

CONTENTS

	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	I
ABSTRACT	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
CONTENTS	IV
CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 : The vacuum spark	1
1.2 : Hot spot formation in a vacuum spark discharge	3
1.3 : The outline of this thesis	5
CHAPTER 2 : THE VACUUM SPARK SYSTEM (UMVS)	7
2.1 : Trigger system	7
2.2 : The experimental setup	11
CHAPTER 3 : DIAGNOSTICS AND INSTRUMENTATION	15
3.1 : Measurement of the dI/dt signal	15
3.2 : PIN diode as an x-ray detector	16
3.3 : Soft x-ray detector	21
3.4 : X-ray imaging	24
3.4.1 : X-ray pinhole camera	24
3.4.2 : X-ray slit-wire camera	28
3.5 : Convex crystal x-ray spectrometer	32
3.6 : X-ray transmission	35

3.7 : Plasma x-ray emission	37
CHAPTER 4 : QUALITATIVE STUDY ON THE DISCHARGE CHARACTERISTICS OF UMVS	44
4.1 : Characteristics of each setup	46
4.2 : Characteristics of various cathode aperture with same A-C gap	50
4.3 : Characteristics of various A-C gap with same cathode aperture	54
4.4 : Discussion and summary	58
CHAPTER 5 : STUDY OF THE PLASMA X-RAY EMISSION	62
5.1 : Determination of plasma parameters	62
5.1.1 : Determination of electron temperature using the two-foil absorption method	62
5.1.2 : Estimation of electron density	67
5.1.3 : Calculation of emission spectrum and the total energy emitted	69
5.2 : The steady-state corona model	70
5.3 : X-ray emission from the vacuum spark discharge	73
5.4 : Estimation of hot spot diameter and electron density	85
5.5 : Calculated emission power and energy	90
5.6 : Spectral analysis of the discharge	91
CHAPTER 6 : DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	94
6.1 : Discussion	94
6.2 : Conclusion	97
6.3 : Suggestions for future work	98
REFERENCES	101