

Original Article

Response of a Capacitor Formed by Different Electrolytic Solutions (Chemical or Biochemical) inside a Capillary Tube and Two Electrodes under DC Condition

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Abstract: It is an interdisciplinary project where the variation of capacitance of a capacitor with a distance of separation between two electrodes is tested for different electrolytic solutions (viz. sugar, common salt, and ammonia) within a capillary tube under DC conditions as these are the ingredients of blood. The nature of graphs resembles the parallel plate capacitor.

Keywords: Capacitor, Electrolyte, Capillary Tube, Blood.

I. INTRODUCTION

An electrolytic solution in between two electrodes forms an electrolytic capacitor. When a DC voltage is introduced across the electrodes an oxide coating forms between the electrode and the electrolyte and thus a capacitor is formed. There are three main ways to measure capacitance (i) DC charging/discharging, (ii) AC response, and (iii) bridge method. The simplest one is the use of a digital multimeter which is a device for measuring various quantities, viz. continuity of circuit test, voltage measurement, current measurement, resistance measurement, inductance measurement, capacitance measurement, diode test, h_{fe} measurement of transistor and pin configuration identification, frequency measurement, temperature measurement, etc. Present-day literature shows measurements by 1st order high pass filter [1], frequency response in AC circuits [2], and capacitance-voltage (C-V) measurements of MOS devices [3], etc.

Electrolytes are liquid dielectrics which have no or negligible charge carriers. A dielectric molecule may be polar having permanent electric dipole moment even in the absence of an electric field and non-polar where an induced dipole moment is created by an electric field. We consider only the simple situation when the induced dipole moment is in the direction of the field and is proportional to the field strength. Substances for which this assumption is true are called linear isotropic dielectrics.

The objective of this short note is a new and unique elementary technique of understanding where interdisciplinary scientific thoughts may be smoothly assimilated. The variation of capacitance of an electrolytic capacitor with a distance of separation between two electrodes is tested for different electrolytic solutions under DC conditions. We know blood and urine samples are required in different pathological tests and generally they contain ingredients, like sugar ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), common salt (NaCl), ammonia (NH_3), etc.

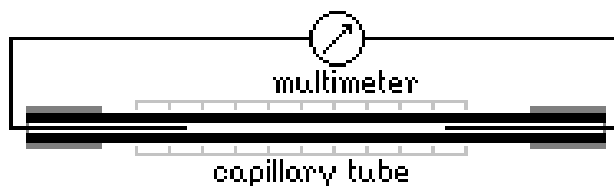


Figure 1: Experimental Setup

II. Experimental

A glass capillary tube of an almost uniform radius of about 0.5mm and length of about 50mm is taken as a container for the capacitor. Both ends of it can be closed by rubber cork through which two copper wires of 0.5mm radius are introduced inside the capillary tube. These wires are used as electrodes and different electrolytic solutions are placed inside using a syringe. So the capillary tube with electrolytic solution will act as a capacitor and the capacitance of it in between the electrodes is measured by a good quality multimeter (Figure 1). The distance between the electrodes is measured by a millimeter scale as shown in figure 1. Measurement of capacitance can also be done by using De Sauty's Bridge or Schering's Bridge [4]. It is found that the multimeter and the bridge measurements are almost the same.



As mentioned in section 1 three electrolytic solutions are prepared using sugar ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), common salt ($NaCl$), and ammonia (NH_3) with almost normal concentration of about 10%. Normal concentrations of these three in 100 milliliter of blood are respectively 70 – 99 mg, 300 mg, and 17 – 43 mg [5-6]. We use them as electrolytic solutions for experiments.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 2 shows the variation of capacitance of the capacitor containing electrolytic solution in the capillary tube with different distances for sugar ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), common salt ($NaCl$), and ammonia (NH_3) with nearly normal concentrations of blood. The behaviour of the curves is nearly hyperbolic as shown. Any change in the variation of capacitance with distance from normal variation will indicate some malfunctioning and disease.

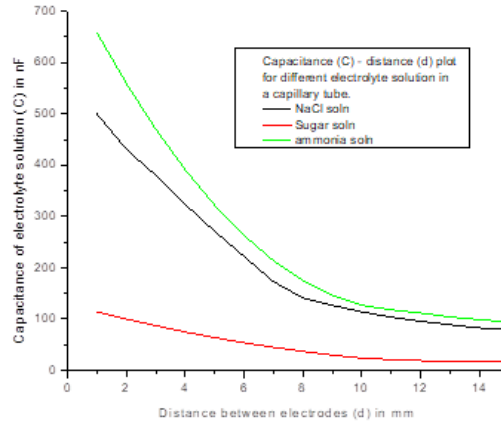


Figure 2: Variation of capacitance containing electrolytic solution in the capillary tube with different distances for sugar ($C_6H_{12}O_6$), common salt ($NaCl$), and ammonia (NH_3)

IV. CONCLUSION

The capacitance of a parallel plate capacitor $C = \frac{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_r A}{d}$ is directly proportional to the dielectric constant or relative permittivity ϵ_r and inversely to the distance of separation between the plates d . The nature of the graphs in Figure 2 resembles the same. This work is restricted to a fixed concentration of about 10%. Also, more work with AC signals where frequency variations are there can be done.

Interest Conflicts

There is no conflict of interest.

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