AUTOMATIC MEASUREMENT OF IMPEDANCE IN SUPERIONIC MATERIALS USING HIGH SPEED (DAS) CARD

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ABSTRACT

This thesis describes the automatic measurement of impedance in Superionic Materials using high speed data acquisition (DAS) card PCL 1800. The plug in DAS card is installed in the IBM Personal Computer. A series electrolyte battery-cell resistor circuit is chosen as a sample for the impedance and phase shift measurement. The impedance and phase shift measurement have been conducted using two techniques; Lissajous method for the automatic measurement and RC –circuit method for the manual measurement. A control software has been designed to automate the measurement process which was written in Visual Basic 5. The software reads the data obtained from the series electrolyte battery cell- resistor circuits, calculates the real and imaginary part of the impedance and displays the impedance response graph.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the Information Technology (IT) era, most people prefer high technology using PC based instrumentation for their measurement. Equipment developments have led to the invention of a microprocessor controlled apparatus and data storage systems. This means that, a computer can be used to measure voltage, current, impedance and phase shift of electrical circuit, which leads to the transformations of manual measurement to the automatic measurement. The later provides several advantages such as: faster result, high efficiency, less error in handling and reducing the time taken for experimenting.

This project is concerned with the automatic measurement of electrical conductivity in superionic materials. The project is comprises of two modules i.e. the hardware and software. The hardware module consists of parallel battery cell-resistor circuit, terminal card, high speed (DAS) card and a PC. The PC processes the data obtained from the data acquisition card and displays the impedance response. In other words, the PC acts as a multimeter and an oscilloscope.

In the software module, a control software has been designed to automate the measurement process. The control routines configures the data acquisition