Studies of Next-Step Spherical Tokamaks Using High-Temperature Superconductors

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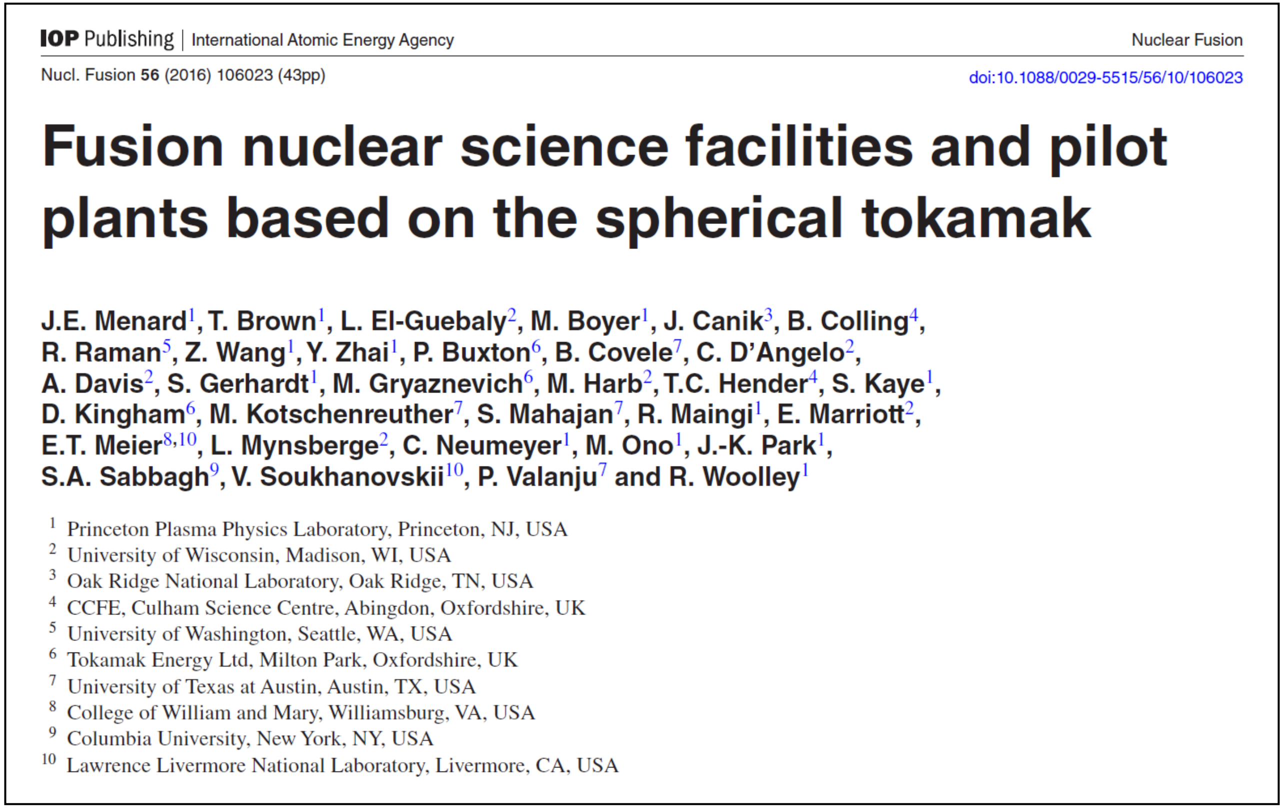
Multi-institutional effort exploring low aspect ratio tokamak concepts



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Fusion nuclear science facilities and pilot plants based on the spherical tokamak

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Paper summarizing 5 year study of Cu and HTS STs recently published in Nuclear Fusion

Possible missions for next-steps

1. Integrate high-performance, steady-state, exhaust
   - Divertor test-tokamak - DTT
2. Fusion-relevant neutron wall loading
   - $\Gamma_n \sim 1\text{-}2\,\mathrm{MW/m^2}$, fluence: $\geq 6\,\mathrm{MW\text{-}yr/m^2}$
3. Tritium self-sufficiency
   - Tritium breeding ratio TBR ≥ 1
4. Electrical self-sufficiency
   - $Q_{eng} = P_{electric} / P_{consumed} \sim 1$
5. Large net electricity generation
   - $Q_{eng} >> 1$, $P_{electric} = 0.5\text{-}1$ GWe

This talk will discuss PPPL-led studies of how low-A “spherical” tokamaks could fulfill these missions

What is optimal A for HTS FNSF / Pilot Plant?

- $P_{fus} / V \sim \varepsilon(\beta_N \kappa B_T)^4$ at fixed bootstrap fraction
- β_N and κ increase at lower aspect ratio
- But B_T decreases at lower A – depends strongly on:
  - Thickness of inboard shielding and breeding blanket
  - HTS allowable field and current density

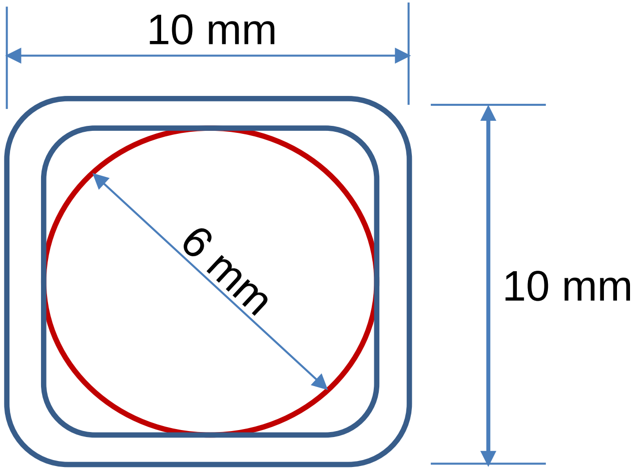
Approach:

- Fix plasma major radius and heating power (50MW)
  - $R_0 = 3$m – smallest size for $Q_{eng} > 1$ and high fluence
- Apply magnet & plasma constraints (see backup)
  - HTS strain: 0.3%, β_N: n=1 no-wall, κ: 0.95 × limit, $f_{GW} = 0.8$
- Vary aspect ratio from A = 1.6 to 4
- Vary HTS current density, peak field
  - Also scan inboard shielding thickness
- Compute Q_{DT}, Q_{eng}, and required H_{98} (*unconstrained*)

HTS cables using REBCO tapes achieving high winding pack current density at high B_T

Conductor on Round Core Cables (CORC)
J_{WP} ~ 70MA/m^2 19T

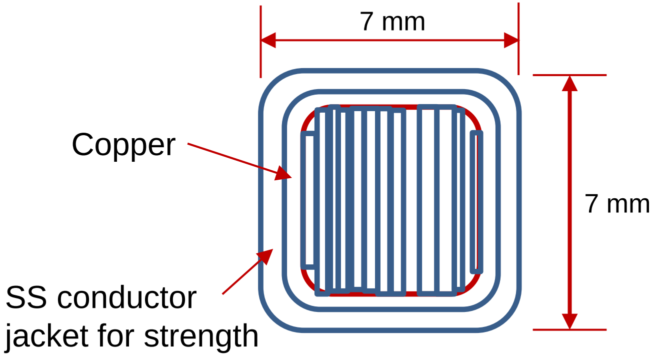
Base cable: 50 tapes YBCO Tapes with 38 μm substrate
(Van Der Laan, HTS4Fusion, 2015)



7 kA CORC (4.2K, 19 T) cable

Higher J_{cable} HTS cable concepts under development:

Base Conductor
He Gas Cooled
8kA,
J_{WP} ~ 160MA/m^2



High TF winding-pack current density required to access highest B_T at lower A

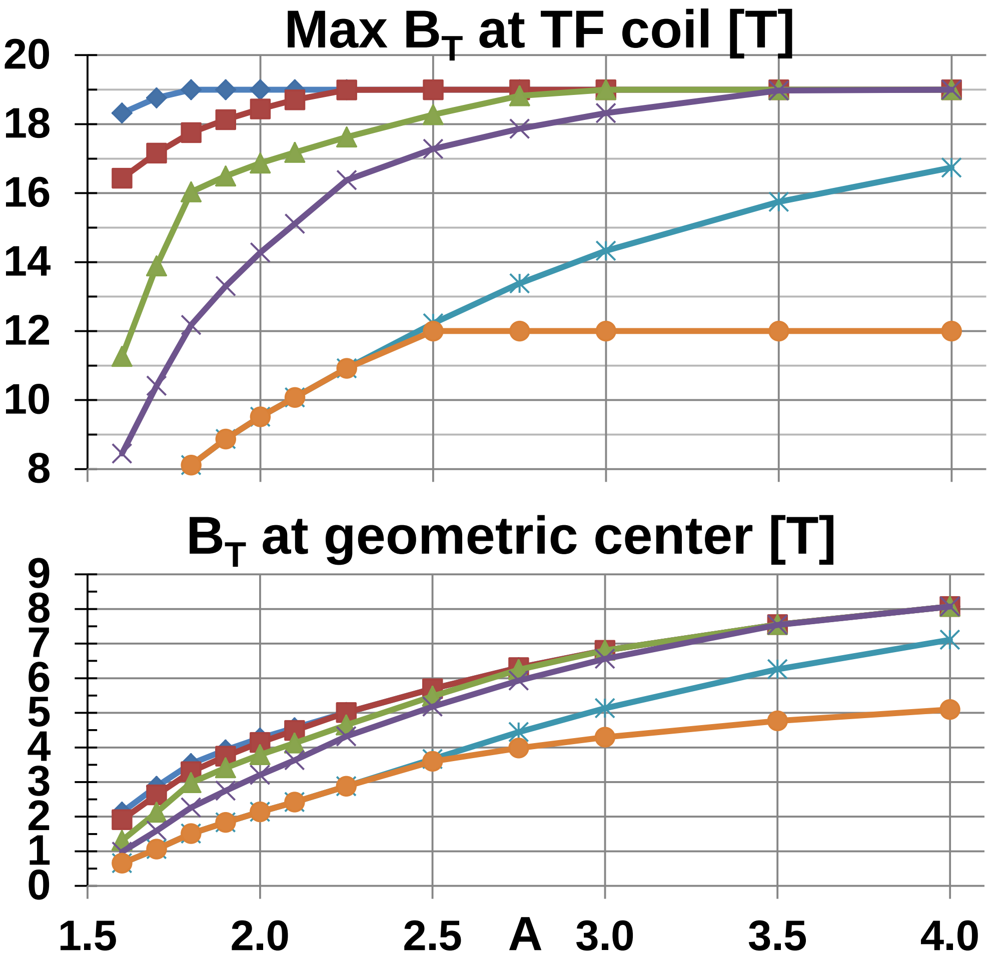
J_{WP} [MA/m^2]

- ◆ 160
- ■ 70
- ▲ 40
- × 30
- ✳ 20
- ● 20

19T: Present CORC HTS limit →

12T: ITER-like TF coil limit →

(Nb_3Sn, 11.8T)

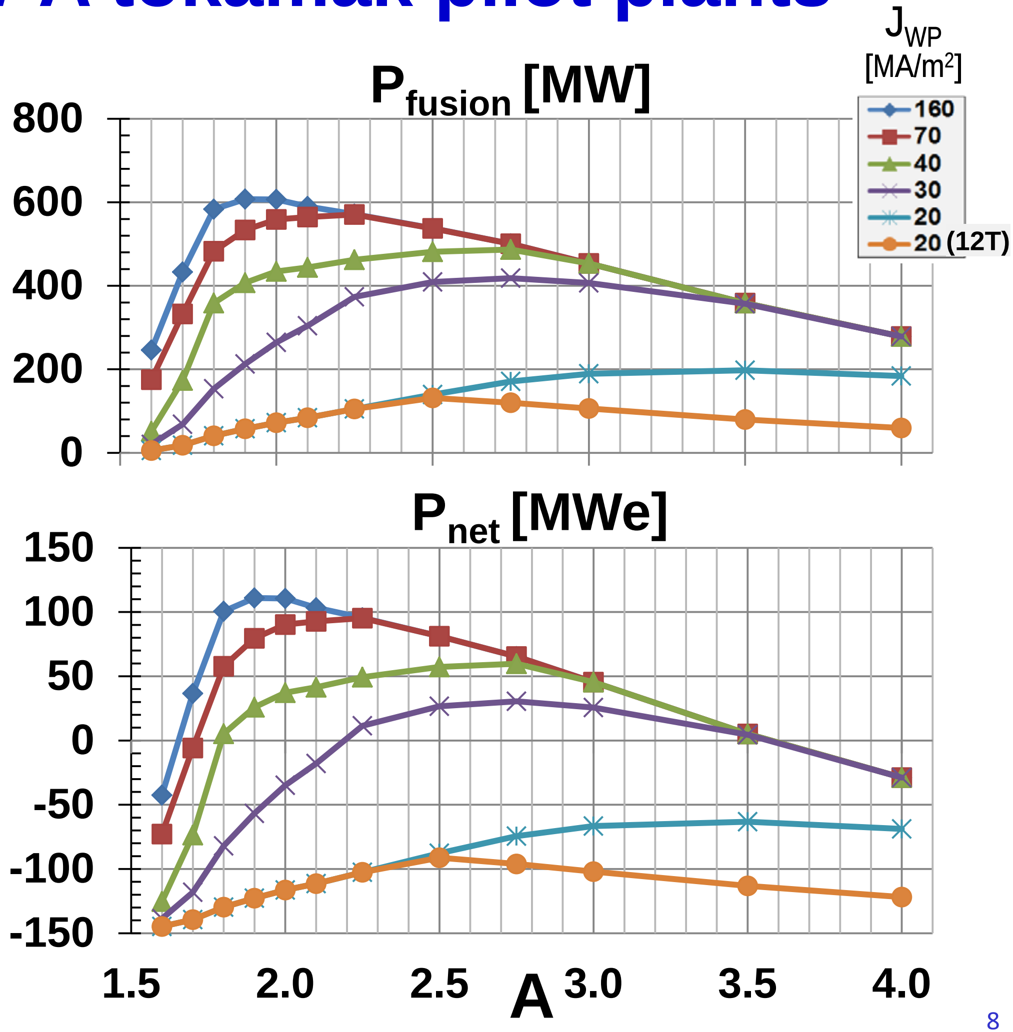


- Coil structure sized to maintain ≤ 0.3% strain on winding pack for all cases shown here
- Effective inboard WC neutron shield thickness = 60cm

High current density HTS cable motivates consideration of low-A tokamak pilot plants

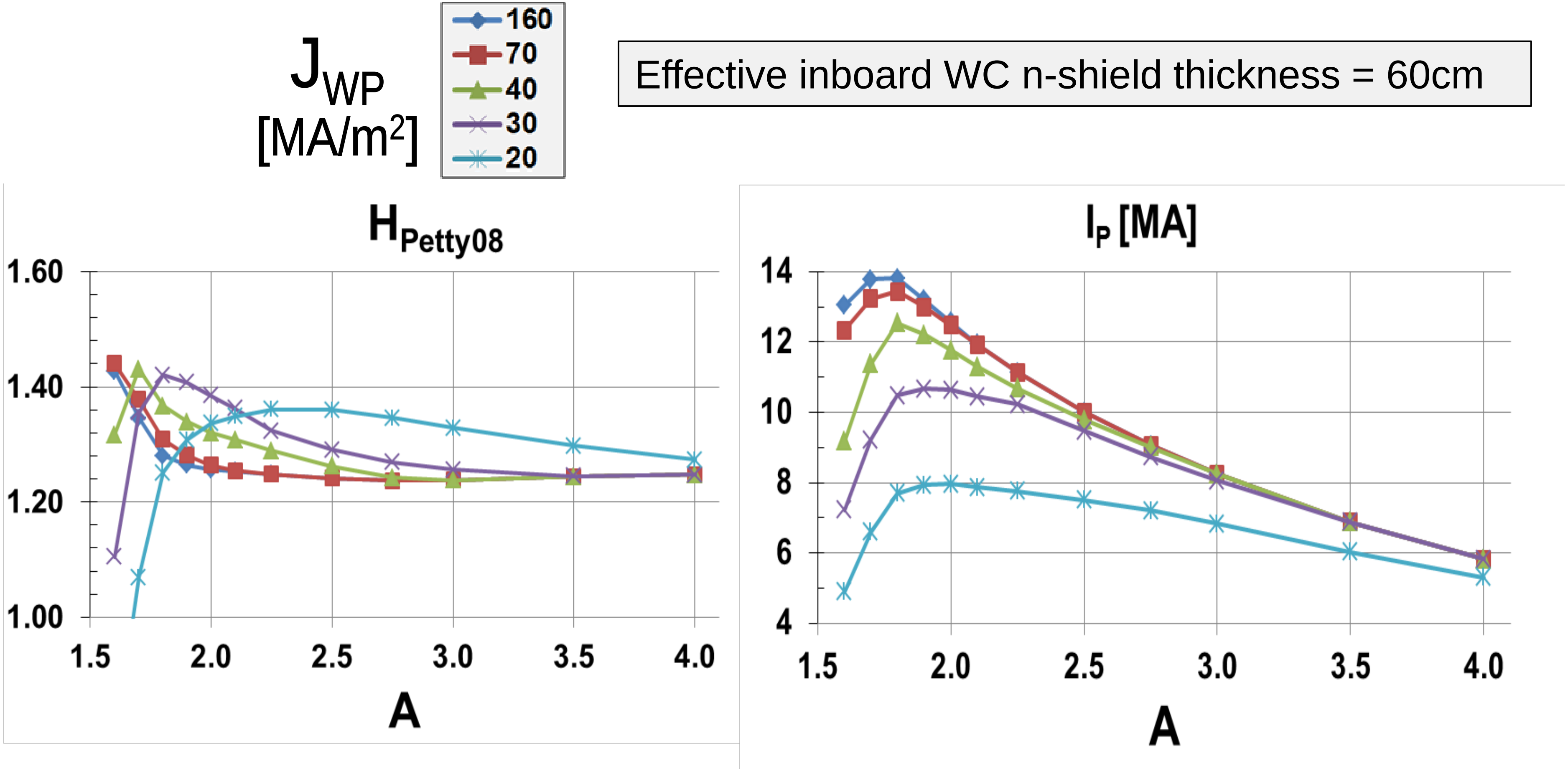
- ITER-like TF constraints:
  - J_{WP}=20MA/m^2, $B_{max} \leq$ 12T
  - $P_{fusion} \leq$ 130MW
  - **P_{net} < -90MW**
- J_{WP} ~ 30MA/m^2, $B_{max} \leq$ 19T
  - P_{fusion} ~ 400MW
  - **Small P_{net} at A=2.2-3.5**
- $J_{WP} \geq$ 70MA/m^2,$B_{max} \leq$ 19T
  - P_{fusion} ~500-600MW
  - **P_{net} = 80-100MW at A=1.9-2.3**

A ~ 2 attractive at high J_{WP}

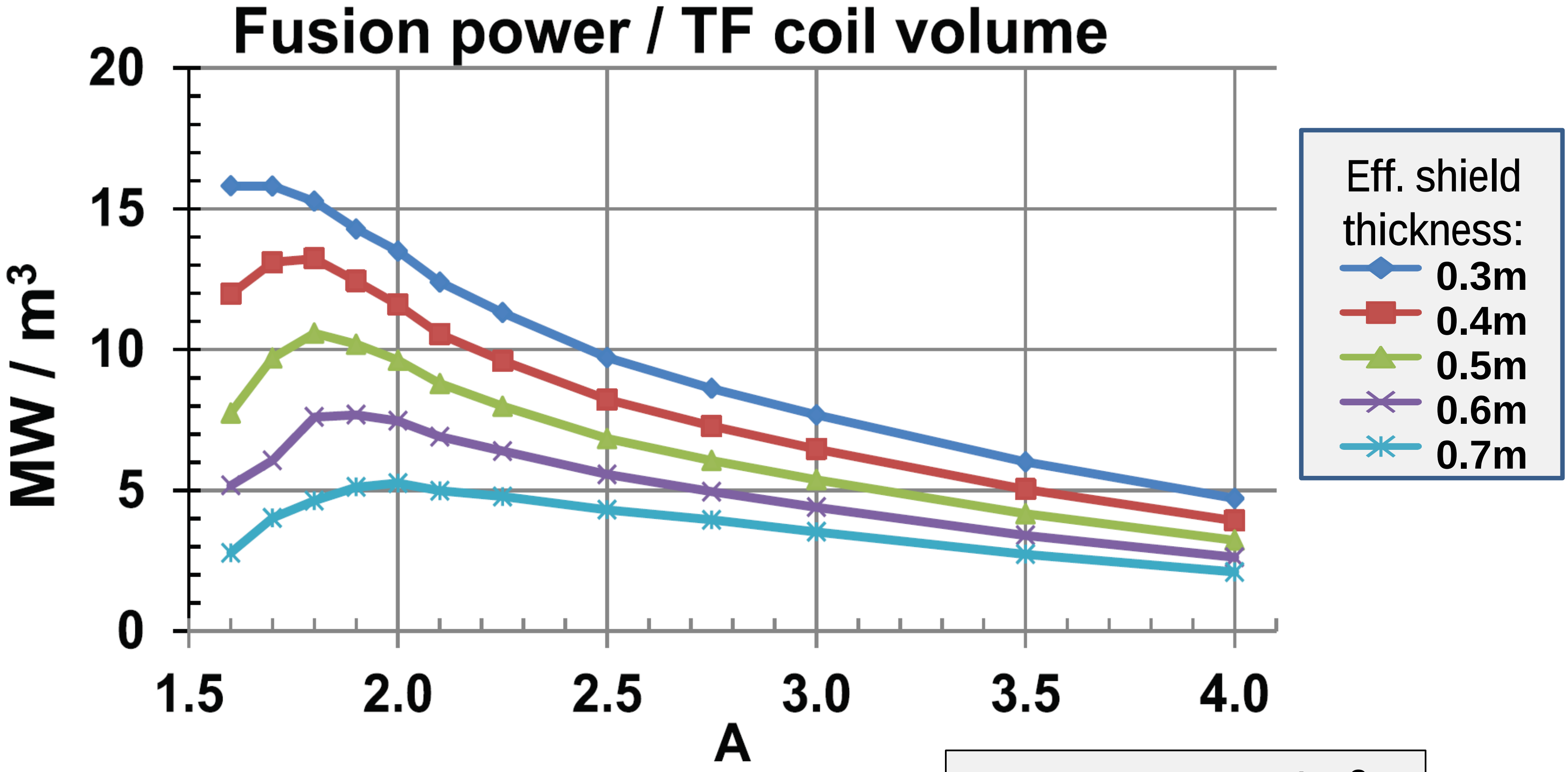


A ≥ 2 pilot plant scenarios have elevated H > 1, I_P = 6-12MA, f_{BS} ~ 80% (not shown)

Effective inboard WC n-shield thickness = 60cm

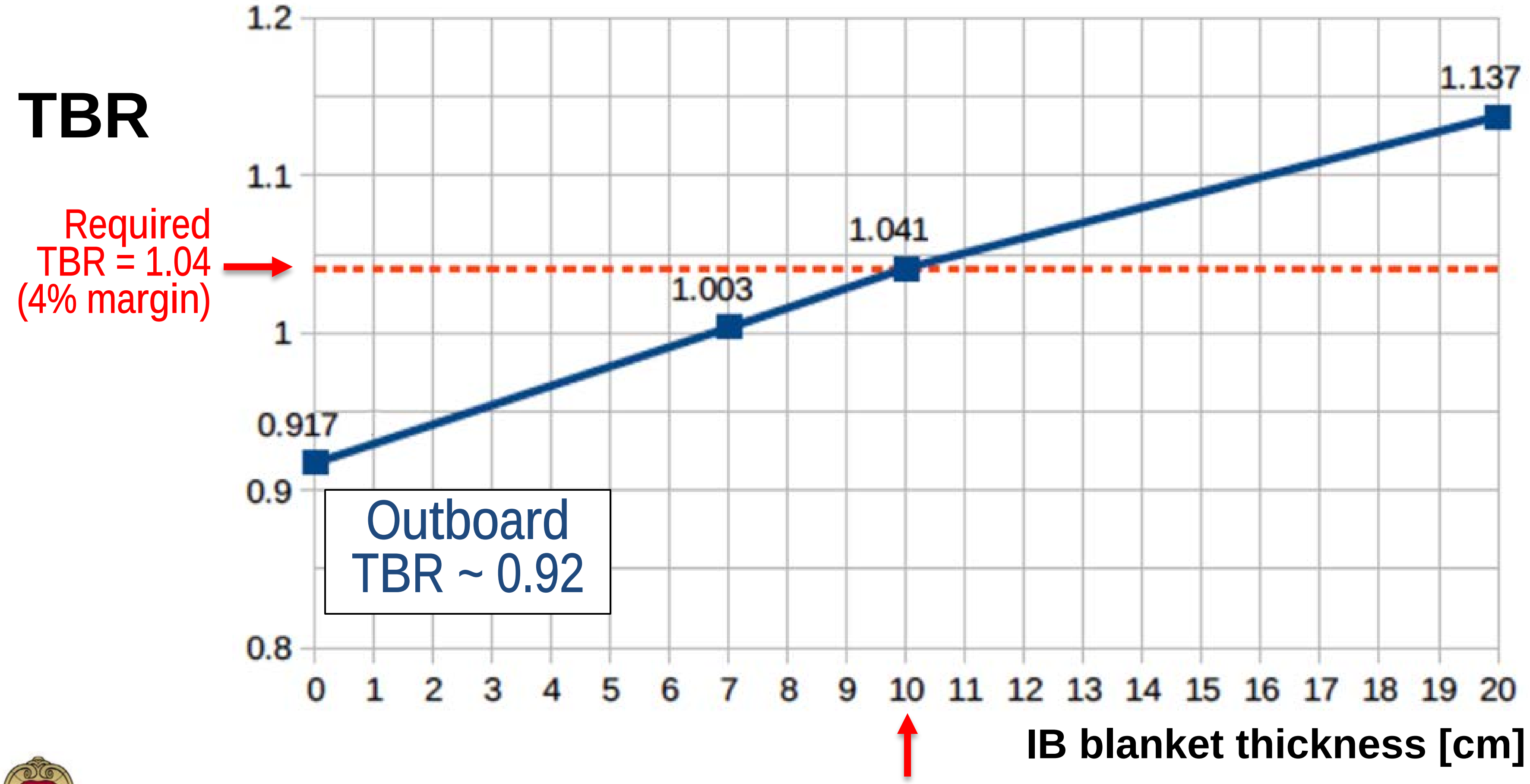


A ≤ 2 maximizes TF magnet utilization



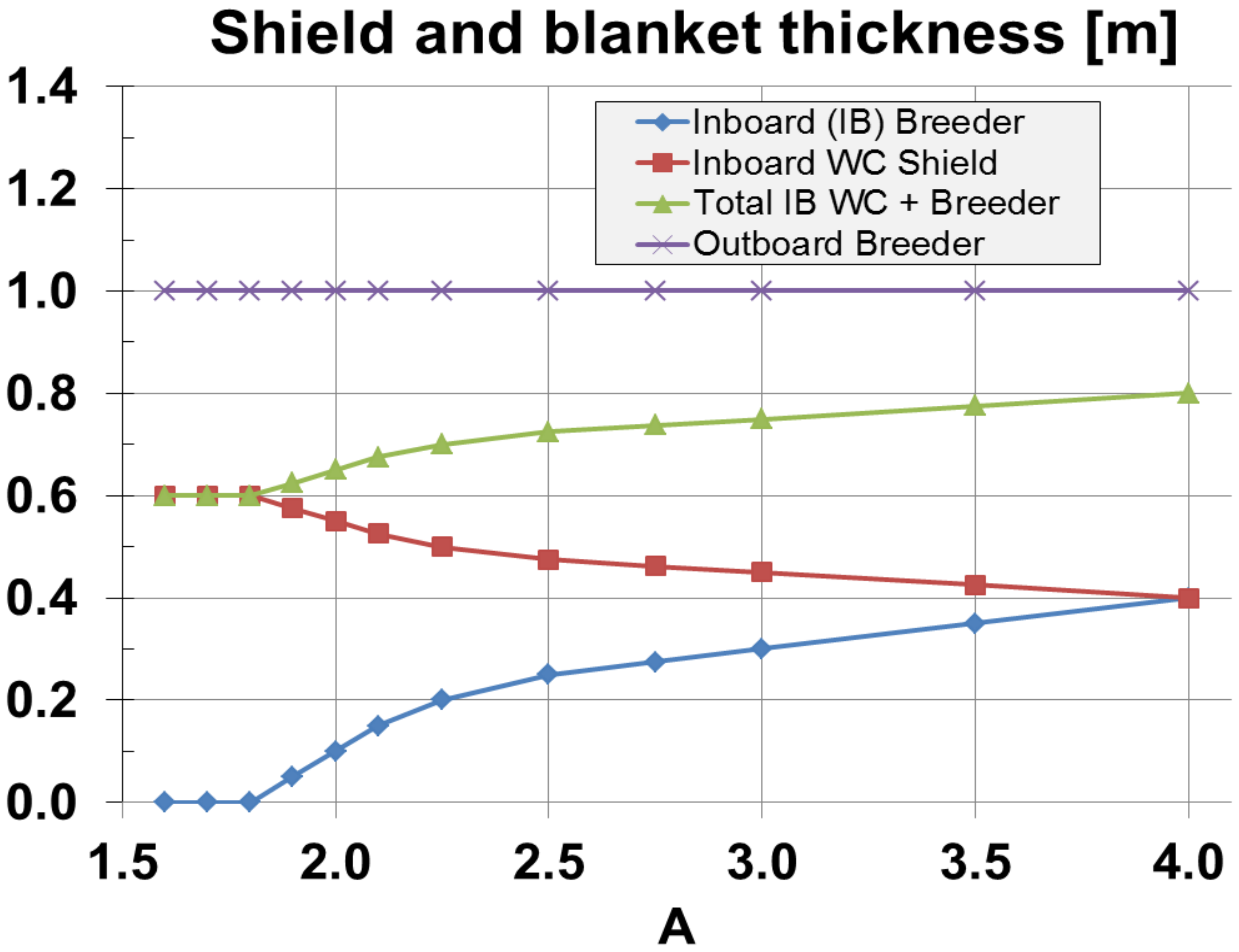
$J_{WP} = 70 MA/m^2$

Need inboard breeding for TBR > 1 at A=2

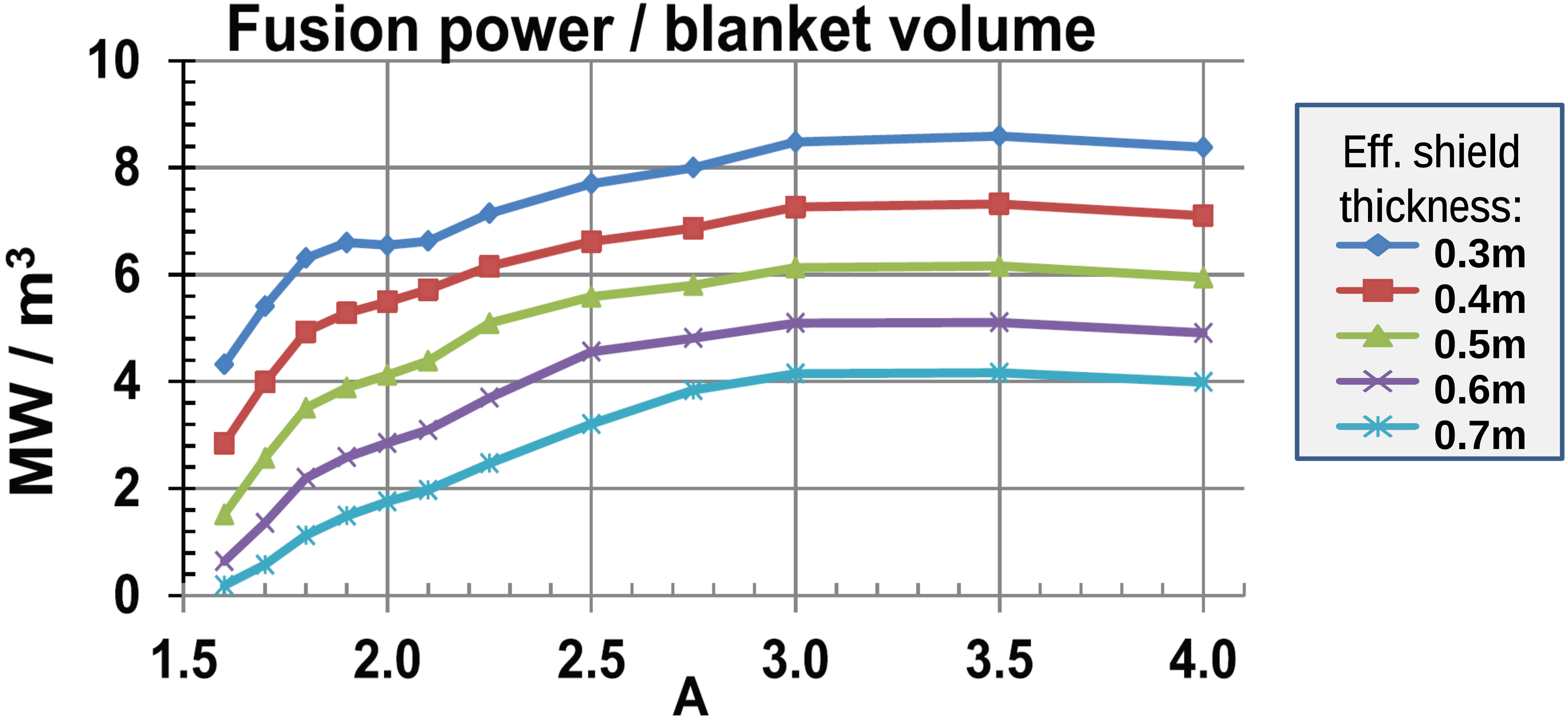


10cm IB blanket sufficient for TBR > 1.04

Model blanket and shield thickness vs. A

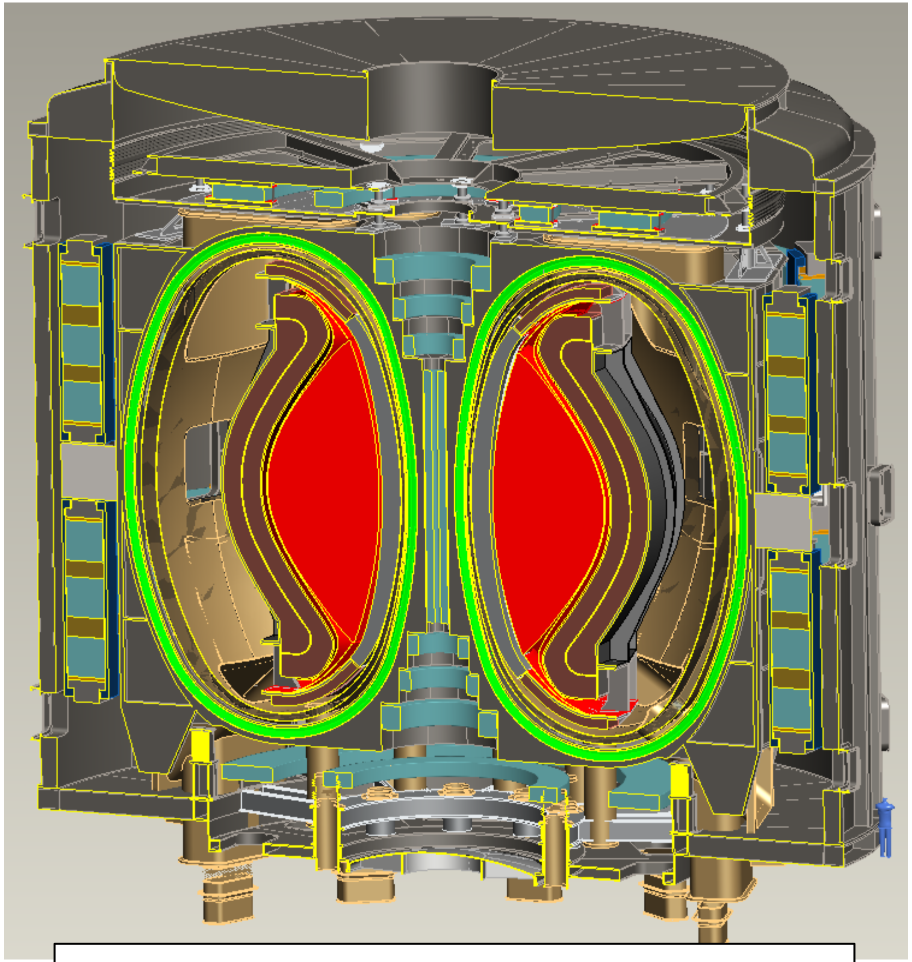


A ≥ 3 maximizes blanket utilization



J_{WP} = 70MA/m^2

A=2, R_0 = 3m HTS-TF FNSF / Pilot Plant



Cryostat volume ~ 1/3 of ITER

B_T = 4T, I_P = 12.5MA

κ = 2.5, δ = 0.55

β_N = 4.2, β_T = 9%

H_{98} = 1.8, $H_{Petty\text{-}08}$ = 1.3

f_{gw} = 0.80, f_{BS} = 0.76

Startup I_P (OH) ~ 2MA

J_{WP} = 70MA/m^2

$B_{T\text{-}max}$ = 17.5T

No joints in TF

Vertical maintenance

P_{fusion} = 520 MW

P_{NBI} = 50 MW, E_{NBI} = 0.5MeV

Q_{DT} = 10.4

Q_{eng} = 1.35

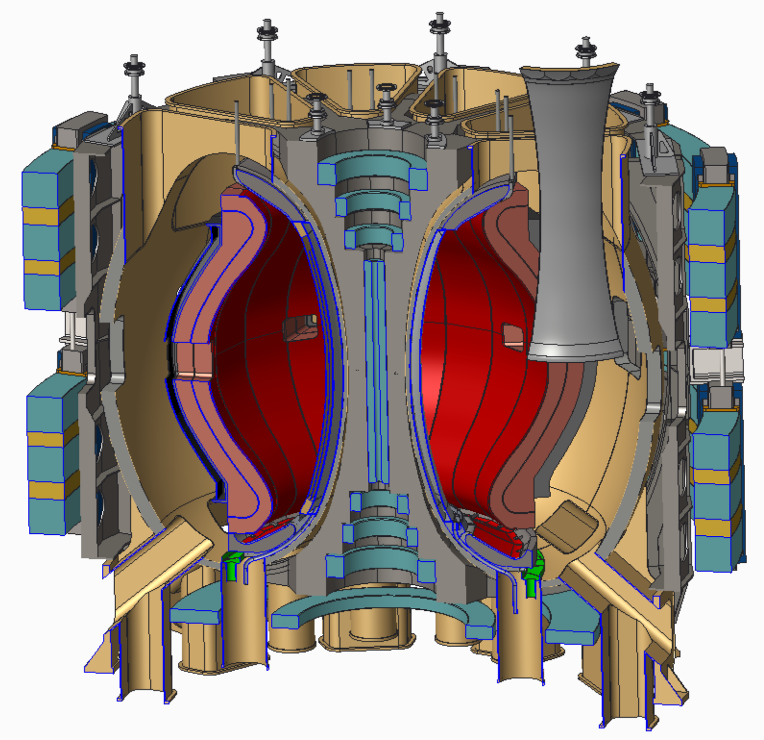
P_{net} = 73 MW

$\langle W_n \rangle$ = 1.3 MW/m^2

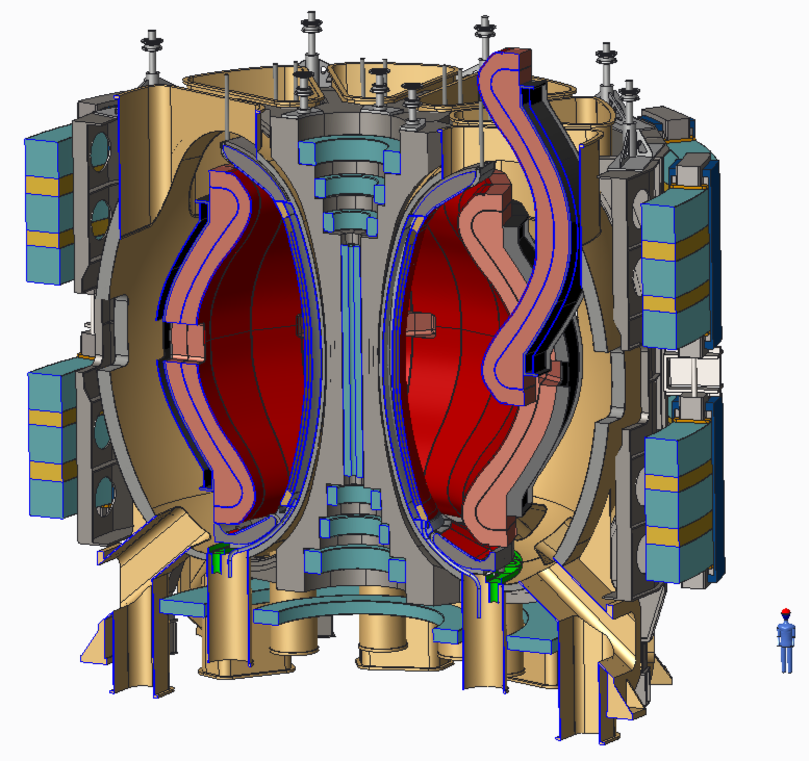
Peak n-flux = 2.4 MW/m^2

Peak n-fluence = 7 MWy/m^2

Inboard and outboard blanket vertical maintenance



Outboard blanket removed

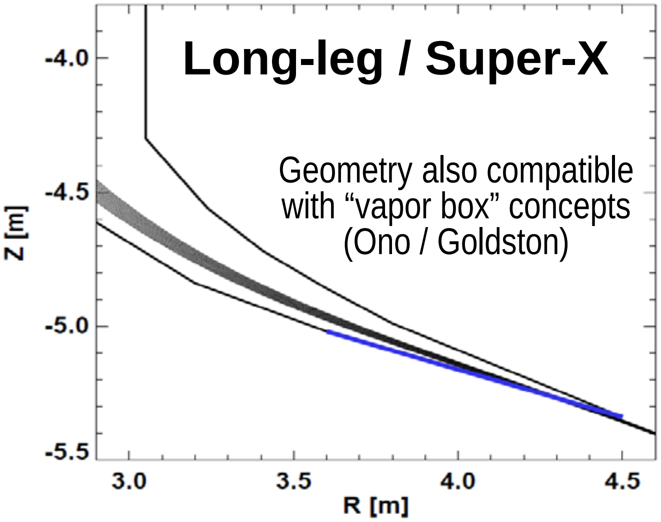


Inboard blanket removed once outboard blanket sectors removed – depending on the toroidal extent of the inboard blanket

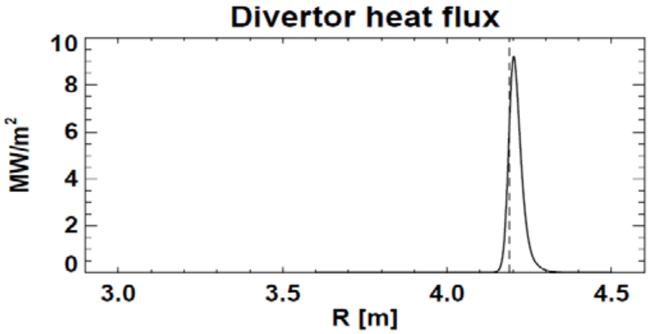
Long-leg divertor

q_{div} = 9MW/m^2, R_{strike} = 4.2m

Detachment can further reduce q_{div} ~ 2-3x

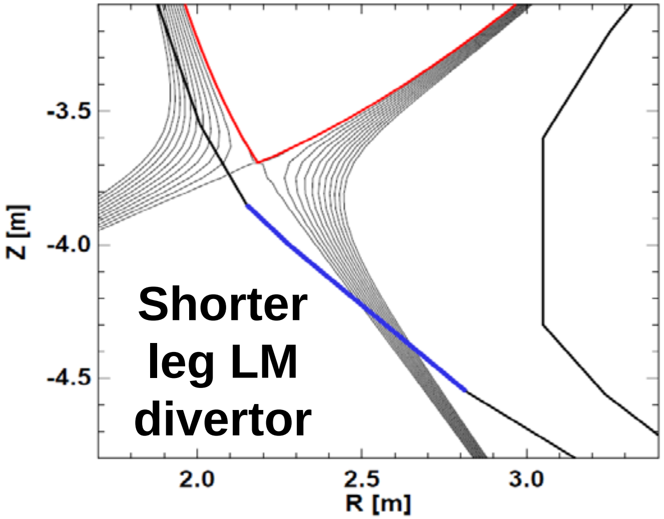


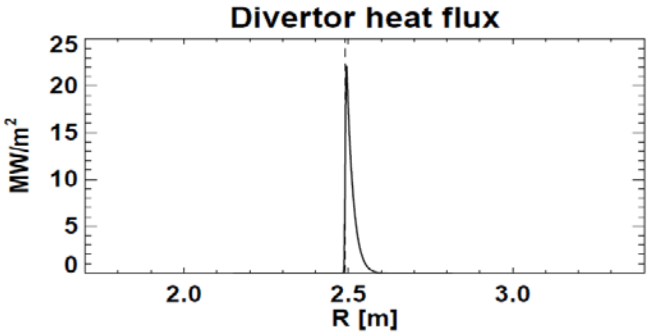
Geometry also compatible with “vapor box” concepts (Ono / Goldston)



Liquid metal (short-leg)

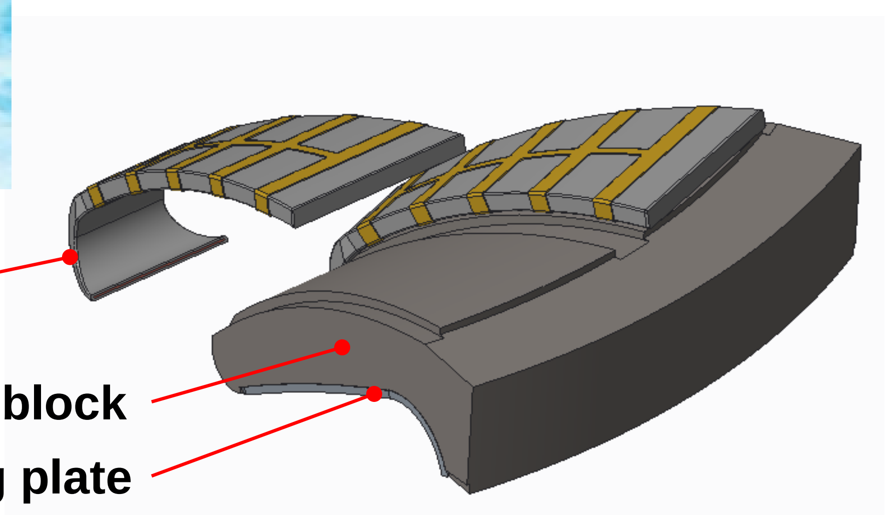
q_{div} = 21MW/m^2, R_{strike} = 2.5m



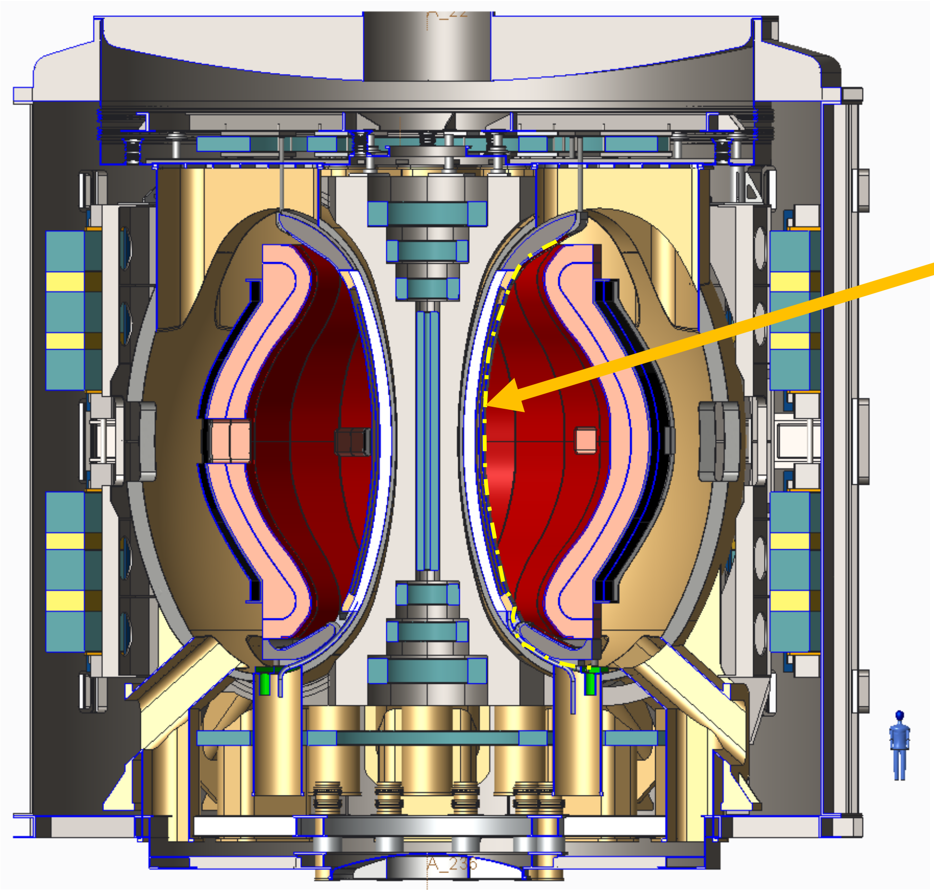


Exploring liquid metal divertor design similar to flowing water curtain systems

LM injector system can be assembled in a single or double unit



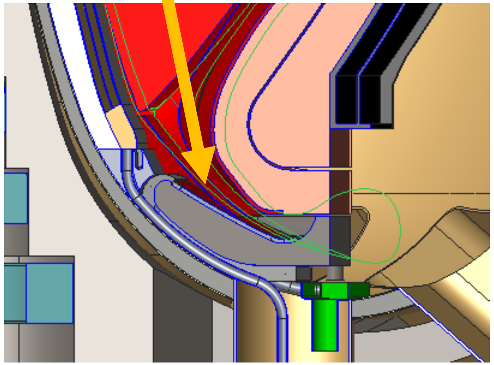
HTS ST-FNSF design with Li flow on divertor and inboard surfaces



Double null liquid metal divertor system

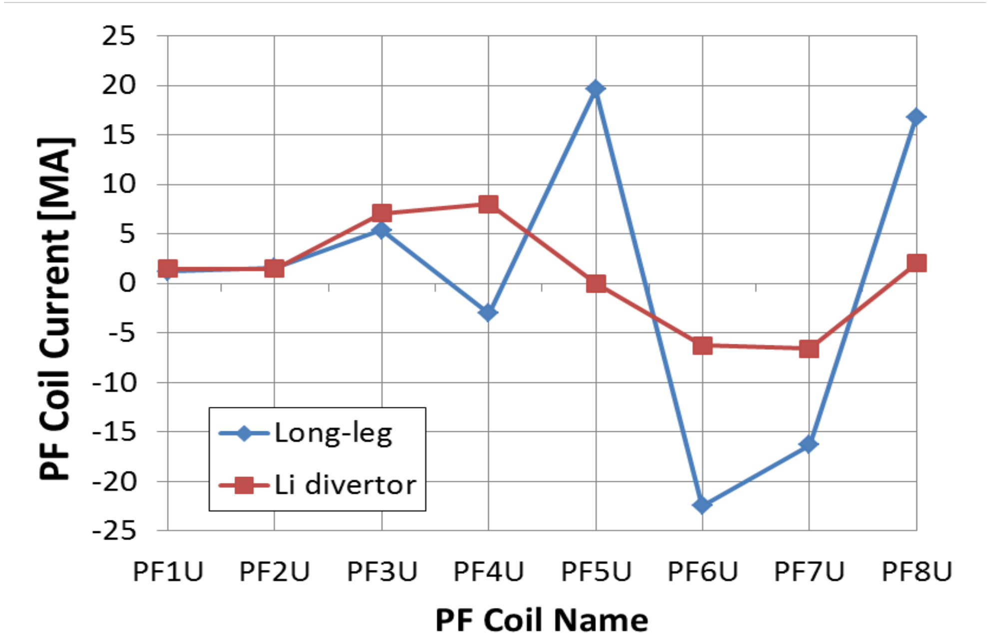
Li flows from upper divertor down the inboard wall, exiting just after the lower inboard divertor.

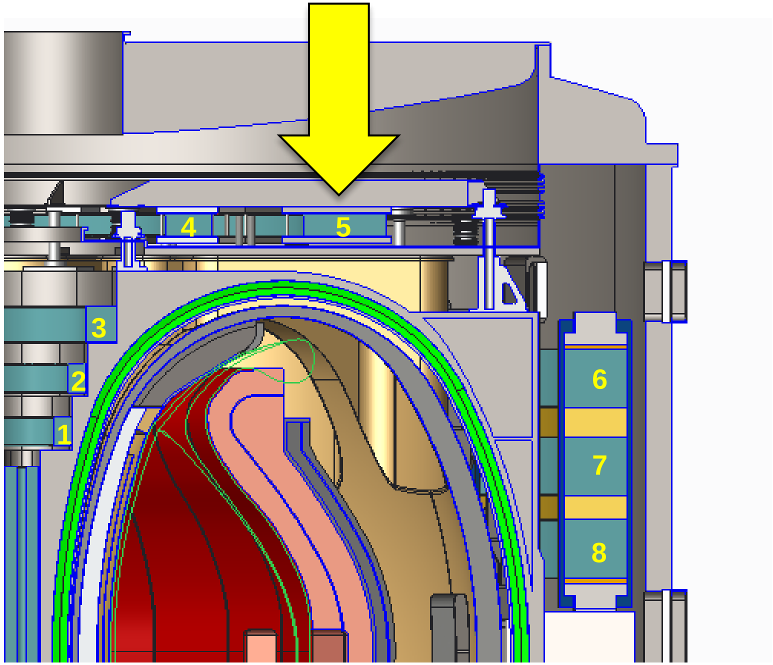
Separate Li cooling of lower divertor



Benefits of shorter-leg LM high-heat-flux divertor:

- Significantly reduce outboard PF coil current
  - Reduced PF size, force, structure
- Eliminate separate upper cryo-stat (for PF5U)





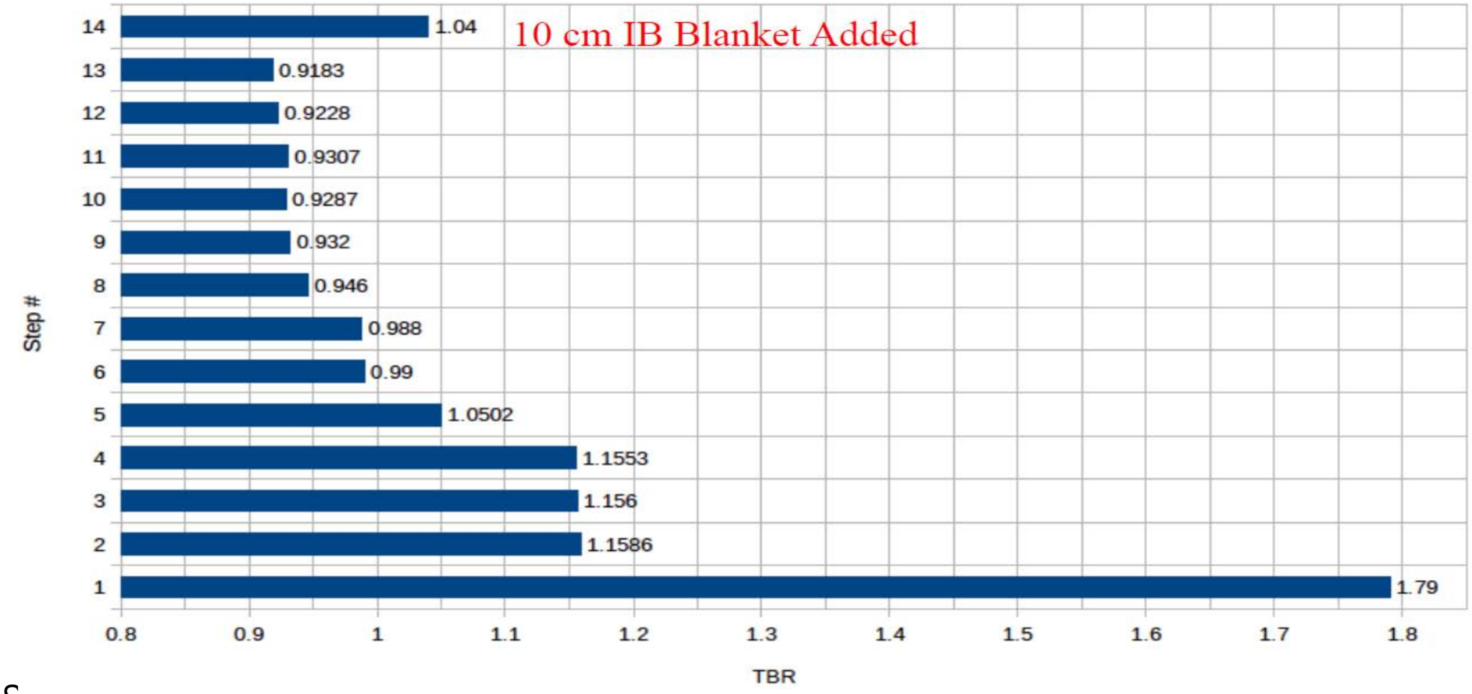
- **Li wall pumping could help increase H**

Summary

- Developed new self-consistent configurations for low-A FNSFs / Pilot Plants
  - Long-leg and/or LM divertor, T self-sufficient, only ex-vessel TF and PF coils, vertical maintenance
- Compact Pilot Plants achievable by combining improved stability of low-A + advanced magnets
  - Optimal A will be informed by results from NSTX-U and MAST-U and REBCO TF magnet development
- Liquid metal divertors for high heat flux could simplify cryostat, reduce coil currents/forces
  - Higher confinement from liquid Li also beneficial

Backup slides

Detailed breeding calculations completed for A=2



- Step 1- Infinite media of LiPb
- Step 2- LiPb confined to OB FW/blanket
- Step 3- Assembly gaps added
- Step 4- Homogeneous mixture of blanket in upper and lower ends of OB blanket
- Step 5- FW material added
- Step 6- Side, back, and front walls added
- Step 7- Cooling channels added
- Step 8- SiC FCI added
- Step 9- Stabilizing shells added
- Step 10- MTM only inserted (TBR relative to Step #9)
- Step 11- 4 TBMs only inserted (TBR relative to Step #9)
- Step 12- 4 NBIs only inserted (TBR relative to Step #9)
- Step 13- all MTM, 4 TBMs, and 4 NBIs inserted
- Step 14 – include inboard breeding blanket

Comparison of low-A FNSF / Pilot Plants

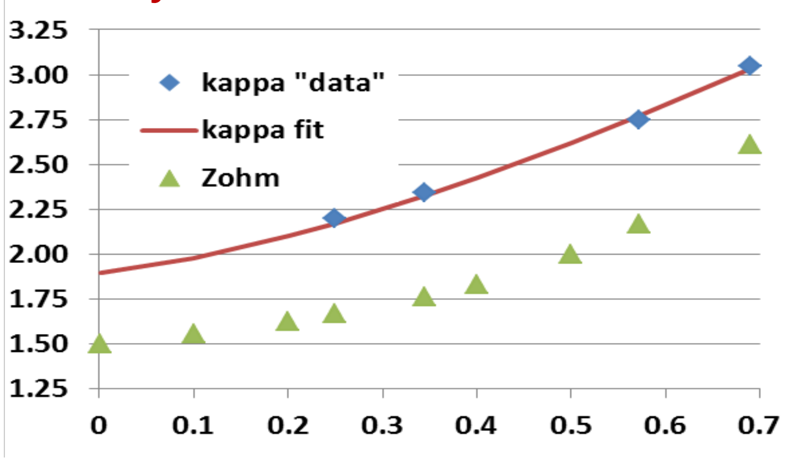
TF coil type	R [m]	A	Q_{eng}	Q_{DT}	TBR	Surf-avg n-fluence [MWy/m^2]	P_h / S [MW/m^2]	H_{98}	H_{Petty}	H_{ST}	κ_X	β_N	β_T [%]	f_{BS}	I_P [MA]	B_T [T]	P_{fus} [MW]
Copper	1	1.7	0.1	1.0	$\leq$ 0.9	6	1.6	1.25	1.25	0.70	2.75	5	20	0.82	7.3	3.0	60
	1.7	1.7	0.15	2.0	1.0	$\geq$ 6	0.9	1.25	1.1	0.72	2.75	4	16	0.76	11	3.0	160
REBCO	1.8	2	1	7.3	0	0.04	0.5	2.3	2.1	0.64	2.30	4	7.1	0.84	7.4	5	160
	3	2	1.3	10	1.0	4 - 6	0.5	1.8	1.3	0.69	2.50	4	8.7	0.76	13	4.0	510

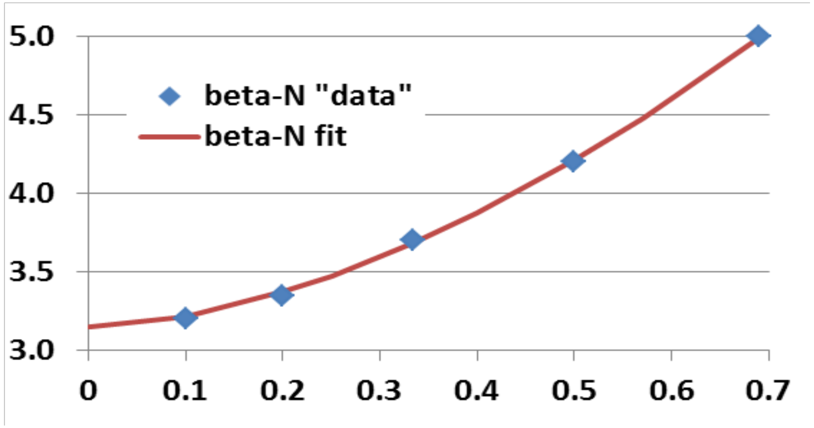
Plasma constraints

- Fix plasma major radius at $R_0 = 3$m
  - Chosen to be large enough to allow space for HTS neutron shield and access $Q_{eng} > 1$ for range of A
- Inboard plasma / FW gap = 4cm
- Use ε-dependent $\kappa(\varepsilon)$, $\beta_N(\varepsilon)$ (see next slide)
- Greenwald fraction = 0.8
- q* not constrained
  - q* is better ε-invariant than q_{95} for current limit
  - Want to operate with q* > 3 to reduce disruptivity
- 0.5 MeV NNBI for heating/CD – fixed $P_{NBI} = 50$MW
- H_{98y2} adjusted to achieve full non-inductive CD

Aspect ratio dependence of limits: $\kappa(\varepsilon)$, $\beta_N(\varepsilon)$

Pilot study uses 0.95 × κ value shown here:





$\varepsilon = A^{-1}$

- NSTX data at low-A
  - Also NSTX-U/ST-FNSF modelling
- DIII-D, ARIES-AT for higher A
  - $\kappa \rightarrow 1.9$ for $A \rightarrow \infty$
- Profile-optimized **no-wall** stability limit at $f_{BS} \approx 50\%$
  - Menard PoP 2004
- $\beta_N \rightarrow 3.1$ for $A \rightarrow \infty$

$$\beta_T \propto A^{-1/2} (1+\kappa^2)\, \beta_N^{\,2} / f_{BS}$$

➡ $P_{fus} \propto \varepsilon\, [\kappa(\varepsilon)\, \beta_N(\varepsilon)\, B_T(\varepsilon)]^4$

Engineering constraints

- Magnet constraints
  - Maximum stress in TF magnet structure = 0.66 GPa
  - HTS tape/cable strain limit 0.3% (equivalent to 0.4 GPa)
  - Winding pack current density (CORC 2015) 70 MA/m^2
  - OH at small R → higher solenoid flux swing for higher A
- Shielding / blankets
  - HTS fluence limit: 3.5-5 x 10^{22} n/m^2
  - Shield:10x n-shielding factor per 15-16cm WC for HTS TF
  - Include inboard & outboard breeder thickness for TBR ~ 1
    - "Effective shield thickness" includes shield + DCLL blanket
- Electrical system efficiency assumptions:
  - 30% wall plug efficiency for H&CD - typical of NNBI
  - ≥ 45% thermal conversion efficiency - typical of DCLL
    - Also include pumping, controls, other sub-systems
    - See Pilot Plant NF 2011 paper for more details

Simplified TF magnet design equations

$$V_1 + V_2 = \frac{1}{2} B_0 R_0 I_{\text{coil}} \ln\left(\frac{r_2}{r_1}\right) \qquad (25)$$

$$r_1 V_1 + r_2 V_2 = \frac{1}{2} B_0 R_0 I_{\text{coil}} (r_2 - r_1) \qquad (26)$$

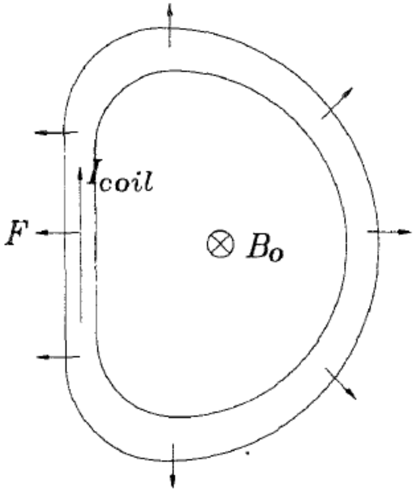


Fig. 5. Lorentz forces are normal to the conductor in the poloidal plane.

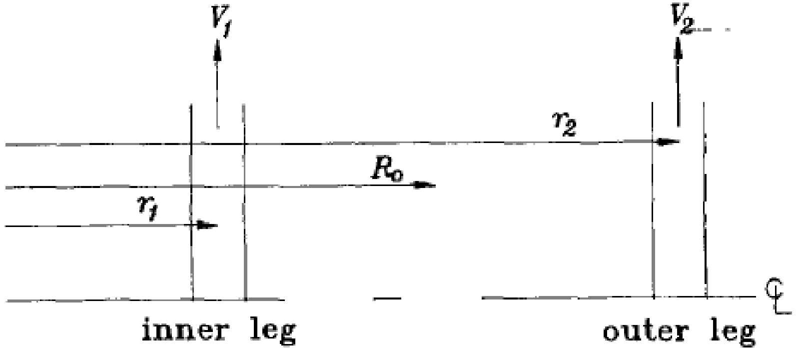


Fig. 7. Geometry for force and moment balances.

$$V_1 = \frac{F}{(r_2 - r_1)}(r_1 + r_2(k - 1))$$

$$V_2 = \frac{F}{(r_2 - r_1)}(r_2 - r_1(k + 1))$$

$$F \equiv \frac{1}{2} B_0 R_0 I_{\text{coil}}$$

$$I_{\text{coil}} = \frac{5 \times 10^6 B_0 R_0}{N_{\text{coils}}}$$

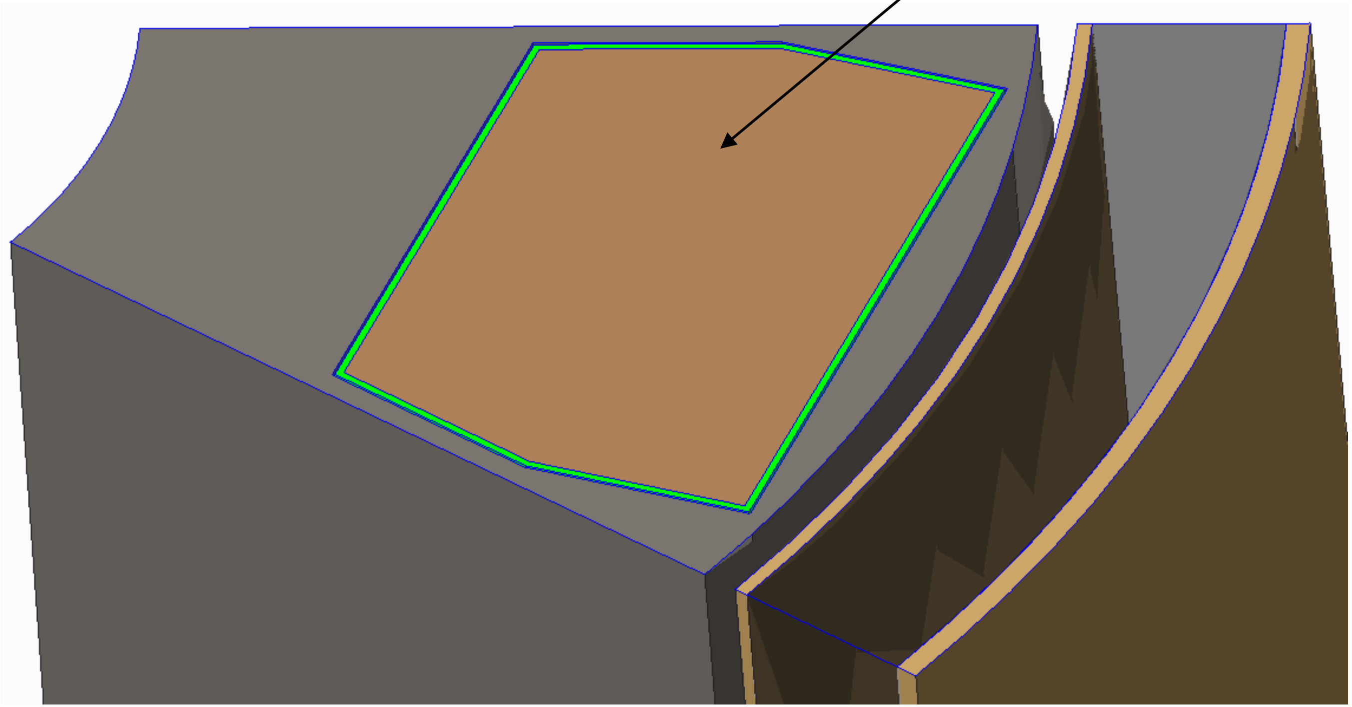
$$k \equiv \ln\left(\frac{r_2}{r_1}\right)$$

From J. Schwartz, Journal of Fusion Energy, Vol. 11, No. 1, 1992

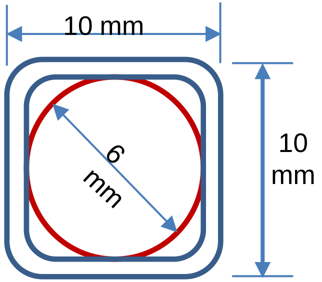
A=2, R_0 = 3m device TF inboard leg showing allocated space for case and winding

Current per coil: 6 MA
Winding Cd: 35.9 MA/m^2

0.167 m^2 winding area

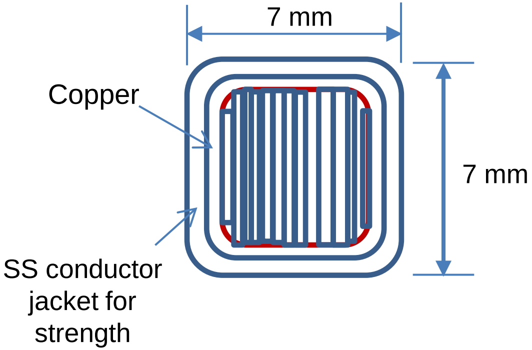


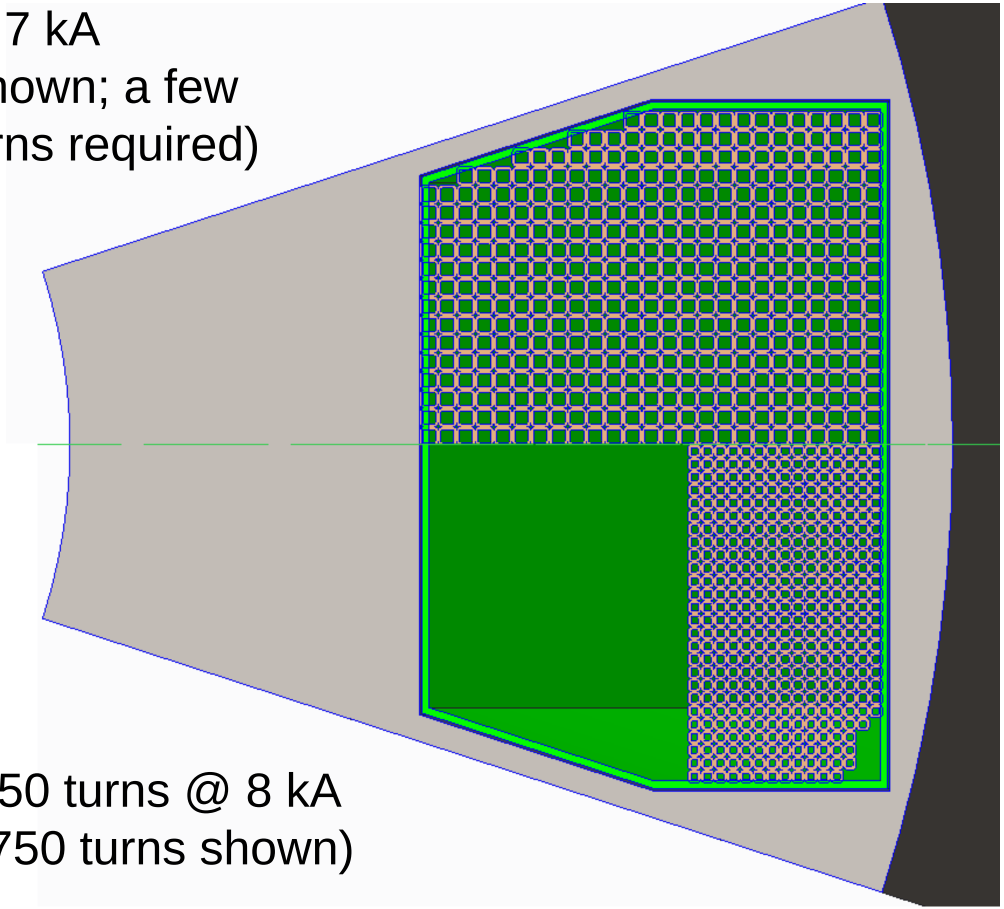
CORC Conductor – Achieved now



857 turns @ 7 kA
(848 turns shown; a few additional turns required)

Base Conductor – Helium Gas Cooled





750 turns @ 8 kA
(750 turns shown)

HTS performance vs. field and fast neutron fluence

Supercond. Sci. Technol. **28** (2015) 014005 R Prokopec *et al*

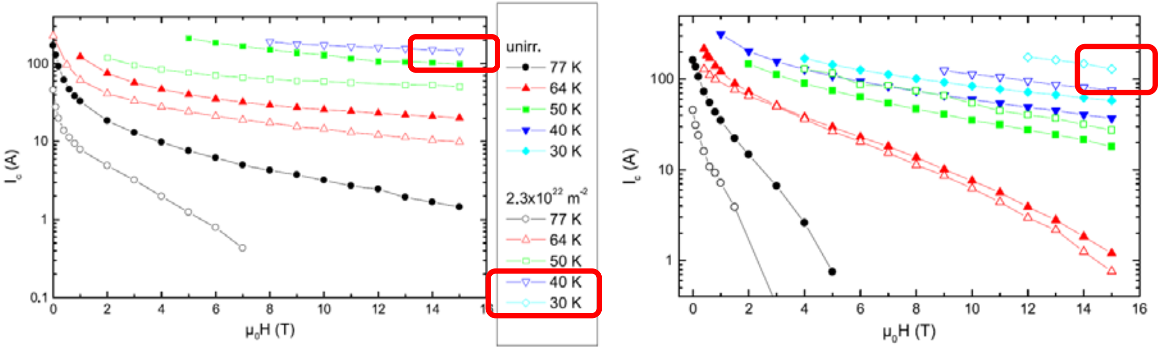


Figure 6. Critical currents (ASC-40) in magnetic fields applied parallel to the ab-plane (left) and parallel to the *c*-axis (right) before and after irradiation to a fast neutron fluence of $2.3 \cdot 10^{22}$ m^{-2}.

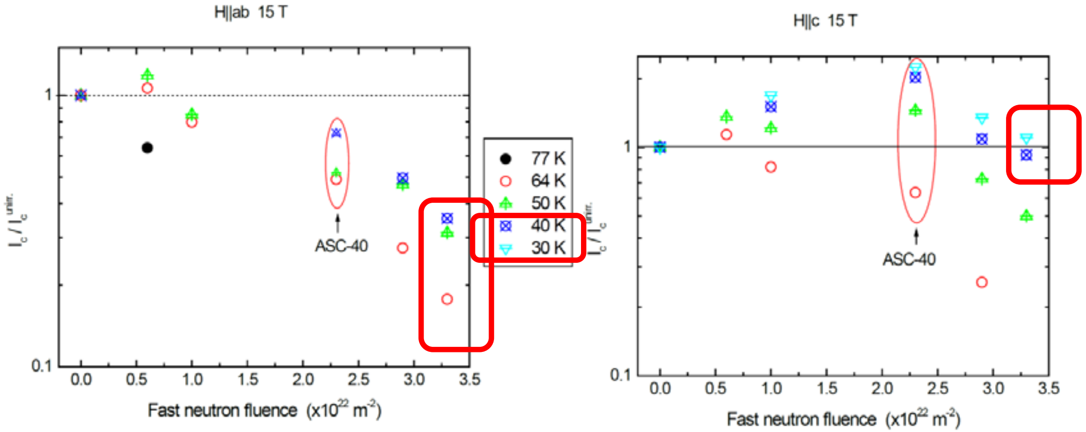
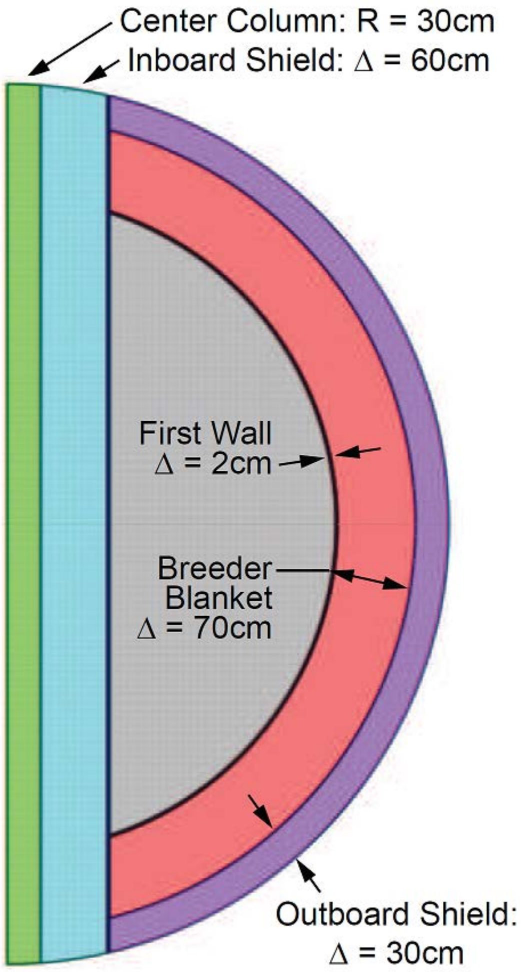
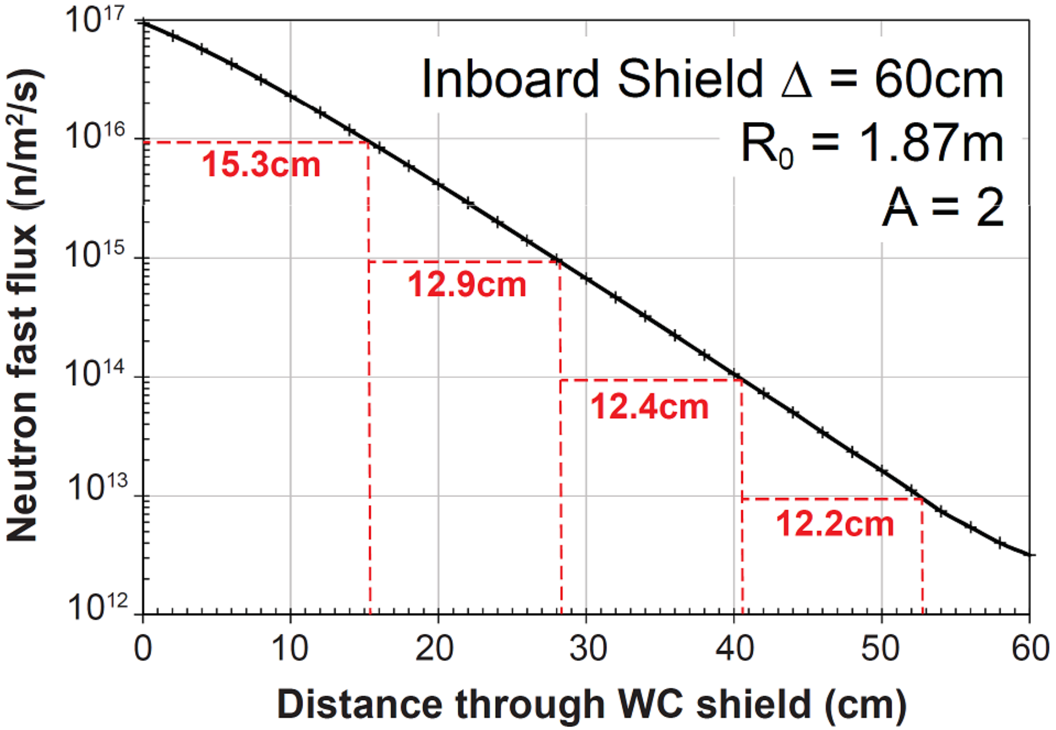


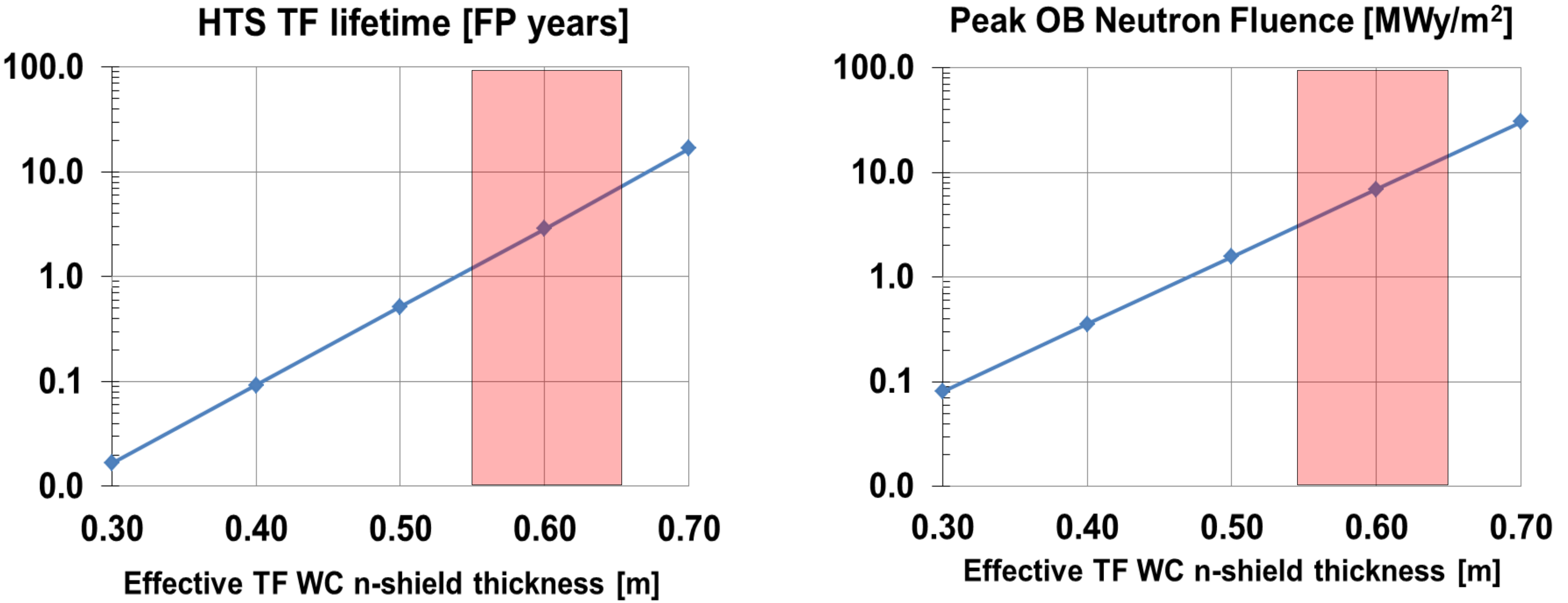
Figure 8. Normalized critical currents in a magnetic field of 15 T applied parallel to the ab-plane (left) and parallel to the *c*-axis (right) as a function of neutron fluence.

Neutronics analysis for HTS TF shielding





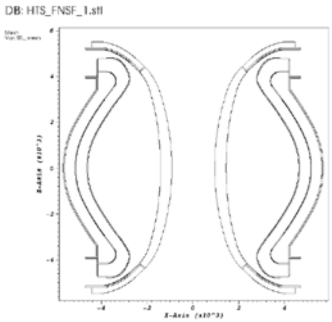
HTS TF lifetime is very strong function of inboard shielding thickness

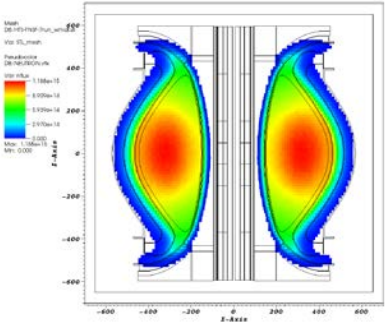


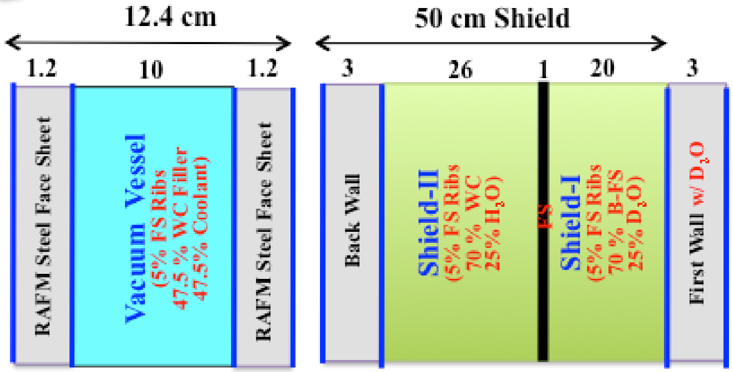
Inboard shield + blanket equivalent to 60cm WC → 3FPY → 6-7MWy/m^2 → fulfill FNSF requirement

3-D Neutronics Model

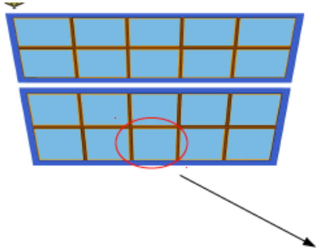
- Simple CAD Model outlining components (from T. Brown):
  - 10 cm IB modules
  - 20 cm OB modules
- R-Z neutron source
- IB shield and VV optimization and composition by UW.
- OB blanket internals and composition by UW
- Detailed CAD of blanket by UW
- UW DAGMC code couples CAD to 3D MCNP neutronics code.

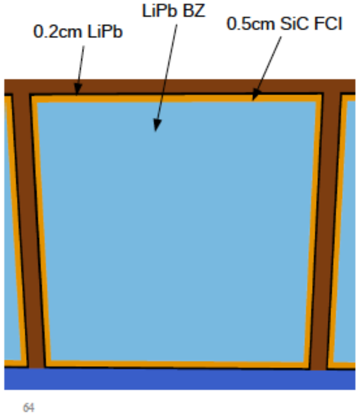




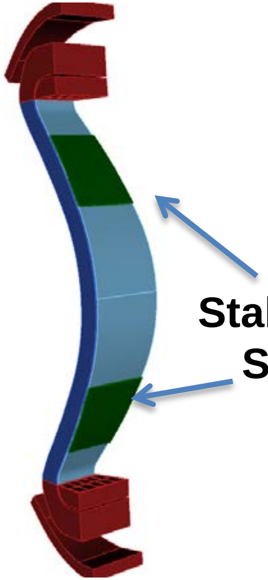


CAD Geometry of OB Blanket with Ports

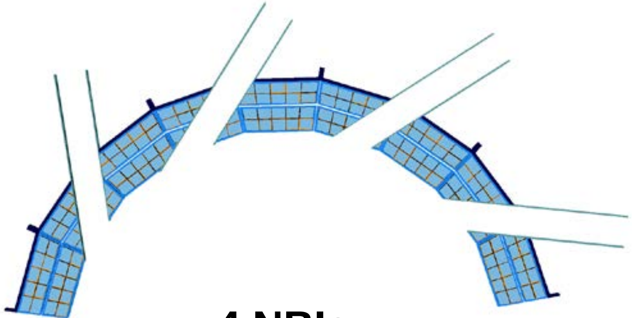




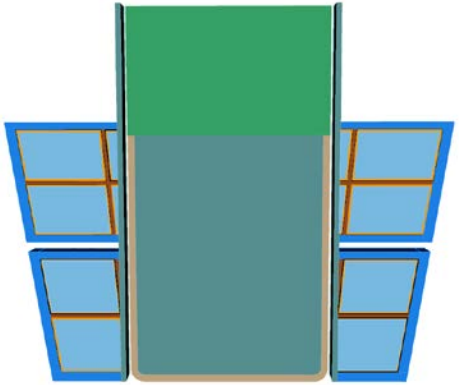
Detailed Blanket Internals



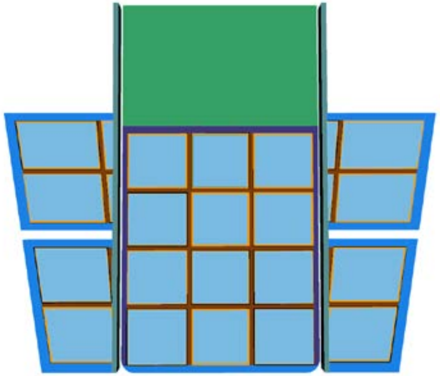
Stabilizing Shells



4 NBIs

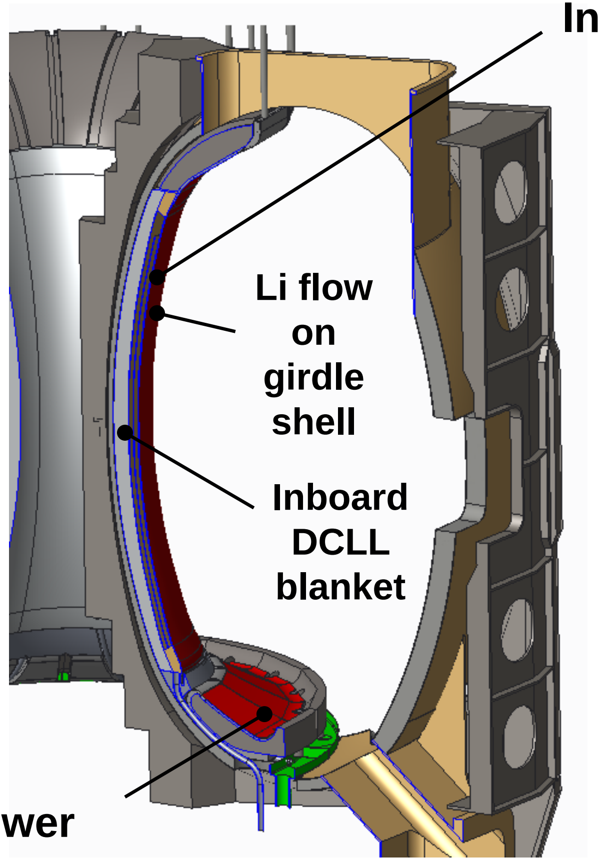


MTM



TBM

Local details of Li divertor / inboard FW

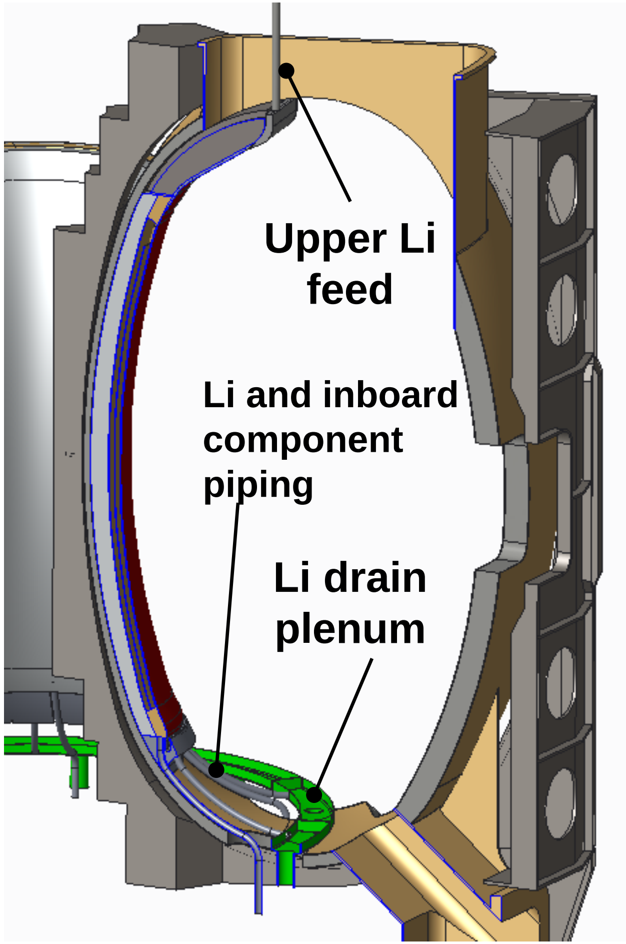


Inboard shield

Li flow on girdle shell

Inboard DCLL blanket

Lower divertor

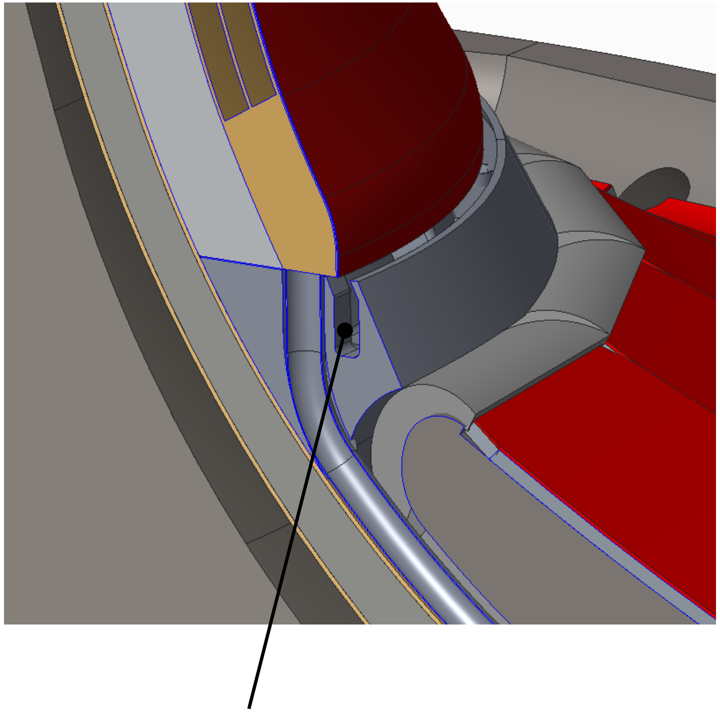


Upper Li feed

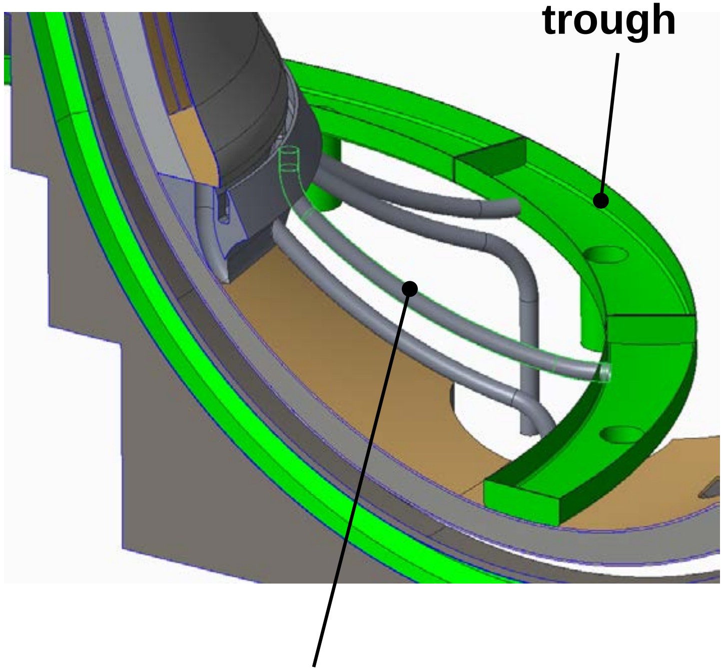
Li and inboard component piping

Li drain plenum

Lower Li containment system



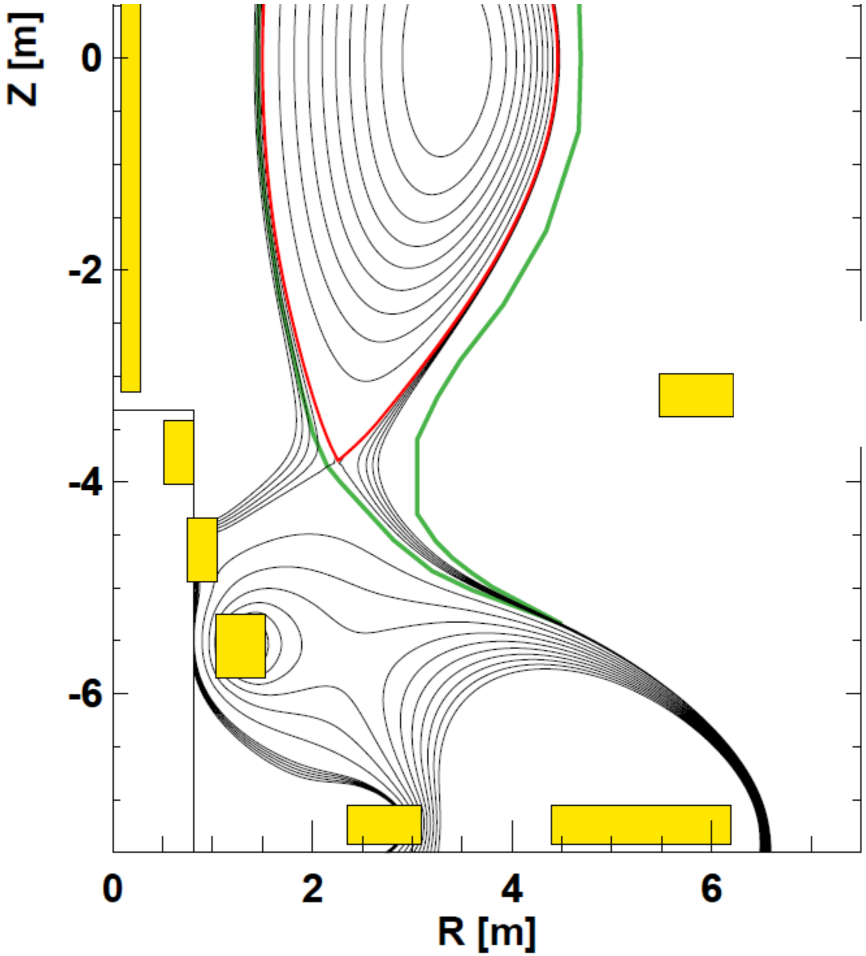
Li flows over inboard surface to a continuous trough that feeds ten Li drain lines.



Base Li return trough

One of ten 100 mm ID Li inboard drain lines

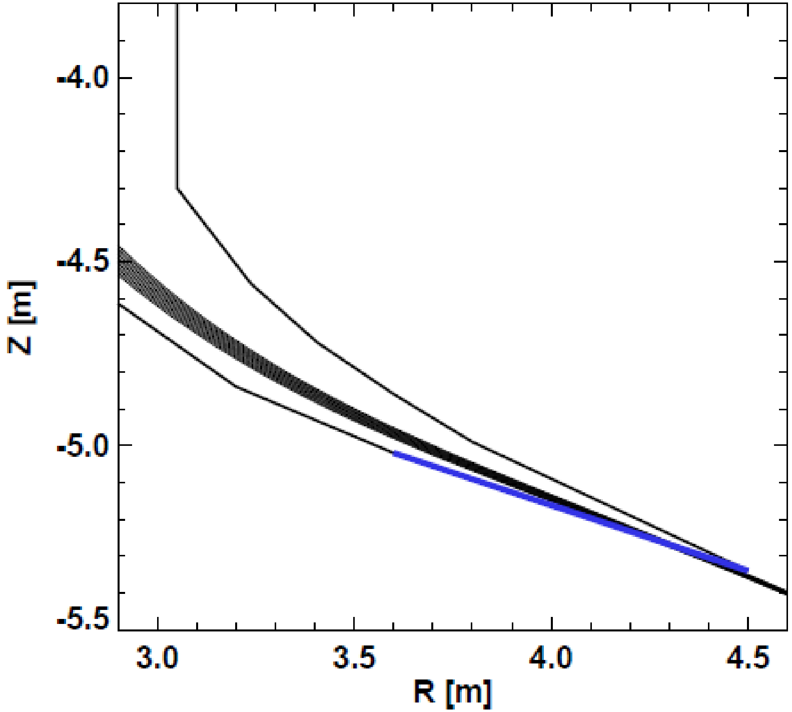
Long-leg / deep-V slot divertor

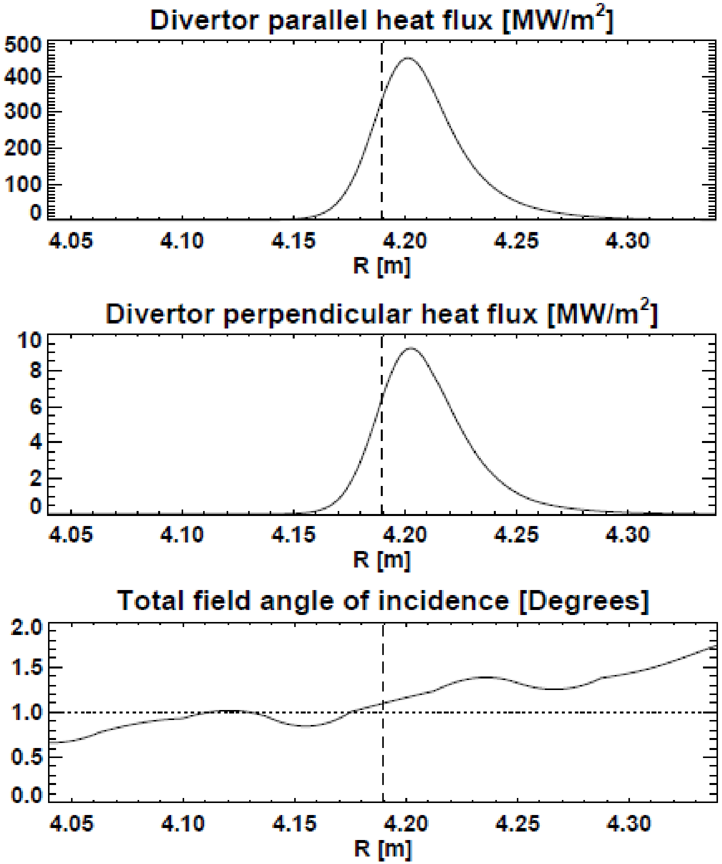


- PF coils outside TF
- Increase strike-point radius ~2× to reduce $q_{||}$ and peak heat flux
- Divertor PFCs in region of reduced neutron flux
- Narrow divertor aperture for increased TBR
- More space for breeding at top/bottom of device

Long-leg / Super-X aids heat flux reduction

A=2 HTS TF FNSF/Pilot





λ_q ~ 1mm, **assume S ≈ λ_q** (closed divertor)

(T. Eich NF 2013)

(Partial) detachment likely reduces peak $q_\perp$ by further factor of 2-4