Development of Penning Plasma Discharge Source for VUV Spectrometer Calibration and Its Characterization

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Outline

• Motivation
• Concept
• Experimental set-up
• Observed spectrum
• Discharge Characteristics
• OES for Density calculations
• Conclusions
VUV spectrometer-detector system calibration is essential needed in order to use it on fusion plasma devices.

At present, such calibrations are possible by branching ratio method or by synchrotron radiation sources. In branching ratio method, ratio of two lines one visible line and other VUV line originate from the same energy level is used. It is difficult to find out such line pairs and tokamak machine operation is important.

Calibration through synchrotron radiation sources is also not user friendly because spectrometer-detector system have to displaced time to time.

Recently our group has developed a simple laboratory based method to calibrate a VUV spectrometer detector system by collisional-radiative modeling of penning discharge source.


It is expected that the penning plasma discharge source may provide an alternate for VUV spectrometer calibration schemes, therefore, we are motivated to develop a larger dimension penning discharge device to cross-check our calculations by other diagnostics and establish our proposed model understanding.
In the penning discharge source, the plasma is produced between two end cathodes and a ring anode, with power derived from high voltage DC power supply. The electron confinement is maintained very high in this geometry by end cathodes (electrostatic confinement) and a pair of permanent magnets, which produces an axial magnetic field (magnetic confinement). Multiple reflections of the electrons between the end cathodes through the anode many times causing multiple collisions with neutral atoms. This allows penning discharge to operate at low pressures and can emit spectral lines from VUV range to Visible range simultaneously.

The visible and VUV spectrum can be recorded simultaneously from the penning discharge source by keeping the VUV spectrometer at one end and the visible spectrometer at another end. For visible spectrometer the absolute intensity calibration is a routine task so from the observed visible intensities one can calculate the basic plasma parameters. Then one can predict the VUV intensities from the basic parameters to compare with the VUV spectrometer-detector measurements to find the calibration factors.
Electrode Geometry of Penning Discharge Source

First geometry

Modified geometry

Outer diameter of port = 16 cm

Permanent rare earth magnet = 0.1 T

Cathode = 40 mm x 60 mm

Anode = 58 mm x 22 mm x 76 mm

Three orthogonal holes in anode; along the x-axis 18 mm x 50 mm, along the z-axis 30 mm x 50 mm and along the y-axis φ 12 mm.
Electrode geometry and its Electric field configuration

The electric field contour plot of a penning discharge source, for first 40 contours, at 500 volt. (a) single ring (b) Double ring using E-STAT simulation software from Field Precision Inc., USA.
The spectrums are recorded using Acton SP series Spectrograph having focal length 500 mm, spectral resolution 0.05 nm and gratings 600g/mm blaze at 500nm. Entrance and exit slit width is kept 20μm and exposure time is 1 second.
Helium Discharge

Double ring configuration

Single ring configuration
Observed spectrum for neutral Helium using double ring configuration at fix pressure and different discharge currents.
Observed spectrum for neutral Helium using single ring configuration at fixed pressure and different discharge currents.
The intensity of spectral line 728.1 nm linearly increases with discharge current in double ring configuration. For single ring configuration the intensity increases linearly but for the further increase of current its value lower down than the previous value. The similar behaviour is observed at different pressures ($9 \times 10^{-4}$, $1 \times 10^{-3}$) with same experimental conditions. So, it is inferred that double ring configuration is more suitable as compare to single ring configuration.
Discharge characteristics

- I-V Characteristics for double ring configuration at different pressures.
Discharge characteristics for Single ring configuration

- I-V Characteristics for single ring configuration at different pressures.
The obtained ratio for double ring configuration is larger as compared to single ring configuration for filled pressure $9 \times 10^{-4}$ mbar and at discharge current 15 mA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharge Current (mA)</th>
<th>Double Ring</th>
<th>Single Ring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$667.8\text{nm}(3^{1}D-2^{1}P)$</td>
<td>$721.3\text{nm}(3^{1}S-2^{1}P)$</td>
<td>Gas Pressure (mbar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$9 \times 10^{-4}$</td>
<td>$1 \times 10^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.916</td>
<td>0.831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.399</td>
<td>1.261</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The intensity ratio of the spectral lines (667.8nm/728.1nm) is plotted using CR model and is shown in the figure below. According to the spectral intensity ratio, plasma electron densities in the developed source for double ring configuration are ~$2 \times 10^{11}$ cm$^{-3}$ and for single ring configuration are ~$2 \times 10^{10}$ cm$^{-3}$. 
Conclusions

- A discharge of helium gas has been produced in a penning plasma discharge source for double ring and single ring configurations.

- It is found that double ring configuration gives higher intensities than the single ring configuration.

- I-V characteristics show that for the double ring configuration the discharge current linearly increases with applied voltages unlike single ring configuration.

- Spectroscopic diagnostics using line ratio technique provide the electron density of plasma $\sim 2 \times 10^{11}$ cm$^{-3}$ for double ring configuration and $\sim 2 \times 10^{10}$ cm$^{-3}$ for single ring configuration. The double ring configuration density estimation is quite similar to the observed density in the small geometry penning discharge source of 1 cm cylindrical size, which is good achievement.


- Now, we will explore and pursue other analysis to work out for VUV spectrometer-detector system calibration.

- We are in the process of procurement of certain equipments.
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