

Capacitor: A capacitor is an ~~electro~~ device consisting of two conductors separated by an insulating or dielectric medium and carrying equal and opposite charge. In a word it is a device for storing charge.

Capacitance: If a charge  $q$  is given to an isolated conductor its voltage is increased by an amount  $v$ . For a given conductor the ratio  $q/v$  is independent of  $q$  and depends only on the size and shape of the conductor. The ratio  $q/v$  is called capacitance of the conductor it is

is denoted by  $C$ . A Farad

$$C = Q/V$$
 derives

The unit of the capacitance is

Farad. 1 Farad =  $10^6 \mu F$  and  $1 \mu F$

$$= 10^{-6} F$$

Capacitors in

Fig (2) shows three capacitors of capacitances  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  connected in parallel. Let the terminal A and B be connected to a potential difference  $V$ . (The potential difference across each capacitor is the same. The charges on the three capacitors are respectively,

$$Q_1 = C_1 V \quad Q_2 = C_2 V \quad Q_3 = C_3 V$$

The total charge on the system of capacitors is

$$Q = Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3$$

$$Q = C_1 V + C_2 V + C_3 V$$

$$Q = V(C_1 + C_2 + C_3) \longrightarrow (iii)$$

if  $C_p$  is the equivalent capacity  
of the system

$$\text{in statement } 3: Q = C_p V \quad (\text{iv})$$

$\Rightarrow$  (iii) and (iv) compare,

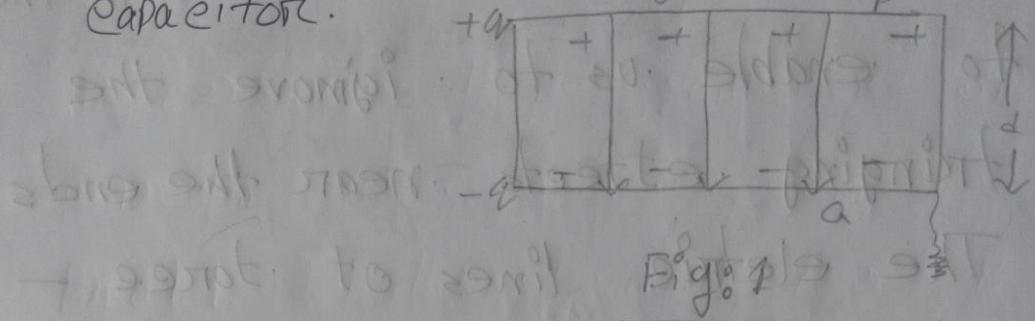
therefore by last step, we get

$$C_p V = V(C_1 + C_2 + C_3) \quad V$$

$$\Rightarrow C_p = C_1 + C_2 + C_3$$

therefore  $C_p \neq C_1 + C_2 + C_3$

Q Capacitance of a parallel plate capacitor.



Sol<sup>n</sup>: The parallel plate capacitor consists of two parallel metal plates each of Area A and separated by a distance d (fig 1). The medium between the plates is air. A charge  $+q$  is given to the plate P, it induces a charge  $-q$  on the upper surface of the earthed plate Q and the kept small compared

with the plate dimension with the  
to enable us to ignore the

fringing effects near the ends

The electric lines of force —

starting from plate P and ending  
at the plate Q are parallel to  
each other and perpendicular to  
the plates. By the application of

Gauss's law, Electric field at a  
point between the two plates

$$E = \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon_0}$$

Here  $\sigma$  = surface density of  
charge =  $q/A$

Potential difference between the plates P and Q is

$$\begin{aligned}V &= \int_d^0 -E \cdot dr \\&= - \int_d^0 \frac{S}{\epsilon_0} \cdot dr \\&= \frac{S}{\epsilon_0} \cdot \int_d^0 dr \\&= \frac{Sd}{\epsilon_0}\end{aligned}$$

The capacitance of the parallel plate capacitor is.

$$\begin{aligned}C &= \frac{q}{v} \\C &= \frac{q}{\frac{sd}{\epsilon_0}} \\C &= \frac{\epsilon_0 q}{sd} \\C &= \frac{\epsilon_0 \frac{q}{A}}{\frac{q}{A} d} \quad [q = SA]\end{aligned}$$

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 q}{d}$$

Capacitor of a parallel plate.

Capacitor with a dielectric medium.

or, prove the relation for the capacity of a parallel plate capacitor

$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d + t + \frac{t}{k}}$  of plate area  $A$  separated by a distance  $d$  with dielectric slab of thickness  $t$  and constant  $k$ .

Or capacity of a parallel plate capacitor

Partially filled with dielectric.

Vol. charge  $\rho$  &  $E$  &  $D$

$$D = A E \quad D = \epsilon_0 E + \rho$$

$$\textcircled{i} \quad \frac{\rho}{A E} = \epsilon_0$$

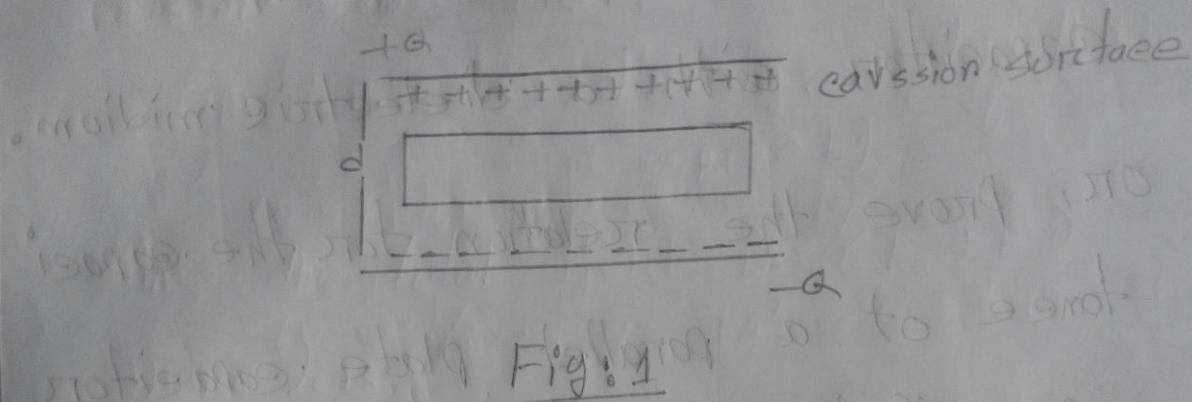


Fig (i) shows a capacitor partially filled with a dielectric material of thickness  $d$ . If  $Q$  is the charge on each plate of area  $A$ , then value of electric field due to charge  $Q$  in the free space between plates and dielectric material is given by Gauss's law,

$$\vec{E} \cdot \vec{ds} = \sum E_0 A = Q$$

$$E_0 = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0 A} \quad (i)$$

and electric field  $E$  inside dielectric is given by.

$$E = \frac{E_0}{k} = \frac{Q}{k \epsilon_0 A} \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

$E_0$  is the value of the electric field in the free space without dielectric which is  $(d-t)$  and  $E$  is the value of the electric field inside the dielectric of thickness  $\frac{1}{2}$  the potential difference between the two points is given

$$V = V_1 - V_2 = - \int_2^1 \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

Hence the total potential difference between the plates A and B

$$V_a - V_b = - \int \vec{E}_0 \cdot d\vec{v} = \int \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l}$$

for free for thinness  
space  $d$   $t$

Since the total field is  $(\vec{E}_0 + \vec{E})$

Therefore,

$$V_a - V_b = Et + E(d-t) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} E \cdot dL = -Edb \\ \text{similarly} \\ \vec{E}_0 \cdot d\vec{l} = E_0 dL \end{array} \right.$$

Substituting  $E_0$  and  $E$  from eqn and  
(i)

$$V_a - V_b = \frac{Q}{AE_0} \left( d - t + \frac{t}{k} \right)$$

$\therefore$  Capacitor  $C$  is given by

$$C = \frac{Q}{V_a - V_b} = \frac{E_0 A}{d - t (1 - 1/k)} = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{(d - t + \frac{t}{k})}$$

Q What do you mean by energy density  
Derive an expression for the energy stored by a charged capacitor.

Sol<sup>n</sup>: Energy density is defined as the quantity of the charge per unit area. It is denoted by  $\sigma$ .

$$\therefore \sigma = \frac{q}{A} \quad \text{where } q - \text{charge}$$

$A - \text{area}$

Let  $q'$  be the charge and  $V$  the potential difference established between the plates of the capacitor at any instant during the process of charging it an additional charge  $dq'$  is given to the plates the work done by the battery is given by

$$dw = V dq'$$

$$\text{or } dw = \left(\frac{q'}{C}\right) dq' \quad | \quad V = \frac{q'}{C}$$

Total work done by the charge a capacitor to a charge  $q$  is,

$$w = \int dw = \int_0^q \frac{q'}{c} dq'$$

$$w = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^q q' \cdot da' \Rightarrow w = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^q q' dq' \\ \Rightarrow w = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{q^2}{c}$$

This work done is stored as electrostatic potential energy in the capacitor.

$$U = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{q^2}{c} \quad [q = ev]$$

$$U = \frac{1}{2} ev^2$$

This energy can be recovered if the capacitor is allowed to discharge.

Q

~~charge~~

Consider a parallel plates capacitor of area  $A$  and plate separation  $d$  then energy of the capacitor  $U = \frac{1}{2} AV^2$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \right) V^2$  volume of the region between the plates  $Ad$ .

Energy density is the potential energy per unit volume,

$$U = \frac{V}{Ad}$$

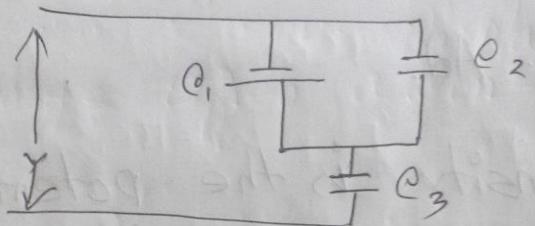
$$\text{or } U = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} V^2 \right) \times \frac{1}{Ad}$$

$$\text{or } U = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \left( \frac{V}{d} \right)^2$$

$$\text{or, } U = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \epsilon_0 \left( \frac{V}{d} \right)^2$$

$$\therefore U = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \left( \frac{V}{d} \right)^2$$

Find the equivalent capacitance of the combination as illustrated in the following figure assume  $C_1 = 10 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_2 = 5 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_3 = 4 \text{ nF}$  and  $V = 100 \text{ Volts}$ .



Sol<sup>n</sup>: Although  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are parallel

$$\begin{aligned} C_P &= C_1 + C_2 \\ &= 10 + 5 \\ &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{C_S} &= \frac{1}{C_P} + \frac{1}{C_3} \\ &= \frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{4} \\ &= \frac{4+15}{60} = \frac{19}{60} = \frac{60}{19} = 3.12 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{(ii)} \quad C_s = \frac{1}{\epsilon_1} + \frac{1}{\epsilon_2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{5}$$

$$= 0.3$$

$$\epsilon_P = \epsilon_s + \epsilon_i$$

$$= 0.3 + 14$$

$$= 14.3$$

Relative Permittivity or Dielectric constant: If  $\epsilon$  is the capacitance of the capacitor when a dielectric material is present and  $\epsilon_0$  is the capacitance when no dielectric material is present then the ratio  $\epsilon/\epsilon_0$  is called the dielectric constant of the material its denoted by  $k$ .

$$OR k = \frac{C}{C_0}$$

$k$  is the dimensionless factor by which the capacitance of a capacitor increases when a constant.

Q Dielectric material is inserted in between the plates relative to its capacitance when no dielectric is present.

Q Show that  $\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$  where symbols are use their usual meaning. or find the out the relation between electric displacement and electric polarization.

Sol<sup>n</sup>: The polarization is define as the induced surface charge per unit area it is denoted by  $\vec{P}$  and  $\vec{P} = \frac{q'}{A}$  ————— ①

And electric displacement which depends only on the magnitude of charge and its distribution but it is independent of the nature of medium this vector is termed as electric displacement its denoted by  $\vec{D}$

$$\vec{D} = \frac{q}{A} \quad \text{(ii)}$$

The dielectric constant  $k$  for any medium

$$\text{is } k = \frac{E_0}{E}$$

$$\text{or } E = \frac{E_0}{k} \quad \left[ E_0 = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0 A} \right]$$

$$\text{and so } E = \frac{q}{k \epsilon_0 A} \quad \text{(iii)}$$

$$\text{Again } E = \frac{q}{\epsilon_0 A} - \frac{q'}{\epsilon_0 A} \quad \text{(iv)}$$

From eq<sup>n</sup> (3) and (4)

$$\frac{q}{kE.A} = \frac{q}{E.A} - \frac{q'}{E.A}$$

$$\text{or, } \frac{q}{E.A} = \frac{q}{kE.A} + \frac{q'}{E.A}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{q}{A} = E_0 \left( \frac{q}{kEA} \right) + \frac{q'}{A} \quad \text{--- (v)}$$

From eq<sup>n</sup> (i) (ii) (iii) and than we get

$$D = E_0 E + P \quad \text{--- (vi)}$$

As  $E$  and  $P$  on the right hand side  
of equation (vi) are vector.  $D$  is also  
a vector hence we can write

$$\vec{D} = E_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$$

E Capacitor of a parallel plate capacitor with a dielectric medium.

or, Prove the relation for the capacitance of a parallel plate capacitor  $C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d - t + \frac{t}{K}}$

of plate area  $A$  separated by a distance  $d$  with dielectric slab of thickness  $t$  and constant  $K$ .

or, Capacity of a parallel plate capacitor partially filled with dielectric.

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d} \left( 1 + \frac{t}{K(d-t)} \right)$$

07-10

Q The area of each plate of an airfilled parallel plate capacitor is  $1.1 \times 10^8$  metre<sup>2</sup>. What must be the separation between the plates if the capacitance is to be 1.0 farad.

Soln:

$$C = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{d}$$

$$d = \frac{\epsilon_0 A}{C}$$

$$= \frac{8.85 \times 10^{-12} \times (1.1 \times 10^8)}{1.0}$$

$$d = 9.73 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}$$

$$d = 9.73 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m} \times 10^3$$

$$d = 0.97 \text{ mm}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} A = 1.1 \times 10^8 \\ C = 1.0 \end{array} \right\}$$

Compute the energy stored in a 60 PF capacitor.

- ① When charged to a potential difference of  $2 \text{ kV}$
- ② When the charge on each plate is  $30 \text{ nC}$ .

Soln: ①  $E = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \times 60 \times 10^{-12} \times (2000)^2$   
 $= 1.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ J}$

②  $E = \frac{1}{2} CV^2$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} C \times \frac{Q^2}{C^2}$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \frac{Q^2}{C}$   
 $= \frac{1}{2} \frac{30 \times 10^{-9} \text{ C}}{60 \times 10^{-12}} = 7.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ J}$

10-10

## Electric Polarization

Electric polarization is defined as the induced charge per unit area it is denoted by -

$$\therefore \text{Electric polarization } \vec{P} = \frac{q'}{A}$$

Here,

$q'$  = Induced charge.

$A$  = Area of the surface.

$$\vec{P} = \frac{q'}{A}$$

$$\text{or } \vec{P} = \frac{q'd}{Ad}$$

$$\text{or } \vec{P} = \frac{\vec{p}}{V}$$

$$\therefore \text{Electric polarization} = \frac{\text{Indeed dipole moment}}{\text{Volume}}$$

Polarization is also defined by induced dipole moment per unit volume.

Electric Susceptibility. The polarization  $\vec{P}$  in a homogeneous isotropic dielectric is dependent on the nature of the dielectric it has the same direction as the resultant electric field also is dependent on the field. These result are summarized by the equation

$$\vec{P} = \chi_e \vec{E} \quad \text{--- ①}$$

Hence we a scalar quantity is called the electric susceptibility of the material.

Permitivity: we know the electric displacement  $\vec{D}$  for the dielectric medium as -

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P} \longrightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

and for electric susceptibility

$$\vec{P} = \chi_e \vec{E} \longrightarrow \textcircled{11}$$

we get equation ① and ⑪

$$\vec{D} = \{ \vec{E} + \chi_e \vec{E}$$

$$\vec{D} = \vec{E} (\epsilon_0 + \chi_e)$$

$$\vec{D} = \vec{E} \epsilon$$

Where  $\epsilon = \epsilon_0 + \nu_e$  and  $\epsilon$  is called  
Permitivity of the material. For air  
or vacuum  $\nu = 0$  and so  $\nu_e = 0 \therefore \epsilon = \epsilon_0$

Q1 Find the equivalent capacitance of the combination illustrated in the following figure. Assume,  $C_1 = 20 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_2 = 10 \text{ nF}$ ,  $C_3 = 8 \text{ nF}$  and  $V = 500 \text{ Volts}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \underline{\text{Solln:}} \quad C_D &= C_1 + C_2 \\
 &= 20 + 10 \\
 &= 30 \text{ nF} \\
 \frac{1}{C_s} &= \frac{1}{C_D} + \frac{1}{C_3} \\
 &= \frac{1}{30} + \frac{1}{8} \\
 &= \frac{4+15}{120} \\
 &= \frac{19}{120} \\
 &= 6.31
 \end{aligned}$$