Designing a Probe Head for Extreme Environments

Turbulence Probe Design Considerations

William Fuller^{1,2} | Scott Allan² | Bogdan Hnat¹ | Peter Ryan² ¹The University of Warwick, Centre for Fusion, Space and Astrophysics, Coventry ²United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Culham, Oxford





MAST-U

- Spherical Tokamak
- Core temperatures up to 3keV (34 million °C)

Reciprocating Probe system

- Stepper motor slow drive to start position
- Pneumatically driven fast drive to plunge in/out of plasma at 0.45ms⁻¹ over 9cm



- Cabling routed in coil winding \bullet channels
- Kapton insulation between coils and cables
- Common earthed shield for cables
- Spacer gives room for wiring



- Thick probe until near the tip
- increase strength
- reduce breakages
- Vent hole

• Asymmetric con-flats ensure one way to fit the shell cap

• Middle space raised for central pin

- Needs to peak above the rest of the array
- Allows for same pin dimensions reducing unique parts



- Graphite Probes
- Boron Nitride Ceramic Shell
- PEEK Internals
- Stainless Steel Plug Housing, Screws



- Vacuum Considerations: Void Breaking Vent Holes Pumping Pathways





- Wide countersink for centring pins
- Stepped to match pins prevent plasma leakage

Internal stack

- Mostly PEEK
- Bolted together
- Notches to stop rotation



Thermal Expansion:

- Clearance of 0.4mm
- PEEK expanded by 0.7mm
- Clearance of 1.4mm for new design









Multifunctional Probe Arrays: Blue – Log-spaced for cross-correlations Green – Ball-Pen Probes Φ_{Plasma} , T_{e} Pink – 5-pin balanced probe $n_{\rm e}$, $T_{\rm e}$ – Linear array filament stats Yellov Red – Parallel Mach number