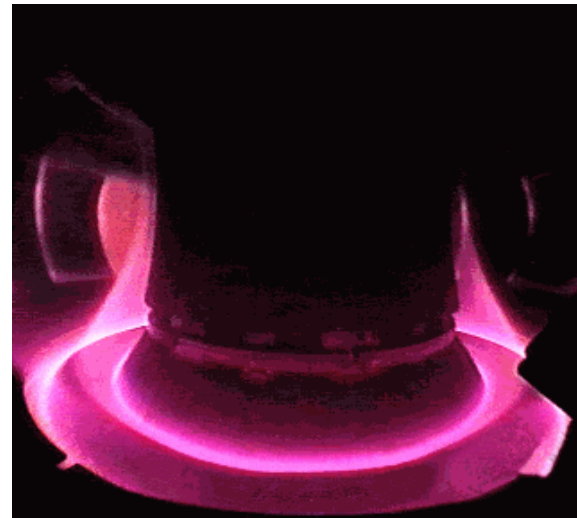
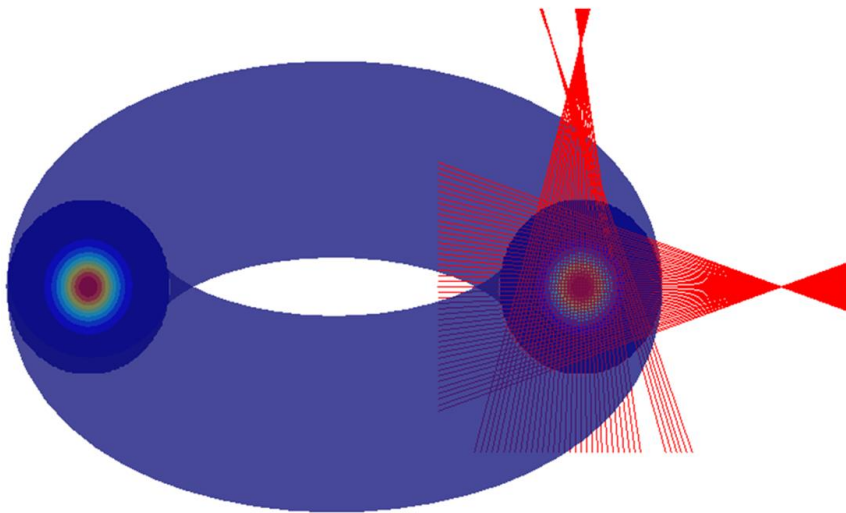


X-ray tomography for the control of high-Z impurities in tokamak plasmas



Axel Jardin | N06 – NZ61 | 17-03-2022

Department of Radiation Transport Physics (NZ61)
Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences (IFJ PAN), Krakow



Background

❑ Zakład Fizyki Transportu Promieniowania (N06/NZ61)

Research: neutron/X-ray radiation, nuclear fusion, plasma physics

The PF-24 device

- ✓ Plasma Focus PF-24,
- ✓ Neutron generator,
- ✓ Neutron transport MCNP calculations,
- ✓ ITER neutron spectro. (HRNS), IFMIF-DONES,
- ✓ Fusion plasma diagnostics and X-ray imaging,
- ✓ Collaborations: CEA (WEST), IPP Prague (COMPASS), etc...



❑ My post-doctoral researches in IFJ PAN since 2018:

- ✓ Tomography methods for X-ray/neutron diagnostics [POLONIUM 2018 - 19]
- ✓ Impurity transport studies in fusion devices (tokamaks) [EUROFusion 2018 - ...]
- ✓ Fast electron collisions with high-Z ions, current drive [HARMONIA 2019 - 23]

❑ Nagroda naukowa im. Henryka Niewodniczańskiego 2021:

„The development of soft X-ray tomography methods for experimental and theoretical investigations of high-Z impurities transport in tokamak plasmas”

[K. Król PhD 28.03.2022]
[J. Walkowiak PoP 2022]
[D. Mazon JINST 2022]
[Y. Peysson IAEA 2021]
[A. Jardin IFJ 2020]

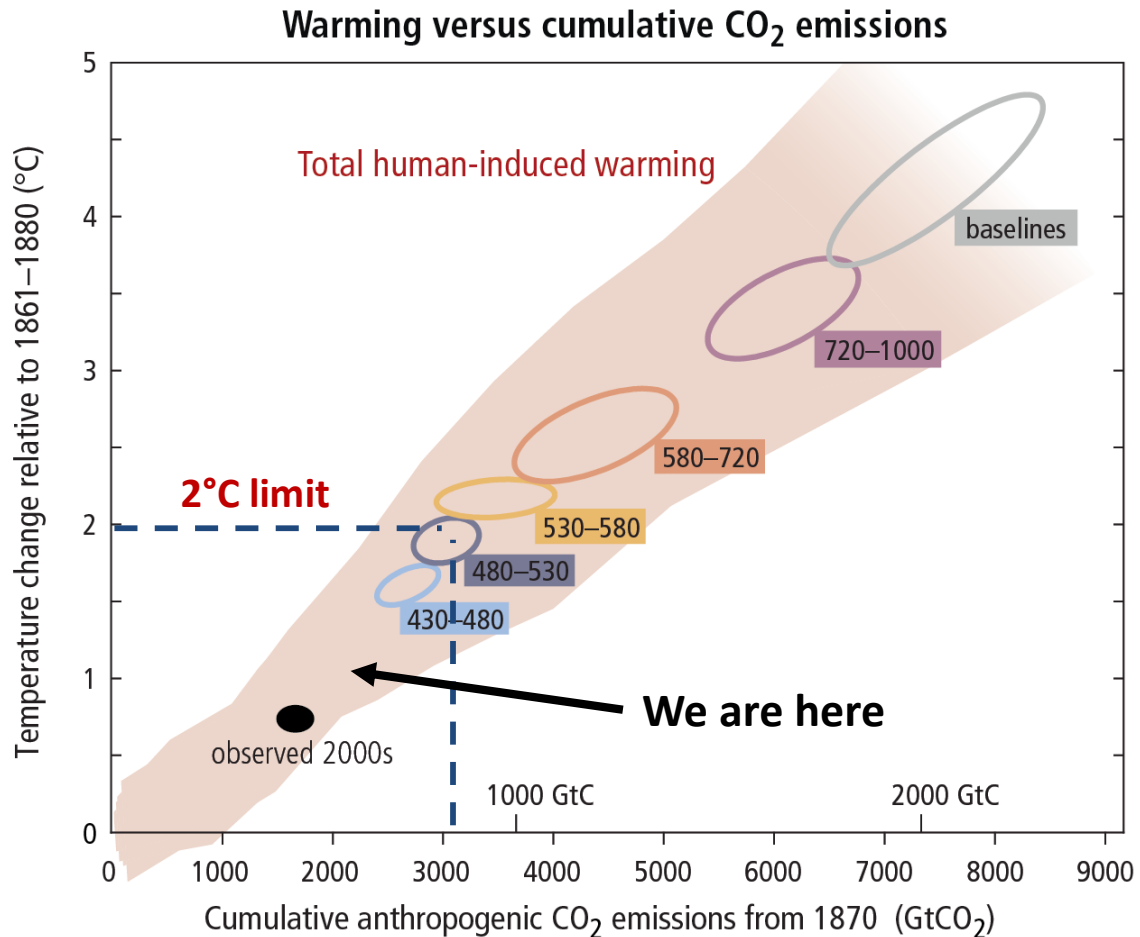


- Fusion Energy & recent results (NIF, JET)**
- The tokamak concept**
- Radiation of high-Z impurities**
- X-ray tomography for monitoring impurity transport**
 - Soft X-ray tomography
 - Impact of heating systems on impurity distribution
 - Prospect for real-time control



CO₂ and Climate Change

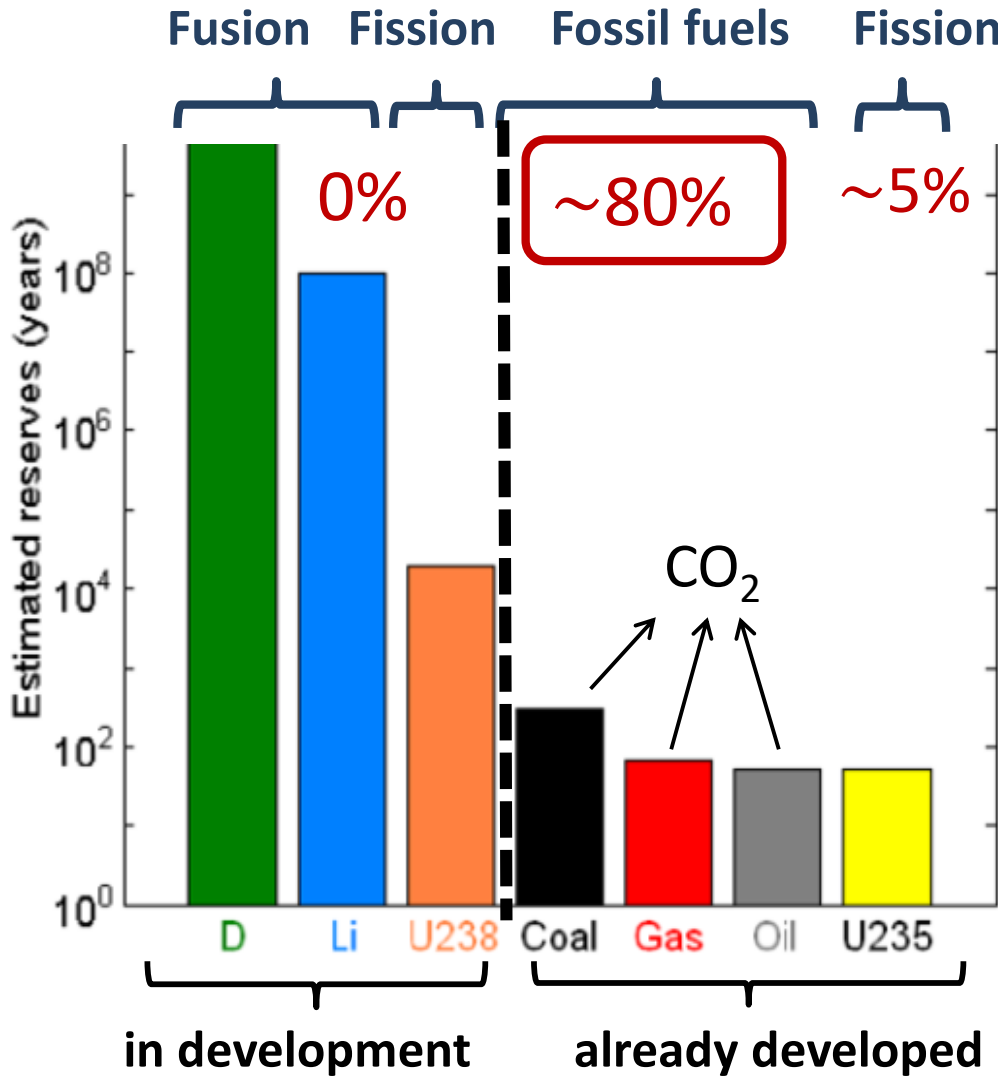
- Environmental constraints → limit global warming < 2°C
→ limit CO₂ emissions < 3000 GtCO₂



[IPCC 2014]



World energy reserves $\sim 10^2$ years



+ Renewable energies (∞)

(Wood, Hydroelectricity, Sun, Wind, ...)

~5%

~5%

~5%

close to saturation

intermittent
& sparse

→ Need for abundant, stable
and low-CO₂ energy sources.

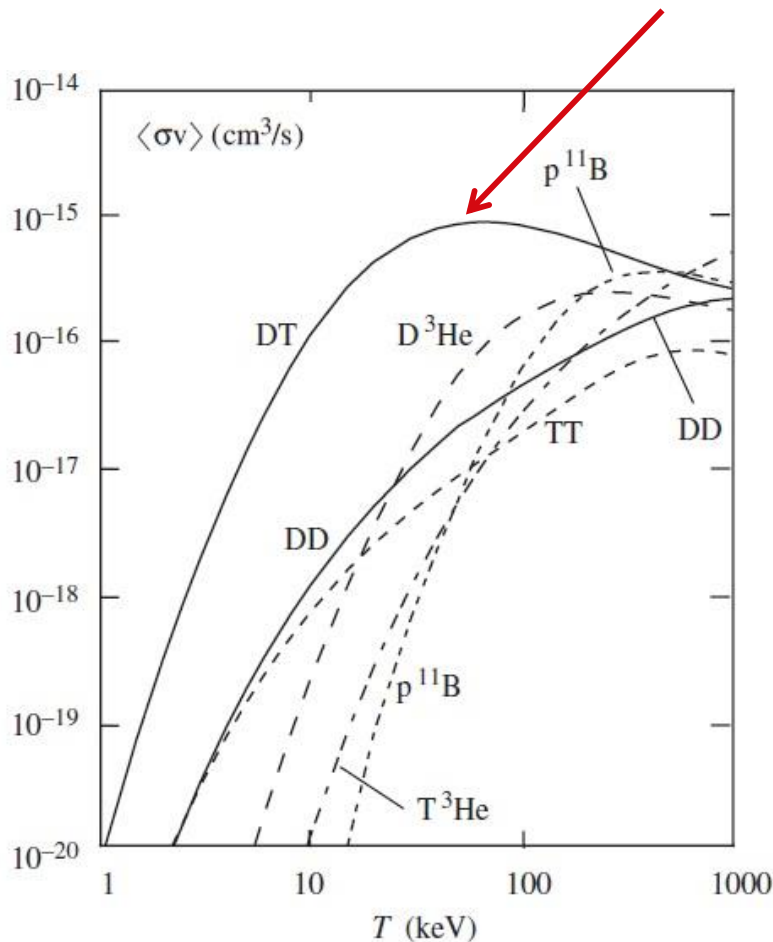
[C. Guillemaut PhD 2013]



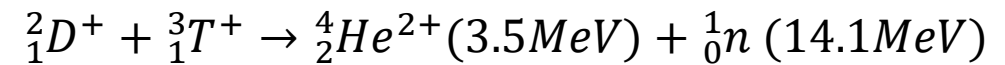
fusion reaction rate $\langle \sigma v \rangle$

□ Fusion reaction rate for different reactants:

→ **D-T** easiest fusion reaction on Earth.



$\langle \sigma v \rangle$ = fusion reaction rate
 σ = reaction cross-section
 v = reactants relative velocity
 $\langle \dots \rangle$ = average over Maxwellian distribution



→ Requires plasma at $T \geq 10$ keV
($> 10^8$ K)

→ How to obtain efficient plasma?



Efficiency of thermonuclear fusion

Plasma energy confinement τ_E

$$\tau_E = \frac{Q_p}{P_{loss}} = \frac{3nT}{P_{loss}}$$

Q_p – internal plasma energy per unit volume,

P_{loss} – power loss density,

n – plasma density, T – temperature,

τ_E – Energy confinement time

a measure of the plasma cooling rate in the event of switching off the heating systems

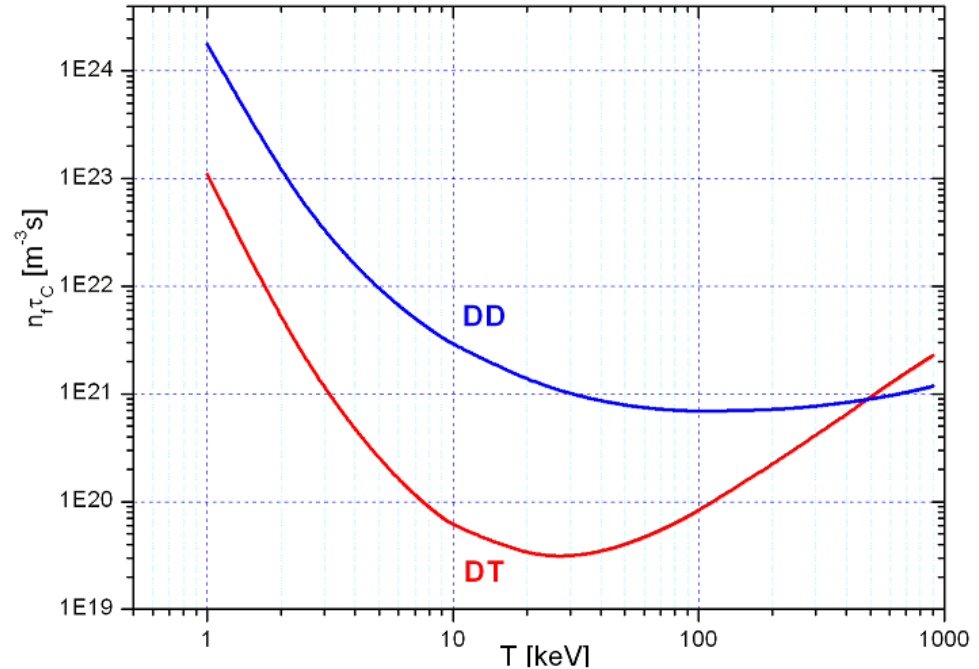
$$P_f \geq \frac{Q_p}{\tau_E}$$

P_f – fusion power density,

$$\frac{1}{4} n^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle Q_{DT} \geq \frac{3nT}{\tau_E} \quad \Rightarrow \quad n\tau_E \geq \frac{12T}{\langle \sigma v \rangle Q_{DT}}$$

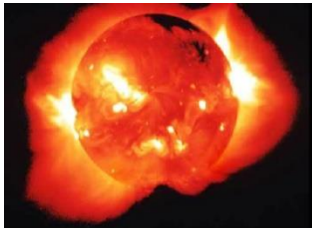
$n\tau_E$ – quantity characterizing the quality of energy maintenance in the plasma

Condition for $P_f \geq P_{loss}$

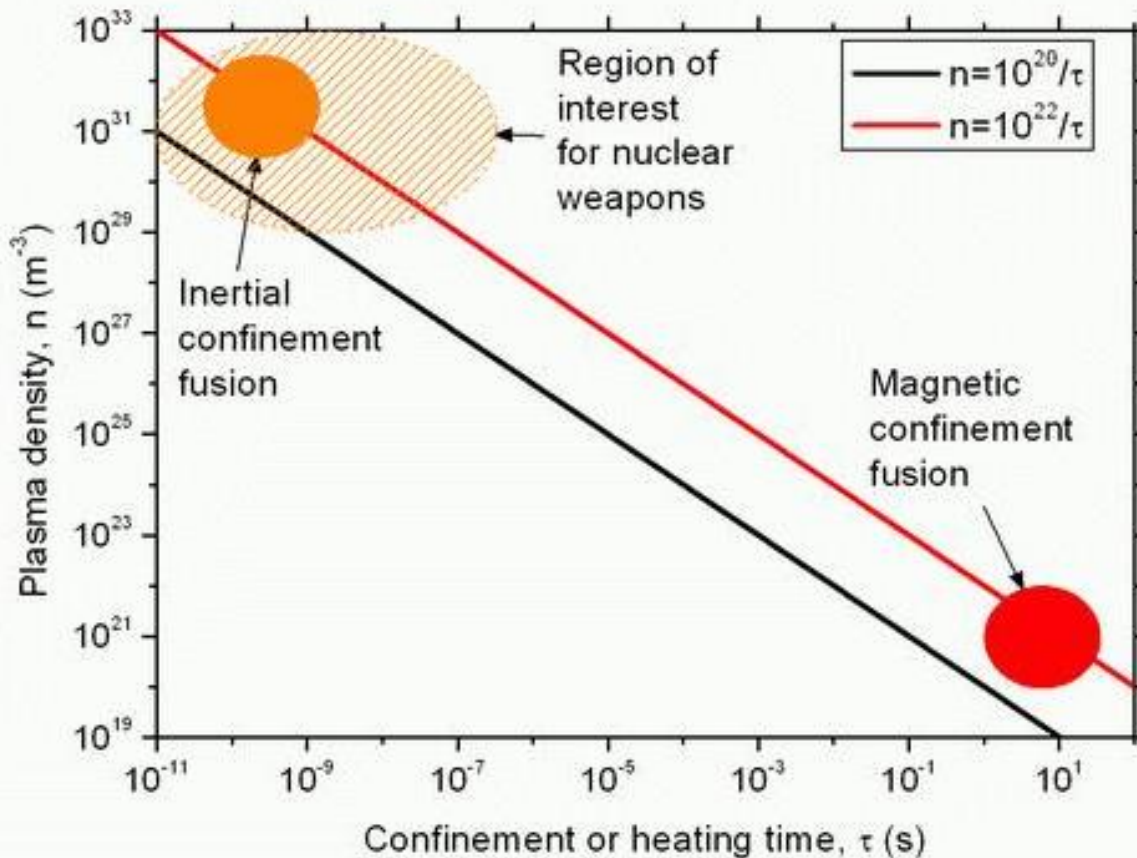




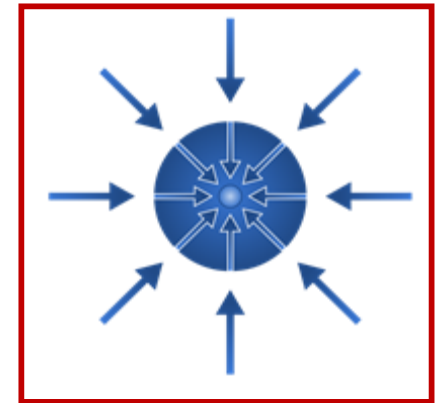
Efficiency of thermonuclear fusion



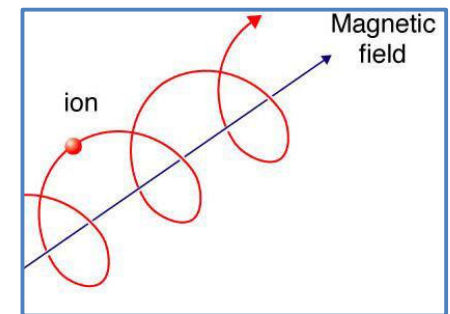
$T \sim 24 \text{ keV}; (n\tau)_{\min} > 10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3}\text{s} \quad (\text{D,T})$
(1 keV $\sim 10^7 \text{ K}$)



Inertial confinement

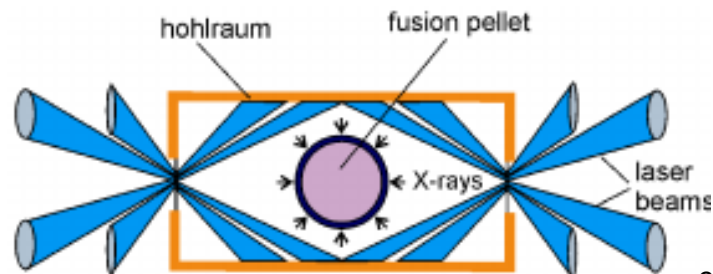
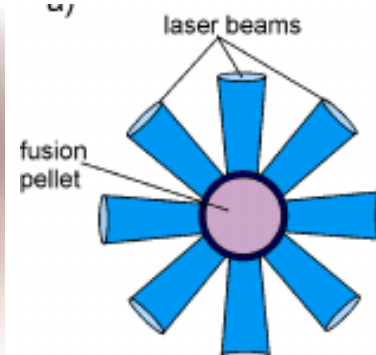
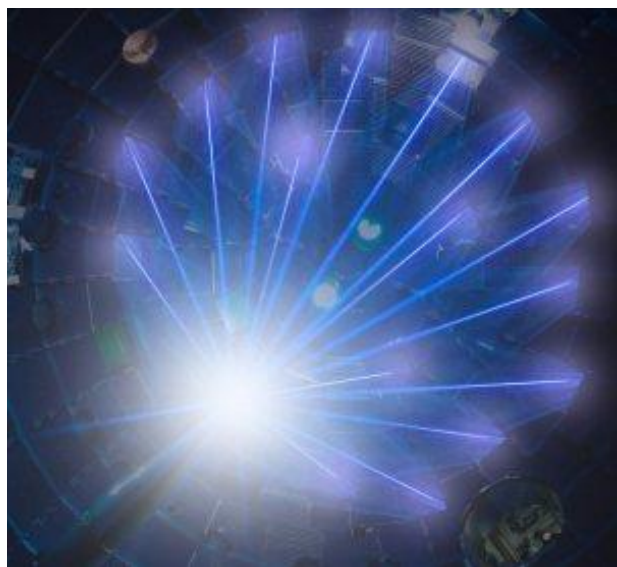
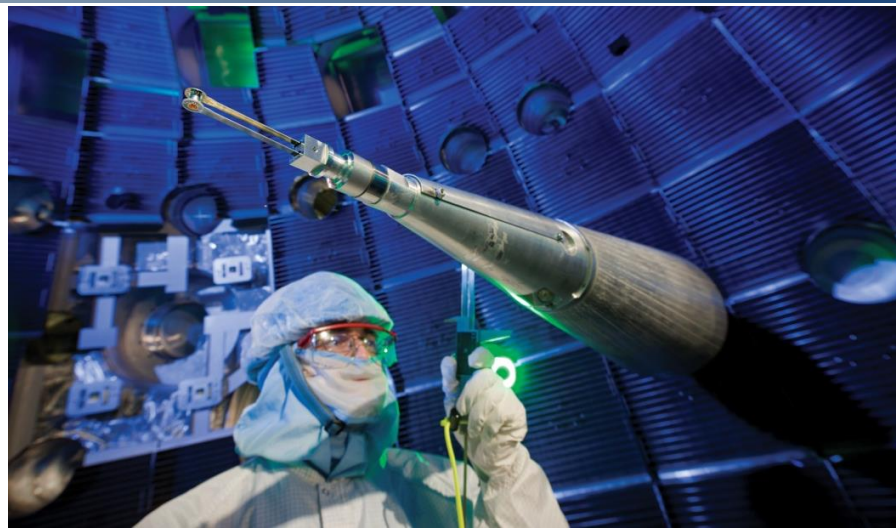
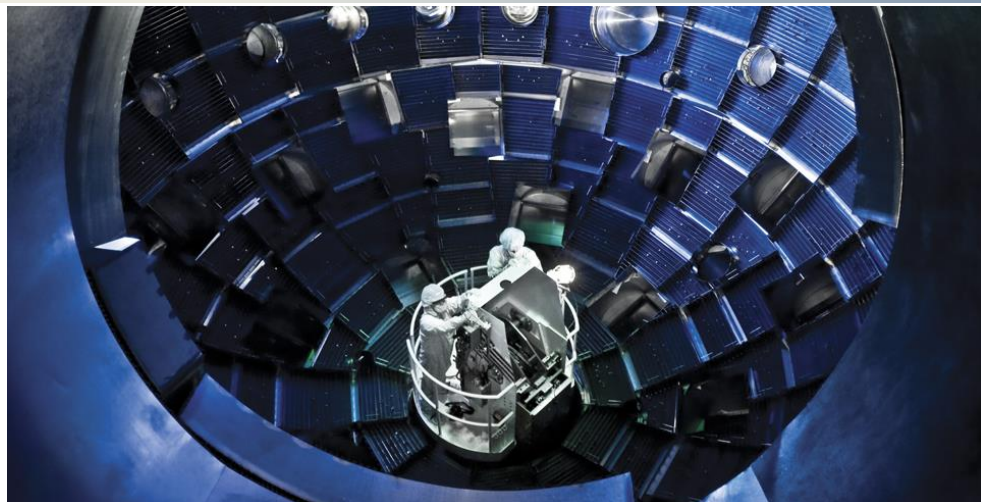


Magnetic confinement





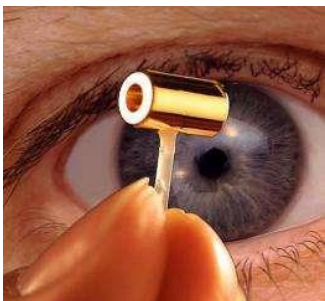
Inertial Fusion: Laser ignition devices





National Ignition Facility (NIF, USA)

➤ Method: indirect drive



[O. Hurricane (2014) Nature]

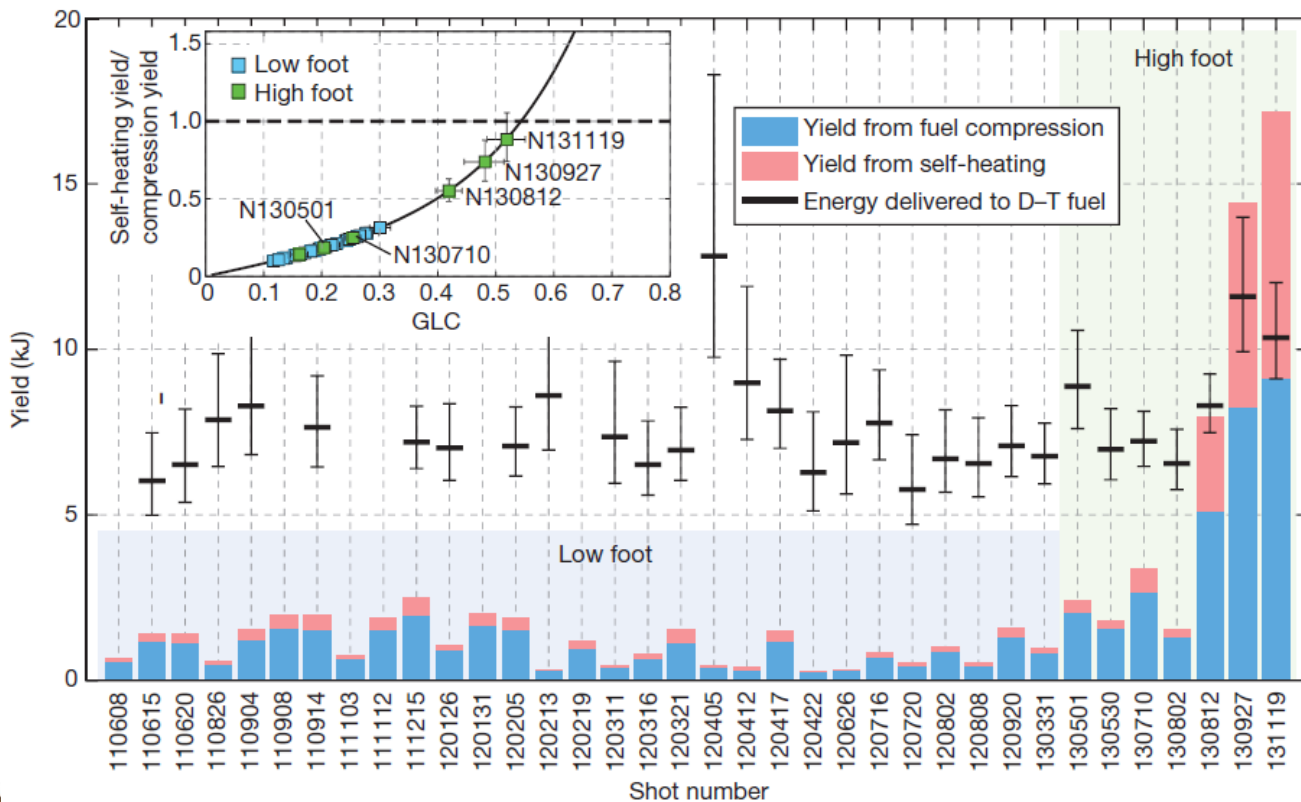
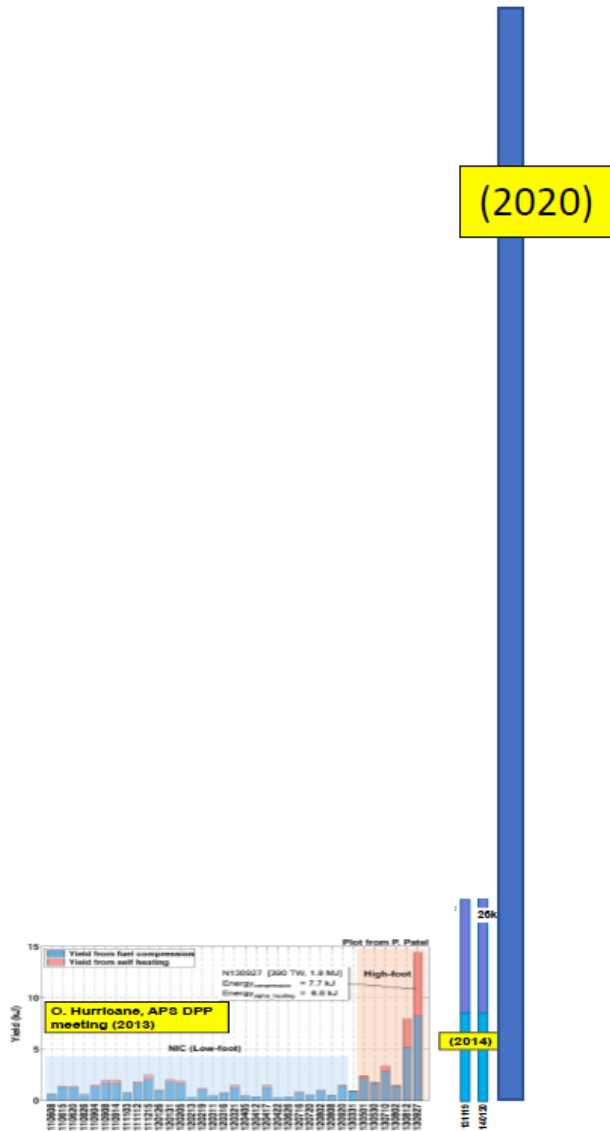


Figure 3 | Yield and energetics metrics for shots on the NIF. Total fusion yield is plotted versus shot number (that is, time). Shots 110608–130331 are low-foot shots. Shots 130501–131119 are high-foot shots. The bars showing total yield are broken into components of yield coming from α -particle self-heating and yield coming from compression. The black dashes denote the energy delivered to the D-T (fuel plus hotspot) with error bars (black vertical

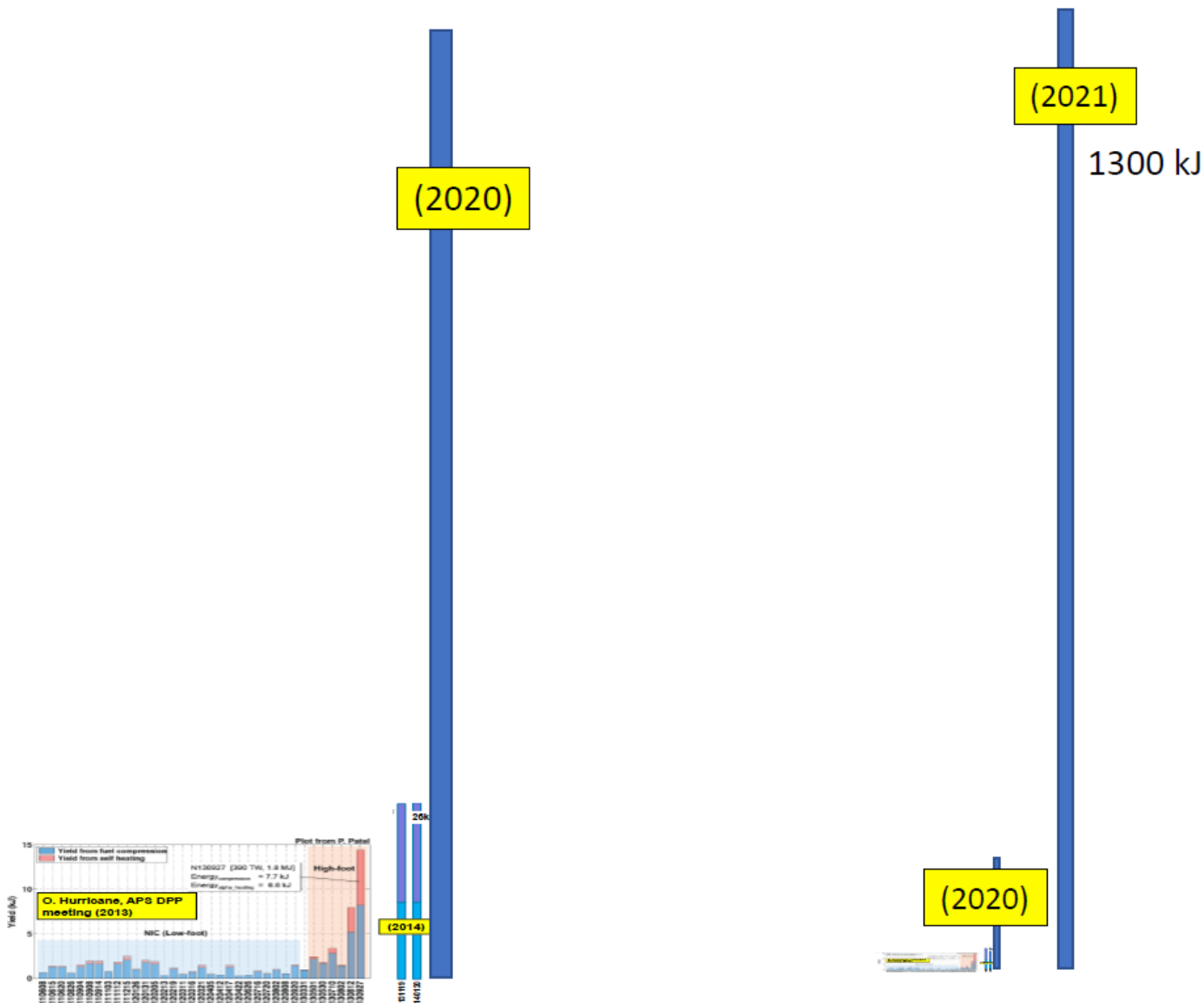


Recent results on NIF (2020)





Recent results on NIF (2021)





Recent results on NIF (2021)

❑ Nature article, 2021:

„roughly 700 times the generating capacity of the entire US electrical grid at any given moment.”

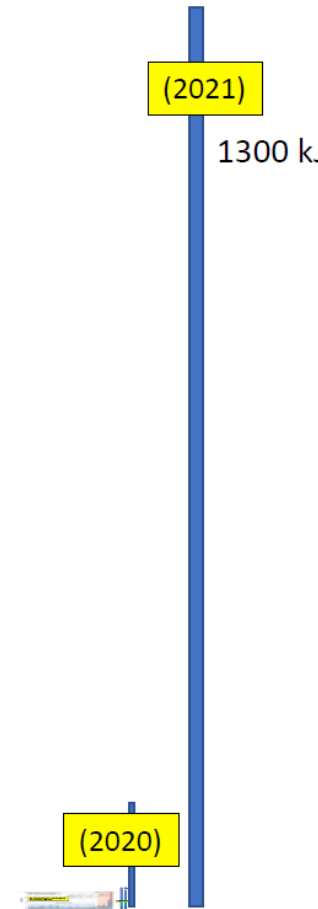
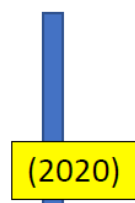
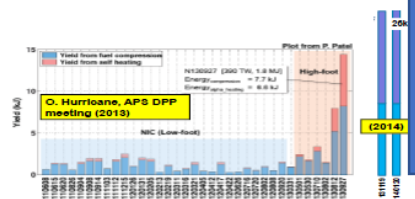
<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02338-4>

❑ A. B. Zylstra et al. (2021) Phys. Rev. Lett.

„We report new implosions conducted on the National Ignition Facility (NIF) with several improvements on recent work [...]: larger capsules, thicker fuel layers to mitigate fuel-ablator mix, and new symmetry control via cross-beam energy transfer”

<https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.025001>

But concept still far from a fusion reactor...

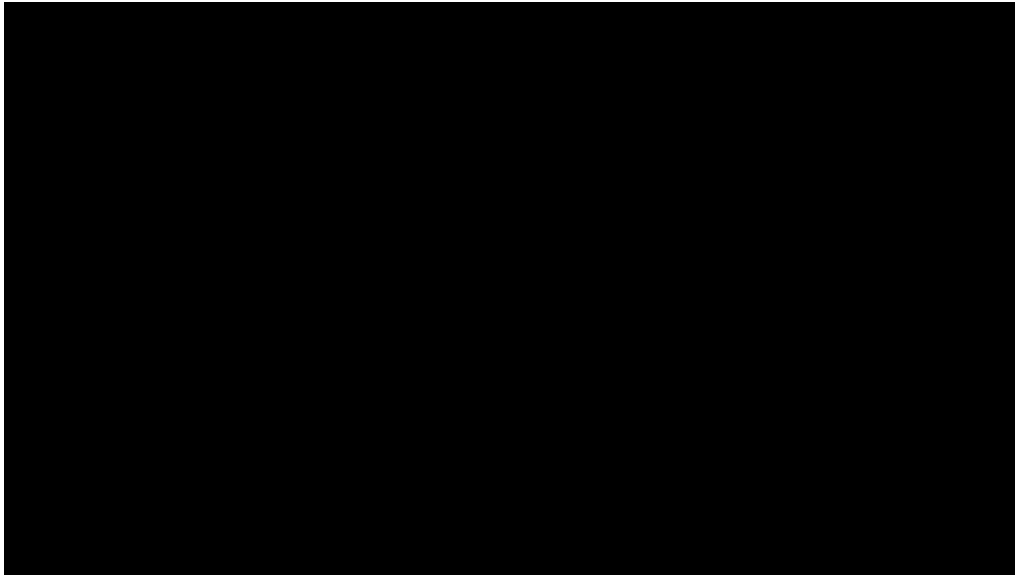




Magnetic confinement fusion

❑ JET (Joint European Torus) Press conference (09.02.2022):

- Record of fusion energy in one tokamak plasma discharge (59 MJ)



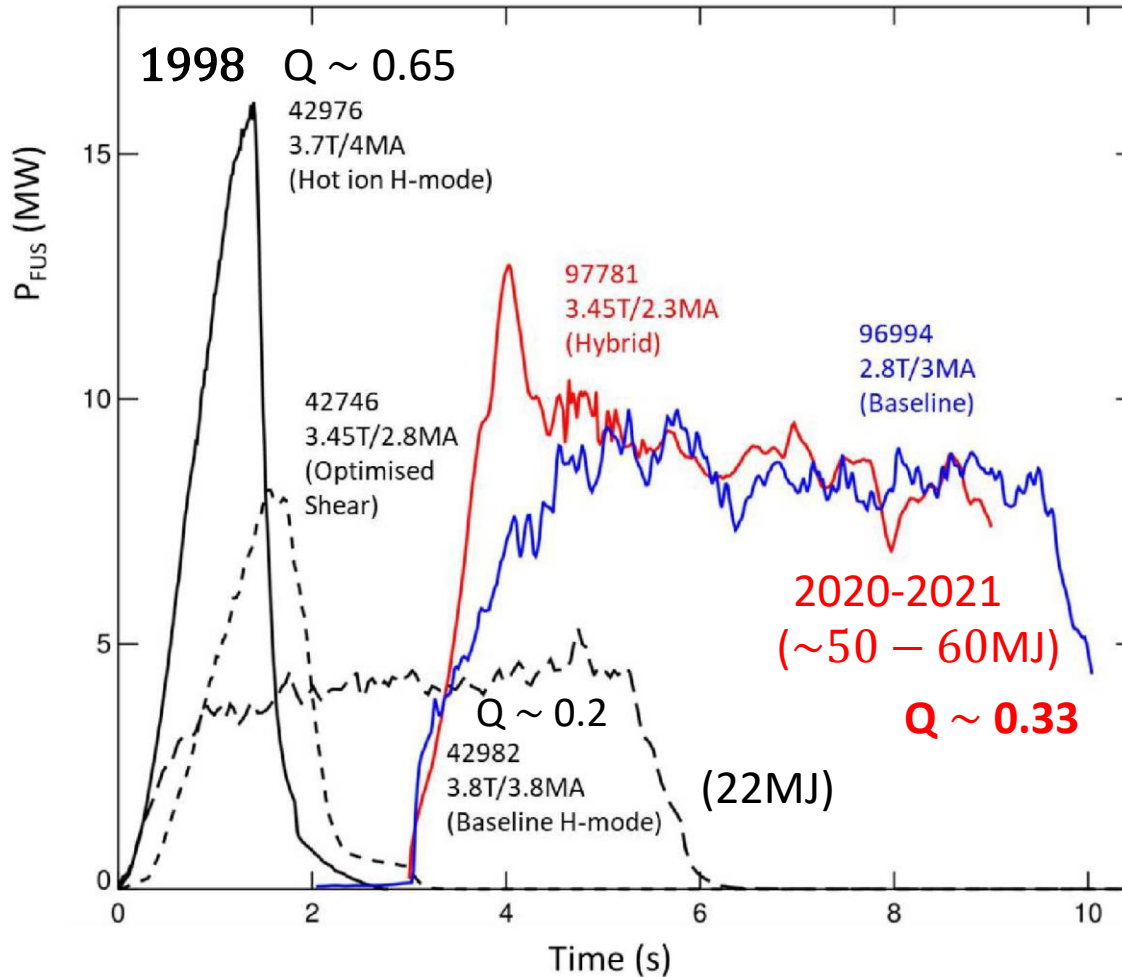
[M. Scholz, „Recent results of the DTE2 experiment at the JET ILW”, PEGAN seminar 02.03.2022]





JET recent results

Fusion power (MW) on JET tokamak (UK)



Fusion Energy gain:

$$Q = \frac{P_{fus}}{P_{heat}}$$

[J. Mailloux et al., *Overview of JET results for optimising ITER operation* (2022) *Nucl. Fusion*]

Figure 1 - P_{FUS} for DTE1 shots (black) with peak power and energy and $P_{EQ,DT}$ for JET-ILW best sustained performance for hybrid (red) and baseline (blue) plasmas. The start time is adjusted to facilitate comparison.



Fusion Energy & recent results (NIF, JET)

The tokamak concept

Radiation of high-Z impurities

X-ray tomography for monitoring impurity transport

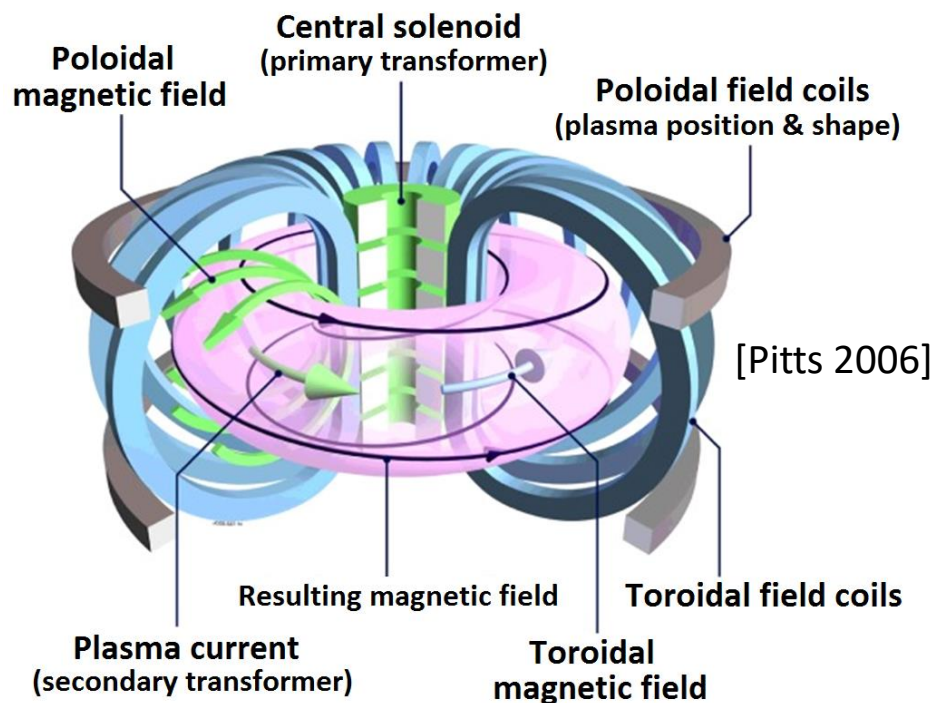
- Soft X-ray tomography
- Impact of heating systems on impurity distribution
- Prospect for real-time control



Tokamak – magnetic confinement

■ Tokamak is based on magnetic confinement:

- ✓ **Toroidal magnetic field** created by external coils
→ trapping of particles in a torus-shaped vacuum chamber



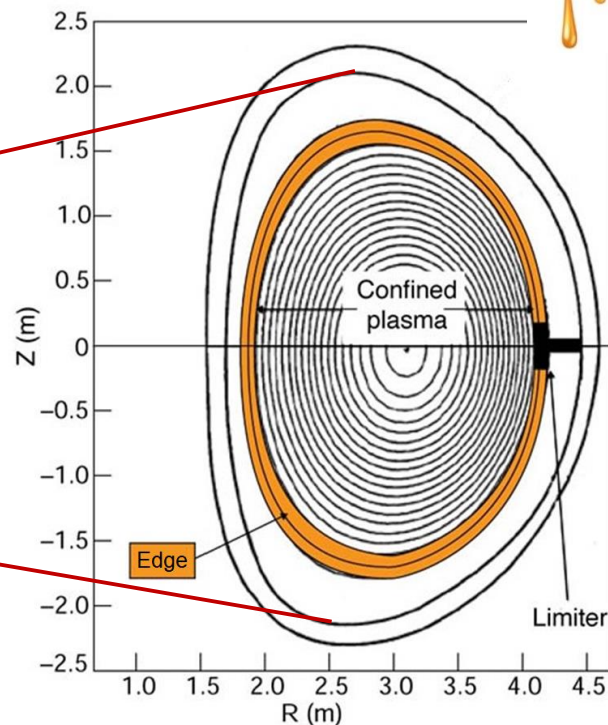
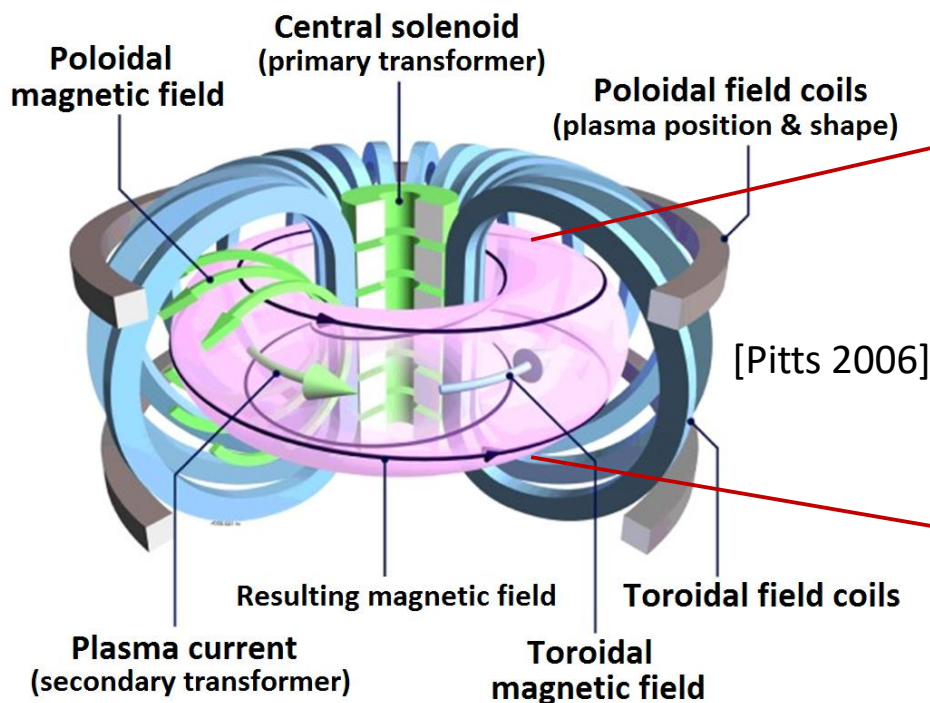


Tokamak – magnetic confinement

■ Tokamak is based on magnetic confinement:

- ✓ **Toroidal magnetic field** created by external coils
→ trapping of particles in a torus-shaped vacuum chamber
- ✓ **Poloidal field** self-generated by plasma electric current
→ compensate for drifts and stabilize the plasma
→ control of the plasma current profile is crucial!

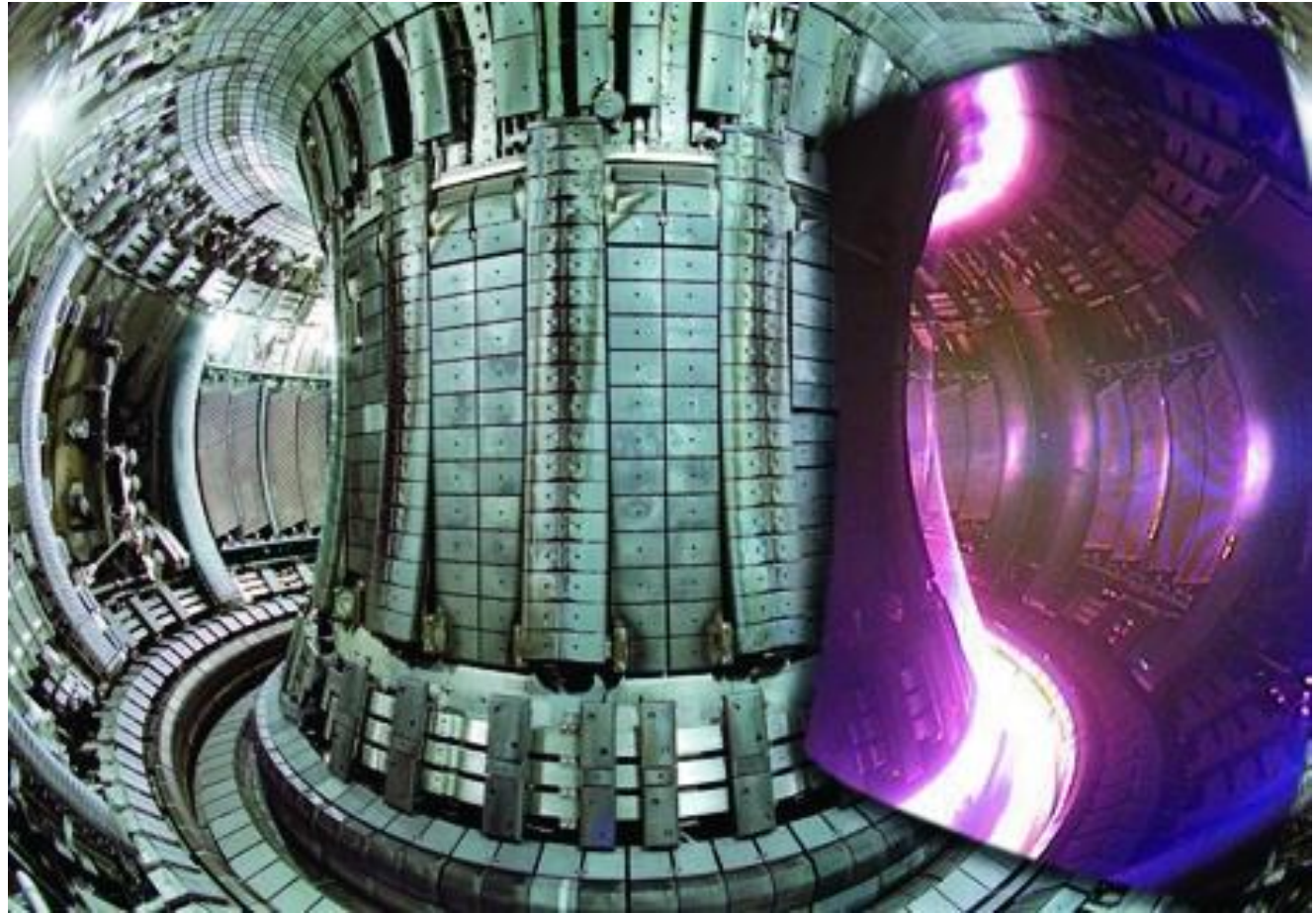
Nested magnetic flux surfaces





Tokamak

■ The Joint European Torus (JET), EUROfusion, Oxfordshire:





Tokamak = Obwarzanek z makiem

■ The **Joint European Torus (JET)**, EUROfusion, Oxfordshire:

Confined
plasma particles

Helical magnetic
field lines



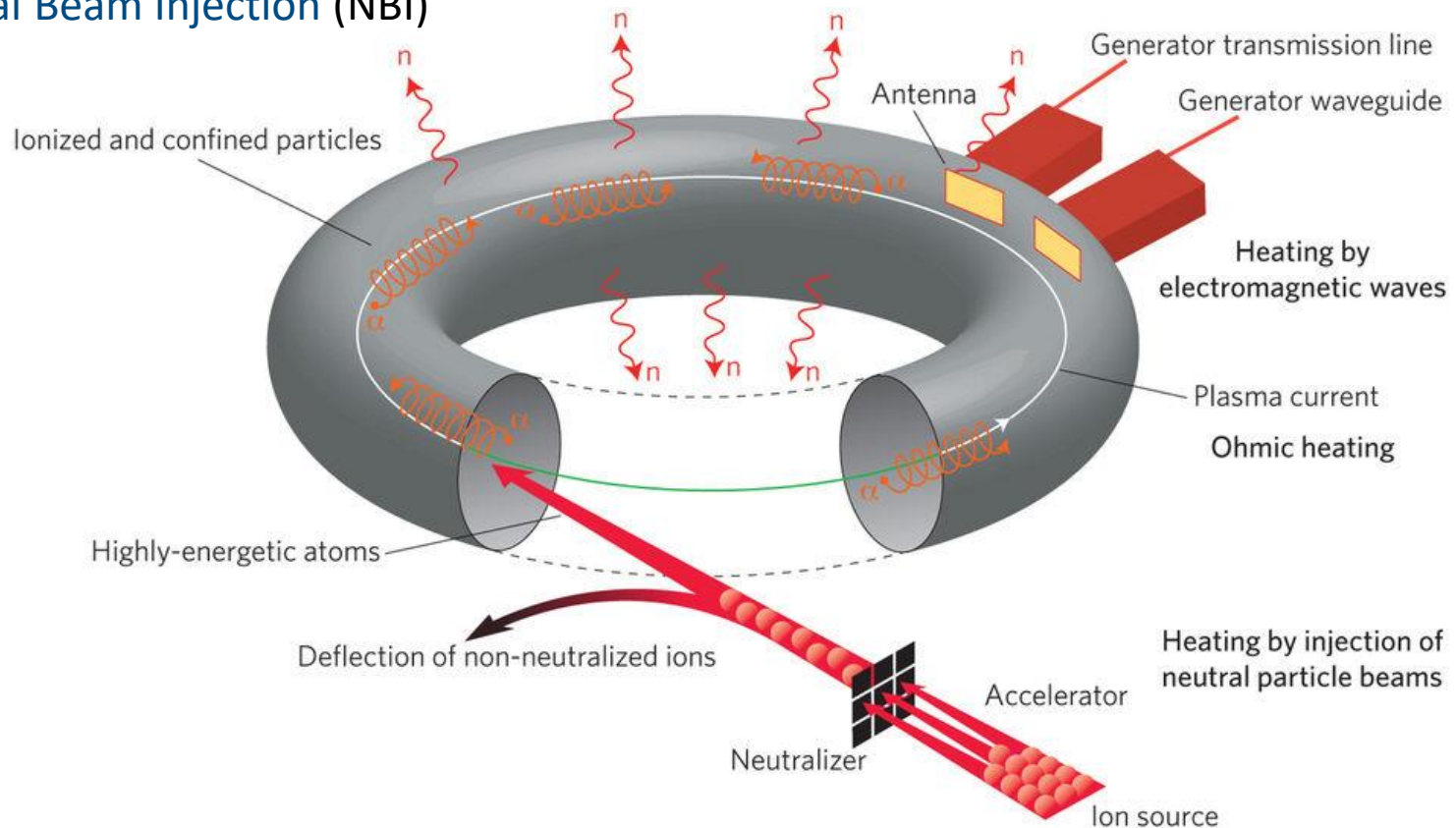
Torus shape



Plasma heating methods in tokamaks

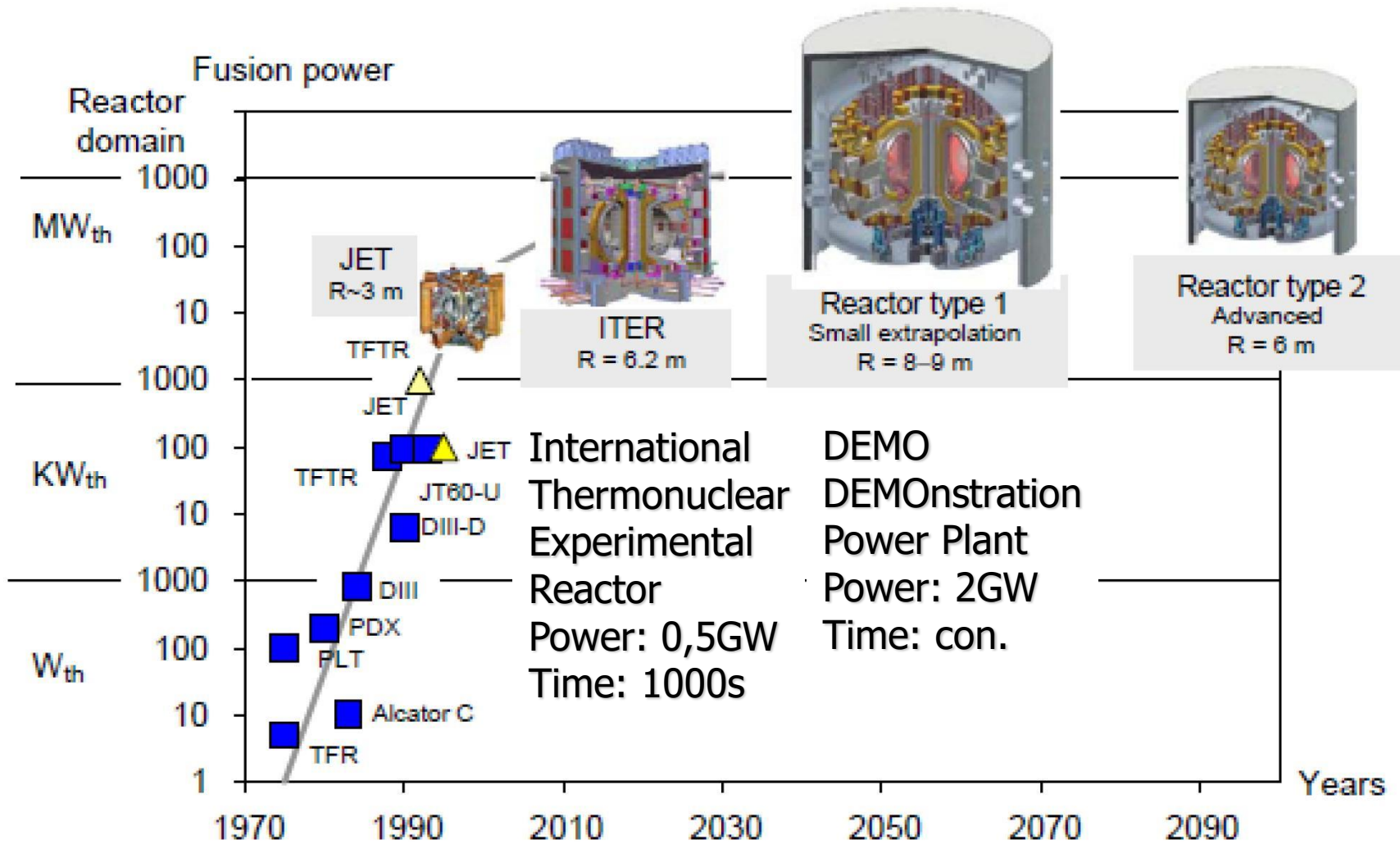
□ Main heating methods in tokamak plasmas:

- ✓ Central solenoid: plasma heating by Joule effect, transient.
- ✓ Electromagnetic waves: Electron / Ion Cyclotron Resonance Frequency (ECRH, ICRH)
- ✓ Neutral Beam Injection (NBI)





History of Fusion Reactors



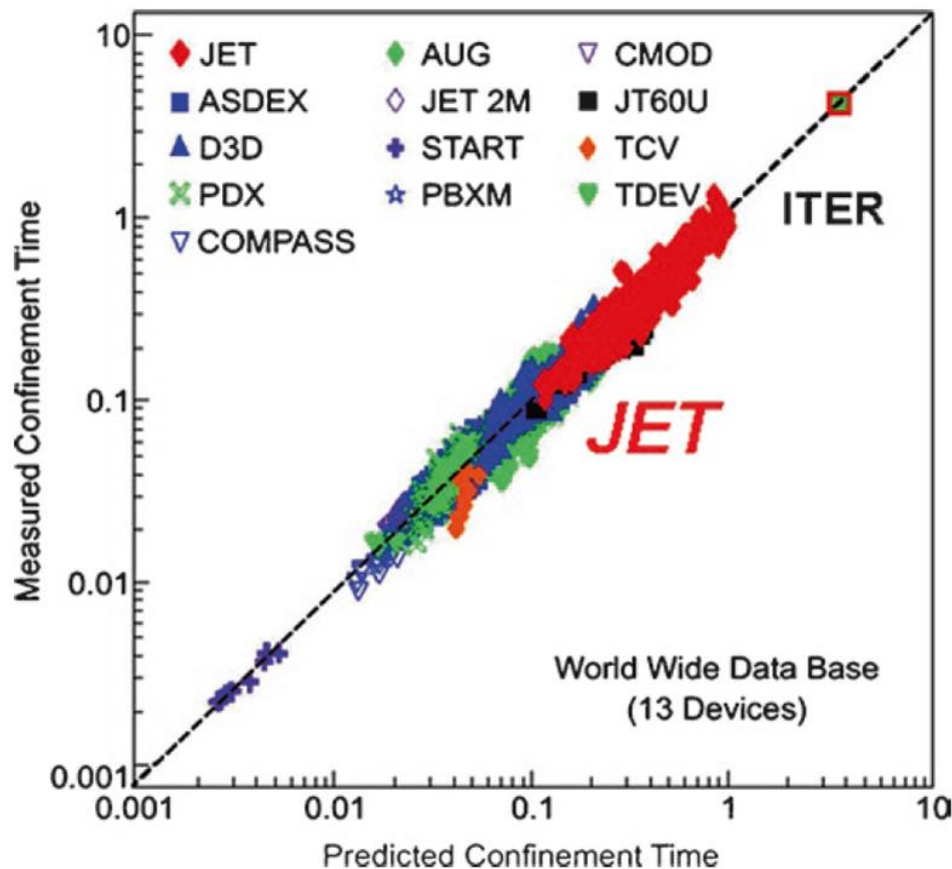


ITER → increase confinement time τ_E

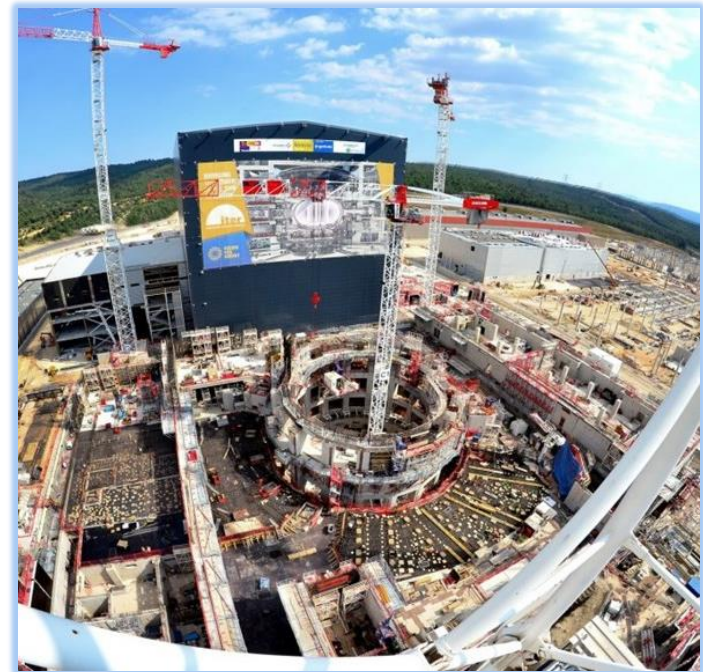
□ Optimize $n\tau_E$ in tokamaks: low density n , high confinement time τ_E

□ Efficient Fusion reactor: bigger is better (for energy confinement time τ_E)

$$\tau_E \sim I_p^{0.93} B_T^{0.15} P^{-0.69} n_e^{0.41} M^{0.19} R^{1.97} \epsilon^{0.58} \kappa^{0.78}$$



International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor: ITER (under construction in France)



→ First device with $\tau_E > 1s$ in fusion relevant steady-state conditions.



Some ITER physics challenges

- ✓ **Disruptions:** loss of confinement, heat / mechanical loads
→ Prediction, Avoidance, Mitigation
- ✓ **Plasma wall interaction:** wall erosion, heat flux (active cooling)
- ✓ **High-Z (W) impurity radiation** → avoid central accumulation
- ✓ **Diagnostics:** hardness to neutrons/heat flux → which technologies?
- ✓ **Real-time control** of fusion power and plasma stability
- ✓ **Tritium** cycle and retention in walls
- ✓ Burning plasma: **neutron load, energy extraction, Helium ashes** exhaust
- ✓ etc...

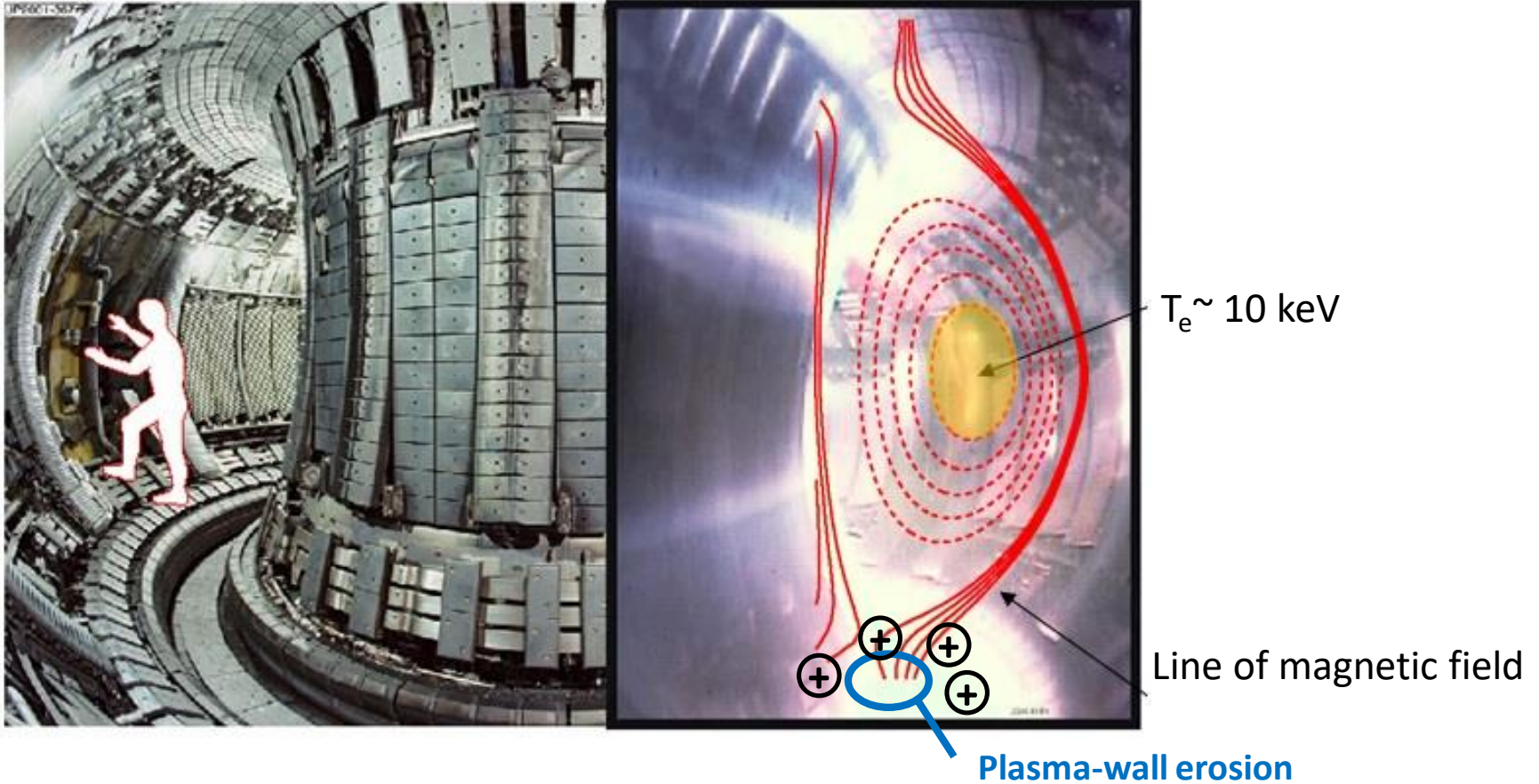


- Fusion Energy & recent results (NIF, JET)
- The tokamak concept
- Radiation of high-Z impurities**
- X-ray tomography for monitoring impurity transport
 - Soft X-ray tomography
 - Impact of heating systems on impurity distribution
 - Prospect for real-time control



Plasma-wall erosion and impurities

Joint European Torus (JET), Oxfordshire.

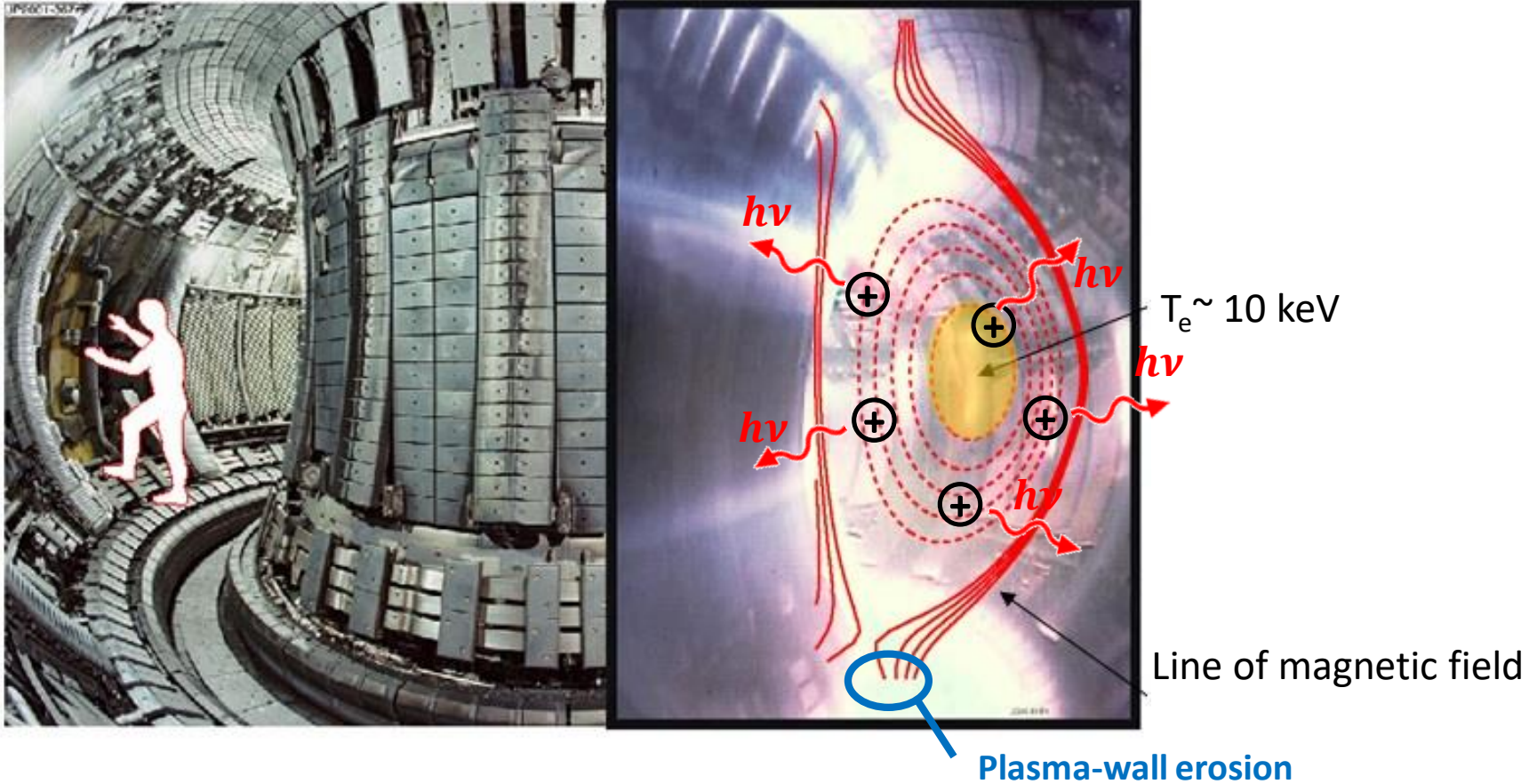


- Heat and particle fluxes from the confined region toward the wall
→ erosion of plasma-facing components of the tokamak.



Plasma-wall erosion and impurities

Joint European Torus (JET), Oxfordshire.



- ❑ Heat and particle fluxes from the confined region toward the wall
→ erosion of plasma-facing components of the tokamak.
- ❑ Migration of the sputtered impurities → **Radiation in the plasma core**
→ **Degradation of fusion performances**



High-Z impurity radiation in plasmas

$$P_{rad,Z} = n_e^2 c_Z L_Z(T_e)$$

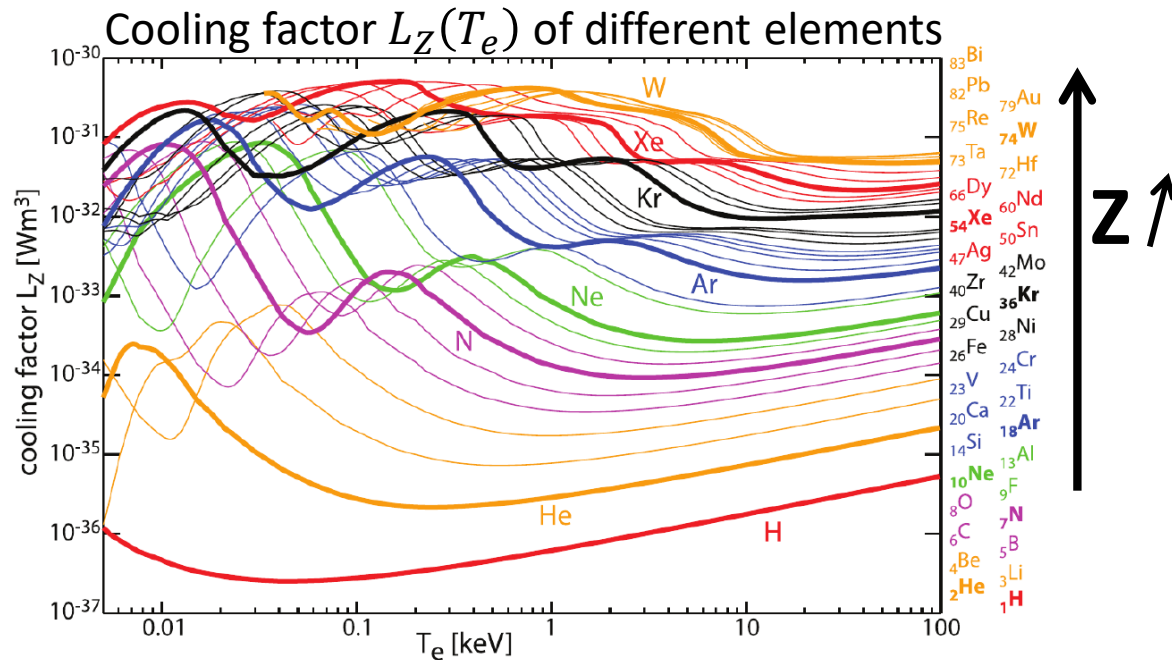
electron density (m^{-3}) Impurity concentration Cooling factor of Z ($W.m^3$)

Impurity radiation increases with atomic number Z (high-Z):

Dominant radiation processes:

- **Bremsstrahlung** (free-free)
- **Radiative recombination** (free-bound)
- **Line radiation** (bound-bound)

Soft X-ray range
[0.1 keV – 20 keV]

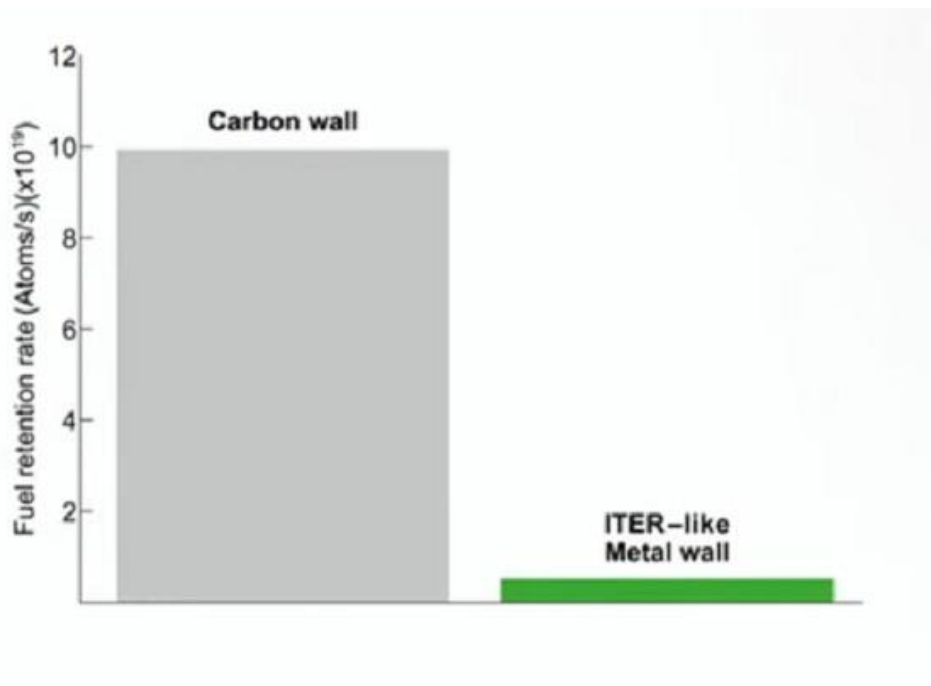




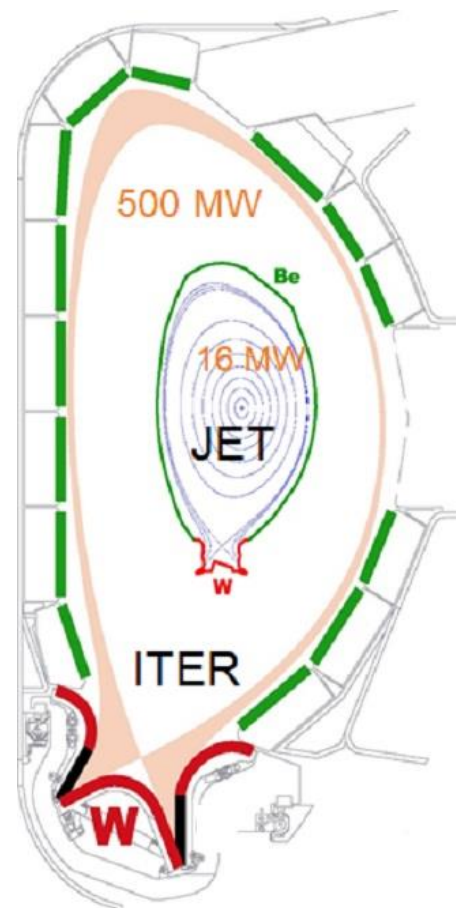
JET - from carbon wall to metallic wall

Modern tokamaks:

carbon (C) → metallic wall (Be, W) to avoid tritium retention

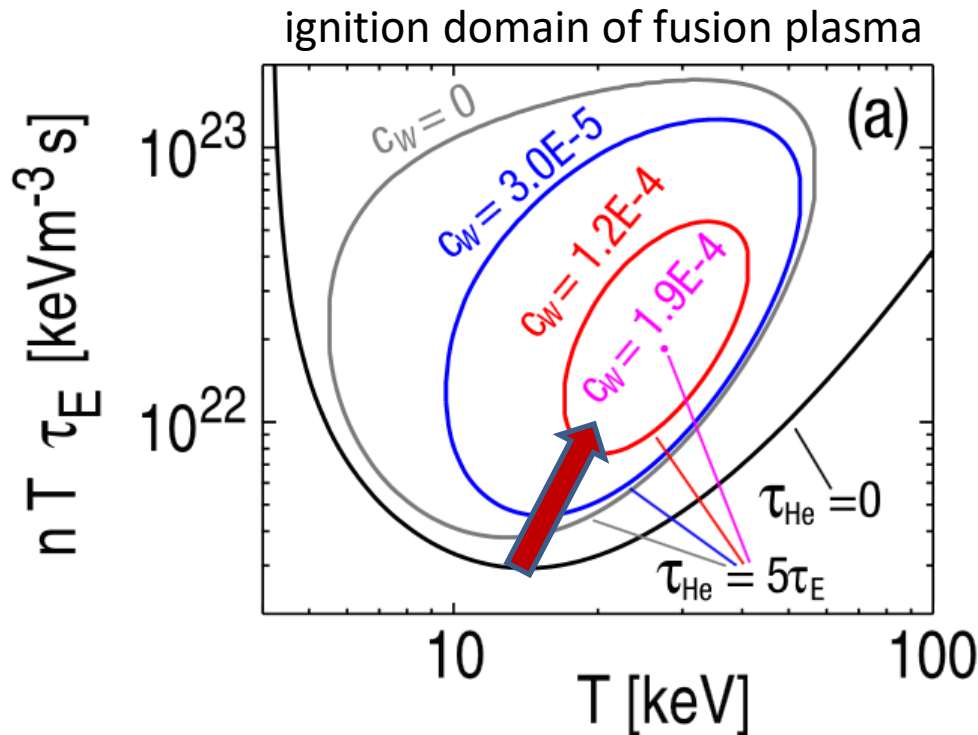


Reduction of fuel absorption in the walls by a factor >10





W impurities shrink the operational domain



T [keV] – plasma temperature

n [1/m³] – plasma density

τ_E [s] – energy confinement time

τ_{He} – Helium confinement time

c_W – impurity concentration (W)

[T. Putterich et al., Nuclear Fusion 50 (2), 025012 (2010)]

❑ A concentration $f_W < 0.01\%$ is a requirement for a fusion reactor

→ Diagnostic tools and actuators to control the tungsten core concentration are required!



- ❑ Fusion Energy & recent results (NIF, JET)
- ❑ The tokamak concept
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- ❑ **X-ray tomography for monitoring impurity transport**
 - **Soft X-ray tomography**
 - Impact of heating systems on impurity distribution
 - Prospect for real-time control



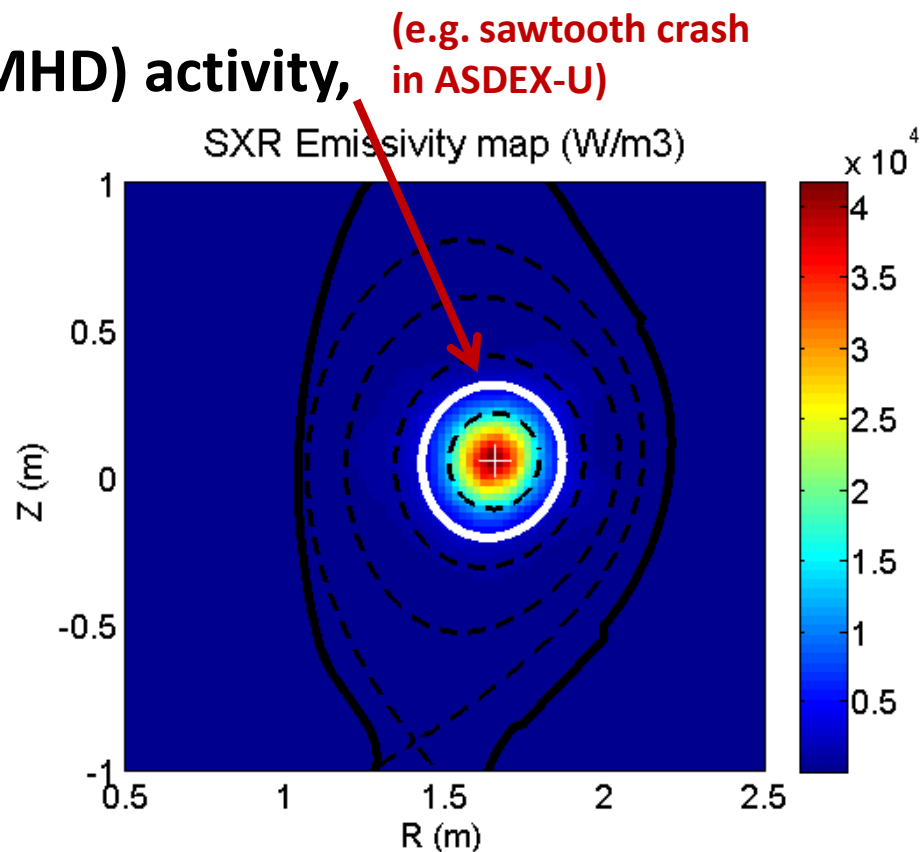
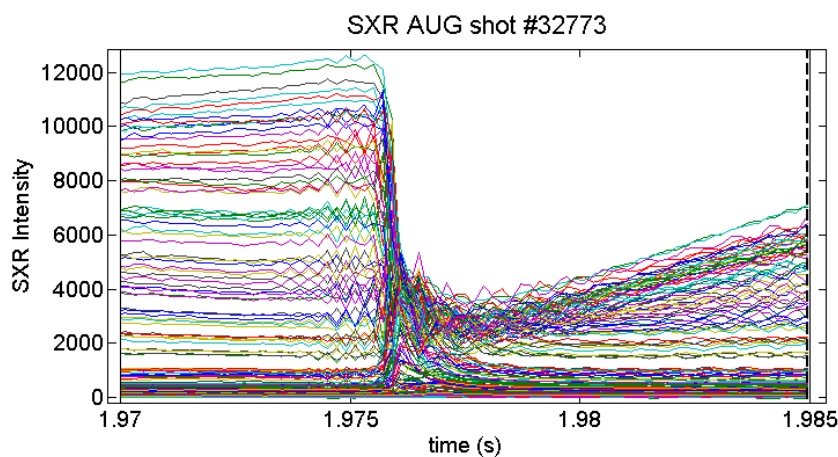
Soft X-ray plasma tomography

□ Soft X-rays (SXR) in the energy range 0.1 keV – 20 keV can provide valuable information, through 2D tomography, on:

■ Impurity transport,

■ Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) activity, (e.g. sawtooth crash in ASDEX-U)

■ Magnetic equilibrium.
(plasma positioning)





The SXR tomography problem

□ Soft X-ray (SXR) tomography in tokamaks:

Recover 2D emissivity from line-integrated measurements, but:

→ limited number of lines-of-sight + noise,

→ Mathematically ill-posed inversion problem:

$$\varepsilon \rightarrow \cancel{\mathbf{T}^{-1}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$$

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{T} \cdot \varepsilon + \tilde{\mathbf{m}}$$

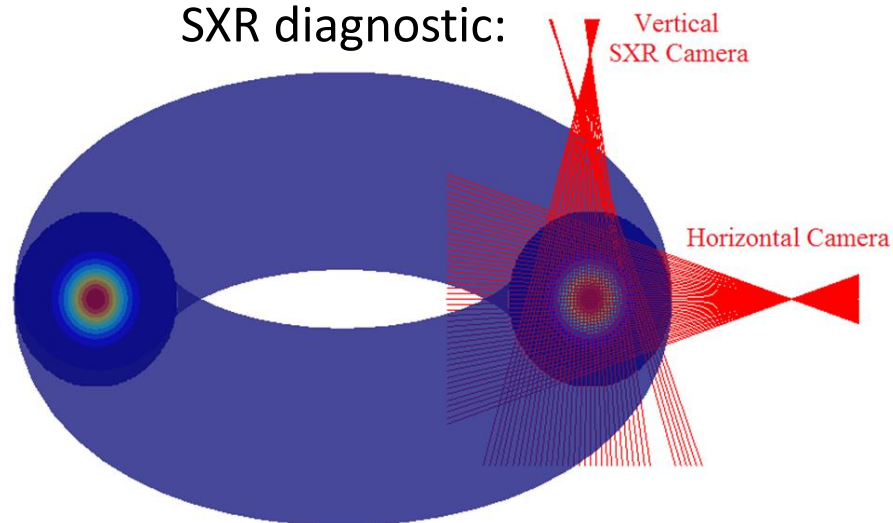
measurement vector

2D emissivity

Transfer matrix

noise

Tore Supra
SXR diagnostic:





The SXR tomography problem

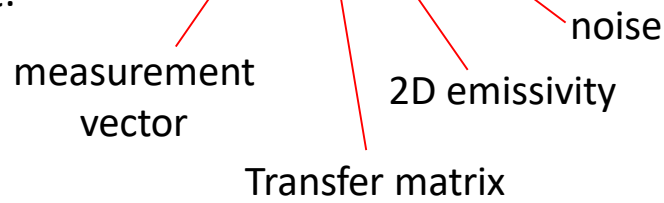
Soft X-ray (SXR) tomography in tokamaks:

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$$\varepsilon \rightarrow \cancel{\mathbf{T}^{-1}} \cdot \mathbf{m}$$

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{T} \cdot \varepsilon + \tilde{\mathbf{m}}$$



- *A priori* info required as additional constraint to regularize the inversion process:
 - Challenging task, benchmark needed to develop robust inversion algorithms

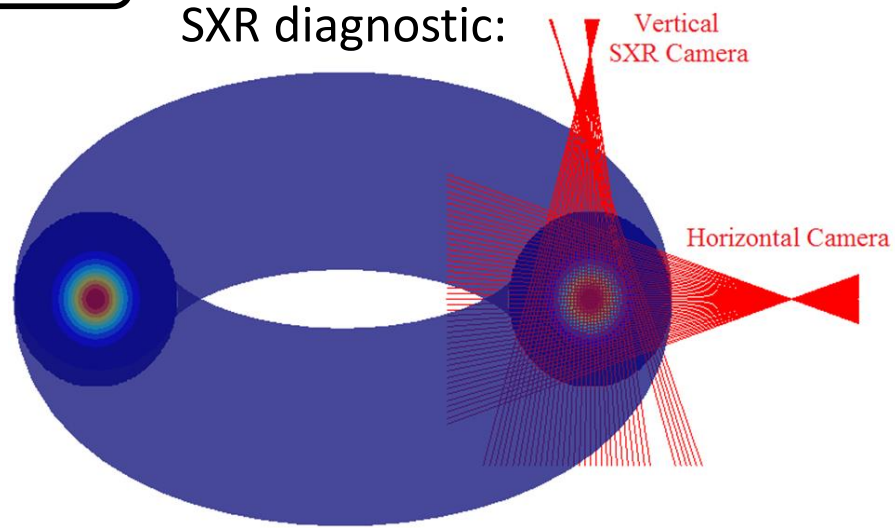
Tikhonov regularization: $\varepsilon = (\mathbf{T}^T \cdot \mathbf{T} + \lambda \mathbf{H})^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{T}^T \cdot \mathbf{m}$

- \mathbf{H} : regularization operator (impose smoothness)
- λ : regularization parameter



POLONIUM collaboration programme between Poland (IFJ PAN) & France (CEA)
Project Leader: Dr hab. J. Bielecki

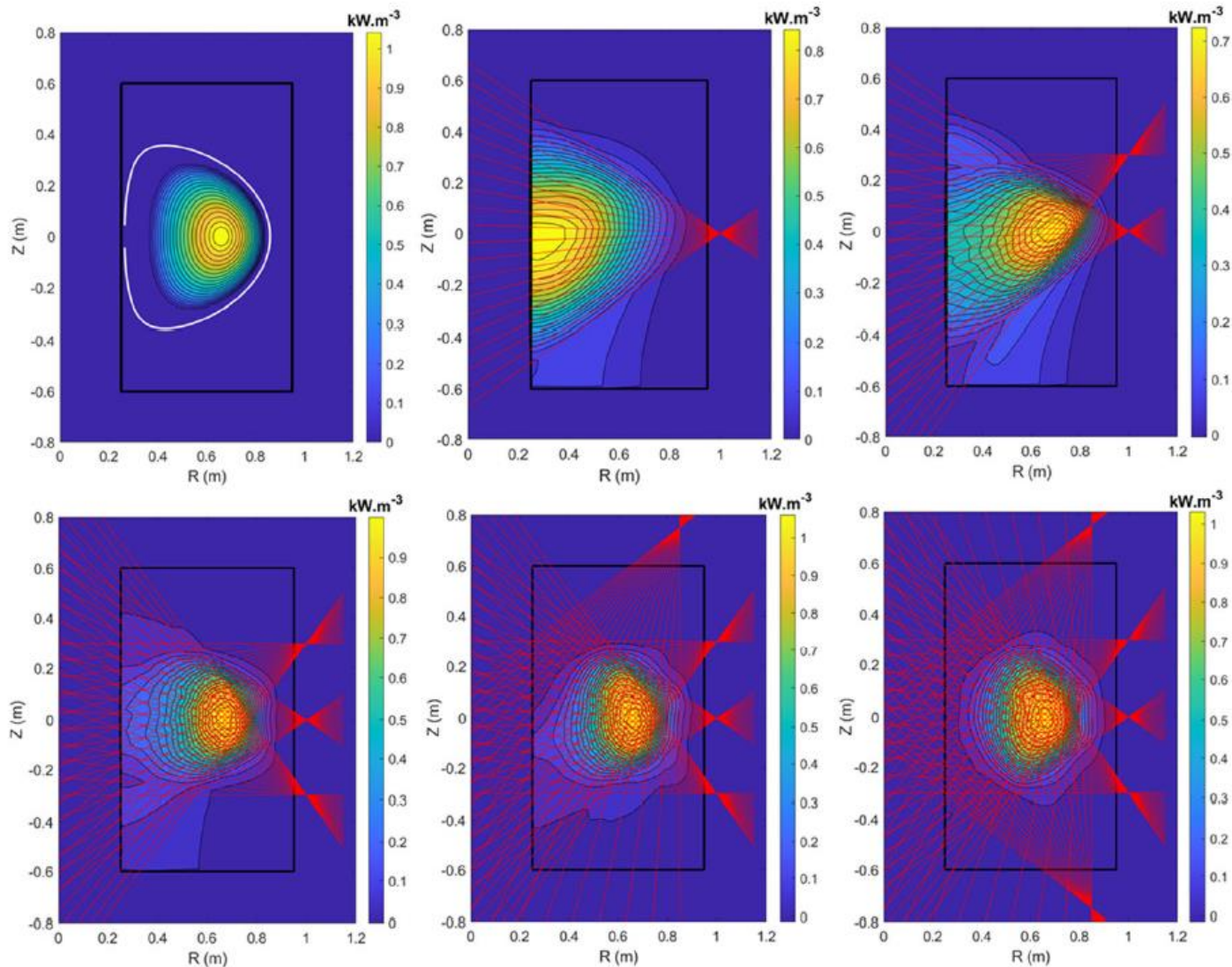
Tore Supra SXR diagnostic:





An example of reconstruction

□ A generic example with an increasing number of cameras: [A. Jardin et al., EPJP 2021]





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Impurity poloidal asymmetries

□ Impurity force balance equation on a magnetic flux surface:

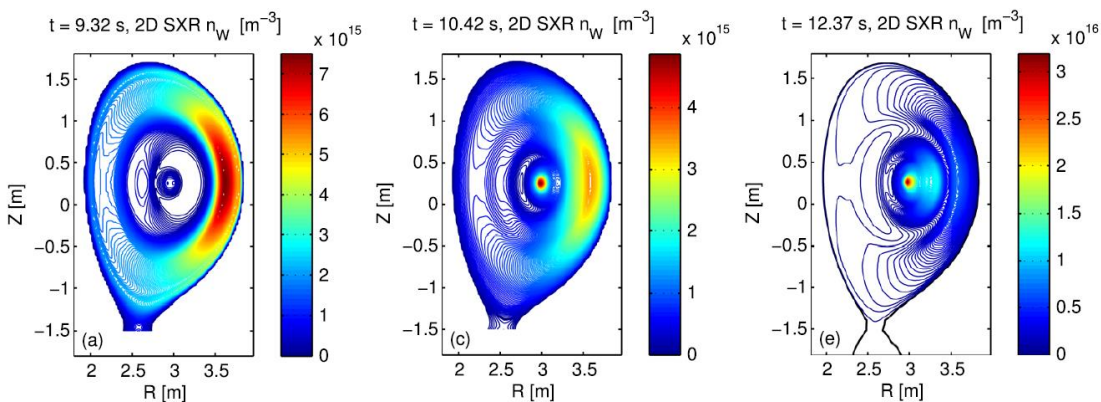
$$\frac{m_z n_z \omega^2}{2} \nabla_{\parallel} R^2 + Z n_z e \nabla_{\parallel} \Phi + T_z \nabla_{\parallel} n_z = R_{z,\parallel}$$

inertia (centrifugal)
electrostatic
pressure
friction

[Reinke PPPL Seminar 2015]

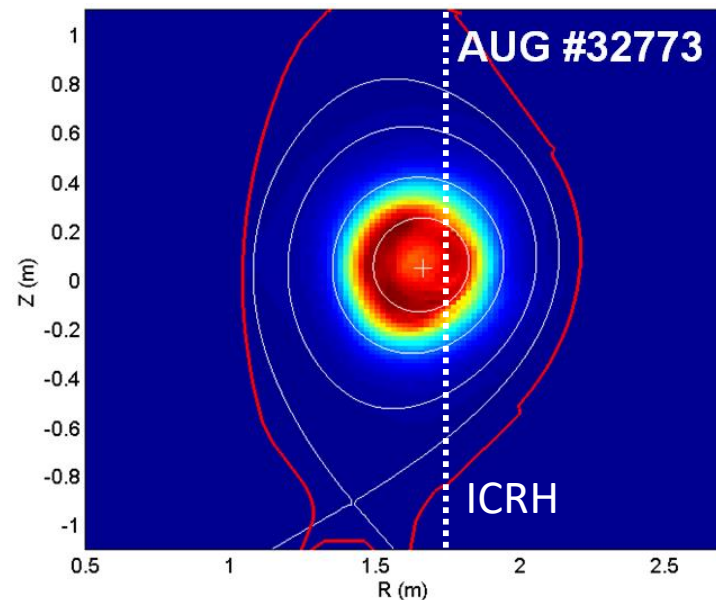
Neutral Beam Injection (NBI):

Ion Cyclotron Resonance Heating (ICRH)



W 2D density distribution evolution with 17 MW of NBI (JET #83351)

[C. Angioni et al., PoP 2015]





Tokamak experiments (EUROfusion)

Investigations of the impact of heating schemes and poloidal asymmetries on the heavy impurity transport in AUG and TCV

Work Package Tokamak Exploitation (WP-TE, RT01)



- Analysis of impurity injection experiments on **ASDEX-U (AUG)** and **TCV tokamaks**, in different plasma heating schemes and plasma (D/He) composition [1].
- Impurity distribution reconstructed by **soft X-ray (SXR) tomography**. Prediction of power deposition and impurity asymmetry thanks to **TORIC-SSFPQL** [2] modeling.
- AUG**: Higher W content and stronger SXR asymmetry in the **helium** discharge wrt. **deuterium**, confirmed by SXR and from the numerical model. **Prospect**: estimate *W* transport coefficients and correlate them with the level of impurity asymmetry.
- TCV**: A transient up-down asymmetry was observed on TCV after impurity gas puff. Use of the code developed in [4] to study up-down impurity asymmetry due to friction forces on TCV is foreseen.

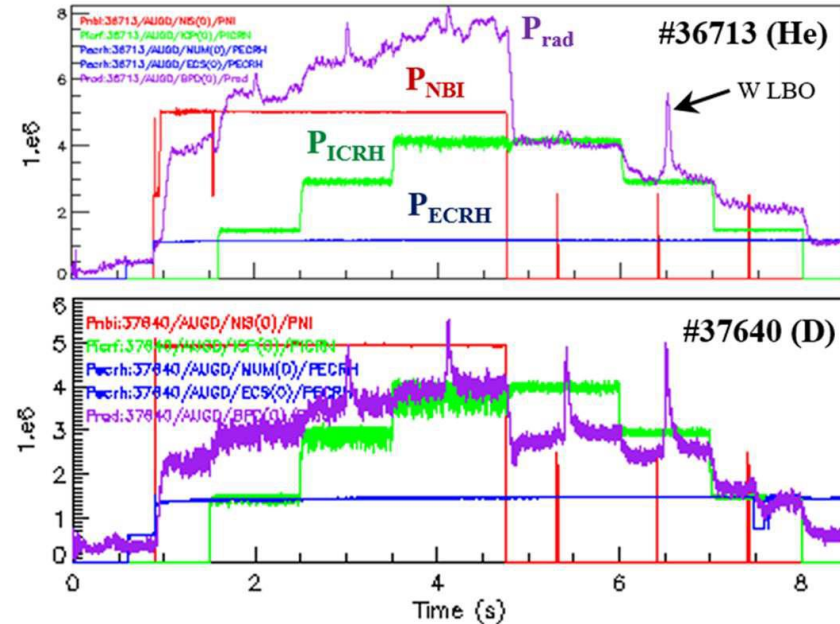


Figure. *W* impurity transport experiments on AUG

[1] WP-TE RT01, EUROfusion wiki. https://wiki.euro-fusion.org/wiki/RT01_2021_reports

[2] R. Bilato et al., Nucl. Fusion 51 (2011) 103034.

[3] A. Jardin et al., 47th EPS Conference on Plasma Physics (2021) P3.1065.

[4] P. Maget et al, Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 62 (2019) 025001



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Max-Planck-Institut
für Plasmaphysik



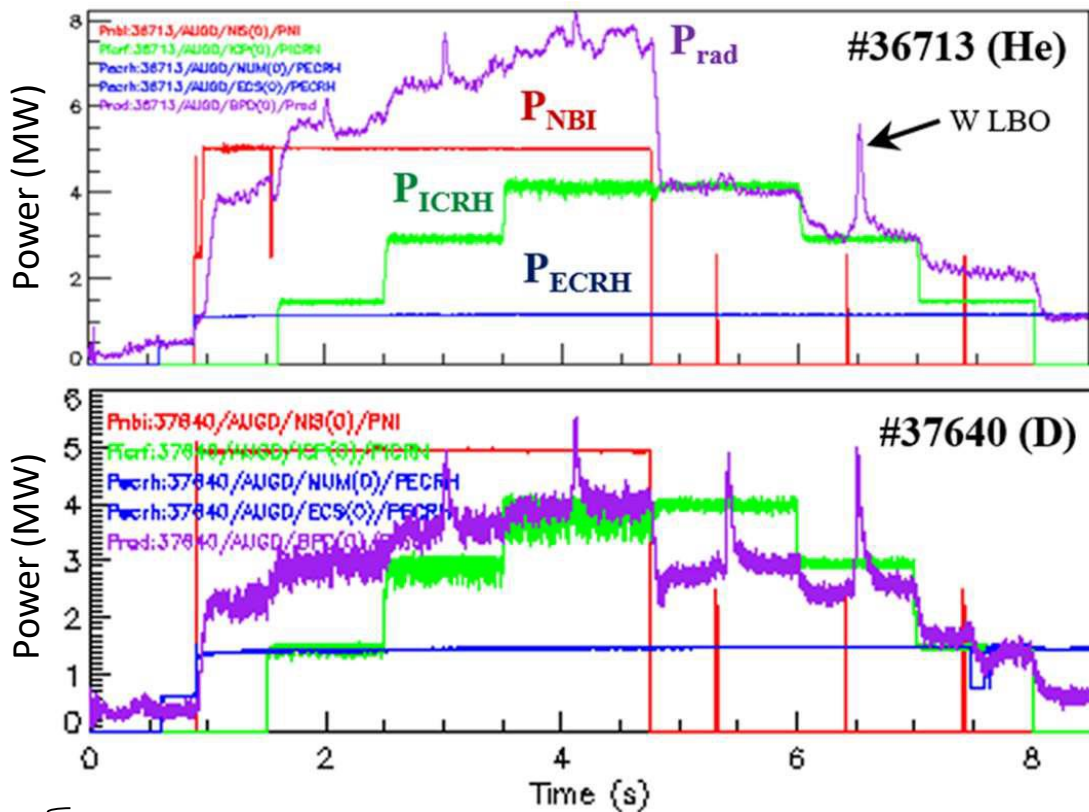
SWISS PLASMA
CENTER



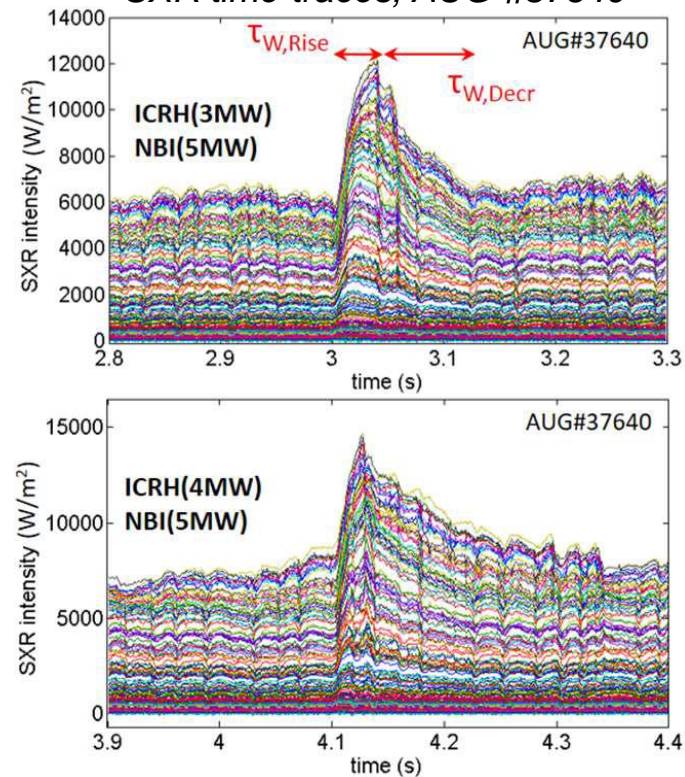
ASDEX-U experiments

ASDEX-U plasma discharges in helium (He) and deuterium (D) plasmas:

Time traces of ECRH, ICRH, NBI and radiated powers (AUG)



SXR time traces, AUG #37640



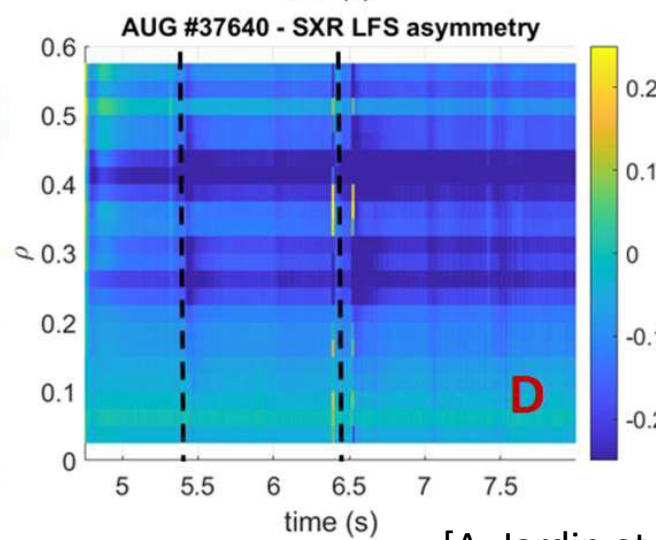
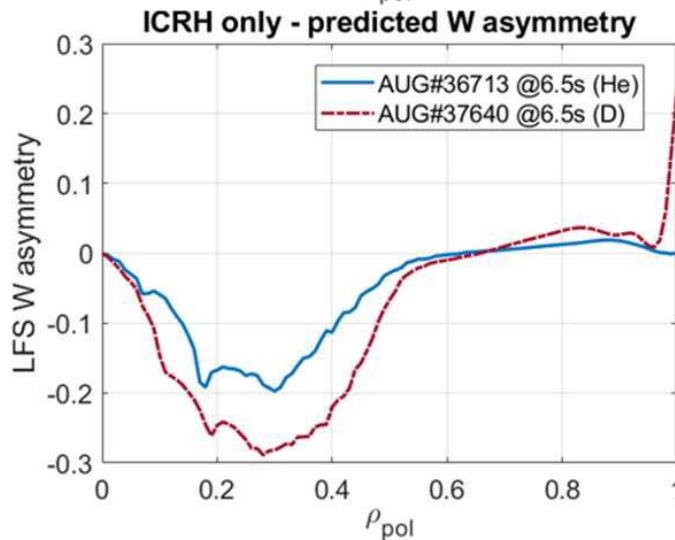
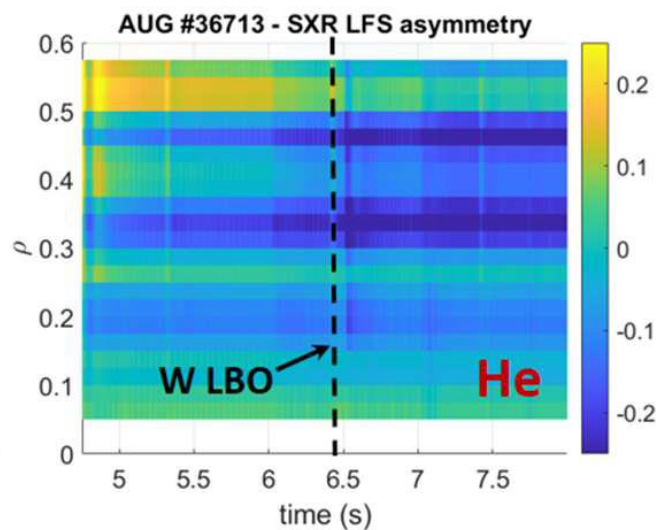
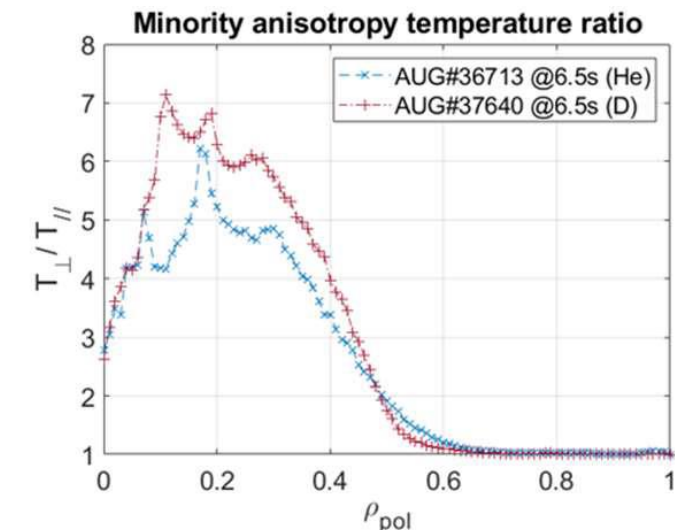
- P_{rad} : Radiated power (MW)
- ICRH : Ion Cyclotron Resonance heating (MW)
- NBI : Neutral Beam Injection (MW)
- ECRH: Electron Cyclotron Resonance Heating (MW)

[A. Jardin et al., EPS 2021]



ASDEX-U experiments

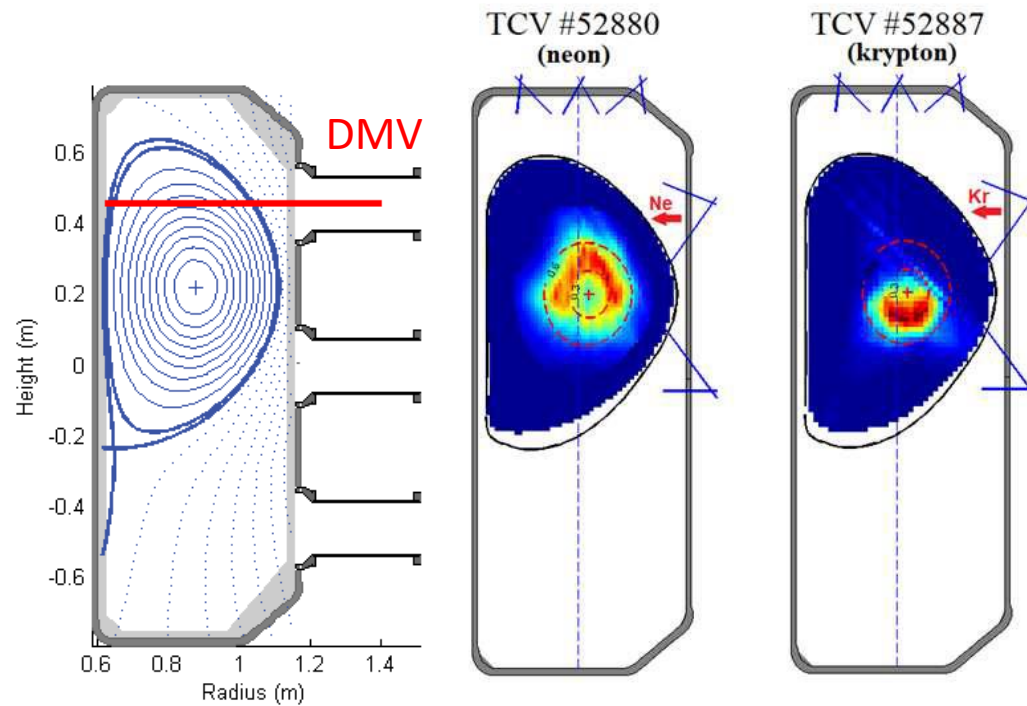
□ ICRH-induced asymmetry in helium (He) and deuterium (D) plasmas:



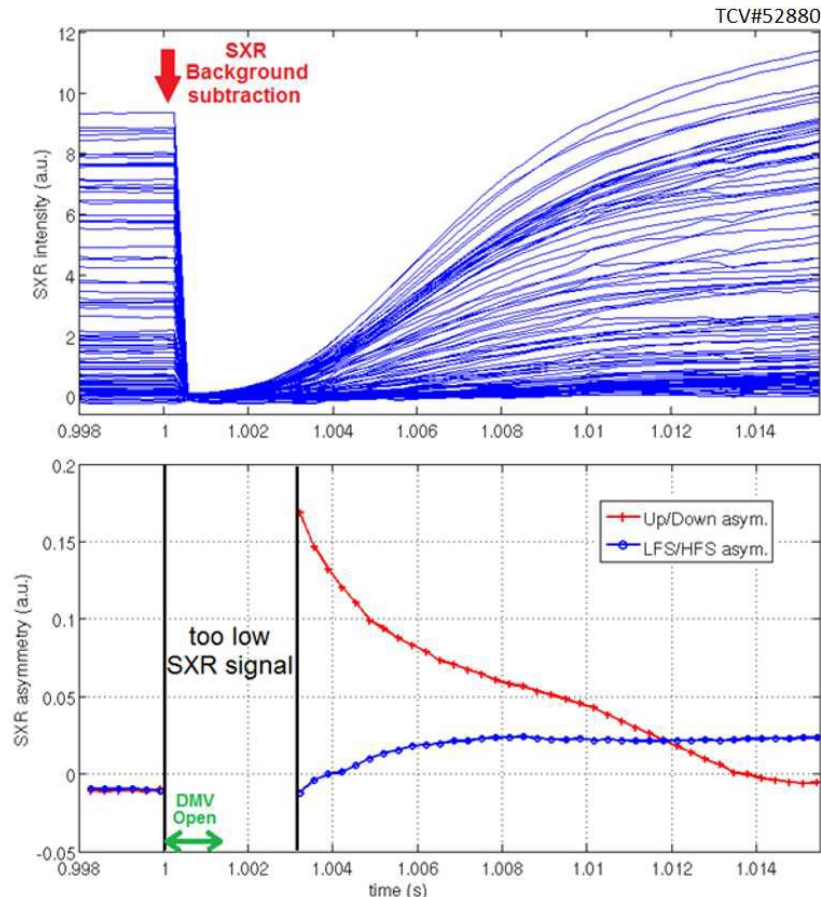


Tokamak a Configuration Variable (TCV)

- TCV: transient up-down SXR asymmetry observed on TCV after impurity gas puff using the disruption mitigation valve (DMV).



Time traces of SXR channels brightness



- Potential impact of asymmetries on the radial influx of impurities?
- Studies foreseen to investigate the effect of friction forces.



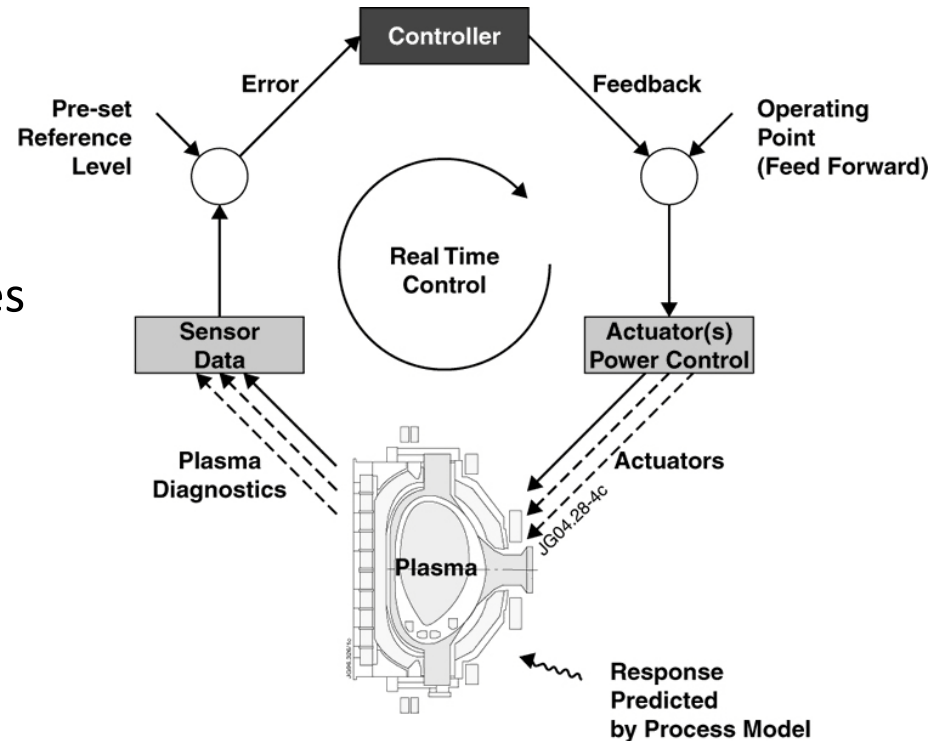
- ❑ Fusion Energy & recent results (NIF, JET)
- ❑ The tokamak concept
- ❑ Radiation of high-Z impurities
- ❑ X-ray tomography for monitoring impurity transport
 - Soft X-ray tomography
 - Impact of heating systems on impurity distribution
 - **Prospect for real-time control**



Prospect for real-time impurity control

Control of W concentration?

- Reduce W sources (erosion)
- Higher pumping rate
- Avoid strong W poloidal asymmetries
- Central ECRH (pump-out effect)
- Shape plasma profiles: peaked T_e (temperature screening)
- Trigger mitigating/flushing MHD: sawteeth (core), ELMs (edge)...

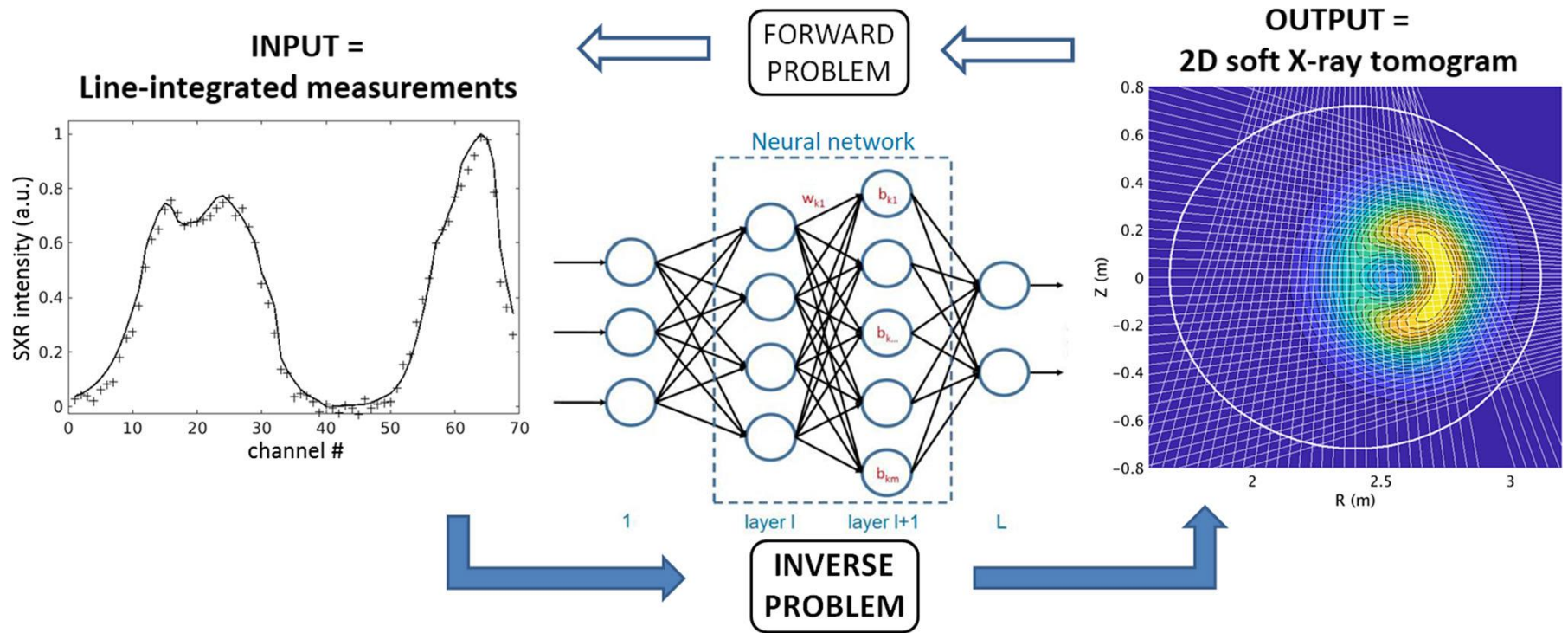


→ Possibility of real-time X-ray tomography?



Neural networks for SXR tomography

- ❑ Issue of traditional Tikhonov approach: computing time $> 0.01 - 10$ s
- ❑ Fast tomography for real-time control < 0.1 ms \rightarrow **Neural networks**
Neural Network: successive neuron layers connecting inputs and outputs.
Neuron biases and weights are iteratively adjusted by training from a dataset.



[A. Jardin, J. Bielecki et al., Neural networks: from image recognition to tokamak plasma tomography, 2019 *Laser and Particle Beams* 1–5]



Neural networks tests with artificial data

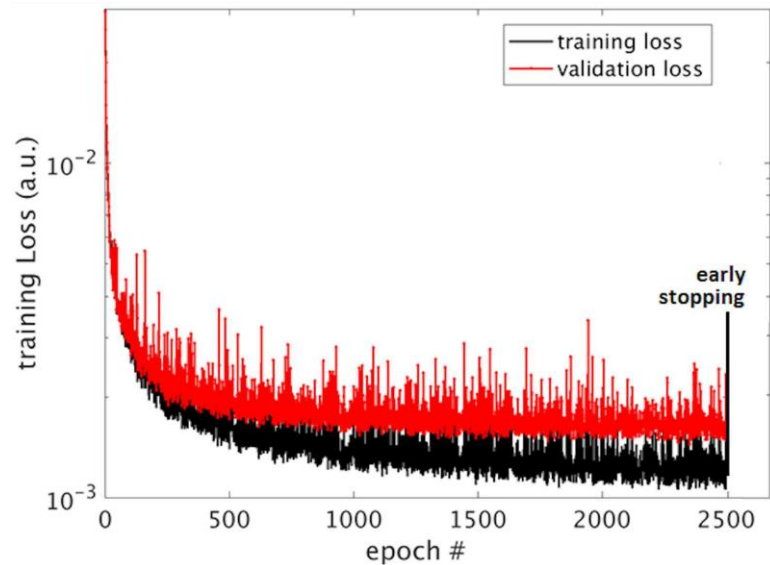
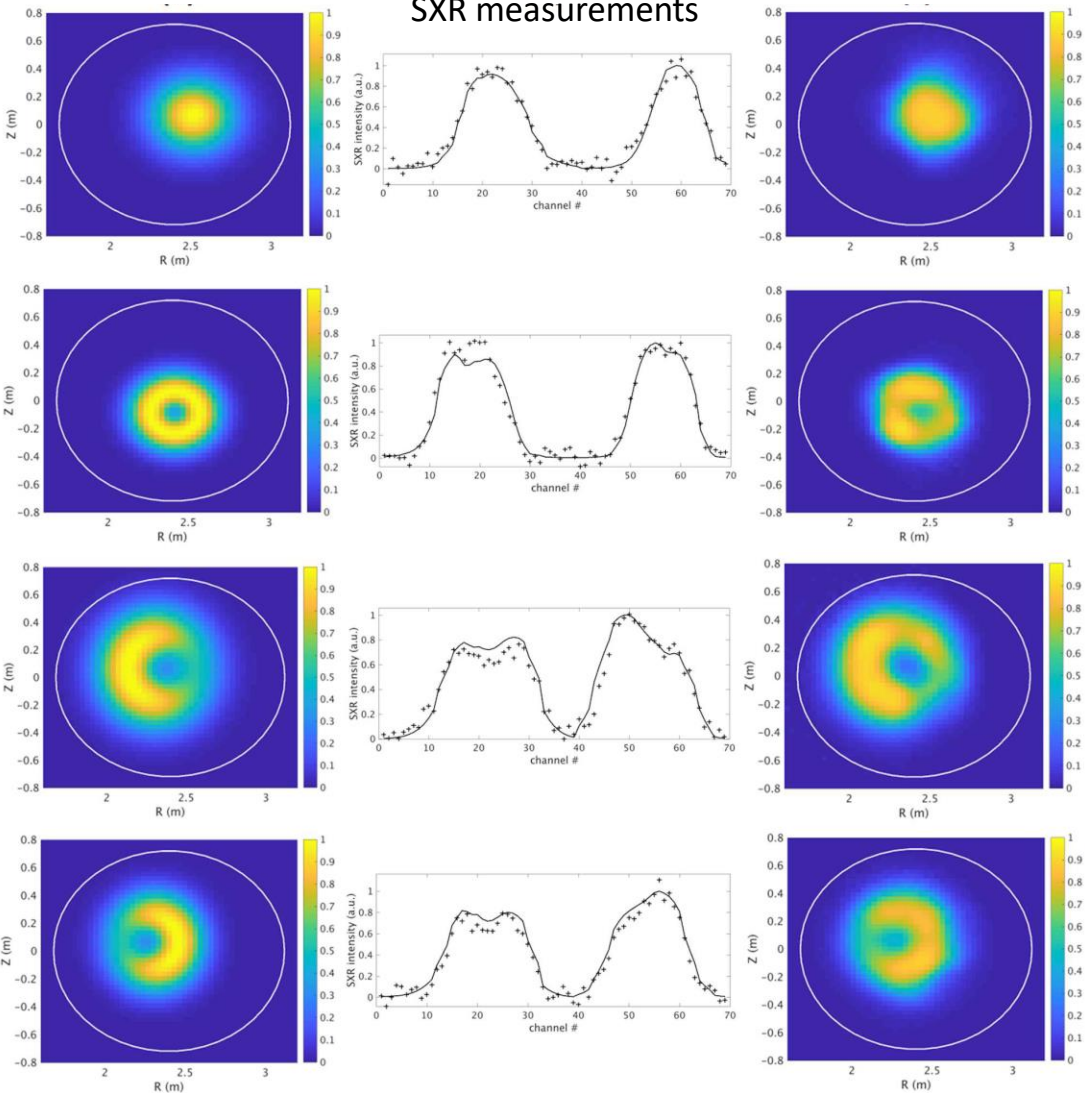
Emissivity phantom

SXR measurements

2D reconstruction

- Large training database to optimize the network parameters (\vec{w}, b)
- Minimization of a Cost Function (MSE) with stochastic gradient-descent method:

$$C(\vec{w}, b) = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_x \underbrace{[y(x)]}_{\text{desired output}} - \underbrace{a(x, \vec{w}, b)}_{\text{output from the network}}]^2$$

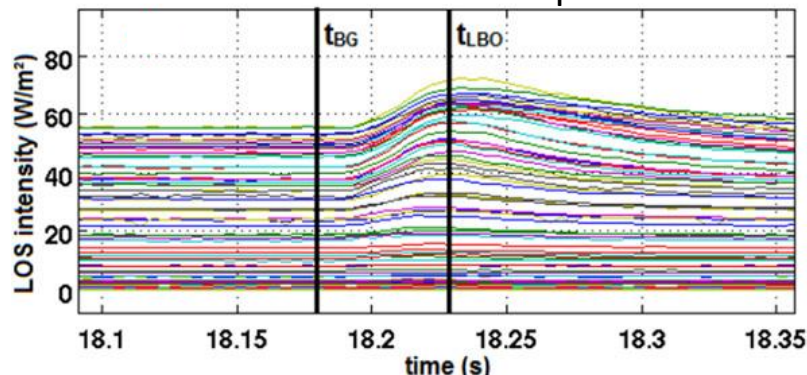




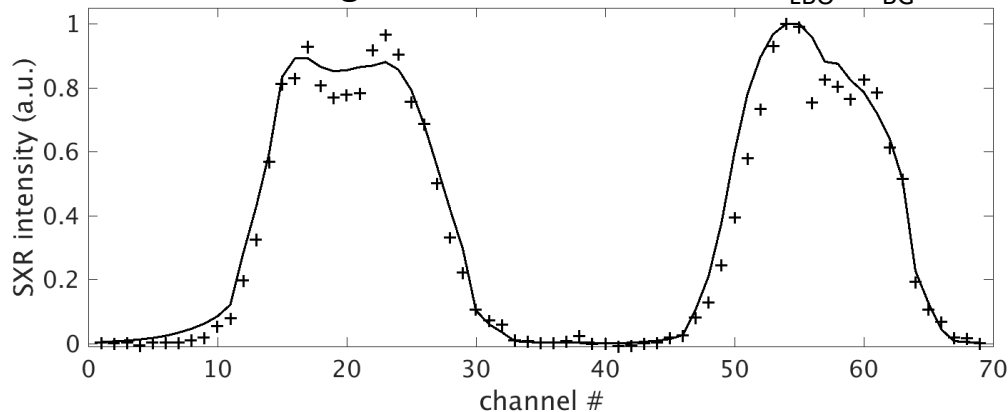
Neural networks experimental test

☐ Controlled injection of tungsten impurities in Tore Supra:

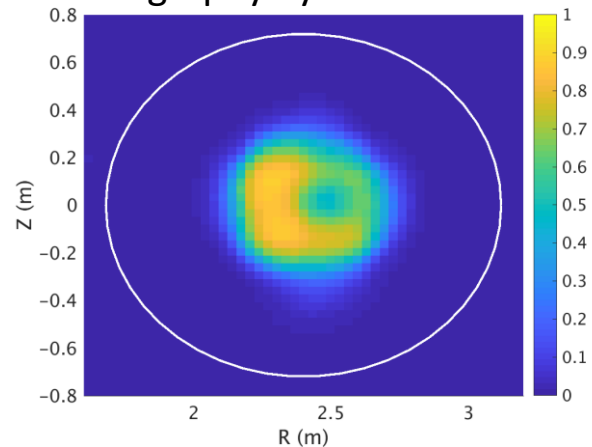
SXR time traces – Tore Supra #46564



SXR line-integrated measurements at $t_{LBO} - t_{BG}$



Tomography by neural network

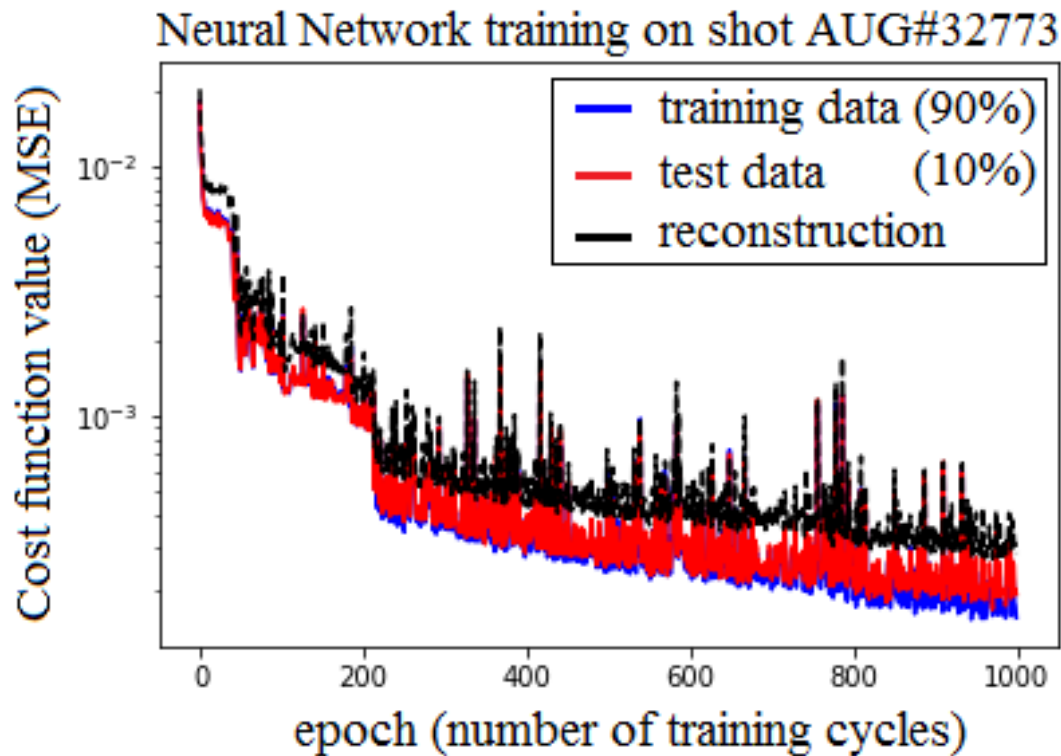


→ Consistent with traditional Tikhonov method but fast enough for real-time control (< 0.1 ms)

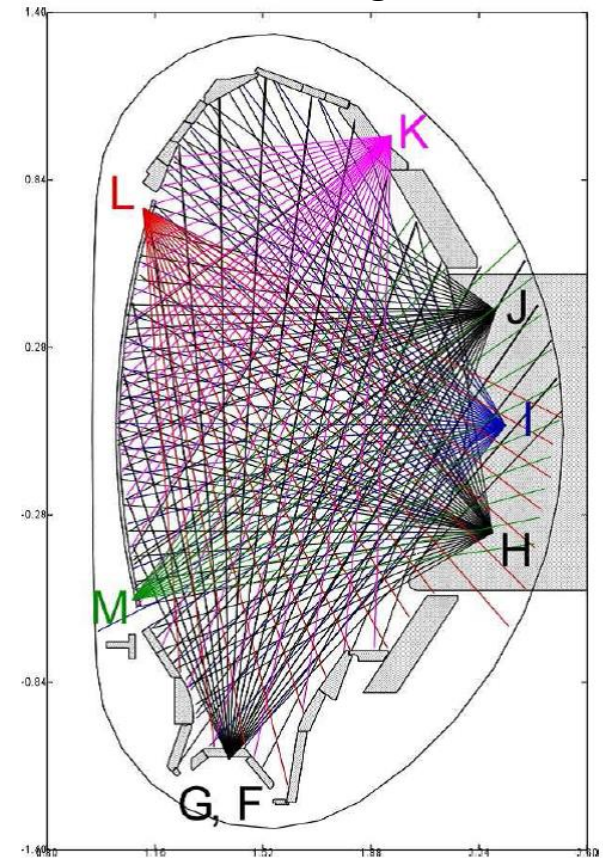
Neural Network training on ASDEX-U (AUG)



- ASDEX-U discharge AUG#32773
→ 1st half of discharge used to reconstruct the second half.



AUG SXR diagnostic

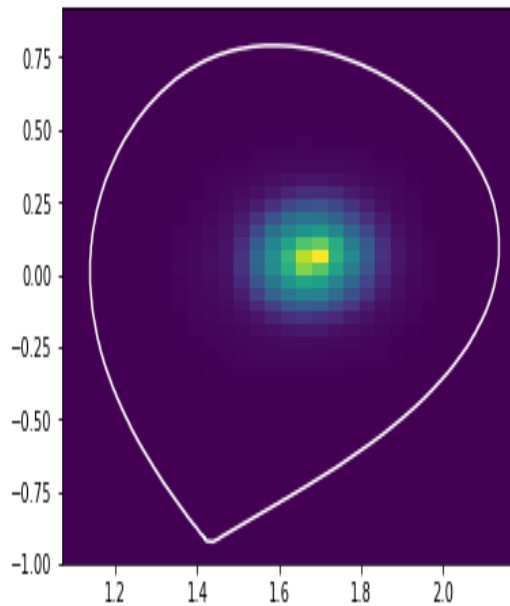


Neural Network – SXR reconstruction

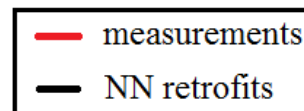
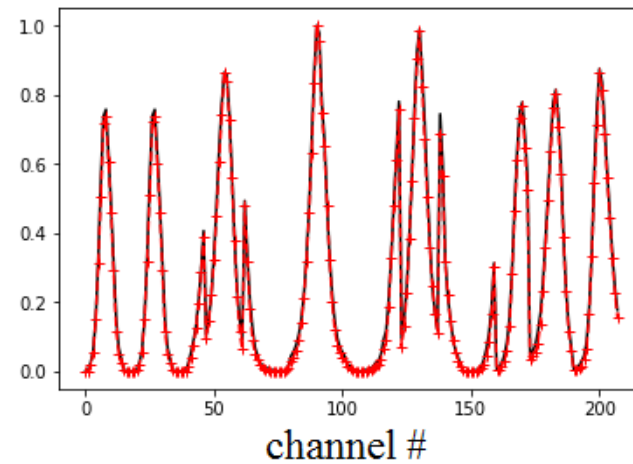


□ First typical case, peaked distribution → reconstruction OK

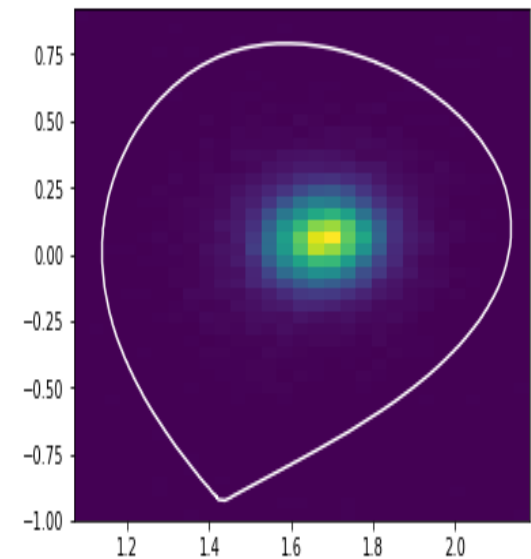
Original tomogram



SXR measurements



Neural network

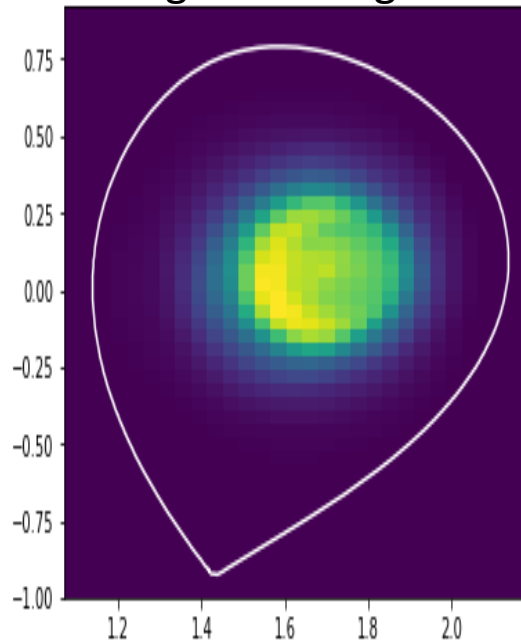


Neural Network – SXR reconstruction

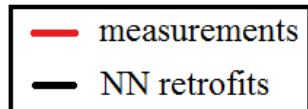
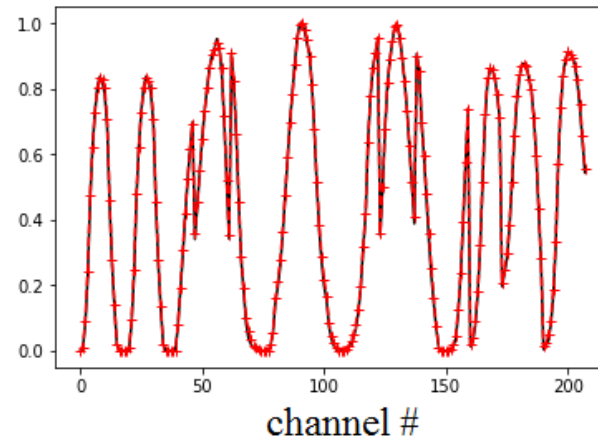


□ Second case, HFS asymmetry → reconstruction OK

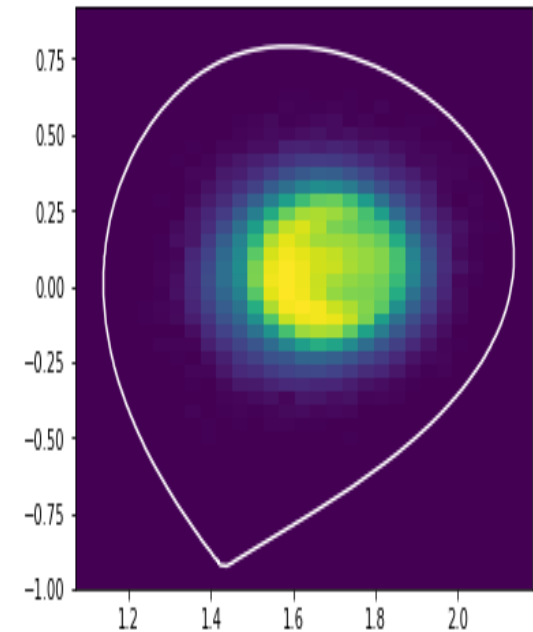
Original tomogram



SXR measurements



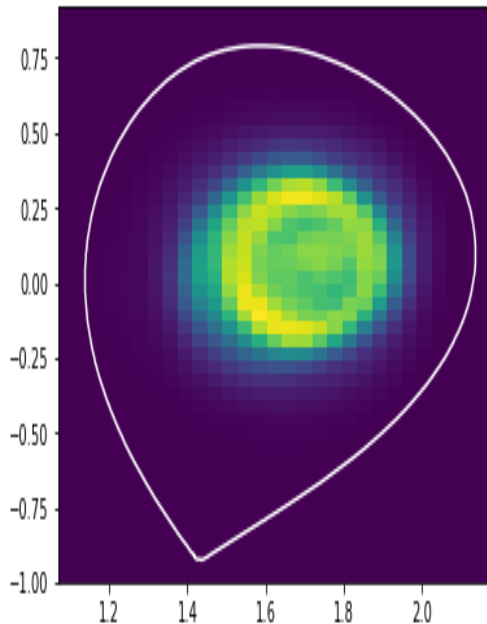
Neural network



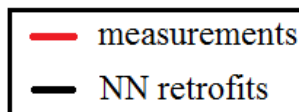
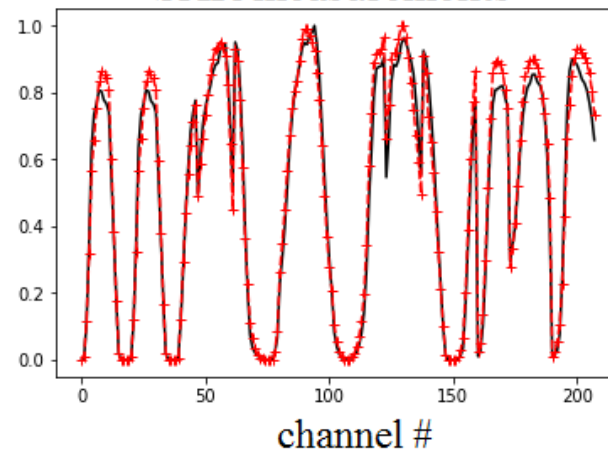


- Third case, hollow profile with weak HFS asymmetry
→ reconstruction: hollow shape OK, mismatch in poloidal distribution.

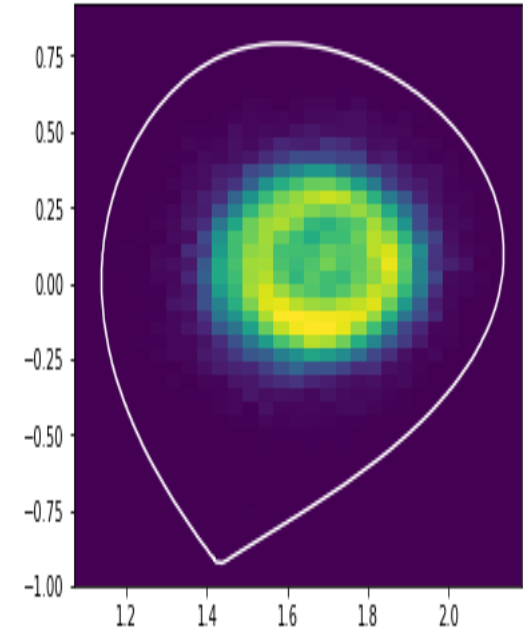
Original tomogram



SXR measurements



Neural network



Perspective: use convolutional layers more adapted for image processing, instead of full-connected neuron layers.



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Y. Peysson, D. Mazon, (A. Jardin, K. Król, J. Bielecki, D. Dworak, M. Scholz) et al, *Effect of partially ionized high-Z atoms on fast electron dynamics in tokamak plasmas*, IAEA FEC 2020 - The 28th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference, May 2021 <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/cea-03249410/>

Y. Peysson, (K. Król, J. Bielecki, A. Jardin, M. Scholz, D. Dworak) et al., *Lower Hybrid Current Drive in High Aspect Ratio Tokamaks*, J. Fusion Energ., 39 (2020) 270–291, doi: 10.1007/s10894-020-00266-1

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Thank you for your attention