STRUCTURE OF MICROPLASMA DISCHARGE ON THE SURFACE OF TITANIUM [[1]](#footnote-1)\*)

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It is known that a dense plasma flow in vacuum can initiate microplasma discharges (MPDs) on the surface of metals coated with a dielectric film [1]. These discharges arise as a result of an electric discharge (breakdown) between the outer surface of the film charged in the plasma flow and the clean metal surface [2].

In this work, we studied the spatial structure of visible light from a single microplasma discharge (MPD), and also studied a micro-structure erosion of the titanium surface as a result of the excitation of a single microplasma discharge with a duration of 100 μs. This discharge was initiated on the titanium surface by a single pulsed plasma flow (pulse duration 25 μs, electron temperature 10 eV, plasma density 1012 cm–3) and was powered by a pulsed current source (400 A, 100 μs) in vacuum at a residual air pressure of 1 Pa.

A titanium sample was a grinded plate with dimensions of 2×2 cm2, and a thickness of 0.6 mm. It was previously degreased in hexane and ethanol. Wherein, a titanium dioxide dielectric film with a thickness of about 10 nm is naturally formed on the surface of titanium in air atmosphere. After that, a titanium sample was placed in a vacuum chamber at a distance of about 2.5 cm from the plasma injector.

The spatial structure of visible light emitted by a single microplasma discharge on the titanium surface was registered using a digital camera (Fig. 1). The micro-structure erosion formed on the titanium surface (processed by a single microplasma discharge with a duration of 100 μs) was studied using a scanning electron microscope (Fig. 2).

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|  |  | Fig. 1. Integrated photograph of a single microplasma discharge with high spatial resolution. The size of the discharge region is 1 cm horizontally and 1.4 cm vertically.  Fig. 2. Micro-photograph of surface erosion on titanium as a result of the excitation of a single microplasma discharge. The horizontal and vertical sizes are 46 microns. |
| Fig. 1 | Fig. 2 |  |

It was found, that the spatial structure of visible light of microplasma discharge on titanium is a collection of brightly luminous local points. Wherein, micro-structure erosion of titanium surface is a system of single craters (with characteristic size of 0.3 – 3 microns), located at brightly luminous local points. The average velocity of the discharge propagation over the titanium surface is 100 m/s.

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References

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1. \*) [abstracts of this report in Russian](http://www.fpl.gpi.ru/Zvenigorod/XLVII/Pt/ru/HA-Ivanov.docx) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)