



SAPP XXV

25th Symposium on Application of
Plasma Processes
and
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Plasma Processing

Book of Contributed Papers

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Edited by G. D. Megersa, E. Maťaš, J. Országh, P. Papp, Š. Matejčík

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Table of Contents

INVITED LECTURES			11
IL-1	Cristina Canal	PLASMA-TREATED HYDROGELS: A THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVE IN PLASMA MEDICINE?	12
IL-2	Nicolas Naudé	DIFFUSE DBD AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE: FROM PHYSICS STUDY TO APPLICATIONS	13
IL-3	Jelena Marjanović	BREAKDOWN CHARACTERISTICS IN LOW GWP AND LOW ODP FREONS	16
IL-4	Juraj Fedor	DYNAMICS INDUCED BY ELECTRON COLLISIONS: GASES AND LIQUIDS	21
IL-5	Thierry Belmonte	DISSOCIATING PURE AMMONIA WITH MICROWAVE DISCHARGES	22
IL-6	Oddur Ingolfsson	LOW ENERGY ELECTRONS IN NANO-SCALE PROCESSING	31
IL-7	Inna Orel	SPATIALLY AND TEMPORALLY RESOLVED ELECTRIC FIELD, CURRENT, AND ELECTRON DENSITY IN AN RF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE PLASMA JET BY E-FISH	34
IL-8	Dušan Kováčik	ADVANCED DCSBD-BASED PLASMA TECHNOLOGIES FOR SURFACE MODIFICATIONS AND BIO-APPLICATIONS	37
IL-9	Yuzuru Ikehara	PLASMA-BASED MICROFABRICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR CHARGE CONTROL METHODS IN PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS: VISUALIZING PHASE TRANSITION LINKED WITH VIRUS PARTICLE FORMATION USING SEM AND AFM	40
IL-10	Toshiaki Makabe	GENERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRIFT VELOCITIES IN POSITION AND VELOCITY SPACES OF CHARGED PARTICLES	42
IL-11	Máté Vass	HYBRID FLUID/MC SIMULATIONS OF RADIO-FREQUENCY ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE PLASMA JETS	53
IL-12	Paula De Navascués	LOW-PRESSURE PLASMA POLYMERIZATION FOR EMERGING FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS	57
IL-13	Jacopo Profili	INVESTIGATING STABLE SURFACE MODIFICATIONS OF FLUOROPOLYMERS BY ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE NITROGEN DISCHARGE	59
IL-14	Zoltán Juhász	RADIATION CHEMISTRY PROCESSES IN THE SURFACE OF ICY MOONS IN THE PLASMA ENVIRONMENT OF GIANT PLANETS	61
IL-15	Jarosław Puton	SWARMS OF IONS IN VARIABLE ELECTRIC FIELD - POSSIBLE ANALYTICAL APPLICATION	66
IL-16	Masaaki Matsukuma	MULTISCALE SIMULATION OF PLASMA-BASED DEPOSITION PROCESSES	72
HOT TOPICS			73
HT-1	Zdenko Machala	INDOOR AIR CLEANING BY NON-THERMAL PLASMA AND PHOTOCATALYSIS	74
HT-2	Karol Hensel	ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES IN CAPILLARY TUBES AND HONEYCOMB MONOLITHS	77

ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES IN CAPILLARY TUBES AND HONEYCOMB MONOLITHS

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Summary of our results on generation of discharges in glass capillary tube(s) and ceramic honeycomb monolith. Reactor and materials of various geometry, several power supplies of both polarities were tested. Electrical and optical diagnostic of the discharges was performed, and their chemical activity tested.

1. Summary

Atmospheric pressure plasmas generated by electrical discharges are often used for air pollution control. The common discharge types are corona and dielectric barrier discharges (DBD) generated in gases or on dielectric surfaces. They can be also generated inside cavities and pores of materials, such as foams, pellets, beads, or tubes [1]. It is very interesting from the point of view of plasma catalysis as the interaction of the plasma with (catalytic) materials can be utilized to enhance associated chemical processes.

This contribution summarizes the results on generation of discharges in a single capillary tube, a bundle of capillary tubes as well as ceramic honeycomb monolith. Electrical and optical measurements were performed in various geometry (diameter, length, cpi), feed gases (air, N₂, O₂, H₂O) and power supplies (AC, DC, pulsed) of both polarities. Electrical diagnostics included oscilloscopic measurements and power consumption evaluation. The optical diagnostics included optical emission spectroscopy and measurements of discharge propagation velocity. Chemical activity was monitored by FTIR spectroscopy.

The discharge in a single capillary tube was investigated to understand a fundamental mechanism of its formation and propagation [2]. The propagation velocity increased with the decreasing tube diameter. It was found 4.3×10^7 and 9.9×10^7 cm/s for 1 and 0.2 mm diameter, respectively. Onset and breakdown voltages increased with the decreasing tube diameter, while stable discharge generation was improved by extending its length. Propagation velocity was higher for smaller tube diameters and higher O₂ content. Tests with a bundle of capillary tubes were performed to assess the overall stability and spatial homogeneity of the discharge. The discharges were generated by a DC high voltage, eventually assisted by auxiliary AC driven discharges in a pellet bed [1] or in a multihollow DBD [3]. The homogeneity and the stability largely depended on the discharge polarity, ballasting resistor, and feed gas humidity. At last, the discharges generated directly in ceramic honeycombs of various geometry (length, cpi) were tested. They were also briefly subjected to the investigations of its plasma chemical activity (generation of O₃ and NO_x removal). Tentative results were quite promising and are expected to be further improved in systems with honeycombs supported by various catalysts.

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