



Contribution ID: 103

Type: Poster

Intense Metallic Ion Production and Operation with Electron Cyclotron Resonance (ECR) Ion Sources at the Institute of Modern Physics

Tuesday, 9 September 2025 16:30 (1h 30m)

Production of intense highly charged heavy ion beams is of high challenge with an ECR ion source. To meet the strong requirements from the nuclear physics experiments various methods have been developed to produce metallic ion beams with ECR ion sources at the Institute of Modern Physics (IMP). In the recent 5 years, more than 14 different species of metallic ions have been produced with the intensity typically of hundreds of μA at IMP. According to the specific properties of materials, several methods have been successfully developed and applied for routine operation. Low temperature oven with resistance heating and maximum working temperature around 700 degree C was used to heat material like Ca, Bi, CsI, and ZrF₄. High temperature inductive heating oven with maximum service temperature about 2000 degree C was applied to produce metallic ions like Ca, Al, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Sr, Gd, U, etc. For extremely refractory metals, such as Ta, U, and Th, sputtering technique with special design was developed. The technical advancement enables the production of $>600 \mu\text{A}$ of U³⁵⁺, Bi³¹⁺, and reliable routine operation with intense U⁴⁶⁺, Ta³⁸⁺. In this paper, typical ion yields for various elements are presented, comparisons are shown, and the challenges to produce more intense highly charged metallic ion beams for the next generation heavy ion accelerators are also discussed.

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Session Classification: Poster Session

Track Classification: Production of highly charged ion beams