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GW103 / GW203 SUPERCAPACITOR

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This Datasheet should be read in conjunction with the CAP-XX Supercapacitors Product Guide which contains information common to our product lines.

Electrical Specifications

The GW103 is a single cell supercapacitor. The GW203 is a dual cell supercapacitor with two GW103 cells in series, so GW203 capacitance = Capacitance of GW103/2 and GW203 ESR = 2 x GW103 ESR.

Table 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Name		Conditions	Min	Typical	Max	Units
Terminal Voltage	Vpeak	GW103		0		2.75	V
		GW203				5.5	
Temperature	Tmax			-40		+70	°C

Table 2: Electrical Characteristics

Parameter	Name		Conditions	Min	Typical	Max	Units
Terminal Voltage	Vn	GW103		0		2.5	V
		GW203		0		5.0	
Capacitance	C	GW103	DC, 23°C	832	1040	1248	mF
		GW203		416	520	624	
ESR	ESR	GW103	DC, 23°C		20	24	mΩ
		GW203			40	48	
Leakage Current	I_L		2.3V, 23°C 120hrs		1	2	µA
RMS Current	I_{RMS}		23°C			7.5	A
Peak Current[1]	I_P		23°C			30	A

[1]Non-repetitive current, single pulse to discharge fully charged supercapacitor.

Table 3: Thickness

GW103F	**1.7mm**	No adhesive tape on underside of the supercapacitor	**GW103G**	**1.8mm**	Adhesive tape on underside, release tape removed
GW203F	**3.4mm**		**GW203G**	**3.5mm**	

Definition of Terms

In its simplest form, the Equivalent Series Resistance (ESR) of a capacitor is the real part of the complex impedance. In the time domain, it can be found by applying a step discharge current to a charged cell as in Fig. 1. In this figure, the supercapacitor is pre-charged and then discharged with a current pulse, I =1A for duration 0.01 sec.

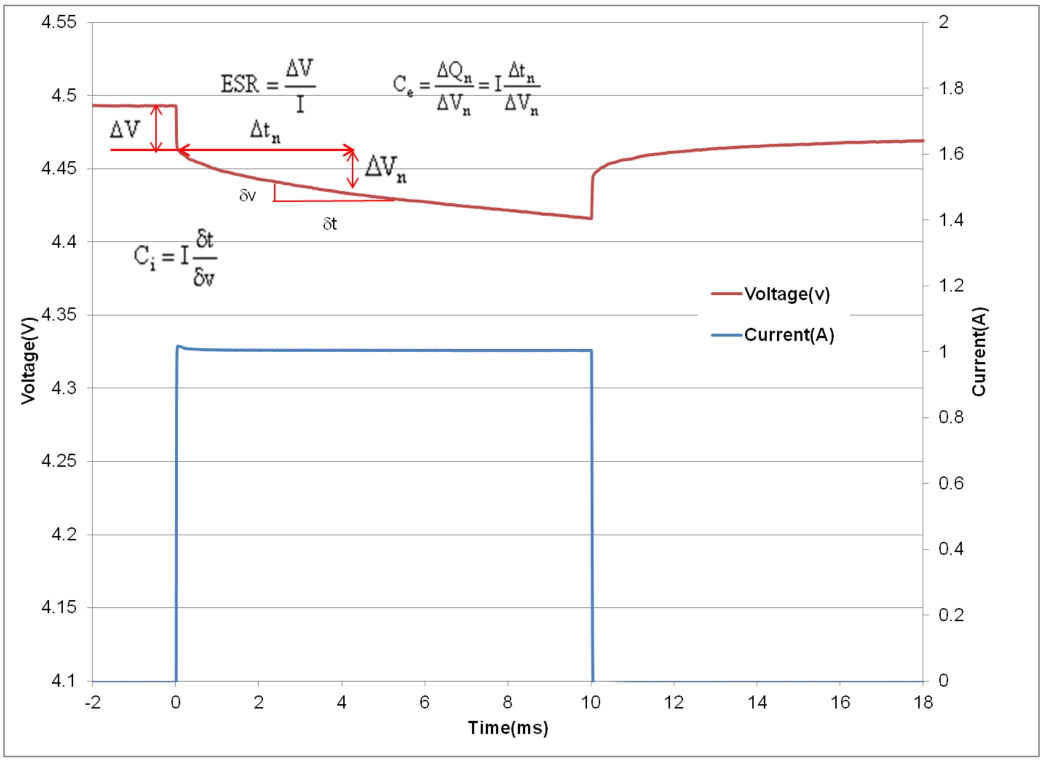

Figure 1: Effective capacitance, instantaneous capacitance and ESR for a GW203

The ESR is found by dividing the instantaneous voltage step (ΔV) by I. In this example = (4.49V - 4.465V)/1A = 25mΩ.

The instantaneous capacitance (C_i) can be found by taking the inverse of the derivative of the voltage, and multiplying it by I.

The effective capacitance for a pulse of duration Δt_n, $Ce(\Delta t_n)$ is found by dividing the total charge removed from the capacitor (ΔQ_n) by the voltage lost by the capacitor (ΔV_n). For constant current $Ce(\Delta t_n)$ = I x $\Delta t_n/\Delta V_n$. Ce increases as the pulse width increases and tends to the DC capacitance value as the pulse width becomes very long (~10 secs). After 2msecs, Fig 1 shows the voltage drop V_{2ms} = (4.465 V – 4.442V) = 23mV. Therefore Ce(2ms) = 1A x 2ms/23mV = 87mF. After 10ms, the voltage drop = 4.465 V – 4.416V = 49mV. Therefore Ce(10ms) = 1 A x 10ms/49mV = 204mF. The DC capacitance of a GW203 = 0.52 F. Note that ΔV, or IR drop, is not included because very little charge is removed from the capacitor during this time. Ce shows the time response of the capacitor and it is useful for predicting circuit behavior in pulsed applications.

Measurement of DC Capacitance

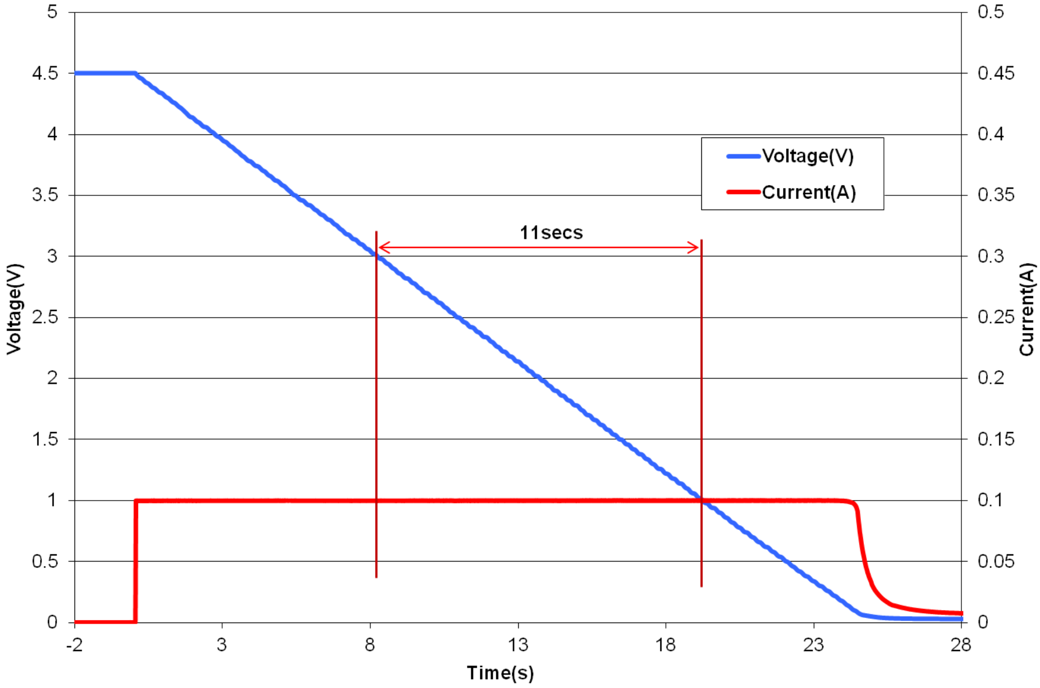

Fig 2: Measurement of DC Capacitance for a GW203

Fig 2 shows the measurement of DC capacitance by drawing a constant 100mA current from a fully charged supercapacitor and measuring the time taken to discharge from 1.5V to 0.5V for a single cell, or from 3V to 1V for a dual cell supercapacitor. In this case, C = 0.1A x 11s /2V = 550mF, which is well within the 520mF +/- 20% tolerance for a GW203 cell.

Measurement of ESR

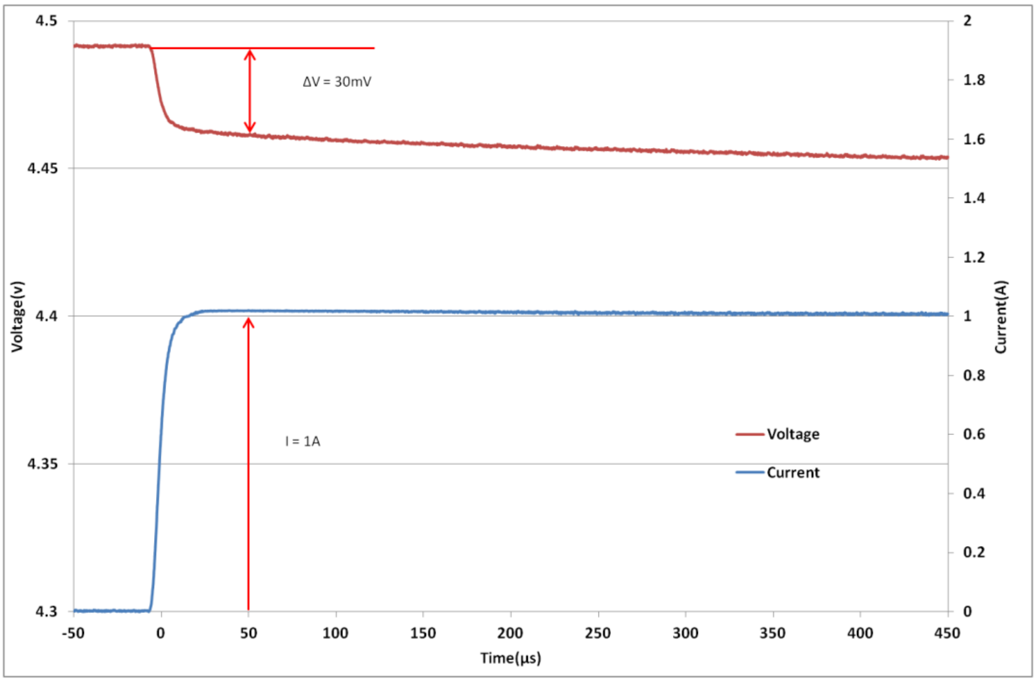

Fig 3: Measurement of ESR for a GW203

Fig 3 shows DC measurement of ESR by applying a step load current to the supercapacitor and measuring the resulting voltage drop. CAP-XX waits for a delay of 50μs after the step current is applied to ensure the voltage and current have settled. In this case the ESR is measured as 30mV/1A = 30mΩ.

Effective Capacitance

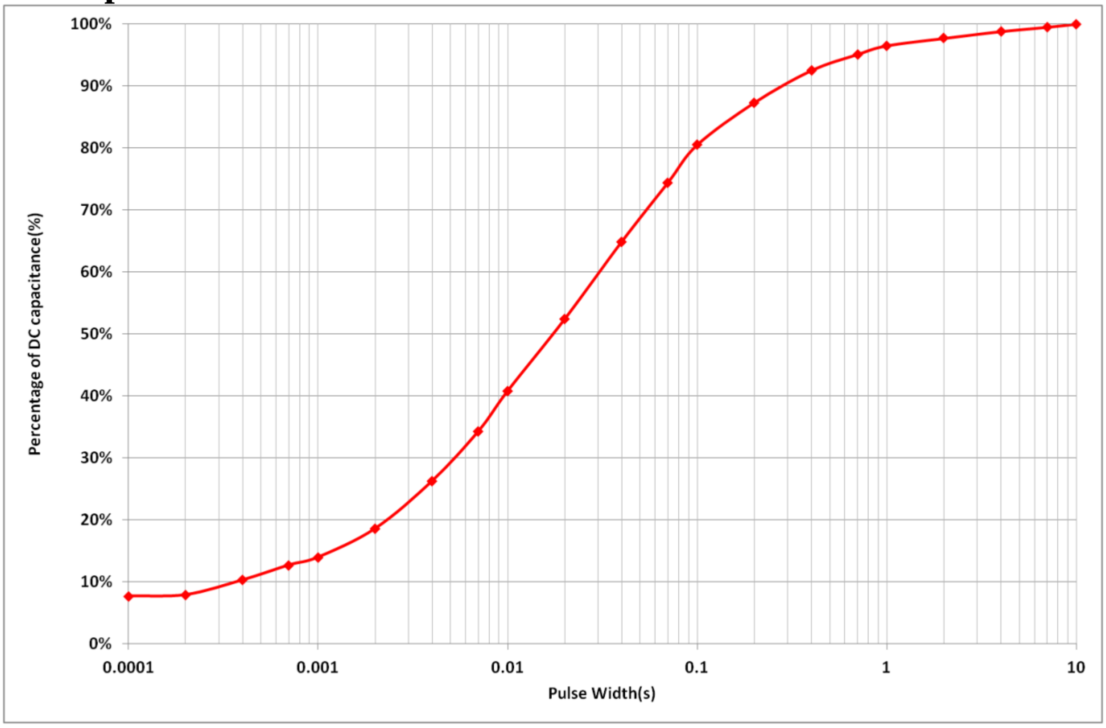

Figure 4: Effective Capacitance

Fig 4 shows the effective capacitance for the GW103, GW203 @ 23°C. This shows that for a 1msec PW, you will measure 14% of DC capacitance or 145.6mF for a GW103 or 72.8mF for a GW203. At 10msecs you will measure 41% of the DC capacitance, and at 100msecs you will measure 80% of DC capacitance. Ceffective is a time domain representation of the supercapacitor's frequency response. If, for example, you were calculating the voltage drop if the supercapacitor was supporting 1A for 10msecs, then you would use the Ceff(10msecs) = 41% of DC capacitance = 213.2mF for a GW203, so Vdrop = 1A x ESR + 1A x duration/C = 1A x 36mΩ + 1A x 10ms / 213.2mF = 82.9mV. The next section on pulse response shows how the effective capacitance is sufficient for even short pulse widths.

Pulse Response

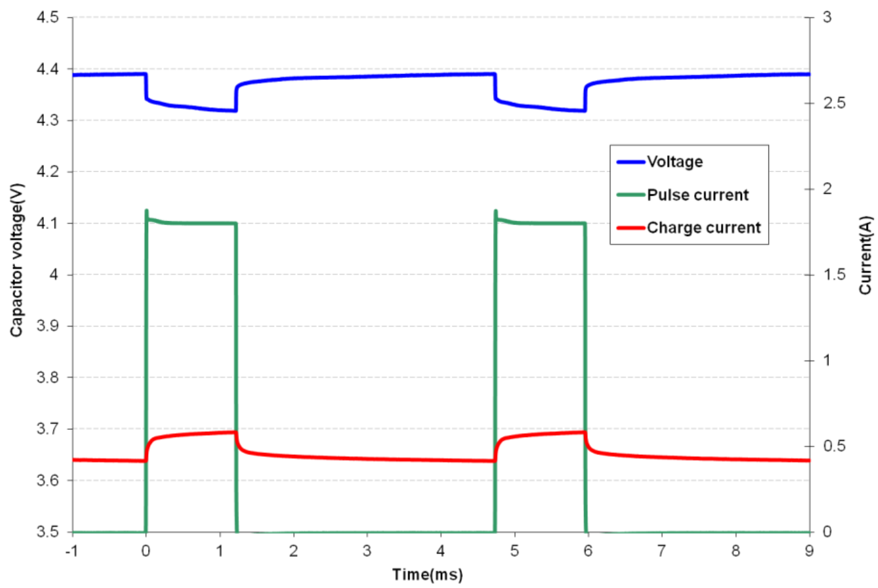

Fig 5 shows that the GW203 supercapacitor does an excellent job supporting a GPRS class 10 pulse train, drawing 1.8A for 1.1ms at 25% duty cycle. The source is current limited to 0.6A and the supercapacitor provides the 1.2A difference to achieve the peak current. At first glance the freq response of Fig 8 indicates the supercapacacitor would not support a 1ms pulse, but the Ceff of 72.8mF coupled with the low ESR supports this pulse train with only ~80mV droop in the supply rail.

Fig 5: GW203 Pulse Response with GPRS Class 10 Pulse Train

DC Capacitance variation with temperature

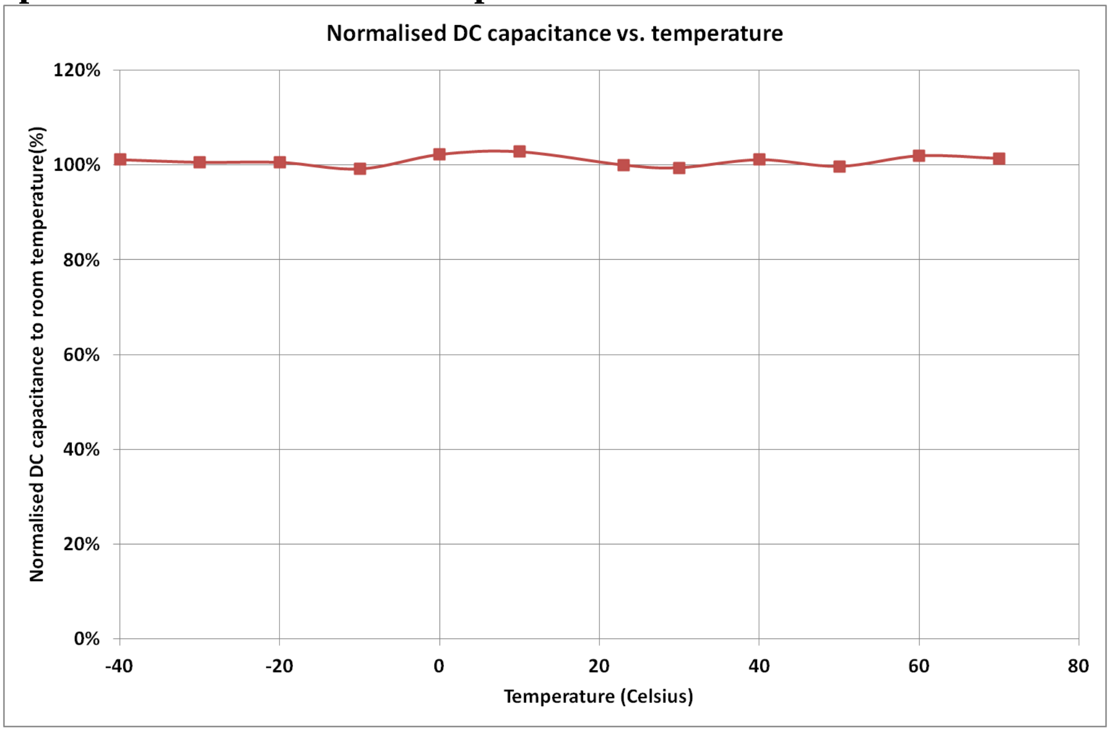

Figure 6: Capacitance change with temperature

Fig 6 shows that DC capacitance is approximately constant with temperature.

ESR variation with temperature

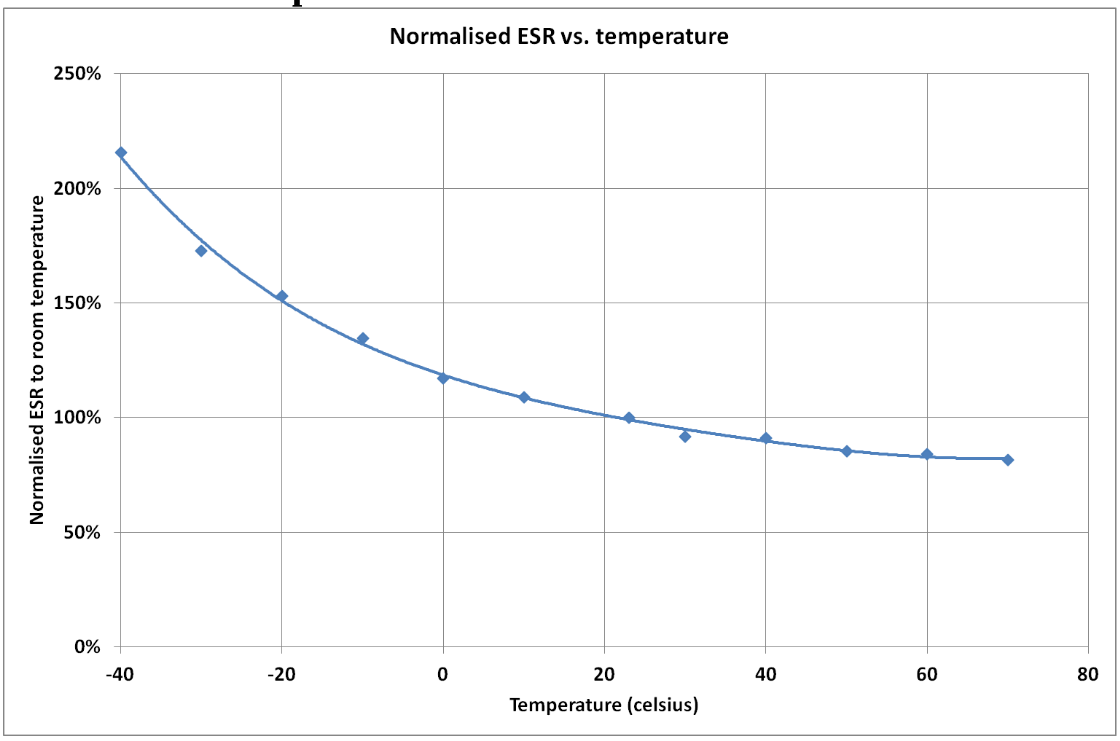

Figure 7: ESR change with temperature

Fig 7 shows that ESR at -40°C is ~2.2 x ESR at room temp, and that ESR at 70ºC is ~0.8 x ESR at room temperature.

Frequency Response

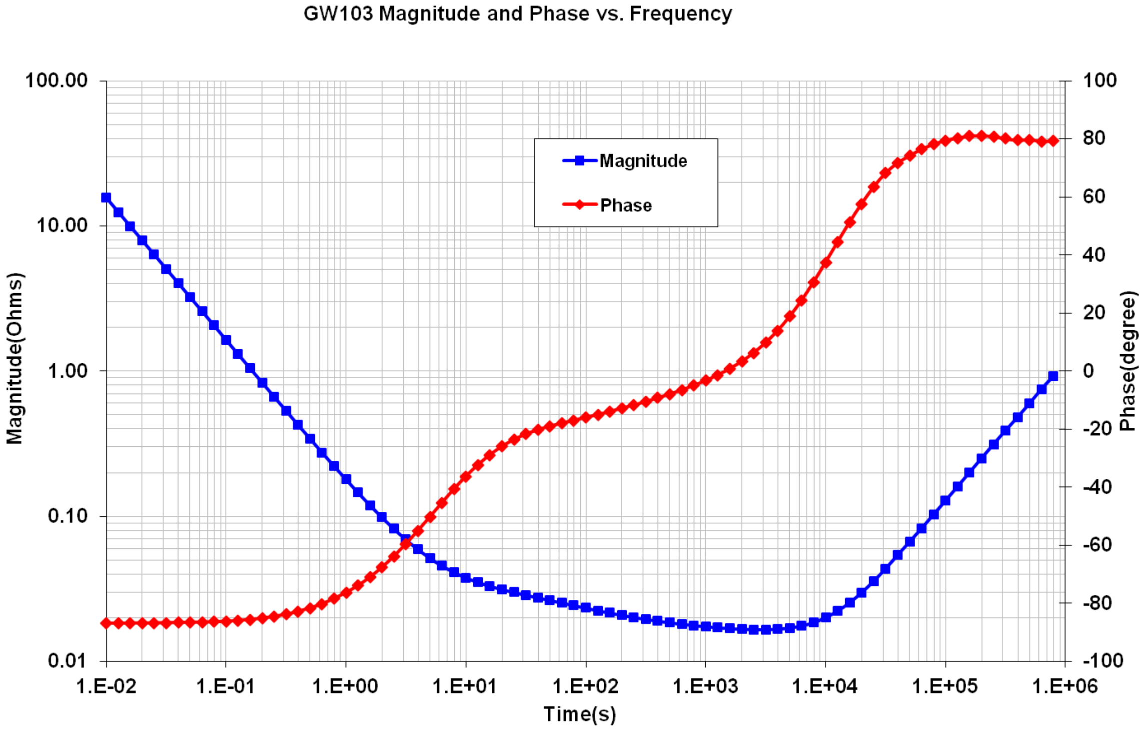

Fig 8: Frequency Response of Impedance (biased at 2.3V with a 50mV test signal)

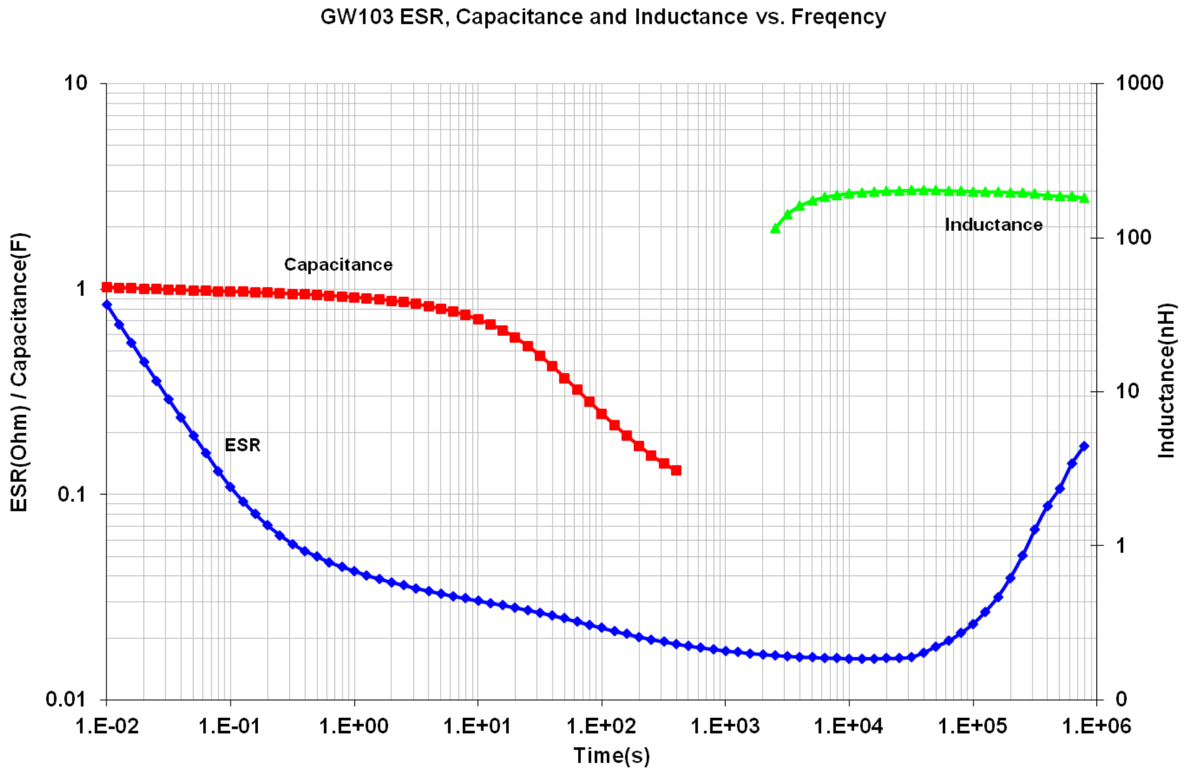

Fig 9: Frequency Response of ESR, Capacitance & Inductance

Fig 8 shows the supercapacitor behaves as an ideal capacitor until approx 7 Hz when the magnitude no longer rolls off proportionally to 1/freq and the phase crosses -45°. Performance of supercapacitors with frequency is complex and the best predictor of performance is Fig 4 showing effective capacitance as a function of pulsewidth.

Leakage Current

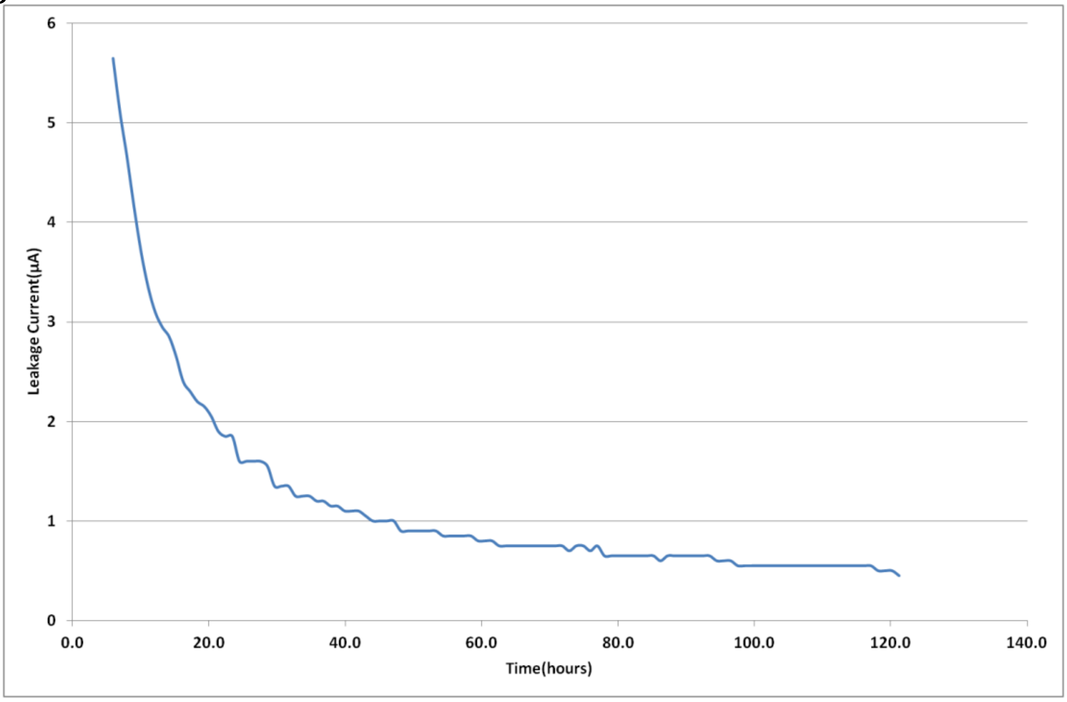

Fig 10: Leakage Current

Fig 10 shows the leakage current for GW103 at room temperature. The leakage current decays over time, and the equilibrium value leakage current will be reached after ~120hrs at room temperature. The typical equilibrium leakage current is 0.5µA at room temperature. At 70°C leakage current will be ~5µA.

Charge Current

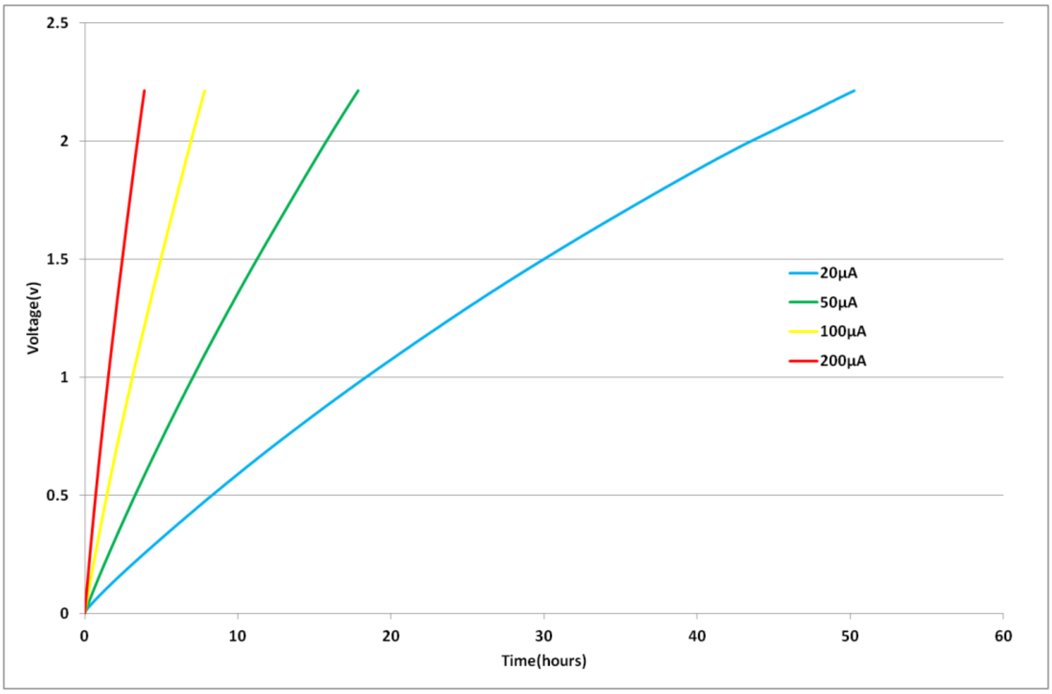

Fig 11: Charging a GW103 with low current

The corollary to the slow decay in leakage currents shown in Fig 10 is that charging a supercapacitor at very low currents takes longer than theory predicts. At higher charge currents, the charge rate is as theory predicts. For example, it should take 1.04F x 2.2V / 0.00002A = 31.8hrs to charge a 1.04 F supercapacitor to 2.2V at 20µA, but Fig 11 shows it took 52hrs. At 100µA charging occurs at a rate close to the theoretical rate.

RMS Current

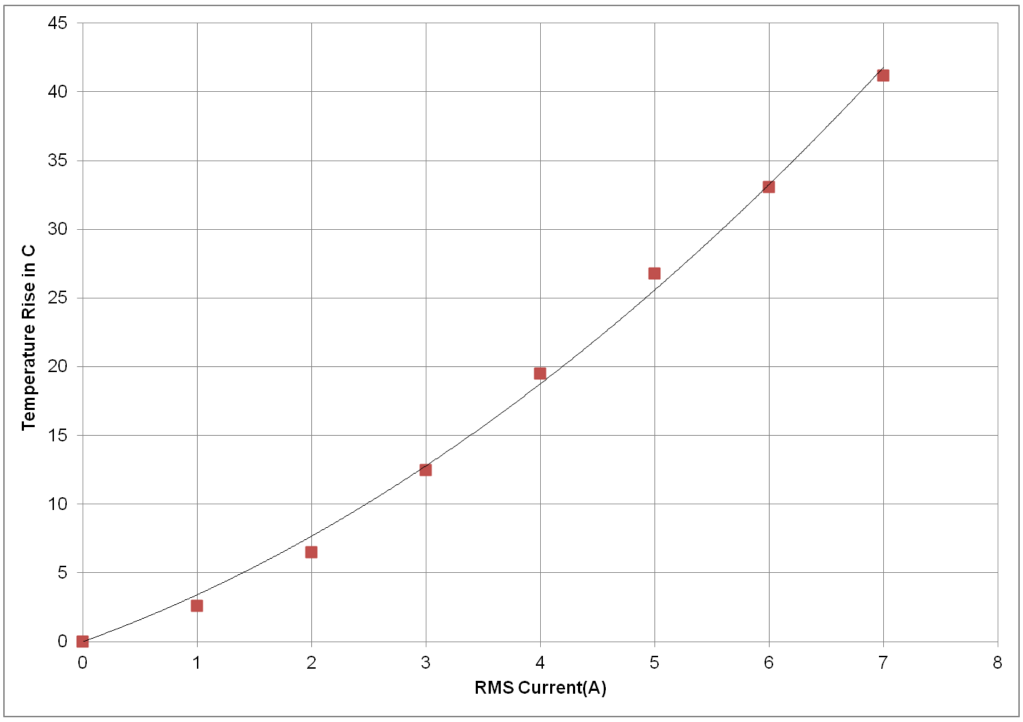

Fig 12: Temperature rise in GW203 with RMS current

Continuous current flow into/out of the supercap will cause self heating, which limits the maximum continuous current the supercapacitor can handle. This is measured by a current square wave with 50% duty cycle, charging the supercapacitor to rated voltage at a constant current, then discharging the supercapacitor to half rated voltage at the same constant current value. For a square wave with 50% duty cycle, the RMS current is the same as the current amplitude. Fig 12 shows the increase in temperature as a function of RMS current. From this, the maximum RMS current in an application can be calculated, for example, if the ambient temperature is 40°C, and the maximum desired temperature for the supercapacitor is 70°C, then the maximum RMS current should be limited to 5.5A, which causes a 30°C temperature increase.

CAP-XX Supercapacitors Product Guide

Refer to the package drawings in the CAP-XX Supercapacitors Product Guide for detailed information of the product's dimensions, PCB landing placements, active areas and electrical connections.

Refer to the CAP-XX Supercapacitors Product Guide for information on endurance and shelf life, transportation and storage, assembly and soldering, safety and RoHS/EREACH certification.