UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Plasma Physics Laboratory

2223-3-E3001Q062

Aims

The course aims to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge of laboratory plasma generation and diagnostics.

Contents

The course consists of a series of experiments that will provide knowledge and skills on the generation of plasmas, both at low and atmospheric pressure, and the measurement of their properties, mainly through the use of electrical measurements and spectroscopic techniques. The experiments will be preceded by theoretical lectures aimed at providing the concepts necessary for a full understanding of the laboratory activity.

Detailed program

The subject of the course is the techniques for generating laboratory plasmas and the methodologies for measuring their properties.

With regard to the generation of plasmas, the following topics will be covered:

- generation of low-pressure DC plasmas using the hot cathode technique;
- low-pressure radiofrequency plasma generation;
- generation of plasmas at atmospheric pressure using the dielectric barrier discharge (DBD) technique.

In particular, the voltage required for plasma initiation and its dependence on the main parameters (gas pressure, distance between electrodes where applicable, oscillation frequency where applicable) will be investigated.

With regard to plasma diagnostics, the following topics will be investigated:

- deduction of plasma characteristics from the main discharge parameters (voltage, current, etc.);
- use of the Langmuir probe for measuring density, electronic temperature and plasma potential in low-pressure plasmas;
- UV and visible spectroscopy of cold plasmas.

In the last point in particular, students will have the opportunity to build a spectrometer, which will enable them to learn the basics of UV and visible optics and CCD sensor programming. The constructed spectrometer will then be used to characterise different plasma sources, and the measurements will be compared with a commercial spectrometer. In particular, it will be used for the characterization of molecules in dielectric barrier discharges. The knowledge acquired will then be used to characterise the plasmas of the GyM machine, operating at the CNR Institute for Plasma Science and Technology, and notions will be provided regarding their relevance to the study of plasma-wall interaction in plasmas of fusion interest.

The students will participate in the experimental activities in groups of approximately three, according to the schedule that will be prepared at the beginning of the course.

The laboratory activities will be held in room 2025 on the second floor of Building U2 - Department of Physics. Activities on the GyM machine will be carried out at the CNR Institute of Plasma Science and Technology, via Roberto Cozzi 53.

The course activities will provide some basic training tools, common to many areas of laboratory plasma physics and technology, which will also be useful for future university activities and for the physicist's profession.

Prerequisites

Fisica 2 and laboratory courses of the previous years.

Teaching form

Introductory lectures and laboratory sessions. The introductory lessons will be given in Italian. The support to laboratory sessions will be in Italian, or in English on demand.

Textbook and teaching resource

The slides of the introductory lectures will be provided, as well as traces of the experiments. Handouts prepared by the lecturers will also be provided on some topics.

The following textbooks are recommended for further study of physics and technologies relating to laboratory plasmas:

- J. Reece Roth, Industrial Plasma Engineering, vol.1, IOP Publishing (1990).
- Yuri P. Raizer, Gas Discharge Physics, Springer-Verlag (1991).

Semester

Third year, second semester

Assessment method

There are no in-progress tests, only a final exam.
To be admitted to the examination, a report must be drawn up on all the experiments carried out in the laboratory. The report must contain a brief description of the apparatus used, the results obtained and a brief discussion of them.
The examination, which will be held orally, will focus mainly on the discussion of the report itself, with possible recollections of the concepts presented during the introductory lectures.
During the examination the quality of the report, the care taken in performing the measurements and related data analysis, and the understanding of the physics concepts on which the experiments are based will be evaluated.
The exam will be held in Italian, or in English on request.

Office hours

Students are received by appointment.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE