

# **Ion Sources for Fusion**

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Ion sources are used in neutral beam injection systems (NBI)

Neutral atoms can penetrate through the confining magnetic field.

Used for **Neutral beam heating Current drive Diagnostics beams** 







- **Plasma heating by neutral beam injection**
- Positive Ion sources for Neutral Beams
- Negative ion based neutral beam injection
- Beam extraction
- Production of negative ions
- Negative ion sources
- Experimental results with the RF prototype
- Giant source for ITER
- Test facilities



#### NBI heating is dominant in most large past, present, and planned tokamaks



\*recently upgraded



#### **Interaction of fast neutrals with the plasma**

- ionisation by collisions with plasma electrons and ions
- drift of the fast ions in the magnetic field
- collisions of the fast ions with plasma ions and electrons => slow-down and scattering
- charge exchange collisions with background neutrals



# **Penetration depth**



Attenuation of the beam in an uniform Hydrogen plasma  $I = I_0 e^{(\pi i/L)}$ Approximation for the absorption **Neutral** length for ionisation beam n in 10<sup>19</sup>m<sup>-3</sup>, A in amu, E in keV

$$
\lambda = \frac{E}{18 \cdot n \cdot A} [m]
$$



Penetration depth depends on the energy Example AUG: 100 keV D beam,  $n_e = 5x10^{19}$  m<sup>-3</sup> =  $\lambda$  = 0.5 m

Fraction not absorbed by the plasma : shine-through determines minimum plasma density

# **Slowing down – power to the ions and electrons**



Change of energy of a fast ion



Stopping by ions and electrons is equal at the **"Critical energy" E<sub>c</sub>** 



 $E_c$  depends on the electron temperature Lower energy of  $E_0/2$  and  $E_0/3$  $=$  > lon heating dominates for  $E_0$  < 100kV



#### **Why Current Drive (CD) ?**

- **Tokamaks:** Plasma current is driven inductively (principle: transformer). => pulsed operation
	- $\Rightarrow$  for reactor: pulsed energy production, pulsed forces and heat loads on components  $\rightarrow$  reduced lifetime. Therefore aim (e.g. on ITER)
		- "stationary tokamak" completely non-inductive CD
		- enhanced pulse length  $\blacksquare$  significant part of  $I_p$  non-inductive CD
- Local modification of plasma current profile −  $j_P(r)$ to improve plasma confinement *(internal transport barriers, improved H-mode)* and/or plasma stability *(NTM stabilisation)*
- **Each of the heating systems foreseen for ITER is able to drive plasma current**

⇒ "Heating & Current Drive Systems"

# **Principle - Driving Toroidal Plasma Current by NBI**



The toroidally circulating fast ions - when slowing down - represent a

current ("fast ion current")

This fast ion current is modified by the interaction of the fast ions with the plasma, but generally some net current remains:

→ **Neutral beam driven current**

**I**NBCD **Current drive efficiency** 

$$
\eta_{CD} = \frac{I_{\text{NBCD}} n_{e} R}{P_{\text{dep}}}
$$

R major radius  $P_{den}$  deposition power

At present about 0.2 – 0.3



## **Neutral Beam Systems**





Neutral beams are produced by:

- Powerful ion beam by the ion source and the extraction system
- Neutralisation by charge exchange collisions of the fast ions with the cold gas in the neutralizer
- Not neutralised part of the beam is deflected to the ion dump
- The beam power is measured by a calorimeter

# **The ASDEX Upgrade NBI System (Garching, Germany)**





# **NBI system of JET (Joint European Torus, Culham, UK)**





# **Residual Ion Dump of ASDEX Upgrade**





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#### **Requirements:**



#### **Types:**

• **Arc sources**, filament based

Periplasmatron,

magnetic multipole ion source, "bucket source"

• **RF source** 

### **Arc and RF sources**





#### **Advantages of the RF source**

- No filaments => no lifetime limitations
- Cost saving due to the cheaper power supply
- Power supply on ground potential (separation by a transformer)

=> RF sources used in the second injector of ASDEX-Upgrade since 1997

# **Arc sources: Periplasmatron ion source (Fontenay-aux-Roses)**



#### Used on **ASDEX** (20 A, 55 keV)

- Close to the extraction system radially arranged filaments
- Source back plate as anode
- Cusp field by two coils around the cathode to compensate stray fields and for confinement of the electrons









Upgraded version used at KSTAR (Korea) Accelerator Part : Circular Aperture Grids



Plasma Chamber : Cusp Bucket

- Current Density > 210 mA/cm2
- $-$  Plasma Volume 26 x 64 x 32 cm<sup>3</sup>
- $-$  Hydrogen Ion Ratio  $\rightarrow$  80 % (H<sup>+</sup>)
- Filaments (1.2 mm W) 32
- Max. Arc Power 120 kW

### **Arc sources: JT-60-NBI positive ion source**







#### Used at **ASDEX-Upgrade, Textor, JET**

 $I_{\text{ARC}} \leq 1000 \text{ A}, U_{\text{ARC}} \sim 120 \text{ V}$ 

- 24 filaments
- Water-cooled Copper chamber with confinement magnets
- $B \times L \times H = 30 \times 60 \times 19$  cm<sup>2</sup>
- Arc power 120 kW





"Tent" filter to reduce the electron temperature

 $\Rightarrow$  H<sup>+</sup>/D<sup>+</sup> fraction

# **PINI extraction system (Plug In Neutral Injector)**



#### Used with the bucket source



### **Bucket source on the PINI extraction system**







#### **Dimensions**

 $B \times H \times L = 32 \times 19 \times 59$  cm<sup>3</sup> (=Bucket source)

#### **Beams**

**Hydrogen:** 90 A / 100 kW / 55 kV **Deuterium:** 65 A / 80 kW / 93 kV **Pulse duration** < 10 s





- Water cooled **Faraday shield** to protect the insulator from physical and chemical sputtering
- Power supply 1 MHz/120 kW
- Quartz insulator in a vacuum tank
- Confinement magnets on the source back plate
- Compatible with the PINI extraction system





# **RF matching**





### **Beam extraction**





- Three electrodes
- AUG: 774 apertures, 8 mm diameter
- Extraction area 390 cm<sup>2</sup> in 50.66 x 22.8 cm<sup>2</sup>
- Negative decel voltage reflects electrons from the neutralizer



#### **Child-Langmuir law**

=> Maximal extractable current

$$
I = C x V^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{Z}{M}} \left(\frac{a}{d+x}\right)^2
$$



#### **Proof of reliability:**

- 4 RF sources are used in the NBI of the
- ASDEX-Upgrade-
- Tokamak since 1997
	- no maintainance
	- no malfunction



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Neutralization efficiency depends on energy and ion species

#### **Positive ions**

Low neutralization efficiency at high beam energy, Different for molecular ions

#### **Negative ions**

Electron weakly bound (0.75 eV) => High neutralization efficiency at high beam energy



**Large machines** require high energies to achieve the penetration depth, Current drive more efficient at high beam energy  $\Rightarrow$  up to 1 MeV

### ⇒**NBI based on negative ions "NNBI"**

## **The ITER Tokamak**



#### **I**nternational **T**hermonuclear **E**xperimental **R**eactor



Under construction In Cadarache, France



# **ITER Negative Neutral Beam Heating Injector**





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# **ITER acceleration system**





Breakdown voltage  $\sim$  (gap length)<sup>1/2</sup> ⇒ Multistage acceleration is shorter  $\Rightarrow$  for ITER

1 MeV in five 200 keV stages

#### **MAMuG**

(Multi-aperture and multi-grid)

0.33 A (14.4 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> H<sup>-</sup>) at 937 keV have already been demonstrated at JAEA for 2 s



# **Secondary particle generation during the acceleration**



#### **Stripping**

Negative ions destroyed by collisions with the back ground gas ⇒ Power loss

Stripped electrons and **secondary electrons**  are accelerated

 $\Rightarrow$  High power load on the grids

#### **Backstreaming (positive) ions**

Produced by collisions of electrons and negative ions with the back ground gas => High power load on the source back plate

 **=> Limitation of the source pressure** 

 $p = 0.3$  Pa  $\rightarrow$  f<sub>s</sub> = 25%





#### **Co-extraction of electrons**

Electrons are deflected by small permanent magnets to the extraction grid



#### To limit the power load on the grid

**=> Limitation of the current of co-extracted electrons**

 $j_e/j_D$ - ≤ 1

### **Giant ion sources for the NNBI**



Achieved negative ion current densities:

**j = 200 A/m2 D<sup>−</sup>**

(~1/10 of positive ion systems)

ITER: Required for 16.7 MW at 1 MeV

#### **40 A D-**






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# **Volume production of negative ions**





### **Problems**

- Low ion currents  $\leq 5$  mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
- High source pressure > 0,6 Pa => high stripping losses
- High current of co-extracted electrons

## => **not applicable for the NNBI**

# **Surface production of negative ions**



H<sup>0</sup>, H<sub>n</sub><sup>+</sup> + surface-e  $\implies$  H<sup>-</sup>

- Conversion rate high at low work function Φ
- Φ can be reduced by coating with alkali metals  $Φ$  [eV]



 $\cdot$   $\Phi$  of Cs on Mo is minimal 1,6 eV at **0.6 mono layer** 

Cs coating by Cs evaporation into the source

- ⇒ Much higher H<sup>-</sup> current,
	- **Much lower current of co-extracted electrons**
	- **lower pressure possible**



# **Destruction of the negative ions**



Negative ions are fragile, binding energy of the electron is 0,75 eV



*electron detachment for hot electrons* with  $T_e > 2$  eV *mutual neutralisation associative detachment*

Survival length of H<sup>-</sup> only a few cm

- ⇒ **Only negative ions produced on the plasma grid can be extracted**
- ⇒ **divide source by a magnetic filter field in 'hot' plasma and 'cold' extraction zone**



• Production by surface conversion of H<sup>0</sup> atoms greater than of  $H_n^+$  ions

• Negative ion flux from the PG saturates at high atomic density due to space charge limitation => plasma needed

• Flux of D<sup>-</sup> ions lower than of H<sup>-</sup> ions under the same plasma conditions

• Extraction probability of D<sup>-</sup> ions lower than of H- ions under the same plasma **Conditions** 

=> lower D- current



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## **Operating NNBI systems**

## **Japan**

JT-60 U, JAEA (Japan Atomic Energy Agency) LHD, (Large helical device), NIFS (Nat. Inst. For Fusion Science)

## **Europe**

IPP Garching, Germany

## **Future**

RFX, Padua ITER, Cadarache

# **Kamaboko source (Japan)**

Initially part of the reference design of ITER

## **Semicylindical chamber shape**

⇒ To minimize plasma loss area ⇒ High negative ion production efficiency at low pressure was

expected

Tested and operational at CEA (Cadarche) and JT-60



## **JT60 source**







## **Kamaboko type 2/3 of ITER source size**  In operation since 1996

## **~50 high-current filaments**

- limited lifetime (100 h)
- frequent remote maintenance, every 2-3 months

**Design:** two sources

22 A, 500 keV, 10 s D- ion beams

## **Achieved (2010):**

17.4 A or 13 mA/cm2, 400 keV, 0.7 s

10 A, 360 keV, 25 s

Problem: voltage holding

# **JT-60 negative ion beam line**





Construction of JT-60SA, first plasma in March 2019



# **LHD negative ion source**





*(Takeiri, 2010)* 

Three injectors with two sources each Operating since 1998 **Design:** 30 A, 180 keV, 1 s (one source) **Achieved:** 37 A or 340 mA/cm2, 190 keV, 1.6 s



#### **Problem:**

High power load on the grounded grid

#### **Solution**

Slots instead of apertures in the grounded grid







## **Photos of the Constructed LHD Ion Source**









# **Design of the IPP prototype RF source**





# **Driver design**



Used in all NNBI RF sources High power density  $P_{RF}/V \sim 10 - 15$  kW/l



# **RF matching**





Self-excited 1 MHz oscillator

- + Frequency matching possible
	- => no remote controlled capacitors at the source
- Limited frequency stability



# **Filter field concepts**



#### **Small sources**

Filter field generated by permanent magnets close to the PG

## **Large sources**

- **ITER:** Current through the plasma grid (4kA) "PG Filter"
- => lower field close to the PG, larger range
- => **new concepts to be tested**



## **IPP Source**





# **Drifting plasma in presence of a perpendicular magnetic field**



Plasma drifting downwards (or upwards)

Combination of several cross B drifts

⇒ Inhomogeneous plasma density close to the plasma grid





Without magnetic filter With 5 kA PG filter

# **Compensation of the plasma drift in arc sources**

- Individual control of the arc and filament voltages according to the intensity of local arc discharges (LHD)
- Tent filter configuration (JT60)
	- => Drift is closed azimuthally





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## Volume production of **positive** Hydrogen ions

Surface production of **negative** Hydrogen ions





4 positive ion sources of the AUG NBI,

max. current 100 A

## **Reproducibility very good**

Two months experimental campaign with the negative ion prototype source, max. current 4 A

**Poor reproducibility** 







Minimum at 0.6 mono layer **not** achievable under vacuum conditions of the source (10-6 mbar)

=> **WF of Cs bulk material 2.14 eV** 

WF degrades under after stop of the evaporation

=> **Detoriation by impurities** in the

background gas (Cu,  $O_2$ , H<sub>2</sub>O, ...)

=> Constant Cs evaporation required

## **Conditioning procedure:**

Optimize  $t_{Pulse}$ ,  $t_{Pause}$ , Cs evaporation rate

- => reduction of electron current, increasing ion current
	- Faster conditioning at low background pressure
	- Plasma grid temperature >140°
	- Source body temperature 35° to avoid trapping of Cs on the walls



# **Long pulse conditioning at MANITU**





- Large variation of the currents at the same parameters
- Long-term degradation by impurities

# **Electron currents in long pulses**



- **Ion currents more stable than electron currents,**
- **but saturate at high power**
- **Electron currents increase** steeper at high power
- ⇒ In long pulses high load on the extraction grid
- ⇒ Reduction of the power
- ⇒ Lower ion currents

Electron current in long pulses correlated to Cs dynamics (Cs released from inner surfaces of the source)







## 1. **Conditioning**

Plasma cleaning of the plasma grid surface

+ Cs evaporation

## 2. **Plasma grid temperature**

RF source: Minimum temperature > 150°(**?**),

- up to 220° no significant change,
- in arc sources much higher plasma grid temperature required > 250°
- => Effect of tungsten coating ?
- 3. **Positive biasing** the plasma grid with respect to the source
- Electron current more sensitive
- Dependence on the bias voltage is different according to the Cs conditions



**Hydrogen:**  20 - 30 mA/cm2 Pulse length ITER 400s

**Deuterium:** 

3600s

current(**?**)

10 - 20 mA/cm2

Higher electron







0.3 Pa, 45 kW,  $J_{ion}$ = 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>

Stable long pulses at reduced power

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## **Heating beams HNB**

33 MW injected power 2 (later 3) tangential injectors 1 MeV 3600 s  $I(D^-)=$  40 A (one beamline)

**Diagnostic beam DNB** by IPR, India 3 MW, 100 keV, negative ions!  $I(H<sup>-</sup>) = 60$  A, same source type

**Requirements for the HNB ion sources**  Accelerated current density 20 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> (D<sup>-</sup>) 24 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> (H<sup>-</sup>) j<sub>el</sub>/j<sub>ion</sub> <1, at 0.3 Pa Durations: 3600s (D- ), 400s (H- )



# **In 2007 RF Source was chosen for the reference design of ITER**



## **Reasons for the decision:**

- No regular maintenance intervals necessary Important in the radioactive environment
- Simpler and possibly cheaper
	- much fewer components on HV
	- much fewer vacuum feedthroughs
- **No tungsten** coating of the walls
	- => Lower Cs consumption
- **Proof of reliability** by 10 years operation of RF sources in the positive ion based NBI of the AUG tokamak
- Required **H- /D- current densities** have been achieved with a small scale prototype at low source pressure (<0.3 Pa) in short pulses (> 4s) on the test facility BATMAN (IPP)



## **Design of the ITER RF source**



## **Test of**

- the modular concept: multi driver large expansion volume,
- RF power supply with two drivers in series,
- new filter field concepts,
- optimized extraction system

## **Benefits of large sources**

- Larger driver diameter reduces neutral depletion,
- Expanding plasmas of the multi drivers overlap
	- => Higher plasma density in the expansion chamber
	- => higher efficiency





# **RADI source**



- About full width and half the height of ITER source  $(0.76 \times 0.8 \text{ m}^2)$
- Two drivers in series supplied by one 1MHz/180kW RF generator
- **No Cs evaporation**
- **No beam extraction**

## **Achieved**

- 2 x 130 kW operation
- Homogenous plasma density
- Low pressure operation 0.2 0.3 Pa


## **ELISE ion source (Extraction from a Large lon Source Experiment)**





## **ELISE extraction system**



### 4 beamlet groups





# **ELISE: Shape of plasma grid apertures**



### **Chamfered apertures**

- Less collisions with particles
- Less losses on the electrode
- => **Higher extraction probability**





DI.



Commissioning in June 2012 RADI and MANITU shut down in August 2011



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#### Gate valve

=> no deterioration of Cs during cryo regeneration



• ELISE (IPP Garching): Half-size ITER-type source in cw operation with 60 kV/10s beam extraction.

 $\rightarrow$  to assess spatial uniformity of negative ion flux, validate or alter source concept

- SPIDER (RFX, Padua): Full size ITER source with full extraction voltage 100 keV,  $3600s \rightarrow$  to validate or alter source and extractor
- MITICA (RFX, Padua): Full size ITER source, 1 MeV, 3600s  $\rightarrow$  to validate or alter accelerator and beamline components
- DNB source test facility (Ghandinagar, India), Full size ITER source, 100 keV, 3600s





• Positive ion sources have reached a high degree of performance and reliability.

- Future fusion reactors require giant high power ion sources in which the negative ions are produced on Cs-adsorbed surfaces with low work function.
- The present development concentrates on the ITER NBI source which will produce 40A /1MeV beams for 3600s. The RF source was chosen for the ITER reference design due to the maintenance free operation and because the individual target values have been achieved with a small prototype.
- The further development of sources of ITER relevant size will be carried out in the next years on new large testbeds at IPP Garching and RFX Padua.