ICP Source with Immersed Ferromagnetic Inductor - ICPIFI

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Application of ferromagnetics in inductively coupled plasma (ICP) sources results in many attractive features comparing to traditional ICPs without ferromagnetic core.1,2

Simple construction, high power factor (< 0.4) and power transfer efficiency (> 0.99), and no plasma RF potential and external EMI are advantageous features of ICPIFI.

High performance of ICPIFI is due to strong coupling provided by the ferromagnetic core making the ICP operation close to that of an ideal transformer. Moreover, the ICPIFI efficiency can exceed efficiency of conventional 60 Hz transformer due to low Q-factor Q = (Cosφ - 1/2) > 2.3, there is no need for tuning. The tuning-matching network consists of a single resonating permanent capacitor in series with the inductor coil.

The simplest and most efficient plasma cathode, working in PPPL.3

Advantages of RF plasma cathode: long operation life (no spot size and -e-operation), can be exposed to air, ability to operate in duty processing gases and fast ions. In ICPIFI, L ~ P, (no excessive power at small I, while the thermionic cathode requires I = const).

ICP with global magnetic filter as potential source of negative hydrogen ions

Instead of making large plasma with tiny area of magnetic filtering near the ion extraction aperture, the ICPIFI approach utilizes global plasma confinement with trapping of fast electrons. Global plasma confinement reduces plasma loss, thus, improves plasma production and increase plasma volume with cold electron. That features of ICPIFI should be interesting for negative hydrogen ion production.

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