

EXPERIMENT # 10

TO MEASURE THE UNKNOWN RESISTANCE BY MAXWELL INDUCTANCE BRIDGE

OBJECTIVE:

THEORY:

A **Maxwell Inductance Bridge** is a modification to a Wheatstone bridge used to measure an unknown inductance (usually of low Q value) in terms of calibrated resistance.

In the two arms, there are two pure resistances so that for balance relations, the phase balance depends on the remaining two arms. If a coil of unknown impedance Z_1 is placed in one arm, then its positive phase angle ϕ_1 can be compensated in a way that known impedance with an equal positive phase angle may be used in either of the adjacent arms remaining two arms have zero phase angles (being pure resistances). Such a network is known as Maxwell's A.C Bridge or L1/L4 Bridge. Thus, inductive impedance may be measured in terms of another inductive impedance (of equal time constant) in either adjacent arm.

As shown in circuit diagram;

$$Z_1 = R_1 + jX_1 = R_1 + j\omega L_1 \dots \text{unknown}; Z_4 = R_4 + jX_4 = R_4 + j\omega L_4 \dots \text{known}$$

$$R_2, R_3 = \text{known pure resistances}; D = \text{detector}$$

The inductance L_4 is a variable self-inductance of constant resistance, its inductance being of the same order as L_1 . The bridge is balanced by varying L_4 and one of the resistances R_2 or R_3

To find the resistance;

$$\text{The balance condition is that } Z_1 Z_3 = Z_2 Z_4$$

$$\therefore (R_1 + j\omega L_1)R_3 = (R_4 + j\omega L_4)R_2$$

Equating the real and imaginary parts on both sides, we have

$$R_1 R_3 = R_2 R_4 \text{ or } R_1 / R_4 = R_2 / R_3$$

(i.e. products of the resistances of opposite arms are equal).

OBSERVATIONS AND CALCULATIONS:

R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄

Table 10.1

CONCLUSION:
