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Quasi steady plasma accelerators

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## Quasi-Steady-State Plasma Accelerators: Physics and Applications

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### <u>Outline</u>

- ➢Steady State plasma flows
- ➢Principles of QSPA
- >Experimental devices:
  - QSPA Kh-50- plasma accelerator
  - MPC- magnetoplasma compressor
- Dynamics of dense plasma streams generated by QSPA and MPC
- Examples of ApplicationsSummary

## **Quasi Steady State ?**

Duration of the process (discharge) essentially exceeds the time of flight of the plasma particles in the accelerating channel

τ/t>>1

Time of flight: t=L/v<sub>m</sub>

#### **Quasi-Steady-State Plasma Flows**

$$\rho(\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v}\nabla)\vec{v}) = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{c}\left[\vec{j},\vec{H}\right] \qquad \frac{\partial \vec{H}}{\partial t} = rot\left[\vec{v},\vec{H}\right] \qquad j = \frac{c}{4\pi}rot\vec{H}$$
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + div\rho\vec{v} = 0 \qquad \qquad p = p_0\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\gamma} \qquad div\vec{H} = 0$$

In the case of stationary axial-symmetric flow:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = 0$ ,  $H_r = H_z = 0$ ,  $\upsilon_{\theta} = 0$ .

The plasma flow is divided into flux tubes with a width h=h(z). Under these assumptions **three conservations lows** (holding true for each flux tube) follows from above system of equations mentioned.

$$\frac{v^{2}}{2} + \int \frac{dp}{\rho} + \frac{H^{2}}{4\pi\rho} = const \equiv U$$
 - Bernoulli equation  

$$i(\rho) \equiv \int \frac{dp}{\rho} = \frac{p_{0}}{\rho_{0}} \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_{0}}\right)^{\gamma - 1}$$
Conservation of full energy in the flow  

$$\frac{H}{\rho r} = const \equiv \mathfrak{X}$$
 - Freezing-in azimuth magnetic flux into plasma  

$$\rho vrf = const \equiv m$$
 - Mass conservation law





For  $\mu \ll 1$  at z = 0 al flow energy is concentrated in the magnetic field. In the process of plasma flow, for Z > 0, one possible to have **two extreme cases**:

$$\frac{H^{2}}{4\pi\rho} \rightarrow \frac{v^{2}}{2} \qquad \text{-Purely accelerating regime with maximum velocity:} \\ \mathbf{V}_{max} = (2)^{1/2} \mathbf{V}_{A0} = H_{0} / (2\pi\rho)^{1/2} \\ \frac{H^{2}}{4\pi\rho} \rightarrow i(\rho) \qquad \text{-Purely compression regime with}$$

$$i(\rho_{\max}) = U = C_{A0}^{2} \quad \frac{\rho_{\max}}{\rho_{0}} = \left[ (\gamma - 1) \frac{c_{AO}^{2}}{c_{TO}^{2}} (1 + \mu) \right]^{\frac{1}{\gamma - 1}} \quad \text{Here } c_{TO} = \sqrt{\gamma \frac{p_{0}}{\rho_{0}}} \quad \text{is sound velocity,} \\ \gamma \text{ - ratio of specific heats}$$

(For adiabatic compression of hydrogen ( $\gamma = 5/3$ )  $c_{A0} = 10^8$  cm/s,  $c_{T0} = 10^6$  cm/s the maximum value of compression is of an order 5.10<sup>5</sup>).

$$\begin{aligned} di \, vn \, \vec{v}_i &= 0, \quad di \, vn \, \vec{v}_e = 0 \qquad \text{a} ) \\ M \frac{d \vec{v}_i}{dt} &= -\nabla \varphi + \frac{1}{c} \Big[ \vec{v}_i, \vec{H} \Big] - \frac{\nabla p_i}{en} \qquad \text{b} ) \\ 0 &= -\nabla \varphi + \frac{\nabla p_e}{en} + \frac{1}{c} \Big[ \vec{v}_e, \vec{H} \Big] , \\ p_e &= p_e(n); \qquad p_i = p_i(n), \qquad \text{b} ) \\ rot \vec{H} &= \frac{4\pi}{c} en(\vec{v}_i - \vec{v}_e). \qquad \text{f} ) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r}rnv_r^{i,e} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}rnv_z^{i,e} = 0$$

 $\Psi_{i,e}$  - flux functions of ions and electrons

$$rn\upsilon_z = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r}; \qquad rn\upsilon_r = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z}$$

⇒ Ion and Electron Trajectories equations

 $\Psi$ i (r,z) = const; $\Psi$ e (r,z) = const. $\mathbf{E} + \frac{\vec{v}_e}{c} \times \mathbf{H} = 0$  $\mathbf{Ev}_e = 0$ , electrons move along<br/>equipotential lines $\frac{M v_i^2}{2} + e\varphi = U_i(\psi_i)$  $\varphi = \varphi \ (\Psi_e)$ <br/> $-e\varphi = U_e \ (\Psi_e)$ 

Analogy with drift approximation

$$\frac{d\vec{R}}{dt} = v_{II} \frac{\vec{H}}{|H|} + \vec{U}_E + \frac{Mc}{e} \left[\frac{d\vec{U}_E}{dt}, \vec{H}\right] \frac{1}{H^2}$$

$$\vec{U}_E = \frac{c\left[\vec{E},\vec{H}\right]}{H^2} \qquad U_E = c\frac{E}{H}$$



Experiments in simplified QSPA with non-transparent coaxial electrodes, revealed some undesirable effects

- "anode current creep"),
- instability of the ionization zone,
- high erosion of electrodes (cathode potential jump) etc.,

resulted in disturbance of the accelerating process. All these effects, restricting the plasma parameters to be achieved, were avoided in two-stage accelerator with semi-transparent active or passive electrodes-transformers. One of the most powerful such a full-block QSPA (QSPA Kh-50) was installed in the IPP NSC KIPT.

#### Full Block Quasi-Steady-State Plasma Accelerator QSPA Kh-50



#### The block diagram of the QSPA Kh-50

- 1- anode transformer;
- 2- anode collector;
- 3- anode wafers;
- 4- cathode transformer;
- 5- anode ionization chambers (AIC);
- 6- drift channel;
- 7- input ionization chambers (IIC);
- 8- needle-shaped cathode emitters.

The full-block powerful quasi-steady-state plasma accelerator consists of two stages. The first one is for plasma production and pre-acceleration. The second stage (main accelerating channel) is a coaxial system of shaped active electrodes-transformers with magnetically screened elements (those elements are current supplied either from independent power sources or branching partly the discharge current in self-consistent regime of operation).

The discharge current between the electrodes-transformers is carried by ions (!).





Maximal energy of capacitors supplying the main discharge WC is 2.25 MJ (plus 2 MJ for auxiliary systems ). Main results were obtained with capacitor voltage of the main discharge up to 15 kV (W  $\approx$  0.8 MJ). The maximum discharge voltage achieved 12 kV and maximum discharge current - 750 kA.



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#### **Plasma Streams Magnetization**



Radial dependencies of the magnetic field in plasma, normalized to vacuun magnetic field.





Tek

CH1+1.00V

..n..

CH2 5.00V

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Acq Complete M Pos: 11.30.us

#### **MPC device (magnetoplasma compressor)**



Working gas – xenon. Mass flow rate 10 cm<sup>3</sup>. Capacitor voltage 20 kV. Time delay 500 and 550  $\mu$ s.

General view of MPC device







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L1, L2 – condensers, M1, M2 optical mirrors. A(1.5 cm), B(5 cm), C(20cm), D(40cm), E(80 cm) diagnostics cross-sections at the corresponding distances from MPC output.

#### **EUV** spectrometer

1 – UV, EUV, X-ray source, 2 – valve and entrance slit, 3 – vacuum line to turbo-molecular pump, 4 – mount for crystal/grating, 5 – mount for detector (MCP, film).

## Dynamics of discharge in QSPA



Distributions of discharge current in different operation modes





□ - experiment

+ -  $v_{max} = (2)^{1/2} v_{A0} = H_0 / (2\pi\rho)^{1/2}$ 

Theoretical dependencies between plasma and electrotechnical parameters of the QSPA:

$$v = \mathcal{9} \cdot \left(\frac{e}{M}\right) \cdot \frac{I_d^2}{I_{\dot{m}}} \qquad U_d = \left(\frac{\mathcal{9}^2}{2\eta}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{e}{M}\right) \cdot \frac{I_d^3}{I_{\dot{m}}}$$

Experimental dependencies on current discharge

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Here:

- v plasma velocity;
- e electron charge;
- *M mass of ion;*
- $\eta$  coefficient of efficiency;
- $I_d$  discharge current;
- $I_{m}$  mass consumption
  - *"(in current units);*
- $\theta$  geometrical factor.



Fig. 3. Time variation of compression region density profiles:  $1 - \tau = 50 \ \mu s$ ;  $2 - \tau = 65 \ \mu s$ ;  $3 - \tau = 90 \ \mu s$ ;  $4 - \tau = 120 \ \mu s$ . :  $5 - \tau = 160 \ \mu s$ .

## Two-gases scenario of operation MPC



! Disadvantage ! - resonant absorption of EUV radiation from axis region by periphery xenon plasma or/and neutrals





Temporal evolution of chord averaged N<sub>e</sub> for different MPC operation regimes.

Radial distribution of the Ne at 6 µs after discharge beginning.

r, cm

 $N_{1}$  (r) 2 Torr He + Xe

4

5



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## Dynamics of Xe plasma streams in MPC device



Radial distributions of plasma pressure

Radial distributions of continuum intensity in compression region



Time dependence of Xe lines and continuum luminosity in visible wave range





Shock wave from compression region







t= 6 µs









t= 15 μs

t= 23 μs

t= 28 μs

 $t=43 \ \mu s$ 

High-speed imaging of plasma compression with exposition of 1 µs

 $(2-4).10^{6} \text{ cm/s}$ 







- 1 Wave forms of discharge current,
- 2 AXUV signal for 12.2-15.8 nm

4 - signal from photodiode in visiblewave length range for local Xe injection.Discharge current in maximum is 400kA.



Radiation energy in different spectrum region at time delay 460  $\mu$ s. Maximum discharge current 400 kA (Uc= 20 kV), Xenon gas pulse supply DV=10 cm3



Radial distribution of electrical current density in plasma stream. Capacitor bank voltage 15 kV.

30

r, mm

40

50

-0.4 0

10

20

Radial distributions of energy density in xenon plasma stream.

60





## Some applications

Investigations of dense magnetized plasmas of different gases are in importance for various scientific and technological applications:

✓ the generators of hot plasma and efficient fuelling techniques (plasmoids),

- testing of fusion reactor materials with high energy loads,
- Surface modification and improvement of material properties

✓ application of dense plasma as the source of ions and radiation in different wave length ranges.

In particular, dense xenon plasma cloud can provide effective shielding of divertor plates and mitigation of disruptions due to high emissivity of xenon and resulting re-radiation of impacting energy.

Next step lithography 13.5 nm. Laser produced and gas discharge plasma.



#### **PSI Issues in Fusion Reactor ITER**

Experimental simulation of conditions at the divertor plates.



**Cassette of ITER divertor** 

QSPA Kh-50 is unique device for simulations of conditions at the divertor plates of fusion reactor ITER under transient events.

Expected parameters of heat fluxes to the divertor plates:

#### **Current disruption:**

Q = (10-100) MJ/m<sup>2</sup>; t = (1-10) мс

Edge Localized Modes (ELMs):

Q =(1-3) MJ/m<sup>2</sup>; t = (0.1-0.5) ms; v = (1-10) Hz





**Plasma Parameters in Different Working Regimes** 

Disruption simulation Regime: √Vapor shielding	Parameters	Disruption simulation regime	ELM simulation no melting	ELM simulation melting	ELM simulation evaporation
<ul> <li>Melt velocities expected for ITER disruptions (P=2-7 bar, t=1-10 ms)</li> </ul>	Plasma stream energy density [MJ/m <sup>2</sup> ]	25-30	0.9-1.0	1.2-1.5	2.4-2.5
	Target Heat Load [MJ/m <sup>2</sup> ]	0.65-0.7	0.45	0.7-0.75	1-1.1
ELM simulation: ✓ Lower energy and pressure	Plasma load duration [ms]	~0.25	0.25	0.25	
	Half-height width [ms]	0.1-0.14	0.1-0.12	0.17	0.1-0.14
	Shape of heat signal	triangular	triangular	bell	triangular
Plasma pressure signal in ELM regime1	Maximal plasma pressure [bar]	16-18	4.8	3.2	4.5
	Average plasma density [10 <sup>16</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	4-8	1.5-2.5	0.5-0.7	0.2-0.3
	Plasma stream diameter [cm]	10-12	12-14	18	16
	Number of pulses		250	450	250

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## Vapor shield effects





Interferometric picture of plasma interaction with graphite surface

Plasma density vs. the distance from the target surface. (25 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\Delta \tau$ =20 µs and 200 µs from the beginning of plasma interaction with the surface).

The thickness of shielding layer grows with increasing magnetic field value and time delay of measurements with respect to the beginning of plasma interaction with a target.





Plasma shield formation in front of the graphite target in disruption simulation experiments





#### Distributions of plasma density in front of the graphite surface



IAEA Meeting, Warsaw, Poland,

15-17 November, 2005



Energy density in the intermediate plasma layer versus the distance (L) from the target.  $\rho_{W}^{0}$  – energy density in the incident plasma;  $\rho_{W}^{s}$  – energy density in the near-surface layer. 1 – incident plasma stream; 2 – region of the main energy dissipation; near-surface region.



#### Influence of target atomic mass on shield dynamics

Target materials: Tungsten, Copper, Titanium, Aluminum, Graphite, Fluoroplastic F<sub>4</sub>C



Spatial distributions of evaporated material in front of the surface for different exposed targets. (Results evaluated from spectral lines: Cull (2590Å), Till (4534Å), AllI (5593Å), FII (4109Å) and CII (4267Å)) The evaporated material with higher atomic weight value became more "pressed" to the target surface due to the lower thermal velocities and diffusion coefficient.

Despite of an intense surface melting of tungsten it was impossible to draw it distribution in the vapor shield.

The tungsten vapor is concentrated just in front of the target and the shield thickness in this case is comparable with spatial resolution of applied spectroscopic measurements.

V.Tereshin et al. Plasma Phys. Contr.Fus.2007



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## Tungsten Exposure with Surface Heat Loads Close to

#### **Evaporation Threshold**

#### Plasma Stream energy density



High-speed photography of tungsten evaporation Plasma

Surface load -1.1 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>

rather thin layer < 0.5 cm large atomic mass of tungsten movement of evaporated W around the target



Target

<sup>\</sup>Holder





#### The influence of target atomic mass on the shield dynamics



Temporal behavior of CII (2512 Å) and CIII (2296 Å) lines in plasma shield near the surface of the graphite target. First peak of CIII luminosity (t~50 µs) is caused by the appearance of vapor shield and thermalization of kinetic energy of impacting plasma stream near the target surface.

The shielding layer thickness is increased during the pulse and the temperature value is decreased due to the plasma shield expansion that leads to increase of CII line intensity.

## **Disruption simulation**



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Melt layer profiles for titanium target irradiated with 10 pulses (a) and with 20 pulses (b), with overlay of plasma pressure profile (c). Vertical scale for pressure is 3.5 Bar/div. Hole diameter is 3 cm

Profiles for Ti target exposed with 1, 3, 5 and 20 pulses. Hole diameter is 1 cm. The most pronounced melt motion is registered in the region of maximum gradient of plasma pressure



## Inclined Exposure:



Melt layer profiles in 2 mutually perpendicular directions for Ti target exposed with 10 pulses

- direction of inclination

- perpendicular direction.













Combined target (FZJ) Tungsten+CFC

tungsten-graphite target of the same size was prepared in Kharkov W+C (MPG-7 graphite)

I. Garkusha et al. "Features of plasma energy transfer..." Journ. Nucl. Mater. 2009

## Heat load to the target surface ("weak" shielding for ELM-like loads)



W: vapor shield starts at surface load of 1.1 MJ/m<sup>2</sup> W+C : Carbon shield protects tungsten from evaporation Clear influence of C evaporation 0.6 MJ/m<sup>2</sup> C: starts to evaporate at 0.42-0.45 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>







Combined W-C target, inclined impact 45<sup>0</sup>,  $t_1$ =0.95 ms,  $t_2$ =1.95 ms,  $t_3$ = 4 ms,  $\tau_{exp}$  = 0.5 ms,  $Q_{surf}$ =0. 5 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>





#### Droplets splashing from melt pool of W target







 $t_1$ =2.0 ms, $\tau_{exp}$ = 1,2 ms





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#### Tungsten exposures with multiple pulses resulting in melting

#### Dust issues are extremely important for ITER! Nano-balls in the crack void after 310 pulses

Nano-balls inside the blister after 100 pulses







#### Tungsten exposures with multiple pulses resulting in melting

Threshold changes in surface morphology correlate with profile measurements

Swelling of exposed surface starts after 200 pulses

Exposed area

I. Garkusha et al. "Damage to preheated W…" Journ. Nucl. Mater. 2009

Surface profiles: a- 80 pulses, b- 150 pulses, c- 210 pulses, d- 350 pulses







IAEA First Research Coordination Meeting on "Integrated Approach to Dense Magnetized Plasma..."



**IPP** Tungsten irradiation with repetitive pulses resulting in surface melting





## High power plasma streams is unique tool for surface modification

Combination of physical mechanisms: ion bombardment, heat load (melting, but no evaporation, thermal quenching), shock waves, material alloying with plasma species, mixing in molten stage.....



#### Microhardness changes induced by pulsed plasma processing

Hv $,10^7 \text{N/m}^2$	material	H <sub>v</sub> , initial	H <sub>v</sub> , proc	material	H <sub>v</sub> , initial	H <sub>v</sub> , proc
800	steel 10	200	510	65G	350	560
700	steel 45	250	628	12HN3A	236	630
$\begin{array}{c c} 600 \\ 500 \\ - E=10 \text{ J/cm}^2 \\ - E=15 \text{ J/cm}^2 \\ - E=20 \text{ J/cm}^2 \end{array}$	steel 45 quenched*	370 400	796 870	12HN3A quenched	387	715
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	40H	252	751	H12	312	510
Number of pulses	40H quenched	386	794	H12 quenched *	439 553	554 593
	37CrS4	352	742	ShH15	360	770
	SAE 1040	264	527	WCo20	1000	1400



➢increase of surface wear resistance of structural steels was measured both for non quenched (by 10-15 times) and preliminary quenched (by 6-8 times).

➢improvement of corrosion properties of structural steels (and also permanent magnets) surfaces was obtained.

Comparative studies with nitrogen, helium, hydrogen plasmas and mixtures show that thermal quenching and nitriding have comparable contribution to the increasing wear resistance



## Boron enriched surface layer of steel sample







#### Modification of thick coatings with plasma processing



MCrAIY (Co-32Ni-21Cr-8AI-0.5Y w. %), Plasmatechnik AG,Switzerland

Low Pressure Plasma-Sprayed on Inconel 738 substrate

Corrosion resistant upper layer for turbine blades and nozzles, used in combination with thermal barrier coatings

Cr and Al form stable oxides, Y helps

1- modified surface layer, 2- coating, 3-substrate

 $R_a$  decreased from 5 µm to 1 µm, fine-grained structure resistant to etching, absence of pores







Microhardness depth profiles of WC-20Co samples

SEM cross-sectional micrograph of			
tungsten two-layer coating on Cu target	V. Makhlai et al. "Material alloying…" Eur. Phys. J. D, 2009		



Powerful plasma treatment and coating deposition in different combinations



# Thank you for your attention !



#### **Detectors - AXUV photodiodes**



Different types of photodiodes AXUV





## Quantum efficiency of AXUV with integrated filters for different wave-range

PRODUCT NAME	FILTER THICKNESS (nm)	PASS BAND (nm)
AXUV20Ti/Mo/C	70/200/50	5-13
AXUV20Mo/Si	350/500	12.2-15.8
AXUV20AI	300	17-80



#### NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTER "KHARKOV INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS AND TECHNOLOGY" INSTITUTE OF PLASMA PHYSICS Registration of EUV radiation







Radiation intensity  $\sim I_d^2$ 



#### **Energy of UV radiation**



Average radiation energy in wave range 12.2-15.8 nm. Average radiation energy in wave range 17 - 80 nm. AXUV 20 Mo/Si.

Maximum discharge current 400 kA (Uc= 20 kV), operation with Xenon pulse gas supply ( $\Delta$ V=10 cm<sup>3</sup>). The distance of observation from MPC output is about 6 cm (from anode roads)



Absorption of EUV radiation by xenon



#### **ELM-Like Heat Loads Resulting in Surface Melting**

(Surface Heat Load - 0.75 MJ/m<sup>2</sup>)

Fine cracks trigger a qualitative evolution of sample surface after a few hundreds of pulses (corrugation, pits) accompanied by growing mass loss rate.

It is not constant being larger than that of the regime 1: by 2, 3 and 5 times in the course of the first 100, next 100 and next 50 pulses accordingly

#### **Evolution of fine crack mesh**



11/16/2010 33-rd EPS Conference on Plasma Physics, Roma, Italy, June 19-23, 2006

