

Abstract Submitted
for the MAS15 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Cost-effective containment of unmagnetized argon plasma using a magnetic bucket and a helicon source MIGUEL HENRIQUEZ, M. UMAIR SIDDIQUI, EARL SCIME, West Virginia University — We demonstrate highly-ionized and unmagnetized plasma production in the low-power Compact Helicon for Waves and Instabilities Experiment (CHEWIE) at West Virginia University. To achieve this, the argon helicon plasma is injected into a multidipole-confined expansion chamber. Using Langmuir probes and optical emission spectroscopy, we calculate ionization fractions in the unmagnetized volume as a function of input power and fill pressures. Finally, we investigate the ionization efficiency power scaling to determine if helicons are cost-efficient plasma sources for larger highly-ionized, unmagnetized plasma experiments.

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Date submitted: 04 Sep 2015

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