


Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2021, 11, 38674

Fabrication of a surface type humidity sensor based on methyl green thin film, with the analysis of capacitance and resistance through neutrosophic statistics

Usama Afzal,^a Naveed Ahmad,^a Qayyum Zafar^{id}^b and Muhammad Aslam^{id}^{*c}

In this work, we propose a humidity sensor based on methyl green thin film. A surface-type humidity sensor Al/MG/Al was fabricated by depositing methyl green thin film between aluminum electrodes. The structural, optical and surface morphological properties of the thin film were characterized by XRD, UV Vis and FESEM. The sensing properties with high sensitivity as well as response time 200 s and recovery 60 s of the humidity sensor were investigated by measuring the capacitance and resistance at 1, 10 and 100 kHz with the humidity varying range from 32 to 85% RH. These measured values were analyzed by classical statistics and neutrosophic statistics. As a result, it was observed that neutrosophic statistics were more informative, flexible and adequate than classical statistics for analyzing the measured values of capacitance and resistance.

Received 22nd September 2021

Accepted 10th November 2021

DOI: 10.1039/d1ra07087h

rsc.li/rsc-advances

1. Introduction

The reliable detection and control of humidity is an important requirement of meteorology, pharmaceuticals manufacturing and electronics industry as well as the chemical industry that has increased the use of humidity sensors commercially.^{1,2} Nowadays, organic semiconductors have gotten importance in the fabrication of humidity sensors due to their remarkable properties such as low dielectric permittivity, electrical characteristics and intrinsic hygroscopic property.^{3,4} In order to fabricate a humidity sensor, a number of transduction techniques are used including resistive, capacitive, surface acoustic wave optical and field-effect transistor (FET).^{5–8} All of these techniques have their own performance, but capacitive is dominant due to its low power degeneracy, linear response, cost-effectiveness and device design.⁹ According to the estimate, about 75% of humidity sensors fabricated by the use of capacitive techniques are available in markets. Similarly, the resistive technique has also been used in a number of humidity sensors.⁷ Number of researchers have used organic semiconductors in the fabrication of humidity sensors. Fabrication of a humidity sensor with good stability, high sensitivity, quick response and recovery time is highly desirable. Also, an effective and ideal sensing layer that should not peel or swell as relative humidity

RH increase, is a core requirement for such fabrication.¹⁰ M. I. Azmer *et al.*,¹¹ reported a capacitive type humidity sensor based on polyvinylpyrrolidone (MEH-PPV:PVP) composite thin film and studied it at 1 volt AC operational bias with relative humidity as the function of broad range 20–90%. It showed a fast response time, *i.e.*, 18 s for adsorption and 8 s for desorption, small hysteresis, *i.e.*, 2% RH and exhibited a very high range sensitivity, *i.e.*, 114 f F/%RH @ 100 Hz. A resistive type humidity sensor based on AlPcCl-aluminum phthalocyanine chloride thin films, was fabricated and studied at a relative humidity range of 20 to 92%, by Chani *et al.*¹² Similarly, Ahmad *et al.*,¹³ reported a capacitive and resistive type humidity sensor based on organic semiconductor material, *i.e.*, nickel phthalocyanine-NiPc thin film with relative humidity ranges, *i.e.*, 35–95% RH for capacitance and 35–75% RH for resistance. The resistance decreased and capacitance increased as increasing relative humidity RH.

Analysis of the data readings of capacitance and resistance of the sensor was performed by the statistics techniques, which may be in the form of graph values or table values. Neutrosophic (introduced by F. Smarandache¹⁴) is a reliable technique of statistics, which is the generalization of the fuzzy technique and also more efficient. At the present time, the use of neutrosophic techniques has increased to analyze the data in several fields, *i.e.*, in medicine for diagnoses data measurement,¹⁵ in applied sciences,¹⁶ in astrophysics, *i.e.*, earth speed¹⁷ and in humanistic, *etc.*¹⁸ The neutrosophic technique is used on the interval point value data, *i.e.*, having indeterminacy.¹⁹ This is a significant benefit over classical techniques because classical statistic only deals with fixed-point value data, *i.e.*, having no indeterminacy.

^aDepartment of Physics, University of Education, Township Campus, Lahore 54000, Pakistan. E-mail: mohammadusamafzal7@gmail.com

^bDepartment of Physics, University of Management and Technology, Lahore 54000, Pakistan. E-mail: qayyumzafar@gmail.com

^cDepartment of Statistics, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21551, Saudi Arabia. E-mail: aslam_ravian@hotmail.com


Moreover, the neutrosophic technique is more helpful than classical techniques, see examples in the following ref. 20, 21 and 22. Different statistical techniques were developed under neutrosophic statistics by Muhammad Aslam.^{23,24}

This work reports the motive study of an organic semiconductor methyl green MG, which was used for the first time in the fabrication of a humidity sensor and the first-time neutrosophic statistic has been used to analyze the capacitance and resistance on the data. In this study, methyl green in chloroform solution was made and it is optical, structural as well as morphological properties were investigated using different characterization techniques. A surface type humidity sensor (Al/MG/Al) was fabricated, whose capacitance, as well as resistance, were measured simultaneously with respect to the change in the relative humidity (%RH) and analyzed through classical statistics and neutrosophic statistics.

2. Experimental

Methyl green [C₂₇H₃₅Cl₂N₃] MG 99.9% pure was used in this experiment, its structure is shown in Fig. 1.

For the fabrication of the device, a glass slide (25 × 25 mm, dimension) was cleaned with acetone and ethanol (15 minutes each) and dried using a nitrogen gun. A 99.9% pure 'Al' thin film was deposited on the substrate by thermal evaporation with a shadow mask at 10⁻⁵ mbar pressure. In this way, we obtained two 'Al' electrodes separated by 50 μm on the substrate. A solution of MG was prepared in chloroform. 40 mg of pure methyl green and 1.6 ml chloroform were used in this solution and the solution was stirred for five hours. The device was fabricated by depositing a 50 μl filtered solution between electrodes and cover the separation of 50 μm with the help of a micropipette. In this way, we fabricated a surface type Al/MG/Al sensor with active sensing layer MG solution of thickness of about 2 μm and surface area of about 8 μm × 25 mm, as shown in Fig. 2.

The structure of the MG thin film sample was characterized using X-ray diffraction (XRD), the optical properties of the sample were studied using the UV Vis technique and the surface morphology was studied using FESEM-Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy. Similarly, electrical characterization of the sensor Al/MG/Al was performed in the laboratory at room

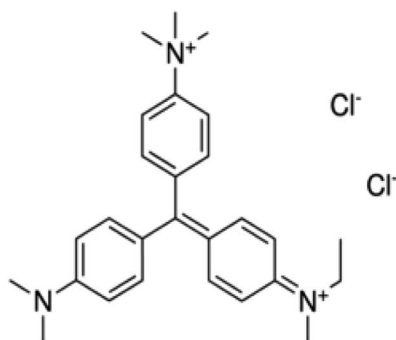


Fig. 1 Molecular structure of MG.

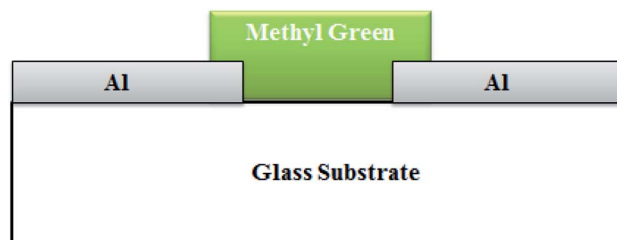


Fig. 2 Schematic diagram of Al/MG/Al sensor.

temperature of about 22 °C. This characterization was associated with the humidity control chamber of dimension 45 cm × 60 cm. For increasing the humidity inside the chamber, a GB-A500LW02 humidifier was used. The capacitance and resistance of the fabricated humidity sensor were measured using the AT2816B LCR meter at different levels of relative humidity %RH. Similarly, for measuring the humidity and temperature inside the chamber, the MT-4014 humidity meter was utilized. We measured all values of capacitance and resistance in intervals (*i.e.*, maximum and minimum change of values) at different points by varying %RH from 32 to 85%. For the neutrosophic technique, we used the same value but for the classical statical technique, we converted these into fix point values by taking the mean of maximum and minimum values at each measured point of %RH. Such type of setup has been used in different research worked to study humidity sensors as shown in ref. 12 and 25. The values of capacitance and resistance as well as, response and recovery times, were measured many times, *i.e.*, daily bases for 17 days at room temperature but we have found minor changes (about 0.5% to 1.7%, which can be neglected) in these values (Fig. 3).

3. Results and discussion

The structure of the thin film of methyl green was studied by the XRD technique. The XRD configuration of the methyl green thin film is shown in Fig. 4. The pattern is observed in the range 5° < 2theta° < 90° with intensity 0 to 70 (a. u.). From the plot, it is seen that there is no characteristic sharp peak but a broad peak at 10° to 30°, which is representing the amorphous structure of the methyl green thin film and also defines a successful

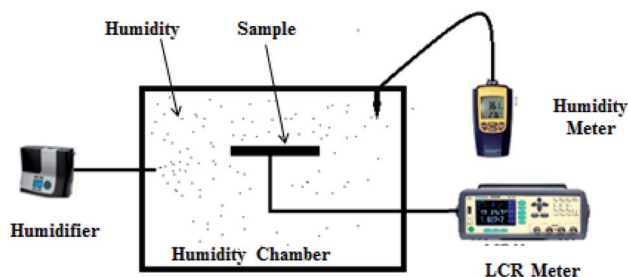


Fig. 3 Schematic diagram of the sensing mechanism, utilized for electrical characterization of the capacitance and resistance of the Al/MG/Al humidity sensor.



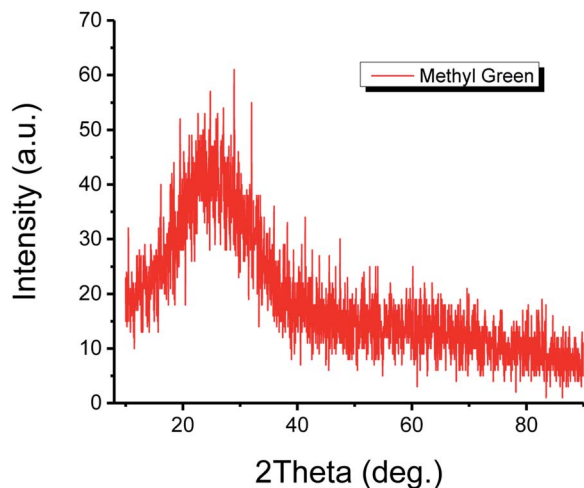


Fig. 4 XRD Pattern of the methyl green thin film.

deposition of thin film by comparing previously found XRD pattern of methyl green.²⁶

The optical absorption properties of the thin film of methyl green, UV Vis characterization, is shown in Fig. 5. A peak between 320 to 400 nm, which indicated that the sample of methyl green is a good absorber of UV-A (known black-light or long-wave UV).²⁷ The efficient absorption of light by methyl green in the visible region indicates that it may also be used for light sensing or solar cell applications.

Surface and hygroscopic properties of thin-film are used to determine the sensor performance.²⁸ In the following research work, surface, morphology was studied using the FESEM technique. Fig. 6(A) was taken at 50 000× magnification with the scale bar indicating 1 μm. A number of nanostructures with hexagonal shapes, which are distributed with indiscriminate directions can be observed. Voids, which will perform an imperative role in the absorption of water molecules were also seen.²⁹ Fig. 6(B) was taken at 100 000× magnification with the scale bar indicating 500 nm, which expresses the average size of

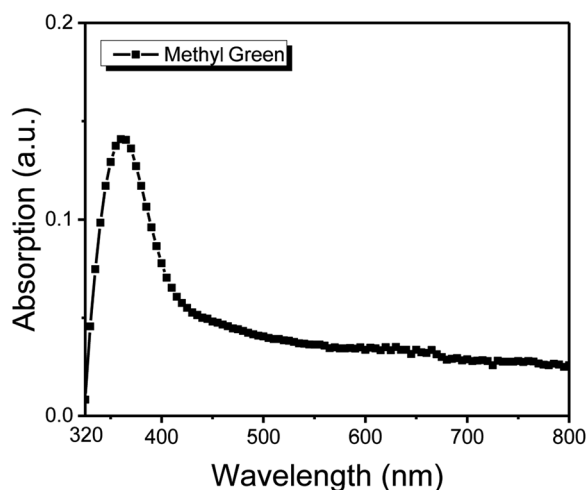


Fig. 5 UV-Vis characterization of methyl green.

these nanostructures that is about 100 nm. The SEM of methyl green sensing film showed an irregular surface with large numbers of voids. Such a type of microstructured morphology allows greater ambient water/humidity molecule exposure, which will enhance the sensing property of the sensing film.³⁰

3.1 Capacitance

The capacitance of the methyl green-based humidity sensor was measured at changed frequencies, such as 1, 10 and 100 kHz by varying humidity from 32 to 85%. It is detected that capacitance increases with increased RH%. At low or initial relative humidity, *i.e.*, 32-RH%, the capacitance for all frequencies is small and about flat curve was obtained with small variations. But, above 60-RH%, the capacitance starts to increase because at this stage there was an increase in the absorption of humidity on the sensing film of the methyl green. So, the immobile layer of the sensing film transforms into the mobile layer.³¹ The increase in capacitance is expressed as that capacitance is directly proportional to humidity absorption by the sensor. The capacitance of the humidity sensor consists of ' ϵ_d ' dielectric permittivity of methyl green thin film, vacuum permittivity ' ϵ_0 ', distance between 'Al' electrodes ' d ' and area of electrodes ' A '.

$$C = \frac{A\epsilon_d\epsilon_0}{d} \quad (1)$$

The capacitance of the sensor varies on varying the %RH level; therefore it can be safely attributed to some aspects as follows: (a) thin film surface morphology (b) water dielectric constant (c) sensing material polarizability and (d) constant area, *i.e.*, distance between sensing material and electrodes.

Water has 80% relative permittivity that is more than that of organic semiconductors.³² Because of such high dielectric permittivity of water, detecting film has significantly high dielectric permittivity. The difference of dielectric permittivity of humid and dry detecting film is the source of the detecting/sensing process of the capacitance of the sensor. The capacitance is the right source to investigate the sensing material's dielectric properties because each other is directly proportional. Theoretically, the relationship between capacitance and dielectrics constant under dry and humid conditions is defined as follows:³³

$$\frac{C_h}{C_d} = \left(\frac{\epsilon_h}{\epsilon_d} \right)^n \quad (2)$$

Here ϵ_h and ϵ_d are humid and dry sensing dielectric constants, similarly: C_h and C_d are capacitance values of humid and dry factors, correspondingly and ' n ' is a morphology element of the dielectric. Humidity absorption on the sensing film was studied through hydrogen bonding with a weak VWI-van der Waals interaction of polymer molecules with humidity/water molecules.³⁴ The water molecules' dipole movement changes in the effect of the outside electric field. So, the polarity of the molecule is written as follows:

$$P = \alpha E \quad (3)$$



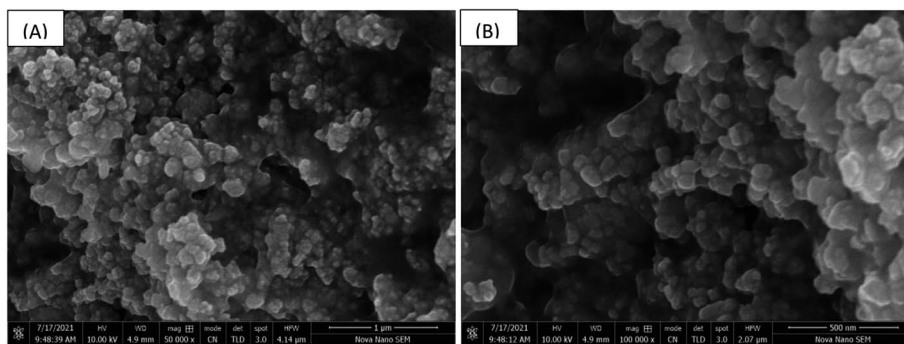


Fig. 6 (A) SEM of methyl green at 50 000× magnifications and (B) SEM of methyl green at 100 000× magnifications.

Here ' P ' is polarity, ' α ' is polarizability and ' E ' is an external field. Sensing material polarizability is directly proportional to the dielectric constant of the sensing film.³⁵ It may be electronic, dipolar, or ionic in nature.³⁶ By using the Clausius Mosotti equation³⁷ the relation is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\epsilon_d - 1}{\epsilon_d + 2} = \frac{N_d \alpha_d}{3\epsilon_0} \quad (4)$$

Here ϵ_0 is a free space permittivity and ϵ_d is a relative permittivity. By using this equation we can write an equation of capacitance–humidity simulation.³⁸ This is as follows:

$$\frac{C_h}{C_d} = \frac{[1 + 2N_d \alpha_d (1 + kH)]}{3\epsilon_0} \bigg/ \frac{[1 - N_d \alpha_d (1 + kH)]}{3\epsilon_0} \quad (5)$$

Here, C_h and C_d are capacitance values of humid and dry conditions, k is capacitive humidity factor having a value of $1.6 \times 10^{-2} (\text{RH})^{-1}$ and H is a relative humidity level.

3.2 Resistance

Similar to capacitance, the resistance of the methyl green-based humidity sensor was measured at changed frequencies, such as 1, 10 and 100 kHz by varying humidity from 32 to 85%. It was observed that the resistance decreases with increased relative humidity RH%. At low or initial relative humidity, *i.e.*, 32-RH%, the resistance for all frequencies have high variations. But above 60-RH%, the variation becomes very small and we get approximately flat curves because at this stage there was an increase in the absorption of humidity on the sensing film of the methyl green. The change in resistance is directly related to humidity absorption on the sensing film. The water/humidity molecules lead to an increase in charge carriers because these molecules work as dopants. Moreover, this absorption may also dissociate ions, which increases the conductivity of a material. Conductance is inversely by resistance, so, the resistance of the detecting film decreases as the conductivity increases.² The resistance of the sensor depends on (a) the rate of water/humidity molecules' absorption on the sensing film (b) cross-section area of the sensing film ' A ' (c) the conductivity of the sensing material ' α ' (d) the length of sensing film ' l '. So, the relation between the conductivity and resistance is expressed as follows:

$$R = \frac{l}{A\alpha} \quad (6)$$

As the concentration of humidity/water molecules increases in the methyl green thin film, it is the probability that first of all this concentration changes the surfaces resistance ' R_s ' and then it changes the bulk resistance ' R_b '.

3.3 Relationship between capacitance and resistance of the sensor

As the capacitance of the sensor is defined by $C = Q/V$, where ' C ' is capacitance, ' Q ' is charge and ' V ' is applied voltage. Also, the resistance of the sensor is defined by $V = IR$, where ' V ' is applied voltage, ' I ' is current and ' R ' is the resistance of the sensor. As we are dealing with the AC circuit so the impedance ' Z ' w.r.t capacitance is as follows:

$$Z = 1/(j2\pi fC) \quad (7)$$

Here f is the frequency, which is equal to $f = \omega/2\pi$ so (by ignoring the complex no. $j = \sqrt{-1}$)

$$Z = 1/(\omega C) \quad (8)$$

As the resistance and impedance of the circuit are equal *i.e.* $Z = R$ so

$$R = 1/(\omega C) \quad (9)$$

If we choose a constant frequency then the relation is:

$$R \propto 1/C \quad (10)$$

This means that the capacitance and resistance of the humidity sensor are inversely proportional to each other. The proposed sensor is satisfying the following relation, *i.e.*, at high resistance the capacitance is low and *vice versa*.

3.4 Response and recovery time of humidity sensor

Response/comeback and recover/repeat times of sensor consisted on methyl green thin were estimated through the dynamic investigation procedure. Fig. 7 is showing the graphs of the recovery and response time. The dynamic investigation



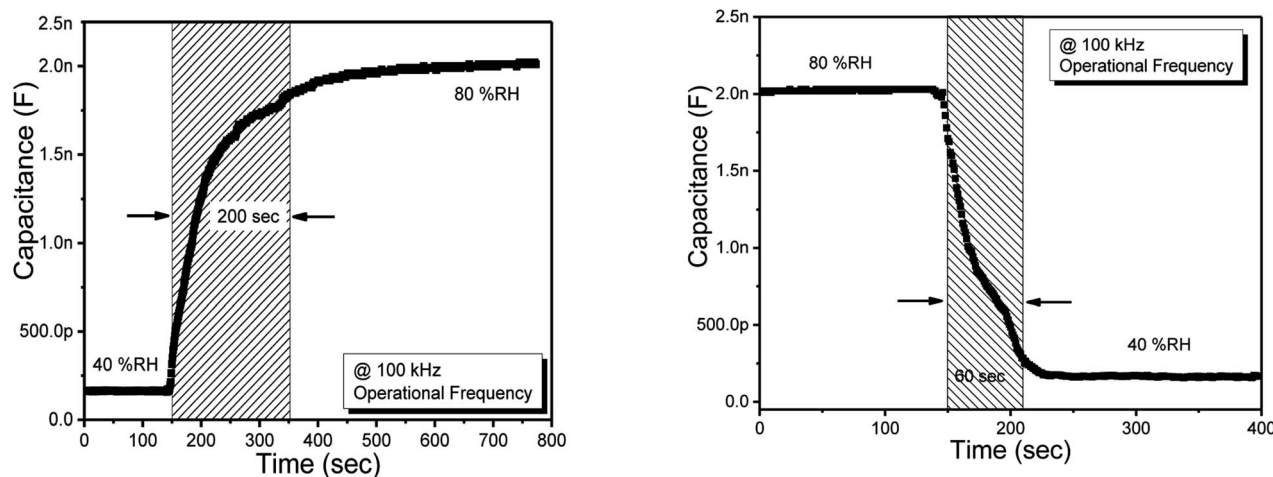


Fig. 7 Response (left side) and recovery (right side) time of the humidity sensor based on methyl green.

was performed between two RH levels, *i.e.*, the low level was 40% and the high level was 80%. The comeback times are time periods to attain about ninety-nine % of steady/stable values as soon as suddenly the sensor is put into a chamber full of water vapors/humidity.³⁹ Same as the repeat time of the sensor is a time duration required to attain its initial value as humidity is removed. For dynamic investigation, a humidification and dehumidification cycle was studied at 100 KHz operational AC bias frequency (to avoid the complexity). In the following work, we found the response time of 200 s and recovery time of 60 s for the humidity sensor. For observing the repeatability, we repeated the cycle of humidification and dehumidification but we obtained the same values of response and recovery time for the proposed sensor.

From Fig. 7, it is seen that the response time of the sensor is a bit high at about 200 s this is due to the surface morphology of the methyl green sensing film, *i.e.*, the voids on the surface are very small having nanosize. So, the thin film takes more time for the absorption of water molecules/humidity drops, which is the reason for the high response time.

3.5 Sensitivity of humidity sensor

Sensitivity is the main characteristic of the sensor that is used to determine the transmission of the sensor. The sensitivity for both capacitance and resistance type at 1, 10 and 100 kHz is shown in Table 1. Moreover, we found better sensitivity than for the previously reported sensors.^{11–13}

Table 1 Sensitivity of capacitance and resistance type humidity sensor

Frequencies	Band gap	Sensitivity	
		For resistance (KΩ/% RH)	For capacitance (pF/% RH)
1 kHz	32–85%	31.69	122.37
10 kHz	32–85%	28.51	91.30
100 kHz	32–85%	12.7	46.214

Similarly, the comparison of the proposed sensor with the previous study is shown in Table 2. From this table, it is seen that there are many sensors have low response and recovery time, but the sensitivity of our sensor is more than that of others.

3.6 Analysis of data (capacitance and resistance) through classical statistics

As mentioned above, we measured all readings in intervals. So, for the classical statistics technique, we have converted the readings of capacitance and resistance into the fixpoint values by taking the mean of the maximum and minimum values at each measured point of %RH with different frequencies, *i.e.*, 1, 10, 100 kHz.

For example, we have observed the value of capacitance [150, 170] with 32% RH at 1 kHz. As it is in interval form, so we convert it into a fixed point value, *i.e.*, 160 by using the classical statistics mean formula. In this way, we apply classical statistics analysis on the measured values of capacitance and resistance w.r.t relative humidity %RH changing from 32 to 85% at 1, 10 and 100 kHz.

3.7 Analysis of data (capacitance and resistance) through neutrosophic statistics

For applying the neutrosophic statistics, we have developed the proper formula. For developing the formula first we see the preliminaries.

3.7.1 Preliminaries. Suppose that $Y_{iN} = Y_{iL} + Y_{iU}I_N$ ($i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n_N$) where $I_N \in [I_L, I_U]$ and $Y_N \in [Y_L, Y_U]$ be a random neutrosophic variable having size of $n_N \in [n_L, n_U]$. The variable $Y_{iN} \in [Y_{iL}, Y_{iU}]$ contains two parts: lower value Y_{iL} a classical part, and upper-value $Y_{iU}I_N$ an indeterminate part with indeterminacy interval $I_N \in [I_L, I_U]$.

Similarly, neutrosophic mean $Y_N = [Y_L, Y_U]$ is defined as follows:

$$Y_N = Y_L + Y_U I_N; I_N \in [I_L, I_U] \quad (11)$$



Table 2 Comparison of Al/GM/Al sensor with the previously studied sensors

Nano-material	Response time	Recovery time	Band width	Sensitivity
α -Fe ₂ O ₃ (ref. 40)	60 s	350 s	—	—
γ -Fe ₂ O ₃ (ref. 41)	150 s	450 s	—	—
ZnO (ref. 42)	36 s	530 s	—	—
SnO ₂ (ref. 43)	120–170 s	20–60 s	30–85%	About 2–33 RH%
Methyl red ⁴⁴	10 s	10 s	30–95%	16.92 pF/% RH 0.307 M Ω /% RH
TDTBPPNI ⁴⁵	35 s	57 s	39–85%	102.61 pF/% RH –333.07 K Ω /% RH
Multi-wall carbon nanotubes ⁴⁶	45 s	15 s	11–97%	0.026 pF/% RH
Cobalt(II) phthalocyanine ⁴⁷	—	—	30–95%	0.023 pF/% RH
Methyl green (present study)	200 s	60 s	40–80%	122.37 pF/% RH 31 K Ω /% RH

Here, $\bar{Y}_L = \sum_{i=1}^{n_L} (Y_{iL}/n_L)$ and $\bar{Y}_U = \sum_{i=1}^{n_U} Y_{iU}/n_U$.

3.7.2 Neutrosophic formula for capacitance. Let C_N is the measurement of capacitance with interval $C_N \in [C_L, C_U]$. The neutrosophic formula for the capacitance of the humidity sensor is written as follows:

$$C_N = C_L + C_U I_N; I_N \in [I_L, I_U] \quad (12)$$

The above-described measurement $C_N \in [C_L, C_U]$ is an extension under the classical. The above equation consists of two parts, *i.e.*, C_L determined and $C_U I_N$ indeterminate parts. Also, $I_N \in [I_L, I]$ is known as indeterminacy interval. Moreover, the measurement $C_N \in [C_L, C_U]$ was reduced to the classical or determined part by choosing $I_L = 0$.

For example, at 32% RH, we observed the value of capacitance as 150 and 170 at 1 kHz. So, here C_L is equal to 150 and C_U is equal to 170. Similarly, indeterminacy $I_L = 0$ as mentioned above and I_U can be found by $I_U = (C_U - C_L)/C_U$. So, the value of I_U at a given capacitance interval is 0.118. The neutrosophic approach for the above capacitance interval is written as:

$$C_{32\%RHat1kHz} = 150 + 170 I_N; I_N \in [0, 0.118] \quad (13)$$

If we choose $I_N = 0$ then we get a minimum value, *i.e.*, 150, and if we choose $I_N = 0.118$, we get a maximum value of 180, otherwise, we get a value between them. Similarly, we apply neutrosophic statistics on the measured values of capacitance w.r.t relative humidity %RH changing from 32 to 85% at 1, 10 and 100 kHz.

3.7.3 Neutrosophic formula for resistance. Let R_N be the measurement of capacitance with interval $R_N \in [R_L, R_U]$. The neutrosophic formula for the capacitance of the humidity sensor is written as follows:

$$R_N = R_L + R_U I_N; I_N \in [I_L, I_U] \quad (14)$$

The above-described measurement $R_N \in [R_L, R_U]$ is an extension under the classical. The above equation consists of two parts, *i.e.*, R_L determined and $R_U I_N$ indeterminate part. Also $I_N \in [I_L, I_U]$ is known as indeterminacy interval. Moreover, the measurement $R_N \in [R_L, R_U]$ was reduced to the classical or determined part by choosing $I_L = 0$.

For example, at 32% RH, we observed the values of resistance as 1430, 1930 at 1 kHz. So, here R_L is equal to 1430 and R_U is

equal to 1930. Similarly, indeterminacy $I_L = 0$ as mentioned above and I_U can be found by $I_U = (R_U - R_L)/R_U$. So, the value of I_U at a given resistance interval is 0.260. The neutrosophic approach for the above resistance interval is written as:

$$R_{32\%RHat1kHz} = 1430 + 1930 I_N; I_N \in [0, 0.260] \quad (15)$$

If we choose $I_N = 0$, then we get a minimum value, *i.e.*, 1430, and if we choose $I_N = 0.260$, we get a maximum value 1930, otherwise we get a value between them. Similarly, we apply neutrosophic statistics on the measured values of resistance w.r.t relative humidity %RH changing from 32 to 85% at 1, 10 and 100 kHz.

3.8 Comparison between classical analysis and neutrosophic analysis

The plots of capacitance and resistance measured value analyses through classical statistics are shown in Fig. 8 and 9, respectively.

Similarly, the plots of capacitance and resistance measured value analyses through neutrosophic statistics are shown in Fig. 10 and 11, respectively.

From the classical graphs shown in Fig. 8 and 9, it is directly seen that resistance and the capacitance of the sensor are following the relation, as described in eqn (10) (section 3.3), *i.e.*,

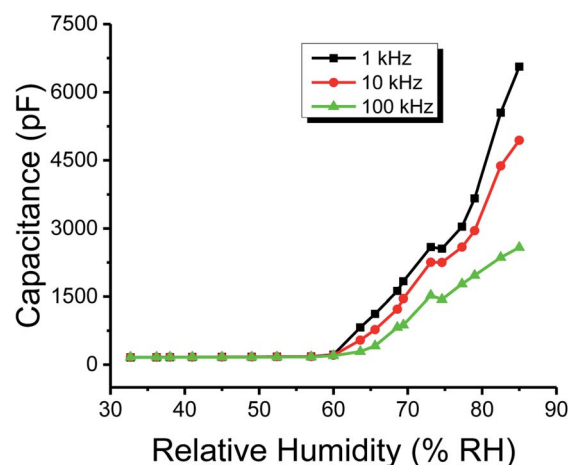


Fig. 8 The capacitance of the humidity sensor based on methyl green at 1, 10 and 100 kHz operational frequencies.



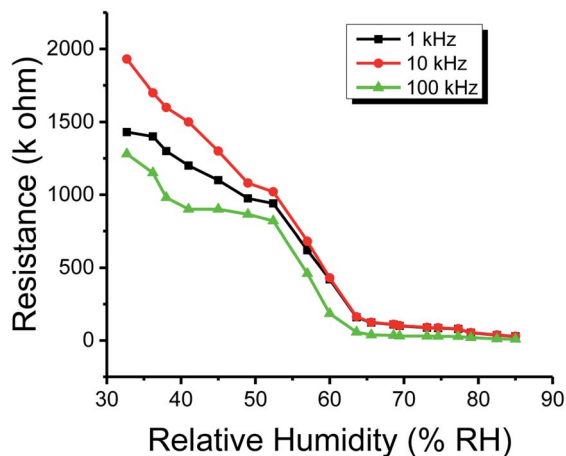


Fig. 9 The resistance of the humidity sensor based on methyl green at 1, 10 and 100 kHz operational frequencies.

the resistance and capacitance are inversely increased or decreased, respectively, to each other. Neutrosophic graphs are shown in Fig. 10 and 11, as can be seen, in Fig. 10 the capacitance from 32.5 to 60% RH is lower, this is because the neutrosophic statistics deal with the variation. In this region, the variation for all 1, 10 and 100 kHz is very small, so in the neutrosophic graph capacitance in this region looks the same. But in fact, the capacitance is increasing slowly w.r.t change in the relative humidity %RH. It is seen that resistance and capacitance have an inverse relationship as to where resistance has high variation capacitance, has small variations, and where capacitance has high variation resistance and has small variations.

Similarly, the stability of the proposed sensor was checked by varying the temperature. The sensor shows good stability for both the magnitude of resistance and capacitance with variation in temperature until 57 °C with a small change of about 1.5% (which can be negligible). But as the temperature

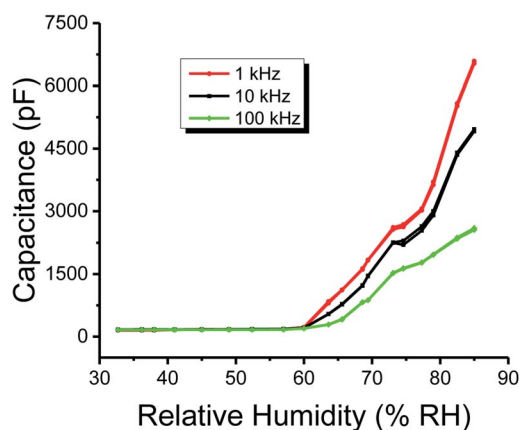


Fig. 10 Neutrosophic graphs of the capacitance of the humidity sensor based on methyl green measured at 1, 10 and 100 kHz operational frequencies.

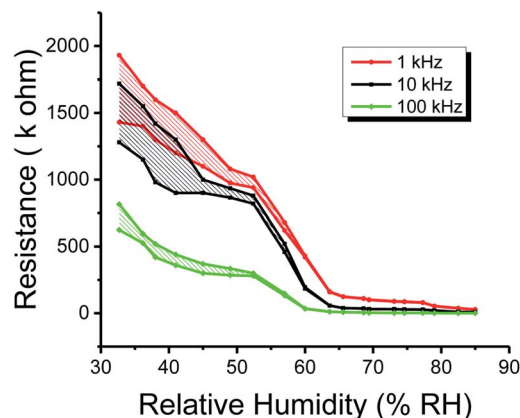


Fig. 11 Neutrosophic graphs of resistance of the humidity sensor based on methyl green measured at 1, 10 and 100 kHz operational frequencies.

increases, the values of both capacitance and resistance change about 2 times from initial.

Moreover, from the above graphs, a comparison between the neutrosophic and classical statistical analysis of capacitance and resistance of the humidity sensor can be made. It is seen that graphs of classical analysis are not much flexible because these graphs are drawn at fixed-point values. But graphs of the neutrosophic analysis show more flexibility. This means that neutrosophic statistics are more effective to analyze the capacitance and resistance of the said humidity sensor. As a result, it is found that neutrosophic statistics are informative, flexible and adequate than classical statistics.

4. Conclusions

A surface-type humidity sensor based on an organic semiconductor methyl green thin film has been fabricated, whose capacitance and resistance have been studied. The sensor shows higher sensitivity. The capacitance and resistance of the sensors were measured w.r.t the variation in relative humidity (%RH) from 32 to 85% at 1, 10 and 100 kHz. These values were analyzed through classical statistics and neutrosophic statistics. It is observed that capacitance was increased but resistance was decreased with the increase in humidity absorption on sensing of the thin film. Moreover, it was observed that the analysis of capacitance and resistance of the humidity sensor through the neutrosophic statistics was informative, flexible and adequate than the analysis through classical statistics.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgements

The authors are deeply thankful to the editor and reviewers for their valuable suggestions to improve the quality of the paper.



References

- 1 Y. Zhang, *et al.*, Zinc oxide nanorod and nanowire for humidity sensor, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2005, **242**(1–2), 212–217.
- 2 N. M. Kiasari, *et al.*, Room temperature ultra-sensitive resistive humidity sensor based on single zinc oxide nanowire, *Sens. Actuators, A*, 2012, **182**, 101–105.
- 3 I. Murtaza, *et al.*, Humidity sensitive organic field effect transistor, *J. Semicond.*, 2010, **31**(5), 054001.
- 4 K. S. Karimov, *et al.*, Humidity sensing properties of Cu₂O-PEPC nanocomposite films, *J. Semicond.*, 2012, **33**(7), 073001.
- 5 Z. Chen and C. Lu, Humidity sensors: a review of materials and mechanisms, *Sens. Lett.*, 2005, **3**(4), 274–295.
- 6 C.-Y. Lee and G.-B. Lee, Humidity sensors: a review, *Sens. Lett.*, 2005, **3**(1–2), 1–15.
- 7 Z. Rittersma, Recent achievements in miniaturised humidity sensors—a review of transduction techniques, *Sens. Actuators, A*, 2002, **96**(2–3), 196–210.
- 8 Y. Yao, *et al.*, Graphene oxide thin film coated quartz crystal microbalance for humidity detection, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2011, **257**(17), 7778–7782.
- 9 M. Saleem, *et al.*, Synthesis and photocapacitive studies of Cu(II) 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(4'-isopropylphenyl)porphyrin, *J. Optoelectron. Adv. Mater.*, 2008, **10**(6), 1468.
- 10 M. Hijikagawa, *et al.*, A thin-film resistance humidity sensor, *Sens. Actuators*, 1983, **4**, 307–315.
- 11 M. I. Azmer, *et al.*, Humidity sensor based on electrospun MEH-PPV:PVP microstructured composite, *RSC Adv.*, 2016, **6**(42), 35387–35393.
- 12 M. T. S. Chani, *et al.*, Humidity sensors based on aluminum phthalocyanine chloride thin films, *Phys. E*, 2012, **45**, 77–81.
- 13 Z. Ahmad, *et al.*, Integrated capacitive and resistive humidity transduction via surface type nickel phthalocyanine based sensor, *Int. J. Electrochem. Sci.*, 2017, **12**, 3012–3019.
- 14 F. Smarandache, *Introduction to neutrosophic measure, neutrosophic integral, and neutrosophic probability*, 2013, infinite study.
- 15 J. Ye, Improved cosine similarity measures of simplified neutrosophic sets for medical diagnoses, *Artif. Intell. Med.*, 2015, **63**(3), 171–179.
- 16 V. Christianto, R. N. Boyd and F. Smarandache, *Three possible applications of neutrosophic logic in fundamental and applied sciences*, 2020, infinite study.
- 17 M. Aslam, Enhanced statistical tests under indeterminacy with application to earth speed data, *Earth Sci. Inform.*, 2021, 1–7.
- 18 F. Smarandache, *The Neutrosophic Research Method in Scientific and Humanistic Fields*, 2010.
- 19 M. Aslam, A study on skewness and kurtosis estimators of wind speed distribution under indeterminacy, *Theor. Appl. Climatol.*, 2021, **143**(3), 1227–1234.
- 20 F. Smarandache, *Introduction to neutrosophic statistics: Infinite Study*, Romania-Educational Publisher, Columbus, OH, USA, 2014.
- 21 J. Chen, J. Ye and S. Du, Scale effect and anisotropy analyzed for neutrosophic numbers of rock joint roughness coefficient based on neutrosophic statistics, *Symmetry*, 2017, **9**(10), 208.
- 22 J. Chen, *et al.*, Expressions of rock joint roughness coefficient using neutrosophic interval statistical numbers, *Symmetry*, 2017, **9**(7), 123.
- 23 M. Aslam, Design of the Bartlett and Hartley tests for homogeneity of variances under indeterminacy environment, *J. Taibah Univ. Sci.*, 2020, **14**(1), 6–10.
- 24 M. Aslam, On detecting outliers in complex data using Dixon's test under neutrosophic statistics, *J. King Saud Univ. Sci.*, 2020, **32**(3), 2005–2008.
- 25 Q. Zafar, *et al.*, Evaluation of humidity sensing properties of TMBHPET thin film embedded with spinel cobalt ferrite nanoparticles, *J. Nanoparticle Res.*, 2016, **18**(7), 1–12.
- 26 A. Ebrahiminezhad, *et al.*, Green synthesis and characterization of zero-valent iron nanoparticles using stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) leaf extract, *Green Process. Synth.*, 2017, **6**(5), 469–475.
- 27 Z. A. Hussein, S. K. Abbas and L. M. Ahmed, UV-A activated ZrO₂ via photodecolorization of methyl green dye, in *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, IOP Publishing, 2018.
- 28 M. Tahir, *et al.*, Enhancement in the sensing properties of methyl orange thin film by TiO₂ nanoparticles, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. B*, 2014, **28**(5), 1450032.
- 29 F. Muhammad, *et al.*, Cadmium selenide quantum dots: Synthesis, characterization and their humidity and temperature sensing properties with poly-(dioctylfluorene), *Sens. Actuators, B*, 2019, **285**, 504–512.
- 30 H. Farahani, R. Wagiran and M. N. Hamidon, Humidity sensors principle, mechanism, and fabrication technologies: a comprehensive review, *Sensors*, 2014, **14**(5), 7881–7939.
- 31 C.-L. Dai, A capacitive humidity sensor integrated with micro heater and ring oscillator circuit fabricated by CMOS-MEMS technique, *Sens. Actuators, B*, 2007, **122**(2), 375–380.
- 32 R. M. Metzger, *Unimolecular and Supramolecular Electronics I: Chemistry and Physics Meet at Metal-Molecule Interfaces*, 2012, vol. 312, Springer Science & Business Media.
- 33 J. Korvink, *et al.*, Accurate 3D capacitance evaluation in integrated capacitive humidity sensors, *Sens. Mater.*, 1993, **4**, 323.
- 34 M. Matsuguchi, *et al.*, Characterization of polymers for a capacitive-type humidity sensor based on water sorption behavior, *Sens. Actuators, B*, 1998, **49**(3), 179–185.
- 35 M. A. Omar, *Elementary solid state physics: principles and applications*, Pearson Education India, 1975.
- 36 M. Tahir, *et al.*, Humidity, light and temperature dependent characteristics of Au/N-BuHHPDI/Au surface type multifunctional sensor, *Sens. Actuators, B*, 2014, **192**, 565–571.
- 37 M. Shah, *et al.*, Carbon nanotubes' nanocomposite in humidity sensors, *Solid-State Electron.*, 2012, **69**, 18–21.



- 38 P. Li, *et al.*, Humidity sensor based on electrospun $(\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{0.5})_{0.94}\text{TiO}_3\text{-Ba}_{0.06}\text{TiO}_3$ nanofibers, *Ceram. Int.*, 2015, **41**(10), 14251–14257.
- 39 A. Tripathy, *et al.*, Role of morphological structure, doping, and coating of different materials in the sensing characteristics of humidity sensors, *Sensors*, 2014, **14**(9), 16343–16422.
- 40 R. G. Deshmukh, S. S. Badadhe and I. S. Mulla, Microwave-assisted synthesis and humidity sensing of nanostructured $\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, *Mater. Res. Bull.*, 2009, **44**(5), 1179–1182.
- 41 P. V. Adhyapak, *et al.*, Influence of Li doping on the humidity response of maghemite ($\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$) nanopowders synthesized at room temperature, *Ceram. Int.*, 2013, **39**(7), 8153–8158.
- 42 Y. Qiu and S. Yang, ZnO nanotetrapods: controlled vapor-phase synthesis and application for humidity sensing, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2007, **17**(8), 1345–1352.
- 43 Q. Kuang, *et al.*, High-sensitivity humidity sensor based on a single SnO_2 nanowire, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2007, **129**(19), 6070–6071.
- 44 Z. Ahmad, *et al.*, Humidity-dependent characteristics of methyl-red thin film-based Ag/methyl-red/Ag surface-type cell, *Phys. E*, 2008, **41**(1), 18–22.
- 45 Z. Farooq, *et al.*, Investigation of relative humidity-sensing performance of capacitive and resistive type sensor based on TDTBPPNi metalloporphyrin dielectric layer, *Bull. Mater. Sci.*, 2021, **44**(2), 1–10.
- 46 W.-P. Chen, *et al.*, A capacitive humidity sensor based on multi-wall carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), *Sensors*, 2009, **9**(9), 7431–7444.
- 47 T. Qasuria, *et al.*, Poles apart gravity based planar organic multifunctional sensor using cobalt(II) phthalocyanine, *Mater. Res. Express*, 2019, **6**(9), 095062.

