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Hawke, J.N.; Scannell, R.; Maslov, M.; Migozzi, J.B.

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Correction of the spectral calibration of the Joint European Torus core light detecting and ranging Thomson scattering diagnostic using ray tracing

J. Hawke, R. Scannell, M. Maslov, J. B. Migozzi, and JET-EFDA Contributors

JET-EFDA, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon OX14 3DB, United Kingdom
FOM Institute DIFFER – Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research, Association EURATOM-FOM, 3430 BE Nieuwegein, Netherlands
EURATOM-CCFE Fusion Association, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3DB, United Kingdom
JBM Optique, 4 Rue du Calvaire Bâtiment 11, 92210 Saint Cloud, France

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This work isolated the cause of the observed discrepancy between the electron temperature ($T_e$) measurements before and after the JET Core LIDAR Thomson Scattering (TS) diagnostic was upgraded. In the upgrade process, stray light filters positioned just before the detectors were removed from the system. Modelling showed that the shift imposed on the stray light filters transmission functions due to the variations in the incidence angles of the collected photons impacted plasma measurements. To correct for this identified source of error, correction factors were developed using ray tracing models for the calibration and operational states of the diagnostic. The application of these correction factors resulted in an increase in the observed $T_e$, resulting in the partial if not complete removal of the observed discrepancy in the measured $T_e$ between the JET core LIDAR TS diagnostic, High Resolution Thomson Scattering, and the Electron Cyclotron Emission diagnostics.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Shortly into the ITER-like Wall (ILW) campaign on JET, the Core LIDAR Thomson Scattering (TS) diagnostic was upgraded with new detectors. The previously observed discrepancy in the measured electron temperature between the LIDAR and Electron Cyclotron Emission (ECE) diagnostics was reduced and in many cases eliminated. This prompted an investigation into the JET core LIDAR diagnostic’s optical design and calibration through ray tracing. In this model, the cause of the observed systematic error in the measured electron temperature profiles was determined to be a result of the angular effects on the transmission functions of optical interference filters within the spectrometer. In ray tracing, an analysis of a large number of rays provides a high quality representation of the system during both plasma measurements and the calibration. The developed ray-tracing model looks into the behaviour of the collected light rays on the filter surfaces, namely, the distribution of incident angles as a function of position in the plasma. Applying this model along with laboratory measurements of the stray light filters transmission as a function of wavelength and incident angle generated a change in the spectral calibration of the diagnostic.

II. JET CORE LIDAR LAYOUT

The JET core LIDAR spectrometer is a 6-channel system arranged in a 3D layout, where the channels of the spectrometer are defined by a set of low pass filters arranged in a stack configuration. In this filter stack, the collected light is reflected off of the filters as shown in Figure 1, defining the channels of the spectrometer, shown in Figure 2. In all but channel 6, stray light filters were placed just in front of the detector. In order to avoid confusion, the transmission functions of the two types of filters examined in this work, the stray light filters and filter stack filters will be referred to as stray light filters and transmission functions, respectively.

Inside the system there are three different stray light filter configurations and two different stray light filter types. In particular, channel 3 contains two stray light filters, one of which is tilted by approximately 25° with respect to the optical axis. Due to the combined effect of the stray light filter type, configuration, and channels proximity to the ruby laser wavelength (694.3 nm), channels 2 and 3 were the only channels that the presence of these stray light filters was expected to influence Thomson scattering measurements.

The required transmission characteristics of the stray light filters were obtained using a Lambda9000 UV/VIS spectrophotometer, where the transmission of the stray light filter was measured at 0°, 10°, 20°, and 30° light incidence. The measurements at normal incidence were used as the baseline stray light filter function to be modified according to the modelled angular distribution of incident light. The data from the tilted incidence measurements were used to determine the value of the filters effective refractive index ($n_{\text{eff}}$). The effective refractive index is required in determining the effective wavelength shift due to the angle of incidence of the incoming light ($\theta$) given the refractive index of the surrounding medium ($n_0$), given by Eq. (1):

$$\lambda \rightarrow \lambda \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{n_0}{n_{\text{eff}}} \right)^2 \sin^2 \theta.} \quad (1)$$
III. $n_{\text{eff}}$ CALCULATION

Due to the lack of documentation on these ruby stray light filters it was necessary to calculate the effective refractive index. To accomplish this, the measured filter transmissions were compared to the shifted baseline stray light filter function at the same angles of incidence $10^\circ$, $20^\circ$, and $30^\circ$ with a varying $n_{\text{eff}}$. These shifted baseline functions were obtained by applying Eq. (1) to the measured normal incidence stray light filter function for a range of possible $n_{\text{eff}}$ values. This fitting process found the optimal value for $n_{\text{eff}}$ to be equal to 1.65. In Figure 3, the dashed curves all used this value of 1.65 for $n_{\text{eff}}$ in the calculation of the shifted distribution for the three angles using Eq. (1).

IV. RAY TRACING MODEL

The few key elements that were necessary in order to perform the necessary ray tracing consist of: the plasma source
**A. Source definition**

To model the light collected from different positions within the plasma, a longitudinal source was defined with bounds extending from $r/a = -0.8$ corresponding to the High Field Side (HFS) to $r/a = 0.8$ corresponding to the Low Field Side (LFS). In the expression $r/a$, $r$ is the position relative to the major radius and $a$ is the minor radius of the tokamak. The different plasma positions are defined as points along this extended line source, resulting in the model presented in Figure 4.

For the JET core LIDAR system there are six vessel windows where collected TS light is brought outside the vessel and onto the six corresponding mirrors of the vertical mirror assembly. During white light calibration these vessel windows are covered with a screen that is illuminated by a white light source. This in turn illuminates all mirrors of the vertical mirror assembly and the collected light travels through the diagnostics optics to the detectors surface. The calibration setup was modelled as a source plane the same size as one of the vessel windows and on this surface 13 uniformly distributed point sources were defined. This collection of point sources produced a light distribution similar to the actual system, entirely illuminating the corresponding mirror in the vertical mirror assembly.

**B. Ray tracing process and results**

The purpose of this model was to capture the expected angular distribution of rays on the stray light filter surfaces for both operation and calibration instances. In the ray tracing process, each ray is individually launched from its defined source point to a point within the detectors surface. The process is repeated to generate a full spread of rays from the various source points. The incident angle onto the stray light filter surface for each of the traced rays was calculated, resulting in the angular distributions shown in Figure 5.

The angular distributions were calculated for five radial positions in the plasma, along with the distribution captured during the white light calibration of the system. Due to the layout of the system with six collection mirrors with none being on axis there are no points at zero incidence angle for any of the angular distributions in either measurements or calibration. Furthermore, it is clear from Figure 5 that the diagnostics white light calibration was not a good representation of the angular distributions observed during plasma measurements. This difference in the angular distributions during white light calibration and plasma measurements is most pronounced in the core of the plasma. This resulted in the systematic error being the largest in the region where the diagnostic is designed to deliver the highest quality measurements. With such severe incidence angles the calibration was not applicable and...
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VII. CORRECTION OF JET CORE LIDAR TS DATA

Using the calibration correction factors for each of the five primary plasma positions computed through ray tracing, a linear fit was applied to generate a correction function covering the full spatial range measured by the diagnostic. This correction function was applied to the white light calibration of the diagnostic, adjusting the calibration to account for the ray angle effect on the spectral calibration. On JET there are multiple diagnostics that can measure the $T_e$ of the core plasma; the core LIDAR TS, ECE, and High Resolution Thomson Scattering (HRTS) diagnostics.\textsuperscript{9,10} When the developed correction was applied to existing core LIDAR TS data, a substantial increase in the measured electron temperature of the plasma core was observed, bringing it closer into agreement with measurements by the other diagnostics.

The corrected carbon wall JET discharge database was broken up into two groupings, one spanning from shot number 49 800 to 78 166 and the other from 78 167 to 79 853. In the first set, the stray light rejection issue being corrected for interfered with another issue, the partial depolarization of the laser light. The reason for this depolarization was due to an error in the diagnostic setup, which caused the input laser beam to be elliptically polarized. Therefore, the scattered Thomson light collected by the diagnostic was also depolarized. If there were no polarizers present in the LIDAR spectrometer, no difference would be observed using a polarized or partially depolarized input laser beam. However, with a polarizer present in channel 1 of the spectrometer only a fraction of the useful signal (about 75%--80%) was seen in this channel. During the calibration of the system this was not taken into account, therefore channel 1 was measuring less signal than expected, causing a slight bias in $T_e$ measurements. In the second set of discharges, channel 1 was excluded from the fit due to its bad signal to noise ratio, also removing the additional error caused by partial depolarization. Additionally, in the ILW campaign shots 80 000 to 81 500 were exclusively Ohmic discharges with the stray light filters still installed in the system.

In the discharges of the second carbon wall grouping and ILW Ohmic discharges, the application of the correction successfully brought the JET core LIDAR $T_e$ measurements into agreement with that of the other diagnostics. This is seen in Figure 10, where the effect of the applied correction is shown through a histogram of $T_e,\text{reprocessed}/T_e,\text{original}$ for the carbon wall discharges spanning from 78 167 to 79 853. This histogram shows that the correction increases the measured $T_e$ by 7%--11% on average. A consequence of this is the realization that the observed discrepancy between the JET LIDAR TS and ECE diagnostics was a combined effect and not solely...
due to the diagnostics weighing of the non-Maxwellian bulk electrons on JET differently, as previously thought.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Ray tracing has shown that the previously unaccounted for effect of the angular distribution of collected light rays on the detector stray light filters was the primary cause for the observed discrepancy in $T_e$ measurements. With the systems optics optimized for collection of light at the centre of the plasma, while severe incident angles with values of over 20° were observed in the white light calibration of the diagnostic. These incident angles caused a shift and subsequent decrease in the channels integrated signal when the shift of the stray light filter function was extreme enough to alter the channels transmission function. The relative signal observed by the calibrated system versus the actual signal from the various plasma positions is the cause of the observed systematic error. Isolating the cause of this discrepancy allowed for the calculation of correction factors for the diagnostics white light calibration. The application of these correction factors saw an increase in the observed $T_e$, moving the measurements by the JET core LIDAR diagnostic closer into agreement with the HRTS and ECE diagnostics for all applicable JET discharges and in some cases completely removing the discrepancy.

It is expected that a LIDAR system will be used as the ITER Core TS diagnostic. In the ITER system or any other future LIDAR diagnostic, errors like the ones described in this work found in the diagnostics design or its operation must be avoided. In principle, any possible source of error should be properly studied and corrected for.

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