

Faculty of Electrical Engineering  
University of West Bohemia

## DIELECTRIC MATERIALS DIAGNOSTICS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Josef Pihera  
Department of materials and technologies

## 2015 Pilsen European Capital of Culture



## University of West Bohemia

City	Pilsen (CZ)
Founded in year	1991 (1950)
Number of employees	2100
Number of students	12 000 / 1000



## Faculty of Electrical Engineering (FEE)



# R&D areas of the Material research and Diagnostics group

## R&D areas of working groups at KET department

**Printed and Flexible electronics** – Interconnections, passives (LRC), sensors, transistors (OEET), batteries.

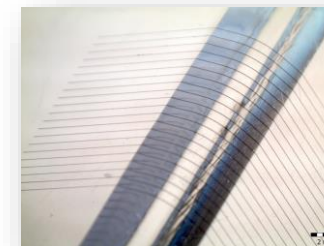
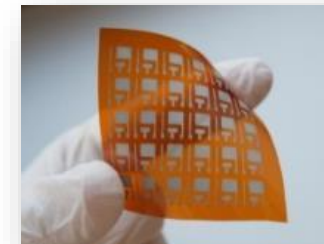
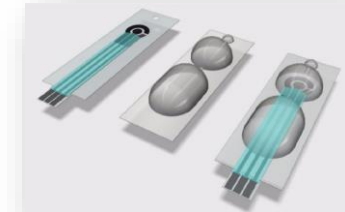
**Smart Textiles** – Interconnection systems, functional structures on textile, integration of electronic blocks, wireless communication, sensor evaluation circuits.

**Sensors** – Vapour and gas (chemoresistive, electrochemical), temperature, humidity, mechanical.

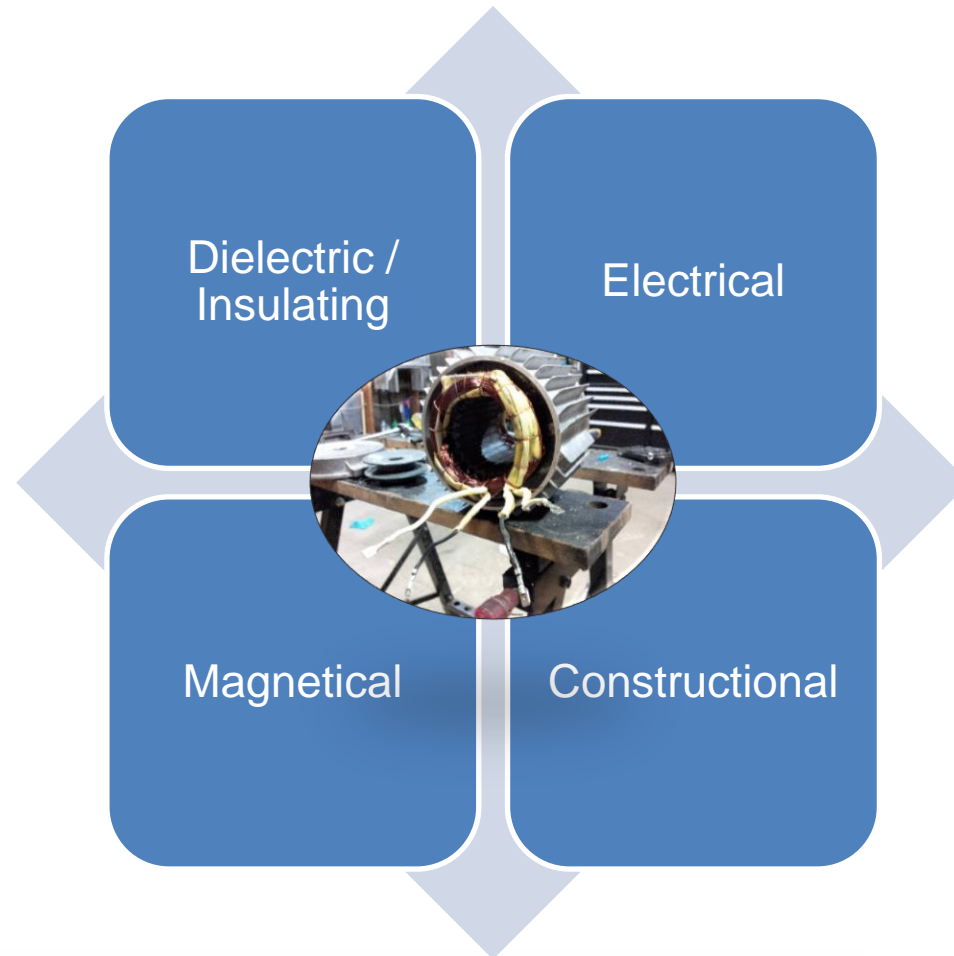
**Flexible Hybrid Systems** - Integration of SMDs and printed electronics into systems-on-foil.

**Low cost manufacturing technologies** – Aerosol Jet Printing (OPTOMECH 300), Screen printing (EKRA E2)

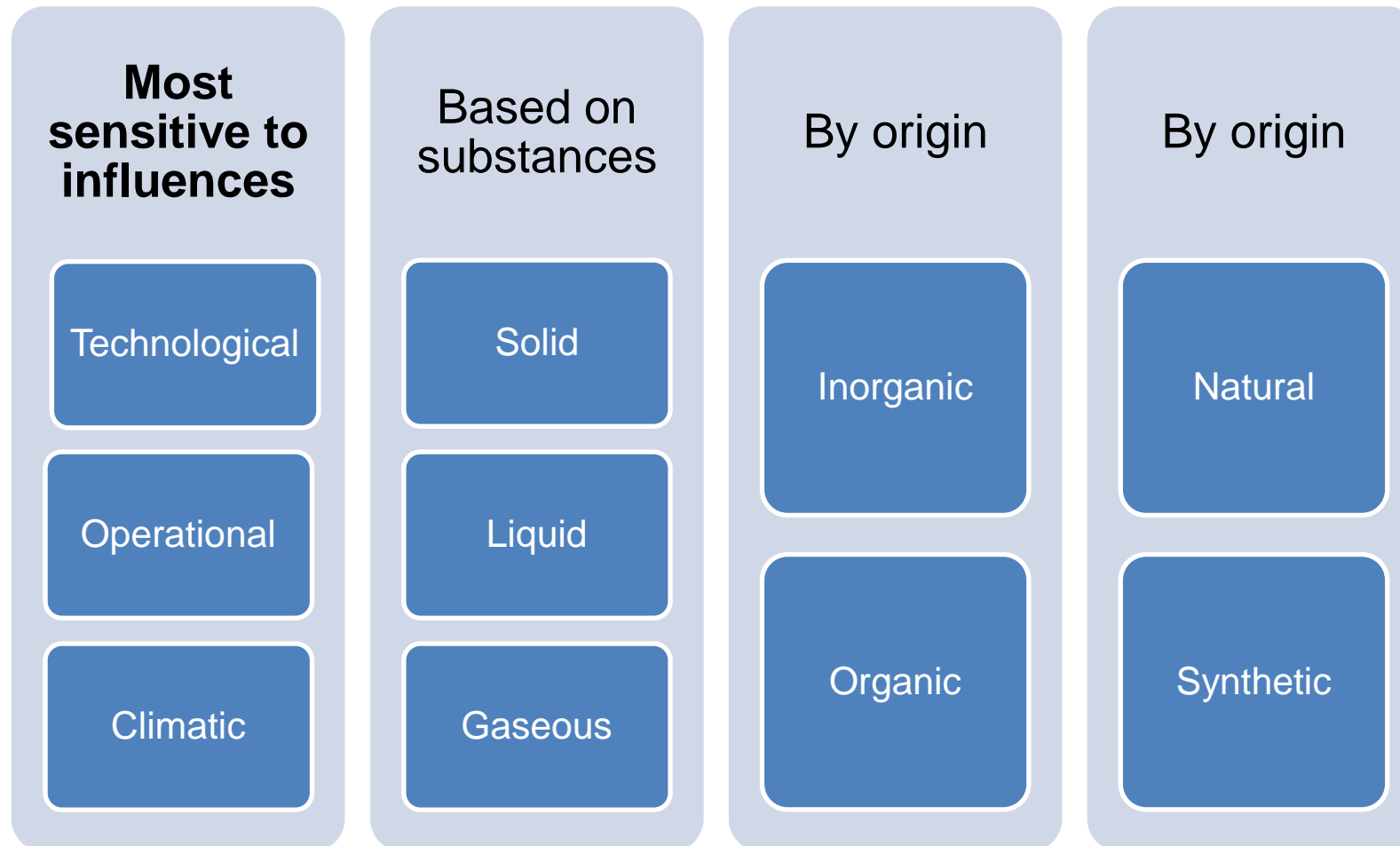
**Diagnostics** – online resin curing monitoring, thermal analyses tests, mechanical tests, electrical behaviour, environmental testing, acoustics measurement, vibrations, printed circuit boards (PCB) testing, solder joints tests, high voltage diagnostics

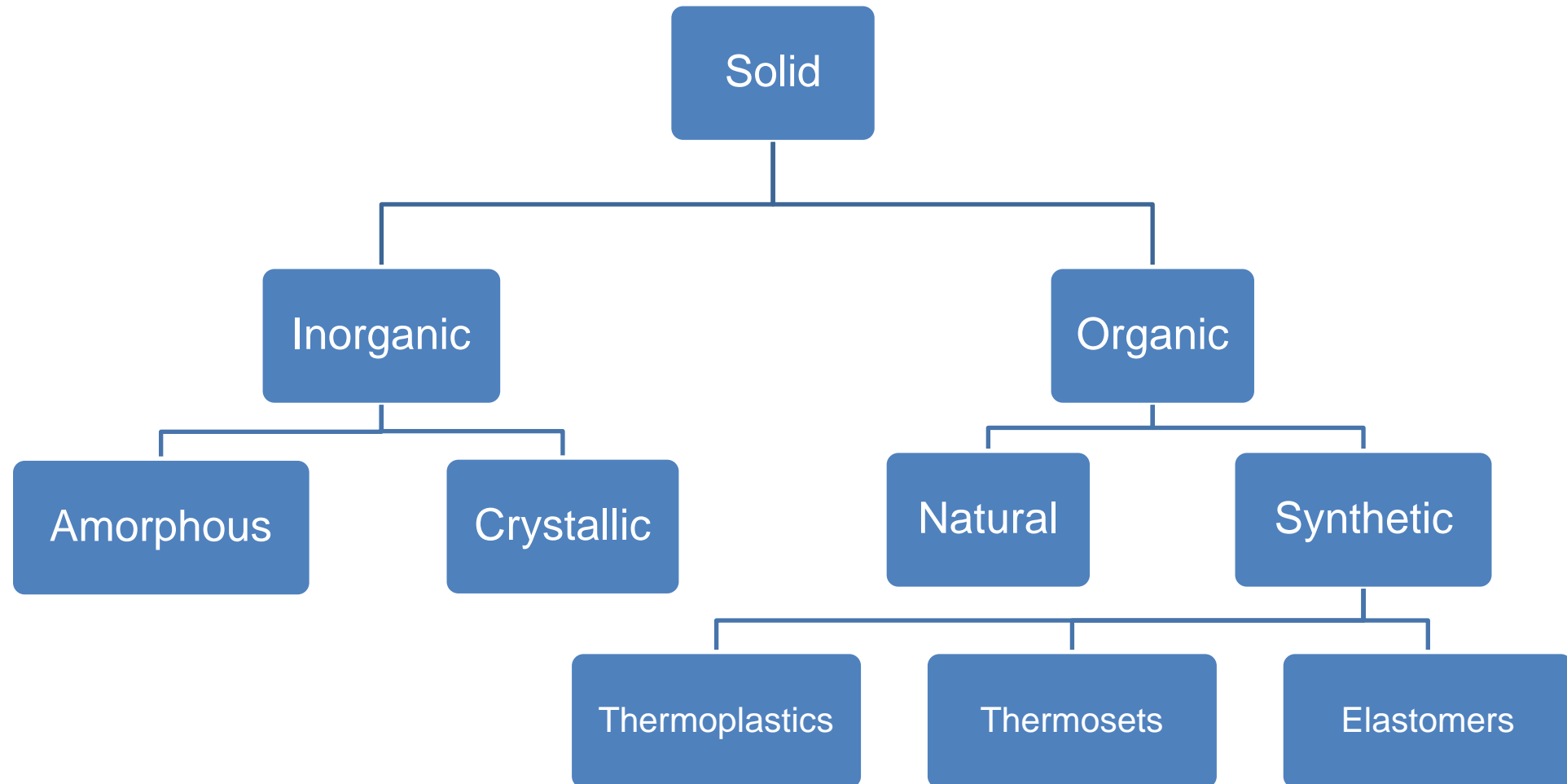


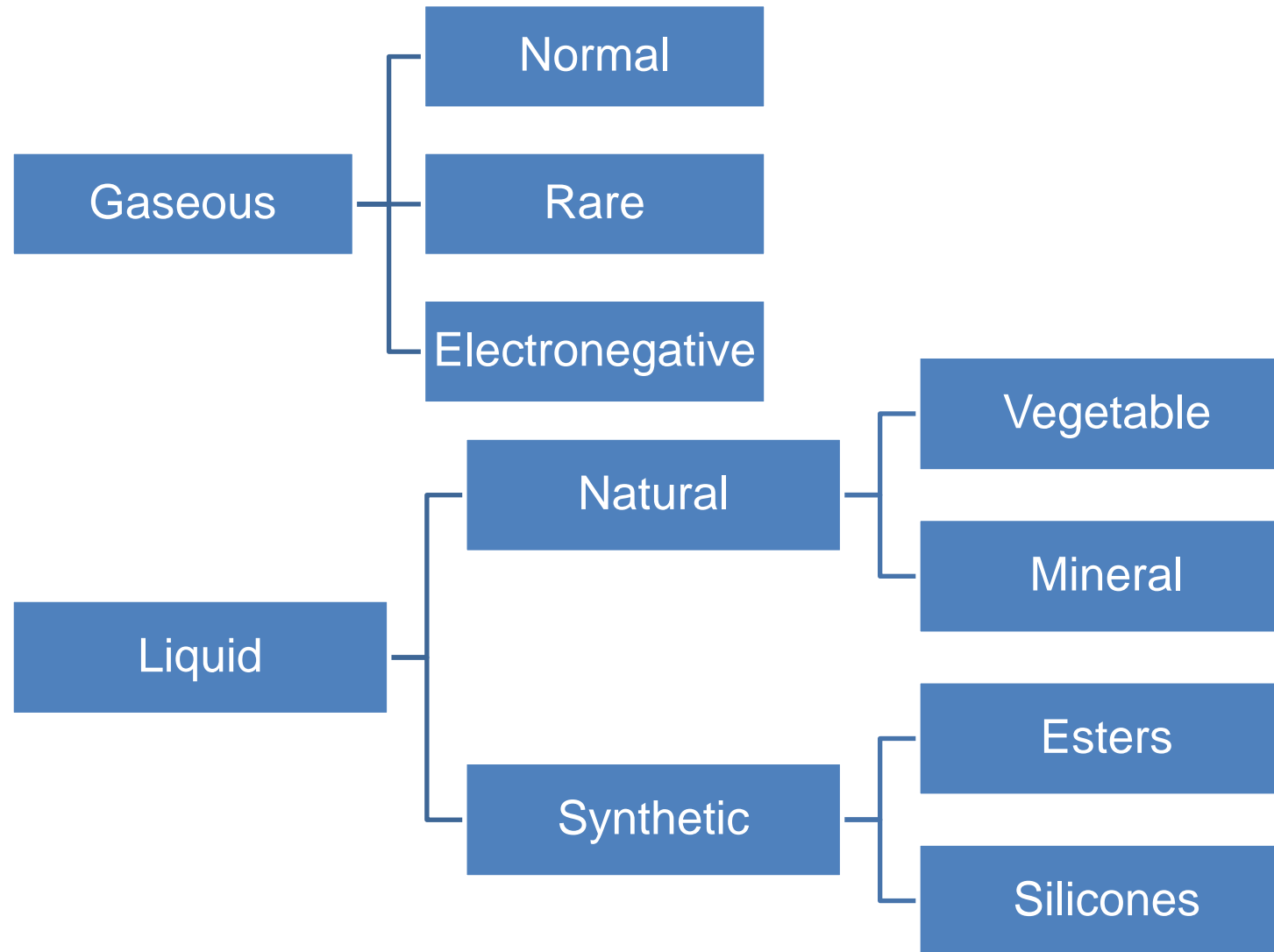
Electrical engineering system consists of elementary key subsystems



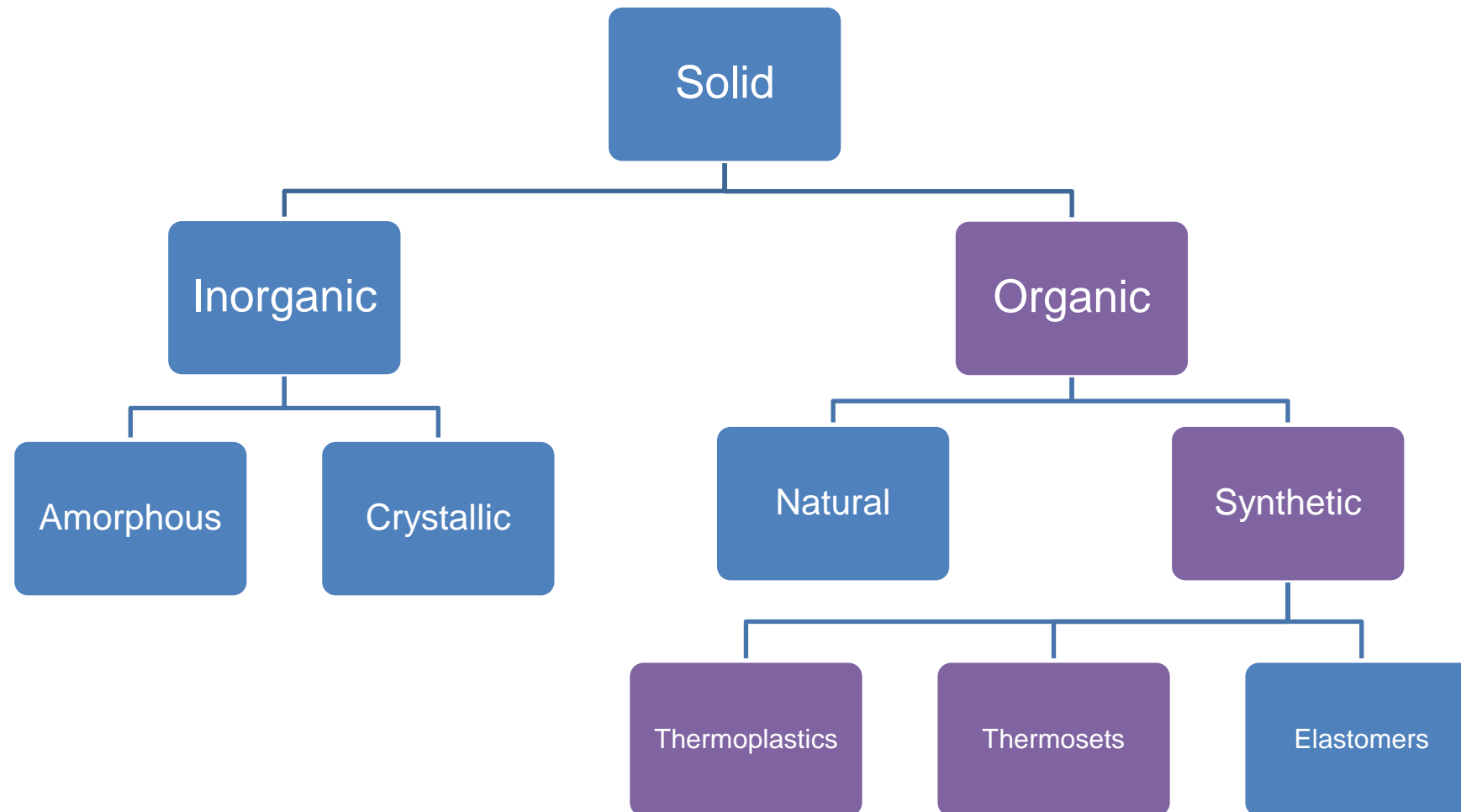
## Insulating system



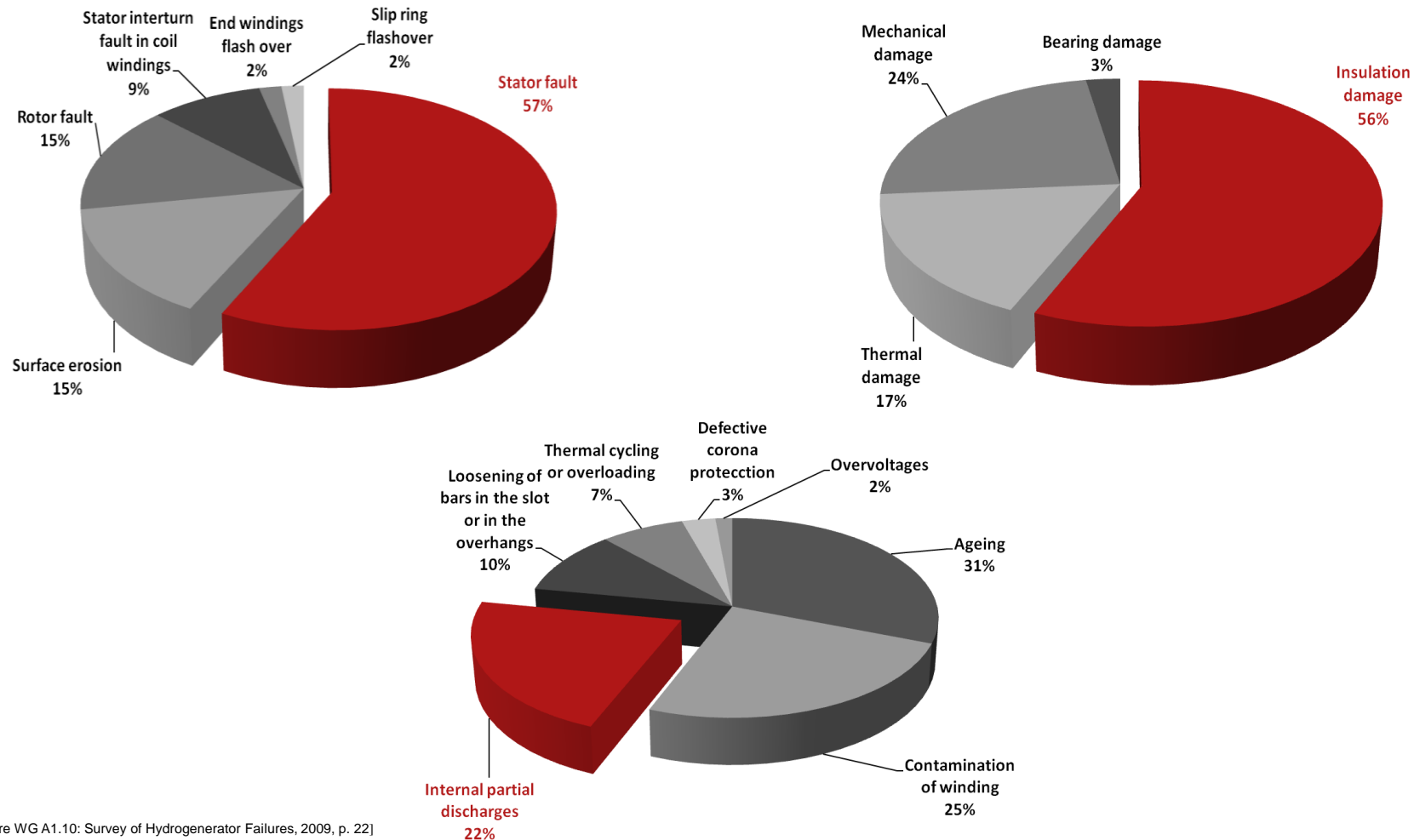




# Homogeneity / quality of insulating system

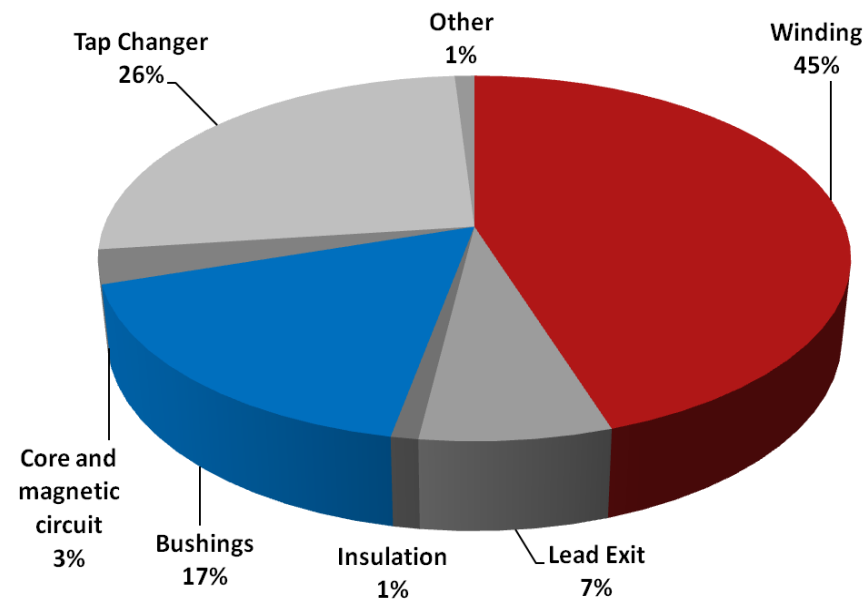


## Rotating machines faults



[Cigre Brochure WG A1.10: Survey of Hydrogenerator Failures, 2009, p. 22]

## Transformer faults



[Cigre Electra WG A2.37: Transformer Reliability Survey: Interim Report. 2012, p. 4]

- Use for recognition of the condition of technical systems
- To identify, to check and to classify characteristics of the condition of systems
  - to change or to influence the condition of these systems
- Quality assurance of technical systems
- Avoidance of an outage of technical systems

## Diagnostic methods in electrical engineering

### Electrical methods

- Dielectric loss diagnostics
- Partial discharge diagnostics
- Breakdown / withstand voltage diagnostics
- Resistivity

### Mechanical testing

- Analysis of mechanical quantities
- Dilatometry
- Mechanical spectrometry
- Sound emission analysis

### Visual inspection

- Direct inspection
- UV inspection
- IR inspection
- X-ray

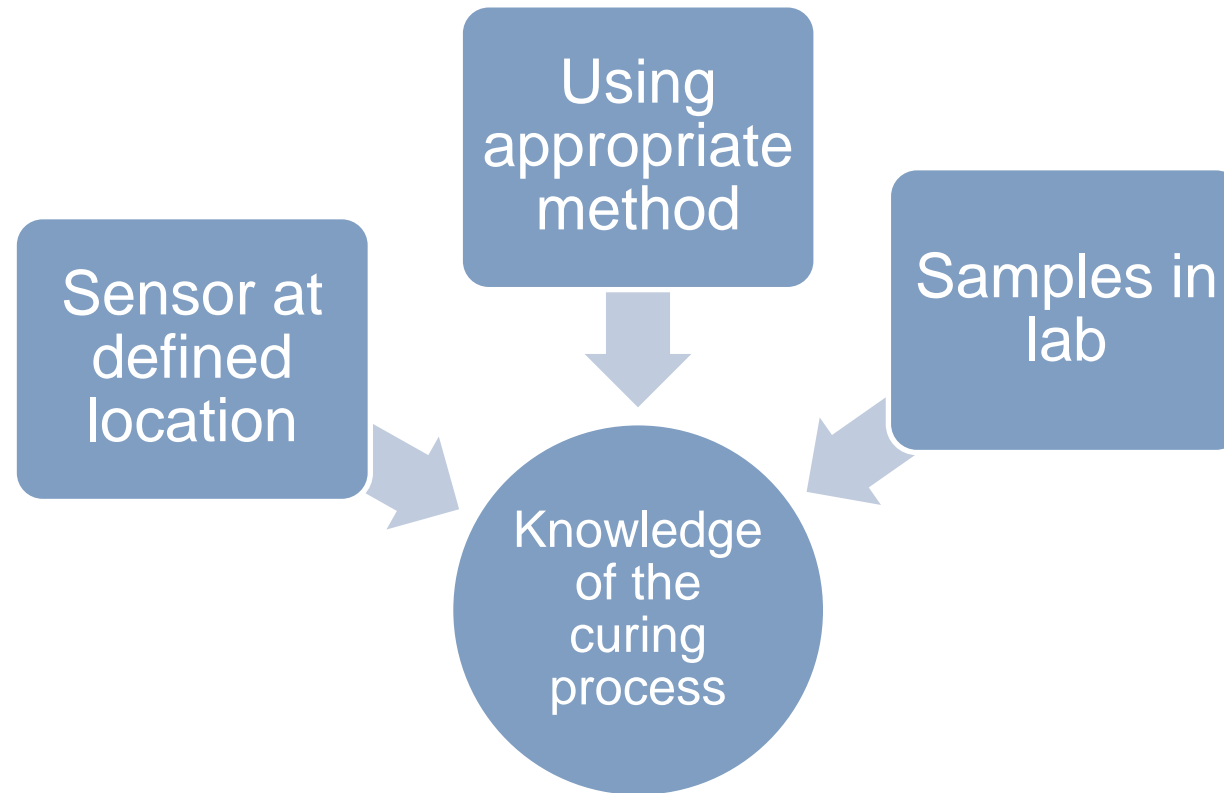
### Thermal diagnostics

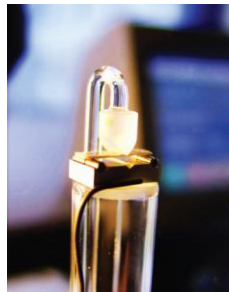
- Temperature measurement

### Analytic and spectrometry

- Structural analysis
- UV, VIS, IR - Spectrometry
- Gas chromatography
- Mass spectrometry



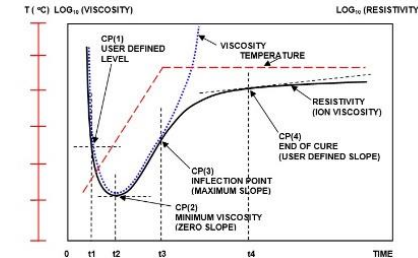




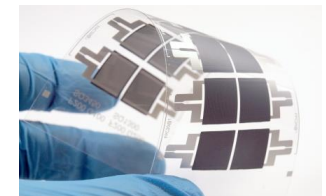
## Structural analysis

- DSC
- TG
- DMA
- FTIR

## Dielectric analysis (DEA) - on material samples

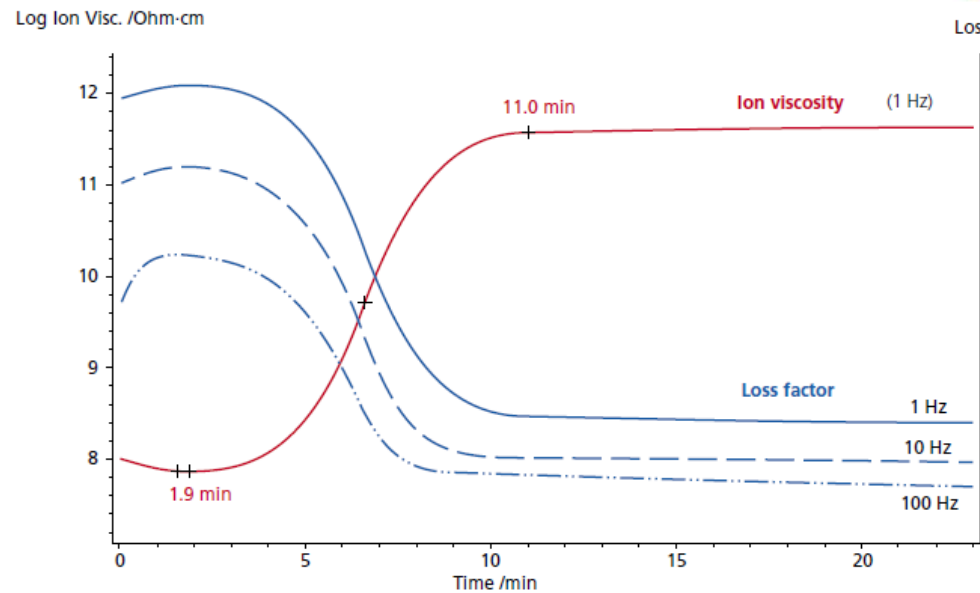


## DEA using sensors

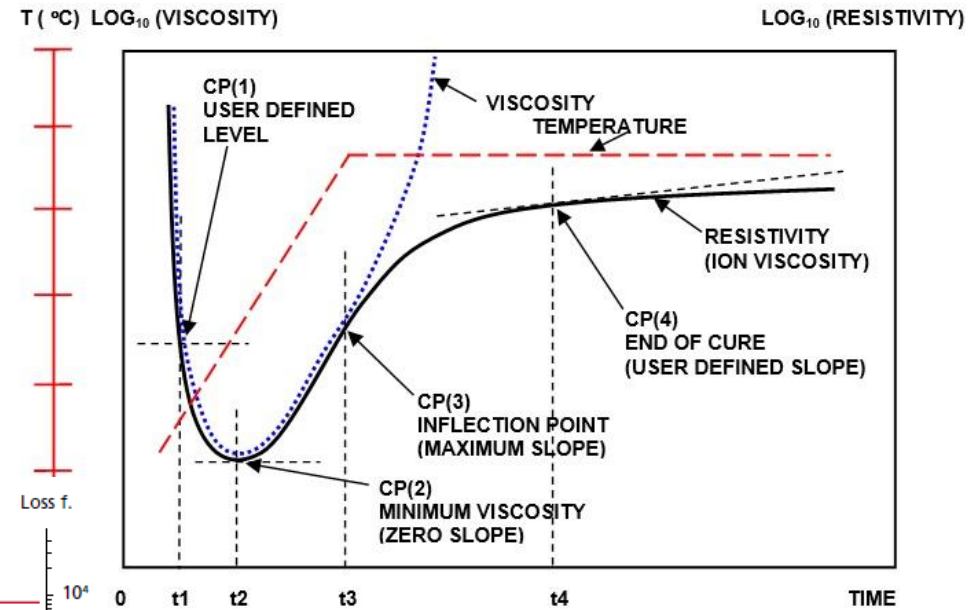


## Different methods

## Dielectric analysis



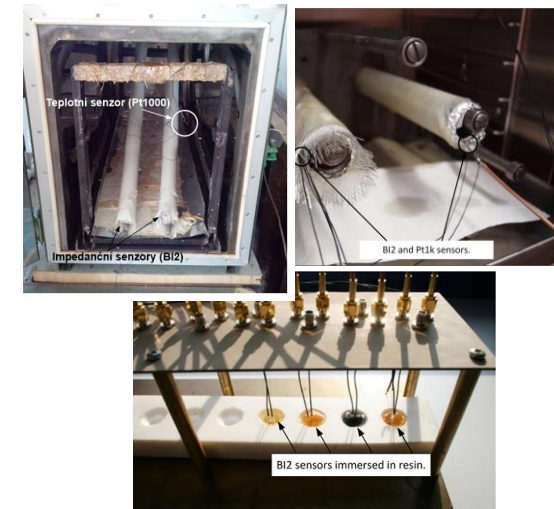
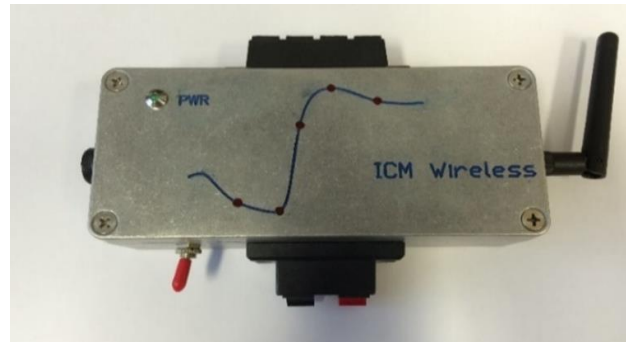
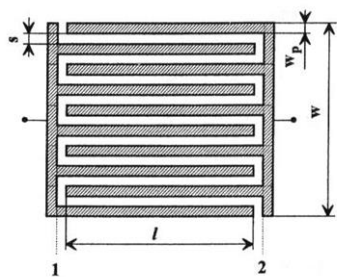
[https://www.netzsch-thermal-analysis.com/media/thermal-analysis/brochures/DEA\\_288\\_Ionic\\_en\\_web.pdf](https://www.netzsch-thermal-analysis.com/media/thermal-analysis/brochures/DEA_288_Ionic_en_web.pdf)



<https://lambient.com/what-is-dielectric-cure-monitoring>

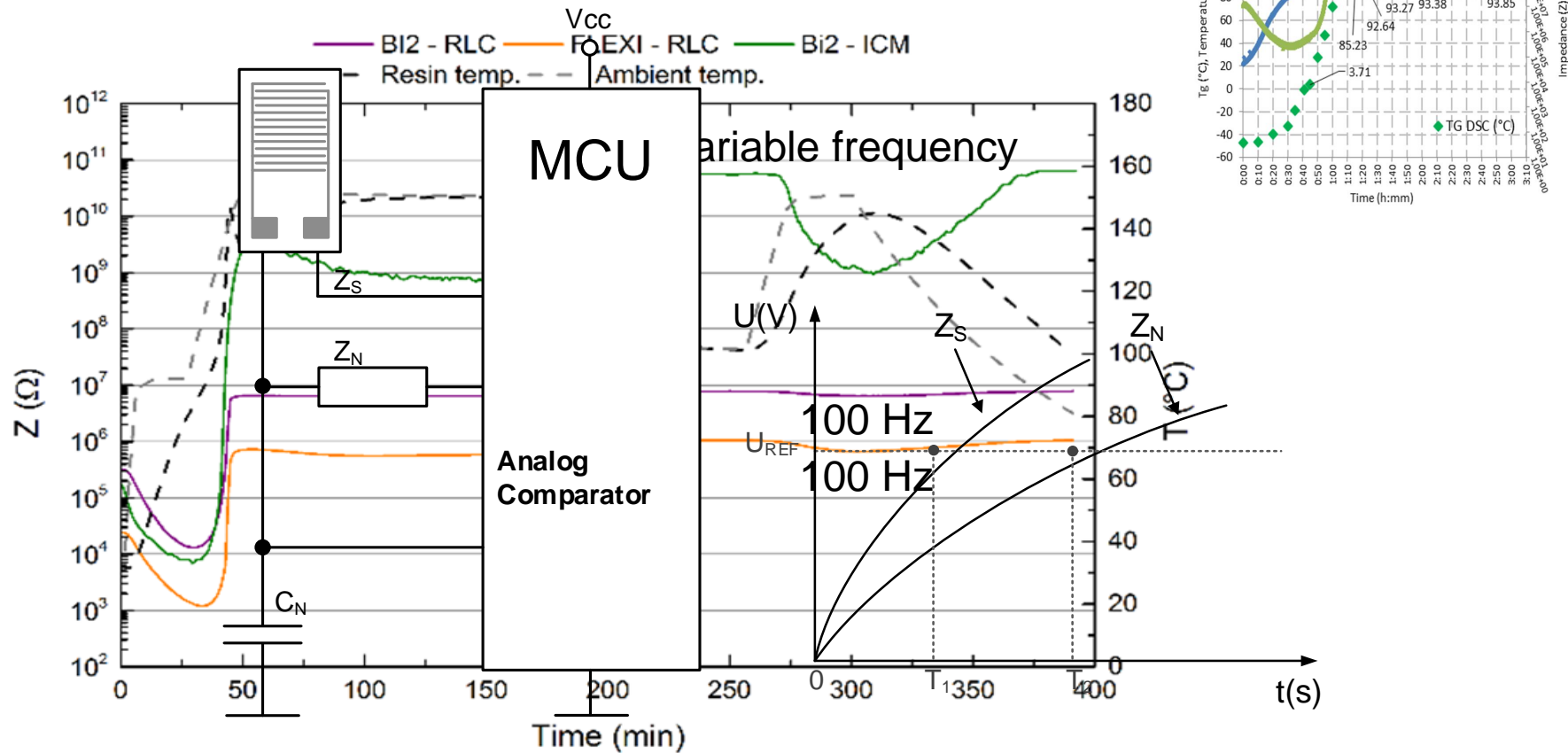
## Development of online curing monitoring system ICM

- Ceramics sensors
- Flexible sensors
- Portable
- Modular
- Wi-Fi
- Labs
- Product lines

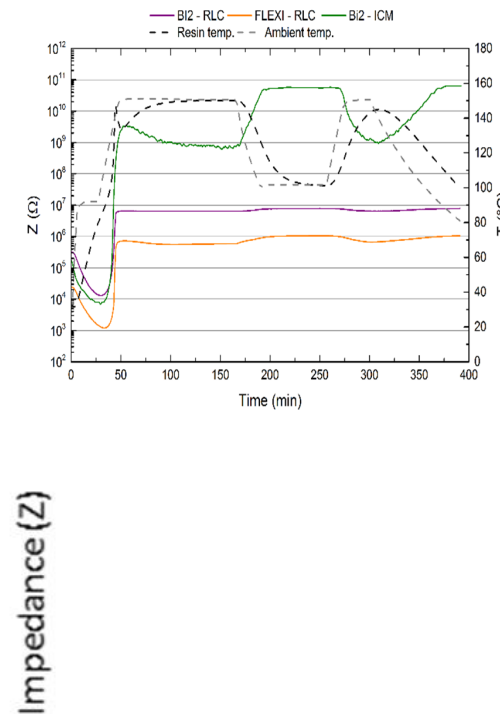
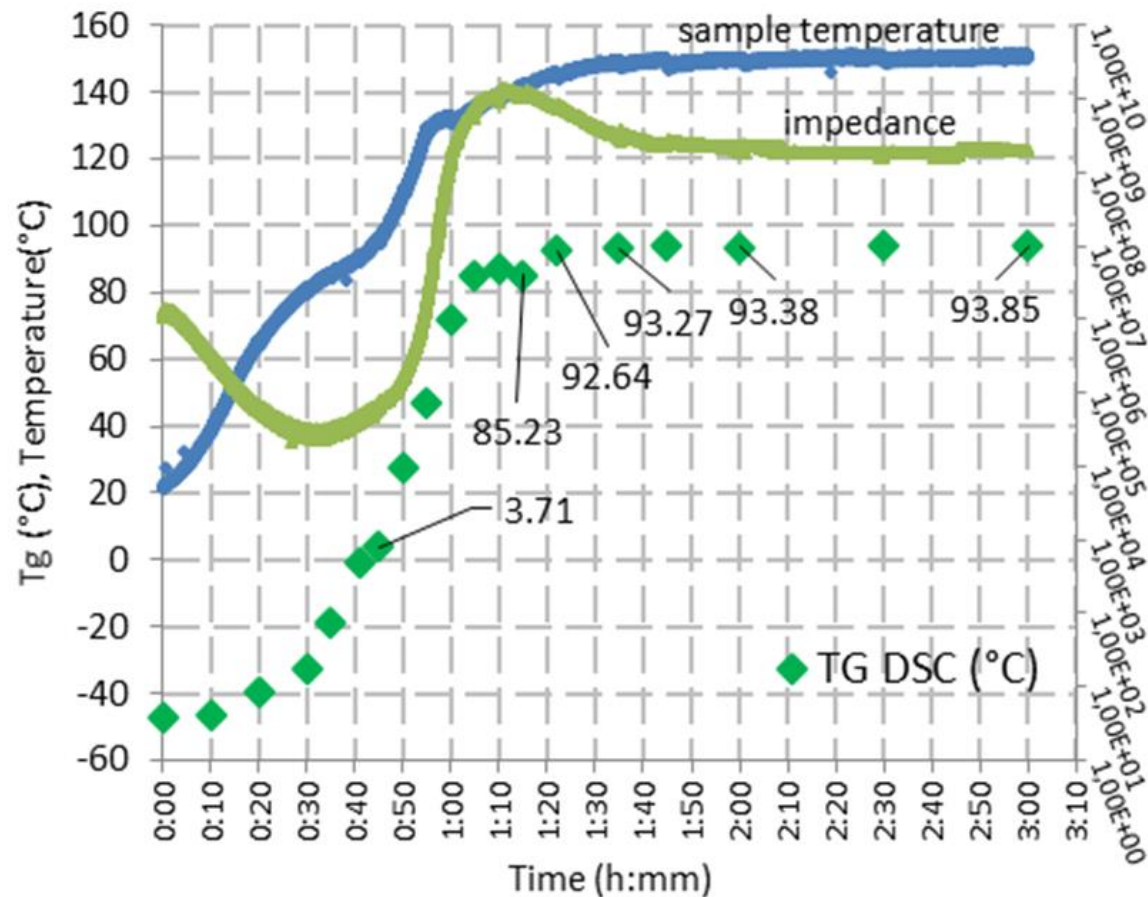


[1] R. Polanský et al., "Development of a measuring system for on-line in situ monitoring of composite materials manufacturing," *Compos. Part A Appl. Sci. Manuf.*, vol. 90, pp. 760–770, 2016.

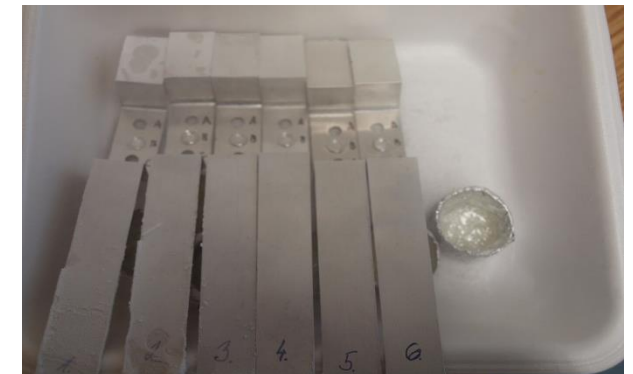
- Improved sensitivity
  - resin structure feedback



- Improved sensitivity
  - resin structure feedback

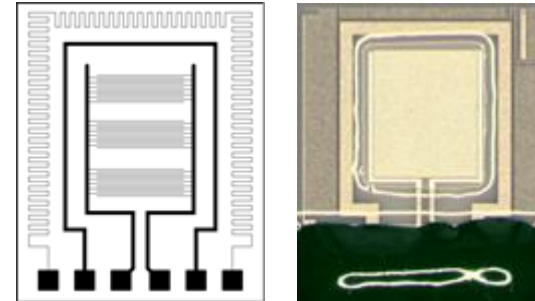


- Liquid nitrogen – stop the reaction at each point
- DSC - Tg verification



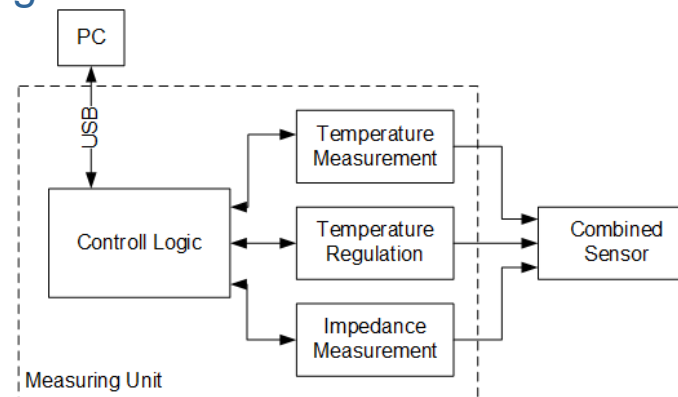
## Development of on sensor curing monitoring ICM based system

- Combined sensor
  - Temperature sensors
  - IDE electrode
  - Heating element
- Covered by a glass frit
  - prevent electrical interaction after applying the measuring medium

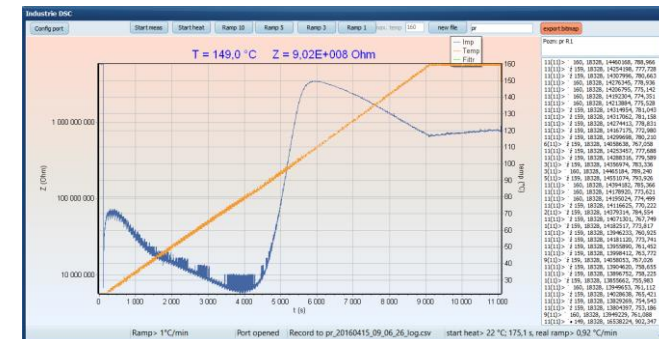


The sensor dimensions are 5 x 6 mm.

- Labs
- Production hall



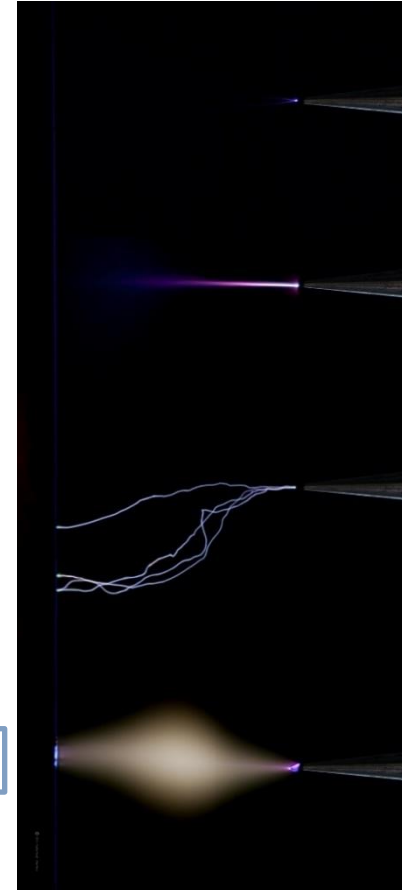
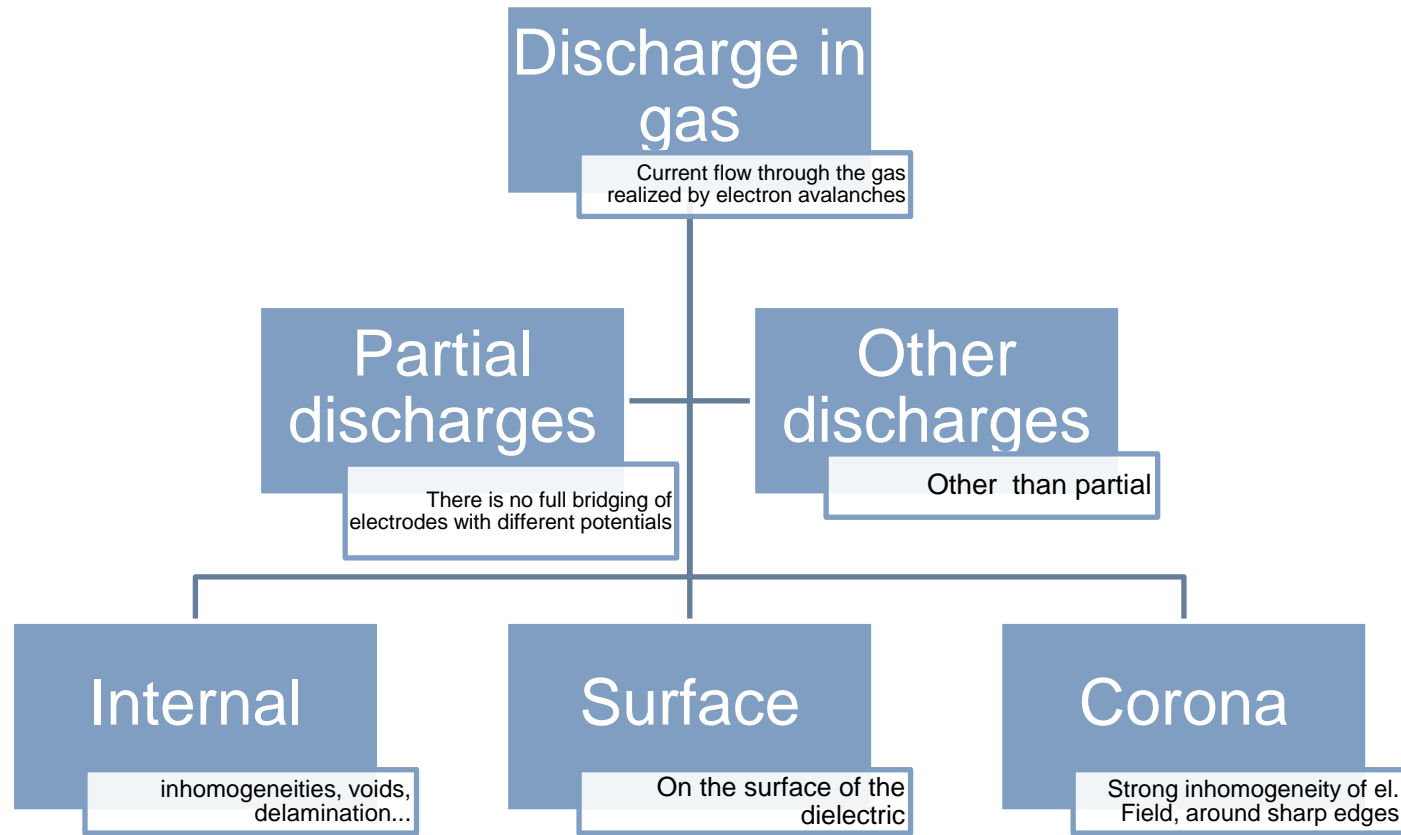
Temperature ramp: up to  
10°C / min



# Homogeneity / quality of insulating system

When the system is cured

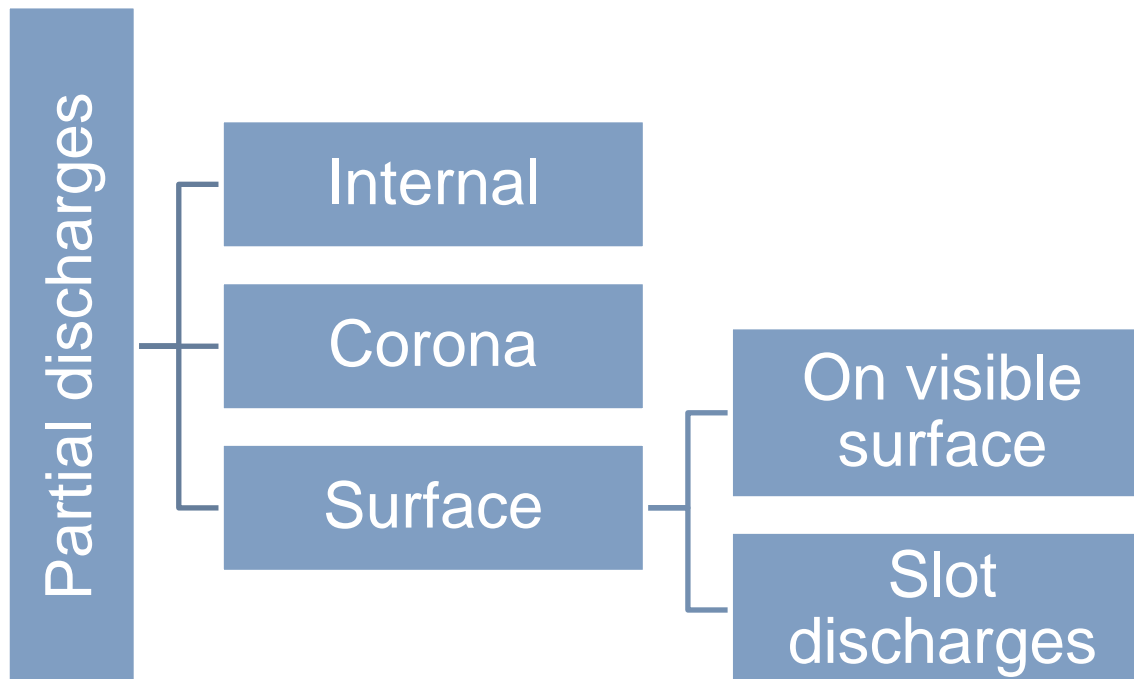




© Ondřej Veselý, Petr Mráz – FEL ZČU

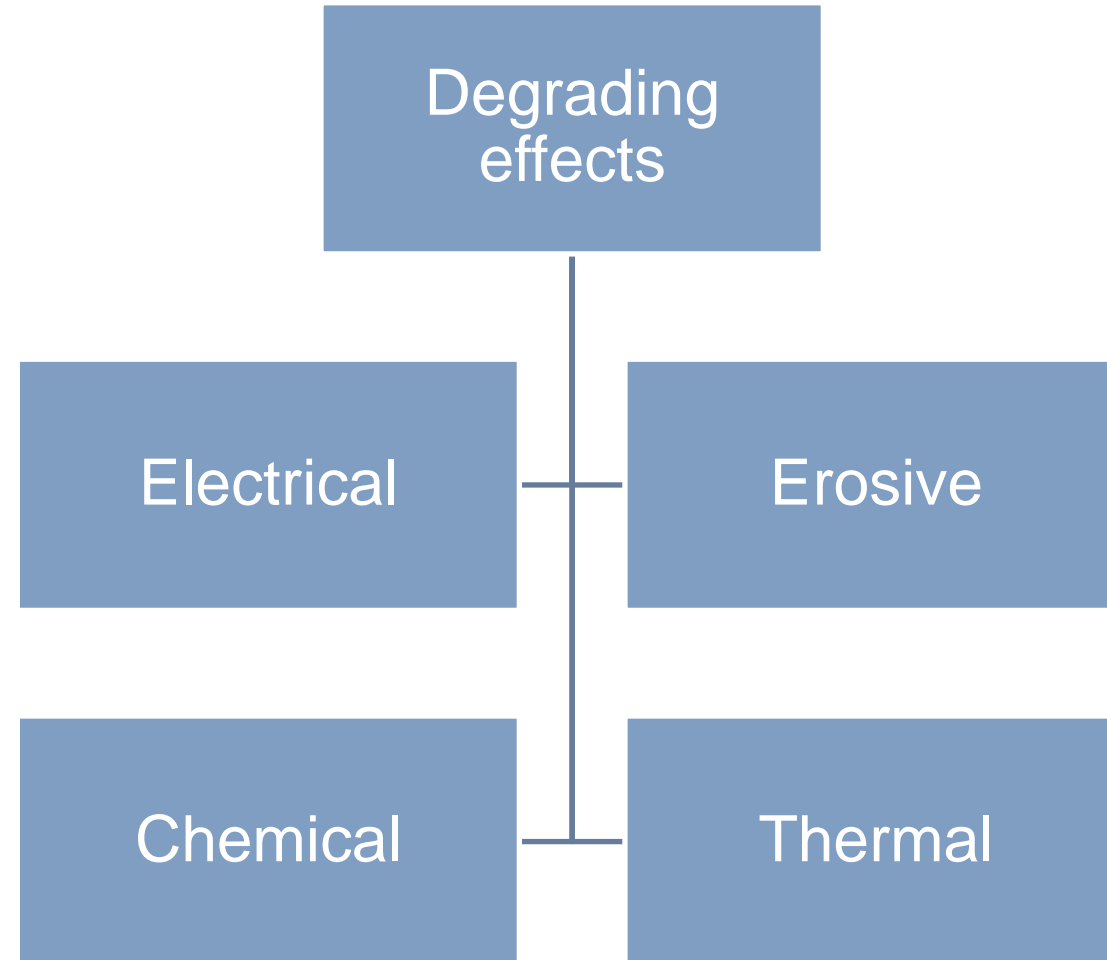
## Partial discharges

- local electrical discharges that only partially short-circuit the insulator between the electrodes



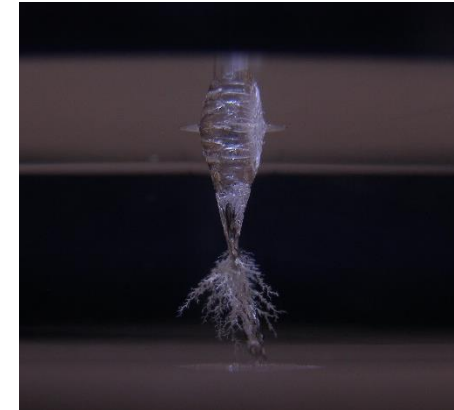
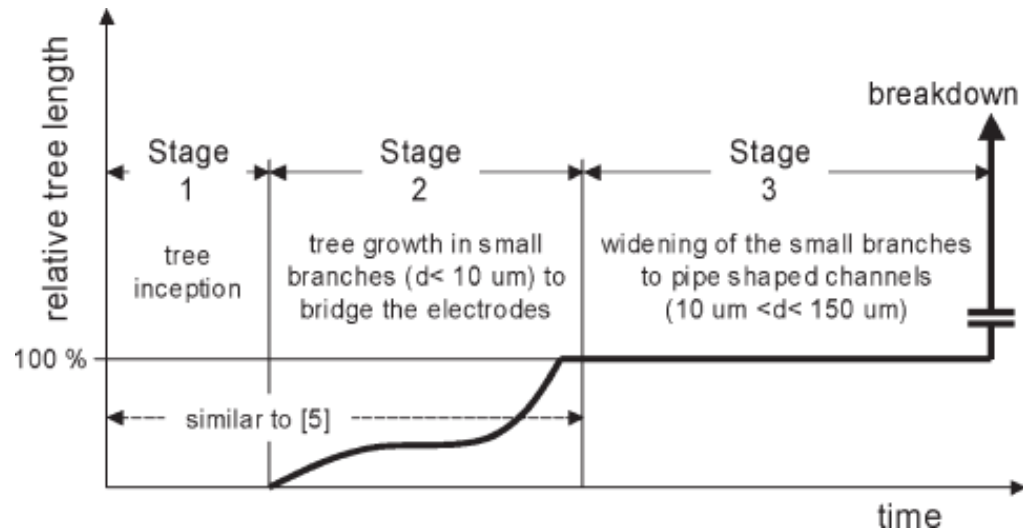
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# Degrading effects of electric fields - partial discharges



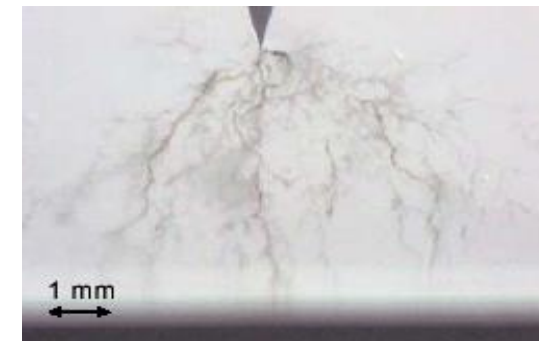
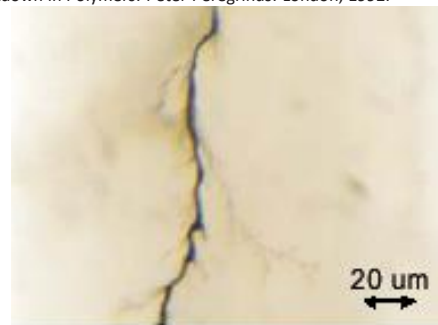
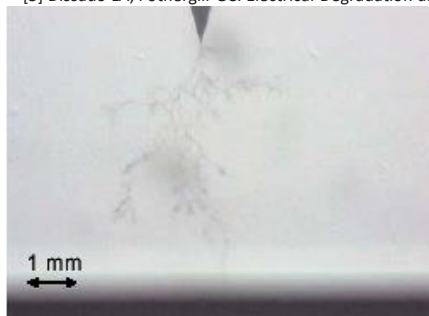
# Degrading effects of electric fields - partial discharges

## Treeing



R. Vogelsang, B. Fruth, T. Farr, K. Frohlich; Detection of electrical tree propagation by partial discharge measurements, EUROPEAN TRANSACTIONS ON ELECTRICAL POWER, Euro. Trans. Electr. Power 2005; 15:271–284

[5] Dissado LA, Fothergill GC. Electrical Degradation and Breakdown in Polymers. Peter Peregrinus: London, 1992.



# Accompanying phenomena of discharge activity

## Electrical signals

Increase in dielectric loss

Current pulses in the  
ground terminal of the test  
object

High frequency  
electromagnetic field

## Non-electrical signals

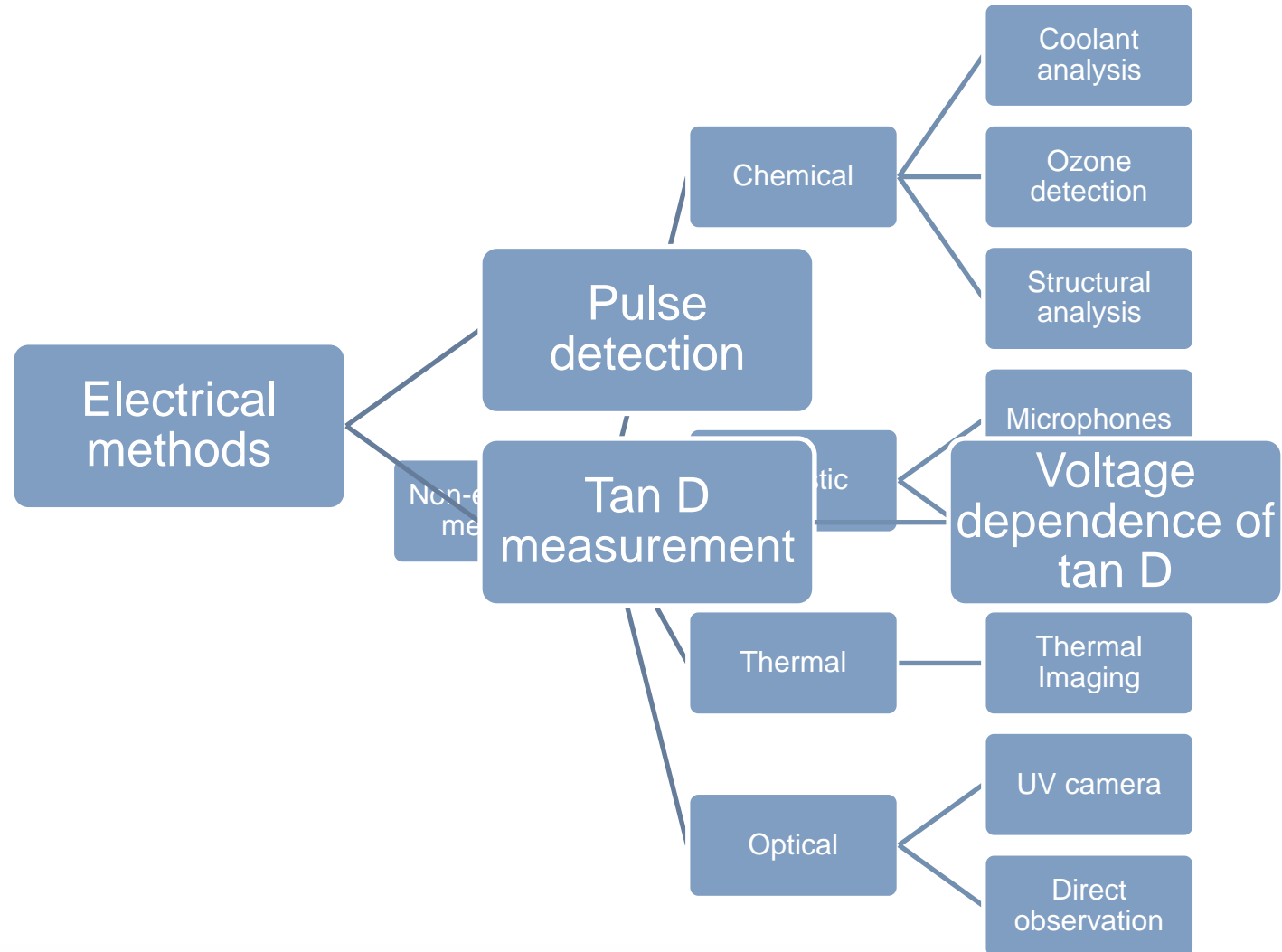
Chemical action of  
discharge products

Light radiation in the visible  
and ultraviolet spectrum

Thermal heating of the  
surroundings

Sound waves in the audible  
and ultrasonic bands

# Partial discharge measuring methods



## Gemant-Philippov model

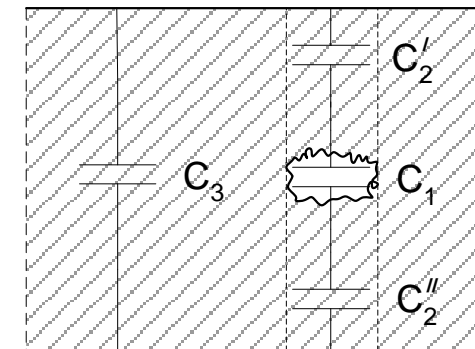
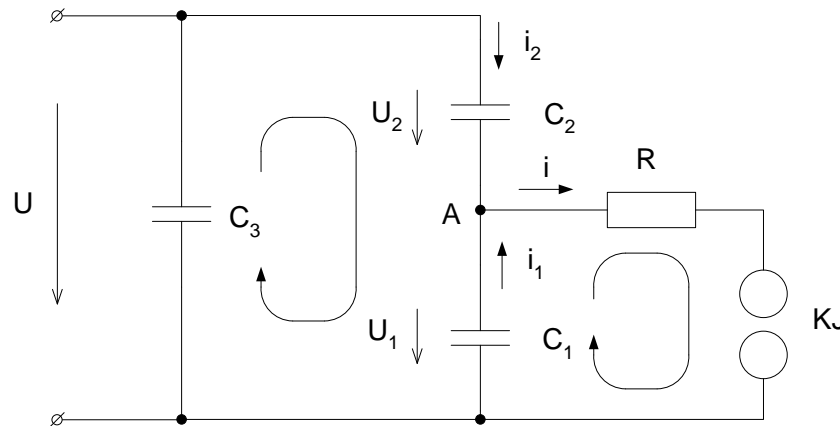
C1 - cavity capacity,

C2 - capacitance of the dielectric connected in series with the capacitance of the cavity  $C_2 = C_2' + C_2''$

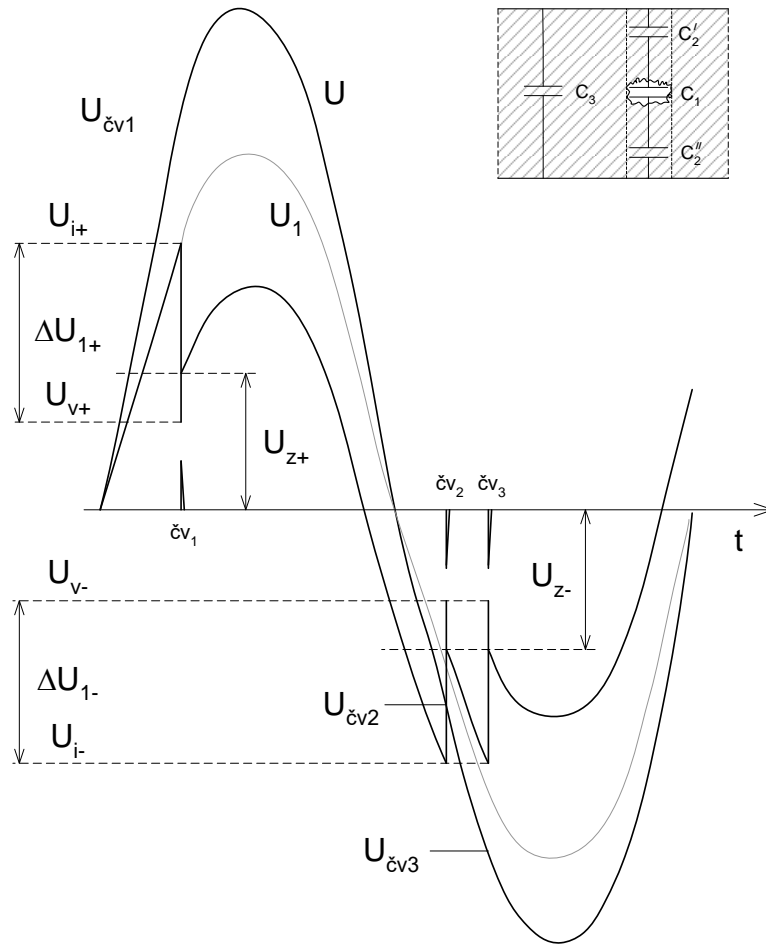
C3 - capacitance of the undamaged part of the dielectric,

R - resistance of the discharge channel,

KJ - spherical spark gap (its ignition represents a partial discharge).



## Voltage waveform on the cavity



$U$  - voltage applied to the terminals  $U = U_m \sin 2\pi f t$ ,

$U_1$  - voltage on the cavity  $U_1 = U_{1m} \sin 2\pi f t$ ,

$U_i$  - immediate value of the ignition voltage of the cavity,

$U_v$  - immediate value of the residual voltage (after discharge),

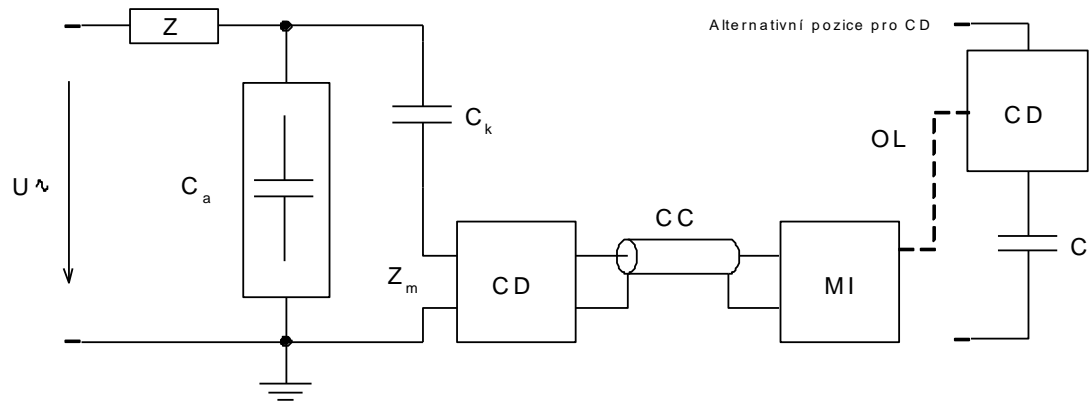
$U_z$  - recovered voltage,

$\Delta U_1$  - voltage drop on the cavity due to partial discharge,

$U_{čv}$  - voltage on the sample at the moment of partial discharge

## Global method

Coupling device in series with coupling capacitor



Z- interference filter, barrier to discharge of the CT through the impedance of the power supply

Ca- object under test

Ck- coupling capacitor

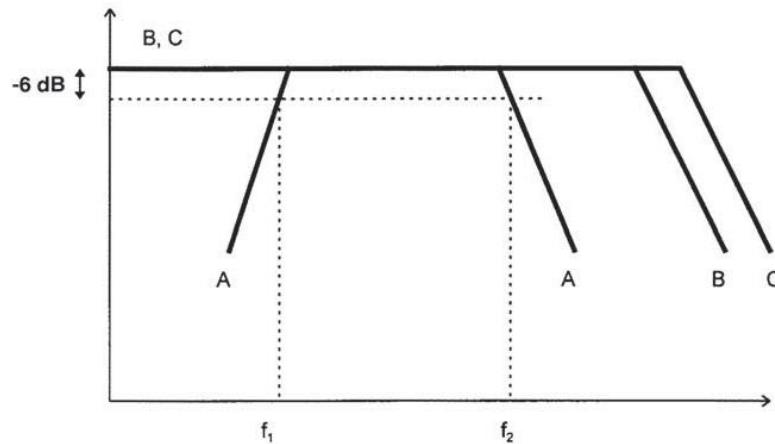
Zm- sensing impedance

CD- coupling device

CC- coupling cable

MI- detector

OL- optical cable



A bandpass of the measuring system

B amplitude frequency spectrum of the PD pulse

C amplitude frequency spectrum of calibration pulse

$f_1$  lower limit frequency

$f_2$  upper limit frequency

**Correct relationship between amplitude and frequency to minimize integration errors for a wide-band system**

## Wide-band PD instruments

measuring system which is characterized by a **transfer impedance**  $Z(f)$  having fixed values of the **lower and upper limit frequencies**  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , and adequate attenuation below  $f_1$  and above  $f_2$ .

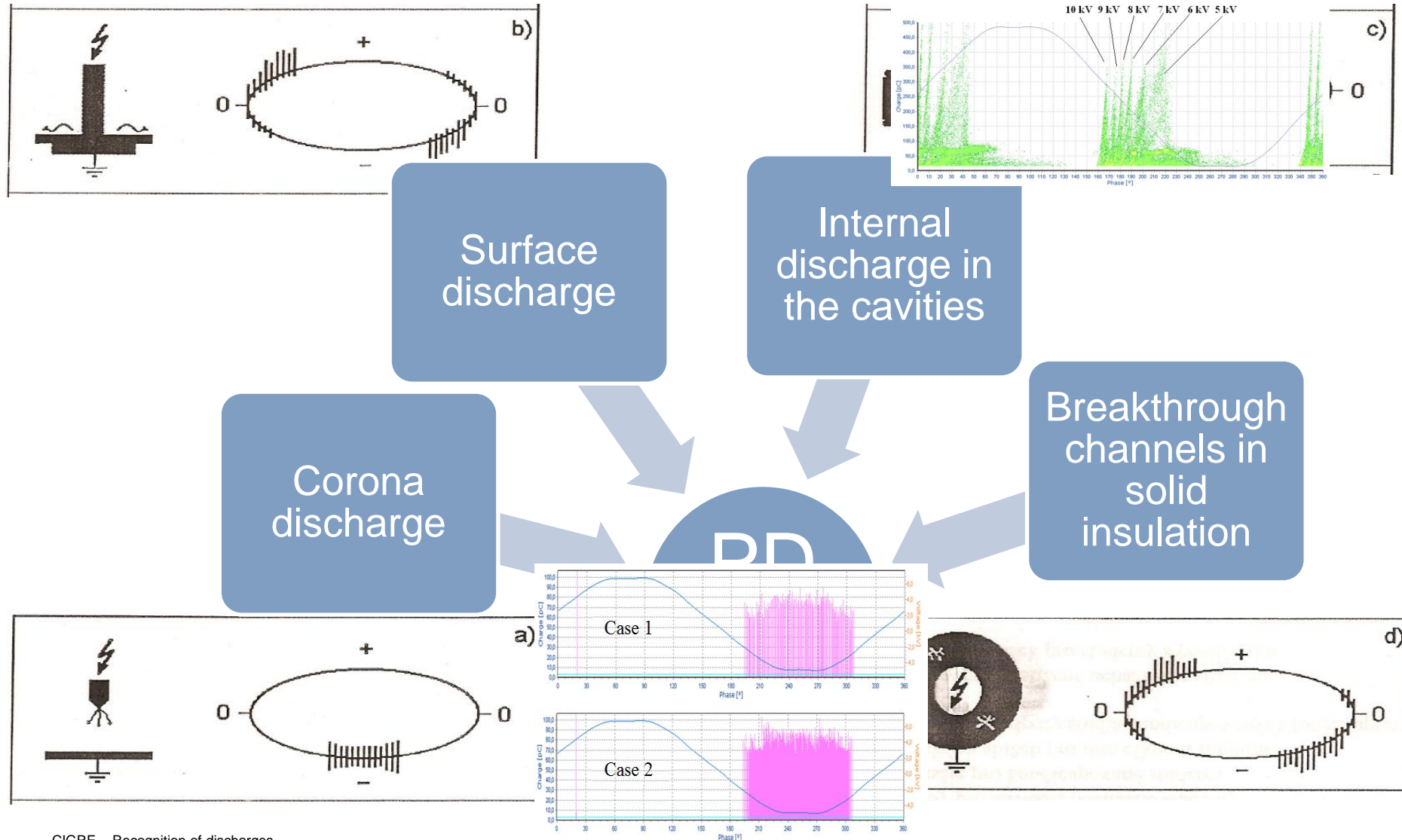
Recommended values for the significant frequency parameters  $f_1$ ,  $f_2$  and  $\Delta f$  are:

30 kHz  $f_1 \leq 100$  kHz;

$f_2 \leq 1$  MHz;

100 kHz  $\leq \Delta f \leq 900$  kHz.

# When data measured and acquired



CIGRE – Recognition of discharges



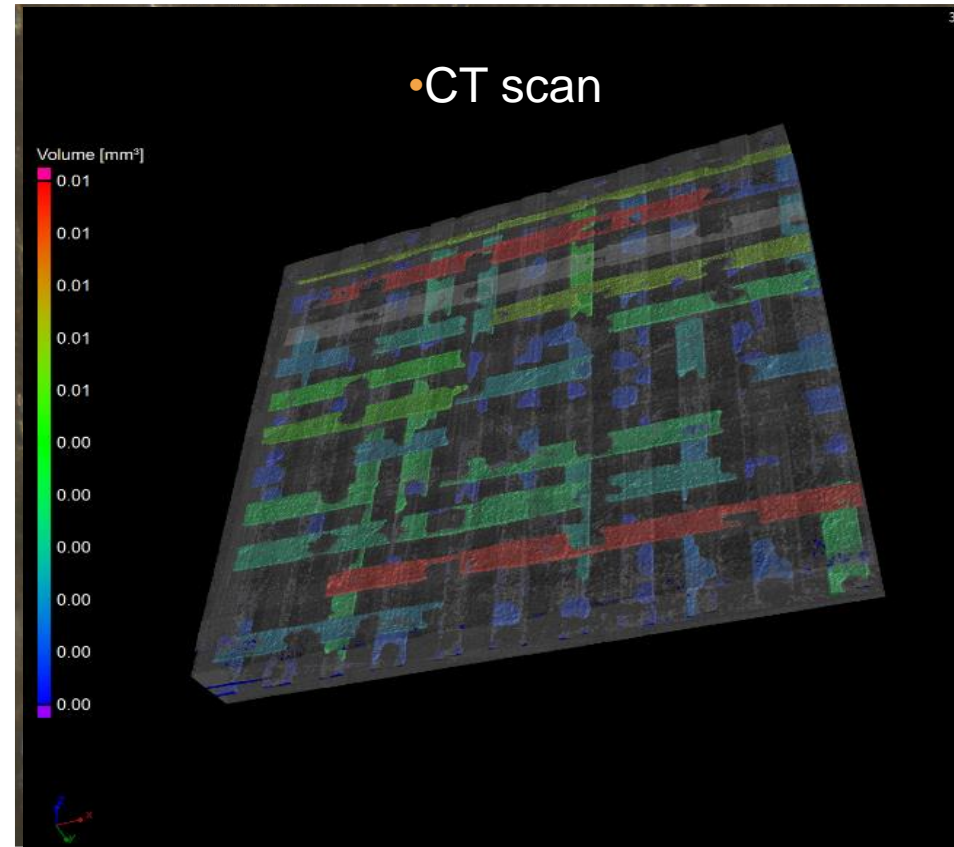
# What is PD good for – example of use



# What is PD good for – example of use

## Typical HV dielectric material – generator insulation

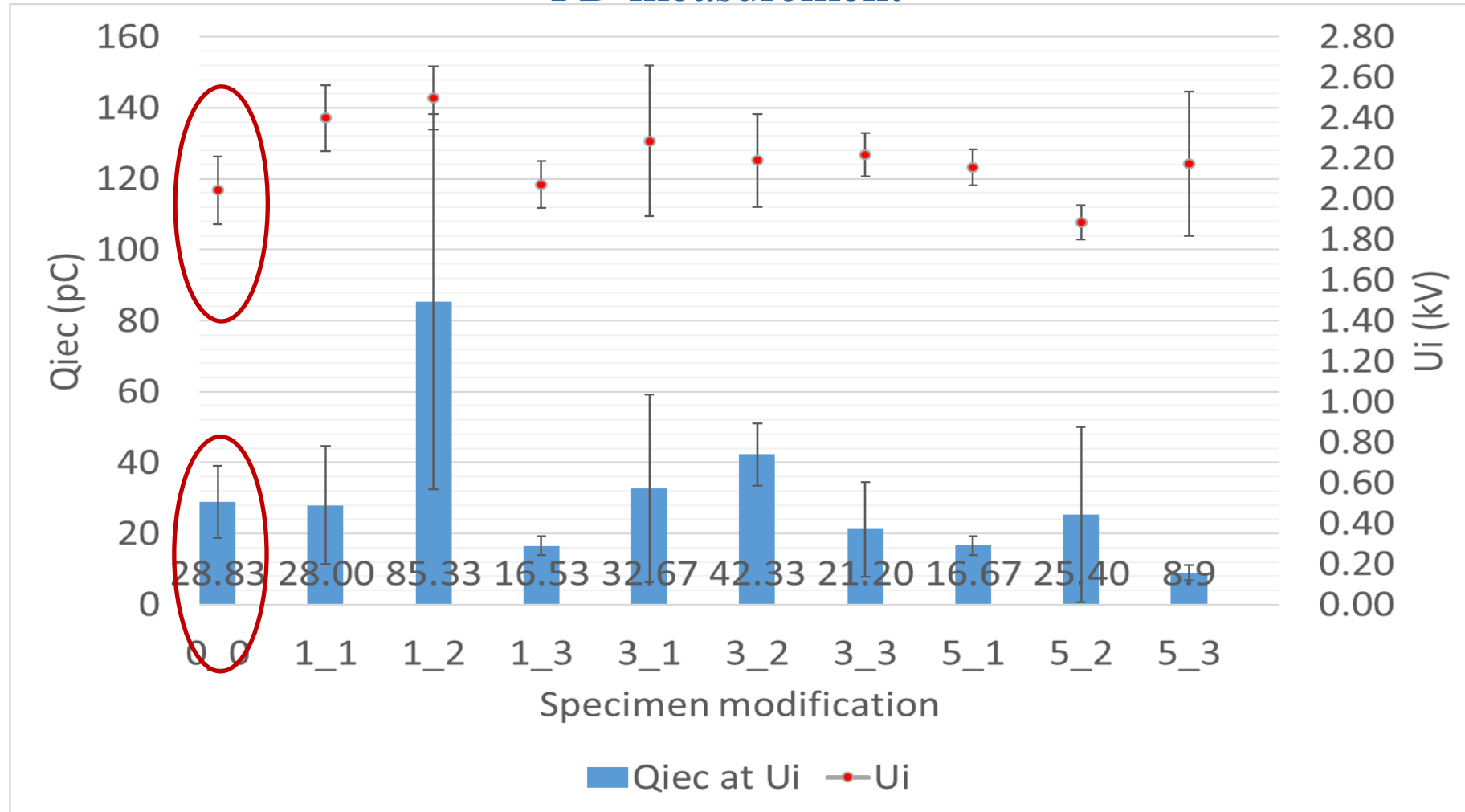
- Glass fibres
- Mica paper
- Epoxy resin
- Cured at pressure and temperature
- Full of voids
  - Danger for the material
  - Danger for whole device



- [1] R. Polanský, P. Prosr, M. Zemanová, J. Pihera, T. Džugan, and J. Chvojka, "Electrospun nanofibres as a tool for controlling the gas bubble size distribution in fibre/thermoset-matrix composites," *Compos. Sci. Technol.*, vol. 163, no. February, pp. 96–104, 2018.
- [2] J. Pihera, R. Polansky, M. Zemanova, P. Prosr, and J. Chvojka, "Partial discharges of nonwoven nanofibers composite," in *2016 IEEE Conference on Electrical Insulation and Dielectric Phenomena (CEIDP)*, 2016, pp. 183–186.

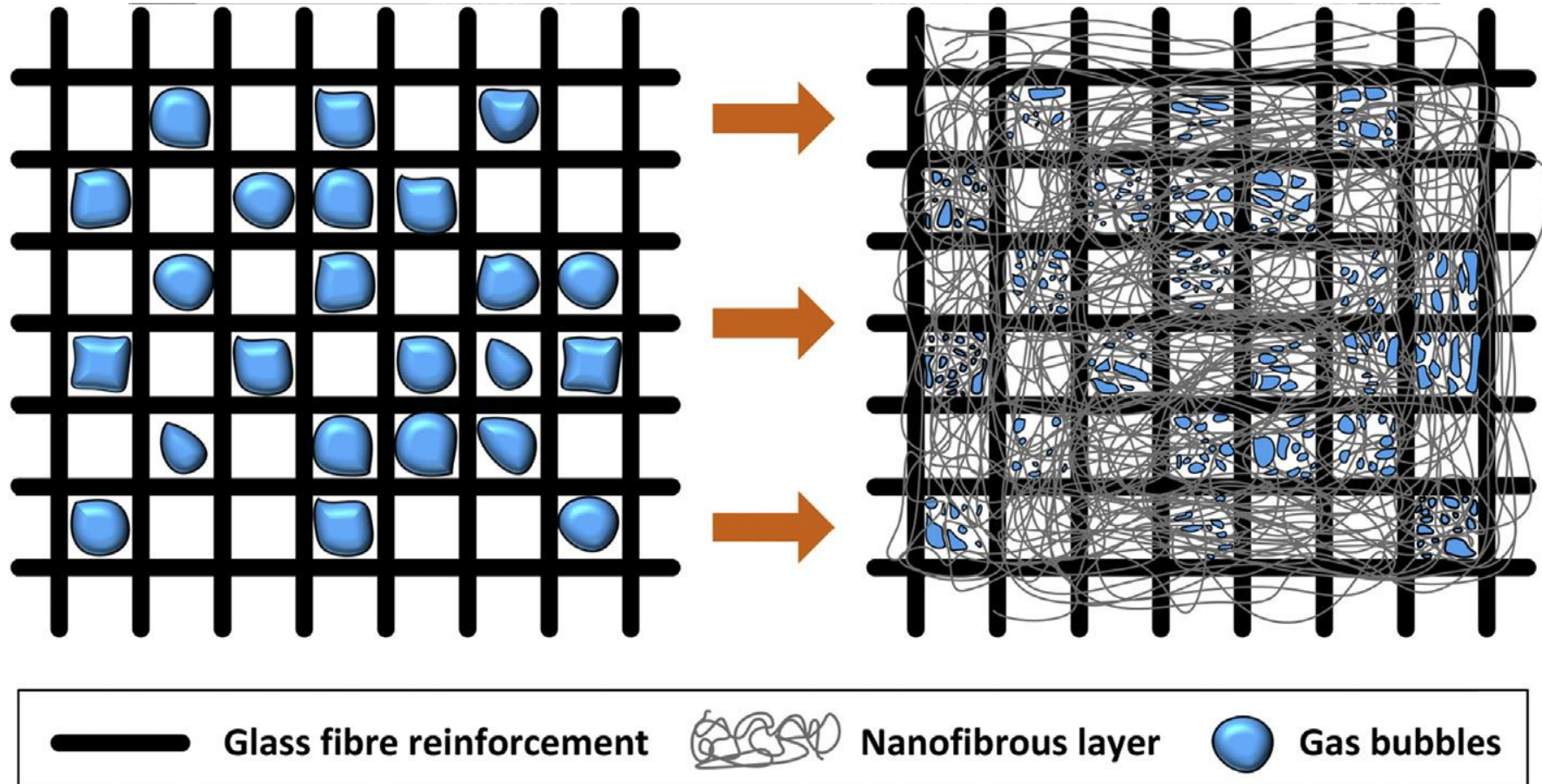
# What is PD good for – example of use

## PD measurement

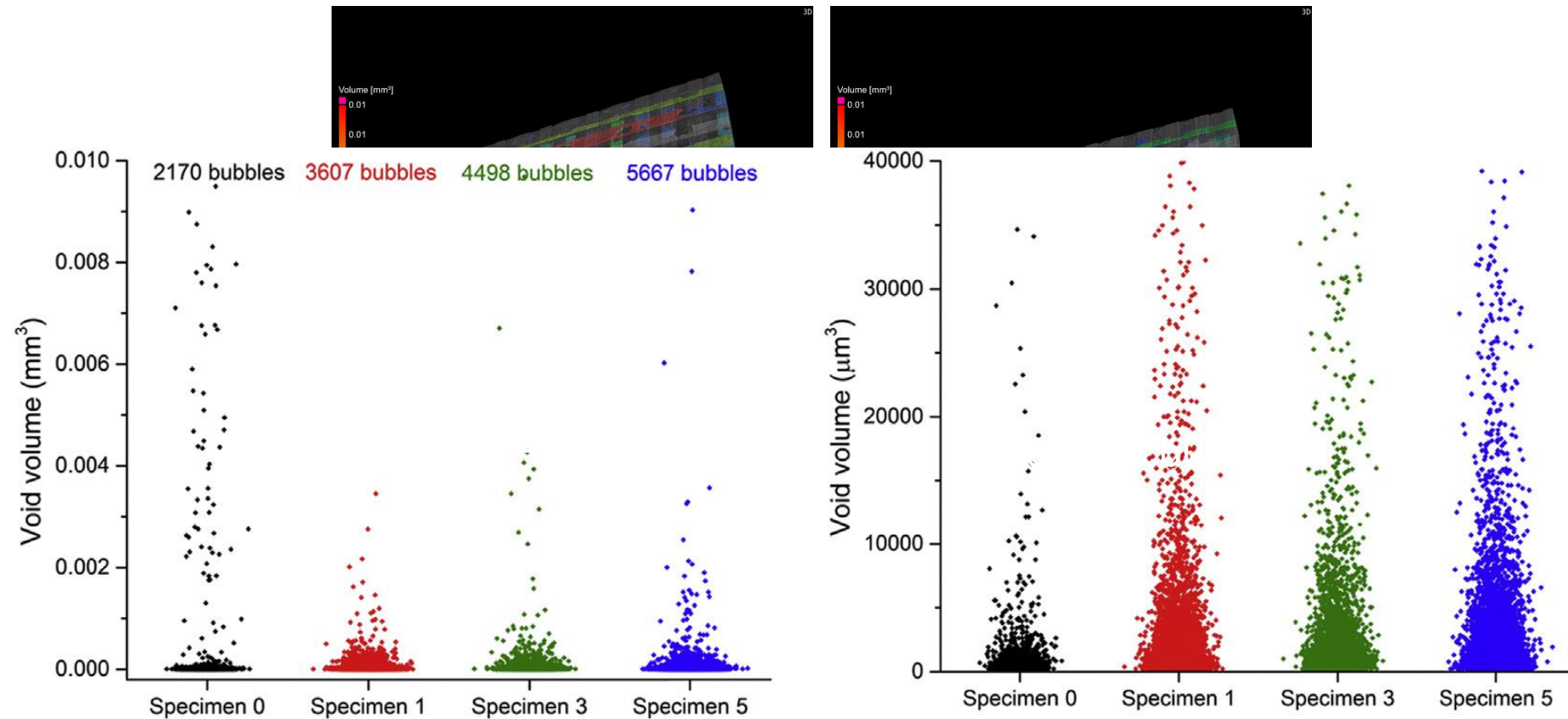


## PD suppression

- Using PA6 nanofibrous layers



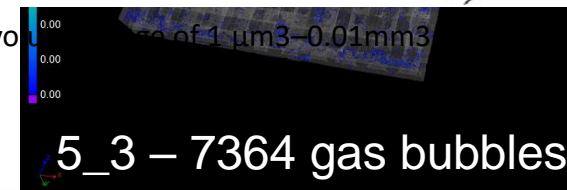
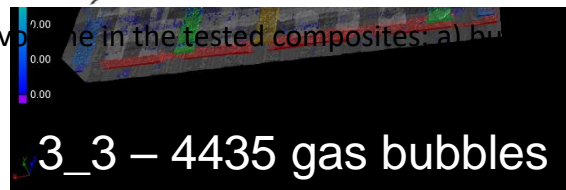
# What CT and PD says to that



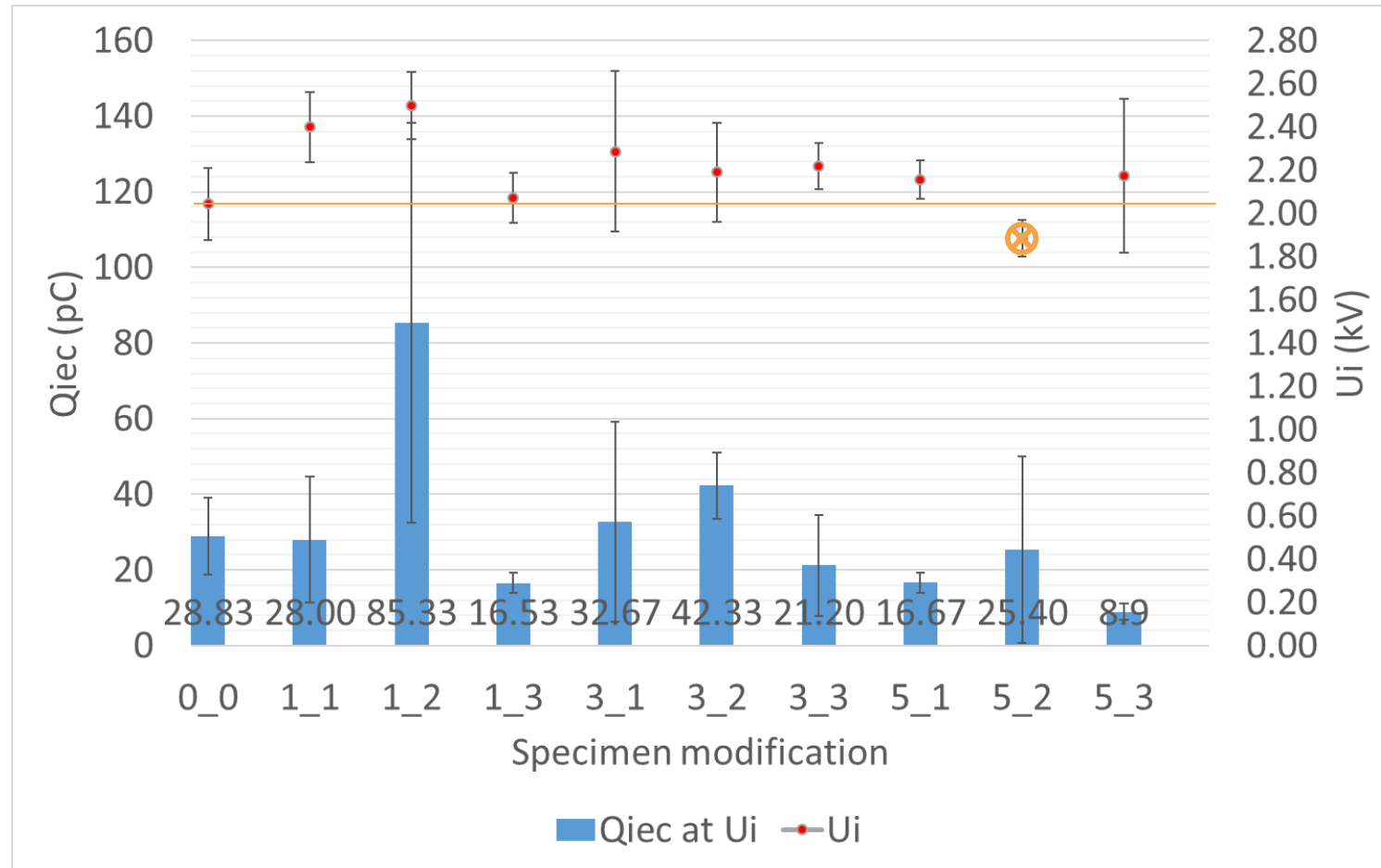
a)

b)

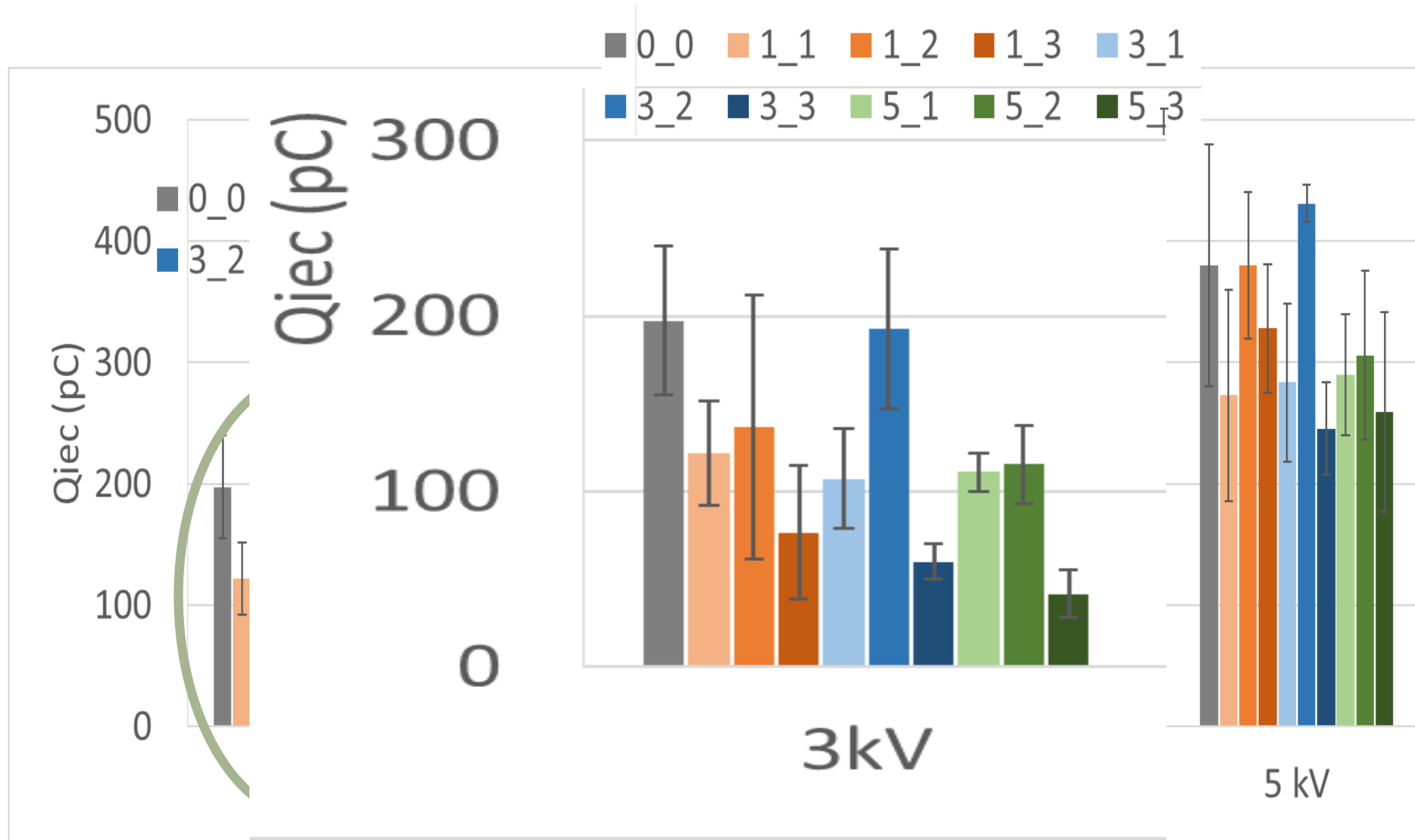
Distributions of gas bubble sizes by volume in the tested composites. a) bubble volume range of 1 μm³–0.01mm³ b) bubble volume range of 1 μm³–0.00004mm³.



# What CT and PD says to that



# What CT and PD says to that



- ▶ Curing monitoring is a powerful tool to monitor and control the curing process
- ▶ Curing monitoring is advance to all system proper conditions
- ▶ Could reduce the cost of curing process
- ▶ Partial discharges is sensitive method to verify the system homogeneity
- ▶ It is sensitive to small changes in material
- ▶ Possible to distinguish among PD type – PD source localization



- ▶ PD Optical sensors
- ▶ PD sensors based on FBG optical fibres
- ▶ PD at DC voltage
- ▶ PD at pulse voltage
  
- ▶ Smart HV composite – internal build in diagnostics for electrical, thermal and mechanical properties (sensor on fibre, FBG, ..., ???)

# Thank you for your attention.

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- ▶ +420 377 634 002

## Additive deposition technologies for Printed Electronics at RICE:

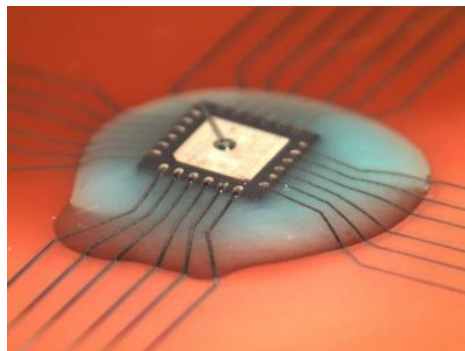
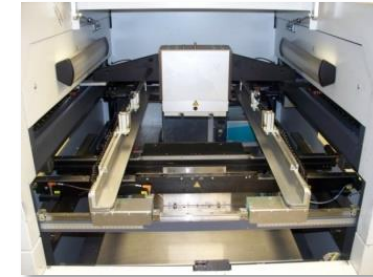
- Aerosol Jet Printing
- Screen Printing
- Spray coating



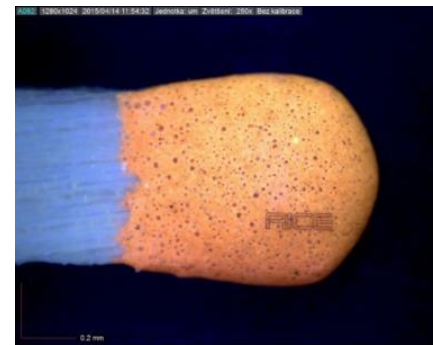
Optomec Aerosol Jet 300



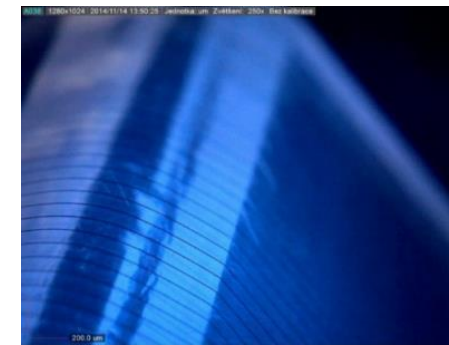
Ekra E2 Screen Printer



Printing of IC interconnections

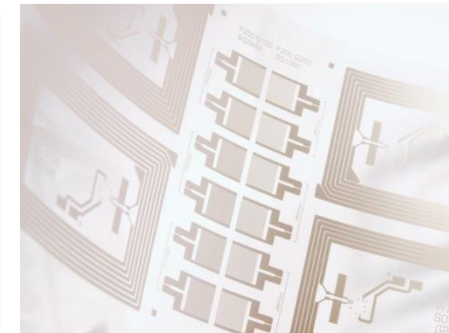
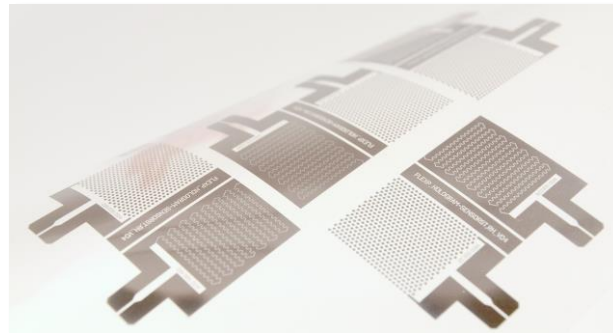
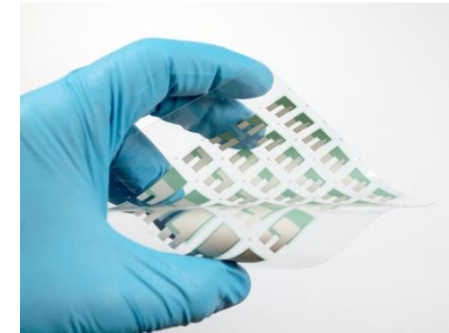
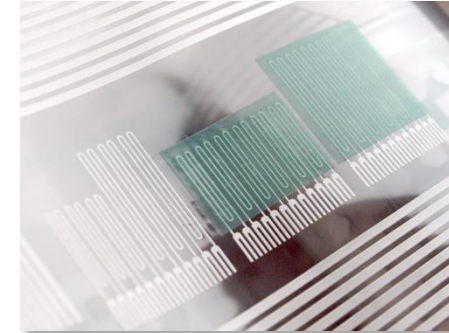


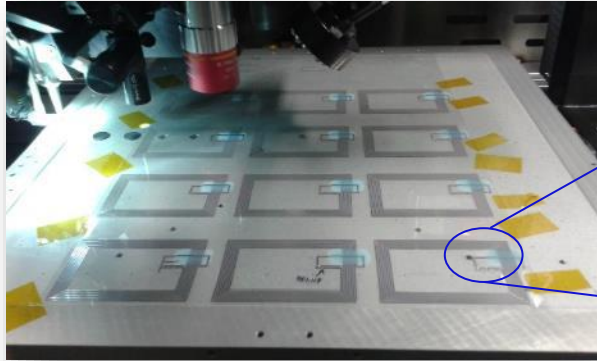
Precise functional printing (10µm)



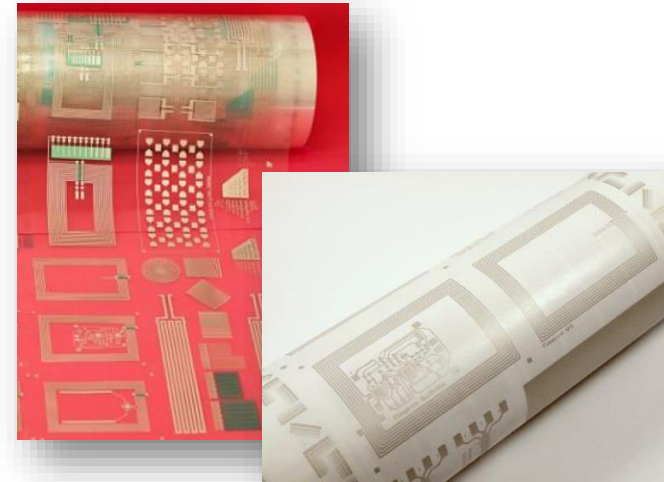
Printing on curved surfaces

- **R&D in Printed electronics:**
  - **Components**
    - Passives – R, L, C
    - Actives - transistors
    - Antennas – HF, UHF
    - Sensors – T, RH, chemical
  - **System-on-Foil**
    - Hybrid RFID tags (T+RH sensors)
    - ID systems on metal holograms





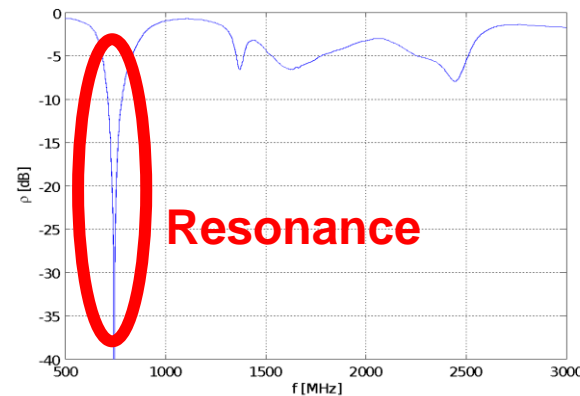
Aerosol Jet printed RFID antenna.



Antennas printed by R2R  
flexography on foil and paper.  
(cooperation: UPce, OTK)



868 MHz antenna printed  
on textile substrate.



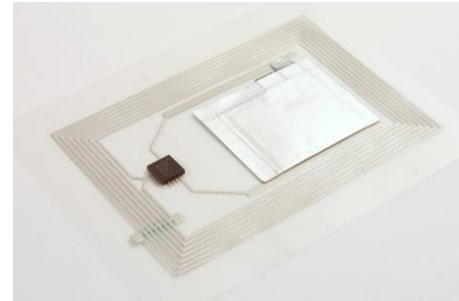
Reflection factor to  
frequency characteristics.



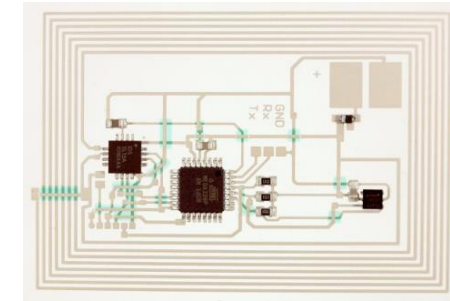
Embroidered antennas.

## Hybrid systems printed on foil

- Hybrid = print what you are able to, assemble what you have to.
- Flexible NFC sensor tags for smart labels, smart packaging, logistics and IoT.
- Including data logging, Android application for data visualization a cloud data management system (Firebase).
- Smart labels for:
  - temperature logging
  - temperature and relative humidity logging.



Smart label for temperature logging



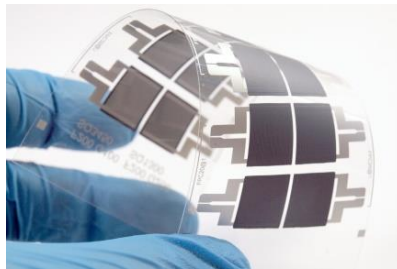
Smart label for combined logging of temperature and relative humidity



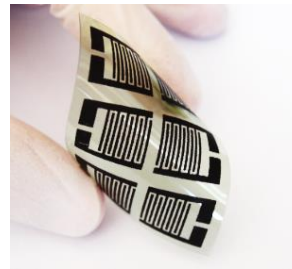
Smartphone application for label control and data transfer to cloud storage (NFC, Google Firebase)

## Development of printed sensors:

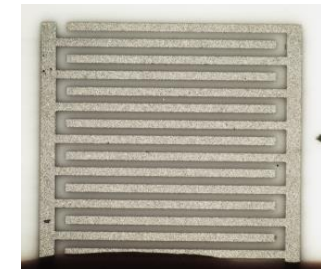
- Electrochemical and chemoresistive planar gas sensors
- Sensors based on carbon nanostructures
- Temperature and humidity sensors
- Thread-like sensors



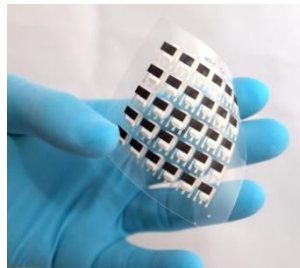
Temperature sensor  
(Flexible NTC thermistor)



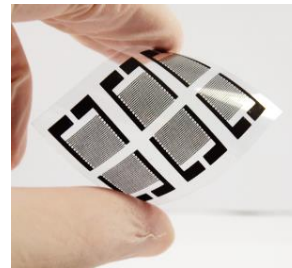
Ammonia sensor  
(Chemoresistive)



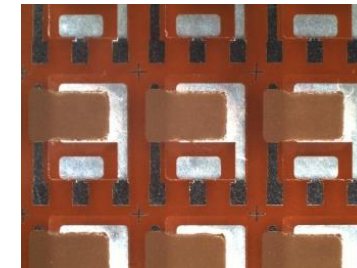
Ammonia sensor  
(based on CNTs printed by AJP)



Nitrogen oxide sensor  
(Electrochemical)

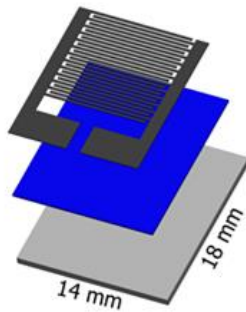


Humidity sensor  
(Chemoresistive)

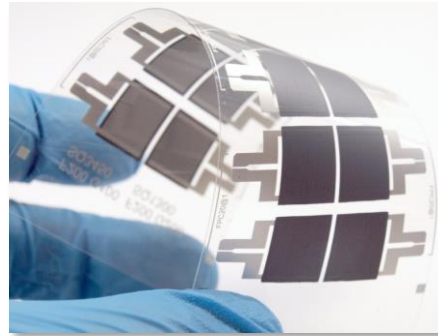


Ethylene sensor  
(Electrochemical)

## Flexible NTC thermistor

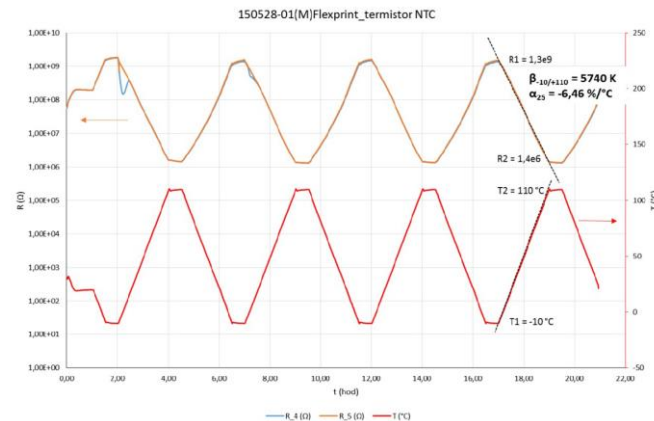


Sensor layout

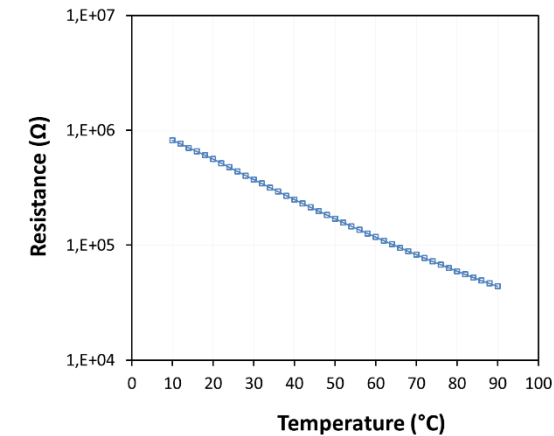


Sheet of temperature sensors

- Interdigital electrodes (200  $\mu\text{m}$  - gap/finger)
- NTC inorganic layer
- Tested range -10 – 110  $^{\circ}\text{C}$
- High sensitivity and stability during temperature cycling.

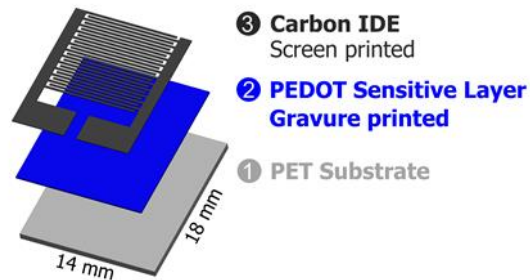


Thermistor response to temperature cycling

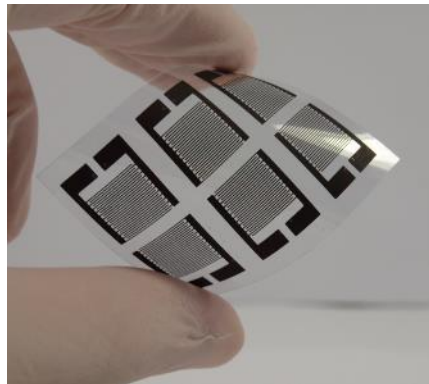


Calibration curve

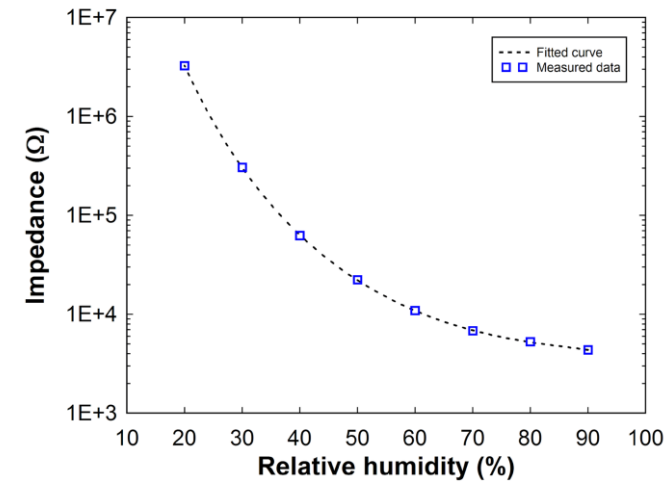
## Humidity sensor



Sensor layout



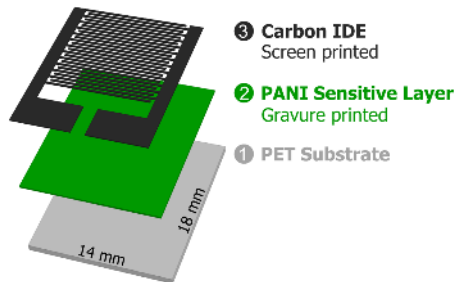
Sheet of humidity sensors



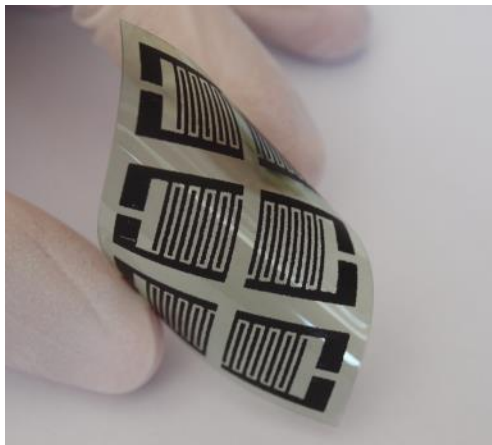
Sensor response to relative humidity, range  
of 20-80% RH (1 step = 10% RH)

- Interdigital electrodes (200  $\mu\text{m}$  - gap/finger)
- PEDOT:PSS sensitive layer
- Tested range 20 – 80% RH

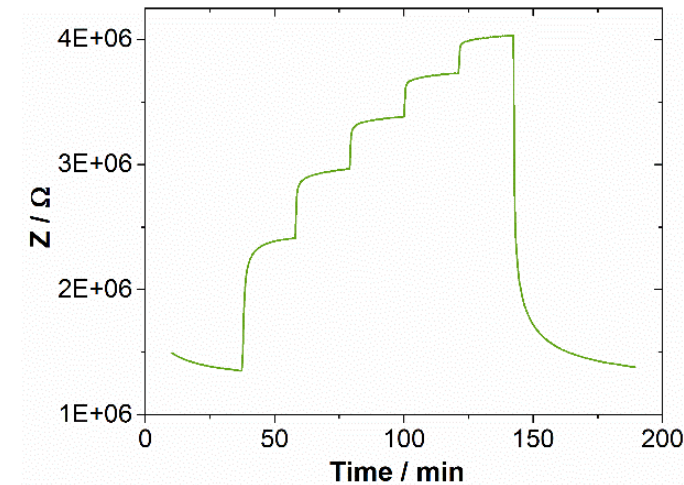
## Ammonia sensor



Sensor layout



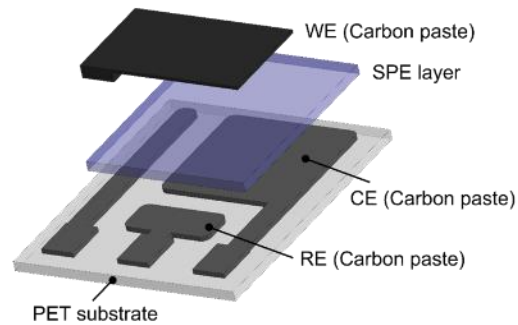
Sheet of ammonia sensors



Sensor response to stepwise increases from 0 to 50 ppm NH<sub>3</sub> (1 step = 10 ppm NH<sub>3</sub>)

- Interdigital electrodes (500 μm - gap/finger)
- PANI sensitive layer based on organic colloids
- Tested range 0 – 50 ppm

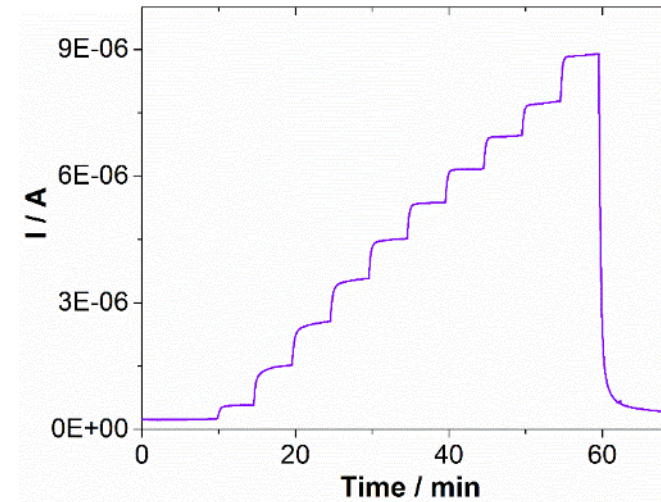
## Nitrogen dioxide sensor



Sensor layout



Sheet of nitrogen dioxide sensors



Sensor response to stepwise increases in  $\text{NO}_2$   
concentrations: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 20 ppm  $\text{NO}_2$

- Semi-planar, three electrode topology
- Solid polymer electrolyte
- Tested range 0 – 20 ppm



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