

Modelling radiative power exhaust towards future fusion devices

S. Wiesen¹, M. Bernert², D. Brida², S. Henderson³, J. Hobirk², M. Wischmeier², M. Groth⁴, A. Kallenbach², M. Siccinio², M. Dunne², S. Saarelma³, D. Boeyaert¹, H. Reimerdes⁵, F. Reimold², S. Brezinsek¹, W. Biel¹, A. Huber¹, the ASDEX Upgrade team, the EUROfusion MST1 team* and JET Contributors**

¹Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Institut für Energie- und Klimaforschung – Plasmaphysik, 52425 Jülich, Germany, ²Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik, 85748 Garching bei München, Germany, ³CCFE, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, OX14 3DB, UK, ⁴Aalto University, Espoo, Finland, ⁵Swiss Plasma Center, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Station 13, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland, *See the author list “H. Meyer et al 2017 Nucl. Fusion 57 102014”, ** See the author list of “X. Litaudon et al 2017 Nucl. Fusion 57 102001”

Power exhaust in future electricity producing fusion device like DEMO features difficulties which, compared to ITER, are harder to tackle in terms of operational control requiring an improved physics understanding. For a given power loss density P_{loss}/R the plasma facing components need to withstand a maximum heat flux not exceeding $5\text{MW}/\text{m}^2$ in steady state on timescales lasting days or weeks. To achieve this, a pronounced detached divertor regime is to be exploited with low divertor temperatures $T_{e,\text{div}} < 1\text{-}2\text{ eV}$ [1]. For a DEMO sized device a total dissipated fraction $f_{\text{diss}}=P_{\text{diss}}/P_{\text{loss}}$ close to 95% or higher is required to reduce the total target heat load. The amount of achievable radiation loss in the scrape-off layer (SOL) is limited by the amount of removable pressure inside the SOL [2]. In DEMO, P_{diss} must not only cover the diverted plasma and SOL regions, but also part of the confined region to reduce upstream pressure. Validated numerical models like SOLPS-ITER including neutral kinetics and SOL drifts & currents are required to accurately predict such exhaust regimes in varying geometries [3]. A numerical model must be scalable to qualify detachment criteria bridging the gap towards ITER and DEMO exhaust operational regimes. To clarify the role of machine size (R_{maj}) on critical numerical parameters (e.g. anomalous transport), similarity experiments on power exhaust for JET and ASDEX-Upgrade (AUG) have been undertaken. A N_2 -seeded partially detached H-mode JET discharge in vertical target configuration was performed ($2.5\text{MA}/2.7\text{T}$, $P_{\text{NBI}}=20.6\text{MW}$). SOLPS-ITER model constraints were derived from diagnostic JET divertor characterization. An AUG N_2 -seeded similarity discharge matching the SOL q_{\parallel} was obtained by controlling P_{heat}/R , $T_{e,\text{div}}$ and q_{95} ($0.8\text{MA}/2.5\text{T}$, $P_{\text{NBI}}=10\text{MW}$). A similar SOLPS-ITER model has been setup to the matched AUG discharge to quantify remaining discrepancies to the JET case. The results highlight the criticality of other model parameters like neutral conductance to match accurately the total divertor pressure.

[1] M. Wischmeier et al., J. Nucl. Mater. 463, 22 (2015); [2] C. S. Pitcher and S. P. C., Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 39, 779 (1997); [3] S. Wiesen et al., Nucl. Mater. Energy 12, 3 (2017)