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STATUS OF FUSION RESEARCH AND IMPLICATIONS FOR D-3He SYSTEMS 1B 647432

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World-wide programs in both magnetic confinement and inertial confinement fusion research have made steady progress towards the experimental demonstration of energy breakeven.⁽¹⁻⁴⁾ Both approaches are now in reach of this goal within the next few years using a D-T equivalent plasma. For magnetic confinement, this step is expected in one of the large tokamak experimental devices such as TFTR (USA), JET (EC), JT-60 (Japan), or T-15 (USSR). Upgraded versions of the Nova glass laser (USA) and GEKKO (Japan) also appear to have a good chance at this goal. The light-ion beam facility "PBFA-II" is viewed as a "dark horse" candidate. Recent physics parameters obtained in these various experiments will be briefly reviewed in this presentation.

However, after breakeven is achieved, considerable time and effort must still be expended to develop a usable power plant. The time schedules envisioned by workers in the various countries involved are fairly similar. (1-3) For example, the European Community (EC) proposes to go from the physics studies in JET to an engineering test reactor (NET) which has a construction decision in 1991. This is projected to result in a demonstration reactor after 2015. Plans for inertial confinement are currently centered on the development of a "next-step" target facility based on an advanced 5-megajoule laser on roughly the same time scale as NET. (5) The facilities required for both magnetic and inertial confinement will be large and expensive. Consequently, international cooperation is receiving strong consideration for the next magnetic facility, namely ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor). This project would be shared by the USA, EC, USSR, and JAPAN.

The main program described above is focused on D-T devices. For burning advanced fuels such as D-³He however, alternate confinement concepts with high (> 30%) plasma beta (magnetic confinement)⁽⁶⁾ or a D-T seed ignited burn⁽⁷⁾ (inertial confinement) appear necessary. These alternatives have less of a physics data base than the tokamak and conventional inertial targets. Thus, the possibility of success is less certain and the best approach not so clear.

In magnetic confinement, three of the most promising high beta approaches with a reasonable experimental data base are the Field Reversed Configuration (FRC), the high field tokamak, and the dense Z-The best experimental data from an FRC is roughly an order of pinch. magnitude lower in temperature and 2 orders of magnitude less in Lawson $n\tau_E$ than the best tokamak results.⁽⁸⁾ However, these results were achieved with a much smaller, less costly experimental device. Also a number of key issues such as control of certain instabilities and the establishment of methods for adiabatic compression and translation have been resolved. (7) A high-field tokamak has just become operational in the USSR while the Ignitor Apparatus is being designed in Italy. A related device, CIT, is proposed as a "nextstep" ignition experiment in the U.S. Z-pinch studies in both the U. S. and Europe have made rapid strides with the discovery that a relatively stable pinch can be formed by passing a high current discharge through a thin deuterium fiber. Consequently, there appears to be a solid physics data base to build on in these areas if a development plan to burn D-3He is desired.

The situation is less clear in inertial confinement where the first step requires an experimental demonstration of D-T spark ignition. It appears that this must wait for the next generation of high-powered laser drivers combined with advanced target designs.

In conclusion, it appears that fusion research has reached a point in time where an R&D plan to develop a D-3He fusion reactor can be laid out with some confidence of success. Such a plan could build on the continuing progress in D-T studies, but the development of an alternate confinement concept(s) would be essential. Because engineering problems (e.g., tritium breeding and neutron damage to materials) are reduced and an approach such as the FRC involves relatively small experimental devices, the D-3He development program appears to be much less expensive than the D-T tokamak program. Also, as shown by several reactor studies (e.g., see Ref. 10), the resulting reactor is thought to boast important benefits with improved environmental compatibility, small size, higher efficiency, and favorable economics.

- TPA Plasma Science Final Report, U. of Wisconsin, December 1986.
 Technical Planning Activity Final Report, ANL/FPP-87-1, Argonne National Laboratory, January 1987.
- 3. Starpower: The U. S. and the International Quest for Fusion Energy, OTA-E-338, U. S. Government Printing Office, Oct. 1987.
- 4. Review of the Department of Energy's Inertial Confinement Fusion Program, National Academy of Sciences, March 1986.
- 5. D. Bixler, "On Achieving a Laboratory Microfusion Capability," Proceedings, Workshop on Laser Interaction and Related Plasma Phenomena (H. Hora and G. Miley, eds.) Monterey, CA (1988).
- 6. G. H. Miley, "Potential and Status of Alternate-Fuel Fusion," 4th ANS Topical Mtg. on the Technology of Controlled Nucl. Fusion, Vol. I, p. 905, King of Prussia, PA, 1980.
- 7. G. H. Miley, "Advanced-Fuel Targets for Beam Fusion," Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on High-Power Particle Beams (BEAMS '86), p. 309, Kobe, Japan, 1986..
- 8. M. G. Tuszewski, "Field-Reversed Configurations without Toroidal Field," Los Alamos National Lab. Report LA-UR-88-945 (1988).
- 9. B. Coppi, "Ignition Experiments and Physics: Ten Years Later," Intern. School of Plasma Phys. Workshop on Basic Phys. Processes of Toroidal Fusion Plasmas, Vol. II, 713, Varenna, Italy, 1985.
- 10. G. H. Miley, J. G. Gilligan and D. Driemeyer, "Preliminary Design of a Self-Sustained, Advanced-Fuel Field Reversed Mirror Reactor-SAFFIRE," Trans. Am. Nucl. Soc., 30, 47 (1978).

PROGRESS TO DATE IN FUSION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

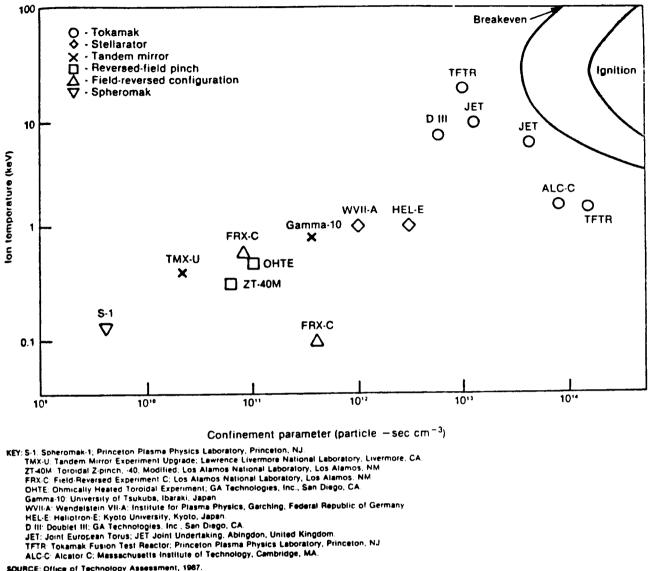
	,,,,,,			<u></u>
Characteristic	TFTR	JET	JT-60	T-15
Location	USA	EC/UK	Japan	USSR
Experimental Start	1982	1983	1985	1987
Major Radius (m)	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.4
Minor Radius (m)	0.85	1.25	0.95	0.70
Elongation	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.0
Toroidal Field (T)	5.2	3.5	4.5	5.0
Plasma Current (MA)	3.0	5.0	2.7	2.3
Auxiliary Heating (MW)	30	40	30	30
Heating Pulse (s)	2	10	5	>1
Heating Methods	Neutral Beam (NB) ICRH	ICRH NB	NB LHH ICRH	ECH NB
Working Gas	H,D,DT	H,D,DT	H,D	н
Special Features	Adiabatic compression Tangential NB	D - Shape	Outer divertor	Super- con- ducting coils
Program Emphasis	Confinement at high nT	Confinement at high B	Confinement at high nT	ECH
	DT breakeven	High-power rf	High-power rf	Plasma
		Plasma shaping Alpha physics	Divertor	control

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Large Tokamak Facilities

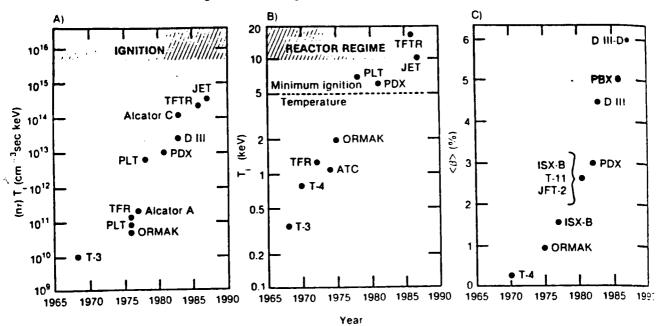
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Plasma Parameters Achieved by Various Confinement Concepts



SOURCE: Office of Technology Assessment, 1987.



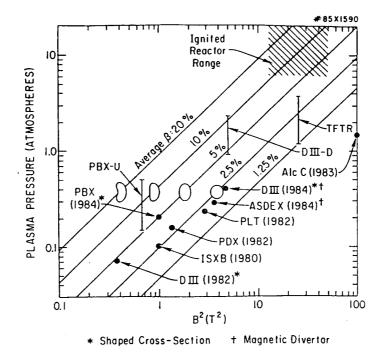


(A) n ≅ T, representing the simultaneous achievement of the three parameters—density, ion temperature, and confinement time—needed to produce fusion power

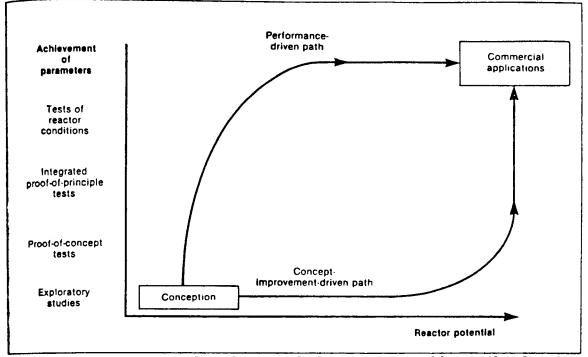
(B) $T_i = ion temperature$

(C) $<\beta>$ = beta = ratio of plasma pressure to magnetic field pressure; provides a measure of the efficiency with which the magnetic fields are used

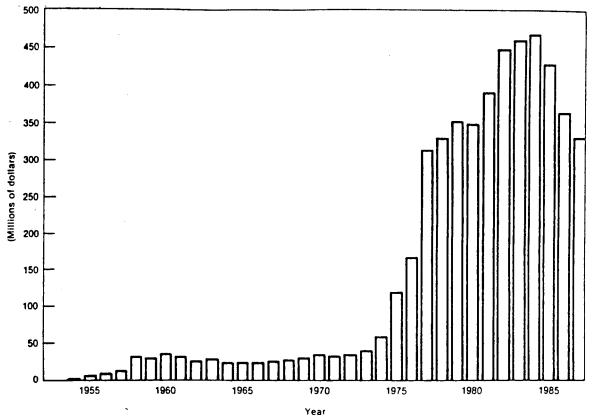
SOURCE: Updated from National Research Council, Physics Through the 1990s: Plasmas and Fluids (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1986), figure 4.6 ± 18:



Recent progress of toroidal experiments towards the beta regime of an ignited reactor. The illustrative cross-section shapes indicate theoretical beta-limits for aspect ratios of about 3. Experimental results are mainly for near-circular cross-section tokamaks, except for DIII-D (D-shaped) and PBX (bean). Alternate Paths for Concept Development

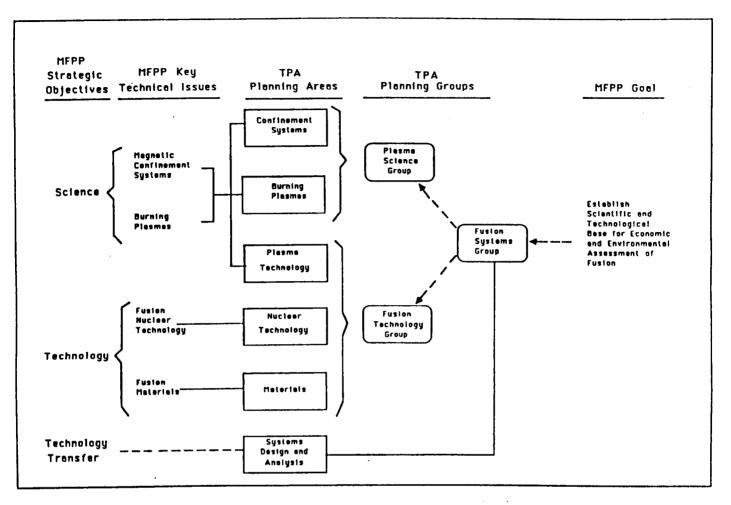


SOURCE: Adapted from Argonne National Laboratory, Technical Planning Activity. Final Report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy. Office of Energy Research, ANU/FPP-87-1, January 1987, figure 1.5, p. 56.

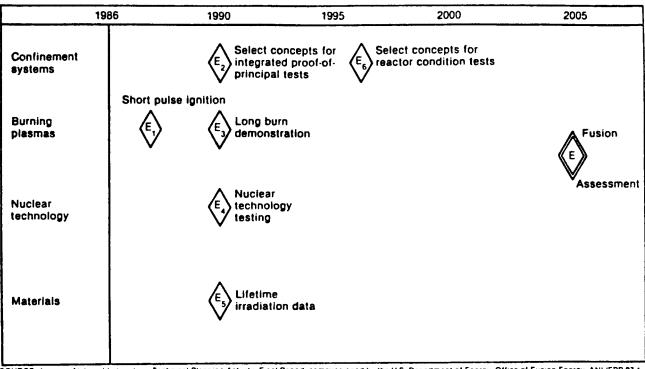


Historical Magnetic Fusion R&D Funding, 1951-87 (in current dollars)

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, letter to OTA project staff, Aug. 15, 1986

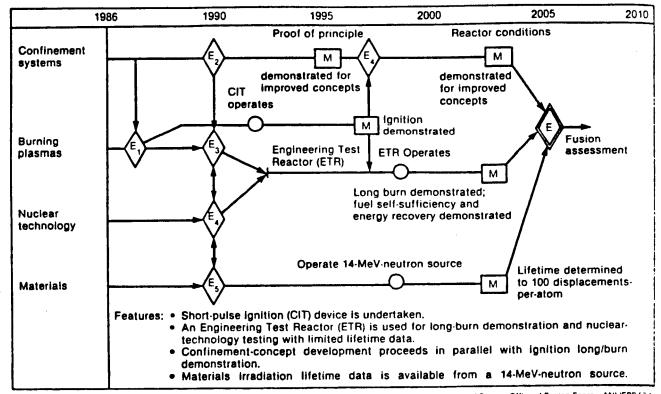


Structure of Technical Planning Activity and Its Relationship to Magnetic Fusion Program Plan



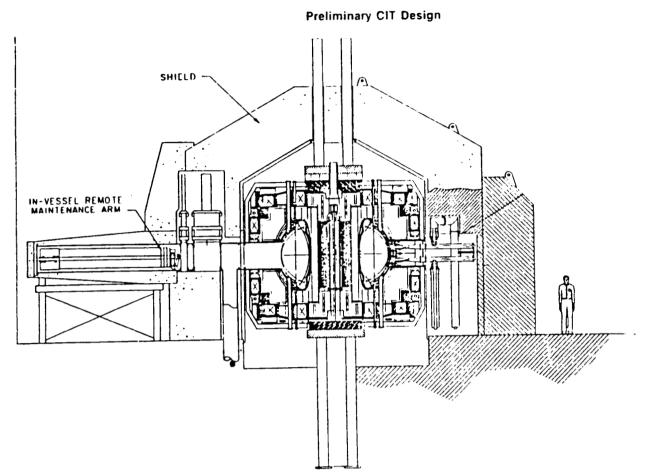
Top Level Decision Points in the Magnetic Fusion Program

SOURCE: Argonne National Laboratory, Technical Planning Activity: Final Report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy, ANUFPP-87-1, January 1987, figure S.8, p. 23.



Reference Scenario for the Magnetic Fusion Program

SOURCE: Argonne National Laboratory, Technical Planning Activity: Final Report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy, ANUFPP-6*+ January 1987, figure S.10, p. 27.



SOURCE: Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, 1987.

COMMENTS ABOUT ADVANCED FUELS IN U.S. MAGNETIC FUSION PROGRAM PLAN

Cycle	Primary reaction	Percent of energy carried by charged particles
D-T cycle	D+T-'He+n+17.59 million electron volts (MeV) =deuterium; T=tritium; 'He=alpha particle, or helium nucleus]	20::
-		62 [:] : [‡]
D-'He cycle	D+3He-4He+p+18.34 MeV	up to 98° : °
D-'Li cycle	D+⁴Li-5 different reactions [ºLi-sotope of lithium]	over 65° :
p-"B cycle	p+''B-'He+'He+'He+8.66 MeV [''B-isotope of boron]	almost 100° : ^d

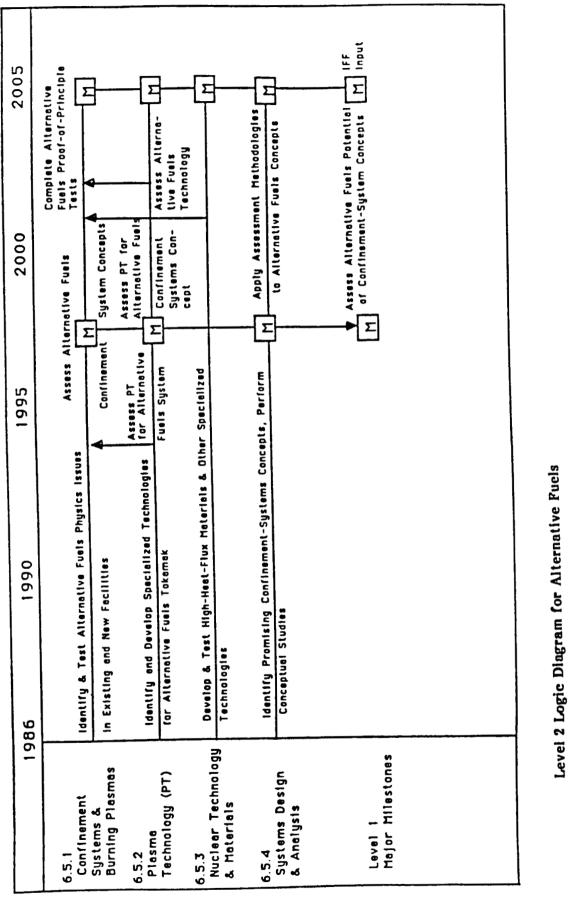
Fusion Fuel Cycles*

Bpresented in order of increasing difficulty, the last reaction is from 100 to 10,000 times harder to ignite than the first one, depending on temperature bsixty-two percent is the fraction of the energy carried off by charged particles, assuming that the intermediate reaction products (T and the treat further via D T) Sixty two percent is the inaction of the energy canted on by charged particles, assuming that the intermediate reaction brookers and D-'He reactions. With these additional reactions, the full reaction is 6D-p+p+n+n+*He+*43.23 MeV Chinety-sight percent can be attained for mixtures lean in D and rich in *He (see footnote 21 in main text, above) dA low energy (0.15 MeV) neutron is produced in the secondary reaction *He+**B-n+**N+0.158 MeV [**N=isotope of nitrogen]

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy. Background Information and Technical Basis for Assessment of Environmental Implications of Magnetic Fusion Energy. DOE/ER-0179 August 1983, p. 2-3 (table 2-1) and pp. 2-24 to 2-27, including table 2-2

Objectives and Attributes for Alternative Fuels Program Element

Objectives	Attributes		
Minimize production and handling of tritium.	Cost of tritium-handling sub- system, expressed as percent of total plant cost		
Minimize production of . neutrons.	Fraction of total fusion energy carried by neutrons, expressed as percent		
Maximize potential for nonthermal energy con- version.	Overall plant efficiency, in percent		
Maximize capability to achieve the higher beta and confinement times necessary for alternative- fuel systems.	Predictive capability of plasma theory to verify experiment		



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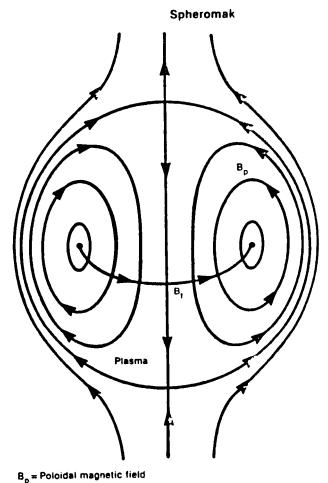
COMMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE CONFINEMENT CONCEPTS WELL SUITED FOR D/³He OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS FROM U.S. MAGNETIC FUSION

PROGRAM PLAN

Well-developed	Moderately developed	Developing
knowledge base	knowledge base	knowledge base
Conventional Tokamak	Advanced Tokamak Spheromak Tandem Mirror Field-Reversed Conf Stellarator Dense Z-Pinch Reversed-Field Pinch	

Classification of Confinement Concepts

SOURCE: Adapted from Argonne National Laboratory, Fusion Power Program. Technical Planning Activity: Final Report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy, ANL/FPP-87-1, 1987, p. 15



B_t = Toroidal magnetic field

SOURCE: M.N. Rosenbluth and M.N. Bussac, "MHD Stability of Spheromak." Nuclear Fusion 19(4):489-498 (Vienna, Austria: International Atomic Energy Agency, 1979).

Major World Spheromaks^a

Device	Location	Status
<u>S</u> .1	United States (PPPL)	To be terminated, fiscal year 1988
	United States (LANL)	Terminated, fiscal year 1987
MS	United States (University of Maryland)	Under construction
CTCC		Operating
	United Kingdom (University of Manchester)	Operating
TS-3		Operating

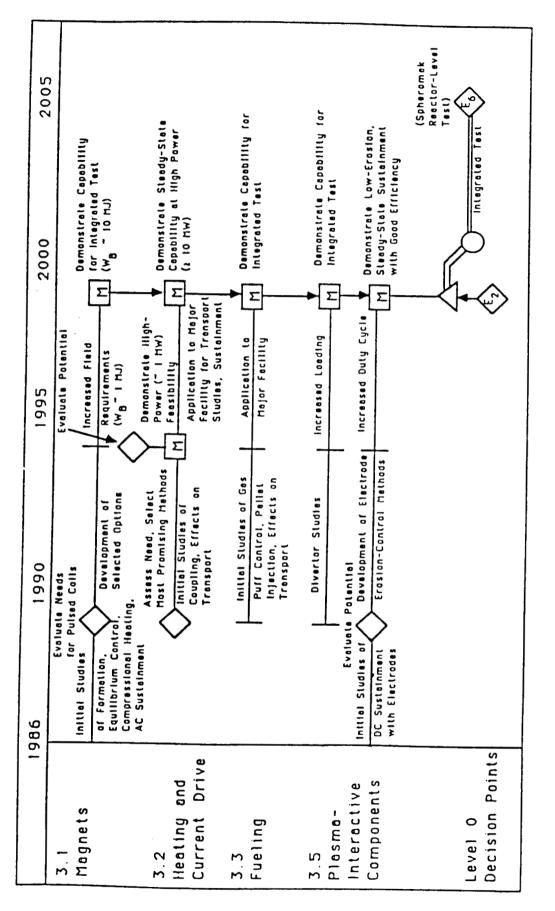
Elisted approximately by decreasing order of the size of the spheromak research effort at each site, it is difficult to specify any single physical parameter as a rough measure of spheromak capability

SOURCE: Office of Technology Assessment, 1987.

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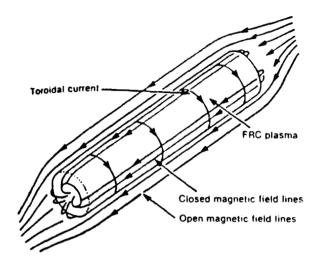
Program Elements and Subelements	Objectives	Attributes	
Macroscopic Equilibrium and Dynamics			
Macroscopic Stability	Minimize the amount and com- plexity of external structures (both driven and passive) re- quired to control equilibrium and gross tilt and shift instabilities.	Field-line symmetry and closure	
Current- and Pressure- Driven Effects	Obtain q-profiles that reduce kink- and ballooning-mode effects.	q(#), <8>	
Transport			
Energy Confinement	Control the processes that determine spheromak energy loss.	۳۲E	
Wave-Plasma Interactions			
Wave Heating	Apply auxiliary heating or current drive by efficient rf techniques, as required.	Source-to-spheromak efficiency	
Particle-Plasma Interactions			
Impurity Control	Reduce impurity effects through combined ohmic-heating, burn-through and divertor action of open magnetic flux.	Z _{eff}	
Composite			
Pulse-Length Optimization	Develop methods for sustain- ment against resistive decay, based on helicity injection or current drive.	Efficiency, ^T pulse ^{/T} R	

Spheromak Program Elements, Subelements, Objectives, and Attributes



Level 3 Logic Diagram for Spheromak Plasma Technology

Field-Reversed Configuration



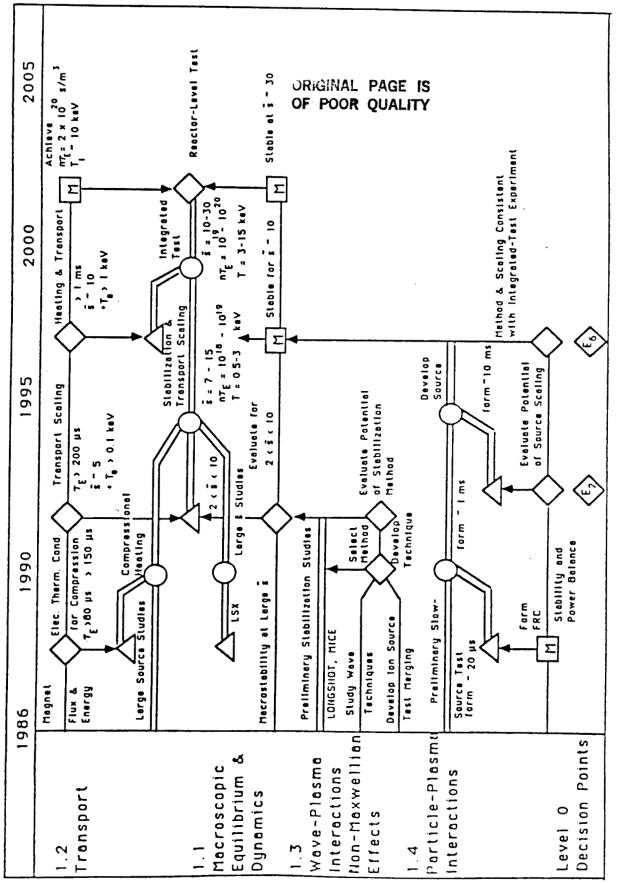
CURCE National Research Council Physics Through the 1990s Plasmas and Fluids (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1986)

Major World Field-Reversed Configurations*

Device	Location	Status	
LSX	United States (Spectra Technologies)	Under construction	
FRX-C	United States (LANL)	Operating	
BN. TOR	U.S.S.R. (Kurchatov)	Operating	
TRX-2	United States (Spectra Technologies)	Operating	
OCT. PIACE	Japan (Osaka University)	Operating	
NUCTE	Japan (Nihon University)	Operating	

*Listed approximately by decreasing order of size, similarly sized devices at the same institution are listed together

SOURCE Office of Technology Assessment, 1987; from Information supplied by the Los Atamos National Laboratory

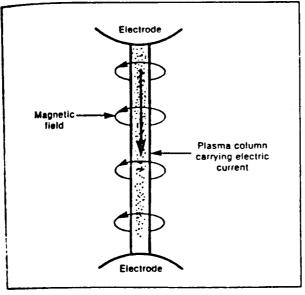




Program Elements			
and Subelements	Objectives	Attributes	
Macroscopic Equilibrium and Dynamics			
MHD Equilibrium and Stability	Maintain stability with increased s.	Value of s	
Transport			
Energy Confinement	Demonstrate favorable scaling of energy confinement with s.	τ _E (s)	
Heating	Establish adiabatic compres- sion as viable method.	τ _E (Temp.)	
Composite			
Formation	Develop lower-voltage forma- tion method.	τ _f , formation timescale	

Field-Reversed Configuration Program Elements, Subelements, Objectives, and Attributes

Dense Z-Pinch

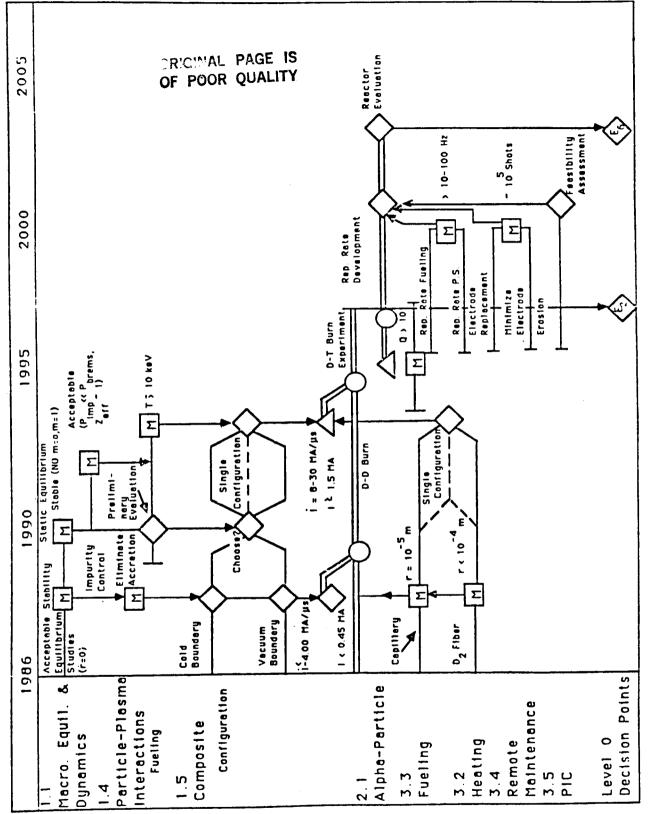


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SURCE: Office of Technology Assessment, 1987

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Level 2 Lagie Diagram for Denze Z. Pinch

C-2

Program Elements, Subelements, Objectives, and Attributes for the Dense Z-Pinch

Program Elements and Subelements	Objectives	Attributes
Macroscopic Equilibrium and Dynamics		
Magnetic Transients	Demonstrate stable equi- librium at I ≥ 1.4 MA.	No gross instability during current rise
Transport		
Energy Confinement	Demonstrate reactor-level confinement.	nτ _E
Particle-Plasma Interactions		
Fueling	Eliminate accretion.	\dot{N} = 0 rep rate in Hz
	Reactor-relevant repetition rate.	Repetition rate in Hz
Alpha-Particle Effects	Minimize core plasma heating; minimize exo-column ionization and current diversion; and understand alpha- particle/electrode interaction.	Frequency/mass/cost of electrode replace- ment
Radiative Collapse of Pinch	Understand dynamics Enhance fuel burning.	DT burnup
Composite	Choose configuration (cold boundary vs. vacuum boundary).	^Z eff ^{, †} E

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Dense Z-Pinch Decision on Proceeding with DD Burn Experiment

Statement of Decision

To proceed with the DD burn experiment, in which the primary objective is to obtain equivalent DT Q > 1.

Decision Criteria

Obtain stable, static equilibria at the 1.5-MA current level. Explore confinement scaling for $n\tau_E \sim 10^{17} - 10^{18}$ s/m³. Choose between cold-boundary and vacuum-boundary approaches on the basis of preliminary transport, stability, and impurity-level assessments.

Sources of Information

Results from existing dense Z-pinch experiments. Preliminary results from dense Z-pinch DD burn experiments. Plasma supporting activities (principally in Europe).

Outcomes and Consequences of Decision

Favorable assessment and achievement of the objectives of the DD burn experiments would lead to a DT burn experiment and an assessment of the technological possibilities of developing the concept towards a reactor (particularly with respect to the repetition-rate problem).
Undertake further research to resolve the remaining issues.
Terminate the dense Z-pinch program.

Cost of Representative Fusion Experiments

Experiment	Location	Туре	Construction cost (millions of 1987 dollars)
Tokamak Facility Test Reactor	PPPL	Tokamak	\$562
Mirror Fusion Test Facility-B		Tandem Mirror	\$330
Doublet III		Tokamak	\$ 56ª
Doublet III-D (Upgrade)		Tokamak	\$ 36*
International Fusion Superconducting Magnet Test Facility.		Magnet Test ^b	\$ 36°
Poloidal Divertor Experiment		Tokamak	\$ 54
Princeton Large Torus		Tokamak	\$ 43
Tritium Systems Test Assembly		Tritium Test ^b	\$ 26
Tandem Mirror Experiment		Tandem Mirror	\$ 24
Tandem Mirror Experiment Upgrade		Tandem Mirror	\$ 23
Texas Experimental Tokamak		Tokamak	\$ 21
Advanced Toroidal Facility		Stellarator	\$ 21
TARA		Tandem Mirror	\$ 19
ZT-40		Reversed-Field Pinch	\$ 17
Alcator C		Tokamak	\$ 15
Rotating Target Neutron Source		Materials Test ^b	\$ 11
Impurity Studies Experiment-B		Tokamak	\$ 5
Field Reversed Experiment-C	LANL	Field-Reversed Configuration	\$3
Phaedrus	UW	Tandem Mirror	\$ 1.8
Macrotor		Tokamak	\$ 1.5
IMS		Stellarator	\$ 1.4
Tokapole		Tokamak	\$ 0.6

KEY PFPL-Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Princeton New Jersey

LLNL-Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California

ORNL—Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee GA—GA Technologies, Inc., San Diego, California

LANL-Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

UT-University of Texas, Austin, Texas

MIT-Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

UW-University of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin

UCLA-University of California. Los Angeles, California

*Values shown for the combined Doublet III facility and upgrade do not include an additional \$54 million (in current dollars) of hardware provided by the government of Japan or \$36 million (in 1987 dollars) for a neutral beam addition.

^bTnese facilities are fusion technology facilities, all others on the table are confinement physics experiments

CThe cost of this facility does not include the cost of the six magnet coils that are being tested there. It is estimated that the magnet coils cost between \$12 million and \$15 million each (in current dollars)

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy, 1987.

EXAMPLE OF HIGH TEMPERATURE $D/^{3}$ He BURN EXPERIMENT

OBJECTIVES OF HI-T EXPERIMENT

- OBTAIN PLASMA SCALING DATA AT 30 TO 40 keV OF INTEREST TO D-BASED ADVANCED FUELS
- DEMONSTRATE ADVANCED FUEL BURN BY REFUELING TO CONVERT FROM D-T TO D/³He

APPROACH

• USE D-T THERMAL RUN-AWAY IN HIGH-β RFTP

RFOP BURN DYNAMIC EXPERIMENT

NEUTRAL BEAM/PELLET INJECTION INTO FRTP

- PROVIDES AUXILIARY HEATING BEYOND COMPRESSION/SHOCK
- PROVIDES FUELING SOTBURN ~ 5TPARTICLE
- COUNTER-DIRECTED BEAM SUPPRESSES ROTATION
- DENSITY PROFILE CONTROL SUPPRESSES LOWER HYBRID DRIFT

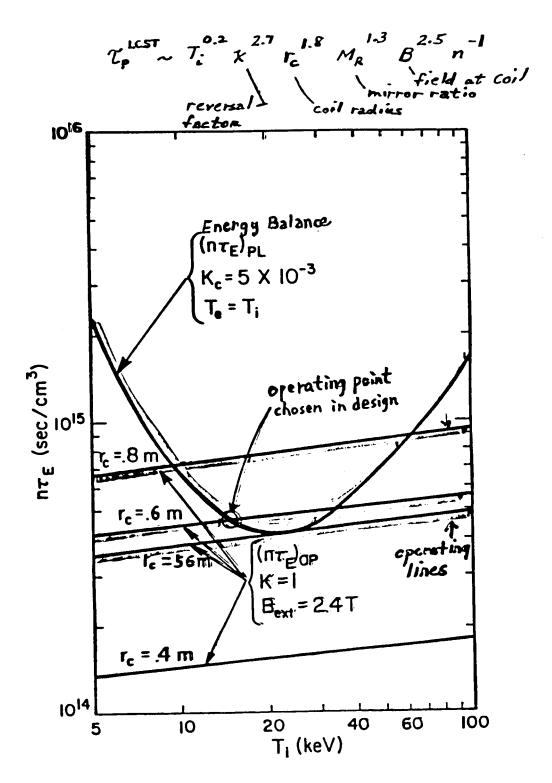
WHY RFTP?

- HIGH β
- EXPERIMENTAL DATA PROMISING
- LSST SCALING SUPPORTS FEASIBILITY OF HIGH-T OPERATION
- COMPACT SIZE ALLOWS RAPID CONSTRUCTION AT MODEST COST
- ALLOWS ADVANCED FUELS

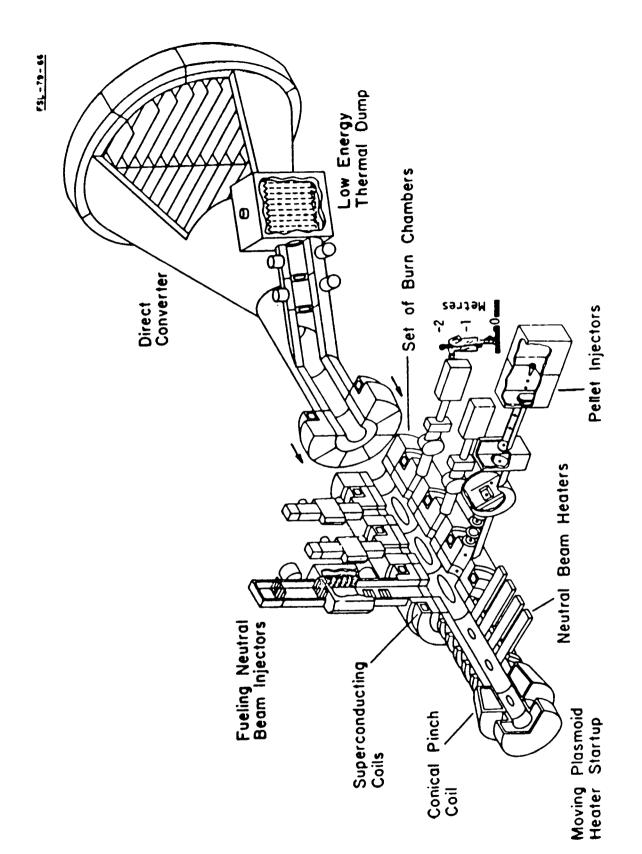
KEY PROBLEMS

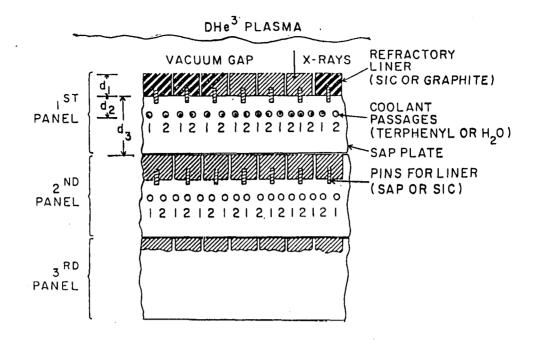
• SUPPRESS PLASMA SPIN-UP

• SUPPRESS STEP DENSITY GRADIENTS CAUSING LOW HYBRID DRIFT INSTABILITY



 $(n\tau_E)_{OP}$ and $(n\tau_E)_{PL}$ versus T_i for a D-T system. Here $(nT_E)_{OP}$ is based on the "loss-cone-like" scattering transport model (see reference), where K is the field reversal factor.





ALUMINUM BLANKETS FOR DHe³ REACTORS CROSS SECTION

SAFFIRE

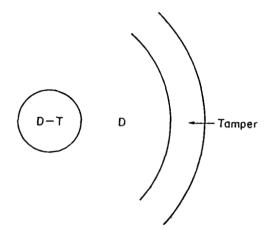
Power Split, %

plasma 0.39 fp 0.37 radiation 0.22 neutrons 0.02

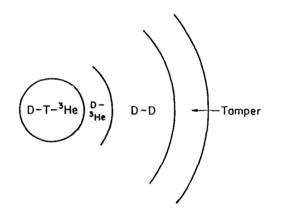
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CONCEPTS FOR BURNING ADVANCED FUELS WITH INERTIAL CONFINEMENT USING A-FLINT CONCEPT

[Burn propagation ignited by a D-T central spark.]

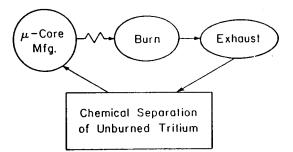


THE <u>AFLINI</u> TARGET CONCEPT USES BURN PROPAGATION TO IGNITE AN OUTER DEUTERIUM LAYER. A MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE TRITIUM BREEDING IN THE TARGET (VIA D-D REACTIONS) SO THAT THE BLANKET NEED NOT BREED.



THE BURN PROPAGATION IS IMPROVED BY USE OF 3 He (BREED INTERNALLY BY D-D ALSO). IN THIS FIGURE AN OPTIMUM ARRANGEMENT IS SHOWN.

TRITIUM SELF SUFFICIENCY



FLOW DIAGRAM FOR TRITIUM WHEREBY TRITIUM PRODUCED BY D-D REACTIONS IN THE BURN IS USED TO MANUFACTURE SUBSEQUENT D-T MICRO-CORES. A TARGET TRITIUM BREEDING RATIO (TBR) SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN 1.0 IS REQUIRED FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY, I.e., ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR A LITHIUM BREEDING BLANKET.

REFERENCE	TYPE	EI	£	ρr	TBR	G
·		(MJ)	(J/gm)	(gm-cm ⁻²)		<u> </u>
WOOD, Ref. 8	Cat.D Burner (T; ³ He Seed)	3×DT	1	7	> 1.0	1/2xDT
NUCKOLLS, Ref. 9	Cat.D Burner	10	3×10 ⁷	7	> 1.0	1
	(T; ³ He Seed)					
MOSES, Ref. 7	Pure D Spark	> 100	1.5×10 ⁹	40-80		200-300
SKUPSKY, Ref. 10	50/50 D-T Spark; 90/10 Outside	0.16 abs.	1.6 ×10 ⁸	25	0.4	580
1978 A-FLINT, Refs. 12-14	50/50 D-T Spark; Pure D Outside	1.8 abs.	9.7×10 ⁷	13	1.1	1700
1980 A-FLINT Ref. 1	•	0.1 abs.	5.87×10 ⁷	6.8	1.0	700

Prior D-Based Pellet Studies

 E_I = input energy ϵ = specific absorbed energy TBR = tritium breeding ratio G = gain on absorbed energy