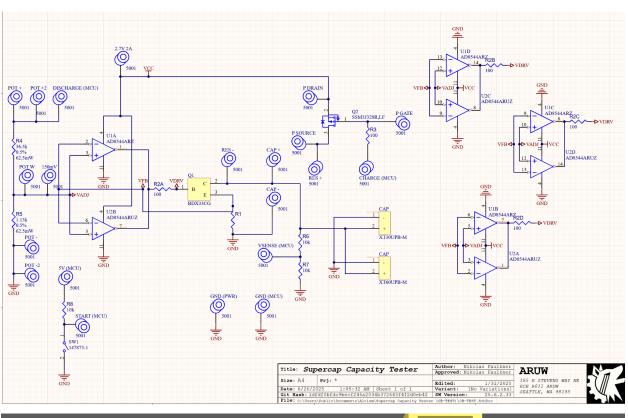
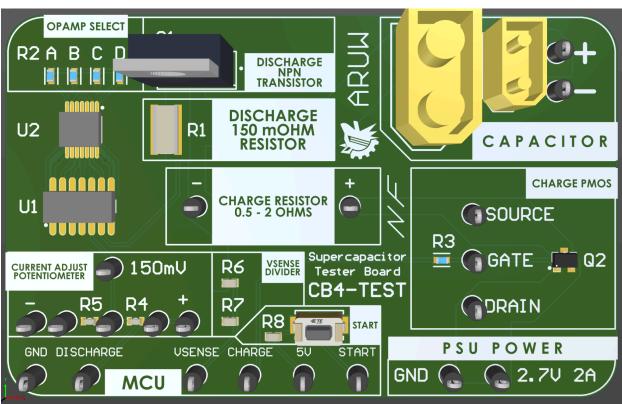
Developed for the Mark 4 supercapacitor bank system (CB-4), the supercapacitor capacity tester is designed to automatically test and measure the capacity, ESR, and leakage current of a supercapacitor.

It uses a resistor and PMOS switch to charge the capacitor from a lab power supply, and a constant current discharge circuit consisting of an NPN darlington transistor, op-amp, NMOS MOSFET, and current sense resistor to discharge the capacitor at a very constant rate. The device is controlled by an Arduino, which controls both the charge and discharge circuits, and measures the voltage of the capacitor. The Arduino takes many voltage measurements across the complete charge and discharge cycle of the capacitor to try to obtain highly accurate measurements of the characteristics of the capacitor, with heavy focus on obtaining an accurate and precise measurement of the capacitance of the supercapacitor. This information is then used to group capacitors of similar capacity together when building the series supercapacitor arrays, in order to help with voltage balancing.

The schematic and board are designed to accommodate a wide variety of components and footprints, in order to be able to successfully build the tester circuit out of whatever components are on hand and available immmediately. The board is split into several clearly marked sections, which each serve a separate function as part of the cap tester.





The code has a series of tests it goes through throughout the testing sequence to ensure the test is progressing smoothly and a dangerous situation is not occurring. This works to prevent erroneous readings from being reported, and also helps to prevent overcharging of the capacitor and other undesireable situations.

Code:

```
//CB4-TEST supercap tester code V1
//Discharger pin number
const int dischgPin = 7;
//Charger pin number
const int chargePin = 8;
//Cap voltage pin number
const byte vcapPin = A2; //A2 analog input
//Start button pin number
const int startPin = 11;
const int indicPin = 13;
//Calibration mode pin number
const int calibPin = 10;
//Beeper pin number
const int beepPin = 4;
//For making measurements and comparisons
int vhold = 0;
int vcomp = 0;
unsigned long thold = 0;
int vdelt = 0;
bool light = false;
//Variable to tell charger to stop
bool stop = true;
bool skip = false;
```

```
const int upThs = 521; //534;
228
const int lwThs = 228; //173; //178;
//Emergency threshold = 2.713V = 541 != 555
const int emgThs = 541; //555;
//ESR+Leakage testpoint thresholds
const int tp1 = 250; // 1.25V
const int tp2 = 320; // 1.61V
const int tp3 = 460; // 2.31V
//Capacitance test thresholds (95 decrease per step)
const unsigned long Ths1 = 510; // 2.56V
const unsigned long Ths2 = 445; // 2.23V
const unsigned long Ths3 = 380; // 1.91V
const unsigned long Ths4 = 315; // 1.58V
const unsigned long Ths5 = 250; // 1.25V , used to be 880mV
//Integers for ESR tests
//Start point "stp"
int stp1 = 0;
int stp2 = 0;
int stp3 = 0;
//First instant point "insF"
int insF1 = 0;
int insF2 = 0;
int insF3 = 0;
//Second instant point "insS"
int insS1 = 0;
int insS2 = 0;
int insS3 = 0;
//Leakage point "lk"
int lk1 = 0;
int 1k2 = 0;
int 1k3 = 0;
//Integers for capacitance tests
unsigned long v0 = 0;
unsigned long t0 = 0;
```

```
unsigned long t3 = 0;
unsigned long t4 = 0;
unsigned long t5 = 0;
//Doubles for slope generation
unsigned long t sum = 0;
unsigned long v sum = 0;
//unsigned long t2 sum = 0;
unsigned long v2 sum = 0;
unsigned long tv sum = 0;
double slope = 0.0;
//Doubles for leakage generation
double R = 0.0;
//Doubles for ESR generation
double ESR = 0.0;
//quick guess system
double QG = 0;
unsigned long tStartQG = 0;
unsigned long tStopQG = 0;
int vStartQG = 0;
int vStopQG = 0;
int shift = 20;
const bool QGEnable = true;
const bool beep = true;
const bool debug = true; // Shows the internal behavior while charging and
discharging
const bool debug advanced = true; // Shows raw final values used to
calculate the output
```

```
pinMode(dischgPin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(chargePin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(vcapPin, INPUT);
 pinMode(startPin, INPUT);
 pinMode(indicPin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(calibPin, INPUT);
 pinMode(beepPin, OUTPUT);
 Serial.begin(9600);
 Serial.println();
 Serial.println();
 Serial.println();
 Serial.println("* Nikolas Faulkner 4/05/25 *");
 digitalWrite(dischgPin, 0); //Discharge off
 digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Charge off
 digitalWrite(indicPin, 0); //Indicator off
 light = false;
 stop = false;
void loop() {
 if(stop) {
   Serial.println("AN ERROR OCCURRED AND PROCESS WAS HALTED. HOLD START
TO OVERRIDE AND RUN TEST AGAIN");
   Serial.println();
   errorBeep (beep);
   Serial.println("CONNECT CAPACITOR AND PRESS START");
   Serial.println();
   startBeep(beep);
 light = false;
```

```
stop = overvoltTest(stop);
 while(digitalRead(startPin) == 1) {
   delay(100);
   stop = overvoltTest(stop);
   if(stop) {
     digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Stop charging
     digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Start discharging
   if(!stop && digitalRead(calibPin) == 1) {
     Serial.println("ENTERING CALIBRATION MODE. WARNING: SAFETY SYSTEMS
DISABLED");
       delay(100);
       digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Discharge on
       digitalWrite(chargePin, 0); //Charge on
       Serial.println(analogRead(vcapPin));
       stop = overvoltTest(stop);
 if(stop && digitalRead(startPin) == 0) {
   delay(500);
   if(digitalRead(startPin) == 0) {
     stop = false;
 if(!stop && digitalRead(startPin) == 0) {
   delay(10);
   if(digitalRead(startPin) == 0) {
     if(analogRead(vcapPin) >= lwThs) {
       Serial.println("DISCHARGING TO START VALUE");
       digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Stop charging
       digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Start discharging
       thold = millis();
       vhold = analogRead(vcapPin);
```

```
while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) >= lwThs) {
          if(debug) {
            Serial.print("Cap Voltage: ");
            Serial.println(analogRead(vcapPin));
          digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
          light = !light;
          if(millis()-thold > 18000 && (vhold-analogRead(vcapPin)) < 2) {</pre>
connections and circuit");
            stop = true;
         vhold = analogRead(vcapPin);
     if(!stop) {
          digitalWrite(dischgPin, 0); //Stop discharging
         digitalWrite(indicPin, 1); //Indicator on
         digitalWrite(chargePin, 0); //Charge on
         delay(500);
          QG = quickGuess();
          Serial.print("Rough approximation of capacitance: ");
          Serial.print(QG);
          if(QGEnable) {
            shift = (QG / 4000);
            if(debug) {
             Serial.print(shift);
```

```
shift = 20;
          delay(200);
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) <= tp1) {</pre>
            stop = testForCharging(stop, 200, debug, shift);
            delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          esrTest(1, debug); //Run ESR test 1
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) <= tp2) {</pre>
            stop = testForCharging(stop, 250, debug, shift);
            delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          esrTest(2, debug); //Run ESR test 2
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) <= tp3) {</pre>
            stop = testForCharging(stop, 650, debug, shift);
            delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          esrTest(3, debug); //Run ESR test 3
          while(!stop && !skip && analogRead(vcapPin) <= upThs) {</pre>
            stop = testForCharging(stop, 1000, debug, shift);
            if(analogRead(vcapPin) >= 800) {
              skip = testForCharging(skip, 600, debug, shift);
            delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          if(stop) {
            Serial.println("ERROR 0: FAILURE TO CHARGE - Check capacitor
and power supply");
          if(skip) {
```

```
may be inaccurate. Check for excessive leakage");
          Serial.println();
         Serial.println();
         digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Charge off
         digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Discharge on
         t0 = millis();
         v0 = analogRead(vcapPin);
          int accumilator = 0;
discharged (t1, t2, t3, t4, t5)
         while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) > Ths1) {
            stop = testForCharging(stop, -22, debug, shift);
            if(stop) {
              if(accumilator > 10) {
                Serial.println("ERROR 6: FAILURE TO DISCHARGE - Check
connections and circuit");
                stop = false;
                accumilator += 1;
            delay(50);
           digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          t1 = millis();
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) > Ths2) {
            stop = testForCharging(stop, -22, debug, shift);
            if(stop) {
              if(accumilator > 20) {
```

```
stop = false;
               accumilator += 1;
           delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          t2 = millis();
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) > Ths3) {
            stop = testForCharging(stop, -22, debug, shift);
            if(stop) {
              if(accumilator > 30) {
                Serial.println("ERROR 8: FAILURE TO DISCHARGE - Check
connections and circuit");
               stop = false;
               accumilator += 1;
           delay(50);
           digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          t3 = millis();
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) > Ths4) {
            stop = testForCharging(stop, -22, debug, shift);
           if(stop) {
              if(accumilator > 40) {
                Serial.println("ERROR 9: FAILURE TO DISCHARGE - Check
connections and circuit");
               stop = false;
               accumilator += 1;
            delay(50);
            digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
```

```
t4 = millis();
          while(!stop && analogRead(vcapPin) > Ths5) {
            stop = testForCharging(stop, -22, debug, shift);
            if(stop) {
              if(accumilator > 50) {
connections and circuit");
               stop = false;
               accumilator += 1;
           delay(50);
           digitalWrite(indicPin, light ? LOW : HIGH); //Flash light
            light = !light;
          t5 = millis();
          if(!stop) {
          if(debug advanced) {
            Serial.println();
            Serial.println(stp1);
            Serial.print("insF1 ");
            Serial.println(insF1);
            Serial.println(insS1);
            Serial.println(stp2);
            Serial.println(insF2);
```

```
Serial.println(stp3);
            Serial.println(insF3);
           Serial.println(insS3);
            Serial.print("lk3 ");
            Serial.println(1k3);
            Serial.print("v0 ");
           Serial.println(v0);
           Serial.print("t0 ");
           Serial.println(t0);
           Serial.print("t1 ");
           Serial.println(t1);
           Serial.println(t2);
           Serial.println(t3);
           Serial.print("t4 ");
           Serial.println(t4);
            Serial.println(t5);
           Serial.println();
          if(stop) {
connections and run test again");
           Serial.println();
            Serial.println("****** RESULTS: *******");
            t1 = t1 - t0;
            t3 = t3 - t0;
            t4 = t4 - t0;
```

```
t5 = t5 - t0;
            v sum = v0 + Ths1 + Ths2 + Ths3 + Ths4 + Ths5;
           v2 sum = (v0 * v0);
           v2 sum += (Ths1 * Ths1);
           v2 sum += (Ths2 * Ths2);
           v2 sum += (Ths3 * Ths3);
            v2 sum += (Ths4 * Ths4);
           v2 sum += (Ths5 * Ths5);
            tv sum = (t1 * Ths1);
            tv sum += (t2 * Ths2);
            tv sum += (t3 * Ths3);
           tv sum += (t4 * Ths4);
            tv sum += (t5 * Ths5);
0.4887 mV
           long c = (6 * v2 sum);
           c -= (v sum * v sum);
            slope = a/c;
so 1mC * slope per 5.018 mV (not 0.4887 mV), or [2.046F] 0.199F * slope
            slope = -0.199 * slope;
```

```
R = (-10.0) / (0.01 + (slope * log((1.0*lk1)/(1.0*insS1)))) +
(-10.0) / (0.01 + (slope * log((1.0*lk2)/(1.0*insS2)))) + <math>(-10.0) / (0.01)
+ (slope * log((1.0*lk3)/(1.0*insS3))));
stp->insF, and insF->insS.
and insF. 1/delta = ESR. Average these.
Average these from 3 tests.
            stp1 = (stp1 + insS1)/2;
            insF1 = stp1 - insF1;
            stp2 = (stp2 + insS2)/2;
            insF2 = stp2 - insF2;
            stp3 = (stp3 + insS3)/2;
            insF3 = stp3 - insF3;
            ESR = (0.199 * 3.0) / (0.0 + insF1 + insF2 + insF3);
            if(debug advanced) {
              Serial.print("t1 ");
              Serial.println(t1);
              Serial.print("t2 ");
              Serial.println(t2);
              Serial.print("t3 ");
              Serial.println(t3);
              Serial.print("t4 ");
              Serial.println(t4);
              Serial.print("t5 ");
              Serial.println(t5);
```

```
Serial.println(tv sum);
  Serial.print("slope ");
  Serial.println(slope);
  Serial.println(R);
  Serial.println(stp1);
  Serial.print("insF1 ");
  Serial.println(insF1);
  Serial.print("stp2 ");
  Serial.println(stp2);
  Serial.print("insF2 ");
  Serial.println(insF2);
  Serial.print("stp3 ");
  Serial.println(stp3);
  Serial.print("insF3 ");
  Serial.println(insF3);
  Serial.println(ESR);
Serial.print("Capacitance: ");
Serial.print(slope);
if(QGEnable) {
  Serial.print("Quick capacitance (less accurate): ");
 Serial.print(QG/1000.0);
Serial.print(R);
                           ");
Serial.print(ESR);
```

```
successBeep(beep);
 while(digitalRead(startPin) == 0) {
   delay(10);
 if(analogRead(vcapPin) >= emgThs) {
   delay(10);
   if(analogRead(vcapPin) >= emgThs) {
IMMEDIATELY!");
     if(analogRead(vcapPin) >= (1000)) {
     return true;
void esrTest(int num, bool debug) {
 if(debug) {
   Serial.print(num);
```

```
Serial.println(analogRead(vcapPin));
if(!stop) {
 digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Charge off
 delay(100);
 if(num == 1) {
    stp1 = analogRead(vcapPin);
   stp2 = analogRead(vcapPin);
  } else if(num == 3 ){
    stp3 = analogRead(vcapPin);
 digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Discharge on
 if(num == 1) {
   insF1 = analogRead(vcapPin);
    insF2 = analogRead(vcapPin);
  } else if(num == 3){
    insF3 = analogRead(vcapPin);
 digitalWrite(dischgPin, 0); //Discharge off
 if(num == 1) {
    insS1 = analogRead(vcapPin);
  } else if(num == 2) {
    insS2 = analogRead(vcapPin);
  } else if(num == 3){
    insS3 = analogRead(vcapPin);
 delay(10000);
   lk1 = analogRead(vcapPin);
    1k2 = analogRead(vcapPin);
    1k3 = analogRead(vcapPin);
```

```
digitalWrite(chargePin, 0); //Charge on
if(debug) {
   Serial.print("Final voltage: ");
   Serial.println(analogRead(vcapPin));
oool testForCharging(bool in, int time, bool print, int adjustment) {
if(in) {
   return true;
if(time < 0) {
  digitalWrite(chargePin, 1); //Charge off
  digitalWrite(dischgPin, 1); //Discharge on
  digitalWrite(dischgPin, 0); //Stop discharging
  digitalWrite(chargePin, 0); //Charge on
vhold = analogRead(vcapPin);
delay(abs(time*(abs(adjustment)+1)));
vcomp = analogRead(vcapPin);
if(time < 0) {
  if(print) {
    Serial.print(vhold);
    Serial.print(" -> ");
    Serial.print(vcomp);
     Serial.println(vcomp < vhold ? " GO" : " STOP");</pre>
   return vcomp >= vhold;
if(print) {
  Serial.print(vhold);
  Serial.print(vcomp);
  Serial.println(vcomp > vhold ? " GO" : " STOP");
 return vcomp <= vhold;</pre>
```

```
double quickGuess() {
 digitalWrite(chargePin, 0); //Charge on
 digitalWrite(dischgPin, 0); //Stop discharging
 tStartQG = millis();
 vStartQG = analogRead(vcapPin);
 int overflow = 0;
 while(overflow < 30000 && analogRead(vcapPin) <= (vStartQG + 25)) {</pre>
   delay(1);
   overflow += 1;
 if (overflow >= 30000) {
 tStopQG = millis();
 vStopQG = analogRead(vcapPin);
 //vStopQG = vStartQG*(1 - e^((tStopQG - tStartQG)/(0.66*C)))
 if(debug advanced) {
   Serial.print("tStartQG: ");
   Serial.println(tStartQG);
   Serial.print("tStopQG: ");
   Serial.println(tStopQG);
   Serial.print("vStartQG: ");
   Serial.println(vStartQG);
   Serial.print("vStopQG: ");
   Serial.println(vStopQG);
```

```
return (1.0*tStopQG - 1.0*tStartQG) / (0.66 * log((1.0 -
(1.0*vStartQG/538.0)) / (1.0 - (1.0*vStopQG/538.0))));
void startBeep(bool in) {
 if(in) {
   delay(200);
 if(in) {
   tone(2, 250);
void tone(int period, int duration) {
 while(i < duration) {</pre>
   digitalWrite(beepPin, 1);
   delay(period);
   digitalWrite(beepPin, 0);
   i += period;
```

```
}
```