A Decade of IEC Research at the University of Wisconsin

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Thorsen et. al. Begin UW IEC Work in 1994

1st Paper published in 1997

Convergence, electrostatic potential, and density measurements in a spherically convergent ion focus

T. A. Thorson,^{a)} R. D. Durst, R. J. Fonck, and L. P. Wainwright University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1500 Engineering Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Phys. Plasmas 4 (1), January 1997

FUSION REACTIVITY CHARACTERIZATION OF A SPHERICALLY CONVERGENT ION FOCUS

T.A. THORSON, R.D. DURST, R.J. FONCK, A.C. SONTAG University of Wisconsin-Madison.

NUCLEAR FUSION, Vol. 38, No. 4 (1998)





1st Steady State D-³He Fusion Produced on 25 Oct 1998





Three Sources of Fusion Reactions in an IEC Device Were Identified Using a Variable Size Eclipse Disk

Converged Core



Charge Exchange



Embedded Ion



Fusion Occurs Inside the Cathode

Fusion Occurs ThroughoutFusion CEntire Volume of the Chamberof the C

Fusion Occurs on the Surface of the Cathode Grid Wires

- All three sources can be present at the same time
- Fraction depends on voltage, fuel, pressure, and past history



Steady State D-D Neutron Records





^{94m}Tc & ¹³N Medical Isotopes Produced With D-³He Protons

Water Cooled Cathode Target for ¹³N

Water Cooled Wall Target for ¹³N



UW IEC History Timeline 2005 7th@LANL 2004 2003 6th @Tokyo Inst. Tech Standardization of Grid Fabrication 2002 5th@U. Of Wisconsin Medical Isotopes Produced 4th@Kyoto Univ. 2001 10⁸ D-D neutrons/sec Fusion source regions identified 3rd@MSFC 2000 **1st Steady State** D-³He fusion 2nd@Kansai Univ. 10^7 neutrons / sec 1999 75-200kV Capability 1st Published results (Thorson) 1995 1st@LANL IEC device constructed

Grid Fabrication System



1. Mold produced from prototype



2. Wires wound around wax form



3. Finished grid cathode



Ion Gun Constructed to Study Converged Core Operation



⁴He⁺ Beam Injected at 30 kV

Helicon Source Coupled to IEC Chamber



UW-IEC Has Been Used to Irradiate Tungsten Samples With D & He

- Polycrystalline
- Single Crystal
- Tungsten "Foam"
- 800-1200 C



As Received

1x10¹⁸ He /cm², 850 °C 1x10¹⁹ He /cm², 850 °C





Stalk and Grid Fabrication For Other IEC Groups



Stalk under high voltage test



A Happy Customer



Neutron Activation of Explosives Explored



Explosives Containment and Detection Assembly



Pulsed Operation of the Ion Source Has Been Demonstrated



Pulsing at 1 Hz Shows Plasma and Grid Wire Response





Upcoming Talks on IEC Activities At The University of Wisconsin

- Atomic Physics Effects on IEC Ion Radial Flow
 - Gil Emmert (Monday, 3:45 Pm)
- Helicon Ion Source
 - Greg Piefer (Tuesday, 8:30 Am)
- Neutron Activation of Explosives
 - Alex Wehmeyer (Tuesday, 9:30 Am)
- Implantation of Fusion First Wall Materials
 - Ross Radel (Tuesday, 10:45 Am)

