

Spin-Polarized Proton-Boron ($p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$) Fusion: Pathways to Clean Energy

Proton-boron ($p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$) fusion is widely recognized as a promising candidate for future clean energy due to its advantages of abundant fuel, inherent safety, and minimal neutron emissions. However, the practical realization of $p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$ fusion faces significant challenges, primarily due to its stringent ignition conditions and relatively low reaction cross-section. Recently, spin polarization has emerged as a potential method to enhance the reaction rate and improve the feasibility of $p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$ fusion. This presentation reviews the current status and recent progress in $p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$ fusion research, emphasizing the role of spin-polarized fuel in improving reaction efficiency, and discussing the innovative approaches proposed by ENN Energy Research Institute using spherical torus (ST). Additionally, we highlight theoretical and experimental studies on spin-polarized $p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$ fusion, including cross-section measurements, fuel (especially boron) preparation, plasma generation and sustainment. The synergy between advanced magnetic confinement configurations, such as ST, and spin-polarized fuel is identified as a promising pathway toward commercial fusion energy. Finally, we outline future research directions and collaborative opportunities within the spin-polarization physics community to accelerate the development of $p\text{-}^{11}\text{B}$ fusion as a viable energy source.

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