initially increasing the hydrogen --> make density control difficult
 --> recycling control with helium glow discharge after carbonization
- optimum thickness for good adhesion $\sim 1 \mu m$ --> short lifetime

Boronization

- similar to carbonization with boranes(B_2H_4 , B_2H_6) at 400 °C --> boron acts as getter and thin boron films pump oxygen and hydrogen
- Trimethyl borone, $B(CH_3)_3$, forms mixed films of carbon and boron
- low affinity of boronized surface for water vapor(good for opening)
- silane(SiH₄) deposit Si film : good getter, but higher atomic number
- disadvantages : toxicity of both borane and silane

Sputtering

Removal of atoms from the solid surface by the impact of ions or atoms, resulting in impurity radiation and surface erosion

Sputtering yields

- decreases with increasing sublimation energy
- increase with increasing energy transfer

Threshold energy

$$\gamma_{sp} = \frac{4m_1m_2}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} \qquad E_T = \frac{E_s}{\gamma_{sp}(1 - \gamma_{sp})}$$

$$m_{1,2}$$
: masses of incident and target atoms

raflaction

Sputtering yields simulated by Monte Carlo code

- linearly increases after threshold until saturated
- decreases at higher energy since collision cascade occurs away from the solid surface in deeper location
- maximum yield move to higher energy as target mass increases
- magnitude of sputtering yield depends on surface binding energy
- surface structure and impurity level can change the binding energy



Energy Distribution of Sputtered Atom







Choice of Materials

minimize Z and sputter yield

• figure of merit

- impurity production rates
- structual strength
- neutron activation
- thermal shock resistance



Arcing

Sustained with low voltage, high current

Power arc by external potential
Unipolar arc by plasma sheath

Table 9.8.1 Erosion due to arcing

- → Joule heating, evaporation
- \rightarrow erosion

Ion currents : 7-10%, 50-100eV, in charge states up to 4-5



Heat Flux, Evaporation, and Heat Transfer



Upper limit of tolerable heat flux : 10-20MW/m² Heat flux for high reliability : 2-5MW/m²



Limiters define plasma boundary

Roles of the limiter

 protect the wall from the plasma : disruptions, runaway electrons, other instabilities -->high heat loads --> refractory material

- localize the plasma-surface interaction
- localize the particle recycling : high neutral density and radiation

Material selection criteria for the limiter

- withstand thermal shock
- produce as low an impurity flux as possible
- maintain low atomic number with impurity
- have good thermal conductivity for heat transfer

Materials for the limiter

- low Z materials : carbon and beryllium, high heat loads
- high Z materials : tungsten and molybdenum, good thermal properties, low sputtering yields; however, very low concentrations allowed because of their high Z

Limiters

Different types of limiters have different



For long pulse/steady state operation, thermal capacity become important **toroidal limiter**(spread the heat load) **or divertor**(impurity shielding)

Divertors define the LCFS solely by the magnetic field and isolate plasma surface interactions from the confined plasma

Possible ways of reducing power density at the target

- placing the target tiles at an oblique angle to the field lines
- flux expansion of the field lines as they approach the target
- magnetically sweeping the strike point over a width > λ_p
- radiating power before reaching to the target by conduction
- transferring the energy to neutral particles in the divertor

Avoiding target surface erosion as well as impurity flow into plasmas

Objectives of divertor design in the fusion reactor

• minimizing the impurity content of the plasma by having the plasma surface interactions remote from the confined plasma and designing the divertor particle flow

- removing the alpha particle power by heat transfer through a solid surface to a fluid transfer medium
- removing the helium ash resulting from the fusion reactions

One-dimensional Fluid Model of Divertor SOL

Assume

• no energy or momentum sources or sinks (radiation) in the scrape-off layer

- Simplified geometry between X point and the target
- Energy flow from the confined plasma

Momentum conservation

$$nT(1+\gamma M^2) = const. \longrightarrow n_u T_u = 2n_t T_u$$

Heat transport along the SOL: electron heat conduction

$$\kappa \frac{dT_e}{dz} = -q_{//} \quad \kappa = \alpha T_e^{5/2}$$

For constant $q_{//}$,

$$T_{u}^{7/2} = T_{t}^{7/2} + \frac{7q_{//}L}{2\alpha} \quad 0$$

Power density transmitted across the plasma sheath at the target

$$q_{\prime\prime} = \gamma_s n_t T_t c_{st}$$





Radial Power Distribution in the SOL

2 T T

Steady state power flow in the scrape-off layer

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{q} = \nabla \cdot \vec{q}_{\perp} + \nabla \cdot \vec{q}_{\parallel} = 0 \qquad \nabla \cdot \vec{q}_{\parallel} = q_{\parallel / t} / L \qquad \tau_{\parallel} = \frac{3nTL}{q_{\parallel / t}}$$

$$2n\chi_{\perp} \frac{d^{2}T}{dr^{2}} = \frac{3nT}{\tau_{\parallel}} \longrightarrow T = T_{s} \exp(-r/\lambda_{p}) \qquad \lambda_{p} = (\chi_{\perp}\tau_{\parallel}/3)^{1/2}$$

$$using q_{\perp s} = -n_{s}\chi_{\perp}dT / dr \qquad \lambda_{p} = \chi_{\perp}n_{s}T_{s} / q_{\perp s}$$
setting $T_{s} = T_{u} q_{\parallel / t} = q_{\parallel}$

$$when T_{u}^{7/2} >> T_{t}^{7/2} \qquad T_{u} = \left(\frac{7q_{\parallel}L}{2\alpha}\right)^{2/7} \qquad \lambda_{p} = \chi_{\perp}n_{s}T_{s} / q_{\perp s}$$
for $q_{\perp s}[MWm^{-2}] = 0.5 L[m] = 150$

$$\chi_{\perp}[m^{2}s^{-1}] = 1 \quad n_{u}[m^{-3}] = 1 \times 10^{20}$$

$$\chi_{p}[m] = 0.01 \quad q_{\parallel / t}[Wm^{-2}] = 7 \times 10^{9}$$
Poloidal heat flux $q_{pol}[Wm^{-2}] \sim (B_{p} / B_{\phi})q_{\parallel / t}[Wm^{-2}] \sim 10^{8} >> 5 \times 10^{6}$

Volume Losses of Power in the Divertor To minimize power deposition on the target plates, radiate power so that it can be distributed over a large surface area

• Introduce impurity to enhance the radiation, $P_r = \int n_m n_e R(T_e) dV$

maximum radiation parameter, $R(T_e) \sim 10^{-31} Wm^3$,

for 1GW radiated power, $n_m n_e V < 10^{40} m^{-3}$

 \longrightarrow n_{m/}n_e~10% with n_e~ 10²⁰m⁻³ and V=10m³

- Lead to impurities flowing into the confined plasma
 Cause unacceptable increase in the target sputtering
- Volume loss mechanisms with charge exchange neutral loss (low plasma temp.) and ion-neutral collisions (high neutral density)
- Detached divertor plasma : momentum and energy must be transferred from the plasma to a neutral gas blanket near the target Detached plasma drops target density --> difficult helium ash removal

Allowable Fraction of Impurities



Flow in the Divertor



General Design Considerations for the Divertor

- Single and Double nulls
 - double null doubles wall interaction area and halves connection length, more triangularity, decreases plasma volume
- Target geometries: flat plates and enclosed chamber
 - flat plates: simple, easy diagnostic access, rigid structure
 - enclosed chamber: good isolation from the main confined plasma
- Target tiles
 - reduce thermal stress due to non-uniform heat flux --> make small
 - increase the effective area with small angle, and displace targets
- Erosion of the surface and consequent redeposition of eroded material



Tritium Behavior

Diffusion-dominated hydrogen distribution

• implanted tritium moves both by diffusion and surface recombination

- release rate for diffusion dominant case with uniform distribution $R = At^{-1/2}$
- non-metalic material : porous, pearmeate and trapped at the lattice defects

--> heating and hydrogen discharge can remove tritium

• Wall materials(exothermically dissolving hydrogen, Ti, Zr, Nb) release little gas and build up tritium inventory --> not tolerable

