

Machine Protection

T N Todd
February 2016



Typical Machine Protection issues

- Plant safety and human safety
- Single parameter limits
- Parameter-combination limits
- Various component temperatures
 - Coils
 - Vacuum vessel
 - In-vessel components
- Plasma impacts
- Positive vacuum vessel pressure
 - Water leaks creating steam
 - Hydrogen deflagration (e.g. due to cryopump regeneration)
- Laser pulse energy (window damage)
- Specific event risk assessments and mitigation strategies
- *Most adverse events relate to stresses, so fatigue limits apply*



What is “safety”?

Human safety is most important but next comes safety of the plant, i.e. stopping the machine from destroying itself - “Machine Protection”:

- single parameter operational limits
- operational limits of parameter combinations
- impacts of the plasma on the machine
- fault conditions
- need for benign plasma termination procedures



Single parameter limits

- Toroidal field coil current
- Ohmic Heating solenoid current
- Various component temperatures
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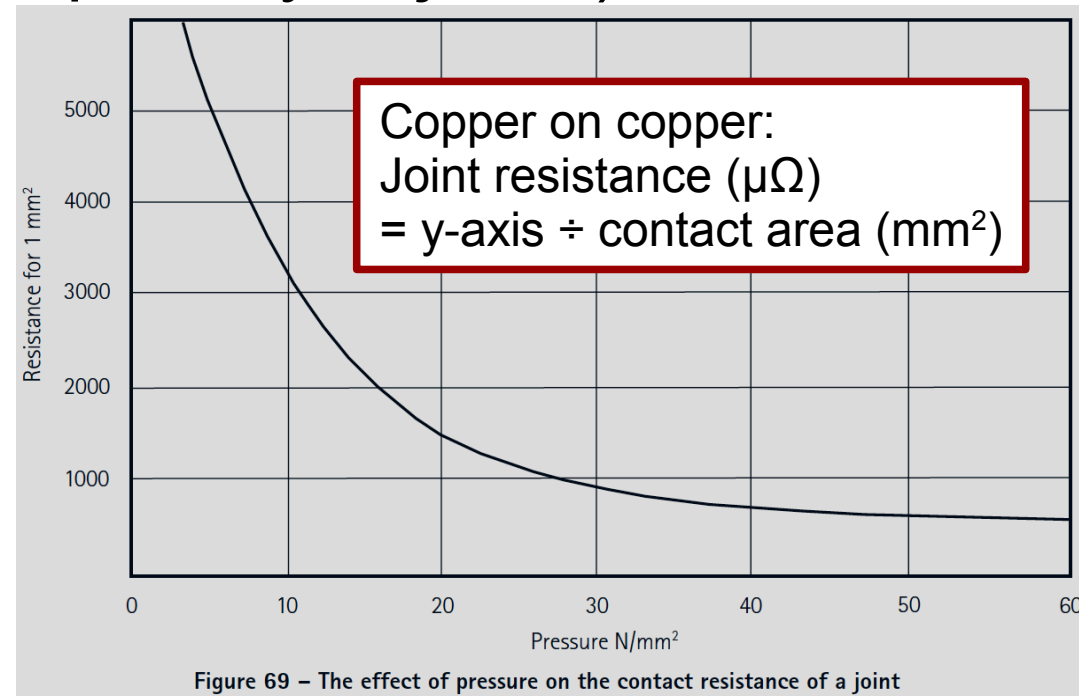
Parameter combination limits

- Crossed magnetic fields (with no electrical faults)
 - Solenoid and toroidal field
 - Vertical field and toroidal field
 - Divertor field and toroidal field
 - Resonant magnetic perturbation fields and plasma equilibrium fields
 - Adjacent solenoidal coils with opposite current directions
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 - Halo currents due to Vertical Displacement Events
 - Disruption mitigation gas causing break-down in neutral beam duct or RF antennae
 - ICRH VSWR antinode arcs puncturing vacuum bellows
 - ECRH & ICRH forbidden resonance locations (e.g. windows)



Component temperatures

- Coils
 - If Cu or Al, really only water temperature and I^2t matters
 - If superconducting:
 - Cable and strand motion (friction)
 - Nuclear heating
 - Eddy current heating
- Coil feeders and bus-bars (especially at joints)
- Power supply components
 - Transformers, inductors...
 - Rectifiers
 - Thyristors, IGBTs...



<http://www.leonardo-energy.org/sites/leonardo-energy/files/documents-and-links/jointing.pdf>

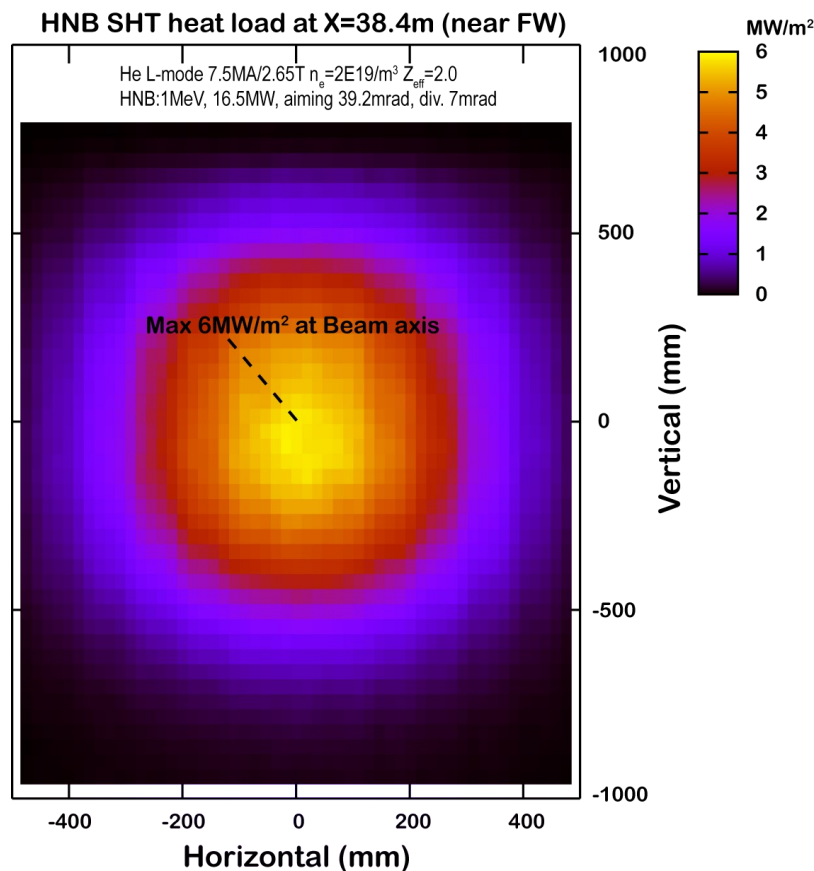
Section 6.0 - Jointing of Copper Busbars, David Chapman



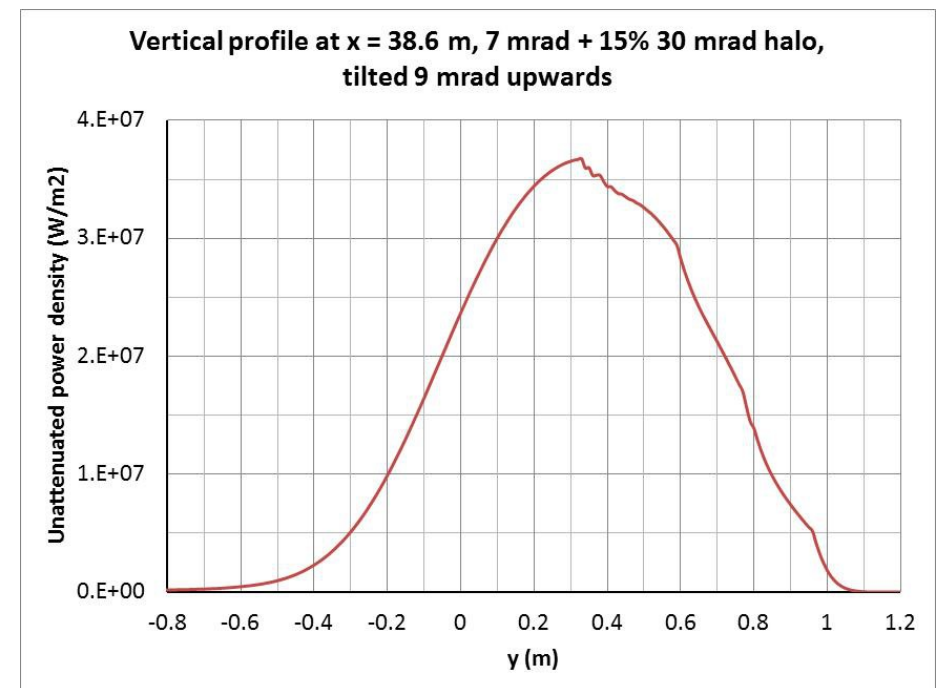
Component temperatures

- Plasma facing components, due to plasma load
 - Divertor tiles
 - Limiters (especially during ramp-up and ramp-down)
- Vessel & in-vessel components due to plasma heating systems
 - Unabsorbed RF e.g. ECRH, LHH and ICRH
 - Neutral beam shine-through

ITER heating beam at minimum permitted plasma density (modelled on an orthogonal plane)



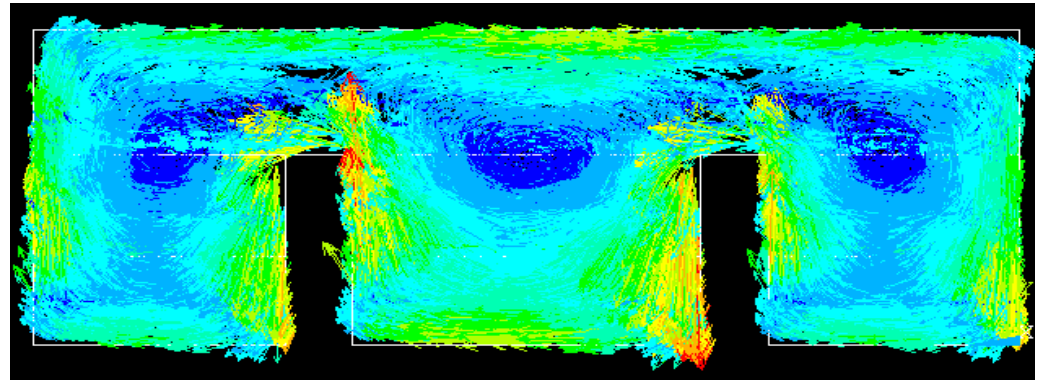
But if the plasma density was zero...
(here modelled on the far wall facets)



Plasma impacts

- Plasma facing components as described above
- Disruption effects
 - Eddy currents
 - Halo currents
 - Voltages induced in coils
 - Photon flash in thermal quench (or DMS)
 - Runaway electrons (penetration depth very short for W)

Changing poloidal fields create eddy currents;
e.g. JET ITER-Like Wall, modelled in ANSYS:

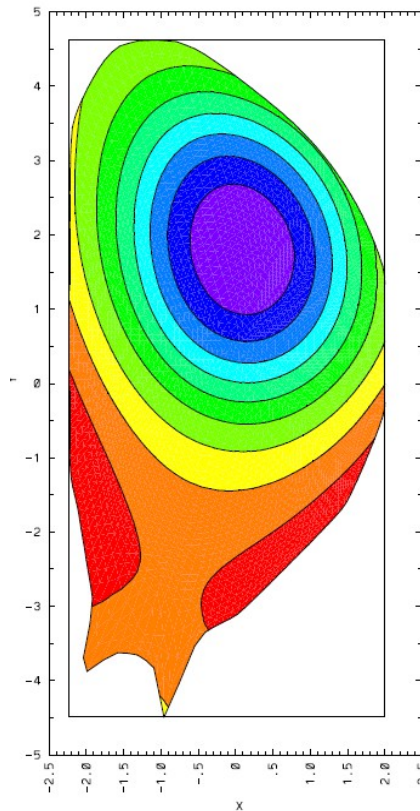


Vertical Displacement Events and Halo Currents

In a VDE, the plasma moves vertically until edge q falls significantly below ~ 2 , and then disrupts (by 2,1 kink or TM).

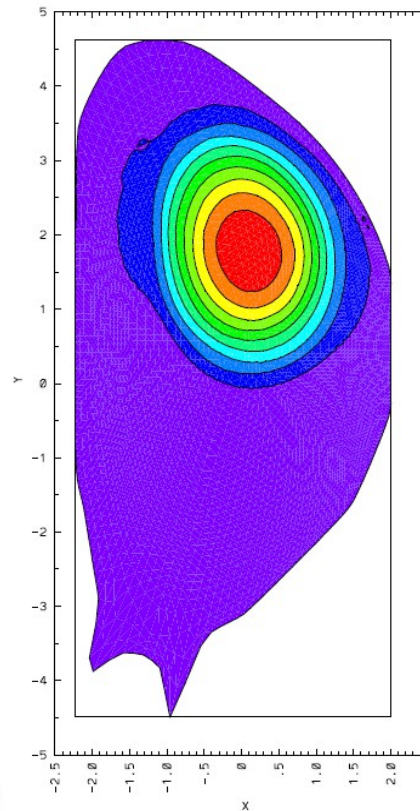
VDE - kink disruption

a max $0.79E+00$
min $-0.23E+01$ t= 377.56



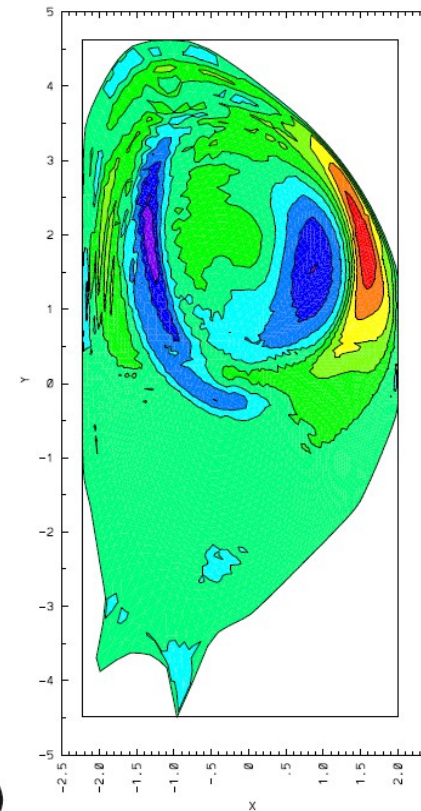
(a)

si max $0.47E+00$
min $0.93E-01$ t= 377.56



(b)

vphi max $0.53E-01$
min $-0.36E-01$ t= 377.56



(c)

Strauss, H et al, *Tokamak rotation and halo current caused by disruptions*, PPPL talk, 2013

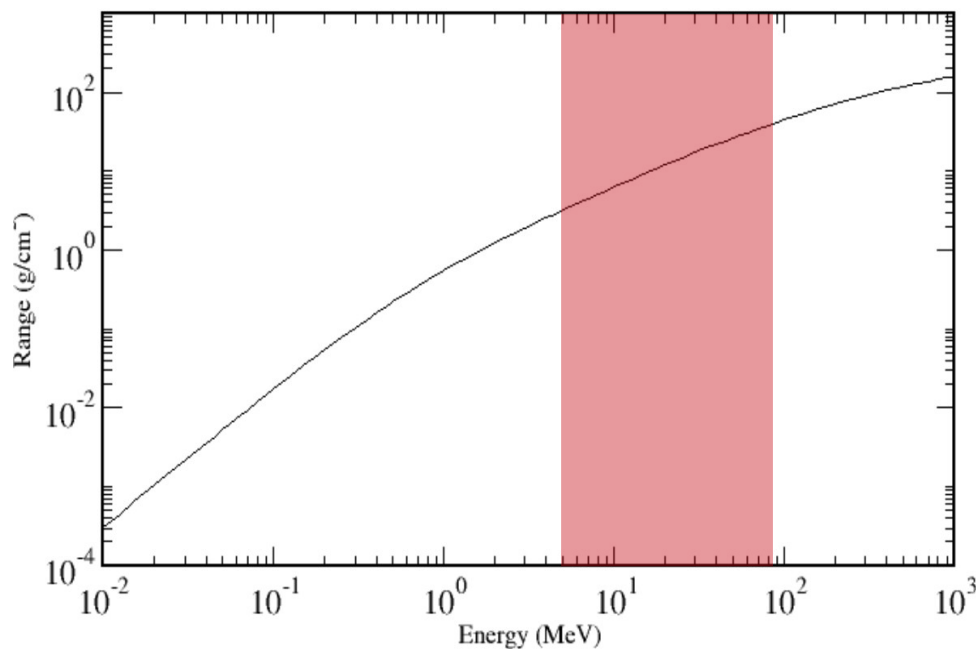


Plasma impacts – Runaway Electrons

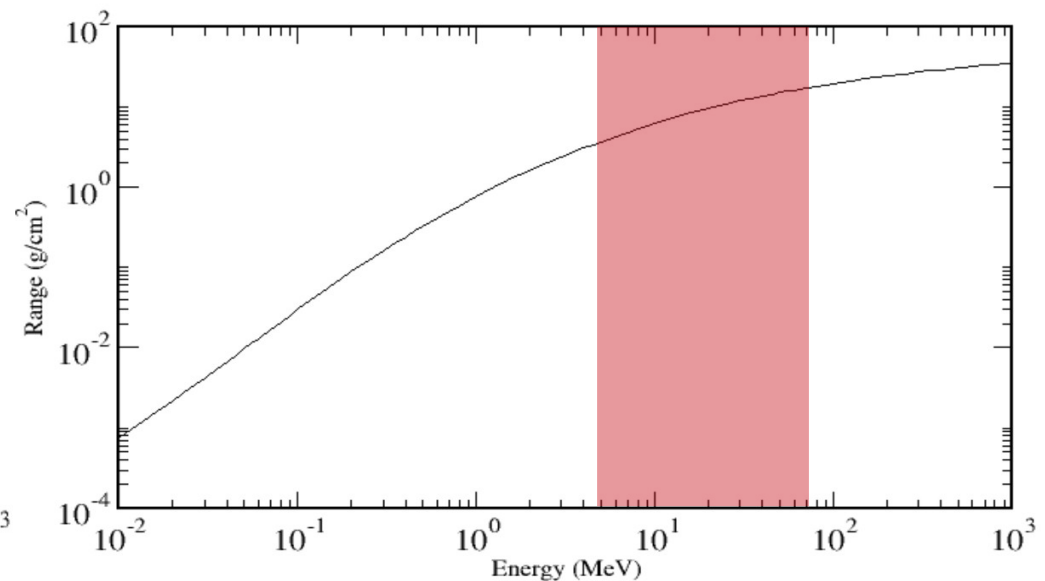
Fast electron “Continuous Slowing Down Approximation”
range in a solid ($\text{cm} = \text{g}/\text{cm}^2 \div \text{g}/\text{cm}^3$)

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BERYLLIUM, 1.85 g/cm³



TUNGSTEN, 19.25g/cm³



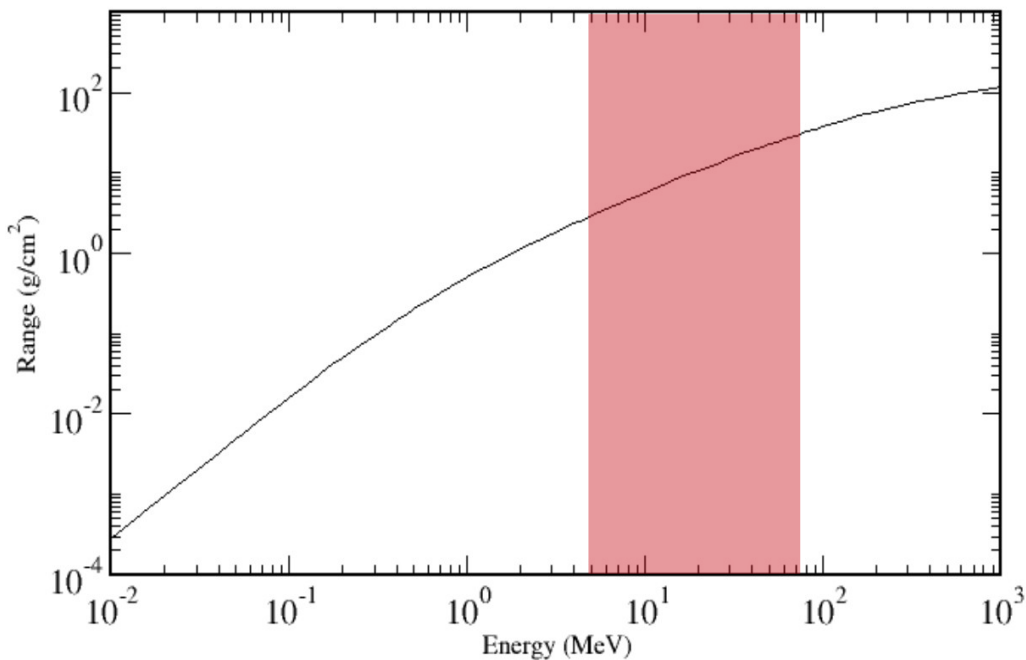
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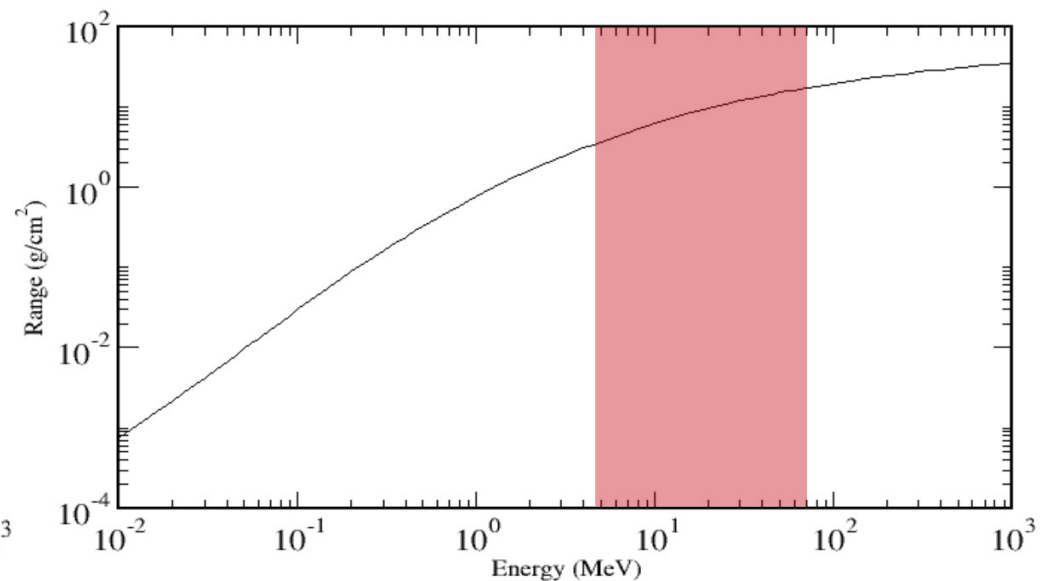
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AMORPHOUS CARBON, 2.0 g/cm³



TUNGSTEN, 19.25g/cm³



Risk assessment: event probability versus impact

<p>(Challenge) frequency: ► Including provision for the rarity of certain types of experiment</p>	<p>Low Less than once in 15 calendar years or <1/50000 per pulse</p>	<p>Medium Between once in 15 calendar years and once in 10 operational weeks or >1/50000 and <1/1000 per pulse</p>	<p>High or Continuous Greater than once in 10 operational weeks or >1/1000 per pulse</p>
<p>Unmitigated hazard: ▼ - the hazard to the machine in the absence of protection, be it interlocks, operating instructions or temporary over-rides - cumulative where appropriate to the nature of the damage and the time interval concerned</p>			
<p>Low Incomplete additional heating capability* for a period >1/2 session and <1 week or loss of >1 week and < 1 year of a specific type of machine operation or >0.01% and <0.5% permanent reduction in machine plasma performance <i>- below these ranges the impact is considered 'negligible'</i></p>	<p>Protection Category: Not applicable</p>	<p>Protection Category: C</p>	<p>Protection Category: B</p>
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Machine Protection Panel or similar

A special committee (or else general design reviews) consider the tokamak and all the plant, assessing:

- Failure modes affecting only the failed system
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- Normal operational modes adversely affecting other systems
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- The reliability required (related to Protection Category)
- The number and types of interlock logic, e.g.(in decreasing reliability):
 - Mechanical switches and relays
 - Simple digital logic
 - Programmable logic controllers
 - Field-programmable gate arrays
 - Microprocessors
 - Human procedures
- Hierarchy of trips (e.g. plasma control, power supply self-limit, voltage-off, open AC breakers, fire crowbar)



Optimisation of plasma terminations

- Different emerging problems may require different plasma control responses or termination procedures...

Example aspects of JET ITER-Like Wall protection system development

Present JET Controls and Protections

Equipment at Risk	Sensor	Issue	Action
Vessel	KC1d Ipl	• PPCC	
Vessel	KC1d LC	– Slow Stop	
Vessel, Magnets	PPCC	• Soft landing	• PPCC
		• Ramp Mag	
	PTN	– Fast Stop	
Tiles in NB beam	KG1, KS	• Hard landir sacrifice	• Aux Heat / Fuel
Tiles in NB beam	KG1, KS	• Aux Heat	
		– Slow Stop	
NB Shinethrough	KG1, KS	• Ramp down	
		– Fast Stop	
		• Ramp down	

N.B. Plasma parameters calc

- Hard-coded or Exper

Present Actions

ILW – Responses

- Change Strike Points
- Avoid Outer / Inner Limiter
- NB: Switch off or Swap PINI (psu-paired)
- RF, LH: Reduce Power, change phase, frequency
- Gas: Reduce Gas
- *Issues*
 - *Terminate or Recover ? Predict and Avoid ?*
 - *ILW Programme – Performance & Productivity Optimisation*



Conclusions

- Machine protection is a deeply complex subject!
 - Machine Protection discussions can reveal new human safety issues - must involve Safety Group
 - Identify hazardous effects and their causal events
 - Categorise the events for impact and frequency
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 - Agree a hierarchy of trip levels e.g. related to interlock type
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The BME Lectures - Tokamak Engineering - "Machine protection" T N Todd

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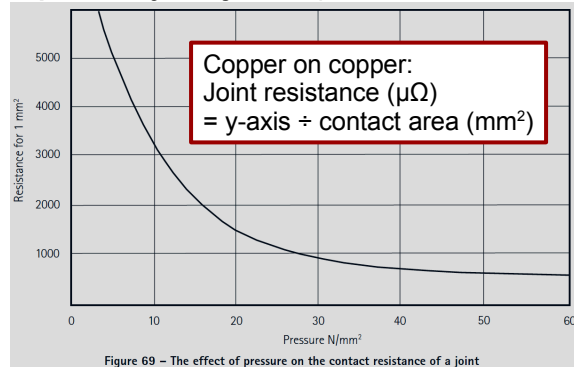


Figure 69 - The effect of pressure on the contact resistance of a joint

<http://www.leonardo-energy.org/sites/leonardo-energy/files/documents-and-links/jointing.pdf>

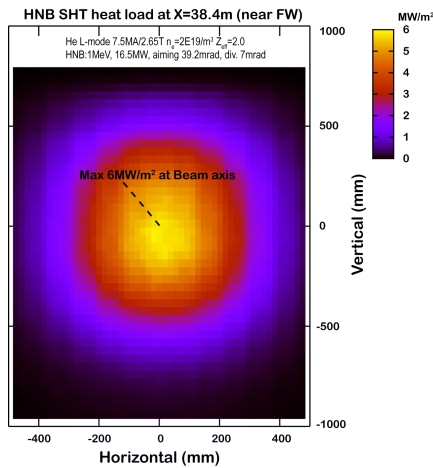
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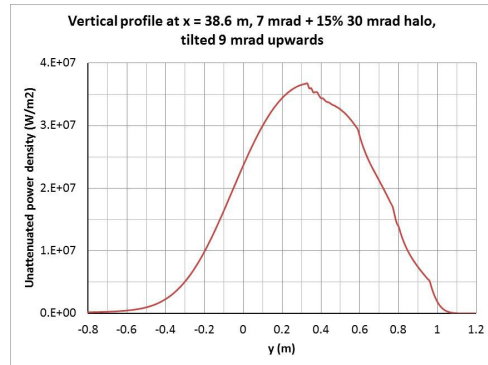
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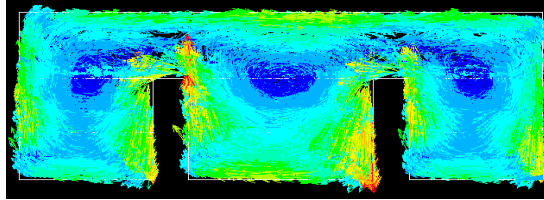
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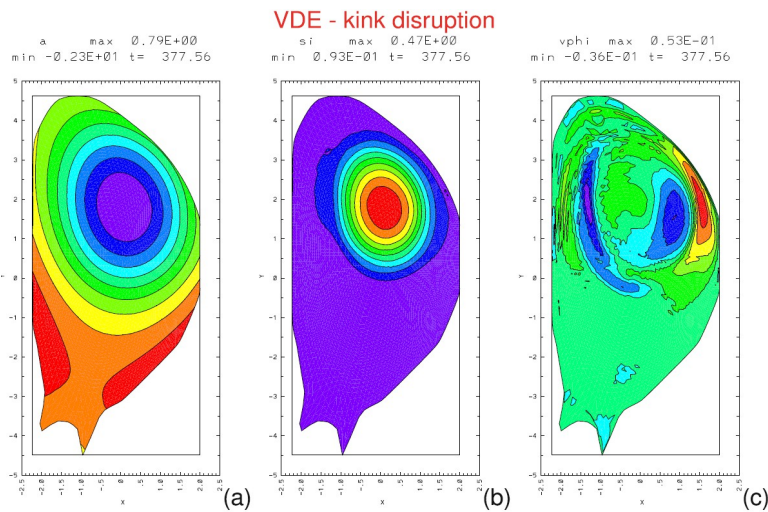
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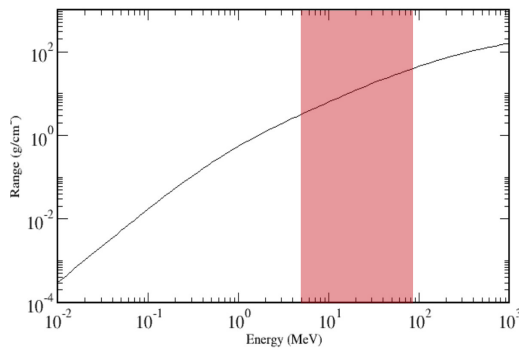


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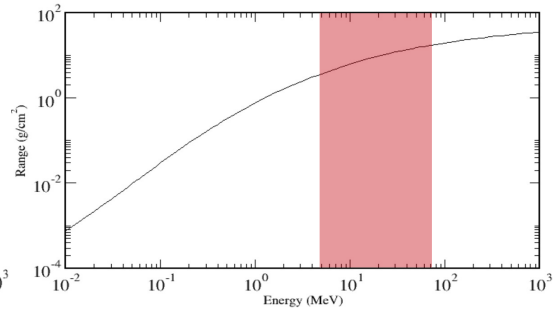
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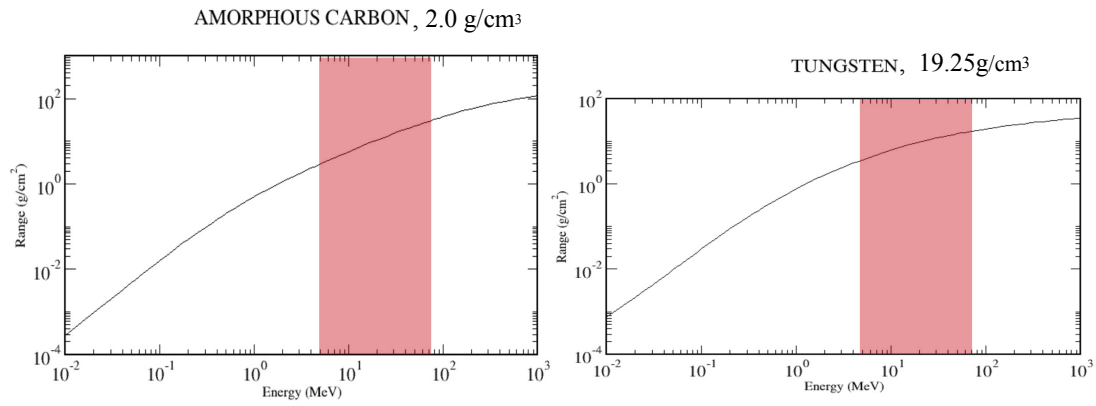


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