A calculation of basic thermophysical, gasdynamic and electropower parameters of electric explosion in the gas environment of a metallic conductor

**Goal.** Obtaining an analysis of close analytical relationships for the engineering calculation of maximal temperature $T_m$ and pressure $P_m$ in a plasma channel, time $t_m$ of explosion of conductor, active resistance $R_c$ and specific conductivity $\gamma_p$ of plasma channel, thermal energy entered in conductor $W_i$ and dissipated in the channel $W_c$ and high speed of $v_{mw}$ of shock acoustic wave in the plasma products of electric explosion (EE) in gas of conductor under the action of large pulse current (LPC).

**Methodology.** Basis of thermophysics, gasdynamics, theoretical and applied electrical engineering, electrophysics based on technique of high-voltage and high pulse currents, basis of high-current electronics, theory of explosion and plasma, measuring technique and electromagnetic compatibility.

**Results.** Close formulas are obtained for the analytical calculation of temperature $T_m$ and pressures $P_m$ in a plasma channel, time $t_m$ of explosion of conductor, active resistance $R_c$ and specific conductivity $\gamma_p$ of plasma channel, thermal energy entered in conductor $W_i$ and dissipated $e$ in the channel $W_c$, speed $v_{mw}$ of shock acoustic wave in «metallic plasma» at EE in gas of conductor, testing action of LPC in the discharge circuit of high-voltage generator of pulse currents (GPC).

Obtaining and analysis of close analytic relationships for the engineering calculation of maximal temperature $T_m$ and pressure $P_m$ of electric energy $W_0$ of capacitor battery of GPC arrives at the numerical value of $T_m=121.6\times 10^3K$, $t_m=3.32\times 10^{-2}s$, $P_m=14.19\times 10^4Pa$ and $v_{mw}=4693m/s$. The ways of receipt are formulated in the discharge circuit of PIC of record (most) values of temperature $T_m$, pressures $P_m$ and speeds $v_{mw}$. It is shown that at EE in atmospheric air of the indicated short thin copper conductor the coefficient of the useful use $\eta_r$ of electric energy $W_0$ of capacitor battery of GPC arrives at the numerical value of $\eta_r=(W_i+W_c)/W_0=0.326(32.6\%)$. Arising in the plasma channel of discharge, initiated EE in gas of conductor, temperature $T_m$ and pressure $P_m$ time $t_m$ of explosion of conductor, specific conductivity $\gamma_p$ of channel, thermal energy $W_c$ and speed $v_{mw}$ of shock acoustic wave dissipated in a channel in «metallic plasma» can be certain experimental by a way on results decoding of oscillograms of discharge current $i(t)$ and high-voltage of $u(t)$ on conductor in the circuit of GPC. A formula is resulted for the close calculation of critical integral of current $J_k$ at EE in gas of conductor from different metals. Executed on powerful GPC high-current experiments were confirmed by substantive provisions offered approach near the analytical calculation of basic parameters of electro-explosive process for the probed conductor. **Originality.** Offered the engineering approach is scientifically grounded for the analytical calculation of the indicated thermophysical, gasdynamic and electroenergy parameters $T_m$, $P_m$, $t_m$, $R_c$, $\gamma_p$, $W_i$, $W_c$ and $v_{mw}$ at EE in gas of metallic conductor, connected to the discharge circuit of GPC. **Practical value.** Application in electrophysics practice of the offered engineering approach for calculation in the circuit of GPC of basic parameters of electro-explosive process will allow to facilitate labour of workers of scientific laboratories and promote efficiency of work of technicians and engineers during practical realization by them of various electro-explosive technologies. References 41, tables 1, figures 2.

**Key words:** high pulse current, electric explosion of conductor, temperature, pressure, time and energy of explosion, active resistance and specific conductivity of plasma channel, energy entered in conductor and dissipated in plasma channel, speed of shock wave at the explosion of conductor.

**State and relevance of the problem.** Electric explosion (EE) of metal conductors with cross-section $S_0$ and length $l_0$ in vacuum, gas and liquid media under the action of high pulse current (HPC) flowing through them of various amplitude-temporal parameters (ATP) has found quite wide practical application both in scientific (for example, in the study of the mechanisms of phase transitions of matter [1-5]), the phenomena of mass, momentum and energy transfer in extreme conditions, including in the critical modes of nuclear explosions [6, 7], the production of soft X-ray radiation for controlled thermonuclear fusion [8], research of the processes of optical pumping of gas lasers and active media for quantum generators based on metal vapors [9], etc.), as well as technological ones (for example, when sputtering thin coatings for microelectronics [10, 11], obtaining highly dispersed conductive powders [12-16], creation fast-acting electric explosive circuit breakers for high-current circuits of high-voltage generators with powerful capacitors and inductive energy storage [17], production of dense high-temperature plasma [18], high-speed power processing and deformation by shock loads of various materials (parts) [19, 20], conducting certification tests of aviation and rocket-space equipment for electromagnetic compatibility and resistance to effects of lightning (first of all, in electrical circuits for introducing current and electromagnetic energy into.
objects under test) [21, 22], etc.) purposes. When studying the complex process of EE of metal conductors and the practical implementation of electro-explosive technologies, specialists in the course of their work use both more accurate computational numerical methods of studying the phenomenon of EE of metal conductors in gases and liquids [4, 5, 7, 8] and less accurate engineering analytical methods and models for calculating thermophysical, gas-, electric-, and magnetohydrodynamic processes in continuous media during the occurrence of the specified electrophysical phenomenon [9–15, 23–26]. Here, the known calculation methods and the approximate calculation expressions obtained with their help for the analytical study of the indicated phenomenon of EE of a metal conductor have a significant general drawback: they do not allow providing a comprehensive approach to the simultaneous calculation of the main thermophysical, gas-dynamic, and electrical-power parameters of the EE process of a conductor.

In addition, when establishing the necessary modes of operation of the high-voltage pulse technology (HPT) used in electro-explosive technologies and predicting the effects of the electrophysical effects created by EE of conductors on the processed materials, parts and objects, the engineering and technical personnel needs simplified and convenient in practical application approximate analytical relationships for the calculated assessment of the discharge of powerful capacitive energy storage devices of HPT in the EE of conductors and the plasma channel initiated by it: the maximum levels of temperature \( T_{\text{m}} \), pressure \( P_{\text{m}} \), time \( t_{c} \) of the explosion, active resistance \( R_{c} \) and specific electrical conductivity \( \gamma_{p} \) of the plasma channel, energy \( W_{c} \) introduced into conductor, and energy \( W_{r} \) released in the plasma channel and the speed \( v_{\text{mw}} \) of the shock wave in the plasma products of the discharge channel in the gas (liquid). In this regard, obtaining approximate analytical ratios for the engineering complex calculation of the specified parameters \( T_{\text{m}}, P_{\text{m}}, t_{c}, R_{c}, \gamma_{p}, W_{c}, W_{r}, v_{\text{mw}} \) characteristic of EE of metallic conductors, is an actual applied scientific and technical problem in the world.

**The goal of the paper** is to obtain and analyze approximate analytical relationships for the engineering complex calculation of the maximum values of temperature \( T_{\text{m}} \) and pressure \( P_{\text{m}} \) in the plasma channel, time \( t_{c} \) of the conductor explosion, active resistance \( R_{c} \) and specific electrical conductivity \( \gamma_{p} \) of the plasma channel, energy \( W_{c} \) introduced into the conductor, and thermal energy \( W_{r} \) released in the plasma channel and the maximum velocity \( v_{\text{mw}} \) of propagation of the shock acoustic wave in plasma products of EE in the conductor gas under the influence of HPC.

**1. Problem definition.** Consider a thin metallic conductor of cylindrical shape located in a gaseous environment under normal atmospheric conditions, along which in its longitudinal direction from a high-voltage pulsed energy source (for example, from a powerful low-inductance capacitor battery) a HPC flows with ATP sufficient to reach in the conductive structure of the conductor with length \( l_{0} \) and radius \( r_{0} \) with cross-section \( S_{0} = \pi r_{0}^{2} \) the numerical value of the current integral \( J_{h} \), which is critical for the conductor under study. By the current integral \( J_{h} \) we will understand the well-known integral involving the square of the current density, which is determined by the expression accepted in the works \([3, 24, 27]\) in time \( t \): \( J_{h} = \int_{0}^{t_{c}} \delta_{h}(t)dt \), where \( \delta_{h}(t) \) is the critical pulse current density in the conductor that causes sublimation of the metal and overheating of his steam; \( t_{c} \) is the time of onset of EE and the beginning of the spatial spread of the sublimated metal of the conductor and its vapor.

Let us dwell on the use of low-impedance generators of pulse currents (GPC) for EE of the investigated conductor, whose ATP of the discharge current \( i(t) \) changes in time \( t \) according to the law of a decaying sinusoid \([9, 10, 19]\). We believe that the pulse current density \( \delta_{h}(t) \) is characterized by an almost uniform distribution over the cross-section \( S_{0} \) of the accepted thin conductor, because for it the thickness of the current skin layer can significantly exceed its radius \( r_{0} \). We assume that in the pre-explosion state of the sublimated body of a thin conductor, its maximum values of temperature \( T_{\text{m}} \) and pressure \( P_{\text{m}} \) are uniformly distributed over the cross section of the formed dense «metal plasma» \([9, 10]\), which is located before its high-speed expansion (flight) within the critical section \( S_{0} = S_{0}[20] \). We believe that the specified «metal plasma» of the conductor is, in the first approximation, a superheated metal vapor, which refers to highly unsaturated vapors (real gases) with temperature \( T_{\text{m}} \) much higher than its boiling point at temperature \( T_{b} \) and high pressure \( P_{m} \). In this connection, the gas laws known in classical physics can be applied to the «metal plasma» formed after the sublimation of the metal with its highly superheated vapor and their subsequent high-speed expansion (expansion at EE) in the surrounding gas in the considered approximation \([28]\). We believe that the maximum temperature \( T_{c} \) in the indicated equilibrium «metal plasma», for which the electron temperature practically does not differ from the temperature of its ions and atoms, is determined by the electron temperature, which depends on the amplitude of the longitudinal heat flux density \( g_{\text{c}} \) in the cross-section \( S_{0} \) of the conductor. In the analyzed case, \( g_{\text{c}} \) will be determined by the amplitude \( \delta_{mc} \) of the current density in the conductor and the near-electrode voltage drop \( U_{c} \) in the edge zones of the sublimated body of the conductor \([24]\). The gas surrounding the investigated conductor with the initial temperature \( T_{g} \) of its material, as well as the «metallic plasma» formed during the EE of its strongly overheated body, are taken as ideal gas environments that correspond to the classical concept of «ideal gas» \([10, 28]\).

Taking into account the normal atmospheric conditions before the EE of the conductor under study, one can use the following basic characteristics of the surrounding source gas medium for the conductor \([28]\): the gas pressure is \( P_{g} = 1.013 \times 10^{5} \) Pa; absolute gas temperature is \( T_{g} = 273.15 \) K; the molar volume of the gas is \( V_{\text{mol}} = 22.41 \times 10^{-3} \) m³/mol. Taking into account the rapid explosive nature of the thermophysical and gas-dynamic processes occurring during EE of the metal of the conductor (when their duration in time \( t \) is up to 0.5 ms
[10], and the insignificant removal of heat from the EE zone to the radial expansion of the «metal plasma» of the conductor under study [9] we will limit ourselves to the consideration of the flow in the conditions of almost complete thermal insulation of the conductor of the adiabatic process in the local zone around the exploding conductor, with the HPC flowing along it, in which case heat exchange processes between the conductor under study and the gas will not occur in the volume of EE occupied by the cylindrical zone, which surrounds it.

It is necessary, under the assumed assumptions, to obtain calculated relations for estimating the temperature \( T_m \) and pressure \( P_n \) in the plasma, the time \( t_c \) of the conductor explosion, the active resistance \( R_c \) and the specific electrical conductivity \( \sigma \) of the plasma channel, the energy \( W \) introduced into the conductor, and the energy \( W \) released in plasma channel, and the velocity \( \nu_{sw} \) of shock wave propagation in the plasma products of EE of the conductor metal in the gas medium under the influence of HPC.

2. Approximate calculation of the maximum temperature \( T_m \) in the plasma channel of the discharge at the gas EE of the conductor. For the engineering calculation of the maximum temperature \( T_m \) in the «metal plasma» at EE in the gas environment of the investigated metal conductor with a cross-section \( S_0 \) under the action of HPC flowing through it, the following thermophysical relationship can be used [24]:

\[
T_m \approx \left[ \frac{\sigma S_0 |U_e| (2J_kS_0) |I_{mc}| \omega_{c}}{\omega_{c}^{1/3}} \right]^{1/4},
\]

where \( \sigma \approx 5.86 \times 10^{-9} \text{ W/(m}^2\text{K)} \) is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant [28]; \( U_e \) is the near-electrode voltage drop in the edge zones of the sublimated conductor, which numerically does not exceed 10 V for base metals used in HPC technology [29]; \( I_{mc} \) is the first amplitude of the discharge current \( i(t) \) in the electrical circuit of the HPC generator, which changes in time \( t \) with the circular frequency \( \omega_{c} \) and is determined by the electrical parameters of the discharge circuit of the generator; \( J_k \) is the critical value of the current integral for a conductor metal with cross-section \( S_0 \) [27].

Calculation estimation based on (1) of the value of the highest temperature \( T_m \) in the «metal plasma» at EE in air of a short thin copper conductor \( (l_0 \approx 110 \text{ mm}; r_0 \approx 0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0 \approx 3.14 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mm}^2; U_e \approx 10 \text{ V} \) [29]; \( J_k \approx 1.95 \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [27]) under the influence of the microsecond time range \( (I_{mc} \approx 190 \text{ kA} \); \( \omega_{c} \approx 26.18 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \) ) numerically obtained in the conditions of high-voltage electrophysical laboratory using a GPC with capacitance of \( C_0 \approx 333 \mu \text{F} \) and electric energy \( W_0 \approx 121.4 \text{ kJ} \) stored in its powerful capacitor battery (at its charging voltage \( U_{c,0} = 27 \text{ kV} \)) shows that the temperature in this case, it will be approximately equal to \( T_m \approx 121.6 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \). It should be noted that verification by the authors of this temperature by other methods (for example, with the help of appropriate experimental devices) is currently impossible in the conditions of a high-voltage electrophysical laboratory. Let us point out that in [18] at EE in a vacuum of a short thin lithium conductor \( (l_0 \approx 10 \text{ mm}; r_0 \approx 63.5 \mu \text{m}; S_0 \approx 1.27 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2; J_k \approx 0.61 \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [31]; \( U_e \approx 5 \text{ V} \) [29]), which is connected in the discharge circuit of a high-voltage GPC \( (I_{mc} \approx 45 \text{ kA}; \omega_{c} \approx 1.25 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \) ) with nominal electrical energy \( W_0 \approx 100 \text{ kJ} \), which is stored in its capacitor bank, the maximum temperature \( T_m \approx 113.5 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \) was experimentally recorded in the plasma products of EE of this conductor with GPC of the microsecond time range with high frequency of oscillation. The use of (2) to estimate the temperature level \( T_m \) in the test case specified in [18] indicates that the numerical value of the temperature will be equal to \( T_m \approx 122.4 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \). As we can see, the approximate results of the numerical calculation by (1) of the maximum temperature \( T_m \) in the «metal plasma» during EE of the specified lithium conductor indicate that the calculated data indicated above agree well with the experimental data that were given in [18] and obtained by other EE research methods.

It is interesting to note the fact that during our experimental study [30] of EE in atmospheric air of a thin round copper conductor \( (l_0 \approx 110 \text{ mm}; r_0 \approx 0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0 \approx 3.14 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2; J_k \approx 1.95 \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [27]) we find that the amplitude of the critical density current \( \delta_{mk} \), which is calculated by the following approximate expression:

\[
\delta_{mk} \approx (2J_kS_0)^{-1} |I_{mc}| |\omega_{c}|^{1/3}.
\]

From (2) at \( I_{mc} \approx 190 \times 10^3 \text{ kA} \) and \( \omega_{c} \approx 26.18 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \) [30] for the considered thin copper conductor \( (l_0 \approx 110 \text{ mm}; r_0 \approx 0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0 \approx 3.14 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2; J_k \approx 1.95 \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [27]) we find that the amplitude of the critical density \( \delta_{mk} \) of the sinusoidal current in it will take a numerical value of about \( \delta_{mk} \approx 3.95 \times 10^{11} \text{ A/m} \). According to the data of the magnetohydrodynamic calculation of EE from [32, 33], this level of current density \( \delta_{mk} \) will correspond to the high-temperature mode of flow of EE of the conductor.

Calculation data obtained in [32] on the basis of numerical magnetohydrodynamic modeling of the electroexplosive process for metal in vacuum (water) indicate that at high-temperature EE of an aluminum conductor \( (r_0 \approx 0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0 \approx 3.14 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2; \delta_{mk} \approx 10^{12} \text{ A/m} \) regardless of the properties of the environment in which its explosion occurs, the temperature of the «metallic plasma» formed from it reaches a level of up to 8 eV, which corresponds to an absolute temperature of \( 92.8 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \) [27]. The calculated estimation according to the proposed formula (1) for the maximum temperature \( T_m \) of the created plasma in the air discharge channel of a powerful high-voltage GPC \( (I_{mc} \approx 190 \text{ kA}; \omega_{c} \approx 26.18 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1} \) ) at EE of the specified aluminum conductor \( (U_e \approx 8 \text{ V} \) [29]; \( J_k \approx 0.82 \times 10^{15} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [31]) shows that in this case \( T_m \approx 107.1 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \). This calculated level of the temperature \( T_m \) of the «metal plasma» from that specified in [32] \( T_m \approx 92.8 \times 10^3 \text{ K} \) differs by almost 13%. Of course, such a comparison is not entirely correct (here, the initial data for EE were taken by us from different studies). It should not be forgotten that there are very few relevant research results for \( T_m \) in the field of EE of conductors. Despite this, for the case under consideration, we can say that formula (1) for \( T_m \) works.

It follows from (1) that in order to achieve «records» (highest) levels of absolute temperature \( T_m \) in the local zone of EE in a gas environment (vacuum) during the explosion under study, it is necessary to use extremely
thin conductors with the maximum possible value of the critical current integral \( J_k \) for them, as well as to use «fast» GPC generators, which are capable of forming on the exploding conductor the maximum possible amplitudes \( I_{mc} \) of the first half-waves of the GPC discharge current of nanosecond duration.

Let us point out that experimental numerical values of the critical current integral \( J_k \) were given in [27] only for aluminum and copper conductors. Of undoubted practical interest are the calculated data for the current integral \( J_k \) for other conductive materials used in HPT and HPC technology for EE of thin metals, when the critical density \( \delta_0 \) of current \( i(t) \) in them is at least \( 10^{11} \text{ A/m}^2 \).

3. Approximate calculation of the critical current integral \( J_k \) at the gas EE of the conductor. Calculation of the numerical value of the critical current integral \( J_k \) at EE in the gas of the thin conductor under study can be performed according to the formula [31]:

\[
J_k \approx \gamma_{cb} N_0 W_f,
\]

where \( \gamma_{cb} \) is the specific electrical conductivity of the conductor metal at its boiling temperature \( T_b \) (during its sublimation) \((\Omega \text{ m})^{-1}\); \( N_0 \) is the concentration (density) of atoms (positive ions) in the crystal lattice of the metal of the conductor before the action of HPC on it \( (\text{m}^3) \); \( W_f \) is the thermodynamic work of the release of free electrons from the metal of the conductor before the flow of HPC begins \((J)\).

Equation (3) is based on the results of a theoretical study by the authors of the phenomenon of anomalous thermoelectronic emission of free electrons from the material of the conductor, which during EE is destroyed and loses its metallic conductivity under the action of HPC in the high-current discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC [31].

Let us point out that the value of \( \gamma_{cb} \) for the main conductor materials can be determined according to the experimentally obtained empirical relations for them given in [34]. The numerical value of the initial concentration (density) of atoms \( N_0 \) in the electrically explosive solid metal of the conductor under study with its initial density \( d_c \) can be found using the following formula [28]:

\[
N_0 = d_c (M_{at0} \cdot 1.6606 \cdot 10^{-27})^{-1}, \quad (4)
\]

where \( M_{at0} \) is the atomic mass of the metal of the conductor of the density \( d_c \).

The value of the thermodynamic work of output \( W_f \) of free electrons from the metal in (3) can be found from [35], where experimental emission data for most metals used in experimental physics, high-current HPT, and HPC technology were given.

Table 1 summarizes the numerical values of the parameters \( \gamma_{cb}, N_0, W_f \) and \( J_k \) determined according to (3), (4) taking into account [28, 34–36] for a number of metals used in the study of EE of thin conductors in gaseous media and in the circuits of electrotechnical devices of electroexplosive technologies [9, 10, 20]. From the data in Table 1, it can be seen that the approximate calculated value of the critical current integral \( J_k \) for a thin copper conductor \((J_k \approx 1.71 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4}) \) obtained under the accepted assumptions and normal atmospheric conditions according to (3) is approximately 12 % less than its corresponding experimental value in air \((J_k \approx 1.95 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4}) \) at room temperature \((T_a \approx 293.15 \text{ K}) \) [27]. One of the reasons for this may be that the calculated relation (3) does not take into account the influence on the specified thermophysical parameters \( \gamma_{cb}, N_0 \) and \( W_f \) of the rapid overheating of the sublimated metal of the conductor (its vapor), which accompanies the high-temperature EE mode in the gas of the conductor placed in the circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>( \gamma_{cb} ) ((\Omega \text{ m})^{-1} )</th>
<th>( N_0 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-3} ) by ((34))</th>
<th>( W_f \times 10^{19} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} ) by ((35))</th>
<th>( J_k \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} ) by ((3))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>8.43</td>
<td>7.05</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>8.65</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>7.21</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molybdenum</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>6.40</td>
<td>6.89</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tungsten</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>6.26</td>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the other hand, the experimental methods of quantitative determination of the value of the integral \( J_k \) are also not without shortcomings and the errors introduced by them in the determination of \( J_k \) [32]. The parameters \( N_0 \) and \( W_f \) in (3) clearly do not depend on the value of \( \gamma_{cb} \). Therefore, the calculated data of Table 1 for \( \gamma_{cb} \) and \( J_k \) clearly demonstrate to us that the smaller the value of the specific electrical conductivity \( \gamma_{cb} \) (the greater the specific electrical resistance of the conductor material) used for EE in the metal in the gas, the smaller the value of the critical current integral \( J_k \) necessary for the occurrence of this electrophysical phenomenon will be and accordingly, based on the numerical magneto-hydrodynamic model of EE in vacuum (water) of a thin aluminum conductor investigated in [32], the integral of the specific action \( h(t) \) of the GPC pulse discharge current with its density \( \delta_0(t) \) in this conductor. This, taking into account the theoretical results of works [5, 32], indicates the possibility of using formula (3) for the integral \( J_k \).

4. Approximate calculation of the time \( t_{ex} \) of thermal explosion of the conductor in the gas. The calculation estimation of the time \( t_{ex} \) of EE in the gas of the investigated metal conductor, which corresponds to the moment of its maximum resistance and peak-like increase in the electric voltage \( u(t) \), can be carried out according to the expression [30]:

\[
t_{ex} \approx \left[ \frac{2 \omega_0^2 S_0^2}{(2J_k S_0^2) / (\omega_0^2 I_{mc}^2)} \right]^{1/3} / 3, \quad (5)
\]

From (5) for a thin round copper conductor \((D=110 \text{ mm}; r_c=0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0=3.14 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2; J_k=1.95 \cdot 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \cdot \text{s} \cdot \text{m}^{-4} \) [27]) with the HPC parameters used by us in the discharge circuit of a powerful GPC \((L_p=190 \text{ kA}; \omega_c=26.18 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ s}^{-1}) \), we obtain that \( t_{ex}=3.32 \mu \text{s} \). Based on (5), for a given conductor material (a given numerical value of the critical integral \( J_k \)), to decrease (increase) the \( t_{ex} \) parameter, it is necessary to: decrease (increase) the section \( S_0 \) of the conductor and increase (decrease) the circular frequency \( \omega_c \) of oscillations and the first amplitude \( I_{mc} \) of the discharge current in the GPC circuit.

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*Electrical Engineering & Electromechanics, 2023, no. 1*
5. Approximate calculation of the maximum pressure $P_m$ in the plasma channel of the discharge at the gas EE of the conductor. Using the well-known equation of state of an ideal gas [28], taking into account the accepted assumptions in a rough approximation that does not take into account the pressure of electrons, for the maximum pressure $P_m$ in the cylindrical zone of the «metal plasma» at EE in the gas environment of a thin metal conductor, we have:

$$P_m \approx \rho_p R_m M_p^{-1} T_m^5,$$

where $R_m = 8.314$ J/(mol·K) is the universal gas constant [28]; $M_p$ is the molar mass (in kg/mol) of superheated metal vapor with density $\rho_p$, which occurs before its radial expansion within the critical section $S_0 \approx 10 S_0$ of the sublimated body of the conductor under study with the initial density $d_i$ of its solid metal.

For the case under consideration, $\rho_p = 0.1 d_i$ [20, 23]. Then, taking into account (1) and (6), for the pressure amplitude $P_m$ in the plasma cylindrical channel, which is initiated by EE in the conductor gas, in the final form we obtain the following approximate calculation ratio:

$$P_m = 0.1 d_i R_m M_p^{-1} \left[ \sigma_v e U_e^2 (2J_e S_0^2) \left| \frac{1}{\rho_m} (\omega_e)^{1/3} \right| \right]^{1/4}.$$

Note that expression (7) corresponds to the approximate calculation model of EE of a metal conductor in gas under conditions where the «metal plasma» within the section of the conductor $S_0$ can be considered as ideal gas.

From (7) at EE in a gas (for example, in air) of a thin copper conductor ($S_0 \approx 3.4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$; $d_i \approx 8.920 \text{ kg/m}^3$ [28]; $M_f = 63.55 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg/mol}$ [28]; $R_m = 8.314$ J/(mol·K) [28]; $U_e \approx 10 \text{ V}$ [29]; $J_e \approx 1.95 \times 10^{17} \text{ A}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$ [27]), connected in a high-current discharge circuit of the indicated high-voltage GPC ($I_{0m} \approx 190 \text{ kA}$; $\omega_e \approx 26.18 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}^{-1}$ [30]), we find that the maximum gas-dynamic pressure $P_m$ arising in the local zone of its explosion in the «metal plasma» will be equal to $P_m \approx 14,190 \times 10^9 \text{ Pa}$ (up to $14 \times 10^4 \text{ atm}$ [28]). This calculated result for $P_m$ indicates that with EE in the gas environment of thin metal conductors, gas-dynamic pressure of large values can arise in their cross-section $S_0$. It can be seen from (6), (7) that the pressure value $P_m$ is directly proportional to the temperature level $T_m$, which is reached in the EE zone of the conductor, and practically does not depend on the parameters of the gas environment in which the EE of the investigated metal conductor takes place. In this regard, in order to achieve «record» (highest) levels of maximum pressure $P_m$ in «metal plasma» at EE in the gas of a thin metal conductor, it is necessary to ensure that the maximum temperature $T_m$ of this plasma is obtained in the zone of this explosion. For this, it is necessary to use the smallest cross-sections $S_0$ of short metal conductors, as well as «fast» HPC generators, which reproduce in GPC circuits the largest amplitudes $I_{0m}$ and circular frequencies $\omega_e$ of their discharge current $i_e(t).

6. Approximate calculation of the sublimation energy $W_s$ of the metal at the gas EE of the conductor. The sublimation energy $W_s$ of the conductor substance will be equal to the sum of the energies of its heating $Q_{s1}$ from the initial temperature $T_0$ to the melting temperature $T_m$; heating $Q_{s2}$ from the melting temperature $T_m$ to the boiling temperature $T_w$ melting $Q_v$ and vaporization $Q_v$.

For the heating energy $Q_{s1}$ and vaporization $Q_v$, the formula will be valid:

$$Q_{s1} \approx c_i m_i (T_m - T_0),$$

where $c_i$ is the specific heat capacity (at constant volume) of the material of the investigated metal conductor of the initial mass $m_i = l_0 S_0 d_i$ [28].

We have the following expression for the heating energy $Q_{s2}$:

$$Q_{s2} \approx c_i m_i (T_w - T_m).$$

For the heat of melting of the metal of the conductor $Q_m$, the following relation will be valid [28]:

$$Q_m = q_m m_i,$$

where $q_m$ is the specific heat of vaporization of the material of a cylindrical conductor of the mass $m_i = l_0 S_0 d_i$ at its initial absolute temperature $T_0 = 273.15 \text{ K}$.

From (8)–(11) for the analyzed short thin cylindrical copper conductor ($l_0 \approx 110 \text{ mm}$; $r_0 \approx 0.1 \text{ mm}$; $S_0 = 3.14 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$; $d_i = 8.920 \text{ kg/m}^3$; $m_i = 0.308 \times 10^{-4} \text{ kg}$; $T_0 \approx 273.15 \text{ K}$; $T_w \approx 2863.15 \text{ K}$; $c_i = 385 \text{ J/(kg•K)}$; $q_m = 4.79 - 10^5 \text{ J/kg}$ [28]), later used when we conducted high-current experiments ($I_{0m} \approx 190 \text{ kA}$; $\omega_e \approx 26.18 \times 10^{-10} \text{ s}^{-1}$ [30]) on a powerful high-voltage GPC according to its air EE, we find that $W_s = (Q_{s1} + Q_{s2} + Q_v + Q_m) \approx 197.4 \text{ J}$. Note that according to experimental data from [9, 37], the specific sublimation energy $q_s$ for copper is numerically equal to approximately $q_s \approx 4.68 \times 10^{-9} \text{ J/m}$. In this regard, the refined value of the sublimation energy $W_s$ for the thin copper conductor ($V_c = l_0 S_0 = 34.5 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^3$) will be equal to about $W_s = 161.5 \text{ J}$. It can be seen that the calculated and experimental values for the sublimation energy $W_s$ of the indicated copper conductor under study ($l_0 = 110 \text{ mm}$; $r_0 = 0.1 \text{ mm}$) differ from each other with an error of no more than 18 %. Therefore, we can say that the calculated estimation of the sublimation energy $W_s$ of the copper conductor metal is valid.

7. Approximate calculation of the overheating energy $W_{oh}$ of the sublimated metal at the gas EV of the conductor. The energy of strong overheating $W_{oh}$ of the metal vapor in the discharge plasma channel, which was formed from the sublimated one by discharge current $i_e(t)$, which flows through the conductor in the GPC circuit, its metal and is part of the «metal plasma» of this cylindrical channel, can be estimated by the following expression:

$$W_{oh} \approx (T_m - T_0) c_v m_i,$$

where $c_v$ is the specific heat capacity (at constant volume) of the metal vapor of the sublimated body of the conductor with mass equal to the initial mass $m_i = l_0 S_0 d_i$ of the metal conductor exploding in a gas environment.

From (12) taking into account the accepted assumptions for the investigated thin copper cylindrical conductor ($l_0 = 110 \text{ mm}$; $r_0 = 0.1 \text{ mm}$; $S_0 = 3.14 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2$;
The conductor is determined mainly by the mass of the high-current GPC discharge. As for the adiabatic index \( \beta_p \), it is approximately seven times greater than the calculated value, and, accordingly, the metal vapor formed from it, is approximately seven times greater than the calculated value of the overheating energy \( W_{sh} \) of the sublimated conductor metal, \( W_{sh}/W_s \approx 7.1 \). According to the theoretical data from [32], obtained on the basis of a complex numerical magnetohydrodynamic model of EE of the metal with current, this indicator for high-temperature EE \( \left(T_a=92.8\times10^3 \text{ K} \right) \) in vacuum (water) of thin aluminum of the conductor is also approximately \( W_{sh}/W_s \approx 7 \) (without taking into account the energy released during EE, which is introduced into the metal structure of this conductor). In this regard, the approximate results of the calculated energy of the sublimated conductor metal given by us are valid.

8. Approximate calculation of the energy of the thermal explosion \( W_{ex} \) in the gas of the superheated vapor of the metal conductor. Taking into account the accepted assumptions, in the approximate calculation of the energy of the thermal explosion \( W_{ex} \) in the gas medium of the highly superheated metal vapor of the metal conductor under study, we use the formulas known in thermodynamics for the work done by the gas during its adiabatic expansion [28]. Using the mode of adiabatic expansion of a highly superheated metal vapor with a gas-dynamic pressure \( P_a \) of a sublimated body of a metal conductor with mass \( m \approx l_0 S_0 d_0 \), in the considered approximation for the work \( W_{ex} \) produced by this vapor and, accordingly, the thermal energy released in the surrounding gas by the «metal plasma» that rapidly expands around the conductor in a gaseous medium, the following gas-dynamic relation can be written [28]:

\[
W_{ex} \approx l_0 S_0 d_0 P_a (M_s + M_p) \left(T_m - T_{ap} \right)\beta_p \left(1 - \beta_p\right)^{-1},
\]

where \( M_s, M_p \) are, respectively, the molar mass (in kg/mol) of the initial gas around the conductor \( \left(T_a \approx 273.15 \text{ K} \right) \) and the metal vapor formed in this gas from its sublimated metal; \( \beta_p \) is the adiabatic index for «metal plasma» in the EE zone; \( T_{ap} \) is the temperature that is established in the EE zone of the conductor after the expansion of its highly superheated metal vapor in the gas.

In the general case \( T_{ap} \neq T_a \) for further calculation estimations according to (13) of the largest values of the thermal explosion energy \( W_{ex} \) at EE of a metallic conductor in a gas (for example, in air), we limit ourselves to the particular thermophysical case when \( T_{ap} \approx T_a \).

It can be seen from (13) that the thermal explosion energy \( W_{ex} \) of the highly overheated metal of the conductor is determined mainly by the mass \( m \approx l_0 S_0 d_0 \) of the exploding conductor and the maximum temperature \( T_a \) according to (1) in the formed plasma channel of the high-current GPC discharge. As for the adiabatic index \( \beta_p \) for «metal plasma», taking into account the fact that at EE in the gas of a metallic conductor, this plasma usually contains diatomic gases by its composition (for example, nitrogen \( N_2 \), hydrogen \( H_2 \) and oxygen \( O_2 \), which are part of air), in the first approximation for it in the case of the presence of diatomic gases in the gaseous medium around the conductor, it is possible to take the numerical value of the adiabatic index \( \beta_p \), which is about \( \beta_p \approx 1.4 \) [28]. Then from (13) for EE in atmospheric air \( \left(T_a \approx 273.15 \text{ K} ; \beta_p \approx 1.4 \right) \), \( M_p=\approx 28.97\times10^{-3} \text{ kg/mol} \) [28] of the copper conductor \( (l_0=110 \text{ mm}; r_0=0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0=3.14\times10^{-8} \text{ m}^2; d_0=8920 \text{ kg/m}^3; m_p=\approx 0.308\times10^{-4} \text{ kg}; J_p=\approx 1.95\times10^7 \text{ A}^2\cdot\text{s}^{-1} \cdot\text{m}^{-2} \) [27]; \( U_e\approx10 \text{ V} \) [29]; \( M_p=\approx 63.55\times10^{-3} \text{ kg/mol} \) [28]) in the high-current discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC \( (l_0=190 \text{ kA}; \omega_p \approx 26.18\times10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \left[30\right] \)) for \( R_m=\approx 8.314 \text{ J/(mol.K)} \) [28] and \( T_a=\approx 121.6\times10^3 \text{ K} \), we obtain that in this electrophysical case the value of the thermal explosion energy \( W_{ex} \) of the conductor under study will be numerically equal to approximately \( W_{ex}=\approx 838.8 \text{ J} \).

9. Approximate indicators of the process of introducing energy \( W_i \) into the structure of the conductor at its gas EE. As is known, the peculiarities of the process of rapid introduction of thermal energy \( W_i \) into the crystalline structure of the metal conductor will determine all the thermophysical and thermodynamic characteristics of its next EE both in vacuum and in gas and liquid media [5, 9, 10, 20, 32]. In the studied case of the engineering approach to the gas EE of a thin metal conductor in the high-current discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC, this process includes the stages of its sublimation, severe overheating, and thermal explosion of the metal vapor of the conductor. For a brief description of these stages above, in sections 2 and 4–8, the corresponding approximate calculation formulas (1) and (5)–(13) were given for determining the maximum temperature \( T_m \) of the plasma, the time \( t_m \) of the thermal explosion, the maximum pressure \( P_m \), the sublimation energy \( W_s \), the overheating energy \( W_o \) and the thermal explosion energy \( W_{ex} \) at EE in the accepted gas environment \( \left(T_a=\approx 273.15 \text{ K} ; P_a=\approx1.013\times10^5 \text{ Pa} \right) \) of the considered metal conductor. With respect to a short copper cylindrical conductor \( (l_0=110 \text{ mm}; r_0=0.1 \text{ mm}; S_0=3.14\times10^{-8} \text{ m}^2; d_0=8920 \text{ kg/m}^3; m_p=\approx 0.308\times10^{-4} \text{ kg}; J_p=\approx 1.95\times10^7 \text{ A}^2\cdot\text{s}^{-1} \cdot\text{m}^{-2} \) [27]), placed in the high-current discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC \( (l_0=190 \text{ kA}; \omega_p \approx 26.18\times10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \left[30\right] \) ), it was established by calculation that the thermal energy \( W_i \) is \( W_i=\approx (W_s + W_o + W_{ex}) \) injected into the metal of the conductor in the microsecond time range is numerically about \( W_i \approx 2.44 \text{ kJ} \) (with a powerful GPC stored in a capacitor battery with capacitance of \( C_{G}=333 \mu\text{F} \)) with a GPC energy \( W_{ex} \approx 121.4 \text{ kJ} \) [30]). It can be seen that the thermal energy \( W_i \) does not exceed 2% of the electrical energy \( W_o \) of the GPC battery. Such an electrophysical approach to the calculated determination of the energy \( W_i \) introduced into the metal structure of the conductor is in full agreement with the first law of classical thermodynamics [28].

10. Approximate calculation of the active resistance \( R_{ap} \) of the plasma channel of the discharge at the gas EE of the conductor. After the considered conductor loses its metallic conductivity, which is characterized at the boiling temperature \( T_b \) by the specific
electrical conductivity $\gamma_c$ (see Table 1) [34], strong overheating of the metal vapor, the appearance of radial spread (from the moment of time $t_0$) of the sublimated metal vapor of the thin conductor [4, 5, 7, 32] and the formation in the local zone of its EE in the gas of a high-temperature «metal plasma» [31], which forms a cylindrical plasma channel of a gas discharge [29], the main part of the stored in the GPC capacitor battery of its electrical energy is «switched on» in the electrophysical process energy $W_c$. This part of the energy $W_c$ will be dissipated on the active resistances of the electric circuit of the high-voltage GPC: $R_c$ for the formed plasma cylindrical discharge channel of length $l_c$ and $R_k$ for the current-carrying elements of the GPC discharge circuit [19, 20]. Analytical determination of $R_c$ faces serious technical difficulties. Therefore, later, when calculating $R_c$, numerically, we will limit ourselves to the results of our own experimental studies [37], performed on a low-impedance powerful high-voltage GPC ($R_c=50$ mΩ [21]) with a discharge decaying sinusoidal current $i_c(t)$, which was used (see the following section 14) during the experimental study of EE in the atmospheric air of a thin cylindrical conductor ($l_c=110$ mm; $r_0=0.1$ mm).

In [36, 37], experimentally when using in the discharge circuit of a powerful GPC a decaying sinusoidal current $i_c(t)$ of microsecond duration, the first amplitude of which $Im$ varied within $I_c \approx (30–220)$ kA, the validity of the discharge and the specified conditions of change in a voltage GPC.

From the electrical engineering formula for discharge at the gas EE of the conductor. From the classical electrical engineering formula for $R_c$ of a conductor with radius $r_m$ taking into account (14) and the minimum linear active resistance $R_{0,0}$ of initiated EE in the gas of the conductor of the plasma cylindrical discharge channel in the GPC electric circuit, we obtain the formula for the engineering estimation of the maximum specific electrical conductivity $\gamma_p$ of its plasma:

$$\gamma_p \approx 36.8(R_{0,0}^{-1/4} Im^{-1/3} t_{mc}^{-1}).$$

From (15) at the studied EE in atmospheric air ($T_a=273.15$ K; $P_a=1.013 \times 10^5$ Pa [28]) of a thin copper conductor ($l_c=110$ mm; $r_0=0.1$ mm), which is connected in a high-current discharge GPC high-voltage capacitor bank circuit ($Im=190-10^4$ A; $t_{mc}=42.10^{-6}$ s; $\omega_c=26.18 \times 10^4$ s$^{-1}$; $U_a=27$ kV [30]) for $R_c=0.167$ Ω/m the specific electrical conductivity $\gamma_p$ of the plasma cylindrical channel with length $l_c=110$ mm, which occurs in this case, turns out to be numerically equal to $\gamma_p=1587.6$ (Ω m)$^{-1}$. This calculated value of $\gamma_p$ is in good agreement with the corresponding experimental data of γp for «metallic plasma» given in [9, 10, 37].

12. Approximate calculation of the energy $W_c$ released in the plasma channel of the discharge at the gas EE of the conductor. At EE in the gaseous medium of the metal conductor of length $l_0$ under consideration, through it and the cylindrical channel of length $l_c=l_0$ formed by this explosion with «metal plasma» in the high-current GPC circuit of the capacitive type, a discharge decaying sinusoidal current $i_c(t)$ flows, which is described in time $t$ by the following dependence [6, 36]:

$$i_c(t) = \pm k_c Imc \cdot e^{-\gamma_c t} \cdot \sin(\omega_c t),$$

(16)

where $\gamma_c$, $\omega_c$ are, respectively, the attenuation coefficient and the circular frequency of oscillations of the discharge current of the powerful GPC; $k_c = \exp(-\gamma_c t) \cdot \sin(\omega_c t)$. $k_c$ is the dimensionless normalizing coefficient.

On the active resistance $R_c$ of the plasma cylindrical channel of the spark discharge of length $l_c=l_0$, initiated by EE in the gaseous medium of a thin metal conductor of length $l_0$ in the accepted high-current circuit of the high-voltage GPC of the capacitor type with pulsed sinusoidal current $i_c(t)$ according to (16), thermal energy $W_c$ will be released, which is calculated according to the following electrotechnical formula:

$$W_c = l_0R_{0,0}k_c^2 Im^2 \cdot \int_0^\infty e^{-2\gamma_c t} \sin^2(\omega_c t) dt. \quad (17)$$

After integration in (17) for the thermal energy $W_c$ released in the plasma discharge channel formed in the GPC circuit due to EE in the metal conductor gas, we obtain finally:

$$W_c \approx l_0R_{0,0}k_c^2 Im^2 \cdot \frac{2}{1+\left(\frac{\gamma_c}{\omega_c}\right)^2} \cdot [1+\left(\frac{\gamma_c}{\omega_c}\right)^2]^{-1} / 4. \quad (18)$$

According to (18), at EE in the atmospheric air of the short copper conductor ($l_0=110$ mm; $r_0=0.1$ mm) and the plasma channel of the spark discharge initiated by it ($l_0=110$ mm; $R_c=0.167$ Ω/m [37]) in the high-current circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC ($Im=190$ kA; $\omega_c=14.39 \times 10^5$ s$^{-1}$; $\omega_c=26.18 \times 10^4$ s$^{-1}$; $k_c=2.05$ [30]) in the indicated channel with «metallic plasma» thermal energy $W_c$ will release, numerically equal to $W_c=37.2$ kJ. This energy $W_c$ in sum with the thermal energy $W_{1,2}=24.4$ kJ introduced into the investigated explosive copper conductor ($l_0=110$ mm; $r_0=0.1$ mm) is approximately $(W_c + W_{1,2}) \approx 39.6$ kJ. Then the ratio of the sum of thermal
energies \((W_e + W_w)\) to the electrical energy \(W_e=121.4\ \text{kJ}\) [30] stored in the GPC capacitor battery will be numerically equal to \((W_e + W_w)/W_e=0.326\). Therefore, it can be said that in the considered electric circuit with the use of a powerful high-voltage GPC of the capacitor type \((C_p=333\ \mu\text{F}; \ U_{d}=27\ \text{kV}; \ W_e=121.4\ \text{kJ}\) [30]) for the practical implementation of the EE process in the atmospheric air of the short copper conductor \((l_0=110\ \text{mm}; \ \rho_0=0.1\ \text{mm})\) the efficiency \(\eta_e=\left(W_e + W_w\right)/W_0\) of the electrical energy of the GPC capacitor bank is numerically \(\eta_e=0.326\) (32.6 %). This indicator \(\eta_e\) turned out to be smaller than the similar indicator \(\eta_t=57.1\ %\), typical for the use of the same powerful high-voltage GPC when forming a similar copper conductor of a plasma channel of an underwater discharge in its discharge circuit based on EE in technical water [39]. The reason for this is the greater value of the active resistance \(R_s=R_{ad}\) of the underwater plasma discharge channel compared to the gas discharge channel [20, 39]. It follows from (1) and (18) that both the temperature \(T_m\) of the plasma channel and the energy \(W_e\) released in it can be determined from the oscillogram of the discharge current \(i_e(t)\) of the GPC at EE in the conductor gas.

13. Approximate calculation of the maximum velocity \(v_{\text{mw}}\) of the shock acoustic wave at the gas EE of the conductor. In the analyzed electrophysical case, the expression for the maximum velocity \(v_{\text{mw}}\) of propagation of the shock acoustic wave in plasma products formed from EE in the gas medium of the investigated metal conductor can be represented in the following form [28, 40]:

\[
v_{\text{mw}} = 0.5(\beta_p + 1)\sqrt{\beta_p R_m T_m (M_a + M_p)}^{1/2}.
\]  

(19)

When obtaining (19), we used the known relationship between the shock wave velocity \(v_{\text{mw}}\) and the velocity of expansion \(v_{\text{ex}}\) of a highly overheated metal vapour of a conductor behind the shock wave front [27, 40]: \(v_{\text{mw}} = 0.5(\beta_p + 1)v_{\text{ex}}\). In the studied case, it is assumed that the velocity \(v_{\text{ex}}\) corresponds to the velocity of a sound wave in a dense «metal plasma» formed at the initial stage of EE in the gas of a metal conductor [10, 28]. It can be seen that the value of \(v_{\text{mw}}\) is directly proportional to the level of the temperature indicator \(T_m^{1/2}\).

From (19) at EE in air with normal atmospheric conditions \((T_a=273.15\ \text{K}; \ \beta_p=1.4; \ M_a=28.97\times10^{-3}\ \text{kg/mol}; \ R_a=8.314\ \text{J/(mol} \cdot \text{K)}\) [28]) of the short copper conductor \((l_0=110\ \text{mm}; \ \rho_0=0.1\ \text{mm}; \ S_0 = 3.14\times10^{-8}\ \text{m}^2; \ J_a \approx 1.95\times10^{17}\ \text{A}^2\text{s m}^{-4}\) [27], \(M_p=63.55\times10^{-3}\ \text{kg/mol}\) [28]), connected in the high-current discharge circuit of a high-voltage GPC \((l_{mc}=190\ \text{kA}; \ \omega_c=26.18\times10^{3}\ \text{s}^{-1}; \ T_{mc}=121.6\times10^{3}\ \text{K})\), it turns out that the velocity of the shock acoustic wave \(v_{\text{mw}}\) acquires a numerical value of approximately \(v_{\text{mw}}=4693\ \text{m/s}\). This estimated calculated value of the velocity \(v_{\text{mw}}\) of the gas-dynamic shock wave at EE in the atmospheric air of a thin copper conductor corresponds to the velocity of a shock wave from the EE of a copper wire with radius of 75 \(\mu\text{m}\) with HPC propagating in distilled water at speed of approximately \(4.3\times10^5\ \text{m/s}\) (at thus, the pressure amplitude in the water near the exploding wire reaches the level of \(6.5\times10^9\ \text{Pa}\) or \(6.42\times10^4\ \text{atm})\) [8], as well as the detonation wave in «slow» solid explosive explosives [41]. In this regard, the EE phenomenon in gas environments of thin metal conductors can be used in electrodetonators when detonating ammunition with both conventional and nuclear explosives [40, 41].

14. Results of experiments for air EE of the thin cylindrical conductor. To verify some of the calculation results obtained above for EE in the gaseous medium of thin metal conductors, corresponding experiments were performed for EE in the atmospheric air of the thin copper conductor \((l_0=110\ \text{mm}; \ \rho_0=0.1\ \text{mm}; \ S_0 = 3.14\times10^{-8}\ \text{m}^2)\) at EE in air of the short thin copper conductor \((l_0=110\ \text{mm}; \ \rho_0=0.1\ \text{mm})\) in a high-current discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC \((U_{d}=27\ \text{kV}; \ W_e=121.4\ \text{kJ})\) at a horizontal scale of 5 and 50 \(\mu\text{s}/\text{division} \).
When conducting experimental studies of air EE of the specified thin copper conductor, the coaxial measuring shunt of the ShK-300 type, the capacitive voltage divider of the EPN-100 type, and the Tektronix TDS 1012 digital oscilloscope [30] were used, which passed the state metrological inspection.

From the oscillograms of the discharge current $i_d(t)$ (curve 1) and the voltage $u_d(t)$ on the exploding copper conductor (curve 2), it should be noted that in this case the experimental time $t_{exp}$ of the thermal explosion of the conductor in question, which occurs at the front of the first half-wave of the discharge current $i_d(t)$, is approximately $t_{exp} \approx 3.2 \mu s$ (when its value is $t_{exp} \approx 3.32 \mu s$ calculated by (5)).

It can be seen that for the $t_{exp}$ parameter, the discrepancy between its calculated and experimental values does not exceed 4 %. These data indicate the efficiency and reliability of the applied calculation approach to the determination of the $t_{exp}$ parameter when describing the electrophysical process of EE in the gas environment of the round thin metal conductor.

In addition, according to Fig. 1, 2 experimental data for the ATP of the discharge current $i_d(t)$ together with the experimental results from [36, 37] for the electrophysical parameters $R_{eo}$ and $r_{unc}$ indirectly indicate the validity of the calculated estimations according to (1), (7), (14), (15) and (18), respectively, of the parameters $T_{m0}$, $P_m$, $R_c$, $\gamma_p$, $W_c$ at the EE in atmospheric air of the copper conductor ($l_0 = 110$ mm; $r_0 = 0.1$ mm) connected in the electric circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC.

Conclusions.
1. The proposed electrophysical approach to the analytical complex calculation of the main parameters of the EE in the gas medium of a thin metal conductor allows to determine with engineering accuracy such thermophysical, gas-dynamic and electrical parameters of a given explosion as: the maximum temperature $T_{m0}$ and the pressure $P_m$ in the plasma channel, the time $t_{exp}$ of the explosion of the conductor, the active resistance $R_c$ and the specific electrical conductivity $\gamma_p$ of the plasma channel, the thermal energy $W_c$ introduced into the conductor and the thermal energy $W_r$ released in the channel, and the maximum velocity $v_{mw}$ of the propagation of the shock acoustic wave in the metal plasma from EE in the gas of a thin metal conductor under electrothermal action of the HPC.

2. It was found that at the EE in the atmospheric air of the thin copper conductor ($l_0 = 110$ mm; $r_0 = 0.1$ mm), which is connected in the discharge circuit of a capacitor battery of a powerful high-voltage GPC of the microsecond time range ($t_{m0} \approx 190$ kA; $\delta_0 \approx 14.39 \cdot 10^3$ s$^{-1}$; $\omega_0 \approx 26.18 \cdot 10^3$ s$^{-1}$; $t_{m} \approx 42$ μs; $U_{0} \approx 27$ kV; $W_{0} \approx 121.4$ kJ), the specified parameters of the electroexplosive process in its circuit take the following approximate numerical values: $T_{m0} \approx 121.6 \cdot 10^3$ K; $P_{m0} \approx 14.19 \cdot 10^9$ Pa; $t_{exp} \approx 3.32$ μs; $R_c \approx 18.37$ mΩ; $\gamma_p \approx 1587.6$ (Ω·m)$^{-1}$; $W_c \approx 2.44$ kJ; $W_r \approx 37.2$ kJ; $v_{mw} \approx 4693$ m/s.

3. As part of the further development of the engineering approach to the analytical complex calculation of the above-listed main parameters of the electro-explosive process in the discharge circuit of the GPC, the relationship (3) is given for the approximate calculation of the values of the critical current integral $J_c$ at the EE in the gaseous medium of thin metal conductors with the most widely used in the field of experimental physics HPT and electro-explosive technologies with conductive materials (see Table 1).

4. It is shown that such parameters of the electric explosion process as the maximum temperature $T_{m0}$ and the highest pressure $P_{m0}$ in the plasma channel, the time $t_{exp}$ of the conductor explosion, the specific electrical conductivity $\gamma_p$ of the plasma channel, the thermal energy $W_c$ introduced into the metal conductor, and the thermal energy $W_r$ released in the channel, do not depend on the properties of the gas in which the EE of the investigated metal conductor takes place.

5. At the EE in the gas environment of a thin metal conductor connected in the discharge circuit of a powerful high-voltage GPC, the temperature $T_{m0}$ and the pressure $P_{m0}$ the time $t_{exp}$ of the conductor explosion, the specific electrical conductivity $\gamma_p$ of the plasma channel, the thermal energy $W_c$ released in the channel, and the velocity $v_{mw}$ of the wave in the explosion zone, occurring in the discharge plasma channel, can be determined by (1), (5), (7), (15), (18) and (19) on the basis of deciphering the oscillograms of the discharge current $i_d(t)$ and voltage $u_d(t)$ in the electrical circuit of the GPC.

6. The thermal energy $W_c \approx 121.4$ kJ, which is introduced into the investigated short thin copper conductor ($l_0 = 110$ mm; $r_0 = 0.1$ mm), which is connected in the high-current discharge circuit of the indicated powerful high-voltage GPC, at its EE in atmospheric air, does not exceed 2 % of the electrical energy $W_{0} \approx 121.4$ kJ stored in the capacitor bank of this GPC.

7. In the analyzed electrical circuit of the practical implementation of the phenomenon of high-temperature EE in the atmospheric air of the studied short thin copper conductor ($l_0 = 110$ mm; $r_0 = 0.1$ mm), the thermal energy released in the plasma channel $W_c \approx 37.2$ kJ together with the energy introduced into the conductor $W_r \approx 2.44$ kJ, ensures the achievement of the efficiency $\eta = 0.326$ (32.6 %).

8. The high-current experiments performed with the help of a powerful high-voltage GPC confirmed the main provisions of the proposed engineering approach to the analytical complex calculation of the specified parameters of the electro-explosive process in a gaseous medium with normal atmospheric conditions and showed that the difference between the calculated according to (5) and the experimental data for the explosion time $t_{exp}$ of the copper conductor ($l_0 = 110$ mm; $r_0 = 0.1$ mm) does not exceed 4 %.

Acknowledgment. The work was carried out with the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Project DB No. 0121U109546).

Conflict of interest. The authors of the article declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Received 22.02.2022
Accepted 15.08.2022
Published 06.01.2023

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How to cite this article:
Baranov M.I., Buriakovskyi S.G., Kniaziev V.V. A calculation of basic thermophysical, gasdynamic and electropower parameters of electric explosion in the gas environment of a metallic conductor. Electrical Engineering & Electromechanics, 2023, no. 1, pp. 40-50. doi: https://doi.org/10.20998/2074-272X.2023.1.06