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Enhancement of Plasma Burn-through Simulation and Validation in JET

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Abstract.

In this paper, a new burn-through model is introduced in detail, and the quantative validation of the simulation results against JET data is presented for the first time. In order to calculate the particle confinement time, a dynamic effective connection length model including an eddy current effect is used assuming ambipolar transonic transport and Bohm diffusion model for parallel and perpendicular particle losses, respectively. Plasma-Surface Interaction (PSI) effect is treated with an impurity sputtering yield and an exponential decay model of the deuterium recycling coefficient. The rate and power coefficients in the Atomic Data and Analysis Structure (ADAS) package are adopted to solve energy and particle balance. The neutral screening effects are taken into account according to particle species, and the sophisticated energy and particle balances are presented. The new burn-through simulation shows good agreement against carbon wall JET data. This indicates that the burn-through simulation can be applied to investigate the key aspect of physics in plasma burn-through and to perform a predictive simulation for ITER start-up.

1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation

Tokamak start-up consists of the plasma break-down phase, the plasma burn-through phase, and the subsequent ramp-up process of plasma current I_p until it arrives at flat-top state[1].

Plasma break-down can be explained by the Townsend avalanche theory[2]. The required electric field $E[Vm^{-1}]$ for plasma break-down at a given prefill gas pressure p and effective connection length L_f is calculated with the Townsend criterion,

$$E[Vm^{-1}] \ge \frac{1.25 \times 10^4 p[Torr]}{\ln(510p[Torr]L_f[m])}.$$
(1.1)

ITER plasma break-down has also been evaluated using the Townsend criterion in the ITER physics basis in 1999[1].

However, the Townsend criterion suggests the condition for the initiation of electron avalanche. It is not sufficient to explain all non-sustained break-down shots where I_p does not increase. In order for I_p to increase, deuterium and impurities must be sufficiently ionized in the burn-through phase so that the ohmic heating power exceeds the total electron power losses resulting mainly from collisional radiation and ionization.

In present tokamaks, the required loop voltage in the burn-through phase, the burnthrough criterion, is usually higher than that for plasma break-down[1]. Therefore, when designing a new device or determining operation parameters, the burn-through criterion must be evaluated as well as the Townsend criterion. There were over 100 non-sustained break-down shots in JET experiments in 2009. By understanding the key physics aspects in the burn-through phase, these start-up failures can be reduced.

Furthermore, in ITER, the allowable toroidal electric field for start-up is limited up to 0.3[V/m] due to the engineering issues resulting from the use of superconducting poloidal coils and a continuous vacuum vessel[3]. Since tokamak start-up using such a low *E* field requires a narrow range of prefill gas pressure, low magnetic error fields, and low impurity content, ECH-assisted start-up has been proposed for reliable start-up in ITER[3]. In order to estimate the required ECH power, a complete understanding of plasma burn-through is necessary.

1.2. Background

The zero dimensional energy and particle balance model for a burn-through simulation, 0D code, has been presented by B. Lloyd[4]. In the 0D code, the energy confinement time τ_E was calculated with INTOR scaling law, in which τ_E was simply proportional to electron density n_e , i.e. $\tau_E[s] \equiv 5 \times 10^{-21} \tau_0 n_e[m^{-3}]$ where τ_0 is a multiplier ($\tau_0 \approx 0.2 \sim 2$). In addition, the particle confinement time τ_p was treated as a constant parameter ($\tau_p \approx 5 \sim 50[ms]$).

The impurity content, which is one of the important parameters determining the burn-through criterion, was assumed to be constant in the 0D code. The evolution of an impurity content in a plasma was treated in the SCENPLINT code with an exponentially growing function, i.e. $n_c/n_e \equiv 0.013 + 0.03((1 - exp(-t[s]/0.25)))$ [5],[6],[3].

1.3. Brief explanation of the new models

One of the crucial features in the burn-through phase is the transition of magnetic field configuration, i.e. the change from the open field line configuration to the closed flux surfaces (CFS). This transition results in the change of dominant particle loss mechanism, i.e. the change of dominant particle loss to perpendicular transport from parallel transport, hence, the dynamics of effective connection length must be modelled as well. In addition, the previous treatments of impurities were overly simplified. The increasing impurity content in the plasma is significantly affected by the wall material and ion transport. Therefore, *Plasma-Surface Interaction (PSI)* must be included with more sophisticated models. In order to model the impurity evolution in the burn-through phase, new models of particle transport and plasma-surface interaction(PSI) have been added to B. Lloyd's model.

In the new burn-through simulation, it is assumed that a parallel particle loss in the burn-through phase is dominated by a convective transonic ambipolar flow along a magnetic field line to the vessel wall as used in divertor-SOL plasma simulations[7]. Accordingly, parallel transport losses are calculated with a finite effective connection length L_f and an ion sound speed C_s . Regarding the perpendicular particle loss, the Bohm diffusion model is adopted. The particle confinement time is calculated by combining these transport mechanisms. The details of the calculation will be presented in section 2.4.4.

In the burn-through phase where magnetic field configuration is in transition, the evolution of an effective connection length is important for parallel particle transport. In the case of JET, it is generally observed that magnetic configuration forms closed magnetic surfaces at around 100 [kA] plasma current. According to this, the evolution of an effective connection length is modelled with an exponential term approaching an infinite value from 100 [kA] of plasma current. In addition, once a toroidal electric field is induced for plasma break-down, there can be significant eddy currents, thereby decreasing the effective connection length. In JET, most eddy currents in this phase flow through the support ring of the divertor tiles (MK2) due to its relatively low electric resistance. This effect is considered with a two ring model, i.e. plasma current ring and MK2 current ring.

Plasma-Surface Interaction is modelled with a wall-sputtering yield according to the kind of incident ions. In the carbon-wall JET where chemical sputtering was dominant, a carbon sputtering yield due to a deuterium ion or an oxygen ion can be assumed to be constant based on experimental data[8]. The recycling coefficient of incident deuterium ions is modelled with an exponential decay function since the total amount of deuterium atoms attached on the wall will be decreasing as a wall-sputtering process proceeds. Recycling coefficients of impurities, i.e. carbon and oxygen, are assumed to

be 0 and 1, respectively, according to their volatility.

Another important feature in the burn-through phase is a low electron temperature, less than 100[eV]. This requires sophisticated calculations of atomic reactions in each ionic charge state of a deuterium and impurities. By using the *Atomic Data and Analysis Structure (ADAS)* rate and power coefficients[9], energy and particle balance equations in each ionic charge state of a deuterium and impurities are solved in matrix form. As electron temperature increases in the burn-through phase, the mean free path for neutral ionization decreases, thereby reducing the neutral volume within a plasma. This neutral screening effect is taken into account according to particle species. These more sophisticated energy and particle balances will be presented in section 2.

Even though the plasma burn-through has been simulated previously[4][5][10], quantative validation of the models against experimental data has not been published extensively. One of the main limitations are the available tokamak diagonostic data, together with an adaquate model to provide the simulations. In order to test whether the model incorporates the key aspects of plasma burn-through physics, its validation process is necessary. This is also important for further applications such as ECH heating power modulation for ECH-assisted start-up[11] and ferromagnetic effects in superconducting tokamak start-up[12], all of which are based on the burn-through simulation. Validation of the new burn-through model against JET experimental data will be presented in section 3.

1.4. Structure of the article

The scope of this paper is to present the new model and give a quantative validation against experimental data. In section 2, the theoretical models for the new burn-through simulation are given in detail. In section 3, quantative validation of the new burnthrough simulation against JET experimental data is introduced. In section 4, the potential applications and the limitations of the model are discussed. In section 5, conclusions are presented.

2. Theoretical model for burn-through simulation

In this article, all physical quantities are expressed in SI units except for the plasma temperature and the prefill gas pressure. A plasma temperature and a prefill gas pressure are indicated in [eV] and [Torr], respectively. In exceptional cases, an additional explanation is attached.

2.1. Circuit Equation for plasma current

When a loop voltage is applied by a transformer action in Tokamaks, an eddy current is induced in the vessel since the electric resistance of the vessel is comparable with that of plasma column. Until the plasma resistance becomes much smaller than the vessel's electric resistance, the amount of eddy current can be significant. In the case of JET,

the MK2 ring, which is a divertor mechanical support structure, has the lowest electric resistance. The MK2 current I_{MK2} and plasma current I_p can be modelled with a two ring model,

$$V_l = I_p R_p + L_p \frac{dI_p}{dt} + M \frac{dI_{MK2}}{dt}$$

$$\tag{2.1}$$

$$V_l = I_{MK2}R_{MK2} + L_{MK2}\frac{dI_{MK2}}{dt} + M\frac{dI_p}{dt}$$
(2.2)

where V_l is an applied loop voltage. L_p and L_{MK2} are self-inductances of a plasma current ring and the MK2 current ring. Similarly, R_p and R_{MK2} indicate their resistances, respectively. M represents a mutual inductance between the two current rings.

The plasma inductance L_p is a function of plasma major radius R, minor radius a, and internal inductance $l_i[4]$,

$$L = \mu_0 R \left(\ln \frac{8R}{a} + \frac{l_i}{2} - 2 \right).$$
(2.3)

In Equation (2.3), internal inductance l_i can be calculated using [13]

$$l_i = \frac{2\int_0^a B_\theta^2 r dr}{a^2 B_{\theta a}^2}.$$
(2.4)

In the case of a flat I_p profile which is assumed in the model, l_i is equal to 0.5. In Equation (2.1), R_p indicates plasma resistance which can be calculated with Spitzer resistivity[13],

$$R_p = 5 \times 10^{-5} \times \ln \Lambda \times Z_f \times \frac{2R}{a^2} \times T_e^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$
(2.5)

where $\ln \Lambda$ is Coulomb logarithm and Z_f represents an effective charge. Z_f is defined as [13]

$$Z_f = \frac{\sum_A \sum_z n_A^{z+} z^2}{\sum_A \sum_{z \ge 1} n_A^{z+} z},$$
(2.6)

where subscript A represents a deuterium or an impurity. z means an ionic charge state. Accordingly, n_A^{z+} indicates deuterium ion density n_D^{1+} or impurity ion densities n_I^{z+} of which the charge state is z.

The value of the inductances and the resistances for JET are summarized in Table 1. It should be noted that plasma resistance R_p is a function of electron temperature T_e and effective charge Z_f . In order to calculate I_p with Equation (2.1) and (2.2), T_e and Z_f should be obtained by solving the energy and particle balance equations.

2.2. Electron Energy Balance

The electron energy balance equation is

$$\frac{3}{2}\frac{d(n_e eT_e)}{dt} = P_{oh} + P_{aux} - (P_{iz} + P_{rad}) - P_{equi} - P_{conv}^e.$$
(2.7)

In this model, it is assumed that there is no auxiliary heating source, i.e. $P_{aux} = 0$. P_{oh} is the only electron heating source, and all ohmic heating power is assumed to be

absorbed by electrons without ion heating. Ohmic heating power per unit volume is

$$P_{oh} = \frac{I_p^2 R_p}{V_p},\tag{2.8}$$

where V_p is the plasma volume[4]. Electron power losses in Equation (2.7) consist of collisional ionization power loss P_{iz} , radiation power loss P_{rad} , equilibration power loss P_{equi} , and convective transport power loss P_{conv} .

Collisional ionization process is a power loss mechanism from an electron point of view since a free electron loses their kinetic energy as much as the binding energy of an electron in an atom[4]. Therefore, collisional ionization power loss P_{iz} is

$$P_{iz} = \frac{V_n^A}{V_p} \sum_A \mathcal{R}_{A,iz}^{0 \to 1+} W_A^{0 \to 1+} n_e n_A^0 + \sum_A \sum_{z \ge 1} \mathcal{R}_{A,iz}^{z \to (z+1)+} W_A^{z \to (z+1)+} n_e n_A^{z+},$$
(2.9)

where $W_A^{z+\to(z+1)+}$ is its ionization energy required to ionize an atom or a non-fully ionized ion from z+ to an (z+1)+. Here V_n^A represents a neutral volume of species Awithin a plasma volume. The details of the neutral screening effect will be discussed in section 2.4.2.

The reaction rate coefficients and power coefficients are expressed as \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{P} . Their superscript indicates the change of the ion charge in the atomic reaction, the subscripts represent the species of the reaction particle and the kind of the reaction. For example, $\mathcal{R}_{A,rec}^{z+\to(z-1)+}$ indicates a recombination rate coefficient of species A of which the ionic charge transits to (z-1)+ from z+ through a recombination reaction. In the case of ionization and charge exchange, the subscripts are iz and rec, respectively. $\mathcal{P}_{A,line}^{z+}$ is a power coefficient of line radiation and $\mathcal{P}_{A,RB}^{z+\to(z-1)+}$ is a power coefficient of Recombinations and Bremsstrahlung radiation. The rate coefficients and power coefficients used in the burn-through simulation are obtained from ADAS. Further information about this is available in H. P. Summers's paper published in 2006[9].

If there is a collisional excitation of an atom or an ion, a free electron also loses its kinetic energy. In the case of optically thin plasma, which is assumed in this article, the amount of the electron power loss for collisional excitations is equal to the subsequent line radiation power[4]. The electron power loss resulting from the electron deceleration due to the background ions is also equal to the bremsstrahlung radiation power loss [4]. However, in the case of recombinations, the radiation power loss is greater than the electron power loss for recombination reactions since the potential energy in an atom or an ion is included in the total recombination radiation power[4]. Therefore, this amount must be extracted from the total recombination radiation power in order to calculate the electron power loss. The total electron power loss through radiation is

$$P_{rad} = \sum_{A} \frac{V_{n}^{A}}{V_{p}} \mathcal{P}_{A,line}^{0} n_{e} n_{A}^{0}$$

$$+ \sum_{A} \sum_{z \ge 1} (\mathcal{P}_{A,line}^{z+} + \mathcal{P}_{A,RB}^{z+\to(z-1)+} - \mathcal{R}_{A,rec}^{z+\to(z-1)+} W_{A}^{(z-1)+\to z+}) n_{e} n_{A}^{z+}.$$
(2.10)

Electrons also lose energy through elastic coulomb collisions with ions, equilibration.

The equilibration power loss P_{equi} is well known as

$$P_{equi} = 7.75 \times 10^{-34} (T_e - T_i) \frac{n_e \ln \Lambda}{T_e^{3/2}} (\sum_A \sum_{z \ge 1} \frac{n_A^{z+} z^2}{M_A}), \qquad (2.11)$$

where M_A is ion mass of each species in amu[4].

Electron convective transport power loss P_{conv}^e is

$$P_{conv}^e = \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_e e T_e}{\tau_e},\tag{2.12}$$

where electron confinement time τ_e is assumed to be equal to deuterium confinement time τ_D in this model. The details of particle confinement time will be discussed in section 2.4.4.

2.3. Ion Energy Balance

The ion energy balance equation is[4]

$$\frac{3}{2}(n_i e T_i) = P_{equi} - P_{CX} - P_{conv}^i.$$
(2.13)

where ion density n_i and temperature T_i are defined to be

$$n_{i} = n_{D}^{1+} + \sum_{I} \sum_{z \ge 1} n_{I}^{z+}$$

$$T_{i} = T_{D}^{1+} = T_{I}^{z+}.$$
(2.14)

Ions are assumed to be heated only by equilibration with electrons and lose energy through charge exchange reactions and ion convective transport[4]. The ion energy loss in a charge exchange reaction is equal to the energy difference between the energetic ion (a deuterium ion or an impurity ion) and the lower-energy deuterium atom[4], which is assumed to be at room temperature, i.e. $T_0 = 0.026[eV]$. In this model, deuterium is assumed to be the only electron donor for charge exchange reactions. Therefore, charge exchange reaction occurs only in a deuterium neutral volume within a plasma volume, V_n^D . Accordingly, the ion power loss due to a charge exchange reaction is

$$P_{cx} = \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} (\frac{3}{2} n_D^0 e(T_i - T_0) \sum_A \mathcal{R}_{A,cx}^{1+\to 0} n_A^{1+}).$$
(2.15)

Ion convective transport power loss P_{conv}^i can be calculated as

$$P_{conv}^{i} = \sum_{A} \sum_{z \ge 1} \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_{A}^{z+} eT_{i}}{\tau_{D}}.$$
(2.16)

2.4. Deuterium Particle Balance

2.4.1. Deuterium recycling coefficient model Once deuterium ions arrive at the vessel wall, they are recycled according to the recycling coefficient Y_D^D . In the burn-through phase, this deuterium recycling coefficient can be higher than 1 since deuterium atoms

$$Y_D^D = c_1 - c_2(1 - exp(-\frac{t}{c_3}))$$
(2.17)

According to Equation (2.17), the deuterium recycling coefficient changes to $c_1 - c_2$ from c_1 with time t, and the rate of the change is determined by c_3 .

2.4.2. Neutral screening effect As electron temperature increases, the ionization meanfree-path of neutrals, $\lambda_{A,iz}$, is reduced, thereby preventing neutrals from penetrating into a plasma column, i.e. decrease in the neutral volume within a plasma column, V_n^A . This neutral screening effect requires sophisticated particle balance equations. For example, a charge exchange reaction is only available in a deuterium neutral volume within a plasma volume, V_n^D , since a deuterium atom is assumed to be the only electron donor in this article. In addition, ionization and excitation of neutral A are limited to V_n^A which contains neutral A.

The neutral screening effect has been modelled in B. Lloyd's model[4]. However, the different neutral volume between impurities was not taken into account in the model. In addition, V_n^A is likely to be a function of the cross-section of a neutral volume as shown in Figure 1 rather than a simple proportional function of $\lambda_{A,iz}$, assumed in [4]. We define the neutral volume within a plasma volume as

$$V_n^A = \begin{cases} 2\pi R(\pi \kappa a^2 - \pi \kappa (a - \lambda_{A,iz})^2) & \text{if } \lambda_{A,iz} \le a \\ V_p & \text{if } \lambda_{A,iz} > a \end{cases}$$

where κ is the elongation of plasma cross-section.

For the sake of a compact expression, the neutral volume coefficient is defined as γ_n^A ,

$$\gamma_n^A = 1 - \frac{V_p - V_n^A}{V_V},$$
(2.18)

i.e. the total neutral volume including the volume within a plasma is $\gamma_n^A V_V$.

2.4.3. Dynamic effective connection length model Effective connection length without a plasma current is calculated with [14]

$$L_f = 0.25 \times a \frac{B_\phi}{B_z}.$$

However, this should be modified as a function of plasma current to simulate the burnthrough phase as one of the important features in this phase is the formation of CFS i.e. a significant change of the effective connection length L_f . Since the mechanism of the dominant particle loss, i.e. a parallel or perpendicular transport, is subject to L_f , the dynamic model of L_f is of crucial importance.

It is generally accepted that a magnetic field configuration becomes closed with increasing plasma current. In the case of JET, the plasma current from which the field transition occurs is around 100 [kA]. Based on this, the L_f is modelled as a function of plasma current with $I_{ref} = 100[kA]$,

$$L_f = 0.25 \times a(t) \frac{B_\phi}{B_z(t)} exp(\frac{I_p(t)}{I_{ref}})$$
(2.19)

where B_{ϕ} and $B_z(t)$ are a toroidal field and a stray field, respectively. $B_z(t)$ is composed of vertical field B_v and error field B_{eddy} , due to the eddy current in a vacuum vessel in JET. The total stray field B_v at JET is approximately $10^{-3}[T]$ at t = 0[s]. The contribution of $B_{eddy}(t)$ near the middle point between the centre of a plasma column and the position of the MK2 structure can be approximately calculated as,

$$B_{eddy}(t) = \frac{\mu_0}{2\pi} I_{MK2}(t)$$

2.4.4. Particle confinement time For an open field configuration, the parallel transport loss can be assumed as a transonic ambipolar flow along a magnetic field line toward the vessel wall. Analogous to the plasma in the Scrape-Off-Layer (SOL), deuterium confinement time due to the parallel particle loss $\tau_{D,\parallel}$ is calculated by dividing effective connection length L_f by the deuterium ion sound speed C_s ,

$$\tau_{D,\parallel} = \frac{L_f}{C_s},\tag{2.20}$$

where

$$C_s = \sqrt{\frac{eT_e + eT_i}{m_D}},\tag{2.21}$$

where m_D is deuterium ion mass, $2 \times 1.66 \times 10^{-27}$ in [kg].

While perpendicular particle loss is small enough to be ignored when L_f is sufficiently short, the perpendicular particle transport becomes dominant as field lines are closed. In this model, Bohm diffusion is adopted to calculate the perpendicular particle transport[15]. The Bohm diffusion velocity is presented in [16],

$$v_{Bohm}(t) = \frac{2D_{Bohm}(t)}{a(t)} \tag{2.22}$$

where

$$D_{Bohm}(t) = \frac{1}{16} \frac{T_e}{B_{\phi}}.$$
(2.23)

Accordingly, the particle confinement time due to the perpendicular transport is

$$\tau_{D,\perp} = \frac{a(t)}{v_{Bohm}(t)} exp(\frac{a(t)}{\lambda_{ii}(t)})$$
(2.24)

In Equation (2.24), exponential term is attached to include the ion-ion collision effect[15] where a mean free path for ion-ion collision is given by[7]

$$\lambda_{ii}(t) = \frac{10^{16} T_i(t)^2}{n_i(t)}.$$
(2.25)

The confinement time of a deuterium ion τ_D is then obtained with Equation (2.20) and (2.24) as

$$\frac{1}{\tau_D} = \frac{1}{\tau_{D,\parallel}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{D,\perp}}.$$
(2.26)

2.4.5. Modified deuterium balance The above modifications are summarized in the following particle balance equation of a deuterium atom and ion.

Particle balance equation of deuterium atom:

$$\frac{dn_D^0}{dt} = \frac{1}{\gamma_n^D V_V} (V_p \mathcal{R}_{D,rec}^{1+\to 0} n_e n_D^{1+} - V_n^D \mathcal{R}_{D,iz}^{0\to 1+} n_e n_D^0 - V_n^D \sum_I \sum_{z\geq 1} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{z+\to(z-1)+} n_D^0 n_I^{z+}) + \frac{\Gamma_{D,in}^{total}}{\gamma_n^D V_V},$$
(2.27)

where the total influx of deuterium atoms $\Gamma_{D,in}^{total}$ is

$$\Gamma_{D,in}^{total} = V_p \frac{Y_D^D n_D^{1+}}{\tau_D}.$$
(2.28)

Particle balance equation of deuterium ions:

$$\frac{dn_D^{1+}}{dt} = \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{D,iz}^{0\to 1+} n_e n_D^0 - \mathcal{R}_{D,rec}^{1+\to 0} n_e n_D^{1+} + \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \sum_I \sum_{z\ge 1} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{z+\to(z-1)+} n_D^0 n_I^{z+} - \frac{n_D^{1+}}{\tau_D}.$$
 (2.29)

2.5. Impurity Particle Balance

It is generally accepted that the electron power losses for radiations and ionizations, i.e. $P_{rad} + P_{iz}$, are dominant in the total electron power loss during the burn-through phase. Since $P_{rad} + P_{iz}$ are significantly affected by impurity content[3], a treatment for impurity evolution is of crucial importance.

In the burn-through phase, there is considerable impurity sputtering and recycling[1], that affect impurity evolution in the plasma. In order to take them into account, impurity transport and PSI effects are included in the model.

In this article, Y_A^I represents an impurity sputtering yield (or a recycling coefficient) due to a deuterium or impurity ion bombardment. Here, superscript I indicates sputtered (or recycled) impurity, i.e. carbon or oxygen, and subscript A represents an incident ion.

2.5.1. Plasma Surface Interaction model If a deuterium or an impurity ion strike a vessel wall, impurity atoms are ejected from the wall through sputtering or recycling[7]. The species of a dominant impurity is subject to the wall material. In the Carbon-wall JET experiments, hydrocarbon such as CD_4 is a major impurity[7].

While a physical sputtering yield is a function of incident ion energy[7], a chemical sputtering yield is weakly dependent on incident ion energy. In the carbon wall, chemical sputtering dominates physical sputtering when incident deuterium ion energy is lower than 100[eV][8] which is a typical ion temperature in the burn-through phase. In addition, in laboratory plasma experiments, the carbon sputtering yield due to the low-energy deuterium ion bombardment, Y_D^C , has been measured to be less than 0.03[8] when a substrate temperature is around 500[K][8], which is similar to the wall temperature in JET. Based on this, Y_D^C in the burn-through simulation of the Carbon-wall JET is assumed to be a constant parameter of 0.03.

Oxygen is another primary intrinsic impurity in tokamaks. Oxygen is not only a strong radiator in a plasma, but also it can lead to a high level of carbon content[7]. When there is an oxygen bombardment on carbon wall with an energy of a several tens of eV, carbon monoxide CO is emitted dominantly with about 1.0 sputtering yield [17]. Therefore, it is assumed that an oxygen atom and a carbon atom are ejected from the wall by oxygen ion bombardment, i.e. $Y_O^O \equiv 1.0$ and $Y_O^C \equiv 1.0$.

Once impurity ions arrive at the vessel wall, they are assumed to be recycled to a neutral impurity according to their recycling coefficient Y_I^I which is the same for all ionic charge states. The oxygen recycling coefficient, Y_O^O , and the carbon recycling coefficient, Y_C^C , are assumed to be 1 and 0, respectively, according to their volatility. The sputtering yields and recycling coefficients used in the model are summarized in Table 2.

2.5.2. Impurity Transport model The parallel flow velocity of impurities at sheath entrance v_z during the burn-through phase is assumed to be the deuterium ion sound speed C_s . Justification of this assumption is given in the Appendix. According to the assumption, impurity confinement time due to parallel transport $\tau_{I,\parallel}$ is also equal to $\tau_{D,\parallel}$ in the model, i.e. $\tau_{I,\parallel} = \tau_{D,\parallel}$.

Since Bohm diffusion coefficient D_{Bohm} is only dependent on an electron temperature, it is valid for impurities as well. Accordingly, this results in the same diffusion particle loss of impurities with deuterium ion's, i.e. $\tau_{I,\perp} = \tau_{D,\perp}$. Therefore, the resulting impurity confinement time is equal to the deuterium confinement time in the model, i.e.

$$\tau_I = \tau_D. \tag{2.30}$$

In the model, all influx of impurity atom results from wall sputtering or recycling due to the outflux of deuterium and impurity ions toward the wall, i.e. no gas pumping

and puffing. The total impurity influx and outflux (atoms per second) are defined to be

$$\Gamma^{0}_{I,in} = V_p \sum_{A} \sum_{z \ge 1} \frac{Y_I^A n_A^{z+}}{\tau_I},$$
(2.31)

$$\Gamma_{I,out}^{z+} = V_p(\frac{n_I^{z+}}{\tau_I}).$$
(2.32)

2.5.3. Impurity particle balance The general form of modified impurity particle balance equations including the neutral screening effect and PSI effects is shown below.

$$\frac{dn_{I}^{0}}{dt} = -\frac{V_{n}^{I}}{\gamma_{n}^{I}V_{V}} \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{0\to1+} n_{e}n_{I}^{0} + \frac{V_{p}}{\gamma_{n}^{I}V_{V}} \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{1+\to0} n_{e}n_{I}^{1+} + \frac{V_{n}^{D}}{\gamma_{n}^{I}V_{V}} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{1+\to0} n_{D}^{0} n_{I}^{1+} + \frac{\Gamma_{I,in}^{0}}{\gamma_{n}^{I}V_{V}} \tag{2.33}$$

$$\frac{dn_{I}^{1+}}{dt} = \frac{V_{n}^{I}}{V_{p}} \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{0\to1+} n_{e}n_{I}^{0} - \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{1\to2+} n_{e}n_{I}^{1+} + \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{2+\to1+} n_{e}n_{I}^{2+} - \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{1+\to0} n_{e}n_{I}^{1+} + \frac{V_{n}^{D}}{V_{p}} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{2+\to1+} n_{D}^{0} n_{I}^{2+}$$

$$-\frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{1+\to 0} n_D^0 n_I^{1+} - \frac{n_I^{1+}}{\tau_I}$$
(2.34)

$$\frac{dn_{I}^{z+}}{dt} = \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{(z-1)+\to z+} n_{e} n_{I}^{(z-1)+} - \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{z+\to(z+1)+} n_{e} n_{I}^{z+} + \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{(z+1)+\to z+} n_{e} n_{I}^{(z+1)+} - \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{z+\to(z-1)+} n_{e} n_{I}^{z+}$$

$$+\frac{V_n^D}{V_p}\mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{(z+1)+\to z+}n_D^0n_I^{(z+1)+} - \frac{V_n^D}{V_p}\mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{z+\to(z-1)+}n_D^0n_I^{z+} - \frac{n_I^{z+}}{\tau_I}$$
(2.35)

The corresponding matrix for impurity particle balance is shown below.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} n_I^0 \\ n_I^{1+} \\ n_I^{2+} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{A} \quad \mathbb{B} \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad \dots \\ \mathbb{C} \quad \mathbb{D} \quad \mathbb{E} \quad 0 \quad \dots \\ 0 \quad \mathbb{F} \quad \mathbb{G} \quad \mathbb{H} \quad \dots \\ \vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots \quad \ddots \quad \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_I^0 \\ n_I^{1+} \\ n_I^{2+} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\Gamma_{I,in}^0}{V_V} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

where

-

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{A} &= -\frac{V_p}{\gamma_n^I V_V} \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{0 \to 1+} n_e \\ \mathbb{B} &= \frac{V_p}{\gamma_n^I V_V} \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{1 \to \to 0} n_e + \frac{V_n^D}{\gamma_n^I V_V} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{1 \to \to 0} n_D^0 \\ \mathbb{C} &= \frac{\gamma_n^I V_V}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{0 \to 1+} n_e \\ \mathbb{D} &= -\mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{1 \to \to 2+} n_e - \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{1 \to \to 0} n_e - \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{1 \to \to 0} n_D^0 - \frac{1}{\tau_I} \\ \mathbb{E} &= \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{2 \to \to 1+} n_e + \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{2 \to \to 1+} n_D^0 \\ \mathbb{F} &= \mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{1 \to \to 2+} n_e \\ \mathbb{G} &= -\mathcal{R}_{I,iz}^{2 \to \to 3+} n_e - \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{2 \to \to 1+} n_e - \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{2 \to \to 1+} - \frac{1}{\tau_I} \end{split}$$

$$\mathbb{H} = \mathcal{R}_{I,rec}^{3+\to2+} n_e + \frac{V_n^D}{V_p} \mathcal{R}_{I,cx}^{3+\to2+} n_D^0 \tag{2.36}$$

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2.6. Electron particle Balance

On the condition of charge neutrality, an electron density is calculated using each ion density[4],

$$n_e = \sum_A \sum_{z \ge 1} z n_A^{z+}.$$
 (2.37)

3. Validation of burn-through simulation in Carbon-wall JET

3.1. Diagnostic tools used for validation

Figure 2 shows EFIT data for the plasma equilibrium and the lines of sight of the diagnostic tools, which are used for validation of the model in JET. The total radiation power loss is obtained with bolometry measurement. Thomson scattering data is used for the volume-averaged value of an electron temperature and density. Interferometry data is used for the volume-averaged value of an electron density. The emission rate of photons which have a specific wavelength (465[nm] for C^{2+}) are measured by photomultiplier tubes of which the lines of sight are vertical and horizontal, respectively, as shown in Figure 2. The data of C^{2+} are averaged using the two measurements of the different line of sight.

3.2. Initial conditions for burn-through simulation

In order to perform simulations with the model, initial conditions should be given at the starting point of the burn-through phase, i.e. the end of the electron avalanche. R. Papoular has defined electron avalanche(plasma break-down) as the realization of a critical electron density n_{ec} , from which coulomb collisions dominate atomic and molecular collisions[18]. Based on this, the initial values required for the burn-through simulation in JET are given for the plasma parameters at the transition of the dominant collisions.

According to the definition of the electron avalanche, the degree of ionization at the transition can be calculated:

$$n_{ec}\sigma_{e-i} = (n_a - n_{ec})\sigma_{e-a} \tag{3.1}$$

where n_a is the neutral density. The cross-section for electron-ion collision σ_{e-i} and electron-atom collision σ_{e-a} are[18]

$$\sigma_{e-i} \approx 1.5 \times 10^{-16} T_e^{-2} \tag{3.2}$$

$$\sigma_{e-a} \approx 3 \times 10^{-19} T_e^{-0.5}. \tag{3.3}$$

The degree of ionization where the electron density is n_{ec} is

$$\frac{n_{ec}}{n_a - n_{ec}} = \frac{\sigma_{e-a}^{cr}}{\sigma_{e-i}^{cr}} \approx \frac{3 \times 10^{-19} T_{ec}^{-0.5}}{1.5 \times 10^{-16} T_{ec}^{-2}} = 2 \times 10^{-3} T_{ec}^{\frac{3}{2}}$$
(3.4)

where the T_{ec} is the electron temperature at which the critical electron density n_{ec} is achieved. If we assume T_{ec} is approximately 1[eV], then the consistent degree of ionization is

$$\frac{\gamma_c}{1 - \gamma_c} \approx \gamma_c \approx 0.002 \tag{3.5}$$

where $\gamma_c = n_{ec}/n_a$. Since the neutrals can be assumed to have a room temperature ($\approx 0.03[eV]$), n_{ec} is calculated with the initial prefill gas pressure p,

$$n_{ec} = 0.002n_a \approx 0.002 \times 2.78 \times 10^{22} p[Torr]$$
(3.6)

where $n_a \approx 2.78 \times 10^{22} p[Torr]$. n_{ec} enables us to calculate the plasma current density at the transition point with the electron drift speed $v_{De} (\approx 43 E/p)$ [2],

$$J_c = en_{ec} \times (43\frac{E}{p}) \approx 382.5 \times E[V/m].$$
(3.7)

Table 3 summarizes the initial conditions for the burn-through simulation.

In order to compare the simulational result against discharge 77210, which is one of the typical burn-through shots in JET, measured loop voltage $V_{loop}(t)$ (about 26[V] of the peak) and EFIT data such as major radius R(t), minor radius a(t), and plasma cross-section $A_p(t)$ of a plasma column in # 77210 shot are used as an input data in the simulation. For deuterium recycling coefficient Y_D^D in Equation (2.17), c1, c2, and c3 are assumed to be 1.1, 0.09, and 0.1, respectively. These constants are optimized to match the simulation results with # 77210 JET data.

3.3. Comparison between the simulational result and JET data

Figure 3 shows JET data and the simulational results between 0 and 0.5 second in #77210. The plasma current in the simulation and JET data start to increase with the loop voltage applied from t = 0[s] onwards. Both approaches 0.8[MA] toward the end of the simulation at t = 0.5[s] showing very good agreement.

One of the important features in the burn-through phase is the radiation peak(barrier), which results from the change of the total radiation power as shown in the bolometry data[19]. In Figure 3, the radiation barrier is reproduced in the simulation, and has a similar magnitude, about 250[kW], as the bolometry data. In addition, the total radiation power around the radiation barrier has a similar FWHM, and the growth rate after the radiation barrier is also similar. These imply the model reflects key aspects of physics of the radiation power during the burn-through phase.

The electron temperature and density indicated by the red solid lines in Figure 3(c)(d) are measured by Thomson scattering[20]. The simulated electron temperature and density approaches similar values with the Thomson scattering data, showing reasonable evolution. However, the simulated electron temperature and density have a discrepancy before arround 0.15 second. Probably, this is due to the the error of the EFIT data, which is used to calculate volume averaged value with the raw Thomson scattering data. There can be significant errors in the EFIT data in the early phase of

discharge such as the burn-through phase. This would result in errors in the volumeaveraged values. The red dotted line in Figure 3(d) is the electron density measured by interferometry[21] in JET. Its descrepancy with the Thomson scattering data implies that there are errors in the diagnostic data.

Figure 4(a) show the number of photons emitted by C^{2+} . The red line is the measured values and the blue line is the synthetic data, which is calculated from the simulated plasma parameters, i.e. n_e , T_e , and n_c^{2+} in Figure 4. The calculation of the synthetic data is

$$I_{C2+} = n_e n_c^{2+} \mathcal{PEC}_{C2+}(n_e, T_e) [p \ m^{-3} sec^{-1}]$$
(3.8)

where $\mathcal{PEC}_{C2+}(n_e, T_e)$ is a photon emissivity coefficient, which is a function of electron density and temperature. The photon emissivity coefficient for 465[nm] wavelength is obtained from ADAS[9].

As can be seen in Equation (3.8), since the growth and decay of C^{2+} line emission result from the change of n_c^{2+} , the change of photon emission rate can give us important information about the n_c^{2+} evolution. The peak value of C^{2+} line emission and its decrease after the peak point indicate that the maximum amount of n_c^{2+} exist at around this time and most C^{2+} are ionized to higher charge states after the peak. The synthetic photon emission rate of the C^{2+} line shows a similar time scale of growth and decay with those of the measured value. It should be noted that the change of the synthetic C^{2+} line emission is available only with an adequate model for impurity evolution. The similar behaviour of the synthetic data implies the simulation can compute the evolution of C^{2+} with acceptable accuracy.

In JET, observation of carbon evolution in the burn-through phase is limited to C^{2+} due to the lack of diagnostic data available for this phase. The burn-through simulation can provide information of the impurities in other charge states. The simulated evolution of carbon ions is presented in Figure 4(b). As explained above, the peak of C^{2+} density is coincident with that of the systnetic C^{2+} line. C^{3+} density increases as C^{2+} density decreases, and so on. Through ionization of carbon ions, C^{6+} density becomes dominant from 0.15[s] onwards, indicating that most carbon ions are fully ionized from from that time. Figure 4(c), enlarged from Figure 4(b), describes the process of carbon burnthrough in detail.

4. Discussion

Model validation using the five subsequent discharges (#77211 ~ 77215) has been performed. The simulations of the radiated power, electron density evolution, and C^{2+} line emission show similar agreement with the measured data as shown for #77210 in Figure 3 and 4. However, the plasma current rise is slightly overestimated in the discharges. The plasma current after the burn-through phase depends on the loop voltage available. The time evolution of the loop voltage available for the plasma current build-up would require detailed information of the magnetic equilibrium. This is not used in the model (only external measurement is used), hence the agreement with the measured plasma current rise could be improved.

In the model, a uniform plasma temperature and density are assumed (0-D). Although the simulational results show good agreement against JET data, including the effect of plasma profiles into the model would be an improvement. This would allow for quantitative investigation of power balances as both ohmic heating and power losses are functions of plasma parameters which can be different at each position. The profile effect would be also important for particle balance, due to the particle diffusions within a plasma column. Modelling of such a 1D(or 2D) effect would enable the model to describe the details of the burn-through physics as a function of the plasma radius, i.e. burn-through shell, localised heating by microwaves.

In the model, the error field are calculated only with the eddy current flowing on MK2 structure. This is a simplified model for JET. Hence, for applications to other tokamaks, a 2D(or 3D) electromagnetic code should be incorporated into the model to calculate the distributed vessel current.

It is assumed that there is no additional heating power in this article, what is the case for JET. However, various RF and NBI systems are applied in many current devices[22][23][24] during start-up, and ECH-assisted start-up has been proposed for ITER start-up[3]. In addition, non-inductive tokamak start-up, in which an additional heating power is the only heating source, is of crucial importance for a commercial fusion power plant. In order to apply the model to such issues, there is an urgent need for development of an additional heating module.

Modification of the points stated above and application to wider JET data and other tokamaks will enable the potential usage of the model to be expanded.

5. Conclusion

Successful plasma burn-through is necessary for tokamak start-up. If deuterium and impurities are not sufficiently ionized in the burn-through phase, it will result in a non-sustained plasma break-down. The tokamak operation parameters required for plasma burn-through are usually estimated using experimental data rather than analytical(simulational) results. In order to reduce failure shots in the current tokamaks and to attempt more reliable predictive simulation for ITER, a simulation of the plasma start-up is important.

In this article, a new burn-through model is explained in detail, and quantative validation of the model against carbon-wall JET data has been attempted for the first time. Good agreement of plasma current and the total radiation power is shown between the simulation results and JET data. Due to the errors of the measured data in the early burn-through phase, it is difficult to compare the simulated electron temperature and density. However, the simulation result and the measured densities approach the similar value with time, showing reasonable evolution. The measured photon emission rate of C^{2+} are compared with the synthetic data calculated with the simulated plasma

parameters. The peak of the synthetic data is consistent with the observed peak in the measured data.

The similarity of the simulational results and JET data implies that the new burnthrough model contains the essential physics in the burn-through phase. Based on this, we suggest that the model can be used to investigate the burn-through criterion in various tokamaks. In the case of beryllium wall, physical sputtering is dominant due to the low threshold energy of beryllium sputtering[7]. This will result in different plasma burn-through compared to carbon-wall tokamaks. In order for a predictive simulation of ITER start-up, modification of the PSI model for a beryllium wall is required. Validation of the modified model against ITER-Like wall JET data would enable the predictive simulation to be more reliable.

Appendix

The parallel forces F_z on an impurity for tokamak start-up can be calculated with parallel force equation. The details of the equation can be found in [7].

$$F_z = -\frac{1}{n_z}\frac{dp_z}{ds} + m_z\frac{v_D - v_z}{\tau_{\parallel}} + zeE + \alpha_e\frac{dT_e}{ds} + \beta_i\frac{dT_i}{ds}$$
(5.1)

where v_D and v_z are flow velocities of deuterium and impurity, respectively. Based on Spitzer's analysis on coulomb collision frequency[25], τ_{\parallel} is defined as a parallel collisional diffusion time,

$$\tau_{\parallel} \cong \frac{1.47 \times 10^{13} m_z T_z (T_D/m_D)^{0.5}}{n_D z^2 \ln \Lambda}.$$

where m_z is in [amu] and T is in [eV]. α_e and β_i are coefficients for the electron temperature gradient force and the ion temperature gradient force, respectively[7], and they are given as a function of $z^2[26]$ [27] [28],

$$\alpha_e \cong 0.71 z^2$$
$$\beta_i \cong 2.6 z^2.$$

In order to simplify Equation (5.1), we define some assumptions as shown below.

(i) Temperatures of electron, deuterium and impurity decrease toward the vessel wall. The values of their gradients are approximated to be

$$\begin{split} \frac{dT_e}{ds} &\cong -\frac{T_e}{L_f} \\ \frac{dT_i}{ds} &= \frac{dT_z}{ds} \cong -\frac{T_i}{L_f}. \end{split}$$

(ii) Impurity density n_z decreases toward the vessel wall and the value of the gradient are approximated to be

$$\frac{dn_z}{ds} \cong -\frac{n_z}{L_f}$$

(iii) Flow velocity of background deuterium ion is ion sound speed C_s

(iv) Electric field on impurity is determined by the pre-sheath potential drop.

$$E = \frac{0.7T_e}{eL_f}$$

(v) Collisionality is strong enough that the impurity inertial term can be ignored,

$$m_z \frac{dv_z}{dt} \cong 0.$$

By substituting each term in Equation (5.1) with the assumptions above, the impurity velocity v_z can be derived as shown below

$$v_z = C_s + \frac{\tau_{\parallel}}{m_z L_f} (2T_z + 0.7zT_e - 0.71z^2T_e - 2.6z^2T_i).$$
(5.2)

During the burn-through phase in JET, typical plasma parameters and effective connection length L_f are about

$$T_e \cong 10[eV]$$
$$T_D = T_z \cong 3[eV]$$
$$n_D \cong 10^{18} [m^{-3}]$$
$$L_f \cong 1000[m]$$
$$\ln \Lambda \cong 15.$$

With the given values, the first term, C_s , and the second term in Equation (5.2) are calculated to be

$$\begin{split} C_s &\cong 25000 \ [m/s] \\ \frac{\tau_{\parallel}}{m_z L_f} (2T_z + 0.7zT_e - 0.71z^2T_e - 2.6z^2T_i) &\cong -5.173 + \frac{2.43}{z} + \frac{2.08}{z^2} \ [m/s] \end{split}$$

As shown above, the first term, C_s , in Equation (5.2) dominates the second term. Therefore, for the tokamak start-up phase, impurity flow velocity v_z can be assumed to be background ion's sound speed C_s ,

$$v_z \cong C_s.$$

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	L[H]	M[H]	$R[\Omega]$
Plasma	6.09×10^{-6}	2.49×10^{-6}	$R_p(T_e, Z_f)$
MK2	9.1×10^{-6}	2.49×10^{-6}	7.5×10^{-4}

Table 1: Inductances and resistances of a plasma current ring and a MK2 current ring for JET.

Sputtered(recycled) atom \setminus incident ion	D^{I+}	C^{z^+}	O^{z^+}
D^{0}	Equation (2.17)	$Y_D^C = 0$	$Y_D^O = 0$
C^{0}	$Y_C^D = 0.03$	$Y_C^C = 0$	$Y_C^O = 1$
O^{0}	$Y_O^D = 0$	$Y_O^C = 0$	$Y_O^O = 1$

Plasma parameters	Initial values
Electron temperature $T_e(0)$	1[<i>eV</i>]
Ion temperature $T_i(0)$	0.03[eV]
Deuterium atom density $n_d^0(0)$	$2.78 \times 10^{22} p[Torr]$
Electron density $n_e(0)$	$5.56 \times 10^{19} p[Torr]$
Carbon atom density $n_c^0(0)$	0
Oxygen atom density $n_o^0(0)$	$0.01n_{\rm d}^0(0)$
Plasma current density $J_p(0)$	$382.5 \times E[V/m]$
Eddy current density $I_{MK 2}(0)$	0

Table 3: Initial conditions for the burn-through simulation in JET.



Figure 1: The areas of blue and sky-blue indicate a neutral volume of a deuterium within a plasma volume V_n^D . The neutral volume of an impurity is indicated by V_n^I , i.e. sky-blue region. The red region represents no neutral region into which any neutrals cannot penetrate. The sum of the two blue regions and the red area means the total plasma volume V_p . : (a)ions (b)ions and deuterium neutrals (c)ions and neutrals of an impurity and a deuterium (d)neutrals of impurities and a deuterium



Figure 2: (a) cyan circle : The outermost flux surface obtained with EFIT 109[ms] after plasma initiation, (b) red lines: line of sight for interferometry, (c) blue lines: line of sight for photomultiplier tubes, (d) black line : line of sight for Thomson scattering data.



Figure 3: Each figure show simulational results and JET data of (a) Plasma current, (b) Total radiation power (c) Plasma temperature and (d) plasma density. In all figures, red lines indicate JET data and blue lines describe the simulational results. The red dotted line in (d) represent electron density measured by interferometry.



Figure 4: The blue line in (a) indicates the synthetic data of C^{2+} line(465[nm]) emission. The red lines in (a) shows C^{2+} line(465[nm]) emission measured with the photomultiplier tube in JET. The different units in the simulated data ([p m⁻³ sec⁻¹]) and the measured data([p m⁻² sec⁻¹ str⁻¹]) are indicated in the left and right y-axis, respectively. The change of C^{2+} line in the simulation result and the measured data show good agreement, thereby implying reasonable impurity evolution. (b) shows the simulational evolution of carbon, and (c) represents the enlarged figure between 0 and 0.05 second in (b).