3.6.3 Summary to: Special Dielectrics

Polarization <u>P</u> of a dielectric material can also be induced by mechanical deformation **e** or by other means.

- Piezo electric materials are anisotropic crystals meeting certain symmetry conditions like crystalline quartz (SiO₂): the effect is linear.
- The effect also works in reverse: Electrical fields induce mechanical deformation
- Piezo electric materials have many uses, most prominent are quartz oscillators and, recently, fuel injectors for Diesel engines.

Electrostriction also couples polarization and mechanical deformation, but in a quadratic way and only in the direction "electrical fields induce (very small) deformations".

The effect has little uses so far; it can be used to control very small movements, e.g. for manipulations in the **nm** region. Since it is coupled to electronic polarization, many materials show this effect.

Ferro electric materials posses a permanent dipole moment in any elementary cell that, moreover, are all aligned (below a critical temperature).

- There are strong parallels to ferromagnetic materials (hence the strange name).
- Ferroelectric materials have large or even very large (er > 1.000) dielectric constants and thus are to be found inside capacitors with high capacities (but not-so-good high frequency performance)

Pyro electricity couples polarization to temperature changes; *electrets* are materials with permanent polarization, There are more "curiosities" along these lines, some of which have been made useful recently, or might be made useful - as material science and engineering progresses.







