The impact of the heating mix on L- and H-mode DEMO plasmas

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The development of the EU-DEMO reactor is at the pre-conceptual design phase. At this stage, close attention is paid to the heating mix necessary to fulfill all the plasma requirements: breakdown, ramp-up, L-H transition, burn control, NTM stabilization, sawteeth pacing, radiative instability control and ramp-down. Integrated modeling is an effective tool to compare the impact of dominant electron vs. ion heating on turbulence and plasma kinetic profile evolution. Thus, the ability of a given heating mix to meet the aforementioned requirements can be systematically studied. We have utilized the ASTRA [1] transport code, coupled to the TGLF [2, 3] turbulent transport model for the core region of DEMO in order to compare the plasma response to dominant electron and ion heating mixes representative of ECRH, NBI and ICRF in L- and H-mode plasmas. Suitable boundary conditions are applied at the separatrix via a 0D 2-point model. Initial estimations [4] point to the feasibility of the L-H transition and significant fusion power production even in purely electron-heated plasmas.

The L-H transition work has been revisited and extended through the inclusion of Xe and W impurities, an expansion of the scanned parameter space in terms of density and ECRH power, a scan of the ECRH power deposition location and width as well as TGLF-predicted electron density profiles. The inclusion of impurities sets a strict concentration threshold for the L-H transition at high densities, while at low to intermediate Greenwald fraction the L-H transition becomes accessible at much higher impurity concentrations. Simulation in H-mode are performed by modeling the pedestal with scaling laws coupled to the core parameters [5]. The fraction of electron heating and Xe concentration is scanned and we determine its impact on the obained fusion power and separatrix heat fluxes.

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