



## Definition of Terms found at AlphaPiezo.com

### **Aging Rate**

Aging rate expresses % change of a property per decade of time.

### **Coercive Field ( $E_c$ )**

Electric field required to reduce net polarization to zero.

### **Curie Point ( $T_c$ )**

Temperature of the ferroelectric to paraelectric phase transformation. Above this temperature polarization (and piezoelectric properties) are lost.

### **Dielectric Constant**

$$K = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}$$

where

$\epsilon$  = permittivity of dielectric material

$\epsilon_0$  = permittivity of free space

$$= 8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ farad/inch}$$

Capacitance (C) may be calculated from the dielectric constant:

$$C = \frac{K\epsilon_0 A}{t} \text{ Farads}$$

where A = area of electrodes

t = thickness between electrodes

### **Dissipation Factor**

$\tan \delta$ : A measure of the dielectric losses in a material.

### **Electromechanical Coupling Factors**

Electromechanical coupling factor (k) relates the amount of electrical energy that is transformed to mechanical energy or mechanical energy transformed to electrical energy

Direct piezoelectric effect:

$$k = \frac{\text{electrical energy stored}}{\text{mechanical energy applied}}$$

Converse piezoelectric effect:

$$k = \frac{\text{mechanical energy stored}}{\text{electrical energy applied}}$$

### **Frequency Constants**

$$N = f_r \times L \text{ (Hz-m)}$$

where N = frequency constant

$f_r$  = resonant frequency

L = controlling dimension



### **Mechanical Quality Factor (Q<sub>M</sub>)**

A measure of the mechanical losses in the material. It is  $2\pi$  times the energy stored divided by energy dissipated per cycle at the mechanical resonant frequency.

### **Piezoelectric Constants (d<sub>ij</sub> & g<sub>ij</sub>)**

Piezoelectric constants are defined with a double subscript where i defines the direction of the electrical field (dielectric displacement) and j defines the direction of the applied stress (induced strain). The poling axis of a piezoelectric material is defined as the 3 direction.

d<sub>ij</sub> – charge or strain coefficients

$\frac{\text{charge density}}{\text{applied stress}}$  in  $\frac{\text{coulombs}}{\text{newton}}$

Or  
 $\frac{\text{strain}}{\text{applied field}}$  in  $\frac{\text{meters}}{\text{volt}}$

g<sub>ij</sub> – voltage coefficients

$\frac{\text{open circuit field}}{\text{applied stress}}$  in  $\frac{\text{volt-meter}}{\text{Newton}}$

Or

$\frac{\text{strain}}{\text{applied charge density}}$  in  $\frac{\text{meter}^2}{\text{coulomb}}$

$d_{ij} = g_{ij}\epsilon$   
where  $\epsilon$  is material permittivity.

### **Remanent Polarization (P<sub>r</sub>)**

Net polarization remaining in a polycrystalline dielectric material after removal of an electric field.

### **Young's Modulus (Y)**

Modulus of elasticity (mechanical stiffness) expressed as a ratio of stress to strain (newton/m<sup>2</sup>)