Investigation and optimisation of spatial and spectral characteristics of EUV emission from Laser Assisted Vacuum Arc

> Larissa Juschkin, Isaac Tobin, Yuri Sidelnikov, Fergal O'Reilly, Imam Kambali, Emilien Foiret, Paul Sheridan, Emma Sokel, James G. Lunney



Laser Assisted Vacuum Arc (LAVA-lamp)



High-current discharge between two rotating electrodes covered with a thin liquid Tin or Galinstan film is triggered by local laser ablation of electrode material.

Discharge

capacitance inductance voltages energies current

0.4 μF 19 nH 3 – 6 kV 1.8 – 7.2 J 20 kA at 4.5 kV

Trigger laser:

wavelength 1064 nm
beam diameter 3 mm
focal lens 30 cm
energy 5 – 50 mJ
(varied by means of rotatable half-wave plate and polarizing beam splitter)



Experimental Setup



Diagnostic techniques

- absolutely calibrated time integrated EUV spectroscopy
- 2 µm spatially resolved time integrated in-band EUV imaging
- time resolved in-band filtered fast EUV photodiode
- time- and spatially-resolved fast gated visible emission spectroscopy
- time of flight diagnostic of ions with a Faraday cup
- Rogowski coil characterisation of discharge current





Experimental Setup



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 of discharge current









EUV imaging of plasma pinch for 2 different laser energies

4 J (4.5 kV), trigger laser 5 mJ, color scale (min – max): 5000 - 35000 counts



4 J (4.5 kV), trigger laser 40 mJ, color scale (min – max): 5000 - 35000 counts







EUV imaging of plasma pinch for a range of discharge energies

3.2 J (4 kV), color scale (min - max): 2500 - 10000 counts

Laser energy = 5 mJ







EUV spectra for various discharge energies: Galinstan







Comparison to LPP spectra

Courtesy of Imam Kambali, UCD







Comparison to LPP spectra and calculations



Courtesy of Imam Kambali, UCD





Calculated Ga spectra, Cowan code



Courtesy of Imam Kambali, UCD

Oscillator strengths convolved with Gaussian broadening of 0.01 nm (spectrograph's resolution) Investigated transitions: resonance $3p^{6}3d^{N} - 3p^{5}3d^{N+1}$ $+ 3p^{6}3d^{N-1}4p$ $+ 3p^{6}3d^{N-1}4f$ $+ 3p^{6}3d^{N-1}5p$ $+ 3p^{6}3d^{N-1}5f$





Calculated In spectra, Cowan code



Courtesy of Imam Kambali, UCD

Oscillator strengths convolved with Gaussian broadening of 0.01 nm (spectrograph's resolution)

Investigated transitions: resonance $4p^{6}4d^{N} - 4p^{5}4d^{N+1}$ $+ 4p^{6}4d^{N-1}4f$ $+ 4p^{6}4d^{N-1}5p$ $+ 4p^{6}4d^{N-1}5f$ $+ 4p^{6}4d^{N-1}6p$





Calculated Sn spectra, Cowan code



Courtesy of Imam Kambali, UCD

Oscillator strengths convolved with Gaussian broadening of 0.01 nm (spectrograph's resolution)

Investigated transitions: 4p-4d, 4d-4f and 4d-5p (similar to In resonance)





EUV spectra for various discharge energies: Tin







Inband EUV output in $2\pi sr$ for Galinstan and Tin

Average of 32 signals for in-band EUV energy depending on discharge energy





Faraday cup







Ion current









Visible spectroscopy

Visible spectra captured 0 ns after laser pulse with 1 µs gate time, 4 J, 5 mJ (Galinstan) and 12 mJ (Tin) & gain 1 and 2 respectively







Conclusions

- EUV emission from Laser Assisted Vacuum Arc (LAVA-lamp) discharge in Galinstan and Tin vapor is investigated and compared.
- EUV imaging pinch is ~100 µm (or even smaller) in diameter and ~0.5 – 1 mm in length.
- Tin in-band emission is more efficient (by a factor of 2x to 10x, partially because of spectral efficiency) and more reproducible, however the discharge was not optimised for Galinstan.
- Pinching time matching to the current maximum is essential for high EUV output and is sensitive to trigger laser energy.
- Discharge plasma is characterised by means of time- and spatially-resolved fast gated visible emission spectroscopy to determine dynamic evolution of plasma densities and temperatures.
- Comparison with calculated spectra for Galinstan is ongoing. Gallium ions are mainly responsible for EUV emission below 13 nm whereas Indium ions emission dominates the spectra above 14 nm.





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Time of pinching

Rogowski coil current characteristics



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Stark widths





