

# Development of the safety code AINA for the European DEMO designs

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In order to evaluate plasma evolution and in-vessel components strains, a safety code called AINA has been developing during the last ten years for different fusion reactors designs. This work describes the new AINA code which is being adapted for the four European DEMO designs (HCPB, DCLL, HCLL and WCLL) after an in-depth critical analysis of the former AINA versions with the purpose of performing a proper, reliable, versatile and flexible tool for the future safety studies. At this point, a new 0D plasma dynamics approach and a 1D finite-difference thermal model for the DEMO HCPB configuration and the divertor have been developed. By means of the feedback among both blocks, a preliminary safety analysis is carrying out checking the integrity of in-vessel components both when a plasma perturbation induces a Loss Of Plasma Control (LOPC) and a thermo-hydraulic accident takes place in the Plasma Facing Components (PFCs) or in the Vacuum Vessel such as a Loss Of Coolant Accident (LOCA).

Initial results show deficiencies in the Blanket design which may be extremely significant when some of the described unexpected scenarios takes place leading the reactor to a melting episode.

Keywords: safety, DEMO, AINA, plasma physics, thermal analysis, LOCA.

## 1. Introduction

A conclusion that can be drawn from the historical safety analyses developed for tokamaks fusion reactors is that some of the major risks involve incidents in the vacuum vessel. In order to evaluate plasma evolution and in vessel components strains, a safety code called AINA (acronym of Analyses of IN-vessel Accidents) has been developing by the Fusion Energy Engineering Laboratory (FEEL) of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) Barcelona-Tech, during the last ten years for different fusion reactors designs as ITER [1-5] and the Japanese DEMO design WCPB [6].

An in-depth critical analysis of the former AINA versions, a new codification and a checking and validation phase have been performed in order to develop a proper, reliable, versatile and flexible tool with the purpose of carrying out safety analyses for the four European DEMO designs (HCPB, DCLL, HCLL and WCLL).

At this point, AINA is a code comprised of a 0D plasma dynamics approach based on a mass and energy balance and a 1D thermal model for the blanket (in the radial direction), specifically for the HCPB configuration, and the divertor. These two blocks feedback constantly each other by means of the plasma-wall block which estimates the real loads suffered by the in vessel components and the real impurity presence into the plasma core. With this basic concept, AINA is useful to check the integrity of these in-vessel components both when a plasma perturbation induces a Loss Of Plasma Control (LOPC) and a thermo-hydraulic accident takes place in the Plasma Facing Components (PFCs) or in the Vacuum Vessel such as a Loss Of Coolant Accident (LOCA). This document describes the new AINA code, specifically the models and the numerical procedures implemented in each block.

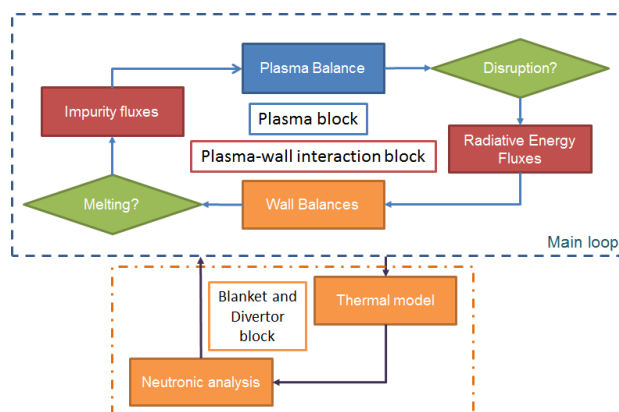


Fig. 1. AINA scheme.

## 2. Plasma block

### 2.1 Equations

As stated before, the code considers a 0D multi-fluid approach based on the mass and energy balance of the plasma core according to the equations showed below. Particle conservation is considered for fuel ions ( $n_H$ ) alpha particles ( $n_\alpha$ ) and every type of impurity ( $n_{ZXe}$  and  $n_{XTu}$  which are referred to Xenon and Tungsten). On the other hand, the energy conservation expressions considered treat ions and electrons separately. It is important to highlight that all the terms are calculated through volume and radial profiles of plasma density and temperature using the same models as AINA 3.0 [3]. AINA determines a SS (steady state) scenario of the plasma using an average ion temperature and a specified power fusion as inputs and solving the system by the Newton method.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dn_H}{dt} &= S_H - 2S_\alpha - \frac{n_H}{\tau_{p,H}} \\
\frac{dn_\alpha}{dt} &= S_\alpha - \frac{n_\alpha}{\tau_{p,\alpha}} \\
\frac{dn_{ZXe}}{dt} &= S_{ZXe} - \frac{n_{ZXe}}{\tau_{p,Z}} \\
\frac{dn_{ZW}}{dt} &= S_{ZW} - \frac{n_{ZW}}{\tau_{p,Z}} \\
\frac{3}{2} \frac{d(n_i T_i)}{dt} &= f_{ext} P_{ext} + f_\alpha P_\alpha - P_{ie} - \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_i T_i}{\tau_{E,i}} \\
\frac{3}{2} \frac{d(n_e T_e)}{dt} &= (1 - f_{ext}) P_{ext} + (1 - f_\alpha) P_\alpha \\
&+ P_{ie} + P_{Ohm} - P_{Br} - P_{Sy} - P_{ii} - \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_e T_e}{\tau_{E,e}} \\
n_e &= n_i + 2n_\alpha + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (Z_j n_{Zj}) \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

The initial condition for the first iteration considers an external power ( $P_{ext}$ ) and the alpha source and the hydrogen density estimation via the next expressions:

$$S_\alpha = \frac{P_{fus}}{E_{fus}}; \quad n_H = \sqrt{\frac{4S_\alpha}{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{DT}}} \cdot V \quad (2)$$

Where  $E_{fus} = 17.62$  MeV and  $V$  is the plasma volume. When the SS parameters are calculated, the time evolution of the plasma is estimated by the Euler method. The rest of the components present in the balance such as the velocity averaged cross-section of the D-T nuclear fusion reaction or the radiation powers as well as the plasma equilibrium limits or the scaling laws for the confinement energy time have been properly modeled, referenced and discussed in [7].

### 3. Thermal blanket block

The breeding blanket is one of the most challenging and innovative components due to the high strains it suffers. Moreover, several cooling loops embedded inside this component are responsible for maintaining the temperature within reasonable regimes and extracting the undesirable tritium in excess. The determination of 3D detailed temperature distribution by means of analytic method is not feasible thus it requires the usage of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), as ANSYS FLUENT© [8] which are very demanding from a computational point of view; and this matter is not consistent with the AINA approach about fast processing. For these reasons, flexible thermal-hydraulics routines, based on the finite differences technique, have been developed in order to obtain reliable, approximate and conservative (in comparison with the 3D model) 1D, radial and time-dependent simplified thermal-wall model in a short notice using a standard workstation [9]. In addition, these routines must take into consideration the influence of coolant channels not in line with the 1D segment which are present in the European DEMO designs. The effect of these tubes is

considered using a weighted convective negative flux effect in function of the radial distance from the coolant and the poloidal distance from the 1D discretization line. The final expressions modeled are:

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho(T, z)c(T, x) \frac{\partial T(x, t)}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( (1 - f_{COOL_j}) k_T(T, x) \frac{\partial T(x, t)}{\partial x} \right) \\
&+ f_{COOL_j} h_j (T(x, t) - T_{j,\infty}(x, t)) + \ddot{q}(x, t) \quad (3) \\
f_{COOL_j}(x) &= \sum \delta_j(x) \frac{Surface_{cooled}}{Surface_{total}} \\
f_{WGT,R}(x) &= \sum \delta_k(x) f_{WGT,R} \\
f_{WGT,P}(x) &= \sum \delta_k(x) f_{WGT,P}
\end{aligned}$$

Where  $\rho$  is the material density,  $c$  the heat capacity,  $k_T$  the thermal conductivity,  $\ddot{q}$  the volumetric nuclear heat deposition,  $h$  is the heat transfer coefficient,  $T(x)$  the material temperature at  $x$ ,  $T_{i,\infty}$  the coolant bulk temperature for the tube  $i$ ,  $f_{cool}$  the coolant surface for the in line tube which is equal to the relative surface of the coolant tubes to the total surface of the module section,  $f_{WGT,R}$  and  $f_{WGT,P}$  the coolant factor for the no in lines tubes that are discrete functions which take values only at the specified coolant positions and  $\delta$  is the Dirac delta function.

The blanket region modeled is OB4 due to it is usually one that suffers the maximum load [10]. The equation is solved considering the total load due to the radiation effect ( $P_{rad}$ ) in the first node estimated by the plasma block, a Robin boundary condition for the last node by means of a heat transfer coefficient and a bulk temperature condition at the back side of the blanket and a nuclear heating distribution scaled for the Neutron Wall Load ( $NWL$ ) estimated by the plasma block.

The material properties, the model discretization, the nuclear heating distribution and the boundary conditions associated to the cooling system depend on the blanket design modeled, currently, the HCPB latest version (HCPB-2015 v3 [10]) has been selected.

A 2 mm W-armor layer is assumed for all the modules at the plasma facing side of the FW whereas in the internal part, the Cooling Plate subdivides the Be and the LiSiO<sub>4</sub> bed zone which are arranged perpendicularly to the FW and alternated. The resulting 1D HCPB AINA thermal blanket model assumed is composed of layers properly discretized defining the No. of nodes for each material slab. After a pertinent analysis, the Tungsten FW is divided into 10 nodes, the coolant layers are represented by a single node and the rest are discretized into 500 nodes.

Thanks to the AINA Wall thermal model flexibility the layer No.5 can compute the Be, the LiSiO<sub>4</sub> and the EUROFER temperature profile.

Besides the FW cooling, the HCPB cooling system is provided by two Helium redundant, fully symmetric, purely counter flow, coolant scheme which each one provide 50% of the cooling performance. All pipes have been duly modeled via the numerical expression already exposed (3).

#### 4. Thermal divertor block

The divertor as main interface component between the plasma and the components material, it shall tolerate high heat loads, for this reason a first divertor model has been implemented in AINA.

Both the numerical model and the solver and all the requirements (boundary conditions, material properties...) are the same as used in the thermal blanket block although they are adapted to the divertor configuration. Moreover, the dimensional segment modeled is the most demanded which crosses along the Outer Vertical Target and the Cassette Body.

Following a discussed study, the resulting 1D AINA thermal divertor model is composed by the pertinent layers discretized into 500 nodes for the no coolant slabs and a single node for the coolant slabs.

#### 5. Plasma wall interaction block

This block is responsible for interconnecting the plasma with the thermal blocks and is focused on:

- Estimation of the loads ( $P_{rad}$  and  $NWL$ ) for the thermal equilibrium calculation.
- Estimation of the impurity fluxes to the plasma core for the plasma mass and energy balance.

##### 5.1 Wall loads

The neutron wall load is used to scale the nuclear heating distribution in the thermal blocks. Its average value is calculated as:

$$NWL_{Ave} = \frac{S_{\alpha} \cdot \langle \sigma v \rangle_{DT} \cdot E_n}{S_{wall}} \cdot F_{mult} \quad (4)$$

Where  $E_n$  is the mean energy of neutrons,  $S_{wall}$  is the surface of the wall (FW and divertor) and  $F_{mult}$  is a multiplication factor embedded due to the incident  $NWL$  power will be “multiplied” in the Breeder Blankets [10]. The  $NWL$  distribution for every module of the wall is derived from the Table 4.6 of the document by Hernandez et a [10].

On the other hand, the radiative heat flux is used as a boundary condition in the first node of the thermal blocks. Its total value is estimated as [11]:

$$P_{rad} = RWL + RDL - \dot{q}_{Rad\ Refl} - \dot{q}_{eros} \quad (5)$$

The  $RWL_{Ave}$  is the average radiation load on the first wall its distribution for every module of the wall is derived from the Table 5.2 of the document by Hernandez et a [10]; and the  $RDL$  is the radiation load on the divertor.

$$RWL_{Ave} = \frac{P_{Br} + P_{sy} + P_{li} + P_{edge}}{S_{wall}} + \frac{P_{\alpha} \cdot 2 \cdot f_{ripple}}{S_{wall}}$$

$$RDL = \frac{P_{SOL} - P_{edge} - P_{Div\_rad}}{S_{wall}} \quad (6)$$

$$P_{SOL} = P_{ext} + P_{\alpha} - P_{Br} - P_{sy} - P_{li}$$

And  $P_{Div\_rad}$  is the radiation from the divertor region and it is estimated using an accepted lineal regression [12].

The rest of the components of the expression (5) are the radiation reflected for every module of the blanket, and the flux emitted due to impurity flux leaving the wall. They have not been implemented yet, thus assuming a more conservative calculation.

#### 5.2 Impurities

The presence of Xe and W inside the plasma core is governed by the following assumptions:

- *Regarding Xenon*: a constant fraction of Xenon is desired inside the plasma core (0.0389 % of the electron density).
- *Regarding Tungsten*: its production model is composed by two main sources: thermal sublimation and physical sputtering.

The thermal sublimation source is calculated as a function of the PFC temperature by means of the following model exposed by Uckan [13]:

$$\Gamma_{Subli_i} = \frac{2.6 \cdot 10^{14}}{\sqrt{M_i} \cdot T} \cdot 10^{\frac{B_i - A_i}{T}} \quad (7)$$

Where  $T$  is the PFC surface temperature,  $M_i$  is the atomic mass of the PFC material,  $A_i$  and  $B_i$  are fixed coefficients.

The physical sputtering model used in AINA is based on empirical formulas where the sputtering yield is described as a function of the projectile energy  $E_0$  at normal incidence which was formulated by Bohdansky [14] and improved by Wilson [15,16]:

$$Y_{PhysSout}(E_0) = Q \cdot S_n(\varepsilon) \cdot \left(1 - \left(\frac{E_{th}}{E_0}\right)^{2/3}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{E_{th}}{E_0}\right)^2 \quad (8)$$

Ion fluxes, neutral particle fluxes and their corresponding energies on the surface of the PFCs necessities to calculate the erosion on it has been estimated via a discussed extrapolation and scaling process from the results of an ITER simulation [17] and a multi-machine comparison [18].

On the other hand, a time delay of transport should be considered since the impurities do not reach the plasma core instantly. It is known that a laser ablation experiment [19-21] shows a fast transport of impurities into the plasma. Therefore, a time delay of one energy confinement time could be judged as conservative from a safety point of view [22].

$$S_{Z_i}(t) = C_{screen_{Z_i}} \cdot (t - \tau_{E,e}) \quad (9)$$

Where  $S_{Z_i}$  is the  $i$  impurity source and  $C_{screen_{Z_i}}$  is the screening factor for the impurity  $i$  calculated during the steady state estimation and remaining for transients.

## 6. Simulations

### 6.1 Steady State scenario

AINA 4.0 steady state simulation of DEMO1 scenario [23] is presented in the next table:

Table 1. Main global parameters of the DEMO1 computed by means of AINA 4.0 and compared with PROCESS results.

INPUTS	DEMO1	
Major radius [m]	9.072	
Minor radius [m]	2.927	
Toroidal field [T]	5.667	
Safety factor 95% flux	3.247	
Plasma volume [m <sup>3</sup> ]	2502	
Plasma surface [m <sup>2</sup> ]	1428	
Fusion power [MW]	2037	
Ion temperature [keV]	13.065	
OUTPUTS	AINA	PROCESS
Electron temp. [keV]	13.04	13.065
Fuel source [m <sup>-3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]	8.95e18	2.82e18
Electron density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	8.35e19	7.98e19
Ion density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	7.55e19	6.99e19
Hydrogen density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	6.94e19	6.144e19
Alpha density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	5.98e18	7.98e18
Impurity density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	3.66e16	3.51e16
Xe density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	3.25e16	-
W density [m <sup>-3</sup> ]	4.17e15	-
Xe fraction [%]	0.0389	0.0389
W fraction [%]	0.005	0.005
External power [MW]	66.4	50
Gain	30.68	39.86
Alpha Power [MW]	399	407
Ion-Elec.exchange [MW]	1.76	0
Ohmic power [MW]	0.95	1.1
Bremss. power [MW]	80.98	87.9
Synchr. power [MW]	30.2	25.9
Line power [MW]	226.3	191
Edge power [MW]	172	172.9
Radiation in core [MW]	165.6	132.6
Total Radiation [MW]	337.6	305.5
SOL power [MW]	300	-
Beta total [%]	3.26	3.1
Beta toroidal [%]	2.81	3.2
Beta poloidal [%]	0.96	1.1
Confinement time [s]	4.15	4.23
Plasma current [MA]	20.3	19.6
Bootstrap fraction [%]	0.25	0.32
NWL <sub>Ave</sub> [MW/m <sup>2</sup> ]	1.07	1.05
P <sub>rad</sub> [MW/m <sup>2</sup> ]	0.17	0.22

These values obtained from the AINA simulation are similar to those obtained from PROCESS and no meaningful discrepancies have been found.

Notwithstanding, it is necessary to highlight that for the DEMO1 scenario certain functional temperature limits (EUROFER, Beryllium and LiSiO<sub>4</sub>) for the HCPB BB design are slightly exceeded in the worst poloidal region as envisaged by thermo-hydraulic analyses [7,10,24] and as exposed in table 2.

Accordingly, it would be advisable to undertake a design review focused on ensuring a suitable operating temperature range for all the materials which make up the HCPB blanket.

Table 2. HCPB AINA DEMO1 SS maximum temperature.

Region	Material	T limit [°C]	T max [°C]
BB/Div	Tungsten	3422	505 / 182
BB/Div	EUROFER	550	578 / 317
BB	Be	650	816
BB	LiSiO <sub>4</sub>	920	1360
Div	Cu	980	158
Div	CuCrZr	1050	156

### 6.2 Transients evolution

The vast majority of the Postulated Initial Events assumed in DEMO [25] may induce the following load or accident scenarios which AINA is able to simulate:

- Plasma disruption or structural material melting due to a LOPC.
- In-vessel melt either of FW, blanket structure and/or divertor regions because of thermal stresses due to a LOCA.

In future, a detailed safety study will be carry out and several perturbations which may affect the reactor integrity will be analyzed. At this point, it has been noted that some perturbations such as an external power cut-off, an increase of 25 % in the fuel injection or a LOCA could lead to a worsen scenario from the temperature limits point of view, whilst a fueling injection cut-off or a fueling rate increase above 25% could induce plasma disruptions with very high thermal energies.

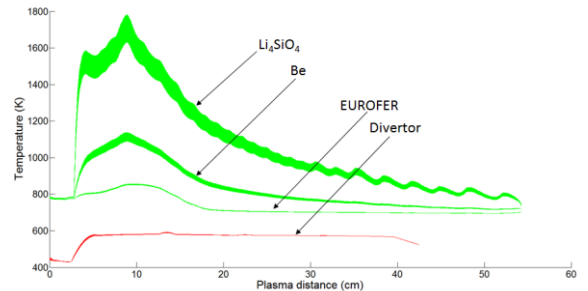


Fig. 2. Increase of the BB and divertor temperatures after an external power cut-off.

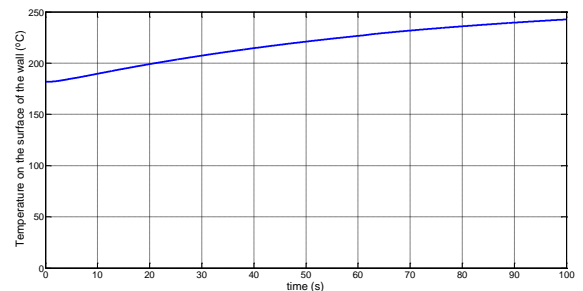


Fig. 3. Surface divertor temperature after a loss of 90% of the mass flow rate in the PFC loop.

## 7. Conclusions

The new AINA has become a proper, reliable, versatile and flexible tool in order to preform future safety studies for the European DEMO designs.

Several potential risk scenarios as LOPCs and LOCAs can be simulated thus the most critical will be identified.

It would be advisable to undertake a design review focused on ensuring a suitable operating temperature range for all the materials which make up the HCPB.

## 8. Future Work

On the basis of this previous work, future tasks will be focused on the development of the HCPB safety analysis by means of the new AINA, the adaptation of the thermal blanket block for the rest of the European blanket designs (DCLL, HCLL and WCLL) and their pertinent safety analyses.

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