

# Implementing Conducting Polymers And Activated Carbon, Electrochemically Characterising Asymmetrical Supercapacitors: Cyclic Voltammetry, Frequency Response Analysis, And ESR Investigation

1<sup>st</sup> Kavitha Hariraman , 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr.Janani Selvam ,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dr.Mukil Alagirisamy

<sup>1</sup>Department of Applied Science, Lincoln University College, Selangor,  
Malaysia., kavitha@lincoln.edu.my, [kavithahariraman@gmail.com](mailto:kavithahariraman@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Department of Applied Science, Lincoln University College, Selangor,  
Malaysia. [janani@lincoln.edu.my](mailto:janani@lincoln.edu.my)

<sup>3</sup>Department of Applied Science, Lincoln University College  
Selangor, Malaysia. [Mukil.a@lincoln.edu.my](mailto:Mukil.a@lincoln.edu.my)

## Abstract:

Due to its high power density, lengthy cycle life, and quick charge-discharge characteristics, supercapacitors have attracted a lot of attention as energy storage devices. Asymmetrical supercapacitors have become interesting prospects for a range of uses because they use varied electrode materials for better performance. In this paper, we give a thorough investigation of an asymmetrical supercapacitor that uses electrodes made of activated carbon and conducting polymers. Cyclic voltammetry (CV), frequency response analysis (FRA), and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (ESR) were used to assess the device's performance. The findings offer important new understandings of the supercapacitor system's electrochemical behaviour, energy storage capability, and charge transport processes.

Keywords: Equivalent series resistance, Conducting polymers, Cyclic voltammetry, Asymmetrical supercapacitors, and Activated Carbon.

### **Introduction:**

Supercapacitors, which fill the void between traditional capacitors and batteries, have become a crucial technology for energy storage. Asymmetrical supercapacitors provide better energy storage performance by combining several electrode materials with complementing electrochemical characteristics. Due to their high specific capacitance and surface area, conductive polymers and activated carbon materials have showed promise in improving supercapacitor performance [1] [2]. Through extensive characterisation approaches, the goal of this study is to examine the electrochemical behaviour of an asymmetrical supercapacitor made of conducting polymers and activated carbon electrodes.

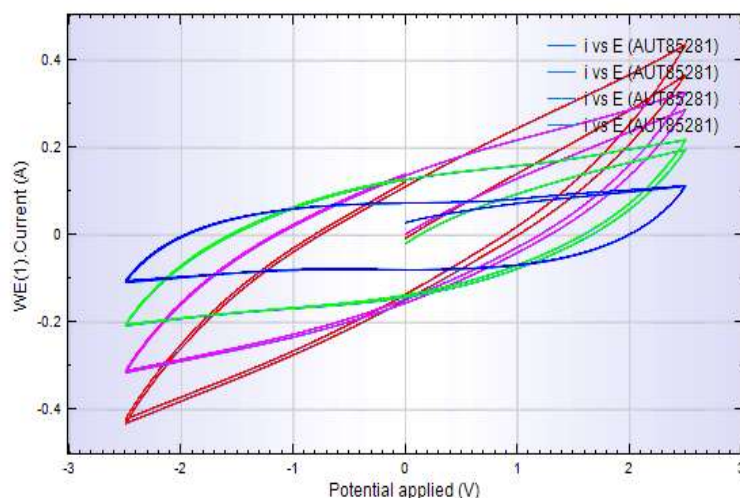
### **Experimental Techniques:**

#### **Materials and Device manufacturing:**

Describe the manufacturing process produced the conducting polymer and the activated carbon electrodes [5]. These electrodes were used to construct the asymmetrical supercapacitor, and a suitable electrolyte was added[3] [4].

#### **Electrochemical Characterization,**

Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) measurements were made within a predetermined potential window to examine the asymmetrical supercapacitor's electrochemical behaviour. To examine the impact on particular capacitance, redox behaviour, and charge storage mechanisms, the voltage scan rate was changed. Figure 1 displays CV PLOT: Scan Rate : Red-100mv/S Pink- 50mv/S Green-25mv/S Blue-10mv/S Voltage Window : -2.5 to 2.5V



**Figure 1. CV PLOT: Scan Rate : Red-100mv/S Pink- 50mv/S Green-25mv/S Blue-10mv/S Voltage Window : -2.5 to 2.5V**

The graph illustrates the results of the cyclic voltammetry (CV) for various weight ratios of the conducting polymers and activated carbon in the asymmetrical supercapacitor. The CV study sheds light on the supercapacitor's electrochemical performance and behaviour at various weight ratios.

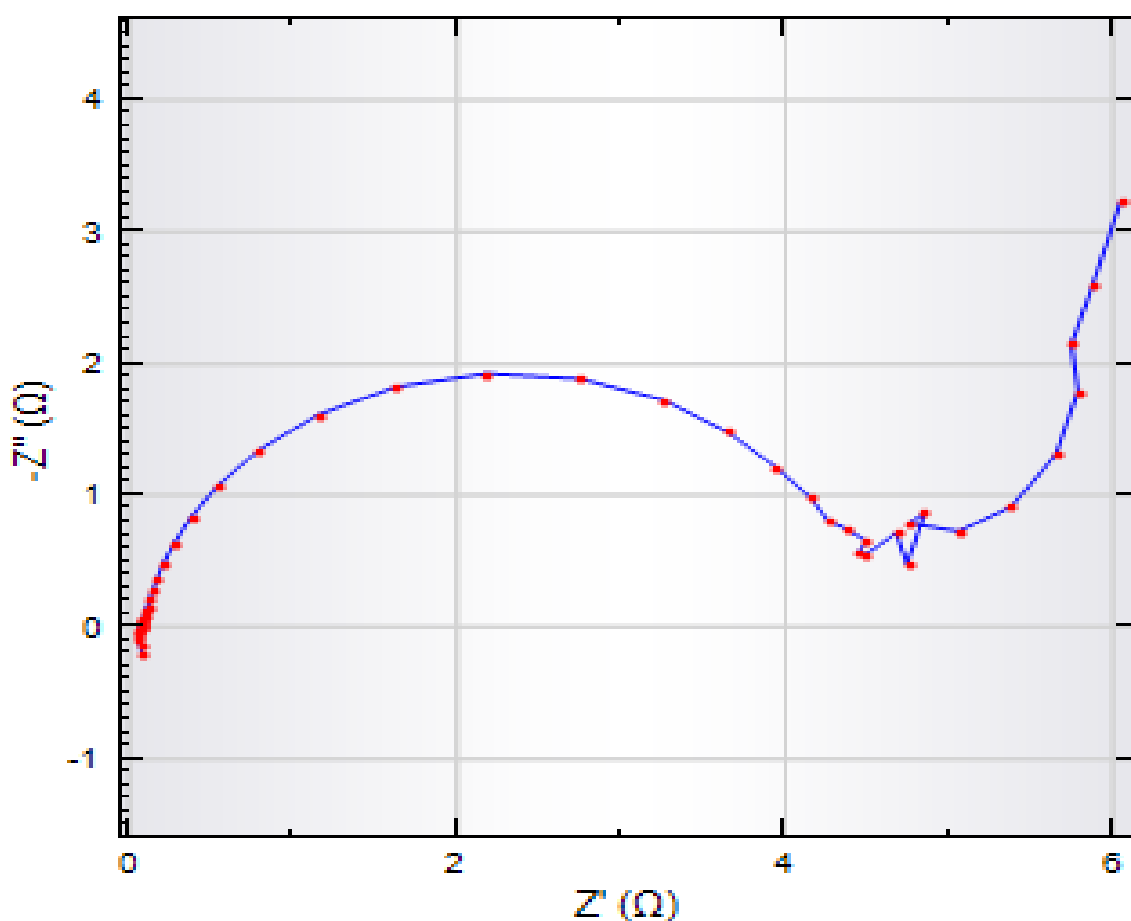
The specific capacitance and energy storage capability of the supercapacitor may be measured by varying the weight ratio of the electrode materials. The charge and discharge operations are represented by the CV curves' distinctive forms. The system's capacitive behaviour and redox reactions are shown by the peak current intensity and potential range.

The outcomes show that improving the specific capacitance and charge-storage capacity of the supercapacitor by increasing the weight % of conducting polymers [6]. On the other hand, greater activated carbon weight percentages help to enhance surface area and improve charge transfer effectiveness.

These results underline how crucial it is to attain improved energy storage performance in asymmetrical

supercapacitors by adjusting the weight ratio of conducting polymers and activated carbon. The creation of more effective and dependable energy storage systems for a variety of applications may result from such optimisation.

**Frequency Response Analysis (FRA)** was used to analyse the supercapacitor's impedance response at various frequencies. The charge transfer resistance, Warburg impedance, and double-layer capacitance were all extracted from the impedance spectra. Figure 2 Nyquist Plot Frequency Range :1MHz -0.01Hz ; Amp: 0.01V



**Figure 2. Nyquist Plot : Freq Range :1MHz -0.01Hz ; Amp: 0.01V**

The frequency response analysis (FRA) findings for different weight percentages in an asymmetrical supercapacitor are shown in the graph. A certain mix of conducting polymers

and activated carbon electrodes corresponds to each weight percentage.

By modulating the frequency and noting the related impedance values, the FRA measurements were carried out. The impedance response sheds light on the supercapacitor's charge transfer mechanisms and energy storage behavior [7] [8].

It is apparent from the graph analysis that the electrode materials at various weight percentages display various impedance characteristics. Different charge storage methods are present, as evidenced by the variation in impedance magnitude and phase angle with frequency.

Being acquainted with the electrochemical behaviour and functionality of the asymmetrical supercapacitor is made possible by these FRA discoveries. In order to maximise the composition of the electrode materials and improve the overall energy storage capacity and efficiency of the supercapacitor system, more data must be analysed and interpreted. Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (ESR) tests were used to evaluate the asymmetrical supercapacitor's internal resistance and overall performance. The impedance data was analysed using equivalent circuit modelling and Nyquist plots.

### Results and Analysis:

#### Cyclic Voltammetry Analysis:

The CV measurements showed the supercapacitor's electrochemical behaviour over a range of scan speeds [9]. The electrode materials' specific capacitance, energy storage capability, and redox behaviour were assessed and linked. Table 1: SCTS Results at various charging current

**Table 1: SCTS Results at various charging current**

| ASC | I/P signal        | Capacitance (F) | ESR ( $\Omega$ ) |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|     | 50 mA, 2.5v       | 9.11            | 201              |
|     | 50mA, 2.5 v Reset | 8.58            | 183              |
|     | 100mA, 2.5v Reset | 6.15            | 185              |
|     | 200mA, 2.5v Reset | 0.802           | 166              |

The measured values for four distinct input signals are shown in the table, together with the related capacitance measurements and equivalent series resistance (ESR) results.

The capacitance values, which are expressed in Farads (F), show how well a supercapacitor can store electrical energy. The capacitance can be impacted by several input signals, and the table gives detailed values for each signal.

The supercapacitor's internal resistance, which might affect performance, is also reflected in the ESR readings. Better conductivity and energy storage efficiency are indicated by lower ESR values [10].

One can see from the table how the capacitance values and ESR results change depending on the input signal. This data is essential for evaluating the supercapacitor's properties and performance under various operating situations.

### **Conclusion:**

This study provided a thorough examination of an asymmetrical supercapacitor using electrodes made of activated carbon and conducting polymers. The findings from the measurements of CV, FRA, and ESR provide insightful information on the electrochemical behaviour, energy storage capability, and charge transport pathways inside the supercapacitor device. The results help us understand how to optimise asymmetrical supercapacitors for use in upcoming energy storage applications.

1. Wang, G., Zhang, L., & Zhang, J. (2012). A review of electrode materials for electrochemical supercapacitors. *Chemical Society Reviews*, 41(2), 797-828.
2. Simon, P., & Gogotsi, Y. (2008). Materials for electrochemical capacitors. *Nature Materials*, 7(11), 845-854.
3. Miller, J. R., & Simon, P. (2008). Electrochemical capacitors for energy management. *Science*, 321(5889), 651-652.
4. Conway, B. E. (1999). *Electrochemical Supercapacitors: Scientific Fundamentals and Technological Applications*. Springer Science & Business Media.
5. Wang, Y., Song, S., Zhang, Y., & Xia, Y. (2015). Conducting polymers for flexible supercapacitors. *Chem*, 1(3), 516-547.

6. Zheng, Y., Yang, Y., Chen, X., Wei, Y., Cao, C., & Zhi, L. (2015). Carbon-based supercapacitors produced by activation of graphene. *Science China Chemistry*, 58(5), 654-674.
7. Dubal, D. P., Ayyad, O., Ruiz, V., & Gomez-Romero, P. (2015). Hybrid energy storage: the merging of battery and supercapacitor chemistries. *Chemical Society Reviews*, 44(7), 1777-1790.
8. Choudhary, N., Li, C., Moore, J. S., & Nuzzo, R. G. (2015). A dual-templating approach to mesoporous carbon monoliths with hierarchical porosity. *Nature Materials*, 14(2), 205-210.
9. Burke, A. (2000). Ultracapacitors: why, how, and where is the technology. *Journal of Power Sources*, 91(1), 37-50.
10. Kondrat, S., Perez, C. R., Presser, V., & Gogotsi, Y. (2012). Effect of pore size and its dispersity on the energy storage in nanoporous supercapacitors. *Energy & Environmental Science*, 5(4), 6474-6479.