

# Study on Frequency Response of DBD Load

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**Abstract –** The phase relation plot of the frequency response curves of DBD load as a function of angular frequency having the same  $C_d$  and  $C_g$  but different values of  $R$  is shown in figure 2. The results are shown for four values of  $R = (0, 10k, 100k \text{ and } 2M \text{ ohm})$ . From the phase plot of frequency response, it is evident that the equivalent reactance of the plasma reactor is negative indicating that the reactive part is due to capacitance. It implies that the DBD load is capacitive as seen from the secondary of high voltage transformer irrespective of frequency of operation and resistance  $R$  of the DBD load. However, as  $R$  is varied over a range from  $R=0$  to  $2M \Omega$  a peak in phase curve is obtained, implying that there is a slight change in the capacitive nature of the load. Further, as  $R$  is increased the peak of this band shifts to a lower frequency. The DBD load has an equivalent circuit comprising a capacitor  $C_d$  of the dielectric barrier connected in series with a capacitor  $C_g$  of the gas gap, connected across the secondary winding of high voltage transformer and has a conducted path represented by  $R$ , when DBD discharge occurs

**Key Words:** Reactance, frequency, response, capacitive

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## INTRODUCTION

US optical sources have been used in several areas including surface modification, material deposition/coating of metals, dielectrics (high and low dielectric constant materials), and semi conducting layers, hardening of paints, lacquers, and adhesives, for printing and lamination, in automotive and equipment engineering. The phase relation plot of the frequency response curves of DBD load as a function of angular frequency having the same  $C_d$  and  $C_g$  but different values of  $R$  is shown in figure 2. The results are shown for four values of  $R = (0, 10k, 100k \text{ and } 2M \text{ ohm})$ . From the phase plot of frequency response, it is evident that the equivalent reactance of the plasma reactor is negative indicating that the reactive part is due to capacitance. It implies that the DBD load is capacitive as seen from the secondary of high voltage transformer irrespective of frequency of operation and resistance  $R$  of the DBD load. However, as  $R$  is varied over a range from  $R=0$  to  $2M \Omega$  a peak in phase curve is obtained, implying that there is a slight change in the

capacitive nature of the load. Further, as  $R$  is increased the peak of this band shifts to a lower frequency. As it is now evident from the frequency response curves, whether the DBD is operated at low frequencies near about several kHz or at high frequency (near about rf) the DBD load always remains mainly capacitive.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

UV radiation sources also have a potential impact on textile and polymer technology [Ersom *et al.*, 1992; Mehnert *et al.*, 2002] where they are used in surface treatment, e.g. surface modification of polymers, dry etching of polymers, synthesis of hydrophilic polymers to increase adhesion between metal and polymer, surface cleaning and surface etching including three-dimensional applications, and textile finishing. Furthermore, they are used in several photon initiated scientific and industrial applications [Lomaev *et al.*, 2006a] such as in the field of photo-chemistry, e.g. for photo-chlorination, photo-sulpho-oxidation, photo-nitrosylation, photo-oxidation, photo mineralization, actinometry etc., in photo-medicine, such as for the treatment of skin conditions, tanning etc., in

photobiology for photo inactivation, photo regulation and photo destruction.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

The frequency characteristic estimation of DBD excimer gas discharge load is typically carried out using the equivalent circuit model shown in figure 1. The DBD load has an equivalent circuit comprising a capacitor  $C_d$  of the dielectric barrier connected in series with a capacitor  $C_g$  of the gas gap, connected across the secondary winding of high voltage transformer and has a conducted path represented by  $R$ , when DBD discharge occurs.

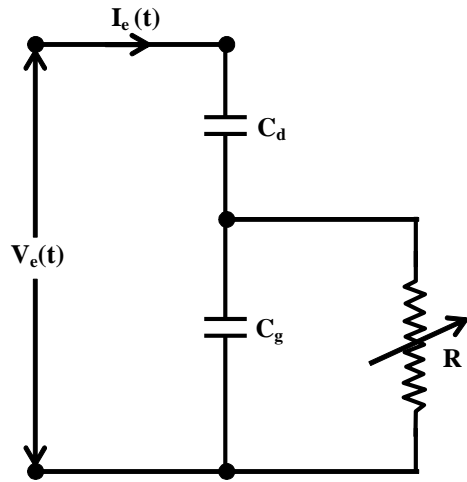


Figure 1 DBD excimer load equivalent circuit

From figure 1., the equivalent combination of  $R \parallel \frac{1}{sC_g}$  can be written as:

$$Z_p(s) = \frac{R}{1 + sRC_g}$$

The equivalent impedance of the circuit shown in figure 1 is

$$Z_e(s) = \frac{1}{sC_d} + \frac{R}{1 + sRC_g}$$

given as:

$$Z_e(s) = \frac{1 + sR(C_d + C_g)}{sC_d(1 + sRC_g)} = \frac{1 + sR(C_d + C_g)}{(s^2 RC_d C_g + sC_d)} \quad (1)$$

The frequency response of equation (1) is given as:

$$Z_e(j\omega) = \frac{1 + j\omega R(C_d + C_g)}{j\omega C_d(1 + j\omega RC_g)} \quad (5.2)$$

The magnitude  $|Z_e(j\omega)|$  and phase angle  $\varphi_z(j\omega)$  of equation (2) for  $\omega > 0$  are:

$$|Z_e(j\omega)| = \frac{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 R^2 (C_d + C_g)^2}}{\sqrt{\omega^2 C_d^2} \sqrt{1 + \omega^2 R^2 C_g^2}} \quad (3)$$

$$\varphi_z(j\omega) = -90^\circ - \tan^{-1}(\omega RC_g) + \tan^{-1}(\omega R(C_d + C_g)) \quad (4)$$

The voltage gain of the DBD load is given as:

$$V(s) = \frac{V_g(s)}{V_e(s)} = \frac{sRC_d}{1 + sR(C_d + C_g)} \quad (5)$$

The magnitude  $|V(j\omega)|$  and phase angle  $\varphi_v(j\omega)$  of equation (5) for  $\omega > 0$  are:

$$|V(j\omega)| = \frac{\sqrt{\omega^2 R^2 C_d^2}}{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 R^2 (C_d + C_g)^2}} \quad (6)$$

$$\varphi_v(j\omega) = 90^\circ - \tan^{-1}(\omega R(C_d + C_g)) \quad (7)$$

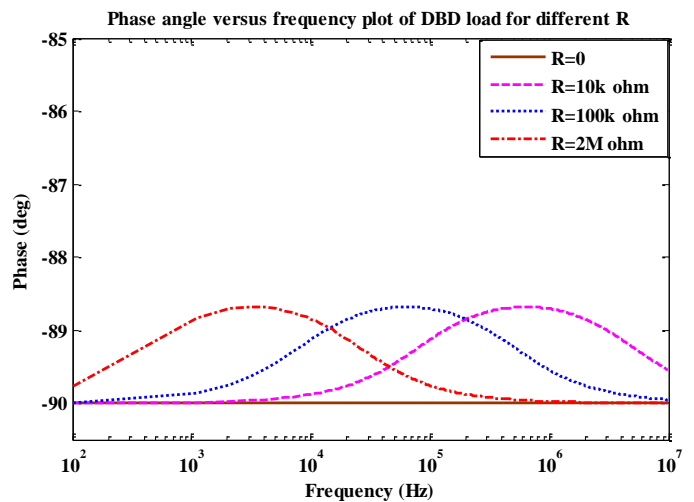


Figure 2 Phase angle versus frequency plot of DBD load for different  $R$

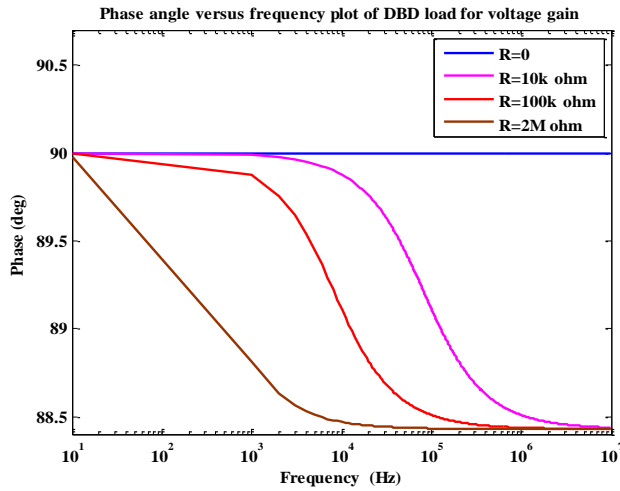


Figure 3 Phase angle versus frequency plot of DBD for voltage gain

Therefore, in order to drive the DBD over a wide frequency range, it is necessary to achieve impedance matching of the DBD load. The phase curve of frequency response of voltage gain is depicted in figure 3.

#### Simplified Model of DBD

In order to carry out the high frequency modeling of DBD load, the non-linear model of DBD discussed earlier is transformed into a simplified linear model. This has also been done for a [Haverkamp *et al.*, 2002; Alonso *et al.*, 2003; Alonso *et al.*, 2004] non-linear model of silent discharge ozonator which was transformed into a simplified linear model, which is quite simple and is useful for the design of several technological applications of DBD at higher frequency. The simplified model follows from the

previous model that the two capacitors  $C_d$  and  $C_g$  can be integrated into a single capacitor  $C_e$  and the plasma be modeled as linear resistor. This simplified model consists of equivalent capacitance  $C_e$  and equivalent resistance  $R_e$  in parallel. In fact, more complicated plasma circuit models present in the literature [Wang *et al.*, 1999; Koudriavtsev *et al.*, 2000; Francke *et al.*, 2003] can also be actually transformed into the simplified model by circuit analysis technique as shown in figure 5.4. The equivalent capacitance of plasma reactor  $C_e$  and equivalent resistance  $R_e$  parameters of this linear model can be easily obtained from the Lissajous figures of voltage-current and voltage-charge characteristic of the DBD reactor.

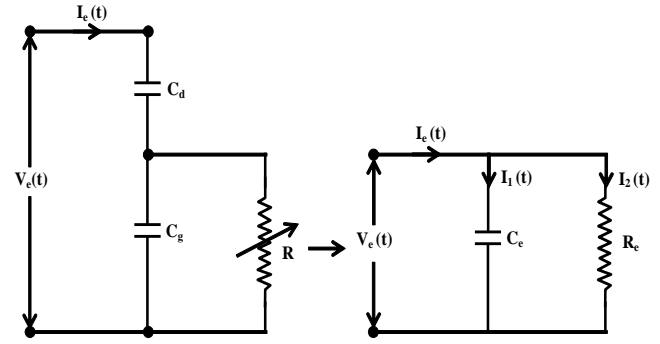


Figure 4 Transformation of nonlinear model

From figure 4, according to Kirchhoff's current law, the total external current,  $I_e(t)$ , is simply given as sum of  $I_1(t)$  and  $I_2(t)$ , as follows:

$$I_e(t) = I_1(t) + I_2(t)$$

Assuming the typical voltage applied to drive DBD reactor at high frequency to be a pure sinusoidal wave of amplitude  $V_s$  angular frequency  $\omega$  is given as:

$$V_e(t) = V_s \sin \omega t$$

The total current  $I_e(t)$ , in simplified electrical model can be written as:

$$I_e(t) = C_e \frac{dV_e(t)}{dt} + \frac{V_e(t)}{R_e} \quad (5.8)$$

where  $I_1(t)$  and  $I_2(t)$  are the current flowing through equivalent  $C_e$  and  $R_e$  respectively.

$$I_e(t) = \frac{V_s}{X_e} \cos \omega t + \frac{V_s}{R_e} \sin \omega t \quad (5.9)$$

$$I_e(t) = \frac{V_s}{Z_e} \sin(\omega t + \varphi_e)$$

$$\text{where } X_e = \frac{1}{\omega C_e}, \quad Z_e = \sqrt{(R_e^2 + X_e^2)} \quad \text{and}$$

$$\varphi_e = \tan^{-1} \frac{X_e}{R_e}$$

From equation (5.8) and (5.9), the time variable can be cancelled and equation (5.9) can be rewritten as:

$$I_e(t) = \frac{V_e(t)}{R_e} + \frac{1}{X_e} \sqrt{(V_s^2 - V_e^2(t))} \quad (5.10)$$

On putting  $V_e(t) = 0$  in equation (5.10), the corresponding value of current  $I_0$  can be calculated as follows:

$$I_0 = \frac{V_s}{X_e}$$

Corresponding to equation (5.10), Lissajous figure can be obtained, therefore by measuring the value of  $I_0$  from the Lissajous figure of the discharge cell, the equivalent parallel capacitance can be calculated using the expression:

$$C_e = \frac{I_0}{\omega V_s} = \frac{I_0}{2\pi f V_s} \quad (5.11)$$

Also, from equation (5.8), the relationship between current and charge is given as:

$$I_e(t) = \frac{dq}{dt}$$

On integrating equation (5.8), charge in the DBD cell is given as:

$$q = C_e V_e(t) + \frac{1}{R_e} \int V_e(t) dt \quad (5.12)$$

For the typical case of a sinusoidal supply voltage across the excimer tube given by (5.12), the charge in the DBD cell is given as:

$$q = C_e V_s \sin \omega t - C_R V_s \cos \omega t = C_E V_s \sin(\omega t - \varphi) \quad (5.13)$$

where,  $C_R = \frac{1}{\omega R_e}$ ,  $C_E = \sqrt{(C_e^2 + C_R^2)}$ , and

$$\varphi = \tan^{-1} \frac{C_R}{C_e}$$

From equation (5.13) the time varying variables can be cancelled and correspondingly charge  $q$  is given as follows:

$$q = C_e V_e(t) + C_R \sqrt{(V_s^2 - V_e^2(t))} \quad (5.14)$$

On putting  $V_e(t) = 0$  in the equation (5.14), correspondingly  $q_0$  is given as:

$$q_0 = C_R V_s \quad (5.15)$$

The charge  $q_0$  corresponding to equation (5.15) is obtained from the Q-V Lissajous diagram of DBD. Thus, the equivalent parallel resistance  $R_e$  of excimer tube is given as follows:

$$R_e = \frac{V_s}{\omega q_0} = \frac{V_s}{2\pi f q_0} \quad (5.16)$$

By solving the system of equations given by equations (5.8) to (5.16), the equivalent network parameters  $C_e$  and  $R_e$  of the simplified model can be obtained. The equivalent impedance of the simplified linear model shown in figure 5.4 is given as:

$$Z_s(s) = \frac{R_e}{1 + s R_e C_e} \quad (5.17)$$

The frequency response function of equation (5.17) is given as:

$$Z_s(j\omega) = \frac{R_e}{1 + j\omega R_e C_e}$$

The magnitude  $|Z_e(j\omega)|$  and phase angle  $\varphi(j\omega)$ , for  $\omega > 0$  are:

$$|Z_s(j\omega)| = \frac{R_e}{\sqrt{1 + \omega^2 R_e^2 C_e^2}} \quad (5.18)$$

$$\varphi(j\omega) = -\tan^{-1} \omega R_e C_e \quad (5.19)$$

## Conclusion

As  $\omega$  is varied from minimum ( $\omega \rightarrow 0$ ) to maximum ( $\omega \rightarrow \infty$ ), the corresponding variation in phase angle occurs from 0 to  $90^\circ$ , it implies that the DBD load is capacitive at higher frequency and needs impedance matching to operate at higher frequency. It is mathematically much simpler to set up a relation between applied voltages driving the DBD cell and equivalent circuit parameters of this linear model. The simplified model avoids non-linear condition of the discharge and is therefore intended to serve the purpose of estimation of load matching conditions of DBD load. Although this simplified model does not explain the physical working of the discharge reactor, but it is highly advantageous in several design objectives such as in impedance matching of the DBD reactor.

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