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Article High Pulsed Voltage Alkaline Electrolysis for Water Splitting ‡

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Abstract: This paper considers the development of high efficiency plasma electrolysis using extremely short pulses of high voltage. The paper also considers the dynamic characteristics of this new type of water splitting for hydrogen production. Voltage pulses with a width of a few nanoseconds are used in the formation of a double layer of H_2O molecules. This double layer forms at the interface between the electrode and the electrolyte with a related capacitive effect with a capacitance which can be calculated from the geometry of the electrolysis cell. This chemical capacitance can be controlled by changing the electrical characteristics of the supply, the electrode separation and the density of the electrolyte. This chemical capacitance can be used to understand the mechanisms present in the water splitting process under these short voltage pulse conditions.

Keywords:Alkaline-Electrolysis;Capacitance;Cell;Chemical;Electrolyte;Frequency;Geometry;Ionic;Pulse;High-Voltage.11

1. Introduction

The predominant technology used at an industrial level in the decomposition of the 13 water molecule to produce hydrogen by electrolysis is based on the application of large 14 amounts of currents with low amplitude to an electrolyte composed of water with additives, 15 a method called alkaline electrolysis. To obtain greater power, it is necessary to increase 16 the size of the generating device, raising its cost. This is the main reason why hydrogen 17 production is restricted to industrial processes. In order to make hydrogen production 18 more accessible, it is necessary to make the process compatible with limited energy sources, 19 such as a residential solar microgrid [1], [2] or a car alternator [3], [4], as well as cheaper 20 equipment. 21

To optimize gas generation, the development of contemporary methods that have 22 evolved from conventional DC electrolysis is sought, new technologies allow the imple-23 mentation of advanced power sources. The pulsed power is shown as a promising variant 24 that requires revision. This has been widely studied in the electrolysis process, obtaining 25 improvements in the efficiency of the process and in parallel in the formation of plasma 26 [5], granting greater control in the reaction chemistry by modulating the frequency and 27 duration of the applied pulses. The study of pulsed power has grown in recent decades 28 thanks to exponential improvements in solid-state switches, allowing full control over 29 pulse characteristics, replacing older switching technologies [6]. These increasingly smaller 30 semiconductors allow their implementation in smaller circuits and at lower cost, increasing 31 the power density in relation to previous applications. 32

High voltage discharges are also introduced [7]. These generate an electric field that is capable of breaking the conductivity limit in different fluid media. When this limit

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is exceeded, an electric arc is produced where the charges find a medium that offers conduction with less resistance. This, in addition to being used in plasma generators, has possible applications in purification and decontamination of water or air, depending on the medium where the electric discharge is produced [8], [9]. In experiments with plasma electrolysis [10], significant increases in gas production efficiency have been achieved that require revision.

Next, a practical approach is made on the molecular dynamics of water under the application of pulsed voltage, seeking to break its conductivity limit for the formation of plasmolysis. First, the theory and current development of the technologies used are reviewed, then a system for monitoring the process is designed and built, together with a subsequent start-up, to finish with an analysis of the results. This work is based on the intention of reducing energy and implementation costs in hydrogen production, in order to bring it closer to communities as an accessible fuel alternative.

2. State of the Art

2.1. Electrolysis

Faraday's first law of electrolysis postulates that the amount of gas produced in the reaction is directly proportional to the current applied to the electrolyte, in this case the current is applied to water. Equation (1) relates the mass of the produced substance m, to the total charge circulated by the electrolyte Q, the molar mass of the substance M, the Faraday constant F and the valence number of the substance as an ion in the solution z.

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$$n = \frac{Q}{F} \frac{M}{z}.$$
 (1)

The electrolyte container next to the electrodes is called an electrolysis cell (Fig. 1), there are two electrodes, an anode and a cathode connected to the DC power supply in its most basic configuration. Oxygen is generated on the surface of the anode while hydrogen is generated on the surface of the cathode. For the specific physical situation under study, when the electrolyte to which an electric current is applied is water, the decomposition voltage is 1.23V at room temperature (reversible voltage), an overvoltage of approximately 0.4V must also be applied depending on the material of the electrodes, among other factors [11].

With this, the necessary voltage for the decomposition by electrolysis of water, starts 63 around 1.63V (thermo-neutral voltage [12]). To obtain a higher production of hydrogen, 64 under this law, it is necessary to increase the amount of current applied to the electrolysis 65 cell. If the voltage is increased for this purpose, there is a limit related to energy efficiency, 66 caused by the double capacitive layer effect of water, in addition to the ohmic losses [13], 67 [14], [15]. If a voltage higher than the reversible voltage is applied, the additional power 68 will be dissipated as heat because of the internal resistances of the cell. The reversible 69 voltage refers to the voltage obtained in the reverse process, when electricity is obtained 70 from the union of hydrogen and oxygen molecules, therefore it is the energy used entirely 71 in the hydrogen production process and that is not wasted as heat. Knowing this principle, 72 electrolysis cells currently used in industry use continuous voltages that do not exceed 73 2V per cell, to avoid a significant reduction in efficiency [11]. To regulate the amount of 74 current circulating through the electrolyte, it is possible to modify the conductivity of the 75 water by incorporating additives in the electrolyte solution, alkaline compounds such as 76 sodium hydroxide (NaOH) or potassium hydroxide (KOH), among others [10], of which 77 the second has had a greater use to show better results. Thus, it is possible to increase the 78 power and production of hydrogen avoiding exceeding the established tensions. 79

2.2. Pulsed Electrolysis

At the instant that the voltage between the electrodes is applied, an internal movement begins in the molecules of the electrolyte, the polar molecules of the water are positioned in such a way that their electromagnetic orientations are ordered following the electric field

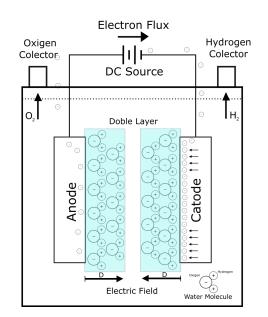


Figure 1. Electrolysis cell and formation of the double layer proportional to the electric field.

between electrodes. Before decomposing, the hydrogen atoms of the molecule approach 84 the cathode and the oxygen atoms are located at the other end of the molecule, the same 85 happens on the surface of the anode, only in the reverse situation. This effect is called double layer [13], [16], behavior that gives capacitor qualities to the electrolyzer. When this 87 double layer is formed, the electrons coming from the source are limited in their passage 88 to the electrolyte by the opposite charges present in the molecules, these are ordered causing an electric charge barrier proportional to the voltage applied on the surface of the 90 electrode. Applying high voltages to the electrodes causes a greater internal resistance of 91 the electrolyte, which explains the decrease in efficiency mentioned above. 92

This particular behavior of water takes a few milliseconds to form completely, for this 93 reason, if instead of a DC power source, the voltage is applied pulsed and with a pulse 94 width of the shortest possible duration with the available semiconductors [5], [17], it is possible to obtain improvements in efficiency. With pulses of electricity in the order of 96 nanoseconds, the current is applied to the cell in such a way that molecular formation is 97 avoided that prevents the free flow of electrons, for an instant of time these are able to 98 circulate through the electrolyte without the opposition of the double layer. The electrons are injected into the electrolyte and it is "charged" with chemically stored energy that is 100 used in the decomposition of water in the time after the pulse. The capacitive behavior of 101 the cell, against a pulsed voltage with specific frequency, can be modeled as an equivalent 102 circuit RC [13], where it is possible to find a natural frequency for the system [18], at this 103 frequency there are reductions in the current of the system, maximizing the output or 104 production of gas with respect to the power input, resulting in efficiency improvements. 105

The application of pulsed power has had several appearances in research on hydrogen 106 generators, some improvements in energy efficiency of the electrolysis process have been 107 witnessed, in addition to some behaviors that had gone unnoticed in electrolysis cells 108 powered by DC power. An investigation was based on an inductive pulse generator circuit 109 to supply the power to an electrolysis cell [19], with this circuit it was proven that it is 110 possible to increase the voltage of the source without reducing its efficiency, or resistive 111 losses, which directly increases the energy density of the device. In another work with 112 pulsed electrolysis [20], conclusions were obtained about the influence of the alkalinity of 113 the electrolyte, depending on this, with a supply voltage of 1V it is possible to have pulses 114 of hundreds of volts between the electrodes, the peak value of this pulse increases as the 115 conductivity of the electrolyte decreases. With a lower resistance, the power is reflected in a higher current instead of a high voltage. Also, it was seen that for pulses with a duration 117 of less than $1\mu s$, the cell behaves like a high capacitance capacitor, where the charging and discharging behavior turns out to be dependent on the conductivity of water.

2.3. High Voltage Electrolysis

The application of high voltage to the electrolysis cell is an area that is little studied, 121 although it is possible to find some authors who have worked on the topic [10], [21], 122 [22]. In the aforementioned situation a continuous voltage of 200V DC was applied to an 123 electrolyzer, with this there was an increase in temperature that made the liquid boil in 124 the vicinity of the reaction, together with an increase in the production of hydrogen and 125 oxygen it was possible to saturate the medium with gas, after a point, When the excitation 126 of the charges reaches a sufficient energy to jump to the gaseous medium formed, a plasma 127 discharge occurs, because of this the current decreases drastically without making it so the 128 production of gas. The temperature of the electrolyzer stabilizes around 90°C, entering the 129 denomination of cold plasma. This considering the average temperature of the electrolyte, 130 however, the formation of plasma brings with it the generation of high temperatures at 131 the site of the reaction, in this way, efficiency characteristics of high temperature steam 132 electrolysis can be obtained (High Temperature Steam Electrolysis [12]), which exceed the 133 efficiency of low temperature alkaline electrolysis. 134

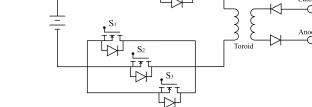


Figure 2. Schematic circuit of the inductive pulse generator.

This situation occurs at voltage levels that can vary between 200V and 800V [10], 135 [23], [24], depending on the concentration of additive in the electrolyte and the separation 136 between electrodes. Plasma electrolysis has a great advantage over low-voltage electrolysis, 137 when a stable plasma is formed in the reaction, drastic decreases in the current circulating 138 through the cell can be observed, without decreasing the flow of gas produced. At high 139 voltages, gaseous media behave as good electrical conductors, so electrons circulate through 140 the gas present between the electrodes, preventing circulation through the electrolyte that offers greater resistance. This situation shows that the production of hydrogen can have 142 characteristics that do not respond to the amount of charge applied on the electrolyte as 143 proposed, new phenomena arise related to the decomposition of water by the force of 144 the electric field that require attention. Research on pulsed electrolysis is discussed at a sufficiently high frequency to produce plasma in the electrolyte. With this technology, high 146 energy densities can be achieved for short periods of time, being able to create generators 147 of high power and reduced dimensions. 148

These technologies open the doors to the investigation of a new electrolyzer system, 149 simple to implement since it does not require complex materials of high thermal resistance 150 or difficult to acquire, of low cost due to its small size and high efficiency. There is the 151 possibility of increasing the power and frequency beyond the studies carried out to date, 152 where frequencies around 200kHz [25] and voltages of 140V [19] have been reached, seeking 153 to reach the point of making stable plasma formation viable. Achieving this goal can make 154 it possible to implement hydrogen-generating devices for domestic purposes, such as in 155 energy storage and transportation. 156

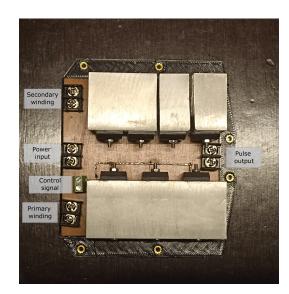


Figure 3. Assembled pulse generator circuit.

3. Hydrogen Generator

3.1. Circuit

The inductive pulse circuit in Figure 2, based on previous work [19], has a coil that is 159 magnetized when the 3 switches close allowing current to circulate in the primary circuit, 160 at the moment when the switches change state again the circuit opens allowing the abrupt 161 discharge of the inductor. The only path available for the energy stored in the magnetic 162 field with this topology is to be induced in the secondary circuit and circulated through the 163 charge (electrolysis cell). 3 mosfets are used in parallel to reduce the impact of the current 164 causing heat in the semiconductors, in addition the equivalent resistance of the circuit is 165 decreased, each switch has a certain internal resistance. 166

The current of an inductor is governed by the equation:

$$i_L(t) = i(t_0) + \frac{1}{L} \int_{-\infty}^{t_0} V(t) dt.$$
 (2)

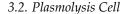
This increases in the form of a ramp over time, inversely proportional to the magnitude of the inductance, the magnetic field formed is proportional to the current that circulates it. To work with high frequencies, a relatively low impedance is needed, so the current can reach a significant value in a short time, allowing a complete discharge and higher power.

The parallel diodes located at the positive terminal of the power supply fulfill the 172 function of protecting both the source and the mosfets from the peak of inductive voltage produced in the inductor at the time of opening the circuit. The voltage is presented at both 174 ends of the toroidal transformer, but on the contrary, the current only has output through 175 the secondary circuit, so it is necessary to prevent the semiconductors from receiving a 176 pulse that exceeds their breakdown voltages. The function of the diodes in the secondary 177 circuit is to prevent the circulation of reverse currents, allowing the passage of voltage 178 pulses with a defined polarity, and not alternating currents. The construction of the circuit 179 was carried out on a copper plate where only the solid state semiconductors were located 180 (Fig. 3), the coils, signal generator and actuator driver were implemented separately to 181 obtain a modular design that facilitates modifications. 182

There is the possibility of achieving a pulse-generating device that delivers a stable and previously determined voltage, in addition to offering greater control over the waveform. This can be achieved with capacitive discharges, this type of circuit implies a greater degree of complexity in the manufacture and control, specifically in relation to the implementation of a high voltage capacitor capable of storing the voltage necessary for the formation of plasma, or failing a set of capacitors stacked in series to reach the necessary voltages. The idea is to control the voltage of the stored energy using a boost converter and then discharge 189

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the capacitors abruptly using mosfet switches. This is left for future research due to the limited resources and time of the present study.



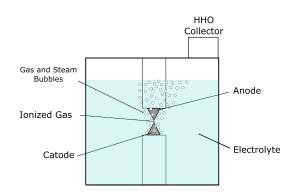


Figure 4. Pulsed plasmolysis cell diagram (front view).

A pulsed plasma electrolysis cell has basically the same components as a conventional 193 electrolysis cell, the main differences being the arrangement and size of the electrodes 194 (Fig. 4). In this case the electrodes have a needle tip shape, with this it is sought to limit 195 the surface area to a minimum, reducing the electrical capacitance to work with high 196 frequencies, and also concentrate the power of the electric field at a specific point. Plasma 197 formation requires high energy density, and the geometry of the electrodes influence the 198 shape of the electric field that occurs between two conductors of opposite polarity. With 199 an electric field concentrated in a small point it is expected to locate a large production of 200 gas, which would be the medium for plasma formation. The frame of the cell built for this 201 study is made with a UV resin used in 3D printing with LCD technology, this resin is able 202 to withstand temperatures around 200°C. There are three windows to observe the reaction 203 inside the cell, constructed of 4mm thick glass fixed to the base with structural silicone. The 204 electrodes correspond to stainless steel bolts fixed by an internal thread printed as part of 205 the frame of the cell, the end is sanded in the form of a needle tip. To adjust the separation 206 between electrodes, simply turn the bolts to the appropriate position. 207

4. Experimentation

4.1. Circuit

The response of the circuit used in the study was analyzed with a Keysight DSOX1102G oscilloscope. In addition, this instrument allows to perform the function of generator of the control signal for the actuation of the gate driver.

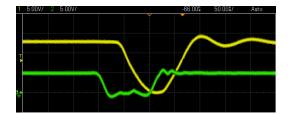


Figure 5. Estimated response of a 100ns pulse.

Figure 5 represents the control signal together with the driver's response to it for a pulse of 100ns, the yellow curve represents the output of the gate driver, while the green different voltage levels, depending on the device they seek to control, for the driver a 5V signal is used. The signal coming from this, which has the purpose of switching the state of the switch has a voltage of around 12V in its high state. A delay of approximately 20ns can be seen after receiving the state change command. The driver switching times turn out to 219



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be around 50ns each (fall-time and rise-time), for a pulse of 100ns, the gate driver delivers a signal of approximately 30ns in low state. Experimental evidence shows that the pulses carried out are of shorter duration than scheduled.

The behavior of the circuit is mainly defined by the nature of the inductor, the experiment varies the frequency of the pulses, however the duration of these is maintained. A 224 low frequency in the repetition of pulses, with a duration of around 200 nanoseconds, it 225 turns out that the inductor has a longer charging time per cycle, more energy accumulates 226 compared to the same situation with a higher frequency. Figure 6 shows what has been said, a comparison of the response of the cell against two different frequencies is shown, 228 the pulse duration configured in the driver is exactly the same for both, in the lower graph the frequency is set to twice the upper graph. When the inductor has exactly half the time 230 to gather energy, you get, as expected, half the voltage in the pulse. The oscillation in the voltage of the cell after the application of the pulse is related to the response of an RLC 232 circuit, the secondary winding of the transformer forms a circuit of this type thanks to the 233 capacitive and resistive characteristics of the cell. 234

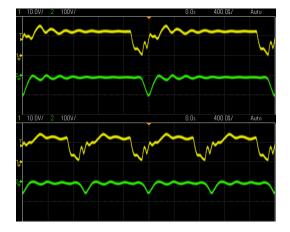


Figure 6. Voltage pulses obtained with voltage of 4V in the power supply, separation of 1mm between electrodes, frequency of 500kHz (upper) and 1MHz (lower) in drinking water. The yellow line represents the action of the driver and the green line the voltage in the cell.

4.2. Measurement System

In this study, it is necessary to contain the volume of gas produced in order to quantify 236 it, the volume of gas used for the calculations will be the totality of the gas produced 237 in the decomposition reaction of the water molecule, two molecules of hydrogen and 238 one of oxygen, this gas that contains both elements is called oxyhydrogen or HHO. The 239 accumulated gas pressure will cause an increase in the height of the water column inside 240 a transparent hose, this increase will be measured thanks to a ruler located parallel to 241 the hose containing the water, similar to a simple water level (Fig. 7). After taking the 242 data, the pressure is released through a waste valve located in the bubbler lid. To obtain 243 a characterization of this cell, its response to a series of frequencies, voltages, electrolytes 244 and separation between electrodes will be reviewed. The electrolyte with which the main 245 characterization will be carried out will be drinking water without additives, then the most 246 relevant parameters are used for comparison with other electrolytes. The first series of tests 247 performed on the electrolysis cell consists of varying the frequency of the voltage pulse 248 delivered, for this the voltage of the power source is kept constant, as well as maintaining 249 the separation between electrodes. The graphed production is calculated with the power 250 delivered by the power source, the efficiency of the process is evaluated without analyzing 251 the efficiency of the circuit itself. 252

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4.3. Caracterization

In the bar graph of Figure 8, the production of HHO in milliliters per watt of power in 254 relation to the pulse rate is shown, a clear trend of increase in the efficiency of the process 255 can be seen as the frequency is increased. This information allows us to intuit the possibility 256 of avoiding working with frequencies that are too low, since they do not provide relevant 257 data for the rest of the research on the efficiency of the process. By observing the pulse 258 voltage data, obtained with the previous experiment, maintaining the separation between 259 electrodes of 0.1mm and the voltage of 4V at the power source, a variation in the maximum 260 voltage of the pulse that responds inversely proportional to the increase in frequency can be 261 observed (Fig. 9). The behavior of the circuit is mainly defined by the nature of the inductor 262 present, the experiment varies the frequency of the pulses, however the duration of these is 263 maintained. When a low frequency in the repetition of pulses with a duration of around 200 nanoseconds is observed, the inductor has a longer charging time per cycle and more 265 stored energy compared to the same situation with a higher frequency. When the inductor has exactly half the time to gather energy, is obtained as expected, half the voltage in the 267 pulse. A not so obvious or intuitive process behavior that takes place in the electrolyte with a voltage pulse is the incidence of separation between electrodes. Figure 10 shows a trend 269 of voltage increase proportional to the increase in distance between electrodes.



Figure 7. Assembled measurement system.

It was established that the pulse voltage depends partially on the resistance of the 271 circuit. When the energy accumulated in the inductor in the form of a magnetic field is 272 abruptly discharged, and the circuit has low resistance, the power can flow with a high 273 current, the voltage varies its intensity according to the current to maintain the power 274 ratio. If the distance that the current must travel inside the electrolyte is increased, the 275 resistance of the circuit is directly increased, resulting in a higher voltage, unlike when the 276 electrodes are closer to each other or in a lower resistance configuration. After reviewing the 277 influence of frequency and resistance in the process, the possible effects of capacitance are 278 introduced, which in an environment dominated by frequencies tends to produce resonance 279 phenomena. The electrolysis cell has a composition that is basically a capacitor, there are two electrodes separated by an electrolyte, the capacitance in these components increases 281 as the surface area of the electrodes grows and the separation between them decreases. In this case the electrodes were optimized to concentrate the electric field with a needle tip 283 shape, leaving only one variable to control the capacitance of the cell, the separation of electrodes. Following this analogy, if the electrodes move away, the capacitance decreases, 285 changing the resonant frequency of the circuit. A capacitor with a lower capacitance has a shorter charge and discharge time, therefore, it is able to work at higher frequencies 287 without maintaining a constant voltage.

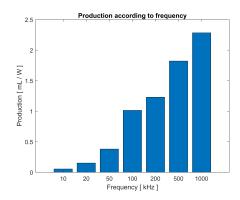


Figure 8. Gas production according to applied pulse frequency, with 4V at the source and 0.1mm separation between electrodes.

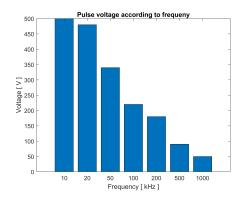


Figure 9. Pulse voltage obtained according to application frequency, with 4V at the source and separation of 0.1mm between electrodes.

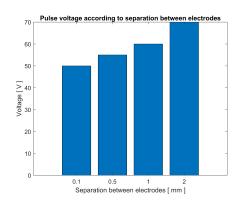


Figure 10. Pulse voltage obtained according to separation between electrodes, with 4V at the source and pulse frequency of 1MHz.

Figure 11 shows the production in relation to the separation between electrodes, along 289 with a variation in the voltages of the power supply. The graph starts with a minimum of 290 4V, when using lower voltages, the production is too low to obtain comparable results and it 291 would be necessary to extend the experimentation time too much. For 4V and 6V voltages, 292 the highest output is found when the electrodes are very close to each other, as they move 293 away production decreases. It is different in the case of higher voltages, for 8V and 10V the 294 production pick is at 0.5mm, a slightly longer separation. The fundamental difference of 295 the pulsed electrolysis process with conventional electrolysis is that by applying extremely 296 fast pulses, the current is able to enter the electrolyte before the breakdown of the water 297 molecule occurs, the decomposition continues until after the pulse is finished. But it is 298 glimpsed that, depending on the electrolyte, there is a limit to how much energy can be 299

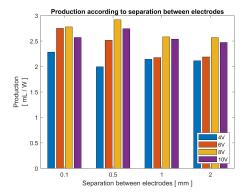


Figure 11. Gas production according to separation between electrodes, with a variation of 4 to 10V in the power source and pulse frequency of 1MHz.

entered and chemically accumulated in the liquid. A distinction must be made between two capacitive behaviors present in the electrolysis cell. One is the ability to store or accumulate 301 chemical energy in the electrolyte, after the pulse this energy is used to break down the molecules of H₂O, this will be referred to as chemical capacity. The other capacitive behavior 303 is the physical property that two conductors have under a potential difference, represented by the electrodes positioned very close to each other, this characteristic is diminished when 305 using needle-tipped electrodes, this principle is the cause of the double layer. Applying the theory of the capacitor to the electrolysis cell, it has that in each voltage pulse a certain 307 amount of current is injected into the cell, this current is greater when the voltage is greater. 308 Taking into account that the gas or decomposition of H₂O is produced in the vicinity of 309 the electrodes, a saturation of the medium in which the current is applied, in this case 310 water, can be proposed. In this way, by increasing the separation of the electrodes, the area 311 available to collect charge is expanded, or it could be related to a volumetrically increased 312 chemical capacity. Separating the electrodes brings with it other effects, in addition to 313 increasing the chemical capacity, the electrical capacitance is reduced and also increases the 314 resistance of the circuit. The distance between electrodes must be carefully studied for the 315 frequency and voltage to be applied in the electrolysis cell. During tests with rainwater as 316 an electrolyte, this was the first to present high levels of voltage in the pulses, a couple of 317 hundred volts due to its low conductivity. Rainwater, similar in purity to distilled water, 318 although it may contain minerals or particles corresponding to environmental conditions, due to this it has a low ionic concentration that reduces its chemical capacity compared 320 to drinking water. Around a frequency of 500kHz, a voltage of 10V in the power supply 321 and with a separation of 0.1mm between electrodes, pulses of 430V were reached, which 322 caused the formation of electrical sparks in the vicinity of the electrodes. This phenomenon 323 was not present constantly, it was exhibited intermittently as small bubbles were formed 324 that were adhered between the tips of the electrodes, a location conducive to the ionization 325 of the gaseous medium, by further decreasing the distance between them, it was possible 326 to evidence the formation of plasma. 327

At the time of plasma formation, it can be noticed that gas bubbles begin to be 328 produced in greater proportion directly from the ionized gas zone. Unfortunately it was not 329 possible to stabilize the phenomenon, the electrodes had to approach a distance of less than 330 0.1mm to stabilize it for a few seconds, after a while it became intermittent. Due to this, it 331 was not possible to carry out the corresponding gas production efficiency tests. Despite the 332 drawback, this experiment allowed to rescue information on the needs that must be covered 333 for the formation of stable plasma. The pulses must be above a voltage approximately 500 334 volts for this distance (less than 0.1mm), for the electric arc to be viable at a greater distance 335 between electrodes, the voltage must increase proportionally. For the formation of plasma 336 in any electrolyte to be possible, it is necessary that the pulse-generating circuit is capable 337 of producing these with a voltage independent of the resistance of the liquid medium, that is, at a constant voltage. The latter can be achieved by performing abrupt and intermittent 339 discharges from a high-voltage stabilized direct current source, possibly a high-voltage capacitor. Current technology allows the implementation of solid-state voltage boosters that could be suitable for this application. 342

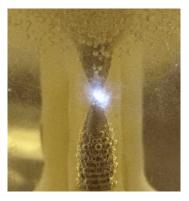


Figure 12. Plasma formation inside the electrolysis cell.

5. Conclusions

Pulsed electrolysis offers new parameters to control the efficiency and production of 344 the process, which in turn presents new characteristics that require study to be optimally 345 configured. The efficiency of pulsed electrolysis depends on a marked separation between voltage pulses, if a constant or quasi-constant voltage is maintained within the cell, without 347 the potential being neutralized between pulses, the process takes on the characteristics 348 of conventional electrolysis causing the formation of the double layer. The chemically 349 accumulated energy is not reflected in a voltage observable with the measuring instruments, 350 a saturation of this type can be witnessed when applying a greater power, the production 351 increases and not the efficiency of the process, inevitably, to develop the process, this 352 must be established in an adequate or satisfactory chemical capacity. The positioning 353 and geometry of the electrodes also proved to affect this characteristic of the cell, the 354 chemical capacitance can be found closely linked to the volume of liquid in the vicinity of 355 the electrodes. With the tests and experiments carried out in this study, it can be established 356 that, to achieve a characterization in greater depth, it is necessary to have a high-definition 357 current sensor, which provides the ability to analyze the current pulse applied in the 358 cell. This information allows a reliable comparison of the energy used in both electrolysis 359 processes, as well as offering more data that would facilitate the identification of the 360 parameters necessary for an efficient decomposition of water. Another important point 361 that would allow a better obtaining of results is the implementation of a circuit capable 362 of delivering a certain voltage independent of the purity of the electrolyte, this would 363 allow the possibility of investigating the formation of plasma in the electrolytes that offer 364 greater efficiency in the process. To achieve this, the application of pulses from a stable high-voltage source is proposed. 366

A possible improvement in efficiency in hydrogen generation, with the simple fact of modifying the power sources that currently supply the power to the generators present in the industry, could radically change the hydrogen economy. Greater production at a lower cost would mean a significant advance for the emerging hydrogen industry in Chile and the world.

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M.A., M.R. and P.W.; data curation, M.A.; writing—original draft preparation, M. A.; writing—review
and editing, M.A., M.R. and P.W.; visualization, M.A., M.R., P.W. and R.R; supervision, M.A., M.R.
and P.W.; project administration, X.X.; funding acquisition, M.R. and P.W.. All authors have read and
agreed to the published version of the manuscript.".372

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