Design, construction and results in UST_1, a small low-cost educational stellarator

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Outline

I) Background data

II) **UST_1** : Coils, vacuum vessel, mechaniser, vacuum and control system

III) SimPIMF code and Optimization of coils

IV) Experimental results : Field mapping system and magnetic surfaces

V) Chronological description : Evolution, alternatives, difficulties and solutions

Background data

UST_1 basic features

- UST_1 is a low cost small educational stellarator built in a personal laboratory
- Modular coils, R = 125mm , <a> = 21 mm , Ap = 6 , 2 field periods , Vp = 1.1L
- **Bo = 40mT** , presently (designed for ~0.1T)
- Pulse length : 2 s at Bo = 40mT
- Heating : ECH : 0.8kW at 2.45GHz . Being developed.
- Diagnostics : e-beam field mapping. (RGA and visible spectroscopy)*
- Vacuum system : Best 5mPa . Mechanical, diffusion pump, gauges

The cost and the quality

- Objective : Minimum cost
- Quality & precision : medium, but creativity and effort for maximum rate quality/cost

Motivation to built UST_1

 Learn, experiment with fusion technologies and support to my offer in fusion research



Section II

Section II.UST_1: Coils, vacuum vessel, mechaniser, vacuum and control system, calculated features



Coils and coil structure

Type & Periods	Modular coils ; m=2						
Winding surface	Circular pol. & tor. R = 119mm r=57mm						
Number of coils	12 (3 different shapes)						
Turns per coil	6						
Conductor	flexible, special copper 6mm ²						
Winding pack structure	1 double pancake per coil, 3 layers						
Winding pack size	7mm width x 10.5 mm depth						
Case	Compact plaster frame						
Parameters of shape	1.45 ;1.3;1.55;0.65						
Current, present (ECH 2 nd)	335 A,2 kA-turn						
Current, planned (ECH 1 st)	687 A,4.1 kA-turn						
Power supplies, present	5 batteries DC 12V, ~17Kw supplied to coils						



The 12 modular coils finished. (Before installation in the system)

UST_1 and systems

Selection of suitable conductor

Constraints :

- Relatively large section and few turns to allow low voltage battery operation
- Maximum ratio copper/total section
- Narrow winding pack to allow a single pass mechanization of the groove
- The plaster strength is low and rigid copper conductor was not adequate





Test of groove-coil

Winding process of coils





Detail of the device to mechanise modular coils

 Grooves mechanised in the compact frame , 7mm width, 12.5mm depth



Compacting and locating conductors in the groove

UST 1

and systems

UST_1 and systems

Vacuum vessel



Gutter copper elbow. 0.8mm wall thickness



✓ Vacuum
 vessel formed by
 5 elbows of 75°

Tube 80mm diam. R-torus 119mm. Low T silver soldered



Detail of hole for port and two rings to reinforce the VV

Finished VV under leak test. 3 ports of 35mm diam. and NW40, high T silver brazed. One glass window. No ferromagnetic materials.



Constraint : Low cost

Alternatives were studied to obtain notable accuracy at low cost :

- Coils style HSX or W7-X : Expensive to wind, locate, regulate and measure
- Style CTH : Very high cost of min. 6 pieces CNC mechanised, difficult to locate and measure.
- Internal, like in CNT or QPS. Issues : Vacuum tightness, wind & locate
- Frames style QPS : How to fabricate the frames?, many fasteners to fix the coils, assembling, measurement.
- Structural only one turn : Perturbations of magnetic field due to ends. How to conform the turn?
- Fasteners on toroidal surface located with **measuring device**: Low accuracy

Solution (patented) : Innovative mechanising device. A *special milling machine* working in toroidal coordinates that acts as:

- measuring device.
- mechanising device for grooves
- instrument to "locate" the coils
- auxiliary apparatus to create toroidal moulds

Device to mechanise modular coils



 It was devised, designed, patented, built, tested and grooves manufactured

It took long time and effort, but successful result

Advantages :

Mechanization and positioning of coils is the same process → reduced field errors (<0.2° toroidal, <0.1° verticality in UST_1).

- Errors are similar to CNC deviations, so very small.
- Different prove of principle can be easily built.
- At least four different functions.
- Able for non-circular surfaces.

Drawbacks :

- No suitable for big devices?
- No adequate for highly shaped and compact devices.
- Needs special cutter if wide grooves.

UST 1

and systems

Device to mechanise modular coils



Some elements :

- Poloidal guide + motor
- Milling motor and milling cutter
- Support porch
- Fixed two halves of ring
- Powder sucking tube
- Powder poloidal cover
- List of coordinates
- Some mechanised grooves
- One test coil (black)



It takes ~2 hours to mechanise a groove 7mm width, 12.5mm depth. Poloidal forward speed adjustable according to slope. Manual (by now) toroidal position

Auxiliary function : Cut toroidal moulds. Support, hot semicircular wire and mould ►

UST 1

and systems

UST_1 and systems

Vacuum system





UST_1 installation



Whole installation. Two PC's for data acquisition and control are out of the image

Calculated expected parameters

UST_1 project is focussed in engineering

• The **physics calculations** are only **estimates** and optimization (in the next pages) is poor in spite of the effort

Parameters are very modest, similar to any small and/or low B stellarator

	Expected values	Obser	vations and conditions
ne=ni	order of 10 ¹⁷ m ⁻³	Limite	d by τ _E ~P heating and cut-off freq. ECH
т _Е	3,4 µs	ISS04	, e.f. = 1, n= 1x10 ¹⁷ m ⁻³ , P=400W, 0.1T
т _Е	0,15 µs	More	real : e.f.=0.1, 0.04T
т _{Ер}	?? (480 µs)	SimPl	MF v2.5 (initial, not contrasted) , Te = $2eV$,
т _{Ее}	?? (4400 µs)	Ti=0.5	SeV, n= $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ m}^{-3}$, Only neocl. flux particles
Te max	order of 2 eV	n = 2x	10 ¹⁷ m ⁻³ , Te = Ti, P=400W, e.f.=0.1, 0.1T
Ti	< 2 eV, ~0.2-0.5eV	Due to	$p \uparrow drifts per tor. turn \rightarrow direct losses$
~β	~0 , <0.01%	n= 1x	10 ¹⁷ m ^{-3 ,} Te = Ti = 2eV , 0.1T , ~WEGA





Section III . SimPIMF code and Optimization of coils

SimPIMF & Simulated magnetic surfaces in UST_1 Optimization Vacuum magnetic surfaces. Poincaré plots. Simulation without drifts. SimPIMF code v2.3 is used **∮=90°** $\Phi = \mathbf{0}^{\mathsf{o}}$ Note : The black circumference is the internal surface of the vacuum vessel.

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∮=45°

SimPIMF & Optimization

Magnetic surface in UST_1



Rationals:

Low order
 rationals are
 avoided, except :

 2/7 =0.2857...
 in magenta is the higher order but not excessive.

 Blue : 1/4 rational, out of the LCFS

Outer stochastic region

Simulation using accurate grid 1/400m = 2.5mm side.

 Φ =0°

Optimization : Avoid large islands by tailoring lota profile below 1/3 . Most of the plasma have lota from 0.32 to 0.27

SimPIMF & Optimization

SimPIMF code

General features :

- Developed in JAVA
- 15 modules and 8250 lines of code
- Developed from scratch during **1.5 years** according to needs and knowledge
- Output are files which can be easily transferred or represented by many codes
- Object oriented code easily expansible and very suited to this style of simulation

Functions and methods:

- a) B in 3D . (Forces 3D not in JAVA)
- b) Simulation of orbits with and without drifts, Larmour, E field(slow)
- Outputs: lota profile , Magnetic Well profile, Ripple and Averaged ripple, Plasma Size, δ |B|min, % of trapped particles, Min. distance among coils,
- 3D polygon of mag. axis, and magnetic surfaces
- c) Generation of parametric 3D coils : Modular 'circular', HF ,TF and PF
- d) Collision simulations. Only first rough results, little contrasted

Validation and tests

- a) Tested by calculation of fields and forces in EAST and CTH coils
- b) Field mapping in UST_1 (agreement, but still weak test). Banana widths.
- Each output needs further comparison with other codes and experiments

Optimization of coils



SimPIMF & Optimization

Optimization . Table of results

Order	lota_1	Ripple_1	%Т	Bmin_Desvia	Average_Rip	PlasmaSiz	lota_2	Specif	Speci	MinDistanc F	r Pitch_On	Pitch2	Pitch3	Pitch4 H	I Positi	up/dwon	well	
5	0,32121037	0,21300687	0	0,00374385	0,11439581	0,05125	0,33552672	9,98	10	0,009852 0	1,4	1,25	1,6	0,65 1	0,13	1,045	0,005	
73	0,32177544	0,19787124	0	0,00318734	0,11406053	0,05	0,33412121	9,75	9,82	0,007882 0	1,5	1,35	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,038	0,007	
65	0,32024554	0,20227083	0	0,00373036	0,10963253	0,05125	0,33327691	9,59	9,7	0,008333 0	1,5	1,3	1,55	0,65 1	0,13	1,041	0,011	
66	0,31997029	0,21509815	0	0,00312266	0,11926719	0,05125	0,33323999	9,88	9,96	0,008333 0	1,5	1,3	1,6	0,55 1	0,13	1,041	0,008	
58	0,31962951	0,21167492	0	0,00411215	0,11538991	0,05125	0,33303551	9,76	9,81	0,008784 0	1,5	1,25	1,6	0,6 1	0,13	1,042	0,006	
100	0,32221723	0,20706325	0	0,00441405	0,11215376	0,055	0,33275596	9,55	9,68	0,007348 0	1,55	1,35	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,033	0,013	
21	0,31750303	0,22302173	0	0,00378824	0,12245854	0,05	0,33218611	10,2	10,3	0,00895 0	1,4	1,35	1,6	0,55 1	0,13	1,046	0,002	
38	0,31735654	0,21121886	0	0,00379767	0,11032161	0,0525	0,33182238	9,74	9,83	0,008867 0	1,45	1,3	1,55	0,65 1	0,13	1,046	0,009	THIS
46	0,31811712	0,20618378	0	0,00347575	0,11421107	0,0525	0,33172369	9,91	9,94	0,008416 0	1,45	1,35	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,043	0,004	
31	0,31552703	0,22044592	0	0,0037769	0,1160773	0,05125	0,33076228	9,89	9,98	0,009318 0	1,45	1,25	1,6	0,6 1	0,13	1,048	0,009	
39	0,31629678	0,22423351	0	0,00345106	0,12014642	0,0525	0,33013713	10	10,1	0,008867 0	1,45	1,3	1,6	0,55 1	0,13	1,044	0,006	
84	0,31663715	0,2027263	0	0,00370281	0,11769417	0,055	0,32961367	9,7	9,78	0,008056 0	1,55	1,25	1,6	0,55 1	0,13	1,041	0,009	
91	0,31780244	0,19299761	0	0,00414231	0,11246796	0,05375	0,32909387	9,54	9,63	0,00778 0	1,55	1,3	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,036	0,009	
99	0,31631804	0,20671245	0	0,00468787	0,11574988	0,055	0,32851403	9,66	9,76	0,007348 0	1,55	1,35	1,55	0,55 1	0,13	1,039	0,011	
83	0,3154783	0,19315352	0	0,00436111	0,10875171	0,0525	0,32830247	9,39	9,51	0,008056 0	1,55	1,25	1,55	0,65 1	0,13	1,041	0,013	
11	0,31369671	0,21665571	0	0,00410095	0,11192947	0,05125	0,32827982	9,9	9,98	0,009401 0	1,4	1,3	1,55	0,65 1	0,13	1,046	0,007	
4	0,31422598	0,2092244	0	0,0035935	0,11873827	0,05125	0,32806725	10	10,1	0,009852 0	1,4	1,25	1,6	0,6 1	0,13	1,044	0,006	
19	0,31346058	0,21258333	0	0,00432119	0,11584367	0,05	0,32744505	10,1	10,1	0,00895 0	1,4	1,35	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,045	0,003	
	Cut																	
90	0,30859755	0,21014439	0	0,00433755	0,11578788	0,055	0,32115361	9,61	9,69	0,00778 0	1,55	1,3	1,55	0,55 1	0,13	1,041	0,009	
63	0,31314478	0,20095219	0	0,00297516	0,1167087	0,05625	0,32018027	9,75	9,83	0,008333 0	1,5	1,3	1,55	0,55 1	0,13	1,022	0,008	
18	0,30694923	0,2152499	0	0,00340183	0,12000274	0,0525	0,32006331	10,1	10,2	0,00895 0	1,4	1,35	1,55	0,55 1	0,13	1,043	0,007	
55	0,30714644	0,20132164	0	0,00371561	0,1123814	0,05375	0,31927263	9,61	9,72	0,008784 0	1,5	1,25	1,55	0,6 1	0,13	1,039	0,012	

Table for the last loop of fine intervals of parameters for UST_1

The option marked with 'THIS' was the final selection for UST_1

- Optimization of lota, lota profile, Plasma Size, |B|min, Magnetic Well, Averaged Ripple, min. distance between coils
- Only 4 parameters and 7 variables to optimise, so not easy final decision
- More extended simulations necessary to obtain a better design

Iota and Magnetic Well in UST_1

SimPIMF &

Optimization



Improvements from Optimization



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Optimization

Improvements from Optimization



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Other improvements



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SimPIMF & Optimization

Simulation of Magnetic Islands



 $\Phi = 0^{\circ}$ Some unconnected islands do not appear in the automatic run

Perturbed B : Higher δB seems to appear at coarse 'Grid'. The figure obtained using grid 1/200 m = 5mm side. New islands appear.

Rationals:

(from right to left) Blue : 1/4 = 2/8 No visible : 3/11, 4/15 Magenta : 2/7 Green : 3/10 = 6/20 Magenta : 4/13 No vis. green : 5/16

lota accuracy:

Blue : 1/4 calculated 0.2500315 Magenta : 2/7 = 0.28571 , calc. 0.2856076 Green : 3/10 calc. 0.2999538

Each lota lasted 49 s

The method for FAST simulation

Original ? :

- Maybe the method is original, BUT
 there are many codes to simulate orbits.
- In any case it is a fast and useful method.
- If new, refer to this Seminar when using it

Advantages :

- It simulates 10-20 times faster than
 dx/Bx = dy/By = dz/Bz
- Only one PC is enough instead of 20 PC's for the same simulation.
- Simple.
- Probably it can be improved further.

Hint of the prove :

- A curve can be approximated to a circumference around a point.
- **C** is a Chord ; $\gamma \rightarrow \beta/2 \rightarrow \alpha$ so $\mathbf{C} \rightarrow \| \mathbf{S}$; $\mathbf{S}/2 \rightarrow AB \rightarrow |\mathbf{C}|$ So $\mathbf{S}/2 \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$



Section IV

Section IV. Experimental

results. Field mapping system and experimental magnetic surfaces

Experimental results

Field mapping experimental setup



e-beam rear collision and solution



Experimental

results

Background of the experiments

Background

- The next images were taken at the pulse
 #198 and #202 after a long process of improvements.
- The PC-firewire camera is the lowest cost (~quality) in the market, 90€ and the sensitivity is low. Visual inspection has far more sensitivity than the camera.
- 40 eV e-beam gave insufficient luminance for both e-guns and only > 80 eV were visible with the small e-gun.
- Drifts at ~90eV are enormous for UST_1 (Bo = 34 mT for these pulses) so the magnetic surfaces are notably displaced outward and lota tend to 1/3.

Background

- UST_1 is very small so the e-beam diam.~1.5mm is excessive here. Accurate measurements are more difficult than in larger stellarators.
- Mean free path at the poor vacuum, 5mPa only allow less than 10 turns of the beam.
- Pulse length : 2.5 sec.
- The small e-gun **melt** at the pulse #204 and field mapping ended temporarily.
- Perspective effect is only partially corrected.

Experimental results

Comparison simulation-experiences



Both pulses overlapped. Weak points → appears even weaker

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Experimental results

Comparison simulation-experiences





Yellow : Non-drift orbit Red : Drift orbit = experimental #202

Superposition of all. Two concentric closed magnetic surface appear. Simulated points agree notably well with real points. Superposition reduce the quality of the image and weak points are lost



Other previous pulses, #128 127 126

Conclusions from experiments

Experiments are still few and poor but some provisional conclusions are:

 UST_1 has a notable degree of accuracy. ← Magnetic surfaces are obtained and they agree with the theoretical simulations.

• The stellarator-mechaniser was a satisfactory idea ← The toroidal device to mechanise grooves for modular coils worked and produced accurate coils at low cost.

• SimPIMF code has some degree of accuracy and correction ← otherwise the agreement between the experimental results and simulations is totally improbable.

• The optimization was useful and correct in some degree ← SimPIMF is not totally incorrect.

- The chosen style of stellarator was a feasible one.
- UST_1 is a stellarator.

Section V

Section V. Chronological description : Evolution, alternatives, difficulties and solutions

The begining of fusion calculations



Comparison of Bequatorial in EAST from MEMCEI and EFFI code February 2005 : Using MEMCEI v2.1 , 9440 elements of current, 16 TF coils,13 loops per TF, 50 ele. per loop Machine : EAST tokamak (HT-7U) . Language : VisualBasic + MC F centering = 984.3 ton using MEMCEI v2.1 and 989.3 ton with EFFI code (HT-7U team)

May 2005 . CTH torsatron : Calculation of mutual forces between coils using MEMCEI, for Greg Hartwell , Auburn University



Historical

description

Historical description

Evolution in simulation



0.55 Phi = 0* 0.5 m

October 2006 ↑ : Simulation of 300 quasiparticles with drifts, trapped particles and collisions (only 10 in this graph) for 150µs in 30 PC-minutes. Improved fast guiding centre method. (*Top*) Helically trapped particle in Boozer-like co. Machine : UST_1 . Language : JAVA

Development of vacuum vessel



Historical

description

July 2005 Von Misses stress around the port. Calculation using ASTER-GMSH. Machine : A rough UST_1



October 2005

A porcelain piece to test the ideas. Cracks appeared + possible excessive outgassing \rightarrow Idea abandoned



July 2005 Idea about a nonprotuberant port February 2006 The cooper vacuum vessel is tested (leaks, outgassing..)



Historical description

Decision of machine style



Decision process for coils

How to produce accurate modular coils at low cost?



Present tasks and questions

Present and future tasks

- Developing the Heating system for UST_1 : Some antenna and transmission issues + cost of couplers and waveguides
- Improve Collisions module in SimPIMF to better simulate particles in UST_1 ~ transport.
- Start-up the RGA system (AMETEK QUADLINK DYCOR mass spectrometer). Issues: very low cost used instrument without warranty nor manual.

 Is possible to produce accurate real-**3D modular coils,** HSR-3, QPS ... style, at low cost?

End of the UST_1 project, by now.



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