Exploration of long-pulse and steady-state operations in ITER

S.H. Kim¹, A.R. Polevoi¹, X. Bonnin¹, S. Yu. Medvedev², A. Loarte¹ and S.D. Pinches¹ ¹ITER Organization, ²KELDYSH Inst. Of Applied Mathematics



Acknowledgement : Many thanks to collaborators from ITER Organization, ITER Members institutes and Domestic Agencies The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the ITER Organization

Outline

- ITER Long Pulse (LP) and Steady State (SS) operation goals in Fusion Power Operation (FPO) phase
- □ ITER Staged Approach with HCD systems and major plasma scenarios
- □ ITER Q ~ 5 SS target plasma (HCD, MHD stability, divertor power loads, energetic particles)
- □ ITER Q ~ 5 SS operation scenario including access and exit
- □ ITER Q \ge 5 LP operation scenario (e.g ITER hybrid scenario)
- Open issues of ITER LP and SS operation
- □ A path considered for LP operation in ITER Pre-Fusion Power Operation (PFPO) phase
- Conclusions

ITER mission goals

□ ITER shall demonstrate scientific & technological feasibility of fusion energy:

- ➢ Pulsed inductive operation:
 Q ≥ 10 for burn lengths of 300-500 s
 → Baseline scenario ~ 15MA / 5.3T
- Long pulse operation:
 Q ≥ 5 for long pulses up to 1000 s
 → e.g) Hybrid scenario ~ 12.5MA / 5.3T
- Steady-state operation:
 Q ~ 5 for long pulses up to 3000 s
 Fully non-inductive current drive
 → e.g) Steady-state scenario ~ 10MA / 5.3T



The ITER Research Plan describes the strategy to achieve these goals

Staged approach and H&CD systems

	1 st Plasma	PFPO-1	PFPO-2	FPO	HCD Upgrade
Electron Cyclotron	5.8MW,170GHz Upper launcher	20MW + 10MW *		>	+ 20MW **
lon Cyclotron			20MW		+ 20MW **
Neutral Beam			33MW, H-beam	33MW, D-beam	+ 16.5MW **, D-beam
Key Scenarios	First plasma	5MA/1.8T H-mode, 10MA/5.3T L-mode	7.5MA/2.65T H-mode, 15MA/5.3T L-mode	15MA/5.3T DT H- mode (baseline), Long pulse (hybrid) explorations	Long pulse (hybrid) and steady-state

* To be confirmed** HCD upgrade options

itera china eu india japan korea russia usa

ITER Q~5 SS target plasma



Q ~ 5 target steady-state plasma at 10 MA

- Conditions identified by multiple integrated modelling activities including 1.5-D ASTRA modelling
 - EPED1+SOLPS used for pedestal and boundary
 → high n_{sep}, low Δn_{ped}
 - Q=5.02, f_{GW}=0.69
 - β_N=3.02 , q_{min}=1.23
 - H₉₈=1.52 (Improved confinement essential)
 - I_i(3)~0.87 relatively high mainly due to near on-axis 50 MW NBI (20-30 MW off-axis ECCD)



IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022 Page 6/29

iter china eu india japan korea russia usa

Stability optimization with ECCD

□ KINX stability analysis shows that low-n (=1-5) ideal MHD modes ($\beta_N < \beta_{N,limit}$) by varying the ECCD location (ρ_{ECCD} =0.35 was good)



Divertor power loads in Q~5 steady-state operation

- SOLPS-ITER analysis Simulations performed at IFERC Computational Simulation Center (JA-EU)
- \square P_{SOL} ~ 120MW with P_{Aux} ~ 70MW
- Ne seeding injected below the divertor $(C_{ne}^{sep} \sim 0.6\%)$ and divertor neutral pressure varied with fuel gas puff
- Divertor power loads decreased along with the divertor neutral pressure (not yet <10MW/m², also note large in/out asymmetry)
 - → Scans on Ne seeding rate & location, and gas puff rate are on-going



Distance from strikepoint along target (m)

Energetic particles in Q~5 steady-state operation

- SciDAC ISEP + ITPA-EP modelling (Z. Lin et al.) using gyrokinetic (GTC, ORB5), kinetic-MHD (FAR3D, M3D-C1, MEGA, XTOR-K, GAM-Solver, NOVA-K), & reduced models (CGM, RBQ, Kick)
- Macroscopic MHD mode gyrokinetic & kinetic-MHD
 - n=1 fishbone and kink modes driven by energetic particles are stable
- □ Meso-scale Alfvén Eigenmode gyrokinetic, kinetic-MHD, & reduced models
 - NB fast ion and alpha particle profiles can be flattened near q_{min}, at ρ=0.3-0.4
- Cross-scale coupling of AE with microturbulence and MHD: further studies are on-going



ITER SS and LP operation scenarios



Access to the target steady-state plasma

- Tailoring q profile using ECCD during the Lmode ramp-up to be close to the target profile at SOF (~40s)
- Access to a high-β H-mode minimizing the perturbation on the target q profile
- Step increase of NBI power during the initial flat-top phase to reduce the excursion of q at the core region



iter china eu india japan korea russia usa

IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022 Page 11/29

Plasma stability during access to steady-state operation



🚺 🦳 china eu india japan korea russia usa

Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022

Page 12/29

Exit from high Q H-mode conditions



- \Box H-L transition designed at I_p=7-10MA
 - To avoid the density limit
 - To avoiding impurity accumulation and excessive divertor power flux by varying W_{th} and <n_e> slowly [F. Kochl, PPCF2018]
 - To delay β_p drop and l_i increase to imporve vertical stability during H-mode

ITER Q ~ 5 steady-state scenario

- Stationary q profile (q > 1) with enhanced confinement ($H_{98} > 1.5$)
- □ Obtained with $P_{aux} = P_{NBI} + P_{ECH} \ge 70$ MW with non-inductively driven current ~ 100%
- □ Flat-top length limited to 3000s by hardware design (removal of deposited energy)



ITER Q ≥ 5 long pulse (hybrid) scenario

- **Q** q(0)>1 for ~900s flat-top (limited by current diffusion) with $H_{98} \sim 1.2$ in 12.5 MA/5.3 T
- **D** Obtained with 33MW P_{NBI} + 40MW P_{ECH} with non-inductively driven current ~ 50%

Alternative LPO options based on low density H-mode (q₉₅~3)



12.5MA LP & 10MA SS operational spaces

Operational space with as-built properties of ITER CS modules (CORSICA Constrained EQ) OSs extended from 15MA baseline – mainly due to reduced I_{n}



10MA steady-state

Plasma evolution within the operational spaces

- Flat-top plasmas are well within the extended operating space
- Initial magnetization can be further optimized for 12.5MA hybrid scenario
- Significant margins in 10MA steady-state scenario

S.H. Kim – APS 2021



IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022 Page 17/29

Open issues of ITER LP and SS operation



IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022 Page 18/29

Access to higher confinement beyond H-mode

- DIII-D steady-state hybrid discharges achieved a good confinement (H₉₈=1.5-1.6) at similar HCD configuration with the ITER SS target plasma
 - NBCD + off-axis ECCD (rho~0.2-0.45)
 - q_{min}=1.0~1.5
- Uncertainties in extrapolating the results from present experiments – access to high confinement, CD efficiencies, plasma rotation, ion heating, core NBI fueling, etc



Uncertainties in the SOL transport

- □ Plasma transport in the H-mode far SOL linked to divertor conditions and neutral recycling dynamics (D. Carralero, NME 2017)
- \Box λ_a broadening by gas puffing ASDEX QCE regime (M. Faitsch, NME 2021)
- Impact of drifts on in-out asymmetries

D. Carralero – NME 2017





λ_{q} in ITER high Q (incl. LP and SS) operation

BOUT++ and XGC1 modelling predicted that edge transport in ITER may be different (more turbulent) at high Q (high I_p) operation



Other open issues in FPO

- □ Fuelling neutral penetration ineffective in ITER
 - Separated control of n_{sep} (gas puffing & impurity) and n_{ped} (pellets)
- ELM and W impurity control
 - Plasma response to 3D fields and pellet injections
- □ MHD control at different (or varying) q₉₅
 - Optimization of actuators, control methods and strategies
- Disruption mitigation Large amount material from multiple locations
 - Optimization for runaway electrons and thermal loads
- □ EP modes ITER first wall can only tolerate losses of a few % fast ions
 - Optimization towards benign saturation of modes
- □ First wall erosion, dust production, T retention and W divertor lifetime

A path for LPO at ITER Pre-Fusion Power Operation Phase





Exploration of long pulse operation in PFPO

- □ In FPO, **low density Baseline H-mode (q**₉₅~3) can be an intermediate step towards longpulse operation development – utilizing well-established operational capabilities at q₉₅~3
- In PFPO, low current H-mode, 5MA/1.8T and 7.5MA/2.65T (q₉₅~3), can be used for testing long-pulse development – thanks to the reduced poloidal flux consumption at low I_p
- If the CS coils are charged less (< 30kA/turn), it is foreseen that the fatigue lifetime of CS coils is not consumed</p>
- □ q₉₅=4~5 paths in PFPO are not yet fully investigated (probably limited by NBI shine-through)





Low density Baseline H-mode LPO capability

Reduced poloidal flux consumption at low density 15MA/5.3T Baseline DT H-mode



•
$$n/n_G = 0.4-0.5$$

 $H_{qg} = 1.0 - 1.2$



LPO capability in PFPO-2



Similarity between LPOs in PFPO-2 and FPO

- Heating power close to the H-mode power threshold (P_{tot} < 2P_{LH})
- High toroidal rotation mainly due to lower density or better confinement, V_{tor}(0) > 200 km/s
- □ Moderate Mach number for the fuel, $V_{tor}/C_S < 0.25$;
- □ High fast particle pressure, $\beta_{fast}/\beta_{th} > 0.1$
- □ Low or weak reversed shear profile with $q_{min} \sim 1$
- □ Relatively high $n_{sep}/n_{ped} > 0.25$
- These similarities will support and drive LPO studies (e.g. CD validation, energetic particle stability) in PFPO-2 prior to FPO



ITER LP and SS candidates in IMAS scenario DB

Pulse	Run	Database	Reference		ASTRA	Ip[MA]	B0[T]	Fuelling	Confine	ment	Workfl	.0W		Date	This list will be
101000 101001 101002 101003	50 50 50 50	ITER ITER ITER ITER	PFPO-2 tf=tE,2NE PFPO-2 tf=tE,2NE PFPO-2 tf=tE,2NE PFPO-2 tf=tE,2NE	BI, highTpe BI, highTpe BI, lowTpec BI, lowTpec	ed,postST ed,preST d,postST d,preST	-7.5 -7.5 -7.5 -7.5	-2.65 -2.65 -2.65 -2.65	H H H	H-mode H-mode H-mode H-mode		ASTRA ASTRA ASTRA ASTRA			2021-08-02 14:40:57 2021-08-02 14:40:57 2021-08-02 14:40:57 2021-08-02 14:40:57	continuously
101004	60 60	ITER	PEPD 2 11=21F.2N Pulse Run Data	base Refe	erence SC) PS-IT	FR	.H Ip[MA]	H-mode B0[T]	Fuelling	Confi	nement	Workflow	2021-08-25 09:48:55 Date	extended
101006 60 TTER 101007 40 TTER 101007 41 ITER 101007 42 ITER 101007 42 ITER 101010 0 ITER 101010 1 TTER 101014 0 ITER 101015 0 ITER 101015 1 ITER 101015 1 TTER 101019 0 ITER 101019 1 TTER 101020 0 ITER 111001 50 ITER 111000 50 ITER 131000 50 ITER 131001 50 ITER 131002 50 ITER 131001 50 ITER 131002 50 ITER	R	Her-Ne 130MW Be-top_cNe Her-Ne 130MW Be-top_cNe	<pre>i=0.3% Dtpt=1.766 i=0.3% Dtpt=4.806 i=0.3% Dtpt=1.866 i=0.3% Dtpt=1.326 i=0.3% Dtpt=1.326 i=0.3% Dtpt=1.326 i=0.3% Dtpt=1.856 i=0.4% Dtpt=1.866 i=0.4% Dtpt=1.866 i=0.4% Dtpt=1.856 i=0.4% Dtpt=1.856 i=0.4% Dtpt=1.326 i=0.6% Dtpt=1.326 i=0.6\% Dtpt=0.6\% Dtpt=0.6</pre>	221_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 222_f/4 223_f/4223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4223_f/4 223_f/4 223_f/4223_f/4 223_f/	$\begin{array}{c} -10.6\\ -1$	-5.3 15.5 -5.3	D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D	tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd tbd		SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER SOLPS-ITER	2022-06 2022-07 2022-0	-10 17:22:54 -10 17:30:00 -10 17:35:51 -10 17:42:23 -10 17:44:28 -10 17:44:28 -10 17:54:27 -10 17:59:39 -10 17:30:59 -10 17:30:59 -10 17:37:24 -10 17:49:19 -10 17:55:19 -10 18:00:28 -10 17:25:33 -10 17:44:28 -10 17:45:28 -10 17:44:28 -10 17:45:28 -10 17:44:28 -10 17:45:28 -10 17:45:28 -1			
131017 131035 131035	50 40 41	ITER ITER ITER	123182 2 ITER 123183 2 123184 2 Pulse	D+He Run Dat	He+Ne_130MW_Be-top_cNe	e=0.6%_Dtpt=1.586	DRS		5 -5.3	D Ip[MA]	tbd B0[T]	Fuelling	SOLPS-ITER Confinement	2022-06 Workflow	-10 17:56:09 Date
131035 42 131035 43 131035 44 131035 45 131036 40 131036 41 131036 42 131036 43 131036 43 131036 45 131036 45 131037 10 131038 10 131039 10 131041 0	42 43 44 45 40 41 42 43 44 45 10 11 0	ITER 1 ITER 1	123186 2 123186 2 123187 2 130502 123188 2 130503 123190 2 130507 123192 2 130507 123192 2 130505 123192 2 130508 123195 2 130508 123197 2 130508 123196 2 130508 123197 2 130508 123196 2 130508 123197 2 130508 123196 2 130508 123197 2 130508 123196 2 130508	3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE 3 ITE	ER Hybrid-DT, 1 ER Hybrid-DT, 1 ER Hybrid-DT, 1 ER Hybrid-DT, 2 ER Steady-DT, 2 ER Steady-DT, 2 ER Steady-DT, 2 ER Steady-DT, 1	12.5MA 5.3T L-H 12.5MA 5.3T L-H 11.5MA 5.3T L-H 12.5MA 5.3T L-H 2.5MA 5.3T L-H-L, 3.5MA 5.3T L-H-L 10.0MA 5.3T L-H 10.0MA 5.3T L-H	-L, 53. -L, 73. -L, 73. -L, 73. 56.5Mw L, 58.0 -L, 79. -L, 69.	OMW Paux, OMW Paux, OMW Paux, Paux, Be/ MW Paux, B 5MW Paux, 5MW Paux,	Be/Ar Be/W Be/W Ar e/Ar Be/W Be/W	-12.5 -12.5 -11.5 -12.5 -9.0 -8.5 -10.0 -10.0	-5.3 -5.3 -5.3 -5.3 -5.3 -5.3 -5.3 -5.3	D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T D-T	L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L L-H-L	CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA CORSICA	2022-06-23 10:01:26 2022-06-23 10:01:34 2022-06-23 10:02:24 2022-06-23 10:02:36 2022-06-23 10:01:42 2022-06-23 10:01:48 2022-06-23 10:02:29 2022-06-23 10:02:43
			123198 2 123199 2Pulse	Run Dat	tabase Reference		DIN	A		Ip[MA]	B0[T]	Fuelling	Confinement	Workflow	Date
			123201 2 123202 2 123203 2 115001 123204 2 115002	1 ITE 4 ITE 4 ITE	ER 5MA H-DINA20 ER 5MA 1.8T He ER 5MA 1.8T He	922 PFP01-4b DINA2018-01 DINA2018-02				-5 -5.18 -5.13	-1.8 -1.8 -1.8	H He He	H-mode H-mode H-mode	DINA-IMAS DINA DINA	2022-08-29 16:25:16 2021-04-09 19:11:28 2021-04-09 19:36:17

china eu india japan korea russia usa

IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices

Page 28/29

Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022

Conclusions

- □ ITER high Q scenarios are based on extensive modelling studies and the developed scenarios are available in the ITER scenario database
- Open issues remain regarding physics assumptions that can impact ITER scenarios
- Development of long pulse operation in PFPO will focus on identifying reliable paths (in terms of q₉₅, current drive, fast ions, etc) for extrapolation to FPO LPOs
- Targeted experiments and integrated modelling are required to strengthen basis of ITER scenarios
- IO High Fidelity Plasma Simulator (HFPS), which is under development by combining DINA and JINTRAC, will be used to further improve ITER scenarios and to identify other candidate paths



Back-up Slides





Non-inductive scenarios with or w/o LHCD



- ITER research plan (IRP) with the staged approach required early decision on HCD upgrade, in particular for LHCD system
- Q~5 fully non-inductive scenarios at H₉₈~1.6 using HCD upgrade options with or without including LHCD
- ASTRA/KINX stability analysis shows that the plasma stability was equivalent or better in the case without LHCD

Power fluxes and divertor lifetime

- High q_{div} leads to W divertor cracks due to stresses in material (typically ~2mm at 20MW/m²)
- Permissible stationary heat loads estimated reflecting W material recrystallization and monoblock self-castellation can be ~50% higher [R. Pitts, NME 2019] \rightarrow ~15 MW/m² (~ 10MW/m² toroidally averaged) 10^{7}

R. Pitts – NME 2019

- Lifetime of ITER divertor is determined by the W recrystallization dynamics in the absence of large transients
- Time required for W hardness to drop by 50% is estimated as 2000-3000 hours (from FPO-1 to FPO-3)



Stationary power exhaust

Basic assumptions

- ➤ Narrow near separatrix e-folding length → 80 100 % of P_{SOL} power arrives divertor
- ▶ Broad far SOL e-folding length (+ ELMs) \rightarrow 20 0 % P_{SOL} arrives at first wall
- Most studies done for 15 MA/5.3 T Q = 10 plasmas
 - Q = 5 plasmas have lower densities -> unfavourable for divertor dissipation
 > Radiative divertor studies in advanced plasmas required

T retention and budget

- Cases for which peak FWP stationary erosion < 4 mm</p>
 - Several cases above in-vessel T-limit already in FPO-2, if no T removal action implemented
 - Will require well developed inventory control strategy





HINST EP analysis LPOs in PFPO-2 and FPO

Non-perturbative critical gradient model, HINST, is applied to study AE mode driven fast ion transport



IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022 Page 35/29

iter china eu india japan korea russia usa

IAEA TM on LPO of Fusion Devices Vienna, 14th – 16th November 2022

Energetic particles in 15 MA / 5.3 T baseline scenario

- □ Consequences of EP-driven AE modes range from
 - > Benign saturation \rightarrow significant high-amplitude bursting and transport
- Extrapolation from present machines difficult due to small
 - ITER first wall can only tolerate losses of a few %
 - Max power transfer from alphas occurs when drift orbit width ~ mode width → n~30
 - Many overlapping AE



 $\rho_{\alpha} / a \cong 10^{-2}$

Radial localisation of TAE gaps in ITER

Page 36/29