

### Radioactive Ion Sources

### CERN Accelerator School

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# General layout of the lecture

This 1 hour lecture unfortunately can not be exhaustive

Structure of the lecture :

- Production of radioactive ion beams and specifities
- Some generic principles
- 3 case studies:
	- **Surface ion sources**
	- Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge ion sources
	- ECR ion sources

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# Production of radioactive ion beams and specifities

Some generic principles



### World map of radioisotope ion beam facilities\*





### Figure of merit of a (ISOL) radioisotope ion beam facility

Not sorted by order of importance:

Number of different radioisotopes beam available Beam intensity (secondary radioactive ion beam/primary beam  $\mu C$ ) Beam quality, for instance purity and emittance Facility up-time Stability of beam over time (Post)Accelerated beam characteristics









### Underlying principles of a radioactive ion source design



DISTANCE ALONG BEAM

Ionize trace radioelements in larger&variable impurities loads

Must be compact

Must withstand 1 MGy

Compatible with standard connections/interfaces

(high current, 3kV, Thermocouples, …)

Example:

At CERN-ISOLDE, 1 production unit every 1-4 weeks At ISAC-TRIUMF, 1 production unit every 4-6 weeks





Figure 6. Contours of absorbed dose to an object near



#### Beams and ion sources at CERN-ISOLDE

#### **Figures of merit for a radioactive ion source:**

Compatibility with Front End interfaces Integration in production units Robustness in radiations environment





#### Operation in changing gas compositions and Contaminations

Maximal efficiencies for the desired beams Low total extracted current intensities  $(0.1-100 \mu A)$ Transverse emittance, energy spread Eventually provides chemical selectivity



### Where do we find ion sources

#### *At ISOLDE, at CERN*

F. Wenander EBIS charge breeder At REX-ISOLDE





T. Stora Target and Ion Source Units

> V. Fedosseev Resonant Laser Ion Source





### Some key properties of chemical elements

The related radio-isotopes have in addition A finite half-life

Na  $\mathbf K$ Rb

( from a few ms to years at ISOL-Type facilities)















### Surface ion sources

How to measure the Lr<sup>+</sup> 1st ionization potential  $W_i$ ?





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 $e(V - \phi)$ 

#### **CERN Accelerator** Saha-Langmuir Equation

Material work function Φ Isotope 1st Ion. Pot. : Wi Isotope e- affinity : Ea



$$
\varepsilon_{\text{surface}} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{g_0}{g_-} \exp\left(\frac{\Phi - A_{\text{E}}}{kT}\right)} \quad \text{For lo}
$$

dine.  $(2P3/2,$  degeneracy 4), g-=1

For Alkalis, g<sub>0</sub>=2 (2S1/2, degeneracy 2), g+=1

Some additional correction factors such as applied electrical potential or surface coverage



Meghnad Saha, 1920

### May 2012 CERN-ISOLDE negative ion source



12 *\* : What is the e- current to be deflected/dumped ?*

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#### May 2012 Cavity in (non)-thermal equilibrium

Effect of plasma properties in tubular surface ion source

$$
\varepsilon_{\rm tub} = \varepsilon_{\rm surf} \, N_{\rm TE} \, / \, (1 - \varepsilon_{\rm surf} (1 - N_{\rm TE}))
$$

$$
N_{TE} = \exp(-\Phi p.e/kT)
$$

"Amplification factor" at thermal equilibrium



$$
N_{nTE} = \omega \kappa
$$

Amplification factor in non-thermal equilibrium, : κ number of collision,

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 $ω$  probability to leave cavity as  $1+$  ion

Cavity length 1cm, Diameter 3mm For ωκ=150





#### Ionization efficiencies for high-T. Cavity







# Effect of  $1+$  ion density in the cavity

Ie, presence of unwanted impurities

Cavity length 1cm,. Diameter 3mm Orifice 0.7mm diameter



Fig. 3. Ionization efficiency of uranium ( $10^{10}/s$  implanted  $^{238}$ U UNILAC beam particles) as a function of the plasma density  $\sum_{\zeta} n_{i \vee \zeta}$ , which is varied by feeding thallium vapour into the cavity. The plasma and total densities are determined from the ion current of thallium (upper scale) out of the source assuming thermal flow. Note that the ionization efficiency for thallium is about half that of uranium and should show (due to the similar ionization potential of  $W_i^* = 6.28$  eV) about the same  $I_i(T)$  dependence. The solid curve gives  $\eta(U)$  assuming thermoequilibrium, the broken line shows the respective amplification factor  $N_{\text{TE}}$ , as calculated according to eqs. (2) and (4), respectively. Due to the impurities the minimum plasma density is around  $10^9$ /cm<sup>3</sup>.





# Overview on surface ion sources

T=1200-2300 °C (2700°C)

Tube: L= 1-5cm, diam=1-8mm, extr.: 0.5-3mm

```
Materials: Nb, Ta, Re, W, Ir5Ce
```

```
LaB6, GdB6, TaC, SrOBaO
```

```
Heating: Ohmic, e- bomb. 100-1000W
```

```
Plasma density : 10<sup>8</sup>-10<sup>10</sup>/cm<sup>3</sup>
```

```
Total beam current @20-60kV : 10-1000nA
```

```
Plasma potential : -1 to -2V,
```
 $Eions = 0.2$  eV

 $\lambda_{\text{Debye}} = 0.05 - 1$ mm

 $\varepsilon_{95\%}$ @30kV = 10-15 pi mm mrad



# Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge (FEBIAD) ion sources





#### **Nielsen source**



 $\rightarrow$  End extraction;

 $\rightarrow$  Long discharge chamber

(for better efficiency);

 $\rightarrow$  Vapour tight (operation pressure:  $10^{-4} \div 10^{-3}$  torr);

 $\rightarrow$  Discharge chamber heated by the filament (base version);

 $\rightarrow$  Gas inlet in the hottest part of the ion source (filament).









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## FEBIADs at ISOLDE





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# The 3 ISOLDE FEBIADs until 2009

#### **FEBIAD: "Forced Electron Beam Induced Arc Discharge"**

Materials used for the different models:

Cathode: Ta Anode: Mo, C Insulators: BN, BeO Grid: (Ta) C Heat screens: Mo Transfer lines: Ta





 $\triangleright$  Hot transfer line

 $\triangleright$  Employed for the ionization of the condensable elements



 Employed for the ionization of the noble gases and molecular compounds



- MK3
- $\triangleright$  Temperature controlled transfer line
- $\triangleright$  Coupled to the molten metal targets
- $\triangleright$  Full graphite, BN insulators

### May 2012 Modeling of "relevant phenomena"



- $\triangleright$  Full cocktail of possible phenomena.
- $\triangleright$  Not all appearing all over the variation range of the operation parameters.
- $\triangleright$  Some of them can be neglected at the nominal parameters.
- Application range has been investigated (experiment vs. theory).
- $\triangleright$  Performance limitations could be pointed out, justified and removed

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### Link between operational and physical parameters

Impact of operational parameters on physical parameters of a FEBIAD ion source





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# Ionization efficiency modeling



*n in ioniz source n*  $f \times \frac{V_{source}R}{V}$ \_  $\varepsilon = f \times$ *source n*  $f \times V_{source} \times \frac{n_e \times n_n \times \sigma_{ionic} \times v}{n_e \times n_e}$  $= f \times V_{source} \times \frac{n_e \times n_n \times \sigma}{\sigma}$  $\Rightarrow$   $|\varepsilon$ 

#### **The extraction factor, f**

 $f =$  the fraction of the produced ions that are extracted before losing their charge on the ion source walls or being pumped.

 $f$  (geometrical) = the fraction of the source volume here the generated ions are extracted from, due to *vorable field distribution.* 

 $\geq 1$  electron passage;

 $\triangleright$  no ion trapping;

 $\Sigma$  T<sub>e</sub> = 150 eV (e⋅V<sub>anode</sub>, initial energy);

 $\Sigma$  T<sub>i</sub> = 0.17 eV (2300 K, thermal energy);

 $\triangleright$  n<sub>e</sub> = temperature dependent (cathode emission given by Richardson Dushmann);

 $n_n =$  dep. on pressure,  $n_{n_in}$ ,  $C_{out}$ .



*n in*

\_

 $e^{\lambda_1 t}$   $\lambda_0$  *ioniz*  $\lambda_1$   $\lambda_2$  *rel* 

 $\times n_{n} \times \sigma_{\text{ioniz}} \times$ 



### Validation of the theoretical model

**" f "**

Ionization efficiency (exp)

f factor (computed)



- $\triangleright$  ε measured directly
- $\triangleright$  f calculated for each set of operating parameters

$$
f = \varepsilon \times \frac{n_{n_{\text{min}}}}{V_{source} \times n_e \times n_n \times \sigma_{ioniz} \times v_{rel}}
$$

*Compute f for a MK5 ion source.*



 **Quality Factor Plasma characterization**  $\triangleright$  **Ionization limit!** ( $f_{max}$ =1)

# Offline mass-separator at ISOLDE

**CERN Acce** 

Intensity (A)



27 27

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#### May 2012 **CERN Acce** Plasma potential and energy spread

#### Beam energy measurement device



Beam energy [eV]



- $\triangleright$  Deceleration potential: (V<sub>extraction</sub>+ΔV), with ΔV ∈ [0, 300V]
- $\triangleright$  Recorded dependence: I<sub>back electrode</sub> = f (ΔV)
- $\triangleright$  Beam energy distribution reconstructed through the differentiation of the measured data
- $\triangleright$  Broad range of beam intensities (from nA to mA)



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# Emittance measurements

#### FEBIAD MK7

 $V_{\text{extr}}=30kV; I_{\text{total}}=300nA$  $D_{\text{extr}}=70$ mm;  $\Phi_{\text{extr}}=1.6$ mm

#### **Depending on:**

- Plasma density (by external field penetration)
- Outlet plate geometry (aperture, potential)
- Ion temperature
- Background pressure (by elastical collisions)





# Present performance of the VADIS febiads at ISOLDE







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# FEBIAD at ISAC-TRIUMF

#### **RETRIUME EVENT Arget Module Source Tray**



**@TRIUMF** 

#### Hot Plasma INTRODUCTION DUTCE, =RIAF

- FEBIAD ion source, it is a hot plasma ion source,
- It was used for TUDA  ${}^{18}F(p,\alpha){}^{15}O$ experiment,
- We operated the FEBIAD combined with a high power composite SiC/gr target at 70 μA,

Nov. 2007, I(18F)= 9E+06 /s May 2008, I(<sup>18</sup>F)= 5E+07 /s **ISOLDE, 1E+07/s,** HRIBF, 2E+06 /s.



FEBIAD Ion Source, section view.



# Overview on FEBIAD ion sources

 $T = 1500 - 2300$ °C

Cavity: L= 2-3cm, diam=1-2cm, extr.: 0.5-3mm

Materials: C, Ta, Mo, W, BN, BeO

Cathode Heating: Ohmic, e- bomb. 100-1000W

Plasma density : 10<sup>7</sup>-10<sup>10</sup>/cm<sup>3</sup>

Total beam current @20-60kV : 1-100µA

Plasma potential : 70% of Anode V (50-100V);  $\Delta E_{ion} = 20$ eV

$$
E_{e^-} = 10-300 \text{ eV}
$$

$$
\lambda_{\text{Debye}} = 0.05 - 1 \text{mm}
$$

$$
\varepsilon_{95\%} @ 30 \text{kV} = 15 - 25 \text{pi mm mrad}
$$



# ECR and RF-driven ion sources for radioactive ion beams

# ECR ion source in operation



Target and Nanogan-III ECRIS at SPIRAL I-GANIL Permanent magnets, 10GHz, 200W Multicharged ECR.

For injection in post-accelerator, a 2-steps scheme  $0 \rightarrow 1+, 1+ \rightarrow N+$  is now preferred.

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#### 2.45GHz 1+ ECR ion source under commissioning



Gas support mass (u.a.m.)

 $\rm{^{3}He}$ 



\*

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### Magnetic field Mapping







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### Ionization efficiencies



Support gas flow is comprised between 1 and 7 10-4 mBar L/s





<sup>40</sup>Ar<sup>+</sup>Emittance : 76 π.mm.mrad (93% of the beam)



### Comparison of different 1+ ECR



,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

Comparisons between expected and measured ionisation efficiencies with four 2.45-GHz ECR ion sources, for different isotopes of Ne

	<b>ISAC TRIUMF</b>	<b>MINIMONO GANIL</b>	MONO1000 GANIL	<b>MONOBOB GANIL</b>
Volume $(cm3)$	18	117	1500	687
Exit diameter (mm)				
Transient time (ms)	<40	34		81
Ion. efficiency $(\% )$				
$^{20}$ Ne <sup>+</sup> (stable)	11.5	25	92	53
$^{22}Ne^{+}$ (9.25 s)	12	25	92	53
$18\text{Ne}^+$ (1.67 s)	11	25	91	51
$^{17}Ne^+$ (0.109 s)	10.5	19	81	30

Bold characters have been measured or directly deduced from measurements. The times written in normal characters have been estimated using the formula deduced from [14].



# Overview on ECR ion sources



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### References

Special thanks to P. Bricault, P. Jardin, M. Schaedel, Y. Nagame for material used in the preparation of this course

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- F. Wenander et al., Nucl. Phys A746 (2004) 659.



# Supplement



#### **Nielsen model (for Nielsen ion sources)**

$$
\eta_{\text{max}} = C \cdot l \cdot \nu \cdot \sigma_{ie} \tag{4.1}
$$

where  $l =$  the length of the plasma chamber;  $v =$  number of oscillations carried out by a primary electron;  $\sigma_{\rm ie}$  = effective ionization cross section (including all processes of ionization);  $C = constant$  depending on the acceleration gap and potential.

#### **Kirchner model (for FEBIADs)**

$$
\eta = \frac{j_i}{j_i + j_0}
$$

$$
\eta = \gamma \cdot \sqrt{2\pi} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{T_e}{T_{is}}} \cdot \frac{n_i}{n_0}
$$

$$
j_0 = n_0 \sqrt{\frac{k \cdot T_{is}}{2\pi \cdot M_i}}
$$
 Bohm's formula  

$$
j_i = \gamma \cdot n_i \cdot \sqrt{\frac{k \cdot T_{is}}{M_i}}
$$

 $\gamma$  = Bohm's correction factor [61],  $\gamma \in (1/3;2/3)$ ;  $n_i$  = ion density;  $n_e$  = electron density;  $T_{is}$  = ion source temperature (assimilated with the ion temperature);  $T_c$  = electron temperature;  $M_i$  = ion mass.



#### **Alton model (for FEBIADs and EBGP)**

$$
\eta_{calc} = \frac{4D_0 \cdot \frac{\langle l \rangle}{S_{out}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\pi \cdot M_i}{8kT_i} \cdot l_e \exp\left[\frac{-I_p}{}\right]}}{1 + 4D_0 \cdot \frac{\langle l \rangle}{S_{out}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\pi \cdot M_i}{8kT_i} \cdot l_e \exp\left[\frac{-I_p}{}\right]}} \qquad \eta_{calc} = \frac{\frac{C}{S_{out} \cdot j_{cath}}}{1 + \frac{C}{S_{out} \cdot j_{cath}}}
$$

 $\langle l \rangle$  = the average path length for a particle in the plasma;

 $S<sub>out</sub>$  = the emission area of the source;  $D_0$  = constant (cm<sup>2</sup>/s);  $I_p$  = the ionization potential;

 $l_e$  = number of electrons in the valence shell of the atom with a given  $I_p$ ;





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# FEBIAD plasma properties





#### Electrons

 $\triangleright$  Their charge sustains the plasma;

 $\triangleright$  The generated potential well defines the source trap capacity;

- $\triangleright$  Generated by a hot cathode, n<sub>e</sub>=f(T);
- $\triangleright$  Their energy is defined by V<sub>anode</sub>;
- $\triangleright$  Primary beam can reach the space charge limit;
- $\triangleright$  There is a maximum excess n<sub>e</sub> in the source.

#### Ions

- $\triangleright$  Generated mainly by electron impact;
- $\triangleright$  n<sub>i</sub> < n<sub>e</sub>;
- $\triangleright E_i = -0.2$  eV (thermal);

 $\triangleright$  For efficient operation at high temperatures, they are required for compensating the electron charges.





### Improvement of the ionization efficiency at ISOLDE

Tests with noble gases (offline and online):

