Modeling the Behavior of the Surface to Liquid Interfaces of an Electrolytic Liquid
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Abstract
Understanding the mechanism for charge transfer between electrodes within an electrolyte dissolved in water is vital to better understanding the sources of electrical noise in the system. This research compares the electrical properties of liquid top gated graphene devices with the properties of two metal probes to model the system. By measuring the impedance of these systems at different frequencies, it is possible to model the electrical properties of the devices and to consider techniques to improve signal to noise at graphene interfaces.

Motivation
To model the electronic behavior of a graphene device in a biological environment for future use as a biosensor.

Background
To model the current between two electrodes connected by an electrolyte solution, one can use a resistor (R) and a capacitor (C), wired in parallel. The electrolyte transfers ions for current while a metal uses electrons. The ions in the electrolyte are not able to move into the metal directly, creating an effective capacitor. A rare reaction, called a redox reaction, can release an electron to complete the circuit and is modeled as a resistor element.

Simplified model- Metal/Liquid/Metal
Impedance is a general term for what limits the current within a circuit. It can be measured with a lock-in amplifier. The parallel resistor/capacitor model can then be used to fit the impedance versus frequency.

By fitting the data in Figure 2, an electrolyte concentration of 5.00 mM creates an effective resistance of 615 kΩ and effective capacitance of 900 nF.

Graphene Model
To take measurements of the impedance of the graphene system, we:
• Apply a gate voltage
• Sweep the frequency
• Measure the current
• Use a lock-in amplifier to separate the real and imaginary phase of the current signal

Future Work
We hope to consider ways to use the simple model to predict the concentrations of our electrolyte solution. We also hope to further study the resistance as it relates to noise.

References

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