

# "Electrochemical Quartz Crystal Microbalance"

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# Tutorials EQCM

## SESSION I: Fundamentals and experimental implementation

### 1. Introduction (RH)

### 2. Methodology of measurements (HP)

#### 2.1 Basic concepts

#### 2.2 Instrumentation based on quartz resonators

#### 2.3 Other acoustic wave devices

#### 2.4 Electrochemical coupling techniques

### 3. Data interpretation, limitations, modelling (HP & RH)

#### 3.1 Response factors (HP)

#### 3.2 Gravimetric application (RH)

#### 3.3 Electroacoustic approach (RH)

#### 3.4 Electrogravimetric measurements (HP)

## SESSION II: Exploitation for study of real systems

### 4.1 Materials (RH)

### 4.2 Phenomena (HP & RH)

#### 4.2.1 Adsorption / desorption (RH)

#### 4.2.2 UPD (RH)

#### 4.2.3 (Bulk) deposition /dissolution (HP)

#### 4.2.4 Molecular recognition (HP)

#### 4.2.5 Complexation (RH)

#### 4.2.6 Ion exchange (HP)

#### 4.2.7 Wetting / solvation (RH)

#### 4.2.8 Viscoelasticity (RH)

#### 4.2.9 Stress & mechanical motion (RH)

### 5. Questions and further information (HP & RH)

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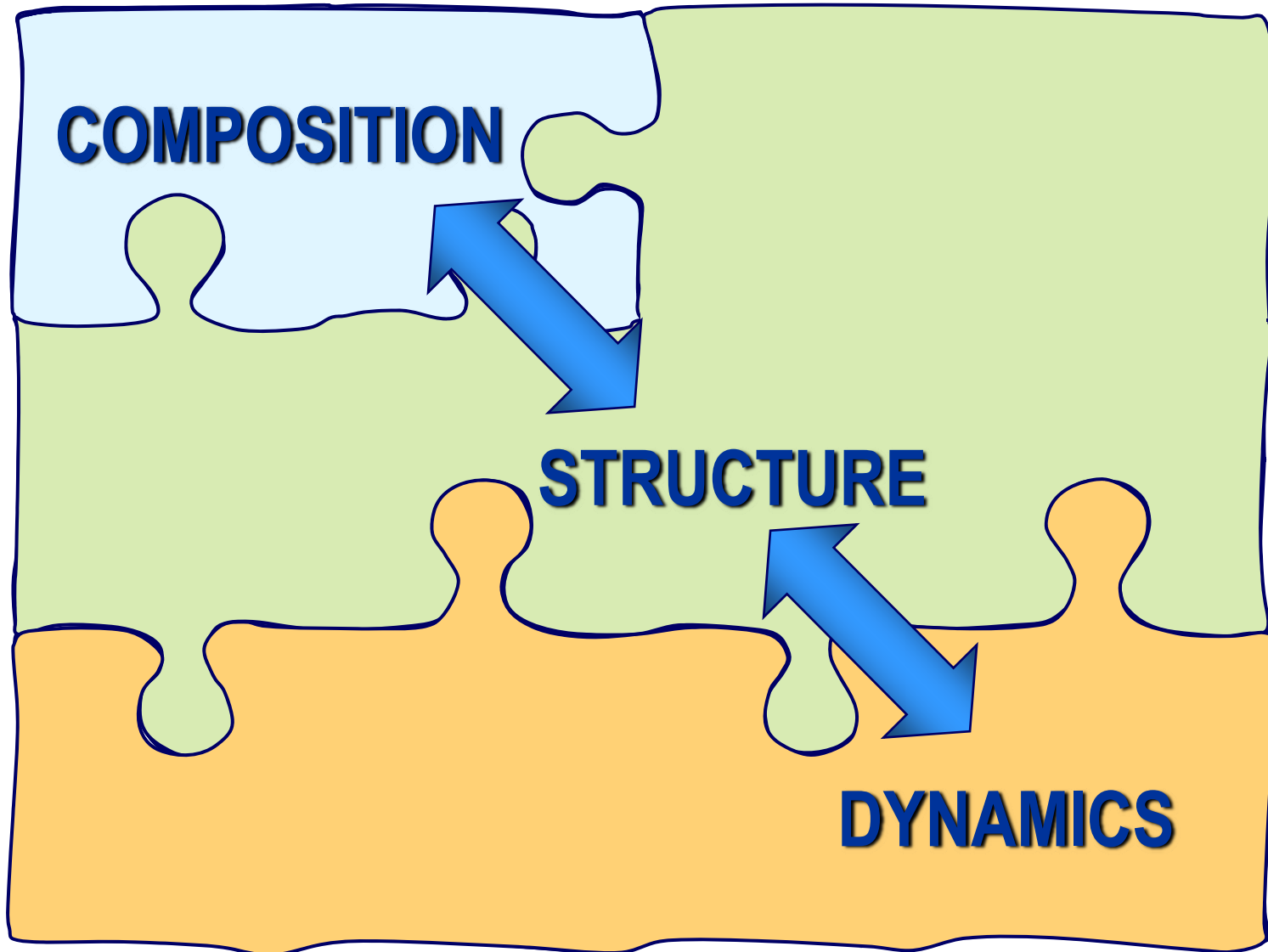
Characterization of electrochemical interfaces is ...

... ジグソーパズル

**Characterization of electroactive film materials is ...**

**... uk adanka**

# INFORMATION UNDERSTANDING

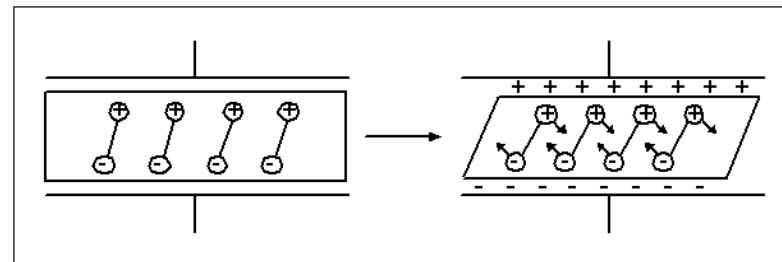


## 2. Methodology of measurements (H. Perrot)

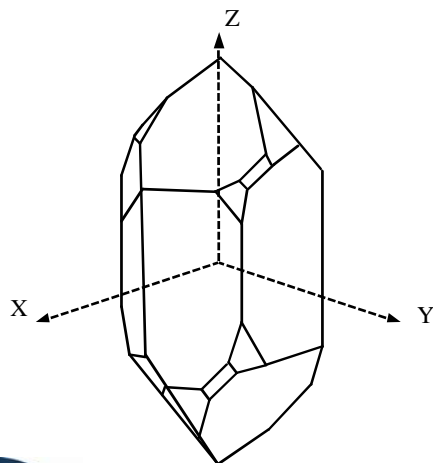
### 2.1 Basic concepts

► Piezoelectric effect: direct or reverse

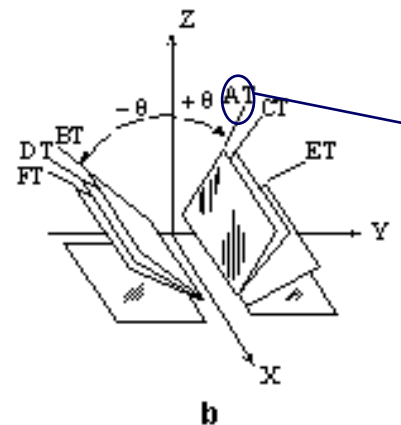
pressure → charge  
 charge → distorsion



► Piezoelectric crystals: quartz, GaPO<sub>4</sub>, ...



crystallographic representation

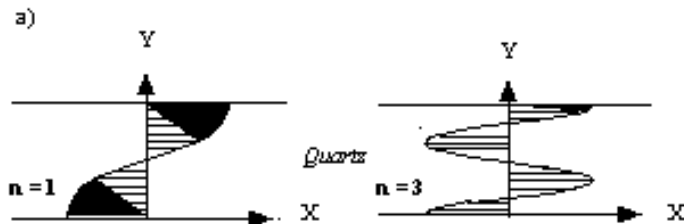


AT-cut, single rotation

Classical quartz: AT cut 35' 12"

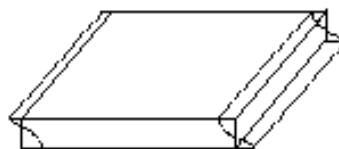


► Wave propagation of the u.s.

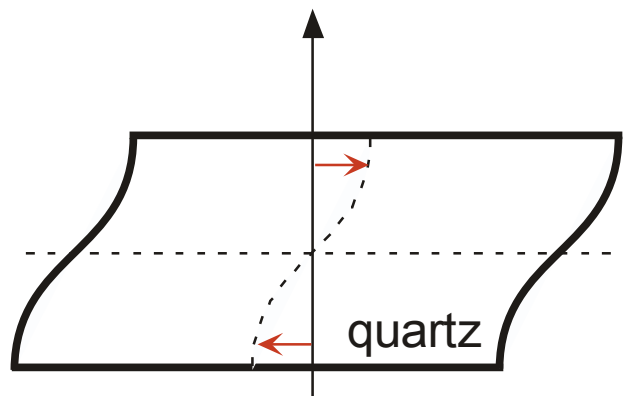


- Thickness Shear Mode (TSM)
- Bulk Acoustic Wave (BAW)
- Resonant condition
- n: overtone number

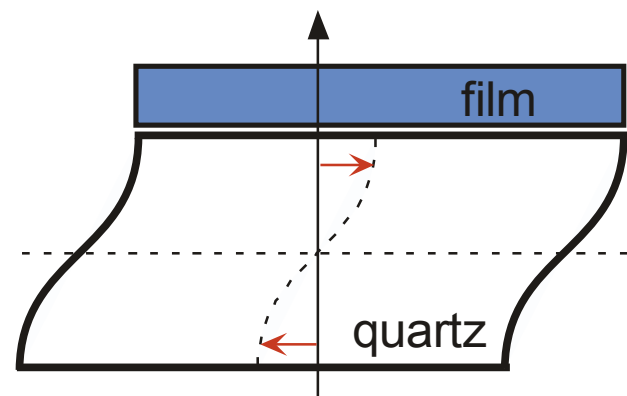
b)



► Resonant frequency change (basic interpretation)



$f_0$

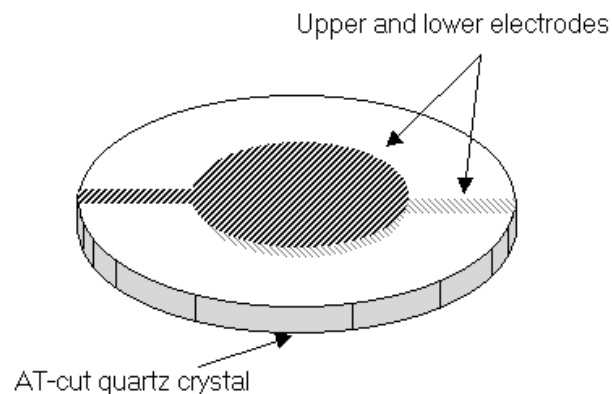


$f_1 < f_0$

New frequency  $f_1$  depends on the mass of the film

## 2.2 Instrumentation based on quartz resonators

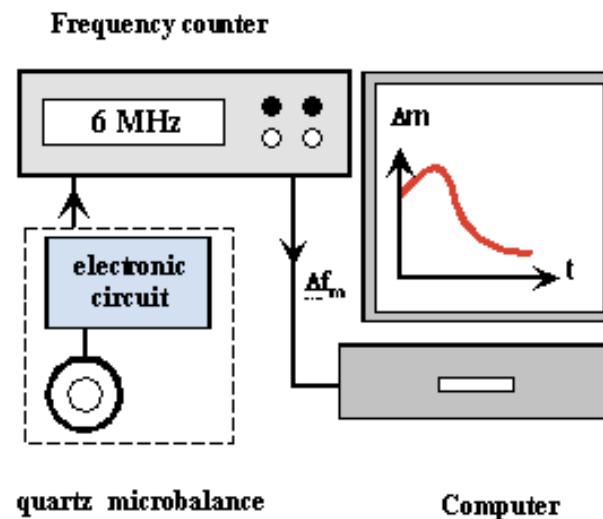
### 2.2.1 Active mode or classical QCM



#### Quartz resonator (6 MHz)

$e_q = 275 \mu\text{m}$   
 $e_{\text{gold}} = 0.2 \mu\text{m}$   
 Cr underlayer

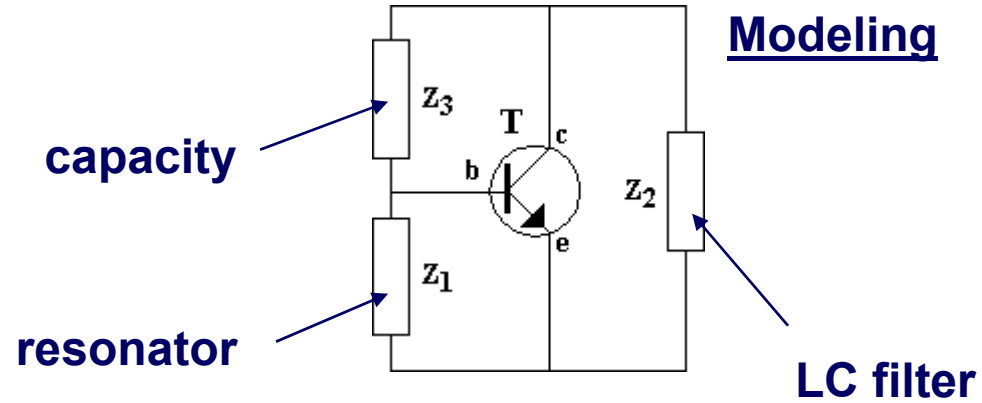
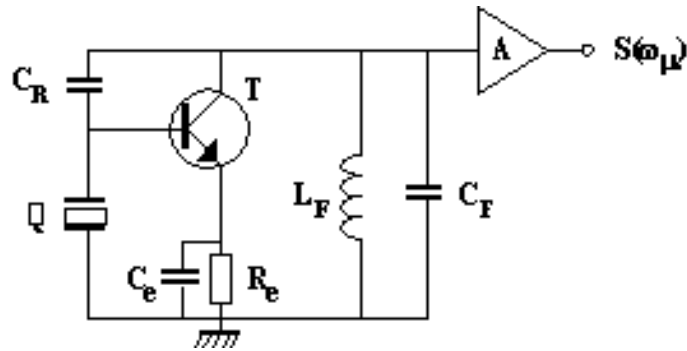
#### Quartz holder



#### Complete experimental set-up

- Condition of Barkhausen (or oscillation): **phase shift: 0° and gain > 1**

Example: Miller configuration

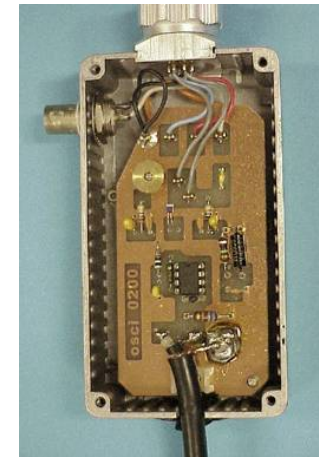
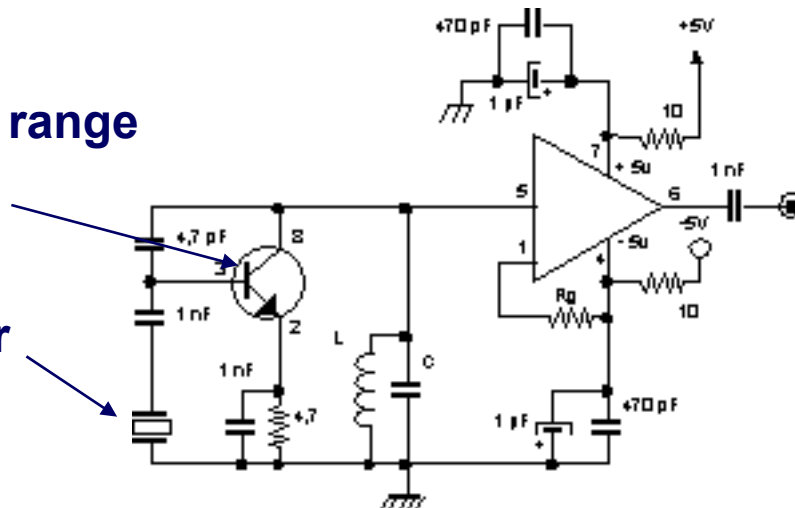


$$\text{Re}[Y_2 Y_3 + Y_1 Y_3 + Y_1 Y_2] = 0$$

- Schematic representation with the different values given previously

OPA 660:  
large frequency range  
high gain

resonator

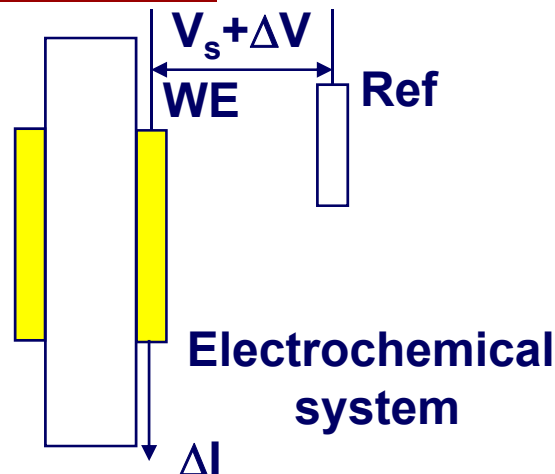


ISE Nice 2010-Tutorials Microbalance

## 2.2.2 Passive mode or electroacoustic measurements

### ► Principle of measurement

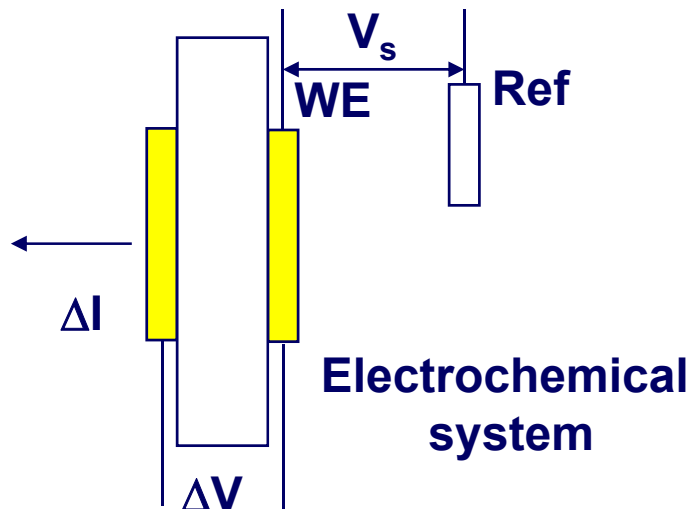
#### 1. Electrochemical impedance



$$\text{FRA} \Rightarrow Z_{\text{exp}}^{\text{electrochemical}} = \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta I}$$

f : from 1 mHz to 100kHz

#### 2. Electroacoustic impedance



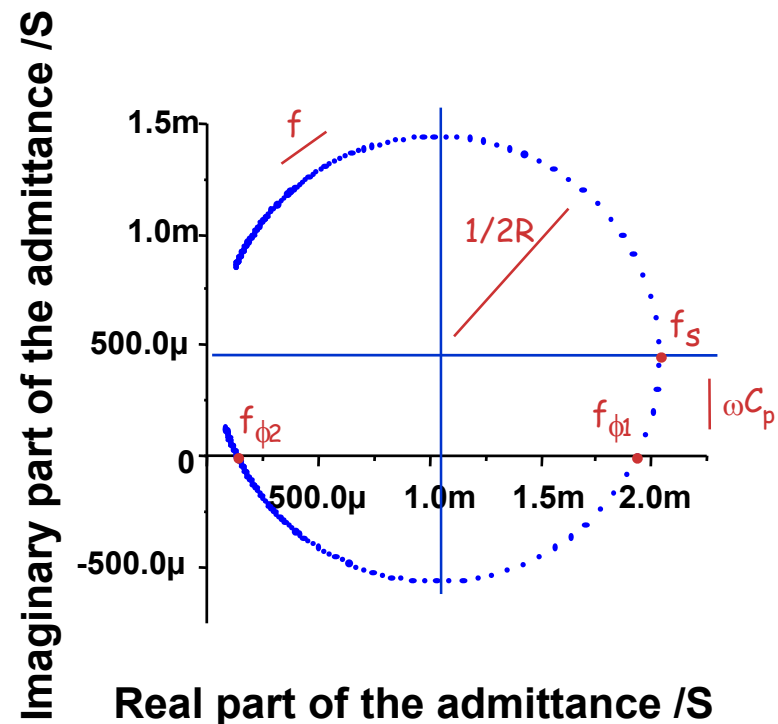
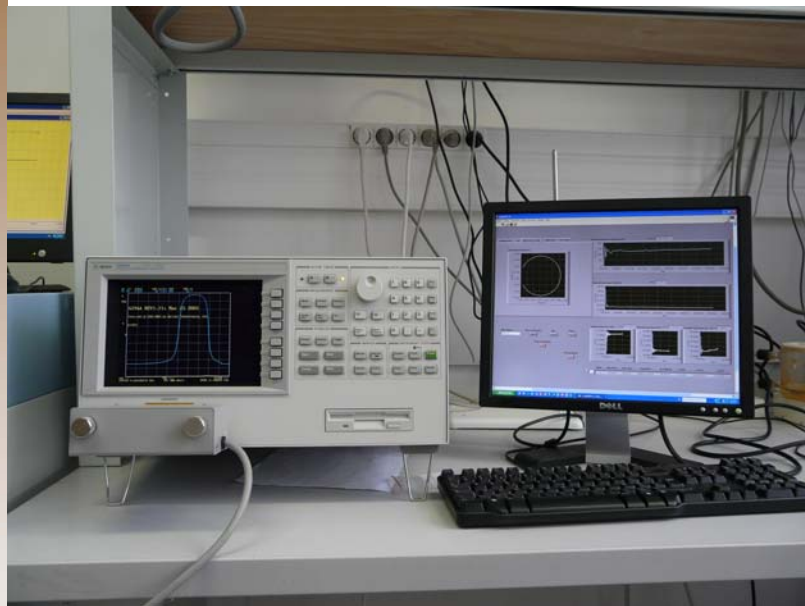
Network analyzer

$$\Rightarrow Y_{\text{exp}}^{\text{electroacoustic}} = \frac{\Delta I}{\Delta V}$$

f: few MHz

► How to do the electroacoustic measurements

Different apparatus can be used: HP 4194A, Agilent 4294A, Solartron 1260...



Two key parameters can be extracted directly:  $R$  and  $f_s$  close to  $f_m$

Fast estimation and more accurate values available by fitting

## 2.2.3 Sensitivity of the quartz resonators

### ► First equation for the gravimetric sensor

$$\Delta f_m = -2.26 \cdot 10^{-6} \frac{f_n^2}{n} \frac{\Delta m}{A} = -k_S^{\text{th}} \Delta m$$

### Sauerbrey equation (1959):

- Valid for small mass changes ( $\Delta m < 10\%$  of the total mass of the quartz)
- Valid for purely elastic material as quartz or equivalent

### Theoretical sensitivity:

At 6 MHz: 1 Hz is equivalent to few ng, it is less than one monolayer of adsorbed oxygen on the electrode surface!

- Interests:**
- in-situ measurement
  - high mass sensitivity
  - fast response

► **Theoretical mass sensitivity**

$f_m$ /MHz	$e/\mu\text{m}$	$k_S^{\text{th}} / \text{Hz g}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Gain / 6 MHz
6 fundamental mode	278	$8.14 \cdot 10^7$	-
9 fundamental mode	185	$18.31 \cdot 10^7$	X2.25
27 (9 MHz 3 <sup>rd</sup> overtone)	185	$54.95 \cdot 10^7$	X6.75
27 fundamental mode	62	$164.85 \cdot 10^7$	X20.25

In term of direct mass:

$f_m$ /MHz	$k_S^{\text{th}} / \text{Hz g}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	$\Delta m/\text{ng cm}^{-2}$ if $\Delta f_m=1 \text{ Hz}$	$\Delta m/\text{ng}$ if $\Delta f_m=1 \text{ Hz}$ ( $A=0.2 \text{ cm}^2$ )
6 fundamental mode	$8.14 \cdot 10^7$	12.28	2.457
9 fundamental mode	$18.31 \cdot 10^7$	5.46	1.092
27 (9 MHz 3 <sup>rd</sup> overtone)	$54.95 \cdot 10^7$	1.82	0.364

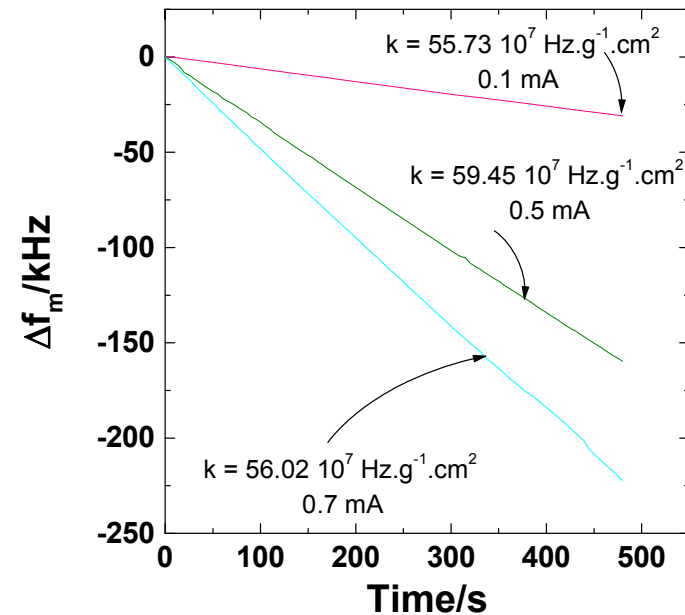
## ► Calibration with copper

Electrodeposition under controlled current:



- microbalance frequency shift:  $\Delta f_m$
- mass change from the Faraday law:  $\Delta m_F$

$$k_S^{\text{exp}} = \frac{\Delta f_m}{\Delta m_F}$$

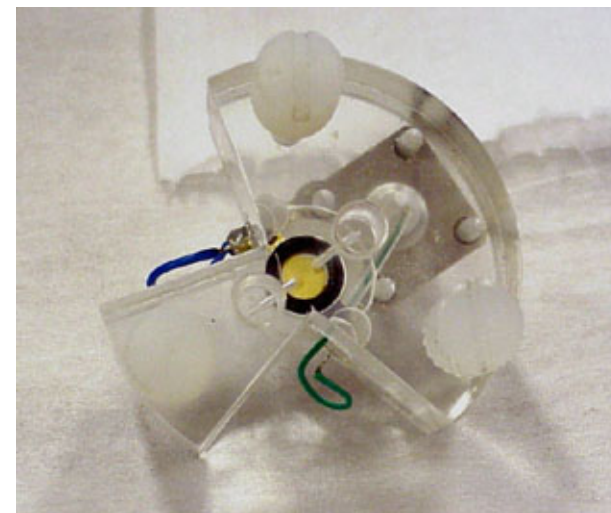
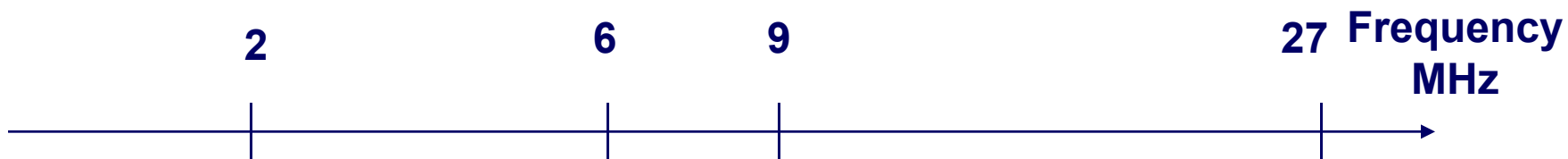


Frequency/MHz	$\Delta m/\text{ng}$ if $\Delta f_m = 1 \text{ Hz}$ ( $A = 0.2 \text{ cm}^2$ )	
	Experimental/pg	Theoretical/pg
6	2670	2454
9	1226	1093
27(3)	350	364



## 2.3 Other acoustic wave devices

### ► Overview of different microbalances



► Other acoustic wave devices

Device

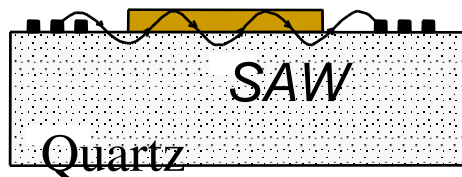
Mass sensitivity

Mass for 1Hz



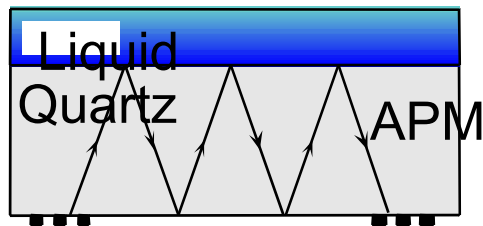
$$-2.26 \cdot 10^{-6} f_0^2$$

6 MHz: 12 ng cm<sup>-2</sup>



$$-2.26 \cdot 10^{-6} f_0^2$$

200 MHz: 10 pg cm<sup>-2</sup>



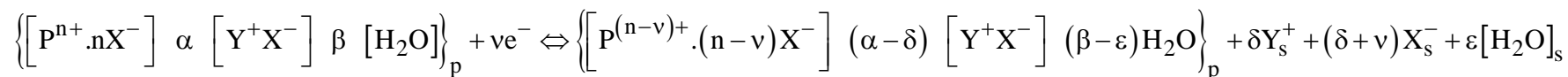
$$-10 f_0$$

104 MHz: 1 ng cm<sup>-2</sup>

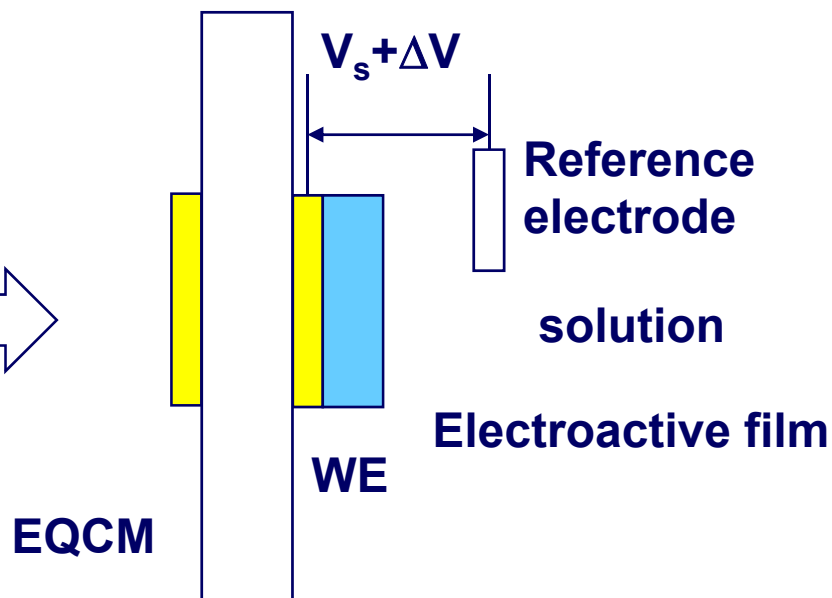
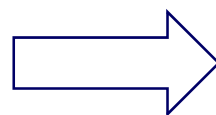
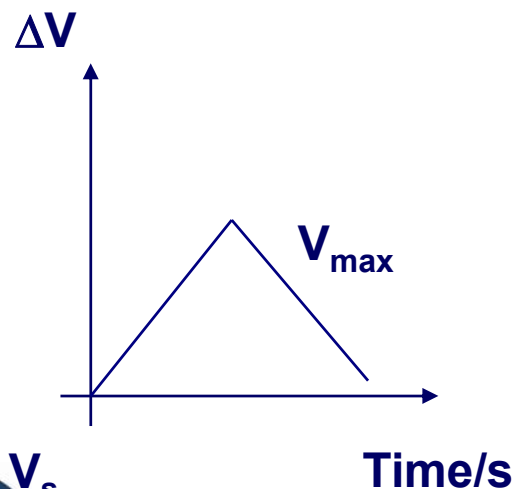
## 2.4 Electrochemical coupling techniques

### 2.4.1 Cyclic electrogravimetry

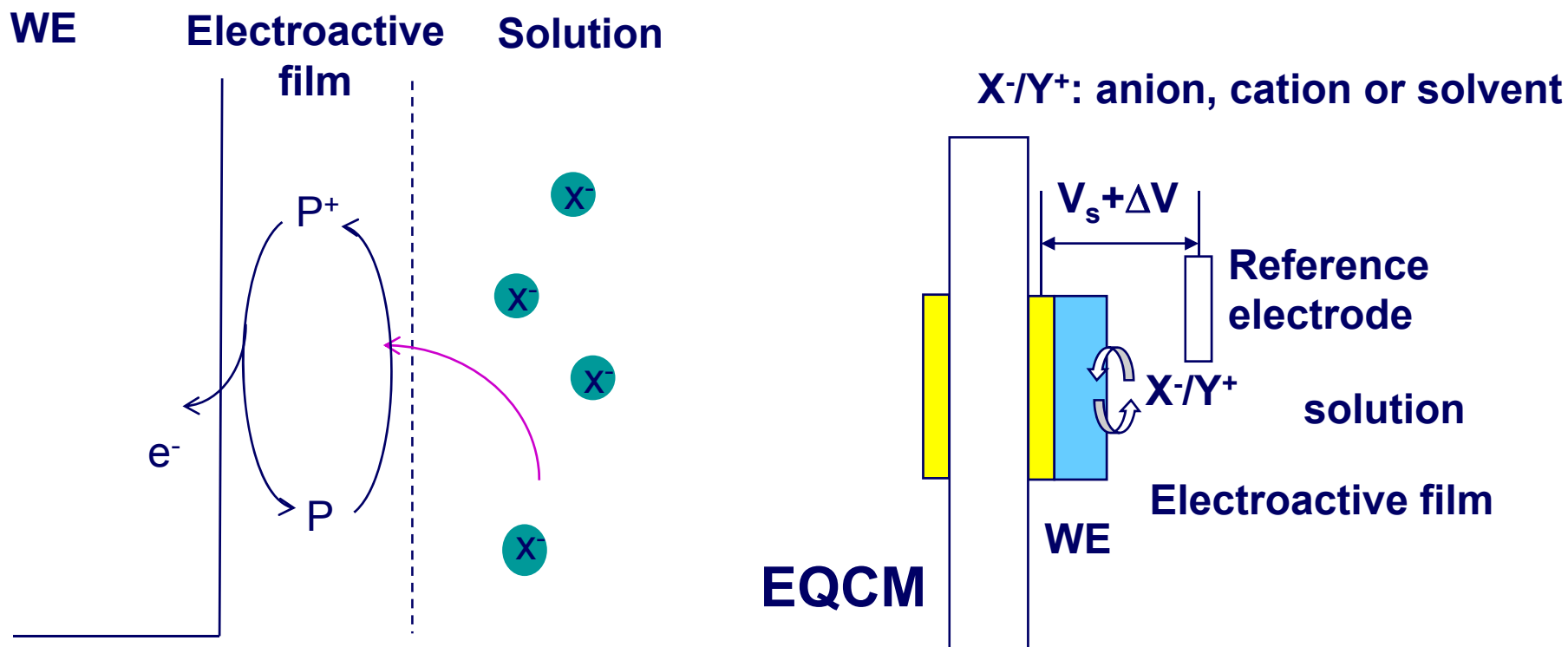
#### ► Electroactive film on the QCM



#### ► Potential change ( $\Delta V$ )



► Current response and mass response

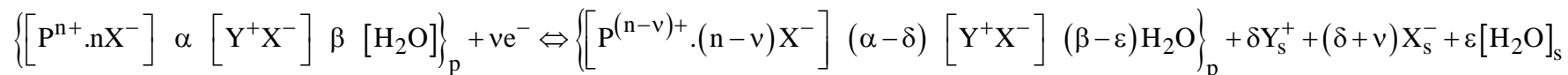


Motion of electrons and ions due to the film electroactivity

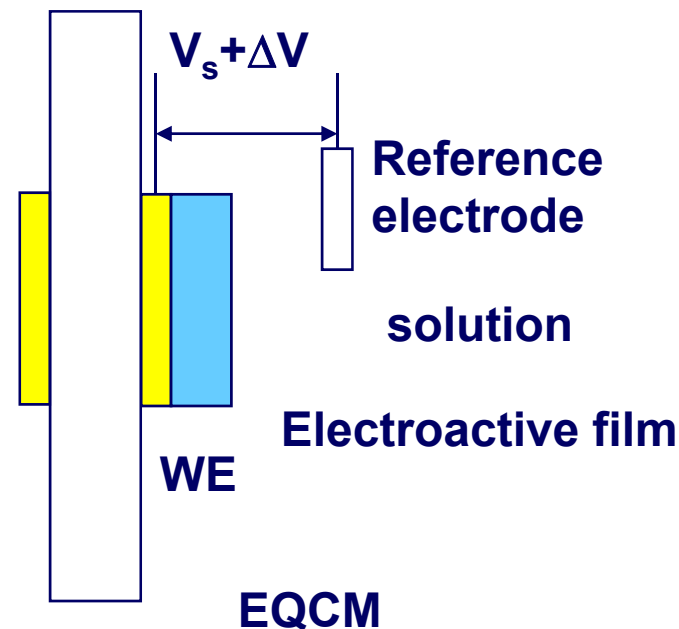
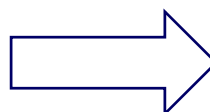
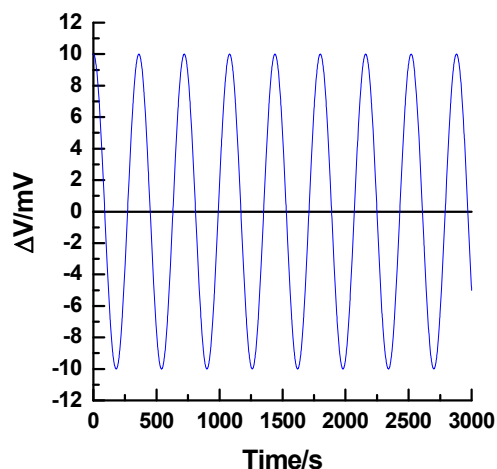
- Current response:  $i=k(V)$
- Mass response:  $m=k'(V)$

## 2.4.2 ac-electrogravimetry

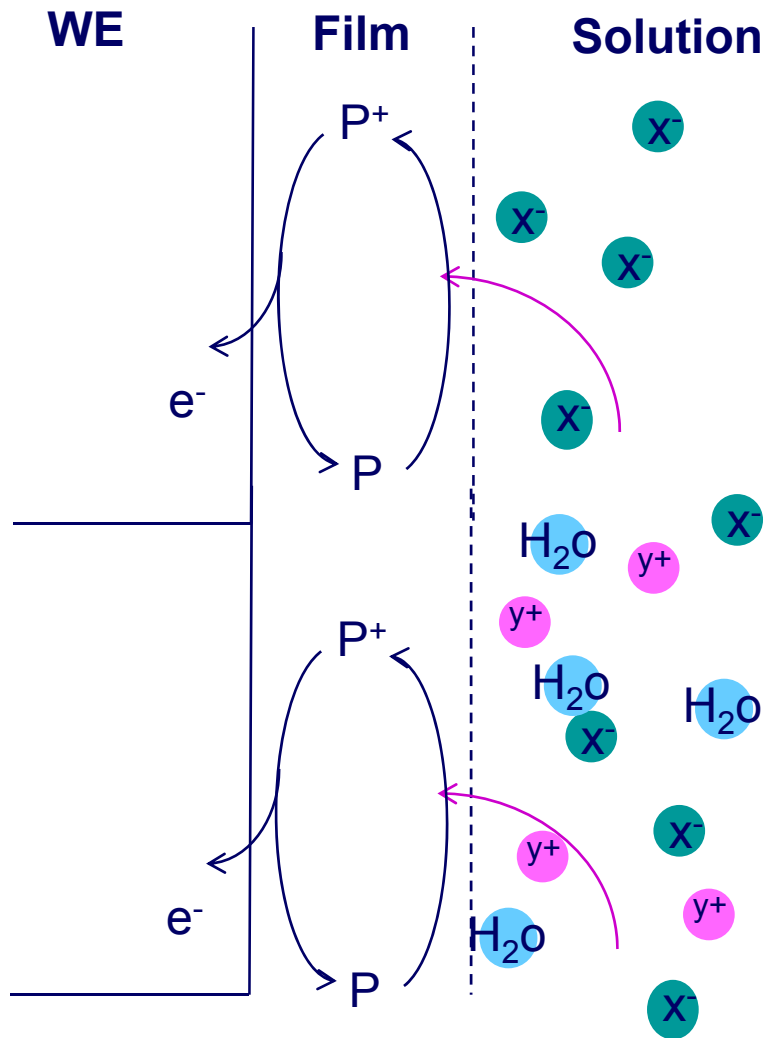
### ► Electroactive film on the QCM



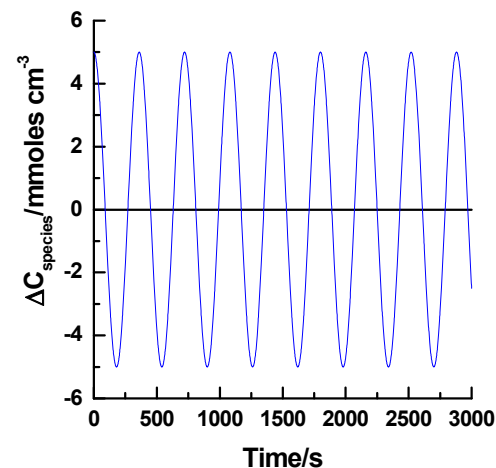
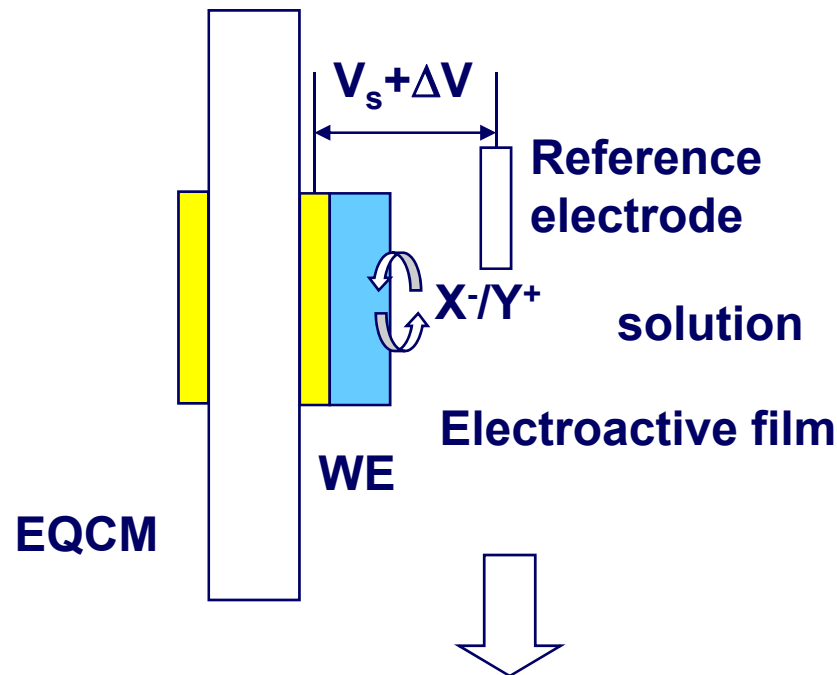
### ► Potential modulation



- Potential modulation at a given frequency (f)
- Small amplitude to keep the linear regime ( $\Delta V$ )
- Under equilibrium ( $V_s$ )

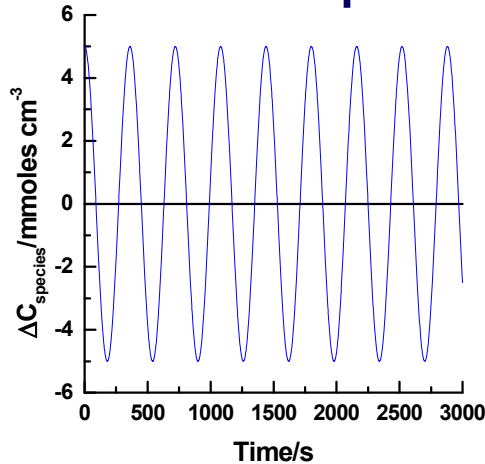


$X^-/Y^+$ : anion, cation or solvent

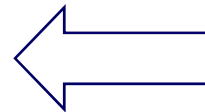
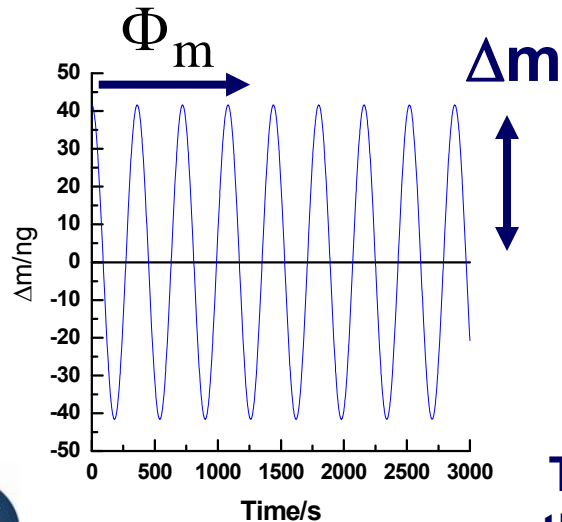
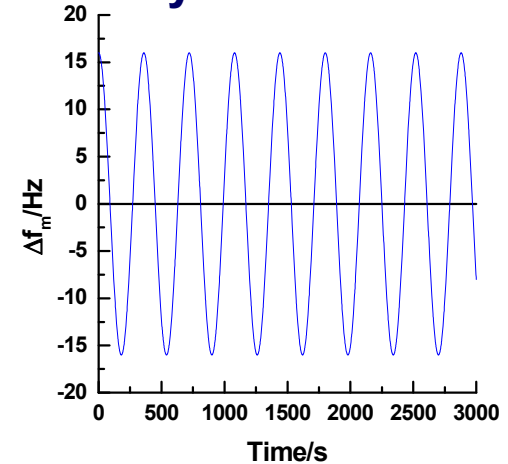


► Film mass changes:  $\Delta m$

Equivalent to a change of the film density



EQCM



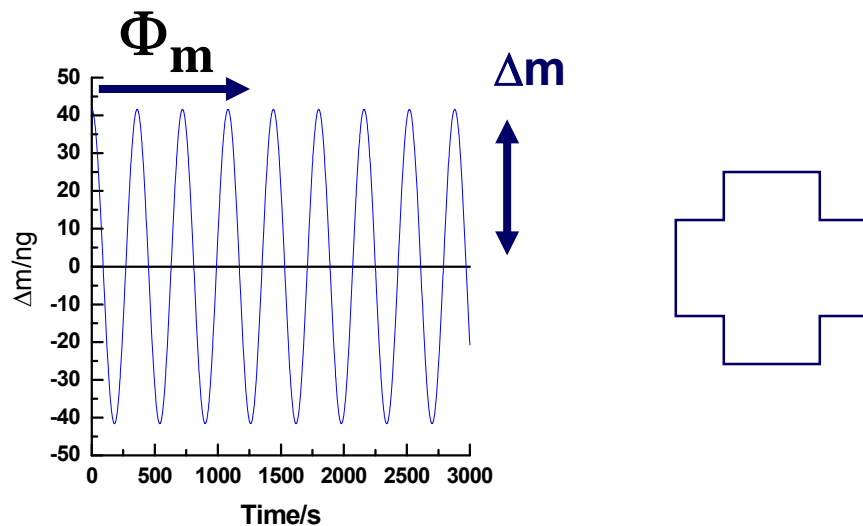
Time response of the film mass ( $\Delta m$ )

Gravimetric regime

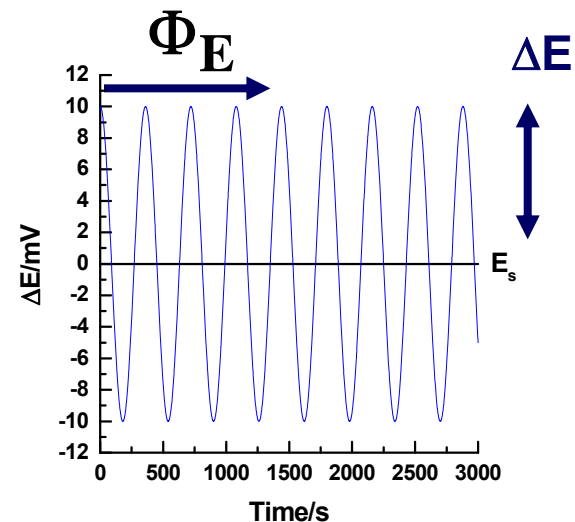
Sauerbrey equation:

$$\Delta m = - \frac{\Delta f_m}{k_s}$$

### Mass response



### Potential modulation



### Frequency Response Analyzer (FRA):



$$\frac{\Delta m}{\Delta E} = \frac{|\Delta m|}{|\Delta E|} e^{j(\Phi_m - \Phi_E)}$$

At a given frequency modulation  
 $(\omega = 2 \times \pi \times f)$

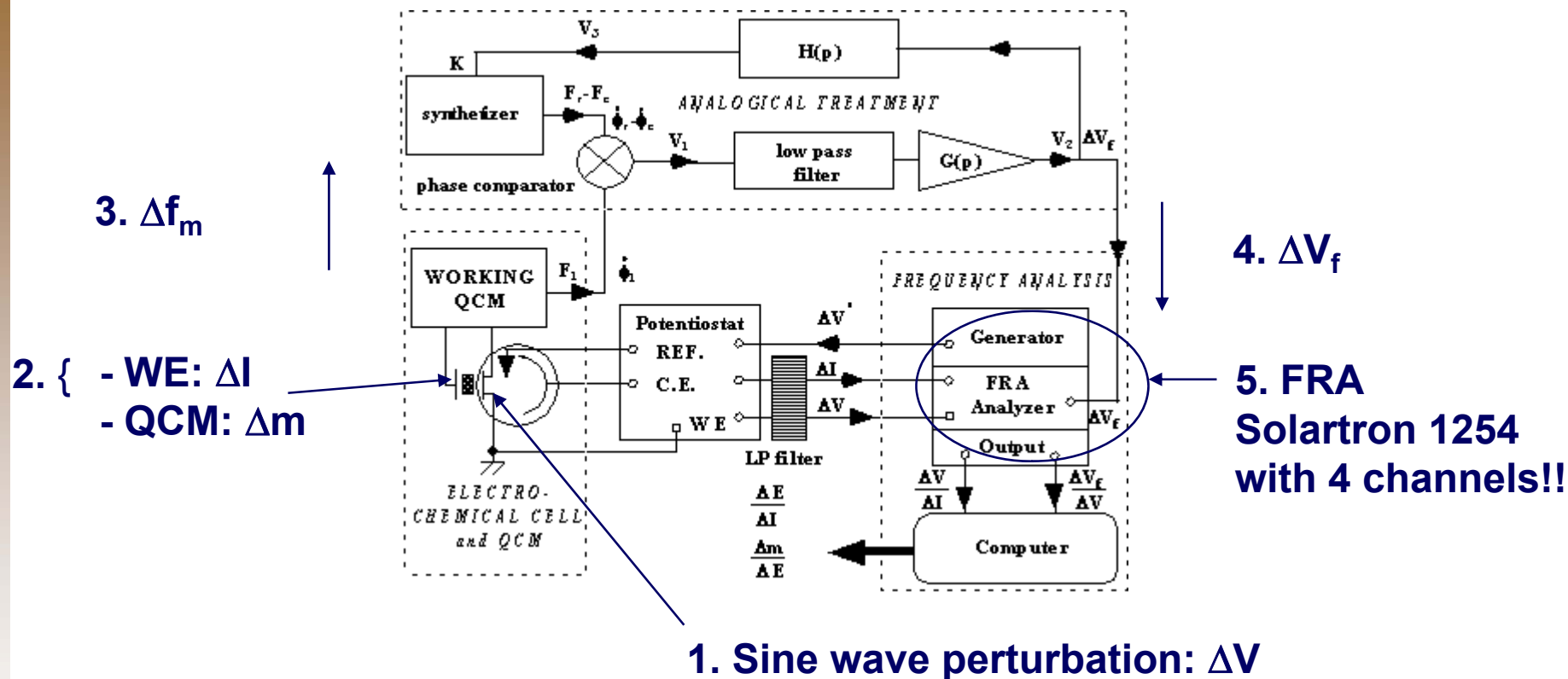
### Interests:

- linear regime (models)
- frequency dependent: kinetic information
- possibility of electrochemical coupling
- ionic identification
- non charged species detected



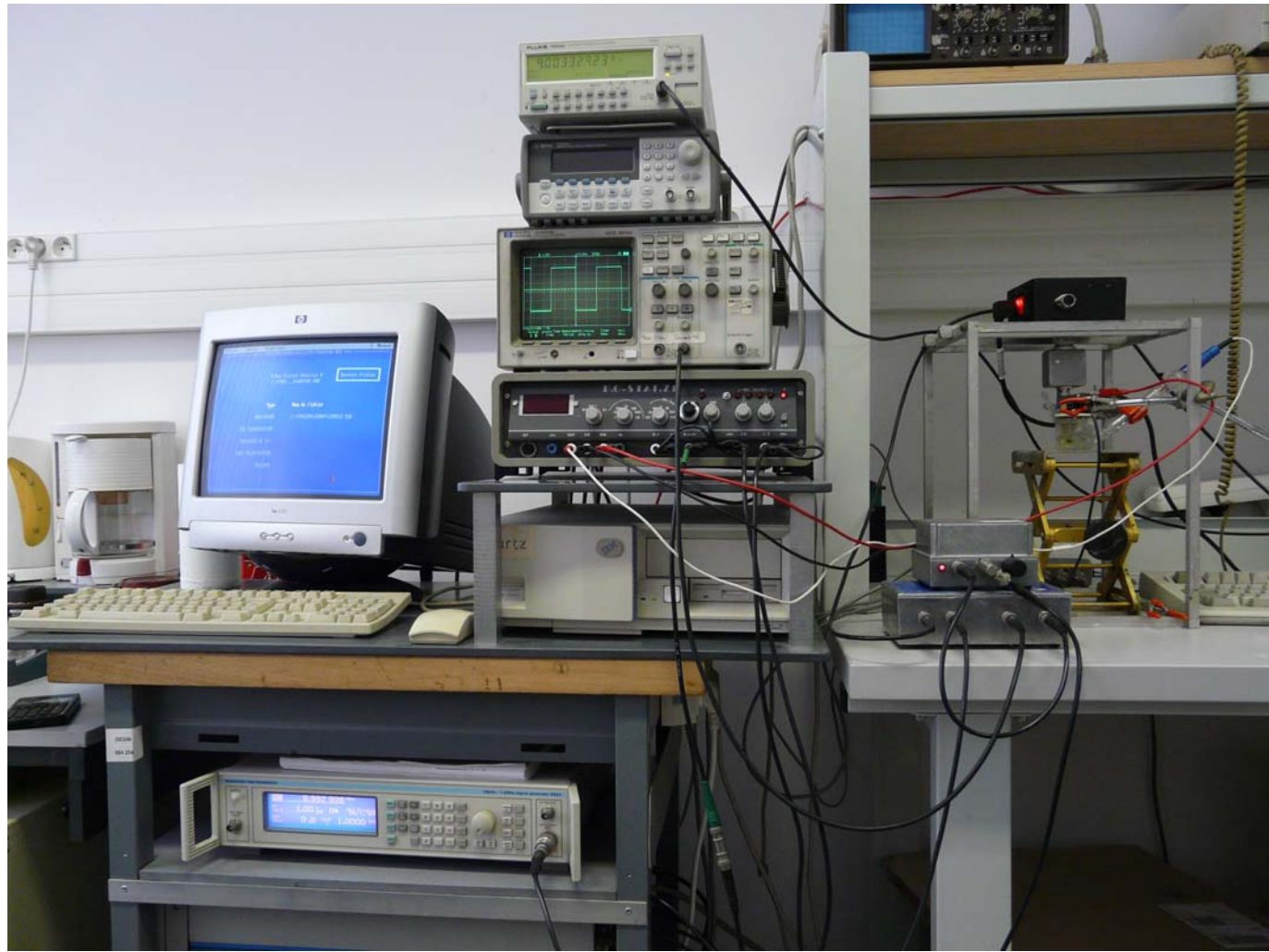


► Complete system

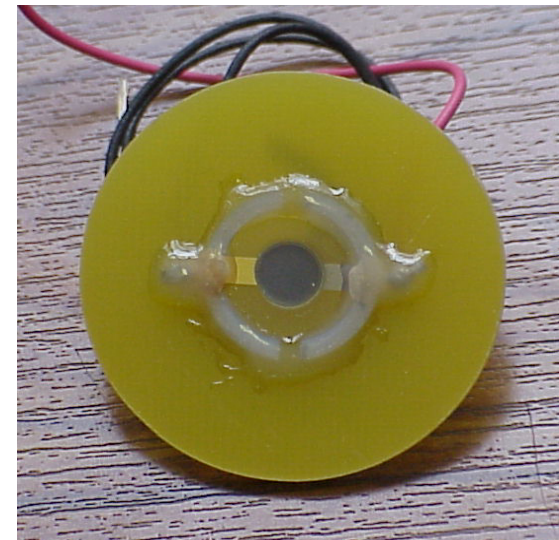
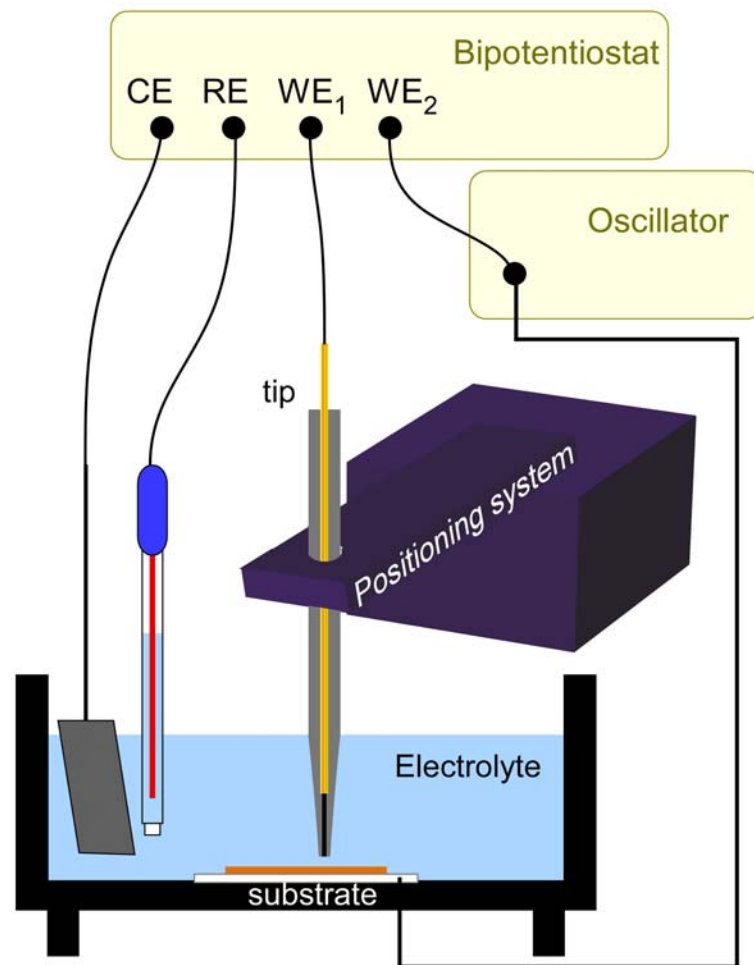


Final TF wished:  $\frac{\Delta E}{\Delta I}$  and  $\frac{\Delta m}{\Delta E}$

► Experimental set up



## 2.4.3 SECM and microbalance



### 3. Data interpretation, limitations, modelling (HP and ARH)

#### 3.1. Response factors

##### ► Mass

Resonant condition: 
$$e = \frac{n\lambda_n}{2}$$

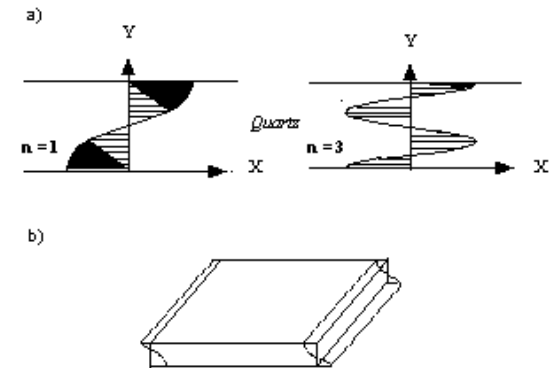
where  $e$  is the film thickness and  $\lambda_n$  is the wave length

First relation:  $\lambda_n = v \frac{1}{f_n}$  where  $v$  is the u.s. speed and  $f_n$

Second relation:  $e = \frac{m}{A\rho}$  where  $m$  is the mass of the quartz,  $A$  the active surface and  $\rho$ , the quartz density.

Thus, by combining these equations, it leads to:  $f_n = \frac{nvA\rho}{2m}$

For an increase of mass  $\Delta m$ :  $\Delta f_n + f_n = \frac{nvA\rho}{2(m + \Delta m)} = \frac{nvA\rho}{2m(1 + \frac{\Delta m}{m})}$



If  $\Delta m$  is small compared with  $m$  then:  $\Delta f_n + f_n = \frac{nvA\rho}{2m} \left(1 - \frac{\Delta m}{m}\right)$

(Taylor expansion)

According to the definition of  $f_n$  :  $\Delta f_n = \frac{nvA\rho}{2m} \left(1 - \frac{\Delta m}{m}\right) - \frac{nvA\rho}{2m}$

and after simplification:  $\Delta f_n = -\frac{nvA\rho}{2m^2} \Delta m$

As  $m = \frac{nvA\rho}{2f_n^2}$ , it comes:  $\Delta f_n = -\frac{2}{v\rho} \frac{f_n^2}{n} \frac{\Delta m}{A}$

**Sauerbrey equation:**  $\Delta f_n = -2.26 \cdot 10^{-6} \frac{f_n^2}{n} \frac{\Delta m}{A}$

- Valid for small mass changes ( $\Delta m < 10\%$  of the total mass of the quartz)
- Valid for material purely elastic as quartz crystal or equivalent
- Valid for an infinite and uniform film

► **Viscosity and density (Kanazawa and Gordon)**

$$\Delta f_m = -f_n^{-\frac{3}{2}} \left( \frac{\rho_l \eta_l}{\pi \mu_q \rho_q} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

where  $\mu_q$  is the quartz stiffness,  $\rho_q$  the quartz density,  $\rho_l$  the solution density and  $\eta_l$  the solution viscosity.

In means, at 6 MHz, the frequency shift between air and water is around 2kHz

► **Combining mass effect and liquid effect (Martin)**

$$\Delta f_m \cong -\frac{2f_n^2}{N\sqrt{c_{66}\rho_q}} \left[ \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{mass}}}{\rho_f h_f} + \left( \frac{\rho_l \eta_l}{4\pi f_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]_{\substack{\swarrow \\ \text{viscosity} \times \text{density}}}$$

► Roughness effect (Schumacher)

Roughness surface  $\xi$

Rigid liquid film  $\xi/2$  Rigid mass:  $\Delta m_l = \frac{\rho_l \xi}{2}$

$$\Delta f_m = \frac{-2f_n^2 \Delta m_l}{(\mu_q \rho_q)^{1/2}}$$

► Effect of the liquid conductivity (Hager)

$$\Delta f_m = -k_1 \Delta(\rho_l \eta_l)^{1/2} + f(\Delta \epsilon_l)$$

where

- $k_1$  is a numeric constant
- $\rho_l$  is the liquid density
- $\eta_l$  is the liquid density

and  $f(\Delta \epsilon_l)$  is a function of the dielectric constant

► **Viscoelastic films (Mason, Martin...)**

$f_m = f(\rho_f, h_f, G', G'')$  where  $\rho_f$  is the film density,  $h_f$  the film thickness and  $G', G''$  the viscoelastic parameters of the film.

► **Criteria to validate the gravimetric regime**

1. Complementary techniques: electrochemistry, ellipsometry...
2. Electroacoustic measurements: approach by measuring  $f_s$  and  $R$

Case	Parameters	Exp. data	Interpretation
Rigid layer (Sauerbrey)	$\rho_s$ (mass density)	$\Delta f_s; \Delta R=0$	$\Delta f_s \uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow \rho_s$
Newtonian medium	$\rho_l, \eta_l$	$\Delta f_s$ or $\Delta R$	$\Delta f_s \uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow \sqrt{\rho_l \eta_l}$ or $\Delta R \uparrow \rightarrow \uparrow \sqrt{\rho_l \eta_l}$
Viscoelastic layers	$\rho_f, h_f, G', G''$	Complete spectrum	See RH contribution



# Gravimetric application

# Processes involved

- **Electron transfer**
  - Q, but not  $\Delta m$
- **Coupled counter ion transfer (for films)**
  - electroneutrality constraint
    - ↳ Q, but not  $\Delta m$
- **Solvent transfer for films**
  - activity constraint
    - ↳ not Q, but  $\Delta m$
- **Structural change**
  - triggered by charge and/or volume effects
  - e.g. polymer relaxation
    - ↳ directly, neither Q nor  $\Delta m$
    - ↳ indirectly, possibly  $\Delta m$
- **Co-ion (“salt”) transfer**
  - activity constraint (permselective at low concentration)
    - ↳ not Q, but  $\Delta m$

# Diagnostic: mass change vs charge plot

## □ Qualitatively

- sign of slope indicates ion charge
- zero slope signals “neutral” (solvent, salt)

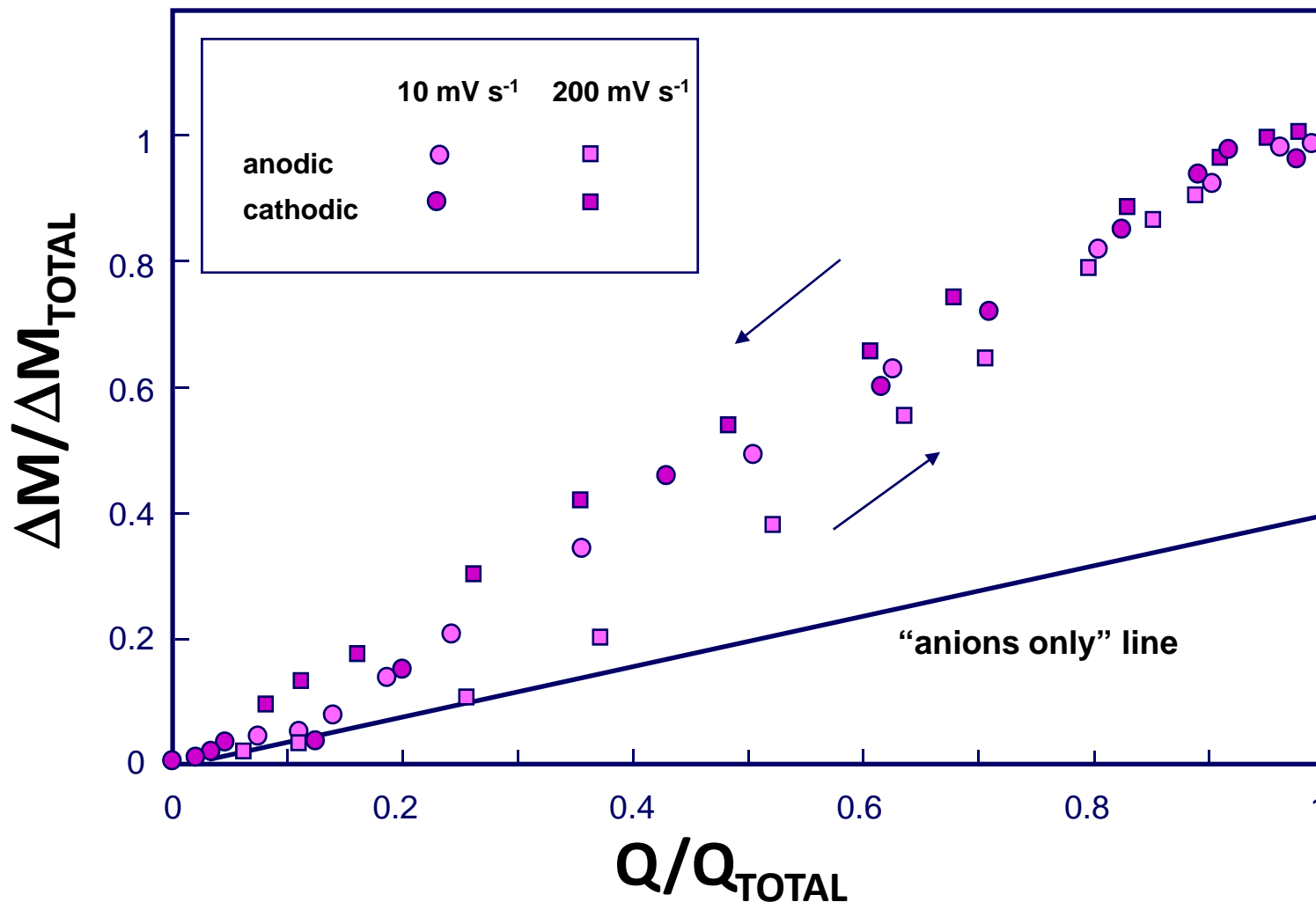
## □ Quantitatively

- value of slope indicates molar mass
- seldom clearly resolved
  - ↳ “weighted” average of several species

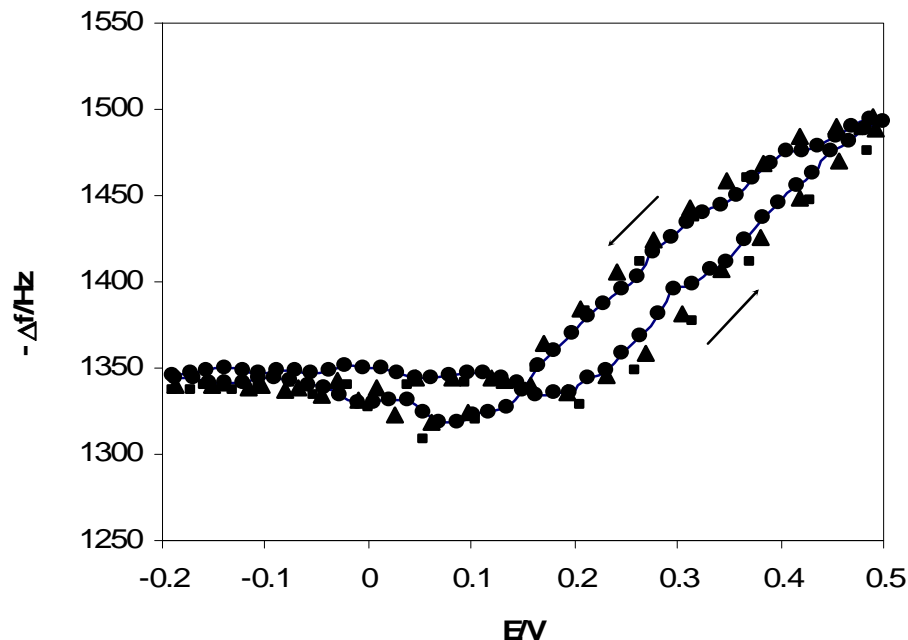
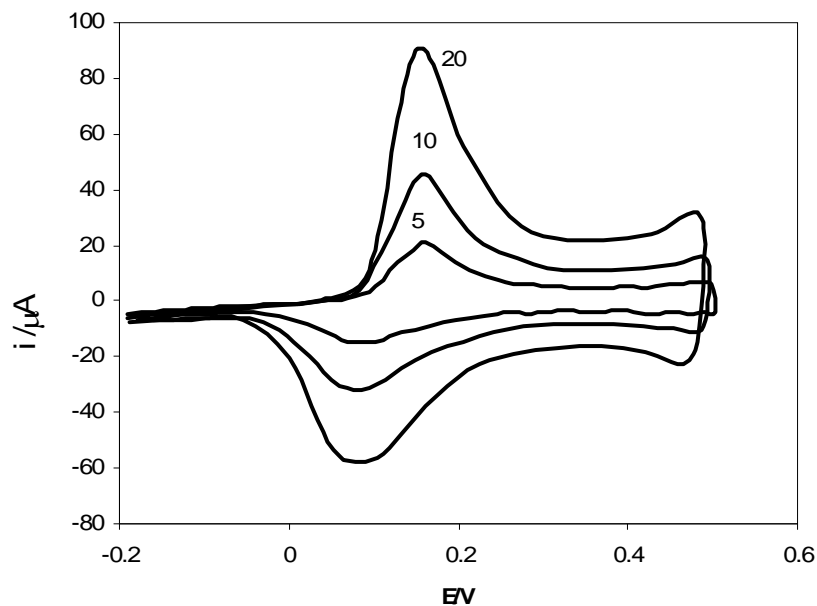
## □ Solvent transfer

- thermodynamically to be expected
- may be minor or major
- may be bound or free
  - ↳ QCM provides no direct insight
  - ↳ timescale (e.g. voltammetric scan rate) may resolve?

# PVF REDOX SWITCHING: kinetic permselectivity



# Polyaniline redox-driven ion and solvent transfer



Polyaniline / 1 M HClO<sub>4</sub>  
scan rate,  $\nu$  / mV s<sup>-1</sup>: 5 (●), 10 (▲), 20 (◆).

Acoustically thin film:  
 $\Gamma = 35 \text{ nmol cm}^{-2}$

# Visualizing mechanistic possibilities

## □ Identify different types of elementary step

- assign each to a coordinate (dimension)
- coupled processes require only one dimension
  - ↳ coupled electron / counter ion transfer
- each coordinate associated with a characteristic timescale
  - ↳ characteristic dependence on E, T, pH, c, ...

## □ Apply principle of “scheme-of-squares”

- extend to required number of elementary steps, i.e .dimensions
  - ↳  $e/A^- \text{ \& \ } S \Rightarrow 2D$
  - ↳  $e/A^- \text{ \& \ } C^+A^- \Rightarrow 2D$
  - ↳  $e/A^- \text{ \& \ } S \text{ \& \ } P \Rightarrow 3D$
  - ↳  $e/A^- \text{ \& \ } S \text{ \& \ } C^+A^- \Rightarrow 3D$
  - ↳  $e/A^- \text{ \& \ } S \text{ \& \ } C^+A^- \text{ \& \ } P \Rightarrow 4D$

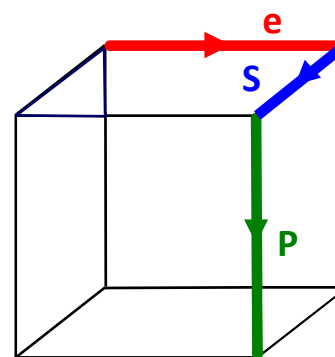
## □ Identify pathways

- recognize mechanistic diversity

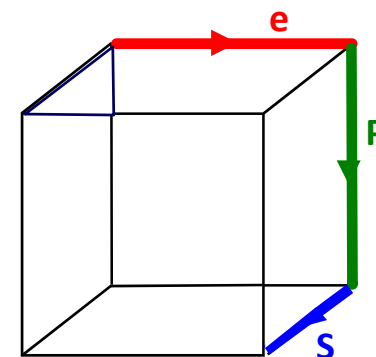
# Mechanistic possibilities for oxidation

## High overpotential

### Electron/ion transfer first



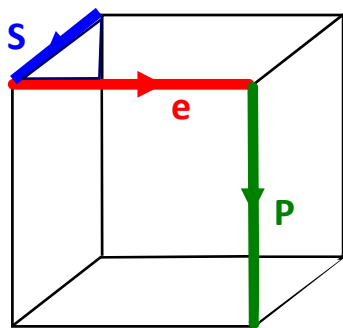
ECC'



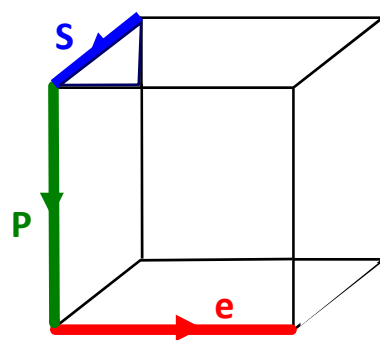
EC'C

## Low Overpotential

### Solvent transfer first

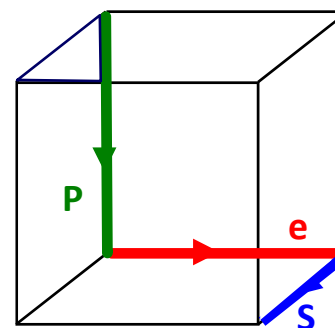


CEC'

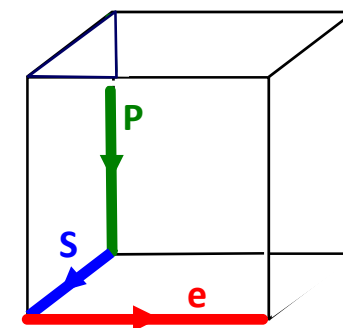


CC'E

### Polymer reconfiguration first



C'EC



C'CE

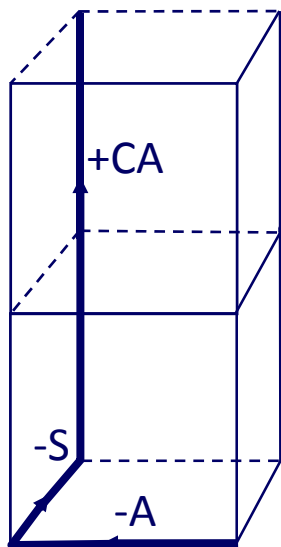
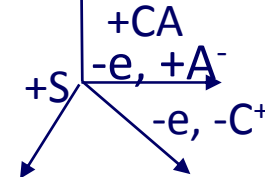
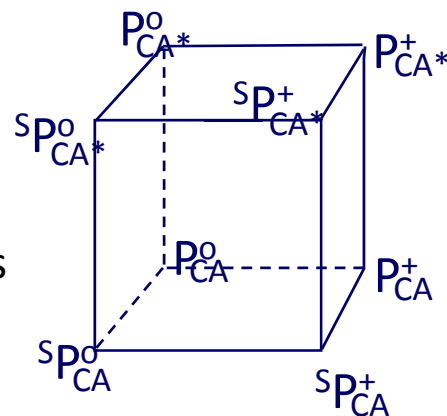
# Nomenclature

□ Corners represent species

- signal redox state, solvation, structure

□ Edges represent processes

- analogous process may link different species
- consider absolute mass and mass change?

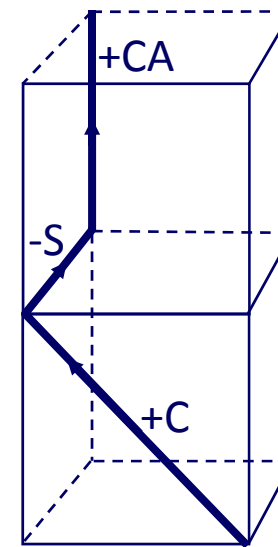


□ Multiple similar elementary steps

- fused cubes

□ “Diagonal” transfers possible

- represent coupling
- energetically unlikely
- require similar timescales





# Electroacoustic approach

# Resonator coupling to ambient medium

## □ Film motion

- Resonator induces motion at electrode surfaces
- Rigidly coupled films move synchronously with exciting electrode

↪ *phase shift,  $\phi = 0$*

- Non-rigidly coupled films move non-synchronously with exciting electrode

↪ *acoustic deformation*

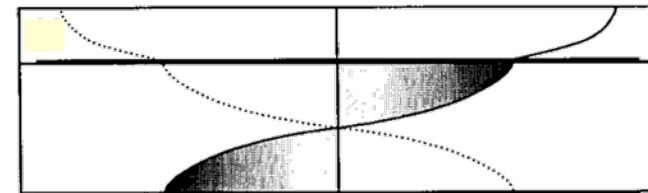
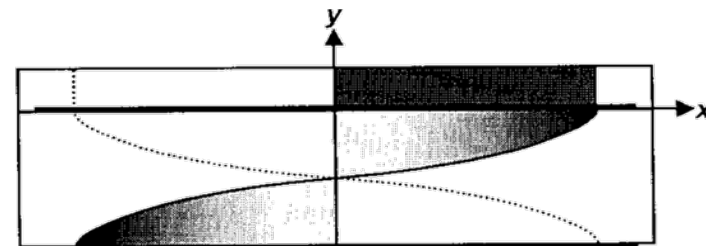
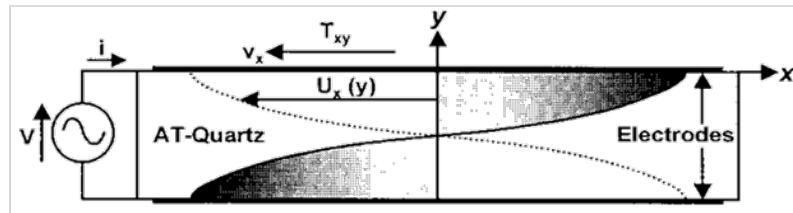
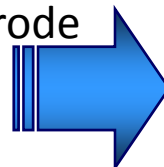
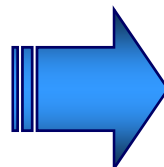
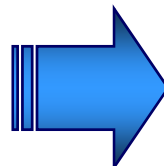
↪ *phase shift,  $\phi > 0$*

- Acoustic deformation changes with polymer loading

↪  *$\phi$  increases with film thickness*

↪  *$\phi$  decreases with  $G$*

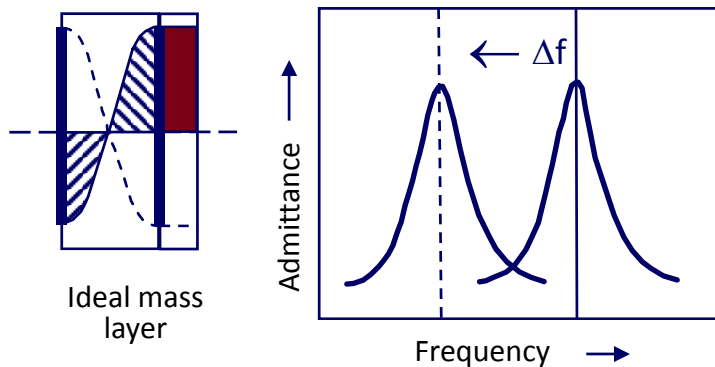
↪ *film resonance when  $\phi = \pi/2$*



# Admittance spectra as a diagnostic tool

## Acoustically thin ("rigid") film

- no acoustic deformation



- energy storage, but no loss
- gravimetric probe of surface populations

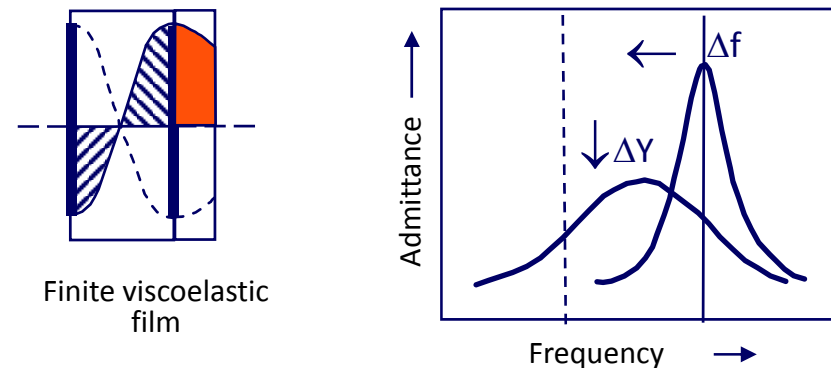
↪ film deposition

↪ mobile species exchange

$$\Delta f = - \left( \frac{2f_0^2}{\rho_q v_q} \right) \frac{\Delta m}{A} \quad \text{gives } \Delta \Gamma$$

## Acoustically thick (viscoelastic) film

- acoustic deformation



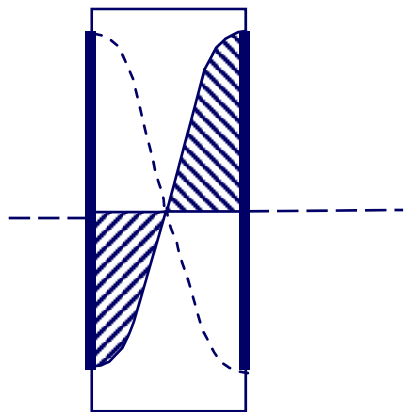
- energy storage and loss
- interfacial rheology probe

↪ matrix dynamics

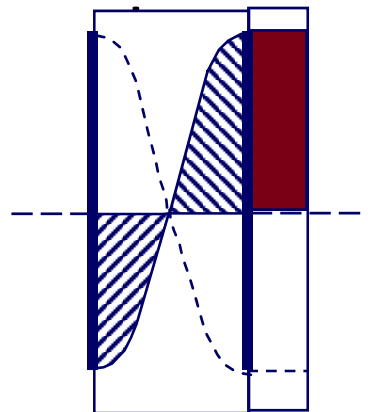
$$\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{G} = G' + jG''$$

# Building blocks for composite resonator

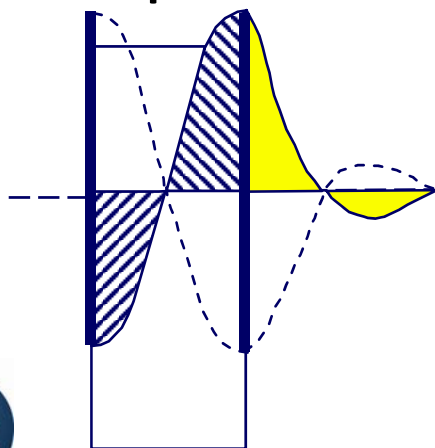
Unperturbed



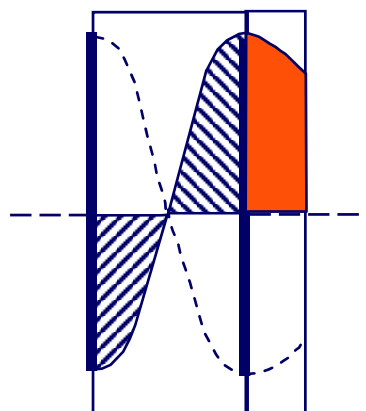
Ideal mass



Semi-infinite  
liquid

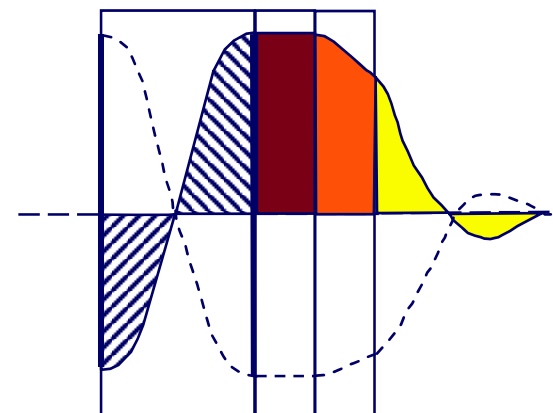


Finite viscoelastic  
film

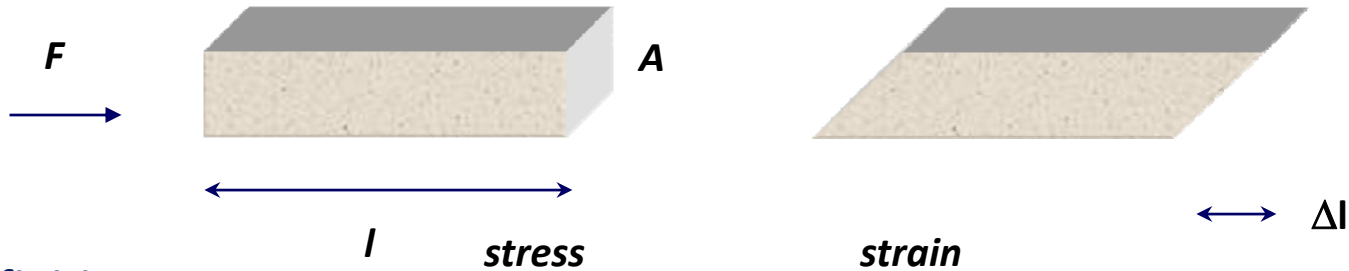


Composite resonator:

ideal mass layer  
+ finite viscoelastic layer  
+ semi-infinite liquid



# Shear modulus



## Definition

- ratio of shear stress to strain
- “stiffness”
- $\mathbf{G} = G' + jG''$

## Storage modulus ( $G'$ )

- energy stored/recovered

## Loss modulus ( $G''$ )

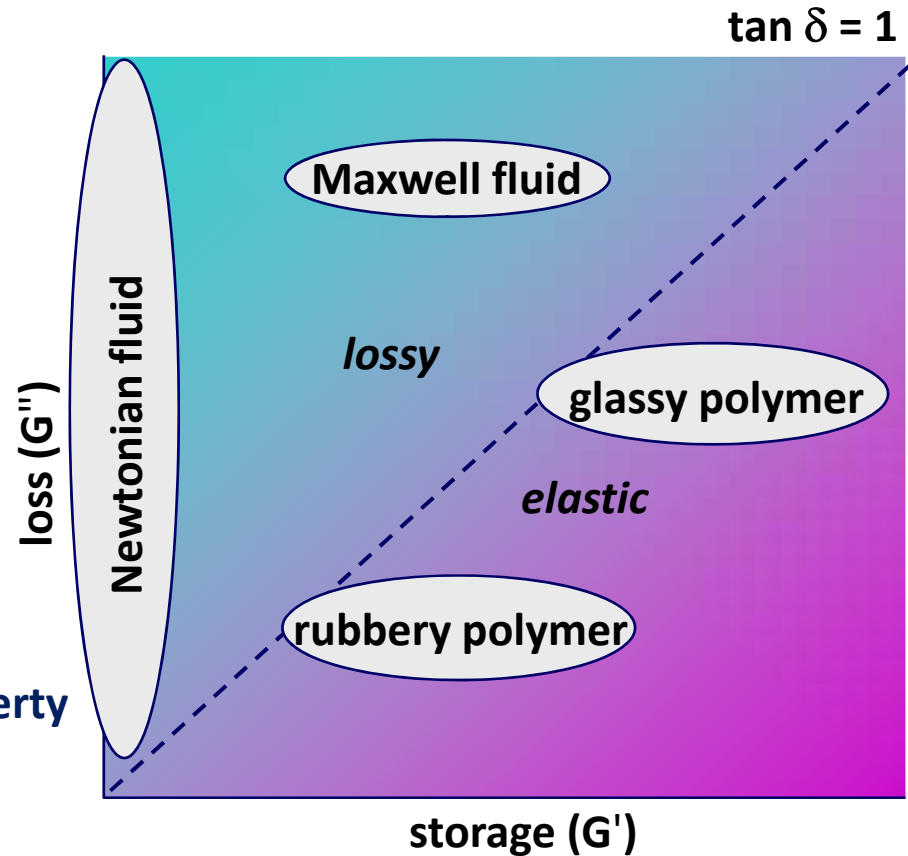
- energy dissipated

## Phase shift – a sample property

$$\varphi = \gamma h_f = \omega h_f \sqrt{\rho_f} \sqrt{\frac{1 + G'/|G|}{2|G|}}$$

## Acoustic decay length – a material property

$$\delta = 1/\gamma = \frac{1}{\omega \sqrt{\rho_f}} \sqrt{\frac{2|G|}{1 - G'/|G|}}$$



# Objectives

## ❑ In situ application

- description of fluid damping
- mass (population) changes of “rigid” films

## ❑ Viscoelastic effects

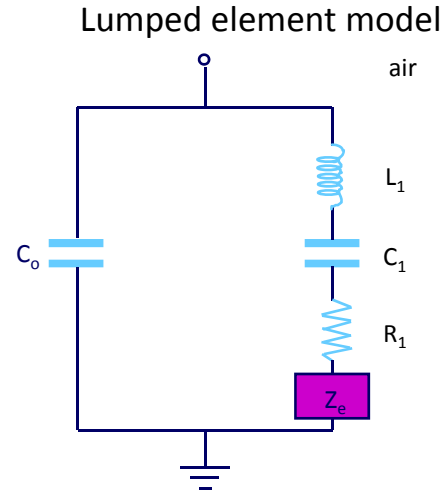
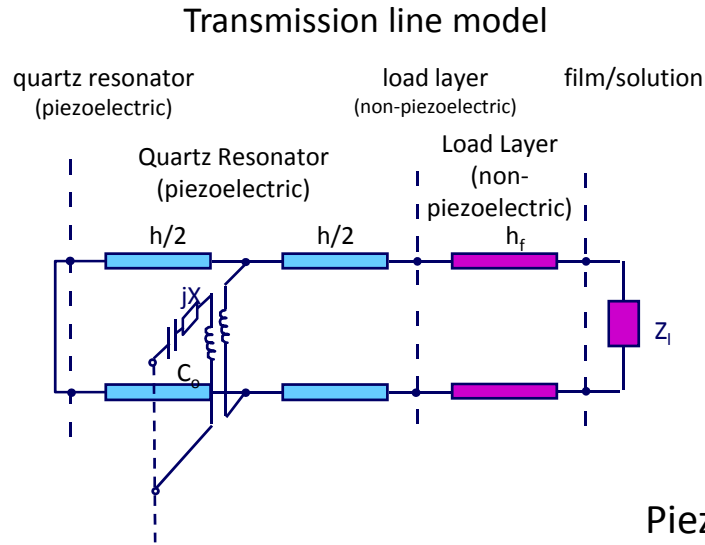
- crystal admittance (full frequency response)
- diagnose “rigid” vs viscoelastic films
- recognition of film resonance ( $\phi = \pi/2$ )

## ❑ Viscoelastic film characterisation

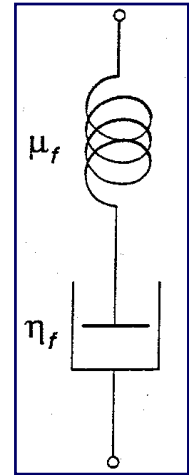
- simple model for  $Z_s$  &  $Z_e = f(\mathbf{G}, h_f, \rho_f)$
- extracting film parameters (“uniqueness of fit”)

## ❑ Models for practically useful structures

# Equivalent circuits

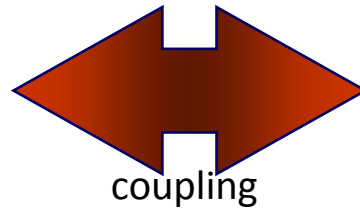


Maxwell model



ELECTRICAL

Piezoelectric

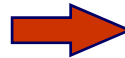


MECHANICAL

Voltage  $\rightarrow$  charge motion ( $Z_e = V/I$ )

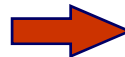
Stress  $\rightarrow$  particle motion ( $Z_s = T/v$ )

Capacitance (C)



Mechanical elasticity of the system

Inductance (L)



Inertial mass changes

Resistance (R)



Energy dissipation (viscosity; friction)

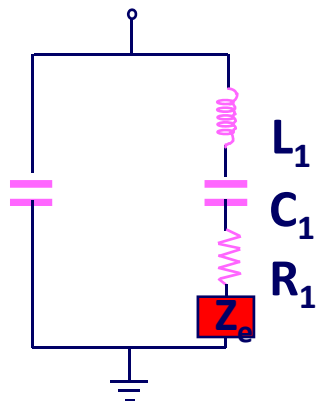
# Electrical and surface mechanical impedance

## Transmission line model

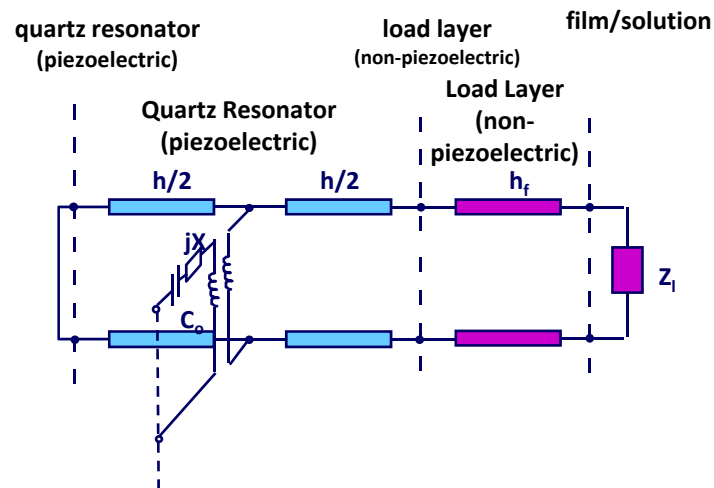
$$Z_m^1 = \frac{\varphi_q (Z_s / Z_q)}{4K^2 \omega C_0} \left[ 1 - \frac{j(Z_s / Z_q)}{2 \tan(\varphi_q / 2)} \right]$$

## Lumped element model

$$Z_m^1 \approx \frac{N\pi}{4K^2 \omega C_0} \left( \frac{Z_s}{Z_q} \right)$$

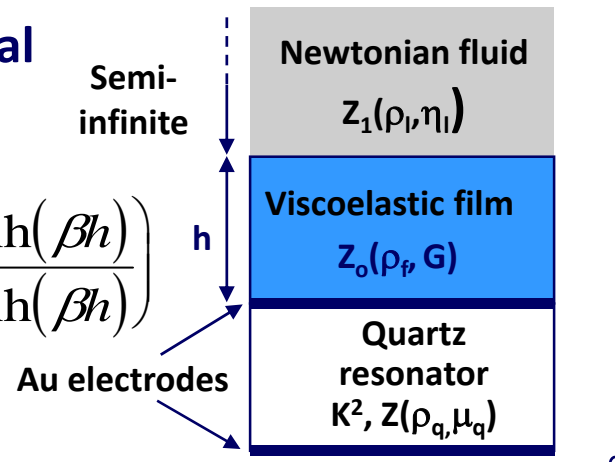


## Transmission line model



## Surface mechanical impedance

$$Z_s = Z_0 \left( \frac{Z_1 + Z_0 \tanh(\beta h)}{Z_0 + Z_1 \tanh(\beta h)} \right)$$





# Acoustically thick film in fluid

## General expression for $Z_s$

$$Z_s = Z_0 \left( \frac{Z_1 + Z_0 \tanh(\beta h)}{Z_0 + Z_1 \tanh(\beta h)} \right)$$

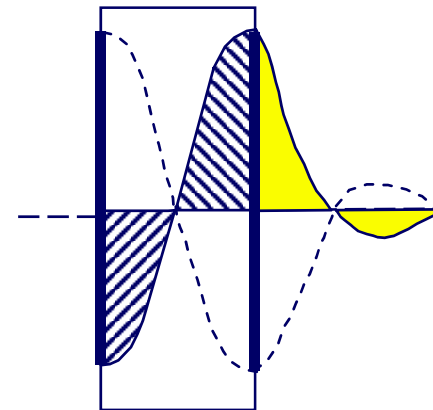
film  $Z_0 = (\rho_f G)^{1/2}$

liquid  $Z_1 = (\omega \rho \eta / 2)^{1/2} (1 + j)$

$$\beta = j\omega (\rho_f / G)^{1/2}$$

## Let film thickness, $h \rightarrow \infty$

$$h > \delta = \frac{1}{\omega} \sqrt{\frac{2G}{\rho_f}} \quad Z_s \approx Z_0 = (\rho_f G)^{1/2}$$



## Surface mechanical impedance components

$$\text{Re}(Z_s) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_f}{2}} \sqrt{|G| + G'}$$

$$\text{Im}(Z_s) = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_f}{2}} \sqrt{|G| - G'}$$

# Acoustically thinner film in a fluid

- Express in terms of film & fluid parameters

$$Z_s = \left(\frac{\omega\rho\eta}{2}\right)^{1/2} (1+j) + j\omega h\rho_f + \frac{\omega^2\rho\eta h}{G} - j(\omega\rho\eta)\left(\frac{\omega\rho\eta}{2}\right)^{1/2} (1+j)\left(\frac{\omega h}{G}\right)^2 + \frac{\omega^2 h^2 \rho_f}{G} \left(\frac{\omega\rho\eta}{2}\right)^{1/2} (1+j)$$

↑ fluid Kanazawa     
 ↑ film Sauerbrey     
 ↖ film/fluid interaction terms     
 ↗ film/fluid interaction terms

- Express in terms of acoustic phase shift

$$\phi = \omega h \sqrt{\frac{\rho_f}{G}}$$

$$Z_s = j\omega h\rho_f + \frac{\omega^2\rho\eta h}{G} + \left(\frac{\omega\rho\eta}{2}\right)^{1/2} (1+j) \left[ 1 + \phi^2 \left( 1 - j \left( \frac{\omega\rho\eta}{\rho_f G} \right) \right) \right]$$

# The fitting problem

## □ Theory

- use film parameters to calculate acoustic (electrical) impedance

$$\Rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f, G', G''] \rightarrow Z_S(\omega) = \text{Re}(Z_S) + j \text{Im}(Z_S)$$

$\Rightarrow$  4 input parameters  $\rightarrow$  2 output parameters..... *no problem*

## □ Experimental application

- wish to use acoustic (electrical) impedance to calculate film parameters

$$\Rightarrow Z_S(\omega) = \text{Re}(Z_S) + j \text{Im}(Z_S) \rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f, G', G'']$$

$\Rightarrow$  2 input parameters  $\rightarrow$  4 output parameters ..... *underdetermined*

## □ Previous (gravimetric) approaches

- restrict attention to acoustically thin films ( $R_2 = 0$ ;  $\varphi = 0$ )

$$[\Delta f, Q] \rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f] \quad \text{..... } \textit{no viscoelastic insight}$$

- acoustically thick films

$\Rightarrow$  assume  $\rho_f = \rho_S, \rho_P$  or 1

$\Rightarrow$  assume  $G' \ll G''$  or value for loss tangent ( $G'/G''$ )

$\Rightarrow$  separately estimate  $h_f$  ..... *assumptions to reduce to 2 parameter problem*

$\Rightarrow$  use higher harmonics ..... *may assume information sought*

# Strategy

## □ First attempt

- 4 parameter fit, with “soft” constraints on 2 parameters

↪ film density:  $\rho_S \leq \rho_f \leq \rho_P$  or  $\rho_S \geq \rho_f \geq \rho_P$

↪ film thickness:  $h_f \geq h_f^0$   $h_f^0$  defined by Q and  $\rho_P$

↪ fit impedance response:  $Z_S(\omega) \rightarrow [G', G'']$

.....*imperfect*

## □ New approach

- split into two separate 2-parameter problems, each fully determined

acoustically thin film:  $[\Delta f, \text{“X”}] \rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f]$

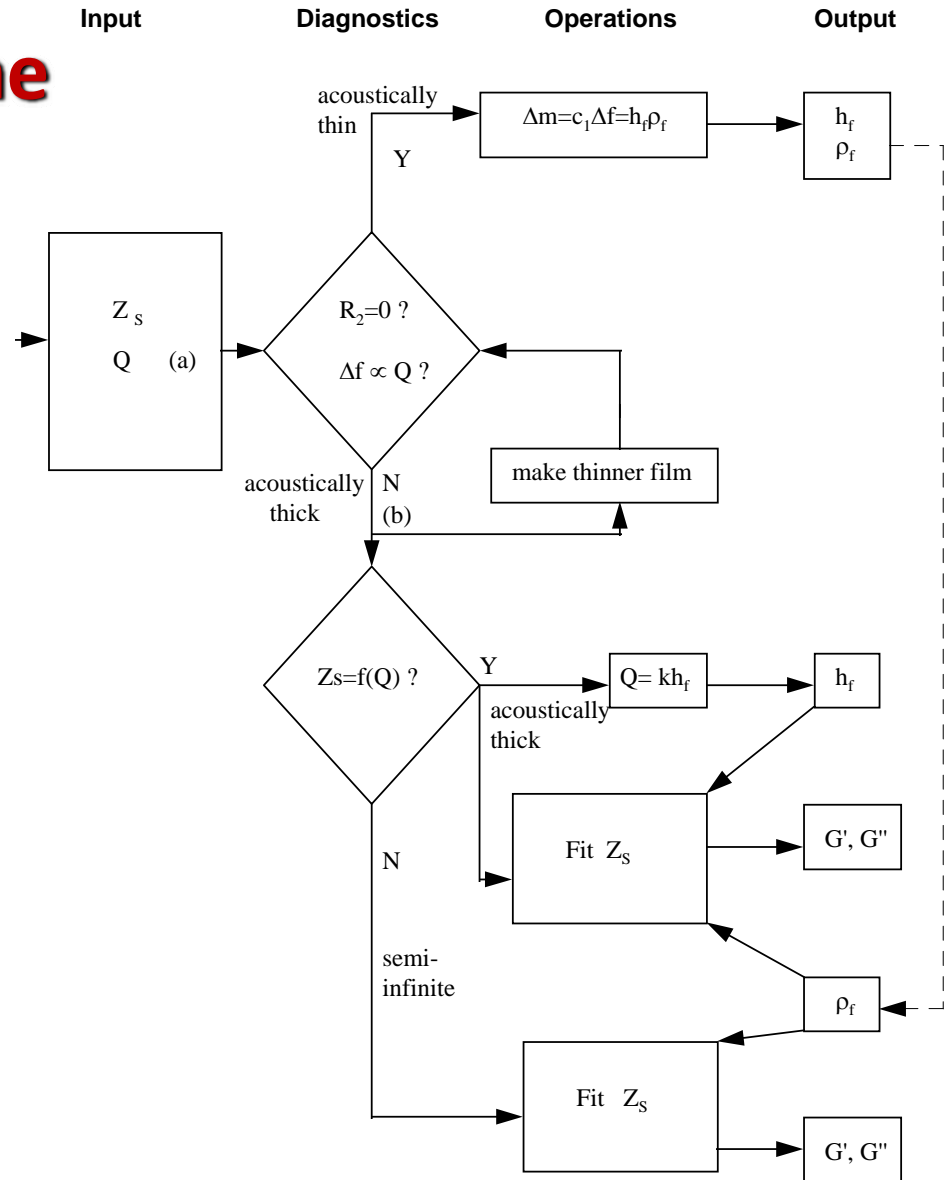
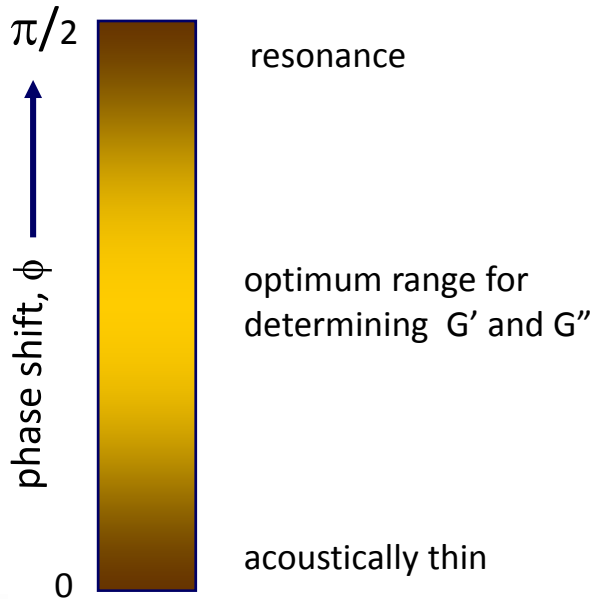
↪ assume film homogeneity:  $h_f \propto \text{“X”}; \rho_f = \text{constant}$

↪ acoustically thick film:  $Z_S(\omega) \rightarrow [G', G'']$

..... *unique fit*

# "Unique fit" routine

Film characterized by four parameters:  $h_f$ ,  $\rho_f$ ,  $G'$ ,  $G''$



## 2.1 Materials

Material class	Examples ↓	Phenomena								
		Adsorption /desorption*	UPD	Bulk deposition /dissolution	Molecular recognition	Complexation	Ion exchange**	Wetting / solvation	Viscoelasticity	Stress / mechanical motion
	Presenter*** ⇒	RH	RH	HP	HP	RH	HP	RH	RH	RH?
Halides	Cl <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> (SCN <sup>-</sup> , CN <sup>-</sup> )	✓								
Thiols (SAMs)	C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n+1</sub> SH, βSH	✓			✓	✓		✓		
Organics	Calixarenes, DNA, antibodies	✓			✓	✓				
Dendrimers		✓			✓	✓				
Supramolecular systems				✓						
LbL films	?	✓								
Biological cells				✓	✓				✓	
Nanostructured films	PS/Pt			✓				✓		
Metals	Ag, Au, Cu, Pb, Sb...		✓	✓				✓		✓
Metal (hydroxides)	WO <sub>3</sub> , IrO <sub>2</sub> , Ni(OH) <sub>2</sub>			✓			✓	✓		✓
Inorganic salts	Prussian Blue & analogues			✓			✓			
Semiconductors	CdSe, CdTe, ...??		✓	✓						✓
Insulating polymers	PPO & derivatives			✓						
Redox polymers	PVF, Os(PVP)			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conducting polymers	PPy, PANi, PT, PCz, PAz, PEDOT & derivatives			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\* Multiple examples illustrate monolayer vs multilayer films

\*\* Use multiple examples to illustrate kinetics vs thermodynamics, anion vs. cation, special case of proton

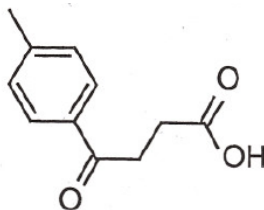
\*\*\* Colour code indicates suggested presenter: **HP** or **RH**

# Adsorption ... ... and related phenomena

# Molecular adsorption

□ Sophisticated EQCM / RDE

- controlled mass transport
- Au & Fe surfaces
- adsorption of  $\omega$ -benzoyl alcanoic acid
  - ↳ family of corrosion inhibitors

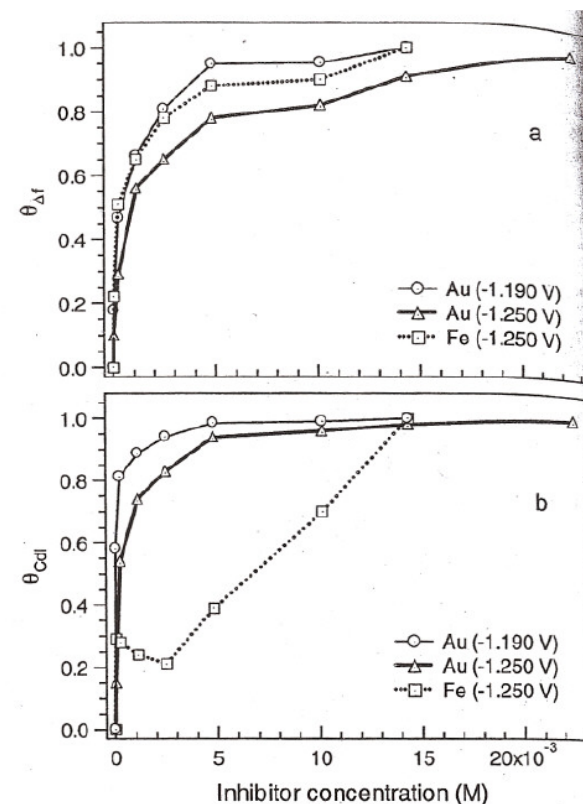
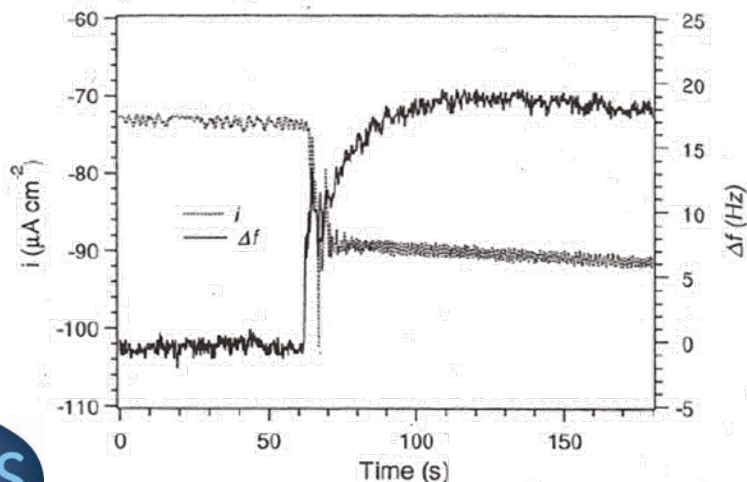


□ Vary inhibitor concentration

- determine isotherm
- gravimetric & EIS routes

□ Inject inhibitor (1.1 ⇒ 2.5 mM)

- monitor current & frequency
- thin film, so gravimetric response

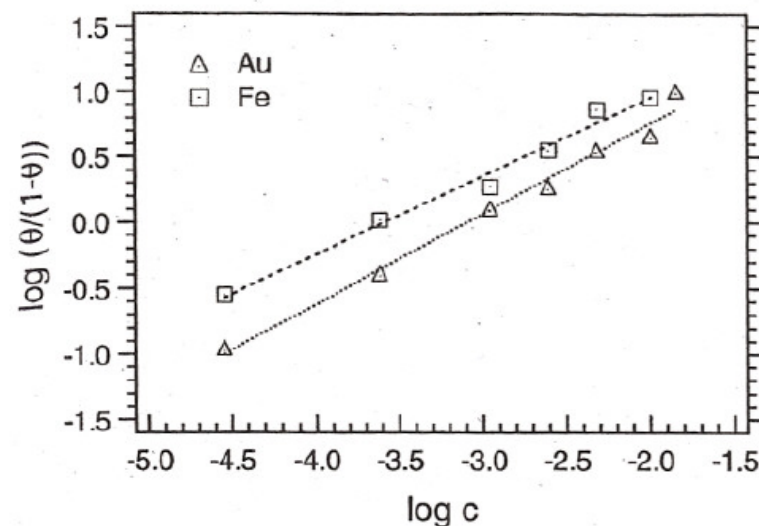




- Consider various models
  - Langmuir-Freundlich works best

$$\theta = \frac{(Kc)^h}{1 + (Kc)^h}$$

- determine adsorption energetics

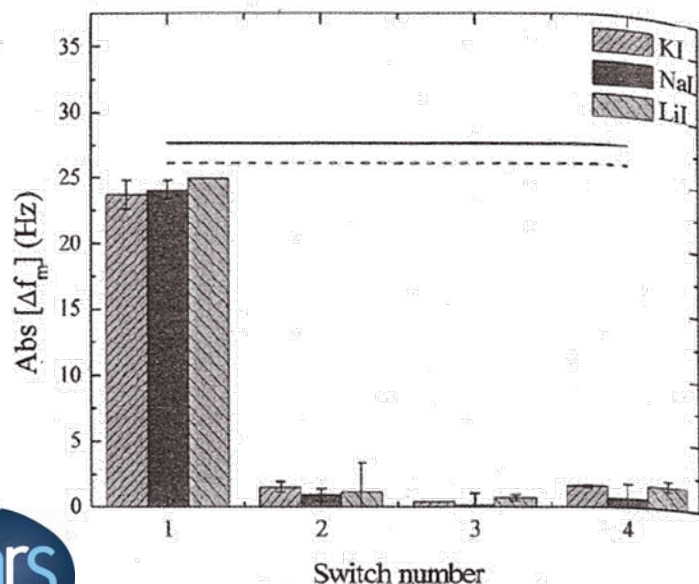
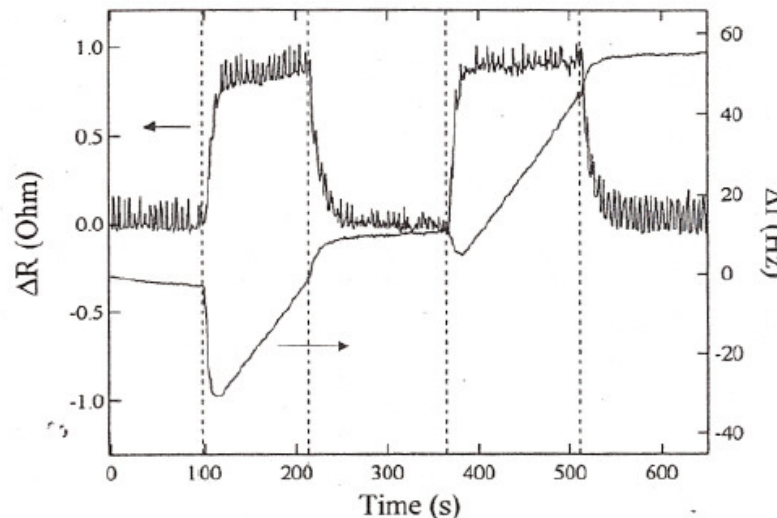


		Fe	Au
Langmuir-Freundlich	$h$	0.6	0.7
	$K$ (L/mol)	3903	1250
	$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)	-30.46	-27.63
	$R^2$	0.98	0.99
Multisite Langmuir	$n$	2.0	2.1
	$L$ (L/mol)	8437	3157
	$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)	-32.37	-29.93
	$R^2$	0.95	0.97
Flory-Huggins	$x$	2.0	2.1
	$K$ (L/mol)	3216	1018
	$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)	-29.98	-27.12
	$R^2$	0.95	0.97

See: Landolt, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*,  
148, 2001, B228.

# Adsorption & reaction

- EQCM / flow cell
    - controlled mass transport
    - Au surface exposed to  $I^-$
  - Changes at surface & in solution
    - solution viscosity alters  $\Delta R$
    - surface adsorption alters  $\Delta m$
- ↪ gravimetric interpretation



- Alternating solutions
  - 0.1 M  $NaClO_4$  / 0.1 M  $NaClO_4$  + 0.05 M LiI
  - $E = 0.2$  V (sufficient to dissolve "Au")
- Adsorption of iodide:  $\Delta m \sim$  monolayer
- Oxidation of Au(0) to Au(I)
  - dissolution as  $[AuI_2]^-$
  - at 0 V, no Au oxidation

See: Landolt, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, 150, 2003, B504.

# Underpotential deposition (UPD)

# UPD: the phenomenon

## □ Observation in electrodeposition of one metal another (“foreign”) metal surface

- some deposition occurs at a more positive potential than the reversible potential
- i.e. more readily than predicted by the Nernst equation
- many reported examples

↳  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  on Pt

↳  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Tl}^+$ ,  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  on Au

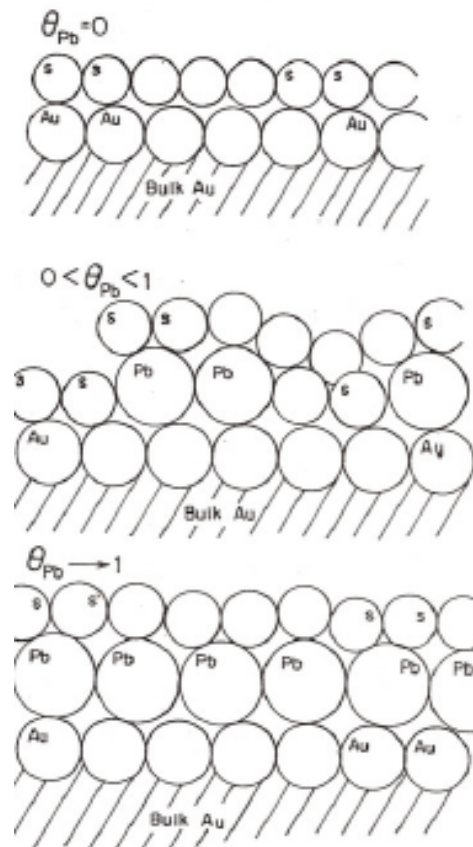
↳  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  on Ag

## □ Anodic potential shift

- related to difference in metal work functions
- usually:  $\Delta E_p = \alpha \Delta \Phi$ , where  $\alpha = 0.5 \text{ V eV}^{-1}$

## □ Extent of UPD

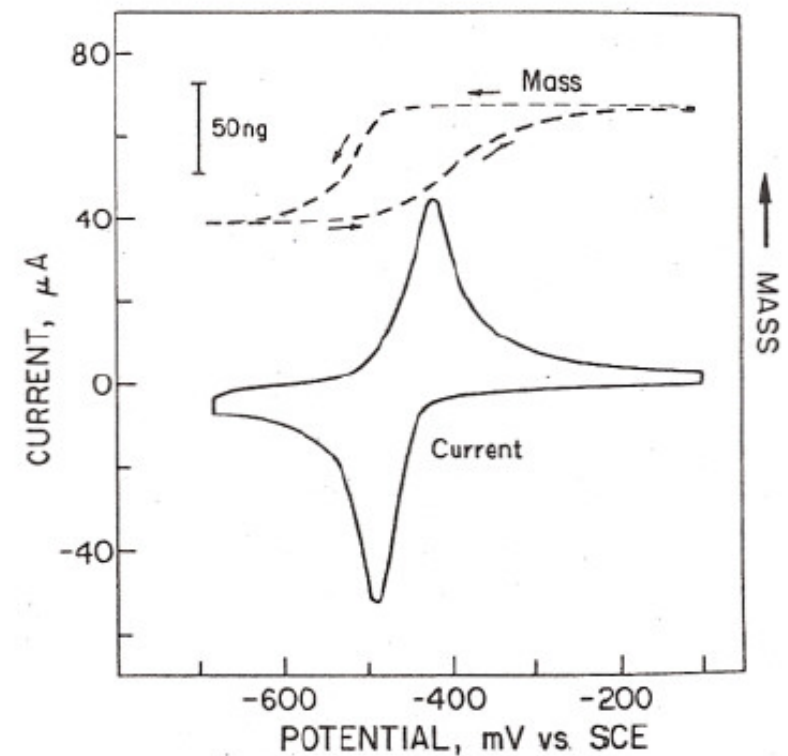
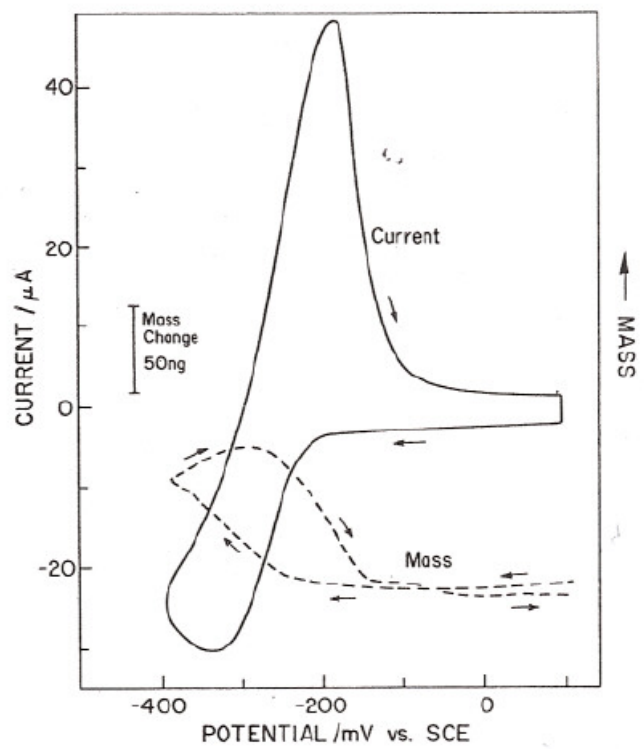
- generally limited to monolayer



# EQCM experiments for Pb UPD at Ag

0.2 mM Pb<sup>2+</sup> / 10 mM acetate / pH 4.9  
 v = 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>

0.027 mM Pb<sup>2+</sup> / 0.1 M boric acid / pH 9.1  
 v = 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>



□ Pb<sup>2+</sup> reduction:

- electrode mass increases
- Pb<sup>0</sup> deposited from solution ...  
 ... from cationic species

□ Pb<sup>2+</sup> reduction:

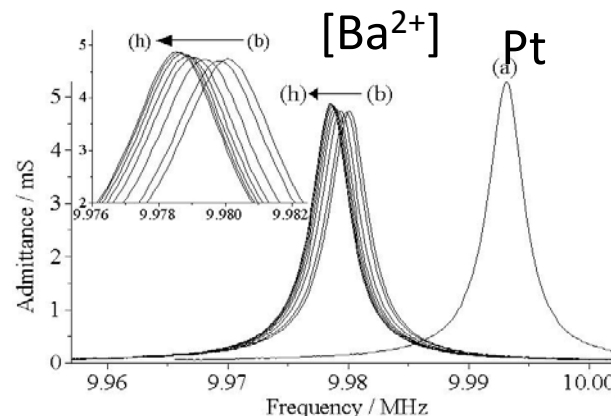
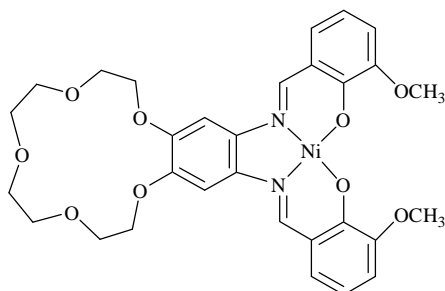
- electrode mass *decreases*
- Pb<sup>0</sup> generated on surface ...  
 ... from pre-adsorbed anionic species  
 observe *ejection of borate ligands*



# Surface complexation chemistry

# Metal ion complexation by surface-bound ligands

- [Ni(3-MeOsalophen-b-15-c-5)]
  - films electropolymerized on Pt
  - here,  $\Gamma = 77 \text{ nmol cm}^{-2}$
  - expose to  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  (varying concentration)
  - voltammetry + admittance spectra

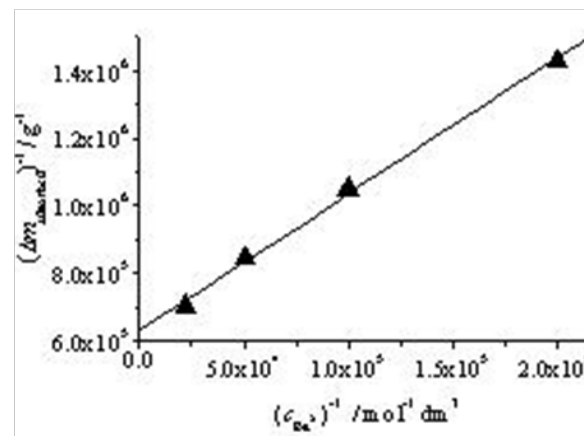


- Frequency decrease with  $[\text{Ba}^{2+}]$ 
  - metal complexation by crown ether
- Admittance slightly decreased
  - small viscoelastic effect (ca. 3%)
  - interpret gravimetrically (Sauerbrey)

Langmuir isotherm

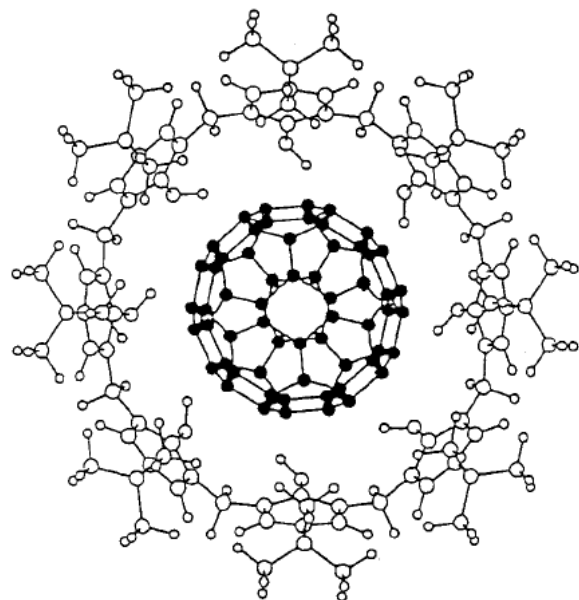
$$\frac{1}{\Delta m} = \frac{1}{\Delta m_{\infty}} + \frac{1}{\Delta m_{\infty} Kc}$$

$$K = 1.56 \times 10^5 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ dm}^3$$



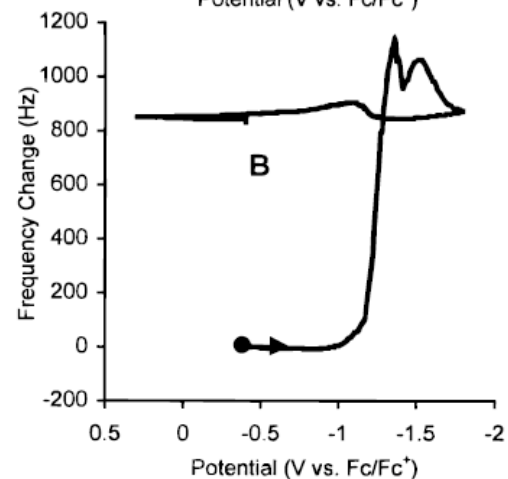
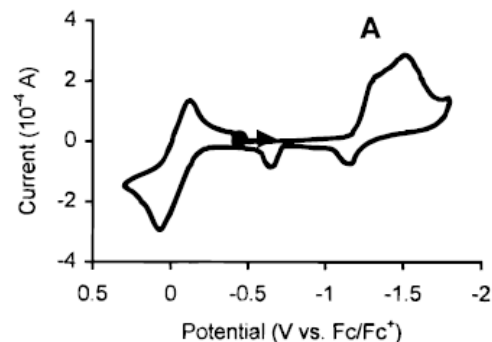


# Guest-host surface electrochemistry



- *p*-tert-butylcalix[8]arene- $C_{60}$  complex
  - films cast on Au electrode
  - voltammetry + QCM + SECM
- $C_{60}$  reduction results in complex decomposition
  - electrode mass decreases
    - ↳  $C_{60}$  lost to solution
  - electrode mass oscillations
    - ↳ competing  $TBA^+$  entry

- Au/calixarene- $C_{60}$  film
  - 0.1 M TBABF<sub>4</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN
  - $\nu = 50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$



See: Bard, *Anal. Chem.*, 70, 1998, 4146



# Interfacial wetting

# Simple model

□ Simplest case

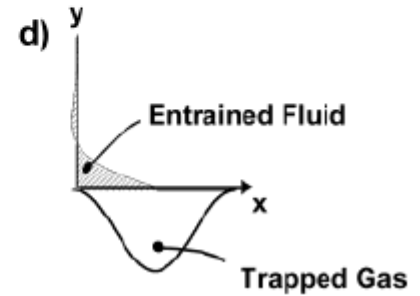
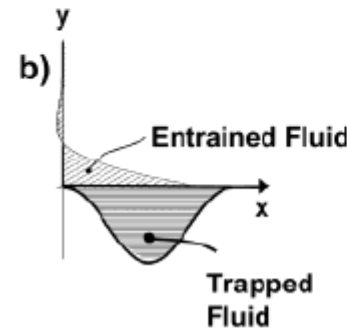
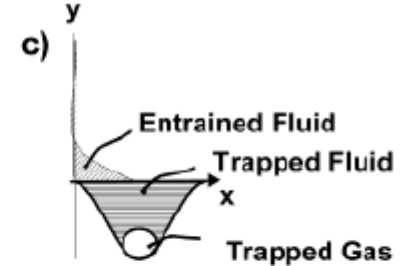
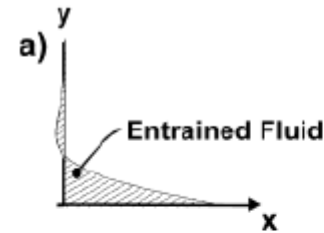
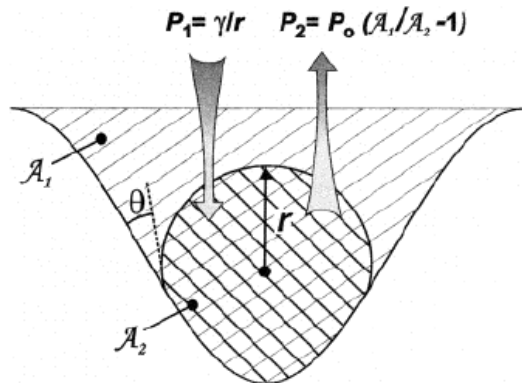
- surface (electrode) perfectly contacted by fluid
- true for atomically smooth surface
  - ↳ not impossible, but practically rare

□ Complete wetting:

$$-\frac{\Delta f}{\rho} = \frac{f_s^{3/2}}{N(\rho_q \mu_q \pi)^{1/2} (\eta)^{1/2}} + \frac{\pi f_s^2 h}{N(\rho_q \mu_q)^{1/2}}$$

□ Model surface

- sinusoidal corrugations



□ Real cases

- gas / vapour trapped in surface features
  - ↳ extent dependent on surface
  - ↳ balance of interfacial forces

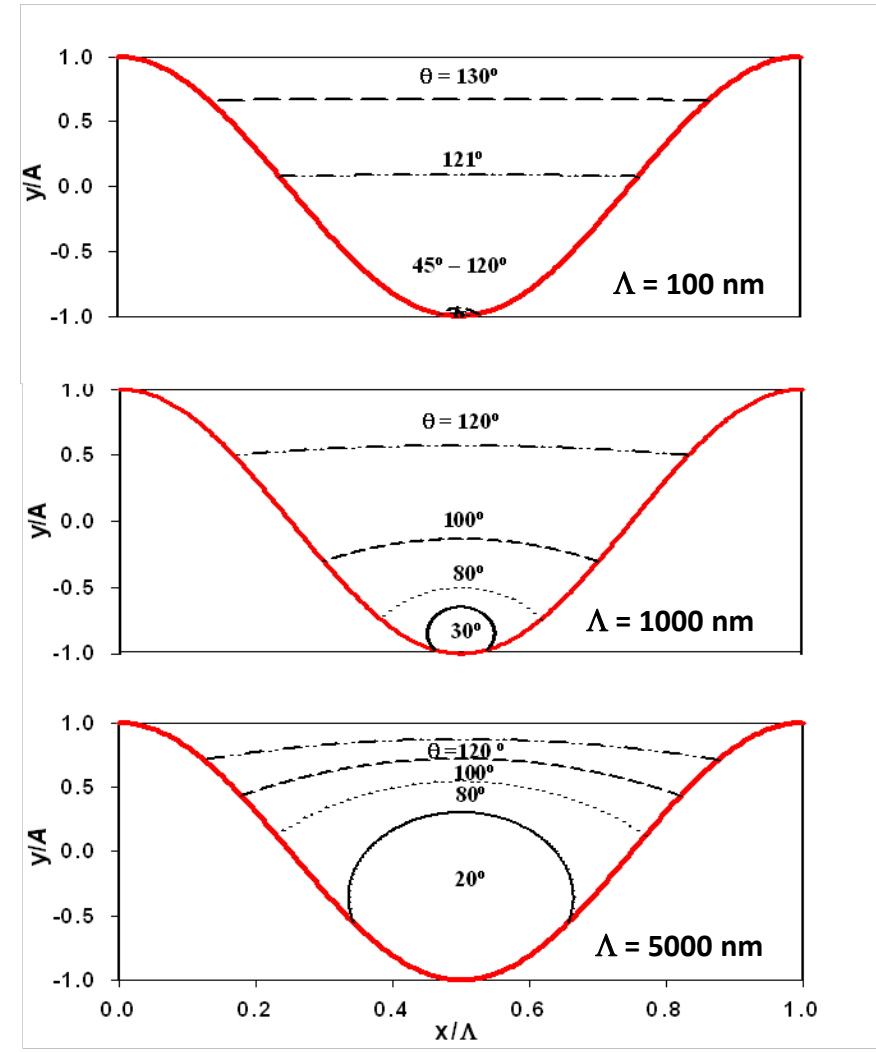
See: Theisen, *Anal. Chem.*, 76, 2004, 796.

# Calculated meniscus (“bubble”) profile

- At any fixed roughness ( $\Lambda$ )\*:
  - increasing  $\theta$  stabilises bubble
  - hydrophobicity drives de-wetting
  
- Wetting/de-wetting transition centred at  $\theta \approx 100^\circ - 120^\circ$
  
- Decreasing feature size
  - shifts transition to higher  $\theta$
  - sharpens transition

$\Delta\theta < 1^\circ$  for  $\Lambda \leq 100$  nm

\*Fixed “spherical abrasive” geometry:  $h = \Lambda/2\pi$

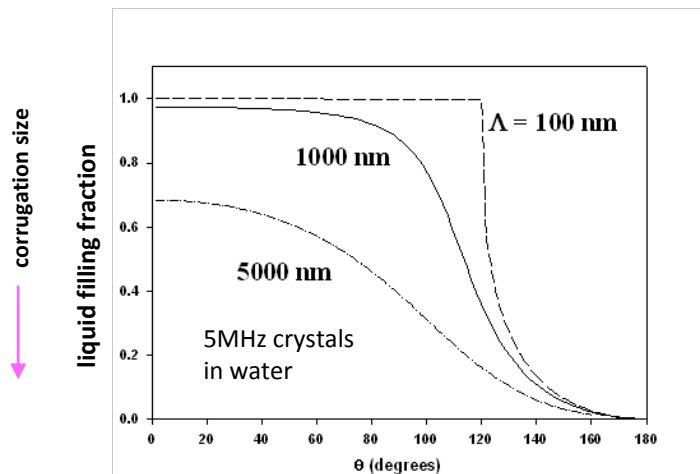


See: Theisen, *Anal. Chem.*, 76, 2004, 796.



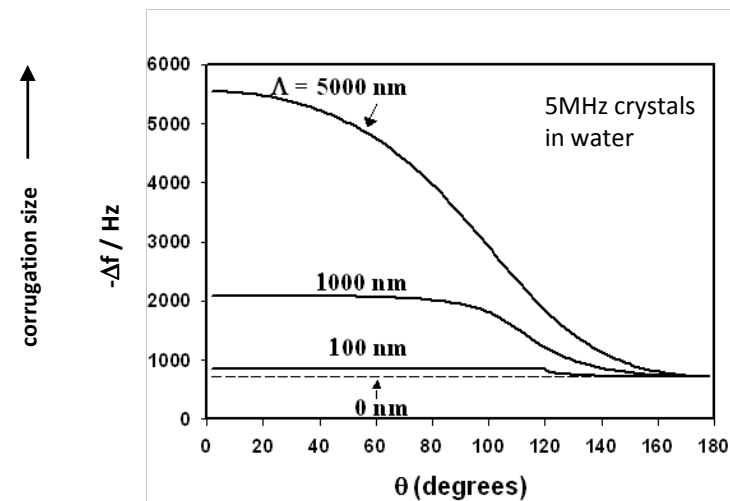
# Partially de-wetted QCM response

- Integrate gas/fluid profiles to obtain fractional liquid filling of surface features



- Highlights sharpening of de-wetting transition of small surface features
- Responses are “normalised” with respect to feature size

- Input fluid density and assume synchronous motion
- trapped fluid-derived  $\Delta f$  responses

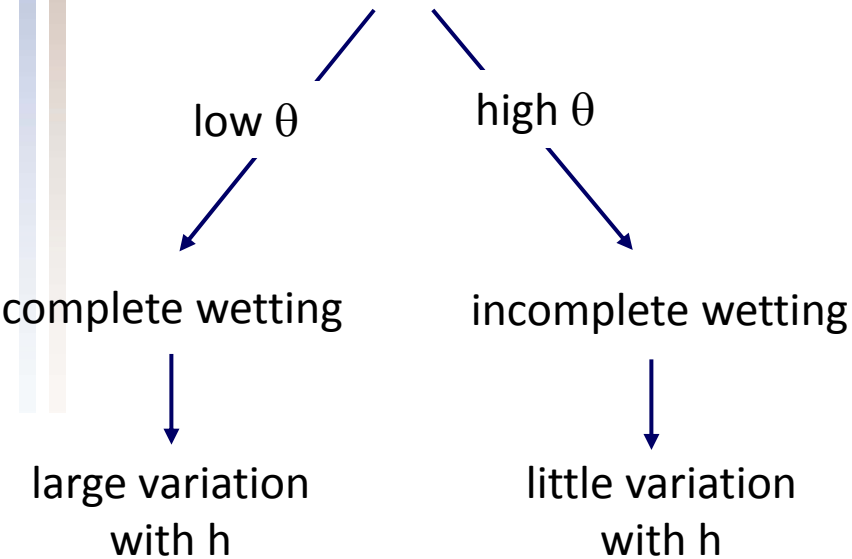
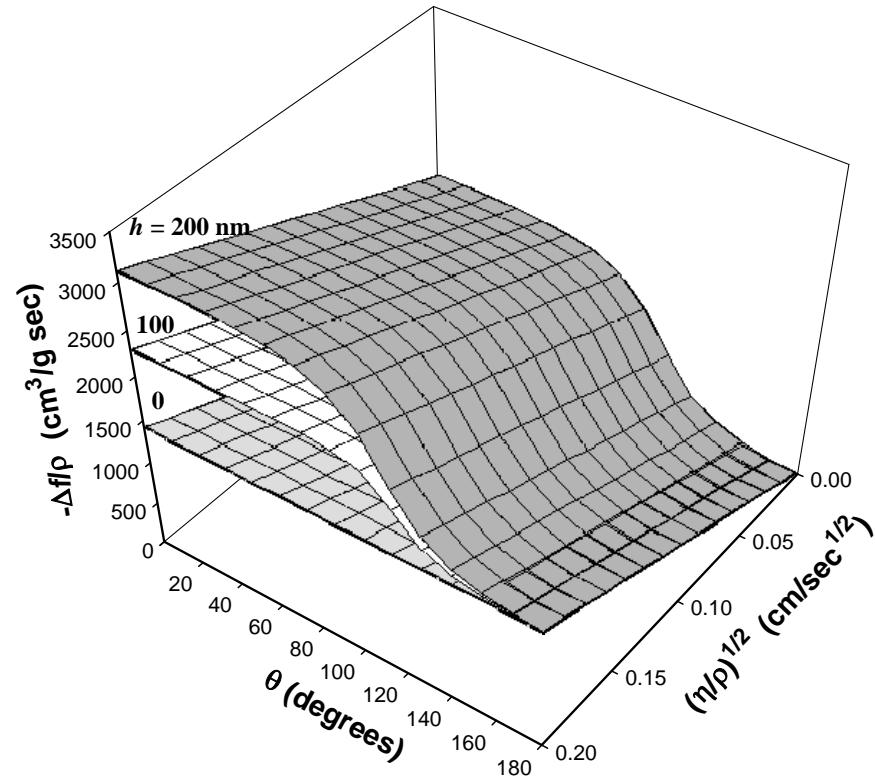


- Kanazawa result (“smooth” surface) provides baseline
- Responses not “normalised” with respect to feature size

# The complete picture

- ❑ QCM response depends on
  - surface topography ( $h$ )
  - fluid properties ( $\eta, \rho$ )
  - interfacial energetics ( $\theta$ )

❑ For given topography ( $h$ )  
 “master” surface of  $\Delta f/\rho$



$\theta$  and  $(\eta, \rho)^{1/2}$  are inter-related: mixed fluids  
 and separable: surfactants

# Full fluid mechanics approach

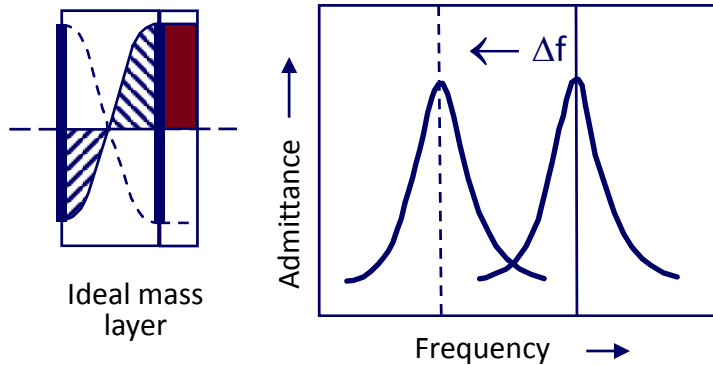
- ❑ QCM response on fluid & interface depends on characteristics sizes of:
  - vertical surface roughness ( $h \sim 10\text{-}100\text{ nm}$ )
  - lateral surface roughness ( $l \sim 10\text{ nm} - 1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ )
  - fluid decay length ( $\delta \sim 0.1\text{-}1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ )
  - wavelength in quartz ( $\lambda \sim 1\text{ mm}$ )
- ❑ Generally:  
 $h < \delta < \lambda$
- ❑ What about  $h$  &  $l$ ?
  
- ❑ “Slight” roughness:  $h < l$ 
  - vertical < lateral surface roughness
  - effect of roughness greatest for low fluid viscosity
  
- ❑ “Strong” roughness:  $h > l$ 
  - vertical > lateral surface roughness
  - frequency shift independent of viscosity
  - frequency shift dependent on volume fraction & fluid density

# Viscoelasticity

# Admittance spectra as a diagnostic tool

## Acoustically thin ("rigid") film

- no acoustic deformation



- energy storage, but no loss
- gravimetric probe of surface populations

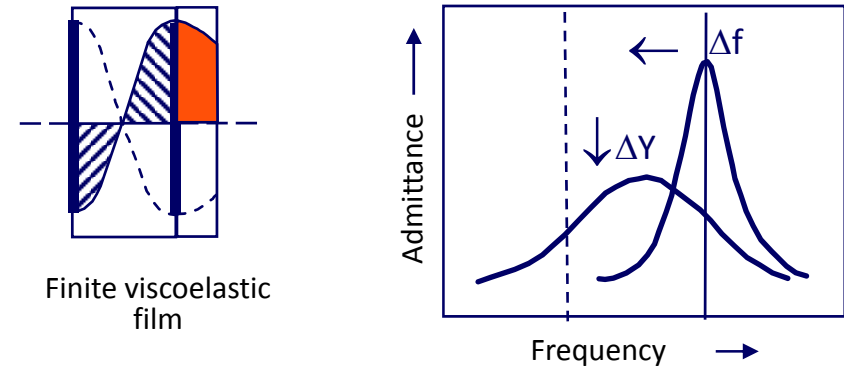
↪ film deposition

↪ mobile species exchange

$$\Delta f = - \left( \frac{2f_0^2}{\rho_q v_q} \right) \frac{\Delta m}{A} \quad \text{gives } \Delta \Gamma$$

## Acoustically thick (viscoelastic) film

- acoustic deformation



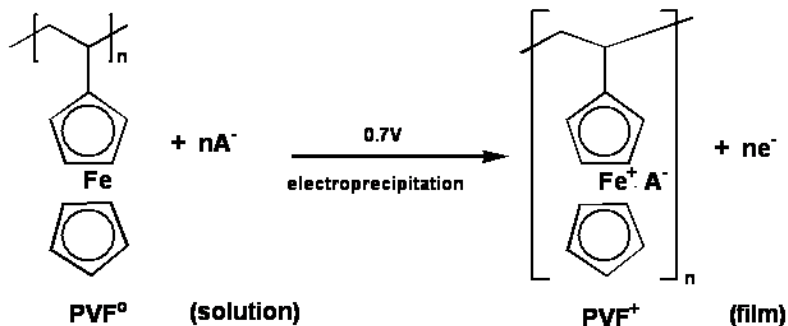
- energy storage and loss
- interfacial rheology probe

↪ matrix dynamics

$$\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{G} = G' + jG''$$

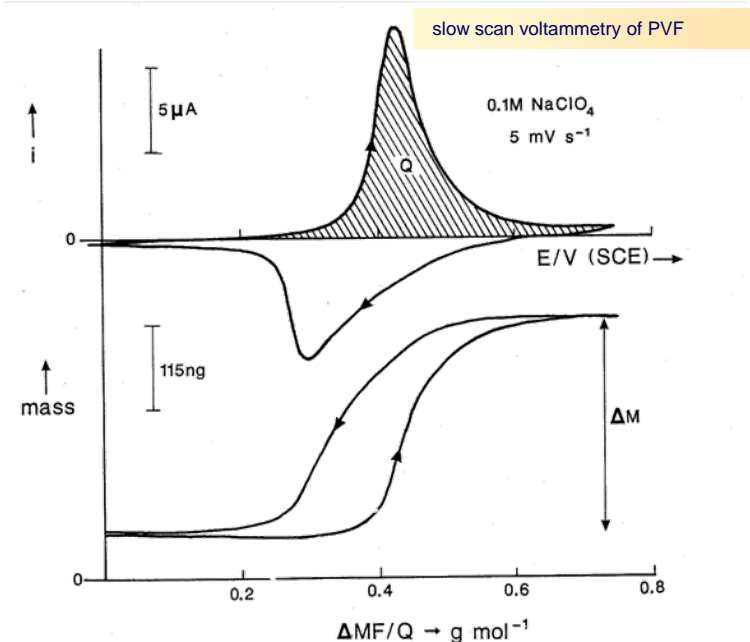
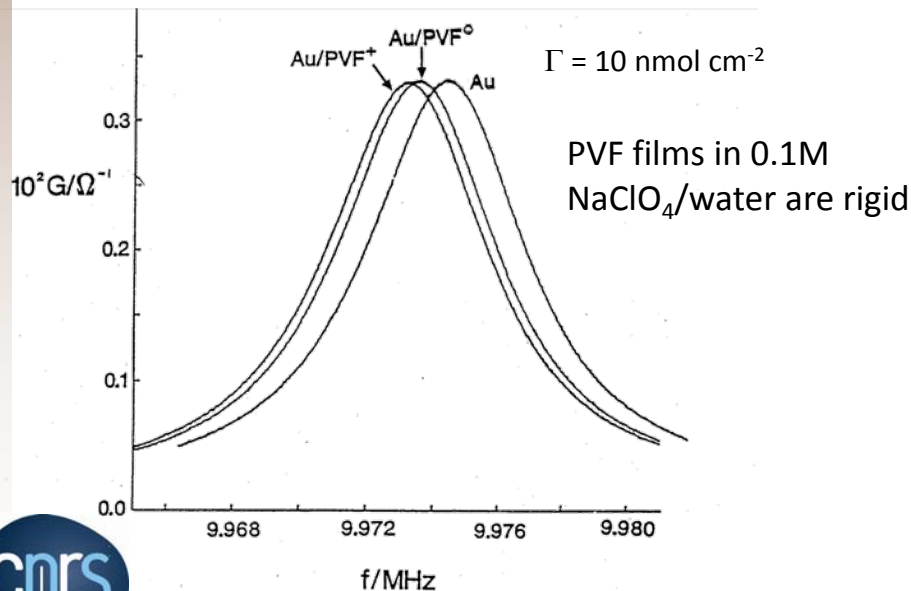


# Polyvinylferrocene redox cycling



## Typical EQCM experiment

- Low concentration: anion and solvent entry upon oxidation
- High concentration: anion, solvent and salt entry upon oxidation



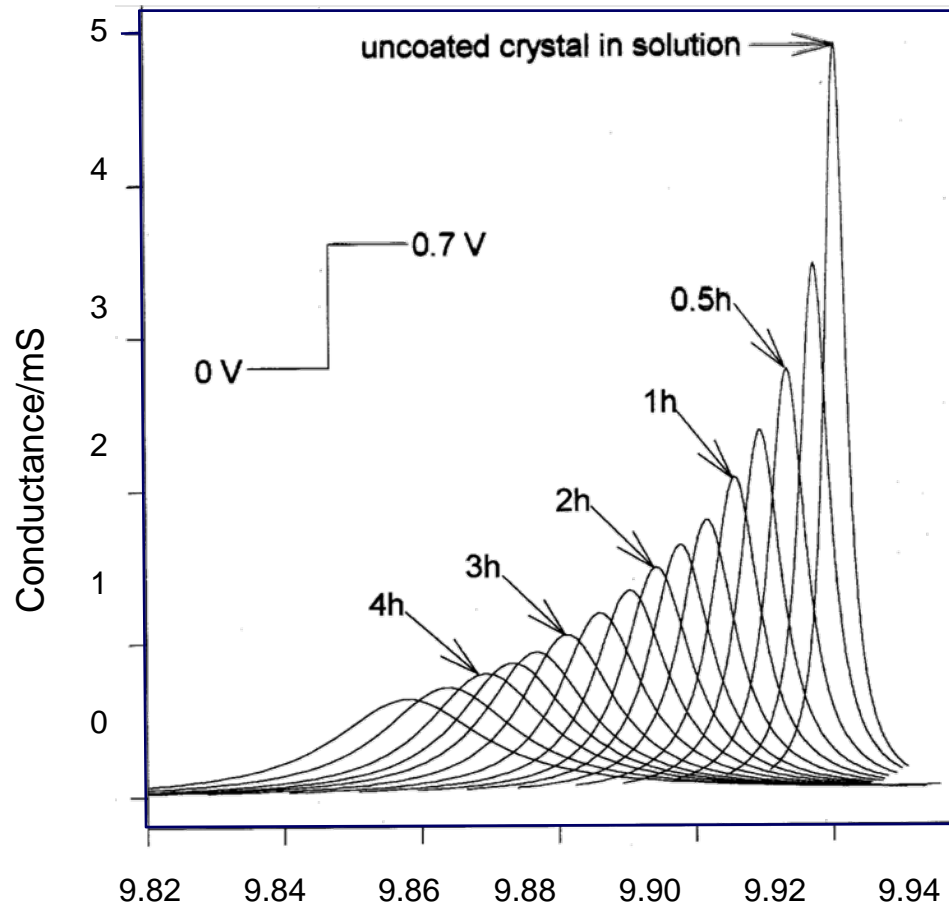
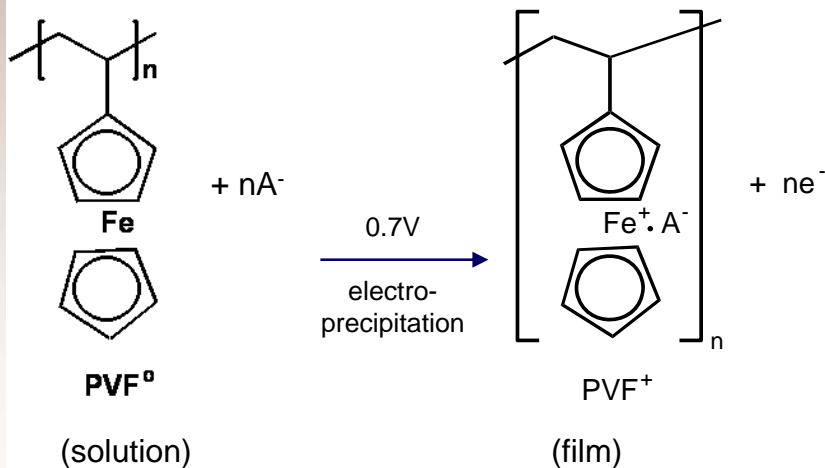
# PVF Electroprecipitation

## Principle

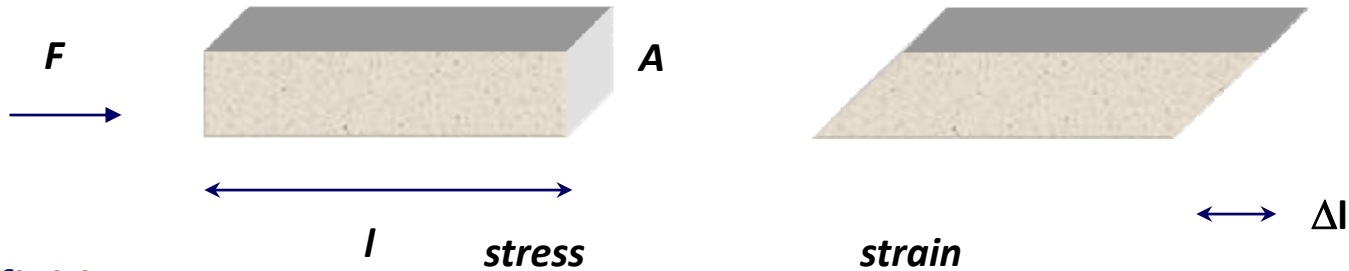
- $PVF^0$  is soluble in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,
- $PVF^+A^-$  is not

## Process

- electrochemically oxidize
- $PVF^0 \rightarrow PVF^+$



# Shear modulus



## Definition

- ratio of shear stress to strain
- “stiffness”
- $G = G' + jG''$

## Storage modulus ( $G'$ )

- energy stored/recovered

## Loss modulus ( $G''$ )

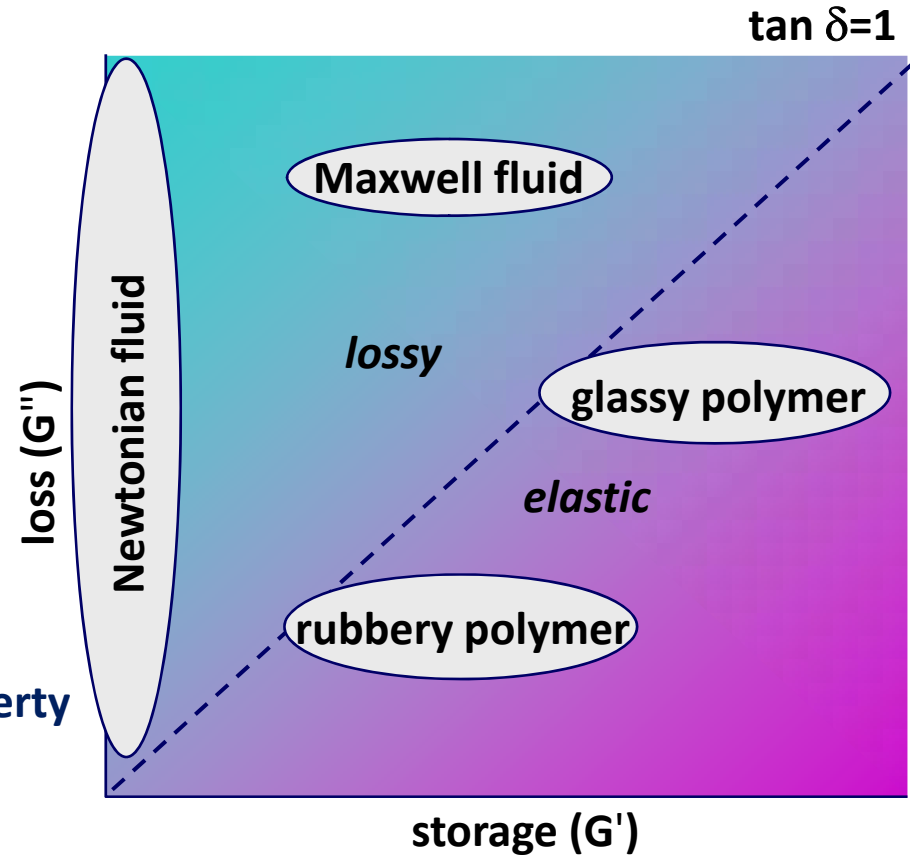
- energy dissipated

## Phase shift – a sample property

$$\varphi = \gamma h_f = \omega h_f \sqrt{\rho_f} \sqrt{\frac{1 + G'/|G|}{2|G|}}$$

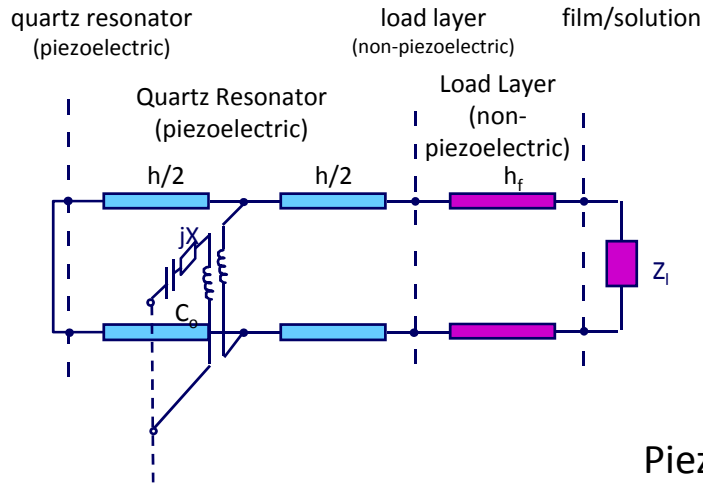
## Acoustic decay length – a material property

$$\delta = 1/\gamma = \frac{1}{\omega \sqrt{\rho_f}} \sqrt{\frac{2|G|}{1 - G'/|G|}}$$



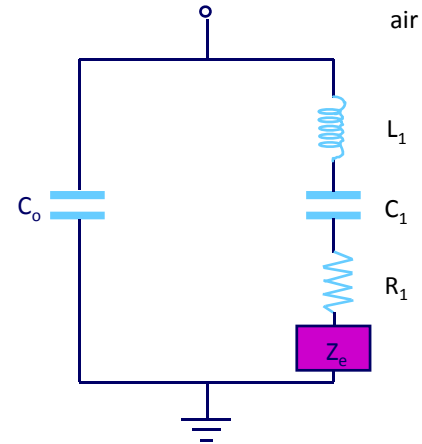
# Equivalent circuits

Transmission line model



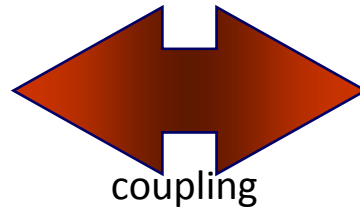
ELECTRICAL

Lumped element model



MECHANICAL

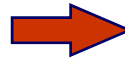
Piezoelectric



Voltage  $\rightarrow$  charge motion ( $Z_e = V/I$ )

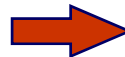
Stress  $\rightarrow$  particle motion ( $Z_s = T/v$ )

Capacitance (C)



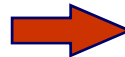
Mechanical elasticity of the system

Inductance (L)



Inertial mass changes

Resistance (R)



Energy dissipation (viscosity; friction)

# Model

## Composite resonator

## Strategy

- reflectance,  $S$ 
  - ↳ electrical impedance,  $Z_e$
  - ↳ surface mechanical impedance,  $Z_s$
  - ↳ shear modulus,  $G = G' + jG''$

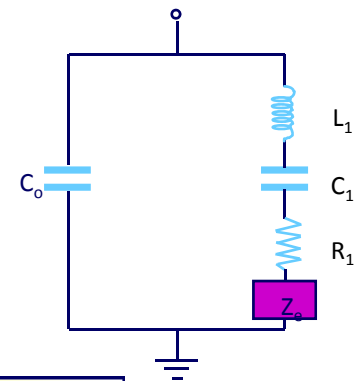
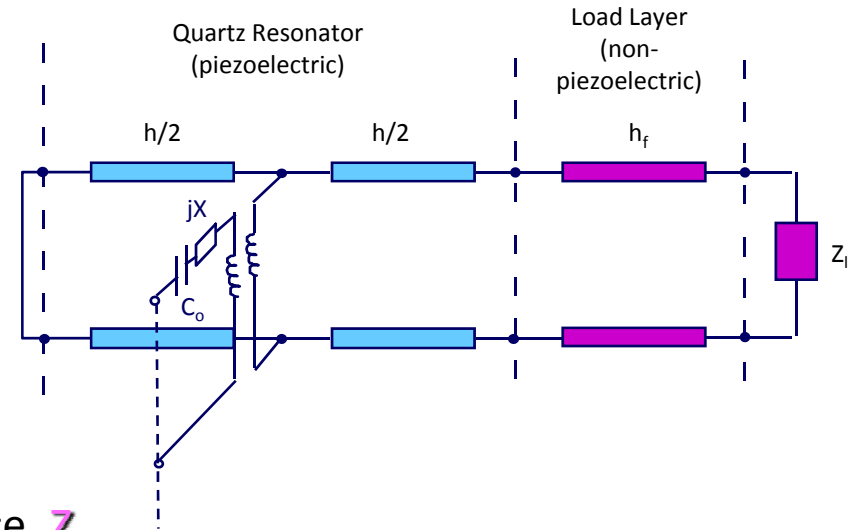
## Implementation

- transmission line model:

$$Z_e = \frac{N\pi}{4K^2\omega_s C_0} \left( \frac{Z_s}{Z_q} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{j(Z_s/Z_q)}{2 \tan(\omega\pi/2\omega_s)} \right)^{-1}$$

- low loading near resonance:

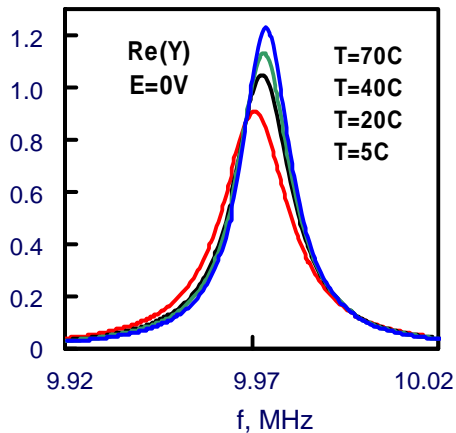
$$Z_e = \frac{N\pi}{4K^2\omega_s C_0} \left( \frac{Z_s}{Z_q} \right) = R_2 + j\omega L_2$$



lumped element model

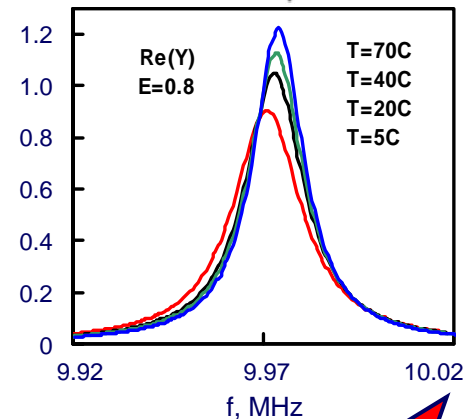
# PEDOT p-doping and undoping

Effect of temperature

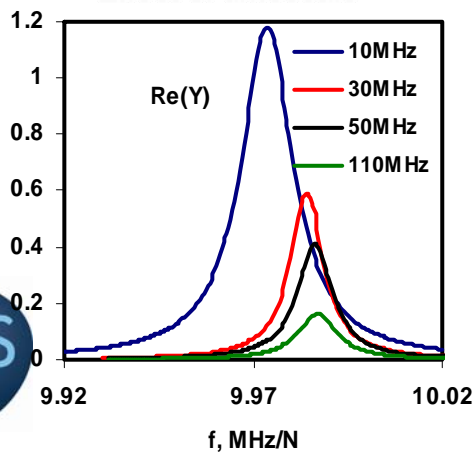


Fundamental (10 MHz)

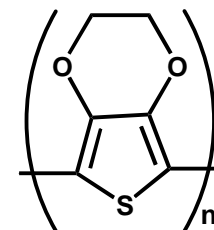
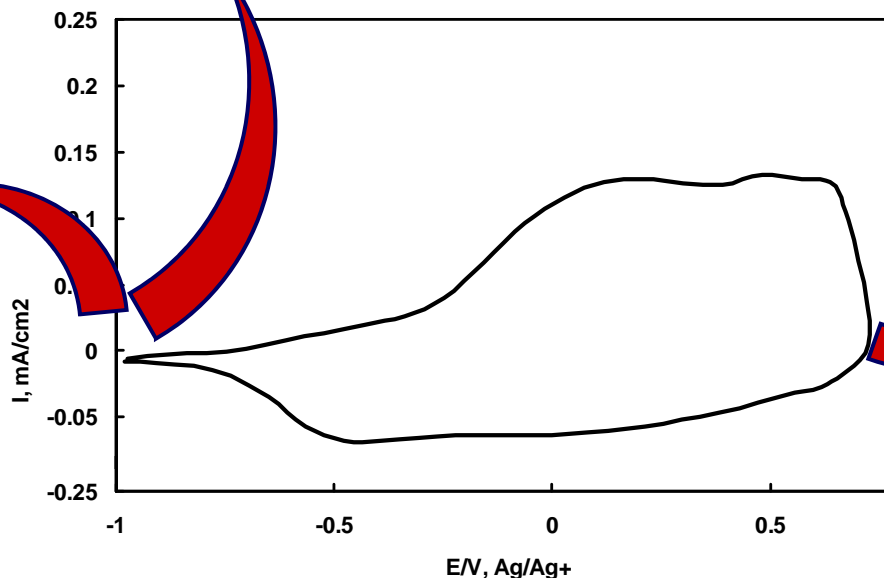
Effect of temperature



Effect of timescale



T = 20 °C



## □ Theory

- use film parameters to calculate acoustic (electrical) impedance

$$[h_f, \rho_f, G', G''] \Rightarrow Z_S(\omega) = \text{Re}(Z_S) + j \text{Im}(Z_S)$$

4 input parameters  $\Rightarrow$  2 output parameters *..... no problem*

## □ Experimental application

- wish to use acoustic (electrical) impedance to calculate film parameters

$$Z_S(\omega) = \text{Re}(Z_S) + j \text{Im}(Z_S) \Rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f, G', G'']$$

2 input parameters  $\Rightarrow$  4 output parameters *.....underdetermined*

## □ Previous (gravimetric) approaches

- restrict attention to acoustically thin films ( $R_2 = 0$ ;  $\phi = 0$ )
- $[\Delta f, Q] \Rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f]$  *..... no viscoelastic insight*

- acoustically thick films

assume  $\rho_f = \rho_s, \rho_p$  or 1

assume  $G' \ll G''$  or value for loss tangent ( $G'/G''$ )

separately estimate  $h_f$

*.....assumptions to reduce to 2 parameter problem*

use higher harmonics

*..... may assume information sought*

# Strategy

## □ First method

- 4 parameter fit, with “soft” constraints on 2 parameters

↪ film density:  $\rho_s < \rho_f < \rho_p$  or  $\rho_s > \rho_f > \rho_p$

↪ film thickness:  $h_f > h_f^0$   $h_f^0$  defined by Q and  $\rho_p$

↪ fit impedance response:  $Z_s(\omega) \Rightarrow [G', G'']$

.....*imperfect*

## □ Better approach

- split into two separate 2-parameter problems, each fully determined

acoustically thin film:  $[\Delta f, \text{“X”}] \Rightarrow [h_f, \rho_f]$

↪ assume film homogeneity:  $h_f \propto \text{“X”}; \rho_f = \text{constant}$

↪ acoustically thick film:  $Z_s(\omega) \Rightarrow [G', G'']$

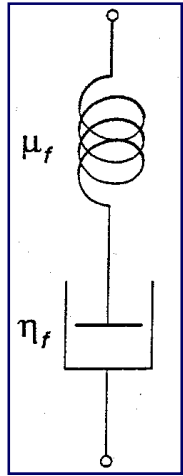
..... *unique fit*

[“X” = any measure of coverage, e.g. electrochemical charge Q]



# Mechanical models for viscoelasticity

Maxwell model



Stress (T) and strain (S):

$$G = T/S$$

Elastic deformation of film:

$$T = \mu_f S \text{ (Hooke's Law)}$$

model: spring, stiffness  $\mu_f$

Viscous dissipation of energy:

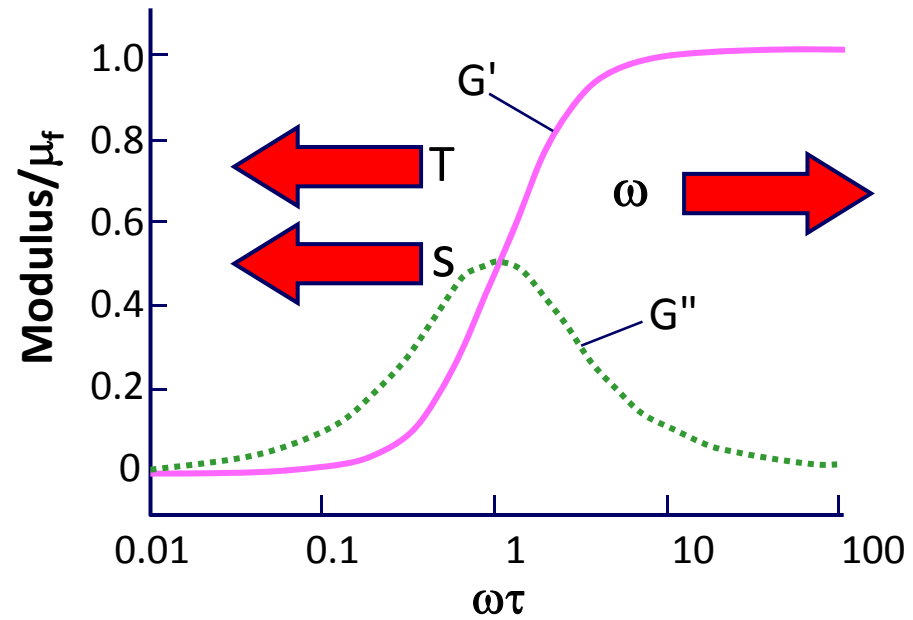
$$T = \eta_f (dS/dt) \text{ (Newtonian fluid)}$$

model: dashpot, viscosity  $\eta_f$

$$\tau = \frac{\eta_f}{\mu_f} = \tau_0 \exp[\Delta H_a / RT]$$

$$G' = \frac{G_0 + \omega^2 \tau^2 G_\infty}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}$$

$$G'' = \omega \tau \frac{G_\infty - G_0}{1 + \omega^2 \tau^2}$$



$\tau = f(T) \dots$  so  $G' \ \& \ G'' = f(T)$

# Mechanical properties: importance of timescale

**Low temperature**



**Rigid solid**

**High temperature**

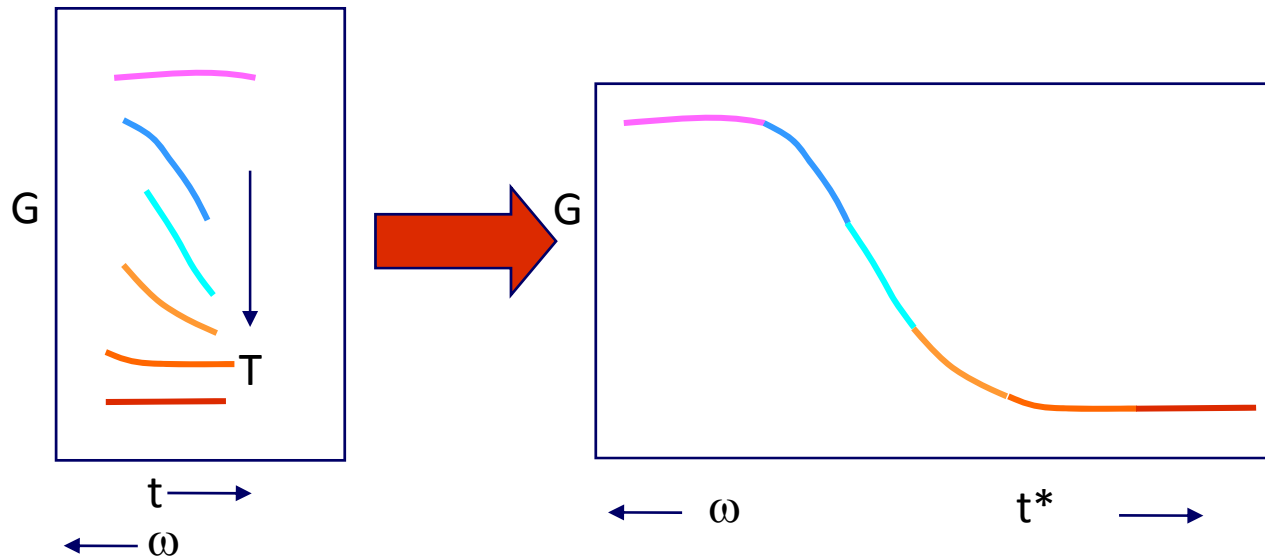


**Fluid**

# Time-temperature equivalence concept

## □ Explore effect of timescale on dynamics through $G$

- directly via frequency,  $\omega$  (harmonics)
- indirectly via temperature,  $T$  (relaxation time,  $\tau$ )



**time-temperature  
equivalence**

$$G(T_1, t) = G(T_2, t/a_T)$$

# Stress effects in electrodeposited films

# Film mass, stress & adhesion

□ The QCM responds to mass and stress

$$\Delta f = -\left(\frac{\Delta m}{A}\right)\left[\frac{f_0^2}{\rho_Q N_Q}\right] + K\Delta S\left[\frac{f_0^2}{N_Q}\right]$$



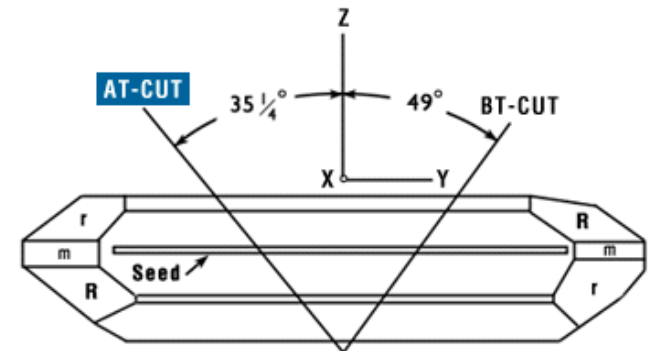
□ Limiting case of zero stress

- $\Delta S = 0 \Rightarrow$  Sauerbrey equation

□ Double resonator technique

- Measure responses of two crystal cuts
  - ↳ distinctive (known)  $N_Q$  &  $K$  values
- AT- and BT-cut
  - ↳ similar mass responses
  - ↳ very different stress responses
- solve simultaneous equations for  $\Delta m$  &  $\Delta S$

$\Delta f / s^{-1}$  = measured frequency change  
 $\Delta m / g$  = change in mass  
 $\Delta S / N m^{-1}$  = change in stress  
  
 $f_Q / s^{-1}$  = fundamental frequency  
 $r_Q / g cm^{-3}$  = quartz crystal density  
 $N_Q / m s^{-1}$  = crystal frequency constant  
 $K$  = constant

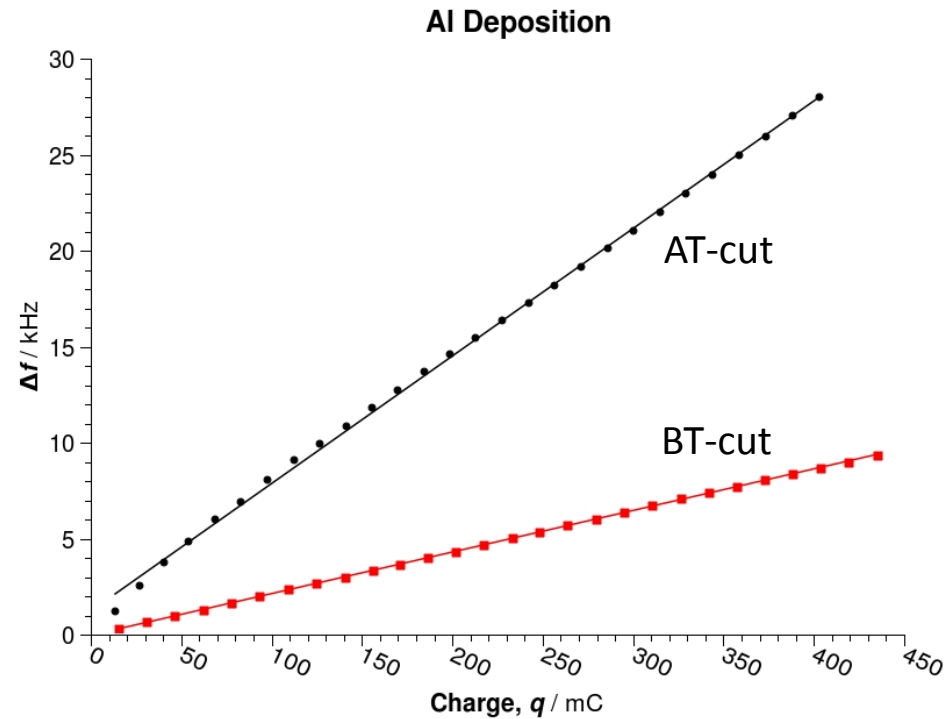
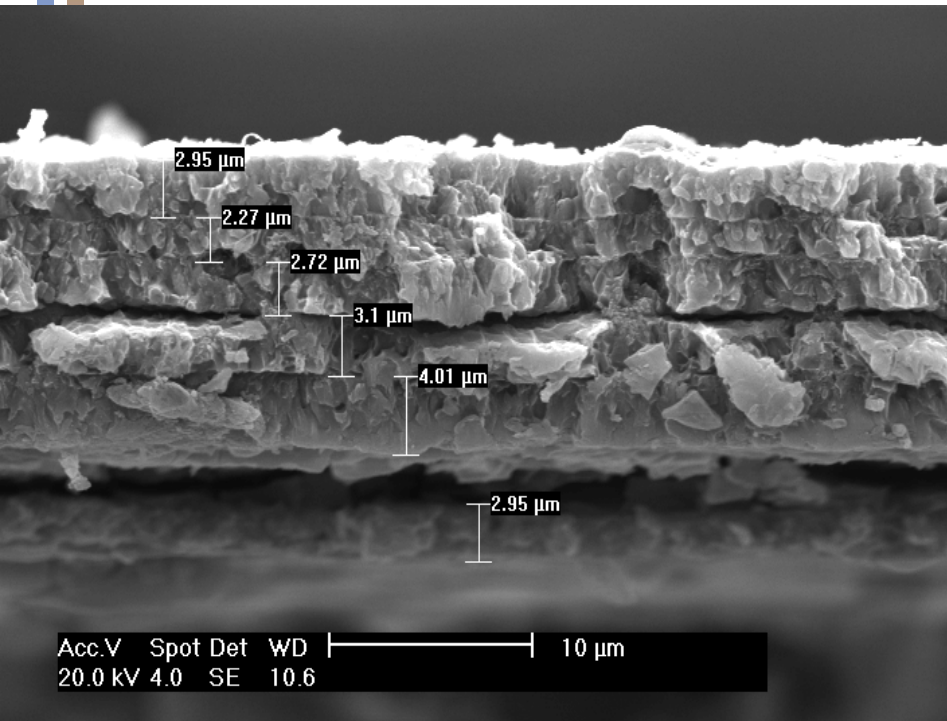


$d$  = quartz resonator thickness

# Al plating: stress & adhesion

## □ Stress during Al plating?

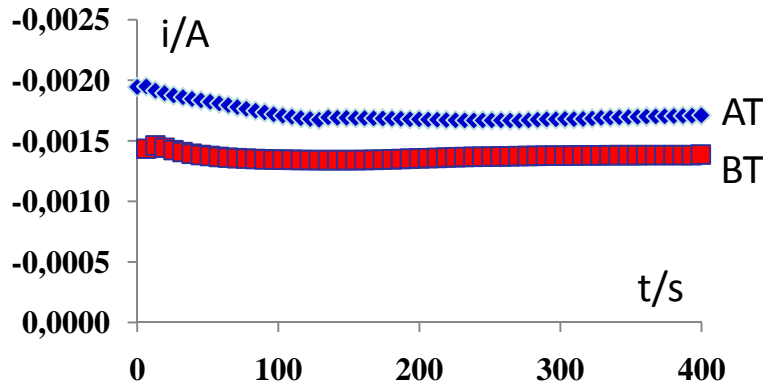
- Electroplating of multiple layers of Al on Au / quartz crystals (AT and BT cut)



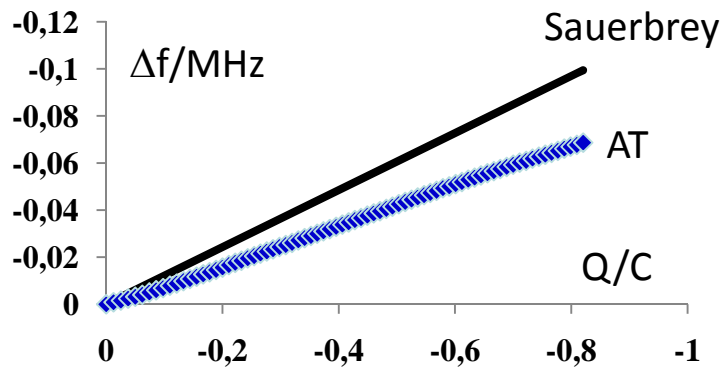
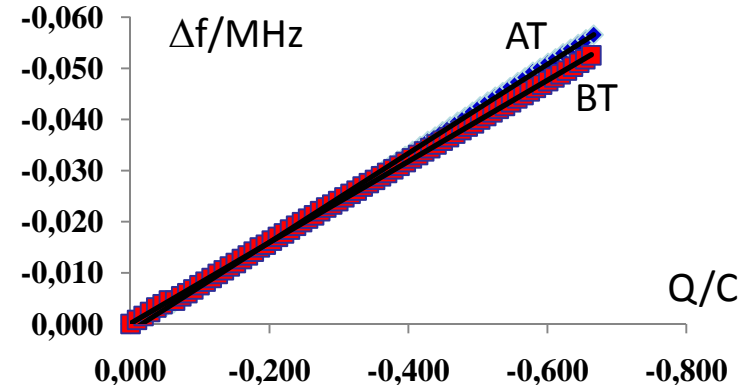
Stress can cause delamination and failure of complex thin film architectures

# Low temperature deposition ( $T = 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Current



Frequency

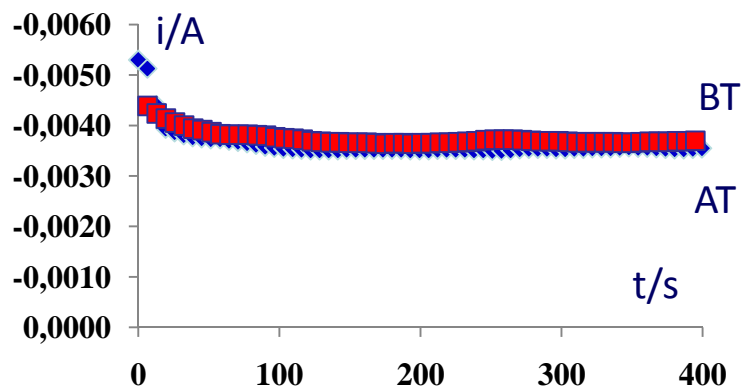


- Current response
  - independent of cut
  - ↳ minor area difference
- Frequency response
  - slightly dependent on cut
  - ↳ stress present
- Comparison with Sauerbrey
  - mass dominant

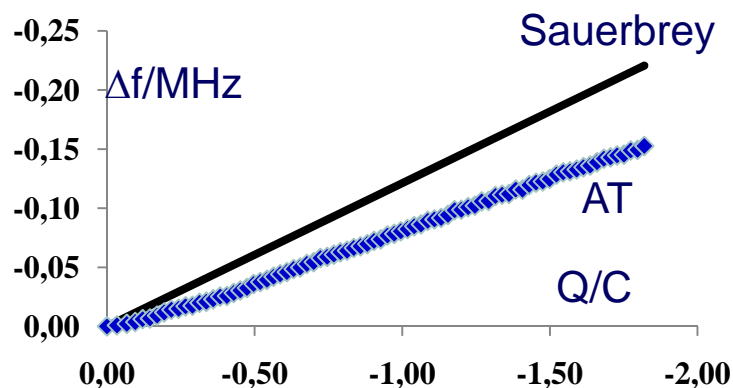
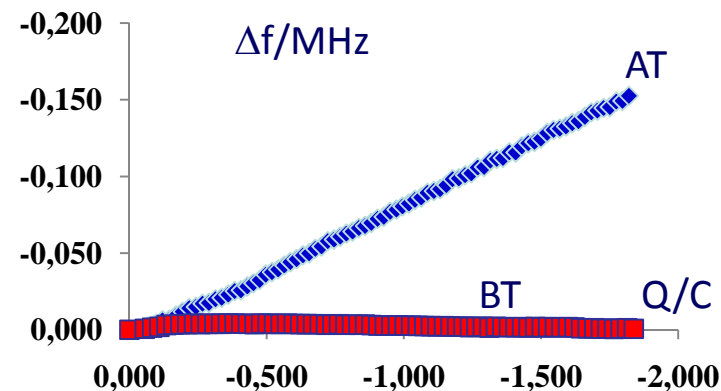


# High temperature deposition ( $T = 55^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Current



Frequency



- Current response
  - independent of cut
  - ↳ minor area difference
- Frequency response
  - slightly dependent on cut
  - ↳ stress present
- Comparison with Sauerbrey
  - stress significant



# Stress and mass effects

## General case

$$\frac{\Delta f^{AT}}{\Delta f^{BT}} = \left( \frac{N_Q^{BT}}{N_Q^{AT}} \right) \left[ \frac{\left[ \left( K^{AT} A f_Q \Delta S / \Delta m \right) - 1 \right]}{\left[ \left( K^{BT} A f_Q \Delta S / \Delta m \right) - 1 \right]} \right]$$

## Stress dominant ( $\Delta S \gg \Delta m$ ):

$$\frac{\Delta f^{AT}}{\Delta f^{BT}} \rightarrow \frac{N_Q^{BT}}{N_Q^{AT}} \cdot \frac{K_Q^{AT}}{K_Q^{BT}}$$

## Mass dominant ( $\Delta S \ll \Delta m$ ):

$$\frac{\Delta f^{AT}}{\Delta f^{BT}} \rightarrow \frac{N_Q^{BT}}{N_Q^{AT}}$$

