

CONTENTS

1. HISTORICAL NOTES	1
ESSAY QUESTIONS	4
2. CONDUCTION IN FEEBLY IONIZED GASES	5
1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. IONIZATION CURRENTS	6
3. EFFECT OF SPACE CHARGES	10
4. DISCHARGES WITH ION-EMITTING ELECTRODES	12
5. EFFECT OF BACK-SCATTERING	21
6. FLOW OF CURRENT THROUGH A GAS	22
7. CURRENT FLUCTUATIONS	25
QUESTIONS	26
3. PRODUCTION OF CHARGED PARTICLES	29
A. EXCITATION AND IONIZATION	29
1. INTRODUCTION	29
(a) Mean free path and velocity distribution	29
(b) Mean distance	35
(c) Cross-sections for collision processes	35
(d) Collision frequency	36
2. SCATTERING	37
(a) Scattering of electrons	37
(b) Scattering of ions	39
(c) Scattering of excited atoms	41
3. EXCITATION IN GASES	42
(a) Excitation by electrons	42
(b) Excitation by ions and atoms	54
(c) Excitation by light quanta	56
4. IONIZATION IN GASES	56
(a) Ionization by electrons	56
(i) Classical treatment of ionization by collision	59
(ii) Efficiency of ionization	62
(b) Ionization of a gas by positive ions	68
(c) Ionization by fast neutral atoms	70
(d) Ionization of gases and vapours by light quanta	73
(i) $h\nu \geq eV_i$	73
(ii) $h\nu \gg eV_i$	77

(e) Thermal ionization and excitation	81
(f) Formation of negative ions	86
(g) Ion attachment	89
B. EMISSION OF CHARGES FROM SOLIDS	89
5. THERMIONIC EMISSION OF ELECTRONS	89
6. THERMIONIC EMISSION OF POSITIVE IONS	90
7. SECONDARY ELECTRON EMISSION BY ELECTRONS	91
8. SECONDARY EMISSION OF ELECTRONS BY POSITIVE IONS AND METASTABLE ATOMS	94
9. PHOTO-ELECTRON EMISSION	100
10. FIELD EMISSION	103
11. SECONDARY EMISSION OF POSITIVE IONS	107
QUESTIONS	108
4. MOBILITY AND CHARGE TRANSFER	112
1. MOBILITY OF IONS	112
2. DRIFT VELOCITY OF ELECTRONS	122
3. CHARGE TRANSFER	127
4. MEASUREMENTS	132
(a) Measurements of the mobility of positive ions	132
(b) Measurement of the drift velocity of electrons	134
(c) Measurement of the charge transfer cross-section	136
QUESTIONS	137
5. DIFFUSION AND MUTUAL REPULSION	139
A. DIFFUSION	139
1. INTRODUCTION	139
2. DIFFUSION OF IONS IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD	142
3. DIFFUSION OF IONS AND ELECTRONS IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD (AMBIPOLAR DIFFUSION)	143
4. DIFFUSION OF ELECTRONS IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD	145
5. DIFFUSION OF ELECTRONS IN A MAGNETIC FIELD	146
B. MUTUAL REPULSION	148
6. MUTUAL REPULSION OF CHARGES IN VACUUM	148
7. MUTUAL REPULSION OF IONS IN A GAS	150
8. MUTUAL ELECTROSTATIC REPULSION AND DIFFUSION	151
9. MEASUREMENTS	152
(a) The coefficient of diffusion of ions	152
(b) The coefficient of diffusion of electrons	153
QUESTIONS	154

6. RECOMBINATION	155
A. RECOMBINATION BETWEEN ION AND ION	155
1. GENERAL REMARKS	155
2. RECOMBINATION AT HIGH GAS PRESSURE	156
3. RECOMBINATION AT LOW GAS PRESSURE	158
B. RECOMBINATION BETWEEN IONS AND ELECTRONS	161
4. GENERAL REMARKS	161
5. RECOMBINATION ACCOMPANIED BY RADIATION	164
6. RECOMBINATION OF MOLECULAR IONS AND ELECTRONS	165
7. ELECTRON RECOMBINATION IN THE PRESENCE OF ATOMS, MOLECULES, OR OTHER ELECTRONS	166
8. THE MEASUREMENT OF THE RECOMBINATION COEFFICIENT	167
(a) Ion-ion recombination coefficient	167
(b) Ion-electron recombination coefficient	168
QUESTIONS	169
7. IONIZATION AND EXCITATION IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD	171
1. IONIZATION IN UNIFORM FIELDS	171
(a) Multiplication by collisions in the gas	171
(b) Multiplication including secondary effects	174
(c) The ionization coefficient for electrons	179
(d) Multiplication in the presence of negative ions	186
2. IONIZATION IN NON-UNIFORM ELECTRIC FIELDS	190
3. STARTING POTENTIALS AND BREAKDOWN	193
(a) Ordinary gases at low and medium pressure, uniform field	193
(b) Ordinary gases, non-uniform field, low and medium pressure	197
(c) Ordinary and electronegative gases, high pressure	199
4. INFLUENCE OF SPACE CHARGE AND BREAKDOWN OF A PRE- IONIZED GAS	202
5. OBSERVATIONS OF BREAKDOWN AND TIME LAGS AND THE MECHANISM OF THE SPARK AT HIGH PRESSURE	204
6. EXCITATION AND DISSOCIATION IN AN ELECTRIC FIELD	212
QUESTIONS	215
8. GLOW DISCHARGE	217
1. GENERAL FEATURES	217
2. EVOLUTION OF A GLOW DISCHARGE	221
3. THE CATHODE FALL REGION	222
(a) The normal cathode fall of potential	222
(b) The abnormal cathode fall of potential	225
(c) Numerical results	228
(d) Measurement of the cathode fall parameters	232
4. VARIOUS KINDS OF GLOW DISCHARGES	233
(a) The normal, subnormal, and abnormal discharge	233

(b) The obstructed glow discharge	234
(c) The constricted glow discharge	234
(d) The spray discharge	234
(e) The high-pressure glow discharge	235
(f) The hollow cathode discharge	236
5. THE POSITIVE COLUMN OF A GLOW DISCHARGE	238
(a) Introduction	238
(b) The theory of the positive column	238
(i) The radial distribution of charges	240
(ii) The electron temperature	242
(iii) The (axial) potential gradient	243
(iv) The radial potential distribution	247
(v) Extension of the theory of the positive column	251
(vi) Contraction of a positive column	253
6. THE CORONA DISCHARGE	254
7. PRESSURE EFFECTS AND ELECTROPHORESIS	256
QUESTIONS	257
9. ARC DISCHARGE	259
1. INTRODUCTION	259
2. THE POSITIVE COLUMN	261
3. THE GAS TEMPERATURE IN THE POSITIVE COLUMN	264
4. THE ENERGY AND THERMAL BALANCE IN THE POSITIVE COLUMN	269
5. OBSERVATIONS ON ARC CATHODES	273
6. THEORIES OF THE CATHODE OF COLD ARCS	276
7. THE ANODE OF AN ARC	280
8. ARC DISCHARGES WITH EXTERNALLY HEATED CATHODES	282
QUESTIONS	286
APPENDIX 1. The similarity rules	288
APPENDIX 2. The principle of detailed balancing	290
APPENDIX 3. The electron energy distributions	292
APPENDIX 4. Photo-ionization by black body radiation	294
APPENDIX 5. Theory of plane probes	296
APPENDIX 6. Some useful integrals and functions	301
APPENDIX 7. Conversion factors and physical constants	303
APPENDIX 8. Periodic table; electronic configuration of the elements	304
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	306
REFERENCES	309
GLOSSARY	320
INDEX	321