P10 – Applications of Nuclear Polarization techniques

(Conveners: G. Bison, A. Sandorfi and A. Vasilyev)



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Polarized Fusion



 Patterson, R. (2016) World Energy 2016-2050: Annual Report. <u>http://peakoilbarrel.com/world-energy-2016-2050-annual-report/</u>

Demitriy Toporkov

Fusion \Leftrightarrow an as yet untapped source

Fusion Reactors \Leftrightarrow Reactions through the low energy tails of J=3/2 "fusion resonances" (in the Sun, or by Magnetic or Inertial confinement)



Fusion \Leftrightarrow an as yet untapped source

- intended fuel: $D + t \rightarrow \alpha + n$
- about 180 research tokamaks have been built; there are currently about 30 in operation
- ⇔ mostly studying *D+D* reactions
- quantum leap towards fusion power:
 Int. Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor



$\frac{1}{2}$ GW reactor, \Leftrightarrow under construction @ ~ 40 B





research tokamaks





1.) Can the total cross section of the fusion reactions be increased by using polarized particles?

t + d \longrightarrow ⁴He + n J = 3/2 + / s-wave dominated (> 96%) $\overrightarrow{}^{3}\text{He} + \overrightarrow{d} \longrightarrow$ ⁴He + p Factor: ~1.5 at 430 keV

[Ch. Leemann et al., Helv. Phys. Acta 44, 141 (1971)]

(H. Paetz gen. Schieck, Eur. Phys. J. A 44, 321-354 (2010))

Ralf Engels

1.) Can the total cross section of the fusion reactions be increased by using polarized particles ?

Yes

Calculations for ITER:

(Magnetic confinement)

A.M. Sandorfi et al.; Proc. of the 22nd Int. Spin Symp., University of Illinois, Urbana IL, Sept 25-30, 2016.

Calculation for MEGAJOULE: (Laser-induced intertial fusion)

M. Temporal et al.; Nucl. Fusion 52 (2012) 103011

Energy Production:

Factor ~ 2

Factor 1.5, and the necessary laser power can be reduced by ~25 %

Dependence on toroidal field



ITER simulations:

Pacher et al, NF48 (08)105003

⇔**Q ~** B ⁶

- but, high neutron flux will lower critical current in SC coils
 M. Sawan, P. Walstrum, Fus Tech 10 (86)
- ⇔ could severely reduce parameter space for ITER operations

gain from polarization is field independent and can recover the operating space

History

- for polarization to be useful, it must survive long enough for complete fuel burn-up ⇔ a few sec in a tokamak
- Kulsrud *et al,* PRL **49** (1982) 1248
 - ... and many other papers of the 1980's calculated various depolarization mechanisms and found generally only small effects;
 - the exception was concern over depolarization at the walls (wall recycling)
- What's new ?

in an ITER-scale reactor, there is negligible wall recycling

Pacher et al., Nucl Fus 48 (2008) 105003; Garzotti et al., Nucl Fus 52 (2012) 013002



Important Issues for Polarized Fusion

- fusion reactions increased by use of polarized particles:
 - T+D and ³He+D fusion: σ gain factor = 1.5 ; Power gain ~ 2
 - fuel burn-up will include D+D reactions;
 what about D+D fusion: ????
- How to produce and how to handle polarized fuel?
 ITER-scale Tokomaks must be fed either with pellets or fast neutral beams (~ 1 MeV)

D+D fusion: $\sigma(\vec{D} + \vec{D}) / \sigma_0$



Experimental setup

Substantial part of the equipment from:



4-π detector with 51% filling 576 Hamamatsu PIN-diodes (S3590-09) PIN-diode active area: 1 cm² depleted layer: 300 um energy resolution: <50keV low reverse voltage (<=50V)

Central detector







4-π detector with 51% filling 576 Hamamatsu PIN-diodes (S3590-09) PIN-diode active area: 1 cm² depleted layer: 300 um energy resolution: <50keV low reverse voltage (<=50V)

Central detector







expected startup ⇔ 2020

Direct in situ test of polarization survival in a tokamak plasma

(Sina Tafti for the Jefferson Lab – Univ Virginia – General Atomics collaboration)

• test reaction: $D + {}^{3}He \rightarrow \alpha + p$



Polarized fuel can be delivered to the plasma using hollow polymer shells (~2 mm diameter ICF pellets)



D-III D Tokamak (San Diego)

 D can be permeated into pellets and then polarized a small NP target

• ³He, must be polarized first (SEOP) and then permeated

does the polarization survive ?

• polarized ³He permeation tracked with medical-imaging MRI



- 90% of the polarization gets into the pellet
- T₁ (77K) ~ 5 hours





- Test of polarization survival during laser-induced plasma acceleration (to ~ few MeV)
- plans for experiments with \vec{D} and ${}^{3}\vec{He}$



Exploring methods to polarize enough fuel for a reactor

- ITER-scale reactor would require ~ 10²² /s
- Dimitriy Toporkov
 - atomic beam source limits ~ 10¹⁷ atoms/s
 - joint effort to develop polarized molecular beams
 (Budker Inst U Düsseldorf Jülich)



 D_2 / H_2 fluxes in the ratio of their magnetic moments

Exploring methods to polarize enough fuel for a reactor

Peter Rakitzis - optical methods for producing polarizing beams

eg. - IR laser excites a deuterated molecule into a rotational-vibrational state

- hyperfine beating between the D spin and the J of the molecule
- stop beating when all the spin is on the D, by turning on a magnetic field
- UV laser dissociates the molecule





Optical methods of producing light flux polarized beams - P. Rakitzis

- potential exists for producing up to 10²² s⁻¹ polarized fluxes using commercially available lasers !
- studies planned at (a) Jülich and at (b) JLab

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Medical Imaging of Hyperpolarized Noble Gases

Perspectives and Prospects at the Quarter Century Mark

Wilson Miller

University of Virginia Department of Radiology & Medical Imaging SPIN 2018 Conference, Ferrara Italy September 13, 2018

First Commercial Polarizer (ca. 1997)

Can do ¹²⁹Xe: 500 mL @ 5~10% or ³He: 1 L @ 30~40% Dispense into bag for inhalation



1.5 Tesla Clinical MRI Scanner Vest-type RF coil (48.5 MHz for ³He)





Inhale gas from bag



Diffusion-Weighted MRI





Measuring the free neutron lifetime with spin-polarized ultracold neutrons at TRIGA Mainz



Dieter Ries for the τ SPECT collaboration d.ries@uni-mainz.de

SPIN 2018

September 13, 2018



Neutrons

 τ_n

0

Beam

UCN ○○○○○○○○● **τSPECT** 00000



The Lifetime Puzzle





Neutrons

 τ_n

0

Beam

UCN ○○○○○○○○○ **τSPECT** 00000



The Lifetime Puzzle





- 1. UCN production (30 ms reactor pulse)
- 2. Fill UCN into τ SPECT Magnet from the left
 - Polarization due to high Magnetic Field
 - Simultaneously: Intensity Monitoring (not spin-flipped Neutrons)
 - Short Axial Field Lowering (spectral cleaning)
- 3. Wait ...
- 4. Count remaining UCN
 - D. Ries (SPIN2018)

Storage of polarized ultracold neutrons

Guillaume Pignol, Sep 13 2018 SPIN 2018, Ferrara, Italy



European Research Council

erc

Principle of the spin-echo method

Ramsey cycles

Filling	$\pi/2$	$\pi/2$	Emptying neutrons,
	pulse	pulse	counting N_+ and N

Spin-echo cycles



10/22

