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Blanket Technology for the Fusion Reactor

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Outline



Introduction

- Blanket fundamental functions (power extraction, T production, shielding)
- Reactor integration (e.g. maintenance systems).

- Blanket concepts (according to breeder, structural material, coolant, mechanisms of heat and T removal)
- DEMO and Power Plant blanket solutions: near term and advanced concepts.
- The Test Blanket programme in ITER



Plasma magnetic confinement: plasma limit

The plasma ends where a flux surface is interrupted by a solid surface (Limiter). The interrupted flux surfaces are "open".

The closed flux area can alternatively be defined by an intersection of the flux surfaces (X-point). In this case the open flux surfaces end on divertor targets.



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Fusion Reactor: external systems





Breeding Blanket Functions and Requirements



Fundamental functions of the breeding blanket:

- Cooling: conversion of fusion energy into heat and removal of the heat for electricity production
- 2. Breeding: Tritium production and extraction
- **3. Shielding:** Contribute to the shielding of the Vacuum Vessel and Toroidal Field Coils

The design has to be featured in order to achieve:

- 1. Low maintenance time (=> high availability)
- 2. Sufficiently long lifetime (=> high availability)
- 3. High safety level (e.g. accidents, operations, etc.) and low environmental impact (including waste)
- 4. Reasonable electricity costs (e.g. small dimensions, high efficiency, etc.)

Deuterium-Tritium Fusion

- Kinetic energy (½ m v²) of α-particles (⁴He) and neutrons = **17.6 MeV**
- α-particles and neutrons shall have the same impulse (m * v) → neutron must be 4 times faster than Helium
- ➡ kinetic energy distributed by inv. mass ratio m_{α}/m_{n} = 4/1=(14.1/3.5),
- 80% of energy in kinetic neutron energy





Fusion Power Balance (example)





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Neutron source and neutron wall load



• **Right figure:** DEMO (~2.5 GW_f) neutron wall load as function of the poloidal angle coordinate ψ in the vertical-radial plane z-r.

•This quantity (nwl) is calculated with respect to a reference surface that follows the FW contour.

• The plasma acts as a volumetric 3Dneutron source, practically axisymmetric and picked at the equatorial plane. Peak factors (actual value/average value) of 1.2-1.4 are usual for ITER and DEMO.

 Left figure: ITER neutron wall load (nwl) at 500MW fusion power





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Neutron interation with matter



Several interactions possible



Crucial parameter: nuclear cross-section σ (measured in barn=10⁻²⁴cm²) σ dependent on incident neutron Energy (*E*) and angle (ϕ)

Volumetric heating by P_n



Interaction of different nuclei with matter scoping all reactions

- elastic and inelastic scattering,
- absorption,
- particle emission
- and associated γ-ray emission)

Essential **D**

 $\sum = N \cdot \sigma$

 Σ =macroscopic nuclear cross-section [1/cm] σ =microscopic nuclear cross-section [cm²] N=number nuclei [1/cm³] (standard unit for σ is barn=10⁻²⁴ cm²)

Lambert-Beer-attenuation law

 $I_x = I_0 \cdot e^{-\Sigma x}$

- Σ⁻¹=λ : mean free path (average travelling distance before collision)
- $\Sigma \cdot dx$: collision probability of neutron within dx



Volumetric heating





Surface Heating: core radiation



- Heat flux evenly distributed along outer wall
- Peak heat flux below material limit 0.35 MW/m²
- Inner wall receives reduced heat load 0.24 MW/m²
- Divertor is well shielded from main chamber radiation.

Distribution of the radiative flow according to Sieglind, Radiative Wall Load, DEMO Physics Forum, 17 November 2015.



Surface heating: Plasma flux





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Primary heat transfer system (PHTS)







iii) Fully decoupled concept



i) Integrated FW concept ii) Hydraulic decoupled concept

Three architecture options have been proposed:

- i) a fully thermo-hydraulically and mechanically integrated option (current reference design),
- ii) a thermo-hydraulically decoupled option;
- iii) a fully (also mechanically) decoupled option.

The adoption of these different configurations will depend on the local loads acting on the blanket surface.

Different architecture of the FW probably to be used for different part of the segment poloidal plasma surface.

Limiters as FW protection are also under investigations.

<u>T.R. Barrett</u> et al., "Progress in the Engineering Design and Assessment of the European DEMO First Wall and Divertor Plasma Facing Components", ISFNT-12, Jeju, Korea (2015).

Primary heat transfer system (PHTS)





PHTS lay-out in the blanket

Requirement: sufficient coolant temperature for high efficiency h_{th} Power Conversion Systems Types.

- Joule-Brayton (Gas turbine cycle)
- Clausius-Rankine (steam turbine)



PHTS for Helium Cooled Blankets (Siemens KWU, 1992)

Clausius- Rankine Process





- Iower mean average temperature
- but multi-stage required
- operation threshold higher than advanced PWR

Joule-Brayton -Process

use of inert He

- demand for high η_{th} temperatures >700°C
- high material challenges
- → high pumping power \approx 8-10%· P_{fus}

For efficiencies η_{th} >40% staggered heating required to maintain in acceptable stress and

performance limits of components

-480°C

- Stage 2 480-620°C
- Stage 3 480-700°C
- Stage 4 700-800°C







D: Deuterium



 ${}^{2}_{1}H$

Property	D ₂ O (Heavy water)	H ₂ O (Light water)
Freezing point (°C)	3.82	0.0
Boiling point (°C)	101.4	100.0
Density at <u>STP(g/mL</u>)	1.1056	0.9982
Temp. of maximum density (°C)	11.6	4.0
Viscosity (at 20°C, <u>mPa</u> · <u>s</u>)	1.25	1.005
Surface tension (at 25°C, <u>µJ</u>)	7.193	7.197
Heat of fusion (<u>cal/mol</u>)	1,515	1,436
Heat of vaporisation (cal/mol)	10,864	10,515



Can be found: in ocean water at a H/D ratio of ~6500 (~150 ppm)

Used: in nuclear energy (e.g. D_2O in CANDU reactors)

Production methods (D₂O): e.g. Girdler-Sulfid-Proces (isotopical exchange) + vacuum distillation

Extimated earth availability: 5*10¹⁶ kg (in oceans)

Sufficient for several billion years !!

T: Tritium



Radioctive with a half life of 12.33 y

$$T \rightarrow {}^{3}He + e^{-} + 18.6 \text{ keV}$$



Can be found in nature:

in neglegible amount as product of cosmical rays ${}^{14}N + n \rightarrow {}^{12}C + {}^{3}T$

Production as waste of nuclear D_2O reactors (e.g. CANDU): $D + n \rightarrow T \sim 2 \text{ kg/year}$

No available production to support fusion reactors as external sources.

ITER will consume less than 20 kg in its whole life.

T production in reactor

Use of T breeder:

⁶Li + n = T + ⁴He + 4.8 MeV or ⁶Li(n,a) T + 4.8 MeV

⁷Li + n = T + ⁴He + n - 2.5 MeV or ⁷Li(n,n'a)T - 2.5 MeV

(other potential reactions 3 He(n,p)T + 0.8 MeV, 2 H(n, γ)T+6.3 MeV)

Which configuration ?

- Breeder arrangement in *Blanket* around plasma chamber so that neutron absorbed in breeder
- Reactor constraints
 - Plasma chamber (80% for Blanket -coolant, structure material- 20% divertor & plasma heating devices)
 - Parasitic neutron absorptions (non breeding materials)
 - Neutron leakage (ports, diagnostics)
 - Need for neutron multiplication
- How to prove tritium breeding capability?
 - neutronic calculation (> method/data/geometry !)
 - calculation validation against experiment(s)

Blanket





Tritium Production in reactor: Li reactions



Production with Li:

 $^{6}Li + n = T + {}^{4}He + 4.8 MeV.$

⁷Li + n = T + ⁴He + n - 2.466 MeV



The ⁶Li reaction has a very high cross section especially in the low-energy region.

The ⁷Li reaction works with the high energy neutrons. It produce an additional n that is available for a successive reaction.

Natural mixture: ⁷Li 92.5 % at., only 7.5 % ⁶Li

About 10¹¹ kg Lithium in landmass: sufficient for 30'000 years. About 10¹⁴ kg Lithium in oceans: sufficient for 30 million years !!

Production of Tritium in Blanket





Neutron Multiplication



Required (n,2n) reactions with high σ in Energy range up to 14MeV

Li(nat):

- Sufficient, but only with very low n-absorber materials
- Strong reaction with water and air
- Getter for T (difficult recovery)

Beryllium (Be):

- Iow E threshold for (n,2n)
- good moderator (shielding)
- small world resources
- exothermal reaction with water (H production) beyond 600°C
- Be dust are toxic

Lead (Pb):

- high availability, low cost
- can be used as coolant
- corrosion with material (e.g. steels)
- weight
- activation through Po formation
- Melting point ~235°C
- (moderate) reaction with water



Possible strategies:

- Li(nat) with V as structural material.
- Better => Adding a more effective multiplier (Be or Pb) and increasing the ⁶Li enrichment (40%-90%) to use efficiently neutrons at lower energies.

Tritium Breeding Ratio

 $TBR = \frac{number of tritons produced per second in blanket}{number of fusion neutrons produced per second in plasma}$

How large the TBR should be actually be during the lifetime of the FPP is depending on the "dynamics" of the entire fuel cycle for the D-T plant. It account for:

- possible losses of tritium in the different parts of the process and tritium trapping in the materials
- Reduction of breeding in the time with the Li burn-up
- duplication time (time necessary to produce the tritium amount necessary to start a new FPP)
- storage capabilities
- natural decay of tritium (half-life of 12.3 y)







Blanket - Operational functions- "Structures"



Additional effects

- Some effects reduce the available structural material quality
 - Cyclic loads
 - Thermal creep
- Displacement of lattice atoms through collisions (radiation damage) in dpa
 - Generation of gases (He, H₂) through transmutation reactions (e.g. (n,α)) in appm/year

First wall of blankets at 3 MW/m² neutron wall load: **36 dpa/year** and **440 appm/year**

 σ_m is function of time, temperature and irradiation history

Component damages: life time





Thermonuclear Core replacement







-T production

- high temperature coolant for electricity production

Remote replacement3 - 5 years (80...150 dpa)

Divertor

- Exhaust alfa and impurities from plasma
- Remote replacement
- 1.5 2.5 years

Maintenance system: ITER Configuration





Maintenance System: Vertical port





Maintenance System: Large sector concept











Maintenance concept analogy





Possible Blanket Concepts





Classification according to:

- Maturity level (near term >Very Advanced)
- Structural material (e,g. steel, SiC_f/SiC or V-alloy)
- Breeder / multiplier (solid and liquid breeder)
- Coolant (water, gas, liquid metal, molten salt)
- Heat and T extraction (e.g. Self Cooled, Dual Coolant)
Different Blanket Concepts in the "near term"



Concept	Structural	Breeder/Multiplier	Coolant	T-extraction	Breeding Blanket Concept for
class	Material	, -			DEMO and ITER testing
HCSB	RAFM steel	Ceramic Breeder / Beryllium	Helium	Low pressure He purging	EU HCPB DEMO + ITER test China HCSB DEMO + ITER Test Korea HCSB DEMO + ITER Test
WCSB	RAFM steel	Ceramic Breeder / Beryllium	Water	Low pressure He purging	JA HCSB DEMO + ITER test China WCSB DEMO Korea WCSB DEMO
WCLL	RAFM steel	Lithium Lead (Pb15.8Li)	Helium	LL slow circulation	EU WCLL DEMO
HCLL	RAFM steel	Lithium Lead (Pb15.8Li)	Water	LL slow circulation	EU HCLL DEMO + ITER test
DCLL	RAFM steel	Lithium Lead (Pb15.8Li)	Helium PbLi	LL fast circulation	EU DCLL-LT DEMO US DCLL-HT DEMO

Legenda:

HC: Helium cooled

WC: Water Cooled

RAFM: Reduced Activation Ferritic-Martensitic

- **SB:** Solid Breeder
- **LT:** Low Temperature
- **LL:** Lithium Lead
- **HT:** High temperature
- **DC:** Dual Coolant

Structural material: which? and which requirements?



EUROFER: is a ferritic martensitic steel: C12%, Cr9%. Very low content of Ni, Mo, Nb. Substituted by V, W and Ta. Well know material, licensing process under irradiation ongoing.

SiC_f/SiC: Silicon carbide composites are attractive as structural materials in fusion environments because of their low activation, high operating temperature and strength.

V-alloy: it exhibit favorable neutronic properties which include lower parasitic neutron absorption leading to better tritium breeding performance (e.g Li-V blankets).

Requirements:

Withstand vs. radiation damages: e.g. EUROFER target 70 up to 150 dpa.

Temperature window: EUROFER >300-550°C, SiC_f/SiC ~600-1100°C, V-4Cr-4Ti ~400-650°C

Compatibility with breeder/multiplier and coolant (e.g corrosion): EUROFER is compatible (up to 550°C with Solid Breeder and Be); corrosion with PbLi is an issue starting from 450°C. Water corrosion.

Thermal properties: conductivity, thermal expansion, allowable stress, etc.: good for EUROFER and V-alloy. Worst for SiC_f/SiC due to low thermal conductivity.

Reduced activities characteristics: e.g EUROFER can be recycled after ~100 years storage.

Code and Standards: e.g. EUROFER is under an EU programme with the aim to qualify it for ITER up to 3 dpa (in 2018) and up to 20-70 dpa for DEMO (~2030-50).

Coolants used in the Breeding Blanket



Water: exceptional cooling capability. High density that allow small flow section. Low ΔT in Blanket. PWR range (275-315°C @15.5 MPa): temperature at the lower region for use with F/FM steels. Corrosion. Issue with T contamination. Chemical compatibility.

Helium: exceptional compatibility with the material used in blanket and other part of the reactor. Possibility to cope with all the temperature windows of the materials. Lower heat removal features and higher pumping power. Large tubes with low shielding features (issue for the reactor integration of pipes and manifolds).

Liquid Metal (PbLi and Li): high heat removal capability but strongly conditioned by MHD effects (suitable only if insulation barriers with conducting structures are available). Low pressure. Used as breeder, they must accomplish the double functions of heat removal and T transport. Corrosion and chemical compatibility issues.

Molten salt (FLiBe): Low pressure. Must accomplish the double functions of heat removal and T transport. High corrosion issues. Low thermal conductivity. Difficult chemistry.

Solid Breeder Blanket concepts





Main features of breeding zone organization:

- the solid material fills the blanket box that is formed by structures actively cooled for heat extraction;
- Breeder and Be usually in form of a pebble bed;
- Breeder cooled by these external plate or tube;
- T extracted from the breeder by means of an independent low pressure gas flow in order to extract the T produced (double chambered components)
- The two chambers are divided by thin walls for a very large surface. This results, however, in the permeation of tritium from the breeding beds to the coolant which is a critical issue.
- Beryllium is required in a large amount (>3:1 volume ratio in comparison to the breeder)
- Bed arranged in thin layers of few cm (horizontal or vertical configuration).

Solid Breeder materials



Solid breeders proposed in pebble form to reduce further fragmentation and control thermal conductivity of the beds. Possible materials: Li-oxide (Li_2O) and ternary ceramics, like Li-orthosilicate (Li_4SiO_4), metatitanate (Li_2TiO_3), metazirconate (Li_2ZrO_3) or allumitate ($LiAIO_3$).

Ideal requirements:

- quick and easy tritium release \rightarrow reduction of T inventory,
- high Li density \rightarrow improved neutronic performance
- high mechanical resistance \rightarrow reduce fragmentations,
- high temperature windows
- compatibility with other materials (including water in the air moisture for out-of-reactor handling),
- simple fabrication and recycling routes.

Li ₄ SiO ₄	medium lithium content, fair mechanical properties, hygroscopic, fair
	tritium residence time, higher thermal expansion
Li ₂ TiO ₃	low lithium content, good mechanical properties, not hygroscopic, fair
	tritium residence time, lower thermal expansion
LiO ₂	highest lithium content, good thermal conductivity; large thermal expansion,
_	poor mechanical behavior, precipitate formation (LiOH) \rightarrow loss of Li

Li-ceramic breeder list with main properties



Items	Li2O	Li2TiO3	Li2ZrO3	Li4SiO4	γ-LiAlO2
Li Density (g/cm ³)	0.94	0.43	0.38	0.51	0.27
Thermal Conductivity (500°C)•(W/m/°C)	4.7	2.4	0.75	2.4	2.4
Thermal Expansion (500°C)•(DL/Lo%)	1.25	0.8	0.50	1.15	0.54
Reaction of Water	very	less	less	little	little
Residence Time (440°C)•(h)	0.03	(-)	0.01	3.0	50
Swelling* (DV/V₀%)	7.0	(-)	<0.7	1.7	<0.5
Transmutation Nuclides	¹⁶ O(n,p):7s	⁴⁶ Ti(n,p):84d ⁴⁷ Ti(n,p):3.4d ⁴⁸ Ti(n,p):1.8d	⁹⁰ Zr(n,p):64h ⁹¹ Zr(n,p):57d ⁹⁴ Zr(n,2n):10 ⁶ y ⁹⁶ Zr(n,2n):64d	²⁸ Si(n,2n):4s ²⁹ Si(n,p):6m ³⁰ Si(n, α):9m	 ²⁷Al(n,2n):6s ²⁷Al(n,p):9.5m ²⁷Al(n, α):15h
Melting Point (°C)	1430	1550	1615	1250	1610

HCPB: EU DEMO reactor integration



5 blanket segments (3 OB and 2 IB) for each 22.5°- sector (16 TF coils)

Daniel Iglesias et al., Blanket Segment Remote Maintenance, EFDA-WP13-DAS07-T05 (CCFE)

Example of kinematics for OB segment extraction

HCPB Blanket: EU PPPT-DEMO (KIT, 2015)





Box dimensions: 1.8m (pol) x 1.4m (tor) x 1.6m (rad)



Operational parameters	Values
FW heat flux (peak)	0.5 MW/m ²
Neutron wall load (peak)	1.7 MW/m ²
He Coolant pressure	8 MPa
He Coolant temp. (inlet/outlet)	300 / 500°C
Power Generation System	Water-steam Cycle (Rankine)

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HCPB Blanket: Coolant flow scheme



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HCPB: Tritium extraction concept





To possible variants: in B the radial direction in the Be beds is reversed. The direction in CB is important for T control.

Purge flow:

Tritium extraction in CB and Be.

Independent loop.

Pressure ~0.1-0.2 MPa

Chemical composition (H_2 addition, ref 0.1% to enhance T extraction from CB)

Mass flow: to optimise in order to reduce H circulation and minimise T partial pressure (~10 cm/sec).

CB=Ceramic Breeder



HCPB Blanket Concept: Tritium Control





Li-ceramic pebbles in the HCPB



- Two ceramic breeder (CB) materials have been extensively investigated in the last years, namely the Lithium Orthosilicate (Li₄SiO₄) and Metatitanate (Li₂TiO₃).
- In these years, pebbles made with both the materials have reached a semi-industrial production stage;
 - the Orthosilicate pebbles (KIT-Schott) are produced by melting and spray process
 - the Metatitanate pebbles (CEA-CTI) by extrusion-spheronisation-sintering process.
 - KIT-KALOS: 80 mol% lithium orthosilicate + X mol% lithium metatitanate (X=20-35) [R. Knitter and al, Fabrication of modified lithium orthosilicate pebbles by addition of titania, Journal of Nuclear Materials, 442 (2013), S433–S436]
- The properties of the non irradiated pebbles are satisfactory for both the ceramics in term of geometry, chemical composition, mechanical properties, and microstructure.





See also: R. Knitter, P. Chaudhuri, Y.J. Feng, T. Hoshino, I.-K. Yu, Recent developments of solid breeder fabrication, Journal of Nuclear Materials 442 (2013) S420–S424

Metatitanate

 $d\cong 1.0\ mm$

Li-orthosilicate fabrication





Li-orthosilicate fabrication





T-residence time and inventory



Pellets or pebbles are swept by He flowing during the reactor operation. Tritium in gaseous forms are carried by the He purge; adding H2 (as isotope swamping) to He the removal rate is improved

Tritium residence time is the key parameter to calculate the tritium inventory in the ceramic materials. In the recent years, several correlations have been derived from results of in-pile tritium release experiments, either fitting of data from pebble bed experiments or extrapolating from existing data of materials in other forms. For the two ceramic materials, the following expressions of the tritium residence time τ [h] as function of the temperature T [K] have been used in the design calculations for HCPB blanket concepts:

- $T = 1.280 \ 10^{-4} \exp(9720/T)$ for Li₄SiO₄
- T = 1.995 10⁻⁵ exp (10315/T) for Li_2TiO_3

The tritium inventory I [g] in the breeder material at asymptotic conditions can be calculated as follow:

$$I = \int_{\Omega} \dot{m}(\vec{r}) \tau(T(\vec{r})) dV$$

with

- m(r) local tritium production [g s⁻¹ m⁻³]
- τ (T) tritium residence time [s] as function of the breeder temperature T [K]

Fabrication cycle of neutron multiplier





Be pebbles: Chemical Composition



Ве	99.5		
BeO	0.23		
ΑΙ	< 0.04		
Fe	0.09		
Mg	0.03		
Si	>0.02		
U	<0.01		
Со	<0.001		
Sc	< 0.005		
Mn	0.01		
Others	~ 0.065		

Activation requirements:

In reactor the amount of U should be lower as possible (<0.005 wt%) to reduce both fission products and long-lived actinide (e.g. 239Pu, 241Am).

➤major contributors to the γ-dose rate are 56Mn, 24Na and 60Co (from 55Mn, 24Mg and 59Co respectively) at the short time

Mechanical requirements:

 \succ To avoid low melting inter-metallic phases, it is required:

Al(wt %) / Fe(wt %) < 0.5 (atomic ratio Al/Fe < 1) Mg(wt%)/ Si(wt%) < 1.7 (atomic ratio Mg/Si < 2)

Be Irradiation behavior: T retention and Swelling

- The major design issue is connected with the tritium inventory in Be at high irradiation. Lacunae in the database and in the modelling give large uncertainties in the design calculation of the EOL Tritium inventory in Be in Demo/FPP conditions.
- ➢ The helium produced mainly by the reaction ⁹Be(n,2n)2 ⁴He is the dominant cause of beryllium swelling and embrittlement, which are the major lifetime limiting factors for the material. The extimated swelling in DEMO condition is about 8%.
- An irradiation campaign to obtain data on Be at 3000 appm of Helium in 2 irradiation years and 6000 appm Helium in 4 irradiation years with temperatures in the range 500-700° C has been done in Petten within the framework of the European HIDOBE task. With these data, the modelling should be improved and, complementarily, an empirical extrapolation to DEMO conditions (18000 appm) could be attempted. Status: PIE phase ongoing under F4E contracts.

Thermomechanics of pebble beds





A non-linear elastic model and a modified Drucker-Prager-Cap theory

Thermal conductivity as function of the strain:

 $\begin{aligned} k (W/mK) &= 1.81 + 0.0012 \ T (\circ C) - 5 \times 10^{-7} \ T (\circ C)^2 \\ &+ (9.03 - 1.386 \times 10^{-3} \ T (\circ C) - 7.6 \times 10^{-6} \ T (\circ C)^2 \\ &+ 2.1 \times 10^{-9} \ T (\circ C)^3) \ \varepsilon(\%) \end{aligned}$

Temperature dependent parameters:

- thermal stresses
- Safety margin for the materials
- Tritium permeation
- Tritium release/inventory
- Swelling of materials

Phenomena in pebble beds:

- Build-up of stress during start-up
- Creep at high temperature
- Gap formation
- De-mixing in binary beds

Discrete element Method (DEM)



Discrete Element Method based on the idea that discrete particles could be displaced independently from one another and interact with each other through contact forces.



Pebble Assembly

Idealizations: A unit cell of interest from a large assembly Periodic boundary conditions

Assumptions: Pebble shape: spherical Elastic contact only Pebble-Pebble Interactions



Macroscopic stress

Average normal force and hydrostatic pressure

$$\overline{\sigma}_{ij} = \frac{1}{V} \left(\sum_{I < J} \delta^{(I,J)} f_N^{(I,J)} n_i n_j + \sum_{I < J} \delta^{(I,J)} f_T^{(I,J)} n_i t_j \right)$$
$$f_{\text{ave}} = 2 \frac{\sum_{I < J} f_N^{(I,J)}}{n_c N}, \quad p = \frac{\overline{\sigma}_{ii}}{3} = \frac{1}{3V} \left(\sum_{I < J} \delta^{(I,J)} f_N^{(I,J)} \right) \quad \text{Y.C}$$

Y. Gan et al, JMPS 2010

Discrete element Method (DEM)



Visualization of DEM simulation results

Deformation, as well as the internal force distribution of the pebble bed assembly can be obtained numerically



DEM and X-ray Tomography



Computer simulated packing structures in pebble beds show the DEM approach is promising in studying Pebble bed thermomechanics



Comparison with the experiment: The first row is the plot from simulation, and the second row is from the X-ray tomography experiment. Container dia = 48.9 mm, height~ 50 mm. Sphere particle: 2.3 or 5 mm (Y. Gan et al., 2010)

Experimentally observed orthorhombic packing

direction

experimentally observed orthorhombic packing obtained numerically (particle dia: 1 mm, total: 26,010 particles) (J. An et al., 2004)

Characteristic UCT result at elevated temperatur



Uni-axial-compression tests (UCT):

First pressure increase: Mechanisms: irreversible displacements of particles and elastic/plastic particle deformation. This curve determines the stress build-up during the first blanket operation.

• First pressure decrease, second pressure increase: Mechanisms: elastic and plastic deformations. These curves and the curve" 1st pi" determine the formation of gaps during blanket operation.

Thermal creep: important for stress relaxation during the first days of blanket operation and for compensation of irradiation induced swelling. J. Reimann, KIT

Effective Thermal conductivity in Be pebble beds



Blanket manufacturing



In EUROfusion programme:

- Assessment of Blanket Segment manufacturing (FW, Breeder zone, small/large boxes, manifold systems, attachments to VV).
- Technology development with production of fabrication mock-ups (e.g. Double Wall Tubes for WCLL, W coating in FW)
- Test of mock-ups in helium and water facilities.



A fail-safe and cost effective fabrication route for blanket First Walls; Commin, L.; Rieth, M.; Dafferner, B.; Zimmermann, H.; Bolich, D.; Baumgärtner, S.; Ziegler, R.; Dichiser, S.; Fabry, T.; Fischer, S.; Hildebrand, W.; Palussek, O.; Ritz, H.; Sponda, A.; Journal of Nuclear Materials, Volume 442, Issue 1, p. 538-541



Laser welding channels recostruction + final HIP

In TBM Programme:

 Qualification of key technologies (like plates with channels and welding assembly) suitable for integrated FW, breeder Zone and small boxes.

JA Water-Cooled Solid Breeder Blanket





JA WCSB Blanket (JA DEMO 2015)





Mixed beds:

- Use of Be₁₂Ti as neutron multiplier
- Use of Li₂TiO₃ as breeder.
- More safety margin for Be-steam reaction
- Increase of mechanical strength at high temperatures
- Chemical compatibility between breeder and multiplier
- ✓ Better T release from Be
- Reduction of neutronics performances.

<u>Y. Someya</u> and al., "Design study of blanket structure based on a watercooled solid breeder for DEMO", Fusion Eng. Des. 98-99 (2015) 1872–1875.

Liquid Breeder Blanket Concept



The breeder is used in liquid form. Potentially the breeder can be used as coolant.

Type of Liquid Breeder:

a) Liquid Metal: Li, PbLi_{eu}(15.8 at%).

High conductivity, low Pr number, melting point: ~235°C for PbLi_{eu}

Dominant issues: MHD, chemical reactivity for Li (corrosion and water reaction), tritium permeation issues for LiPb concepts, T gettering for Li, corrosion with steel at >450°C.

b) Molten Salt: Flibe $(LiF)_n \cdot (BeF_2)$, Flinabe $(LiF-BeF_2-NaF)$

Low conductivity, high Pr number, melting point Li_2BeF_4 : ~459°C, not flammable and does not react with air or water

Dominant Issues: Higher melting point, chemistry, tritium control, corrosion.

Liquid Breeder Blanket Concept





Liquid metal flow in a magnetic field [1/3]



MHD=Magnetohydrodynamics



 charges are separated in the magnetic field, effect can be used for MHD generators

Liquid metal flow in a magnetic field [2/3]



- Liquid metal flows orthogonal to the magnetic field B
- \Rightarrow = Charges are moved in magnetic field \rightarrow Force F1 on electrons
 - → separation of charges results in voltage in z-direction
 → eddy currents close either in the fluid (insulated walls) or over the walls (conducting walls)





Liquid metal flow in a magnetic field [3/3]



In the fluid bulk the current flows orthogonal to the magnetic field B

Resultant forces are opposite to the Liquid metal flow



Flow with conducting and insulating walls









MHD effects in liquid blankets





Iso-surfaces of time averaged electric potential, colored by averaged temperature, for flow at Ha = 2000 and Gr = 1.2 108 in a cavity. Relevant for HCLL blankets.

C. Mistrangelo, L. Bühler and G. Aiello [Mist14]

Impact of gaps in electrical insulation at the junction of different Flow Channel Insert (FCI) pieces. Gap between two FCIs (a) geometry; (b) dimensionless pressure distribution along the pipe axis y=0 and along the side wall y=±1; (c) typical velocity profiles in fully developed regions $(x\pm\infty)$, at the beginning and end of the gap $(x=\pm1)$ and in the middle of the gap (x=0). In DCLL.

WCLL Blanket Concept (CEA, 2000)



P. Sardain at al., "Power plant conceptual study - WCLL concept", Fusion Engineering and Design 69 (2003) 769-774

- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- PbLi as breeder. Quasi stagnant (10 inventories changed per day), only as T carrier.
- Water as coolant (285-325°C @ 15.5 MPa)


WCLL Blanket Concept (CEA, 2000)







HCLL Blanket Concept (CEA, 2015)





HCLL: PbLi Distribution





HCLL Blanket Concept (CEA, 2000)





DCLL-HT Blanket (US & KIT, 2000)





FZK DCLL Blanket (EU-PPCS Model C, 2002)







FZK DCLL Blanket (EU-PPCS Model C, 2002)





Main features:

- helium-cooled RAFM steel structures (EUROFER)
- ODS plated FW to use the hightemperature strength of ODS
- self-cooled breeding zone with Pb17Li as breeder and coolant
- SiC_f/SiC flow channel inserts as electrical (MHD) and thermal insulators leading to high exit temperature and high thermal efficiency

Dual Coolants	T _{Indet} (°C)	T _{Outlet} (°C)	ΔT (K)
Helium (8 MPa)			
Overall blanket	300	480	180
FW	300	450	150
Grids	450	480	30
Pb-17Li	480	700	220

US ARIES-AT, Blanket system





US ARIES-AT (2000)

- Simple, low pressure design with SiC structure and LiPb coolant and breeder.
- Innovative design leads to high LiPb outlet temperature (~1100°C) while keeping SiC structure temperature below 1000°C leading to a high thermal efficiency of ~ 60%.
- Simple manufacturing technique.
- · Very low afterheat.
- · Class C waste by a wide margin.
- LiPb-cooled SiC composite divertor is capable of 5 MW/m² of heat load.



(Very) Advanced Solid Breeder Concepts: JA Dream





Concept	Structural Material	Breeder/ Multiplier	Coolant	T-Extraction
HT-HCSB	Sic/Sic _f	CB / Be-alloy	Не	Coolant He

(Very) Advanced Solid Breeder Concepts: JA Dream





EU Test Blanket Systems in ITER





The two EU TBM Systems are located in the equatorial port #16 in a common Port Plug.

Strategy and Requirements of the TBM Programme



Limitation in the TBM test in comparison to a DEMO component conditions:

Major loads	in the ITER TBM [Gian12]	in EU DEMO (2015) [Fede16]	in EU FPP (PPCS- 2004) [Mais05]
Neutron wall load [MWm ²]	0.78	1.3-1.8	>2.2
Radiative surface heating [MW/m ²]	0.30	0.50-0.70	0.50-0.70
Conductive surface heating [MW/m ²]	None*	Tbd (up to 5) **	Negligible***
Pulse length [h]	0.11	2.5	Stationary or long pulses (>8)
Cumulative fluence at the FW [dpa]	3	70	>800
* the ITER TBM FW is	recessed of several cm res	pect to the Shielding Blanket	FW and so protected from

the plasma flux at the edge

** It will be dependent from the final FW design and protection strategy (e.g. limiters)

*** It was assumed almost negligible at 15 cm FW distance from the separatrix.

Strategy of testing developed in several studies (e.g. [Bocc02], [Poit07]); the main objectives can be summarised:

- 1) Development of tools (experimental and computational) to capitalise the experimental results in ITER and extrapolate this to DEMO.
- 2) Development of manufacturing technology with EUROFER
- 3) Create a precedent in the safety and licensing of blanket components
- 4) Integral test of processes, materials and technologies (at least for BOL conditions).

EU Test Blanket Systems



Breeder blanket concepts: HCPB and HCLL.

Presentation based on: [Bocc11]. Recent development from 2012 are not included.



Integration in the ITER VV and Port Cell





The TBS equipment in VV-Interspace-Port Cell





EU Test Blanket Modules





89 L.V. Boccaccini

TBM integration in the Port Plug Frame





Pipe Forest and RH at the interface IF2a











91 L.V. Boccaccini



The PbLi Loop





Operational Parameters:

bLi mass flow range:	0.1-1kg/s
bLi volume:	0.5m ³

L. Kosek (NRI)



The Helium Cooling Systems: integration in the CVCS





The Helium Cooling Systems: flow diagram





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The Tritium Extraction in the HCPB concept





<u>Ceramic breeder</u> in form of a pebble bed.

- •Pebbles with D<1mm
- •Materials: Li_4SiO_4 or Li_2TiO_3

•Single bed (PF 64%)

Be Multiplier:

- •Pebble beds
- •Pebble D<2mm
- •Single beds (PF 64%)

Purge gas composition:

Inlet: He +H₂ addition (0.1%)

Outlet: H₂, H₂O, HT and HTO



The Tritium Extraction in the HCLL concept





TRP Gas composition:

Mass flow: 1.3 Nm_3/h Inlet: He + 1% of H₂ Outlet: H₂, HT

TEU: Tritium Extraction UnitTRS: Tritium Removal SystemVV: Vacuum Vessel

Operation in Hot Cell Facility for the TBS





T. Ilkei (RMKI)

The PPPT DEMO



The EU fusion roadmap Horizon 2020 foresees a DEMO to built around 2050. The programme is implemented by the EUROfusion Consortium.

Major requirements of the DEMO plant are:

- To breed all the T necessary for the thermonuclear reaction;
- To deliver several hundreds of MW of electrical power in net



H. Hurzlmeier, EFDA_D_2M9JM7 v2.0 (2014).

The BB Project is part of the EUROfusion consortium and started in May 2014. It is responsible for the development of blanket concepts suitable for the EU DEMO concept as described in the EU Roadmap. The study take profit from a large tradition of EU (and outside EU) blanket studies: e.g DEMONET (1994-1999) and PPCS (2000-2004) and from the EU TBM Programme in ITER. See [Fede16] and [Bocc16].

Blanket concepts considered in PPP&T





Helium Cooled Pebble Bed (HCPB)

Helium Cooled Lithium Lead (HCLL)



Milestones and deliverables for the WPBB

Deliverables for each BB concept:

- Design Description Document (Blanket Segment + Aux)
- CAD Models, PFDs, etc.
- Experimental R&D test reports
- Manufacturing Feasibility Assessment Report
- **Risk Analysis Report**

Deliverables for the Project:

- 2017----Project Management Plan (Primavera)
- Blanket system SRD and ICDs
- Project Risk Assessment

MP8: Definition of Blanket selection criteria

MP2: System Requirement Review

MP1: Establishment of project Requirements, blanket configuration and blanket Development Plan. Preliminary DDD and CAD released.

-- 2016---



Review

Meeting

MP6: Documentation for the Plant Review meeting issued

MP5: Finalise breeding blanket concept design. Conceptual design DDD and CAD released.

2020.

.2019 .

--- 2018--

MP4: Manufacturing feasibility demonstration of key technologies, including performance tests, structural integrity reports, etc.

MP3: Selected technology R&D and testing to enable down-selection most promising design option for each breeding blanket concept. Consolidated DDD and CAD released.

Breeding Blanket Project: WBS and PMP

WBS in the Breeding Blanket Project:

- WP1: HCPB Blanket Design including Ceramic Breeder and Beryllium development and characterisation.
- WP2: HCLL Blanket Design
- WP3: WCLL Blanket Design including Water cooling technology
- WP4: DCLL Blanket Design including Flow Channel Insert development
- WP5: PbLi technology for HCLL, WCLL and DCLL.
- WP6: Tritium Technology
- WP7: Manufacturing Technology
- WP8: FW and Limiter technology
- WP9: System Engineering, System Modelling, Neutronic and EM analysis development.

Resources:

In 2014-2018 about 260 ppy and 19 M€.

EU Research Unit involved:

CCFE, CEA, CIEMAT, ENEA, IPP.CR, <u>KIT</u>, Wigner RCP.



Breeding Blanket Project	
Project Management Plan	
(PMP)	
Prepared by Jon RADDAN Sec Ref EFGA, D, JMRV/D Vinion 10 Sec of Law 100 J204	

Project Management Plan: <u>https://idm.euro-</u> <u>fusion.org/?uid=2MDAMJ&version=v4.0&action=get</u> <u>document</u>

WPBB Organisation Chart





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