

## 폴리이미드 박막의 공간전하현상

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### Space Charge Phenomena in Polyimide Films

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**Abstract :** Polyimide is widely used as a high-temperature insulating material. Space charge distributions in polyimide (PI) films strongly depend upon electric field, temperature, water content and so on. We observed space charge distributions in PI films with various water contents. When a dc field was applied to as-received PI films or water-treated PI films, positive and negative homo space charges were observed near the respective electrodes at 333 K. In dried PI films, the homo space charges were much reduced, and positive and negative hetero space charges in the bulk were clearly observed. The space charge amounts in water-treated PI films were smaller than in as-received ones, while the current density in water-treated PI film was larger than that in as-received one by two or more orders of magnitude. These suggest not only that the charge injection from the electrode is enhanced by absorbed water but also that absorbed water makes carriers mobile. The decay of space charge was also faster in water-treated PI than in as-received or dried one. This also supports the enhancement of apparent mobilities of carriers in PI by absorbed water.

**Key Words :** Polyimide, Space charge distribution, DC field

#### 1. Introduction

Polyimide (PI) is widely used as a high-temperature insulating material because of its good insulating, mechanical and thermo stable properties. Although the electrical properties of PI were investigated by many researchers, the results were scattered depending upon the experimental conditions such as temperature, sample thickness, electrode materials, humidity, etc [1]. Various conduction models such as ionic hopping conduction [1], thermally activated injections [1, 2] and thermally assisted tunneling were proposed. The high field properties, however, are not so clear still now.

On the other hand, PI is a hydrophilic polymer, and its dielectric properties largely depend upon absorbed water or humidity. Space charge properties are also affected by humidity or moisture content. In the previous paper, we suggested the water-assisted charge injection from the electrode. Positive and negative charge carriers are injected from the electrodes, and homo space charges are formed in a PI film. When the applied field was higher than  $30 \text{ MVm}^{-1}$ , positive and negative hetero space charges were also observed, especially in dried PI. The injections of negative and positive carriers were reduced by removing absorbed water, but the hetero space charges seemed not to be affected by water content. In this paper, we studied the

space charge distributions under dc high fields and the effect of water or moisture content.

#### 2. Experimental

The sample was Kapton 500H film with thickness of ca. 125  $\mu\text{m}$ , which were kept in a desiccator more than one week before pretreatment or measurement. We call them as-received PI. Moisture controlled samples were also prepared. A water-treated PI was immersed in water for a week at room temperature and then water on the film surface was removed. A dried PI was kept at 423 K (150C) for 24 hours and then the current or space charge was measured. The water content was estimated from the change in the weight. The space charge distributions were measured by the pulsed electro-acoustic (PEA) method (Five Lab, PEANUTS) [8]. The charging and discharging currents were also measured. The electrodes were the grounded Al plate and the semi-conductive (SC) layer connected to a high-voltage dc source. The measurements were carried out under dc fields for 90 minutes and after short-circuiting for 90 minutes at 333 K (60C). The applied field strengths were 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50  $\text{MVm}^{-1}$ .

### 3. Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows space charge distributions in PI films with various water contents at 333 K. The specimen was short-circuited after the application of a dc field for 90 minutes. The applied fields were 50 MVm<sup>-1</sup>. In as-received PI (broken curve) and water-treated PI films (solid curve), negative homo space charges near the Al cathode and positive homo space charges near the SC anode were observed, while the homo space charges were much reduced and the positive and negative hetero space charges were clearly observed in dried PI film (dotted curve). This difference between dried and non-dried PI films suggests the charge injection assisted by absorbed water. However, the amounts of homo space charges were smaller in water-treated PI film than in as-received one, although the water content was larger in water-treated PI than in as-received one.

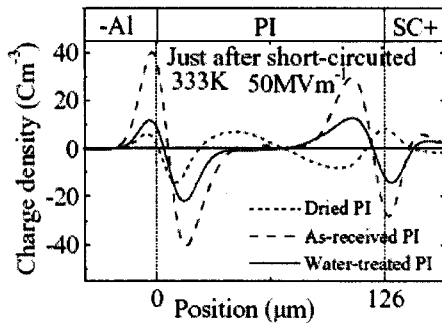


Fig. 1. Space charge distributions in dried PI (dotted curve), as-received PI (broken curve) and water-treated PI films (solid curve) just-after short-circuited after 90 minutes charging at 333 K.

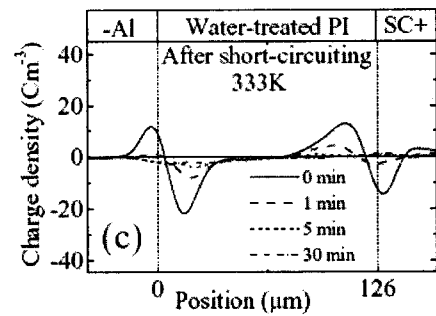
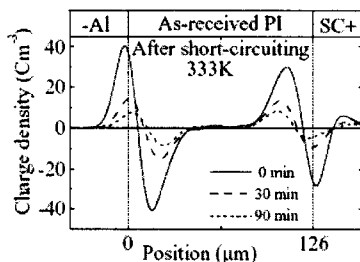
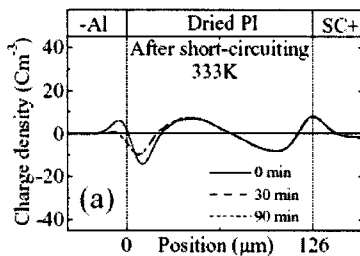


Fig. 2. Space charge distributions in (a) dried, (b) as-received and (c) water-treated PI films after short-circuiting at 333 K, where the field of 50 MVm<sup>-1</sup> was applied for 90 min.

Figures 2 (a), (b) and (c) show changes of space charge distributions after short-circuiting in dried, as-received and water-treated PI films, respectively. In dried PI films, hetero space charges were stable. Homo space charges in dried and as-received PI films gradually decreased with time, while they rapidly decreased in water-treated PI films, which almost vanished within 5 minutes. This suggests that charge carriers are more mobile in water-treated PI films. In other words, absorbed water enhances the carrier mobility.

### 4. Conclusions

Space charge distributions and current densities were measured on PI films with different water contents. Absorbed water largely enhanced current densities. The results of space charge revealed that both charge injection and carrier mobility were enhanced by absorbed water. Homo space charges were the largest in as-received PI films due to balance of charge injection and migration. For further discussions on the effect of absorbed water on carrier injection and transport, the effects of electrode material, temperature and so on should be studied.

### Acknowledgement

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### References

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