Fusion Reactor Technology I
(459.760, 3 Credits)

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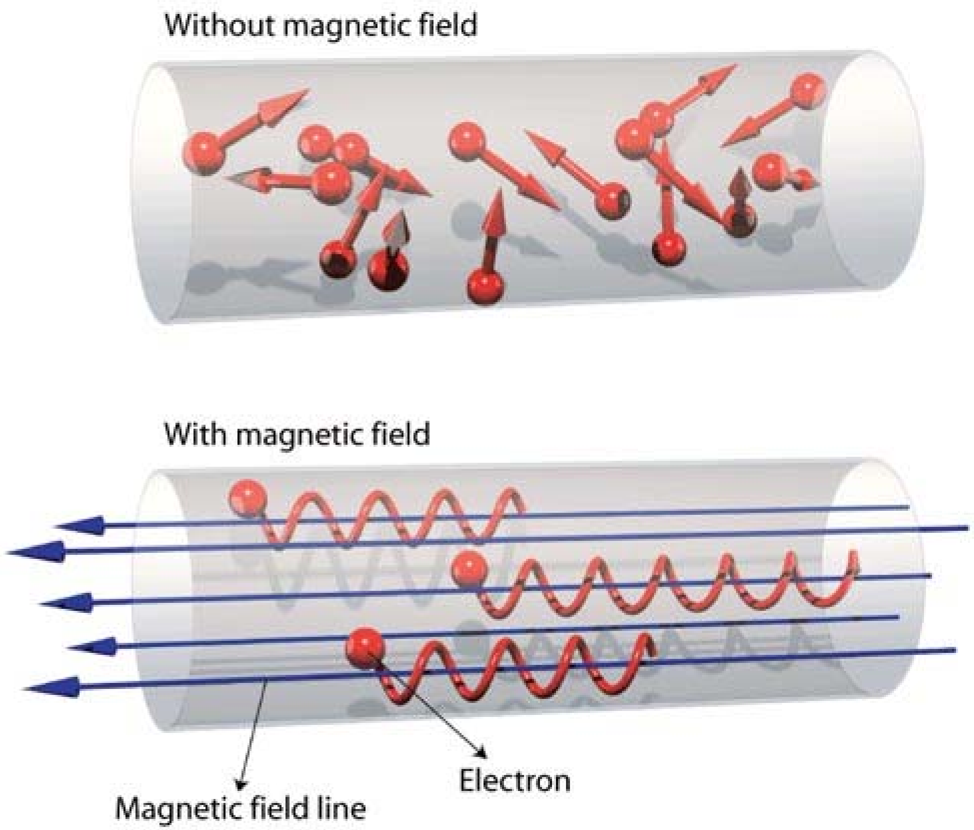
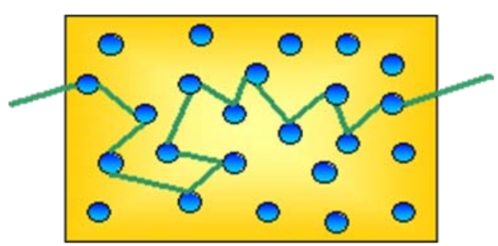
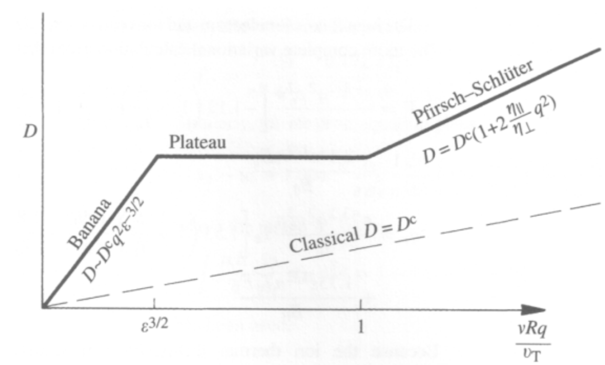
Plasma Confinement



- Minimise contact to material walls by magnetic field





J. Wesson, Tokamaks

Fluxes to the Surface

- **Particle Fluxes**

- ions: diffusing fuel ions (H, D, T)
  fusion alpha particles
  diffusing impurities (wall materials, residual gases in chamber adsorbed gases in surface)
  energetic ions from NBI
- electrons: diffusing plasma electrons
  runaway electrons
- neutrals: recycling neutrals
  NBI neutrals
- fusion neutrons

Fluxes to the Surface

- **Photon Fluxes**

- Bremsstrahlung radiation
- Cyclotron radiation
- impurity line radiations

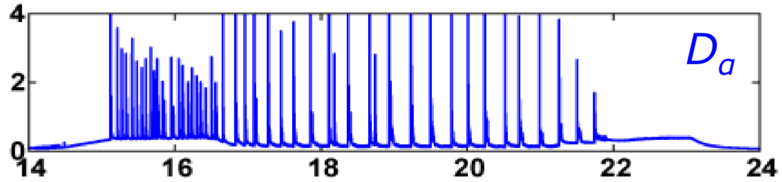
- **Energy Fluxes**

- Particle energies
- Radiation energies
- Heat conduction

Flux Excursions

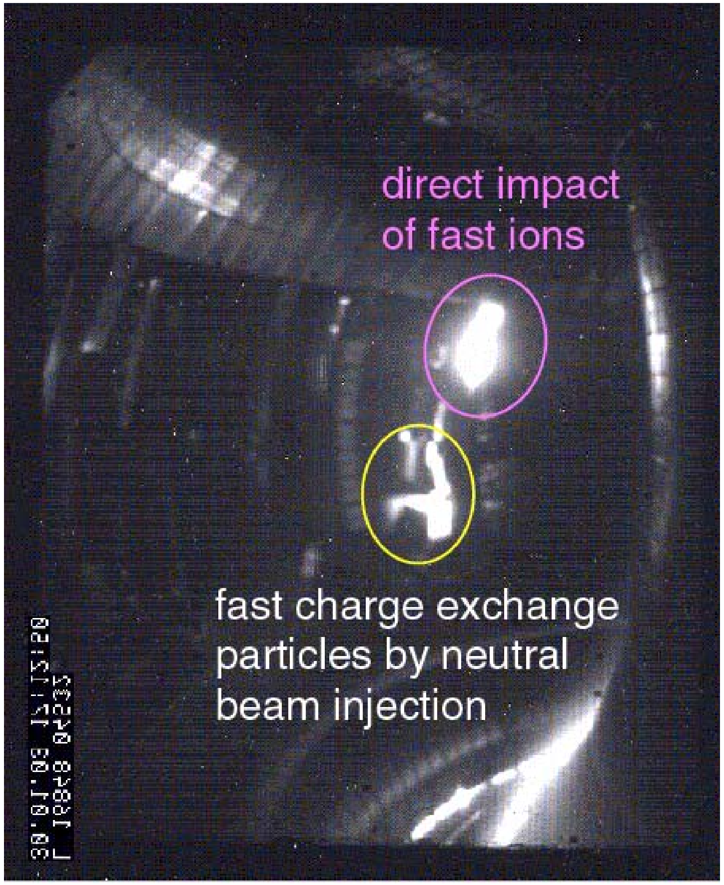
- **Transient Flux Excursions**

- Plasma instabilities can lead to transient heat load excursions.



Flux Excursions

- **Localised Flux Excursions**



- Loss of fast particles can lead to excessive local heat loads.
- charge exchange neutrals by heating with NBI
- orbit losses of fast ions
- runaway electrons

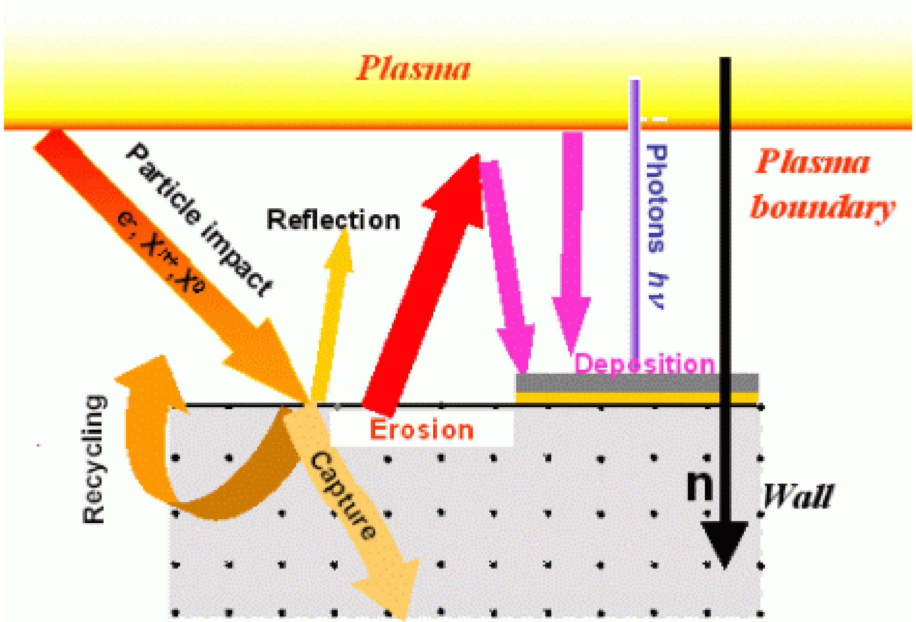
Flux Excursions

- **KSTAR H-mode Plasmas**

Plasma-wall Interactions

- **Physical / chemical interaction between plasma and (surrounding) surface**

- Reflection by backscattering
- Adsorption and desorption
- Physical sputtering: Erosion
- Chemical sputtering
- Vaporisation and melting
- Blistering and flaking
- Electron emission
- Radiation damage and transmutation by 14.1-MeV Neutron



http://www-rcp.ijs.si/mic/our_work/applications/fusion/fusion.php

Alteration of surface (wall erosion) and Production of particle and photon fluxes → Impurities

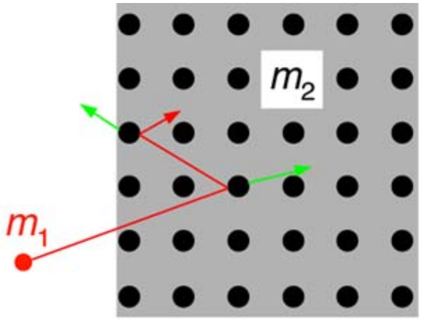
Surface Interaction Phenomena

- **Reflection by Backscattering**
- **Adsorption and Desorption**

- Residual cooler gases implanted inside wall → release of gases

- **Physical Sputtering – Erosion**

- Ejection of surface atom from (low-temperature) wall as a result of collision cascade in the lattice atoms by particles when acquired energy > surface binding energy



- Sputtering yield:

$$Y \equiv \frac{ejected\ atoms}{incident\ particles} \quad (atoms/particles)$$

$$Y(E) \approx \frac{20}{U_0}(Z_1 Z_2)^2 \frac{m_1}{m_2} \frac{E}{(E + 50 Z_1 Z_2)^2}$$ semi-theoretical value

- Threshold incident energy to produce sputtering

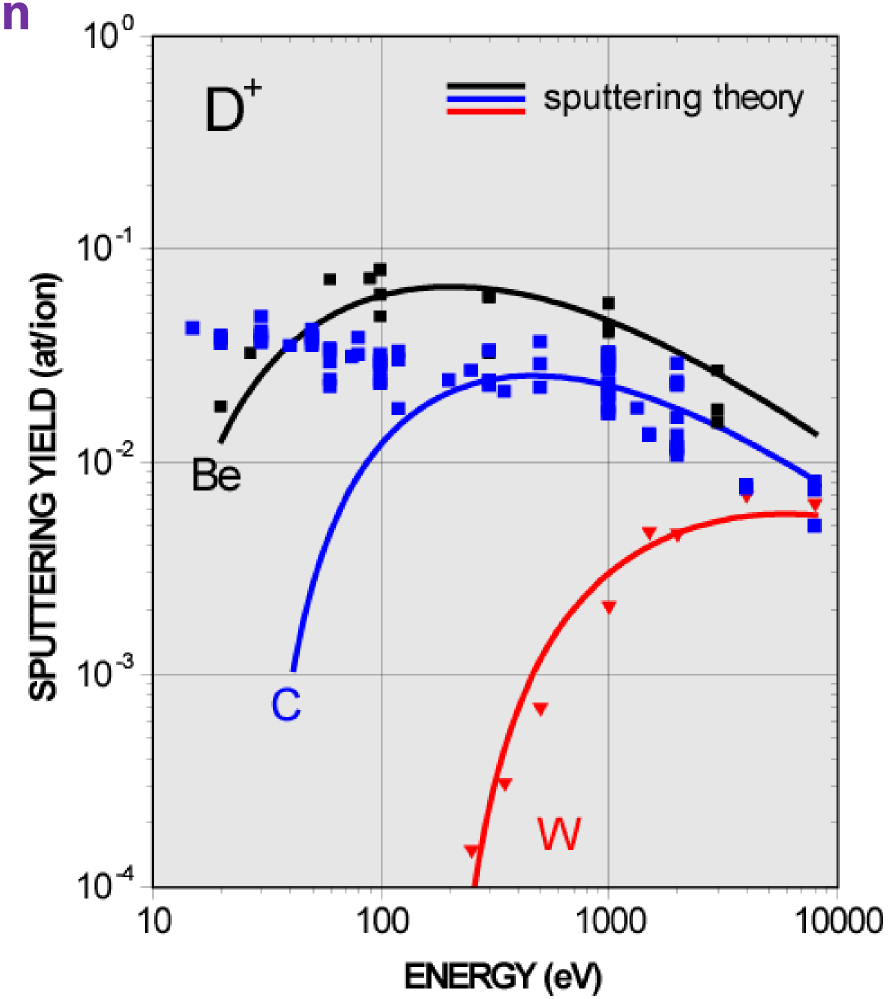
$$E = \frac{(m_1 + m_2)^2}{4 m_1 m_2} U_0$$

Surface Interaction Phenomena

- **Physical Sputtering – Erosion**

- For beryllium and tungsten, Theoretical and experimental yields agree very well
- Carbon shows additional erosion with only weak dependency on impact energy

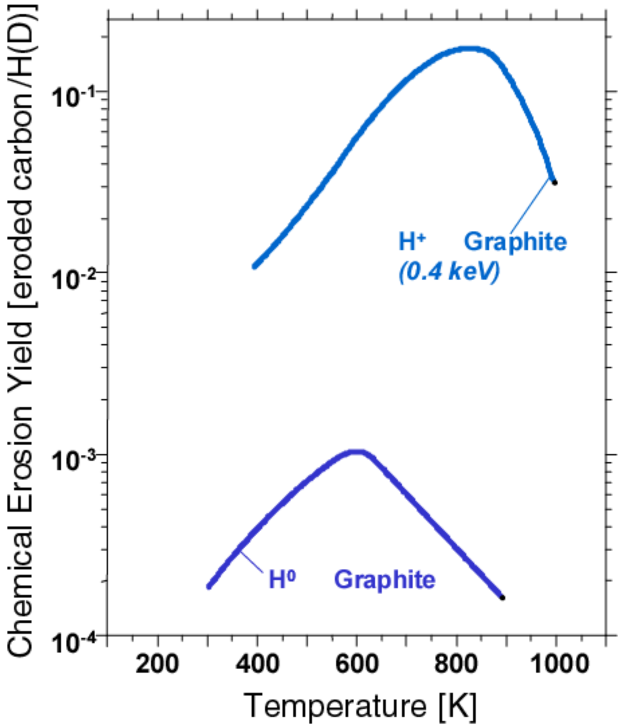
→ **Chemical erosion**



Surface Interaction Phenomena

- **Chemical Sputtering**

- chemical reaction of incident projectiles with target atoms
- formation of a volatile chemical compound leaving the solid:
  occurs only for certain target-projectile combinations
- incident particle + surface atom → chemical compound + reduced U_0
- chemical erosion in fusion devices:
  formation of hydrocarbons:
  $H + C \rightarrow CH_4\ (+C_xH_y)$
  formation of carbon oxides:
  $O + C \rightarrow CO + CO_2$
  reaction with some metals:
  O + Metal → Metal(O)
  (W above 1000°C)
  H + Metal(O) → Metal(OH)
  H + Metal(OH) → Metal+H_2O
- Chemical erosion vanishes at high surface temp.



Surface Interaction Phenomena

- **Vaporisation and Melting**

- disruptive instabilities → thermal shock on the wall

→ spalling, cracking, melting, evaporation

- **Blistering and Flaking**

- Blistering: gas bubble in ~μ-thick surface layer (insoluble, He)
- Flaking: blister rupture by lateral stress and surface layer breaking

- **Electron Emission**

- photoelectric, thermionic, X-ray, secondary

- **Radiation Damage and Transmutation by 14.1-MeV Neutron**

- Knock-on collision → interstitial, spikes, voids, displacements, ...
- neutron capture reactions: (n,p), (n,α) → production of p, α in the first wall

→ swelling, radiation damage of wall, diffusing back to plasma

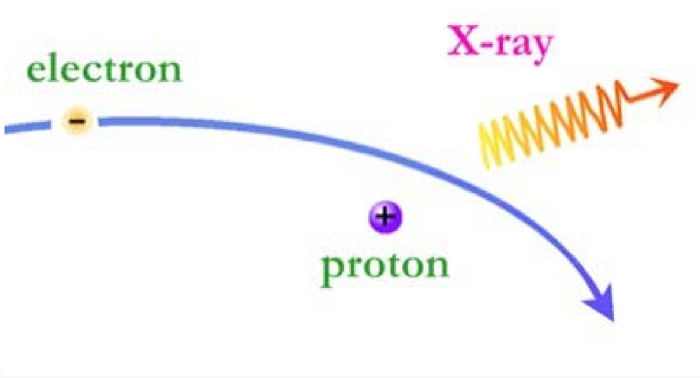
Impurity Radiation

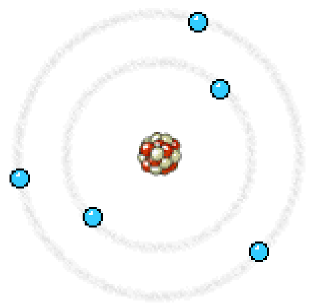
- **Bremsstrahlung (Braking radiation)**

- process of radiation emission when a charged particle accelerates or decelerates
- contribution from ions can be neglected due to their heavier mass (m_p=1836m_e) compared with that of electrons.
- mainly due to e-i collisions:

  in e-e or i-i collisions, radiation fields exactly cancel.
- X-ray wavelength range (λ ~ 10^{-9} m): readily escaping from a plasma

$$P_{br} \approx 1.6 \times 10^{-38} n_i n_e Z^2 \sqrt{kT_e} \quad (\mathrm{W/m^{-3}})$$





http://www.profstelmark.com/Chapter_6.html
http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~bank/index.html

Impurity Radiation

- **Line Radiation**

- due to radiative decay after electron collision excitation

$$A_0^{+Z} + e \;\rightarrow\; \left(A_0^{+Z}\right)^* \;\rightarrow\; A_0^{+Z} + \gamma + E_{Zl}$$

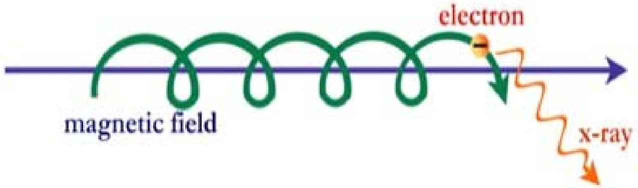
$$P_L \approx 1.8 \times 10^{-38} n_Z n_e Z^4 \sqrt{T_e} \quad (\mathrm{W/m^{-3}})$$

Impurity Radiation

- **Cyclotron Radiation**

- Due to the centripetal acceleration of charged particles owing to the helical motion by magnetic field lines
- contribution from ions can be neglected due to their heavier mass compared with that of electrons.
- In the far infrared radiation spectrum (λ = 10^{-3}-10^{-4} m): partially re-absorbed in a plasma
- The emitted radiation may be reflected from the surrounding wall in a magnetic confinement fusion device and thereby re-enter the plasma

$$P_{cyc}^{net} \approx 6.23 \times 10^{-20} n_e B^2 k T_e \psi \quad (\mathrm{W/m^{-3}})$$



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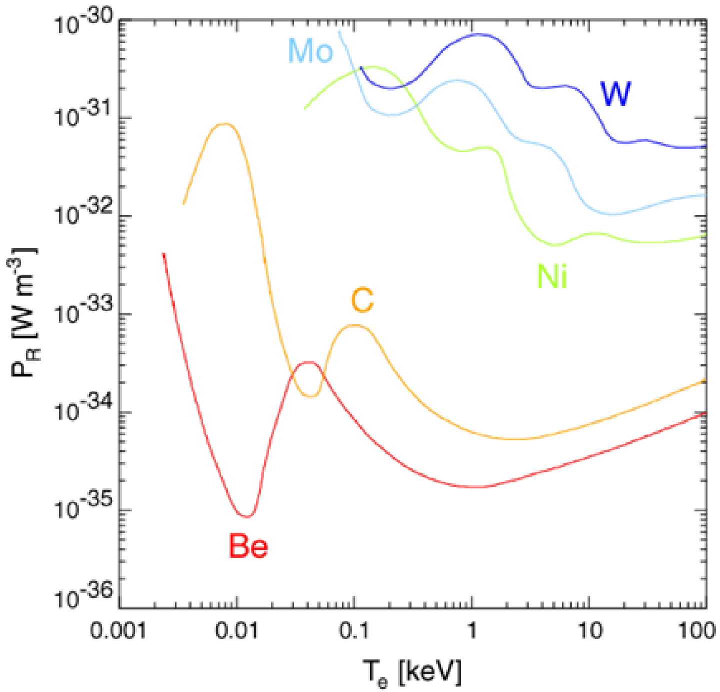
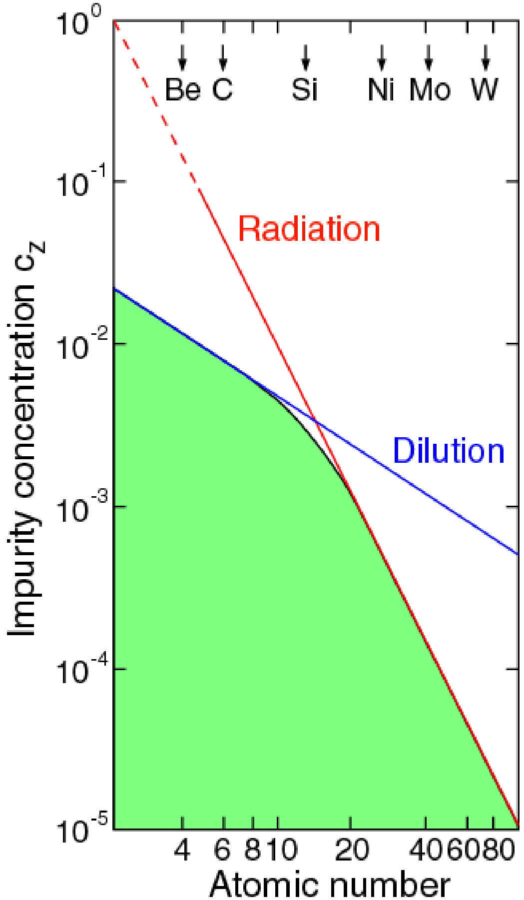
ψ accounting for the complex processes of reflection and reabsorption of cyclotron radiation

Impurity Radiation

- **Maximal Permissible Impurity Concentration**





At 10 keV
- Low Z (~10): $(n_Z/n_{DT})_{max}$~10% (Ne)
- Medium Z (~26): $(n_Z/n_{DT})_{max}$~0.5% (Fe)
- High Z (~74): $(n_Z/n_{DT})_{max}$~0.01% (W)

Maximal concentrations for sustained ignited plasma

Impurity Control

- **maintain** $$\frac{n_Z}{n_{DT}} < \left(\frac{n_Z}{n_{DT}}\right)_{\max}$$

Impurity Control

- **Wall Surface Control**

- Suppression of high-Z impurity formation or impurity formation itself

1) Low-Z wall surface

- ~μm coating, < 1 cm curtain or shingle
- C: high chemical sputtering
- Li: evaporation easily
- Be: toxic
- B: (n,α), (n,p) → He, H production

2) Wall modification

- Bake-out (baking)
- Discharge cleaning
- Gettering
- Honey comb surface

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Gas blanket model

High density cold neutral gas refreshed continuously in boundary region

→ particle and energy flux reduced with low energies

→ wall erosion reduced

Expected thickness ~ 1 m and high pressure drives instabilities

→ impractical!

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Vacuum model

Low particle densities in SOL by limiter and/or divertor

→ reducing particle, energy, impurity fluxes

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

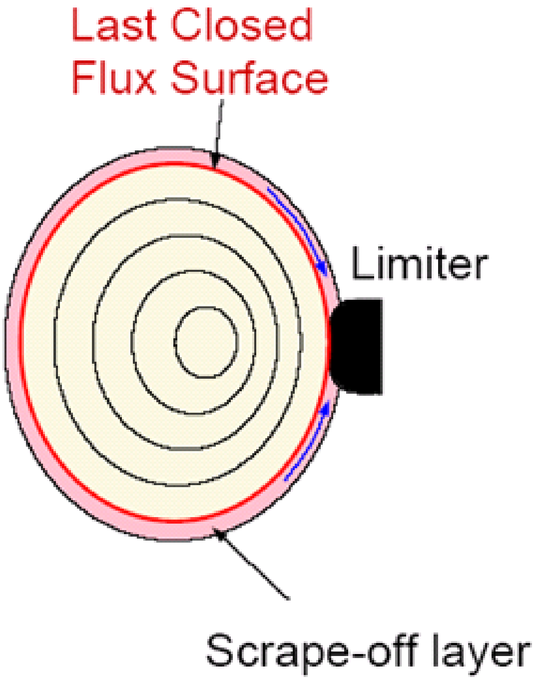
- Limiter: a material structure protruding from the main wall used to intercept particles at the plasma edge particularly to stop runaway electrons from damaging the vacuum vessel, to protect the vessel from NBI shine-through, and to shadow in-vessel components from the plasma edge (limiting/defining the plasma size)

→ Reflecting neutrals → Pumping out

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Limiter



Last Closed Flux Surfaces (LCFS):
The magnetic surface that touches the innermost part of the limiter

Scrape-off Layer (SOL):
The plasma region located in the limiter shadow
i.e. between the LCFS and the vessel wall

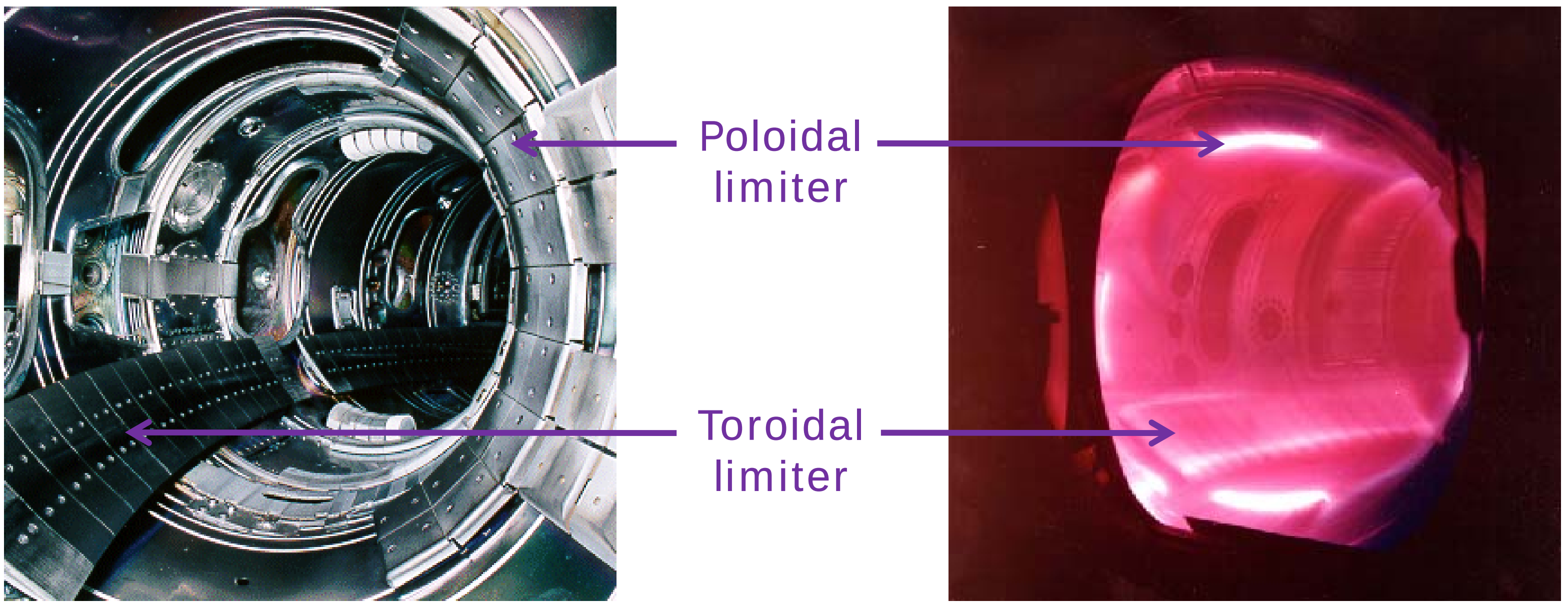
Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Limiter problems

High heat load and sputtering rate on limiter

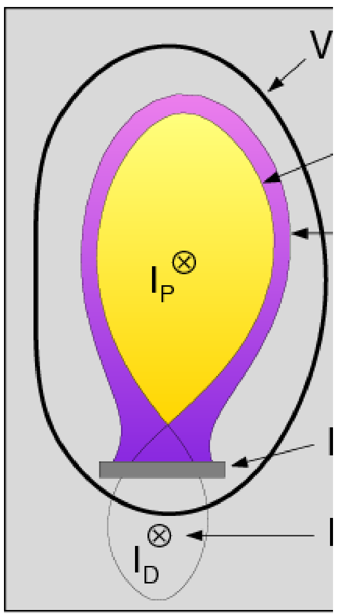
→ Impurities → Low-Z coating of limiters (C or Be on W)

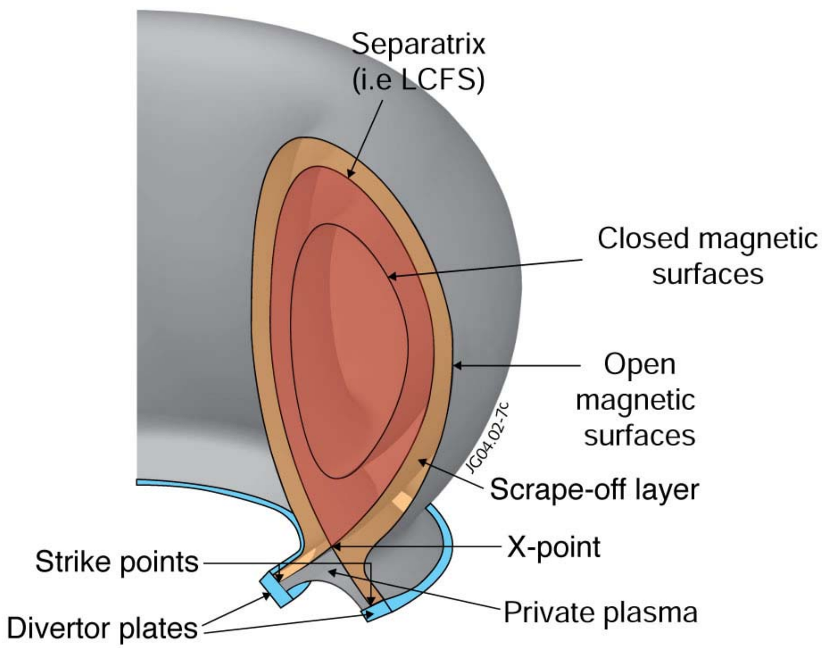


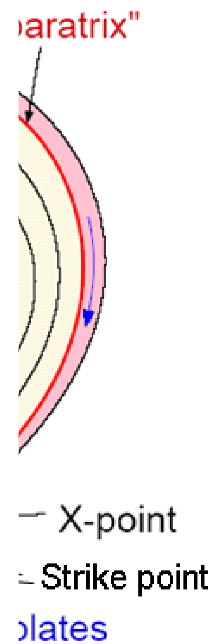
Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

\- Divertor: Bending outer magnetic fields away from plasma by means of auxiliary magnetic coils → Removing outer layer of plasma to external chamber → Cooling → Neutralising → Pumping away







The magnetic boundary between confined plasma and edge/divertor plasma is called **separatrix ≡ LCFS**

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Divertor functions

  Reduction of 1st wall bombardment (unloading)

  Reduction of impurity flow into plasma (shielding for impurity control)

  Exhaust plasma particles and power and removal of He ash

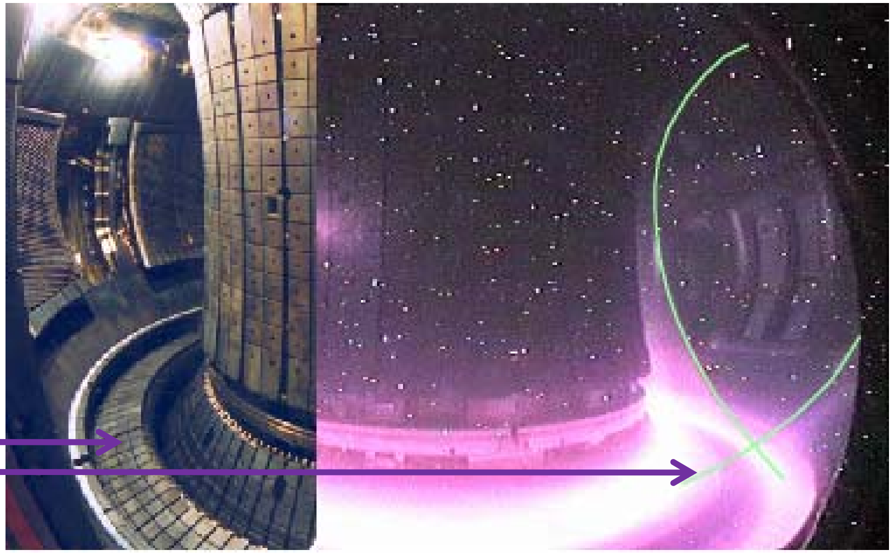
- Divertor problems

  Complex coil systems

  High cost

  Difficult maintenance

The divertor in
ASDEX Upgrade

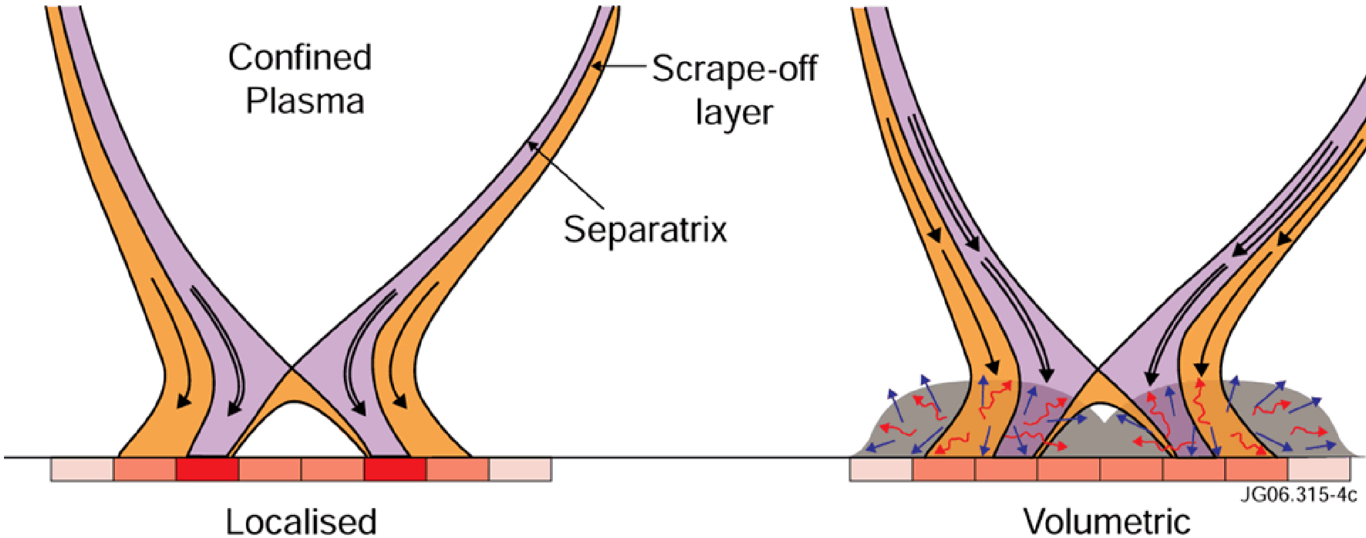


Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Divertor

Proposed by L. Spitzer for stellarators

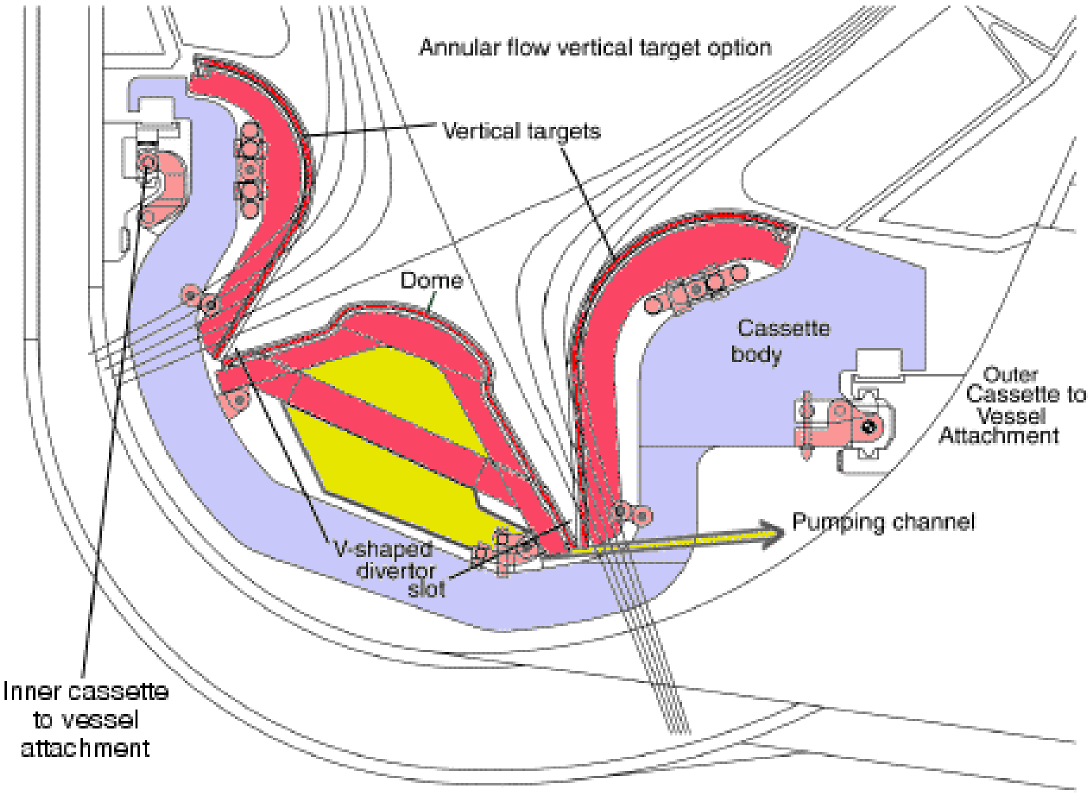


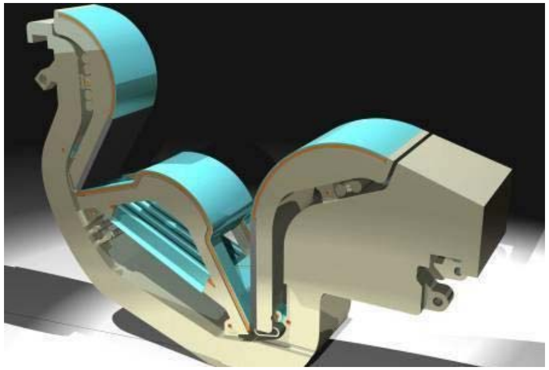
- Advantage of the divertor configuration
- First contact with material surface at a distance from plasma boundary
- Reducing the influx of ionized impurities into the interior of the plasma by diverting them into an outer scrape-off layer (SOL)

Impurity Control

- **Plasma Boundary Region Control**

- Divertor





References

- Karl Krieger, “Plasma Wall Interaction and First Wall”, IPP Summer School, IPP Garching, September, 2009