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RF Frequency Combining for the ATLAS ECR Ion Sources

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The ECR2 and ECR3 ion sources at the Argonne Tandem Linac Accelerator System (ATLAS) operate with two microwave frequencies, improving their performance over single frequency operation. A typical method for transmitting both microwave frequencies is by having two separate frequency generators with their own corresponding amplifiers. These amplifiers transmit their microwaves into the ion source using separate waveguides. Another method that is investigated is to combine the low power microwave frequencies with a splitter/combiner and input the combined signals into the high-power amplifier, where the combined signal is amplified and transmitted down a single waveguide into the ion source. These different methods for delivering microwave power with multiple frequencies are compared, focusing on the average charge state and the intensities of each of the charge states for an oxygen plasma produced by the ECR2 ion source.

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