



X-ray bursts observation along and perpendicularly to the streamer path

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We present measurements of X-ray emission from long laboratory sparks at atmospheric pressure. A 17 kJ Marx generator with a 1.2/52 μ s pulse shape when unloaded was used to generate 200 surges of positive and negative polarity. The distance between the floating high voltage (HV-) and the grounded (GND-) point electrodes was 108 cm. X-ray bursts were registered by two LaBr₃(Ce+) scintillation detectors placed perpendicular to each other. Detector 1 was directed along the breakdown axis and was located beneath the grounded electrode. Detector 2 was perpendicular to the surge at a distance of 140 cm. The current through the GND- and the HV-electrode were recorded together with the x-ray signal. For positive discharges x-ray bursts detection rate was 66% and 64% for detector 1 and detector 2 respectively. In the case of negative discharges the detection rate was 36% and 42%. Timing of X-ray bursts correspond perfectly to streamers occurrence time. For the negative discharges, x-ray radiation was recorded immediately before the cathode current jump, during the negative streamers originated in high-voltage electrode. For the positive discharge time interval of x-ray is wider than for the negative. Most often the x-ray bursts for positive discharges observed during the early growth of cathode current (presumably the streamer phase). In 20% of positive discharges were reported two bursts and 2% three bursts of x-ray radiation during a single discharge.