

# Comparative evaluation of porous PMO materials by PAS and EP

A. G. Attallah, A. S. Vishnevskiy, M. O. Liedke, E. Hirschmann, M. Butterling, D. S. Seregin, A. A. Rezvanov, K. A. Vorotilov, M. R. Baklanov, and A. Wagner



**HZDR**

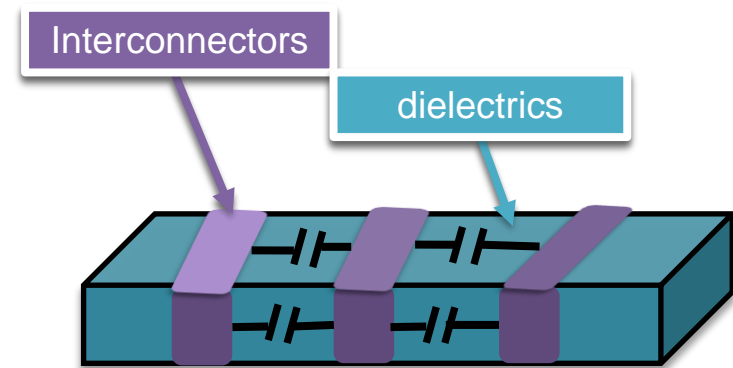
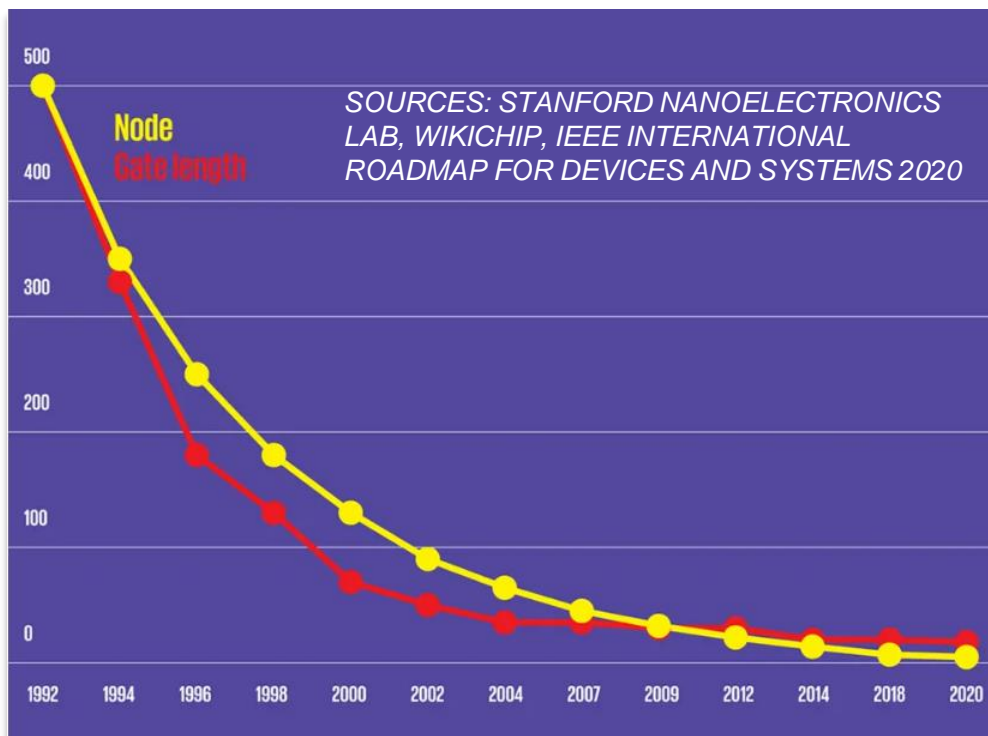


HELMHOLTZ  
ZENTRUM DRESDEN  
ROSSENDORF

# Contents

- Low-k dielectrics: needs and challenges
- Motivation
- Experiment
- Results & discussions: PAS & EP
- Summary

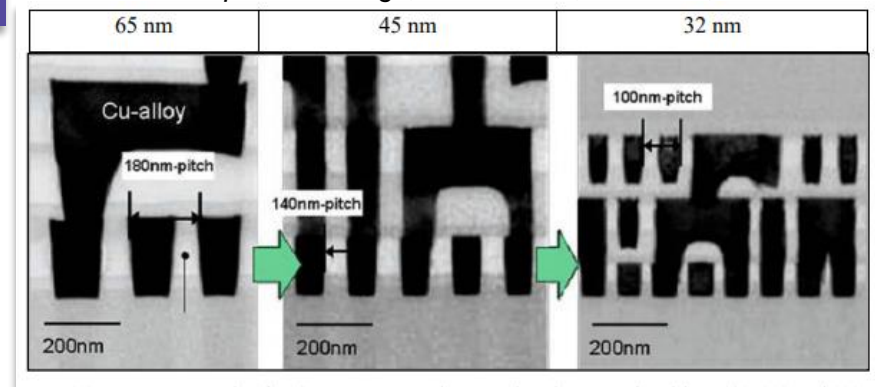
# Low – k dielectrics – the topic



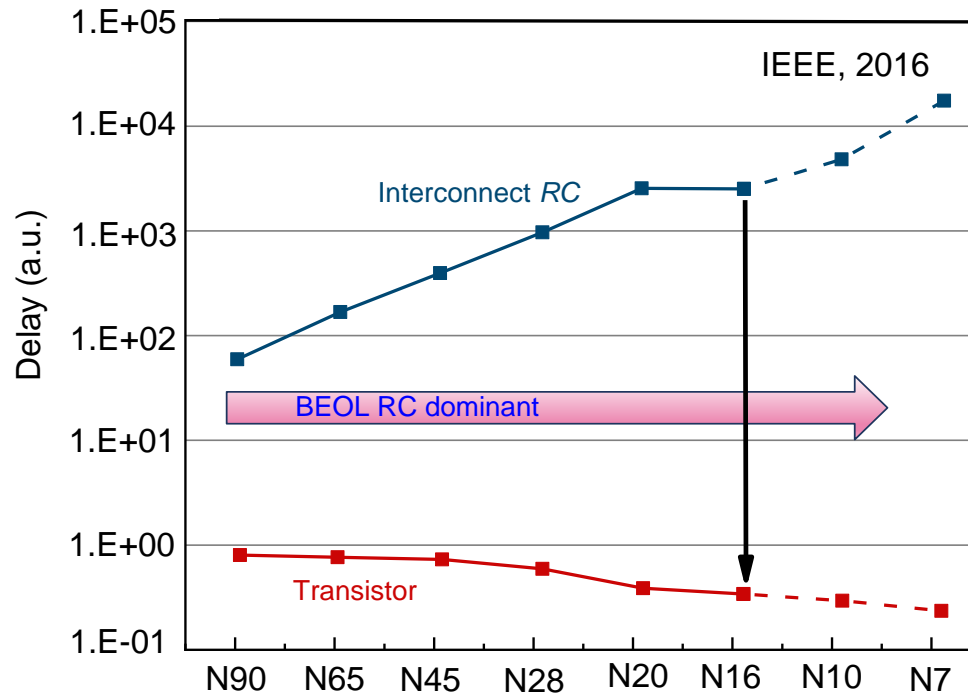
## Scaling down:

- Capacitance ( $C$ ) increases
- Resistance ( $R$ ) of metal connectors
- $RC$  delay increases

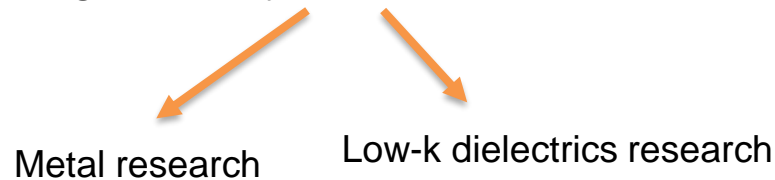
Pradeep Kumar Singh, Ph.D. thesis, Chemnitz, 2013



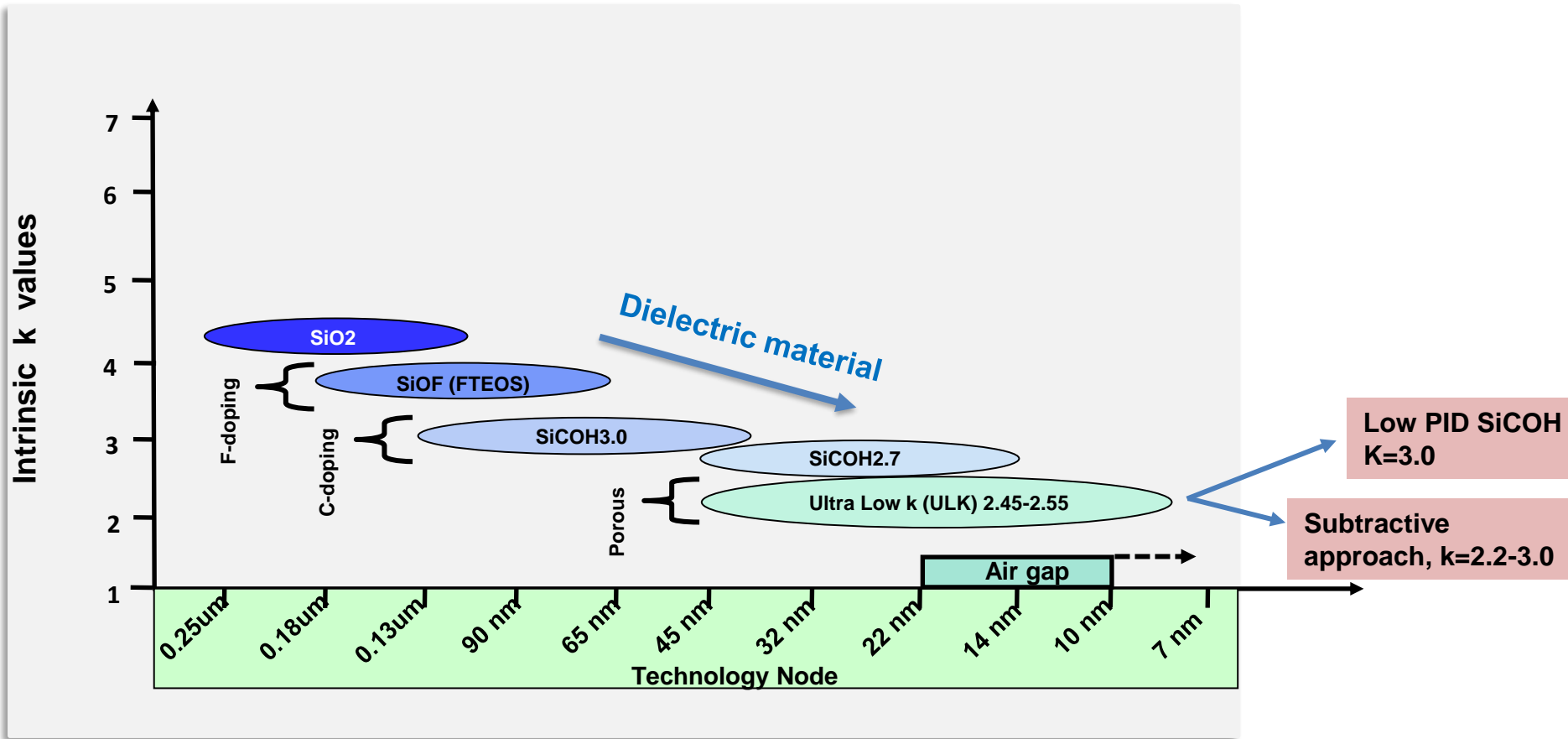
# Low – k dielectrics – the topic



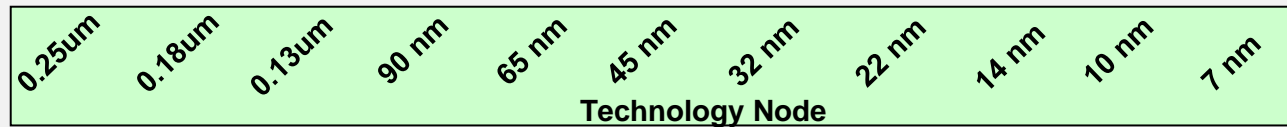
Challenge: reduction of signal delay,  $RC$



# Low – k dielectrics – strategies



# Ultra - low – k dielectrics



# Motivation

## Aim

Preparing efficient ULK

## How?

$k$  decreases by pore creation & grafting organic groups in  $\text{SiO}_2$

## Challenge

Improving the poor mech. stability

## Methodology

Replacement of  $\text{O}_2$  in  $\text{SiO}_2$  by carbon-based bridges (higher rigidity)

## Side effect

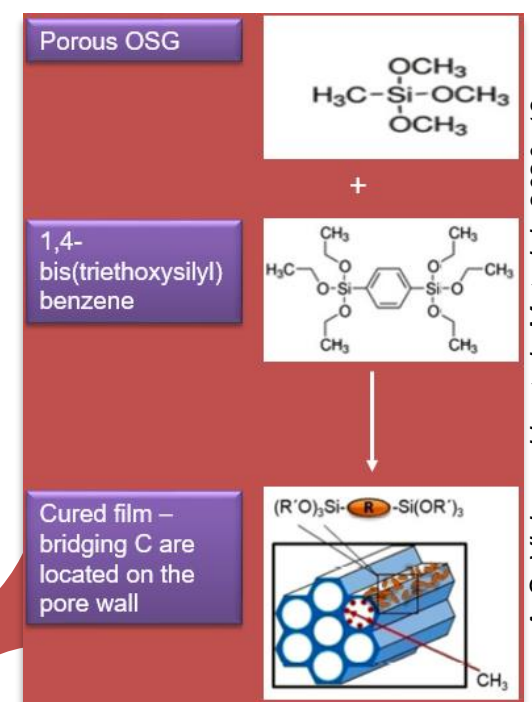
The new structure is not completely hydrophobic

## Improvement?

Terminal methyl groups enhance the hydrophobicity

## Work plan

Varying the C-bridge / methyl terminal ratio at a fixed porogen content



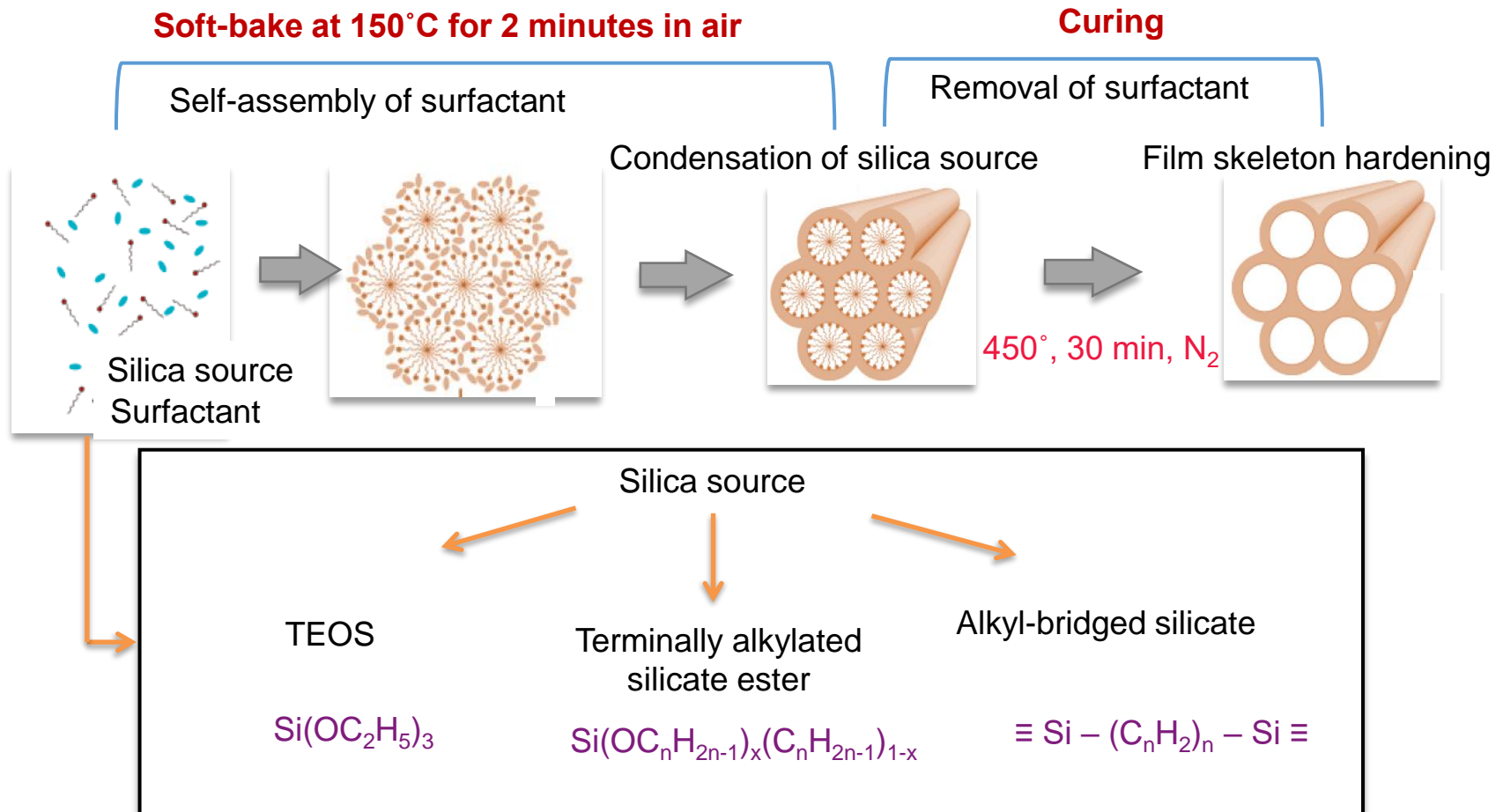
# Motivation

- PAS and EP are only 2 techniques suitable for evaluation of thin films when the amount of materials is not sufficient for classical nitrogen porosimetry. This is the reason why both these techniques are used in nanoelectronics for evaluation of thin porous films.
- These techniques are based on completely different physical ideas. PAS measures reduction of Ps lifetime when they collide with pore wall, EP measures radius of curvature of a liquid condensed in the pores.
- This is the reason why cross evaluation of the obtained results is very important.



# Experiment - Samples

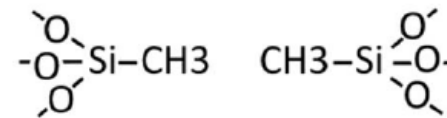
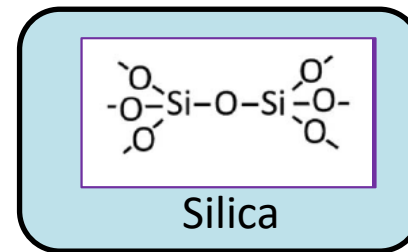
Periodic mesoporous organosilicates (PMO)- based low-k



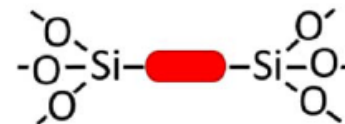
# Experiment - Samples

The matrix composition was changed from pure methyl terminated (MTMS) to fully benzene bridged material

MTMS*/BTESB** mol ratio	Porogen conc. (Brij L4) Wt. %
100/0	0
100/0	30
75/25	30
55/45	30
40/60	30
0/100	30
0/100	0



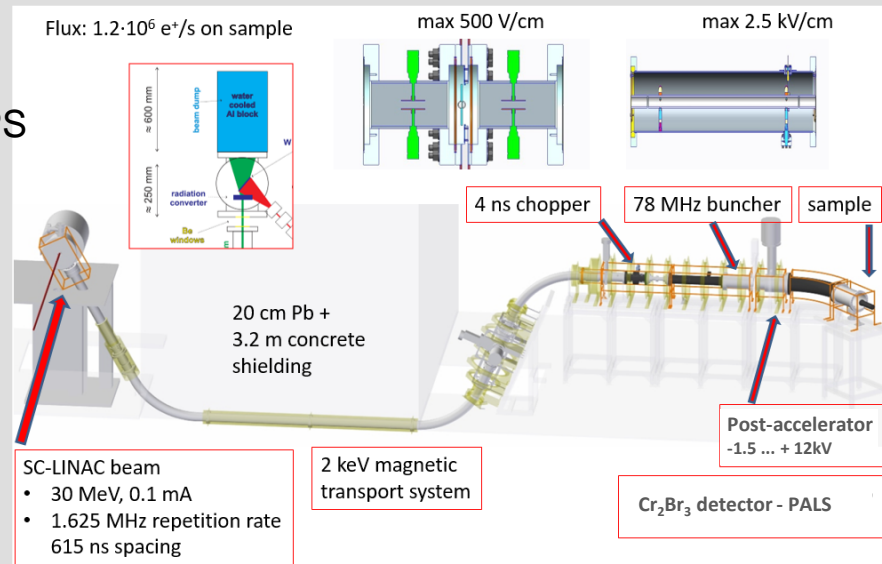
\*MTMS – Methyltrimethoxysilane:  
Methyl terminated



\*\* BTESB - 1,4-bis(triethoxysilyl)-  
benzene: Benzene bridged

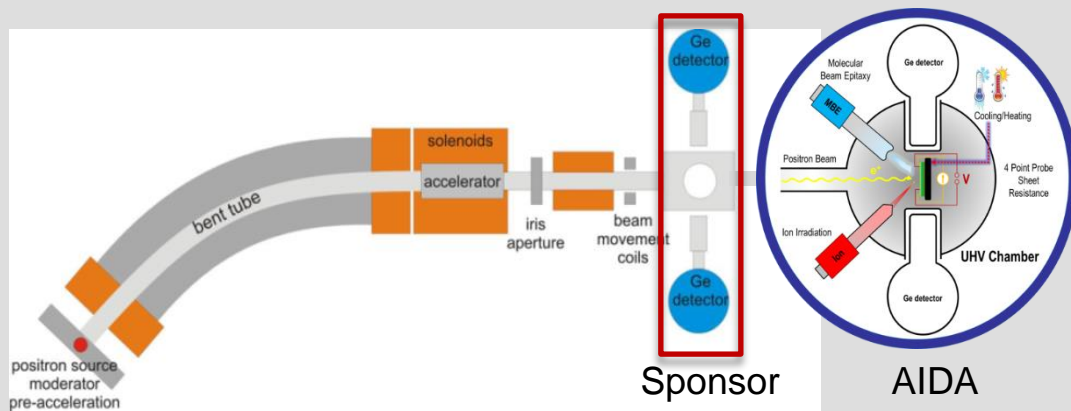
# Experiment - PAS

MePS



## PALS

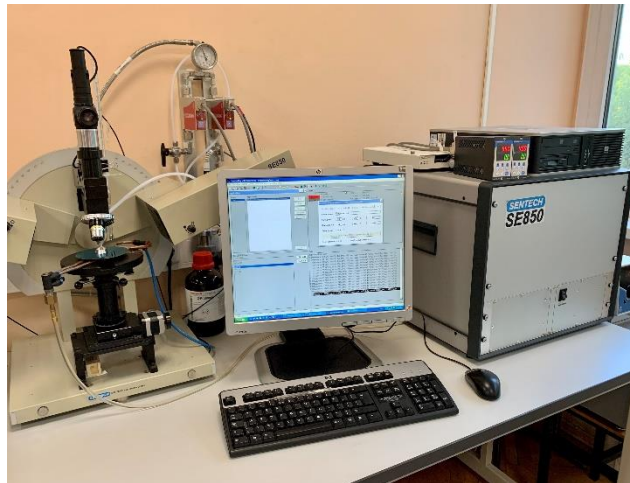
- thin films (500 eV – 12 keV)
- annihilation lifetime
- defects and porosimetry
- in situ annealing to purge pores



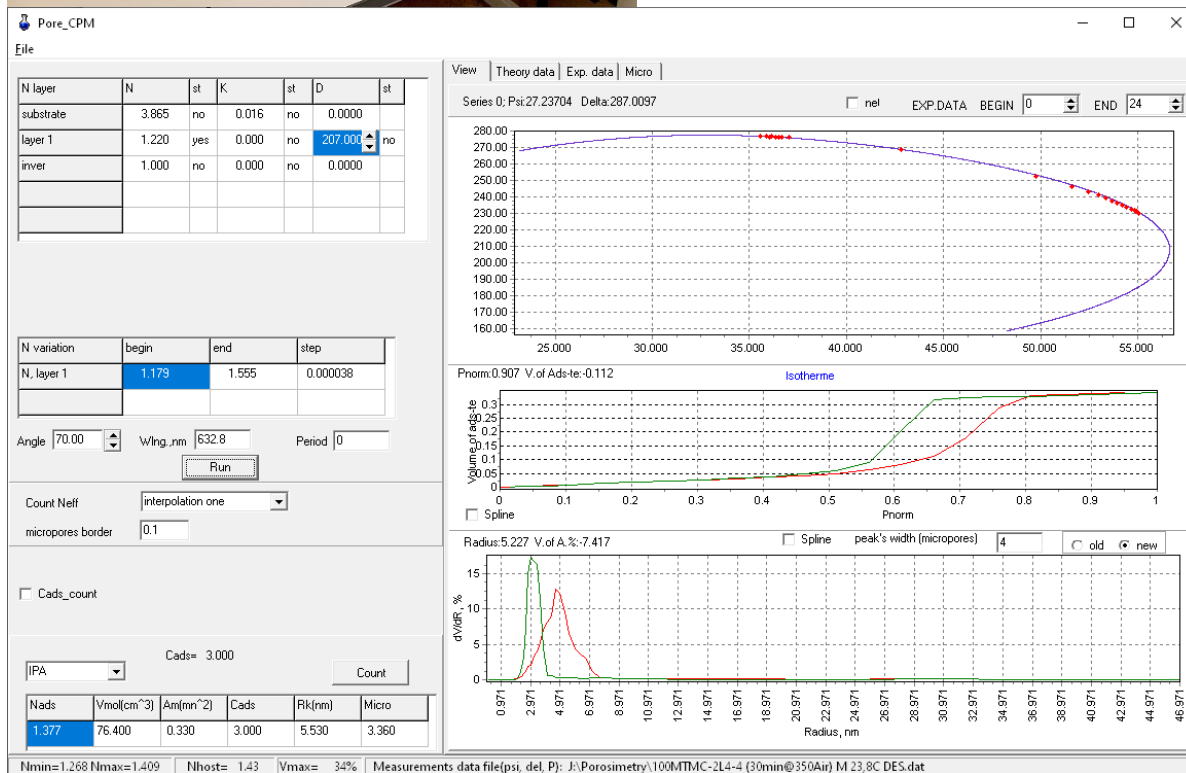
## DB-PAS

- <sup>22</sup>Na-based e<sup>+</sup> source
- Thin films (30 eV – 35 keV)
- Doppler broadening + cDB
- in situ heating (AIDA)

# Experiment - EP



- Porosity and Pore size distribution
- Young Modulus
- Barrier integrity
- Sealing & Modification
- Plasma damage
- Swelling

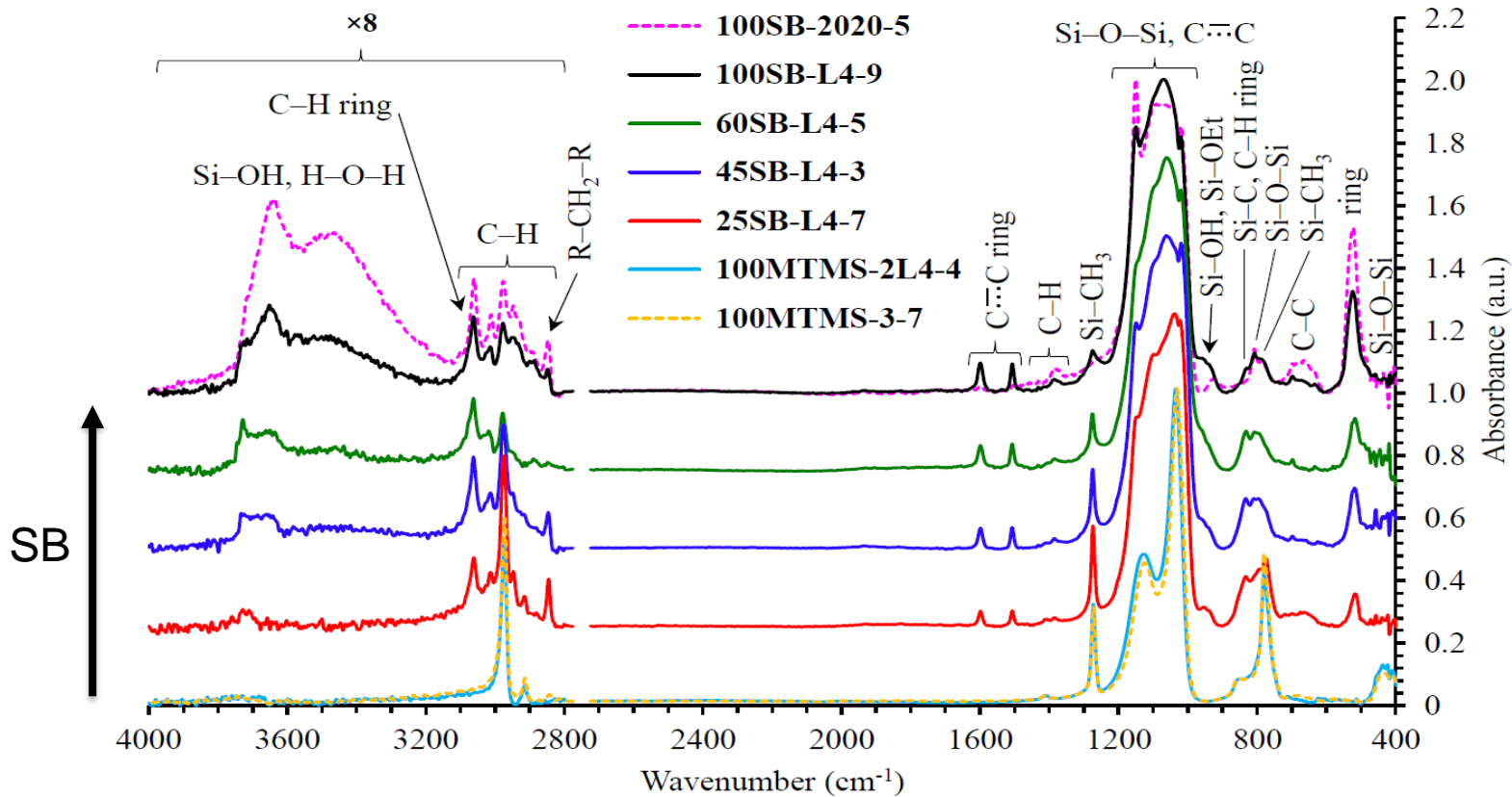


Delta/Psi fitting

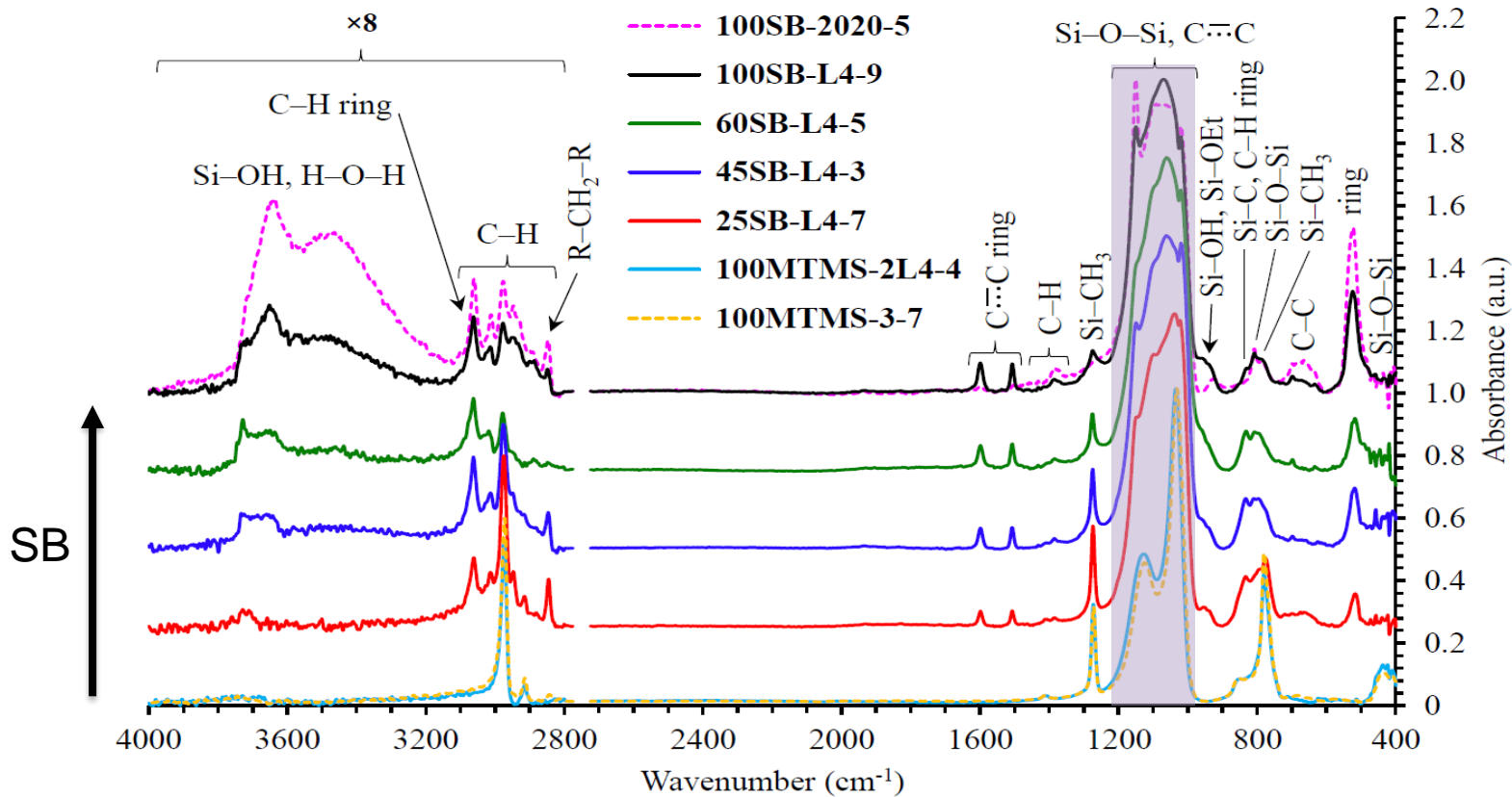
Adsorption isotherms

Pore size distribution

# Results – Chemical composition (FTIR)

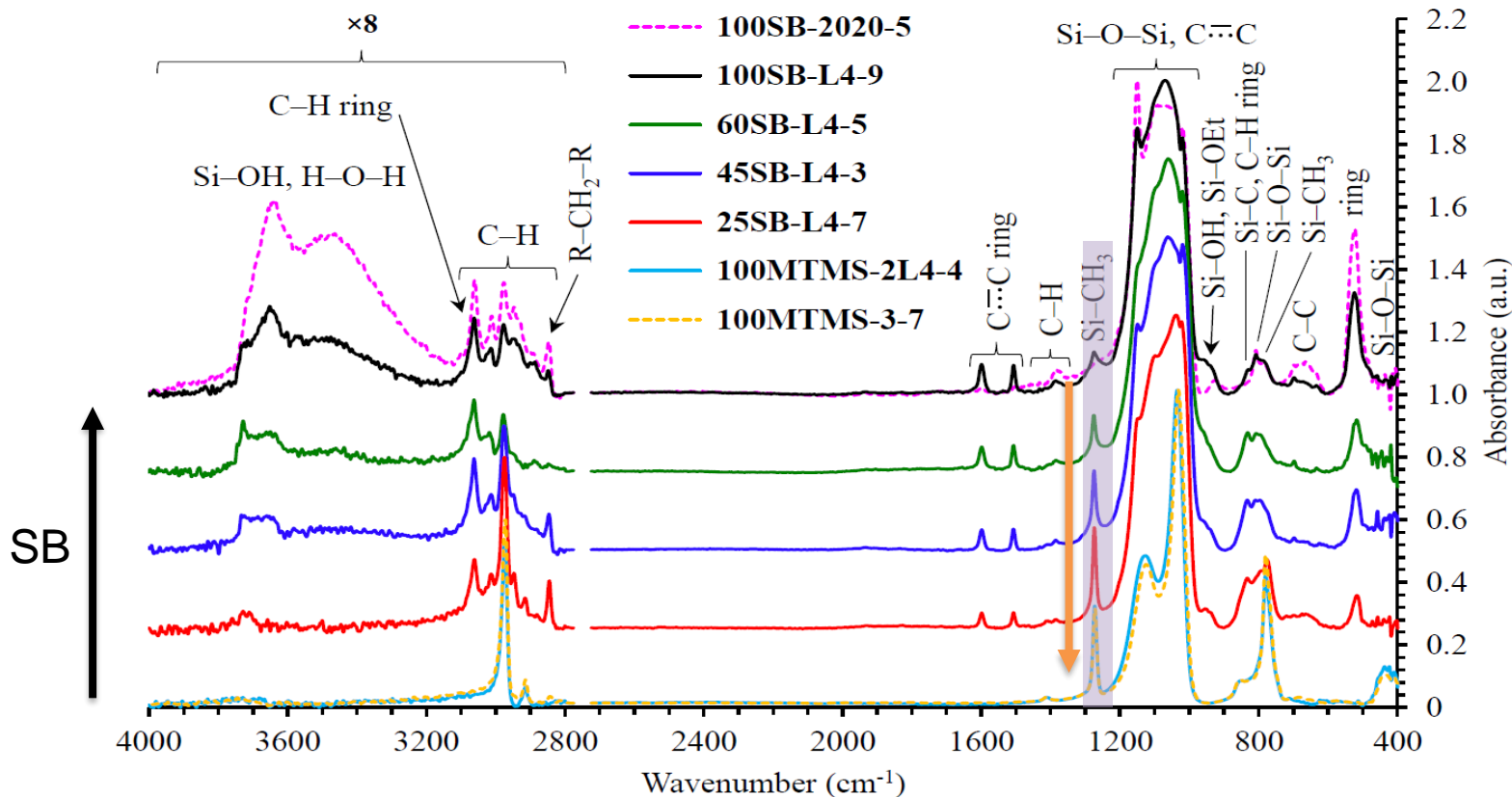


# Results – Chemical composition (FTIR)



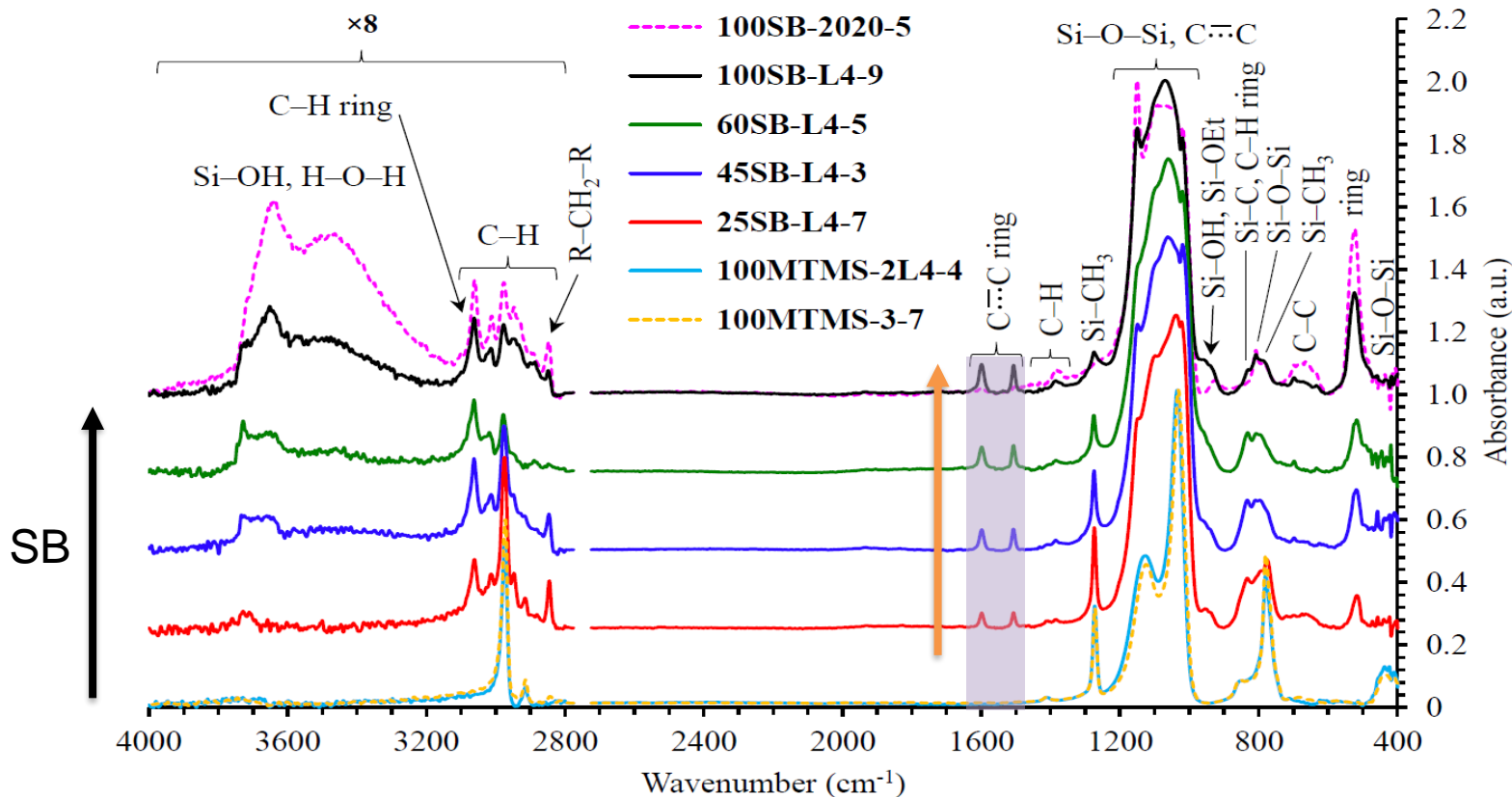
➤ Intensive peak at  $1000\text{-}1100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  suggests formation of Silica like skeleton

# Results – Chemical composition (FTIR)



- Intensive peak at 1000-1100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  suggests formation of Silica like skeleton
- The peak at 1275  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  shows concentration of -CH<sub>3</sub> terminals (max in MTMS film)

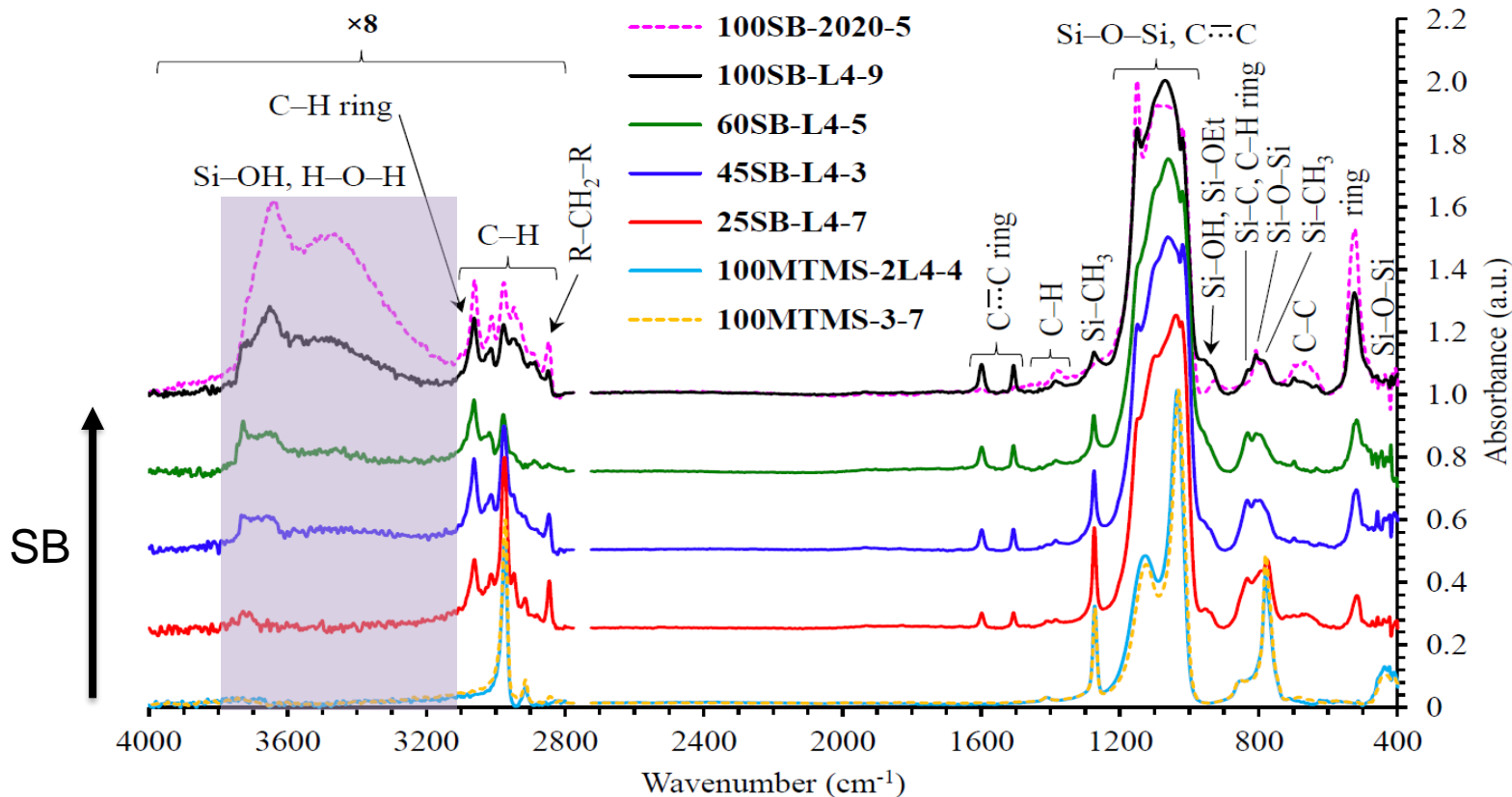
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- Two peaks at 1500-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are related to benzene bridge. (max in BTESB film)

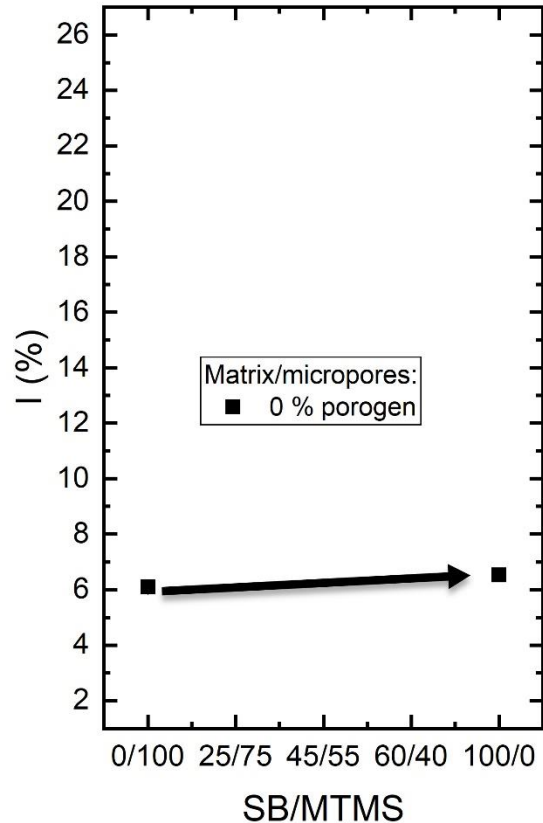
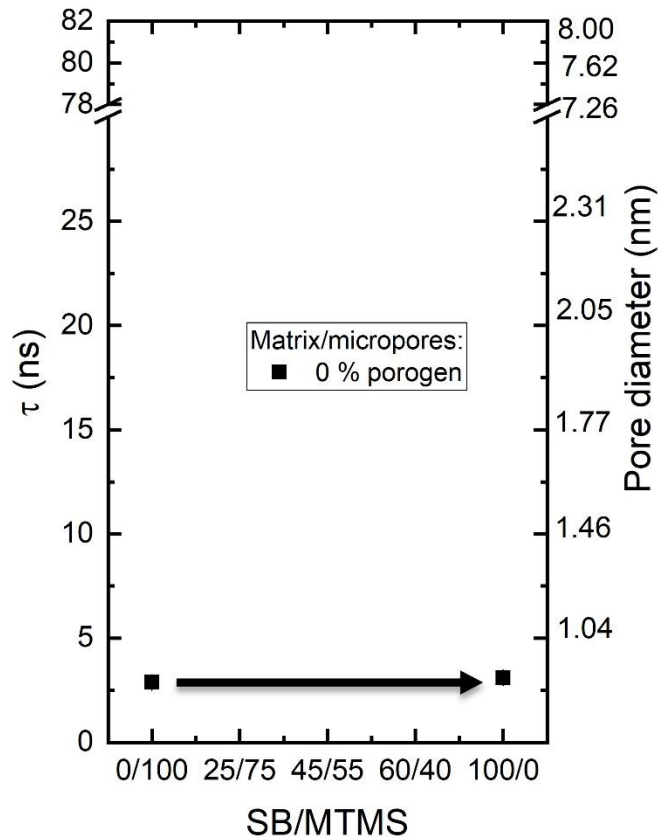


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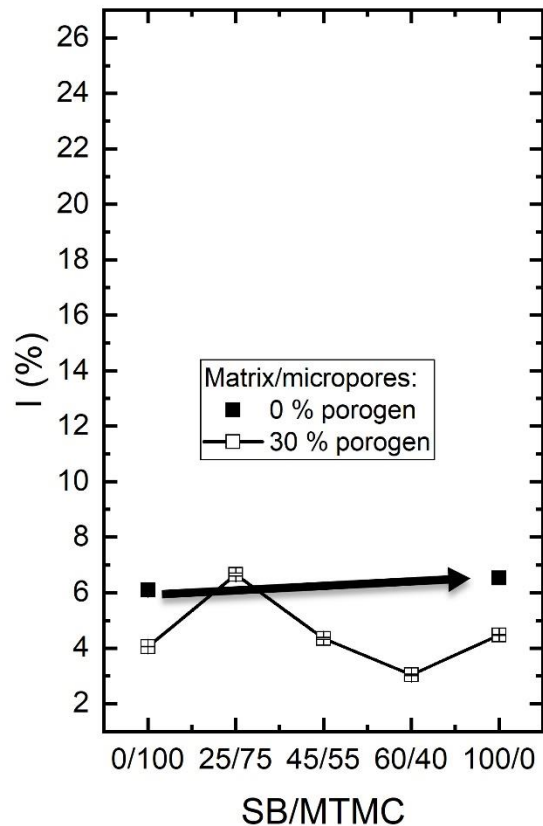
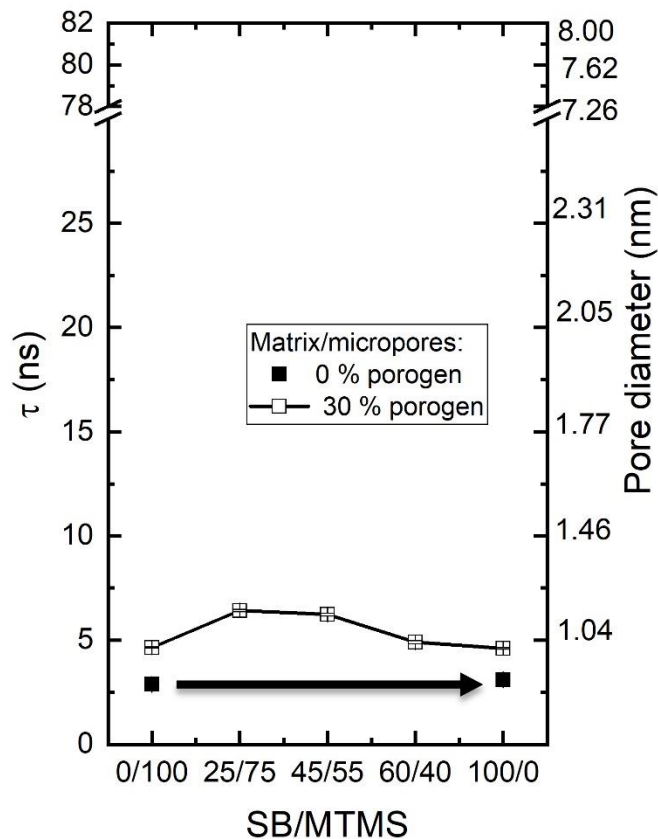
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- Two peaks at 1500-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are related to benzene bridge. (max in BTESB film)
- Benzene bridged films are not hydrophobic (water peaks at 3100-3700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). Therefore, the presence of methyl terminals are important.

# Results - PALS



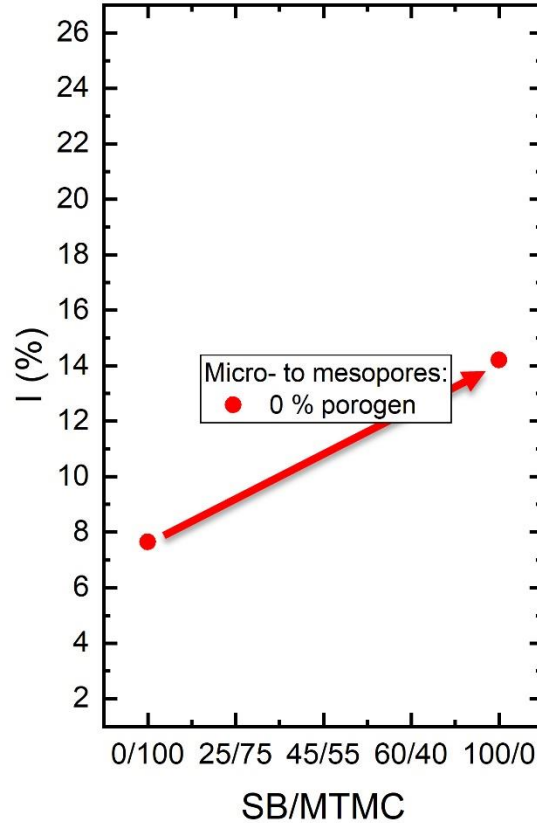
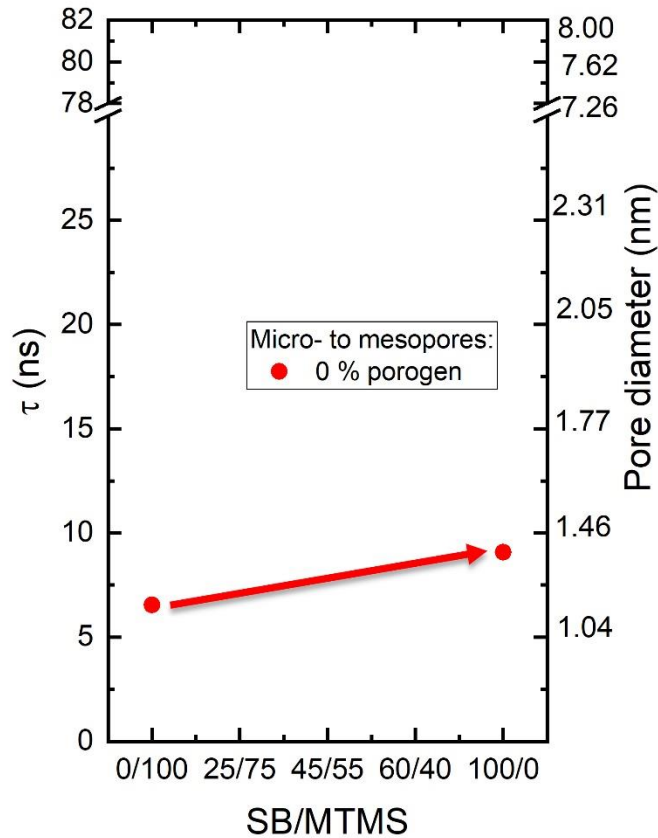
- o-Ps lifetime measures 0.77 nm matrix free volume in 100SB and 100MTMS samples
- both samples have ~ 6% o-Ps intensity in the matrix

# Results - PALS



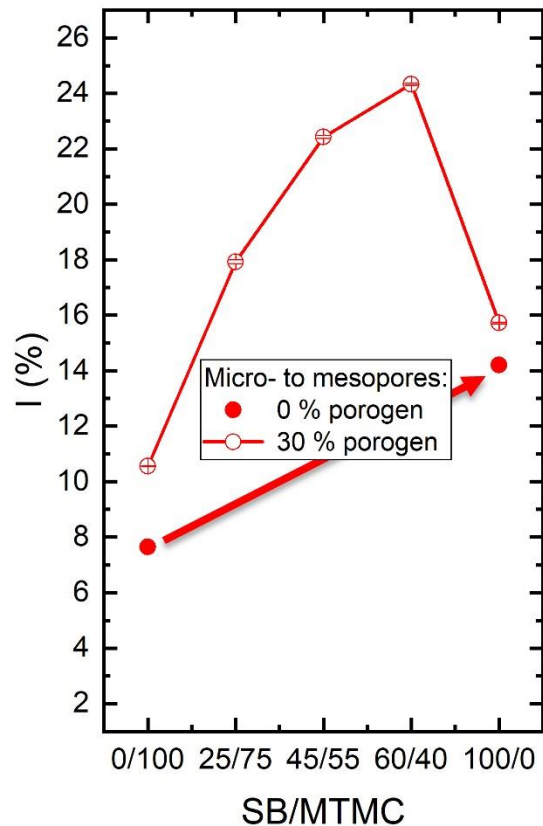
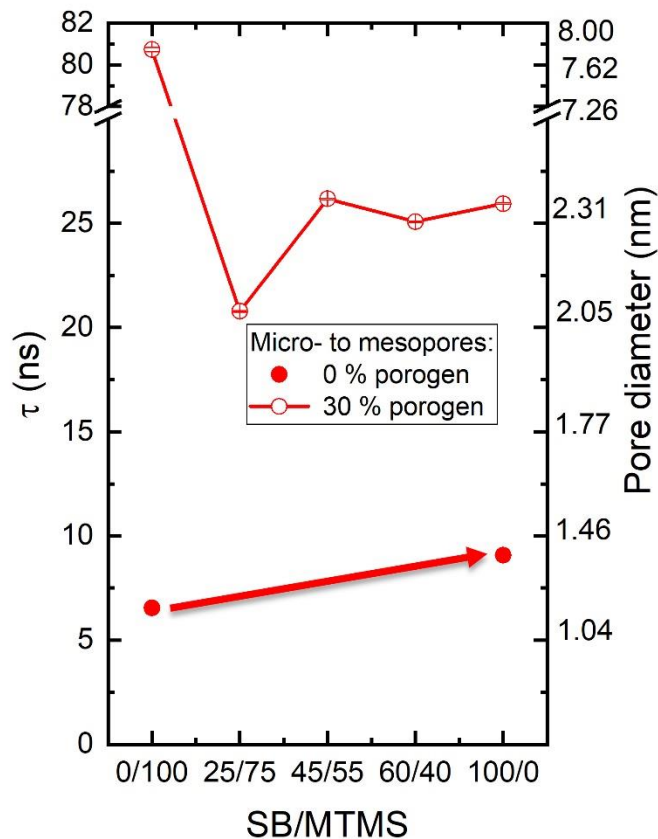
- o-Ps lifetime measures 0.77 nm matrix free volume in 100SB and 100MTMS samples
- both samples have ~ 6% o-Ps intensity in the matrix
- the matrix free volumes increased to ~ 1 nm when 30% porogen was added
- SB=25, 45% have the largest free volumes
- $I_{\text{matrix}}$  mirrors the change of  $I_{\text{meso}}$  (see below)

# Results - PALS



- 100SB and 100MTMS samples have micropores before adding porogen
- size and I of 100SB are higher

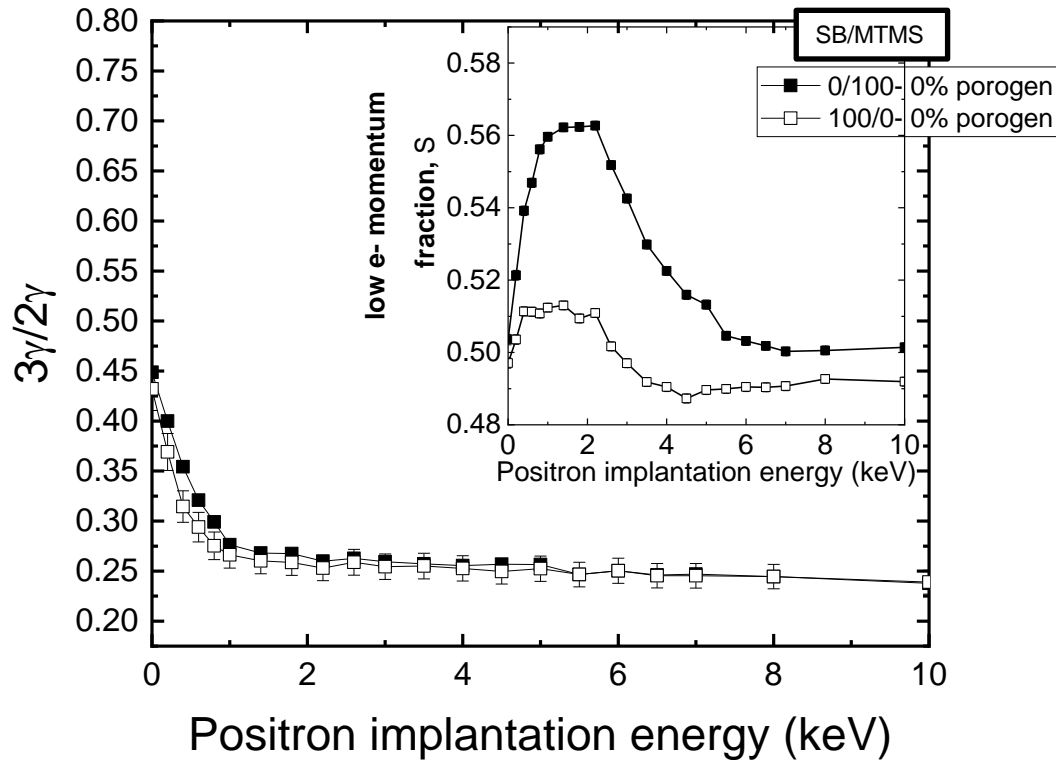
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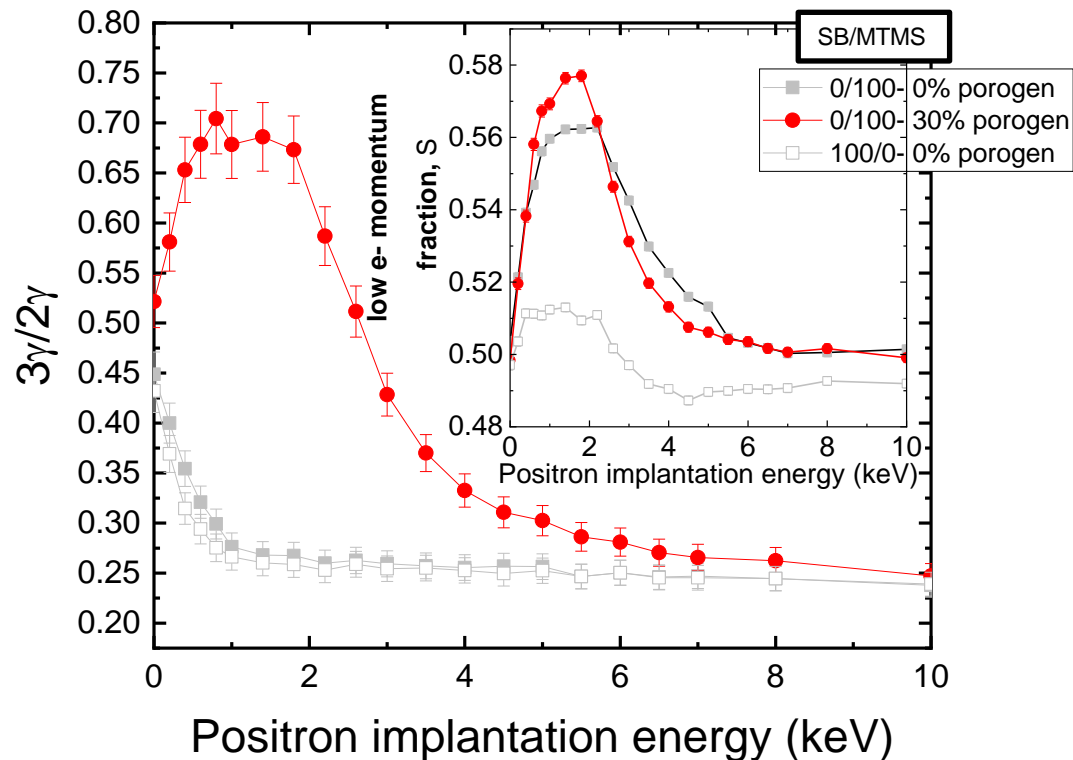
- 100SB and 100MTMS samples have micropores before adding porogen
- size and  $I$  of 100SB are higher
- mesopores are the largest in 100MTMS
- Transfor. of micro- to mesopores
- SB mesopores are smaller
- $I_{\text{meso}}$  - 30% porogen  $\uparrow$   $\rightarrow$  partial collapse of matrix to mesopores
- steep  $I_{\text{meso}}$  - SB-30% porogen
- 100SB-30% porogen  $\rightarrow$  denser

# Results – DB-PAS

- $3\gamma/2\gamma$  values  $\rightarrow$  o-Ps escape (uncapped samples)
- Larger S.parameter in 100MTMC  $\rightarrow$  higher pore+defect conc. ( $I_2+I_3+I_4$ )

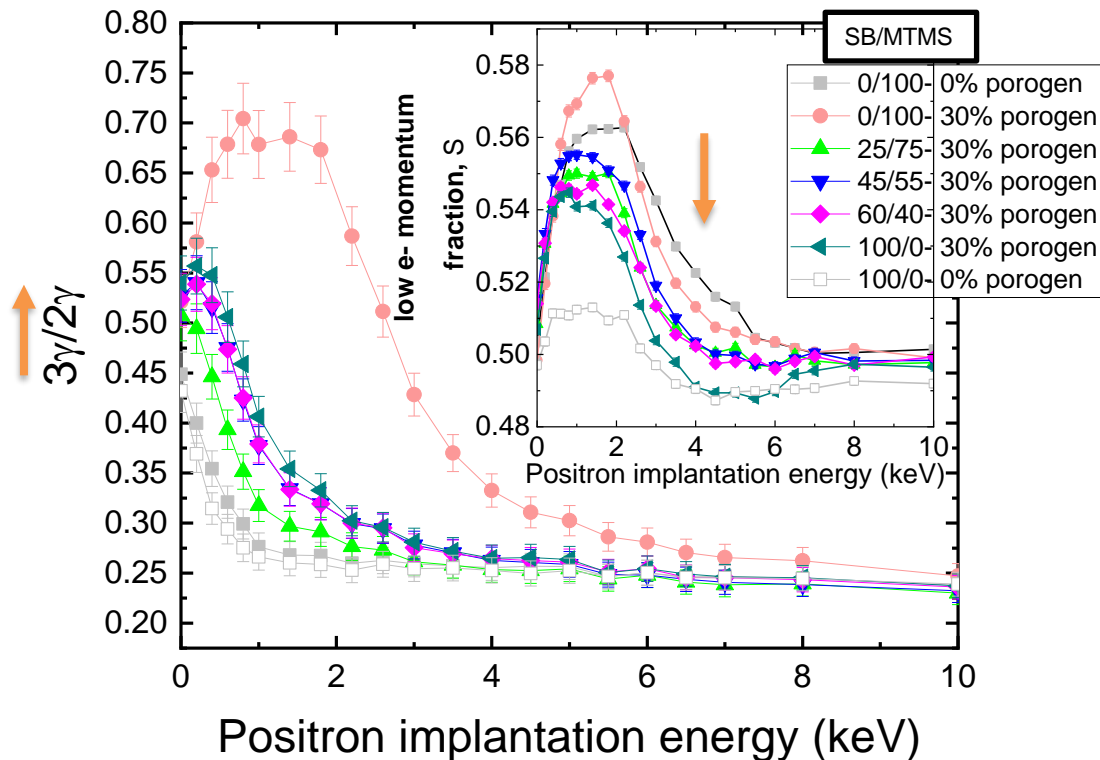


# Results – DB-PAS



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- Value and shape of  $3\gamma/2\gamma$  in 100MTMS-30 % porogen  $\rightarrow$  open and intercon. pores
- Large S-paramter  $\rightarrow$  big pores

# Results – DB-PAS



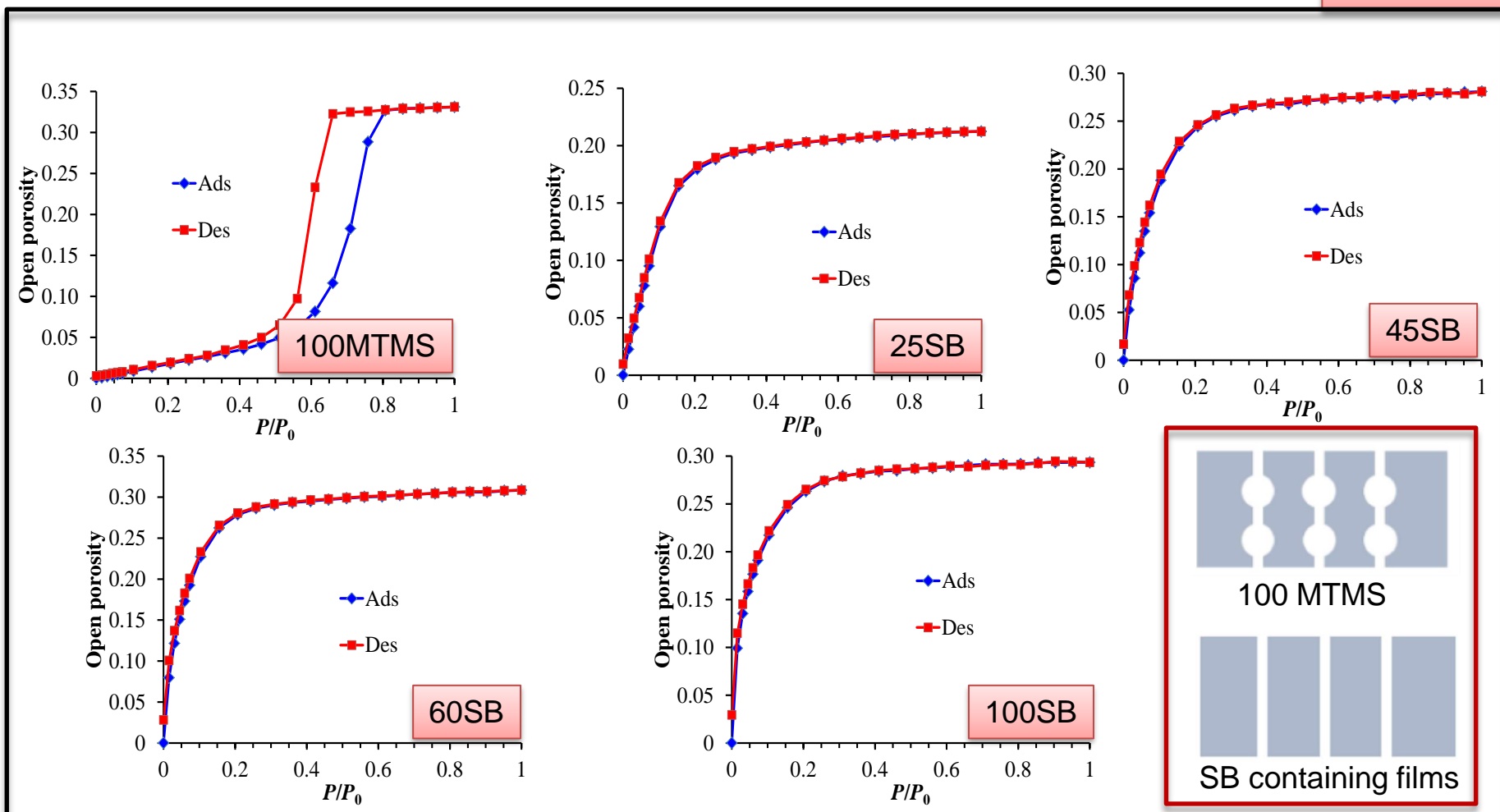
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- Value and shape of  $3\gamma/2\gamma$  in 100MTMS-30 % porogen  $\rightarrow$  open and intercon. pores
- Large S-parameter  $\rightarrow$  big pores
- $3\gamma/2\gamma$  of SB<MTMS  $\rightarrow$  less intercon. and harder structure
- S-parameter drops with SB  $\rightarrow$  total defect conc. decreases with SB amount



# Results – EP – 30% porogen

(the open porosity is varied in the range of 20-35%)

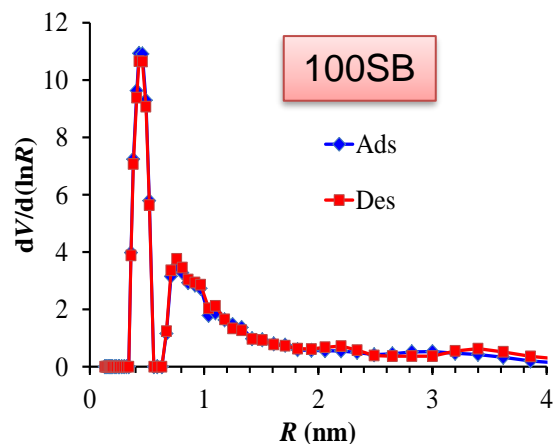
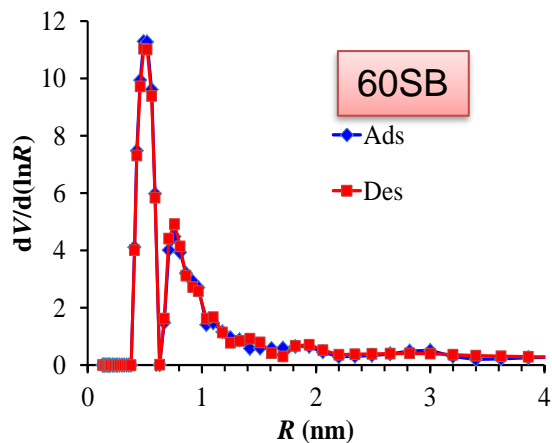
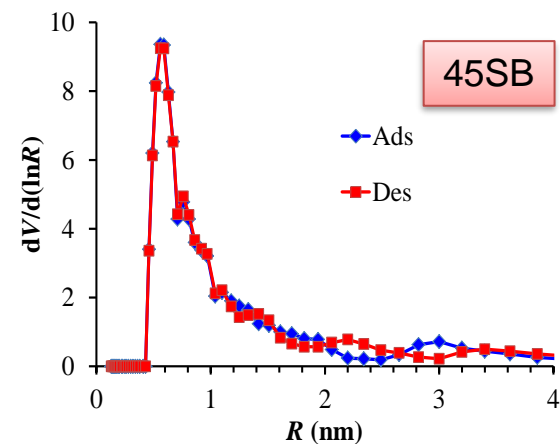
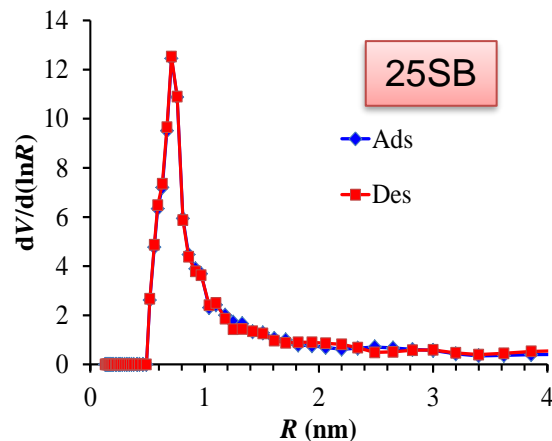
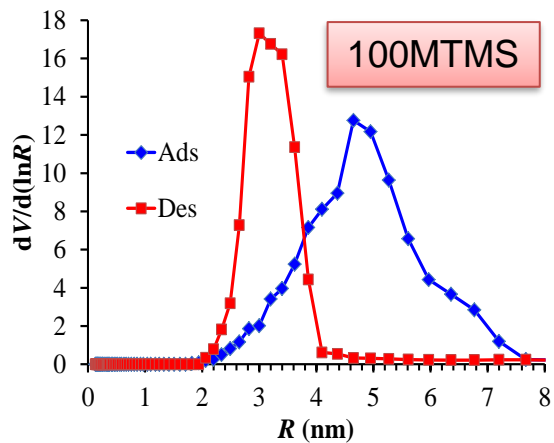
Isotherm



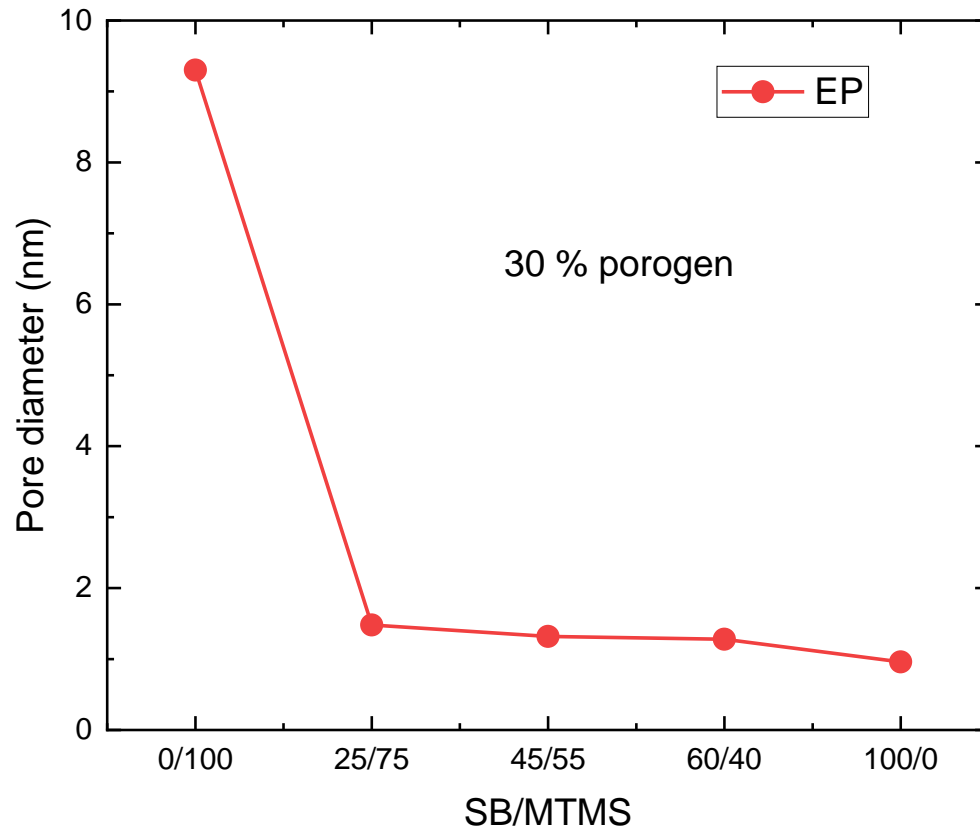
MTMS film has ink-bottle like shape, while other materials have cylindrical pores

# Results – EP – 30% porogen

PSD

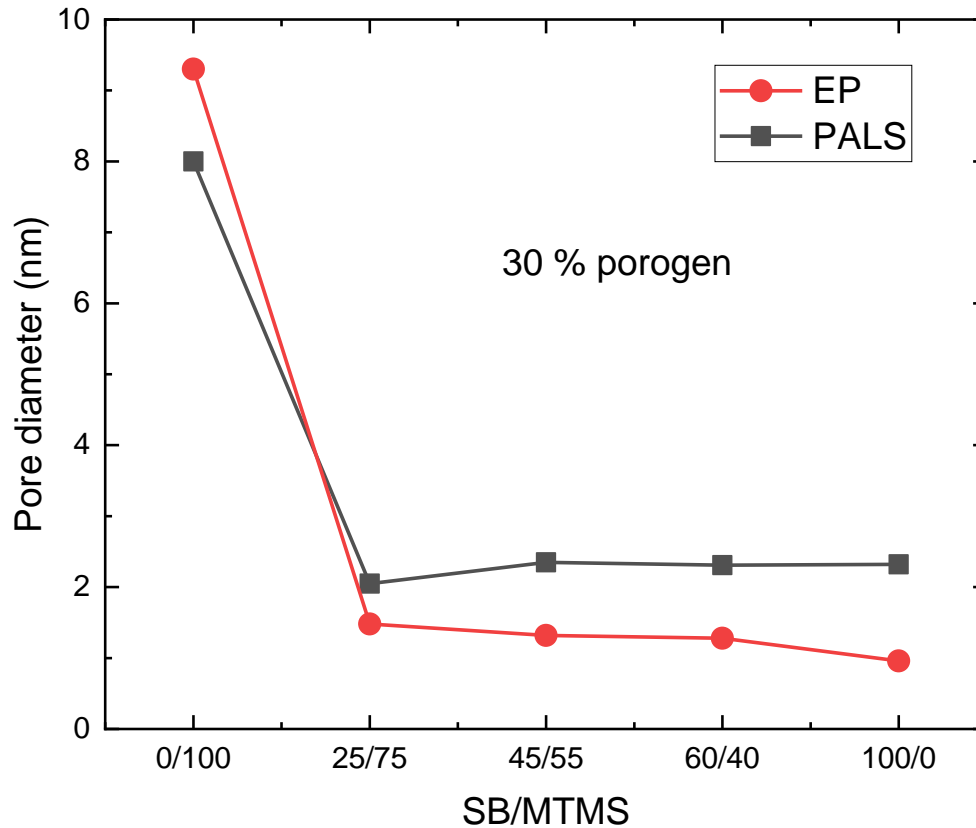


# Results – EP – 30% porogen



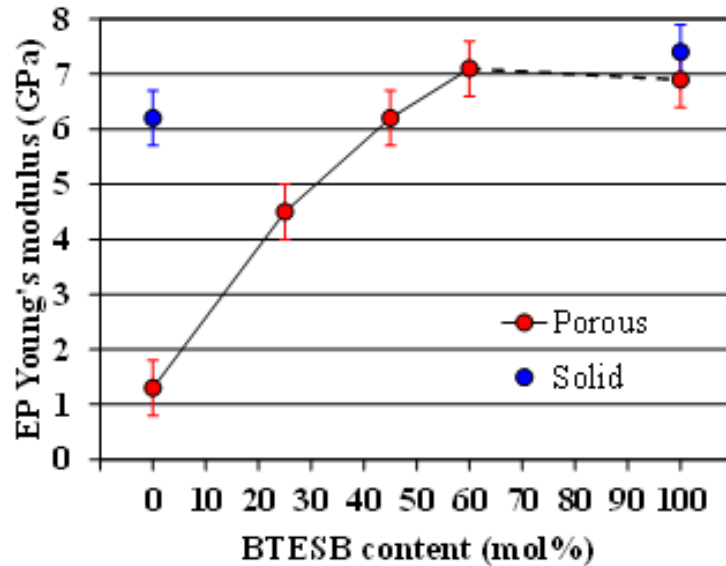
- Rapid drop in pore diameter is obtained when SB added
- Pore diameter slightly changes with increasing SB amount

# Results – EP – 30% porogen



- Both methods show almost the same behavior

# Results – EP – 30% porogen - YM



- From EP
- Nonporous materials (blue) have higher Young's modulus (E) than porous
- E increases with SB concentration
- E stabilizes after SB= 60%

# Summary

- PAS and EP cross evaluation of low-k films with different composition gave good agreement. Small difference in the pore size can be related to sidewall roughness and presence of adsorbed impurities. They can change Ps lifetime (PAS) and impact to the meniscus formation in EP.
- Both techniques showed that pure methyl terminated films have larger pore size. Introduction of 25-75% of BTESB reduces pore size to the value typical for pure benzene bridged films.
- It is shown that benzene bridged films are more hydrophilic and contain adsorbed moisture. This result allows to conclude that presence of methyl terminals are needed although the benzene bridged films have better mechanical properties.

Thank you for your attention!

# Backup

## EP is adsorption porosimetry

It uses Lorenz-Lorentz equation (1) to calculate porosity and Kelvin equation (4) to calculate pore size.

$$\text{Full porosity: } V = 1 - \frac{B_p}{B_b} = 1 - \left[ \frac{(n_p^2 - 1)}{n_p^2 + 2} \right] / \left[ \frac{(n_s^2 - 1)}{n_s^2 + 2} \right] \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Open pores: } V_{ads} = \frac{V_m}{\alpha_{ads} \cdot d_1} (B_1 d_1 - B_0 d_0) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Pore interconnectivity: } x = V_{ads} / V \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Pore radius: } r = \frac{2\gamma W_L}{RT \ln(P/P_0)}; \quad r = \frac{K}{4.574 \sqrt{1/B}} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Pore size distribution: } dV_{ads} / dr \text{ vs. } r \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Specific surface area: } \delta A_i = 2\delta V_i / r_i; \quad A = \sum \delta A_i^P \text{ (m}^2 / \text{cm}^3) \quad (6)$$

$$\tan \Psi \exp(i\Delta) = \frac{R^P}{R^S} \Rightarrow n, d$$

$$B = \sum_i \frac{4\pi N_i}{3} \alpha_i = V \frac{n_1^2 - 1}{n_1^2 + 2} + (1-V) \frac{n_2^2 - 1}{n_2^2 + 2}$$



$B_s$  is the volume of the film skeleton;  $B_p$  is the measured volume polarisability;  
 $V_m$  is the molecular volume of the adsorptive,  $\alpha_{ads}$  is the polarisability adsorptivemolecule;  
 $B_0$  and  $d_0$  are the volume polarisability and thickness of the film before adsorption  
 $B_1$  and  $d_1$  are the volume polarisability and thickness of the film after adsorption