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Author
Anders, Andre

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Characterization of A Reactive Arc Plasma

Jochen M. Schneider, a) Johanna Rosén, b) and André Anders c)

a) LTH, RWTH-Aachen, Kopernikusstr. 16, D-52056 Aachen, Germany
b) Department of Physics, Linköping University, S-581 83 Linköping, Sweden
c) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California
1 Cyclotron Road, Mailstop 53, Berkeley, California 94720, USA.

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Corresponding author:
Johanna Rosén
Thin Film Physics Division, Department of Physics,
Linköping University
S-581 83 Linköping
SWEDEN
Phone: +46-13 28 89 33
Fax +46-13 13 75 68
E-mail: johro@ifm.liu.se

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The plasma composition, average charge state values, as well as the kinetic energy of the aluminum ions have been measured by TOF spectrometry as a function of the oxygen partial pressure. The plasma was produced in cathodic arc spots. It was found that the oxygen partial pressure reduces the average charge state as well as the kinetic ion energy. These data are important for the evolution of both composition and structure during thin film growth from highly ionized plasma.