

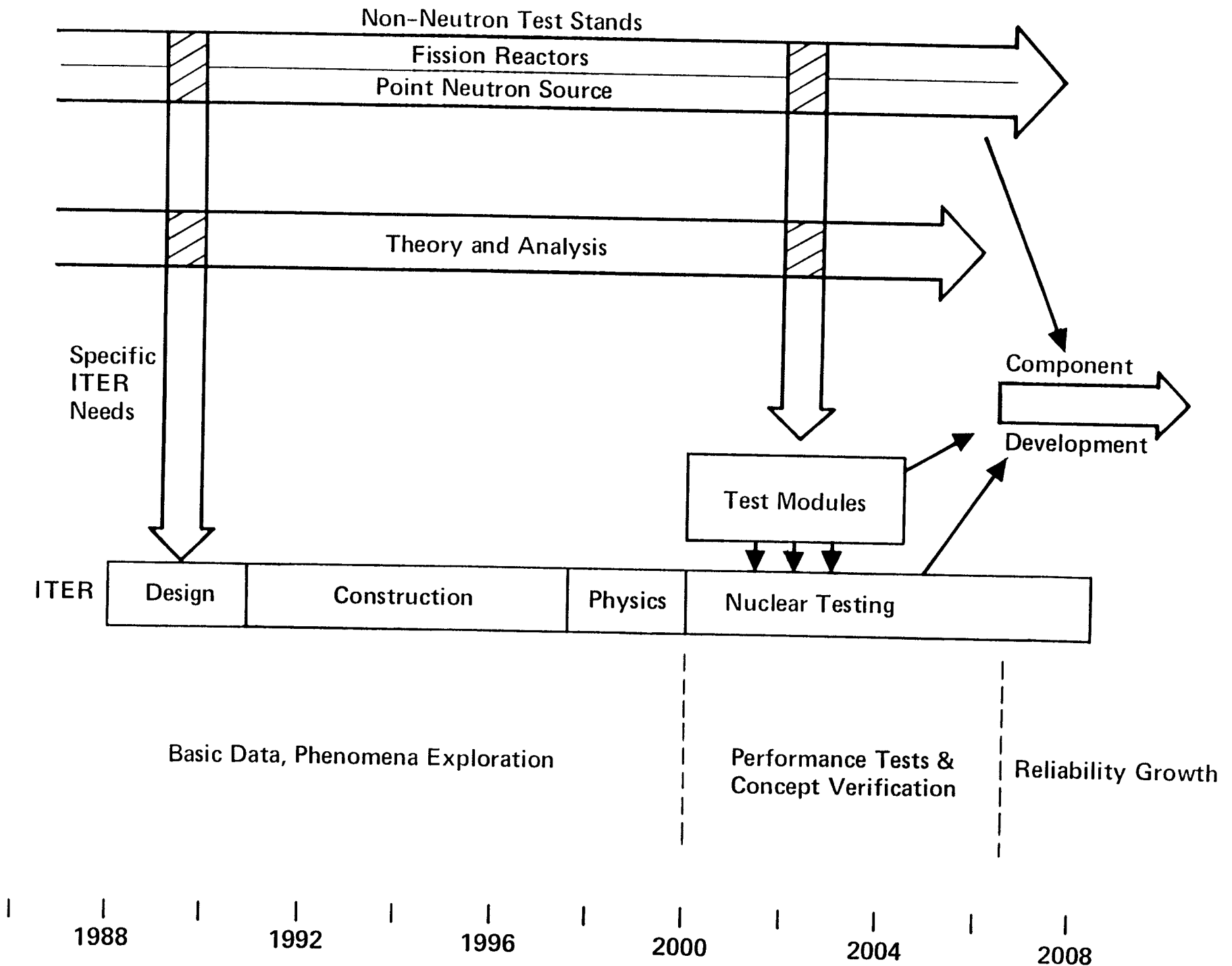
# **ITER TECHNOLOGY PHASE**

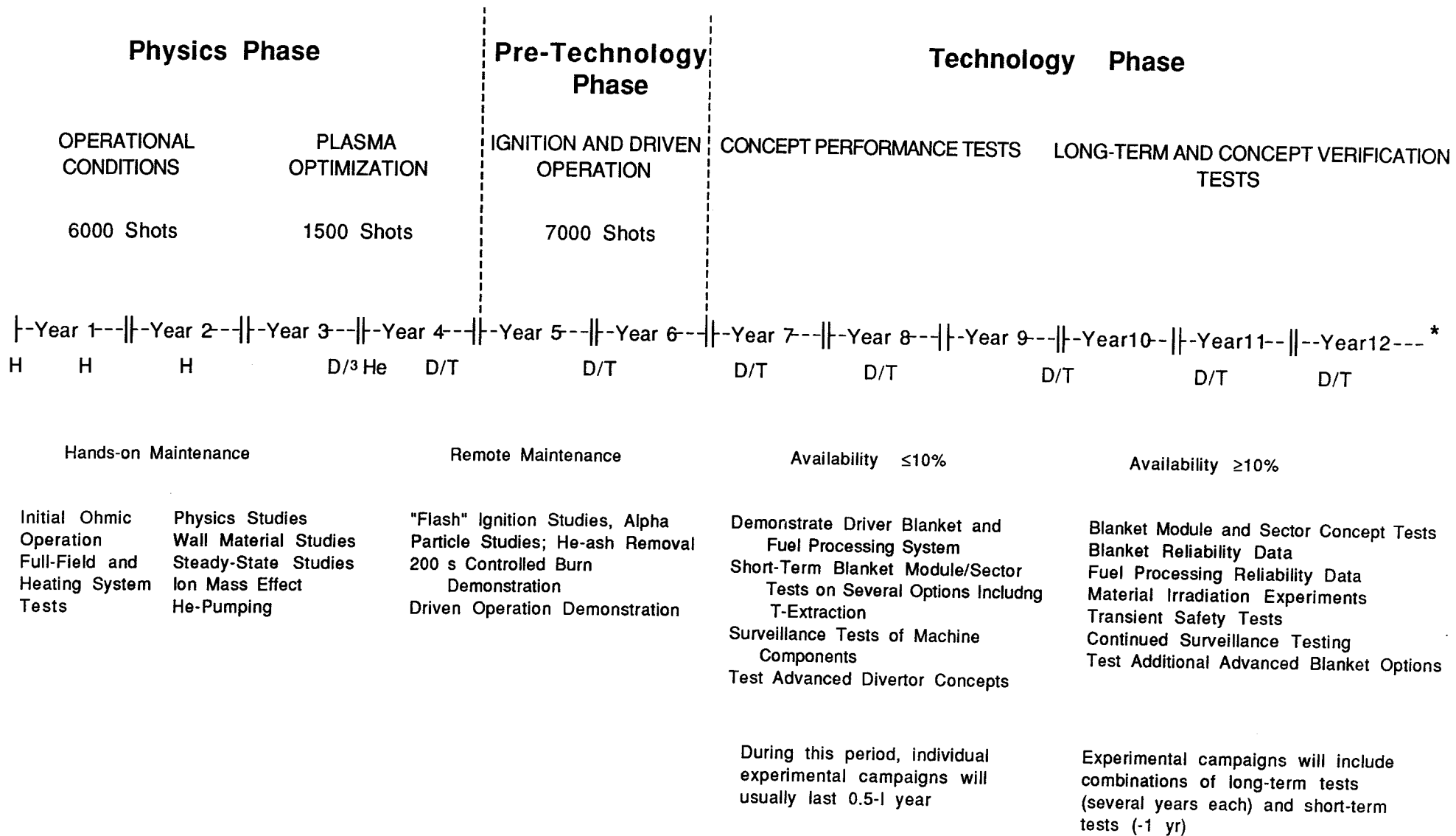
Mohamed A. Abdou

UCLA

Presented to the Fusion Advisory Committee  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
7 December 1988

# Framework For Fusion Nuclear Technology Development





\* This phase can continue further up to year 15-20

## POSSIBLE OPERATING PHASES FOR ITER

## FNT Testing Requirements

- Major Parameters of Device

- Device Cost Drivers
- Major Impact on Test Usefulness

- Engineering Design of Device

e.g.,

- Access to Place, Remove Test Elements
- Provision for Ancillary Equipment
- Accommodation of Failures in Test Elements

# **KEY ITER PARAMETERS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TESTING**

- Wall Load
- Neutron Fluence
- Availability
- Steady State vs. Pulsed Length of Plasma Burn and Dwell Times
- Surface Area for Testing

## Neutron Wall Load

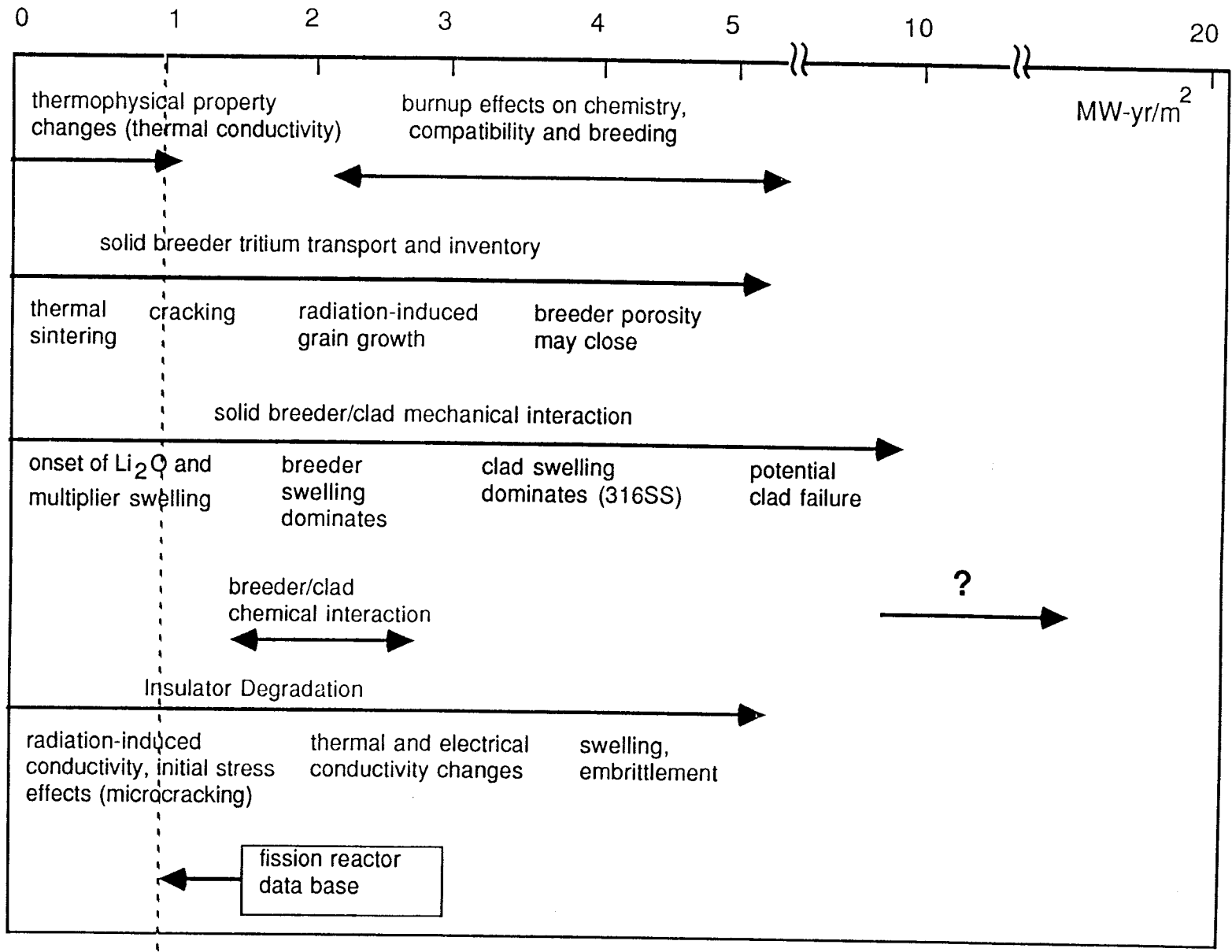
Desired Value Determined by

- 1) Engineering Scaling Requirements
- 2) Fluence Requirements

Device Availability (%)	Neutron Wall Load (MW/m <sup>2</sup> ) for 6 MW·y/m <sup>2</sup> Fluence
60	1
40	1.5
30	2
24	2.5

Table 2 Contributors to the Required Fluence Lifetime of ITER

Contributor	Approximate Fluence (MW • yr/m <sup>2</sup> )
Checkout and physics testing	0.5
Nuclear Stage 1: scoping	1 - 2
Nuclear Stage 2: concept verification	3 - 4
Allowance for enclosure attenuation and test module replacement (25%)	1.0-1.5

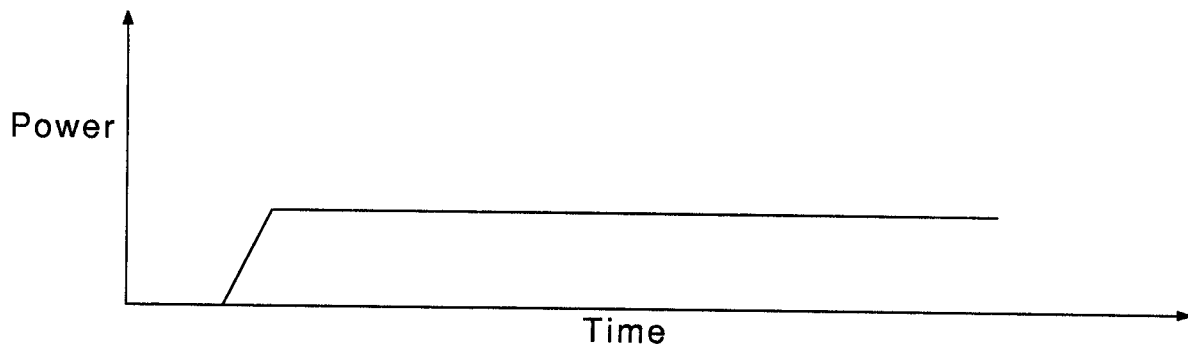


A2: Fluence-Related Effects in Solid Breeders and Insulators

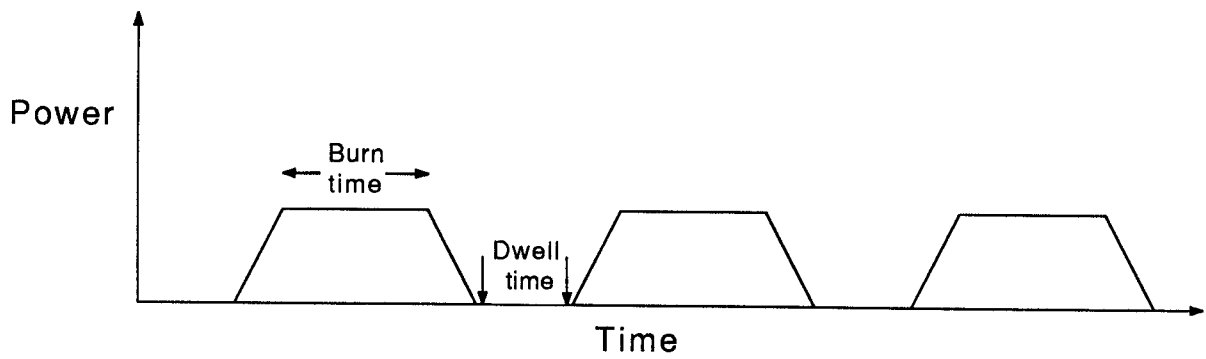


# Steady State Vs. Pulsed

## Steady State



## Pulsed



## Motivation for Steady State Operation as Design Basis for ITER

1. To Explore Long Term Reactor Potential
2. To Reduce the Failure Rate and Improve the Reliability of Many of the Basic ITER Components
3. To Substantially Increase the Capability for Nuclear Technology Testing

## Effects of Pulsed Plasma Operation on Nuclear Technology Testing

- Time-Dependent Changes in Environmental Conditions for Testing:
  - Nuclear (volumetric) heating
  - Surface heating
  - Poloidal magnetic field
  - Tritium production rate
- Result in Time-Dependent Changes and Effects in Response of Test Elements that:
  - Can be more dominant than the steady-state effects for which testing is desired
  - Can complicate tests and make results difficult to model and understand

## Length of Burn Time?

## Length of Dwell Time?

Response (e.g., Temperature):

Burn:  $F = F_0 (1 - e^{-t/\tau})$

Dwell:  $F = F_0 e^{-t/\tau}$

$\tau$  = characteristic Time Constant

Allowable Variation (During a Specific Test)

- The goal is not just reaching equilibrium. It is to stay at equilibrium during test
- Small changes in some fundamental quantities result in large changes in key parameters

e.g., 5% change in SB temperature results in a factor of 5 change in Tritium Diffusion Time Constant

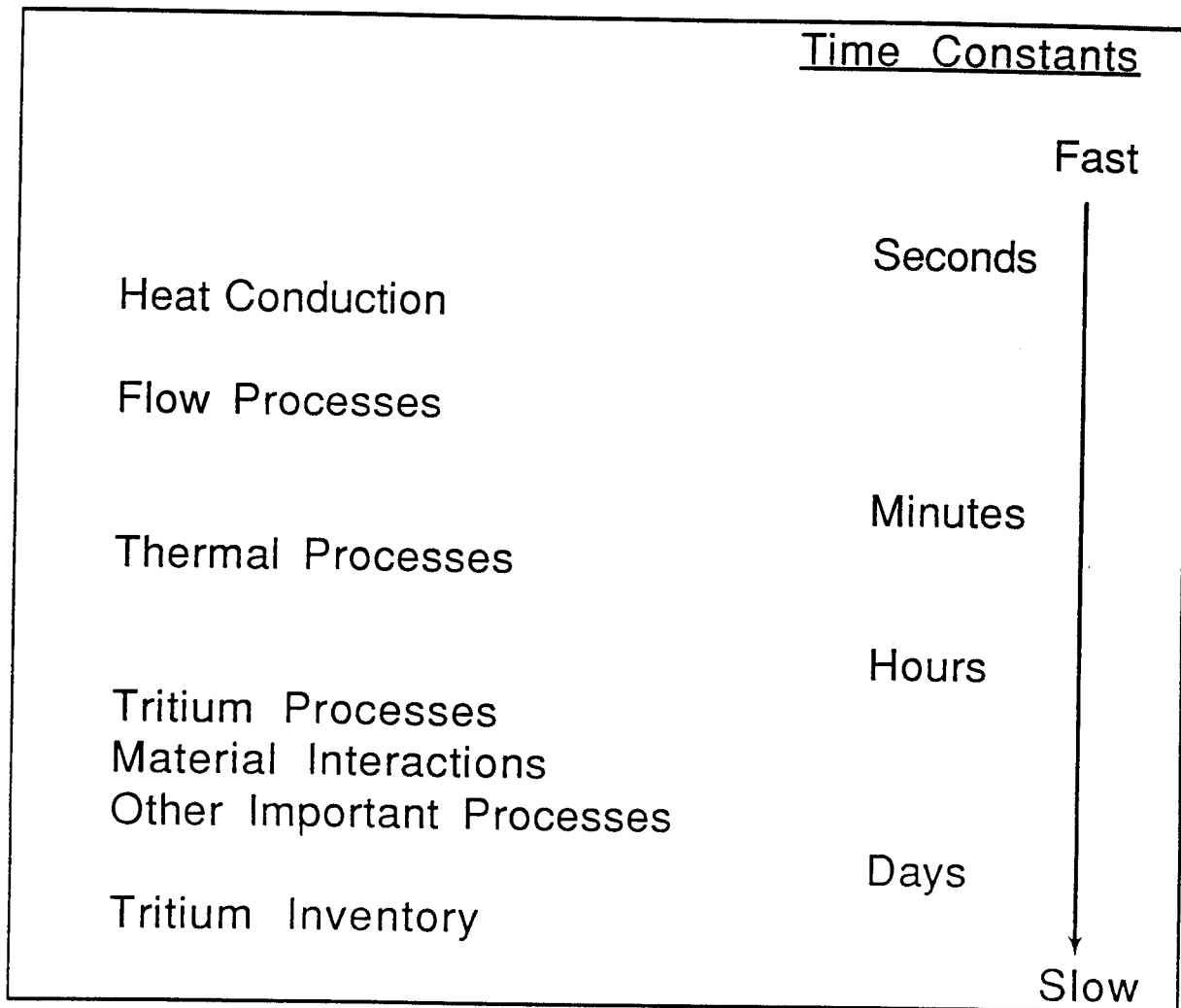
**Guidelines (95 % Level)**

**burn time > 3  $\tau$**

**dwell time < 0.05  $\tau$**

Note: Doubling or tripling the allowable variation will not significantly alter conclusions

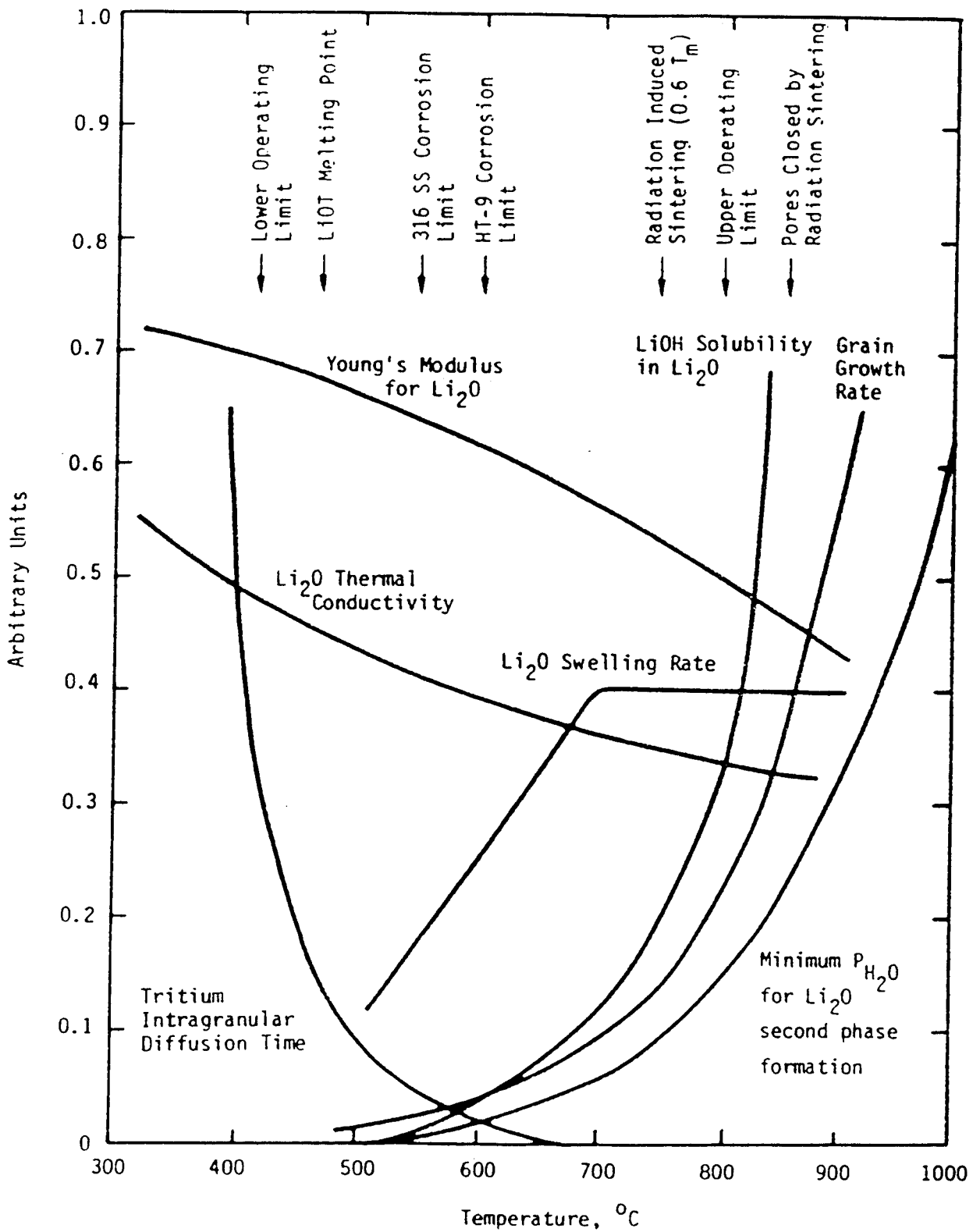
# TIME CONSTANTS FOR KEY NUCLEAR PROCESSES RANGE FROM VERY FAST TO VERY SLOW



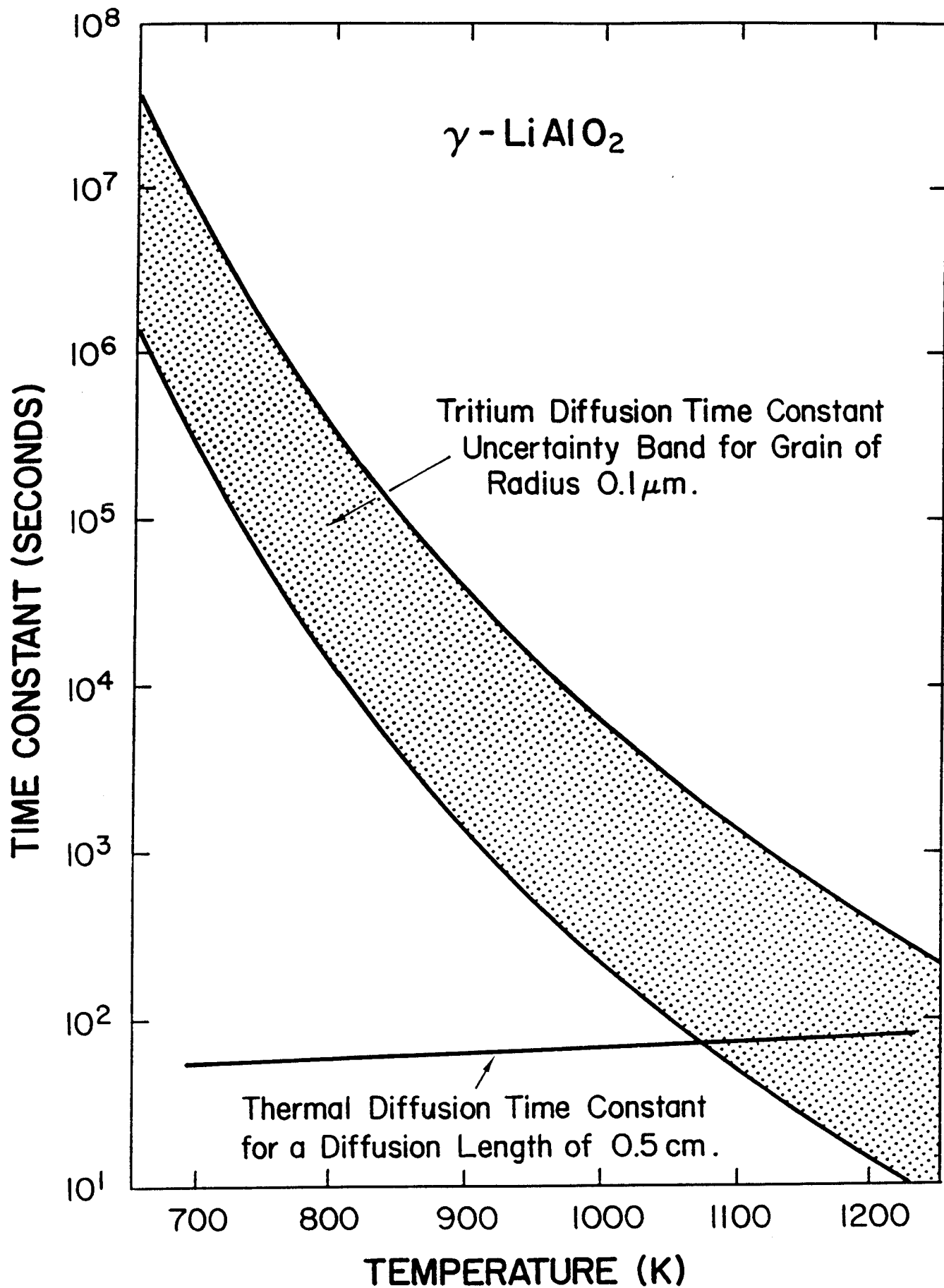
Most Critical Nuclear Issues for Testing in the Fusion Environment Have Two Characteristics:

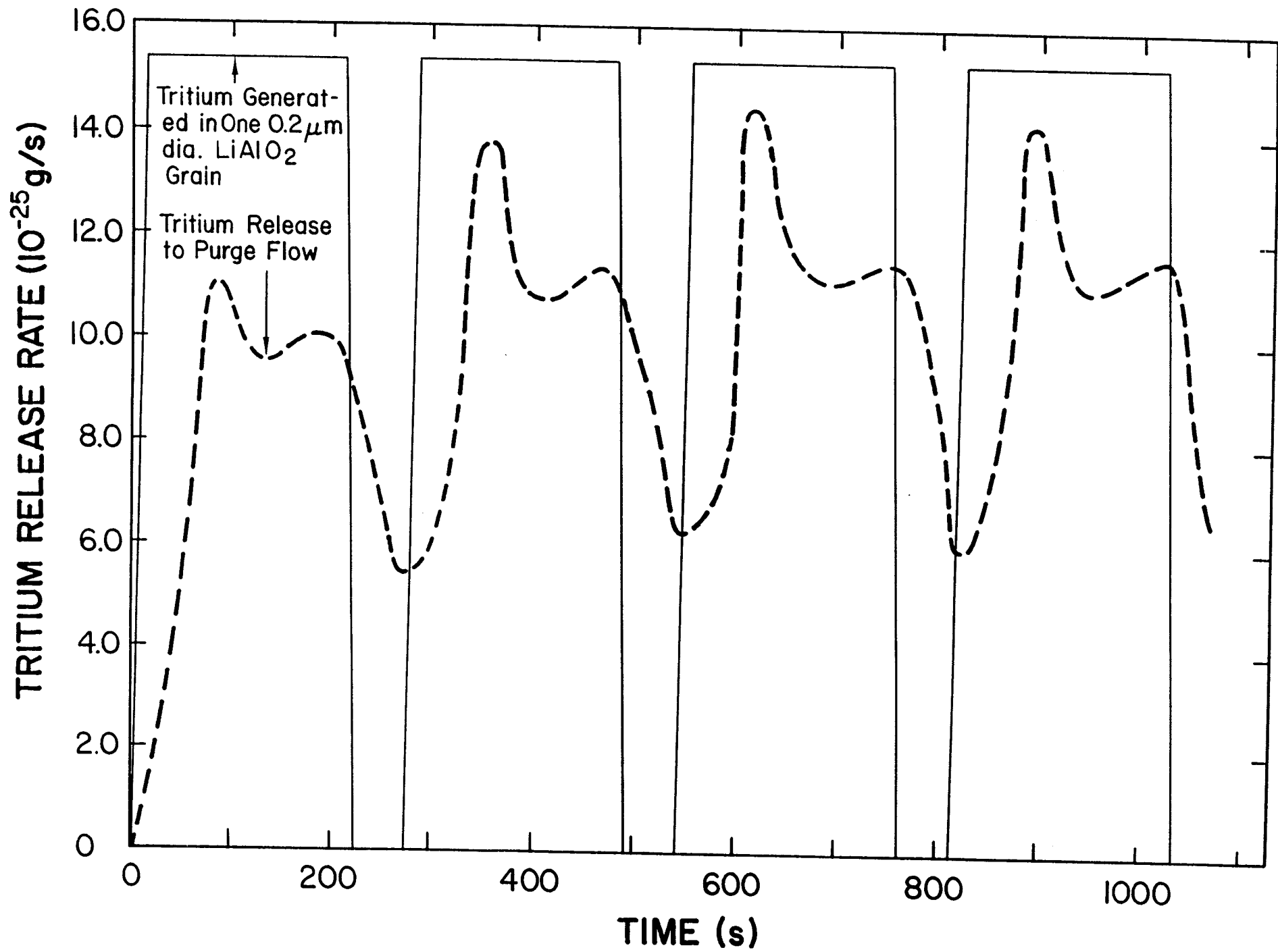
- 1) Processes with long time constants
- 2) Crucial dependence on other processes with short time constants

(It takes a long time to establish equilibrium;  
a short time to ruin it)



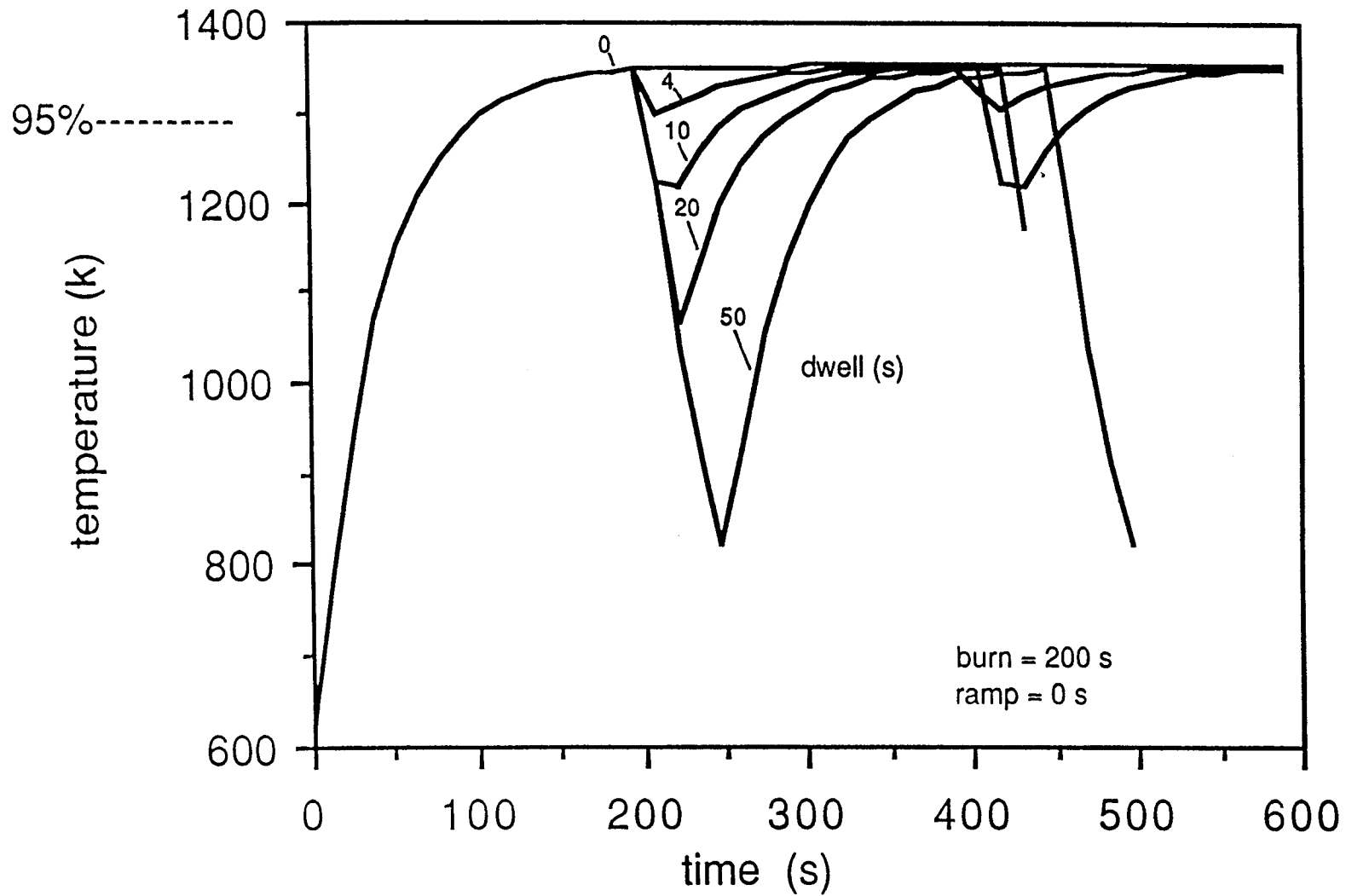
THE HEAT SOURCE (MAGNITUDE AND TIME DEPENDENCE) DETERMINES TEMPERATURES IN THE BLANKET, WHICH ACTIVATES MANY IMPORTANT ENGINEERING PROCESSES





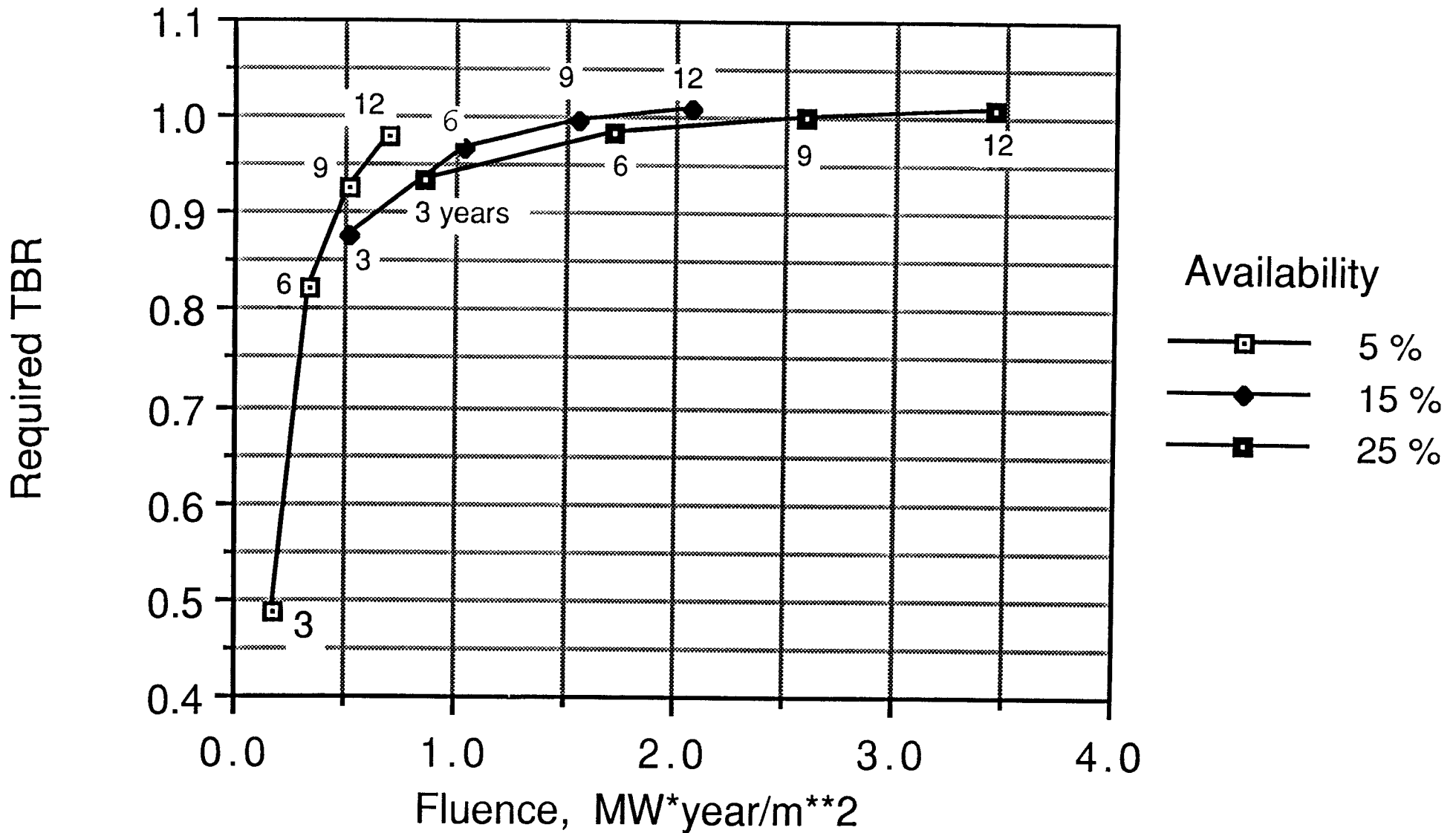


# VARIATION OF TEMPERATURE WITH TIME FOR DIFFERENT DWELL TIMES (LIALO2 BREEDER)

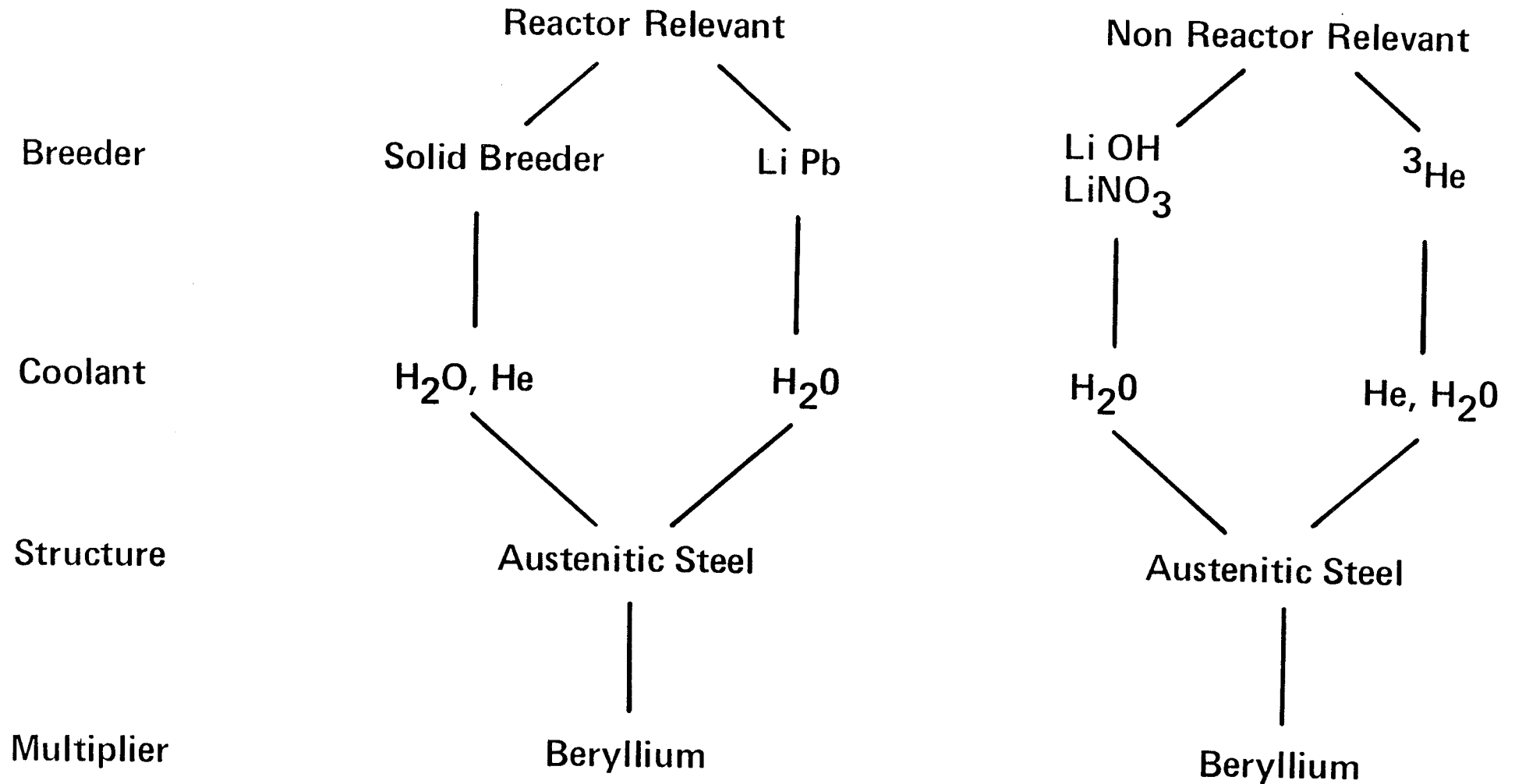


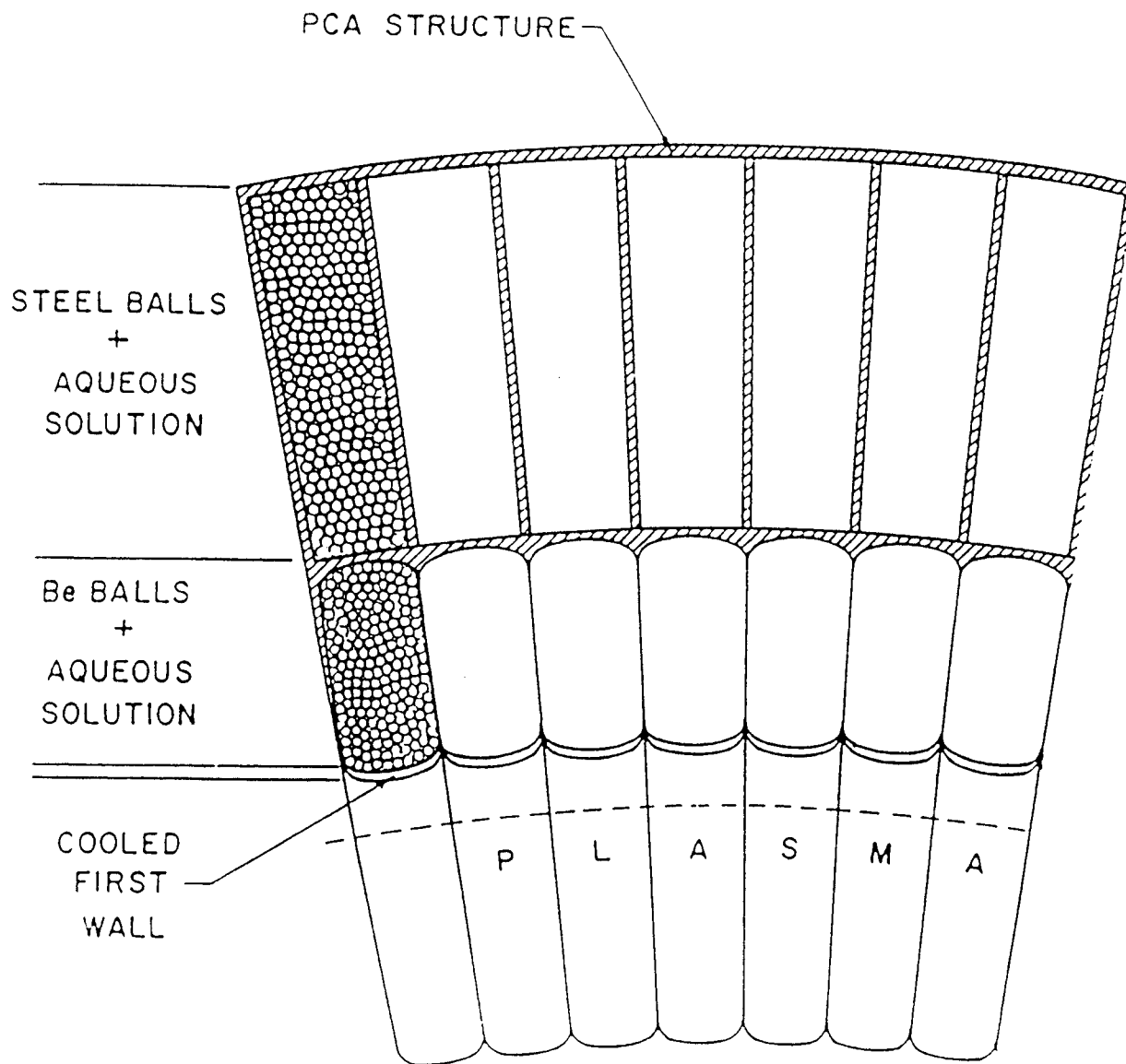
# ITER Requires Basic Tritium-Producing Blanket

## REQUIRED TBR VS. NEUTRON FLUENCE

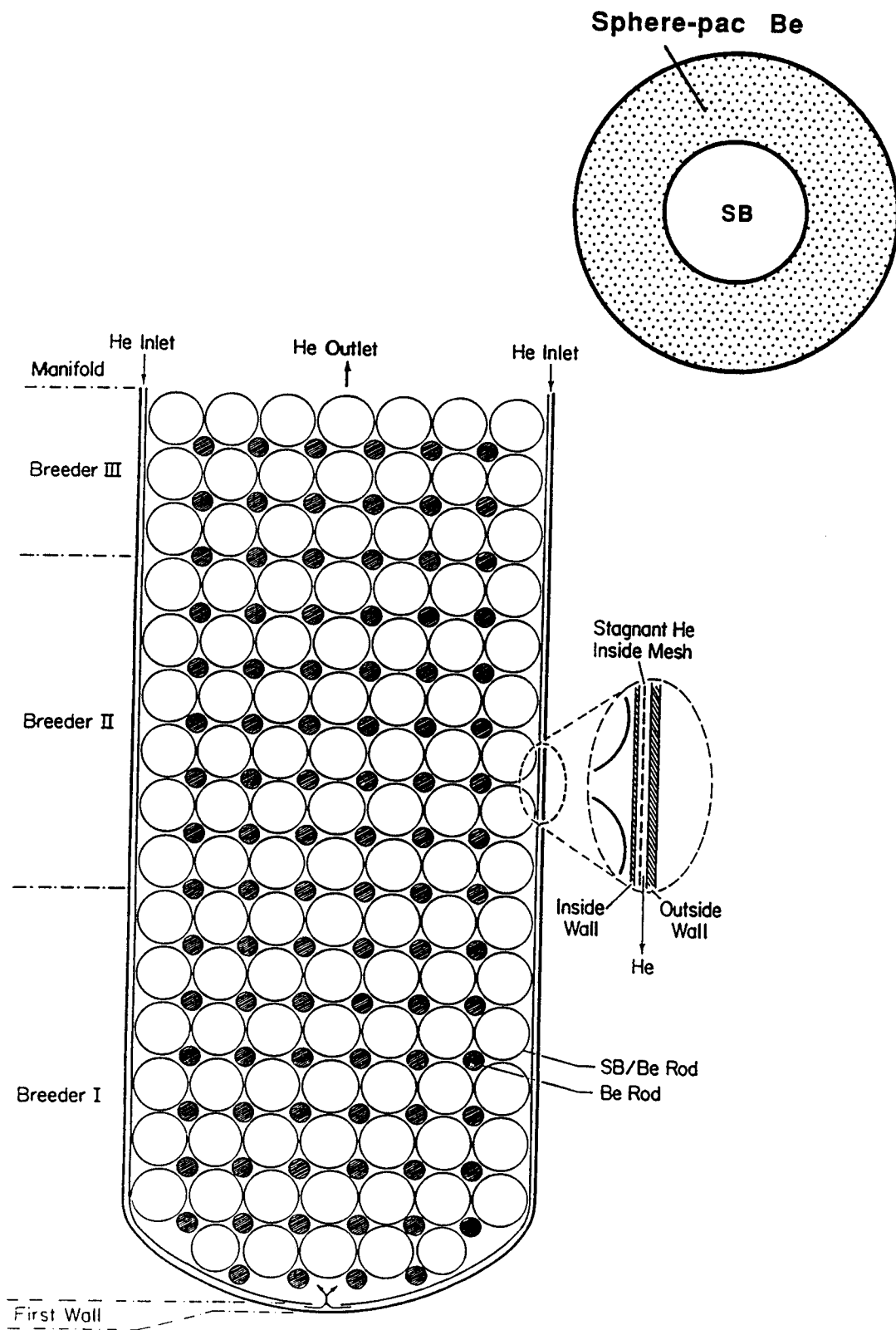


# Blanket Material Options Considered For ITER

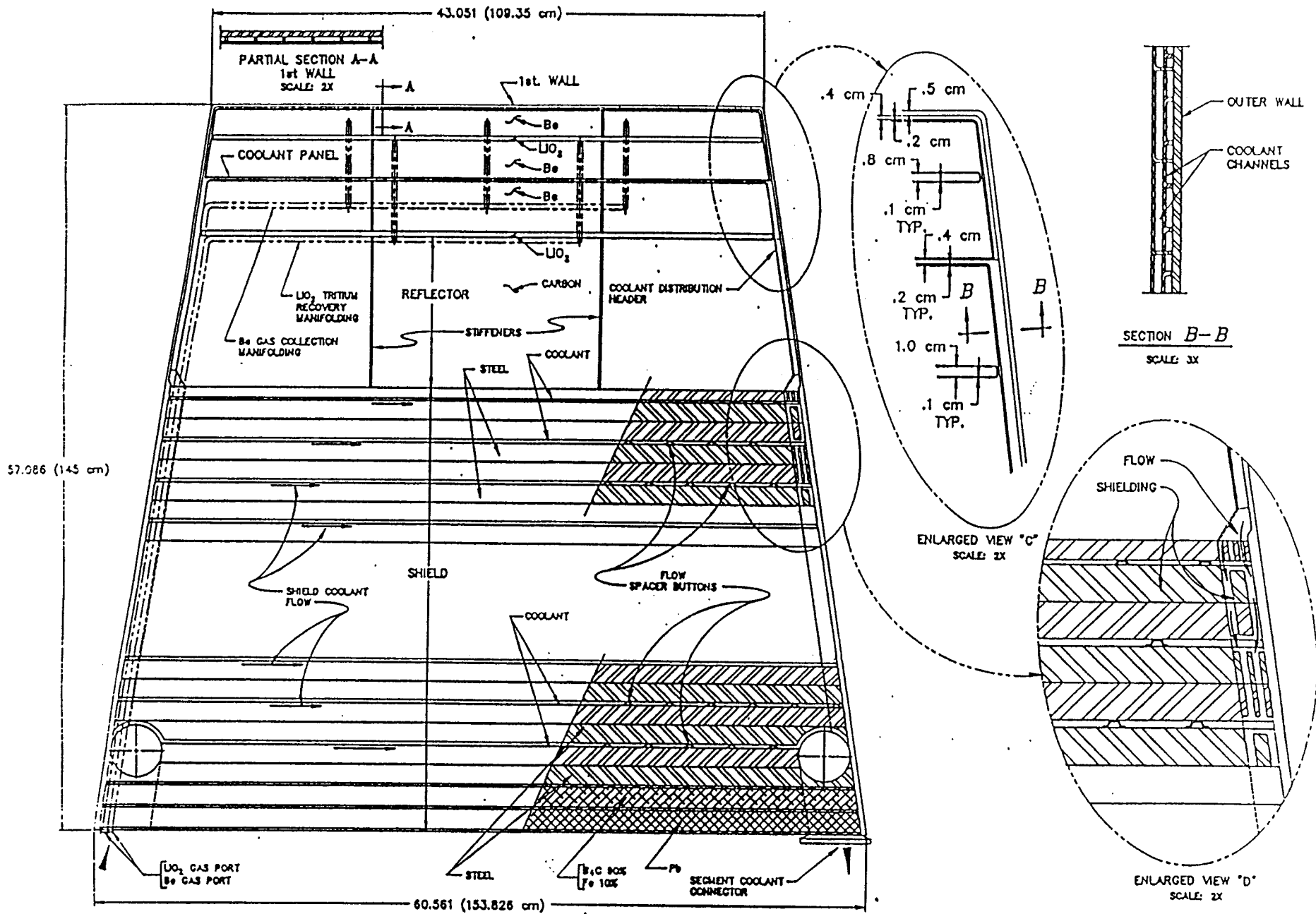


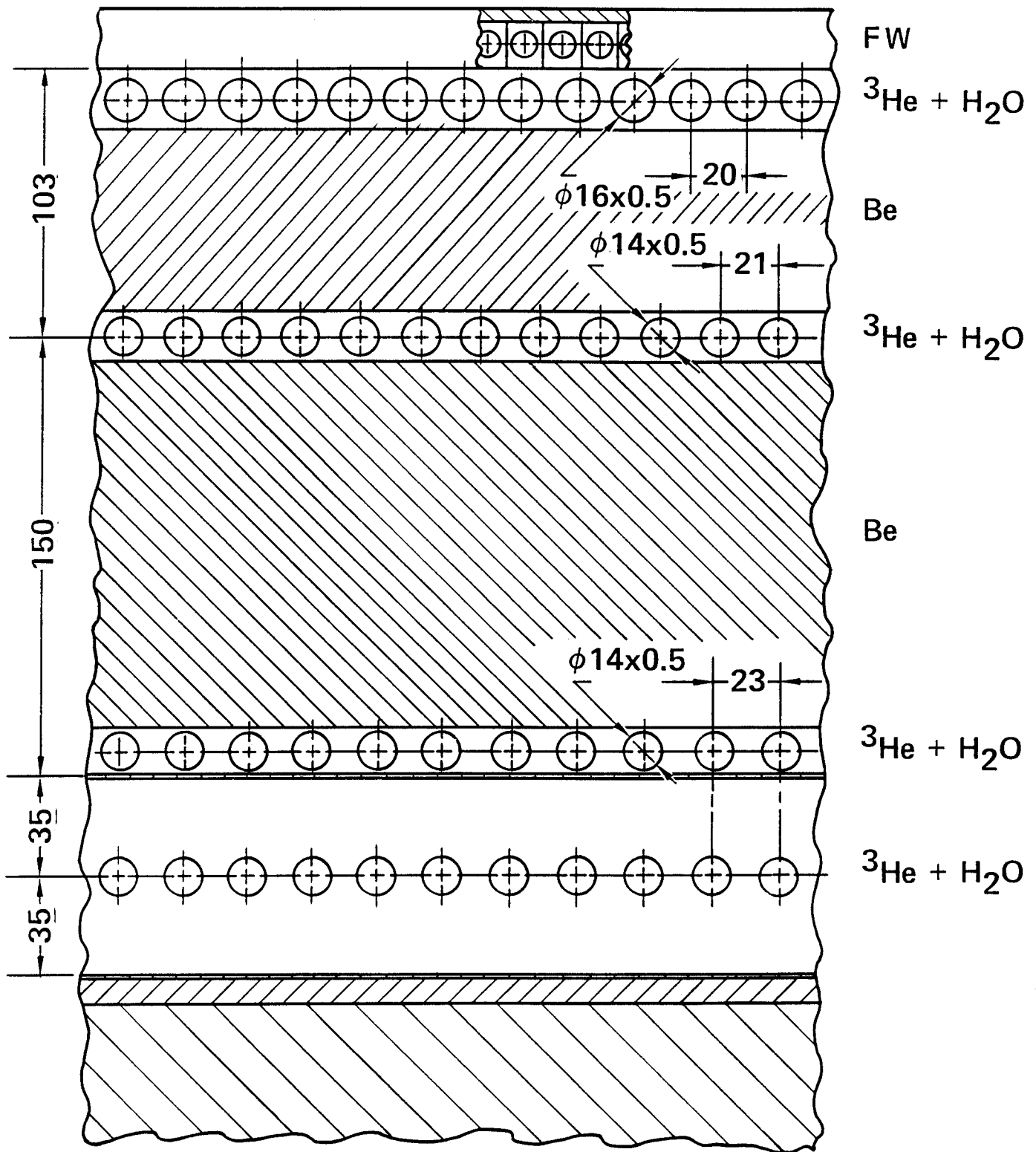


## AQUEOUS LITHIUM SALT BLANKET DESIGN FOR ITER



He-Cooled Solid Breeder Blanket Design for ITER





$^3\text{He}$  Blanket for ITER (USSR)

## Observations on Concepts Proposed for ITER Basic Blanket by All Countries

- No Lithium
- Water-cooled LiPb only Proposed by USSR
- Aqueous Blanket Proposed as an Option by EC, USA
  - Simple design, fabrication
  - Not reactor relevant
  - Has most safety/environmental concerns
- Solid Breeder Blankets Proposed by All Countries
  - Water-cooled: at low temperature
  - Helium -cooled:
    - Most reactor relevant
    - Most safety advantages
- The Most Innovative Idea is  $^3\text{He}$  Proposed by USSR, USA
  - Primary concern: Helium supply
  - $^3\text{He}$  Burnup: 8-10 kg/yr (25% availability)
  - Supply
    - 1 kg/yr in US market from US
    - 1 kg/yr in US market from USSR



**Table 1-3. Preliminary ITER Blanket & Shield Evaluation**

<i>Blanket/Shield Option</i>	Aqueous Salt	H <sub>2</sub> O/SB	He/SB	Li Particulate	<sup>3</sup> He
1. Overall Reactor Cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. R&D Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Design and Fabrication Complexity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Accidental Tritium Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Accidental Activated Product Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Routine Tritium Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Compatibility with Phased Operation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Tritium Breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Chemical & Thermal Reaction Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Decay Heat Response	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Tritium Extraction Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Waste Disposal Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Power Reactor Relevance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

= best,  = worst,  = intermediate

## SOME KEY PARTICULAR ISSUES FOR ITER BLANKET/SHIELD OPTIONS

- Self Cooled Aqueous/Salt
  - stress corrosion cracking of austenitic steel by aqueous/salt mixture
  - cost effective tritium recovery from water
  - flow control in large tank configuration
  
- Water-Cooled Solid Breeder
  - aqueous stress corrosion cracking of austenitic steel
  - predictable gap conductance between breeder and clad, including irradiation effects
  - irradiation effects on solid breeder materials
  - ability to accommodate first wall neutron power loading variations
  
- Helium-Cooled Solid Breeder
  - predictable gap conductance between clad and breeder, including irradiation effects
  - irradiation effects on solid breeder materials
  - helium containment and manifolding

## SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS

- A key part of the ITER mission is technology testing
- Fusion nuclear technology testing imposes important requirements on ITER parameters and design
  - Wall Load:  $> 1 \text{ MW/m}^2$
  - Neutron Fluence:  $\sim 3 \text{ MW. y/m}^2$
  - Steady State Operation
  - Reasonable Availability:  $\sim 25\%$
- ITER test program raises issues on international collaboration that are different from those for the basic machine
- ITER needs a basic blanket to provide its' own tritium
- Solid breeder and aqueous salt blankets are the key options being considered