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- (54) **DUAL TRANSMITTER MULTI-CAPACITANCE FLOW METER**
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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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G01N 27/22; G01N 33/00
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166/250.03
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73/152.55, 152.31, 152.18; 324/689, 694,  
698, 664; 166/264, 250.03

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for evaluating multiphase fluid flow in a wellbore. Two distinct AC signals are injected into a fluid. One AC signal originates from a transmitter electrode in ohmic contact with the fluid, and the other AC signal originates from a transmitter electrode capacitively coupled to the fluid. The geometric factors between the electrode pairs are selected to distinguish between different constituents within the wellbore fluids. The output electrical impedance of the ohmic transmitter is low so that the AC signal from the capacitive transmitter is shunted to signal ground in electrically conductive fluids. A single detector can measure the fraction of electrically conductive water covering the detector electrode as well as the dielectric constant of an oil and gas mixture. Arrays of such detector electrodes can measure the holdups and velocities of the constituent fluids in a flowing multiphase fluid.

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**20 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

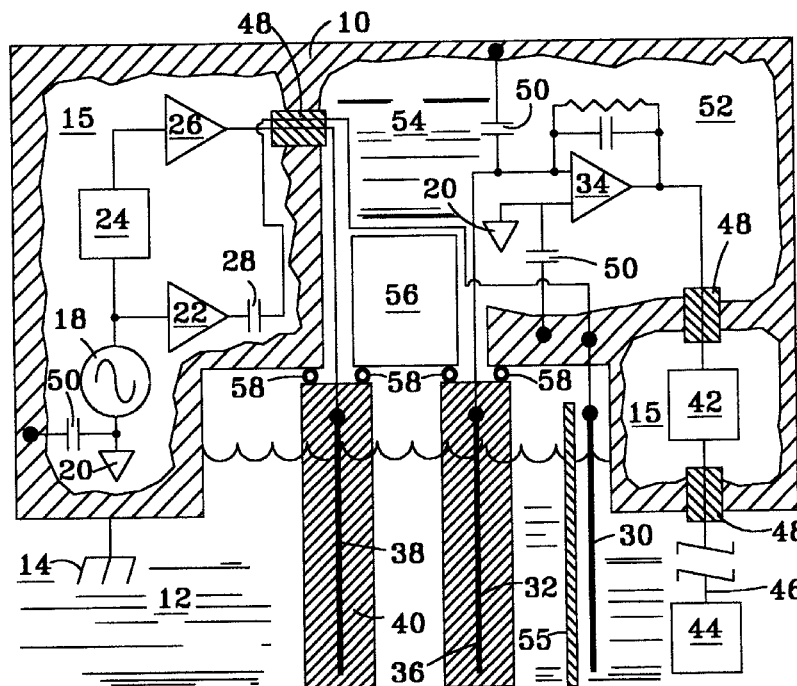




Fig. 2

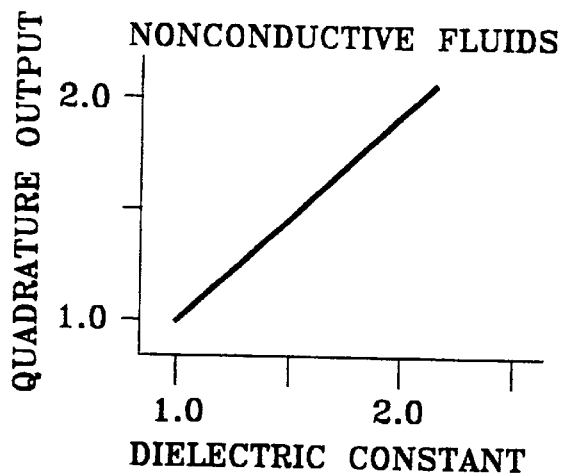


Fig. 3

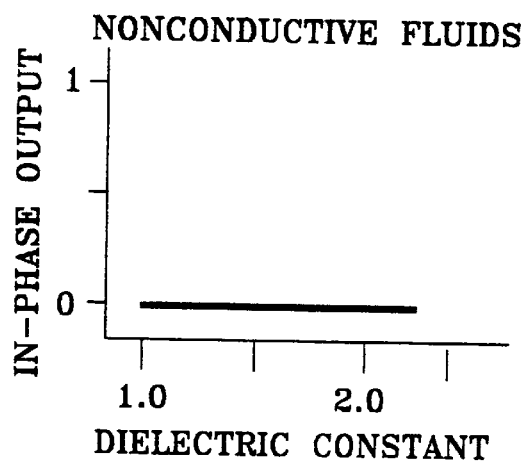
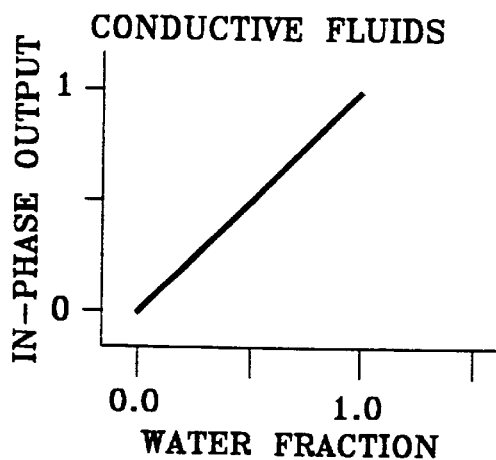


Fig. 4



## DUAL TRANSMITTER MULTI-CAPACITANCE FLOW METER

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the downhole evaluation of formation fluids produced into a wellbore. More particularly, the invention relates to a real-time downhole multiphase flow evaluation apparatus and method which distinguishes capacitive and conductive fluids by exciting the fluids with distinct transmitters.

Wellbores are drilled into earth formations to produce hydrocarbon fluids from subsurface reservoirs. The formation fluids are produced at changing flowrates and comprise varying mixtures of hydrocarbons and water. Efficient production of hydrocarbons requires information regarding the production flowrates from specific locations within the wellbore, and the quantity of water produced with the hydrocarbon fluids. Production logging tools measure the instantaneous relative quantity ("holdup") and instantaneous velocity of the formation fluids in the wellbore as a function of time and location in the wellbore.

Logging tools have used capacitance sensors to evaluate formation fluids downhole in wellbores. A capacitance sensor comprises a transmitter electrode and a detector electrode oriented in a selected geometry. Capacitance sensors measure small changes in materials, typically resulting from impurities in the materials. If two capacitance sensors are separated by a known distance and the responses of the sensors to perturbations in a flowing medium can be correlated, the velocity of the medium can be calculated. Additionally, the magnitude of the electrical current traveling from the transmitter to the detector is proportional to the electrical admittance of the medium occupying the volume between these electrodes. Because hydrocarbons are essentially nonconductive and have an electrical permittivity twice that of air, hydrocarbons have a very low admittance particularly exacerbated by low measurement frequencies. Conversely, reservoir produced water is at least moderately saline and has a correspondingly high admittance.

In production logging of formation fluids, the electrical admittance of the formation fluids can vary more than six orders of magnitude. Although tools have been proposed to measure fluid velocities and holdups with capacitance sensor arrays, such systems do not provide satisfactory performance as a production logging tool.

One method and apparatus for measuring multiphase properties with a capacitance sensor array was described in European Patent Application No. 0510774A2 to DenBoer, wherein a plurality of capacitors were positioned vertically in a pipeline by placing a single electrode on one side of the fluid sample, and a segmented electrode on the other side of the fluid. Higher placed electrode segments identified the fluid level in the pipeline, and lower placed electrode segments measured the impedance of the liquid. The fraction of water in the liquid-filled part of the pipeline was determined by calculating the effective dielectric constant of the fluid from the capacitor impedance measurement, and was based on the theoretical relationship between the effective dielectric constant of an oil/water mixture and the ratio of oil in the water.

This system is not effective as a production logging tool because capacitance sensors have a very high input impedance and are susceptible to stray capacitance. When a metallic tool body and a capacitance sensor are immersed in an electrically conductive fluid there will be stray capacitance between the sensor and the tool electronics. For a

production logging tool which must operate downhole in a wellbore, elimination of stray capacitance between tool electronics and metallic tool housings is difficult to accomplish.

Downhole sensor arrays have been constructed to measure the velocity and holdup of constituent fluids in a flowing multiphase fluid, however a single sensor does not provide stable and accurate results in both electrically conductive and nonconductive fluids. For an alternating current at a selected frequency, the electrical admittance of a fluid is a function of the conductivity, permittivity, and geometry of the fluid. Admittance comprises the reciprocal of impedance, and is measured as a ratio of current to voltage. At frequencies less than 10 megahertz, the admittance of moderately saline water essentially comprises a conductance and the admittance of oil and gas essentially comprises a capacitance. At these lower frequencies, the conductive admittance of waters found in a wellbore is typically many orders of magnitude greater than the capacitive admittance of oil and gas, and the capacitance of oil is only twice that of gas. The magnitude of the current detected by one sensor will be proportional to the magnitude of the fluid electrical admittance between a transmitter electrode and the sensor. Accordingly, a single sensor that spans the range of admittance in the fluids of interest will have a limited resolution.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,736,637 to Evans et al. (1998) disclosed a system for evaluating multiphase flow downhole with a production logging tool. An array of capacitance sensors was combined with an array of conductivity sensors, and the mutually exclusive-outputs were multiplexed. This concept doubles the number of sensors and space required for containing measurement electronics. Construction of such a system is difficult to accomplish in logging tools small enough to traverse a wellbore. Additionally, the construction of conductance sensors in proximity to capacitance sensors inevitably creates stray capacitances which will degrade the capacitance measurement.

A need exists for an improved downhole sensor which can efficiently provide stable and accurate multiphase fluid evaluation in a wellbore as the fluid electrical conductivity and flow rate changes. The system should provide high measurement resolution while traversing the narrow confines of a wellbore and should withstand elevated wellbore temperatures and pressures.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides an apparatus and method for evaluating multiphase fluid downhole in a wellbore. The apparatus comprises a housing insertable in the wellbore at a desired downhole position, an ohmic transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a low output electrical admittance, a capacitive transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high output electrical impedance, a detector electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high input impedance. A generator is engaged with said housing and with the ohmic transmitter electrode and with the capacitive transmitter electrode for selectively charging the transmitter electrodes with electrical charges, and a controller is engaged with the generator and with the detector electrode for determining the electrical charges transmitted from the generator to the ohmic transmitter electrode and to the capacitive transmitter electrode, for determining the electrical charges detected by the detector electrode, and for evaluating the multiphase fluid based on such electrical charges.

The method of the invention comprises the steps of placing a housing in a wellbore, placing an ohmic transmit-

ter electrode and a capacitive transmitter electrode and a detector electrode in contact with the fluid, of flowing the fluid through the housing chamber, of selectively providing electricity to the ohmic transmitter electrode and to the capacitive transmitter electrode, of operating the detector electrode to detect electricity transmitted through the fluid by the transmitter electrodes, and operating a controller to determine the electricity transmitted to the fluid by the ohmic transmitter electrode and by the capacitive transmitter electrode, to determine the electricity detected by the detector electrode, and to evaluate the multiphase fluid. The controller can be operated to determine the fluid flowrate between the electrodes and to determine the fluid composition.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a multiphase evaluation tool having an ohmic transmitter electrode, a capacitive transmitter electrode, and a detector electrode.

FIG. 2 illustrates the quadrature outputs in nonconductive fluids as a function of the fluid dielectric constant.

FIG. 3 illustrates the in-phase output in nonconductive fluids as a function of the fluid dielectric constant.

FIG. 4 illustrates the in-phase output in conductive fluids as a function of the fraction of the sensor area covered with conductive water.

FIG. 5 illustrates a shield between an ohmic electrode and a detector electrode.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The invention provides a system for measuring multiphase fluid flow rates in a wellbore by evaluating the relative admittance of a flowing fluid. The invention resolves the limited resolution problem of prior art sensors by detecting electrical charges from two distinct transmitters operating through different transmission paths. The presence of substantially nonconductive hydrocarbons such as oil and gas is detected primarily from a capacitive electrode paired with a detector electrode, and the presence of conductive water is detected primarily from an ohmic transmitter electrode paired with a detector electrode.

FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic view for one embodiment of the invention. Housing 10 is electrically conductive and can be configured to enclose other components as described below. Housing 10 is positioned within a cased or uncased wellbore in contact with formation fluids 12, and can be located within a vertical, inclined, or horizontal wellbore section. Earth ground 14 represents the electrical potential of formation fluids 12, and this potential is transferred to housing 10 through direct contact with formation fluids 12. Housing 10 encloses a sealed interior space defined as atmospheric cavity 16 for containing various electronics at atmospheric pressure. The pressure of formation fluids 12 will typically exceed the pressure within atmospheric cavity 16 by a significant amount.

AC generator 18 can be positioned within atmospheric cavity 15 to produce an alternating electric current having signal ground 20. As shown in FIG. 1, a portion of the AC current is conducted directly to buffer amplifier 22, and the remainder of the current is delayed one fourth of a period, or 90 degrees, by phase delay circuit 24 before such current is transmitted to buffer amplifier 26. The output from amplifier 22 is AC coupled to housing 10 through very low electrical impedance 28 and is transmitted to ohmic transmitter elec-

trode 30. As representative examples, the frequency of the AC current can comprise 66.5 kHz, the low impedance 28 can comprise a 2 microfarad capacitor, and the magnitude of the AC signal can comprise approximately one volt. Ohmic transmitter electrode 30 contacts formation fluids 12 to transmit the AC electrical charge to fluids 12.

Ohmic transmitter electrode 30 comprises an electrically conductive material in direct contact with wellbore fluids 12. AC current flows between ohmic transmitter electrode 30 and detector electrode 32 maintained virtually at signal ground 20 by detector amplifier 34. Detector electrode 32 is encased in an electrically nonconductive material 36 which makes the electrical coupling between detector electrode 32 and wellbore fluid 12 capacitive in nature. The capacitively coupled detector electrode 32 is connected to detector amplifier 34 in a configuration comprising a charge coupled amplifier. The thickness of nonconductive material 36 is minimized to maximize the sensitivity of detector amplifier 34 to changes in wellbore fluid 12. Similarly, capacitive transmitter electrode 38 is encased in nonconductive material 40.

Capacitive transmitter electrode 38 comprises an electrically conductive material which is AC coupled to wellbore fluid 12 through nonconductive material 40. The thickness of nonconductive material 40 should be minimized to minimize the impedance between capacitive transmitter electrode 38 and wellbore fluids 12, however this thickness is less critical than the thickness of nonconductive material 36 covering detector electrode 32. As representative examples, nonconductive materials 36 and 40 can comprise a polyimide film less than 0.005 inches thick, and capacitive transmitter electrode 38 and detector electrode 32 can be constructed as internal conductive layers on separate printed circuit boards.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, nonconductive material 40 covering capacitive transmitter electrode 38 creates an electrical impedance to current flow which is greater than low output impedance 28 in series with ohmic transmitter electrode 30. Similarly, nonconductive material 36 covering detector electrode 32 creates a high electrical impedance to current flow. The impedance of said electrodes is in series with the admittance of formation fluids 12, and current will flow through a path to signal ground which minimizes these impedances and maximizes this admittance. As a representative example, low output impedance 28 for ohmic electrode 30 can comprise a 2.0 microfarad capacitance, the output impedance for capacitive transmitter electrode 38 is a 0.004 microfarad capacitance, and the input impedance for detector electrode 32 is a 50.0 picofarad capacitance.

The relative positioning of ohmic transmitter electrode 30, capacitive transmitter electrode 38, and detector electrode 32 is important to the proper operation of the invention. Ohmic transmitter electrode 30, capacitive transmitter electrode 38, and detector electrode 32 are positioned in contact with formation fluids 12. The relative positioning and dimensions of each electrode pair is described quantitatively with a single term defined herein as a "geometric factor". The geometric factor is directly proportional to the area of the electrodes and inversely proportional to the electrical length between electrodes. For a pair of electrodes, at a given frequency, in a medium having given electrical properties such as conductivity and permittivity, the electrical admittance between the electrodes is directly proportional to the geometric factor of the electrodes. This relationship is important because the quantity of current transmitted is determined by the product of the medium's conductivity or permittivity times the geometric factor.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the geometric factor of capacitive electrode **38** with detector electrode **32** is greater than the geometric factor of ohmic electrode **30** with detector electrode **32**. Similarly, the geometric factor of capacitive electrode **38** with detector electrode **32** is greater than the geometric factor of capacitive electrode **38** with ohmic electrode **30**. These geometric factors in combination with the electrode impedances described above have the effect of changing the current flow patterns as the admittance of formation fluid **12** changes. For example, in oil and gas which have a relatively small capacitive admittance, more current will flow to detector electrode **32** from capacitive electrode **38** than from ohmic electrode **30** because of the limiting geometric factor of ohmic electrode **30** with detector electrode **32**. In water, which has a relatively large conductive admittance, current will flow from capacitive electrode **38** to ohmic electrode **30** because of low output impedance **28**, and the current flowing to detector electrode **32** from ohmic electrode **30** will increase because of the increased admittance of the water. As a consequence of this method, the dynamic range of the quantity of current measured by detector electrode **32** can be significantly less than the dynamic range of the admittance of formation fluid **12**, without sacrificing resolution at the extremes of the admittance.

In one embodiment of the invention as shown in FIG. 1, capacitive transmitter electrode **38** and detector electrode **32** form a parallel plate capacitor. Ohmic transmitter electrode **30** comprises a plate shielded by capacitive transmitter electrode **38** relative to detector electrode **32**. In this position capacitive transmitter electrode **38** shields detector electrode **32** from ohmic transmitter electrode **30**. This shielding has the effect of increasing the electrical path from ohmic electrode **30** to detector electrode **32**, thereby decreasing the geometric factor for this electrode pair. Similarly, the electrical length from the surface of capacitive electrode **38** which faces detector electrode **32**, to detector **32**, is less than the electrical length from said surface to ohmic electrode **30**. In fluids such as oil and gas having a small electrical admittance, the AC current measured by detector amplifier **34** is predominantly from capacitive transmitter electrode **38**. In fluids such as water having a large electrical admittance, the AC current measured by detector amplifier **34** is predominantly from ohmic transmitter electrode **30**.

In one embodiment of the invention as shown in FIG. 1, signal processing electronics **42** performs in-phase and quadrature detection on the output from detector amplifier **34**. As a result of nonconductive material **36** surrounding detector electrode **32**, the phase delay from any transmitter electrode to detector amplifier **34** of any particular AC current will be essentially the same for conductive and capacitive formation fluid **12**. In nonconductive formation fluid **12**, electrical current will be delayed by the capacitance of formation fluid **12**. In conductive formation fluid **12**, current flow will be delayed by the capacitance of nonconductive material **36**. The AC current at capacitive transmitter electrode **38** is delayed by 90 degrees relative to the AC current at ohmic transmitter electrode **30** because of phase delay circuit **24**. In phase and quadrature detection by signal processing electronics **42** discriminates between the magnitude of the AC current from ohmic transmitter electrode **30** and the magnitude of the AC current from capacitive transmitter electrode **38**. The processed signals are converted to an appropriate format and conducted to surface electronics **44** where all data is archived and displayed.

In a borehole, formation fluids **12** are at pressures greater than atmospheric pressure. The transmitter and detector

electrodes are exposed to the pressure of formation fluid **12** while the electronics in atmospheric cavities **15** are maintained at atmospheric pressure. Conductor **46** for carrying data from signal processing electronics **42** to surface electronics **44** is also exposed to formation fluid **12** pressures. High pressure electrical feedthrough **48** permits electrical signals to be conducted through housing **10** with electrical isolation from housing **10**. Accordingly, stray capacitance **50** exists between housing **10** and signal ground **20** as well as between housing **10** and the input of detector **34**. To minimize these stray capacitances **50** so that the relatively small capacitances of oil and gas fluids can be measured, detector amplifier **34** can be mounted directly to a printed circuit board on which detector electrode **32** is constructed as an internal conducting layer. Detector amplifier **34** is housed in a pressure compensated cavity **52** filled with an electrically and chemically inert fluid **54**. A suitable fluid which is relatively incompressible is, Dow Corning 200 silicon fluid. Pressure compensation mechanism **56** maintains a pressure differential less than several psi between formation fluid **12** and pressure compensated cavity **52**. O-ring seals **58** between housing **10** and interior of cavity **52** are sufficient to keep chemically reactive and electrically conductive formation fluids **12** out of pressure compensated cavity **52**. High pressure feedthrough **48** permits electrical signals to be conducted between atmospheric cavity **15** and pressure compensated cavity **52**.

Detector amplifier **34** measures any spurious AC currents on housing **10** through stray capacitance **50** to detector **34** input. This stray capacitance can be minimized. However, when formation fluid **12** is electrically conductive, any spurious signal on housing **10** will be measured through the larger capacitance of detector electrode **32**. Driving housing **10** with an AC signal through the low output impedance of buffer amplifier **22** effectively shunts to signal ground **20** any spurious AC currents. Similarly, in conductive formation fluids **12**, the AC from capacitive transmitter electrode **38** will be shunted to signal ground **20** by housing **10** and also by ohmic transmitter electrode **30**. The freshest water downhole in a wellbore is sufficiently saline to provide the conductivity required for operation of the invention. In water, the AC current measured by detector amplifier **34** will have originated from buffer amplifier **22** and will not have been delayed by phase delay circuit **24**. In electrically nonconductive formation fluids such as oil and gas, a portion of the AC current from capacitive transmitter electrode **38** will be measured by detector amplifier **34**. If detector electrode **32** is sufficiently shielded from ohmic transmitter electrode **30** by capacitive transmitter electrode **38**, the geometric factor of this electrode pair will be small, and there will be little or no current from ohmic transmitter electrode **30** measured by detector amplifier **34** in oil and gas. The AC current from capacitive transmitter electrode **38** originates from buffer amplifier **26** and is time delayed one quarter of a period relative to the AC current from ohmic transmitter electrode **30**. Signal processing electronics **42** convert the output of detector amplifier **34** into two separate outputs including an in-phase output and a quadrature output. This signal processing can exploit the orthogonality of the AC currents from the two transmitter electrodes such that the magnitude of the current in oil and gas becomes the quadrature output, and the magnitude of the current in water is measured as the in-phase output.

If the capacitance of a nonconductive formation fluid **12** is small compared to the capacitance of nonconductive materials **36** and **40**, then the current measured by detector amplifier **34** will be directly proportional to the dielectric

constant or relative permittivity of the fluid **12**. FIG. 2 illustrates the quadrature outputs from one embodiment of the invention as the dielectric constant of a nonconductive fluid increases from 1.0 in air or gas to the 2.1–2.5 range typically measured for oils. The quadrature output increases as a linear function of the dielectric constant of fluid **12**. This relationship permits the oil and gas holdups to be calculated from the quadrature output, which indicates the bulk dielectric constant for a parallelepiped volume between capacitive transmitter electrode **38** and detector electrode **32**. In a representative example detector electrode **32** and capacitive transmitter electrode are approximately 0.5 inch square and covered with a polyimide film less than 0.005 inches thick. Ohmic transmitter electrode **30** is located behind capacitive transmitter electrode **38** and the gap between such capacitive transmitter electrode **38** and detector electrode **32** is approximately 0.4 inches. For an apparatus with these dimensions the quadrature output is a linear function of dielectric constant in the range of 1.0 to 2.5. Therefore, the quadrature output can be calibrated in units of dielectric constant with two measurements in fluids having known and different dielectric constants within this range.

FIG. 3 illustrates the in-phase output when the sensors are immersed in a nonconductive fluid as the dielectric constant of the fluid increases from 1.0 to 2.5. Current from ohmic electrode **30** is too small to be detected because of the small geometric factor between this electrode and detector electrode **32** and the low admittance of the nonconductive fluid.

FIG. 4 illustrates the in-phase output as transmitter electrodes **30** and **38** and detector electrode **32** are immersed in water having a conductivity greater than 1.0 Siemens/meter. The ratio of the water covered area of detector electrode **32** to the total area of detector electrode **32** comprises the water fraction as illustrated. This in-phase output is a linear function of this water fraction and the scale for the in-phase output is derived from two measurements (1) when detector electrode **32** is in air, and (2) when detector electrode **32** is submerged in water.

Multiple detector electrodes **32** can be positioned in arrays as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,736,637, incorporated herein by reference, for the purpose of measuring holdups and velocities across the dimensions of a wellbore.

In another embodiment of the invention, the signals for transmitter electrodes **30** and **38** can comprise orthogonal continuous wave signals. A single detector electrode **32** measures the combined signals, and the output from the detector electrode **32** is processed by electronics capable of discriminating between the two transmitted signals.

In another embodiment of the invention, the signals for the two transmitter electrodes can be AC signals having two different frequencies. A single detector electrode **32** measures the combined signals, and the output from detector electrode **32** will be processed by electronics capable of discriminating between the two detector output frequencies.

FIG. 5 illustrates another embodiment of the invention wherein ohmic electrode **30** is positioned at another location relative to detector electrode **32**. Shield **55** is positioned between ohmic electrode **30** and detector electrode to modify the conductance therebetween. The size and effectiveness of shield **55** can be modified, and the distance between detector electrode **32** and ohmic electrode **30** can be varied to accomplish the desired result.

The output from the capacitive transmitter can be increased to improve the resolution between oil and gas without adversely affecting the sensor's response in water. The ohmic electrode shunts to ground currents from the

capacitive electrode and elsewhere, thereby making the sensor less susceptible to stray capacitances and spurious signals. An array of sensors with dual transmitters is capable of distinguishing between oil, gas, and water with sufficient resolution to make the holdup and velocity measurements necessary to calculate constituent flow rates of a three-phase formation fluid.

The invention is particularly suitable for logging tools, and is particularly useful in deviated or horizontal wellbores where the formation fluids are found in multiple phase conditions within the same wellbore. The invention can be temporarily run in the wellbore as a logging tool, or can be positioned downhole in a wellbore to evaluate the formation fluids over a long period of time. Operation of the invention substantially reduces the negative impact of stray capacitances on detectable measurements.

The operation of surface electronics **44** can be performed at the surface or downhole within the wellbore. Similarly, generator **18** can be located downhole within housing **10** or can be located at the surface with engagement with housing **10** through an electrical conductor (not shown). Ohmic electrode **30** can be located at different positions relative to detector electrode **32**, and the inverse relationship regarding the distance selected between such electrodes can be correlated to the characteristics of formation fluids **12**.

Although the invention has been described in terms of certain preferred embodiments, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that modifications and improvements can be made to the inventive concepts herein without departing from the scope of the invention. The embodiments shown herein are merely illustrative of the inventive concepts and should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for evaluating multiphase fluid downhole in a wellbore, comprising:

a housing insertable in the wellbore at a desired downhole position;

an ohmic transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a low output admittance;

a capacitive transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high output impedance;

a detector electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high input impedance;

a generator engaged with said housing and connected with said ohmic transmitter electrode and with said capacitive transmitter electrode for selectively charging said transmitter electrodes with electrical charges simultaneously; and

a controller engaged with said generator and with said detector electrode for determining the electrical charges transmitted from said generator to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode, for determining the electrical charges detected by said detector electrode, said determinations being substantially simultaneous, and for evaluating the multiphase fluid based on such electrical charges.

2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said determinations are based at least in part on a geometric factor of said capacitive transmitter electrode with said detector electrode and a geometric factor of said ohmic transmitter electrode with said detector electrode.

3. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector electrode is shielded from said ohmic transmitter electrode.

4. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said capacitive transmitter is positioned within said fluid to shield said detector electrode from said ohmic transmitter electrode.

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5. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said generator transmits different frequencies to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode, and said controller is capable of distinguishing between the different frequencies measured by said detector electrode.

6. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said generator transmits continuous wave electrical signals to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode, said signals being orthogonal, and wherein said controller is capable of distinguishing between said orthogonal electrical signals.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said generator is located at a distance from said housing and is engaged with said housing with an electrical conductor.

8. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least two detector electrodes positioned at different elevations within said wellbore to distinguish different fluid levels within said wellbore.

9. An apparatus for evaluating multiphase fluid downhole in a wellbore, comprising:

a housing insertable in the wellbore at a desired downhole position;

an ohmic transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a low output impedance;

a capacitive transmitter electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high output impedance;

a detector electrode in contact with the fluid and having a high input impedance;

a generator engaged with said housing and connected with said ohmic transmitter electrode and with said capacitive transmitter electrode for selectively and simultaneously charging said transmitter electrodes with electrical charges, wherein said generator includes a phase delay circuit for delaying the electrical charges transmitted to said capacitive transmitter electrode; and

a controller engaged with said generator and with said detector electrode for determining the electrical charges transmitted from said generator to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode, for determining the electrical charges detected by said detector electrode, said determinations being substantially simultaneous, and for evaluating such electrical charges to determine the composition of water and hydrocarbons within the fluid.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said determinations are based at least in part on a geometric factor of said capacitive transmitter electrode with said detector electrode and a geometric factor of said ohmic transmitter electrode with said detector electrode.

11. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said controller is positioned within a sealed interior space within said housing and is electrically grounded to said housing.

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12. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said generator is positioned within a sealed interior space within said housing and is electrically grounded to said housing.

13. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, further comprising at least two detector electrodes positioned at different elevations within said wellbore to distinguish different fluid levels within said wellbore.

14. A method for evaluating multiphase fluid downhole in a wellbore, comprising the steps of:

placing a housing in a wellbore so that an ohmic transmitter electrode, a capacitive transmitter electrode, and a detector electrode contact the fluid;

flowing the fluid around said electrodes;

selectively providing electricity simultaneously to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode;

operating said detector electrode to simultaneously detect electricity transmitted through the fluid by said transmitter electrodes; and

operating a controller to determine the electricity transmitted to the fluid by said ohmic transmitter electrode and by said capacitive transmitter electrode, to determine the electricity detected by said detector electrode, and to evaluate the multiphase fluid.

15. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of operating said controller to determine the flow rate of the fluid around said electrodes.

16. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of operating said controller to determine the composition of the fluid.

17. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of orthogonalizing the electricity provided to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode.

18. A method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of providing electricity at different frequencies to said ohmic transmitter electrode and to said capacitive transmitter electrode.

19. A method as recited in claim 14, where said wellbore fluid has an admittance and the electricity detected by said detector electrode is in the form of a current, said current having a dynamic range less than a dynamic range of the wellbore fluid admittance.

20. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said determinations are based at least in part on a geometric factor of said capacitive transmitter electrode with said detector electrode and a geometric factor of said ohmic transmitter electrode with said detector electrode.

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