



Plasma-neutral interaction processes in ITER from SOLEDGE3X full-vessel boundary plasma simulations

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DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE

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- 1. Context and motivation
- **2.** Impact of throughput
- **3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation)**
- **4.** Summary





<u>1. Context and motivation</u>

- **2.** Impact of throughput
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- **4.** Summary



Performance of the Divertor...

- Heat flux dissipation
- Pumping efficiency
- Impurity confinement
- Erosion resilience

Key driver: plasmaneutral interactions ... and also of the First Wall:

- FW erosion (CX atoms)
- Impurity plasma contamination
- Main chamber recycling

Plasma-neutral interactions also contribute

To project divertor solutions to DEMO: better understanding of the details of plasma-neutral interaction processes is needed

Cea 1. Context and motivation This talk focus: Contributions analysis from simulations



New code output with

Goal of this talk:

- From full domain ITER simulations with SOLEDGE3X...
 - Divertor
 - Main chamber & FW
- …impact analyses of 2 parameters…
 - 1. Throughput (also validated against SOLPS-ITER)
 - 2. Density shoulder formation
- and first attempts at interpretation through description of involved plasma-neutral processes from new code diagnostics



1. Context and motivation **Simulations setup**

See talk by P.Tamain

The SOLEDGE3X code and setup: \angle tomorrow

SOLEDGE3X: Fluid multispecies (Zhdanov closure), 3D-turbulent or 2D-mean-field plasma solver coupled to kinetic neutrals from EIRENE or fluid neutrals
[H. Bufferand et al. 2021 Nucl. Fusion 61 116052]

Simulation setup:

- Based on SOLPS-ITER cases (#103027-#103030) [J.S. Park et al. 2021 Nucl. Fusion 61 016021]
- 2D-mean-field (transport) mode, prescribed diff. coeffs.
- L-mode transport
- Pure H
- **20MW** (PFPO-1)
- No fluid drifts

Advanced options in EIRENE

(elastic ion col., MAR, neutral-neutral col.)

Sensitivity analyses of 2 parameters:

- 1. Throughput
- 2. Formation of shoulders







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2. Impact of throughput : Plasma-Neutral Interaction (PNI) model reaction set

Plasma-Neutral Interaction (PNI) **model** (→and so detachement model) driven by **reaction set**



2. Impact of throughput : Cea **Plasma-Neutral Interaction (PNI) model reaction set**

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Plasma-Neutral Interaction (PNI) model (→and so detachement model) driven by		Most important reactions (exerpt from full set):		
		Name (Abbrev.)	Reaction	Description
		Atom Ionization (AtmIz)	e ⁻ + H° → H ⁺ + 2e ⁻	
reaction	H ² H ₂ ⁺ source	Molecule Ionization (Mollz)	$e^{-} + H_2 \rightarrow H_2^{+} + 2e^{-}$	
	■ Databases ● AMJUEL ■ HYDHEL □	Molecular Ion Dissociation (MollonDiss)	$e^- + H_2^+ \rightarrow H^+ + H^\circ + e^-$	
• ADAS		Atom Charge Exchange (AtmCX)	$H^{+} + H^{\circ} \rightarrow H^{\circ} + H^{+}$	
		Molecule Charge Exchange (MolCX)	$H^+ + H_2 \rightarrow H_2^+ + H^\circ$	
0	Atom	Ion-Molecule Elastic Collision (MoIEL)	$H^+ + H_2 \rightarrow H^+ + H_2$	$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet $
U 2	Molecule	Electron-lon Recombination (Recomb)	e [.] + H⁺ → H°	
H ₂	Molecular Ion			
○ ⊕	Electron H⁺ ion	Molecular Ion Dissociative Recombination (MollonDissRecomb)	$e^{-} + H_2^+ \rightarrow 2H^\circ$	

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CCO « Molecule-Assisted » Processes involving the H₂⁺ molecular ion



XP: [K. Verhaegh et al 2021 Nucl. Fusion 61 106014]

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CCO « Molecule-Assisted » Processes involving the H₂⁺ molecular ion



XP: [K. Verhaegh et al 2021 Nucl. Fusion 61 106014]

MA-processes: sequence of 2 processes: $1 H_2^+$ creation process $\rightarrow 1 H_2^+$ break-up process



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2. Impact of throughput



3 representative cases: Attached, Rollover, Partial Detached

Throughput scan, 3 selected cases for analysis: from attached to partially detached at max throughput

(colors are different throughputs – blue: low \rightarrow red: high)



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Plot along field line (black):



4 quantities:

- 1. Ion Particle Source
- 2. Number of Reactions
- 3. Ion Momentum Source
- 4. Ion Energy Source
- 5. Electron Energy Source

Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:



Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:





Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:





Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:





Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:







Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

C 2 2







change

EMAD

Volume particle source [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

Cez

(plots include only significant major processes)





MAD

Recomb: $e^- + H^+ \rightarrow H^\circ$



Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



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Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:





Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

Cea

(plots include only significant major processes)





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Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:

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Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:





Volume reaction rates [s⁻¹.m⁻³]:







Volume momentum source [kg.s⁻².m⁻²]:



2. Impact of throughput : **Momentum sources**

Volume momentum source [kg.s⁻².m⁻²]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:

Cez

AtmCX: $H^+ + H^\circ \rightarrow H^\circ + H^+$



2. Impact of throughput : **Momentum sources**

Volume momentum source [kg.s⁻².m⁻²]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:





2. Impact of throughput : **Momentum sources**

Volume momentum source [kg.s⁻².m⁻²]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:

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Volume ion energy source [W.m⁻³]: (plots include only significant major processes)





Volume ion energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:

AtmCX: $H^+ + H^\circ \rightarrow H^\circ + H^+$




Volume ion energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Dominant processes:

AtmCX: $H^+ + H^\circ \rightarrow H^\circ + H^+$





Volume ion energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)







2. Impact of throughput : Ion energy sources















Volume electron energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)





Volume electron energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Atmlz: e [.] + H° → H ⁺ + 2e [.]
Mollz: $e^{-} + H_2 \rightarrow H_2^+ + 2e^{-}$
MollonDiss: $e^{-} + H_2^+ \rightarrow H^+ + H^\circ + e^{-}$



2. Impact of throughput : Electron energy sources

Volume electron energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)





Atmlz: e⁻ + H° → H⁺ + 2e⁻
MolCX: energy taken from the ions
MollonDiss: e⁻ + H₂⁺ → H⁺ + H° + e⁻



2. Impact of throughput : Electron energy sources

Volume electron energy source [W.m⁻³]:

(plots include only significant major processes)



Atmlz: $e^{-} + H^{\circ} \rightarrow H^{+} + 2e^{-}$
Mollz: $e^{-} + H_2 \rightarrow H_2^{+} + 2e^{-}$
MollonDiss: e⁻ + H₂⁺ → H⁺ + H° + e⁻









Dominant processes:

Atmlz: e^- + $H^\circ \rightarrow H^+$ + $2e^-$
Mollz: $e^- + H_2 \rightarrow H_2^+ + 2e^-$
MollonDiss: e ⁻ + H ₂ ⁺ → H ⁺ + H° + e ⁻

Atmlz: $e^{-} + H^{\circ} \rightarrow H^{+} + 2e^{-}$ MolCX: energy taken from the ions MollonDiss: $e^{-} + H_{2}^{+} \rightarrow H^{+} + H^{\circ} + e^{-}$



2. Impact of throughput : Qualitative picture of processes evolution during detachment



2. Impact of throughput : Qualitative picture of processes evolution during detachment



2. Impact of throughput : Qualitative picture of processes evolution during detachment



2. Impact of throughput : Qualitative picture of processes evolution during detachment







- 1. Context and motivation
- **2.** Impact of throughput

<u>3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation)</u>

4. Summary

3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Impact on divertor from formation of shoulders?





Precise shape of profiles in ITER? = Unknown

- Possible formation of shoulders (turbulence) – not modelled in mean-field codes
- SOLEDGE3X simulation database includes far-SOL enhanced transport cases for FW fluxes studies
- ➔ Question: does this inclusion of shoulders have an impact on what happens in the divertor?

3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Modelling & Impact on quantities at the FW



Modelling through D_{\perp}, χ_{\perp} OMP profiles:

Cez



Observed Impact of high far-SOL transport



3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Cea Impact on targets: Significant effect only for close shoulders







Close and diffusive shoulders have an impact on the divertor

3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Reaction structures are identical for close shoulders



No shoulder (Roll-over)

C 2 2

Large & close shoulder



With strongly enhanced far-SOL transport:

- Almost identical reaction profiles
- Simple reduction in amplitude

Presence of shoulder does not seem to change divertor regime in these simulations





- 1. Context and motivation
- **2.** Impact of throughput
- **3.** Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation)

4. Summary

5. Summary



- First self-consistent full vessel simulations for ITER with SOLEDGE3X applied to ITER low power phase (20MW), analysed with new detailed per-reaction source contributions diagnostics
- Enables analysis of mechanisms of plasma recycling and their changes from attached, rollover, and partially detached conditions in ITER simulations
- Macro picture of plasma-neutral interaction structure in detachment onset:
 - Molecule interactions present even in attached cases (H₂⁺ dissociation is a major contributor, net source if mol. El)
 - Switch mechanism of H₂⁺ formation: molecule electron impacts at low regime (high T_e), the fully replaced by molecule CX at roll-over
 - First **detachment** of **atom ionization** front at **roll-over**, then further spread out with increased detachment
 - Roll-over and after: momentum loss dominated by ion molecule elastic collisions, CX turns into a heating source for the plasma at target
 - Electron-ion recombination (EIR) & molecule assisted recombination (MAR) appear only in (partially) detached cases, not before, and neutral-neutral collisions start taking importance (cloud compression)
- Enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulders) effect in the divertor: only with close shoulders, and does not induce change of regime. No change of PNI structure, simple amplitude decrease of sources
- Next steps:
 - Run to full-power **100MW FPO neon-seeded** cases (WIP)
 - Assess effect of impurities on PNI processes in simulations

Thank you

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Backup slides

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Summary of throughput and shoulder formation on FW gross erosion rate



First Wall total gross sputtering rate [s⁻¹]:

Caveat: <u>Trends analysis only</u> (sputtering from H⁺ & H[°] only), rough estimation, better calculations done with specialized codes ERO, WALLDYN

Throughput scan

Shoulder formation scan (enhanced far-SOL transport)



3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Plasma conditions in far-SOL: SOL flows





SOL flows:

- Key input for erosion codes and impurity transport
- Mach / with increasing throughput
- Mach \sqrt{sin presence of shoulder
- Stagnation point around the upper outer section

CEA CX atoms are screened at high TP, not with enhanced transport





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2. Up-to-the-wall domain challenge for ITER cases
Computation time: neutral sources extrapolation schemes



SOLEDGE3X-EIRENE <u>coupling</u> workflow:



- Time step $\sim 10^{-7}$ s (CFL)
- ITER solution equilibrium time: ~ 1s
 - Requires "shortcuts" i.e. extrapolations

Sources extrapolation:

 $S_n = n_{atom} n_e < \sigma_{iz} v >$ Updated from plasma background Keep spatial distrib. Extrapolated source from neutrals [Details to be published]

1. Context and motivation ITER simulations: addressing the First Wall (FW) challenge





Impacts of plasma-FW Panels interaction

- Panel erosion:
 - FW lifetime (incl. # of spares)
 - Dust generation (Be)
 - Fuel retention
- Plasma performance:
 - Contamination (sputtering)
 - Impurity transport & redeposition





Cea 1. Context and motivation Full vessel plasma numerical domain with SOLEDGE3X





"Self-consistent" plasma simulations :

- Grid extends up to all PFCs (no distinction main SOL vs far SOL)
- +
- "Up-to-date" divertor solution (SOLPS-ITER like plasma-neutral interaction model with EIRENE)

Output → Erosion/Imp. transport codes:

- FW fluxes
- Plasma backgrounds up to the FW





1. Context and motivation

2. Up-to-the-wall domain challenge for ITER cases

- **2. Impact of throughput**
- **3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation)**

5. Summary

2. Up-to-the-wall domain challenge for ITER cases Cez Key role of H₂⁺ molecular ion near divertor legs





→ Many still open/unresolved questions in divertor A&M modelling and simulations

 $H^{\circ} \rightarrow H^{+}$

 $H_2^+ \rightarrow H^\circ + H^+$

 $H^+ + e^- \rightarrow H^\circ$

 $H_2 + H^+ \rightarrow H_2^+ + H^\circ$

H_2^+ ion role:

- H2+ : intermediate product in "moleculeassisted" processes (MAR, MAI)
- Significant $n_{H_{2}^{+}}$ just below the end of "common SOL" domain, even majority species there

 $\lambda_{mfp\,H_2^+}^{pol} \sim 5cm > d_{cell}$

→ requires transport tracking (esp. in transients)

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Example: Electron-ion energy equipartition:



- Collisional energy exchange & friction force terms become very large at low T, especially during transients
- Coulomb Log Λ produces unphysical values in Braginskii/Zhdanov formulation at T→0 : Quantum effects correction [Hong-sup Hahn and E. A. Mason, The Physics of Fluids 14, 278 (1971)]

Revisited numerical scheme

for collisional terms for increased stability [Details to be published]

CQZ

2. Impact of throughput : CX atoms: FW incident flux & average energy, counter action



Impact on incident atom flux density:

Large increase at machine top and outer top: x100

Impact on average atom energy:

- Large decrease ÷10 100
- 100 eV → 3 eV at machine top
Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Comparing current assumptions in far-SOL: T_i/T_e ratio





- T_i/T_e ratio in far-SOL:
 - Main SOL: T_i/T_e ~ 1.2 2
 - Far SOL: T_i/T_e ~ 1.2 5
 - Ratio ↘ with throughput and diffusivity (low: 5, high: 2)
 - ~Correlation with n_e, but not only (collisionality)

Cez

5. Summary



- First self-consistent full vessel simulations for ITER with SOLEDGE3X applied to ITER low power phase (20MW): grid up to the FW in main chamber critical for FW impact studies
- Overall good agreement with SOLPS on throughput scan on common parts of the domain
- In both scans, increase in $q_{\perp,sym}$ on FW, but still very low values (for 20MW cases)
- Impact of <u>throughput</u>:
 - Counter action Γ ∧ while T \ at the FW
 - Overall throughput impact moderate on FW gross erosion rate (x6 between scan extremes, only from CX atoms)
 - Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulders):
 - Combined increase of Γ / and T / at the FW
 - Much greater impact than throughput on FW gross erosion rate (x40 between scan extremes, mainly from ions)

Higher impact of shoulders \rightarrow Importance of refinement on D_{\perp}, χ_{\perp} assumptions !

2. Impact of throughput : CX atoms: FW incident flux & average energy, counter action





Impact on average atom energy:

- Large decrease ÷10 100
- 100 eV \rightarrow 3 eV at machine top

- Energy decrease from T decrease from lonisation
- Further TP increase cold ions screen CXN from core edge





1. Context and motivation Full vessel plasma numerical domain with SOLEDGE3X



SOLPS-ITER domain

SOLEDGE3X domain



Pump

"Self-consistent" plasma simulations :

- Grid extends up to all PFCs (no distinction main SOL vs far SOL)
- +
- "Up-to-date" divertor solution (SOLPS-ITER like plasma-neutral interaction model with EIRENE)

2. Impact of throughput Significant plasma at machine top, broadening of λ_q



Illustration case at medium throughput (3.31 x 10²² e⁻.s⁻¹):



2. Impact of throughput Quantities at the FW: counter action of Γ vs T



Impact of throughput on FW T and total particle flux:



When increasing throughput:

- T_{i,wall} \triangleright : 20 → 7 eV
- T_{e,wall} → : No effect (except machine top: 10 ∖ 1 eV)
- FW part. fluxes x 100
- **Counter action** $\Gamma \nearrow$ while $T \searrow$

3.31e+22 s⁻¹
 6.80e+22 s⁻¹
 1.76e+23 s⁻¹

2. Impact of throughput Gross Be erosion figures: x6 between scan extremes

Caveat: Trends analysis only (rough estimation, H⁺ & H[°] only, no 3D), better calculations done with specialized codes (ERO, WALLDYN)





3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Impact on quantities at the FW: combined action of $\Gamma \& T$



Impact of high far-SOL transport (low throughput):



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3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): **Modelling through increased coeff. in far-SOL**



Modelling:



Example: Strongest & closest shoulder (in blue):

3. Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Gross Be erosion figures: x40 between scan extremes

Caveat: Trends analysis only (sputtering from H+ & H° only), rough estimation, better calculations done with specialized codes ERO, WALLDYN



Rfm

2. Impact of throughput Overall good agreement with SOLPS-ITER runs

Throughput scan, from attached to partially detached

(colors are different throughputs – blue: low \rightarrow red: high)





Dashed lines:

SOLPS-ITER

Solid lines:

SOLEDGE3X

Impact of enhanced far-SOL transport (shoulder formation): Modelling & Impact on quantities at the FW



Impact of high far-SOL transport (low throughput):



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4. First comparison attempt with other MST cases **3x throughput scans, unseeded**





First attempt at simple look on obtained plasma-neutral processes:

- Do contributions importance vary widely ?
- Do we observe the same trends as in ITER cases ?

CAVEAT: Preliminary work, exploration

Cea

4. First comparison attempt with other MST cases Same overarching trends recovered across machines







Same scale size in meters along divertor leg (large divertors \rightarrow better PNI confinement)