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Title:

APPLICATIONS OF DIELECTRIC
BARRIER DISCHARGES

CONF -980603--

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Submitted to:

To be submitted to:
12th International Conference on
High-Energy Particle Beams, BEAMS '98
Haifa, Israel, 7-12 June 1998

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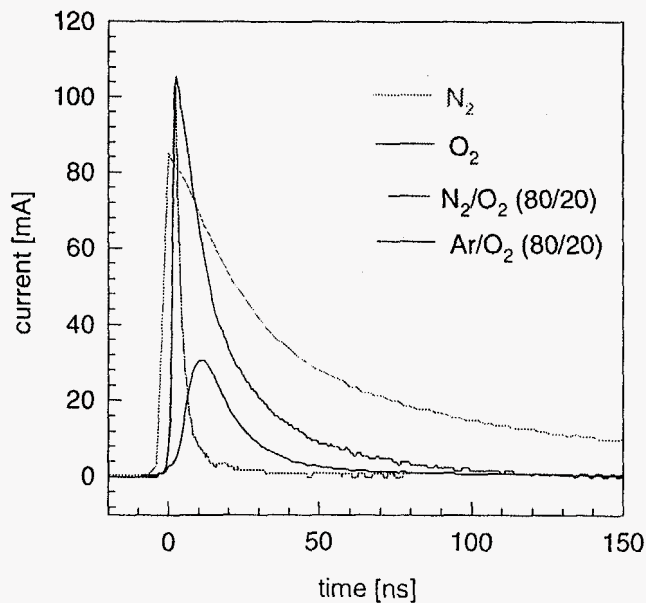
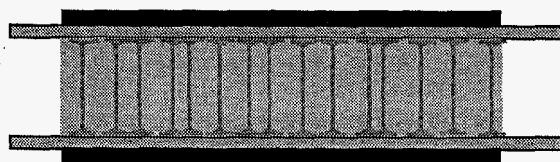
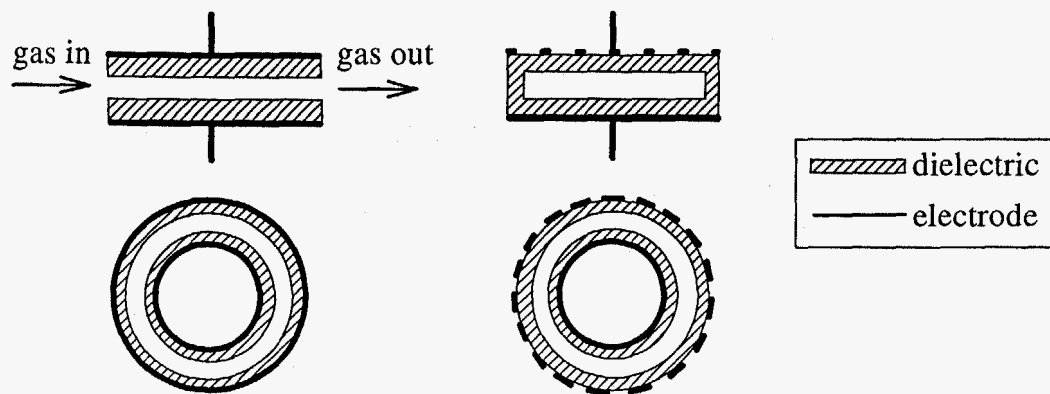
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ABSTRACT

Dielectric barrier discharges (DBDs) in oxygen and air are well established for the production of large quantities of ozone and are more recently being applied to a wider range of plasmachemical processes. Here, the application of DBDs for ozone synthesis, the non-thermal oxidation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in air, the generation of incoherent (V)UV radiation and surface processing (etching, ashing) is presented.

- The main plasmaphysical features of sinusoidally-driven DBDs (transient, filamented, non-thermal plasmas at atmospheric pressure) are described, and a simple plasmachemical reaction pathway for ozone synthesis are is given.
- Experimental results on the degradation of VOCs (2-propanol, trichloroethylene, carbon tetrachloride), as well as byproduct formation is presented for stand-alone DBD treatment, as well as for simultaneous (V)UV illumination of the discharge. Illumination of the discharge with (V)UV can change the plasmachemistry by enhanced formation of certain species of radicals - and thereby change byproduct formation - but also can change the discharge physics, known as the Joshi effect.
- As an example for generation of excited dimers and exiplexes for the production of incoherent UV light, experimental results on a XeBr* excimer UV light source are presented. Effects of the total and partial pressure of a Xe/Br₂ system, the gap spacing and the applied driving frequency on the UV radiant efficiency are shown.
- For the application of DBDs for surface processing, experimental results of photoresist ashing on Si wafers using DBDs in oxygen are shown function of gas pressure, gap spacing and applied frequency.



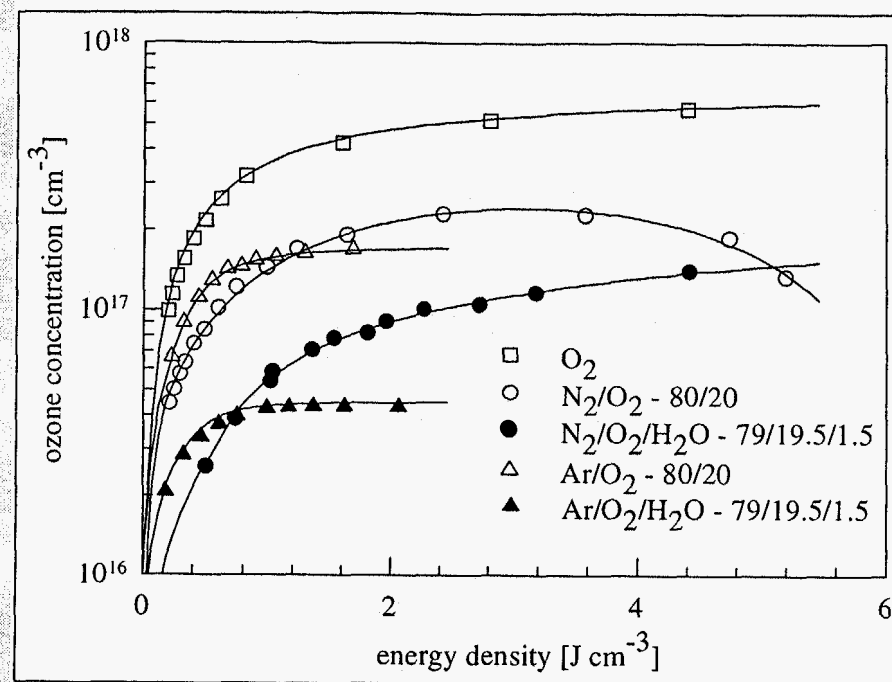
Materials: metallic electrode
(plate, mesh,
paste, electrolytes)
dielectric
(glass, quartz, ceramic)

Gap distance: 1 - 10 mm

Gas pressure: atmospheric
(but also from 50 to 3000 Torr)

Applied voltages: 1 - 100 kV sinusoidal
(1 Hz to < 1 MHz)
steep-rising (ns/kV)

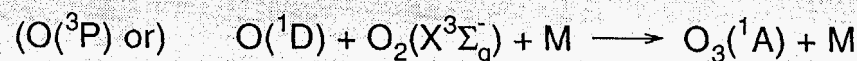
Discharge characteristics: transient (1's to 100's of ns)
non-thermal
microdischarge formation
(filamentation)
large area discharge
kA/cm² discharge current density
electron temperature 1...10's eV
(mean electron temperature
in air typically 3 - 5 eV)
plasma density 10¹³ - 10¹⁵ cm⁻³



Herzberg system



Schumann-Runge system



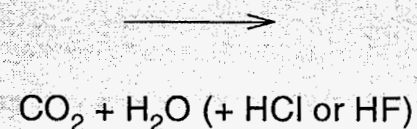
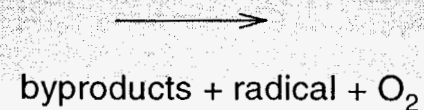
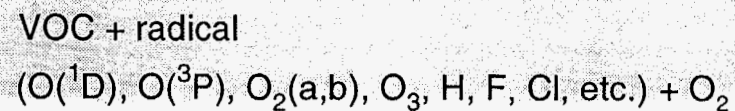
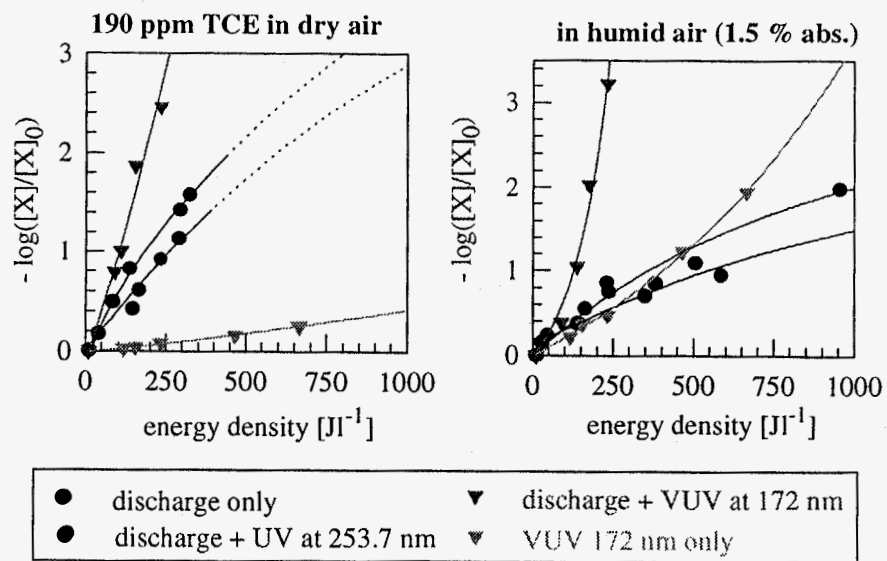
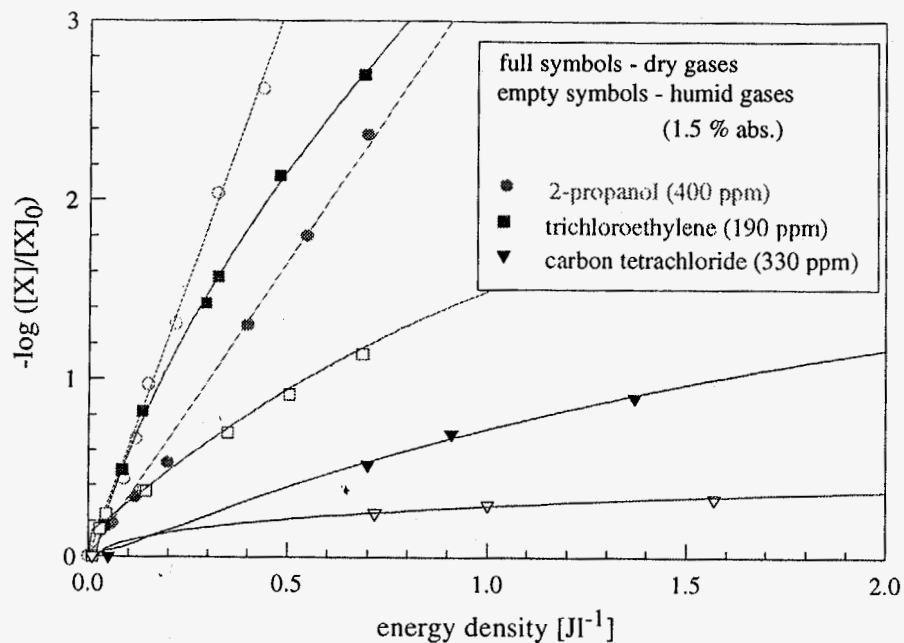
$$k = 5.7 \times 10^{-34} \text{ cm}^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \text{for } M = O_2$$

$$k = 5.1 \times 10^{-34} \text{ cm}^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \text{for } M = N_2$$

but also O scavenging by N_xO_y formation

$$k = 3.6 \times 10^{-34} \text{ cm}^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \text{for } M = \text{Ar}$$





generally: $k_{O, OH} \gg k_{O_3}$

Idea:

increase atomic oxygen concentration by
 photolysis of (unutilized) ozone

Hartley band



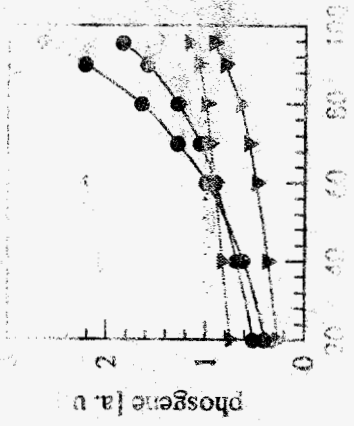
VUV band



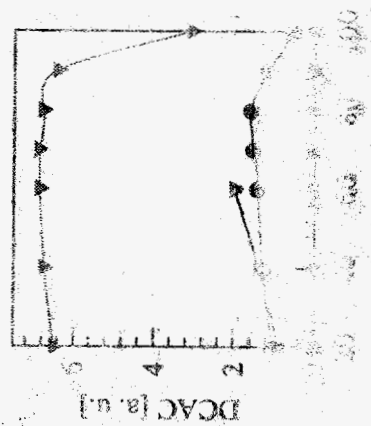
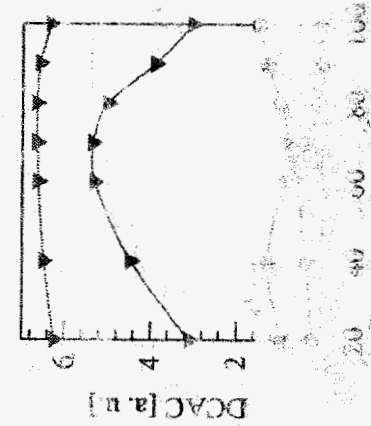
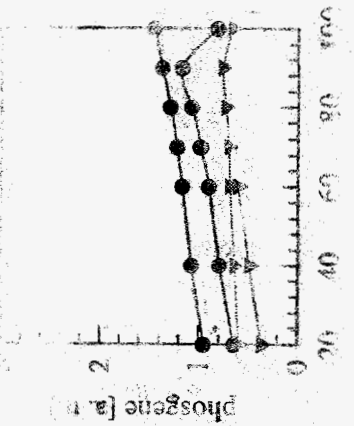
5 W_{DBD} and 2.57 W_{UV} / 1.97 W_{VUV}

Byproduct formation in combined (V)UV/DBD treatment of TCE

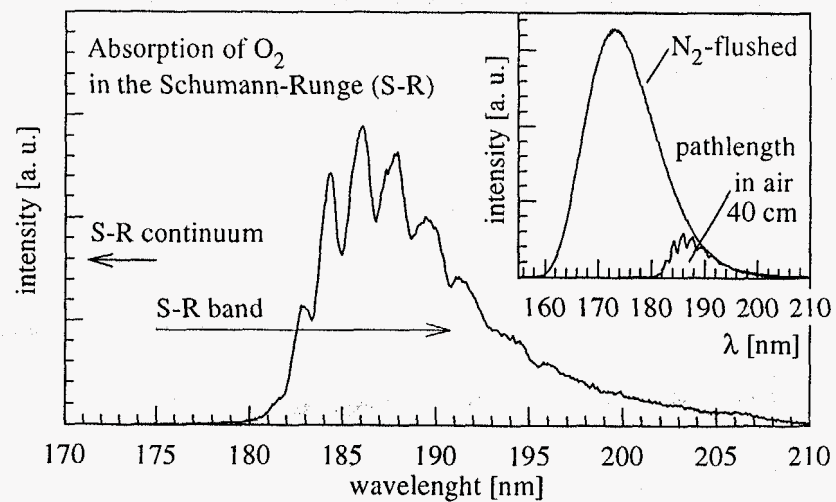
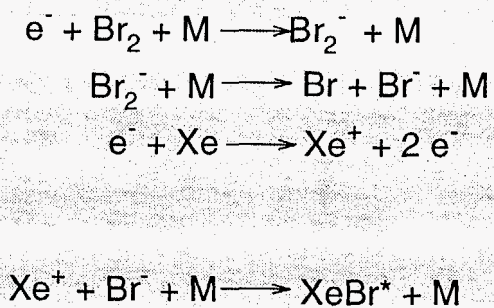
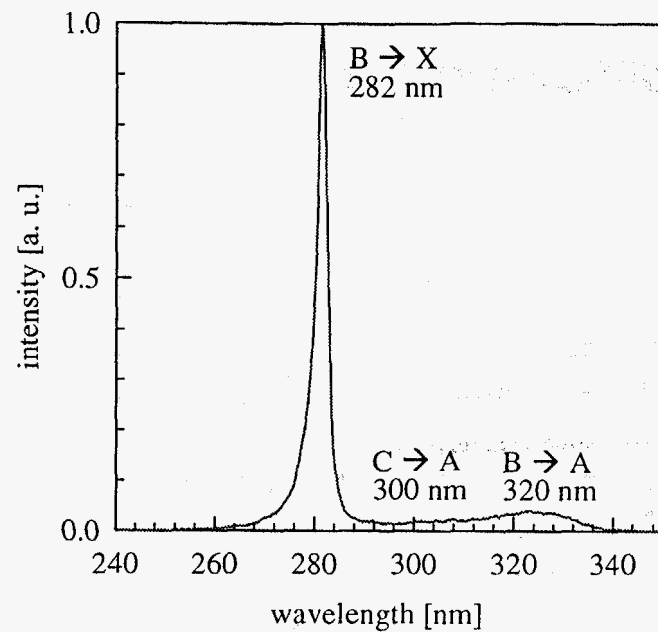
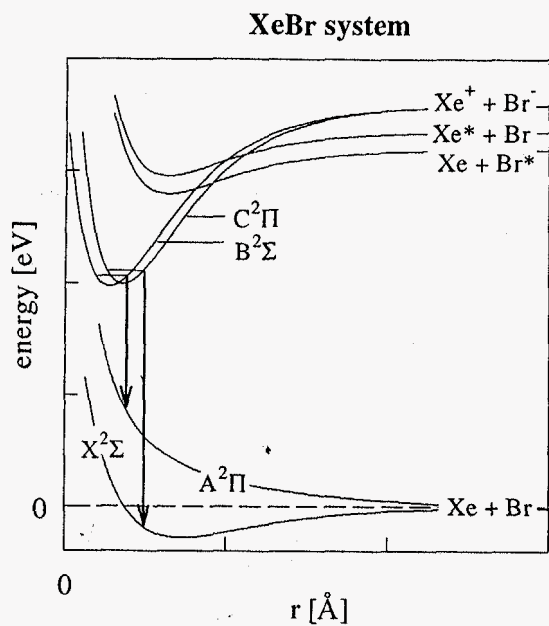
150 ppm TCE in humid air (1.5 % abs.)



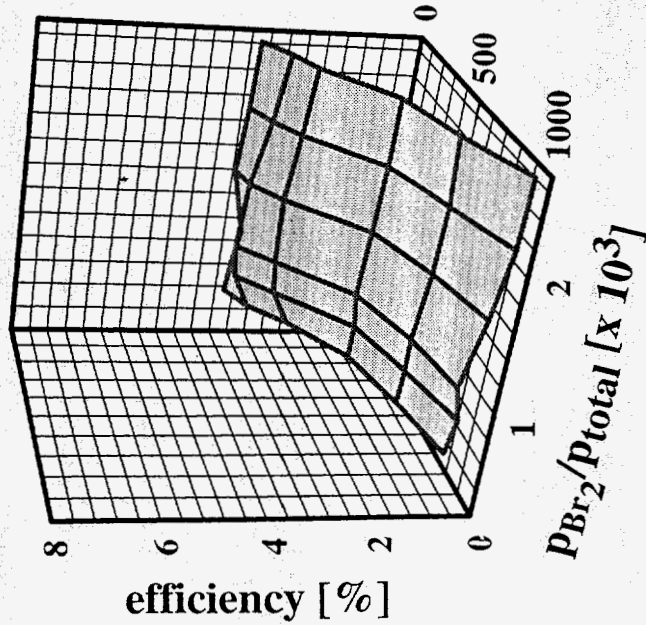
150 ppm TCE in dry air



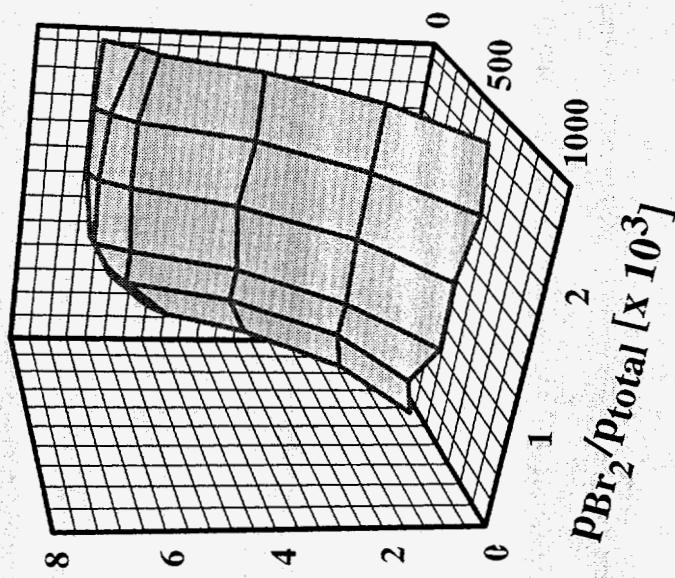
- discharge only
- discharge + UV at 253.7 nm
- ▲ discharge + VUV at 172 nm
- ◆ VUV at 172 nm only



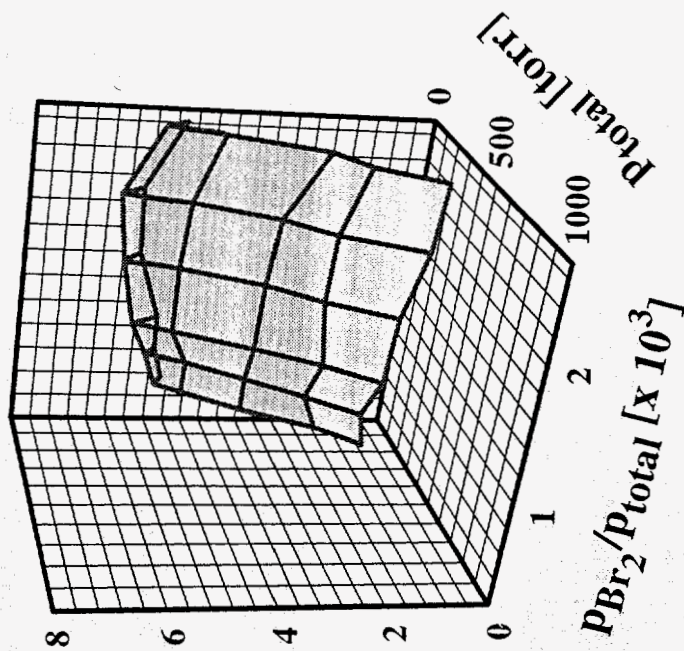
UV Efficiency of XeBr* (B-X, C-A, B-A)



2.5-mm gap

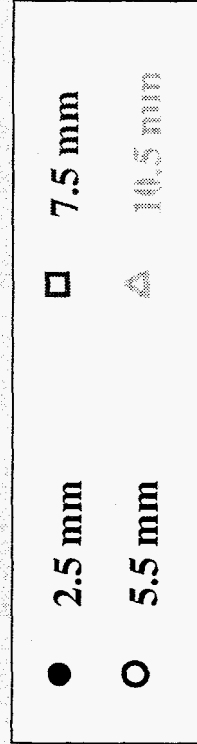
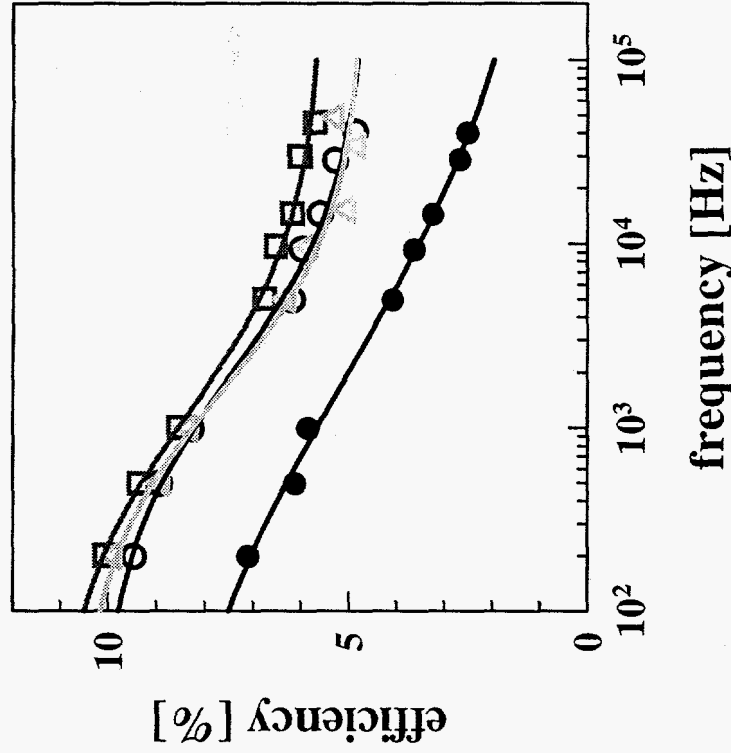
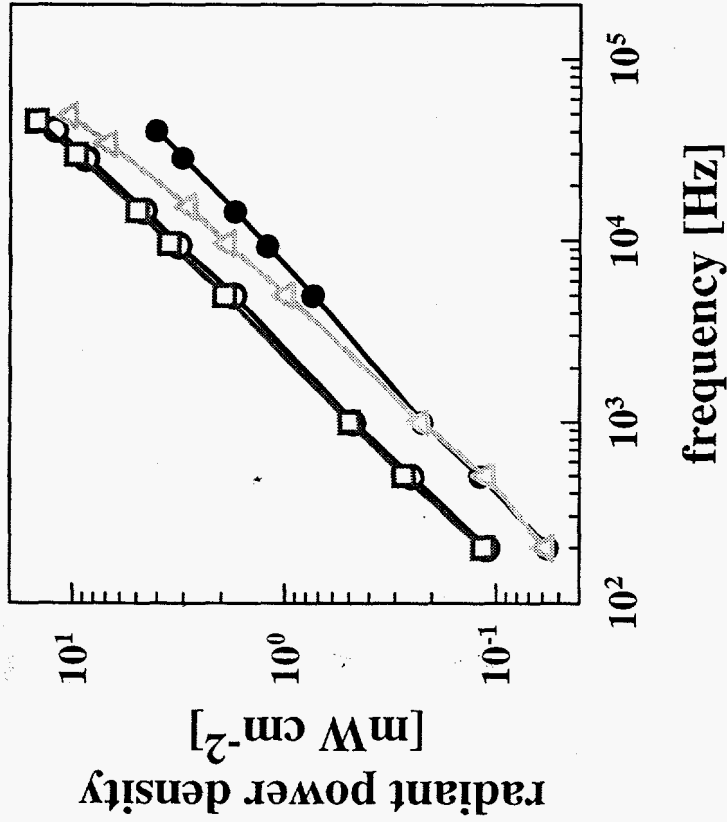


5.5-mm gap

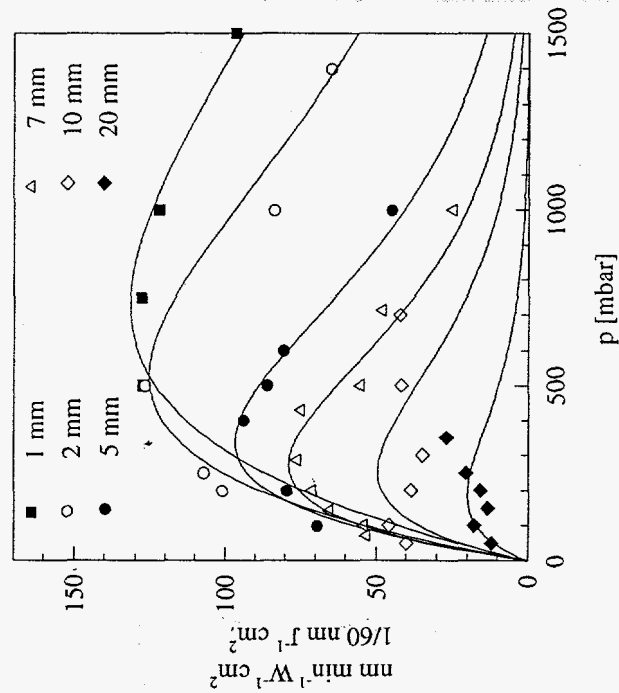
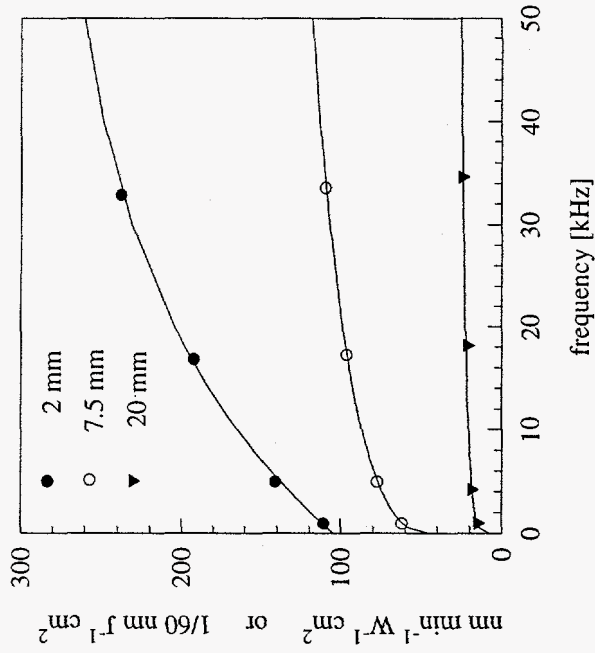


10.5-mm gap

Frequency Effects



Photoresist (Novolak) ashing with DBDs in O₂



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Exemplary results of the application of dielectric barrier discharges (DBDs) for the generation of ozone, flue gas treatment, the generation of incoherent (V)UV light and the ashing of a photoresist are presented. In all applications it is shown that a critical feature of the DBD is to produce non-equilibrium plasmas at atmospheric pressure. The optimization of each system is indicated by changing parameters like energy density, gas mixture and pressure, gap spacing and frequency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to express his gratitude to the many friends and co-workers involved in the different projects. I would like to thank Dr. L. Rosocha, Dr. J. Coogan, H. Garcia, M. Garcia and Dr. R. Korzekwa (CST-18), H. Canavan, J. Roberts and M. Monagle (CST-12), M. Kang (DX-6), McIlWaine Archer (MST-12), Dr. G. Anderson and Dr. D. Zerkle (CST-6), Dr. D. Cremers (CST-1), Dr. R. Sze (CST-4), J. Smith (CST-CMS), Dr. K. Walter (MST-8), Dr. G. Salvyn (P-24) and Dr. D. Rej (P-DO) from Los Alamos, as well as Bernd Kleiner, Prof. Dr. H. Popp and Prof. Dr. M. Neiger from the Lighting Technology Institute, University of Karlsruhe, Germany. The author acknowledges financial support provided by the U.S. DOE and Triton Thalassic Technologies, Inc. through the SB-CRADA (LA95C10261-A001) and by the U.S. DOE and Energy and Environment Research (EER) Corp. through SB-CRADA (LA94C10164). Additional support from EM-50 is also acknowledged. Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy under contract W-7405-ENG-36.