

Helicon wave excitation with rotating antenna fields

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Abstract. By using phased bifilar antennas, helicon waves have been excited by applying fields which rotate either in space or in time, or both simultaneously. The direction of rotation is made to favour either $m = +1$ or $m = -1$ waves, where m is the azimuthal mode number, and m is measured directly. Rotation in time is found to be more effective than rotation in space and makes possible a direct comparison of $m = \pm 1$ excitation. An $m = -1$ structure was seen only in the antenna near field, while $m = +1$ modes propagate far downstream. Up to 2 kW of RF power, density profiles and antenna loading measurements show that $m < 0$ (left-hand) waves are poorly coupled, and $m = +1$ (right-hand) waves are necessary for good plasma production. Loading results indicate that antennas also couple to absorption mechanisms unrelated to helicon waves.

1. Introduction

Helicon wave discharges are known to efficiently produce high-density plasmas [1, 2], and have been exploited as a high-density plasma tool for semiconductor processing [3, 4]. The physical mechanisms that give these discharges high ionization efficiency are not yet understood well enough that an optimal plasma source can be designed. This paper addresses one of these problems, that of antenna coupling. Almost all early experiments employed the so-called Nagoya type III antennas, characterized by straight conductors collinear with the DC magnetic field B_0 . Since helicon waveforms are helices that rotate in both space and time, one can couple better to them with antennas that are themselves helices or with antenna fields which rotate in time. A physical picture of these mechanisms is given in section 3. Though each of these methods has been tried previously, they have not yet been compared or tried simultaneously. We shall find that rotation in time is the stronger mechanism, enabling us to force the generation of helicons of either $m > 0$ or $m < 0$ polarization, as defined in section 3. Use of space and time rotation then permits us to study a second problem, that of the asymmetry between $m = +1$ and $m = -1$ azimuthal modes. In this paper we attempt, not to explain this asymmetry, but to provide data which can be used to compare with theory.

Though left-polarized whistler waves do not propagate in an infinite plasma, they should, in principle, be possible in a cylindrically bounded system as $m < 0$ helicons, but they are not usually observed. Published reports of $m = -1$ helicons have been conflicting. They have been seen in some experiments [5–8], but not in others [9, 10]. Some of the positive reports have identified $m = -1$

waves indirectly by assuming that an antenna with the proper helicity actually launches an $m = -1$ wave [5, 8], or by comparing radial density and wave field profiles to theoretical models [6]. Kim *et al* [7] inferred the existence of $m = -1$ waves from azimuthal standing-wave patterns in the density, although it was not clear if there were any propagating modes in the system. In papers in which multiple magnetic probes were used to measure directly the polarization direction [10, 11], only right-hand ($m = +1$) rotation was observed. The paper of Shinohara *et al* [6] is not clear on the azimuthal phase determination. In section 6.3.1, we show that ambiguities in such measurements can arise because the dominant polarization direction changes with distance from the antenna.

Bifilar antennas phased to produce fields rotating in time have been used extensively in magnetic fusion research, for instance in the work by Watari *et al* [12] for which Nagoya type III antennas were named. Such an antenna was used for helicon waves by Yasaka and Hara [9], but all these were straight antennas, which did not match the spatial rotation of the waves. Differing experimental conditions could also lead to disparities in the results. For instance, the helicon waves were often generated in a small tube and then injected into a larger chamber [5, 6, 8, 9], thus violating boundary conditions used in existing theories. In some cases, a full-wavelength antenna was used instead of a half-wavelength antenna [5, 6]; a light ion was used instead of argon [9] or the magnetic field was extremely uniform [7]. Different radial density profiles can change the wave patterns [11], and the operating pressure can affect the damping of $m = \pm 1$ waves. Reflections from endplates can cause an $m = +1$ wave, for instance, to appear on the ‘wrong’ side of a helical antenna. (However, in the present work, such reflections were not observed, and varying

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the pressure between 2 and 20 mTorr did not change our conclusions.) In spite of the differing conditions, all these experiments, including the one reported here, are in general agreement that $m = -1$ waves are weakly excited or are rapidly damped even when the antennas are optimized for them. This large asymmetry cannot be explained in simple terms, but recent calculations by Arnush and Chen [13] successfully predict the asymmetry as long as the density profile is radially peaked.

2. Helicon theory

Helicon waves are cylindrically confined electromagnetic waves in the frequency range $\omega_{ci} < \omega < \omega_c$. A simple dispersion relation for them, obtained by neglecting ω/ω_c , ω_{ci}/ω , and the displacement current, can be found in [14], based on previous work quoted therein. In the absence of dissipation, the dispersion relation for a uniform plasma reduces to the classic relation for low-frequency whistler waves:

$$\omega = k k_{\parallel} B_0 / e n_0 \mu_0 \quad (1)$$

where $k^2 = |\mathbf{k}|^2 = k_{\perp}^2 + k_{\parallel}^2$, \mathbf{k} is the wavevector, k_{\parallel} and k_{\perp} the parallel and perpendicular wavenumbers, B_0 the DC magnetic field and n_0 the electron density. The values of k_{\perp} and k_{\parallel} set by the boundary conditions generally differ little between the cases of $m = +1$ and -1 waves. For flat or peaked density profiles, the $m = -1$ mode has a higher value of k_{\perp} , resulting in stronger localization towards the plasma axis [15]; however, this effect is not so severe that one would intuitively expect very weak coupling to this mode. Therefore, the observed difference in coupling between $m = +1$ and $m = -1$ waves is difficult to explain in terms of the dispersion relation alone.

However, more complete calculations [13,16] that include antenna coupling, plasma inhomogeneity and damping indicate strong differences in the excitation of $m = +1$ and -1 modes. For the helical antennas used here and typical experimental plasma profiles and parameters, the plasma loading for the $m = +1$ mode is predicted to be 2.7Ω , compared with 0.26Ω for $m = -1$, in rough agreement with our observations. These predictions were obtained from a code [13] that includes coupling to Trivelpiece–Gould electron cyclotron modes (by inclusion of finite electron mass), as well as terms arising from the plasma density gradient. It is the latter effect that causes the asymmetry between $m = +1$ and -1 , but the physical reason is not obvious.

3. Polarization

3.1. Polarization of waves

Linear helicon waves have circularly polarized eigenmodes with electric fields varying as $\mathbf{E}(r) \exp[i(m\theta + kz - \omega t)]$. At any instant of time, the E -vectors therefore lie on a twisting ribbon, as shown in figure 1. In the sign convention we have adopted, positive k denotes propagation along $B_0 \hat{z}$, and negative k in the opposite direction. Positive m means that θ increases with time, so that, for fixed z , the

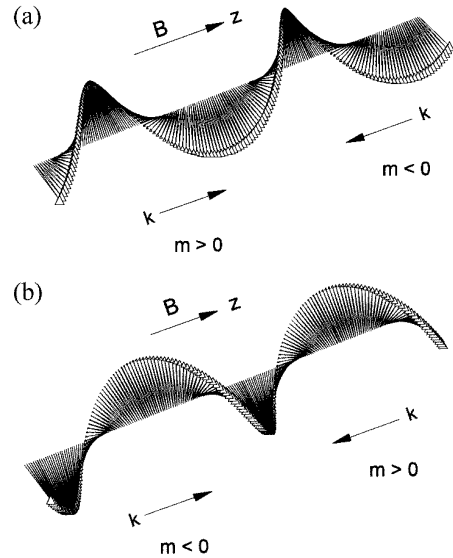


Figure 1. Wave vectors in a (a) positive ($m/k > 0$) and (b) negative ($m/k < 0$) helix.

field vectors rotate clockwise in time when viewed along B_0 . This is right-hand (RH) polarization. Negative m then indicates left-hand (LH) polarization. In this paper, we consider the values $m = \pm 1$. An $m = +1$ (RH) wave can have either positive or negative helicity (sign of m/k), depending on the sign of k . Figure 1(a) shows a waveform of positive helicity. If the wave moves in the $+z$ direction ($k > 0$), a stationary observer would see the vectors rotating in the clockwise direction as viewed along z ; this is an $m = +1$ (right-hand polarized wave). On the other hand, if the waveform were to move in the $-z$ direction ($k < 0$), the wave would be an $m = -1$ (LH) wave. Similarly, figure 1(b) shows a waveform with $m/k < 0$, and this could represent either a RH wave moving in the $-z$ direction or a LH wave propagating in the $+z$ direction. In the experiments, a single helical antenna can be used to launch both $m = +1$ and $m = -1$ waves by reversing the direction of B_0 .

3.2. Polarization of antenna fields

As explained in previous papers [2, 14, 17], Nagoya type III antennas (figure 2) couple to the electrostatic field of a wave by generating space charges with the induced E -field. This coupling mechanism had been established in a large body of work on cyclotron isotope separation, of which the only published account was given by Chen [18]. The legs of the antenna carrying current parallel to B_0 are the active ones; the end-rings used to close the current loop make a relatively small contribution if the length/diameter aspect ratio of the antenna is large. For clarity, a full wavelength is shown; this is twice the length normally used in experiments. As the current \mathbf{J} in the antenna legs increases, an E -field in the opposite direction is induced in the plasma by the rising magnetic field of the current. The electrons are driven by E_{\parallel} along the magnetic field until they meet electrons driven the opposite direction in the next half wavelength; thus, a space charge piles up where the

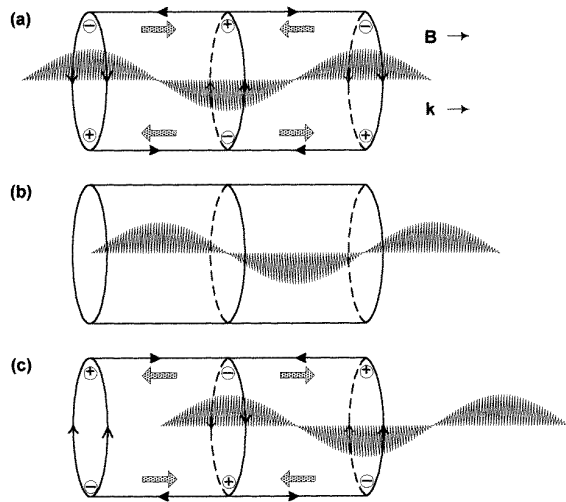


Figure 2. A straight Nagoya type III antenna, with a plane-polarized wave at phases of 0, 90 and 180°. The thick arrows indicate the induced electric field as the current in the antenna rises, generating the indicated space charges in the presence of a plasma. The lines in the waveform represent the E -field vectors of the wave.

antenna currents change sign. In an $m = 1$ configuration, the space charge is of the opposite sign across the diameter, and this gives rise to a transverse E -field which couples to the diametric E -field of the helicon mode pattern [14]. In this antenna, the transverse E -field induced by the current in the end-rings is in the same direction as the electrostatic field of the space charges but is relatively small. The straight antenna of figure 2 would couple best to a linearly polarized wave, as shown. In figure 2(a), the maximum of the wave's E -field coincides with the maximum of the transverse E -field caused by the space charge. A quarter-period later, the wave will move so that its maximum coincides with a null in the antenna field (figure 2(b)). At that time, the antenna current is also zero. At a phase of 180° (figure 2(c)), the wave maximum has moved to the next half-wavelength section of the antenna, but the antenna current has also reversed, so the excitation is again in phase. Waves propagating in the opposite direction are subject to the same excitation. Thus the antenna divides its power into four channels: waves going in the $\pm z$ directions, and the RH and LH waves which comprise each plane-polarized wave. As with all finite-element antennas, there is also a less than perfect overlap between the antenna field and the wave field because the latter varies sinusoidally in both z and θ , while the antenna's field is localized near the conductors in the θ -direction and near the leg junctions in the z -direction. As a function of time, there is an additional inefficiency because there is no excitation when the antenna current goes through zero.

With a helical antenna (figure 3), the pattern of space charges would also be helical and therefore match the pattern of an $m = \pm 1$ wave. In figure 3(a), the antenna field is lined up with a wave in the form of a left-hand helix. If the wave is an $m = +1$ mode propagating in the $+z$ direction, it will have moved 90° out of phase with the antenna after a quarter period (figure 3(b)), but the antenna

current would be zero at that time (figure 3(b)). At 180° phase, the wave is aligned with the opposite leg of the antenna, but the antenna current has reversed, so excitation resumes (figure 3(c)). An $m = -1$ mode of the same shape would propagate in the $-z$ direction and be in phase with the excitation for the same fraction of a cycle. However, a wave of opposite helicity, representing either an $m = +1$ mode with $k < 0$ or an $m = -1$ mode with $k > 0$, would not match the antenna field at all and would receive no net excitation [10]. Thus, a helical antenna divides its power between only two modes and is more efficient for circularly polarized waves than a straight antenna. However, it still offers no excitation when the relative phase is at 90 or 270°.

3.3. Rotating antenna fields

To further improve the coupling to $m = \pm 1$ modes, one can create antenna fields which rotate in time by building bifilar antennas with two windings driven at the same frequency but 90° out of phase. This is commonly done in fusion applications, but not for helicon waves. (Indeed, helicon discharges were foreshadowed when Watari *et al* [12] reversed the rotation of an ion-cyclotron heating field and accidentally created a much higher density.) Figure 4(a) shows a straight Nagoya type III bifilar antenna. If the two pairs of legs are driven with 90° phase difference, the net internal space charge and electric field produced by the antenna at fixed z can be made to rotate in time, as in figure 4(b). If the rotation is in the RH direction, an $m = +1$ mode, whether it is a negative helix with $k > 0$ or a positive helix with $k < 0$, would see the maximum antenna field aligned with its own E -field at all times. However, the excitation is still inefficient because the antenna's rotating field does not rotate in space and therefore is not aligned with the wave at all positions z . With the opposite phasing, this antenna would drive an $m = -1$ wave, regardless of the sign of k . Thus, a straight bifilar antenna can be made to discriminate between $m = +1$ and $m = -1$ waves.

If now the two windings are twisted into helices, as shown later in figure 9, the phasing of the two windings can be made to select the sign of m , while the helicity can be chosen to select the sign of k , once m is fixed. Thus all of the power can ideally be coupled to a single helicon mode. The match between the antenna field and the wave field would be perfect if the antenna currents were distributed sinusoidally in θ and z , and if the antenna were infinitely long. In practice, antennas are only $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 wavelength long, and there are end rings to close the current loop, as shown in figure 5(a) for a straight antenna and figure 5(b) for a helical antenna. These effects further broaden the k -spectrum of the antenna and cause energy to be lost to modes that have undesired wavelengths. From figures 2 and 5, one sees that the E_{\perp} -field induced by the current in the end rings adds to that generated by the parallel legs if the antenna is straight, but opposes it if the antenna is helical. This effect causes helical antennas to have higher harmonic content than straight antennas.

It is also possible to phase the windings at an angle other than 90°. In particular, if the angle is 0° one obtains

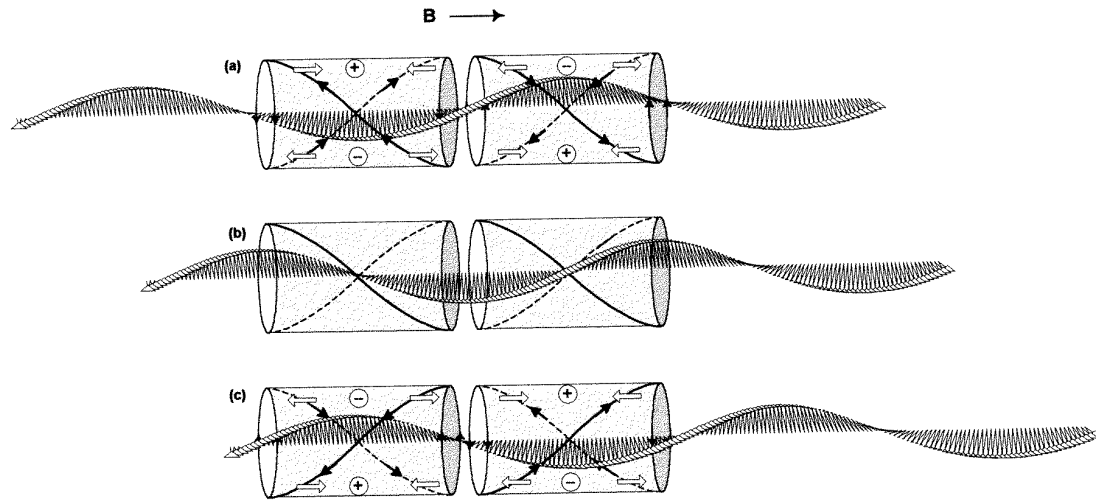


Figure 3. A right-hand helical antenna with an $m = +1$ circularly polarized wave at phases of 0, 90 and 180°. For clarity, the full-wavelength antenna has been divided into two half-wavelength antennas like the ones used in the experiment. When the halves are joined, the middle rings are not necessary, since their currents cancel. Black arrows indicate rising current in the conductors. White arrows indicate the electric field induced in the plasma. These arrows and the resulting space charge symbols are shown only for two azimuths; the whole pattern twists with helical symmetry.

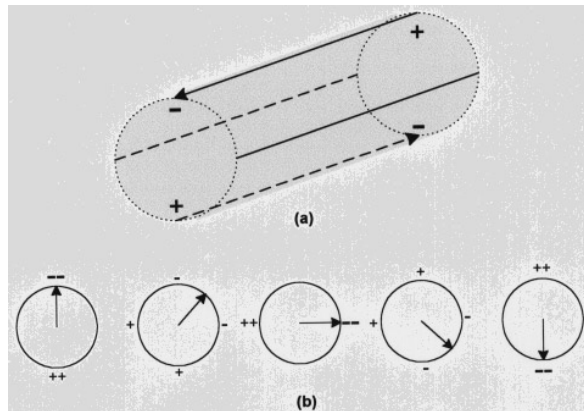


Figure 4. (a) A straight bifilar Nagoya type III antenna with two $m = 1$ windings phased at 90° in time. The current returns have been suppressed for clarity. (b) The electric field generated in the plasma under the antenna at five different times during a half cycle.

the equivalent of the paddle-shaped antenna (figure 6) used by Boswell [1]. If we neglect the current returns and focus on the legs of the antenna parallel to \mathbf{B} , the Boswell-type antenna is equivalent to splitting each of the legs of the antenna in figure 5(a) into two legs carrying current in the same direction. This could be advantageous for the following reason. An ideal Fourier mode would have an amplitude that varies sinusoidally in the θ direction, as shown in figure 7. A simple Nagoya III antenna drives this waveform with currents located at two azimuths, say, at 90° and 270°. By splitting the current into two paths, the Boswell antenna drives the wave at four azimuths, say, at 45°, 135°, 225° and 315°. The peak of the driven sine wave is higher than would be produced by a simple Nagoya antenna with the same current in each leg. However, since there are four legs in a Boswell antenna, it is not clear whether or not the same power out of the supply would

excite a larger wave. In this experiment, as in earlier work [2], we find that there is little or no advantage in paddle-shaped antennas.

4. Apparatus

The plasma was contained in a quartz discharge tube 1.7 m long and 50 mm in outside diameter with 2 mm thick walls (figure 8). The centre of the antenna ($z = 0$) was positioned 37 cm from the pump end of the discharge tube. Typical operating parameters include a uniform axial magnetic field B_0 of 800 G, filling pressure of 20 mTorr, and 27.12 MHz RF power up to 1800 W. The axial field was pulsed for 200 ms (typically every 4 seconds), with the 50 ms RF pulse triggered during the latter half of the field pulse when the applied magnetic field was constant.

4.1. Antennas

The bifilar antennas (figure 9) each consisted of two separate current paths; each element being a half-wavelength right-helical antenna of the type used previously [19]. The elements were spaced 90° azimuthally from each other. For such an antenna, the dominant azimuthal Fourier component is $|m| = 1$. The axially directed components of the antenna were made of copper strap 0.5 mm thick and 10 mm wide, while the end rings were 3 mm wide with 52 mm diameter. The antennas were placed as close as possible to the outer surface of the discharge tube so as to minimize the capacitance to ground and maximize the antenna's self-resonance frequency, which is desirable when loading measurements are to be performed.

Three different bifilar antennas were used, each with the same design as described above, but having different lengths of 5 cm, 10 cm and 20 cm, corresponding to expected dominant axial wavenumbers of 62.8, 31.4 and 15.7 m^{-1} . Each element was centre-fed by a 10 cm length

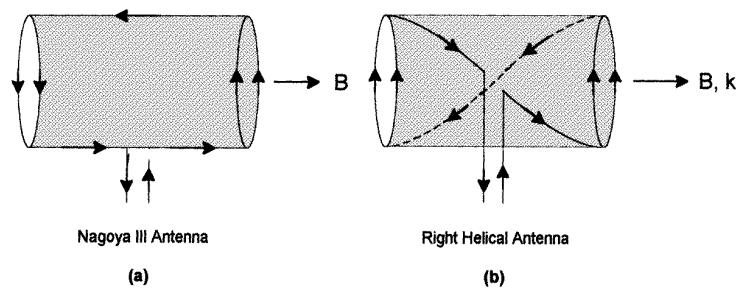


Figure 5. Realistic Nagoya-type antennas with end rings and current feeds: (a) straight, (b) helical.

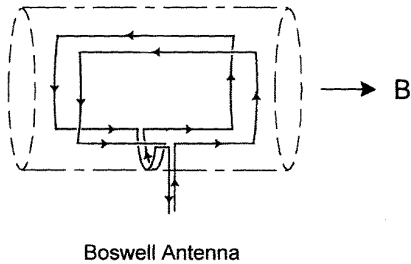


Figure 6. A paddle-shaped Boswell antenna.

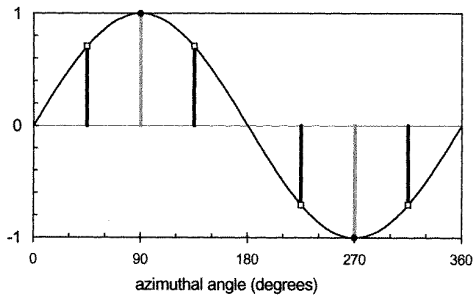


Figure 7. Mechanism of the Boswell antenna. A two-legged antenna simulates a sine wave by applying current at two angles (shaded bars). A four-legged antenna would simulate the same sine wave with less current in each leg (solid bars).

of RG8-U coax. Therefore, even for the 20 cm antenna, the electrical length of each element was only a small fraction of a free space wavelength at 27.12 MHz, allowing the assumption of a lumped component model for the antenna. In order to reduce the capacitance between each antenna element, the elements were axially separated from each other by 6 mm so that the end rings did not overlay each other. Thus, the major contribution to the mutual coupling between the elements was the mutual inductance between the end rings of each element.

4.2. RF circuits

Figure 10 shows a matching circuit for the bifilar antenna, designed to allow arbitrary phasing between the elements for most plasma loads. The circuit is composed of a standard L-network in series with the two resonant arms, shown in figure 10. Loading measurements were made

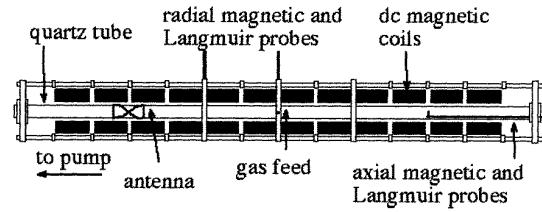


Figure 8. Schematic diagram of apparatus.

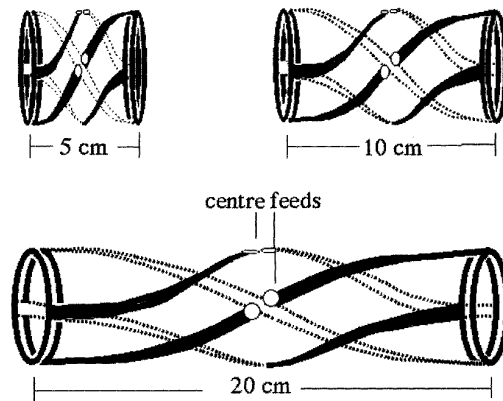


Figure 9. Bifilar antennas used in the experiment.

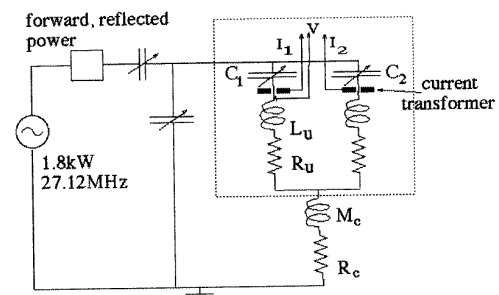


Figure 10. Equivalent circuit used for phasing and matching.

with directional couplers to measure the forward and reflected power, together with identical current transformers (>70 MHz bandwidth) for each antenna arm, placed as shown in figure 10. Details on the RF circuitry are given in the appendix.

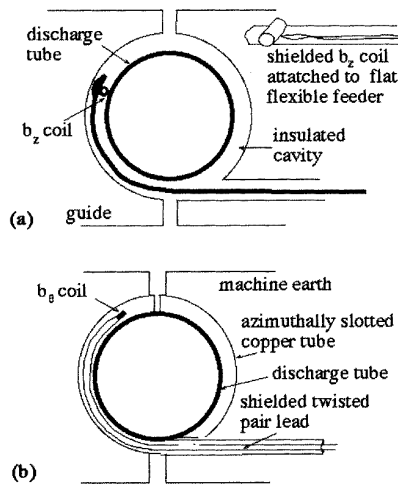


Figure 11. Edge magnetic probe diagnostics for the wave fields (a) B_z and (b) B_θ .

4.3. Magnetic and Langmuir probes

Magnetic probes were used to obtain azimuthal profiles of the wave field in its evanescent region just outside the tube. Two probe guides, shown schematically in figure 11, were constructed for this purpose. The first guide was a grounded copper tube surrounding the discharge tube, slotted in the r and θ directions, and movable in the z direction. A ten-turn coil oriented for B_θ detection was threaded through the probe guide, and its position moved on a shot to shot basis, thereby building up an azimuthal phase and amplitude profile of the wave field. The coil was fed to a hybrid combiner (balun transformer) via a shielded twisted pair.

The second guide was a non-conducting tube around the discharge chamber through which a flat, flexible copper foil probe shaft could be inserted. The axis of the probe coil was maintained accurately in the z direction for B_z detection. Coil alignment was checked by driving RF current down a wire suspended along the axis of the discharge tube; azimuthal scans with the B_z probe gave signals only a few per cent of those from the B_θ probe. The B_θ probe also accurately reproduced the flat $m = 0$ profile expected for this arrangement. Azimuthal profiles of the edge fields were obtained at three different positions between the magnet coils, at $z = 11.8$ cm, 35.5 cm and 59.7 cm from the antenna midplane. Thus, near-field measurements were obtained at a distance of only 1.8 cm from the edge of the 20 cm antenna.

A third magnetic probe was used to obtain axial profiles of B_z . The design of this probe was similar to that used in previous experiments [19], except that a shielded twisted pair was used as the transmission line between coil and balun. With a Helmholtz coil, all magnetic probes were calibrated in amplitude absolutely, and the phase to within 180 degrees of the antenna current. All measurements have been normalized to the antenna current.

Fully compensated, swept Langmuir probes (employing both resonant chokes and a large auxiliary electrode), were used to obtain both axial and radial density and temperature profiles. The probe tip was cylindrical and made of carbon,

and was typically swept in voltage over a 5 ms period. The temperature was measured from the region of the I - V characteristic between the floating potential V_f and $V_f + 2KT_e$.

5. Antenna nomenclature

We have adopted the following notation to describe antenna phasing and helicity. For our right-helical antennas, propagation in the direction of magnetic field B_0 is expected to favour $m = +1$ excitation. When B_0 points in the direction of the long section of the discharge tube (where all measurements are performed), the arrangement is denoted as ' $M = +1$ ', in anticipation that $m = +1$ waves will be excited in the experimental region. Likewise, upon reversing the DC field, the B_0 and antenna combination will be denoted as ' $M = -1$ '.

Clockwise or anticlockwise field rotation can be produced by phasing the currents to the two antenna elements separated by 90 degrees. The situation with clockwise field rotation (when viewed in the direction of B_0) will be denoted as ' $m' = +1$ ' (again, in expectation that $m = +1$ waves will in fact be launched), while anticlockwise rotation will be denoted by ' $m' = -1$ '. It is important to note that, in the azimuthal profiles to be presented, the unit vector \hat{z} is always defined in the direction of B_0 . Therefore, upon field reversal, the azimuthal angle θ is transformed to $-\theta$. However, this has the advantage that a positive slope on a wave phase- θ plot always corresponds to an $m > 0$ mode, while a negative slope always corresponds to an $m < 0$ mode.

Finally, as explained in section 3, if the antennas used were of straight (non-helical) design, then for a given phasing (say, $m' = +1$), $m = +1$ waves would be expected to be launched with equal amplitude in both directions. It is the antenna helicity which causes an asymmetry in the directionality, since, for example, a right-helical antenna favours $m = +1$ propagation in the $+\hat{z}$ direction, and $m = -1$ propagation in the $-\hat{z}$ direction. Thus, in the following results, the sign of m' may be considered to control the field rotation under the antenna and the consequent coupling to propagating waves with $m = m'$, while the sign of M controls the directionality by favouring the launching of waves with $m = M$ down the long section of the discharge tube (and $m = -M$ up the short length). The relative importance of the signs of m' and M in determining wave generation is the main point of the results presented below.

6. Results and discussion

6.1. Density profiles

Figures 12(a) and (b) show a collection of axial density profiles (obtained at $r = 0$) for a variety of phasing cases and for antenna lengths of 10 and 20 cm, respectively. The cases $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$ are shown; these cases represent those where one would expect favourable excitation of $m = +1$, and $m = -1$, respectively, towards the long end of the discharge tube. Also shown are the 'crossed' cases, where $(M, m') =$

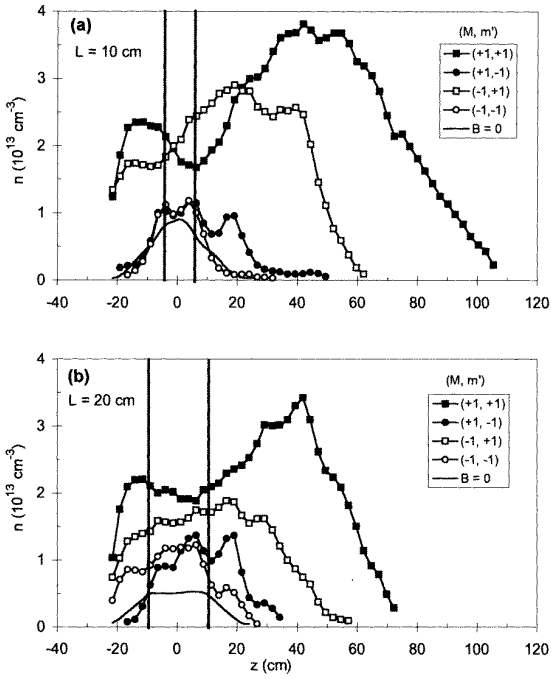


Figure 12. Axial density profiles at $r = 0$ for the four cases $m' = \pm 1$, $M = \pm 1$, together with the case of $B_0 = 0$ for (a) the 10 cm antenna and (b) the 20 cm antenna. The vertical lines indicate the antenna region.

$(+1, -1)$ and $(-1, +1)$. The $B_0 = 0$ case is shown for comparison.

For both antenna lengths, there is a clear disparity between the $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $(-1, -1)$ cases. Except for the cases of $B_0 = 0$ (which are symmetric about the antenna region), the $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$ plasmas represent the lowest-density discharges, at least on the long side of the discharge tube. The $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ case shows a downstream density peak, which from previous work is explained by the requirement of pressure balance along the discharge tube [19]. The increase in density along the tube corresponds to a measured decrease in temperature, as shown in figure 13.

Previous work on this same apparatus [11], but with a single antenna, also showed poorer plasma production in the downstream region for the case of $M = -1$. However, the difference in density between $M = +1$ and $M = -1$ was not as severe as the differences between the $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $(-1, -1)$ cases observed here; instead the differences were comparable to those found here between the cases $(M, m') = (-1, +1)$ and $(+1, +1)$. In these experiments $m' = +1$ antenna phasings result in far better plasma production than $m' = -1$ phasings, regardless of the helicity. This is not so surprising if $m = -1$ fields are poorly coupled in general, since it is expected that antenna phasing determines the m -spectrum more strongly than antenna helicity because of the broad k -spectrum of half-wavelength antennas, as explained in section 3. For the same m' , the directionality induced by the helicity would account for the difference seen between $(M, m') = (-1, +1)$ and $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ cases, with

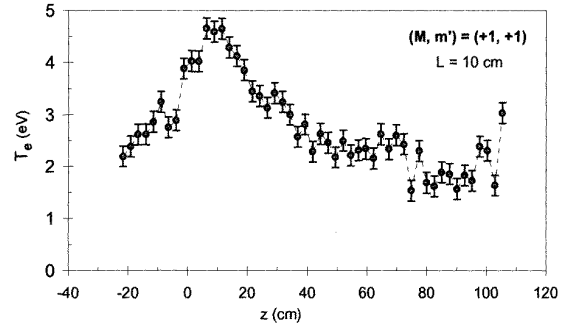


Figure 13. Axial temperature profile at $r = 0$ for the case $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$, showing the temperature decay along the discharge tube. The scatter of the points indicates reproducibility of the data. The systematic error in RF compensation is estimated to be less than ± 0.2 eV for densities above 10^{13} cm^{-3} . The rise in T_e at large z is caused by insufficient RF compensation at low densities.

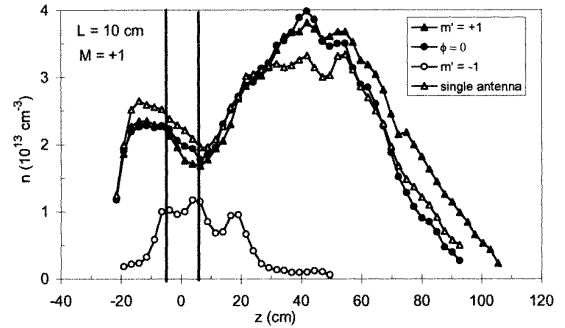


Figure 14. Axial density profiles at $r = 0$ for the 10 cm antenna with $M = +1$, for the cases $m' = +1$, $m' = -1$, zero phasing and single antenna only. The vertical lines indicate the antenna region.

a greater power flow towards the short side of the discharge tube for the $(-1, +1)$ case.

Figure 12 also highlights differences between plasma production for different antenna lengths. The peak density produced by the $L = 10$ cm antenna is only slightly higher than by the 20 cm antenna, but the density integrated along the entire tube is significantly higher. The peak temperature measured a short distance downstream from the antenna is also about 0.5 eV higher than for the 20 cm antenna. Despite similar peak densities, there is a marked visual difference between the discharges: for $L = 10$ cm, there is a brighter pencil-like core region produced. Possible reasons for the difference in plasma production efficiency are given in the next section.

Figure 14 shows a comparison of different phasing conditions for the 10 cm antenna, for a field alignment such that $M = +1$. The two rotating field phasings ($m' = +1$ and $m' = -1$) are reproduced from figure 12(a). The case of in-phase ($\phi = 0$) excitation (which corresponds to a Boswell antenna) is also shown, together with the case of single-element excitation—i.e., a single half-helical antenna, with the second element removed from the circuit. All cases give similar density profiles (although the $m' = +1$ case is slightly superior) except the $m' = -1$ case, which shows weak plasma production. Despite the extra

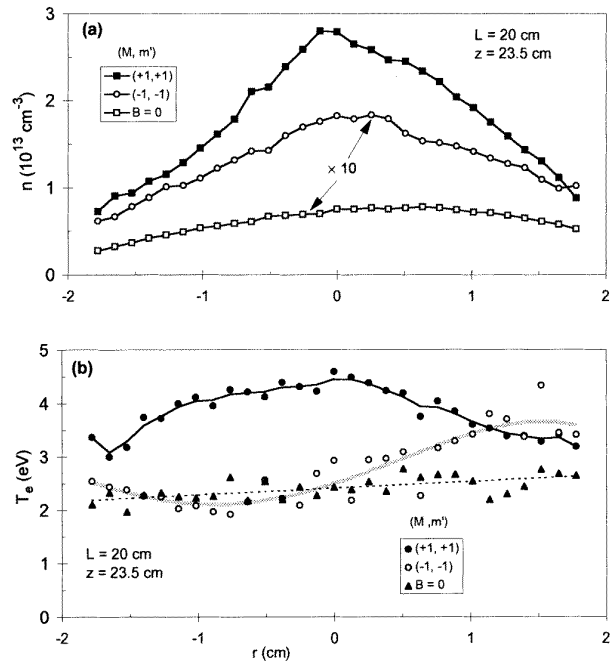


Figure 15. Radial (a) density and (b) temperature profiles for the 20 cm antenna measured at $z = 23.5$ cm, for $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $(-1, -1)$, together with the case $B_0 = 0$.

effort to enhance the power into the $m = +1$ component by phasing, only a modest gain in plasma production is obtained. The result can be understood if one assumes that the coupling to the $m = +1$ component dominates over the coupling to all other azimuthal components combined. That is, once a dominant fraction of the power in the antenna spectrum is coupled to the $m = +1$ field structure (either by rotation in space or time), then strong wave generation and plasma production are assured, since other azimuthal components must always account for only a small fraction of the coupled power. On the other hand, any suppression of the $m = +1$ field results in poor plasma production, since the weak coupling to azimuthal components such as $m = -1, 2, 3$, etc must now compete with other non-resonant coupling processes, which are less efficient for plasma production. The dominance of the $m = +1$ component is indeed predicted theoretically [13, 16], so these results are not unexpected. The effect of non-resonant coupling is examined more fully in the next section.

Radial density and temperature profiles for the cases of $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$, $(-1, -1)$ and $B_0 = 0$ plasmas are shown in figure 15(a) and (b) for the $L = 20$ cm antenna. The profiles were measured at $z = 23.5$ cm. The $(+1, +1)$ density profile shows strong peaking, while the other profiles are somewhat flatter. This presumably relates to differences in the radial plasma production profile. Flatter, or even hollow, profiles would be expected for cases where plasma is formed in the edge regions.

6.2. Loading results

The phasing angle ϕ between the currents in the two elements of the antenna was adjusted between

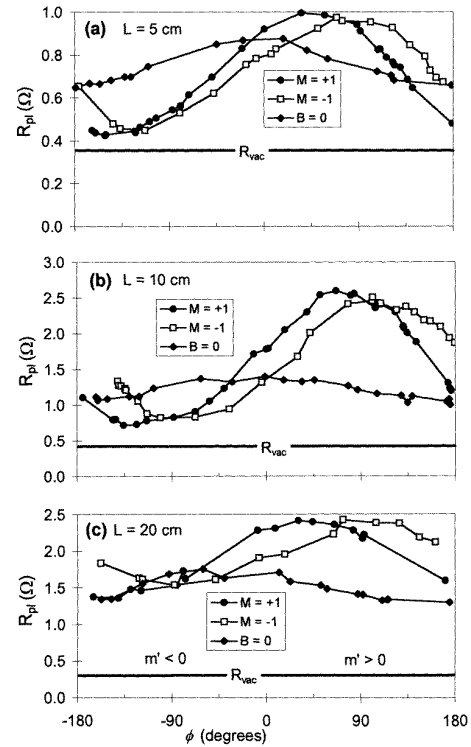


Figure 16. Loading resistance against antenna phase angle ϕ for the cases $M = +1$, $M = -1$ and $B_0 = 0$, for antenna lengths of (a) 5, (b) 10, and (c) 20 cm. The vacuum loading is indicated by the horizontal line in each graph.

-180 degrees and 180 degrees, with the results for R_{pl} shown in figure 16(a)–(c) for $L = 5, 10$ and 20 cm, respectively. For each antenna length, the cases of $M = \pm 1$ and $B_0 = 0$ are shown. The phase ϕ is defined so that $\phi > 0$ corresponds to clockwise field rotation when looking along B_0 ($m' > 0$), while $\phi < 0$ corresponds to $m' < 0$. The case of $\phi = \pm 90^\circ$ corresponds to the special purely rotating wave field cases of $m' = \pm 1$ (the density profiles for which were given in detail above). When $\phi = 0$ or 180° the antenna field does not rotate in time. Figure 16 shows clearly that $\phi > 0$ ($m > 0$ excitation) gives the superior loading. Strong plasma production and, as will be shown below, strong wave generation, is associated with the maxima in the loading for $\phi > 0$. It should also be noted, at least for the 20 cm case, that, because of the low value of vacuum losses for the antenna system, essentially the same power is delivered to all plasmas, even for the $B_0 = 0$ case. (Power efficiency ranges between 75% and 85% over all the plasma conditions for $L = 20$ cm; efficiencies of up to 90% are achieved for the 10 cm antenna.) The differences in plasma production for the 20 cm antenna are therefore mostly unrelated to changes in coupled power, but must stem from differences in the radial and/or axial power deposition profiles.

A notable difference between the loading scans for the three antennas involves the degree of modulation in the loading curve. For $L = 10$ cm, the minimum loading found at $\phi < 0$ is somewhat lower than that found for $L = 20$ cm. As will be shown in the following sections, wave coupling

is very poor for this phasing; waves are almost non-existent, with the RF antenna near field dominating magnetic probe measurements. The loading at $\phi < 0$ represents coupling to processes unrelated to wave generation, such as inductive and capacitive coupling. It is expected that these processes should be unrelated to wave launching, since they are non-resonant. For example, capacitive coupling depends primarily on the antenna voltage distribution, while inductive coupling (without wave excitation) involves local image currents within a few skin depths of the antenna. In devices in which $m = +1$ helicons are not well coupled, non-resonant loading is especially important, since it would then determine the division of power between wave and non-wave processes. Indeed, in some experiments, even the vacuum loading enters significantly into the way the power is divided, and a large portion of the available power may be wasted in heating discrete circuit components. Compared to well designed wave coupling, non-wave processes are inefficient for plasma production, presumably because much of the power deposition occurs in the edge region, where direct losses to the wall will limit the density.

The fact that the non-resonant loading is weaker for the 10 cm antenna may explain the better plasma production observed for this antenna, since more power may be coupled into wave generation. A reduction in capacitive and inductive coupling for shorter antennas is expected for several reasons. First, for a fixed power and loading, the antenna voltage is reduced because of the reduced antenna inductance; this would lower the drive for capacitive processes. Second, shorter antennas have less surface area, which would also reduce the capacitive coupling. The reduced antenna length also means that inductively driven image currents in the plasma span a smaller volume, which may also have the effect of reducing the non-resonant coupling.

Given the superior performance of the 10 cm antenna, a 5 cm bifilar antenna was built in the hope of achieving even better plasma production. A plot of the loading scan is given in figure 16(a). The trend in the reduction of non-resonant loading for shorter antennas is found to continue, with the level almost reduced to zero, leaving only the vacuum loading as the primary competing channel for power dissipation. However, the coupling for this antenna when phased for wave launching is reduced to less than 1Ω , representing only a 60% power efficiency. This is to be expected, since the generation of space charge fields by the process described in section 3.2 is less efficient at low length-to-width aspect ratios. Nevertheless, a reasonable axial density profile is still produced for the case $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$, with an axial profile and peak density similar to that shown in figure 12(b) for the 20 cm antenna. As a compromise between non-resonant loading in long antennas and weak wave coupling in short ones, the 10 cm antenna length appears to be optimum for plasma production for 5 cm diameter tubes. A similar optimum had been found in early experiments in the same device [2].

The loading results may also be explained by the concept of k_{\parallel} matching. In this device, wave damping is sufficiently large that axial standing waves are not observed. The parallel wavelength must therefore be determined

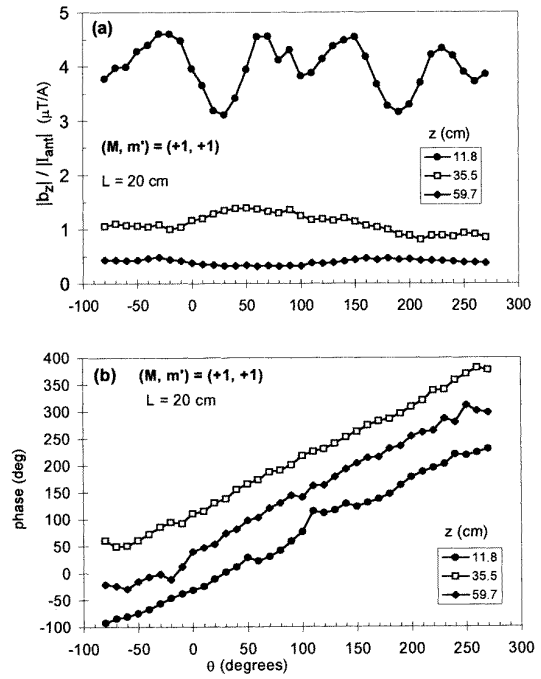


Figure 17. Azimuthal profiles of (a) the amplitude and (b) the phase of B_z at various axial locations for the case $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$.

by the antenna spectrum and plasma response. If it is assumed that the shorter wavelength for the 10 cm antenna launches (on average) shorter wavelength plasma waves, a higher plasma density would result by virtue of the helicon dispersion relation (1). However, for the very short 5 cm antenna, reduced coupling may result from a very broadened antenna k_{\parallel} spectrum, where the ‘optimum’ k_{\parallel} corresponds to a density that is inaccessible due to power limitations. However, linking the antenna length and density by way of (1) to predict antenna performance should only be regarded as an approximate method since, in practice, the discharge physics is important in determining the equilibrium. As observed in this experiment, the helicon wavelength varies in a WKB fashion according to the local density, but the peak density or density directly under the antenna appears to have a weak relationship to the nominal ‘design’ wavelength determined by the antenna dimensions. Detailed wavelength measurements for different antennas are presented in section 6.4 below.

6.3. Azimuthal wave profiles

Using the external magnetic probe, the azimuthal B_z and B_{θ} wave-field structure with the 20 cm antenna was examined for the cases $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $(-1, -1)$.

6.3.1. B_z profiles. Figure 17(a) shows results for an azimuthal scan of B_z at three axial locations, for the case $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$. At $z = 11.8$ cm, the modulation of the amplitude profile is related to the near field induced by the four differently phased end-ring sections. Further downstream, however, the strong modulation disappears, to be replaced by a weak azimuthal modulation. Although

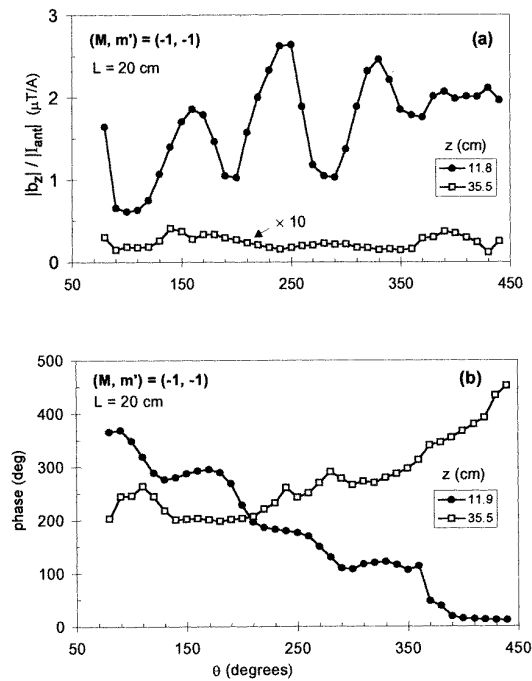


Figure 18. Same as figure 17, but for $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$.

the decrease in amplitude with distance could be interpreted in terms of a decay length for the waves, axial wave beating (to be described) prevents such a simple interpretation. Figure 17(b) shows the corresponding phase profiles for the data in figure 17(a). Excitation of the $m = +1$ structure is clearly confirmed, and the purity of the phase profiles, particularly those taken downstream from the antenna, indicate that other modes such as $m = 0$ or $m = 2$, if present, must only exist with very low amplitude. The phase shifts between the curves in figure 17(b) indicate that the wave field corresponds to an axially propagating wave. However, these data are not useful in assigning a wavelength to the wave, since the phase is only known to within modulo 360° . Axial measurements inside the plasma on a far finer mesh are given in section 6.4.

Figure 18(a) shows the amplitude profiles for the case $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$. The near field shows modulation similar to that in figure 17, but the result downstream is markedly different. The B_z amplitude, even at $z = 35.5$ cm, is very small compared to the case for $m' = +1$. At $z = 59.7$ cm, the signal-to-noise ratio was too small to make meaningful measurements. Figure 18(b) shows the corresponding phase profiles for the data in figure 18(a). The near-field measurement shows the $m = -1$ structure produced by the antenna, but downstream the profile exhibits a change in the sign of the slope, and most closely agrees with $m = +1$. Hence, the weak downstream field probably represents a vestigial field resulting from the parasitic launching of a small amplitude $m = +1$ component. This result indicates that despite strong $m = -1$ near-field components at the antenna, $m = -1$ field components appear to be damped rapidly in the plasma.

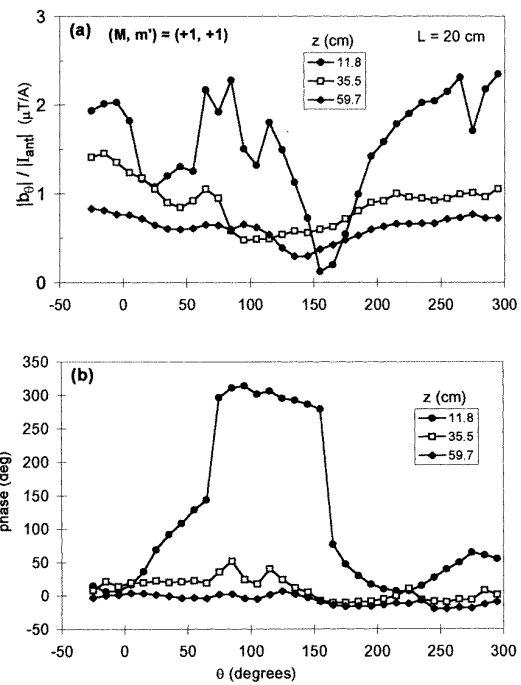


Figure 19. Azimuthal profiles of (a) the amplitude and (b) the phase of B_θ at various axial locations for the case $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$.

6.3.2. B_θ profiles. In contrast to the B_z case, the B_θ profiles gave surprising results. Figure 19(a) shows the amplitude profiles for the $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ case. The modulation of the wave amplitude at all three axial positions is stronger than for the corresponding B_z cases. But the phase profiles in figure 19(b) indicate that an $m = +1$ structure is absent; instead, the near-field profile exhibits complicated phase behaviour, with 180° phase jumps, while the downstream profiles are essentially $m = 0$ in character. Corresponding data are shown in figure 20 for the case of $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$. In contrast to the corresponding B_z profiles, the B_θ field remains at an appreciable level, even at $z = 59.7$ cm, where the plasma is very tenuous. Again, the far-field phase profiles are $m = 0$ in character. Such behaviour for the B_θ field even persists in an unmagnetized plasma. For $B_0 = 0$ and 35.5 cm, an appreciable ($m = 0$) B_θ field amplitude exists, in stark contrast to the corresponding B_z case. Previous measurements [11] have also shown anomalous results in B_θ radial wave amplitude profiles, where unexpected wings were detected at the plasma edge. Such radial B_θ scans were not made in this experiment.

In order to determine the axial structure of the $m = 0$ feature, a portable, toroidal coil (essentially a high-frequency Rogowski coil) was constructed which could be fitted to the outside of the discharge tube at every available space between the DC magnet coils. The coil was electrostatically shielded and compensated for any B_z flux (although, because the B_z structure was determined to be $m = +1$, little net B_z flux was expected to thread the coil). The coil discriminates in favour of $m = 0$ structures; and the signal, proportional to the line integral of B_θ along the coil magnetic axis, may be expressed in terms of an

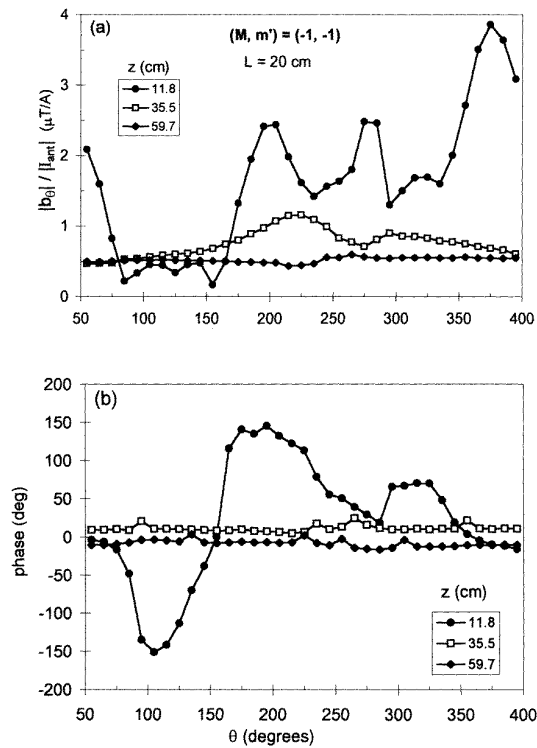


Figure 20. Same as figure 19, but for $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$.

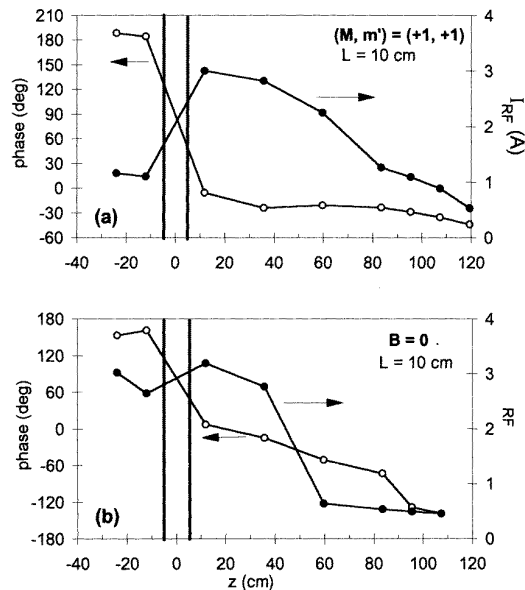


Figure 21. Axial profiles of the edge $m = 0$ B_θ field structure (amplitude and phase), expressed in terms of an axial RF current I_{RF} , for the cases of (a) $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and (b) $B_0 = 0$.

axial RF plasma current. Figure 21 shows measured axial profiles of the $m = 0$ edge structure for the 10 cm antenna for the cases of $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ and $B_0 = 0$. In both cases there is very little axial phase shift, and a 180° phase jump occurs across the antenna. Also, the maximum magnitudes of the RF current are similar in both cases,

although there is a stronger decay in the axial direction for the $B_0 = 0$ case. The absence of $m = 0$ deformation in the B_z azimuthal wave profiles indicates that this additional mechanism couples predominantly to the B_θ field. This would be expected for axial RF currents flowing in the plasma.

Because of the lack of axial phase variation, together with the observation of $m = 0$ structure in plasmas with weak wave coupling, it is unlikely that the B_θ field at the edge is related to helicon wave generation. Some experiments run at lower field and density have found evidence of nonlinear generation of electron beams excited at a given RF phase [20]. Such a process would give rise to an axial current component at the RF frequency. For the reasons given above, we exclude such a process here. As a further check, a large electrode positioned to intercept mostly the core region of the discharge was DC biased into the transition region of its I - V characteristic. The RF component of the collected current was then measured. Although the interpretation of such a measurement is complicated by RF potential fluctuations, the collected RF current was about an order of magnitude lower than the currents measured above, indicating that it is unlikely that an RF beam current is generated in the core.

In principle, an $m = 0$ field structure could be created by inductive coupling. However, for the antennas used in this experiment the $k_{\parallel} = 0$ component is very small, since there are no unbalanced axial current elements at the discharge tube surface. Furthermore, the antennas nominally do not have any $m = 0$ component, so it is difficult to envision efficient coupling to an $m = 0$ feature. Instead, it is more likely that local inductive coupling under each component of the antenna explains the non-resonant, high- k_{\perp} features observed in the near-field measurements, although a detailed explanation of near-field data is difficult due to the various sources of field interference between the helicon waves, inductively coupled field, and the $m = 0$ structure.

A more plausible explanation concerns the details of the experimental arrangement. The discharge tube is surrounded for 1.5 m of its length by electrically continuous DC magnet coil mounts, spaced 1 cm from the outer tube surface. When the plasma is excited, the arrangement mimics that of a coaxial cable with the plasma column as the centre conductor. If an RF voltage appears between the plasma surface and the coil mounts, the radial E -field in the annular air gap can excite a transverse magnetic mode with an axial RF current, an $m = 0$ B_θ -field and an E_z -field determined by the parallel resistivity of the plasma surface. The $m = 0$ structure can be easily provided by the antenna voltage distribution, in contrast to the antenna current distribution. The 180° phase shift across the antenna and the reduction in current on the short side of the discharge tube are consistent with this hypothesis. The axial current profile suggests that the transmission line should be modelled as an open-circuit line with a current node at the end of the plasma column. However, a detailed model incorporating losses and the equivalent driving voltage is needed to determine the validity of this hypothesis. This non-wave coupling mechanism can also be elucidated by

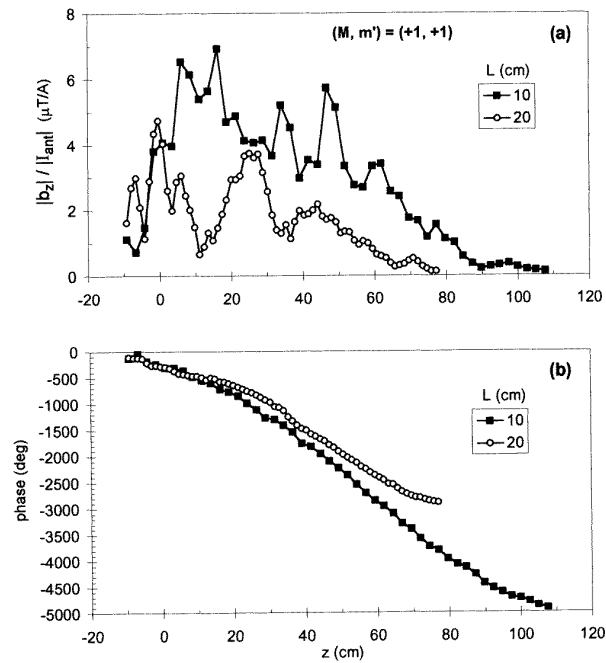


Figure 22. Axial profiles of (a) the amplitude and (b) the phase of B_z of the $m = +1$ mode for antenna lengths of 10 and 20 cm.

using the shielded antennas that are planned for the future. Whatever its exact nature, the non-wave effect, which spans all the discharges studied, may in part explain the non-resonant coupling observed in the loading data. The results also suggest that, for this type of experimental arrangement, the edge B_θ -field is not a good wave diagnostic. In principle, such an effect could also occur in conducting-wall discharge chambers, so long as a well defined vacuum region exists between the plasma surface and wall, and there is a sufficiently strong radial RF electric field set up across the vacuum gap.

6.4. Axial wave profiles

Axial B_z wave field profiles were obtained using the dogleg probe at a fixed radius $r = 0.7$ cm. Figure 22 shows the axial variation of the amplitude and phase of B_z for $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$, for both the 10 and 20 cm antennas. In both cases there is a monotonic phase variation along the discharge tube indicative of an axial travelling wave, showing that there is indeed strong wave launching for this antenna phasing. Each amplitude profile exhibits a similar decay length of about 60 cm but with considerable modulation, especially for the case of the 20 cm antenna. A similar effect was observed previously [21] and is related to the beating of different radial $m = +1$ modes having different k_z -values. The 10 cm antenna produces the stronger normalized B_z field, in agreement with the loading results, where wave loading was largest for the 10 cm antenna.

Variations in filling pressure only weakly affect the axial field profiles. The axial decay length increases by

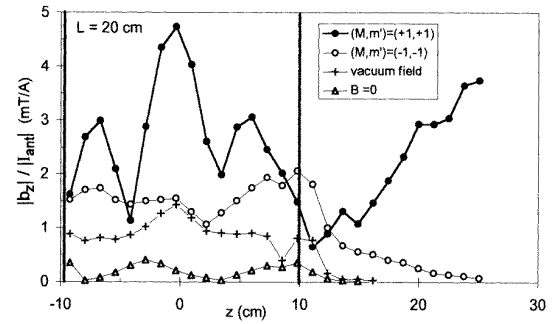


Figure 23. Near-field axial profiles of the B_z wave amplitude for a variety of conditions.

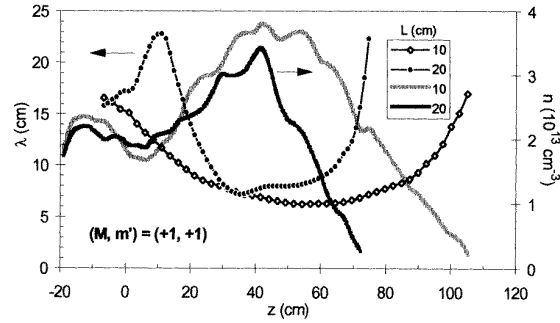


Figure 24. Comparison of the local axial wavelength for the 10 and 20 cm antennas with the corresponding axial density profiles.

only 10% for an order of magnitude decrease in the filling pressure from 20 mTorr to 2 mTorr. This is not surprising, since the dominant collisional damping is expected to be associated with ion–electron collisions at these plasma densities. Changes in filling pressure do not impact strongly on the densities achieved, except for the tendency of low-pressure discharges to extend slightly further down the discharge tube. We have observed that the beat patterns can be modified by changes in pressure.

Figure 23 shows near-field B_z amplitude under the 20 cm antenna for a variety of cases. The near field for $(M, m') = (+1, +1)$ has the largest amplitude among all cases, followed by $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$, the vacuum field and finally $B_0 = 0$. The vacuum and $B_0 = 0$ plasma show strong axial wave field decay, as does the case for $(M, m') = (-1, -1)$. This again indicates that the $m = -1$ field is poorly coupled. For $B_0 = 0$, strong B_z shielding is expected on the scale of the resistive skin depth, so the weakness of B_z measured deep in the plasma is not surprising. For the magnetized cases, in the absence of wave generation, the magnetic skin depth determines RF field penetration into the plasma, and this would explain the enhancement of the B_z field under the antenna, as compared to the unmagnetized case. The B_z vacuum field (measured for quadrature phasing) decays rapidly just past the last antenna end ring.

More detailed data on the phase ϕ than shown in figure 22 can be used to determine the local wavelength, in a WKB sense, by defining $\lambda = 2\pi dz/d\phi$. In figure 24, $\lambda(z)$

(obtained from a polynomial fit of the smoothed phase data) is plotted for both 10 and 20 cm antennas. In each case, the minimum wavelength is obtained in the far field, at the position of maximum densities found in figure 12. This is consistent with the helicon dispersion relation. This result reproduces previous results obtained for $M = +1$ antenna excitation [11]. An interesting feature of the results in figure 24 is that for each antenna the measured wavelength in the region under the antenna does not correspond exactly to the design wavelength. The fact that the 20 cm antenna produces a somewhat shorter wavelength than the design wavelength of 40 cm can be explained by the fact that the half-wavelength antennas employed here also have a full-wavelength component. A contribution to this component is made by the end-rings, which are in fact driven in phase over the antenna length. It is also found that a shorter wavelength is produced under the 10 cm antenna than under the 20 cm antenna. This observation implies that the antenna length determines k_{\parallel} for regions under or near the antenna, but in the far field the wavelength changes to fit the local dispersion relation, regardless of the wavelength at launch.

7. Conclusions

Several conclusions on antenna coupling can be drawn from this investigation. First and foremost, the polarization direction is more sensitive to temporal rotation of the antenna fields than to spatial rotation. Second, left-hand polarized waves are poorly coupled under all conditions and also damp rapidly, but they can be excited by proper phasing in both space and time. The dominance of right-hand waves is in agreement with calculations which take the density profile into account. Third, since the plasmas produced by $m < 0$ phasing have low density and exhibit an absence of waves, we conclude that $m > 0$ helicon waves are necessary for good plasma production. With this mode, the superiority of helicon discharges over ICP discharge with $B_0 = 0$ is clearly shown. Fourth, the wavelength of the waves in the near-field appears to be determined by the antenna length, but as the waves propagate downstream the wavelength changes to match the helicon dispersion relation. Fifth, external B_{θ} probes may be influenced by a waveguide mode travelling in the space between the plasma and an outer conducting boundary. This diagnostic should be used with caution in similar discharges. Finally, there is evidence that non-resonant processes play a role in antenna performance.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix

A.1. Matching circuit

The matching circuit shown in figure 10 is composed of a standard L -network in series with the two resonant arms. The equivalent circuit includes the uncoupled resistive and inductive components of each element (denoted by R_u and L_u , respectively), together with the coupled inductance M_c that appears in series with the two arms. The resistance R_c due to plasma losses associated with the mutual flux threading the elements is also included for generality. Quadrature phasing of the currents in the two elements is achieved by adjusting the reactance of each of the arms with the tuning capacitors C_1 and C_2 , so that the total series reactance of one arm is $+jR_u$, while the reactance of the other arm is $-jR_u$, where R_u is the series resistance of each of the elements (composed of parasitic losses plus an equivalent series resistance due to the presence of the plasma). In this case, the two arms in parallel form a resonant tank circuit with a resistive input impedance R_u . The standard L -network is then used to match this resistance to 50 ohms. Zero phasing can be produced by setting the arms to an equal impedance, while intermediate phasings are produced by setting the reactance of the arms to the appropriate (oppositely signed) values. A potential disadvantage of this system stems from the fact that the phasing depends on the loading. However, in these experiments, the delivered power is quite constant. Except for a short-lived transient at the start of the discharge, the loading, and consequently the phasing, is constant throughout the discharge.

A.2. Loading measurements

The antenna power, current, and voltage were measured with directional couplers and the current transformers shown in figure 10. Each current transformer was electrostatically shielded from the high-voltage primaries and placed in a separate shielded housing. A capacitive voltage divider was also installed on one of the arms. Crosstalk between the two current probes and the voltage probe was measured to be less than 2%.

With knowledge of the power into the matching circuit (forward power P_f minus reflected power P_r), and the RMS antenna currents I_{rms1} and I_{rms2} , the resistive loading of the antenna R_{ant} can be computed from

$$R_{ant} = (P_f - P_r) / (I_{rms1}^2 + I_{rms2}^2). \quad (A1)$$

For all results, $I_{rms1} = I_{rms2}$ to within 3%, with reflected power less than 1 W. Referring to the equivalent circuit in figure 10, it is easy to show that R_{ant} defined above corresponds to the quantity $R_u + 2R_c$. Equation (A1) is valid only if a small percentage of the total power is dissipated in the tuning capacitors. This is a very good assumption in this experiment since, for all bifilar antennas, the total vacuum loss R_{vac} was $0.35 \pm 0.05 \Omega$ (corrected for the self-resonance effect described below), as compared with a loading of about 2Ω for most of the plasmas excited. Most of this vacuum loading is believed to be associated with the

aluminum coil mounts 1 cm away from the antenna straps; loss in the tuning components is expected to be smaller than this.

The loading measurements are complicated by the proximity of the antenna self-resonance frequency ω_a to the driving frequency ω_d . Parallel resonance of the antenna is caused by unavoidable distributed stray capacitance between the antenna straps and ground. Because of the additional circulating current in the parallel LC arrangement, the antenna current measured external to the antenna is less than the true antenna current. This circulating component becomes larger as the ratio ω_d/ω_a approaches unity. The increase in true antenna current I_t over the measured current I_m is given by

$$I_t = I_m/\gamma \quad \gamma = 1 - (\omega_d/\omega_a)^2. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The measured resistive loading R_{ant} is related to the true loading R_{pl} according to

$$R_{pl} = R_{ant}\gamma^2 \quad (\text{A3})$$

The estimated values of γ for the 5, 10, and 20 cm antennas are 0.97, 0.93 and 0.83, respectively. The modifications to the measured currents and loading have been included in the results. Despite significant adjustments to the absolute loading and current measurements, the phasing between the current elements of the antenna is unaffected. This is because phase shifts between I_t and I_m due to the self-resonance effect are very small (except if operating very close to resonance), and phase shifts are expected to be the same for each element, thus nulling any possible shift in the phase between elements. A final consideration involves possible strong changes in the antenna self-resonance frequency, which may induce apparent changes in R_{pl} . Such variations are given by

$$\frac{\Delta R_{pl}}{R_{pl}} = 2 \frac{1 - \gamma}{\gamma} \frac{\Delta \omega_a}{\omega_a}. \quad (\text{A4})$$

Because of the mutual coupling between the two antenna elements in this experiment, the uncoupled reactance is difficult to measure, but measurements with a single antenna (using the voltage probe) indicate changes of only about 5% in antenna reactance between magnetized and unmagnetized discharges. Thus, according

to equation (A4), relative variations between loading measurements due to changes in the self-resonance are expected to be insignificant. The absolute value of the loading measurements have uncertainties of up to 15%, mainly due to the uncertainty in the estimates of ω_a , but relative uncertainties for measurements made with the same antenna are expected to be somewhat less than this value.

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