



Structural materials for fusion power plants – international progress and challenges

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High Performance Materials for Energy



150 dpa 🥡



Strategic Missions:

- Electricity, Heat, Hydrogen
- Environmental compatibility
- Cost effectiveness, sustainability

Safety first

Specific challenges for fusion:

- Short development path
- Loading more demanding (e.g H/He)



20-40dpa/year

Outline



- Short introduction to Fusion
- International roadmaps to fusion power
- Materials challenges: fusion fission spallation
- Materials R&D: examples of recent progress
 - Reduced activation steels and iron based "super alloys"
 - Neutron irradiation behaviour
 - Tungsten alloys and composites
- Irradiation facilities & intense fusion neutron source IFMIF
- Conclusions

KIT Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Why Nuclear Fusion?

Features

- Virtually inexhaustible
- No CO₂ emissions
- High energy density fuel
 1 gram of fully reacted Deuterium-Tritium = 26000 kW-hr of electricity (~10 Tons of Coal !)
- Inherently Safe Controllability
 - Iow fuel inventory
 - no chain reaction to control
 - Iow power and energy densities

Issues

- Fusion reaction is difficult to start and maintain
 - High temperatures (Millions of degrees) are required
 - Technically complex & LARGE devices are required

In the past, fusion research has progressed as rapidly other areas of big science and high-technology



Fusion: Triple product $nT\tau_E$ doubled every 2 years

Moore's law : Transistor number doubles every 2 years

Accelerators : Energy doubles every 3 years

In construction: International Tokamak Experimental Reactor ITER

- Objective to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power: 500 MW, 300-500s, Q=10 837 m³ Plasma volume
- The world's biggest fusion energy research project.
- An international collaboration







The ITER site February 2014

Architect view of the future buildings

Direct Construction Cost Operation **International Organization**

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Role of Materials in Fusion Road Maps - simplified -

DEMO concepts based on ISFNT-11 plenary talks (Sept. 2013):



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- Technology Readiness Levels
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Requirements for "in vessel" structural materials



Fission – Fusion – Spallation: Three different irradiation loadings

	Fission	Fission	Fusion	Spallation
	(Gen. I)	(Gen. IV)	(DEMO/PROTO)	(MYRRHA)
Structural alloy T _{max}	<300°C	500-1000°C	550-1000°C	400-600°C
Max dose for core internal structures	~1 dpa	~30-150 dpa	~150 dpa	≤60 dpa/fpy
Max transmutation	~0.1 appm	~3-10 appm	~1500 appm (~10000 appm for	~2000 appm/fpy
concentration			SiC)	«pppy
Particle Energy E _{max}	<1-2 MeV	<1-3 MeV	<14 MeV	several hundred MeV

Materials R&D towards: - improved irradiation resistance

- enhanced temperature window
- convincing compatibility with coolants

EU Fusion reactor study "PPCS" Material – coolant combinations



		Model A	Model B	Model AB	Model C	Model D
et	Structural material First Wall Channel inserts	EUROFER	EUROFER	EUROFER	EUROFER EUFER/ODS SiC/SiC	SiC/SiC
nke	Coolant	Water	Helium	Helium	Helium	LiPB
Bla	Coolant temp. in/out (°C)	285/325	300/500	300/500	480 / 700 300 / 480	700 / 1100
	Breeder	LiBb	Li ₄ SiO ₄	LiPb	LiPb	LiPb
	Tritium breeding ratio	1.06	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.12
tor	Structural material	CuCrZr	W alloy	W alloy	W alloy	SiC/SiC
/eri	Armor material	W	W	W	W	W
<u>S</u>	Coolant	Water	Helium	Helium	Helium	LiPb
	Coolant temp. in/out (°C)	140/167	540/717	540/717	540/717	600/990

Gen IV and Fusion reactors pose severe materials challenges



S.J. Zinkle & J.T. Busby, Mater. Today 12 (2009) 12



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Zinkle & Busby, Mater. Today 12 (2009) 12

Radiation hardening and embrittlement

(<0.4 T_M, >0.1 dpa)

T_M, >10 dpa)

Neutron irradiation: Severe Materials degradation

 \Box High temperature He embrittlement (>0.5 T_M) and phase instabilities (0.3-0.6 T_{M} >10 dpa)















Fusion Power Plants:

Structural Material Challenges beyond ITER



Blanket: \leq 30 dpa/yr, \leq 2.5MW/m² Plasma Facing Materials Reduced Activation Structural Materials: - RAFM Steels (EUROFER, F82H) 350-550 °C - RAFM ODS Steels 300-650 °C Functional Materials - Neutron Multipliers (Be), Li ceramics Divertor: ≤10 dpa/yr, 10-15 MW/m² Refractory alloys (e.g. W-materials) 850-1100 °C ~600 - 1300 °C ■ Nano-scaled RAF(M)-ODS Steels ~300 - 800 °C 350-650 °C

Gen IV Materials challenges: High burn-up and high temperature





A. Kimura, Kyoto Univ. 2009

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FUSION Priority: Low activation capability

RAFM 8-10%CrWTaV steels

- Substantial progress since the early 90-ies
- "Low level waste" already after 80-100 years
- No "high level" waste disposal
- The impurities Nb and Mo are dominating the hatched area

The European reference steel EUROFER is presently characterized and code qualified (RCC-Mx)

Long term irradiation (12.5 MWa/m²) of a DEMO reactor first wall Source: IMF I, FZK





Neutron Multiplier: Beryllium pebbles

- ~ 400 Kg per ITER TBM
- ~ 320 tons per DEMO



Recent past and present: Qualification of Reduced Activation Ferritic-Martensitic (RAFM) steel EUROFER



Eurofer alloy composition								lo ac	ongterm shortterm				m on	
Alloy		С	Si	Mn	Cr	۷	W	Та	Nb Mo Al			Со	Ni	Cu
EUROFER	wt%	0.11	0.05	0.4	9.0	0.2	1.1	0.12	0,001	0,005	0,01	0,005	0,005	0,005

Achievements (EFDA & F4E coordinated)

- Meanwhile ~35 tons of EUROFER delivered in various product forms
- Broad based Qualification Programme, including joining technologies and corrosion
- Materials database also on irradiated EUROFER advanced (up to 40% of DEMO lifetime)



Breeding blanket manufacturing (ITER TBM)







- 415 appm He: Strength increase but hardly reduction of total elongation
 5800 appm He: Entirely brittle fracture; total loss of plasticity
- What is the behavior under real fusion condition?

"Helium" effect on Ductile Brittle Transition: Neutron irradiation after B-doping



E. Gaganidze et al.; J. Nucl. Mater. 411 (2011) 417 93–98



- Helium increases substantially the DBTT and consequently the lower operation temperature in breeder blankets. Saturation ??
- B-doping too aggressive
- Embrittlement behavior depends also sensitively on stain rate

Fracture behavior of tensile tested EUROFER 16 dpa, $T_{irr} = T_{test} = 300$ °C



EUROFER97, <10 appm He





E. Materna-Morris et al., JNM 386-388 (2009) 422-425 M. Klimenkov et al., Micron 46 (2013) 51–56

¹⁰B-doping: He and Li effects cannot really be decoupled



n +¹⁰B → ⁴He + ⁷Li + 2.7895 MeV range of He (1.0 MeV): 1.6 μ m range of Li (1.8 MeV): 2.0 μ m



EUROFER-type, 415 appm He



Neutron spectra effects: Tensile properties



N-spectra: DEMO, IFMIF, Spallation Fission vs. Spallation (PSI) Y. Dai et al, He-dpa workshop, June 2009, PSI Relevant for dpa & transmutations 800 MeV⁻¹] $T_{test}\cong T_{irr} \texttt{=} \texttt{450}^{\circ}\texttt{C}$ 1E16 Eurofer + 82ppm ^{nat}B; 80 appm He 1E15 Eurofer + 83ppm ¹⁰B; 415 appm He 600 °, Eurofer; 1225 appm He Stress [MPa] 1E14 · · · unirradiated neutron flux density [cm⁻² 1E13 400 1E12 **Fission reactor** MTS sample can #3 1E11 200 MTS sample can #7 Spallation DEMO first wall 1E10 IFMIF back plate 1E9 **IFMIF HFTM** 0 20 0 5 10 15 25 **1E8** Strain [%] 0.1 1E-3 0,01 10 100 1000 1 neutron energy [MeV]

Spallation irradiation shows above $T_{irr} \cong 400^{\circ}C$ much higher strength $\Delta \sigma_{irr}$ What is the real fusion behavior? Intense N-source would answer this question

Possible steps towards a fusion design code: Tensile properties as example



In the style of H. Tanigawa, E.Wakai



- Critical condition around 40~50 dpa / 400~500 appm He?
- This might be also the parameter window for initial DEMO and 1st stage of IFMIF and related design code development

Hydrogen effects: Retention of hydrogen in Fe and austenitic Steel 316



F.A. Garner; J. Nucl. Mater. 356 (2006) 122-135

S. Zinkle et al.; Nuclear Fusion 53 (2013), in press

Hydrogen effects may become a serious issue in fusion environments

■ Typical for 14 MeV fusion neutrons is the simultaneous production of dpa, hydrogen and Helium → Intense fusion neutron source indispensable for realistic validation

International challenge: Development of nanoscaled iron based "super alloys" (RAF-ODS)





E. Eiselt, M. Klimenkov, R. Lindau, A. Möslang J. Nucl. Mater 2010

Nanoscaled ODS-steels



Noble gas bubbles (white) trapped at ODS particles



P. He, M. Klimenkov et al., J. Nucl. Mater. 428 (2012)131-138

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M. Klimenkov J. Nucl. Mater. 411 (2011) 160

- Nano-scaled ODS particles like Y₂O₃ or Y₂Ti₂O₇ are efficient trapping centers for diffusing alloying elements (Cr, V) and irradiation induced defects (vacancies, He)
- Therefore, nanoscaled ODS steels have potential for outstanding aging and irradiation resistance



Nanoscaled ODS-steels:

Substantial improvement of dynamic fracture toughness

ODS EUROFER after Neutron irradiation: Substantial improvement of tensile properties



A. Moeslang et al., Int. J. Mat. Res. 99 (2008) 10



9Cr ODS steel fuel pins: Production in Japan, irradiation in FBR BOR60, Russiant of Technology

		<u>Cladding tube</u>			ixture Lower end plug
				Y	
				BC358	BC359
The second	in dealer and a	•	Clad. Temp. °C	670	720
			Burnup at%	1	5
				_	

S. Ukai et al., Hokkaido University, Japan

Fig. 12 Appearance of fabricated ODS fuel assemblies (BC358E and BC359E)

High temperature ODS steel with Aluminum:

Oxide particles in Al-ODSS Ave. Diameter: 7 nm # Density: 1.6×10²² m⁻³



Zr or Hf addition resulted in fine oxide dispersion.





Zr addition

Ave. diameter: 4.7 nm # Density: $7.2 \times 10^{22} \text{ m}^{-3}$





Hf addition

Ave. diameter: 3.5 nm # Density: 4.8×10²² m⁻³

A. Kimura, Kyoto Univ,

High temperature corrosion resistance: Ad Aluminum to the ODS steels





A. Kimura, Kyoto Univ





Materials challenge: Divertor, ~10MW/m²









Requirements:

- □ W products for structural parts
- \Box p \cong 100 bar
- $\Box T \cong 500^{\circ}C 1300^{\circ}C$

Divertor concept fro DEMO reactor: Helium gas cooled, modular "finger" design





Problem of W & W alloys: Fracture at "low" Temp.



Are ductile tungsten products possible at all?

Strategies to improve ductility

- Thin foils (0.1 mm) are ductile, plates (> 0.5 mm) not
- Allow movement of dislocations
 - edge disl. (0.3 eV),
 - screw disl. (1.05 eV)
- Allow disl. annihilation (foil effect)
- Increase mobile edge dislocations

Suggested Solution: W-laminates

- Stack of alternating W (20 layers) and e.g. Cu (19 layers)
- Brazing or diffusion welding
- Sample fabrication and Charpy impact testing



KLST type 3 x 4 x 27 mm³

J. Reiser et al, J. Nucl. Mater 424 (2012)197-203



10 mm

Refractory materials: W laminates Very promising results of Charpy impact tests





J. Reiser et al, J. Nucl. Mater 424 (2012)197-203

W as structural material: W-foil laminates



J. Reiser et al, KIT, 2014



Irradiation effects: Materials Database Maturity



	FNSF, CTF 1 st DEMO Blanket				t	2 nd DEMO Blanket				Adv. DEMO									
Data base need	<20	dpa	/200)app	m H	е	~50	dpa	/500	Dapp	om l	le	>100 dpa/1000appm H					n He	è
Materials	RAFM	FM-ODS	M	SiC	Be	Li ceramic	RAFM	FM-ODS	M	SiC	Be	Li ceramic	RAFM	FM-ODS	M	SiC	Be	Li ceramic	RAFM
Irradiation effects																			
Hardening/Embrittlement																			
Phase stabilities																			
creep & fatigue																			
Volumetric swelling																			
High Temp He&H effects																			

Adequate knowledge base exists
Partial knowledge base exists
No knowledge base

Note: He levels are only for FM steels

Strategy element to close knowledge gaps: Integrated materials qualification in Europe



Advanced steels

- RAFM technology completion
- TMT steels
- ODS steels

High heat flux materials

- Refractories (e.g. armour)
- Joining & fabrication techn.
- Composites
- Mock-up testing

Functional Materials

- Neutron multipl. (Be alloys)
- T-breeders (Li ceramics)
- Sensors, actors, fibers
- Dielectrics, windows

Materials database, codes and standards

Irradiation campaigns

- Near term DEMO
- Advanced DEMO
- Promising novel materials
- Exp. validation of modeling

Radiation effects modeling & experimental validation

- Understand irrad. embrittlem.
- Accelerate materials R&D
- Support SSTT qualification
- Guide irradiation test matrix

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Major available Fission Reactors



	Facility Name,	Fast neutron	[dpa/fpy]	Volume	Temp
	country	> 0.1 MeV [10 ¹⁸ /m ² s]	in Fe	[cm ³]	[°C]
t.	BR-2, B	1.5-3	<3	90	50-1000
oec ors		<1.0	<1	250	50-1000
d sp acto	HFR, NL	2.5	< 7	>1500	80-1100
lixe Re	HFIR, US	1.1	< 18	100	300-1500
2		5.3	<7	700	
ې بې	BOR-60, Russia	~30 total	~20	350	320-700
ast eder	BN-600, Russia	~ 65 total	>20	350	375-700
Bree	JOYO, Japan	> 50 total	~30		300-700
	FBTR Kalpakkam, In	1-10, in 15 campaigns			



Accelerator driven D-Li source source



Thermal spectrum reactor JHR, Cadarache







Jules Horowitz Reactor, Cadarache, France



http://www.cad.cea.fr/rjh/index.html

Start operation ~ 2015, instrumented rigs, high flux: ≤16 dpa/y

In reflector

Up to 5.5 10¹⁴ n/cm².s ~20 fixed positions and 6 displacement systems

> Displacement systems: • Adjust the power • Study transients



Material ageing (up to 16 dpa/y)

Thermal neutron flux

Fuel experiment (fast neutron flux)

Fast neutron flux



In core

Up to 5.5 10¹⁴ n/cm².s > 1 MeV Up to 10¹⁵ n/cm².s > 0.1 MeV

7 Small locations 3 large locations

Need for Intense Fusion Neutron Source



Main Missions

- Qualification of candidate materials, in terms of generation of engineering data for design, licensing and safe operation of a fusion DEMO reactor, up to about full lifetime
- Completion, calibration and validation of databases (today mainly generated from fission reactors and particle accelerators)
- > High performance material irradiation for fusion power plants (>100 dpa)

Promote, verify or confirm selection processes

Solid Validation of computational material science

Vital for Predictive Capability

High ranking International Advisory Panels: Can be best fulfilled with a D-Li stripping source.





International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility

Unprecedented accelerator:

- Highest intensity
- Highest beam power
- Highest space charge

consequently

IFMIF

- Highest power Injector
- Longest RFQ



1:1 size prototype fabrication and testing

Injector (CEA), Rokkasho

IFMIF



RFQ Module, INFN, Italy









Conclusions



- The European Integrated Fusion Program aims at fully qualified materials ("Horizon 2020")
 - Materials must be tested in a fusion neutron environment (e.g. IFMIF, ~40 dpa by 2030) to enable licensing and safety.
 - Materials science assisted development
 - Code qualified materials database within two decades
- The integrated Fusion Materials Program is based on
 - More than 20 Associations coordinated by EUROFUSION and F4E with support from Universities and industry, and
 - International collaboration (ITER, Broader Approach, IEA, IAEA,...)
- Advanced Materials for High Temperature Applications (≥750°C):
 - Tremendous synergies: Fusion, Fission, Spallation, Hydrogen production, concentrated solar,.....
 - Substantial for efficient and sustainable energy production

