

Introduction to disruption physics

Eric Nardon

IRFM, CEA Cadarache, France

A disruption in a tokamak is a violent loss of plasma confinement. In large devices like ITER, disruptions may damage the machine and therefore need to be avoided or mitigated. The object of this presentation is to briefly introduce the physics involved in the causes, unfolding, consequences and mitigation means of disruptions. A particular focus will be put on magnetohydrodynamic aspects, which are at the heart of disruption physics.