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Soft-X ray imaging diagnostics of helical structures in the lowaspect-ratio RFP RELAX¹ TAKUMI ONCHI, University of Saskatchewan, KENSUKE OKI, AKIO SANPEI, HARUHIKO HIMURA, SADAO MASAMUNE, Kyoto Institute of Technology, RYUYA IKEZOE, University of Tsukuba, NOBUHIRO NISHINO, Hiroshima University, HARUHISA KOGUCHI, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology — Soft-X ray (SXR) imaging diagnostic techniques using tangential pinhole camera have been developed and applied to the RELAX (R/a=0.5m/0.25m, A=2) for the study of three-dimensional (3-D) magnetic structures in a low-aspect-ratio RFP configuration. An experimental 2-D image has been compared with calculated tangential images using model profiles for emissivity, to identify the most plausible SXR emissivity profile for the experimental 2-D image. It has been found that in shallow-reversal RFP plasmas with relatively high fill pressure, a helically deformed core has been formed in RE-LAX. The SXR emissivity in the helical core is estimated to be 2-3 times higher than in the background. According to time variation measured by AXUV array, the SXR emissivity is the highest in the core region with quasi-periodic oscillation of the peak position, which is an indication of toroidal rotation of the helical hot core.

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