X-ray spectrum measurement in WEST plasmas for inferring tungsten

impurity distribution

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Since the advent of tungsten walls in ITER, the problem of precisely reconstructing the distribution of tungsten (W) concentration in the plasma has become all the more relevant. Among the different possible approaches, those using Soft X-ray (SXR) measurements seem particularly promising. Indeed, essential plasma parameters can be inferred from X-ray spectrum measurements like magnetic axis, electron temperature, impurity concentration and its spatial distribution after tomographic inversion.

Despite being extremely rich in information, the access to continuous spectral measurements is nevertheless a technical challenge rarely implemented in actual tokamaks.

This talk reports on X-ray spectrum measurements with gas detectors for the WEST tokamak. It is shown that X-ray spectra up to 20 keV which are automatically and continuously acquired by Gas Eltectron Multiplier (GEM) detectors can be used to deduce W concentration, when coupled to ray-tracing codes. Much in the same way, multi-chamber Low Voltage Ionisation Chamber (LVIC) measurements working in current mode can efficiently be used to reconstruct W concentration thanks to optimized algorithms, as performed at CEA laboratories.

Synthetic diagnostics have been developed for these different gas detectors to validate the measurements and provide prediction for future applications in ITER.