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ON ELECTRON-CYCLOTRON WAVE RESONANCE IN INDUCTIVELY-COUPLED HF DISCHARGES

EDWARD P. SZUSZCZEWICZ

AUGUST 1971

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
GREENBELT, MARYLAND

N 71 33736

(ACCESSION NUMBER)

23 (PAGES)

G 3

(NASA CR OR TM OR AD NUMBER)

07 (CATEGORY)
ON ELECTRON-CYCLOTRON WAVE RESONANCE IN
INDUCTIVELY-COUPLED HF DISCHARGES†

Edward P. Szuszczeicicz*
Laboratory for Planetary Atmospheres
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland

ABSTRACT

The theory of Pfunder on electron-cyclotron wave resonance phenomena in inductively-coupled hf ring discharges has been extended by Sager to include electron temperature, non-uniform density distributions and the finite dimensions of a plasma of rectangular cross section. A scheme is herein proposed for adapting Sager's results to the experimentally important case of circular cross section. In order to test the scheme, an experiment was conducted in a low-pressure hf (27 MHz) argon discharge of cylindrical geometry with plasma densities in the range 1.0 - 3.5(10¹¹)/cm³ and static magnetic fields less than 60 gauss. The agreement between theory and experiment is found to be good and lends credence to the scheme as a means for predicting resonance values of magnetic field in cylindrical hf discharges.

† Part of this work was carried out while the author was supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as a guest scientist at the University of Wuerzburg (Germany).

* Presently a National Research Council Postdoctoral Research Associate.
I. INTRODUCTION

The superposition of a static magnetic field perpendicular to the axis of a hf ring discharge not only optimizes carrier production but has also been observed to demonstrate a resonance-like behavior. These phenomena were first reported by Neuert\textsuperscript{1} and theoretically explained by Pfeiffer\textsuperscript{2,3} as a result of a modified skin effect in anisotropic plasmas and a resonant excitation of electron-cyclotron waves.

The theory of Pfeiffer\textsuperscript{2} has been extended by Sager\textsuperscript{4} to include a non-homogeneous density distribution as well as temperature influences and the finite dimensions of a plasma of rectangular cross section. A scheme is herein proposed for adapting Sager's results to the experimentally important case of circular cross section and data are presented which support the scheme.

II. THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

To completely determine the electromagnetic field in a cylindrical hf discharge (hf magnetic field applied axially at the surface of the cylindrical plasma volume) with a static magnetic field superimposed in a direction normal to the cylinder axis is indeed very difficult. Pfeiffer's approach to the problem\textsuperscript{2} was to restrict his considerations to a cold, homogeneous plasma slab which had its thickness
aligned with the superimposed static magnetic field.

The electron-cyclotron resonance phenomenon was then theoretically described by Pfeiffer by starting with the wave equation for the hf magnetic field \( \vec{H} \), Eq. (1),

\[
(\nabla \times \nabla \times H + k_0^2 \epsilon_{ij}) \vec{H} = 0
\]

(1)

and requiring that the solution be linearly polarized in the plane of the plasma boundary. His solution to Eq. (1), where \( k_0 \) is the vacuum wave number and \( \epsilon_{ij} \) is the dielectric tensor of the plasma, was a superposition of a standing right- and left-hand polarized wave which resulted from the Faraday effect. By imposing the condition that the hf electromagnetic-field production of carriers in the plasma be at an optimum when the amplitude of the right-hand polarized wave (which propagates into the plasma along the static magnetic field \( B_0 \)) is large compared to that of the left-hand polarized wave, Pfeiffer obtained the relationship between the plasma density and the applied static magnetic field.

For the ground resonance state this relationship is given in Eq. (2)

\[
N_{\text{res}} = \left( c_\text{en}^2 \epsilon_o \epsilon / e^2 \right) (\beta_{\text{res}} - 1) t_{||}^{-2}
\]

(2)

where \( N \) is the plasma density, \( \beta \) is the electron-cyclotron frequency \( \omega_c \) normalized to the angular frequency of the
generator \( w \), i.e. \( \hat{\gamma} = \frac{w}{c} = \frac{(eB_0/m_e)}{w} \), \( t_\parallel \) is the thickness of the plasma slab and the subscript "res" refers to the specific values under conditions of electron-cyclotron resonance. The previously undefined quantities in Eq. (2) are the vacuum speed of light \( c \), the permittivity of free space \( \varepsilon_0 \), and the mass and charge of an electron \( m_e \) and \( e \), respectively.

Like Pfeiffer, Sager\(^4\) began with the wave equation for the hf magnetic field (in a form different from that shown in Eq. (1)) but through a series of approximations has included the effects of non-zero plasma temperature, non-homogeneous density profiles, as well as a plasma geometry with rectangular cross-section. Since his work is relatively recent and has not been widely distributed a brief outline of his plasma model and theoretical considerations will be presented here. (It should be noted that the full scope of his approximation procedures and associated justifications can best be appreciated by reading the original work.)

Figure 1 presents the geometric configuration of Sager’s plasma model where \( t_\parallel \) is the plasma dimension parallel to the superimposed magnetic field \( \vec{B}_0 \) and \( t_\perp \) is the corresponding perpendicular dimension. (The dimension of the plasma normal to the plane of the figure is assumed to be infinite.) The net result of his approximation procedures is represented by Eq. (3).
The temperature correction term appears in the denominator of Eq. (3) and was introduced by Sager through the dependence of the plasma dielectric tensor on the electron temperature $T_e$. An approximate dependence of $\varepsilon_{ij}$ on $T_e$ was determined by Sager by employing the results of the investigation of Mowers on the conductivity of warm plasmas.

The correction term for a non-homogeneous density distribution appears in Eq. (3) as $p^2(\lambda_i)$ and has been calculated by Sager in two limiting cases of ion mean-free-path $\lambda_i$. When $\lambda_i$ is much greater than any plasma dimension $t$, Sager found $p^2(\lambda_i \gg t) = 1.47$; in the opposing limit he found $p^2(\lambda_i \ll t) = 2.09$. To arrive at these results Sager employed straight-line approximations (shown as dashed lines in Fig. 2) to the cosine-like profiles described in the early work of Tonks and Langmuir for the aforementioned limiting cases of ion mean-free-path. Shown as a solid curve in Fig. 2 is an experimental density profile observed in the cylindrical discharge which will be discussed in Section III. The experimental conditions were near resonance and $\lambda_i$ was approximately equal to $d/10$, where $d$ is the cylinder diameter.

Of prime importance to the present investigation is the
correction term which accounts for the rectangular cross section of the plasma volume. In Eq. (3) this term is designated by $t^*$ and is defined in Eq. (4) in terms of the plasma cross sectional dimensions.

$$t^* = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{t_\parallel}{t_\perp}\right)^2}$$

(4)

It was introduced by Sager in conjunction with his assumption that Eq. (5) represented the solution for the right-hand polarized wave $H_r$ which propagated along the field $\vec{B}_0$.

$$H_r = H_{or} \cos (k_r z) \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{t_\perp} \frac{y}{t_\perp}\right)$$

(5)

In Eq. (5) $k_r$ and $H_{or}$ are the wave number and peak value, respectively, of the right-hand polarized wave. The coordinate system is illustrated in Fig. 1 and defined so that $\vec{y}/|\vec{y}| \perp \vec{B}_0$ and $\vec{z}/|\vec{z}| \parallel \vec{B}_0$.

To adapt the results of Sager's work to the experimentally important case of circular cross section, appropriate selections must be made for $t_\parallel$ and $t_\perp$ in terms of the cylinder diameter $d$. A reasonable approach is to have the circular cross section of a cylindrical discharge approximated by a square. With this assumption $t_\parallel = t_\perp$ and $t^* = 1.41$.

The most important consideration revolves about the proper selection of $t_\parallel$ since in a circular cross section the thickness of the plasma in the direction parallel to $\vec{B}_0$ takes on continuous
values from 0 up to a maximum which is equal to the diameter \( d \). This is illustrated in Fig. 3 where it can readily be seen that \( t_{||}^1 \), \( t_{||}^2 \), \( t_{||}^3 \), and that \( t_{||}^{\text{max}} = t_{||}^1 = d \). The scheme proposed here, which differs from that offered by Sager, involves a simple averaging of the values of \( t_{||} \) over the circumference of the discharge. This averaging process is presented in Eq. (6) where the variable of integration is defined in Fig. 3 and where \( R \) is defined as the radius of the circular cross section.

\[
t_{||} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi/2} 2R \cos \phi \, d\phi = \frac{2d}{\pi}
\]  

(6)

The resulting adaption then approximates the circular cross section of diameter \( d \) by a square of side \( 2d/\pi \).

It has been implicit in the scheme of adaptation that the excited hf waves travel along the static magnetic field lines. This is certainly a reasonable consideration in the rectangular model of Sager for all waves initiated at the plasma boundary \( z = \pm t_{||}/2 \). In the case of the circular cross section however the predominant wave-normal at the plasma boundary is aligned with the radius and forms an angle \( \phi \) with \( B_0 \). Now a characteristic of propagation in anisotropic plasmas is the fact that the direction of the wave normal is not the same direction in which the mean intensity of
energy flows. In a way analogous to the propagation of tropospheric whistlers, the waves excited in the cylindrical plasma volume will be "guided" by the magnetic field and will tend to travel along the lines of force. This will be illustrated by employing the concept of a refractive index surface whose normal gives the direction of energy flow.

The conditions of the experiments to be described in Section III are such that \( \omega_p / \omega \geq \frac{\pi}{\omega_{res}} > 1 \) where \( \omega_p \) is the electron plasma frequency. Neglecting electron-neutral collisions the Appleton-Hartree formula then gives Eq. (7) as the index of refraction for the single allowable mode of wave propagation.

\[
n = \pm \left( \frac{\omega_p / \omega}{\sqrt{\omega_{res}} \cos \theta - 1} \right)
\]

As before \( \omega_{res} \) refers to the electron-cyclotron wave resonance value of \( \omega \) whose relationship to the plasma density is given in Eq. (3). The refractive index surface corresponding to Eq. (3) is shown in Fig. 4 for \( \omega_{res} = 2 \) and 3. Illustrated in the figure is an example of the energy flow direction with and without the plasma, \( \hat{s} \) and \( \hat{s}_0 \) respectively. \( \hat{s} \) and \( \hat{s}_0 \) are unit vectors with \( \hat{s} \) being normal to the refractive index surface and \( \hat{s}_0 \) being aligned with the radius vector.

\( \hat{s} \cdot \hat{s}_0 = \cos \gamma \), and the positive sense of \( \gamma \) is defined in the
The resultant angle which makes with $B_0$ is.

For $\rho = 2$ and $\varphi = 40^\circ$ ($\rho = 3$ and $\varphi = 60^\circ$) it can be seen that for all practical purposes $\mathbf{s} \parallel B_0$. For $\varphi = 40^\circ$ ($\varphi = 60^\circ$) the energy of the wave is increasingly directed out of the plasma until finally at a cut-off angle of $60^\circ$ ($70^\circ, 33'$), shown as a dashed line, the waves can no longer penetrate within the plasma. These results point out that the physical situation is indeed quite compatible with the adaptation scheme employed in the investigation and that the averaging process is justified.

III. EXPERIMENT

In order to test the aforementioned scheme of adaptation a series of measurements was carried out in an inductively-coupled hf discharge of cylindrical geometry with length and diameter equal to 9.5 cm. The discharge was maintained by a single-turn coil (see Fig. 5) which was grounded at its point of symmetry and inductively coupled to a hf generator operating at 27 MHz. The plasma volume was bounded along its length by a metal plate on one end and by a wire grid on the other. The gas was argon and the operating pressure was maintained at 1.0 ($10^{-3}$) torr. A pair of Helmholtz coils of mean diameter 46.8 cm provided the homogeneous static magnetic field which was varied in this experiment from 0 to approximately 60 gauss.
The technique employed in determining $\hat{\xi}_{\text{res}}$ was the same as that originally employed by Pfeiffer$^3$ and the results are presented in Fig. 6 where $U_{\text{hf}}$ is the hf voltage measured across the gap of the single-turn secondary coil (Fig. 5). $N_{\text{res}}$ has been previously defined and its value was experimentally determined by employing the calculations of Latramboise$^9$ to analyze the ion-saturation current collected by a Langmuir probe which was immersed in the plasma. The Langmuir probe was inserted along the axis of the plasma cylinder and was positioned in the geometrical center of the plasma volume. The curves shown in Fig. 6 were generated by maintaining the middle-point plasma density constant and measuring the hf gap voltage as a function of $\xi$. The minimum in the response of $U_{\text{hf}}$ vs $\xi$ then identifies $\hat{\xi}_{\text{res}}$ for a particular value of $N_{\text{res}}$.

Figure 7 includes two curves which result from Eq. (3) as adapted in this paper to the circular cross section of a cylindrical plasma volume. The curves have been calculated for two diameters, 6.4 cm and 9.5 cm, under conditions which set $\gamma_i \ll d$ and $T_e = 8(10^4)K$.

The $(N_{\text{res}}, \hat{\xi}_{\text{res}})$ results of Fig. 6 appear in Fig. 7 as solid dots and should be compared with the curve identified by $d = 9.5$ cm. The experimental conditions were such that
and the error bars represent the maximum possible inaccuracy in the experimental technique.

In the experiments carried out in this investigation no value of \( r_{\text{res}} \) less than 2 was found for values of \( N_{\text{res}} \) less than 2 and his results are represented in Fig. 7 by the open squares. His experiment was conducted in a cylindrical argon discharge of diameter 9.5 cm with the pressure at 1.7(10^{-3}) \text{ torr} and \( T_e = 6.5(10^4) ^{\circ} \text{K} \). It can be seen that the measurements of Oechsner and of this investigation compare well with the appropriate theoretical curve (\( d = 9.5 \text{ cm} \)) thus indicating that the scheme of adaptation yields a reasonable representation of the data for cylindrical hf discharges.

As additional support of the scheme the data of Pfeiffer, which were collected in argon at 1.5(10^{-2}) \text{ torr} argon and which did not fit his original theoretical model, are plotted in Fig. 7 as open triangles and should be compared with the curve calculated for his experimental conditions at \( d = 6.4 \text{ cm} \). As in the case of the larger diameter, the agreement between the data and theory is good.

IV COMMENTS & CONCLUSIONS

A scheme has been proposed for adapting the theoretical results of Sager to the experimentally important case of an...
inductively-coupled cylindrical hf discharge. A prime consideration is the thickness of the plasma in the direction of the superimposed static magnetic field. Since the field is applied in a direction perpendicular to the cylinder axis a simple averaging process over the circumference of the circular cross section has been employed. This process yields an average plasma thickness equal to $2d/\pi$ and the net result of the proposed scheme approximates the circular cross section by a square of side $2d/\pi$.

The experimental results of this investigation as well as those of Pfeiffer$^3$ and Oechsner$^{10}$ agree well with the proposed scheme of adaptation and lend credence to the method as a means for establishing the relationship between plasma density and the static magnetic field in a cylindrical hf discharge under conditions of electron-cyclotron wave resonance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the National Research Council and to Professor Dr. Hink for having made this work possible. The author also wishes to thank Dr. H. Oechsner for the contributions made in the initiation of this work.
REFERENCES

7. Sager proposed $t_\parallel = d$ and required that the circular
   and rectangular cross-sectional areas be equal.
   His resultant adaptation employed $t_\parallel = d$, $t_\perp = \pi d/4$
   and $\star = 1.62$, and is found to be in disagreement
   with experimental results.
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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1. Cross section of the hf plasma configuration assumed by Sager (Ref. 4).

Figure 2. Plasma density profiles along the superimposed static magnetic field. Dashed lines are those assumed in the plasma model of Sager (Ref. 4) and the solid curve is a profile observed in the cylindrical hf discharge studied in this investigation.

Figure 3. An illustration of the variation of plasma thickness along the magnetic field $\mathbf{B}_o$ which is superimposed perpendicularly to the axis of a cylindrical plasma volume.

Figure 4. Refractive index surface. The length of the vector from the origin to the curve is $n\omega/w_p$ and $\theta$ is measured from the axis of the magnetic field $\mathbf{B}_o$.

Figure 5. Schematic representation of the experimental arrangement employed in the study of the cylindrical hf discharge (shown in cross section). $U_{hf}$ is the hf (27 MHz) voltage measured across the gap of the secondary coil.
Figure 6. High-frequency voltage $U_{hi}$ measured across the gap of the secondary coil (Fig. 5) as a function of $\omega$, the electron-cyclotron frequency normalized to the generator frequency, at an argon pressure of $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$ torr. The running parameter, $N_{res}$, is the middle-point plasma density which was maintained constant for the individual curves.

Figure 7. Comparison between experimental results and the theory of Sager (Ref. 4) as adapted to the case of a cylindrical plasma volume. The data in this investigation have been taken from Fig. 6 and the theoretical curves have been calculated from Eq. (3) with $p^2(\lambda_i) = 2.09$, $T_e = 8 \times 10^4 \ O_K$, and $t_\parallel = t_\perp = 2d/n$. The results of this investigation as well as those of Oechsner (Ref. 10) should be compared with the case $d = 9.5$ cm while the results of Pfeiffer (Ref. 3) should be compared with $d = 6.4$ cm.
Figure 1

PLASMA CONTAINER

hf COIL

$B_0$

$z$

$y$

$t_1$

$t_2$
Figure 2
\[ N_{\text{res}} = 0.95 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3} \]
\[ N_{\text{res}} = 1.6 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3} \]
\[ N_{\text{res}} = 1.9 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3} \]
\[ N_{\text{res}} = 3.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3} \]