FREQUENCY BEHAVIOUR OF QUARTZ CRYSTAL MICROBALANCE (QCM) IN CONTACT WITH SELECTED SOLUTIONS

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By

ZURAIDAH BABA

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

May 2007
Devoted to my family and my beloved hubby

Zainab Bt Yasin

Zanariah Bt Baba & Azahar Alias

Rosli Bin Baba

Zakaria Bin Baba & Merlyna Zulfa

Anuar Bin Abdul Aziz

Thanks for the love, support, prayers, understanding and encouragement through the duration of this research project.
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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By
ZURAIDAH BABA

May 2007

Chairman : Associate Professor Zainal Abidin Talib, PhD
Faculty : Science

This thesis investigated the interfacial behavior of some selected solutions in contact with one surface of Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM). A device was constructed to monitor viscosity of solutions using fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz quartz crystal. Piezoelectric quartz crystals with gold electrodes were mounted by O-ring in between liquid flow cell. Only one side of the crystal was exposed to the solutions which were pumped through silicon tube by a peristaltic pump. The measured frequency shift was observed in order to investigate the interfacial behavior of some selected solution in contact with one surface of Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM). An analysis of the interaction between an AT-cut quartz crystal microbalance and various liquid system of analytical interest is presented. The analysis which included piezoelectric effects and other influences; liquid properties, experimental conditions and the characteristic of the solution are reported. Oscillation in distilled water was taken as a reference. The frequency change caused by the density ($\rho$, gcm$^{-3}$) and viscosity ($\eta$,
gcm$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$) were found to be proportional to the square root of the product, ($\rho \eta$). The result suggested that analysis of small frequency shifts during EQCM studies needs to account for changes in $\rho$ and $\eta$ of the solution.

In this work the frequency responses of the QCM in contact with the saccharide (sucrose, maltose and glucose), alliphatic alcohols groups (methanol, ethanol and 1-propanol), polyethylene glycol (degree of polymerization of 400, 4000, 10000 and 20000), urea, dimethyl sulfoxide, glycerol and aromatic hydrocarbon (hexane, benzene and toluene) were measured.

Generally, all the liquid tested showed an increment of the frequency shift with increasing content of the solutes. For each solution, the frequency was recorded as the concentration increases from distilled water to a very concentrated solution. The frequency measurements carried out for saccharide solution produces the maximum changes of frequency shift compared with other solutions.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PERLAKUAN FREKUENSI KUARZA KRISTAL MIKROJISIM BERHUBUNG DENGAN LARUTAN TERPILIH

Oleh

ZURAIDAH BABA

Mei 2007

Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Zainal Abidin Talib, PhD
Fakulti : Sains

Tesis ini mengkaji perlakuan antara permukaan beberapa larutan terpilih apabila bersentuhan dengan satu permukaan Kuarza Kristal Mikrojisim (QCM). Satu alat telah direkabentuk untuk menguji kelikatan larutan menggunakan frekuensi asas kuarza crystal 9 MHz dan 10 MHz. Kuarza kristal piezoelektrik dengan elektrod emas dikepit menggunakan O-ring di antara sel aliran cecair. Hanya satu permukaan kristal didedahkan kepada larutan yang dipamp melalui tiub silicon menggunakan pam peristaltik. Ukuran perubahan frekuensi diperhatikan ketika perlakuan antara permukaan terhasil di antara larutan terpilih yang bersentuhan dengan satu permukaan Kuarza Kristal Mikrojisim (QCM). Analisis ke atas tindak balas di antara potongan-AT kuarza kristal mikrojisim dan sistem pelbagai cecair diterangkan secara terperinci. Laporan analisa termasuk kesan piezoelektrik dan kesan lain, antaranya ciri-ciri cecair, keadaan eksperimen dan sifat-sifat larutan. Ayunan di dalam air suling diambil sebagai rujukan. Perubahan frekuensi disebabkan oleh kepekatan ($\rho$, gcm$^{-3}$) dan kelikatan ($\eta$, gcm$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$)
telah dikenal pasti berkadar terus dengan punca kuasa dua produk, \((\rho \eta)\). Keputusan mencadangkan bahawa analisis perubahan kecil pada frekuensi semasa proses EQCM perlu mengambil kira perubahan pada kepekatan, \(\rho\) dan kelikatan \(\eta\) larutan.

Dalam kajian ini, tindakbalas frekuensi QCM apabila bersentuhan dengan larutan sakarida (sukrosa, maltosa dan glukosa), kumpulan aliphatik alcohol (metanol, etanol dan 1-propanol), polietilena glikol dengan darjah pempolimeran adalah 400, 4000, 10000 dan 20000, urea, dimetil sulfoksida, gliserol dan aromatik hidrokarbon (heksana, benzena dan toluena) telah diukur.

Secara amnya, semua larutan yang diuji menunjukkan penambahan pada perubahan frekuensi apabila kandungan bahan terlarut juga bertambah. Bagi setiap larutan, perubahan frekuensi direkod untuk setiap kenaikan kepekatan larutan dari air suling kepada larutan pekat. Bacaan frekuensi yang diperolehi menunjukkan larutan sakarida menghasilkan perubahan frekuensi yang maksimum berbanding dengan larutan lain.
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I hope that all the experience, knowledge and findings of this research would be useful for others in the future.

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May Allah Ta’ala bless you all.
I certify that an Examination Committee met on 4th May 2007 to conduct the final examination of Zuraidah Baba on her Master of Science thesis entitled “The Frequency Behaviour of Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) in contact with selected solutions.” In accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulation 1981. The committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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Date: 9 August 2007
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any degree at UPM or other institutions.

_________________

ZURAIDAH BABA

Date: 1 August 2007
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| DEDICATION | ii |
| ABSTRACT   | iii |
| ABSTRAK    | v  |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | vi |
| APPROVAL   | ix |
| DECLARATION| xi |
| LIST OF TABLES | xiv |
| LIST OF FIGURES | xv |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS | xx |

## CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 QCM response in liquid 1.4  
1.1.1 Acceleration as field intensity 1.6  
1.2 Sample Background 1.8  
1.2.1 The QCM- General description 1.8  
1.2.2 Gold electrodes 1.8  
1.3 Objectives 1.12  
1.4 Chapter Organization 1.13

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Literature Review on Quartz Crystal Microbalance 2.1  
2.1.1 Review on QCM Model 2.1  
2.1.2 Review on Experimental Design 2.2

3 THEORY

3.1 Theory of the piezoelectric quartz crystal microbalance 3.1  
3.2 Effect of added mass 3.8  
3.3 Effect of contact with liquid 3.10

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Experimental setup 4.1  
4.2 Cell design 4.2  
4.3 Electrodes 4.5  
4.4 Circuit design 4.6  
4.5 Reagent and solutions 4.8  
4.6 Sample preparations 4.8
4.6.1 Saccharide solution 4.9
4.6.2 Aliphatic alcohol solution 4.9
4.6.3 Aromatic hydrocarbon solution 4.10
4.6.4 Polyethylene glycol (PEG) solution 4.10
4.6.5 Urea, glycerol and dimethyl sulfoxide solution 4.10

4.7 Determination of density 4.11
4.8 Measurement of viscosity 4.12
4.9 Experimental design 4.14
4.9.1 Procedure of Computer Setup 4.16
4.9.2 Programming Design 4.18

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
5.1 Experimental result 5.1
5.1.1 Saccharide 5.1
5.1.2 Aliphatic alcohol 5.5
5.1.3 Polymer (Polyethylene glycol series) 5.7
5.1.4 Dimethyl sulfoxide 5.10
5.1.5 Urea 5.11
5.1.6 Glycerol 5.12
5.1.7 Aromatic hydrocarbon 5.13

5.2 Dependence of frequency changes on density and viscosity 5.16
5.2.1 Saccharide 5.18
5.2.2 Aliphatic alcohol 5.20
5.2.3 Polymer (Polyethylene glycol series) 5.24
5.2.4 Glycerol 5.27
5.2.5 Dimethyl sulfoxide 5.28
5.2.6 Urea 5.29
5.2.7 Aromatic hydrocarbon 5.30

5.3 $K$ parameter 5.32
5.4 Sensitivity and limit of detection 5.35
5.4.1 Saccharide 5.35
5.4.2 Aliphatic alcohol 5.38
5.4.3 Polymer (Polyethylene glycol series) 5.40
5.4.4 Urea, glycerol and dimethyl sulfoxide 5.42
5.4.5 Aromatic hydrocarbon and Acetone 5.43

5.5 Differential of fundamental frequencies 5.44

6 CONCLUSION
6.1 Conclusion 6.1
6.2 Suggestions for future research 6.3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>The value of $K$ determined for test solutions at 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystal</td>
<td>5.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.1</td>
<td>$-\Delta f_w$ calculated from experiment data for various solutions</td>
<td>A.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.2</td>
<td>Comparison of the $\left(\rho \eta\right)^{1/2}$ and $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ value for various aqueous solution in different concentration</td>
<td>A.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Amplitude and acceleration decay at the quartz-liquid interface</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>The quartz crystal, with its gold electrode in a characteristic “keyhole” pattern</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>The coordinate system used in the analysis</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Shear velocity profiles in the fluid at three different times: peak surface velocity; intermediate surface velocity and zero surface velocity</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Schematic representation of the experimental QCM apparatus for determination of frequency changes with selected solution</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Cut-out cross-section of the flow cell with one of the QCM electrodes in contact with the liquid</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>QCM lever oscillator and Liquid Flow Cell for 10 MHz crystal</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>QCM lever oscillator and Liquid Flow Cell for 9 MHz crystal</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Schematic of a typical Quartz Crystal Microbalance</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Circuit design for 9 MHz crystal</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>AN EXELO 25 ml pycnometer in 20°C BS733</td>
<td>4.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Ubbelohde viscometer</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Flow-cart of the procedures for PC setup</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>PCI – GPIB card</td>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>Configuration of PCI-GPIB card in the PC</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>Flowchart for the DAQ System of the Universal Counter for various liquid measurements</td>
<td>4.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.13 Initialization frame. User enter information related to the experiment such as date, time and type of sample that tested

4.14 Reminder frame. Message for the user to enter the correct information about experiment.

4.15 GPIB “Read” and “Write” function

4.16 Diagram for the read and data conversion

4.17 The User Interface for Universal Counter

5.1 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of sucrose

5.2 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of glucose

5.3 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of maltose

5.4 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of methanol

5.5 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of ethanol

5.6 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of 1-propanol

5.7 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of PEG 400

5.8 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of PEG 4000

5.9 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of PEG 10000

5.10 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of PEG 20000

5.11 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of dimethyl sulfoxide
5.12 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of urea

5.13 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of glycerol

5.14 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of benzene

5.15 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of hexane

5.16 Typical time course for frequency changes of 9 MHz and 10 MHz crystals with different concentrations of toluene

5.17 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for sucrose solution

5.18 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for glucose solution

5.19 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for maltose solution

5.20 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for methanol solution

5.21 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for ethanol solution

5.22 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for 1-propanol solution

5.23 Resonant frequency shift as a function of \((\eta \rho)^{1/2} - (\eta_w \rho_w)^{1/2} \times 10^2\) for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for PEG 400 solution
5.24 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for PEG 4000 solution

5.25 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for PEG 10000 solution

5.26 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for PEG 20000 solution

5.27 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for Glycerol solution

5.28 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for Dimethyl Sulfoxide solution

5.29 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for Urea solution

5.30 Resonant frequency shift as a function of $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2} \times 10^2$ for the fundamental frequency of 9 MHz and 10 MHz AT-cut QCM for Aromatic Hydrocarbon solution

5.31 Proportionality between $\Delta f_w$ and $\left(\eta \rho\right)^{1/2} - \left(\eta_w \rho_w\right)^{1/2}$ for various solutions

5.32 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of saccharide in water for 9 MHz crystal

5.33 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of saccharide in water for 10 MHz crystal

5.34 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of alcohols in water for 9 MHz crystal
5.35 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of alcohols in water for 10 MHz crystal

5.36 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of polymer in water for 9 MHz crystal

5.37 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of polymer in water for 10 MHz crystal

5.38 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of glycerol, urea and dimethyl sulfoxide in water for 10 MHz crystal

5.39 Changes in the resonance frequency, relative to pure water, vs. the concentration of glycerol, urea and dimethyl sulfoxide in water for 10 MHz crystal

A.1 Block diagram devices driver for Universal Counter and acquires data or Data Acquisitions (DAQ) system. Frame “2”, sub-sequence “0”, GPIB initialization and “READ” the oscillating frequency. Sub-sequence “1”, “SAVE” and plot data to screen computer

A.2 Schematic drawing Liquid Flow Cell for 9 MHz crystal
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/NOTATION/GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AT-cut  A slice through a quartz rod at an angle of approximately 35° with respect to crystallographic x axis. The most common used for QCM applications.

\( A_0 \)  maximum vibration amplitude

\( A^0 \)  Armstrong (\( A^0 = 3 \times 10^{-8} \) m)

\( \delta \)  penetration depth

\( \ddot{c}z \)  acceleration of the slab

\( F \)  stress (Nm\(^{-1}\))

\( f_q \)  quartz resonator frequency (MHz)

\( \Delta F \)  resonant frequency shift (MHz)

\( \Delta f_w \)  frequency different in water (MHz)

\( f_o \)  fundamental frequency of quartz crystal microbalance (MHz)

\( k \)  propagation constant of the instantaneous shear wave velocity

\( k = \frac{\omega}{c_s} \)  decay

\( K \)  parameter (cm\(^2\)g\(^{-1}\)s\(^{-1/2}\))

\( \Delta M \)  mass (g)

\( \eta_l \)  liquid viscosity (Poise)

\( \eta_L \)  absolute viscosity (Poise)

\( \eta_w \)  viscosity of water (Poise)

\( \rho \)  density of quartz (\( \rho = 2.648 \) gcm\(^{-3}\))

\( \rho_l \)  liquid density (gcm\(^{-3}\))
\( \rho_L \) fluid density (g cm\(^{-3}\))

\( \rho_w \) density of water (g cm\(^{-3}\))

Quality The ratio of peak energy stored to energy lost per cycle during oscillation factor, \( Q \)

QCM Quartz Crystal Microbalance

\( t \) efflux time (s)

\( \mu \) shear modulus of the quartz crystal (dyne cm\(^{-2}\))

\( u_x \) elastic displacement along \( x \)

\( U \) Amplitude

\( v_x \) fluid velocity in the \( x \) direction – parallel to the resonator – liquid interface.

\( \omega \) angular frequency (MHz)