

# Alkali-free Glass for High Energy Density Capacitors

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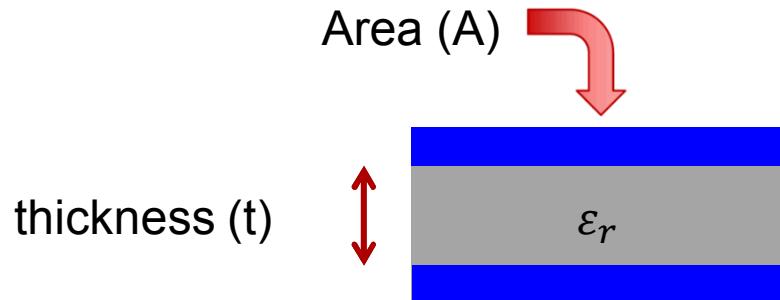


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# Outline

- Linear Dielectrics as Energy Storage Devices
- Glass as a Dielectric Material
- Alkali Free Glass
  - Properties of Thinned Glass
  - Wound Capacitor Demonstration
  - Multi-layer Glass Capacitor
- Conclusions

# Energy Density of Linear Dielectrics

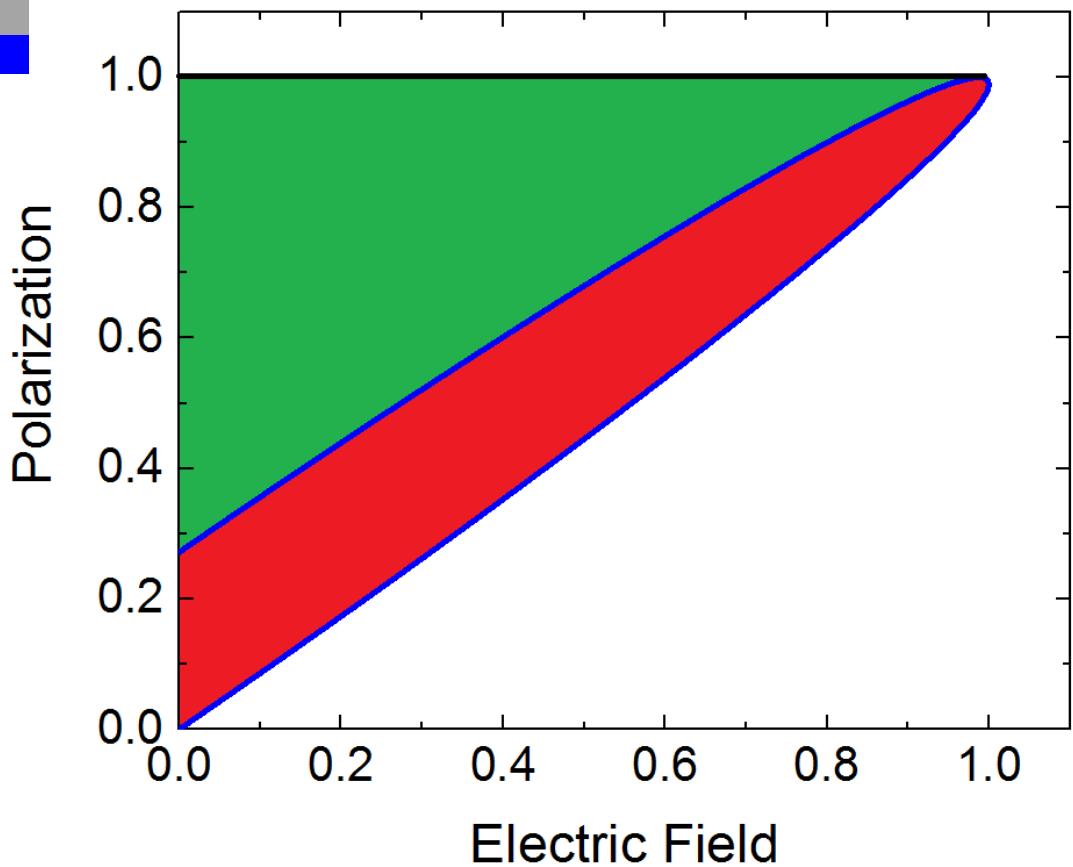


$$C = \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{t}$$

$$W = \int P dE$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \frac{A}{t} V^2$$

$$U = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Volume}} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 E^2$$

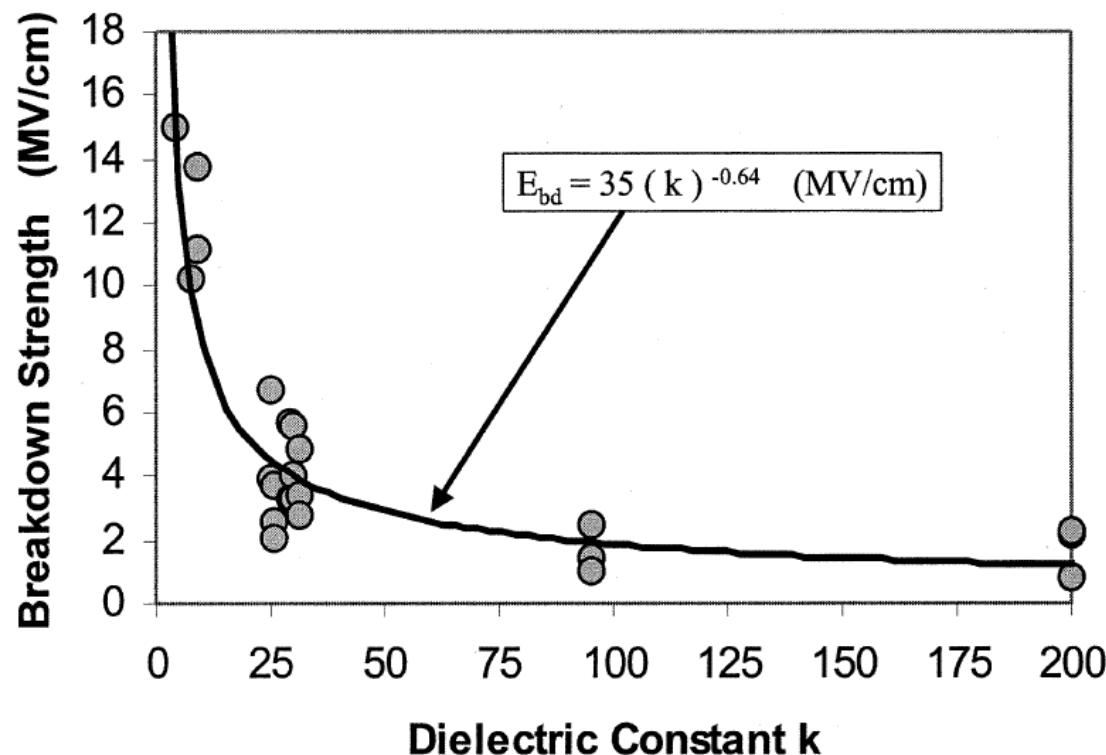


# Energy Density of Linear Dielectrics

Larger gains can be had by  
increasing breakdown strength

$$U = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Volume}} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_r \epsilon_0 E^2$$

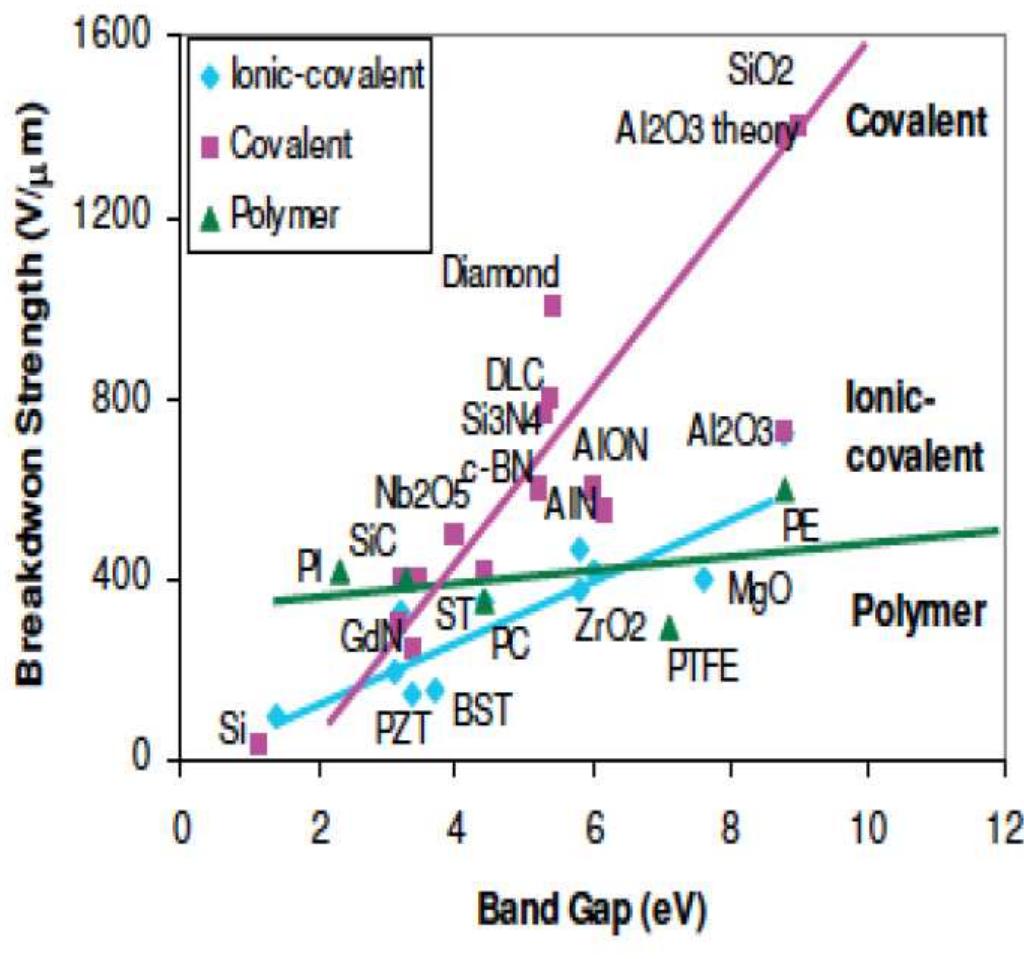
Limited value to tuning  $\epsilon_r$



McPherson et al. IEEE TED, 2003

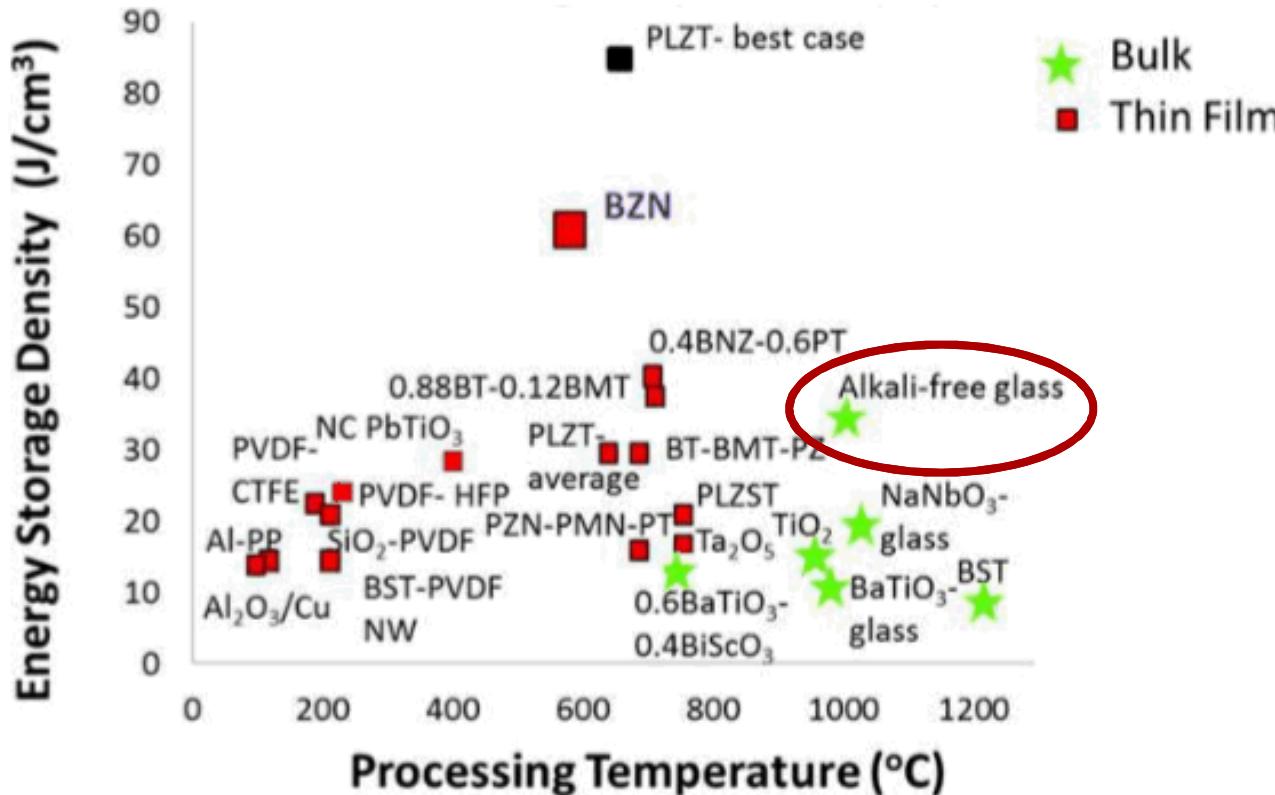
# Glass as a Dielectric Material

- Covalently bonded materials have higher bond strength – larger band gaps – higher breakdown strength
- Si-O bond very strong (460 kJ/mol)
- Glasses lack grain boundaries
- Modifiers allow limited tuning of permittivity



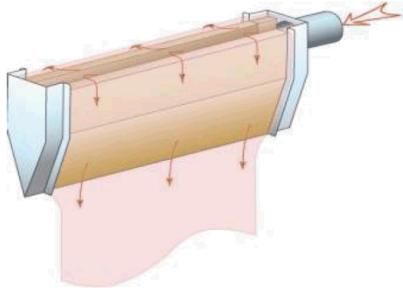
Tan et al. ICSD 2007

# Capacitive Energy Storage Materials



- Alkali-free glass competitive with many emerging materials
- May have an advantage in manufacturing

# Alkali-Free Glasses

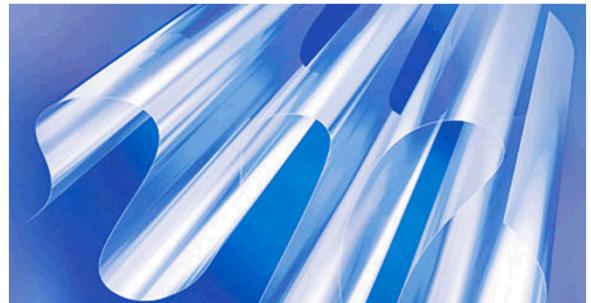


- “Overflow drawn down process”

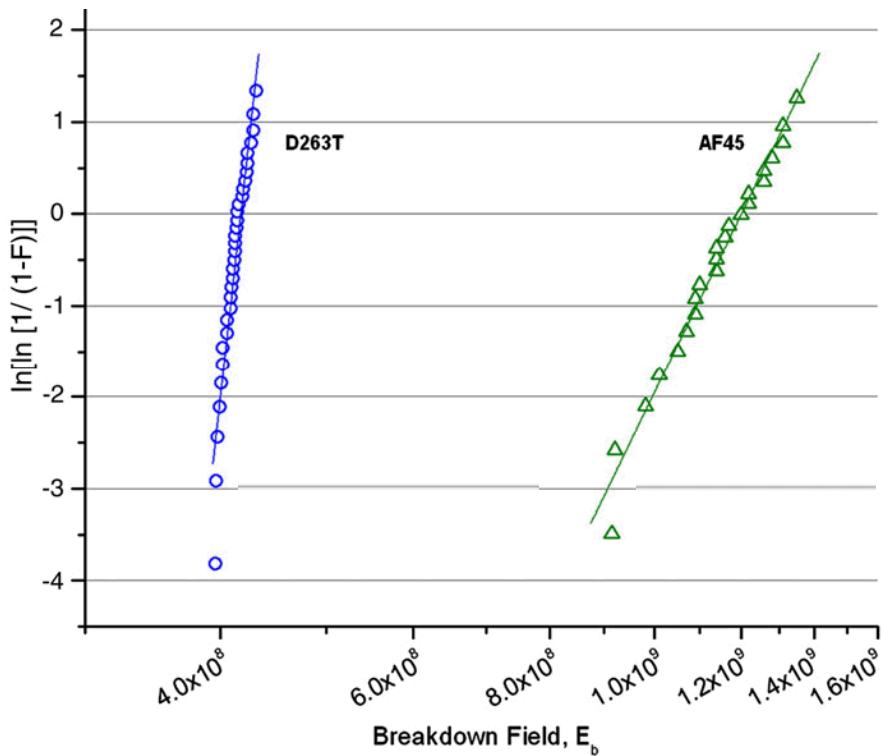


Parameter	Value
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2.3-2.5
Young's Modulus (GPa)	73-75
$\varepsilon_r$	5-6
$\tan \delta$	0.001
$\rho$ ( $\Omega^*cm$ @ 250 °C)	>10 <sup>12</sup>
Strain Point	650-700 °C

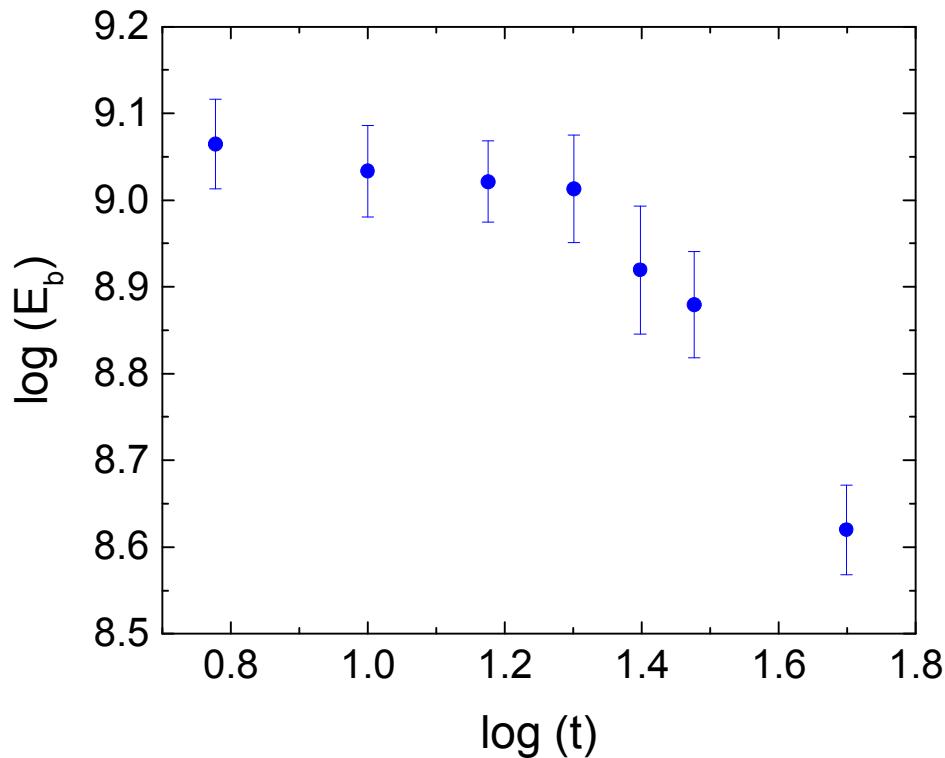
- Sold by many vendors world wide
- Boro-alumino-silicate glass category
- Sold in thicknesses ~ 100 – 200  $\mu m$
- [Na] < 350 ppm



# Breakdown Strength of Alkali-free Glass

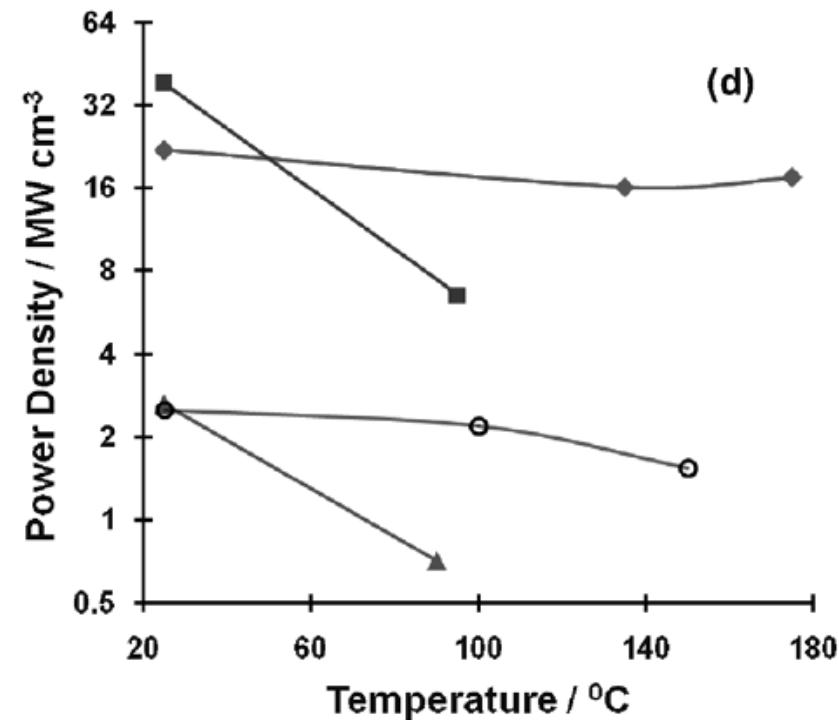
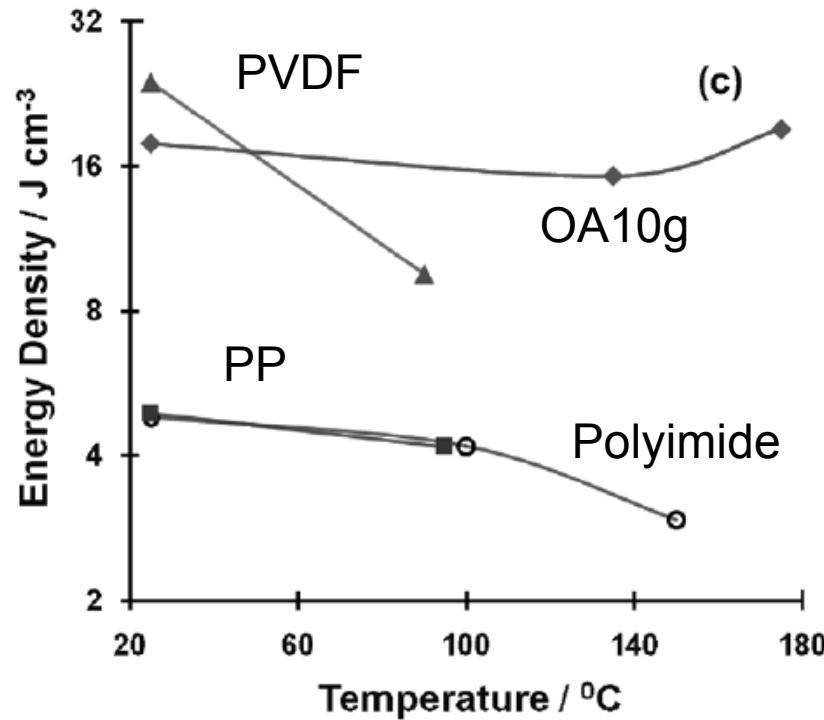


Parameter	D263T	AF45
$t$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	30	19
$E_b$ (GV/m)	0.42	1.2
$\beta$	47.9	10.7



- Schott AF45 glass etched via sonicating in HF
- For  $t < 20 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $E_b > 1 \text{ GV/m}$
- $U_{\text{stored}} \sim 35 \text{ J/cc}$

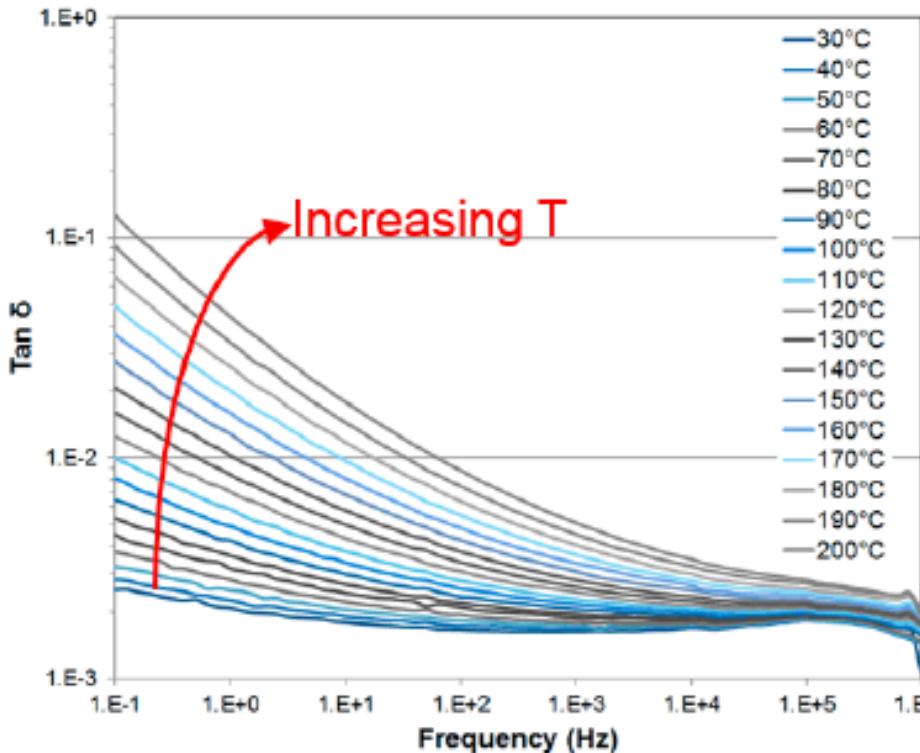
# Temperature Stability of Alkali-Free Glass



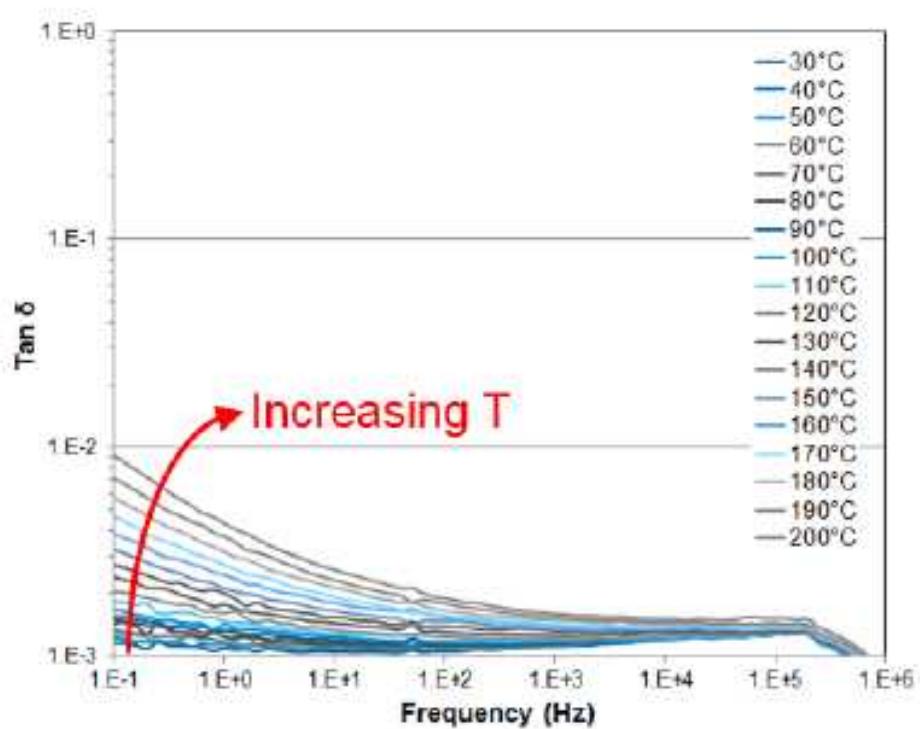
- Temperature stable HV properties beyond range achievable by most polymers

# Effect of Trace Alkali Levels

Schott AF32: 0.076% Alkali Content



NEG OA-10g: 0.017% Alkali Content



- “Alkali-free”=low Alkali content
- Level of impurities critical

# Thinning of Glass - Motivation

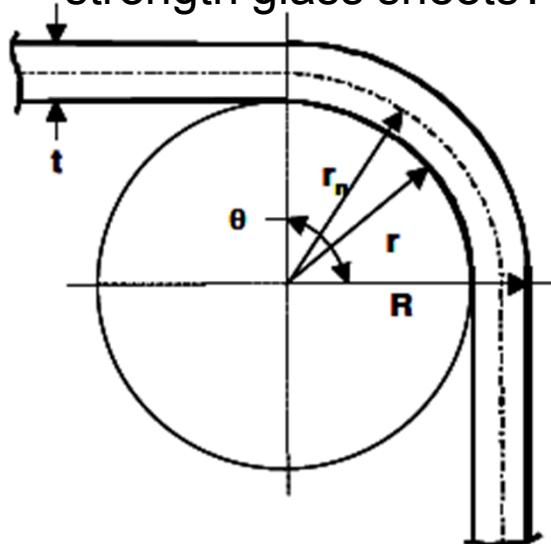


5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, 8 mm diameter

- Alkali-free glass has found wide use in cell phone, display applications
- Commercially sold in thickness  $> 100 \mu\text{m}$  (1.3 x 300 m rolls)
- $\epsilon_r \sim 5-6 \Rightarrow$  Need massive area ( $> 20 \text{ cm}^2$ ) to achieve 1 nF capacitance

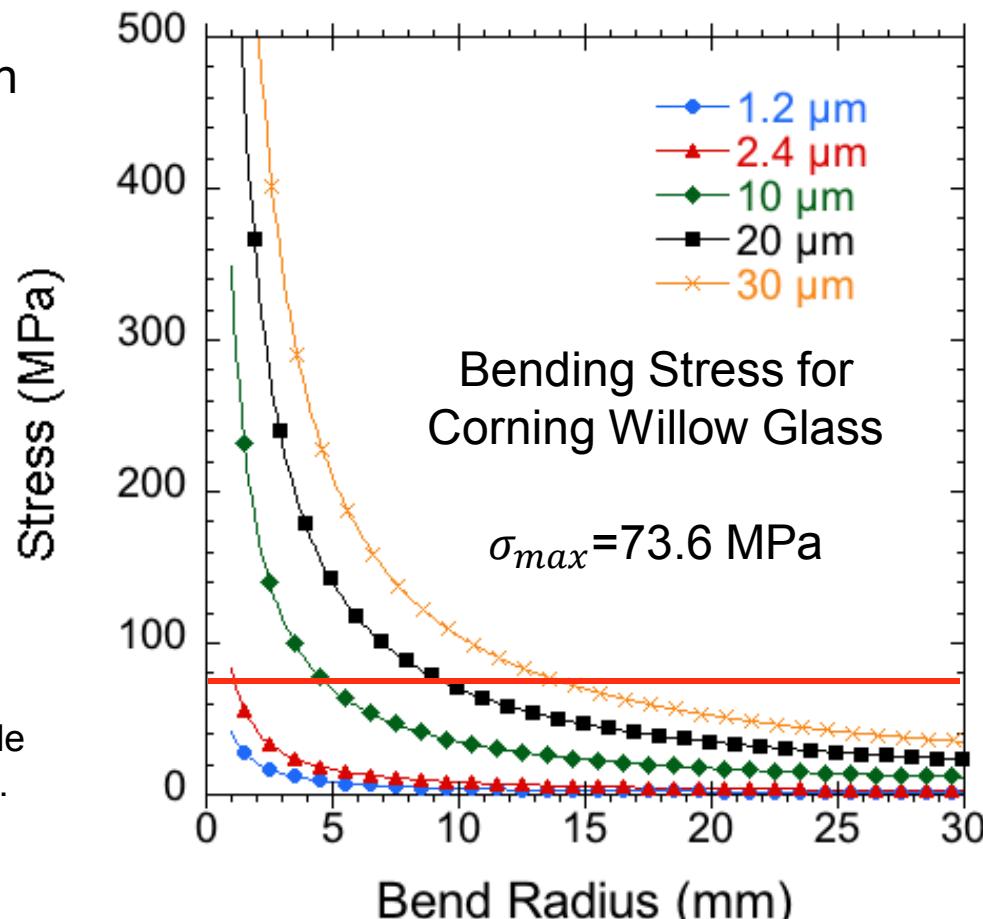
# Thinned Glass for Wound Capacitors

What is the critical bend radius for high strength glass sheets?

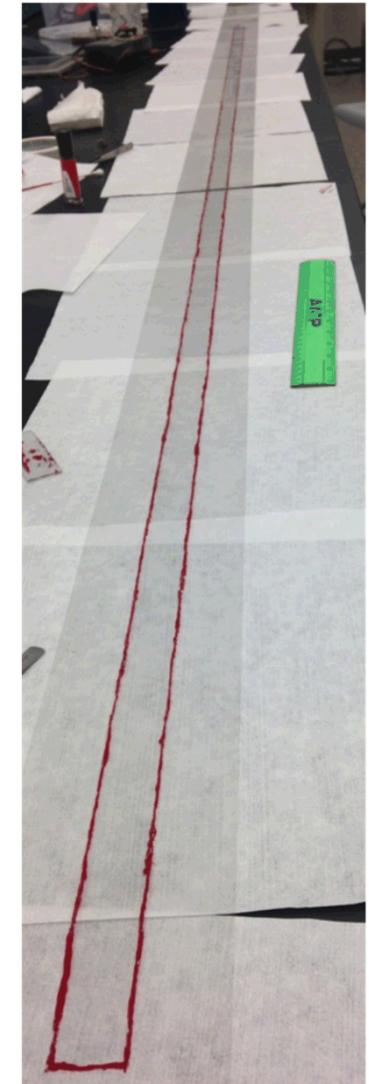
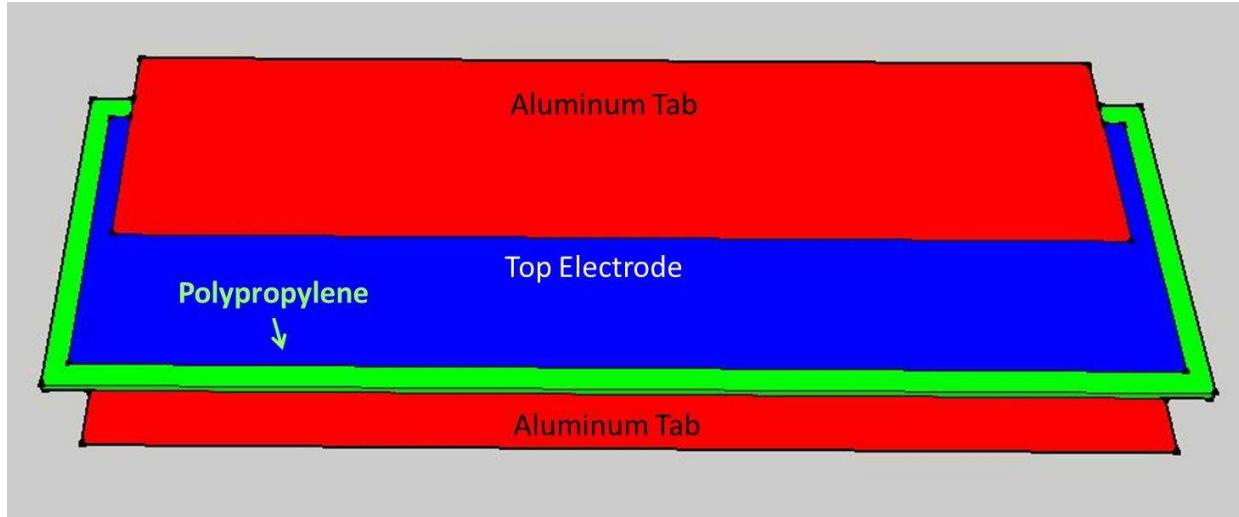


Terry Khaled, "Calculation of bend radii from tensile elongation data" Report ANM-112N-03-11 (2003).

$$\sigma = \frac{Yt}{2R}, Y = \text{Young's modulus}$$

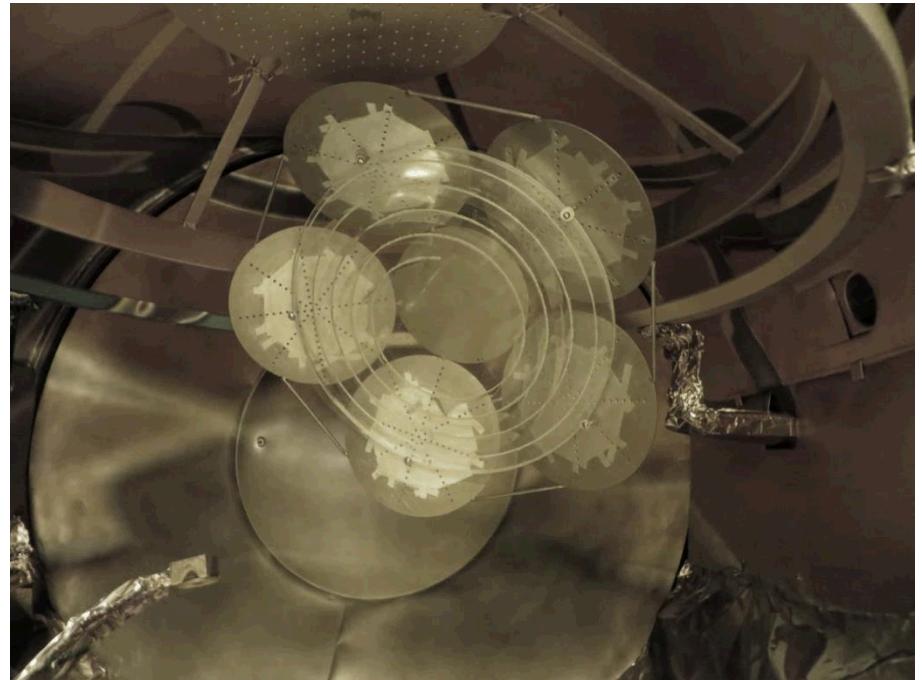
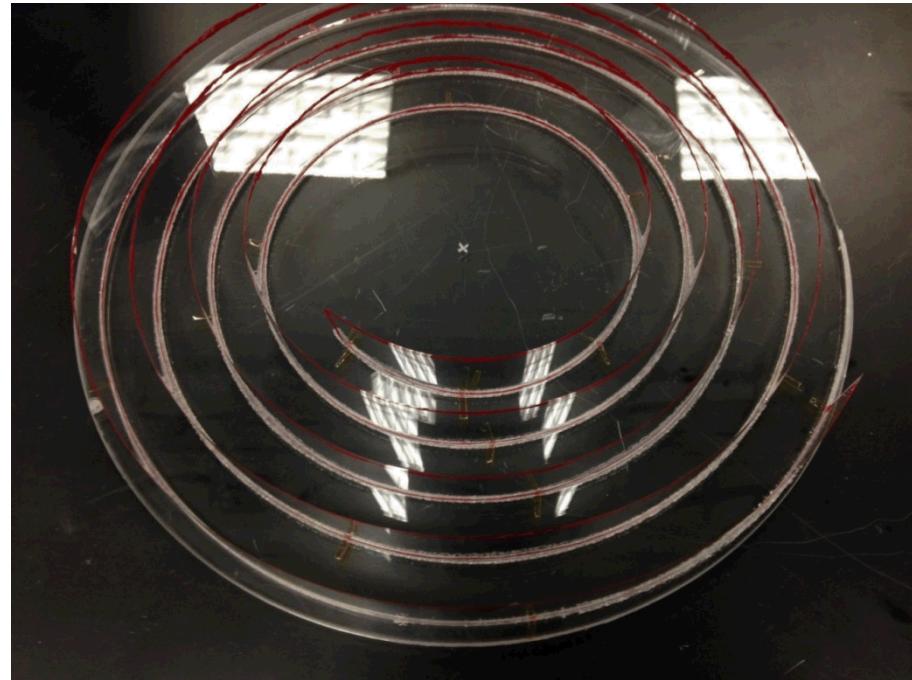


# Fabrication of a Wound Capacitor



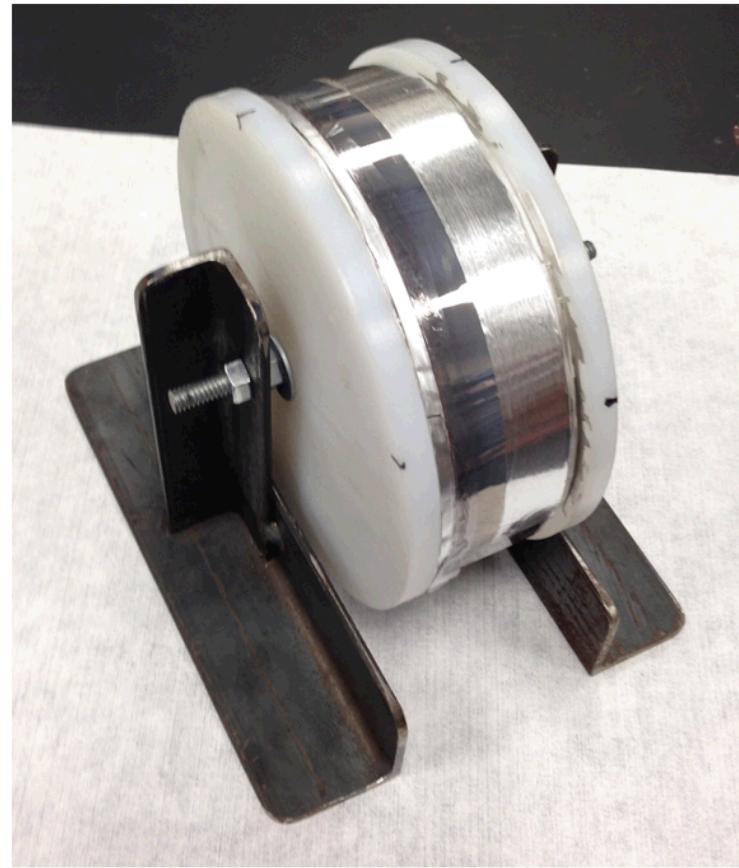
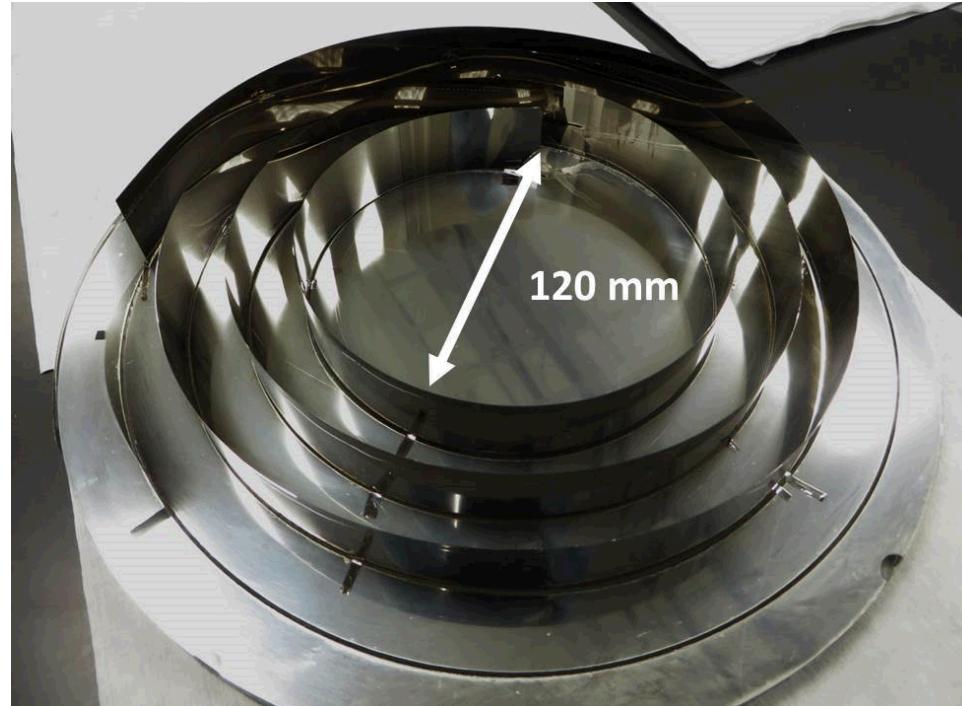
- 2.7 m long piece of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick NEG Glass
- Designed to have electrode tabs to limit electrode resistance and inductance effects
- 12  $\mu\text{m}$  polypropylene sheet glued around edges to prevent flashover

# Electroding 2.7 m of Glass at a University



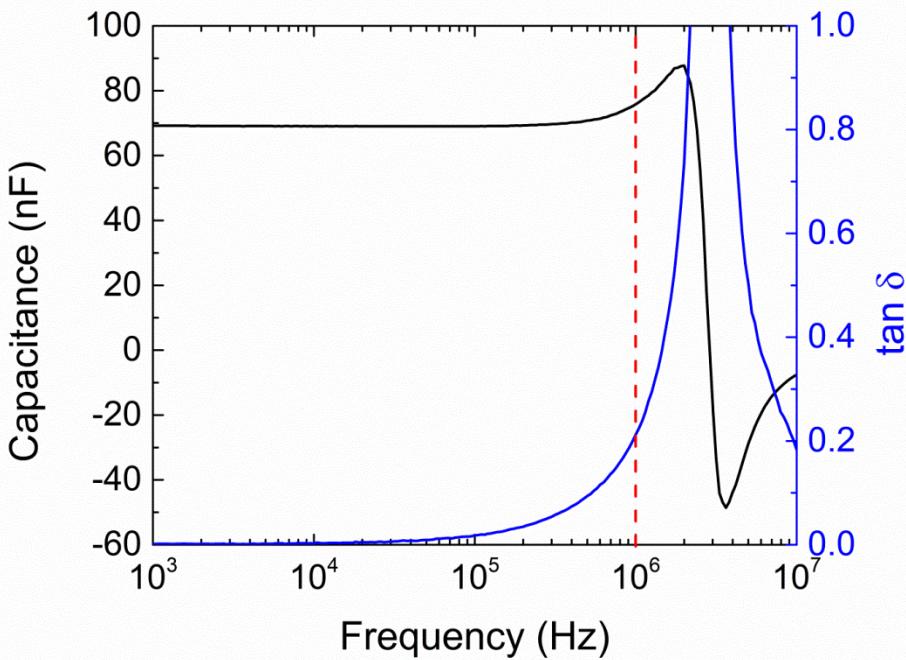
- Wound in Archimedean spiral (equal separation between rings)
- Mounted in grooves laser cut into acrylic plate
- Deposited Al electrodes in Semicore evaporator
- Rinse and repeat....

# Winding of Capacitor



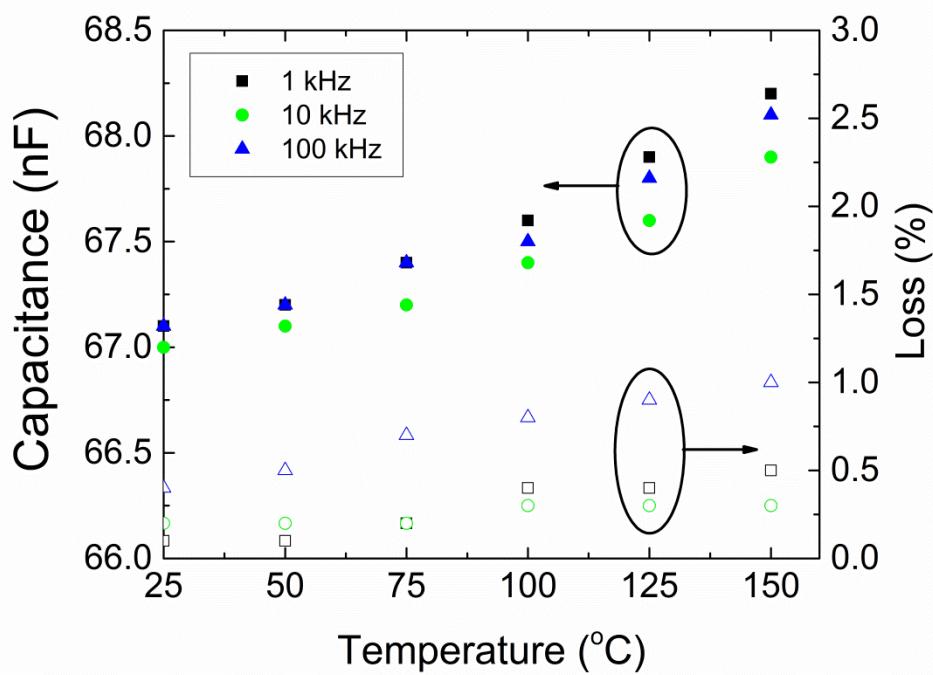
- Wound around 5.5 inch diameter spool

# Electrical Properties of Capacitor

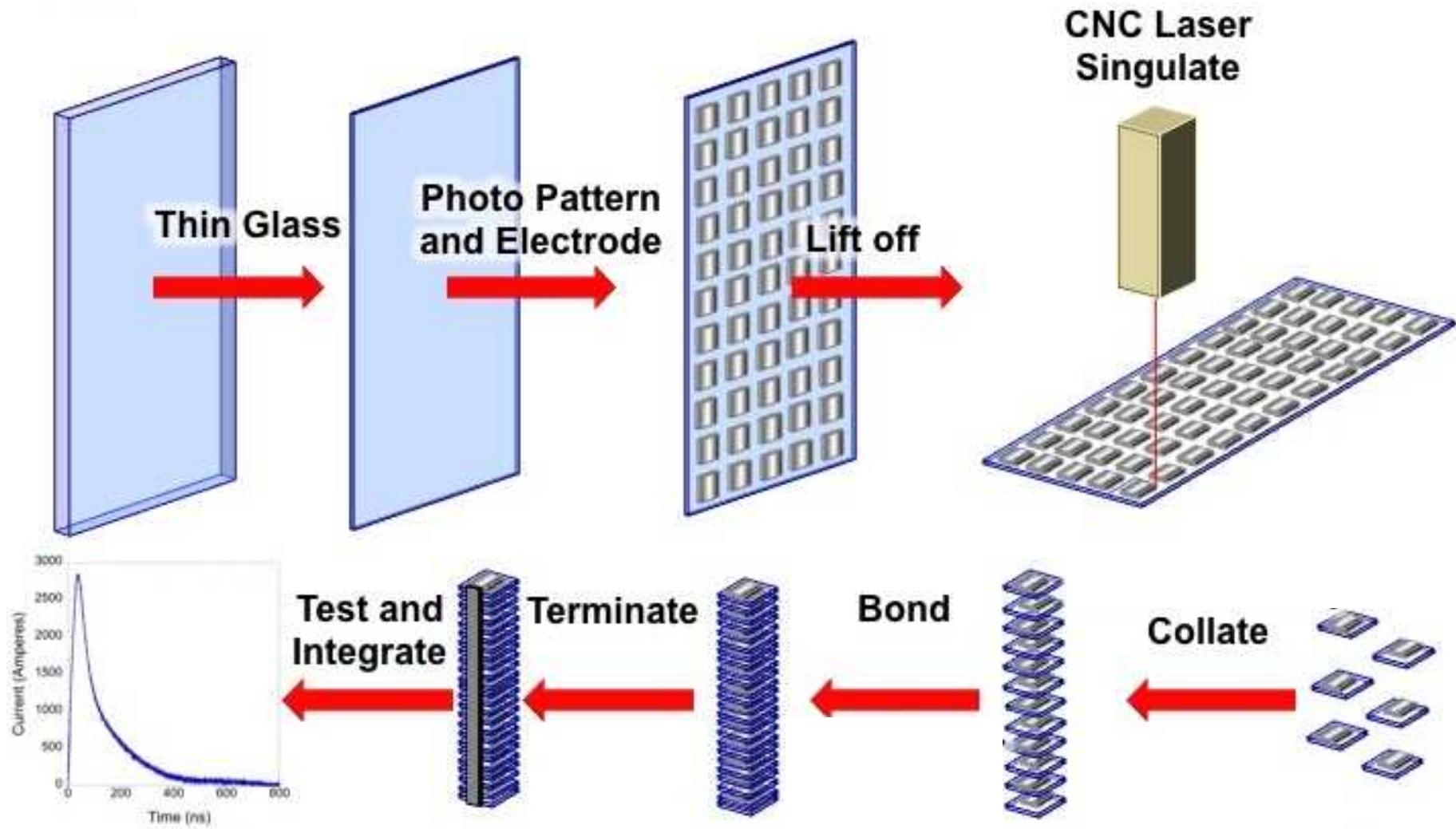


- Show good temperature stability to 150 °C (low frequencies)

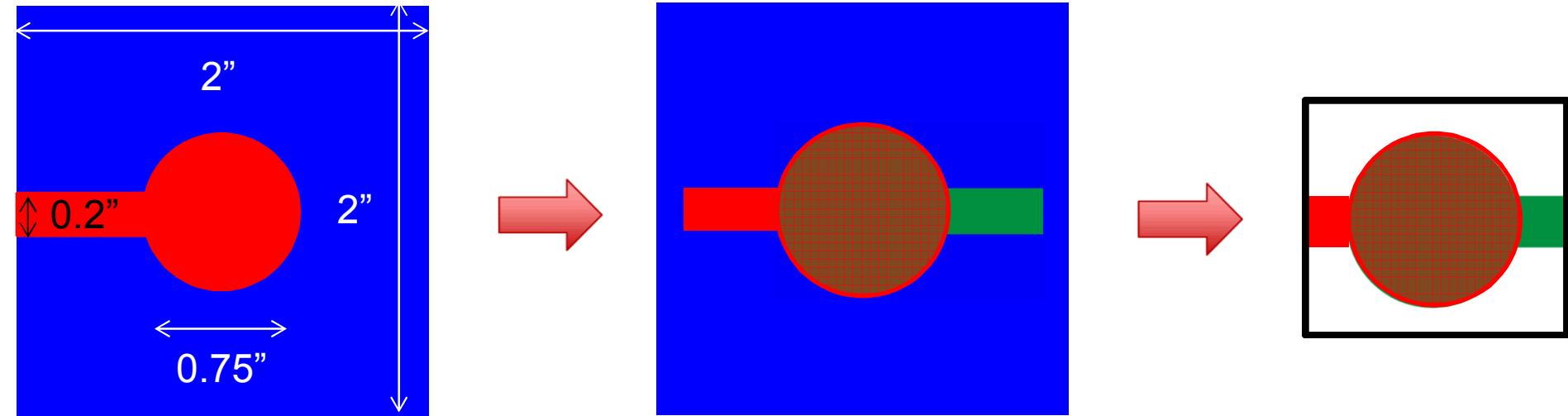
- Self-resonance above 1 MHz
- $L \sim 90 \text{ nH}$



# Routes to Higher Capacitance

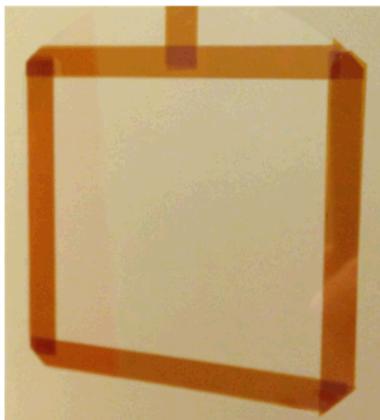


# Fabrication of Multi-layer Glass Capacitor



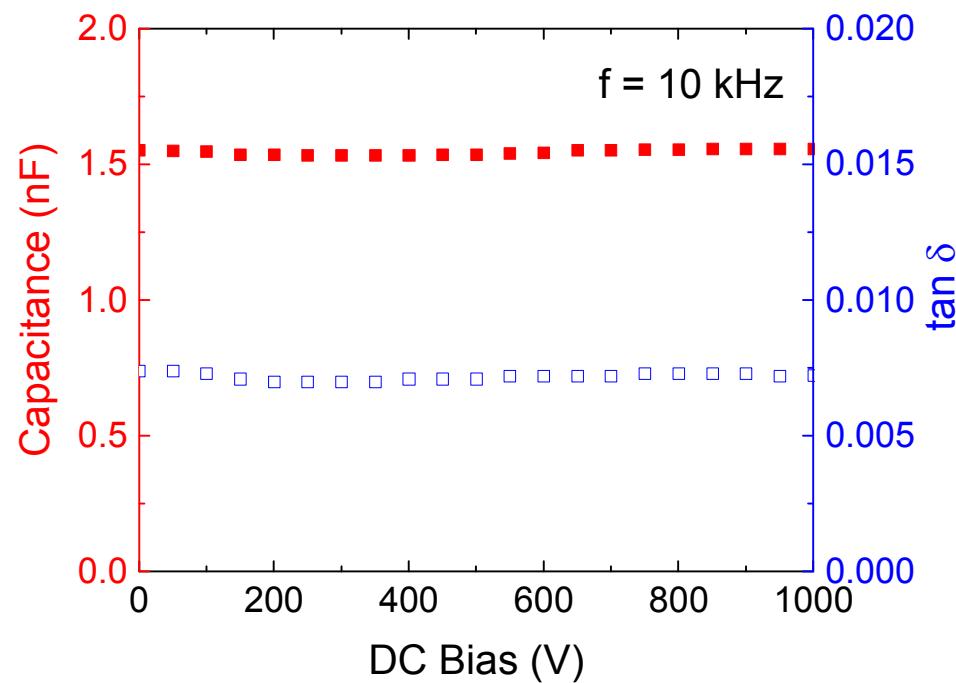
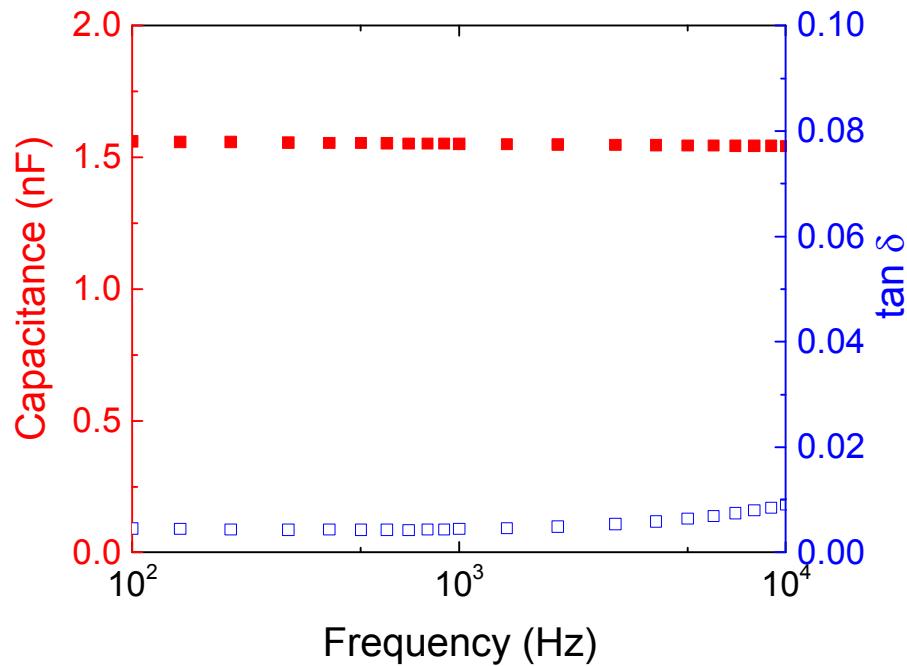
- Pattern 0.75" diameter electrode with edge tab
  - Al electrode deposition top and bottom – rotated 180°
- Laser cut glass to form individual capacitor layer
  - 5.5 nF for 10  $\mu$ m thick glass
  - Edge margin is 0.125" (~10 kV hold off voltage)

# Thinning of Glass - Process



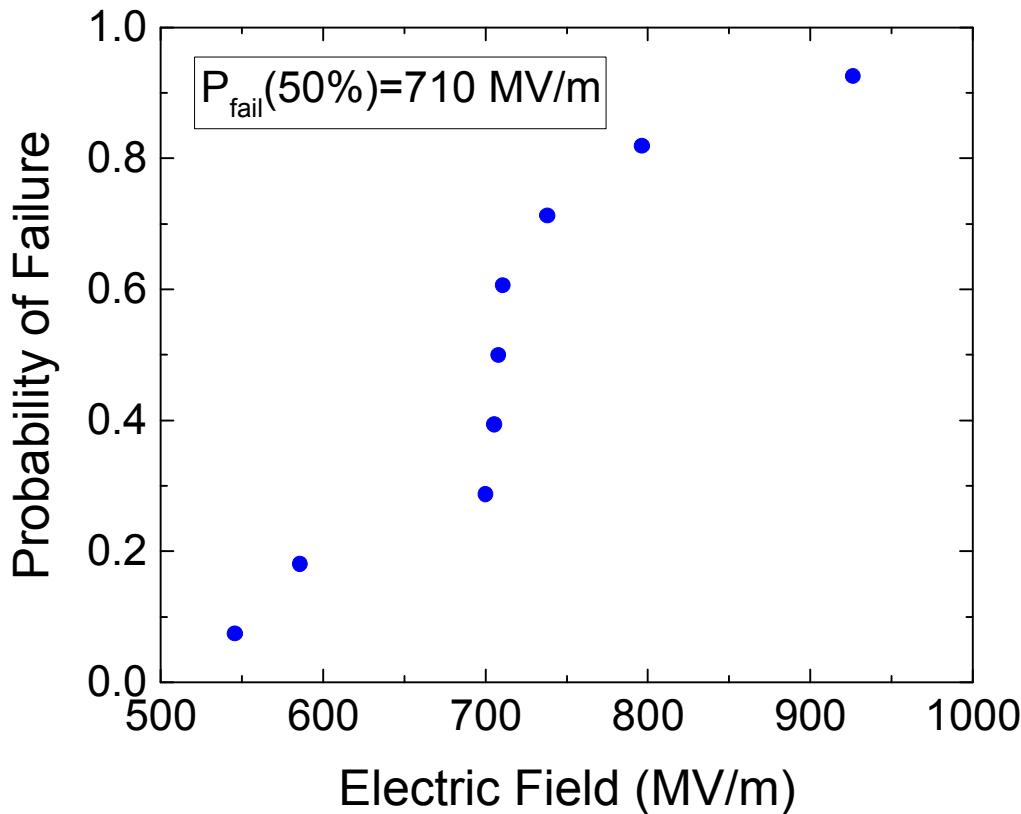
- Glass is masked on edges – provide mechanical structure for thinned samples
- Etched in 2.5% HF solution ( $0.01 \mu\text{m}/\text{s}$ )
- Al contacts evaporated in Semicore e-beam evaporator

# Electrical Properties of nF Sized “Bulk” Capacitors



- Corning Willow thinned to  $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$  thickness
- Electrode diameter = 1 inch ( $5.07 \text{ cm}^2$ )
- Flat frequency response with no tunability at 1 kV
- $\rho > 10^{15} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$

# Breakdown Characteristics of Thinned Corning Willow Glass

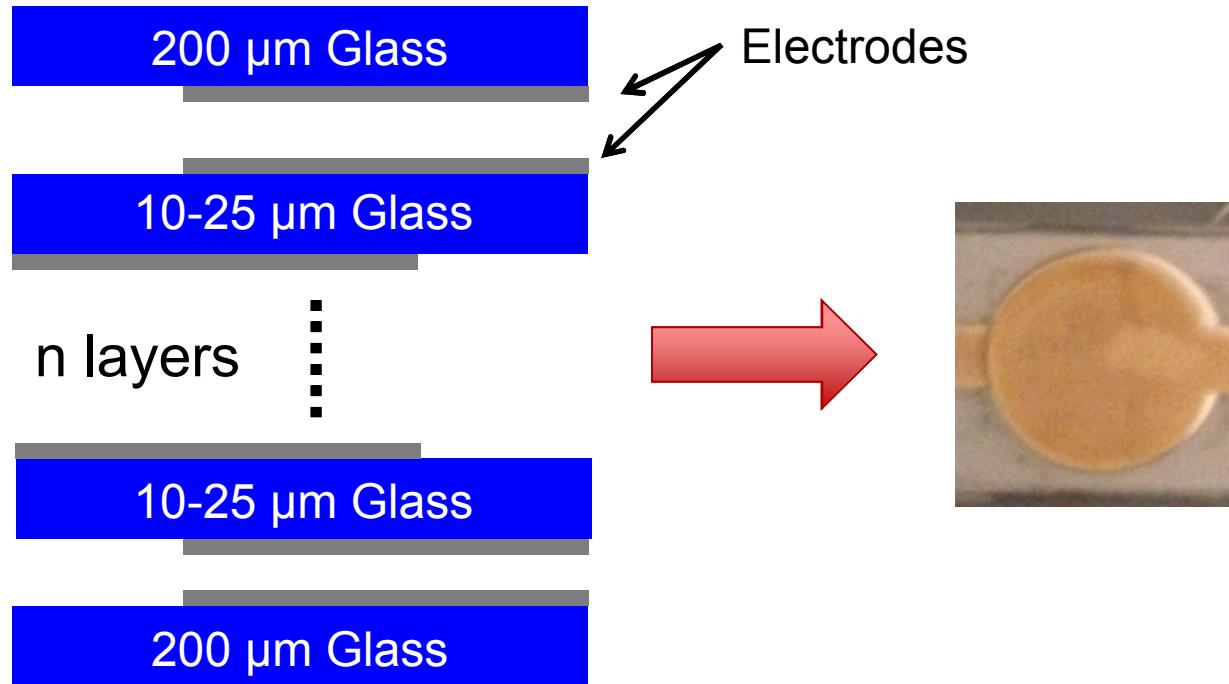


- $t \sim 19 \mu\text{m}$  (estimated from capacitance)
- $A \sim 9.6 \text{ mm}^2$

$$\frac{E_{b1}}{E_{b2}} = \left( \frac{Area_2}{Area_1} \right)^{1/\beta}$$

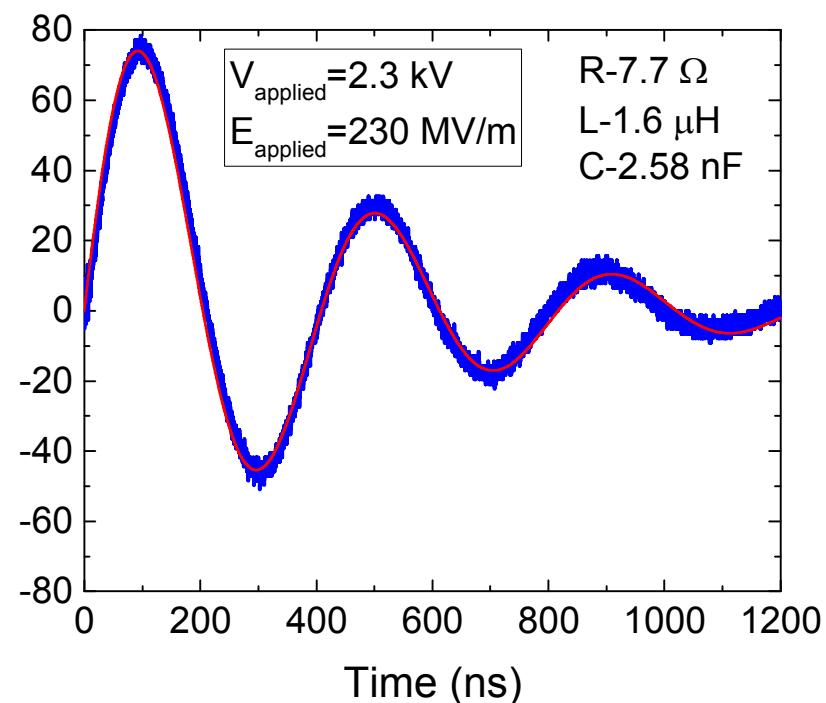
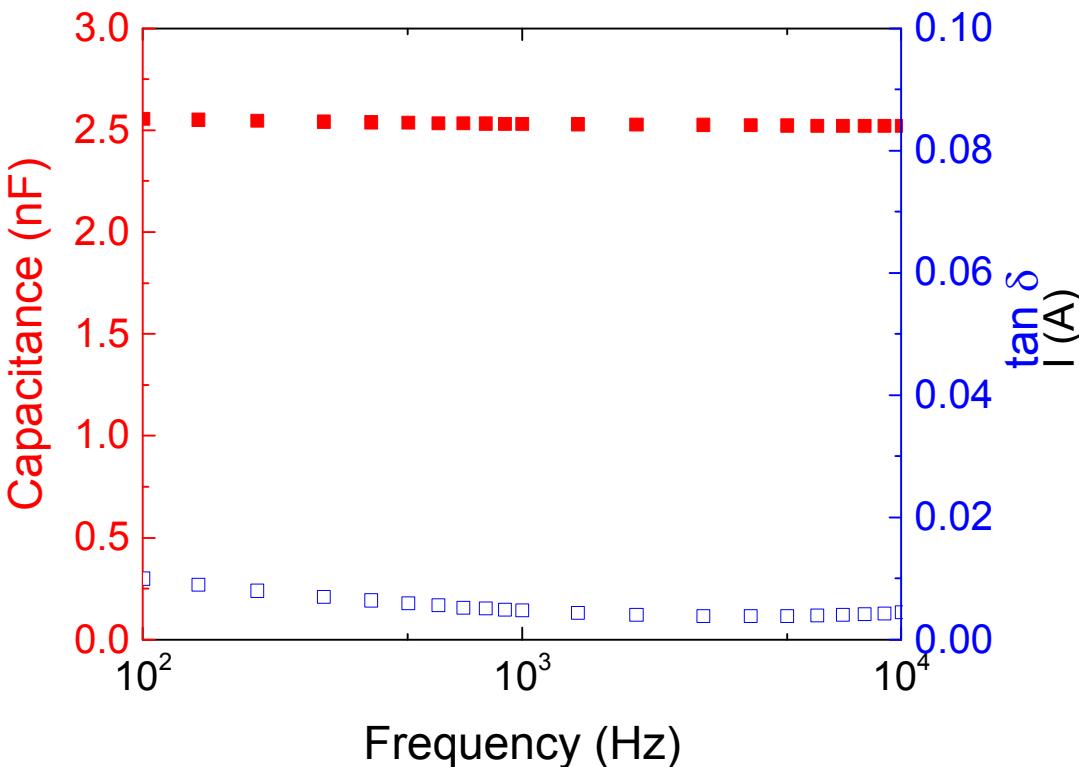
- Breakdown strength scales with area (greater probability of sampling defects)
- Weibull Statistics prediction of  $E_b$  of AF45 = 800 MV/m

# Thermal Bonding Multi-Layer Glass Capacitor



- Heat above annealing point ( $\eta < 10^{13}$  poises at 722 °C)  $\Rightarrow$  850-900 °C
- Allow softened glass layers to react
- Ti/Pt electrodes used as high temp replacement for Al ( $T_m \sim 650$  °C)
  - Cu/Ni base metal electrodes possible if fired at low  $PO_2$

# Properties of 2 layer Glass Capacitor



- $C(1 \text{ kHz}) = 2.5 \text{ nF}$ ,  $\tan \delta = 0.005$
- $R = 310 \text{ G}\Omega \Rightarrow \rho > 10^{18} \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$
- Underdamped RLC discharge –  $U_{\text{dielectric}} \sim 1.3 \text{ J/CC}$ ,  $U_{\text{capacitor}} \sim 60 \text{ mJ/CC}$ 
  - Can increase  $U_{\text{capacitor}}$  by increasing  $n$ , decreasing edge margin, using thinner support layers

# Conclusions

- Alkali-free glasses show great promise for high energy density capacitors
  - Literature reports of
    - $E_b > 1 \text{ GV/m}$
    - $U \sim 35 \text{ J/cc}$
    - $\tan \delta < 0.01$  at  $200 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
    - Alkali content is crucial for high energy density and temperature stability
  - Challenging to make and handle!
    - Our approach – thin and build multi-layer capacitor through laser cutting and thermal bonding
      - Have process for thinning to  $10 \mu\text{m}$  (1-2 nF per layer)
      - Bond layers at  $850\text{-}900 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
    - Industrially – might be able to make wound capacitors if companies build infrastructure to thin glasses sufficiently