

APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CONTROLLING ION ENERGY DISTRIBUTION

BACKGROUND

Field

[0001] Embodiments of the present disclosure generally relate to apparatus and methods for plasma processing of a substrate, and specifically to apparatus and methods for controlling an ion energy distribution during plasma processing.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] During plasma processing of a substrate, ions play a key role for substrate surface treatment, etching, and deposition. Ions impinging the substrate surface can have a variety of energies which is described by an ion energy distribution function (IEDF). Control over the IEDF can be an important factor for various substrate processing schemes. Controlling the IEDF, however, remains a challenge. For example, when periodic alternating voltage is applied to electrode(s) of a chamber, a plasma sheath can develop above the substrate. The ions flowing towards the substrate are accelerated by the plasma sheath voltage which correlates with the voltage applied to the electrode. At the same time, ion current can charge the substrate and alter the substrate potential, which in turn affects the plasma sheath voltage such that the IEDF at the substrate surface is also affected, e.g., broadened. State-of-the-art methods to control the IEDF in such instances, and others, are based on inefficient iteration loops.

[0003] There is a need for new and improved methods for controlling the IEDF.

SUMMARY

[0004] Embodiments of the present disclosure generally relate to apparatus and methods for plasma processing of a substrate, and specifically to apparatus and methods for controlling an ion energy distribution during plasma processing.

[0005] Embodiments of the present disclosure may provide a method of controlling an ion energy distribution function (IEDF). The method includes introducing a voltage

to an electrode of a processing chamber by activating a main pulser, the main pulser coupled to an IEDF width control module, and measuring a current of the IEDF width control module and a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module. The method further includes calculating an ion current of the processing chamber and a capacitance of the processing chamber based on the current and the voltage or voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module. The method further includes determining a setpoint for a DC voltage of the main pulser, a setpoint for a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, or both, and adjusting the DC voltage of the main pulser, the voltage or voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, or both, to the determined setpoints to control the width of the IEDF.

[0006] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide an apparatus for controlling an ion energy distribution. The apparatus includes a substrate support that has a body having a substrate support portion having a substrate electrode embedded therein for applying a substrate voltage to a substrate. The body further includes an edge ring portion disposed adjacent to the substrate support portion, the edge ring portion having an edge ring electrode embedded therein for applying an edge ring voltage to an edge ring. The apparatus further includes a substrate voltage control circuit coupled to the substrate electrode and an edge ring voltage control circuit coupled to the edge ring electrode. The substrate electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the substrate, or the edge ring electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the edge ring, or a combination thereof. The substrate voltage control circuit, the edge ring voltage control circuit, or both comprises a main pulser coupled to a current return path, the current return path coupled to the power module and to a processing chamber, wherein the power module comprises a voltage source, a current source, or a combination thereof

[0007] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide an apparatus for controlling an ion energy distribution. The apparatus includes a substrate support that has a body having a substrate support portion having a substrate electrode embedded therein for applying a substrate voltage to a substrate. The body further includes an edge ring portion disposed adjacent to the substrate support portion, the edge ring

portion having an edge ring electrode embedded therein for applying an edge ring voltage to an edge ring. The apparatus further includes a substrate voltage control circuit coupled to the substrate electrode and an edge ring voltage control circuit coupled to the edge ring electrode. The substrate electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the substrate, or the edge ring electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the edge ring, or a combination thereof. The substrate voltage control circuit, the edge ring voltage control circuit, or both comprises a main pulser coupled to the power module, the power module coupled to a processing chamber, the power module comprising a voltage source, a current source, or a combination thereof.

[0008] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide an apparatus for controlling an ion energy distribution. The apparatus includes a substrate support that has a body having a substrate support portion having a substrate electrode embedded therein for applying a substrate voltage to a substrate. The body further includes an edge ring portion disposed adjacent to the substrate support portion, the edge ring portion having an edge ring electrode embedded therein for applying an edge ring voltage to an edge ring. The apparatus further includes a substrate voltage control circuit coupled to the substrate electrode and an edge ring voltage control circuit coupled to the edge ring electrode. The substrate electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the substrate, or the edge ring electrode is coupled to a power module configured to actively control an energy distribution function width of ions reaching the edge ring, or a combination thereof. The substrate voltage control circuit, the edge ring voltage control circuit, or both comprises a main pulser coupled to the power module, the power module coupled to a processing chamber, wherein the power module is in parallel with a substrate chucking and bias compensation module, and wherein the power module comprises a voltage source, a current source, or a combination thereof.

[0009] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide an apparatus for controlling an ion energy distribution that includes an IEDF width control module that comprises a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current

source is electrically coupled between a main pulser output and ground or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber. The apparatus also includes a non-transitory computer-readable medium that includes instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform operations for controlling a width of an ion energy distribution function (IEDF), the operations comprising delivering a first pulse voltage waveform to an electrode of the processing chamber from a main pulser output of the main pulser, the main pulser output electrically coupled to the IEDF width control module, measuring at least one of a current flowing from the IEDF width control module, a voltage applied by the IEDF width control module, and a voltage derivative at a node between the IEDF width control module and the electrode in the processing chamber, calculating an ion current of the processing chamber and a capacitance of the processing chamber based on at least one of the measured current, the measured voltage and the measured voltage derivative, determining a setpoint for a voltage or a current provided from the IEDF width control module or setpoint for a voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module; and adjusting the voltage or the current provided from the IEDF width control module, or voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module to control the width of the IEDF.

[0010] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide a pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output, and a power module electrically coupled to the main pulser output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma. The power module may include a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises at least one of a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, a DC current source, or a shaped DC pulse voltage source; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the

voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground.

[0011] Embodiments of the present disclosure may also provide a pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is configured to be electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, and a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] So that the manner in which the above recited features of the present disclosure can be understood in detail, a more particular description of the disclosure, briefly summarized above, may be had by reference to embodiments, some of which are illustrated in the appended drawings. It is to be noted, however, that the appended drawings illustrate only exemplary embodiments and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope, for the disclosure may admit to other equally effective embodiments.

[0013] FIG. 1 is a schematic sectional view of an example processing chamber according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0014] FIG. 2 is a schematic overview of an example processing chamber according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0015] FIG. 3A is an exemplary graph showing three different bias voltage waveforms on a substrate according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0016] FIG. 3B is an exemplary plot of IEDF versus ion energy for the three different bias voltage waveforms on a substrate shown in FIG. 3A according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0017] FIG. 4A is a schematic overview of an example circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0018] FIG. 4B is a schematic overview of an example circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0019] FIG. 4C is a schematic overview of an example circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0020] FIG. 4D is a schematic overview of an example circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0021] FIG. 5A is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0022] FIG. 5B is an exemplary plot of V2 voltage waveform and substrate voltage waveform for the example schematic circuit diagram shown in FIG. 5A according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0023] FIG. 5C is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0024] FIG. 5D is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0025] FIG. 5E shows exemplary saw-shaped voltage outputs according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0026] FIG. 6A is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0027] FIG. 6B is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0028] FIG. 6C is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0029] FIG. 6D is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0030] FIG. 6E is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0031] FIG. 6F is an example control circuit according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0032] FIG. 7A is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0033] FIG. 7B is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0034] FIG. 8 is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0035] FIG. 9A is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0036] FIG. 9B is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0037] FIG. 10 is an example schematic circuit diagram illustrating the IEDF width control circuit for driving the electrodes of the substrate support assembly according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0038] FIG. 11 is a flowchart of a method of controlling IEDF width according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0039] To facilitate understanding, identical reference numerals have been used, where possible, to designate identical elements that are common to the figures. It is contemplated that elements and features of one embodiment may be beneficially incorporated in other embodiments without further recitation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0040] Embodiments of the present disclosure generally relate to apparatus and methods for plasma processing of a substrate, and specifically to apparatus and methods for controlling an ion energy distribution during plasma processing. The methods and apparatus, e.g., circuits, described herein enable control over the shape (e.g., narrow, or adjustable width) of the voltage waveform of a pulsed DC power supply. Embodiments described herein further enable, e.g., control over the ion energy distribution function (IEDF) including monoenergetic ion acceleration.

[0041] The IEDF is a controllable parameter useful for processing a substrate via a plasma process, such as etching high aspect ratio features in a surface of a substrate. Typically, pulsed DC biases can provide a narrower IEDF as compared to sine wave RF biases according to the following mechanism. Because ions are accelerated by a less time-varying electric field within a pulsed DC period, the energy gained by the ions within the sheath also exhibits a lower time variance than when varying sine wave RF bias. As a result, ions accelerated by the pulsed DC bias have a narrower IEDF than those created by use of a sine wave RF bias. However, an ion current from the bulk plasma to the substrate distorts the voltage waveform at the surface of the substrate and broadens the ion energy distribution. Methods and apparatus described herein can, e.g., compensate this ion current and actively control the width of the ion energy distribution.

[0042] Conventional methods and apparatus use an iteration control loop to control the width of the ion energy distribution. Before convergence of the control algorithm, estimation of the plasma parameters (e.g., ion current, sheath thickness, and IEDF width) are inaccurate. Moreover, controlling the width of the IEDF by using iterations is slow and can result in non-convergence of the control algorithm.

[0043] In contrast, the methods and apparatus described herein utilize a single loop process, without iteration, to determine the ion current and the compensation current to achieve a given IEDF width. Accordingly, the methods and apparatus described herein reach a desired state of the IEDF, e.g., a narrow IEDF, faster than the state-of-the-art. This is due to, e.g., not using an iteration in determining the solution of the compensation current. As is discussed further below, FIG. 1 illustrates an example of an apparatus (e.g., processing chamber 100) that can be used to perform one or more of the methods described herein.

[0044] Briefly, and in some embodiments, a substrate support assembly includes a body, the body including a substrate support portion and/or an edge ring portion. A substrate electrode is embedded in the substrate support portion for applying a substrate voltage to a substrate. A substrate voltage control circuit is coupled to the substrate electrode. The edge ring portion includes an edge ring electrode embedded therein for applying an edge ring voltage to a region of internal volume of the process chamber near an edge ring. An edge ring voltage control circuit is coupled to the edge ring electrode. At least one DC pulse source, such as a shaped DC pulse source, is coupled to the substrate voltage control circuit and/or the edge ring voltage control circuit. The substrate voltage circuit and/or the edge ring voltage control circuit is tunable to adjust the voltage and/or amount of power provided to each circuit. Adjustment of the voltage amplitude via, e.g., tuning the substrate voltage control circuit and/or the edge ring voltage control circuit results in adjustment and control of the ion energy distribution. In some embodiments, as will be discussed further below, the edge ring voltage control circuit and/or the substrate voltage control circuit are configured to provide a constant current versus apply a desired voltage to adjust and control the ion energy distribution.

[0045] In some embodiments, a control circuit of the IEDF width is coupled to the substrate support. The control circuit of the IEDF width can be integrated inside a

main pulsed DC power supply, or as a separate module, or as an integrated module with a bias compensation module.

Example Processing System Configurations

[0046] FIG. 1 is a schematic sectional view of a processing chamber 100 according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. The processing chamber 100 is configured to practice the schemes described herein. In this embodiment, the processing chamber is a plasma processing chamber, such as a reactive ion etch (RIE) plasma chamber. In some other embodiments, the processing chamber is a plasma-enhanced deposition chamber, for example a plasma-enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD) chamber, a plasma enhanced physical vapor deposition (PEPVD) chamber, or a plasma-enhanced atomic layer deposition (PEALD) chamber. In some other embodiments, the processing chamber is a plasma treatment chamber, or a plasma based ion implant chamber, for example a plasma doping (PLAD) chamber.

[0047] The processing chamber 100 includes a chamber body 101 and a lid 102 disposed thereon that together define an internal volume 124. The chamber body 101 is typically coupled to an electrical ground 103. A substrate support assembly 104 is disposed within the inner volume to support the substrate 105 thereon during processing. An edge ring 106 is positioned on the substrate support assembly 104 and surrounds the periphery of the substrate 105. The processing chamber 100 also includes an inductively coupled plasma apparatus 107 for generating a plasma of reactive species within the processing chamber 100, and a controller 108 adapted to control systems and subsystems of the processing chamber 100. In some embodiments, the inductively coupled plasma apparatus 107 can be replaced by a grounded showerhead, which is disposed over the substrate support assembly 104, and RF power is delivered from an electrode (e.g., substrate electrode 109) positioned underneath the substrate to generate capacitively coupled plasma.

[0048] The substrate support assembly 104 is disposed in the internal volume 124. The substrate support assembly 104 generally includes a substrate support 152. The substrate support 152 includes an electrostatic chuck 150 comprising a substrate support portion 154 configured to underlay and support the substrate 105 to be

processed and an edge ring portion 156 configured to support an edge ring 106. The substrate support assembly 104 can additionally include a heater assembly 169. The substrate support assembly 104 can also include a cooling base 131. The cooling base 131 can alternately be separate from the substrate support assembly 104. The substrate support assembly 104 can be removably coupled to a support pedestal 125. The support pedestal 125 is mounted to the chamber body 101. The support pedestal 125 can optionally include a facility plate 180. The substrate support assembly 104 may be periodically removed from the support pedestal 125 to allow for refurbishment of one or more components of the substrate support assembly 104. Lifting pins 146 are disposed through the substrate support assembly 104 as conventionally known to facilitate substrate transfer.

[0049] The facility plate 180 is configured to accommodate a plurality of fluid connections from the electrostatic chuck 150 and the cooling base 131. The facility plate 180 is also configured to accommodate the plurality of electrical connections from the electrostatic chuck 150 and the heater assembly 169. The plurality of electrical connections can run externally or internally of the substrate support assembly 104, while the facility plate 180 provides an interface for the connections to a respective terminus.

[0050] A substrate electrode 109 is embedded within the substrate support portion 154 of the electrostatic chuck 150 for applying a substrate voltage waveform to a substrate 105 disposed on an upper surface 160 of the substrate support assembly 104. The edge ring portion 156 has an edge ring electrode 111 embedded therein for applying an edge ring voltage waveform to the edge ring 106. An edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 is coupled to the edge ring electrode 111. A substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 is coupled to the substrate electrode 109. In one embodiment, a first shaped DC pulse voltage source 159 is coupled to one or both of the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158. While the disclosure provided herein refers to the first shaped DC pulse voltage source 159 and second shaped DC pulse voltage source 161 as being “shaped” DC pulse voltage sources this nomenclature or names are not intended to be limiting as to the type of pulsed voltage waveforms that can be supplied by these DC pulse voltage sources. In another embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the first shaped DC voltage source 159

is coupled to the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and a second shaped DC voltage source 161 is coupled to the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158. The edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 are independently tunable. The substrate electrode 109 is further coupled to a chucking power source 115 to facilitate electrostatic chucking of the substrate 105 to the upper surface 160 with the electrostatic chuck 150 during processing. The chucking power source 115 may include a high voltage DC power supply that is configured to “chuck” a substrate 105 to the upper surface 160 of the substrate support assembly 104 using an embedded electrode disposed within the substrate support portion 154 of the substrate support assembly 104. In some embodiments, the embedded electrode, which is disposed within the substrate support portion 154, is the substrate electrode 109. In this configuration, the substrate electrode 109 is disposed in a dielectric material (e.g., AlN, AlOx, etc.) and is positioned a distance of between about 0.1 mm and about 1 mm from the upper surface 160 of the substrate support assembly 104. In some embodiments, the dielectric material and layer thickness can be selected so that the capacitance of the layer of dielectric material is between about 5 nF and about 50 nF, such as between about 7 and about 10 nF, for example.

[0051] The inductively coupled plasma apparatus 107 is disposed above the lid 102 and is configured to inductively couple RF power to gases within the internal volume 124 of the processing chamber 100 to generate a plasma 116. The inductively coupled plasma apparatus 107 includes first coil 118 and second coil 120 disposed above the lid 102. The relative position, ratio of diameters of each coil 118, 120, and/or the number of turns in each coil 118, 120 can each be adjusted as desired to control the profile or density of the plasma 116 being formed. Each of the first and second coils 118, 120 is coupled to an RF power supply 121 through a matching network 122 via an RF feed structure 123. The RF power supply 121 can illustratively be capable of producing up to about 4000 W (but not limited to about 4000 W) at a tunable frequency in a range from 50 kHz to 13.56 MHz, although other frequencies and powers can be utilized as desired for particular applications.

[0052] In some examples, a power divider 126, such as a dividing capacitor, can be provided between the RF feed structure 123 and the RF power supply 121 to

control the relative quantity of RF power provided to the respective first and second coils 118, 120. In other embodiments, as discussed below in relation to FIG. 2, a capacitively coupled plasma apparatus can replace the lid 102, and include a showerhead (not shown) and/or conductive plate (not shown) that is disposed over the substrate support assembly 104, and can be driven by an RF source or grounded.

[0053] A heater element 128 can be disposed on the lid 102 to facilitate heating the interior of the processing chamber 100. The heater element 128 can be disposed between the lid 102 and the first and second coils 118, 120. In some examples, the heater element 128 includes a resistive heating element and is coupled to a power supply 130, such as an AC power supply, configured to provide sufficient energy to control the temperature of the heater element 128 within a desired range.

[0054] During operation, the substrate 105, such as a semiconductor substrate or other substrate suitable for plasma processing, is placed on the substrate support assembly 104. Substrate lift pins 146 are movably disposed in the substrate support assembly 104 to assist in transfer of the substrate 105 onto the substrate support assembly 104. After positioning of the substrate 105, process gases are supplied from a gas panel 132 through entry ports 134 into the internal volume 124 of the chamber body 101. The process gases are ignited into a plasma 116 in the internal volume 124 of the processing chamber 100 by applying power from the RF power supply 121 to the first and second coils 118, 120. The pressure within the internal volume 124 of the processing chamber 100 can be controlled using a valve 136 and a vacuum pump 138.

[0055] The processing chamber 100 includes the controller 108 to control the operation of the processing chamber 100 during processing. The controller 108 comprises a central processing unit (CPU) 140, a memory 142, and support circuits 144 for the CPU 140 and facilitates control of the components of the processing chamber 100. The controller 108 can be one of any form of general-purpose computer processor that can be used in an industrial setting for controlling various chambers and sub-processors. The memory 142 (e.g., non-volatile memory) stores software (source or object code) that can be executed or invoked to control the operation of the processing chamber 100 in the manner described herein. The software when executed by the processing unit is configured to perform one or more of the methods

described herein. For example, the controller 108 is configured to control the first shaped DC voltage source 159, the second shaped DC voltage source 161, the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155, and the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 during the processing of a substrate in a process chamber.

[0056] FIG. 2 is a schematic overview of a processing chamber 200 according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. The processing chamber 200 is configured to practice the schemes described herein. As with processing chamber 100, processing chamber 200 is a plasma processing chamber, such as those described above.

[0057] The processing chamber 200 includes a substrate 105 disposed on a substrate support assembly 104 as described in FIG. 1. An edge ring 106 is positioned on the substrate support assembly 104 and surrounds the periphery of the substrate 105. Although not shown, a capacitively coupled plasma apparatus is disposed above the substrate (typically above a chamber lid). The capacitively coupled plasma apparatus can include an ion suppressor and a showerhead where RF power is delivered from an electrode underneath the substrate (e.g., electrode 109) to generate capacitively coupled plasma. The controller 108 is adapted to control systems and subsystems of the processing chamber 200. As noted above, the memory 142 stores software (source or object code) that can be executed or invoked to control the operation of the processing chamber 200 in the manner described herein. The controller 108 is configured to control the first shaped DC voltage source 159, the second shaped DC voltage source 161, the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155, and/or the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158. FIG.S 4A-4D, discussed below, show different configurations of connecting the IEDF width control module to the pulsers.

[0058] The substrate support assembly 104, facility plate 180, substrate electrode 109, and edge ring electrode 111 illustrated in FIG. 2 can be the same as that discussed in relation to FIG. 1. An edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 is coupled to the edge ring electrode 111. A substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 is coupled to the substrate electrode 109. In one embodiment, a first shaped DC pulse voltage source 159 is coupled to one or both of the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158. In another embodiment, the first

shaped DC voltage source 159 is coupled to the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and a second shaped DC voltage source 161 is coupled to the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158. The edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 are independently tunable to adjust the slope of the voltage waveform provided to the edge ring electrode 111 or the substrate electrode 109 by the first shaped DC pulse voltage source 159 and the second shaped DC pulse voltage source 161, respectively. The substrate electrode 109 is further coupled to a chucking power source 115 to facilitate chucking of the substrate 105 to the upper surface 160 with the electrostatic chuck 150 during processing.

[0059] Operation of the processing chamber 200 and processing of the substrate 105 can be performed in a similar fashion as that of processing chamber 100. In some embodiments, the processing system configurations include an ion suppressor positioned inside a processing chamber to control the type and quantity of plasma excited species that reach the substrate. In some embodiments, the ion suppressor unit is a perforated plate that may also act as an electrode of the plasma generating unit. In these and other embodiments, the ion suppressor can be the showerhead that distributes gases and excited species to a reaction region (e.g., internal region 124) in contact with the substrate. In some embodiments, ion suppression is realized by a perforated plate ion suppressor and a showerhead, both of which plasma excited species pass through to reach the reaction region.

[0060] When voltage is applied to the substrate (or wafer) by the shaped DC voltage source 159, a waveform develops. FIG. 3A shows different bias voltage waveforms. The waveform includes two stages: an ion current stage and a sheath collapse stage. At the beginning of the ion current stage, a drop of wafer voltage creates a high voltage sheath above the substrate, which accelerates positive ions to the substrate. The positive ions deposit positive charge on the substrate surface and tend to gradually increase the substrate voltage positively (i.e., less negative voltage). If a square wave is supplied by the shaped DC voltage source 159, the ion current flowing towards the substrate creates a positive slope of the substrate voltage, as shown by trace 305. The voltage difference between the beginning and end of the ion current phase determines the IEDF width. The larger the voltage difference, the wider the IEDF width (FIG. 3B). To achieve monoenergetic ions and a narrower IEDF

width, operations are performed to flatten the substrate voltage waveform (e.g., trace 310) in the ion current phase (e.g., reduce the slope of the ion current curve closer to zero volts per microsecond (μs)). In some embodiments, a voltage can be applied in order to achieve a certain IEDF width, as shown by the substrate waveform of trace 315.

[0061] At the end of the ion current stage, the substrate voltage rises to the bulk plasma voltage and the sheath collapses, such that electrons travel from the plasma to the substrate surface and neutralizes the positive charges at the substrate surface. As a result, the surface of the substrate is reset for the next pulse waveform cycle.

[0062] In general, the output of the first and second shaped DC voltage sources 159 and 161 are configured to generate a voltage waveform that includes at least one portion in which a voltage changes from a first voltage level to a second voltage level, in either a positive or negative voltage direction relative to ground. During processing pulsers generate a pulse voltage waveform that alternates between the first and second voltage levels periodically. The period at the higher voltage level during a portion of the pulse voltage waveform corresponds to the sheath collapse stage. The period at the lower voltage level during a portion of the pulse voltage waveform corresponds to the ion current stage. While the schematic representations of the first and second shaped DC voltage sources 159 and 161 in FIGS. 4A-4D, 5A, 6A, and 7-10 illustrate DC voltage sources that have a positive voltage output this configuration is provided as only an example and is not intended to be limiting as to the scope of the disclosure provided herein, since as also discussed herein the first and/or second shaped DC voltage sources 159 and 161 could alternately be configured to establish other pulsed voltage output that is provided to the desired electrode.

Example Circuits

[0063] FIG. 4A is a schematic overview of an example circuit 465. As described below, and in some embodiments, the example circuit illustrated in FIG. 4A corresponds to the circuit diagram of FIGS. 5A and 6A. FIGS. 5A and 6A differ by, e.g., the circuitry of the second power module.

[0064] The example circuit 465 includes a pulsed DC power supply 466 coupled to a second power module 470 through a series inductor 468 and a resistor 469 in

series. The second power module 470 modulates the width of the ion energy distribution function (IEDF). An optional blocking capacitor 471 may exist between plasma chamber load 472 and the rest of the circuit 465. A controller, not shown, which may be realized by hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, is utilized to control various components represented in FIG. 4A.

[0065] The shaped DC power supply 466 generates a voltage waveform with at least two voltage levels—a low voltage level and a high voltage level. The low voltage level corresponds to the ion current stage. The high voltage level corresponds to the sheath collapse stage. In the ion current stage, the second power module 470 modulates the slope of the voltage vs. time, shown in FIG. 3A as traces 305, 310, and 315. Different slopes result in different IEDF widths as shown in FIG. 3B. The flattest slope (e.g., trace 305, FIG. 3A) corresponds to the narrowest IEDF width in FIG. 3B.

[0066] FIG. 4B is a schematic overview of an example circuit 475. As shown, FIG. 4B differs from FIG. 4A by replacing the series inductor 468 and resistor 469 with a switch 479. The switch 479 is connected in series with a pulsed DC power supply 476 and a second power module 478. During the ion current stage, the switch 479 is closed. During the sheath collapse stage, the switch can be either open or closed. A controller, not shown, which may be realized by hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, is utilized to control various components represented in FIG. 4B.

[0067] FIG. 4C is a schematic overview of an example circuit 485. As described below, and in some embodiments, the example circuit 485 illustrated in FIG. 4C corresponds to the circuit diagrams of FIGS. 7 and 8. The example circuit 485 includes a shaped DC voltage source 486 coupled to ground. An optional blocking capacitor 487 may exist between the shaped DC voltage source 486 and a second power module 488. The second power module 488 modulates the width of the IEDF. The second power module 488 is further coupled to a plasma chamber load 489. A controller, not shown, which may be realized by hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, is utilized to control various components represented in FIG. 4C.

[0068] The shaped DC voltage source 486 generates a voltage waveform with two voltage levels—a low voltage level and a high voltage level. The low voltage level corresponds to the ion current stage. The high voltage level corresponds to the sheath

collapse stage. In the ion current stage, the second power module 488 creates a voltage slope vs. time. The resulting voltage waveform on the substrate is the sum of the output voltage of the shaped DC voltage source 486 and the second power module 488, which can be modulated, and thereby, the IEDF width is modulated.

[0069] FIG. 4D is a schematic overview of an example circuit 490 according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. As described below, and in some embodiments, example circuit 490 corresponds to the circuit diagrams of FIGS. 9 and 10. The example circuit 490 includes a shaped DC voltage source 491 coupled to ground, second power module 492, and substrate chucking and bias compensation module 493. A switch 495 is connected in series with the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 493. The second power module 492 and the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 493 are connected in parallel, with one end coupled to the shaped DC voltage source 491 and the other end coupled to a plasma chamber load 494. The second power module 492 modulates the width of the IEDF. The second power module 492 and the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 493 are further coupled to a plasma chamber load 494. A controller, not shown, which may be realized by hardware, software, firmware, or a combination thereof, is utilized to control various components represented in FIG. 4D. Each controller described in relation to FIGS. 4A-4D may each be a part of the controller 108 disclosed herein.

[0070] The shaped DC voltage source 491 generates a voltage waveform with at least two voltage levels—a low voltage level and a high voltage level. The low voltage level corresponds to the ion current stage. The high voltage level corresponds to the sheath collapse stage. In the ion current stage, the second power module 492 creates a voltage slope vs. time. The resulting voltage waveform on the substrate is the sum of the output voltage of the shaped DC voltage source 491 and the second power module 492, which can be modulated, and thereby, the IEDF width is modulated. The switch 495 is open in the ion current stage, such that the chucking and bias compensation module 493 do not modulate the voltage of the plasma chamber load. In the sheath collapse stage, the switch 495 is closed, and the chucking and bias compensation module 493 resets the substrate chucking voltage to a setpoint.

[0071] FIG. 5A is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of a substrate voltage control circuit/ an edge ring voltage control circuit 500 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 500 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to a current return path 503 through a main pulser output 505 (e.g., output connection of the main pulser) and conductive element 507 (e.g., cable). The current return path 503 includes an inductor 504 coupled in series with a resistor 506 to an IEDF width control module 508 (e.g., second power module in FIGS. 4A and 4B). The IEDF width control module 508 modulates the ion energy distribution function (IEDF) width.

[0072] The IEDF width control module 508 can be modeled as a circuit comprising a transistor-transistor logic (TTL) signal source 510 and a switch 512, an optional diode 514, an optional capacitance 516, and a third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 that are coupled in parallel and coupled to a ground 517. Diode 514 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 512 and the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518. In some embodiments, a blocking capacitance 520 exists between the current return path 503 and a chamber capacitance 536. The chamber capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. In some embodiments, the blocking capacitance 520 is also coupled to a substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522.

[0073] The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, and a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534. The DC voltage source 528 could be configured to have a positive or a negative polarity in any pulse waveform cases as desired for a particular process chamber configuration. The capacitance 536 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538 and the plasma sheath 540 portion of the load. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538. The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in

parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548. In some embodiments, the series inductor 504 and resistor 506 in the current return path can be replaced by a switch 479 (FIG. 4B). The switch 479 is closed during the ion current stage.

[0074] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 5A, the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 512, which is controlled by TTL signal source 510, is synchronized with the main pulser 502, as shown in plot 550 of FIG. 5B. The synchronization of the output from the main pulser with the position of the switch 512 can be controlled by use of one or more software applications running on the controller 108. The switch 512 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 is applied at the entry of the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage to connect the current return path 503 to ground. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 512 can be opened such that the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 is functioning to modulate the IEDF during the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 516 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518. Capacitance 542 is a plasma sheath capacitance, which is different in different process conditions, and current source 544 is the ion current towards the substrate that is also a variable. Capacitance 536 and stray capacitance 538 are capacitances related to the chamber and are constant. Blocking capacitance 520 acts as a blocking capacitor that is configured to block DC voltages formed or applied on the chamber side of the blocking capacitor 520, such as the DC voltage applied by the DC voltage source 528, from reaching the main pulser 502, and also has a constant capacitance value.

[0075] As shown in FIG. 5C and FIG. 5D, during the ion current stage and when the IEDF width control module 508 (FIG. 5A) is controlling the substrate or edge ring waveform actively, the active components in the circuit model, illustrated in these figures, include the ion current 544 (I_0), the sheath capacitance 542 (C_1), the chamber capacitance 536 (C_2), the stray capacitance 538 (C_3), the blocking capacitance 520 (C_4), and the optional capacitance 516 (C_5) in parallel with the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 (V_1). Because the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 in the current

return path generally have little impact on IEDF width modulation, the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 are treated as short in the control circuit 560 of FIG. 5C and the control circuit 570 of FIG. 5D.

[0076] The intrinsic factor to broaden the IEDF is the ion current, “ I_0 ”, depositing positive charges on the substrate such that the voltage of the substrate gradually increases and the ion energy bombarding the substrate drops (e.g., trace 305 of FIG. 3A). The amount of IEDF broadening depends on, e.g., the ion current I_0 , the sheath capacitance C_1 , and/or other capacitances associated with the chamber C_2 , C_3 and C_4 , and power supply module, V_1 and C_5 , in the control circuits 560, 570. In order to compensate the ion current effect of IEDF broadening and/or have active control of IEDF width, the values of all the components in this control circuit (FIG. 5C) are determined. The capacitances associated with the chamber and power supply module, C_2 through C_5 , can be determined by the product specification sheet or estimation using chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 vary at varying plasma process conditions and are determined via real-time measurement during the plasma process. The shaped DC pulse voltage source V_1 has a saw-shaped voltage output (FIG. 5E). The slope of the voltage output, dV_1/dt , can be varied to determine the ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 , and/or to modulate the IEDF width. In the configuration of FIG. 5A, the output voltage of the shaped DC pulse voltage source V_1 in the sheath collapse stage is zero, as trace 584 shows. Traces 582 and 586 show other possible waveforms for the shaped DC pulse voltage source V_1 , as discussed below.

[0077] The method of IEDF modulation includes two parts: (1) determining the ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 , and (2) determining the slope of the shaped DC pulse voltage source dV_1/dt to achieve a target IEDF width. With a saw-like voltage source V_1 and shaped DC voltage source 159 or 161 supplying power to the substrate 105 or edge ring 106, the IEDF width at the substrate or edge ring is the change of substrate or edge ring voltage from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage (FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B). In the control circuit 560 (FIG. 5C) and the control circuit 570 (FIG. 5D), the IEDF width corresponds to the change of voltage

across the sheath capacitance $C1$ from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage, which is determined by the charging or discharging current, $I1$, through the sheath capacitance $C1$:

$$\Delta V = I1 \cdot T / C1, \quad (1)$$

where ΔV is the IEDF width and T is the time duration of the ion current stage. In order to obtain the target IEDF width (ΔV), the sheath capacitance $C1$ and the desired current $I1$ through the sheath capacitance are to be determined.

[0078] To determine the sheath capacitance $C1$ and the ion current $I0$, the relationships of the currents and voltages in the control circuit are analyzed. As shown, the currents passing the capacitors $C1$ through $C4$ are referred to as $I1$ through $I4$, with the arrows in the circuit schematic pointing to the positive direction. Based on Kirchhoff's current law, the ion current $I0$ equals the sum of the currents through capacitors $C1$ and $C2$:

$$I0 = I1 + I2. \quad (2)$$

[0079] The current through capacitor $C2$ equals the sum of the currents through capacitors $C3$ and $C4$:

$$I2 = I3 + I4. \quad (3)$$

[0080] Based on Kirchhoff's voltage law, the voltage sum of the closed loop of $C1$, $C2$, and $C3$ is zero. The time derivative of the voltage sum of $C1$, $C2$, and $C3$ is also zero. Denote the voltage at the intersection of capacitors $C2$ and $C3$ as $V3$. The time derivative of the voltage across capacitor $C3$ is $dV3/dt = I3/C3$. Similar relationships exist for capacitors $C1$ and $C2$, and Kirchhoff's voltage law provides equation (4):

$$I1/C1 = I2/C2 + I3/C3. \quad (4)$$

[0081] Applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the closed loop of capacitors $C3$ and $C4$ and voltage source $V1$ provides equation (5):

$$I3/C3 = I4/C4 + dV1/dt. \quad (5)$$

[0082] In equations (2)-(5), C_2 , C_3 , and C_4 are prior determined by the product specification sheet or estimation based on chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The current I_4 can be measured directly by sensors, such as current probes and/or integrated voltage-current (VI) sensors. Voltage V_3 can be measured directly by sensors, such as voltage probes and/or integrated VI sensors. Current I_3 can be calculated as $I_3 = C_3 \cdot dV_3/dt$. The voltage slope dV_1/dt is user-controlled and known, such as zero or 1 Volt/nanosecond (V/nsec). By setting the shaped DC pulse voltage source V_1 at two different slopes dV_1/dt and dV_1'/dt , the currents I_4 , I_4' and the time derivatives of the voltage dV_3/dt , dV_3'/dt can be determined. The set of equations (2)-(5) at two slopes dV_1/dt and dV_1'/dt form eight equations that can be solved to give the sheath capacitance:

$$C_1 = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{C_3}{C_4}\right)(I_4 - I_4') + C_3\left(\frac{dV_1}{dt} - \frac{dV_1'}{dt}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_4}\right)(I_4 - I_4') + \left(\frac{C_3}{C_2} + 1\right)\left(\frac{dV_1}{dt} - \frac{dV_1'}{dt}\right)}, \quad (6)$$

and the ion current:

$$I_0 = \left(1 + \frac{C_1}{C_2} + \frac{C_1}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_4} + \frac{C_1 C_3}{C_2 C_4}\right) I_4 + \frac{C_1 C_3}{C_2} + C_1 + C_3 \frac{dV_1}{dt}. \quad (7)$$

[0083] To obtain the target IEDF width (ΔV), the total current through the sheath capacitor C_1 is

$$I_1 = C_1 \cdot \Delta V / T. \quad (8)$$

[0084] Plugging equations (6)-(8) into equations (2)-(5) gives the voltage slope of the saw-like voltage source V_1 for achieving the IEDF width ΔV :

$$\frac{dV_1}{dt} = - \left(\frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_4}\right) I_0 + \left(\frac{1}{C_1} + \frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_1 C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_4}\right) C_1 \cdot \Delta V / T. \quad (9)$$

[0085] In the case of the narrowest IEDF ($\Delta V=0$), the voltage slope of the saw-like voltage source V_1 is

$$\frac{dV_1}{dt} = - \left(\frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_4} \right) I_0. \quad (10)$$

[0086] FIG. 6A is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of a substrate voltage control circuit /an edge ring voltage control circuit 600 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 600 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be a first or second shaped DC voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to a current return path 503 through a main pulser output 505 and conductive element 507. The current return path 503 includes an inductor 504 coupled in series with a resistor 506 to an IEDF width control module 602 (e.g., second power module in FIGS. 4A and 4B). The IEDF width control module 602 is used to modulate IEDF width. The IEDF width control module 602, which differs from the configuration of FIG. 5A, may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 510 and switch 512, a diode 514, an optional capacitance 516, and a DC voltage source 604 coupled in series to resistor 606, which are coupled in parallel and to ground 517. Diode 514 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 512 and the DC voltage source 604. In some embodiments, a blocking capacitance 520 exists between the current return path 503 and a chamber capacitance 536. The capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. In some embodiments, a substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is also coupled to the blocking capacitance 520 and the chamber capacitance 536. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, and a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534.

[0087] The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0088] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 6A, the DC voltage source 604 together with the resistor 606 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the substrate or edge ring voltage waveform in the ion current stage, as opposed to the configuration of FIG. 5A, where the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 512 can be controlled by TTL signal source 510 synchronized with the main pulser 502, as discussed above and shown in FIG. 5B. The switch 512 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage to connect the current return path 503 to ground. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 512 can be opened, such that the DC voltage source 604 is functioning to modulate the IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 516 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC voltage source 604. Capacitance 536 can be, for example, the capacitance between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. Capacitance 538 can be the capacitance between the substrate electrode 109 and ground, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and ground.

[0089] As shown in FIG. 6B and FIG. 6C, during the ion current stage and when the IEDF width control module 602 (FIG. 6A) is controlling the substrate or edge ring waveform actively, the active components in the circuit model, illustrated in these figures, include the ion current 544 (I_0), the sheath capacitance 542 (C_1), the chamber capacitance 536 (C_2), the stray capacitance 538 (C_3), the blocking capacitance 520 (C_4), and the optional capacitance 516 (C_5) in parallel with the DC voltage source 604 (V_0) and resistor 606 (R). Because the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 in the current return path generally have little impact on IEDF width modulation, the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 are treated as short in the control circuit 650 of FIG. 6B and the control circuit 660 of FIG. 6C. The control circuit of FIG. 6A is shown in FIG. 6B, while the control circuit of FIG. 7A, described below, is shown in FIG. 6C.

[0090] The intrinsic factor to broaden IEDF is the ion current I_0 depositing positive charges on the substrate such that the voltage of the substrate gradually increases and the ion energy bombarding the substrate drops (trace 305 of FIG. 3A). The

amount of IEDF broadening depends on, e.g., the ion current I_0 , the sheath capacitance C_1 , and other capacitances associated with chamber (C_2 , C_3 , and C_4), and the power supply module (V_0 , R , and C_5) in control circuit 650 and control circuit 660 of FIG. 6B and FIG. 6C, respectively. In order to compensate the ion current effect of IEDF broadening and have active control of IEDF width, the values of all the components in control circuit 650 and control circuit 660 are determined. The capacitances associated with the chamber and power supply module, C_2 through C_5 , can be determined by the product specification sheet or estimation using chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The resistor R is also prior determined by the product specification sheet or by direct measurement utilizing a multimeter. The ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 vary at varying plasma process conditions are determined by real-time measurement during the plasma process. The DC voltage source V_0 is the active control knob and can be varied to determine the ion current I_0 , to determine the sheath capacitance C_1 , and/or to modulate the IEDF width.

[0091] The method of IEDF modulation includes two parts: (1) determining the ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 , and (2) determining the DC voltage V_0 to achieve the target IEDF width. The IEDF width is the spread of the substrate or edge ring voltage from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage (FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B). In the control circuit 650 of FIG. 6B and the control circuit 660 of FIG. 6C, the IEDF width corresponds to the change of the voltage across the sheath capacitance C_1 from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage, which is determined by the charging or discharging current, I_1 , through the sheath capacitance C_1 :

$$\Delta V = \frac{1}{C_1} \int_0^T I_1 d\tau, \quad (11)$$

where ΔV is the IEDF width and T is the time duration of the ion current stage. In order to obtain the target IEDF width (ΔV), the sheath capacitance C_1 and the desired current I_1 through the sheath capacitance are to be determined.

[0092] To determine the sheath capacitance C_1 and the ion current I_0 , the relationships of the currents and voltages in the control circuit are analyzed. Here, for

example, the currents passing the capacitors C1 through C5 are referred to as I1 through I5, with the arrows in the circuit schematic pointing to the positive direction. The voltage at the intersection of capacitors C2 and C3 is V3. There is a threshold voltage for the DC voltage source V0, denoted as Vth, below which the diode D3 bypasses the series of the DC voltage source V0 and the resistor R such that the output voltage of the IEDF width control module is zero. Vth is plasma-condition dependent and can be determined experimentally by, e.g., gradually increasing the DC voltage V0 up to the point that the current I4 or voltage V3 is affected by the DC voltage output V0.

[0093] In the case of $V0 \leq V_{th}$, based on Kirchhoff's current law, the ion current I0 equals the sum of the currents through capacitors C1 and C2:

$$I0 = I1 + I2. \quad (12)$$

[0094] The current through capacitor C2 equals the sum of the currents through capacitors C3 and C4:

$$I2 = I3 + I4. \quad (13)$$

[0095] Based on Kirchhoff's voltage law, the voltage sum of the closed loop of C1, C2, and C3 is zero. The time derivative of the voltage sum of C1, C2, and C3 is also zero. The time derivative of the voltage across capacitor C3 is $dV3/dt = I3/C3$. The same relationships hold for capacitors C1 and C2. Using Kirchhoff's voltage law on capacitors C1 and C2 provides equation (14):

$$I1/C1 = I2/C2 + I3/C3. \quad (14)$$

[0096] Applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the closed loop of capacitors C3 and C4, as well as the diode-bypassed IEDF width control module, provides equation (15):

$$I3/C3 = I4/C4. \quad (15)$$

[0097] In the case of $V0 > V_{th}$, equations (12)-(14) still hold. Applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the closed loop of capacitors C3, C4, and C5 provides equation (16):

$$I3/C3 = I4/C4 + I5/C5. \quad (16)$$

[0098] Applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the closed loop of capacitor C5, DC voltage source V0, and resistor R provides equation (17):

$$\frac{I_5}{C_5} = R \frac{d(I_4 - I_5)}{dt}, \quad (17)$$

where (I4–I5) is the current through the DC voltage source V0 and the resistor R when the diode D3 is inactive.

[0099] In some embodiments, there is no capacitor C5. In such cases, there is no equation (17) and equation (16) becomes

$$I_3/C_3 = I_4/C_4 + R \cdot dI_4/dt, \quad (18)$$

[00100] In equations (12)–(18), C2, C3, C4, and C5 are prior determined by the product specification sheet or estimation based on chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The current I4 can be measured directly by sensors, such as current probes and/or integrated VI sensors. Voltage V3 can be measured directly by sensors, such as voltage probes and/or integrated VI sensors. Current I3 can be calculated as $I_3 = C_3 \cdot dV_3/dt$. The DC voltage V0 is user-controlled and known, such as setting the DC voltage output V0 to a value from zero to a few kV. By setting the DC voltage V0 at two different values V0 and V0', with at least one of them above the threshold voltage Vth, the currents I4, I4' and the time derivatives of the voltage dV3/dt, dV3'/dt can be determined. Solving the set of equations (12)–(18) gives the sheath capacitance C1:

$$C1 = \frac{I_3 - I_3' + I_4 - I_4'}{\frac{I_3 - I_3' + I_4 - I_4'}{C_2} + \frac{I_3 - I_3'}{C_3}}, \quad (19)$$

and the ion current I0:

$$I_0 = (C1/C_2 + C1/C_3 + 1) \cdot I_3 + (C1/C_2 + 1) \cdot I_4. \quad (20)$$

[00101] Plugging in the sheath capacitance $C1$ and the ion current $I0$ in the set of equations (12)-(18), the currents $I1$ through $I5$ can be calculated for any DC voltage $V0$.

[00102] Plugging in the expression of $I1$ into equation (11) by the known capacitances $C1$ through $C5$, the resistance R , and the DC voltage $V0$, the relationship between the IEDF width (ΔV) and the DC voltage $V0$ can be obtained. Accordingly, for a target IEDF width (ΔV), the required DC voltage $V0$ is determined.

[00103] In some embodiments, the resistor R is large enough (e.g., about 10 k Ω), and the current through the DC voltage source $V0$ is approximately time constant in the ion current stage and equal to $V0/R$. In these embodiments, equation (17) becomes

$$I4 = I5 + V0/R. \quad (21)$$

[00104] Solving equations (12), (13), (14), (16), and (21) gives the total current through the sheath capacitor $C1$ as equation (22):

$$I1 = \left[I0 \left(\frac{1}{C2} + \frac{C4+C5}{k} \right) + \frac{C3(C4+C5)V0}{kRC5} \right] / \left(\frac{1}{C1} + \frac{1}{C2} + \frac{C4+C5}{k} \right), \quad (22)$$

where

$$k = C3C4 + C4C5 + C5C3$$

[00105] Using equation (8) for this approximate case of constant current $I1$, the DC voltage $V0$ utilized for obtaining the target IEDF width (ΔV) can be found using equation (23):

$$V0 = \left[\frac{C1\Delta V}{T} \left(\frac{1}{C1} + \frac{1}{C2} + \frac{C4+C5}{k} \right) - I0 \left(\frac{1}{C2} + \frac{C4+C5}{k} \right) \right] / \frac{C3(C4+C5)}{kRC5}. \quad (23)$$

[00106] In the case of narrowest IEDF ($\Delta V=0$), the DC voltage $V0$ is

$$V0 = -I0 \left(\frac{1}{C2} + \frac{C4+C5}{k} \right) / \frac{C3(C4+C5)}{kRC5}. \quad (24)$$

[00107] FIG. 6D is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an alternate embodiment of a substrate voltage control circuit /an edge ring voltage control circuit 500, or

substrate voltage control circuit /an edge ring voltage control circuit 600, for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 601 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be a first or second shaped DC voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to a current return path 503 through a main pulser output 505 and conductive element 507. The current return path 503 includes an inductor 504 coupled in series with a resistor 506 to an IEDF width control module 602 (e.g., second power module in FIGS. 4A and 4B). The IEDF width control module 602 is used to modulate IEDF width. The IEDF width control module 602, which differs from the configuration of FIG. 5A, may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 510 and switch 512, a diode 514, an optional capacitance 516, and a DC current source 605, which are coupled in parallel and to ground 517. Diode 514 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 512 and the DC current source 605. In some embodiments, a blocking capacitance 520 exists between the current return path 503 and a chamber capacitance 536. The capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. In some embodiments, a substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is also coupled to the blocking capacitance 520 and the chamber capacitance 536. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, and a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534.

[00108] The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[00109] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 6D, the DC current source 605 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the substrate or edge ring voltage waveform in the ion current stage, as opposed to the configuration of FIG. 5A, where the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 518 acts as an active knob for

controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 512 can be controlled by TTL signal source 510 synchronized with the main pulser 502, as discussed above and shown in FIG. 5B. The switch 512 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage to connect the current return path 503 to ground. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 512 can be opened, such that the DC current source 605 is functioning to modulate the IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 516 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC current source 605. Capacitance 536 can be, for example, the capacitance between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. Capacitance 538 can be the capacitance between the substrate electrode 109 and ground, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and ground.

[00110] As shown in FIGS. 6E and 6F, during the ion current stage and when the embodiment of the IEDF width control module 602 illustrated in FIG. 6D is controlling the substrate or edge ring waveform actively, the active components in the circuit model, illustrated in these figures, include the ion current 544 (I_0), the sheath capacitance 542 (C_1), the chamber capacitance 536 (C_2), the stray capacitance 538 (C_3), the blocking capacitance 520 (C_4), and the optional capacitance 516 (C_5) in parallel with the DC current source 605 (I_c). Because the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 in the current return path generally have little impact on IEDF width modulation, the inductor 504 and the resistor 506 are treated as short in the control circuit 651 of FIG. 6E and the control circuit 661 of FIG. 6F. The control circuit of FIG. 6D is shown in FIG. 6E, while the control circuit of FIG. 7B, described below, is shown in FIG. 6F.

[00111] The intrinsic factor to broaden IEDF is the ion current I_0 depositing positive charges on the substrate such that the voltage of the substrate gradually increases and the ion energy bombarding the substrate drops (trace 305 of FIG. 3A). The amount of IEDF broadening depends on, e.g., the ion current I_0 , the sheath capacitance C_1 , and other capacitances associated with chamber (C_2 , C_3 , and C_4), and the power supply module (V_0 , R , and C_5) in control circuit 651 and control circuit 661 of FIGS. 6E and 6F, respectively. In order to compensate the ion current effect

of IEDF broadening and have active control of IEDF width, the values of all the components in control circuit 651 and control circuit 661 are determined. The capacitances associated with the chamber and power supply module, C2 through C5, can be determined by the product specification sheet or estimation using chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C1 vary at varying plasma process conditions are determined by real-time measurement during the plasma process. The DC current source I_c is the active control knob and can be varied to determine the ion current I_0 , to determine the sheath capacitance C1, and/or to modulate the IEDF width.

[00112] The method of IEDF modulation includes two parts: (1) determining the ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C1, and (2) determining the DC current I_c to achieve a target IEDF width. With a DC current source I_c and shaped DC voltage source 159 or 161 supplying power to the substrate 105 or edge ring 106, the IEDF width at the substrate or edge ring is the change of substrate or edge ring voltage from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage (FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B). In the control circuit 651 (FIG. 6E) and the control circuit 661 (FIG. 6F), the IEDF width corresponds to the change of voltage across the sheath capacitance C1 from the beginning to the end of the ion current stage, which is determined by the charging or discharging current, I_1 , through the sheath capacitance C1:

$$\Delta V = I_1 * T / C1, \quad (25)$$

where ΔV is the IEDF width and T is the time duration of the ion current stage. In order to obtain the target IEDF width (ΔV), the sheath capacitance C1 and the desired current I_1 through the sheath capacitance are to be determined.

[00113] To determine the sheath capacitance C1 and the ion current I_0 , the relationships of the currents and voltages in the control circuit are analyzed. As shown, the currents passing the capacitors C1 through C4 are referred to as I_1 through I_4 , with the arrows in the circuit schematic pointing to the positive direction. Based on Kirchhoff's current law, the ion current I_0 equals the sum of the currents through capacitors C1 and C2:

$$I_0 = I_1 + I_2. \quad (26)$$

[00114] The current through capacitor C2 equals the sum of the currents through capacitors C3 and C4:

$$I_2 = I_3 + I_4. \quad (27)$$

[00115] The current through capacitor C4 equals the sum of the currents through capacitors C5 and the DC current source I_c :

$$I_4 = I_5 + I_c. \quad (28)$$

[00116] Based on Kirchhoff's voltage law, the voltage sum of the closed loop of C1, C2, and C3 is zero. The time derivative of the voltage sum of C1, C2, and C3 is also zero. Denote the voltage at the intersection of capacitors C2 and C3 as V_3 . The time derivative of the voltage across capacitor C3 is $dV_3/dt = I_3/C_3$. Similar relationships exist for capacitors C1 and C2, and Kirchhoff's voltage law provides equation (29):

$$I_1/C_1 = I_2/C_2 + I_3/C_3. \quad (29)$$

[00117] Applying Kirchhoff's voltage law to the closed loop of capacitors C3, C4 and C5 (5):

$$I_3/C_3 = I_4/C_4 + I_5/C_5. \quad (30)$$

[00118] In equations (26, 27, 28, 29, and 30), C2-C5 are prior determined by the product specification sheet or estimation based on chamber parts dimensions, or by prior measurement, such as direct measurement of the impedance using a multimeter, or extracting the capacitance value from S-parameter or Z-parameter measurements. The current I_4 or I_5 can be measured directly by sensors, such as current probes and/or integrated voltage-current (VI) sensors. Voltage V_3 can be measured directly by sensors, such as voltage probes and/or integrated VI sensors. Current I_3 can be calculated as $I_3 = C_3 \cdot dV_3/dt$. The current I_c is user-controlled and known, such as zero or 3 A. By setting the DC current source I_c at two values I_c and I_c' , the currents I_4 and I_4' , or I_5 and I_5' , or the time derivatives of the voltage dV_3/dt and dV_3'/dt can be determined. The set of equations (26, 27, 28, 29, and 30) at two DC current values

I_c and I_c' form ten equations that can be solved to give the sheath capacitance C_1 in terms of the currents I_4 and I_4' , or I_5 and I_5' , or the time derivatives of the voltage dV_3/dt and dV_3'/dt . For instance, the sheath capacitance in terms of the currents I_4 and I_4' is:

$$C_1 = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{C_3}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_5}\right)(I_4 - I_4') - \frac{C_3}{C_5}(I_c - I_c')}{\left(\frac{1}{C_2} + \frac{1}{C_4} + \frac{1}{C_5} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_2 C_5}\right)(I_4 - I_4') - \left(\frac{C_3}{C_2 C_5} + \frac{1}{C_5}\right)(I_c - I_c')}, \quad (31)$$

and the ion current:

$$I_0 = \left(1 + \frac{C_1}{C_2} + \frac{C_1}{C_4} + \frac{C_1}{C_5} + \frac{C_3}{C_4} + \frac{C_3}{C_5} + \frac{C_1 C_3}{C_2 C_4} + \frac{C_1 C_3}{C_2 C_5}\right) I_4 - \frac{C_3}{C_5} \left(1 + \frac{C_1}{C_2} + \frac{C_1}{C_3}\right) I_c. \quad (32)$$

[00119] To obtain the target IEDF width (ΔV), the total current through the sheath capacitor C_1 is

$$I_1 = C_1 \Delta V / T. \quad (33)$$

[00120] Plugging equations (31, 32, and 33) into equations (26, 27, 28, 29, and 30) gives the DC current I_c for achieving the IEDF width ΔV :

$$I_c = \left(1 + \frac{C_3}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_4} + \frac{C_3 C_5}{C_2 C_4}\right) I_0 - \left(1 + \frac{C_3}{C_1} + \frac{C_5}{C_1} + \frac{C_3}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_4} + \frac{C_3 C_5}{C_1 C_4} + \frac{C_3 C_5}{C_2 C_4}\right) C_1 \Delta V / T \quad (34)$$

[00121] In the case of the narrowest IEDF ($\Delta V=0$), the DC current I_c is

$$I_c = \left(1 + \frac{C_3}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_2} + \frac{C_5}{C_4} + \frac{C_3 C_5}{C_2 C_4}\right) I_0. \quad (35)$$

[00122] FIG. 7A is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 700 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 700 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC voltage source

159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 702 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4C) either directly or through a capacitance 701.

[00123] The IEDF width control module 702 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 704 that is coupled to a switch 706, and is coupled to a ground 716. The TTL signal source 704 and switch 706 are coupled in parallel to diode 708, a DC voltage source 710, and an optional capacitance 714. The DC voltage source 710 is coupled in series to resistor 712. The IEDF width control module 702 is coupled to a chamber capacitance 536. The capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. In some embodiments, the IEDF width control module 702 is also coupled to the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 discussed above. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, and a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534. The diode 708 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 706 and DC voltage source 710.

[0124] The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0125] In use, and for the configuration shown in FIG. 7A, the DC voltage source 710 together with the resistor 712 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 706 can be controlled by the TTL signal source 704 and synchronized with the output of the main pulser 502, as shown in the plot of FIG. 5B. The switch 706 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 706 can be opened such that the DC voltage source 710 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 714 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC voltage source 710. The control mechanism of

FIG. 7A is similar to the control mechanism of FIG. 6A. One difference is that the control circuit of FIG. 7A is shown in FIG. 6C, described above, and the control circuit of FIG. 6A is shown in FIG. 6B.

[0126] FIG. 8 is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 800 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 800 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 802 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4C) either directly or through a blocking capacitor 701.

[0127] The IEDF width control module 802 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 704 coupled in parallel with a switch 706. The TTL signal source 704 is also coupled to a ground 716. The TTL signal source 704 and switch 706 are coupled in parallel to diode 708, a third shaped DC pulse voltage source 804, and an optional capacitance 714. The IEDF width control module 802 is coupled to a chamber capacitance 536. The capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. In some embodiments, the IEDF width control module 802 is also coupled to the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 discussed above. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534. The diode 708 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch and the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 804.

[0128] The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to chamber capacitance 536. The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0129] In use, and for the configuration shown in FIG. 8, the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 804 acts as the active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage, as opposed to the configuration of FIG. 7A, where the DC voltage source 710 together with the resistor 712 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 706 is controlled by the TTL signal source 704 and is synchronized with the output of the main pulser 502, as shown in the plot of FIG. 5B. The switch 706 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 706 is kept closed during the sheath collapse stage. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 706 can be opened such that the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 804 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 714 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the third shaped DC pulse voltage source 804. The control mechanism of FIG. 8 is similar to that of FIG. 5A. One difference is that the control circuit of FIG. 8 is shown in FIG. 5D, described above, and the control circuit of FIG. 5A is shown in FIG. 5C.

[00130] FIG. 7B is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an alternate embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 700 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 700 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 702 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4C) either directly or through a capacitance 701.

[00131] The IEDF width control module 702 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 704 that is coupled to a switch 706, and is coupled to a ground 716. The TTL signal source 704 and switch 706 are coupled in parallel to diode 708, a DC current source 605, and an optional capacitance 714. The IEDF width control module 702 is coupled to a chamber capacitance 536. The capacitance 536 can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106.

In some embodiments, the IEDF width control module 702 is also coupled to the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 discussed above. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is further coupled to stray capacitance 538. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 522 is a circuit that includes a diode 524 coupled in series to a resistor 526, and a DC voltage source 528, and a resistor 530 coupled in series to a capacitance 532 and ground 534. The diode 708 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 706 and DC current source 605.

[0132] The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0133] In use, and for the configuration shown in FIG. 7B, the DC current source 605 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 706 can be controlled by the TTL signal source 704 and synchronized with the output of the main pulser 502, as shown in the plot of FIG. 5B. The switch 706 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 706 can be opened such that the DC voltage source 710 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitance 714 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC current source 605. The control mechanism of FIG. 7B is similar to the control mechanism of FIG. 6D. One difference is that the control circuit of FIG. 7B is shown in FIG. 6F, described above, and the control circuit of FIG. 6D is shown in FIG. 6E.

[0134] For the configurations shown in FIGS. 5A, 6A, 6D, 7A, 7B, and 8 it is contemplated that the substrate chucking and bias compensation module can be connected to the circuit in any suitable manner without departing from the scope of the embodiments described herein. It is also contemplated that the substrate chucking and bias compensation module can include additional or different components without departing from the scope of the embodiments described herein.

[0135] FIG. 9A is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 900 for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 900 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC pulse voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 902 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4D).

[0136] The IEDF width control module 902 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 904 coupled to a switch 906, which is also coupled to a ground 916. The TTL signal source 904 and switch 906 are coupled in parallel to a diode 908. The combination of the TTL signal source 904, the switch 906, and the diode 908 controls whether the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is connected to another part of the circuit. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is a circuit that includes a capacitance 926 coupled in parallel to resistor 922 and a DC voltage source 924. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is coupled in series with the assembly of the TTL signal source 904 and switch 906, and the diode 908. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 and the switch 906, as a whole, is coupled in parallel to a DC voltage source 910, which is connected in series with a resistor 912, and also in parallel to an optional capacitor 914. The diode 908 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 906 and DC voltage sources 910 and 924.

[0137] A capacitance 536 may exist between stray capacitance 538 and the plasma sheath 540, which can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. Both the IEDF width control module 902 and the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 are coupled to either the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111. The IEDF width control module 902 is also coupled to stray capacitance 538. The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0138] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 9A, the DC voltage source 910 together with the resistor 912 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 906 is controlled by TTL signal source 904 and is synchronized with the main pulser 502, as shown in FIG. 5B. The switch 906 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage such that the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is connected to another part of the circuit and resets the substrate chucking voltage to a setpoint. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 906 can be opened such that the DC voltage source 910 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitor 914 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC voltage source 910. The control mechanism of FIG. 9A is similar to that shown in FIG. 6B described above. One difference is the capacitor C4 being removed.

[0139] FIG. 9B is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an alternate embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 900, for driving the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111 of substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 900 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the first or second shaped DC pulse voltage source 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 902 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4D).

[0140] The IEDF width control module 902 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 904 coupled to a switch 906, which is also coupled to a ground 916. The TTL signal source 904 and switch 906 are coupled in parallel to a diode 908. The combination of the TTL signal source 904, the switch 906, and the diode 908 controls whether the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is connected to the rest part of the circuit. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is a circuit that includes a capacitance 926 coupled in parallel to a DC voltage source 924 in series with a resistor 922. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is coupled in series with the assembly of the TTL signal source 904 and switch 906, and the diode 908. The substrate

chucking and bias compensation module 920 and the switch 906, as a whole, is coupled in parallel to a DC current source 605, and also in parallel to an optional capacitor 914. The diode 908 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch 906 and DC current source 605.

[0141] A capacitance 536 may exist between stray capacitance 538 and the plasma sheath 540, which can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. Both the IEDF width control module 902 and the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 are coupled to either the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111. The IEDF width control module 902 is also coupled to stray capacitance 538. The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0142] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 9B, the DC current source 605 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 906 is controlled by TTL signal source 904 and is synchronized with the main pulser 502, as shown in FIG. 5B. The switch 906 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage such that the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is connected to another part of the circuit and resets the substrate chucking voltage to a setpoint. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 906 can be opened such that the DC current source 605 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitor 914 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the DC current source 605. The control mechanism of FIG. 9B is similar to that shown in FIG. 6D described above. One difference is the capacitor C4 being removed.

[0143] FIG. 10 is a schematic circuit diagram illustrating an embodiment of an edge ring voltage control circuit/substrate voltage control circuit 1000 for driving the electrodes 109, 111 of the substrate support assembly 104. Circuit 1000 includes a main pulser 502 to reset the substrate voltage (corresponding to the voltage droop in Fig. 3A) at the beginning of each ion current phase. The main pulser 502 can be the

first or second shaped DC pulse voltage sources 159, 161 coupled to ground 501. The main pulser 502 is coupled to an IEDF width control module 1002 (e.g., second power module in FIG. 4D).

[0144] The IEDF width control module 1002 may be modeled as a circuit comprising a TTL signal source 904 that is coupled to a switch 906, and also coupled to a ground 916. The TTL signal source 904 and switch 906 are coupled in parallel to diode 908. The combination of the TTL signal source 904 and switch 906, and the diode 908 controls whether the substrate chucking and bias compensation module is connected to another part of the circuit. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is a circuit that includes a capacitance 926 coupled in parallel to resistor 922 and a DC voltage source 924. The diode 908 is a flyback diode for protecting the switch, the DC pulse voltage source 1004, and the DC voltage source 924. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 is coupled in series with the assembly of the TTL signal source 904 and switch 906, and the diode 908. The substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 and the switch 906, as a whole, is coupled in parallel to a shaped DC pulse voltage source 1004, and also in parallel to an optional capacitor 914.

[0145] A capacitance 536 may exist between stray capacitance 538 and the plasma sheath 540, which can be, for example, a portion of the impedance formed between the substrate electrode 109 and the substrate 105, or between the edge ring electrode 111 and the edge ring 106. Both the IEDF width control module 1002 and the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 are coupled to either the substrate electrode 109 and/or the edge ring electrode 111. The IEDF width control module 1002 is also coupled to stray capacitance 538. The plasma sheath 540 may be modeled (plasma sheath model) as a circuit comprising a sheath capacitance 542 coupled in parallel with a current source 544 and a diode 546 coupled to ground 548.

[0146] In use, and for the configuration illustrated in FIG. 10, the shaped DC pulse voltage source 1004 acts as the active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage, as opposed to the configuration of FIG. 9A, where the DC voltage source 910 together with the resistor 912 acts as an active knob for controlling the slope of the voltage waveform in the ion current stage. The switch 906 is controlled by TTL signal source 904 and is synchronized with the main pulser 502,

as shown in the plot of FIG. 5B. The switch 906 can be closed before the voltage of the main pulser 502 goes up to enter the sheath collapse stage. The switch 512 can be kept closed during the sheath collapse stage such that the substrate chucking and bias compensation module is connected to another part of the circuit and resets the substrate chucking voltage to a setpoint. After the voltage of the main pulser 502 drops at the entry to the ion current stage, the switch 906 can be opened such that the DC pulse voltage source 1004 is functioning to modulate IEDF in the ion current stage. The optional capacitor 914 can be used to adjust the sensitivity of the substrate voltage waveform to the shaped DC pulse voltage source 1004.

[0147] The control mechanism of FIG. 10 is similar to that of FIG. 5A. One difference is the capacitor C4 being removed. Another difference is the output voltage of the shaped DC pulse voltage source 1004 in the sheath collapse stage is held at the output voltage of the substrate chucking and bias compensation module 920 instead of zero, as the trace 582 (positive chucking voltage) and trace 586 (negative chucking voltage) in FIG. 5E.

Method Example(s)

[0148] FIG. 11 is a flowchart of a method 1100 of controlling the IEDF width using the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155 and/or the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158 according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. The method 1100 can be implemented using one or more of the circuit configurations illustrated in FIGS. 5-10. The method 1100 also provides a method of operating the processing chamber 100 or processing chamber 200.

[0149] The method 1100 begins with applying, or otherwise introducing, a voltage to a suitable processing chamber by activating, or turning on, a main pulser (e.g., main pulser 502) coupled to a power module (e.g., the IEDF width control module). The main pulser can be the first shaped DC pulse voltage source 161, or the second shaped DC pulse voltage source 159. The IEDF width control module can be the substrate IEDF width control circuit 158, or the edge ring IEDF width control circuit 155, respectively. Here, the voltage is introduced to the substrate electrode, e.g., substrate electrode 109, and/or the edge ring electrode, e.g., edge ring electrode 111. The bias voltage on the substrate electrode and/or the edge ring electrode develops

in the ion current stage and accelerates ions at an energy of, e.g., the product of the sheath voltage multiplied by the charge of the ions. In the collisionless sheath model, most of the ions can reach this maximum energy when bombarding the substrate electrode and/or edge ring electrode. However, due to, e.g., the ion current depositing positive charges on the substrate electrode and/or edge ring electrode, the voltage of the substrate electrode and/or edge ring electrode increases over time, reducing the sheath voltage and resulting in a spread of the ion energy.

[0150] At operation 1110, a current of the power module (e.g., the IEDF width control module), and/or a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module are measured under two or more conditions to determine the sheath capacitance $C1$ and/or the ion current $I0$. Here the current measured can be the current $I4$, which is the current through the capacitor $C4$ in FIGS. 5A, 6A, 6D, 7A, 7B, 8, and 9B. Additionally, or alternatively, the current measured can be the current $I5$, which is the current through the capacitor $C5$ in FIGS. 6A, 6D, 7A, 7B, and 9B. Additionally, or alternatively, the current measured can be the output current of the main pulser in FIGS. 9A and 10. The voltage derivative can be $dV3/dt$. The measurements can be performed in the ion current stage. The two or more conditions can be achieved by setting the active knob (e.g., the DC voltage source $V0$ and/or the DC current source Ic and/or the shaped DC pulse voltage source $dV1/dt$) in the IEDF width control module to two different values.

[0151] As an example, and for the configurations of FIGS. 5, 8, and 10, the shaped DC pulse voltage source can be set to any two different slopes $dV1/dt$ in the ion current stage. As another example, and for the configurations of FIGS. 6D, 7B and 9B, the DC current source can be set to any two different currents Ic . As another example, and for the configurations of FIGS. 6, 7, and 9, the DC voltage $V0$ can be increased gradually while monitoring $I4$ up to a point when $I4$ is affected by the DC voltage $V0$. This DC voltage is the threshold voltage V_{th} . At least one of the two setpoints for the DC voltage source $V0$ is larger than V_{th} . That is, measuring the current of the IEDF width control module, the voltage or voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, or both, includes setting the DC voltage source, the DC current source, and/or the shaped DC pulse voltage source to a first value; and setting the

DC voltage source, the DC current source, and/or the shaped DC pulse voltage source to a second value.

[0152] At operation 1115, the ion current I_0 and the sheath capacitance C_1 are calculated based on equations (6) and (7) for the configurations of FIGS. 5, 8, and 10, or equations (19) and (20) for the configurations of FIGS. 6, 7, and 9, or equations (31) and (32) for the configurations of FIGS. 6D, 7B, and 9B. The input values for the calculations are: $I_3 = C_3 \cdot dV_3/dt$; $I_3' = C_3' \cdot dV_3'/dt$; and/or I_4 , I_4' ; and/or I_5 , I_5' . The values of C_3 and C_3' are known, and the values of dV_3/dt , dV_3'/dt , I_4 , I_4' , I_5 and I_5' are measured at operation 1110. As such, I_3 and I_3' can be calculated.

[0153] At operation 1120, a desired setpoint for a voltage (V_0) or a current (I_c) or a voltage derivative (dV_1/dt) of the IEDF width control module are determined to achieve a targeted IEDF width (ΔV). This determination is based on, e.g., determining a desired setting of the IEDF width control module to achieve a user-specified ion energy distribution width (ΔV). The DC voltage (V_0) of the DC voltage source or the DC current (I_c) of the DC current source or the slope (dV_1/dt) of the shaped DC pulse voltage (V_1), can be determined from equations (23), (34), and (9), respectively. At operation 1125, the DC voltage (V_0) or the DC current (I_c) or voltage derivative (dV_1/dt) of the IEDF width control module are adjusted to the determined setpoints.

[0154] In contrast to conventional processes for controlling the IEDF, the method described herein is free of looping to determine the desired setpoint of the IEDF width control module. However, and in some embodiments, looping can be used to determine the desired set point. In such embodiments, the controller can monitor I_4 and V_3 in the ion current stage to detect any changes in the plasma conditions and to adjust the setpoint of the IEDF width control module accordingly.

Pulsed Direct Current Power Delivery System Examples

[0155] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output, and a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser

output and ground, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground.

[0156] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output, and a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a shaped pulse voltage source, and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground.

[0157] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser through a capacitance, wherein the power module is configured to be electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

[0158] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser through a capacitance, wherein the power module is configured to be electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a shaped pulse voltage

source; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

[0159] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and a power module electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

[0160] A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and a power module electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising a voltage source or a current source, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a shaped pulse voltage source; and a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

[0161] A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform operations for controlling a width of an ion energy distribution function (IEDF), the operations comprising introducing a voltage to an electrode of a processing chamber by activating a main pulser, the main pulser having a main pulser output electrically coupled to an IEDF width control module, wherein the IEDF width control module comprises a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground, or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a shaped pulse voltage source or a DC current source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground, or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a

processing chamber, measuring a current of the IEDF width control module and a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module or a node between the main pulser and the chamber plasma load, calculating an ion current of the processing chamber and a capacitance of the plasma load based on the current and the voltage or voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, determining a setpoint for a current or a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, or any combination of, and adjusting the current or the voltage or voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module, or any combination of, to the determined setpoints to control the width of the IEDF.

[0162] In some embodiments of a pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, a main pulser output is electrically coupled to an IEDF width control module, wherein the IEDF width control module comprises a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground, or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, and a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber. The pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system also includes a non-transitory computer-readable medium that includes software instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform operations for controlling a width of an ion energy distribution function (IEDF), the operations comprising delivering a first pulse voltage waveform to an electrode of a processing chamber from a main pulser output of a main pulser, measuring a current flowing from the IEDF width control module, a voltage or a voltage derivative of a node between the main pulser and the chamber plasma load, calculating an ion current of the processing chamber and a capacitance of the processing chamber based on the measured current, the measured voltage or measured voltage derivative, determining a setpoint for a voltage provided from the IEDF width control module or setpoint for a voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module, and adjusting the voltage provided from the IEDF width control module or voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module to control the width of the IEDF.

[0163] The methods and apparatus, e.g., circuits, described herein enable control over the shape (e.g., narrow, or adjustable width) of the waveform of a pulsed DC substrate voltage. Embodiments described herein further enable, e.g., control over the ion energy distribution, including monoenergetic ion acceleration.

[0164] As is apparent from the foregoing general description and the specific embodiments, while forms of the present disclosure have been illustrated and described, various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure. Accordingly, it is not intended that the present disclosure be limited thereby. Likewise, the term “comprising” is considered synonymous with the term “including.” Likewise whenever a composition, an element or a group of elements is preceded with the transitional phrase “comprising,” it is understood that we also contemplate the same composition or group of elements with transitional phrases “consisting essentially of,” “consisting of,” “selected from the group of consisting of,” or “is” preceding the recitation of the composition, element, or elements and vice versa.

[0165] While the foregoing is directed to examples of the present disclosure, other and further examples of the disclosure may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims that follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising:
 - a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and
 - a power module electrically coupled to the main pulser output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising:
 - a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises at least one of a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor, a DC current source, or a shaped DC pulse voltage source; and
 - a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground.
2. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 1, wherein
 - the voltage source or the current source comprise the DC voltage source and resistor, and
 - the power module further comprises a capacitance and a diode, and the capacitance and diode are both electrically coupled in parallel with the DC voltage source and resistor.
3. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 2, wherein a current return path is electrically coupled between the power module and the main pulser output.
4. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 3, wherein the current return path comprises an inductor electrically coupled in series with a resistor, the resistor electrically coupled in series with the power module or the pulser output, the inductor further electrically coupled to the main pulser output or the power module.
5. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 1, wherein the main pulser output is electrically coupleable to an electrode within a semiconductor processing chamber.

6. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 1, further comprising:
software, which when executed by a processing unit, adjusts an output of the DC voltage source or the DC current source or the shaped DC pulse voltage source to control a slope of voltage waveform delivered to a first electrode in a processing chamber from the main pulser output, a slope of voltage waveform delivered to a second electrode in the processing chamber from the main pulser output, or a combination thereof.
7. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 6, wherein the main pulser output is electrically coupled to a substrate electrode or an edge ring electrode that are disposed within a plasma processing chamber.
8. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 1, further comprising:
a blocking capacitance electrically coupled between the power module and an electrode in a processing chamber; and
a bias compensation module electrically coupled between the blocking capacitance and the electrode.
9. A pulsed direct current (DC) power delivery system, comprising:
a main pulser configured to deliver DC pulse waveforms to a main pulser output; and
a power module electrically coupled to the output of the main pulser, the power module configured to control an ion energy distribution function of ions within a formed plasma, the power module comprising:
a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is configured to be electrically coupled between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor; and
a switch electrically coupled in parallel to the voltage source or the current source.

10. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 9, wherein the power module further comprises a capacitance and a diode, the capacitance and diode are both electrically coupled in parallel with the DC voltage source.

11. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 9, wherein the power module is electrically couplable to an electrode within a semiconductor processing chamber.

12. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 9, further comprising:
software, which when executed by a processing unit, adjusts an output of the DC voltage source or the DC current source or the shaped DC pulse voltage source to control a slope of voltage waveform delivered to a first electrode in a processing chamber from the main pulser output, a slope of voltage waveform delivered to a second electrode in the processing chamber from the main pulser output, or a combination thereof.

13. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 9, wherein the power module output is electrically coupled to a substrate electrode or an edge ring electrode that are disposed within a plasma processing chamber.

14. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 9, further comprising a bias compensation module electrically coupled between the power module and an electrode in the processing chamber, or in parallel with the power module.

15. The pulsed DC power delivery system of claim 14, further comprising a blocking capacitor electrically coupled between the bias compensation module and the main pulser output.

16. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing instructions that, when executed on a processor, perform operations for controlling a width of an ion energy distribution function (IEDF), the operations comprising:

delivering a first pulse voltage waveform to an electrode of a processing chamber from a main pulser output of a main pulser, the main pulser output electrically coupled to an IEDF width control module, wherein the IEDF width control module comprises:

a voltage source or a current source, wherein the voltage source or current source is electrically coupled between the main pulser output and ground or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber, and wherein the voltage source or the current source comprises a DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source or a DC voltage source electrically coupled in series to a resistor; and

a switch electrically coupled in parallel with the voltage source or the current source, and between the main pulser output and the ground or between the main pulser output and an electrode within a processing chamber;

measuring at least one of a current flowing from the IEDF width control module, a voltage applied by the IEDF width control module, and a voltage derivative at a node between the IEDF width control module and the electrode in the processing chamber;

calculating an ion current of the processing chamber and a capacitance of the processing chamber based on at least one of the measured current, the measured voltage and the measured voltage derivative;

determining a setpoint for a voltage or a current provided from the IEDF width control module or setpoint for a voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module; and

adjusting the voltage or the current provided from the IEDF width control module, or voltage derivative provided from the IEDF width control module to control the width of the IEDF.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein measuring a current of the IEDF width control module and a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module comprises:

setting a DC voltage of the IEDF width control module to two different values; and

setting a voltage or a voltage derivative of the IEDF width control module to two different values; and

setting a DC current of the IEDF width control module to two different values.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the IEDF width control module comprises a capacitance and a diode, the capacitance and diode are both electrically coupled in parallel with the DC voltage source or the DC current source or a shaped DC pulse voltage source.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising a current return path that is coupled between the IEDF width control module and the main pulser output, wherein the current return path comprises an inductor coupled in series with a resistor, the resistor or the inductor coupled in series with the IEDF width control module, the inductor or the resistor further coupled to the main pulser output.