Experimental measurements of the total energy loss in low pressure inductively coupled argon plasma

YOUNG-KWANG LEE, MIN-HYONG LEE, CHIN-WOOK CHUNG, Hanyang University — Total energy lost per electron-ion pair lost ($\varepsilon_T$) was measured experimentally in a low pressure inductively coupled argon plasma. $\varepsilon_T$ represents not only the elastic and inelastic collision energy loss of electron-neutral but also the kinetic energy loss when the electron and ion escape to the wall. In order to determine $\varepsilon_T$, the modified power balance of a global model (spatially-averaged) is properly derived using some assumptions. A floating-type probe working at very low bias voltage ($\sim 1.0$ V) was applied to obtain the electron temperature and plasma density at the plasma-sheath boundary. At 10 mTorr, the measurement shows that the measured $\varepsilon_T \sim 100$ V gradually decreased with absorbed power and began to saturate. These $\varepsilon_T$ are consistent with the theoretical results by Lee et al [1]. [1] Min-Hyong Lee, Sung-Ho Jang and Chin-Wook Chung, Phys. Plasmas, 13, 053502 (2006)