

1 Derivation of Capacitance

We have the potential energy of series and parallel capacitors given as follows.

$$U_1 = \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_2)V^2 \quad (1)$$

$$U_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{C_1 C_2}{C_1 + C_2} \right) V^2 \quad (2)$$

Using Equation 2, we express C_1 using known values and C_2 .

$$\frac{2U_1}{V^2} = C_1 + C_2 \Rightarrow C_1 = \frac{2U_1}{V^2} - C_2 \quad (3)$$

Now we substitute Equation 3 into Equation 2 to solve for C_2 .

$$\begin{aligned} U_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\left(\frac{2U_1}{V^2} - C_2 \right) C_2}{\frac{2U_1}{V^2}} \right) V^2 \\ &= \frac{\frac{2U_1}{V^2} C_2 - C_2^2}{4U_1} \end{aligned}$$

Rearrange the equation

$$\begin{aligned} 4U_1 U_2 &= \frac{2U_1}{V^2} C_2 - C_2^2 \\ C_2^2 - \frac{2U_1}{V^2} C_2 + 4U_1 U_2 &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 is a quadratic equation with C_2 being the unknown. Solving it using the root formula:

$$\begin{aligned} C_2 &= \frac{\frac{2U_1}{V^2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{2U_1}{V^2} \right)^2 - 16U_1 U_2}}{2} \\ &= \frac{U_1}{V^2} \pm \frac{1}{V^2} \sqrt{U_1^2 - 4U_1 U_2} \end{aligned}$$

Now substitute C_2 into Equation 3 to solve for C_1 .

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &= \frac{2U_1}{V^2} - \left(\frac{U_1}{V^2} \pm \frac{1}{V^2} \sqrt{U_1^2 - 4U_1 U_2} \right) \\ &= \frac{U_1}{V^2} \mp \frac{1}{V^2} \sqrt{U_1^2 - 4U_1 U_2} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{cases} C_1 = \frac{U_1}{V^2} + \frac{1}{V^2} \sqrt{U_1^2 - 4U_1 U_2} \\ C_2 = \frac{U_1}{V^2} - \frac{1}{V^2} \sqrt{U_1^2 - 4U_1 U_2} \end{cases}$$

2 Error Propagation

$$C_1 = 0.0197702681531304 \pm 0.000327629137653663$$

$$C_2 = 0.0361213768295607 \pm 0.000327804658695168$$

$$\sigma_{C_1}, \sigma_{C_2} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{V^2 \left(U_1^2 \sigma_{U_1}^2 + 4U_1^2 \sigma_{U_2}^2 + 4U_2^2 \sigma_{U_1}^2 + \sigma_{U_1}^2 \right) + 4\sigma_V^2 \left(U_1 - \sqrt{U_1(U_1 - 4U_2)} \right)^2}{V^2 \left(U_1 - \sqrt{U_1(U_1 - 4U_2)} \right)^2}}}{V^2} \left(U_1 - \sqrt{U_1(U_1 - 4U_2)} \right)$$