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## Deuterium retention in MeV self-implanted tungsten: influence of damaging dose rate

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### Abstract.

13 Recrystallized, polycrystalline tungsten was self-damaged by 20 MeV W ions up to a calculated 14 damage dose in the damage peak of 0.22 dpa. The time to acquire this dose and hence the average damaging dose rate was varied within three orders of magnitude from  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  to 15  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  dpa/sec, the latter coming close to the damage dose rate expected from fusion neutrons in 16 17 future devices such as ITER and DEMO. One series was conducted at 295 K and one at 800 K to 18 check for possible effects of defect evolution at elevated temperature. The created damage was 19 decorated afterwards with a deuterium plasma at low ion energy of < 15 eV and low flux of  $5.6 \times 10^{19}$  D/m<sup>2</sup> until saturation to derive a measure for the defect density that can retain hydrogen 20 isotopes. <sup>3</sup>He nuclear reaction analysis (NRA) was applied to derive the deuterium depth profile 21 22 and the maximum concentration in the damage peak. Neither for the 295 K nor for the 800 K 23 series a variation in deuterium retention with damage dose rate was found. This observation 24 supports the applicability of high rate self-ion implantation being a valid method to prepare 25 displacement damaged tungsten as proxy material for retention studies with neutron damaged 26 tungsten.

27 Keywords: tungsten, deuterium retention, displacement damage, plasma, NRA, Plasma-

28 material interactions, ion radiation effects

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1. Introduction

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31 Taking codeposition with low-Z elements aside hydrogen isotopes retention in present-32 day fusion devices with tungsten walls is limited by intrinsic and near-surface, plasma-33 induced defects. In contrast, in a future thermonuclear fusion device additional trapping 34 sites will be created throughout the tungsten bulk by fast fusion neutrons which will 35 potentially increase retention by orders of magnitude. Recent experiments with fission 36 neutron irradiated tungsten show after deuterium plasma exposure deuterium 37 concentrations of up to 0.8 at.-% at 200°C [1]. However, these studies are hampered by 38 the fact that neutron exposure conditions are not well defined in terms of temperature and 39 dose rate, handling and analysis of these activated samples are typically very limited, 40 turn-around times are long, experiments are expensive, and because of that samples are 41 typically few. Systematic parameter studies are therefore not available. To overcome 42 these limitations, ions with energies of tens of keV to MeV are often used as surrogates to 43 created displacement damage. They are successfully applied in fission material 44 development for lifetime tests such as swelling since decades [2]. For fuel retention 45 studies in tungsten high energy ion implantation is used since many years and it is still a 46 field of active research [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. Contrary to neutron irradiation, ion beam irradiation 47 is fast and does not activate the samples. However, it is still unclear in how far the 48 observations gained with this ion beam damaged surrogate material can be transferred to 49 neutron damage material. Different ions and different energies are used and it is not clear 50 which is the best to resemble the defect structure created by the collision cascades with 51 fast fusion neutrons. One parameter that was not addressed yet is the vast difference in 52 the damage creation rate between ion beam damaging and damage created by fusion 53 neutrons. There is some doubt that the biggest advantage of high energy ion implantation 54 namely its accelerated speed might create artefacts that would not be present if damage 55 creation would be conducted at the rate expected in the future fusion application. While 56 for the latter damage dose rates in the dpa range are acquired over a year they can be 57 collected within hours with an ion beam or even faster and hence damaging dose rates for 58 ion beam damaging are typically two to three orders of magnitude larger than expected 59 for future fusion devices. A prominent example for a rate dependent effect in ion beam 60 irradiation of materials is the peak swelling temperature in steels that was found to be 61 higher for higher dose rates in simple metals such as copper, nickel or stainless steel [2]. 62 Hence the question arose whether this difference in damage creation rate has an effect on 63 the remaining defect structure and hence in its hydrogen isotopes retention also for 64 tungsten.

In this contribution the experimental setup for self-damaging is explained in detail and results on the influence of the damaging dose rate on deuterium retention for tungsten self-implantation will be presented.

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- 69 **2. Experiment**
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Hot-rolled tungsten with a purity of 99.97 wt.-%. manufactured by Plansee AG (Austria) [8] was used in this study. In order to assure comparability and to minimize the influence of micro-structural effects all W samples were from the same manufacturing batch as in preceding studies [9, 10, 11, [12], 13, 14, [6], [7], [15]. For this study the

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sample size was  $10 \times 10 \times 0.8 \text{ mm}^3$ . To allow for reliable determination of depth profiles with ion beam methods the surfaces were chemo-mechanically polished to a mirror-like finish following the procedure outlined in reference [10].

78 The aim of this study was to focus on the defects created by the self-damaging. 79 Therefore intrinsic defects as well as possible gaseous inclusions were minimized by re-80 crystallizing the specimen in vacuum. First, samples were carefully outgassed and finally 81 heated to 2000 K for 2 min by electron bombardment while maintaining the pressure in the low 10<sup>-6</sup> Pa range. The temperature was measured with a disappearing filament 82 83 pyrometer during this procedure. As a consequence of the re-crystallization the 84 dislocation density is reduced by two orders of magnitude compared to the as delivered state with a value of  $2 \times 10^{12}$  m/m<sup>3</sup> [11]. The material exhibits grains with a size 85 86 distribution ranging from 10 µm to 50 µm as observed by scanning electron microscopy 87 and by confocal scanning laser microscopy. An image of a representative surface area of 88 100 µm by 133 µm is shown in figure 1. Because recrystallization is performed after 89 polishing distortions from the polishing procedure are annealed out by that procedure, 90 too.



Figure 1: Confocal laser scanning microscopy image of a sample surface after polishing and annealing at 2000 K for 2 min in UHV.



Figure 2: Sample holders for MeV tungsten implantation used in this study. a) water cooled holder with  $10x10 \text{ mm}^2$  samples and  $12x15\text{mm}^2$  reference samples clamped down with molybdenum masks. b) holder for implantation at elevated temperature showing the Boralectric<sup>®</sup> heating element, the two thermocouples, the Mo radiation shields, a sample installed with the molybdenum mask and the faraday cup for beam characterization.

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Damaging was done by tungsten self-implantation with 20 MeV W<sup>6+</sup> ions in the TOF beamline of the 3 MV tandetron accelerator. Tungsten ions were created with a caesium sputter source from a tungsten carbide target. For the first experimental series samples were directly clamped down with a molybdenum mask on a water cooled copper substrate holder as shown in figure 2a. The mask opening area was 9 mm x 9 mm in this

97 case. For the second series at elevated temperature samples were mounted directly on a resistive heater (Boralectric<sup>©</sup> HTR1001) and also clamped down with a molybdenum 98 99 mask as shown in figure 2b. A rectangular mask with a circular opening area of 9 mm 100 was used in this case. In the present design two thermocouples are used to allow for 101 reliable temperature control of the sample. One type K thermocouple was inserted into a 102 small hole at the side of the heater itself, a second type K thermocouple was clamped 103 between the sample and the mask as shown in figure 2b. To minimize outgassing and to 104 achieve a quick response time to temperature changes the heater is mounted on a water 105 cooled support structure and surrounded by molybdenum shields as can be seen in 106 figure 2b, too. The W beam can be focused down at the target position with an 107 electrostatic quadrupole triplet lens to increase the flux density onto the target or scanned 108 over an area of up to 40 mm by 40 mm to reduce the average flux and homogenize the 109 implantation area. For the latter x- and y-deflection plates are used whose voltage supply 110 is ramped with two triangle wave-shaped crystal locked scan frequencies of close to 111 1 kHz to reach a homogenous flux throughout the implantation area. A water cooled 112 copper aperture is placed in front of the sample holder arrangement that has four faraday 113 cups in the corners and a central hole. When the beam is spread out to cross the four 114 corner cups, the absolute tungsten flux can be calculated from the measured current and 115 the cup surface areas. A central hole in the copper aperture cuts out a beam that finally 116 hits the sample. This aperture was aligned with the sample mask with an optical telescope 117 on axis. For this study arrangements with a central hole of 12 mm and 9 mm in diameter 118 were used. Figure 3 shows experimental results to characterize the beam. To measure its 119 width the beam was focused and steered into one of the four corner cups with a diameter 120 of 2 mm while manually moving the cup (red circles and left scale). In addition, 121 deuterium retention measured with NRA of a sample implanted with 20 MeV W<sup>6+</sup> with 122 the focused beam to a fluence of  $7.8 \times 10^{17}$  W/m<sup>2</sup> and subsequently exposed to D plasma 123 was measured. Figure 3 shows integrated proton counts from the D(<sup>3</sup>He,p) $\alpha$  reaction 124 measured with a <sup>3</sup>He energy of 2.4 MeV while scanning laterally over the sample (blue 125 stars and the right scale). The analyzing spot width was 1 mm in that case. Both 126 experiments show the same beam width at half maximum of 2 mm.

Also shown in Figure 3 are the integrated proton counts of a sample implanted with the beam spread out to homogenize the implantation (open blue square). The sample was also exposed to D plasma to decorate the defects until saturation and measured with a <sup>3</sup>He energy of 2.4 MeV while scanning laterally over the sample. The observed variation in D retention of 2 % is within the accuracy of the NRA analysis. We hence conclude a homogeneity of the W implantation of better than 2 %.



Figure 3: Beam profile measurement of the focused W beam. Red circles and left scale show the current measured in one of the four corner cups while manually moving the cup. In blue and the right scale integrated proton counts from the  $D({}^{3}\text{He},p)\alpha$  reaction are shown from a scan laterally over the sample implanted with the focused beam (blue

stars) and the scanned W beam (open squares). <sup>3</sup>He energy 2.4 MeV. In addition a Gaussian curve is plotted to guide the eye.

The current measurement from which the W flux and hence the total fluence is deduced was cross checked with implanting  $W^{2+}$  with an energy of 1 MeV and a fluence of  $1.6 \times 10^{20}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> into mirror polished pyrolytic graphite and subsequent Rutherford Backscattering Spectroscopy of the implanted amount with 1 MeV protons. Comparison of the measured spectra with SIMNRA simulation yields an accuracy better than 10% for the absolute amount of tungsten and hence for the current measurement.

139 The measure for the damage dose is derived in this work by evaluating the 140 computed displacements from SRIM2008.04 calculations [16]. Care must be taken when 141 comparing this quantitatively to values stated in the literature. Besides obvious 142 differences when using different displacement energies (e.g. 68 eV in [5], or 90 eV in 143 [17] subtle changes can exist using a different release of the code as well as different 144 calculation volume or number of ions. Much more serious, with the very same parameters 145 but different calculation options ("Quick Kinchin Pease" or "Full Cascade") or evaluating 146 different output files (vacancy.txt or e2recoils.txt) there might be a difference up to a 147 factor of two depending on the procedure applied as stressed by Stoller et al. and 148 Nordlund et al. [18, 19]. These two studies recommend to use the "Ouick Kinchin Pease" 149 option and it is hence used in this study. Unfortunately, all work to be found for self-150 damage tungsten in literature till now applied the "Full cascade" option but none of them 151 state the necessary input parameters and procedures applied to allow for recalculation as 152 to convert their damage dose levels into the recommended one. In this study "dpa" values 153 are calculated using SRIM 2008.04 adding the "recoil" and "ion" displacements from the "vacancy.txt" output file and converting the sum with the ion flux and the tungsten 154

155 density to get a depth profile of the number of displaced target atoms and the damage 156 dose in "displacements per atom", short "dpa. Replacement collisions are neglected. A 157 displacement energy of 90 eV as recommended by American Society for Testing and 158 Materials [20] is used and a lattice binding energy of 0 eV. Although the "Quick Kinchin 159 Pease" calculation option is applied here it is compared to the "Full Cascade" calculation 160 and evaluated in the same way to be able to set it into the context of existing values in 161 literature. For this case of 20 MeV tungsten self-implantation the "vacancy.txt" output yields for the "Quick Kinchin Pease" calculation 1.84 displacements per ion and 162 Ångström while it is 4.1 displacements per ion and Ångström for the "Full cascade" 163 164 option and hence a factor of 2.2 less. It is important to not here that this factor is not 165 unique but varies with energy.

166 Loading of the samples with deuterium was performed in the well characterized 167 low-temperature plasma experiment PlaQ [21]. To minimize the possible production of 168 additional trapping sites during deuterium loading and to decorate only the existing 169 defects without creating additional ones D exposure was performed with floating target 170 holder. At a D<sub>2</sub> background pressure of 1.0 Pa this results in an ion energy below 15 eV. Because the ion flux consists mainly of  $D_3^+$  ions (94 %) with minor contributions of  $D_2^+$ 171 172 (3 %) and  $D^+$  (3 %) I refer to this setting as <5 eV/D. For this condition the resulting D flux in the form of ions is  $5.6 \times 10^{19}$  D/m<sup>2</sup>s. The flux of neutral atomic deuterium of low 173 174 energy (< eV) exceeds the flux of ions by at least one order of magnitude [21]. However, 175 contributions of neutral atomic deuterium are neglected here and flux refers here refer 176 here to the ion flux only. First, the implantation depth is substantially larger for the ions 177 and second the reflection coefficient is substantially smaller at higher energy so that the 178 ions should dominate retention. Recent experiments with varying bias that only influence 179 the energy of the ions supported this assumption. All samples of one series were always 180 loaded at the same time. Each sample was tightly screwed at the four corners with 181 molybdenum screws to a tungsten coated copper target holder. To avoid any defect 182 annealing or defect evolution a sample temperature of 295 K was set during D loading. 183 The time was chosen large enough to allow for D diffusion into the depth which is for the 184 given defect density and depth distribution achieved for 72 hours of exposure or a D fluence of  $1.5 \times 10^{25}$  D/m<sup>2</sup>. The temperature of the target holder was maintained by a 185 186 liquid cooling circuit connected to a thermostat operated with ethanol at 293 K. Sample 187 temperature was measured with a type K thermocouple spring loaded through a hole in 188 the sample holder touching the back side of one sample. In addition an IR camera was 189 used to monitor the temperature evolution as well as the lateral homogeneity of all 190 samples during the experiments.

191 Deuterium depth profiles were analysed ex-situ with the  $D(^{3}He,p)\alpha$  nuclear reaction with eight different <sup>3</sup>He energies varying from 500 keV to 4.5 MeV to probe a 192 193 sample depth of up to 7.4  $\mu$ m. The D concentration within the near-surface layer at depths of up to about 0.3  $\mu$ m was determined with <sup>3</sup>He energies of 500 keV, 690 keV and 194 195 800 keV by analyzing the emitted  $\alpha$  particles with a surface barrier detector at the 196 laboratory scattering angle of 102°. A rectangular slit in front of the detector reduces the 197 solid angle to 8 msr but increases resolution. For determining the D concentration at 198 larger depths, the high energy protons were analysed using a thick, large angle solid state 199 detector at a scattering angle of 135°. A curved slit is installed in front of the detector to 200 increase resolution which reduces the solid angle to 75 msr. A nominal charge of 10  $\mu$ C

was usually accumulated for each energy. Under 165° backscattered <sup>3</sup>He was detected 201 202 with a small surface barrier detector to accurately determine the actually acquired total 203 charge collected for each energy by simulating the spectra with SIMNRA [22]. NRADC [23] was used for the deconvolution of the spectra measured at different <sup>3</sup>He ion energies. 204 205 As input data for NRADC all  $\alpha$  and proton spectra measured at the different energies 206 were analysed simultaneously. Details about the data evaluation using NRADC can be 207 found in Ref. [22]. The present version of NRADC allows to define a depth resolution as 208 a function of depth within the Markov chain sampling. If a layer thickness below that 209 physical limit is proposed this solution is rejected. ResolNRA [24] was applied to define 210 this physical limit. For the quantitative analysis we used the cross section recently 211 published by Wielunska et al. for the protons [25] and Möller and Besenbacher for the 212 alpha particles [26]. The total amount of D retention was finally determined by 213 integrating the D profile over depth. For energy calibration purposes, to check the 214 performance of the detectors and to calibrate the solid angles of all detectors in-situ 215 amorphous, deuterated carbon thin film samples (a-C:D) were measured always together 216 with the samples of interest for each energy. With these precautions the accuracy of the 217 measurement can be reduced to that of the beam current measurement which is 3 %. 218 Given the counting statistics (counts depending on D content and energy) absolute 219 accuracy of the measurements reduces to the absolute accuracy of the cross section which 220 is stated as 10 % [26].

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#### 2. Results and discussion

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224 One possible way of changing the implantation flux and hence the damage dose 225 rate would be to use different charges states, because their abundance varies after 226 stripping the primary  $W^{-}$  beam at the terminal of the tandem accelerator. However, for a 227 fixed terminal voltage this leads to different energies of the particles and hence the 228 ambiguity introduced by the different SRIM outputs would make it complicated to 229 compare. Alternatively one could adjust the energy such that the product of charge state 230 and energy stays the same. However, one would reduce the implantation depth to well 231 below half a micron which is impractical as it is then below the depth resolution of the 232 NRA method. In addition, experiments have shown that the variation in damage dose rate 233 is limited to a factor of five.

Because of this uncertainty in dpa calculation and the limited accessible dynamic range the W implantation energy was kept fixed at 20 MeV in the experimental series presented here but the tungsten flux was varied instead. By doing this, one can directly compare the experimental results as they are independent from the actual damage profile or the absolute damage dose level.

A previous study for this material grade with 20 MeV self-implantation at room temperature showed that below a value of  $1.6 \times 10^{16}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>s deuterium retention increases linearly with damage dose, starts to deviate at higher fluences and finally saturates [15]. Above  $7.8 \times 10^{17}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>s no further increase in maximum deuterium concentration and deuterium retention with damage dose is observed. This saturation regime is selected for this study. Figure 3 shows the respective SRIM calculation converted into damage dose. For the "Full cascade" option a peak damage dose level of 0.5 dpa is obtained for this 246 fluence, while it is 0.22 dpa for the "Quick Kinchin Pease" option as depicted in Figure 3. 247 In addition to the SRIM profile the deuterium depth profile obtained is shown in figure 3. 248 It was derived by deconvoluting the NRA data for a sample self-damaged with the 249 standard conditions comparable to those in previous publications (see [7, 14, 15]) and 250 decorated with D plasma at 295 K. Here the tungsten beam was spread out to reach the 251 four corner cups to have real time control of the implantation flux. Under these standard 252 conditions one needs an implantation time of 43 minutes to reach the intended dose of  $7.8 \times 10^{17}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>s and hence the average damage does rate is  $9.7 \times 10^{-5}$  dpa<sub>KP</sub>/s. Because of 253 254 the mention saturation with damage dose the final D depth profile is not expected to 255 follow the SRIM calculation but should be rather a flat in accordance to the experimental 256 observation. In addition, one can see that the maximum depth coincides well with the 257 depth predicted by SRIM. The error bars given in the depth profile reflect only the 258 statistical uncertainties determined by NRADC and thus do not describe the total 259 uncertainty of the measurement mentioned in the previous section. The total amount of deuterium retained in the self-damaged layer is  $2.3 \times 10^{21}$  D/m<sup>2</sup>. However, in the following 260 261 the value extracted from the depth profiles will be the maximum deuterium concentration 262 which is 1.9 at-% in this case as it is easier to compare to implantations at different ion 263 energies, different ions or even to neutron irradiated material.

As stated in the previous section the implantation flux can be reduced by spreading the beam with the beam sweeping system even further. In addition the primary tungsten flux can be reduced by reducing the temperature of the molybdenum ionizer in the sputter source. By doing so the time to reach 0.22 dpa can be increased to 17 hours. This converts to  $4.2 \times 10^{-6}$  dpa<sub>KP</sub>/s. The obtained depth profile is identical to the one shown in 269 figure 3 within the accuracy of the method with a maximum deuterium concentration of 270 1.8 at-%. To increase the damage does rate above the standard conditions the beam sweep 271 was switched off and the W beam was focused onto the target with the quadrupole triplet. 272 By doing this the intended W fluence can be acquired within 60 seconds which converts to a dose rate of  $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$  dpa<sub>KP</sub>/sec. Again the obtained depth profile is identical to the 273 274 one shown in figure 3 within the accuracy of the method. The maximum deuterium 275 concentration in this case is again 1.8 at-%. The maximum concentrations of these three 276 measurements are plotted as function of damage dose rate in figure 4. In summary, variation of the damage dose rate by three orders of magnitude between  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $4 \times 10^{-3}$ 277  $^{6}$  dpa<sub>KP</sub>/sec does not influence deuterium retention when damaging is conducted at room 278 279 temperature. Assuming a typical size of a cascade of several tens of nanometer, the given 280 damage creation rate and a typical life time of the primary damage of a few tens of 281 picoseconds this result could have been expected. However, it was not clear from the 282 beginning if longer-time scale effects play a role in damage evolution caused by 283 thermally activated processes. While vacancies are immobile at room temperature due to 284 their large migration barrier of 1.6 eV, tungsten interstitials can migrate (0.05 eV 285 migration barrier) [27]. Although these two defect types are only the easiest to consider 286 and self-damaged tungsten contains many more defect types such as vacancies clusters of 287 different size and dislocations of different geometries their energies are here only used for 288 illustration. Obviously the timescales are shorter as would be required to have any effect 289 on deuterium retention. Likewise defect evolution - such as clustering of vacancies -290 could take place without influencing deuterium retention.



Figure 3: Deuterium depth profile for 20 MeV self-damaged tungsten samples implanted with  $W^{6+}$ at 295 K and 800 K with an implantation fluence of  $7.78 \times 10^{17}$  W/m<sup>2</sup> and a dose rate of  $10^{-4}$  dpa/s. D decoration was done for 72 h ( $1.45 \times 10^{25}$  D/m<sup>2</sup>) with <5 eV/D at 295295 K. In addition the damage dose (green) and the implanted tungsten concentration (blue) calculated with SRIM 2008.04 as described in the text is shown on the right axis.

291 According to Keys and Moteff annealing of defects in tungsten sets in at 0.15 292 times the melting temperature which corresponds to 550 K [28]. Therefore the 293 experimental sequence was repeated at a damaging temperature of 800 K. Again the damage dose rate was varied by three orders of magnitude between  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  and 294  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  dpaKP/sec. Again the depth profile obtained for the sample prepared with 295 296 "standard" conditions and decorated with D by a deuterium plasma at 295 K is show in 297 figure 3. As expected the depth profile is again flat and reaches to the same depth for the 298 samples damaged at room temperature. Due to defect evolution the number of traps is 299 reduced and hence the deuterium concentration found in this sample is substantially 300 lower. In the case of figure 3 the maximum deuterium concentration is 0.55 at-% and 301 hence a factor of 3.5 smaller as compared to the room temperature case. It is worth 302 mentioning that deuterium uptake for these samples damaged at 800 K is substantially 303 larger than observed in an independent study of the same material conducted recently 304 [29]. There the self-damaged tungsten samples implanted at 800 K were loaded with a 305 beam of atomic deuterium at 600 K and a maximum concentration of 0.14 at-% was

- 306 observed. Hence thermal detrapping between D loading at 295 K and at 600 K reduces D
- 307 retention by a factor of four for this type of self-damaged material.

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Figure 4: Maximum deuterium concentration in the self-damaged zone for recrystallized tungsten damaged with of 20 MeV  $W^{6+}$  at 295K and 800K as function of average damaging dose rate. D decoration was done for 72 h (1.45×10<sup>25</sup> D/m<sup>2</sup>) with <5 eV/D at 295 K.

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Figure four shows the maximum concentrations of this experimental series for all samples conducted in the same way as the first one except that damaging was conducted at 800 K. Also here, variation of the damage dose rate by three orders of magnitude between  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  dpa<sub>KP</sub>/sec does not influence deuterium uptake. This is rather surprising given the fact that defect evolution did take place given the reduced deuterium uptake. Obvioulsy time scales in defect evolution are faster for these damage rates than would be necessary to have any effect on deuterium retention as damage evolution is 317 clearly observed by the reduced capacity of the defects at 800 K compared to the room318 temperature case.

319 In a recent study Gilbert et al. calculated the expected damage for DEMO to be 320 smaller than 14 dpa per full power year which converts to a damage rate of around  $4 \times 10^{-7}$  dpa/sec. [30]. In a recent work by You et al. even smaller values for damage 321 creation in DEMO are mentioned which convert to damage rates of  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  dpa/sec [31]. 322 323 Both values are at least an order of magnitude smaller than the damage rates accessible in 324 this experimental work. However, given the clear indication that over three orders of 325 magnitude no influence of deuterium retention is observed one can safely assume that for 326 even smaller damage dose rates no influence on D retention is expected.

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- 4. Conclusions
- 328 329

## 4. Conclusion

330 Deuterium retention was measured in recrystallized tungsten implanted with 20 MeV 331 tungsten ions at room temperature and at 800 K for different damaging dose rates. Changing the average damaging flux by three orders of magnitude between  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  to 332  $4 \times 10^{-6}$  dpa/sec does not influence D retention. Neither for the room temperature series 333 334 nor for the 800 K series where defect evolution clearly takes place as can be seen by the 335 reduced deuterium uptake. Obviously the time scales for defect evolution are short 336 enough to happen in between single cascade events. As damaging rates by fusion 337 neutrons in future fusion devices will be even smaller this experimental observation 338 bolster the confidence in extrapolating results derived from ion beam damaged tungsten 339 to neutron damaged tungsten.

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- 342

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