

## Contents

**Preface** XIII

**List of Contributors** XVII

<b>1</b>	<b>An Introduction to Nonequilibrium Plasmas at Atmospheric Pressure</b>	<b>1</b>
	<i>Sander Nijdam, Eddie van Veldhuizen, Peter Bruggeman, and Ute Ebert</i>	
1.1	Introduction	1
1.1.1	Nonthermal Plasmas and Electron Energy Distributions	1
1.1.2	Barrier and Corona Streamer Discharges – Discharges at Atmospheric Pressure	2
1.1.3	Other Nonthermal Discharge Types	3
1.1.3.1	Transition to Sparks, Arcs, or Leaders	4
1.1.4	Microscopic Discharge Mechanisms	4
1.1.4.1	Bulk Ionization Mechanisms	4
1.1.4.2	Surface Ionization Mechanisms	6
1.1.5	Chemical Activity	6
1.1.6	Diagnostics	8
1.2	Coronas and Streamers	9
1.2.1	Occurrence and Applications	9
1.2.2	Main Properties of Streamers	11
1.2.3	Streamer Initiation or Homogeneous Breakdown	14
1.2.4	Streamer Propagation	15
1.2.4.1	Electron Sources for Positive Streamers	15
1.2.5	Initiation Cloud, Primary, Secondary, and Late Streamers	16
1.2.6	Streamer Branching and Interaction	18
1.3	Glow Discharges at Higher Pressures	20
1.3.1	Introduction	20
1.3.2	Properties	21
1.3.3	Studies	22
1.3.4	Instabilities	25
1.4	Dielectric Barrier and Surface Discharges	26
1.4.1	Basic Geometries	26
1.4.2	Main Properties	29

1.4.3	Surface Discharges and Packed Beds	30
1.4.4	Applications of Barrier Discharges	31
1.5	Gliding Arcs	32
1.6	Concluding Remarks	34
	References	34
<b>2</b>	<b>Catalysts Used in Plasma-Assisted Catalytic Processes: Preparation, Activation, and Regeneration</b>	<b>45</b>
	<i>Vasile I. Parvulescu</i>	
2.1	Introduction	45
2.2	Specific Features Generated by Plasma-Assisted Catalytic Applications	46
2.3	Chemical Composition and Texture	47
2.4	Methodologies Used for the Preparation of Catalysts for Plasma-Assisted Catalytic Reactions	49
2.4.1	Oxides and Oxide Supports	49
2.4.1.1	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	49
2.4.1.2	SiO <sub>2</sub>	50
2.4.1.3	TiO <sub>2</sub>	51
2.4.1.4	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	52
2.4.2	Zeolites	52
2.4.2.1	Metal-Containing Molecular Sieves	53
2.4.3	Active Oxides	55
2.4.4	Mixed Oxides	56
2.4.4.1	Intimate Mixed Oxides	56
2.4.4.2	Perovskites	56
2.4.5	Supported Oxides	59
2.4.5.1	Metal Oxides on Metal Foams and Metal Textiles	61
2.4.6	Metal Catalysts	62
2.4.6.1	Embedded Nanoparticles	62
2.4.6.2	Catalysts Prepared via Electroplating	62
2.4.6.3	Catalysts Prepared via Chemical Vapor Infiltration	64
2.4.6.4	Metal Wires	64
2.4.6.5	Supported Metals	65
2.4.6.6	Supported Noble Metals	66
2.5	Catalysts Forming	67
2.5.1	Tableting	67
2.5.2	Spherulizing	69
2.5.3	Pelletization	69
2.5.4	Extrusion	70
2.5.5	Foams	72
2.5.6	Metal Textile Catalysts	73
2.6	Regeneration of the Catalysts Used in Plasma Assisted Reactions	73
2.7	Plasma Produced Catalysts and Supports	74
2.7.1	Sputtering	76

2.8	Conclusions	76
	References	77
<b>3</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub> Abatement by Plasma Catalysis</b>	<b>89</b>
	<i>Gérald Djéga-Mariadassou, François Baudin, Ahmed Khacef, and Patrick Da Costa</i>	
3.1	Introduction	89
3.1.1	Why Nonthermal Plasma-Assisted Catalytic NO <sub>x</sub> Remediation?	89
3.2	General deNO <sub>x</sub> Model over Supported Metal Cations and Role of NTP Reactor: “Plasma-Assisted Catalytic deNO <sub>x</sub> Reaction”	90
3.3	About the Nonthermal Plasma for NO <sub>x</sub> Remediation	96
3.3.1	The Nanosecond Pulsed DBD Reactor Coupled with a Catalytic deNO <sub>x</sub> Reactor: a Laboratory Scale Device Easily Scaled Up at Pilot Level	97
3.3.2	Nonthermal Plasma Chemistry and Kinetics	100
3.3.3	Plasma Energy Deposition and Energy Cost	102
3.4	Special Application of NTP to Catalytic Oxidation of Methane on Alumina-Supported Noble Metal Catalysts	105
3.4.1	Effect of DBD on the Methane Oxidation in Combined Heat Power (CHP) Conditions	106
3.4.1.1	Effect of Dielectric Material on Methane Oxidation	106
3.4.1.2	Effect of Water on Methane Conversion as a Function of Energy Deposition	106
3.4.2	Effect of Catalyst Composition on Methane Conversion as a Function of Energy Deposition	107
3.4.2.1	Effect of the Support on Plasma-Catalytic Oxidation of Methane	107
3.4.2.2	Effect of the Noble Metals on Plasma-Catalytic Oxidation of Methane in the Absence of Water in the Feed	108
3.4.2.3	Influence of Water on the Plasma-Assisted Catalytic Methane Oxidation in CHP Conditions	109
3.4.3	Conclusions	111
3.5	NTP-Assisted Catalytic NO <sub>x</sub> Remediation from Lean Model Exhausts Gases	112
3.5.1	Consumption of Oxygenates and RNO <sub>x</sub> from Plasma during the Reduction of NO <sub>x</sub> According to the Function F3: Plasma-Assisted Propene-deNO <sub>x</sub> in the Presence of Ce <sub>0.68</sub> Zr <sub>0.32</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	112
3.5.1.1	Conversion of NO <sub>x</sub> and Total HC versus Temperature (Light-Off Plot)	112
3.5.1.2	GC/MS Analysis	113
3.5.2	The NTP is Able to Significantly Increase the deNO <sub>x</sub> Activity, Extend the Operating Temperature Window while Decreasing the Reaction Temperature	114
3.5.2.1	TPD of NO for Prediction of the deNO <sub>x</sub> Temperature over Alumina without Plasma	115
3.5.2.2	Coupling of a NTP Reactor with a Catalyst (Alumina) Reactor for Catalytic-Assisted deNO <sub>x</sub>	116

3.5.3	Concept of a "Composite" Catalyst Able to Extend the deNO <sub>x</sub> Operating Temperature Window	117
3.5.4	Propene-deNO <sub>x</sub> on the "Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /// Rh-Pd/Ce <sub>0.68</sub> Zr <sub>0.32</sub> O <sub>2</sub> /// Ag/Ce <sub>0.68</sub> Zr <sub>0.32</sub> O <sub>2</sub> " Composite Catalyst	118
3.5.4.1	NO <sub>x</sub> and C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> Global Conversion versus Temperature	118
3.5.4.2	GC/MS Analysis of Gas Compounds at the Outlet of the Catalyst Reactor	119
3.5.5	NTP Assisted Catalytic deNO <sub>x</sub> Reaction in the Presence of a Multireductant Feed: NO (500 ppm), Decane (1100 ppmC), Toluene (450 ppmC), Propene (400 ppmC), and Propane (150 ppmC), O <sub>2</sub> (8% vol), Ar (Balance)	119
3.5.5.1	Conversion of NO <sub>x</sub> and Global HC versus Temperature	119
3.5.5.2	GC/MS Analysis of Products at the Outlet of Associated Reactors	120
3.6	Conclusions	124
	Acknowledgments	125
	References	125
<b>4</b>	<b>VOC Removal from Air by Plasma-Assisted Catalysis-Experimental Work</b>	<b>131</b>
	<i>Monica Magureanu</i>	
4.1	Introduction	131
4.1.1	Sources of VOC Emission in the Atmosphere	131
4.1.2	Environmental and Health Problems Related to VOCs	132
4.1.3	Techniques for VOC Removal	133
4.1.3.1	Thermal Oxidation	133
4.1.3.2	Catalytic Oxidation	134
4.1.3.3	Photocatalysis	134
4.1.3.4	Adsorption	135
4.1.3.5	Absorption	135
4.1.3.6	Biofiltration	135
4.1.3.7	Condensation	136
4.1.3.8	Membrane Separation	136
4.1.3.9	Plasma and Plasma Catalysis	136
4.2	Plasma-Catalytic Hybrid Systems for VOC Decomposition	137
4.2.1	Nonthermal Plasma Reactors	137
4.2.2	Considerations on Process Selectivity	139
4.2.3	Types of Catalysts	140
4.2.4	Single-Stage Plasma-Catalytic Systems	141
4.2.5	Two-Stage Plasma-Catalytic Systems	141
4.3	VOC Decomposition in Plasma-Catalytic Systems	142
4.3.1	Results Obtained in Single-Stage Plasma-Catalytic Systems	142
4.3.2	Results Obtained in Two-Stage Plasma-Catalytic Systems	150
4.3.3	Effect of VOC Chemical Structure	154
4.3.4	Effect of Experimental Conditions	155
4.3.4.1	Effect of VOC Initial Concentration	155

4.3.4.2	Effect of Humidity	155
4.3.4.3	Effect of Oxygen Partial Pressure	156
4.3.4.4	Effect of Catalyst Loading	157
4.3.5	Combination of Plasma Catalysis and Adsorption	159
4.3.6	Comparison between Catalysis and Plasma Catalysis	160
4.3.7	Comparison between Single-Stage and Two-Stage Plasma Catalysis	161
4.3.8	Reaction By-Products	162
4.3.8.1	Organic By-Products	162
4.3.8.2	Inorganic By-Products	163
4.4	Concluding Remarks	164
	References	165
<b>5</b>	<b>VOC Removal from Air by Plasma-Assisted Catalysis: Mechanisms, Interactions between Plasma and Catalysts</b>	<b>171</b>
	<i>Christophe Leys and Rino Morent</i>	
5.1	Introduction	171
5.2	Influence of the Catalyst in the Plasma Processes	172
5.2.1	Physical Properties of the Discharge	172
5.2.2	Reactive Species Production	174
5.3	Influence of the Plasma on the Catalytic Processes	174
5.3.1	Catalyst Properties	174
5.3.2	Adsorption	175
5.4	Thermal Activation	177
5.5	Plasma-Mediated Activation of Photocatalysts	178
5.6	Plasma-Catalytic Mechanisms	179
	References	180
<b>6</b>	<b>Elementary Chemical and Physical Phenomena in Electrical Discharge Plasma in Gas–Liquid Environments and in Liquids</b>	<b>185</b>
	<i>Bruce R. Locke, Petr Lukes, and Jean-Louis Brisset</i>	
6.1	Introduction	185
6.2	Physical Mechanisms of Generation of Plasma in Gas–Liquid Environments and Liquids	188
6.2.1	Plasma Generation in Gas Phase with Water Vapor	188
6.2.2	Plasma Generation in Gas–Liquid Systems	189
6.2.2.1	Discharge over Water	189
6.2.2.2	Discharge in Bubbles	191
6.2.2.3	Discharge with Droplets and Particles	192
6.2.3	Plasma Generation Directly in Liquids	193
6.3	Formation of Primary Chemical Species by Discharge Plasma in Contact with Water	199
6.3.1	Formation of Chemical Species in Gas Phase with Water Vapor	199
6.3.1.1	Gas-Phase Chemistry with Water Molecules	201

6.3.1.2	Gas-Phase Chemistry with Water Molecules, Ozone, and Nitrogen Species	206
6.3.2	Plasma-Chemical Reactions at Gas–Liquid Interface	210
6.3.3	Plasma Chemistry Induced by Discharge Plasmas in Bubbles and Foams	213
6.3.4	Plasma Chemistry Induced by Discharge Plasmas in Water Spray and Aerosols	215
6.4	Chemical Processes Induced by Discharge Plasma Directly in Water	217
6.4.1	Reaction Mechanisms of Water Dissociation by Discharge Plasma in Water	217
6.4.2	Effect of Solution Properties and Plasma Characteristics on Plasma Chemical Processes in Water	222
6.5	Concluding Remarks	224
	Acknowledgments	224
	References	225
<b>7</b>	<b>Aqueous-Phase Chemistry of Electrical Discharge Plasma in Water and in Gas–Liquid Environments</b>	<b>243</b>
	<i>Petr Lukes, Bruce R. Locke, and Jean-Louis Brisset</i>	
7.1	Introduction	243
7.2	Aqueous-Phase Plasmachemical Reactions	243
7.2.1	Acid–Base Reactions	245
7.2.2	Oxidation Reactions	251
7.2.2.1	Hydroxyl Radical	252
7.2.2.2	Ozone	253
7.2.2.3	Hydrogen Peroxide	254
7.2.2.4	Peroxynitrite	255
7.2.3	Reduction Reactions	256
7.2.3.1	Hydrogen Radical	256
7.2.3.2	Perhydroxyl/Superoxide Radical	257
7.2.4	Photochemical Reactions	257
7.3	Plasmachemical Decontamination of Water	259
7.3.1	Aromatic Hydrocarbons	260
7.3.1.1	Phenol	260
7.3.1.2	Substituted Aromatic Hydrocarbons	263
7.3.1.3	Polycyclic and Heterocyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	265
7.3.2	Organic Dyes	267
7.3.2.1	Azo Dyes	268
7.3.2.2	Carbonyl Dyes	270
7.3.2.3	Aryl Carbonium Ion Dyes	271
7.3.3	Aliphatic Compounds	275
7.3.3.1	Methanol	275
7.3.3.2	Dimethylsulfoxide	277
7.3.3.3	Tetranitromethane	279

7.4	Aqueous-Phase Plasma-Catalytic Processes	279
7.4.1	Iron	280
7.4.1.1	Catalytic Cycle of Iron in Plasmachemical Degradation of Phenol	282
7.4.2	Platinum	284
7.4.2.1	The Role of Platinum as a Catalyst in Fenton's Reaction	285
7.4.3	Tungsten	286
7.4.4	Titanium Dioxide	288
7.4.5	Activated Carbon	290
7.4.6	Silica Gel	291
7.4.7	Zeolites	291
7.5	Concluding Remarks	292
	Acknowledgments	293
	References	293

## **8 Biological Effects of Electrical Discharge Plasma in Water and in Gas–Liquid Environments** 309

*Petr Lukes, Jean-Louis Brisset, and Bruce R. Locke*

8.1	Introduction	309
8.2	Microbial Inactivation by Nonthermal Plasma	310
8.2.1	Dry Gas Plasma	311
8.2.2	Humid Gas Plasma	313
8.2.3	Gas Plasma in Contact with Liquids	313
8.2.3.1	Discharge over Water and Hydrated Surfaces	313
8.2.3.2	Discharge with Water Spray	314
8.2.3.3	Gas Discharge in Bubbles	314
8.2.4	Plasma Directly in Water	314
8.2.5	Kinetics of Microbial Inactivation	315
8.2.5.1	Comments on Sterilization and Viability Tests	316
8.3	Chemical Mechanisms of Electrical Discharge Plasma Interactions with Bacteria in Water	317
8.3.1	Bacterial Structure	319
8.3.2	Reactive Oxygen Species	320
8.3.2.1	Hydroxyl Radical	320
8.3.2.2	Hydrogen Peroxide	321
8.3.3	Reactive Nitrogen Species	324
8.3.3.1	Peroxynitrite	325
8.3.4	Post-discharge Phenomena in Bacterial Inactivation	327
8.4	Physical Mechanisms of Electrical Discharge Plasma Interactions with Living Matter	330
8.4.1	UV Radiation	331
8.4.2	X-Ray Emission	332
8.4.3	Shockwaves	332
8.4.4	Thermal Effects and Electrosurgical Plasmas	334
8.4.5	Electric Field Effects and Bioelectrics	335
8.5	Concluding Remarks	336

Acknowledgments 337

References 337

## 9 Hydrogen and Syngas Production from Hydrocarbons 353

*Moritz Heintze*

9.1 Introduction: Plasma Catalysis 353

9.2 Current State of Hydrogen Production, Applications, and Technical Requirements 354

9.2.1 Steam Reforming: SR 355

9.2.2 Partial Oxidation: POX 356

9.2.3 Dry Carbon Dioxide Reforming: CDR 357

9.2.4 Pyrolysis 357

9.3 Description and Evaluation of the Process 358

9.3.1 Materials Balance: Conversion, Yield, and Selectivity 358

9.3.2 Energy Balance: Energy Requirement and Efficiency 359

9.4 Plasma-Assisted Reforming 360

9.4.1 Steam Reforming 360

9.4.1.1 Conversion of Methane 360

9.4.1.2 Conversion of Higher Hydrocarbons 362

9.4.1.3 Conversion of Oxygenates 363

9.4.2 Partial Oxidation 365

9.4.2.1 Conversion of Methane 365

9.4.2.2 Conversion of Higher Hydrocarbons 367

9.4.3 Carbon Dioxide Dry Reforming 369

9.4.3.1 Reforming of Methane to Syngas 369

9.4.3.2 Coupling to Higher Hydrocarbons 372

9.4.3.3 Reforming of Higher Hydrocarbons 372

9.4.4 Plasma Pyrolysis 373

9.4.4.1 Methane Pyrolysis to Hydrogen and Carbon 373

9.4.4.2 Production of Acetylene 374

9.4.4.3 Pyrolysis of Oxygenates 377

9.4.5 Combined Processes 377

9.4.5.1 Autothermal Reforming of Methane 378

9.4.5.2 Autothermal Reforming of Liquid Fuels 378

9.4.5.3 Reforming with Carbon Dioxide and Oxygen 381

9.4.5.4 Reforming with Carbon Dioxide and Steam 381

9.4.5.5 Other Feedstock 381

9.5 Summary of the Results and Outlook 382

References 384

**Index** 393