

Lecture 11: Earthly plasmas — fusion

Today's menu

- Fusion as energy producing mechanism
- Concept of energy density
- Lawson criterion
- Limiting a plasma: limiters, divertors and the SOL
- Heating a plasma: neutral beams, ECRH & ICRH
- Diagnosing plasma
- Stellarator
- ICF
- ITER & DEMO(s)



Fusion energy rules!

In fact...

Practically all energy consumed by people is fusion energy - from the Sun.

The only major exception is fission that releases energy stored from supernova explosions.

In the sun, the plasma fuel (hydrogen) is confined by gravity, and the energy producing reaction is

4 protons — 1 Helium + energy



So why not produce fusion energy on Earth?

Would be badly needed ...

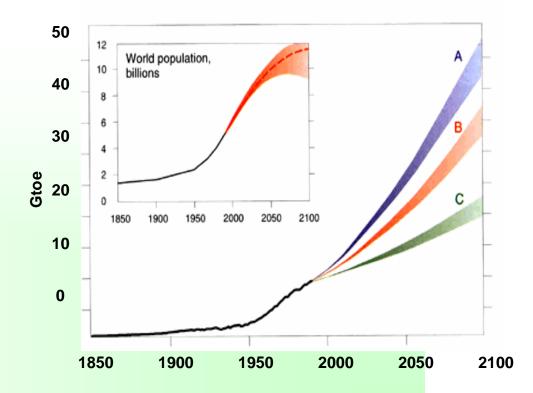


Energy forecast until 2050

- Population doubles
- Energy consumption get 2-3 folded
- Problems with easy fossil sources
- Additional capacity needed min 10 - 20 TW

Potential candidates for Additional capacity:

- renewables (H2O, bio, solar, wind)
- fission (²³⁸U, Th)
- fusion





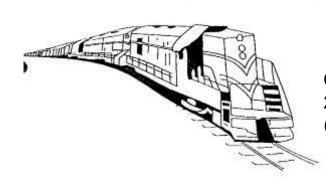
Energy density: Fuel needed by a 1000 MWe power plant per year



Nuclear power plant 30 tons of enriched Uranium (two truck loads)

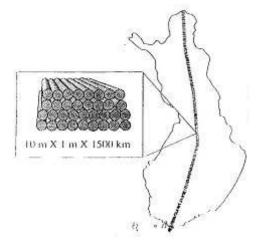


Fusion power plant 300kg D + Li



eV vs MeV

Coal fired power plant 2 400 000 tons coal (35 000 cargo vans)



Wood burning plant 15 000 000 m³ logs

How about not using fuel at all?

- 80 km² solar panels, or
- 1000 MWe wind mills
- + back-up power production ...

Capacity vs reality: case Energiewende

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS ISE Electricity production from solar and wind in Germany in 2014

Net installed capacity rating

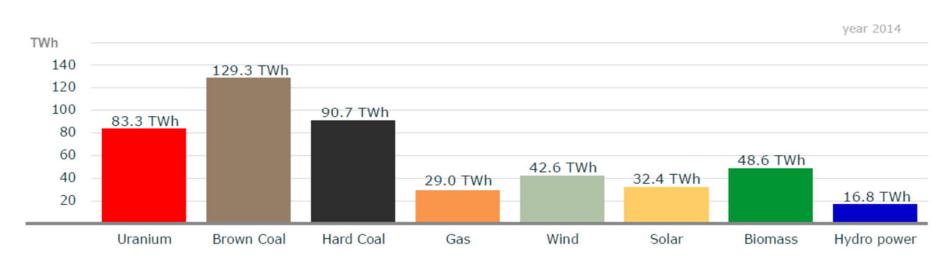




Capacity vs reality: case Energiewende

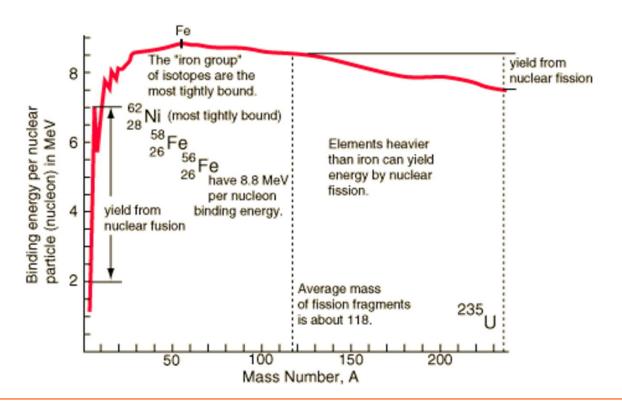
FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS ISE Electricity production from solar and wind in Germany in 2014

Electricity production: first eleven months 2014





From the energy gain point-of-view, fusion is *very* attractive...





Additional benefits

- ★ safe (read: hard to achieve...)
- ★ Environmentally benign (no pollution)
- ★ no greenhouse gases → fights climate change
- ★ ash from nuclear burn = precious He → not radioactive
- does not produce materials for proliferation
- ★ fuel sources practically limitless:
 - Deuterium and Lithium (\rightarrow Tritium: n + Li \rightarrow He + T)
- ★ Fuel sources 'democratically' distributed:
 - ★ sea water → D
 - ★ earth crust → Li



Measuring plasma performance:

Consider the power balance in a fusion reactor:

$$P_{out} = P_{fus} + P_{loss}$$

$$P_{loss} = P_{br} + W_{th}/T_{F}$$

Need to maintain fusion conditions

→ self-produced heating power > losses:

$$P_{in} = \eta P_{out} > P_{loss}$$
; $\eta = conversion efficiency$

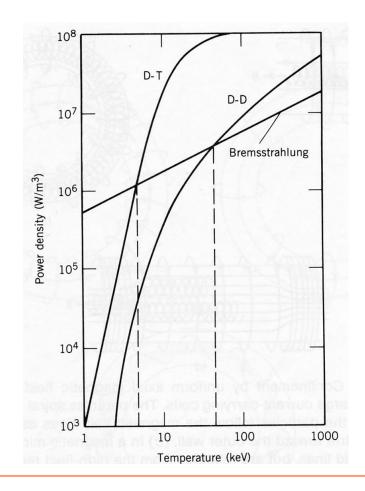
$$\eta(P_{fus} + P_{loss}) > P_{loss}$$

$$\rightarrow \eta P_{fus} > (1 - \eta) P_{loss}$$

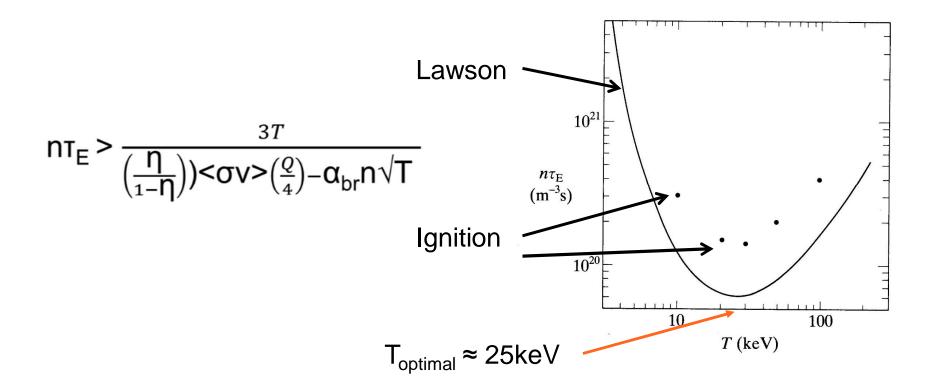


Fighting for dominance

- $P_{br} = \alpha_{br} n^2 \sqrt{T}$
- $W_{th} = 3nT$; $(W_e + W_i)$
- $P_{fus} = (n^2/4) < \sigma v > Q_{fus}$



Lawson criterion

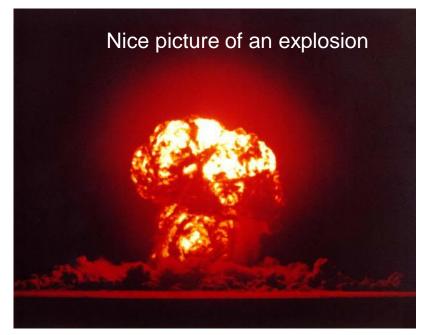




Reaching the criteria, Part I: ICF

Maximize the pressure, nT

- → 'inertial confinement fusion' = confinement only by inertia of particles
- ★ First successful(?) experiment already in 1952:
 - Teller-Ulam H-bomb (ignited by a fission bomb
 - Proof of principle for inertial confinement fusion
- ★ More constructive use of ICF has been developed over the past 30y or so → NIF at LLNL, USA





Reaching the criteria, Part II: MCF = Maximize τ

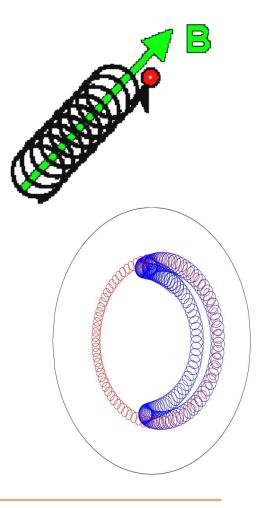
Charged particles glued to magnetic field lines!

... unless the field is inhomogeneous and/or lines are curved

Different geometries

- ★ Magnetic mirrors (1st attempt)
- ★ Stellarator
- ★ Z-pinch,
- \star 0-pinch,
- ★ reversed field pinch
- ★ ... and...







Tokamak Basics

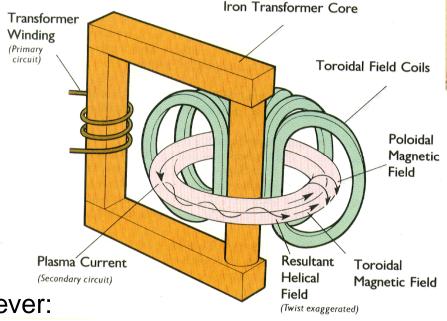
Plasma confinement:

- poloidal field (by plasma current)
- stronger (x10) toroidal field (by external coils)
- Helical magnetic field lines

Based on transformer principle

toroidal'naya kamera v magnitnykh katushkakh toroidal chamber in magnetic coils Tokamak, the Human Reactor





→ Suits poorly continuous use... However:

various means of external current drive can facilitate continuous use



Who actually confines what? - duality in plasma physics

Tokamak confinement from *single* particle point-of-view:

- Charged particles gyrate around toroidal fieldlines = are confined
- Introduce toroidicity
 - → ∇B-drift
 - \rightarrow E_z
 - → ExB-drift in R-direction
- → Need to short-circuit:
 - Introduce B_{pol}

Tokamak confinement from *fluid* point-of-view:

– Force balance:

$$\nabla p = \mathbf{j} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{B}$$

- Tokamak based on induced current j_{tor}
- → Confining field = B_{pol}!!

B_{tor} needed to *stabilize* the toroidal plasma ...

In both cases the end result is helical field lines

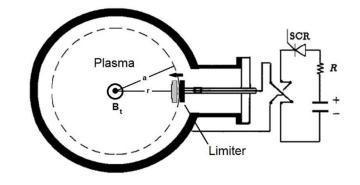
How is a fusion plasma created?

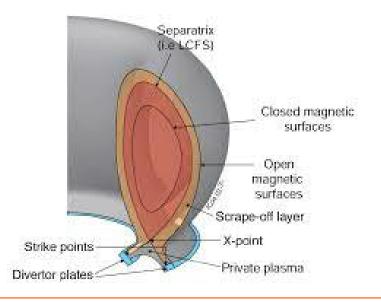
Marching order

- First of all: start the TF coils \rightarrow B_T
- Puff hydrogen gas to the chamber: 10⁻⁵Pa
- Start ramping current in the primary winding, I(t)
 - \rightarrow B_z(t)
 - → Faraday's law: $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$ → \mathbf{E}_{loop}
- The toroidal electric field E_{loop}
 - Causes plasma break-down = from gas to plasma
 - Drives the plasma current $I_p \rightarrow B_p$
- → helical field lines & plasma -- and we are ready to go!

How to limit a plasma?

- Limiter geometry (old)
 - Lot's of impurities
 - Difficult to access H-mode
- Divertor geometry
 - Create an X-point
 - Closed and open flux surfaces
 - Trash bin far from the main plasma
 - Difficult to make stay in L-mode...
 - Today's devices







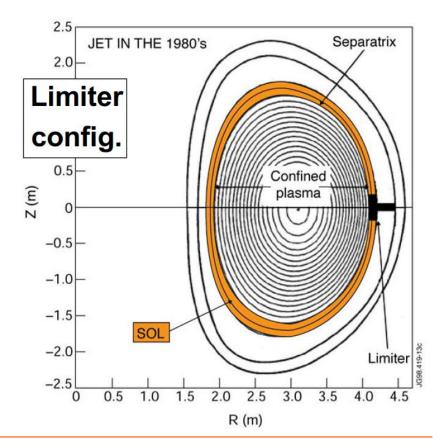
Example: JET tokamak before

Notice: plasma cross section is not circular

Why does it make sense to elongate vertically?

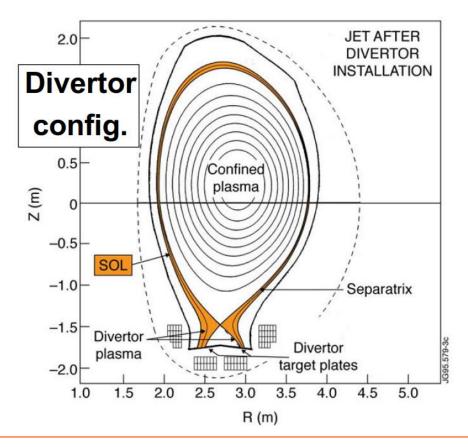
Nowadays plasmas are triangular

New concept: Scrape-off layer, SOL



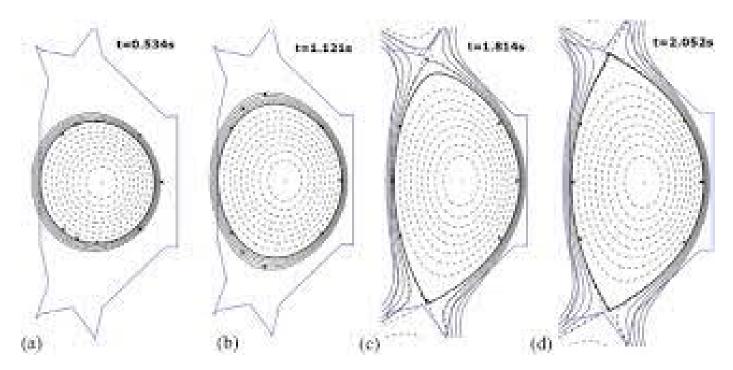


Example: JET tokamak before and now





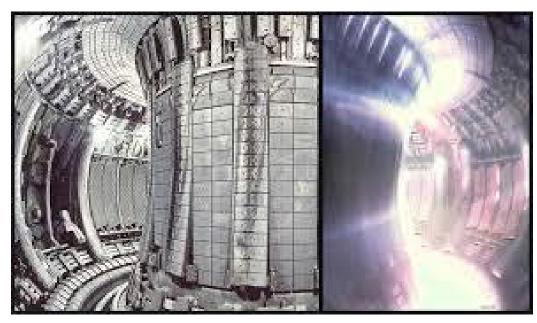
Plasma still starts up at the limiter



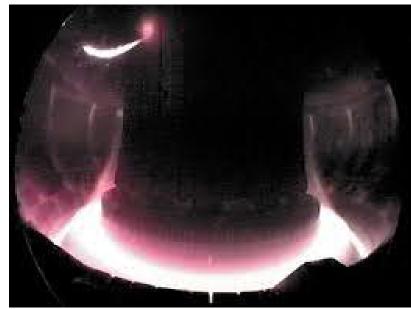
Q.P. Yuan et al., *Plasma current, position and shape feedback control on EAST* Nuclear Fusion, Volume 53, Number 4



How does a tokamak plasma look like?



JET tokamak CCFE Abingdon, U.K.



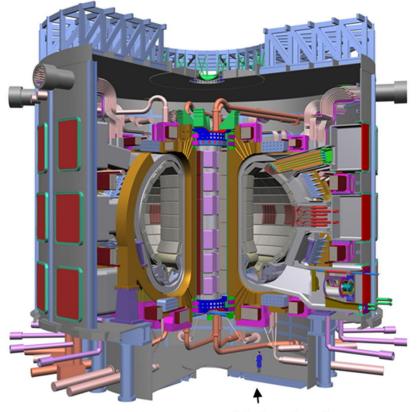
ASDEX Upgrade Max Planck institute Garching, Germany

18.11.2020 25



How is a plasma heated?

ITER – world's first fusion reactor

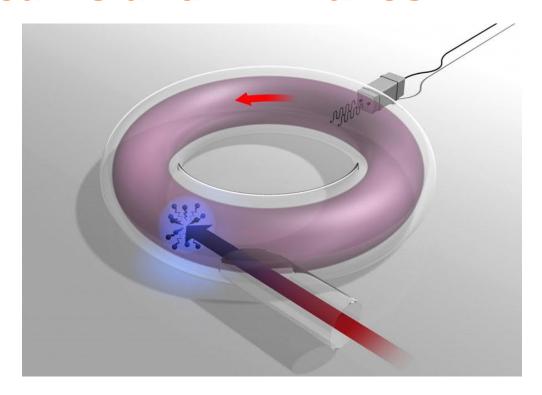


Total heating power **50 MW** ...

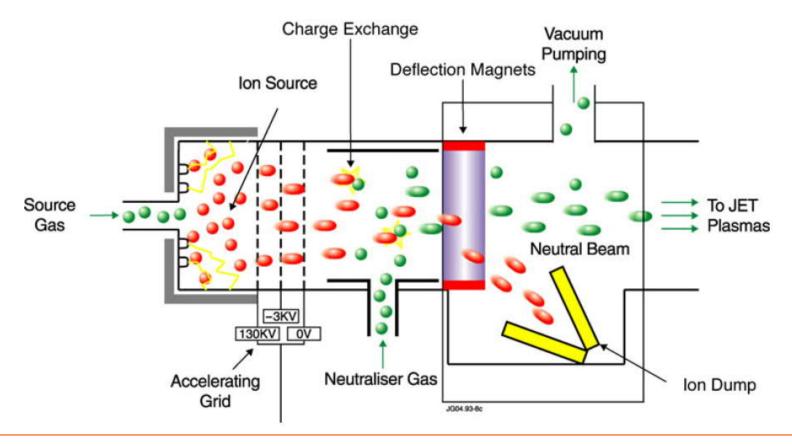
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Heating methods: neutral beams and RF waves



Working principle of a neutral beam





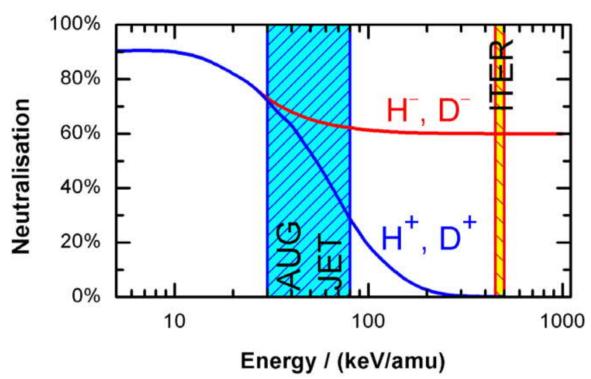
What are *negative* neutral beams? And why?

The beam energy determines

- Deposition depth in the plasma
- The amount of shine-through

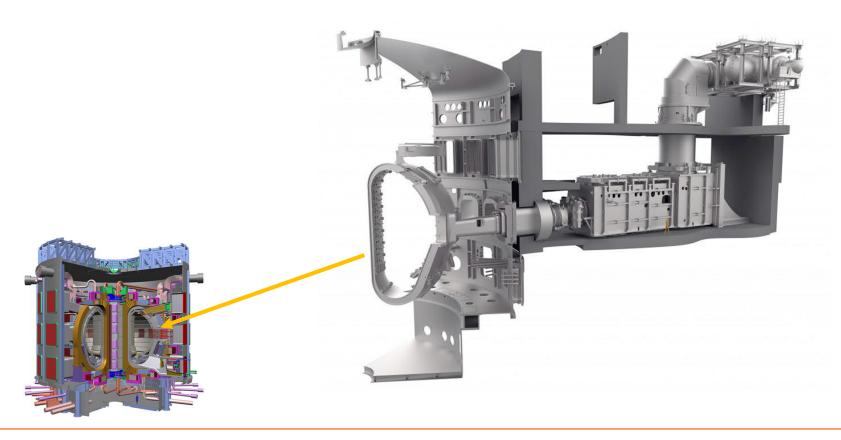
Also the direction of the beam affects both deposition and shinethrough

E_{NBI} > 20T_e → fast ions born from beams slow down predominantly on *electrons*



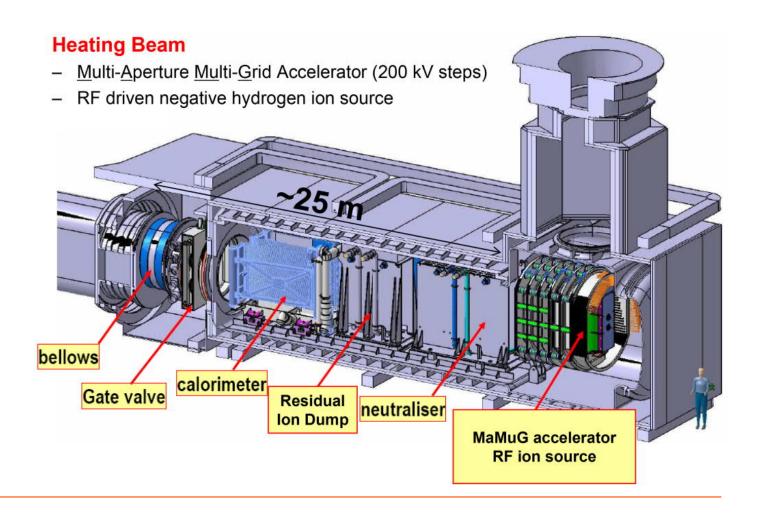


ITER NBI – notice the size ...



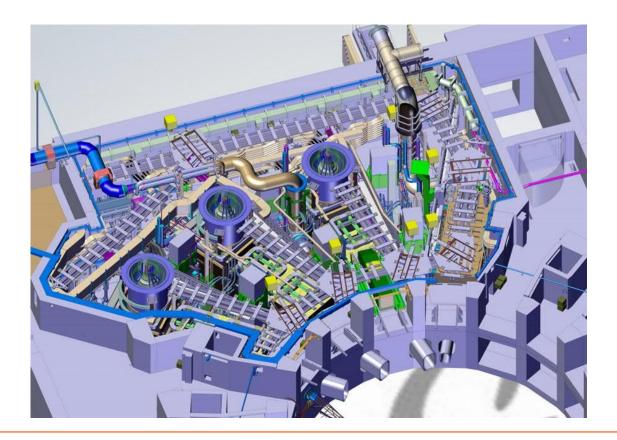


Beam box





ITER: 3 injectors, 3 directions



NBIs around the world

Fusion device	AUG		W7-X*	JET	LHD	JT-60U		ITER
Beam species	H+/D+	H ⁺ /D ⁺	H+/D+	H+/D+	H ⁻	H+/D+	H ⁻ /D ⁻	H ⁻ /D ⁻
Type of source	Arc	RF	RF	Arc	Arc	Arc	Arc	RF
Extraction area (cm²)	390		390	300	1150	128	1660	2000
Max. energy (keV)	55/60	72/93	55/60 (72/100)	80/130	180	75/95	360/380	1000
Injected power per source (MW)	1.6/2.5	1.4/2.5	1.4/2.5	1.5/1.4	3.75	0.9/1.4	3.3/2.7	16.7
Sources per beamline	4		1 (4)	8	2	2	2	1
Number of beamlines	1+1		2	3	3	14	1	2
Total power (MW)	12/20		2.8/5 (11.2/20)	36/32	15	27/40	13.2/10.8	33
Pulse duration (s)	4/8	4/8	10	10	10	5	10	3600
Max. current density (mA/cm²)	250/200	160/160	250/200	160/160	35	270/210	13/9	24/20



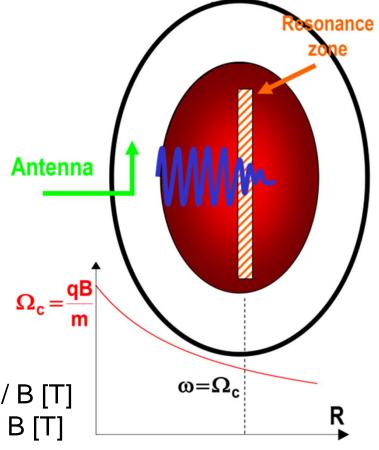
RF heating

Basic idea:

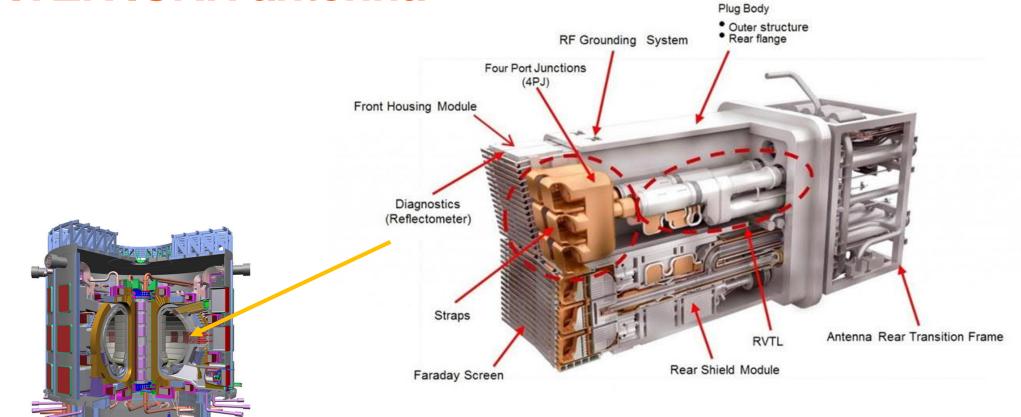
- Excite an RF wave at frequency ω close to plasma edge
- Wave propagates in plasma (nontrivial)
- Wave gets absobed in a resonance layer where $\omega = \Omega_e$ or Ω_i
- Particles accelerated by the wave transfer the energy to bulk plasma thus heating it up

ECRH: $\omega \sim 28$ GHz / B [T]

ICRH: $\omega \sim 15 \text{ MHz} / \text{B} [\text{T}]$

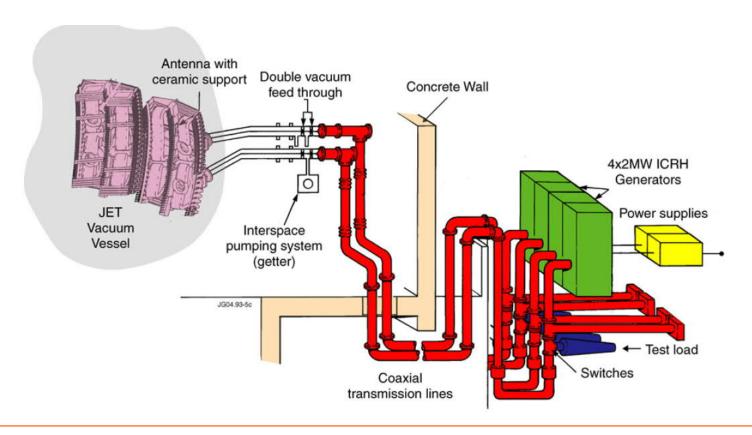


ITER ICRH antenna





JET ICRH system: 4 x 2 MW

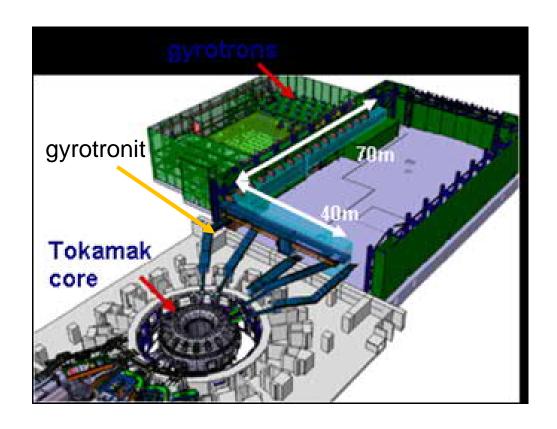




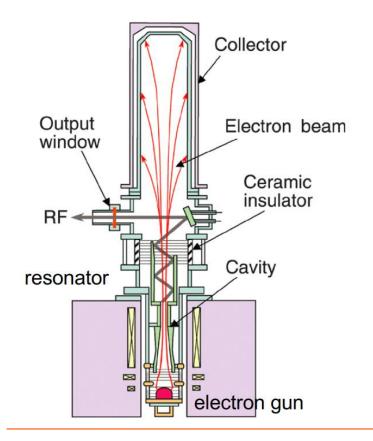
ITER ECRH system

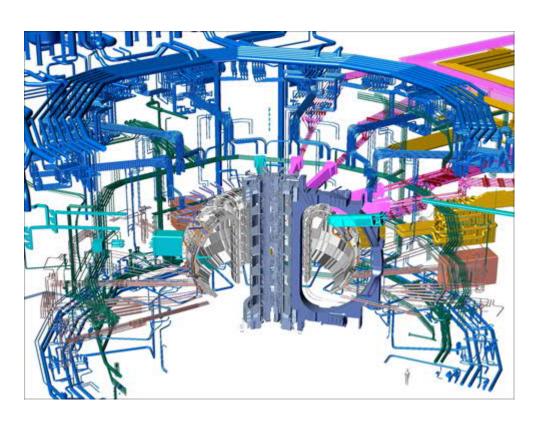
Key words:

- Gyrotron
 - RF source
- Wave guide
 - Transfers the power to the plasma



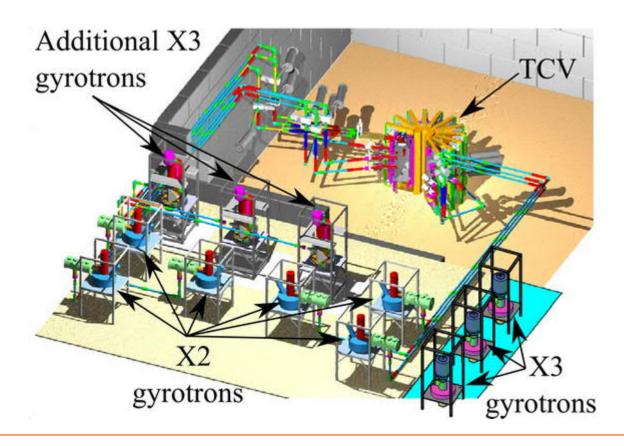
Gyrotron and pink wave guides







ECRH system @ EPFL, Switzerland



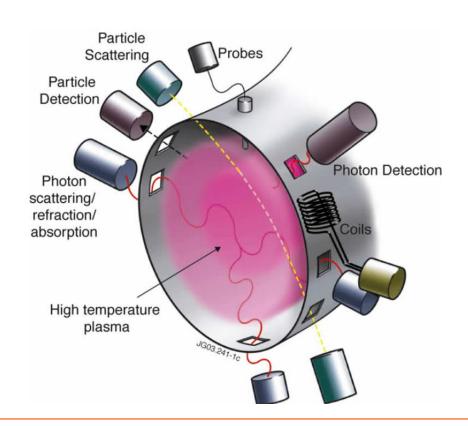
Summary of the heating methods

Scheme	Advantages	Limitations
Ohmic heating	Efficient	Cannot reach ignition conditions, not suitable for stellarator
Neutral beam injection	Reliable	Close to torus, large ports, negative ions necessary
lon cyclotron resonance	Central heating	Antenna close to plasma, coupling efficiency
Electron cyclotron resonance	Reliable, flexible, localized heating + current drive	Cutoffs, electron heating ⇒ needs strong coupling to ions



How to measure = diagnose a plasma?

What possibilities do we have?



We can measure:

- Radiation from the plasma
- Particles escaping the plasma
- Changes in the magnetic field by external current loops
- Physical probes at the VERY plasma edge for a SHORT while

Measuring plasma density

- Thomson scattering:
 - Shoot a laser beam to plasma and measure its attenuation/reflection
 - Active diagnostic: measuring point determined by the intersection of the source and detector lines
- Interferometry
- Langmuir-probes at the very edge (SOL)



Measuring plasma temperature: e⁻

- Thomson scattering
 - Shoot a laser beam to plasma and measure its Doppler broadening
 - Active diagnostic: measuring point determined by the intersection of the source and detector lines
- Langmuir-probes at the very edge (SOL)



Measuring plasma temperature: i+

- NPA = neutral particle analyzer
 - Passive: signal along the entire line of sight ☺
- CXRS: Charge exchange resonance spectroscopy
 - Broadening of the impurity spectral lines gives the temperature!
 - Passive: signal along the entire line of sight ☺
- Active CXRS:
 - Diagnostic NBI → location determined by the intersection of the NBI and the line of sight



Measuring plasma rotation: i+

- CXRS: Charge exchange resonance spectroscopy
 - The Doppler shift of the impurity spectral lines gives the motion of the plasma!
 - Passive: signal along the entire line of sight ☺
- Active CXRS:
 - Diagnostic NBI → location determined by the intersection of the NBI and the line of sight



Measuring fusion production

- Fission chamber (sees neutrons)
- Neutron camera
- Neutron spectrometer
- Endothermic nuclear reactions with impurities gamma radiation

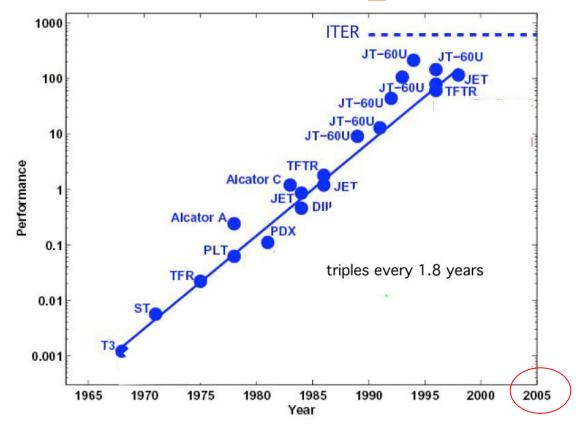
Summary of the diagnostic methods

Category	Parameter	Method
Magnetics	Plasma current Loop voltage (Ohmic power, T _e) Diamagnetic energy Plasma position/equilibrium	Rogowski coil Voltage loops Diamagnetic loop Poloidal field coils
Passive radiation	Electron temperature and densities, total radiation, Bremsstrahlung, line radiation (including impurities → impurity influxes), surface heating power	Electron cyclotron emission, VUV and visible spectroscopy, soft x-rays, bolometry, thermography
Active radiation	Electron density and temperature, current profile, ion temperature,	Thomson scattering interferometry, reflectometry, polarimetry, charge exchange, Li or He beams, heavy ion probe
Particle diagnostics	Neutron yields, particle fluxes	Fission chambers, neutron cameras, Langmuir probes



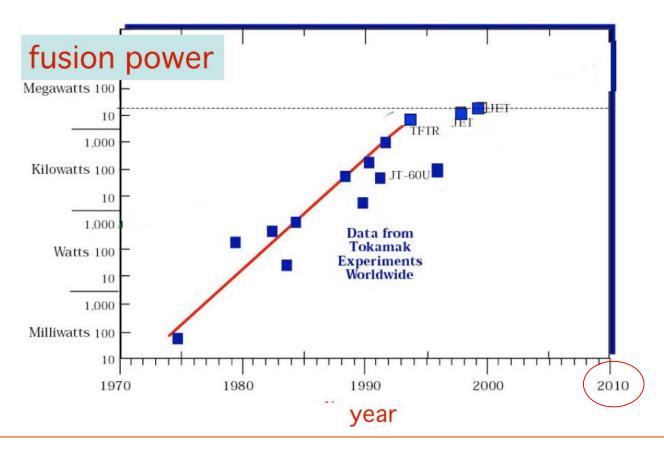
Where are we now?

Plasma performance as nT_E





Progress as MW ...





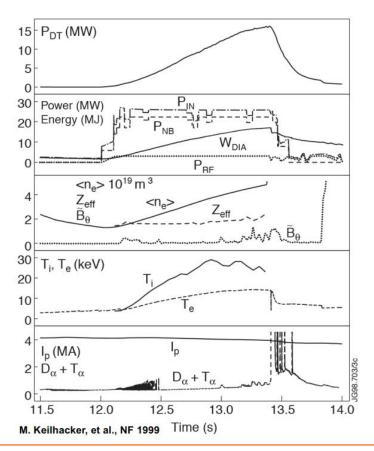
Breakthroughs in fusion research

- From bottle to donut (design in 50's, demo in '68)
- L-H transition (experimental discovery, '82)
- DT experiments (late 90's) = verification of fusion:
 - TFTR (1993): $P_{fus} = 10.6 \text{ MW}$
 - JET (1997): $P_{fus} = 16.1 \text{ MW } (Q \sim 0.7)$
- Anomalous transport = micro turbulence (theory, 00's)
- ITER = International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (under construction 2010 -- 2020's)



Fusion 'world record' 1997: 16.1MW

- Continuous increase in P_{DT} with heating power (of total 25.4 MW) $\Rightarrow P_{fus}/P_{aux} \approx 0.64$ at the end of discharge (transiently, limited by heating systems)
- Carbon is the primary impurity species (Z_{eff} ≈ 2)
- "Hot ion" H-mode: T_i > 2 x T_e



But JET is already very old an fragile ... don't we have something new and better?



Far East



South Korea:

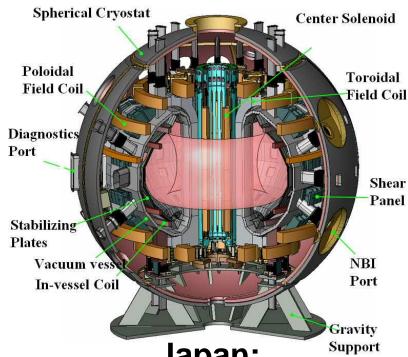
KSTAR

R = 1.8m

a = 0.5m

Ip = 2MA

BT = 3.5T



Japan:

JT-60SA (SC)

satellite tokamak for ITER

R = 3m, a = 1.1m

Ip = 5.5MA, BT = 2.8T



China:

EAST

R = 1.7m,

a = 0.4m

Ip = 0.5MA

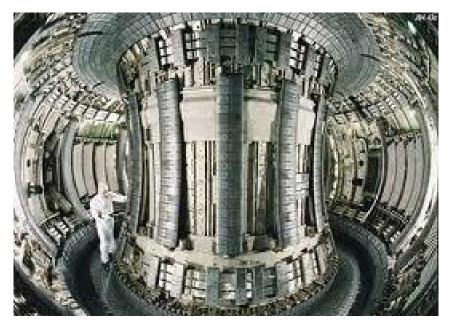
BT = 3.5T



Europe



ASDEX Upgrade
IPP-MPG, Garching, Germany
Specialized in PWI: high P/A
R = 1.7m, a = 0.6m
Ip = 5.5MA, BT = 3.1T



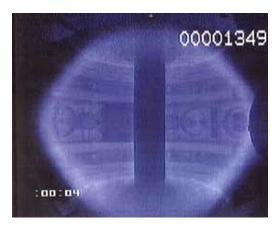
JET

Culham, England

LARGE, high performance

R = 3m, a = 1.3m

Ip = 4.8MA, BT = 3.5T



MAST

Culham, England

'spherical tokamak'

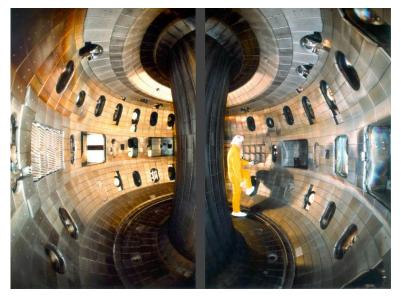
R = 0.85m, a = 0.65m

Ip = 1.3MA, BT = 0.6T



Additionally smaller, more specialized machines: **Tore Supra = WEST** (France), **TCV** (Switzerland)...

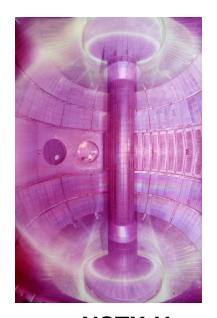
USA



DIII-DGeneral Atomics

R = 1.7m, a = 0.7m

Ip = 2MA, BT = 2.2T



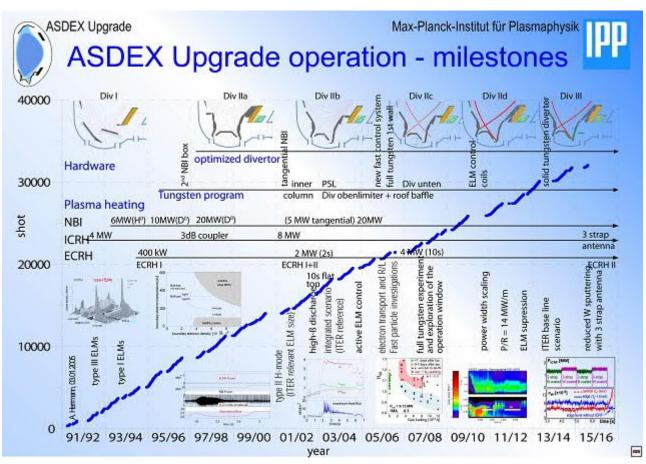
NSTX-U

Princeton

R = 0.85m, a = 0.68m

Ip = 1.4MA, BT = 0.3T

... but being fixed for N years... ☺



http://www.ipp.mpg.de/1728289/panorama: AUG



A ghost from the past... stellarator!

A stellarator -- Fusion with a twist

The basic weakness of tokamak concept:

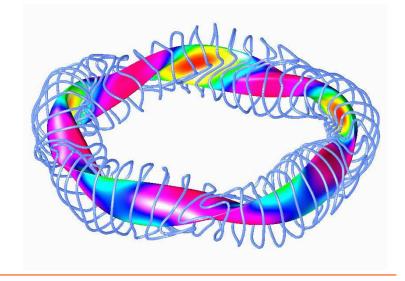
A pulsed device due to inductive current drive!!

How about creating the helical field 100% with external coils?

→ A stellarator !

No plasma current →

- Continuous operation!
- MHD quiescent plasma!

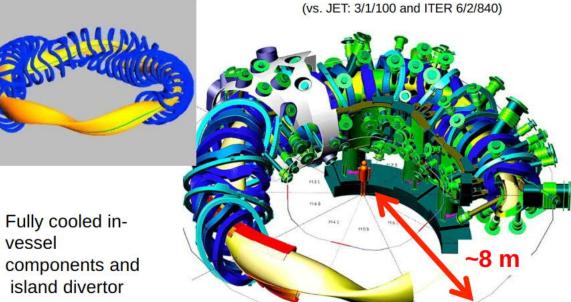




Wendelstein 7-X: world's first superconducting, optimized stellarator

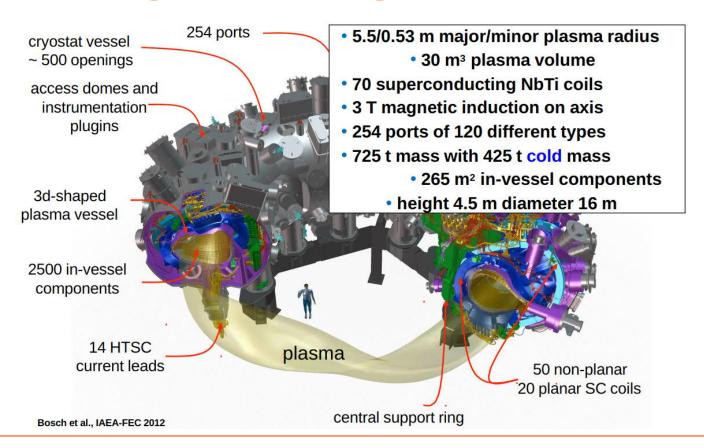
HELIAS ("pure stellarator")
 ⇒ drift-optimized

R=5.5 m, a=0.52 m,
 V_{plasma}~30 m⁻³
 (vs. JET: 3/1/100 and ITER 6/2/84



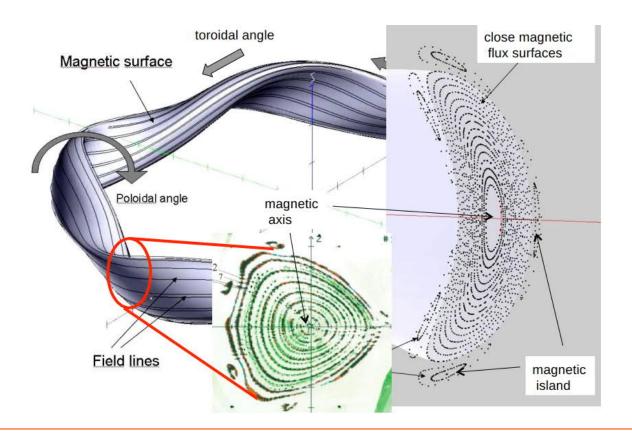


... but an engineer's nightmare?





Kiss symmetry goodbye ...

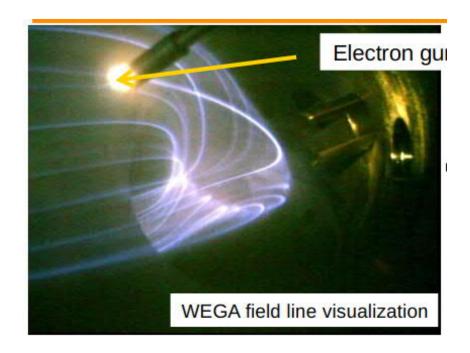




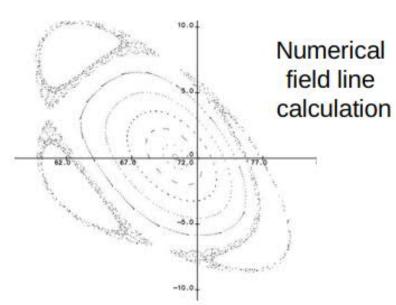
Vessel walls 'lick' the plasma

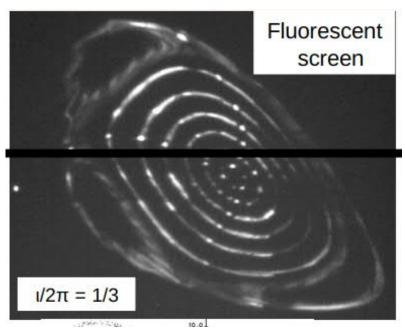


Stellarator too complicated for pen-n-paper optimized with super-computers ...



... and verified by experiments!





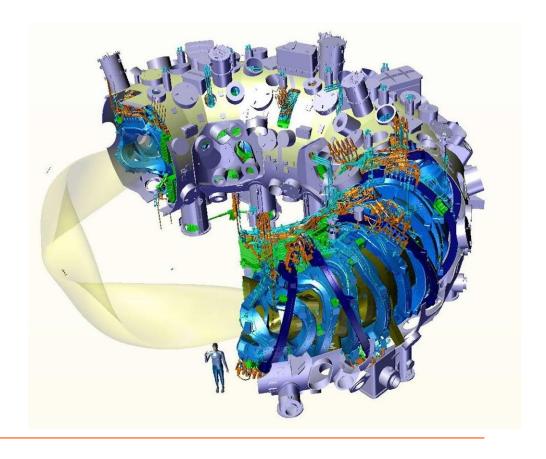
Electrons emitted parallel to calculated B in vacuum field without plasma ⇒ fluorescent projector and interaction with (Ar) background gas



Wendelstein 7-X, technical data

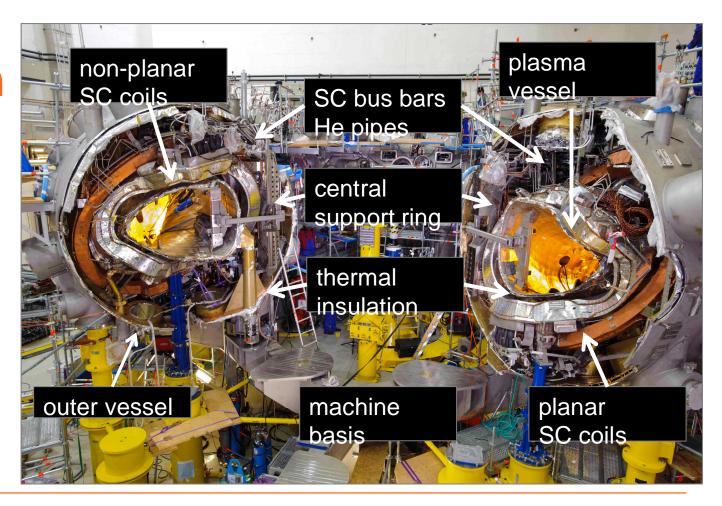
major radius 5.5 m minor radius 0.53 m plasma volume 30 m³ machine mass 725 t cold mass 425 t

non-planar coils 50
planar coils 20
induction on axis 2.5 - 3 T
stored energy 600 MJ
heating power 15 - 30 MW
pulse length 30 min





Under construction

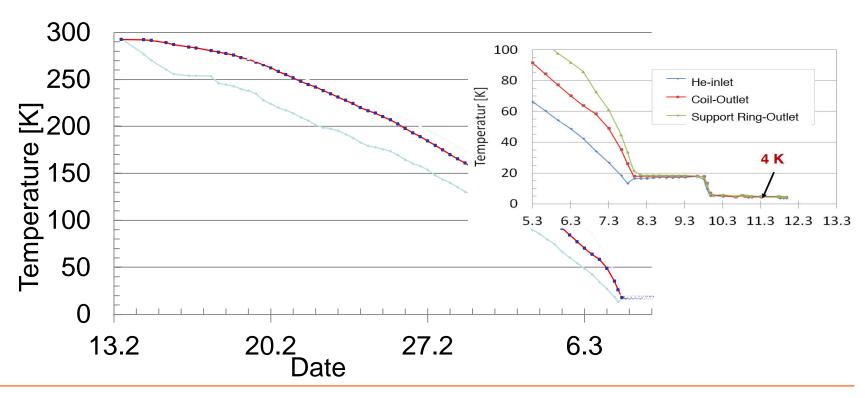




Decoring the interior ...



Commissioning 2015: cooling the superconducting coils





First plasma shots 2016

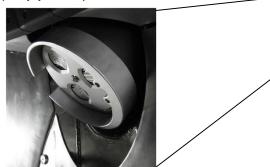
- Only electron heating
- Exceeded all expectations:
 - Electron temperature 7 keV
 - Ion temperature 1-2 keV
- Ultimate goal, when all bells and whistles installed:
- 2022 or so:
 - ~10 keV (ions),
 - Plasma duration ~30 minutes





Wall design improved thanks to ASCOT simulations!

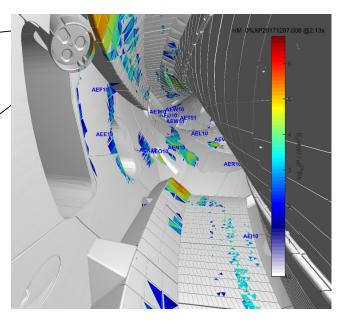
Fragile (sapphire) vacuum windows



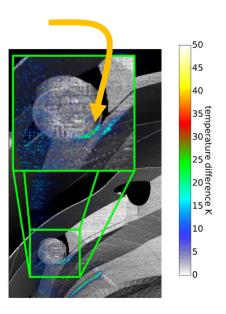
ASCOT predicted excessive NBI power loads

>

Protective collar installed before starting the beams

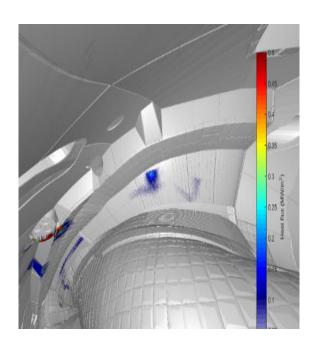


Wendelstein 7-X á l'ASCOT

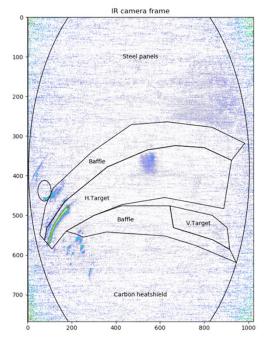


power loads in excess of 1.5MW/m² measured

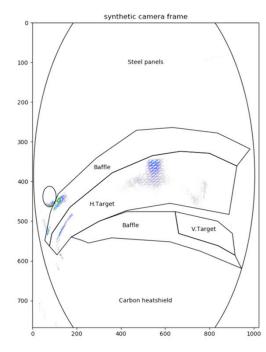
Experimental measurement reproduced by ASCOT!



ASCOT's view of W7-X intestines



InfraRed (IR) camera frame of the same place



ASCOT's synthetic IR camera frame

Today in the Ring ... Tokamak against Stellarator!



Tokamak

- Simple construction
- Good confinement
- Pulsed due to induction
- Plasma current

 temperamental plasma prone
 to (current-driven) instabilities

Stellarator

- Continuous operation
- Well behaving plasma
- Magnetic cage leaks
- Engineer's nightmare

So far tokamak leads the match with technical points, but W7-X can still do a knock-out ...



Rivals for traditional approaches ...

Laser fusion? – small nuclear bombs...

- Laser fusion is most prominant of the so-called inertial confinement fusion (ICF) concepts
- In ICF, one could care less about confinement only remaining confinement is via inertia of the electrons
- The world's greatest lasers are used to compress tiny, frozen DTpellet to astronomical conditions
- Maybe not surprisingly, this research is funded by DOD ...;)
 - NIF = National Ignition Facility @ LLNL



Laser fusion has similar operating principles as rockets



 Heat the surface of the capsule with radiation



 The fuel is compressed with surface ablation and rocket principle



 An enormous pressure is built in the core and the fuel ignites

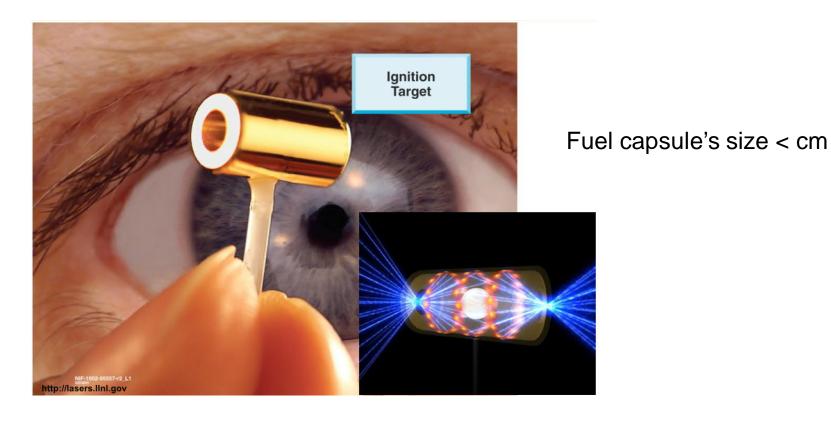


Followed by the burn phase

Lawson criterion reaches new heights

- Lawson criterion: n_T ≈ 10²⁰ m⁻³ s
- Magnetic confinement fusion
 - Density ≈ 10^{20} m⁻³
 - Confinement time ≈ 1 (to 10) s ⇒ quasi steady state
- Inertial confinement fusion
 - Density ≈ 10^{31} m⁻³
 - Confinement time ≈ 10 ps (10^{-11} s) ⇒ pulsed

Laser fusion -- tiny hydrogen bomb...



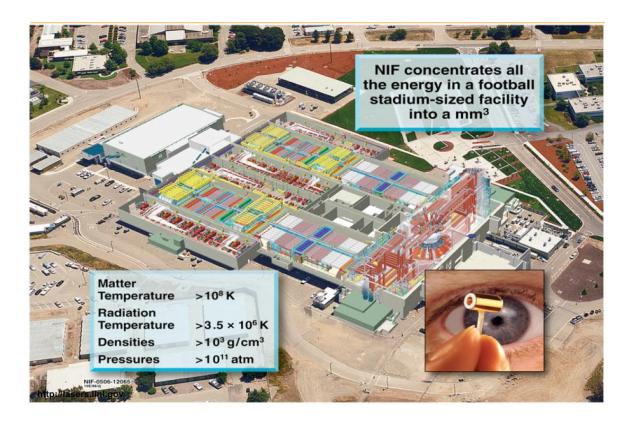
Target chamber is a little larger to compensate



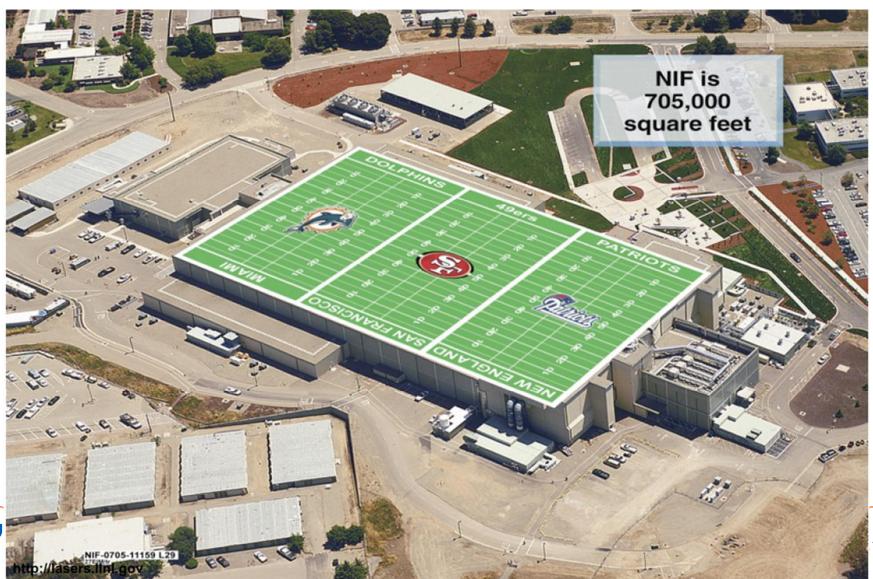
The NIF chamber has the radius of 10 m and weighs 130 tons



The lasers take even more space ...

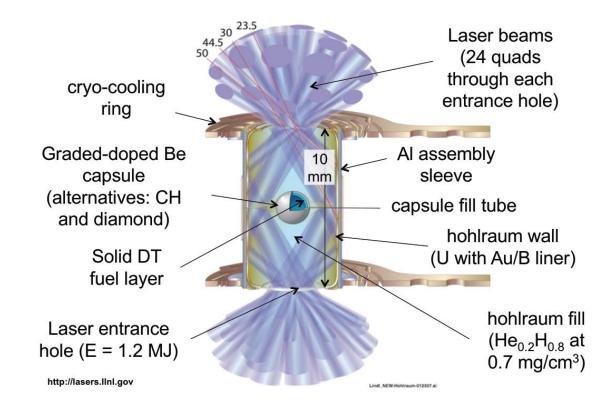






A

Very high-tech capsule





Results?

... difficult to say ... There was a lot of hype, but no news recently

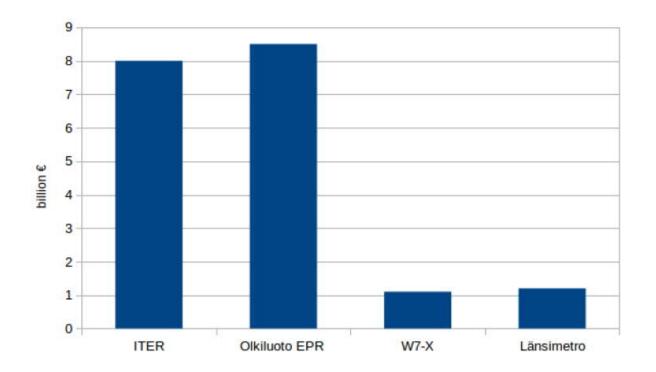


In addition, all kinds of private entrepreneurs

- Tokamak Energy Ltd (ST with HTS magnets)
 - https://www.tokamakenergy.co.uk
- LIFE (fusion-fission-hybrid)
- Tri-Alpha
- Lockheed-Martin
- ... you name it



Is fusion research expensive?





How the cost is built...

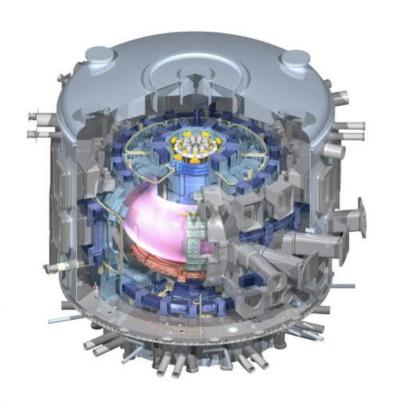
- a) EU for ITER until 2022 = 8 bn € (or: total constraction costs 20 bn\$
 compared to original estimate 5 bn\$ and full power 2027 compared to original
 estimate 2016)
- b) Finland: Olkiluoto EPR fission power plant, "first of a kind": 8.5 billion €, starts 2021? (2012 estimate; compare to original estimate 3.2 billion €, starts 2009)
- c) Total investment into W7-X (1997-2014) = 1.1 bn€ (0.37 bn€ device, 0.1 bn€ buildings, 0.31 bn€ staff; started 2015, not e.g. 2004)
- d) Finland: L\u00e4nsimetro underground (via Otaniemi): 11/2016 estimate 1.2 bn€ (2008 accepted budget 0.7 bn€)



And our goal is ... energy!

ITER = the first fusion reactor

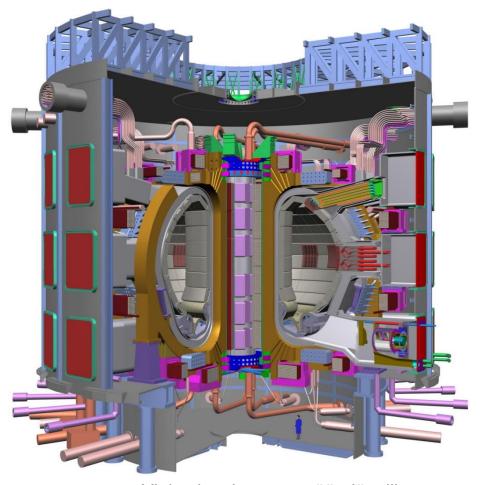
	JET	ITER	
Size	3 m (15 x 15m)	6.2 m (30 x 30m)	
Magn. field	3.4 T	5.3 T	
Plasma current	5 MA	17 MA	
SC coil system	No (copper)	Yes ⇒ cryostat	
P _{aux}	38 MW	50 MW	
P _{fusion}	16 MW	500 MW	
dpa		1 / 20 yrs	





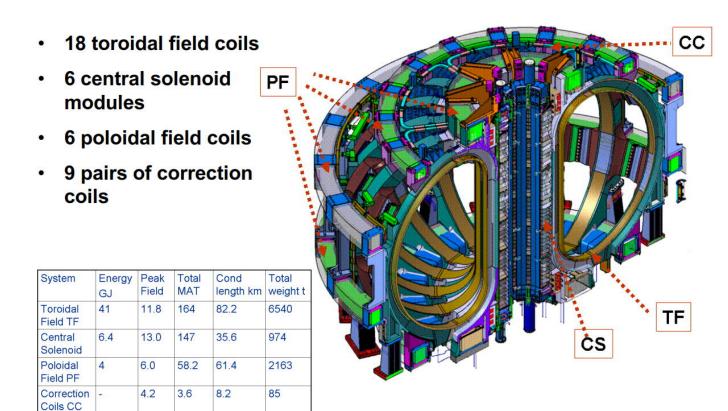
ITER specifications

- Plasma conditions similar to expected power plant
- Technical specs:
 - Total fusion power: 500 MW
 - Q = Fusion power/aux. heating power ≥ 10
 - Plasma major radius: 6.2 m
 - Plasma minor radius: 2.0 m
 - Plasma current: 15 MA
 - Toroidal field at 6.2 m: 5.3 T
 - Plasma volume: 837 m²
 - Installed auxiliary heating: 73 MW
- Cost: 5 + 5 + 0.5 = 10.5 billion (building + operation + decommission) ... heh heh ...

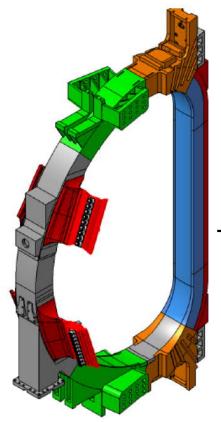


Yleismies Jantunen röörejä tsiikaamassa

ITER is not a small device



A TF coil vs Boeing 747-300 ...



TF coil: 360 t

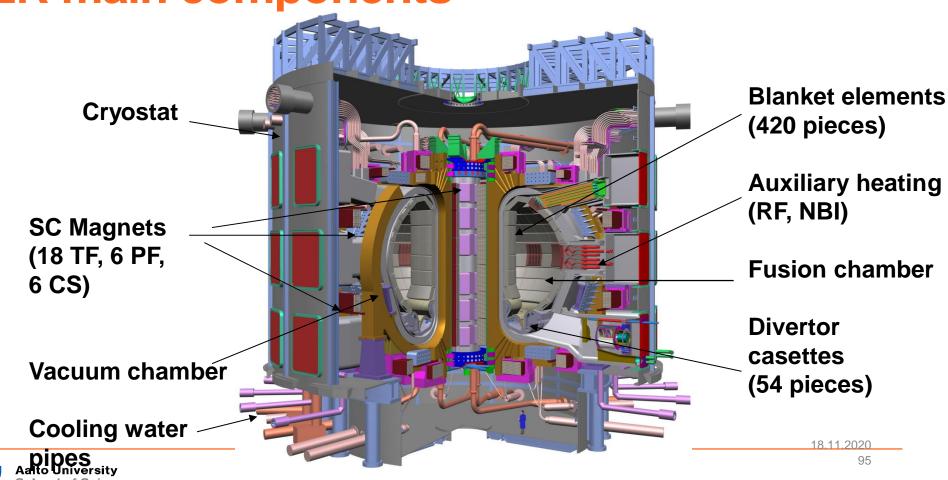


Boeing 747-300: (maximum takeoff weight

~377 t)



ITER main components



ITER construction site 2011





ITER Construction site Dec 2012



ITER Construction site Feb 2015



Iter or



ITER Construction site Feb 2016



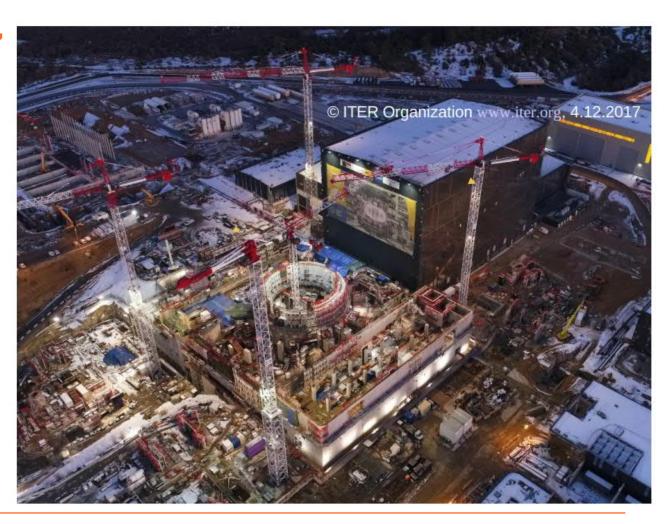
Iter.org



April 2016



December 2017





Electricity needs of ITER:

Steady State Electrical Network

- about 120 MW continuous power
- Main consumers:
- Cooling Water System
- Cryoplant
- Building services

Pulsed Power Electrical Network

- about 500 MW peak pulse
- Main consumers:
- Coil power converters
- Radio Freq. and Neutral Beam systems
- Includes large Static Var Compensators

ITER site is connected to the 400 kV grid in southern France

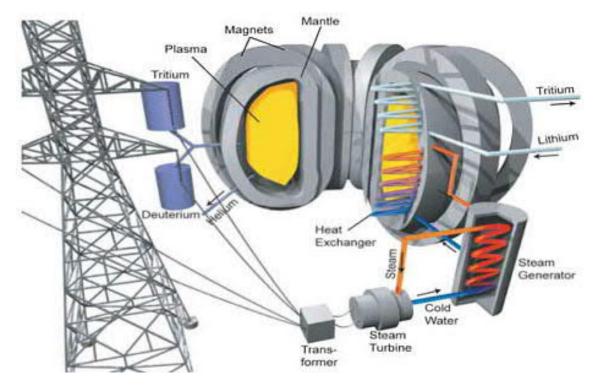
ITER must not perturb voltage by more than 2% (steady state)





And our goal is ... electricity!

DEMO – replace diagnostics by power plant components!





Various designs: DEMO-CREST based on ITER $@P_{fus} = 10xP_{aux}$; ARIES-AT, EU PPPT

- Escalated engineering challenge compared to ITER:
- Fusion material and their limits: neutron fluxes (up to 100 dpa/yr)
- Real-time control of power exhaust (~100 MW)
- Real-time plasma burn control (e.g., 50-50 mix)

	ITER (R=6.2 m, P _{tot} =120 MW)			DEMO (R=8.5 m, P _{tot} =400 MW)		
	P _{sep} [MW]	P _{LH} [MW]	P _{rad,core} [MW]	P _{sep} [MW]	P _{LH} [MW]	P _{rad,core} [MW]
lower bound	43	~ 70	77 (64%)	60	~100	340 (85%)
upper bound	93	~ 70	27 (22%)	125	~100	275 (70%)

Zohm et al., IAEA-FEC 2012

"Korea aims at completing a DEMO by 2037"





Newest new: USA wants regain lead ... SPARC!!

- Compact, high-field, DT burning tokamak at MIT
- Confine a plasma with net fusion energy
- Aggressive schedule: working in 15 years
- High-risk, high-gain project
- VERY similar to European TE Ltd but with more hype



https://www.psfc.mit.edu/sparc

Fusion reactor = "steam kettle"

- operating temperature 100 million deg ...

- feed D-T gas to reactor chamber
- Heat to fusion temperature
- Reactions start →
- 3.5 MeV fusion alphas stay and heat
- 14.1 MeV n's transport power out of the magnetic cage and heat the water in the cooling pipes within the walls
- Cooled-down He ash led to the *divertor*
- Breed more T: fusion neutrons + Li in the reactor blanket
- Something fails → fusion conditions are lost → burn is quenched

