Assessing material migration through ¹³C injection experiments

P.C. Stangeby

University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, 4925 Dufferin St, Toronto, M3H 5T6, Canada

Abstract

To mimic a localized impurity source for materials migration studies, ¹³CH₄ has been injected into AUG, DIII-D, JET, JT-60U and TEXTOR at a single location into repeat, well-characterized plasmas, making for much more interpretable data than campaign-integrated erosion and deposition. Such studies have shown convincingly that for single null configurations, material is likely to migrate from the wall to the inner divertor creating tritiated co-deposits there. It has also indicated that for an unbalanced double-null configuration similar to ITER's the sputtered wall material is likely to create codeposits on the blanket wall rather than the divertor; this has implications for ITER tritium retention in Be codeposits since the wall can only be baked to 240°C. The location and magnitude of tritium codeposition in the 1997 JET DTE was not as expected from the 1991 PTE. It is recommended that ¹³C or other tracer experiments be performed in ITER as early as possible.

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