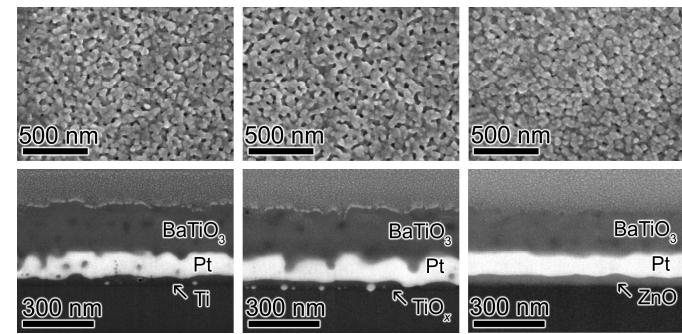
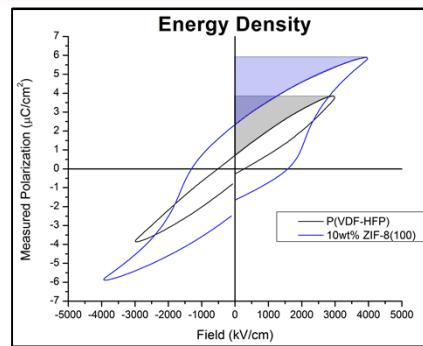
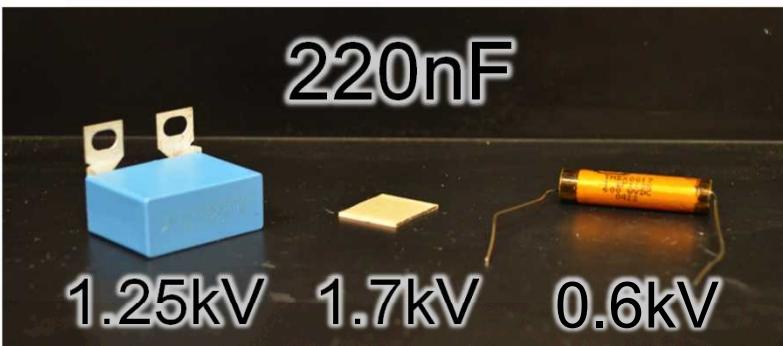


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



# Dielectrics Research at Sandia

Leah Appelhans, Jon Ihlefeld, Harlan Brown-Shaklee

# Dielectrics Research at Sandia

(contributors to presented work)



## Polymers

Ben Anderson\*  
**Leah Appelhans**  
Kirsten Cicotte  
Michele Denton  
Brent Dial  
**Shawn Dirk**  
Cy Fujimoto  
Trey Piñon

## Inorganics

Mia Blea  
John Borchardt  
Geoff Brennecke‡  
**Harlan Brown-Shaklee**  
**Jon Ihlefeld**  
Paul Kotula  
Bonnie McKenzie  
Michael Rye

Peter Lam (NCSU)  
Jon-Paul Maria (NCSU)  
Christopher Shelton (NCSU)

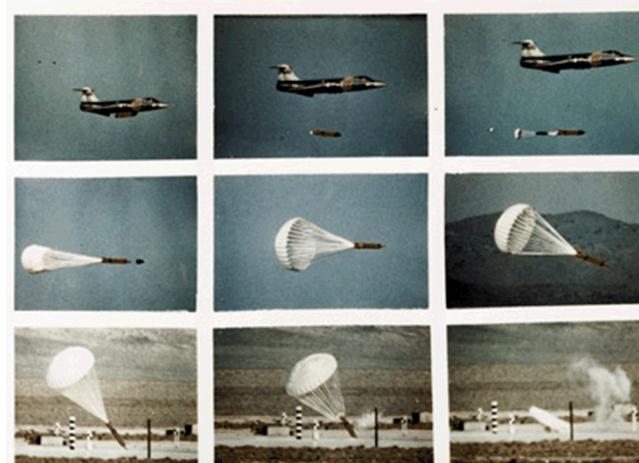
\* Now at 3-M

‡ Now at Colorado School of Mines

# Dielectrics Research at Sandia Then



**Sandia historically focused on:  
RELIABILITY of high consequence devices in  
EXTREME/UNIQUE environments**



Shock Tolerant Electronics  
(1958)



Clean Room Processing  
(1959-present)  
US Patent #3,158,457



Arming, Fuzing, and Firing  
(1962)

# Dielectrics Research at Sandia Then

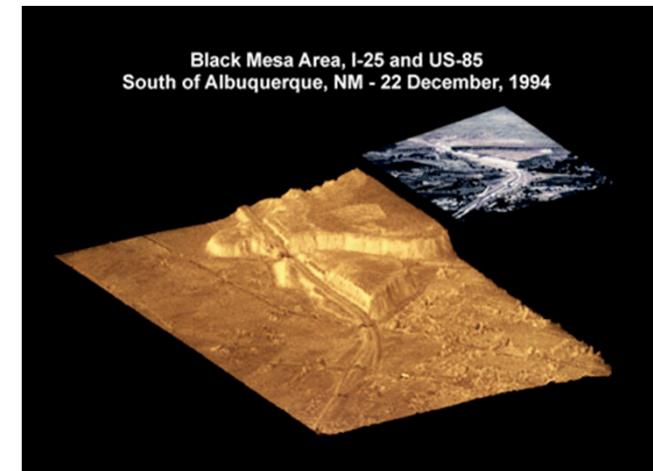
**Sandia historically focused on:  
RELIABILITY of high consequence devices in  
EXTREME/UNIQUE environments**



Energy Research Initiated  
(1971)



Osbourn's Strained-Layer  
Superlattices Theory  
(1985)



Sandia-Advanced Synthetic  
Aperture Radar  
(1991)

# Dielectrics Research at Sandia Now



**Sandia still focuses on RELIABILITY and EXTREME/UNIQUE environments as well as ENABALING TECHNOLOGIES**

- Radiation tolerance
- Shock/vibe and mechanical properties
- Temperature variation/extremes
- Performance reliability for >20 years
- Material compatibility



1. Develop new materials
2. Investigate commercial materials
3. Understand degradation and aging

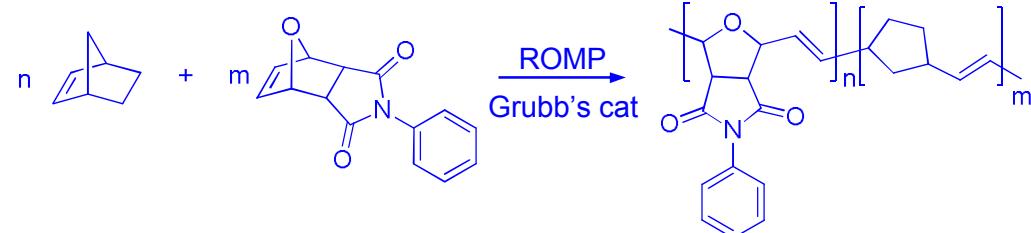
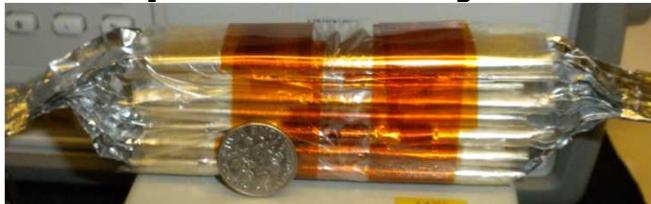
Pulse forming networks, radar, sensors, filters, metamaterials



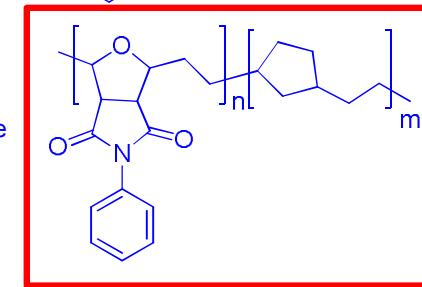
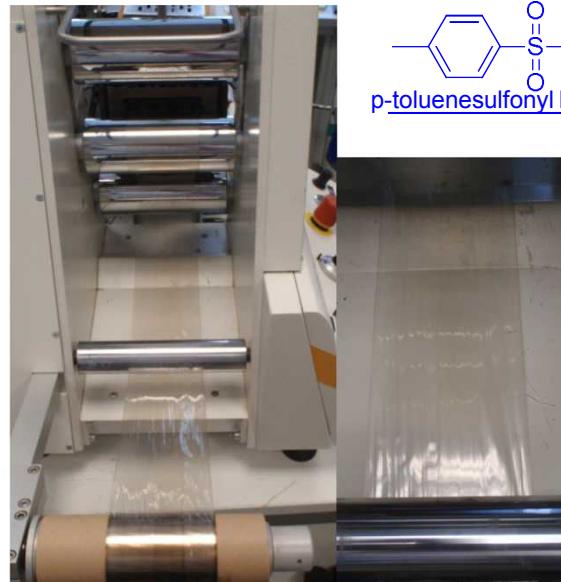
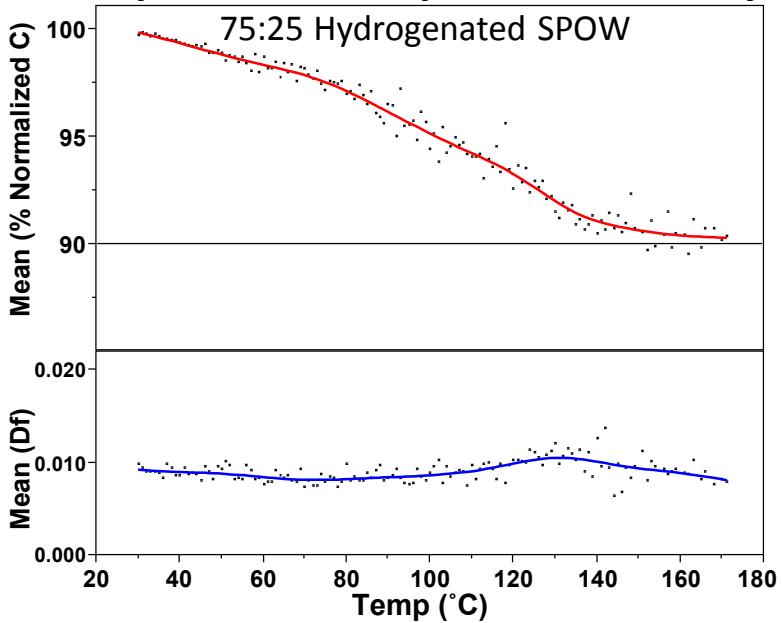
# Polymers - New Materials - SPOW

Shawn Dirk, Kirsten Cicotte, Michele Denton, Leah Appelhans, Cy Fujimoto

## High Temperature Polymer Dielectrics



### Capacitance Temperature Stability



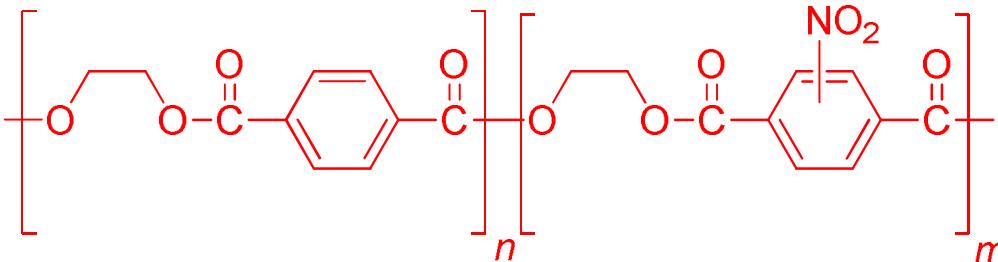
$E_d = \sim 4 \text{ J/cm}^3$   
 $T_{max} = 105 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$\kappa = 3.25$  **breakdown strength** = 3270 kV/cm  
**theoretical energy density** = 1.53 J/cm<sup>3</sup>  
**T stability**  $\approx 150 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  **Tg** = 175 °C

**Challenges:** Increase breakdown strength and film quality (synthesis, microstructure control, orientation)

# Polymers – New Materials – NO<sub>2</sub>-PET

Shawn Dirk, Brent Dial, Trey Piñon, Ben Anderson, Leah Appelhans



- T<sub>m</sub> decreases significantly (from ~250 °C for PET, to ~180 °C for 15% nitrated PET)
- % crystallinity decreases as % nitration increases
- Modulus and yield stress/strain do not change significantly with % nitration
- Breakdown strength increases slightly (small sample size)
- Dissipation factor increases, especially at lower frequencies

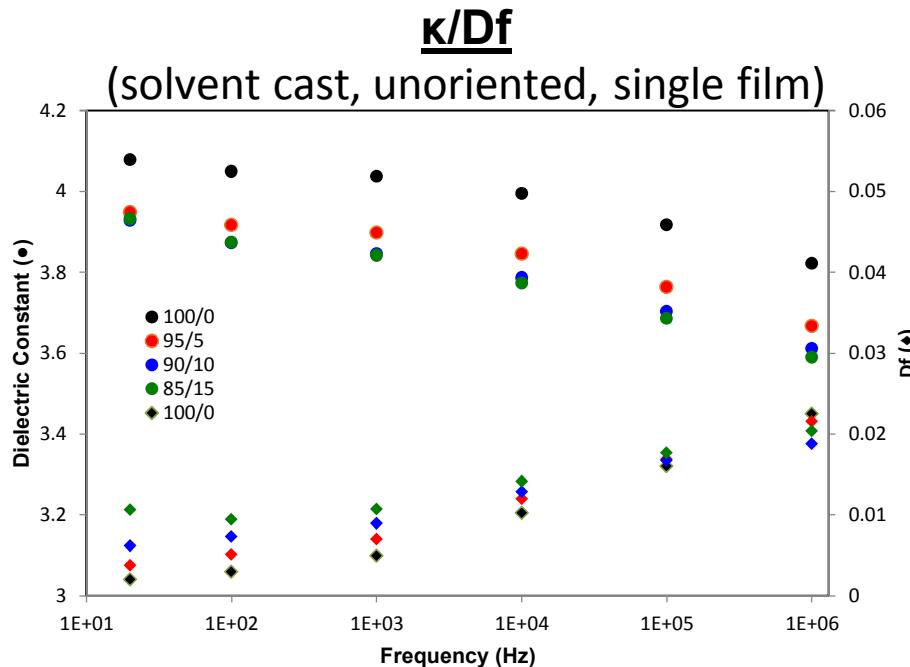
| %PET : %NO <sub>2</sub> -PET | T <sub>m</sub> (°C) | ΔH (J/g) | approx. % crystallinity |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 100:0                        | 247                 | 59       | 42                      |
| 97:3                         | 226                 | 47       | 34                      |
| 90:10                        | 197                 | 32       | 23                      |
| 85:15                        | 183                 | 28       | 20                      |

| %PET: %NO <sub>2</sub> -PET | Modulus (MPa) | Yield Strain at 0.5% offset (%) | Yield Stress at 0.5% offset (MPa) |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 100:0                       | 2238          | 2.6                             | 46.2                              |
| 95:5                        | 1956          | 2.9                             | 46.3                              |
| 90:10                       | 1997          | 2.7                             | 43.5                              |
| 85:15                       | 1868          | 2.5                             | 37.8                              |

Explore biaxial orientation of films to improve mech/elec properties

# Polymers – New Materials – NO<sub>2</sub>-PET

Shawn Dirk, Brent Dial, Trey Piñon, Ben Anderson, Leah Appelhans



average of three films

| %PET:<br>%NO <sub>2</sub> -PET | <b><math>\kappa</math></b><br>(1kHz/10kHz) | <b>Df</b><br>(1kHz/10kHz) |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>100:0</b>                   | <b>3.92/3.87</b>                           | <b>0.0049/0.0103</b>      |
| <b>95:5</b>                    | <b>3.95/3.89</b>                           | <b>0.0072/0.0121</b>      |
| <b>90:10</b>                   | <b>3.81/3.71</b>                           | <b>0.0114/0.0141</b>      |
| <b>85:15</b>                   | <b>3.84/3.77</b>                           | <b>0.0107/0.0142</b>      |

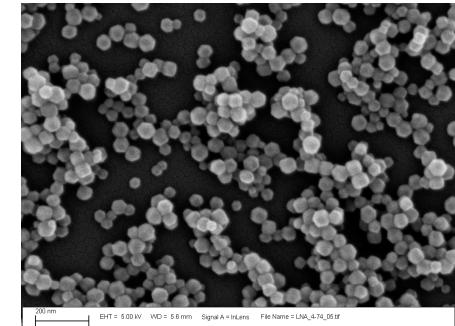
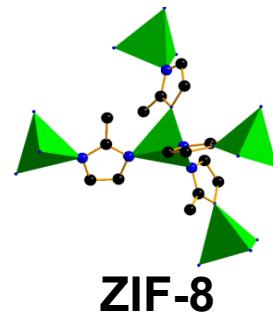
average of three films

| %PET :<br>%NO <sub>2</sub> -PET | Weibull $\alpha$<br>(kV/cm) | Weibull $\beta$ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>100:0</b>                    | <b>2552</b>                 | <b>5.0</b>      |
| <b>95:5</b>                     | <b>3016</b>                 | <b>4.9</b>      |
| <b>90:10</b>                    | <b>3264</b>                 | <b>4.7</b>      |
| <b>85:15</b>                    | <b>3403</b>                 | <b>4.1</b>      |

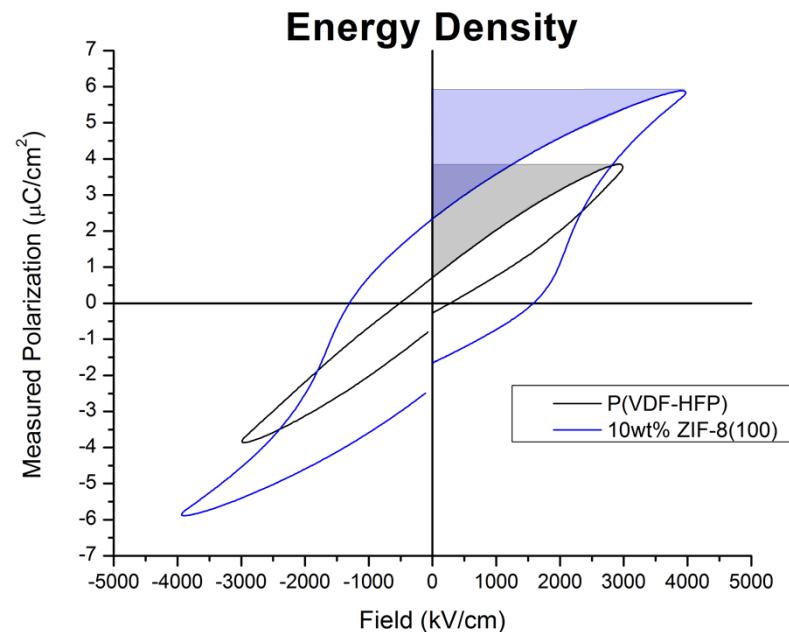
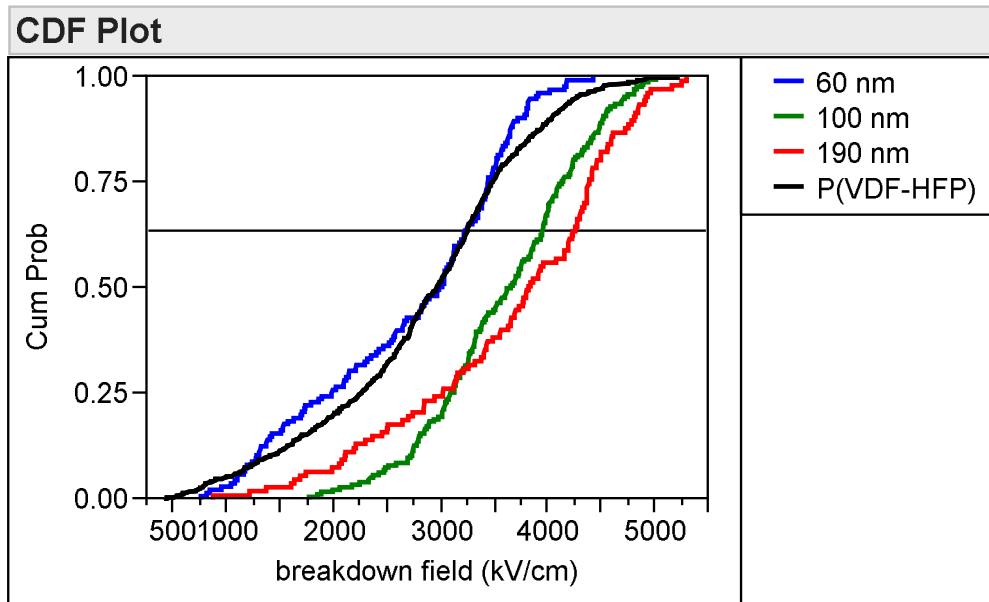
## MOF-Polymer Composites for Dielectrics Leah Appelhans

### ZIF-8/PVDF-HFP Composites

Permittivity of composites decreases due to low- $\kappa$  filler, but breakdown strength shows particle-size dependent increase resulting in an overall increase in energy density.

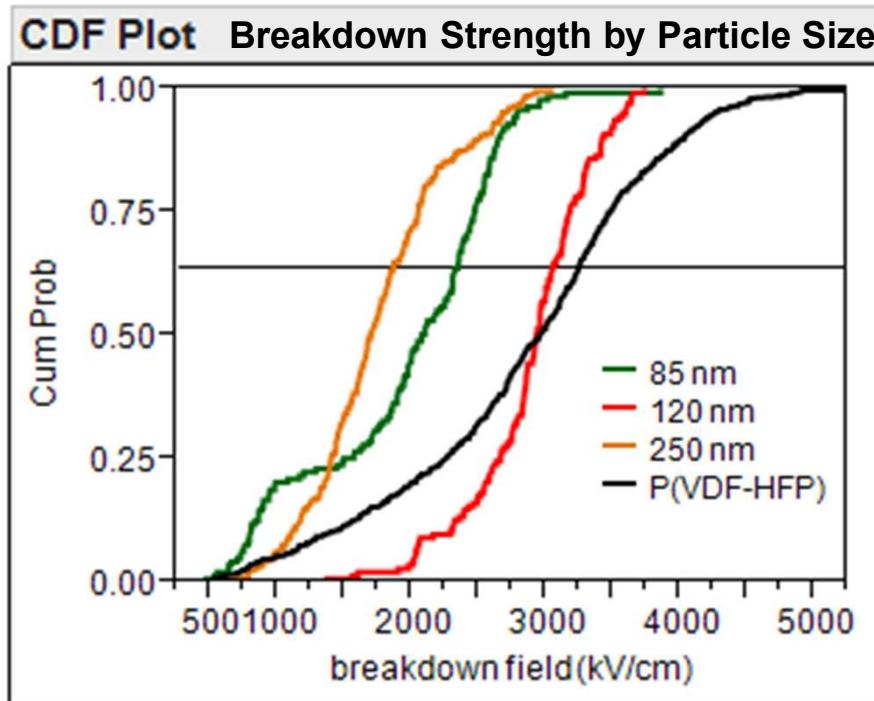


### Breakdown Strength

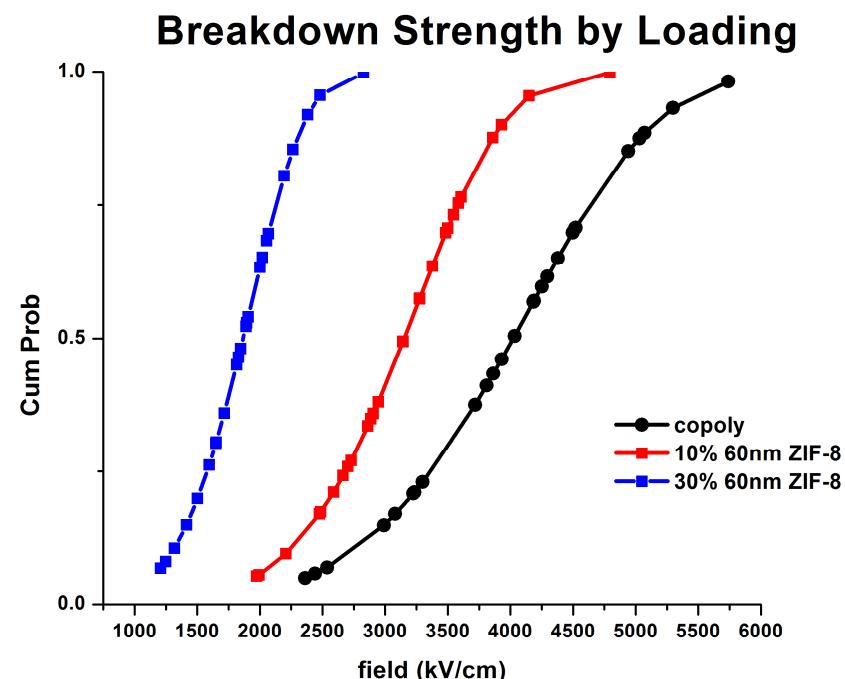


45% increase in  $E_d$  for composite

## BaTar/PVDF-HFP Composites



Leah Appelhans  
**ZIF-8/SPOW Composites**

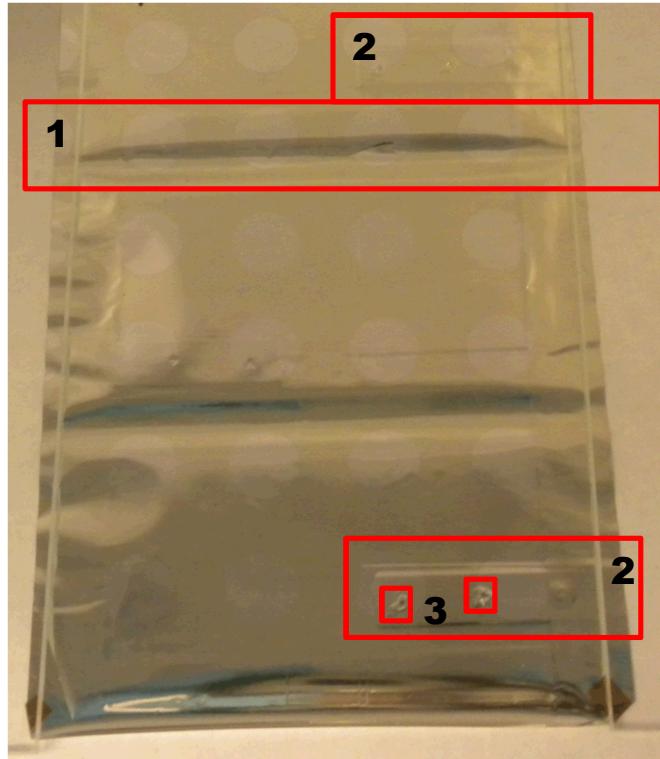


What is the origin of the particle size effect and how does it relate to mechanism?  
What is the origin of increased breakdown strength?  
Are breakdown *mechanisms* changed or only breakdown *strengths*, and how?  
Are effects general or specific to one polymer/filler composite or family?  
What/how can we learn from composites to *design* better materials?

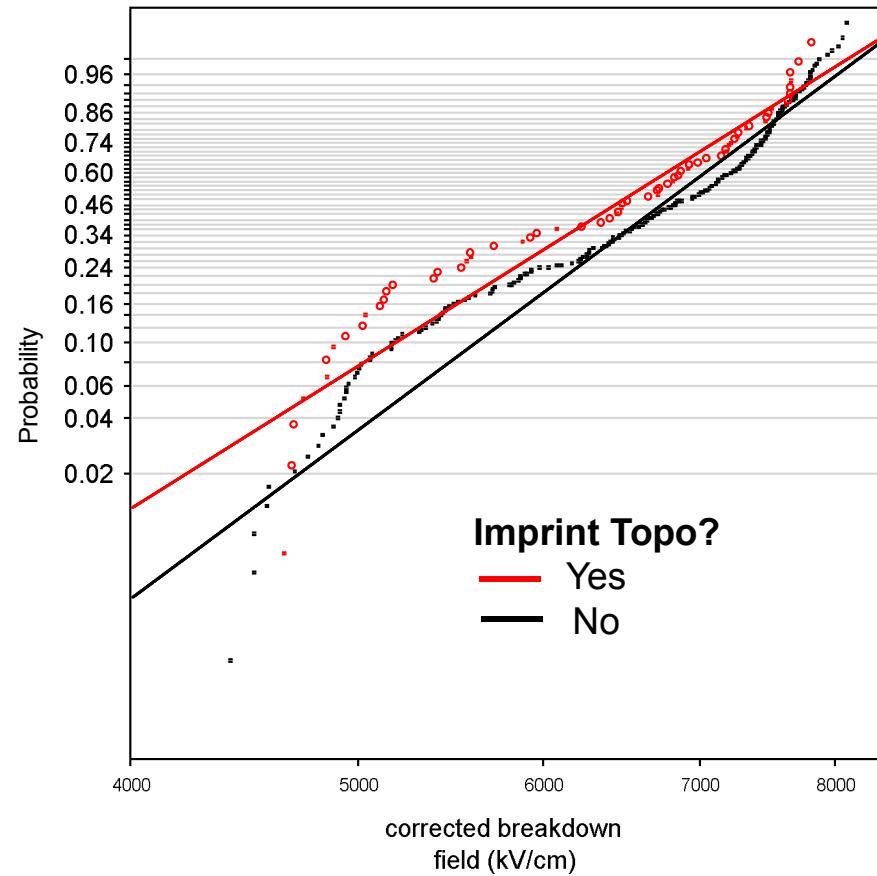
# Polymers – Understanding Breakdown

## Topography

Leah Appelhans

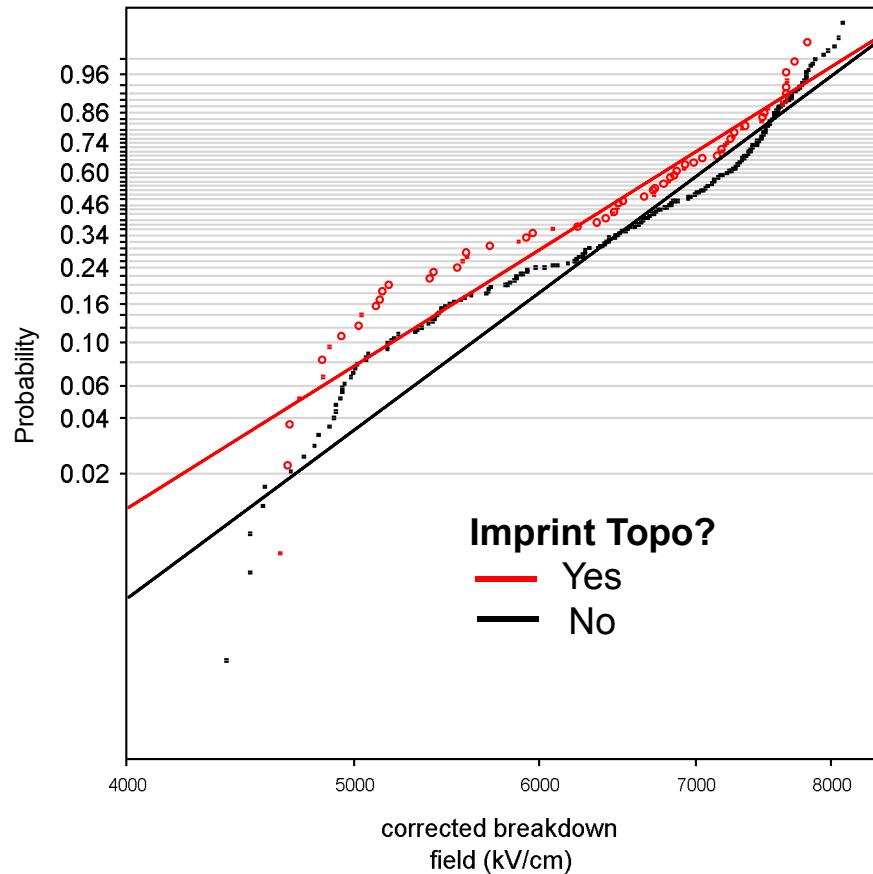
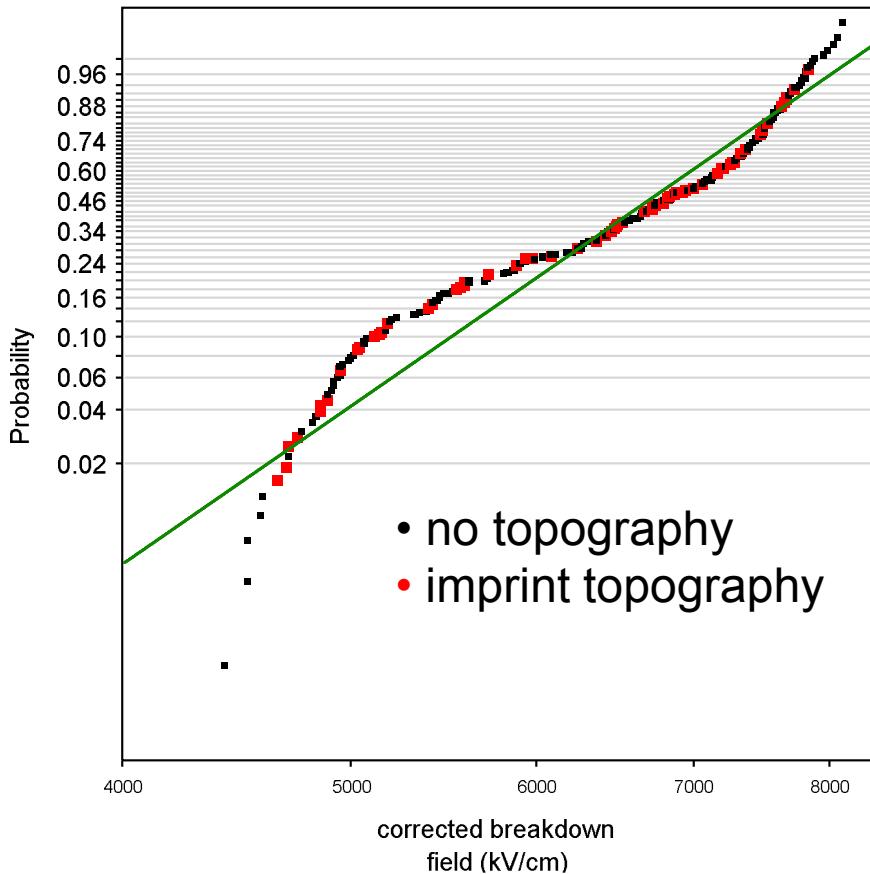


- 1) radius of curvature
- 2) lead imprint
- 3) lead imprint point



# Polymers – Understanding Breakdown Topography

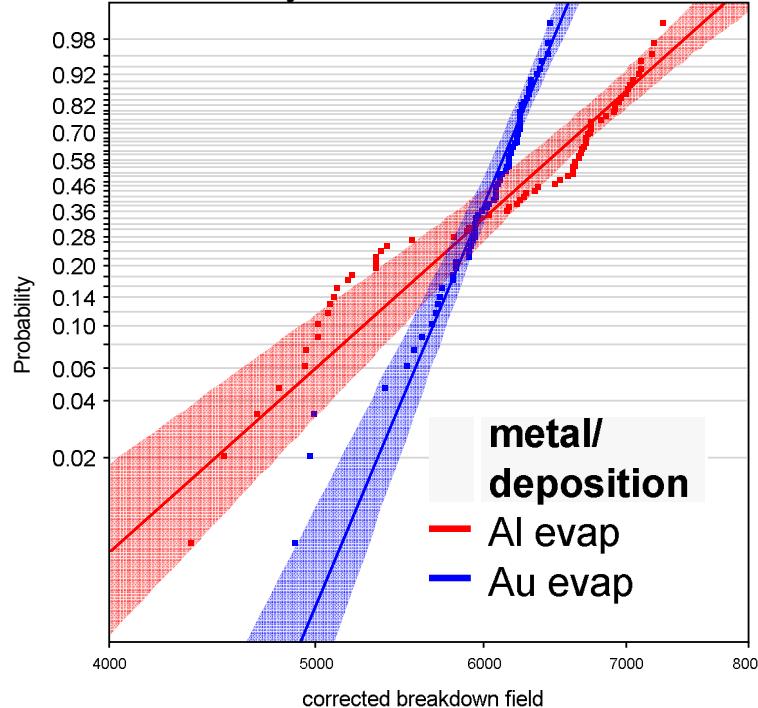
Leah Appelhans



# Polymers – Understanding Breakdown

## Electrode Effects

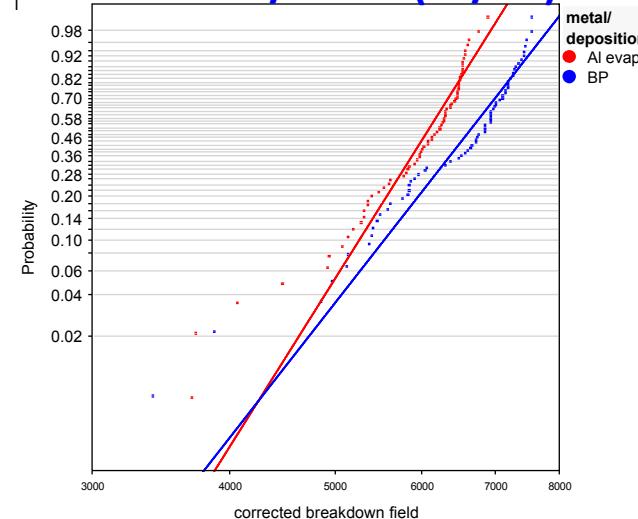
### Breakdown Strength Mylar: Al vs Au



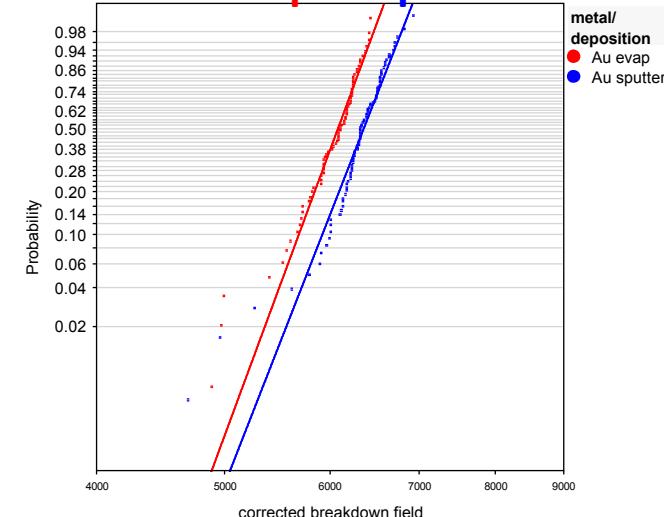
| Electrode          | Weibull $\alpha$ (kV/cm) | Weibull $\beta$ |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Al evap            | 6217                     | 13.1            |
| ball/plane (SS/Cu) | 6833                     | 10.5            |
| Au evap            | 6146                     | 27.2            |
| Au sputter         | 6432                     | 26.3            |

Leah Appelhans

### Al vs Ball/Plane (SS/Cu)



### Au: evap vs sputter



# Polymers – Understanding Breakdown

## Materials Reliability and Aging

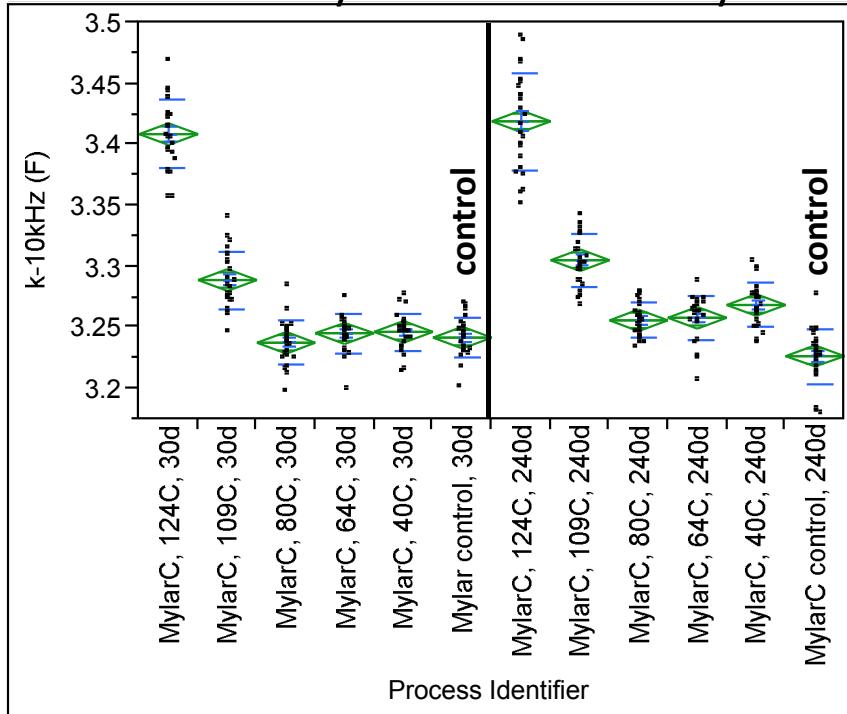
Leah Appelhans

### Mylar™ C, 1/2 mil

#### Permittivity

30 days

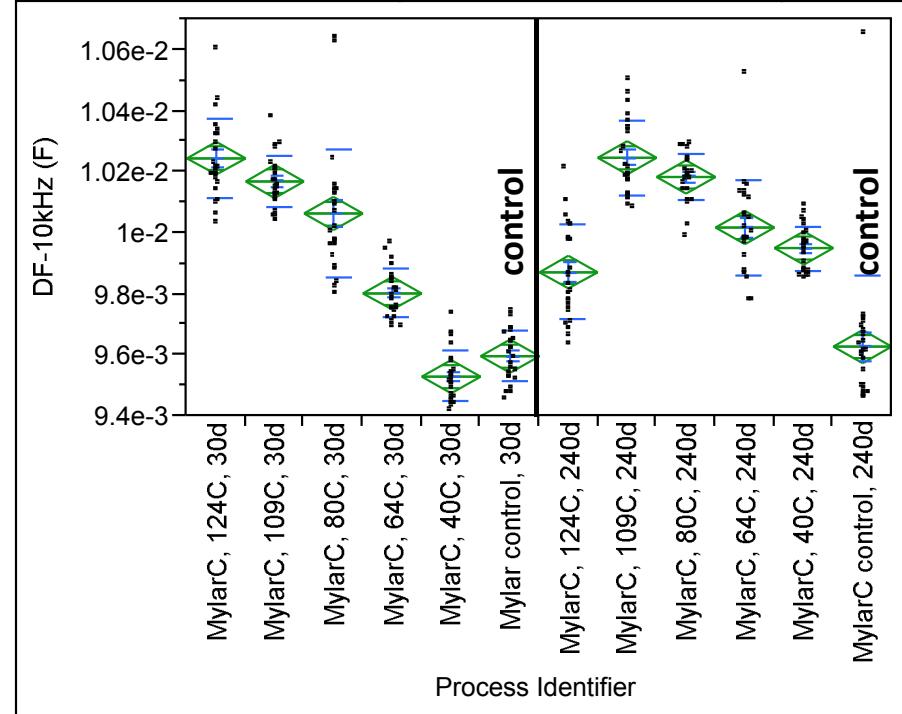
240 days



#### Dielectric Loss

30 days

240 days



# Polymers – Understanding Breakdown

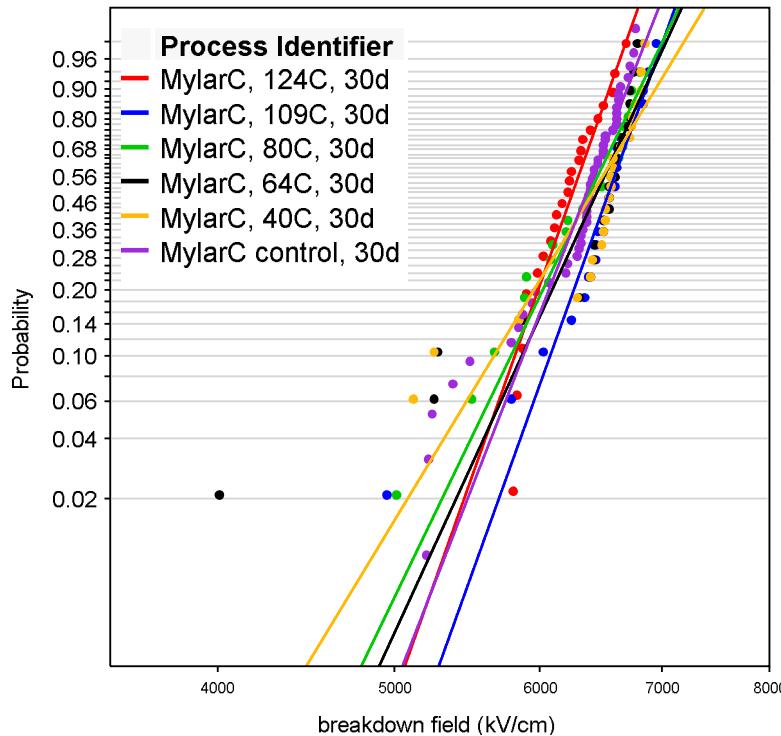
## Materials Reliability and Aging

Leah Appelhans

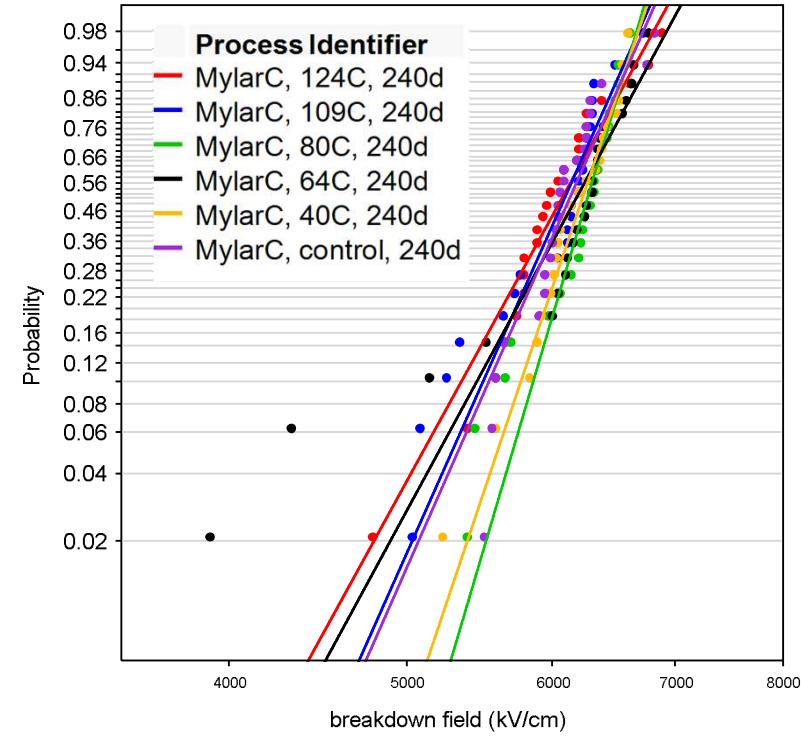
Mylar™ C, ½ mil

### Dielectric Breakdown Strength

30 days



240 days

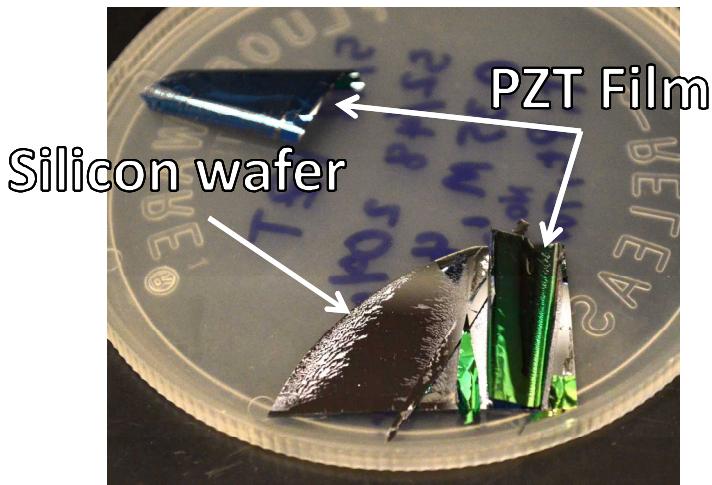
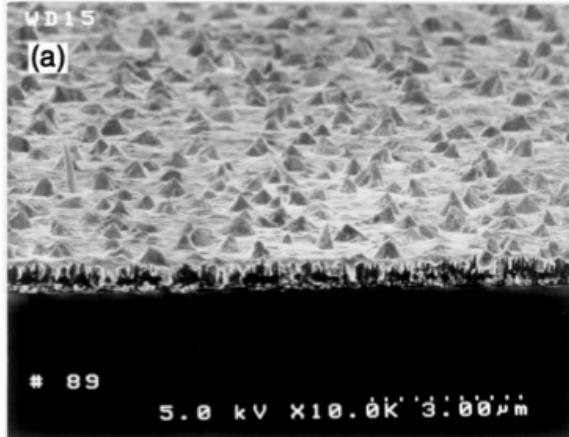


# Ceramics – Materials Optimization

## Solution Chemistry, Substrate, and Processing Effects on the Chemical Heterogeneity in PZT Films

Jon Ihlefeld

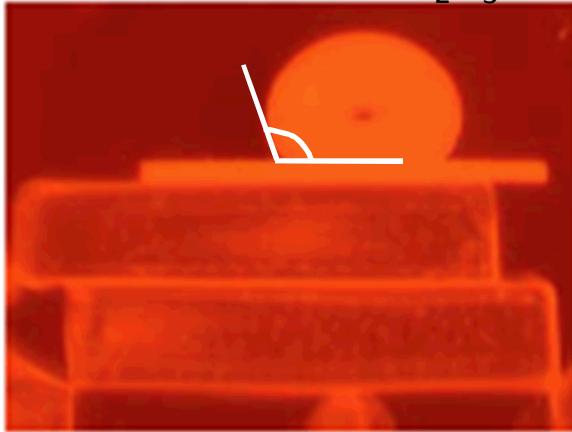
Pt/Ti remains state of the art in platinized silicon:



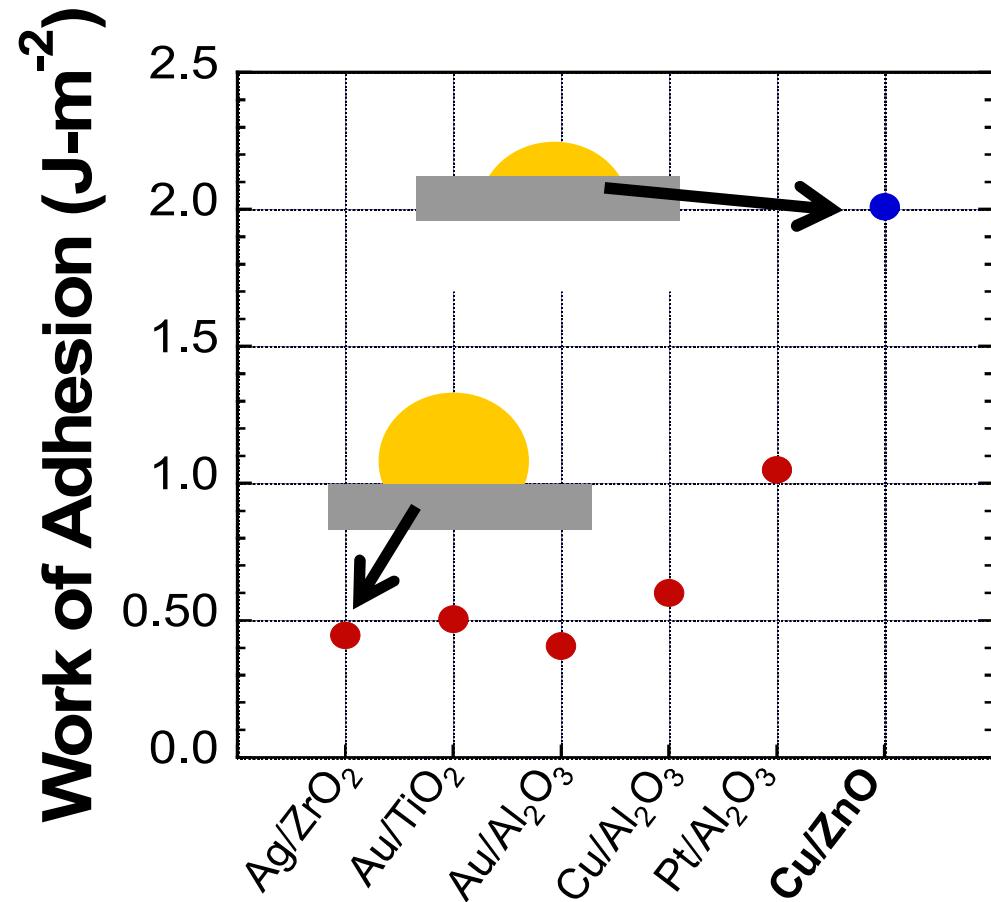
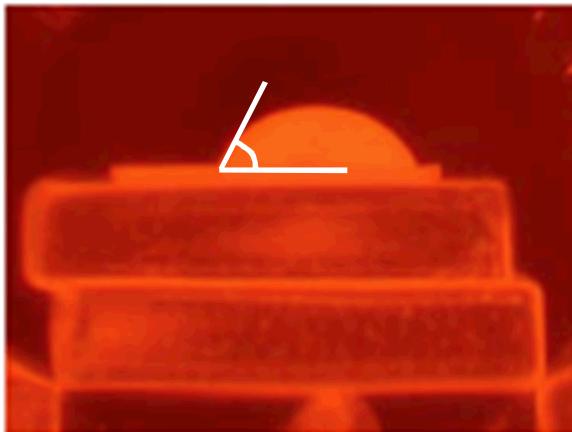
- Titanium 'adhesion' layers by far the most common
  - Adhesion of Pt/ZrO<sub>2</sub> and Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> not as good as Pt/Ti
- Titanium expands upon oxidation causing hillocks
- Adhesion layer still fails with large temperature swings (>700° )
- *>20 years of research and small improvements made*
- *There must be a better solution!*

# Metal Wetting and Adhesion

Molten Cu on  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

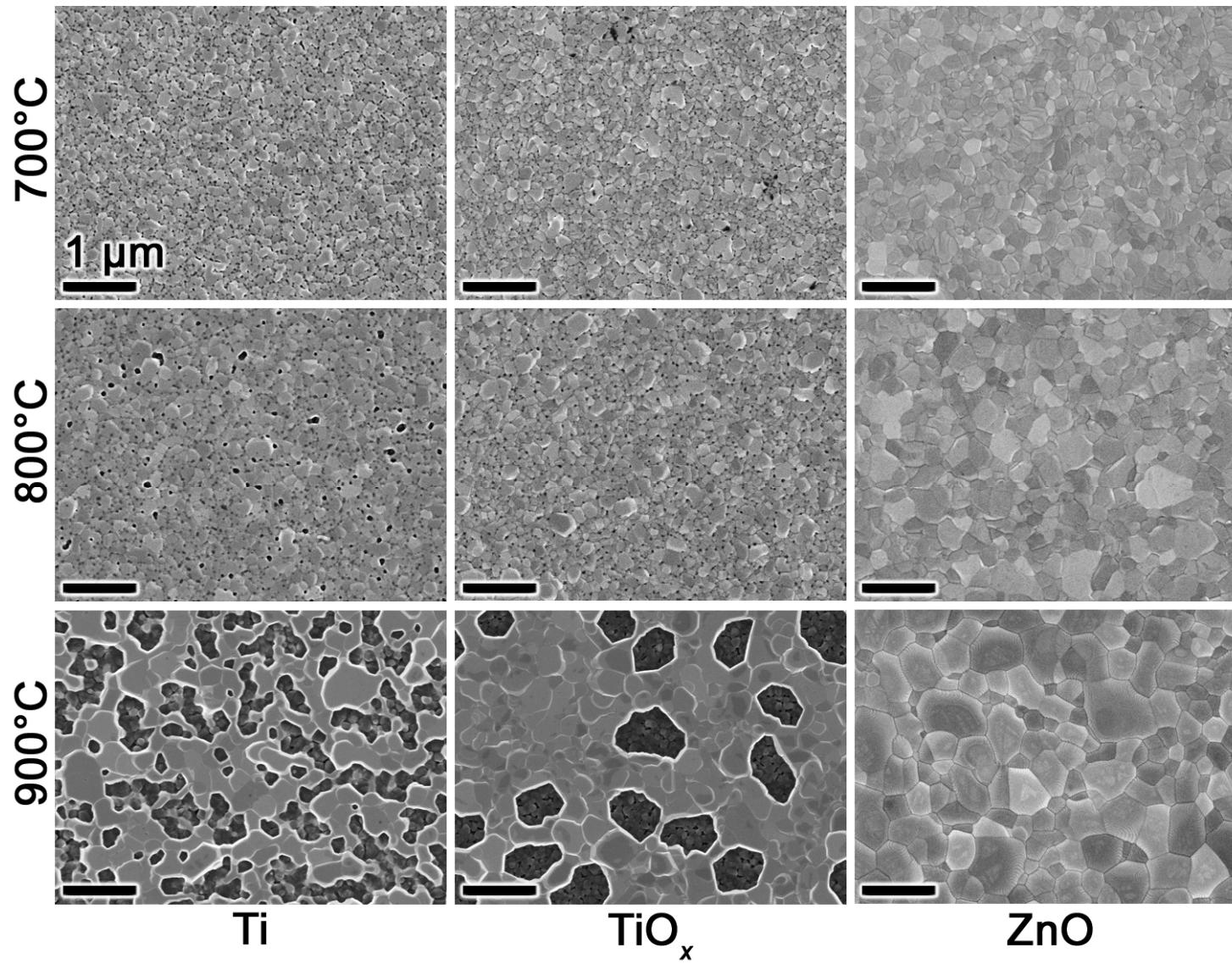


Molten Cu on ZnO

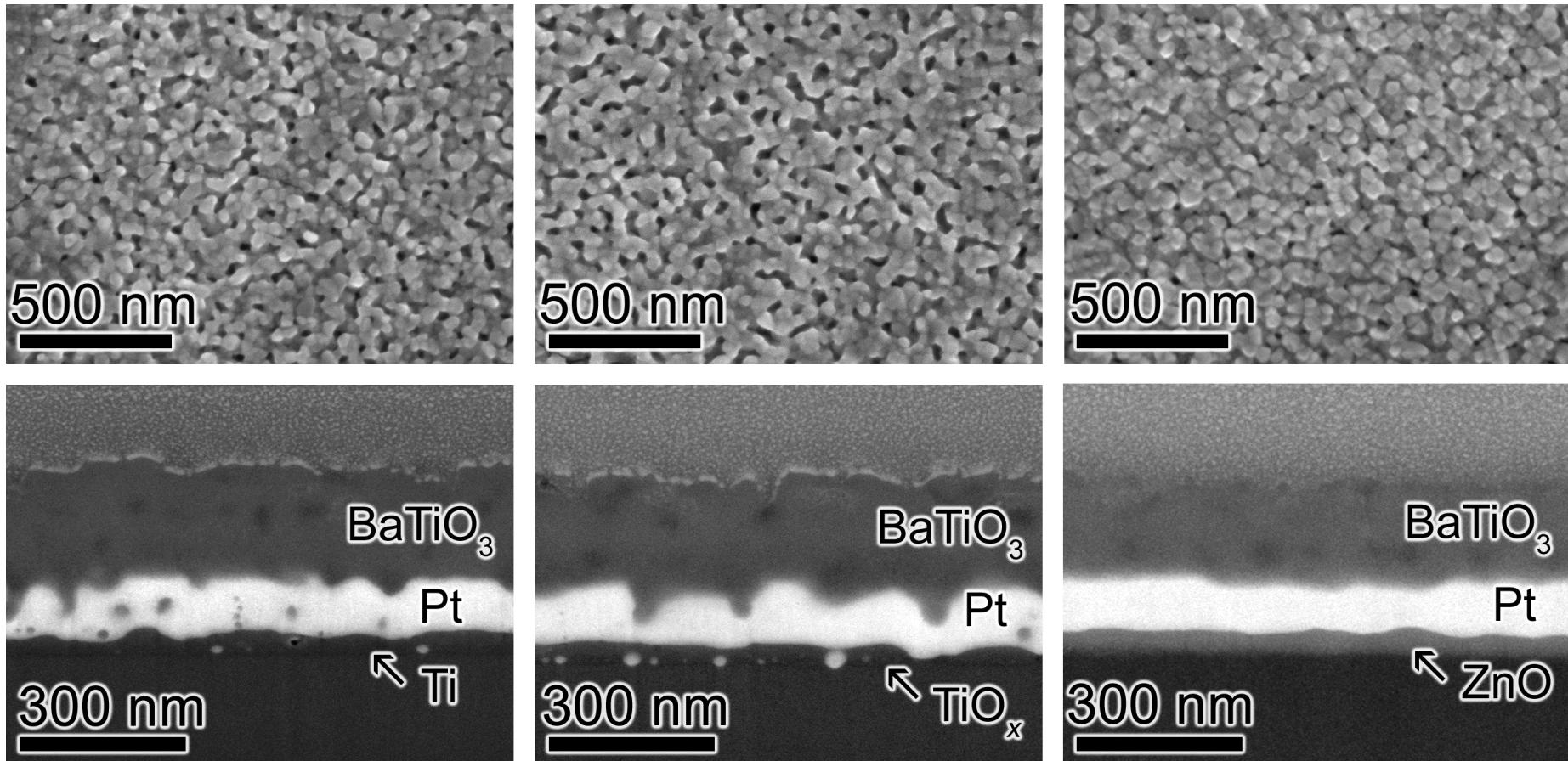


Can we use lessons learned from wetting experiments to guide selection of improved adhesion layers?

# Electrode Temperature Stability

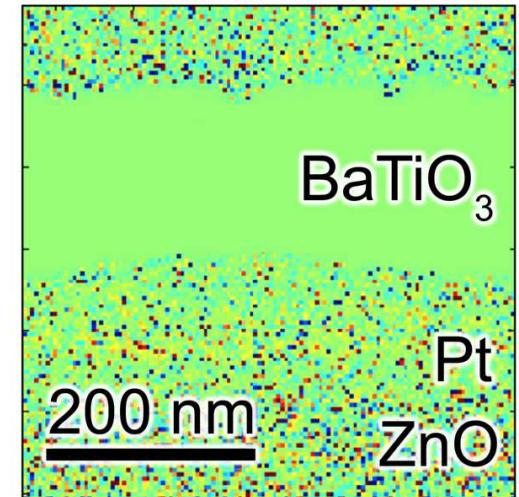
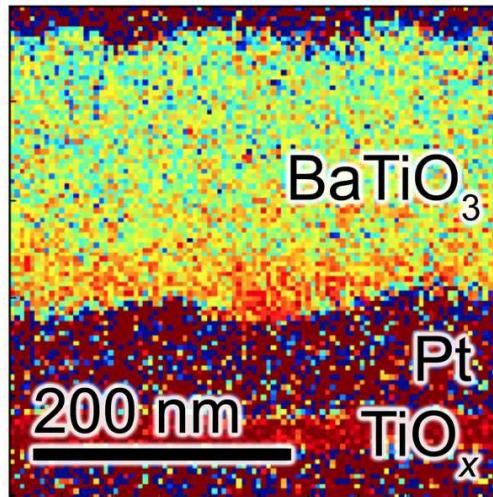
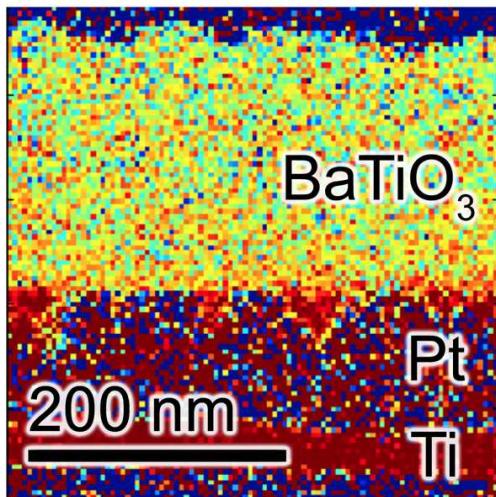


# Topography and microstructure

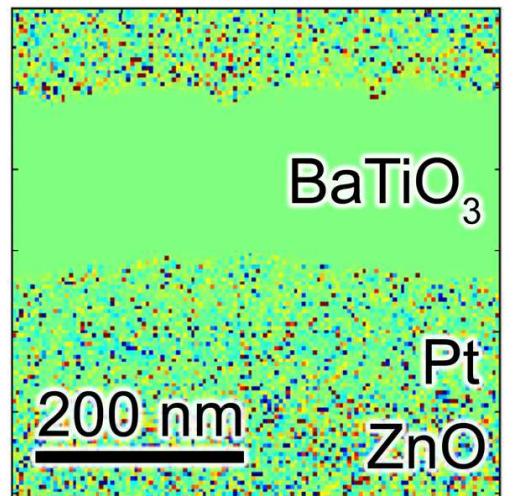
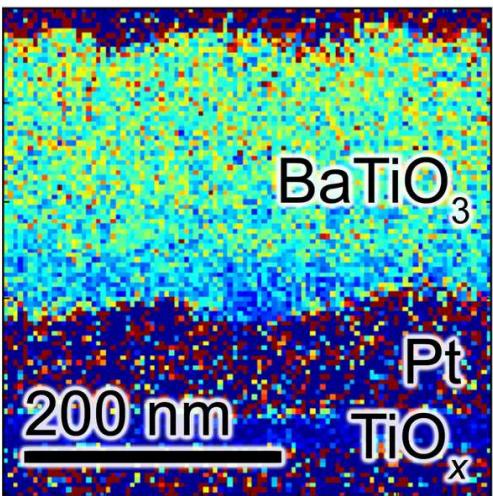
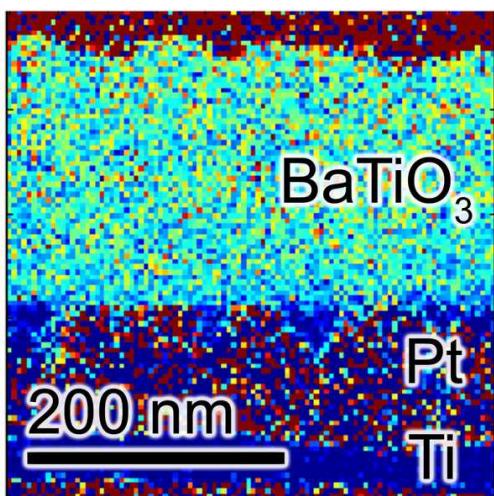


# **BaTiO<sub>3</sub> Compositional Analysis: No Gradient for Pt/ZnO Film**

**Titanium Distribution**

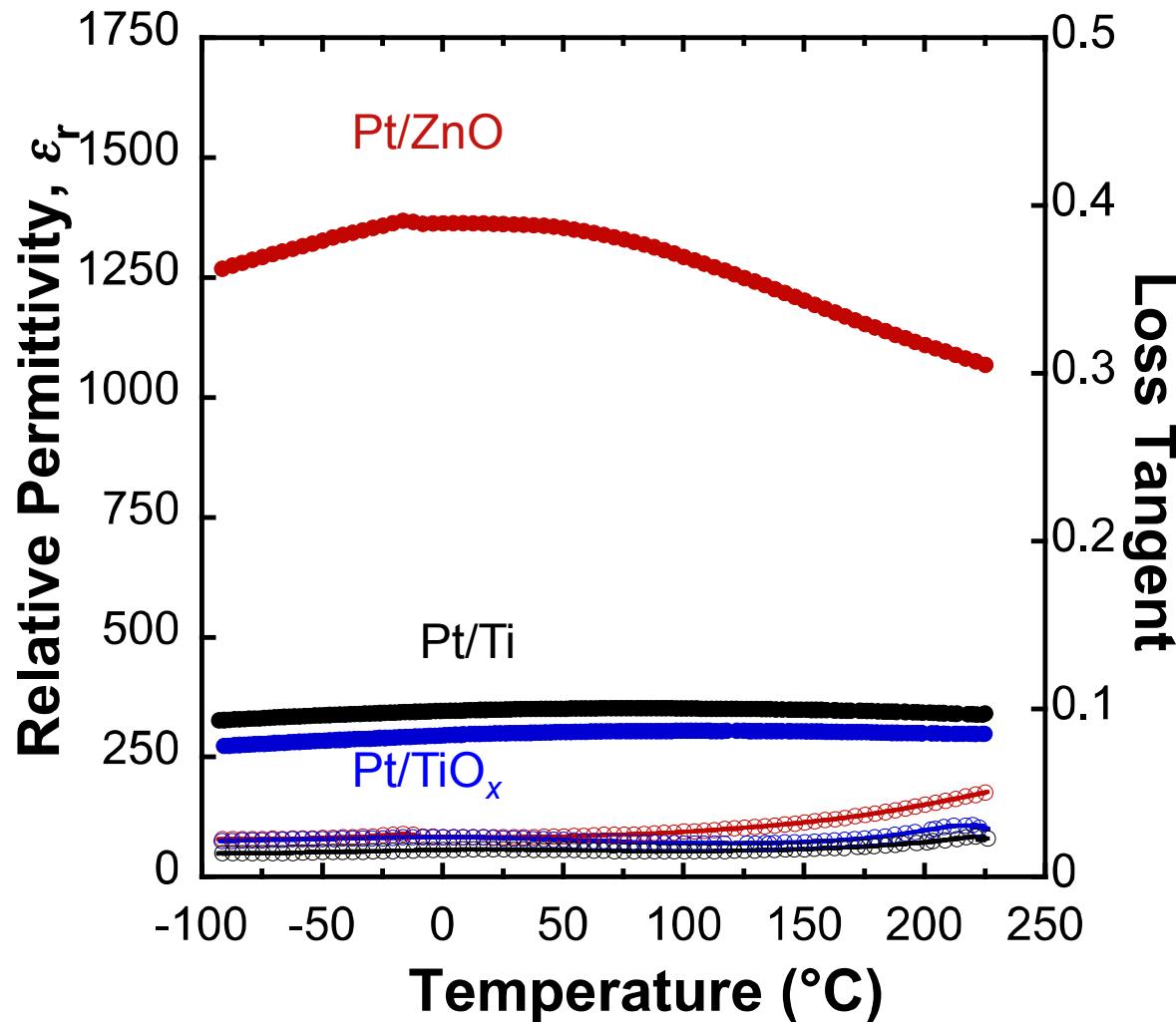


**Barium Distribution**

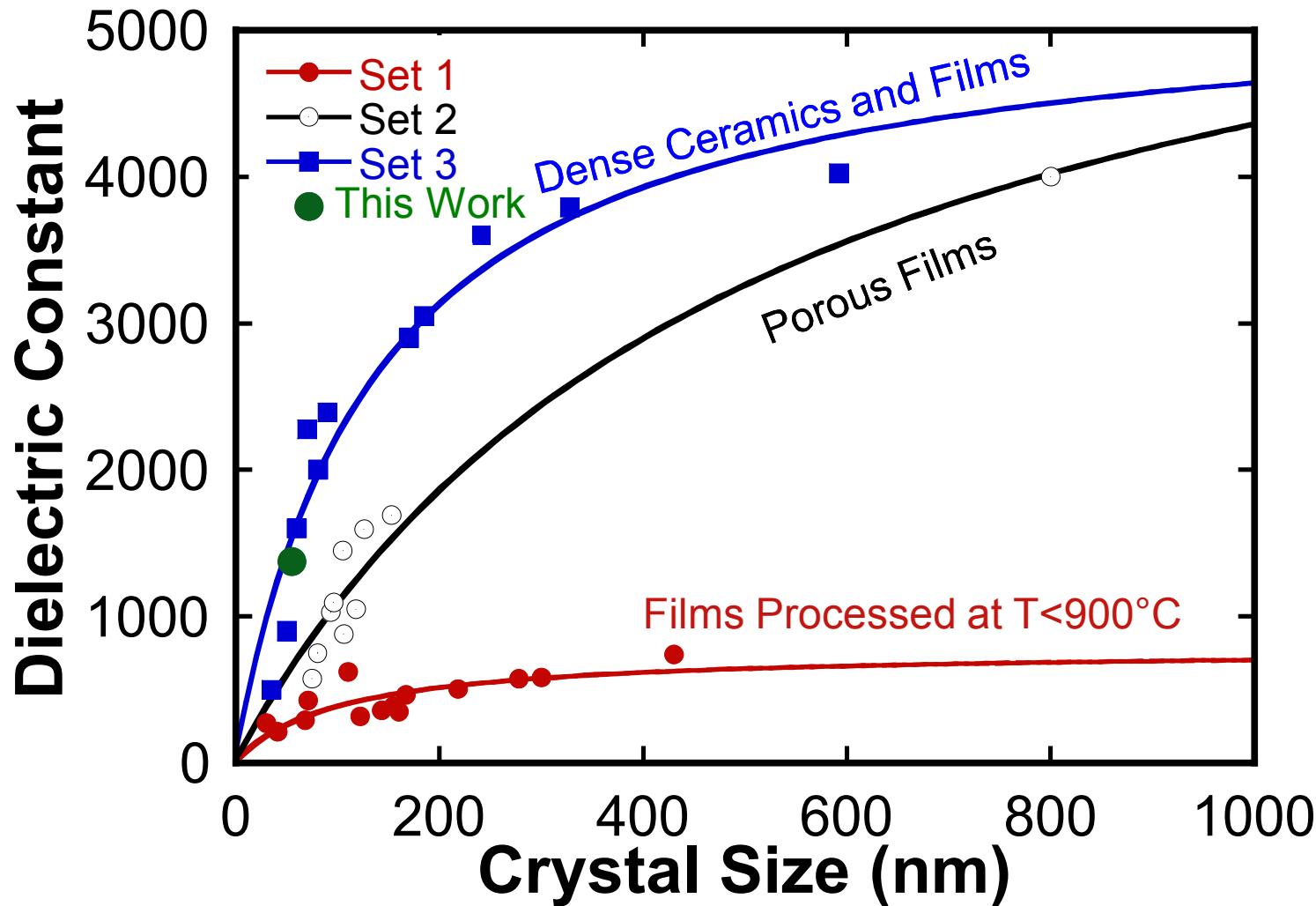


# **BaTiO<sub>3</sub> Dielectric Properties: Significant Enhancement on Pt/ZnO**

- Ti- and TiO<sub>x</sub>-buffered films actually survived
- BaTiO<sub>3</sub> on Pt/ZnO substantially outperforms other substrates
- Microstructure nearly identical: Why such a disparity?
- What about other Ferroelectrics?



# BaTiO<sub>3</sub> Scaling Effects



*First known BaTiO<sub>3</sub> film with bulk properties on Si<sub>22</sub>*

# Ceramics – Relaxor Capacitors



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

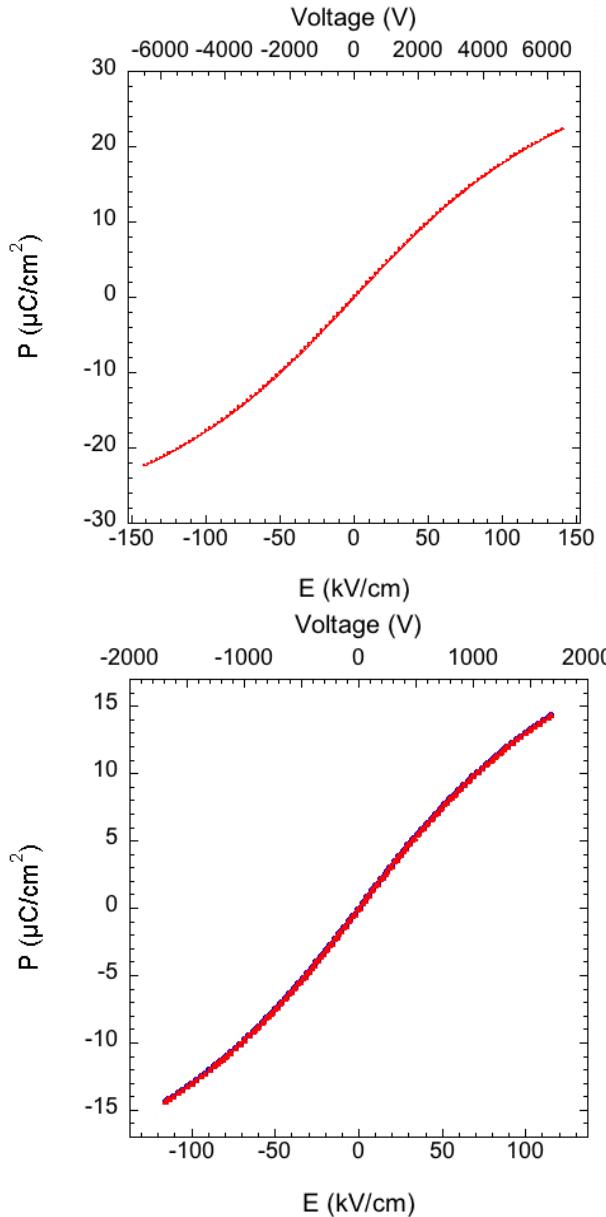
Harlan Brown-Shaklee

**Reliable high capacitance multilayer capacitors are required for grid surety**

1. Develop MLCCs based on the  $\text{Bi}(\text{Zn}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5})\text{O}_3 - \text{BaTiO}_3$  system that exhibit favorable voltage tuning behavior
2. Study the dielectric relaxation in frequency *and* time domains
  - Does a fast discharge pulse release the energy stored by a slow charge?
    - a) Low piezo response
    - b) Forward Fourier transform reveals dominant frequency components from a time domain signal
    - c) Superposition does not hold for circuits containing non-linear capacitive elements

# Energy densities of >1.3 J/cc have been demonstrated

Harlan Brown-Shaklee



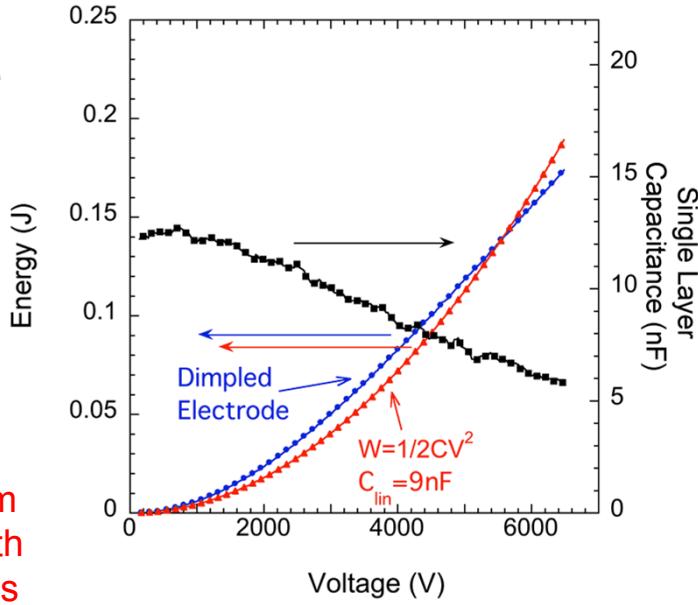
## Dimpled Electrode

$$t=460\mu\text{m}$$
$$A=2.77\text{cm}^2$$
$$v=0.127\text{cm}^3$$

$$E/v_{100\text{kV}/\text{cm}}=0.82 \text{ J}/\text{cm}^3$$

$$E/v_{140\text{kV}/\text{cm}}=1.35 \text{ J}/\text{cm}^3$$

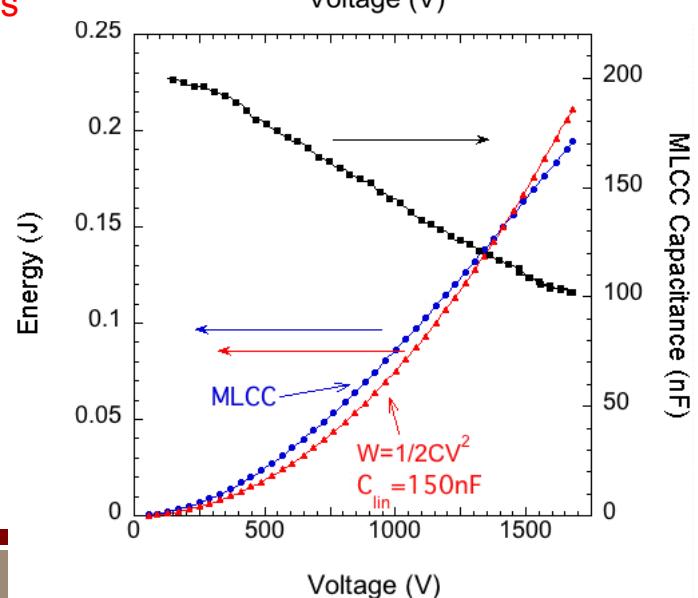
Breakdown >230 kV/cm have been achieved with smaller sample volumes



## 200nF MLCC

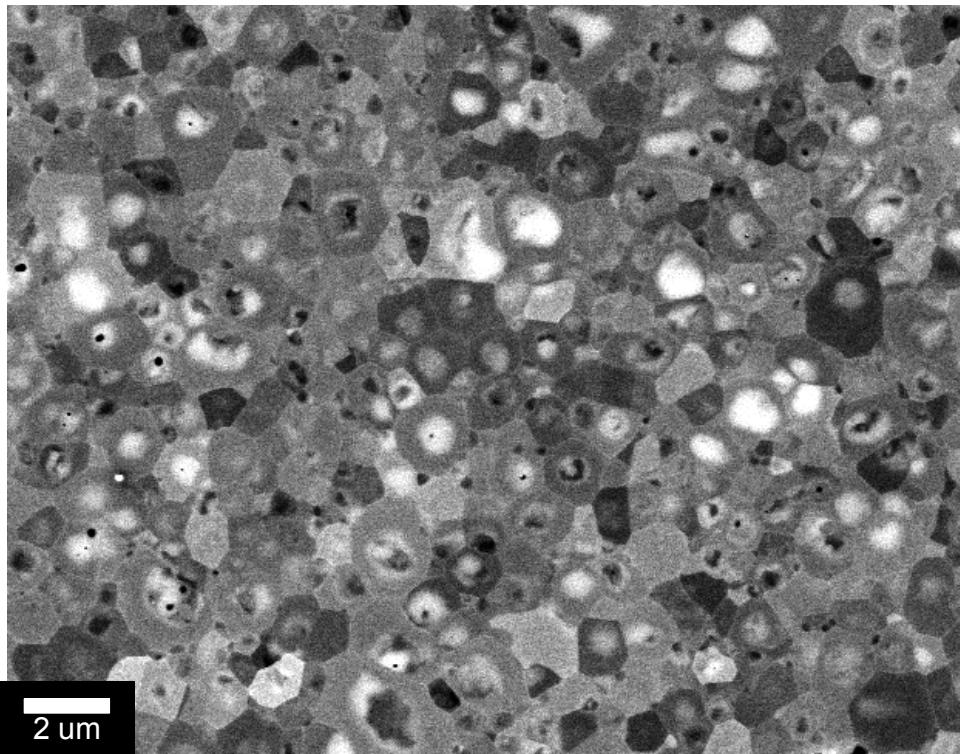
$$t=145\mu\text{m}$$
$$A=18.1\text{cm}^2$$
$$v=0.262\text{cm}^3$$

$$E/v_{100\text{kV}/\text{cm}}=0.64\text{J}/\text{cm}^3$$



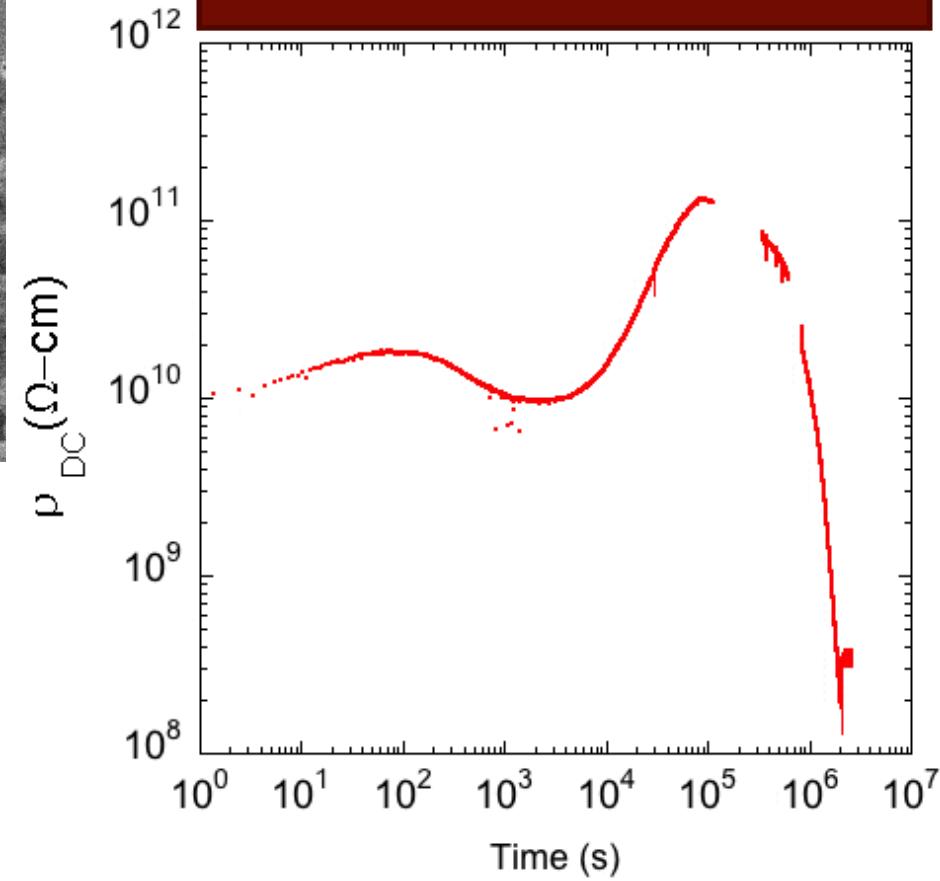
# Understanding long-term reliability

Harlan Brown-Shaklee



How does the inherent  
microstructural non-  
uniformities improve the  
performance during aging?

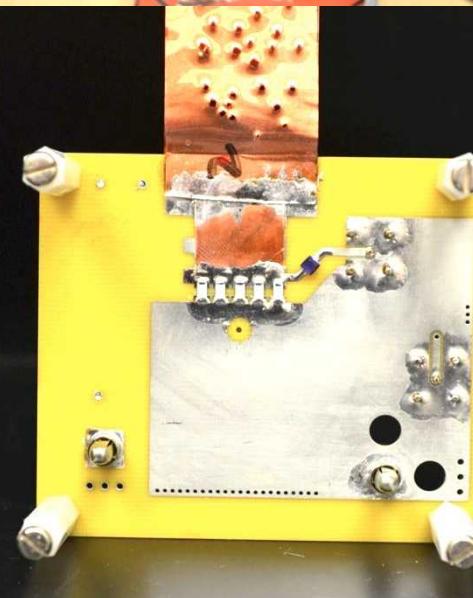
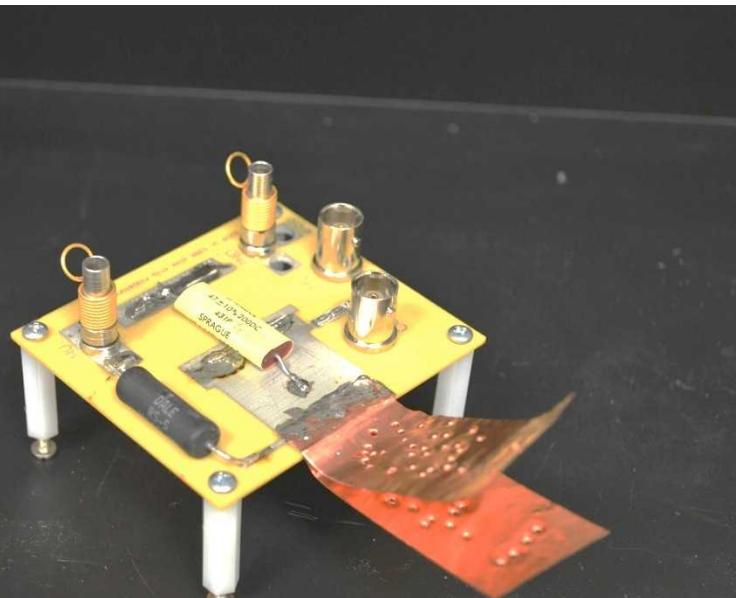
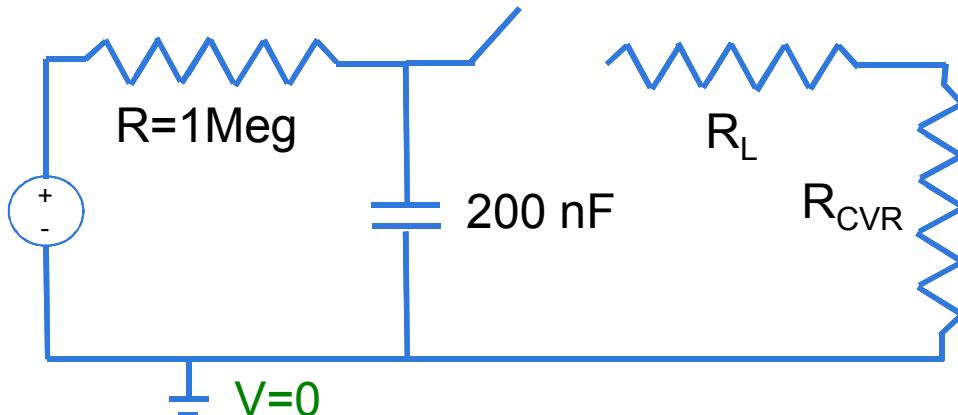
Dielectric stress in disc  
capacitor held constant  
at 250°C



# We are interested in MLCCs for power electronics and pulse discharge

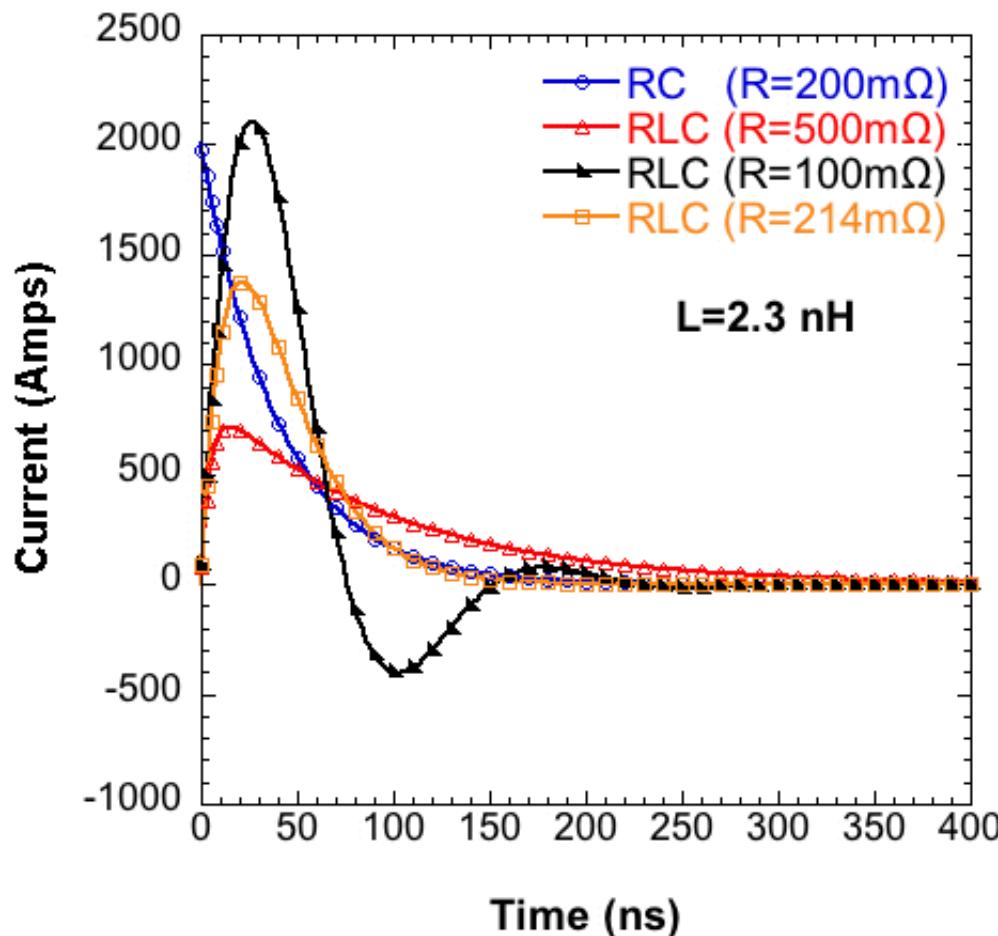
Harlan Brown-Shaklee

Most measurements we make are in frequency domain but pulse discharge occurs in the time domain...



# Capacitors can be charged and discharged using RC or RLC circuits

Harlan Brown-Shaklee



$$i(t)_{RC} = \frac{V_0 e^{\frac{-t}{RC}}}{R_{load}}$$

$$i(t)_{RLC-OD} = \frac{V_0}{L\omega_2} e^{\left(\frac{-Rt}{2L}\right)} \sinh(\omega_2 t)$$

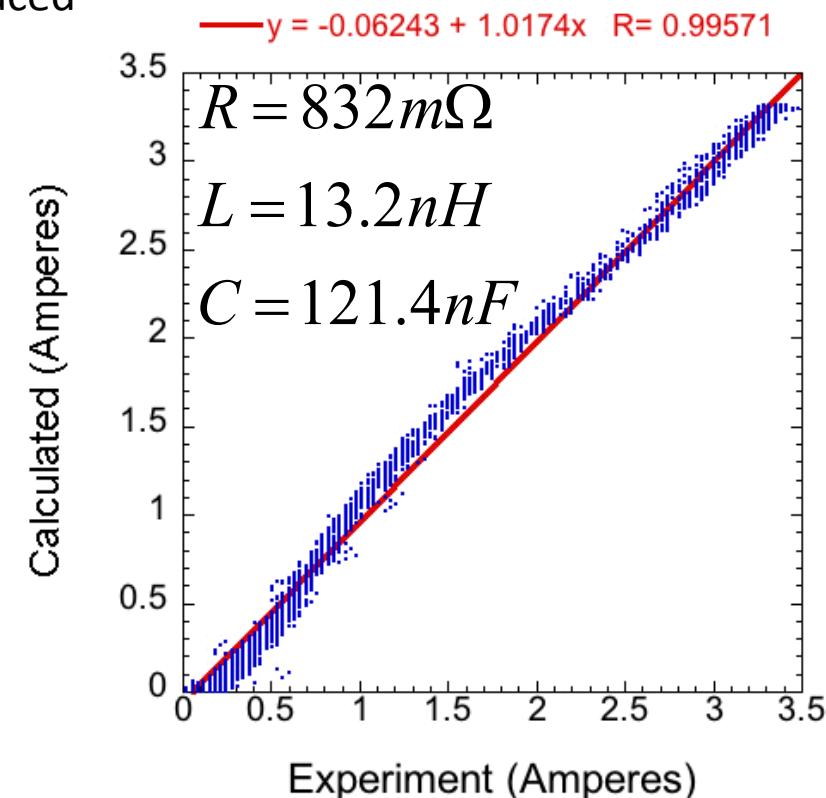
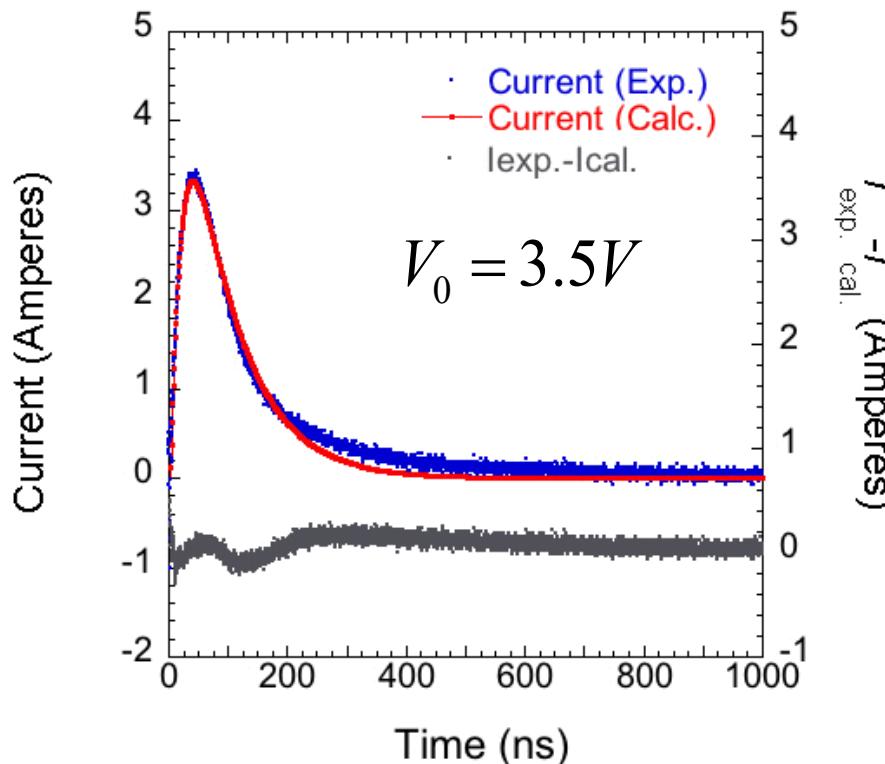
$$i(t)_{RLC-UD} = \frac{V_0}{L\omega_1} e^{\left(\frac{-Rt}{2L}\right)} \sin(\omega_1 t)$$

$$i(t)_{RLC-CD} = \frac{V_0 t}{L} e^{-\omega_0 t}$$

For high C and fast discharge, one encounters circuit inductance which requires better circuit design

# Testing relaxor MLCC's for pulse discharge

Characteristic underdamped waveform was produced

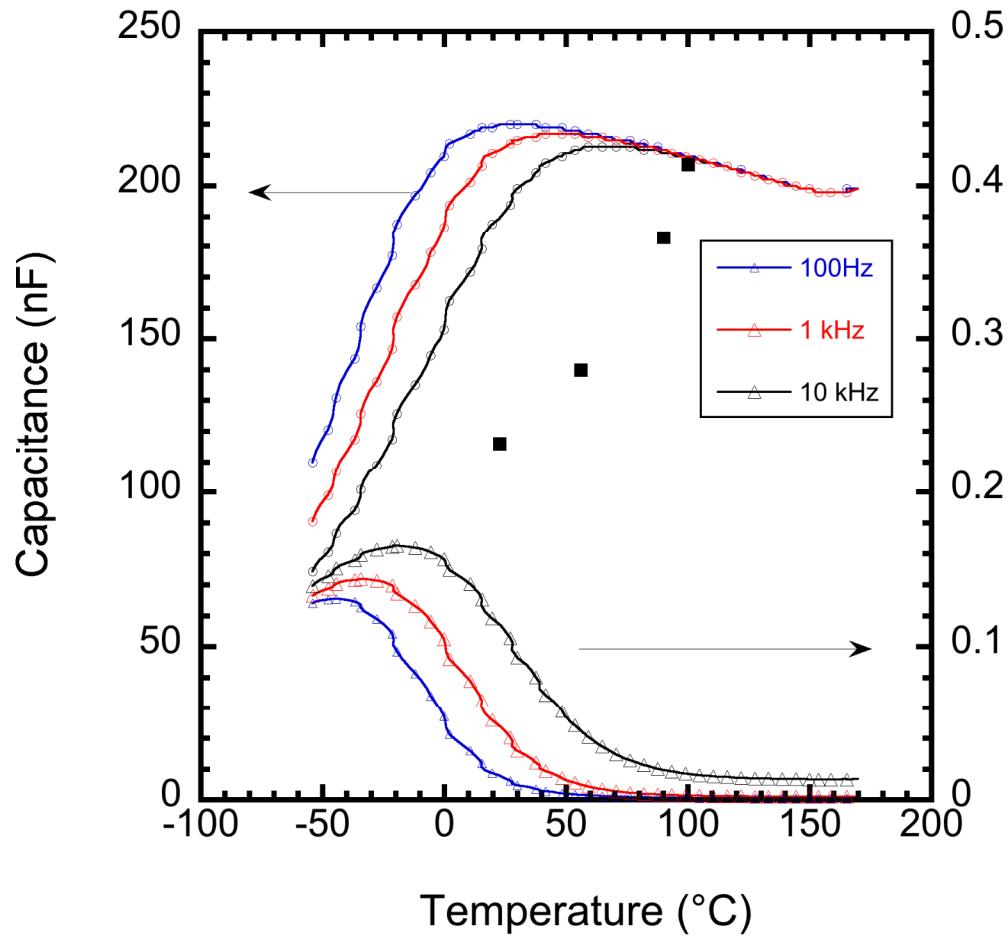


The circuit with the ceramic MLCC has lower inductance (form factor) but higher resistance than the polymer capacitor

The calculated capacitance is ~50% of what was measured at 100Hz

# Dielectric relaxation was also shown at elevated temperatures

Frequency Domain



Time Domain

| Temperature (°C) | Capacitance (nF) |
|------------------|------------------|
| 22.5             | 116              |
| 56               | 140              |
| 90               | 183              |
| 100              | 207              |

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

# Dielectrics Research at Sandia



- Wide Bandgap Semiconductor Devices
- Materials for Pulse Forming Networks (10<sup>1</sup>-10<sup>8</sup> amp systems)
- Materials for Enhanced RF
- Metamaterials
- Sensors
- Optoelectronics
- Actuators, Resonators and Filters
- Ferroelectrics
- Multifunctional Materials

## What Sandia Needs from CDP

- Understand failure (HALT) in existing materials
  - Dielectrics for WBG devices
  - Polymers and Polymer composites
  - Ferroelectrics, paraelectrics, and piezoelectrics