

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
	Microwave Studies	2
	Dimensional Analysis	7
CHAPTER 2	ELECTRON COLLISIONS	14
	Elastic Collisions	15
	Inelastic Collisions	25
	Electron Loss Processes	26
CHAPTER 3	BOLTZMANN EQUATION FOR AN IONIZED GAS	36
	Distribution Functions	36
	Higher Order Terms	50
	Limits of Diffusion Theory	59
CHAPTER 4	BREAKDOWN THEORY, CONSTANT COLLISION FREQUENCY	69
	Breakdown Criteria	69
	Constant Collision Frequency	72

viii Contents

CHAPTER 5	BREAKDOWN THEORY, VARIABLE COLLISION FREQUENCY	101
	Neon	101
	Neon-Argon	111
	Argon, Krypton, and Xenon	117
CHAPTER 6	NONUNIFORM AND MAGNETIC FIELDS	121
	Nonuniform Electric Fields	122
	Magnetic Fields	134
CHAPTER 7	EXPERIMENTAL METHODS	142
	Microwave Systems	142
	Vacuum Systems	155
CHAPTER 8	BREAKDOWN IN THE ATMOSPHERE	160
	Experimental Data	161
	Attachment-Controlled Breakdown	172
	Attachment—Diffusion Theory	174
	Breakdown near Reentry Vehicles	183
	Laser Breakdown	186
APPENDIX		190
AUTHOR INDEX		197
SUBJECT INDEX		199