

1 Virtual-Reality Visualization of loss points of 1 MeV tritons in the Large Helical Device, LHD
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5
6 Abstract

7 Intersection points of 1MeV tritons and the plasma facing wall are visualized in the vacuum
8 vessel of Large Helical Device (LHD) with the divertor plates by the virtual-reality (VR)
9 system. The trajectory of the energetic triton is evaluated by means of the collisionless Lorentz
10 orbit code, and the strike point is calculated by the winding number algorithm. The
11 intersection points of the tritons and the plasma facing wall are visualized as spheres with the
12 rendered internal vacuum wall and divertor plates in the VR space, and it is possible to directly
13 observe the strike points distributed on the wall and on the plates. It is found that many tritons
14 intersect with the divertor plates and that some strike on the vacuum vessel. To evaluate the
15 effectiveness of this VR visualization, we ask people to score the effect of experience and the
16 level of understanding after finding the place where many particles attack on the plasma facing
17 wall on the two-dimensional plane or in the VR space. This visualization helps us to determine
18 where the material probes should be placed on the plasma facing wall in the real LHD for
19 experimental analysis of the accumulated tritium on the plasma facing wall. This development
20 of VR visualization will make a significant contribution to the fusion plasma research.

21 22 1. Introduction

23 To realize a fusion power generation system, we have many issues. Two of them are
24 an efficient confinement of alpha particle generated by DT fusion reaction in a burning
25 plasma, and tritium recycle in the fuel system.

26 In existing torus fusion devices, the energetic ion confinement has been studied
27 instead of alpha particles [1]. For simulation study of alpha particle confinement, 1 MeV
28 triton confinement is investigated in deuterium operations, since the Larmor radius and the
29 precession frequency are the same as those of 3.5 MeV alpha particles generated by DT
30 reaction [1, 2]. The deuterium experiments and the numerical simulation study have been
31 performed in tokamaks for study of 1 MeV triton confinement [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. In stellarator and
32 heliotron, the orbit calculation was performed for the study of alpha particle or triton
33 confinement property [8, 9]. The triton-burnup experiment in stellarator and heliotron was
34 firstly performed in the first campaign of deuterium operations in March 2017 on the Large
35 Helical Device (LHD) of National Institute for Fusion Science (NIFS), Japan [10, 11, 12, 13,
36 14]. In neutral-beam heated deuterium plasmas, neutrons and 1MeV tritons were generated

1 by beam-thermal DD reactions. The orbit of 1MeV triton was calculated by means of the
2 Lorentz orbit code to investigate dependence of the triton burnup ratio on the magnetic
3 configuration [14].

4 On the other hand, tritium circulates in the fuel system of the fusion reactor. Tritium
5 is burned up in the high-temperature plasma, and the plasma exhaust is removed from the
6 vacuum chamber. The exhaust is processed through an isotope separation system that extracts
7 the fusion fuels for reinjection into the vacuum chamber [15]. However, there are cases in
8 which tritium stays in the unnecessary space and does not circulate. The amount of
9 accumulated tritium is called tritium inventory. Increase of the tritium inventory causes the
10 stagnation in the circulation of tritium and causes difficulty in the tritium operation. Since the
11 tritium approaches directly to the plasma facing wall, there is concern over the increase of the
12 inventory at the wall [16, 17, 18].

13 Since the first deuterium operations in LHD, the accumulated tritium on the plasma
14 facing wall has been experimentally studied. After the experiments, we brought out the
15 divertor plates which were used during the experiments and the material probes which were
16 placed on the plasma facing wall, and analyzed the residual tritium in them [18,19]. Moreover,
17 we also analyzed the accumulation of the energetic triton which collided with the divertor
18 plates [20]. To analyze experimentally the energetic triton accumulation on the vacuum wall,
19 we planned to put new material probes on the vacuum vessel of LHD. The probe is a rectangle
20 holder with dimensions that are 42 mm by 15 mm by 7 mm, and five plate-like materials are
21 inserted in the holder. It is necessary to place the probe on the appropriate position.

22 Visualization by means of a virtual-reality (VR) system is useful for deciding
23 specifically the position of the material probe. Since National Institute for Fusion Science
24 installed a CAVE-type VR system [21] named "CompleXope" in 1997, we have investigated
25 VR visualization of plasma equilibrium data of LHD [22], and developed visualization
26 software of CAVE-type VR system for numerical data [23]. In the visualization of
27 experimental devices, there is a VR visualization system based on picture [24], an interactive
28 VR operation system in which three-dimensional modeling data of fusion reactor components
29 can be grasped by a virtual hand in the VR space [25], and investigation of assembly and
30 maintenance processes by CAD software and VR system in the ITER project [26, 27, 28, 29].
31 Integral VR visualization of simulation, experiment and device data can help us to analyze the
32 data since the integral VR visualization displays the simulation and the experiment data
33 superimposed directly over device CAD data [30].

34 In this paper, the trajectories of 1MeV triton in the deuterium operations on LHD
35 are evaluated by a collisionless full orbit calculation code, and loss points of the triton on the
36 plasma facing wall are calculated as collision points on the divertor plates or the vessel wall.

1 The loss points are visualized in the three-dimensional VR space by CompleXcope integrally
2 together with the components in the LHD, such as the divertor plates and the vessel wall. By
3 this integral VR visualization, it is possible to grasp easily in what kind of distribution the
4 collision points of tritons exist on the components in the LHD briefly, and to decide concretely
5 where the material probes should be placed in the LHD.

6 In the remainder of the paper, we briefly mention the calculation method of the
7 triton trajectory and the collision point with the plasma facing wall in Section 2, and we
8 describe the VR visualization method of the triton collision points and the VR system we use
9 in Section 3. The visualization results are shown in Section 4. The survey results of the
10 efficiency of experience and the level of understanding are discussed in Section 5. Finally, we
11 outline the conclusions of this paper and the feedback from the experiment experts.

12 13 2. Calculation of trajectory and loss point of triton

14 In the determination of the loss points of tritons on the plasma facing wall [14], we
15 calculate the initial position of the triton from the triton generation distribution and evaluate
16 the trajectory of the triton from the initial position. We calculate an intersection point of the
17 triton trajectory and the wall as the loss point.

18 A triton generation distribution is given from a neutron generation distribution in
19 the deuterium operations on LHD calculated by FIT3D-DD code [31]. To reproduce the
20 triton generation distribution, we decided the initial positions of tritons, namely, radial
21 positions, poloidal angle and toroidal angle by using uniform random numbers. The initial
22 velocities are also determined by uniform random numbers under the condition in which the
23 velocity distributions are isotropic along the parallel and perpendicular to the magnetic field,
24 respectively.

25 We use the LORBIT code for calculation of triton trajectory [32]. In this calculation,
26 the Newtonian equation of motion is solved without any collision effects. In this paper, we use
27 the magnetic field in a vacuum which is calculated from the coil current of LHD. The effect
28 of plasma is not included. In addition, we assume no electric field, because 1MeV tritons have
29 the high energy and the effect of the electric field will be negligibly small on 1MeV triton
30 orbits.

31 In this paper, tracking time of 1MeV triton orbit corresponds to 1ms. Since it takes
32 more than 2sec for 1MeV triton to decrease its energy to 100keV [33], the tracking time is
33 much smaller than the deceleration time.

34 We detect the intersection point of the triton and the plasma facing wall in the
35 following procedure. The position and direction of the divertor plate are determined based on
36 the design data which was used for the installation of the divertor plates in LHD. The surface

1 of the divertor plate is constituted with triangles. Since the coordinate points of the vessel wall
2 are determined by a row of points on each poloidal angle, the vessel wall is constituted with
3 polygons which are formed by the row of points. We calculate whether the triton orbit exists
4 inside or outside the triangles of the divertor plates or the polygons of the vessel wall by means
5 of the winding number algorithm [34], and we detect the intersection point of the triton and
6 the plasma facing wall. The intersection point is a loss point of triton. The coordinate point
7 of the intersection point is stored in the Cartesian coordinate system, and the loss point
8 position is three-dimensionally visualized in the VR space in the way described in the next
9 section.

10 11 3. Visualization method of loss points of tritons

12 To visualize the loss point positions of tritons, we newly develop a VR visualization
13 software for a CAVE-type VR system for this VR visualization based on the Virtual LHD [22]
14 which was developed for visualization of the equilibrium LHD plasma. Since we do not have
15 enough time before the experiment starts, we utilize the existing CAVE system and modify
16 our developed software previously. The software includes an interface for reading the three-
17 dimensional coordinate data of particles and a rendering function of particles by the point-
18 sprite method [35] for visualizing the loss points as spheres. This software is written in C++
19 with OpenGL and CAVELib library.

20 The internal wall and divertor plates of the LHD are rendered by Unity [36] based
21 on the CAD data which was used for construction of the real LHD. The version of Unity is
22 5.3.4 because we need to use the following software, FusionSDK [37].

23 To superimpose and display the spheres of triton loss points and the internal
24 components of LHD, we use a commercial software, FusionSDK, which captures the OpenGL
25 image data rendered by different visualization software, superimposes them in one VR space
26 and displays them in real time [37, 38, 39].

27 The number of the triton loss points is 583,695 throughout the inside of the LHD.
28 The number is too numerous to display in the VR space because the frame rate is reduced due
29 to computer performance shortage. To avoid the reduction of the frame rate, we divide the
30 data into ten data because LHD has ten times the rotation symmetry, and we extract three
31 sections from ten data. Because the number of three-section data is still large, we display
32 30,000 points in this paper.

33 Complexcope is a typical system which has four screens, that is, three on the walls
34 and one on the floor, the size of which is approximately 3m x 3m. ARTTrack5 system tracks
35 the position and viewing direction of the viewer's head by optical red-ray cameras [40]. The
36 viewer uses a three-dimensional mouse called Flystick2, which is also monitored by the

1 ARTrack5 system. By means of the tracking system, the objects on the screens are redrawn
2 according to the movement of the viewer and the instruction by the Flystick2. The projectors
3 are MirageWU7K-M made by Christie. The liquid-crystal glasses are XPAND X105RF and
4 the emitter system is Emitter Pro AE125RF made by XPAND. The computer resources of
5 CompleXcope are as follows: two HP Z840 workstations with 64bit Windows 10. Each
6 workstation has two Intel Xeon E5-2637v4 processors (Clock speed is 3.50GHz and the
7 number of cores is four) and 128 GB memory. Two graphic cards NVIDIA Quadro P6000 are
8 installed to each workstation. Four graphic cards are synchronized by Quadro Sync2.

9 10 4. Visualization results

11 Figure 1 shows that a viewer is watching the intersection points of tritons (red
12 spheres) and the plasma facing wall in the vacuum of LHD in CompleXcope. In addition, the
13 snapshots projected on the four screens of CompleXcope are indicated in Fig.2. Stereoscopic
14 displayed objects are projected on the four screens of CompleXcope, and the stereoscopic
15 images cover the entire visual field of the viewer who wears liquid-crystal glasses. By means
16 of the tracking system of CAVE, the objects shown on the screens move according to the
17 movement of the viewer in the CompleXcope and the viewer can also move the rendered
18 objects in the VR space by pushing a joystick of Flystick2. As a result, the viewer is surrounded
19 by stereoscopic images with a high immersion feeling and can look at objects that he/she is
20 interested in with enlarging the images.

21 Figure 3 shows the three-dimensionally plotted intersection points with the divertor
22 plates and the vacuum vessel which are projected on a two-dimensional figure, and the
23 number of particles plotted on the two-dimensional plane as a function of toroidal and
24 poloidal angles. These figures are made by the same plotting method as that used in Ref.[14]
25 for discussion on the distribution of the points. Although these plots excel in the statistical
26 analysis of the point distribution, they are not suitable for considering where the material
27 probes should be placed in the LHD vessel. The visualization in this paper enables us to enter
28 the virtual LHD vessel shown in the VR system with a high immersion feeling, and to analyze
29 the intersection point distribution while looking directly at the intersection points of tritons
30 and the plasma facing wall before our very eyes from various viewing points and directions.
31 Moreover, by means of CAVE-type VR system, two or more persons can discuss the
32 distribution while watching it together unlike head mount display, which is usually used by
33 only one person. These features of VR visualization help us to determine the appropriate
34 position of the material probe on the plasma facing wall for studying experimentally
35 accumulated tritons on the wall in the real fusion reactor.

36 Here we show several snap shots recorded from the various viewpoints and lines of

1 sight and discuss the intersection point distribution of the tritons and the plasma facing wall.

2 We observe closed structure divertor from the lower port of LHD in Fig. 4 and from
3 another viewing point in Fig. 5. It is found that almost all the tritons collide with the closed
4 divertor plates and that some tritons intersect with the triangle dome structure in the closed
5 divertor system and the vacuum wall. The intersection points are distributed on the right
6 divertor plates and the right side of the triangle domes. This bias of the intersection points
7 results from an orbit deviation by the grad-B drift. When a direction of the toroidal magnetic
8 field is changed conversely, the positions of the intersection points move to the left divertor
9 plates and the left side of the triangle domes. This movement is confirmed by experiments
10 and numerical simulations.

11 The intersection points on the open structure divertors observed from the front and
12 from the side are shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, respectively. In Fig.7, we can watch the points
13 behind the divertors. While many particles collide with the open divertor plates, some
14 particles also intersect with the vacuum vessel wall. It is found from Fig. 7 that some tritons
15 intersect with the vacuum vessel wall behind the plate. As mentioned above, the energetic
16 tritons which run away from the plasma confinement region with no collision intersect with
17 the walls in the divertor region. It is found that many tritons collide with the divertor plates
18 and that some tritons intersect with the vacuum wall. To confirm experimentally the
19 intersection points of the energetic tritons and the plasma facing wall, we planned to place
20 material probes on the wall. Since the divertor plates and vacuum wall displayed in the VR
21 space are arranged at the same positions and directions as those in the real LHD vacuum, we
22 can concretely and correctly examine where the probes should be set up on the plasma facing
23 wall. As a result, we decided on three positions on the wall as shown in Fig. 8 and set three
24 probes in the real LHD. The probe 1 was placed on the wall where many energetic tritons
25 collide. The probe 2 was installed on the wall where the tritons intersect when the toroidal
26 magnetic field was reversed, and the probe 3 was placed upon the wall where so many tritons
27 did not strike with the wall.

28 We measured frame rates in this VR visualization by CompleXcope to examine the
29 dependence of the frame rate on the number of particles which are displayed in the VR space
30 with the component CAD data in the LHD. The results are summarized in Table 1. As the
31 number of particles increases, the frame rates merely decrease. However, these frame rates
32 are acceptable for displaying stereoscopic objects on the screen of CompleXcope with
33 movement of the objects by the tracking system.

34 5. Effectiveness of this VR visualization

35 We check the validity of this VR visualization as follows; since the purpose of this VR
36

1 visualization in this paper is that we find the place where the many tritons attack and
2 determine the appropriate place to put the material probes on the plasma facing wall, we
3 consider that to determine the place is a task. We ask multiple people to work this task
4 watching the intersection points on the two-dimensional (2D) plane or in the VR space, and
5 to evaluate the work efficiency and the understanding level. In the case of 2D plane, we show
6 the figures shown in Figs. 2 and 9 on the 2D display, while in the case of VR space, we ask the
7 people to enter the CompleXcope and experience the VR content we developed in this paper.
8 Figure 9 drawn by the experiment researcher shows the CAD data of the closed divertors and
9 the vacuum vessel wall with the strike points of the tritons on the 2D plane. The examinees
10 are four LHD experiment researchers, five simulation researchers, two graduate students, two
11 office workers of NIFS, nine high-school students and one high-school teacher. The office
12 workers and six high-school students have no experience of the VR world before this survey.
13 All examinees experience the task on the 2D plane and in the VR space to score the work
14 efficiency and the understanding level from zero for bad to five for good. In the experience
15 effect, they evaluate ease of finding the place where many particles attack, while in the level
16 of understanding, they judge whether they convince the solution after we show the position
17 where the experiment researcher determined.

18 Table 2 shows the average scores of each group. It is turned out that both work
19 efficiency and the understanding level have a higher rating in the VR space compared with on
20 the 2D plane for every group. The score of the work efficiency is a little lower in the cases of
21 the simulation scientists and the high-school students. The reason is as follows; some of them
22 evaluated that the task on the 2D plane was easy because the figures beforehand showed the
23 place where many particles attacked, while the task in the VR space was not easy since they
24 needed to walk-through in the vacuum vessel by the Flystick2 to find the place. When we
25 asked them to draw the 2D figures by themselves, they said that the task became more difficult
26 compared to the task in the VR space since they had to find the place by themselves. One
27 simulation researcher said that the shadow in the 2D figure helped him to understand the
28 three-dimensional structure and that the task on the 2D plane could earn a high grade.

29 One experiment scientist and one high-school student evaluated the understanding
30 levels were comparable with each other on the 2D plane and in the VR space since they could
31 confirm that the material probe was set on the appropriate place even on the 2D figures. The
32 number of people who told us such an opinion was two, and the task in the VR space had a
33 higher rating compared with that on the 2D plane.

34 One experiment scientist told us that her experience in the VR space has been
35 profitable before she entered the real LHD and installed the material probes on the plasma
36 facing wall. Since she could set up the probes while imagining the relationship between the

1 position where the many tritons attacked in the VR space and the position where they installed
2 the probes in the real LHD. In addition, after the LHD plasma experiments, she would be
3 able to know which vacuum vessel tiles should be detached from the vacuum vessel wall in
4 advance. This can improve the efficiency of analyzing the accumulation of the energetic
5 tritons in the wall. In this way, the VR content we developed in this study serves the
6 experiment well.

7 8 6. Conclusions

9 We calculated the trajectories of 1MeV tritons which were generated in the
10 deuterium operations in LHD, and we found the intersection points of the tritons and the
11 plasma facing wall. The strike points on the wall were visualized with the vacuum vessel wall
12 and the divertor plates of LHD by the VR system 'CompleXcope'. It was possible to analyze
13 the strike point distribution on the wall and the divertor plates. According to the analysis, the
14 energetic tritons which ran away from the plasma confinement region without collision
15 intersected with the wall in the divertor region. Many tritons had a collision with the divertor
16 plates, while some tritons collided with the vacuum vessel wall.

17 One of the authors, S. Masuzaki, is an experiment researcher who planned to put the
18 material probes on the plasma facing wall in the LHD and to analyze experimentally the
19 energetic triton intersection points on the material probes. He used this VR system with his
20 colleagues, that is, an experiment researcher and a software developer, together. While
21 watching the VR visualization, the experiment researchers tried to find the appropriate
22 positions of the material probes together, and he and the software developer discussed and
23 confirmed the visualization results and their effectiveness at the same time. Through this VR
24 visualization, they could determine the positions where many tritons attacked the wall and
25 where the tritons did not intersect with the wall. They also took advantage of the CAVE-type
26 VR feature, that is, the simultaneous experience of multiple people, at maximum this time.
27 This VR visualization played an important role in the position determination of the material
28 probes.

29 Because the CAVELib software developed in this paper for displaying the
30 intersection points in the VR space can be ported to a head mount display (HMD) system
31 easily, such as Oculus Rift, by using the wrapper program "CLCL"[41]. In this case, only the
32 intersection points can be viewed on an HMD because the CAVELib software visualizes only
33 the intersection points. FusionVR or FusionSDK is needed to superimpose and display the
34 intersection points rendered by CAVELib software and the plasma facing wall CAD data
35 rendered by Unity in one VR space integrally. It is unclear whether FusionVR or FusionSDK
36 corresponds to the superimposition of the software with CLCL library and Unity. Our VR

1 visualization software was developed using C++, OpenGL and CAVELib. If it can be ported
2 using C# and Unity, it will be possible to display the intersection points and the wall CAD
3 data integrally on an HMD.

4 In Section 5, the experiment specialist told us that she imagined the intersection
5 points on the plasma facing wall displayed in the VR space while installing the probes in the
6 real LHD. If she uses an augmented reality (AR) system or a mixed reality (MR) system, such
7 as HoloLens 2, the intersection points rendered by computer graphics will be superimposed
8 on the image of the real wall shown through the transmission lens. We plan to develop such
9 system in future.

10 VR technology is a powerful tool for analyzing the data of simulation, experiment,
11 device and so on. We believe the development in this paper will make rapid progress in fusion
12 plasma research, and will accelerate collaboration among simulation, experiment, and reactor
13 design research.

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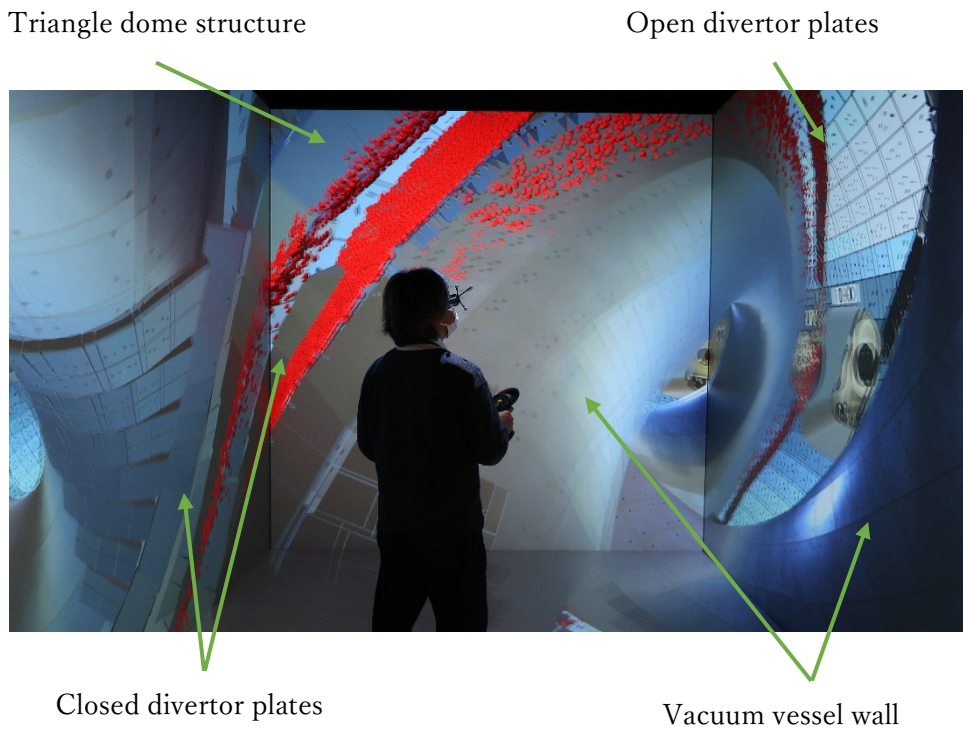
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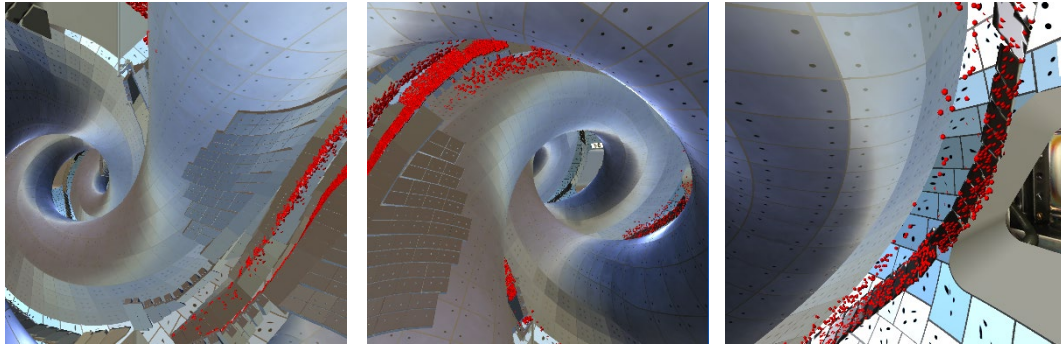
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Figure 1. CompleXcope in which a viewer watches triton intersection points and the plasma facing wall. The plasma facing wall includes a vacuum vessel wall, open and closed divertor plates, and triangle dome structure. Red sphere indicates the intersection point of triton and plasma facing wall.

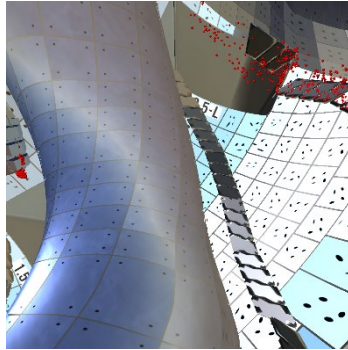
1



(a) Left screen.

(b) Front screen.

(c) Right screen.



(d) Floor screen.

2

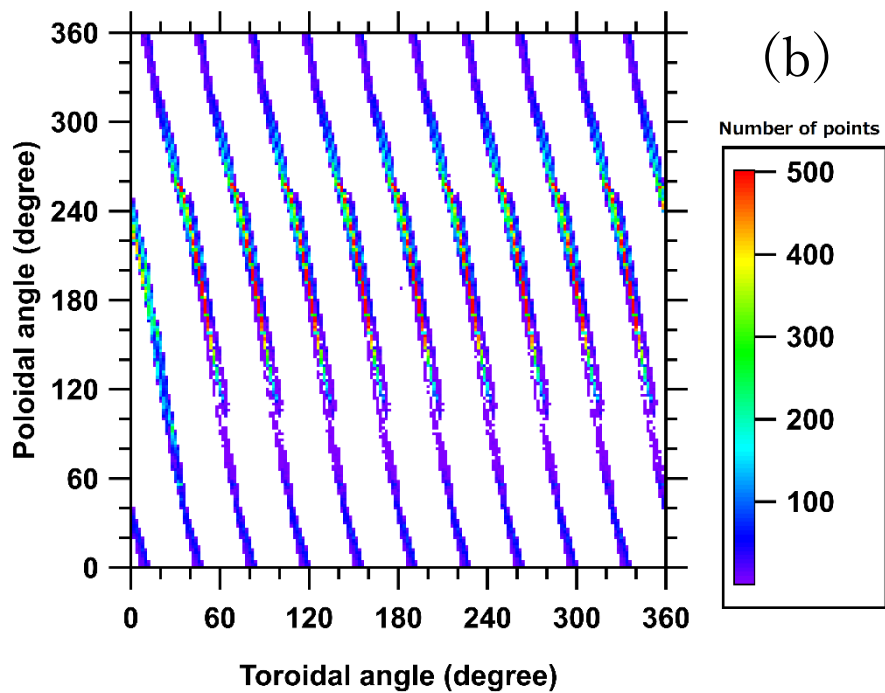
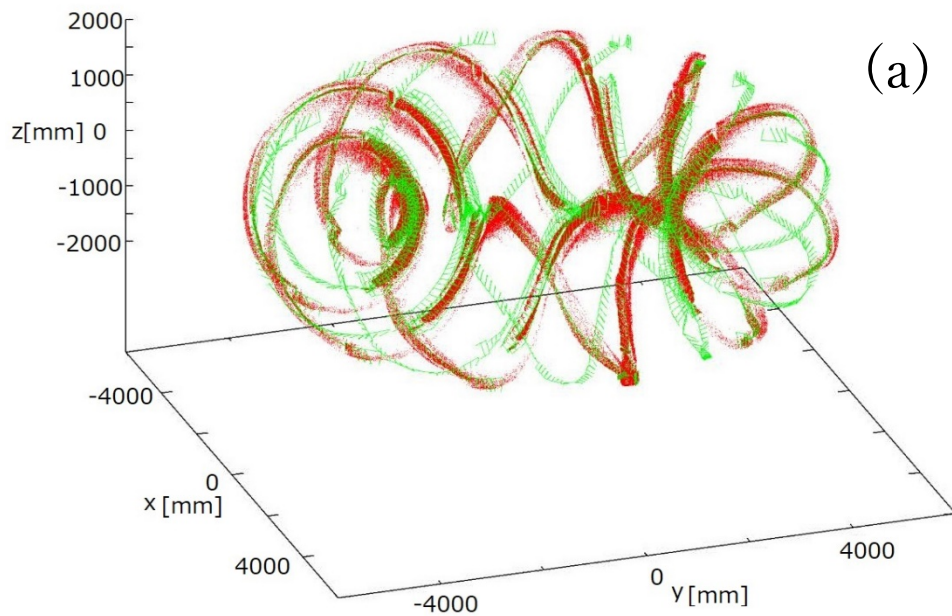
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Figure 2. Snapshots of plasma intersection points and plasma facing wall on the (a) left, (b)

4

front, (c) right and (d) floor screens.

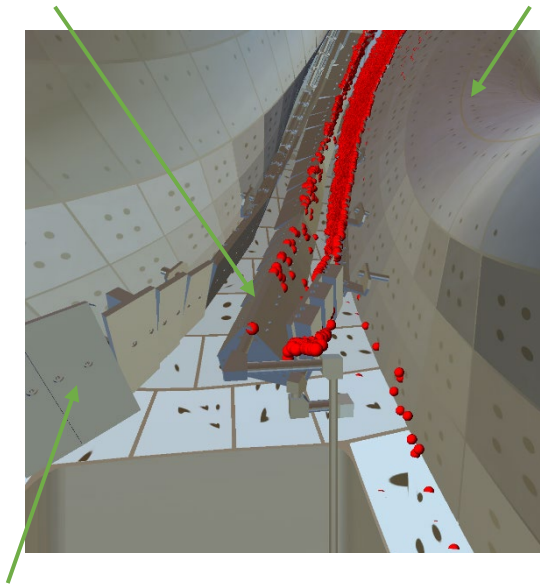
5



1
 2 Figure 3. (a) The intersection points plotted in three-dimensional space with the divertor
 3 plates projected on two-dimensional space, and (b) the number of points on the two-
 4 dimensional plane as a function of toroidal and poloidal angles. In Fig.3 (a), the intersection
 5 points and the divertor plates are colored by red and green, respectively.

Triangle dome structure

Vacuum vessel wall

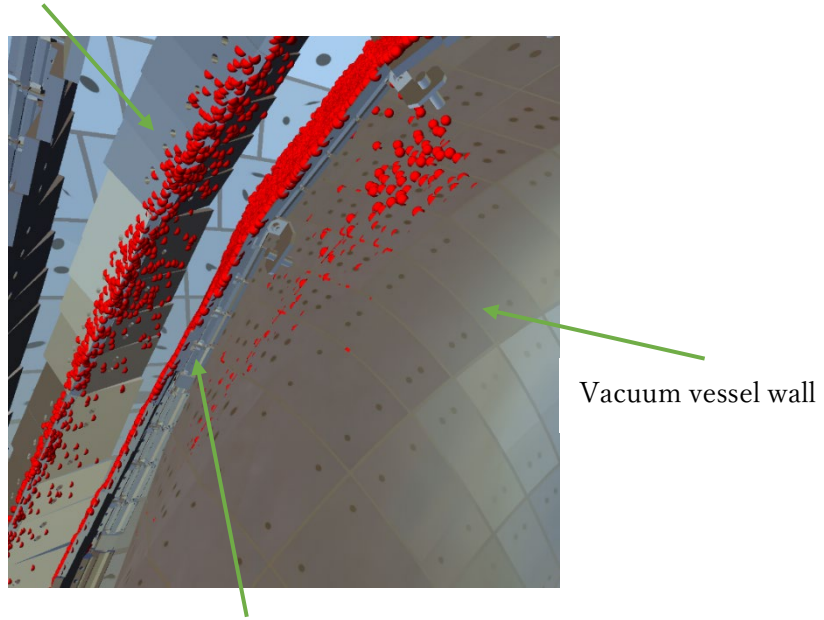


Closed divertor

- 1
- 2 Figure 4. Closed divertor, triangle dome structure and vacuum vessel observed from the lower
- 3 port.

1

Triangle dome structure



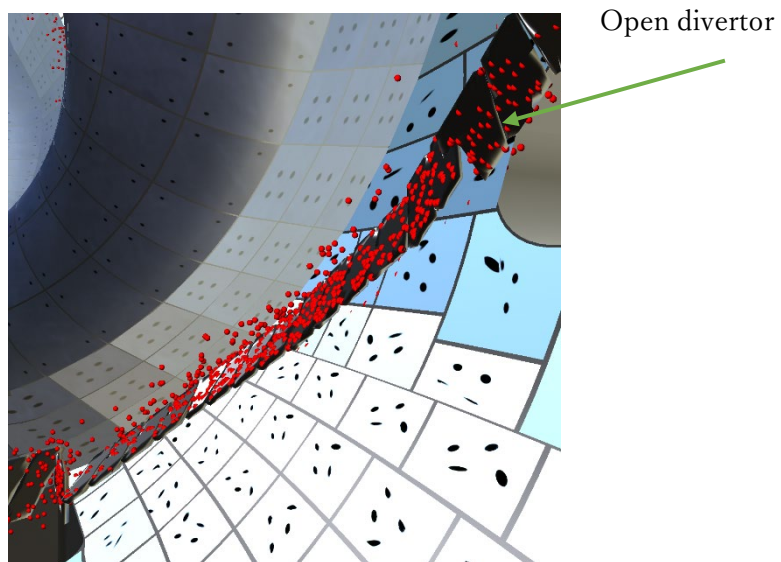
Vacuum vessel wall

Closed divertor

2

3 Figure 5. Closed divertor, triangle dome structure and vacuum vessel wall observed from
4 another viewpoint other than Fig.4.

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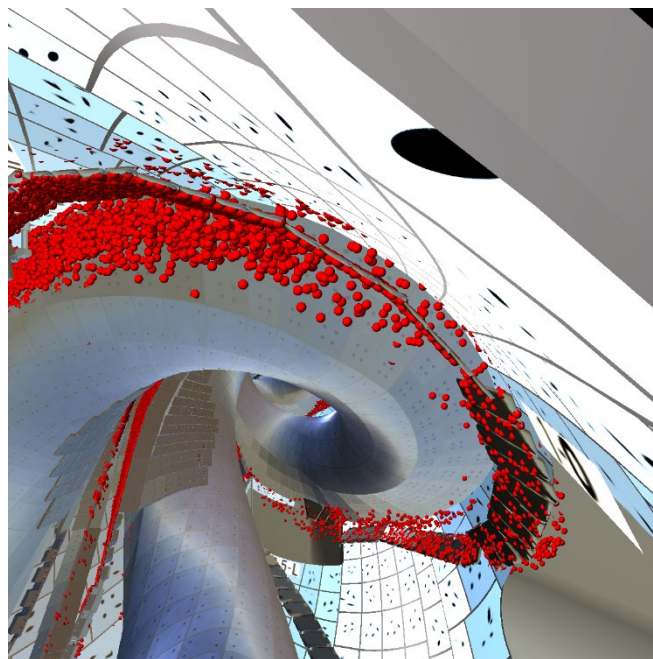
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Figure 6. The triton intersection points on the open divertor plates and vacuum vessel wall

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from the front view.

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Figure 7. The triton intersection points from the side of the open structure divertor plates.

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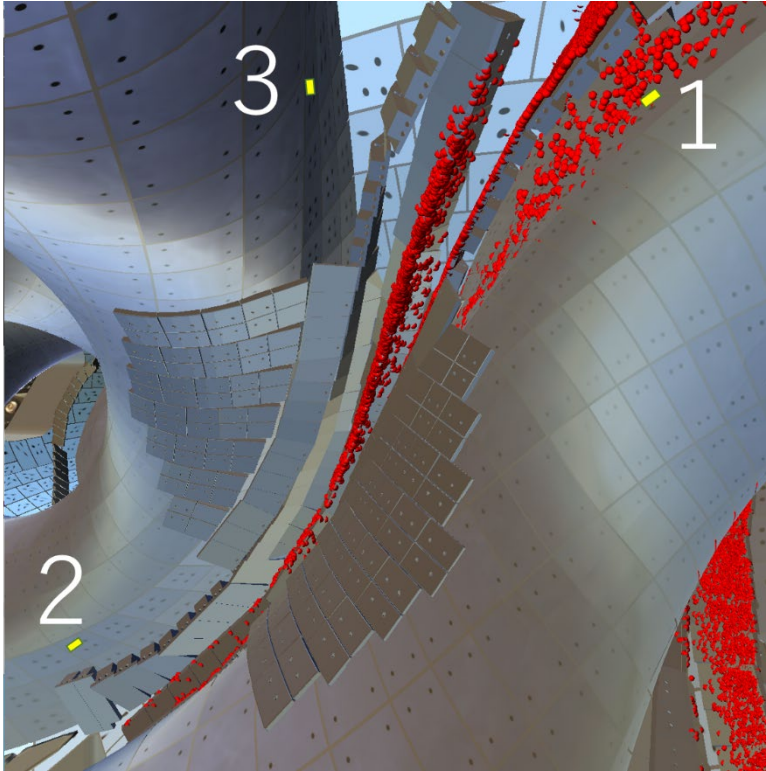
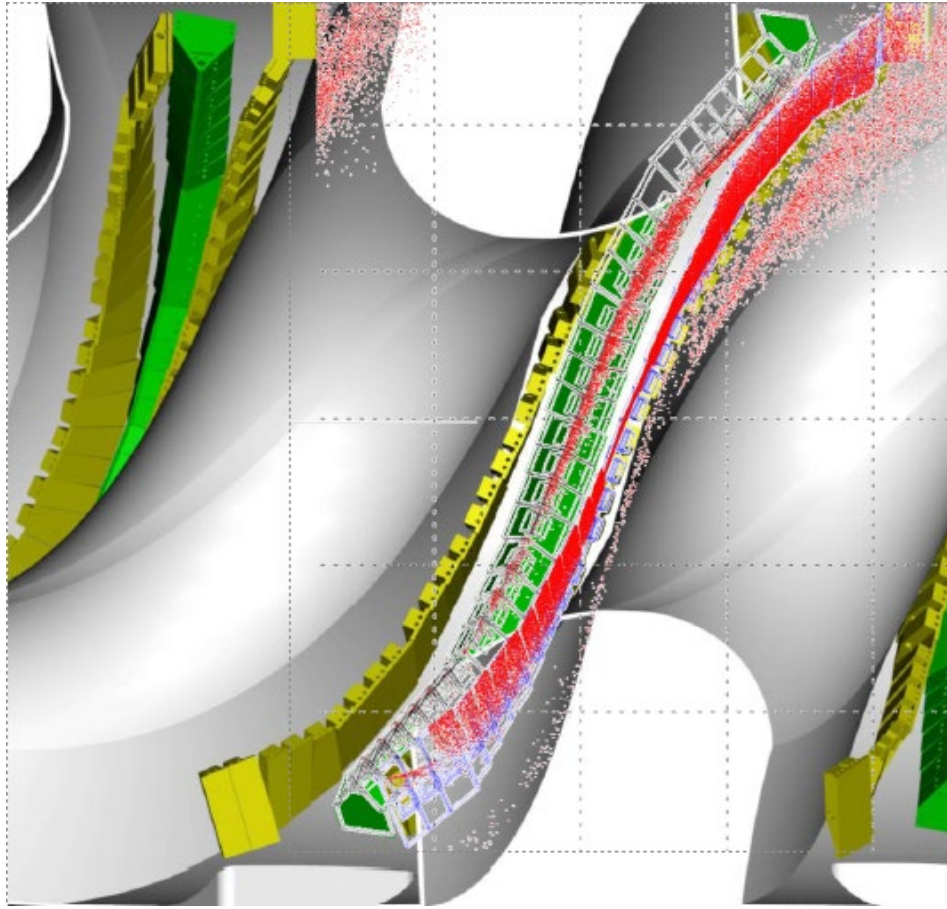


Figure 8. The positions where the probes were set up in fact. Yellow rectangular shows the position.

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Figure 9. Superimposed figure of the intersection points on the plasma facing wall rendered by CAD software. This figure was made by the experiment scientist, S. Masuzaki. He used this figure for considering where the probes should be installed.

1

Table 1. Measurement of frame rates

Number of particles	10,000	20,000	30,000
FPS(sec)	36.19	35.76	34.77

2

3

1 Table 2. Evaluation of work efficiency and level of understanding.

	Work efficiency		Level of understanding	
	2D	VR	2D	VR
Experiment scientists	2.0	4.8	2.3	4.8
Simulation scientists	2.4	4.2	2.0	4.6
Graduate students	2.5	5.0	2.5	5.0
Secretaries	2.0	5.0	2.0	5.0
High School students and a teacher	2.2	3.6	2.3	4.9
Total	2.2	4.5	2.2	4.8

2