PERMITTIVITY (DIELECTRIC CONSTANT) OF WATER AT VARIOUS FREQUENCIES

The permittivity of liquid water in the radiofrequency and microwave regions can be represented by the Debye equation (References 1 and 2):

$$\varepsilon' = \varepsilon_\infty + \frac{\varepsilon_s - \varepsilon_\infty}{1 + \omega^2\tau^2}$$

$$\varepsilon'' = \frac{(\varepsilon_s - \varepsilon_\infty)\omega\tau}{1 + \omega^2\tau^2}$$

where $\varepsilon = \varepsilon' + i\,\varepsilon''$ is the (complex) relative permittivity (i.e., the absolute permittivity divided by the permittivity of free space $\varepsilon_0 = 8.854 \cdot 10^{-12}$ F m^{-1}). Here ε_s is the static permittivity (see Reference 3 and the table "Properties of Water in the Range 0–100°C" in this Section); ε_∞ is a parameter describing the permittivity in the high frequency limit; τ is the relaxation time for molecular orientation; and $\omega = 2\pi f$ is the angular frequency. The values in this table have been calculated from parameters given in Reference 2:

	0°C	25°C	50°C
ε_∞	5.7	5.2	4.0
τ/ps	17.67	8.27	4.75

Other useful quantities that can be calculated from the values in the table are the loss tangent:

$$\tan\delta = \varepsilon''/\varepsilon'$$

and the absorption coefficient α which describes the power attenuation per unit length ($P = P_0\, e^{-\alpha l}$):

$$\alpha = \frac{\pi f \varepsilon''}{c\sqrt{\varepsilon'}}$$

and c is the speed of light. The last equation is valid when $\varepsilon''/\varepsilon' << 1$.

References

1. Fernendez, D. P., Mulev, Y., Goodwin, A. R. H., and Levelt Sengers, J. M. H., *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data*, 24, 33, 1995.
2. Kaatze, U., *J. Chem. Eng. Data,* 34, 371, 1989.
3. Archer, D. G., and Wang, P., *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data*, 12, 817, 1983.

	0°C		25°C		50°C	
Frequency	ε'	ε''	ε'	ε''	ε'	ε''
0	87.90	0.00	78.36	0.00	69.88	0.00
1 kHz	87.90	0.00	78.36	0.00	69.88	0.00
1 MHz	87.90	0.01	78.36	0.00	69.88	0.00
10 MHz	87.90	0.09	78.36	0.04	69.88	0.02
100 MHz	87.89	0.91	78.36	0.38	69.88	0.20
200 MHz	87.86	1.82	78.35	0.76	69.88	0.39
500 MHz	87.65	4.55	78.31	1.90	69.87	0.98
1 GHz	86.90	9.01	78.16	3.79	69.82	1.96
2 GHz	84.04	17.39	77.58	7.52	69.65	3.92
3 GHz	79.69	24.64	76.62	11.13	69.36	5.85
4 GHz	74.36	30.49	75.33	14.58	68.95	7.75
5 GHz	68.54	34.88	73.73	17.81	68.45	9.62
10 GHz	42.52	40.88	62.81	29.93	64.49	18.05
20 GHz	19.56	30.78	40.37	36.55	52.57	28.99
30 GHz	12.50	22.64	26.53	33.25	40.57	32.74
40 GHz	9.67	17.62	18.95	28.58	31.17	32.43
50 GHz	8.28	14.34	14.64	24.53	24.42	30.47