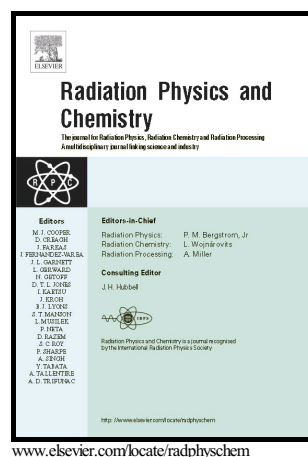


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A hybrid plasma-chemical system for high-NO_x flue gas treatment

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ABSTRACT

The reduction of high concentrations of NO_x and SO₂ from simulated flue gas has been studied. Our aim was to optimise energy consumption for NO_x and SO₂ removal from off-gases from a diesel generator using heavy fuel oil. A hybrid process: electron beam (EB) plasma and wet scrubber has been applied. A much higher efficiency of NO_x and SO₂ removal was achieved in comparison to dry, ammonia free, electron beam flue gas treatment (EBFGT). A recorded removal from a concentration of 1500 ppm NO_x reached 49% at a low dose of 6.5 kGy, while only 2% NO_x was removed at the same dose if EB only was applied. For SO₂, removal efficiency at a dose of 6.5 kGy increased from 15% (EB only) to 84% when sea water was used as a wet scrubber agent for 700 ppm SO₂. The results of this study indicate that EB combined with wet scrubber is a very promising technology to be applied for removal of high concentrations of NO_x and SO₂ emitted from diesel engines operated e.g. on cargo ships, which are the main sources of SO₂ and NO_x pollution along their navigation routes.

Keywords: Electron beam irradiation; SO₂; NO_x; Wet scrubber; Flue gas

Introduction

SO₂ (sulphur dioxide) and NO_x (nitrogen oxides, mainly NO and NO₂) are harmful pollutants which affect human beings and the biota. Exposure to these compounds is dangerous to human life, causing respiratory diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis [Kampa & Castanas, 2008]. Moreover, emissions containing SO₂ and NO_x, when released into the atmosphere, result in acid rain, which destroys historic monuments, sculptures and

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