

## **Overview of Tutorial – Low Temperature Plasmas**



Jose L. Lopez

- Fundamentals of Low Temperature Plasmas
- Plasma Generation & Chemistry
- Low-Pressure vs.
   High-Pressure
   Plasmas



#### Igor Kaganovich

 Computational, Modelling, and Simulations of Low Temperature Plasmas



#### Yevgeny Raitses

- Diagnostics
- Low Temperature
   Plasma applications
   & technologies



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

#### A HOME FOR THE MIND, THE HEART AND THE SPIRIT

Low temperature plasma science for emerging applications in aerospace, materials synthesis, bio/med/agro, catalysis, and energy

**Yevgeny Raitses** 

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Princeton, New Jersey

#### **Low Temperature Plasmas**



• Non-equilibrium: T<sub>e</sub> >> T<sub>ion</sub> >> T<sub>atom</sub>

Only partially ionized

 Less dense and colder than in tokamak, but hotter than in neon and fluorescent lights

## Low Temperature Plasma (LTP) Projects

#### Large thruster facility



#### Secondary electron emission from plasmafacing wall materials



#### Hall thrusters



## PIC simulations of LTP plasma



#### Coherent ExB plasma structures



## CFD simulations of atmospheric plasmas



In-situ laser diagnostics of nanoparticles



Reactive microplasmas for plasma catalysis

## Plasma-based nanosynthesis



Plasma-produced nanomaterials



Plasma-based functionalization of nanomaterials

#### **Objectives:**

- Developing methods of control of ion, electron and photon energy distribution functions in low temperature plasmas
- Advancing diagnostics, algorithms and computer models, fundamental data to facilitate the development of these methods, and their transfer to broader plasma community and industry

#### Focus:

- Plasma-wall interactions, waves and instabilities in partially ionized magnetized plasmas with application to practical ExB plasma devices
- Plasma-wall interactions, dusty plasmas, plasma chemistry in processing and synthesis of materials and other applications

#### **ExB Plasmas in Modern Applications**

 A number of emerging technologies use E ×B discharge and/or E ×B plasma flow for propulsion and processing applications:





 Plasma-beam Penning system, US Patent by S. Walton et al., 2009



• Magnetic filter for ion-ion source/thruster Aanesland et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 2012

• Hall thruster, A. I. Morozov



• Planar magnetron and hi-PIMS, J. Winter et al., J. D 2013

- Plasma thruster physics research
- Synthesis of nanomaterials by plasmas
- Bio/med/agro/food applications

# Plasma thruster and ExB physics research

#### http://htx.pppl.gov

Main Objectives:

- Addressing emerging plasma science challenges for Hall thruster technology
- Understanding of fundamental limits of plasma acceleration and thrust in magnetized plasma thrusters
- Developing new physics concepts for plasma propulsion

**Team:** Jacob Simmonds, Tasman Powis, Yevgeny Raitses, Igor Kaganovich, Andrei Smolyakov, Ahmed Diallo

1<sup>st</sup> year graduate student: Matthew Bledsoe

Just graduated from the 1<sup>st</sup> year: Eduardo Rodriguez and Valentin Skoutnev

The other student contributors (still in Princeton): Brian Kraus and Andy Alt





## **Plasma thruster research at PPPL**

• In 1952, Lyman Spitzer discussed ion thruster concept in *"Interplanetary travel between satellite orbits"* 



American Rocket Soc.

#### Hall Thruster Experiment (HTX) in 1998 Goal: to develop scientific understanding of plasma thruster physics.

• Upgraded in 2003

 Support from DOE, Air Force (AFOSR), DARPA, NJ Science & Technology .

## http://htx.pppl.gov



## Hierarchy of Propulsion Concepts



## Hall thruster (HT)



 $E \approx -v_e \times B$  $\rho_e \ll L \ll \rho_i$ 

Electrons are magnetized lons are non-magnetized

- Thrust force exerts on m.....t
- Not space-charge limited

## Hall thruster plasma

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Neutral density ~ 10^{12}-10^{13} cm<sup>3</sup>

Plasma density ~ 10^{11}-10^{12} cm<sup>-3</sup>

Highly ionized flow: \Gamma_{ion}/\Gamma_n > 100\%

Ionization degree: from 10% to << 1%

Electron temperature ~ 20-60 eV

Ion temperature ~ 1 eV

Ion kinetic energy ~ 10^2-10^3 eV
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Weakly collisional, partially ionized, partially magnetized (only electrons are magnetized), non-equilibrium plasma.

- Different from typical low temperature plasmas
  - Electron temperature increases with the power, plasma density increases with the pressure.

## State-of-the art Hall thrusters

• By now over 250+ kW-class flown on various space missions, mainly for station keeping and orbit transfer.



From: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn /news/pressrel/2002/02-050.html *Diameter* ~ 10-50 cm,

*Power* ~ 0.5- 50 kW

B ~ 100-300 Gauss

Working gases: Xenon, Krypton

Discharge voltage ~ 200- 1000 V

Thrust ~ 10<sup>-3</sup> - 1N

*lsp* ~ 1000-3000 sec

*Efficiency* ~ 40-70%

## Fundamental limitations of HT



Hall thruster by maximum B field

 $J^{HT}/J^{ch} = 1$  at  $V^* = 45 \text{ kV}$ 

# Operating without space charge limitation, Hall thrusters can be more compact than ion thrusters



Hall thrusters are also advantageously more simple than ion thrusters (more reliable, less expensive, etc)

## **Details on Hall thruster plasma**

Non-uniform E ×B fields, with plasma density/temperature gradients.

Anode



Measurements in a 12 cm diam.,
2 kW PPPL Hall thruster.



Achievable electric field is much higher than in linear devices.

# What stops us from designing the thruster capable to operate at the thrust density limit?

- Plasma-wall interactions in the presence of strong fluxes of particles from the wall leading to the thruster erosion.
- Enhanced (anomalous) electron cross-field transport limiting the thruster efficiency
- How plasma-wall interaction and electron transport will change at the thrust density limit?
- What will be the main instabilities and how to keep the thruster operation stable?
- How to design compact and high power density plasma thruster?

# Why to care about plasma-wall interaction in Hall thrusters?



Ceramic channel, 10 cm OD diameter

- Life expectancy of typical Hall thrusters < 5000 h.
- Channel erosion is the main reason that no Hall thruster has ever propelled a deep space mission!
- New space missions require 25,000 hours!

#### Towards a solution, learning from a magnetic fusion: a divertor configuration: magnetically-shielded HT

- Low electron temperature near the wall → low sheath potential →
- Low energy of ions impinging the walls → low wall erosion → longer thruster lifetime.
- Oblique magnetic field may prevent SEE electrons from flowing to the plasma → → no near-wall conductivity.

I. Mikellides, Phys. Plasmas (2011) I. Mikellides et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. (2013)

> NASA JPL Hall Thruster with magnetic shield.



#### Why to care about electron cross-field transport?

Efficiency reduces with the electron cross-field current!

✓ Thruster efficiency 
$$\eta \equiv \frac{TV_{jet}}{2P_e} \propto \frac{I_i}{I_i + I_{e\perp}}$$



#### Scenarios for anomalous cross-field current in HT

#### *Inside the channel near the anode:*

Large-scale low frequency coherent structures, Moving ionization zones (e.g. magnetic striations) due to anomalous (enhanced) heating and ionization.





- Spoke frequency ~ 10 kHz
- 10's times slower than E/B
- Spoke frequency >> Ω<sub>ci</sub>

J. B. Parker, Y. Raitses, and N. J. Fisch, Appl. Phys. Lett. 97, 091501 (2010) C. L. Ellison, Y. Raitses and N. J. Fisch, Phys. Plasmas **19**, 013503 (2012)

#### Scenarios for anomalous cross-field current in HT



# Towards a solution: suppression of the spoke by a negative feedback control of the plasma



- Resistors attached between each anode segment and the thruster power supply
- The feedback resistors, Rf, are either 1 $\Omega$ , 100  $\Omega$ , 200  $\Omega$ , or 300 $\Omega$



Anode Segments

- Spoke increases the current through the segment leading to the increase the voltage drop across the resistor attached the segment.
- This results in the reduction of the voltage between the segment voltage and the cathode.

M. Griswold, C. L. Ellison, Y. Raitses, and N. J. Fisch, Phys. Plasmas 19, 053506 (2012)

#### Spoke suppression with the feedback control



• The suppression of the spoke leads to a reduction in the total discharge current due to the anomalous current that is carried by the spoke.

M. Griswold, C. L. Ellison, Y. Raitses, and N. J. Fisch, Phys. Plasmas 19, 053506 (2012)

#### Scenarios for anomalous cross-field current in HT



Outside the channel: small scale fluctuations

Y. Raitses, I. D. Kaganovich, A. Khrabrov, D. Sydorenko, N. J. Fisch, A. Smolyakov, IEEE Trans. Plasma Sci. **39**, 995 (2011).

## Electron-induced secondary electron emission (SEE) plays a very important role in Hall thruster operation



- For ceramic materials, SEE yield is higher and approaches 100% at lower energies than for graphite and metals.
- Use of conductive channel walls can lead to short-circuit current (across magnetic field) increasing power losses.

#### Enhanced electron cross-field current by SEEinduced near-wall conductivity

- Exchange of primary magnetized electrons by non-magnetized SEE electrons induces so-called near-wall conductivity across magnetic field.
- The displacement ,  $\rho_c = v_{\perp} / \omega_c$  ,  $v_{\perp} = u_d = \frac{E_z}{B_x}$  during the flight time  $H/u_{bx}$  gives SEE-induced cross-field current:



$$J_{bz} \approx \frac{m}{H} \frac{\gamma_p}{1 - \gamma_b} n_e \sqrt{\frac{T_{ex}}{M}} \frac{E_z}{B_x^2}$$

 $\gamma_p$  – SEE plasma electrons,  $\gamma_p$  – SEE beam electrons.

Kaganovich, Raitses, Sydorenko. Smolyakov, Phys. Plasmas (2007)

#### Two predicted profiles of the cross-field current for two discharge voltage regimes and high SEE



Non-zero averaged current over the channel width.

## Surface-architectured materials to suppress SEE and the near-wall conductivity



Carbon velvet

#### - High SEE material

- Very low SEE material



Raitses, et al., Phys. Plasmas (2011)

#### New materials with feathered surfaces

Feather: lattice of normally-oriented fibers with smaller, secondary fibers on the sides of that fiber.



*Swanson, Kaganovich, J. Appl. Phys.* **122,**043301 (2017)

SEY as a function of incident angle for

different packing density of foam.

## **Applications with adverse effects of SEE**

• Enhanced transport and power losses in plasma thrusters (Hall, FRC etc).





Damaging and destroying high power
 RF device through multipactor
 discharge.

NASA JPL Mesa Antenna Measurement Facility



Spacecraft charging



• SEE-induced electron cloud effect a possible limitation for particle

accelerators.

Large Hadron Collider at CERN



### Magnetic fusion applications with *potentially* adverse effects of SEE

Tokamaks

Magnetic mirror machines, FRC



# Plasma-based processing and synthesis of nanomaterials

http://nano.pppl.gov

Main Objectives:

- Understanding of synergy of plasma and materials processes involved in nucleation and growth of nanoparticles in plasma
- Developing methods of control of synthesis selectivity in plasma (e.g. use electric and magnetic field, leverage from charging of nanoparticles)
- Building materials at atomic scale with the help of plasma





#### **Application of ExB Plasma for Hydrogenation of Graphene**

#### Team: Yevgeny Raitses, Fang Zhao and Chris Tully (Princeton University)

Fig.1 Low-temperature magnetized plasma source, <a href="http://htx.pppl.gov/penning.html">http://htx.pppl.gov/penning.html</a>



Use a cold magnetized plasma ( $H_2$ ,  $N_2$ , Ar, Xe) produced by electron beam (10-100 eV) to minimize a damage to thin film (e.g. graphene) and increase a hydrogen coverage of the film (0.1-10's mtorr)

Fig.2 X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)



H coverage=C3/(C1+C2+C3)

C1 is C-C sp<sup>2</sup>

C2 is neighbor of C-H

C3 is from sp<sup>3</sup>

## Achieved a record high 38% hydrogen coverage of graphene

#### **Understanding and Control of Instabilities in ExB plasmas**

Team: Yevgeny Raitses, Igor Kaganovich, Andrei Smolyakov (Saskatchewan), Tasman Powis, Eduardo Rodriguez, Valentin Skoutnev, Jacob Simmonds

• E<sub>r</sub> and B<sub>z</sub> with input parameters, Pressure, B-field , discharge V-I similar to Hall thrusters, but larger plasma size.



• Diagnostics: emissive and biased probes, high speed imaging, OES, LIF, RGA

#### Laboratory for Plasma Nanosynthesis

**Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory** 



RESEARCH

PEOPLE

FACILITIES

PUBLICATIONS

#### LPN-PPPL Team

The LPN-PPPL collaborative team is assembled of high-level professional experts in the areas of theoretical and experimental plasma and materials sciences as well as advanced plasma and materials diagnostics.















Yevgeny Raitses (PPPL)



Igor Kaganovich

(PPPL)



**Brentley Stratton** (PPPL)







Roberto Car (Princeton Univ.)

Mikhail Shneider Rachel Selinsky (Princeton Univ.) (PPPL)

**Biswajit Santra** 

(Princeton Univ.)



lexandros Gerakis Sophia Gershman (PPPL) (PPPL)



Kentaro Hara (PPPL)



Andrei Khodak (PPPL)





Michael Keidar Washington Univ.)

Alexnader Khrabry (PPPL)



James Mitrani (PPPL)

Yao-Wen Yeh

(PPPL)





Angle Capece







Shurik Yatom (PPPL)





Bruce Koel Predrag Krstic (Princeton Univ.) (Stony Brook Univ.)

Longtao Han (Stony Brook Univ.)



Mohan Sankaran (Case Western Reserve Univ.)



Vladislav Vekselman (PPPL)











#### **PPPL Laboratory for Plasma Nanosynthesis**



• Atmospheric plasma for synthesis of nanomaterials.



• In situ laser diagnostic of nanoparticles



 Magnetized plasma for synthesis and functionalization of nanomaterials and material processing at nanoscale.



 New state-of-the-art nanolaboratory for safe work with nanomaterials

## Advanced In-situ Diagnostics for Characterization of Plasmas and Nanoparticles

Fast movable probe to collect & extract nanoparticles from plasma, < 0.5 s, 500 μm (GWU). Collected samples characterized ex-situ by SEM, EDS, TEM, Raman, XRD, etc.



Optical emission spectroscopy (OES), FTIR, Filtered Fast Imaging (FFI) for time-resolved (1 µs) characterization of plasma species.

Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF) to measure density and temperature of atomic and molecular species with resolution: 10 ns, 100 µm Pump & Dye lasers, 10 ns, 40 mJ

**Coherent Rayleigh-Brillouin Scattering** (CRBS), to detect nanoparticles 1-100 nm with resolution: 10 ns, 100 μm Lasers: 1064 nm, 200 mJ, 10-1000 ns Laser-Induced Incandescence (LII) to detect nanoparticles > 10 nm with resolution: 10 ns, 2mm x 5mm Laser: 1064 nm, 100 mJ, 10 ns

## Computational tools used for simulations of breakdown, plasmas and nucleation and growth of nanostructures



#### Particle-in-Cell Codes:

- EDIPIC code 1-2D, 3V with electron, ion and fast-atom collisions
- LSP code 3D, 3V: Modified commercial particle-in-cell Monte-Carlo-collisions (PIC-MCC) code LSP to develop self-consistent kinetic codes which are scalable to simulation sizes for modeling real devices in two and three-dimensions
- Both PIC codes are benchmarked and experimentally validated

### Basic plasma and synthesis processes in the arc

- A versatile and extensively studied method of vaporization nanosynthesis
- Good for fundamental synthesis studies– different nanostructures synthesized at different arc conditions: C60, MWCNT, SWNT, graphene flakes, nanofibers
- Evaporation of the graphite electrode (usually anode) heated by the electric arc provides carbon feedstock to produce plasma and nanomaterials



- 1-2 kW input power
- Helium buffer gas
- Atmospheric pressure
- 10 A/cm<sup>2</sup>, 10's of Volts



#### Self-consistent 2-D simulations of the carbon arc

 The arc model was implemented into a general-purpose code ANSYS-CFX which was highly customized.



#### Fluid model of plasma

-Non-equilibrium plasma ( $T_e \neq T_g$ ,  $n_e \neq n_{Saha}$ ) -Drift and diffusion of electrons

• Self-consistent arc model:

-Conjugate heat transfer and current flow
-Plasma-electrodes boundary conditions

-Heat transfer:

- ablation/deposition
- electron emission
- radiation

- sheath contribution
- work function
- ionization energy
- Parameters coupling at the electrodes:



III Non-uniform parameters at the electrode surfaces

#### Carbon feedstock by ablation of the graphite anode

- Two ablation modes of the graphite anode: low ablation and enhanced ablation are typical for carbon and non-carbon arcs.
- Simulations show lower ablation rates at large currents than experiments
- Theory predicts the increase of the heat conduction to the anode with the flux of ablated carbon products that further increases the anode heating, ablation and the anode voltage drop to conduct the current to the anode.
  - We are now incorporating these predicted effects in simulations.



#### Measurements and simulations of nanoparticles

 Experimental set up for laser-induced incandesce (LII), spectral imaging, laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) and the laser beam intersection with the region of nanoparticle growth.



 Areas from which a LII signal was collected are highlighted and the mean particle diameter for each area is shown from LII (yellow) and simulations (white).



#### New frontier: Boron Nitride and B-C-N nanotubes

#### BN nanotubes (BNNTs)



- Unlike CNT, BNNTselectrically insulating
- Thermally and chemically stable
- Strong UV and neutron absorption

#### Fast frame (3kfps) video



A DC 1 kW arc between 3 mm diameter tungsten cathode and boron anode at 400 torr N<sub>2</sub> Current: 40 A, Voltage~ 30-40 V

#### **BNNT web**



#### **BNNT on boron droplet**



#### New frontier: New superhard materials

 Boron atoms build strong covalent metal-boron and boron-boron bods responsible for hardness of WB materials



- WB<sub>x</sub> composites, even with X>3, are less expensive than diamond
- Can be produced in "standard" environments (already produced or predicted e.g. WB<sub>5</sub>)

A. G. Kvashin et al., J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 9 (2018)

# Plasma applications in bio/med/food/agro

Shurik Yatom, Sophia Gershman, Sierra Jubin, Daoman Han, Yevgeny Raitses, Philip Efthimion

Main Objectives:

- Understanding of scaling of the DBD plasma devices
- Uncovering the role of ion-induced and electron-induced SEE processes
- Control of stability and interactions (cross-talking) in the multi-plasma array



## Two viable ways of plasma application for food/agriculture

Input power

Radicals

 $H_2O_2^{0(a)}$ 

HNO<sub>3</sub>

NO<sub>3</sub>

Carrier gas Gas temperature

Electromagnetic fields



Courtesy of Prof. Wonho Cho, KAIST

## Smart packaging for food products



#### "Plasma in a Pouch"

(Lock&Lock<sup>™</sup> type plasma packaging) (Plastic bag type plasma packaging)





Lid

Main

container



Courtesy of Prof. Wonho Cho, KAIST

## Smart packaging for medical devices

Medical devices are sterilized by the plasma discharged inside STERPACK<sup>®</sup>.
 Tests with chemical and biological indicators demonstrate that 5 minutes is sufficient for successful sterilization (10x shorter than conventional commercial product).

Courtesy of Prof. Wonho Cho, KAIST







Plasma produced inside STERPACK®



#### PPPL Flexible source of cold plasma for applications on sensitive tissues

- Flexible dielectric barrier discharge (DBD) device was developed as a source of cold and electrically safe plasma, produced across a large area (~ cm<sup>2</sup>)
- The generated plasma is chemically active: dissociation of water in the ambient atmosphere is detected via emission from excited OH molecules.
- The device is operated by AC power supply, at frequencies 20-50 kHz, Power<1 W
- Research focus: scaling of the active plasma area with applied power





• Flexible DBD device in action



DOE Plasma Science Center Control of Plasma Kinetics

#### Low Temperature Plasma is Everywhere



01-Plasma TV

- 02 Plasma coated jot turbing blades
- 03-Plasma-manufactured LEDs in panel
- 04—Diamondlike plasma CVD oyoglass coating
- 05 Plasma ion-implanted artificial hip
- 06-Plasma laser-cut cloth
- 07—Plasma HID headlamps
- 08-Plasma-produced H, in fuel cell

- 09-Plasma-aided combustion
- 10 Plasmo mufflo:
- 11-Plasma ozone water purification
- 12-Plasma-deposited LCD screen
- 13—Plasma-deposited silicon for solar cells
- 14-Plasma-processed microelectronics
- 15-Plasma-sterilization in
  - pharmaceutical production

- 16-Plasma-treated polymers
- 17 Pleama-treated textiles
- 18-Plasma-treated heart stent
- 19—Plasma-deposited diffusion barriers for containers
- 20-Plasma-sputtered window glazing
- 21-Compact fluorescent plasma lamp

Plasmas in the kitchen. Plasmas and the technologies they enable are pervasive in our everyday life. Each one of us touches or is touched by plasma-enabled technologies every day.

Plasma Science: Advancing Knowledge in the National Interest. Plasma 2010 Committee, Plasma Science Committee, National Research Council. ISBN: 0-309-10944-2, 280 pages, (2007)

Nathaniel Fisch Igor Kaganovich Andrei Smolyakov Jacob Simmonds Vlad Vekselman Shurik Yatom Alex Khrabryi Yao-Wen Yeh

Arturo Dominguez

Jose Lopez