

## **72nd Annual Gaseous Electronics Conference**

Monday–Friday, October 28–November 1 2019; College Station, Texas

### **Abstract: FT1.00054 : Experimental confirmation of transitions in the discharge operation mode in low-pressure capacitively coupled Ne plasmas\***

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In this work, the electron power absorption and ionization dynamics in low-pressure discharges operated in Ne are studied and a detailed comparison of simulated and experimental results is provided in a wide parameter regime. 1d3v PIC/MCC simulations and PROES measurements are performed at different driving frequencies, pressures and voltage amplitudes in a geometrically symmetric CCP reactor. Both in simulations and experiments, a transition of the discharge operation mode from  $\alpha$  to  $\gamma$  is found by increasing the voltage amplitude at a fixed frequency and pressure, as well as by increasing the pressure at a fixed frequency and voltage amplitude. However, the simulations and the experiments suggest different voltage amplitudes/pressures at which the transition happens. This study reveals the applicability of PROES (which provides the spatio-temporal distribution of the excitation dynamics of the Ne 2p1 state) to probe the discharge operation mode (which is determined by the spatio-temporal distribution of the ionization dynamics) under various discharge conditions.

\*This work was supported by the US NSF grant no. PHY. 1601080, by the DFG (SFB-TR 87 project C1), and Hungarian grants K-119357, PD-121033 and FK-128924.