

Problem Statement and Goals
Measuring Microstructure Changes During Thermal
Treatment

Team #30, ReSprint

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Table 1: Revision History

Date	Developer(s)	Change
Sept 25	Edwin Do	Initial commit with names
Sept 25	Timothy Chen	Added to 1.1 and 1.2
Sept 25	Edwin Do	Add list of goals and new table format
Sept 25	Joseph Braun	Made changes to Problem Statement
Sept 25	Joseph Braun	Added stretch goals
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1 Problem Statement

The Department of Materials Science and Engineering would like to measure changes in a material’s microstructure during thermal treatment. This can be done by looking at the changes in conductivity in real-time as a sample undergoes thermal treatment. The changes can occur very quickly and it is crucial to read real-time data at a sufficient acquisition rate. The equipment to be used in this project has been provided by the project supervisor, Dr. Hatem Zurob, and includes a current source, nanovoltmeter, and a Windows computer. Dr.Zurob has also provided a room in the JHE building for our team to use as a workspace. We need to create a GUI application that is compatible with the Windows computer provided. The computer is outfitted with a port which can be used to read data from the equipment. In addition, the application must be able to read and display real-time data at the same rate as the data is being sampled by the equipment. Failure to match the rates will result in inaccurate readings beings displayed by the application.

1.1 Problem

GUI Application required to connect and read measurements from equipment measuring sample material during thermal treatment. The application needs to accurately process and display results at a high acquisition rate.

1.2 Inputs and Outputs

The current source and voltage measurements are inputs used to compute resistance. Resistance and dimensions of the sample are then used to calculate the conductivity during themal treatment.

1.3 Stakeholders

The stakeholders of this project include Dr. Hatem Zurob (project supervisor) and anyone who is interested in observing the resistivity values in microstructures.

1.4 Environment

The environment for the hardware for this project will be the workspace in the JHE building. The software will be developed for the Windows platform which the computer runs on.

2 Goals

Goals	Reason and measurement
Real-time monitoring of conductivity	A key feature to measure conductivity changes during thermal treatment. This can be measured by comparing the acquisition rate and how quickly the data is updated in the GUI.
Remote access of the application	There may be jobs that take an extensive amount of time to complete. This will allow the user to check on the progress remotely. This can be measured by testing how accurate the progress is updated on the remote device.
Window Based Application that can be easily installed	The computer used to connect to the nano-voltmeter and the current source will be using Windows as its operating system. This can be measured by looking at how successful the installation is and the time it required to be installed.
Control acquisition rate up to 100 times per second	An acquisition rate of 100 times per second is necessary to provide the required granularity so that the data will be useful. This can be measured by observing the acquisition rate of the equipment and its output.
Display data as plots and text files	The data must be displayed as plots so provide a visual representation of the data. Outputting the data to text files can allow the data to be ready for other uses/applications. This can be measured by observing how successful and accurate the application outputs the results to plots and text files.

Table 2: List of goals

3 Stretch Goals

Stretch Goals	Reason and measurement
Cross platform compatibility	The primary goal of the project is to create the application to work on the Windows computer provided. However, creating cross-platform compatibility for the application allows for users to run the program on their own system.
Achieve an acquisition rate of 150 times per second	Once data acquisition is functional and communication with the Windows application is stable, another goal would be to increase the sampling or acquisition rate as much as possible, as this will lead to more accurate results.

Table 3: List of stretch goals