

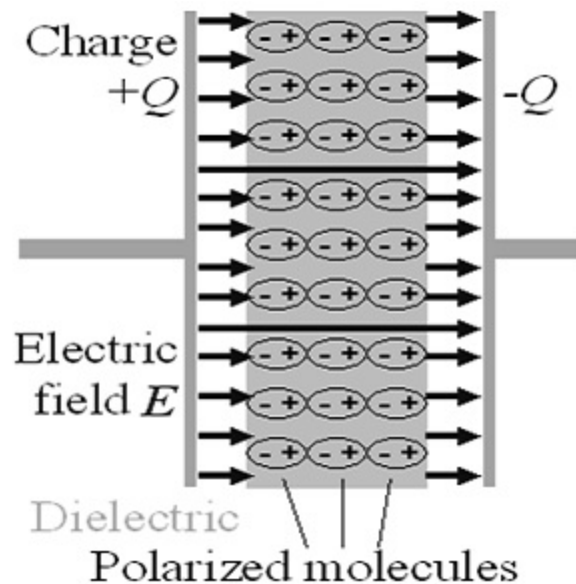
What is Dielectric Material – Properties & Applications

Materials are categorized as conductors, insulators and **semiconductors** based on conducting properties. Every material is made up of molecules which in turn made up of atoms. When subjected to electric field these atoms in the material undergoes certain displacements and exhibits certain properties. In October 1745, an experiment done by Ewald Georg von Kleist of Germany brought a connection between high-voltage electrostatic generator to a volume of water collected in a hand-held jar using that charge can be stored. Using this phenomenon, Pieter van Musschenbroek invented the capacitor called “Leyden Jar”. The new material property that backed this invention was “Dielectric”.

What is the Dielectric?

Every material is made up of atoms. Atoms contain both negatively and positively charged particles. The central nucleus of the atom is positively charged. In any material, the atoms are arranged in a regular pattern. When represented with a positive and negative charge on its end. When these materials are subjected to an electric field dipole moment takes place.

A conductor material starts conducting when electricity is applied. An insulator opposes the flow of electricity as it does not have any free moving electrons in its structure. But Dielectric is a material that acts as an insulator that does not conduct electricity but gets polarized when subjected to electricity.



Polarization-in-Dielectric

In Dielectric materials, when subjected to the electric field the positive charges present in the material are displaced in the direction of the applied electric field. The negative charges are shifted opposite to the applied electric field. This leads to Dielectric polarization. In dielectric materials, free charges do not flow through the material. Polarization reduces the overall field of the dielectric.

Properties of Dielectric

The term Dielectric was first introduced by William Whewell. It is the combination of two words, 'dielectric' and 'electric'. The electrical conductivity of a perfect dielectric is zero. A dielectric stores an electrical energy similar to an ideal capacitor. Some of the main properties of a Dielectric are: Dielectric Susceptibility, Dielectric polarization, Dielectric dispersion, Dielectric relaxation, Tuning Fork Resonance.

Electric Susceptibility

How easily a dielectric material can be polarized when subjected to an electric field is measured by its electric susceptibility. This quantity also determines the electric permeability of the material.



Dielectric Polarization

An electric dipole moment is a measure of separation of negative and positive charge in the relationship between the dipole moment (M) and the electric field (E) gives rise to the dielectric. When the applied electric field is removed the atom returns to its original state. This occurs in an exponential decay manner. The time taken by the atom to reach its original state is the Relaxation time.

Total Polarization

There are two factors that decide the polarization of dielectric. They are the formation of dipoles and their orientation relative to the electric field. Based on the elementary dipole type there are electronic polarization or ionic polarization. Electronic polarization P_e occurs when the dipoles forming the dipole moment are composed of neutral particles.

Ionic polarization P_i and electronic polarization both are independent of temperature. Permanent dipoles are produced in the molecules when there is an asymmetrical distribution of charge among different atoms. In such cases, orientational polarization P_o is observed. If a free charge is present in a dielectric material it would lead to the Space charge polarization P_s . The total polarization involves all these mechanisms. Thus the total polarization of the dielectric material is

$$P_{\text{Total}} = P_i + P_e + P_o + P_s$$

Dielectric Dispersion

When P is the maximum polarization attained by the dielectric, t_r is the relaxation time polarization process, the dielectric polarization process can be expressed as

$$P(t) = P[1 - \exp(-t/t_r)]$$

The relaxation time varies for different polarization processes. Electronic polarization is very fast, followed by ionic polarization. Orientation polarization is slower than ionic polarization. Space charge polarization is very slow.

Dielectric Breakdown

When higher electric fields are applied, the insulator starts conducting and behaves as a conductor. Under such conditions, dielectric materials lose their dielectric properties. This phenomenon is known as dielectric breakdown.

Dielectric Breakdown. It is an irreversible process. This leads to the failure of dielectric material.

Types of Dielectric Material

Dielectrics are categorized based on the type of molecule present in the material. There are two types of dielectrics – Polar dielectrics and Non-polar dielectrics.

Polar Dielectrics

In polar dielectrics, the center of mass of positive particles does not coincide with the center of mass of negative particles. Here the dipole moment exists. The molecules are asymmetrical in shape. When an electric field is applied the molecules align themselves with the electric field. When the field is removed random dipole moment is observed and the net dipole moment in the molecules is zero. Examples are H₂O, CO₂, etc...

Non-Polar Dielectrics

In the non-polar dielectrics, the center of mass of positive particles and negative particles coincides. There is no dipole moment in these molecules. These molecules are symmetrical in shape. Examples of non-polar dielectrics are H₂, N₂, O₂, etc...

Examples of Dielectric Material

Dielectric materials can be solids, liquids, gases, and vacuum. Solid dielectrics are highly used in electrical engineering. Some examples of solid dielectrics are porcelain, ceramics, glass, paper, etc. Nitrogen, sulfur hexafluoride and the oxides of various metals are examples of gaseous dielectrics. Water, transformer oil are common examples of liquid dielectrics.

Applications of Dielectric Material

Some of the applications of dielectrics are as follows-

- These are used for energy storage in **capacitors**.
- To enhance the performance of a semiconductor device, high permittivity dielectric material is used.
- Dielectrics are used in **Liquid Crystal Displays**.

- Ceramic dielectric is used in Dielectric Resonator Oscillator.
- Barium Strontium Titanate thin films are dielectric which are used in microwave tubes providing high tunability and low leakage current.
- Parylene is used in industrial coatings acts as a barrier between the substrate and environment.
- In electrical **transformers**, mineral oils are used as a liquid dielectric and they assist in the process.
- Castor oil is used in high-voltage capacitors to increase its capacitance value.
- Electrets, a specially processed dielectric material acts as electrostatic equivalent to magnets.

FAQs

1). What is the use of dielectric in capacitors?

Dielectrics used in the capacitor helps to decrease the electric field which in turn decreases the voltage across the capacitor thereby increasing the capacitance.

2). Which dielectric material is widely used in capacitors?

In capacitors, dielectric materials such as glass, ceramic, air, mica, paper, plastic film are widely used.

3). Which material has the highest dielectric strength?

A perfect vacuum is noted to have the highest dielectric strength.

4). Are all insulators are dielectrics?

No, although the dielectrics behave as insulators, not all insulators are dielectrics.

Thus, Dielectrics form an important part of capacitors. A good dielectric material should have a high dielectric constant, dielectric strength, low loss factor, high-temperature stability, high self-healing ability, good frequency response and should be amenable to industrial processes. Dielectrics are used in various applications.

role in high-frequency electronic circuits. Measurement of dielectric properties of material gives information about its electrical or magnetic characteristics. What is a dielectric constant?

SHARE THIS POST:

[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[Google+](#)[LinkedIn](#)[Pinterest](#)[◀ PREVIOUS](#)

What are Network Nodes in Computer Network and Their Types

What is an Instrument Transformer and Their

RELATED CONTENT



Setting Up an NVIDIA H100 Server : Components, Scaling & PCIe Gen5 Importance



Clash of AI Titans : NVIDIA vs AMD – A Battle for Supremacy



NVIDIA RTX A6000 : Features, Specifications, Architecture, Working, Differences & Its Applications



AI-Enabled Storage: BrainChip Project

CATEGORIES

[Communication](#)

[Electrical](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Project Ideas](#)

[Robotics](#)

[Technology](#)

RECENT COMMENTS

K BALAJI on Simple Electronic Circuits for Beginners

Anny Arbert on Gyroscope Sensor Working and Its Applications

Abhuday dangi on What is a UJT Relaxation Oscillator – Circuit Diagram and Applications

Satyadeo Vyas on Construction and Working of a 4 Point Starter

[Advertise With Us](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Report Violation](#)

[Image Usage Pol](#)

Copyright 2013 - 2025 © Elprocus