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Development of KSTAR ECE imaging system for measurement of temperature fluctuations and edge density fluctuations^{a)}

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The ECE imaging (ECEI) diagnostic tested on the TEXTOR tokamak revealed the sawtooth reconnection physics in unprecedented detail, including the first observation of high-field-side crash and collective heat transport [H. K. Park, N. C. Luhmann, Jr., A. J. H. Donné *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **96**, 195003 (2006)]. An improved ECEI system capable of visualizing both high- and low-field sides simultaneously with considerably better spatial coverage has been developed for the KSTAR tokamak in order to capture the full picture of core MHD dynamics. Direct 2D imaging of other MHD phenomena such as tearing modes, edge localized modes, and even Alfvén eigenmodes is expected to be feasible. Use of ECE images of the optically thin edge region to recover 2D electron density changes during L/H mode transitions is also envisioned, providing powerful information about the underlying physics. The influence of density fluctuations on optically thin ECE is discussed. © 2010 American Institute of Physics. [doi:10.1063/1.3483209]

I. INTRODUCTION

Electron cyclotron emission (ECE) radiometry is a well established diagnostic technique for measuring electron temperature (T_e) of tokamak plasmas.^{1,2} The cyclotron resonance frequency is inversely proportional to the major radius of tokamak plasma and, for optically thick plasma, the radiation temperature (T_*) at the cyclotron resonance equals the electron temperature, providing direct information on local electron temperature. The conventional ECE radiometers have been widely used for monitoring 1D radial T_e profiles.

However, 2D localized imaging measurements, as opposed to the traditional 1D or chordal tomographic images, are considered essential for the physics study of complex behaviors such as MHD instabilities and waves in the tokamak plasmas. Recently, 2D visualization of sawtooth crash via an ECE imaging system in the TEXTOR tokamak revealed the physics of sawtooth phenomena³ in unprecedented detail including the unexpected high-field side crash,⁴ challenging the existing theoretical models.⁵⁻⁷

The ECE imaging (ECEI) system is essentially an array of radiometers optically imaged onto the plane of the poloidal cross section of the tokamak plasma. After demonstrating the powerful capabilities as 2D local T_e diagnostic, ECEI systems with improved rf electronics and imaging optics have been launched in other major tokamaks including ASDEX-U⁸ and DIII-D.⁹ These ECEI systems have provided

invaluable 2D images of MHD phenomena such as tearing modes, edge localized modes, and Alfvén eigenmodes as well as sawtooth crashes. It should be noted that the ECEI systems have been focused on T_e fluctuation measurements rather than absolute T_e profile measurements partially due to the difficulty of absolute calibration.

This paper describes a further improved ECEI system ready to be launched for the 2010 KSTAR operation. The KSTAR ECEI system is capable of visualizing both high- and low-field sides simultaneously with considerably wider spatial coverage (up to 90 cm vertical span). These capabilities will enable capturing the full picture of core MHD dynamics during sawtooth crash for the first time. ECE radiation temperature no longer equals the local T_e for optically thin region, especially the plasma edge. Optical thickness effect on T_e fluctuation measurements and the feasibility of extracting density fluctuation information from optically thin ECE are also discussed.

II. KSTAR ECEI SYSTEM

The KSTAR ECEI system is schematically shown in Fig. 1. The system design is aimed at visualizing both high-field side (HFS) and low-field side (LFS) simultaneously with wide vertical coverage up to 90 cm for 2 T operation. The basic components of the system are similar to the ASDEX-U and DIII-D ECEI systems, namely, (1) vacuum viewport window, (2) imaging optics for optically coupling the ECE radiation (~ 100 GHz) to antenna array, (3) antenna/mixer array, (4) heterodyne-mixing local oscillator (LO) for down-converting ECE rf signals to intermediate frequencies (IF) (bandwidth ~ 10 GHz), (5) IF circuit boards for splitting and down-converting the IF signals into eight frequency bands

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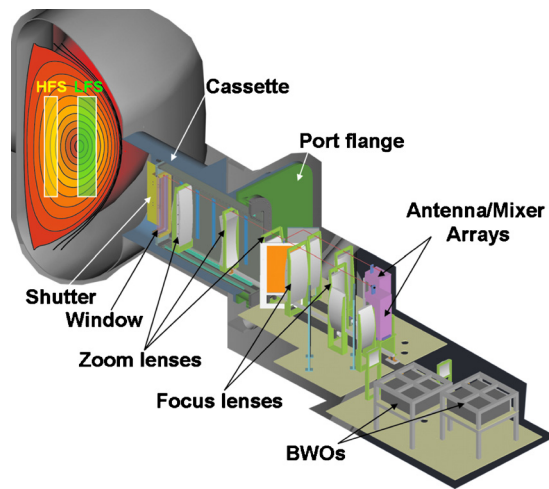


FIG. 1. (Color online) KSTAR ECEI system. Approximate sight areas are indicated in the inset plasma image, illustrating simultaneous coverage of LFS and HFS. Zoom lenses are placed in close proximity to the plasmas through the long port cassette to maximize the optical throughput of the ECE radiation into the dual antenna arrays. Frequency tunable BWOs are optically coupled to the arrays. IF/video circuits and data acquisition sub-systems are not shown.

corresponding to eight radial locations in the plasma, (6) video circuit boards for integrating the second stage IF signals (bandwidth of ~ 0.6 GHz each), and (7) digitization system.

The KSTAR tokamak offers long cassette-type ports for midplane diagnostics, which can be a significant advantage for diagnostics requiring wide sight angle and proximity access to the plasma. A fused silica vacuum viewport window is attached at the inner end of the ECEI cassette (~ 1.4 m long, ~ 0.3 m wide). The window is $\sim 760 \times 200$ mm² rectangular, 30 mm thick, and vacuum sealed by double Viton O-rings. The extra large window size is necessary for wide vertical coverage without diffraction effect. The large thickness is chosen to ensure safety under mechanical and thermal stresses during both vessel baking and normal operation. The thick window suffers a transmittance modulation of $\sim 65\%$ – 100% in the ~ 2.5 GHz range due to the etalon effect. However, the etalon effect can be factored out for T_e fluctuation measurements since it is approximately independent of incident angles and polarizations for small incident angles. The window is rotated by 3° in the horizontal direction to minimize the standing wave effect between the window and the zoom lens next to the window. A shutter is installed on the window to prevent deposition due to wall conditioning and protect the system in case of large stray electron cyclotron heating or neutral beam injection powers.

The KSTAR ECEI system features a highly flexible imaging optics based on the Cooke triplet concept¹⁰ for the zoom control. The imaging optics is designed to fully utilize the long cassette which enables proximity access to the plasma. The zoom optics achieves a wide vertical zoom range (~ 30 – 90 cm) covering the entire vertical span of the plasma. The focus lenses form the image of the antenna array onto the radial region corresponding to the selected LO frequency in order to maximize the coupling between the antenna array and the plasma ECE radiation. The Cooke triplet

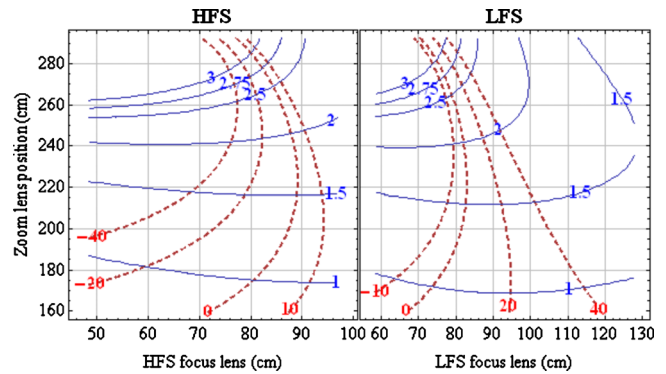


FIG. 2. (Color online) Zoom and focus controls. Contours of zoom factors (blue solid lines) and contours of focus positions from the plasma center (red dashed lines; inboard direction being negative) are shown as a function of zoom and focus lens positions. Contours are calculated based on paraxial Gaussian beam analysis.

design enables approximately independent control of zoom and focus as shown in Fig. 2, making the lens position control much simpler. Further details of the imaging optics design can be found elsewhere.¹¹

Two antenna/mixer arrays are used for simultaneous coverage of LFS and HFS. Each array is enclosed in a modular box and has 24 vertical channels, four more channels compared to the DIII-D system but otherwise identical. The LO mixing is achieved using frequency tunable backward oscillators (BWOs) (ELVA-1 models G4-143e and G4-143f) located close to the array boxes. The BWO power is optically delivered through the free space using lenses instead of waveguides, which is expected to result in less LO power loss. The BWOs are chosen for wider frequency range and flexible frequency control compared to fixed frequency Gunn-oscillators. The BWO output has a slight frequency instability of less than 0.05% and power modulation of less than 0.5 dB at 60 Hz (the 220 V utility line frequency), which is tolerable for measurements of MHD activities. However, using an array of high power fixed frequency oscillators combined with frequency doubler/tripler instead of BWOs seems favorable for 3 T or higher operation partially because no BWO source is available for frequency > 170 GHz.

The IF/video components are identical to the DIII-D system. The video bandwidth is selectable up to 400 kHz, corresponding to the temperature resolution $\delta T_e/T_e = \sqrt{\Delta f_{\text{IF}}/\Delta f_{\text{video}}} \approx 3\%$, where Δf indicates bandwidth. Technical details on antenna design and IF/video circuits are discussed in detail by Domier *et al.*^{9,12,13}

The KSTAR ECEI system has 24 vertical \times 8 radial channels in each array, which add up to 384 total number of channels. Digitization of this large number channels at least twice as fast as the video bandwidth (~ 400 kHz) requires high speed digitizers (~ 1 MHz) and results in high data volume ~ 5 Gbyte per typical 5 s operation. Digitization and large volume data handling schemes are discussed in detail elsewhere.¹⁴

Advancements in microwave antenna design, LO coupling, and zoom optics in the DIII-D ECEI system have led to a significant improvement in signal quality compared to its

predecessors, TEXTOR and ASDEX-U systems, and the importance of clean signal has been demonstrated in the initial data.⁹ The KSTAR ECEI system benefits from the same microwave technology. In addition, the flexible zoom control and accurate focus control will result in wider plasma coverage and further improved signal-to-noise ratio.

III. APPLICATION OF ECEI ON EDGE PLASMA PHYSICS

For the optically thin region of the plasma, ECE spectral intensity becomes a complex function of T_e , n_e , and wall reflection.¹ In such cases care must be taken for interpretation of ECEI data because $T_*(\omega)$ no longer equals T_e at the resonance position $r_{\omega=n\omega_c}$. Peters *et al.*¹⁵ compared several validity criteria for estimating various forms of T_e with 15% accuracy in terms of the optical thickness τ :

$$\tilde{T}_e/\langle T_e \rangle \text{ by } \tilde{T}_*/\langle T_* \rangle \Rightarrow \text{requires } \tau > 1.0, \quad (1)$$

$$\langle T_e \rangle \text{ by } \langle T_* \rangle \Rightarrow \text{requires } \tau > 0.8, \quad (2)$$

$$\tilde{T}_e \text{ by } \tilde{T}_* \Rightarrow \text{requires } \tau > 0.23, \quad (3)$$

where \tilde{T} represents fluctuating quantity and $\langle T \rangle$ represents time-averaged quantity. Reflection coefficient (r) of a typical vessel wall ~ 0.8 , Maxwellian electron distribution, and small density fluctuation (\tilde{n}_e) are assumed in the derivation. The first case corresponds to the usual ECEI data scaling scheme and the second case corresponds to the usual profile measurements using ECE radiometer. The third case corresponds to absolute fluctuation measurements. The last two cases are rarely applicable for ECEI data because of the difficulty in absolute calibration.

Further consideration is required to take into account the density effect for the plasma edge region, where $\tilde{n}_e/\langle n_e \rangle$ is presumably much larger than $\tilde{T}_e/\langle T_e \rangle$. The underlying equations for the above criteria are

$$\langle T_* \rangle = A_1 \langle T_e \rangle, \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\tilde{T}_*}{\langle T_* \rangle} = (1 + A_2) \frac{\tilde{T}_e}{\langle T_e \rangle} + A_2 \frac{\tilde{n}_e}{\langle n_e \rangle}, \quad (5)$$

where $A_1 = (1 - e^{-\tau}) / (1 - r e^{-\tau})$ and $A_2 = (1 - r A_1) \cdot \tau e^{-\tau} / (1 - e^{-\tau})$. For nominal wall reflection coefficient $r \approx 0.8$ and $\tau \ll 1$, $A_2 \approx 1 - \tau(1+r)/2(1-r) \approx 1$ and Eq. (5) becomes

$$\frac{\tilde{T}_*}{\langle T_* \rangle} \approx 2 \frac{\tilde{T}_e}{\langle T_e \rangle} + \frac{\tilde{n}_e}{\langle n_e \rangle}. \quad (6)$$

Thus, if $\tilde{n}_e/\langle n_e \rangle \gg 2\tilde{T}_e/\langle T_e \rangle$, the radiometer signal should be interpreted as density perturbations.

Consider the case that a preliminary information on the optical thickness, the wall reflection coefficient, and the level of $\tilde{T}_e/\langle T_e \rangle$ is available. If the assumed T_e fluctuation level is too small to account the measurement $\tilde{T}_*/\langle T_* \rangle$ according to Eq. (5), the density term must be dominant and the density

fluctuation level can be estimated as $\tilde{n}_e/\langle n_e \rangle = \tilde{T}_*/\langle T_* \rangle / A_2$. Thus, under favorable conditions similar to this example, 2D ECEI images of the optically thin edge region can be used to recover the edge plasma physics such as electron density changes during L/H mode transitions.

IV. SUMMARY AND UPGRADE PLANS

The combination of highly flexible imaging optics and advanced microwave technology used in the KSTAR ECEI system will enable high quality 2D imaging of various MHD activities such as sawteeth, tearing modes, edge localized modes, and Alfvén eigenmodes. For certain cases, ECEI images of the optically thin plasma edge region can be interpreted as density perturbations, providing valuable information on edge plasma physics. Future upgrades are planned for KSTAR high-field operation (≥ 3 T) and second ECEI system combined with multifrequency imaging reflectometry^{16,17} for the 2012 operation.

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