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**Diagnostics of Pulsed Hydrogen Plasmas** JEROME DUBOIS, GILLES CUNGE, OLIVIER JOUBERT, MAXIME DARNON, LAURENT VAL-  
LIER, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, CEA-Leti, LTM, F-38000 Grenoble, France,  
NICOLAS POSSEME, CEA, LETI, MINATEC Campus, F-38054 Grenoble, France,  
ETCHING GROUP TEAM — Hydrogen plasmas present a great potential inter-  
est for new materials such as graphene or C-nanotubes. To modify or clean such  
ultrathin layers without damaging the material, low ion energy bombardment is re-  
quired (conditions such as those obtained in pulsed ICP reactor). By contrast, for  
other applications the ion energy must be high, to get a significant etch rate for  
example. To assist the development of innovative processes in H<sub>2</sub> plasmas, we have  
thus analyzed systematically CW and pulsed H<sub>2</sub> plasmas both with and without RF  
bias power. In particular, we carry out time-resolved ion flux, and time-averaged  
ion energy measurements in different pulsing configurations. A large variety of ion  
energies and shapes of IVDF are reported depending on pulsing parameters. The  
IVDF are typically very broad (due to the low ion transit time of low mass ion  
through the sheath) and either bi or tri-modal (H<sup>+</sup>, H<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> and H<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> contributions).  
The time variations of the ion flux in pulsed plasmas also presents peculiar features  
that will be discussed. Finally, we show that a specific issue is associated to H<sub>2</sub>  
plasmas: they reduce the chamber walls material therefore releasing impurities (O  
atoms...) in the plasma with important consequences on processes.

Jerome Dubois  
Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS LTM, F-38000 Grenoble, France

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