

OZONE GENERATION USING PULSE POWER SOURCE WITH LIGHTNING
WAVEFORM

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Special for:

My beloved parents

Othman bin Abu Bakar

Timah binti Muhamad

also to my siblings

Hazila

Zulkifli

Hazlina

Mohd Shahril

Nurain

*Dedicated, in thankful appreciation for support, encouragement and understandings
to my supervisor*

Assoc. Prof. Dr Zolkafle bin Buntat

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ABSTRACT

Recently, interest in production of ozone has grown rapidly in wide range of applications especially in industrial sector including oxidation, sterilization, bleaching processes and others. In nature, ozone is formed by the sun's ultraviolet rays and high energy electrical discharges during lightning storms. It is said that in each lightning strike, hundreds of tons of ozone had been generated in the atmosphere. Therefore, in this study experimental setup has been conducted to explore the potential possess by the lightning phenomena in generating huge amount of ozone in a repetitive strike. Lightning waveshape (1.2/50 μ s) has been developed by single stage impulse voltage generator. This pulse is then applied through the reactor to produce the ozone. As a results, ozone does not form because ozone requires very fast pulse duration. So, the first study of ozone generation with lightning waveform in microsecond is not sufficient to produce ozone unless very high voltage is required. In addition, the parameter of the air flow rate and peak input voltage give effects on ozone concentration.

ABSTRAK

Baru-baru ini, faedah dalam pengeluaran ozon berkembang pesat dalam pelbagai aplikasi terutamanya dalam sektor perindustrian termasuk pengoksidaan, pensterilan, proses pelunturan dan lain-lain. Secara semula jadi, ozon terbentuk oleh sinar ultraungu dari matahari dan pelepasan tenaga elektrik yang tinggi oleh semasa ribut kilat. Dikatakan bahawa dalam setiap panahan kilat, beratus-ratus tan ozon telah dijana dalam atmosfera. Oleh itu, dalam kajian ini eksperimen telah dijalankan untuk menentukan potensi fenomena kilat dalam menjana sejumlah besar ozon dalam panahan kilat yang berulang kali. Bentuk graf kilat (1.2/50 μ s) telah dibangunkan oleh satu peringkat voltan penjana dedenyut. Kemudian, dedenyut ini telah digunakan melalui reaktor untuk menghasilkan ozon. Daripada keputusan, ozon tidak membentuk. Ini adalah disebabkan oleh ozon memerlukan tempoh masa denyutan yang cepat seperti dalam kajian yang terdahulu. Kajian telah mengenal pasti bahawa gelombang kilat dalam mikrosekon tidak mencukupi untuk menghasilkan ozon melainkan voltan yang sangat tinggi diperlukan. Di samping itu, parameter kadar aliran udara dan puncak input voltan telah dikenal pasti memberi kesan kepada kepekatan ozon.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DBD	-	dielectric barrier discharge
PSD	-	pulse streamer discharge
HV	-	high voltage
UV	-	ultraviolet

LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	-	ampere
AC	-	alternating current
C	-	capacitor
cm/s	-	centimeter per second
DC	-	direct current
g/kWh	-	gram per kilowatt hour
kA	-	kiloamps
kA/ μ s	-	kiloamps per microsecond
kV	-	kilovolt
kV/cm	-	kilovolt per centimeter
k Ω	-	kilo ohms
l/min	-	litre per minute
mg/L	-	milligram per litre
mm	-	millimeter
nm	-	nanometer
NO _x	-	nitrogen oxide
ns	-	nanoseconds
O	-	oxygen atom
O ₂	-	oxygen molecules
O ₃	-	ozone
pF	-	picofarad
ppm	-	parts per million
ppmv	-	volume per parts per million
pps	-	pulse repetition rate or pulse per second
R	-	resistor
rpm	-	revolutions per minute
TiO ₂	-	titanium oxide

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Industrial applications of ozone have widened in different areas including sterilization, deodorization, decolorization, bleaching and others. Ozone is currently being used as an alternative method for treatment of industrial wastes, chlorination of potable water, processing semiconductor devices and chemical synthesis. Besides that, use of ozone produces less energy consumption compared to chlorination process [1]. Thus, the necessity for ozone generation has increased the resulting surge in demand at the rate of grams per kilowatt hour (g/kWh) and at the same time, many volume per parts per million (ppmv) of ozone concentrations are produced. So, extensive research on a number of different experimental configurations and discharge techniques has been done recently to fulfill these demands [2].

Ozone is produced by electrical discharge that occurs when high electric field exists between two conductors that are separated by dielectric and a discharge gap with a gas contained oxygen passing through them. This high electric field causes electron flow through the discharge gap to provide energy dissociates oxygen molecules and tends to form ozone. Nevertheless, ozone cannot be shipped or stored in gaseous form due to its short lifetime. Ozone must be generated where it is required [1-2, 8].

Many techniques have been introduced by researchers to enhance the performance of ozone generator. The conventional methods to produce ozone are based on AC dielectric barrier discharges in a coaxial arrangement with at least one of the electrodes being insulated from gas by a glass dielectric barrier [3]. In addition, the silent electric discharge has been commonly used for many years to generate ozone and for other chemical processes. In the process of generation of ozone, presence of dielectric on one or both sides of electrodes is to control and maintain the electrical discharge as well as to distribute uniformly micro-discharges that appear over the entire electrode area [2-3]. Apart from silent electric discharge, pulsed streamer discharge [4], atmospheric pressure glow discharge [2], corona discharge and surface discharge techniques have been proposed for ozone generation.

Another promising techniques to generate ozone is using pulsed power as a power source for discharge reactor. Its short duration signal allows higher voltage to be applied to discharge area in creating higher fields for wider ionization process. It lengthens the time for complete breakdown voltage to occur and maintain the gas at ambient temperature thus avoid the use of expensive cooling system. This advantages help in increasing collision process between electron and oxygen atoms thereby increase the ozone production. Moreover, high voltage short-pulse power is very effective in applications for plasma synthesis. During short duration of pulse, the temperature of the ions and neutral gas does not increase much above the ambient temperature [5].

Basically in nature, ozone is formed by the sun's ultraviolet rays (UV) and the high energy electrical discharges that happen during lightning storms. It is said that in each lightning strike, hundreds of tons of ozone had been generated in the atmosphere as in Appendix 1. Therefore, it is the aim of this research to explore the potential possess by the lightning phenomena in generating huge amount of ozone in a repetitive strike.

Hence, in this study, the pulse power source with lightning waveform (1.2/50 μ s) has to be developed as the pulse power waveform. The small ozone chamber that acts as a medium to generate ozone also has to be designed. Then, an experiment is

conducted to generate ozone by using lightning waveform in term of peak pulse voltage value and pulse duration with fixed pulse repetition rate (pps). The effect of reactor parameter dimension to ozone concentration will also be presented.

1.2 Problem Statement

For conventional methods, the major limitation in the production of ozone is related to the low efficiency of the process which makes ozone expensive. At present, the energy yield that has been determined in previous research ranges between 60 and 120 g/kWh from dry air and 200 – 274 g/kWh from pure oxygen gas [3, 6]. Since the theoretical limit of energy yield is about 1220 g/kWh in oxygen and about 400 g/kWh in pure air, almost 90% of the energy is lost as heat. From this percentage, it is obvious that the usage of electrical energy has been wasted.

Consequently, development pulsed power as a power source for discharge reactor is implemented to generate ozone. Pulsed power source has short duration signal that permits higher voltage to be applied to discharge area and creates higher fields for wider ionization process. Furthermore, the time for complete breakdown voltage is longer and the gas at ambient temperature is maintained by using pulsed power source.

On the other hand, this technique can avoid the usage of expensive cooling system. This advantages help in increasing collision process between electron and oxygen atoms hence increasing the ozone production. There are various types of pulsed power source that have been created to form ozone. For example, in 1996 as stated in [7], the researchers started to create ozone by using pulsed corona ozone generation. From the results, pulsed corona gives higher efficiency compared to DC corona. Then, the development of magnetic pulse compressor (MPC) has been constructed in [8]. It produced the pulse square voltage that acts as an input which is applied into the discharge chamber.

There are two main principles to generate ozone in nature which are by the sun's ultraviolet rays and the high energy electrical discharges that occurs during lightning storms. It is said that in each lightning strike, hundreds of tons of ozone had is generated in the atmosphere. On 30th October 2009, Science Daily reported that more than 1.2 billion lightning flashes occur around the world every year. It is discovered from the satellite installed and each of those billion lightning flashes produces a puff of nitrogen oxide gas (NO_x) that reacts with sunlight and other gases in the atmosphere to produce ozone. It means that hundreds tons of ozone are produced by lightning. Therefore, it is the aim of this work to explore the potential possess by the lightning phenomena to generate huge amount of ozone in repetitive strike in a laboratory.

1.3 Objectives

There are four objectives of the project as stated below:

- 1) To develop lightning waveshape (1.2/50 μ s) as a pulse power waveform
- 2) To develop small ozone chamber to generate ozone
- 3) To identify the effect of pulsed power source using lightning waveform
- 4) To study the comparison between AC source and lightning waveform source on the ozone concentration

1.4 Scopes of the Project

In this project, there are only two scopes will be considered in order to achieve the objectives. The scopes of the project are as the following:

- i. Development of lightning waveform (1.2/50 μ s) from single stage impulse voltage generator

ii. Experimental setup

Experiment is conducted by combination of single stage impulse generator with discharge chamber to generate the ozone. The concentration of ozone will be measured through ozone monitor and will be discussed in Chapter 3.

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