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► **To cite this version:**

R. Raj Singh, O. Heber, Patrick Rousseau, Alicja Domaracka. Development of a electrostaic ion beam trap and its applications. 2nd general meeting of the COST Action CA18212, COST MD-GAS, Oct 2021, On-line, Sweden. hal-04808411

HAL Id: hal-04808411

<https://hal.science/hal-04808411v1>

Submitted on 28 Nov 2024

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DEVELOPMENT OF A ELECTROSTATIC ION BEAM TRAP AND ITS APPLICATIONS

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An electrostatic ion beam trap (EIBT) with extraction has been designed and simulated to study the formation, reactivity, and fragmentation of clusters arising from ion-cluster collisions [1]. Such studies are very important to understand the molecular formation in the space [2]. The schematic of the setup is shown in Figure 1. This setup has three main parts: extraction region, an Einzel lens, and the electrostatic ion beam trap. Ions are formed in interaction zone by ion collisions with molecular clusters, then the collision products are extracted by a weak electrostatic field, and focused by an Einzel lens to the entrance mirror of the EIBT. In order to get extracted ions from the interaction zone to the center of trap, we lower down the voltages of the few electrodes of the entrance mirror, once the ions are in the field free region of the EIBT, the voltages of the electrodes raised to the standard trapping voltages. This allows the trapping of ions in the EIBT. The voltages on the extraction region, Einzel lens, and the EIBT have been optimized to obtain best trapping efficiency using Simion software. The EIBT works as high resolution mass spectrometer. Other spectroscopies can also be done in the field free region.

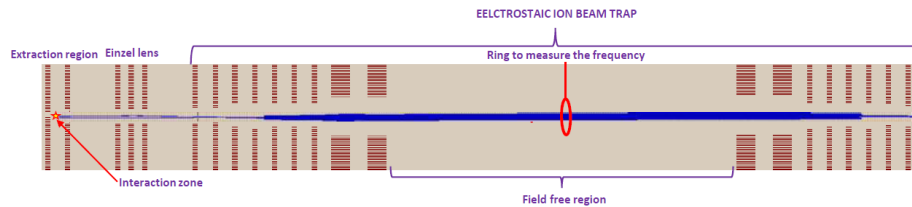


Figure 1. Schematic of the EIBT with extraction region and the Einzel lens. Trajectories of trapped ions are shown as blue lines.

A combination of two EIBTs can trap both positive and negative ions in the same field free regions to study the merge beam cold collisions, which sheds light on the formation of molecules in the early universe. We recently designed, simulated, and fabricated such a setup, which is called hybrid electrostatic ion beam trap (HEBIT). Simulation supports as low as ~ 4 meV resolution of the collision energy. Neutral products and laser induced cations can be readily imaged behind the HEIBT mirrors [3].

This project is partly co-financed by the Normandy Region and the European Union in the frame of operational program FEDER/FSE 2014-2020 (RIN MAGIC) and by the French ANR agency (ANR-18-CE30-0021).

References

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