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Broadband spike excitation method for in-liquid

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QCM sensors

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13

14 **Abstract**

15 A Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) is a highly sensitive device based on the
16 measurement of the resonance parameters of a thickness-shear piezoelectric resonator,
17 which classical application is the detection of attached mass per unit area. Although the
18 most economical ways of driving these sensors make use of oscillator circuits, other
19 electronic interfaces are also well-established, i.e., electrical impedance analysis and
20 impulse excitation/decay methods. Impulse excitation and decay methods are founded
21 on the same principle, but in practice only the latter has been exploited. The present
22 work explores the suitability of a broadband spike excitation technique (up to 0.25
23 GHz) as an interface electronic system for QCM sensors. The principles of
24 measurement—including the processing of signals—are described in detail and
25 illustrated for liquids with different mechanical shear impedances. The proposed mode
26 of operation has proved some advantageous characteristics: both resonant frequency and
27 energy dissipation can be simultaneously determined in a wide range of frequencies; it
28 is appropriate for in-liquid sensing applications (including highly viscous liquids); it can
29 be easily automated for continuous monitoring and integrated with other external
30 circuitry (such as multiplexing for sensor arrays).

31 **Keywords:** Quartz Crystal Microbalance; AT-cut quartz crystal; Thickness-Shear Mode
32 resonator; Shear impedance spectroscopy; Impulse excitation method; Ultrasonic
33 characterization

34

35 1 Introduction

36 Quartz Crystal Microbalances (QCM), sometimes referred to as Thickness-Shear
37 Mode (TSM) sensors, are probably the most widespread and versatile ultrasound-based
38 analytical technique. Typical applications include the measurement of deposition rate
39 and film thickness, the investigation of surface reactions and the study of viscoelastic
40 properties [1]. A very important aspect of these resonators is the interface circuitry,
41 commonly divided into three broad categories: oscillators, network analyzers and
42 impulse/decay methods [1-4]. In spite of some drawbacks, mostly related to the
43 interference of the electronic components, oscillator circuits are habitually preferred in
44 most cases because of their low price, integration capability, high resolution and fast
45 response. Impedance network analyzers provide more complete information, but they
46 are normally restricted to laboratory environments owing to their high cost and large
47 dimensions. Impulse excitation and decay methods are based on the same principle and
48 their main feature is that the resonance parameters are not much influenced by the
49 electronic network, since the crystal is freely oscillating during the measurement. In
50 practice, only the latter (decay method) is used, being at the root of the QCM with
51 dissipation monitoring technique [5-7]. With the increasing QCM applications in liquid
52 media, new advances in these excitation systems have been proposed (for instance, [8-
53 12]). However, apart from some brief references, the impulse excitation method, has not
54 yet been studied or reported in depth. Some limitations occasionally attributed to this
55 interface are: (1) high expenses for circuitry, (2) ideal pulse front slopes are difficult to
56 achieve, (3) other harmonics different from that desired are excited and additional
57 circuitry is necessary, (4) limited range for precise frequency and damping
58 measurement, (5) not appropriate for in-liquid applications, and (6) complex signal

59 processing involved. The present work analyzes in detail the performance, limitations
60 and measurement principles of a broadband spike (impulse) excitation method to
61 interrogate thickness-shear piezoelectric crystals with application to liquid media.
62 Experimental results of the resonant frequencies and bandwidths for diverse pure liquids
63 (up to 0.25 GHz) are presented.

64

65 2 Materials and methods

66 2.1 Experimental setup

67 The experimental setup is depicted in Fig. 1 and consisted of the following
68 elements:

- 69 – QCM cell made up of an AT-cut quartz crystal provided by CH Instruments Inc.,
70 USA (7.995 MHz fundamental frequency, 13.7 mm blank diameter, 5.1 mm
71 electrode diameter, polished surface finish, 100 Å Ti & 1 000 Å Au electrode
72 material, keyhole electrode pattern).
- 73 – 200 MHz (-3 dB) Panametrics ultrasonic pulser/receiver, model 5900PR (P/R
74 mode, 2 kHz PRF, 1 µJ energy, 50 Ω damping, 1 MHz HP filter, 200 MHz LP
75 filter, 0 dB attenuators, 26 dB gain, 0° RF output phase).
- 76 – 500 MHz, 500 MSa/s and 8 bits Tektronix TDS520 digitizing oscilloscope (15
77 000 points record length, 50 ns/div delayed scale, 1 024 signals average rating).
- 78 – Personal computer connected to the oscilloscope via an Agilent 82357A
79 USB/GPIB interface.

80 The measuring principle is similar to the previously described for thickness-
81 expansion mode (TEM) resonators [13]. The experimental cell was made up of a 1 mL
82 screw top tube with the quartz disk silicone glued to the bottom (Fig. 2). The electrodes
83 of the piezoelectric transducer were soldered to an RF coaxial cable using copper strips
84 (the side in contact with the liquid was grounded). The active surface area of the quartz
85 was left intact to ensure that the mounting elements did not significantly alter the

86 resonant parameters. The measuring cell was waterproofed and immersed into a Julabo
87 FP45HE refrigerated/heating circulator bath set at 25.00 ± 0.01 °C. The programming
88 environment LabVIEW has been used to record the output signals and process the
89 collected data for visualization.

90 **2.2 Electrical equivalent circuit**

91 The ultrasonic pulser/receiver generates a voltage spike, by means of a capacitive
92 discharge, driving the QCM sensor. Although the pulser is a complex electrical network
93 that also amplifies and filters the electrical response, it can be converted into a Thévenin
94 equivalent circuit —assuming linearity— comprising only one voltage source, V_p , and
95 one impedance, Z_p . A circuit representation of a spike pulser and its characteristics can
96 be found in [14]. In the vicinity of resonances, the behavior of an air-backed QCM
97 sensor loaded with a liquid, $Z_L = R_L + j\omega L_L$, can be described by the extended
98 Butterworth-van Dyke equivalent circuit, containing two parallel branches (Fig. 3). The
99 left-hand branch corresponds to the static dielectric capacitance, $C_{Q,0}$, and the right-hand
100 one is related to the mechanical response of the piezocrystal. The expressions relating
101 the electrical components of Fig. 3 to the mechanical properties of a loaded TSM
102 resonator can be found elsewhere (for instance, [1, 4]).

103 The output voltage, V , is given by:

$$104 \quad V = V_p \frac{Z_{eq}}{Z_p + Z_{eq}}, \quad (1)$$

105 where

106
$$Z_{eq} = \left(j\omega C_{Q,0} + \frac{1}{j\omega L_Q + \frac{1}{j\omega C_Q} + R_Q + Z_L} \right)^{-1} \quad (2)$$

107 Since the impedance of the ultrasonic pulser is around 30 Ω [14], and considering
 108 that near the resonances $Z_{eq} \gg Z_P$ [4], it follows that:

109
$$V = V_P \frac{1}{1 + \frac{Z_P}{Z_{eq}}} \approx V_P (1 - Z_P Y_{eq}), \quad (3)$$

110 where $Y_{eq} = \frac{1}{Z_{eq}}$ is the equivalent admittance of the loaded resonator. The maxima of
 111 the voltage peaks correspond to the maximal admittance values.

112 In an ideal series RLC circuit, the quality factor is:

113
$$Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}. \quad (4)$$

114 For typical values of an AT-cut quartz crystal ($R_Q=10 \Omega$, $C_{Q,0}=7$ pF, $L_Q=6$ mH,
 115 $C_Q=45$ fF), the Q factor can be approximated by the expression:

116
$$Q \approx \frac{1}{(R_P + R_Q + R_L)} \sqrt{\frac{L_Q + L_L}{C_Q}}, \quad (5)$$

117 and the bandwidth, $B_w = \frac{f_0}{Q}$, results in:

118
$$B_w \approx f_0 (R_Q + R_P + R_L) \sqrt{\frac{C_Q}{L_Q + L_L}}. \quad (6)$$

119 Given that $L_Q \gg L_L$ [1], then:

$$120 \quad \Delta B_w \propto \Delta R_L. \quad (7)$$

121 Additionally, there are some considerations to be taken into account:

122 – To a first approximation, the spectrum generated by the pulser/receiver can be
123 assumed constant over narrow bandwidths (i.e., a Dirac delta function in the time
124 domain), which might not hold for heavily damped resonators. An explicit and
125 more accurate Fourier transform of V_P can be found in [14].

126 – In a typical spike pulser, the energy is stored in a capacitor and discharged at the
127 repetition rate by closing a switch. In this sense, this interface differs from the
128 traditional decay method, where the signal excitation is intermittently disconnected
129 by opening a relay.

130 – The configuration of a pulser has to be preserved over all the measurements, since
131 the equivalent impedance of these electronic devices changes significantly in both
132 amplitude and shape with the settings.

133 – The imaginary part of the pulser impedance, coming from the storage capacitor, can
134 slightly perturb the absolute value of the resonant frequency (although without
135 significantly affecting the changes in frequency or bandwidth).

136 **2.3 Signal processing**

137 Fig. 4 depicts the waveform of the electrical signals displayed on the oscilloscope
138 and its frequency spectrum. All the harmonics within the bandwidth of the electronic
139 excitation can be clearly perceived. In a close view, the output signals significantly

140 differ from an ideal exponentially decaying sinusoidal function at all the frequency
141 components due to the interference of spurious modes. These wave patterns, resulting
142 from the superposition of different waves, make the extraction of the resonant
143 parameters difficult. Hence, the signal processing chosen is detailed next (implemented
144 in MATLAB):

145 2.3.1 Resonant frequencies

146 To determine the resonant frequencies, a temporal interval (1-30 μ s) has been
147 selected after analyzing the stability of the instantaneous frequency, calculated as the
148 derivative of the phase of the complex time signal (analytic signal). The signals were
149 multiplied by a ‘Hanning window’ that was zero-valued outside of the chosen interval.
150 The resonant frequencies have been calculated from the maximum values of the zero-
151 padded Fast Fourier Transform (FFT). The accurate determination of these quantities
152 was performed by using the second-order Goertzel algorithm, which computes more
153 efficiently the discrete Fourier transform (DFT) for a subset of indices.

154 2.3.2 Bandwidths

155 The bandwidths, B_w , of each harmonic have been determined from the decay
156 rates. Supposing a monochromatic sinusoidal signal, $u(t)$, of maximum amplitude, u_0 ,
157 with an exponentially decaying envelope,

$$158 \quad u(t) = u_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \sin(2\pi f_0 t + \phi), \quad (8)$$

159 the dissipation factor, D , and the half bandwidth, Γ , are inversely proportional to the
160 decay time constant, τ .

161
$$D = \frac{1}{Q} = \frac{1}{\pi f_0 \tau}, \quad (9)$$

162
$$\Gamma = \frac{B_w}{2} = \frac{1}{2\pi\tau}. \quad (10)$$

163 After removing the DC offset, the output signals of each harmonic were separated
164 applying a digital FFT bandpass filter centered at the corresponding resonant frequency
165 and with a bandwidth of ~3-12 MHz depending on the overtone number. Then, the
166 spectral data were converted back into the time domain via the inverse FFT. The
167 envelopes of each ‘monochromatic’ signal were obtained from the amplitude of the
168 resulting complex time signal. Since these envelopes were not subject to a pure
169 exponential decay, only the beginnings of the curves were fitted to an exponential
170 function (~1-60 μ s).

171 An important characteristic of the signal treatment described herein is that only a
172 temporal interval has to be analyzed to determine both the resonant frequency and the
173 quality factor. Working with a portion of the signals significantly diminishes the
174 processing time and computing requirements.

175 **2.4 Impedance network analysis**

176 In addition, the resonant parameters of the QCM sensor, loaded with different
177 liquids, have been measured using an Agilent 4294A Precision Impedance Analyzer,
178 ranging from 40 Hz to 110 MHz. The resonant frequencies have been determined from
179 the maxima of the conductance peaks, which correspond to the electrical series resonant
180 frequencies (MSRF) of the equivalent Butterworth Van-Dyke circuit. The bandwidths

181 have been calculated as the difference between the two frequencies at which the
182 amplitude was half of its maximum value.

183 **2.5 Liquid samples**

184 The following pure liquids have been measured: acetonitrile (Panreac Química,
185 purity >99.9%), *Baysilone*® fluid M 10 (Momentive Specialty Chemicals, 100%
186 polydimethylsiloxane), 1-butanol (Panreac Química, purity >98.5%), ethanol
187 (Quimivita, purity >99.5%), glycerol (Panreac Química, purity >99.5%), lactic acid
188 (Panreac Química, purity >95.0%), methanol (J.T.Baker, purity >99.8%) and 2-
189 propanol (Panreac Química, purity >99.5%). Tap water was purified with an ELGA
190 Purelab UHQ distiller system (>18 MΩ·cm) and degassed in a vacuum chamber. The
191 viscosities and densities of these liquids at 25 °C have been collected from the literature
192 [15] and are given in Table 1. Liquid samples were selected according to diverse
193 criteria. Since liquid mixtures can lead to additional relaxation phenomena at high-
194 frequencies, only pure liquids with well-known properties were studied. Liquids with
195 different viscosities (such as glycerol, lactic acid, baysilone and acetonitrile) were
196 appropriate to test the validity range of the method, while liquids with low viscosities
197 (such as methanol, water, ethanol and isopropanol) were useful to observe the response
198 to small changes.

199

200 3 Results and discussion

201 The changes in the complex resonant frequency, $\Delta f^* = \Delta f_0 + j\Delta\Gamma$, of a TSM
202 resonator when one face is in contact with a semi-infinite Newtonian liquid, with
203 density ρ_L and viscosity η_L , are given by [16-18]:

$$204 \quad \frac{\Delta f^*}{f_0} = (-1 + j) \sqrt{\frac{Nf_0}{\pi\rho_Q\mu_Q} \eta_L \rho_L}, \quad (11)$$

205 where $\Gamma = \frac{B_w}{2}$ is half bandwidth, f_0 is the fundamental resonant frequency, ρ_Q and μ_Q
206 are the density and rigidity modulus of the quartz crystal (respectively), and
207 $N = 1, 3, 5, 7 \dots$ is the overtone number.

208 The fundamental resonant frequency (first harmonic), determined using the
209 current spike excitation method, as a function of the square-root of the product of
210 density and viscosity is plotted in Fig. 5 for different liquids with viscosities ranging
211 from 0.3 to 1000 mPa.s. A clear linear dependence can be observed in agreement with
212 previous Eq. (11). Deviations from this equation are comparable to other works (for
213 instance, [17]) and are commonly attributed to the finite size of the piezoelectric
214 element, the contribution of interfacial effects and the electrical/viscoelastic properties
215 of the liquid. Significant changes in the viscosity of a liquid can also be caused by small
216 fluctuations in temperature or impurities. In order to distinguish between the frequency
217 shifts purely due to the liquid loading and other secondary effects, the resonant
218 parameters resulting from the impulse excitation method have been compared to those
219 obtained with an impedance network analyzer. In Fig. 6, it can be seen that both modes
220 of operation give very similar results for the fundamental frequency and higher

221 harmonics (the slopes are 0.98 and 1.01 for the first and third harmonic, respectively).
222 In this graph, the liquid glycerol has not been included because the electrical
223 conductance peak was flattened and noisy, and its maximum could not be estimated
224 with confidence.

225 The factor $(-1 + j)$ in Eq. (11) implies that the contributions of a pure viscous
226 fluid to frequency and half bandwidth shifts are the same with opposite sign. These two
227 parameters have been determined with the spike method and the results for the
228 fundamental frequency are plotted in Fig. 7. Although these two quantities are not
229 identical, a good correlation between them can be appreciated. In general, the
230 measurement of the resonant frequency gave better results than the decay time constant,
231 especially for highly viscous liquids, on account of the signal-to-noise ratio,
232 computational efficiency and the interference of unwanted modes. For higher
233 harmonics, the relationship between resonant frequency and bandwidth significantly
234 deviates from linearity for several fluids (namely, 1-butanol, *Baysilone*® fluid M 10,
235 lactic acid and glycerol), owing to their non-Newtonian behavior with increasing
236 frequency [19].

237 Due to the small penetration depth, $\delta = \sqrt{\frac{\eta_L}{\pi\rho_L f}}$, of shear waves in liquids—for
238 instance, the penetration depth in water at 250 MHz is less than 40 nm—measurements
239 at high frequencies using techniques based on the propagation of travelling shear waves
240 (such as through-transmission or pulse-echo) can be very difficult to achieve. The
241 proposed method overcomes this limitation, allowing the simultaneous determination of
242 resonance parameters in a wide range of frequencies and fluids. Fig. 8 shows the

243 changes in the resonant frequency (pure water as reference) of a QCM sensor loaded
 244 with several fluids at 25 °C. The frequency shifts have been ‘normalized’ by dividing
 245 each value by the square root of the harmonic number (1, 3, 5, 7...). It can be noticed
 246 that low viscous liquids do not exhibit dispersion below 250 MHz. As the viscosity
 247 increases, the relaxation time increases and the shift in the ‘normalized’ resonant
 248 frequency decreases with frequency (this was the case for the above mentioned liquids).
 249 At enough high frequencies, the behavior of liquids is not Newtonian anymore.

250 Generalizing to viscoelastic media, Eq. (11) becomes:

$$251 \quad \frac{\Delta f^*}{f_0} = \frac{j}{\pi Z_Q} Z_L^* = \frac{1}{\pi Z_Q} (-X_L + jR_L), \quad (12)$$

252 where Z_Q and $Z_L^* = R_L + jX_L$ are the complex mechanical shear impedance of the
 253 quartz crystal and the fluid, respectively:

$$254 \quad \begin{aligned} Z_Q &= \sqrt{\rho_Q \mu_Q} \\ Z_L^* &= \sqrt{\rho_L G_L^*} = \sqrt{j\rho_L \omega \eta_L^*} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

255 The real and imaginary parts of the shear modulus, $G_L^* = G_L' + jG_L''$, and the viscosity,
 256 $\eta_L^* = \eta_L' - j\eta_L''$, are related as follows:

$$257 \quad \eta_L^* = -j \frac{G_L^*}{\omega} = \frac{1}{\omega} (G_L'' + jG_L'). \quad (14)$$

258 Hence, both the dynamic shear viscosity, η_L' , and the out-of-phase viscosity
 259 (elasticity), η_L'' , can be estimated from the measurements of the resonant frequency and
 260 half bandwidth shifts:

261

$$\eta_L' = 2 \frac{R_L X_L}{\rho_L \omega} \quad (15)$$

$$\eta_L'' = \frac{R_L^2 - X_L^2}{\rho_L \omega}$$

262 It can be noted that these equations simplifies for a pure Newtonian liquid:

263

$$G_L' = 0; \quad G_L'' \approx \omega \eta_0' \quad (16)$$

$$R_L = X_L$$

264 and a perfect Hookean solid (piezoelectric crystal):

265

$$G_S'' = 0; \quad G_S' \approx \mu_S, \quad (17)$$

$$X_S = 0$$

266 leading to Eq. (11).

267 If we suppose a single relaxation time, τ_η , and a limiting shear rigidity, G_∞ , the
 268 complex shear modulus with increasing frequency can be expressed by the Maxwell
 269 model [20]:

270

$$G_L^* = G_L' + jG_L'' = \frac{G_\infty (\omega \tau_\eta)^2}{1 + (\omega \tau_\eta)^2} + j \frac{\omega \tau_\eta G_\infty}{1 + (\omega \tau_\eta)^2}, \quad (18)$$

271 and substituting R_L and X_L in Eq. (15), we obtain:

272

$$\eta_L'(f) = -\frac{\pi}{f_0 \rho_L} \left(\frac{Z_Q}{f_0} \right)^2 \frac{\Delta f \Delta \Gamma}{N} = \frac{\tau_\eta G_\infty}{1 + (2\pi f \tau_\eta)^2} \quad (19)$$

$$\eta_L''(f) = \frac{\pi}{2f_0 \rho_L} \left(\frac{Z_Q}{f_0} \right)^2 \frac{\Delta \Gamma^2 - \Delta f^2}{N} = -\frac{G_\infty 2\pi f \tau_\eta^2}{1 + (2\pi f \tau_\eta)^2}$$

273 These equations have been used to derive the real and imaginary parts of viscosity
274 from the experimental data. The results obtained for the relaxation spectrum of liquid
275 glycerol are illustrated in Fig. 9. The dashed lines represent the theoretical prediction
276 resulting from a single (Maxwell) relaxation, where the viscous relaxation time, τ_η , has
277 been calculated using the expression [21]:

$$278 \quad \tau_\eta = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\eta_L + \eta_L^v}{\rho_L c_L^2}. \quad (20)$$

279 η_L and η_L^v are the shear and volume viscosities, and ρ_L and c_L are the density and
280 sound speed, respectively. This equation shows that the relaxation frequencies decrease
281 with increasing viscosities. For glycerol, the theoretical relaxation time is around 0.5 ns.
282 In Fig. 9, it can be observed that the results obtained clearly follow a relaxational
283 behavior. Nevertheless, the theoretical relaxation time does not exactly fit the
284 experimental data, probably due to the influence of other molecular relaxations not
285 considered in the theoretical approach.

286 Overall, these results contradict some drawbacks attributed to impulse excitation
287 methods. Actually, it has been shown that not only the spike generation is appropriate
288 for in-liquid applications, but it also offers some unique advantages. In particular, both
289 the real and imaginary parts of the complex resonant frequency can be simultaneously
290 obtained in a wide spectral range (up to 0.25 GHz), which opens the way for
291 spectroscopic analysis. Since it has been seen that the output signals were influenced by
292 unwanted modes, one of the keys to making progress in this area can simply consist in
293 increasing the active surface area of the quartz crystal resonator. In addition, it has been

294 shown that the proposed technique performs better than electrical impedance analysis to
295 characterize highly viscous liquids, such as glycerol, at high frequencies. Moreover,
296 since only the beginning of the signals has to be analyzed, the technique potentially can
297 also be applied in gaseous environments, where reverberation times can be very long.
298 On the other hand, the experiments have been carried out using commercial and
299 general-purpose equipment, and custom-made electronic systems are desirable to
300 compete with oscillator circuits, especially with regard to price, fast response and
301 portability. The advantages and disadvantages of the present excitation method are
302 summarized in Table 2.

303

304 **4 Conclusions**

305 An electronic interface system for thickness-shear piezoelectric resonators
306 (QCM sensors) consisting in a high voltage broadband spike excitation has been
307 described. Contrary to previously assumed limitations, it has been shown that this mode
308 of operation can be successfully applied to simultaneously determine both the resonant
309 frequencies and half bandwidths in a wide spectral range and covering a wide range of
310 liquids. A very good agreement with impedance analysis has been obtained for all the
311 fluids analyzed. Furthermore, promising results at high frequencies open the possibility
312 of developing shear impedance spectrometers based on this approach.

313

314

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320

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- 374

375 **List of figure captions**

376 **Figure 1.** Experimental setup.

377 **Figure 2.** A schematic diagram of the experimental cell: (1) AT-cut quartz crystal, (2)
378 electrical connections, (3) panel waterproof connector, (4) container of liquid
379 samples with screw cap, and (5) watertight enclosure with (6) screw-type closure.

380 **Figure 3.** Thévenin equivalent circuit for a pulser/receiver connected to a loaded TSM
381 resonator.

382 **Figure 4.** Wave pattern of output electrical signals: (a) time and (b) frequency domains.

383 **Figure 5.** Linear dependence of the resonant frequency on the square root of the
384 density-viscosity product for several fluids at 25 °C (fundamental frequency).

385 **Figure 6.** Comparison between the resonant frequencies determined by impedance
386 analysis and spike excitation for several fluids at 25 °C (fundamental frequency;
387 inset: third harmonic).

388 **Figure 7.** Relationship between the resonant frequencies and the half bandwidths
389 obtained with the spike excitation method for several fluids at 25 °C (fundamental
390 frequency).

391 **Figure 8.** Frequency dependence of the ‘normalized’ resonant frequency shifts for
392 several fluids at 25 °C (relative to pure water). Error bars represent the standard
393 deviation of 5 consecutive signals.

394 **Figure 9.** Variation with frequency of the normalized viscosity of glycerol at 25 °C:
395 experimental (symbols) and theoretical (dashed lines).

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401 Científicas). In October 2007, he joined the School of Chemistry and Chemical
402 Biology at the University College Dublin. Currently, he is a postdoctoral researcher
403 at the Centro de Acústica Aplicada y Evaluación No Destructiva (UPM-CSIC). His
404 research interests deal with ultrasound-based analytical techniques.

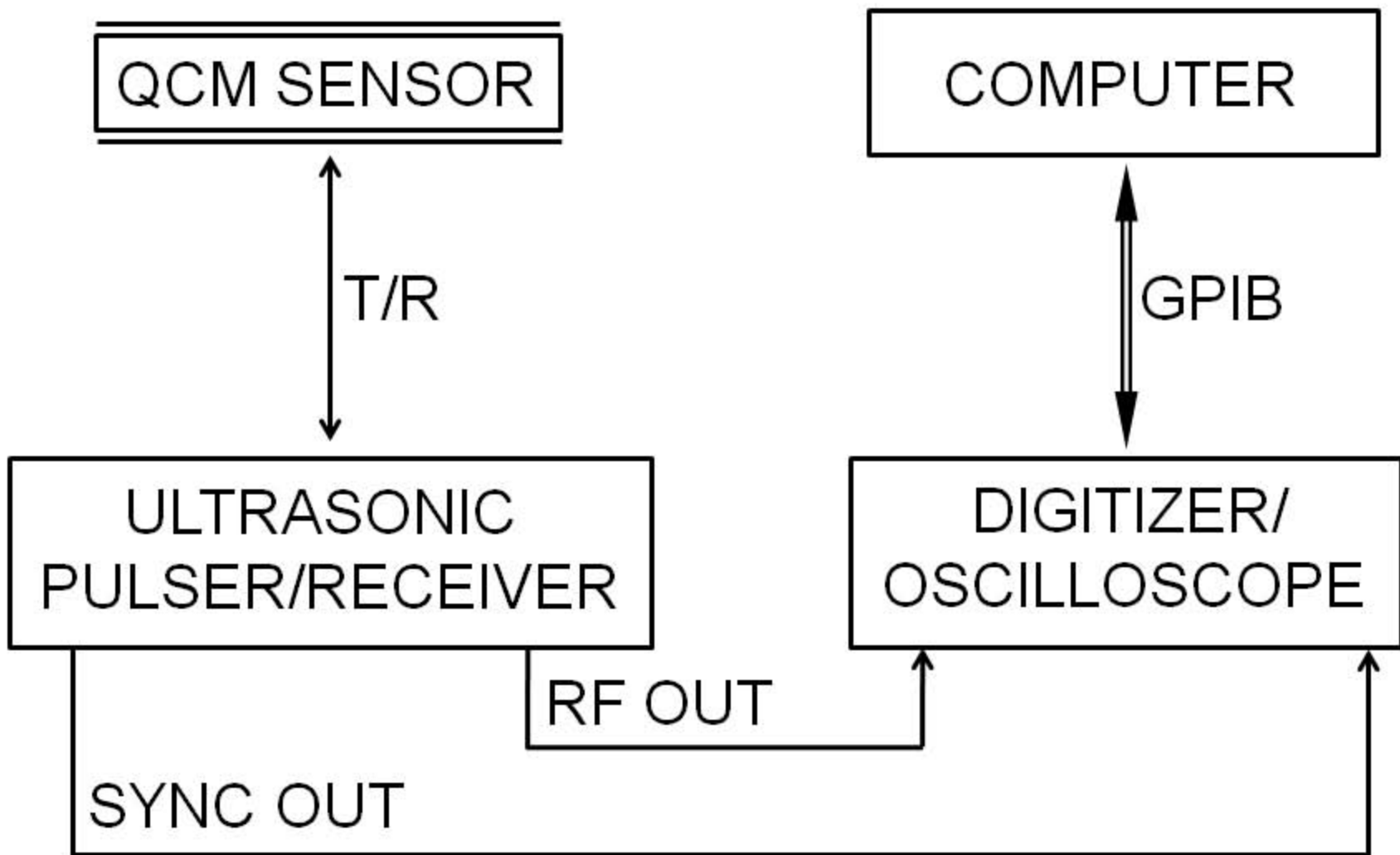
405 **Pedro Castro Blázquez** was born in Zaragoza in 1982 (Spain). He holds a B.Sc. in
406 Telecommunications Engineering (2005) and a Master Degree in Transport and
407 Industry Acoustic Engineering (2011) from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid.
408 From 2005 to 2009, he worked as an acoustic engineer in several companies in the
409 sector. In September 2011, he was awarded a fellowship at the Centro de Acústica
410 Aplicada y Evaluación No Destructiva (UPM-CSIC). His main line of research is
411 about ultrasonic characterization techniques based on piezoelectric resonators.

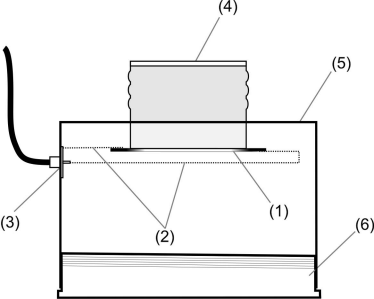
412 **Jaime Rodríguez López** was born on 27th February 1984 in Madrid. He received his
413 B.Sc. in Physics from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM, 2007). He also
414 obtained a Master Degree in Material Physics, specialized in nanomaterials (UCM,
415 2008). Since 2008, he is a Ph.D. fellow at the Centro de Acústica Aplicada y
416 Evaluación No Destructiva (UPM-CSIC). His research interests include the
417 ultrasonic characterization of fluids and magnetorheology.

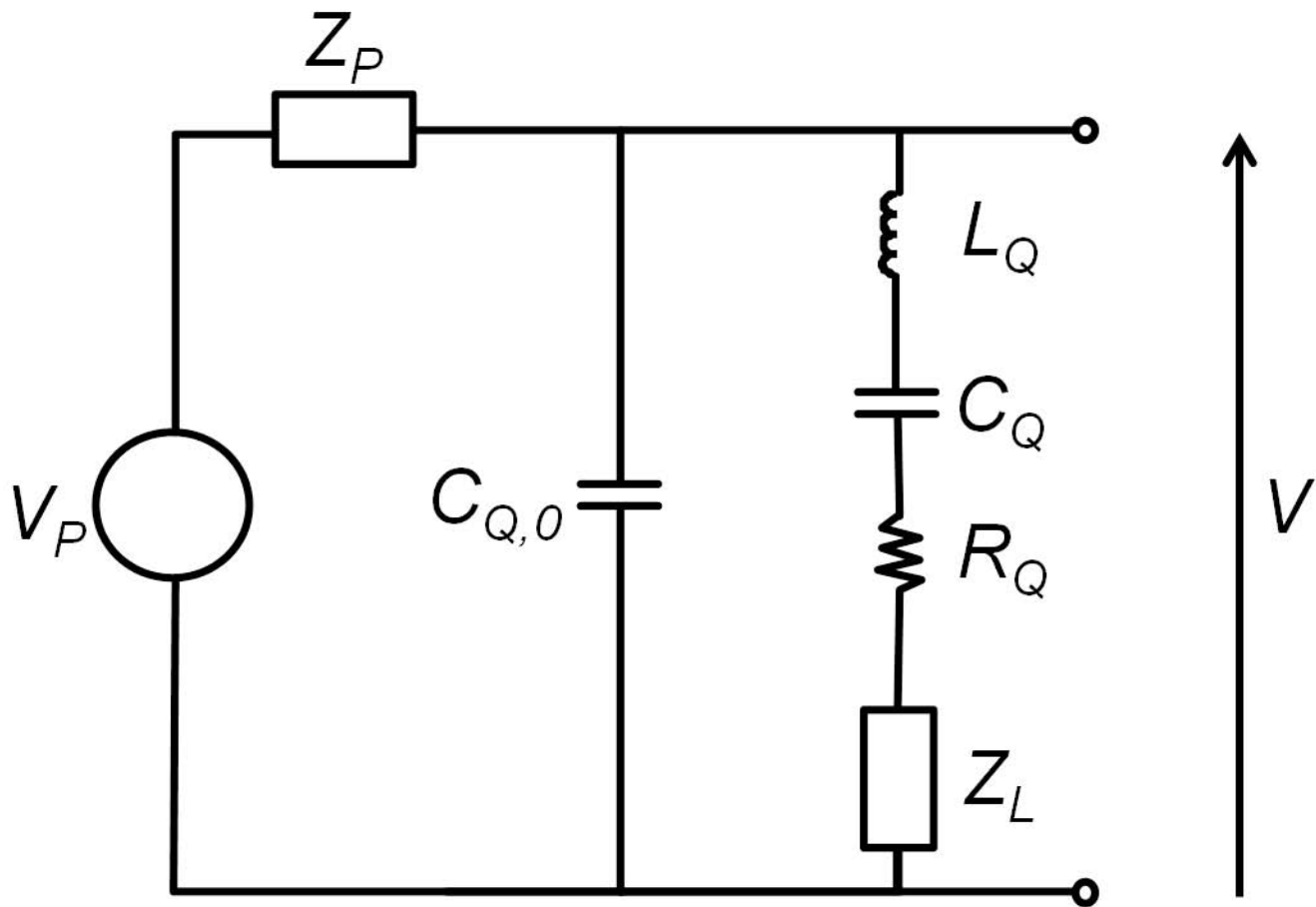
418 **Luis Elvira Segura** was born in Madrid (Spain) on June 30, 1968. He received his
419 B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Physics from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid
420 in 1991 and 1996, respectively. In 2002, he obtained a permanent position at the
421 Instituto de Acústica (CSIC), which becomes Centro de Acústica Aplicada y
422 Evaluación No Destructiva (UPM-CSIC). His research interests are the study of
423 ultrasonic wave propagation in fluids, their applications to the analysis of biological
424 processes and the development of ultrasound-based measuring systems.

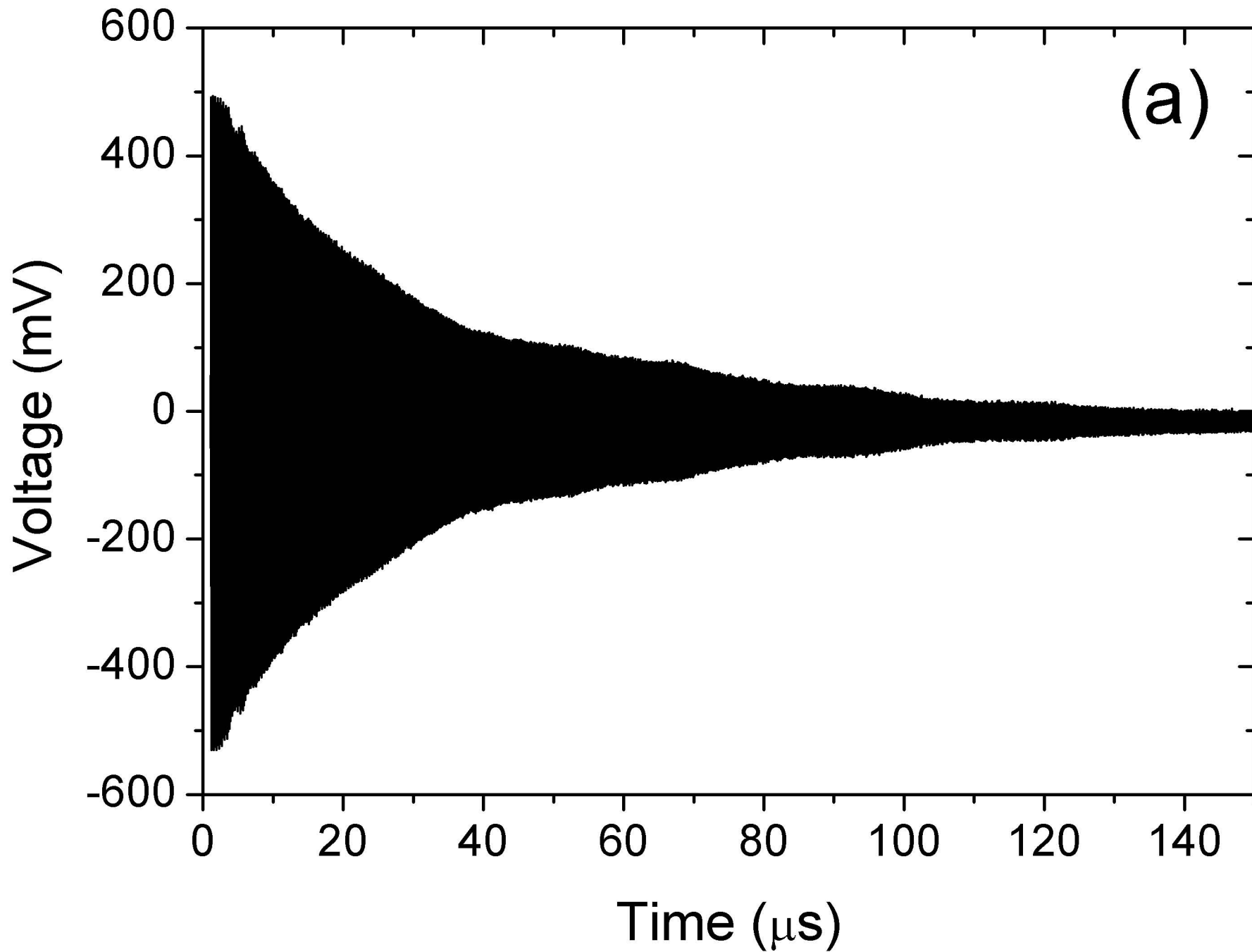
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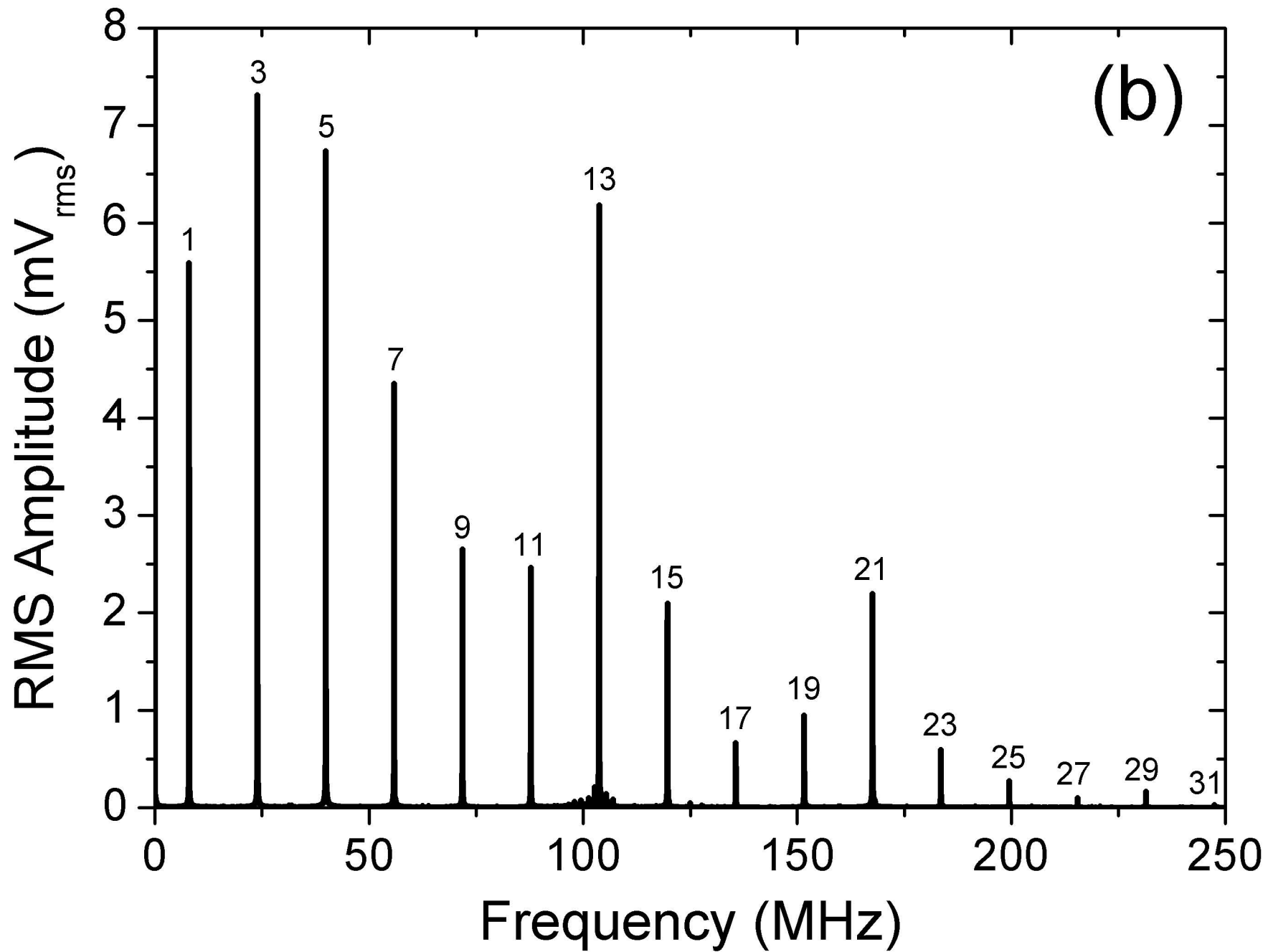
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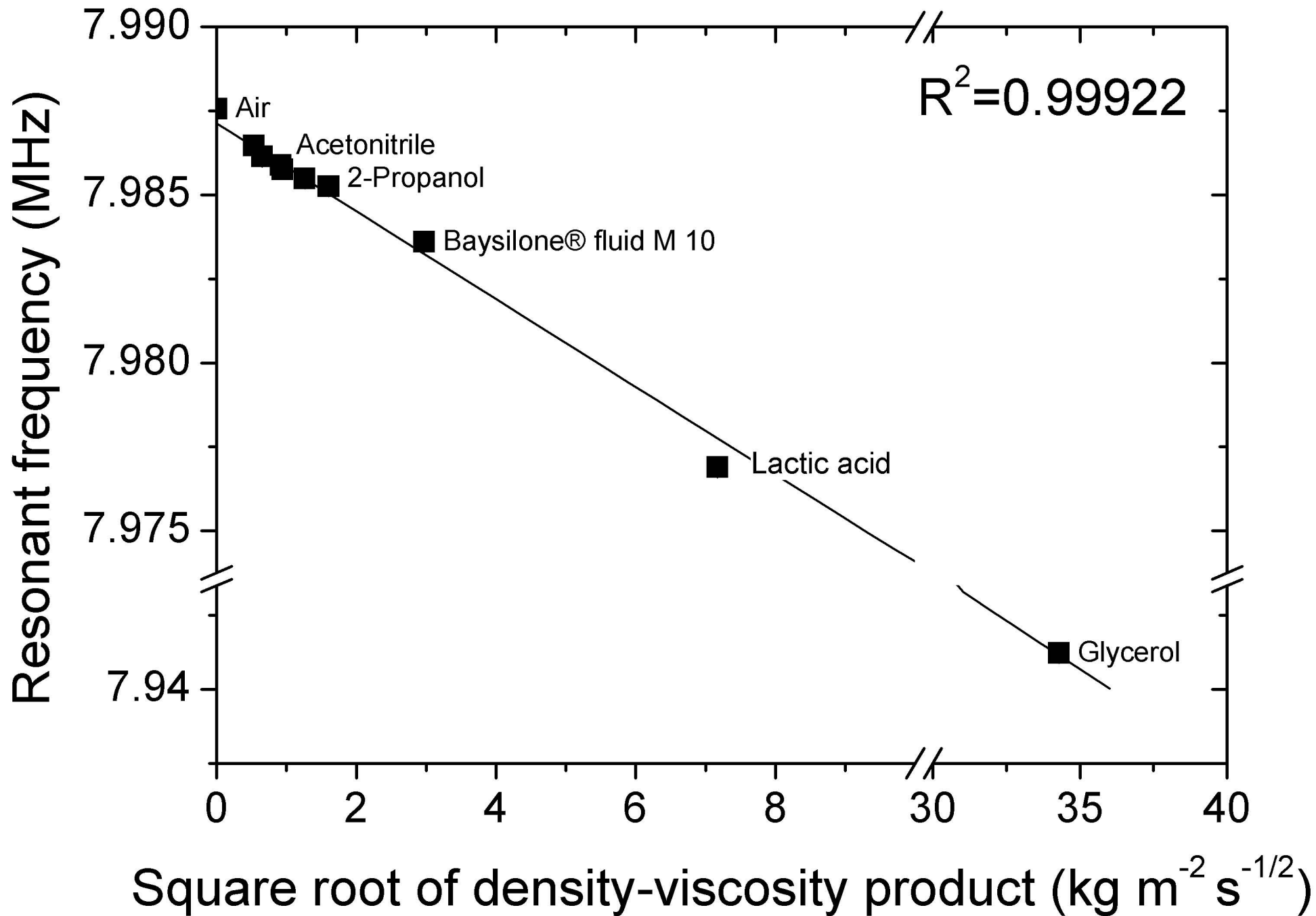












IMPEDANCE ANALYSIS

