

Multilayer ceramic capacitors

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Multilayer Ceramic Capacitor

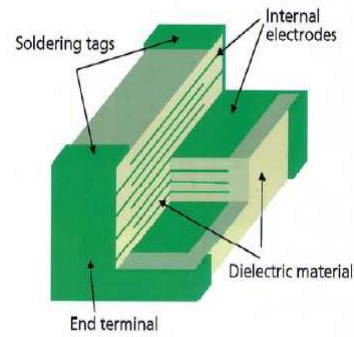
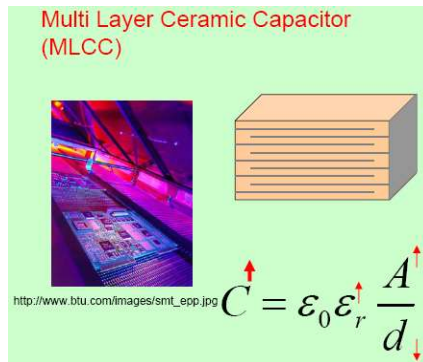
- The demands for miniaturization largely preclude an increase in the face area A .
- One exception is the multilayer ceramic capacitor (MLCC), in which case:

$$C = \epsilon_r \epsilon_o \frac{A(N-1)}{d}$$

- where N is the number of stacked plates.
- Ideally, the dielectric should have a low electrical conductivity so that the leakage current is not too large.

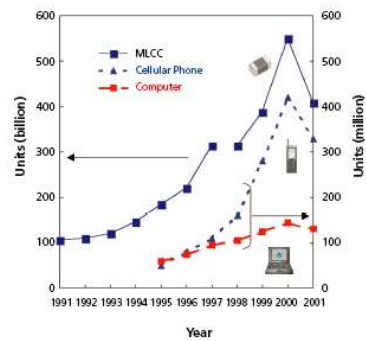
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Multilayer Ceramic Capacitor

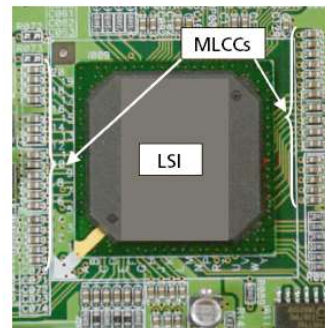


Cut-away view of multilayer ceramic capacitor.

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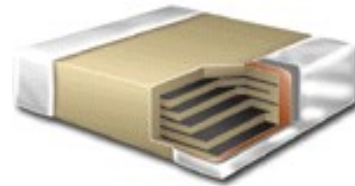
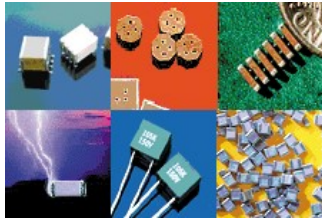


Change in production volume of MLCCs in the world



Example of MLCC application in LSI circuit.

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Surface-Mount Ceramic Capacitors



Military electronics

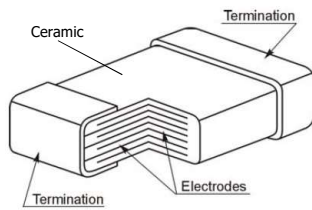


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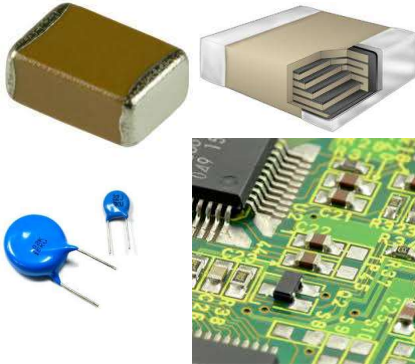
Surface-Mount Capacitors

- Ceramic surface-mount capacitors are used in every type of electronic equipment including computers, telecommunication, automotive electronics, military electronics, medical electronics and consumer electronics.
- High voltage and high temperature ceramic capacitors are serve military, aerospace, oil service, oil exploration and other markets including medical imaging, power generation, and high voltage power supply.

Multilayer ceramic capacitors



A surface-mount (chip) MLCC.



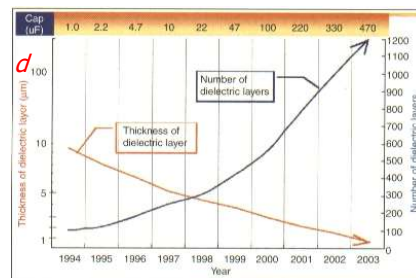
MLCC: n ceramic layers of thickness d separated by metal (Ni, Ag-Pd) electrodes.
Capacitance per unit volume:

$$C_V = \epsilon_r \frac{n}{d^2}$$

Current market trends:

- increase capacitance (increase n and decrease d)
- miniaturization (reduce d and size)

$$C = \epsilon_r \epsilon_o \frac{A(N-1)}{d}$$

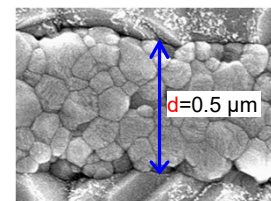
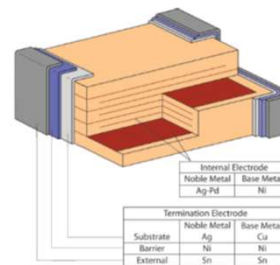


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Multilayer ceramic capacitors

Some data

- ❑ Main dielectric material: BaTiO_3 . Yearly production: 11000 tons \rightarrow 2×10^{12} MLCCs (2011);
- ❑ Dielectric properties are modified by adding dopants (Zr, Ca, Mg, Nb, Y, Ho, Dy, etc.);
- ❑ State of the art capacitors: dielectric layer thickness of 0.5 micron (Murata, Japan);
- ❑ Production technology: tape casting;
- ❑ Metal electrodes:
 - Noble metals: Ag-Pd, sintering in air with addition of glass to reduce temperature to 1100°C (Ag-30Pd);
 - Ni (base metal technology, Philips, 1990s): sintering in $\text{N}_2\text{-H}_2$ atmosphere. Addition of "magic" dopants (Y, Dy, Ho) to reduce formation of oxygen vacancies and improve lifetime.
- ❑ Applications: consumer electronics (mobile phones, smart phones, PCs, laptops, TVs, etc.), automotive (cars, hybrid cars, electric vehicles).



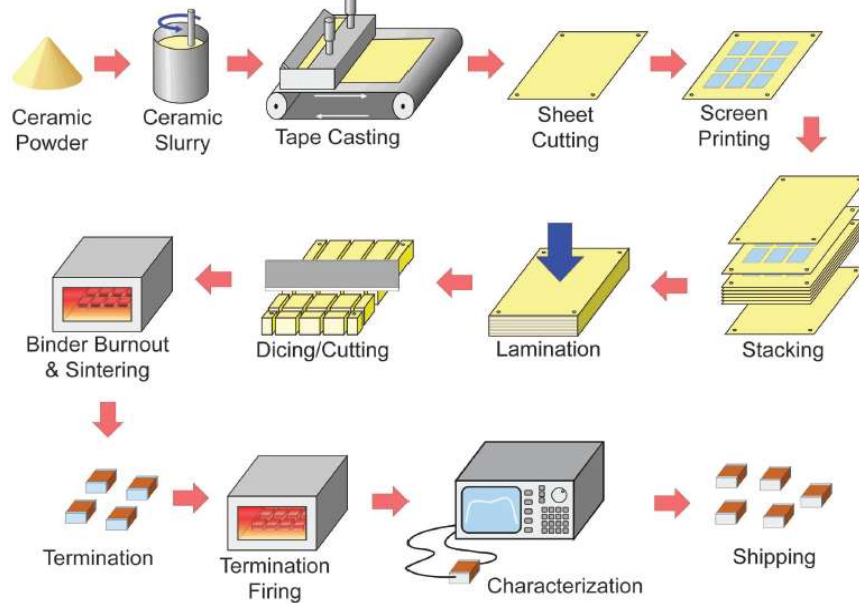
State-of-the-art MLCC:

$d = 0.5 \mu\text{m} \rightarrow g_s \approx 100 \text{ nm}$

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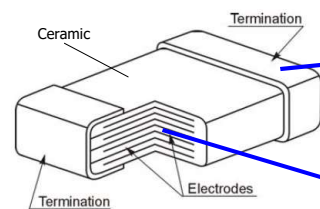
Multilayer ceramic capacitors

MLCCs fabrication process (multilayer cofire technology)

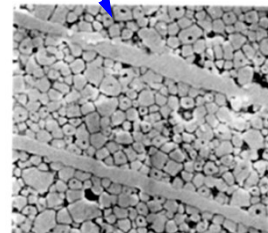
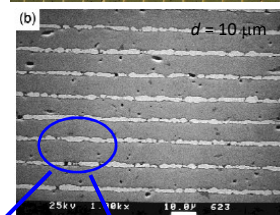
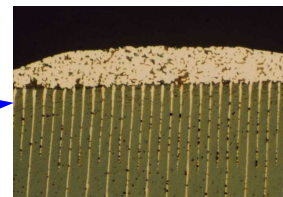
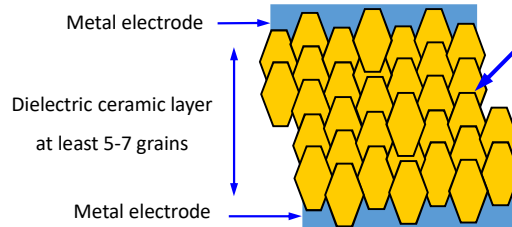


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Multilayer ceramic capacitors



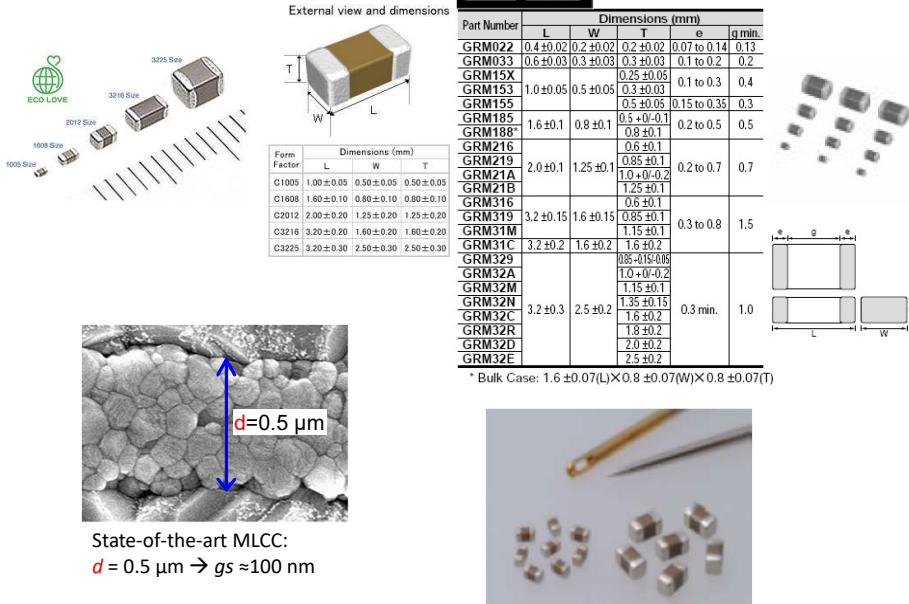
A surface-mount (chip) MLC.



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Multilayer ceramic capacitors

Miniaturization



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High-K Dielectric Materials

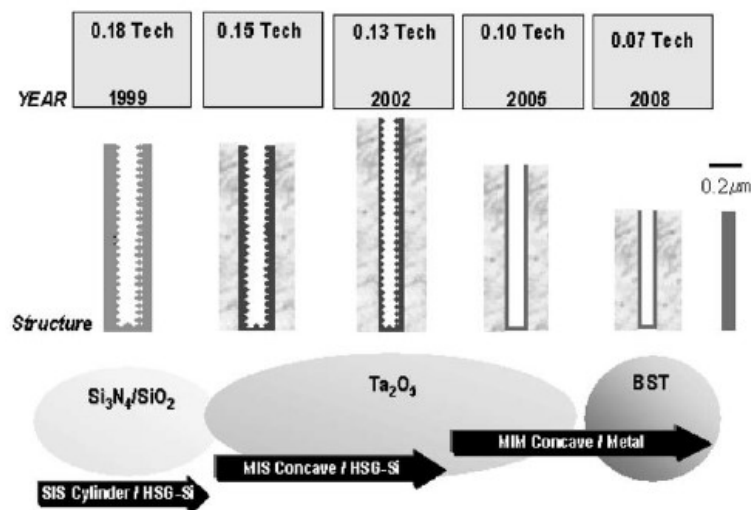
- The discovery of materials with unusually high-dielectric constants ($\epsilon_r > 2000-100000$), and their ferroelectric nature, led to an explosion in ceramic use.
- The first employed in high-k capacitors is BaTiO_3 based, and later developed into
 - piezoelectric transducers,
 - positive temperature coefficient (PTC) devices, and
 - electro-optic light valves.
- Recent developments in the field of ferroelectric ceramics is their use in
 - medical ultrasonic composites,
 - high displacement piezoelectric actuators, and
 - photoresistors.

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High-K Dielectric

- The bit count of MOS DRAM devices is continuously increasing. However, as bit count goes up, capacitor cell area goes down.
- The capacitance per cell must remain in the 25-30 fF range, which means the capacitance density must increase.
- One approach for DRAM manufacturing is to replace the traditional silicon nitride + silicon oxide with a higher dielectric constant (k) such as **tantalum pentoxide (Ta_2O_5)**, **Hf-oxide (HfO_2)** and **Zr-oxide (ZrO_2)**.

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The roadmap of capacitor with DRAM technology.

D.-S. Yoon et al. / Progress in Materials Science 48 (2003) 275–371

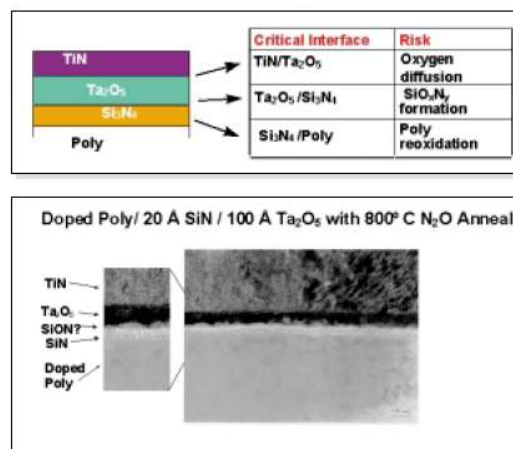
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High-K Dielectric

- High-k dielectric films are anticipated to be required for certain applications with **low power** and **leakage current** specifications.
- High-k materials should be compatible with conventional industry standard MOSFET process flows using a poly-Si gate electrode.
- **HfO₂, ZrO₂, and Ta₂O₅** as high-k gate-dielectrics.

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Typical material stack used in aTa₂O₅ DRAM capacitor



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A Review of High High-k Dielectrics

- Gate dielectric materials having high dielectric constant, large band gap with a favorable band alignment, low interface state density and good thermal stability are needed for future gate dielectric applications.
- Ultra high-k materials such as STO (SrTiO₃) or BST (BaSrTiO₃) may cause fringing field induced barrier lowering effect.

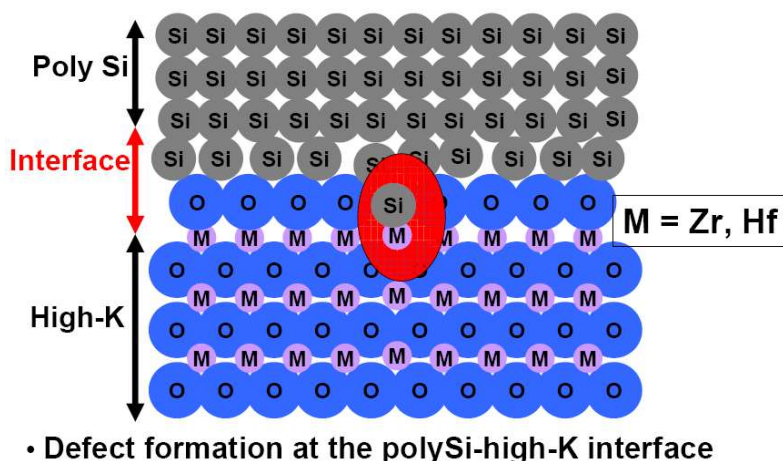
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A Review of High High-k Dielectrics

- High-k gate dielectrics have a number of difficulties:
 - (1) crystallization upon heating,
 - (2) dopant penetration,
 - (3) fixed charge,
 - (4) low channel mobility and
 - (5) uncontrolled oxide formation at the Si/high-k interface.

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High-K and PolySi are Incompatible



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Water and microwaves

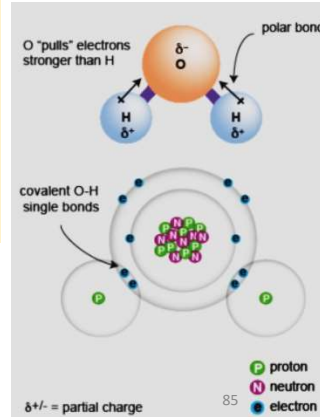
Unlike conventional ovens, microwave ovens do not rely on temperature gradients (outside to inside) for heat transfer but involve penetrative and instantaneous heating. The microwave oven is part of modern life, **but how do the microwaves interact with water in food to efficiently heat the food?**

Non-equilibrium molecular dynamics simulations have been used to investigate the hydrogen-bond dynamics in bulk water upon microwave heating [1]. The water dipole attempts to continuously reorient in electromagnetic radiation's oscillating electric field. Dependent on the frequency, the dipole may move in time to the field, lag behind it or remain apparently unaffected. *When the dipole lags behind the field, interactions between the dipole and the field lead to an energy loss by heating, which depends on the phase difference of these fields; heating is maximal twice each cycle* [2].

The ease of the movement depends on the viscosity and the mobility of the electron clouds. In water, these rely on the strength and extent of the hydrogen-bonded network. **In free liquid water, this movement occurs at GHz frequencies (microwaves), whereas in more restricted 'bound' water it occurs at MHz frequencies (short radio waves) and in ice at kHz frequencies (long radio waves).** The re-orientation process may be modeled using a 'wait-and-switch' process where the water molecule has to wait for a while until a favorable orientation of neighboring molecules occurs, and then the hydrogen bonds switch to the new molecule [3].

1. T. Mohoriča and U. Brena, How does microwave irradiation affect the mechanism of water reorientation? *Journal of Molecular Liquids*, 302 (2020) 112522
2. N. J. English and J. M. D. MacElroy, Molecular dynamics simulations of microwave heating of water, *Journal of Chemical Physics*, 118 (2003) 1589-1592
3. U. Kaatz, R. Behrends and R. Pottel, Hydrogen network fluctuations and dielectric spectrometry of liquids, *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*, 305 (2002) 19-28
4. <https://www.nature.com/articles/293447a0> [Theory of the dielectric constant of ice, David J. Adams, *Nature* volume 293, pages 447-449 (1981)]

<https://water.lsbu.ac.uk/water/> [London South Bank Univ. page]



The applied field potential (E , volts) of electromagnetic radiation is given by;

$$E = E_{\max} \cdot \cos(\omega t)$$

where E_{\max} is the amplitude of the potential, ω is the angular frequency in radians.second⁻¹, and t is the time (seconds). If the polarization lags behind the field by the phase (δ , radians) then the polarization (P , coulombs) varies as

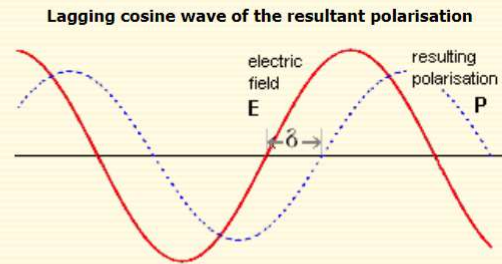
$$P = P_{\max} \cdot \cos(\omega t - \delta)$$

where P_{\max} is the maximum value of the polarization.
Hence the current (I , amperes) varies as

$$I = (dP/dt) = -\omega P_{\max} \cdot \sin(\omega t - \delta)$$

The power (P , watts) given out as heat is the average value of (current \times potential). This is zero if there is no lag (that is, if $\delta = 0$), otherwise

$$P = 0.5 P_{\max} E_{\max} \omega \cdot \sin(\delta)$$



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Ferroelectric ceramics

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Classification of Dielectrics

One can classify dielectric as under following three groups:

<i>Class</i>	<i>Effect of electric field</i>
Simple dielectrics	Creates dipoles
Paraelectrics	Orients dipoles
Ferroelectrics	Orients domains of aligned permanent dipoles

Properties of some representative ferroelectric crystals

<i>Group</i>	<i>Crystal</i>	<i>Curie temperature T_c ($^{\circ}K$)</i>	<i>P_s $C/m^{-2} \times 10^{-2}$</i>	<i>At T ($^{\circ}K$)</i>
Ilmenites and	GeTe	670	—	—
Perovskites	LiNbO ₃	1480	71	296
	KNbO ₃	710	30	600
	BaTiO ₃	393	26	300
	SrTiO ₃	32	3	4.2
KDP type	KH ₂ PO ₄ (KDP)	123	4.7	100
	KD ₂ PO ₄	213	5.5	100
	Rb ₂ H ₂ PO ₄	147	5.6	90
	KH ₂ AsO ₄	97	5.0	78
TGS type	(NH ₂ CH ₂ COOH) ₃ · H ₂ SO ₄	322	2.8	275
	(Triglycine sulphate)			
Rochelle salt type	NaKC ₄ H ₄ O ₆ · 4H ₂ O	296 (upper)	0.25	275
	(Rochelle salt)	255 (lower)		

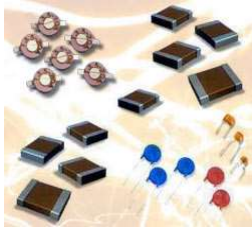
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Important events in the history of ferroelectrics

1824	Pyroelectricity in Rochelle salt NaKC ₄ H ₄ O ₆ ·4H ₂ O (Brewster)
1880	Piezoelectricity in quartz and Rochelle salt (Jacques & Pierre Curie – quartz balance)
1912	Ferroelectricity proposed as a property of solids
1921	Ferroelectricity in Rochelle salt (Valasek)
1935	Ferroelectricity in KH ₂ PO ₄
1941	High dielectric constant in BaTiO₃
1944	Ferroelectricity in BaTiO₃ (von Hippel, Wul & Goldman)
1945	BaTiO₃ ceramics for piezoelectric transducers (electrical poling)
1949	Theory of ferroelectricity in BaTiO ₃ (Devonshire)
1949	Ferroelectricity in LiNbO ₃ and LiTaO ₃
1952	Phase diagram of Pb(Zr,Ti)O₃ – PZT established
1954	PZT reported as a useful piezo transducer
1955	Ferroelectricity in alkali niobates
1961	PbMg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3}O₃-PMN reported as ferroelectric relaxor
1969	Optical transparency achieved in hot pressed PLZT
1971	Useful electrooptical properties reported for PLZT
1980	Electrostrictive PMN devices developed
1992	New types of PZT piezo actuators developed
1993	Integration of FE films on silicon technology - FERAMs
1997	Ultrahigh piezoelectric coefficients in PMN-PT and PZN-PT
2002	High polarization and magnetoelectric coupling in BiFeO₃ films
2004	High-performance lead free KNN piezoceramics (K _x Na _{1-x} NbO ₃)

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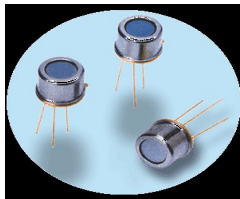
Ferro & Piezoelectrics: Key Points



Ceramic capacitors



Flash Goggles, PLZT



Infrared sensors



Piezoelectric Materials

- **Ferroelectrics:** materials with non-centrosymmetry, having (electrically) re-orientateable spontaneous polarisation at equilibrium.
- **Piezoelectricity:** material property that linearly relates applied stresses to induced dielectric displacements (direct effect) or applied electric fields to induced strains (converse effect)
- Popular examples: BaTiO_3 and **Lead zirconate titanate (PZT)**; **Lead -free compositions of Sodium potassium niobate (NKN)**

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Important events in the history of ferroelectrics

Fundamental steps in the understanding and application of ferroelectric and piezoelectric ceramics

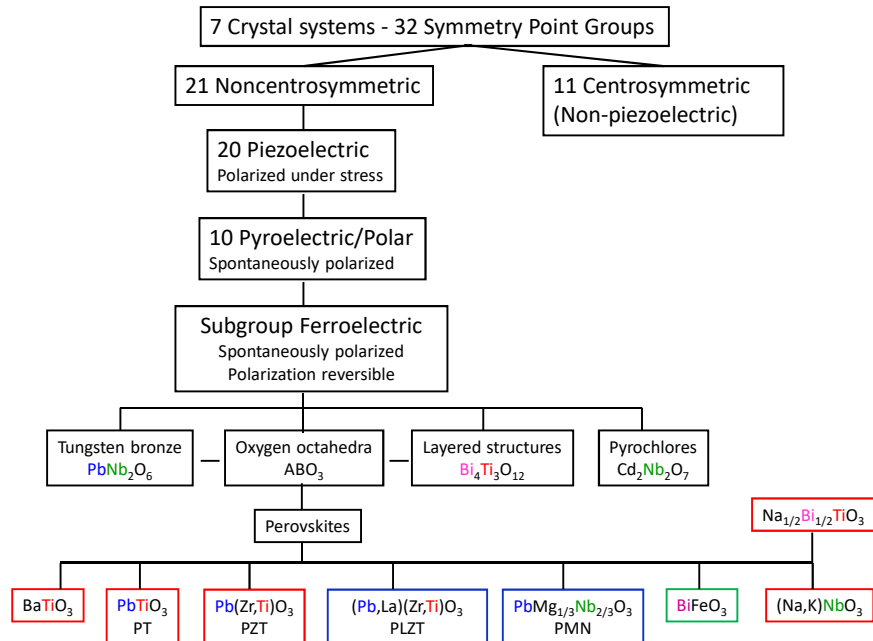
(1) The discovery of unusually high dielectric constant of BaTiO_3 (→ multilayer ceramic capacitors - MLCCs).

(2) The discovery that the origin of the high dielectric constant in BaTiO_3 is its ferroelectric nature, thus disclosing an entire new class of piezoelectric/ferroelectric materials - ABO_3 perovskites with BO_6 octahedra. Ferroelectricity no longer related to hydrogen bonds.

(3) The discovery of the electrical poling process to align the electrical dipoles of the grains/domains within the ceramics obtaining properties similar to those of single crystals (large scale production and application of piezoelectric transducers and actuators).

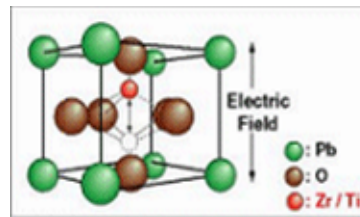
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Piezoelectricity and ferroelectricity in solids



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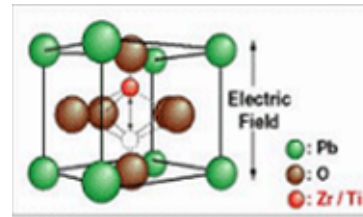
FERROELECTRIC CERAMICS



- This kind of material has **perovskite structure**, with general formula ABO_3 , in which
 - A is a large divalent metal ion such as Pb^{2+} or Ba^{2+} ,
 - B is a small tetravalent metal ion, such as Ti^{4+} or Zr^{4+} , octahedrally coordinating with oxygen.
- Ferroelectricity** occurs due to the displacement of positive ions B^{4+} and negative ions O^{2-} in opposite directions.

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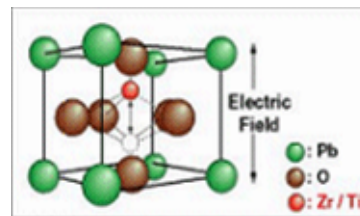
FERROELECTRIC CERAMICS



- This displacement causes **spontaneous polarisation** which is the origin of many other properties such as
 - extremely high dielectric constant,
 - hysteresis loop (non-linear dependence of polarisation with applied field),
 - piezoelectricity (the ability to change the dimension with applied field and to produce the current with applied mechanical stress).

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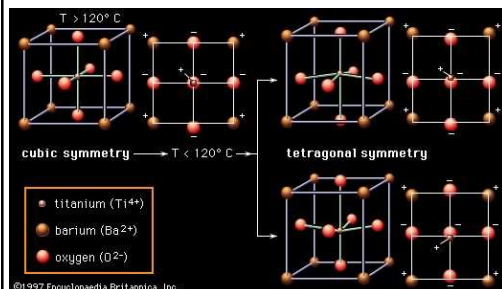
FERROELECTRIC CERAMICS: PZT (PbZrTiO_3) structure



- Ferroelectric ceramics are widely used in modern technology with various applications (sensors, actuators, generators, transducers to very recent IC for RAM).
- They can be used for **DRAM** (dynamic random access memory), and high remanent polarisation and low coercive field for being used as **NVRAM** (non-volatile random access memory).

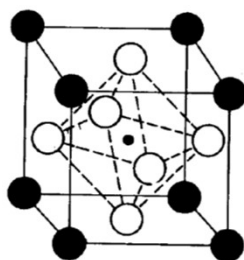
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Structure of Barium Titanate (BaTiO₃)



❖ ABO₃ – General perovskite – Cubic structure

❖ O²⁻ (co-ordination 2) at Face centres and A²⁺ (co-ordination 12) at corner positions and B⁴⁺ (co-ordination 6) at body center.



Site	Co-ordinates
A cation	(0,0,0)
B cation	(½, ½, ½)
O anion	(½, ½, 0) (½, 0, ½) (0, ½, ½)

Transitions in BaTiO₃



- BaTiO₃ – Centro symmetric with Ti⁴⁺ at body centre position with O²⁻ at face centres and Ba²⁺ at corner positions.
- Ti⁴⁺ occupies octahedral site as radius of Ti⁴⁺ is smaller than the radius of octahedral voids.
- Ti⁴⁺ ions shift from cube center when electric field is applied resulting in high dielectric constant.

Ref: (Johnsson and Lemmens 2005)

Note: In BaTiO₃ cubic to tetragonal transition is a displacive transition (i.e., where atoms change its position in any one direction)

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Tolerance factor of ABO₃ Perovskite – to estimate the degree of distortion

$$t = \frac{R_A + R_O}{\sqrt{2}(R_B + R_O)}$$

R_A = A – Cation ionic radius

R_B = B – Cation ionic radius

R_O = Oxygen Anion ionic radius

Ref: (Raengthon, McCue et al. 2016)

$$t = \frac{R_A + R_O}{\sqrt{2}(R_B + R_O)} * \frac{\Delta X(O - A)}{\Delta X(O - B)}$$

Modified Goldschmidt tolerance factor

$\Delta X(O - A)$ – Electronegativity difference b/w O and A

$\Delta X(O - B)$ – Electronegativity difference b/w O and B

Ref: (Brehm, Bennett et al. 2014)

Tolerance factor, t	Structure stability	Example	Reason/Remark
> 1	Hexagonal	BaNiO ₃	A ion is too big
0.9 – 1	Cubic	BaTiO ₃ , SrTiO ₃	Ideal sizes of A and B
0.71 – 0.9	Orthorhombic	CaTiO ₃ , GdFeO ₃	B ion interstitial sites are large for A ions to fit
< 0.71	Polymorphs	FeTiO ₃	Similar ionic sizes of A and B

Table Ref:

<https://jaramillo.mit.edu/modified-goldschmidt-tolerance-factor-calculator-abx3-compounds>

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Polarization mechanisms – combination of ionic and dipole polarization causes ferroelectric properties in BaTiO₃ (Hoshina, Kigoshi et al. 2009)

□ Ti⁴⁺ ions are small to be stable in octahedral site. It shifts to minimum energy positions along the direction of surrounded O²⁻ ions (i.e., along a single axis) (Richerson and Lee 2018)

- Ionic polarization – is due to Ba – O bonds. Atomic/ionic polarization tends to increase with temperature due to an increase in charge carriers and ion mobility.
- TiO₆ bonds – mixed covalent
- Spontaneous polarization – due to displacement of Ti⁴⁺ and O²⁻ ions in opposite directions thereby creating dipoles. These dipoles are retained even after the removal of applied voltage.

Non-centric atoms and their molecular orientations gives the retaining capacity for dipoles (Richerson and Lee 2018).

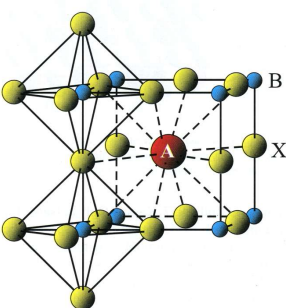
The ionic displacement in the c-axis direction initiates the ferroelectric dipole. Thus, it enhances the tetragonality (c/a) and creates large spontaneous polarization. However, there is an optimum oxygen pressure range to enhance the dielectric and ferroelectric of the BaTiO₃. With c-axis becoming relatively shorter, the dipole moment and the polarizability of the samples are reduced. **The c/a ratio of BaTiO₃ is 1.011 as per JCPDS (01-086-4991) and the lattice parameters are as follows: a = 3.9916 Å, c = 4.0363 Å**

Extra Information:

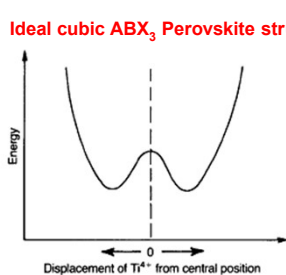
- Molecular orientation polarization is only affected by low frequencies (< 10⁹ Hz). In high frequency field, the molecules do not have time to realign with each cycle.
- Electronic polarization occurs very rapidly and is present even at high frequencies (10¹⁵ Hz).

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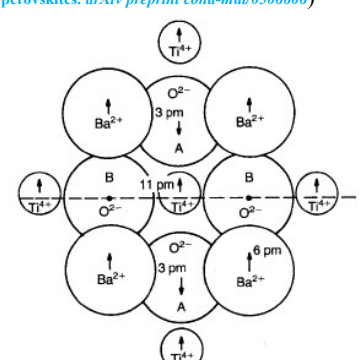
Atom positions in cubic Perovskites



Another way of representing BaTiO₃ – TiO₆ octahedron with O²⁻ vertices (Ti-O-Ti) edges and Ba²⁺ at cube centre (making Ba 12-fold co-ordination)
(Johnsson, M., & Lemmens, P. (2005). Crystallography and chemistry of perovskites. *arXiv preprint cond-mat/0506606*)



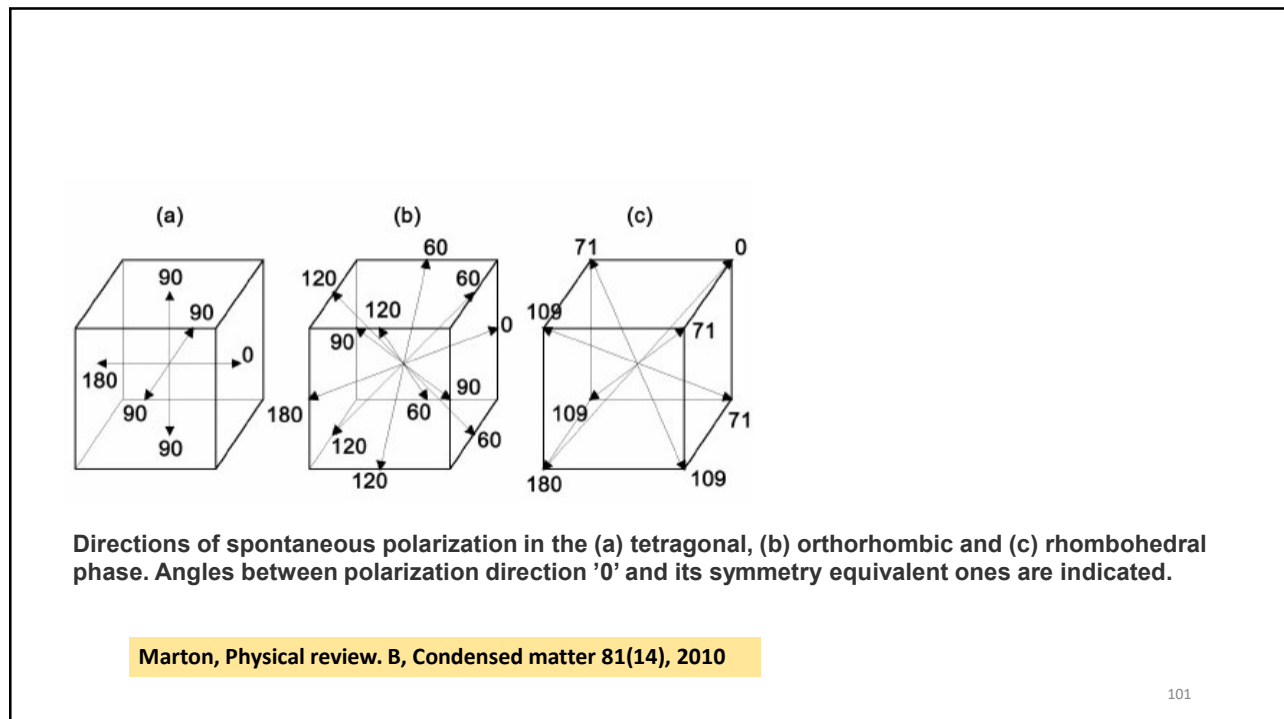
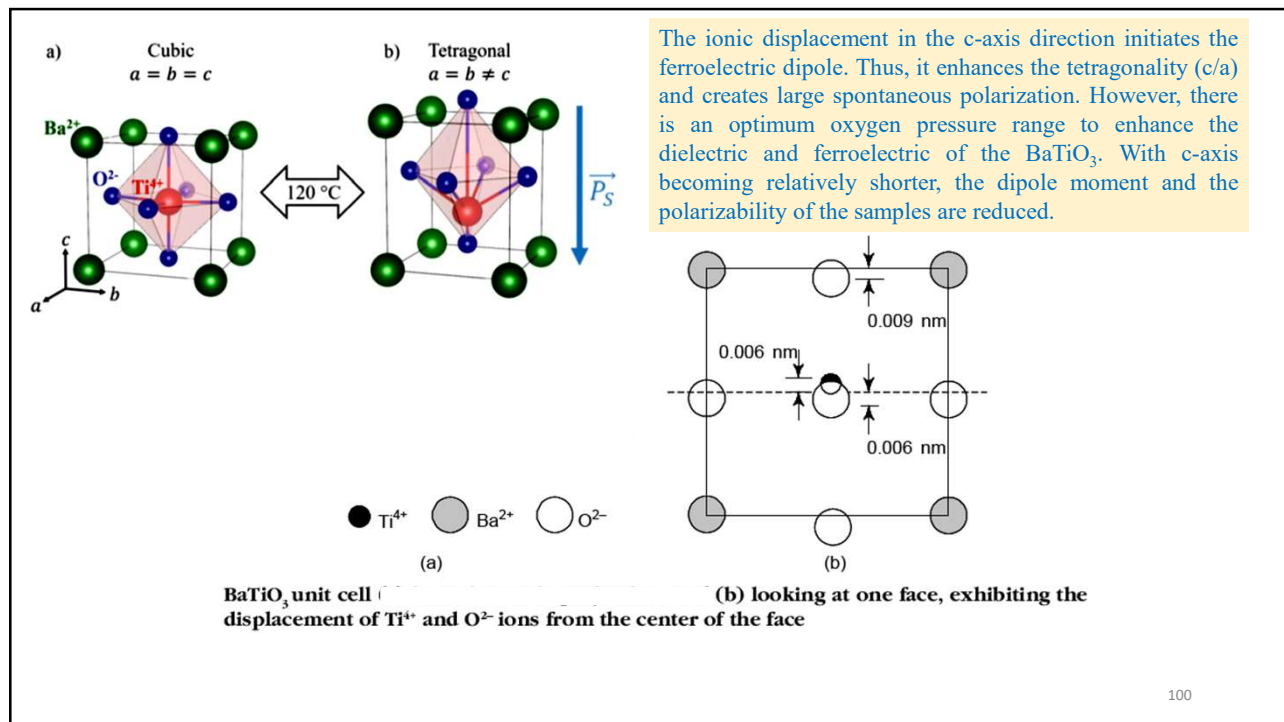
Variation in the potential energy of Ti⁴⁺ along the c axis for Tetragonal BT

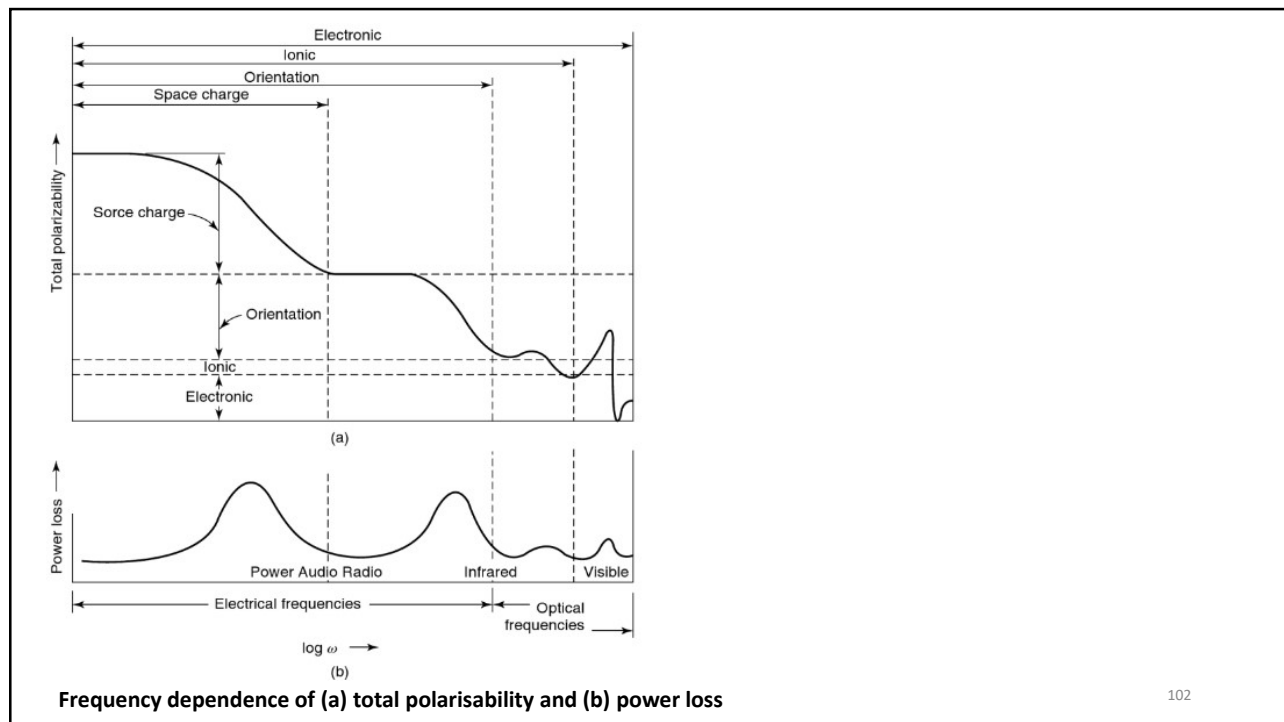


Approximate ion displacements in the cubic-tetragonal distortion in BaTiO₃

1. Raengthon, N., McCue, C., & Cann, D. P. (2016). Relationship between tolerance factor and temperature coefficient of permittivity of temperature-stable high permittivity BaTiO₃-Bi (Me) O₃ compounds. *Journal of Advanced Dielectrics*, 6(01), 1650002.
2. Brehm, J. A., Bennett, J. W., Schoenberg, M. R., Grinberg, I., & Rappe, A. M. (2014). The structural diversity of AB₃ compounds with d 0 electronic configuration for the B-cation. *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 140(22), 224703.
3. Table: <https://jaramillo.mit.edu/modified-goldschmidt-tolerance-factor-calculator-abx3-compounds>
4. Hoshina, T., Kigoshi, Y., Hatta, S., Takeda, H., & Tsurumi, T. (2009). Domain contribution to dielectric properties of fine-grained BaTiO₃ ceramics. *Japanese Journal of Applied Physics*, 48(9S1), 09KC01.
5. Richerson, D. W., & Lee, W. E. (2018). *Modern ceramic engineering: properties, processing, and use in design*. CRC press.

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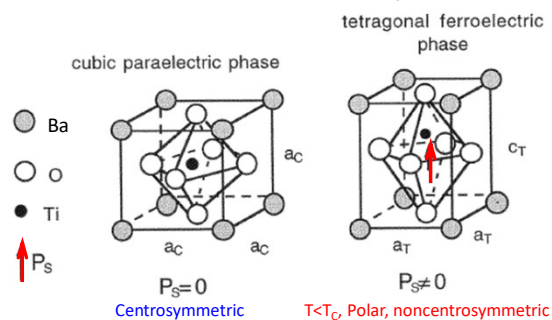




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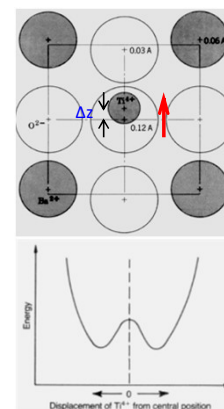
The paraelectric to ferroelectric phase transition

In some perovskites containing Ti or Nb on the B site (BaTiO_3 , PbTiO_3 , KNbO_3), a phase transition from a paraelectric cubic structure to a lower symmetry phase (tetragonal) with appearance of spontaneous polarization occurs at a critical temperature T_C (Curie temperature).



Spontaneous strain: $(c_T - a_T)/a_c \approx c_T/a_c - 1$

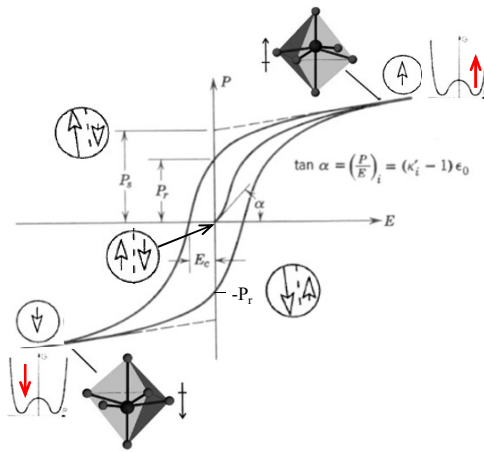
Compound	T_C (°C)	P_s ($\mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$)	Q_{c-t} (J/mol)	$c_T/a_T - 1$	$\Delta z(\text{Ti})$ (pm)
BaTiO_3	125	26	197	1%	120
$\text{PbZr}_{0.5}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$ (PZT)	380	40-50	-	2.5%	-
PbTiO_3	495	81	4815	6.5%	300
KNbO_3	435	30	796	-	-



$$T_C = 2 \times 10^4 (\Delta z)^2$$

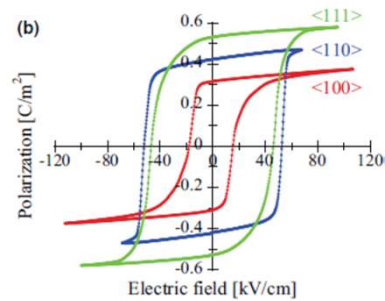
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Ferroelectric hysteresis loop and polarization switching



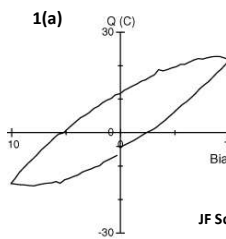
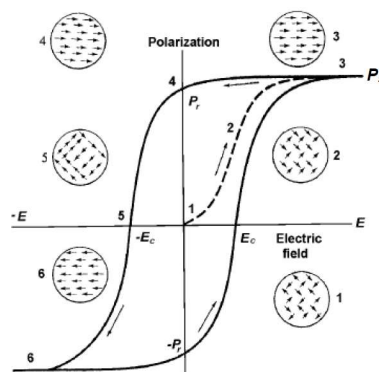
P_s : saturation (spontaneous) polarization
 P_r : remanent polarization
 E_c : coercive field
 The slope of the initial polarization curve gives the dielectric constant

Ideally $+P_r = -P_r$ and $+E_c = -E_c$



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Hysteresis loop: the fingerprint of ferroelectricity



JF Scott, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 20 (2008)

$Q = 2P_r A$ [saturated ferroelectric, ideally]

$Q = 2P_r A + \sigma E A t$ [in real situations]

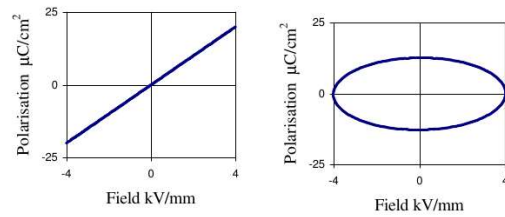
$Q = \sigma E A t$ [linear lossy dielectric]

Switched charge Q versus applied electric voltage V is not the same as polarisation-electric field (P-E) loops

If your 'hysteresis loops' look like figure 1(a), please do not publish them.
 Publish data that are saturated and have a region in Q versus V that is concave.
 Bananas are not ferroelectric, and it is easy to be misled by closed Q(V) loops.

J. Scott, "Ferroelectrics go bananas," J. Phys.: Condens. Matter, 2007;20(2):021001

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$$Q = 2P_s A \text{ [saturated ferroelectric, ideally]}$$

$$Q = 2P_s A + \sigma E A t \text{ [in real situations]}$$

$$Q = \sigma E A t \text{ [linear lossy dielectric]}$$

Switched charge Q versus applied electric voltage V
is not the same as polarisation-electric field (P - E) loops

Figure 1a): Ideal linear capacitor response Figure 1b) Ideal resistor response

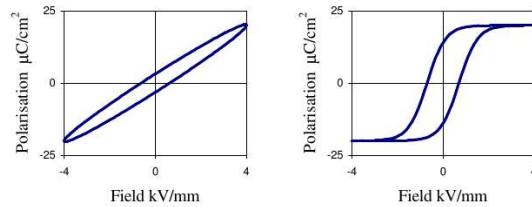
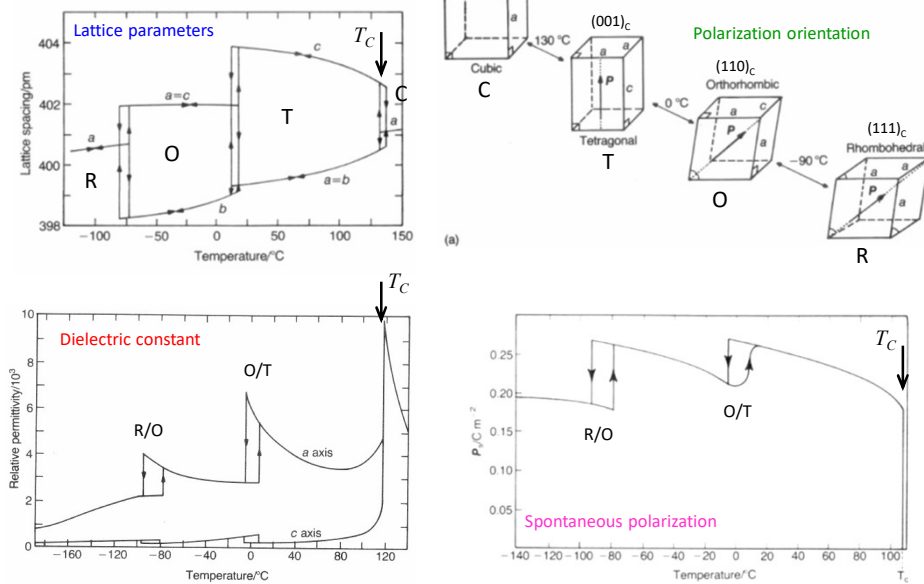


Figure 1c): Lossy capacitor response Figure 1d): Non-linear ferroelectric response

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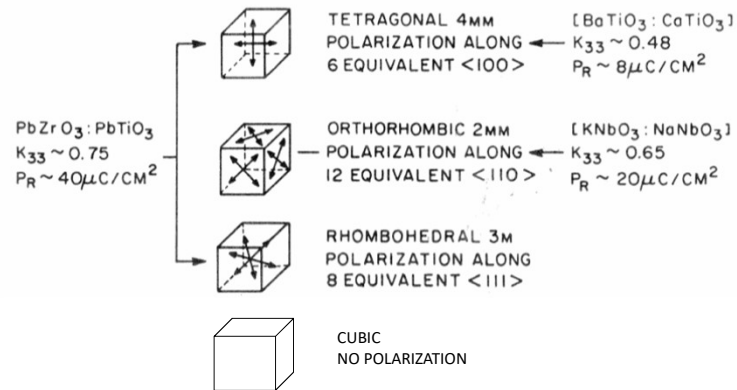
Phase transitions in barium titanate



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Phase transitions in ferroelectric perovskites

POSSIBLE ORIENTATION STATES IN PEROVSKITES



Polymorphic phase transition (PPT) in ferroelectrics are determined by:

- temperature change;
- external electric field;
- external stress;

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