

Radiation Damage in FW and Blanket Structural Materials and Superconducting Magnetic Materials

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1.1 Structural materials

- First wall
- Blanket
- Other components

Candidates: SS, FS, V-alloy, Nb-alloy, M-alloy

Key Problems:

1. Radiation damage by intense neutrons
2. Radioactivity

For First Wall: Additional problem: Surface effects: Intense bombardments by charged particles (H, α , impurities) result in surface erosion (sputtering physical & chemical, blistering, etc.)

For the next two lectures, we will focus on radiation damage and radioactivity issues.

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Additional definitions:

$$\text{Fluence} = \Phi t_{op}$$

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$$F = \text{plant availability} = \frac{\text{operating time}}{\text{operating time} + \text{shutdown time}} \tag{2}$$

Integrated neutron wall load

$$I_w = P_{nw} t_{op}, \quad [MWy/m^2] \tag{3}$$

$$= P_{nw} t F \tag{4}$$

Commonly we measure first wall life in units of MWy/m^2 Aspect Ratio for a tokamak = A .

$$A = \frac{(\text{plasma}) \text{ major radius}}{(\text{plasma}) \text{ minor radius}} \tag{5}$$

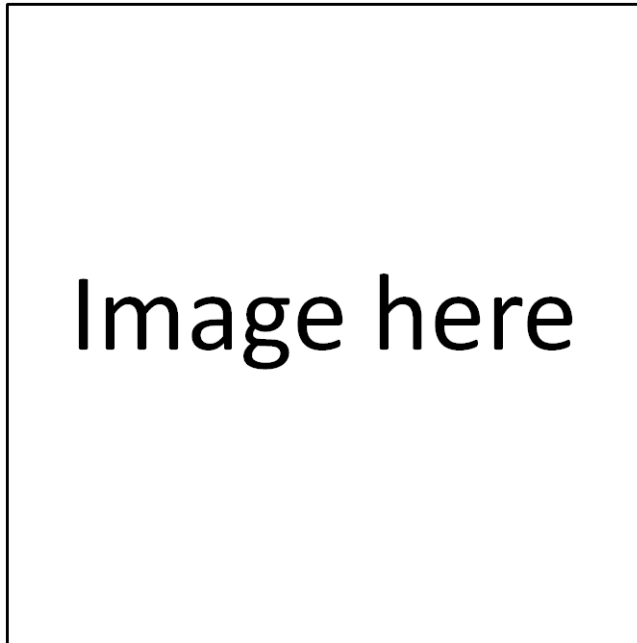


Figure 1: Major and minor radius of toroidal reactor

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3.1 Radiation Damage

Units

Flux & Fluence poor measure Total flux a factor of 10 higher than 14 MeV neutron current
neutron spectrum provides improvement but it is awkward.
Useful units: dpa

3.2 Atomic Displacements

An energetic particle such as a neutron loses its energy either by electronic excitation or by colliding with the lattice atoms. In a collision with the lattice atom some energy is transferred into this atom if the quantity of energy transferred is larger than the energy binding the atom in its lattice the struck atom is displaced by the bombarding particle is called the *primary knock-on atom*, (PKA). Because the PKA possesses substantial kinetic energy, it becomes an energetic particle in its own right

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and is capable of creating additional lattice displacements. A displaced atom leaves (i.e. a point defect) its proper place leaving a vacancy behind. The displaced atom will eventually appear in the lattice as an interstitial atom (a point defect). The ensemble of point defects created by a single primary knock-on atom is known as *displacement cascade*.

4.1 Atomic Displacements Calculating

$$\text{dpa} = \text{number of displacements per atom} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{dpa} = \left[\int \Phi(E) \sigma_d(E) dE \right] t_{\text{radiation time}} \quad (7)$$

$$\sigma_d = \text{displacement cross section} \quad (8)$$

$$\sigma_d(E) = \sum_{\text{all atoms}} \text{probability that a collision occurs} \times \text{the number of atoms displaced by the PKA} \quad (9)$$

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$$\sigma_d(E) = \sum_{\text{all atoms}} \sigma_e(E) \int_{E_d}^{T_{max}} P_i(E, T) \nu(T) dT \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma_i = (\text{nuclear}) \text{ microscopic cross section for reaction } i \text{ (elastic, inelastic, (n,2n), (n,\alpha), etc.)} \quad (11)$$

$$P_i(E, T) = \text{probability that in reaction } i \text{ induced by a particle (reaction) of energy } E, \text{ the PKA has a kinetic energy } T \quad (12)$$

$$E_d = \text{displacement energy or the displacement threshold} \quad (13)$$

$$\nu(T) = \text{number of displacements produced by a primary knock-on with energy } T \quad (14)$$

5.1 Discussion of E_d

In order for the atom to be displaced it must receive a minimum amount of energy. This is called the displacement energy or the displacement threshold, E_d . If the energy transfer T is $< E_d$, the stick atom undergoes large amplitude vibration without leaving the partial well forming its stable lattice portion. The vibration energy is quickly

E_d is in the range of 20 to 60 eV for ()

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communicated to the nearest neighbors of the stuck atom and appears as a localized source of heat. On the other hand, if $T > E_d$, the stuck atom is able to pass over the potential barrier and move off into the lattice as a displaced atom.

In a solid, the potential barrier surrounding a lattice atom in its equilibrium position *is not uniform* in all directions. Therefore, the energy required to displace an atom depends on the *direction* of the recoil. The direction acquired by the recoil is, of course, dictated by the dynamics of the reactions. In the case of isotropy (isotropic collisions, or high number of bombarding particles that collide isotropically) the direction of the recoil is random or equally probable in all directions.

Therefore, the single value of E_d employed in radiation damage theory is *the spherical average of $E_d(\theta)$* surrounding the equilibrium lattice site, E_d , of course, varies from one material to the other but is generally in the range of 20-60 eV.

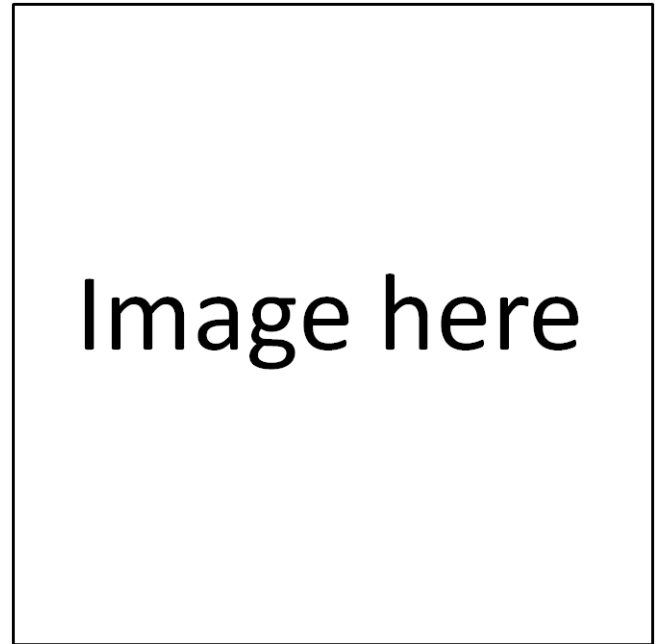


Figure 2: Diagram of lattice

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$\nu(T)$ is the number of displacements produced by a PKA with energy T . The value of $\nu(T)$ should be *independent of the type of collision that produced the PKA*. The crux of the damage producing effect of fast neutrons is the production of displaced atoms by the primary knock-ons. Therefore the calculation of $\nu(T)$ is a very important part of the radiation damage theory.

There are several models that have been developed to calculate $\nu(T)$. These models *** I DON'T KNOW THIS WORD***in the assumptions invoked. However, almost all of them treat the interaction between *** I DON'T KNOW THIS WORD***a moving atom and the lattice atoms as a sequence of two-body elastic collisions.

There are two important observations you should be aware of regarding this assumption of two-body collisions and elasticity.

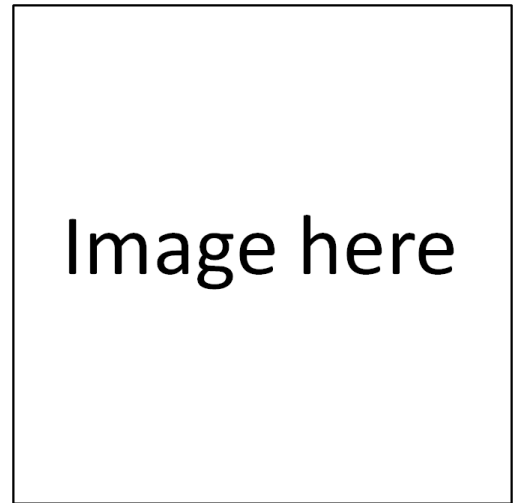


Figure 3: PKA collision with lattice

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8.1 Handwritten

The primary collision assumption is quite satisfactory at high interaction energies because the approach distance giving substantial energy transfer are very much smaller than the distances between lattice atoms, *** I DON'T KNOW THIS WORD***the collisions can be considered to occur between isolated pairs of atoms. However, at low energies approaching the threshold E_d , the cross section for atom-atom interaction is large, and the incoming atom can interact with more than one atom at the same time.

8.2 Typed

The collision between a recoil and a lattice atom is often assumed to be elastic, which means that kinetic energy is conserved in the event. Inelasticity can arise from excitation or ionization of the orbital electrons of the atoms involved in the collision. Indeed, interaction of moving atoms or ions with the electrons of the solid constitute the major energy-loss process at high energies. Transfer of energy from the moving atom to electrons does not

lead to displacement, only to heat; the low electron mass means that they carry little momentum even though they may be quite energetic. Consequently, it is important to be able to estimate the degree to which the energy of a recoil atom is partitioned between electronic excitation and elastic atom-atom collisions. Only the energy transferred in the latter process is available for causing displacements. Energy is transferred to the electrons in small increments so closely spaced that the process can be regarded as a continuous loss of energy by the moving atom. The atom continues to travel in a straight line but slows down as if it were passing through a viscous medium. The atom-atom interactions, on the other hand, occur at widely spaced intervals; transfer a significant portion of the initial kinetic energy of the moving atom in an essentially instantaneous collision, and produce substantial deflections of the original energetic atom. Consequently, the total energy loss of a moving atom can be accurately separated into two parts: (1) discrete elastic atom-atom encounters which both reduce the energy of the incident atom and produce lattice displacements and (2) a continuous process of electronic excitation which contributes to energy loss but not to displacements.

Not all the energy transferred to a stationary lattice atom by a recoil atom by process 1 is used to displace the former. A substantial portion of the initial energy of the PKA is degraded to heat by atom-atom collisions that do not deliver the requisite displacement energy to the struck atom. In this event the struck atom simply rattles about in its lattice site, ultimately degrading the energy it received in the collision to heat.

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