So What Is This Thing Called Electrostatics?

Mark Horenstein
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Boston University
e-mail: mnh@bu.edu

Abstract—

Alternatively, the charge distribution of the droplets was measured by replacing the Faraday cage filter with a charge mobility analyzer. After passing through the LDV probe volume, the charged droplets were passed through a horizontal electric field created by two parallel plates. Under this conditions, each droplet experiences two orthogonal fields: (1) gravitational field under which the droplet moves vertically downward with its terminal settling velocity depending upon its mass and (2) a transverse electric field causing it to move in the horizontal direction with its electrical terminal velocity depending upon its electrical charge q. Charge distribution measurements were enabled by discretizing each of the parallel plates into eight identical rectangular plates. The total charge accumulated on each of the 16 individual plates produced a proportional output voltage from a charge amplifier circuit, allowing for a charge histogram to be constructed. The experimental design, its application to the synthesis of nanostructured photoanodes for hydrogen generation, and the preliminary results are presented.