

Abstract Submitted
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Experimental and numerical investigations on characteristics of electron density in pulsed inductively coupled O₂/Ar plasmas¹ WEI LIU, Xi'an Jiaotong University, XIAO-KUN WANG, Dalian University of Technology, SHA-SHA SONG, Xi'an Jiaotong University, YONG-XIN LIU, FEI GAO, YOUNIAN WANG, Dalian University of Technology, YONG-TAO ZHAO, Xi'an Jiaotong University — The characteristics of electron density (n_e) in pulsed inductively coupled O₂/Ar plasmas have been investigated by means of a time-resolved hairpin probe and a two-dimensional (2D) hybrid model. A decrease of n_e has been found at the beginning of active-glow in the discharges with high pulse frequencies. By means of the 2D hybrid model, the decrease of n_e can be attributed to two reasons: one is the large consumption rate of electrons at the probe position and another one is the axial electron flux toward the coils at the very beginning of active-glow. Besides, the high energy electrons which formed near the coils can hardly arrive at the probe position due to their short electron energy relaxation length (smaller than the reactor length $L = 10$ cm). Thus the electron generation via ionization processes becomes unimportant at probe position and the increase of n_e after its minimum is dominated by the axial electron flux (toward the substrate). However, the temporal variation of n_e at P2 (close to the coils) has tremendous difference than that at probe position. This is because the ionization processes dominate the electron generation during the active-glow.

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